

AGRA & DELHI TOUR

2 nights / 3 days

Welcome to an opulent trip that takes in no less than five World Heritage Sites -- the Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri, the incomparable Taj Mahal, Humayun's Tomb & Qutub Minar. See the cultural, historical and architectural magnificence of the cities of the Mughals.

Day 01 MUMBAI-DELHI-AGRA

- **Fly to Delhi.**
- **Drive to Agra.**
- **Visit Agra Fort**
- **Visit local bazaar / shopping (optional).**
- **Overnight at Agra.**

: Early morning transfer to airport to connect for New Delhi.
: Arrive at New Delhi & proceed to Agra by coach.

1100 hrs : *en-route* break at Hodal / Kosi. Light snacks served
1330 hrs : arrival at Agra. Check-in to the hotel. Time to relax & unwind.

1530 hrs : Proceed to the magnificent Agra Fort. **Agra Fort** is a treasure trove of the Mughal architectural tradition that represents the assimilation of different cultures. Emperor Akbar began the construction of this massive red sandstone fort on the banks of River Yamuna in 1565, and it was ready by 1571 though additions were made until the rule of Shahjahan, Akbar's grandson. The Fort contains splendid palaces both in red sandstone and white marble; an outstanding example is the Jehangiri Palace, a blend of Islamic (Persian), Central Asian and different local Hindu styles, which speaks of an adventurous and eclectic approach to architecture. Irregularly triangular in plan, it is enclosed by a double battlemented massive wall of red sandstone replete with graceful curves and lofty bastions.



A visit to a local bazaar / shopping (optional).

1930 hrs : Return to Hotel.
: Overnight stay at Agra.

Day 02 AGRA-DELHI

- **Visit the Taj Mahal.**
- **Visit Fatehpur Sikri.**
- **Drive back to Delhi.**
- **Overnight at Delhi**

0900 hrs : Check-out of the hotel after breakfast (included) Post breakfast visit the Taj Mahal - The **Taj Mahal** is synonymous with beauty, love and grandeur. This white marble mausoleum, built on the banks of river Yamuna, epitomizes Shah Jahan's love for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Designed by a local architect, Ustad Ahmad Lahori, the entire complex, with gardens, gateway structures, and mosque, was completed in 1643. More than three centuries later, the monument retains its romantic aura. Set like a jewel within gardens whose four-fold design echoes the Islamic idea of paradise, its millions of visitors marvel at the play of light on its marble dome which seems to turn from rose to pearl with the passage of the sun. There is much to see – the exquisite calligraphy, the lyrical floral motifs of the pietra dura decorations which form a mosaic of colour; and the fountains and canals of the gardens which reflect the monument in a series of ethereal images



1030 hrs : Proceed to Fatehpur Sikri. **Fatehpur Sikri**, Akbar's City of Victory, lies on a hill top almost 40 kms from Agra. It has two different complexes- the royal enclosure of the palaces with the harem and official buildings; and the dargah of the Sufi saint, Salim Chisti with a mosque and gateway. To wander around the red sandstone courtyards of this World Heritage Site is to travel back in time to an Imperial splendour. The buildings at Fatehpur Sikri belong to a composite style of architecture with the predominating Islamic style cleverly blended with local Rajasthani and Gujarati styles, a melting pot of cultures. In its heyday, the city was a large and magnificent township; this is clearly visible even today, centuries after it was abandoned.



1300 hrs : Lunch at a restaurant

1345 hrs : Proceed to Delhi.

1600 hrs : en-route break at Hodal / Kosi. Snacks (buffet, included).

1900 hrs : Arrive at Delhi. Check-in at the hotel.

:Overnight stay at Delhi.

Day 03 LEAVE DELHI

- Time free to relax and pack-up for return journey.
- Visit Red fort & Raj Ghat.
- Visit Qutub Minar & Humayun's Tomb.
- Drive Past President's House, Parliament House & India Gate.
- Transfer to IGI International airport for departure.

1000 hrs : Check-out of the hotel.

1045 hrs : In Old Delhi visit the historic RED FORT (closed on Mondays) - Shah Jehan's elegant citadel in red sandstone, which was built as an octagon measuring 900m by 550m and surrounded by a 9-meter deep moat which was at its inception fed by the waters of the Yamuna river. Very near the Fort is the JAMA MASJID (Friday Mosque), India's largest mosque, also built by Shah Jahan. Drive pass the famous bazaars of CHANDNI CHOWK, which is adjacent to both the Fort and the Mosque. Also visit RAJ GHAT - the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi.



The tour to New Delhi starts with a visit to the **Qutab Minar**, the tallest stone tower in India. Built in the early 13th century a few kilometres south of Delhi, the red sandstone tower of Qutub Minar is 72.5 m high, tapering from 2.75 m in diameter at its peak to 14.32 m at its base, and alternating angular and rounded flutings. The surrounding archaeological area contains funerary buildings, notably the magnificent Alai-Darwaza Gate, the masterpiece of Indo-Muslim art (built in 1311), and two mosques, including the Quwwatu'l-Islam, the oldest in northern India, built of materials reused from some 20 Brahman temples.

Then visit **Humayun's Tomb**, built by the widow of the second Mughal Emperor, Humayun, it is an outstanding monument in the Indo-Persian style This tomb, built in 1570, is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. It inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing India Gate, the Parliament building and the Rashtrapati Bhawan (the President's residence).

: Transfer to International airport .
: Board flight for Onward destination.

Tour Ends