

# INDIA

Jaisalmer Fort, Jaisalmer

Jain temples, Ranakpur

Agra Fort, Agra

Mehrangarh Fort, Jaisalmer

Taj Mahal, Agra

A country of  
amazing beauty  
& culture!

Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

Observatory, Jaipur

Suren  
Balasuriya

Jal Mahal, Jaipur

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Jaswant Thad, Jodhpur



**iDestiny**  
Travel

### Day 1

Arrive in New Delhi and spend the remainder of the day at leisure.



New Delhi skyline at sunset

### Day 2

Board a flight from Delhi to Varanasi. Later in the day, visit Sarnath, the place where the Buddha preached his first sermon after he had attained Enlightenment at Bodhgaya. Visit the Sarnath Museum and the historically significant Sarnath Temple.



The Sarnath Stupa with ruins in the foreground

### Day 3

Catch a glimpse of the real India in an early morning boat ride on the famous Ganges River and see the bathing and cremation Ghats, the special steps constructed along the riverside leading to dedicated bathing or cremation sites.

### Day 3 (cont.)

This will be followed by a city tour of Varanasi, where you will have an opportunity to walk through some of the city's laneways and bazars teeming with activity. Visit the gold-domed Vishwanath Temple.



View of Varanasi from the Ganges River

Board the flight from Varanasi to Khajuraho. Visit the famous Western and Eastern Group of temples.



Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, Khajuraho

Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, soaring 31 metres skyward, dedicated to Lord Shiva, features carvings in delicate detail of gods, goddesses and celestial maidens. Other temples include the Lakshmana, Matangeshwara and Chausat Yogini, the latter being constructed in the 10 century A.D. from large, coarse, granite blocks. It is one of the oldest heritage sites in India.

#### Day 4

Drive to Orchha, a small town placed on the banks of the River Betwa.

Orchha is a show-piece of the Bundela-style of architecture and structural design. The palaces of Orchha are beautifully preserved testaments to the work of medieval architects.



Jahangir Mahal - Orchha

The most famous amongst these are the Raj Mahal and Jahangir Mahal, a magnificent citadel and garrison, considered to be a singularly beautiful specimen of Mughal architecture. Its grand 'iwans' (or large rectangular halls open on one face) is large enough to hold an entire army of elephants.



City Palace at Jaipur

Other attractions include the palaces Raj Mahal and Sheesh Mahal. The Chaturbhuj Temple is a complex, multi-storied structure which is an intricate blend of architectural features of a temple, fort and palace. Dotting the banks of the river Betwa are the huge, yet serene-looking Chhatris cenotaphs (or tombs) of royals.

#### Day 4 (cont.)

In the early evening, drive to Jhansi and take the Shatabdi Express train to Agra (2.5-hour train ride).

#### Day 5

Visit the world-famous Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays), built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains.



Taj Mahal, Agra

Visit and marvel at the colossal Agra Fort, built by Mughal Emperor Akbar over the period 1565-1573 A.D. The prominent edifices inside the Fort include the Jahangiri Mahal, the principal residence of the royal women, Khas Mahal, a private palace built by the Emperor Shah Jahan for his daughters, Anguri Bagh, the vineyard and gardens with intricate geometric patterns.



Agra Fort in the afternoon light

In the afternoon, drive to Jaipur, the bustling capital city of the colourful state of Rajasthan.

## Day 6

Visit the Amber Fort, with a photo stop at one of Jaipur's landmarks, the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds). It is a five-storey high red sandstone structure complete with over 950 windows made in such a way that the breeze constantly circulates through these windows. The purpose of the palace was to allow the royal women to observe street festivals without being seen themselves.



Amber Fort - Jaipur

Inside the Amber Fort, once the ancient capital of the Rajput Empire, the main attractions include the Sheesh Mahal, a pavilion used by the imperial family and famous for its intricate mirrorwork,



Pillars inside Amber fort, Jaipur

Diwan-i-Khas, a hall constructed in the period from 1621 – 1667 where the Maharaja would hold private audiences with visiting rulers and Diwan-e-Aam, the forty-pillared public hall with

## Day 6 (cont.)

amazingly intricate craftsmanship on display. The carvings and paintings created by famed artisans, and the precious stones embedded in the forty pillars are sure to take your attention.



Amber Fort entrance point

On the return journey, there will be a photo stop at the Jal Mahal (Water Palace) located in the middle of the Man Sagar Lake in Jaipur city. When the lake is full, four of the five storeys of this building end up being dipped under water, with only the top floor being visible!



Jal Mahal, Jaipur at dusk

This will be followed by a tour of Jaipur City with visits to the Museum and the City Palace complex built between 1729 and 1732, the seat of the Maharajas' reign. Marvel at the exquisite buildings, courtyards and gardens which form part of the wider palace complex.

### Day 6 (cont.)

Behold the beauty and architectural brilliance of the famous Chandra Mahal Palace, a magnificent seven-storied citadel that is home to verdant gardens, marvellous paintings and ornately decorated ceilings. Equally stunning is the Mubarak Mahal, meaning the 'Auspicious Palace', built with a fusion of the Islamic, Rajput and European architectural styles in the late 19th century.



Ancient Observatory at Jaipur

Later, visit the Observatory built in the 18th century by Jai Singh, a famous local astronomer. Drive past the key business and residential areas of this Pink City.

### Day 7

Tour of Old and New Delhi visiting Qutab Minar Tower, a minaret built in the 12th century that forms part of the Qutab complex, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Qutab Complex - Delhi

### Day 7 (cont.)

The 73-metre tower containing 379 steps is made of red sandstone and marble. Nearby, amidst the Quwat-ul-Eslam Mosque stands the Iron pillar, notable for its construction from a rust-resistant composition of metal.

Drive past India Gate (war memorial) and the Embassy region (diplomatic enclave), significant government buildings dating back to 1921 – 1930, President House and Parliament House.



New Delhi skyline at sunset

Also visit Raj Ghat memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and drive past the Red Fort, the residence of Mughal Emperors for over 200 years.

### Day 8

Enjoy a pleasant trip home with fond memories of incredible India, its sights and its people.

### Package Inclusions/Exclusions

Price includes the following:

- All transfers, tours and intercity driving legs by air-conditioned transport as per the itinerary.
- 7 nights' accommodation based on Double/Twin sharing at hotels listed above or similar.
- Daily breakfast at the hotels' coffee shops during fixed timings.
- English speaking local Guide during city tours as per the itinerary.
- Single boat ride in the early morning in Varanasi on Day 3.
- Train fare for sector Jhansi-Agra in air-conditioned Chair Car seats.
- Current available airfares for sector Delhi-Varanasi-Khajuraho including taxes (please note that airfares are subject to change).

Price excludes the following:

- International airfares.
- Visas and associated fees.
- Travel Insurance.
- Lunches/Dinners.
- Purchase of alcoholic or other beverages.
- Camera fees, tips to Drivers/Guides/Porters.
- Expenses of a personal nature (e.g., telephone calls, mini-bar purchases, etc.).
- Any other items not specified above as being included in the quoted price.

### Additional notes:

Hotels check-in time is typically 1300 hours and check-out time is 1200 (noon).

Have questions? Call us on 1300 200 100 or email us at [sales@idestinytravel.com.au](mailto:sales@idestinytravel.com.au)