

#### Welcome to India

India, officially the Republic of India is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh-largest country by area, the second-most populous country (with over 1.2 billion people), and the most populous democracy in the world. It is bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast. In the Indian Ocean.

India is a vast South Asian country with diverse terrain – from Himalayan peaks to Indian Ocean coastline – and history reaching back 5 millennia. In the north, Mughal Empire landmarks include Delhi's Red Fort complex and massive Jama Masjid mosque, plus Agra's iconic Taj Mahal mausoleum. Pilgrims bathe in the Ganges in Varanasi, and Rishikesh is a yoga centre and base for Himalayan trekking.



#### **General Information and Travel Tips to India**

Medical Requirements: No immunizations are required. We highly recommend that you consult your physician for pre-departurehealth advice. For more information, visit the Center for Disease Control website: <a href="http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/">http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/</a>.

Credit Cards: Most merchants in major destinations accept credit cards. We recommend you inform your credit card companythat you are traveling to avoid your card being blocked forsecurity reasons.

Climate: Weather in India is highly diverse, and varies dramatically depending on the region. There are seven different climate regions in India. India typically has three seasons: winter, summer, and monsoon.

3 months –summer/dry
March, April, May (Low-60F/High-105F/Avg-83F)
4 months –monsoon/rainyand humid
June, July, August, September (Low-80F/High-102F/Avg-91F)

5months-winter
October, November, December (HeavyFogDec15-Jan15)
January, February (Low-45F/High-93F/Avg-69F)

What to wear: Comfortable walking shoes and breathable, wrinkle-free, layering clothes work well for traveling in India. Tank tops and spaghettistraps for women are not recommended while entering Temples or Mosques. If wearing either of these, take a stole or wrap to cover the shoulderswhile in these places of worship as a sign of respect for the religion. Men and Women equally, are required to cover their legs while entering a Mosque.

**Gratuities:** It is customary to tip the various people that provide you with service duringyour travels. The amount you tip is a matter of personal discretion, and generally based on your satisfaction on the level of service you receive.

Remember To Pack: Prescriptions, as well as over-the-counter medicine, sunscreen, mosquito spray, travel umbrella, binoculars, sunglasses, hat, camera, transformer/adapter. We also recommend that you pack in your check-in luggage, at least two copies of all the travel documents that you bring with you. Make copies of your passport page that contain your photo, date and place of issuance, date of expiration, and your citizenship, as well as your India visa page.





After breakfast, start your beautiful day with a rickshaw ride through the bustling lanes of Chandni Chowk, one of Delhi's oldest and most vibrant markets. From there, visit the Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India, and the majestic Red Fort (outside view), an iconic symbol of India's history and power.

Overnight at Hotel. (B)

Humayun's Tomb: - Humayun's Tomb is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in Nizamuddin East in the city of Delhi. It is the tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun and was commissioned by his widow Bega Begum nine years after his death. It was built from 1565-1572 and was the first garden tomb on the Indian subcontinent. Nearly a century later, Humayun's Tomb was one of the inspirations for the Taj Mahal.

Chandni Chowk: - Situated in the heart of Old Delhi, Chandni Chowk stands as a vibrant tapestry of history, culture, and commerce, weaving together the rich fabric of India's capital city.



**E-rikshaw Trail:** - The E-Rickshaw Trail in Jaipur is a unique and eco-friendly initiative aimed at promoting sustainable transportation in the city. Jaipur, known for its rich history, heritage, and bustling streets, has introduced electric rickshaws (e-rickshaws) as a part of its efforts to reduce pollution and provide a greener way for tourists and locals to travel.



After breakfast, start your beautiful day with a photo stop at Hawa Mahal and a jeep ride to visit Amber Fort. After the visit, explore the City Palace and Jantar Mantar. Later, enjoy the local market. In the evening, experience a culinary adventure with a cooking class followed by dinner with a local family.

Overnight at Hotel. (B, D)

City Palace: City Palace, Jaipur, which includes the Chandra Mahal and Mubarak Mahal palaces and other buildings, is a palace complex in Jaipur, the capital of the Rajasthan state, India. The Chandra Mahal palace now houses a museum but the greatest part of it is still a royal residence. The palace complex, located northeast of the centre of the grid-patterned Jaipur city, incorporates an impressive and vast array of courtyards, gardens and buildings. The palace was built between 1729 and 1732, initially by Sawai Jai Singh II, the ruler of Amber.

**Jantar Mantar**: The Jantar Mantar monument of Jaipur, Rajasthan is a collection of nineteen architectural astronomical instruments, built by the Rajput king Sawai Jai Singh, and completed in 1738 CE. It features the world's largest stone sundial, and is a UNESCO World Heritage site.



## Day 6



Early morning, visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise. After the visit, return to the hotel. After breakfast, visit Agra Fort, Itmad-Ul-Daulah, and the Agra View Point. In the afternoon, enjoy a food walk through the old lanes of Agra.

Overnight at Hotel. (B)

**Taj Mahal:** The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the Indian city of Agra. It was commissioned in 1632 by the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan (reigned 1628–1658), to house the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The tomb is the centerpiece of a 42-acre complex, which includes a mosque and a guest house, and is set in formal gardens bounded on three sides by a crenellated wall.

Agra Fort: - Agra Fort, also known as the Red Fort of Agra, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in the city of Agra, in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Its history dates back to the 11th century when it was initially a brick fort. However, the fort we see today, constructed from striking red sandstone, owes much of its grandeur and significance to the Mughal Empire, particularly Emperor Akbar.





Day 07: Leave: Agra
Arrive: Varanasi

At: 0600 Hrs At: 1300 Hrs By: Vande Bharat Exp

After an early breakfast, start your beautiful day with a transfer to the station to board your train to Varanasi. Upon arrival in Varanasi, you will be greeted at the station and transferred to your hotel for check-in. In the evening, attend the mesmerizing Aarti Ceremony at the Ghat, an unforgettable spiritual experience by the sacred Ganges River.

Overnight at Hotel. (B)

# Day 8



Start your beautiful day with a serene boat ride on the River Ganges. After the ride, return to the hotel for breakfast. Post breakfast, embark on a visit to Sarnath, the spiritual site where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. Afterward, return to the city and visit the iconic Bharat Hindu University, Kashi Vishwanath Temple, and the sacred Monkey Temple. In the afternoon, enjoy an enriching interaction with a Sadhu to experience the deeper essence of spirituality in Varanasi.

#### Overnight at Hotel. (B)

Sarnath: - Sarnath, which is a town just 10 km north of Varanasi, is one of the four first holy sites of Buddhism, based on the major events of Buddha's life. The first is Lumbini, in modern-day Nepal, where prince Siddhartha Gautama was born. The second is Bodh Gaya, in Bihar, India, where he achieved enlightenment and became the Buddha under the bodhi tree. The third is here, in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh, where Buddha gave his first sermon and thus started Buddhism. The fourth is Kushinagar, also in Uttar Pradesh, where Buddha is said to have died/achieved Nirvana at the age of 80.

### Day 9



After breakfast, start your beautiful day with a transfer to the airport to catch your flight to Delhi. Upon arrival, transfer to the city for last-minute shopping. In the afternoon, enjoy a farewell dinner. Later, you will be dropped off at the international terminal to catch your flight to your home destination. (**B**)

### Pricing

#### Included Services

- •08 nights in a Double Room in Comfort/Deluxe accommodation
- •09 x Breakfasts, 02 Dinner's
- •Transfers in A/C Toyota Innova Crysta with English speaking driver
- English speaking Local Guides as per program
- •Entrances of the monuments as per program
- Train Fare Agra to Varanasi
- Boat Ride in Varanasi
- •E-rikshaw trail in Jaipur
- Rikshaw Ride in Delhi
- Jeep Ride at Jaipur
- Cooking Class followed with Dinner at Jaipur
- Airfare Varanasi to Delhi

#### **Excluded Services**

- International flights
- •Extra meals and drinks other than mentioned above
- Any tips to hotels, driver and local guide