

Classic India and National Parks

Day 01 : Depart Canada.

Day 02: Arrive Delhi

Today upon arrival in Delhi you will be met and assisted at Delhi International airport and transferred to your hotel.

Delhi is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. Having been the capital of several empires in ancient India, Delhi was a major city in the old trade routes from northwest India to the Gangetic Plains. Many ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance have been erected in its history. The Mughals built a section of the city (now known as Old City or Old Delhi) that served as the capital of Mughal Empire for a long period. During the British Raj, New Delhi was built as an administrative quarter of the city. As the seat of the Government of India, New Delhi houses important offices of the federal government, including the Parliament of India.



Overnight at hotel.

Day 03: In Delhi

Morning after buffet breakfast at hotel you will be taken for a guided tour of Old Delhi visiting Raj Ghat, Jama Masjid and drive past through Red Fort.

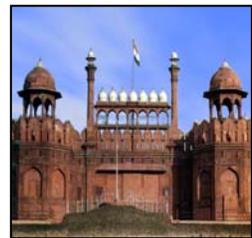
Raj Ghat:

Raj Ghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi is a simple black marble platform that marks the spot of his cremation on 31 January 1948. It is left open to the sky while an eternal flame burns perpetually at one end. It is located on the banks of the river Yamuna in Delhi, India. A stone footpath flanked by lawns leads to the walled enclosure that houses the memorial. Two museums dedicated to Gandhi are located near by. The memorial has the epitaph Hē Ram, (literally 'O' Ram', but also translated to 'O God'), believed to be the last words uttered by Gandhi.



Red Fort - UNESCO World Heritage Site (This site is closed on Mondays)

The Red Fort and the city of Shahjahanabad was constructed by the Emperor Shah Jahan in 1639 A.D. The layout of the Red Fort was organised to retain and integrate this site with the Salimgarh Fort. The fortress palace is an important focal point of the medieval city of Shahjahanabad. The planning and aesthetics of the Red Fort represent the zenith of Mughal creativity which prevailed during the reign of Emperor Shahjahan. This Fort has had many developments



added on after its construction by Emperor Shahjahan. The significant phases of development were under Aurangzeb and later Mughal rulers. Important physical changes were carried out in the overall settings of the site after the First War of Independence during British Rule in 1857. After Independence, the site experienced a few changes in terms of addition/alteration to the structures. During the British period the Fort was mainly used as a cantonment and even after Independence, a significant part of the Fort remained under the control of the Army till the year 2003.

Jama Masjid: (Avoid visiting this site on Fridays)

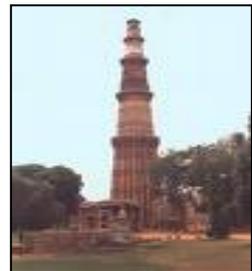
The Masjid-i-Jahan Numa commonly known as Jama Masjid of Delhi, is the principal mosque of Old Delhi in India. Commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal, and completed in the year 1656 AD, it is one of the largest and best-known mosques in India. It is also at the beginning of a very busy and popular street/center in Old Delhi, Chandni Chowk. Masjid-i-Jahan Numa means "the mosque commanding a view of the world", and the name Jama Masjid is a reference to the weekly congregation observed on Friday at the mosque. The courtyard of the mosque can hold up to twenty-five thousand worshippers. The mosque also houses several relics in a closet in the north gate, including a copy of the Qur'an written on deer skin.



Later you will be taken for guided tour of New Delhi visiting Qutub Minar, Humayun's Tomb driving past through Parliament House, President House, India Gate and other government buildings.

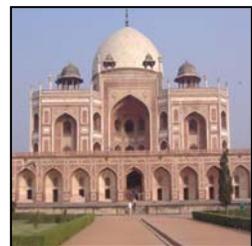
Qutab Minar - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The tallest brick minaret in the world and an important example of Indo-Islamic Architecture. It is listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Qutab Minar is 72.5 metres high (237.8 ft) and requires 399 steps to get to the top. The Qutub Mahal comprises several superposed flanged and [cylindrical](#) shafts, separated by balconies carried on [Mugarnas](#) corbels. The minaret is made of fluted red [sandstone](#) covered with intricate carvings and verses from the [Qur'an](#).



Humayun's Tomb - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Humayun's tomb is a complex of buildings of Mughal architecture located in Nizamuddin east, New Delhi. In time of Slave Dynasty this land was under the KiloKheri Fort which was capital of Sultan Kequbad son of Nasiruddin (1268-1287). It encompasses the main tomb of the Emperor Humayun as well as numerous others. The complex is a World Heritage Site and the first example of this type of Mughal architecture in India. This style of mausoleum was the same that created the Taj Mahal in Agra.



The **Parliament of India** (or **Sansad**) is the [federal](#) and supreme legislative body of [India](#). It consists of two houses – the [Lok Sabha](#) and the [Rajya Sabha](#). It is a circular building designed by the British architect [Herbert Baker](#) in 1912–13. The roof of the outer circle of the structure is supported by 257 granite pillars. The Houses are located on Janpath, a stone's throw away from the presidential palace ([Rashtrapati Bhavan](#)).



Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India, is located at the west end of the 2 ¹/₂ km long Rajpath (King's path), a tree-lined avenue flanked by lawns with orderly flowerbeds and clipped hedges, with the India gate at the opposite end. Designed by Sir Edwin L. Lutyens and completed in 1929, this palatial building on the Raisina hill was formerly the Vice Regal Lodge (Viceroy's House), during the British rule.



Situated on the [Rajpath](#) in [New Delhi](#), **India Gate** (originally called the **All India War Memorial**) is a monument built by [Edwin Lutyens](#) to commemorate the [Indian soldiers](#) who died in the [World War I](#) and the [Afghan Wars](#). The foundation stone was laid on [10 February 1921](#) by the [Duke of Connaught](#). The names of the soldiers who died in these wars are inscribed on the walls. Burning under it since 1971 is the Amar Jawan Jyoti (The flame of the immortal warrior), which marks the [Unknown Soldier's Tomb](#).



Evening free at leisure, to do your own activities.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 04: In Delhi

Morning buffet breakfast at hotel

Full day free at leisure, to do your own activities.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 05: Delhi / Jabalpur by flight and then by road to Bandhavgarh.

Morning buffet breakfast at hotel. Later you will be transferred to Delhi Domestic airport to connect flight to Jabalpur.

On arrival Jabalpur you will proceed by coach to Bandhavgarh- 170 kms approximately 4 to 6 hours driving time.

Upon arrival in Bandhavgarh by evening you will proceed to your resort.

Bandhavgarh is a new National Park with a very long history. Set among the Vindhya hills of Madhya Pradesh with an area of 168sq miles (437sq km) it contains a wide variety of habitats and a high density of game, including a large number of Tigers. This is also the White tiger country. These have been found in the old state of Rewa for Many years. Maharaja Martand Singh captured the last known in 1951. This white Tiger, Mohun is now stuffed and on display in the Palace of Maharaja of Rewa. Prior to becoming a National Park, the forests around Bandhavgarh had long been maintained as a Shikargah, or game preserve of the Maharaja of Rewa. The Maharaja and his guests carried out hunting – otherwise the wildlife was well protected. It was considered a good omen for Maharaja of Rewa to shoot 109 tigers. His Highness Maharaja Venkat Raman Singh shot 111 Tigers by 1914.

Where birds are concerned, keep a look out for white browed fantails, steppe eagles, green pigeons, grey malabar hornbills, black and white malabar hornbills (quite a rare sighting), blossom headed parakeets, parakeets, blue bearded bee eaters, green bee eaters, white bellied drongos, owls, Jerdon's and gold fronted leaf birds, minivets, woodshrikes and the lovely paradise flycatchers.

Dinner and Overnight at Resort.

Day 06: In Bandhavgarh

Early morning proceed into the Park for your wildlife safari. Return for breakfast. After lunch proceed on one more safari.

Dinner and Overnight at Resort.



Day 07 Bandavgarh to Khajuraho

Early morning one more visit to the jungle. Return to resort for breakfast. After an early lunch depart by road for Khajuraho.- approx 6 hrs

Khajuraho - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Khajuraho is a village in the Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, located in Chhatarpur District, about 385 miles (620 kilometres) southeast of Delhi, the capital city of India. One of the most popular tourist destinations in India, Khajuraho has the largest group of medieval Hindu and Jain temples, famous for their erotic sculpture. The name Khajuraho is derived from the Hindi word khajur meaning date palm.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 08 Khajuraho to Agra

Morning buffet breakfast at hotel.

In the morning you will be taken for temple tour of Khajuraho.

Khajuraho temples

Constructed with spiral superstructures, adhere to a northern Indian shikhara temple style and often to a Panchayatana plan or layout. A few of the temples are dedicated to the Jain pantheon and the rest to Hindu deities - to God's Trio, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva, and various Devi forms, such as the Devi Jagadambi temple. A Panchayatana temple had four subordinate shrines on four corners and the main shrine in the center of the podium, which comprises their base. The temples are grouped into three geographical divisions: western, eastern and southern. With a graded rise secondary shikharas (spires) cluster to create an appropriate base for the main shikhara over the sanctum. Kandariya Mahadeva, one of the most accomplished temples of the Western group, comprises eighty-four shikharas, the main being 116 feet from the ground level.



Khajuraho Temple

Later you will be driven to Jhansi train station to connect an evening train to Agra.

Upon arrival in Agra you will be met/ assisted and transferred to your hotel.

Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World-the Taj Mahal. The architectural splendour of the mausoleums, the fort and the palaces is vivid reminder of the opulence of the legendary Mughal Empire, of which Agra was the capital in the 16th and early 17th centuries. While its significance as a political center ended with the transfer of the capital to Delhi in 1634 by Shah Jahan, its architectural wealth has secured its place on the international map. A pleasant town with a

comparatively slow pace, Agra is known for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughals. The city is also famous for its carpets, gold thread embroidery and leather shoes.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 09 In Agra

Today morning after buffet breakfast you will be taken for city tour of Agra visiting Taj Mahal, Agra Fort & Fatehpur Sikri.

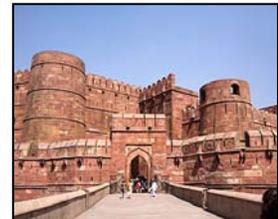
Taj Mahal - UNESCO World Heritage Site. (This site is closed on Fridays)

The Taj Mahal is a mausoleum located in Agra, India, that was built under Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The Taj Mahal (also "the Taj") is considered the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines elements from Persian, Turkish, Indian, and Islamic architectural styles. While the white domed marble and tile mausoleum is most familiar, Taj Mahal is an integrated symmetric complex of structures that was completed around 1648. Ustad Ahmad Lahauri is generally considered to be the principal designer of the Taj Mahal.



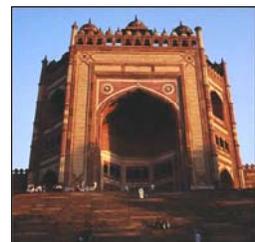
Agra Fort - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Agra fort is also known as Lal Qila, Fort Rouge and Red Fort of Agra. It is about 2.5 km northwest of its much more famous sister monument, the Taj Mahal. The fort can be more accurately described as a walled palatial city.



Fatehpur Sikri - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

was Akbar's capital for approximately 12 years. Akbar selected Sikri as the seat of his government believing it to be auspicious for himself. He experimented both with architecture & art and built a city expressing his ideals and vision. Today, Fatehpur Sikri is a deserted, phantom city. But the inner citadel is immaculately preserved. The finest monuments within this area are the Diwan-i-Am, Diwan-i-Khas, Panch Mahal, Buland Darwaza and the tomb of Saint Sheikh Salim Chishti.



Evening free at leisure, to do your own activities.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 10: Agra / Ranthambhore by train and surface.

Today morning after buffet breakfast you will be driven to Bharatpur station for train to Ranthambhore. Arrive by evening and check in at hotel.

Ranthambore:

With an area of 400 sq. km encompassing rocky hill crests which descend to open valleys between the Aravalli and Vindhya ranges, dotted with water pools and fruit trees, this park gets its name from the thousand year old fortress, which looms above the forest. Well known for the diurnal activity of tigers, Ranthambore is a very special and unusual area where a natural present meets a historical past. Sambar, cheetal, chinkara, nilgai and langur. The elusive leopard and tigers are found in this reserve with tourists standing a very good chance of seeing tigers during the day. Dotted across the landscape are the crumbling ruins of its past glory, be it chatris or cupolas, like palaces or old guard posts, all of which reinforce the magical and ethereal quality of this great wilderness.



Overnight at hotel.

Day 11: In Ranthambhore

Buffet breakfast at hotel.

Morning game drive in the Ranthambore National Park.

Buffet Lunch at hotel.

Evening game drive in the Ranthambore National Park.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 12: Ranthambhore / Jaipur by surface (Approx 160 kms/ 4 hrs drive)

Morning after buffet breakfast at the hotel and proceed on one more game drive.

Later you will be driven to Jaipur.

Jaipur is the first planned city of India, located in the desert lands of Rajasthan. The city that once had been the capital of the royalty, now serves as the capital city of Rajasthan. The very structure of Jaipur resembles the taste of the Rajputs and the Royal family. In the present date, Jaipur is the major business centre for the natives of Rajasthan with all requisites of a metropolitan city. The city of Jaipur, painted in pink, grasp the appreciation of every visitor. One can see that hoary charm still alive in the avenues of Jaipur.

Evening free at leisure, to do your own activities.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 13: In Jaipur

Morning after buffet breakfast you will be taken for a guided tour of Amber Fort including Elephant ride (subject to availability) "One way, while going up".

Amber Fort

Amber Fort, also known as Amer Fort, is located in Amber, 11 km from Jaipur, Rajasthan state, India. It was the ancient citadel of the ruling Kachhawa clan of Amber, before the capital was shifted to present day Jaipur. Amber Fort is known for its unique artistic style, blending both Hindu and Muslim (Mughal) elements, and its ornate and breathtaking artistic mastery. The fort borders the Maota Lake



Later you will be taken for guided tour of Jaipur city visiting Observatory and City Palace Museum with enroute photo stop at Hawa Mahal "Palace of Winds".

City Palace of Jaipur:

Occupying the centre of Jaipur, the City Palace covers one seventh of the city area and the plan of the palace is exactly similar to the plan of the city. The palace has a high wall to surround it on all sides. The architecture of the City Palace is a synthesis of Rajasthani and Mughal styles. The Complex comprises of many structures, courtyards, gardens and buildings. It houses various small palaces inside the main building and galleries consisting of beautiful & massive collection of art, textiles & arms.



Hawa Mahal:

Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), is a palace in Jaipur, India. It was built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, and designed by Lal Chand Ustad in the form of the crown of Krishna, the Hindu god. It forms part of the City Palace and extends the Zenana or women's chambers, the chambers of the harem. Its original intention was to allow royal ladies to observe everyday life in the street below without being seen.



Jantar Mantar:

The Jantar Mantar is a collection of architectural astronomical instruments, built by Maharaja - meaning King - Jai Singh II at his then new capital of Jaipur between 1727 and 1733. It is modeled



after the one that he had built for him at the then Mughal capital of Delhi. He had constructed a total of five such labs at different locations, including the ones at Delhi and Jaipur. The Jaipur observatory is the largest of these.

Evening free at leisure, to do your own activities.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 14: Jaipur

At leisure to enjoy the city on own.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 15: Jaipur / Jodhpur by train

Morning buffet breakfast at hotel.

Later you will be transferred to Jaipur train station to connect train to Jodhpur.

Upon arrival in Jodhpur you will be met/ assisted and transferred to your hotel.

Jodhpur Set at the edge of the Thar desert, the imperial city of Jodhpur echoes with tales of antiquity in the emptiness of the desert. Once the capital of the Marwar state, it was founded in 1459 A.D. by Rao Jodha-chief of the Rathore clan of Rajputs who claimed to be descendants of Rama - the epic hero of the Ramayana. A major trade centre of the 16th century A.D. the fortress-city of Jodhpur is now the second largest city of Rajasthan. While the graceful palaces, forts and temples strewn throughout the city bring alive the historic grandeur, exquisite handicrafts, folk dances music and the brightly attired people lend a romantic aura to the city.

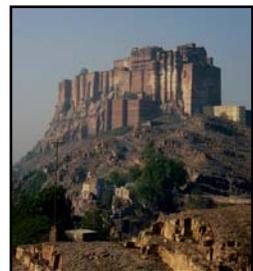
Overnight at hotel.

Day 16: In Jodhpur

Morning buffet breakfast at hotel.

Later you will be taken for guided tour of Jodhpur city visiting Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada.

Mehrangarh Fort is 5 km long majestic fort on a 125 metre high hill, one of the most impressive and formidable structures. Invincible from the outside, the fort has four gates approached by a winding road. Within the fort are some magnificent palaces with marvelously carved panels, latticed windows and evocative names. Not worthy of these are the Moti Mahal, the Phool Mahal, the Sheesh Mahal, the Sileh Khana and the Daulat Khana. These palaces house a fabulous collection of



trappings of Indian royalty, a collection of palanquins, elephant hawdahs, miniature paintings of various schools, musical instruments and furniture.

Jaswant Thada is located on the left of the Mehrangarh Fort complex. It is a 19th century royal cenotaph built in commemoration of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, the 33rd Rathore ruler of Jodhpur. The son of Maharaja Jaswant Singh, Maharaja Sardar Singh, in the memory of his father, built the Jaswant Thada. The cenotaph has two more tombs within it. Near to this are the royal crematorium and three other cenotaphs.



The cenotaph of Maharaja Jaswant Singh displays portraits of the rulers and Maharajas of Jodhpur. The main memorial has been built like a temple. To visit the Thada you have to go through the rocky hills. This also lends a mystic aura to the whole visit.

Evening free at leisure, to do your own activities.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 17: Jodhpur / Mumbai by flight

Morning buffet breakfast at hotel.

Later on time you will be transferred to Jodhpur airport to connect flight to Mumbai.

Upon arrival in Mumbai you will be met/ assisted and transferred to your hotel.

Mumbai-formerly known as Bombay - is known as the New York of India. Mumbai is famous for its great magnetism. The city attracts people from all parts of the country who come to the city with big dreams in their eyes and hopes of fulfilling them. There are innumerable stories of ordinary people making a fortune in the city. Mumbai is the most cosmopolitan and forward-looking city of India. The city is also known as the financial and commercial capital of India.



Evening free at leisure, to do your own activities.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 18: In Mumbai

Morning buffet breakfast at hotel.

Later you will be taken for guided tour of Mumbai visiting Gate way of India, Mani Bhawan, Marine Drive, CST Terminal etc.

Gateway of India:

The Gateway of India is a monument in Mumbai, India. Located on the waterfront in South Mumbai, the Gateway is a basalt arch 26 meters high. The Gateway is traditionally the first thing visitors arriving by boat would see of Mumbai. Behind the Gateway steps lead down to the waterfront, where boat trips can be had to locations such as Elephanta Island.



Drive past Prince of Wales Museum. Entrance not included.

The Prince of Wales Museum was established to commemorate the Crown Prince's visit to Bombay in 1905. The future George V laid the foundation stone and work began on the building which was designed and built to represent the ancient and medieval architectural styles of western India.

Chattrapati Shivaji Terminus (Drive Past) - UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Formerly known as Victoria Terminus, after the English Queen, who was also known as Empress of India, this imposing building was built in 1888. Designed by Frederick William Stevenson, the façade of this railway terminus is covered with sculptures of birds and animals.



The Mani Bhawan

It is an old double-storied structure, which was once home to one of the most famous icons of the century, Mahatma Gandhi. Mani Bhawan was Gandhiji's residence when he visited Mumbai. This monument is located on the Laburnum Road in Gamdevi and has one of the most serene precincts in the city. This heritage structure has now been transformed into a museum and research center.

Overnight at hotel.

Evening free at leisure, to do your own activities.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 19: Depart Mumbai

Morning buffet breakfast at hotel.

Today on time you will be transferred to Mumbai airport to connect flight back home

***** **END OF SERVICES** *****

