



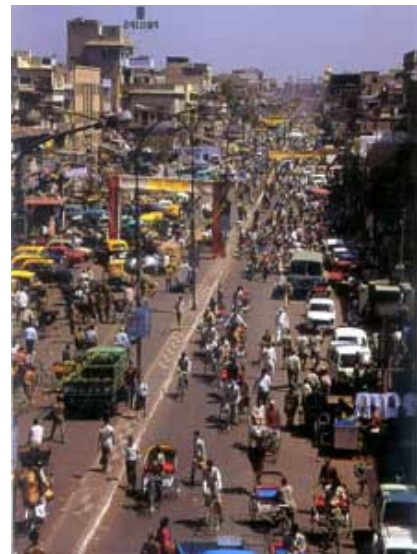
India rewards the seeker with its timeless landscapes, spectacular architecture, exotic nature, and an undeniable aura of mysticism. Come discover this remarkable subcontinent, where 5000 years of civilization come together in a heady blend of languages, religions, architecture, and traditions. You'll walk in the footsteps of Buddha and Gandhi. Explore the heritage of Mughal Emperors and the British Raj. Celebrate love and sacred at the Taj Mahal. You'll experience India as authentically as possible.

Day 01 Welcome to Delhi

Arrive Delhi in late evening, check-in at hotel.
Overnight at hotel.

Day 02 Explore Old Delhi & New Delhi

In the morning, enjoy a walking tour of Old Delhi, featuring Raj Ghat, where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated. Next a Cycle Rickshaw carries us through the crowded Chandni Chowk bazaar to Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. In the afternoon, we drive through New Delhi to visit India Gate, Humayun's Tomb, towering Qutab Minar and the old residence of British Viceroys. Evening is free for shopping. Overnight at hotel.



Delhi stands at the western end of the Gangetic Plain, bordered on the eastern side by the state of Uttar Pradesh and on the other three sides by the state of Haryana. Travelers to Delhi get two cities for the price of one. 'Old' Delhi, the capital of Muslim India between the mid-17th and late 19th centuries, is full of formidable mosques, monuments and forts. It's a lively area of colorful bazaars, narrow streets and barely controlled chaos. In contrast, New Delhi, the imperial city created by the British Raj, is composed of spacious, tree-lined avenues and imposing government buildings, and has a sense of order absent from other parts of the city.



Popular Hindu mythology claims that Delhi was the site of the fabled city of Indraprastha, which featured in the Mahabharata over 3000 years ago, but historical evidence suggests that the area has been settled for around 2500 years. Since the 12th century, Delhi has seen the rise and fall of seven major powers. The Chauhans took control in the 12th century and made Delhi the most important Hindu centre in northern India. When Qutab-ud-din Aibak occupied the city in 1193, he ushered in six and a half centuries of Muslim rule. The Delhi Sultanate lasted from 1206 to 1526, despite its inconsistent rule, and was followed by the mighty Moghuls from 1526 to 1857. The basis of what is

today Old Delhi, including the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid, was built during the reign of the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (1628-1658).

In 1803, the British captured Delhi and installed a British administrator. Delhi was not the capital of India at the time, but it was an important commercial centre and had a population of 150,000 by the start of the 20th century.

When the British decided to make Delhi the capital in 1911, they built New Delhi in a grandiose imperial style, as if the sun would never set on the British Raj. Only 16 years after the city was inaugurated as the nation's capital, Delhi was torched during the trauma of Partition. In a matter of weeks it was transformed from a Muslim-dominated city of less than a million inhabitants to a largely Hindu city of almost two million.



Day 03 Delhi – Vrindavan – Agra

After breakfast, leave for Agra by surface en route visiting Vrindavan. Visit ISKCON Temple & Banke Bihari Temple. Later, continue to Agra. Reach Agra and transfer to hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 04 Explore Agra

Rise at dawn to enjoy the Taj Mahal in the peaceful morning light. We seek out several views of the exterior, and then tour the inner chambers. This afternoon, contrast the ethereal Taj with the imposing Agra Fort, an immense fortified palace that was a seat of Mughal power. Some of its battlements are more than 60 feet tall. Return back to hotel. Overnight at hotel.



Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World—the “TAJ MAHAL”. The architectural splendor of the mausoleums, the fort and the palaces is a 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 centre 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 the marble and soapstone by craftsmen who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughal.

Day 05 Agra – Delhi – Varanasi

In the morning, we will leave back for Delhi and transfer to airport. Board flight for Varanasi. Arrive Varanasi and transfer to hotel. Overnight at hotel.

Day 06 Explore Varanasi

Early morning, boat ride on holy river Ganges for sunrise and view spectacular morning activities/bath in Ganges followed by walking tour of Old Varanasi. After breakfast, personal meeting with Mauni Baba, a highly enlightened soul (subject to availability). Later, half-day city tour of Varanasi visiting ashrams and temples. Overnight at hotel.



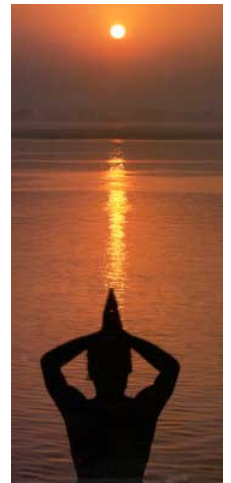
Varanasi cannot be described, only experienced. Sunrise on the riverfront, as seen from a boat, can be a spiritually uplifting sight. Crowded with temples and its labyrinth of streets, the city attracts the maximum number of tourists- domestic and international. Though Varanasi retains its heritage, the city is moving. New markets, commercial complexes and modern hotels make it a melting pot of both. The religious capital of Hinduism, Varanasi is the oldest living city in India, and one of the world's most ancient. It was previously known as Kashi – the city that illuminates. The present name is derived from the fact that the city is at the confluence of the rivers Varuna and Asi.

Day 07 Varanasi

After breakfast, full day city tour of Varanasi. Overnight at hotel.

Day 08 Varanasi – Delhi

After leisurely breakfast, board flight for Delhi. Arrive Delhi and transfer to international airport for your outbound flight and tour terminates.



END OF TOUR

