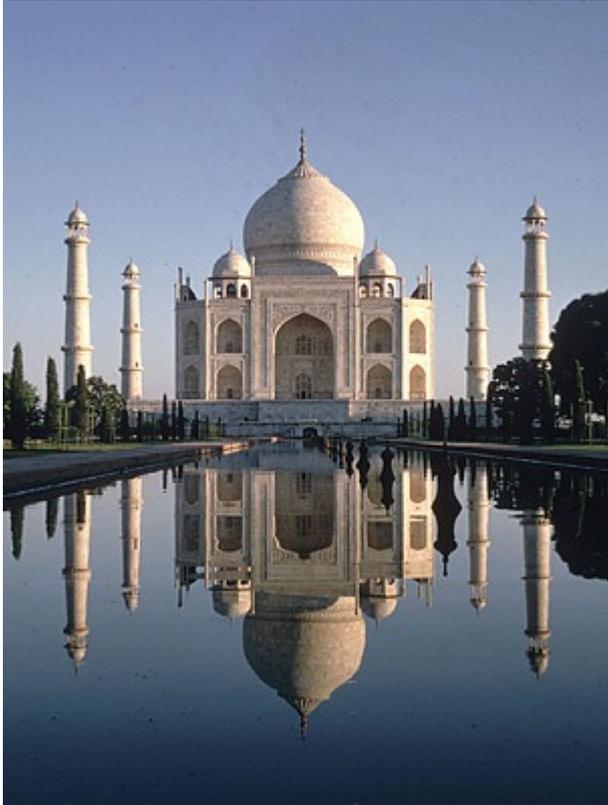




WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

The Magic of India

Private journey – 8 days/7 nights



Meals: 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch

Delhi	The Claridges	2 nights
Agra	Trident Hotel	2 nights
Jaipur	Trident Hotel	2 nights
Delhi Airport	Holiday Inn	1 night

DAY 1 – Arrive Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel.

DAY 2 – Delhi Sightseeing.

After breakfast, you will meet your World Discovery guide and spend the day visiting the highlights of India's capital city. You will begin with a visit to **Raj Ghat**, the moving memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, set in landscaped gardens, before continuing to the **Jama Masjid**, India's largest mosque. Take an enjoyable rickshaw ride through **Chandni Chowk**, the main thoroughfare of the old city, lined with 17th century mansions and colourful, crowded bazaars; your journey takes you past the famous Mughal **Red Fort**. Next comes a visit to the elegant **Humayun's Tomb**, a fine

example of early Mughal architecture, clearly reflecting its Persian antecedents and pointing ahead in style to the Taj Mahal. Before heading for New Delhi you will pay a visit to the colossal **Qutb Minar**; this amazing 73-metre high Victory Tower was completed in 1236 to celebrate Qutb-ud-Din's defeat of the Turks and can be seen for miles around. The Victorian historian James Ferguson called the fluted sandstone tower "the most beautiful example of its class known anywhere".

At the spectacular Delhi Durbar of 1911, the 'King-Emperor' George V announced that the capital of British India was to be moved from Calcutta to Delhi. Planned on a grandiose scale by the architect Edwin Lutyens and his colleague Herbert Baker, the city of New Delhi was inaugurated in February 1931. You will drive along the wide avenues of this late-imperial capital, viewing the vast complex of government buildings and the famous **India Gate**, built to commemorate the 70,000 Indian soldiers who died in the First World War.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 3 – Drive to Agra via Sikandra.

After breakfast your driver will collect you and you will head south out of the capital down the former Grand Trunk Road on your morning drive to Agra, the capital of the Mughal Empire. Shortly before reaching Agra, a special visit is made to the mausoleum of Akbar the Great at **Sikandra**. This beautifully proportioned complex, often omitted from tour itineraries, is set in extensive gardens. Continue to Agra. The rest of the day has been left free.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 4 – Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort.

This morning visit what is generally regarded as the world's most romantic building – the glorious white-marble **Taj Mahal**, built by the fifth Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. This magnificent monument, a fusion of Indian Hindu and Persian Muslim architectural traditions, never fails to impress. You will also explore the huge red-sandstone **Agra Fort** overlooking the River Jumna. Afternoon at leisure. In the evening you may wish to return to the Taj Mahal for an optional sunset visit.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 5 – Drive to Jaipur via Fatehpur Sikri and Bharatpur.

An hour and half drive to the west of Agra lies the atmospheric 'ghost town' of **Fatehpur Sikri**. This perfectly-preserved red-sandstone city was built by the Emperor Akbar as his new capital in the late 16th century, but was mysteriously abandoned after just 14 years. What remains is for many people one of the most spectacular sites in the whole of India. After a guided tour of this wonderful city, continue to Bharatpur to spend some time in the **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, a designated World Heritage Site which is a paradise for birdwatchers – more than 300 species have been sighted here. We have included a lunch for you at the delightful **Laxmi Vilas Palace**, built in 1899 for the son of the Maharajah of Bharatpur. In the afternoon drive to the famous 'pink city' of Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan.

Meals included: Breakfast, lunch.

DAY 6 – Jaipur sightseeing.

Founded in 1727 by Maharajah Jai Singh II, Jaipur is the classic Rajput city, with its colourful bazaars, palaces and 'havelis' (mansions). This morning drive into the centre of the city to view the elaborate façade of the **Hawa Mahal**, better known as the 'Palace of the Winds', and continue to the **Maharaja's Palace**, now an interesting museum. A further visit is included to the fascinating **Jantar Mantar**, Jai Singh's outdoor observatory "for measuring the harmony of the heavens". The afternoon has been left free for relaxation, or shopping. The Old City of Jaipur has a huge selection of shops specialising in printed cotton, handicrafts, carpets, pottery and jewellery.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 7 – Drive back to Delhi via Amber Fort.

Before Jaipur was founded, the capital of this region was Amber, built high on a ridge overlooking the surrounding countryside. The huge palace-fortress is just 11km north of Jaipur, and this morning you will set off to visit it before proceeding to Delhi. Explore the courtyards and pavilions of this superb complex, including the marvellous Sheesh Mahal or Hall of Mirrors and the elegant Jai Mandir (Hall of Private Audience) with its delightful painted ceiling. After the visit, continue on your journey back to Delhi. Accommodation this evening is at a modern hotel located close to the International Airport.

Meals included: Breakfast.

DAY 8 – Depart.

Transfer to the airport for your international flight home.

Meals included: Breakfast.

Continued...

The price includes:

- Hotel accommodation as listed above in double or twin-bedded rooms (please advise which you prefer) with private facilities.
- 7 breakfasts and 1 lunch as shown in the itinerary,
- Private transportation throughout.
- All sightseeing as shown (unless indicated as 'optional'), including entrance fees.
- The services of a private English-speaking driver throughout.
- The services of a private guide for the included sightseeing. For sightseeing on journeys between cities (e.g. at Sikandra or Fatehpur Sikri) your guide will be waiting at the site to meet you when you arrive).

Not included in the price:

- International flights (see website page). We are happy to discuss the flights with you and give you further guidance.
- International airport taxes.
- Optional sightseeing.
- Tipping. We will give you guidance in this often sensitive matter.
- An Indian Visa (E-Tourist Visa). This can be obtained online via the website <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html> and costs US\$60 (approximately £39) and is valid for 60 days from the date of arrival in India.

A deposit of £250 per person is required at the time of booking, plus the cost of the international airfare and service charge if World Discovery is booking the flights on your behalf.. The balance of the price for your India holiday must be paid at least 8 weeks before your departure date.