

Ten Day Golden Triangle, Cultural and Wildlife Tour

London * Delhi * Agra * Ranthambore * Jaipur * Delhi * London

DAY 01

Depart from London Heathrow on Kingfisher Airlines

DAY 02

Arrive Delhi



On arrival in Delhi: Company representatives cannot come into the baggage collection area. Having cleared immigration, collected your luggage and passed through customs, please make your way towards the exit of the terminal building where you will see a bank of people waiting for you. Amongst them will be a **TCI Representative** who will be waiting to greet you with a paging board with your name on. Please note that the crowds can be enormous and it is possible that you may not spot our representative, despite their making every effort to be as visible as possible, so please keep an eye out for them.

You are then transferred to your hotel and assisted with check in.

Your hotel vouchers & flight tickets will be issued in Delhi and given to you on arrival

India's capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds - the ancient with the modern. Amidst the fast spiraling skyscrapers the remnants of a bygone time in the form of its many monuments stand as silent reminders to the region's ancient legacy. The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a specious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.

Overnight: The Lalit, Delhi
[Deluxe Room with Breakfast]
www.thelalit.com/

DAY 03

DELHI

Breakfast is at Hotel.

After breakfast proceed for full-day sightseeing of Old & New Delhi;

Begin with Old Delhi, the Mughal Capital of Shahjahanabad. Visit the Jama Masjid - The mosque of Friday was built from 1644 to 1658 during the reign of Shahjahan. The mosque which measures 65m on 35m, and whose court forms a square of 100m on side is by its surface the greatest religious construction of Islam; Raj Ghat where Mahatma Gandhi – The Father Of Nation, was cremated and the Red Fort - the palace for Shahjahan new capital, Shahjahanabad, the seventh Muslim city in the Delhi site. Wander in the busy streets of the mile long Chandni Chowk, popularly called "The Silver Street".

Afternoon, you will proceed for sightseeing tour of New Delhi, which reflects the legacy the British left behind. The division between New and Old Delhi is the division between the capitals of the

British and the Mughals respectively. The division in the walled city and New Delhi also marks the division in the life-styles. The walled city is all tradition where one will be able to glean a past life-style in all its facets, colours and spells. New Delhi in contrast, is a city trying to live up to the best of 21st century standards.

The tour to Imperial Delhi will include a visit to the Qutab Minar, the tallest stone tower in India. The Qutab Minar was started in 1199 AD by Qutab-ud-Din Aibak and completed by the sultan's successor and son-in-law, Iltutmish. The building is 72.5 m high and has 379 steps from the bottom to the top. The Minar is tapering with the diameter of the base is 14.3 m while at the top floor it is 2.7 m. The Qutab Minar is still the highest stone tower as well as one of the finest Islamic structures ever raised in India.



Then visit Humayun's tomb, built by the widow of the second Mughal Emperor, Humayun, it is an outstanding monument in the Indo-Persian style, a precursor of the Taj Mahal. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing India Gate, the Parliament building and the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the President's residence.

Overnight: The Lalit, Delhi
[Deluxe Room with Breakfast]

DAY 04
AGRA

DELHI –

Breakfast is at Hotel.

After breakfast drive from Delhi to Agra enroute visiting Sikandra [200 kms / 04 hrs]

Sikandra ♦ the sandstone and marble tomb of Akbar, the greatest of the Mughal emperors, lies in a peaceful garden 4 km north-west of Agra. Its construction was begun by Akbar himself but completed by his son Jehangir in 1613. The southern gateway, the most impressive part of the complex, is made of red sandstone inlaid with abstract patterns in white marble. The tomb itself has four stories, three of red sandstone and the fourth of marble. True to Akbar's philosophy of a single unifying religion, his tomb shows a blend of motifs and styles of various religions.

After visiting Sikandra continue to drive to Agra.

Upon arrival you will be assisted and check in at Hotel



Later proceed for city tour of Agra visiting;

The Taj Mahal - The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid 17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is really astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture. After visiting Taj Mahal continue to visit Agra Fort

Agra Fort, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture. Agra Fort - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. This was the seat of Mughal rule and administration and the present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangazeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions. Then proceed to Itmad-Ud-Daulah popularly known as Baby Taj.

Overnight: Mughal Sheraton, Agra
[Chamber of Emperor Room with Breakfast]
www.starwoodhotels.com

DAY 05
RANTHAMBORE

AGRA -

Breakfast is at Hotel.

After early breakfast, drive Agra to Bharatpur Station [241kms/ 06 hrs] enroute visit the once seat of Mughal legacy, which is an abandoned city glowing red under the sun, **Fatehpur Sikri** - the deserted red sandstone city built by the Great Mughal Emperor, Akbar, as his capital and palace in the late 16th century is just 37kms from Agra. It was abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry and it remains today in much the same condition that it was over 300 years ago. It is complete with palaces and mosques and used to be a town larger than London when it was originally constructed. Now it is an extraordinary place to wander around with its buildings in near perfect condition

After exploring Fatehpur Sikri, you will stop for Lunch at Bharatpur (**Direct payment**) and continue your drive to Bharatpur railway station to connect train to Sawai Madhopur.

Train	Kota Jan Shatabdi Express
Departure Bharatpur	1548 hours
Arrival Sawai Madhopur	1800 hours

Upon arrival at Sawai Madhopur railway station, you will be transferred to your hotel



Near the township of Sawai Madhopur, in the state of Rajasthan, Ranthambore National Park is an outstanding example of Project Tiger's efforts at conservation in the country. The forests around the Ranthambore Fort were once, the private grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur. As a result of the stringent efforts in conservation, tigers, the prime assets of the Park, have become more and more active during the day. More than in any other park or sanctuary in India, tigers are easily spotted here in daylight. It is very easy to chance upon a tiger lolling around lazily in the sun, or feverishly hunting down sambhar around the lakes. Apart from tigers, you will come across a few panthers too. The other permanent residents

of the park include marsh crocodiles, hyenas, jungle cats and sloth bears. Sambars are found in abundance all over the area, the prime target of all predators. Chital, Nilgai and chinkara are the other inhabitants of the region. The avian population comprises of black storks, quails, Bonelli's eagles, spur fowls, crested serpent eagles and painted storks.

Rest day is at Leisure

Overnight: Khemvilas, Ranthambore
[Luxury Cottage with Breakfast, Lunch and Diner]
www.khemvillas.com/

DAY 06

RANTHAMBORE



In the morning & afternoon game viewing at Ranthambore National Park by jeeps / canters [Jeeps subject to availability]. Apart from wildlife viewing you will also be taken to the Ranthambore Fort built in the 10th century, which commands a panoramic view of the Tiger Reserve. The fort also houses some splendid monuments within its precincts.

Overnight: Khemvilas, Ranthambore
[Luxury Cottage with Breakfast, Lunch and Diner]

DAY 07
JAIPUR

RANTHAMBORE –

Breakfast at Hotel.

In the morning game viewing at Ranthambore National Park by jeeps / canters [Jeeps subject to availability]. Apart from wildlife viewing you will also be taken to the Ranthambore Fort built in the 10th century, which commands a panoramic view of the Tiger Reserve. The fort also houses some splendid monuments within its precincts.

After Game drive from Ranthambore to Jaipur [160kms/3.30 hrs]

Jaipur - The capital of Rajasthan Jaipur - popularly known as the “Pink City “as the Pink sandstone was used to construct the buildings in Old walled city. Jaipur owes its name, its foundation and it’s planning to the Great warrior astronomer Maharaja Jai Singh II (1699–1744 AD).

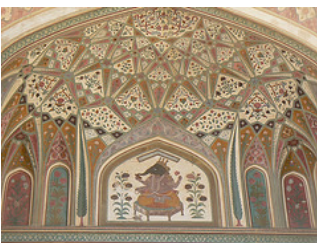
Upon arrival at Hotel, proceeds check-in;

Overnight: Rajputana Sheraton, Jaipur
[Chamber of Emperor room with Breakfast]
www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/property/.../index.html?...

DAY 08

JAIPUR

Breakfast is at Hotel.



After breakfast, you will be driven just outside Jaipur to the **ancient capital of Amber** to see the fabulous Amber Fort. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar’s most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. The fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Ruins and remains are spread over the Aravalli hills and sprawling crenulated walls lattice the surrounding area.

An elephant [Subject to availability/alternatively by jeep] will spare you the trouble of reaching up to the fortress. Once on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls;

Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls. Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room. En-route to Amber you will stop and see the **'Palace of Winds'**, otherwise known as Hawa Mahal. It is really an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city.



Later after lunch [on direct payment], you will visit the **City of Jaipur**. Among the highlights to be seen while touring Jaipur include the **City Palace**, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armory, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. Walk to the adjacent **Jantar Mantar or Astronomical Observatory** made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day. You will also have the opportunity to wander about the local markets

Overnight: Rajputana Sheraton, Jaipur
[Chamber of Emperor Room with Breakfast]

DAY 09
DELHI

JAIPUR –

Breakfast is at Hotel.

Today in time you will drive from Jaipur to Delhi.

Upon arrival check in at Hotel.

Overnight: Radisson, Delhi
[Superior Room with Breakfast]
www.radisson.com/newdelhiin

DAY 10
LONDON

DELHI -

Breakfast is at Hotel.

Today in time you will be met and transferred from the Hotel to Delhi International airport to board your flight back to London