

Essential India



~ Golden Triangle with Khajuraho & Varanasi + Tiger Safari ~

~ 12 Nights / 13 Days ~

~ Itinerary at a Glance ~



Delhi - Jaipur- Ranthambore - Agra - Khajuraho -
Varanasi

The Essential India Tour presents the highlights of a North India Tour in 11 days encompassing experiences ranging from the Golden Triangle of India which includes the Tajmahal and the 02 of the most intriguing cities of India , Varanasi & Khajuraho with some twist of adventure sprinkled with Game Safaries in perhaps the most famous Tiger National Park of India.

A perfect recipe for the first visitor asking for more !

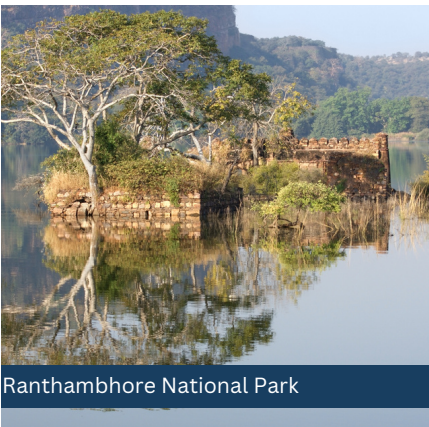
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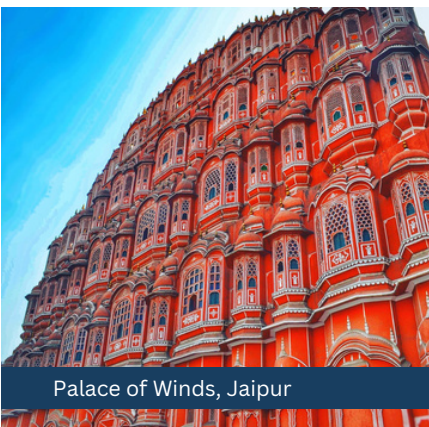
The Tajmahal,Agra



Qutab Minar, New Delhi



Ranthambhore National Park



Palace of Winds, Jaipur



Prayer ceremony on the Ghats of Ganges ,Varanasi

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Day 01

Arrive into India / New Delhi

Arrival at New Delhi International Airport. Special VIP transfer assistance from the Aerobridge to your vehicle for transfer to the Hotel.

Day 02

New Delhi

Post Breakfast , embark on a sightseeing tour of the Historic City of Delhi

The city where one can experience the influence of the many rulers who ruled this region, a city built and destroyed and re-built over seven times. The guided tour takes to the monuments that depict the different eras.

Begin with the Rajghat, a monument where Mahatma Gandhi was erected on the site of his funeral pyre and an important place of pilgrimage for people from all over the world.

After that, go to the Jama Masjid, the great mosque of Old Delhi. It is the largest in India and the final architectural extravagance of Shah Jahan.

Begun in 1644, the mosque was not completed until 1658. It has three great gateways and two minarets standing 130 ft high and constructed of alternating vertical strips of red sandstone and white marble. The courtyard of the mosque can hold 25,000 people, and broad flights of steps lead up to the imposing gateways.

Drive past the Red Fort, The red sandstone walls of Lal Qila, the Red Fort, extend for just over a mile and vary in height from 59 ft on the river side to 108 ft on the city side. Shah Jahan started construction of the massive fort in 1638 and it was completed in 1648.



Tomb of Humayun., New Delhi

The Oberoi Hotel , Gurugram



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Continue to see the bustling and colourful Chandni Chowk bazaar. In this old market area of winding, narrow walkways, you will find entire streets devoted to the sale of a particular item - a street for silver, one for gems, etc. and some excellent examples of Mughal architecture on the upper floors of the buildings.

The grand plans for the new city by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker can be seen in the results; the Rajpath and the Janpath (the two main avenues), Connaught Place, the India Gate, Parliament House, the Secretariat and the President's Palace. The new capital was inaugurated in 1931.

Continue to Humayun's Tomb, a 16th century monument to the Mughal Emperor Humayun who reigned between 1530 and 1556. The structure represents a combination of Persian and Indian styles, the result of part of Humayun's rule being spent in exile in Afghanistan and Persia.

Later, visit the Qutub Minar, a five-storey sandstone tower, built to commemorate the victory of Muhammad Ghuri and Qutb-ud-Din over the infidel Chauhans of Prithvi Raj in 1192. Built in 1199 by Qutb-ud-Din, who later became the first Sultan of Delhi, the tower is inscribed with quotations from the Koran.

Overnight in hotel.



Qutab Minar, New Delhi

Jama Masjid, Delhi



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Day 03

Delhi - Jaipur (260Kms/4.5 Hrs)

Post Breakfast drive to Jaipur. Upon arrival, check into the hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

The city of Jaipur is famous for its hilltop fortresses, magnificent royal palaces and historic pink-painted sandstone architecture, earning it the affectionate nickname of the 'Pink City'. The buildings within the Old City district of Jaipur were first painted pink in 1876 to welcome the current Prince of Wales, and this tradition has remained ever since.

Afternoon at leisure for individual activities.

Day 04

Jaipur

Early morning, visit the Amber Fort, the old capital of Jaipur rulers. The Amber Fort looks stunning, all-built in white marble and red sandstone. To add to its charm, Maatha Lake makes its foreground. The crystal mirror image of the Fort, on the still waters of the lake, seems to be a beautiful illusion.

The outer appearance of the Fort, being rough and craggy is totally different from its core. The interior of the Fort provides a soothing and warm ambience, which is least expected from its outer appearance. The marvelous decoration of the Amber Fort is influenced by both, the Hindu and Muslim manner of ornamentation.

Exquisite paintings of hunting scenes on the walls depict the temperament of the Rajputs, who were adventurous, revolutionary and self-indulgent.

The intricate carvings on the walls and ceilings simply astonish the visitors. The minute mirror work adds to the grand appearance and royalty of the halls. The Amber Fort undoubtedly captivates the tourists with its artistic quality of delicate work. The mighty walls guarantee the protection of the Fort against the invasion of the enemies.

Afternoon sightseeing tour of Jaipur includes City Palace, Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory and Hawa Mahal.

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City Palace forms one of the most famous tourist attractions and a major landmark in Jaipur. The foundation of City Palace was laid at the time when the city of Jaipur itself came into existence. Sawai Maharaja Jai Singh, who founded Jaipur and also laid the foundation of the City Palace, set apart two out of nine segments in which the city was divided, for the purpose of constructing this beautiful palace. The area covered by the City Palace is around one seventh of total area of the Jaipur. Though the foundation was laid in the 18th century itself, further additions and modification in the palace complex continued for the next two centuries. City Palace complex is divided into a series of gardens, courtyards and buildings. A part of the exquisite Palace still makes home for the former Maharaja/ King.

Rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

Day 05

Jaipur - Ranthambhore (180 Kms / 4 Hrs)

Post a leisurely Breakfast drive to Ranthambhore. Upon check in rest of the day at Leisure.

Optional activity : visit an Elephant family in Jaipur OR an additional Game drive in Ranthambhore.

Royal Bengal Tiger



City Palace, Jaipur

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Day 06

Ranthambhore

Ranthambore National Park is positioned at the convergence of the Vindhyan plateau and Aravali hill, in the Eastern region of Rajasthan.

Ranthambore National Park is spread on an area of 1,334 sq kms. In this park, there are some areas earmarked for the tourists where they can wander at their heart's will and explore the fauna and flora housed here. In fact, this distinctive feature of the park is a much loved one, particularly among the tourists.

Morning and Afternoon Jeep Safari to explore the jungles of Ranthambhore and to take a fair chance of coming eye to eye with the King of the Jungle himself.

Day 07

Ranthambhore - Agra (290 kms/ 6 Hrs)

After an early breakfast, drive to Agra. 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 Taj Mahal, gold thread embroidery and leather shoes.

Enroute, visit Fatehpur Sikri, a UNESCO world heritage site. Built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years. It is a complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform architectural style.

Upon arrival check in to the Hotel. Rest of the Day at Leisure

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Day 08

Agra

Early in the morning, begin with the sightseeing of Taj Mahal. “Taj Mahal” - one of the Seven Wonders of the World & surely the most extravagant expression of love ever created. Many architects have rated it as the most perfect of all buildings standing on earth. Though the design of the Taj may appear to be mughal or islamic but the tajmahal is a magnificent edifice rendered by more than just one architect. Built over a period of 22 years , The Tajmahal was brought to life by 20000 artisans and is estimated to cost more than \$200,000,000 in today’s currency.

Afternoon visit the Agra Fort, the rust-colored, majestic, red-sandstone fort of Agra stands on the banks of the river Yamuna. The Red Fort in Agra encompasses a radius of three kilometers and is bordered by a wall, which is 70 foot tall. Two walls made of red sandstone surround the fort. The Red Fort has four gates.

Also see Itmad-ud-Daulah (Baby Taj). Built entirely of white marble and inlaid with semi-precious stones, their mausoleum on the bank of the Yamuna River, exhibits a strong Persian influence.

Day 09

Agra- Orchha

After early breakfast transfer to Agra Cantt Railway Station to board Shatabdi Express to Jhansi [08.00 – 10.20 Hrs)

Meeting assistance upon arrival at Jhansi Railway Station and transfer to Orchha, upon arrival check-in at Hotel Orchha Resort

Evening visit Orchha Palace & temple, the palace of the Rajah Mahal in Orchha Its construction began under the reign of Rajah Rudra Pratap but was stopped by its death into 1531. The palace is organized around two courtyards and contains splendid paintings. Two pieces are interesting: Durbar Hall and Diwan-i-Am. The latter being the piece where the sovereign held his cabinet

Thereafter rest of the time at leisure followed by overnight at the Hotel ...

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Day 10

Orchha - Khajuraho (155 Kms / 3 Hrs)

After Breakfast drive to Khajuraho, upon arrival transfer to Hotel thereafter time at leisure. Khajuraho is a hidden gem despite of being a UNESCO world heritage Monument , not many have heard about these exceptional examples of Stone carving dating back to the 10-11th Century.

Optional Activities : Evening Sound and Light Show. / Classical Dance. Show

Day 11

Khajuraho - Varanasi

Early morning visit the western and eastern Group of Temples. Also famous as the "Kamasutra Temples, the western group temples are ornate and decorated with a fair share of erotic sculptures making it a curious case for every visitor.

Afternoon flight to Varanasi. Meeting assistance upon arrival and transfer to your Hotel enroute visit Sarnath Sarnath "known as the buried city of sarnath, a major buddhist centre and believed to be the birthplace of the gautama buddha. You will see the dharmarajika stupa, the main shrine where buddha sat in meditation and the sacred promenade where he preached. Also at the museum, you will have a chance to see the capital of the ashoka pillar (264 – 226 b.c.), selected as the emblem of independent India"

Day 12

Varanasi/ Delhi(By Flight)

Early this morning drive to the sacred river and board a launch for a cruise on at the Ganges River to view the bathing ghats

Later return to hotel for breakfast thereafter those interested to know more about Hinduism & the living style can explore this holy city passing through narrow lanes and can also do shopping in the local market

Thereafter transfer to Varanasi Airport to board flight to Delhi Meeting assistance upon arrival and transfer to your Hotel.

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Upon arrival in Delhi , transfer to hotel.

Rooms ready for wash and change. Dinner at Hotel. Later, you would be transferred to the New Delhi International airport for your flight back home (as per your International flight timings).



Sadhu in Varanasi



Toyota Innova Crysta

Essential India Hotel Options

CITY	Superior	Deluxe	Luxury	Nights
Delhi	Vivanta by Taj	The Lalit	The Oberoi Gurgaon / The Leela	02
Jaipur	Alsisar Haveli (Heritage Hotel)	Samode Haveli (Heritage Hotel)	The Oberoi Rajvilas / Taj Rambagh Palace	02
Ranthambhore	Dev Villa	Sawai Vilas	The Oberoi Vanyavilas	02
Agra	Courtyard by Mariott	The Trident	The Oberoi Amarvilas	02
Orchha	Orchha Mahal	Orchha Mahal	Orchha Mahal	01
Khajuraho	Radisson	Jass Khajuraho	The Lalit Temple View	01
Varanasi	Ramada	TajGanges	Nadesar Palace / Hotel Brijrama	01
New Delhi	Vivanta By Taj	Vivanta By Taj	Vivanta By Taj	wash & change rooms

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Inclusions

- Accommodation in Hotels as indicated or similar on twin share bed and breakfast basis.
- Air conditioned surface transportation (Toyota Innova Crysta) including Transfers, sightseeing tours and excursions as indicated in the itinerary.
- Good knowledgeable English / German or requested foreign Language speaking local guides
- Entrances to the Monuments as mentioned in the Programme.
- Boat ride at Udaipur
- All around Local Support through our network of local offices in all the cities
- 24 x 7 reachable Phone Contacts for any query / Clarification / Assistance during the whole Tour
- All prevailing Taxes.

Exclusions

- Meals not indicated above
- Room Service, Drinks and beverages, housekeeping & Laundry, Telephone calls, expenses of personal nature.
- Tips and Gratuities



Notes

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