

## CLASSICAL INDIA TOUR (11 Nights / 12 Days)

### DAY 01: ARRIVAL - DELHI

Arrival at Indira Gandhi International airport; meet and greet by our driver/guide at the arrival lounge. Limousine transfer to your hotel and check-in.

Delhi - the capital of India, is a fascinating city with complexities and contradictions, beauty and dynamism, where the past co-exists with the present. Many dynasties ruled from here and the city's rich in the architecture of its monuments. *Delhi* is not only the present metropolis of India but also a Necropolis. Because of its location, being on the banks of the River Yamuna, many cities have risen and fallen over the last five millenniums.

Overnight in Delhi

### DAY 02: OLD & NEW DELHI

After breakfast sightseeing of Old & New Delhi.

Visit some of the interesting sites of Delhi such as, *Qutub Minar, Humanyun's Tomb*, Drive past the *President's House, India Gate*, and *Red Fort*. Later also visit *Jamma Masjid* & enjoy a Rickshaw ride at *Chandni Chowk*, visit *Raj Ghat* - cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation, *Lotus Temple, Lakshmi Narayan Temple*.

Overnight in Delhi

### DAY 03: DELHI - JAIPUR (255 km / 05½ hrs approx)

After Breakfast transfer to Jaipur in Rajasthan and check-in at your hotel.

*Jaipur* - the capital of *Rajasthan* is colours washed pink - the colours associated with hospitality in Rajput culture. *This Pink City* of fairy tale palaces, rugged fortresses perched on barren hills and broad avenues is picturesque. The first planned city of its time, Jaipur is encircled by a formidable wall.

Rest of the day is free for your own activities.

Overnight in Jaipur

#### DAY 04: JAIPUR

After breakfast you will proceed to the **Amber Fort**, where you will enjoy an Elephant Ride to reach the top of the palace. The tour continues with the city tour of Jaipur- visiting **Maharaja's City Palace**, the former Royal residence, part of it converted into a museum. Later visit the **Jantar Mantar**, which is the largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world, having 17 large astronomical instruments, many of them still in working condition. During the tour you will also have a brief photography stop at **Hawa Mahal - the Palace of Winds** and the **Albert Hall**.

Overnight in Jaipur

#### DAY 05: JAIPUR - AGRA (245 km / 05 ½ hrs. Approx)

Early morning transfer to Agra, en-route visit Fatehpur Sikri

**Fatehpur Sikri** is located 38 km from **Agra** and often referred to as abandoned Mughul capital. This 16<sup>th</sup> century capital of Mughul emperor Akbar is a complex of forts, palaces and mosques built in sandstone. The city had to be deserted because of lack of water. The white marble **Tomb of Sheikh Salim Chisti**, Akbar's spiritual adviser, is now observed as a Muslim pilgrimage spot here.

After the visit continue your drive to Agra

Arrival Agra and transfer to your hotel. Later visit the **Taj Mahal** – a monument of Love, (please note: the Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays) which was built in the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century by the Mughul emperor Shah Jehan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. Also visit **Itmad – UD- Daula Tomb & Agra Fort** which stands like a crescent on the banks of the Jamuna River enclosed by forbidding 20-meter high walls, with a 12- meter moat between them.

Overnight in Agra

#### DAY 06: AGRA - JHANSI - ORCHHA (18 Kms. / 30 Minutes)

Morning on time after breakfast from Agra Railway Station to Jhansi.

**Train Details: -**

Train Name / No: - Shatabdi Exp: - 2002  
Depart from Agra: - 0802 Hrs  
Arrival at Jhansi: - 1043 Hrs  
Proposed Class: - AC Chair Car

Meet your driver at the Jhansi railway station and transfer to **Orchha** - Founded in the 16<sup>th</sup> century by the Bundela Rajput chieftain Rudra Pratap, Orchha grandeur has been captured in stone, the palaces and temples retain much of their pristine perfection.

Afternoon sightseeing: Visit **Jehangir Mahal**, built by Raja Bir Singh Ju Deo in the 17<sup>th</sup> century to commemorate the visit of Emperor Jehangir to Orchha. Its strong lines are counterbalanced by delicate chhatris and trellis work, the whole conveying an effect of extraordinary richness. **Raj Mahal Palace** with its plain exteriors, crowned by chhatris, give way to interiors with exquisite murals, boldly colourful, on a variety of religious themes. **Ram Raj Temple** - the palace-turned temple with its soaring spires and palatial architecture - is one of the most unusual in India; also visit the **Chaturbhuji Temple** and the **Laxminarayan Temple**.

Overnight in Orchha

**DAY 07: ORCHA - KHAJURAHO (180 km / 4 hrs)**

Morning enjoy your breakfast at hotel. Later depart for Khajuraho.

Arrive at **Khajuraho** and check into your hotel. Khajuraho was created by the Chandela kings around 925 AD, Khajuraho emerged when the west was still finding its place in the sun. The temples are a spectacular feat of architectural excellence, carved with the roughest of tools, all within the span of a hundred years. 85 temples in all portrayed the civilisation of the times' zest for life, they portray spirituality, love, music, dance hunting and feasting. Today, 22 temples survived. Khajuraho has achieved fame for he sensual appeal of the erotic sculptures. But, these form only part of the wealth of the site which depicts everyday life of the people and the court in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Overnight in Khajuraho

#### DAY 08: KHAJURAHO

After breakfast sightseeing of Khajuraho

Visit the Western Group of temples. The *Kandariya Mahadeo Temple* of the Western group is the largest, dedicated to Shiva. The main shrine is exquisitely carved and features, in delicate detail, gods, goddesses, celestial maidens and lovers. Also visit the *Chausath Yogini Temple* dedicated to Kali and the Chitragupta temple dedicated to the sun-god Surya. See the Eastern & Southern group of temples. The *Parsvanath Temple* of the Eastern group is the group's largest Jain temple. The themes depict, in charming detail, everyday activity. Also visit the *Duladeo Temple* dedicated to Shiva and the Chaturbhuj temple of the Southern group.

Rest of the day is kept free for your own activities.

Overnight in Khajuraho

#### DAY 09: KHAJURAHO - VARANASI

After breakfast the day free for independent activities. Later transfer to the airport to board the flight for Varanasi.

Arrival at *Varanasi* and transfer to your hotel. Varanasi is one of India's most important pilgrimage sites and the holiest of holy cities for Hindus. Known also as *Kashi and Benaras*, Varanasi is one of the world's oldest living cities, and has been a centre of learning and culture for well over 2000 years. In the evening a visit at *Dashwamedh Ghat* to attend the Aarti ceremony.

Overnight in Varanasi

#### DAY 10: VARANASI

Morning boat ride at dawn down India's most sacred river, *The Ganges*. Sun rise at the holy river is a truly tranquil and breath taking sight with pilgrims standing waist-deep in water, praying to the rising Sun. Past these bathing ghats, see the "burning ghats" where the Hindus cremate their dead. This is

done with great religious fervour which makes for a moving experience. The *Benaras Hindu University* founded in 1916 and its famous Museum - *Bharat Kala Bhavan* which houses one of the finest collection of Mughal miniature paintings and brocade textiles. The *Bharat Mata* and *Durga Temple* and see the famous *Vishwanath Temple* with its spires covered with gold, dedicated to Shiva, the presiding deity of the city.

Later a visit to *Sarnath*, the site where the Buddha turned the Wheel of Law and delivered His First Sermon. See the *Chowkandi* and *Dhamek Stupas*, the ruins of 9th and 10th century monasteries and temples, the temple built by the Mahabodhi Society in 1931, and the *Tibetan Temple*. Visit the famous *Sarnath Museum (closed on Fridays)*.

Overnight in Varanasi

#### DAY 11: VARANASI - DELHI

Morning free for independent activities.

In the afternoon transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi.

Arrival Delhi and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight in Delhi

#### DAY 12: DELHI - DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to the International Airport to board the flight to your onward destination.

#### Travel Agent Information

We are flexible in our approach and are happy to review and provide recommendations on your own suggested tour program

- No Limit on Groups Sizes (01 - 99+ pax)
- Accommodation options are ranging from budget hotels to luxury and boutique resorts
- All meal plans available; including special dietary (DBML / GFML), vegetarian and/or vegan meal plans
- Private Transportation by limousine, minivan and/or bus
- Experienced, multi-lingual drivers and tour guides

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