

HERITAGE GOLDEN TRIANGLE

DAY 1

Depart London Heathrow on your overnight British Airways flight to Delhi.

DAY 2

DELHI

Arrive in Delhi where you will be greeted, transferred to your hotel, [**THE IMPERIAL**](#) and assisted with check-in for a two nights stay.

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 spiralling 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.

Spend your afternoon at leisure.

Suggestions for independent sightseeing include the Lotus Temple which serves as the mother Temple of the India Subcontinent or the famous Akshardham Temple, situated on the banks of the Yamuna River, featured in the Guinness Book of Records as the world's largest comprehensive Hindu Temple.

DAY 3

DELHI

Breakfast at the hotel.

Full day guided tour of the city, taking in the major sights of Old & New Delhi.

Begin with Old Delhi, the Mughal Capital of Shahjahanabad.

Visit the Jama Masjid, the principal mosque of Old Delhi in India. It is the largest and best-known mosque in India and lies at the heart of a very busy central street of Old Delhi, the Chawri Bazar Road.

Later we proceed to visit Raj Ghat where Mahatma Gandhi, The Father Of Nation, was cremated and drive past the Red Fort, the palace for Shahjahan's new capital, Shahjahanabad.

Wander in the busy streets of the mile long Chandni Chowk, popularly called "The Silver Street".

In the afternoon, proceed for the 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 will start by visit to the Qutab Minar, the tallest stone tower in India. The building is 72.5 m high and has 379 steps from the bottom to the top.

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 and 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 in Delhi.

DAY 4

AGRA

Early this morning, transfer to the station for the Shatabdi Express train to Agra, which is a 2 hour journey.

Agra, in terms of ambiance, is still associated with its Mughal period. The Mughals besides being great rulers were also great builders and they preserved their best architectural wonders. It has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best.

On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel, the [**OBEROI AMARVILAS**](#), to check in before your guided tour.

During the tour, you will visit the Agra Fort, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture. It was the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations.

You will also visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

Later, you will be taken for a visit to Taj Mahal at sunset. 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, it is truly a wonder.

Overnight in Agra.

DAY 5

Optional early morning sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal.

Breakfast in the hotel, followed by an early morning depart from Agra and drive to Jaipur, a 5 and a half hour journey.

En route, visit the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, another marvel of Mughal architecture. Once the seat of Mughal legacy, 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

Late afternoon arrive in Jaipur where the rest of the day is at leisure.

Spend 2 nights in Jaipur at the [RAMBAGH PALACE](#).

DAY 6

JAIPUR

Today you are taken on a full day guided tour of Jaipur, a city of colour and pageantry famously known as the Pink City.

After breakfast, you will drive just outside Jaipur to the ancient capital of Amber to see the fabulous Amber Fort.

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 will spare you the trouble of walking up to the fortress.

Once at the top, you can 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.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of the city.

Begin with the City Palace. The magnificent City Palace is in the centre of the pink city of Jaipur, enclosed by high walls and set amidst fine gardens and courtyards. Since, Jai Singh built it in 1728, it has been the principal residence for the Maharajas of Jaipur and the successive rulers have each added to it.

Then walk to the adjacent Jantar Mantar, also called Astronomical Observatory made by the Maharaja of Jaipur. It is one of the five such astronomical wonders constructed by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day.

DAY 7

SAMODE

After breakfast, drive to Samode, a 1 hour journey, north west of Jaipur, where you will spend 2 nights at the [SAMODE PALACE](#) in a royal suite.

Samode, a 475 year old palace, is a beautiful retreat where you can enjoy India's natural beauty and rich history. It is a splendid example of regal Indo-Saracenic architecture and combines the best of Indian and Mughal styles.

DAY 8

SAMODE

Full day at leisure.

Optional activities include:

- Tour of Samode Palace – An extensive tour, focusing on the history, architecture, restoration and conversion of the palace into the hotel.
- Camel or Jeep Safari – Witness the rustic and rural village life of Samode.
- Local Village Walk

DAY 9

Drive to Delhi to take your flight home with British Airways.

DAY 10

Take your early flight back to London.

ALTERNATIVE HOTELS

There is the opportunity to stay at alternative hotels during this tour, which will reduce the overall cost.

Delhi: The Maidens or Royal Plaza

Agra: Trident or Grand Imperial

Jaipur: Samode Haveli or Shalpura House

Samode: Samode Palace (Normal Rooms) or Samode Bagh