



Golden Triangle with Varanasi & Khajuraho

DAY 01: ARRIVAL DELHI

(No Meals)

You will arrive at New Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, our representative will meet you as you **Exit** the **Arrivals Terminal** building after which you would be transferred to Hotel

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 spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks



Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 02: DELHI – VARANASI

BY FLIGHT (1040/1200 HRS)

(B/L/D)

Buffet breakfast at hotel. Later in time transfer to domestic airport to board flight for Varanasi. Upon arrival in Varanasi met assistance & transfer to Hotel for check-in.

Varanasi, the 'eternal city', and Hinduism's most important city, located on the banks of the sacred River Ganges, has been the center of learning & civilization for over two thousand years. **Varanasi** is a sacred and oldest city of the world located at the banks of the holy River Ganga. Where, Ganga aarti is performed daily in the evening by a group of priests at the Dashashwamedh Ghat. Through the aarti, Agni Pooja is performed in which a commitment is made to the Lord Shiva, Mata Ganga, Surya, Agni (Fire).



Enjoy buffet Lunch at hotel.

After lunch proceed to visit **Sarnath**. Sarnath is a major Buddhist center in the world.

After achieving enlightenment at Bodhgaya, Buddha, the 'Awakened One', delivered his first sermon here. It was the sixth century then, when he also set in motion the wheel of law, the Dharmachakra. This dwelling place of the rishis, it was also known as 'Rishipatana' (the place of the Rishis or sages). Buddha gave his first sermon in the Deer Park where he initiated his first five disciples into Buddhist monkhood. Buddhism found its roots in Sarnath, the birthplace of this way of life



In the evening you would be taken to the Ghats to see the illuminated **Ganga Aarti ceremony** – an experience of life. The Ganga Aarti is a spectacular sight. Hundreds throng to the ghats to participate in this ceremony.

INCREDIBLE LEGENDS HOLIDAY PVT. LTD 210, Harsha House, Moti Nagar, Karampura Market, New Delhi-110015

Tel: +91 11 4565 1683

e-mail: rkumar@theilh.com

Web: www.theilh.com



Offerings of lamps and flowers are made to the river immediately following this ceremony and it is a moving sight to watch hundreds of miniature lamps float along the river.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 03: VARANASI - KHAJURAHO

BY FLIGHT

(B/L/D)

Early morning transfer to the river Ghats for the **boat ride on the sacred river Ganges** to see the cremation Ghats and witness the living traditions of one of the world's oldest and most important religions. For you to appreciate this remarkable city, we'll transfer you to the banks of the River Ganges before the sun rises. Board a boat with your guide and proceed to the middle of the river, where at sunrise the sight unfolds before you.

Visit **Vishwanath Temple** (foreigners entry restricted inside the temple) – Dedicated to Lord Shiva, this temple is the most sacred shrine in Varanasi. The original temple was destroyed by Mughal emperor Aurangzeb which was later restored by Rani Ahilyabai of India in 18th century.

Return to hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast transfer to Varanasi airport to board flight for Khajuraho.

Upon arrival in Khajuraho transfer to Hotel for check-in.



Lunch at Local City Restaurant/Hotel.

After lunch proceed to visit **Khajuraho Group of Monuments**.

The Khajuraho Group of Monuments are a group of Hindu and Jain temples. The temples are famous for their Nagara-style architectural symbolism and a few erotic sculptures. Most Khajuraho temples were built between 885 CE and 1000 CE by the Chandela dynasty.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel

DAY 04: KHAJURAHO – ORCHA - JHANSI - AGRA

BY: SURFACE/TRAIN

(B/L/D)

After breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven to Orcha (approx. 240 kms./05 hrs.).

Lunch at Orcha local City Restaurant/Hotel.

After lunch proceed to visit **Orcha**. The town was established by a Bundela rajput ruler Rudra Pratap Singh some time after 1501, as the seat of an eponymous former princely state of covering parts of central & north India.

After Transfer to Jhansi railway station to connect Train for Agra.

Upon arrival in Agra transfer to Hotel for check-in.



Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 05: AGRA

BY: SURFACE

(B/L/D)

After breakfast at hotel proceed to visit **Taj Mahal by sunrise (closed on Fridays)**. 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.



Also visit the **Agra Fort**, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture. Agra Fort - the seat and the strong hold 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 Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.



Dinner & Overnight at hotel.

DAY 06: AGRA - ABHANERI - JAIPUR

BY: SURFACE

(B/L/D)

Breakfast at the hotel. Later check-out from the hotel and drive to Jaipur (approx. 273 kms./06 hrs.).

In-route visiting Abhanesri Step-well.

Abhneeri (Stepwell/Chandbaori), Chand Baori is a stepwell situated in the village of Abhaneri in the Indian state of Rajasthan. It extends approximately 30 m into the ground, making it one of the deepest and largest stepwell in India.



After drive to Jaipur. Upon arrival proceed for check-in at the hotel & take lunch.

After lunch visit **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, armoury, 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 visit the local markets.





After sightseeing come back to hotel.

Dinner & Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 07: IN JAIPUR - DELHI

BY: SURFACE

(B/L/D)

Morning take **Yoga Experience** at your hotel. After breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven just outside Jaipur to the **ancient capital of Amber** to see the fabulous **Amber Fort** by Jeep. 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 Maota Lake. Ruins and remains are spread over the Aravalli hills and sprawling crenulated walls lattice the surrounding area. An elephant (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



Enjoy Lunch at Local City Restaurant/Hotel.

After lunch drive to Delhi.

Upon arrival in Delhi take Dinner at city restaurant.

After dinner check-in at the hotel.

Overnight stay at the hotel.

DAY 08: DELHI DEPARTURE

BY: SURFACE

(B/L/D)

After breakfast at the hotel, Visit **Old Delhi** (Red Fort & Chandni Chok).

Old Delhi (Hindustani: Purani Dilli) is an area in the Central Delhi district of Delhi, India. It was founded as a walled city named Shahjahanabad in 1648, when Shah Jahan (the Mughal emperor at the time) decided to shift the Mughal capital from Agra. The construction of the city was completed in 1648, and it remained the capital of Mughal India until its fall in 1857, when the British Empire took over as paramount power in the Indian subcontinent.



Enjoy Lunch at Local City Restaurant.

After lunch visit **Akshardham Temple**.



Akshardham Temple. Swaminarayan Akshardham is a Hindu temple and spiritual-cultural campus in Delhi, India. The temple is close to the border with Noida. Also referred to as Akshardham Temple or Akshardham Delhi, the complex displays millennia of traditional and modern Hindu culture, spirituality, and architecture

Dinner at City Restaurant with **Indian Tandoori chicken.**

Evening in time transfer to the airport to connect flight for onward destination.

