

<u>Espíritu Especial</u>

DAY 01: Arrive in Delhi

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

Breakfast. Transfer to Sigiriya.

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

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

After lunch visit **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

Overnight in Delhi.







DAY 03: Delhi- Amritsar

After enjoying a hearty breakfast at their hotel in Delhi, travelers will check out and head to the airport for a flight to Amritsar, located in the northwestern state of Punjab. Amritsar is renowned as the spiritual and cultural hub of Sikhism. Upon arrival, guests will be warmly greeted and transferred to their hotel.

The highlight of the day is a visit to the Golden Temple (Sri Harmandir Sahib), the holiest shrine in Sikhism. Founded in the 16th century by Guru Arjan Dev Ji, the fifth Sikh Guru, the Golden Temple's architecture blends Hindu and Islamic styles, symbolizing the universal teachings of Sikhism—equality, compassion, and service. The temple is surrounded by the Amrit Sarovar, a sacred pool believed to have healing properties.



Visitors can participate in the langar, a community kitchen that serves free meals to everyone irrespective of caste, creed, or religion, exemplifying Sikh principles of equality and generosity. In the evening, guests can witness the Sukh-Aasan ceremony, a serene prayer ritual accompanied by devotional music.

Overnight in the hotel.

Day 04: Amritsar - Delhi - Bodh Gaya [By Flight]

After breakfast, guests will fly from Amritsar to Delhi and then take another flight to Bodh Gaya in Bihar. Bodh Gaya holds immense significance as the place where Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree. The Mahabodhi Temple Complex, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is the focal point of the visit. This ancient site, dating back to the 5th-6th century CE, showcases exquisite

Gupta period architecture. The Mahabodhi Temple, adorned with intricately carved stone railings and images of the Buddha, stands at the location of the Buddha's enlightenment.

Pilgrims from all over the world visit to meditate under the Bodhi Tree, believed to be a descendant of the original tree. Nearby, the Niranjana River flows gently, providing a peaceful backdrop for spiritual contemplation. The Sujata Temple, dedicated to the woman who offered food to the Buddha before his enlightenment, adds to the spiritual ambiance of Bodh Gaya.



Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 05: Bodhgaya - Varanasi [By Surface 255 Km & 05 hrs]

After breakfast, guests will depart from Bodh Gaya for a scenic drive to Varanasi, a city on the banks of the River Ganges in Uttar Pradesh. Varanasi, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, is steeped in Hindu tradition and spirituality. Upon arrival, guests will check into their hotel and prepare for an evening excursion.



The highlight of the day is witnessing the Ganga Aarti, a mesmerizing ritual performed at the

Dashashwamedh Ghat. This ancient ritual, involving lamps, incense, and devotional songs, is dedicated to the River Ganges, considered sacred in Hinduism. The ceremony is believed to cleanse the soul and bring blessings to those who witness it. Varanasi is also known for its numerous ghats (steps leading down to the river), each with its own significance and stories. Guests can explore these ghats, witnessing the daily life and spiritual practices along the riverbanks.

Dinner and overnight stay.



Day 06: Varanasi

The day begins early with a boat cruise along the River Ganges at dawn, offering a unique perspective on the city's spiritual life. As the sun rises, pilgrims perform their morning rituals on the ghats, including

bathing in the holy river and offering prayers. The boat ride provides insights into the vibrant culture and ancient traditions of Varanasi. Afterward, guests will visit Sarnath, located just 10 kilometers from Varanasi. Sarnath is a significant Buddhist pilgrimage site, where the Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment.

The Dhamek Stupa, an impressive structure marking the spot of the sermon, and the Ashoka Pillar are notable attractions. Guests can explore the Archaeological Museum to see artifacts and sculptures depicting Buddhist art and history. The rest of the day is free for leisure activities, allowing guests to further explore Varanasi's bustling markets, ancient temples, and renowned silk weaving traditions.



Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 07: Varanasi - Delhi [By Flight] - Agra by Road [By Surface 210 Km & 04 Hrs]

After breakfast, guests will check out from their hotel and transfer to the airport for a flight back to Delhi.

Upon arrival in Delhi, they will embark on a scenic drive to Agra, home to the iconic Taj Mahal. Agra, located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, was once the capital of the Mughal Empire and is renowned for its architectural marvels. Upon arrival in Agra, guests will check into their hotel and have the evening free for leisure activities.

Dinner and overnight stay.



Day 08: Agra - Delhi [By Surface 210 Km & 04 Hrs] - Dehradun [By Flight]

Post breakfast, guests will visit the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage site and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, the Taj

Mahal is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture, renowned for its white marble facade, intricate carvings, and serene gardens.

Guests will also explore the Agra Fort, a UNESCO-listed fortress-palace with impressive structures such as the Jahangir Palace and the Khas Mahal. Later, guests will drive back to Delhi and board a flight to Dehradun. Upon arrival in Dehradun, they will be transferred to Rishikesh. Upon arrival in Rishikesh, check in.



Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 09: Rishikesh

In Rishikesh, guests will have the day at leisure to explore the spiritual and natural beauty of this Himalayan

town. Rishikesh is known as the Yoga Capital of the World and offers opportunities for yoga and meditation retreats, ashram visits, and outdoor activities such as river rafting and trekking.

Guests can visit the famous Ram Jhula and Lakshman Jhula, suspension bridges over the Ganges, and explore numerous ashrams and temples that dot the town. The tranquil atmosphere and scenic beauty of Rishikesh make it a popular destination for spiritual seekers and nature lovers alike.



Dinner and overnight stay.

Day 10: Rishikesh - Delhi (By Flight)- Depart

After breakfast, guests will check out from their hotel in Rishikesh and transfer to the airport for a flight back to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi, they will be transferred to their hotel for the remainder of the day at leisure. Guests can use this time for last-minute shopping, relaxation, or exploring the vibrant city of Delhi. After this, guests will be transferred to the airport in time for their onward flight, marking the end of their enriching journey through India's cultural, historical, and spiritual landmarks.