

Classical India 11 days

An unforgettable wandering to famous Indian cities, from Delhi to the beautiful Golden Triangle historic monuments and Varanasi

Discover the famous Indian cities, from **Delhi's** historic monuments to the beautiful pink city of **Jaipur**, this trip will take you through some of the greatest man-made creations and let you learn about the country's colourful history. Explore **Agra's** pristine **Taj Mahal** and bask in the creations of the **Mughal Empire** that boast till date of their glory and grandeur. Visit **Varanasi** – a place every **Hindu** devotee wants to visit once in a lifetime. Experience the rituals performed on the **Ghats** (embankments) and learn about the religious practices, in this city famous for “**paan**” (beetle leaves).

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Delhi:** Old and New Delhi grow upon the senses as you visit the **Jama Masjid, Red Fort** and **the grand Lutyens's Delhi**
- **Jaipur:** Admire the amazing **Amber Fort**, visit the dazzling **City Palace** and behold the romantic **Palace of the Winds**
- **Agra:** Behold the love poem written in stone, or simply, **the Taj Mahal** and experience the myriad other charms of this city.
- **Lucknow:** This multicultural city flourished as a **North Indian** cultural and artistic hub, and the seat of power during the 18th and 19th centuries under the **Nawabs**. It is also known for its wide variety of street food. **Nahari**, a dish prepared using mutton, is popular among non-vegetarians.
- **Varanasi:** Explore this blindingly colorful, unrelentingly chaotic and unapologetically indiscreet city, one of the holiest places in the world.

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVAL IN DELHI

Arrive at **Indira Gandhi International Airport** with meet and greet by a representative, followed by transfer to your hotel. In the evening, enjoy a welcome briefing session with the tour manager. **Delhi** is a bustling metropolis where the past and the present merge, and where the Old and the New cities define the capital's cultural and architectural heritage.

Overnight at the hotel

DAY 2: IN DELHI

Today morning, after breakfast, proceed for a sightseeing tour of **Delhi**. Visit the beautiful historic **Jama Masjid** – a stupendous architectural marvel and one of the largest mosques in **India**. At the end of the day, enjoy a cycle rickshaw ride in the narrow streets of **Old Delhi**. Later, drive past the **India Gate** (war memorial dedicated

to fallen soldiers), the President's Residence—formerly the **Viceroy's Palace**, the Parliament House and the Secretariat Buildings—an interesting blend of the Victorian and 20th century architecture.

Also visit, **Humayun's Tomb**, one of the earliest examples of **Mughal architecture** in India. Recently renovated and restored to its former splendour, complete with beautiful gardens and fountains, it is a very attractive site. Architecturally, the mausoleum drew its inspiration from the styles prevalent in **Samarkand**, and the design of the Taj Mahal is based on this tomb.

Optional visit **Qutab Minar** (not included):

Qutab Minar complex has many historical monuments, including one of the earliest mosques in India – **The Quwwat-Ul- Islam** – built from the dressed and carved stones of demolished temples. The construction of the **Qutab Minar** itself was started in 1199 by **Qutb ud din Aibak** and later completed by his successors. This mighty tower is decorated with elegant balconies and carvings.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 3: DELHI – JAIPUR (277 KMS – 06 HRS)

After breakfast at the hotel, depart **Delhi**, heading to **Jaipur**, arriving in the '**Pink City**', as it is popularly known, in the afternoon. Check in on arrival with the remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 4: IN JAIPUR

Morning excursion to **Amber Fort** – Located on a spur overlooking a lake, Amber Fort's robust, time-ravaged walls appear imposing from the outside but they hide an interior packed with beautifully decorated palaces and temples, and landscaped gardens. Be dazzled by **Sheesh Mahal**, a room with all the four walls and the ceiling completely embedded with glittering mirror pieces. Admire the frescoes of the **Ganesh Pol gate** and **the colonnade of the Diwan-i-Aam**.

En route to **Amber Fort**, you will have a brief photography stop at **Hawa Mahal**—the **Palace of Winds**.

Afternoon visit to **Maharaja's City Palace**, the former Royal Residence, part of it is converted into a museum. A private portion of the palace is still used by the Royal Family of **Jaipur**.

Also visit **Jantar Mantar**, the world famous stone and marble crafted observatory is still in working condition.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 5: JAIPUR – AGRA (245 KMS / 05 HRS)

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to **Agra**

On arrival, check in to the hotel

Agra rose to fame in the 17th century as the capital of the **Mughal Empire** and was beautified with gardens, waterfalls, bathhouses and canals. Over time, the city turned into a thriving crafts centre, also famous for marble inlay work and carpet production. In the afternoon, go out on a **sightseeing tour of Agra**, which includes a visit to the

awe-inspiring **Taj Mahal**. Built in the mid-17th century by the heartbroken **Shah Jahan** following the death in childbirth of his queen, **Mumtaz Mahal**, this mausoleum is an eternal love poem written in stone. During the visit, you can admire the intricacy of the work of the 20,000 craftsmen who were brought from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy to build this astonishing monument. (Closed on Fridays)

Optional Agra Fort visit.

Visit **Agra Fort**, whose forbidding red sandstone battlements hide a number of majestic **Mughal palaces**. Explore the delightful **Diwan-i-Am** (Hall of Public Audience) where the emperor once sat on his throne to address his people, and the **Diwan-i-Khas** (Hall of Private Audience) where he hosted kings and foreign dignitaries. The white marble **Mina Masjid** (Heavenly Mosque) stands in contrast to the rest of the **Red Fort**.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 6: AGRA - LUCKNOW (336 KMS / 4.5 HRS)

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to **Lucknow**, known for its cuisine and fascinating cultural heritage. On arrival, check in to the hotel.

Lucknow is one of those few places that cling on to their original character and refuse to let go even in the face of the fiercest of the storms of change. Majestic old monuments all but scream out the tales of an ephemeral yet rich tangible past. Descendants of royal chefs still serve cuisine prepared from recipes secretly handed down over generations. The tradition of **Tehzeeb** (courtesy) inculcated by the **Nawabs** (royal retainers) of the yesteryears often springs forth from the small gestures and language of the folks living here. Small wonder that all the sights, smells and sounds of **Lucknow** connive to become obsessive yet endearing memories.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 7: IN LUCKNOW

This morning, after breakfast, start with your sightseeing tour of **Lucknow**- the city of Nawabs! Located in what was historically known as the **Awadh region**, Lucknow has always been a multicultural city. Courtly manners, beautiful gardens, poetry, music, and fine cuisine patronized by the Persia-influenced Nawabs of the city characterize the city. Present day **Lucknow** is a vibrant city that is witnessing an economic boom and is among the top ten fastest growing non-major-metropolitan cities of **India**. Lucknow and the region around it are also known for a wide variety of mangoes and delectable melons. It is also famous for its small scale industries like the oil based perfumes ittar, kite making, and unique styles of embroidery, namely Chikan and **Lakhnawi Zardosi**.

Sightseeing of Lucknow includes visit to the exquisitely decorated **Rumi Darwaza**, also known as the Turkish Gate, the magnificent **Bara Immambara**, the **Husainabad Immambara**, and the **Asafud-daula Immambara**, which reflect the quintessence of **Awadhi** architecture. Visit the Picture Gallery, which houses a collection of life-size oil paintings of the **Nawabs of Oudh** and also visit **Chattar Manzil**, **Moti Mahal** and the **British Raj Residency**, which was the site of Mutiny in 1857.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 8: LUCKNOW – VARANASI (TRAIN)

Today, early morning transfer to railway station to board train for **Varanasi**.

Lucknow / Varanasi LKO BSB Intercity Express 07:00/13:30 hours

Meeting and assistance on arrival and transfer to hotel for check in

Evening visit to the **Ganges** to witness the **Aarti ceremony**.

Aarti is said to have descended from the **Vedic** concept of fire rituals. In the traditional **Aarti ceremony**, the flower represents the earth (solidity), the water and accompanying handkerchief correspond with the water element (liquidity), the lamp or candle represents the fire component (heat), the peacock fan conveys the precious quality of air (movement), and the yak-tail fan represents the subtle form of ether (space). The incense represents a purified state of mind, and one's "intelligence" is offered through the adherence to rules of timing and order of offerings. Thus, one's entire existence and all facets of material creation are symbolically offered to the Lord via the **Aarti ceremony**.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 9: IN VARANASI

Early morning boat ride on river **Ganges**. The ride gives you an unforgettable experience as you see the bathing and cremation sites. The boat ride takes you till **Manikarnika Ghat**- the cremation ghat and back. After boat ride, take a small walking tour through the narrow lanes of **Varanasi** passing by **Vishwanath temple**- also called **The Golden temple** because of the gold-plating on its roof and **Durga temple** (Non Hindus are not allowed in the temple). Later, return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, excursion to **Sarnath**, which is 10 km from **Varanasi**. Buddha preached his first sermon to five disciples at the **Deer Park** here, enshrining the principals of his teaching into laws. **The Dhamek Stupa Marks** the location of a once resplendent monastery. A large complex of ruined monasteries covers the area north of the stupas. Some of the buildings belong to the **Kushan and Gupta period**. The first monk communities probably settled here in the 3rd century BC. Near the **Dhamek Stupa** is a new Monastery built by the **Buddhist Mahabodhi Society**.

The major events of **Buddha's life** are depicted here in wall paintings by a Japanese artist. Sarnath has an interesting archaeological Museum, which has preserved the famous **Sarnath pillar**, whose capital forms India's national emblem.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 10: VARANASI – DELHI (FLIGHT)

Today, in time, transfer to Varanasi airport to board the flight for **Delhi**

Varanasi – Delhi / AI 433 / 15:30 / 17:05 hours

(Flight details may vary at the time of booking)

Meeting and assistance at airport and transfer to the hotel for check in.

Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 11: DEPARTURE DELHI

At the appropriate time, transfer to **Delhi International Airport** to board your onward flight.

RATES

Prices p/p in Euros

Travel Period	Dbl share p/p	Sgl suppl	Hotels	Type of travel
01/11/20 – 31/03/21	820	440	Standard	Shared services
01/11/20 – 31/03/21	1.030	575	Superior	Shared services
01/04/21 – 31/09/21	695	315	Standard	Shared services
01/04/21 – 31/09/21	840	415	Superior	Shared services

- **Special conditions may apply during Easter Week (from March 26 to April 3 2021) Please ask us.**

Notes

Travel Period: Range of time price are valid. Should your desired trip dates cover 2 different travel periods, rates should be recalculated and proposed to you by mail.

Type of Travel: vforvacation offers two types of travel

- Shared services** which means “seat in coach” basis tours with multinational fellow travelers’ groups.
- Private services** which means that all arrangements and land services are on individual basis.

Single supplement: Cost of Single supplement is only valid on a basis of minimum 3 paying passengers travelling together

For Solo travelers on private service tours, rates should be recalculated and proposed to you by mail.

TRAVEL DATES

2020 November:	7, 14, 21, 28
2020 December:	5, 12
2021 January:	8, 15, 22, 29
2021 February:	6, 13, 20, 27
2021 March:	6, 13, 20, 27
2021 April:	3, 10, 17, 24
2021 May:	1, 8, 15, 22, 29
2021 June:	5, 12, 19, 26
2021 July:	3, 10, 17, 24, 31
2021 August:	7, 14, 21, 28
2021 September:	4, 11, 18

INCLUSIONS

- **Accommodation**

Day	Destination	Hotel/resort	Category
1-2	Delhi	Jaypee Siddhartha or Similar	Standard
		Radisson Blu Dwarka or Similar	Superior
3 – 4	Jaipur	Park Regis or Similar	Standard
		Holiday Inn City Centre or Similar	Superior
5	Agra	Radisson or Similar	Standard
		Taj Hotels & Convention Centre or Similar	Superior
6 – 7	Lucknow	Golden Tulip or Similar	Standard
		Taj Mahal Hotel or Similar	Superior
8 – 9	Varanasi	Rivatas by Ideal or Similar	Standard
		Radisson or Similar	Superior
10	Delhi	Lemon Tree Aerocity or Similar	Standard
		Radisson Blu Dwarka or Similar	Superior

- **Meals**

Breakfast daily

- **Transportation**

Meeting and assistance upon arrival/ departure by company representative (English speaking)

Transfer from airport to the hotel and vice-versa
Visits, excursions and transfers as per the program

Cost based on air-conditioned vehicle

Train Journey from Lucknow to Varanasi by express train in AC chair car cabin

- **Guides**

English speaking accompanying tour guide staying in different hotels

- **Entrance Fees**

Entrance to the site as per the itinerary (subject to change without prior notice)

NOT INCLUDED

- Object of personal nature – like laundry, drinks, telephone calls, Tip to porter, driver, guide etc.
- Air tickets
- Indian tourist visa fees

- Travel insurance
- Eventual hike of the airport taxes or fuel surcharge, that may be vary without any prior notice
- Any meal not manitoned in the program
- Any thing that not mentioned in the section 'INCLUSION'

REMARKS

- In case of more travelers or groups pls request ad hoc and we'll send you our proposal by mail.
- For special groups and ad hoc programs pls request and we'll send you our proposal by mail.