

Kaleidoscopic India

**Delhi • JODHPUR • DECHU • JAISALMER • JAIPUR • BHARATPUR • AGRA
• JHANSI • PANNA • KHAJURAHO • Varanasi • Delhi**



11 nights

(Combined of 4 star deluxe & entry level 5 star deluxe & super luxury resorts)



17 meals

11 Breakfast
3 Lunch
3 Dinner



Transport

Private air conditioned vehicle

Journey highlights

Explore some of India's most impressive UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Tour of Old Delhi followed by exciting rickshaw ride through the colourful bazar

Jeep safari through Sand dunes

Admire the stunning 'Pink City' of Jaipur

Guided walk to local markets and historical sites

Explore the magnificent Bird sanctuary followed by visit to Taj Mahal - the extravagant monument of love

Experience sacred Hindu blessings along the Ganges

Sunrise boat ride on the Ganges

Visit to Sarnath -the site of Lord Buddha's first sermon

PROGRAM ITINERARY

DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI by International flight

Welcome to India! Arrive Delhi T3 terminal by International Flight between 0600 Hrs – 0800 Hrs.

After immigration, you will be met by our Customer service executive and Welcomed with a “Mauli ritual”. Mauli is a symbolic cotton thread tied on the wrist and is our traditional way to start the journey at an auspicious note.

Assisted transfer to the hotel and on arrival, check in for your stay (check in time 1400 hour).

Delhi is India’s capital and a major gateway to the country. Perhaps there is no other capital city in the world so steeped in history and legend as the Indian capital Delhi. It was the magnet, which drew the Mongols, Turks, Persians, Afghans, Mughals and the British, all of whom contributed to its glorious but turbulent past. The fascination with Delhi was such that even though it was abandoned many times, its rulers returned to it again and again rebuilding it at least seven times. Today, the twin cities of Old and New Delhi still intrigue Indians and tourists alike as the cultural and political capital of the largest democracy in the world.

- Around 1030 Hrs - after breakfast, meet your guide at the lobby and he will run through the day’s program. Later, drive to Old Delhi and experience rickshaw ride at Chandni Chowk, explore the narrow alleys and its colorful markets. Visit the "Jama masjid" (Friday mosque), which is one of the largest ancient mosque complex of Asia.

Then visit Red Fort, closed on Monday (from inside) built in the year 1648 by Shah Jehan. This Fort is an impressive mansion with elegant shrines, royal gardens and fountains at every corner to romance ones' senses.

- Around 1530 Hrs proceed for a short visit to Akshardham Temple (closed on Monday), the structure depicts great Indian culture and its architecture is simply immaculate. This amazing structure comprises of 20,000 statues, floral motifs and exquisite carved pillars made of stones. It is built along the river Yamuna and lies over an area of around 100 acres with beautiful gardens, water fountains and carved pavilions. The temple took complete two years for completion and a hefty sum of rupees was invested in the construction. According to estimates, around 2 billion was spent in the construction of this masterpiece which indeed depicts the great Hindu religion.

(Please note that all the leather stuff, camera, watches and other electronic items needs to be kept in the vehicle as due to security reasons, these are not permitted inside the Temple complex)

After visiting which will take about 1 hour 30 minutes (around 1700 Hrs) return to your hotel, arrive hotel at 1930 hrs for an overnight stay.

Note: Please note that all the driving timings depends upon the traffic conditions

MEAL: No Meals

Overnight at the hotel

**DAY 02: DELHI – JODHPUR
JODHPUR – DECHU**

**By 9W 0729: (1105 / 1230 hour)
Drive (+/- 01 hour)**

This morning after breakfast transfer to airport to connect your flight for Jodhpur
On arrival in Jodhpur transfer to Dechu Drive

Dechu is a small village located on the sprawling Thar desert on Jodhpur Jaisalmer road. This resort is set amidst of sprawling 25 acres of land and blends local craft with contextual character and aesthetic.

On arrival, you will be accorded a traditional welcome followed by check in to Samsara Desert Camp and Resort.

Afternoon, drive through the sand dunes of Thar desert on a jeep to explore the true charm of the sleeping villages and the rustic barren trail of the Desert. The journey takes you through the well-kept secrets of the desert - from nocturnal shades of the sun to ever changing colors of the vast sea of shimmering sand and barren land. As you drive through far and distant villages, be amazed by the life style of locals, see mud huts and stroll through narrow lanes, get to see Antelopes, deer, desert fox.

After driving through the desert, enjoy a Hi-tea on the dunes against the setting Sun.

Later return to the campsite./ Evening enjoy dinner on the dune set against the backdrop of mesmerizing folk singers and graceful dancers under the star studded skies of the desert.

MEAL: Breakfast and dinner/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 03: DECHU – JAISALMER

Drive: (175 Km +/- 03 hours)

Early this morning, proceed to enjoy the Camel safari

Camel safari - The Thar can be explored on camelback, which is a once in a life time experience. Camel safaris are certainly the ideal way to spend time exploring rustic Rajasthan. It is an adventure, which takes you through the vast golden dunes of the Thar providing a rare glimpse of the desert lifestyle.

After breakfast, check out and proceed for Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer - the captivating city of Jaisalmer, founded by Prince Jaisal in 1156 AD, has been dubbed Golden City because of the honey colour imparted to its yellow sandstone walls by the setting sun. With the crenellated walls and narrow streets lined with exquisitely carved buildings, it has an extraordinary medieval feel. It was a major post in the desert trade route between India and Central Asia.

On arrival check in at the hotel

Afternoon explore

the walled city of Jaisalmer, still very medieval in feel with an air of remoteness about it, displaying varying in moods and colours as the hours go by. Within and outside the walls are several points of interest including a beautifully carved Jain temple of the 12th century, former ruler's 20th century palace and some impressive merchant mansions (havelis) like Patwon ki Haveli (1805), Salim Singh and Nathmalji ki Haveli.

In the evening return to your hotel

MEAL: Breakfast/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 04: JAISALMER - JAIPUR

Flight SG 2982: (1700 / 1815 hours)

This morning after breakfast, check out and proceed to visit a village of Langha community.

Langha is a local tribe of Rajasthan. They are known for their musical tradition which is being passed on from one generation to another verbally. You will get to know about their culture, way of living and how they make their musical instruments since music is an integral part of their livelihood.

Later transfer to the airport to connect your flight for Jaipur

On arrival check in at the hotel

Jaipur is known as the 'Pink City', for the abundance of pink plastered stone used to build its massive forts, magnificent palaces and exquisite temples. The city built in 1727 A.D by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II followed a grid system, which made it the only planned city of its time. A young Bengali architect Vidhyadhar Bhattacharya designed the city in accordance with Shilp Shastra - an ancient Hindu treatise on architecture. There is far more to the city than just its famous monuments and to get a complete experience of Jaipur, uncover the mysteries of the bazaars and visit silversmiths, turban sellers and traditional markets.

MEAL: Breakfast/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 05: JAIPUR

After breakfast, visit the Amer Fort. The stunning Amber Fort was built all in white marble and red sandstone and was the ancient citadel of the ruling Kachhawa clan of Amber, before the capital was shifted to present day Jaipur. Amber Fort is known for its unique artistic style, blending both Hindu and Muslim (Mughal) elements, and its ornate and breathtaking artistic mastery. Once you are 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.

Later a short drive brings you to Dera Amer which is located at the foothills of the Aravali Range and surrounded by the wilderness of a reserved forest with no urban civilization in the vicinity, just a few hamlets housing the local villagers occupied by farming on the their fields bordering a pretty lake. Here you will get to interact with the resident elephants feeding them, washing and scrubbing them and possibly witness them having a mudbath – later enjoy the fresh farm homemade lunch.

Return to the city, with a photo-stop at Hawa Mahal (the Palace of Winds). Five stories in height, and built of red and pink sandstone highlighted with white quicklime, it is thought that the women of the royal harem used the many casements to observe everyday life in the street below without being seen.

- Continue to the City Palace built within the fortified area of the original city, with one of the finest monumental entrances in India. The Palace is now principally a museum housing a collection of great treasures, including miniature paintings, carpets, royal garments and other interesting objects from Jaipur's intriguing past. The former royal family retains a part of the palace for their personal use.

Evening return to your hotel

MEAL: Breakfast and lunch/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 06: JAIPUR - BHARATPUR

Drive: (185 Kms +/- 04 Hours)

This morning after breakfast check out and proceed for Bharatpur enroute visiting Fatehpur Sikri

Fatehpur Sikri is a fort palace that was the onetime capital of the Mughal Empire and is now a UNESCO world heritage site. The deserted red sandstone city, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture built by the Great Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the late 16th century and abandoned after 15 years due to scarcity of water.

- On arrival check in at the hotel

Bharatpur, an impregnable fortified city is known for the Keoladeo Ghana National Park and also a halting place on the way from Agra (60 km). The town of Bharatpur is the eastern gateway to the State of Rajasthan. In the 17th and 18th centuries, it was an important stronghold of the Jats, who inhabited this area before the arrival of the Rajputs. The Jats were able to retain a high degree of autonomy in the region, both because of their prowess in battle and because of their chief's marriage alliances with the Rajput nobility.

Evening will be at leisure to relax at the hotel

MEAL: Breakfast/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 07: BHARATPUR - AGRA

Drive: (60 Kms +/- 1 ½ Hours)

This morning proceed to visit the famous Bharatpur Bird sanctuary

- Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (Keoladeo Ghana National Park) is situated 60 km from Agra and 4km outside Bharatpur. It is a UNESCO world heritage site and one of the finest bird sanctuaries in the world, with over 360 species. Wildlife is especially good from October to February when it is frequented by Northern Hemisphere migratory birds. The prize attraction of the park is the arrival of the rare Siberian Crane, which visits no other waters in India except the marshes of Keoladeo. Among many other birds to be seen are egrets, ducks, coots, storks, kingfishers, spoon bills, sarus crane and several birds of prey including laggar falcon, greater spotted eagle and palla's eagle. There are also chital deer, sambar, Nilgai, hyenas and wild boar whilst near Python Point, there are usually some very large rock pythons.

Later return to your hotel for breakfast/ After breakfast check out and proceed for Agra

Agra - best known as the city of the world's most famous monument of love, is situated along the banks of the River Yamuna and attracts thousands of visitors every day from all over the world, to visit Taj Mahal, a seventh wonder of the world, built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

- On arrival in Agra meet your guide and proceed for the city tour

Proceed to visit the Agra fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. Built in 1565 by the great Mughal ruler, Akbar, the citadel consists of marble palaces, ornate alcoves and terraced pavilions. From the ramparts of the fort, there is a lovely view of the gleaming white Taj Mahal in the distance and North India's oldest Christian cemetery. From here continue to the 18th century.

Later proceed to visit the traditional Zardozi textile work in Agra, which is being practiced from generations.

Late afternoon, you will be taken for a spectacular sunset tour of the Taj Mahal (closed on Friday). Referred to as one of the wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal in Agra is the epitome of tourism in India and is celebrated for its architectural magnificence and aesthetic beauty. A symphony in white marble, a tribute to eternal love, it was built by the Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal.

Note: Timing subject to change based on the local sunset timing

Later check in at the hotel

MEAL: Breakfast/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 08:

AGRA - JHANSI JHANSI – PANNA

**By Train: (0955/1235 hours)
Drive (255 Kms+/- 6 hours)**

- This morning after breakfast check out and transfer to Railway station to connect your train for Jhansi.

A great way to experience how locals travel is to take a train ride. Indian Railways is one of the largest train networks in the World and is the quickest way to travel on certain route. This short train journey will offer opportunity to see the life around the country side.

- On arrival proceed for Panna enroute stopping at the medieval town of Orchha

Founded in the 16th century by the Bundela king, Rudhra Pratap on the banks of Betwa River, this beautiful medieval town is abundant with gorgeous temples, fascinating forts, and stunning palaces. The architecture is a synthesis of traditional Hindu, hybrid Indo-Saracenic and ornate Mughal. One of the finest sights is the view of the cenotaphs from across the Betwa River. While at Orchha, visit Jehangir Mahal, the most grandiose structure in Orchha; the Raja Mahal Rai Praveen Mahal.

- Lunch enroute at Amar Mahal.

After visits and lunch, continue your drive to Panna and check in at Sarai Toria - a wonderfully luxurious but charmingly earth-friendly property situated on the banks of the Ken River and just outside Panna Tiger Reserve.

The Sarai is a perfect example of how to build and run an eco-friendly lodge and is the outcome of a fierce passion for wildlife and conservation by its owners, biologist Raghu and his wife Joanna, a wildlife photographer, writer and conservationist. Together they have created a relaxed and homely place to stay in an idyllic rural spot on the west bank of the River Ken near Panna Tiger Reserve.

MEAL: Breakfast, lunch and dinner/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 09: PANNA

Early this morning enjoy Game drive in Panna National Park by Jeep including picnic breakfast

- Around 1100 hrs - return to your Resort

In the afternoon enjoy cooking demonstration at the Resort followed by lunch

Late afternoon enjoy a boat ride on river Ken – subject to the water level of the river. There's nothing more peaceful than taking the boat ride, gently cruising along tranquil still waters and watch the birdlife and wildlife.

MEAL: Breakfast, lunch and dinner/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 10: PANNA - KHAJURAHO Drive: (22 Kms +/- 45 mints) **KHAJURAHO – VARANASI Flight 9W 370 (1420 / 1515 hours)**

This morning after breakfast check out and drive to Khajuraho to connect your flight for Varanasi enroute visiting the temples.

Khajuraho was built by the Chandela dynasty, which rose to power in Central India between the 10th and 11th centuries and is home to some 25 odd temples depicting the different facets of life, including the erotic. These erotic carvings on some panels have given rise to much speculation since Khajuraho's rediscovery by a British officer in 1838. To preserve it for posterity, Khajuraho has been declared a World Heritage Site and is among the prominent destinations on the world tourism map.

- Arrive Khajuraho and proceed on a guided tour of the temples. Visit the western and eastern group of temples. Among the western group of temples, the most famous is the Kandariya Mahadev temple, 32 meters high with a fantastic range of sculptures including sensuous themes. Other temples include the Chaunsat Yogini, which is a granite temple, the Devi Jagdambe temple dedicated to the Mother Goddess, the Chitragupta temple, dedicated to Surya the Sun God, etc.

Later transfer to airport to board the flight for Varanasi

The 'eternal city', Varanasi or Benares, is one of the most important pilgrimage sites in India, and the Ganges, which flows through the city, is believed to have the power to wash away the sins of mortals. For the Satpious Hindu, the city has always been a special place, and it is considered a particularly auspicious place to die, ensuring an instant routing to Heaven.

On arrival, assisted transfer to the hotel and check in at hotel.

MEAL: Breakfast/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 11: VARANASI

Early this morning, take a boat ride on the sacred Ganges. Hindus regard the Ganges as the elixir of life bringing purity to the living and salvation to the dead. Watch the wonderful colors of the sunrise as you meander along the sacred Ganges River in a boat. As part of their pilgrimage rites, the faithful walk down steps into the river to perform their religious ablutions. Watching the people worshipping at the ghats is an extraordinary experience. You may also witness a funeral pyre, an essential part of the traditional Hindu funeral ceremony.

Return to the hotel for breakfast

Morning take a guided excursion to the Buddhist city of Sarnath, just outside Varanasi. The place Buddha chose to deliver his first sermon, Sarnath is as holy to the Buddhists as Varanasi is to the Hindus. Explore the ruins of a once flourishing Buddhist monastery and look around a museum with an interesting collection of Buddhist art and sculpture. The Ashoka pillar of Sarnath is the National emblem of India. Interact with a Buddhist monk and chant the mantra in Sarnath to experience the ultimate spirituality.

Total duration: 2 hour

On the way back from Sarnath, visit the Weavers colony which was created to help the endangered millennial tradition of weaving in Benares. Famous worldwide for its magnificent quality and beauty, the textiles of Varanasi has been recognized among the royalty and nobles through ancient times to present. These talented weavers received the secret of weaving as a form of art passed from generation to generation.

Evening, depart for Dasahwamedh Ghat to watch the illuminated Aarti ceremony. The presiding priests stand on a Chauki (wooden stand) near the water. To the chant of Sanskrit mantras, and the clash of cymbals and drums, the river is worshipped with flowers, incense, sandalwood, milk and vermilion. First the blazing camphor lamp and then the many flamed aarti lamps are raised high and then arched back to the water, the dark river reflecting the golden flames as Ganges accepts the worship. It is the Ganges that gives Varanasi its spiritual resonance.

- Return to your hotel

MEAL: Breakfast/Overnight at the hotel

DAY 12:**VARANASI - DELHI
DEPART DELHI****By Flight: (AI 433 1530 / 1655 Hours)
By: International Flight**

This morning after breakfast check out, morning will be at leisure – check out time 12 Noon

Later you will be transferred to the airport to connect your flight for Delhi.

On arrival assisted transfer to connect your international flight back home

Note: International check in starts 3 hour before flight

MEAL: Breakfast

INCLUDED IN TOUR:

- Accommodation on twin share basis for a total of 10 nights as per the hotel mentioned or similar
- Daily buffet breakfast at the hotel
- Services by a private air conditioned vehicle as specified below, for all transfers, drives, sightseeing and excursions:
 - 02 – 03 pax: Toyota Innova
 - 04 – 06 pax: Tempo Traveler
 - 07 – 14 pax: Mini Coach
- Services of English speaking local guide up to 3 pax (*No guide will be provided during Abhaneri visit*) and accompanying guide from 4 pax onward
- Entry Fee at the monuments (one visit only) as per the itinerary
- Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi
- Jeep ride to the ascent of Amber Fort
- Exclusive boat ride in Varanasi
- Bottled water in the vehicle throughout the tour
- All applicable taxes.

TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Items of personal nature such as phone calls, fax, meals not mentioned, camera fees at the monuments (if applicable), bottled drinks, bottled water during meals, tips etc.
- Travel insurance.
- Indian visa and visa fees.
- Guide services in Abhaneri
- International airfares and taxes.
- Anything not mentioned in above inclusions.

Special Notes:

- The rates quoted above are in United States Dollar (USD).
- *Taj Mahal in Agra is closed on Friday*
- *Visit to Chandni Chowk in old Delhi is not recommended on Sunday as the local market is closed.*
- Hotel Check-In 1400, Check-out time 1200 NOON.
- Flight timings are subject to change without prior notice.
- Airfares quoted are based on current availability and may change at the time of booking. Luggage allowance on this flight is 15 kg checked in baggage and 7 kg hand luggage.
- Rates include all taxes applicable at the time of quotation. Extreme currency fluctuations may cause the total tour price to increase at any time prior to final prices are subject to change with any increase in the cost.
- Allexpeditions reserves the right to modify itineraries and/or substitute hotels of a reasonably similar quality, when available, should circumstances beyond our control deem it necessary.
- The transportation arrangements includes visitation within city limits only.
- Deposits imposed by Allexpeditions's suppliers (e.g. hotels, transport companies etc.) will be charged when they occur. Full payment of deposits is due as per deposit invoice. Non-compliance with the deposit requirements can result in change or loss of services. All deposits are non-transferable.
- In no event shall the liability of Allexpeditions or any of their respective subsidiaries or affiliates exceed the amount actually paid to such parties by the claimant and in no event shall any of such parties have liability to any claimant for special or consequential damages. Services and conditions will be subject to the law regulating the activities of travel agents in the country where the services are rendered.
- Guests traveling from the continent of North America/South America to India can avail the E-tourist visa facility. For the complete details, please visit <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html> (a 5 day process application must be considered).

| Cultural connections (supplement payable extra) | |
|---|---|
| Cost basis | |
| Culinary experience with a local family in Jaipur | |
| Watch live cultural dance show in Agra 'Mohabbat the Taj' | PLEASE CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION |
| Death and rebirth walk in Varanasi | |
| Yoga in Varanais (approx. 01 hour) | |

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| Airfare supplement for the sector, Varanasi/Delhi in economy class (Subject to change) | USD 96 per perosn |
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NOTE: Please be advised that above mentioned fare is book & pay fare (Check Fare) of the day available as of now. These fares change every day, hence the fare may slightly vary at the time of issuance of the flight tickets. Also note that these fares are non-refundable & subject to change & cancellation penalty charges.

REF: KIN-S001

Please refer to this code when contacting us.