



DIVE INTO THE LOCAL CULTURE

TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES WITH CONFIDENCE

Diwali, Full Festival Experience,

NOV 11– NOV 19, 2020 & OCT 31, 2021 – NOV 8, 2021

9-Day, 8-Night Journey

Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Mandawa

Join us to celebrate the most famous festival in India and discover firsthand the culture of India's famed Golden Triangle. Celebrate 5 days of Diwali, the Hindu New Year and the ancient legends behind each of the five days. Feast on delicious festival food and enjoy the sight of fireworks. Witness thousands of glowing lamps on the evening of Diwali, which is also known as the Festival of Lights. You get to share these experiences with the locals and there's no better way for an authentic and unique experience to understanding their culture.

In addition to the Diwali experience, you will embark on a heritage journey through Hindu and Islamic temples, forts, grand palaces and the most magnificent Taj Mahal. Explore the history, the boom and bust of the wealthy ancient merchants and their mansions filled with beautiful frescoes and mosaics.

◆ Customizable Private Tour

Trip Overview (*UNESCO World Heritage Sites)

- ▶ Delhi City Tour
- ▶ Jama Masjid Mosque
- ▶ Cycle Rickshaw at
- ▶ Chandni Chowk Bazaar
- ▶ Spice Market
- ▶ **Humayun's Tomb***
- ▶ **Agra Fort***
- ▶ Lunch at Sikh Temple, Bangla Saheb Gurudwara
- ▶ 5 Diwali Festival Dinners
- ▶ Marble Inlay Workshop

- ▶ **Taj Mahal***
- ▶ Itimad-ud-Daulah Tomb
- ▶ **Fatehpur Sikri*** (City of Victory)
- ▶ Chand Baori Step Well
- ▶ Jaipur City Tour
- ▶ **The Walled City of Jaipur***
- ▶ **Amber Fort***
- ▶ Sheesh Mahal(Palace of Mirrors)
- ▶ Jaipur City Palace
- ▶ **Jantar Mantar***
- ▶ Mandawa Painted Mansion Tour
- ▶ Mandawa Fort

Why You'll Love This Tour



GLIMPSE INTO THE MAJESTIC PAST

The many past rulers have left behind numerous amazing forts, beautiful palaces, and fine architecture which are now UNESCO World Heritage sites. Each historical monument possesses great history with its own unique identity.



NEW YEAR FAMILY CELEBRATION

Families wish for good luck preparing a decorative pattern using colored rice, flour and flowers. At night, the whole country lights up oil lamps to banish the darkness and celebrate with spectacular fireworks.



SHARING A MEAL AT A SIKH TEMPLE

An eye-opening experience of the Sikh faith, their non-discriminating welcoming manner and festivity in the sacred temple. See the volunteers preparing 25,000 free meals daily. Share the roti, rice and curry with locals and other visitors.

Inclusions

- ▶ Airport Transfers, Meet and Greet
- ▶ Hotel Accommodations
- ▶ Daily Breakfast & Selected Meals
(See tour plan for details)
- ▶ English-speaking Local Guide
- ▶ Entrance Fees to Monuments and Attractions per Itinerary

Exclusions

- ▶ Air Fare
- ▶ Travel Insurance
- ▶ Medical Expenses
- ▶ Visa Fee
- ▶ Gratuity
- ▶ Personal Expenses

Nearby Airport

Delhi - Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL)

Itinerary

(B)-Breakfast, (L)-Lunch, (D)-Dinner

DAY 1: MEET UP AT DELHI (DEL)

Upon arriving at **Delhi airport**, you'll be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free.

DAY 2: DELHI | OLD AND NEW CAPITAL CITY (B, L)

Delhi is the capital of modern India. It has also been the capital of at least seven previous civilizations as well as the British Raj, and each have left behind a trail of monuments.



Explore the beautiful chaos of both Old Delhi and New Delhi, including **Jama Masjid** - India's oldest and largest mosque. Experience a busy & bustling local bazaar on a cycle rickshaw through **Chandni Chowk** and visit **Khari Baoli** (Spice Market). Next is **Humayun's Tomb** of the Mughal Emperor. Photo op at **Rashtrapati Bhavan** (President's Residence) and **India Gate**. Visit the most prominent Sikh temple, **Bangla Sahib Gurudwara**, and sharing one of the 25,000 meals served daily in the temple.

DAY 3: DELHI – AGRA | MUGHAL EMPERORS' MONUMENTS (B, D)

Departing Delhi, we make our way to **Agra**, the erstwhile capital of the Mughal Empire. Our first stop here is the impressive **Agra Fort**, a 16th-century Mughal fortress which also contains the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. It offers splendid views across the river towards the Taj Mahal. Later we visit a **Marble Inlay workshop** run by local craftsmen who maintain the Taj Mahal. This evening we celebrate the **Day of Fortune** with a dinner.

DAY 4: AGRA | THE LEGENDARY TAJ MAHAL (B, D)

Let's size down to visit the **Itimad-ud-Daulah tomb**, the "Baby Tāj", a Mughal era mausoleum. Later we visit the legendary **Taj Mahal**. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in loving memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz, who tragically died in childbirth in 1631. Then breakfast. Enjoy a festive celebration dinner tonight.

DAY 5: AGRA - JAIPUR | LIFE IN THE DESERT (B, D)

En route to Jaipur, we visit the ghostly former Mughal capital of **Fatehpur Sikri (City of Victory)**, which has been deserted for over four centuries. Thanks to the very durable red sandstone from which it was built, Fatehpur Sikri remains well-preserved and is a fascinating place to explore.

Stop in the village of Abhaneri to see **Chand Baori**, which is the largest and deepest step well in the world. This incredible well has a staggering 3,500 steps and is 13 stories deep. Chand Baori has often been used as a filming location including the movie *Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*.

Continue to **Jaipur**. In the evening, watch Jaipur's skyline light up with a breathtaking fireworks display. Join the celebration as locals light firecrackers in the streets. We celebrate with an authentic Indian Diwali dinner feast.

DAY 6: JAIPUR | THE PINK CITY OF JAIPUR (B, D)

Visit the stunning 16th century **Amber Fort** - a sprawling Rajput construction, perched on a hillside overlooking the dusty plains, regal palaces, sleepy villages, and stone carved temples below. Reaching its summit on a jeep (or request an elephant ride during reservation), we enjoy a tour of the fort's well-preserved interior grounds including **Sheesh Mahal** (Palace of Mirrors) with its interior embellished of reflective glass tiles.

Visit Jaipur's **City Palace**, an imposing blend of traditional Rajput and Mughal architecture. Then **Jantar Mantar** which is an ancient open-air astronomical observatory and UNESCO world heritage site. Enjoy the sight of **Jal Mahal** (Water Palace), a palace located in the middle of the Man Sagar Lake. Photo op at **Hawa Mahal** (Palace of the Winds), its high screen wall allowed the women of the royal household to observe street life without being seen. Celebrate the 4th day of Diwali, New Year Day, this evening.

DAY 7: JAIPUR – PAINTED MANSIONS (B, D)

Drive to **Mandawa**, a busy market town fortified in the 18th century by wealthy merchant families of Rajasthan. These businessmen constructed many havelis (mansions) and commissioned artists to paint the walls with elaborate designs.

Half-day sightseeing tour, visiting havelis that reflect the cultural splendor of a bygone era. See 18th-century **Mandawa Fort**. At the palace, you'll find antique murals, a marble fountain, a whimsical weather vane in the design of a peacock and an arched window that overlooks a lush garden.

DAY 8: MANDAWA – DELHI (B)

This morning, relax and enjoy the hotel or explore Mandawa on your own.

Have an early lunch then checkout and depart at noon. Return to Delhi with an approximately 6-hour drive. Relax this evening.

Day 9 –Delhi | End of Tour (B)

After breakfast the tour ends. Please provide details of your flight so we can schedule your airport transfer to Delhi airport (DEL).

Hotels

We carefully handpick our hotels to ensure they provide you with the best comfort and experience. For Private Tours, you may request a specific hotel as one of the customizable options.

