

Day 01 Arrive Delhi By: International Flight

Arrive at Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a ACR Representative will meet as you exit the arrivals terminal building and transfer you to your hotel.

Delhi is India's capital and a major gateway to the country. It 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.

Meal – None

## Day 02 Delhi

After breakfast, your guide will take you on the discovery tour of Delhi.

Begin the tour with a visit to unique yet fascinating experience of Old Delhi, the capital of Mughal India during 12th and 17th century. Drive past the opulent Red Fort towards the 17th century Jama Masjid, one of Asia's largest mosques. People stream in and out of the mosque continuously and the presence of a nearby bazaar means that the area is rarely quiet. Take a private tricycle ride through the lanes of Chandni Chowk, also known as Silver Street. This is perhaps one of Delhi's most populated areas and the largest marketplace. Conclude the tour of Old Delhi with Raj Ghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, father of the nation.

The discovery of New Delhi starts with a visit to Humayun's tomb ~ the magnificent structure in red sandstone and white marble, one of the finest examples of the garden tomb and a precursor to the Taj Mahal. Visit Qutab Minar which is Delhi's Eiffel Tower, its Statue of Liberty and Nelson's Column. Drive to one of the most colonial part of New Delhi called Raisina Hill. Drive past the Viceroy's House, now the residence of the President of India and Lutyen's magnum opus; the India Gate, a war memorial arch.

Meal – Breakfast

## Day 03 Delhi - Agra By: Surface

After breakfast, you will be driven to Agra (204 Kms / 04 Hrs).

On arrival in Agra, check-in to your hotel.

At the time of the Mughals, in the 16th & 17th centuries, Agra was the capital of the grand Mughal Empire. During this period the city became a leading centre of art, science, commerce and culture. It came into prominence when a lavish patronage of Mughal rulers created forts, tombs, and palaces in red sandstone and marble inlaid with semi precious stones.

Rest of the day is free for leisure.

### Meal – Breakfast

## Day 04 Agra

Early morning visit Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays). Horse carriage will take you to the gates.

Built by an emperor in memory of his beloved queen, construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1631, and is believed to have taken 18 years to complete, with over 20,000 craftsmen working around the clock. What makes the Taj Mahal unique is its perfect proportions, distinct femininity, medium of construction and ornamentation. Its marble exterior reflects rose and golden tints at sunrise and sunset, while it is dazzling white during the day. It is impossible to visualize the Taj Mahal in any surrounding others than its paradoxical garden. Paradise, in Islam, is visualized as a lush garden where running streams flow. When the Mughals brought this concept to India they elevated it to heights of incomparable artistry.

Return back to your hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast, visit the Agra Fort and the city. At the impressive Agra Fort you are taken through the chambers of this royal residence. As you drive through the city witness the local life and bazaars (markets) and the hustle bustle of everyday India. Later visit the Marble Inlay workshop and Zardozi. Agra is known for its fine marble work which is made by some of the marble carver descendants who worked on the Taj Mahal. Various semi-precious stones are embedded in marble to create pleasing geometric and floral patterns, similar to those seen in the Taj Mahal. Zardozi, the craftsperson that sets seed pearls and precious stones with fine gold and silver wire, is part of a craft that has flourished within India and been revived over the past 50 years.

Meal – Breakfast

## Day 05      Agra - Jaipur

After breakfast, drive to Jaipur (253 Kms/5 hrs), enroute visiting Fatehpur Sikri. The city of Fatehpur Sikhri was built of red sandstone by Mughal Emperor Akbar in the late 16th century and deserted soon after because its water supply failed. It is a perfectly preserved ghost city characterized by a harmonious synthesis of Hindu, Mughal and Persian architectural style.

Continue your drive towards Jaipur after your visit.

Jaipur ~ presides over the fascinating desert state and its people: surrounded by rugged hills, each crowned by a formidable fort; and beautiful palaces, mansions and gardens dotted throughout its precincts. The palaces and forts of yesteryear that were witness to royal processions and splendor are now living monuments, accepted quite naturally into the lifestyles of the people of the "pink city". Except for the busy traffic of bicycles, cars and buses, little seems to have changed. There is a timeless quality to Jaipur's bazaars and its people. With its historical past, Jaipur revives legends of the ancient Rajputs. The dresses of the women and the turbans of the men add color to this fascinating city.

On arrival in Jaipur, check-in to your hotel.

### Meal – Breakfast

## Day 06 Jaipur

After an early breakfast, you will visit Amber Fort. 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. With its honey-colored fortress-palace in the Aravalli Hills which can be mounted on elephant back, Amber has been described as the sleeping beauty of Rajasthan.

Return to your hotel after the tour.

Lunch is arranged at a local restaurant in the city (at your own expense).

Take an afternoon tour of Jaipur. Sites to visit include:

Drive pass through Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), an elaborate building encrusted with delicate honeycomb screens and carved balconies from which the royal ladies, confined to their quarters, could view the world outside.

Jai Singh's Observatory built in the 17th century by the founder of Jaipur who, besides being a prince was also a soldier, astronomer and builder.

City Palace, a part is now a museum that contains fine Rajput and Moghul paintings, rare manuscripts and an armory, old carpets, and embroidered clothes of the Maharajas and the Maharanis.

Meal – Breakfast

## Day 07 Jaipur - Delhi By: Surface

After breakfast, drive to Delhi (267 Kms / 05 Hrs)

On arrival at Delhi you will be transferred to the International Airport to board your homebound flight.

Meal – Breakfast

\*\*\* End of tour \*\*\*

