



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

India's Golden Triangle



The magical Taj Mahal viewed from the Agra Fort

DAY 1 – Depart UK.

DAY 2 – Arrive Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi in the morning you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure

DAY 3 – Delhi Sightseeing.

After breakfast, you will meet your World Discovery guide and spend the morning visiting the highlights of India's capital city, beginning with the colossal **Qutb Minar**. This amazing 73-metre high Victory Tower was completed in 1236 to celebrate Qutb-ud-Din's defeat of the Turks and can be seen for miles around. Continue to the elegant **Humayun's Tomb**, a fine example of early Mughal architecture, and later visit the fascinating **Hindu temple complex of Chattarpur**. The afternoon is spent exploring **New Delhi**, planned on a grandiose scale as the capital of British India by the architect Edwin Lutyens and his colleague Herbert Baker, and inaugurated in February 1931. This morning you will drive along the wide avenues of this late-imperial capital, viewing the vast complex of government buildings and the famous **India Gate**, built to commemorate the 70,000 Indian soldiers who died in the First World War. You will also visit **Raj Ghat**, the moving memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, set in landscaped gardens, and the interesting **Gandhi Museum**.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 4 – Drive to Agra via Sikandra.

After breakfast your driver will collect you and you will head south out of the capital down the former Grand Trunk Road on your morning drive to Agra, the capital of the Mughal Empire. Shortly before reaching Agra, a special visit is made to the mausoleum of Akbar the Great at **Sikandra**. This beautifully proportioned complex, often omitted from tour itineraries, is set in extensive gardens. Continue to Agra. The rest of the day has been left free.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 5 – Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort.

This morning visit what is generally regarded as the world's most romantic building – the glorious white-marble Taj Mahal, built by the fifth Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. This magnificent monument, a fusion of Indian Hindu and Persian Muslim architectural traditions, never fails to impress. You will also explore the huge red-sandstone Agra Fort overlooking the River Jumna. Afternoon at leisure. In the evening you may wish to return to the Taj Mahal for an optional sunset visit.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 6 – Drive to Jaipur via Fatehpur Sikri and Bharatpur.

An hour and half drive to the west of Agra lies the atmospheric 'ghost town' of **Fatehpur Sikri**. This perfectly-preserved red-sandstone city was built by the Emperor Akbar as his new capital in the late 16th century, but was mysteriously abandoned after just 14 years. What remains is for many people one of the most spectacular sites in the whole of India. After a guided tour of this wonderful city, continue to Bharatpur to spend some time in the **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, a designated World Heritage Site which is a paradise for birdwatchers – more than 300 species have been sighted here. We have included a lunch for you at the delightful Laxmi Vilas Palace, built in 1899 for the son of the Maharajah of Bharatpur. In the afternoon drive to the famous 'pink city' of Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch.

DAY 7 – Jaipur sightseeing.

Founded in 1727 by Maharajah Jai Singh II, Jaipur is the classic Rajput city, with its colourful bazaars, palaces and 'havelis' (mansions). This morning drive into the centre of the city to view the elaborate façade of the Hawa Mahal, better known as the '**Palace of the Winds**', and continue to the **Maharaja's Palace**, now an interesting museum. A further visit is included to the fascinating **Jantar Mantar**, Jai Singh's outdoor observatory "for measuring the harmony of the heavens". The afternoon has been left free for relaxation, or shopping. The Old City of Jaipur has a huge selection of shops specialising in printed cotton, handicrafts, carpets, pottery and jewellery.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 8 – Drive back to Delhi via Amber Fort.

Before Jaipur was founded, the capital of this region was Amber, built high on a ridge overlooking the surrounding countryside. The huge palace-fortress is just 11km north of Jaipur, and this morning you will set off to visit it before proceeding to Delhi. Explore the courtyards and pavilions of this superb complex, including the marvellous Sheesh Mahal or Hall of Mirrors and the elegant Jai Mandir (Hall of Private Audience) with its delightful painted ceiling. After the visit, continue on your journey back to Delhi. Accommodation this evening is at a modern hotel located close to the International Airport.

Meals included: Full breakfast.

DAY 9 – Homeward flight.

Private transfer to the airport for your international flight home.
Meals included: Full breakfast.