

A SACRED AND SPIRITUAL JOURNEY THROUGH INDIA

Delhi – Dharamshala – Amritsar – Rishikesh – Haridwar – Delhi

2021-2022

The journey of a lifetime, every time



Le Passage
to India

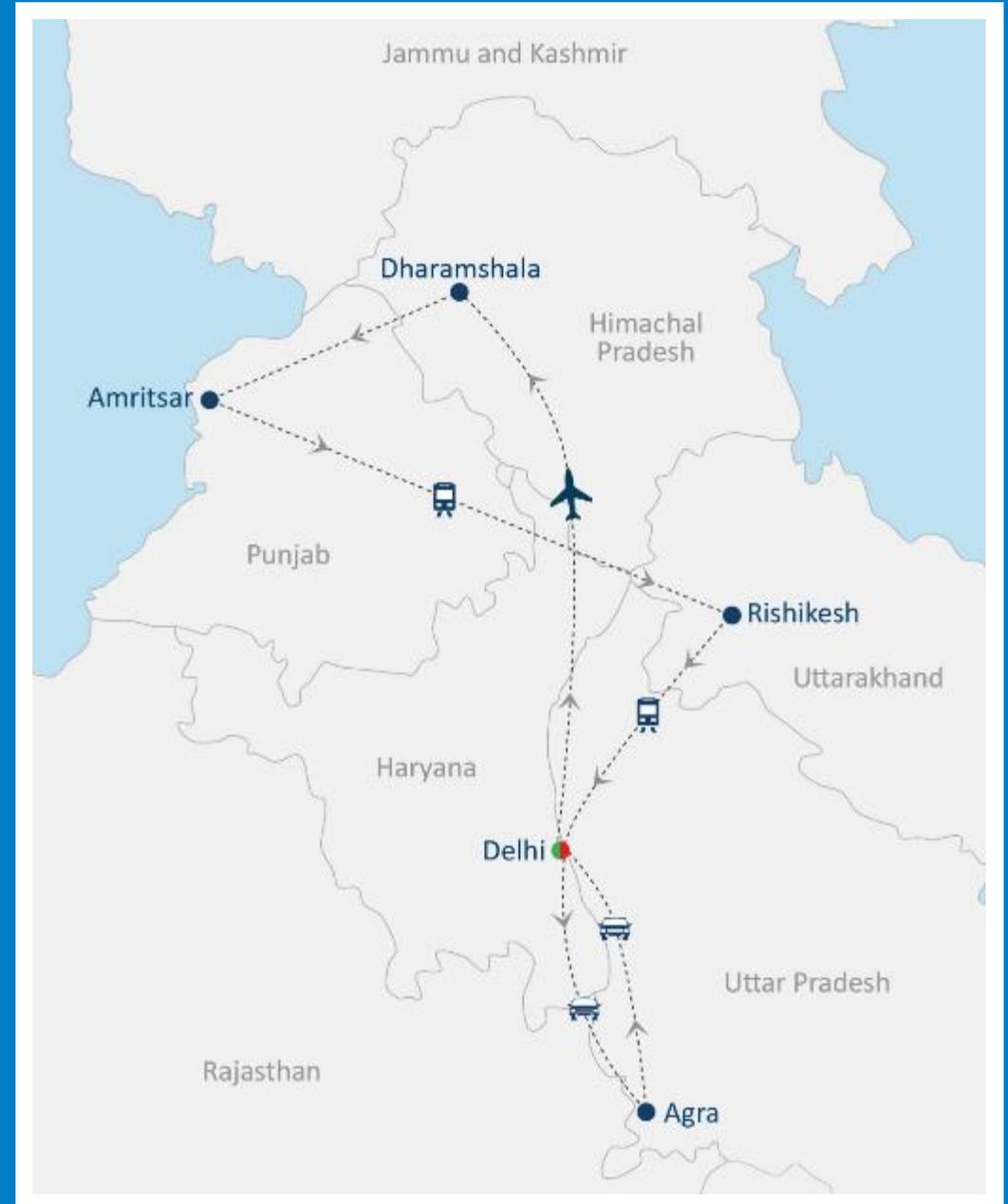
A Sacred and Spiritual Journey Through India 10 Nights/11 Days

TOUR OVERVIEW

India known as the land of spirituality and philosophy, was the birthplace of some religions, which even exist today in the world.

India, the land of amazing diversity and has a very rich history and cultures. Brings you different ideas, lessons and change of mind with its unique incredibility.

This memorable tour will take you to the capital city, Delhi, a city where different faiths co-exist: Hinduism, Sikhism, Islam and Buddhism to name but a few. You continue on your journey by visiting Dharamshala, the summer residence of the Dalai Lama and the headquarters of the Central Tibetan Administration. You continue with Amritsar, the capital of the Sikh religion with the famous Golden Temple. At Rishikesh and Haridwar situated at the banks of the most venerated river in the world, the mystic Ganges River you will see the soul touching prayer function and you end your journey in Agra, the city of the magical allure of the Taj Mahal, the monument of love.



Brief Highlights

DELHI	DHARAMSHALA	AMRITSAR	RISHIKESH	HARIDWAR	AGRA
Discover the long and fascinating history of the cosmopolitan capital city with its rich array of monuments.	Placed at an average altitude of 1,475 metres above sea level,	Named after the Amrit Sarovar (pool of nectar) of the Golden Temple, Amritsar is a fine city in the state of Punjab..	Being a thriving hotspot of spiritualism and meditation, Rishikesh is home to many wandering ascetics and saints. Naturally, the destination is full of Ashrams established by highly revered spiritual Gurus.	Haridwar is an ancient city and important Hindu pilgrimage site in North India's Uttarakhand state, where the River Ganges exits the Himalayan foothills. The largest of several sacred ghats (bathing steps)	Romance the Taj Mahal and walk down the echelons of Mughal history at Fatehpur Sikri and Agra Fort.

DAY 01: ARRIVE IN DELHI

Arrive Delhi late evening by International flight.

Delhi - The capital city of modern India is the city of many ancient cities that take you in the bygone era of different phases of time and narrate you many interesting stories of history, and give you an positive impact of its mixed culture.

Meet and greet at arrival hall with our Indian Routes representative and followed by a private transfer to the hotel in the accompany of English speaking assistance and Spanish Speaking Guide.

Arriving to the hotel get blessed by a traditional special welcome ceremony with auspicious Aarti, Tika and Flower garland specially made for you and enjoy a non-alcoholic welcome drink.

Overnight at the hotel



DAY 02: DELHI

After breakfast buffet at the hotel full day visit of Delhi, visiting Birla Temple, Akshardham Temple, Lotus Temple, and Old Delhi – Jama Masjid, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib and Chandni Chowk.

Birla Temple is also known as Laxmi Narayan Temple, is one of Delhi's major temples and a major tourist attraction. Built by the industrialist G.D. Birla in 1938, this beautiful temple is located in the west of Connaught Place.

Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi epitomizes 10,000 years of Indian culture in all its breathtaking grandeur, beauty, wisdom and bliss. It brilliantly showcases the essence of India's ancient architecture, traditions and timeless spiritual messages. The Akshardham experience is an enlightening journey through India's glorious art, values and contributions for the progress, happiness and harmony of mankind.

The Swaminarayan Akshardham complex was built in only five years through the blessings of HDH Pramukh Swami Maharaj of the Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) and the colossal devotional efforts of 11,000 artisans and thousands of BAPS volunteers. Heralded by the Guinness World Record as the World's Largest Comprehensive Hindu Temple, the complex was inaugurated on 6 November, 2005.



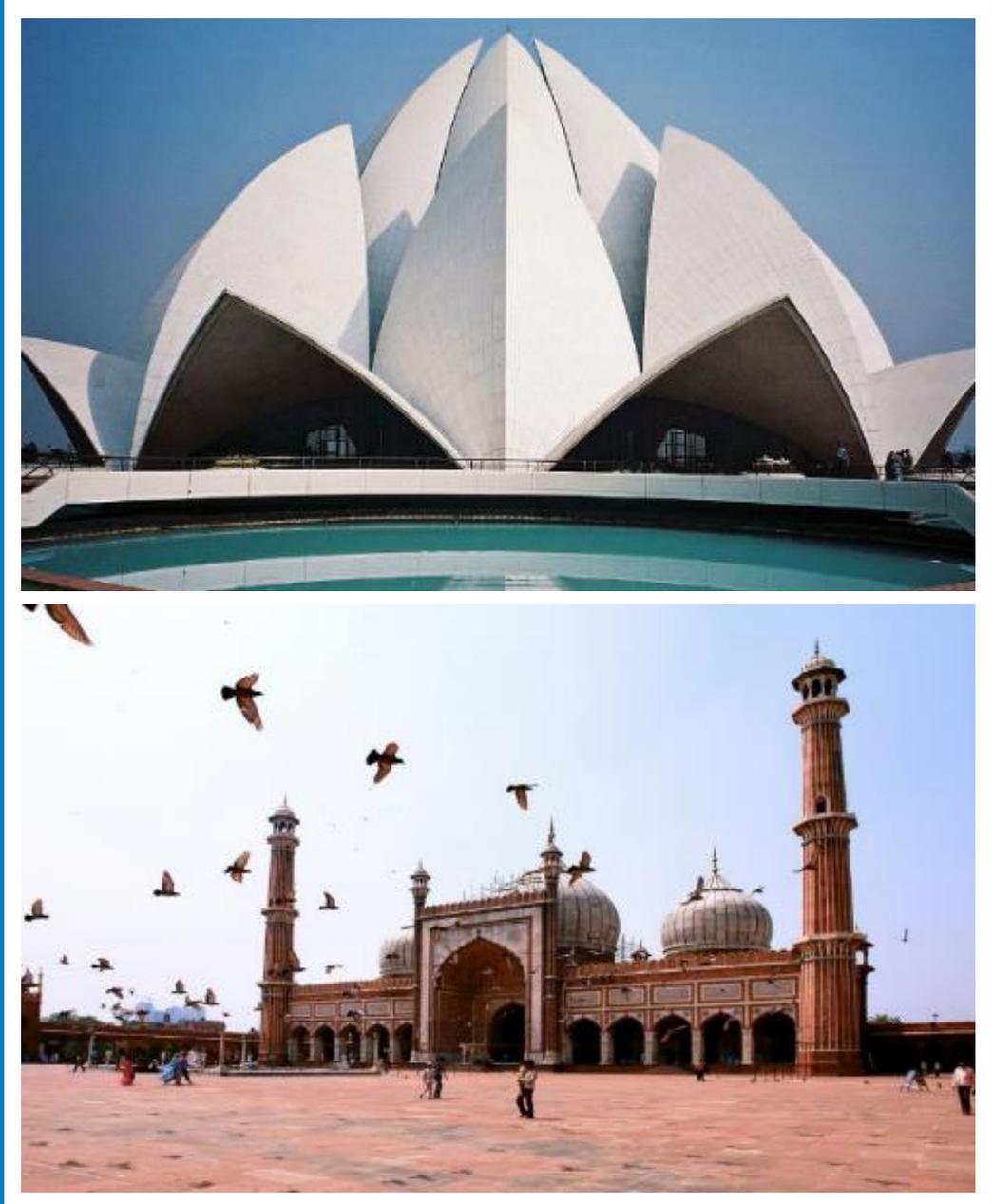
Bahai Temple (Lotus Temple) - Since its inauguration to public worship and visits in December 1986, the Bahá'í House of Worship in New Delhi, India has drawn to its portals more than 70 million visitors, making it one of the most visited edifices in the world. On an average, 8,000 to 10,000 people visit the Bahá'í House of Worship each day. These visitors have admired its universal design in the form of a lotus and have been fascinated by the Teachings of the Bahá'í Faith, especially its tenets of the Oneness of God, the Oneness of Religions, and the Oneness of Mankind.

This Bahá'í House of Worship of the Indian subcontinent joins six other Bahá'í Houses of Worship around the world: Apia, Western Samoa; Sydney, Australia; Kampala, Uganda; Panama City, Panama; Frankfurt, Germany; Wilmette, USA. Each of these Houses of Worship, while sharing some basic design concepts, has its own distinct cultural identity embodying the principle of unity in diversity.

Jama Masjid - This great mosque of Old Delhi is the largest in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. It was begun in 1644 and ended up being the final architectural extravagance of Shah Jahan, the Mughal emperor who built the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort.

The highly decorative mosque has three great gates, four towers and two 40 m-high minarets constructed of strips of red sandstone and white marble. Travellers can hire robes at the northern gate. This may be the only time you get to dress like a local without feeling like an outsider so make the most of it.

After sightseeing back to the hotel & **Overnight at the hotel**



DAY 03: DELHI – DHARAMSHALA

After breakfast transfer to the airport to board the flight AI 9713 – 1055 / 1240hrs. to Dharamshala.

Arrive Dharamshala – On arrival meeting assistance and transfer to the hotel.

Dharamshala - Placed at an average altitude of 1,475 metres above sea level, Dharamshala is a scenic destination amidst dense coniferous forests. Grand Deodar trees are in abundance here. Besides natural beauty, Dharamshala is also famed for its Tibetan legacy. In fact, the home of the Dalai Lama and even the headquarters of Central Tibetan Administration (the Tibetan government in exile) are located in Dharamshala.

Rest of the time free at leisure or evening walking tour in the beautiful city.

Overnight at the hotel



DAY 04: DHARAMSHALA

After breakfast sightseeing tour of Dharamshala - The scenic hill station of McLeodGanj is situated in Upper Dharamshala. Home to the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, McLeodGanj is often called 'Little Lhasa'. Some of the most famous monasteries in India are located here. Nestled amidst lofty hills and lush woodlands, it has one of the most enchanting landscapes in the state of Himachal Pradesh and attracts hordes of trekkers.

Dedicated to the preservation of Tibetan arts and culture, the Norbulingka Institute is a fascinating place, where students are trained in various ancient Tibetan art forms such as Thangka painting, sculpting, screen-painting, woodcarving and papermaking. A striking attraction here is the two-storeyed 'Seat of Happiness Temple' adorned with 1,173 murals of Buddha, frescoes of all the Dalai Lamas and drawings chronicling the life of the 14th

Visiting the Judge's Court or 'Judge Sahib ki Kothi' is like stepping back in time. This 300-year-old heritage property was the ancestral home of Justice Sir Jai Lal and has now been turned into a hotel but the old world charm is largely intact. The hotel is run by the descendants of the judge.

The Tsuglagkhang Complex is perhaps the best place to peep into Tibetan culture. It's the official home of the Dalai Lama and is famed as the largest Tibetan temple outside Tibet. Some of the top attractions here are Namgyal Café, Tibetan museum and Kalachakra Temple.

Overnight at the hotel



OPTIONAL:

Attend a Fire Puja / Puja and chanting at the monastery followed by an interaction with Monks to know more about Tibetan Buddhism and the significance of prayer flags and bells.



DAY 05: DHARAMSHALA – AMRITSAR

After breakfast drive by surface to Amritsar.

On arrival check-in at the hotel.

Afternoon visit the Golden Temple - Sri Harmandir Sahib, commonly called the “Golden Temple” is considered to be the holiest of all Sikh temples. Founded in 1574 by Guru Arjan Singh (the fourth Sikh Guru), Harmandir Sahib has four entrances representing the four directions that symbolize its openness for all. The Muslim Sufi Saint, Sai Mirwas was invited to lay its foundation stone.

Evening witness of Palki Ceremony at Golden Temple - There is palki sahib ceremony in the Golden temple which takes place twice in day. Palki sahib ceremony is when the holy book Guru Granth Sahib is carried to a room for night stay. This is symbolic gesture.

The holy singnig is stoped, some of particuler hymns are read by the respected priest than book is closed and after performing the prayer the book is placed in a golden painquin which is carried by all the devotees who are lined up to take seva, it all happens amidst chanting and reciting of hymns, A one man blow trumpet, It so spectacular and spritual.

Stay at the temple until dark when the complex is illuminated by a thousand fairy lights and the mesmerizing evening ceremony is completed



Visit the Community Kitchen – The community kitchen, having taken a break for 30 minutes — from 4.30 am to 5, its only break in a 24X7 operation — is now ready to serve an estimated 50,000 cups of tea and biscuits or bread, over the next two and a half hours. On a regular day, at least 50,000-80,000 eat at the kitchen, which was started by the fourth Sikh saint, Guru Ramdas, in 1577. This rises to above a lakh on weekends. The idea behind the langar, as per the Sikh faith, is for people of all castes and religions to eat together before visiting the Guru.

Overnight at the hotel



DAY 06: AMRITSAR

Breakfast buffet at the hotel.

After Breakfast sightseeing of the city - Visit to Jallianwala Bagh, where the historical event of Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place on April 13, 1919. Discover the Martyr's Well into which many people jumped to save themselves from bullets. Later, visit Durgiana Temple – a Hindu temple with an architecture similar to the Golden Temple.

Afternoon, drive to Wagah village at India – Pakistan border. Wagah border, often referred to as the “Berlin Wall” of Asia, is located in vicinity of Amritsar. Beating Retreat ceremony conducted daily by Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers (PR) makes a fabulous spectacle. People from both the sides gather in large numbers to witness the ceremony that involves parades and cultural shows. The ceremony symbolizes both the rivalry and the friendship and cooperation between India and Pakistan.

Overnight at the hotel



DAY 07: AMRITSAR - RISHIKESH

Early morning after tea coffee transfer to the Railway Station to board the train Jan Shatabadi for Rishikesh (Train No. 12054 – 0650 / 1355hrs.)

Arrive Rishikesh – Meeting assistance upon arrival and transfer to the hotel.

Later afternoon witness of Ganga Aarti at Triveni Ghat :

The Ganga Aarti at Triveni Ghat is an unforgettable experience. The ghat (bathing and prayer area) lies on the banks of the River Ganges and every evening, devotees assemble here to worship the river. This event is also called Maha Aarti. Priests hold small oil-lit diyas (earthen lamps) to the chanting of hymns, drumbeats and pealing of bells. Finally, the diyas are kept on small leaf boats and floated on the waters.

Named after Lakshman, the younger brother of Lord Rama, the Lakshman Jhula is an iron suspension bridge across the Ganges. Built in 1929, it's one of the most iconic landmarks of Rishikesh. Legend goes that Lakshman had crossed the Ganges with the help of jute ropes and the bridge was built at that particular stretch of the river. Jhula means swing in Hindi and while crossing the bridge, one can feel a slight swing-like swaying of the structure.



DAY 08: RISHIKESH – HARIDWAR - RISHIKESH

Breakfast at the hotel.

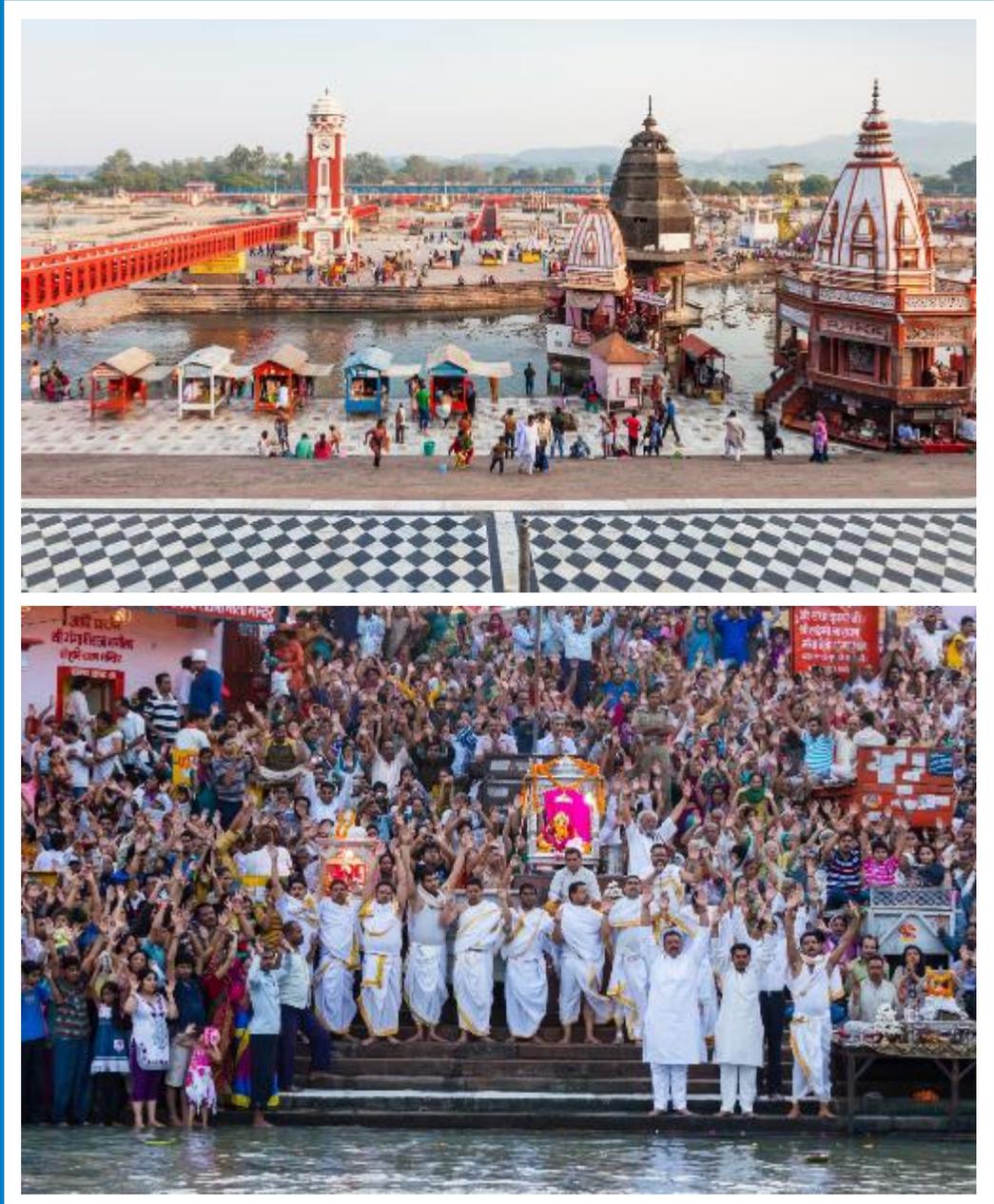
Full day excursion to Haridwar, visit Bharat Mata Temple, Harki Pauri, Mansa devi temple, Chandi devi temple etc.

Haridwar also known as the "Gateway to God" is one of the most Holy places of the Hindus who visit Har Ki Pauri for a Holy Dip in the sacred Ganga river. Haridwar hosts Mahakumbh every 12 years.

Chandi Devi temple: Situated on the top of the Neel Parvat, Chandi Temple was built in 1929 by Suchat Singh, the King of Kashmir. The temple can be reached after a 3km trek from Chandi Ghat. The main statue of Chandi Devi Temple is said to be established by the Adi Shankaracharya in 8th century. Cable car has also been introduced upto Chandi Devi Temple.

Evening Aarti Ceremony at Ganges (Harki Pauri – Haridwar).

Overnight at the hotel



OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Witness of evening Aarti ceremony at any of the temple at Haridwar

- Priest of the temple will perform a special Puja for you.(Pūjā -reverence, honour, adoration, or worship; is a religious ritual performed by Hindus as an offering to various deities or distinguished guests. It is done on a variety of occasions and settings, from daily puja done in the home, to temple ceremonies and large festivals, or to begin a new venture. Puja is modeled on the idea of giving a gift or offering to a deity or important person and receiving their blessing. The two main areas where puja is performed; is in the home and at temples. There are many variations in scale, offering, and ceremony.)



DAY 09: RISHIKESH – DELHI

OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

Early Morning Session of Yoga & Meditation in one of the Ashram - We organize a short interactive session. Yoga ...an ancient system of breathing practices, physical exercises and postures, and meditation intended to integrate the practitioner's body, mind, and spirit. It originated in India several thousand years ago. Learn why so many people are using yoga for stress relief and overall health, and how you can use it to improve your life.

Breakfast at the hotel.

Rest of the time free at leisure.

Transfer to the Haridwar Railway Station to board the train for Delhi.

Arrive Delhi – meeting assistance upon arrival and transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel





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DAY 10: DELHI/AGRA

Breakfast buffet at the hotel.

After breakfast drive by surface to Agra (204kms. / 04hrs.)

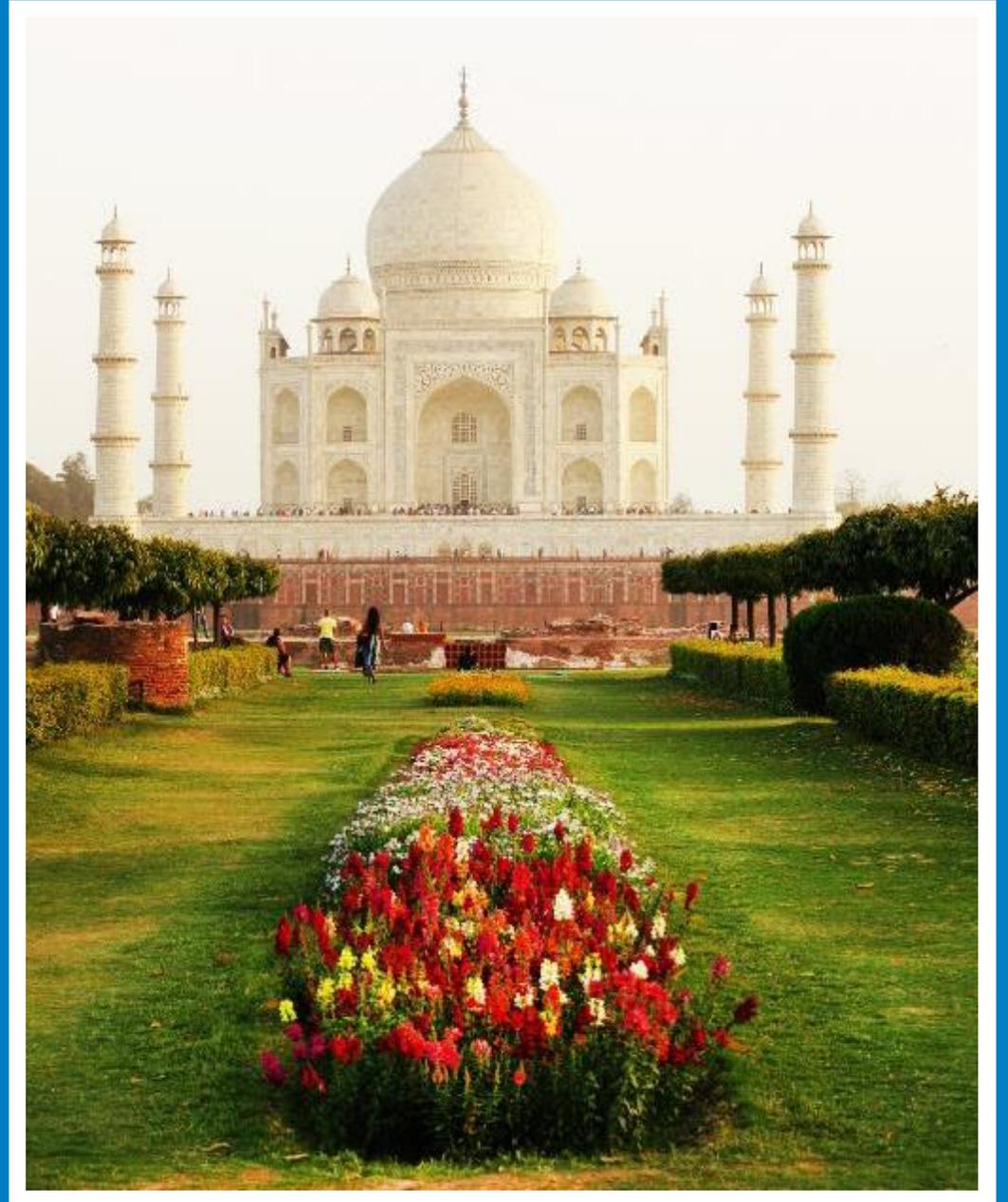
Arrive Agra and on arrival check-in at the hotel.

Agra - There is no word which better describes the Taj Mahal than 'romance', the love of a man, the mightiest ruler of his times for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Agra, for many is synonymous with the Taj, which foreshadows the rich history of the city which was made the seat of power by the Mughals. We have carefully put together experiences of the tapestry which makes up this now sleepy town. Architectural accomplishment were honed to perfection and showcased in the enchanting craftsmanship of the Taj Mahal. Whether walking through this beautifully encrusted white perfection or gazing at it from the mighty and equally enthralling fort, the Taj leaves a lasting impression.

Lunch buffet at the hotel.

After lunch visit of Taj Mahal & Agra Fort.

Visit of Taj Mahal, the **world's greatest love tribute and one of the 7 wonders of the world**, stands on the right bank of the Yamuna. The Taj was built to enshrine the remains of Arjmand Banu Begam entitled Mumtaz Mahal, the consort of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan. Its construction commenced in AD 1631 and completed seventeen years.



Proceed to the Red Fort and visit the Palaces in the Fort – the Anguri Bagh, Golden Pavilions, Khas Mahal, Diwan-I-Khas and Diwan-I-Am.

Overnight at the hotel

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Heena (Mehndi) Tatoo Application for Ladies before Dinner

Henna is basically a dye that gives a cooling effect when applied on the skin and gives red color to it. It is mostly used to decorate hands.

When it dries completely, the skin is washed with water to reveal the dyed color.

Asian brides are not complete until they have applied Henna on their hands and feet.



OPTIONAL ACTIVITY:

Evening Show at Kalakriti: 'Mohabbat- the Taj'

The Kala Kriti Theatre at Agra immortalizes Shah Jahan's love story in a dramatized extravaganza that pays glowing tribute to the powerful King's pining for his beloved and deceased wife with the show 'Mohabbat- the Taj'. From the lavish life of the Mughals to that of the artisans who laboured over the exquisite expression of love, the dance drama with detailed costumes, lively musical scores set in Braj style, and a distinct touch of Bollywood provide an entertaining and enjoyable cultural experience.





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DAY 11: AGRA - DELHI

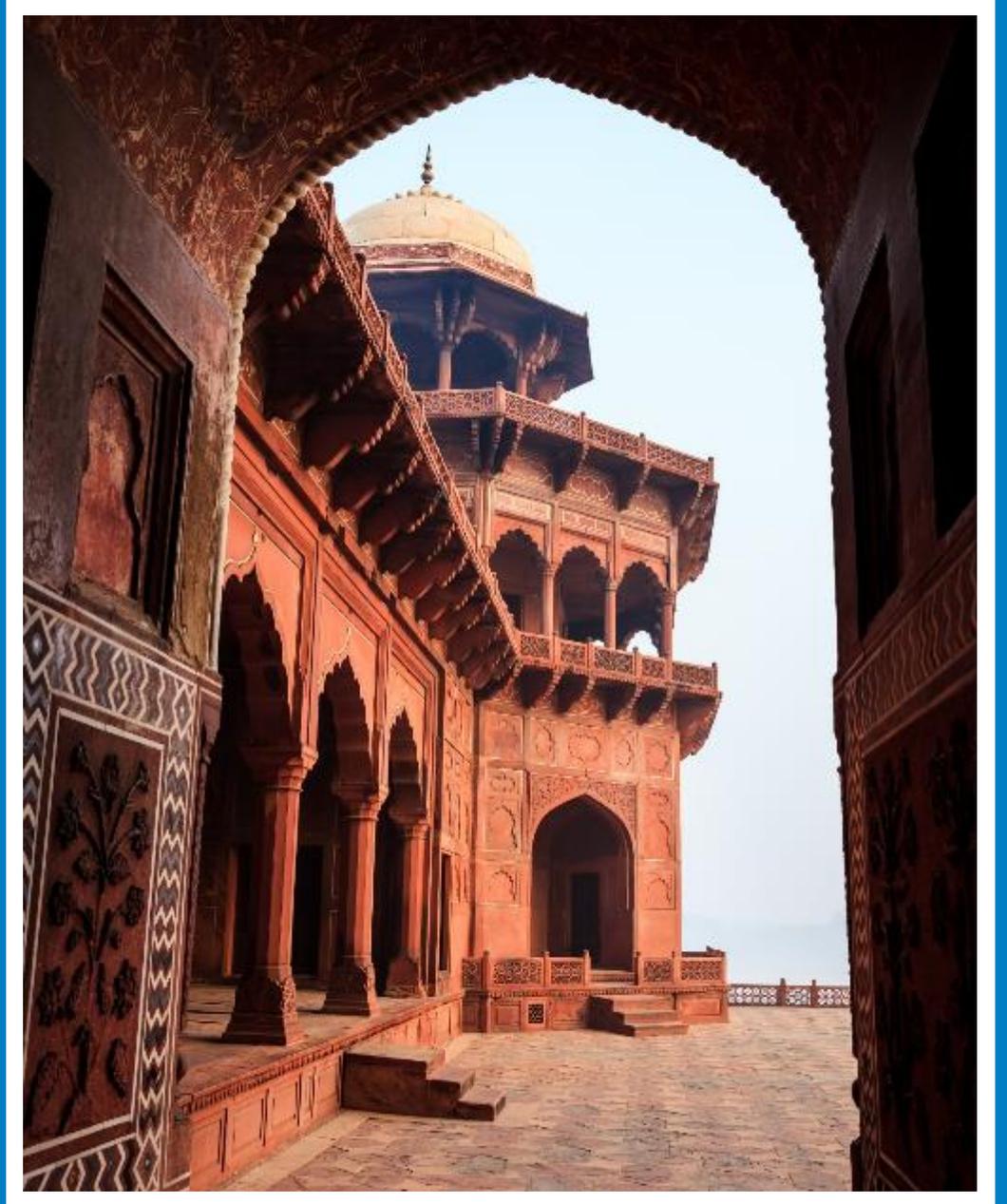
Breakfast buffet at the hotel.

After breakfast excursion to Fatehpur Sikri (40km. fom Agra).

Fatehpur Sikri - built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 and abandoned after 15 years due to scarcity of water. See the graceful building including the Jama Masjid. Tomb of Chishti, Panch Mahal and other palaces.

After visit drive back to Delhi

After dinner transfer to the airport to board the flight for your onward destination.





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