



# Classical India Tour

## 11 Night Private Tour

Experience the vibrant tapestry of India's rich cultural and architectural heritage on our captivating Classical India 11 night private tour.

From ancient architectural marvels to spiritual ceremonies, this immersive tour takes you to some of northern India's most iconic cities, from the bustling metropolis of Delhi to the infamous city of Agra, home to the Taj Mahal, for an experience of a lifetime.

### Highlights

- Sightseeing tour of Delhi
- Experience Jaipur, also known as the "Pink City"
- Sightseeing tour of Agra, the 17th century capital of the Mughal Empire
- Visit to the awe-inspiring Taj Mahal
- Sightseeing tour of Lucknow
- Evening visit to the Ganges to witness an Aarti Ceremony
- Boat ride along the famous river Ganges
- Walking tour through Varanasi

### What's included:

- Getting there: Return flights to Delhi
- Meet and greet at the airport on arrival and departure
- Transport: Return airport transfers and throughout the tour in air-conditioned Sedan car PLUS train journey from Lucknow to Varanasi
- Accommodation: 11 nights total duration (including 1 night on outbound flight) - 2 nights Delhi, 2 nights Jaipur, 1 night Agra, 2 nights Lucknow, 2 nights Varanasi, 1 night Delhi
- Meals included: 10 breakfasts
- English speaking guide
- Entrance fees to attractions

### Not included:

- Any meals (other than the one mentioned in the itinerary), drinks, tips, expenses of personal nature.
- Early/late check-in/out service at hotels (surcharge if requested)
- Travel insurance and visa

# Full Itinerary

## Day 1: Overnight Flight

Board your overnight flight from the UK to Delhi Airport DEL.

## Day 2: Arrive in Delhi

Arrive at Delhi airport. Meet and greet provided at the airport followed by private transfers to the hotel for check in. Enjoy a welcome meeting with your own tour manager.

Delhi is a vibrant city where the old and new blend, showcasing the cultural and architectural heritage of the capital.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Radisson Dwarka, Delhi or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



## Day 3: Sightseeing in Delhi

After breakfast, embark on a sightseeing tour of Delhi.

Visit Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India, and explore the narrow streets of Old Delhi on a cycle rickshaw ride. Drive past iconic landmarks such as India Gate, the President's Residence, Parliament House, and Secretariat Buildings.

Visit Humayun's Tomb and the Qutab Minar complex, which houses historical monuments including the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Radisson Dwarka, Delhi or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



## Day 4: Jaipur

After breakfast, travel to Jaipur, known as the "Pink City" (approximately 6 hour drive). Check in to your hotel and enjoy the remainder of the day at your leisure.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Ramada, Jaipur or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



## Day 5: Discover Jaipur

Embark on a morning excursion to Amber Fort, renowned for its stunning architecture and intricate designs. Marvel at Sheesh Mahal, a room adorned with glittering mirror pieces.

En route to Amber Fort, make a brief stop at Hawa Mahal, the Palace of Winds.

Visit Maharaja's City Palace, which houses a museum and is still partially occupied by the Royal Family of Jaipur. Explore Jantar Mantar, the famous observatory crafted from stone and marble.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Ramada, Jaipur or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

## Day 6: Exploring Agra

After breakfast, drive to Agra, a city famous for its association with the Mughal Empire (approximately 5 hour drive).

Visit the awe-inspiring Taj Mahal, a mausoleum that stands as a testament to eternal love. Admire the intricate craftsmanship and learn about the thousands of artisans involved in its construction.

Explore Agra Fort, a grand fortification housing palaces and beautiful structures.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Crystal Sarovar Premiere, Agra or similar

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



## Day 7: Lucknow

After breakfast, proceed to Lucknow (approximately 4.5 hour drive). Check in to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure. Lucknow is known for its rich history, royal cuisine, and cultural heritage.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Golden Tulip Lucknow or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



## Day 8: Sightseeing in Lucknow

Embark on a sightseeing tour of Lucknow, often referred to as the city of Nawabs. Visit the beautifully decorated Rumi Darwaza, Bara Immambara, Husainabad Immambara, and Asafud-daula Immambara, which showcase the essence of Awadhi architecture. Explore the Picture Gallery displaying life-size oil paintings of the Nawabs of Oudh. Visit Chattar Manzil, Moti Mahal, and the British Raj Residency, a significant site from the Indian Mutiny of 1857.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Golden Tulip Lucknow or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

## Day 9: Varanasi

Transfer to the railway station for a train journey to Varanasi. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and witness the mesmerizing Aarti ceremony on the banks of the Ganges. Aarti is a spiritual ritual involving fire and various elements symbolizing different aspects of life.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* The Amayaa, Varanasi or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



## Day 10: River Ganges

Experience a boat ride on the sacred Ganges River, taking you to Manikarnika Ghat, a cremation site, and back. Take a walking tour through the narrow lanes of Varanasi, passing by the Vishwanath Temple.

After breakfast, embark on an excursion to Sarnath, an important Buddhist pilgrimage site.

Visit the Dhamek Stupa and explore the archaeological museum, home to the famous Sarnath pillar.

ACCOMMODATION: 4\* The Amayaa, Varanasi or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast

## Day 11: Back to Delhi

Transfer to Varanasi airport for a flight to Delhi. Upon arrival, check in to your hotel and enjoy the rest of the day at your leisure.

ACCOMMODATION: 5\* Radisson Dwarka, Delhi or similar.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



## Day 12: Home

Private transfers to Delhi airport and flight home.

MEALS INCLUDED: Breakfast



# FAQs

## **DO I NEED A VISA?**

British passport holders require a visa to enter India, and your passport must have an expiry date of at least 6 months after the date you arrive with at least 2 blank pages.

Please check the FCDO website for more information on visas.

## **WHAT CURRENCY DO I TAKE WITH ME?**

Indian Rupee. You can take USD with you which you can get exchanged at the airport or at most hotels for Indian Rupees.

## **WHO IS THIS TOUR SUITABLE FOR?**

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. Please note the minimum child age is 4 years old.

## **DO I NEED ANY VACCINATIONS?**

Please note that there are no mandatory vaccinations required to enter India. However, we recommend consulting your GP or a travel health clinic before you travel to ensure your routine vaccinations are up to date and to receive any personalised health advice.

## **WHAT DO I NEED TO PACK?**

Pack lightweight, breathable clothing to stay comfortable in Kerala's warm climate. Comfortable walking shoes are essential for sightseeing, and swimwear is recommended for beach visits.

When visiting temples and religious sites, please dress modestly by covering your shoulders and knees, as well as be prepared to remove your shoes before entering.

We recommend bringing biodegradable sunscreen and a hat for sun protection. For nature walks, leech socks will be provided for your convenience.

## **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE ON TIPS?**

While tipping isn't mandatory, it's a thoughtful way to show appreciation, especially considering the modest wages many workers receive. A small gesture can go a long way, so setting aside a little extra for porters, guides, and drivers is always appreciated. Leaving some spare change at restaurants is also a kind way to recognise good service.

## **WHEN IS THE TRAIN JOURNEY TO VARANASI?**

Exact train times will be provided on final travel documentation. Luggage will be taken via car. You will be in an Air Conditioned chair cabin on board an Intercity Express Train. In the event of a train cancellation you will be driven to Varanasi.