



6-11 November, 2011

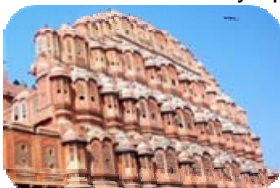
India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India

TOUR CODE (CT-3) GOLDEN TRIANGLE TOUR (03NIGHTS / 04 DAYS BY ROAD)

DAY 01: DELHI – JAIPUR

(APPROX. 265 KMS – 5-6 HRS DRIVE)

Morning, vehicle will depart from the venue at 08:30 AM for Jaipur. The journey will take approx. 5 hrs to reach Jaipur. There are lot many opportunities for photos on way to Jaipur. Upon arrival check into the hotel.



Known as the “Pink City”, Jaipur is the capital of the colourful state of Rajasthan. It has the distinction of being a well planned and laid out city. As you drive through the old part of town, you will witness a life most unlike others. Witness how the city blooms during the day in a kaleidoscope of colour and sound.

Rest of the evening is at leisure or free for independent activities. Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 02: IN JAIPUR

After breakfast depart the hotel for a half-day excursion to Amber Fort. 11 Kms. from Jaipur, Amber Fort is a marvellous example of Rajput architecture with its terraces and ramparts reflected in the Maota Lake below. The interiors of the Amber fort have various royal halls decorated with intricate ivory, mirror and glass work complemented by exquisite wall paintings. As you move between the rooms of this magnificent structure feel the history and visualise the pomp and grandeur of a kingdom never conquered.

Later proceed for lunch. After lunch venture back into the city.

This afternoon you will visit the City Palace Museum where you can see an imposing blend of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal Art. The museum is resplendent with its collection of robes of royal princes, carpets, an armoury of old weapons, miniature paintings portraying court scenes, battle scenes and processions, Also visit the awe inspiring Jantar Mantar (an accurate observatory built in 1726 AD). Also included is a photo visit at the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) - a five storied wonder with a spectacular pyramidal facade and overhanging windows with latticed screens, domes and spires.



Return to the hotel for an overnight stay.

DAY 03: JAIPUR – AGRA

(Approx. 235 kms – 6 hrs drive)

Breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast drive to Agra. The journey will take approx. 6 hours to reach Agra. On way to Agra visit, Fatehpur Sikri.



Fatehpur Sikri, the deserted red sandstone city that was built by Emperor Akbar as his capital. It was a veritable fairy tale city and its 'ruins' are still in a pristine condition. it is not hard to imagine what the court life must have been like in the days of its grandeur.

After visiting Fatehpur Sikri continue the drive to Agra and upon arrival check into the hotel.

Enjoy your lunch at the hotel. After lunch proceed to visit Agra Fort.



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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 center of art, science, commerce and culture. The city's origins are dim but Emperor Akbar's grandfather Babur is credited with Agra's founding. The short golden age of Agra came to an end with the seventeenth century reign of Shah Jehan, mastermind of the unforgettable Taj Mahal.

Agra Fort- Akbar, king at 14, began consolidating his empire and, as an assertion of his power built the fort in Agra between 1565 and 1571, surrounded by a 70-foot high wall which still retains the irregular outline of the demolished mud-wall fort of the Lodis. The magnificent towers, bastions and ramparts and majestic gateways symbolized the confidence and power of the third Mughal emperor, Akbar.



The fort contains splendid palaces both in red sandstone and white marble built by two generations of prolific builders, Akbar and later on by Jahangir and Shahjahan. Some of the most significant ones are Jahangiri Mahal, the principal zenana palace (palace for women belonging to the royal household, used mainly by the Rajput wives of Akbar. A splendid gateway leads to an interior courtyard surrounded by grand halls covered with profuse carvings on stone, heavily fashioned brackets, piers, and crossbeams. One can still spot remnants of decoration in gold and blue done in the prevalent Persian style), Khas Mahal and Sheesh Mahal (Both Jahangir (Akbar's son) and Shahjahan (Akbar's grandson) were enamored of the sensuous effect of white marble; in their quest to make buildings of marble, they demolished many of Akbar's red sandstone structures. Khas Mahal (built by Shahjahan), is an airy edifice, overlooking the specially laid Angoori Bagh (grape garden; a simple formal Mughal garden). Windows closed with jali (intricately perforated decorative stone screens) present fabulous view of the riverfront. The two copper-roofed pavilions built in the Bengali traditions were meant for prominent ladies of the harem. On three sides of this garden are residential quarters of women. Sheesh Mahal (mirror palace) or the royal hammam (bath) is decorated with myriad glass pieces and a central fountain), Musamman Burj (a most romantic, ornamental pavilion wherein lived two most beautiful and powerful Mughal queens-Nurjahan and Mumtaz Mahal. The quality of pietra dura decoration is fabulous and perfect. Here Shahjahan spent his last few years as a captive held by Aurangzeb. Shahjahan languished and died looking at the Taj Mahal), Diwan-I-Khas (Hall of Private audience is a small hall with double marble columns inlaid with pietra dura decoration. Shahjahan built the structure between 1636 and 1637 and it is where the emperor used to receive the important dignitaries. On the terrace, in front of this hall, are two marble thrones. The black throne belongs to Jehangir who, as Prince Salim in rebellion against Akbar at Allahabad, had ordered it for himself. Below this terrace lies the grand courtyard of Machhi Bhawan, meant for the harem functions. On another side stands a small mosque built for Shahjahan by Aurangzeb), Diwan-I-Aam (Hall of Public audience constructed by Shahjahan, who replaced an earlier wooden structure. The arches are covered with white lime polished to a smooth finish. The triple arched royal canopy has lavish pietra dura ornamentation. Here was kept the famous Peacock Throne ordered by Shahjahan. He met officials and commoners and listened to the petitioners in the Diwan-I-Aam), Moti Masjid (or the pearl mosques, three domes in white marble raising their heads over the red sandstone wall. Moti Masjid is known for its sheer grandeur and perfect proportions). Return to the hotel for an overnight stay.

DAY 04: AGRA - DELHI

(Approx. 205 kms – 5 hrs drive)

Early morning leave the Hotel for sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal. You must leave the hotel at 05:45 hrs . Gate of the Taj will open at 06:00 hrs. Witness the Taj glow in the changing light of the rising sun.



The Taj Mahal, 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. The design and construction is said to be that of the legendary architect, Ustad Ahamad Lahori. Legend has it that once construction was completed, Shah Jehan had Lahori's hands cut off, and blinded, so



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he would never be able to duplicate the structure. 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 beautifully laid gardens. 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.

Special note: Taj Mahal is closed on Friday

Return to the hotel for breakfast and then check out. After breakfast drive to Delhi. En route visit Sikandra. Upon arrival in Delhi check into the Hotel – Own arrangements for hotel accommodation in Delhi.

===== Tour ends =====

The above tour includes:

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis with breakfast in Jaipur and Agra
- Monument entrance fees at Sikandra, Agra (Taj Mahal , Agra Fort) Fatehpursikri and Jaipur (Amber Fort, City Palace, Observatory)
- All transfers, sightseeing's and excursions using an air - conditioned vehicle.
- Elephant ride and Jeep ride at Amber Fort in Jaipur
- One bottle of mineral water per person per day
- English speaking local guide in Jaipur and Agra
- Medicated wet tissues during the tour
- Battery bus charges at Taj Mahal
- All applicable hotel luxury tax

The above tour does not include:

- Accommodation in any hotel in Delhi
- Any expenses of personal nature like drinks, laundry, telephone calls, mineral water etc.
- Any insurance
- Any camera or video fee at the monuments (guest can pay directly for this at the monuments)
- Any meals other than specified
- Service tax @ 2.57%
- Any other services not mentioned above

Special note:

Prices are subject to change due to hike in fuel / Govt. Taxes. / State Road Tax if any in near future.
Rates includes only those Items as specified in the above Itinerary.