

### DELHI & AGRA CITY STOPOVER – PRIVATE TOUR ITINERARY – 4 NIGHTS.

### DAY 1 ARRIVE DELHI AIRPORT

Arrive Delhi International Airport.

Note: If you are travelling on an e-Visa please ensure you are carrying a hardcopy of the approval and ensure you go to the e-Visa counters at the end of the Immigration Hall.

You will meet our Target Tours travel executive in the Arrival Hall, after collecting your luggage & passing through customs. The Target Tours executive will provide a briefing of your tour and introduce you to your driver.

Transfer and check in at your Delhi hotel and take the remainder of the day at leisure.

This evening visit **Gurdwara Bangla Sahib** - one of Delhi's most prominent Sikh gurdwara, or Sikh houses of worship. Well-known for its association with the eighth Sikh Guru Har Krishan, as well as the pool inside its complex, known as the 'Sarovar.'

Later take a stroll through Khan Market, one of the more upmarket shopping streets in Delhi. This area boasts some of the best eating and shopping options in the city.

#### **OVERNIGHT STAY AT YOUR CHOICE OF DELHI HOTEL**

4-Star <u>Suryaa Hotel</u> in a Deluxe Room OR 5-Star <u>The LaLiT Hotel</u> in a Deluxe Room







DAY 2 DELHI (B)

Breakfast in the hotel.

Today at **9: 00 AM** meet your guide in the hotel lobby for your full day sightseeing tour of Old & New Delhi.

## **Drive past the Red Fort**

Red Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage site. This historic fort is built in the center of Delhi. It was the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal dynasty for almost 200 years. It houses several museums inside the fort. In addition to accommodating the emperors and their households, it was the political and ceremonial center of the Mughal state.

## Visit the Jama Masjid - the Great Mughal Mosque

This is one of the largest and most significant mosques in India. Built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, it was completed in 1656 AD. Approximately 5000 craftsmen were involved in the construction of the mosque and the massive courtyard can accommodate more than 25,000 persons. Inside the mosque there are a total of 899 black borders marked for worshippers.

For your next escapade in Old Delhi, navigate the bustling alleyways through the fabled **Chandni Chowk**, literally translated as 'Silver Square'. Designed by Jahanara Begum, Shah Jahan's favorite daughter, it became the commercial hub of the Mughal era and at that time inhabited by the wealthier families of the city.

Continue on to **Raj Ghat** - the memorial of the father of the nation of India, Mahatma Gandhi.







We recommend lunch at <u>Chor Bizarre restaurant</u>, located near India Gate in New Delhi, as you move between Old Delhi & New Delhi on your tour. The restaurant serves authentic regional Indian cuisine in a unique atmosphere.

After lunch, visit **Humayun's Tomb** - One of the earliest examples of a Mughal Garden Tomb, this mausoleum provided the prototype for future tombs, such as the Taj Mahal. Recently taken over by the Agha Khan Trust, the gardens, monuments and tomb have been restored to their former glory.

View **Qutab Minar** (UNESCO World Heritage site)

Qutub Minar is a tapering tower of five storeys. A 14.3 metres base diameter reduces to 2.7 metres at the peak. It is a 73 m tall tower, which have a spiral staircase of 379 steps. The walls consist of intricately carved quotes from Koran. Qutab Minar is acknowledged as one of the most perfect and magnificent towers of the Persian world.

The tour also includes a drive through of the Lutyens Delhi, an upmarket residential area significant for its unique British Raj era architectural style; India Gate (The War Memorial) and also a drive past Parliament House and President's Palace.

After the tour return to the hotel.

#### **OVERNIGHT STAY AT YOUR CHOICE OF DELHI HOTEL**

4-Star <u>Suryaa Hotel</u> in a Deluxe Room OR 5-Star <u>The LaLiT Hotel</u> in a Deluxe Room







### DAY 3 DELHI – AGRA BY ROAD (210 KMS/4 HRS)

(B)

Breakfast in the hotel.

9AM: Depart by road to Agra & check in at your hotel.

#### **AGRA**

The Mughal Empire had its seat in Agra before it moved its capital to Delhi. Agra is home to some of the most beautiful Mughal architecture including the Taj Mahal. In the 16th & 17th centuries the Mughal Courts were most influential and powerful. They were great patrons of the arts. Agra artisans, poets, musicians, and artisans from across India and nearby regions, transformed the city into a renowned cultural and architectural centre.

Enjoy the remainder of the day at leisure at your hotel.

Later in the evening, take a guided cultural walking tour of Agra. Explore the city's bustling spice market, hidden laneways and religious temples and mosques. Treat yourself at a 200-year-old sweets shop, hop on a cycle rickshaw, and learn why Hindu families dress their idols. Hear the legends that have been passed down through generations and learn how modernday India has evolved. Finish it all up with the magnificent sight of the Taj Mahal from a secret spot.

### **OVERNIGHT STAY AT YOUR CHOICE OF AGRA HOTEL.**

4-Star <u>Crystal Sarovar Hotel</u> in a Deluxe Room OR 5-Star <u>Trident Hotel</u> in a Deluxe Garden View





All travel referred to on this site is arranged through James & Nicola Irving t/a Bhutan & Beyond, affiliated with MTA Travel. MTA – Mobile Travel Agents is a member of Virtuoso, AFTA, ATAS and IATA accredited.

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## DAY 4 AGRA - DELHI BY ROAD (210 KMS/3-4 HRS)

(B)

Arise early this morning and experience the Taj Mahal at sunrise to avoid the crowds.

Described as a most spectacular monument ever built for love, this sublime Mughal mausoleum is India's most ogled icon. The Taj was built in 1631 by Emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial for his second wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their 14th child. The death of his wife Mumtaz left the Emperor so grief stricken that his hair is said to have turned grey virtually overnight. Construction of the Taj began in the same year when Mumtaz died and was not completed until 1653. After the completion of Taj Mahal, Shah Jahan was overthrown by his son Aurangzeb and imprisoned in Agra Fort where, for the rest of his days, he could only gaze out at his creation through a window. After his death in 1666, Shah Jahan was buried in Taj Mahal alongside his wife Mumtaz.

Return to your hotel for breakfast.

Next visit **Agra Fort** (aka the *Red Fort*). Commissioned by the great Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565 it is another of Agra's UN World Heritage sites. A stone tablet at the gate of the fort states that it had been built before 1000 AD but was later renovated by Akbar. The red sandstone fort was converted into a palace during Shah Jahan's time and reworked extensively with Pietra dura inlay and marble. Notable buildings in the fort include the Pearl Mosque, the Diwan-e'Ām and Dīwān-e-Khās (halls of public and private audience), Jahagir Palace, Khās Mahal and Sheesh Mahal (mirrored palace).

Also visit a local market and a marble factory where you can see the inlay work being done on marble like it was done for the Taj in the past. The marble factory is <u>OPTIONAL</u> and better suited for those very interested in this process and keen to buy!





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After the Agra tour drive back to Delhi & check in at your hotel.

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# DAY 5 DEPART DELHI BY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (B)

Breakfast in the hotel.

Hotel check out time is 10.00am. Pack your bags and depart for Delhi International airport, by private vehicle transfer, for your onwards flight.

====END OF SERVICES====



