

CLASSICAL INDIA TOUR

Day 01 ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive Delhi by International flight.

Meeting upon arrival at Delhi International airport with our representative & transfer to hotel.

Delhi, the capital of India, is fascinating city with complexities, beauty, and dynamism, where the past co-exists with the present. Many dynasties ruled from here and the city is rich in the architecture of its monuments. Delhi is not only the present metropolis of India but also a necropolis. Located on the banks of the river Yamuna, Delhi has witnessed the rise and fall of many cities over the last five millennia.

Evening: Welcome dinner hosted by Insight India Voyage.

Overnight at Maidens Hotel / Heritage Room

Day 02 IN DELHI

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at the hotel, proceed to explore the city of New Delhi by visiting **Gandhi Smriti Museum**, also known as Gandhi Smriti, is a museum dedicated to the father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi. Situated on the Tees January Road in New Delhi, Gandhi Smriti Museum was formerly known as Birla Bhavan or Birla House. Birla Bhavan is the place where Gandhi Ji spent the last 144 days of his life and was assassinated by Nathuram Godse on 30th January 1948.



After the Museum, proceed to visit **Tomb of Humayun** built in 16th century AD, a magnificent structure in red sandstone and white marble, a fine example of a garden tomb and a precursor of the Taj Mahal.

Post Lunch: Proceed to visit Lotus Temple, located in New Delhi, India, is a Bahá'í House of Worship that was dedicated in December 1986. Notable for its lotus-like shape, it has become a prominent attraction in the city.

Like all Bahá'í Houses of Worship, the Lotus Temple is open to all, regardless of religion or any other qualification.

Later Drive to the **Qutab Minar**, a Tower of Victory started by Qutbuddin Aibak of the Slave Dynasty which ruled over Delhi in the 12th century and completed by his successors. Within the courtyard of the adjoining Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque stands the famous Iron Pillar, dating back to the 4th century AD which bears Sanskrit inscription. The pillar has puzzled scientists, as its iron has not rusted through the past centuries.

Drive along the Rajpath towards the residence of the President of the Republic of India, **Rashtrapati Bhawan** which is flanked by the houses of the Parliament and the Government Secretariat buildings. Also drive by **India Gate** before transferring back to hotel.

Overnight at Maidens Hotel / Heritage Room

Day 03 **DELHI / AMRITSAR**

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at the hotel, transfer to NDLS railway station to board Paschim Express at 1105 hrs for Amritsar.

Arrive Amritsar railway station at 2010 hrs and transfer to hotel.

Amritsar is one of the most ancient and fascinating cities of India. It is an important seat of Sikh history and culture. Being the gateway for travelers coming to India on the overland route from central Asia, it soon became the center of various commercial activities.

Overnight at Welcomhotel by ITC Raja Sansi / Deluxe Room

Day 04 **IN AMRITSAR**

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After breakfast at the hotel, proceed to visit Golden Temple.

The Golden Temple Amritsar India (Sri Harimandir Sahib Amritsar) is not only a central religious place of the Sikhs, but also a symbol of human brotherhood and equality. Everybody, irrespective of cast, creed or race can seek spiritual solace and religious fulfilment without any hindrance. It also represents the distinct identity, glory and heritage of the Sikhs.



Also visit Jallian Wala Bagh

The memorial at this site commemorates the 2000 Indians who were killed or wounded, shot indiscriminately by the British under the command of Gen Michael O'Dyer on April 13, 1919 while participating in a peaceful public meeting. This was one of the major incidents of India's freedom struggle.

Post Lunch: visit the **Wagah border** by car (30 Kms / ½ hrs drives one way). Wagah is the international border between India and Pakistan. The pomp and pageantry of the Beating Retreat and the Change of Guard within handshaking distance of the Indian and Pakistani forces makes for a most charming spectacle takes place every evening.

Overnight at Welcomhotel by ITC Raja Sansi / Deluxe Room

Day 05 **AMRITSAR / UDAIPUR**

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After an early breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Amritsar airport to board UK-694/ 627 at 1005 hrs for Udaipur via Delhi.

Arrive Udaipur at 1445 hrs. Upon arrival transfer to hotel.

Udaipur, the city of Dawn, is the Jewel of Mewar – a kingdom ruled by the Sisodia Dynasty for 1200 years. Its kaleidoscope of fairy-tale palaces, lakes, temples, gardens, and narrow lanes strewn with stalls, carry the flavors of a heroic past, epitomizing valor, and chivalry. The reflection of these buildings in the placid waters of Lake Pichola is an enticing sight.

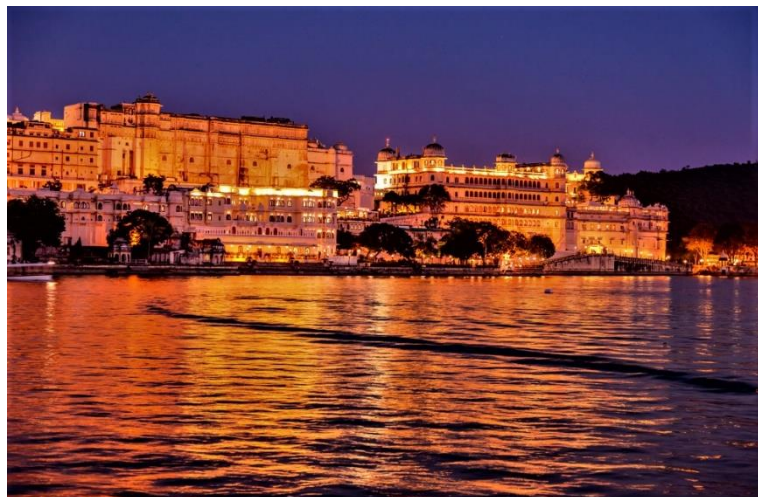
Evening: relax at the pool

Overnight at Trident / Deluxe Garden View Room

Day 06

IN UDAIPUR

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast



After a leisure breakfast at the hotel, proceed for a city tour of Udaipur by visiting the **City Palace**, a majestic architectural marvel, which is perched on a hill and towers over Lake Pichola. The palace is a majestic conglomeration of courtyards, pavilions, terraces, corridors, rooms and hanging gardens.

After the palace, visit the **Bhartiya Lok Kala Museum**, which has an interesting collection of Indian folk art including costumes, ornaments, puppets, masks, dolls, musical instruments, and deities.

Later visit **Saheli yon-ki-Bari**, the 'ladies garden', with its rich foliage and intricately designed fountains.

Post Lunch: Enjoy a **boat ride on Lake Pichola**, on which the majestic Lake Palace Hotel is situated. See the bathing ghats along the lake and the interesting buildings on the banks. The view of the city palace from the lake is spectacular. Dock at Jag mandir Island where the Maharaja of Udaipur once gave Shah Jahan sanctity.

Overnight at Trident / Deluxe Garden View Room

Day 07

UDAIPUR / JODHPUR

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Jodhpur by car (265 kms / 5-6 hrs drive). Upon arrival, check in at the hotel.

Jodhpur at the edge of the Thar Desert, the imperial city of Jodhpur echoes with tales of antiquity in the emptiness of the desert. The lifestyle in Jodhpur is unusually fascinating with people wearing lovely multi-hued costumes, artistically designed. Shopping in Jodhpur bazaars is a heady experience with a colorful display of the rich collection of exquisite handicrafts.

Evening: relax at the pool

Overnight at Ajit Bhawan / Deluxe Room

Day 08

IN JODHPUR

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at the hotel, proceed for a city tour of Jodhpur by visiting **Mehrangarh Fort**, one of the most impressive and formidable structures.

Invincible from the outside, the fort has four gates approached by a winding road. Within the fort are some magnificent palaces with marvelously carved panels with latticed windows. These palaces house a fabulous collection of trappings of Indian royalty including a superb collection of palanquins, elephant howdahs, and miniature paintings of various schools, musical instruments, costumes, and furniture.





Also visit Jaswant Thada, is a cenotaph located in Jodhpur, in the Indian state of Rajasthan. It was built by Maharaja Sardar Singh of Jodhpur State in 1899 in memory of his father, Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, and serves as the cremation ground for the royal Rajput family of Marwar.

Later visit Umaid Bhawan Palace Museum, is a grand palace turned into a museum. And it offers visitors a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle and royal grandeur. An interesting thing about the palace is that the current royal family of Jodhpur still lives here.

Overnight at Ajit Bhawan / Deluxe Room

Day 09

IN JODHPUR

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at the hotel, proceed for **jeep safari through Bishnoi villages**. Bishnoi is a community of nature worshippers in the state of Rajasthan. They get their name from Bishnoi, meaning 29, and representing the 29 principles the villagers live by. Out of these 29 principles, ten pertain to personal hygiene and good health, seven to healthy and communal social behavior. Also, four to being good devotees of God, and eight to the reservation and care towards the biosphere.

The Bishnoi village area is replete with wildlife! During your time in the village, you can spot Partridge, peacocks, the endangered Great Indian Bustard, vultures, blackbuck deer's, chinkaras, and many more. Much like the minority Hindu sect, the wildlife has also found refuge in this village as the Bishnoi actively protect them from hunters and poachers for over five centuries.

Evening: Proceed for Jodhpur heritage walk.

It is a unique opportunity to know more about the old city of Jodhpur which is known for its beautiful blue houses, vibrant lively markets and its different hues of culture and traditional life. During this walk one will get a chance to walk through old and narrow streets of the city and will explore many places like the significant water harvesting method of medieval time, the step well, temples and their beautiful carved houses and their doorstep.

Overnight at Ajit Bhawan / Deluxe Room

Day 10

JODHPUR / JAISALMER

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at the tented camp, transfer to Jaisalmer by car (290 Kms / 5-6 hrs drive). Upon arrival, check in at the hotel.

Jaisalmer- rising from the Thar Desert like a golden mirage is the city of Jaisalmer. The Jaisalmer fort etched in yellow sandstones stands with all its awesome splendor. The life within the citadel conjures up images of medieval majesty visible in its narrow lanes strewn with magnificent palaces, havelis, temples and typical desert life of people and animals.

Evening: relax at the pool

Overnight at Mohangarh Fort / Deluxe Room

Day 11

JAISALMER / SAM SAND DUNES

Today's Meal Inclusions: Breakfast and Dinner

After breakfast at the hotel, proceed for the city tour of Jaisalmer visiting the 80-meter-high **Jaisalmer fort**, perch on the hill, houses the entire township within its ramparts. It has enchanting narrow lanes dotted with exquisite havelis, beautifully sculptured Jain temples of the 12th-15th century, and palaces. The fort is approached through four gateways - **Akhaiya Pol, Ganesh Pol, Suraj Pol and Hava Pol**. Some of the most exotic mansions or havelis, all intricately latticed, are strewn all over Jaisalmer, each with a different facade.



The havelis of **Nathmalji, Patwon and Salim Singh**, all in yellow marble of Jaisalmer, are exquisite works of art.

Later in the afternoon transfer to **Sam sand dunes** by car (40 kms / 01 hrs. drive). Upon arrival, check in at the Tented Camp.

After evening tea / coffee at the camp, proceed for a **45 minute to 1 hour camel safari through the sand dunes** and enjoy sun set over the sand dunes.

Late Evening: Attend Rajasthani folk dances followed by dinner at the tented camp.

Dinner & Overnight at Damodra Desert Camp / Luxury Tent

Day 12 SAM SAND DUNES / BIKANER

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at the tented camp, transfer to Bikaner by car (200 Kms / 4 hrs drive). Upon arrival check-in at the hotel.

Bikaner stands on a slightly raised ground and is circumscribed by a seven km long embattled wall with five gates. The magnificent forts and palaces, in reddish-pink sandstone created with delicacy bear testimony to its rich historical and architectural legacy. Undulating lanes and colorful bazaars make Bikaner an interesting place.



Later in the afternoon, proceed to explore the **Junagarh Fort of Bikaner**, built in 1593 AD by Raj Rai Singh is one of the best forts of Rajasthan. It comprises of 37 palaces with pavilions, mosaic courtyards, carved balconies, kiosks, and windows. **The Shish Mahal, the Grand Durbar Hall, the 17th century Karan Mahal, Anup Mahal** and the Phool Mahal bring to life the grandeur of a bygone era. The Fort Museum has a rare collection of Sanskrit and Persian manuscripts and miniature painting.

Overnight at Narendra Bhawan / Prince Room

Day 13 BIKANER / PUSHKAR

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast & Dinner

After leisure breakfast at hotel, transfer to Pushkar by car (260 Kms / 4 hrs drive). Upon arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Surrounded by hills on three sides, Pushkar abounds in temples of these the most famous is the Brahma temple – One of the few temples dedicated to Lord Brahma in the country. Once a year, during the Kartik Purnima, the entire region comes alive with a pulsating Camel and Cattle Fair. There is a weeklong celebration with an explosion of fun, frolic, games, and laughter with threads of religious fervour. Bedecked and festooned cattle wait in the clouds of sand and the pious gather at the break of dawn to take a dip in the holy Pushkar Lake to absolve themselves of all their wrong doings.

Dinner & Overnight at Organic Farm Resort / Deluxe Room

Day 14 **IN PUSHKAR**

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After breakfast at the hotel, attend a cooking class to learn Indian recipes to cook at home.



Post Lunch: Proceed to explore Pushkar town by visiting the **Brahma temple and the ghats.**

The Brahma temple is one of very few existing temples dedicated to the Hindu creator-God Brahma in India and remains the most prominent among them. The temple structure dates to the 14th century, with later partial rebuilding. The temple is made of marble and

stone slabs. On Kartik Pournima, a festival dedicated to Brahma is held when large numbers of pilgrims visit the temple, after bathing in the sacred lake.

Overnight at Organic Farm Resort / Deluxe Room

Day 15 **PUSHKAR / JAIPUR**

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at hotel, transfer to Jaipur by car (150 Kms / 4 hrs drive). Upon Arrival, check-in at the hotel

Jaipur - the capital of Rajasthan is color washed pink - the color associated with auspiciousness and Rajput hospitality. This Pink City of fairy tale palaces, rugged fortresses perched on barren hills, and a city of broad avenues is picturesque. The first planned city of its time, Jaipur is encircled by a formidable wall.

Evening: relax at the pool of this amazing palace hotel with some sundowner drinks.

Overnight at Samode Palace / Deluxe Room

Day 16 **IN JAIPUR**

Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After a leisure breakfast at the hotel, proceed for an excursion to **Amber Fort & Palace** the capital of the erstwhile state of Jaipur until 1728. This fort is perched on a hill. it has hall of Public and Private audience, a Sheesh Mahal (Palace of mirrors) various marble palaces which are marvelous examples of the medieval Rajput architecture.

Enjoy a short elephant ride up to the fort on which the fort is situated.

Drive past the palace of winds, popularly known as **Hawa Mahal**, which is just a facade built for the ladies of the Royal household in the 19th century.



Afternoon: City tour of Jaipur visiting the former **royal residence** built in a blend of Rajasthani and Mughal styles. It now houses a museum with a super collection of Rajasthani costumes, an Armory of Mughal and Rajput's with weapons of arms, art gallery with an excellent collection of miniature paintings, carpets & royal paraphernalia.

Visit the **Jantar Mantar** - an astrological and astronomical Observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh in 18th century, which is remarkable for its accuracy of the instruments even in the present times.

Overnight at Samode Palace / Deluxe Room

Day 17 **JAIPUR / SAWAI MADHOPUR**
Today's Meal Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

After leisure breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Sawai Madhopur by car (180 Kms / 4 hrs drive). Upon arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Lunch at the hotel.

Ranthambore National Park is the country's best for observing and photographing the activities of the tiger. The park, covering an area of 392 sq. km., is home to more than 300 species of birds. The tiger, hyena, leopards, jackal, and fox are among those constituting the carnivorous population here. Sawai Madhopur is known for its exclusive toys, ethnic ornaments, and costumes.

Dinner & overnight Khem Villas / Standard Room

Day 18 **IN SAWAI MADHOPUR**
Today's Meal Inclusions: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Early morning: Visit Ranthambore National Park by an exclusive jeep along with an English-speaking naturalist.

After the visit, return to hotel for breakfast.

Lunch at the hotel.

Post lunch: Visit Ranthambore National Park by an exclusive jeep along with an English-speaking naturalist.

Dinner & overnight Khem Villas / Standard Room

Day 19 **SAWAI MADHOPUR / AGRA**
Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

After leisure breakfast at the hotel, transfer to Agra (300 Kms / 6-7 hrs drive) Upon arrival check-in at the hotel.

Agra is famous as the home to one of the seven modern wonders of the World- the Taj Mahal. This city having been the capital of the Mughal dynasty for over hundred years till 1650 there are many Mughal monuments of repute.

Evening: Attend the Mohabbatein Taj Show (**highly recommended**).

Overnight Trident / Standard Room

Day 20 **AGRA / DELHI**
Today's Meal Inclusion: Breakfast

Early Morning visit to **Taj Mahal at sunrise** - the inimitable poem in white marble was built over a period of 22 years (1631-1653), using a workforce of 22000 people, by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan for his Queen Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains. The Taj Mahal presents a wondrous sight at different times of the day - at dawn, during the day, at sunset and even on a moonless night. It is exquisite on a moonlit night.

After the visit, return to the hotel for breakfast.

Later proceed to visit **Agra Fort**.



The **Agra Fort** was built by three Mughal Emperors starting from Akbar the Great in 1565 AD. The fort is a masterpiece of design and construction. Within the fort is number of exquisite buildings including Jahangir's Palace, Khaas Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Diwan-i-Am and Mossman Burj- Octagonal Tower, where Emperor Shah Jahan, the builder of the Taj Mahal was imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb for seven long years and died a prisoner.

After the visiting the Agra fort, transfer to Delhi by AC Car (240 kms / 4-5 hours). Upon arrival check-in at the hotel.

Overnight at Maidens Hotel / Heritage Room

Day 21 **DELHI / DEPART**

After breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport in time to board a flight HOME.

END OF SERVICES