

Taj, Raj, Sacred Amritsar To Tigers

Factbox	
Prices start from :	£ 3,585
Travel between :	02 Oct 24 and 02 Oct 24
Board Basis :	As per Itinerary
Duration :	15 nights
Book by :	30 Jun 24
Includes :	<p>Return flights from London Heathrow with Virgin Atlantic</p> <p>2 nights stay at The Lalit in a Deluxe Room with Bed and Breakfast</p> <p>3 nights stay at Hotel Willow Bank in a Deluxe Room with Bed and Breakfast</p> <p>Heritage walk and Cable car ride in Shimla</p> <p>3 nights stay at Ramada By Wyndham in a Deluxe Room with Bed and Breakfast</p> <p>Guard ceremony in Amritsar</p> <p>2 nights stay at Alsisar Haveli in a Standard Room with Bed and Breakfast</p> <p>Jeep ride at Amber Fort in Jaipur</p> <p>2 nights stay at Ranthambore Regency in a Super Deluxe Room on full Board Basis</p> <p>2 Game drive in Ranthambore National Park by Non A/C Open Shared Jeep</p> <p>2 nights stay at Grand Mercure in a Deluxe Taj View Room with Bed and Breakfast</p> <p>1 night stay at Pride Plaza Aerocity in a Deluxe Room with Bed and Breakfast</p> <p>Cycle rickshaw ride in Old Delhi in Chandni Chowk market</p> <p>Services of local English Speaking Guide during sightseeing as per the itinerary</p> <p>Train fare Delhi - Kalka by Executive AC Chair Car</p> <p>Train fare KandaGhat - Shimla by First Class</p> <p>Train fare Chandigarh - Amritsar by AC Chair Car</p> <p>Monument Entrance fee as per the itinerary</p> <p>All Transfer, sightseeing and excursion mentioned</p>



Detailed Itinerary

Highlights: New Delhi - Shimla - Amritsar - Jaipur - Ranthambore - Agra

Hotel Featured:

The Lalit 5*
Willow Bank Hotel 4*
Ramada By Wyndham 5*
Alsisar Haveli - A heritage hotel 4*
Ranthambore Regency 4*
Grand Mercure
Pride Plaza Aerocity 5*

Itinerary:

Wed 02 Oct 2024: New Delhi

Flights from London Heathrow to Delhi Indira Gandhi Intl Airport

Thu 03 Oct 2024: New Delhi

Hotel-to-airport transfers

Stay at Hotel the Lalit for 2 nights

Fri 04 Oct 2024: A full-day sightseeing tour of Delhi

A full-day sightseeing tour of Delhi. You will get a feel for this city as you explore its historic sights, such as Raj Ghat, which is located on the banks of the river Yamuna. This is Mahatma Gandhi Memorial, where he was cremated following his assassination in January 1948. Opposite the Red Fort lies Jama Masjid, made of red sandstone and white marble, completed in 1656. It is India's largest mosque. From the Red Fort explore the bustling cultural delight of the colorful market on a 'cycle rickshaw', through "Chandni Chowk", or Silver Street, experiencing the sights and sounds of this very busy avenue, - a truly unique experience. You will have a great view of the Red Fort, a 17th-century imposing fortress built in red sandstone and surrounded by a huge boundary wall 33m high. Inside are exquisite palaces and beautiful gardens.

In the afternoon you will head into New Delhi, visiting Humayun Tomb, an impressive garden tomb with high arches and a double dome, built by his wife Haji Begum in the 16th Century. An early example of Mughal architecture is considered the predecessor of the Taj Mahal. Then continue to the wonderful Qutab Minar a major landmark in Delhi, with its beautiful grounds featuring the huge tower of victory standing over 72 metres. You will then drive on to Rajpath and through to India Gate and the Lutyens Delhi with its tree-lined boulevards leading to the British Viceroy's Palace, (Rashtrapati Bhavan) now the official residence of the President of India, the Secretariat, India Gate, and Parliament House.

Sat 05 Oct 2024: Delhi to Kalka by train - the Shatabdi Express 0740/1145 hrs, Kalka to Kandaghat by surface, Kandaghat to Shimla by toy train: 1521 1730 Hrs

You will be transferred to New Delhi railway station to board the train for Kalka, departing at 07:40. Local snacks and tea or coffee will be served on board. At 11:45 the train arrives at Kalka railway station. Upon arrival you met by your driver at the railway station who will drive you to Kandaghat railway station in time to board the toy train to Shimla (non-air-conditioned) Toy train offers the charm of old-world travel amidst lofty pines and lush green, misty mountains. Laid out on a 96 km long narrow gauge track that passes through 103 tunnels and across more than 800 bridges and

viaducts, it is one of the most beautiful hill railways in India. It was considered the crown jewel of the Indian National Railways during British times.
1730 Hrs: Arrive at Shimla
Upon arrival meet & assist at the railway station and transfer to Hotel Shimla. The ambiance of this hill city attracted the British so much that it seemed justifiable to shift the complete administration of an Empire from Calcutta to Shimla every summer because of its colonial charm, - and cooler air.
stay at Hotel Willow Banks for 3 nights

Sun 06 Oct 2024: Shimla

This morning you'll enjoy a Heritage Walk, passing through many historical and Heritage buildings, each possessing a different style of architecture and holding many stories of the past. We stop for a break on the way to give you a closer look at the various architectural sites of the British era. Later you'll continue your sightseeing of this hill station by visiting the following: The State Museum (Closed on Mondays): This building was a private residence of Lord William Beresford, the Military Secretary to the viceroys for many years. The Viceregal Lodge Indian Institute of Advanced Study: The site for Viceregal Lodge was selected by Lord Lytton the Viceroy of India between 1876 -1880.Jakhu Temple and Hill (2455 meters.): This is the town's highest peak and a vantage point for Shimla's famous views. The summit is crowned with a temple dedicated to the monkey God, Hanuman. This also offers a superb view of Shimla and the surrounding snow-capped Himalayan peaks and green pastures.

Mon 07 Oct 2024: Shimla

This morning you'll enjoy a fabulous excursion to Kufri & Wildflower Hall Mashobra. Kufri is around 10 miles from Shimla and is a small hill station. Its name means lake in the local language.

Tue 08 Oct 2024: Shimla to Parwanoo by surface 85 Km/ 2.5 hrs Parwanoo to Chandigarh by surface 36 km/ 1 hr Chandigarh to Amritsar by train CDG ASR EXP:1650-2125 hrs

After breakfast, we drive to Parwanoo. Just a couple of decades ago, this was a sleepy little village but today is a pulsating industrial town. Upon arrival in Parwanoo, transfer from the base to the top of the mountain by cable car. Lunch at Moksha Spa & Resort. After lunch, you're transferred by cable car from the top of the mountain to the base and drive to Chandigarh railway station in time to board your train, departing at 1710, to Amritsar, a holy city of the Sikh community. The famous Golden Temple was built here between 1589 and 1601 and is a superb coming together of the Islamic and Hindu styles of architecture. This extraordinary building is fashioned from marble, mirror work, and gold, which is beautifully reflected in a stunning expanse of water. At 21:25 - arrive at the Amritsar railway station. Upon arrival at the Amritsar railway station, you will be transferred to your hotel.

Wed 09 Oct 2024: Amritsar

This morning you'll explore the spiritual center of the Sikh religion, - the Golden Temple. This is one of the most spiritual locations, including the Divine Temple and the Pool of Nectar. The temple kitchen provides amazing meals every day to the thousands of devotees and you will take part in preparing community meals. You then also visit Jallianwala Bagh, the site of an infamous massacre that took place in 1919. Visitors to the Golden Temple must remove their shoes, wash their feet, and cover their heads with a scarf. In the late afternoon, you will travel to Wagah border, where India meets Pakistan, to watch the Flag ceremony, also known as the beating the retreat ceremony. Every day of the year at sunset, the soldiers of both India and Pakistan lower their respective flags in unison.

Thu 10 Oct 2024: Amritsar

Morning visit Sada Pind (Sada Pind means our village):- At Sada Pind, you can experience the old-world charm of Punjab through cultural performances, folk dances, local handicrafts, songs, stories, and of course, cuisine. Sada Pind is a fantastic place to connect with the Punjabi roots and experience the Punjabi culture around it. It recreates a Punjabi village in the true sense. As a guest, you can see, participate, and interact with people from the village and their culture. Sada Pind has everything to keep you busy and entertained for an entire day. It offers day packages and also stays packages. You can learn a traditional art or create a masterpiece of your own. Phulkari, Punjabi jutti, clay toys and utensils, ironwork, durries, and agricultural implements are some of the traditional arts showcased here. Punjab can never be complete without its music and dances. At Sada Pind, treat your senses to the vibrance and beats of traditional Punjabi folk dances like bhangra, gidha, jhumar and kikli.
Afternoon free to explore Amritsar. Evening attends the Palki ceremony: The Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple, also known as Harmandir Sahib, is a daily religious procession that takes place within the temple complex. The ceremony involves the carrying of the Guru Granth Sahib, the holy scripture of the Sikh faith, from the Akal Takht (the seat of the Sikh temporal authority) to the Harmandir Sahib and vice versa. The Palki is a decorated canopy that is carried by four to six persons, accompanied by a choir of hymn singers, known as Raagis.
The Palki ceremony is an important part of the spiritual experience at the Golden Temple and is considered a deeply moving and awe-inspiring event by those who attend it. For many devotees, participating in the Palki ceremony is a once-in-a-lifetime experience that offers a unique glimpse into the rich religious traditions of the Sikh faith.

Fri 11 Oct 24: Amritsar to Jaipur by afternoon flight

Morning breakfast at leisure. Afternoon transfer to airport to board flight to Jaipur. Upon arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel. Jaipur, the famed Pink City and the capital of Rajasthan, is known for its palaces, its three hill forts, and for being a shopper's paradise. Overnight stay.

Sat 12 Oct 2024: Jaipur

Today after breakfast enjoy a temple tour of Khajuraho
Western Group of Temples including Varaha Temple This small rectangular temple, built on a rock foundation has a pyramidal roof of receding tiers, supported on 12 pillars. In the middle of the shrine stands a monolithic, colossal image of Varaha (Roar). The image is carved of one piece of yellow sandstone and is exquisitely finished to a glossy luster. Nandi Temple This temple is a pavilion containing a colossal image of Nandi, the bull mount of Shiva. Lakshmana Temple This temple dedicated to the Vaikuntha form of Vishnu, distinguished by three heads respectively of lion, man, and boar, is the earliest and best-preserved temple of Khajuraho. Visvanatha Temple True to its traditional name Visvanatha, it is dedicated to Shiva. Although the stone Linga alone survives today, there is no doubt by its architectural grandeur and sculptural exuberance, that it is a monument worthy of a king of Khajuraho. Eastern Group of Temples including Brahma Temple. It is because of the four-face Linga, which now forms the main city of the shrine, that it is popularly called the temple of Brahma. Three faces of the Linga are benign whereas the Southern face shows a Skullon the Jatamukta, protruding eyes, and a gaping mouth. This temple was originally dedicated to Vishnu as is evident from the carvings on the doorways. Vamana Temple is Dedicated to Vamana (dwarf) incarnation of Vishnu.
Unlike the other temples, critic scenes are conspicuous here by their absence, except for the roof pediments. Jevari Temple Again dedicated to Vishnu, this is a small, well-proportioned shrine. the temple is a gem of architecture and is remarkable as much for its ornate entrance, as for the slender soaring outline of its spire.
Ghantai Temple The Ghantai temple is locally so-called because of the chain-and-bell (Ghanta) motifs prominently carved on its tall pillars. The Ghantai is dedicated to the Digambara Set of Jainism. Adinatha Temple. The temple enshrines a modern image of Adinath instead of the old one, of which only the pedestal has survived.
Overnight stay at Hotel

Sun 13 Oct 2024: Jaipur to Ranthambore by surface (Approx 180 Kms, 4 hrs)

After breakfast drive to Ranthambore. Ranthambore National Park is one of the largest national parks in northern India and is located in the Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan. It was established in 1980 as a wildlife sanctuary and was declared a national park in 1990. The park is known for its Bengal tigers, as well as its large variety of other wildlife species, including leopards, sloth bears, spotted deer, and wild boars. It also has a rich

history, as it was once a hunting ground for the Maharajas of Jaipur.

The park covers an area of approximately 1,334 square kilometers and is home to a variety of landscapes, including forests, lakes, and open grasslands. The park's terrain is dotted with ancient temples, fortresses, and hunting pavilions that offer a glimpse into its rich cultural heritage. Upon arrival at Ranthambore, check in at your hotel

Mon 14 Oct 24: Ranthambore

Today we take you searching for tigers on an early morning as well as an afternoon safari game drive in Ranthambore National Park. Morning Jeep Safaris usually start around 6:00 am and last for about 3-4 hours, while evening Jeep Safaris start around 2:30 pm and last for about 2-3 hours. Visitors are advised to wear light-colored, comfortable clothing, as well as sun protection, as temperatures can be high during the day.

Tue 15 Oct 2024: Ranthambore Agra by surface

After breakfast, Today you drive from Ranthambore National Park to Agra, which is located in the state of Uttar Pradesh, is approximately 286 kilometers and takes about 5-6 hours by car, depending on traffic and road conditions. The drive is mostly on smooth highways and is well-connected, making it a convenient and scenic journey.

The route from Ranthambore to Agra passes through several small towns and villages, as well as fertile farmland, which offer a glimpse into rural India also stops at interesting places such as the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fatehpur Sikri, which was built by Mughal Emperor Akbar, Continue your drive to Agra and check-in at your hotel.

Wed 16 Oct 2024: Agra

After breakfast, enjoy visiting the world-famous Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays). The Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631, built one of the world's most famous buildings, the Taj Mahal. Its perfect proportions and exquisite craftsmanship have been described as a vision, a dream, a poem, and a wonder. You'll also visit the 16th-century Agra fort. This commanding red sandstone monument stretches for 2.5 kilometers along the banks of River Yamuna, encompassing serene gardens and terraced pavilions, with striking views of the magnificent Taj Mahal across the river, as well as the Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah, also known as the Baby Taj. In the evening you'll enjoy a sunset view of the Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh, which is a garden complex, situated on the riverbank opposite the Taj Mahal.

Thu 17 Oct 2024: Agra to Delhi by surface, 210 km / 4 Hrs

After breakfast drive to Delhi. Upon arrival at Delhi, check in at the hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Fri 18 Oct 2024: Departure

Prices and Departures:

Deposit £350

Y06823 Heathrow from £3585pp
Y07208 Birmingham from £3699pp
Y07206 Newcastle from £3699pp
Y07191 Manchester from £3699pp
Y07201 Glasgow from £3799pp
Y07209 Dublin from £3799pp
Y22986 Bristol from £4599pp

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Terms and Conditions:

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