

Exploring the Architectural Legacy of the British Raj in India!

Factbox	
Prices start from :	£ 4,429
Travel between :	18 Nov 24 and 18 Nov 24
Rating :	5 Star Icon
Board Basis :	Bed & Breakfast
Duration :	14 nights
Book by :	30 Apr 24
Includes :	International flights from Heathrow with British Airways 04 Nights stay at Taj Connemara in a Luxury Room 03 Nights stay at The Oberoi Grand Kolkata in a Deluxe Double Room 03 Nights stay at The Imperial New Delhi in a Heritage Room 03 Nights stay at The Oberoi Cecil Shimla in a Deluxe Double Room 01 Night stay at Trident Gurgaon in a Superior Garden View All transfers, sightseeing & Excursions using Air-conditioned Toyota Crysta Services of a local English speaking guides during the visits mentioned in the Tour One time monument entrance fee during the visits as per the itinerary Cycle Rickshaw at Old Delhi Sound & Light show in Delhi at the Red Fort Train Tickets for Delhi - Kalka & Chandigarh - Delhi in Executive Class ( Top class ) in the Train Train tickets for Kalka - Shimla Himalayan Railway All currently applicable taxes



Detailed Itinerary

Highlights: Chennai - Kolkata - Delhi - Shimla

Hotels Featured:

- Taj Connemara 5\*
- The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata 5\*
- The Imperial New Delhi 5\*
- The Oberoi Cecil, Shimla 5\*
- Trident, Gurgaon 5\*

Itinerary:

Mon 18 Nov 2024: Chennai

►Flights from Heathrow Airport to Chennai Intl Airport

Tue 19 Nov 2024: Experience Day Of The Raj in Luxury

►Arrive at Chennai International Airport early this morning. Welcome to India! Upon arrival Meet and Greet at the airport and transfer to the Hotel for check-in. The room will be reserved from the previous night for immediate check-in since the check-in time is 14:00 hrs Enjoy your breakfast at the Hotel. The rest of the day is at Leisure till Evening. This evening you will be picked up from the Hotel and proceed to visit Marina Beach. Return to the Hotel for an overnight stay.

Wed 20 Nov 2024: Chennai

- 8: 00 AM - Breakfast at the Hotel.
- 9: 00 AM - Proceed for a full-day guided city tour of Chennai visiting British monuments in Chennai, and Tamil Nadu, which are the testaments of elegant and impressive architecture that have contributed substantially to enrich the national heritage of the country. These were designed by famed British architects during the colonial rule. Presently they are recognized as prominent landmarks of the city. Currently, in modern India, these monuments serve various public sectors and as prominent tourist destinations. British monuments in Chennai are exemplary of some of the finest blend of Indian and colonial architectural styles.
- Fort St. George: Constructed in 1640, this fort served as the headquarters of the British East India Company. It now houses the Legislative Assembly and features the Fort Museum and Saint Mary's Church.
- High Court Building: Built-in 1892, this Indo-Saracen structure is one of India's largest judicial buildings and serves as Tamil Nadu's highest court.
- Senate House: Completed in 1873, it is a prime example of Indo-Saracenic architecture and boasts a remarkable central hall with stone pillars.
- Ripon Building: Named after Lord Ripon, it serves as the Chennai Corporation's headquarters and underwent extensive renovation to restore its original grandeur.
- Freemasons Hall constructed by the East India Company in 1923 during the colonial period, served as a military lodge for British soldiers. This magnificent building in Tamil Nadu showcases Greek architecture, with its interior adorned with massive pillars, Italian marble, and decorative tiles. Masonic symbols grace the inner walls of this two-story structure, adding to its grandeur and significance.
- Evening return to the Hotel for an overnight stay

Thu 21 Nov 2024: Chennai

- 8:00 AM Breakfast at the Hotel.
- 9:00 AM - Full-day guided Excursion to visit Mahabalipuram. Mahabalipuram is known for its temples and monuments built by the Pallava dynasty in the 7th and 8th centuries. The seafront Shore Temple comprises 3 ornate granite shrines. Krishnas Butter Ball is a massive boulder balanced on a small hill near the Ganesha Ratha stone temple.
- Post visit enjoy your lunch at Taj Fisherman's Cove (On direct Payment) and then return to Chennai for the overnight stay.

Fri 22 Nov 2024: Kolkata

- After an early tea/coffee at the Hotel, transfer to the airport to board your flight for Kolkata at 5:00 AM. Meet upon arrival at Kolkata Airport at 1025 hrs and transfer to your Hotel for check-in. Check-in time is 14:00hrs.

► The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight at the Hotel

►Kolkata, formerly Calcutta, has a history tracing back to its establishment as a British settlement in 1690 by Job Charnock. Its architecture, a blend of British, Islamic, Gothic, and Indo-Saracenic styles, reflects its diverse heritage. As the former capital of British India until 1911, Kolkata boasts numerous grand buildings and monuments, including the Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, and the iconic Howrah Bridge, highlighting its significant British architectural influence.

#### Sat 23 Nov 2024: Kolkata

►8:00 AM Breakfast at the Hotel

►9:00 AM - Depart the hotel for a full-day city tour with your Local guide visiting Victoria Memorial, St. Paul Cathedral, Marble Palace, Howrah Bridge & then Belur Muth in the afternoon.

►Victoria Memorial -The Victoria Memorial in Kolkata is a stunning white marble monument honoring Queen Victoria. Designed by architect Sir William Emerson, it's a prime example of British architecture in India. Completed in 1921, it houses galleries displaying art and antiques from the British Empire era and is surrounded by a peaceful garden, offering a serene retreat in the heart of the city.

►St. Paul's Cathedral - in Kolkata is a stunning blend of Gothic and Indo-Saracenic styles, dating back to the early 19th century. Its high spire dominates the city skyline, and its exquisite stained glass windows are among the finest in the world. A cultural landmark, visitors can explore its impressive architecture and deep history, offering a peaceful retreat from the city's hustle and bustle. Anyone interested in Kolkata's architectural and cultural history should make a point of visiting the cathedral for its quiet ambiance and beautiful setting, which provide a welcome relief from the city's bustle.

►Marble Palace -Marble Palace: Located in northern Kolkata, the Marble Palace is a stunning example of neoclassical design, built-in 1835. Surrounded by lush gardens and adorned with exquisite sculptures and paintings, it was commissioned by Raja Rajendra Mullick, a prominent Bengali trader and art enthusiast. A popular spot for photography, it's a must-visit for architecture and art enthusiasts.

►Howrah Bridge - One of the busiest bridges globally, the Howrah Bridge is an iconic landmark connecting Kolkata to Howrah. Built in 1943, this cantilever bridge is admired for its engineering marvel and aesthetic appeal. Constructed entirely of steel without nuts or bolts, it attracts visitors from around the world to marvel at its innovative design. The bridge is illuminated at night, and the views it affords of the city are very breathtaking. Enjoy your lunch in a local Restaurant at your own cost and then continue to visit Belur Math in the afternoon.

►Belur Math - Situated about 10 kilometers outside Kolkata on the banks of the River Hooghly, Belur Math is a revered temple complex for Ramakrishna Mission devotees. Designed by Swami Vivekananda in the early 20th century, it exemplifies Indo-Saracenic architecture blending Indian and Islamic styles. Known for its tranquil atmosphere, the complex features a museum, prayer hall, and temple, attracting visitors worldwide as a significant spiritual and cultural center in Kolkata.

► Post-visit return to the Hotel for an overnight stay.

#### Sun 24 Nov 2024: Kolkata

►8:00 AM Breakfast at the Hotel

►9:00 AM - Morning proceed to visit Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity with your Local guide Missionaries of Charity, a Roman Catholic congregation of women dedicated to the poor, particularly to the destitute India, was founded by Mother Teresa in Kolkata in 1950. That same year the order received canonical sanction from Pope Pius XII, followed by a visit to Goddess Kali Temple.

►Dakshineswar Kali Temple - is a Hindu Navaratna temple in Dakshineswar, Kolkata, West Bengal, India. Situated on the eastern bank of the Hooghly River, the presiding deity of the temple is Bhavatarini (Kali), a form of Mahadevi or Parashakti Adya Kali, otherwise known as Adishakti Kalika. The temple was built in 1855 by Rani Rashmoni, a Zamindar, philanthropist, and devotee of Kali Maa. The temple is known for its association with Ramakrishna and MaSarada Devi, mystics of 19th-century Bengal. The main temple was inspired by the Navaratna-style Radhakanta temple in Tollygunge, built by Babu Ramnath Mondal of the Bawali Raj family.

►The temple compound features a large courtyard, twelve shrines dedicated to Shiva, a temple to Radha-Krishna, a bathing ghat, and a shrine to Rani Rashmoni. Explore the Nahabat chamber, where Ramakrishna and Maa Sarada spent much of their lives.

►Afternoon is free for independent activities. Overnight at the Hotel

#### Mon 25 Nov 2024: Delhi

►Enjoy early t4a / coffee at the Hotel. Later transferred to the airport to board a flight for Delhi. Meet upon arrival at Delhi airport and transfer to the hotel for check-in. Rest afternoon is free for independent activities. You can walk around to Janpath / Connaught Place market in the evening as it is closer to your Hotel. Overnight at the Hotel.

►Delhi is the capital city of India and is regarded as the heart of the nation. The city is popular for its enriched culture and heritage. The city hosts some famous historical monuments made during the British Raj and is developing with time. The influence of religious diversity can be seen in the city along with the cultural impact of the Mughals, the ancient Indian, and the British.

#### Tue 26 Nov 2024: Delhi

►8:00 AM Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel.

►9:00 AM Leave the Hotel for a tour of New Delhi followed by a visit to Delhi Haat.

►Humayun's Tomb, the first of the grand Mughal mausoleums, stands within a vast complex alongside other 16th-century garden tombs. This site, covering 27.04 hectares, includes structures like Nila Gumbad, Isa Khan, and the craftsmen's complex associated with Humayun's Tomb's construction.

►Qutub Minar: The tallest masonry tower in India, standing 72.5 meters high, the Qutub Minar is a UNESCO World Heritage Site located in South Delhi. Built between 1199 and 1220, it forms part of the Qutb complex, originally Lal Kot, the oldest fortified city in Delhi.

►Delhi Haat: Dilli Haat is a permanent open-air market and craft bazaar in South Delhi, managed by Delhi Tourism. Spread across 6 acres, it offers a village-like atmosphere with thatched roof cottages and rotating craft stalls selling a variety of handicrafts, textiles, and cuisine from different Indian states. Some shops are permanent but other sellers are rotated, usually for fifteen days. Products offered may include rosewood and sandalwood carvings, embellished camel hide footwear, sophisticated fabric and drapery, gems, beads, brassware, metal crafts, and silk & wool fabrics. Several shows promoting handicrafts and handlooms are held at the exhibition hall in the complex. To sell wares, there is an application process; spaces are allocated according to which state the seller is from. In all, Dilli Haat, INA Market has 62 stalls allotted on a rotational basis to craftsmen for payment for a maximum period of 15 days

►India Gate: A war memorial in New Delhi, India Gate commemorates Indian soldiers who died in World War I and the Afghan War of 1919. The Amar Jawan Jyoti flame beneath the arch honors those who lost their lives in the Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.

►Later drive past Rashtrapati Bhawan (President's Palace): Designed by Lutyens, the official residence of the President of India reflects a blend of Western, Eastern, and British architectural styles. With 340 rooms, it was once the Viceroy's residence during British rule.

►Return to the Hotel for rest in the evening. Overnight at the Hotel.

#### Wed 27 Nov 2024: Delhi

►8:00 AM Breakfast at the Hotel.

►9:00 AM - Depart from your Hotel to visit Old Delhi followed by a Cycle Rickshaw ride on Old Delhi market.

►Old Delhi - Raj Ghat: Located on the banks of the Yamuna River, Raj Ghat is a memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, India's Father of the Nation. It symbolizes his principles of non-violence and simplicity, which were instrumental in India's independence movement.

►Mahatma Gandhi Ji was probably one of the greatest and undisputed leaders well respected by everyone. He led the way of non-violence and a righteous path to force the British to Quit India. He also actively participated in many freedom movements including the Quit India Movement and was always in the forefront of it as its leadersincerely trying hard for the Independence of India hence, Father of the Nation is a well-deserved name given to him.

►Red Fort: Built as the palace fort of Shahjahanabad, the Red Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its stunning red sandstone walls. It reflects the zenith of Mughal creativity and architectural innovation, blending Islamic, Persian, Timurid, and Hindu traditions. The Red Fort's innovative planning and architectural style, including the garden design, strongly influenced later buildings and gardens in Rajasthan, Delhi, Agra, and further afield.

►Enjoy a Cycle rickshaw ride in the busy market of Old Delhi Chandni Chowk to see the hustle & bustle of the local people's daily life. One can enjoy

street food if they wish on own cost as the market is very famous for street food as well. Return to the Hotel post-visit for rest. This evening you will be picked up from the Hotel and taken to the Red Fort for the Sound and Light Show which is a 60 minutes show. Post the show return to the Hotel for an overnight stay

#### Thu 28 Nov 2024: Shimla

►Early morning tea/coffee at the Hotel.6: 45 AM- Transfer to New Delhi Railway station to board the superfast Train (Shatabdi Express) to Kalka at 0740 hrs. Arrive at Kalka Railway station at 1145 hrs, and deboard the train and board the Toy Train for Shimla. Toy Train - The 96 km narrow-gauge Kalka-Shimla Railway, often called the toy train line, was opened in 1903 to connect Shimla, the summer capital of British India, with the northern plains. In the same year, carriages were built by the Railway onwards.

►Note: Our airport Representative and driver will meet you at the Kolkata Station and collect your baggage. Your baggage will go to Shimla by Car and our same driver & airport representative will meet you at the Train Station in Shimla and will transfer you to Your Hotel. Arrive at Shimla train station at 1735 hrs and transfer to your Hotel for check-in. Overnight at the Hotel.

#### Fri 29 Nov 2024: Shimla

►8:00 AM Breakfast at the Hotel

►9:00 AM - Proceed for the Heritage Walk of Shimla with your Local guide followed by a city tour.

►Morning after breakfast proceed to enjoy the Heritage walk of Shimla followed by a visit to the Vice Regal LodgeThe Vice Regal Lodge: A cross between Harry Potter's Hogwarts and a Scottish baronial castle, this 1888 pile was the official summer residence of the British viceroys until WWII and the scene of two crucial conferences (1945 and 1946) that essentially sealed the partition of India.

►Afternoon Visit to Jakhu Temple: Explore Jakhu Temple, an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Hanuman, situated atop Jakhu Hill, the highest peak in Shimla. Admire the towering 108-foot statue of Hanuman, one of the tallest in the world.

►According to the Ramayana, Hanuman rested here while searching for the Sanjivni Booti to revive Lakshmana. The temple can be reached on foot, by horse, by taxi, or via the Jakhu Ropeway, an aerial lift opened in 2017. Post-visit return to the Hotel for an overnight stay. Overnight at the Hotel.Fri 29 Nov 2024: Shimla

#### Sat 30 Nov 2024: Shimla

►Leisurely breakfast at the Hotel. Morning is at Leisure.

►Afternoon at 14:00 hrs - leave for the Hotel to enjoy an Excursion to Hotel Wildflower Hall Mashobara which is nestled approximately 13km from Shimla, atop a knoll with breathtaking views of the Himalayas and enveloped by cedar forests, Wildflower Hall boasts a rich history as the former estate of Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, the commander in chief of the British army. High Tea at the Oberoi Wildflower Hal Mashobra (at your cost direct payment basis). Post-visit return to the Hotel for an overnight stay.

#### Sun 01 Dec 2024: Shimla Chandigarh (Drive: 112 km / 3-4 hrs approx) Chandigarh Delhi (Superfast Train: 1823 2150 hrs)

►Leisurely Breakfast at the Hotel Morning is at Leisure.

►Check out from the Hotel at Noon. Enjoy an early lunch at the Hotel (At your own cost) and then leave the Hotel at 13:00 hrs for Chandigarh On the way you can stop to visit Pinjore Garden - Pinjore Gardens (also known as Pinjore Gardens or YadavindraGardens) located in Pinjore, Panchkula district in the Indian state of Haryana. It is an example of the Mughal gardens style and was built by Patiala Dynasty Rulers. The garden is in the village of Pinjore lies 22 km from Chandigarh on the Ambala-Shimla road. It was created in the 17th century by architect Nawab Fiday Khan during the early reign of his foster brother Aurangzeb (r. 1658-1707).

►In recent times, it has been renamed as YadavindraGarden in the memory of Maharaja Yadavindra Singh former of the princely state of Patiala. After it was initially built by Fiday Khan, the garden was refurbished by Yadevendra Singh and restored to its former splendor, since it had grown into a wild jungle after initially being built due to long years of neglect. Post visit continue your drive to Chandigarh Railway station to Board Superfast Train to Delhi departs at 1823 hrs. Meet upon arrival at New Delhi Railway station at 2150 hrs and transfer to the Hotel for check in.

►Overnight at the Hotel.

#### Mon 02 Dec 2024: Depature

## Prices & Departures:

Deposit: £425pp

- Y30121 Heathrow with British Airways from £4429pp
- Y31452 Manchester with British Airways from £4295pp
- Y31460 Glasgow with British Airways from £4289pp
- Y31466 Edinburgh with British Airways from £4289pp
- Y31536 Newcastle with British Airways from £4289pp
- Y31447 Dublin with British Airways from £4195pp
- Y31471 Birmingham with Emirates from £4389pp
- Y35165 Belfast from £4239pp

## Terms & Conditions:

►Based on 2 Adults Sharing