



India Explorer

12 day tour to Golden Triangle (Delhi, Agra & Jaipur) with Varanasi & Lucknow

The tour offers an exciting journey combining Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Varanasi and Lucknow's rich heritage and amazing gastronomic experience. Exploring the rich history with the tour uncovering decorative temples, amazing Islamic architecture and marbled palaces. Explore the highlights of Old and New Delhi; visit wonder monument of love, the Taj Mahal in Agra, visit the spiritual capital of India also the oldest living city in the world – Varanasi to experience the spiritual aspect of India's age-old beliefs and conclude the tour with delicious culinary experience that will tingle your taste buds in the metropolis of Nawab known as Lucknow.



Day 1 Australia ✈ Delhi

Fly from Australia to Delhi, capital of India. Upon arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport, you are met and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure or for your own activity. Stay overnight in Delhi for 2 nights

Day 2 Delhi

Meal: B/D

Delhi, Capital of India, had several rulers' influences from the past, the Mughals, Rajputs, Afghans and many others. Delhi showcase the best of Modern India at the same time the rich cultural diversity accrued from its opulent history. After breakfast enjoy sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi. Drive past the renowned 17th-century landmark Lal Qila - the Red Fort Palace, visit Jama Masjid, India's principal and biggest mosque, there after visit Chandni Chowk, old Delhi's most famous, oldest and busiest shopping strip, lined with a mix of stalls, shops, food outlets and temples. It is here through a slender shop-lined street you will be transported by cycle rickshaws on your most picturesque journey of the tour. Visit Qutab Minar; the 234-step red sand stone and marble minaret, take a photo stop at the iconic war memorial arch, the India Gate, and drive past Gandhi Memorial, President House and Parliament house. Also visit Humayun's Tomb. Stay overnight in Delhi.

Day 3 Delhi ✈ Varanasi

Meal: B/D

After breakfast, transfer to Delhi airport to board flight to Varanasi, the oldest living and practicing city in the world. The origins of Varanasi are yet unknown. It is here life delves on the banks of the Ganges River. Varanasi is known as the city that liberates soul from human body to ultimate. Varanasi also flourishes in the art of silk weaving, an exotic work of art which manifests itself in precious Banarasi silk saris and silk brocades which are cherished as collector's items across the world, even today. The city is also renowned for its rich tapestry of music, arts, crafts and education. On arrival, transfer to hotel for check-in. Rest of the day at leisure to explore

the local markets. Later in the evening you will witness grand prayer ceremony on the ghats of river Ganges. Stay overnight in Varanasi.

Day 4 Varanasi

Meal: B/D

Wake up early this morning and proceed to enjoy the guided heritage walk and sunrise boat ride on river Ganges. The river will be thronged with early morning bathers, raising their faces to the rising sun and reciting the sacred mantra. Varanasi is associated with promotion of spiritualism, mysticism and Sanskrit, yoga and Hindi language. Visit the Banaras ghat, Assi ghat & various other ghats. Return back to hotel for buffet breakfast. After breakfast, proceed for guided city tour of Varanasi and visit various temples including Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Bharat Mata Temple etc. Afternoon proceed for an excursion to Sarnath where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon at the deer park after his enlightenment. Return back to hotel. Stay overnight in Varanasi.

Day 5 Varanasi 🚗 Lucknow

Meal: B/D

Early in the morning transfer to Varanasi railway station with packed breakfast to board train to Lucknow (Train: BSB-LKO Express 14203 – ETD 0515hrs/ ETA 1125hrs). Lucknow known as 'The City of Nawabs' is an intriguing blend of old world charm, beautiful architecture, courteous people, warm hospitality, and rich heritage. On arrival you will be received by our Tour Executive at the railway station, transfer to hotel for check-in. In the evening enjoy a walking food tour of Lucknow which allows you to hop-in, hop-out of the world famous traditional roadside eateries. Some of the eateries we visit are Mobeen's Pasanda, Raheem's Nihari Gosht, Bismillah's or Idris' Biryani, Tunday Kebab and finish with Indian ice cream at Chanakya's Kulfi. This is your dinner tonight. Stay overnight in Lucknow.

Day 6 Lucknow

Meal: B/D

After breakfast at the hotel, proceed to see some of the highlights of the city with



your guide, Bada Imambara, the large Asfi mosque, the Bhul-Bhulayah (the labyrinth) and a summer palace with running water and the Government Museum. Lucknow is famous for Chikan embroidery, renowned for its timeless grace and gossamer delicacy, a skill more than 2000 years old. In the afternoon visit a Chikan workshop and watch workers delicately working on unique styles and stitches on very light cotton cloths. Also take a leisure walk in Hazrat Ganj and Aminabad local bazaar. Stay overnight in Lucknow. (Bada Imambara remains closed on Muslim festivals depending on moon. British Residency remains closed on Fridays and public holidays)

Day 7 Lucknow 🚆 Agra (Train) Meal: B/D

After breakfast, enjoy day at leisure till check out and transfer to railway station to board train for onward journey to Agra (By Intercity Express ETD 1545hrs & ETA 2155hrs); a city

with rich historical background, and house to the 7th wonder of the world, the Taj Mahal. Arrive at Agra railway station and transfer to hotel for check in. Stay overnight in Agra.

Day 8 Agra Meal: B/D

Early in morning pay sunrise visit to Taj Mahal. The epitome of love stands on the banks of the river Yamuna, built in the 17th century by the Mughal Emperor Shahjehan. At different times of the day and year, the white marble monument changes its hue with the variations in the daylight. Made entirely of white marble and decorated with exquisite pietra dura (stone inlay) work, different types of precious and semi-precious stones were used in the intricate inlay work done on the interiors. This magnificent monument is built around a Charbagh or 'four garden' plan, split by watercourses — reflecting the influence of Persian architectural style. (Taj Mahal remains closed on Fridays)

Return back to hotel for breakfast, later enjoy guided sightseeing tour of Agra and visit the impressive 16th century Agra Fort, which was constructed in 1565 by Akbar with later additions made by his son, Jahangir, and grandson, Shahjehan. Continue your visit to white marble Tomb of Itimad ud Daulah, described as 'jewel box', or the 'Baby Taj', it is regarded by many as a draft of the Taj Mahal, being the first building to be coated in white marble inlaid with very detailed pietra dura inlay. Stay overnight in Agra.

Day 9 Agra 🚗 Jaipur (5hrs) Meal: B/D

After breakfast check out from hotel and drive to Jaipur. En-Route we visit Fatehpur Sikri, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture and a UNESCO World Heritage site. In 1571 Akbar constructed Fatehpur (Victory) Sikri as the new capital of the Mughal Empire, but after only fifteen years, Fatehpur itself was abandoned and left as an evocative ghost-town because they say of lack of water! Later drive to Jaipur. The remaining day is at leisure for you to explore the Jaipur Bazaar. Enjoy shopping for souvenirs like silver jewellery, precious and semi-precious stones such as diamonds, topaz and emeralds, embroidered clothing and quilts, block printed textiles, lacquered brass work, leather footwear, miniature

marble carvings and blue potteries. Stay overnight in Jaipur.

Day 10 Jaipur Meal: B/D

After breakfast proceed to a guided city tour of Jaipur, starting with Amber Fort; add a Majestic touch to the visit by riding on the back of an elephant from the foot of the hill up to the gates of the fortress in the manner of former kings and queens. Afternoon Visit the Maharaja's City Palace, the home of the erstwhile royal family, the Observatory, make a photo stop at Hawa Mahal also known as Wind Palace and drive past the old part of Jaipur city. Jantar Mantar, the historic pink-painted sandstone architecture, earned the city the affectionate nickname of the 'Pink City'. The buildings within the Old City district of Jaipur were first painted pink in 1876 to welcome the Prince of Wales, and this tradition has remained ever since. Stay overnight in Jaipur.

Day 11 Jaipur ✈️ Delhi (5hrs) Meal: B

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before travelling back to Delhi. Tour finishes with direct transfer to Delhi international airport to board your onward overnight flight.

Day 12 Australia
Arrive in Australia in the morning.



India Explorer Tour Dates & Prices

Tour code	Start Delhi Thursday	End Delhi Sunday	Full package with international air departing from Sydney / Melbourne / Brisbane / Adelaide / Perth
			Singapore Airlines
IE170316	16-Mar-17	26-Mar-17	\$3,680
IE170420	20-Apr-17	30-Apr-17	\$3,680
IE170511	11-May-17	21-May-17	\$3,480
IE170615	15-Jun-17	25-Jun-17	\$3,480
IE170907	07-Sep-17	17-Sep-17	\$3,480
IE171012	12-Oct-17	22-Oct-17	\$3,680
IE171123	23-Nov-17	03-Dec-17	\$3,680
IE180125	25-Jan-18	04-Feb-18	\$3,780
IE180222	22-Feb-18	04-Mar-18	\$3,780
IE180308	08-Mar-18	18-Mar-18	\$3,780
IE180329	29-Mar-18	08-Apr-18	\$3,780

Land Only: \$2580 Single Supplement: \$840

* This tour is a guaranteed departure based on a minimum of 2 people. Full package prices above include airport taxes and fuel surcharges.

* Please refer to Page 7 for **Tour Inclusions** and **Extending Your Holiday** details.

* Land only price: Tour starts from **Arrival transfer in Delhi** to **Departure transfer in Delhi**; including domestic air tickets of Delhi - Varanasi and taxes; but excluding any international air tickets.

* Camera / video fees may apply in some sightseeing places (at your own expenses).

* India visa extra see page 8 for details.

Package prices of Singapore Airlines are for departures from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide or Perth. Any cost including hotel or meals incurred due to the connecting flight in Singapore will be at your own expenses.

* Stopover in Singapore permitted if flying with Singapore Airlines; extra airport taxes apply. Land arrangement in Singapore can be arranged at additional cost.

Hotels used for this tour: 4* Delhi Holiday Inn Mayur Vihar; 4* Varanasi Meraden Grand Hotel; 4* Lucknow Golden Tulip Hotel; 4* Agra Man Singh Palace; 4* Jaipur Hotel Man Singh Tower or similar.

Pre / Post Stay: \$158 (Delhi) per room per night with breakfast