

India Explorer with Varanasi

12 Day Tour to Delhi, Agra, Ranthambore, Jaipur, Lucknow & Varanasi

Day 01 Australia - Delhi

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

Day 02 Delhi Meal: B/D

Today, enjoy the day discovering Delhi, pacing through the city, which is as historic as modern, like 2 sides of the same coin! Enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of Old Delhi, which includes a visit to Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India; a rickshaw ride through narrow alleys and lanes in Chandni Chowk, one of the oldest and largest trading markets of the country; and drive past Red Fort, the place that marked the announcement of India's freedom from the British Raj. Later in the afternoon, discover the modern city of New Delhi, visiting the Qutab Minar, a fine example of Indo-Islamic architecture and the world's tallest brick minaret and Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, the largest Sikh temple of Delhi. Drive past President's House, Parliament House and other Government Secretariat Buildings, the most imposing features of Lutyen's Delhi and take a photo stop at the iconic war memorial arch, the India Gate.

Day 03 Delhi - Agra Meal: B/D (Approx. drive: 04 hours)

After breakfast travel to Agra, this afternoon visits the splendid Agra Fort, built in red sandstone, encapsulating magnificent palaces, halls of public and private audience and beautiful gardens. Then witness the surreal views of the Taj Mahal. Step inside this eternal symbol of love and appreciate the intricate designs and symmetries that rhyme as a poem written in marble. Taj Mahal is an

extravagant display of love, built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. You may choose to stay back to see the glistening white marble beauty at sunset.

Day 04 Agra - Ranthambore Meal: B/L/D (Approx. drive: 06 hours)

This morning embarks on a leisurely drive to Ranthambore, acclaimed as one of the best places in the world to photograph tigers in the wild. En-route to Ranthambore, you will make a brief stop to visit Fatehpur Sikri, the capital city of the Mughal Empire in the 16th century. Continue your drive to Ranthambore and upon arrival; check in at your hotel for 2 nights stay.

Day 05 Ranthambore Meal: B/L/D

Today, enjoy an early morning and afternoon shared Jeep safari (accompanied by a trained naturalist) into the national park. The Ranthambore National Park is one of the prime examples of India's conservation program, Project Tiger. Once the hunting ground of Indian princes, this national park stands atop a 600m high hill range, and is covered with thorn trees, scrub and grasslands. Dotted with beautiful ponds, streams, lakes and old ruins, it is home to a large number of tigers, often spotted and photographed by visitors to the park.

Day 06 Ranthambore - Jaipur Meal: B/D (Approx. drive: 03 hours)

After breakfast, embark on a leisurely drive to Jaipur - land of the Rajputs. Jaipur is an exuberance of colour, dance and traditional arts and crafts. Known, as the 'Pink City', Jaipur is home to ancient forts and palaces and is one of India's most well-planned cities. Upon arrival check in at your hotel for 02 nights' stay.

This evening explores the many facets of Jaipuri crafts such as semi-precious jewels, pottery, colourful embroidered fabrics with mirror work, woven carpets etc - watch artisans at work and enjoy souvenir shopping in this colourful city of Jaipur.



Day 07 Jaipur**Meal: B/D**

Rise early this morning to visit Jaipur's famous Amber Fort. En route, take a guided walk through the flower market of Jaipur seeing the beautiful yellow and orange marigolds and other seasonal flowers, being traded. In close vicinity is also the wholesale vegetable market where farmers bring fresh produce to begin the day's trading. Walking through the markets brings you to a junction where you will find the interesting and unusual milk traders of Jaipur, who bring their cattle's fresh milk to be tested for quality, priced and traded on the spot. Be amazed at the primitive technique of testing quality of milk by dipping hands into large metal milk containers and evaluating the creaminess of milk supplied! After a brief walk through the local trading markets, drive onwards to visit Amber fort, built in the 16th century. The fort is a mesmerizing blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture. The Amber Fort was used by the Rajputs for the dual purpose of defense and private residence. To ascend up the fort, you may choose to walk, drive or take an elephant ride. This afternoon takes a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal, Palace of the Winds, with its unique layer-cake honeycomb windows designed to enable erstwhile women of the royal court to observe passing life without being seen; Jantar Mantar, the largest astronomical observatory built in stone, and the City Palace complex with its impressive gardens and museums.

Day 08 Jaipur – Lucknow**Meal: B/D**

Day is at leisure or free for optional activities in Jaipur. Later in the afternoon we will transfer you to Jaipur airport to board flight for Lucknow, the historical city of Nawabs (Muslim ruling prince or powerful landowner in India), you will be transferred to your hotel for 02 nights stay.

Day 09 Lucknow**Meal: B/D**

This morning, enjoy tour of Lucknow, visiting the architectural La Martiniere School which was designed by the Frenchman Major-General Claude Martin as a palatial home. Later visit the Lucknow Residency a place known for gruesome tale of the 1857 mutiny. We also visit the graveyard to pay homage to the soldiers who gave up their lives in the defence of The Residency. Drive past through the Sadat Ali & Begum Tombs and the 'Chatar Manzil', we reach the world's most unique architecture, 'Asifi Imambara', the world's biggest hall that is devoid of any pillar support, wood, iron beams or concrete walls. Continue to visit Husainabad Complex - the highest Clock Tower in Asia, built in 1840 by Mohammad Ali Shah. Later visit the Husainabad Picture Gallery that houses life-size hand painted portraits of Nawabs of Awadh each with a distinct and a unique history. Return back to your hotel with time free at leisure.

Day 10 Lucknow – Varanasi**Meal: B/D****(Approx. drive: 6-7 hours)**

This morning after an early breakfast, embark on a leisurely drive to Varanasi. Upon arrival check in at your hotel for 2 nights stay. This evening, experience a rickshaw ride to the ghats to enjoy the grand 'Aarti' ceremony at Dasaswamedh Ghat, conducted every day at sunset by white-robed priests. Spiritually enlightening and fantastically photogenic, this evening aarti ceremony is a spectacular show with young priests in traditional Indian clothes swaying in seemingly choreographed movements, worshipping the river goddess with incense, flowers and earthen lamps.

**Day 11 Varanasi****Meal: B/D**

Rise early to enjoy sunrise boat cruise on the Holy River Ganges. See the 'bathing ghats' where thousands of pilgrims pay homage to the Sun God by immersing themselves in the holy water of River Ganges, view the 'burning ghats' where cremations are conducted. Follow the boat cruise with a guided walk through the old city, seeing morning life in the historic and ancient by lanes of Varanasi. Return back to hotel for breakfast and freshen up. This afternoon, visit Bharat Mata Temple, the only temple in India that is not dedicated to a God or Goddess. This unique temple is dedicated to Mother India, and features unique relief map of India, carved out of marble. Then visit Sarnath, the place where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. Visit the ruins, stupa, Buddhist temple and the Sarnath Museum.

Day 12 Varanasi – Departure – Australia**Meal: B**

Morning is at leisure or to explore the city on your own. Around noon, we will transfer you to airport for your flight home bound.

**India Explorer Tour Dates & Prices**

Tour Code	Start Delhi	End Varanasi	Land Only
IH250218	18-Feb-25	1-Mar-25	\$4,380
IH250311	11-Mar-25	22-Mar-25	\$4,380
IH250415	15-Apr-25	26-Apr-25	\$4,280
IH250520	20-May-25	31-May-25	\$4,380
IH250930	30-Sep-25	11-Oct-25	\$4,380
IH251021	21-Oct-25	1-Nov-25	\$4,380
IH251118	18-Nov-25	29-Nov-25	\$4,380
IH260220	20-Feb-26	3-Mar-26	\$4,480
IH260317	17-Mar-26	28-Mar-26	\$4,480
IH260407	7-Apr-26	18-Apr-26	\$4,480
IH260519	19-May-26	30-May-26	\$4,480

Remarks:

This tour is guaranteed to depart with a minimum of 2 participants. Land Only price: Tour starts with the arrival transfer in Delhi and ends with the departure transfer in Varanasi; including economy air travel Jaipur - Lucknow but excluding any international air travel. Indian eVisa required and could apply online. 4* Hotels used in this tour: Delhi Holiday Inn Mayur Vihar, Agra Clarks Shiraz, Ranthambhore Anuraga Palace, Jaipur Sarovar Premier, Lucknow La Place Sarovar Portico or similar. Single supplement: \$1150 Please refer to Page 5 for the Tour Inclusions.