

# Gems of India – Golden Triangle with Erotic Temples and Varanasi

Best of India – EpicIndianTravel

India's most captivating cultural odyssey— combining the iconic Golden Triangle of Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra with a journey into the heart of Central India: the musical city of Gwalior, the hidden gem of Orchha, the UNESCO-listed erotic temples of Khajuraho, and the sacred spiritual capital of Varanasi. This 11-day adventure spans over 1,500 km and takes you through Mughal grandeur, Rajput heritage, ancient stepwells, medieval fortresses, tantric temple art, and a mystical dawn boat ride on the holy Ganges.

## Golden Triangle

Delhi, Jaipur and Agra: UNESCO heritage, Mughal monuments, and the Pink City

## Hidden Heartland

Gwalior's music city, Orchha's hidden temples, and Khajuraho's erotic UNESCO sculptures

## Sacred Varanasi

Dawn boat ride on the Ganges, Kashi Vishwanath Temple, and Sarnath — where Buddha preached

Tour Route: 10 Nights / 11 Days • Delhi [2N] - Jaipur [2N] - Agra [1N] - Orchha [1N] - Khajuraho [1N] - Varanasi [2N] - Delhi [1N]



# Tour Highlights



## UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Delhi, Jaipur, Agra (Taj Mahal), Gwalior, Orchha, Khajuraho & Varanasi



## Rickshaw Rides

Old Delhi by lanes, Walled City of Jaipur, and Varanasi's ancient lanes



## Cooking Experience

Visit a local home for a cooking demonstration and authentic dinner in Jaipur



## Abhaneri Stepwell

One of the most beautiful and largest stepwells in the world – Chand Baori



## Taj Mahal at Sunrise & Sunset

Witness the Taj Mahal in its most magical light – at dawn and dusk



## Gwalior – City of Music

Gwalior Fort, the Sun Temple, and the rich musical heritage of this ancient city



## Orchha – The Hidden City

Orchha Fort, Lakshmi Narayan Temple, and centuries-old palaces frozen in time



## Erotic Temples of Khajuraho

UNESCO World Heritage temples renowned for their extraordinary tantric sculptures



## Dawn Boat Ride on the Ganges

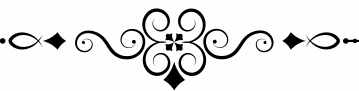
Witness sunrise over the sacred ghats of Varanasi from the holy river



## Sarnath – Buddha's First Sermon

Visit the sacred site where the Buddha preached his first sermon after enlightenment

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DAY 01

## Arrive Delhi

*Delhi, India's modern capital, is an ancient city tracing its origins in legend – dotted with hundreds of landmarks and offering more than a millennium of history in stone.*

01

### Arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport

You'll arrive at Delhi, the capital city of India. The airport is among the busiest in the world, handling almost 68 million passengers annually. Customs and immigration formalities take approximately one hour.

03

### Transfer to Hotel

You'll be assisted and transferred to your hotel in Delhi. Check in, freshen up, and relax after your journey.

02

### Meet Our Representative

You'll be greeted by your representative just after baggage collection, holding a paging board with your name on it.

04

### Overnight in Delhi

Settle in and rest for the evening. Dinner at the hotel or a restaurant of your choice.

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DAY 02

# Delhi Sightseeing

## Morning — New Delhi

- Lodhi Gardens— One of Delhi's favourite spots for morning walkers, joggers, and yoga enthusiasts, set amid the tombs of the Sayyid and Lodi dynasties.
- Humayun's Tomb — Built in 1570, this UNESCO World Heritage site was the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent and a predecessor of the Taj Mahal.
- Qutab Minar — A UNESCO World Heritage site built at the site of Lal Kot, the first city of Delhi, marking the arrival of Islamic rule in India.
- British Colonial Legacy — Drive past the President's House, Parliament House, India Gate, Raj Path (King's Way), Janpath (Queen's Way), Connaught Place, and surroundings.

## Afternoon & Evening — Old Delhi

- Rickshaw Ride through Old Delhi— Explore the bylanes of the old city by rickshaw, soaking in the smells, sights, and sounds.
- Jama Masjid — The largest mosque in India, a magnificent Mughal-era structure built by Emperor Shah Jahan.
- Chandni Chowk — Home to silversmiths, clothiers, spicy street food vendors, and traditional sweetmeat shops.
- Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib — A historic Sikh temple in the heart of Old Delhi.
- Optional: Akshardham Temple or Dilli Haat (Handicraft Bazaar) in the late evening.
- Dinner at a restaurant of your choice or at the hotel. Overnight in Delhi.

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DAY 03

## Delhi to Jaipur — The Pink City

235 km • 4 Hours Drive

01

### Breakfast & Check-Out

Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel. After breakfast, check out and depart with your driver for Jaipur.

02

### Drive to Jaipur

You'll drive approximately 4 hours to Jaipur, known as the Pink City of India. Arrive by late afternoon, check in at your hotel, and relax.

03

### Evening — Sanganer Village

Meet your guide and visit Sanganer, famous for its textile printing, handmade paper industry, and Jain temples. The Sanganer fabric prints are one of a kind — bright colours on white or off-white backgrounds.

04

### Cooking Demonstration & Dinner

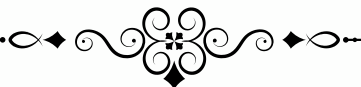
Tonight, visit a local home to learn Indian cooking through a hands-on demonstration, followed by an authentic home-cooked dinner — a truly memorable cultural experience.

05

### Overnight in Jaipur

Return to the hotel and rest for the night.

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DAY 04

## Jaipur Sightseeing – The Pink City

### Monuments & Palaces

- Amer Fort – The traditional fortress of the Kacchawaha Rajput kings at Amber, a beautiful citadel perched on a hillside, rich in stories of valour and Rajput heritage.
- City Palace Museum – A royal residence and former administrative headquarters of the rulers of the Jaipur state, housing a remarkable collection of royal artefacts and costumes.
- Jantar Mantar (Observatory) – A UNESCO World Heritage site featuring 19 astronomical instruments built by Rajput king Sawai Jai Singh. Home to the world's largest sundial.
- Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) – An iconic five-storey palace built from red and pink sandstone, with 953 small windows designed to allow royal ladies to observe street life unseen.

### Bazaars & Cultural Experiences

- Walled City of Jaipur – Stroll through the vibrant walled city, exploring temples, crafts, and guilds patronized by the Maharajas.
- Rickshaw Ride – Explore the colourful bazaars of the walled city by rickshaw, discovering spices, sweets, and traditional textiles.
- Optional Morning Activities: Hot air balloon ride over Hawa Mahal, Amber Fort, and Samode Palace for a 360° view of the Pink City; or Bathe the Elephants at Dera Amer.
- Dinner at a restaurant of your choice. Overnight in Jaipur.

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DAY 05

# Jaipur to Agra via Fatehpur Sikri & Abhaneri Stepwell

250 km · 4.5 Hours Drive

## Morning — En Route Stops

- Abhaneri Stepwell (Chand Baori) — One of the most beautiful and largest stepwells in the world, with 3,500 narrow steps arranged in perfect geometric symmetry descending 13 storeys into the earth.
- Fatehpur Sikri — The abandoned Mughal capital city built by Emperor Akbar in 1571 and deserted just 14 years later. A UNESCO World Heritage site featuring the Buland Darwaza, Jama Masjid, and Panch Mahal. Allow approximately 2 hours for the visit.
- Lunch at Fatehpur Sikri before resuming the drive to Agra.

## Evening — Agra

- Arrive in Agra by late afternoon — the city of the Taj Mahal. Check in at your hotel and relax.
- Itimad-ud-Daulah (Baby Taj) — A Mughal mausoleum on the western bank of the Yamuna River, also known as the Jewel Box. Built entirely in white marble with intricate pietra dura inlay work, it is considered a precursor to the Taj Mahal.
- Sunset View of Taj Mahal — View the Taj Mahal at sunset from Mehtab Bagh on the opposite bank of the Yamuna River — a breathtaking and less-crowded vantage point.
- Shopping and dinner at a restaurant of your choice. Overnight in Agra.

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DAY 06

## Agra to Orchha via Gwalior

255 km • 5 Hours Drive

### Morning — Agra

- Taj Mahal at Sunrise — Early morning, meet your city guide and driver for a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal. Witness the iconic white marble mausoleum bathed in the soft golden light of dawn — one of the most magical experiences in India.
- Agra Fort — Built by three generations of Mughal Emperors: Akbar built the walls and gates, Shah Jahan erected the ethereal buildings inside, and Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. A UNESCO World Heritage site offering stunning views of the Taj Mahal.
- Depart Agra after breakfast and begin the drive towards Gwalior.

### Afternoon & Evening — Gwalior & Orchha

- Gwalior Fort — Known as the "Pearl amongst Fortresses in India," this magnificent hilltop fort dominates the skyline of Gwalior. Explore its palaces, temples, and the famous Man Singh Palace.
- Sun Temple, Gwalior — A striking replica of the famous Konark Sun Temple of Odisha, built in the same Kalinga architectural style.
- Drive to Orchha (2 hours) — Arrive in Orchha by late evening, a hidden medieval city known for its temples, monuments, and folklore. Check in at the hotel.
- Dinner at the hotel. Overnight in Orchha.

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DAY 07

## Orchha to Khajuraho – The Temple City

175 km • 3 Hours Drive

### Morning – Orchha Sightseeing

- Orchha Fort Complex – The main attraction of Orchha, this 16th-century fort complex contains several historical monuments, ancient temples, and palaces. A UNESCO World Heritage tentative site.
- Raj Mahal & Jahangir Mahal – Two magnificent palaces within the fort complex, showcasing a blend of Mughal and Bundela Rajput architecture with stunning frescoes and painted ceilings.
- Lakshmi Narayan Temple – Dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Goddess Lakshmi, this temple is renowned for its extraordinary paintings and murals depicting scenes from the Ramayana and Mahabharata.
- Check out from the hotel and depart for Khajuraho.

### Afternoon & Evening – Khajuraho

- Arrive in Khajuraho – One of the most famous UNESCO World Heritage sites in India. The city's magnificent temples are principally noted for their extraordinary erotic sculptures depicting the Kama Sutra, alongside scenes of daily life, celestial beings, and divine figures.
- Check in at the hotel and rest.
- Sound & Light Show at the Temples – An unmissable evening event that brings the history, facts, and myths of the Khajuraho temples to life through dramatic narration and illumination.
- Dinner at a popular restaurant near the temple area. Overnight in Khajuraho.

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DAY 08

## Khajuraho Sightseeing & Fly to Varanasi

### Morning — Khajuraho Temples

- Western Group of Temples — The most celebrated cluster, featuring the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple — the largest and most ornate of all Khajuraho temples, dedicated to Lord Shiva. The exterior is covered with over 900 sculptures of extraordinary artistry.
- Eastern Group of Temples — A collection of Jain and Hindu temples including the Parsvanatha Temple, known for its beautifully carved figures of celestial maidens (apsaras) and intricate friezes.
- Local Bazaar — Explore Khajuraho's small but vibrant local market, where almost every household is engaged in some form of touristic craft or commercial activity.
- Return to the hotel after sightseeing and check out.

### Afternoon — Fly to Varanasi

- Fly Khajuraho to Varanasi — Board the 55-minute flight from Khajuraho Airport to the holy city of Varanasi (Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport). Lunch at the airport before departure.
- Arrive Varanasi — Met by our representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Check in and relax.
- Evening Ganga Aarti — Witness the spectacular evening Ganga Aarti performed by priests on the ghats of Varanasi — a deeply moving ritual of fire, flowers, and devotion.
- Bazaar Walk — Walk through the colourful fabric and saree market, visit a Goshala (sacred cow sanctuary), and take a cycle-rickshaw ride through Kinari Bazaar, Kachori Galli, and Vishwanath Galli.
- Dinner at a popular restaurant. Overnight in Varanasi.

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DAY 09

# Varanasi Sightseeing – The Spiritual Capital

## Dawn – Ganges Boat Ride & Old City Walk

- Dawn Boat Ride on the Ganges – Early morning, meet your guide and driver for a magical dawn boat ride on the holy river Ganges. Witness the sunrise bathing the ancient ghats in a golden glow as locals pray and offer water to the Sun God.
- Manikarnika Ghat – Disembark at the sacred burning ghat, one of the holiest cremation sites in Hinduism, where the cycle of life and death plays out in the open.
- Kashi Vishwanath Temple (Golden Temple) – Walk through the narrow lanes of the Old City to reach this most sacred of all Shiva temples, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas in India.
- Annapurna Temple & Phool Mandi – Visit the Annapurna Temple dedicated to the goddess of food, and stroll through the fragrant flower market.
- Return to the hotel for breakfast.

## Afternoon – Sarnath Excursion

- Benaras Hindu University – En route to Sarnath, visit one of Asia's largest residential universities, founded in 1916, spread over 1,300 acres with stunning architecture.
- Sarnath – The sacred site where the Buddha preached his first sermon after attaining enlightenment at Bodh Gaya. Visit the Dhamek Stupa (3rd century BC), the Mulagandha Kuti Vihara, and the Sarnath Archaeological Museum housing the famous Lion Capital of Ashoka.
- Return to the hotel by evening. Relax and freshen up.
- Dinner at a popular restaurant or at the hotel. Overnight in Varanasi.

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DAY 10 3 11

## Fly Varanasi to Delhi — Depart

### Day 10 — Fly Varanasi to Delhi

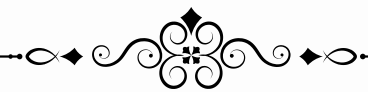
- Enjoy your breakfast at the hotel.
- In time, transfer to Varanasi's Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport to board the flight for Delhi.
- Arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi. Met by our representative and transferred to a hotel near the airport.
- Enjoy a farewell dinner 4 a final celebration of your incredible journey through India's most iconic cities, ancient temples, and sacred rivers.
- Overnight stay near the airport.

### Day 11 — Depart Delhi

- Enjoy your breakfastatthe hotel.
- In time, transfer to Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport to board your onward international flight.
- End of Epic Indian Travel's services. We hope you carry home memories of India's golden heritage, sacred rivers, and timeless temples that will last a lifetime.


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| <p>04</p> <p><b>We Share the Costs</b></p> <p>Once finalised, we'll send you a detailed cost breakdown.</p>   | <p>05</p> <p><b>Confirm and We Book</b></p> <p>On your approval, we arrange all hotel bookings and ground arrangements.</p>                    | <p>06</p> <p><b>Advance Deposit</b></p> <p>After hotel confirmation, 50% advance deposit of land costs required, plus 100% of flight costs.</p> |
| <p>07</p> <p><b>Balance Payment</b></p> <p>Remaining 50% of land costs payable 65 days prior to your holiday.</p>   |  |   |

