



## Itinerary

### India Golden Triangle & Holi Celebration W/Flights

**\*IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any extra nights, optional tours or other amendments, will not be visible on this itinerary.

#### DAY 1: Depart Australia ~ Arrive Delhi

Begin your journey on a full service flight from Australia to Delhi - On arrival you will be greeted with an airport pick up at Delhi International Airport. Be prepared for a culture shock of sights, sounds and smells as you are transferred through this bustling city to your hotel. After check in (generally 12-2pm), the rest of the day is free at leisure.

**MEALS:** In Flight

**OVERNIGHT:** 4\* Deventure or 5\* Suryaa, Delhi

#### DAY 2: Old Delhi and New Delhi

Today you can explore Old Delhi and New Delhi. Visit the historic Red Fort (Closed on Mondays) – Shah Jahan's elegant citadel in red sandstone, which was built as an octagon measuring 900m by 550m and surrounded by a 9-meter deep moat, which was at its inception fed by the waters of the Yamuna River. Very near the Fort is the Jama Masjid (Friday Mosque), India's largest mosque, also built by Shah Jahan. Also, if you wish you can take cycle rickshaw ride (direct payment) to explore the Chandni Chowk area. Then visit to Raj Ghat- memorial of Mahatma Gandhi. Later proceed to visit the Qutub Minar, a Tower of Victory which was built in the 12th century by Qutbuddin Aibak. The Tomb Of Humayun – the magnificent structure in red sandstone and white marble is one of the finest examples of the garden tomb, and a precursor to the Taj Mahal. Its proportionate spaces, double dome and refined elegance are characteristic of Mughal architecture. Also, visit India Gate, the memorial of the First World War and the road that leads from there to Rashtrapathi Bhawan – the residence of the President of India, which is flanked by the houses of Parliament and the Government Secretariat buildings.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 4\* Deventure or 5\* Suryaa

#### DAY 3: Delhi ~ Agra (4 hours driving today)

Today you will visit the Agra Fort, Baby Taj and Taj Mahal! Start your drive to Agra at 8AM to avoid traffic. Agra was the capital of Mughal Empire for nearly hundred years from 1564 and is the home for one of the Seven Wonders of the World, Taj Mahal. On arrival check in your hotel and later visit Agra Fort which was built by three Mughal Emperors starting from Akbar the Great. There are a number of buildings within the fort such as Moti Masjid, Jahangir's Palace, Khaas Mahal, sheesh Mahal and the Musamman Burj, where

Emperor Shahjahan died as a prisoner. Itimad ud Daulah is the tomb built by Empress Noorjahan in memory of her father Ghias Ud Din Beg and is considered as a pioneer of the Taj Mahal. Visit Taj Mahal during Sunset. It was built over a period of 22 years by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal (Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays).

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 4\* Royale Regent or 5\* Crystal Sarovar Premier

**DAY 4: Agra ~ Fatehpur Sikri ~ Abhaneri Step Wells ~ Jaipur (approx 6 hours total driving today)**

After an early breakfast begin your drive towards Jaipur. Enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri. This town was built by Emperor Akbar with Red Sand Stone. This town was built in the 17th century and abandoned immediately after 15 years of occupancy due to water shortage and political issues. Some of the important buildings here are Diwane I A (a vast courtyard where the emperor gave daily public audience), Diwane I Khas (a large quadrangle where all the major functions of the Palace were held), Pachisi Court (The emperor's private living quarter), Jodha Bhai's Palace, Hawa Mahal, Panch Mahal and Birbal's Palace. Then drive to Abhaneri which is famous for the Step wells, also known as the Chand Baori Step Well – it spans a height of about 13 stories and has 3500 steps that lead approximately 100 feet down. It is one of the largest stepwells in the world and also one of the most beautiful ones. Today, the construction is not used as a well anymore but its exquisite geometry attracts local and international visitors alike.. Even though Abhaneri is now in ruins, the place has a distinct reminiscence about itself. Continue your drive to Jaipur. Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan. It is also known as Pink City. It is a busy town and famous for Palaces and bazaars of textiles, jewelleryes and folk based arts & handicrafts. Jaipur is the paradise for the shoppers. You can find many different kinds of handicrafts, jewelry, fabrics and even carpetshere. Jaipur represents the rich and vibrant lifestyle and tradition of Rajasthan. It offers the best traditional Rajasthani artwork and textiles from this city are world famous. They have different types of products like tie-n-dye and bandhej sarees, kurtas and dress materials. These products are most popular for their patterns and designs. Please note, during the 'Holi period', the monuments in Jaipur are closed (some of them may open in the only in the morning and some of them open in the afternoon, but it will be subject to change at the last minute, so you have to check with your Driver about the opening of the monuments and visit them accordingly or just enjoy the colourful festival by skipping some of the sightseeing).

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 4\* Royal Orchid Central or 5\* Lemon Tree Premiere

**DAY 5: Holi Festival Celebration at Narain Niwas**

This morning you will enjoy the colourful festival of Holi. You will be taken to Narain Niwas to enjoy the celebrations! Come join us this year, in this fun filled exhilarating celebration and be part of an ancient tradition. We welcome you to a noble's house in the erstwhile state of Jaipur and take you through a journey filled with live music, dance, drinks and mouthwatering delicacies. Let's smear colours and splash water on each other, this Holi, with pichkaries (water guns) and water balloons in the company of the host, his friends and family. Enjoy the interesting traditions and customs of Holi that have their own regional variances and may be you could learn how to prepare some local sweets with the lady of the house too.

Event: Holi Party

Venue: Pool side garden "Narain Niwas" (the venue and the program may vary)

Date: 14 March 2025

Time: 10.30am till 1.30pm approx

Dress Code: One time use clothing

Package includes:

Welcome Drink (Non/Alcoholic Beverages), Herbal colors + Water Guns+ Water Balloons, Lunch, Live traditional Music, Kurta Pajama (For both men and women), Traditional Turbans, Open Shower and changing room facility.

After enjoying this colourful event, you will be taken back to your hotel to enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. You may like to explore the city, please check with your Driver or check with your hotel concierge for information to explore the city as you wish.

**MEALS:** Breakfast, Lunch

**OVERNIGHT:** 4\* Royal Orchid Central or 5\* Lemon Tree Premiere

#### DAY 6: Jaipur City Tour

Take the entire day to explore Jaipur. Sightseeing of Jaipur includes Jal Mahal (from outside only), Amber Fort, City Palace, Jantar Mantar and the Hawa Mahal. Jal Mahal is the Water Palace. This low-rise symmetrical palace, that once was a shooting lodge for the Maharajah, appears to float in the centre of Sagar Lake. This is just a quick stop on the way to the Amber Fort. The palace is in the middle of the lake and looks like it is flooded. The palace is not open to the public. So you can spend some time to take photographs from outside. At the Amber Fort, you have the option to climb up the rampart by jeep (direct payment) to reach the top of the palace (Vans/ Buses are not allowed to go up). Inside the palace visit the Jag Mandir (The Hall of Victory), Sheesh Mahal – a room with four walls and the ceiling completely embedded with glittering mirrors, imported from Belgium. The City Palace is the royal residence. Now part of this residence is converted into museum and a part of the portion is still now occupied by the royal family of Jaipur. An impressive array of pistols, blunderbusses, swords, rifles and daggers are found in the Armory museum. Jantar Mantar is the large observatory in the world having 17 instruments, most of them are still in working condition. It is built of stones and marbles. Hawa Mahal is otherwise known as the Palace of winds. This is the ideal spot of photography.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 4\* Royal Orchid Central or 5\* Lemon Tree Premiere

#### DAY 7: Jaipur ~ Delhi (5 1/2 hour drive)

After a relaxed breakfast at the hotel we will return to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi, check in at your hotel and relax. If you wish, you can explore the bazaars in Delhi like Dilli Haat - This huge Delhi market has been deliberately made to feel like a traditional weekly village market, called a Haat. Small thatched roof

cottages with a village atmosphere give it great ambiance. The market offers an exciting blend of handicrafts from all over India, food, and cultural and music performances. Or you can visit Janpath & Tibetan Market - This very popular and lively Delhi market, which was recently given a makeover, has something for everyone. You'll find goods from everywhere in India and Tibet here, and it's a great place to shop for things to take back home. If you are not interested in visiting the bazaars, then you can visit Akshardham temple (closed on Mondays) which holds the Guinness World Record of being the World's largest comprehensive Hindu Temple. This temple is dedicated to Lord Swami Narayan and is symbolic of the Indian Culture, architecture and spirituality. This is a pretty huge complex and it contains 234 ornate pillars, 9 domes and 20000 statues and sculptures. The walls of the main monument are covered top to bottom with carvings of dancers, deities, flora and fauna. You will be able to see a blend of various architectural styles used across India.

**MEALS:** Breakfast

**OVERNIGHT:** 4\* Deventure or 5\* Suryaa, Delhi

### **DAY 8: Departure Day ~ Delhi to Australia**

It is time to say goodbye to India! Today you will be met at the hotel and transferred to Delhi airport to catch your flight home. Note: Generally the checkout time at the hotels is at 10 am. Thank you for travelling with MyHoliday2India!

**MEALS:** Breakfast, In Flight

**OVERNIGHT:** In Flight