

Braga Travel Consulting
6500 Kendale Lakes Dr, 107 – Miami FL 33183
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THE BEST OF INDIA with BTC

Valid until August 2007

Day 01 – New Delhi

Arrive in **New Delhi**. You will be met at the airport and transferred to Hotel Connaught or The Park by an air-conditioned car. Overnight in the hotel.

Delhi, where an empire rose and fell before the dawn of history; where citadels of emperors appeared and disappeared; a city of mysterious eternity whose old ruins proclaim a majestic and imperial past and whose present pulsates vibrantly with the ever flowing life of India. The eternal Jamuna bears witness to the glorious and tumultuous 5,000 year old history of Delhi. A history which begins with the creation of Indraprastha by the Pandavas and the transformation of Delhi was the focal point for the first war of independence in 1857. Though the revolt did not reach its desired conclusion, Delhi became a thorn in the eyes of the British.

Day 02 – Delhi

After breakfast, depart for a combined sightseeing tour of New and Old Delhi visiting India Gate, Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar, Lakshmi Narayan Temple; Old Delhi –Raj Ghat, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk. Return to the hotel for overnight.

HUMAYUN'S TOMB : Built by the wife of Humayun, Haji Begum, in the mid 16th century, this red sandstone structure is considered to be the predecessor of Taj Mahal. The structure is one of the best examples of Mughal Architecture. Humayun's wife is also buried in the red and white sandstone, black and yellow marble tomb.

QUTAB MINAR: In 1199, Qutb-ud-din raised the **Qutab Minar** either as a victory tower or as a minaret to the adjacent mosque. From a base of 14.32 mtrs it tapers to 2.75 mtrs at a height of 72.5 mtrs. It is still the highest stone tower in India, one of the finest Islamic structures ever raised and Delhi's recognized landmark. It was completed by the Sultan's successor and son-in-law, Iltutmish. The tomb of Iltutmish, which he himself built in 1235, is located nearby. Its interiors are profusely decorated with calligraphy but the dome has collapsed.

RAJPATH: Flanked by ornamental ponds and lawns, Rajpath is host to the Republic Day Parade. The two secretariat buildings and Rashtrapati Bhawan on the Raisina hills are located on the two sides of this immensely broad road. India Gate is towards the eastern end of Rajpath.

INDIA GATE: It is a 42m high stone arch of triumph. It bears the name of the 85,000 Indian Army Soldiers who died in the campaigns of World War I, the North-West Frontiers operations and the 1919 Afghan Fiasco. Below the arch is the memorial to the Unknown Soldier. India Gate is surrounded by green lawns and trees.

RAJGHAT: On 31st Jan. 1948, Mahatma Gandhi's last rites were performed here. The memorial stone of Gandhi is square in shape made of black stone. His last word- 'Hey Ram' is inscribed on it.

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RED FORT: Built in red sandstone this imposing fort is 3 km in perimeter with the height of the wall varying from 18 to 30 meters at places. When the Red Fort was being built, the Yamuna river used to flow on its one side and there were deep moats on the other. Today, the Yamuna flows almost a kilometer away from the fort and the moats have dried up. The Lahore gate, the main entrance, has some emotions and sentiments attached with the Indian independence as the tricolor flutters on the top of this gate. On the 15th August the Indian Prime minister addresses the nation from here.

JAMA MASJID: Built by Shah Jahan in 1658, it is one of the largest mosques in India with a seating capacity of more than 20,000. The mosque is situated near the Red Fort in old Delhi. This is the area that still retains the traditional charm of markets in Mughal times. The bulbous domes and tapering minarets built with marble stand strong and beautiful even to this day. This mosque has three gateways, four angle towers and two 40 m. high minarets. You can even go to the top of minarets and have a bird's eye view of Delhi.

CHANDNI CHOWK: One of the main markets of Delhi, **Chandni Chowk** was once lined with beautiful fountains. But today the place is very crowded and congested. Chandni Chowk is located opposite the Red Fort. The area has got the Digamber Jain Temple which houses the Birds' Hospital. On one end of Chandni Chowk is the Fatehpuri Mosque which was erected by the wives of Shah Jahan. Opposite the old police station or the Kotwali is the Sunheri Masjid from where Nadir Shah ordered his troops to plunder and massacre Delhi.

BIRLA MANDIR: Also known as the Lakshmi Narayan Temple, it is ideally located in central Delhi (Mandir Marg). This temple dedicated to the goddess of wealth, Lakshmi and Lord Narayana (Lord Vishnu) was built in 1938 by the prominent Indian industrialist Raja Baldev Das Birla and inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi. The temple, built in Orissan style, has a large number of idols representing various gods of Indian pantheon. The well-grafted gardens need a special mention.

Day 03 - Delhi / Udaipur

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Udaipur. You will be met at the airport and transferred to Hotel Trident Hilton or Fateh Prakash Palace. Day at leisure. Overnight in the hotel.

UDAIPUR: Udaipur is known as the Venice of the east. It is also called the city of lakes. The Lake Palace on Jag Niwas Island in the middle of Pichola Lakes is the finest example of its architectural and cultural explosion. The grand City Palace on the banks of the lake compliments the palace along with the Monsoon Palace (Sajjan Garh) on the hill above. Udaipur is also the centre for performing arts, craft and its famed miniature paintings. The Shilp Gram festival is a center of attraction during the season

Day 04 – Udaipur

After breakfast, depart for city sightseeing visiting The City Palace, Jag Mandir, Sahelion Ki Bari and Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal. In the afternoon, enjoy boatripe on Lake Pichola. Overnight in the hotel.

THE CITY PALACE: Built by Maharaja Udai Singh, the gorgeous City Palace is a marvel in marble, situated on the banks of Lake Pichola. Majestically set on a hill, it is flooded with balconies, towers and cupolas along with the superb views of the lake and the city that can be cherished from the upper terraces. Surrounded by fortification walls, it has a triple arched gate at the entrance called Tripolia, which was built in 1725. A perfect amalgamation of Medieval European and Chinese architecture, the palatial complex has a number of astonishing buildings, well-planned gardens and fountains.

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JAG MANDIR: The first island palace of Lake Pichola, Jagmandir was built by Maharana Karan Singhji in 1622 AD and was intended to be a pleasure palace for regal parties and functions. It has served as a refuge for Moghul Emperor Shahjahan when he was a prince against the wrath of his father in a family dispute in the seventeenth century. The legend says that Jagmandir was the inspiration behind the world-famous Taj Mahal, which Shah Jahan built in the memory of his deceased wife, Mumtaz.

SAHELION KI BARI : On the banks of Fateh Sagar Lake, a beautiful garden was built for the 48 maidens meant to be a part of the dowry of the princess. Widespread lawns, gushing fountains and dappled walking lanes characterize the garden. The garden has four pools with graceful kiosks and fountains that sport elephant trunks for spouts. These gardens appear distinct and immaculate in taste.

BHARATIYA LOK KALA MANDAL: The museum has on its display a wide array of folk arts, which has affluent collection of folk outfits, curios, puppets, masks, dolls, folk musical instruments and beautiful paintings. Visitors can also request for shows from world renowned puppeteers, Maharana Pratap Memorial - erected atop Modi Magri (Pearl Mount) near Fateh Sagar Lake, is an impressive equestrian bronze statue of the gallant hero, Maharana Pratap. The legendary and loyal horse 'Chetak' is as famous as his rider for his courage and fearlessness.

In the afternoon, enjoy boatripe on Lake Pichola:

LAKE PICHOLA: Maharana Udai Singh II significantly distended the gorgeous Lake Pichola as a defense measure, when he founded Udaipur. Cradled amongst hills, gardens, havelis, temples and ghats, Lake Pichola is the picturesque spotlight of Udaipur. The lake sports two islands palaces - Jagniwas (popularly known as Lake Palace) and Jagmandir. Visitors can enjoy boat rides which can be extremely enjoyable in the backdrop of the setting sun.

Overnight in the hotel.

Day 05 – Udaipur / Jodhpur

After breakfast depart for the blue city of Jodhpur by the same car stopping enroute to see Ranakpur Jain Temples and then continue driving arriving Hotel Ajit Bhawan Palace evening.

RANAKPUR: Beautiful sculptured Jain temples mark the glory of this renowned place. Marked as one of the five holy places for the Jain community, these were created in the 15 the century. During the reign of Rana Kumbha and are enclosed within a wall. The central Chaumukha [four faced temple] is dedicated to Adinathji the temple is an astounding creation with 29 halls and 1,444 pillars all distinctly carved and no two being alike is a amazing evidence of the genius sense of architecture that enhances the charm of the place. Every temple has this conceivable surface carved with equal delicacy.

After seeing Ranakpur Jain Temples continue driving arriving Hotel Ajit Bhawan in the evening.

JODHPUR: This bustling desert city is the second largest city in Rajasthan after Jaipur and has landscape dominated by the massive Meherangarh Fort topping a sheer rocky ridge. The old city is fenced by 10 km long wall with eight Gates leading out of it. The new city is outside the walled city. Rao Jodha, a chief of the Rathore clan, founded the city in 1459 and it is named after him. Jodhpur is especially known for its

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shopping and its wholesale and export operations. It is an island of marble palaces, separated from the desert by an immense wall, with eight gates facing different directions. Popularly known as the blue city, Jodhpur appeals every tourist from various edges of the world. Overnight in the hotel.

Day 06 - Jodhpur

After breakfast, depart for sightseeing of Jodhpur city by the same car, visiting, Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada. In the afternoon, visit Mandore Garden. Overnight in the hotel.

MEHERANGARH FORT: Perched on a 150 m high hill its sprawl is the most formidable and magnificent fort in Rajasthan. Rao Jodha founded it in 1459 but subsequent rulers of Jodhpur have also added to it over the centuries. A meandering road leads to the from the city 5 kms below. Battle scars of canon ball hit by attacking armies of Jaipur can still be seen on the second gate. To the left is chhatri of Kirat Singh Soda, a soldier who fell on the spot while defending the fort against the armies of Amber. There are seven gates, which include Jayapol meaning victory built by Maharaja Man Singh to commemorate his victories over Jaipur and Bikaner armies. Fattehpole also meaning victory gate was built by Maharaja Ajit Singh to mark the defeat of Mughals. The palm imprints still attract devotional attention and are covered by vermilion paste and paper-thin silver foil.

JASWANT THADA: On the way down from the fort, on left is Jaswant Thada, the graceful marble cenotaph of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. His son Maharaja Sardar Singhji built the Taj Mahal of Marwar in the memory of Maharaj Jaswant Singhji II of Jodhpur. The main memorial has been built like a temple with intricately carved marble stone that is sculpted by the genius artesian. A visit to this structure is through the rocky hills giving it a secluded and a mystic aura.

MANDORE GARDENS: Towards the north of Jodhpur is the ancient capital of Marwar, Mandore. It is just 8 Kms from the city. The main attractions of the place are the Hall of Heroes which has sixteen huge figures which have been carved out of a single rock, the shrine of 330 million Gods and the royal cenotaphs. The extensive gardens at Mandore contain the beautiful Chatris (Cenotaphs) of Rathore rulers like Maharaja Dhiraj Ajit Singh and Maharaja Dhiraj Jaswant Singh. Greenery of the place makes Mandore, in a true sense, an oasis.

Day 07 - Jodhpur / Jaipur

After breakfast, depart for the pink city of Jaipur by the same car arriving Hotel Trident Hilton or Jai Mahal Palace in the afternoon. Overnight in the hotel.

JAIPUR: Jaipur is 240 km from Agra and named after its founder the warrior and astronomer sovereign Sawai Jai Singh II (ruled 1688 to 1744). Jaipur is a corroborative effort of Sawai Jai Singh's strong grounding in sciences and astrology and a Bengali architect Vidyadhar with a strong instinct for planning. The city of old Jaipur painted in Pink can grip any visitor with admiration. Stunning backdrop of ancient forts Nahargarh, Amer, Jagarh and Moti Dungri are dramatic testimonials of the bygone era and a reminder of their lingering romance. **Jaipur** is a bustling capital city and a business centre with all the trappings of modern metropolis but yet flavored strongly with an age-old charm that never fails to surprise a traveller.

Day 08 - Jaipur

After breakfast, visit the sights of Jaipur, visiting Amber Fort where Elephant ride/Jeep ride (subject to availability) up to the Palace. In the afternoon - drive past Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), The Astronomical Observatory and The City Museum. Overnight in the hotel.

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AMBER: Amber (pronounced Amer) is situated about 11 kilometres from Jaipur and was the ancient citadel of the ruling Kachhawa clan of Amber, before the capital was shifted in the plains to present day Jaipur. The Amber Fort set in picturesque and rugged hills is a fascinating blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture. Constructed by Raja Man Singh I in 1592 and completed by Sawai Jai Singh I the fort is made in red sand stone and white marble. The rugged forbidding exterior belies an inner paradise with a beautiful fusion of art and architecture. Amber is the classic and romantic fort- palace with a magnificent aura. The interior wall of the palace depicts expressive painting scenes with carvings, precious stones and mirror settings. In the foreground is the Maota Lake providing a breathtaking look. Built mainly for the warring enemies as a safe place, the heavily structured walls could defend the residents within the ramparts of the fort.

After seeing Amber, visit the sights of Jaipur:

HAWA MAHAL: Hawa Mahal is located in the Tripolia Bazaar to the west of GPO. Built to let the ladies of royal harem watch the royal possessions, Hawa Mahal is not a palace as the name suggests. Hawa Mahal is the part of the east wall of the City Palace complex. Most well known of Jaipur's buildings, you can have the best views of this great building from the street outside.

THE CITY PALACE: A major part of the City Palace has been converted in a museum. Remaining part of the palace is still being used by the royal family of Jaipur as residence. The palace is built in the fortified campus style and covers almost seventh part of Jaipur. There are different sections of the museum dedicated to subjects like arms and ammunition, textile and costume, and art gallery. Some important palaces in this complex include the Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Diwan-I-Aam, and Diwan-I-Khas.

JANTAR MANTAR OR THE ASTRONOMICAL OBSERVATORY: Translated into 'Instruments of Measuring the Harmony of the Heavens', Jantar Mantar was built by Sawai Jai Singh between 1728 and 1734. Jantar Mantar is a grand celebration of astronomical science and each instrument here serves a particular function and gives an accurate reading.

Day 09 – Jaipur / Agra

After breakfast, depart for the Mughal city of Agra by the same car stopping enroute to see the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. After seeing Fatehpur Sikri continue driving to Agra arriving Hotel Jaypee Palace in the afternoon.

FATEHPUR SIKRI: Akbar intended his city of Fatehpur Sikri to serve as an imperial capital, an alternate to the overcrowded city of Agra. Completed in 1585, the city was abandoned after only 15 years because of insufficient water supply. Thereafter it remained deserted, and almost perfectly preserved. Here the early Mughal fusion of Hindu and Muslim architectural styles was embodied in spacious courtyards, wide palaces, and open pavillions, quarried from the local sandstone and cooled by numerous water channels, ponds, and tanks. Akbar intended his city of Fatehpur Sikri to serve as an imperial capital, an alternate to the overcrowded city of Agra. Completed in 1585, the city was abandoned after only 15 years because of insufficient water supply. Thereafter it remained deserted, and almost perfectly preserved. Here the early Mughal fusion of Hindu and Muslim architectural styles was embodied in spacious courtyards, wide palaces, and open pavilions, quarried from the local sandstone and cooled by numerous water channels, ponds, and tanks.

AGRA: The city of Agra came into limelight during the rule of Afghan King Sikandar Lodhi - who had made it the capital of his empire. Later in 1526 A.D., the Mughal Emperor Babar took upon himself the

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task for rendering Agra, a unique character and beauty of its own. The visionary that he was and a great patron of the arts, Emperor Babar brought in a change in the culture and life-style among the people of

Agra, which then brought forth some of the finest craftsmen, artists, statesmen, warriors and nobility, this part of India had ever witnessed. The golden age of Agra's history, thus began to set in. The next few hundred years of Agra witnessed the rise of the pomp and pageantry of three great Mughal monarchs - Emperor Akbar, Jehangir and ShahJahan - all of whom lavished on this fabled city, their love and riches immeasurable to transform the land into one of the great centers of art, culture, learning and commerce. Much of the city's impressive past lives in evidence even today, in the hunting presence inside the monuments, the majesty of the buildings, the exquisite arts and crafts and not to forget, the lure of an exceptional cuisine... all, cherished as priceless legacies of a nostalgic past.

Agra: Perhaps no other historical monument has evoked as much awareness and admiration from tourists and travellers alike, as the magnificent Taj Mahal - fondly called by people as the ultimate requiem of love, from a great Mughal Emperor to his beloved. So overwhelming is the exquisite beauty and presence of this marble mausoleum that centuries later today, even the very land where it has been located - Agra - has been immortalised as the City of the Taj. Yet, it doesn't take much for the roving eye to discover that there's more to Agra than just the fabled Taj Mahal. The city is a virtual gateway to a world of discovery... a freeze-frame from a resplendant era that's long since gone by afternoon.

Overnight in the hotel.

Day 10 – Agra

After breakfast, visit the monument of love - Taj Mahal. Also visit Agra Fort by same car.

Taj Mahal: A Glorious Heritage : Taj Mahal. Sheer poetry in marble. Majesty and magnificence, unrivalled. The Taj Mahal, the one and only one of its kind across the world. The monumental labour of love of a great ruler for his beloved queen. The ultimate realisation of Emperor Shahjahan's dream. One of the wonders of the world. From 1631 A.D., it took 22 years in the making. An estimated 20,000 people worked to complete the enchanting mausoleum, on the banks of the Yamuna.

(Note: Taj Mahal is closed on Friday)

For a breathtaking beautiful view of the Taj Mahal, see it by moonlight.

AGRA FORT: The great Mughal Emperor Akbar commissioned the construction of the Agra Fort in 1565, A.D. although additions were made till the time of his grandson Shahjahan. The forbidding exteriors of this fort hide an inner paradise. There are a number of exquisite buildings like Moti Masjid - a white marble mosque akin to a perfect pearl; Diwan-Am, Diwan-E-Khaas, Musamman Burj - where Shahjahan died in 1666 A.D. Jahangir's Palace; Khaas Mahal and Shish Mahal.

Overnight in the hotel.

Day 11 - Agra / Khajuraho

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Very early in the morning, transfer to the Railway Station. Depart Agra Shatabdi Express 0815 hrs / Arrive Jhansi 1040 hrs. Transfer from the Railway Station to Khajuraho by the same car arriving Hotel Jass Radisson or Hotel Chandela in the afternoon.

KHAJURAHO: the temple city of central India, is famous throughout the world for its exquisitely carved temples in stones. Thousands of visitors and tourists from all over the world flock together to envisage this immortal saga of Hindu art and culture engraved in stone by shilpies (stone craftsmen) a millennium ago. Today, apart from the temples, Khajuraho is a small village but a thousand years ago it was a large city of the Chandelas, medieval Rajput kings who ruled over Central India.

Overnight in the hotel. Visit the Eastern and Western Group of Temples

EASTERN GROUP OF TEMPLES:

THE BRAHMA TEMPLE: Originally dedicated to Lord Vishnu, this temple is built of granite and sandstone.

THE VAMANA TEMPLE: The Vamana Temple is dedicated to Vamana, the dwarf incarnation of Vishnu. In the main niches of the sanctum, the figures of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva - the trinity, have been carved out in the upper row and several incarnations. Within the entrance, a figure of Buddha in the earth touching posture has also been carved on a wall.

THE PARSAVANATH TEMPLE: The Parsavanath Temple is the largest and the finest of the Jain Temples at Khajuraho. The inner shrine contains an ornamental throne with a carved bull, the emblem of the first Jain Tirthankara. A more recent image of Parsavanth was installed in 1860. There are excellent sculptures on the outer walls of the sanctum- a woman fondling a child, another writing a letter, a woman extracting a thorn from her foot etc.

WESTERN GROUP OF TEMPLES:

KANDARIYA MAHADEVAL TEMPLE: To the north of Chousath Yogini Temple lies the 31 mts high Kandariya Mahadeva Temple, the largest and the most typical temple at Khajuraho. At the entrance is a richly carved torana or archway decorated with different instruments, lover in fond embrace, winged gods or goddesses. The ceilings and pillars of the assembly halls and that of the main hall are rich in superb carvings.

DEVI JAGDAMBI TEMPLE: This temple lies to the north of the Kandariya Mahadeva Temple and was originally dedicated to Lord Vishnu. In the portico is a beautifully carved sculpture of a leo-griffin sporting with a woman.

CHITRAGUPTA'S OR BHARATJI'S TEMPLE: Lies short distance to the north of Devi Jagdambi Temple and like most other shrines at Khajuraho faces east. The temple lies 50 feet high and has an image of Sun god shown wearing high boots and driving a chariot drawn by seven horses. The carvings on the outside are interesting and show hunting scenes, royal processions and dances by lovely girls, fights between mad elephants etc.

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THE VISHWANATH TEMPLE: With the Nandi pavillion stands in the most northerly part of the eastern temples, the Vishwanath Temple. There are two flights of steps, the northern flanked by a pair of lions and the southern by a pair of elephants. The women in the bracket capitals are charming. Originally, the lingam enshrined in the sanctum was of emerald but now it has been replaced by one of stone. On the western part of the outside wall of the temple is a graceful figure of a woman holding bunch of fruits in her right hand and parrot on her left hand. She has an almost life-like quality.

THE LAKSHMANA TEMPLE: This temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and it measures 98 feet by 45 feet and 3 inches. There are four subordinate shrines on the corners of the terrace, the lintel over the entrance of Lakshmi, the goddess of Wealth and the wife of Lord Vishnu standing with Brahma, the Lord of Creation on her left, and Lord Shiva on her right. On the doorway is relief illustrating the churning of the Ocean by the gods and demons to obtain the divine nectar which conferred immortality on those who drunk it. Another relief on the doorway shows the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu.

Return to the hotel for overnight.

Day 12 – Khajuraho / Varanasi

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Varanasi. You will be received at the airport and escorted to Hotel Taj Ganges.

VARANASI: The holy city of Varanasi, known as the city of temples and learning , is a place of great historical and cultural importance. This religious capital of India is situated on the banks of the holy river Ganges and is presided over by Lord Shiva. The river-front of the city is decorated by hundreds of well built ghats which is a unique feature. The holy Buddhist place, Sarnath is in its precincts. Simultaneously it is keeping pace with modern advanced knowledge. It has three universities one Tibetan Institute and an Institute of Arabic Studies. The city is reputed for silk fabrics, perfumes, artistic brass and copper wares and a variety of handicrafts.

In the evening, witness "Aarti" at the holy river. Overnight in the hotel.

Day 13 - Varanasi

Early in the morning, enjoy boat ride on River Ganges to see the pilgrims pay homage to Sun God.

River Ganga or the Ganges is a major river of the Indian subcontinent, associated in myth and reality with the land and people of India as well as neighboring countries like Bangladesh. In Hinduism, the river Ganga is personified as Goddess and holds an important place in the Hindu religion. In Hindu mythology, it is believed that bathing in the river Ganga causes the remission of sins and facilitates the attainment of salvation or nirvana. This deep-rooted truth is proved by the fact that people travel from distant places to immerse the ashes of their kin in the waters of the Ganga at Varanasi or other places located on the banks of this holy river.

After the boatripe, walk in the narrow bazaar famous for its varieties of attractive articles of brass and wood carvings, textiles, conch shells, utensils, ivory and delicious Indian sweets. After breakfast, do sightseeing of Varanasi city visiting: Tulsimanas Temple, Golden Temple, Bharatmata Temple.

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GOLDEN TEMPLE: - Built by Rani Ahalya Bai of Indore, its spire is covered with gold leaf donated by Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Punjab. It is most beautiful and an important shrine in Varanasi.

ANNAPURNA TEMPLE: Near the Golden Temple is the famous Temple of Annapurna, the Goddess of Food and Plenty. An image of the Goddess is carved in gold is standing enshrined here.

GYAN VAPI OR THE WELL OF KNOWLEDGE: Near the Golden Temple is also the covered well which is surrounded by an attractive colonnade. It is said that when Varanasi was suffering from a great drought, a Hindu sage thrust Shiva's trident into the earth here and a spire of water gushed forth.

KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE: The shrine to Lord Shiva, the ruling deity of Varanasi is believed to go back to the time of the epics. One of the twelve Jyoti lingas in the county, the shrine is the nucleus of the city around which life revolves. The temple itself was destroyed and rebuilt a number of times through the ages. The present temple was rebuilt in 1776 by Rani Ahilya Bai Holkar.

Return to the hotel for breakfast, and depart for sightseeing of Varanasi City

DURGA TEMPLE: Built in the Nagara style in the 18th century, the Durga Temple has a tall Shikhara. Its five spires merging at the top is a symbolic representation of the Himalayan peaks – the abode of the gods. The temple is also known as the Monkey Temple due to the number of monkeys that are found in the vicinity.

TULSI MANAS TEMPLE: The Tulsi Manas Temple a modern structure in marble is dedicated to Lord Rama. The temple is located on the site where Tulsidas lived and composed his Ram Charit Manas. Built in 1964, the walls of the temple are embellished with scenes from the Ramayana and verses from the epic.

BHARAT MATA MANDIR: An unusual shrine, for it is dedicated to Mother India and has a large relief map of India carved in marble within.

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY: Set in a large green campus of 2000 acres donated by the Maharaja of Banaras in the early part of the century, the BHU is perhaps the largest residential university in Asia. Known for its studies in Indian art and culture, it attracts students from all over the world.

In the afternoon, depart for an excursion to Sarnath where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon.

SARNATH: Here in the fabled deer park, the Buddha Preached his sermon enshrining the Principles of his teachings into laws. There were two ancient stupas for ceremonial public worship. However, their present name does not give any clue as to their origins. The present structure is Dhamekh while Dharmajika was dismantled in the 18th Century by Jagat Singh of Banaras to reused the building material for his own structures. Near the remains of the stupa stands the Ashoka Pillar perhaps witnessing his visit to the place. The large complex of ruined monasteries that cover the area north of the stupas could easily date back to the foundations of institutions founded by Ashok the Great.

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Day 14 - Varanasi / Delhi

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Late in the morning transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi. You will be received at the Domestic airport and transfer to Indira Gandhi International airport for your flight back home.

Staying at: Delhi – The Connaught; Udaipur – The Trident Hilton; Jodhpur – Ajit Bhawan Palace; Jaipur – The Trident Hilton; Agra – Jaypee Palace; Khajuraho – The Radisson; Varanasi – Taj Ganges.

Price per person valid until April 15, 2007:

One person: USD5,320.00 for a single person traveling alone, 13 nights hotel - single room.
Two persons – double occupancy – USD3,180.00 per person;
Four persons – double occupancy – USD2,880.00 per person.

Price per person valid from April 16, 2007 until September 15, 2007 stay (August 2007):

One person: USD4,395.00 for a single person traveling alone for 13 nights hotel - single room.
Two persons – double occupancy – USD2,715.00 per person;
Four persons – double occupancy – USD2,430.00 per person.

Staying at: Delhi – The Park; Udaipur – Fateh Prakash Palace; Jodhpur – Aji Bhawan Palace; Jaipur – Jai Mahal Palace; Agra – Jaypee Palace; Khajuraho – Hotel Chandela; Varanasi – Taj Ganges.

Price per person valid until April 15, 2007:

One person: USD6,050.00 for a single person traveling alone for 13 nights hotel - single room.
Two persons – double occupancy – USD3,610.00 per person;
Four persons – double occupancy – USD3,325.00 per person.

Price per person valid from April 16, 2007 until September 15, 2007 stay (August 2007):

One person: USD5,036.00 for a single person traveling alone for 13 nights hotel - single room.
Two persons – double occupancy – USD3,036.00 per person;
Four persons – double occupancy – USD2,750.00 per person.

Price includes:

1. Breakfast in all the Hotels; 13 nights hotel accommodation.
2. All transfers, sightseeing and excursion by a private air-conditioned car with a reasonable good English speaking driver
3. Spanish / English speaking guide in all the cities.
4. Entrance fees in all the monuments.
5. Boat Ride in Udaipur; 6. Elephant / Jeep Ride in Jaipur; 7. Boat Ride in Varanasi.
8. Sound and light show in Khajuraho.
9. Train fare from Agra to Jhansi by 1st a/c in Shatabdi.
10. Airfare Delhi - Udaipur, Khajuraho- Varanasi and Varanasi - Delhi.

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Notes: 1) The above cost does not include any expenses of personal nature like telephone calls, laundry, bar bills, tips etc.
2) The hotels mentioned above are subject to availability and if not available we will provide similar accommodation