

# Golden Triangle and Tigers

**Delhi – Agra – Ranthambhore – Jaipur – Delhi**

**(8 Nights / 9 Days)**

An ideal tour for those who want to venture into the Northern India, for the very first time with limited time in hands is here! Encompassing all the marvels like the Taj Mahal, all the Jaipur Palaces and the Ranthambore National Park, you must not think twice before nodding a yes! The starting point is the national capital, New Delhi where you can look over the Old Delhi while you walk, the first diversion is a travel south by train to Agra. The rural Rajasthan will be next on the cards highlighted by the Ranthambore National Park. Explore India's lesser known wildlife and keep track of the elusive tigers' trail here. The final destination before you catch up with Delhi again will be Jaipur, just usurp the royal charm of its palaces.

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## **Day 1: Delhi**

Upon arrival at the Delhi Airport, a representative of Remarkable India will welcome and escort you to the hotel.

You can spend your day at leisure; take a quick evening stroll to the Lodhi Garden to grasp the feel of life at Delhi.

Get back to the hotel and have a sound sleep.

## **Day 2: Delhi**

The next morning you will be taken on a guided tour of Delhi highlighting the stark contrasts between Old and New Delhi.

Take your breakfast and proceed for the guided tour to visit the Old Delhi. You will come across some monuments of Mughal History like the Jama Masjid. It is known to be the largest and best of all the mosques in India.

After your visit to Jama Masjid, you take an Auto Rickshaw ride through the small lanes of the Chandni Chowk Bazaar. It used to be the shopping centre in the Mughal Era.

Later you can visit the Raj Ghat and pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation.

New Delhi can be on your agenda in the afternoon. You can go visit the Humayun's Tomb. It was constructed in the memory of Mughal Badshah Humayun who died in 1556 by his wife Haji Begum. She commenced the construction in 1569, fourteen years after his death. It is built in proper Mughal style and is inspired by Persian architecture.

As you drive past the Sufdarjang Tomb, you visit the Qutub Minar. The tomb of Iltutmish was built in 1235 AD and it is a plain square that has chambers of red sandstone which are intricately carved with inscriptions, some geometrical and arabesque patterns in Saracenic tradition. You will find such inscriptions on the entrances and the entire interior.

Then you visit the Laxmi Narayan Temple and seek blessings. Drive past the Embassy and then visit the Rastrapati Bhavan, Parliament and the President Palace and then pay tributes to the soldiers of the Indian Army who sacrificed their lives for the nation at the India Gate.

Get back to your hotel and sleep.

### **Day 3: Delhi – Agra**

Next morning board an Express Train for Agra. Upon arrival on the Agra railway station you will meet a Remarkable India representative who will assist you to enjoy a guided tour of Agra. You will be escorted to your hotel.

After you are fresh and ready, you start on your tour to explore the historic city of Agra.

The Taj Mahal is one of the Seven Wonders of the World. It lies in the city of Agra, on the banks of River Yamuna. It was built in the memory of the beautiful Arjumand Bano Begum. She was married to Emperor Jahangir's third son Prince Khurram. She stayed by his side in both good and bad times of the Prince. In 1628 AD, Prince Khurram won a bloody battle of succession and became the king. He rechristened himself as Shahjahan or 'King of the World'. He showered his begum with unconditional love and conferred upon her highest of titles. She was called Mumtaz Mahal (exalted of the Palace) and Mumtaz-ul-Zamani (exalted of the Age). But unfortunately, beautiful Mumtaz was not destined to be the queen for a long time.

Agra Fort is on the right to the bank of the River Yamuna. It is one of the most robustly built Mughal buildings. It has richly decorated buildings encompassing the dominating Mughal style of art and architecture. It was built by an Emperor Akbar at Badalgarh, the remains of an ancient site. The first Sultan of Delhi to shift his capital from Delhi to Agra was Sikandar Lodi (1487-1517). After the death of Sikandar Lodi in 1517, Ibrahim Lodi, his son took over the Fort and held it for 9 years until he was killed in the Battle of Panipat in 1526. The construction of several palaces, mosques and wells in the Fort was done during the Lodi period.

Before the actual Taj Mahal was built, its design was ready in the form of Itmad-ud-Daulah's Tomb. It was built to represent a silver jewel box in marble. This beautiful mausoleum holds the body of Mirza Ghiyas Baig, the father of the Mughal Empress Noor Jahan. Mirza Ghiyas Baig was appointed as the Lord Treasurer of the empire or Itmad-ud -Daulah after his daughter Noor Jahan was married to Emperor Jehangir. After Mirza Ghiya's death, Noor Jahan built a mausoleum in his memory. It is 1<sup>st</sup> of its kind tomb to be built on a riverbank, of river Yamuna. It has many designs which were used in the construction of the Taj Mahal. This tomb follows the Central Asian Pattern of a domed structure. The tomb is set in a formal garden, a garden with waterways and paths laid out in a geometrical pattern. This kind of design has been followed while constructing the Taj Mahal.

Return back to the hotel in the evening and stay overnight at Agra.

## **Day 4: Agra – Fatehpur Sikri – Ranthambhore**

Early next morning you proceed to the Bharatpur Railway Station and en route you visit the Red Fort at Fatehpur Sikri.

25 miles west of Agra is the Fatehpur Sikri. It on the way to Jaipur and nearby is the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. It was once the capital of the Mughal Empire between 1570 and 1585. Untouched and perfectly preserved, the Fatehpur Sikri is medieval Fortress made out of red sandstone. It has vast central squares and intricately carved multi tiered pavilions. The terraces and formal gardens add to its beauty.

You then board a train from Bharatpur to Sawai Madhopur. At Sawai Madhopur you meet a representative of Remarkable India who will escort you to Ranthambhore by a cab and then to your hotel.

You then stay overnight at Ranthambhore.

## Day 5: Ranthambhore

Early morning, you proceed for the Ranthambore National Park.

Established as the Sawai Madhopur Game Sanctuary in 1955 by the Government of India, Ranthambore was declared as one of the Project Tiger Reserves in 1973. It was given the grade of a National Park in 1980. The adjacent forests were declared as the Sawai Man Singh Sanctuary and Keoladeo Sanctuary in 1984. In 1991, the tiger reserve was enlarged to include both the Sawai Man Singh and Keoladeo sanctuaries.

The Ranthambore National Park is famous for its tigers and it is one of the best places in India to observe the beasts. Tigers can be easily spotted here even during the day time. November to May is the best time to visit this National Park as during this time the dry deciduous forests make tiger sightings easy.

The Park is bounded by the Banas River at the north, Chambal River at the south and it lies on the edge of a plateau. The Ranthambore National Park is named after the Ranthambore Fortress that lies inside the Park. The Park covers an area of around 392 square kilometers. Other wild animals that can be spotted here are hyena, sambar, sloth bears, leopard, nilgai, dhole, wild boar and chital. A wide variety of trees, plants, birds and reptiles can be seen here. also, Ranthambore is where the largest Banyan tree of India lies.

### Ranthambhore Safari Time Table

Sr. No. Safari	Month	Morning Safari	Evening
01	1 <sup>st</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> October	0700 Hrs. to 1030 Hrs.	1430 Hrs. to 1800 Hrs.
02	1 <sup>st</sup> Nov. to 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan.	0700 Hrs. to 1030 Hrs.	1400 Hrs. to 1730 Hrs.
03	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb. to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	0630 Hrs. to 1000 Hrs.	1430 Hrs. to 1800 Hrs.
04	1 <sup>st</sup> Apr. to 15 <sup>th</sup> May	0600 Hrs. to 0930 Hrs.	1500 Hrs. to 1830 Hrs.
05	15 <sup>th</sup> May to 30 <sup>th</sup> June	0600 Hrs. to 0930 Hrs.	1530 Hrs. to 1900 Hrs.

In the evening, get back to the hotel & stay overnight at Ranthambhore.

## **Day 6: Ranthambhore – Jaipur**

After breakfast next morning, you will drive to Jaipur, the Pink City of India and the capital of Rajasthan.

You will be escorted to your hotel where you can rest and enjoy rest of your day. You stay here for the night.

## **Day 7: Jaipur**

Next day you will witness the beauty of the Palace city of India. Jaipur is an enthralling city,

Located in the desert lands of Rajasthan, Jaipur is the first planned city of India. Jaipur was once the capital of the royalty and today is the capital of the state of Rajasthan. The city exhibits the Rajput culture and style of living in the truest sense. Currently, Jaipur is a major business centre for the Rajasthan natives; Jaipur has all the fundamentals of a metropolitan city. Thousands of domestic and foreign tourists throng Rajasthan to feel its royal charm and grace. The city is painted in pink, and the mind-blowing buildings that dot this remarkable city, testify the love for beauty in the ancient times. Structures like Hawa Mahal, the City Palace and the Amer Fort are the living proofs of India's architectural proficiency. The gardens in Jaipur are artistic, the atmosphere is always serene and the ambience is aesthetic. Jaipur is around 260 Km from Delhi and is considered as the pool of Indian customs and traditions, legacy and civilization. Tourists come to Jaipur to see the royal face of India. In this city, every nook and corner symbolizes Rajasthan's historic past.

### **Hawa Mahal: Palace of Wind**

Hawa Mahal is a major tourist attraction in Jaipur. It is one of the many remnants of the Rajputana architecture. It has a fine blend of the Mughal architecture and the name 'Hawa Mahal' literally means the Palace of the Winds. Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh constructed this Palace in 1799.

The Palace has a pyramid-like façade and comprises of five stories. The windows of the Palace are intricately carved and have beautiful lattice work. There are 953 tiny windows in all which are pink. They are also called as 'Jharoka' and are made of sandstone. These tremendously stylish windows allow ample air circulation in the Palace which keeps it cool. The balconies of the Palace bear small screens and the roof of the Palace is arched. The hanging cornices increase the beauty of the Hawa Mahal by manifolds. The pyramid-like outline of the Palace makes it look more magnificent.

### **Jantar Mantar**

Jantar Mantar is an observatory. It has a mind-blowing collection of architectural astronomical instruments. It exhibits the impeccable talent of the ancestors who took keen interest in astronomy and the celestial bodies. The information that this observatory provides is very accurate just like today's modern instruments. There are fourteen statistical instruments here which are used to measure time, predict eclipses and other astronomical events. Sundial is the most popular

instrument here and attracts a lot of attention. It tells the time to an accuracy of about two seconds in Jaipur local time. In 1901, Jantar Mantar was carefully renovated and declared a national monument in 1948. Even today, it is a major tourist attraction in Jaipur.

### **Jal Mahal**

Built in 1799, the Jal Mahal was a pleasure palace for the royal family. It is an extremely romantic place and has red sandstone which intricate architecture. It casts a beautiful reflection in the Man Sagar Lake. Jal Mahal is surrounded by the Nahargarh Hills and its majestic architecture and sophisticated design impresses one and all. It also used to host duck hunting parties once and has also been home to one of the Prime Ministers of Jaipur Estate. It is very well preserved in spite of being abandoned. A picturesque view of the Nahargarh Fort makes it a more romantic place. Only the top floor of the Mahal is above water, the remaining four floors are submerged under the water of the lake. Numbers of migratory and resident birds make the lake, their home.

### **City Palace Museum**

The City Palace is an imposing building, graced with beauty. It is a major landmark in Jaipur. This beautiful Palace was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh. It stands apart amongst other palaces and forts in the city owing to the outstanding art and architecture. It occupies a huge area which divided into gardens, courtyards and buildings. Raja Jai Singh built a huge outer wall occupying a large area and the additional grand buildings were built by the successors. Even today, a part of the City Palace is home to the former King/Maharaja. Buildings like Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Mukut Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Temple, Maharani's Palace and the City Palace Museum grace the premises of the City Palace complex. The Mubarak Mahal was built by Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The primary motif was to entertain the guests. Now, it is converted into a costume gallery which exhibits royal attires. It is just in the first square of the building.

You then get back to the hotel late evening and stay overnight at Jaipur.

## **Day 8: Jaipur – Delhi**

Next morning, you take your breakfast and go shopping at the Jaipur Bazaar. Later you proceed to Delhi by road. (258 Km/ 6 Hours).

You reach Delhi in the evening and are escorted to your hotel. You stay overnight at Delhi.

## **Day 9: Delhi – Hometown**

You then board your flight from the airport and go your hometown with very fond memories.