

WELCOME TO INDIA – One Nation, countless destinations. A land of rich heritage that's ancient. The mystique of India, its history of 5000 years, philosophy, religions, fabulous Historical monuments all add to its bewildering diversity to create a unique and colorful mosaic. This is the wonder that is India, come, enjoy and experience it..... A holiday in India is a truly amazing experience. India is a vast country with a unique cultural heritage and a great deal of variety. It's hard to imagine a more exciting, exhilarating, romantic or exotic place to visit.

India is a land of rich culture and traditions. **Kumbh Mela** is the power of faith that can part a river, move mountains, and endure the hardships that come bundled up for being an integral part of, a congregation of millions, gathered together to be freed from the vicious earthly cycle of life and death and move towards a heavenly realm, which knows no suffering or pain. Also you get to experience different facets of India, including magnificent edifices and national landmarks, besides the warm hospitality of Indians.

MAHA KUMBH MELA 2025 WITH YATRA (SIC DEPARTURE)

06 JAN 25(MON): ARRIVAL DELHI

BY: FLIGHT

You will arrive at New Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, our representative will meet you at the arrival hall after which you would be transferred to your hotel for check-in (**STANDARD CHECK IN TIME: 14:00**).

India's capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds - the ancient with the modern. Amidst the fast spiraling skyscrapers the remnants of a bygone time in the form of its many monuments stand as silent reminders to the region's ancient legacy. The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.

Later proceed for the city tour of **Old Delhi**. The tour will begin with a visit to **Raj Ghat**, a simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi; drive pass **Red Fort** (closed on Mondays & national holidays). Continuing to the **Jama Masjid**, one of Asia's largest mosques and which is viewed from the outside. People stream in and out of the mosque continuously and the presence of a nearby bazaar means that the area is rarely quiet.

After visiting Old Delhi proceed to visit **New Delhi**, which will include a visit to the **Qutub Minar**, the tallest stone tower in India. Qutub-ud-din Aibak started it in 1199. Then visit **Lotus temple**, located in New Delhi, India, is a Bahá'í House of Worship completed in 1986. Notable for its flowerlike shape, it serves as the Mother Temple of the Indian subcontinent and has become a prominent attraction in the city. You will also visit to **Humayun Tomb**. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing **India Gate**, the **Parliament building** and the **Rastrapathi Bhawan**, the President's residence.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

07 JAN 25(TUE): DELHI – JAIPUR

BY: SURFACE

Breakfast at hotel and drive to Jaipur (approx. 265 Kms / 06 Hrs).

Rajasthan's kingdoms are an enduring legacy to India's history. A land endowed with invincible forts, magnificent palaces and waves of sand dunes and serene lakes. No other region in the country assembles the many paradoxes of India, as does the desert land of Rajasthan. By far it is the most colourful region in India.

Upon arrival at Jaipur airport, transfer to hotel for check-in at hotel and later enjoy the local bazaar of Jaipur city.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

08 JAN 25(WED): JAIPUR

Breakfast at the hotel and drive to just outside Jaipur to the **ancient capital of Amber** to see the fabulous Amber Fort. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. The fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake.

An elephant (or Jeep) will spare you the trouble of reaching up to the fortress (*Elephant ride is subject to availability*) Once on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls. Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room.

While driving back to your hotel you will stop and see the **'Palace of Winds'**, otherwise known as Hawa Mahal. It is really an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city.

Afternoon you will visit the **city of Jaipur**. Among the highlights to be seen while touring Jaipur include the **City Palace**, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armoury, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. Walk to the adjacent **Jantar Mantar or Astronomical Observatory** made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

09 JAN 25(THU): JAIPUR – AGRA

BY: SURFACE

Breakfast at hotel and drive to Agra (approx. 235 Kms), en route visiting to **Fatehpur Sikri**, the deserted red sandstone city, built by the Great Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the late 16th century. It was abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry and it remains today in much the same condition that it was over 300 years ago.

Later continue drive to Agra.

Agra in terms of ambiance is still associated with its Mughal period. The Mughals besides being great rulers were also great builders and they preserved their best architectural wonders for Agra & its neighbourhood. It has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best. The massive but elegant Agra Fort, the delicate artistry of Itimad-ud-daulah's tomb, the magnificent Taj and Akbar's deserted capital, Fatehpur Sikri, are each unique and outstanding.

Upon arrival check in at hotel and later visit to Agra city included **Taj Mahal (Closed on Friday)**, The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid-17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is really astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

10 JAN 25(FRI): AGRA - LUCKNOW

BY: SURFACE

Breakfast at hotel and visit to **Agra Fort**, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture. Agra Fort - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. This was the seat of Mughal rule and administration and the present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

Then drive to Lucknow (approx. 330 Kms/ 06 Hrs). Upon arrival check –in at hotel.

Lucknow, the capital city of Uttar Pradesh, is one of the oldest cities in India. It is best known as the “City of Nawabs” because it was then reigned by the Nawabs of Awadh. The city is one of the most immaculate and multicultural tourist destinations of India. Lucknow flourished as the cultural and artistic centre of India. This city has a large number of architectural wonders, cuisines and historical monuments. That is why it is generally called the cultural Hub of India.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

11 JAN 25(SAT): LUCKNOW

Breakfast at hotel and proceed for sightseeing tour of Lucknow city. You will visit first the entire Bara Imambara Complex, which includes two levels of entrances, some lawns, the Asifi Mosque, the Shahi Baoli and the main building of Imambara. The most marvelous part of the Bara Imambara building is the Bhool Bhulaiya - a network of several interconnected passages with around a thousand similar doors creating a labyrinth.

Then visit to Chhota Imambara followed by Image Gallery, Satkhanda, Clock Tower and Rumi Darwaza. You will also visit the British Residency. It is the silent witness of the Sepoy Revolt or the First War of Independence of India in 1857.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

12 JAN 25(SUN): LUCKNOW – PRAYAGRAJ

BY: SURFACE

Breakfast at hotel and drive to Prayagraj (Allahabad) – approx. 200 Kms/ 05 Hrs.

Prayagraj is one of the oldest cities in India. It is crowned in ancient scriptures as ‘Prayag’ or ‘Teertharaj’ and is considered the holiest of pilgrimage centres of India. It is situated at the confluence of three rivers- Ganga, Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati. The meeting point is known as Triveni and is very sacred to Hindus. The Kumbh held in every six years and Mahakumbh in every 12 years at Prayagraj (Sangam) are the largest gatherings of pilgrims on this earth.

Historically, the city has been a witness to many important events in India’s freedom struggle such as emergence of the first Indian National Congress in 1885, the beginning of Mahatma Gandhi’s non-violence movement in 1920.

Upon arrival, check – in at Tented accommodation and later enjoy the walking tour to explore the Maha Kumbha Mela.

Lunch, Dinner & Overnight at the Deluxe Tented Accommodation.

13 JAN 25(MON): PRAYAGRAJ

After breakfast explore the Kumbh Mela and witness various activities, festivities and rituals that are part of this sacred gathering. Head for the Akhara trek in the afternoon and interact with the Naga Sadhus to learn about their unique lifestyle, practices and beliefs.

Lunch, Dinner & Overnight at the Deluxe Tented Accommodation.

14 JAN 25(TUE): PRAYAGRAJ (ROYAL BATHING DATE)

0230-0300 hrs AM: Proceed (on foot) to the Akharas / Sangam points to join them, witness the Shahi Snan (royal bathing day) and have the day at leisure to explore the Kumbha Mela.

Lunch, Dinner & Overnight at the Deluxe Tented Accommodation.

15 JAN 25(WED): PRAYAGRAJ - VARANASI

BY: SURFACE

Breakfast and drive to Varanasi (approx. 120 Kms/ 2.5 Hrs)

Varanasi is known as one of the oldest inhabited cities in the whole world. Many historians and experts believe that it is as old as five thousand years and some claim that it is even older. However, since ancient times only, the charm and beauty of Varanasi have been an unmatched spectacle.

Upon arrival check –in at hotel and afternoon proceed to visit Sarnath. Visit the buried Buddhist city of Sarnath, north-east of Varanasi – it is as holy to the Buddhists as Varanasi is to the Hindus. Having achieved enlightenment at Bodhgaya, Buddha came to Sarnath to preach his message of the way to niravana. Later, Ashoka, the great Buddhist emperor erected magnificent stupas and monasteries at Sarnath. What is visible today are the ruins of a once flourishing Buddhist monastery and one can visit a fine museum, which houses an excellent collection of Buddhist art and sculpture.

In the evening, enjoy a rickshaw ride and witness the "Ganga Aarti" ceremony on the ghats of the Ganges River.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

16 JAN 25(THU): VARANASI - DELHI

BY: 6E- 5040 AT 1600/ 1730 HRS

Early morning you will be taken on a visit to the ghats witnessing the Hindu pilgrims perform the rituals and following the centuries old tradition and belief that by dying in Varanasi or by immersing the mortal remains in the holy Ganges, it clears one from the birth circle and you are incarnated to human life in the next birth. You would be taking a boat cruise on the river Ganges around all the ghats and stopping at the important ones.

After sunrise, you will visit Kashi-Vishwanath Temple, the most sacred of shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva, the patron deity of Varanasi. Reconstructed in the 18th century, its gold plating on the 'shikaras' was a gift of the one-eyed Sikh king, Maharaja Ranjit Singh; Bharat Mata Mandir, inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi is a unique temple dedicated to Mother India. It houses a relief map of India carved out of marble; and some other important temples.

In time transfer to Varanasi airport to board the flight for Delhi.

Upon arrival at Delhi airport, transfer to hotel for check-in.

Dinner & Overnight at the hotel

17 JAN 25(FRI): DELHI DEPARTURE

BY: FLIGHT

Breakfast at hotel and in time transfer to Delhi airport to board the flight back to home.

*****TOUR END*****

PRICE PROPOSAL

PARTICULARS	PRICE
02 Pax travelling & above on twin sharing basis	Euro 1595 PP
Single room supplement	Euro 700 PS
Supplement for Lunches	Euro 95 PP
Supplement for private departure	Euro 65 PP
Supplement for flight fare (Varanasi – Delhi) in economy class	Euro 105 PP
Offer: Full board complimentary on 04 paying pax & above	

PP: PER PERSON| PS: PER SINGLE

Note: Quoted airfare is as per the current which is subject to revision. Only 15 kgs of check-in baggage (01 Piece) is allowed in all domestic flights in India along with a hand bag of 07 kgs.

HOTELS ENVISAGED OR SIMILAR ALTERNATES AVAILABLE:

CITY	CHECK IN / OUT	HOTEL
Delhi	06 – 07 Jan 25	Holiday Inn / Similar
Jaipur	07 – 09 Jan 25	Holiday Inn Express & Suites / Sunday/ Similar
Agra	09 – 10 Jan 25	Grand Mercure / Clarks Shiraz/ Similar
Lucknow	10 – 12 Jan 25	The Piccadilly / Fortune Park BBD/ Similar
Prayagraj	12 – 15 Jan 25	Deluxe Tented Accommodation
Varanasi	15 – 16 Jan 25	Rivatas/ Similar
Delhi	16 – 17 Jan 25	ITC Welcome Dwarka/ Radisson Dwarka/ Similar

OUR PRICE INCLUDE:

- 11 nights' hotel accommodation on above mentioned hotels or SIMILAR CATEGORY OF ALTERNATE HOTELS
- Meal Plan – **Daily breakfast & dinner's (Fixed Menu/ Buffet)** at all the hotels except all meals are included in Prayagraj.
- Traditional Indian welcome upon arrival at Delhi airport.
- All transfers, sightseeing & tours/transport services by **A/C Vehicle** as per the itinerary with Road taxes, parking fee, fuel charges, interstate taxes.
- Rickshaw ride during visit to Old Delhi.
- Elephant ride during visit to Amber Fort at Jaipur (subject to availability).
- Rickshaw ride in Varanasi.
- Boat ride in Varanasi.
- One time monument entry fee.
- Services of **accompanying Italian speaking guide** as per the above program. Guide will stay in different hotels).
- Assistance by YATRA REPRESENTATIVE for arrival and departure transfers
- All currently applicable taxes

OUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Any Lunches other than mentioned above.
- Any airfare, visa fees, guide / driver tipping.
- Expense of personal nature like tipping, laundry, telephone / fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax etc.
- Any other services or item not mentioned in the Itinerary or in "Cost Inclusions"