

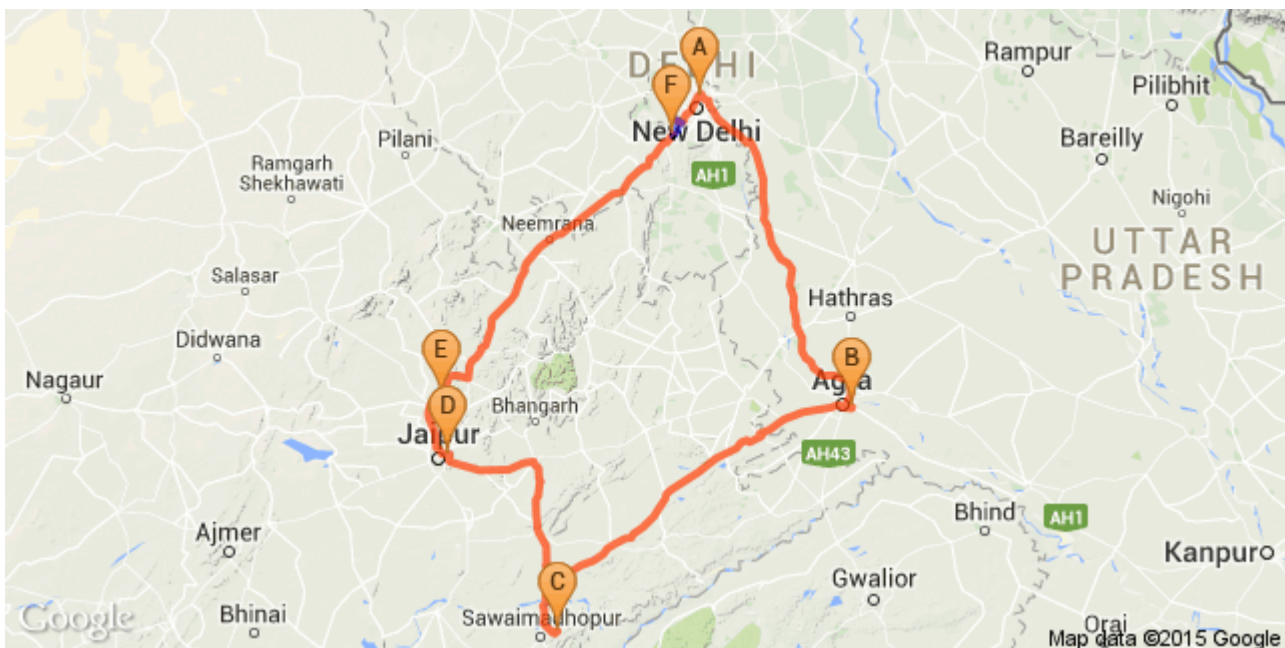


GOLDEN TRIANGLE WITH RANTHAMBORE

Delhi - Agra - Ranthambore National Park - Jaipur - Samode - Delhi

10 Days / 9 Nights

2 Persons



Telephone 01202 030443 to speak to Cherrie or visit www.theluxurycouple.com to see TLC World travel choices

Day 1: Arrival Delhi



India's largest city, Delhi has been one of the country's commercial and economic hubs for centuries and as a result is incredibly rich in culture and history. Made up of the ancient walled city of Old Delhi and the more modern sector – New Delhi – the city encompasses a staggering array of beautiful architecture, notable monuments and age-old temples, including three UNESCO World Heritage Sites – the Red Fort, Qutab Minar and Humayun's Tomb. Other key attractions include the 17th century Chandni Chowk marketplace – still one of the city's most popular retail centres today, particularly for jewellery and traditional Indian saris; the iconic Bahà'i Lotus Temple – an award-winning architectural gem; and the Jama Masjid, India's biggest mosque.

Day Notes

On arrival in Delhi our ground agents will be there to welcome you to India with a traditional Rose Garland and will transfer you in an AC Vehicle to the hotel. On arrival at the hotel, you will once again be welcomed traditionally with Arti and Tikka (a Hindu Ritual where a young women puts a vermillion on your forehead) and a non-alcoholic beverage, your keys will be handed over to you after a quick check in.

Overnight: The Imperial

The Imperial is a 5 star hotel in New Delhi. The hotel was built in 1931 and it's design is contemporary with a colonial style. It is located on Janpath and is steps away from the shopping district and major attractions of the city.

Modern and spacious rooms are fitted with high ceilings, a flat screen cable TV, minibar and tea or coffee making facilities. Bath-robies, toiletries and a hairdryer are provided.

Free overnight shoe shine services are provided. Yoga classes and a book shop are available.

English afternoon tea is offered at The Atrium while Italian specialties are served at San Gimignano. Daniell's Tavern and 1911 Restaurant and Bar are available for live entertainment and drinks.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 2: Delhi

Day Notes

After breakfast you will start on the tour of Old Delhi where you visit the Jama Masjid which is a more than 350 year old Mosque. From there, take a rickshaw and ride through the narrow lanes of old market seeing colourful market stalls and shops bustling with crowds. The ride will end at Red Fort for a quick photo stop from outside. Also visit Raj Ghat - a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, after which your driver will take you for a tour of New Delhi which is like a completely different city. Visit Humayun's Tomb, Qutub Minar and drive past Indian Gate, Government Buildings lining the Janpath area on your way to Bangla Sahib - a famous Sikh Temple.

After, return for overnight at the Hotel.

Red Fort

Named for the pink-red sandstone from which it is built, the Red Fort is located deep in the centre of Delhi and is one of the city's most compelling sights. This magnificent building was built in 1648 and was the residence of India's Mughal Emperors for almost two centuries, as well as the headquarters for events of ceremonial and political significance. Now a UNESCO World Heritage Site housing several museums, it is an exquisite and immaculately preserved example of Islamic architecture, featuring octagonal towers, turrets and opulent facades inlaid with white marble, as well as elements of Persian and Hindu design.



Jama Masjid

The majestic Jama Masjid – meaning ‘world-reflecting’ mosque – is Old Delhi's principal place of worship, and the largest and most renowned of its kind in India. Built in the 17th century by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan – who also built the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort – it's an elaborate structure featuring an expansive geometric base topped with globe-shaped minarets crafted from strips of red sandstone and white marble, and a massive courtyard that can hold up to 25,000 people. Jama Masjid is particularly impressive just before dusk, when its rosy hues intensify in the glow of the setting sun.



Rickshaw Ride in Old Delhi

Rickshaw tour will make you familiar with the real roots of the place and give you a true taste of the city and make you feel part of the frenzy of colours, vivacity and irresistible charm.



Raj Ghat

Named after a historical ghat of Old Delhi located nearby, Raj Ghat is a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, marking the spot where he was cremated after his assassination in 1948. Housed in an open-air garden area inside a walled complex, the memorial consists of a simple, flat black platform (reflecting the simplicity of Gandhi's life) that is kept constantly decorated with an abundance of fresh flowers. An eternal flame burns at one end, symbolising the everlasting legacy of this great man. Two museums devoted to Mahatma Gandhi, his life and teachings are located nearby.



Humayun's Tomb

The mausoleum complex of Humayun, India's second Mughal Emperor, was commissioned by his widow in 1565 and was the first garden tomb to be built in India, taking seven years to complete. Humayun had travelled widely in

Persia and Central Asia during his lifetime, and many of the architectural principles he brought back from these journeys were incorporated into the building at his wife's instructions. With its double domes, decorative inlaid marble and vast garden with pools connected by channels, this 16th Century building set the stage for the style that culminated in the Taj Mahal almost 100 years later.



India Gate

Also known as the Delhi Memorial or the All India War Memorial, the India Gate was built in commemoration of the roughly 80,000 Indian soldiers who died representing their country in World War One and on various other battlefields, and whose names are inscribed on the structure. Unveiled in 1931, its distinctive arch is reminiscent of the Arc de Triomphe in Paris and the Gateway of India in Bombay, and is one of the trademark sights of New Delhi.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 3: Delhi / Agra**Distance: 205 km / 04 hours**

Home of the world-famous Taj Mahal, Agra is one of India's prime tourist destinations though its attractions also extend to an array of other impressive historical sights. These include the red-hued Agra Fort, the sacred Jama Masjid mosque and Itmad-ud-Daulah's tomb, with its white marble facade embellished with intricate inlaid designs and semi-precious gems. The Taj, however, is in a league of its own and needless to say is a must-see for any visitor to the city. Commissioned by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the 15th century as a memorial to his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, it is an architectural masterpiece of exquisite craftsmanship and perfect proportions.

Day Notes

After breakfast in Delhi you will drive to Agra. On arrival, check in to the hotel. Once you are ready you will continue with the visits for the rest of the monuments in Agra. Begin your tour with the visit of Agra Red Fort which is actually the original Red Fort. From there continue visit to Itmad-ud-Daulah's and then to Mehtab Bagh where you get the opportunity to photograph the Taj Mahal. The tour ends with the visit of a Marble Factory to see how the intricate inlay work on marble is done.

Note: as the best time to visit the Taj Mahal is early in the morning you will be saving this for the following morning, before you set off for Rajasthan.

Overnight at the hotel.

Agra Fort

Known as the Red Fort of Agra, this walled imperial city was founded in 1565 by the Emperor Akbar (1556-1605) and is a well-deserving UNESCO World Heritage site, located just 2.5 kilometres from the famous Taj Mahal. Its palaces, grand mosques and elaborate public hall are crafted from pink-red sandstone and are testament to an era when Indo-Muslim art, strongly marked by influences from Persia, was at its height. Emperor Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal for his deceased wife, was imprisoned by his son Aurangzeb in Agra Fort. He is said to have died in the Musamman Burj, a marble tower he himself built, with one of the most alluring views of the Taj Mahal.



Tomb Of Itmad-Ud-Daulah (Baby Taj)

The tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah is a Mughal mausoleum built for the grandfather of the Mumtaz Mahal, who the Taj Mahal was in turn built for. This tomb is colloquially known as the "jewel box", or the "Baby Taj".



Overnight: ITC Mughal Agra Hotel

The ITC Mughal is sprawled over 35 acres of luxurious gardens, and in close proximity to the Taj Mahal. The ITC Mughal is a 5 star luxury hotel in Agra representing Mughal architecture.

This luxury hotel comprises of 233 rooms and suites all offering a peak into the Mughal history and tradition through its design and architecture.

The structure is surrounded by Mughal gardens, fruit and flower bearing trees and shaded walkways.

Hotel amenities at the ITC Mughal includes cycling and jogging tracks, a mini-golfing green, a swimming pool and the spa Kaya Kalp – The Royal Spa, along with a range of gourmet fine dining options.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 4: Agra / Fatehpur Sikri / Ranthambore National Park

Distance - 240 km / 05 hours



Ranthambore National Park is one of the largest national parks in northern India, celebrated for the superb sightings of Bengal tiger in its natural habitat. Formerly the hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur, the area boasts deciduous forests, stretching for over 1000 sq km and recognised as one of the last forest strongholds in arid northern India. Many other mammals, such as leopard, caracal, jungle cat, wild boar, sloth bears and jackals, can be found here too. The park is open from October to June and closed to visitors during monsoon season.

Day Notes

Early morning visit The Monument of Love – Taj Mahal (Taj Mahal Remains Closed On Every Friday).

After your visit, return back to the hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, drive to Ranthambore.

En route, visit Fatehpur Sikri, "the Ghost City" which lies west of Agra.

On arrival in Ranthambore, check into the hotel. Dinner and Overnight at the hotel.

Fatehpur Sikri

A highlight in the province of Uttar Pradesh, Fatehpur Sikri served briefly as the capital of the Mughal Empire from 1571 to 1585. This world heritage site is rated as one of the best preserved collections of Mughal architecture in India. Surrounded by a six kilometre wall, with the fourth being a lake at the time, a day can be spent exploring the elaborate structures within. Marvel at the impressive Jama Masjid mosque, the detailed palaces built for Emperor Akbar's wives, the public and private discussion halls and vast ornamental pool; all of which took over 15 years to conceptualise and build.



Overnight: Sher Bagh Resort

Sher Bagh is a camp situated on the borders of the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. The camp is surrounded by acres of wild grasslands. Lanterns light up the pathways of the camp while a campfire is lit every night.

Dining is mostly reserved for the outdoors but is also hosted in secluded areas for guests wanting privacy. Both western and traditional Indian meals are served made from ingredients that are grown and hand-picked from the organic herb and vegetable garden and the Sher Bagh Farm.

At the camp is the Library Bar with wireless facilities to help keep guests connected. Under the canopy of an ancient Peepal tree is a spa known as the Sher Bagh Jungle Spa. The spa offers various treatments and therapies from trained professionals. Game drives and tours through the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve can be arranged at the Sher Bagh resort to explore the wildlife and vegetation of the region.



Included

Full Board

Day 5: Ranthambore National Park

Day Notes

- Morning Jungle safari by 4 X 4 open jeep in the park on Shared basis.

After having safari return back to the hotel for breakfast.

- Morning at leisure at Hotel.

After Lunch,

- Afternoon Jungle safari by 4 X 4 opens jeep in the park on Shared basis.

After the park safari, return back to the hotel. Dinner & overnight at the Hotel.

Included

Full Board

Day 6: Ranthambhore / Jaipur

Distance: 170 km / 04 hrs



Gateway to the state of Rajasthan, Jaipur offers a heady mix of old and new India. Famously known as the “Pink City”, Jaipur’s nickname was coined in 1876 when a visit by the Prince of Wales prompted the government to paint the Old City terracotta pink, traditionally the colour of hospitality, to welcome the Royal. Jaipur was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, a soldier, ruler, and scholar in mathematics and astronomy, after whom the city has been named. Jaipur is home to splendid fortresses, majestic palaces, temples and a must-see medieval observatory.

Day Notes

- Morning Jungle safari by 4 X 4 open jeep in the park on Shared basis.

After the safari return back to the hotel for breakfast. Following breakfast, drive to Jaipur. On arrival, check into the hotel. Evening is at leisure.

Overnight at the hotel.

Overnight: Samode Haveli

Samode Haveli is a heritage hotel located amidst the busy streets of Jaipur. The establishment was designed as an Indo Saracenic regal residence. Samode Haveli is steeped in history and tradition while offering guests contemporary accommodation and hospitality.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 7: Jaipur

Day Notes

After breakfast, commence drive to Amer Fort with a stop at Hawa Mahal for a photo opportunity best done in the morning. At Amer Fort, enjoy an Elephant ride taking you up to the fort followed by a Photo stop at Jal Mahal. Continue your tour to Jantar Mantar - The Observatory followed by visit of City Palace.

In the Evening enjoy a rickshaw ride on your way to Birla temple and attend an evening ceremony there.

Overnight at the hotel.

Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds)

One of Jaipur's most recognised buildings, the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) is known for its iconic façade. Small windows, decorated with intricate latticework create a honeycomb-like appearance. The original intention of the lattice was to allow the royal ladies to observe everyday life in the street below without being seen. The cooling effect, provided by the breeze passing through the small windows, gave the palace its name. Built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, the unique construction was originally designed to look like the crown of Krishna. A panoramic view of Jaipur can be seen from the top of the building.



Amber Fort

Amber Fort, officially known as the 'Amer Palace', is one of the most famous forts of Rajasthan attracting around 4000 to 5000 visitors a day during peak tourist season. The palace was named after the small town of Amer, where it is situated - only eleven kilometres from Jaipur. Perfectly picturesque, this 16th century hillside residence is well preserved, boasting grand pavilions and mirrored halls that open onto flourishing gardens and courtyards. Although the palace's main construction started in 1592 by Maharaja Man Singh, it was added to over the years by successive rulers and continued to be occupied by them until Jaipur was built.



Jantar Mantar - Jaipur

In 1734, the year of its completion, the Jai Singh Observatory was the last outpost of medieval science. From the outside, the eighteen fixed observational instruments look more like playground apparatus than sighting devices, but they were used to measure the position of the sun, stars and planets. Built by Jai Singh, the first Maharaja of Jaipur who founded the city in 1727, the observatory is one of a handful in India. Jai Singh, fulfilling a lifelong interest in mathematics and astronomy, built observatories in Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Mathura and Benares. The Jaipur observatory is the largest and best preserved of these.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 8: Jaipur / Samode

Distance 50 km / 01 Hours & 30 Mins

A small village in Rajasthan, Samode is known for its ancient art and local handicrafts. Major attractions of Samode include the Samode Palace and Samode Bagh.

Day Notes

After breakfast, drive to Samode. On arrival, check into the hotel. After freshening up, enjoy a Jeep / Camel Safari followed by Farm Lunch. Evening is free to relax so that you can explore the beauty of the hotel – inch by glorious inch. Do it yourself or ask a member of the hotel staff to guide you through. Indulge in a rejuvenating massage by trained therapists. Health facilities include a fully-equipped fitness centre, a sauna and steam room.

Overnight at the hotel.

Overnight: Samode Palace

The Samode Palace is a heritage hotel. The architectural design combines Indian and Mughal styles.

The suites and rooms surround the courtyards and features convenient amenities, such as private balconies, pools, restaurants and dining areas.

At the Samode Palace, guests get to experience the atmosphere of the terrace garden while listening to folk musicians perform. Displayed on the walls are ancient murals showcasing the rich heritage of the hotel.

The hotel has a spa that offers various therapeutic massages and treatments.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 9: Samode / Gurgaon

Distance: 210 km / 05 hrs

Day Notes

After breakfast, drive to Delhi. On arrival, check into the hotel in Gurgaon (Delhi Suburbs). You may simply relax at the hotel or perhaps have a really different experience and visit the Kingdom of Dreams where you can see a Bollywood Musical - this is very close to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

Overnight: Crowne Plaza Gurgaon Hotel

Crowne Plaza Gurgaon Hotel is conveniently located, with tranquil surroundings and swift access. Experience luxury, personalized service and fine dining at Crowne Plaza Gurgaon. The hotel's serene ambiance features shimmering chandeliers, eye catching flower motif coils and warm Indian hospitality. Relax in the hotel's infinity pool or energize in the Fitness Center.

Located in the heart of Gurgaon's thriving business district, the hotel is 15 km from Indira Gandhi International Airport, 1 km from the metro station for easy access to Delhi. Walk to the Kingdom of Dreams entertainment complex in 15 minutes or shop at the MG road Mall Mile only 2 km away.



Included

Bed & Breakfast

Day 10: Departure

Day Notes

After breakfast, you shall be transferred to the airport to board your flight back home.

PRICE PER PERSON NOT INCLUDING ANY INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS

for 2 passengers travelling together on a twin sharing basis on a BB Basis

£2,410

HOTELS INCLUDED AS BELOW (OR SIMILAR)

Destination	Accommodation	Nights	Basis	Room Type
Delhi	The Imperial Delhi www.theimperialindia.com	2	B&B	Heritage Room
Agra	ITC Mughal Agra www.itchotels.in	1	B&B	Mughal Suite
Ranthambore National Park	Sherbagh Ranthambhor www.sujanluxury.com	2	FB	Luxury Tent
Jaipur	Samode Haveli www.samode.com	2	B&B	Deluxe Room
Samode	Samode Palace www.samode.com	1	B&B	Deluxe Room
Delhi	Crowne Plaza Gurgaon Hotel www.ihg.com	1	B&B	Superior Room

