

BEST OF NORTHERN INDIA

Our 10-day Best of Northern India itinerary takes you through the great northern plains of India, traversed by the Ganges and Yamuna rivers, have been the cradle of the mighty empires of the last two millennia, from the Mauryan dynasty that reached its zenith under Ashoka in the 3rd century BC to the powerful Mughals whose glorious architectural legacy is evident in the many forts, palaces and temples that remain. An introduction to the varied splendors of the subcontinent.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Free and easy tour * Comprehensive sightseeing tours * World heritage sights visits * A delightful and thrilling shopping experience * In-depth knowledge on Indian rich Culture, Traditions, Arts, Crafts, History, Heritage, Religions and much more* Explore the ancient, winding bazaars of old Jaipur and Delhi by rickshaw * Adventure of Riding a decorated painted elephant to ascend the hilltop Amber Fort in the royal city of Jaipur * Cultural evening in a famous ethnic village resort in Jaipur * Visit to the awe-inspiring Taj Mahal * Travel to Khajuraho, the "city of the gods," with its incredible temples * Sound and Light show in Khajuraho depicts the great history of Bundelkhand and the glorious insight of the famous temples of Khajuraho * Cruise by private boat to observe life and holy rituals on the banks of the Ganges at sunrise & sunset * Indian classical dance and farewell dinner in Delhi



Day 1 Arrival Delhi

Warm welcome with fresh flower garlands, your room is available for immediate occupancy.

Day 2 In Delhi

Sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi. We visit **Jama Masjid**, this immense mosque is the largest in India, **Red Fort citadel**, **Rickshaw Ride** in the local markets. We stop to see the **Qutab Minar Tower**, the **India Gate** and the **Grand Government buildings**, the **President's House** and **Parliament House** all dating back to the time of British Raj. Overnight Hotel.

Day 3 Delhi - Jaipur

We journey to the fabled « pink city » of Jaipur named after Jai Singh, the former Maharaja of Jaipur. We leave for **cultural evening at a famous ethnic village resort**, the vitality of Rajasthani folk culture comes alive as children dance rhythmically to the loud tenor of folk songs sung by men and women, festooned in bright clothes. Overnight Hotel.

Day 4 In Jaipur

Ride to the **Amber Fort** on **elephants** back to wander among glittering mosaics and the enchanting Hall of Mirrors. Other visits include the elegant **Hawa Mahal** or « Palace of the Winds », **Maharajah's City Palace** and **Jantar Mantar Observatory**. Evening free to Stroll in the colorful bazaars of Jaipur. Overnight Hotel.

Day 5 Jaipur – Agra

Morning drive leisurely to the city of Taj, Agra. En route we visit the evocative city of **Fatehpur Sikri**, built by emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the late 16th century, it is a veritable fairytale city built of red sandstone, and its ruins are in pristine condition. Overnight Hotel.

Day 6 In Agra

Today discover the earlier capital of the Mughals – Agra, visit the magnificent **Taj Mahal**, one of the seven wonders of world, the wealth of white marble and semi-precious stone – undoubtedly the highlight of tour.

Post lunch tour of imposing **Agra Fort**, built of red sandstone and marble is a hilltop citadel with fabulous courtyards, fountains and gates. Evening free to explore the local bazaars. Overnight Hotel.

Day 7 Agra – Orchha

We drive to the small town of Orchha, once the capital of Bundelas, Orchha is a village, set amongst a complex of well preserved palaces and temples. Post lunch tour of this historical site with visit to the **magnificent temples and monuments**. Overnight Hotel.

Day 8 Orchha - Khajuraho

We leave for Khajuraho, the legendary temples of Khajuraho built in the 9th and the 10th century are an incomparable experience. Acknowledged as one of the world's artistic wonders. Khajuraho has achieved fame for the sensual appeal of its erotic sculptures. Post lunch visit the **exquisite 10th century temples**. Evening witness the "sound and light show" in the western group of temples. Overnight Hotel.

Day 9 Khajuraho - Varanasi

Morning at leisure. Fly to Varanasi, said to be the India's most sacred city situated on the western bank of holy river Ganga. Evening **Rickshaw Ride** to holy river Ganges and we take a **Boat Cruise** to view the **Aarti ceremony** on the Ghats. Overnight Hotel.



Day 10 Varanasi - Delhi

Early morning **boat ride** on the Ganges shows us thousands of Hindus performing rites of prayer along its banks. Then we visit **Sarnath**, where Buddha delivered his first sermon. Sarnath's temples & Archaeological Museum are full of Buddhist art treasures. Afternoon you have option to fly back Delhi. Evening dinner at popular restaurant followed by Indian Classical Dances and transfer to the airport to Board your homeward flight or you can stay at Delhi to enjoy **Post Tour Extension of Nepal**.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

Not quite ready to end your holiday, take our extension trip to « Mystic Nepal ».

OPTIONAL POST – TOUR EXTENSION

MYSTIC NEPAL TOUR

The Kingdom of Nepal is the home of the great Himalayan range. With its peaks rising over 25,000ft these legendary mountains provide a spectacular sight. Nepal is a 'must visit' preferably after visiting India. It is an exotic country with a rich culture and natural beauty.

Day 10 Delhi – Kathmandu

Fly to Kathmandu - the capital town of Nepal, the house of the highest mountains. The day is free at leisure. Overnight Hotel.

Day 11 Kathmandu

Set out for a sightseeing tour visit **Pashupatinath Temple**- the most sacred Hindu temple in Nepal, **Boudha Nath Temple**- the world's largest stupa, **Swayambhunath temple** - the oldest Buddhist shrine. Looking east from here, one can see the entire Kathmandu valley spread out below.

Post lunch visit **Durbar square** - the temple of the Living Goddess, **Kasthamandup** - a temple built from a single tree from which the Kathmandu derives its name. Evening free for shopping in the popular shopping center – Thamel. Overnight Hotel.

Day 12 Excursion Patan & Bhaktapur

Early morning opportunity (weather-permitting) of taking the optional flight to view the spectacular Himalayan Mountains including Everest. Other excursions include visits to the medieval cities of **Patan & Bhaktapur**.

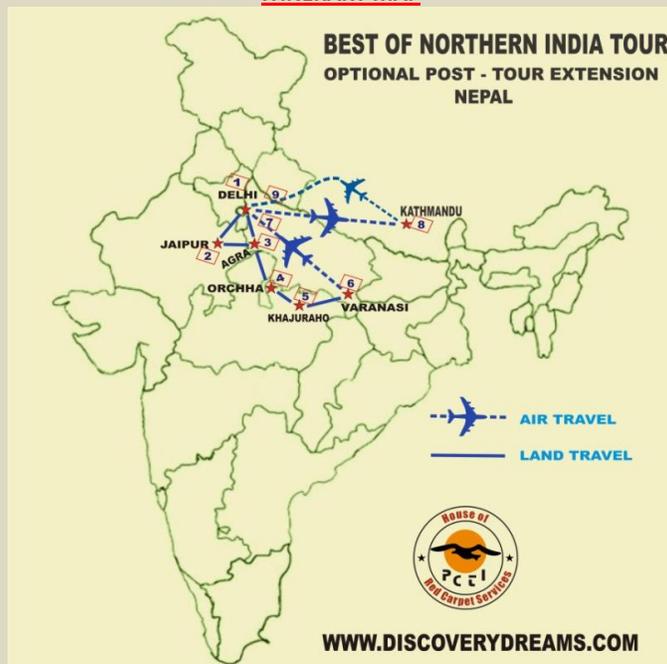
Evening farewell Dinner at a popular restaurant with cultural program. Overnight Hotel.

Day 13 Kathmandu - Delhi

Fly to Delhi and pay a visit to **Iskcon temple** - One of the 40 Iskcon temples in India.

Transfer to the airport to board your homeward flight or connect to your onward destination.

ITINERARY MAP



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