

INDIA

Post ISHTA Retreat

Delhi Sightseeing Trip

March 21 to 23

DAY 1	21 MAR	THU	FLY JAIPUR – DELHI
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Arrive by flight Jaipur / Delhi and Transfer to the hotel

Overnight: [Le Meridien](#)

DAY 2	22 MAR	FRI	IN DELHI
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Breakfast is at the hotel.

Morning: We proceed for visit of **New Delhi**.

New Delhi – Seat of the Largest Democracy in the World

We proceed for our tour which evokes what New Delhi stands for – one of the most beautiful, well planned cities of India which also happens to be the “seat of the Largest Democracy in the world “. New Delhi is often referred to as Lutyen’s Delhi because the British architect Edwin Lutyen was responsible for much of the architectural design and construction when India was still a part of the British Empire in the 1920s and 1930s.

We start off with a drive along Delhi's **Diplomatic Enclave** that is characterized by the presence of diplomatic missions along with their staff compounds and major international schools.

Our first stop is the **India Gate**, a war memorial arch which Lutyen built in honour of 60,000 soldiers who died in WW – I. It is also inscribed with the names of some 13,000 Indian and British soldiers missing presumed dead. An eternal flame burns 24 hours.

Our next stop is an innocuous parking lot where a surprise awaits us, the sight of **Auto Rickshaws** in the parking area. This is our mode of transportation as this will allow us to get a very "local" feel of the city as well as get an authentic experience similar to that of the inhabitants of this teeming city. We drive through Lutyen’s Delhi that take us past Delhi’s splendid array of architecture in the Raisina Hill area where one can see the corridors of power, which signify Delhi to be the “Seat of the Largest Democracy” in the world. These are all in a fusion of Western and Victorian in architecture yet Indian in detail evoking its colonial era.

The visit starts with a drive to **Raisina Hill** to the Viceroy's House (now the **Rashtrapati Bhawan**, the residence of the President of India) and Lutyen's magnum opus. It is larger than Versailles and architecturally is a fusion of Indian and Western design. Within the courtyard is the 145 feet high Jaipur Column, a symbol of victory designed by Lutyen. Lutyen created another masterpiece - the 250-acre Mughal Gardens on the grounds of the Rashtrapati Bhawan, which at one time required the care of 418 men. The great Vice Regal Palace required a staff of 2,000. This vast mansion of 340 rooms and 4 floors took 17 years to build. 700 million bricks and 3 million cubic feet of stone were used in its construction.

Drive past the Parliament House, which Lutyen built in a circular coliseum design. It was here that the constitution of independent India was drafted.

Drive to **Humayun's Tomb** which is perhaps the finest Mughal building in Delhi. The tomb stands on a raised platform and is built of red sandstone. The construction of the tomb was completed in 1565. The tomb stands in a well laid out Mughal garden.



No trip of New Delhi is complete without a visit to **Gandhi Smriti**. This poignant memorial is where Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead by a Hindu zealot on 30 January 1948, after campaigning against intercommunal violence. Concrete footsteps lead to the spot where Gandhi died, marked by a small pavilion. Video prohibited.

The adjacent house, where the Mahatma spent his last 144 days, contains rooms preserved as Gandhi left them, a detailed account of his last 24 hours, and vivid dioramas depicting scenes from Gandhi's life, set in boxes like 1950s TVs. Upstairs is the interpretative exhibition Eternal Gandhi .

In the room where Gandhi lodged, you can see his meagre possessions – not much more than a walking stick, spectacles, a spinning wheel and a pair of chappals (sandals).

Afternoon: We proceed for visit of **Old Delhi**.

Organized Chaos – a unique visit of Old Delhi

We proceed for a **Metro Ride** on Delhi's new pride and joy – its Metro system. We embark our train and proceed to Old Delhi. A few stops later, we disembark the Metro and exit into a completely different world from where we boarded our train in the confines of Lutyen's majestic New Delhi.

As we exit the station, we find our transportation....**cycle rickshaws!** We board our chauffeur driven rickshaws as we proceed to through the **Chandni Chowk** or the Moonlit Square. It is a medieval area in which we will recognize not just Cairo or Istanbul, but also Chester and Heidelberg. This is perhaps one of Delhi's most populated areas and the largest marketplace - jewellers spice merchants, food vendors, money lenders, shopping arcades, workshops as well as residences, are crammed here.



Our cycle rickshaw also goes past the **Juma Masjid**, which is said to be the last edifice built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan in 1648. It is the largest mosque in India - where 22,000 people can pray together at any given time. If you wish, you can climb 121 steps up the southern minaret to reach the top from where you get to see all of Old Delhi. There is a dress code for entry into the mosque.

We then proceed to a Sikh place of worship called a Gurdwara and visit the **Gurudwara Bangla Sahib**. This shrine is the scene of constant devotional music, whose ethereal tones are relayed throughout the entire complex. The Gurdwara also has a sarovar or a holy pond, where people take holy dip and pray to the Guru in the holy water known as 'Amrit' or nectar, which when consumed is believed to cure the diseases of the sick. A Sikh temple without a Community Kitchen or "Langar" is inconceivable. Food is serviced in the kitchen of the Gurudwara 24 hours to all visitors without any distinction of caste, creed, color or religion. All high or low, rich or poor sit in the same queue. The Guru's have thus taught us to serve also. Approximately 40,000 visitors share the meals everyday presently.

Overnight: [Le Meridien](#)

DAY 3 23 MAR	SAT	DEPART DELHI
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Breakfast is at the hotel.

The checkout is at 1200 noon.

Transfer to the airport for final departure

Free transfer to the airport for scheduled group flights.

We will arrange airport transfers for guests not travelling on the group flight at their own cost.

Cost includes

1	02 night's hotel accommodation on twin share / Single occupancy basis with existing taxes at the above mentioned hotels.
2	Breakfast throughout
3	Transportation by Air Conditioned Large coach as per above itinerary.
4	Local English speaking guide for visits as per the itinerary.
5	Entrances to monuments as mentioned in above itinerary

Cost does not include

1	Any meals
2	Porterage at airports and hotels.
3	Items of a personal nature.
4	Camera fees at monuments.
5	Any visits or excursions other than those mentioned above.