

# **INDIA**

## **Pre Retreat Sightseeing Trip to Visit the Taj Mahal**

### **Delhi – Agra – Delhi**



<b>DAY 01</b>	<b>10 MAR</b>	<b>SUN</b>	<b>ARRIVE DELHI</b>
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## **Welcome to Delhi !**

We arrive in Delhi on flights from New York and Perth.

As we exit, we are accorded a traditional floral welcome. We are transferred to our hotel, Le Meridien.

For guests not travelling with the group we can arrange pick up at the airport to Le Meridien at an additional cost

## **Delhi – India’s Past and Its Future**

Delhi is perhaps the only city in the world that fuses its past present and evokes its future without losing an iota of its identity. 1300 monuments speak of her antiquity, of the ambitions of men who thought they could hold on to her but history proved otherwise. Thus, Delhi is a Melting Pot of cultures, politics and religions of India’s colorful past in its monuments, its palaces, and in the faces of its people that themselves narrate the story of their glorious past.



## **Le Meridien**

Over the last three decades, Le Meridien New Delhi has transformed itself into a masterpiece. The 5-star hotel is an epitome of world-class architecture, cuisine, design and fashion. Located in the heart of the city, the iconic glass building of Le Meridien New Delhi has been recognized as one of the 100 Icons of Delhi. The hotel is readily accessible to city's important facilities and institutions. The glass building is surrounded by ministries, government institutions, Media Centre and historical monuments. The shopping hubs Connaught Place and Janpath Market are within

walking distance from the hotel. It's a perfect getaway for a business traveler who is also looking for some recreation nearby in the evening. The Le Meridien New Delhi can be summed as a Traveler's Paradise.

**The Check in is at 1400 hours.**

**Dinner at the hotel**

**Overnight: [Le Meridien](#)**

<b>DAY 02</b>	<b>11 MAR</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>DRIVE DELHI – AGRA</b>
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Breakfast is at the hotel

**Late Morning:** We drive to Agra. (Apprx 05 hours)

**Agra – The city that created the most extravagant monument ever built for love.**

Agra city is a virtual gateway to a world of discovery. It has witnessed the rise of the pomp and pageantry of three great Mughal monarchs - Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jehan, all of whom lavished on this fabled city, their love and riches to transform the land into one of the greatest centres of art, culture, learning and commerce. Much of the city's impressive past lives in evidence even today, in the haunting presence inside the monuments and in the majesty of the buildings.

We arrive at our hotel Jaypee Palace and check in

**Jaypee Palace**

The regal Jaypee Palace Hotel and Convention Centre, strategically located in the main tourist district of Agra, on Fatehabad is a glorious structural blend of red sandstone and marble spread over an unbounded 25 acres of elegantly landscaped luxuriant greenery. Sprinkled with enormous water bodies and endless walkways, this magical creation impeccably blends Mughal and contemporary architecture with modern amenities.

**It is said that the world is divided into two parts; those who have seen the Taj Mahal and those who have not.**

**At Sunset:** We visit the Taj Mahal – often described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love. The Taj Mahal took 22 years to be built and in total 20000 people worked on the Taj. Several experts contributed to the designing of the Taj Mahal such as the Frenchman Austin of Bordeaux and the Italian Veroneo of Venice. The Taj Mahal is amazingly graceful from almost any angle. The semi -precious stones inlaid into the marble in beautiful designs are through a process called "pietra dura". When the fountains are not flowing, the Taj is beautifully reflected in the water.

Thus, the Taj Mahal is not just architecture...more than just the most beautiful building in the world...it's the proud creation of an emperor's love.

**Dinner at the hotel**

**Overnight: [Jaypee Palace Hotel & Convention Centre.](#)**

Breakfast is at the hotel.

**Morning:** We proceed for our visits

### **The Great Red Fort of Agra!**



The Agra Fort's construction was started by Emperor Akbar in 1565 when he was just 23 years of age. Within the fort are several fascinating buildings – the Pearl Mosque built of marble, the Hall of Public Audiences, the Hall of Private Audiences where the famous "peacock throne" was kept, the Octagonal Tower, the Jehangir Palace built by Akbar for his son Jehangir and the Khas Mahal, a beautiful white marble structure used as a private palace.

Proceed to the tomb of **Itmad – ud – Daulah**. This monument houses the magnificent mausoleum of Ghias Beg, the father of the Mughal Empress Noor Jehan. The main tomb is made of pure white marble. Each facade of the tomb is composed of three arches with beautiful trellis screens, which are so delicately carved that they appear to be made of ivory. Several believe this monument to surpass the Taj Mahal in craftsmanship.

**Afternoon:** We drive to Delhi

Upon arrival, we proceed to our hotel and join the main group for a welcome dinner and the opening of the retreat

#### **Cost includes**

1	<b>02 night's</b> hotel accommodation on twin share / Single occupancy at the above mentioned hotels.
2	Breakfast throughout + Dinner throughout. Meals are on fixed menu basis
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
6	<b>Rates are valid for above period ONLY.</b>

#### **Cost does not include**

1	Lunches
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.