



Glimpse of India

Exclusive Tour | 9 Days | Comfortable

Delhi – Agra – Jaipur - Gurgaon

This tour is an ideal introduction to India, perfectly showcasing the sprawling and fascinating cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. On this journey you will discover colourful bazaars and historic monuments and stay in unforgettable locations.

- Discover the vibrant city of Delhi
- Marvel at the magnificent Taj Mahal
- Dine in the impressive Amber fort
- Explore the Maharaja's Palace
- Enjoy a colourful Bollywood performance



Glimpse of India tour inclusions:

- Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges (unless a land only option is selected)
- Deluxe accommodation throughout
- Meals as stated in the itinerary
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- All transportation and transfers
- English-speaking National Escort (if your group is 10 or more passengers)
- Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- Comprehensive travel guides
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, meals not stated in the itinerary, insurance of any kind, tipping and early check in or late checkout. These are all payable locally.

Exclusive Collection Tours:

These tours have been meticulously designed with the more discerning traveller in mind. Our deluxe journeys through Asia feature distinctive and exclusive experiences which bring the region to life. These tours include:

- Unique experiences
- Small group sizes
- Complimentary UK chauffeur transfers available for clients who live within 50 miles of the airport
- Porter service to and from your hotel rooms
- A mid tour laundry service
- Drinks provided during lunch and dinner service

Comfortable Tours:

'Glimpse of India' is a **comfortable** tour. Although this is the easiest grading of tour Wendy Wu Tours offers it still requires a reasonable level of fitness.

- There will be sightseeing on foot for both short and extended periods of time
- Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps, often without handrails

Of course, our National Escort and local guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Itinerary – Glimpse of India

Days 1-2: Arrive Delhi

Meals included: Dinner

Travel by chauffeured transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi. Your National Escort or Local Guide from Wendy Wu Tours will meet you at the Delhi International Airport in the Arrivals Hall tonight. Together with other group members who may be arriving at a similar time, you will transfer 45 minutes to your hotel and check-in.



Destination Information

Delhi - As the capital of India, Delhi is the third largest city with a population of approximately 18 million. Its strategic location along the north-south, east-west route has given it a focal position in Indian history and many great empires have been ruled from here. The monuments and ruins of these are scattered throughout the city, often side by side with modern structures and high-rise towers.

Day 3: Delhi

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning a tour introduction will either be held in the hotel or on the coach. Today is a full day of sightseeing around Old and New Delhi, involving approximately four hours on foot. Your exploration of Delhi begins with a drive past the Red Fort, before a walk through the fascinating Chandni Chowk Bazaar to Jama Masjid. Stop briefly for a photo stop at India Gate before visiting the Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple, Humayun's Tomb and Connaught Place Markets. Dinner this evening is at the Olive Bar & Kitchen in Delhi.



Destination Information

Red Fort - Home of the Mughal emperor for many years, the fort is located in the centre of Delhi and houses a number of museums.

Chandni Chowk Bazaar - Built in the 17th century, Chandni Chowk is the oldest and most lively bazaar in Old Delhi. Built by the Mughal Emperor of India Shah Jahan and designed by his daughter, you can find stores selling everything from saris, Nehru suits, souvenirs to spices.

Jama Masjid - Jama Masjid is the largest mosque in India, with a courtyard capable of holding 25,000 devotees. Built between 1644 and 1658, the mosque was Shah Jahan's final architectural achievement.

Connaught Place Markets - As coach is not allowed to enter this area, the group will be dropped off on Janpath, one of the main roads in Delhi. From here, it will be a 10 to 15 minute walk to the main section of Connaught Market where tourist shops sell traditional home wares, jewellery, books, clothing, saris and beads.

India Gate - Located at the end of the Rajpath, India Gate is a moving memorial to the 90,000 Indian servicemen who died in World War 1.

Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple - One of Delhi's major temples, the temple was built in 1939 and is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and his consort Lakshmi.

Humayun's Tomb - A landmark of Mughal architecture, the tomb was built in 1570 for the Mughal Emperor Humayun. Commissioned by his wife, it was the first garden tomb in India.

Day 4: Delhi - Agra

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch

Depart Delhi this morning and commence the 3 and a half hour drive to the historic city of Agra. Stop at Sikandra en route to see the marble Tomb of Emperor Akbar. Continue to Agra and in the afternoon enjoy an auto-rickshaw tour of the city. The tour will take you through old bazaars, places of worship and the spice and ayurveda market.

Destination Information

Sikandra - Sikandra lies on the outskirts of Sikandra town in a peaceful garden 4km northwest of Agra. It is believed that Akbar designed and started the construction of his own mausoleum, which was later modified and completed by his son Jahangair. The result is this impressive, perfectly symmetrical complex, with the tomb located in the centre of a vast walled garden.

Agra - Home to the world famous Taj Mahal. Agra rose to fame in the mediaeval period as the capital of the Mughal Empire and was beautified with gardens, waterfalls, bathhouses and canals. In modern times, the city of Agra houses a thriving carpet industry.

Auto-Rickshaw Tour - Explore the old bazaars, traditional eating joints and places of worship of Agra on an auto-rickshaw tour. Agra is a melting pot of three cultures - Hindu, Muslim, and Christian. The tour takes you to such sites as Hazuri Bhawan, the headquarters of the Radhasoami faith, the ancient Manka Meshwar temple, Jama Masjid, one of the largest Mosques in Agra and to the Spice and Ayurveda market.

Day 5: Agra

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Rise early and begin the day by viewing the Taj Mahal in all its glory as the sun is rising. To reach the Taj Mahal, you will board your group coach and drive through the awakening streets of Agra (an early start means that we can avoid the heat and crowds at the Taj Mahal later in the day). Disembarking the coach, you will board smaller electric carts to continue to the entrance gate. After clearing security and baggage checks you will be admitted to the complex. Usually 2 hours is spent here; sightseeing is easy without many steps. For admission to the main mausoleum area, you are required to wear shoe covers (this may be provided on site – be prepared to bring an additional pair of socks).



Return to your hotel to freshen up and have breakfast. Later, visit a marble inlay workshop and explore Agra Fort. Sightseeing at the fort involves approximately an hour and a half on foot and there are some stairs to walk up.

Destination Information

Taj Mahal - One of the most recognisable monuments in the world, the Taj Mahal is a white marble monument found on the southern bank of the Yamuna River. The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan between the years 1631 -1648 in memory of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631.

Agra Fort - Situated on the west bank of the Yamuna River and built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573. Its imposing red sandstone ramparts form a crescent along the riverfront and encompass an enormous complex of courtly buildings, ranging in style from the early eclecticism of Akbar to the sublime elegance of Shah Jahan. The barracks to the north are British additions from the 19th century. A deep moat, once filled with water from the Yamuna River, surrounds the fort.

Day 6: Agra - Jaipur

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Depart Agra and travel 5 hours to Rajasthan's capital Jaipur. On route stop to explore the ancient capital city Fatehpur Sikri which involves up to one hour of easy walking. Continue to Abhaneri village to see the Chand Baori Stepwell and marvel at this ancient construction. Sightseeing here will be under 30 minutes. Afterwards continue to Rajasthan's capital, Jaipur. In the evening, dine at 1135 AD, located in the highest ramparts of the impressive Amber Fort.



Please note: Jaipur is a larger city where it would be unwise to wander around without your National Escort or Local Guide at night as there have been reports of pickpockets. Always speak to your National Escort or Local Guide before making own arrangements in Jaipur.

Destination Information

Fatehpur Sikri - Located 34km from Agra, Fatehpur Sikri was built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 after it was prophesied that the then childless Akbar would have sons if he moved his capital to the site. At great expense to the empire, the capital was moved here but sadly only occupied for 14 years before slowly being deserted and ruined after Akbar left the city due to a scarcity of water.

Abhaneri Village - Make a stop here to see the Chand Baori Stepwell and marvel at this ancient construction. Over 1,000 years old, the visually outstanding stepwell was originally dedicated to Harshat Mata, the 'Goddess of Joy and Happiness'

Jaipur - Some parts of the road are very rough so the journey takes most of the afternoon. Jaipur was founded in 1727 as Mughal power within India was declining. The then Maharaja Jai Singh moved his capital from Amber Fort down onto the plain below. The city is now the capital of Rajasthan State and commonly called the 'Pink City' because of the pink paint on all the buildings in the old city area. This was apparently done to imitate the magnificent, red sandstone buildings of the Mughals and in an attempt to impress the Prince of Wales when he visited Jaipur in 1876.

Day 7: Jaipur

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Sightseeing today begins with a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) in downtown Jaipur. Tourists are unable to enter, so you will view it from the busy road opposite. Continue to the impressive Amber Fort, where you will ride jeeps to and from the bus park and palace entrance. Elephant rides up to the palace have not been included in your itinerary because of the concerns for the animals and the unreliability of this service. Afterwards, tour the City Palace in Jaipur and Jantar Mantar, the UNESCO World Heritage listed ancient observatory. Later, enjoy some time to shop in the local bazaar in Choti Choper. Sightseeing today involves 5 to 6 hours of touring and there are a number of steps within the fort. In the evening, enjoy a cooking demonstration and dinner at Ikaki Niwas, a local Rajasthani home.



Destination Information

Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) - A five-story palace erected in 1799 by the Sawai Pratap Singh so that the veiled ladies of his harem could observe, unnoticed, the lively street scenes below.

Amber Fort - Built from yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, Amer Fort was constructed in the 16th century by Raja Man Singh. Inside the fort visit the Hall of Victory, which houses the famed Sheesh Mahal.

Choti Choper - A market located inside the walled city, where villagers from around Jaipur come to sell and trade their produce.

Maharaja's City Palace - A former Royal residence located in the heart of the Old City. Part of the building has been converted into a museum, while the royal family of Jaipur still uses the remaining sections of the palace as a private residence.

Jantar Mantar Observatory - The largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world is located just outside the City Palace. The observatory has 17 large instruments, many of them still in working condition.

Ikaki Niwas - Ikaki Niwas is a beautiful local home, decorated in the Rajasthan style with motifs and wall frescos. Dr. Thakur G S Rathore, who was Chief Medical officer in Jaipur and is now retired, owns the house. His son Jaideo Rathore and his wife Mrs Devika organise family dinners and will demonstrate how to make Indian bread and dishes.

Day 8: Jaipur – Gurgaon

Meals included: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Depart Jaipur and travel approximately 5 hours to Gurgaon, only 30km from Delhi, for an overnight stay. Later experience the 'Kingdom of Dreams', a live entertainment venue where you will watch a magical Bollywood performance. Dinner will be arranged at a local restaurant before the performance.

Destination Information

Kingdom of Dreams - The ultimate entertainment and leisure destination in India, Kingdom of Dreams combines India's art, culture and heritage into a live theatre performance.

Day 9: Depart Delhi

Meals included: Breakfast

Today transfer to the airport for your flight home, any time before your flight will be at leisure. On arrival at the airport in the UK, be met by your airport chauffeur who will transfer you back home.

Glimpse of India Travel Information

Visas

A visa is required for entry into India. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. You will need to complete the visa application form following the instructions on the visa help sheet. Once completed you will need to email or post the appropriate documents to our office in order for us to process your visa with the embassy. Once your visa has been approved we will send you a copy of the completed visa by email for you to print out and take with you when you travel to India. Any passports and visa applications that require an express service will incur an extra fee. Your passport must be valid for 6 months from your date of return from India, and should have at least 2 blank pages for your Indian visa.

In rare cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Indian embassy and/or be required to attend an interview at the embassy. If this is the case, we will notify you as soon as we have been advised.

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. These details will be available to your national escort should they be required. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Eating in India

Indian cuisine is one of the most influential, diverse and flavoursome culinary styles in the world. Indian dishes incorporate many spices and seasoning to create an explosion of flavors. Indian cuisine can vary greatly from the Indian food we get in the UK, it is important to keep an open mind and be adventurous. When eating meals on group tours, you will be seated around a circular table with other tour members. Dishes will be served in the traditional 'family style'; meaning that various dishes will be laid out in the centre of the table top. These dishes are intended to be shared amongst the group – there is always more than enough to feed everybody.

For the included meals we have arranged for you to dine in not only high-end restaurants, but those that allow customers to experience and taste the real flavours of the local area. For those meals which are not included, this gives you the opportunity to select your own dining experience, allowing you to immerse in the local culture or take advantage of your hotels' many restaurant options.

Please read your travel guide, which you will receive with your final documents for more information about eating in India. We recommend that when it comes to Indian food, you stay open minded and try to be adventurous!

Accommodation

Your accommodation has been selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family-run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage-type hotel. In remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may have less western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local five-star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and India. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards are met.

All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty, please speak to your National Escort or Local Guide.

Transport

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our group tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Main and inner city roads in India have a reputation for being very congested. For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in India have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road - not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections above are approximations only.

Development in India

Although India is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in the UK. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in the UK; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your National Escort or Local Guides.

Souvenirs

We want to be able to give you an opportunity to buy souvenirs so we include some stops at museums or exhibitions, which demonstrates a craft or product unique to that region with pieces available to buy. We understand that souvenir hunting is not for everyone so we aim to take you to places, which hold local interest; for example, in Agra you will be able to see local artists creating stunning marble pieces, similar to what is used on the Taj Mahal. We trust you will enjoy these opportunities to learn about local arts and crafts and understand their historical and cultural importance.

Group Size

Most of our groups consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a National Escort. There will usually be no more than 18 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling.

All our departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond our control). However, at our discretion we may operate departures with a smaller group size as we try to operate advertised departures wherever it is viable to do so. For groups with fewer than 10 travellers, departures will operate with Local Guides.

Tipping Policy

Tipping while on holiday is common in most parts of the world and India is no exception. However, it is not always clear who it is appropriate to tip and how much. Furthermore, travellers may not have the right amounts of cash available at the right time. In order to avoid any inconvenience Wendy Wu Tours operates a tipping policy where a stated amount is given to your national escort at the beginning of your tour and tips are disbursed amongst your main service providers (for example local guides and drivers) throughout your tour. The amount is designed to be at a reasonable level for travellers while being fair to the local people and includes a gratuity for the national escort. Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services.

We generally find that most customers appreciate the convenience of our tipping policy but we do recognize that it may not suit everyone. However, as this is a group tour we ask that everyone follows the same protocol to be fair to other group members and to ensure smooth operation of your tour.

Appropriate Dress

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in conservative, non-revealing clothing. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and trousers or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable while sightseeing at mosques. When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Religious sites and homes throughout India – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove your shoes, you will have to remain outside.

We recommend shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

Climate

Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

After your booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form (if applicable), and a help sheet. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approximately 2 weeks prior to departure.

Itinerary changes

It is our intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve our tours or as local conditions dictate; in these circumstances we will make the best possible arrangements whilst maintaining the integrity of your trip.

Please note: The Taj Mahal is currently undergoing renovations to its exterior. The work is estimated to be completed by March 2018 and will be done in phases so that visitors to the Taj will still be able to experience the beauty of this architectural wonder.

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