

## INDIA ESSENCE 8 days

### Itinerary:



#### Day 1 : Arrive New Delhi

Upon arrival in New Delhi transfer to hotel and time to relax from your flight.

**Lodging:** The Leela Palace Hotel

#### Day 2 : New Delhi (B / L)

After breakfast the discovery of New Delhi starts with the visit to the "Humayun's tomb" one of the finest examples of a garden tomb and a precursor to the Taj Mahal. Next is the Qutab Minar before you drive to one of the most colonial part of city called Raisina Hill, past the Viceroy's House and the Rashtrapati Bhawan the residence of the President of India. Old Delhi is happily chaotic. See the mighty Red Fort followed by "cycle rickshaws" through the lanes of "Chandni Chowk" (Silver Street) experiencing the sights and sounds of this very busy avenue. Conclude the tour with the Raj Ghat, Father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi's memorial.

**Lodging:** The Leela Palace Hotel

#### Day 3 : New Delhi - Agra (B / L)

After breakfast depart for Agra. Visit The Great Red Fort and the buildings within: the Jehangir Palace and the Khas Mahal, a beautiful white marble structure used as a private palace. Next is India's most famous monument, the Taj Mahal. Get on a "Tonga" for the ride to visit the iconic site. For centuries, the Taj Mahal has inspired poets, painters and musicians to try and capture its elusive magic. The colours of the Taj changes its moods with the seasons and different times of the day. At dawn the marble has a delicate bloom in shell pink, by noon it glitters majestically white turning to a soft pearly grey at dusk.

**Lodging:** The Oberoi Amarvilas Hotel

#### Day 4 : Agra - Fatehpur Sikri - Bharatpur (B / L)

Enjoy breakfast before you visit Sikandara, Akbar's tomb. His son Jahangir completed the construction of the tomb in the year 1613. It was the first complete marble Mughal structure. Later leave for Bharatpur en route visit Fatehpur Sikri, the political capital of India's Mughal Empire under Akbar's reign from the year 1571 until 1585 when it was abandoned due to lack of water. Next explore the Emperor Akbar's Residential complex the Mosque and the Tomb of Salim Chisti. Afterwards continue the drive to Bharatpur for overnight.

**Lodging:** Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel

### **Day 5 : Bharatpur - Jaipur (B / L)**

In the morning after breakfast visit the Keoladeo National Park Bharatpur founded by Maharaja Suraj Mal in the year 1733. Now a World Heritage site by UNESCO, this former duck hunting reserve of the Maharajas is one of the major wintering areas for large numbers of aquatic birds from Afghanistan, Siberia and Turkmenistan. Some 364 species of birds including the rare Siberian Crane, live in the park. In the afternoon leave for Jaipur, known as the Pink City.

**Lodging:** The Oberoi Rajvilas Hotel

### **Day 6 : Jaipur (B / L)**

After breakfast enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Jaipur. Start with an elephant ride up to the famous 17th century Amber Fort. In the afternoon visit the enchantingly beautiful city palace, a fine blend of Rajasthan and Mughal architecture, now housing a museum containing rare armories, manuscripts, and paintings. Later explore the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) the landmark architecture of Jaipur built of pink sandstone. End the day with a visit to the Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh in 1728.

**Lodging:** The Oberoi Rajvilas Hotel

### **Day 7 : Jaipur - New Delhi (B / L)**

After breakfast make your way back to New Delhi. On arrival check-in to hotel. The remainder for the day and evening is free at leisure for souvenir shopping and exploration of the city.

**Lodging:** The Leela Palace Hotel

### **Day 8 : New Delhi Departure (B)**

After breakfast transfer to the New Delhi international airport for your international return flight.

