

The Golden Triangle Tour

February 17-24, 2018

Offered by Classical Excursions



Following the Lutyens and Imperial Delhi Tour, Febru

The Golden Triangle of India

Agra, Jaipur, Ahsisar & the Shekhawati Region

February 17, 2018

Delhi to Agra

Hotel check out and departure at 8:00 am

Transfer to Agra by road. As we approach Agra we will make a stop at **the tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah**, considered to be one of the architectural forerunners of the Taj Mahal.

Lunch at the Taj Bano Restaurant

This afternoon we visit the **Agra Fort**, built by Emperor Akbar in 1565. The fort is a large complex constructed of red sandstone and includes marble palaces as testimony the power and artistic sense of successive Mughal emperors.

Afternoon hotel arrival and check in.

Dinner tonight at the Peshwari Restaurant

Hotel check in and two-night stay at the **Jaypee Palace Hotel**
www.jaypeehotels.com/convention-center-agra

B,L,D

February 18, 2018

Agra

Depart from the hotel lobby at 6:00 am for our early morning visit to the **Taj Mahal**, built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his queen Mumtaz.

After breakfast we check out and drive to Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan. En route we make several sight-seeing stops. Our first stop of the day is the abandoned Mughal city of **Fatehpur Sikri**. Built by Emperor Akbar as the capital of his empire, the city had to be abandoned due to the lack of potable water. Here one can see the facets of everyday life at the Mughal court in the 16th

century. Many of the period structures still remain in a remarkable state of preservation.

Lunch at the **Laxmi Vilas Palace**.

After lunch we visit **Chand Baori**, an 9th century stepwell, consisting of 3,500 steps and 13 stories, making it one of the deepest and largest in India. Step-wells are rather unique to India and this one is one of the oldest and most beautiful historic landmarks in the state of Rajasthan. It was built by King Chanda between 800-900 AD and was dedicated to the Goddess of Happiness and Joy. There was a pavilion erected on one side of the well as a gathering place for the Royals during times of intense heat. It filled both practical purposes, supplying water to the area as well as functioned as a social gathering place for locals. The monument has been used in several movie filming including The Dark Knight Rises.

Check in at the **Jai Mahal Palace** (Luxury rooms)
www.tajhotels.com/leisure/jai-mahal-palace-jaipur/default.html

February 19, 2018

Agra to Jaipur

After breakfast at the hotel we depart from the lobby

Today we will have a full-day of sightseeing of Jaipur including a stop at the **Hawa Mahal** or Palace of the Winds and the **Amber Fort**, once the capital of the Rajout rulers with its picturesque narrow passageways and magnificent halls with mirrored work embedded in the ceiling and colorful paintings on the walls.

This afternoon we travel to **Samode village** for lunch at the **Samode Palace**. After lunch we will tour the palace and view its intricate and exquisitely decorated formal rooms, cross the elevated courtyard and enter the inner sanctuary. The interiors reveal a magnificent assembly hall, elaborately painted murals, painting and enamel work with a profusion of gilded embellishments.

Tonight we return to the hotel for free time followed by a group dinner.

Jai Mahal Palace (luxury rooms)

B, L,D

February 20, 2018

Our first stop of the day is the **Jaipur City Palace** with its fine Rajasthani and Mughal architecture. The vast complex contains courtyards with clusters of museums containing rare collections of textiles, carpets, paintings and antique weapons. We also visit **Jantar Mantar**, a medieval observatory with period instruments that even today are astonishingly accurate in their astronomical measurements.

The afternoon is free for shopping at the famed **Tripolia Bazaar** with jewelry, textiles and artisan workshops.

Jai Mahal Palace hotel
B,L, D

February 21, 2018

Jaipur to Alsisar

Hotel check out with an 8:00 am departure

After breakfast at the hotel we will make our way to the region of Rajasthan called Shekhawati. Our first stop will be in **Nawalgarh** to see a few of the notable *Haveli* located here, such as **Poddar, Murarka, Bansidhar** and **Chokhani havelis**.

Lunch will be at **Roop Niwas Kothi** in the town of **Nawalgarh**.

Check in to to **Alsisar Mahal** palace, a heritage property
We will have a tour of the property and a walk around town to see some of the notable privately owned Haveli.

A pre-dinner Jeep tour in the desert to enjoy the sunset.

Dinner at the hotel

Check in to to **Alsisar Mahal Palace**, a heritage property
www.alisarmahal.com

B,L,D

February 22, 2018

Alsisar to Fatehpur to Mandawa to Alsisar

After breakfast we will spend the day exploring the various villages of the **Shekhawati region** with visits to *Havelis* belonging to the **Goenka, Singhanian, Keria and Gauri Shankar families**.

Lunch today is at the Desert Resort in Mandawa.

Dinner back at the **Alsisar Mahal Palace** in Alsisar.
B,L,D

February 23, 2018

Alsisar to Delhi

Hotel check out and departure for the drive back to Delhi at 8:00

En route we stop at **Jhunjhunu** to visit the **Khetri Mahal**, also known as the 'wind palace' built by Bhopal Singh, founder of Khetri and grandson of Sardul Singh, in 1770. Wherever possible, marble pillars take the place of walls, allowing the maximum flow of air through the building. A ramp ascends through the Mahal from the entrance right up to the terrace, so that the Rajputs could ride up on their horses. Inside are lovely halls with graceful arches and pillars.

Later in the day we stop at the **Mertaniji ki Baori**, the oldest and finest of Jhunjhunu's step wells, built by Sardul's widow in 1783. Step wells are real architectural feats in the desert state of Rajasthan and building them was considered a great act of generosity and benevolence. They served as community centers, where people gathered to help themselves to the most precious commodity – water. The Mertaniji ki Baori is a beautiful structure with flights of steps descending through arches.

We then continue the drive, arriving in Delhi in the evening and check in at your hotel.

The Radisson Blu Plaza (Premium Rooms) – this is an 'airport' hotel
- B, L, D

Dinner at the hotel Restaurant

www.radissonblu.com/hotel-newdelhi

Participants are free for departures anytime after 9 pm on February 23, 2018, or the following morning February 24, 2018.