

DR MARK REYNOLDS

17 Dec. - Arrive Delhi by TG 315 at 20:30 hours

Assistance and transfer to INTERCONTINENTAL GRAND hotel
Overnight.

18 Dec. - Delhi

Full day sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi

Sprawling on the banks of the river Yamuna, Delhi, the capital of India, typifies the soul of the country. The city conceals within its bosom the remains of civilization that flourished over the last three thousand years. Since those legendary days, many dynasties and rulers have flourished on its regal soil. The legacy of that past survives in the many monuments left behind by the regents.

Old Delhi, constitutes of Red Fort built by Emperor Shahjehan in 1638 AD, Jama Mosque largest mosque in India also built by Shahjehan, Raj Ghat and Shanti van-the cremation sites of Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and drives past Chandni Chowk, the main congested shopping hub of Old Delhi.

New Delhi visit includes Qutab Minar, one of the earliest remains of Imperial Delhi (13th century AD) Humayun's Tomb-the fine monument believed to be forerunner of Taj Mahal, India Gate, the 42 meter high arch was raised as a memorial to soldiers, drives past Parliament House, President's House, Secretariat Building, Laxminarayan Temple and The Connaught Place.

19 Dec. Delhi--Jaipur drive, 260 km

Morning drive to Jaipur visiting en-route Amber Fort, set in a picturesque location. Amer is a fascinating blend of Hindu and Muslim architecture. Built in the 16th century by Raja Mansingh in red sandstone and white marble, the palace complex has some very interesting apartments. Jai Mandir, Sheesh Mahal, Sukh Niwas, Ganesh Pol and Temple of Kali are some of the prominent areas of interest. Elephants are provided to ascend the fort to visit the complex.

Check-in at MANSINGH TOWER hotel.

Afternoon city sightseeing tour

Jaipur, this city was built by Maharaja Jai Singh, the notable astronomer 260 years ago. Visit the Maharaja's City Palace, the home of the erstwhile royal family, the Observatory, Ram Niwas Gardens, Hawa Mahal or the Palace of winds built in 1799 by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh and drive past the old part of Jaipur city

20 Dec. - Jaipur-Agra drive, 235 km/6 hours

Drive to Agra visiting enroute Fatehpur Sikri.

Fatehpur Sikri, the birth story of this beautiful city is interesting. There, in a grotto in Sikri, lived a Muslim Saint , Sheikh Salim Chishti by name. Akbar hearing of his renown, asked of the blessings of a son, and when a son was born, not only was the child named Salim, the site for a mighty and ambitious project - a city - was chosen near the residence of the saint erected in 1569. The shortage of water lead to the desertion of this city. Visit the mosque of Salim Chishti, Panch Mahal and other Palaces.

On arrival, check-in at CLARKS SHIRAZ hotel

21 Dec - Agra

Morning sightseeing tour of Agra.

Agra, the home of the immortal Taj Mahal, the inimitable poem in white marble is the first expression of love of an Emperor Shahjehan for his queen Mumtaz Mahal. This great monument was completed in 1653 AD. Agra Fort, the imposing structure on the banks of the river Yamuna is replete with priceless examples of craftsmanship in the Mughal period, including the beautiful pearl Mosque, it was designed and built by Emperor Akbar in 1565 AD. Tomb of Itimadd-ud-Daulah built between 1622 AD by Empress Nur Jehan, in memory of her father, Ghias-id-Din Beg., it is considered a precursor of the Taj Mahal.

Afternoon at leisure.

22 Dec. – Agra-Jhansi-Orcha

Transfer to railway station for train to Jhansi (0810-1040 hours)
Assistance on arrival and transfer to AMAR MAHAL HOTEL, Orcha

Afternoon sightseeing tour.

Orcha had the distinction of being the capital of one of the largest and most powerful kingdoms of central India. Situated on the river Betwa, the medieval city was founded in the 16th century by the Bundela Chieftain Rudra Pratap. The succeeding rulers built some of the finest examples of Bundela architecture which can be seen at Orcha today, such as Jehangir Mahal, Raj Mahal, Raj Praveen Mahal, Ram Raj Temple, Chaturbhuj Temple, Sunder Mahal.

23 Dec. –Orcha- Khajuraho, 175 km/4 hours

Drive to Khajuraho and on arrival, check-in at CLARKS HOTEL

Afternoon visit of Khajuraho temples

Khajuraho, once the great capital of Chandela, now a quiet town, Khajuraho temples here were built during the Chandela period from 950 to 1050 AD. Almost intriguing as the sheer beauty and the size of the temples is the question of why and how they were built here as Khajuraho is isolated, 1000 years ago as it is even today. The temples are superb examples of Indo-Aryan architecture and depict images of gods and goddesses, warriors and musicians, real and mythological animals and in great detail – women and sex. In between are the mithuna, erotic figures running through a whole Kamasutra of positions and possibilities. Of the two groups of temples – Western and Eastern – important temples to visit are – Lakshmi and Varaha, Lakshmana, Kandariya Mahadev, Devi Jagdamba, Chitradurga, Parvati, Vishvanath Temple and Nandi, Chausath Yogini, Parsanavanth and Adinath.

24 Dec. – Khajuraho-Varanasi flight 9W 333 – 1330/1410 hours

Transfer to airport for flight to Varanasi
On arrival, transfer to TAJ GANGES hotel
Rest of the day free

25 Dec. – Varanasi/Delhi flight IC 805/1600-1715 hours

Early morning boat cruise on river Ganges. Thousands of pilgrims throng the water's edge, bathing, worshipping, and meditating. On stone platforms under palm leaf umbrellas, the Pandas-Brahmin priests preside over rites and rituals. The boat trip will cover various ghats including the cremation sites. Because every pious Hindu believes that to die in Kashi (Varanasi) and to be cremated on the banks of the Ganges is to attain release from the cycle of birth and death.

Afternoon breakfast city sightseeing tour.

Varanasi, one of the oldest living cities in the world, believed to be founded 3000 years ago, is one of the 7 holiest cities of Hindus. It was a flourishing trading centre 500 BC when the Buddha came to Sarnath to preach his first sermon. A city of great wealth and religious importance when the Chinese traveler, Hiuen Tsang, visited it in the 7th century. Visit the Vishwanath Golden Temple, the abode of great God Shiva, Bharat Mata Temple, Durga Temple, Tulsi Manas Mandir and Banaras Hindu University.

Afternoon transfer to airport for flight to Delhi

Assistance on arrival and transfer to INTERCONTINENTAL GRAND

26 Dec. Delhi-Dubai flight EK 513 – dep at 11:00 hours

Transfer to airport for flight to Dubai.