



India - Golden Triangle with Shimla – 9N / 10D - (CODE – AT IND 02)

FROM R14,950 Per person sharing – LAND ARRANGEMENTS ONLY

A captivating 10-day journey to India's Golden Triangle with Shimla tour. Vibrant street markets, sizzling food stalls, and jewel-studded palaces await you.

Immerse yourself in the magical tapestry of Indian culture as you travel through the lively capital city, New Delhi.

Indulge your senses in the rich past and thriving present of Delhi before marveling at the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra and experiencing the beauty of the Pink City, Jaipur, adorned with palaces.

The tour reaches new heights as you board the Toy train to Shimla, the former summer capital of the British, nestled in the picturesque Himalayas north of Delhi.

As you ascend to Shimla, the journey unfolds with breathtaking sights and the charm of this enchanting hill station. The extraordinary and eclectic mix of colors, sounds, customs, and religions that characterize India is ever-present, creating a truly immersive experience.

The tour seamlessly combines the famous tourist triangle circuit (Delhi-Agra-Jaipur) with the allure of Shimla, offering a perfect blend of historical wonders and natural beauty.

This private tour ensures a visit to some of the most incredible palaces in India, complemented by the fascinating allure of Shimla, making it an unforgettable exploration of the country's diverse landscapes and cultural treasures.

At a glance

- Day 1 Welcome to Delhi. Transfer to your hotel
- Day 2 Morning tour of Delhi
- Day 3 Travel to Agra. Afternoon Taj Mahal & Agra Fort tour
- Day 4 Vist Fatehpur Sikri before arriving in Jaipur
- Day 5 Amber Fort and Jaipur city tour
- Day 6 Return to Delhi for overnight
- Day 7 Train to Kalka and board the Toy Train to Shimla

Day 8 Visit the botanical gardens, the Ridge, Jakhu Temple

Day 9 Return to Delhi by train

Day 10 Last day in India. Transfer to Airport

Highlights

- > Guided tour of Delhi; see the India Gate, Jama Masjid, Laxmi Narayan Temple and much more
- > Visit the exquisite Taj Mahal and Agra Fort
- > Elephant ride to the Amber Fort in Jaipur
- > Ride the famous Toy Train from Kalka through 102 tunnels to Shimla
- > Explore the natural and architectural beauty of Shimla

Inclusions

- Meet and assist on arrival and departure by our local representative
- Sightseeing tours and intercity transfers as per itinerary in AC vehicle
- 9 Nights Accommodation at selected hotels in a double room sharing
- Meals: as mentioned
- Local English Speaking Guide
- Jaipur offers sightseeing tour with an elephant ride/jeep ride

Exclusions

- International/Domestic flights – Departure & Fuel taxes (Contact us for best airfares)
- Personal expenses, meals and drinks unless otherwise specified
- Travel insurance
- India visa fee
- Tips
- Entrance fees
- Services not stated in the itinerary

Validity

- Rate valid for travel between 16 APR and 30 SEP 2024

Contact us for any other date of travel required

ITINERARY

Day City	Day to Day Itinerary
Day 1 Arrive Delhi	Welcome to India. Clear customs and proceed to the Arrival Hall Our representative will meet you for transfer to your hotel and check-in The remainder of the day will be at leisure
Day 2 Delhi (B)	After breakfast, embark on a full day sightseeing tour of Delhi. The places you will visit here include India Gate; Jama Masjid; Laxmi Narayan Temple; Parliament House; Gandhi Memorial; Red Fort; Humayun's Tomb and Qutub Minar Complex. All these mini excursions are overseen by expert guides who regale you with interesting anecdotes and folklore. Return to your hotel for overnight.
Day 3 Delhi – Agra (B)	After breakfast, leave by road for Agra. Upon arrival; check into your hotel. Once you have rested for a while; go on a sightseeing tour of Agra. The first attraction you will visit is the white marble monument Taj Mahal – considered the eternal symbol of love by many. This is followed by a mini-tour of the Agra Fort (the seat and stronghold of the Mughal emperors). As the sun starts to set your tour guide will take you to your hotel Overnight in Agra.
Day 4 Agra – Fatehpur Sikri – Jaipur (B)	After breakfast leave by road for Jaipur. On the way visit the deserted Mughal town 'Fatehpur Sikri'. Here you will visit Jama Masjid; Birbal Bhawan; Jodha Bai Palace; Buland Darwaza and Panch Mahal. Arrive in Jaipur and check into the hotel. Overnight at your hotel in Jaipur.
Day 5 Jaipur (B)	After breakfast hit the road to the Amber Fort. Enjoy an elephant joy ride to the entrance point of the Amber Fort. The afternoon is booked with the sightseeing tour of Jaipur city. Start by visiting the City Palace (a palatial structure segregated into gardens; buildings and courtyards and reflects a seamless fusion of Rajput and Mughal architecture); Jantar Mantar and the local bazaars etc. Return to your hotel after the tour. Overnight at your hotel in Jaipur.

<p>Day 6 Jaipur – Delhi (B)</p>	<p>Morning excursion to the Amber Fort. Standing tall over a small hillock overlooking the Pink city; Amber is a classic; romantic Rajasthani Fort-Palace. Miniatures painted on the walls depict hunting and war scenes; apart from festivals. Precious stones and mirrors are embedded in the plaster. A major attraction at the Amber Fort is the Elephant Ride; all the way up to the Fort entrance. The afternoon tour begins with a visit to the Maharaja’s City Palace;- the former Royal residence;- part of it converted into a museum. One of the major attractions in the museum is the portion known as Armory Museum; housing an impressive array of weaponry-pistols; blunderbusses; flintlocks; swords; rifles and daggers. Return to your hotel for overnight.</p>
<p>Day 7 Delhi – Shimla (B)</p>	<p>After breakfast today; we drive to the railway station to board the train to Kalka. At Kalka; board the famous Toy Train that passes through a staggering 102 tunnels; meandering through the lofty Himalayas. The train; declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO; chugs along at sleepwalking speeds and takes a good 5 hours to finally reach Shimla. On reaching Shimla; check in at the hotel. Overnight at your hotel in Shimla.</p>
<p>Day 8 Shimla (B)</p>	<p>Check-out of your room and meet with our preventative for transfer to the Airport and return flight to Johannesburg</p>
<p>Day 9 Shimla – Delhi (B)</p>	<p>After breakfast; drive to Kalka railway station and board the train to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi, you are met and transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Delhi.</p>
<p>Day 10 Delhi – Departure (B)</p>	<p>Transfer to the airport to board your flight for your onward destination. Services end at Delhi airport.</p>

Thank you for choosing **Sure Mirage Travel** for your **Indian** experience.
We value your patronage & look forward to serving you again in the near future.

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Country information

India's Different Seasons

India climate is considered hot; however, the weather varies a lot depending on which part of the country you visit. The South has Monsoons whereas the North may be covered in snow. The best time to travel is between October and March (except for the Far North, where you will encounter winter conditions from November onwards)

- **Overview of food & drink**

India's food is tantalizing and spicy and comes in so many varieties. Rice is the foundation of each dish. This does not exclude a number for breads from light to roasted. Northern Indian food mostly consists of meaty stews and kebabs. Southern India is known for its spiced vegetarian curries and dosas. Goa and Kerala will serve you the best seafood dishes.

Drink only bottled water during your stay in India. Nimbu Pani (Lemonade) is a traditional and most common Indian drink, made of lemon and ginger juice. Coconut water is preferred by many locals across India. Toddy is a famous alcoholic drink in Madhya Pradesh that is made from various palm plants. Jal Jeera, the magical drink to survive the hot Indian Summers

- **Tipping**

Usually, add 10 to 15% when eating out. Restaurants in Delhi and Mumbai often charge a 'service charge', not to be confused with 'service tax' (which is a government-levied tax). When a 'service charge' is levied no tip is expected. When you have a driver over multiple days you should tip him between 150 – 300 INR per day. Again, base this on how happy you were with his service and local knowledge

- **Culture and Language**

It's traditional to greet people using 'Namaste'; place both hands together and bow slightly. In urban areas this is often overlooked. Indian culture is based on a hierarchical system, so elders and superior are greeted first. Avoid standing too close to others. Use your right hand to touch, accept or give something. Do not use public displays of affection. Hindi is the official language, but English is widely spoken throughout the country

- **Getting around in India**

Air carriers serve all major cities and large towns. There are several domestic "low Budget" options

Taxis and auto rickshaws are a very popular way of getting around the major cities. These rides are charged by the kilometre. Insist that your vehicle has a meter before going on your journey. Kolkata, Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai have metro systems. Rail in India is widely available. Shatabdi Express connects major and secondary cities. Advanced reservations are essential

Here are some traditional dishes

Alu Gobi: a dish made with potatoes (aloo), cauliflower (gobi) and Indian spices

Butter Chicken: traditionally cooked in a tandoor; but may be grilled, roasted or pan-fried with a special gravy

Rogan Josh: consists of braised lamb chunks cooked with a gravy based on browned onions or shallots, yogurt, garlic, ginger and aromatic spices

Malai Kofta: cooked in a creamy gravy made of tomatoes and cashew nuts

Naan: leavened, oven-baked flatbread normally served with all meals