

In The Heart Of India



Days: 16
Price: 1480 EUR
International flight not included
Comfort: ★★★★★
Difficult: ★★★☆☆
📍 Culture

This sixteen day trip takes us across the central India showcasing unique and dynamic faces. This heritage trip allows us to learn about majestic traces of former empires and offers the beautiful sceneries on the way.

Our trips begin on our arrival in capital of India. Following the trails of heritage tour, we arrive in Agra where magnificent Red fort and Taj Mahal, true epitome of love are the main attractions. Moving to the next destination-Gwalior where the fort and its premises are well maintained and house many historic monuments including palaces, temples and water tanks. Route between Gwalior and Khajuraho offers small but important city from historical point of view such as Orcha, Datia. The erotic and other carvings that swathe Khajuraho's three groups of World Heritage-listed temples are among the finest temple art in the world. Now, proceeding to Bhopal where we visit Sanchi stupa - Buddhist complex. Visiting the cities Enroute such as Indore, Ujjain, Dhar, Mandu, we finally reach Aurangabad. Alongside other historic relics, such as a group of ancient Buddhist caves, these Mughal relics make Aurangabad a good destination to explore. But the real reason for traipsing here is because the town is an excellent base for exploring the World Heritage Sites of Ellora and Ajanta. After having submerged in historical fast, we fly to Mumbai. The heart of the city contains some of the grandest colonial-era architecture on the planet but explore a little more and we'll uncover unique bazaars, hidden temples, hipster enclaves. Our trip concludes here.

Day 1. Traditional welcome on arrival



Delhi 📍

- Arrive at the **international airport** of Delhi. After the traditional welcome, transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

🏠 Accommodation

Taj Princess

Day 2. Delhi - Agra



Delhi 📍

🚗 250km - ⌚ 5h 30m

Agra 📍

Delhi - Agra

- After the breakfast, we will drive towardso Agra, around 4 hrs drive (Famous for many splendid Mughal era buildings) and known as city of **Taj Mahal**. The city was first mentioned in the Indian epic Mahabharata, where it was called Agrevana (meaning "the border of the forest"). Although Agra's history is mainly associated with Mughal Empire, the place was established much before it and has linkage since Mahabharata period. The golden age of the city began with the Mughals. It was known then as Akbarabad and remained the capital of the Mughal Empire.
- visit the Agra Red Fort, a historical fort in the city of Agra and its walls are richly adorned with red sandstone. Till 1638, this fort was main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty. Thereafter the capital of Mughal was shifted from Agra to Red Fort in Delhi.
- Visit of Taj Mahal, a 17th century marvel in poetic description. One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj is a dream in white marble with exquisite pietra dura (stone inlay) work. Shah Jahan, the fifth Moghul King, built this beautiful mausoleum in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died at the birth of her

fourteenth child.

☕ Breakfast	Taj Princess
🏠 Accommodation	Howard Plaza

Day 3. Agra - Gwalior



Agra 📍
🚗 120km - ⌚ 2h 30m
Gwalior 📍

Agra - Gwalior

- After the breakfast, leave Agra for Gwalior by surface, on arrival check-in at Hotel.
- In the afternoon, leave for the half day visit of Gwalior the emblematic city of the proud Rajputs warriors. The fort, a majestic structure, set on a sandstone base dominates the city. It is its absolute symbol. Theater of many historical events of India, battles and jauhars (terrible customs of the additions obliging the women of the warriors to immolate themselves "voluntarily" on the funeral pyre of their husband). Inside the fort, we can admire some wonders of medieval architecture. The **Gujari Mahal** (15th century), monument erected by the **Raja Mansingh Tomar** in memory of its intrepid wife, Queen Mriganayani. **The temple of Sas Bahu** and finally the **palace Jai Vilas**, built in 1874, by Maharadja Jayajirao Scindia. Now transformed into a museum. Designed by **Sir Michael Filose**, famous architect of his time, it is a remarkable example of European architecture: Tuscan ground floor, Italian first floor, Corinthian third floor. At the entrance to the vast Durbar Hall, beautifully furnished with magnificent chandeliers, gilded furniture and a huge carpet, do not miss the enormous golden leaves, the heaviest in the world. Finally the tomb of Tansen, the most famous musician of the court of the Mughal Emperor, Akbar. Overnight at the hotel.

☕ Breakfast	Howard Plaza
🏠 Accommodation	Clarks Inn Suites

Day 4. Gwalior-Sonagiri-Datia-Orchha



Gwalior 📍
🚗 140km - ⌚ 3h 30m
Orchha 📍

Gwalior - Orchha

- After breakfast, drive to Orchha, with visits to **Sonagiri** and **Datia**. Upon arrival in Gwalior, check-in at the hotel. In the afternoon, visit Orchha. The Raja Rudra Pratap (1501-31) chose, for its capital, an easy site to defend. Located on an islet, in a meander of the Betwa River, it overlooks the surrounding wooded countryside. Formerly the capital of an independent state, Orchha is decorated with three palaces: **the Raj Mahal, the Rai Parveen Mahal and the Jahangir Mahal**. Built by successive Maharajas in a unique style, they form an architectural complex as remarkable as the palaces of Udaipur. The temples of Ram Raja and Chaturbhuj are also among the tourist attractions of the city. Overnight at the hotel.

☕ Breakfast	Clarks Inn Suites
🏠 Accommodation	Hotel Raj Mahal

Day 5. Orchaa - Khajuaraho



Orchha 📍
🚗 180km - ⌚ 4h

Orchha - Khajuraho

- After the breakfast, leave Orchha for Khajuraho, on arrival check-in at Hotel.
- In the morning, we visit the **Western and Eastern group of temples**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. There were originally nearly 100 separate temples built between 950 and 1050 CE, each dedicated to a different deity. Now only 20 of these temples still exist and are considered to be the finest in India for their workmanship that still remains unmatched for the minutest details depicted in them.

Khajuraho 📍

☕ Breakfast

Hotel Raj Mahal

🏠 Accommodation

Hotel Clarks Khajuraho

Day 6. Khajuraho - Bhopal



Khajuraho 📍

🚗 370km - ⌚ 7h 30m

Bhopal 📍

Khajuraho - Bhopal

- After breakfast, leave for Bhopal. On arrival check-in at Hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at hotel.

☕ Breakfast

Hotel Clarks Khajuraho

🏠 Accommodation

Noor Us Sabah Palace

Day 7. Excursion to Sanchi and Udaigiri



Bhopal 📍

☕ Breakfast

Noor Us Sabah Palace

🏠 Accommodation

Noor Us Sabah Palace

- In the dynasty of the emperors Maurya (326 to 180 BC), Ashoka occupies a special place. Converted to Buddhism, patron of the arts, he owes the remarkable Sanchi Stupa, a 36-meter-diameter mausoleum that attracts almost as many visitors as the Taj Mahal to Agra. The pilgrims walk round it in a clockwise direction. The pillar of Ashoka, strongly influenced by Greek culture, has admirable proportions. **Udayagiri**, a Hindu archaeological site dating back to the Gupta emperor dynasty (320-550 AD), consists of a group of caves in which one can admire the splendid sculptures of the god Vishnu.

Day 8. Bhopal - Indore via Ujjain



Bhopal 📍

🚗 250km - ⌚ 4h 30m

Indore 📍

Bhopal - Indore

- After breakfast we drive to Ujjain, one of the holy cities of Hinduism as Varanasi. Every twelve years (the last time in 2016), a sacred festival Kumbhamela, takes place there. Located on the river Khipra, a tributary of the Ganges, the city is dedicated to Shiva. After the visit, we continue our journey to Indore. Upon arrival, check-in at the hotel. Visit the Kanch Mandir (temple jain), called the temple of glass, due to its interior walls, decorated with glass panels and mosaics. If we have time, visit the palace of Lal Baag extravagant Italian paintings, or the museum. Overnight at hotel.

☕ Breakfast

Noor Us Sabah Palace

🏠 Accommodation

Tree hotel Indore

Day 9. Indore - Mandu via Omkareshwar



Indore

70km - 2h

Dhar

Indore - Dhar

- After the breakfast, leave for Dhar, a city located in the Malwa region of western Madhya Pradesh state in central India. Upon arrival, check in at the Hotel. Thereafter, leave for the visit of **Dhar Fort**, it is shaped on a rectangular hillock built by Mohammad Tughlak in 1344 A.D., the material used to make this Fort is taken from this small mound which consist of the red stone, black stone, solid muram. The main entrance of the fort was built to the west. Once Dhar was the capital of the legendry king Bhoj, since Alauddin Khilji got the throne of Delhi, Islamic influence started spreading in Dhar, resulting in construction of many monuments, structure and this fort. We will also visit **Bhoj Shala, Lath Masjid And Bagh Caves**. Overnight at the hotel.

Breakfast	Tree hotel Indore
Accommodation	Hotel Rudraksh Inn

Day 10. Mandu - Maheshwar



Dhar

70km - 2h

Maheshwar

Dhar - Maheshwar

- After the breakfast. Begin the day with early morning drive to Maheshwar. It is located on the bank of Narmada river and had served as capital of Holkar dynasty which has deep impact in history of this Malwa region. Throughout the tour you will come across the monuments build during Holkar reign. Do full day sightseeing wherein you will be visiting Ahilya fort and riverside temples.

Breakfast	Hotel Rudraksh Inn
Accommodation	Narmada Retreat

Day 11. Excursion to Omkareshwar



Maheshwar

- Day dedicated to the visit of the holy city of Omkareshwar, where a beautiful temple dedicated to the god Shiva is built. The Mamaleshwar Setu Bridge provides access to the sanctuary. The temple of Varhdheshwar, another fine artistic example, also deserves our visit. Boat trip on the river Narmada. Return to Maheshwar at the end of the day.

Breakfast	Narmada Retreat
Accommodation	Narmada Retreat

Day 12. Maheshwar - Aurangabad



Maheshwar

350km - 6h 30m

Aurangabad

Maheshwar - Aurangabad

- After the breakfast, leave Maheshwar for Aurangabad by surface, on arrival check-in at Hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at hotel..

Breakfast	Narmada Retreat
Accommodation	Lemon Tree Hotel Aurangabad

Day 13. Excursion to Ellora Caves



Aurangabad 📍

- After breakfast we leave for the famous **Ellora caves**, 29 km northwest of Aurangabad. These caves relate the historical evolution of **Buddhism (caves 1 to 12) and Jainism (caves 30 to 34)**.

☕ Breakfast	Lemon Tree Hotel Aurangabad
🏠 Accommodation	Lemon Tree Hotel Aurangabad

Day 14. Excursion to Ajanta Caves



Aurangabad 📍

- The day is devoted to the **Ajanta caves**, 109 km from Aurangabad. Discovered by the British troops in 1819. 24 monasteries and 5 temples, some of which are more than 2000 years old. The frescoes describe, in a very lively way, the **life of Buddha**. Return to Aurangabad.

☕ Breakfast	Lemon Tree Hotel Aurangabad
🏠 Accommodation	Lemon Tree Hotel Aurangabad

Day 15. flight Aurangabad - Mumbai



Aurangabad 📍
✈️ 265km - ⌚ 1h 10m
Mumbai 📍

Aurangabad - Mumbai

- After the breakfast, leave for the airport to catch flight of Mumbai. On arrival, we would be received by driver and transfer to Hotel.
- Thereafter, we begin the tour with a visit to the Gateway of India, one of Mumbai's most famous landmarks. This gate-like structure was built by the British to commemorate the visit of **King George-V and Queen Mary** for the **Delhi Durbar** meaning "Court of Delhi" in 1911. We also visit the Prince of Wales Museum that was used as a hospital during World War I, and now housing a priceless collection of artefacts that is considered to be one of the best in India.

We drive past the **University of Bombay, the High Court and Crawford Market** on our way to the Hanging Gardens located on the crest of Malabar Hill. The gardens are a welcome oasis of green in a city built almost entirely of concrete. Next, we drive through the residential area of Mumbai's rich and famous on Malabar Hill. We also visit the most interesting city laundry called Dhobi Ghat, the Gandhi Memorial Museum and Victoria Terminus.

☕ Breakfast	Lemon Tree Hotel Aurangabad
🏠 Accommodation	Comfort Inn Heritage

Day 16. Departure



Mumbai 📍

- We are transferred to the International airport for our onward travel to our next destination.

☕ Breakfast	Comfort Inn Heritage
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Itinerary map



Individual price per person

2-3	4-5	6-8	9-12
1870 EUR	1710 EUR	1660 EUR	1480 EUR