

Package B: Heritage North with Wildlife

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DAY 1 (JUNE 2014): ARRIVE DELHI – FULL DAY SIGHTSEEING OF DELHI

Our services begin here.** We will pick you up from location of your choice in New Delhi, for the **Full day Tour of Delhi.

We begin with visit to the massive **Red Fort** built, by Shah Jahan in 1648, before exploring the colorful Chandni Chowk market by cycle-rickshaw. You also visit the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi (**Raj Ghat**). Shortly after, we will arrive in **Jama Masjid**. This is the largest mosque in India at the height of 40m where you are able to view Delhi from the minarets of this last architectural project of Shah Jahan. Drive past Safdarjang's tomb to visit the highest stone tower in India, the **Qutab Minar**, metallurgical marvel that has never rusted since its iron pillar shape was erected in 1199. **Later on** – we will take you past the earliest example of Mughal architecture, the **Tomb of Humayun**. Drive through New Delhi on the way to your hotel. New Delhi is a much more recent city and is also known as Lutyens' Delhi. The city's namesake, Edwin Lutyens, was a British architect who was largely responsible for designing the **India Gate** (a memorial to the martyrs of World War I), Rashtrapati Bhavan (**the Presidential House**), the Secretariat, the Parliament House, and many other government buildings.

After the tour – check in to your hotel. Stay overnight at the hotel.

Note: The Red Fort remains closed on Monday

DAY 2 (JUNE 2014): DELHI - AGRA

Check out of your hotel after breakfast and set off for the lovely drive to **Agra by the new expressway**. The journey will take about three hours, hence an early morning (**0700 hrs**) start is recommended. In Agra, you will be caught up in a world of contrasting edifices, of red sandstone and white marble, narrow galleys and quaint buggies, as well as the city's irresistible charm. **On arrival at Agra** – visit the **Itmad-Ud-Daulah's tomb**, a beautiful mausoleum built by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir's queen in 1628 as a memorial to her father. Many historians revere the mausoleum as the inspiration of the Taj Mahal, yet it still has an original beauty. It houses significant 'Pietra Dura' inlays, marble screens within a walled garden, and a view of the Yamuna River. **After the tour** - check in to your hotel.

Afternoon – Your discovery of historic Agra will begin with a visit to the red sandstone **Agra Fort**, built by the Mughal dynasty's greatest Emperor, Akbar, in 1565. A number of the fort's beautiful palaces, mosques and gardens were built by his successors in later years. **Later on** – visit the magnificent **Taj Mahal**, a pristine white marble mausoleum built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife – Mumtaz Mahal. One of the *Seven Wonders of the World*, it took 20,000 workers from neighboring Islamic countries, 22 years of ceaseless toil to create this exquisite white marble monument upon which peopled have waxed eloquent throughout the world. Experience a splendid **sunset viewing** of the Taj Mahal and the return to your hotel. **Agra is famous** for its marble manufacturing, carpets and ethnic jewelry. Stay overnight at the hotel.

Note: The Taj Mahal remains closed on Friday.

DAY 3 (JUNE 2014): AGRA – FATEHPUR SIKRI – RANTHAMBHORE

After breakfast – check out of the hotel and drive to **Ranthambhore**, which is about a five & Half hours journey. (**7:00 Am Start is recommended**). **On the way** – take a mini-excursion to **Fatehpur Sikri**. Akbar completed this red sandstone city in 1585 that still holds the mysterious tomb of Salim Chishti (the Muslim mystic who gave his blessings to Akbar for a son). The Panch Mahal, Jodha Bai's Palace, Birbal Bhavan and the uniquely checkered Pachisi Court are also original monuments from the Mughal Empire. **After the tour** – resume your drive to **Ranthambhore**. Once you arrive at **Ranthambhore**, check-in to your hotel before starting your **Safari**.

Ranthambhore National Park is one of the prime tiger habitats in India. Strategically situated at the confluence of two major hill ranges, namely the Vindhyas and the Aravallis, it was declared a Wildlife Sanctuary in 1957. In 1974 it gained the protection of "Project Tiger" and seven years later i.e. in 1981, it got its present status of a National Park. The Ranthambhore National Park is one of the most picturesque Parks in India. This is because the forest is interspersed with ruins of historic monuments that are reminiscent of a bygone era. A major feature of the Park is the impressive Ranthambhore Fort, located on the fringes of the Park and providing an excellent bird's eye view of the entire forest below. Spread over an area of 1,334 sq. kilometers and dominated by thorny or scrub forest with a few patches of thick deciduous

forest, the majority of the wildlife is concentrated around three major lakes. These lakes, namely the Rajbagh, Padam Talao and Madan Talao, are all man-made lakes which carry water even during the hot summers. This varied flora supports a large number of animals including a variety of deer, the sloth bear, the shy caracal, a modest number of snub-nosed crocodiles, the striped hyena, wild boar, leopards and of course “the big cat”, the tiger. Enjoy an - **evening wildlife safari** into the Park. Stay overnight at the hotel.

DAY 4 (JUNE 2014): RANTHAMBHORE – JAIPUR

Morning - jungle excursion into the park by jeep.

Check out of your hotel in the morning and embark on the drive to **Jaipur**: The origins of the beautiful city of Jaipur can be traced back to the eighteenth century, during the reign of Jai Singh II who ascended the Amber throne in 1699. Jaipur today, epitomizes the spirit of Rajputana. In spite of growing into a bustling metropolis, it still retains its character and history - A beautiful fusion of the yesteryears and modernity. Jaipur is popularly known as the Pink City because of the extensive use of the locally abundant pink plastered stone, painted so in honor of the visit of the royal consort of Queen Victoria. Jaipur thrills the soul with its massive forts, magnificent palaces, exquisite temples and lush gardens.

The drive from **Ranthambhore** to **Jaipur** will take approximately three hours.

Late afternoon, explore **Albert Hall Museum**. This museum was designed by Colonel Sir Swinton Jacob in 1876 to greet King Edward VII as Prince of Wales on his first visit to India. This museum has collection of rare antique items, which includes Persian Garden carpet, textiles, paintings, metal & wood crafts, toys, dolls and even an Egyptian mummy. One gallery of this museum is dedicated to the Henna art of Rajasthan. A visit to this museum will surely leave you spell bound.

Later on, visit the **Jal Mahal or water palace** in Jaipur, is an intrinsic example of Indo-Mughal architecture, stands like a vigilante of peace in the serene and quiescent waters of Man Sagar Lake. With first four floors inside water, the majestic palace stands tall with its top floor outside the water arena. Stay overnight at the hotel.

DAY 5 (JUNE 2014): JAIPUR

Make an 8 a.m. excursion to the **Amber Fort & Palace** so that you may ascend to its colossal red entrance on the back of a highly decorated elephant. You will see the fort’s splendor with your own eyes when you walk down the hallways and chambers to see the luxurious and adorned ambiance of the palace. **Afternoon** – take a half-day tour of **the Palace Complex** See the **Jantar Mantar** Observatory, a sanctuary of the astronomer king, Maharaja Jai Singh II. Nearby, the intriguing Palace of the Wind, the **Hawa Mahal**, was built in 1799 to allow ladies from the royal family to view the city and bazaar below in privacy. Continue to the breathtaking Palace, a royal residence built in a blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles. The **city’s Palace Complex** holds several museums that contain impressive collections of miniature paintings, costumes, and armor. Between the art gallery and the armory, you will find the majestic Diwan-i-Khas—the hall of selective audience. Rest of the day is free for relaxing or shopping for Jaipur’s great selections of jewelry, blue pottery, and colorful fabrics. Stay overnight at the hotel.

DAY 6 (JUNE 2014): JAIPUR – DELHI – ONWARD DESTINATION

Morning – check out from your hotel and drive back to **Delhi**. The journey will take around five hours. Arrive at **Delhi** and we will drop you at location of your choice in New Delhi.

<u>Per Person Land Costs (based on 1 guest traveling alone):</u>	
First Class Level	Single Occupancy
	US \$ 1637
<u>Per Person Land Costs (based on 2 guests traveling together):</u>	
First Class Level	Double Occupancy
	US \$ 977 Per Person

Hotel to be used: (First Class Level - 5 Star Hotels)

CITY	HOTEL	NIGHTS
Delhi	The Oberoi Maidens or Similar	1
Agra	The Taj or Similar	1
Ranthambhore	Nahargarh Fort or Similar	1
Jaipur	Trident or Similar	2

INCLUSIONS:

- 5 nights stay at the hotels on entire trip.**
- Hotel accommodation on **single or double** occupancy basis.
- All transfers and sightseeing by your personal A/C **SUV**.
- Check-in time is 2 p.m. and check-out time is 12 noon
- Breakfast at all the hotels.
- All three meals at Ranthambhore.
- One cycle-rickshaw ride to explore the famous Chandni Chowk market in Delhi.
- One battery van ride to the Taj Mahal from the nearest parking point.
- Two safaris' into Ranthambhore wildlife national park (including park entry fees, naturalist's fees, vehicle fees etc).
- One elephant ride at amber fort, Jaipur.
- Services of an English speaking guide as per the itinerary.
- Entrance fees to the monuments as per the itinerary.
- Bottled mineral water for sightseeing/excursions and long drives.
- Representative for assistance on all arrival and departure transfers.
- All currently applicable taxes.

NOT INCLUDED:

- Any personal expenses such as tips, laundry and drinks.
- Any extra meals (other than those specifically laid down).
- Personal Travel Insurance, visa etc.
- Camera fees (both still and video).
- International / Domestic flight tickets.
- Miscellaneous.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

- ***WE WOULD BE GLAD TO HAVE YOUR CONFIRMATION FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED PACKAGE LATEST BY 15TH MAY 2014 TO AVAIL THE ABOVE TOUR COST.***

For Bookings: REACH US AT

info@theholidayshoppe.in