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Romance of the Mughals

Duration: 08N/09D

Key Sights: Delhi – Agra – Mathura – Gwalior - Jaipur

Day	Program	Mode	Distance/Time
Day 1	Arrived Delhi	By Flight	
Day 2	Delhi		
Day 3	Delhi – Agra	By Surface	232KM/03-04 Hours
Day 4	Agra		
Day 5	Agra – Mathura – Agra	By Surface	57KM/01-02 Hours
Day 6	Agra – Gwalior – Agra	By Surface	119KM/02-03 Hours
Day 7	Agra – Jaipur	By Surface	240KM/03-04 Hours
Day 8	Jaipur	By Surface	
Day 9	Jaipur – Delhi	By Surface	287KM/05-06 Hours
Day 10	Departure Delhi	By Flight	



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Day 1	Arrived Delhi	By Flight	
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Arrival in Delhi, Meeting and assistance at airport and transfer to hotel. Check-in at hotel, Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 2	Delhi		
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Breakfast at hotel, this morning explore India's capital city by touring its magnificent monuments, start your tour by visiting - Old Delhi: An ancient walled city earlier known as Shahjahanabad. Take a photo stop at Red Fort: the most opulent red sandstone fort and palace of the Moghul Empire (1639-1648 built by Shah Jahan the 5th Mughal Emperor of India and the builder of the Taj Mahal in Agra), visit Jama Masjid, Largest mosque in India, the foundation of the historic Jama Masjid was laid on a hillock in Shahjahanabad by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1650 AD, this mosque was the result of the efforts of over 6,000 workers, over a period of six years (1650-1656 AD). The cost of the construction in those times was 1 million rupees. This Mosque has three great gates, four towers and two 40 m-high minarets constructed of strips of red sandstone and white marble. About 25,000 people can pray here at a time. The mosque has a vast paved rectangular courtyard, which is nearly 75 m by 66 m. The whole of the western chamber is a big hall standing on 260 pillars.

Visit Chandni Chowk, the bustling and colorful market of the old city, designed by Emperor Shah Jahan's daughter Jahanara Begum. Jahanara laid the foundation of Chandni Chowk, which is the largest trading center of Delhi as well as India. At present the street is a busy thoroughfare and is really congested. This area is renowned for 'Kuchas and Katras' also known as Alleys. These alleys house traditional Havelis, places of worship: Temples, Mosques, Church and Gurudwara, popular specialised markets and century-old eating joints. Enjoy a cycle-rickshaw ride.

Visit the Raj Ghat, the memorial site of Mahatma Gandhi - Father of Nation.

Later visit New Delhi designed and built by the British in the 1920's it's a city of wide boulevards impressive Government buildings, green parks and gardens. First drive past Connaught Place, the heart and main shopping district of the capital, then drive to Rajpath (King's Way), India Gate - the 42mt high stone 'Arch of Triumph', erected in the memory of Indian soldiers who died in First World War. Drive past Rashtrapati Bhawan (President Palace) and Parliament House.

Sightseeing will also include drive past the elegant Lodhi Garden and Safdarjung's tomb.

Visit the exquisite Humayun's Tomb, built in 1570 is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent. This memorial of Emperor Humayun, second Mughal ruler of India was built by his widow, Hajji Begum 14 years after his death.

Later visit Qutab Minar 12th century minaret built by Qutub-ud-din Aibek of the Slave Dynasty - this building complex dates back to the onset of Muslim rule in India and is fine example of Afghan architecture which is graceful and well sculptured and stands 75 mt. Also visit the Baha'i Temple (Lotus Temple) Lotus being a symbol of peace and prosperity all around the world, the shape of the temple personifies the purpose for which the foundation of this marvelous man-made architectural was laid. Lotus temple is made of pristine marble blocks, cement, dolomite and sand and the entire ascetic value is coddled by the group of



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nine pools filled with crystal clear water. In accord with the mores of Baha'i religion, the temple is open to everyone from anywhere in the world who is looking for inner peace & tranquility.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 3	Delhi – Agra	By Surface	232KM/03-04 Hours
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Breakfast at hotel and check-out, later drive to Agra, check in the hotel. Relax for a while in your hotel room.

Later in the afternoon proceed for the city to visit Agra Fort which retains the irregular outline of the demolished mud-wall fort of the Lodhis. It is a World Heritage Site, located near to the Taj Mahal gardens on the banks of River Yamuna. The real specimen of architectural marvel, this fortress was constructed in the 15th century. The construction of this mammoth structure started during 1565 during the reign of Emperor Akbar and continued the developments up to the period of Emperor Shah Jahan. The fort, in a length of 2.5 km marvelous enclosure walls, is built in red sandstones and encloses many monuments which are real architectural wonders. Many exquisite palaces such as the Jehangiri Mahal, Shah Jahani Mahal, the Khas Mahal, Diwan-i-Aam - which was used as a communications ground between the public and the aristocracy and once housed the Peacock Throne, Diwan-i-Khas - a hall of private audience, it was used to welcome Kings and dignitaries and Mussaman Burj - a large, octagonal tower with a balcony facing the Taj Mahal are enclosed in the Fortress. Other monuments include the Fish Pavilion, the Nagina Masjid, Garden of Grapes and the Pearl Mosque. Views of the Taj Mahal from the Fort are amazing. Return to hotel, Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 4	Agra		
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Early morning visit to the Taj Mahal - One of the Seven Wonders of the World, a pristine monument of undying love, built by Emperor Shah Jahan to enshrine the body of his beloved wife Arjumand Banu Begum (Mumtaz Mahal) after she died in 1631 at Burhanpur. The Taj has continued to be a mark of love since ever. This monument took 22 years to be completed and was designed, and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. The construction started in 1632 and was completed in 1653. The workforce of some 20,000 and 1,000 elephants, included Masons, Stonecutters, Inlayers, Carvers, Calligraphers, Dome-builders and other artisans were requisitioned from the empire and also from Italy, Central Asia and Persia. In accordance with Islamic tradition, verses from the Quran were inscribed in calligraphy on the arched entrances to the mausoleum, in addition to numerous other sections of the complex. Apart from its stunning design balance and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens and some of the best inlay work ever seen. Witness the white marble reflect the nuances of the changing light from the Sun. Taj Mahal symbolize the richness of art and architecture of the Mughal period.

A visit to Chini Ka Rauza, Built in 1635 during the reign of Shah Jahan, Chini-Ka-Rauza is a mausoleum of poet-scholar, Allama Afzal Khan Mullah of Shiraz, who later went on to become Shah Jahan's Prime Minister. Created mainly with brown stone, the tomb dedicated to Mullah gains much of its attraction from the colourful tiles here, it is one of the first



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buildings to feature an entirely Persian-style of architecture with glazed tiles decorating its exterior. The tiles used for decorating the monument were imported from China, hence the name of the monument. The walls here have inscriptions, adding a sense of history to one's experience of the place. Of these inscriptions and structures, the most significant is the Afghan-style round dome which boasts of inscriptions from Islamic texts and scriptures. Later proceed to see the Itmad-Ud-Daulah's Tomb. Along with the main building, the structure consists of numerous outbuildings and gardens. Tomb of Mirza Ghiyas Beg - A Wazir (Chief Minister) in the court of Mughal Emperor Jahangir. Ghiyas Beg was honored with the title of Itmad-ud-Daulah or the Pillar of the State. Emperor Jahangir married her beautiful widowed daughter Mehr-un-Nissa, she was later christened Noor Jahan and went down in the history as one of the most beautiful and artistically gifted women in the world. After the death of Mirza Ghiyas Beg in 1622, Noor Jahan undertook the project to build his mausoleum, which took six years to get complete. It is entirely made of white marble. This tomb represents the transition between the first phase of monumental Mughal architecture - primarily built from red sandstone with marble decorations with mosaic and lattice.

Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 5	Agra – Mathura – Agra	By Surface	57KM/01-02 Hours
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Early breakfast at hotel. This morning proceed for the same day excursion to Mathura city, en-route visit the Sikandra. Built in Persian architecture using red sandstone and beautified with inlay marble work and pattern work, Sikandra is the final resting place of Mughal Emperor Akbar. Emperor Akbar planned and began construction in around 1600, according to Tartary tradition to commence the construction of one's tomb during one's lifetime. After his death, Akbar's son Jahangir completed the construction in 1605-1613. The tomb lies in the center, surrounded by a Charbagh style Mughal Garden - a quadrilateral garden divided symmetrically by paved walkways. The entire complex follows the symmetrical design found in Persian architecture along with features such as chattris or cenotaphs from Hindu architecture. Entrance is through a magnificent gateway, comprising 20 huge panels featuring intricate geometrical inlay work. One can also see the Baradi palace in the gardens built by Sikander Lodhi.

Afterwards drive to Mathura city and visit Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi - This Temple is also known as Keshava Deo or Keshava Dev Temple and it is the most venerated Hindu temples, it is the place of birth of Lord Krishna. The temple is believed to have constructed at the site where Lord Shri Krishna was born nearly 5000 years ago to Devki and Vasudeo in the underground prison of King Kansa. The prison cell, popularly known as 'Garbha Griha' is the exact place where lord Krishna was born. The prison cell was later turned into the present beautiful temple. The temple had been destroyed number of times by Mohammed Ghazni, Sikander Lodi and Aurangzeb but has been restored every time.

Visit Jama Masjid - The mosque of Abd-un-Nabi Khan, built in year 1662, who was the governor during the reign of Aurangzeb. The main attractions of the mosque are the four decorated minarets and the mosaic plastering on the lofty structure. It is situated close to the Janmabhoomi temple, symbolizing the peaceful co-existence between the Hindus and Muslims.

Rangbhumi - It was the wrestling arena where lord Krishna killed Kansa, his maternal uncle and got his parents out of the prison, also visit the Vishram Ghat along the River Yamuna - it



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is the most important ghat in Mathura, as the traditional parikrama starts and ends at this place. The Parikrama is the circumambulation of all the major religious and cultural places of Mathura. As per the legend, Lord Krishna rested at the Vishram Ghat after killing Kansa. It is bordered with numerous beautiful temples.

Visit the Archaeological Museum - situated at Dampier Park, this museum was founded by Mr. F. S. Growse, the then collector of district Mathura in 1874 to house the items found in the archeological excavations from Mathura and adjoining area. It was shifted to this present building in 1930. It presents one of the finest archeological collections which include rare and antique items ranging from 3rd to 12th centuries. There are sculptures from the Gupta and Kushan period.

Later visit the Dwarkadhish Temple - It is one of the most visited shrines of Mathura. Built in 1814, this Temple is said to have been constructed by Seth Gokul Das Parikh, who was the treasurer of the Gwalior Estate. He was a great devotee of Lord Krishna and erected the shrine to commemorate the deity. In the present day, this Temple is administered by the followers of the Vallabhacharya sect. In the evening return Agra, overnight stay at hotel.

Day 6

Agra – Gwalior – Agra

By Surface

119KM/02-03 Hours

Early breakfast at hotel, this morning drive Gwalior for the same day excursion. Reach Gwalior and proceed for a tour of the Majestic Gwalior Fort. This massive fort had the distinction for being the most invincible forts of India. It stands on a steep mass of sandstone and towers above the Gwalior city. The winding steep road to the fort is flanked by the statues of Jain Tirthankaras, carved into the rock face. Within the fort are some of the most beautiful examples of the medieval architecture. The 15th century Gujari Mahal, a monument of love built by Raja Mansingh Tomar for his Gurjar Queen, the interior of this palace has been converted into an Archaeological Museum. Another monument built by him between 1486-1517 is Man Mandir Palace. Most of the Palace stands stripped of its former glory, the tiles that once adorned its exterior have not survived, but at the entrance, traces of these still remain. There is a charming frieze of ducks paddling in turquoise waters. Within, the palace rooms stand bare, stripped of their former glory, mute testimony to the passing of the centuries. Vast chambers with fine stone screens were once the music halls, and behind these screens, the royal ladies would learn music from the great masters. Visit Jehangir and Shah Jahan Palace. The Teli Ka Mandir, a 9th century structure with a height of 100 ft. It has blend of two different architectural styles, the shape of the roof is distinctively Dravidian, while the decorative embellishments have the typically Indo-Aryan characteristics, the Sas Bahu temple, built in 11th century dedicated to Lord Vishnu.

Later visit Jai Vilas Palace is a splendid residence of the Scindia family. Part of the residence has been turned into the Scindia Museum (also known as Jivaji Rao Scindia Museum) where one can see a regal lifestyle. Established in year 1964, the museum is controlled by a private trust. Keeping the past alive, Jai Vilas Palace architecture dominates Italian style. The palace is adorned with Belgium artworks, huge China bowl, two famous central chandeliers weighing a couple of tons, intricate gold work ceiling in the Darbar Hall, fine Persian carpets, antique French and Italian furniture. Every corner of the palace is decorated with gifts and artifacts. The dining hall of the palace is a Silver train with glass cut wagons which takes round on the dining table used for serving food to guests. It also has collection of swords which were once worn by Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb.



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Visit the Tomb of Ghaus Mohammed, It is a sandstone mausoleum of the Afghan prince - Ghaus Mohammed, who later turned into a Sufi saint. Constructed in the 16th century, the tomb originally belonged to the time of Akbar. An example of Mughal architecture, the screens of the monument have been carved and developed using the pierced stone technique. The tomb has number of chhatris that are covered with blue tiles. The walls feature intricate carvings and latticework.

The Memorial of Tansen, also known as the 'Tomb of Tansen', is located in the vicinity of the tomb of Muhammad Ghaus. Surrounded by gardens, the tomb is has a typical Mughal architectural style. Tansen was a follower of the Sufi saint. He also learnt Hindustani classical music and several ragas from Muhammad Ghaus, his music teacher. Tansen was an exponent of the Dhrupad style and developed the Gwalior Gharana style. He was regarded as 'the father of Hindustani classical music'. Tansen was one of the 'Nine Jewels' in Akbar's court.

After the completion of the tour drive back to Agra for overnight stay.

Day 7	Agra – Jaipur	By Surface	240KM/03-04 Hours
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Early breakfast at hotel and later check-out, this morning drive to Jaipur, known as Pink city the capital of enchanting state of Rajasthan.

En-route stop at Fatehpur Sikri for sightseeing.

Fatehpur Sikri - Built in 1571, it is a synthesis of the flourishing styles of the Persian courts and the prevailing Hindu Islamic trends. It was planned as a great town by Emperor Akbar with great care and planning, but it had to be abandoned after fifteen years due to scarcity of water in the town. Constructed mainly as a tribute to the great Sufi Saint Shaikh Salim Chisti who had blessed Akbar with a son. His son was named after the Saint as Salim and he succeeded the Emperor Akbar and was known as Emperor Jehangir. The town was originally named Sikri after the village, where it was founded but its twin city Fatehpur (Victory Town) was erected to celebrate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat. However, ruins of the temple dating back to 12th century suggest the reign of Rajputs in the area long before Mughals took over the area. The two mosques in the village of Sikri have inscriptions, which announce their conception in 1314 under Mohd. Khilji. There have been records that Babur renamed the village 'Sikri' as 'Shukri', meaning 'thanks to the god'. It was also the famous dwelling place and Khanqah of Shiekh Salim Chishti, the famous Sufi saint whom Akbar revered for blessing him with child. Built in Red Sandstone, an example of robust stability combined with originality each important edifice here represents a type by itself. Notable among them is the Buland Darwaza, Tomb of Shaikh Salim Chisti, Jama Masjid, Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Panch Mahal, Palace of Jodha Bai, Birbal Bhawan, Miriam's Palace, Karawan Serai and Hiran Minar.

Arrive Jaipur city and proceed to hotel for check-in, relax for a while in your hotel room.

Afterwards visit the Albert Hall Museum - It is supposed to be the oldest museum in the Rajasthan state. It was designed by Colonel Swinton Jacob in 1876 to welcome King Edward VII as Prince of Wales on his visit to Jaipur. It was brought to life by Thomas Holbein Hendley. The collection that he put together is a valuable inheritance today: Arms and Armour, Sculptures, International Art, Pottery, Stone work, Wood work, Ivory, Jewellery, Clay models, Musical Instruments, Coins and Seals, Carpets, colourful Crystal work and Miniature Paintings. It is also home to the rare Persian Garden Carpet and also an Egyptian



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Mummy. Initially Maharaja Ram Singh II wanted this building to be a town hall, but his successor, Sawai Madho Singh II, decided it should be a museum for the art of Jaipur and included as part of the new Ram Nivas Garden.

In the evening visit the Birla Temple to learn more about the fascinating religious life of Jaipur. Built recently in 1985, houses ornate statues including one of Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth and Beauty) and Narayan dressed in gaudy robes, representing a Hindu vision of heavenly luxury. Witness the Aarti Ceremony (Prayer ceremony) which involves oil lamps being lit and waved, in order to awake and invoke the deity. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 8

Jaipur

By Surface

After your breakfast at hotel, embark for an excursion to Amber Fort in the morning, situated outside the city, it is perhaps the most beautiful example of Rajput forts, this complex stands amidst wooded hills, with its threatening battlements reflected in the motionless waters of the Maota Lake below. You can have the unique experience of riding on a decorated elephant to the top of the hill. One of the premium examples of Rajput architecture, it was the ancient capital of the Kachhawaha rulers. The original palace was built by Raja Man Singh and additions were made later by Sawai Jai Singh. Here are the personal chambers of the Queens with windows having latticed screens so that the ladies could look at the events of the Royal court in privacy. There is also the Jai Mandir or the "Temple of Victory", with its well-known Sheesh Mahal, the sparkling "Hall of Mirrors". Within the Palace are the Diwan-e-Aam or the "Hall of Public Audience", the Diwan-e-Khas or the "Hall of Private Audience" and the Sukh Niwas where a cool breeze blows across channels of water for the purpose of air-conditioning.

Return to city and visit City Palace complex, located in the heart of Jaipur known for its blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture, the museum houses the rare and rich collection of Ornaments, 15th century Arms & Weapons, Royal Costumes, Carpets, Sanganeri block prints, Kashmiri Pashmina Shawls, folk embroideries and Decorative Art objects of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal art and architecture. Complex has several palatial structures like the Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Badal Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Ji Temple and the City Palace Museum and is divided into two parts- One part Sawai Man Singh Museum and other is still the Residential Palace of the former Maharaja.

Next we visit the Jantar Mantar, a solar observatory - It is the largest of the five astronomical observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh-I, the founder ruler of Jaipur. It is an astronomical treasure house, with solar device that give accurate predictions till date, it is classified as UNESCO World heritage site.

Photo-stop at Hawa Mahal or the Palace of Winds, a four storied facade of pink sandstone and one of the most picturesque landmarks with semi-octagonal and delicately honeycombed windows overlooking the main street of the old city. It was built in 1799 so that veiled royal women could see the royal processions through its 593 stone screens without being seen by the outsiders.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.



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Day 9	Jaipur – Delhi	By Surface	287KM/05-06 Hours
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Breakfast at hotel and check-out from hotel, later drive to Delhi. Arrive in Delhi and proceed to a local restaurant for farewell dinner. Later you will be transferred to International Airport to board the return journey flight.

Day 10	Departure Delhi	By Flight	
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Departure early in the morning by an international flight.