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## Fort and Palaces Tour

**Duration: 11N/12D**

**Key Sights: Mumbai - Udaipur - Kumbhalgarh - Jodhpur - Jaipur - Agra**

Day	Program	Mode	Distance/Time
Day 1	Arrived Mumbai	By Flight	
Day 2	Mumbai		
Day 3	Mumbai – Udaipur	By Flight	
Day 4	Udaipur		
Day 5	Udaipur – Ranakpur	By Surface	93KM/01-02 Hours
	Ranakpur - Kumbhalgarh	By Surface	33KM/01 Hour
Day 6	Kumbhalgarh – Jodhpur	By Surface	187KM/03-04 Hours
Day 7	Jodhpur – Jaipur	By Surface	338KM/05-06 Hours
Day 8	Jaipur		
Day 9	Jaipur – Agra	By Surface	240KM/04-05 Hours
Day 10	Agra		
Day 11	Agra – Delhi	By Surface	232KM/03-04 Hours
Day 12	Delhi		
Day 13	Departure Delhi	By Flight	



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<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Arrived Mumbai</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
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Arrival in India (Mumbai), traditional welcome by our representative at airport, transfer assistance to hotel. Check-in at hotel, before you proceed to your room/s, our representative will hand-over the travel documents and brief you about the tour programme. Overnight stay at Hotel.

<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Mumbai</b>		
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Breakfast at hotel. Morning time will be at leisure to recuperate from your international flight.

Late in the morning: Start your city tour and visit following places of interest: Visit Prince of Wales Museum, was set up in the early 20th century to commemorate the visit of the then Prince of Wales (King George V) to India. Designed by an eminent architect, George Wittet, the museum is an impressive heritage building of Mumbai. Built in 1905 to 1915, this museum served as a Children's Welfare Centre and a Military Hospital during the First World War. In 1922 however, it was transformed into Prince of Wales Museum. Artifacts from the Indus Valley Civilization and relics from the Gupta and Maurya periods. The rare Sculptures, Miniature Paintings, Decorative Arts, Arms and Armours, Bronze and Textile. Sections on Nepal / Tibet and Far Eastern Art lend the museum a larger perspective.

Visit Jehangir Art Gallery located near Prince of Wales Museum in Kala Ghoda. Built in 1952, this mansion was founded by Sir Cowasji Jehangir on being constantly urged by K. K. Hebbar and Dr. Homi Bhabha. This gallery is a great specimen of Indian Arts and sculpture and is a historic monument related with the renaissance of Indian arts. Gallery exhibits famous works by well-known Indian artists. There's plenty of art is displayed outside as well.

Later drive to the Flora Fountain for a photo stop - This marvellous fountain was built in 1869, in honor of Sir Henry Bartle and Edward Frere. It is situated in the heart of the Mumbai city at a junction of five streets. The fountain has a figure of "Flora", the Roman Goddess of Flowers at the top. Proceed to visit Dhobi Ghat - The traditional open air laundry of Mumbai, where 200 dhobi families work together and continue to maintain their hereditary occupation. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Mumbai – Udaipur</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
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Breakfast and check-out from hotel. Start your day with an excursion to Elephanta Island an hour away from Gateway of India (Mumbai Harbour). Motorboats ferry tourists across to the island from the jetty at the Gateway of India. The boat ride, itself, is interesting as you go past fishing boats, anchored ships, yachts and little islands. The island resembles twin hillocks rising from the sea and the caves are located halfway up the higher of the two. Hewn out of solid rock, the Elephanta Caves date between the 5th and 8th centuries, these caves were designated as World heritage site by UNESCO in 1987. The temple plan is designed in symmetry with the focal points worked out in a geometric Mandala, representing the cosmic field of energy. This complex is a collection of shrines, courtyards,



inner cells, grand halls and porticos arranged in the splendid symmetry of Indian rock-cut architecture, and filled with exquisite stone sculptures of Hindu Gods and Goddesses. At the entrance to the caves is the famous Trimurti, the celebrated trinity of Elephanta: there's Lord Brahma the Creator, Lord Vishnu, the preserver and Lord Shiva the Destroyer.

Unfortunately, many of the sculptures inside have been damaged by iconoclastic Portuguese rulers who took potshots at Hindu Gods with their rifles. And yet somehow, nothing has disturbed the sublime beauty of this place for centuries.

Return and visit Gateway of India, It is one of the architectural marvel, located on the southern part of Mumbai on the shores of Arabian Sea. It is a combination of the "Indo-Sarcenic" architecture and was built in Yellow Basalt stone in 1924 to celebrate the arrival of King George V and Queen Mary. It was inaugurated by the Viceroy, the Earl of Reading on 4th Dec 1924. The Gateway of India became all the more symbolic when the last British Force left our country on 28th Feb 1948.

Later drive to Haji Ali Dargah Sharif to visit the shrine of Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari (R.A.) located on a small islet in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Mumbai. It is a one and only structure of its kind in the world having a Dargah, a Masjid and a Sanatorium in the middle of the Sea which accommodates thousands of people at a time.

Haji Ali Dargah is a handsome example of Islamic architecture standing on an island. The structure has typical white domes and minarets reminiscent with the Mughal architecture of the period. This Dargah comprises of the Dargah Complex, the Kinara Masjid adjacent to the entrance of Haji Ali Dargah on Lala Lajpat Rai Road, the concrete pathway leading from the road to the Dargah Complex and the Haji Ali Dargah Trust Offices. A short flight of marble steps leads into the Dargah Complex where the body of the Saint Pir Haji Ali Shah Bukhari is enclosed in a tomb. The Haji Ali Dargah is a historical landmark in Mumbai, and is also one of the most prestigious Islamic symbols. It was built by a wealthy merchant known as Haji Ali Shah Bukhari who decided to renounce all worldly possessions and turned into a saint just before going for a pilgrimage to Mecca. The mosque (Masjid) inside the complex and the Dargah were built in 1431 AD.

Afterwards, in-time transfer to airport to board your flight for Udaipur. Upon your arrival transfer assistance from airport to hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Udaipur</b>		
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Breakfast at hotel. AM - Time to explore the romantic city of Lakes - Udaipur, with the palaces built around Lake Pichola and the Aravalli Hills forming the backdrop.

Visit City Palace - the former home of the Maharanas of Udaipur, the museum is entered through the Ganesh Deori meaning the door of Lord Ganesh, this leads to the Rajya Angan, the royal courtyard. The rooms of the palace are superbly decorated with mirror tiles and paintings. The Ruby Palace has a lovely collection of glass and mirror work while Krishna Vilas display a rich collection of miniature paintings. Pearl palace has beautiful mirror work and the Chini Mahal has ornamental tiles all over. The Surya Chovar depicts a huge ornamental Sun symbolising the Sun dynasty to which the Mewar dynasty belongs. The Bai Mahal is a central garden with view of the city. This Palace being a majestic architectural marvel, within the four walls are mosaics of Peacocks, exquisite mirror work and exotic paintings. It is a conglomeration of courtyards, pavilions, terraces, corridors, rooms and hanging gardens.



Crystal Gallery - which has been hailed as probably the single largest private collection of crystal anywhere in the world. The collection includes a bewildering number of objects d'art, dinner sets, perfume bottles, decanters, glasses, washing bowls and even furniture. The Crystal Gallery also houses the only crystal bed in the world.

Later drive to the Palace Garage to see private collection of Vintage & Classic cars of House of Mewar. The grand limousines and cars showcased here are Rolls-Royce, 1939 Cadillac open convertibles, rare Mercedes models, 1936 Vauxhall and 1937 Opel models.

Visit Sahelion ki Bari, a spot once reserved for the royal ladies who strolled here, this well-planned garden is blessed with extensive and shady lawns on the banks of the Fateh Sagar Lake. The garden's lotus pools and fountains show ancient science since they've been placed at a lower level than the Lake, thus being gravity-driven. The main fountain lies in the center on a white marble deck with black marble marking its four corners. On the western face are pavilions, delicately sculptured of black stone that are embraced by more fountains on all sides.

PM - Take a boat ride of Lake Pichola and visit the beautiful 17th century Jagmandir Island Palace and Jagat Niwas (Lake Palace : a luxury hotel) set amidst the lake. Sun-set is the best time of the day to go for a boat ride.

Lake Pichola is a beautiful lake, the oldest creation and one of the largest lakes in Udaipur, lake was constructed in the year 1362 by Pichhu Banjara. All the tourists are attracted towards this picturesque lake which looks even more impressive with its scenic backdrop. Not only the lush green hills surround the Lake Pichola but several temples, elevated hills, bathing ghats and palaces too envelope the lake on all sides. To the south of the lake lies a hill called Machhala Magra. From the top of this hill, one can capture a glimpse of the Eklinggarh Fort. The renowned City Palace in Udaipur extends up to the eastern banks of Pichola Lake. Yet another attraction that lies in the north-east direction of the lake is Mohan Mandir. Pichola Lake comprises of numerous islands. Jag Island is one such island of this tranquil river. On top of the Jag Island stands proudly the world famous Lake Palace. Another popular tourist destination, the Jag Mandir is also situated over an island of the Lake Pichola.

Later in the evening visit the Jagdish Temple, an Indo-Aryan temple, this temple with Lord Vishnu as the main deity was built by Maharana Jagat Singh in 1651. The temple is constructed by perfectly following the Shipa Shastra, an art and science of construction theories for temples and other buildings. Excellent Carvings showing musicians playing musical instruments, dancing and singing of beautiful lady folks adorn the large hall in the temple.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Udaipur – Ranakpur</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>93KM/01-02 Hours</b>
	<b>Ranakpur - Kumbhalgarh</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>33KM/01 Hour</b>

Breakfast at hotel and later check-out. This morning drive to Kumbhalgarh, en-route visit Ranakpur. The Ranakpur Jain Temples were built during the reign of the liberal and gifted monarch Rana Kumbha in the 15th century. There are four subsidiary shrines, 24 pillared halls and domes supported by over four hundred columns. The total number of columns is 1,444 all of which are intricately carved with no two being alike. The artistically carved nymphs playing the flute in various dance postures at a height of 45 ft are an engrossing



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sight. In the assembly hall, there are two big bells weighing 108 kg whose sound echoes in the entire complex. The main temple is of Chaumukh or four-face temple dedicated to Adinath. After the tour of Ranakpur Jain Temples continue your ride to Kumbhalgarh. Upon arrival check-in at hotel, PM - Explore the beautifully preserved and one of the most majestic forts of India. 13 mountain peaks surround the impregnable fortress of Kumbhalgarh. Seven towering gateways pierce the massive walls of this prominent fortress of Mewar. Built in the 15th century, Kumbhalgarh Fort was named after Rana Kumbha, who got the fort erected. One of the most beautiful Forts and Palaces, this fort holds the distinction of remaining unconquered till date. Majestically situated amidst the Aravali ranges forming an enchanting backdrop. This formidable medieval citadel stands majestically as a mute witness to the past glory of its Kings and Princes. Being fortified with 33 kms of walls, more than 25 ft thick - in fact, the second longest continuous wall in the world. The most interesting feature of Kumbhalgarh Fort is that it houses another fort within its precincts. Named the Kartargarh Fort, this smaller fort comprises of a palace built by Maharana Fateh Singh. Overnight stay at hotel

<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Kumbhalgarh – Jodhpur</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>187KM/03-04 Hours</b>
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Breakfast and check-out from hotel by noon at 1200 hrs. During the day time drive to Jodhpur. Arrive and check in to your hotel. Remaining day at leisure for independent activities. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Jodhpur – Jaipur</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>338KM/05-06 Hours</b>
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Breakfast and check out from hotel. In the morning proceed for the city tour of Jodhpur, Visit the aptly named majestic Meherangarh Fort, which dominates the skyline. Entered through gates, which bear the evocative handprints of the "Sati" queens women of the royal harem, who took their own lives when their men were defeated in battle. The fort has a series of spectacular palaces and museum, each decorated with exquisite engravings, lattice and mirror work. Of particular note is the museum that exhibits a magnificent collection of royal memorabilia; we stop to admire the graceful cenotaph at Jaswant Thada, A prime attraction of the city is clock tower and the colorful Sadar Market near to it. Narrow alleys lead to quaint bazaars selling vivid tie and dye fabric, textiles, antiques, glass bangles, silverware and handicrafts. These colorful markets with tiny shops are situated in the heart of city.

Drive to Jaipur, known as Pink city. Arrive Jaipur in the evening and check in to your hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 8</b>	<b>Jaipur</b>		
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Breakfast at hotel, this morning take an excursion to Amber Fort, the former royal capital. On the way, take a photo-stop at Hawa Mahal or Palace of the Winds, a four-storied structure of pink sandstone 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, unseen by the world through its 593 stone screens.



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Amber Fort - Set on the dry wrinkled Aravalli Hills, and surrounded by fortified battlements, the palace straddles two sepia-hued tundra hills overlooking Maota Lake, and its sprawling crenellated walls lattice the surrounding hills. We will ride up to this hilltop palace on a caparisoned, painted elephant, passing through the ancient main gate where Maharajas of Jaipur have entered for four hundred years. This fort is an architectural masterpiece with its mirror-studded alcoves, dazzling mosaics and water-cooled swings that delighted their former royal residents.

Afterwards, return to city to visit City Palace, located in the heart of Jaipur known for its Rajput architecture. Series of open courtyards, simple stables and buildings leading to the richly decorated royal rooms. The museum within the palace house a fabulous collection of Ornaments, Textiles, Carpets, Manuscripts, Royal costumes and Decorative Art objects from the personal collection of the royal family.

Another monument near the City Palace is Jantar Mantar, 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 a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the evening spend some time in the colourful bazaars in the city, for shopping or buy some souvenir.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 9</b>	<b>Jaipur – Agra</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>240KM/04-05 Hours</b>
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Breakfast and check out from your hotel. In the morning visit the Albert Hall Museum - Supposed to be the oldest museum in Rajasthan. 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 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.

Afterwards drive to Agra, en-route stop at Fatehpur Sikri, the deserted city of the Mughals. 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.

After the visit continue your drive to Agra, arrive and check into hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 10</b>	<b>Agra</b>		
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Early morning at the time of Sunrise, visit the fabled Taj Mahal (Closed on Fridays), 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.

Return to hotel for breakfast. Early morning at the time of Sunrise, visit the fabled Taj Mahal (Closed on Fridays), 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.

Afterwards visit, 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 Jehangir. Ghiyas Beg was honored with the title of Itmad-ud-Daulah or the Pillar of the State. Emperor Jehangir 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



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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. Later visit the Agra Fort, it's first red sandstone fort of North India was built by Mughal Emperor Akbar in the year 1565. Its royal audience halls, immense stone courtyards, marble mosque and the private royal chambers give us a glimpse of the grandeur and talent for combining defensive architecture with beauty and design of the Mughal Empire. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 11</b>	<b>Agra – Delhi</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>232KM/03-04 Hours</b>
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After breakfast check-out from hotel, and drive to Delhi. Arrive Delhi and check in to your hotel. Remaining day at leisure, overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 12</b>	<b>Delhi</b>		
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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,



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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 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.

Overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 13**

**Departure Delhi**

**By Flight**

Departure early in the morning by an international flight.