



**Truly India**

LIVE • LOVE • TRAVEL

## Classical India with Rajasthan

**Duration: 13N/14D**

**Key Sights:** Delhi - Varanasi - Khajuraho - Orchha - Jhansi - Agra - Jaipur - Pushkar - Udaipur - Delhi

Day	Program	Mode	Distance/Time
Day 1	Arrived Delhi	By Flight	
Day 2	Delhi		
Day 3	Delhi – Varanasi	By Flight	
Day 4	Varanasi		
Day 5	Varanasi – Khajuraho	By Flight	
Day 6	Khajuraho	By Flight	
Day 7	Khajuraho – Orchha Orchha – Agra	By Surface By Train	172KM/03-04 Hours
Day 8	Agra		
Day 9	Agra – Jaipur	By Surface	240KM/04-05 Hours
Day 10	Jaipur		
Day 11	Jaipur – Pushkar	By Surface	145KM/02-03 Hours
Day 12	Pushkar – Udaipur	By Surface	277KM/04-05 Hours
Day 13	Udaipur		
Day 14	Udaipur – Delhi	By Flight	
Day 15	Departure Delhi	By Flight	



**Truly India**

LIVE • LOVE • TRAVEL

**Day 1**

**Arrived Delhi**

**By Flight**

Arrival in India (New Delhi), 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.

**Day 2**

**Delhi**

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.

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, the structure was built inspired by Persian Architecture, it's architect was Mirak Mirza Ghiyath. 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



**Truly India**

LIVE • LOVE • TRAVEL

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. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Delhi – Varanasi</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
--------------	-------------------------	------------------	--

Breakfast and later check-out. Transfer in time to airport to board flight for Varanasi. Early evening visit the Bharat Mata (temple of Mother India) it features a huge marble map of India on the ground floor. Next visit the Durga Temple, this temple is one of the most imposing architectural monuments in Varanasi. Later, visit the ghats of river Ganges to witness the performance of Ganges Aarti prayer ceremony. See Hindu devotees performing the "Puja" with lighted lamps. The view is very mesmerizing and the ambience is spectacular in the backdrop of the ringing bells as well as the incessant chantings. Later return to the hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Varanasi</b>		
--------------	-----------------	--	--

At dawn visit the sacred river Ganges for a boat ride. Every morning at dawn hundreds of worshippers can be seen bathing in the sacred waters. The great river banks are lined with an endless chain of stone steps - the ghats - that stretch from one end of the city to the other. The Ghats form an impressive part of the religious landscape of the city. Proceeding downstream at a leisurely pace, you would be pointed out the significant temples and buildings as well as the changing architectural style. Life and death go hand in hand in Varanasi. While young people seek prosperity and protection from harmful influences, the older generation comes to Varanasi to cleanse their souls in the forgiving waters in preparation for their ultimate dissolution.

Following the boat ride we set off on foot to explore the inner city. Through a maze of narrow alleys, home to numerous shrines and shops.

Return hotel for breakfast. Afterwards visit Banaras Hindu University is an internationally reputed temple of learning, situated in the holy city of Varanasi. This Creative and innovative university was founded by the great nationalist leader, Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya, in 1916 with cooperation of great personalities like Dr Annie Besant, who viewed it as the University of India. Banaras Hindu University was created under the Parliamentary legislation - B.H.U. Act 1915. It played a stellar role in the independence movement and has developed into the greatest center of learning in India. It has produced many great freedom fighters and builders of modern India and has immensely contributed to the progress of the nation through a large number of renowned scholars, artists, scientists and technologists who have graced its portals. The university, which occupies a large piece of land at the southern end of town, is also home to the New Vishwanatha Temple. The New Temple is modern in design and open to Hindus and non-Hindus alike.

PM - Take an excursion to the Buddhist city of Sarnath. Excursion to Sarnath - one of the holiest Buddhist sites in the world, where Buddha preached his first Sermon in 590 BC.



Witness the ruins of a once flourishing Buddhist monastery and then visit a fine Museum which houses an excellent collection of Buddhist art and sculptures found at the site. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Varanasi – Khajuraho</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
--------------	-----------------------------	------------------	--

Breakfast and check-out. Transfer to Varanasi airport to board flight for Khajuraho. Arrive and transfer to hotel for check-in. PM visit the Sound & Light show at the Western Temple Complex. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Khajuraho</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
--------------	------------------	------------------	--

Breakfast at hotel. Proceed for a full day tour of the exotic temples (Western and Eastern group of temples) Western Group These groups of temples are completely Hindu, and represent some of the finest examples of Chandela art at its peak. Kandariya Mahadeo Temple, Chaunsath Yogini - the earliest temple was built in 900 AD. It is made of granite & dedicated to Goddess Kali. The Chitragupta Temple is dedicated to the Sun God, the Lakshmana Temple is superbly decorated, while the Devi Jagdambi Temple is dedicated to Goddess Kali. Other temples in the Western Group include the Varaha Temple with a 9 ft high boarâ€“incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the Matangeshwara Temple with a 8 ft high lingam. In the South part of the temple it has an open air Archaeological Museum, which has a gorgeous displayed compilation of statues and frieze's collected from the remains of long vanished temples. Eastern Group Situated near the village of Khajuraho, the Eastern Group of temples consists of the wellâ€“known temples like Brahma, Vamana and Javari. The group further includes Ghantai, Adinath and Parsvanath (Jain pilgrims) that are located near the Khajuraho Sagar. Adinatha Temple Is richly ornamented with delicate and pretty sculptures including those of yakshis. It is dedicated to the first Jain Tirthankara (Saint), Adinath and the Parsvanath Temple, the largest Jain temple, of the Eastern group. Parsvanath temple is devoted to Lord Parsavanath, the temple is ornamented with picturesque sculptures & has intricate stone carvings. Ghantai Temple a Jain temple famous for its astonishing frieze. This frieze depicts the 16 dreams of Lord Mahavira mother in conjunction with a multiâ€“armed Jain goddess mounted on a Garuda. Hindu Temples â€“ Amongst the Hindu temples, the Brahma temple, the Vamana temple and the Javari temple are the renowned shrines in the eastern group. Relax in the evening or Optional visit to the Shilpa Gram for seeing the local artisans at work. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Khajuraho – Orchha Orchha – Agra</b>	<b>By Surface By Train</b>	<b>172KM/03-04 Hours</b>
--------------	---	--------------------------------	--------------------------

Breakfast at hotel and later check-out. This morning drive to Orchha. Arrive and do the sightseeing of Orchha visit various temple and Palaces such as Raja Ram temple, Chaturbhuj Temple, Laxmi Narayan Temple, Shiva Mandir, Panch Mukhi Mahadev Mandir and other cenotaphs " Chhatries" on the bank of river Betwa and also visit Fort Palace of Raj Mahal, Jahangir Mahal, Diwan-I-Khas and Rai Praveen Mahal. Then proceed to Jhansi railway



**Truly India**

LIVE • LOVE • TRAVEL

station (12 km away) to board train to Agra. Arrival in Agra and transfer from railway station to hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 8**

**Agra**

A visit to the Taj Mahal early in the morning at the time of Sunrise, 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.

Return to hotel for breakfast, afterwards 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, was 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.

In the evening visit Mother Teresa Ashram and 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 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.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.



**Truly India**

LIVE • LOVE • TRAVEL

<b>Day 9</b>	<b>Agra – Jaipur</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>240KM/04-05 Hours</b>
--------------	----------------------	-------------------	--------------------------

Breakfast at hotel and later check-out. In the morning drive to Jaipur. Visit Fatehpur Sikri en-route. 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.

Afterwards drive to Jaipur - The picturesque capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur is colour washed in Pink - the colour associated with hospitality in Rajput culture.

In the evening, visit the Birla Temple to learn more about Hindu religion. The marble structure, built as recently as 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. Also visit the Albert Hall for a photo stop. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

<b>Day 10</b>	<b>Jaipur</b>		
---------------	---------------	--	--

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. Amber Fort, 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



**Truly India**

LIVE • LOVE • TRAVEL

"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, Sangneri 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.

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 11</b>	<b>Jaipur – Pushkar</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>145KM/02-03 Hours</b>
---------------	-------------------------	-------------------	--------------------------

Breakfast at hotel and check-out, this morning drive to Pushkar. Arrive and check-in at hotel. On the desert fringe lies a tiny tranquil town called Pushkar It is separated from Ajmer by 'Nag Pahar' - the snake mountain the Panchkund. according to legend, the origin of Pushkar dates back to the time when Lord Brahma was on his way in search of a tranquil land to perform a 'Yagna', a lotus fell from the hand of the Lord into this valley and a lake sprang up on this spot and was dedicated to him. Brahma temple located here is a popular place of pilgrimage along the bank of the picturesque Lake. It is one of the holiest & oldest cities of India. It is a favored destination for thousands of tourists & devotees. As per legends Pushkar boasts of over 400 temples, Ghats & Palaces revealing an entirely different picture of the city.

Lord Brahma is known as the creator of the world, as per the Hindu mythology. Visit the Ghats of Pushkar Lake and view the sunset. Later visit the Lord Brahma temple, going through the streets and the colourful bazaars of this small town.

Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 12</b>	<b>Pushkar – Udaipur</b>	<b>By Surface</b>	<b>277KM/04-05 Hours</b>
---------------	--------------------------	-------------------	--------------------------

Breakfast at hotel and check-out. Later this morning you drive to Udaipur city, enroute stop at Deogarh palace for lunch and sightseeing. Deogarh lies on the borders of Mewar, Marwar and Merwara. Its chieftain known as 'The Rawat' was one of sixteen Umraos (feudal barons) privileged to wait upon the Maharana of Udaipur, the capital of Mewar. Such feudal estates, called thikanas were granted by the ruling Maharana to a nobleman either due to blood relationship or for an act of bravery. Deogarh is also renowned as a school of miniature painting. Some Deogarh miniatures adorn the personal collection of the present Rawat



**Truly India**

LIVE • LOVE • TRAVEL

Sahib. Frescoes of this art form can also be seen on the fort walls. The Mahal also has some exciting rooms to browse through - Sheesh Mahal - the colourful hall of mirrors, is just one of them. The palace is an imposing structure built in the 17th century. It stands atop a hill and offers a commanding view of the Aravalli mountain range and the numerous lakes, strewn across the countryside. With its old battlements, Domes, Turrets, Jharokhas and huge Gateways, it is a picturesque sight from the town below. Built in 1670 A.D. by Rawat Dwarka Dasji as a family residence, it soon became the hub of village activity. The family interacted with the villagers and invited a host of feasts and festivities to be performed within the Mahal precincts. Some of these traditions are still practiced. And the gates, that always remained closed, to ward off enemies, are now open to the guests. Afterwards continue the drive to Udaipur, arrive and check-in at hotel. Remaining day at leisure for independent activities. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 13</b>	<b>Udaipur</b>		
---------------	----------------	--	--

Breakfast at hotel. This morning do the sightseeing tour of City of Lakes also known as Venice of the East, First visit the City Palace. Here you will marvel at rooms with mirrored walls and ivory doors, colored glass windows and inlaid marble balconies and the Peacock Courtyard. Also visit the lovely Sahelion-ki-Bari Gardens, the Jagdish Temple and the local folk Museum or the Vintage Car Collection. In the evening do boat ride on the placid waters of Lake Pichola. From the boat you will be able to view the city of Udaipur as it rises majestically above the lake in the middle of the Rajasthan desert. Also visit the Jag Mandir Palace - the other island palace in the middle of the lake. Visit and spend some time at the Jag Mandir Palace. Overnight stay at hotel.

<b>Day 14</b>	<b>Udaipur – Delhi</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
---------------	------------------------	------------------	--

Breakfast and later check-out from hotel. In-time transfer to Udaipur airport to board flight for Delhi. Arrive in Delhi, transfer from domestic airport to local restaurant for Farewell Dinner, and afterwards transfer to international airport to board return

<b>Day 15</b>	<b>Departure Delhi</b>	<b>By Flight</b>	
---------------	------------------------	------------------	--

Departure early in the morning by an international flight.