



# Highlights of India & Nepal: Delhi, Agra & Kathmandu

13 days | 16 days with Chitwan National Park & Kathmandu extension

Interested in checking two bucket list countries off your list? This trip's the ticket. Begin by touring the burnished highlights of India's Golden Triangle—Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur—before flying north to Kathmandu, Nepal. The City of Temples will be your home for four nights as you fill your days admiring Himalayan peaks and beautiful Buddhist stupas. Then, extend your tour to trek to the Nepalese lowlands and explore the wilds of the country's first national park. (You might even spot a Bengal tiger!)



## Your tour package includes

- 10 nights in handpicked hotels
- 10 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 5 dinners with beer or wine
- 1 tasting
- 16 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 2 on-tour flights

## Included highlights

- Jama Masjid in Old Delhi
- Qutub Minar in New Delhi
- Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi
- Sikh community kitchen
- Pink City of Jaipur
- Taj Mahal
- Jaipur's Amber Fort
- Nepalese pottery workshop
- Boudhanath stupa
- Chitwan National Park game drive
- Rapti River canoe ride

## Tour pace

You'll walk for about 2.5 hours daily across moderately uneven terrain—including paved roads, dirt paths, and stone steps—and through busy markets.

## Group size

15–30

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Delhi today.

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## Delhi → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Delhi

Welcome to India! After arriving in Delhi, make the short transfer to your hotel with your groupmates. You'll touch down later in the evening, so use the rest of your day to settle into your room, grab a bite to eat, catch up on sleep, and look forward to the rest of your journey.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Old Delhi

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner*

Finish shaking off that jet lag during a leisurely morning spent in the comfort of your hotel. Then, meet up with your Tour Director and set out for Old Delhi. Built on the order of Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal Emperor, this walled city was dubbed Shahjahanabad upon its completion in 1648 and served as the capital of Mughal India for over 200 years. Wind through its narrow lanes on a guided sightseeing tour and bask in its highlights.

- See the black marble pedestal and eternal flame of Raj Ghat, an enduring tribute to Mahatma Gandhi built on the site of his cremation. Then, visit a nearby museum dedicated to the "Father of the Nation," filled with photographs and books documenting his life.
- Tour the exterior of Jama Masjid, the former imperial mosque of the Mughals. Immediately recognizable by its twin sandstone minarets and three onion-like domes, this immense marble structure is one of Delhi's most iconic sites. Enjoy a reverent moment with your thoughts as you take in its courtyard.
- Split into groups and get ready to crank up the volume—and speed—on a rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk. Since opening in the 16th century, this market has ballooned into one of the largest in India. Zip through the streets of the "Moonlight Square," letting the sights, smells, and sounds of this bustling bazaar awe you.

Wrap up your first full day in India with an included welcome dinner, served with beer or wine at a local restaurant.

*Please note: The schedule of your sightseeing tour may vary depending on your departure date and the conditions in Delhi. Additionally, women will be given robes to wear over their clothes at Jama Masjid.*

### Day 4: Sightseeing tour of New Delhi

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

After walking, driving, and rickshaw-riding through history yesterday, spend your day getting to know India's present in New Delhi. Built over a span of 20 years and inaugurated as the country's capital in 1931, it contains some of the nation's most significant cultural sites. Check them out as you traverse the district with your Tour Director.

- See the India Gate. Built in the style of a triumphal arch, it's one of the largest and most famous war memorials in the country, honoring soldiers who fell during World War I and the Third Anglo-Afghan War.
- Enter the complex containing one of New Delhi's grandest sights: the Qutub Minar. Towering almost 240 feet above the city's Mehrauli neighborhood, this fluted sandstone minaret flaunts intricate engravings and gorgeous geometric patterns.
- Listen to your Tour Director tell stories about New Delhi's grand boulevards, government buildings, and public parks as you drive through the city, and take a break at a local restaurant for an included lunch.
- Visit Humayun's Tomb. Rising from an urban green space, the red sandstone walls of this UNESCO World Heritage Site pay striking homage to the eponymous 16th-century Mughal ruler. Enter the mausoleum and explore this prime example of Islamic architecture.
- Enter one of the holiest places in the Sikh faith: the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. Originally a bungalow belonging to a local king, it grew from a small shrine to a gurudwara, or temple, associated with the eighth Sikh Guru, Har Krishan. Its Sarovar, or lake, is said to have healing properties, further highlighting the temple's spiritual importance.
- Learn about the history and traditions of

Sikhism while visiting the temple. This organized religion is the fifth-largest and one of the youngest in the world. It emphasizes the concept of seva—selfless service—and adherents at the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib put it into practice each day. You'll see it in action at the langar, or community kitchen, where free meals are served 24 hours a day.

*Please note: The schedule of your sightseeing tour may vary depending on your departure date and the conditions in Delhi. Additionally, all travelers must wear a head covering in Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. One will be provided for you before entering.*

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## Agra → 1 night

### Day 5: Transfer to Agra, I'timad-ud-Daulah & the Taj Mahal

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Make the trek southeast from Delhi to the city of Agra. Your destination: the tomb of I'timad-ud-Daulah, the lavish final resting place of the Mughal official Mirza Ghiyas Beg. It was built as a loving tribute from daughter to father, and its name derives from the title bestowed upon Ghiyas Beg by the emperor he served: I'timad-ud-Daulah, or "Pillar of the State."

- Walk across its manicured gardens, set out in a perfect cross. (Fun fact: The only asymmetrical parts of the entire complex are the cenotaphs of Ghiyas Beg and his wife, Asmat Begum, laid side-by-side for eternity in the main tomb.)
- Enter the mausoleum with your Tour Director and come to understand why it's known as the "Baby Taj." Its use of white marble, red sandstone, and vibrant stone inlays marks a transition between eras of Mughal architecture, leading some to consider the tomb a first draft of the Taj Mahal.

Leave the tomb of I'timad-ud-Daulah behind and cross the Yamuna River, enjoying an included lunch before visiting the Taj Mahal, India's crown jewel and a testament of undying love.

Commissioned by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his dear wife, Mumtaz Mahal, the sprawling white marble complex is symmetrical

in nearly every way—from its soaring onion dome to the minarets framing it against the horizon. Embark on a sunset tour of this Wonder of the Modern World and let yourself get lost in the moment.

With another full day in the books, join your groupmates for an included dinner, served with beer or wine. Trade tales and compare your favorite moments so far, then retire for the night.

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## Jaipur → 2 nights

### Day 6: Yoga lesson, Mehtab Bagh garden & transfer to Jaipur

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Today, rise with the sun and partake in an invigorating, traditional yoga practice, complete with views of the Taj Mahal and post-flow tea. Centering yourself has never been so tranquil.

*Please note: This class is suitable for beginners and experts alike, and mats will be provided.*

*Your yogi may not be fluent in English; if this is the case, your Tour Director will help translate.*

Once you've limbered up, head to the opposite banks of the Yamuna River to immerse yourself in the serene surroundings of the Mehtab Bagh.

This charbagh, or quadrilateral garden, perfectly mirrors the width of the Taj Mahal, and blooms with hibiscus, guava, and other flowering plants. As you stroll along its manicured grounds, you'll learn about the Mughal and Persian elements that distinguish the area, and come to understand just how it got its name. ("Mehtab Bagh" directly translates to "Moonlight Garden.") Say goodbye to Agra and travel to Jaipur.

Looking to understand Indian culture from a more local perspective? Tonight, you and your group will head to a family's home for dinner.

You'll sample the region's specialties as you hear about day-to-day life in the city. After your meal, head back to your hotel with both a full stomach and a full heart.

### Day 7: Sightseeing tour of Jaipur, the Amber Fort & 4x4 Jeep ride

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting*

This morning, you have two options: Either sleep in and ease into the day, or join your groupmates for a sunrise excursion in a hot-air balloon.

Regardless of your choice, join back up with your Tour Director later in the morning for another spot of sightseeing. Your destination: the Amber Fort. Hunkered down atop a hill, this 16th-century fortress and palace complex is a paragon of Rajput architecture—so much so that it earned a spot among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Climb into a 4x4 Jeep and make the drive up the fort's slopes. Once you've made it to the

palace's sandstone-and-marble exterior, disembark and let a combination of history and hilltop views wash over you. Then, take off on a guided tour and walk through the palace gardens, under ornate archways, up serpentine staircases, and past beautifully patterned walls. When it's time to leave, you'll head back to the Pink City of Jaipur—so named for the dusty rose hue of the buildings in its Old City. The Rajasthani capital contains architectural marvels galore, and your Tour Director will show you some of its most magnificent on a guided tour.

- Sip masala chai as you walk through Jaipur's bustling markets, where traders offer everything from handmade jewelry to traditional textiles and marble statues.
- Scope out the City Palace—built following the traditional Hindu system of Vastu Shastra—then explore its museum, taking a peek into the lives of the royals who lived there in the 18th century.
- Pass the honeycombed facade of the Hawa Mahal, nicknamed the Palace of the Winds due to a unique structural feature. When it was built in 1799, its architect dotted the exterior with 953 small windows. Besides allowing the royal ladies within to observe the streets below, they also created a gentle wind tunnel effect, ensuring a constant breeze that made the sweltering Rajasthani summers bearable.

If you want to stretch your legs a bit, get active by adding the evening's excursion and learning some Bollywood dance steps in an interactive class, followed by dinner. If not, turn in early and dream about all you've seen so far.

+ Bollywood Dance Class & Dinner

+ Jaipur Hot-Air Balloon Ride

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## Kathmandu → 4 nights

### Day 8: Transfer to Delhi & flight to Kathmandu

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

This morning, return to Delhi, transfer to the airport, and board a flight bound for the Nepalese capital of Kathmandu. Once you touch down, you and your group will navigate the city's vibrant streets, catching a sneak peek of what's to come as you make your way to your hotel. Freshen up, then reconvene in the evening for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Kathmandu & paubha painting workshop

*Included meals: breakfast*

Sitting in the center of Nepal, cupped by its

namesake valley, Kathmandu is a beautiful barrage for the senses. With your Tour Director in the lead, you'll expertly maneuver your way through this lively city, dialing into the pace of life and breathing in each momentum-packed moment.

- Begin by wandering through the UNESCO-listed Durbar Square. This royal plaza is one of three similarly named places in the Kathmandu Valley, and traces its roots to the third century. It also houses the Nautalle Durbar, an 18th-century palace built to commemorate Nepalese unification.
- Continue to the Itum Bahal, an old Buddhist monastery and a staple of Kathmandu's Old Town. Odds are, you might smell its courtyard before you see it—the stalls of its famous spice market pump the pungent aroma of timur peppers and dried chilis into the air.
- See Swayambhunath. Named after the Tibetan word for "sublime trees," this hilltop complex is an important site for Buddhist pilgrims, and is crowned by a stupa (a mound-shaped shrine) bearing the same name. Watch rhesus macaque monkeys roam its ancient grounds as colorful prayer flags flap in the wind.
- Step inside an artist's studio to learn about paubhas—traditional paintings meant to worship deities and guide meditation—and have the chance to create your own.

Take a break to recharge at your hotel, then head back out for a traditional rickshaw ride. Zip through the city, rolling through the buzzy Thamel neighborhood and bustling Indra Chowk, Kathmandu's principal market square. After, enjoy an evening to yourself and rest up for tomorrow's outing.

### Day 10: Sightseeing tour of Dhulikhel & Bhaktapur

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Unplug from the energy of Kathmandu and travel to the easternmost pocket of its valley, seeking respite in the quiet village of Dhulikhel. Then, marvel at the UNESCO-listed temples of Bhaktapur, the City of Devotees.

- Begin in Dhulikhel. With a population of fewer than 40,000 and a ready panorama of the Himalayas, the peaceful environs of this town have long attracted hikers, bikers, and adventurers. As you explore, keep an eye out for some of the tallest mountain peaks in the world. (Weather permitting, you might spot Annapurna, Lhotse, and even Everest.)
- Double back toward Kathmandu, stopping in

Bhaktapur for an included lunch. Then, follow a local guide on a tour of this holy city, first stopping in Durbar Square. This former royal complex was once even grander than its sibling in Kathmandu, but a string of earthquakes destroyed most of its buildings. Today, you'll still find a series of pagodas and a palace ornamented with 55 Newar windows: elaborately carved wooden apertures that typify Nepalese architecture.

- Check out a pottery studio and let a local artisan teach you the age-old techniques behind Nepalese pottery. Then, rev up your wheel and sculpt your own piece of pottery, a unique souvenir from your time in the country.
- Return to Kathmandu by way of the Pashupatinath Temple, one of the holiest Hindu shrines in the world. Then, wrap up your day with a final stop at the Boudhanath. This UNESCO-listed stupa has long been a waypoint for weary Tibetan merchants, and is a powerful symbol of peace and love.

Arrive at your hotel and unwind for the evening—and maybe visit a nearby eatery for some dhal bhat, a traditional lentil curry served with rice.

#### Day 11: Free day in Kathmandu

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

If you need a pause, use your full free day to recharge and explore at your own pace. Want to see as much as you can before heading back home? Add our optional excursion to the village of Nagarkot and find your second wind in nature's embrace.

Tonight, rejoin your group and celebrate your trip during a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

+ Himalayan Village Nature Walk & Home-Hosted Lunch

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### Overnight Flight → 1 night

#### Day 12: Flight to Delhi & departure

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly back to Delhi, then stretch your legs in a dayroom before returning to the airport for your overnight flight home. Not ready to leave? Stay in Kathmandu and prepare to strike out for the Nepalese lowlands on the trip's extension. (If you're curious about what else the country has to offer, take up the second option. The forests and plains of Chitwan National Park are as momentous as the Himalayas.)

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### Arrive Home

#### Day 13: Arrival at home

Arrive home today.

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### + Chitwan National Park & Kathmandu extension

The rarefied heights of the Himalayan Mountains have plenty of gems, but you'll only find thickets of pine trees and mirrorlike lakes teeming with wildlife in Chitwan, Nepal's first national park. It encompasses over 360 square miles of the Terai lowlands and houses flora and fauna unique to the area. Want to check it out? Round out your tour with this extension.

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### Chitwan National Park → 2 nights

#### Day 12: Transfer to Chitwan National Park

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Buckle up and settle in. Today, you'll travel by bus from the lofty Kathmandu Valley down to the Chitwan Region. Your scenic route will take you through the Nepalese jungle—where Bengal tigers and greater one-horned rhinos prowl—ending in the expanse of the Terai lowlands. Fill up with an included lunch, then grab your camera and snap away until you arrive at a local village. From there, you'll head out on a guided walk through Chitwan National Park with your Tour Director.

Take in the wilds of this UNESCO World Heritage Site, a picture of biodiversity, before meeting members of the Tharu community. This indigenous group has thrived in Nepal's forests for centuries, maintaining a close connection to the natural world through their traditions and cultures. Chat with them and more deeply understand their way of life.

Later tonight, meet back up with your group for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

#### Day 13: Chitwan National Park game drive & canoe ride

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Today, wake up early for a bit of birdwatching. (More than 540 avian species call Chitwan home, tilting the odds of spotting some in your favor.) Then, climb aboard a 4x4 Land Cruiser and rumble out into the preserve on a game drive.

- As you roll through the dense forest, keep an

eye out for Asian elephants, elusive Bengal tigers, antelopes, rhinos, and more. Even if you miss out on those, you're bound to spot something special—hundreds of species of wildlife live in the park's confines.

- Enjoy an included lunch this afternoon before taking to the water for a canoe ride. Drift down the Rapti River, looking for crocodiles and other aquatic animals as you go.
- Visit the Tharu Cultural Center for a special treat: a performance of the stick dance. Known locally as Lathi Nach, this dynamic art form showcases and solidifies the Tharu people's bond with nature—and the importance of defending their culture. It's typically performed at weddings and festivals; today, you'll get to witness it.

End a jam-packed day back at your hotel, winding down with your groupmates during an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

*Please note: Bengal tigers are notoriously reclusive. We can't guarantee you'll see one during your game drive.*

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### Kathmandu → 1 night

#### Day 14: Transfer to Kathmandu

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Enjoy one final morning in the serenity of Chitwan National Park, savoring your free time in this natural paradise before traveling back to Kathmandu. Once there, join your group and celebrate your trip over a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

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### Overnight Flight → 1 night

#### Day 15: Flight to Delhi & departure

*Included meals: breakfast*

Fly back to Delhi this morning. Then, relax in a dayroom before returning to the airport for your overnight flight home.

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### Arrive Home

#### Day 16: Arrival at home

Arrive home today.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.com/INP](https://goaheadtours.com/INP) | 1-800-597-0350

## Day 7: Bollywood Dance Class & Dinner

\$75/\$85\* (3 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

Maybe you've heard of Bollywood—or even seen one of the Indian film industry's masterpieces, complete with vibrant scenography, catchy soundtracks, and extravagant dance numbers. This evening, head to a local dance studio and try to master some classic Bollywood moves with help from a professional instructor. Learn how choreographers blend traditional Indian dances with Western steps to create this unique art form. After practicing, head to a local restaurant for an authentic Rajasthani dinner, complete with a glass of Indian wine.

## Day 7: Jaipur Hot-Air Balloon Ride

\$425/\$435\* (3 hours, departs in the early morning)

Rise with the sun this morning, taking to the skies above the Pink City of Jaipur in a hot-air balloon. Gently soar through the air and enjoy a sweeping survey of India's archaeological history, seeing the grand palaces of Rajasthan from a different perspective. After a soothing ride—and plenty of panoramic photos—touch back down and continue your day. Please note: This activity is weather-dependent. We recommend wearing layers to stay comfortable in the cooler morning weather.

## Day 11: Himalayan Village Nature Walk & Home-Hosted Lunch

\$80/\$90\* (7 hours, departs in the morning, includes lunch)

Sitting on the rim of the Kathmandu Valley, nature-bound Nagarkot offers respite from the bustling streets of Nepal's capital. Begin this outing with a scenic drive to the village, where you'll set out with a guide on a hike. Move through lush forests and past rushing waterfalls—all in view of the mighty Himalayas—before returning to Nagarkot for a traditional welcome ceremony in a local family's home. After receiving a flower bouquet and a tika (a symbolic mark placed over the Ajna chakra, or third eye), sit down to an included lunch before returning to Kathmandu with a deeper, richer appreciation for Nepalese life.

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.com/terms](https://goaheadtours.com/terms)