

## CLASSICAL TOUR

Discover Indian architecture, renowned pilgrimage sites, natural beauty and the magic of a many splendoured land - Madhya Pradesh, offering diverse experience in art, culture, nature, religion and history.

The capital city of Rajasthan, Jaipur, was the stronghold of a clan of rulers whose three hill forts and series of palaces in the city are important attractions. Known as the Pink City because of the colour of the stone used exclusively in the walled city, Jaipur's bazaars sell embroidered leather shoes, blue pottery, tie-and-dye scarves and other exotic wares.

For most of the time Agra alternated with Delhi as the capital of the Mughal Empire. As such one finds many marvels of the Mughal architecture in and around the city, the most famous of them being the Taj Mahal. Not only does the story of the love of a king for his wife haunt its visitors but also the architectural splendour leave its visitors mesmerized. The Agra Fort, built by the great Emperor Akbar in 1565 A.D., is a masterpiece of design and construction. Within the fort are a number of exquisite buildings, including the Moti Masjid, Diwan-e-Am, Diwan-e-Khas, Sheesh Mahal and Musamman Burj, where Emperor Shah Jahan died in imprisonment.

Varanasi, the City of Lord Shiva, is situated on the bank of the sacred Ganges River and is one of the holiest cities of India. Hindu pilgrims come to bathe in the waters of the Ganges, a ritual that washes away all sins. The city is a magical city where the most intimate rituals of life and death take place in public on the city's famous ghats (riverbanks). It is this accessibility to the practices of ancient religious traditions that captivates many visitors. In the past the city has been known as Kashi and Benares, but its present name is a restoration of an ancient name meaning the city between two rivers, the Varuna and Assi. It has been a centre of learning and civilization for over 2000 years and claims to be one of the oldest living cities in the world.

The erstwhile capital of the Chandela Kings, Khajuraho is famous for its magnificent temples dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and the Jain tirthankars. Despite the fact that they were dedicated to different Hindu gods Shiva, Vishnu and Jain saints, they followed the same architectural style. The decorations, the exquisitely carved sculptures, with which the temples are so liberally embellished have made Khajuraho famous. The divine sculptures in these temples are a tribute to life itself. There is an astonishing profusion of individual figures of gods, goddesses, and voluptuous women, mythical beasts, couples in erotic poses all carved in minute detail. The murals depict the life and times of the Chandelas and celebrate the erotic state of being.

Panna's many splendoured heritage and topography including the Panna National Park, the Ken River and the vertical rocks amidst deep forest provides enormous potential for a wide variety of natural, cultural and adventure tourism. Panna National Park was created in 1981. It was declared as Panna Tiger Reserve in 1994.

**Trip Duration:** 12 days

**Group Size:** 2 - 14

## ITINERARY

### Day 01

*Delhi (Arrival)*

Arrive Delhi. Meet and assistance at the airport and transfer to hotel. Check in at the hotel. Afternoon half day sight seeing of Red Fort, President House and India Gate. Evening shopping. Overnight at the hotel.

### Day 02

*Delhi*

After breakfast sight seeing of Humayun's Tomb, Lotus Temple Raj Ghat and Shanti Van - the cremation sites of Mahatma

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Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru. Back to the hotel. Evening shopping / free to enjoy the nightlife. Over night at the hotel.

### **Day 03**

*Delhi - Jaipur*

Leave Delhi at 0600 hrs for Jaipur. Breakfast on the way. Check in at the hotel. Evening visit Amer Fort. Later visit the famous Gems Factory. Overnight at hotel.

### **Day 04**

*Jaipur*

Morning after breakfast visit City Palace. Afternoon free to enjoy shopping at Hawa Mahal Street. Overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 05**

*Jaipur - Fatehpursikri - Agra*

After breakfast proceed for Agra. Enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri. Later proceed to Agra. Check in at the hotel. Afternoon visit the Taj Mahal. Evening visit Marble Factory. Overnight at hotel.

### **Day 07**

*Varanasi*

Morning arrive Varanasi. Transfer to hotel. Half day sightseeing of the temples and city. Evening free. Overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 08**

*Varanasi*

Early morning visit the Ghat on River Ganges to see the sunrise. Back to the hotel. Breakfast. After breakfast an excursion to Sarnath. Overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 09**

*Varanasi - Khajuraho*

Morning after breakfast transfer to the airport to board flight for Khajuraho. On arrival transfer to the hotel. Later sight seeing of Temples. Evening enjoy the sound and light show. Overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 10**

*Khajuraho - Panna*

After breakfast drive to Panna National Park. Arrive Panna and check in at the resort. Later enjoy a late evening safari & dinner inside the forest. Overnight at the resort.

### **Day 11**

*Panna*

Morning after breakfast enjoy the boat ride on Ken river. After lunch go for a safari. Overnight at the resort.

### **Day 12**

*Panna - Orchha - Delhi*

Morning after breakfast drive to Orchha. Evening transfer to Jhansi railway station to board train for Delhi. Arrive Delhi in late evening and transfer to the airport to board flight for onward journey.

### **Trip Route**

Delhi – Jaipur – Fatehpursikri – Agra – Varanasi – Khajuraho – Panna – Orchha – Delhi