



NRT1 > 7 DAY TOUR

## ROMANCING THE TAJ

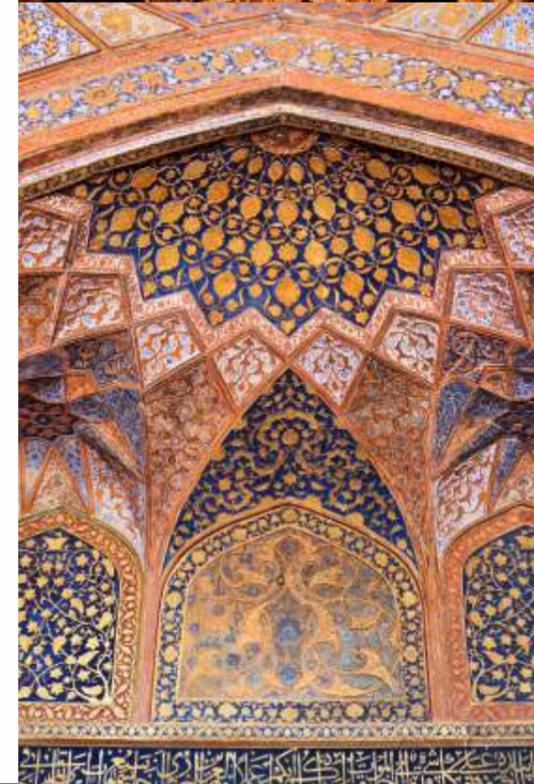
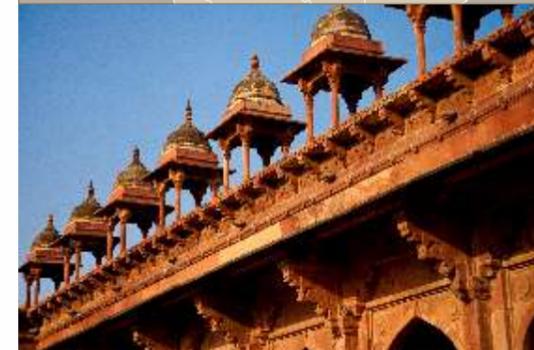
One of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal is a must on the itinerary of every visitor to India. It was designed and built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan as a memorial to his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, after her death in 1631. The Taj Mahal changes colour depending on the time of day, revealing its exquisite detail hesitantly, almost shyly, to those who take the time.

DELHI

JAIPUR

AGRA

DELHI



### Insider Tips:

- The 45 minute Change of Guard Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, which takes place every Saturday, is a great way to start the Delhi sightseeing (timings vary depending on the time of the year).
- In Jaipur, we recommend a half-day block printing workshop, at the end of which you will have created a souvenir for yourself. And, if there are families travelling with children we have a delightful half day interaction with the elephants post lunch.
- After Agra and before returning to Delhi, spend a couple of nights in the countryside at Chambal Safari Lodge for some tranquil time with nature and enjoying the local hospitality and delicious home style food. Highly recommended for birders and wildlife enthusiasts, the Lodge is operational from October to March.
- The annual Bateshwar Fair of Chambal during October/November is one of the oldest cattle fairs of India.
- From around mid-December to mid-January, due to the heavy fog that descends over north India during this period, expect delays/cancellation of flights/trains and disruptions in the itinerary.





### PACHIKARI (PIETRA DURA)

The Florentine technique of pietra dura, the art of inlaying precious and semi-precious stones in marble to create a pattern, appealed so much to Emperor Jehangir that he had local craftsmen trained to master it. Known as pachikari, the skill flourished and exquisite items using this decorative technique are produced in the region even today.

## TOUR ITINERARY | NRT 1

### DAY 01 ARRIVAL DELHI

Warm welcome at the airport by our representative and transfer to the hotel.

### DAY 02 IN DELHI

A flexible schedule this morning, depending upon the interest: breakfast trail or a rickshaw ride or a bicycle ride for a bit of adventure through the streets of Old Delhi. Visit the 16th century Humayun's Tomb, the first garden tomb of Asia, and the Qutab Minar, the magnificent 12th century minaret later in the day. Both are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Spend the evening exploring the 13th century Hauz Khas Village with its quirky shops, art galleries and restaurants.

### DAY 03 DELHI – JAIPUR

Drive or fly to Jaipur. Walk with a local enthusiast to see the hidden gems of the old city and its culinary delights in the afternoon.

### DAY 04 IN JAIPUR

Visit the 16th century Amber Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, followed by the City Palace and the Royal Observatory. In the evening, enjoy a Rajasthani cooking session with a home-maker, followed by

dinner. Alternatively, an elephant ride in a private camp followed by dinner in a surprise jungle location.

### DAY 05 JAIPUR – AGRA

Embark the early morning train to Bharatpur and head out to the 16th century deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. Continue by road to Agra. Watch the Taj Mahal at sunset from Mehtab Bagh, the garden behind the Taj Mahal, across the river Yamuna.

### DAY 06 IN AGRA

Visit the Taj Mahal in the early morning light. Also, visit Agra Fort which forms an important part in the romantic narrative. Spend the afternoon visiting some of the lesser known monuments, including the Red Taj Mahal, Agra's best kept secret; or return to the Taj Mahal, yet again, at sunset.

### DAY 07 AGRA – DELHI – DEPARTURE



Enjoy a walk with a resident of the Agra Cantonment for an insight into the life and times of colonial Agra and to admire some of north India's unique Indo-Saracenic architecture. Drive back to Delhi after lunch. Check into the day-use room, if required. Later, transfer to the airport in time for the international flight.



All our Guides are fluent in the local language - Hindi. While all locals understand Hindi, English may not be understood by all.

Namaste is a greeting used here most commonly.



Delhi has a variety of climates ranging from extreme heat in summers, sticky humid in monsoons and pleasant to cold winters.

