



India Through Her Eyes
(a unique travel experience just for Women)

Sketch Itinerary

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DAY 05:	AGRA – JAIPUR	BY: SURFACE
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Detailed Itinerary

Day 01

ARRIVE DELHI

By: An International Flight

Arrive in Delhi. Following Customs, Immigration formalities and baggage collection, our Customer Service Executive will meet you outside the Arrival Hall and you will be transferred to your hotel.

Delhi, the capital of the country, is a cosmopolis that has been in constant habitation since its inception in the ancient times. History tells us that there are seven cities existing within Delhi, each with its own unique stories and lore. It is a happy amalgamation of the ancient, medieval, and modern and has a flavour that is unparalleled by any other region.

Later in the evening, spend time exploring the **Humayun's Tomb** as the main dome is lit up.

Built in 1572, Humayun's Tomb is one of the most magnificent tombs built in Delhi during the Mughal rule. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is an excellent example of Persian and Indian architecture made with red sandstone along with use of white and black marble. It was considered as the first and foremost garden style tomb in India. This tomb complex is also known as the 'Dormitory of the Mughals' as it houses more than a hundred graves from the Royal family.

The visit will be followed by a **welcome dinner at India's #1 restaurant - Indian Accent**.

Indian Accent in Delhi has earned its name for being a pioneer in serving modern Indian cuisine, and just when everyone thought this couldn't get better, they upped their game to capture the imagination of food enthusiasts. They introduced a heavenly place for connoisseurs of food, upstairs at Indian Accent. A space dedicated for pop up restaurants, this is an elite space that will bring to the table a fantastic spread dished out by the riff-raff of the culinary world. Each month a new chef or menu will be unveiled.

Accommodation: The Oberoi

Day 02

IN DELHI

This day tour is full of pleasant surprises and is going to arouse all your senses.

This tour of Delhi urges you to surrender yourself and immerse in a 200 year old culture that continues to thrive in unique ways today. This tour is a unique offering where you can feast your senses to your heart's delight, experiences that will transport you across Delhi's rich cultural history. Walk down narrow lanes that have changed over centuries, experience the syncretism that has served as both Delhi's greatest strength and vulnerability.

Your rest of the day is at leisure.

Accommodation: The Oberoi

Day 03

IN DELHI

Wake up early in the morning and begin your tour that procedurally peels the many layers of the city to reveal those who continue to carry its heritage with them and represent Dilli.

With such a variegated history, it is not surprising that Delhi should abound in relics and remains of its long chequered past. The most ever-present yet overlooked of these relics are the identities embodied by the people who call Delhi their home. What seems like a singular identity during the day, unfolds in a multilayered exhibition of identity at dawn. Proceeding through the tour, at every stop, the city reveals its secrets to those who dare to venture into the darkness and accompany it to the light.

Enjoy a **scrumptious breakfast at an interesting café.**

Return to your hotel for some rest.

Don't we all love weddings? And Indian weddings happen to be grand and colourful celebrations that go on for days and often for as long as a week! This tour, later in the day, is an exciting way to learn why Indians are obsessed with weddings and what is a must to -do list for a bride/groom to be! This tour is Indian Weddings 101. Walk through a market that has become the go-to destination for all things wedding! The market itself is so exciting because it is an urban rural melting pot where one can witness many subcultures of the city. Once a part of one of the ancient cities of Delhi, today this boutique market is home to a farming community living harmoniously surrounded by a market that is bustling with stores of many artists, fashion designers and hip cafes, One minute, you are checking out beautiful jewels and another you are next to a school that's leading you a 14th century tomb! All of this and so much more!

Accommodation: The Oberoi

Day 04

DELHI – AGRA

By: Surface – 203 kms / 5h30 drive

In the morning, we will drive you to Agra.

Agra was the capital and stronghold of the Mughal Empire until Shah Jahan shifted base to Delhi. The city is dotted with Mughal structures of which the most famous are Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. Agra is a testimony to the love of art, architecture, and aesthetics that the Mughals were known for.

Upon arrival, check in to your hotel.

In the afternoon, proceed to **Agra Fort** that is a sprawling complex with a collection of exquisite palaces, courtyards, pleasure gardens, pavilions, and mosques. Akbar began the construction of the fortress, and subsequent emperors added their own structures and design elements over the years. Each ruler left his own unique touch in the buildings that they commissioned providing the visitors a chance to get an idea of the evolution of Mughal architectural styles.

Visit **Mehtab Bagh** during the sunset to enjoy the stunning view of Taj Mahal from across river Yamuna.



Mehtab Bagh or the Moonlight Garden is situated on the opposite bank of the Taj Mahal. It offers sweeping sunset views of the Taj Mahal reflected in the River Yamuna. The Mehtab Bagh is a four garden layout, typical of Mughal constructions, with beautiful flowering plants, pools and fountains.

Accommodation: Oberoi Amar Vilas

Day 05

AGRA – JAIPUR

By: Surface - 245 km / 5h30 drive

You will visit the **Taj Mahal** (Closed on Fridays). A lovelorn Shah Jahan had this glorious white marble mausoleum erected for his beloved wife after her untimely death. It took 22 years and over 20,000 men to build this memorial of love from marble quarried 200 miles away. You have ample time to explore this magnificent monument and admire its perfect symmetry from every angle. Don't forget to get a close-up of the marble inlay work; it is sure to leave you spellbound.

Today we will drive you to Jaipur, stopping en route at **Fatehpur Sikri** (38 km from Agra) for sightseeing of the abandoned capital of the Mughal dynasty.

Akbar the Great built this red sandstone fortified city as his capital between 1572 and 1585. The city was built around the village of Sikri where the Emperor met the famous Sufi mystic Shaikh Salim Chisti. Within the sea of red sandstone buildings in the complex, you will find the pristine white marble tomb of the saint glowing like an oasis. The buildings, gateways, and courtyards are fine examples of a burgeoning synthesis of Indo-Islamic art and architecture. The city was abandoned shortly after it was constructed due to a shortage of water.

Stop for **lunch** en-route at Bharatpur.

Thereafter, continue your drive to Jaipur.

Upon arrival, check in to your hotel.

The Pink City of Jaipur is one of the most popular tourist destinations in India. It is also amongst the most favoured destinations for shopping. The buildings in the old city were painted with an auspicious rose pink shade under the orders of Maharaja Ram Singh to welcome the Prince of Wales and Queen Victoria on their visit to India in 1876. This earned the city its famous epithet. Even today, the buildings inside the old walled city are bedecked in the blush pink hues that set it apart from other cities in the country.

Accommodation: Taj Rambgah Palace

Day 06

IN JAIPUR

In the morning, proceed for an excursion to **Amber Fort** which was constructed by Maharaja Man Singh in the 17th century. He was one of the most successful generals of Mughal Emperor Akbar and a fierce warrior. The fortress perched on top of a hillock was the seat of power of the Kachhawa Rajput clan before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur. The fort was made impregnable with battlements surrounding it. It overlooks the Maota Lake and is sprawled over the Aravalli hills. The fort complex has some of the most stunning palaces, gardens, and courtyards decorated with colourful frescos and mirrors. Latticed windows or Jharokhas line the corridors that offered the royal ladies a chance to observe the activities without being seen. A non-air-conditioned jeep ride from the base to the top of the fort and back will enhance your experience.

Following your visit to the fort, we will take you on a sightseeing tour of Jaipur city that will include a visit to the **City Palace Museum**. This sprawling complex of palaces, gardens, and courtyards also houses the residences of the current royal family of Jaipur. Beautifully painted doorways, exquisite paintings, and exhibits of armoury, rare manuscripts, art, jewellery, textiles, and traditional handicrafts make the Palace Museum an incredible place to explore.

Explore the **local bazaars of Jaipur**.

The variety on offer is mindboggling to say the least. Walk through the colourful street; you will see these craftsmen busy in their workshops in the oldest parts of the Pink City. They will be selling on fine forms of local art, such as embroidery, gota work, kinari and block-printed fabrics.

In the evening, enjoy a **unique cooking demonstration experience** at your hotel.

The Dera Mandawa was built by Thakur Jait Singhji of Mandawa in the 19th century. In this unique place, the silence is broken only by the twittering of the birds.

Get to know better the owner of the place by sharing a homemade dinner, made in a friendly atmosphere during a cooking demonstration. You will undoubtedly succumb to their charms.

Accommodation: Taj Rambagh Palace

Day 07

IN JAIPUR

Following a leisurely breakfast, get an opportunity to **try your hands-on Miniature Painting**.

Head to the residence of a miniature painter where you will be introduced to a timeless world, where men and women, birds and animals, trees and flowers are depicted in an impossibly small scale. The detailing is incredible. The session starts with a live demonstration of the different styles and aspects of Jaipur's miniature style of painting. You will be briefed about colours, brushes, paper and other material which will be then provided before you start the do-it-yourself session. Carry home your creation as a souvenir.

In the afternoon, **spend time browsing through the collections of some of the coolest boutiques and showrooms of Jaipur**.

It could be sheer extravagant high on the design quotient or amazingly simple and inexpensive, yet elegant. Choose between Jaipur-style block-printed Indian and Western wear, exquisite cushion covers and bed linen or running fabric. There are edgy and contemporary jewellery boxes, brass items, embroidered clutches and handbags, traditional tie and dye fabric, the shiniest of lacquer bangles straight from artisans and even trunks which can be used as suitcases, portable bars, or watch cases. If you are interested in jewellery there is an impressive range from a dazzling array of contemporary designs in uncut diamonds and gems to delicately handcrafted traditional kundan and minakari jewellery.

Accommodation: Taj Rambagh Palace

Day 08

JAIPUR – MUMBAI

By: AN INTERNAL FLIGHT

This morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Mumbai.

Depart: Jaipur	At: 09:00 hrs	By: 6E-965(Indigo Airlines)
Arrive: Mumbai	At: 11:00 hrs	Class: Economy

(Please mention the

Upon arrival, our representative will meet you and assist you at the hotel for check-in. (Standard check-in time is 1400 hours).

Brought by Catherine of Braganza of Portugal as dowry to her marriage with Charles II of England, Mumbai is India's most vibrant city, largest port and the hub of trade and finance. The ebullience of her spirit, captured by the throbbing beat of Bollywood, draws millions here to realize their dream. The seven islands that came to constitute Mumbai were home to communities of fishing colonies.

In the afternoon, proceed for the city tour: **drive past Marine Drive**, Mumbai's most popular seaside promenade, **Victoria Terminus Train Station**, **Hanging Gardens** on the slopes of the Malabar hills, offering a nice view of the marine lines and the Chowpatty Beach. Visit the **Mani Bhawan** where Mahatma Gandhi used to stay and a photo stop at the **Dhobi Ghat**.

Accommodation: Taj Mahal Tower & Palace

Day 09

IN MUMBAI

Start your day with a tour of South Mumbai themed around **Heritage Architecture** which will be led by a Conservation Architect.

Covering the various tourist landmarks of Mumbai, this tour quite appropriately starts with the Gateway of India, the emblem of Mumbai tourism. Walk past the Royal Mumbai Yacht Club, the Police Headquarters, the NGMA and the city museum. En-route, we will stumble upon the Kala Ghoda area, which is the art area of Mumbai. As you walk past the Session Court and the High Court, you will see the Raja Bhai towers, the Big Ben of Mumbai.

This tour will be followed by a **hands-on Zine workshop** facilitated by a Zine artist of Mumbai. The workshop will be on the topic “what would you like to conserve?” Carry the Zine that you have created as a souvenir back home.

Later, shake a leg in a **Bollywood Dance workshop followed by lunch at The Table** which is known for its farm to the table initiative. The restaurant is owned by Gauri Devidayal who is a law graduate from the University College London and a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants England and Wales. (You may get a chance to meet Gauri over lunch for a chit chat, if she is around).

After lunch, you will be taken on a **tour of Spice Market of Lalbaugh**.

Criss-crossing narrow lanes, tiny shops spilling with colourful wares, people haggling for a better deal...Welcome to the bazaars of India. You can find them everywhere, even juxtaposed against high rises and glitzy malls, these bazaars fiercely hold their own. The bursting metropolis of Mumbai has many such gems hidden in its folds.

Care to try the fiery tears-in-the-eyes signature Indian spice mixes? Guntur, Bedki, Reshampatti or Kashmiri; no we are not planning a travel itinerary. These are the names of the variety of chilies one would find in the Lalbaug Spice Market. This market is also home to spice mixes so authentic, which the pickiest grandma would approve. Here, you can not only buy the spices, but can also get them dry roasted and ground into the masala mix of your choice before your own eyes. It is not uncommon to see ladies patiently waiting, with bagful of spices and a recipe that has been handed down since generations.

End your day by doing a **cocktail making workshop at an urban gastro-pub** with the super creative bar team of one of Mumbai’s most celebrated restaurants followed by dinner.

Accommodation: Taj Mahal Tower & Palace

Day 10

IN MUMBAI

Get up at the **crack of dawn** for an exclusive peek into the underbelly of the city, and insights into what makes this magnificent city tick. The tour starts with the newspaper vendor distribution network. Next, men and women bargain with the wholesale fruit and vegetable

vendors to pick up fresh produce for the day ahead. The exploration continuous and reach Sassoon Docks to see how 10 to 20 tonnes of fish arrive in the city every day. Finally, see

glimpses of daily lives – bread-boys carrying fresh bread, the milkman riding past with milk canisters, the flower market and green fresh vegetable market.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

Later in the morning, get to see the **Dabbawalas** or the 6 sigma workers of Mumbai sending over 5, 00, 000 boxes of lunch to their rightful owners with extreme precision. Studied by consultants and business schools for the secrets of their proclaimed near-flawless efficiency, the dabbawalas have been feted by British royals (Prince Charles) and titans of industry (Richard Branson) alike.

Continue for a **cooking workshop with a Home Chef followed by Lunch**. The Cuisine will be one from the many of Mumbai's cultural potpourri. We are keeping it a secret

Rest of the afternoon is at leisure.

Get ready to savour a scrumptious **seafood dinner at Trishna restaurant**.

Trishna, rechristened from “Matrebhoomi Lunch Home,” has been dishing out the best south Indian styled sea food in the city for the past 50 years. Not to worry, even the vegetarian fare is just as carefully prepared as the sea food, there is something for everyone at Trishna.

Accommodation: Taj Mahal Tower & Palace

Day 11

DEPART MUMBAI

BY: AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

Today, our Customer Service Executive will meet you at the hotel lobby and you will be transferred to the Mumbai international airport for your flight back home.

*****End of the Tour*****