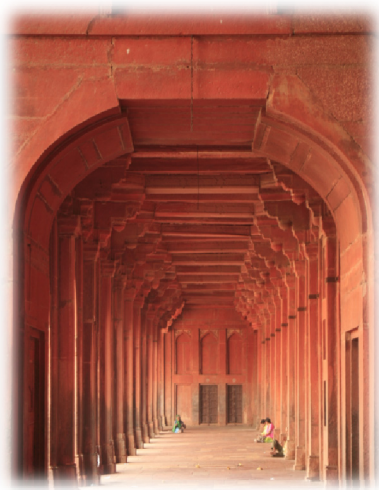




Central India

Delhi and Agra combine here with the stunning state of Madhya Pradesh. Khajuraho, famous for its erotic temples; Orchha for its palaces, temples and towers; Bhopal, the city of lakes and culture; and finally the stunning Ahilya Fort on the banks of the Narmada River, the perfect place to relax or visit the historic city of Mandu.



DAY 1 • DEPART FROM UK

Depart London on your overnight flight to Delhi.

DAY 2 • ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi where you will stay for 2 nights at The Imperial on a bed and breakfast basis.

DAY 3 • FULL DAY TOUR OF DELHI

In the morning take a sightseeing tour of Old Delhi, visiting Jama Mosque and the Red Fort, before taking a rickshaw ride in the by-lanes of the old city. In the afternoon take a tour of New Delhi, visiting Qutab Minar, Humyan's Tomb and the Government Buildings.

DAY 4 • TO AGRA • RED FORT

After breakfast drive to Agra, where you will stay at the Oberoi Amarvilas for 2 nights. In the afternoon take a sightseeing tour of city and the Red Fort.

DAY 5 • TAJ MAHAL • FATEHPUR SIKRI

Spend both sunrise and sunset at the Taj Mahal, and also visit the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri.

DAY 6 • GWALIOR • TO ORCHHA

Drive to Gwalior and visit the Fort and the Jai Vilas Museum. Afterwards, continue to Orchha

where you will stay at the Amar Mahal for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis.

DAY 7 • ORCHHA

Orchha was founded in the 16th century by the Bundela Rajput chieftain, Rudra Pratap, who chose this stretch of land along the Betwa River as an ideal site for his capital. In this medieval city, the hand of time has rested lightly and the palaces and temples built by its Bundela rulers in the 16th & 17th centuries retain much of their pristine perfection. Today, you will have a full day sightseeing tour.

DAY 8 • TO KHAJURAHO

Today you will drive to Khajuraho, en route visiting the Jain Temple complex at Sonagir and the Fortress Palace of Datia. Arriving late in the afternoon, the rest of the day is at leisure. You will stay at the Taj Chandela for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis

DAY 9 • KHAJURAHO TEMPLES

Today you will have a full day tour of the temples.

DAY 10 • TO BHOPAL

This morning you will be collected from the hotel and driven to Jhansi rail station for your train to Bhopal, arriving early in the afternoon. You will be met on arrival and taken to the Noor-Us-Subah Palace where you will stay for 2 nights on a bed and breakfast basis. Later enjoy a sightseeing tour of Bhopal city.

DAY 11 • SANCHI

Today you will enjoy an excursion to Sanchi an ancient seat of Buddhist learning and place of pilgrimage. Sanchi is a serene hill crowned by a group of stupas, monasteries, temples and pillars dating from 3rd Century BC to the 12th Century AD. The Buddha is not represented through figure at Sanchi, but through symbols, as was the tradition in the early period of Buddhism.

DAY 12 • TO MAHESHWAR

Today you will be driven to Maheshwar for a 3 night stay at Ahilya Fort on a bed and breakfast basis. The fort is situated high above the banks of the sacred Narmada River, and was the capital of one of India's celebrated women rulers, Ahilya Bai Holkar. The ramparts were built in the 16th century by the renowned Mughal emperor Akbar. Maheshwar itself has been continually inhabited for some 4000 years. The afternoon is at leisure.

DAY 13 • MAHESHWAR

Today you have a full day to explore the fort and its many temples. Walk down to the riverside, and stroll along the beautiful ghats.

DAY 14 • MANDU

Today you have a full day excursion to Mandu, a 15th century marvel of early Islamic architecture, set amongst forests and ravines at the edge of the Malwa plateau. Today Mandu is an abandoned town, but its many buildings are in good repair and well worth a visit. Perched along the Vindhya ranges at an altitude of 2000 feet with its natural defences, it was originally the fort capital of the Parmar rulers of Malwa. Towards the end of the 13th century, it came under the sway of the Sultans of Malwa, the first of whom named it Shadiabad or "City of Joy". It is a celebration in stone of life and joy, of the love of the poet-prince Baz Bahadur for his beautiful consort Rani Roopmati.

DAY 15 • TO MUMBAI

Drive to Indore for your morning flight to Mumbai. Transfer to the Fariyas Hotel, where you will stay for 1 night on a bed and breakfast basis. In the afternoon take a sightseeing tour of Mumbai.

DAY 16 • DEPART TO UK

Transfer to the airport for return flight to UK.

DATES

This tour is run on an individual basis, and can start any day between 1st October and 30th June.

COST

Please see our Price Guide at the front of the brochure.

PRICE INCLUDES:

Accommodation and food as described; programme of events as described; all entry fees to monuments; services of English speaking guide for sightseeing; air-conditioned car for sightseeing and transfers; 1st class rail tickets; portage at airports and railway stations; all local taxes.

PRICE EXCLUDES:

Flights; visas; camera fees; personal items such as drinks; laundry; phone calls; insurance; tips.

DEPOSITS

A Standard Deposit is required for this tour as detailed in our Booking Conditions.

OTHER INFORMATION

The flights listed in the itinerary are easily available from online agents. We will be happy to advise you about booking.

This tour can link with our other itineraries to create a bespoke itinerary for you.

It is possible to join the tour from any country of origin, so long as you arrive in Delhi during day two of the itinerary.