

EAST INDIA & TAJMAHAL....

11 NIGHTS/ 12 DAYS



Highlights: Kolkata - Bagdogra – Darjeeling – Gangtok – Kalimpong - Bagdogra – Delhi – Agra - Departure

DAY 01: ARRIVE KOLKATA

On arrival at Kolkata Airport, you will be met by your car with chauffeur for the short transfer to your hotel for night stay. Rest of the day free. **No meals neither early check in is Included on day1.**

DAY 02: KOLKATA

Breakfast at Hotel and proceed for Full day city tour of Kolkata with Guide and explore this fascinating city, redolent with history, Victorian architecture. Your visit will include the Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, Couple of important churches. Drive Past Fort William (Inside visit is not allowed as it's under control of Army) Raj Bhawan, Kali Temple, Jain Temple, Mother Teresa's Centre, Tagore House, Hooghly Bridge, Kumhar Toli (Colony of Idol makers) Night in Kolkata

DAY 03: FLY KOLKATA – BAGDOGRA & DRIVE TO DARJEELONG (5HRS)

Breakfast at Hotel and transfer to airport in time to connect flight for Bagdogra. Met on arrival and drive to Darjeeling (7380 Ft / 2250 Mts, 125 Kms / 5 Hrs). arrive and check-in at Hotel. Rest of the day free.

DAY 04: VISIT DARJEELING

Early morning tour to Tiger Hills (8364 Ft / 2550 Mts at around 4 AM) to view sunrise over Kanchendzonga Peak (subject to clear weather). On way back visit Ghoom Monastery, Batasia Loop.

After breakfast go for a half-day sight seeing of Japanese Temple, Peace pagoda, Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park & Himalayan Mountaineering Institute **(Closed on Thursday)** Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Center **(Closed on Sunday)** & Tea Estate. Night stay.

DAY 05: DARJEELING

After breakfast drive to Darjeeling Railway station to board Darjeeling Himalayan Railway. This joy ride will be for 02 hrs from Darjeeling to Ghoom & back. Continue to visit Tukvar or Happy Valley Tea Factory to see the Tea processing. Night stay.

DAY 06: DARJEELING –GANGTOK (Drive: 135 Kms/5-6 Hrs)

Breakfast at Hotel and drive to Gangtok (5500 Ft /1677 Mts). Arrive and check-in at Hotel Norkhil. Rest of the day free.

DAY 07: GANGTOK

After breakfast go out for sightseeing covering Rumtek Monastery, Droul Chorten, Research Institute of Tibetology & Enchey Monastery. Evening free to explore Gangtok.

DAY 08: GANGTOK – KALIMPONG (Drive: 85 Kms/3-4 Hrs appx)

Breakfast at Hotel and drive to Kalimpong (3937 Ft / 1200 Mts, 85 Kms / 03 to 04 Hrs), arrive and check-in at Hotel Silver Oaks. Afternoon explore Kalimpong.

DAY 09: DRIVE (5H) TO BAGDOGRA AIRPORT & FLY TO DELHI

After breakfast drive to Bagdogra airport and fly to Delhi. Upon arrival at Delhi Airport, you will be met by your car with chauffeur for the short transfer to your hotel for night stay. Rest of the day free. Night in Delhi

DAY 10: VISIT DELHI

After breakfast full day sightseeing of Delhi with guide. You could include some of the following: Old Delhi, Red Fort from outside, the Jama Masjid Mosque, with a rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk visiting the Spice, Wedding and Silver Markets and then the Birla Temple, Parliament Buildings of Sir Edwin Lutyens, India Gate and Humayun's Tomb. Night in Delhi.

Start the morning with a visit to Old Delhi. Built in the first half of the 17th Century by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan this old city is still a dense network of overcrowded homes, markets and endless alleyways dominated by the enormous Red Fort. Go by cycle rickshaw through Chandni Chowk (closed on a Sunday) a bustling thoroughfare of shops, craftsmen's workshops, mosques and temples. Continue onto Jama Masjid the largest mosque in India and then to the Red Fort (closed on a Monday) with its imposing appearance and towering entrance. Also visit Rajghat, the cremation place of Mahatma Gandhi. Continue to visit the Qutub Minar complex housing an impressive 13th Century 72m victory tower.

In the afternoon drive south to New Delhi designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens in a combination of western and eastern styles. Proceed up to Rashtrapati Bhavan once the Viceroy's abode but now the official residence of the President of India and then across to the eastern end of the Rajpath to the imposing India Gate. This war memorial, designed by Lutyens, commemorates the Indian soldiers who died in the First World War, on the Northwest Frontier and in the Afghan War of 1919 and, most recently, in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.

DAY 11: DELHI - AGRA (3H)

Early morning driver to Agra. Visit Taj Mahal and Red Fort with an English-speaking guide. We would suggest to begin your day visiting **Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays)**, the tomb of Mumtaz, beloved wife of the emperor Shah Jahan and arguably the greatest monument to love, built by Shah Jahan as a memorial to his wife Mumtaz & a building world renowned for its power and beauty. The craftsmanship is outstanding with semi-precious stones inlaid into the marble in beautiful patterns, a process known as pietra dura, whilst the white marble reflects every change in light allowing the Taj to appear to change its hue according to the light & time of day. Continue to visit the imposing **Agra Fort** on the banks of the River Yamuna which was established by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565. This powerful imperial fortress dominates the centre of the city & the red sandstone walls enclose a vast area which comprises of palaces, impressive reception rooms and two very beautiful mosques.

In the afternoon visit the tomb of **Itmad-ud-Daula**, one of the most beautiful existing Mughal Tombs, built entirely built in white marble in the region. The tomb is also quite famous for the glorious pietra dura (stone inlay) decoration which depicts cypresses, wine glasses and an amazing variety of geometrical arabesque. It stands across Yamuna River and approx. one and a half kilometres away from the Taj. This magnificent tomb belongs to the era of Jahangir and it contains cenotaphs of Mirza Ghivas and Asmat Begum, the parents of the powerful Mughal Empress Nurjahan, queen of Jahangir who was an exceptional beauty and an astute administrator. The tomb is significantly built quite departed and aloof from the other Mughal Tombs. Rest of the time free. Night in Agra.

DAY 12: AGRA – DELHI AIRPORT AND FINAL DEPARTURE (OFFICIAL CHECK OUT 12H)

Leisurely drive back to Delhi International airport for your connecting flight for onward journey...

End of our services...

NOTE.

1. This tour can be modified as per your requirements.
2. If you do not wish to visit Delhi & Agra, the tour can be ended on day 9, flying to Kolkata and home back.
3. If you wish to add Jaipur / and more cities, you can carry on travelling after Agra itself.