



Divine India: A Journey Through India's Cultural Heritage

Golden Special: Discover India's Culture, Heritage & Sacred Places

Delhi • Jaipur • Agra • Orchha • Khajuraho • Varanasi • Bodhgaya • Delhi • Rishikesh

4-Star Hotels • English & Spanish-Speaking Guides

Discover the Many Layers of India

Golden Special: Discover India's Culture, Heritage & Sacred Places

Divine India is an immersive journey through India's culture, history, heritage and living traditions. From the historic streets of Delhi and the royal heritage of Jaipur and Agra to the ancient temples of Khajuraho, the sacred Ganges in Varanasi, Buddhist heritage in Bodhgaya and the riverside atmosphere of Rishikesh, this journey reveals the many sides of India.

Along the way, experience India's traditions as they are lived today. Witness aarti and hawan ceremonies, explore ancient temples, cruise the Ganges, visit sacred sites, discover local customs and connect with the stories, beliefs and traditions that have shaped Indian culture for centuries.

The journey also offers opportunities to experience yoga and meditation, meet local communities, learn about India's mythology and spiritual traditions, and participate in meaningful cultural experiences. Optional astrology or numerology sessions may also be available for those interested in exploring these traditional practices.

More than a collection of destinations, Divine India is an opportunity to explore India with greater depth—to discover its heritage, connect with its living culture and experience the places, traditions and people that bring the country to life.

DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 1 — Welcome to Delhi: The Beginning of Your India Journey

Your journey begins in Delhi, India's vibrant capital and gateway to one of the world's most fascinating cultures.

Upon arrival at Delhi International Airport, our representative will welcome you at the Arrivals Terminal and accompany you to your hotel. After completing immigration formalities and collecting your luggage, settle into your hotel and take some time to rest.

Delhi is a city of contrasts, where centuries-old monuments, ancient traditions, bustling markets, grand avenues, gardens and modern life exist side by side. From your very first moments in the city, you will begin to discover the many layers of India that make this country so extraordinary.

To welcome you to India, we will attend a traditional Aarti ceremony, a beautiful ritual of light, prayer and devotion. You will also have the opportunity to receive a tika, a sacred mark traditionally placed on the forehead as a blessing for an auspicious beginning.

It is a meaningful way to begin your journey through India—with an open heart, good intentions and a first glimpse into the country's living traditions.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 2 — Old & New Delhi: Discover the Heart of India's Capital

After breakfast, begin your exploration of Delhi, discovering the fascinating contrast between its historic neighborhoods and modern capital.

Start with Old Delhi, where centuries of history remain part of everyday life. Continue to Raj Ghat, the memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, before exploring the grand avenues of New Delhi.

Visit the Rashtrapati Bhavan area, home to India's important government buildings, and continue to India Gate, one of the city's most recognizable landmarks.

Later, experience another side of Delhi at Connaught Place, a lively commercial and cultural center where modern Delhi comes to life.

Your journey then takes you to Bangla Sahib, one of the city's most beautiful Sikh temples. Take a moment to experience its peaceful atmosphere and learn more about Sikh traditions and the spirit of service that is central to the community.

End the day at Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple, an extraordinary architectural and cultural landmark that reflects India's rich artistic and spiritual heritage.

Today is more than sightseeing. It is your first opportunity to experience the diversity of Indian culture, history, religion and everyday life.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3 — Delhi to Jaipur: Into the Land of Kings

After breakfast, leave Delhi behind and travel by road toward Jaipur, the legendary Pink City of Rajasthan.

As the landscape changes, your journey begins to feel different. Along the way, your guide will introduce you to Rajasthan's history, people, traditions and cultural heritage, sharing the stories behind the customs and rituals you encounter.

Jaipur is a city of magnificent palaces, historic forts, colorful markets and royal traditions. Founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the city is renowned for its distinctive pink architecture and its extraordinary connection to Rajasthan's royal past.

As you approach Jaipur, you will begin to see why Rajasthan has inspired travelers for generations.

Upon arrival, check in at your hotel and enjoy some time to relax.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4 — Jaipur & Amber Fort: Royal Rajasthan and Living Traditions

After breakfast, begin your day with a traditional Hawan ceremony, a Hindu ritual involving sacred offerings and prayers.

From there, continue to the magnificent Amber Fort, one of Rajasthan's most impressive historic landmarks.

Built on the hills overlooking Maota Lake, Amber Fort combines Hindu and Mughal architectural influences in a spectacular setting. Explore its courtyards, palace interiors, gardens and historic temples while learning about the royal families who once lived here.

After exploring the fort, discover another side of Jaipur through its traditional markets and local textile workshops. See how traditional clothing and Jaipur-inspired designs are created and experience the colors, craftsmanship and energy of Rajasthan.

Later, visit Birla Temple and witness an Aarti ceremony.

In the evening, enjoy dinner accompanied by traditional Rajasthani music and dance.

From royal architecture to local craftsmanship and living traditions, today offers a deeper connection with the culture of Rajasthan.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 5 — Jaipur to Agra: From Rajasthan to the Taj Mahal

After breakfast, depart Jaipur by road for Agra, approximately 236 km away.

Along the way, stop at Abhaneri, a historic village known for its remarkable architectural heritage. This quieter destination offers a glimpse into a lesser-known side of northern India's history before continuing toward Agra.

Then comes one of the defining moments of your journey.

In the afternoon, visit the magnificent Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays).

Built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, the Taj Mahal is renowned for its white marble architecture, extraordinary symmetry and intricate craftsmanship.

Standing before this iconic monument is something very different from seeing it in a photograph. The changing light, the marble details and the scale of the monument create an experience that stays with you long after you leave.

After the visit, check in at your hotel and enjoy the evening.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6 — Agra to Orchha via Jhansi: A Journey into India's Past

After breakfast, transfer to the railway station and board the Shatabdi Express at approximately 8:10 AM, arriving in Jhansi at approximately 10:45 AM.

Today, the journey itself becomes part of the experience.

From Jhansi, continue to Orchha, a beautiful historic town surrounded by remarkable monuments and centuries of heritage.

Away from the busy rhythm of India's larger cities, Orchha invites you to slow down and explore. Discover its palace-fortress, elegant chhatri cenotaphs and historic Hindu temples.

Walk through its rustic streets and discover the architectural legacy of the Bundela Rajputs, whose monuments were created over several centuries.

Orchha offers one of those moments when India feels wonderfully removed from the usual tourist route.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 7 — Orchha to Khajuraho: Ancient Temples and Sacred Traditions

After breakfast, leave Orchha and continue by road toward Khajuraho, one of India's most fascinating temple destinations.

Known throughout the world for its extraordinary temple architecture and intricate stone carvings, Khajuraho offers a remarkable glimpse into India's ancient artistic and cultural heritage.

Upon arrival and hotel check-in, participate in a traditional Aarti ceremony.

As the light of the ceremony fills the space, you will have an opportunity to experience an aspect of India's spiritual traditions that has continued across generations.

Enjoy the evening and prepare for tomorrow's exploration of the extraordinary Khajuraho temples.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 8 — Khajuraho: UNESCO Heritage, Ancient Art & Local Life

After breakfast, discover the extraordinary Khajuraho Group of Monuments, a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back more than a thousand years.

The temples are celebrated for their remarkable architecture and thousands of intricate stone sculptures. Their carvings portray religious themes, artistic traditions and different aspects of life in ancient India.

Visit important temples including Chausath Yogini, Kandariya Mahadeva, Chitragupta, Vishwanath, Lakshmana and Vishnu Garuda.

In the afternoon, explore another dimension of India's ancient traditions through Tantra and traditional ritual sessions.

Later, step beyond the monuments and into everyday life with a visit to a local Hindu family in the surrounding village.

Share a traditional cooking experience, discover local customs and gain a more personal understanding of Indian family and community life.

Today brings together two sides of India: the extraordinary heritage preserved in its temples and the living culture found in its communities.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 9 — Khajuraho to Varanasi: Arriving at the Sacred Ganges

After breakfast, travel by road toward Varanasi, one of India's oldest and most fascinating cities.

As you approach the banks of the Ganges River, the atmosphere changes. Varanasi is a place where ancient traditions, devotion and everyday life come together in a way found almost nowhere else.

After arriving and checking in at your hotel, head toward the river at sunset.

Board a boat on the Ganges and watch as Varanasi comes alive along the ghats. As evening approaches, witness the famous Ganga Aarti, one of the most powerful cultural and spiritual experiences in the city.

From the river, observe the illuminated ghats, the ceremonies, the sounds and the pilgrims gathering along the water.

It is one of those moments when you are not simply visiting India—you are witnessing India as it is lived.

End the evening with a rickshaw ride through the historic areas surrounding the ghats.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 10 — Varanasi at Sunrise & Sarnath: Faith, History and Buddhist Heritage

Rise early for a sunrise boat ride on the Ganges River.

As the first light appears over the water, watch Varanasi awaken. Along the ghats, pilgrims gather for prayer and traditional rituals while daily life slowly begins around them.

This quiet morning on the Ganges offers a completely different perspective of Varanasi and is one of the most memorable experiences of the journey.

Continue on foot through the narrow lanes of the old city and discover how deeply India's traditions remain connected to everyday life.

Later, travel to Sarnath, one of India's most important Buddhist heritage sites and traditionally recognized as the place where Buddha delivered his first sermon.

Explore the archaeological remains, stupa, Buddhist temple and museum.

Today connects two important dimensions of India's heritage: the living traditions of Varanasi and the ancient Buddhist history of Sarnath.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAYS 11–12 — Bodhgaya: Discover India's Buddhist Heritage

After breakfast, depart Varanasi by road for Bodhgaya, a journey of approximately six hours.

Bodhgaya is one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage destinations in the world and an essential part of India's religious and cultural heritage.

During your stay, visit the Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most significant Buddhist monuments in India.

Explore other temples and discover the different Buddhist traditions represented in Bodhgaya.

After the energy and intensity of Varanasi, Bodhgaya offers a different atmosphere—one of reflection, heritage and contemplation.

These days allow you to discover another important layer of India and understand how different spiritual traditions have shaped the country's history and culture.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13 — Bodhgaya to Delhi: A Moment to Rest

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi.

Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel, check in and enjoy time to rest.

After traveling through India's historic cities, royal heritage and sacred destinations, this pause gives you time to reflect on the experiences of the journey so far.

Tomorrow, the journey continues toward the Ganges and the Himalayan foothills.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAYS 14–16 — Rishikesh: Where the Ganges Meets Yoga and Living Traditions

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Dehradun. From Dehradun, continue by road to Rishikesh, approximately 45 minutes away.

Set along the banks of the Ganges River and surrounded by the foothills of the Himalayas, Rishikesh offers a completely different atmosphere from the historic cities visited earlier in your journey.

Here, the river becomes part of your daily experience.

During your stay, take part in yoga and meditation by the Ganges, experience traditional Hindu rituals and discover the ashrams, markets and riverside life that have made Rishikesh internationally known.

Your experiences may include:

- Yoga and meditation beside the Ganges River.
- The opportunity to bathe in the sacred river.
- Traditional Hindu rituals, including offering water to the sun and Shiva.
- A river offering with a candle and flowers.
- Visits to local ashrams and opportunities to meet Gurus during lectures or Aarti ceremonies, subject to their availability.
- Participation in the Ganga Aarti at Triveni Ghat.

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- An additional opportunity to attend an Aarti ceremony at Parmarth Ashram.
- A visit to Ram Jhula and the traditional markets of Rishikesh.

Take time to experience the rhythm of the river, the sounds of the ceremonies and the unique atmosphere of a city where yoga, spirituality, tradition and everyday life exist side by side.

After traveling across so many different landscapes and cultures, Rishikesh becomes a fitting final chapter to your journey through India.

Accommodation: Hotel | Meals: Breakfast

DAY 17 — Rishikesh to Delhi: Take India With You

After breakfast, depart Rishikesh by road for Delhi according to the schedule of your international flight.

Your 17-day journey through India now comes to an end.

You have traveled from the historic streets of Delhi to the royal heritage of Rajasthan, stood before the Taj Mahal, explored medieval Orchha and the ancient temples of Khajuraho, witnessed life along the sacred Ganges in Varanasi, discovered Buddhist heritage in Bodhgaya and experienced the unique atmosphere of Rishikesh.

But the journey is about more than the places you have visited.

It is about the people you have met, the traditions you have witnessed, the stories you have heard, the food you have shared, the rituals you have experienced and the different ways India has revealed itself along the way.

Travel India. Experience More.

Take the memories of India with you—and perhaps a desire to return and discover even more.

Have a wonderful journey home.

PLANNED 4★ HOTELS

City	Nights	Hotels
Delhi	02	Radisson Blu Dwarka or similar
Jaipur	02	Sarovar Premiere or similar
Agra	01	Royal Sarovar or similar
Orchha	01	Amar Mahal or similar
Khajuraho	02	Syna Heritage or similar
Varanasi	02	Alokha Kashi or similar
Bodhgaya	02	Marasa Sarovar or similar
Delhi	01	Radisson Blu Dwarka or similar
Rishikesh	03	Vasundhara or similar

Note: Base category planned in all hotels; room confirmation will be at the time of booking. In case the quoted hotels are not available, we will provide hotels of the same category.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

Airport assistance with traditional welcome garlands and private transfer to your hotel

Private luxury transportation with professional driver throughout the journey

4★ accommodations in double occupancy with daily breakfast

Domestic flight from Bodhgaya to Delhi

All entrance fees according to the itinerary

Spanish-speaking guide throughout the journey

24/7 assistance in English & Spanish

Aarti and Hawan ceremonies as part of your cultural experience

Yoga and meditation experiences

Ganges River experiences in Varanasi and Rishikesh

Rickshaw experience in Old Delhi

Traditional Indian dinner with live dance performance

Hindu cooking class and local culinary experience

Visit with a Hindu family for a personal glimpse into everyday Indian life

Village walk to discover local traditions and community life

Bottle of mineral water per person, per day

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Beverages other than those specified in the itinerary
- Extra baggage fees
- Porter tips and services at hotels and airports
- Personal expenses and purchases not included in the itinerary
- Any additional expenses resulting from cancellations, delays, changes, or circumstances beyond the control of Soul India Journeys

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

Taj Mahal: Closed to visitors every Friday.

Red Fort, Delhi: Closed to visitors every Monday.

Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple: Closed to visitors every Monday.

Hawa Mahal, Jaipur: Closed to visitors every Friday.

Kingdom of Dreams: Closed to visitors every Monday.

Ganges River boat ride: May be cancelled or modified due to river conditions, including flooding.

Hotels: Hotels listed in the itinerary are for reference. If a listed hotel is unavailable, a hotel of the same category will be confirmed.

Hotel ratings: Hotel categories and ratings are based on Indian standards.

Check-in & check-out: Standard check-in is at 2:00 PM and check-out at 12:00 PM, subject to hotel policies.

Elephant rides at Amber Fort: Availability is limited and subject to current local regulations and operating conditions.

Additional services: Any services or activities requested outside the included itinerary are at the client's expense.

Travel times: Driving times are approximate and depend on traffic, road conditions, weather and other circumstances. Actual travel times cannot be guaranteed.