

NORTH INDIA & NEPAL

FROM Raja Hoon at **HERITAGE GETAWAYS**

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11 Nights / 12 days

DAY 01 ARRIVE DELHI

You will be met and assisted on arrival in Delhi and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 02 IN DELHI

After breakfast in the morning proceed for the full day city tour of Old & New Delhi. In Old city visit RED FORT built by Emperor Shah Jahan; Jama Masjid, one of the largest mosques in India; RAJ GHAT- the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi and enjoy a walking tour in CHANDNI CHOWK- the silver street of Delhi bustling with activity. In the afternoon visit QUTAB MINAR, the tallest stone tower in India; HUMAYUN'S TOMB built in the Indo Persian style and a predecessor to The Taj Mahal in Agra; India Gate - A War Memorial Arch. Also drive past the PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, PARLIAMENT HOUSE, GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT BUILDINGS and CONNAUGHT PLACE - the heart of New Delhi and a busy shopping center. Overnight is at the hotel.

DAY 03 TO JAIPUR

This morning you will drive to Jaipur the capital city of Rajasthan, the most colorful state in India. In the afternoon proceed for a sightseeing tour of the city visiting THE OBSERVATORY, THE PALACE OF WINDS AND THE CITY PALACE & MUSEUM. The museum has an interesting textile section, which contains dresses and costumes of the former Maharajas and Maharanis of Jaipur. Evening is at leisure to explore the local markets.

DAY 04 IN JAIPUR

After breakfast drive to the outskirts of the city to visit AMBER FORT, the ancient capital of the State until 1728. Visit the TEMPLE OF KALI, the HALL OF VICTORY or JAI MAHAL and JAGMANDIR. You can have the unique experience of traveling on elephant back to and from the top of the hill on which the fort is situated. Rest of the day is free to explore the colorful town independently. Spend time in crowded lanes & by lanes of pink city, haggling and souvenir-hunting. In the afternoon visit Evening at leisure. Overnight stay is at your hotel in Jaipur.

DAY 05 TO AGRA

After breakfast check-out of the hotel and drive to Agra. Enroute halt at FATEHPUR SIKRI, the 16th century capital of Moghul emperor Akbar is a complex of forts, palaces and mosques built in sandstone. The city had to be deserted because of lack of water. The white marble Tomb of Sheikh Salim Chisti, Akbar's spiritual adviser, is now observed as a Muslim pilgrimage spot here. Later continue your drive Agra and check-in at your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 06 TO KHAJURAHO

A 3 hour train ride to JHANSI and a four hour drive of 180kms will bring us today to the world famous temples of KHAJURAHO, known for their erotic sculpture on the walls. In the temple architecture of India, the Khajuraho complex remains unique. One thousand years ago, under the generous and artistic patronage of the Chandela Rajput kings of Central India, 85 temples, magnificent in form and richly carved, came up on one site, near the village of Khajuraho. The amazingly short span of 100 years, from 950 AD - 1050 AD, saw the completion of all the temples, in an inspired burst of creativity. Today, of the original 85, only 22 have survived the ravages of time; these remain as a collective paean to life, to joy and to creativity; to the ultimate fusion of man with his creator. Arrive and check-in at the hotel. Evening is at leisure.

DAY 07 TO VARANASI

Morning visit the Eastern & Western Group of temples visiting the Adinath Temple: Dedicated to the Jain saint, Adinath, the temple is lavishly embellished with sculpted figures, including yakshis. The three Hindu temples of the group are the Brahma, containing a four faced lingam, the Vamana, which is adorned on its outer walls with carving of apsaras in a variety of sensuous attitudes; and the Javari, with a richly-carved gateway and exterior sculptures. The Western group is certainly the best known, because it is to this group that the largest and most typical Khajuraho temple belongs: The Kandariya Mahadev. Later fly to Varanasi. Evening is at leisure to explore the local market.

DAY 08 TO KATHMANDU

Early in the morning, enjoy a boat ride on the River Ganges. The most important facet of this holy city is the river and the ghats lining its southern bank in the city. From dawn to dusk, the ghats are thronged by thousands of devotees, who perform their holy rituals in the hope of attaining salvation, the "Nirvana" Later in the day board a flight to Kathmandu. Kathmandu abounds in large places, beautiful and delicately produced temples, lofty Buddhist pagodas as well as museums and gardens. Rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 09 IN KATHMANDU

Today you will be taken on a tour of the city covering HANUMAN DHOKA, the historic palace of the ancient kings of Nepal. A complex of many temples and monuments, guarded by a huge statue of the Monkey God, Hanuman, it has evolved to its present state of maturity over a period of centuries. Later visit SWAYAMBUNATH, said to be 2000 years old and one of the world's oldest Buddhist chaityas. Painted on the four sides based on the spire are the all-seeing eyes of Lord Buddha. Situated on a hillock it is about 250 feet high above the level of the valley. Also see RESIDENCE OF THE LIVING GODDESS, the residence of Kumari (Virgin Goddess), with profusely carved wooden balconies and windows. Finally stop at BOUDNATH stupa. This colossal and ancient Stupa is one of the biggest in the world. Four pairs of eyes of Buddha in four cardinal directions are keeping an eternal watch over the people and their doings.

DAY 10 IN KATHMANDU

Today you will visit BHADGAON (BHAKTAPUR), the home of medieval art and architecture. Bhaktapur, the city of devotees, lies nine miles east of Kathmandu and its traditional crafts are pottery and weaving. The SIDDHA POKHARI here is a historic reservoir near the city gate and it was built during the reign of King Yakshya Malla.

DURBAR SQUARE here contains innumerable temples and other architectural show pieces: THE LION GATE adorned with the splendid stone figures of Hanuman, Bhairab & Narsingha Narayan. In the afternoon visit the PASHUPATINATH TEMPLE standing on the bank of sacred Bagmati river with two-tier golden roof and silver doors. It is famous all over the world for its superb

architecture. Entrance into the temple precincts is restricted to Hindus only. Though only Hindus are allowed to go inside the courtyard of the temple, therein tourists and visitors can clearly see the temple and the activities from the eastern bank of the Bagmati river.

DAY 11 TO DELHI

Morning is free to take an optional mountain flight in Himalayas. In the evening check-out of the hotel and transfer to the airport in time to board your flight for Delhi. Arrive Delhi and come to an airport hotel for dinner, where you will be given a room for wash-n-change for a couple of hours, before being taken to the airport for your return flight.

DAY 12 DEPARTURE Connect to your flight.