

# Amritsar & the Golden Triangle

13 Days | Starts/Ends: Delhi



*Marvel at the glimmering Golden Temple and witness the fascinating Wagah Border ceremony in Amritsar, then explore Chandigarh and its Rock Garden and ride the Toy Train to the former hill station of Shimla, all before taking in the highlights of India's Golden Triangle.*

## HIGHLIGHTS AND INCLUSIONS

### Trip Highlights

- Amritsar - Explore the beautiful Golden Temple in this northwestern city and witness the Wagah Border ceremony with neighbouring Pakistan
- Chandigarh - Visit beautiful Sukhna Lake, the Rose Garden and fascinating Rock Garden
- Himalayan Queen Toy Train - Journey to Shimla - the former summer capital of the British Raj, aboard this famous narrow gauge railway through spectacular scenery
- Shimla - Take in the sights of this former hill station, including the beautiful Jakhoo temple, majestic Viceregal Lodge, the State Museum, Christ Church and Mall Road
- The Taj Mahal - Admire India's more famous monument in all its glory with a guided tour, and visit the nearby beautiful Agra Fort

- Karauli - A former princely state. Stay in the Maharaja's Palace and see the fine restoration work taking place at Karauli City Palace
- Delhi - Explore Old and New Delhi on a guided city tour, visiting sites such as Humayun's Tomb, Jama Masjid Mosque and Raj Ghat - the site of Ghandi's crematorium. Take a Rickshaw ride through Delhi's backstreets.
- Jaipur - Discover the lofty Amber Fort, regal City Palace and ancient observatory of Jantar Mantar in the Pink City of Jaipur
- Fatehpur Sikri - Uncover this ancient abandoned Mughal city, and explore its remarkably well-preserved red sandstone buildings

### What's Included

- 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners
- 12 nights - 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- 2 train journeys: Delhi to Amritsar and Kalka to Delhi
- Travel by jeep to the Amber Fort in Jaipur
- Touring of Amritsar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Shimla, Agra, Jaipur and Karauli
- Escorted by an English-speaking Indian tour guide (for groups of 6 or more)
- Services of English-speaking Indian specialist guides at some sites
- Entrance fees to museums in Shimla
- All relevant transfers and transportation in private vehicles

- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 13
- Narrow gauge Himalayan Queen Toy Train journey on the Kalka to Shimla Railway Line

### What's Not Included

- Tipping Kitty: USD\$40-50, paid in local currency
- Entrance Fees: USD\$70-80, paid in local currency
- International flights and visas
- Tip for your tour guide. We recommend you allow \$3 - 7 USD per day per traveller. Tipping your tour guide is an entirely personal gesture

## ITINERARY

### Day 1 : Delhi to Amritsar

Monday, Delhi - Amritsar. Upon arrival at Delhi Airport a transfer will take you to the railway station for your afternoon train to Amritsar. You can also choose to start your tour in Amritsar if arriving via Amritsar Airport. **Overnight - Amritsar**

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## Day 2 : City tour & Wagah Border



This morning we enjoy a sightseeing tour of historic Amritsar, including the Golden Temple and Jallianwala Bagh. Amritsar's main attraction - the beautiful Golden Temple, is made of white marble, bronze and gold leaf. As sunset approaches we travel to Wagah, a village situated at the border crossing between Pakistan and India. Watch as the colourful and highly animated changing of guard and flag-lowering ceremony takes place at sunset at the Wagah Border signifying the closing of the border for the day. **Overnight - Amritsar (B)**

## Day 3 : Chandigarh



Amritsar - Chandigarh. Leaving Amritsar behind, we travel to Chandigarh arriving for an afternoon of guided sightseeing. Chandigarh is the definition of modern India, a well planned city designed by the French architect Le Corbusier. In the afternoon, we visit the Rose Garden, home to over 1,500 varieties of rose, walk along Sukhna Lake stopping in the nearby ornamental gardens, and explore the Rock Garden. A completely unique and innovative creation, the Rock Garden is a collection of over 2,000 sculptures created over 20 years from a collection of concrete, steel drums, old bicycle frames and broken sinks. **Overnight - Chandigarh (B)**

## Day 4 : Toy Train to Shimla



Chandigarh - Kalka - Shimla. Today we drive to Kalka station to board the narrow gauge Himalayan Queen Toy Train bound for Shimla.

The Guinness Records Book of 'Rail Facts and Feats' named the Kalka to Shimla railway as 'The greatest narrow gauge engineering feat in India'. The scenic 96 kilometre journey winds around 919 curves, passes through 20 railway stations and clatters across five level crossings, each to the cacophonous symphony of greetings, tooting horns and the hubbub of Indian life. There are also 102 tunnels to navigate and some 863 multi-arched galleries bridges – similar to ancient Roman aqueducts, to cross where spectacular landscapes of rolling hills, lush valleys and panoramic vistas can be seen.

Upon arrival in Shimla, we meet our representative on the station platform and transfer to our hotel for check-in and an evening at leisure. **Overnight - Shimla (B)**

## Day 5 : Shimla Sightseeing



The most famous of the British hill stations and the former summer capital of the Raj, Shimla is set in the foothills of the Himalayas along a crescent-shaped ridge at an altitude of over 2100 metres. The famous main street, The Mall, is lined with stately English homes

and retains a quintessentially British look. Today we enjoy a guided sightseeing tour of the lofty settlement, venturing into the narrow streets, which fall steeply away from the ridge giving way to colourful bazaars and fine views of the surrounding valley and snow-capped peaks.

**Overnight - Shimla (B)**

## Day 6 : Free time in Shimla



Shimla - Kalka - Delhi. Today offers free time for you to independently explore Shimla. You can opt for a stroll around the town, drop by the colourful Lakkar Bazaar or hike to the summit of Jakhoo Hill, Shimla's highest point. Here visitors are rewarded with panoramic views of snow-capped peaks set as a glorious backdrop to the sleepy township of Shimla below. Hotel check-out is at noon, opt for some lunch and pack an evening picnic meal before boarding the Kalka Shatabdi Express and arriving into Delhi late this evening.

**Overnight - Delhi (B)**

## Day 7 : Delhi sightseeing



Today we enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi, taking in Humayun's Tomb, Jama Masjid - India's oldest and largest mosque and Raj Ghat - the site of Gandhi's cremation in Old Delhi, and the Rajpath and India Gate in New Delhi. Tonight, we enjoy a group Namaste Dinner at our hotel. **Overnight - Delhi (B, D)**

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## Day 8 : The Taj Mahal



Delhi - Agra. Departing Delhi, we make our way to Agra, the erstwhile capital of the Mughal empire. Our first stop here is the impressive Agra Fort, which boasts some of India's finest Mughal buildings behind its fortified walls. Later we travel on to the legendary Taj Mahal. Built by the order of Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century in affectionate memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz, the Taj Mahal is perhaps one of the most extravagant monuments to love ever built. **Overnight - Agra (B)**

## Day 9 : The princely state of Karauli



Agra - Karauli. This morning we explore the Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri, which has been deserted for over four centuries after it was allegedly abandoned due to a lack of water. Thanks to the very durable red sandstone from which it was built, Fatehpur Sikri still remains well-preserved and is a fascinating place to explore.

The highlight of the day is Karauli, which was a princely state of India from 1348 until 1949. We spend the night here, at the beautiful Palace Bhanwar Vilas, where the current Maharaja and Maharani of Karauli reside. During our stay, we can explore the palace and grounds at leisure and we may even be treated to a guided tour by the princess. The family is also lovingly restoring

the Karauli City Palace, which we visit later this afternoon. Tonight, opt to attend the evening Aarti (prayer) taking place nearby. **Overnight - Karauli (B, L, D)**

## Day 10 : Jaipur

Karauli - Jaipur. This morning we stop briefly to meet the children and teachers at a local school (if open) where we operate our 'Change for Children' programme. If you have bought any educational items with you to hand out to children this would be the time to do so. Then we drive on to Jaipur, the vibrant capital of Rajasthan. The rest of the day is free to spend at leisure. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

## Day 11 : Amber Fort of Jaipur



Very early this morning there is the opportunity to sail over the lofty hilltop forts and regal palaces of Jaipur in a hot air balloon, on our Balloon Over Jaipur Add-on. We then travel beyond Jaipur to the stunning 16th century Amber Fort where we enjoy a tour of the fort's well-preserved interior and grounds. Later we visit a cotton weaving house to see a demonstration of fabric dyeing and block printing before touring the City Palace and Jantar Mantar - an old yet cleverly designed space observatory. **Overnight - Jaipur (B)**

## Day 12 : Jaipur to Delhi

Jaipur - Delhi. This morning we drive back to Delhi. The afternoon is free for you to explore the capital. Perhaps opt for a meal in the heart of the city this evening or simply relax with group members at the hotel. **Overnight - Delhi (B)**

## Day 13 : Delhi

Saturday. Our touring arrangements come to an end after breakfast. Following hotel check-out and included transfer will take you to the airport for your onward travel. (B)

## HOTELS

The hotels listed below are ones which we frequently use on this tour. We reserve the right to substitute these hotels to ones of a similar standard when necessary.

### Golden Sarovar Portico

Set in the centre of Amritsar, this hotel boasts one of the best locations in the city. Its guestrooms are spacious and feature modern decor, with free WiFi and room service to make your stay even more enjoyable. If you're keen to keep up your fitness routine whilst travelling, you'll enjoy a workout in the hotel's gym. When it comes to dining you can choose between a multi-cuisine restaurant and the Terrace Grill's mouth-watering BBQ options. The Chill Bar also serves a range of exotic cocktails for you to unwind with at the end of the day.



### Red Fox Hotel

Set in the heart of Chandigarh's business hub, the Red Fox Hotel features fresh bold interiors and comfortable rooms. Presenting simple yet modern decor, the guestrooms come equipped with the modern amenities you'd expect, including air-conditioning, high-speed WiFi access and a mini fridge. The Clever Fox Café serves a free breakfast buffet in the morning and a range of healthy snacks and wholesome meals to suit all appetites throughout the day. There's also a well-equipped fitness-centre, perfect for travellers who like to keep fit on the road.



### Hotel Willow Banks

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The Willow Banks is a colonial-style hotel established in 1871 with each room boasting its own private balcony. As well as the gym and pool, the hotel has a steam room and sauna, jacuzzi and Ayurvedic massage available so guests can relax and rejuvenate amongst the stunning mountain scenery in comfort. The inviting rooms are fully appointed with elegant furniture and rich upholstery with WiFi access and cable TV. The hotel is located on The Mall, within walking distance of great retail outlets and restaurants.



## Jaypee Siddharth Hotel

The luxurious Jaypee Siddharth is a stunning property located just a few miles from the New Delhi Railway Station. Guestrooms feature rich wooden floors and furnishings and are exquisitely decorated with creams and browns as well as the odd splash of colour. In their free time, guests can indulge in one of the rejuvenating treatments, available at the spa, or work up an appetite in the gym. A range of cuisines are served in the various restaurants that can be found within the hotel complex.



## Seven Hills Tower

The modern and stylish Seven Hills Tower hotel boasts a range of facilities and services designed to ensure the quality of each traveller's stay. Guests can enjoy a dip in the rooftop pool or laze on the sun loungers before heading to the equally lofty restaurant for some mouth-watering Mughlai cuisine. The spacious guestrooms are elegantly decorated with neutral colours and fabrics covered with traditional patterns and all have excellent ensuite facilities. Why not head to the rooftop

pool and al fresco dining area for beautiful views of the Taj - perfect for a sunset drink.



## Bhanwar Vilas Palace

Built in 1938, this stunning property is the residence of the Maharaja (181st in the Royal Dynasty) and Maharani of Karauli. Both the architecture and furniture have been designed in fitting with colonial styles. Rooms are split between deluxe rooms and luxury suites, each including a range of modern amenities such as a mini bar, a well-appointed ensuite and a plush king-sized bed. In the evenings, guests can tuck into an array of regional specialities as well as cuisine from around the world in the hotel's restaurant. The hotel is just 7km from the nearest train station.



## Mandawa Haveli

The beautiful heritage style Mandawa Haveli is a fine example of typical Rajasthan architecture - set in terraced gardens with pretty courtyards. All rooms are well appointed with intricately carved wooden beds and king-size royal portraits. An evening spent enjoying a lavish Rajasthani dinner in front of a traditional folk dance is highly recommended. Well located in the heart of Jaipur city on Sansar Chandra Road, just a few minute's drive from the Palace of the Winds.



## Hotel Jivitesh

The Jivitesh Hotel is centrally located in the heart of Karol Bagh, a popular neighbourhood of Delhi which is renowned for its excellent shops and vibrant street markets. The Jivitesh offers comfortable and spacious guest rooms, with all modern amenities and you can be assured of a warm welcome and excellent customer service from the hotel staff. Enjoy authentic Indian vegetarian cuisine at the hotel's restaurant and enjoy a refreshing dip in the outdoor swimming pool, after a day of sightseeing in the capital.



### PRICES / DATES INFO

Departure dates noted with a 'G' are guaranteed to operate. All other departure dates are guaranteed with a minimum of 2 persons. Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room. The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who would like their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, thus avoiding the single person supplement.

### PRICES / DATES 2018

Date	Twin Share	Single
20 Aug	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
03 Sep	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
17 Sep	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
01 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
08 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
15 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
22 Oct	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
29 Oct	USD 2,595	USD 3,595
12 Nov	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
26 Nov	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
10 Dec	USD 2,495	USD 3,495

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## PRICES / DATES 2018

Date	Twin Share	Single
24 Dec	USD 2,595	USD 3,595

## PRICES / DATES 2019

Date	Twin Share	Single
14 Jan	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
28 Jan	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
11 Feb	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
25 Feb	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
11 Mar	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
25 Mar	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
08 Apr	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
15 Apr	USD 2,595	USD 3,595
22 Apr	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
06 May	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
02 Sep	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
16 Sep	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
30 Sep	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
14 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
28 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
04 Nov	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
11 Nov	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
25 Nov	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
09 Dec	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
23 Dec	USD 2,595	USD 3,595
30 Dec	USD 2,595	USD 3,595

## PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
05 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
12 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
19 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
26 Oct	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
02 Nov	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
09 Nov	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
23 Nov	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
07 Dec	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
21 Dec	USD 2,595	USD 3,595

## PRICES / DATES 2020

Date	Twin Share	Single
13 Jan	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
27 Jan	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
10 Feb	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
24 Feb	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
02 Mar	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
16 Mar	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
23 Mar	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
30 Mar	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
06 Apr	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
20 Apr	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
04 May	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
18 May	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
01 Jun	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
22 Jun	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
06 Jul	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
20 Jul	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
17 Aug	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
31 Aug	USD 2,395	USD 3,395
14 Sep	USD 2,495	USD 3,495
28 Sep	USD 2,495	USD 3,495

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