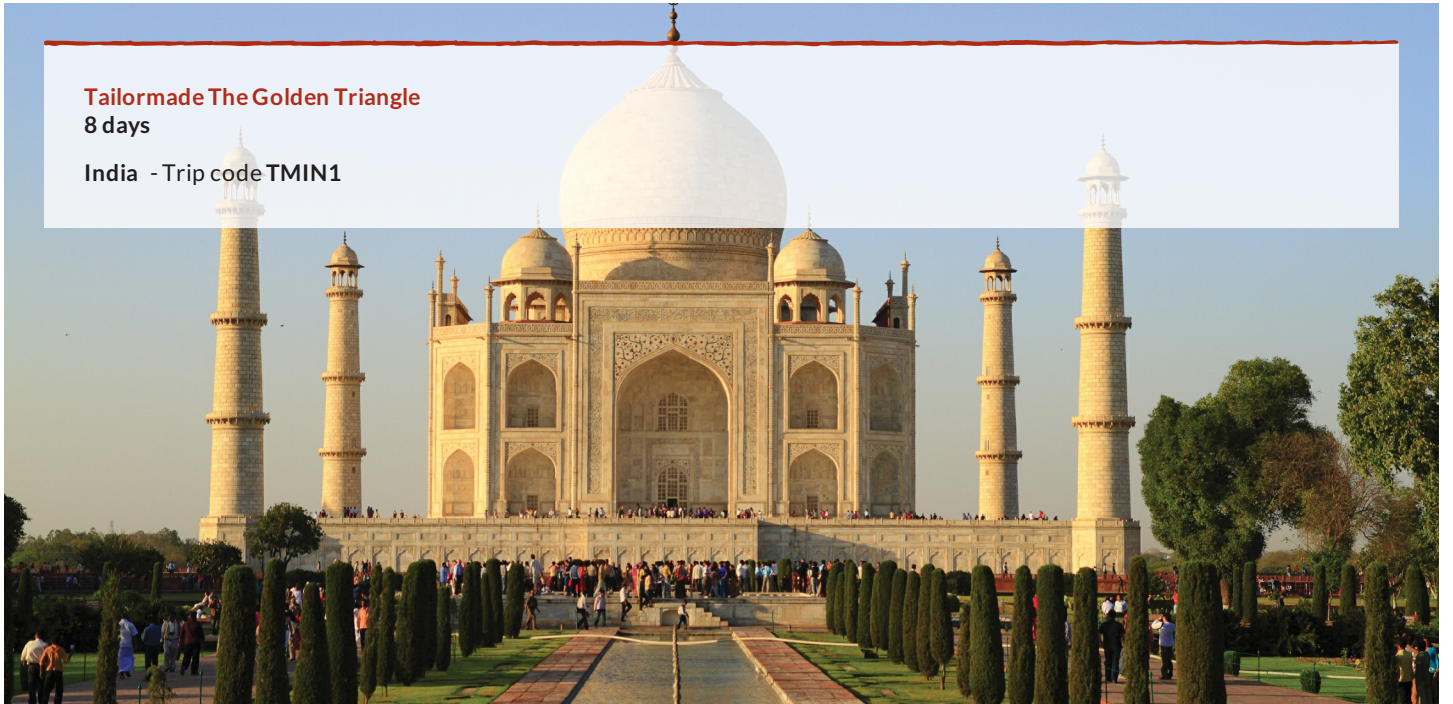


EXPLORE!

Tailormade The Golden Triangle

8 days

India - Trip code TMIN1



Tailormade The Golden Triangle

Explore the sights and sounds of India

This is a classic Indian journey explores the most fascinating highlights of north-west India. From riding a cycle rickshaw through the colourful, frenzied streets of Delhi, to the enigmatic Taj Mahal in Agra and lavish palaces of Jaipur. The Golden Triangle, so-called because of the great wealth of culture and history found in these three cities, is the perfect introduction to India.

Enriching tailormade journeys – for you

This bespoke journey features some of our favourite spots in India. You can choose to take our destination experts' recommendations and travel just as you see the itinerary here, or contact us to add your own special touches; maybe stay in a Maharajah's Palace or add a stay in Ranthambore to see tigers. We're here to design your perfect holiday.

Call us on 01252 883 184.

Trip highlights

ACCOMMODATION GRADE:

Standard

Our standard, mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service, often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en suite facilities.

TRIP PACE:

Full on

Full on paced trips are for travellers who like their holidays packed with activities and experiences, moving on quickly from place to place with lots of early starts and long, busy days. Some may find them tiring, but others get a buzz from packing their precious holiday-time as chock-a-block full of new experiences as possible!

Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

DAY 1 - Depart UK

Depart UK

 Meals Included: None

DAY 2 - Arrive Delhi, visit the Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb

Your journey begins in the Indian capital today, where the afternoon is spent on a city tour of the sights of New Delhi. The Indian capital has long been a phoenix rising again and again out of its own ruins. New Delhi was the creation of the British Raj of the 30's and includes the Lok Sabha (Parliament) and India Gate which you will view on your way to explore the Qutub Minar and Humayun's Tomb.




Accommodation: Swati Deluxe (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



 Meals Included: None

DAY 3 - Explore Old Delhi's winding streets by cycle rickshaw

Compared to New Delhi, the Old City is much closer to the image conjured up by Rudyard Kipling. This morning, a local guide will show you around Old Delhi by metro and on foot, culminating with a jamboree of deafening barter at Chandni Chowk Bazaar. A short cycle rickshaw ride then takes you to the Jama Masjid mosque. There will be an opportunity for some free time in Old Delhi in the afternoon.



Accommodation: Swati Deluxe (or similar)



Standard Hotel

Wi-Fi available



 Meals Included: Breakfast

DAY 4 - Drive to Agra and visit the Taj Mahal at sunset

You leave the capital this morning and drive to the nearby city of Agra. On arrival you visit to one of the most universally recognised buildings on earth. The Taj Mahal was built by the emperor Shah Jahan to honour the memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz, and was once described by Rudyard Kipling as '...the embodiment of all things pure'. Built of marble and decorated with the most exquisite inlay work, it required the labours of 20,000 men and is estimated to have cost something in the region of 3 million rupees (at today's prices around \$70 million). You'll watch the sun set over this iconic masterpiece, before checking in to your hotel.



Accommodation: Utkarsh Vilas (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Included: Breakfast

DAY 5 - Discover Agra's dramatic fort and the Baby Taj Mahal

This morning there is the option to return to the Taj Mahal to watch the sun rise over this incredible building. Later in the morning you begin your sightseeing tour of Agra. Once the capital of the mighty Moghul Empire, the city is littered with some of the country's most opulent and spectacular buildings and one particularly fine example is its imposing fort, whose grandeur and importance has seen it inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Built by Emperor Akbar and then embellished by his grandson, Shah Jahan, this was once a great city, with palaces, mosques and halls all lying behind the protective embrace of 20m high walls. You will also visit the exquisite Itimad-ud-Daulah on the east bank of the river, a 17th century tomb built for the Emperor Jehangir's chief minister, also known as the Baby Taj.



Accommodation: Utkarsh Vilas (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Included: Breakfast

DAY 6 - Visit Akbar's city of Fatehpur Sikri enroute to Jaipur

Today you head west to the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri, lying close to the western boundaries of Agra. Founded in 1569 and, for a brief time the capital of the Moghuls under Akbar the Great, the city was deserted just 16 years later following the political unrest. Today it remains a ghostly testament to the power of 16th century Moghul India and is a perfectly preserved example of an imperial court. Among the many treasures left in the city are the 5-storey Panch Mahal, believed to have been a pleasure pavilion for the ladies of the harem, and the stunning lotus shaped carved central pillar of the Diwan-i- Khas (Hall of Private Audience), a magnificent column that supports the vaulted roof of Akbar's old debating room. The city also features a central courtyard that contains a pachisi board, where the emperor played an Indian equivalent of chess, using real slave girls as pieces. After exploring you continue to Jaipur where the afternoon is free to relax. There is the option to spend some time strolling through the markets, Jaipur is known for jewellery and there are many bargains to be had.



Accommodation: Mandawa Haveli (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available

DAY 7 - Explore the hilltop Amber Fort and test sundials at Jaipur's observatory

The capital of the state of Rajasthan, Jaipur was India's first planned city and is considered by many to be one of the finest planned cities anywhere, the usual Indian urban chaos being replaced by wide streets and formal gardens. This morning you will visit the once mighty Rajput capital of Amber (traditionally known as Amber) and its magnificent fortress. Lying at the mouth of a rocky mountain gorge, overlooking Maotha Lake, the fort is a stunning creation of white marble and red sandstone that contains a dazzling mix of Hindu and Muslim ornamentation, including the breathtaking mirrored halls of the Sheesh Mahal. It was from these towering walls that the Kachchawahas ruled over their kingdom for some seven centuries, until its importance was eclipsed by nearby Jaipur. You will also take in the unique Hawa Mahal, the famous Palace of the Winds, whose extraordinary façade of red and pink sandstone towers some five-storeys above the city streets. Built at the end of the 18th century its 935 windows were designed to allow the women of the harem to gaze out on the city scene below without themselves being seen, the openings also creating a refreshing breeze (hawa), which kept the palace cool even in the hot summer months. You will spend some time exploring the lavish and well-preserved City Palace, where you will find a fine collection of textiles, costumes and armoury. Later this afternoon, visit the extraordinary Jantar Mantar – a star-gazing observatory built by Jai Singh, the great Maharajah-astronomer.



Accommodation: Mandawa Haveli (or similar)



Standard Hotel



Swimming pool available



Meals Included: Breakfast

DAY 8 - Fly to the UK

Fly to the UK



Meals Included: Breakfast

What's included?



Included meals

Breakfast: 7



Transport

Private car
Cycle rickshaw



Trip staff

Local guide



Accommodation

6 nights standard hotel

Trip information

Country information

India Holidays & Tours

Climate

There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. Summer temperatures on the plains are very hot, but cooled by the South-West Monsoon, which lasts from June- September. During these months it can be very wet and therefore very humid. At altitude, temperatures can become quite cool at night even in the summer and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary. In the winter, northern and mid India can be very cool, with cold evenings, so warm clothing, including plenty of layers, are essential. The south of India remains warm and sunny during the winter months.

Time difference to GMT

+5

Plugs

3 Pin Round

Religion

Catholicism, Hindu, Islam and Sikhism

Language

Hindi and English.

Budgeting and packing

Country Information

India Holidays & Tours

Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price

£6

Dinner price

£8

Beer price

£1.4

Water price

£0.5

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Indian Rupee Recently new 500, 1000 and 2000 rupee notes have been brought in to circulation and as the old notes are no longer accepted there have been some cash flow issues. You don't need to worry about being given old notes as it's very easy to tell the difference, the new notes are pristine in comparison with most Indian money which is fairly tatty.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP/US\$ are the best currency to change into local currency.

Where To Exchange

The Indian rupee is a restricted currency and it is best not to obtain in the UK as rates are very poor. You can either change money at the airport on arrival or in major towns during the tour. Your Tour Leader will advise you on the best places in each town. Both GBP and USD cash are easy to exchange at the airport and at hotels however you will be restricted to changing £60 cash at a time and it's not possible to change money at these locations using a credit or debit card.

ATM Availability

ATMs are available in most large cities in India but they are very limited elsewhere so please do not rely on this.

Credit Card Acceptance

Very rarely, only in the larger outlets.

Travellers Cheques

Opportunities to exchange are limited.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals

Accommodation notes

Booking a Single Room

All of our group tours are planned and operated on a twin-share basis, meaning that the standard cost is based either on individual travellers sharing accommodation with another group member of the same sex, or people who book together sharing accommodation. Please refer to the tour notes where the single room option availability is detailed on a night by night basis for this tour, and the price for the available nights is detailed on the dates & prices tab by departure date. For Self-Guided trips the Single Room supplement offers the option of a single room each and is charged per person. The Single Room supplement also applies to the third person in a party of three that will be accommodated in a single room.

Standard

Light on your pocket but long on authentic experiences, these tours are based in simple, sometimes local-style accommodation. If your idea of adventure travel is to experience real, everyday life then you will enjoy our Simple style of tour. You will have the chance to stay at simple, family-run hotels and guesthouses where the lack of luxury is more than compensated for by the warm welcome and genuine insight into local life.

Swati Deluxe

Located in a popular area of the city, the hotel Swati Deluxe is a convenient and affordable choice for a stay in Delhi. Rooms are a good size and have air-conditioning, and facilities include a restaurant and free Wi-Fi.

Utkarsh Vilas

This hotel is fantastically located, just one kilometre from the awe-inspiring Taj Mahal. The hotel's facilities include a swimming pool, bar and restaurant, and a full service spa.

Mandawa Haveli

This small boutique hotel dates back to the 19th century and is centrally located in Jaipur. Each room has its own individual

character, featuring many original pieces of furniture. There is a dining room and an outdoor swimming pool.

Premium

On premium level tailor-made tours you will stay at comfortable mid-range hotels, chosen for their location, ambiance or local character. Your rooms will be clean and well-appointed, with en suite bathrooms and air-conditioning or heating as necessary. Standard level hotels normally have restaurants, bars and often other amenities such as a swimming pool and gardens, offering a good level of comfort at a reasonable price.

The Park Hotel - Delhi

The Park Hotel in New Delhi is situated in Connaught Place, the city's business and entertainment hub. Overlooking the historic 18th century Jantar Mantar observatory, this large and contemporary hotel is equipped with modern facilities, offering a gym, spa, salon and a garden swimming pool, together with a selection of dining areas, banquet halls and a bar.

Hotel Clarks Shiraz

Located just two kilometres from the Taj Mahal the Hotel Clarks Shiraz is a large property situated within almost eight acres of landscaped gardens. There are two restaurants, a coffee shop and a bar area offering a variety of cuisines plus an outdoor swimming pool and small spa for relaxation. A great combination of traditional and modern style this property offers a relaxed atmosphere and friendly and helpful staff.

Shahpura House

Set approximately four kilometres from the centre of Jaipur, the Shahpura House is a heritage hotel featuring traditional Rajput architecture. This mid-sized property offers comfortable rooms with Wi-Fi access. The hotel has three dining options including a rooftop restaurant and a pool side snack bar. As well as an outdoor swimming pool there is an on site spa to help you relax.

Indulge

If you are looking for the best of both worlds, with adventurous days and indulgent nights, our Indulge level tailor-made tours may be just the answer. On these tours you can enjoy busy days packed with adventure and activity, followed by relaxing evenings unwinding in the comfort of accommodation hand-picked for its high level of comfort and service. Some hotels are full of historical interest too: a converted palace in India for example, or a restored colonial mansion in Latin America.

The Oberoi Maidens

The elegant Oberoi Maidens Hotel is one of Delhi's oldest hotels. Built in the early 1900s, the hotel has retained its colonial charm and architecture. Guest rooms are modern and spacious and the hotel's setting amid eight acres of lush gardens, shady trees and tennis courts makes this a peaceful retreat from the hectic city.

Trident Hotel - Agra

Located a short drive from the Taj Mahal, the Trident Hotel Agra is set amid beautiful gardens, fountains and landscaped central courtyards. It is built of red stone reminiscent of the Mughal era, though the interior of the hotel is stylish and modern. There's a great pool to refresh in after sightseeing, plus a bar, coffee shop and restaurant featuring food from all over the world.

Trident Hotel - Jaipur

The elegantly decorated Trident Hotel sits on the route to Jaipur's famous Amber Fort, with views out over the Mansagar Lake. The rooms are comfortable, spacious and well equipped, and there are a plethora of amenities on offer including Wi-Fi, swimming pool, fitness centre and a range of dining options.

Essential information

FCO Advice

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

Under 18 immigration guidance

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

Essential Information

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our [Essential Information](#) and [Booking Conditions](#).

Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

Flight information

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. [Read more about them here.](#)

Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

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Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth> and from your local healthcare provider.