

303-305 Bhanot House  
17 Yusuf Sarai Community Centre  
Gulmohar Extension  
New Delhi 110 049, India  
Phone: (011) 26966182, 32912568.  
Fax: (011) 26531476  
e-mail: [bts@vsnl.com](mailto:bts@vsnl.com)

# BUSINESS & TOURIST SERVICES

Division of OKTA International Pvt. Ltd



## TEMPLES AND BEACHES

### Day 1: Arrive DELHI

After you have cleared immigration and customs formalities, you are met outside the Arrivals Hall and transferred to the hotel (check in at noon). Overnight at the hotel

### Day 2: In DELHI



After breakfast depart for a tour of India's capital. In the morning visit **Old Delhi**. Drive past the **Red Fort**, built in 1648 during the reign of Shah Jehan in red sandstone, which gave the fort its name and **Jama Masjid** is India's largest mosque, built of red sandstone and white marble in the middle of the 17th century. There is time to wander down **Chandni Chowk** (Silver Street), once the imperial avenue

down which Shah Jehan rode at the head of lavish cavalcades, is today bustling with shops, stalls and silversmiths' ateliers.



In the afternoon, in **New Delhi** drive past **India Gate**, built in memory of Indian soldiers killed during the First World War, **Rashtrapati Bhawan**, built in the early 20th century as the Imperial residence of the Viceroy, today the official residence of the President of India and **Parliament House**, an unique circular building with huge colonnades, houses the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament. Visit **Humayun's Tomb**, the first Mughal garden tomb. The gardens and waterways were recently restored. One of Delhi's most striking monuments is the 70-meter high **Qutb Minar**, which looms majestically across the wide plains of Delhi. Overnight at the hotel



Incredible India

## Day 3: Fly DELHI to VARANASI

After breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight to Varanasi. You are met on arrival and transferred to the hotel.

In the afternoon, visit **Sarnath**. Located 9 km from Varanasi, it the centre of the Buddhist world, just as Varanasi is that for the Hindu. It was here that Buddha preached his first sermon, partially recorded on one of its stones. **Dhamek Stupa** dating back to 500 AD, is the largest with geometrical ornaments on its wall. **Dharmarajika Stupa** was set up by emperor Ashoka to contain the bodily relics of the Buddha. There is an outstanding museum, worth visiting. Overnight at **the hotel**.



## Day 4: Fly VARANASI to KHAJURAHO

Early in the morning, before sunrise, depart for a boat ride on the sacred Ganges River, where devout Hindus can be seen performing their daily ablutions. The bathing **ghats**, over 5 km in length, lead down from a steep bank to the river. The **ghats** are the soul of the city - here, where the wavelets of the Ganges lap the last of the stone steps, can be seen



young Hindu men practicing **Hatha** yoga, older men seated, eyes closed in medication, Brahmin priests under sunshades, waiting to bless the passing pilgrims and beggars sitting in serried ranks. **Manikarnika** burning **ghat** is the chief cremation centre of Varanasi. Corpses lined in white silk or linen are borne on bamboo stretchers to the smoking pyres, where they are deposited to await their turn. Photography is not usually permitted here. Walk through the old city. **Varanasi** is the



religious capital of the Hindu faith since the dawn of history. Known as Kashi in the 7th century BC it constitutes a microcosm of Indian life. No one knows how old it really is - when Buddha came here in 550 BC, it was already a flourishing ancient settlement. The town is one inextricable maze of small streets and alleyways, hiding in disorderly array no less than 2,000 temples and shrines. Domes, pinnacles, towers and derelict 18th-century palaces dominate the left bank of the Ganges River.

Afternoon transfer to the airport for the flight to Khajuraho. You are met on arrival and transferred to the hotel.

After freshening up, explore **Khajuraho**, renowned the world over for its fine temples. Built between 950 and 1050 AD, they are among the most creative examples of Indian architecture. Only 22 of the original 85 temples survive today. The most popular theme is woman: reflective, playful, amorous. The carvings also depict gods in cosmic evolution, griffins, nymphs, beasts, demons in revolt and the several emotions of man - fear, doubt, jealousy, ardent love and consummate passion.





Visit the western group of temples. The large **Lakshmana Temple** is dedicated to Vishnu and is one of the earliest of the western enclosure temples, dating from 930-950 AD. It is also one of the best preserved, with a full five-part floor plan and four subsidiary shrines. The **Vahara Temple**, dedicated to Vishnu's boar incarnation (*Vahara avatar*) faces the **Matangesvara Temple** and has a huge intricately carved figure of the boar incarnation, dating from around 900 AD. The **Kandariya Mahadev Temple** is not only the largest but also artistically and architecturally the most perfect. Build between 1025 and 1050 AD, it represents Chandela at its finest. The Mahadeva Temple is small and mainly ruined. However, it houses one of Khajuraho's best sculptures - a fine *sardula* figure caressing a lion. The **Devi Jagadamba Temple** was probably originally dedicated to Vishnu, but later changed to Parvati and then Kali. The **Chitragupta Temple** is unique in being dedicated to the Sun God, *Surya*. The **Matangesvara Temple**, standing next to the **Lakshmana Temple**, is not within the fenced enclosure, because it is still in everyday use, unlike all the old temples. Overnight at the hotel

## Day 5: Drive KHAJURAHO to JHANSI, train to AGRA

After breakfast depart on the 5-hour drive to Jhansi. En route visit **Orchha**, Founded in the 16th century by the Bundela king, Rudhra Pratap, on the banks of the Betwa River, Orchha is a medieval city frozen in time and space, existing even today, as it must have done in the 16th and 17th centuries, when it was built. The countryside undulates gently between riverine plains and rolling forest-clad hills and the landscape is dotted with palaces and temples, a fortress and cenotaphs. The architecture is a synthesis of traditional Hindu, hybrid Indo-Saracenic and ornate Mughal. One of the finest sights is the view of the cenotaphs from across the Betwa River.



Continue on to Jhansi railway station to board the Shatabdi Express train to Agra. You are met on arrival and transferred to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel

## Day 6: In AGRA



After breakfast take a tour of Agra. Visit the red sandstone **Agra Fort**, which stands like a crescent on the banks of the Jamuna River, enclosed by forbidding 20-meter high walls, with a 12-meter moat between them. Three successive Mughal emperors - Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jehan - helped create this massive structure which contains Hindu and Muslim architecture.

The highlight of your trip will be a visit to the Taj Mahal, the greatest monument to love and one of the wonders of the modern world, constructed by Emperor Shah Jehan as a mausoleum for his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal.



The afternoon is at leisure. You have time to explore the bazaars and craftsmen's ateliers, where you can watch the ancient art of marble in-lay work. Overnight at the hotel

## Day 7: Drive AGRA to JAIPUR



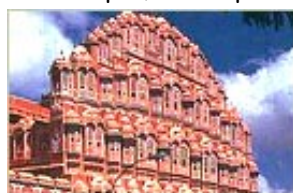
After breakfast depart on the 6-hour drive to Jaipur. En route stop at **Fatehpur Sikri**, the deserted sandstone city, which was the glorious but short-lived imperial capital of Akbar, the greatest of Mughal emperors. Lying on a rocky ridge, it is today a haunting complex of empty palaces, forts and mosques. A variety of architectural styles are found, since craftsmen representing many schools were employed. On arrival in Jaipur check in at the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 8: In JAIPUR



After breakfast visit **Amber**, the capital for 6 centuries before Jaipur was built, which lies 11 km north of Jaipur. Rising majestically on the slopes of a hill, this 11th century fort and palace complex is a blend of Hindu and Muslim styles - the earlier constructions in the inner apartments designed by the Hindu founder are austere, while later constructions abound in the rich flourishes characteristic of Muslim influence. Experience the thrill of riding up to the fort on gaily-decorated elephants, in the manner the Rajputs of old made their royal ascent centuries ago.

In the afternoon explore **Jaipur**, one of the best-planned cities in India, built of rose-pink sandstone by the great astronomer-king Jai Singh II in 1727. The **City Palace** stands in the centre of the city. Part of it is still the Maharaja's residence, while most of the complex has been developed into a museum containing rare manuscripts, fine specimens of Rajput and Mughal paintings, royal



apparel and an armoury. **Hawa Mahal** (Palace of Winds) is the landmark of Jaipur. Built of pink sandstone with a delicate honeycomb design and rising five storeys high, it is composed of semi-octagonal overhanging windows, each with its perforated screen, which allowed the ladies of the court to look onto the main street without being seen. **Jantar Mantar** observatory was built by the founder of Jaipur, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh. The huge stone instruments were devised to study the movements of the sun, moon and planets and are incredibly accurate. There is time to wander through the colourful bazaars, a veritable collector's paradise where you can watch ancient craft forms. Overnight at the hotel

## Day 9: Fly JAIPUR to GOA

After breakfast transfer to the airport for the flight to Goa. You are met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is free. Overnight at the hotel.



## Day 10: In GOA

Breakfast at the hotel. The morning is at leisure.

In the afternoon explore **Panaji** (Panjim), a former fishing village, made the capital of Goa by a decree from Lisbon. It is spread around **Altinho**, a residential area with Portuguese style bungalows. The dominant structure is the **Patriarch's Palace** with the statue of Christ the King on its lawns. Altinho offers a panoramic view of the city from its summit. The **Idalcao** (Adil Shah's palace), built in 1490, is the oldest monument in Panjim. The **Church of Our Lady of Immaculate Conception** offers some of the best views of the city.



Drive through **Fontainhas** with its Latin atmosphere and quaint houses to **Old Goa**, the heartland of Asian Christianity, once a bustling metropolis but now in ruins. Visit the beautiful **Basilica of Bom Jesus** where the incorruptible body of St Francis Xavier is enshrined in a silver casket and the majestic **Se Cathedral**, the largest church in Goa, with its booming Golden Bell. Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 11 & 12: In GOA



Breakfasts at the hotel.

This full days are at leisure to enjoy the sun, surf and sand of Goa and to explore the colourful markets.



Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 13: Depart GOA

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to the airport for the flight to Mumbai or Delhi. Connect with the onward flight home

**END OF OUR SERVICES**

