



NORTH INDIA 14N/15D

TOUR SUMMARY

Golden Triangle & Beyond: 15-Day North India Heritage Tour with Wildlife and Varanasi

Embark on a captivating **14 Nights / 15 Days North India tour** that takes you through some of the most iconic destinations in India—**Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Ranthambore, Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Varanasi**. This immersive journey blends **royal heritage, Mughal architecture, spiritual experiences, and wildlife safaris**, making it ideal for culture lovers, history enthusiasts, and first-time travellers to India. Begin your adventure in **Delhi**, exploring its rich blend of old-world charm and modern sophistication. Visit landmarks like the **Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, Qutub Minar**, and enjoy vibrant street food and bustling markets. Travel to **Agra**, home to the world-famous **Taj Mahal**, followed by a scenic drive to **Jaipur**, the Pink City, where you'll experience the grandeur of **Amber Fort** and the royal **City Palace**. Venture into the wild at **Ranthambore National Park**, one of India's top tiger reserves, for thrilling jungle safaris. Continue west to the Blue City of **Jodhpur**, exploring majestic forts and palaces, then head to the romantic city of **Udaipur**, known for its lakes, palaces, and stunning sunsets over **Lake Pichola**.

Fly east to the spiritual heart of India—**Varanasi**, one of the world's oldest living cities. Witness the mesmerizing **Ganga Aarti**, take a serene **sunrise boat ride on the Ganges**, and explore the sacred temples and ghats that define Hindu spirituality. Your journey concludes back in Delhi with unforgettable memories and cultural insights.

This **Golden Triangle tour with Varanasi and Rajasthan** offers a perfect blend of heritage, wildlife, and spiritual discovery. Ideal for travellers seeking an authentic and well-rounded **India itinerary**.

Best time: October – March

Note: While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, this itinerary is intended as a guide and may include unintentional errors or be subject to adjustments due to unforeseen circumstances.



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Detailed Itinerary

DAY 1: Arrival in Delhi – Welcome to India's Capital City

Arrive in **Delhi**, the bustling capital of **India** and a city where ancient history and modern life blend seamlessly. As one of the most iconic cultural hubs in the country, Delhi offers a fascinating introduction to India's diverse heritage. From the majestic Mughal-era monuments of **Old Delhi** to the colonial-era architecture and broad boulevards of **Lutyens' Delhi**, the city is a vibrant tapestry of traditions, languages, and lifestyles. Upon arrival, you'll be warmly greeted by our **tour manager**, who will provide an informative **orientation session** about your upcoming **North India tour**. Afterward, transfer to your comfortable, pre-booked hotel in Delhi for check-in. Take time to relax and recover from your journey before enjoying a delicious welcome **dinner featuring Indian cuisine**. Overnight stay in Delhi, ready to explore the wonders of this dynamic city.



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DAY 2: Explore the Historical and Cultural Landmarks of Delhi

After a hearty breakfast at the hotel, set out to explore the timeless charm of **Delhi**, a city that has served as the seat of empires for centuries. Begin your Delhi sightseeing tour with a visit to the iconic **Red Fort**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a stunning example of Mughal architecture. Continue to the **Jama Masjid**, one of the largest mosques in India, followed by a quiet moment of reflection at **Raj Ghat**, the serene memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. Next, marvel at the Persian-influenced architecture of **Humayun's Tomb**, which inspired the design of the Taj Mahal.

Enjoy **lunch at a local Delhi restaurant**, where you'll sample traditional North Indian cuisine. In the afternoon, visit the majestic **Qutub Minar**, a 12th-century minaret surrounded by ancient ruins, then explore the striking **Lotus Temple**, known for its distinctive flower-like shape and peaceful ambiance. Drive past **India Gate**, a war memorial dedicated to fallen soldiers, and the grand **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, the official residence of the President of India.

As the sun sets, take a relaxed **evening walk through Parathe Wali Gali** in Old Delhi's bustling **Chandni Chowk**—a legendary food street famous for its deep-fried stuffed parathas served with tangy chutneys and spicy curries. Soak in the flavours and vibrant street life before returning to your hotel. Enjoy a comforting **dinner** and unwind after a day full of history, heritage, and food. Overnight stay in Delhi.



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DAY 3: Delhi to Agra – Explore Mughal Majesty and the Taj by Moonlight

After breakfast, depart by road for **Agra**, the former capital of the mighty Mughal Empire and home to one of the world's most iconic monuments—the **Taj Mahal**. The scenic drive from **Delhi to Agra** takes approximately **3.5 hours** via the Yamuna Expressway. En route, you have the option to visit **Akbar's Tomb in Sikandra**, a grand mausoleum that combines Hindu, Islamic, and Persian architectural styles—a fitting tribute to one of India's greatest emperors.

Upon arrival in Agra, check in at your hotel and freshen up. In the afternoon, visit the **Agra Fort**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a sprawling red sandstone complex that served as the main residence of the Mughal emperors. Later, head to **Mehtab Bagh**, a tranquil garden complex located across the Yamuna River, offering breathtaking **sunset views of the Taj Mahal**—perfect for photography and quiet contemplation.

Special Note: If your visit coincides with the **full moon night**, you may have the rare opportunity to witness the **Taj Mahal by moonlight**—a magical experience that reveals the monument's white marble glowing ethereally under the silver light. Advance booking and government permits are required for this special night viewing session (subject to availability and weather conditions).

Return to the hotel for dinner and a relaxing overnight stay in Agra.



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DAY 4: Agra to Jaipur via Fatehpur Sikri and Bharatpur – A Journey Through Mughal Grandeur and Avian Wonders

After breakfast, check out from your hotel and begin your drive to **Jaipur**, the vibrant **Pink City of Rajasthan**, known for its royal palaces, forts, and colourful bazaars. The journey takes approximately **5 hours**, but the day is filled with fascinating stops along the way.

En route, make a visit to the magnificent **Fatehpur Sikri**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and the former Mughal capital built by Emperor Akbar. Wander through the beautifully preserved sandstone structures like **Buland Darwaza**, **Panch Mahal**, and **Jama Masjid**, which reflect a brilliant fusion of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles.

Seasonal Highlight: During the migratory bird season (typically **October to March**), you have the option to visit the renowned **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, commonly known as the **Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary**. A paradise for birdwatchers and nature lovers, the sanctuary is home to hundreds of species, including painted storks, cranes, kingfishers, and even the rare Siberian crane.

Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant** En route, sampling regional Rajasthani or Mughlai flavours.

By evening, arrive in **Jaipur** and check in to your hotel. You may choose to unwind after the journey or take a short stroll through the vibrant **local markets of Jaipur**, such as Bapu Bazaar or Johari Bazaar, known for handicrafts, textiles, and traditional jewellery.

Dinner and overnight stay in Jaipur, preparing for a full day of sightseeing in the royal city.



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DAY 5: Explore the Royal Heritage of Jaipur – The Pink City

After a delicious breakfast at your hotel, set out to explore the regal charm and architectural splendour of **Jaipur**, the capital of **Rajasthan** and a UNESCO World Heritage City known as the **Pink City**.

Start your day with a visit to the majestic **Amber Fort**, perched high on a hill overlooking Maota Lake. Experience a **scenic jeep ride or traditional elephant ride** up to the fort's entrance, where you'll explore its grand courtyards, mirror-clad halls, and intricate frescoes. Next, visit the **City Palace**, a beautiful blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture still home to the royal family of Jaipur. Don't miss the palace museum, which showcases royal costumes, weapons, and artefacts.

Continue to **Jantar Mantar**, the world's largest stone astronomical observatory and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then take a photo stop at the iconic **Hawa Mahal** (Palace of Winds), with its ornate pink façade designed for royal women to observe street life without being seen. Pause at **Jal Mahal**, a stunning palace seemingly floating on Man Sagar Lake, ideal for postcard-perfect pictures.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant where you can savour authentic **Rajasthani cuisine**, such as dal baati churma or gatte ki sabzi.

Return to your hotel in the evening for a relaxed dinner and overnight stay in Jaipur, soaking in the royal ambiance of this historic city.



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DAY 6: Jaipur to Ranthambore – Into the Wild Heart of Rajasthan

After breakfast, bid farewell to the royal city of Jaipur and embark on a scenic drive to **Ranthambore National Park** (approximately **3.5 hours**). This renowned wildlife sanctuary is one of India's premier **tiger reserves**, offering a unique blend of rich biodiversity, rugged landscapes, and ancient ruins nestled deep within the forest.

Upon arrival in **Ranthambore**, check in to your **jungle lodge or forest resort** and take time to relax and soak in the natural surroundings. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure—enjoy the peaceful atmosphere, spot exotic birds around the property, or unwind by the pool.

Optional Activities:

- Join an **evening jungle safari** in an open-top canter or gypsy (subject to availability and park regulations) for a chance to spot **tigers**, leopards, sloth bears, and a wide variety of deer and birds.
- Alternatively, take a **guided village walk** to interact with locals and get a glimpse of rural Rajasthani life, known for its simplicity and hospitality.

Return to your resort for dinner and an overnight stay in Ranthambore, surrounded by the calls of the wild.



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DAY 7: Full-Day Wildlife Safari Adventure in Ranthambore National Park

Rise early for a thrilling day of **wildlife exploration in Ranthambore National Park**, one of the best places in India to spot the elusive **Tiger** in its natural habitat. After a light morning refreshment, set out on a **morning jungle safari** in an open gypsy or canter, guided by expert naturalists who will help you track animal movements and interpret signs of the forest.

Ranthambore's diverse landscape—featuring dry deciduous forests, open meadows, and ancient ruins—supports an impressive range of **wildlife**, including **tigers, leopards, sloth bears, hyenas, jackals, sambars, spotted deer**, and a rich variety of **birdlife** such as peacocks, crested serpent eagles, and parakeets.

Return to the resort for breakfast and some relaxation time. Enjoy lunch before heading out again for your **afternoon safari**, offering a different glimpse of the jungle as the animals stir during the cooler hours.

Evenings at Ranthambore are peaceful—perfect for reflecting on the day's sightings. Return to your resort for a cosy dinner and overnight stay in Ranthambore, surrounded by the serene sounds of nature.



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DAY 8: Ranthambore to Jodhpur – From Jungle Trails to the Blue City

After an early breakfast, check out and begin your long yet scenic drive to **Jodhpur**, the famed **Blue City of Rajasthan** (approx. **7-hour drive**). As you leave behind the wild terrain of Ranthambore, the landscape gradually shifts into the arid beauty of **Marwar**, with views of rustic villages, camel carts, and desert plains offering glimpses into rural Rajasthan.

En route, enjoy scheduled **breaks for meals and refreshments at local roadside dhabas or restaurants**, where you can sample authentic Rajasthani flavours and stretch your legs.

By evening, arrive in **Jodhpur**, a historic city dominated by the towering **Mehrangarh Fort** and known for its distinctive blue-painted houses. Check in to your hotel and take the evening to relax and rejuvenate after the long journey.

Dinner and **overnight stay in Jodhpur**, preparing to explore the royal heritage of this desert jewel the following day.



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DAY 9: Discover the Royal Legacy of Jodhpur – The Blue City

After a leisurely breakfast, set out to explore the timeless charm of **Jodhpur**, often called the **Blue City** for the vivid indigo houses that cluster around the towering **Mehrangarh Fort**. Begin your day with a visit to **Mehrangarh Fort**, one of the largest and most majestic forts in India. Perched atop a rocky hill, the fort offers panoramic views of the city below and houses an impressive museum featuring royal artefacts, palanquins, miniature paintings, and battle gear.

Next, visit **Jaswant Thada**, a serene marble cenotaph built in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. Surrounded by gardens and overlooking a small lake, it's often referred to as the "Taj Mahal of Marwar" for its intricate marble lattice work and peaceful setting.

Enjoy **lunch at a local restaurant** where you can savour Jodhpuri specialties like **laal maas**, **mirchi vada**, or **makkhaniya lassi**.

In the afternoon, explore the **Umaid Bhawan Palace**, an opulent 20th-century royal residence that now functions as a luxury hotel and museum. The palace showcases vintage cars, royal memorabilia, and art deco interiors—a perfect glimpse into the lavish lifestyles of Rajasthan's maharajas.

Wrap up your day with a stroll through the vibrant **Clock Tower Market (Ghanta Ghar)**, a bustling bazaar where you can shop for handicrafts, spices, and Jodhpur's famous **bandhani textiles** and **mojari footwear**.

Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Jodhpur, enriched by the colours and culture of Marwar.



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DAY 10: Jodhpur to Udaipur via Ranakpur – From Desert Forts to Lake Palaces

After breakfast, check out from your hotel and begin your journey to **Udaipur**, the enchanting **City of Lakes** in southern Rajasthan (approx. **6-hour drive**). En route, make a stop at one of India's finest spiritual landmarks—the **Ranakpur Jain Temples**.

Nestled in a peaceful valley of the Aravalli Hills, **Ranakpur Temple** is renowned for its stunning marble architecture, 1,444 intricately carved pillars (no two alike), and serene ambiance. It's one of the most important pilgrimage sites for Jains and a masterpiece of symmetrical design and sacred geometry.

After exploring the temple complex, enjoy lunch at a local restaurant nearby, surrounded by natural beauty and tranquillity.

Continue your drive to **Udaipur**, a romantic city dotted with shimmering lakes, ornate palaces, and charming ghats. On arrival, check in to your hotel and unwind. In the evening, you may choose to relax by the scenic **Lake Pichola**, where the shimmering reflections of the **City Palace** and **Lake Palace Hotel** create a magical sunset atmosphere.

Enjoy a peaceful dinner and overnight stay in Udaipur, soaking in the calm and charm of Rajasthan's most romantic city.



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DAY 11: Explore Udaipur – The City of Lakes and Palaces

After breakfast at your hotel, begin a full day of sightseeing in **Udaipur**, often hailed as the **Venice of the East**. This romantic lakeside city is known for its palaces, temples, gardens, and vibrant cultural life.

Start with a visit to the magnificent **City Palace**, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Perched on the banks of **Lake Pichola**, it offers panoramic views and houses museums displaying royal artefacts, stunning courtyards, and beautiful balconies. Next, visit the nearby **Jagdish Temple**, a 17th-century Indo-Aryan style temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, known for its intricate carvings and spiritual energy.

Continue to **Saheliyon Ki Bari** (Garden of the Maidens), a tranquil garden built for the royal ladies, featuring marble fountains, lotus pools, and lush greenery—a perfect spot to unwind.

Enjoy **lunch at a local Udaipur restaurant**, where you can sample traditional **Mewar cuisine**.

In the afternoon, enjoy a **scenic boat ride on Lake Pichola**, one of Udaipur's most iconic experiences. Glide past the picturesque **Lake Palace**, **Jag Mandir**, and ghats, soaking in the regal beauty of the city from the water.

Later, visit **Bagore Ki Haveli**, an 18th-century mansion turned museum that offers a glimpse into royal life with its antique displays, costumes, and art. Stay back in the evening to enjoy the **Dharohar cultural show**—a lively performance of Rajasthani folk dance, puppetry, and traditional music held in the haveli's charming courtyard.

Return to your hotel for the night. Overnight stay in Udaipur, your heart full of lakeside memories and Mewar majesty.



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DAY 12: Udaipur to Varanasi – From Royal Palaces to the Sacred Ganges

After an early breakfast, check out from your hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight to **Varanasi**, the spiritual heart of India. Your journey includes a connecting flight via **Delhi or Jaipur**, with **lunch at the airport** during transit.

Upon arrival in **Varanasi**, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, you'll be welcomed and transferred to your hotel. After settling in, prepare for an unforgettable evening experience.

As the sun sets, head to the iconic **Dashashwamedh Ghat** on the banks of the **River Ganga** to witness the mesmerizing **Ganga Aarti** ceremony. This daily ritual, performed with fire, incense, chants, and bells by a group of priests, is a deeply moving spiritual spectacle that draws devotees and visitors from around the world.

Absorb the energy and sanctity of the moment as hundreds of oil lamps are floated on the river, creating a shimmering trail of devotion across the water.

Return to your hotel for dinner and an overnight stay in Varanasi, now immersed in the divine aura of India's holiest city.



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DAY 13: Spiritual Varanasi – Sunrise Boat Ride, Temples & Sarnath Excursion

Begin your day early with a serene **sunrise boat ride on the River Ganges**, one of the most **soul-stirring experiences in Varanasi**. As the first light of day reflects off the ancient ghats, witness locals performing their morning rituals, pilgrims bathing in the holy waters, and the city slowly coming to life. This timeless journey offers a surreal glimpse into the **spiritual heart of India**.

After returning to your hotel for breakfast, visit the revered **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**, one of the twelve **Jyotirlingas** and a sacred site for Hindus dedicated to Lord Shiva. Its spiritual and historical significance makes it a must-visit for seekers and history enthusiasts alike.

Next, take a short drive to **Sarnath**, where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. Explore the **Dhamek Stupa**, **Ashokan Pillar**, and the **Sarnath Archaeological Museum**, home to the original Lion Capital of Ashoka—the national emblem of India. Sarnath offers a peaceful contrast to the vibrant chaos of Varanasi and is deeply revered by Buddhists worldwide.

En route back, stop by **Banaras Hindu University (BHU)**, one of Asia's largest residential universities, known for its sprawling campus, Bharat Kala Bhavan Museum, and cultural relevance.

Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Varanasi, reflecting on a day filled with spiritual insight, ancient wisdom, and cultural heritage.



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DAY 14: Fly - Varanasi-Delhi

After breakfast drive to Varanasi airport for flight to Delhi. Lunch at a local restaurant in Delhi. Free time for shopping in Delhi or optionally visit the Akshardham temple.

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Delhi, time for packing & organising for your next day flight.

DAY 15: Fly out of Delhi to your respective destinations.

After breakfast, transfer to the airport depending on your flight timings.

TOUR ENDS



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