



## THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE NORTH INDIA + AMRITSAR & SHIMLA 10N/11D

### TOUR SUMMARY

Embark on a captivating **10 Nights / 11 Days North India tour** that takes you through some of India's most iconic and culturally rich destinations—**Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Amritsar, and Shimla**. This immersive journey seamlessly blends **royal heritage, Mughal architecture, spiritual experiences, and colonial charm**, making it ideal for **culture lovers, history enthusiasts, nature seekers, and first-time travellers to India**.

Begin your adventure in **Delhi**, where old-world charm meets modern sophistication. Explore historical landmarks like the **Red Fort, Humayun's Tomb, and Qutub Minar**, while soaking in the energy of bustling bazaars and vibrant street food scenes.

Next, head to **Agra**, home to the **world-famous Taj Mahal**, a symbol of eternal love. Then continue to **Jaipur**, the Pink City, where the grandeur of **Amber Fort, City Palace**, and local handicrafts await.

Extend your cultural experience with a spiritual stop in **Amritsar**, visiting the awe-inspiring **Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib)** and witnessing the patriotic **Wagah Border ceremony**. Don't miss the soul-stirring **Langar**, the temple's community kitchen that serves thousands daily.

Wrap up your journey in the cool hills of **Shimla**, the former British summer capital. Stroll along the **Mall Road**, admire colonial-era architecture, and unwind amid pine-scented mountain air—offering the perfect contrast to the vibrant plains of North India.

This **Golden Triangle with Amritsar and Shimla** tour offers a **well-rounded, authentic introduction to India**, balancing history, culture, spirituality, and scenic beauty in one unforgettable 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 exploring **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 **Paranthe 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 – Explore Mughal Heritage and Local Crafts**

After breakfast, embark on a scenic drive to Jaipur (approximately 4–5 hours), the vibrant capital of Rajasthan and the next stop on your Golden Triangle tour. En route, explore the historic **Fatehpur Sikri**, the grand Mughal palace complex built by Emperor Akbar, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Marvel at 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

Upon arrival in Jaipur, check in to your hotel and relax. In the evening, step out to discover the city's lively bazaars and **traditional Rajasthani craft shops**, perfect for picking up textiles, jewellery, and handicrafts. Return to your hotel for dinner and an overnight stay in Jaipur. Wander through such as Bapu Bazaar or Johari Bazaar, known for handicrafts, textiles, and traditional jewellery.



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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 – Stepwell, Local Cuisine & Albert Hall Museum

Start your morning with a visit to the serene and architecturally striking **Panna Meena ka Kund**, an ancient stepwell known for its geometric symmetry and quiet charm—an offbeat gem tucked away near the old city.

Lunch En route at a local restaurant, where you can savour traditional Rajasthani dishes and regional flavours.

In the afternoon, explore the majestic **Albert Hall Museum**, Jaipur's oldest state museum and a fine example of Indo-Saracenic architecture. Its rich collection spans everything from royal costumes and miniature paintings to arms, artefacts, and even an Egyptian mummy.

Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Jaipur.



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### DAY 7: Jaipur – Delhi

After breakfast, drive back to **Delhi** (approximately 5–6 hours). *En route*, stop for lunch at a local restaurant, enjoying a final taste of North Indian cuisine.

Upon arrival in Delhi, enjoy some **leisure time for shopping** at local markets or malls—perfect for souvenirs, textiles, or handicrafts.

Dinner & overnight at hotel in Delhi



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### **DAY 8: Delhi to Amritsar by Train – Golden Temple & Wagah Border Ceremony**

After an early breakfast, transfer to the **New Delhi Railway Station** to board a train to **Amritsar**, the spiritual and cultural heart of Punjab. Arrive by **13:30 hrs** and proceed directly to visit the magnificent **Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib)**—a serene and sacred site that embodies Sikh spirituality and architectural beauty.

While at the temple, you may choose to partake in the **Langar**, the community kitchen that serves thousands daily in a humbling show of equality and service. Alternatively, enjoy a traditional **Punjabi lunch** at a local restaurant, sampling rich regional specialties like butter chicken, chole, or sarson da saag with makki di roti.

Check in at your hotel and rest briefly. In the late afternoon, drive to the **Wagah Border** to witness the dramatic and patriotic **flag-lowering ceremony**, a spirited daily ritual between Indian and Pakistani border forces.

Return to the hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Amritsar.



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### **DAY 9: Amritsar to Shimla – Scenic Drive & Toy Train Experience**

After a very early start (packed breakfast En route), begin your journey towards the charming hill station of **Shimla**, nestled in the foothills of the Himalayas. Drive up to **Kalka** (approx. 6–7 hours), stopping En route for lunch at a local restaurant, where you can enjoy North Indian cuisine with a view of the changing landscape.

From Kalka, board the iconic **Kalka–Shimla Toy Train**—a UNESCO World Heritage ride famed for its vintage charm, scenic mountain views, and winding tunnels. This narrow-gauge journey offers a nostalgic and picturesque experience as you ascend into the cool Himalayan air.

Arrive in Shimla and check in at your hotel. Enjoy a hearty dinner and overnight stay in Shimla, soaking in the peaceful ambiance of the former British summer capital.



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## **DAY 10: Explore the Colonial Charms of Shimla – Ridge, Mall Road, Jakhoo Temple & Viceregal Lodge**

After a hearty breakfast, set out to explore the **top attractions of Shimla**, a hill station famed for its colonial heritage, Himalayan views, and charming town life.

Begin your day at **The Ridge**, the cultural and social heart of Shimla. Admire panoramic mountain vistas and visit the iconic **Christ Church**, one of the oldest churches in North India. Continue to **Mall Road**, Shimla's bustling pedestrian promenade lined with British-era buildings, boutiques, cafes, and souvenir shops—a perfect place to soak in the town's vintage vibe.

Next, head to **Jakhoo Temple**, located atop **Jakhoo Hill**, the highest point in Shimla. Dedicated to Lord Hanuman, this serene temple offers sweeping views of the valley. You can either hike up or take the **Jakhoo Ropeway** for a scenic ride.

Later, visit the majestic **Viceregal Lodge (Rashtrapati Niwas)**, once the summer residence of British viceroys. Explore its beautifully preserved interiors, colonial-era architecture, and manicured gardens, while learning about its historical significance during the British Raj.

Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant, sampling Himachali or North Indian cuisine, before winding down for the day.

Return to your hotel for dinner and overnight stay in Shimla, reflecting on the rich heritage and natural beauty of this former British summer capital.



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## THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE NORTH INDIA + AMRITSAR & SHIMLA 10N/11D

### **DAY 11: Shimla to Delhi via Kalka**

After breakfast, drive from Shimla to Kalka (approximately 3–4 hours), enjoying scenic views of the Himalayan foothills along the way.

Upon arrival, board a comfortable train to New Delhi, experiencing the convenience of India's well-connected rail network.

On reaching Delhi, wash & change room at your hotel and unwind.

In the evening, savour a delicious dinner and transfer to the New Delhi International Airport for flights to your respective destinations.

**TOUR ENDS**



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