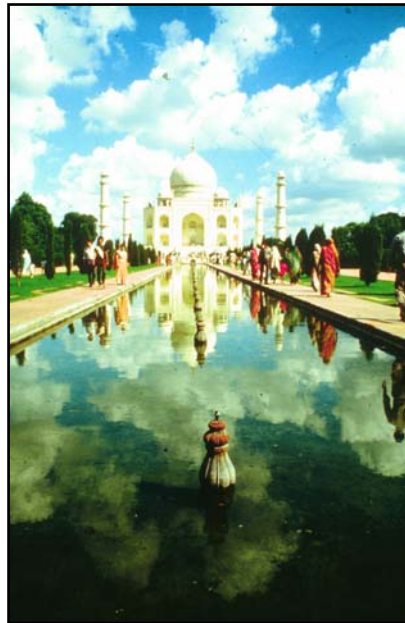


DELHI EXTENSION: the TAJ MAHAL and VARANASI



This information should answer some of your questions about the trip and give you a better idea of what we do day-to-day. It doesn't hope to answer everything. If you have any questions please get in touch.



Taj Mahal. Photo Lloyd Smith

A visit to India must include the Taj Mahal! Taking over 18 years to complete, this extravagant monument to love was constructed by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his late wife, Mumtaz Mahal 'the Lady of the Taj'. Constructed from marble, whose orange hue at dawn changes to a soft pink in the evening, the Taj Mahal surpasses all expectations.

Agra Fort, an imposing citadel looming over Agra is almost a city within a city. The red sandstone Fort was originally built as a military structure in 1565 and contains some diverse and finely designed buildings within its walls, particularly the Pearl Mosque and the Mirror Palace, reputed to be the Harem dressing room of Emperor Shah Jahan.

There is also time to visit the 'ghost city' of Fatehpur Sikri. This perfectly preserved sandstone city, a fitting tribute to Moghul pomp and grandeur, lies at the top of a rocky ridge south west of Agra. Built by Emperor Akbar, this was originally intended to be the capital of the Moghul empire but the meagre water supply put paid to its ambitions and almost as fast as it was built, was abandoned and has now lain deserted for over four centuries.

Varanasi, 'the city of Shiva' or 'the eternal city', is situated on the banks of the River Ganges and is a holy place where pilgrims come to bathe to be cleansed of their sins. Varanasi has been a centre of learning for over 2000 years, and is said to be one of the oldest cities in the world. A dawn boat ride can capture the essence of this holy place.

DAY BY DAY ITINERARY

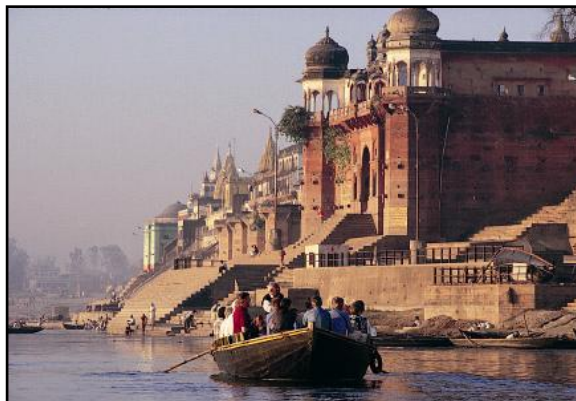
This is our suggested 4 day itinerary; however we can tailor arrangements to suit you. Please contact us to discuss your requirements. (B) = breakfast provided

DAY 1 A morning transfer to the railway station for an early train to Agra arriving approx 0945. Visit the Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri. In the evening catch the overnight sleeper train to Varanasi.

DAY 2 Arrive Varanasi around 0800 and transfer to hotel. Time, with the help of your guide, to take in some of the sights; perhaps Bharata Mata Temple, Durra Temple & Aurangzebs Mosque. Hotel. (B)

DAY 3 An early morning boat ride on the Ganges and visit to the bathing ghats. In the afternoon, drive to Sarnath (10km), the site of Buddha's first sermon. Hotel. (B)

DAY 4 Morning free, transfer to the airport for a late afternoon flight to Delhi and continue with your arrangements. (B)



*Boat ride on the Ganges at Varanasi
Photo Julian Worker*

Price

£305 (NZ\$690) pp on twin share basis

Single supplement **£50 (NZ\$115)** min 2 in group

£440 (NZ\$995) single person travelling alone

Extra night in Delhi hotel if required, **£90 (NZ\$210)** per room, single or twin

Price includes:

- Train Delhi to Agra 2nd Class Air Conditioned
- Train Agra to Varanasi 2nd Class Air Conditioned Sleeper
- Hotel Varanasi 2 nights
- All transfers and guided sightseeing, including Ganges boat ride
- Flight Varanasi to Delhi

Price excludes:

- Monument fees, allow approx **£20 (NZ\$46)**
- Meals - except breakfast on DAYS 2, 3 and 4
- Tips and personal expenses

ML/PA 04/10