11 Day Golden Triangle With Varanasi

Asia Vacation Group - World Travel Expert!

Local knowledge, adventures of a lifetime.

Discover the world with our team of experts, and a carefully selected, value-packed exploration of world's most iconic destinations. Our tours offer must-visit sights, rich experiences and quality inclusions all at an unbeatable prices. Your bucket list dreams are ticked off on these all-encompassing vacations.

Travel with the confidence. Your trip has been carefully crafted by <u>our team</u> with you in mind and it's that same team that takes you on the journey. One amazing team to help and guide you, not only as your local travel expert but also as a friend with helpfulness and sincerity.

Specialists in world touring since 2015, <u>Asia Vacation Group</u> is proud to be the people who craft your itinerary, help you at each step, plus guide and operate your tour.

Australian Company Owned	7 Day Change of Mind to receive full Refund	Returned Flight Included
Relax Itineray		

Day by Day Itinerary

Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi

HIGHLIGHTS

- Returned flights from Australia
- Domestic flight from Jaipur to Varanasi and returned to Delhi
- Incredible sightseeing as per the itinerary, including bustling Delhi, the iconic Taj Mahal in Agra, Jaipur's Amber
 Fort and Palace of the Winds and the Abhaneri step well. Enjoy a sunrise boat ride on the Ganges River in
 Varanasi, walk the backlanes of Varanasi's old city.
- Small group experience, with no more than 20 people
- 4-star hotel accommodation in comfort.
- All airport transfers
- Air-conditioning vehicles
- Daily breakfasts, 1 dinner
- Escorted by Professional English-speaking guide

ITINERARY

Day 1: Delhi Arrival

Welcome to India!

Arrive Delhi, you will be met by our representative outside the baggage claim area and escorted to a waiting vehicle for your transfer to the hotel. Our guide will be holding a sign marked "Asia Vacation Group". Transfer to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel

Meal: In-flight meals

Accommodation:Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar 4* or similar

Day 2: Delhi

Delhi is made up of about 15 cities, spanning the period from the 11th to 20th centuries. There is little left of the early cities. Old Delhi (Shahjahanabad) and New Delhi, the two most recent cities and the heart of modern Delhi, are relatively intact. Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan in 1650 switched the Mughal capital from Agra to Delhi. Shah Jehan possessing an exquisite talent, especially in architecture, created the seventh city and in the process brought about Delhi's glorious renaissance.

Today, visit the outside of the Red Fort, built when Mughal (Muslim) architecture was at its peak, surrounded by a 2 km red sandstone wall housing several splendid buildings.

The Jama Masjid (Friday Mosque) opposite the Red Fort is the largest mosque in India and one of the greatest examples of the architectural extravaganza of the Mughal era; afterwards, make a brief stop at Raj Ghat — Mahatma Gandhi's memorial in black marble.

Enjoy a rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk (Silver Square), the main shopping street, and a legacy of the Mughal era. Pass through the spice market and discover examples of authentic Indian street food.

Visit India Gate and Government Buildings for the photo stop.

Visit Qutab Minar, one of the UNESCO world heritage, the Qutub Minar stands tall in the capital of Delhi as the world's tallest minaret built of bricks, at 72.5 meters of height.

Evening return to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar 4* or similar

Day 3: Delhi - Agra

At 9:00 AM, be prepared in the lobby of the hotel for your overland transfer to Agra.

The drive will take approximately 5 hours. At the time of the Mughals, in the 16th & 17th centuries, Agra was the capital of the grand Mughal Empire.

Later this afternoon visit the massive Agra Fort. From the fort enjoy awesome views of the Taj Mahal. The elegant buildings inside reflect an interesting synthesis of Hindu and Central Asian architectural styles — a contrast to the unique Mughal style that emerged during this period. Explore the chambers of this royal residence.

Also visit Itmad ud Daulah, the tomb of Mirza Ghiyath Beg. It was designed by his daughter, Nur Jahan, the most powerful woman in Moghul history. Afterwards visit the Taj Mahal at the end of the day, as the sun sets, gradually turning the marble of this romantic monument, from white to a soft, rosy pink. The Taj Mahal is considered the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines elements from Persian, Indian, and Islamic architectural styles. In 1983, the Taj Mahal became a UNESCO World Heritage Site and was cited as "the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage. Overnight at the hotel

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Grand Mercure 4* or similar

Day 4: Agra - Jaipur

Keep this morning at leisure.

At approximately 10:00 AM be prepared in the lobby of the hotel for your overland transfer to Jaipur — "the land of the Rajahs".

The drive will take approximately 4 hours. Visit Abhaneri Step Well on the way to Jaipur.

Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan province. Everywhere you will see the monuments of its Mughal rulers. Jaipur is one of the main centers for shopping in India — especially with regard to textiles, jewelry, stones carpets, etc. On your arrival at Jaipur, our representative will assist you in your hotel check in process.

Keep this day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Ramada by Wyndham 4* or similar

Day 5: Jaipur

After breakfast at the hotel be prepared in the lobby of the hotel to explore and enjoy sightseeing in the Pink city of India – Jaipur.

Amber Fort, a magnificent example of a Rajput Fort building at its best. Fortified by hills and a succession of gates, the fort was a perfect capital for the Kuchwaha Rajputs from the 11th to the 18th centuries. The fort contains a dramatic Hall of Public Audience opposite a beautifully painted Ganesh pole. Ganesh, the elephant-headed son of Siva and Parvati, is commonly propitiated before beginning any new venture.

Visit the gardens and the marble rooms, which are cooled by pouring water through fine perforations in the center of the wall. This low-tech air conditioning was highly effective and easy to use. As you move between the rooms of this magnificent structure, you will feel the history and visualize the pomp and grandeur of a kingdom never conquered. Keep this day for leisure and exploration of the city. Overnight at the hotel.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Ramada by Wyndham 4* or similar

Day 6: Jaipur

Keep today's morning at leisure.

This afternoon visit the City Palace, home to an impressive collection of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal artwork, jewels, textiles and arms; Jantar Mantar; and the Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds, a tall facade of almost one thousand windows, behind which royal ladies once took the air in privacy.

Next to the City Palace, visit the Solar Observatory — an astronomical treasure house with solar devices that give accurate predictions till date.

Rest of the day free to explore the area on your own. Overnight at the hotel.

Meal: Breakfast, Dinner

Accommodation: Ramada by Wyndham 4* or similar

Day 7: jaipur - Delhi -lane) Varanasi

This morning be prepared in lobby of the hotel for your transfer to Jaipur Airport.

Depart Jaipur on your flight to Varanasi, via Delhi.

Varanasi is the religious capital of the Hindu faith since recorded time and is a microcosm of Indian life. When Buddha came here around 500 B.C. he encountered an ancient settlement. Contemporary with Babylon, Nineveh, and Thebes, Varanasi is one of the oldest cities in the world, a hub of firmly rooted traditions. For all its variety of sacred spots, Varanasi is really one big shrine, the shrine of Shiva. This cult is one of the oldest forms of worship, and was practiced in the Indus Valley thousands of years ago. Legend recounts how the Ganges was created. The water goddess Ganga was ordered to redeem the souls of some humans of great merit. But the fall of such a quantity of water would cause great damage to the world, so Shiva caught the goddess in his hair and let her seep out slowly to wash the ashes of the worthy mortals, and their souls ascended to heaven.

Keep remainder of the day at leisure. Overnight at the Hotel

Meals: Breakfast

Accommodation: Madin Hotel 4* or similar

Day 8: Varanasi

At dawn, a boat trip will take you along the bathing Ghats on the holy River Ganges to witness the 2,000-year-old rites of prayer and devotion, the dawn Aarti.

The Ganges is the most sacred and venerated river in India. Beside the ritualistic aspect of Hinduism (thread ceremony, head shaving, food to departed souls, etc.) you can also see the bathing, laundry, and cremations of the dead that take place here on the banks of the river. Life and death go hand in hand in Varanasi. While young people seek prosperity and protection from harmful influences, the older generation comes to Varanasi to cleanse their souls in the forgiving waters in preparation for the ultimate dissolution.

This afternoon, visit the buried city of Sarnath, where Buddha preached his first sermon, setting in motion the "Wheel of Law". It is here that Buddha revealed his doctrine and founded his monastic community. Pilgrims travel from around the world to Sarnath and there are monasteries constructed by Buddhists from several countries including China, Burma, Tibet and Japan. Although only a few miles from Varanasi, Sarnath reflects tranquillity, far removed from the bustle of the city.

Take in a vast collection of ancient stupas and modern temples in addition to Asoka's Pillar before returning to your hotel.

This evening your guide will take you to the banks of the River Ganges to see the Aarti (fire puja (prayer ceremony) and recital of spiritual songs). Overnight at the Hotel

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Madin Hotel 4* or similar

Day 9: Varanasi - Delhi

Today, at the decided upon time be prepared in lobby of the hotel for your transfer to Varanasi Airport. Depart Varanasi on your flight to Delhi.

Upon your arrival in Delhi, you will be met by our representative at the Airport and transferred to your hotel. Keep this day at leisure.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar 4* or similar

Day 10: Delhi - Home

After breakfast, you are free time at leisure until we drive to the airport for flight home.

Meal: Breakfast

Accommodation: On Plane

Day 11: Home

You arrive at your home and we hope you enjoy your amazed trip with Asia Vacation Group.

INCLUSIONS

- Returned flight from Australia
- Domestic flight from Jaipur to Varanasi and returned to Delhi
- A safe and comfortable air-conditioned vehicles.
- 4-star hotel accommodations
- Daily Breakfasts, 1 dinner
- Entrance fee for sightseeing tours mentioned in the itinerary
- English speaking tour guide
- Water bottle per day

EXCLUSIONS

- Meals and drinks are not mentioned in the program
- Visa fee in India
- Tipping for driver and tour guide (AUD10/per person/day)
- Personal expenses
- Travel insurance (we strongly recommend you hold a valid travel insurance policy for all domestic and overseas travel)
- Trip delay or interruption by airline schedule change
- Extra cost or missing tour caused by flight delay or cancel
- Any service not clearly mentioned in the program

DEPARTURE DATES: PRICE IS QUOTED IN AU\$ PER PERSON

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Sunday 16 Jun 2024	Saturday 15 Jun 2024	AU\$3,499	High Season	Book
Sunday 14 Jul 2024	Saturday 13 Jul 2024	AU\$3,899		Book
Sunday 04 Aug 2024	Saturday 03 Aug 2024	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 18 Aug 2024	Saturday 17 Aug 2024	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 08 Sep 2024	Saturday 07 Sep 2024	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 22 Sep 2024	Saturday 21 Sep 2024	AU\$3,699		Book
Sunday 06 Oct 2024	Saturday 05 Oct 2024	AU\$3,899		Book
Sunday 20 Oct 2024	Saturday 19 Oct 2024	AU\$3,699		Book

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Sunday 10 Nov 2024	Saturday 09 Nov 2024	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 24 Nov 2024	Saturday 23 Nov 2024	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 22 Dec 2024	Saturday 21 Dec 2024	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 05 Jan 2025	Saturday 04 Jan 2025	AU\$4,299		Book
Sunday 16 Feb 2025	Saturday 15 Feb 2025	AU\$3,699		Book
Sunday 09 Mar 2025	Saturday 08 Mar 2025	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 23 Mar 2025	Saturday 22 Mar 2025	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 06 Apr 2025	Saturday 05 Apr 2025	AU\$3,899		Book
Sunday 20 Apr 2025	Saturday 19 Apr 2025	AU\$3,899		Book
Sunday 04 May 2025	Saturday 03 May 2025	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 18 May 2025	Saturday 17 May 2025	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 08 Jun 2025	Saturday 07 Jun 2025	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 20 Jul 2025	Saturday 19 Jul 2025	AU\$3,899		Book
Sunday 10 Aug 2025	Saturday 09 Aug 2025	AU\$3,499		Book
Sunday 24 Aug 2025	Saturday 23 Aug 2025	AU\$3,599		Book
Sunday 14 Sep 2025	Saturday 13 Sep 2025	AU\$3,899		Book
Sunday 28 Sep 2025	Saturday 27 Sep 2025	AU\$3,899		Book
Sunday 12 Oct 2025	Saturday 11 Oct 2025	AU\$3,699		Book
Sunday 26 Oct 2025	Saturday 25 Oct 2025	AU\$3,699		Book

DEPART AU	RETURN DATE	PRICE	NOTE	RESERVE YOUR SEAT
Sunday 09 Nov 2025	Saturday 08 Nov 2025	AU\$3,699		Book
Sunday 23 Nov 2025	Saturday 22 Nov 2025	AU\$3,699		Book

OPTIONAL TOURS

FINE PRINT

FLIGHT INFORMATION

- Airline: Malaysia Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Vietnam Airlines, India Airlines (23kg for checked baggage per passenger and 7kg hand luggage per passenger, 01-piece check-in baggage.
- Some flights will require a minimum of 1 transit (maximum 2).
- All tickets will include 23 kilos checked baggage per person, along with 7 kilos of hand luggage.
- Despite the airlines baggage allowance, we recommend travelling with 20 kilos per person due to restrictions with internal flights (where applicable), as well as coach and train transportation. Also, you will be responsible for handling your luggage at all times as the services of porters is not included. If travelling over this amount, you will be liable for any excess baggage fees enforced by the airline, payable direct.
- Once ticketed, flights are non-refundable. Any changes will be subject to the airline rules and change fees.
- Full names as per passport (including all middle names) are required.
- Any airline schedule changes or cancellations are beyond our control.
- Any airline 'extras' such as pre-allocated seating is at your own arrangement (additional charges apply)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Physical Requirements

A reasonable level of fitness is required but it's more about spending time on your feet rather than covering large distances. You'll be getting on and off coaches and boats, walking around the sights and climbing some steps.

Tipping

A friendly reminder that tipping is not included in your package. Tipping is AU\$10/person per day. Tipping is collected by agent before travelling or the day of your arrival.

Accommodation

The accommodation listed is subject to change. Any changes will be of an equal or higher standard. Bedding configurations (double or twin) are requests only. All efforts will be made to meet your preferences however any changes are beyond our control.

Single Supplement

Single supplement is **\$615 per person** in addition to the twin share price.

Paired Solo Traveller

Not available.

Triple Share

Upon your request except for cruises

Group Size

2-15 people

Visa & Passport information

It is the traveler's responsibility to ensure they have a valid passport. The passport must be valid for a minimum of six months from the intended date of return and must have more than 2 blank pages.

A visa is required for travel to India, please visit: https://www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/asia/india

Tour Documentation

Final documentation, including e-tickets and hotel details, will be provided approximately 30 days prior to travel.

Tour Length

The total length of the tour in days includes time spent in flight and is subject to change depending on the flight schedule, please refer to the day by day itinerary for the time spent on land.

HOW TO EXTEND YOUR STAY

You can enhance your holiday by arriving or departing before or after the tour. On this tour you can choose from the following options:

Pre Tour Accommodation

- \$250 per room, per night based on double/twin room share
- \$110 per vehicle for airport transfer

Post Tour Accommodation

- \$250 per room, per night based on double/twin room share
- \$110 per vehicle for airport transfer

Please select the number of extra nights required in the 'Additional Nights Accommodation' field when making your purchase. The additional cost for these arrangements will be added to your final payment invoice and are subject to availability.

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Australia Call: 1800 229 339