



CT - 04/ TEMPLE TOUR

Tour Highlights

- Stay in a Star Category Hotel
- Travel in Luxury Air Conditioned Vehicle
- Daily Buffet Breakfast
- Sightseeing of Orchha, Khajuraho & Varanasi
- Experience of India's Fastest Train
- English Speaking Friendly Guide During Sightseeing
- All Monument Entrances Included



Incredible India

Can words describe 3.2 million sq. kms. of the Indian subcontinent? Can pictures capture a terrain as diverse as verdant forests, golden deserts and the majestic Himalayan range? Can stories tell you all you want to know about the complex cultures of the Indian people, their languages and dialects, their rituals and traditions? To feel her magic, be touched by her spirituality, experience her intensity or join in her celebrations, you have to be in India.

Nothing can possibly prepare you for the journey ahead. India will impress, bewilder, fascinate, depress, thrill, frustrate, inspire and amaze you. You'll see things you never thought possible, meet people you never thought probable and your senses will be working triple time. It will be an overwhelming experience. How you react to India is entirely up to you-it's your trip. But it may help to keep a few tips in the back of your mind. One, be patient. Things don't work the way they do back home and sometimes they don't work at all. Two, be open minded. India will test your bandwidth and the more flexible you are, the easier it will be enjoy it. And three, don't worry about solving or understanding the phenomenon that is India. It's a country of more than billion people and has a momentum entirely of its own. There's an old expression that suggests the minute you understand India is precisely the moment you've missed the point.

India-syncretacies.....

India and its citizens simply do many things differently from most westerns. Below are some bizarre / annoying / misunderstood customs you might encounter.

Staring and invasion of personal space

Just being different is enough to garner a seemingly endless stare in India. You will find that any time you stop to take a photo, an incredible number of locals suddenly appear to observe your every move. When you open your bag or wallet, you'll find a local pretty much leafing through the rupees with you. What can you do? The first answer is not much. Personal space is not a concept in Indian culture, so staring and close contact should not be interpreted as rude behavior.

Unfamiliar Body Language

Perhaps the most common Indian trait that can be misinterpreted is the ubiquitous "head-bob". In fact, there are two types of head-bob, and each carries its own meaning. The first is a kind of short side-to-side tilt of the head, and more or less means "yes". The second is longer, slower, and more undulating, and can be interpreted as "I see", "maybe", or even "uh-huh". This type is worth learning, as it often works to ward off perspective hawkers and beggars. Hand gestures also carry various meanings. A quick twist of the wrist from palm-down to palm-up means "what do you want?", "What are you doing?", or "move along now". A downward sweeping motion like somebody trying to fan fire means "stop, I want a ride", or "I want to talk to you". A good response to this one is the "uh-huh" head-bob described above.

Begging

Although the poverty in India is sometimes difficult to deal with, we ask that you not give anything to beggars. Simply, handouts are not going to solve anything (apart from maybe assuaging your feelings of guilt) because they decrease the chances of helping these people to become self-reliant. Be prepared for the pressure to give; tourists usually give at least ten times the amount that Indian nationals do, so you will be an appealing target. The following is a common scenario: you decide to give a few rupees / a candy / a pen to a lone child. Somehow, before you know it, ten more children are swarming around you with outstretched hands and pleading voices. Most likely, you will not have enough for everyone, and the memory you will have of the experience is of the children that did not get anything, and the resultant squabbling.

And in general....

Despite advance preparation, it is still likely that you'll be baffled by India. The driving style, the seeming lack of organization, the way men touch each other more than their wives, the way women do the heavy lifting in construction sites while the men look on... the list of differences between the West and India is seemingly endless. Perhaps the best advice we can give is to avoid trying to understand it, and just experience it instead.

Further...

A word of warning about travelling in India. India is a country which is very different from anything you will have experienced before. Although this means it is not the easiest place to travel, this is also what makes it so special. Pollution, poverty and the crowds can result in initial culture shock but should be seen as an exciting new challenge.

In India there are very different attitudes to time keeping, public cleanliness, privacy and service. Trains will sometimes be late, plumbing can sometimes be temperamental and power will often just vanish. Optimistic menus turn out to have only one dish available and everyone, just everyone, will want to know your name. If you are able to travel with a lot of patience and a huge sense of humour, then we know that you - like all of us - will be captivated by what India has to offer.

Time Zone

India is +5.30 over GMT

Visas

It is compulsory that all foreign travellers must possess a valid visa for visiting India. All visas are the responsibility of the traveller and is to be obtained before arrival into India. If the tour involves more than one visit to any country (including transit) we recommend multiple entry visas should be taken. Visa fees vary from country to country. Please check with the local diplomatic mission of the countries to be visited.

Climate

The Indian sub-continent is large and the climate varies from one part to another. This gives you a wide selection of climates to suit your holiday needs - from the cold slopes of the Himalayas to the sunny beaches of the Goan coast. The region has three major seasons - winter, summer and the monsoon. The best months to visit India are September through April. Nepal is cool in summer.

Health

Tourists coming to India via Africa and South America or any other yellow fever infected areas must have a yellow fever vaccination certificate. Bottled drinking water is easily available throughout your tour. If you are taking any specific medication, it is advisable for you to bring it along as locally available formulations may vary. However, world-class medical facilities are available. Creative Travel is fully equipped and experienced to handle any situation if the need arises.

Language

The region has a plethora of languages, which vary from state to state. English is widely spoken throughout the sub-continent. Guides and travel professionals are available in most major international languages to make your trip more enjoyable.

Foreign Currency & Customs

Foreign Exchange can be brought in without limit. Large amounts many need to be declared on arrival and a certificate issued against this to facilitate easy reconversion on departure. Tourists are warned that changing money through unauthorized persons is not only illegal but also involves the risk of receiving counterfeit currency. There are 24-hour exchange facilities available at all big cities and international airports. Regarding customs, items for personal use can be brought in without any restrictions. Certain electronic items such as computers, video cameras, etc., may need to be certified for re-export to avoid any problems on your departure.

Electricity, Communications, Opening Hours

Voltage in most places is 220 volts AC with points for 110 volts available in many hotels. You can fax and make international telephone calls from almost every place you visit. Banks are usually open from 10 am to 2 pm Monday to Friday and till 12 noon on Saturday. Many branches also offer extended banking hours. Many foreign money exchange outlets work later as well, with hotels offering round the clock money-changing facilities. General office working hours are 9.30 am till 5.30 pm. Shops usually remain open from 9.30 am to 7.00 pm

itinerary

Temples Tour

Delhi – Khajuraho – Varanasi – Delhi

Tour code: CT- 4

2 nights / 3 days

Pre Congress Tour Dates – 05th Sep. & 06th Sep. 2013

Post Congress Tour Dates – 14th Sep. 2013

Day 1: Delhi – Jhansi (Train: 0610 – 1040 Hrs)

Jhansi – Khajuraho (Drive: 170 Kms 4 Hrs Approx)

- Early morning transfer to railway station to board the train to Jhansi
- Upon arrival in Jhansi, transfer to Khajuraho via Orchha
- Lunch at Orchha
- Arrive Khajuraho and check in at hotel
- Overnight at hotel

Transfer to New Delhi railway station to board the train to Jhansi.

Pick up from Railway station and drive (04 hrs) to Khajuraho via Orchha



Visit Raj Mahal, the first palace within the Orchha citadel was built by Raja Rudra Pratap, but completed by his successor, Madhukar Shah. Rani-ka-Mahal, built for Madhukar Shah's wife, is of notable interest. Her ornate bedroom was decorated with beautiful murals depicting scenes from *Ramayana* and various incarnations of Lord Vishnu. Jehangir Mahal built by Bir Singh Deo is probably the most striking palace in Orchha with its elegant hanging balconies, countless windows with stone pierced screens and a beautiful gateway decorated with turquoise tiles. It was built in honour of Mughal emperor Jehangir

during his visit to Orchha. The painted palace of Rai Praveen Mahal was built for the beautiful courtesan and poetess, Rai Praveen, by Raja Indramani, who had great affection for her. Sheesh Mahal built in the 18th century has little of its past splendour, but offers sweeping views of the town from the terraces. It's a heritage hotel now.

Lunch at Orchha.

Upon arrival, check-in at your pre booked hotel.

Overnight at hotel.

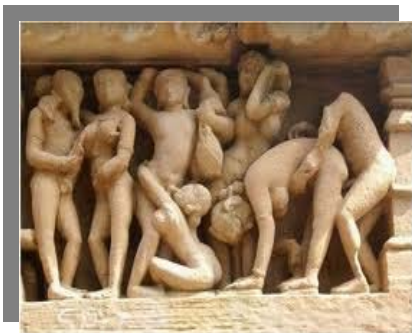
- Breakfast at the hotel
- Morning half day temple tour
- Afternoon transfer to airport to board flight for Varanasi
- Arrive Varanasi and transfer to hotel.
- Afternoon visit to Sarnath & Evening Aarti on river Ganges
- Overnight at the hotel

Breakfast at the hotel



Khajuraho was founded in the 9th and 10th century by the rulers of the Chandela Dynasty, and influenced by Tantrism. Eroticism becomes a theme of philosophical interest and the aim is sublimation of sexual relationship in the Sexual act or "Maithun", women being regarded as the incarnation of the divine energy or "Shakti". It is also possible that the carvings of Khajuraho were influenced by "Kama Sutra", the famous treatise on erotic arts written by Vatsyayana in the time of the Guptas. The erotic love making images of celestial nymphs, gods and goddesses sculpted in delicate detail have caught

the imagination of people from all over the world.



Morning visit the western group of temples. Western is the largest and best known. All but three temples, which are built of local granite, are constructed with hard river sandstone dug from the east bank of the Ken River, 13 miles to the east. None of the temples are enclosed, rather they are erected on high masonry platforms, each on an east-west axis. It is their detailed sculpture which gives Khajuraho its appeal and importance. Less than a tenth of it can be called 'erotic'. Numerous interpretations have been given for the erotic sculpture but there is nothing sordid about these inspired carvings showing beauty and voluptuousness of the female form. Most of the temples are

'banded' by horizontal panels of statues. The purvasins, or divine ladies, are shown engaging in common place human activities such as having a bath, feeding a bath, getting dressed and applying makeup. Figures of Lord Shiva often protruded from the band. The long frieze with scenes of battles, processions and hunting that rind the base of the Lakshmana temples are some of the best examples of narrative sculpture.

Afternoon transfer to airport to board the flight for Varanasi (Airfare cost additional)

Upon arrival, assistance and transfer to the hotel.



Varanasi, the holy city of India, is also known by the name of Kashi and Benaras. Kashi, the city of Moksha for Hindus since centuries, is known for its fine-quality silks, 'paan' and Benares Hindu University and Avimukta of the ancient days, Varanasi is the most popular pilgrimage point for the Hindus. One of the seven holiest cities, Varanasi city is also one the Shakti Peethas and one of the twelve Jyotir Linga sites in India. In Hinduism it is believed that those who die and are cremated here get an instant gateway to liberation from

the cycle of births and re-births.

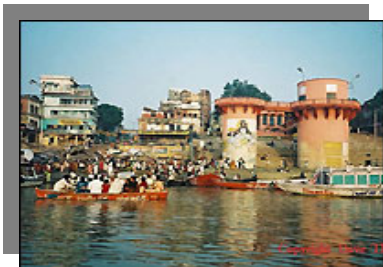
Later in the afternoon, visit Sarnath, 10 Kms. from the centre of the city, Sarnath symbolizes the birth of Buddhism. It was here that Buddha revealed his doctrine and founded his monastic community. The museum at Sarnath is amongst the most important in India and contains carvings representing a whole range of styles - archaic, the Mathura School, Gupta, post Gupta and Medieval - covering work of sculptors from the 3rd century B.C. to the 12th century A.D. In the evening proceed for evening Aarti on river Ganges.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 3: Varanasi – Delhi (FLY)

- Early morning boat ride followed by city tour
- Breakfast at the hotel
- Afternoon transfer to airport
- Upon arrival, transfer in Delhi

Early Morning boat ride on Ganges followed by city tour. There is no Indian attraction like Varanasi. There are no architectural splendours, no exquisitely carved palaces or impregnable forts, and yet the



city has an inherent charm. Situated on the west bank of the Ganges, it extends back from the riverbank ghats to a winding maze of picturesque alleys overlooking tall houses alongside, dotted with temple. It is a fascinating area to walk around. Varanasi today, is also a centre of education, art and craft. The city has given birth to many academicians, musicians and artists of world acclaim. As a centre of art and craft it has a vast repertoire, right from silver, brass, copper artefacts to perfumeries and trinkets.

Morning temple and city tour of Varanasi.

The magnificent Krishna Balarama Temple built in 1975 by ISKON has today become Varanasi's most popular temple and has one of the highest principles of Deity worship and cleanliness. Hare Krishna devotees from around the world can be seen here throughout they year. The Kashi Vishwanath Temple built by the temples is another famous tourist attraction of the city. Besides these the Bharat Mata Temple, Alamgir Mosque, Durga Temple, Tulsi Manas Temple, Archaeological Museum and Ram Nagar Fort are some of the place worth visiting on Varanasi Tours, India.

Afternoon transfer to airport to board the flight to Delhi.

Assistance on arrival. Own arrangement for accommodation

TOUR ENDS

No of guest	Deluxe Hotel - Cost Per Person
02 Guest Traveling together	Rs 23,500/-

THE ABOVE COST INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis in Khajuraho & Varanasi.
- Daily buffet breakfast
- Lunch at Orchha
- Train tickets – Chair Car from New Delhi to Jhansi
- All transfers, sightseeing's and excursion using an air- conditioned vehicle.
- Services of a professional local English speaking guide at the places of visit / during sightseeing.
- Boat cruise on River Ganges.
- All currently applicable entrance fee as well as hotels luxury taxes.

THE ABOVE COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Any Expenses of personal nature like table drinks, laundry, telephone calls, mineral water, soft drinks etc.
- Any airfare or airport taxes (approximate Rs 17500/- per person for Khajuraho – Varanasi – Delhi)
- Service tax @ 3.09%.
- Any other meals or services not mentioned in the above program.
- Any services not mentioned above.