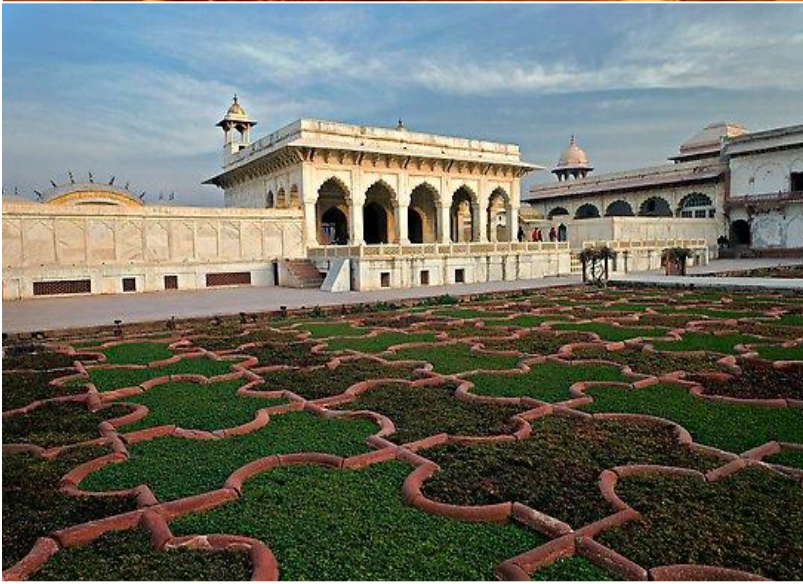


## **CT - 01 / DAY TRIP TO AGRA**

### Tour Highlights

- Travel in luxury A/C Vehicle
- Sightseeing of Taj Mahal (7<sup>th</sup> Wonder of the World) and Agra Fort (World Heritage Site)
- English speaking friendly guide
- All monument entrances
- Buffet lunch in a 5 Star Hotel



# Incredible!ndia

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-syncretics.....**

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India and its citizens simply do many things differently from most westerners. 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

## Agra Trip

Delhi – Agra – Delhi

Tour code: CT-1

Congress Tour Dates – All days from 04<sup>th</sup> Sep till 14<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2013  
( Except 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Sep, 2013 )

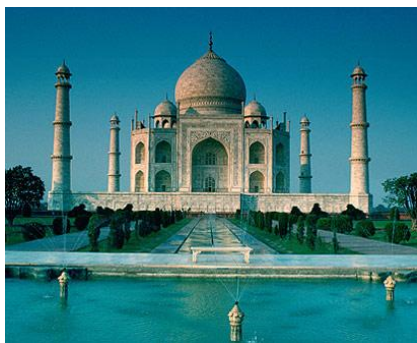
**Day 1: Delhi – Agra (Drive: 204 Kms / 4 – 5 Hrs Approx)**

**Agra – Delhi(Drive: 204 Kms / 4 – 5 Hrs Approx)**

( NOTE – New expressway will be open very soon, which will reduce the travelling time to 2.5 hrs per way )

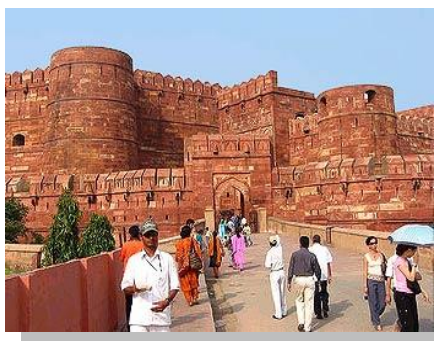
- Early morning drive to Agra
- Upon arrival, proceed to visit Taj Mahal
- Afternoon visit Agra Fort
- Later drive back to Delhi

Morning vehicle will depart from the venue at around 07: 00 AM by road. The journey will take approx. 4 - 5 hours to reach Agra. Upon arrival proceed to visit **Taj Mahal**.



The Taj Mahal, built by an emperor in memory of his beloved queen. Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1631, and is believed to have taken 18 years to complete, with over 20,000 craftsmen working around the clock. The design and construction is said to be that of the legendary architect, Ustad Ahamad Lahori. Legend has it that once construction was completed, Shah Jehan had Lahori's hands cut off, and blinded, so he would never be able to duplicate the structure. What makes the Taj Mahal unique is its perfect proportions, distinct femininity, medium of construction and ornamentation. Its marble

exterior reflects rose and golden tints at sunrise and sunset, while it is dazzling white during the day. It is impossible to visualize the Taj Mahal in any surrounding others than its paradoxical garden. Paradise, in Islam, is visualized as a lush garden where running streams flow. When the Mughals brought this concept to India they elevated it to heights of incomparable artistry.



- Lunch at one of the five star hotels.
- Later in the afternoon, visit Agra Fort.

Proceed on to visit Agra's impressive Fort where you are taken through the chambers of this royal residence. As you drive through the city, witness the local life and bazaars (markets) and the hustle bustle of everyday India.

- After visiting Agra Fort, drive back to Delhi.

### ***TOUR ENDS***

**COST – Rs 6800 per person (Minimum of 02 guest traveling together)**

#### **THE ABOVE COST INCLUDES:**

- Assistance on arrival in Agra.
- All transfers, sightseeing and excursion using an air- conditioned vehicle.
- Services of a professional English speaking local guide at the places of visit / during sightseeing.
- All currently applicable entrance fee.
- Lunch at a 5 Star Hotel.
- Shoe cover charges at Taj Mahal
- Battery bus charges at Taj Mahal.

#### **THE ABOVE COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:**

- Any Expenses of personal nature like table drinks, telephone calls, mineral water, soft drinks etc.
- Any other meals or services not mentioned in the above program.
- Any insurance.
- Any camera or video fee at the monuments ( guest can pay directly for this at the monuments).
- Government service tax @ 3.09%.