

India & the Taj Mahal

DAY 1

ARRIVE MUMBAI, INDIA

Arrive in Mumbai, where an A&K representative meets and transfers you to your iconic hotel.

DAY 2

MUMBAI | THE GATEWAY OF INDIA

This morning, explore the city's classic sights, including Victoria Terminus Station and the Gateway of India. Then travel to the Churchgate Railway Station to observe local *dabbawallas* at work as they prepare to deliver hundreds of thousands of home-cooked meals to working professionals throughout the city with astonishing accuracy. This afternoon, visit Mani Bhawan, a museum dedicated to the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. Finish today's exploring with a photo stop at the Dhobi Ghat open-air laundry, a wonderfully colorful spectacle to behold.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 3

UDAIPUR | CRUISE TO JAG MANDIR

Today, fly to Udaipur and check into your palace hotel. Enjoy lunch and the early afternoon at leisure. Later this afternoon, cruise past Jag Mandir, a marble palace on an island in Lake Pichola.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 4

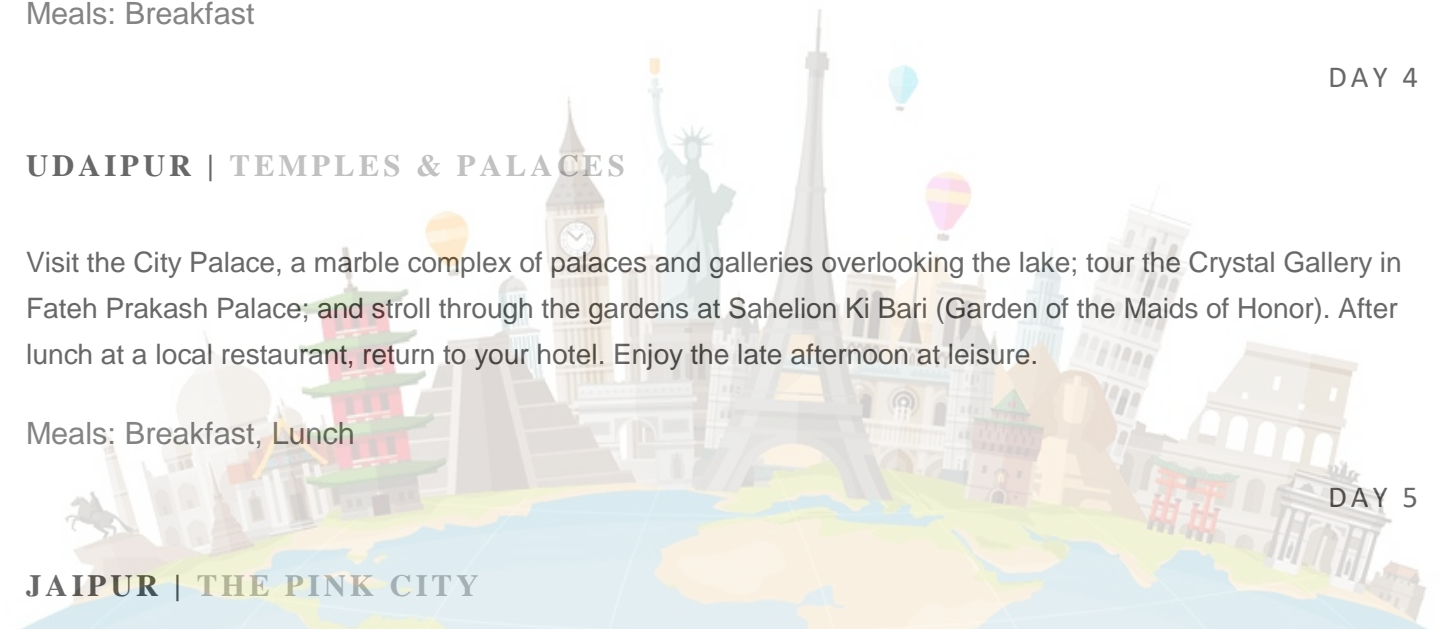
UDAIPUR | TEMPLES & PALACES

Visit the City Palace, a marble complex of palaces and galleries overlooking the lake; tour the Crystal Gallery in Fateh Prakash Palace; and stroll through the gardens at Sahelion Ki Bari (Garden of the Maids of Honor). After lunch at a local restaurant, return to your hotel. Enjoy the late afternoon at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 5

JAIPUR | THE PINK CITY



Fly to Jaipur and check in to your hotel, the former residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur. Then, explore the City Palace, a unique and arresting complex of several palaces, pavilions, gardens and temples. Located within the palace's gates is the Mubarak Mahal, or "Auspicious Palace," which contains textiles including the royal formal costumes, Sangneri block prints, Kashmiri pashminas and silk saris. Then, visit Jantar Mantar, an open-air array of astronomical instruments, before returning to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 6

JAIPUR | DESIGN YOUR DAY

Today, view the Palace of the Winds, built so women of the royal household could observe street life without being seen. Proceed to explore the beautiful Mughal-style Amber Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stop at a local restaurant for lunch, and afterward, enjoy one of these **Design Your Day** activities:

Tour the Gyan Museum, exploring its private collection of antiques and art.

Visit Digantar Vidyalay to interact with the students at an innovative school supported by A&K Philanthropy.

Explore the Bazaars of Jaipur, taking in the variety of goods and myriad colors.

Return to your hotel for an evening at leisure.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAYS 7-8

AGRA | MONUMENTS OF EMPERORS

Set out for Agra, stopping en route to visit the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri and Bharatpur for lunch. Upon arrival in Agra, check in to your luxury hotel, catching your first glimpse of the breathtaking Taj Mahal from your window. The next morning, make a first visit to the masterpiece to watch how the rising sun lends a warm pink tint to its marble face. This afternoon, visit Agra Fort, once the prison of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, who built the Taj Mahal after the death of his beloved wife. Visit the Taj Mahal once more this evening, as the setting sun bathes it in a soft orange glow.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch (Day 7); Breakfast (Day 8)

DAY 9



PANNA NATIONAL PARK | INTO THE WILD

Depart by express train to Jhansi, and continue overland to remote Panna National Park, checking in to your wilderness lodge.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 10

PANNA NATIONAL PARK | TRACKING TIGERS

Today, set out on morning and afternoon game drives in a 4x4 vehicle, spotting crocodiles, deer or perhaps the elusive Bengal tiger. Learn how a successful conservation program has grown the park's tiger population, increasing the odds of a sighting.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 11

KHAJURAHO & VARANASI | INDIA'S HOLIEST CITY

This morning, drive to Khajuraho to see its profusely sculpted Hindu and Jain temples. Fly to Varanasi, a city sacred to Hindus and Buddhists alike. At dusk, head to the banks of the sacred Ganges River to witness the entrancing *aarti* ceremony.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 12

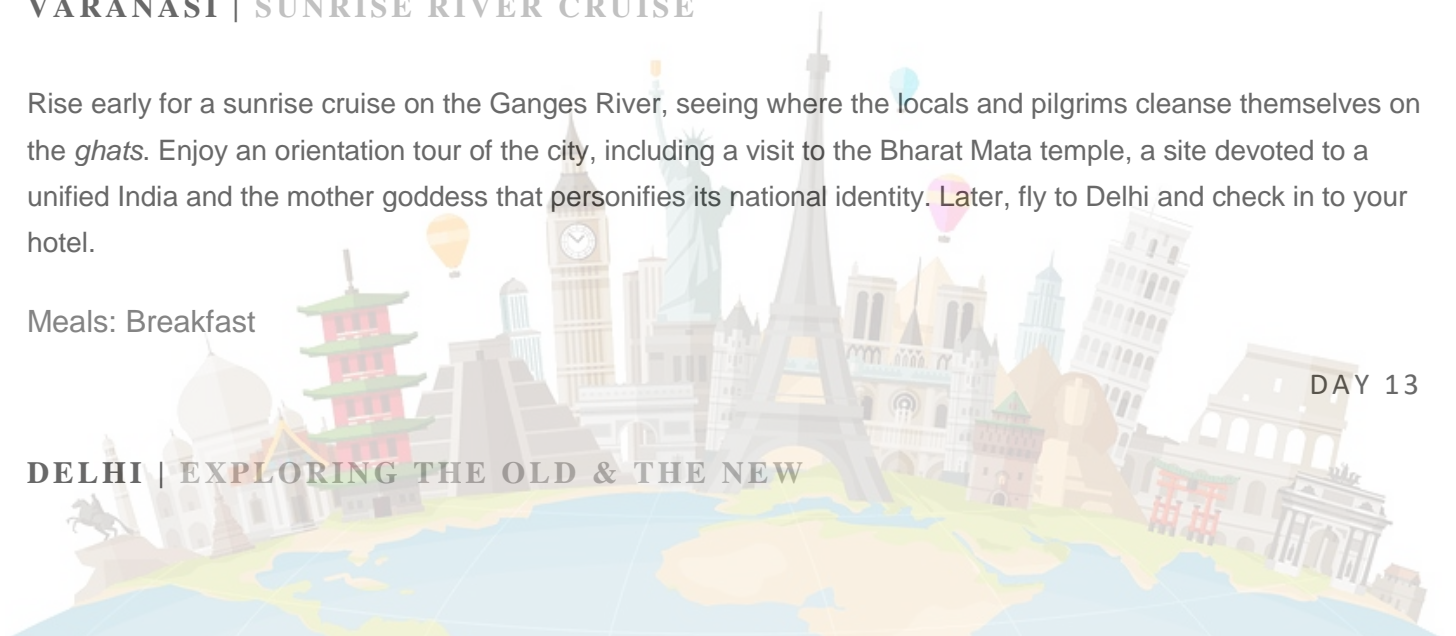
VARANASI | SUNRISE RIVER CRUISE

Rise early for a sunrise cruise on the Ganges River, seeing where the locals and pilgrims cleanse themselves on the *ghats*. Enjoy an orientation tour of the city, including a visit to the Bharat Mata temple, a site devoted to a unified India and the mother goddess that personifies its national identity. Later, fly to Delhi and check in to your hotel.

Meals: Breakfast

DAY 13

DELHI | EXPLORING THE OLD & THE NEW



Visit the great Jama Masjid, and set off on an exciting rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk bazaar, one of the busiest and oldest markets in Old Delhi. After lunch, tour New Delhi, viewing the India Gate and Rashtrapati Bhawan, and visiting Humayun's Tomb, the last resting place of an esteemed 16th-century Mughal emperor, which prefigures design techniques later perfected in the Taj Mahal.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

DAY 14

DEPART DELHI

Transfer to the airport to board your homebound flight.

Meals: Breakfast

