

Community Project in India – 13 Days

Day 1 Departure

Enjoy full-meal service on your scheduled flight to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

You will be met by your guide and transferred to your hotel. After time to settle in we will spend the afternoon on a leisurely introductory sightseeing tour of Delhi, India's capital city, which is divided into two parts: New and Old Delhi. With a thousand years of history, Delhi is a city of contrasts that combines a unique ambience of the ancient and the modern. An orderly plan of wide roads lined with sturdy colonial buildings was established soon after the imperial capital of British India moved here from Calcutta in 1911. This afternoon we will visit **Old Delhi** and drive past Chandni Chowk, the crowded bazaar and see the dramatic Red Fort. Built in 1648, this sprawling fort of red sand stones along the river Yamuna is surrounded by a wall of about 2.4 km in circumference. The **Jama Masjid Mosque** is the largest and one of the most magnificent mosques in India, built in 1658 with a capacity to hold over 20,000 people. We will step inside for a mesmerizing look around. We will also have a chance to view Raj Ghat memorial of Mahatma Gandhi (Father of the Nation) before returning to our hotel.

Day 3 Delhi – Mathura

We will spend this morning sightseeing in **New Delhi**. Some of the famous sights included in the sightseeing tour will include **Qutab Minar**, at 234 feet the highest individual tower in the world. We will have a chance to view Parliament House as we drive past, and stop at India Gate for an introduction and photo. Time permitting, we can visit Birla Mandir (Hindu Temple), the Sikh Temple or Lotus Temple.

This afternoon we depart Delhi for Mathura. We will stop en route in a small Indian village to see the culture and lifestyle of the villagers. Mathura is a city of temples and shrines and bustles with the thousands of devotees who come to visit the city of Lord Krishna. This evening we will visit the famous **Lord Krishna temple**.

Day 4 Mathura – Orphanage visit

We will make a full day visit to an Orphanage. Activities will include interaction with the children on health issues, cleanliness, singing and dancing and any topic of mutual interest. We will also assist in painting, repair work, etc as may be needed in the buildings. Students are encouraged to carry with them gifts and donations.

Day 5 Mathura – Agra

We will drive to Agra. On arrival we will **visit a local school**; we will be shown around the campus by the pupils and thereafter interact with the students.

Late afternoon we will visit the **Taj Mahal**, one of the Seven Wonders of the World, built by Shah Jahan (Mughal Emperor) for his beloved wife Mumtaz. The monument took 20,000 workmen 22 years to build and cost 41 million rupees and 50 kilos of gold. The Taj Mahal sits on a high red sandstone platform topped with a marble terrace.

After plenty of time to explore the premises, we will proceed to **Agra Fort**, built by the great Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565 A.D. The fort itself is a masterpiece of design and construction and within the fort are a number of exquisite buildings.

Day 6 Agra - Fatehpur Sikri - Bharatpur

After an early breakfast we will depart for Bharatpur, stopping en route to visit **Fatehpur Sikri**. Built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years. The complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform architectural style, includes one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid, which was built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan.

This afternoon we arrive in Bharatpur and transfer to our hotel. After lunch we proceed to a nearby **village school** for interaction with students and later play sports.

Day 7 Bharatpur - Madhohgar

After an early breakfast we will depart for Madhohgar, located in the foothills of Aravali mountain range. Madhohgarh is a small village famous for the old fort located in the village. It is an example of a typical Rajasthani village where you can have sight of potters, carpenters and cobblers pursuing their trade in the ancient ways particular to them. We will look at the fort that has now been converted into a heritage hotel but it is still a breathtaking sight. Built by the Kachhawaha Rajputs, the fort is a magnificent monument built amidst mango orchards.

In this village, or a similar village in the area where we will undertake a school community project, we will stay in a very modest guesthouse with basic facilities, although clean and comfortable.

Days 8, 9 & 10 Community Immersion

For three days you will become immersed in the village school and community life. You will attend school at 8.30 for prayers and assembly at the start of the day and one day you can teach English in one hour sessions, one hour Art and Crafts, or one hour Painting depending on your skills. You will lunch with the children and in the afternoon we will organize rural sports, cricket, football, basketball or volleyball Indian style.

One day can be spent doing school repair and renovation work such as painting, wood work, cementing or plaster work. After school has closed a thorough cleaning of the school can be undertaken. You will be supervised by local builders during these activities.

A basic village tour will be organized for you to get to know about local village life and to meet traditional tradesmen like the blacksmith, cobbler and potter. We will also organize an health awareness session for a couple of hours with the support of the local medical officer. One afternoon you will visit to a local agriculture farm where you can see people busy farming and seedling and you can lend a hand.

A typical rural cultural evening will be organized your final evening when all the villagers come together for a farewell celebration.

Day 11 Jaipur

This morning we will drive to Jaipur. We will stop for a photo at Hawa Mahal or Palace of Winds. We will spend the morning visiting the **City Palace**. This is in the heart of the old city and is the former royal residence built in a blend of the Rajasthani and Mughal styles. Even today the City Palace is the principal residence of the ruling family. Afterwards we will make a fascinating visit to Jantar Mantar, the largest of Jai Singh's five remarkable observatories. Later this afternoon we will visit the main local bazaar.

Day 12 Jaipur – Delhi

After an early breakfast we will visit **Amer Fort**, the former capital of the Kachhwaha Rajputs. This monument was originally conceived with the aim of enabling ladies of the royal household to watch the everyday life and royal processions of the city. Amer Fort is situated on a hillside overlooking Maatha Lake and you will have the unique experience of traveling on **elephant back** to the top of the hill on which the fort is situated.

We continue this afternoon to Delhi where we will check into our hotel for our final night.

Day 13 Delhi To London

We transfer to the airport for the flight back to London, which arrives the same evening.