

Art & Architecture - North India

A glimpse of the history of North India through its art and architecture

Duration: 14 Days

Tour Pace: Busy with time off to suit creative needs

Available throughout the year, October to March preferred

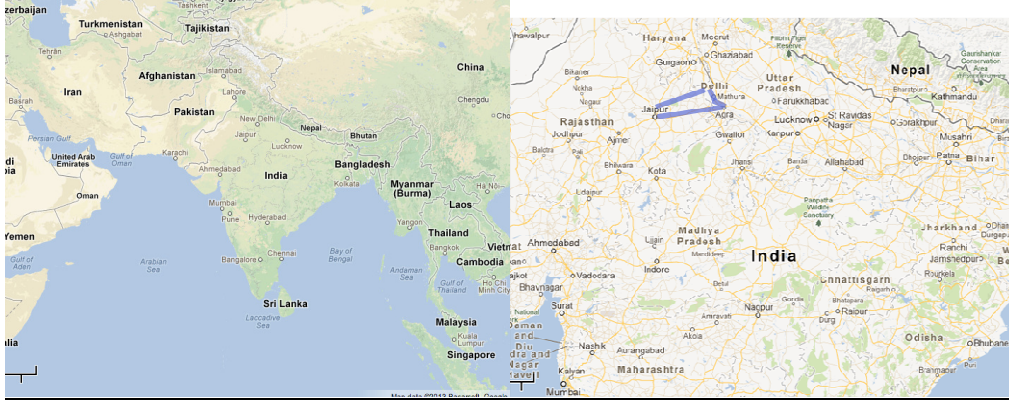


Iowa Winterim Program 2012-13 at Taj Mahal, Agra

Overview of the Program:

New Delhi, the historic capital of India, has always been an important administrative center; first for the Sultanates, then the Mughals and then the British and today, for the Government of India. The program traces the history of Delhi through different architectural periods, which includes the UNESCO World Heritage sites of Qutb Minar and Humayun's Tomb, which was the blueprint for the Taj Mahal. The tour includes guided visits to Arts and Crafts Museums, as well as an insight into Indian contemporary art with a museum professional. The architectural wonder of Taj Mahal is explored in Agra along with Agra Fort and a visit to the old capital of Fatehpur Sikri. Next on this exciting itinerary is Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, a state known for its Maharajas and its vibrant colours and festivals. Locally called the Pink City the tour includes Amber Fort, visits to block makers and printers, paper making factory, craft studios and a cuisine walk in the old city. This...and much more!

See it on our map:



Tour Highlights:

Delhi:

- A chronological tour of the city of Delhi, tracing its history from the 12th Century.
- Experience the streets of Old Delhi with the street children of Salaam Baalak Trust.
- Early morning bicycle ride through the labyrinth of alleys of Old Delhi.
- An overview of secular India with an eminent art historian through visits to various spiritual sites.

Agra:

- The symmetrical beauty of the Taj Mahal is best viewed at sunrise...or for that matter anytime!

Jaipur:

- Feel like a Maharaja as you ride the elephant up to the Amber Fort!
- Taste local cuisine in the streets of the Pink City.
- Visit National Award winning master craftsmen in their studios and workshops and get a hands on demonstrations of their ancestral skills.

Day by Day Sequence of our Tour*:

- Day 1: Arrival in New Delhi and a brief orientation by Navsar
- Day 2: A tour of the crafts in New Delhi: Visits to Museums and Craft Bazaars
- Day 3: A Chronological Tour of Old and New Delhi
- Day 4: The Religions of India: Visit various religious sites with a professor of art history
- Day 5: Visit the Taj Mahal and the Agra Fort in Agra
- Day 6: Enjoy the old capital of the Mughals at Fatehpur Sikri and drive to Jaipur
- Day 7: Take the day off, regroup your thoughts and fill in your notebooks
- Day 8: Visit the Amber Fort and the Anokhi Museum of Textiles in the city of Amber
- Day 9: A demonstration of the Art of Making Handmade Paper in Sanganer and a Food and Craft Tour in the Pink City
- Day 10: Visits to various master craftsmen studios in Jaipur
- Day 11: Enjoy the day off. We would provide suggested day itineraries
- Day 12: Drive to New Delhi and visit the art district
- Day 13: Cycle through the streets of Old Delhi
- Day 14: Departure

*Itineraries are subject to change depending upon the arrival dates of the group. A detailed itinerary can only be provided once the dates and the number of participants are finalized

Accommodation:

The accommodation varies from city to city. All our hotels are comfortable with twin beds and running hot and cold water. Some hotel may also provide free Internet. An average rating of our hotels is 3 stars.

Transportation:

The Art & Architecture of North India is conducted in an air-conditioned coach between cities. For local transport, you will experience travel in cars, cycle and auto rickshaws, bicycle and even on foot.

Meals:

The Art & Architecture of North India program includes breakfast. Lunch and Dinner are not included.

Inclusions:

The tour cost includes accommodation, breakfast, pickup/drop from airport, guided tours and transportation between cities.

The tour DOES NOT include lunch and dinner, admission to museums and monuments, tips and any camera charges

Reviews:

"The University of Iowa Winterim Program provides an amazing learning experience for students interested in educational tourism. The depth and overview of the experience would not be possible without Navsar (Ambika Jain and Amit Kumar Jain). Navsar provides the insight and expertise for students to quickly access and understand the complexities they encounter during their time in India"
Professor Anita Jung, University of Iowa

"Traveling through northern India with Amit and Ambika from (Navsar) was a phenomenal experience for me, my students and a University of Iowa colleague. Helping develop this class as an artist and not a specialist in Indian Art or Architecture, I was anxious about the experience for the students. It was one of the most enlightening, educational, thoughtful, caring, study abroad experiences I have had. Having worked in international student travel programs in the past, I had not expected the carefully organized and thoughtfully designed program that we experienced with Navsar. They thought of everything... bike tours through Old Delhi, dinner in a locals home on their rooftop in Jaipur, professors of religion to take us through temples, art historians and anthropologists to discuss sites in a number of cities we explored. Amit's enthusiasm is infectious and he has a wonderful rapport with the students. Amit and Ambika are an incredible wealth of knowledge. As a well-known contemporary Indian textile specialist, Ambika introduced us to a number of craftsmen and women designing fabric and furniture as well as taking us to sculpture and painting studios. There was nothing left unturned, we frequented, galleries, museums, extraordinary historical sites and all gained weight eating at some of the most extraordinarily diverse restaurants in India. I am bring 19 students with Navsar this December and, hopefully can continue for many years to come." **Professor Susan White, University of Iowa**

"Looking back on my experience studying abroad in India, I can't help but smile. I went into it not knowing what to expect, and I couldn't have asked for more. Traveling around northern India with Amit and Ambika made my experience truly unique and one that I will never forget. I was constantly surrounded by welcoming people, captivating architecture, intoxicating aromas, and vibrant colors. All of my senses were awakened.

Every meal was an adventure, every outing more impressive than the last. I was always learning something new. Every taste, every smell, every sound was something new to me and I couldn't get enough of it! I would not have been able to experience India to the fullest had it not been for Amit and Ambika. They are so welcoming, enthusiastic and kind. Before I visited India, it was just something to cross off my bucket list but having fallen in love with the country, I cannot wait to visit again, and I have Amit and Ambika to thank for that!" **Ms. Danielle Diedrich (2010-11)**

Images:



Clockwise from Top Left Corner: a) Elephant ride up to the Amber Fort, Jaipur b) Ceramic workshop by Josh van Stippen c) Enameling workshop in Jaipur d) The Abhaneri Stepwells e) Sunrise at Sun Temple, Galta, Jaipur f) Participants with Kalam Patua- a National Awardee Kalighat painter g) Magnificent Lattice work in Fatehpur Sikri and h) Trying local food during the cuisine walk in Jaipur