

**Tour Name: Across the Heart of India**

**Tour Duration: 24 Nights/ 25 Days**

**Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/4zfy2hvf>**

### **Tour Overview**

Embark on a captivating journey through historic India with the "Across the Heart of India" tour. Begin amidst the bustling streets of Mumbai, where modernity meets colonial charm. Fly to Aurangabad, steeped in Mughal history, and delve into its rich heritage at the UNESCO-listed Ellora Caves, marveling at the majestic Kailasa Temple. Explore the formidable Daulatabad Fort and ancient Aurangabad Caves, each echoing tales of bygone eras. Journey onward to experience the splendor of Ajanta's ancient Buddhist caves before returning to admire the graceful Bibi Ka Maqbara. This tour promises an immersive blend of architectural wonders and cultural insights, offering a glimpse into India's diverse past and enduring beauty.

### **Tour Itinerary**

#### **Day 1: Arrive Mumbai**

- Arrive in Mumbai, India's bustling financial capital. Check-in at the hotel and unwind after your journey.

#### **Day 2: Mumbai**

- Begin with a visit to the iconic Gateway of India, a symbol of Mumbai's colonial past. Take a ferry to Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its rock-cut temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Explore Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, an architectural marvel and UNESCO site. Visit Crawford Market for a taste of Mumbai's vibrant local culture.
- Evening: Take a leisurely walk along Marine Drive, famously known as the Queen's Necklace, and experience Mumbai's lively street food scene.

#### **Day 3: Mumbai - Aurangabad (flight)**

- Fly to Aurangabad, a city steeped in Mughal history. Upon arrival, check-in and relax at the hotel.
- Explore Ellora Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site renowned for its impressive rock-cut architecture. Marvel at the Kailasa Temple, an enormous monolithic structure dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Visit Daulatabad Fort, an ancient hill fortress known for its strategic location and impressive defensive structures.

- Explore Aurangabad Caves, a group of rock-cut Buddhist shrines dating back to the 6th and 7th centuries, showcasing intricate carvings and sculptures.

**Day 4: Aurangabad**

- Explore Ajanta Caves, UNESCO World Heritage site, famous for its beautifully preserved ancient Buddhist cave temples with exquisite paintings and sculptures.
- Return to Aurangabad to visit Bibi Ka Maqbara, often referred to as the mini-Taj Mahal, known for its stunning Mughal architecture reminiscent of the Taj Mahal.

**Day 5: Aurangabad - Hyderabad**

- Travel to Hyderabad, known as the City of Pearls. Check-in and relax at the hotel.
- Evening: Indulge in the rich flavors of Hyderabadi cuisine at a local restaurant.

**Day 6: Hyderabad**

- Explore the historic Golconda Fort, known for its impressive architecture and panoramic views of the city.
- Visit Qutb Shahi Tombs, a complex of tombs and mosques displaying Persian and Indian architectural styles. Explore the bustling markets near Charminar.
- Witness the grandeur of Chowmahalla Palace and enjoy a mesmerizing sound and light show depicting its royal history.

**Day 7: Hyderabad - Bhubaneshwar (flight) - Puri (75kms)**

- Fly to Bhubaneshwar and drive to Puri, a holy city by the sea.
- Visit the revered Jagannath Temple and Gundicha Temple, integral to Puri's religious heritage.
- Relax on the golden sands of Puri Beach and witness the evening aarti ceremonies.

**Day 8: Puri**

- Embark on an excursion to Konark Sun Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its architectural grandeur and intricate stone carvings.
- Explore Raghurajpur, an artisan village famous for Pattachitra paintings and traditional crafts.
- Enjoy a cultural performance showcasing Odisha's traditional dance forms.

**Day 9: Puri – Bhubaneshwar (60kms) / Kolkata (flight)**

- Drive to Bhubaneshwar. Visit Lingaraj Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, and Mukteshwar Temple with its exquisite architecture.
- Optional: Explore the ancient Udayagiri and Khandagiri Caves with their Jain rock-cut sculptures.
- Fly to Kolkata in the evening.

**Day 10: Kolkata**

- Discover the grandeur of Victoria Memorial, a stunning example of Indo-Saracenic architecture. Visit the Indian Museum, one of the oldest and largest museums in India.
- Explore Marble Palace, a mansion showcasing eclectic art collections, and St. Paul's Cathedral, an architectural masterpiece.
- Take a leisurely stroll along the banks of the Hooghly River, soaking in Kolkata's colonial charm.

**Day 11: Kolkata - Patna - Bodhgaya**

- Fly to Patna and drive to Bodhgaya, a significant Buddhist pilgrimage site.
- Visit Mahabodhi Temple Complex, where Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.
- Participate in a meditation session at a local monastery to experience the serenity of Bodhgaya.

**Day 12: Bodhgaya**

- Explore Sujata Village, known for its historical significance related to Buddha's life. Visit Maha Kala Caves, a tranquil spot for meditation.
- Discover the Thai Temple and Bodhgaya Archaeological Museum, showcasing Buddhist relics and artifacts.
- Attend evening prayers at Mahabodhi Temple, immersed in the spiritual ambiance.

**Day 13: Bodhgaya - Varanasi (250kms)**

- Drive to Varanasi, the spiritual capital of India, situated on the banks of River Ganges.
- Attend the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti ceremony at Dashashwamedh Ghat, a spiritual experience not to be missed.

**Day 14: Varanasi**

- Enjoy a boat ride on the sacred River Ganges during sunrise, witnessing the rituals and activities along the ghats.
- Visit Kashi Vishwanath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, and explore the spiritual hub of Banaras Hindu University.
- Wander through the bustling lanes of Varanasi, filled with vibrant markets and street food stalls.

**Day 15: Varanasi - Ayodhya - Lucknow (340kms)**

- En route to Lucknow, visit Ayodhya, believed to be the birthplace of Lord Rama. Explore Ram Janmabhoomi and Hanuman Garhi.

- Discover the architectural marvels of Lucknow, including Bara Imambara and Chota Imambara, showcasing Persian and Mughal influences.
- Indulge in the flavors of Awadhi cuisine, renowned for its rich and aromatic dishes.

**Day 16: Lucknow**

- Visit the historic British Residency, witness to the events of the 1857 Indian Rebellion. Explore Rumi Darwaza, an iconic gateway.
- Discover the diverse wildlife at Lucknow Zoo and delve into the city's cultural heritage at State Museum.
- Attend a traditional cultural performance depicting Lucknow's artistic traditions.

**Day 17: Lucknow – Khajuraho (310kms)**

- Drive to Khajuraho, known for its exquisite temples adorned with intricate sculptures depicting human emotions and passions.
- Attend the Sound and Light Show at Western Group of Temples, narrating the history and legends of Khajuraho.

**Day 18: Khajuraho - Panna National Park (45kms)**

- Explore the temples of Western Group, including Kandariya Mahadev Temple and Lakshmana Temple, showcasing architectural brilliance.
- Visit Raneh Falls, known for its multi-colored rock formations, and Pandav Falls, surrounded by lush greenery.
- Optional: Enjoy a jeep safari in Panna National Park, home to diverse wildlife including tigers, leopards, and sloth bears.

**Day 19: Panna National Park**

- Embark on a wildlife safari in Panna National Park, a haven for wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers.
- Visit the Ken Gharial Sanctuary, dedicated to the conservation of the endangered Gharial crocodile. Enjoy a serene boat ride on Ken River.
- Relax and unwind amidst the natural beauty of Panna.

**Day 20: Panna National Park – Orchha (200kms)**

- Drive to Orchha, a hidden gem known for its medieval architecture and serene riverside setting.
- Explore Orchha Fort Complex, including Jahangir Mahal and Raj Mahal, reflecting Bundela architecture.
- Visit Ram Raja Temple, unique for its deity in a royal palace setting, and enjoy panoramic views of Betwa River.

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### Day 21: Orchha - Agra (220kms)

- Drive to Agra via Jhansi. Explore Jhansi Fort, a symbol of valor and courage, and Rani Mahal, showcasing architectural finesse.
- Experience the vibrant local markets of Agra and sample delicious street food.

### Day 22: Agra - Jaipur (245kms)

- Visit the iconic Taj Mahal at sunrise, a UNESCO World Heritage site and an epitome of love.
- Explore Agra Fort, a red sandstone marvel offering panoramic views of the Taj Mahal. Visit Itimad-ud-Daulah, known as the Baby Taj.
- Drive to Jaipur, the Pink City, and check-in at the hotel.

### Day 23: Jaipur

- Ascend to Amber Fort, a majestic hilltop fortress. Enjoy an elephant ride or jeep ride to reach the fort.
- Explore City Palace, a blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture. Visit Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory.
- Explore Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), renowned for its unique honeycomb-like facade. Admire its ornate windows and balconies designed for royal women to view street festivities.
- Shop for handicrafts and textiles in local markets. Visit Hawa Mahal for its stunning architecture and panoramic views.

### Day 24: Jaipur - Delhi (265kms)

- Drive to Delhi. Check-in at the hotel and relax.
- Explore Connaught Place, a bustling commercial hub, and savor Delhi's famous street food delights.

### Day 25: Delhi

- Discover the grandeur of Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Visit Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque.

### Package Price (USD Per Person Sharing Double/Twin Room)

Valid for Travel: 01 October 2026 – 15 April 2027

| Persons     | Solo   | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     |
|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3★ Standard | 8,689  | 4,717 | 3,982 | 4,038 | 3,625 | 3,597 | 3,365 | 3,191 |
| 4★ Deluxe   | 10,163 | 5,545 | 4,810 | 4,865 | 4,452 | 4,424 | 4,192 | 4,018 |
| 5★ Luxury   | 13,311 | 7,405 | 6,400 | 6,456 | 6,043 | 6,015 | 5,783 | 5,609 |

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**Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 to 15 September 2027**

| Persons     | Solo   | 2     | 3     | 4     | 5     | 6     | 7     | 8     |
|-------------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 3★ Standard | 8,517  | 4,567 | 3,832 | 3,887 | 3,474 | 3,447 | 3,215 | 3,041 |
| 4★ Deluxe   | 9,601  | 5,245 | 4,510 | 4,566 | 4,153 | 4,125 | 3,893 | 3,719 |
| 5★ Luxury   | 12,380 | 6,886 | 5,881 | 5,936 | 5,523 | 5,496 | 5,264 | 5,089 |

**Single Room Supplement**

3★ Standard: USD 1,227 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,873 | 5★ Luxury: USD 3,431

**Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)**

3★ Standard: USD 124 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 225 | 5★ Luxury: USD 450

**Price Includes:**

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 24 Nights' accommodation in selected price category hotels.
- Daily breakfast at hotels.
- Private AC car/van for airport transfers, sightseeing, and excursions as per the program.
- English speaking tour guide on sightseeing days (local guide in each city), as per program.
- 3 Time gypsy safari in Panna National Park with naturalist.
- Monument entrances and activities charges mentioned in the itinerary.
- Bottled drinking water in car.
- Government taxes.

**Price Does Not Include:**

- Mumbai - Aurangabad - Hyderabad - Bhubaneshawar - Kolkata - Patna flight fare approx INR 25,500 per person in economy class.
- Camera charges at monuments if any.
- Meals other than mentioned in the inclusions.
- Expenses of personal nature like liquor, laundry, tips, telephone, fax, internet etc.
- Gratuities and optional activities.
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions.

**Hotels used or similar for 24 nights' accommodation 3 Star Hotels**

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Hotel Godwin, Colaba/ Hotel Suba Palace
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: The Fern Residency/ Amarpreet Hotel
- Hyderabad x 2 nights: Hotel Abode/ Aditya Park
- Puri x 2 nights: Toshali Sands/ The Hans Coco Palms
- Kolkata x 2 nights: Golden Tulip/ Polo Floatel
- Bodhgaya x 2 nights: The Imperial/ Hotel Taj Darbar
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Meraden Grand/ Hotel Tridev
- Lucknow x 2 nights: La Place Sarovar Portico/ Golden Tulip
- Khajuraho x 1 night: Ramada/ SYNA Heritage Hotel
- Panna National Park x 2 nights: Ken River Lodge/ Tendu Leaf Jungle Resort
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Resort/ Amar Mahal
- Agra x 1 night: Howard Plaza the Fern/ Hotel Atulyaa Taj
- Jaipur x 2 nights: ZONE By THE Park/ The Fern Residency
- Delhi x 1 night: Dee Marks Hotel & Resorts/ Emerald Hotel

**4 Star Hotels**

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Fariyas Hotel/ The Gordon House
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: Lemon Tree Hotel
- Hyderabad x 2 nights: The Golkonda Hotel/ Lemon Tree Hotel
- Puri x 2 nights: MAYFAIR Heritage/ Mayfair Waves
- Kolkata x 2 nights: The Elgin Fairlawn/ ZONE By the Park
- Bodhgaya x 2 nights: Marasa Sarovar Premiere/ The Royal Residency
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Rivatas by Ideal/ The Amayaa
- Lucknow x 2 nights: Lemon Tree Hotel/ Fortune Park BBD
- Khajuraho x 1 night: Radisson Hotel/ Hotel Chandela
- Panna National Park x 2 nights: Sarai at Toria
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Resort/ Amar Mahal
- Agra x 1 night: Radisson Hotel/ Holiday Inn
- Jaipur x 2 nights: Lemon Tree Premier/ The Fern An Ecotel Hotel
- Delhi x 1 night: The Hans/ The Royal Plaza

**5 Star Hotels**

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Trident Hotel/ President, Mumbai - IHCL SeleQtions
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: WelcomHotel Rama International/ Vivanta Aurangabad
- Hyderabad x 2 nights: ITC Kakatiya, a Luxury Collection/ Trident Hotel
- Puri x 2 nights: MAYFAIR Heritage/ Mayfair Waves
- Kolkata x 2 nights: ITC Sonar, a Luxury Collection/ The Lalit Great Eastern
- Bodhgaya x 2 nights: Marasa Sarovar Premiere/ The Royal Residency
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Ramada JHV/ Radisson Hotel
- Lucknow x 2 nights: The Centrum/ Renaissance Lucknow
- Khajuraho x 1 night: The Lalit Temple View

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- Panna National Park x 2 nights: Pashan Garh, A Taj Safari
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Palace and Convention Centre
- Agra x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott/ Trident Hotel
- Jaipur x 2 nights: Hilton Jaipur/ Radisson City Center
- Delhi x 1 night: Le Meridien/ The Grand New Delhi

### **Payment Policy:**

- Deposit of 25% of the package cost at the time of booking.
- Deposit of 50% of the package cost, 30 days prior to arrival date
- Deposit of 100% of the package cost, 10 days prior to arrival date

### **Cancellation policy:**

- Note: Written cancellation will be accepted on all working days, except Sundays. Any cancellation sent on Sundays will be considered on the next working day (Monday).
- X-mas and New Year Period (20 Dec to 05 Jan): The payment is non-refundable during this period.
- After Trip Commencement: If you cancel the trip after it has commenced, the refund will be limited to the amount we are able to recover from hoteliers/contractors. We are not responsible for refunds on unused hotel accommodations, chartered transportation, or missed meals.
- 61 days or more before the tour: No cancellation charges.
- Between 60 to 30 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 20% of the full tour booking value.
- Between 30 to 15 days before the tour: Cancellation charges equal to 50% of the full tour booking value.
- Within 5 days before the tour or no show: Cancellation charges equal to 90% of the full tour booking value.

### **Our Liabilities & Limitations:**

- Price Changes: After the finalization of the tour/service cost, if there are any hikes in entrance fees, taxes, fuel costs, or guide charges by the Government of India, these will be charged as extra.
- Role as Agent: Agora Voyages acts only as an agent for hotels, airlines, transporters, railways, and contractors providing services. All receipts, contracts, and tickets issued by us are subject to terms and conditions of the service providers.
- Itinerary Changes: All itineraries are sample itineraries intended to provide a general idea. We reserve the right to change the schedule based on factors such as weather, road conditions, or the physical ability of participants to ensure safety, comfort, and well-being.
- Rate Modifications: Our rates are based on negotiated rates with hotels and airlines. If the rates are modified by these service providers, we reserve the right to adjust the quoted rates accordingly. Hotel bookings are based on usual check-in and check-out times, unless otherwise indicated.



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- **Liability Disclaimer:** We are not responsible for delays, alterations, or expenses incurred due to natural hazards, flight cancellations, accidents, weather, sickness, political closures, or any unforeseen incidents.
- **Damage, Loss, or Injury:** We are not responsible for any loss, injury, or damage to persons, property, or otherwise, caused by acts of God, fire, accidents, machinery breakdowns, political disturbances, theft, epidemics, or other factors beyond our control.
- **Insurance:** We do not offer insurance for accidents, sickness, theft, or other unforeseen circumstances. We recommend travelers arrange for insurance in their home country. All personal property and baggage are at the client's risk at all times.
- **Unforeseen Circumstances:** We are not responsible for costs arising from landslides, roadblocks, bad weather, or similar unforeseen circumstances.

### **Tipping**

- Tipping is not included in our price. It is optional but often expected in the travel industry. There is no limit on the amount you can tip, though the average guideline is around \$10-15 per day for guides, drivers, and other crew members.

### **Trip Comments**

- After your trip, we would love to hear your experience. Any photos, suggestions, or feedback will be greatly appreciated. While we strive to make every trip perfect, we acknowledge that there is always room for improvement. Your comments, whether positive or constructive, are invaluable to us.