

Tour Name: Ancient Caves, Forts, Taj & Temples

Tour Duration: 13 Nights/ 14 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/mry7mdcs>

Tour Overview

Embark on a captivating journey through India's rich cultural tapestry with the " Ancient Caves, Forts, Taj & Temples." Begin in Mumbai, exploring its bustling markets and iconic landmarks like the Gateway of India. Fly to Aurangabad to discover the ancient caves of Ajanta and Ellora, marveling at intricate rock-cut temples. Traverse through Delhi's vibrant streets, then on to Jaipur's royal palaces and the architectural wonder of Agra's Taj Mahal. Explore Orchha's medieval charm before reaching Khajuraho's famed temples adorned with exquisite sculptures. Conclude in Varanasi, India's spiritual heart, where ancient rituals on the Ganges River offer a glimpse into timeless traditions.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Mumbai

- Arrive in Mumbai and transfer to your hotel. Depending on your arrival time, spend the day relaxing or explore nearby attractions independently.

Day 2: Mumbai

- After breakfast, visit the Gateway of India, an iconic arch overlooking the Arabian Sea, built to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911. Enjoy views of the bustling harbor and take a boat ride to Elephanta Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site known for its ancient rock-cut temples dedicated to Lord Shiva.
- Explore the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly Prince of Wales Museum), housing a vast collection of artifacts, sculptures, and decorative arts depicting India's history.
- Drive along Marine Drive, a picturesque promenade also known as the Queen's Necklace, offering stunning views of the Arabian Sea. Stop for a photo opportunity at the Hanging Gardens on Malabar Hill, known for its manicured lawns and panoramic city views.
- Visit Dhobi Ghat, the world's largest outdoor laundry, to witness Mumbai's unique washermen (dhobis) at work.

Day 3: Mumbai - Aurangabad (flight)

- Early morning flight to Aurangabad. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and unwind.

- Visit the Bibi Ka Maqbara, often referred to as the "Taj of the Deccan," built in the 17th century by Aurangzeb's son in memory of his mother. Admire the intricate marble work and serene garden surroundings.
- Explore Panchakki, an ancient water mill known for its ingenious fountain system powered by water flowing from a nearby mountain stream.
- Optionally, visit the Aurangabad Caves, rock-cut Buddhist caves dating back to the 6th and 7th centuries. Admire the intricate carvings and sculptures depicting Buddhist motifs.

Day 4: Aurangabad

- After breakfast, embark on a full-day excursion to the Ellora Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage site featuring rock-cut temples representing Hindu, Jain, and Buddhist faiths.
- Marvel at the monumental Kailasa Temple, the largest monolithic structure in the world.
- Explore Daulatabad Fort, an ancient hilltop fortress known for its defense architecture and panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.
- Return to Aurangabad and enjoy free time to relax.

Day 5: Aurangabad - Delhi (by flight)

- Fly to Delhi. Upon arrival, check into your hotel and relax.
- Visit Qutub Minar, a UNESCO World Heritage site and the tallest brick minaret in the world, known for its intricate carvings and historical significance.
- Explore Humayun's Tomb, another UNESCO World Heritage site and an early example of Mughal architecture with beautiful gardens and red sandstone structures.
- Visit the Lotus Temple, a Bahá'í House of Worship known for its distinctive lotus-shaped architecture and serene atmosphere.
- Enjoy a drive through Lutyens' Delhi, the central part of New Delhi designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, featuring wide boulevards, government buildings, and impressive architecture.

Day 6: Delhi - Jaipur (265km)

- Drive to Jaipur, famously known as the "Pink City" of India, renowned for its historic palaces and vibrant culture.
- Upon arrival in Jaipur, check into your hotel.
- In the evening, explore local markets such as Johari Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar, known for their traditional handicrafts, textiles, jewelry, and vibrant atmosphere.

Day 7: Jaipur

- Begin your day with a visit to the Amber Fort, a magnificent blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture, located on a hilltop overlooking Maota Lake. Take an elephant ride or jeep ride to the fort entrance.

- Explore the City Palace, a sprawling complex housing museums, courtyards, and gardens displaying royal artifacts and costumes.
- Visit Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory with impressive stone instruments used for measuring time, predicting eclipses, and tracking celestial bodies.
- Visit the Birla Temple (Laxmi Narayan Temple), a modern Hindu temple known for its intricate marble carvings and peaceful ambiance.
- Enjoy a shopping experience in Jaipur, known for its vibrant markets offering traditional handicrafts, textiles, jewelry, and more.

Day 8: Jaipur - Agra (245km)

- Drive to Agra. En route, visit Abhaneri Stepwell, one of the largest and deepest stepwells in India, known for its intricate architecture and historical significance.
- Upon arrival in Agra, visit the Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site with impressive Mughal architecture and views of the Taj Mahal.
- Visit Mehtab Bagh for a sunset view of the Taj Mahal across the Yamuna River.

Day 9: Agra - Orchha (220km)

- Early morning visit to the Taj Mahal at sunrise, India's most iconic monument and a UNESCO World Heritage site.
- Drive to Orchha, a medieval town known for its palaces and temples built by the Bundela rulers.
- Explore Orchha Fort Complex, including Jahangir Mahal and Raj Mahal, showcasing exquisite Rajput architecture and intricate frescoes.
- Visit Ram Raja Temple, a unique blend of temple and palace architecture, dedicated to Lord Rama.

Day 10: Orchha - Khajuraho (178km)

- Drive to Khajuraho, known for its UNESCO-listed temples adorned with intricate sculptures and erotic art.
- Visit the Western Group of Temples, including Kandariya Mahadev Temple, known for its architectural splendor and erotic sculptures.
- Explore the Eastern Group of Temples, including Parsvanath Temple and Ghantai Temple, showcasing Jain architecture and intricate artwork.
- Visit the Archaeological Museum to see sculptures and artifacts excavated from the temples.

Day 11: Khajuraho - Varanasi (flight)

- Explore more of Khajuraho's temples in the morning.
- Fly to Varanasi, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and a major pilgrimage site for Hindus.
- Upon arrival, check into your hotel. In the evening, attend the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti ceremony on the ghats of the Ganges River.

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Day 12: Varanasi

- Early morning, enjoy a boat ride on the Ganges River to witness the sunrise and see the ghats come alive with rituals and prayers.
- Visit the Kashi Vishwanath Temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, and explore Varanasi's narrow alleys and vibrant markets.
- Visit Sarnath, where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. Explore Dhamek Stupa, Mulagandha Kuti Vihar, and Sarnath Archaeological Museum.

Day 13: Varanasi - Mumbai (flight)

- Fly back to Mumbai. Upon arrival, visit the iconic Siddhivinayak Temple, dedicated to Lord Ganesha.
- Explore the bustling markets of Mumbai for souvenirs and local delicacies.

Day 14: Mumbai - Departure

- Depart from Mumbai, concluding your journey through India's cultural and historical treasures, from ancient caves to vibrant cities and spiritual centers.

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	4,307	2,386	2,121	2,151	1,932	1,879	1,761	1,673
4★ Deluxe	5,035	2,751	2,486	2,516	2,297	2,243	2,126	2,038
5★ Luxury	6,248	3,645	3,112	3,142	2,923	2,869	2,752	2,663

Valid for Travel: 16 April 2027 to 15 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	4,173	2,277	2,013	2,043	1,823	1,770	1,652	1,564
4★ Deluxe	4,536	2,482	2,217	2,247	2,028	1,974	1,857	1,769
5★ Luxury	5,726	3,353	2,819	2,849	2,630	2,577	2,459	2,371

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Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 590 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 953 | 5★ Luxury: USD 1,540

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 46 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 114 | 5★ Luxury: USD 194

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 13 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.
- Monument entrances and activities charges mentioned in the itinerary.
- Bottled drinking water in car.
- Government taxes.

Price Does Not Include:

- Mumbai - Aurangabad - Delhi, Khajuraho - Varanasi - Mumbai flight fare approx INR 20,500 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 13 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Hotel Godwin, Colaba/ Hotel Suba Palace
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: The Fern Residency/ Amarpreet Hotel
- Delhi x 1 night: Dee Marks Hotel & Resorts/ Emerald Hotel
- Jaipur x 2 nights: ZONE By THE Park/ The Fern Residency
- Agra x 1 night: Howard Plaza the Fern/ Hotel Atulyaa Taj
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Resort/ Amar Mahal
- Khajuraho x 1 night: Ramada/ SYNA Heritage Hotel

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- Varanasi x 2 nights: Meraden Grand/ Hotel Tridev
- Mumbai x 1 night: Hotel Godwin, Colaba/ Hotel Suba Palace

4 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Fariyas Hotel/ The Gordon House
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: Lemon Tree Hotel
- Delhi x 1 night: The Hans/ The Royal Plaza
- Jaipur x 2 nights: Lemon Tree Premier/ The Fern An Ecotel Hotel
- Agra x 1 night: Radisson Hotel/ Holiday Inn
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Resort/ Amar Mahal
- Khajuraho x 1 night: Radisson Hotel/ Hotel Chandela
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Rivatas by Ideal/ The Amayaa

5 Star Hotels

- Mumbai x 2 nights: Trident Hotel/ President, Mumbai - IHCL SeleQtions
- Aurangabad x 2 nights: WelcomHotel Rama International/ Vivanta Aurangabad
- Delhi x 1 night: Le Meridien/ The Grand New Delhi
- Jaipur x 2 nights: Hilton Jaipur/ Radisson City Center
- Agra x 1 night: Courtyard by Marriott/ Trident Hotel
- Orchha x 1 night: Orchha Palace and Convention Centre
- Khajuraho x 1 night: The Lalit Temple View
- Varanasi x 2 nights: Ramada JHV/ Radisson Hotel

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.
- 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.