

Tour Name: East India Cultural Tour visit Monuments, Temples & Monasteries

Tour Duration: 15 Nights/ 16 Days

Tour Map: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhv2aja>

Tour Overview

Embark on a transformative journey with our "East India Cultural Tour visit Monuments, Temples & Monasteries" tour. Begin in Delhi, where ancient monuments and bustling markets set the stage for exploration. Delve into the cultural tapestry of Agra before flying to Bhubaneswar, known for its magnificent temples. Journey to Puri, where the serene shores of Chilika Lake await, then trace the vibrant streets of Kolkata. Ascend into the misty heights of Darjeeling and Gangtok, where tea plantations and Tibetan monasteries offer serenity and insight. Conclude in Kalimpong, a hidden gem nestled in the Eastern Himalayas, before returning enriched by this spiritual and cultural adventure.

Tour Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Delhi

- Arrive in Delhi, India's bustling capital known for its rich history and vibrant culture. Transfer to your hotel and unwind after your journey.

Day 2: Delhi

- Begin your exploration with a visit to Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India, showcasing magnificent Mughal architecture with red sandstone and white marble. Wander through the bustling lanes of Chandni Chowk, Delhi's oldest and busiest market, offering a sensory feast of sights, sounds, and smells.
- Continue to Raj Ghat, a serene memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, where you can pay homage to the Father of the Nation amidst peaceful gardens.
- Visit Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a masterpiece of Mughal architecture, surrounded by lush gardens and reflecting pools. Marvel at its intricate lattice work and symmetrical design.
- Conclude with a visit to Qutub Minar, a towering minaret built in 1193 AD, adorned with intricate carvings and inscriptions, marking the onset of Indo-Islamic architecture in India.

Day 3: Delhi - Agra - Delhi (400kms round)

- Take a scenic drive to Agra, home to the iconic Taj Mahal. Witness the sunrise over this breathtaking monument of love, crafted in white marble and adorned with intricate inlay work.
- Explore Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site and a historic fortress showcasing Mughal architecture. Wander through its palaces, courtyards, and gardens that overlook the Yamuna River.
- Enjoy leisure time exploring local markets renowned for marble handicrafts, leather goods, and traditional Mughlai cuisine before returning to Delhi.

Day 4: Delhi - Bhubaneswar (flight)

- Fly to Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha, renowned for its ancient temples and rich cultural heritage. Check-in to your hotel and relax.

Day 5: Bhubaneswar

- Begin your day with a visit to Lingaraja Temple, an architectural marvel and one of the most prominent temples in Bhubaneswar dedicated to Lord Shiva. Admire its towering spire, sculpted images, and intricately carved halls.
- Explore Khandagiri and Udayagiri Caves, ancient Jain rock-cut caves dating back to the 2nd century BCE. Marvel at the rock-cut architecture, elaborate carvings, and inscriptions depicting Jain teachings.
- Visit Dhauhi Shanti Stupa, a Buddhist monument marking the site where Emperor Ashoka embraced Buddhism and renounced war. Enjoy panoramic views of the Daya River valley from this serene hilltop.

Day 6: Bhubaneswar - Puri (65kms)

- Drive to Puri, a coastal town known for its Jagannath Temple, one of the Char Dham pilgrimage sites. Attend the evening Aarti ceremony at the temple, witnessing the rhythmic chants and vibrant rituals.
- Relax on Puri Beach, known for its golden sands and scenic views of the Bay of Bengal. Enjoy leisure activities or explore local seafood delicacies and handicraft stalls along the beachfront.

Day 7: Puri - Chilika Lake (55kms)

- Take an excursion to Chilika Lake, Asia's largest brackish water lagoon and a haven for migratory birds. Enjoy a boat ride to spot dolphins, migratory birds like flamingos, and explore the lake's tranquil islands.

- Visit Raghurajpur artisan village, famous for its Pattachitra paintings, intricate palm leaf engravings, and traditional handicrafts. Witness artisans at work and shop for unique souvenirs.

Day 8: Puri - Kolkata (flight)

- Fly to Kolkata, the cultural capital of India, known for its colonial architecture, literary heritage, and artistic fervor. Check-in to your hotel and relax.

Day 9: Kolkata

- Begin with a visit to Victoria Memorial, an imposing white marble monument dedicated to Queen Victoria. Explore its museum showcasing artifacts, paintings, and sculptures from the British era in India.
- Discover Howrah Bridge, an iconic cantilever bridge over the Hooghly River, connecting Kolkata with its bustling waterfront. Enjoy panoramic views and witness the bridge's vibrant daily life.
- Visit St. Paul's Cathedral, a magnificent Gothic-style church featuring stained glass windows, serene interiors, and a tranquil garden. Attend a choir session for a spiritual experience.
- Optionally, explore Kumartuli, a historic neighborhood where artisans create clay idols for festivals like Durga Puja. Witness their craftsmanship and learn about Kolkata's festive traditions.

Day 10: Kolkata - Bagdogra/ Darjeeling (62kms)

- Fly to Bagdogra and drive to Darjeeling, a picturesque hill station renowned for its tea gardens, Himalayan vistas, and colonial charm. Check-in to your hotel and relax amidst serene surroundings.

Day 11: Darjeeling

- Begin early with a visit to Tiger Hill to witness the spectacular sunrise over Mount Kanchenjunga, the world's third highest peak. Marvel at the changing hues of the snow-capped mountains.
- Visit Ghoom Monastery, home to a 15-foot statue of Maitreya Buddha and ancient Tibetan Buddhist manuscripts. Experience the monastery's spiritual ambiance and panoramic views.
- Explore Batasia Loop, a scenic viewpoint offering breathtaking vistas of Darjeeling town, lush tea estates, and snow-capped peaks. Enjoy a ride on the toy train around the loop.

Day 12: Darjeeling - Gangtok (75kms)

- Drive to Gangtok, the capital city of Sikkim, nestled in the Himalayas. Visit Rumtek Monastery, a prominent Tibetan Buddhist monastery known for its golden stupa and ancient relics.
- Explore Enchey Monastery, an important pilgrimage site with stunning views of Kanchenjunga. Participate in prayer sessions and soak in the monastery's serene atmosphere.
- Visit Do Drul Chorten Stupa, one of the largest stupas in Sikkim, adorned with prayer wheels and religious icons. Experience the spiritual rituals performed by Buddhist monks.

Day 13: Gangtok

- Embark on an excursion to Tsomgo Lake (Changu Lake) and Nathula Pass (subject to permit availability). Admire the turquoise lake surrounded by snowy peaks and the historic Indo-China border.
- Visit Ganesh Tok and Hanuman Tok, hilltop viewpoints offering panoramic views of Gangtok town and the Himalayan ranges. Capture stunning photographs amidst natural beauty.

Day 14: Gangtok - Kalimpong (75kms)

- Drive to Kalimpong, a tranquil hill station known for its Buddhist monasteries, orchid nurseries, and panoramic views of the Teesta River valley. Check-in to your hotel and relax.
- Visit Durpin Monastery, located atop Durpin Hill, offering panoramic views of Kalimpong town, lush forests, and snow-clad peaks of the Eastern Himalayas. Explore its peaceful surroundings and Buddhist artifacts.
- Explore Kalimpong Arts and Craft Centre, showcasing traditional handicrafts, Thangka paintings, and Tibetan artifacts. Interact with local artisans and purchase unique souvenirs.

Day 15: Kalimpong

- Visit Zang Dhok Palri Phodang Monastery, an important Buddhist monastery in Kalimpong, housing rare scriptures, thangka paintings, and sacred relics. Participate in meditation sessions and learn about Tibetan Buddhism.
- Explore Tharpa Choling Monastery, known for its serene ambiance, prayer halls, and ancient Buddhist scriptures. Experience the monastery's spiritual tranquility and panoramic views of the Himalayas.

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- Optional: Visit local markets in Kalimpong to shop for handicrafts, traditional clothing, and fresh local produce. Engage with the local community and savor regional delicacies.

Day 16: Kalimpong - Bagdogra (80kms)/ Delhi

- Drive to Bagdogra for your onward journey. Optionally, fly to Delhi or your next destination.

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

Valid for Travel: Until 20 September 2027

Persons	Solo	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3★ Standard	4,710	2,520	2,257	2,447	2,182	2,105	1,965	1,859
4★ Deluxe	5,884	3,119	2,855	3,045	2,780	2,704	2,563	2,458
5★ Luxury	7,609	4,383	3,816	4,006	3,741	3,665	3,524	3,419

Single Room Supplement

3★ Standard: USD 792 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 1,367 | 5★ Luxury: USD 2,131

Triple Sharing Discount (Per Person)

3★ Standard: USD 93 | 4★ Deluxe: USD 146 | 5★ Luxury: USD 260

Price Includes:

- Assistance on arrival at airport.
- 15 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.

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Price Does Not Include:

- Delhi - Bhubaneswar - Kolkata - Bagdogra - Delhi 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 15 nights' accommodation

3 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 3 nights: Dee Marks Hotel & Resorts/ Emerald Hotel
- Bhubaneswar x 2 nights: Hotel Hindusthan International/ Swosti Grand
- Puri x 2 nights: Toshali Sands/ The Hans Coco Palms
- Kolkata x 2 nights: Golden Tulip/ Polo Floatel
- Darjeeling x 2 nights: Summit Swiss Heritage Resort & Spa/ Udaan Himalayan Suites & Spa
- Gangtok x 2 nights: Summit Namnang Courtyard & Spa/ Summit Norling Resort & Spa
- Kalimpong x 2 nights: Summit Barsana Resort & Spa/ Sinclairs Retreat

4 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 3 nights: The Hans/ The Royal Plaza
- Bhubaneswar x 2 nights: Fortune Park Sishmo/ Lemon Tree Premier
- Puri x 2 nights: MAYFAIR Heritage/ Mayfair Waves
- Kolkata x 2 nights: The Elgin Fairlawn/ ZONE By the Park
- Darjeeling x 2 nights: Elgin Hotel/ Ramada by Wyndham
- Gangtok x 2 nights: Elgin NorKhill/ Denzong Regency
- Kalimpong x 2 nights: The Elgin Silver Oaks

5 Star Hotels

- Delhi x 3 nights: Le Meridien/ The Grand New Delhi
- Bhubaneswar x 2 nights: Mayfair Lagoon/ Trident Hotel
- Puri x 2 nights: MAYFAIR Heritage/ Mayfair Waves
- Kolkata x 2 nights: ITC Sonar, a Luxury Collection/ The Lalit Great Eastern
- Darjeeling x 2 nights: Mayfair/ Ging Tea House
- Gangtok x 2 nights: Mayfair Spa Resort & Casino/ Tashiling Residency Hotel & Spa
- Kalimpong x 2 nights: Mayfair

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

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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.