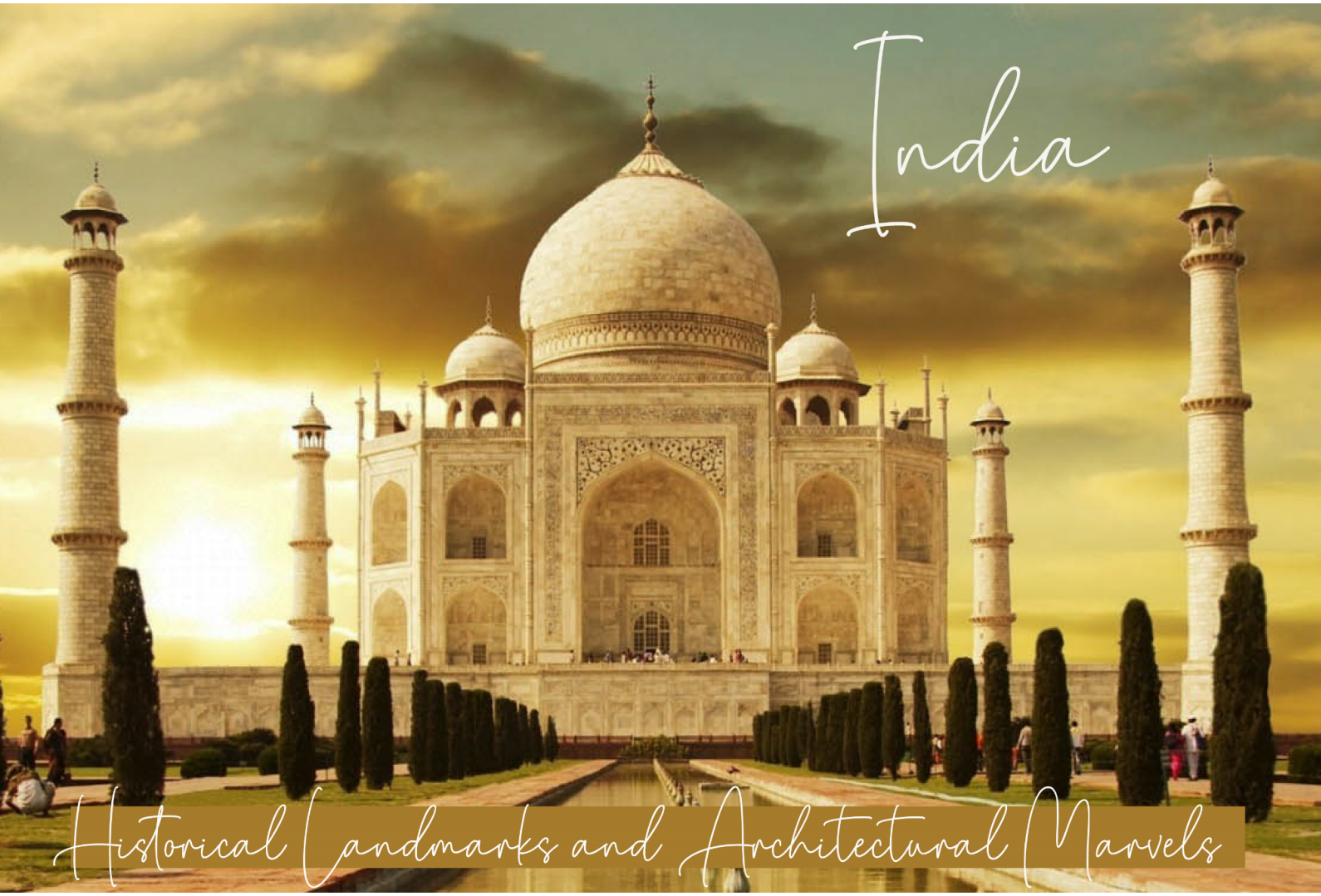
Vent Nouveau s.a.l.
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Since 1970

INDIA

Holi with Classical India

11 - Day Itinerary



7 Mezher Street Antelias Beirut - Lebanon
Tel: +961 4 712037 Fax: +961 4 715196 P.O. Box: 60-233 Zip Code: 1241 2020 R.C. 1035 Baabda VAT No. 8721-601
www.ventnouveau.com info@ventnouveau.com

Vent Nouveau s.a.l.
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Since 1970

Tour overview:

A 11-day tour Golden Triangle plus Khajuraho & Varanasi, also famously known as Classical India, takes you through the journey in India which captivates the best of culture, heritage, contemporary lifestyle as well as modern day religion. The tour includes a great celebration of Holi with an Indian family in Agra as well. Kamasutra temples in Khajuraho & River Ganga Varanasi are sure to entice you to explore more and more of India.

Highlights of this tour::
• Experience the contrast of India's capital with a visit to New Delhi & Old Delhi
• Enjoy holi with sweets, snacks, music, colors & songs with Indian family & lunch in their home
• Short train ride in Indian railways will excite you
• Orchha & Khajuraho forts & temples
• River Ganges and its spirituality
• Sarnath gives immense satisfaction for someone looking for peace
• Visit the magnificent Taj Mahal & Agra Fort in Agra
• Multiple UNESCO Heritage sites in 01 tour.
• Visit to Jaipur & its romantically beautiful monuments.

Detailed Program:

Day 1 - Arrive Delhi

Arrival at New Delhi's 'IGI International Airport'. Meet with our company representative, warm welcome with fresh flower garlands & then transfer to hotel in your private vehicle.

On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Later in the second half proceed for sightseeing of Old Delhi.

Start the tour by visiting the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi '**Raj Ghat'** & then visit **Jama Masjid** (one of India's biggest mosques). A **rickshaw-ride** through the narrowest lanes of Chandni Chowk (Old Delhi) will entice you, surprise you & might intimidate you, but for sure, these chaotic streets will give you an experience of a lifetime.

Cruise on your rickshaw through many small lanes, such as silver market, book market, wedding market etc. Your rickshaw will come at a halt in '**Khari Baoli' – spice marke**t, and then have a walk around in the area. Return to your vehicle by rickshaw-ride & then drive past the majestic Red Fort- where the Indian PM unfurls the flag every 15th August (Independence Day) & addresses the nation.

Return to the hotel, overnight .

Day 2 – Delhi

Breakfast at a hotel. Proceed for sightseeing in Delhi.

Start the tour with a visit to a Sikh Temple **'Bangla Sahib'** & then drive past major government buildings such as **Presidents Palace, Parliament House, India Gate** circle. Later, stop at **Laxmi Narayan Temple**, also known as Birla Temple.

Continuing with the tour visit **Humayun's Tomb** – The tomb that inspired Taj Mahal, **Lotus Temple** (exterior photography stop only) & then visit a **local co-operative society** showcasing Kashmiri Arts & Crafts. Late afternoon, visit **Qutub Minar** – tallest stone minaret in India.

Transfer to your hotel at the end of the tour & overnight.

Day 3 – Delhi - Jaipur

Breakfast at a hotel.

Later checkout from hotel and drive to Jaipur (275kms,5-6 hours).

Upon arrival at Jaipur check-in at the hotel. Rest of the day is free to explore the city. An overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 4 – Jaipur

Breakfast at a hotel. Proceed for sightseeing in Jaipur.

We start with **Amber For**t. Jeep ride uphill & downhill at the fort. Nostalgic Amber Fort, near Jaipur in Rajasthan, is one of the most well-known and most-visited forts in India. During downhill, visit a very heritage structure – **Panna-Meena ka kund**, which is a square-shaped stepwell, with adjoining stairs on all four sides and a room on the northern wall.

We will make our way back to the city, en-route we will stop at **Jal Mahal**, Possibly the most serene sight amidst the chaos of Jaipur is the beautiful Jal Mahal Jaipur, the Water Palace. Short stops at the **Jewel & Carpet Workshops** in Jaipur are a must to witness how the local artisans create marvels from raw materials.

Later in the second half of the day, visit **Jantar Mantar,** a large grassy enclosure containing eighteen huge stone astronomical measuring devices constructed between 1728 and 1734. **City Palace**, originally built by Jai Singh in the 1720s and having lost none

of its original pomp and splendour. Before you start exploring the local markets, stop for photography at the one world's most famous façade **Hawa Mahal.**

Post your exploration in the local market. Return to hotel & overnight.

Day 5 – Jaipur – Fatehpur Sikri – Agra

Breakfast at the hotel in Jaipur. Check out and drive to **Fatehpur Sikri** (200kms,4-4.5 hours), best example of the culmination of Hindu and Muslim architecture. And said to be a copy of the mosque in Mecca and has designs, derived from the Persian & Hindu architecture. Highly popular amongst them is Buland Darwaza, which is titled as the largest gateway in the world.

Continue your drive toward Agra (50kms,1-1.5 hours). On arrival proceed to visit **Taj Mahal** a UNESCO world heritage site constructed by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal that has left tourist spellbound by its beauty for years and **Marble workshop,** a place to witness the unusual Marble Inlay work done on Taj Mahal.

Later check-in at hotel & overnight.

Day 6 – Agra

Breakfast at a hotel.

Today, enjoy Holi with local Indian people with Gulaal (Powder colour), traditional snacks and sweets and dance on Holi special songs celebrated with lunch.

Holi is a Hindu spring festival, originating from India, celebrated predominantly in India but has also spread to Nepal and many other Western countries, also known as the "festival of colours'' or the "festival of love".The festival signifies the victory of good over evil, the arrival of spring, end of winter, and for many a festive day to meet others, play and laugh, forget and forgive, and repair broken relationships. It is also celebrated as a thanksgiving for a good harvest.

Afternoon proceed to visit **Agra Fort**, an exemplary example of Mughal architecture and **Itimad-Ud-Daulah's** Tomb (also known as baby Taj). Return to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 7 – Agra – Jhansi- Orchha - Khajuraho

Breakfast at a hotel in Agra, transfer to the Railway Station for train to Jhansi. On arrival in Jhansi, transfer to Orchha.

Once a princely state, Orchha lies in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh. The town of Orchha was founded in the 15th century AD and in today's world it is renowned for its numerous temples, palaces and forts. Highly popular amongst them are the **Jahangir Mahal** of Orchha (Classic Mughal architecture), **Raj Mahal** and **Laxmi Narayan temple** (mural paintings).

As you would be done visiting the attractions of Orchha, get back on the road to Khajuraho. On arrival at Khajuraho, you would be checking into a pre booked hotel for overnight stay.

Day 8 – Khajuraho - Varanasi

Post breakfast at the hotel, we dedicate this morning to exploring the world heritage sites of Khajuraho. Divided into **eastern and western group of temples**, Khajuraho is known for its cluster of Hindu and Jain temples.

Post these visits, you would be heading to the airport to board the next flight to Varanasi. As you will arrive, our tour representative will escort you to the hotel. If you wish, you can go for a walk in the surroundings, or otherwise, relax in your room. Evening, transfer on rickshaw to Varanasi market.

As you arrive at the market, get down from the rickshaw and walk through the bustling crowded market of Varanasi to reach river Ganges Ghat. Witness the **Ganges Aarti**.

Every evening at sunset an elaborate **Ganga aarti (river worship)** ceremony with fire and dance is staged at the Dasaswamedh Ghat. Led by a group of young pandits (priests), the ceremony commences with the blowing of a conch shell, and continues with the waving of incense sticks and circling of large flaming lamps that stand out dramatically against the darkened sky.

Later, return & overnight stay at hotel

Vent Nouveau s.a.l.
TRAVEL & TOURISM
Since 1970

Day 9 – Varanasi

An early **morning boat ride** in the sacred **Ganga Rive**r would be arranged for you. Enjoy cruising in the country boat in Ganges and witness morning rituals of the locals. After the boat ride, walk in some bylanes of Varanasi and visit the **Akhada**, where you will be able to watch the traditional Indian style of wrestling called **Kushti**.

Return to hotel post boat ride & then, after breakfast, leave for Sarnath.

Sarnath in the northeast of Varanasi is where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. A highly sacred Buddhist religious place, Sarnath lies at the confluence of two rivers-Ganga and Gomati. Popular attractions here are Dhamek Stupa, Sarnath Museum and Chaukhandi Stupa.

In Varanasi, you would be visiting B**harat Mata Temple, Alamgir mosque.** Also known as Beni Madhav Ka Darera, Alamgir mosque is a brilliant example of Hindu and Mughal architecture. The mosque is situated on the banks of Ganges river. During the day you would also drive past **Banaras Hindu University**.

Return to the hotel, overnight.

Day 10 – Varanasi - Delhi

Breakfast at a hotel.

The morning is free for leisure activities. Later Post checkout you would be heading to the airport to board the flight to Delhi.

Upon arrival transfer to the hotel. Check into the hotel and relax overnight

Day 11 – Departure

Breakfast at your hotel. Checkout and transfer to Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport for the flight to your home country to cherish the memories in your heart.

END OF SERVICE