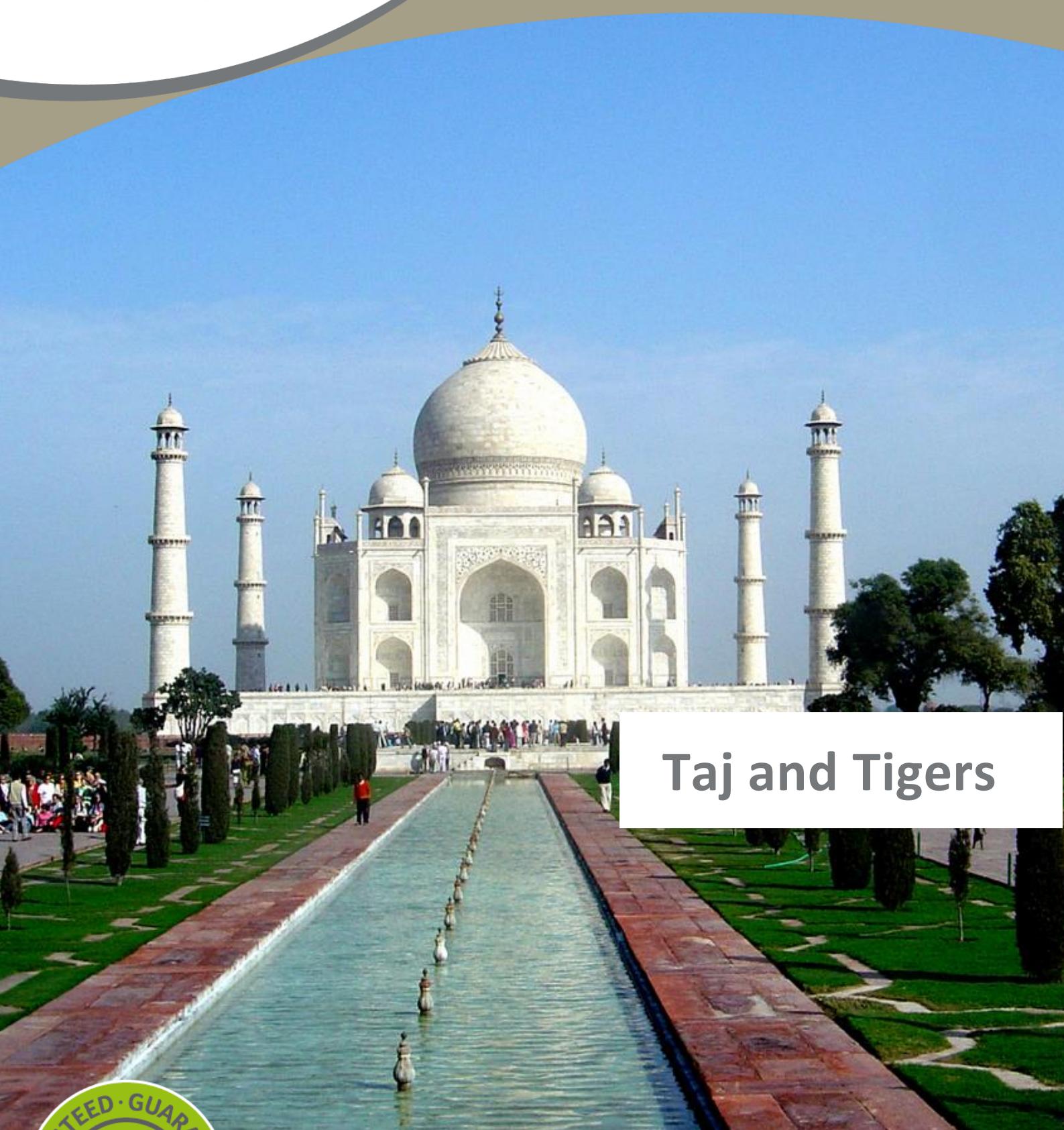




Le Passage
to India

Local experts for



Taj and Tigers



INDIA | 8 DAYS / 7 NIGHTS

Route: Round-trip from and to Delhi

Type of tour: Culture and safari

Departure day: Saturday

TOUR OVERVIEW

India is an ancient land of mystery, palaces and kings, romance and intrigue, nobility and grandeur. A mosaic of faiths, cultures, customs and languages that blend harmoniously to form a composite whole. India, with its diverse wildlife, remains one of the finest places in the world to photograph wild tigers in the heart of its most colourful state, Rajasthan. See the magic of India during this incredible eight-day tour beginning and ending in Delhi.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Start & finish destination

Delhi



Destinations

2. Agra

4. Jaipur

3. Sawai Madhopur

DON'T MISS!

Delhi: Head to the Nizamuddin West area near the India Gate to check out the Sufi Nizamuddin Dargah mausoleum and hear some Quawwali music

Agra: Walk through the old colonial-era precincts of Agra and discover the social and cultural history of the city

Jaipur: Hop on a rickshaw to the Chameliwala Market to take a stroll around this well-known gem and jewellery market

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 | ARRIVAL IN DELHI

Arrival at Indira Gandhi International Airport with meet and greet by a representative, followed by transfer to your hotel. In the evening, enjoy a welcome briefing session with the tour manager. Delhi is a bustling metropolis where the past and the present merge, and where the Old and the New cities define the capital's cultural and architectural heritage.
Overnight in Delhi hotel on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

DAY 2 | IN DELHI

After breakfast, go out on a **sightseeing tour of Old Delhi** seeing the grand monument of Old Delhi, the imposing **Red Fort**, built in red sandstone (photo stop from outside, entrance not included). The walls of the massive Red Fort rise a daunting

33 metres (108 ft.) above the commotion of Old Delhi as a reminder of the magnificent power of former emperors. Very near the fort is the 17th-century **Jama Masjid** ('Friday Mosque'), one of the largest mosques in India. Walk through the famous bazaars of **Chandni Chowk** to experience the hustle and bustle of a crowded oriental bazaar. Also visit **Raj Ghat**, the Mahatma Gandhi memorial. A simple black marble platform marks the spot of his cremation. In New Delhi, visit the **India Gate**, the memorial of the First World War and the road that leads from there to the **President House**, flanked by the **houses of Parliament**, the Secretariat building, the **Birla Temple** and **Lotus Temple**.

Overnight in Delhi hotel on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

Optional Akshardham Temple tour (not included): Discover the essence of Hinduism at Akshardham Temple, one of the largest and most intricate places of worship in the country. This religious complex offers a look into Delhi's rich cultural past and the best of Hindu culture. Combining several different and contrasting architectural styles of Hindu temple architecture of northern India, this monument is a fusion of pink sandstone and pure white Italian Carrara marble. (Closed on Mondays).

DAY 3 | DELHI – AGRA (210 KM – 3.5 HRS)

Take to the road after breakfast at the hotel, driving southwards to Agra on the banks of the River Yamuna. Check in on arrival. Agra rose to fame in the 17th century as the capital of the Mughal Empire and was beautified with gardens, waterfalls, bathhouses and canals. In modern times, the city houses a thriving crafts industry, including marble inlay work and carpets. In the afternoon, go out on a **sightseeing tour of Agra**, which includes the awe-inspiring **Taj Mahal**. Built in the mid-17th century by the heartbroken Shah Jahan following the death in childbirth of his queen, Mumtaz Mahal, this mausoleum is an eternal love poem written in stone. During the visit, admire the intricacy of the work of the 20,000 craftsmen who were brought from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy to build this astonishing monument. (Closed on Fridays).

Overnight in Agra hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

Optional Agra Fort visit (not included): Visit Agra Fort, whose forbidding red sandstone battlements hide a number of majestic Mughal palaces. Explore the delightful Diwan-i-Am (Hall of Public Audience) where the emperor once sat on his throne to address his people, and the Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience) where he hosted kings and foreign dignitaries. The white marble Mina Masjid (Heavenly Mosque) stands in contrast to the rest of the Red Fort.



DAY 4 | AGRA – FATEHPUR SIKRI – BHARATPUR – SAWAI MADHOPUR (4.5 HRS)

After breakfast at the hotel, depart by road to Bharatpur to board the Jan Shatabdi Express train to Sawai Madhopur (train number 12060) which departs at 15:45 hrs and arrives at 18:00 hrs in Sawai Madhopur, the gateway to the famous Ranthambore National Park. On arrival, transfer to your hotel for check in. **Ranthambore National Park** is a prime example of the Project Tiger conservation project's success, as it is renowned for its tiger population.

Overnight in Sawai Madhopur hotel on half-board basis.

Optional Fatehpur Sikri visit (not included): While driving towards Bharatpur, make a brief stop at Fatehpur Sikri. To wander the 'ghost city' of Fatehpur Sikri is to go back five centuries in time to the height of the Mughal Empire. This monumental walled city was built by Akbar the Great, the third emperor, to be his capital but it was abandoned within a few years of its completion due to lack of water. Today, it is a remarkably well-preserved collection of red sandstone palaces, pavilions and mosques. The buildings here present a unique blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles, and include the Panch Mahal, the Buland Darwaza and the Dargah of Sheikh Salim Chisti, which speak of the grandeur and splendour of the Mughals.

DAY 5 | IN RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

Explore Ranthambore National Park on a canter safari before breakfast. Ranthambore is located in what was originally the private hunting ground of the maharajas of Jaipur. The park features a varied geography of forested hills, sweeping grasslands and lakes, all under the shadow of the ruins of the hilltop Ranthambore Fort, more than 200 metres above the surrounding plain. The park's Bengal tigers are renowned for being fearless and roaming the park during the day. Other

residents include leopards, striped Hyenas, sambar and chital deer, jackals, sloth bears, wild boars and more--Break for lunch and return to the park in the afternoon for more animal sightings. Later, return to the hotel.
Overnight in Sawai Madhopur hotel on full-board basis.

DAY 6 | SAWAI MADHOPUR – JAIPUR (185 KM – 4.5 HRS)

Depart for Jaipur after breakfast at the hotel, arriving in the 'Pink City', as it is popularly known, at about lunch time. Check in on arrival with the rest of the afternoon at leisure.
Overnight in Jaipur hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

Optional morning game drive (not included): Early morning games drive by shared canter vehicle in Ranthambore wildlife sanctuary.

DAY 7 | IN JAIPUR

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by a **morning tour of Amber Fort**. Located on a spur overlooking a lake, Amber Fort's robust, time-ravaged walls appear imposing from the outside but they hide an interior packed with beautifully decorated palaces and temples, and landscaped gardens. Be dazzled by Sheesh Mahal, a room with all the four walls and the ceiling completely embedded with glittering mirror pieces. Admire the frescoes of the Ganesh Pol gate and the colonnade of the Diwan-i-Aam.

Return to the old city to visit the **City Palace** and the beautiful palaces within, such as the Chandra Mahal and Mubarak Mahal and the intricately decorated Peacock Gate. Also of interest is the Armoury Museum, which houses an impressive collection of antique weapons such as blunderbusses, flintlocks, swords, rifles and daggers, which belonged to the royals.

Then, make a stop at the spellbinding Hawa Mahal or **Palace of the Winds** (photo stop) and the famous **Johari bazaar** famous for its jewels and saris, the Tripolia bazaar with bronzes, sculptures and lacquerware, the Bapu bazaar renowned for its perfumes and textiles, and Chandpol bazaar for pottery and bracelets.

Overnight in Jaipur hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

DAY 8 | JAIPUR – DEPARTURE DELHI (265 km – 6 HRS)

After a leisurely breakfast, drive back to Delhi and transfer to the airport to board your onward flight.
Breakfast included.

END OF SERVICES

For more information please contact: info@lpti.in