



FIDI Conference Delhi 9 - 13 March 2008

OPTIONAL TOURS 2008

This year we have designed the tour programme so that you will be able to pick and choose several tours on Monday 10 March, Tuesday 11 March and Wednesday 12 March 2008. We have decided as well to propose two excursion days to Agra, to see the Taj Mahla, on Saturday 8 March and Thursday 13 March. All these tours have been put together so that they do not overlap with the business sessions – so now everyone can do both! It is important to note that all the tours are exclusively put together for FIDI conference attendees and will not have other tourists groups join them.

While on-site registrations may be available for tours we do encourage you, if possible, to book as early as you can. Some of the tours do have limited spaces available and to avoid disappointment we suggest you book when you register for the conference itself. *Please* be aware that for all on-site registrations, a higher rate will apply.

These tours are subject to change and in this unlikely event they will be advised on FIDINET.

Optional tours:

- 1 day excursion to Agra by private car or by coach (8 and 13 March)
- Shopping tour (10, 11 and 12 March)
- Charms of Imperial 'New Delhi' (10 March only)
- Spiritual Akshardham (11 March only)
- Charms of Imperial 'New Delhi' (10 March only)
- Old Delhi and Mahatma's trail (12 March only)

Terms & Conditions for all Local tours:

- All above tour costs are on a per person basis
- Above tour costs are valid for a minimum of 8 and more persons traveling together
- Tour cost includes air-conditioned transport and a government approved English speaking guide
- Drinking water on board coach
- Any meals, if included have been specified with tour cost
- Tour Cost does not include any liquor, tip or, items of a personal nature
- Entrance tickets at monuments, wherever applicable are payable extra

1 day Excursion to Agra (Taj Mahal)

Visit: Agra Taj Mahal
Duration: One day
Departure time: 06.30 hrs
Group Tour Cost: See below
Current Entrance tickets: None

Saturday / Thursday

Early morning at 0630 hrs drive to Agra (204 Kms / 4 ½ hours) stopping midway for breakfast. Continue drive and stop at Sikandra, Emperor Akbar's mausoleum (photo stop only) on the outskirts of Agra. Visit **Agra Fort** – the fort has palaces with pavilions, gardens, mosques, baths etc.

Break for lunch at deluxe hotel Mughal Sheraton or similar followed by a trip to Taj Mahal, built in 1630 by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his deceased wife Mumtaz Mahal to enshrine her mortal remains.



The monument has been described as the most extravagant ever built for love, for the emperor was heart-broken when Mumtaz, to whom he had been married for 17 years, died in childbirth soon after delivering her 14th child. Proceed for shopping for local artifacts & depart for Delhi. Arrive at 20:30 hrs and drop at hotel.

Package Cost per person:

<i>Individual Travel by A/c Large Car Pre booking</i>	
Minimum 02 persons traveling together	US\$ 250 per person
<i>Individual Travel by A/c Large Car on site booking</i>	
Minimum 02 persons traveling together	US\$ 285 per person
<i>Group Travel by A/c Coach Pre booking</i>	
Group travel	US\$ 190 per person
<i>Group Travel by A/c Coach on site booking</i>	
Group travel	US\$ 225 per person

Cost includes:

- ❖ Comfortable travel by air conditioned Large car / Mini coach / Volvo large coach for between Delhi / Agra / Delhi
- ❖ Local sightseeing at Agra as per itinerary
- ❖ En-route Buffet Breakfast at midway resort Country Inn, Kosi or similar
- ❖ Buffet Lunch at deluxe hotel at Agra
- ❖ Services of a local / accompanied (for groups) English Speaking guide
- ❖ Service of a professional SITA escort for groups of 24 & above
- ❖ All entrance & monument fee for Taj Mahal and Agra Fort mentioned in itinerary as per current rates
- ❖ Packaged drinking water on board coach
- ❖ Travel to / from Taj parking and entrance gate by Tonga / battery bus
- ❖ Government & State road / toll taxes etc.

Cost does not include:

- ❖ Table drinks, Liquor, A-la-carte meals and other items of personal nature like tips etc.
- ❖ Any other services / items not specified under "Tour Cost includes..."

Delhi – A Shopper's delight

Visit: Santushti shopping complex
Duration: 3 hours
Departure time: 14.30 hrs
Group Tour Cost: USD 35 per person
Current Entrance tickets: None

Shopping in the capital can be as varied as you like. From street markets to slick shops, from cheap imitations to authentic top-end fashion stores, from multi-national brands to ethnic chic, the opportunities are endless.

Enjoy some good shopping at Santushti Complex. Located very close to the Prime Minister's house, the complex houses chic cottages against a well-landscaped garden and pebbled paths. Product range includes ceramics, designer wear, pottery, linen, silks, leather, herbal beauty products...



Spiritual Akshardham

Visit: Akshardham Temple
Duration: 4 hours
Departure time: 14.30 hrs
Group Tour Cost: USD 55
Current Entrance tickets: USD 4 (payable extra)

Visit the very new and already famous breathtaking *Akshardham* temple, situated across the river Yamuna and a marvel in stone with intricate craftsmanship. Inaugurated in late 2005, the monument is a fusion of pink stone and pure white marble, this marvel surprisingly took only 5 years to make. The *Akshardham*, New Delhi epitomises 10,000 years of Indian culture in all its breathtaking grandeur, beauty, wisdom and bliss. It brilliantly showcases the essence of India's ancient architecture, traditions and timeless spiritual messages.

Enjoy a 12-minute spectacular boat-ride experience of the 10,000 year old India's glorious heritage & witness *Neelkanth Darshan*, an epic period film featuring an exciting and inspiring pilgrimage of *Neelkanth Varni*, a child-yogi, of 18th century India.



Charms of Imperial 'New' Delhi

Visit: Drive past the tree lined avenues of British New Delhi including President's House, India Gate & Lutyen's bungalows

Duration: 3 hours

Departure time: 14.30 hrs

Group Tour Cost: USD 45 per person

Current Entrance tickets: None

Drive past **Parliament House**, a circular colonnaded building that houses the two Houses of Parliament – the Lok Sabha & the Rajya Sabha; **President's House or Rashtrapati Bhawan**, the official residence of the President of India. It has a magnificent view of the Rajpath and symmetrical North and South block Government offices. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and occupied in 1929, it is set in 330 acres of land.

Visit **India Gate** - a war memorial dedicated to Indian soldiers, who died during World War I and II.

The names of soldiers who died during World War I is inscribed on its wall. Edward Lutyens, the man who planned and built New Delhi, designed India Gate. The eternal flame is a tribute to soldiers who lost their lives in the service of the nation.

Also drive past the tree lined avenues and impressive bungalows of Lutyen's "New Delhi".



Old Delhi & Mahatma's trail

Visit: The architectural marvels of Mughal Delhi – the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb and Gandhi Smiriti & Raj Ghat

Duration: Approx. 7 hours

Departure time: 10.30 hrs

Group Tour Cost: USD 85 per person including Lunch on tour

Current Entrance tickets: USD 10 per person (payable extra)

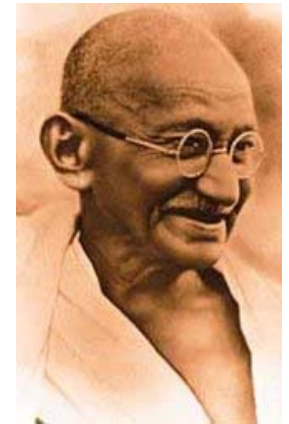


Visit the Walled city of *Shahjahanabad* or Old Delhi and two of its most famous monuments, the **Jama Masjid** - the largest mosque in India built by Shah Jahan in 1656 AD. The mosque can accommodate about 25,000 people. Also visit **Red Fort**, in accordance with the status in 2007 of a *UNESCO World Heritage monument*, it extends for 2 kms and varies in height from 18 metres on the river side to 33 metres on the city side. Shah Jahan started construction of the massive fort in 1638 and it was completed in 1648.

Pay homage to the Father of the nation at **Raj Ghat**, the site that marks the cremation of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the greatest leaders to have ever walked the face of the Earth.

Break for lunch at a 5 star deluxe hotel

Proceed to visit **Gandhi Smiriti**, the residence of industrialist B.D. Birla that has been converted into a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. He was assassinated here on his way to his customary evening prayers. A large collection of photographs with a few personal belongings and a series of small terracotta dolls illustrating Gandhiji's life form the many attractions at this museum besides a multimedia museum that promises to be a rewarding experience.



Later visit **Humayun's Tomb**, a *UNESCO World Heritage monument*, built by the widow of the second Mughal Emperor, Humayun, it is an outstanding monument in the Indo-Persian style & a precursor of the Taj Mahal.