



2027
INDIA

AFRICAN AMERICAN TRAVELERS



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MEET THE TEAM



Lawrence McLean

**CEO/FOUNDER OF AAT
TRIP HOST**

Lawrence McLean developed the concept of AAT in 2012, as a result of the constant let down of friends backing out of travel plans, or simply not sharing his interest in traveling any further than the Caribbean. He started the group, African American Travelers of Philadelphia, followed by another chapter in New York, on meetup.com. Since, he has led thousands from around the country, on the most epic, unforgettable, international tours. AAT's groups have perused six continents, including its, signature, annual NYE in Dubai experience, and taking travelers "Home for the Holidays" to the beautiful motherland, Africa, year after year. According to "Madame Noir" Lawrence has been recognized as one of the three US entrepreneurs who is changing the perception of travel to Africa!



Andrea McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

Andrea McLean is known for traveling with style, She has worked in customer service and sales for many years, mastering 60-second pitches since the spunky age of 6! She is focused on customer satisfaction, engagement, and bringing a smile to our travelers faces. Some believe that she may have been a comedian in her past life. Whenever she is around , there is always laughter.



William McLean

**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGER
HOST ASSISTANT**

William Mclean is our newest addition to the team. William is currently in college majoring in business acquiring relevant skills that will not only enhance your traveling experience with African American Travelers but ensure that your experience is our top priority. William loves building connections and meeting new people, as our entire team is incredibly eager to present our customers with the opportunity to develop lifelong friendships and memories as that will last forever.

"Great things in business are never done by one person. They're done by a team of people."

– Steve Jobs

THE ITINERARY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17

 **USA** → **IN**

ARRIVE IN DELHI



TAJ PALACE

3:00 PM CHECK IN



8:00 PM

BLACK & GOLD HOST DINNER

THURSDAY, MARCH 18



TOUR OF DELHI

9:00 AM DEPART FOR TOUR

- ☐ JAMA MASJID
- ☐ CHADNI CHOWK
- ☐ RAJ GHAT
- ☐ PRESIDENT HOUSE
- ☐ HUMAYUN TOMB
- ☐ QUTUB MINAR

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

FRIDAY, MARCH 19



DRIVE TO JAIPUR

9:00 AM CHECK OUT / BEGIN DRIVE (5 HR DRIVE)

2:00 PM ARRIVE IN JAIPUR / CHECK INTO HOTEL



COOKING CLASS **(For those who booked)**

3:00 PM DEPART FOR CLASS

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

SATURDAY, MARCH 20



TOUR OF JAIPUR

9:00 AM DEPART FOR TOUR

- ☐ AMBER FORT
- ☐ CITY PALACE
- ☐ JANTAR MANTAR
- ☐ HAWA MAHAL

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

SUNDAY, MARCH 21



DRIVE TO RANTHAMBORE (FULL BOARD LODGE)

9:00 AM DEPART FOR RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK
(3 HR DRIVE)

12:00 PM ARRIVE IN RANTHAMBORE CHECK INTO LODGE

1:00 PM DEPART FOR SAFARI

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

MONDAY, MARCH 22



DRIVE TO AGRA

5:00 AM DEPART FOR MORNING SAFARI

8:00 AM RETURN TO LODGE

9:00 AM DEPART FOR AGRA (6 HR DRIVE)

3:00 PM CHECK INTO HOTEL

THE ITINERARY

TUESDAY, MARCH 23



TOUR OF TAJ MAHAL & AGRA FORT/ DEPART FOR VRINDAVAN

9:00 AM CHEKCOUT/ DEPART FOR TOUR

3:00 PM DEPART FOR VRINDAVAN

5:00 PM ARRIVE IN VRINDAVAN & CHECK INTO HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24



HOLI FESTIVAL

9:00 AM DEPART FOR FESTIVAL

5:00 PM RETURN TO HOTEL

THURSDAY, MARCH 25



TOUR OF BANKE BIHARI TEMPLE & RETURN TO DELHI

9:00 AM CHEKCOUT/ DEPART FOR TOUR

1:00 PM DEPART FOR DELHI (4 HR DRIVE)

5:00 PM ARRIVE IN DELHI / CHECK INTO HOTEL



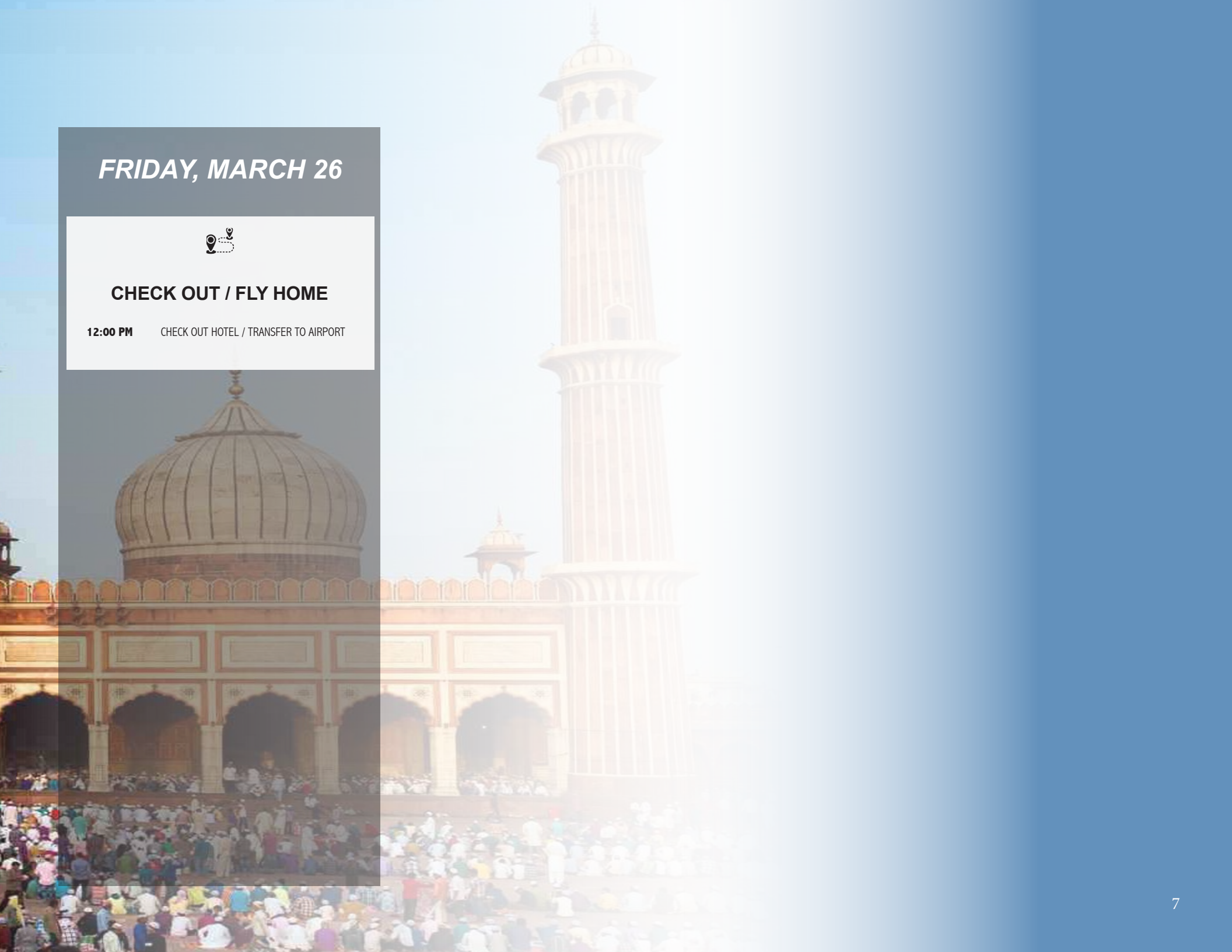
8:00 PM
FAREWELL DINNER

FRIDAY, MARCH 26



CHECK OUT / FLY HOME

12:00 PM CHECK OUT HOTEL / TRANSFER TO AIRPORT



TOUR IN DEPTH



DELHI

Delhi, India's capital territory, is a massive metropolitan area in the country's north. In Old Delhi, a neighborhood dating to the 1600s, stands the imposing Mughal-era Red Fort, a symbol of India, and the sprawling Jama Masjid mosque, whose courtyard accommodates 25,000 people. Nearby is Chandni Chowk, a vibrant bazaar filled with food carts, sweets shops and spice stalls



JAMA MASJID

Jama Masjid stands as an incredible testament to Mughal engineering, featuring a vast courtyard that can hold up to 25,000 worshipers and its magnificent design, commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan who had also designed Taj Mahal in 1650 - 1656 by employing 5,000 workers over six years (1650-1656). Once inside its vast space you'll be taken aback at its magnitude; Delhi's largest mosque with its symmetrical layout and intricate craftsmanship; its monumental scale stands as testament to this visionary approach by Mughal artisans!



CHANDNI CHOWK

Chandni Chowk, the bustling heart of Old Delhi, weaves together centuries of history, culture, and commerce. This vibrant market, with its narrow lanes and chaotic energy, is a testament to India's rich past and its dynamic present. Chandni Chowk, built in the 17th century, was a brainchild of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. As he shifted the capital from Agra to Delhi, he envisioned a grand boulevard flanked by imposing havelis and significant structures.

TOUR IN DEPTH



RAJ GHAT

Raj Ghat stands as an elegant, solemn and austere tribute to Mahatma Gandhi - India's revered Father of the Nation and one of the most iconic figures in the Indian history. When one approaches this memorial, all sense of bustling Delhi vanishes into reverent silence as one approaches a peaceful space surrounded by lush gardens, exuding an air of simplicity and austerity that befits him and his life's work.



INDIA GATE

Situated in the heart of the city, the India Gate is one of the most popular and well-known monuments in India. It was designed by Edwin Lutyens, with its foundation laid in the year 1920. The 42 mts. high war memorial was unveiled in the year 1933 and is a tribute to the 70,000 British soldiers who lost their lives in various battles. Among the martyrs of World War I, the names of 13,500 soldiers are inscribed on the walls of this structure. Post independence, the India Gate became a site of 'Amar Jawan Jyoti' - Indian Army's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



PRESIDENT HOUSE

The Rashtrapati Bhavan is the official residence of the President of India located at the western end of Rajpath in New Delhi, India. The 340-room main building has the president's official residence, including reception halls, guest rooms and offices, also called the mansion; as part of a 320-acre Presidential Estate that additionally includes the presidential gardens, large open spaces, residences of bodyguards and staff, stables, other offices and utilities within its perimeter walls. In terms of area, it is the largest residence of any head of state in the world.

TOUR IN DEPTH



HUMAYUN TOMB

Located near the crossing of Mathura road and Lodhi road, this magnificent garden tomb is the first substantial example of Mughal architecture in India. It was built in 1565 A.D. nine years after the death of Humayun, by his senior widow Bega Begam. Inside the walled enclosure the most notable features are the garden squares (chaharbagh) with pathways water channels, centrally located well proportional mausoleum topped by double dome.

There are several graves of Mughal rulers located inside the walled enclosure and from here in 1857 A.D; Lieutenant Hudson had captured the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah II.



QUTUB MINAR

Step into history and gaze upon Delhi's iconic Qutub Minar. This UNESCO World Heritage Site isn't just a monument; it's a journey through time. Standing at 72.5 meters (237.8 feet), this masterpiece is the tallest masonry tower in India. The monument, constructed from red and buff sandstone in the 12th century, has withstood the test of time. Marvel at its intricate carvings, design, projecting balconies, and staggering height—which has drawn people from around the globe. Qutub Minar (also spelt as Qutb Minar or Qutab Minar) was built by Qutb-ud-din Aibak, founder of the Delhi Sultanate. It stands tall as a 'victory tower' and is part of the sprawling Qutub Complex, an archaeological treasure trove which lies at Lal Kot, Delhi's oldest fortified city founded by the Tomar Rajputs. Come and explore this magnificent piece of history and ancient craftsmanship!



JAIPUR

Jaipur, a bustling modern metropolis, is one of the three points of the Golden Triangle, which comprises Delhi, Agra, and Jaipur. It was established in 1727 by Kachhwaha Rajput ruler Jai Singh II, who named it after himself. Jaipur is believed to be India's first planned city in the Common Era and was developed by Vidyadhar Bhattacharya. Built according to the principles of Vastu Shastra, which divides the city into nine blocks - two for state buildings and palaces and seven for public blocks. The city's fortification walls and gates ensure its security. As the capital city of Rajasthan, it is known worldwide for its beautiful gems and blends the charm of its ancient heritage with all the benefits of a metropolis. In 1876, to welcome the Prince of Wales, Maharaja Ram Singh of Jaipur had the entire city painted pink, as the colour symbolised hospitality. Today, all buildings in Jaipur are still required to be painted pink. Thus, earning its moniker 'Pink City'.

TOUR IN DEPTH



AMBER FORT

Amber Fort is situated in the valley of the Aravalli ranges just below Jaigarh Fort. Prior to shifting their capital to Jaipur, Amber was the capital of the Kachhwaha Rajputs. Amber was initially under the domain of the Susawat Meena tribe. In the 11th century, Dulahrai (Dhola), the son of Sodhadeva laid the foundation of the Kachhwaha dynasty in the Dhundhar region. His son, Kalkil Dev took over the reign of Amber from the Meenas. Raja Man Singh I started the construction of the new palace complex in the end of the 16th century. After Raja Man Singh I, Mirza Raja Jai Singh I and Sawai Jai Singh II made modifications and changes as per the needs from time to time. They also changed the interior decoration as per their own interests. The entire fort was constructed in four stages.



CITY PALACE

Within this lively city, the City Palace stands as a testament to Jaipur's royal legacy. While many popular forts of the region are located on the hills, this palace is nestled just four kilometres from the railway station in the heart of Jaipur. The City Palace is a captivating fusion of Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles that reflects the grandeur and sophistication of the Rajputs who once ruled over the city. Sprawling across a series of interconnected courtyards, halls, and galleries, this beautiful palace was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II as part of his ambitious city project. Over the centuries, his successors continued to embellish and add to the elegant buildings, creating a dazzling ensemble that has become an iconic symbol of Jaipur's rich cultural heritage. But the City Palace has always been more than just a royal residence - it has also served as a hub of artistic patronage, learning, and religious worship, with its many temples hosting prominent festivals that unite the palace and the city's people.



JANTAR MANTAR

Jantar Mantar is a celestial masterpiece nestled in the heart of Jaipur. Crafted by the visionary ruler Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, this astronomical observatory stands as a testament to human ingenuity and the insatiable thirst for knowledge. Immerse yourself in a realm of precise calculations and geometric devices that unravel the mysteries of time, celestial bodies, and planetary movements.

TOUR IN DEPTH



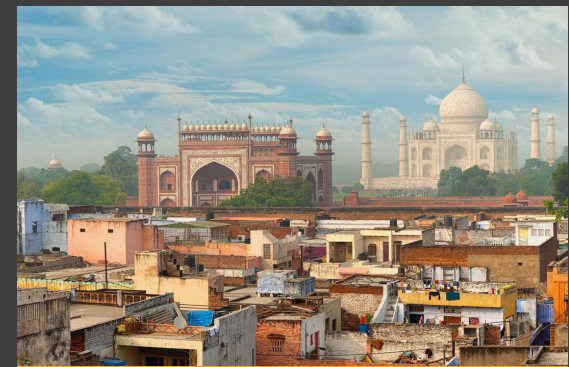
HAWA MAHAL

Hawa Mahal was built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh in the year 1799 under the supervision of architect Lal Chand Ustad. He designed the facade of this palace like crown of his deity Lord Krishna. This 87-foot-high-pyramid-shaped, five-storied structure has 365 windows. Each storey is designated with distinct names: Sharad Mandir, Ratan Mandir, Vichitra Mandir, Prakash Mandir, and Hawa Mandir. The main entrance of the palace is known as Anandpoli and The second one is Chandrapoli. There is a huge tank with fountains in the second courtyard. To the south of this tank is Pratap Mandir, the personal room of Maharaja and Bhojanshala (kitchen) in the north. Hawa Mahal is connected to City Palace through a passage, which was used by royal females to see the Teej, Gangaur and other processions on the streets.



RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

Once a private game reserve of the royal House of Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park and Tiger Reserve is one of the world's best known wilderness areas. Located 14 kilometres from Sawai Madhopur and at the junction of some of the geologically oldest mountain ranges - the Aravallis and Vindhyas - Ranthambore offers some of the finest opportunities for sighting the magnificent tiger in the wild. A mix of rolling hills and crags, and meadows, lakes and rivulets, this dry-deciduous forest system is home to an incredible variety of flora and fauna. Apart from the tiger, you can also spot sloth bear, leopard, caracal, jackal, fox, hyena and mongoose at Ranthambore. The elusive Indian wolf too, has been spotted here occasionally.



AGRA

Agra is a city on the banks of the river Yamuna in the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, India. It is 378 kilometers west of the state capital, Lucknow, 206 kilometers south of the national capital New Delhi, 58 kilometers south from Mathura and 125 kilometers north of Gwalior. Agra is one of the most populous cities in Uttar Pradesh, and the 24th most populous city in India. Agra is a major tourist destination because of its many Mughal-era buildings, most notably the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, all three of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Agra is included on the Golden Triangle tourist circuit, along with Delhi and Jaipur; and the Uttar Pradesh Heritage Arc, tourist circuit of UP state, along Lucknow the capital of the state and Varanasi. Agra falls within the Braj cultural region.

TOUR IN DEPTH



FATEHPUR SIKRI

37 kms from Agra is built a city predominantly in Red Sandstone and is called Fatehpur Sikri. This town was built by the Mughal Emperor, Akbar. He had planned this city as his capital but shortage of water compelled him to abandon the city. After this within 20 years, the capital of Mughals was shifted to Lahore. Fatehpur Sikri was built during 1571 and 1585.



TAJ MAHAL

The Taj Mahal is made of white marble on the banks of the Yamuna River in the city of Agra, Uttar Pradesh. This white marble monument was built in 1653 by the hard work of 20,000 labourers for about 22 years. Perhaps The Taj Mahal is a tale of love and loss. It was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631. Shah Jahan, the son of Mughal Emperor Jahangir, had married the Persian princess Mumtaz at the age of 14. Shah Jahan had many wives, but he loved Mumtaz the most, who was the most beautiful and charming. But in 1632, Mumtaz passed away while giving birth to their 14th child. And to fulfil the last wish of Mumtaz, Shah Jahan decided to build this world-famous monument.



AGRA FORT

After the First Battle of Panipat in 1526, the victorious Babur stayed in the fort, in the palace of Ibrahim Lodi. He later built a baoli in it. His successor, Humayun, was crowned in the fort in 1530. He was defeated at Bilgram in 1540 by Sher Shah Suri. The fort remained with the Suris till 1555, when Humayun recaptured it. Adil Shah Suri's general, Hemu, recaptured Agra in 1556 and pursued its fleeing governor to Delhi where he met the Mughals in the Battle of Tughlaqabad. Sheesh Mahal, Agra Fort: The effect produced by lighting candles in Sheesh Mahal, Agra Fort.

Realising the importance of its central situation, Akbar made it his capital and arrived in Agra in 1558. His historian, Abul Fazl, recorded that this was a brick fort known as 'Badalgarh'. It was in a ruined condition and Akbar had it rebuilt with red sandstone from Barauli area Dhaulpur district, in Rajasthan. Architects laid the foundation and it was built with bricks in the inner core with sandstone on external surfaces. Some 4,000 builders worked on it daily for eight years, completing it in 1573.

TOUR IN DEPTH



HOLI FESTIVAL

Holi is an ancient festival of India and was originally known as 'Holika'. The festival finds a detailed description in early religious works such as Jaimini's Purvamimamsa-Sutras and Kathaka-Grhya-Sutras. Historians also believe that Holi was celebrated by all Aryans but more so in the Eastern part of India. It is said that Holi existed several centuries before Christ. However, the meaning of the festival is believed to have changed over the years. Earlier it was a special rite performed by married women for the happiness and well-being of their families and the full moon (Raka) was worshipped.



VRINDAVAN

Vrindavan is a town in north central India, about ninety miles southeast of Delhi. Traditionally acknowledged as the place of Krishna's childhood pastimes, it is known as one of the holy dhamas—residences of the Supreme Being—and is one of the most frequented pilgrimage sites on the subcontinent.



THE BANKE BIHARI TEMPLE

Shri Bankey Bihari Mandir is a Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, in the holy city of Vrindavan in the Mathura district of Uttar Pradesh. It is situated near Shri RadhaVallabh Temple. This temple is among the 7 temples of Thakur of Vrindavan including Shri RadhaVallabh Ji, Shri Govind Dev Ji and four others. Bankey Bihari Ji was originally worshipped at Nidhivana. Bankey means "bent in three places" and Bihari means "supreme enjoyer."

ACCOMMODATIONS



DELHI
TAJ PALACE



ACCOMODATIONS



JAIPUR
JAI MAHAL PALACE



ACCOMODATIONS



**RANTHAMBORE
SAWAI MADHOPUR LODGE**



ACCOMMODATIONS



ACCOMMODATIONS

