



Architecture of Central India 17 Days/16 Nights

	Activities	Overnight
Day 1	Fly U.S. to Delhi	Delhi
Day 2	Our first stop today will be Qutub Minar, the world's tallest brick minaret, built to mark the site of the first Muslim kingdom in North India. We will next visit Humayun's tomb, the first Persian tomb garden in India. Lunch in Connaught Place (Robert Tor Russell), which was built in 1931 as an upscale shopping complex for the British. The area is now full of interesting high rises, such as the Jeevan Bharati (Charles Correa) and the Statesman House. This afternoon, we will visit Jami Masjid, India's largest mosque, built in 1656 by Emperor Shah Jahan. This will be followed by a rickshaw ride through Chandi Chowk, a maze of streets, shops and houses that date back to the 1600's. Dinner at the Imperial Hotel, designed by D. J. Bromfield, an associate of Sir Edwin Lutyens.	Delhi
Day 3	In 1911, Lutyens was commissioned to design India's new capital complex, and the result synthesizes Mughal motifs with Neo-Classical and Edwardian architectural styles. We will begin with a drive by the Secretariat and the Sansad Bhavan (Herbert Baker), the Rashtrapati Bhavan (Lutyens) and the Supreme Court (Ganesh Bhikaji Deolalikar). Our next stop is St. Martin's Garrison Church (Arthur G. Shoesmith), followed by Raj Ghat (Vanu G. Bhuta), the site of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation. We will have our lunch in the India Islamic Cultural Centre (S. K. Das), from which we can view the India Habitat Centre (Joseph Allen Stein). Afternoon visit to Andrews Ganj (Das), and the lotus-shaped Baha'i Temple (Fariborz Sahba). Dinner at the Ashoka Hotel, India's first five-star hotel (B. E. Doctor).	Delhi
Day 4	Morning flight to Chandigarh in Punjab, considered by many as the first modern Indian city post-independence. Upon arrival, we will begin our tour of this landmark city. Chandigarh was designed in the early 1950's by Charles-Édouard Jeanneret-Gris (a.k.a. Le Corbusier) at the request of Jawaharlal Nehru, when Punjab's original capital, Lahore, became part of Pakistan. Chandigarh is an orderly city, featuring concrete buildings without ornamentation and a network of straight arterial roads, projecting Le Corbusier's philosophy of functional efficiency.	Chandigarh
Day 5	Morning visit to Nek Chand's Rock Garden, built in the 1970s by a retired transport official. Enormous armies of human and animal sculptures inhabit this garden, which was fashioned from industrial waste, broken pottery and	Delhi

glass, metal scrap, old electrical components and leftover concrete blocks from Le Corbusier's city. Afternoon flight to Delhi.

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| Day 6 | Drive or take the train from Delhi to Agra. Afternoon visit to the jewel-box tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah, a stylistic precursor to the Taj Mahal. We will then watch the sunset over the Taj Mahal from the Mehtab Bagh, or Moonlight Garden. The Taj Mahal was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631. This is a tomb garden of flawless proportions and striking symmetry, covered inside and out with inlaid marble work inspired by the Islamic garden of paradise. From any angle, this structure is awe-inspiring. | Agra |
| Day 7 | Morning tour of the Taj Mahal complex (afternoon visit if fog conditions exist). This will be followed by a visit to Agra Fort, which was built by Emperor Akbar between 1565 and 1573 out of red sandstone. After lunch we will tour the walled city of Fatehpur Sikri, capital of the Mughal empire between 1571 and 1585. Many of the buildings in this complex blend Islamic, Hindu and Jain architectural styles to unique effect. | Agra |
| Day 8 | Morning drive from Agra to Gwalior. Upon arrival, we will visit the Jai Vilas Palace (Col. Sir Michael Filose), which was modeled after the Palace of Versailles and combines Tuscan and Corinthian architectural styles. Afternoon visit to Gwalior Fort, which is almost 2 miles long and contains numerous temples, palaces and sculptures, some of which date back to the 7 th century. The Man Mandir Palace, built between 1486 and 1516, is a wonderful example of Rajput secular architecture, featuring stone carvings, latticework and a façade covered with brilliant colored tiles. | Gwalior |
| Day 9 | Drive from Gwalior to Khajuraho, stopping en route in Orchha. This small town served as the capital of the Bundela kings from 1531 until 1738, and features a number of beautiful Rajput-style palaces and temples. Along the Betwa river, we will also find many crumbling cenotaphs of the Orchha rulers. Arrive in Khajuraho in time for dinner. | Khajuraho |
| Day 10 | Full day tour of Khajuraho. This UNESCO World Heritage site features dozens of temples built in the 9 th and 10 th centuries by the Chandela dynasty. The most elaborate temple, Kandariya Mahadev, is an inspiring composition that resembles a mountain range ascending to the sky. It is saturated with sculptures of gods and goddesses, animals, warriors, dancers, musicians, as well as the erotic scenes for which Khajuraho temples are known. This evening you will enjoy the Son-et-Lumière show at the Western Temple complex. | Khajuraho |
| Day 11 | Drive or take train from Khajuraho to Bhopal. If time permits, late this afternoon we will visit Sanchi, one of India's largest and best preserved Buddhist sites. Sanchi's monasteries and stupas were built between the 3 rd century B.C. and the 12 th century A.D., and thus illustrate the evolution of Buddhist art and architecture. Arrive in Bhopal in time for dinner. | Bhopal |
| Day 12 | Full day tour of Bhopal, founded in the 11 th century by the Paramara dynasty. Morning visit to old Bhopal, including the Shaukat Mahal and three mosques (Taj-ul-Masjid, Jami Masjid, Moti Masjid) built in the 19 th century | Overnight
train |

by Bhopal's female Begum rulers. Afternoon tour of new Bhopal, including the Indian Institute of Forest Management (Anant Raje), and the Bharat Bhavan and Vidhan Bhavan (Correa). The Vidhan Bhavan merges the strict symmetry and reverence of the mandala and the stupa with welcoming, communal features such as gardens, courtyards and verandas. Overnight train from Bhopal to Bhusawal.

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| Day 13 | Morning tour of the Ajanta caves, which are carved along a dramatic horseshoe-shaped ridge overlooking a deep river gorge. This complex contains 30 Buddhist cave temples built between the 2 nd century B.C. and the 6 th century A.D. The remarkably well-preserved murals at Ajanta represent the best and earliest examples of Buddhist painting in India. Afternoon drive to Aurangabad. | Aurangabad |
| Day 14 | Morning tour of the cave temples at Ellora. The 34 temples in this complex were built between the 7 th and 9 th centuries by followers of Buddhism, Hinduism and Jainism. The most spectacular temple, Kailasanatha, was commissioned in the 8 th century and was carved into three million cubic feet of rock. It was designed to depict Mount Kailasa, home of Lord Shiva, and features a huge a row of carved elephants that appear to be supporting the temple. Afternoon visit to Daulatabad Fort, one of the finest examples of defensive fort architecture in India. | Aurangabad |
| Day 15 | Morning flight from Aurangabad to Hyderabad via Mumbai, arriving in time for lunch. Hyderabad was once India's richest princely state, ruled by the Nizams, who derived their wealth from a personal hoard of emeralds and nearby diamond mines. Afternoon tour of Golconda Fort, citadel of the Qutb Shahi dynasty which ruled Hyderabad from 1507 to 1687. We will also visit the Qutb Shahi Tombs, where many of this dynasty's rulers are buried. The tombs combine Persian, Turkish and Hindu architectural styles and decorative motifs, and were originally covered in blue and green tiles, only fragments of which still remain. Overnight at Falaknuma Palace, built in the late 19 th century entirely out of Italian marble in a blend of Palladian and Indo-Saracenic styles. | Hyderabad |
| Day 16 | Full day tour of Hyderabad city. Morning visit to old Hyderabad, including the 16 th century Charminar and Badshahi Ashurkhana, the 17 th century Mecca Masjid, and the 19 th -century Purani Haveli, which features one of the largest wooden wardrobes in the world. We will also view the 20 th century Osmania Hospital (Vincent Esch) and Osmania University. Afternoon tour of new Hyderabad, including the Birla Mandir, the Jawaharlal Nehru Institute for Development Banking (Correa) and the Sohrabji Godrej Green Business Center (Karan Grover and Associates). If time permits, we will also visit the eclectic Salarjung Museum. | Hyderabad |
| Day 17 | Fly Hyderabad to Mumbai for overnight or your return flight to the U.S. | Mumbai/
Flight to U.S. |

Suggested Extensions: Historic and Contemporary Mumbai

Trip Timing - For the best weather conditions, this trip should ideally be taken between October and March. In all of our tours, we concentrate our sightseeing in the morning and afternoon hours, avoiding the hot mid-day sun as much as possible.

Note: Not all of the sites mentioned in these itineraries can be viewed from the inside, as some of them are in protected government compounds, while others are private businesses or residences or heritage sites that only permit visitor access within certain areas. If there are certain buildings in particular that you would like to view from the inside, please let us know and we will make best efforts to secure the required access if we have not already done so.

