

# Splendours of Northern India: Amritsar & Shimla; Delhi to Mumbai by Deccan Odyssey

[https://www.irtsociety.com/?post\\_type=journeys&p=21440](https://www.irtsociety.com/?post_type=journeys&p=21440)



## Overview

---

### The Highlights

- Experience a sacred Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple, Amritsar
- Travel on the iconic UNESCO honored 'Toy Train', through the picturesque Shivalik hills to the hill station of Shimla
- Two days exploring Mumbai, including the UNESCO site of Elephanta Caves
- An exclusive royal dining experience at the Rambagh Palace Hotel, Jaipur
- A private alfresco breakfast overlooking the Taj Mahal
- Luxurious accommodations: Five nights aboard the *Deccan Odyssey*, two nights at Mumbai's

Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, three nights at Shimla's Hotel The Oberoi Cecil, two nights at Hotel Taj Swarna in Amritsar, and two nights at Delhi's Taj Palace Hotel

- Transfers, many meals, and all gratuities included
- Option to begin your journey on the *Deccan Odyssey* on Day 7 in Delhi

## The Tour

Embark on an unforgettable 15-day journey through Northern India featuring the [Deccan Odyssey](#), with exclusive extensions to Shimla & Amritsar. Immerse yourself in the lively atmosphere of Delhi's streets, the peaceful charm of Shimla's natural beauty, the spiritual enchantment of Amritsar, and explore the palaces of Rajasthan.

Visit iconic sites like Fatehpur Sikri, Agra Fort, and the Taj Mahal, while enjoying luxurious accommodations and curated experiences. Experience the timeless charm of India on this unforgettable voyage.

## Itinerary

---

### Day 1: Delhi

On arrival at Delhi Airport, you'll be greeted and taken to the luxurious Taj Palace Hotel.

### Day 2: Delhi to Shimla

Experience the timeless allure of Shimla, known as the "Queen of Hills". Enjoy stunning views of snow-capped peaks, lush landscapes, serene lakes, and the lively countryside while riding the Kalka-Shimla railway.

The UNESCO World Heritage "Toy Train" winds through the picturesque Shivalik hills, offering breathtaking Himalayan vistas as you travel to Shimla.

Arrive to Shimla for a three-night stay at the luxurious Hotel The Oberoi Cecil.

### Day 3: Shimla

After breakfast, explore the rich history of the Kalka-Shimla railway at the Balku Ram rail museum. Named after the revered Baba Bhalku, a saint with extraordinary engineering skills, the museum displays rare artifacts from the railway's past. Witness the ingenuity that shaped this iconic rail track, showcasing human perseverance and innovation.

In the afternoon, delve into Shimla's heritage with a Heritage Walk. Discover the colonial charm of this hill station as you visit landmarks like the State Museum, Christ Church, and the iconic Gaiety Theatre. Stroll through the vibrant Mall and immerse yourself in the ambiance of this historic destination.

## Day 4: Shimla

Today is your day at leisure, giving you time to enjoy the beauty and charm of Shimla.

## Day 5: Shimla to Amritsar

Morning transfer from Shimla to Ambala to board the train to Amritsar.

Explore Amritsar, a cultural and spiritual center for the Sikh community. Founded in the 16th century by Guru Ram Das Ji, the city's history is rich with Sikh tradition and heritage. Experience the majesty of the Golden Temple, a sacred site showcasing divine devotion.

In the evening, witness the tranquil Palki ceremony at the Golden Temple.

Enjoy a two-night stay at the luxurious Hotel Taj Swarna.

## Day 6: Amritsar

After breakfast, return to the magnificent Golden Temple. Admire its intricate marble sculptures and beautiful interiors while observing cleansing rituals by the tranquil waters surrounding it.

Following, explore the peaceful gardens of Jallianwala Bagh, home to a memorial honoring the victims of the tragic 1919 massacre, a reminder of resilience in the face of adversity.

Continue your historical journey with a visit to the Partition Museum, offering insights into India's partition in 1947 and its lasting impact on people's lives.

In the afternoon, enjoy an exclusive trip to the India-Pakistan border at Atari for the captivating flag-lowering ceremony. Witness soldiers from both sides engage in a spirited display of precision and patriotism in this mesmerizing spectacle.

## Day 7: Amritsar to Delhi

Today, board a flight from Amritsar and return to Delhi.

Enjoy an overnight stay at Hotel Taj Palace.

*\*For travelers who haven't booked the pre-extension to Shimla and Amritsar, your adventure in Northern India begins today.*

## Day 8: Delhi

Delhi, one of the world's oldest cities, is bustling and vibrant, renowned for its traditional markets.

The captivating city tour explores this lively metropolis, visiting landmarks such as the Raj Ghat memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, Humayun's Tomb - a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the impressive Qutab Minar, the tallest brick minaret globally at 238 feet (73 meters), dating back to 1368.

Later in the evening, board the luxurious *Deccan Odyssey*. Relax in your comfortable private cabin and enjoy the welcoming ambiance of the Bar Lounge Car as you begin your rail journey.

Enjoy dinner aboard the train as your journey continues across India.

## Day 9: Fatehpur Sikri & Agra Fort

After breakfast, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Fatehpur Sikri. This red sandstone town, known as a 'ghost city', was abandoned in 1585 shortly after being built due to water scarcity.

In the afternoon, your journey takes you to Agra Fort, a magnificent structure dominating the skyline. It served as the main residence for Mughal emperors until 1638, with its extensive red sandstone walls stretching for 2.5 km and housing numerous palaces and mosques.

## Day 10: Agra

Begin your day at sunrise to avoid the crowds while you visit the breathtaking Taj Mahal, a magnificent white marble structure situated on the south bank of the Yamuna river.

Completed in 1648 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, it serves as a mausoleum for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. This iconic building, renowned worldwide, took 22 years and 20,000 artisans to construct. Its beauty and symbolism make it a remarkable testament to enduring love and exceptional craftsmanship.

Afterwards, weather permitting, enjoy breakfast in the gardens of the Taj Kema hotel, offering a stunning view of the Taj Mahal in the distance.

Rejoin the *Deccan Odyssey* for lunch as you continue your journey towards the state of Rajasthan.

## Day 11: Jaipur

Enjoy breakfast as you arrive into Jaipur, the vibrant 'Pink City' of Rajasthan. You'll begin by visiting the awe-inspiring Amber Fort, including the stunning Hall of Mirrors.

After lunch at a local restaurant, your exploration continues with a tour of the Jantar Mantar Observatory, the grand City Palace, and the exquisite Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds. This delicate yet enduring monument, constructed entirely of pink sandstone in 1799, allowed royal ladies to discreetly observe daily life.

If time allows, you'll also explore a renowned fabric market before returning to the train to freshen up.

In the evening, dine at the elegant Rambagh Palace Hotel.

## Day 12: Udaipur

Relax in the morning aboard the train, soaking in the beauty of India's landscapes and culture.

Later, you will have the chance to attend a talk on Indian culture before reaching Udaipur, also known as the 'City of Lakes' or 'Venice of the East'. Here, you'll discover a mesmerizing blend of stunning lakes and majestic palaces from the Rajput era.

In the afternoon, admire the breathtaking beauty of the Lake Palace, a marvel made entirely of marble situated on its own island in the shimmering waters of Pichola Lake.

Following, visit the majestic City Palace, showcasing medieval grandeur.

## Day 13: Mumbai

Arrive in Mumbai and bid farewell to the *Deccan Odyssey* as you transfer to the prestigious Taj Mahal Palace & Tower Hotel for a luxurious two-night stay.

Enjoy the stunning views of the Arabian Sea and the iconic Gateway of India, with a legacy of exceptional hospitality spanning over a century.

Guests staying in the Deluxe Class will be accommodated in the Tower Wing, while those in the Presidential Suite will reside in the esteemed Palace Wing.

Mumbai, a captivating city steeped in cultural richness, awaits your exploration during this exclusive stay. You'll visit the fascinating 'Dhobi Ghats', where traditional laundry workers meticulously clean linens, showcasing historical grandeur.

Embark on a tour of Fort Bombay and Gandhi's House, a moving museum honoring his inspiring legacy. Weather permitting, you'll take a brief cruise from the Gateway of India to Elephanta Island, a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its lush greenery and awe-inspiring cave complex dating back to the 3rd - 5th century, dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Enjoy a delightful seafood lunch at the renowned Trishna restaurant, savoring culinary excellence amidst Mumbai's vibrant atmosphere.

## Day 14: Mumbai

Today is your day at leisure, giving you time to explore Mumbai's diverse attractions and its lively local markets.

## Day 15: Mumbai

Your journey ends after breakfast, where you will be transferred to Mumbai Airport.

# Dates & Prices

---

Please contact us at (800) 478-4881, or +1 502 897 1725, or email us at [tourdesk@irtsociety.com](mailto:tourdesk@irtsociety.com).

## More

---

Medical/evacuation insurance is required for this journey. We recommend full tour cancellation/interruption insurance to protect your travel investment.

An Indian visa is required for U.S. citizens.