

COMMONWEALTH GAMES GUIDE TO
DELHI

◆ **must see** ◆ **must do** ◆ **must have**

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Commonwealth Games Guide to DELHI

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Delhi Facts

Area: 1,483 sq km

Latitudinal parallel: 28.3°N

Longitudinal meridian: 77.13°E

Altitude: 293 m above sea level

Population: 12.8 million

Average Temperature: 45°C (Max) — usually in May–Jun, 5°C (Min) — usually in Dec–Jan

Desirable Clothes: Woollen for winters and light cotton for summers

Rainfall: 1,272 mm

Monsoon: July to mid-September

Season: Extreme climate with very hot summer and very cold winter

Best time to visit: October to March

STD Code: 011

Languages: Hindi, English, Urdu and Punjabi

Religions: Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Buddhism, Jainism, Christianity, Zoroastrianism, Judaism and Baha'i Faith

INTRODUCTION

Delhi is a city of many layers. It bridges two different worlds. Old Delhi, once the capital of Islamic India, is a labyrinth of narrow lanes lined with crumbling *havelis* and formidable mosques. In contrast, the imperial city of New Delhi created by the British Raj is composed of spacious, tree-lined avenues and imposing government buildings.

Delhi has been the seat of power for several rulers and many empires for about a millennium. Many a city was built, destroyed and then rebuilt here. Interestingly, many of Delhi's rulers played a dual role, first as destroyers and then as creators.

The city's importance lies not just in its past glory as the seat of empires and magnificent monuments, but also in the rich and diverse cultures. No wonder chroniclers of Delhi culture — from Chand Bardai and Amir Khusro to William Dalrymple and film-maker Dibakar Banerjee — are never at a loss for topics.

For first-timers, Delhi can seem chaotic and confusing with its crazy traffic. But scratch the surface and you will discover that the city is sprinkled with dazzling gems: captivating ancient monuments, fascinating museums and art galleries, architectural wonders, a vivacious performing-arts scene, fabulous eating places and bustling markets.

Delhi has been the political hub of India. Every political activity in the country traces its roots here. This was true even of the mythological era. The Pandavas of the Mahabharata had their capital at Indraprastha, which is believed to have been geographically located in today's Delhi.

Now that Delhi is hosting the Commonwealth Games (CWG), it has staked its claim to becoming a global city. However, there are challenges galore. In the era of Kyoto Protocol, environment has to be the foremost concern. With Delhi switching over to CNG, the air has become a lot cleaner. If only the Yamuna could be restored to its pristine glory! Besides, the commuting needs of the burgeoning population have to be met and the large network of the Delhi Metro efficiently planned.

CWG 2010 has kindled hope in the heart of Delhi. If the talk of "an Asian century" turns into a reality, the future certainly lies here. The world may soon say, "Dilli *chalo!*"

History at a Glance

- 1500 BC The earliest mention of a settlement at Delhi is found in the Mahabharata, which refers to a city called Indraprastha built around 1500 BC under the guidance of Yudhisthira, the Pandava king.
- 100 BC According to legend, Raja Dhilu founded "Dilli".
- AD 736 The real foundations of Delhi were laid by the Tomar Rajput rulers, who also built the fortified Lal Kot near Mehrauli.
- 1180 The Chauhans, who ousted the Tomars, established Qila Rai Pithora, which was regarded as the first city of Delhi.
- 1191 Muhammad Ghori captured Delhi.
- 1206 Muhammad Ghori was assassinated. His lieutenant Qutub-ud-din Aibak crowned himself Sultan of Delhi and established the Slave Dynasty of Delhi or the Delhi Sultanate.
- 1236 Sultan Razia succeeded father Iltutmish and is perhaps the only Muslim woman to have sat on the throne of Delhi.
- 1290 Ala-ud-din Khilji, the most dynamic Delhi Sultan, came to power in Delhi. The Slave Dynasty came to an end.
- 1303 Ala-ud-din Khilji set up the second city of Siri in Delhi's southern area. This area is known as Hauz Khas today.
- 1320 After Ala-ud-din Khilji's death Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq proclaimed himself Sultan.
- 1325 Tughlakabad Fort was built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq.
- 1334 Muhammad bin Tughlaq built the new city of Jahanpanah.
- 1354 Feroz Shah Tughlaq built Ferozabad, the fifth city of Delhi.
- 1398 The Tughlaq line came to an end when Timur (Tamerlane), a Central Asian Turk, sacked Delhi.
- 1526 Mughal rule started in India.
- 1530 Babur died and was succeeded by his son, Humayun.
- 1540 Humayun was driven to Persia for 15 years subsequent to the loss of his throne to the Afghan king, Sher Shah.
- 1545 Sher Shah died while fighting against the Rajputs. He was succeeded by Islam Shah, his son.
- 1555 Humayun returned from Kabul to recapture Delhi.
- 1556 Humayun died. Akbar ascended the throne and the capital shifted to Agra.
- 1628 Delhi was again made the capital of the Mughal Empire under Emperor Shah Jahan, Akbar's grandson.

- 1648 The construction of Red Fort or Lal Qila was completed.
- 1707 Aurangzeb died. This resulted in a rapid decline in the fortunes of the Mughal Empire.
- 1724 Jantar Mantar was built.
- 1739 Persian invader Nadir Shah ordered a massacre.
- 1754 Safdarjung's Tomb was built by Shuja-ud-Daula for his father, Mirza Khan, popularly known as Safdarjung.
- 1760 The Marathas and the Jats combined forces against the Mughals and besieged and looted the Red Fort, but did not take power.
- 1803 The British took control of Delhi after defeating the Marathas.
- 1805 Around this time, Shah Alam the Mughal emperor and his family were getting pension from the British.
- 1806 Shah Alam was succeeded by his son Akbar Shah.
- 1837 Bahadur Shah succeeded Akbar Shah.
- 1857 Delhi became the focal point for the Indian Independence Movement.
- 1877 The Imperial Durbar was held to declare Queen Victoria as India's Empress.
- 1903 Edward VII was declared the Emperor of India.
- 1911 The capital of the British Empire was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi. George V was declared the Emperor of British India.
- 1912 An attempt was made to assassinate the Viceroy with a bomb attack.
- 1931 Delhi was officially inaugurated as the capital of British India.
- 1947 India became independent.
- 1948 Mahatama Gandhi was assassinated.
- 1950 Delhi was made the capital of Independent India.
- 1956 Delhi was made a Union Territory.
- 1962 Master plan for Delhi was drawn up.
- 1985 National Capital Region was demarcated.
- 1992 Delhi was declared a state.
- 2001 The Parliament of India was attacked.
- 2002 Delhi Metro started its operations. All public transport buses were converted to CNG.
- 2003 New Delhi was chosen to host the Commonwealth Games 2010.

Tale of a Royal City

Delhi — a pulsating modern city with 5,000 years of history. A city that has been the centre of power play for centuries. A city with a majestic and imperial past that has witnessed the rise and fall of many empires. Delhi is timeless in appeal. Incredible to experience. Exciting to explore.

The history of Delhi is as exciting as the city itself. Delhi is said to be one of the oldest cities existing in the world, along with Damascus and Varanasi. Its existence can be traced back to the times of the Indian epic *Mahabharata* that narrates the creation of Indraprastha by the Pandavas. As the wheels of time turned, various kings and emperors made Delhi their royal seat. Lal Kot, Qila Rai Pithora, Siri, Jahanpanah, Tughlakabad, Ferozabad, Dinpanah, Delhi Sher Shahi or Shahjahanabad and New Delhi. Delhi has thus been christened and rechristened. But what has remained constant is the royal aura that the city holds in its character.

QILA RAI PITHORA

The capital of Prithviraj Chauhan, Qila Rai Pithora, was the Delhi built in the 12th century as per available historical records. It is said that his ancestors had won the city from the Tomar Rajputs, who are credited with forming Delhi. Anangpal, a Tomar ruler, created the first known regular fort here and called it Lal Kot. Prithviraj Chauhan extended the city beyond the fort. The ruins of its ramparts are still visible around Qutub Minar and Mehrauli.



Remnants of the city wall of Qila Rai Pithora, the 10th-century capital of Prithviraj Chauhan

MEHRAULI

In 1192, Muhammad Ghorī defeated Prithviraj Chauhan and left Delhi to his slave Qutub-ud-din Aibak. Aibak, in turn, captured Delhi the subsequent year. In 1206, when Ghorī was assassinated, Aibak declared himself the ruler of Delhi and the Slave Dynasty was started. This was also the beginning of the Delhi Sultanate. Mehrauli came into being and Qutub-ud-din made Delhi into an architectural wonder. The Slave Dynasty ruled until 1290. One of the prominent rulers was Razia Sultan, who ruled for just three years but became the first woman Emperor of India.

SIRI



The fort city of Siri was plundered by successive rulers to take away free building material

The Khilji (or Khalji) rulers followed the Slave Dynasty. The most prominent among the six rulers was Alauddin Khilji, who extended his kingdom to the south of Narmada and also established the city of Siri. Among some of the remaining ruins is part of the Siri Fort in the greater Hauz Khas area. The *madrasa* at Hauz Khas was constructed during Alauddin's reign and bears the stamp of West Asian architecture.

TUGHLAKABAD

In 1330, Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq established the Tughlaq dynasty and set out to rebuild a Delhi of his own. His dream was to build an impregnable fort to keep away the Mongols. Thus he founded the city of Tughlakabad, the ruins of which still remain. His descendant Muhammad bin Tughlaq later formed Jahanpanah. Lying in the area between Siri and Qila Rai Pithora, this was the

fourth medieval city of Delhi built in AD 1326–27. Muhammad bin Tughlaq was so whimsical that when he moved the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad (now near Aurangabad in Maharashtra) he made the entire population travel, only to return in a few years to escape the water shortage in the new town.



Ruins of Tughlakabad

FEROZABAD

Feroz Shah Tughlaq was a more stable ruler than his father Muhammad bin Tughlaq. He created the next city of Ferozabad, or Feroz Shah Kotla as we call it today. It was a well-planned city with palaces, mosques, pillared halls, and multi-floored water tanks. Feroz Shah also transplanted the Ashokan Pillar, 1500 years old and 42 feet high, from Meerut to the top of his palace. He renovated many older monuments like Ghoris's tomb, Qutub Minar, Suraj Kund and Hauz Khas.

After Feroz Shah's death, the Sultanate was invaded and overpowered by Taimur the Lame (from Samarkand). It is said about 100,000 people were murdered. The Sayyids and Lodis ruled Delhi thereafter but they had to pay more attention to re-establishing military and political stability in the kingdom. The memories of these dynasties lie in the tombs at Lodi Gardens.

In 1526 a new chapter was written in Delhi's history. Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat and established the Mughal dynasty.

SHERGARH

In 1540, a sway of imperial power saw Babur's son Humayun defeated by Sher Shah Suri. Sher Shah established another Delhi. The city, known as Shergarh, was built on the ruins of Dinpanah

that Humayun had set up. The remains of Shergarh are what you see today at Purana Qila near the Delhi Zoo. Once Humayun returned to power, he completed the construction and proceeded to rule from Shergarh.

SHAHJAHANABAD

After this the Mughal emperors shifted their base from Delhi to Agra. But Shah Jahan, Humayun's great-grandson, returned to Delhi and established Shahjahanabad — a city with the colossal Red Fort and its 14 gates. The fort still stands along with the olden architecture of the Jama Masjid and Chandni Chowk. Some of the gates like the Delhi Gate, Lahori Gate, Turkman Gate, Ajmeri Gate and Kashmiri Gate still exist.

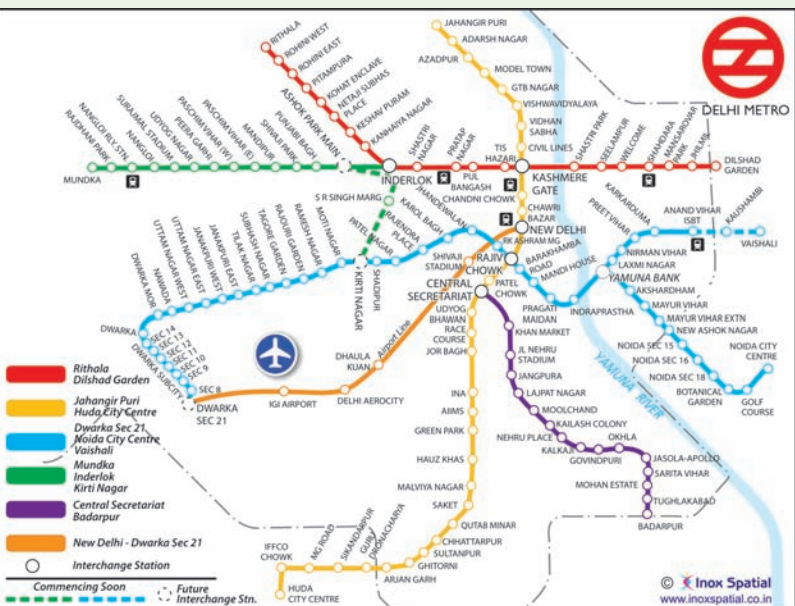
LUTYENS' DELHI

With the advent of the British rule, Delhi underwent a metamorphosis. It expanded beyond the walled city. A planned new city took shape, blending the Mughal and British architectural styles. The man who created the New Delhi we see today was Sir Edwin Lutyens.



Soldiers marching down the Raj Path in preparation for the Republic Day Parade

Today the long and glorious past of Delhi is not known to many. Its heterogeneous mix of population from all over the country and progressive and bustling lifestyle hardly give one the chance to pay attention to its history. Yet some quaint mansions, ruins of forts and palaces, unkempt mosques, dilapidated archways and narrow-laned markets tell tales of power and glory.



MONUMENTS	NEAREST METRO STATION
Jama Masjid	Chawri Bazaar
Red Fort	Chandni Chowk
Raj Ghat	Indraprastha
Rashtrapati Bhavan, Sansad Bhavan	Central Secretariat
India Gate, NGMA, Pragati Maidan, Crafts Museum, Purana Qila, Zoo	Pragati Maidan
Connaught Place, Hanuman Mandir	Rajiv Chowk
Jantar Mantar, Cathedral of Sacred Heart, Gurdwara Bangla Sahib	Patel Chowk
Birla Mandir	RK Ashram Marg
Agrasen ki Baoli	Barakhamba
Humayun's Tomb, Lodi Garden	JLN Stadium
Safdarjung's Tomb	Jor Bagh
Teen Murti Bhavan	Race Course
National Rail Museum	Dhaura Kuan
Moth ki Masjid	Moolchand
Bahai Temple, Kalkaji Temple	Kalkaji Mandir
Garden of Five Senses, Qutub Minar, Mehrauli Archaeological Park, Sanskriti Museum	Mehrauli
Dilli Haat	INA
Azad Hind Gram	Mundka

ITINERARIES



Planning a trip is a lot of fun and making an itinerary is only a part of the planning. In a city full of wonders such as Delhi, an itinerary can go a long way in ensuring that you have enough time to explore its grand sights and hidden corners. In this section, we have put together a day-by-day guide to provide you with some suggestions on how to spend your day(s) in Delhi.

Depending on the number of days you have to explore the capital city, we have chalked out some itineraries for you. This will help you organize your trip and ensure that you do not miss out on the more important aspects of sightseeing, shopping and entertainment.

On your arrival in Delhi, look for a hotel which is in consonance with your budget and requirements, and check in. Once you have recovered from jet lag, get ready to explore the city. Choose from the following itineraries for a plan that suits you the best.

Half-Day Itinerary

visit: Kick-start your tryst with Delhi by visiting the **Akshardham Temple** (see p. 170), right next to the Games Village. It will take you 2–3 hours to explore this temple complex, which is designed in accordance with ancient Vedic texts. Constructed entirely with Rajasthani pink sandstone and Italian Carrara marble, it has a blend of architectural styles from across India.





Remains of Balban's Tomb, Mehrauli Archaeological Park

eat: If you are really short on time and/or would like to eat some traditional, pure vegetarian temple food, have a meal at the Food Court, Premvati Uphargruha, at Akshardham.

Another delicious option is to take the metro and head for Connaught Place or CP (*for more information see p. 89*).

shop: While at CP, go on a shopping spree. You can either buy branded stuff or collect souvenirs from the Central Cottage Industries Emporium or the Emporia Complex on Baba Kharak Singh Marg. For cheaper thrills shop at Janpath.

ALTERNATIVELY

visit: You can start your day with the **Mehrauli Archaeological Park** (*see p. 134*). Delhi's only Archaeological Park, spread over 200 acres in Mehrauli, houses 100 historically significant monuments built over five centuries. Among its attractions are the Jamali Kamali Mosque, Quli Khan's Tomb, Gandhak ki Baoli, Rajon ki Baoli, Madhi Masjid and Balban's tomb — all within walking distance of one another. Thereafter you can move to the adjacent complex that houses the Qutub Minar, the Quwwat ul-Islam Mosque, the Alai Gate, the Alai Minar, the Iron Pillar, and the tombs of Iltutmish, Alauddin Khilji and Imam Zamin, surrounded by Jain temple ruins.



The Alai Darwaza is the main gateway from the southern side of the Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid in the Qutub Complex

eat: Subsequent to your visit to the Qutub Complex, you can either have lunch at the Ambavata Complex in Mehrauli or head to **Connaught Place (CP)**. Ambavata Complex has the very popular Thai High restaurant. Connaught Place is a hub for speciality and multi-cuisine restaurants and fast-food joints.

shop: Oh yes, if shopping is what you adore (who doesn't?) then **Ambavata Complex** (see p. 167) and CP both offer enough choices. While CP has outlets for all kinds of shoppers, Ambavata Complex has fashionable Indian designer stores and boutiques.

EXTRA LOOP

If time permits, you can visit the **Lotus Temple** (see p. 122), another landmark in the Capital city. Resembling a half-open lotus, this is a comparatively recent architectural marvel of the Bahá'í faith. And if you are still inclined to soak in some more culture, a visit to the **National Gallery of Modern Art** (see p. 72) will make your visit more fulfilling.

Connaught Place: Shopping in the Inner Circle



One-Day Itinerary

MORNING

visit: It will be a great idea to start your day by exploring the landmark sites of the Raj. Start with the citadel of Lutyens' Delhi, the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** (see p. 66). Spread over 330 acres, the structure was designed by renowned architect Lutyens as the official residence of the Viceroy of India during the British rule. It is now the official residence of the First Citizen of India — the President. You may also stop at the **Cathedral Church of the Redemption** (see p. 70), located in the quiet Church Lane near Rashtrapati Bhavan. Your next destination can be the **Parliament House** (see p. 69), home to the highest law-making body in India. But remember visitors can move inside the building only if they have special permission.

Admiring the beauty of the arterial roads like the Rajpath, you may now visit the **National Museum** (see p. 73) — the largest museum in India. The next stop on this art-filled journey is the **National Gallery of Modern Art** (NGMA) (see p. 72) at Jaipur House. The gallery showcases the changing Indian art forms through the passage of more than 150 years. Standing in front of NGMA, you can see **India Gate** (see p. 71), the 42-metre-high monument erected as a memorial in honour of the Indian and British soldiers martyred at the North-West Frontier during World War I and Afghan Wars in 1919.

Next, visit **Teen Murti** (see p. 77), the official residence of Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first prime minister of India. From there you can then head to the **Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum** (see p. 75) that houses her personal effects and other belongings. Rest a while before moving on to Connaught Place for a wholesome lunch.

eat: Connaught Place is a hub for speciality and multi-cuisine restaurants and fast-food joints. You will find good places for any budget and preference (see p. 89).

shop: While at Connaught Place, go shopping. You can either buy branded stuff or collect souvenirs from the Central Cottage Industries Emporium or the Emporia Complex on Baba Kharak Singh Marg. Those looking for cheaper thrills can shop at Janpath.



Rashtrapati Bhavan: The majesty of the Republic

EXTRA LOOP

While at CP, if you have the time and energy, take a short walk from the Patel Chowk metro station to **Jantar Mantar** (see p. 79), one of the world's oldest astronomical observatories. A short walk from Jantar Mantar, off Hailey Road, in a lane just before the Consulate General of Malta, is **Agrasen ki Baoli** (see p. 84), a 14th-century step-well. From there drive on to the **Cathedral of the Sacred Heart** (see p. 81) near Gole Dak Khana, Connaught Place. Behind it is the **Bangla Sahib Gurudwara** (see p. 82), a Sikh pilgrimage site. Further on, near Gole Market is the Birla Mandir, also known as **Laxmi Narain Temple** (see p. 83).

LATE AFTERNOON/EVENING

visit: Relish your evening with a slice of history in the bylanes of **Old Delhi** (see p. 27). The best way to explore this area is on a cycle-rickshaw or on foot. Start with **Jama Masjid** (see p. 28), one of the largest mosques in India. From there, go to the Digambar Jain Temple and the bird hospital in it. Next visit the Gauri Shankar Temple, Bhagirath Palace, Central Baptist Church, Gurudwara Sisganj, Sunehri Masjid, Fatehpuri Mosque, Khari Baoli, Ghalib's Haveli and Chunnamal ki Haveli.

End the day with a trip to **Red Fort** (see p. 30), the most spectacular piece of Mughal architecture in Delhi. To explore the Fort completely it will take at least two hours. So plan accordingly. Thereafter you must attend the "Sound and Light Show" held in the evenings here, which will take you through the key phases of history. (For more information refer to p. 31.)

eat: After the tour, you can head to **Chandni Chowk** for snacks and/or an early dinner. Famous for mouth-watering street food — Chaat, Chholey Bhature, Parantha — it even has an alley called Paranthewali Gali, popular for deep-fried, delicious Paranthas. You will also find the city's best *lassi* here. And do we forget to mention the sweets? Go for the Jalebis, Sohan Halwa and Pinni. And, if street food is not your type, there are the usual restaurants and some fast-food outlets. (For more information refer to the "Old Delhi" section.)

shop: Chandni Chowk is the Old City's famous shopping street, the main wholesale market in Delhi. There are many things that you can pick up from this market. (For more information refer to p. 45.)

Two-Day Itinerary

DAY 1: SAME AS ABOVE

DAY 2

MORNING

visit: Start your day by exploring the **Mehrauli Archaeological Park** (see p. 134). One of its kind, the Archaeological Park is spread over 200 acres and houses about 100 historically significant monuments built over five centuries. Among its attractions are the Jamali Kamali mosque, Quli Khan's tomb, Gandhak ki Baoli, Rajon ki Baoli, Madhi Masjid and Balban's tomb — all within walking distance of each other. Thereafter you can visit the adjacent complex that houses the **Qutub Minar** (see p. 132), the Quwwat ul-Islam Mosque, the Alai Gate, the Alai Minar, the Iron pillar, and the tombs of Iltutmish, Alauddin Khilji and Imam Zamin, surrounded by Jain temple ruins.

eat: After your tour of the Qutub Complex, you can head to the Ambavata Complex at Mehrauli for lunch. Ambavata Complex has the very popular Thai High restaurant. Or you go towards Greater Kailash-II, Kalkaji and CR Park areas that have a wide range of eateries from classy restaurants to modest joints. (*For more information refer to p. 147.*)

shop: For ardent shoppers, Ambavata Complex offers enough choices in the form of fashionable Indian designer stores and boutiques.

LATE AFTERNOON/EVENING

visit: In the evening get up close and personal with nature in the **Garden of Five Senses** (*see p. 128*). The Garden is designed to stimulate one's sensory responses to the environment. Developed by the Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC), this unique garden is situated near the Qutub Heritage Zone. It covers an area of 20.5 acres with 14 food stalls, 16 craft stalls and nature aplenty. If you are lucky, you can catch up on the various cultural programmes held here.

eat: The Garden is home to a few top-end restaurants. You can have a meal at Magique in the Garden itself, or go to Select Citywalk in Saket. It has a huge food court catering to all tastes and pockets (*see p. 141*). Another option is GK-II (*see p. 147*).

shop: The Select Citywalk Mall and DLF Mall have plenty of shops to keep you busy.

Three-Day Itinerary

DAYS 1 AND 2: SAME AS ABOVE

DAY 3

MORNING

visit: Start the day at 9 in the morning with a visit to the **Lotus Temple** (*see p. 122*), another landmark in the capital city. Resembling a half-open lotus, this is a relatively recent architectural marvel of the Bahá'í faith.

From there, you may move on to visit **Humayun's Tomb** (see p. 111), one of the most impressive Mughal edifices. Take some time to explore this magnificent structure and the other monuments the complex houses. About 2 km north of the Tomb lies the **Nizamuddin Dargah** (see p. 113) belonging to the famous Sufi saint, Nizamuddin Auliya. Ignore the crowded surroundings and focus on the irresistible eateries around.



Nizamuddin Dargah: In the world of the Sufis

Your next stop is the **Lodi Gardens** (see p. 117). Along with an extensive, well-manicured garden, you will see some ornate tombs and structures belonging to the Lodi and Sayyid dynasties.

eat: If you are tired, you can break for lunch at Khan Market, a paradise for foodies (see p. 144).

shop: Books, shoes, ethnic stuff, designer wear — you can take your pick at Khan Market.

LATE AFTERNOON/EVENING

visit: From Khan Market head towards **Safdarjung's Tomb** (see p. 118). Spread over an area of 300 sq km, the spectacular tomb is enclosed within a garden with tanks and fountains. From there you can go to **Hauz Khas** (see p. 125) and **Hauz Khas Village**. This area was developed during Feroz Shah Tughlaq's rule.

eat: The nearby Defence Colony is a good choice. You find all kinds of eating joints from high-end to regular run-of-the-mill restaurants. Another option is Dilli Haat, where you can savour pan-Indian cuisine.

shop: Set against a rustic backdrop, Hauz Khas Village has many boutiques that sell ethnic clothes and curios. You can also go shopping to Dilli Haat, located on Sri Aurobindo Marg. This craft bazaar is a veritable melting pot of Indian culture (*for more information refer to p. 164*).

Five-Day Itinerary

DAYS 1-3: SAME AS ABOVE

DAYS 4 & 5

If you are visiting Delhi for more than 2–3 days, it is a good idea to take a trip outside the city. Delhi is a perfect base for an overnight journey to many wonderful destinations — spiritual, adventurous or historical. You can choose a circuit that suits you the best:

Delhi - Agra - Bharatpur wildlife sanctuary - Jaipur (*see p. 203*)

or

Delhi - Shimla - Kasauli (*see p. 200*)

Six-Day Itinerary

DAYS 1-5: SAME AS ABOVE

DAY 6

visit: After your return from a trip outside the city, you can take some time off to rest and be fresh for the next round.

Set off in the morning to visit **Raj Ghat** (*see p. 50*), a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, Father of the Nation. Next, drop in at **Shankar's International Dolls Museum** (*see p. 54*), housed in the building of the Children's Book Trust on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg. Your next destination should surely be the **Akshardham**

Temple (see p. 170), the magnificent temple dedicated to Lord Swaminarayan, an 18th-century social reformer.

eat: You can either eat within the temple premises or head to Noida's bustling Sector 18 market. Lajpat Nagar, too, is a good eating option that favours both, your pocket and taste.

shop: Noida Sector 18 and Lajpat Nagar are both a shopper's paradise where the range of products varies from high-end fashion to streetwear. You can shop for ladies' dress material, *kurtas*, sandals, bags and more.

Purana Qila: Boating in a picturesque setting



ALTERNATIVELY

visit: You can keep the whole evening for Akshardham and from Shankar's International Dolls Museum go straight to the **Old Fort** (see p. 108), **National Zoological Garden** (see p. 110) and **Crafts Museum** (see p. 107).

eat: You can either eat at Sunder Nagar market that has some irresistible eateries or go to Lajpat Nagar.

shop: Lajpat Nagar, a shopper's paradise, is where you find high-end fashion and streetwear. You can shop for ladies' dress material, *kurtas*, sandals, bags and more.

Other Ways to Experience Delhi**RELAX AND REJUVENATE**

At any given day if you don't feel like doing the rounds of the city as per the itinerary, just take a break and get pampered at one of the spas in the city. All luxury and five-star hotels have international-standard spas. These spas offer an extensive assortment of holistic therapies and massages which combine the very best of Eastern and Western practices. We've handpicked a few of them for you.

AMAN NEW DELHI

Near Oberoi Hotel, Lodhi
Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 43633333
www.amanresorts.com

AMATRRRA

Le Meridien Hotel, 8, Windsor
Place, Janpath, New Delhi,
Ph: 23460257, 23753048
Ashok Hotel, 50-B,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 24122919
www.amatrrraspa.com

AURA

The Park, 15, Parliament
Street, New Delhi,
Ph: 23743000

TAMAYA HEALTH CLUB

Vasanta Continental, Basant
Lok, New Delhi,
Ph: 26148800, 26141177

**KAIRALI AYURVEDIC
HEALTH RESORT**

120, Andheria Modh,
Mehrauli, New Delhi,
Ph: 26802106, 26804879,
www.kairali.com



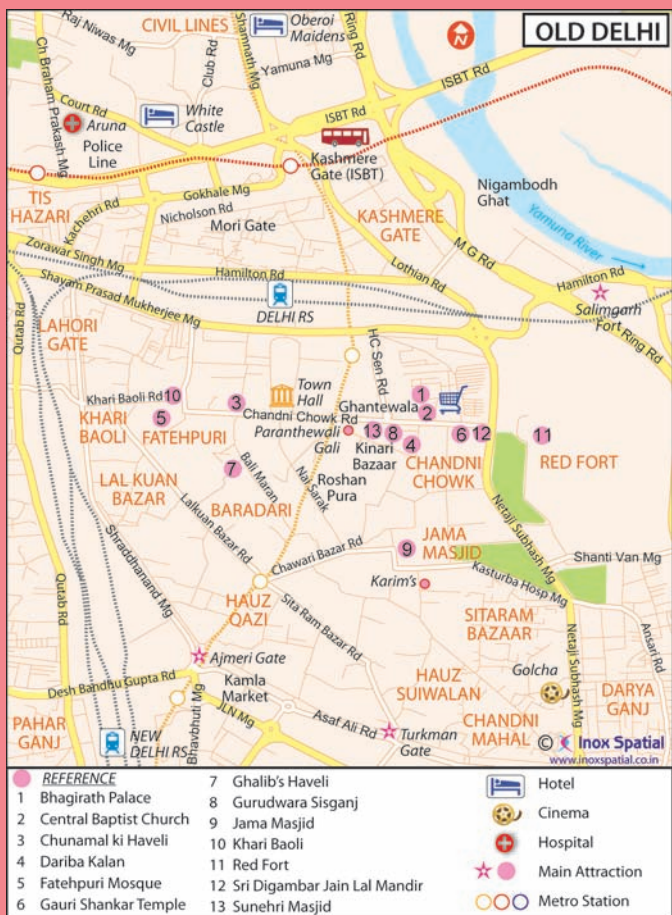
Sri Ram Centre: In the cultural capital

SAVOUR THE CULTURE CURRY

Give sightseeing half a day's break (especially in the evenings) and indulge in some art, music, drama and literature instead. On any given day, you can experience some excellent performances or exhibitions in the Mandi House Area, which houses a cluster of auditoriums and other seats of culture like the National School of Drama (NSD), the Kathak Kendra, Kamani Auditorium, Lalit Kala Akademi and Sangeet Natak Akademi. On the other side of the Mandi House circle is the Shri Ram Centre. Next comes Tansen Marg, where music and dance classes for children are held at Sangeet Bharati. Then there is Triveni Kala Sangam, the art gallery-cum-theatre. There are several other auditoriums that lie outside the Mandi House area. You can find them all on *pp. 85–88*.

ENJOY A NIGHT OUT

If you are a party animal then you must get a taste of Delhi's nightlife. Whether you are crazy about dancing or want to just lounge around, there are plenty of options the city has. So after a whole day of sightseeing just unwind at any of the classy pubs, bars or discothèques in the city. And if you still need more, go to India Gate for some late-night ice cream. The experience is incredible.



OLD DELHI



Founded as the historic city of Shahjahanabad by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in the 17th century, Old Delhi remains largely unchanged in its historic ambience. From ancient mansions and mosques to curio shops and spicy street food, Old Delhi is full of unexpected sights and surprises. While the buildings around may be ancient, the energy of the vibrant markets and bustling streets is ever fresh. Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Digambar Jain Temple, Gurudwara Sis Ganj Sahib and Baptist Church are some of the sights you should not miss on a tour of Old Delhi.

Jama Masjid



Jama Masjid: Mughal architecture at its best

Off Netaji Subhash Marg,
west of Red Fort

Metro Station: Chawri Bazaar

Open: All days of the week

Timings: 7am to Noon,
1.30pm to 6.30pm. Tourists not
allowed during prayer hours

Entry Fee: Free

Photography: ₹200

Soaring above the narrow streets of the old city, Jama Masjid, also known as **Masjid-i-Jahan Numa** or a “mosque commanding a view of the world”, is one of India’s largest mosques. Considered to be the last architectural work of Emperor Shah Jahan, it exhibits the lavishness of the fifth Mughal emperor. It was built over a period of six years — between 1650 and

1656 — by a workforce of over 5,000 workers. Ustad Khalil, a renowned sculptor, is accredited with the planning and designing of the mosque. The cost incurred on construction in those days was 10 lakh (1 million) rupees.

A magnificent flight of 35 sandstone steps takes you to the arched gateways (east, north and south) and through them to a large, rectangular, open courtyard that can hold as many as 25,000 devotees.

Jama Masjid exemplifies the best of Mughal architecture. Built of red sandstone, the main features of the mosque are three imposing black-and-white marble domes that surmount the enormous prayer hall and two 130-foot-high minarets that frame the great central arch. Modelled on the Moti Masjid in Agra, the mosque houses three gateways, of which the largest is located towards the east. Between the North and the South gates runs a delicate arcade, open on both sides so that the city can be seen from the courtyard. In the centre of the courtyard is an ablution tank, *hauz*, and in front of it is a raised platform called *dikka*.

The entire western chamber of the mosque is a big hall that stands on 260 pillars carved with Hindu and Jain design patterns.



TIPS

- Climb the minaret on the right for a spectacular bird's-eye view of the city.
- Shoes can be deposited outside for a small fee.

Courtyard of the Jama Masjid: 25,000 devotees can pray here at a time



HOLY TREASURES

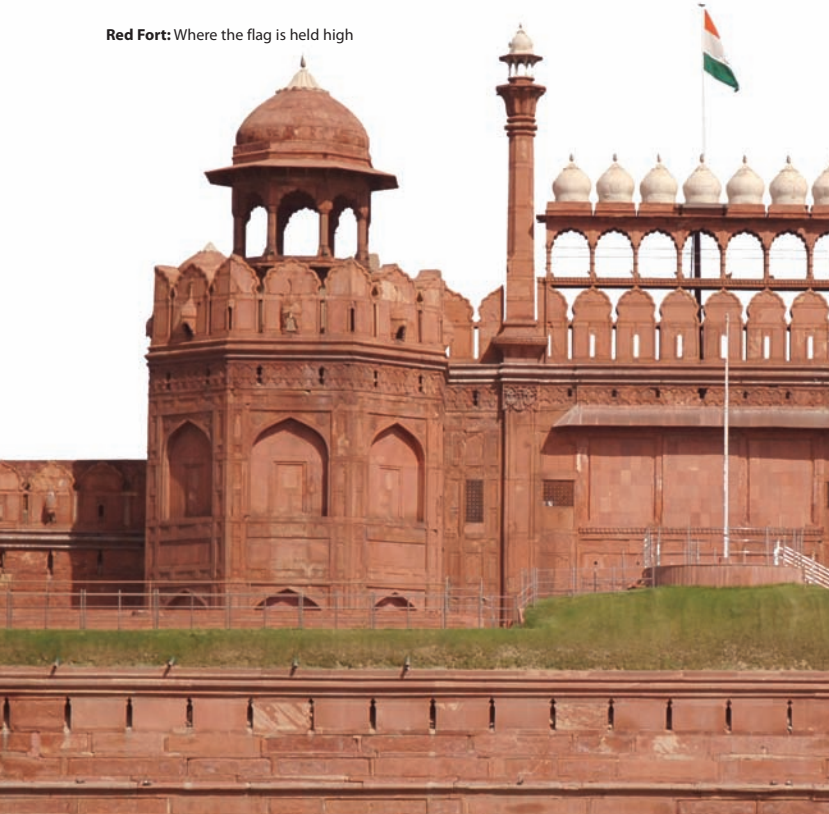
A white shrine in the northeast protects a collection of Prophet Muhammad's relics: a red beard-hair of Hazrat Muhammad, his *chappals* (slippers), his "footprint" embedded on a marble slab and two sections of the Quran written on deer skin.

The Red Fort

Lal Qila or the **Red Fort** named after the red sandstone of which it is built, remains an impressive testimony to Mughal grandeur. It was built between AD 1638 and 1648 after Shah Jahan decided to move his capital from Agra to the newly planned city of Shahjahanabad. It was designed by the Mughal architect Ustad Ahmad Lahori, who had worked with the Persian architect Ustad Isa Khan of the Taj Mahal fame.

Entry to the fort is through the huge three-storey **Lahori Gate** in the centre of the west wall. It leads to the covered bazaar or **Chhatta Chowk**, modelled on a Persian market where jewels, jewellery, carpets, etc. are sold. Beyond this lies the **Naubat** or **Naqqar Khana**, from where musicians used to play three times a day. It was also called Hathipol as everyone, except for the royal princes, had to dismount from their elephants here. The first floor of the Naubat Khana now houses a **War Memorial Museum**.

Red Fort: Where the flag is held high



Netaji Subhash Marg

Metro Station: Chandni Chowk

Open: Tue–Sun; Mondays closed

Timings: Sunrise to Sunset

Entry Fee: Rs 10 (Indians), Rs 250 (foreigners)

Photography: Nil (₹25 for video filming)

Sound & Light Shows: 6pm onwards in English and Hindi

Ticket: ₹80 (adults), ₹30 (children)

The museum contains arms and armaments used by the rulers of Mughal times. It also includes a brief description of India's First war of Independence in 1857.

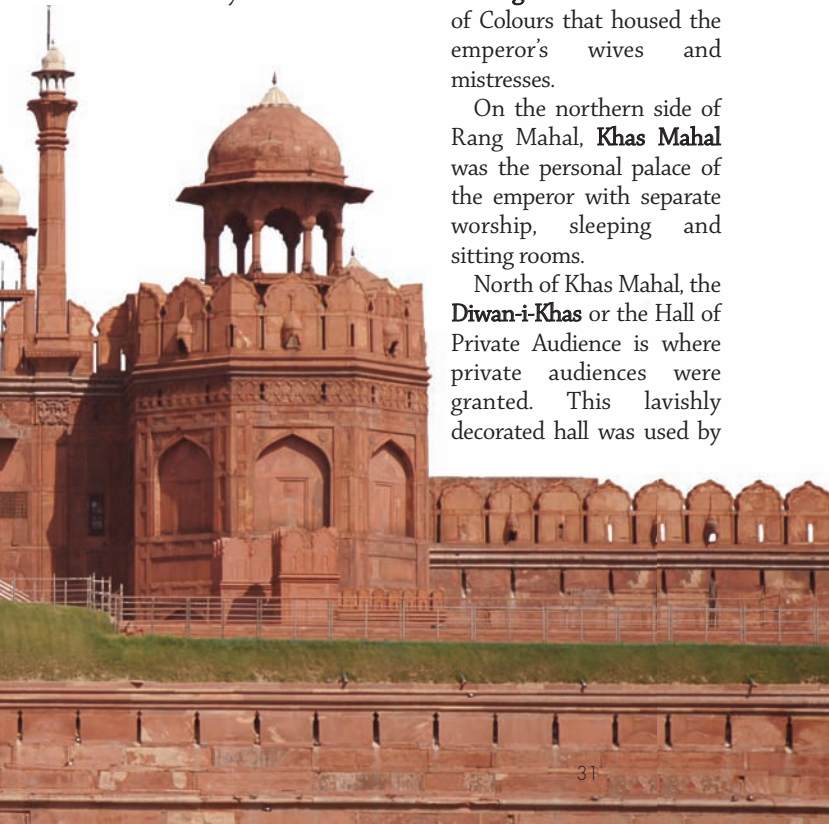
Beyond the Naubat Khana, a path runs east through wide lawns to the red-sandstone **Diwan-i-Aam** or the Hall of Public Audiences. The emperor used to sit on a

marble-pannelled alcove studded with gems and listen to the complaints of the common people here.

Immediately east of Diwan-i-Aam is **Rang Mahal** or the Palace of Colours that housed the emperor's wives and mistresses.

On the northern side of Rang Mahal, **Khas Mahal** was the personal palace of the emperor with separate worship, sleeping and sitting rooms.

North of Khas Mahal, the **Diwan-i-Khas** or the Hall of Private Audience is where private audiences were granted. This lavishly decorated hall was used by



the emperor to entertain his friends and people close to him. Though a pale shadow of its original glory, it used to be the best among all the pavilions because of its special architecture that included designs with floral *pietra* patterns on the columns and the wooden painted ceiling. This hall is made of marble, and the centrepiece of this hall used to be the **Peacock Throne**, studded with the famous Koh-i-Noor and other precious stones. It was taken away by Nadir Shah, the founder of the Afsharid dynasty, to Persia when he invaded the Mughal Empire in 1738. The **Tasbih-Khana** (Chamber of Telling Beads) consists of three rooms, behind which is the **Khwabgah** (Sleeping Chamber). On the northern screen of the former chamber is a representation of the Scales of Justice, which are suspended over a crescent amidst stars and clouds. Adjoining the eastern wall of the Khwabgah is the



octagonal **Musamman-Burj**, from where the emperor appeared before his subjects every morning.

The other attractions enclosed within this monument are the **Hammams** or the Royal Baths; the **Shahi Burj**, which used to be Shah

Left: Delicately carved and inlaid Jharokha

Bottom: Diwan-i-Khas, with elaborate decoration



Jahan's private working area. An exquisite mosque here, the **Moti Masjid** or the Pearl Mosque, named so because of the pearl-like lustre of its marble, was built by Aurangzeb for his private prayers.

The study of old site plans, paintings and photographs shows that many enchanting old buildings within the fort were demolished and replaced with military barracks and other modern constructions by the British Army, which occupied the Red Fort in 1857 and converted it into an army stronghold.

Today the Red Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is an important symbolic monument. India's Independence on 15 August 1947, was marked by the unfurling of the Indian flag on the Red Fort by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. This practice of celebrating Independence Day here continues to till date.

The key to the success of the Red Fort was that it had not merely been designed for pleasure. It may have contained glittering palaces but it was also the power base for the whole Empire, for internal governance and for external affairs.

Chhatta Chowk: Curious about curios



ROYAL TREAT

The diet of the Mughals comprised a variety of rich and delicious dishes. *Matbakh*, the imperial kitchen, was elaborately organized. A thousand rupees was spent daily in order to meet the expenses of the royal kitchen.

TAKE A WALK

Having seen the two majestic Mughal monuments of Old Delhi, your appetite for the city is bound to be whetted. So plan a tour preferably on a rickshaw or, better still, on foot. If you want to explore this area without getting lost in the maze, follow these places in the order we have prescribed.

Start from Red Fort or the eastern end of Chandni Chowk.



Digambar Jain Temple: An addition to a secular Delhi

Digambar Jain Temple

Visit the impressive, 16th-century redstone Digambar Jain Lal Mandir, believed to be the oldest Jain temple in Delhi. Located opposite the Red Fort at the intersection of Netaji Subhash Marg and Chandni Chowk, this temple remains a haven of tranquillity amid the noise and chaos of the main streets. Marble floors and columns, painted ceilings and gilded paintwork can be seen in the antechambers surrounding the main shrine, dedicated to Parshvanath, the twenty-third *tirthankar* of the Jains.

BIRD HOSPITAL

When we talk of hospitals, we think of doctors, patients and nurses — all human. But next to Digambar Jain Temple, in the same complex, is a unique hospital where birds are treated, putting into practice the Jain principle that all life is sacred.

Gauri Shankar Temple

Located next to the Digambar Jain Temple, this temple houses an 800-year-old brown *lingam* (Lord Shiva's phallic symbol) encased in marble. Surrounded by snakes made of silver, the *lingam*, according to the Hindus, represents a "cosmic pillar, the centre of universe, or life itself".

A flight of marble stairs flanked by pillars covered with chains and bells will take you directly to the courtyard. The main attraction here is a marble chair of Bhagat Swaroup Brahmachari, a Hindu saint who spent more than 50 years in this temple. Inside the temple are idols of Lord Shiva (Shankar) and his consort Parvati (Gauri) wearing real gold jewellery. The *lingam* has a silver water vessel above it from which droplets of water fall continuously. The wall behind the idols has beautiful silver paintings depicting the scenes from the life of Lord Shiva.

LEGEND

A Maratha soldier, Apa Ganga Dhar, was badly injured during a battle. He was hanging between life and death when he prayed to the Supreme Lord and promised to build Him a temple if he survived. Miraculously, he survived against all odds and built this temple. His name is inscribed in Hindi at the lower end of the spire near the main entrance. However, the present building of the temple is new, probably constructed in 1959 by Seth Jaipuria as the other inscription over the windows declares in Hindi.

Bhagirath Palace

Across the street is a flower market and just behind it is Bhagirath Palace, famous for its electronic goods today. This vast European-style house (later Delhi Bank Building) was given to Begum Samru — the widow of Walter Reinhard, a European mercenary officer who commanded a small army at Sardhana near Meerut — in 1806 by Akbar Shah II. Begum Samru is believed to have been a Kashmiri nautch girl with the most accomplished band of dancers in her troupe. When Bahadur Shah Zafar was captured for his role in the "Mutiny of 1857", he was made to stay here. In the mid-20th century Seth Bhagirath Mal bought the building and hence the name.

Central Baptist Church

A little ahead is the Central Baptist Church, one of the oldest churches of Delhi. In fact, it is the oldest Christian mission in the whole of the Northern Indian region. This well-maintained church with original motifs and carvings is worth admiring. The southern entrance of the church has a large deep colonnaded porch supported on thick circular columns. Likewise, the other two sides have double-height verandahs with semi-circular arched openings. The walls of the church have memorial tablets remembering the faithful that devoted their lives in service of the church.

Dariba Kalan

To the east of Central Baptist Church is Dariba Kalan, which derives its name from a Persian phrase *dur e be baha*, meaning “pearl without compare”. During Shah Jahan’s time, this street used to be the popular market of precious stones, gems, gold and silver jewellery. Even today it is known as Jewellers’ Street though most of the shops in the street now deal in silver and costume jewellery. Because of the wide choice available, this is a very good market for purchasing new or old silver jewellery. Other than jewellery, a few shops here also deal in authentic attar, a special type of perfume.

DARK HISTORY

In 1739, under the Persian invader Nadir Shah the street witnessed a bloody massacre. The soldiers of his army killed many innocent citizens of Delhi and looted precious gem stones and gold jewellery stored in the shops at Dariba Kalan.

Gurudwara Sisganj

The next stop is Fountain Chowk with Sisganj as its main attraction. It was here that Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, was beheaded on Mughal emperor Aurangzeb’s orders in 1675 as he refused to convert to Islam. It is believed that nobody had the courage to pick up his corpse. Suddenly it started pouring and two followers of the guru ran away with his head and body.



Gurudwara Sisganj: Where Guru Tegh Bahadur was beheaded

The head was taken to Chakk Nanaki in Anandpur Sahib (in Punjab) and the body to Rakab Ganj (in Delhi).

Almost a century later, Baba Baghel Singh, a follower of Guru Tegh Bahadur, discovered the site where the Guru was beheaded, and initiated the construction of Sisganj Gurudwara. The trunk of the banyan tree under which the Guru was killed is still there on the premises. One can also see the enclosed structure where the Guru was imprisoned before being beheaded.

Sunehri Masjid

Adjacent to Gurudwara Sisganj Sahib, these triple onion-shaped copper domes were once gilded, which had earned this mosque its name — Sunehri Masjid or “Golden Mosque”. It was built by Roshan-ud-Daula Zafar Khan — who was *bakshi* under the emperor and is remembered as a notorious bribe-taker — in AD 1721 during the reign of Muhammad Shah. The mosque’s prayer hall is elevated above street-level shops and consists of an open courtyard.

KATL-E-AAM

It is said that the Persian invader Nadir Shah sat on the terrace of the Sunehri Masjid for hours on March 11, 1739 and watched his soldiers pillage the golden bazaars of Chandni Chowk. The Katl-e-Aam (killing of everyone in sight) that he had ordered resulted in 30,000 deaths.

Fatehpuri Mosque

A mosque built in 1650 by Fatehpuri Begum of Shah Jahan marks the end of Chandni Chowk, the lane that connects the Red Fort and this Masjid. It is said that the road was actually a canal with fountains through the road and there were gardens around the canal and fountains. So on a moonlit night, it would almost seem



Fatehpuri Mosque: Proportionally not as perfect as Jama Masjid

as if the sky and come down on earth. With an unusual-shaped water tank, this is a fairly big mosque though it appears small from outside. It is built completely of red sandstone and is the only single-domed congregational mosque in the city.

Khari Baoli

Take the road towards the right of Fatehpuri Masjid and you will reach Khari Baoli, Asia's largest wholesale market of spice, nuts and herbs. It is indeed a unique experience to see the process of loading, carrying and unloading of huge sacks of items from manual trolleys; shopkeepers busy in dealing with the customers; customers selecting large quantities of items; and weary labourers resting and chatting aloud.



Ghalib's Haveli: Will the poetry be restored?

Ghalib's Haveli

A portion of Mirza Ghalib's Haveli is located at Gali Qasim Jaan in Ballimaran. The celebrated Urdu poet stayed here 1865–69 in the last phase of his life. The remains of the Haveli have been recently restored to their original splendour.

Chunnamal ki Haveli

It welcomes you with its huge courtyards, Belgium mirrors, intricate artwork and exquisite details. Chunnamal ki Haveli has been maintained in its original form by Anil Pershad, a descendant of Chunnamal, and his family. The entire stretch of Chandni Chowk can be viewed from its terraces. The Haveli has been standing in the heart of Chandni Chowk since 1864 after Lala Chunnamal emerged as the wealthiest person in Delhi post 1857.

TAKE A BREAK

Eating

When you are in Old Delhi, you just can't miss the food there. The streets buzz with activity and are filled with the aroma of food. For the connoisseurs, there are restaurants like Karim's. For the food historians, there's a chance to taste Butter Chicken at Moti Mahal.



Chandni Chowk: The food street

STREET FOOD

Chandni Chowk, often called the food capital of India, is famous for its street food. This variety consists of snacks, especially chaat. If you wish to enjoy it, shed your high-brow attitude to soak in the flavours and delicacies. Come on, everybody... Yes, it's a kind of celebration in congregation. Chandni Chowk resembles a fair everyday. The streets are lined with *halwais* (sweet-sellers), *namkeenwallahs* (sellers of savouries) and *paranthewallahs* (sellers of rich, flaky breads soaked in ghee).

A good idea would be to start with the **Paranthewali Gali**. It became a famous gourmet locality when the parantha shops moved here in the 1870s. This lane has been the haunt of many

celebrities of India. In the years after Independence, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and his family members — Indira Gandhi and Vijaylaxmi Pandit — came here to take their parantha meals. Jayaprakash Narayan and Atal Behari Vajpayee were also among the regular visitors.

Though the number of shops in this lane has reduced — one wonders if their owners are more interested in McDonald's franchises — there still are a few left from the good old days. Perhaps the oldest among these is **Pt Gaya Prasad Shiv Charan**, established in 1872. Others include **Pandit Devi Dayal's** (1886) and **Kanhaiya Lal Durga Prasad's Parantha Shop** (1875).

The paranthas are fried in pure ghee in cast-iron pans. They are served with Mint Chutney, Banana–Tamarind Chutney, vegetable pickle and Aloo Subzi. Their taste depends on their fillings. Half a century back, you could get only a few varieties — Aloo Parantha, Gobhi Parantha and Matar Parantha, stuffed with potato, cauliflower and peas respectively. While these continue to be the most popular, there are several new variants. These include lentils, fenugreek, radish, *papad*, carrot and mixed. Besides, there are paranthas which cost slightly more and include those stuffed with paneer, mint, lemon, chilly, dry fruits, cashew, raisins, almond, *rabdi*, *khurchan*, banana, *karela*, lady's finger and tomato.

The real proof of the Delhi street food lies in the **chaat**. The original chaat is a mixture of potato pieces, crispy fried bread, Dahi Bhalla, gram and tangy-salty spices. The mixture is garnished with sour home-made Indian chilly and *saunth* (dried ginger and tamarind sauce), fresh green coriander leaves and yoghurt. However, there are several other popular variants now, including the one with an Aloo Tikki.

Let us explore a few of the chaat shops.

Shree Balaji Chaat Bhandar (1462, Chandni Chowk; Noon to 10pm) is perhaps the best and most popular chaatwallah in Chandni Chowk. We particularly recommend the Papdi Chaat with its liberal inclusion of Kachaalu Chutney, Khasta Papdis and *saunth*. It is unlike anything you get anywhere in Delhi.

Bishan Swaroop (1421, Chandni Chowk; 10am to 10pm) is one of those gems tucked away in the chaotic by-lanes of Chandni Chowk which keep alive the magic of another time, another taste. Since 1923, this tiny little stall has dished out just three items: awesome Aloo Chaat, fabulous Aloo ke Kulle and mouth-watering Fruit Chaat.



Fruit juice stall at Chandni Chowk

You cannot afford to give a miss to the authentic chaat at **Lala Babu Chaat Bhandar** (77, Chandni Chowk, Near McDonald's; 11am to 10pm). Glorious Gol Gappe served with a type of Jal Jeera that's packed with *harad* (a digestive), kachoris stuffed with potato and peas, Gobhi-Matar Samosas, Dahi Bhalla and Matar Paneer Tikki are the fastest-selling items here.

Jugal Kishor Ramji Lal (23, Dujana House, Chawri Bazaar, Chandni Chowk; 10.30am to 10pm) is best known for the Fruit Chaat that has become a quintessential part of the sounds and sights of Chandni Chowk. Though they do offer a version of Pao Bhaji and Aloo Tikki, it's the Fruit Chaat that is the winner here.

Dahi Bhalla need not always be a part of chaat; it can be served as a principal dish as you will find at **Natraj Dahi Bhalla**. The delicacy called Dahi Bhalla is a deep-fried *urad dal* dumpling smothered in whipped curd. Often, it is streaked with chocolate-brown laces of sweet-sour tamarind chutney. Pink pomegranate seeds glisten in the folds of the curd. Natraj is located near Bhai Mati Das Chowk at the turning to Chandni Chowk metro station.

Kachori, usually stuffed with pulses and served with potato curry, is another delicacy that makes your mouth water. **Jung Bahadur Kachori Wala** (1104, Chhatta Madan Gopal, Chandni Chowk; 10.30am to 8pm) is perhaps the most famous for its Urad Dal Kachori, which is served with Aloo Subzi. This place is surely worth the adventure.

On the sweeter side, Rabdi Faluda is a must. And the place to have it is **Giani di Hatti** near the Fatehpuri Mosque. It has now become an ice-cream parlour specializing in exotic flavours like Litchi and Bubblegum. Apart from standard ice creams, they also serve milkshakes, fruit shakes, ice-cream shakes and sundaes.

If you are interested in kulfi — a flavoured frozen dessert made of milk — venture towards the Ajmeri Gate. The popular name here is **Siya Ram Nannumal Kulfiwale** (629, Gali Lodan, Ajmeri Gate; 7am to 4pm). What you get here is kulfi as kulfi should be — sinful, scrumptious and oh-so-splendid! Order any flavour — Kesar, Pista, Rose, Kewra, Banana, Mango, or Pomegranate. Or better still, order one of each.... Indulge!

Coming back to Chandni Chowk, you meet the **Old and Famous Jalebiwala** just before you enter Dariba Kalan. Refresh yourself with a delicious plate of hot *jalebis* — a sweet made by deep-frying batter in a kind of pretzel shape and then soaked in syrup.

Also, don't miss the Jama Masjid area that buzzes with activity. The aroma of food wafts to your nose from the Urdu Bazaar facing Gate No. 1 of the Masjid and a side street called **Matia Mahal**. The smell of fresh fish, aromatic kebabs and fried chicken is in the air. Vendors sell kebabs and tikkas (made of buffalo meat) wrapped in *rumali* roti (paper-thin bread) at throwaway prices.



A man buying musk-melon at Chandni Chowk

<p>KARIM HOTEL NORTH INDIAN 16, Gali Kebabian, Jama Masjid, Delhi Ph: 23264981, 23269880</p>	<p>The Mutton Burrahs here are easily the best in the city. They are practically the only place to serve Nihari and Paaya, which are all sold out by 8.30am Other unmissables are Stew, Mutton Korma, Shammi Kabab and Shahjahani Korma.</p>
<p>GHANTEWALA CONFECTIONERS MITHAI, NAMKEEN, SNACKS — VEGETARIAN 1862A, Chandni Chowk, Delhi, Ph: 23280490, 23241851</p>	<p>Ghantewala at Chandni Chowk is more than 200 years old. The sweets here are prepared in pure desi ghee. Highly recommended are the Sohan Halwa Papdi, Pista Samosa and Badam Burfi — truly sinful pieces of heaven on earth.</p>
<p>AAP KI PASAND TEA BAR Sterling House, 15, Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj, Delhi, Ph: 23260373, 23287775, 9810402028</p>	<p>Delhi's only tea boutique worth its name, this place bursts with atmosphere. Midway between New and Old Delhi, tourists in the know and locals in search of that magical cuppa beat a retreat to this store-cum-drawing room. Even if tea is not your thing, you can pick up gifts for friends.</p>
<p>MOTI MAHAL NORTH INDIAN 3703, Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj, Delhi, Ph: 23273011</p>	<p>Even though it has distinctly frayed at the edges, the restaurant offers the cuisine it truly pioneered in the city — Dal Makhni, Butter Chicken, Reshmi Kabab, Murgh Musallam. After all these years, the Tandoori Chicken is still succulent.</p>
<p>CHOR BIZARRE NORTH INDIAN (Kashmiri) Hotel Broadway, 4/15A, Asaf Ali Road, Delhi, Ph: 23273841, 23273823–25</p>	<p>Chor Bizarre is one of the few restaurants to serve Kashmiri food and attempts to replicate a 'thieves market' in its décor. Specially recommended for non-vegetarians is the Tabak Maaz. Also good are the Yakhni, Rishta and Goshtaba, besides the wonderful greens — Haaq.</p>

BUTTER CHICKEN IN DELHI

Butter Chicken originated at the Moti Mahal in the 1950s. The restaurant was famous for its Tandoori Chicken. The cooks there would recycle the chicken juices that were left over by adding butter and



tomato. Once, be it by chance or by design, this sauce was tossed around with pieces of Tandoori Chicken. And the rest is history. Butter Chicken was born and soon set tongues drooling the world over.

Butter Chicken is creamy with thick, red tomato gravy. It tastes slightly sweet. The sauce percolates into the chicken pieces, making them soft and juicy. This melt-in-mouth dish tastes best with tandoori roti or naan.

Shopping

Before you venture into Old Delhi, remember it can be an exhausting and trying experience. You may find it too crowded, dirty and hot. But the labour will be worth it for the cheap bargains it will fetch and the adventure it will offer.

CHANDNI CHOWK: It is the perfect place to shop in. This densely populated market has been around for more than three centuries and was once visited by merchants from Turkey, China and even Holland. You may buy curios and souvenirs from here. **Dariba Kalan** is known for its pearl, gold and silver jewellery and attar (natural perfumes). **Gulab Singh Johri Mal**, established in 1819, are well-known manufacturers and exporters of attar. A visit to **Khari Baoli** is a must for spices — don't forget spices are what connected India to the West. **Kinari Bazaar** is the best place to look for *zari* and *zardozi* trimmings and tinsel. The cloth bazaar of **Katra Neel** offers all kinds of fabrics such as silks, satin, crepe, cotton and muslin. **Bhagirath Palace** is Asia's largest market for electrical goods and also offers medical equipment and allopathic



Window shopping in Old Delhi

medicines. **Moti Bazaar** is famous for shawls and pearls and **Tilak Bazaar** for chemicals.

NAI SARAK: A popular book-shopping destination in Old Delhi is Nai Sarak. Connecting the main Chandni Chowk Road with Chawri Bazaar, Nai Sarak has numerous wholesale and retail shops selling college and school textbooks. Just a left turn from the famous Paranthewali Gali will take you to Nai Sarak. You will also find shops that sell only stationery items. The market remains closed on Sundays.

CHOR BAZAAR: Located near the Red Fort and Lajpat Rai Market, Chor Bazaar literally means "Thieves' Market". From electronic items to designer clothes, you can find everything here. Prices are enticingly low but the life of the product can't be guaranteed. You have to depend on verbal assurances and on your own judgement.

CHHATTA CHOWK: The Chhatta Chowk Bazaar, which dates back to the 17th century, was meant for ladies in veil. In this covered thoroughfare leading up to the Red Fort, the caravan traders would lay out their wares and move away. The ladies could then come and make their choice without being observed. Today,

the market has 40-odd shops selling artificial and semi-precious jewellery, embroidered bags, hand-painted wall hangings and 'antiques' with dubious authenticity.

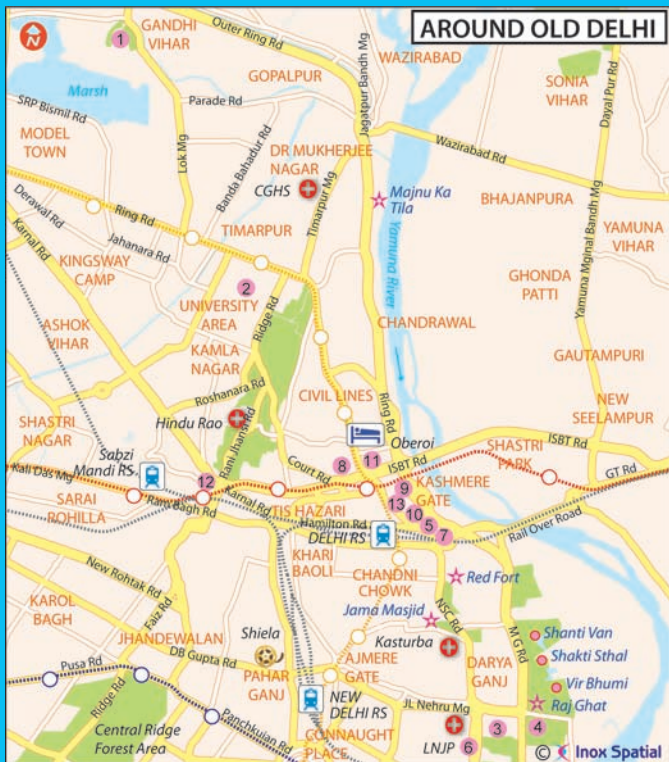
DARYAGANJ BOOK MARKET: Be it the latest best-seller or an out-of-print book, Delhi is a hot destination for buying books. Stretching for more than a kilometre, the Daryaganj Old Book Market is often referred to as the world's largest weekly book market. It is held every Sunday.

Most of the books available here are used. Besides the throw-away price, the availability of a wide variety and out-of-print, difficult-to-find books draws buyers here. From fiction to medical sciences, architecture to cookery, comics to atlases, classics to magazines, and management to hobbies, name any genre and you can find it here.



Daryaganj Book Market: A wide range of used books

AROUND OLD DELHI



REFERENCE

- 1 Coronation Park
- 2 Delhi University
- 3 Ferozeshah Kotla
- 4 Gandhi Darshan
- 5 GPO
- 6 Khuni Darwaza

- 7 Lothian Cemetery
- 8 Nicholson Cemetery
- 9 Northern Railways Office
- 10 Old Residency
- 11 Qudsia Garden
- 12 Ridge
- 13 St James' Church



Hotel



Cinema



Hospital



Main Attraction



Metro Station

AROUND OLD DELHI



When Shah Jahan built his city in 1648 on the western banks of River Yamuna, a line of ghats or steps leading to the water was constructed along the riverbanks. It is difficult to believe today — Yamuna has receded many miles since. The riverbank to the east of the Old City is now the cremation site of some of modern India's most revered leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Rajeev Gandhi and others.

To the north of the walled city of Shahajahanabad lie reminders of the first revolution of Indian freedom struggle. 1857 is the year that will always be remembered as a landmark year, as a beginning that had its conclusion after 90 years. This side of Delhi is all about the last days of the empires — both Mughal and British.

TO THE EAST OF OLD DELHI

To the east of the walled city, between the Ring Road (Mahatma Gandhi Road) and River Yamuna are the cremation sites of some revered leaders of India. Pay homage to these architects of modern India.

Raj Ghat



Raj Ghat: Follow the honest and righteous path

Built in the memory of “Father of the Nation”, **Raj Ghat** marks the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi, who was assassinated on 30 January 1948. His open-to-sky memorial has an eternal flame that keeps burning through the day and night. “*Hey Ram*”, the last words uttered by Gandhi, are inscribed on the *samadhi*.

As a sign of respect, visitors are required to remove their shoes when they come here. Located here are the **Gandhi National Museum** and **Gandhi Darshan**. The former houses one of the biggest museums of Gandhi with a library of about 60,000 books on him. Gandhi Darshan on 36 acres of land has a film auditorium, conference facilities for national and international camps, a children’s corner and a library. This is a peaceful spot, with the Ring road running at a distance and the Yamuna on the other side.

If you wish to discover more, walk along the banks. In the same line are memorials of other former Prime Ministers of India.

Ring Road
Metro Station:
Indraprastha
Open: All days
Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
Entry: Free
Prayer Meetings:
5pm, Fridays

Shanti Vana: Adjacent to Raj Ghat lies the Shanti Vana (which means 'the forest of peace'). This is the place where India's first Prime Minister Jawahar Lal Nehru was cremated. The area is beautifully maintained with a park adorned by trees which were planted by visiting dignitaries and heads of state.

Shakti Sthal: Shakti Sthal (Place of Power) is the memorial of India's first lady Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. She was assassinated during her third tenure as Prime Minister in 1984. This memorial in Delhi is located between the Ring Road and the Yamuna river near Raj Ghat. It is open on all days and is free to all. The monument is a huge monolith of grayish stone.

Veer Bhumi: This is the memorial of Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated on 21 May 1991 in Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu. He was the Prime Minister of India 1984–89. The memorial, literally meaning 'Land of Brave', was recently adorned with a large lotus in bloom, intricately carved out in stone. Also, there are 46 lotuses surrounding it signifying the number of years Rajiv Gandhi lived.

Vijay Ghat: Meaning 'Victory Platform', it is the memorial of Lal Bahadur Shastri, the second Prime Minister of India. The name was given in honour of the 1965 victory against Pakistan.



Raj Ghat: Follow the honest and righteous path

Feroz Shah Kotla

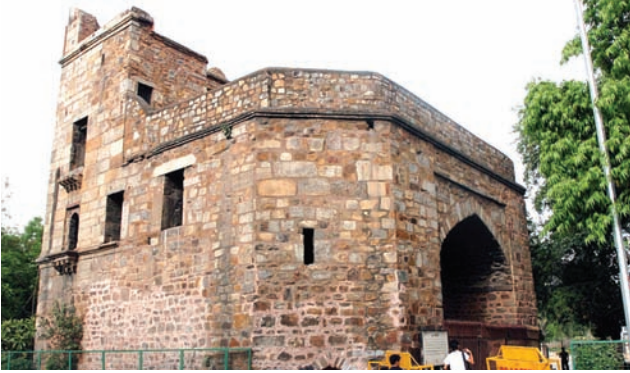
Feroz Shah Kotla, also known as Kotla, was a fortress built by Feroz Shah Tughlaq when he founded Ferozabad, his version of Delhi, in AD 1360. Only some ramparts and ruins remain now. Located on Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, it has entry from a gate near the Indian Express Building. The southern and western walls are the surviving remnants of the **Jami Masjid**, one of the largest mosques of the Tughlaq period. The fortress rests on a series of cells on the ground and is still in use. It is built of local quartzite stone. The prayer hall and cloisters on the sides of the courtyard have all disappeared. The mosque, it is said, was so impressive that Timur, the Mongol conqueror who sacked Delhi in 1398, used to say his Friday prayers here. He was so impressed by its beauty that he erected a similar mosque at Samarkand in Iran. Later in 1759, Emadul Mulk, the Prime Minister of the Mughal emperor Alamgir Sani, murdered his emperor here.

North of Jami Masjid stands a 13-metre-high sandstone **Ashokan Pillar** on a rubble-built, three-tiered pyramidal structure. Feroz Shah Tughlaq brought this 27-tonne pillar to Delhi from Meerut, where the great Emperor Ashoka had erected it. Like all Ashokan Pillars, this one also served the purpose of spreading Buddhism and its doctrines among the people. Though made of sandstone, the pillar was so polished that till date it looks as if it were made of some metal. The best time to see it is in the afternoon on a bright day as the pillar glitters like gold when the sun's rays fall on it.

Eid Prayer: Muslim devotees offer prayers (*namaz*) on the auspicious occasion of Eid at the medieval mosque of Feroz Shah Kotla in New Delhi



Khooni Darwaza



Khooni Darwaza: Witness to bloody murders

Situated opposite Feroze Shah Kotla, **Khooni Darwaza** or the “Bloodstained Gate” was built by Sher Shah Suri as one of the gates to his city of Ferozabad (*see p. 10*). It was known as the Kabuli Darwaza as caravans to Afghanistan used to pass through it. The gateway is 15.5 m high and is built of Delhi quartzite stone. Three staircases lead to different levels of the gate. The gate became popular as the Khooni Darwaza in the Mughal days. During Sher Shah’s time too, it was used presumably both as an outpost and as the place where heads of criminals were exhibited, since it was on the outskirts of the city. Emperor Jahangir, in the early decades of the 17th century, ordered the killing of the two sons of Abdur Rahim Khan-e-Khanan here on the charges of being traitors. The bodies of Khan-e-Khanan’s sons were left here to be eaten by birds of prey. Aurangzeb hanged the head of his elder brother Dara Shikoh at the gate after he ousted his father Shah Jahan.

BLOODBATH

On September 22, 1857 Major Hodson murdered the sons of Bahadur Shah Zafar, Mirza Mughal and Mirza Khizr Sultan, and grandson Mirza Abu Bakar, at the gate after the king’s surrender to the British. The Khooni Darwaza saw bloodshed again during the riots of 1947. Many refugees were murdered here while they were proceeding towards Purana Qila for their safety.

Shankar's International Dolls Museum



Nehru House, Bahadur
Shah Zafar Marg, ITO,
Ph: 23316970–74

Nearest Metro Station:
Pragati Maidan

Timings: 10am to 6pm

Entry Fee: Rs10 (adults),
Rs 5 (children)

Days Closed: Mondays

Photography: Not allowed

Shankar's International Dolls Museum houses as many as 6,000 dolls from more than 85 countries. It also has a collection of dolls amassed from different parts of India. Conceptualized by K Shankar Pillai, a political cartoonist, the museum was set up in 1965 in the building of Children's Book Trust. In 1980, the museum bagged the first prize — Golden Peacock Feather — at the Dolls Biennale held in Cracow, Poland.

The museum is divided into two sections. One section houses exhibits from the European countries, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, etc., while the other section has exhibits from India, the Middle East and Africa.

Dressed in their multi-hued traditional outfits, these dolls give an insight into the facial features, costumes and lifestyles of the people of their origin. They also explicate other important factors like the folklore, climatic conditions and mythologies of the place. Some of the dolls to look out for are the 250-year-old doll from Switzerland, the Kabuki Dancer of Japan, costume doll from Bulgaria, Indonesia's bridal pairs, Australian Maoris, Mexican Aborigines and dolls from African countries.

The museum also has a **dolls workshop** and a **dolls designing centre** of its own. At the designing centre, Indian dolls are made with accurate details. The dolls made here are exchanged with dolls of other countries or sold to collectors and museums in India and abroad.

TO THE NORTH OF OLD DELHI

The area north of Old Delhi just beyond the Red Fort, resonates with memories of 1857. The stretch between the Kashmiri Gate and the Old Delhi General Post Office (GPO) witnessed many of the dramatic events that took place between May and September 1857. You may take a short walk of about 3 km to try and visualize the sequence of events.

A few other prominent landmarks of North Delhi are the University area, where students from afar come in pursuit of higher studies, and Civil Lines, an orderly civilian enclave created by the British.

Lothian Cemetery

Located on Lothian Road near Kashmiri Gate on the northeast side of the railway bridge, Lothian Cemetery is one of the earliest British cemeteries in which the members of Delhi's Christian community were buried from 1808 to 1867. A huge Celtic cross here was built as a memorial to the people killed in the 1857 War. This cross fell down a few years back and is being restored.

The cemetery has many marked and unmarked graves, some of which have very elaborate tombstones. The marked graves are of the pre-war period. Among them, the most



Lothian Cemetery

peculiar grave is of Thomas Dunnes, which is an eight-pillared building surmounted by a dome. Colonel James Skinner built this large red sandstone memorial in memory of his close friend. The cemetery is now closed to public viewing.

Old Delhi GPO

The Old Delhi GPO (General Post Office), a short distance away from the Red Fort on Lothian Road, is an imposing white building with red borders to indicate the postal department. It witnessed much action during the First War of Independence in 1857. Right opposite the GPO lie the **ruins of the British Magazine**, which was blown up by Captain Willoughby on May 11, 1857 so that it wouldn't fall into the hands of the sepoy who had revolted against the British. As you walk towards Kashmiri Gate, you will see the other remaining and bigger portion of this magazine — notice the architecture of this arched building.

On a traffic island, about 100 metres from the British Magazine stands the **Telegraph Memorial**, an obelisk that honours the telegraph operators who transmitted the news of the revolt to the British garrison at Ambala, and which helped the British revive themselves in the 1857 War.

The Old Residency

As you walk down the road, you will see Guru Gobind Singh Indraprastha University campus housed in an old British-barrack kind of building. A little distance inside the gate is **Dara Shikoh's Library**. Dara Shikoh, the son of Shah Jahan, was eventually murdered by his brother Aurangzeb. This building, which was originally a haveli of Mardan Ali Khan, the Mughal viceroy of the Punjab, later became the residence of David Ochterlony, the first British official in Delhi. Currently, it serves as the office of the Department of Archaeology, Govt of NCT of Delhi. What makes this building different is the superimposition of British architecture on top of Mughal. The original library was obviously completely Mughal, but the British added their trademark columns to add a verandah around the building. All this makes this building very Mughal from inside and absolutely British on the exterior. The books of this library were lost during the 1857 War.

St James' Church

A little ahead on Lothian Street is the yellow-and-white St James' Church, one of the most beautiful churches in Delhi. Built in the shape of a Greek cross and surmounted by an imposing eight-leafed dome, it is housed in a huge campus, surrounded by well-maintained gardens. It was erected by James Skinner, the legendary commander of Skinner's Horse. An inlaid marble slab in front of the altar marks his grave. To the north of the church are the graves of the Skinner family and some martyrs of the 1857 War. It also has the grave of William Fraser, the British Commissioner and a dear friend of Skinner's, whose Bungalow is just around the corner.

St James' Church: In the shape of a Greek Cross



A PROMISE FULFILLED

In 1800, a 22-year-old soldier lying wounded on a battlefield vowed to build a church if he survived. James Skinner rose later to become a Colonel in the East India Company army, the legendary commander of Skinner's Horse. He built this church several years later in the shape of a Greek cross and for ₹80,000.

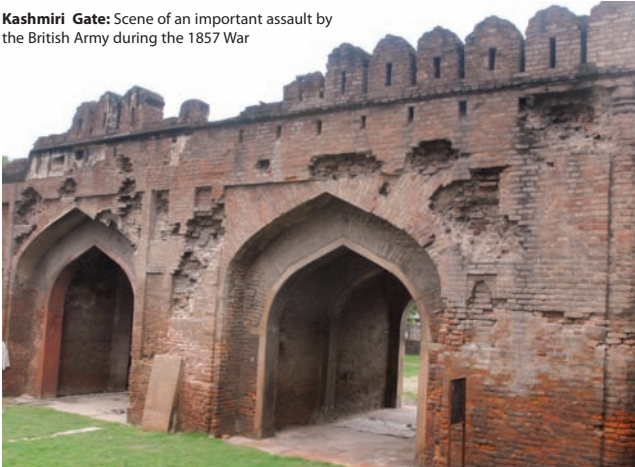
Northern Railway Office

Down the road from St James' Church is a beautiful white domed building shining at the end of a street. This fanciful structure, built in an Indo-Saracenic blend, was British Commissioner William Fraser's bungalow. It is now an office of the Northern Railway. Visitors are not allowed inside the building. Built in 1803, this was originally the *tekhkhana* (dungeon) of Ali Mardan, the Mughal viceroy of Punjab.

Kashmiri Gate

Kashmiri Gate is one of the many gates that lead to the walled city of Shahajahanabad. This gateway was the centre of action during the First War of Indian Independence. It was at this point that the fiercest battle was fought between the freedom fighters and the British before the British regained control over Delhi in September 1857. This is the only gate with two arched gateways and was built during Shah Jahan's period. One gateway was for entry and the other for exit. Kashmiri Gate is called so as it was through this gate that the royal families would leave for the cool climes of Kashmir every year in the summer. Later, when the British established Civil Lines as their residential area, the area around Kashmiri Gate became a busy marketplace.

Kashmiri Gate: Scene of an important assault by the British Army during the 1857 War



Qudsia Bagh



Qudsia Bagh gate

This garden was laid down by Nawab Qudsia Begum in 1748 on what is now called Sham Nath Marg. She was a dancing girl who later became the wife of Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah. Today, most of the garden has been used to construct the Inter-State Bus Terminus, but once it used to house a waterfall, a mosque, a summer lodge and a beautiful garden. It was designed in the typical Persian Charbagh style. The only remains of the Bagh now are its imposing western gateway, the Qudsia Mosque located near the Ring Road–Boulevard Road intersection about 300 metres east, and a couple of pavilions carved in red sandstone.

DEAL OF DEATH

Emperor Muhammad Shah lost Delhi to Nadir Shah in 1739. In events that followed Nadir Shah massacred at least 30,000 people of Delhi and looted the famous Peacock throne, the Koh-i-Noor diamond and unimaginable wealth. In addition Muhammad Shah had to marry his daughter to Nadir Shah's youngest son.

Nicholson Cemetery

The Nicholson Cemetery on Lala Hardev Sahai Marg remains open from 10 am to 5 pm. The cemetery's most prominent grave is of Brigadier General John Nicholson, a brilliant fighting man who was reputed to display the severed heads of criminals on his desk, like eccentric paperweights. His tomb lies near the cemetery's entrance, barricaded by a jasmine vine-clad iron grille.

At the age of 35, Nicholson died after he was shot in the back while leading an assault on the Lahore Gate during the 1857 War. Beside Nicholson's grave are a few other graves of soldiers who died in the 1857 War, and of British children who succumbed to the heat or to disease.

Civil Lines

What you see as the organized and posh Civil Lines today was actually built after the 1857 War when a group of Europeans moved out of the city and constructed large bungalows in a secluded area in order to separate themselves from the Indians. That was how Civil Lines came into being. This was the area that served as the capital when it was shifted from Calcutta to Delhi till Lutyens' Delhi came into being. The **Old Secretariat**, a long white building, is on the opposite side and houses the Vidhan Sabha (Legislative Assembly) of Delhi.

Coronation Memorial

Located at Burari Road near Nirankari Sarovar, beyond Kingsway Camp, the Coronation Memorial is marked by a sandstone pillar.

Coronation Memorial



In 1877, the British held the Durbar here. Queen Victoria was declared the Empress of India and all the major rulers of the country paid homage to the queen. The Durbar was held here again in 1903, when Edward VII ascended the throne. The grandest Durbar was organized during the accession of King George V in 1911. The king himself was present to announce the shift of the capital from Calcutta to Delhi. This is the place that gave shape to Delhi as the capital of India. The foundation stone of the new capital was laid in the neighbourhood of this site but was later transplanted in the Raisina Hills.



The Ridge

The Ridge, also known as Delhi's green lungs, gives you a chance to breathe some fresh air. The Northern Ridge sprawls along the Delhi University area and is divided by Rani Jhansi Road. Situated here is the Jeebgarh or Fatehgarh, a red sandstone spire built by the British to commemorate the siege and capture of the city. A large part of this Mutiny Memorial has been preserved inside the Buddha Jayanti Park. Within the park, an ornamental island hosts a large, gilt-layered statue of the Buddha. Every May, Buddhists gather here to celebrate the Buddha Jayanti.

Delhi University

Most Indian students dream of studying in the North Campus of Delhi University. Of the top colleges here the most famous is St Stephen's, whose grand building was designed by Walter George in 1938. The Vice Chancellor's office is equally charming. The place where Lord Mountbatten, India's last Viceroy, proposed successfully to Lady Edwina is now the Registrar's office. Several of the colleges, including Hindu and St Stephen's, were originally located at Kashmiri Gate and later shifted to the premises of the University in the early 20th century.

TAKE A BREAK

Eating

The food that you get outside the walled city may not be so typical of Delhi yet there are several good places to eat at. You'll get a range of ambiances at different price ranges.

CURZON ROOM

MULTI-CUISINE (North Indian, European)

Oberoi Maidens, 7, Sham Nath Marg, Civil Lines, New Delhi, Ph: 23975464

This restaurant in Oberoi Maidens has a skilfully done decor in sepia tones. Its walls are full of Raj era photographs and the cutlery dates back half a century. There is Grilled Polenta Cake, Roast Chicken and Mixed Grill in the western section. The Indian section has Murgh Malai Tikka, Vegetarian Biryani and Lamb Rogan Josh.

MOET'S CHINESE ROOM

CHINESE

1, DDA Bldg, Alipur Road, Civil Lines, Delhi, Ph: 23968883, 23983372

It serves the Indian version of Chinese cuisine. The food is passable Chinese fare like Chicken Hong Kong Style and Hot Garlic Noodles. Worth checking out are the Prawn in Hot Garlic Sauce, Sliced Chicken Chilli and Shredded Chicken in Red Chilli Sauce.

CHACHA DI HATTI

NORTH INDIAN — VEGETARIAN

32, Bungalow Road, Kamla Nagar, Delhi, Ph: 23840695

A roadside eatery stashed away in an obscure corner, Chacha di Hatti offers value for money. Founded 25 years ago, it is the favourite joint of college students who queue up for piping hot Saade Bhatore, Aloo Bhatore and Chhole Kulche. Also high in demand are Chhole Chawal and Rajma Chawal. Chacha's fare is available only till stocks last. The Chhole Kulche here are heavenly.

CHICKEN PLANET

MUGHLAI

8075, Bara Hindu Rao, Delhi, Ph: 23610786, 9811011250

The environs aren't inviting but there are those who swear by the Chicken Changezi and the Chicken Fry at this dhaba. You could also try the Tandoori Fish Tikka, Mutton Korma, Tandoori Chicken, Mutton Burrah, Nihari, Mutton Keema and the Malai Tangdi with the wonderful rotismade here.

Shopping

Compared to Chandni Chowk, the shopping areas in North Delhi are less enchanting. But shopping in Delhi, by definition, is a therapy. Step into any part of Delhi and be sure to find a surprise or two. If you have ample time on your hands, you may explore the following areas:

KAMLA NAGAR: Situated next to the North Campus of Delhi University, Kamla Nagar is a lively market and a popular hang-out for college students. It is famous for popular fashion brands and spicy street food. The roads, spreading out radially from a huge roundabout, house several showrooms. The lower floors of the market house retail stores and restaurants while most of the upper storeys are residential quarters. A number of booksellers and publishers have their offices in this market, especially on the Bungalow Road. You may check out a few showrooms on Bada Gol Chakkar and Chhota Gol Chakkar. The McDonald's and Domino outlets here are a big attraction for the young regulars.

Kamla Nagar market is closed on Mondays.

TIBETAN MARKET: Often called the Little Tibet in Delhi, this colony was originally set up to house a few Tibetan refugees. Decades later, not only has the little colony market grown in size but its name and fame have also spread far and wide. It is popularly known as the Monastery Market.

A nondescript gate under the arch of the ISBT-Shahdara Link Flyover on the Ring Road leads one to a suprisingly large market, chock-a-block with stalls selling statues, incense, shawls, paintings and Tibetan artefacts, including jewellery and semi-precious stones. Shops selling clothes and accessories are a huge hit among the young crowd of Delhi. Also popular are the shops selling footwear and other leather products. Most products are stylish and good value-for-money.

This is also a good place to sample some original Tibetan home food. Restaurants like Zomsa and Shakura serve Tibetan delicacies including *thukpa*. Momos and mouth-watering chow mein are also available in this market.

This market is closed on Mondays.



CENTRAL DELHI



Central Delhi is the political hub of the city and the country. Eminent buildings of architectural and political importance like Rashtrapati Bhavan and Sansad Bhavan are located here. India Gate, built to commemorate the martyrs of World War I, is the main landmark of Central Delhi. There are also forts, churches, gurdwaras, tombs, mosques and temples, each with a story to tell. And you must certainly not miss the museums, gardens and art galleries.

Rashtrapati Bhavan

Spread out on the crown of Raisina Hill, the **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, the official residence of the President of India, is the central point of New Delhi. Built in 1931 to affirm the permanence of British rule in India, this grand building was designed by Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, and housed the Viceroy till 1947. Ironically, this “Empire in stone” was to become the permanent institution of democracy when C Rajagopalachari moved here as Governor-General after Mountbatten departed in June 1948. On 26 January 1950, Dr Rajendra Prasad became the first President of India and occupied this building to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of India.

Though scheduled to be constructed in four years, it took 17 years to build this vast mansion of 340 rooms, spread over four floors. Built in two shades of sandstone, this building reflects a blend of Mughal and classical European styles of architecture. The most prominent and distinguishing aspect of the Rashtrapati Bhavan is its huge dome resembling the Great Stupa at Sanchi. The dome is visible from a distance and surmounts a long colonnade, which adds to its magnificence.

Just below the dome is the circular **Durbar Hall**. It serves as the venue for all important Indian state and ceremonial occasions.

Close by is the **Kitchen Museum**, designed to harmonize with the character of the rest of the building. This unusual

West of Rajpath, Raisina Hill

Metro Station: Central Secretariat

Open: Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat 11am

Entry: Permission required, Ph: 23012960/5321

Photography: Permission required



On either side of Rajpath, adjacent to the Rashtrapati Bhavan, you'll find two Secretariat Buildings that count among the most impressive State Office Buildings in the world. Completed in 1929, these 'two-tone' buildings are said to be designed similar to the Union buildings in Pretoria, South Africa. The designer was Sir Herbert Baker. Together, the two blocks have about a thousand rooms. Each block has four floors and is crowned by an imposing central Baroque dome. The North Block houses the ministries of Finance and Home Affairs of the Central Government while the South Block is home to the Defence and External Affairs ministries and the Prime Minister's Office.

museum showcases artefacts used to cook, serve and dine in at picnics. Spanning 70 years, including the pre- and post-Independence periods, the exhibits include "The Star of India"

Pools, waterways and green lawns add natural beauty and charm to Rashtrapati Bhavan



crockery, silver cutlery, kitchenware, crystal glassware, cutlery sets in different materials, silver dishes, coffee makers, fruit stands and picnic boxes. The items have been selected from kitchenware no longer in use.

Mughal Gardens: Towards the west of the Rashtrapati Bhavan lie the famous Mughal Gardens, one of the most significant historical gardens in Delhi. Spread over an area of about 15 acres, the gardens are designed after the “Terrace Garden” of Kashmir. Two channels running north to south and two running from east to west divide the gardens into a grid of squares.

The Mughal Gardens are divided into three sections: rectangular, long and circular gardens, also known as Pearl Garden, Butterfly



Mughal Gardens: Designed after the “Terrace Garden”

Garden and Circular Garden respectively. The gardens include a musical garden, spiritual garden, herbal garden and a bio-diversity park. Numerous flowers, climbers, shrubs and trees lend the garden an enchanting feel. The main attractions of the Mughal Garden are the hundreds of varieties of roses and the enormous dahlia.

All the Presidents who have stayed at the Rashtrapati Bhavan have taken keen interest in the maintenance and upkeep of the Mughal Gardens. They have all contributed in their own way.

The Mughal Gardens are open to public only in the months of February and March when the flowers are in full bloom.

Sansad Bhavan

This is the place where the Indian Parliament meets and the world's largest democracy functions. Sansad Bhavan or Parliament House was designed by British architect Sir Herbert Baker. The building was inaugurated on 18 January 1927 by the then Viceroy of India, Lord Irwin.

Circular in shape, the building is spread over an area of 2.02 hectares and has colonnaded verandahs enclosing the entire circumference. A domed central hall and three semi-circular structures, originally meant to accommodate the Chamber of Princes, the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly, now house the Chambers of the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament), the Rajya Sabha (Upper House of Parliament) and the Parliament library. They are attached to each other by galleries. The three semi-circular chambers are surrounded by a circular corridor, which has 144 imposing pillars, lending the whole building majesty. Beautiful lawns, gardens, fountains and waterways all around the building further enhance the royal look of this building.

NW of Vijay Chowk,
Parliament Street

Metro Station: Central Secretariat

Open: All days

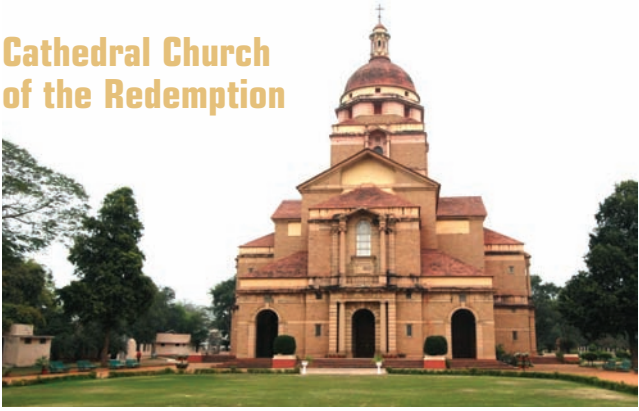
Entry Fee: Permission required (Tourists need a letter of introduction from their embassies)

Photography: Permission required

The Parliament House holds a very significant place in the history of democratic India. It was in the central hall of this building that the transfer of power took place at midnight of 14th August 1947. India became a democratic country that day. The Constitution of India was also drafted here in the early days of Independence.



Cathedral Church of the Redemption



In the early decades of the last century, Rev TR Dixon was appointed as the Chaplain to meet the spiritual needs of the British officers in the capital. His efforts bore fruit when the foundation stone of the Cathedral Church of the Redemption was laid by Viceroy Irwin on 23 February 1927 under the spot that would be the central dome, the exact centre of the church.

The Church lies in the quiet Church lane north of Jaipur Column and to the west of Parliament House on North Avenue. Its centralized plan blends neatly with Sir Edwin Lutyens' city plan. Designed by Henry Alexander Medd, the Church has witnessed eight decades of history. Over these years it has transformed from an Englishmen's congregation to a multicultural one. The cathedral now belongs to the Church of North India.

Though the exterior of this Anglican Church has ordinary red sandstone roofing, the interior is striking. It is perfectly Neo-Classical English, with dark wood panelling and suitably dim light. It has small recessed openings that filter in the sunlight. It also has a fine organ as well as a striking stained-glass window.

The cathedral hosts religious concerts on festivals such as Christmas and Easter every year. A choir called the Capital City Minstrels performs concerts of choral music and carol singing on these religious occasions in the Cathedral.

Church Lane, Near Rashtrapati
Bhavan, New Delhi,
Ph: 23094229

Metro Station: Central
Secretariat

Open: All days

Entry: Free

India Gate

Designed by Edwin Landseer Lutyens in 1931, this 42-metre-high monument was erected as a memorial in honour of the Indian and British soldiers martyred during World War I and the Third Afghan War, 1919. The names of the 13,516 martyrs are inscribed on this imposing monument.

Under the arch of India Gate is the **Amar Jawan Jyoti**, or the Flame of the Immortal Warrior. This eternal flame pays homage to the soldiers killed during the Indo-Pak War in 1971. The black marble cenotaph has a rifle placed on its barrel, crested by a soldier's helmet and guarded by the flags of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force.

Alongside the monument is a beautiful canopy or domed kiosk with a roof of red sandstone. It was under this canopy that the marble statue of George V, which was later shifted to Coronation Durbar Site, once stood. Visitors can stand on the other side of the canopy and view the Rajpath Avenue, the ceremonial venue of India, in its entirety.

The sprawling lush green lawns of India Gate are perfect for tourists and locals to laze around. Hungry souls have many items to gorge on — Fruit Chaat, Bhel Puri, Chana Jor Garam, Dal ka Pakodas, potato chips, ice cream, candy floss and aerated drinks. Children can blow soap bubbles, play cricket and enjoy camel or pony rides.



Near Rajpath

Metro Station: Pragati Maidan

Timings: Morning to Night

Entry: Free

Days Closed: None

Photography Charges: Nil

National Gallery of Modern Art



Located in Jaipur House, former residence of the erstwhile Maharajas of Jaipur, the **National Gallery of Modern Art** (NGMA) today has undeniably the most significant collection of modern and contemporary art in the country.

The vast and eclectic art collection here testifies to a rich and resplendent past even as it pays tribute to the present.

Works of renowned Indian artists like Rabindranath Tagore, Jamini Roy, MF Hussain and Amrita Sher-Gill are housed here. The gallery throws light on the evolution of modern Indian paintings and sculpture. The treasures of NGMA span miniature paintings to modernist interventions and *au courant* contemporary expressions.

The NGMA had also acquired from various sources, by way of purchases and gifts, works of various European and Far Eastern artists. There are also many works by European artists who visited India in the 18th and 19th centuries. Among them, Tilly Kettle, William Hodges, Thomas Daniell and Emily Eden deserve special mention.

There is also an **Art Reference Library** with a good collection of art books, journals and periodicals as well as a sculpture garden at the back.

Jaipur House, Near India Gate
Ph: 23388853, 23382835

Metro Station: Pragati Maidan

Open: Tue–Sun; Mondays closed

Timings: 10am to 5pm

Entry Fee: ₹10 (Indians), ₹250 (foreigners), ₹1 (children and students)

Photography: Permission required

National Museum

The largest museum in India, the **National Museum** is devoted to Indian art history and iconography as well as to Buddhist studies. The collections include examples of art and archaeology, anthropology, decorative arts and epigraphy. Artefacts from the many civilizations that flourished in India are showcased here. The stunning collections have bronze, terracotta sculptures, paintings, costumes and much more. A single day is not enough for the keen visitor to absorb it all.

A temple chariot, placed at the entrance, is octagonal and five-tiered. It has over 425 carved panels and weighs 2,200kg. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it dates back to 18th–19th centuries and belongs to Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu.

The collections in the museum are divided into different sections. A few of the important ones are:

Harappan Gallery: Jointly established by the Archaeological Survey of India and the National Museum, the Harappan Gallery offers a striking array of artefacts—pottery, seals, tablets, weights and measures, jewellery, terracotta figurines, toys and copper tools such as axes, chisels and knives—collected from the sites of the Harappan Civilization.

Archaeology: The Archaeological Galleries put forth an impressive assortment of about 800 sculptures in stone, bronze and terracotta from 3rd century BC through AD 19th century.

Janpath
Ph: 23013357, 23019272
Metro Station: Central Secretariat
Open: Tue–Sun; Mondays closed
Timings: 10am to 5pm
Entry Fee: ₹10 (Indians), ₹1 (students), ₹300 (foreigners)
Photography Charges (Still): ₹20 (Indians), ₹300 (foreigners)

THE BLUEPRINT

The history of the museum dates back to 1946 when the Gwyer Committee, set up by the Government of India, prepared its blueprint. On 15 August 1949, the museum was formally inaugurated by then Governor-General of India, Shri RC Rajagopalachari.

Buddhist Art: There are impressive sacred relics of the Buddha (5th–4th century BC), 84 exhibits in stone, bronze, terracotta, stucco, wooden sculptures, and the painted scrolls that represent the three principal Buddhist forms — Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana.

Indian Miniature Paintings: Miniature paintings in different styles like Mughal, Deccani, Central Indian, Rajasthani, Pahari and numerous other sub-styles are displayed here. Important themes depicted in these miniatures are from *Kalpasutra*, *Ramayana*, *Mahabharata*, *Bhagavad Purana*, *Durga Saptashati*, *Geet Govind*, *Raga Mala*, *Baramasa*, *Panchatantra* and *Vishnu Purana*.

Also displayed here are collections of decorative arts, paintings from Tanjore and Mysore, coins, jewellery, Indian textile, pre-Columbian and Western art, wood carving, tribal life, and arms and armour.

Apart from the collections, the museum today has separate departments for publication, public relations, education, library, exhibition cell, display, modelling, photography, security and administration.



Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum

In the bungalow that once served as the residence of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, you will find the Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum.

The museum marks the spot where she was assassinated on 31 October 1984. It preserves her belongings like the sari she was wearing on that fateful day. There is a collection of rare photographs that chronicle the Nationalist movement and the Nehru–Gandhi family. Mrs Gandhi's own photographs narrate her life from childhood days spent with the Mahatma to later days spent with her grandchildren Rahul, Priyanka and Varun. In addition, a number of rooms have been dedicated to her son and former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in May 1991. Her library and living room have been maintained just as she kept them. These rooms are not open to the public. However, they can be viewed from the gardens through windows.

The house is surrounded by a charming garden where you can hear Mrs Gandhi's speeches and see the spot where Indira Gandhi was assassinated. The spot is enclosed in a glass frame.



1, Safdarjung Road,
Ph: 23010094

Open: Tue–Sun;
Mondays closed

Timings: 9.30am to 5pm

HISTORY

She was walking through her garden on her way to an interview with the British actor Peter Ustinov, who was filming a documentary for Irish television. As she passed a wicket gate, she was shot by the guards.

Gandhi Smriti

The moment you enter the museum, your head bows down in respect for the immortal soul of Mahatma Gandhi. An imposing statue of the Mahatma with a girl and a boy holding a dove can be seen at the entrance. Situated on Tees January Marg, which commemorates Mahatma's martyrdom, the Museum is a tribute to the Mahatma's memory.

5, Tees January Marg,
Ph: 23012843

Closed: Mondays and Saturdays

Timings: 10am to 5pm

Admission: Free

Photography charges: Nil

Nearest Metro Station:
Udyog Bhavan

It is here that Mahatma Gandhi spent the last 144 days of his life. The building originally belonged to the Birlas and was known as the Birla House. It was acquired by the Government of India in 1971 and later converted into a memorial in 1973.

Situated in a tranquil place, the museum was designed to showcase the various aspects of the Mahatma's life — his ideas, principles and values. The museum houses his personal belongings along with some rare photographs, relics and frescoes. Gandhiji's quotes are on display for the visitors. The room in which he lived and the prayer ground have been preserved as they were during Mahatma's lifetime. Concrete footprints trace his last steps from the room to the prayer ground. A martyr's column marks the place where he was assassinated.

Remembering the Mahatma: Simplicity was his hallmark



Teen Murti Bhavan



Teen Murti Bhavan: Nehru's 10, Downing Street

Originally called Flagstaff House, **Teen Murti Bhavan** was the official residence of the British Commander-in-Chief. After Independence, Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, resided here till his death in 1964. Later, Teen Murti was converted into a national memorial dedicated to him.

The memorial comprises a library and a museum. Depicting various facets of Nehru's life, it has a fine collection of rare photographs from his family album, his personal letters and newspaper clippings about the Indian National Movement. Through large glass panes, visitors can view his bedroom, study room and drawing room.

The **Nehru Memorial Library** is an excellent research centre for Indian history. You will find institutional records and papers and correspondence of individuals. About 300 individual collections consist of the papers of eminent politicians, administrators, diplomats, jurists, scientists, educationists and industrialists. The library can give temporary membership.

Within the same premises is the **Nehru Planetarium**, built to promote space education and astronomy among the young people of Delhi.

Teen Murti Marg, South of
Rashtrapati Bhavan,
Ph: 23014475, 23016350
Metro Station: Racecourse
Open: Tue–Sun; Mondays
closed
Timings: 9am to 5.30pm
Entry: Free
Photography: Permission
required

Connaught Place



Often seen as the centre of Delhi, Connaught Place or CP is one of the largest financial, commercial and business centres of the city. Originally named after the Duke of Connaught, Queen Victoria's third son, the place has now been renamed as Rajeev Chowk after the former Indian Prime Minister, Rajeev Gandhi.

Metro Station: Rajeev Chowk

Days Closed: None

Timings: Morning to Night

Robert Tor Russell, chief architect to the Government of India, designed Connaught Place on the basis of an outline by WH Nicholas. Its construction started in 1929 and was completed in 1933. Its Georgian architecture is modelled after the Royal Crescent in Bath, England.

The circular market is as admirable for its architectural marvel as for the eating and shopping it offers. Although traffic congestions and new malls across the city and its suburbs might have taken away from some of its utilitarian value, Connaught Place sheen is far from fading off. And it is a must on every tourist's itinerary. State emporia buildings, head offices of major banks and airlines, and other such establishments of importance to tourists are located in this area. Its proximity to the New Delhi Railway Station is another big plus.

As for food, you have a choice between expensive restaurants and economical ones. Shoppers, too, are spoilt for choice.

For shopping in Connaught Place see *p. 99*. Eateries have been listed *p. 89* onwards.

Jantar Mantar

An integral part of India's scientific heritage, Jantar Mantar is one of the world's oldest observatories. It was built by Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur in AD 1724. A keen astronomer, he noted that the calculations based on the existing planetary tables were not always accurate. With a view to setting the astronomical tables straight, he approached Mughal emperor Muhammad Shah and requested him for permission to build the observatories.

The most important "instrument" of Jantar Mantar is the huge sundial **Samrat Yantra**. Consisting of a triangular gnomon with the hypotenuse parallel to the earth's axis, it measures the time of the day accurate to within half a second. Towards the south of Samrat Yantra lies **Jai Prakash**. It plays a key role to ascertain the position of the sun and other heavenly bodies.

Equally interesting is the **Misra Yantra** near the main entrance. It offers an accurate depiction of time of four other places in the world when it is noon in Delhi. Built with brick rubble and plastered with lime, similar observatories were also made at Jaipur, Ujjain, Varanasi and Mathura.

Parliament Street,
Connaught Place
Metro Station: Patel Chowk
Open: All days
Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
Entry Fee: ₹5 (Indians), ₹100
(foreigners)
Photography Charges: Nil (₹25
for video filming)



Hanuman Mandir



Located on Baba Kharak Singh Marg, **Hanuman Mandir** is one of the oldest Hanuman temples in the country. Built by Maharaja Jai Singh in 1724, the temple has undergone many changes since then.

The main idol at the temple is that of a *balak* (young) Hanuman, facing south. The deity holds a

gada (sort of mace) in his left hand and the right hand rests on his chest in veneration to the adjacent idols of Rama, Lakshmana and Sita. One of the highlights of this temple is the 24-hour chanting of the hymn “*Sri Ram, Jai Ram, Jai Jai Ram*” since 1 August 1964.

On Tuesday and Saturday, the special days of Hanuman, devotees congregate at the temple in large numbers. It becomes difficult to even find a foothold on these two days.

The ceiling of the main hall has embossed artwork depicting the Ramayana, the great Hindu epic. The complex outside the temple is lined with tiny shops selling garlands and *prasad*. The complex is also famous for its *mehndi* artists and their intricate henna application. You can see young ladies sitting there, getting their palms coloured. There are also astrologers, who for a minor amount will tell your fortune. Try them, just for fun, if not for faith!

Baba Kharak Singh Marg,
Connaught Place
Metro Station: Rajiv Chowk
Timings: 6am to 10pm (best to visit during morning and evening *aarti*)

Open: All days

Entry: Free

Photography: Not allowed in main prayer hall

Cathedral of the Sacred Heart

The **Cathedral of the Sacred Heart** is perhaps one of the most important Catholic churches of the capital. It was designed by Henry Medd, whose architectural plan was selected by a jury consisting of Sir Edwin Lutyens and Father Luke among others. These two men were mainly responsible for the construction of this beautiful cathedral.

The foundation stone was laid in 1929 by Rev Dr E Vanni, Archbishop of Agra. The church was completed and opened to public in just four years. The church's main altar was donated by Sir Anthony de Mello, while the Archbishop of Agra offered the bell, vestments and altar furniture. Many colonial officers of the British Empire also extended monetary assistance.

During Christmas, you can attend the Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth and the Christmas vigil service.



Near Gole Dak Khana,
Connaught Place

Metro Station: Patel
Chowk

Timings: 7am to 8pm (best
to visit during morning and
evening prayers)

Entry: Free

Days Closed: None

Photography: Permission
required

Prayer: Morning &
Evening (daily)

GRATITUDE FOR GOD

The silver cross here has been donated by Lord Irwin. He also donated a picture, which you can see in the eastern end. The donation is believed to be an expression of his gratitude for God's grace, when he narrowly escaped an attempt to blow up his train in 1929. This was the same year when Bhagat Singh et al. threw a bomb inside the Central Legislative Assembly.

Gurudwara Bangla Sahib



For Sikhs, **Gurudwara Bangla Sahib** holds an important place. The name Bangla Sahib is from the bungalow where the eighth Sikh Guru, Guru Harkishen Dev, stayed in 1664. Later, the architecturally impressive bungalow was dedicated to the memory of the Guru and was made into a gurdwara. It has been a place of worship since then.

Near Gole Market, Connaught Place

Metro Station: Patel Chowk

Timings: 24 hours

Entry: Free

Days Closed: None

Photography Charges: Nil

Spiritual hymns called *gurbani* are sung right through the day. Once the prayer is over, *Karah*, the religious *prasad*, is distributed among the devotees. The gurdwara also holds *langar* or community kitchen hall, where devotees are given free meals.

Before entering the main complex, devotees have to take a dip in the holy pond known as Sarovar or wash their feet at the entrance. Visitors must enter bare feet. Heads should be covered and one's clothes should cover the legs and shoulders.

A tank in the gurdwara's compound is believed to have been blessed by the Guru himself. It is believed that the water of this tank can cure people suffering from small pox and cholera.

Enthusiasts of Sikh history can see the **Baba Baghel Singh Museum** in the gurdwara's basement. It is named after General Sardar Baghel Singh, who administered the construction of the nine Sikh shrines in Delhi in 1783. Paintings in the **Art Gallery** exhibit historical events linked with the history of the Sikhs.

Birla Mandir

Birla Mandir, also known as **Laxmi Narayan Temple**, was built in 1938 by BD Birla, a prominent industrialist. The temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and his consort, Goddess Lakshmi. It is believed that about 101 skilled *pandits* from Benaras, led by Acharya Vishvanath Shastri, carved the idols here. The temple was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi on condition that it would not bar people on the basis of caste, creed and religion.

Flanked by a pool and picturesque gardens, the temple architecturally resembles the Hindu temples in Orissa. Miniature rock temples dot the temple complex, while its interiors are embellished with carvings that depict scenes from various mythologies. Numerous Hindu symbols and quotes from the Bhagavad Gita and the Upanishads beautify the temple walls.

To the north of the temple stands **Geeta Bhavan**, an exhibition hall-cum-shrine dedicated to Lord Krishna. Also within the complex is a **Buddha Temple**, adorned by several murals that explain both his life and work. Devotees throng the temple during Janmashtami, a festival celebrated to commemorate the birthday of Lord Krishna.

Near Gole Market, Mandir Marg,
Connaught Place

Nearest Metro Station: RK
Ashram Marg

Timings: 6am to 10pm (best to visit during morning and evening *aarti*)

Entry: Free

Days Closed: None

Photography: Not allowed in prayer hall



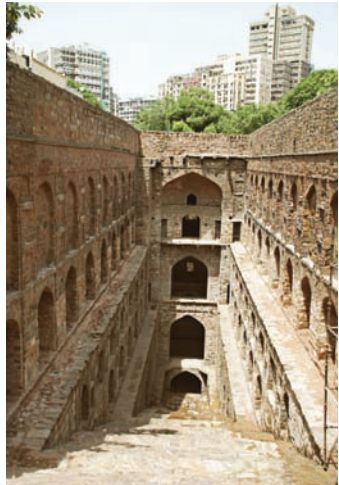
Agrasen ki Baoli

Agrasen ki Baoli is a revelation even to those who have stayed in Delhi for long. Few know that among the high-rise buildings of Connaught Place, there lies a historical step-well, 60m by 15m in size. A short walk from Jantar Mantar, it is located off Hailey Road, in a lane just before the Consulate General of Malta. Legend has it that it was built in the 14th century by Maharaja Agrasen, an ancestor of the mercantile Agrawal community.

A *baoli* is a step-well that stores natural water and is constructed in such a manner that it provides resting areas to travellers as well. The shape of this well is very interesting as it is quite different from the traditional circular shape. The northern end of the *baoli* is a raised platform with a roof. The side that doesn't have a roof is shaded by a massive neem tree. It has five levels, where each level has an arched area which was used as a resting place. 103 steps used to lead to the water at the base.

Today, the water has dried up and the Baoli is home to thousands of bats living in its cool, dark well area. Hundreds of pigeons can be heard gurgling here.

Agrasen ki Baoli has been designated a protected monument by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958.



Hailey Road, Near KG Marg,
Connaught Place

Nearest Metro Station:

Barakhamba

Entry: Free

Days Closed: None

Timings: Sunrise to Sunset

Photography Charges: Nil

Cultural Capital

The pride of being the “Cultural Capital” at one time belonged to Calcutta (now Kolkata). But after a century since the administrative capital shifted to Delhi, today it is also the cultural capital of the country. Indeed, art, music and literature have always prospered in the vicinity of state patronage.

Within Delhi, we must first zero in on the **Mandi House Area**, which houses a cluster of auditoriums and other seats of culture. If you take the Barakhamba Road from Connaught Place, you reach the Mandi House roundabout. Radial roads lead you to the world of arts.

The **National School of Drama (NSD)**, or the Rashtriya Natya Vidyalaya, is housed in Bahawalpur House on Bhagwan Das Road. It admits 20 students every year for a three-year course in dramatic arts. Some of the finest actors of the country have studied here. NSD has two performing wings — the Repertory Company and Theatre-in-Education. The building also houses the **Kathak Kendra**, a leading Kathak dance institute in India. It was established by the Sangeet Natak Akademi in 1964 and has very eminent teachers who are experts in their respective disciplines.

The adjacent road is Copernicus Marg, on which stands the imposing **Doordarshan building** or Mandi House, which gives the entire area its name. This is the headquarters of Doordarshan, the state-owned television channel. The channel was established in 1959 and continued to have monopoly till the advent of the new economic policy in 1991.

There are several buildings of cultural importance on the other side of the road between Copernicus Marg and Ferozeshah Road. **Kamani Auditorium** is one of the oldest cultural venues in the city. The stage is huge and eye-catching with a 40-foot opening frontage — perfect for staging ballets, plays, group and solo performances. The auditorium can accommodate more than 600 people easily. It boasts the latest technology, light and sound equipment that match international standards.

The **Lalit Kala Akademi** nearby is housed in Rabindra Bhavan. It was set up in 1954 to study, nourish and research

creative arts such as painting, sculpture, graphics, photography and ceramics. The Akademi has a huge collection of artworks, including those of eminent artists like KK Hebbar, NS Bendre, Satish Gujral and MF Hussain. The total collection is about 4,700 artworks at the centre and around 2,000 in regional centres. A reference library with about 8,000 books on ancient and contemporary art makes the Akademi dear to research scholars.

The same complex also has **Sahitya Akademi**, which was set up in 1954 by the Government of India to work actively for the development of Indian literature. It organizes programmes and seminars to heighten literary awareness among the common readers. Its library (9.30am to 6pm; Sunday closed) has the best collection of books of and on Indian Literature. **Sangeet Natak Akademi**, here, looks after the heritage of music, drama and dance. Meghdoot Theatre is the auditorium within this complex.

Shriram Bharatiya Kala Kendra is one of the leading performing arts institutions of Delhi. The centre was established in 1952 by a special sponsoring body, Jhankar. Its aim is to train talented dancers dedicated to follow the art as a profession. **LTG Auditorium** has a seating capacity of 500. It is a well-managed multi-purpose entertainment complex-cum-auditorium.

Façade of the Shankar Lal Murli Dhar Auditorium





A play in progress at Sri Ram Centre

Adjacent to the Mandi House metro station on Sikandra Road lies Himachal Bhavan. Walk along the building to the roundabout and then turn right. This is Safdar Hashmi Marg, named after the celebrated *nukkad* (street theatre) activist who was brutally murdered while performing a street play, *Halla Bol*. On this road is **Shri Ram Centre**. It has the impressive **Shankar Lal Murli Dhar Auditorium** with a capacity of six hundred. The centre offers a two-year graduate course in theatre studies. The design of the auditorium is considered unique as the distance between the stage where the artists perform and where the audience is seated is not very much, ideal for theatre.

Next comes Tansen Marg, where music and dance classes are held at **Sangeet Bharati** for children. Then there is **Triveni Kala Sangam**. This art gallery-cum-theatre was designed by Joseph Allen Stein, a Nebraska native, during Delhi's fling with Modernism in the 1950s and 1960s. The place has a laid-back, arty feel to it, which is extremely enticing. On the other side of the road is the **FICCI Auditorium**, which is situated in the Federation House. The building also houses the **National Museum of Natural History**.

There are several auditoriums that lie outside the Mandi House area. Important among these are the AIFACS

Auditorium on Rafi Marg and the Mavalankar Hall at the Vitthalbhai Patel House nearby, Air Force Auditorium at Subroto Park near Dhaula Kuan, BC Pal Memorial Auditorium at Chittaranjan Park, Falaknuma and Hamsadhwani at Pragati Maidan, Ghalib Auditorium on Mata Sundari Lane, India Habitat Centre on Lodi Road and India International Centre nearby, ICCR Auditorium at Azad Bhavan in IP Estate, Ravindra Rangshala on the Upper Ridge Road, Siri Fort at the Asiad Village Complex, Teenmurti Auditorium at Teenmurti Bhavan and Vigyan Bhavan Auditorium on Maulana Azad Road.

Some other institutions also deserve a mention here. The **National Archives of India** (Ph: 23384797) on Janpath is the repository of the non-current records of the Government of India and is holding them in trust for the use of administrators and scholars. The **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts** (IGNCA) is also on the same road. It aims, among other things, to serve as a major resource centre for the arts, especially written, oral and visual source materials. Here, Rajiv Gandhi planted the five most significant trees of the Indian civilization: Asvattha, Nyagrodha, Asoka, Arjuna and Kadamba.

Before we wrap up, let us take a look at some important cultural centres that a few other countries have in Delhi. **British Council** (17, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Ph: 23711401; Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm) describes itself as “the UK’s knowledge partner with India”. It promotes effective education of the English language. The premises were designed by the renowned Indian architect Charles Correa and opened in 1993. It has a newly refurbished library.

The **American Center** (24, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Ph: 23472000; Mon–Sat 11am to 6pm) is known for its library that offers a wide range of resources, programmes and services. The American Library undertakes a variety of activities to promote better understanding of the culture, history, institutions, values and policies of the United States.

The **Goethe-Institut** (3, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Ph: 23329506/23471100), commonly known as Max Mueller Bhavan, is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany. It promotes knowledge of the German language in India and fosters international cultural cooperation.

TAKE A BREAK

Eating

From local dhabas to upmarket restaurants and plenty of Western-style fast-food places, Central Delhi offers food in every *avatar*. Given below is a selection from Connaught Place, Bengali Market, Karol Bagh and Paharganj areas.

CONNAUGHT PLACE & AROUND

AQUA

★★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹2500

Aqua, by a poolside, has little tent-like alcoves, reclining chairs and candle-lit tables that make for great atmosphere in the summer months and, with gas heaters, in the winter days as well. Try the Grilled Bratwurst Sausages with Lyonnaise Mustard, Chicken Yakitori with Wasabi Dip, and the Mezze Platter.

The Park, 15, Parliament Street, New Delhi, Ph: 23743000, 23744000

ATRIUM, THE

★★★★

TEA BAR | Meal for 2: ₹1000

Ambience apart, the Atrium scores on its menu, which features a variety of Bruschettas, Crème Brûlée, Almond Tart, Mango Tart, Marble Cake, Apple Cake, Macaroon and Lemon Meringue. These are best accompanied by Jasmine or Camomile Tea. There are also over 14 varieties of freshly brewed coffees to choose from.

The Imperial, Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 23341234

BANANA LEAF

★★½

SOUTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹250

In a décor enlivened by Tanjore paintings and wooden furniture, the Banana Leaf offers some uncommon dishes like Green Dosa and Adai, a Special Limited Thali, Dry Fruit Masala Dosa and Mysore Onion Paneer Dosa.

N-12, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 47078855

BERCO'S

★★½

CHINESE, THAI, JAPANESE | Meal for 2: ₹750

Once known for its reasonably priced lunch, Berco's at CP isn't what it used to be. The food here now is just about tolerable. But Shredded Lamb in Garlic Sauce and American Chop Suey are still good.

**G-2/43A, Middle Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 43731111, 43731144**

BIKANERVALA

★★★★½

MITHAI, SNACKS | Meal for 2: ₹300

Bikanervala might serve traditional Indian snacks, but it has plush interiors. Economical meals and other combos make this place India's answer to McDonald's. The Special Thali seems to be Bikanervala's most wanted. Do try Dahi Bhalla, Papdi Chaat and Raj Kachori.

**382, Kucha Ghasi Ram, Fateh Puri, Chandni Chowk, Delhi,
Ph: 23975341**

CHA BAR

★★★★½

TEA BAR | Meal for 2: ₹300

In the Statesman House on the first floor is the only bookshop that lets you read books off the shelves while you enjoy a cuppa. Try the Ayurvedic *chai* and the one from the owners' own tea estate: Hapjan Black. Snacks include one of the nicest chicken sandwiches in the city.

**1st Floor, Statesman House, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23766083-84**

CHOCOL'ART

★★★★

COFFEE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹1200

Chocol'Art boasts a small but good selection of chocolate truffles, pastries, and coffee and hot chocolate to drink. There is also a good range of cold meats and breads to make your own Panini and sandwiches.

Hotel Le Meridien, Windsor Place, Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 23710101

CHUTNEY

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹3000

Delhi's only Indian restaurant with Japanese sensibility! The tandoori section is far better than the curries that all taste suspiciously similar. On the plus side, go for the tandoori sampler: It features a large prawn, cooked to rare perfection in the *tandoor*, with a whisper of spice, as well as Reshmi Murgh and Patthar Kabab. The chief feature of the menu is the nine chutneys that accompany each meal, whatever your order. Made with chillies, sesame seeds, papaya or raisins, the fun is in trying all of them out.

The Metropolitan Hotel, Bangla Sahib Road, New Delhi, Ph: 42500200

CIBO

★★★★

ITALIAN | Meal for 2: ₹2500

Famous for a rather ordinary range of pizzas that includes the usual Pizza Margherita and Pizza Bianca (no tomato sauce, only cheese and pepper) as well as rather pedestrian pastas like Gnocchi di Patate al Pesto, Cibo has eye-popping interiors.

Hotel Janpath, Janpath Road, New Delhi, Ph: 43029291, 23340070

DEEZ BIRYANI CORNER

★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹600

Deez specializes in biryani. The hot favourites here are the Chicken, Mutton and Fish Biryani. The biryani is served hot in an earthen pot or *handi*. Deez has also expanded its repertoire to include Boneless Chicken Biryani, Ali Chicken Biryani, Pakistani Murgh Masallam and Kababs.

M-13, Middle Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23415555, 23351195-96

FA YIAN

★★★★

CHINESE | Meal for 2: ₹900

Owned by two Chinese brothers, Fa Yian offers VFM Chinese food. The speciality here is the Prawn — Salt and Pepper, Stir-fried and Butter-fried. For starters, try the Jee Bow Har, Honey Chicken and Sui Chiao. Don't forget to order Date Toffee with Ice Cream at the end of the meal.

A-25/5, Behind Marina Hotel, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23323237, 23323272, 41516788, 9811678788

IGNIS

★★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1000

Ignis is located on the first floor affording a spectacular view of the whole circle. Don't miss the Chettinad Mutton Pepper Fry that is absolutely authentic, Dal Muradabadi which is ordinary yellow dal with a variety of accompaniments, and the delicious Irish Stew.

E-45, Inner Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 43081984, 43081986, 9810177466

JASMINE

★★★½

CHINESE, JAPANESE, THAI | Meal for 2: ₹1800

Chicken Seaweed Roll makes an unusual starter here. Seafood and Asparagus Soup is a pleasant departure from thick, cornfloury soups. Scallops with Fried Pine nuts and Broccoli is a classic dish with a Singaporean twist. Diced Chicken with Sichuan Sauce is for the Delhi palate.

Ramada Plaza, 19, Ashoka Road, New Delhi, Ph: 43555555

KALEVA

★★★★½

MITHAI, SNACKS | Meal for 2: ₹400

The best *mithai* that you can get at Kaleva Sweets is Shahi Pinni, guilt-ridden with calories. Legend has it that the Kaleva Sohan Papdi lasts for all of six months. The Mango Kulfi can be an uplifting experience.

109, Bangla Sahib Marg, Gole Market, New Delhi, Ph: 23365125, 28844002

KWALITY RESTAURANT

★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹700

Stuck between two worlds, it doesn't show its age because of successive renovations, but it is several decades old nevertheless. Their version of Chana Bhatura is considered by connoisseurs to be the best in the city. Kwality Special Pudding makes a nice dessert.

7, Regal Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23742310, 23742352, 9818022841

LA BAGUETTE

★★★★½

CAKE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹700

No matter what this little space under a stairway does, it does well. The breads — Rye, Multi-Grain, Whole Wheat — are crusty and made with superior ingredients. The pastries and cakes have a nouvelle take: old-fashioned English Lemon Tea Cake is also a good option.

Hotel Imperial, Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 23341234, 41501234

NIZAM'S KATHI KABABS

★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹500

Nizam's has been dishing out Kolkata–Mughlai rolls for more than three decades. Visit Nizam's for its delicious Kathi. Also, extremely popular are the Kakoris, Biryani and Chicken Korma. You can also check out the Mutton Keema Egg Roll and Kali Mirch Chicken Tikka. The Malai Rabdi serves as a nice dessert.

H 5/6, Plaza Bldg, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23713078, 23321953

ORIENT AT QBA, THE

★★★★

CHINESE | Meal for 2: ₹1400

The food is pretty good at The Orient and, though it is an imitation of Mainland China, it does offer value for money. The recommended dishes are the Crispy Spinach with Pepper and Garlic, the Grilled Shrimp and Crab Cakes and the Silken Tofu Delight. Avoid the dim sums!

E-42-43, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 41512888

PATIO

★★★★

COFFEE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹2500

This small coffee shop, virtually in the lobby, has a unique selling point: it maintains separate vegetarian and non-vegetarian kitchens. So, if you are at all particular about this issue, you know where to head.

The Metropolitan Hotel, Bangla Sahib Road, New Delhi, Ph: 42500200

Q'BA

★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1400

Q'BA is a warm and intimate lounge bar adorned with sofas and low coffee. The Braised Lamb, Q'BA Raan, Grilled Fish Fillet, Malai Chicken Tikka Mirch, Braised Tofu with Black Mushrooms, Mezze Platter, Lotus Leaf Treasure Rice, Sea Prawns Risotto and the Sole with Lemon Mustard Sauce are worth a shot.

E-42/43, Inner Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 41512888

RAJDHANI

★★★½

INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹550

This thali joint in CP serves delectable vegetarian fare — Gujarati for the most part with a dash of Rajasthani thrown in. True value for money.

P-1/90, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23346300/400

RODEO

★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1400

Rodeo happens to be an old favourite with the veterans of Delhi. Enchiladas, Tacos, Burritos and Capsicum Pablano are standard; and the Guacamole is decent. The Nachos Platter is worth a shot along with Fajitas.

A-12, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23713780-81

SARAVANA BHAVAN

★★★★

SOUTH INDIAN — VEGETARIAN | Meal for 2: ₹300

You could well be in Chennai: That's how strong the Tamil ambience at Saravana Bhavan is. Saravana Bhavan has a frills-free décor and quick service. It is among the few restaurants which are open for breakfast as early as 8am.

46, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23317755, 23316060

P-15, Connaught Circus, New Delhi, Ph: 23347755, 28844046

TAO RESTAURANT

★★★

CHINESE, JAPANESE, THAI | Meal for 2: ₹1000

Sushi is the best choice here. Worth a special mention is Hosomaki, which features salmon, tuna, prawn and crab wrapped in *nori* sheets — a real delight. If it is Chinese you want, the Chinese Crispy Sliced Fish tossed in oyster chilli sauce and Claypot Chicken served with Steamed Rice make a nice meal.

E-8, Inner Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 43582666, 43582888, 989866000

UNITED COFFEE HOUSE

★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1000

This two-storeyed restaurant with its original décor intact down to the chandeliers and gold-leaf ceilings has its loyal old-timers who still patronize it. United Coffee House still serves Kona Coffee. Mealtime specialities include frozen-in-time dishes like Tomato Fish and Chicken a la Kiev.

**E-15, Inner Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23411697,
23416075, 9810666044**

WENGER'S

★★★★½

CONFECTIONERY, SNACKS | Meal for 2: ₹200

Wenger's is one of the most popular confectioneries in the city with a delightful range to choose from. You can go there to pick up their outstanding Chicken Sandwiches. The Vegetable, Mushroom and Chicken Patties are major draws here. And for those with a sweet tooth, there are puddings and cakes.

**A-16, Inner Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23324403,
23324594, 23324373**

WIMPY

★★★½

FAST FOOD | Meal for 2: ₹400

Wimpy is a fast-food joint which lives up to its claims of prompt service. You can be sure that your order will be ready in a jiffy. Try the King Size Lamb Burger, Double Maxi Burger, Spicy Chicken Burger, Spicy Bean Burger, Chana Masala Burger, Half-n-Half Non-Veg Pizza and the Chicken Nuggets.

N-6, Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 233139100

1911

★★★★½

COFFEE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹3500

Spacious and airy, 1911 will instantly transport you into the realms of the Raj in The Imperial. You can choose to sit in the high-ceilinged restaurant, the verandah, the terrace or in the bar. The lunch buffet is one of the most stylish in the city, with excellent French farmhouse cheeses on a platter and loads of cold cuts on offer.

The Imperial, Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 23341234, 41116602-04

19 ORIENTAL AVENUE

★★★★★

CHINESE, JAPANESE, THAI | Meal for 2: ₹4500

It's a Shangri-La signature restaurant. The Wok Fried Chicken with Wild Pepper Sauce is a novel twist on Delhi's favourite bird. The Japanese counter does a near-perfect Miso Marinated Tenderloin grilled and the best offering on the Thai menu is the Choo Chee Kung.

**Shangri-La Hotel, 1st Floor, 19, Ashoka Road, Connaught Place,
New Delhi, Ph:41191919**

24/7

★★★

COFFEE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹3000

Crowded no matter what time of the day or night you visit, they have one recipe for success and that is consistency. Their Croque Monsieur is one of their best dishes; others include Pistachio Crusted Pink Salmon.

The Lalit, Barakhamba Avenue, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23709000, 23411001, 44447777, 44447114

KAROL BAGH

BIKANERVALA

★★★½

For review see p. 90.

10181-82, Chowk Gurudwara Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi,
Ph: 28754419

PIND BALLUCHI

★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1000

Ethnic interiors and waiters in *kurtas* and *lungis* make Pind Balluchi the kind of place it is. Be it the paranthas, Seekh Kababs, the Dhaba Meat, the Bhuna Meat, the Chicken Tikkas, the Sarson da Saag and Makki di Roti or the various varieties of Murgh, it's basically good ole' Delhi-Punjabi fare.

2105, DB Gupta Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, Ph: 9958292941

SURUCHI

★★★

INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹200

Popular for its *thalis*, Suruchi on Ajmal Khan Road is thronged by regulars for its Rajasthani and Gujarati fare. The Rajasthani and the Gujarati Thali are worth trying, other than the Pao Bhaji, the Vada Pao and the Khandvi. The taste of authentic Gujarati fare in the midst of Karol Bagh is pleasantly startling.

15 A/56, WEA, Opp. Roopak Store, Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, Ph: 45000244, 25731614-17, 32940622

BENGALI MARKET

BENGALI SWEET HOUSE

★★★

MITHAI, SNACKS — VEGETARIAN | Meal for 2: ₹250

An intrinsic part of Bengali Market, the Bengali Sweet House is not particularly Bengali, but the Chhole Bhature, Dosas and other snacks are popular.

27-34, Bengali Market, New Delhi, Ph: 23319224, 23311855, 23353310

NATHU'S SWEETS

★★★

MITHAI, SNACKS — VEGETARIAN | Meal for 2: ₹300

Nathu's Sweets at Bengali Market is a popular stop for enjoying inexpensive snacks. Along with an array of *mithais*, it offers a variety of Indian fast food.

23–25, Bengali Market, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23719784

TRIVENI TEA TERRACE

★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹250

Triveni Tea Terrace is not just an eating place but a cauldron for the art world, with old-timers, artists and art students sipping hot cups of tea on the terrace. You can expect some familiar fare of home-style Parantha, Shammi Kabab, Keema Matar, Jeera Aloo, Kadhi Chawal, Rajma Chawal and Vegetable Pulao. Do also try the Walnut Brownie here.

Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 23718833,

PAHARGANJ**AJAY CAFÉ GERMAN BAKERY**

★★½

CONFECTIONERY, SNACKS | Meal for 2: ₹250

The Paharganj area is always crowded with tourists. You can stop by this German bakery which serves Italian, Israeli, European and Indian food at very affordable prices.

5084 A, Main Bazaar, Paharganj, Delhi, Ph: 23583125, 41541226

FIRE AND ICE ROOFTOP RESTAURANT

★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹600

Fire and Ice, the roof-top restaurant of Hotel Piorko, is in the main market of Paharganj. Huts and shacks are erected on the rooftop and food on offer is a mix of Italian, Mexican, Thai and Indian cuisines.

4775, Main Bazaar, Paharganj, New Delhi, Ph: 23587999, 23587888

MANOHAR

★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹250

Manohar serves robust Punjabi fare and enjoys the additional virtue of being moderately priced. Recommended are their Tangdi Kabab, the Handi Chicken, the Butter Chicken, Chicken Fry, etc. Vegetarians should try their Dal Makhni, Paneer Methi, Malai Kofta, Kadhai Paneer, Shahi Paneer and Mixed Vegetables.

3078, DB Gupta Road, Paharganj, Delhi, Ph: 23589873, 65369873

Nightlife

@ LIVE

★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,000

Feel raw, pulsating energy @Live. Try the @Live Zinga, Bull Fighter, classic champagne-based cocktails and some French or Italian wines.

K-12, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 43560008-09

1911

★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2,500

Walk in here for a royal experience — luxury personified, elegant art-laden walls and grandeur take you back to the age of the maharajas. Come here for some of the best martinis in town.

**Hotel Imperial, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23341234, 41501234**

AGNI

★★★★½

BAR+DANCING | Night out for 2: ₹2,000

Plonk yourself in a plush black, leather tub chair surrounded by glowing glass tables and give in to your inner glow. The bar mixologist will create favourites like Rose Martinis, Love Junk and Seasonal Fruit Margaritas. They have a good collection of single malts and wines.

**The Park Hotel, 15, Parliament Street, Connaught Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 23743000**

AQUA

★★★

LOUNGE-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹3,000

The cool, classy outdoor space of Aqua at The Park, done up in all white, contrasts mesmerisingly with the aqua-marine blue of the pool. Aqua has the perfect ambience for a romantic night-out with instrumental lounge music. A good collection of wines and Molecular Martinis, Mojitos and Flaming Lamborghini!

**The Park Hotel, 15 Parliament Street, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23743000**

BLUES

★★★

BAR+DANCING | Night out for 2: ₹1,500

This is a great place if you love to listen to the original gods of rock, though they have succumbed to remixes. A live band plays every day from 6pm to 8pm and rock shows are organized every Thursday. The food is Italian, Mexican and Indian Barbeques. In cocktails, try Blues With the Feeling, Muddy Water.

**N-18, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 41523486, 23737150, 41523001**

CIBO, THE FIREPLACE BAR

★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2,500

The island bar at Cibo holds pride of place and is washed in rich gold hues ricocheting off the walls around. DJ Vicky starts the evening playing lounge, then moves on to chillout ambience, chillout house, deep house and then retro. Stick to the basic spirits here!

Hotel Janpath, Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 43029291

HENRI'S BAR

★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2,000

A quiet place, Henri's Bar offers a range of international scotch and wines, but is also accommodating as it stocks the most reasonable Indian brands.

**Le Meridien, 8, Windsor Place, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23710101**

ISLAND BAR

★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,500

The Island Bar is a connoisseur's delight, offering an extensive selection of wine (almost 500 varieties), single malts, cocktails and cigars.

**Hotel Shangri-La, 19, Ashoka Road, Connaught Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 41191919**

PATIALA PEG

★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2,000

Try out the Patiala Peg special Love From Patiala, Patiala Blush and Chak De Phatte. Recommended mocktails are Italian Smooch, Pink Slide and On the Ocean.

**The Imperial Hotel, Janpath Road, Connaught Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 23341234, 41116600**

Q'BA

★★★

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,500

A sprawling 14,000-square-foot resto-bar in Connaught Place, Q'BA is spread over two floors and a terrace. They have a comfortable lounge area and their tequila cocktails are talk of the town.

**E-42/43, Inner Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 41512888**

VEDA LOUNGE AND BAR

★★★

LOUNGE BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,500

Veda impresses with the décor, which is more eye-catching than relaxing. All major foreign liquor brands are available, but if you are a cocktail lover, then it's Vodka Martini, West Indies Yellow Bird or Mint Tulip for you.

H 26, Outer Circle, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 41513535

Shopping

Shopping is often on top of the agenda of a tourist visiting Delhi. In this section we cover the principal shopping areas of Connaught Place and Karol Bagh along with others. Strolling in these markets can fetch you a wide range of products — from the simplest indigenous handicrafts to international designer labels.

CONNAUGHT PLACE: When it came into being, the sprawling circular market was the largest of its kind in India. The British believed that the horseshoe-shaped market would prove lucky for the shoppers and the shopkeepers both.

This market has two circles. The Inner Circle consists of Blocks A to F. The important shops and showrooms include Adidas Originals, Allen Solly, Bentley, Bon Ton, Cantabil, Gas, Johnson Watch Company, Kalpana, Lee, Louis Philippe, Neelkanth Jewellers, Nike, Orra, Park Avenue, Pepe, Proline and Fila, Roopchand Jewellers, Snowwhite Square and Wills Lifestyle. **Mohanlal Sons** promises to give you ready or tailored attires to suit every occasion. Known for quality and good service, you will find a wide range of shirts, trousers, jackets, suits, kurtas and sherwanis here. The Outer Circle consists of Blocks G to P. Showrooms like Digjam, Lacoste, Omega, Rado, RL Exports and TAG Heuer lie in this circle.

Ganga Ram & Sons in the Regal Building offer an exclusive range of wool and Cashmere suiting from premium brands. **Gangoly Bros.** have been known for their clocks and watches for generations. At **Ivory Mart Jewellers** in InterContinental Hotel you get traditional and ethnic pieces with hand-picked diamonds crafted into them beautifully. Also check out the small range of handicraft pieces that are studded with precious stones.

An aerial view of Connaught Place



Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan

10am to 7pm | Weekly Off: Sundays

Branded simply as Khadi, the range of natural cosmetic products here rivals the best in the world. The handmade soaps, shampoos and facewash are must-buys. The soaps come in many varieties and look good enough to eat — from Basil and Lavender to Mango and Mint.

Though there are many Khadi outlets in Delhi, the Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan in the Regal Building is the most popular. You can check out saris in cotton, silk, khadi-silk and tussar silk; eco-friendly handmade paper products such as bags, diaries; leather products, etc.

The backbone of rural India's economy, Khadi was evolved during India's freedom movement. After independence, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) was established in 1957 with the objective to plan, programme and promote khadi and village industries. Under the Khadi & Village Industries sector there are more than 15,000 sales outlets as well as production centres throughout India. There are also 27 self-owned outlets.

**24, Regal Bldg, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23360902**

PALIKA BAZAAR: This underground, air-conditioned market located below the inner circle of Connaught Place was set up in the late 1970s. It is especially famous for cheap electronic goods and clothes. From footwear to clothing to nightwear to perfumes to accessories to electronic gadgets to DVDs and CDs, you will get a wide range of products in this massive market. You may also buy curios and small knick-knacks to take back home as souvenirs.

There are hundreds of shops in Palika Bazaar. It is estimated to have some 15,000 people within its confines at any given time and also attracts many foreign tourists. Although bargaining is the mantra for shopping anywhere in Delhi, it must be followed here rigorously.

The Main gate faces Central Park, with F Block on the right and Palika Underground Parking on the left. Entry is through a staircase. This market remains closed on Sundays.

JANPATH: Here you get to do the best of street shopping. You will mostly find small kiosks selling all kinds of cotton clothes and curios. The clothes are generally export-surplus garments and are sold dirt-cheap. There's lots of silver and artificial jewellery studded with semi-precious stones. Refugees who came after the Partition and Tibetans who came when China invaded Tibet settled here as traders. Shopping here requires a couple of skills. One, you must have the ability to distinguish the fake from the genuine. Two, you must know and practice the art of bargaining patiently.

The **Tibetan Market**, near Hotel Imperial is a storehouse of curios and Tibetan artefacts. You can shop for some silver jewellery, *thangkhas* and brassware.

Across the road here are a few well-known shops. The **Central Cottage Industries Emporium**, a Government of India undertaking under the Ministry of Textiles, is housed in the Jawahar Vyapar Bhavan. Envisaged as a showcase of the creations of Indian craftsmen, weavers and folk artists, it has been a favourite with customers in India and the world over. It remains open on all days from 10am to 7pm.

Cooke & Kelvey at Scindia House is admired by the elites in India and abroad. The fabulous designs are articulately executed to produce exquisite heavy *kundan* sets, *maangtika* and *sherwani* buttons that are breathtakingly gorgeous. In the same building, you will also find **Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri** (TBZ). Here one can find a varied range of traditional and innovative designer jewellery

Garments with Gujarati embroidery on sale at Janpath in New Delhi



in gold and diamonds, certified solitaire diamonds and hallmarked jewellery. Its clients include generations of high-profile families.

BABA KHARAK SINGH MARG: If you would like to have the pick of all states, go to the State Emporia Complex on Baba Kharak Singh Marg. Shawls are the main attraction of **Zoon**, the Kashmir emporium, and bronze lamps and icon of **Poompuhar**, the Tamil Nadu emporium. Those interested in exquisite silks should go to **Cauvery**, the Karnataka emporium. **Amrapali**, the Bihar emporium, is famous for Madhubani paintings, while **Rajasthali**, the Rajasthan emporium, and **Gurjari**, the Gujarat emporium, are popular destinations for printed cottons, miniature paintings and

SEWA Mahila Bazaar

Held on: Sundays 9am to 5pm

SEWA Delhi, a women's organization working for the poor women of the informal sector, has started organizing a Sunday Mahila Bazaar. This market is unique in that it is run only by women. About 200 poor women members of SEWA Delhi from slums of Raghbir Nagar, Jahangirpuri and Sundernagari sell both second-hand and new items in this bazaar. This includes handicrafts, jewellery, shoes, cosmetics, clothes, household items and a lot more at nominal prices. The market is a tourist attraction as it provides cultural and social interaction with the locals.

**Behind Zakir Hussain College, Tagore Road, Delhi,
Ph: 9953444320, 25840937**

jewellery. You get tea at **Manjusha**, the West Bengal emporium, and wood carvings at **Mrignayani**, the Madhya Pradesh emporium. Manjusha is also popular for its silk and cotton saris — Taant, Dhakai, Baatik, Jamdani, Kantha, Baluchari and Swarnachuri. The three-storeyed **Tripura** emporium called **Purbasha** is jam-packed with goodies for your home: beautiful stuff made of bamboo and cane.

Rajiv Gandhi Handicrafts Bhavan, right next to the emporia complex, houses stores that sell books, handicrafts, paper products, rural handicrafts, etc.

MOHAN SINGH PALACE: This is where you can get designer labels at pocket-friendly prices. This den of denims has hundreds of shops specializing in making jeans for all sizes. You can get a pair of jeans for less than Rs 500. The tailors will customize it for you in a couple of hours. A must for denim junkies! This market building is also home to wholesalers of upholstery, drapery and all sorts of other fabrics.

Near Mohan Singh Place, adjacent to PVR Rivoli Cinema, is the very famous tailor shop **D Vaish and Sons**, who specialize in men's wedding wear, especially suits and sherwanis.

SHANKAR MARKET: Situated on the periphery of Connaught Place, **Shankar Market** is one of the biggest garment hubs in Delhi. It has been there for more than 50 years and comprises 110 shops on the ground floor and 53 stalls and 53 commercial flats on the upper floor. **Balbir Cloth House** here is famous for its embroidery and suit material. It offers *phulkari* embroidery and Patiala prints.

PAHARGANJ: As you step out of the New Delhi Railway Station and cross the road, you stand at the entrance to **Paharganj Main Bazaar**. Stretching for about a kilometre, it is a bargainer's paradise. Chaotic, noisy and dirty, the market is only for shoppers who are rough and tough.

The whole Main Bazaar is lined with shops full to the brim with books, music, jewellery, bags, clothes, shoes, incense, textiles, wooden statues, and handicrafts. Shanti Handloom and other textile shops offer bags, bed spreads, cushion covers, wall hangings, etc. The jewellery shops sell handmade beaded necklaces and bangles in every shape, size and colour. Carved wooden statues of gods and goddesses, brass wares and decorations are available among handicrafts. Prayer Incense Worldwide specializes in incense sticks, incense cones and Indian tea. Even books, both new and second-hand, are available.

KAROL BAGH: Karol Bagh is a shopper's delight for you can find here virtually everything. Ajmal Khan Road has long been famous for inexpensive readymades, cotton yarn and embroidered garments. But now the international labels have become as familiar. At **Arya Samaj Road** you can buy second-hand books. **Bank Street** has a row of shops displaying gold jewellery. **Ghaffar Market** is famous for imported goods.

SOUTH DELHI



South Delhi is where designer boutiques and chic restaurants flourish alongside ancient ruins, exemplifying the co-existence of the past and the present. World-famous historical sites (Qutub Minar, Purana Qila, Safdarjung's Tomb and Humayun's Tomb), places of religious importance (Lotus Temple, Kalkaji Temple and ISKCON Temple), venues for cultural events (India International Centre) and many more interesting tourist sites are located in this part of the city.

Pragati Maidan

Mathura Road

Metro Station: Pragati Maidan

Open: Daily

Timings: 10am to 9pm

Entry Fee: Weekdays: ₹ 20
(children), ₹ 30 (adults);
Weekends: ₹ 30 (children),
₹ 60 (adults)

Photography Charges: Free

Pragati Maidan is the largest exhibition complex in Delhi. Its well-designed and well-equipped halls make it popular with exhibition organizers from India and abroad. Founded in 1982, the complex houses many pavilions like Nehru Pavilion, Defence Pavilion, Indira Pavilion and Son of India Pavilion.

Pragati Maidan: Window to the World



It plays host to a number of international trade fairs, the most popular being the **India International Trade Fair (IITF)**, which attracts over 10,000 exhibitors and 30,00,000 visitors. Held every November, IITF showcases consumer goods, home appliances, gift items, power generation technology and equipment, agricultural products, engineering goods, etc. Other important events include Auto Expo, Indian Engineering Trade Fair, PlastIndia, Information Technology Exhibition, World Book Fair and IYT Asia.

The complex offers excellent infrastructure including conference rooms, press lounge, business information centre, restaurants, banks and post offices. It also has **Hamsadhwani** and **Falaknuma**, the auditoria where rock shows and plays are held quite frequently. A movie theatre called **Shakuntalam** is also on the premises.

Crafts Museum

Home to numerous artworks and artefacts, the **Crafts Museum** at Pragati Maidan was developed mainly as a reference centre for the craftsmen of the country to help and encourage them. A collection of over 20,000 items of folk and tribal arts, crafts and textiles from various parts of the country can be found here. The main attractions include bronze images, lamps and incense burners, ritual accessories, utensils, carvings, papier mâché, ivories, dolls, toys, puppets, masks, jewellery, paintings, terracotta and textiles.

The **Textile Gallery** showcases the amazing textile heritage of the country. Saris like Chanderi, Kota, Ikat, Benarasi, Taant, Paithani, Valkalam, Bandhej and Kanjivaram are on display. Embroidered clothes such as Lucknowi Chikan, Kantha of Bengal, Punjab's Phulkari and many more beautiful pieces can be seen here.

Designed by Charles Correa, the museum also houses various styles of huts found throughout the country, thus introducing the visitors to "rural" India.

There is a "visual store" for reference with about 15,000 objects, which can be used by scholars, designers, craftsmen and others for study and research. The **Crafts Museum Shop** sells books, postcards and a whole range of exquisite contemporary handicrafts.

Pragati Maidan, Mathura Road
Ph: 23371641

Metro Station: Pragati Maidan

Open: Tue–Sat; Mondays closed

Timings: 10am to 5pm

Entry Fee: ₹10 (children), ₹150 (foreigners)

Photography: Permission required

Crafts Museum: Patronizes folk and tribal arts



Purana Qila

A good example of medieval military architecture, **Purana Qila**, also known as Old Fort, lies on the west bank of the Yamuna. The fort was built in 1533 as a citadel of the city of Dinapanah, founded by Humayun, the second Mughal Emperor. However, Humayun was defeated by Bihar's Afghan leader Sher Shah Suri, who captured the city and renamed it Delhi Shershahi or Shergarh. He added many structures within the premises of the fort. In 1555, Humayun recaptured it and lived here until his death.

Today, only two notable structures, Sher Mandal and Qila-i-Kuhna Mosque, survive to tell the tale of the bygone years.

Purana Qila: Few interior structures have survived

Near Delhi Zoo, Mathura Road

Nearest Metro Station:

Pragati Maidan

Open: All days

Timings: Sunrise to Sunset

Entry Fee: ₹5 (Indians), ₹100 (foreigners)

Days Closed: None

Photography Charges: Free (still camera); ₹25 (video camera)



Qila-i-Kuhna, built around 1541–42, is a landmark in Indo-Islamic architecture. **Sher Mandal** is a two-storeyed structure in an octagonal shape. It is said that this was Humayun's library from the stairs of which he fell and met with his death.

The ramparts of the fort cover a perimeter of nearly 2 km. The fort has massive and magnificent walls, which are 18 m in height and have three arched gateways. The northern, southern and western gates are known as the Talaqi Darwaza, Humayun Darwaza and Bara Darwaza respectively. Double-storeyed and built with red sandstone, these gates are surmounted by *chhatris*. You get a marvellous view of Humayun's Tomb (see p. 111) through Humayun's Gate. Small spy holes in the walls provide nesting spaces for hundreds of birds.

Outside the fort is a lake which is fed by the River Yamuna. The lake skirts the fort and gives a magnificent view of the monument as you soak in the cool and colourful environs. Tourists and locals can enjoy boat-rides during summer months.

Recent excavations near the fort throw light on the possibility of the ancient city of Indraprastha — founded by the Pandavas of the Hindu epic Mahabharata — flourishing where the fort stands now.

CULTURE

The massive ramparts of this 16th-century fort provide a dramatic backdrop to cultural programmes and festivals. A sound and light show is held here regularly by Delhi Tourism. The **Ananya Festival** of classical dance (Oct 3–8) and **Bhakti Utsav** (Oct 9–13) will be held here by the Govt of NCT of Delhi in collaboration with Seher on the occasion of the Commonwealth Games.



National Zoological Park



Delhi Zoo: See the deer creatures

Near Old Fort, Mathura Road

Metro Station: Pragati
Maidan

Open: Sat–Thu; Friday closed

Timings: 8.30am to 5.30pm
(summer); 9.30am to 4.30pm
(winter)

Entry Fee: ₹5 (Indians), ₹100
(foreigners)

Photography Charges: Nil

Set up in 1959, the **National Zoological Park** sprawls over an area of 214 acres. It offers a natural habitat to over 2,000 species of animals and birds.

You can see the chimpanzee, hippopotamus, spider monkey, African wild buffalo, Gir lion, zebra, macaque, banteng, emu, hyena, axis deer, fallow deer, peafowl, jaguar and various birds and water animals. Those looking

for something exhilarating could visit the underground **Reptile Home Complex**, which has a stunning collection of snakes including King Cobra and pythons.

Interestingly, a visit to the zoo can also improve your knowledge of Delhi history. One of the *kos minars* — a pillar erected to mark a distance of about 3 km — erected by Mughal Emperor Jahangir is within the zoo, near the white tiger cage. Another surviving monument from the Mughal era, though mostly in ruins, is the **Azimganj Sarai**, located in the residential area of the zoo. It is an enclosed square courtyard built as a temporary resting place.

The best way to view the New Delhi Zoo is in an open-roofed mobile van, available at affordable charges within the zoo. There is also a cafeteria outside the zoo.

Humayun's Tomb

Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most impressive Mughal edifices, was built by Hamida Banu Begum, the second Mughal Emperor Humayun's widow. The tomb was designed by Mirak Mirza Ghiyath, a Persian architect who was brought from Herat. It cost 15 lakh rupees to build in those days.

The tomb lies at the centre of a massive, square garden complex

Opp. Dargah Nizamuddin,
Mathura Road

Metro Station: JLN Stadium

Open: Daily

Timings: Sunrise to sunset

Entry Fee: ₹10 (Indians),
₹250 (foreigners)

Photography Charges: Nil
(₹25 for video filming)

Humayun's Tomb: Built mainly of red sandstone



PAST GLORY

The tomb may have a sparse look today, but when William Finch, an English merchant, visited the tomb in 1611, he found the central chamber to have rich interior furnishing. He came across rich carpets and a *shamiana* — a small tent above the cenotaph — which was covered with a pure white sheet and had holy books in its front along with Humayun's sword, turban and shoes.

enclosed by high walls on three sides and the river Yamuna on the fourth. The garden is divided into four large squares separated by causeways, water pavilions and channels. The tomb is built mainly of red sandstone — the first monument to have used it on such a large scale. Black and yellow stones too have been used, perhaps to relieve the monotony. Humayun's Tomb is the first great example of Mughal architecture and stands second only to the Taj in merit.

Within its premises lie several small monuments, the popular ones being the black-and-yellow marble tomb of Humayun's wife and the tomb of Humayun's barber. Locally called **Nai ka Gumbad**, the barber's tomb is a notable square tomb with a double dome. The entry to the complex is through an enclosure known as **Bu Halima Garden**. It is believed that the garden existed before the tombs were built.

Also of interest is the **Arab Sarai** adjoining the southwest corner of Humayun's Tomb. It is believed to have been built by Hamida Banu Begum, Akbar's mother, in AD 1560–61 for 300 Arab *mullas* travelling from Mecca. The structure constitutes of a large enclosure that is separated into two quadrangles by a series of cells provided with a gateway at the centre. The western enclosure is currently used by the Industrial Training Institute (ITI). The second quadrangle, called the *mandi*, lies right outside the lofty eastern entrance of the structure.

Inside the eastern enclosure of the Arab Sarai is the **Afsarwala Mosque**. Its prayer chamber has a three-arched opening and the central bay is enclosed by a dome.

Towards the southeast corner of the mosque, right outside the precincts of Humayun's Tomb stands **Isa Khan's Tomb**, octagonal in shape and with a double dome. Constructed in 1547 as a tribute to Masnad Ali Isa Khan, a courageous noble under the Afghan ruler Sher Shah, it is believed to have been inspired by Sikandar Lodi's tomb.

Further away from the tomb complex lie Bada Bateshewala Mahal, Chote Bateshewala Mahal, and **Barapula**, a bridge with 12 piers and 11-arched openings, built in 1621 by Mihr Banu Agha, the chief eunuch of Emperor Jahangir's court.

In the 1857 War of Indian Independence, the last Mughal emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar took refuge at Humayun's Tomb along with three princes. But unfortunately, his forefather could not come to his rescue. It was from here that Captain Hodson captured him and he was finally exiled to Rangoon (now Yangon).

Nizamuddin Dargah

When you enter the area of Nizamuddin Dargah from Mathura Road, you are greeted by crowds of beggars, vendors and sellers of caps and rosaries. A lane on the left leads to the famous Mughlai restaurant, **Karim**. Next comes the **Ghalib Academy**, established to honour the 19th-century Urdu poet Mirza Ghalib. **Ghalib's Tomb** is in the adjacent compound.

As you move further, you meet sellers of flowers and *chadur* (sheets) to offer at the *dargahs* (mausoleums). You should first visit **Amir Khusro's Tomb**. Amir Khusro, the father of *qawwali*, was a spiritual disciple of Nizamuddin Auliya. *Qawwali* is the devotional music of the Sufis. From here **Nizamuddin Dargah** is a

Opp. Humayun's Tomb,
Mathura Road
Metro Station: JLN Stadium
Timings: Morning to Evening
Entry: Free
Days Closed: None
Photography Charges: Nil

Nizamuddin Dargah: Let wisdom filter in



few metres to the north. Nizamuddin Auliya was a famous humanitarian Muslim Sufi and mystic saint. The original tomb no longer exists. The present structure was built in the mid-15th century by Faridun Khan, a nobleman. It was repaired and decorated by Feroz Shah Tughlaq and subsequent rulers.

The initial structure of the Dargah must have been very simple as most of the ornamental parts of the tomb complex are later additions by the subsequent kings who ruled from Delhi. The majestic pavilion with marble arches and lattice screens or *jalis* was added by Emperor Shah Jahan. People tie red threads to these *jalis* as symbols of wishes they hope will be fulfilled. The roof is surmounted by an imposing ornamental dome, said to be built by Akbar II.



Tomb of Amir Khusro: You can't bury his fame

Between the tombs of the disciple and the teacher lie the graves of **Jahanara**, the daughter of Shah Jahan, and **Emperor Mohammad Shah**. There is a courtyard beyond the tomb which is the venue for *qawwalis*. The high sandstone wall of the **Jamaat Khana** (prayer hall) can be seen on the west.

A HOLY CURSE

Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq is usually perceived as a liberal ruler. However, he was so passionate about his dream fort that he issued a diktat that all labourers in Delhi work on his fort. Saint Nizamuddin Auliya, a Sufi mystic, got incensed as the work on his *baoli* (well) was stopped. The subsequent confrontation between the Sufi saint and the Emperor has become a legend. The saint uttered a curse: "*Ya rahe ujar, ya rahe Gujar*" (It shall either lie barren, or be inhabited by Gujar, a nomadic tribe). The curse still holds good for the forlorn fort of Tughlaqabad.

India Habitat Centre

The India Habitat Centre (IHC) is the epicentre of cultural, economic, business and social events in Delhi. Be it the futuristic design of its buildings or the vibrant environment of the Centre, everything about the place is captivating. The principal mission of the Centre, "to restore at every level — environment and ecological — a balanced, harmonious and improved way of life," is reflected in its concept and design.

Spread over nine acres, IHC has a built-up area of about a million square feet. It incorporates innovative new technologies in building management systems, conference systems, communication and energy conservation, creating probably the most intelligent building in the country. The large art exhibition space of almost 5000 square feet along with the adjoining sculptural park has vast potential of being developed as a public playground, of presenting new and challenging work across the arts and of forging an innovative way of thinking about culture.

The Habitat Library and Resource Centre (HLRC) offers a range of knowledge and information resources to its members. IHC holds heritage walks and has a Habitat Film Centre. There is also a multi-purpose Computer Learning Centre.

Several leading corporate entities and non-profit organizations like TERI, HUDCO, NHB, CII and ILO, sharing a common concern for the 'Habitat', have come together to participate in this exciting venture of institution-building and have evolved a unique equation of synergy within the complex. IHC is not only home to these organizations but also houses the Habitat Club, India's most comprehensive convention centre as well as several restaurants, and venues for cultural activities.

Lodi Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 43663333



India International Centre

The India International Centre (IIC) plays a unique cultural and intellectual role in the life of Delhi. Its building on a beautiful 4.76-acre site adjacent to Lodi Gardens was designed by the renowned architect Joseph Allen Stein. The inspiration for the building, its layout and size came from the complex of the International House of Japan in Tokyo.

40, Max Mueller Marg, Lodhi Road

Ph: 24619431

Nearest Metro Station: JLN Stadium

Entry Fee: Depends on the event

Photography : Permission required

IIC is known for its programme activities. The Centre provides three activity streams. The Intellectual Stream is supported with the organization of seminars, symposia, meetings, discussions, and a well-stocked library that also helps publish papers. The Social Stream provides hostel and catering facilities.

The Cultural Stream takes care of events like dance recitals, film screenings, and drama. IIC is an important venue for screening 'thoughtful' cinema. If you are a film buff, you may also try India Habitat Centre, which is close by. Other important venues include Max Mueller Bhavan and Alliance Francaise.

India International Centre: Indian culture hub



Lodi Garden

The old Lady Willingdon Park, now known as Lodi Garden, was set up during the 15th and 16th centuries by Sayyid and Lodi rulers. The garden was re-designed by JA Stein and Garrett Eckbo in 1968. Today, it serves as one of the best joggers' park in Delhi.

The garden is dotted with historical monuments. **Muhammad Shah's Tomb** has a central octagonal chamber, verandahs, a high dome and matching *chhatris*. It is also called Mubarak Khan ka Gumbad. **Bara Gumbad** is a square tomb with an impressive dome. Adjacent to the tomb stands **Bara Gumbad and Mosque**, built in 1494 during the reign of Sikandar Lodi. The rectangular mosque has five-arched openings. **Sheesh Gumbad**, or the Glazed Dome, is believed to have been built by Sikandar Lodi in the 16th century and stands opposite Bara Gumbad. It is decorated with tiles in two

shades of blue, giving it a glazed appearance. The interiors look striking because of the plasterwork with floral designs and Koranic inscriptions. North of Sheesh Gumbad is **Sikandar Lodi's Tomb** built by Ibrahim Lodi in 1517. It has a central octagonal chamber where each side opens in three arches with sloping buttresses at the corners. East of Sikandar Lodi's Tomb stands **Athpula**, a stone bridge with eight piers and seven arches. Built by Nawab Bahadur, this is the only remaining structure from the times of Akbar.

Main Lodi Road, Beside India International Centre

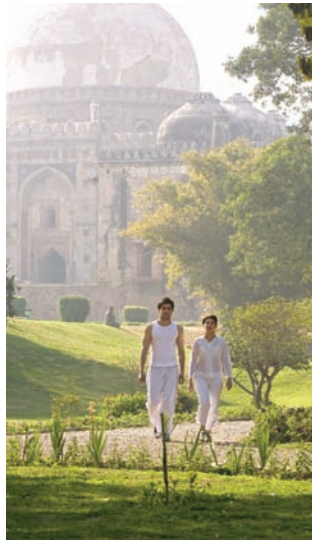
Metro Station: JLN Stadium

Open: Daily

Timings: Morning to Evening

Entry: Free

Photography Charges: Nil



Lodi Garden: Joggers' park

Safdarjung's Tomb

Nawab Shuja-ud-Daulah, the Nawab of Awadh, built this tomb in 1753 for his father Mirza Muqim Abdul Mansur Khan, better known as Safdarjung. The tomb has the graves of Safdarjung and his wife. It was built for three lakh rupees.

Spread over an area of 300 sq km, the spectacular tomb is enclosed within a garden divided into squares in the Charbagh pattern with tanks and fountains along the central pathway. The layout bears sharp resemblances to Humayun's Tomb. The grand red sandstone entrance is eye-catching. In the intricacy of its beautiful contours, the central arch is the most striking. Sandwiched between eight high-raised Mughal windows — four on each side — the ceiling of the central arch unravels a kaleidoscope of colours. A keen observer can see how a convoy of nine mini-tombs adorns the gigantic white dome. Lofty enclosure walls, exquisite Mughal gardens, huge tanks, giant fountains, a mausoleum... Safdarjung's Tomb was truly "the last flicker in the lamp of Mughal architecture in Delhi".

Inside, the central chamber is square and surrounded by eight rooms. At the protracted centre of this 16-sided base is the grave of Safdarjung. The beautiful pavilions on either side have different names: **Moti Mahal** (pearl palace), **Jangli Mahal** (sylvan palace) and **Badshah Pasand** (emperor's favourite). One of the pavilions houses the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) office (Delhi Circle).

Safdarjung's Tomb: Observe keenly



Intersection of Safdarjung Road and Aurobindo Marg

Metro Station: Jor Bagh

Open: Daily

Timings: Sunrise to Sunset

Entry Fee: ₹5 (Indians),
₹100 (foreigners)

Photography Charges: Free (still camera), ₹25 (video camera)

National Rail Museum



The Old World of Trains: When they literally chugged

Spread across ten acres, the **National Rail Museum** has all the right ingredients of a popular tourist spot — history, heritage, information, leisure and entertainment. Inaugurated on 1 February 1977, the museum is a must-visit for those who love locomotives. There are various models of trains, engines and coaches. The museum also houses the model of India's very first train, a steam engine that made its journey from Bombay (now Mumbai) to Thane in 1853.

The museum is a storehouse of information about the history of railways in India. Some of the prized possessions of the museum are its vintage displays. A highlight of the museum is the Fairy Queen built in 1855, which is the best-preserved locomotive of its time. The museum maintains a collection of 26 vintage locomotives, 17 carriages and saloons from the 19th century. The Viceregal Dining Car (1889), Prince of Wales' saloon (1875) and Maharaja of Mysore's saloon (1899) attract many visitors.

Children love to ride in the toy train around the museum on the miniature rail track.

Diplomatic Enclave,
Chanakyapuri
Ph: 23304137, 26880939
Metro Station: Dhaula Kuan
Open: Tue–Sun; Mondays
closed
Timings: 10am to 6pm
Entry Fee: ₹3 (children),
₹10 (adults)
Photography Charges:
Permission required

Moth ki Masjid



Masjid Moth: Without the typical minarets

Behind South Extension,
Masjid Moth Village
Metro Station: Moolchand
Open: Daily
Timings: Sunrise to Sunset
Entry: Free
Photography Charges: Nil

Moth ki Masjid, also known as Masjid Moth, was constructed in the early 16th century by Miyan Bhuwa, a minister during the rule of Sikandar Lodi. According to legend, Miyan Bhuwa built this mosque from the revenue earned by producing a large crop from a single grain of *moth* (tepariy bean) presented to him by Sikandar Lodi. The foundation stone was laid by Sikandar Lodi and it is believed to

be Miyan Bhuwa's personal mosque.

The mosque is regarded as a vital landmark in the development of Indo-Islamic architecture. An exceptional amalgam of Hindu and Islamic styles, this type of architecture was developed in the Indian subcontinent subsequent to the advent of Muslim rule. Made of red sandstone, the mosque has a small semicircular dome, windows with latticework screens, double-storeyed towers, open arches and octagonal cenotaphs. The prayer chamber constitutes five arched openings embellished in Indo-Islamic fashion with floral intricate designs. Masjid Moth is different from traditional mosques as it does not have the typical minarets and calligraphic decorations.

ISKCON Temple

The **ISKCON Temple** has an ambience resonating with *bhajans* and *kirtans*. It is one of the 40 temples built by the International Society for Krishna Consciousness (ISKCON). The actual name of the temple is Sri Radha Parthasarthy Temple, popularly known as Hare Krishna Temple.

Built in 1998, this huge and marvellous structure has three shrines dedicated to Radha–Krishna, Sita–Ram and Guara–Nitai. It has an air-conditioned hall that can accommodate as many as 1,500 people at a time. During the months of *Saawan* (July–August) and *Kartik* (October–November), the temple is decorated beautifully with fresh flowers. The air is thick with spiritual discourses and chants, enhancing the divine atmosphere.

Janmashtami, the festival that commemorates Lord Krishna's birthday, is celebrated with great aplomb. Multimedia shows are organized regularly to educate the devotees about the Hindu epics. There are souvenir shops inside the temple. You can even savour a delicious *saatvik* (pure vegetarian) meal at **Govinda**, the temple cafeteria.

Sant Nagar, East of Kailash

Metro Station: East of Kailash

Open: Daily

Timings: 4.30am to 1pm, 4.30pm to 9pm

Entry: Free

Photography: Not allowed in prayer hall

ISKCON Temple: The atmosphere is divine



Bahá'í Temple

A masterpiece of 20th-century architecture, the Bahá'í Temple was designed by Fariburz Sabha, a Canadian Bahá'í of Iranian descent. Built between 1980 and 1986, it is the latest among the seven Bahá'í temples across the world.

With its shape akin to a half-open lotus, this house of worship is popularly known as Lotus Temple. Light and water have been used as the fundamental design elements. The interior dome is spherical and patterned after the innermost portion of the lotus flower, like a bud consisting of 27 petals. Light filters through these inner folds and is diffused throughout the hall. The central bud is held by nine open petals, each of which functions as a skylight. Set among sprawling green lawns, the petals of the grand lotus are surrounded by nine pools that represent floating leaves.

The Bahá'í Temple is most conducive to meditation. There are no priests, idols, pictures, sermons or rituals here. Daily public services include selection from the holy books of all religions. Religious discrimination does not exist here as its symbol, the lotus, connotes peace, purity and a manifestation of God.

Near Kalkaji Temple, East of Nehru Place

Nearest Metro Station: Kalkaji Mandir

Open: Tue–Sun; Mondays closed

Timings: 9am to 7pm

Entry: Free

Photography: Permission required



Bahá'í Temple: The lotus beckons all

Kalkaji Temple



Kalkaji Temple: Gets thronged during Navratri

Kalkaji Temple, popularly known as Kalkaji Mandir, is a renowned temple dedicated to Kalka Devi or Kali, an incarnation of Goddess Durga. The temple was built in the mid-18th century and the oldest portion of the existing temple dates back to 1764. However, some historians say the Marathas plundered the fair at Kalka Devi during the battle of 1738 against the Mughals in Talkatora. In the mid-19th century, Raja Kedarnath, treasurer of Emperor Akbar II, made certain changes and additions to the temple.

In the *sanctum sanctorum* is the stone that represents Goddess Kali, housed in a 12-sided structure. The whole temple is made of white marble and granite. In the vicinity of the temple are the *dharamshalas*, or rest houses, built with the donations of devotees.

During Navratri, the nine-day festival dedicated to Goddess Durga, the temple is thronged by thousands of pilgrims.

Near Nehru Place

Nearest Metro Station: Kalkaji Mandir

Open: Daily

Timings: 6am to 10pm (best to visit during the morning and evening *aarti*)

Entry: Free

Photography: Not allowed in prayer hall

Khirki Masjid

Khirki Masjid, or the Mosque of Windows, was built by Khan-i-Jahan Shah, son of Khan-i-Jahan Maqbul Tilangani, the Prime Minister of Feroz Shah Tughlaq in about AD 1380. The quadrangular mosque was built as a fortress. It is perhaps the only mosque in North India which is mostly covered.

The main feature of the mosque, as the name suggests, is its distinctive window that opens with *jalis* or tracery, known as *khirki* (latticed window). Placed on the upper level of the mosque's exterior wall, these *jalis* served as carved stone shields.

The Khirki Masjid is square in plan, subdivided into quarters. Each quarter has its own inner courtyard. Internally, arcades running from north to south divide the mosque space into aisles. These architectural specialities make the mosque a photographer's delight.



About 2 km northeast of Qutab Minar in the Khirki village, just off the Press Enclave

Nearest Metro Station: Mehrauli

Entry: Free

Days Closed: None

Preferred Timings: Sunrise to Sunset

Photography Charges: Free
(Permission required from the caretakers)

UNIQUE FUSION

The mosque is an example of Indo-Islamic architecture — an unusual fusion of Islamic and traditional Hindu architecture. This probably owes to the fact that Tilangani was a Hindu convert. However, in general, Indo-Islamic architecture developed for many reasons. One of them was that Muslim rulers mostly used Indian artisans to build their monuments. Also, often the monuments were built out of the material taken from the Hindu and Jain temples that the Muslim invaders destroyed.

Hauz Khas Monuments

Lying concealed amidst the bustling modern life of South Delhi's posh locality, Hauz Khas is an interesting chapter of history. This is the battleground where Taimur defeated Mohammed Shah Tughlaq in 1398. As you wander down the quaint narrow alley through the boutiques, there is a surprise at the end: a group of secretly guarded monuments that tell tales of history.

HAUZ-I-ALAI or **HAUZ KHAS**: Sultan Ala-ud-din Khilji (1296–1316), the founder of Siri, excavated a large tank in AD 1300 to provide a steady supply of water to the city. Located to the east of Siri, the tank was therefore known as Hauz-i-Alai or Hauz Khas, meaning 'the royal tank'. Later, Feroz Shah Tughlaq (1351–88) repaired the tank and built several imposing monuments on its eastern and southern banks. These included his tomb, mosque and a *madrasa* (college). Today there is an ornamental garden that occupies much of the area that was once the tank.

MADRASA: During Feroz Shah's time there were three main *madrastas* in Delhi. One of them was the Feroz Shahi Madrasa at Hauz Khas. Established in 1352, it was one of the leading institutions of Islamic learning in the Delhi Sultanate.

The Madrasa's structure has an innovative design. It was built in an L-shape as one contiguous structure on the south and east edges of the reservoir complex. The two arms are pivoted at the large Tomb of Feroz Shah. At the northern end there is a small mosque. Between the mosque and the tomb, two-storeyed



Feroz Shahi Madrasa: Once a leading institute of learning

pavilions stand now on the northern side. There are similar pavilions on the eastern side overlooking the lake. These were a part of the Madrasa. The two arms are interconnected through small domed gateways passing through the tomb at the centre. The North–South arm with balconies overlooking the reservoir is a two-storeyed building with three towers of varying sizes. Ornamental brackets cover the upper-storey balconies while the lower storeys have corbelled support. Roof overhangs or eaves (*chhajjas*) are seen now only in the upper storeys though it is said that they existed on both the storeys when the Madrasa was built.

From each floor of the Madrasa, staircases go down to the tank. Many cenotaphs are seen in the form of octagonal and square *chhatris*. These are possibly the tombs of the teachers of the Madrasa.

TUGHLAQ TOMBS: This group of tombs opposite the entrance gate has small eight-pillared *chhatris* with large cantilevered beams that supported flat eaves all round the small dome.

PAVILIONS: The Madrasa is flanked by the reservoir in the northern front and by a garden on its southern side at the second-floor level. The entry to the garden is from the eastern gate, which passes through the Hauz Khas village. The garden



Tughlaq Tombs: Small eight-pillared *chhatris*

houses six impressive pavilions with domes of different shapes and sizes (rectangular, octagonal and hexagonal). Going by their inscriptions, they are believed to be graves. Ruins of a courtyard with a rectangular plan are seen to the west of the three pavilions which are built of double columns. The pavilions and the courtyard seem to have been a part of the Madrasa in the past.



Buried amidst posh South Delhi

MOSQUE: The northern end of the Madrasa is secured to a small mosque. The *qibla* (direction to Mecca) of the Mosque projects towards the reservoir. A C-shaped layout of a double row of pillars on a raised podium forms the prayer hall, which is open to the sky. The *qibla* wall, seen clearly from the reservoir side, has five *mihirabs* (niches). The *avant garde* setting of the central *mihrab* with a domed *chhatri* (cupola) with open sides is seen in the form of a pavilion projecting into the reservoir. The other *mihirabs* are set on either side, in the walls with grilled windows.

FEROZ SHAH'S TOMB: The most striking monument in the complex is this tomb built on an L-shaped plan that connects the two wings of the Madrasa. It is a domed, rubble-built, plastered square tomb with high walls attached to a courtyard. The main entrance is from the south with a small yard in front enclosed by stone railings, which are a unique feature in Delhi. Beautifully decorated with Quranic inscriptions and plasterwork, the tomb reflects the amalgamation in the Indo-Islamic architecture. An inscription over the southern gateway informs visitors that the tomb was repaired in AD 1507 during Sikander Lodi's reign. Overall, the tomb has a solid appearance bereft of decoration.

LEARNING

It is believed that the Madrasa taught astronomy, mathematics, medicine, calligraphy, grammar and oratory, and Sanskrit later on. It is recorded that the first head of the Madrasa was one Jalal al-Din Rumi, who knew 14 sciences and had complete mastery over the five standard collections of the Traditions of the Prophet.

Garden of Five Senses

The **Garden of Five Senses** is one of Delhi's most rewarding tourist destinations. Spread over 40 acres, the garden has several sections. **Khas Bagh** is a formal garden modelled on the famous Mughal Garden. Slow-moving water cascades into channels flowing along its length and leading to fountains lit up by fibre-optic lighting systems. **Neel Bagh** is a pool of water lilies encircled by pergolas covered with climbing plants and hundreds of ceramic bells chiming overhead. The **Colour Gardens** have beautiful flowering shrubs and ground covers. The **Courts of Specimen Plants** can prove very educative about rare cacti, herbs and bamboos. The **Solar Energy Park** displays solar-powered buses, bicycles, cars and a computer. Kids can enjoy a drive in the solar toy

Said-ul-Ajaib,
 Mehrauli-Badarpur Road,
 Ph: 29536401, 65651083
Metro Station: Saket
Open: Daily
Timings: 8am to 9pm
Entry Fee: ₹10 (children),
 ₹15 (adults)
Photography Charges: Nil

cars. The garden also houses 25 different sculptures and murals. The most stunning is the stainless steel sculpture on the lines of a pin-wheel that flutters with every gush of wind.

Check beforehand if your visit can coincide with any of the festivals held here: Garden Tourism Festival, Dandia Masti Festival, food festivals, etc.

Garden of Five Senses: It also houses sculptures



JAHANPANAH

Jahanpanah was the fourth medieval city of Delhi. It was established by Muhammad bin Tughlaq in AD 1326–27. It is hemmed in the north–south direction between the Outer Ring Road and the Qutub Complex and on the east–west direction by the Mehrauli road and the Chirag Delhi road.

Muhammad bin Tughlaq built the city to avert the constant threat from the Mongols. The new city subsumed the Adilabad fort and all the establishments lying between Qila Rai Pithora and Siri Fort. The city and the fort now survive only in ruins, thanks perhaps to the whimsical behaviour of Muhammad bin Tughlaq, who is known for having shifted his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad and back again. The reminders of the city lie in Begumpuri Mosque and Bijay Mandal.

Begumpuri Masjid

It was probably the largest mosque of Delhi before Jama Masjid was built. Built by Khan-i-Jahan Junan Shah sometime in the 12th century, it was much more than just a mosque. It was a social and communal hub — it housed a *madrasa* and a treasury and was a

Begumpuri Masjid: Many of the domes have collapsed



meeting-place for business. Grain markets were often held near its entrance.

The mosque was built almost entirely of a combination of grey Delhi quartzite and mortar, all of it covered with lime plaster. The pillars are massive but there are hardly any designs etched on the arches and columns. The mosque has now become dysfunctional.



Bijay Mandal: Possibly the thousand-pillared palace of Muhammad bin Tughlaq

Bijay Mandal

What you get to see here is a huge wall standing on a large platform with a pavilion at the top. On one side of the structure is a dome-shaped building. The compound is full of wild vegetation. You will get a spectacular view of the city from the top of the octagonal pavilion.

Bijay Mandal was possibly the thousand-pillared palace of Muhammad bin Tughlaq. The entire structure came up in parts over a period of nearly a century, with the dome-shaped building being the last addition.

Qutub Complex

Qutub Complex constitutes a gamut of monuments and structures, of which the most famous is the Qutub Minar.

An important example of Indo-Islamic architecture, **Qutub Minar** is the tallest brick minaret in the world. The construction of the minaret, now a World Heritage Site, was started in AD 1200 by Qutub-ud-din Aibak, the first Muslim ruler of Delhi. His son-in-law and successor,

Iltutmish, added three storeys to the monument in 1368. The fifth and last storey was added by Feroz Shah Tughlak. Qutub Minar was built of red and buff sandstone with marble introduced in the fourth and fifth storeys. While the minaret towers 234 feet, it measures 47 feet at its base and narrows down to 9 feet at its peak. Adorned with numerous inscriptions, the monument has projecting balconies and is supported by elaborately decorated brackets.

Mehrauli, 16 km from
Connaught Place

Nearest Metro Station:

Mehrauli

Timings: Sunrise to Sunset

Entry Fee: Rs 10 (Indians),
Rs 250 (foreigners)

Days Closed: None

Photography Charges: Nil
(Rs 25 for video filming)

Qutub Minar: Tallest brick minaret



Quwwat-ul-Islam

Masjid, also known as Qutub Mosque or the Great Mosque of Delhi, is adjacent to the Minar. It was the first mosque built in Delhi after the Islamic conquest of India. Built by Qutub-ud-din Aibak in 1191, it is the best



Ala-i-Darwaza: Testifies to the skills of the Turkish artisans

surviving example of Ghurid architecture. Later, additions were made by Iltutmish and Ala-ud-din Khilji. A closer look confirms a typical Hindu touch since the shafts that adorn the mosque were brought from 27 destroyed temples.

In the courtyard of the mosque stands the **Iron Pillar**, constructed in the 4th century. The pillar bears an inscription that says it was constructed as a flagstaff to pay homage to Lord Vishnu and in remembrance of the Gupta king, Chandragupta II (375–413). How the pillar was shifted to its current location is still not clear. That the pillar has held against corrosion for the last 1,600 years is a testament to the skills of ancient Indian blacksmiths in extracting and processing iron.

Ala-i-Darwaza, a commanding gateway to the Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid, was built by Ala-ud-din Khilji. Embellished with inlaid marble decorations and latticed stone screens, the gateway testifies to the skills of the Turkish artisans. Its pointed arches augment the beauty of the mosque.

The **tomb of Shamsu'd-Din Iltutmish** lies to the northwest of the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque. In view of its lavish ornamentation, Fergusson described it as "one of the richest examples of Hindu art applied to Muhammadan purposes".

ORIGINS

The origins of the Qutub Minar are shrouded in controversy. Some believe it was erected as a tower of victory to signify the beginning of the Muslim rule in India. Others say it served as a minaret to the muezzins to call the faithful to prayer.

Mehrauli Archaeological Park



Mehrauli Archaeological Park is a heritage park behind the Qutub Complex in South Delhi. It is a park with perhaps the largest number of monuments in the world. It covers 100 acres of green land abutting the World Heritage Site of the Qutub Minar and the Mehrauli village settlement. Most of the ruins were not accessible by any means until a decade ago. A bushy forest hid ruins of an affluent era which spanned almost a century.

Around 2001, the authorities woke up to the potential of this area, cleared and beautified it. Only a dozen monuments are identifiable. The rest have been described as mosques, tombs and gardens without any names. It is a ghost town of sorts where you can see the stairs on which people once walked, the gardens where they picnicked and the mosques where they offered prayers. It was here that they fought, loved and hated one another. Just like us.

The authorities have set up eating joints and picnic spots in the area. Make sure you have adequate time to enjoy yourself amidst what may be called "historical greens". A brunch or snack in one of

those restaurants will make the trip around the park less tiring. The entrances to the park are from the Mehrauli–Gurgaon Road and from the Mehrauli–Andheria More.

Some of the more important monuments there are as follows:

Balban's Tomb

Ghiyas-ud-din Balban was the ruler of the Delhi Sultanate from 1266 to 1287. His tomb is believed to be the first building in India with a true arch. The tomb must have had a dome which has not survived the passage of time. It is a little off the main path — you will have to clamber through undergrowth and over rubble to get to it.

Ruins

There are so many ruins in this park that give rise to the belief that the city must have been very populous. The ruins are of buildings estimated to be of the 16th and 17th centuries. This part was cleared of dense forests in the years 2001–02. Each ruin tells its own story.

Jamali-Kamali Mosque

Jamali was the nickname of Jamali Sheikh Fazal-ul-allah. Also known as Jalal Khan, he was a saint and poet during the reign



Boathouse: Sailing through time

of Sikandar Lodi and Humayun. The mosque named after him is a little distance away from Balban's tomb towards the south and was built in 1529. So was his tomb in which he was interred in 1536. There is another grave said to be of Kamali, about whom not much is known. The beautifully decorated mosque with a large courtyard represents the earliest specimen of Mughal architecture in India.

Metcalfe's Canopy/Folly

It is not the same as Metcalfe House. It is a canopy built on top of a mound by Charles Metcalfe in the early 19th century. He wanted it to look like a building of an earlier era. Since the canopy is at an elevation, it provides an excellent view of surrounding areas.

Metcalfe's Boathouse

Belonging probably to the Lodi period, the boathouse was modified by Metcalfe and included in Dilkusha. The central portion of the building with a basement was used as a dovecote on the roof. The building led to an artificial water body which fills up during the rains. Metcalfe refurbished the tank for boating and swimming.



Jamali-Kamali Mosque

Quli Khan's Tomb

Mohammad Quli Khan was the brother of Adham Khan. Adham Khan was the son of Maham Anga, the wet nurse of the Mughal emperor Akbar. He rebelled against the emperor and is said to have been killed by being thrown off the parapet. The two brothers were generals in the royal army. Quli Khan's tomb was constructed in the early 17th century.

This was the seat of Metcalfe's Dilkusha, the weekend retreat away from the hustle and bustle of the city of Delhi. Charles Metcalfe worked as a negotiator between the East India Company and the Mughal Ruler. It is said that he renovated this place for himself because he wanted to keep a watch on Emperor Bahadur Shah II, who spent his summer in **Zafar Mahal** at Mehrauli to spend his summer in. During the Great Revolt of 1857 the house was ransacked and abandoned.

Metcalfe's Guesthouse

A gateway from the Lodi period led from Quli Khan's tomb enclosure to the Qutub Minar. Metcalfe extended the gateway and used it as a guesthouse. The building lay in a dilapidated condition. Its conservation was undertaken in 2002–03.

Rajon Ki Baoli

A *baoli* is a step-well. The steps take you to the bottom of the well. On the sides are precariously built stone galleries. This was a joint for social interaction and also to enjoy the cooler environment surrounding the well, away from the heat outside. It is called Rajon Ki Baoli because it was primarily used by the *raj* (masons).

Gandhak ki Baoli

If you go further along the path, you will reach the 13th-century Gandhak ki Baoli. The step-well is called so because of the strong smell of sulphur that permeates its waters. It is the source of the stream you have been following.

Maulana Majduddin's Tomb

Maulana Majduddin Haji was a Sufi teacher in the mid-13th century. His mosque and tomb lie in this archaeological park. The mosque has three compartments with arched openings and vaulted ceilings. The courtyard has the graves of Maulana Majduddin, Muhammad bin Ali and Asad bin Husain.

Khan Shahid's Tomb

Towards the east is a rectangular chamber which was supposed to be the tomb of Muhammad, better known as Khan Shahid, the son of Balban who died fighting the Mongols in Multan in 1285. The tomb is believed to have been built sometime during the late 13th or early 14th century. The tomb is octagonal and originally had a dome. The entrance to the tomb is elevated and there was a waterfall below the stairs.

Adham Khan's Tomb

You already know about Adham Khan (see the section on Quli Khan's Tomb). His tomb is not exactly a part of the park but lies just outside it (as the map shows) in the Mehrauli village in front of the bus stand. The tomb is built in Lodi style with a verandah on each side with three openings and that too without the usual eaves below the parapets. It is said that in the early 19th century, the tomb was converted into a residence of an Englishman named Blake of the Bengal Civil Service. The tomb is popularly known as Bhulbhulaiya for its labyrinthine corridors, where one may lose one's way. It is said that once an entire *baraat* (a groom's retinue) got lost inside the tomb.



Khan Shahid's Tomb: Note the elevated entrance

Chhattarpur Temple



Chhattarpur Temple: Resembles the South Indian styles

Chhattarpur Temple is one of the largest and most popular Hindu temples in Delhi. While the presiding deity is Goddess Durga, the complex has other temples dedicated to different deities such as Lord Shiva, Lord Ganesha and Lord Rama. Made of white marble, the temple is richly crafted, and closely resembles the South Indian temples of the Chola and Chalukya styles. However, Chhattarpur Temple does not have any *gopuram* or gateway, the most important facet of temples in South India. The massive temple complex looks truly grand with its beautiful gardens and lawns.

Mehrauli–Gurgaon Road

Nearest Metro Station:

Chhattarpur

Timings: 6am to 10pm

(best to visit during the morning and evening *aarti*)

Entry: Free

Days Closed: None

Photography: Not allowed in the prayer hall

Katyayani and Mahagauri, the sixth and eighth forms of the Goddess Durga respectively, are venerated at the temple. Another attraction here is the *Kalpavriksha* tree, which you will see laden with colourful bangles and red threads. It is believed that tying a thread or offering bangles to the tree fulfils the devotee's wishes.

Devotees throng the temple during Navratri, the festival dedicated to Goddess Durga.

Tughlakabad Fort

Tughlakabad Fort was built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq, the founder of the Tughlaq Dynasty in Delhi. Built to combat the incessant threat of Mongol attack, the fort was a part of Tughlakabad, considered to be the third city of the Delhi Sultanate.

However, Nizamuddin Auliya, a Sufi saint, annoyed with Ghiyas-ud-din's high-handed ways, cursed Tughlakabad by saying, "*Ya rahe ujar, ya rahe Gujar*" (it shall either lie barren, or be inhabited by Gujar, a nomadic tribe). Strangely enough, Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq was killed in 1324 — a year after the fort was completed. Mohammad bin Tughlaq, his successor, built his own palace — Hazaar Khutoon (Thousand Pillars) — and later moved his capital from Delhi to Daulatabad.

The ruins of the Tughlakabad Fort lie in the outskirts of Delhi, aloof and secluded. Little remains of what was once an intimidating fort. Within these high walls are the ruins of double-storeyed bastions and massive assault towers. Another major attraction is the tomb of Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq which, enclosed in a courtyard, has high-raised walls and is a masterpiece of the fusion architecture of Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Tughlakabad Fort: Where the bats fly

Mehrauli–Badarpur Road

Nearest Metro Station:

Tughlakabad

Timings: Sunrise to Sunset

Entry: Free

Days Closed: None

Photography Charges: Nil



TAKE A BREAK

Eating

The vast area of South Delhi has countless options for a full, satisfying meal. While Defence Colony, Khan Market and Greater Kailash I & II are where the maximum number of the city's eateries are located, places beyond these areas are also well equipped.

SAKET

AI

★★★★

JAPANESE | Meal for 2: ₹3000

Ai occupies the ground between traditional and contemporary Japanese. Not only are the Sushi and Sashimi very good, they're beautifully presented. Their signature dishes include Pork Belly and Paper Pot nabe. One of the few upmarket places in the city where vegetarians too are spoiled for choice.

2nd Floor, MGF Mall, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi, Ph: 40654567

ALATURKA

★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹500

This tiny outlet is owned by a Turkish gentleman who speaks not a word of English. It offers some very good Shawarma, also known as Doner Kebab and Falafel Rolls for vegetarians. Hearty and delicious for the price you pay.

Ground Floor, Select Citywalk Mall, Saket, New Delhi, Ph: 9999178888

BENNIGANS

★★★

FAST FOOD | Meal for 2: ₹1000

Bennigans are a hybrid of Americana and Britannia — that's what this international chain would like you to believe. While one will welcome the break from burgers and pizzas that are growing in Delhi, the steaks, Irish Burgers, Golden Chicken Tender, the Fajitas and Montacristo Sandwiches are worth a try here.

31-32, PVR Saket Complex, New Delhi, Ph: 41748030

BIG CHILL, THE

★★½

ITALIAN | Meal for 2: ₹800

Big Chill is probably the best café-style eatery that the city has today. Recommended are Ravioli with Butter and Sage Sauce, Pepperoni and Gouda Bake, Spinach and Mushroom Lasagne and Quattro Formaggi Pizza.

DLF Place, Saket, New Delhi, Ph: 41170000

CHI KITCHEN

★★★

PAN ASIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1000

Chi is nice-looking and has innovative dishes. The Wasabi-flavoured Prawn Sui Mai and the Prawn Rangoon are very good. Try Thukpa, a Tibetan original. An interesting inclusion on the menu is the Congee — both the Prawn Congee and the Shiitake, Tofu & Beansprout Congee are worth a shot.

**Ground floor, Select City Mall, Saket, New Delhi,
Ph: 9717784453, 40566919**

HALDIRAM'S

★★★★½

MITHAI, SNACKS — VEGETARIAN | Meal for 2: ₹300

A gourmet's delight! Despite always being overcrowded, Haldiram's offers a range of *namkeens* and *mithais*, besides a variety of snacks. Particularly suggested are the Rajbhog, Anarkali, Pakhija and Rasmalai. For a sweet sip, you can choose from Thandai or Kesar Rabdi Kulfi.

DLF Place, District Centre, Saket, New Delhi, Ph: 9311251002

MAINLAND CHINA

★★★★★

CHINESE | Meal for 2: ₹1200

Recommended here is their dim sum, Silken Tofu and Vegetable Clear Soup, the superlative Steamed Whole Betki with Ginger and Soya and the Sautéed Fresh River Water Prawns. Also worth a shot is the Pan Breast Okra in Swiss Chilli Sauce, Steamed Chicken, Sliced Chicken with Asparagus in Oyster Sauce.

2nd Floor, DLF Place, Saket, New Delhi, Ph: 41680000

PUNJAB GRILL

★★★★½

INDIAN (PUNJABI) | Meal for 2: ₹800

One of the finest new restaurants in this part of the city that serves North Indian food, the spicing here caters to the palate perfectly, while the ingredients make an effort to move away from the clichés of chicken and mutton.

2rd Floor, Select Citywalk, District Centre, Saket, Ph: 41572977

FRIENDS/NEW FRIENDS COLONY**AL BAKE**

★★★½

FAST FOOD | Meal for 2: ₹400

Low in profile but high on the popularity charts, the Momos, Chop Suey and the Shawarma are hot cakes at Al Bake!

**95, Community Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi,
Ph: 26928466, 26324527, 32972881**

ANGELS IN MY KITCHEN

★★★★

CONFECTIONERY, SNACKS | Meal for 2: ₹300

You will find freshly baked breads, cakes and pies in this confectionery-cum-snack kitchen that supposedly has angels inside. It has an open kitchen which you can peep into if you want to see your order being prepared. Great picks include Fudge Brownies, Apple Crumble Pie, French Hearts and more.

9AB, Near Honey Money Top, Taimur Nagar, New Friends Colony, New Delhi, Ph: 65493797

INDIAN ACCENT

★★★★★

INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹2500

This one takes the Indian food to the level of an international cuisine. With a wine list by Charles Metcalfe, it pairs such unlikely combinations as Foie Gras with Galouti Kababs and serves it with strawberry and green chilly chutney.

The Manor, 77 Friends Colony (West), New Delhi, Ph: 26925151

YUM YUM TREE

★★★★½

CHINESE, THAI, JAPANESE, MALAYSIAN | Meal for 2: ₹2000

Nothing is strictly traditional here: there are tiny variations in most dishes. Their most popular sushi is an uramaki roll with deep-fried soft shell crab, moistened with a sichimi-spiked mayo. The Chinese food is Singaporean in style rather than the Mainland variety. Whatever else you try, don't miss the excellent cheesecake.

1st Floor, Community Centre, New Friends Colony, New Delhi, Ph: 42602020

CHANAKYAPURI/RK PURAM**AL KAKORI**

★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹600

This kebab counter came into prominence with its Kakori Kabab. Part takeaway, part kiosk, Al Kakori is known for its Mutton Nihari, Chicken Ishtew and the Fish and Chicken Tikka. Even the Varki Paratha is quite tasty. Vegetarian options include Malai Kofta and Palak Paneer.

Vasant Place Market, Sector 6, RK Puram, New Delhi, Ph: 26104101, 26180384

Corner of Kautilya Marg, Near Assam Bhawan, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 65862383, 9811262532

KUMGANG GONIE

★★★★★

KOREAN | Meal for 2: ₹2500

Owned by a Korean lady, Kumgang has the largest, most inclusive menu of any Korean restaurant in Delhi. Many of the tables have built-in gas grills, so

you can virtually make your own Bulgogi, the grilled tenderloin, pork or chicken that is eaten with barbecue sauce, onions and lettuce.

The Ashok, 50 B, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26110101, 26878298

MASHRABIYA

★★★★

LEBANESE | Meal for 2: ₹2500

The only Lebanese restaurant in the city that is actually worth the name. Try their Baba Ghanoush, Tabouleh, Hummus, Mutabal, Falafel, Ful Medames, Lamb Brain Salad. The menu here includes an exhaustive choice of char-grills as well. Don't miss the Fattoush, Kibbeh Mishwe and the Warak Inab.

The Ashok, 50 B, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26111065, 26110101

MOTI MAHAL

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹800

The restaurant offers the cuisine it truly pioneered in the city — Dal Makhni, Butter Chicken, Reshmi Kabab, Murgh Musallam. After all these years, the Tandoori Chicken is still succulent and flavourful. Also worth trying out are the Chicken Burrah, Garlic Reshmi Tikka and Paneer Tikka Amritsari.

20/48, Shopping Complex, Malcha Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26118698, 32454542, 26115625

OUDH, THE

★★★★

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹2000

The Oudh at the Ashok is for the lovers of Awadhi cuisine. And the menu here has been printed in all the official UN languages — French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and English, apart from Hindi. The Jhinga Mehrunnisa and Tangdi Malihabadi are authentic kebabs and worth trying.

The Ashok, 50 B, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26110101

SAGAR RATNA

★★★★½

SOUTH INDIAN - VEGETARIAN | Meal for 2: ₹300

What holds true for all Sagar outlets is authentic food from Karnataka. Try Sagar's affordable Fixed Thali, recommended for those who wish to have a hearty meal. Otherwise, try the Onion Rava Masala Dosa, the piping hot Rasam and the Dahi Vadas, which are stunning here.

The Ashok, 50 B, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26888242, 64691351, 26110101

LODI ROAD/KHAN MARKET/DEF COL/KHEL GAON MARG

AMAN

★★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹3000

This high-end place has some superior stuff. There is a tiny Naoki counter where a pair of Japanese chefs serve up a menu that is part Japanese, part

French. Besides, there is an indoor drinks lounge, and a conventional restaurant serving rather plebeian Indian fare.

Hotel Aman, Lodi Road, New Delhi, Ph: 43633333

ANGELS IN MY KITCHEN

★★★

CONFECTIONERY, SNACKS | Meal for 2: ₹300

For review see p. 143.

**7, Defence Colony Market, New Delhi, Ph: 41551122,
41556474**

BIG CHILL, THE

★★½

ITALIAN | Meal for 2: ₹800

For review see p. 141.

35, Khan Market, New Delhi, Ph: 41757533, 46556828

68 A, Khan Market, New Delhi, Ph: 41757588-99

CHOPSTICKS

★★½

CHINESE | Meal for 2: ₹1600

This place has curiously won every conceivable award there is to be won for a restaurant. You could try the good old Chicken Sweet Corn Soup, Fish With Ginger, Celery and Spring Onion, Prawns in Garlic Sauce, Mongolian Chicken, Clay Pot Lamb and their Pan-Fried Pomfret.

**Asiad Village Restaurant Complex, Siri Fort, New Delhi, Ph: 26492348,
26493945, 26493628**

DEEZ BIRYANI CORNER

★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹600

Deez specializes in biryani. The hot favourites here are the Chicken, Mutton and Fish Biryani. The biryani is served hot in an earthen pot or *handi*. Also on offer are Boneless Chicken Biryani, Ali Chicken Biryani, Pakistani Murgh Masallam and Kababs.

**94, Defence Colony Flyover Market, New Delhi, Ph: 24690067,
24692067, 41551515**

EATOPIA

★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹400

An American-style food court with five express counters: Granma's Homemade, which is their bakery section, Pahalwan's All India Dhaba for old standbys like Butter Chicken and Dal Makhni, Oriental Lee for South East Asian tastes, Wild Willy and Gooloji's Chaat Waat.

**India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 41220000**

MOCHA

★★★

COFFEE BAR | Meal for 2: ₹800

The coffee includes specialities from all over the world, like the Ethiopian Yergacheffe. The food menu consists of specialities that are loaded with calories - and taste.

28 A, Defence Colony Market, New Delhi, Ph: 46588445, 46588567

MOET'S

★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1200

The Moet's complex in Defence Colony offers different cuisines under one roof. Its bar-be-cue menu is passable for the most part, but the Chicken Peshawari, Butter Chicken, Murgh Tikka and Murgh Seekh Kabab make it to the honours list. Moet's is a sort of landmark in that area.

50, Defence Colony Market, New Delhi, Ph: 46555777

MOTI MAHAL

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹800

For review see p. 144.

11, Defence Colony, New Delhi, Ph: 24330263/65

PIZZA MARZANO

★★★★½

ITALIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1200

Pizza Marzano is where you will undoubtedly get some great pizzas with oodles of pizzazz. The service is passable. But all is forgiven when you bite into the Caprociosa, Quattro Carni and Quattro Formaggi. The salads and pastas too make for the highlights.

**CG 2-3, Ansal Plaza, C Block, Khel Gaon Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 26254892, 26256212**

ORIENTAL OCTOPUS

★★★★★

CHINESE, KOREAN, THAI | Meal for 2: ₹1200

The Oriental Octopus offers cuisines of eight different countries of the Orient. Apart from the dim sums, the Burmese Khao Suey never fails. Prawn Penang Curry, Phad Thai Noodles and Steamed Fish with Lemon are worth a try.

5th Floor, Rooms Division, IHC, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, Ph: 41220000

SAGAR RATNA

★★★★½

SOUTH INDIAN — VEGETARIAN | Meal for 2: ₹300

For review see p.149.

**18, Defence Colony Market, New Delhi, Ph: 24333658, 24333440,
24333110, 64691341**

SALIM'S KABAB

★★½

NORTH INDIAN (Kebabs) | Meal for 2: ₹300

Tucked away in a back alley, this hole in the wall is quite a star with the regulars! Mutton Kakori Kabab, Chicken Afghani, Chicken Tikka Roll, Mutton Burrha, Chicken Malai Tikka, Fish Tikka... there's plenty more to keep you going back.

52A, Khan Market, Back Lane, New Delhi, Ph: 9313875856

SWAGATH BAR AND RESTAURANT

★★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1500

Swagath's speciality is seafood and coastal cuisine, prepared in typical Mumbai style. The Prawn Biryani and the Green Masala Pomfret are popular but the real winners here are the Garlic-Pepper-Butter Crabs, the Prawn Gassi, the Bombil Fry and the Ladyfish Fry!

14, Defence Colony Market, New Delhi, Ph: 24330930

**GREATER KAILASH I & II/NEHRU PLACE/
CR PARK/EAST OF KAILASH**

AMIGO

★★½

MEXICAN | Meal for 2: ₹1700

Amigo serves almost authentic Mexican food in upscale surroundings. The Molcajete is a salad that uses a full avocado in its preparation. The Mole Poblano is definitely worth a second visit. And the Coco con Mariscos is the saving grace of the menu.

3, Local Shopping Complex, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi, Ph: 29216220/21

BIG CHILL, THE

★★½

ITALIAN | Meal for 2: ₹800

For review see p. 141.

HS 5, Kailash Colony Market, New Delhi, Ph: 46556828/38

CHUNGWA

★★½

CHINESE, THAI | Meal for 2: ₹1200

You could try their Crispy Lamb with Sesame Seeds, Pomfret in Black Bean Sauce, Double Fried Lamb, Orange Chicken and Chicken in Oyster Sauce. For vegetarians, the dim sum, Broccoli with Corn and the Chilli Garlic Noodles are recommended.

M 34, Greater Kailash II Market, New Delhi, Ph: 29213477, 29217877

DIVA

★★★★

ITALIAN | Meal for 2: ₹3000

Here the menu undergoes a makeover every third month and most dishes are changed regularly. Those that are permanently on the menu include Mixed Organic Greens with Gorgonzola Terrine and Roasted Walnuts as well as Grilled John Dory with Shiitake and Asparagus and Almond Dressing.

M-8, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi, Ph: 29215673, 41637858, 41637019

HAO SHI NIAN NIAN

★★★★½

CHINESE (Sichuan) | Meal for 2: ₹2000

This Sichuan has honest Sichuan fare. Try the rather luscious Lamb Ribs with Chilli and Caraway. Likewise, the Pork Spare Ribs with Black Pepper is good. The Stir-fried French Bean with Dried Chilli and Ya Cai Preserved Vegetables is an absolute must! End the meal with the Chocolate Roulade.

M-25, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi, Ph: 47748888, 9999218888

MAINLAND CHINA

★★★★

CHINESE | Meal for 2: ₹1200

For review see p. 142.

E 4, Local Shopping Centre, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi, Ph: 29222123/27

MOCHA

★★★

COFFEE BAR | Meal for 2: ₹800

For review see p. 146.

8/9, Ground Floor, Satyam Complex, District Centre, Nehru Place, New Delhi, Ph: 26466733-34

MOTI MAHAL

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹800

See review on p. 144.

M-30, Greater Kailash I, New Delhi, Ph: 29230480, 29240480, 29232467

OH! CALCUTTA

★★★★

INDIAN (Bengali) | Meal for 2: ₹1400

The restaurant that looks like an old-fashioned Calcutta club serves Lobster Thermidor. Try their Mochar Chop, the Bhapa Ilish and the Daab Chingri. End the meal with the Daber-Mishti.

E Block, International Trade Towers, Nehru Place, New Delhi, Ph: 26464180-82, 26464184

ZAFFRAN

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1600

A roof-top restaurant, Zaffran's USP is its see-through, all-stainless-steel kitchen. The food is good, with the tandoori section being the speciality here. The Raan-e-Kasbah, Prawn Takatak, Tandoori Pomfret, Murgh Lababdar, Tandoori Bada Jhinga, Lamb Chops Masaledar, Murgh Mumtaaz and Rogan Josh are worth trying.

Kasbah, N-2, Greater Kailash I, New Delhi, Ph: 41635000, 41635232

VASANT KUNJ**MOTI MAHAL**

★★★★½

See review on p. 144.

**30, LSC, Vasant Arcade, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Ph: 30993302,
41783301, 9871411554**

PIZZA MARZANO

★★★★½

ITALIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1200

For review see p. 146.

301, DLF Place, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Ph: 46609093

TAMAN GANG

★★★★½

CHINESE, THAI, JAPANESE | Meal for 2: ₹2000

Taman Gang is a branch of the original in London's Marble Arch. Try the Pomelo Salad and Aromatic Duck. Watermelon with Soy Caramel is a masterful, unusual combination, and Wasabi Prawns is a nouvelle look at a Japanese classic.

3rd Floor, DLF Place, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Ph: 45567777

T.G.I. FRIDAY'S

★★★★½

TEX-MEX, AMERICAN | Meal for 2: ₹1200

It is a hit with the young, hip crowd of Delhi. With a fun ambience and the best cocktails in town, TGIF is worth visiting even though the food isn't the ultimate in gourmet cuisine. The cuisine is predominantly Tex-Mex, though there are other items on the menu. Do try the Rack of Spare Ribs.

**1st Floor, DLF Promenade, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi,
Ph: 46060956, 9999100291**

VEDA

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹2200

Veda, with its over-the-top décor, is more than the sum of its parts. Lamb-Stuffed Chicken, which is an escalope of chicken breast with lamb mince, works rather well. Kastoori Kebab is dry and soft.

307–308, DLF Place, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Ph: 46040707

ZEST

★★★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹2000

Designed by Super Potato, the bar at the entrance has the trademark focused light look. Inside, it is one huge room with cleverly contrived corners where you can have a quiet meal. There are a plethora of cuisines, but Indian is the best. The pick of the lot consists of Ghee Roast and Gosht ki Pasliyan.

3rd Floor, DLF Emporio, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj Phase II, New Delhi, Ph: 43119999

VASANT VIHAR**ANO TAI**

★★★★½

CHINESE | Meal for 2: ₹2500

Ano Tai has an open kitchen and a semi-private dining area that has tables with built-in grills for Mongolian barbecues. Must try the Steamed Tender Custard with Prawns.

Jaypee Vasant Continental, 54, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Ph: 26148800, 46072072, 26141177

CHOPSTICKS

★★★½

For review see p. 145.

88, Vasant Vihar Club, New Delhi, Ph: 9953158826

EGGSPECTIONATION

★★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹2500

A Canadian chain specializing in all-day breakfasts, Eggspectionation glorifies eggs in 30 different ways — a must-visit for lovers of eggs.

Jaypee Vasant Continental, 54, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Ph: 26148800, 46072072, 26141177

HASH

★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1000

Hash is a happening place where you can party away the night. Taste their Nihari Gosht. Its delicious!

46, PVR Priya Complex, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Ph: 26144747, 26144422

KYLIN

★★★★

CHINESE, THAI, JAPANESE, MALAYSIAN, KOREAN, VIETNAMESE,
INDONESIAN | Meal for 2: ₹3000

Their specialities include Kylin lettuce wraps, Caramelized Prawns, Teppanyaki Lobster in Crisp Basil Leaves and Sliced Chicken, Greens, Water Chestnuts, Chilli Garlic and Sesame Butter Sauce. Kylin is highly recommended.

24, PVR Priya Complex, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 41669799, 41669778, 98111159546

PAATRA

★★★★

INDIAN (North West Frontier) | Meal for 2: ₹2500

One of the few Indian restaurants that don't serve Butter Chicken and Dal Makhni! The food here is of the Amritsar–Lahore belt. Don't miss the Bhunee Chaat: a lip-smacking plate of tangy fruit and vegetables grilled in a *bhatti* and sprinkled with an addictive *chaat masala*.

Jaypee Vasant Continental, 54, Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 26148800, 46072072, 26141177

TAPAS

★★★★

LOUNGE BAR | Meal for 2: ₹2000

Tapas may be inspired by the Spanish concept but it offers a range of small bites from around the world. Smoked Salmon Salad, Tostados, Lemon Grass Prawn Satays, Coriander Toasts, Bhatti Murgh Tangdi, Chicken Winglets, Non-Veg Tapas Platter.... And now you can even order Japanese cuisine like Uramaki and Sushi rolls.

Jaypee Vasant Continental, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 26148800, 26141177

LAJPAT NAGAR**HALDIRAM'S**

★★★★½

MITHAI, SNACKS — VEGETARIAN | Meal for 2: ₹300

See review on p. 142.

45, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar III, New Delhi, Ph: 28898030, 28898033,
28898034

SAGAR RATNA

★★★★½

For review see p. 144.

2nd Floor, 3Cs, Alankar Cinema Bldg, Lajpat Nagar II, New Delhi,
Ph: 65650961

QUTUB AREA**ASIA 7**

★★★★

PAN ASIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1500

At Asia 7, you are spoilt for choice. You can opt for Yam Jang and Thai Noodle in soups. Also on offer are dim sums, both veg and non-veg. On the main course, worth trying are Thai Steamed Fish, Kauk'swe Curry, Stir-fried Pak Choy, Hot Fire Morning Glory and Lobster in Butter Garlic Sauce.

**The Clarion, Katwaria Sarai, Qutab Inst. Area, New Delhi,
Ph: 46012745-52**

DHAULA KUAN/SARDAR PATEL MARG**BLUE GINGER**

★★★★½

VIETNAMESE | Meal for 2: ₹3500

Drop-dead glamorous interiors and food from Vietnam. Do not miss the Stir-Fried Angus in Pepper Sauce flambéed in bamboo. Probably a fusion dish, it is inspired in the way that it blends East and West together.

**Taj Palace Hotel, 2, Sardar Patel Marg, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi,
Ph: 26110202**

BUKHARA

★★★★★

INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹4500

What can one say of a legend that goes from strength to strength? It has hosted Bill Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Mick Jagger and Bill Gates, among others. While their Dal Bukhara is something of a legend, their Murgh Malai Kabab and Burrah Kabab are succulent and flavoursome too.

**ITC Maurya — The Luxury Collection, Diplomatic Enclave,
New Delhi, Ph: 26112233**

DUM PUKHT

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹3500

Dum Pukht has a wide range of kebabs and *tikkas* to choose from; and the accompanying Sheermal is rather good. Seafood lovers could try their Jhinga Dum Nisha. However, the Seekh Gilafi, the Kakori Kabab and the Hara Kabab are the all-time favourites here.

**ITC Maurya — The Luxury Collection, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi,
Ph: 26112233**

KAFE FONTANA

★★★★½

COFFEE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹3000

It's tough conceptualizing a coffee shop with an interesting USP. Kafe Fontana has chosen an ambitious one: they serve Lebanese food plus they

have a green corner — a salad bar where everything is either fresh, low-calorie or organic.

**Taj Palace Hotel, 2, Sardar Patel Marg, Diplomatic Enclave,
New Delhi, Ph: 26110202**

MASALA ART

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹3500

A unique trademark is the roti trolley that moves around the restaurant, making chapatis of your choice in front of your table. Don't miss the classic Kareli Rogan Josh, Galouti Kebab, Dudiya Murgh Tikka, Nalli ka Salan, Khusk Raan. A glass of fresh sugarcane juice complements the cuisine.

**Taj Palace Hotel, 2, Sardar Patel Marg, Diplomatic Enclave,
New Delhi, Ph: 26110202**

ORIENT EXPRESS

★★★★½

VIETNAMESE | Meal for 2: ₹3500

Orient Express routinely makes it to "Best" lists and there's no wonder why. Some of the finest offerings consist of Camembert Soufflé, Pate de Foie Gras, Smoked Salmon, Rack of Lamb and — an absolute must here — the best Chocolate Soufflé in town. Do celebrate a special occasion here.

**Taj Palace Hotel, 2, Sardar Patel Marg, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi,
Ph: 26110202**

WEST VIEW — THE GRILL

★★★★

ITALIAN GRILLED | Meal for 2: ₹5000

They have a nifty concept: the made-to-order buffet. Take a look at their salad and antipasti bar for starters — the cover charge allows you to have as much as you want. Then you look at the display on ice for the raw ingredients — tenderloin, salmon, you name it. Give it to the chef at the counter and tell him how you want it served.

**ITC Maurya — The Luxury Collection, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi,
Ph: 26112233**

Nightlife

AURANGZEB ROAD/MANSINGH ROAD

AURA — THE VODKA BAR

★★★

LOUNGE-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,500

Aura, with its mystical interiors and pulsating music, offers over 60 varieties of the finest vodka brands and cocktails, besides some of the world's finest spirits. With classy environs set to a dim lighting, this place pleases and relaxes at the same time.

The Claridges, 12, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 41335133, 23010210 (Extn 5080)

RICK'S

★★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2,000

Rick's gives the look of a classy lounge, yet buzzes with the energy of a popular neighbourhood bar. A place for an elegant, understated evening, Rick's is the bar where the city's old money rubs shoulders with the swish set. With some of Delhi's best bartenders, service here is brisk and spirited. The wine menu is truly exhaustive and rich here.

The Taj Mahal Hotel, No.1, Mansingh Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23026162

SEVILLA

★★★

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹3,000

In all-encompassing white, Sevilla melts into the night, giving you a feel of sitting in the great outdoors, with the soft trickle of water flowing through — a brave attempt to capture the essence of the land of Picasso! This is the place to sip your Sangria and, in a mellow mood, watch the evening sky.

The Claridges, 12, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 41335133, 23010210

BHIKAJI CAMA PLACE

POLO LOUNGE

★★★

LOUNGE BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1300

A sophisticated English bar in Hyatt Regency with English trappings — wood panelling, leather Chesterfield chairs, a library with newspapers, an oddball collection of books, sports channels on cable TV, and a small fireplace. A great place for business deals, Polo Lounge is all about scotch and cigars. Service is unobtrusive and the choice of cigars and single malts adequate.

Hyatt Regency, Bikaji Cama Place, Ring Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 26791234, 66771314

CHANAKYAPURI/SARDAR PATEL MARG**CAPITOL**

★★★★½

DISCOTHEQUE/NIGHTCLUB | Night out for 2: ₹2,000

This discotheque, with a blue-orange hue, has a separate VIP lounge section. It caters to the young as well as older crowd though the elite have more or less given way to the regular crowd now. They serve brands like Grey Goose, Johnnie Walker (both blue and black) and B-52. Sex on the Beach, Slippery Nipples, Flaming Lamborghini and TNT are the most favoured cocktails.

The Ashok Hotel, 50-B, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26879802-03

DUBLIN

★★★★

BAR+DANCING | Night out for 2: ₹2,500

Dublin is a great combination of an Irish pub and a techno-savvy discotheque. The bar has an impressive array of single malts and vodkas and offers enough private spaces while the disco, Ghungroo, rocks every night to the magic of the DJ. Wednesdays are rock and salsa nights, and Fridays and Saturdays are when guest DJs are invited.

ITC Maurya Sheraton, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi, Ph: 9811220010

F BAR & LOUNGE

★★★★★

DISCOTHEQUE/NIGHTCLUB | Night out for 2: ₹3,000

This nightclub from FTV is refurbished with a contemporary look and state-of-the-art acoustics and lighting. This 24X7 joint has a good sized dance floor, an attractive, glittering display island bar and a separate smoking zone.

The Ashok Hotel, 50-B, Diplomatic Enclave, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26110101, 26116161

FEZ

★★★★½

LOUNGE BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1500

Named after a type of hat, Fez's royal ceiling lamps, curved domes with dark wood shelves filled with Arabian treasures, hand-carved Arabic calligraphy and ornate mirrors create the perfect atmosphere for a drink. The music is lounge and electronic. You can even hear some Arabic beats.

3/48, Malcha Marg Shopping Centre, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 46068155/44

GOLF BAR

★★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2500

The golf theme pays tribute to the game and the place of its origin, Scotland. Photographs of Indian golfers adorn the walls. It's the perfect place for business meetings. Exquisite scotches, single malts, rare wines, beers of the world, vodkas, etc. line the eye-catching bar, built along straight, clear lines.

ITC Maurya Sheraton, Diplomatic Enclave, New Delhi, Ph: 26112233

IKKO

★★★

LOUNGE-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2000

With a separate dining and lounge area, the décor at Ikko exhibits warmth. Lights are dim, couches are a mix of red, brown and white, and the floor wooden. Some of their best cocktails are the whisky-based Adam's Apple, vodka-based Blue Niagra and tequila-based Pacific Sunshine.

6/48, Malcha Marg Shopping Centre, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 9811213012, 9891885643, 26878155, 28866013

LAP

★★★★

DISCOTHEQUE/NIGHTCLUB | Night out for 2: ₹2000

The opulent surroundings with customized furniture, bespoke chandeliers and Raja Ravi Varma paintings on the walls and lampshades, could well belong to the living room of an erstwhile Maharaja. Lap is functional from Wednesday to Saturday; a special Ladies' Night on Wednesdays!

Samrat Hotel, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 24103762

OLIVE BEACH

★★★★

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2000

The Mediterranean bar and restaurant with a sprawling, easy ambience brings together fine dining, wining and conversations with some good food.

Hotel Diplomat, 9, Sardar Patel Marg, Diplomatic Enclave,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 23010204

MAHIPALPUR**SAVANNAH BAR**

★★½

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1500

The pool is visible from this bar and offers quite a view while you sip your drink. The interiors are a mix of Indian and Western sensibilities. Dim lights create a beautiful halo and the seating area is cosy and relaxing. The collection of liquors available here is wide.

Radisson Hotel, NH- 8, New Delhi 110037, Ph: 26779191 (Extn-653)

DR ZAKIR HUSAIN MARG**CLUB BAR**

★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2500

This makes for good business over herbal *chai* by day or drinks in the after hours. Club Bar offers some good champagne cocktails and sells some fine range of Cuban cigars. Pianist Niel Dias plays after 7pm, except on Sundays. A jazz band plays in the evenings.

The Oberoi, Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 24363030

GK I & II AND AROUND**SMOKE HOUSE GRILL**

★★★★½

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1500

A staple with the discerning bar regulars, their cocktails by now are legendary and second to none in the city. Décor is pleasantly minimal. The resto-bar has a great range of shots and an amazing wine list. Wednesdays are bar nights, Friday nights are dedicated to the music of the 1980s, and Saturdays are for electronic dance music.

North Wing, Vipps Centre, Plot No. 2, Masjid Moth, Greater Kailash II, New Delhi, Ph: 41435530-32

SHALOM

★★★★½

LOUNGE BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2000

Shalom (Hebrew for *peace*) is more a cult than just a lounge bar — you come to soak in the peaceful ambience enhanced by stark white walls, flickering candles and the warmth of comfort. Try their Martinis, cocktails, Sangria, Shalom Mojito and Caprioshka — it's certainly not a beer-guzzling place.

N-18, Greater Kailash I, New Delhi, Ph: 41632280-83, 9810048084

D-4, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, Ph: 9818698784, 41688993

URBAN PIND

★★★★½

LOUNGE-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹3000

This 100-seater restaurant, built on two levels, is done in earth colours and has a cosy feel. They make some mean shooters. Thursdays are media/diplomat nights, Wednesdays are especially for ladies, while Fridays are for fashion models. They have salsa nights every Tuesday, which are restricted to just couples. Stags are not allowed.

N-4, Greater Kailash I, New Delhi, Ph: 32515656, 32514646,

MOCHA BAR

★★★

LOUNGE-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1000

Don't confuse this place for Mocha, which is known for its hookahs. This is a more mature version of Mocha, serving mainly alcohol. With a garage feel, the place has a raw appeal. They mainly play rock numbers. Happy hours start at 6 pm and go on till 1 am. The best cocktails here are Margarita, LIIT and Mojitos.

8/9, Ground Floor, Satyam Complex, Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019, Ph: 26466738

SAKET**HARD ROCK CAFE**

★★★★½

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1500

The international Hard Rock Café has opened its doors in Delhi too. With its memorabilia associated with 3 Doors Down and Black Eyed Peas, as well as music legends John Lennon and Elvis Presley, it's a must visit for club-hoppers. The rock-theme décor is impressive and peps up spirits. The bar menu is elaborate and includes cocktails such as LIIT, Purple Martini and Margarita. Pick up accessories, including Hard Rock's famous Classic and City T-shirts.

M-110, Multiplex Building, First Floor, DLF Place, Saket District Centre, New Delhi, Ph: 47158888

MEHRAULI**OLIVE BAR AND KITCHEN**

★★★★

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1500

Popularly known as Olive at the Qutub, Olive Bar and Kitchen has reopened its doors under the shadow of the Qutub Minar. Enter the pebbled courtyard and settle down on a table under the banyan tree and succumb to the Mediterranean charm under a starlit sky on the terrace with cozy diwans, glass lamps, and candles. Sip a Grand Margarita, Green Apple Martini or Mojito. In mocktails Olive's Mary, Milano Smooch and Avalanche are good picks. The music is lounge, retro and house beats.

One Style Mile, Kalkadass Marg, Mehrauli, New Delhi, Ph: 29574444

SOUTH EXTENSION**CAFÉ MORRISON**

★★★★

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1200

Dedicated to music legend Jim Morrison, you can listen to live bands here. Wednesdays are media nights and Thursdays are dedicated to Morrison's music. No cover or entry charges.

E-12, South Extension, Part II, New Delhi, Ph: 26255652, 9810262468

LODI ROAD/KHAN MARKET/SUJAN SINGH PARK**INSOMNIA**

★★★

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2500

A classy portrayal of Art Deco, the warm wood tones, dim lighting and leather sofas invite one to sink into relaxed comfort. Considering the hotel's strategic location and their guest profile, the bar attracts mostly foreigners. The bar houses a fine selection of whiskies and a good selection of after-dinner cognacs. A DJ plays on Fridays and Saturdays while a live band takes over on the other days.

**The Ambassador Hotel, Sujan Singh Park, Cornwallis Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 24632600, Extn 511**

LODI GARDEN RESTAURANT

★★★

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹800

Tucked in a corner of the famed Lodi Gardens, this place is as peaceful as a resto-bar can be. A cobbled pathway, lit with *diyas* (earthen lamps) leads to a lush green garden with sprinklers strewn all over. The pasha tents and thick foliage transport you to a surreal world. They have Ladies Nights on Thursdays, Wine 'n' Dine nights on Mondays and Men's Club on Wednesdays.

**Lodhi Garden, Lodhi Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 9910487915, 24652808**

TAPAS AT AMAN

★★★

LOUNGE-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1500

Wide uncluttered spaces, tall glass windows and a glimpse of water greet you as you enter The Lodhi Lounge on ground level; go down the stairs and a large tapas bar is the focal point of Tapas. Sit on one of the bar stools to enjoy your drink of choice and small bites. Or walk to the wine cellar. Most of the wines you get at Tapas are unique and unlikely to be found elsewhere in India. Aman goes for the smaller, family-run wineries rather than the more established ones, working directly with wine producers. Thursdays and Fridays are live-band nights, while Saturdays are The Belvedere Beat Nights in deference to the recently launched Belvedere 1X.

Aman New Delhi, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003, Ph: 43633333

Shopping

There are markets and more markets in South Delhi. For one, it covers quite a large area. Two, there is enough purchasing power, which is evident from how coveted a residential address in these parts is. Three, the residents of these areas are not only rich but also fashionable. In fact, fashion is the buzzword. All of which makes South Delhi a great place to shop in.

South Extension

One of the posh markets in Delhi, South Extension is situated on the Ring Road, just east of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS). Popularly known as **South Ex**, it is divided into two parts — Part I and Part II. It is closed on Mondays, while Sunday is the busiest day.

Arrow promises to lend your wardrobe a fashion-fit stitch for the stiff corporate world. **Ashwini Kumar's Mehrasons Jewellers** houses gold, diamond and kundan jewellery. **Bizarre** offers high-energy fashion that is guaranteed to turn heads. At **Diwan Saheb** ethnic sherwanis, kurta-pyjamas and Jodhpuris are to be complemented with accessories such as *safas*, *juttis* and stoles.

Heritage specializes in Pashmina silks and cashmere shawls. **Manzoni's** real treasure is its Sea Island Cotton Shirts that are made from the finest cottons found on the Sea Island of Italy. **Mehrasons Jewellers** is known for beautiful traditional gold and diamond pieces. **Nalli** offers saris (silk, handloom, fancy, cotton, Benaras), dhotis, suits, shirts, dress materials,

South Ex: Shop across the Ring Road



furnishing materials and bedspreads. **Sehgal Brothers** are the right choice if you are looking for smart and sharp suit and shirt material. If you are a book lover, browse at **Teksons**.

Ansal Plaza



Ansal Plaza: Pioneer of mall culture in Delhi

Ansal Plaza, the first mall of South Delhi, is situated near South Extension. It is built in a circular fashion around an amphitheatre with a stage at the centre. Different cultural events are organized here from time to time. It is a treat to watch the 45-foot-high atrium with a French glass curtain wall. The wall filters out ultraviolet and other harmful radiation. You will find many major brands like **Adidas, McDonald's, Shoppers Stop, Levi's, Music World, Marks & Spencer, Nike, Reebok** and **Club Mahindra**.

Greater Kailash

The Greater Kailash market is divided into two zones: **GK-I** and **GK-II**. Here you can find the most luxurious showrooms and retail outlets. A search for designer wear is most likely to lead you here. The GK markets remain closed on Tuesdays.

Let us take a look at what some of the GK shops have to offer. Dressing up women till size XXL, the pleasant-looking **Amandine & Mélisande** has crinkled tops, textured kurtis and semi-formal silk



Greater Kailash-I: M-Block Market for the elite

cottons in different styles and upbeat colours. At **Biba** expect to find cotton salwar kameezes in pastel colours and minimal embroidery that are beautifully teamed with crushed dupattas or *kurti* tops strewn with threads and beads. Downtown girls looking for uptown handbags should go to **Blue Oyster** for Chanel and Burberry look-alikes.

Chhipa is a traditional handblock-printing castle which uses eco-friendly, natural colours on silks and jutes to create kurta-pyjamas, ghagra-cholis and furnishings. The range of heady lingerie at **Curves** comes replete with frills and lace, while the casual range of cotton briefs and bras is perfect for everyday wear. **Fifth Avenue** brings tight tiny tops, super-short skirts and sassy logo tees, all the way from the hip Bangkok streets. **Study By Janak (SBJ)** promises a striking change to every male wardrobe.

Dee's Crystal brings costume jewellery straight from the streets of Korea. **Estilo** offers customized leather tailoring service. **Giordano Travel Gear** is fast becoming a priority for the discerning Indian traveller. **Champal Jewellers** cater to both traditional and modern design sensibilities.

Saket

Saket has quite a few up-market malls. **Select Citywalk** mall combines luxury and high-street shopping together with cafés, bistros, restaurants and bars. Ethos Swiss Watch Studio endorses mega brands like Omega, Tissot, Rado, Longines, Breguet, JLC, Hublot and Glasshute. Kimaya offers an indulgent ambience for brides-to-be and tinsel queens. La Senza sells romance and allure with its Hawaiian bikinis, basic gym gear and a plethora of undergarments. Okaidi is a children's designer brand from France. Promod is a French fashion house buzzing with feminine energy.

Square One Mall has shops like Bandhej, Bella and Kothari Art Jewellers. **MGF Metropolitan Mall** has a total land area of 11,000 sq m. It has the Shoppers Stop store and a food court. **DLF Place**

has the Debenhams and Marks & Spencers anchor stores, a retail arcade with many major Indian and international brands of clothes and apparel, a six-screen DT cinema multiplex & diner, a food court, Hard Rock Cafe, gourmet outlets, office complex and Hilton hotel.

Khan Market

Classy and posh, Khan Market is a favourite of the expat and diplomatic community. It was originally allocated as seed land to immigrants from the North-West Frontier Province after the partition of India. Today, it is a popular shopping destination in Delhi. It is a large U-shaped market with two parallel 'U's and some



Khan Market

extensions. You will find excellent book shops, up-market boutiques, opticians, grocers, tailors, brand showrooms, lifestyle stores... There are also a couple of boutiques selling up-market household furnishings. Across the road are shops that specialize mainly in lighting. You will also find many eating places: cafés, restaurants, bakeries and street-food corners.

Khan Chacha is a landmark: its *tikkas* and *seekhs* are a rage with the crowd. **Amrapali** is famous for its silver jewellery. **Ranna Gill** makes two major fashion statements each year with her summer and winter lines.

Dilli Haat



Dilli Haat: Where ethnic goes global

Dilli Haat showcases crafts, culture and food from different parts of India. A joint collaboration of New Delhi Municipal Corporation and Delhi Tourism, it is like a permanent festival. The main idea of setting up this craft bazaar **opposite the INA Market** was to promote the Indian handicraft industry and Indian cuisine. There is another Dilli Haat at **Netaji Subhash Place in Pitampura**.

Dilli Haat is designed as an upscale version of a *haat* (a weekly traditional market). But unlike a *haat*, where the market is mobile and in transit, here the craftsmen keep rotating. Its 62 stalls are assigned on a rotational basis, usually for 15 days, to craftsmen belonging to different states.

Here, you can explore and experience the enthralling world of Indian artefacts, painting, metalware, stone and wood work, terracotta, jewellery, lac and glass work, blue pottery, home décor and traditional Indian puppets. There are also salwar kameezes, saris, shawls, cotton skirts, tunics and dress materials to be bought.

The food court serves delicacies from various states — Momos from Sikkim, Pooran Poli from Maharashtra, Kahwa from Jammu, Dhokla from Gujarat. They won't fail to tantalize your taste buds.

Opp. INA Market, Ph:26119055

Nearest Metro: INA

Near TV Tower, Pitampura,
Ph:27317663

Nearest Metro: Pitampura

Open: 11am to 10pm

Entry: ₹15 (Adult),

₹5 (Children)

Sarojini Nagar

At the Sarojini Nagar Market you get fashionable clothes at affordable prices. Export-surplus garments as well as rejected export clothing come to this market at throwaway prices. This is what makes even reputed brands available for cheap. But don't expect trial or changing rooms at street-side shops. Besides, use your art of haggling. The market remains closed on Mondays.

There are different areas within the market. **Babu Market** houses several sweet shops. The many shoe shops in the vicinity of the market also catch the eye. **Subzi Mundi** offers the freshest and choicest fruits and fresh vegetables.

INA Market

The Indian National Army Market, popularly known as INA Market, is known as the food bazaar of Delhi. Fresh seafood, meat, spices, vegetables, fruits — if you don't get it anywhere else, you get it at this market. You can also get some rare wine and liquor. The shops here sell varieties of imported foodstuff and the shopkeepers speak even in languages like French, German and Japanese. The market, which lies across the street from Dilli Haat, remains closed on Mondays.

Nehru Place

Nehru Place is a sprawling shopping arcade with a massive bus terminal. It is the place to be in if you are interested in computer and computer parts. You can also get cheap CDs of computer games, movies and software. Second-hand books are another attraction. Don't forget to bargain.

Lajpat Nagar

Lajpat Nagar is a popular shopping area where you can get whatever you desire — accessories, clothes, footwear, bags, etc. The garments at **Hakoba** range from saris and salwar kameezes for women to kurtas and *kurtis* for both men and women. The Lucknowi embroidery, which is mostly done in white-coloured threads, is breathtaking and of very high quality. **Karan & Nasir** have been revolutionizing the way men dress. **RCKC** has carved a niche for

itself in the international market with labels like Anamika and RISA by Abhijeet Khanna. A brainchild of Saurabh Mehta, **Samaira** boasts a wide variety of designs that define femininity with simple styles.

Apart from fashion stores, there are furnishing stores and décor houses to beautify your homes. There are huge glittering showrooms as well as roadside stalls. The *mehndiwallahs* (appliers of henna) are very famous. Bargaining is a must if you wish to get the best of this market. It remains closed on Mondays.



Hauz Khas

It started with Bina Ramani setting up a boutique in 1988. And soon Hauz Khas acquired the reputation of "the national capital of ethnic chic". Boutiques and shops set in converted old homes up and down narrow alleys sell handicrafts, curios, old carpets and designer clothing. **A Touch of Gold** is an antique little shop with saris, salwar kameezes and *lehngas* from our grandmothers' era. At **Dozakh**, Isha and Nitin Kartikeya draw in their inspiration from ancient civilizations, making garments that are simple in silhouettes but radical in thought.

Écru, the brainchild of Ankur Batra, concentrates on high-quality clothes that blend ethnic and modern designs. **Portraits**, which runs mainly on orders, is a quiet yet dependable destination for semi-formal wear. If you are looking for *chikankari* creations, **Prateeksha** is just the right destination. Kanika Rungta's **Zoya** presents a decent collection of silver and fashion jewellery.

Shahpur Jat

Located between Asiad Games Village and Hauz Khas, Shahpur Jat is famous for its boutiques offering designer clothes. **Panache Designer Studio** features Indian, Western and Indo-Western wear with ethnic and oriental embroideries. Fashion daredevils who crave to be noticed can go for the designer duo Parvesh and Jai's outlandishly stylish retro couture at **Parvesh Couture**. The exclusive silver showroom of **Tavishi** has a range of jewellery studded with semi-precious stones.

The Shoe Garage (TSG) is the one place where you can find your dream shoe. **Dastakar** stocks reasonably-priced terracotta, basketry and weaves. **Creativegarh** has everything from candles to kitchen accessories. **Tulika Publishers** offer a wealth of reading materials.

Ambavata Complex

The Ambavata shopping complex in Mehrauli adjacent to the Qutub Minar is a four-storeyed building with 18 stores. The stores are all air-conditioned and dust-free. This is where you go for designer wear, designer accessories, home décor items and designer bags and shoes. Top designers like Ritu Beri and Manish Malhotra have their studios here. The complex remains open from 11 am to 9 pm.

Vasant Vihar/Vasant Kunj

The **Basant Lok Shopping Complex** in Vasant Vihar is a popular hang-out. It has famous retail stores like Benetton, Reebok, Adidas and Puma. The complex is most well known for **PVR Priya**, a cinema theatre. If you are a book lover, you can go to **Om Book Store** and **Fact and Fiction**. At **Neo Planet** you can find the CDs/DVDs of the latest Bollywood and Hollywood movies and music. The **Modern Bazaar** and **Le Marche** are one-stop shops: you get imported and Indian toiletries, grocery items, vegetables and fruits, frozen/processed food and bakery items.

DLF Emporio in Vasant Kunj is the latest up-market mall. It claims to be the largest luxury collection in Asia with 74 international and 111 Indian brands. Some of the brands include Giorgio Armani, Salvatore Ferragamo, Louis Vuitton, Cartier, Dior, Hugo Boss and Ranna Gill.

OTHER ATTRACTIVEIONS



You have been through the old world of Shahjahanabad, the architectural perfection of Lutyens' Delhi and the style-savvy South Delhi. But the city is ever expanding and its culture spills beyond its borders. The marvellous Akshardham has come up on the other side of the Yamuna. Delhi Tourism has tried to utilize the vastness of the city in developing Azad Hind Gram. And then there are the malls that have mushroomed in the National Capital Region (NCR). This section explores all that you can enjoy in the rest of Delhi and NCR.

Akshardham Temple

One of the largest places of worship ever built, Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple in Delhi is a reflection of the essence and magnitude of India's ancient architecture, tradition and timeless spirituality. The imposing temple complex made of pink sandstone and white marble spreads over 100 acres on the eastern banks of the Yamuna. Designed by the famous Sompuras — the temple builders of Gujarat — the structure was built by Swaminarayan Sanstha, which also runs the Akshardham Temple in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

A fusion of several styles of Indian temple architecture — Rajasthani, Orissan, Gujarati and Jain — this magnificent temple

On NH 24, Mayur Vihar,
Ph: 22016688, 22026688

Nearest Metro Station:
Akshardham

Timings: 11am to 8pm

Entry Fee: Free (For
exhibition halls and theatres,
adults & kids: ₹125, senior
citizens: ₹75)

Days Closed: Mondays

Photography: Not allowed

Akshardham: Fusion of styles of architecture



is 141 feet high, 316 feet wide and 370 feet long. It has ornate pillars, over 20,000 sculptures and statues of deities, huge domes and decorative arches. The main monument rests on a spectacular **Gajendra Pith** (a plinth of 148 stone elephants, each with a story to tell). In the *sanctum sanctorum* is an 11-feet-high statue of Lord Swaminarayan. Inscribed at every corner of the monument are the saint's messages of peace and harmony.

The other attractions of the complex include Sahajanand Darshan, Neelkanth Darshan and Sanskruti Vihar. **Sahajanand Darshan** is where the life of Lord Swaminarayan is displayed through robotic shows. **Neelkanth Darshan** screens a 45-minute film on the life of Lord Swaminarayan, who left home at the age of 11 to traverse the length and breadth of the country. **Sanskruti Vihar** is an exhibition hall that offers a 12-minute boat ride through tableaux that showcase India's glorious heritage, beginning with the Vedic age.

Around the monument is **Narayan Sarovar**, an artificial lake that has water brought in from the 151 holy rivers that Lord Swaminarayan had visited. **Bharat Upvan**, the thematically landscaped garden in the complex, has a magnificent natural and cultural ambience through its manicured lawns, lush gardens and wonderful bronze statues of the great role models of India.

Besides, there are two huge ponds with dancing fountains, one of which is the venue for the two Sound and Light shows held there every evening.

Akshardham Temple has made it to the Guinness Book of World Records for being the world's largest Hindu temple complex. It attracts 30,000–40,000 visitors on Sundays and even more on national holidays. The intensity of the faith can be measured by the large number of coins that are thrown into the reservoir.

SPECIAL

Here you can see the Yajnapurush Kund, a fascinating combination of a Vedic *yajna kund* and a musical fountain. It is the world's largest *yajna kund* measuring 300' X 300' with 2,870 steps and 108 small shrines. At night the centre comes to life with a colorful musical water fountain that plays Vedic tunes.

Adventure Island

Spread over 62 acres, Adventure Island is a world-class amusement and water park. Bright and attractive, the amusement park is very popular with children. Regarded as the first theme park of the city, it offers some of the wildest and craziest rides — Cyclone, Bush Buggies, Flip Out, Space Jump, Fire Brigade, Wild Wheels, Z Force, Sidewinder, Derby Devils, Sky Riders and Lightning Bold. Other thrilling rides like Twister, Splash Dunk, Air Bus, Float Boat, Rockin Tug and Trail Train Bumper Cars can also give an adrenaline rush.

Adventure Island offers a host of special packages for schools and other educational institutions. Families can apply for unlimited access here. The pass offers a host of privileges like welcome drink and special offer on merchandise and rides.



Sector 10, Rohini
 Ph: 46500000, 27574061
Nearest Metro Station:
 Rithala
Timings: Noon to 11pm
Entry Fee: ₹350 (kids) and
 ₹400 (adults)
Days Closed: None
Photography Charges: Nil



Adventure Island: First theme park of Delhi

Sulabh International Museum of Toilets

Museums as repositories for the preservation and exhibition of objects of historical, scientific and cultural interest are found all over the world. But rare is a museum that displays the evolution of toilet and its various designs. So, while in Delhi, you should not miss out on the chance to visit the Sulabh International Museum of Toilets.

Sulabh Museum: Displays toilet evolution

Sulabh Bhawan, Mahavir
Enclave, Palam–Dabri Marg
Ph: 25032654/2353
Nearest Metro Station:
Dwarka Modh
Timings: 10.30am to 5.30pm
Entry Fee: Free
Days Closed: Sundays
Photography Charges: Nil



The museum displays the evolution of toilet and its various designs. There are toilet-related items that date back to 2500 BC. Many pictures and objects in the museum present a chronology of the development of technology, social customs, etiquette and sanitary conditions relating to toilet. Exhibits include privies, chamber pots, toilet furniture, bidets and water closets.

Founded by Dr Bindeshwar Pathak, the main objectives for establishing the museum were to educate students about the historical trends in the development of toilet, and provide information to researchers about the designs, materials and technologies adopted in the past.

Azad Hind Gram



Azad Hind Gram Tourist Complex is a project developed by Delhi Tourism to honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and create quality leisure space and wayside amenities for people. It was at this place at Tikri Kalan that Netaji had addressed his soldiers before leaving the country.

The architecture of Azad Hind Gram is inspired by the language of North Indian architecture and by the traditions of Indian craftsmanship. The elaborate mosaic domes surrounding the museum and the memorial are the focus of the complex. Designed by Kolkata-based artists, the beautiful murals depict Netaji in various moods. Some landmark events of the freedom struggle can also be seen here. The circular **Dilli Chalo Museum** houses visual references, newspaper cuttings from the pre-Independence era, and the ranks and insignia associated with the Indian National Army (INA).

The complex offers all the facilities of extensive plazas — an amphitheatre, tourist information centre, souvenir and garden shop, food kiosks, a restaurant, public toilets, drinking water, public telephone and convention facilities. It also offers facilities for one-day picnics and overnight camping.

Tikri Kalan, NH 10, Rohtak Road, Near Delhi–Haryana border, Ph: 28353102

Nearest Metro Station:
Mundka

Timings: 10am to 6pm

Days Closed: National Holidays

Entry: Free

Photography: Permission Required

Millennium Indraprastha Park

Spread over an area of 20 acres, the Millennium Park is the perfect place to relax with friends and family. Located on the Ring Road near the Sarai Kale Khan ISBT and the famous Humayun's tomb, this park full of greenery makes for a serene experience. Constructed in 2004 by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA), it includes a children's park, an amphitheatre and a food court for visitors.



Millennium Park: Perfect place to relax

You can also see a large Vishwa Shanti Stupa — a symbol of universal brotherhood and peace — with a Buddha statue in the park. It was established in 2004 by Nipponzan Myohoji organization in collaboration with the DDA and the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi. It was unveiled by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Colourful flowers, rows of trees, seating arrangements such as benches, stools and chairs, and some cottages with thatched roofs attract visitors here. The park has been divided into five zones, namely, **Smriti Van**, **Fragrant Garden**, **Bougainvillea Garden**, **Topiary Garden** and **Foliage Garden**. Visitors can get a clear view of the Humayun's Tomb from the park. The park remains open till 8.30 pm.

Surajkund

The Surajkund Crafts Mela highlights some of the finest handloom and handicraft products of the country. It is held from 1 to 15 February every year. Conceived in 1987, the fair is the brainchild of the Tourism Department of Haryana and acts as a platform to facilitate artists, weavers, painters, sculptors and craftsmen from all over India.

Delhi–Agra Highway,
Faridabad
Nearest Metro Station:
Badarpur
Timings: 1-15 Feb (9.30am
to 7pm)
Entry Fee: ₹50
Photography Charges: Nil

The fair is set in an archetypal pastoral Indian marketplace. State-specific ambience also determines the look of the fair ground to a large extent. On display are some of the finest handlooms and handicrafts products of the country — paintings, terracotta, textiles, metalware, pottery, papier mâché, lac work, cane and bamboo work, wood and mirror work. Beneath thatched roofs you will find intricately designed saris, dupattas, shawls, scarves, dress materials, cushion covers, bedsheets, etc. Ornate wall hangings in bright colours are a great hit with visitors.

The fair is interspersed with numerous leisure activities. There are rides, shows and cultural events. The food stalls dish out varieties of snacks. Do not forget to click lots of photographs of its rustic, colourful and vibrant backdrop.

Surajkund: Rustic, colourful and vibrant



TAKE A BREAK

Eating

ANGELS IN MY KITCHEN

★★★

CONFECTIONERY, SNACKS | Meal for 2: ₹300

In this confectionery-cum-snack kitchen you get freshly baked breads, cakes and pies and you can actually peep inside to see your order being prepared. Try their delicious Fudge Brownies, French Hearts and Apple Crumble Pie.

D-134, Shopping Mall, Arjun Marg, DLF Phase 1, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4108008, 4108009

AROMAS OF CHINA

★★★

CHINESE | Meal for 2: ₹1500

If you want authentic Chinese cuisine this is the right place for you. The ambience is good and the food is amazing. We recommend their Slow Fried Lobster, Sunflower Whole Red Snapper and Steamed Whole Pomfret.

3rd Floor, Ambience Mall, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-3058801

ART LOUNGE

★★★

COFFEE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹550

This relaxing, quiet place has classical music playing 24x7. It serves tea, coffee, sandwiches, muffins, pastries, etc. The tea buffet operates in the evenings only; the rest of the day it's *à la carte*.

The Claridges, Shooting Range Road, Suraj Kund, Faridabad,
Ph: 0129-4190000

ASIA 7

★★★

PAN-ASIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1500

At Asia 7 you are spoilt for choice. You can opt for Yam Jang and Thai Noodle in soups. On the main course, Kauk'swe Curry, Stir-fried Pak Choy, Hot Fire Morning Glory, Lobster in Butter Garlic Sauce are worth trying. Round off your meal with Fondant.

3rd Floor, Ambience Mall, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4665571-74

BANGKOK DEGREE 1

★★★½

THAI | Meal for 2: ₹1500

A more stylised version of a Bangkok streetside Thai eatery. You can expect a fine-dining experience here. The Tom Yum, the Tom Kha, the Chicken Satay, Penang Curry and Koong Hom Pha are worth a shot.

A-1, Cariappa Marg, Sainik Farms, MG Road, New Delhi, Ph: 29555696

Food Court, Metropolitan Mall, MG Road, Gurgaon, Ph: 9212164999

BERNARDO'S

★★★

INDIAN (Goan) | Meal for 2: ₹750

Bernardo's is a charming little Goan eatery. Authentic Goan cuisine is served here — not much variety for vegetarians.

B-229, Supermart 1, DLF Phase IV, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-6518323, 9811571379

CHINA CLUB

★★★★

CHINESE (Sichuan) | Meal for 2: ₹2500

They have been able to maintain good quality with actual chefs from China. Their Lamb Brisket with Chilli and Caraway Powder, Prawns with Dry Chillies and Garlic Flavour and Pan Fried Radish Cake are very popular.

Lobby Level, Tower C, Global Business Park, MG Road, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-2566000, 2566222, 9999025800

CHOR BIZARRE

★★★½

NORTH INDIAN (Kashmiri) | Meal for 2: ₹1200

Chor Bizarre serves Kashmiri food. The décor replicates a 'thieves market'. The old-world ambience is quaint yet aesthetic and pleasing. Try their Tabak Maaz. All in all, good value for money.

Savoy Suites, Sector 16, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-2511420, 2512143

CHYNNA GOLD

★★★½

CHINESE

Experience authentic oriental cuisine in the elegant Chynna Gold at the Hilton. It features contemporary Chinese décor. Savour the finest Szechwan and Cantonese specialities in the relaxed atmosphere of this stylish restaurant.

Hilton Hotel, District Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Ph: 41234120

CILANTRO

★★★½

COFFEE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹2500

It is one of the best coffee shops in the city and its pizzas are amazing. Their buffet has dishes like lobster in their shells, seafood salads and asparagus and champagne soup. Stick to western food on the menu and you won't go wrong.

Trident Hotel, 443, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-2450505, 4160304

CITRUS CAFÉ

★★★

COFFEE SHOP | Meal for 2: ₹1500

Citrus Café is chic and contemporary. Worth checking out are the Pan Seared Lemon Fish, Fajita of Chicken Tenderloin, American Mixed Grilled Sizzlers and

Dhingri Shabnam. Special desserts include Mississippi Mud Cake and Lemon Cheese Cake.

**The Lemon Tree Hotel, 287, City Centre, Sector 29, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4160303-04**

**The Lemon Tree Hotel, 866, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4423232, 4423205**

COCO BERRY

★★★

YOGHURT | Meal for 2: ₹400

Coco Berry is a small eating joint in Defence Colony. They serve Frozen Yoghurt and Smoothies in flavours such as Strawberry, Blueberry and Berry Blast. Their frozen yoghurt and sandwiches are very popular.

GFK 5B, DLF Place, Saket, New Delhi, Ph: 46560475

10B, Cyber City, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4260536

DIYA

★★★★

INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹4000

The food here is not heavy, oily or overly rich but rather light, delicate and cooked to perfection. Don't miss the outstanding Green Apple Flavoured Shrikhand with Cinnamon Poora.

**The Leela Kempinski Hotel, Ambience Island, Gurgaon,
Ph:0124-4771234**

DRIFT

★★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1200

Drift is very international, very contemporary, very now — both in its look and feel, and in its food. The Mushroom Cappuccino is first-rate, if not as frothy as it could have been. The main course is different from most menus and offers an eclectic mix of contemporary cuisine.

Epicentre, Apparel House, Sector 44, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-2715111

GREAT KABAB FACTORY, THE

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹2200

All the outlets have an identical menu and a high degree of standardization. You pay a fixed amount — the same for the vegetarian and non-vegetarian menu. Prices differ slightly from one outlet to another, the highest being for hotel restaurants. Each day six kebabs, curries, breads, accompaniments and a biryani are prepared. You ask for as many helpings as you want.

Hotel Radisson, NH 8, Mahipalpur, New Delhi, Ph: 26779191

Park Plaza Hotel, C Block, Sector 55, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-4678888

Fortune Arcade, Sector 18, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-2515880-83

HALDIRAM'S

★★★★½

*For review see p.142.***Moti Nagar, New Delhi, Ph: 25421425/26****DT Mega Mall, Gurgaon, Ph: 9212667648****HAUTE**

★★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1000

Haute is contemporary and chic. The interiors are done up tastefully and soft lounge music plays in the background. On offer are a range of quality wines, cocktails as well as a variety of aromatic teas and juices. Some of the favourites here are Oriental Chicken Tikka, Grilled Lobster, Chicken Steak, Lamb Burrah Kabab, Tandoori Prawns and Vegetable Kabab.

NH 27, Nathupur, DLF Phase III, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4252335-36**JOLLY ROGERS**

★★★★

EUROPEAN | Meal for 2: ₹2000

A large spacious restaurant with an extremely attractive terrace, with cleverly designed private alcoves and a water body. Jolly Rogers is a Tiki bar in the style of Trader Vic. Large reproductions of tribal items from French Polynesia are the chief design accessory. The food is interesting. Grilled or fresh pineapple, crushed peanuts and coconut milk are the three ingredients that make their appearance in almost every dish.

10th Floor, Time Tower Bldg, MG Road, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4333555**KONOMI**

★★★★★

JAPANESE | Meal for 2: ₹5000

One of the smallest restaurants around, it seats all of 25 people. It's located at the far end of Cilantro, the coffee shop, so you can sit at Cilantro and order from Konomi when the latter is full. It has Japanese comfort food; the Lobster Teriyaki comes under the category of indulgence.

**Trident Hilton Hotel, 443, Phase V, Udyog Vihar, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-2450505, 4124307****LATITUDE**

★★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1500

Subtle beige furniture, frosted mosaic patterns on the bay window and granite stations make for a beautiful setting! Try their Hara Bhara Kabab, Lahsuni Gosht ki Seekh and Lal Mirch Ka Tandoori Jhinga.

Mosaic Hotel, C-1, Sector 18, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-4025000**MAAMOUCHEE KITCHEN**

★★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1200

Maamouchee at Centrestage Mall is several notches better than any other eatery in this mall. It has regular restaurant seating as well as lounge seating

and Arabic music to add a certain mystique to the place. On offer is a mélange of Indian and excellent Lebanese.

4th Floor, Centrestage Mall, Sector 18, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-4312241, 2517037

MADE IN INDIA

★★★★½

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹2500

It's certainly a fresh look at Indian cuisine. They do classical Indian food with a Western twist as well as age-old recipes that they have revived, more or less single-handedly. The best example is the Dora Kabab, so spectacular that it has been plagiarized in far-off London!

MBD Radisson, L-2, Sector 18, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-4300000

OASIS

★★★★

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹2500

This all-day dining with live kitchens features Mediterranean fare with a pizza oven, a Chinese section and a better-than-average Indian section with a tandoor. Dum ki Nalli, Gosht Kali Mirch and Galouti Kabab would do any speciality Indian dining place proud. Another popular feature is their Sunday brunch buffets.

The Claridges, Shooting Range Road, Suraj Kund, Faridabad, Ph: 0129-4190000

PANORAMIC

★★★½

MULTI-CUISINE | Meal for 2: ₹1500

Panoramic is a common or garden coffee shop in a budget hotel. It offers Gado Gado Salad, Achari Chicken Chaat, Goan Fish Curry and Subz Makhni. Also offered are Chicken Kathi Roll, Pasta and Chilli Garlic Cheese Toast.

The Atrium, Shooting Range Road, Suraj Kund, Faridabad, Ph: 0129-4090700, 2511457-63

PUNJABI BY NATURE

★★★★★

NORTH INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1500

All the outlets of Punjabi By Nature are huge, spacious and perennially crowded. Robust waiters, dressed in smart Punjabi attire complement the robust fare here. Do try the Raan-e-Punjab; it's truly spectacular! Their version of Brain Masala is very good as are their Tandoori Lamb Chops.

P-19, Sector 18, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-2514432, 4250111-12

DLF Phase III, Infinity Tower, Ground Floor, Tower C, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4143666

R.E.D.

★★★★½

CHINESE, JAPANESE, THAI, MALAYSIAN | Meal for 2: ₹3000

Expect Singapore fusion from the Singapore national Chef Raymond Sim: Pork Ribs with Coffee Sauce, Mermaid in the Mist (wasabi spiked prawns with kiwi and apple) and Silken Tofu with Chilli and Vinegar. He also does Japanese and Thai food, albeit with a Singaporean twist.

MBD Radisson, L-2, Sector 18, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-4300000

SAFFRON

★★★★

INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹3000

Saffron, an underplayed restaurant in the Trident, is set in fabulous surroundings. Try their single best signature dish, the Tandoori Raan that is smoked with the scent of cloves and is unmissable for its superior flavour and tenderness.

Trident Hotel, 443, Udyog Vihar, Phase V, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-2450505

SAKURA

★★★★★

JAPANESE (Kaiseki) | Meal for 2: ₹6000

The pioneer of Japanese food in our city, Sakura makes no concession to the foreign palate. It won't spice up sushi with sashimi. It specializes in the full Monty: the Kaiseki meal, which is a course-by-course meal of salads, starters, simmered dishes, soup — the works.

1st Floor, Time Tower, Main MG Road, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4200950-51

SPECTRA

★★★★

MULTI-CUISINE (Indian, Oriental, European) | Meal for 2: ₹4000

Ignore the décor. Food is where the real action is. They have Chinese, Malaysian, Thai, Japanese, European and Indian food, together with pizzas, grills and desserts.

**The Leela Kempinski, Ambience Island, NH 8, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4771234**

ZUNE

INDIAN | Meal for 2: ₹1800

One part of Hilton's Indian restaurant has a floor seating with thick cushions to recreate the traditional seating for a Kashmiri *wazwan*. The menu consists of Kashmiri dishes and some re-creations of genuine Mughal dishes. There is Old Delhi's street food as well.

Hilton Hotel, District Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi, Ph: 41234120

Nightlife

@ LINKS

★★★½

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,800

An open bar attached to hotel Radisson, the place resembles a lobby-cum-lounge, where you can probably have a drink while waiting for a table at the restaurant. Try their sparkling wines and flavoured Caprioshkas or mocktails like Lychee Sensation and Red Ocean. They do a good Mojito as well.

Radisson MBD, L-2, Sector 18, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-4303030

BUZZ

★★★★½

BAR+DANCING | Night out for 2: ₹1,500

'Go Buzzerk,' says the bar menu and surely the place starts buzzing as early as 4 pm! Try the Buzz Masala, Mojito and Black Russian. Barbeque Prawns, Salt and Pepper or the Cold Meat Platter go well with drinks.

2nd Floor, DLF City Centre, Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4014556-57

CLUB SAFFIRE

★★★★

BAR+DANCING | Night out for 2: ₹1,200

This fine-dining bistro and lounge offers a nightclub experience on weekends, rooftop dining and a discotheque. Bursting with energy, it scores on minimalistic décor and a dance floor on two levels.

4th Floor, JMD Regent Plaza, Near Global Business Park, Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4300115-19

CONNEXIONS

★★★½

LOUNGE BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2,000

This lounge-cum-bar-cum-coffee shop in the Crowne Plaza has dim lighting and a spacious island bar — its main attraction. The décor sets the mood for romance. In the evening, when the blinds come down, the bar gets converted into a lounge. An extensive wine collection is their pride.

Hotel Crowne Plaza, Sector 29, NH-8, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4534000

FLLUID

★★★★½

LOUNGE BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,200

The all-white decor lends it sheer fluidity. The place has energy, heightened by six different shades of light directed on furniture and creative graffiti on the walls. The best cocktails here are Café Toledo, Café Reggae, Pepper Martini and Flluid Kick. A collection of wines from all over the world find their place on the wine list.

Hotel Mosaic, C-1, Sector 18, NOIDA, Ph: 0120-4025000

HOWZATT

★★★

BEER BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,000

A 'brewpub' or 'brewery with a pub'. The beer you drink here is fresh off the boat (fob)! Get the actual taste of the fizzy stuff at this pub with cricket as its theme. The happy aroma of beer fills the air as mugs of their in-house brew are served.

**Hotel Galaxy, Sector 15, Part II, NH-8, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4565000, 4565095**

INDIJOE

★★½

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,000

A typical American diner where you hit the bar straight away and ask for your Jack Daniel.

Ambience Mall, Level 3, NH-8, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-3058803

MALT & CO**RESTO-BAR** | Night out for 2: ₹800

Newly opened, this bar in Hilton has contemporary décor. It boasts of a good selection of single malts and cognacs and features a Single Malt Whisky Room for the connoisseurs. A live band plays in the evenings.

**Hilton New Delhi, Janakpuri District Centre Complex, Janakpuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 41234123**

ON THE ROCKS

★★½

LOUNGE BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,200

Tucked away inside Hotel Atrium, On the Rocks is a new watering hole in laid-back Faridabad. The bar is stocked with a selection of cocktails, spirits and wines, accompanied by an assortment of finger foods.

**The Atrium, Shooting Range Road, Faridabad 121001,
Ph: 0129-4090700**

ROCKMAN'S BEER ISLAND

★★★

BEER BAR + DANCING | Night out for 2: ₹2,000

A beer-guzzlers' paradise, Rockman's is divided into two parts — a German pub and a fine dining Keg & Barrel. This place has all the noise, activity and fun associated with the beverage. Come here to try their four varieties of beer!

Ambience Mall, Level 3, NH 8, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-2700000

RUBICON

★★★

LOUNGE BAR | Night out for 2: ₹2,000

This lounge bar overlooks the bustle of the city's highway through its floor to ceiling windows interrupted by wooden panels. The cosy bar can

accommodate up to 60 guests and is well-stocked with over 45 single malts and 200 wines.

Leela Kempinski Gurgaon, Ambience Island, NH-8, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4771234

TGI FRIDAY'S

★★★

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,700

Enjoy great food and beverages in a fun atmosphere. Come here for a full dining experience. Regulars are particularly fond of the Chicken Wings and Jamaican Lamb along with a combination of Lime Margarita, LIIT or mocktails Green Apple and Gold Medalist. It is a resto-bar, so no problem if you have two left feet. On Fridays, avail the benefits of the big spender's card.

West Gate Mall, 3rd Floor, Raja Garden, New Delhi,
Ph: 45508081

THE DECK

★★★

DISCOTHEQUE/NIGHTCLUB | Night out for 2: ₹1,000

For tipplers, pubs and bars abound in this part of the town, but one that's definitely worth a visit is The Deck at the rooftop of the Sahara Mall. DJ Aryan's foot-tapping hip-hop, Bollywood, rock and retro numbers make the mercury level rise as hordes of youngsters jive on the dance floor. One can also dance under the stars in the open-air section.

301-302, 3rd Floor, Sahara Mall, Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Gurgaon ,
Ph: 0124-4048031-33, 9810004122

THE SPORTS BAR

★★★

BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,000

With a grand stadium-like seating area, a 47-foot-wide screen, state-of-the-art sound and projection system, a basketball net and a pool table, the place is dedicated to all sports lovers. The bar is an interesting addition to Noida's tittle zone. Go looking for a sporty experience and you won't be disappointed.

3rd Floor, The Great India Place, Sector 38A, NOIDA,
Ph: 0120-4573206

ZOSSE

RESTO-BAR | Night out for 2: ₹1,000

With a plain Anglo-Latin décor, Zosse offers a regular range of cocktails. You can also try their Zosse Masala, a tequila-based drink or Adam Hunt, with Chilli Chicken, Fish Tikka and Mutton Seekh Kebab. Stags are allowed.

SB-21, 23, 24, Ansal Crown Plaza, Sector 15A, Faridabad,
Ph: 0129-4011147-50

Shopping

If South Delhi has a wide expanse, the area around it in Delhi/NCR covers an even wider area. Obviously, the shopping complexes we talk about here are scattered far and wide. They have all emerged over the recent years and are yet to gain the advantage only time can offer. But novelty has its own benefits. These complexes therefore attract huge crowds.

GURGAON

Gurgaon is often called the mall capital of India. There are more than 40 malls in this suburb of Delhi that cater to the needs of the burgeoning middle and upper class. Let us take a look at some of these malls.

DLF City Centre

DLF City Centre mall is one of the primary attractions of Gurgaon. It has more than 127 different stores on four different levels. Big brands among them include Lifestyle, Maspar, Pizza Hut, Ruby Tuesday and Mehraisons Jewellers. This mall has DT Cinemas with four screens. It was this complex that set the mall ball rolling.

MGF Metropolitan

MGF Metropolitan Mall was the second to open in NCR. With a retail space of more than 250,000 square feet, the mall has more than 150 stores. Its primary attractions include PVR Cinemas, McDonald's, Om Book Shop and Shoppers Stop.

Sahara

Sahara Mall is famous for the Haldiram food joint and the Big Bazaar retail store. It also has the PVR Cinemas on its top floor. Odyssey is a famous restaurant and bar. The customers cannot move around in this mall in a circle while shopping. That is, once you meet one end, you have to go back the same way to get to the other side.

Ambience

If you are driving down from New Delhi on NH 8, just after the Gurgaon toll point you will see a huge structure in red and blue. This is the Ambience mall — the largest in India. Stores like Debenhams and Reliance Timeout take most of your time. Brands



MGF Metropolitan Mall: A sea for retail ships

like Marks & Spencer, Pantaloons, BMW, Jumbo Electronics, Big Bazaar, Next and Hush Puppies are also worth mentioning. There is a 7-screen PVR Cinemas multiplex and Leela Kempinski, a sprawling five-star hotel complex.

NOIDA

Noida is flooded with shopping options ranging from hi-tech malls to street-front retail and local shopping options. Sector 18 is the biggest commercial sector. It has Noida's largest malls and markets in and around it. Outside this area, Sector 29 has two popular markets: Brahmputra Shopping Complex and Ganga Shopping Complex. Then there is Shoppriz Mall in Sector 61, Spice in Sector 25A, and Fashion-Mart coming up in Sector 99. Besides, Sector 9 has a market for building materials and Sector 16 for car accessories, repair and upgradation. Harola is the village market.

Sector 18

The Sector 18 market has glitzy malls and exclusive showrooms of high-end domestic and foreign brands. There are cool hang-outs, international food chains and swanky multiplexes. Ebony, Van Heusen, Louis Phillipe, Teksons, Store 18, Reebok, Proline, Lil Tomato's, Levi's, Indigo Nation, Hallmark, Gautier, Galgotia's, Future Zone, Dockers, ColorPlus, City Palace, City Look, Blackberrys, Benzer, Bentley, Benetton and Adidas all have their retail outlets here. Such a collection of shops is hard to find elsewhere.

Centrestage Mall

The Centrestage Mall in Sector 18 offers 11 floors of entertainment, shopping and eating vistas. It houses the luxurious 5-screen Wave Cinemas multiplex, which has a seating capacity of 1850. It has an eco-friendly environment. There is a food court in the basement. Westside, one of India's largest and fastest growing retail store chains, has its shop here.

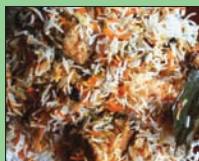
TGIP

The Great India Place (TGIP) mall is located just across the road from Sector 18. It spans an area of 1,500,000 square feet. It houses a variety of retail outlets, including Shoppers Stop, Globus, Pantaloons, Big Bazaar, Home Town, Lifestyle and Lifestyle Home, along with international brands like Adidas, Nike, Guess and Marks & Spencer. The top floor has a food and entertainment zone with a 6-screen BIG Cinemas multiplex. There is also an 80,000-square-foot zone dedicated to a Wedding Bazaar, and a Home Saaz section for home improvement.



TGIP: 80,000 sq ft dedicated to Wedding Bazaar

RECIPES



There is absolutely no dearth of variety for a discerning gourmet in the North Zone of India. It is the hub of some of the most exotic styles of cooking, many of which are renowned all over the world. Most famous of all is the Mughal Cuisine. Known for their love for life and good food, the Mughals added a touch of royalty to the food and produced mouth-watering taste with the generous use of spices, dry-fruits and butter. Roasted in tandoors, the meat dishes taste out of this world. Delhi is the place to enjoy this style in its best form. Try Tandoori Chicken and Seekh Kebabs.

We have given some very simple recipes you can try at home. If not anything else, make a glass of lassi for yourself. Its refreshing and absolutely amazing!

VEGETABLE PAKORA

INGREDIENTS

1 cup chickpea flour	2 tsp oil
1 tsp ground cumin	1½ tsp salt
1-2 chopped green chillies	½ cup water
1 potato	1 small cauliflower
2 cabbage	5 leaves spinach sliced
1½ cup sliced onion	

METHOD

- Boil the potato until just tender. Peel and chop finely.
- Finely chop cauliflower and onions. Shred the cabbage and spinach.
- Mix first set of ingredients well. Beat in a blender for 4-5 minutes to incorporate air (this will make the batter fluffier).
- Let batter rest 1/2 hour in a warm place.
- Add the vegetables and mix in evenly.
- Deep fry in oil that is heated to 375°.
- Drain pakoda on paper towels and serve immediately.
- Serve vegetable pakora with coriander or mint chutney or tomato ketchup

SEEKH KABAB

INGREDIENTS

500 gm lamb (minced)	1 tsp brown colour
¾ tsp garam masala	1 tsp garlic paste
1 tbsp raw papaya paste	1 tsp ginger paste
2 tbsp cashewnut paste	2 tsp thick cream
2 onions (chopped)	2 tsp carom seeds
2 tsp dried mango powder	2 tbsp rock salt
3 tbsp cumin seed	1 tbsp dry ginger
1 tsp black pepper	½ tsp nutmeg powder
10 lemon wedges	1 tsp chat masala
oil for frying	

METHOD

- Wash minced lamb and put it in a strainer. Gently press to squeeze out all the water.

- Add all the ingredients except chat masala, oil and lemon wedges to the lamb and mix well. Keep it aside for about an hour.
- After some time, make medium-sized balls out of lamb mixture.
- Heat a gas oven or an electric oven along with skewers.
- Hold a hot skewer carefully in the other hand and spear the balls one by one on the hot skewer.
- Keep gap between the balls, while spearing them on the skewer.
- Likewise, spear all the remaining balls on all the other skewers.
- Place the skewers in the oven. Keep rotating the skewers, occasionally.
- When cooked, gently remove the kebabs from the skewers with the help of a napkin.
- Heat the oil in a non-stick pan to shallow fry the kebabs.
- Sprinkle some chat masala on the kebabs.
- Seekh kebab is ready to eat. Serve it with lemon wedges.

CORIANDER CHUTNEY

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 bunch coriander chopped | 3-4 green chillies |
| 1 small onion | 1 lemon juice |
| 3 tsp sugar | a pinch of mango powder |
| 2-3 flakes of garlic | salt to taste |
| red chili powder to taste | |

METHOD

- Mix and blend all ingredients thoroughly in a mixer to make a paste.
- Add little water if required. Coriander chutney is ready.

CHANA MASALA

INGREDIENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup chana (chickpeas) | 1 tea bag |
| 2-3 tbsp oil | 2 onions chopped |
| 2 tsp garlic, finely crushed | 2 green chillies, sliced |
| 3 tomatoes, chopped | 2 tsp ground coriander |
| 1½ tsp ground cumin | ½ tsp turmeric powder |

red chili as per taste 1/2 tsp garam masala
 2 1/2-inch ginger, 3/4th of it shredded finely for garnish
 salt to taste
 finely chopped coriander leaves

METHOD

- Soak chana in water overnight or for about 6 hrs.
- Cook the chana with salt and enough water in the cooker for about 20 minutes or till fully done.
- Drain, reserving 1 cup of cooking liquid.
- Finely chop the remaining ginger. Heat oil and sauté onions till golden, then add garlic and chopped ginger and green chillies. Sauté for 5 minutes.
- Add tomatoes, coriander, cumin, turmeric and chili powder and sauté over low heat until the oil separates.
- Add chana, the reserved cooking liquid, salt and half of the coriander leaves. Simmer uncovered until the liquid has been absorbed.
- Add a pinch of garam masala and serve the chana sprinkled with the remaining garam masala, coriander leaves and shredded ginger.

PANEER BHURJI

INGREDIENTS

200 gms paneer (cottage cheese)	1 tbsp oil
1/4 tsp cumin seeds	2 green chillies
1 small onion	1/4 tsp turmeric powder
1/2 tsp garam masala powder	1 tsp ginger-garlic paste
1 medium tomato	1/2 tsp salt

METHOD

- Chop the onions, tomatoes and chillies finely.
- Heat oil in a deep bottomed pan, add the cumin seeds, chopped onions and the ginger garlic paste, fry till brown.
- Add the chillies and tomatoes and fry till they are soft and pulpy.
- Add turmeric powder, garam masala powder, salt and little water so that all the masalas are well combined.
- Add grated paneer and fry for 5 minutes till the paneer blends into the masala.
- Garnish with chopped coriander and serve hot.

PALAK PANEER

INGREDIENTS

500 gms fresh palak (spinach)	100 gms paneer
2 onions	5-6 tbs oil
1 tsp pure ghee	1 tsp ginger-garlic paste
garam masala to taste	red chilli powder to taste
1 tsp cumin powder	
salt to taste	

METHOD

- Clean and wash palak (spinach) nicely.
 - Boil the spinach in water and cool it.
 - Now mash it in a mixer.
 - Heat oil in a kadhai. Add ginger-garlic paste and stir-fry for a minute.
 - Now add onions and fry till golden brown.
 - Add all spices except red chilli powder.
 - Now add the spinach (palak) and little water if needed and cook for 4-5 minutes.
 - Cut paneer into pieces (paneer can be fried to golden brown in a separate pan or can be used as it is).
 - Add paneer pieces to the gravy and cook until done.
 - Take out in a bowl.
 - Just before serving, heat pure ghee in a small pan.
 - Hold the pan over bowl, add chilli powder and immediately pour on the palak paneer.
- Caution: Don't allow the chilli powder to burn.

KADHAI PANEER

INGREDIENTS

250 gms paneer (cottage cheese)	3 capsicums
4 onions	4 tomatoes
1 inch-long piece ginger	1 tsp red chilli powder
2 bay leaf	4 cloves
1 piece cinnamon	4 tbs clarified butter

METHOD

- Cut cottage cheese, capsicum in long pieces.
- Grind onion, tomato, ginger, salt and red chili powder.
- Heat clarified butter in a pan.
- Add bay leaf, cloves, cinnamon.

- Then add onion, tomato, ginger paste.
- Continue cooking it on medium flame till ghee/oil begins to separate.
- Add paneer and capsicum pieces.
- Cook on low flame.
- When the capsicum are done put off the flame.
- Serve with nan or paranthas.

TANDOORI CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

1 kg chicken pieces	1 tsp garlic paste
1 tsp green chilli paste	½ cup yoghurt
1 tsp red chilli powder	1 tsp ginger paste
1 tsp garam masala powder	2 tbsp lemon Juice
vegetable oil	salt to taste

METHOD

- Clean the chicken. Prick diagonally with knife or fork all over.
- Apply a mixture of red chilli powder, salt and lemon juice, all over the body and marinate it for 30-45 minutes.
- Churn the yoghurt and add ginger, garlic and green chilli paste, garam masala and mix well.
- Pour this yogurt mixture over the chicken and toss, so that it gets coated well all through, with the paste. Force some mixture in the slits. Again marinate it for 6-7 hours.
- Brush the chicken with little oil. Then put it in a grill and cook for about 20 minutes (almost cooked). Finally smear the chicken with oil and again roast it until fully cooked. Serve hot.

BUTTER CHICKEN

INGREDIENTS

1 kg, skinned, boned and diced chicken	50 gms almonds, crushed
150 ml curd	¼ tsp cloves, crushed
¼ tsp crushed cinnamon	4 green cardamom
¼ tsp bay leaves, crushed	1 tsp garlic pulp
1 tsp ginger pulp	2 onions, chopped
400 gms tomatoes, chopped	4 tbsp fresh cream
2 tbsp fresh coriander, chopped	

1¹/₄ tsp chilli powder
 1 tbsp corn oil
 salt as per taste

1 tsp garam masala powder
 75 gms butter

METHOD

- Take a bowl and put curd, all the dry spices, ginger, garlic, tomatoes, ground almonds and salt. Blend well.
- Put the chicken pieces in a large bowl. Pour over the curd mixture.
- Heat butter and oil together in a pan.
- Put onions and fry for 3 minutes.
- Add the chicken mixture.
- Saute for about 7 to 10 minutes.
- Add half of the coriander leaves. Blend well.
- Add cream. Stir for sometime. Simmer.
- When the chicken is done, garnish with the remaining coriander leaves before serving.
- Tastes best with parathas or chapatis.

CHICKEN BIRYANI

INGREDIENTS

1 kg chicken pieces
 500 gm Basmati rice (washed and soaked for 30 min)
 4 tbsp garam masala (whole)
 4 tsp garam masala powder
 50 gm butter
 4 tsp garlic (chopped)
 1 cup onions (sliced)
 4 tsp ginger (chopped)
 3 tsp red chilli powder
 1 tbsp coriander powder
 5 tbsp oil
 2 tsp turmeric powder
 2 cup curd (yoghurt)
³/₄ cup chopped tomatoes
 4 bay leaves

FOR THE MARINADE

1¹/₂ tsp red chilli powder
 2 tsp ginger (chopped)
 2 tsp garlic (chopped)

1 tsp garam masala powder
1 tsp turmeric powder
1 cup yoghurt
salt

FOR GARNISHING

$\frac{1}{2}$ gm saffron (dissolved in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup milk)
2 tbsp rose water

METHOD

- Put all the ingredients of the marinade in a bowl and mix well. Add chicken pieces to it and leave for an hour.
- Now boil water, add half of the whole garam masala, bay leaf and rice in it.
- Heat oil in a thick bottomed pan and add remaining whole garam masala.
- Allow it to crackle, add sliced onions and cook it till light golden brown.
- Add 1 tsp of the remaining garam masala and all the remaining ingredients, including tomatoes, but excluding rice.
- Cook for 5 minutes, combine marinated chicken with it.
- Cook until chicken is tender.
- Place alternate layers of chicken and rice.
- Now sprinkle saffron, remaining garam masala powder and butter in between the layers and on the top.
- Carefully end it with the rice layer topped with saffron & rose water.
- Cover and seal it with an aluminum foil.
- Cook it further on low flame for 10-12 minutes.
- Chicken Biryani is ready to serve.

EXCURSIONS



If your trip to Delhi is going to be long, it would be a good idea to explore the places around. The Golden Triangle of Indian tourism consists of Agra and Jaipur along with Delhi. Both these places are only a few hours away from the capital. So why not go and see the Taj Mahal and the Hawa Mahal? In case you are looking for cooler climates, head northwards towards the Himalayas. A trip to Shimla along with nearby places like Chail and Kasauli will rejuvenate you and give you a glimpse into the Raj era.

Shimla



Shimla: Draped in forests

Shimla, the famous holiday resort that was once the summer capital of the British Raj, is now the state capital of Himachal Pradesh. Draped in forests of oak, pine and rhododendron, it is situated at a height of 2,130 m and is blessed with perennially cool air and superb panoramas. Like most hill stations, it sprawls across ridges at many levels, connected by steep lanes. It has now grown into a large, prosperous town and is on its way to becoming a cosmopolitan centre. It is famous for its buildings styled in Tudor and Neo-Gothic architecture reminiscent of the colonial era. The British government used to leave the winter capital at the end of March or beginning of April and move to Shimla until the end of October. Once the Kalka–Shimla railway line was laid down in 1903, Shimla became the favourite haunt of those wanting to escape the summers.

How to Reach

- ✈ Shimla has an airport at Jubbarhatti, which is 23 km away.
- 🚂 It is connected to Kalka by a narrow-gauge railway line with a total length of 96 km. Kalka is connected to Delhi by a few express trains.
- 🚌 Shimla is 370 km from Delhi and takes around nine hours to reach by road.

Must See

Christ Church: Established in 1844, Christ Church is considered the most prominent building on the entire Mall Road. Don't miss the pipe organ inside, said to be the biggest in India.

Scandal Point: Considered to be the highest point of the Mall, the Scandal Point is marked by a statue of Lala Lajpat Rai, the freedom fighter.

Gaiety Theatre: Located on the Mall, this theatre built in Neo-Gothic style was inaugurated in 1887 and was constructed to entertain the English elite.

Himachal State Museum: Located near the Scandal Point, it is housed in a charming colonial building with huge lawns.

Viceregal Lodge: It was constructed as the residence of Viceroy Lord Dufferin but has now been converted into the **Indian Institute of Advanced Study**. Do not miss the astounding view of the sunset or sunrise from its terrace.

The Peterhoff: The historic Peterhoff complex, now a heritage hotel, is located at Chaura Maidan, in the heart of the city. From here you can see the scenic beauty of Choorchandani on the front side, Dhauladhar ranges on the western and Kinner Kailash on the eastern sides.

Jakhu Temple: Perched on the highest peak in Shimla, the Jakhu Temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman.



Jakhu: Hanuman Temple

Dhanu Devta Temple: About 4 km from the city, Dhanu Devta Temple is one of the rare temples where a male god is worshipped. Built in traditional Pahari style, it is replete with intricate woodwork.

Must Do

Golfing in Shimla is a gift from the British. Naldehra, 22 km away from Shimla, is one of the first golf courses in India. Paragliding is another sport you can try at Intkali and also in the hills of Mashobra. Trekking is quite a fun in Shimla and there are plenty of trek trails. The flowing stream of river Sutlej is ideal for rafting. Kufri and Chail offer good ice-skating options. Biking amidst the lush surroundings of nature is a dream come true! Cycling in



Shimla: Tourists' paradise

Shimla has recently developed as an adventure sport. You will enjoy skiing at Kufri, about 16 km away from Shimla. Narkanda, about 64 km from Shimla, also has skiing facilities.

Must Have

What to Eat

The restaurants in Shimla are mostly lined along the Mall. They are inexpensive and generally offer a multi-cuisine menu. The food is not typically Himachali. Rather, the inclination is towards the Punjabi style with a free hand for spices and oil. The Mall has bakeries serving fast food and ice-cream parlours.

What to Shop for

Shimla has numerous shops selling various souvenirs. **Lakkar Bazaar** opposite the Ridge is popular for its wood crafts and souvenirs, while **Lower Bazaar**, the main market, has a range of colourful winter and woollen garments. Must-buys from these markets, however, are the hand-painted pottery, the famous Himachali cap and the wooden walking stick.

How to Move Around

You can avail of the local bus services between 7 am and 9 pm. Taxis are also available for both local travel and sightseeing. Tourist buses are run by HPTDC and bookings can be made at the Tourist Information Centre on the Mall. Walking on foot from the Ring Road up the steep hills is also a good idea.

SIDE TRIP

Chail

Chail is a tiny hamlet close to Shimla. Surrounded by lush forests, it offers a commanding view of the Himalayas blanketed with snow. With the majestic snow-capped Shivalik peaks in the background, the beautiful orchards and the sylvan pine valleys, Chail is sure to cast a spell on you. On a clear day it offers a magnificent view of the valley and the river Sutlej winding its way between the mountains, overlooking both Kasauli and Shimla (45 km) at the same time. It is an even more splendid view in the night, with the distant lights of the surroundings creating their own magic pattern on the horizon. Chail is different and quite refreshing with ancient ridges teeming with flora and fauna, making for a nature-lover's delight. Gigantic *deodars* and heavily scented pines are a trademark of Chail. It overlooks the Shimla town and the famous Chauradhar ranges and is well known for its medicinal herbs, flora and fauna. **Chail Palace** is the landmark of the hamlet. The Palace is now being run as a heritage hotel by Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC). The **Chail Wildlife Sanctuary**, hidden in the deodar forests, has abundant birdlife and a decent population of Scottish red deer. Chail's greatest pride is a cricket field at the top of a hill, said to be the highest in the world. The Indian Army has now taken it over.

Chail: Heavily scented pines are a trademark



Kasauli

A small town developed by the British during the heydays of the Empire, Kasauli still retains its old-world charm. During lean season (Nov–Feb), it is still possible to walk for kilometres without running into people. Being a cantonment town, Kasauli has restricted entry. Foreign citizens must carry their passports.

Kasauli can be reached by a branch road from the Kalka–Shimla way. The most happening place here is the junction of the Upper and Lower Malls, both of which have shops selling daily commodities and souvenirs for tourists. The Lower Mall boasts of restaurants selling local fast food. Kasauli has many outdoor trails where one can experience natural serenity. A thick cover of pine, oak, rhododendron and horse chestnut embraces the entire area.

Traffic is restricted on these roads. Some of the better trails are located off the Upper Mall Road and originate near the BSNL quarters located within the Indian Army Premises. One such trail leads to the **Hanuman Point**. There are other trails on the Lower Mall that will take you towards **Gharkhal**. The trails are safe and easy. The main trail to the Monkey Point leads through the Air Force Guard Station at the end of the Lower Mall where one must register first. The entry closes at 5 pm.

Legend has it that Lord Hanuman, on his way to getting the Sanjeevani herb, stepped here. Today there is a Hanuman Mandir atop the 300-metre-high hillock. Kasauli is also famous for the **Pasteur Institute** that produces the anti-rabies vaccine. The **Central Research Institute (CRI)** at Kasauli is renowned in the field of immunization and virological research. Prominent among the town's architecture is **Christ Church** (located near the bus station) and **Lawrence School, Sanawar** (6 km).

Kasauli: A small town developed by the British



Agra



Agra, the city of the Taj Mahal, figures on the itinerary of every tourist to India. Once the capital of the Mughal Empire, even today it seems to linger in the past. It was from here that the emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan, governed their vast empire. The city flourished under Akbar and reached the pinnacle of prosperity during his grandson Shah Jahan's rule. With their passion for building, these rulers endowed the city with some of the finest structures in the world. It is very easy to slip away here, through the centuries, into the grandeur and intrigues of the Mughal court. The strategic location of Agra on the banks of the Yamuna as well as on the Grand Trunk Road made it a successful trading town. With the decline of the Mughals, Agra was captured by the Jats, the Marathas, and finally the British.

How to Reach

- ✈️ The airport at Agra is connected by domestic flights to major Indian cities. There are daily round trip flights from Delhi to Agra.
- 🚆 Agra is well connected by the Taj Express and the high-speed Shatabdi Express to Delhi. The main railway station is the Agra Cantonment.
- 🚗 Agra is connected by road to Delhi, Gwalior, Jaipur and several other major cities. National Highway 2 connects Agra with Delhi, which is only a four-hour drive away. .

Must See

Taj Mahal

The Taj is a piece of poetry in marble. It was built by Emperor Shah Jahan as the final resting place of his favourite queen, Mumtaz Mahal. It is perhaps India's most fascinating and beautiful monument. Built by Persian architect Ustad Isa, this perfectly symmetrical monument took 22 years (AD 1630–52) of hard labour and 20,000 workers, masons and jewellers to build. The red-sandstone entrance to the Taj has verses from the Koran inscribed on it. The four minarets, its vaulted arches, the inlaid semi-precious stones are just a preamble to the central dome of the Taj. Right below this dome are the cenotaphs of Mumtaz Mahal and Shah Jahan.

Itmad-Ud-Daulah's Tomb

This tomb was commissioned by Noor Jahan, Emperor Jahangir's wife, for her father Mirza Ghiyas Beg, who had been given the title of Itmad-ud-Daulah ("pillar of the state"). Lavishly decorated with pietra dura inlay work and small in comparison to many other tombs of the Mughal era, it is sometimes described as a Jewel Box or the Baby Taj.

Agra Fort

Agra Fort is a good place to begin your tour of the city. The red-sandstone fort will remind you of the Red Fort in Delhi. Emperor Akbar commissioned the construction of the Agra Fort in AD 1565, although additions were made till the time of his grandson Shah Jahan. Notable buildings in the fort include the Pearl Mosque, Diwan-i-Am and Diwan-i-Khas (halls for public and private audience respectively), Jahangir's Palace, Khaas Mahal, Sheesh Mahal (mirrored palace) and Musamman Burj.

As you walk up the fort to the Musamman Burj, you will be able to spot the Taj Mahal across the banks of the Yamuna. This is where Shah Jahan spent the twilight of his life as a prisoner, gazing at the mausoleum he had built for his dear wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

Akbar's Mausoleum

Akbar's Mausoleum at Sikandra is a magnificent example of the blending of different styles of architecture. Just 13 km from Agra,

this aptly named "Gateway of Magnificence" marks a considerable departure from the earlier Mughal buildings. The vast, beautifully carved, red-ochre sandstone tomb is set amidst a lush garden. Akbar had himself planned his own tomb and selected a suitable site for it. Akbar's son, Jahangir, completed the construction of this pyramidal tomb in AD 1613.

Must Do

Get introduced to pigeon fancying, an established tradition in Agra. Four or five flocks fly above Taj Ganj every evening around 4 p.m. Agra's *kabootarbaaz* or pigeon fanciers don't race their pigeons but fly them in flocks, controlling them with a code of high-pitched whistles and calls.

Must Have

What to Eat

From the star restaurants to fast-food giants, Agra is dotted with eateries of every size, to suit every pocket. Agra is famous for its sweets Petha and Gazak and salty snack Dalmoth.

What to Shop for

Agra is famous for exquisite handicraft items such as marble tabletops, soft stone laywork and hand-made leather items, like fancy *juttis*. A small replica of the Taj Mahal makes one of the most popular souvenir items. Jewellery items are another famous buy in Agra. Carpets, durries, textiles and sandalwood items are also popular.

How to Move Around in Agra

For local transportation in Agra, one can use different modes of transport like taxis, tempos, auto-rickshaws and cycle-rickshaws. Pre-paid transport is available for excursions in and around the city limits. One can also rent bicycles on an hourly basis from different parts of the city. Only pollution-free vehicles are allowed to ply in the Taj Mahal area in order to conserve its beauty.

Best Time to Visit

The winter months are a bit chilly, but that is the best time to visit Agra.

SIDE TRIP

Fatehpur Sikri



Fatehpur Sikri was the capital city of Emperor Akbar between 1571 and 1584. Built with great attention to architectural details, this city, established out of the twin villages of Fatehpur and Sikri, is a feast for the eyes. About 45 km from Agra, Akbar built this city as a mark of respect to the famous Sufi saint, Sheikh Salim Chishti, who had predicted the birth of his son (Akbar was issueless till the age of 27). A tour to Fatehpur Sikri will acquaint you with the rich history and architectural grandeur of the Mughal dynasty. The buildings (Buland Darwaza, Fatehpur Sikri Fort, Tomb of Salim Chishti and Panch Mahal) combine a fine sense of proportion, indicative of Akbar's Persian ancestry and his embracing attitude. Luxury buses and private taxis will take you from Agra to Fatehpur Sikri.

Mathura

Mathura, popularly known as Brij Bhoomi, is a major pilgrimage centre for the Hindus. Located at a distance of 145 km from Delhi, it is the land of Lord Krishna, the place where he was born and spent his colourful youth. This city is still vibrant with Lord Krishna's legends and his charismatic personality. The Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple, believed to be the birthplace of Lord Krishna, is the most important tourist spot in Mathura. Dwarikadhish Temple is another popular shrine. There are about

25 scenic ghats in Mathura, of which the most important is the **Vishram Ghat**, where according to legend, Lord Krishna took rest after killing his wicked uncle Kamsa. It is at Vishram Ghat that the traditional *parikrama* (circumbulation of all the important religious and cultural places of the city) starts and ends. The *aarti* held each evening at Vishram Ghat is not to be missed. A visit to Mathura is incomplete without a visit to its **kunds**. Tradition has it that there were 159 ancient *kunds* in all. Gita Mandir is another beautiful shrine that has a fine image of Lord Krishna in its *sanctum sanctorum*. The Bhagwad Gita is inscribed on the walls of this temple in its entirety .

Bharatpur

Bharatpur is better known for the **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, a unique bird sanctuary. Undoubtedly India's best water-bird sanctuary, Keoladeo Ghana National Park is truly a paradise for our feathered friends and provides unlimited opportunities to bird watchers, wildlife photographers, landscape painters, writers on nature and researchers in biology. The sanctuary not only attracts birds from all over India, but also from far-off Europe, Siberia, China and Tibet. Before the monsoons, hundreds of exotic birds roost and nest here. The most spectacular nesting is that of the egrets, storks, herons and cormorants which make over 10,000 nests every year. The trees are overloaded with nests belonging to different species of birds. Visiting the sanctuary by cycle-rickshaws is the best mode of transportation. One can also enjoy boating in the sanctuary (subject to water conditions).

While in Bharatpur, you may also visit the Lohagarh Fort, Deeg Palace and the Government Museum.



Jaipur

Jaipur is the capital and largest city of Rajasthan. Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the ruler of Amber, founded the city on 18 November 1727 as his capital. The very structure of the city resembles the taste of the Rajputs and the royal families. The planned city came into existence under the architectural guidance of Vidyadhar Bhattacharya on the principles of Vaastu Shastra and similar classical treatises. Jaipur began to be called the Pink City in 1876 when Maharaja Man Singh II painted the entire city pink in honour of the visiting Prince of Wales, who was later crowned Edward VII. Ever since, the popular tourist destination has been getting a coat of fresh paint once in a while. In a recent international survey, Jaipur was ranked the seventh best place to visit in Asia and in another poll it was ranked third among 12 major Indian cities.

How to Reach



The nearest airport for Jaipur is the Sanganer Airport, 13 km away from the city. It takes approximately half an hour to reach the downtown. Almost all major domestic airlines operate from here. Regular flights connect the city to Delhi.



The superfast train, Shatabdi Express, connects Jaipur to New Delhi. There are several other trains available. The journey takes 4.5 to 6 hours.



Jaipur is connected to Delhi through National Highway 8. The Highway is one of the finest roadways in India. Buses are regularly available from Bikaner House near India Gate.

Must See

Hawa Mahal

The Hawa Mahal or The Palace of Winds was designed by Lal Chand Usta and built by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh in 1799. Though a part of the City Palace complex, it stands apart from it. An interesting monument made of red and pink sandstone, it is further beautified by white borders and motifs. When you go up the stairs and reach the balconies, you can feel the cool breeze brushing past your face.



City Palace

Built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh in the 18th century, the City Palace is a mix of Rajput and Mughal architecture. It sprawls over an area equal to one-seventh of that covered by the city. The courtyards and the ground floor halls have been converted into a museum and library, the first floor into a textile museum, while in the other parts of the palace, the royal family continues to live. While here, take a look at the following: Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum, Mubarak Mahal, Diwan-e-Khas, Diwan-e-Aam, Chandra Mahal, Maharani's Palace and Buggy Khana. Don't miss the pair of Gangajalis, urns holding water from the Ganga.

Jantar Mantar

The Jantar Mantar in Jaipur is the largest and one of the best preserved of the five observatories constructed by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh all over northern India. Declared a national monument in 1948, the observatory, consisting of 14 major geometric devices, can measure time, predict eclipses and track the movement of stars.

Jal Mahal

Located in the middle of the picturesque Man Sagar Lake, Jal Mahal is an architectural beauty. It was built by Sawai Pratap Singh in 1799 as a pleasure palace, especially for royal duck shooting parties. The five-storeyed marvel, which has the Nahargarh hills in its backdrop, has four floors submerged under water.

The forts

If you go to the old city of Amber (pronounced Amer), you can see the majestic forts — Amber, Jaigarh and Nahargarh. Built in the 16th century by Raja Man Singh, the Amber Fort is a perfect blend of Hindu and Muslim architecture. Jaigarh was a fortress meant for the protection of Amber and Jaipur. The Nahargarh fort looks its best at night when it dazzles under the floodlights and the moonlight falling on its ramparts. The geometrically-designed fort offers a glittering view of the city after sundown.

Must Do

Reach the Amber Fort before 8 am so that you can take the elephant ride. Visit the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing nearby. It is possibly the only museum in the world dedicated to the progressive preservation and dissemination of handprinted textiles. If you are a movie buff, try to catch a show at Raj Mandir Cinema, arguably India's best known cinema building.

Must Have

What to Eat

If you land in Jaipur, chances are you would be introduced to the Lakshmi Mishthan Bhandar or LMB and Niros by your tour operator sooner than you reach your hotel. LMB, at a stone's throw from the Hawa Mahal, serves pure vegetarian dishes and offers decent accommodation in the heart of the walled city. Don't miss Dal-Bati-Churma. Niros is famous for its non-vegetarian dishes in Continental and Indian varieties which are tailored to suit the taste buds of foreigners.

What to Shop for

In Jaipur, there are many markets selling the art and craft of Rajasthan. Kishanpol Bazar, Haldiyan Ka Rasta, Maniharon Ka Rasta, MI Road, Jauhari Bazar, Bapu Bazar and Nehru Bazaar are the main markets of Jaipur. Handicraft items are must-buys from the crafts capital of India. Gems and jewellery and camel leather items are quite popular. Bandhej or Bandhani (tie-and-dye) saris are an exclusive feature.

How to Move Around

For those who want to travel in privacy, radio cabs and car taxis are good. As for the crowded Pink City, it is best to take rickshaws.

Sariska Tiger Reserve

Situated off the Delhi-Alwar-Jaipur road, Sariska Tiger Reserve is 107 km from Jaipur and 200 km from Delhi. A hunting preserve of the erstwhile Alwar state, it was declared a wildlife preserve in 1955 and a tiger reserve in 1978.

Timings: 6am to 10am; 3pm to 6pm

Entry fee: ₹25 (Indians); ₹200 (foreigners); ₹125 (vehicles)

Video camera fee: ₹200

Spread over 866 sq km, the famous Sariska national park is a veritable treasure trove of flora and fauna. Important animals include the Bengal tiger, leopard, jungle cat, caracal, striped hyena, golden jackal, *chital*, sambhar, *nilgai* and *chinkara*, while *dhok* is the most important tree in the forests.

The park also has several sites of historical importance. Kankawadi Fort is located near its centre. Emperor Aurangzeb is believed to have imprisoned his brother Dara Shikoh in this fort. It offers a stunning view of the hilltop plateau.

Pandupol is another attraction. The Pandavas are believed to have spent part of their exile here. It is known for its waterfall, old Hanuman temple and an annual religious fair. Then there is Neelkanth. It has a complex of several carved temples built in the second half of the first millennium by the Badgujars. Prominent among these are the Naugaza Jain temple and Shiva's Naldeshwar shrine nearby.

How to Reach

The nearest railway station is Alwar (37 km). Rajasthan Roadways runs very comfortable deluxe buses from Jaipur.

Best Time to Visit

The best time to visit the park is late in the winter. If you don't mind the heat, April to June is a great time to see animals at the waterholes.

Where to Stay




Sariska Palace: 75 rooms; **Sariska Tiger Haven:** 10 rooms

Jim Corbett National Park

Spread in an area of 1288 sq km, this is the oldest National Park in India. It is dedicated to the legendary Anglo-Indian hunter-turned-conservationist, Jim Corbett. The park's forests are dense. Grass grows to a height of 1–1.5 metres. Where grass is absent, *bhang* or cannabis provides perfect cover for the predators. The reserve is widely known for the Bengal tiger and Asiatic elephant that it shelters. Leopards are found in the hilly terrain and sloth bears in the lower regions. Jackal, wild boar, langur, Rhesus monkey, *cheetal*, sambhar, spotted deer, hog deer, jungle cat are all found here in large numbers. You can spot the gharial and the marsh crocodile along the river. Mahaseer and carp can be found in plenty. There are about 600 recorded species of birds.

A jeep safari is the most convenient way to explore the Corbett National Park. Each vehicle can seat six persons. You can also go for the elephant safari. Arranged twice a day, it lasts for two hours and can accommodate only four persons per trip. The Park is open only between November 15 and June 15 and all visitors have to obtain permits from the Ramnagar Reception Centre, open daily from 8am to noon, and again from 1.30 to 4.30pm.

How to Reach

-  Phoolbagh in Pantnagar (50km) is the nearest airport. There are connecting flights from Delhi twice a week.
-  Ramnagar (51km) is the nearest railway station. Ranikhet Express operates from Delhi on a daily basis.
-  It is around 300 km from Delhi and you can follow the Hapur-Muradabad-Ramnagar route. Frequent bus services are available.

Where to Stay

There are several rest houses in Dhikala, Bijrani and Jhirna zones and in Sonanadi wildlife sanctuary.



LISTINGS

There are certain details that are important to know when you are in a big city like Delhi. You should know about the accommodation available and the various ways of moving around the city. You need to be in touch with your embassy/high commission. If you are culturally inclined, you will look for cultural centres, art galleries and auditoriums. If you love the outdoors, your search will lead you to golf courses, sports complexes and adventure activities. For your regular requirements, you may feel the need for florists, hairstylists, tailors, etc. This section is an attempt to take care of your requirements. Remember the STD code for Delhi is 011. The new symbol for the Indian currency rupee is ₹, earlier denoted by Rs.

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Important Info

Passport and Visa

Citizens of all countries need to have a valid passport and an entry, transit or tourist visa obtained from the Indian mission in their country. Tourist visa is normally valid for 180 days. Visa extensions can be obtained by applying to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Jaisalmer House, 26, Man Singh Road (Ph: 23385748). The letter should be handed over at the Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO), East Block 8, Sector-1, RK Puram (Ph: 26711443). It is open from 9.30 am to 6 pm. It is closed on weekends and national holidays.

Registration

Registration is compulsory for all foreigners arriving in India for a period exceeding six months, except the exempted categories.

Custom Clearance

Those without any dutiable goods or high-value articles or forex more than US\$ 2,500 or unaccompanied baggage (which need to be declared), can walk through the green channel. Others need to pass through the red channel. Goods up to ₹750 (₹6,000 for PIOs) for personal use are exempted. Beyond this, the duty rate is 52% plus 2% special duty.

Tourist Baggage Form

On arrival, a TBRE (tourist baggage re-export form) is to be shown with the entered articles to customs for verification at the time of departure.

Export Curbs

All articles brought in can be taken back. One can take back souvenirs worth ₹1,00,000 in value and more than that after getting permission from the RBI. Jewellery or precious stones of high value need an advance RBI permit as also appraisal by the customs appraiser in advance.

Foreign Travel Tax

For general visitors ₹500 is payable at the time of departure. For citizens of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, it is only ₹150.

Arrival/Departure

Transport of various sorts is available at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport. This includes auto-rickshaws, taxis and buses, most of which are operated by private operators. There is also a pre-paid taxi service, which is quite economical. **DTDC provides city transfer facility by DLY tourist cars from the airport.**

Currency Guidelines

In case the amount exceeds US\$ 10,000 in the form of currency notes, traveller's cheques, bank notes, or if the currency notes alone are worth more than US\$ 5,000, they have to be declared on arrival. No Indian currency can be brought in or taken out.

The unit of currency is Rupee and all the money should be changed with authorised money changers. You should insist on a receipt, which will help in re-converting the money whenever you desire. Avoid touts at any cost. Contact Delhi Tourism Foreign Exchange Office (see p. 234).

Helplines

Police Control Room	100
Fire	101
Ambulance	102
Traffic	23010101
Student/Senior Citizen Helpline	1291
Women	1091, 23411091, 23317004, 24121234
Accident & Trauma Service	1099
Child Helpline	1098
Delhi Tourism	1280

Accommodation

Delhi, as the capital city, promises to offer tourists the best in hospitality and comfort. The city has numerous hotels in the range of luxury to budget, to fit everyone's pocket. If you are planning to stay for longer, you may opt for serviced apartments and rented homes.

Irrespective of the accommodation that suits your budget and other requirements, we recommend that you make your reservations in advance.

Luxury Hotels

The best venues for accommodation in Delhi are the five-star deluxe hotels, which provide superb accommodation to the tourists. These hotels are ideal for top-notch business people, social events or an indulgent escape from the chaos of the city. Most of these hotels offer conference and banquet facilities, swimming pools, salons and beauty parlours, 24-hour coffee shops and speciality restaurants.

FIVE-STAR DELUXE HOTELS

Ashok Hotel (ITDC)

50-B, Chanakypuri, New Delhi
Ph: 26110101, Fax: 26873216,
Email: ashoknd@ndb.vsnl.net.in

Hotel Crowne Plaza

New Friends Colony, New Delhi
Ph: 26835070, Fax: 26837758, Email:
crowneplaza@crowneplazadelhi.com

Hyatt Regency

Bhikaji Cama Palace, Ring Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 26791234, Fax: 26791024,
Email: hrdelhi@hyatt.com

Imperial Hotel

1, Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 23341234,
41501234, Fax: 23342255,
Email: luxury@theimperialindia.com

Intercontinental Eros Nehru Place

S-2, American Plaza, International Trade
Tower, Nehru Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 41223344, Fax: 26329029,
Email: del-nehruplace@interconti.com

ITC Maurya — The Luxury Collection

Diplomatic Enclave, SP Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 26112233,
Fax: 26113333,
Email: itcmaurya@itcwelcomgroup.com

Jaypee Vasant Continental

Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 26148800, Fax: 26148900,
Email: reservations.jva@jaypeehotels.com

Le Meridien

Windsor Palace, Janpath, New Delhi,
Ph: 23710101, Fax: 23714545,
Email: info@lemeridien-newdelhi.com

Radisson Hotel

NH 8, Mahipalpur, New Delhi,
Ph: 26779191, Fax: 26119090,
Email: reservations@radissondel.com

Shangri-La's Eros

19, Ashoka Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 41191919, Fax: 41191988,
Email: sind@shangri-la.com

The Lalit New Delhi

Barakhamba Avenue,
Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 44447777, Fax: 44441234,
Email: newdelhi@thelalit.com

Taj Mahal Hotel

1, Mansingh Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23026162, Fax: 23026067, 23026070
Email: mahal.delhi@tajhotels.com

Taj Palace

Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 26110202, Fax: 26110808, 26884848,
Email: palace.delhi@tajhotels.com

The Grand

Nelson Mandela Road,
Vasant Kunj-II, New Delhi,
Tel: 26771234, Fax: 26705701, Email:
reservation@thegrandnewdelhi.com

The Metropolitan Hotel

Bangla Sahib Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 42500200, Fax: 42500300,
Email: info@hotelmetdelhi.com

The Oberoi

Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 24363030, Fax: 24360484,
24964758, Email:
reservations.tond@oberoihotels.com

Uppal's Orchid — An Ecotel

Near IGI Airport, New Delhi,
Ph: 41511515, Fax: 41511516,
Email: info@uppalsorchidhotel.com

FIVE-STAR HOTELS**Ambassador Hotel**

Sujan Singh Park,
Cornwallis Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 24632600, Fax: 24632252,
Email: ambassador.delhi@tajhotels.com

Hotel Jaypee Siddharth

3, Rajendra Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 25760000, Fax: 25781016,
Email: jsd@jaypeehotels.com

The Park Hotel

15, Parliament Street, New Delhi,
Ph: 23743000, Fax: 23744000,
Email: gm.del@theparkhotels.com

FOUR-STAR HOTELS**Hotel Alka**

16/90, Connaught Circus, New Delhi,
Ph: 23344328, 23344000, Fax: 23742796,
Email: hotelalka@vsnl.com

Hotel City Park

KP Block, Pitampura, Delhi,
Ph: 42310101, Fax: 27310110,
Email: hotelcitypark@vsnl.net

Hotel Diplomat

9, Sardar Patel Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23010204, Fax: 23018605,
Email: diplomat@nda.vsnl.net.in

Hotel Radisson Marina

G-59, Connaught Circus, New Delhi,
Ph: 46909090, Fax: 46909091
Email: reservations@rdmardel.com

Janpath (ITDC)

Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 23340070, Fax:
23347083, Email: janpath@ndf.vsnl.net.in

Maidens Hotel

7, Sham Nath Marg, Delhi,
Ph: 23975464, Fax: 23980771

Ramada Plaza

19, Ashok Road, Connaught Place, New
Delhi, Ph: 43555555, Fax: 43555566
Email: ramadaplazadelhi@gmail.com

Samrat (ITDC)

Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26110606,
Fax: 26887047, 24679056,
Email: info@hotelsmrar.co.in
hotelsamrat1@yahoo.co.in

The Claridges

12, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 41335133, Fax: 23010625,
Email: info@claridges.com

The Connaught

Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 23364225, Fax: 23340757

The Hans

Barakhamba Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23316861, 23316868,
Fax: 23314830/23737403,
Email: hansotel@nde.vsnl.net.in

Boutique Hotels

A boutique hotel is one that is generally not chain-affiliated. It features an intimate, stylish appearance and provides impeccable amenities. It provides personalized accommodation and services/facilities. Also known as "design hotels" or "lifestyle hotels", boutique hotels are furnished in a themed, stylish and/or aspirational manner.

Aman Resorts

Lodhi Road, New Delhi, Ph: 43633333,
www.amanresorts.com

Amber, The

198, Sukhdev Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 46591700, www.theamber.in

Bamyan

6A, Ring Road, Lajpat Nagar-4,
New Delhi, Ph: 46579797,
http://bamyanhotel.com

Emblem

E-5, Kalindi Colony Main Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 40666688, 9990444545,
http://emblemhotels.in

Hotel BB Palace

2638–2642, Bank Street, Gurudwara

Road, Karol Bagh, Ph: 28751111/3333,
47613500, www.hotelbbpalace.com

Manor, The

77, Friends Colony (W), New Delhi,
Ph: 43235151, 26925151/7510
www.themanordelhi.com

Mosaic

C-1, Sector-18, Noida, Ph: 4025000 /01,
www.mosaichotels.co.in

Shanti Home

A-1/300, Janakpuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 41573366/77,
www.shantihome.com

Thirty three

33, Siri Fort Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 46021333

Bed & Breakfast

Bed & Breakfast is a scheme initiated by the Delhi Government. Under this scheme, home and property owners in Delhi lodge tourists as paying guests within a regulated framework. For more information log on to www.delhitourism.gov.in.

Gold Category

Agroha Vishram	Ashok Vihar Phase-I	27253601, 9810004494
Ahuja's	Golf Links	24611027, 9811155625
Amantran	Panchsheel Park	41750853, 9818636189
Atithi	Connaught Place	23340085/86, 9810035013
B Nineteen	Nizamuddin East	41825500, 9871088629
Casa Defence	Defence Colony	41552462, 9811024215
Comfort Home	East of Kailash	26234395, 9312164395
CSC Bed & Breakfast	Connaught Place	43632000
Devna	Sunder Nagar	24351798, 9811276800
Estate, The	Mehrauli	26803456, 9811169692
HSC Bed & Breakfast	Connaught Place	43632000, 9717205252
The Heritage	Safdarjung Dev. Area	26510214
India Luxury Homes	Greater Kailash-I	29246008–09
Inn 100	Babar Road	47616000

Mauve	Preet Vihar	22456192, 23323953
Mogra Homes	Safdarjung Enclave	26165292, 9810928285
Nest, The	Saket	9811213655
On the House	Safdarjung Enclave	26716825, 9811047414
Perfect Residency	Green Park Main	26852337, 9810077483
Petite	Civil Lines	65190511, 9213366483
Pulse Impulse	Maharani Bagh	26345024, 9810008589
Rainbow	Green Park	26527441, 9811010319
Sabharwal's Homestay	Lajpat Nagar-IV	26467467, 9810014015
Sarwarth Sidhii	New Rohtak Road	28712424, 9312209431
Saxenas	Defence Colony	24332408, 9897212791
Shilon Residency Place	Vasant Vihar	26156885, 46050918
Sita Residency	Lajpat Nagar-I	29810399, 29813092
Srivastava Inn	Greater Kailash-II	41437804, 9717001989
Star Inn	South Extension-II	46046446, 9818227983
Sunvilla	South Extension-II	26250843, 46043856
Swift Residency	Gulmohar Enclave	26535131, 9999999005
Trendy Bed & Breakfast	Jangpura-B	24377020, 9350723328

Airlines

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is a key arrival point for most visitors, and is located 23 km south of the capital. The airport serves as the primary civilian aviation hub for the National Capital Region of India. It is an important domestic as well as international link for the country.

Airport/Domestic Airlines

Indira Gandhi International Airport

Ph: 0124-3376000, 25602123, 47197001,

Baggage Handling Ph: 49630222

www.newdelhiaairport.in

Air India

Ph: 23731225, 1800227722 (MTNL/BSNL),

www.airindia.in

Indian Airlines

Ph: 24622220, 24695209, 1800227722

(MTNL/BSNL), www.airindia.in

GoAir

Ph: 25671319, 1800222111 (MTNL/BSNL),

9223222111, www.goair.in

IndiGo Airlines

Ph: 0124-4352500, 4068536,

www.goindigo.in

Jagson Airlines Ltd.

Ph: 23721593/94,

www.jagsonairline.com

Jet Airways

Ph: 39893333

Ph: 39893333, 1800225522,

www.jetairways.com

Kingfisher Airlines

Ph: 18001800101, 18004257008,

18002093030, 18002333131,

0124-2844700, www.flykingfisher.com

SpiceJet Airlines

Ph: 18003333, 9871803333,

65515063, www.spicejet.com

International Airlines

Aeroflot

Ph: 23310426, 23317390, 25653510,
india.aeroflot.aero

Air Canada

Ph: 47172900-03, www.aircanada.com

Air France

Ph: 0124-2720272, www.airfrance.fr

Air Mauritius

Ph: 25654674, 43416400-09,
www.airmauritius.com

Biman Bangladesh Airlines

Ph: 41519223/24, www.bimanairlines.com

British Airways

Ph: 25652077/78, 0124-2540543/001
www.britishairways.com

Cathay Pacific

Ph: 25654701, www.cathaypacific.com

China Airlines of Taiwan

Ph: 23327131, www.china-airlines.com

China Eastern Airlines

Ph: 23353636, 43513166,
www.flychinaeastern.com

Emirates

Ph: 25652479, 25654939/40,
www.emirates.com/in

Etihad Airways

Ph: 1800223901, 18002090808
www.etihadairways.com

Gulf Air

Ph: 43596183, www.gulfair.com

Kenya Airways

Ph: 43083611/22,
www.kenya-airways.com

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines

Ph: 0124-2720273, 18001800044
www.klm.com

Lufthansa German Airlines

Ph: 0124-4888999
www.lufthansa.com/in

Malaysia Airlines

New Delhi, Ph: 41512121
www.malaysiaairlines.com

Pakistan International Airlines

Ph: 23737791/95, 23316259, 25652841,
www.piac.com.pk

Qatar Airways

Ph: 25656141
www.qatarairways.com/in

Singapore Airlines

Ph: 43100111, 0124-4310900,
25653072/822,
www.singaporeair.com

South African Airways

Ph: 43513131-35,
www.flysaa.com

SriLankan Airlines

Ph: 41528630-40
Ph: 25652957, 25654733,
www.srilankan.lk

Swiss International Airlines

Ph: 0124-4888988, www.swiss.com

Syrian Air

Ph: 43513184, www.syriaair.com

THAI

Ph: 41497777, www.thaiairways.co.in

Turkish Airlines

Ph: 43513230-35, www.thy.com

Virgin Atlantic Airlines

Ph: 0124-4693030
www.virgin-atlantic.com

Art Galleries

For art lovers Delhi has delightful options. The art galleries around the city display and sell classic to contemporary art forms.

AIFACS Gallery

1, Rafi Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 24694554

Art Alive Gallery

S-221, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi,
Ph: 41639000

Art Heritage

Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg,
Mandi House, New Delhi, Ph: 23736226

Art Indus

37, Santushti Shopping Arcade, Opp.
Samrat Hotel, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 26883738

Art Konsult

23, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi,
Ph: 26531819, 9811757020, 9811436678

Arushi Arts

GF, W-23, GK-II, New Delhi,
Ph: 26614985, 41435490/91

Art Positive

F-213B, Old MB Road, Lado Sarai,
New Delhi, Ph: 9818268788

Delhi Art Gallery

11, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi,
Ph: 46005300

DLF Emporio, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi,
Ph: 41004150

Dhoomimal Gallery

G-42, Connaught Circus, New Delhi,
8-A, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 41516056

Galleria

C-11, Main Market, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 41662312

Galeria de Arte

O Palacio, E-12/70, Hauz Rani,
Opp. DLF Place Mall, Saket, New Delhi,
Ph: 9911111496

Gallerie Artfelt

15/48, Malcha Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 41660900, 9810072762

Gallerie Ganesh

E-557, Gk-II, New Delhi, Ph: 29226043

Gallerie Romain Rolland

Alliance Francaise, 72, Lodhi Estate,
New Delhi, Ph: 43500200

Gallery Espace

16, Community Centre, New Friends
Colony, New Delhi, Ph: 26922947

Lalit Kala Akademi

35, Rabindra Bhavan, Firoz Shah Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 23009200, 23387242

MEC Art Gallery

70B, 1st Floor, Khan Market,
New Delhi, Ph: 24635266

Mocha Art House

DLF Place, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant
Kunj, New Delhi, Ph: 46075630

National Gallery of Modern Art

Jaipur House, India Gate, New Delhi,
Ph: 23386111

Triveni Gallery

Triveni Kala Sangam, 205,
Tansen Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 23718833

Vadehra art gallery

D-178, Phase I, Okhla, New Delhi,
Ph: 65474005

Auditoriums

Want to savour some culture curry? There are a number of auditoriums in Delhi that hold various types of cultural shows ever so often.

Air Force Auditorium

Seats: 686

Nr Dhaura Kuan, Subroto Park, Delhi
Cantt, Delhi, Ph: 25692834, 25692386

Alliance Francaise

Seats: 112

72, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi,
Ph: 43500200

Ambedkar Auditorium

Seats: 300

1, Andhra Pradesh Bhawan, Ashok Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 23382031

American Center

Seats: 581

24, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught
Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23316841

British Council Division

Seats: 150

17, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 41497491, 42199000

FICCI Auditorium

Seats: 581

Federation House, Tansen Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 23738760

Gandhi Memorial Hall

Seats: 629

Pyare Lal Bhawan, 2, Bahadur Shah Zafar
Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 41509110/09

Ghalib Auditorium

Seats: 550

Aiwan-e-Ghalib Marg, Mata Sundari
Lane, New Delhi, Ph: 23232583,
23236518

ICCR Auditorium

Seats: 350

Azad Bhawan, Indraprastha Estate,
New Delhi, Ph: 23370698, 23379309

India Habitat Centre

Seats: 537

Lodhi Road, New Delhi, Ph: 43663333

India International Centre

Seats: 230

40, Max Mueller Marg, Lodhi Estate,
New Delhi, Ph: 43663333

Kamani Auditorium

Seats: 632

1, Copernicus Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 43503351, 9811501803

Lok Kala Manch

Seats: 200

20, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 24602366, 24644421

LTG Auditorium

Copernicus Marg, Mandi House,
New Delhi, Ph: 23389713, 23384111

Poorva Sanskritik Kendra

Seats: 310

14, District Centre, Laxmi Nagar, Delhi,
Ph: 42446060

Rabindra Bhawan

Seats: 150

35, Feroz Shah Road, Connaught Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 23386626

Sanmukh Auditorium

Seats: 150

Bahawalpur House, Bhagwan Das Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 23389402, 23382821

Shah Auditorium

Seats: 704

2, Raj Nivas Marg, Civil Lines, Delhi,
Ph: 23971365, 23981796

Shri Satya Sai Auditorium

Seats: 580

8, Pragati Vihar, Lodhi Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 24363221, 24367820

Siri Fort

Seats: 1865

August Kranti Marg, Asian Games Village,
Shah Pur Jat, Delhi, Ph: 26493370

Teen Murti Auditorium

Seats: 296

Nehru Memorial Museum & Library, Teen
Murti Bhawan, Ph: 23015333, 23014475

Triveni Conference Hall

Triveni Kala Sangam, 205, Tansen Marg,
Mandi House, Ph: 23718833

Beauty & Wellness

Rejuvenate your body, mind and soul at any of Delhi's world-class spas, gyms, and yoga and meditation centres.

MEDITATION/YOGA

Shri Aurobindo Ashram

Aurobindo Marg, Near IIT, New Delhi,
Ph: 26567863

Shri Aurobindo Centre

Adhchini, Qutub Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 26512491, 26565470

Chinmaya Centre of World Understanding

89, Lodhi Estate, Lodhi Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 24697848

Osho Rajyoga Meditation Centre

C-5/44, Safdarjung Development Area,
New Delhi, Ph: 26862898, 26964533

Ramakrishna Mission

Ramakrishna Ashram Marg, Paharganj,
New Delhi, Ph: 23587110

Sivananda Yoga Vedanta Nataraja Centre

A-41, Kailash Colony, New Delhi,
Ph: 29240869

Sahaj Yoga Mandir

C-17, Institutional Area, New Delhi,
Ph: 26966652

GYM

Delhi Gymkhana Club

2, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23015531-35

Power House

30, Hauz Khas Village,
New Delhi, Ph: 26864446,
26588500, 26588700

Pulse Impulse

3, Ring Road, Opposite
Maharani Bagh, New Delhi,
Ph: 26342705, 46349525

SPA/AYURVEDIC MASSAGE

Aman New Delhi

Near Oberoi Hotel, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 43633333

Amatrra

Le Meridien, 8, Windsor Place,
Janpath, New Delhi,
Ph: 23460257, 23753048

Ashok Hotel, 50-B, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 24122919

Aura

The Park, 15, Parliament Street,
New Delhi, Ph: 23743000

Kairali Ayurvedic Health Resort

120 Andheria Modh, Mehrauli,
New Delhi, Ph: 26802106/4879

Tamaya Health Club

Vasanta Continental,
Basant Lok, New Delhi,
Ph: 26148800, 26141177

Blood Banks

Delhi has some prominent blood banks spread across the city with prompt services and facilities.

AIIMS

Ansari Nagar, New Delhi,
Ph: 26588700/500

Batra Hospital & Medical Research Centre

1, Tughlakabad Institutional Area,
Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 26056148, 26056153, 26057154

Blood Bank Organisation

11/6 B, Pusa Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 25721870, 25711055, 29958747,
26588500

Dharmashila CFRC

Vasundhara Enclave, New Delhi,
Ph: 43066666/88, 22617771-75

Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital

Hari Nagar, New Delhi,
Ph: 25494403-08, 25125259

Indian Red Cross Society

Seema Puri, Opp. Dilshad Garden Metro
Station, Ph: 22578357

Jaipur Golden Hospital

2, Institutional Area, Sector-3, Rohini,
New Delhi, Ph: 27907248

Lions Blood Bank

AK-100, Shalimar Bagh, Delhi,
Ph: 47122000, 42258080, 9717897500

Rotary Blood Bank

56-57, Tughlakabad Industrial Area,
Mehrauli-Badarpur Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 29054066/67, 29962078

Sant Parmanand Hospital

18, Sham Nath Marg, Civil Lines,
Delhi, Ph: 23981260, 23994401

Sir Ganga Ram Hospital

Rajinder Nagar, New Delhi,
Ph: 25735205, 25861463

Book Shops

Love books? Delhi gives you plenty of choices. Well-stocked book shops sprinkled round the city have books that cater to all kinds of readers.

NAME OF STORE	LOCATION	CONTACT NUMBER
Bahrison's	Khan Mkt, Saket, Rajouri Garden	24694610
Book Mark, The	South Extn-I	24644071/24693216
Crossword	Saket, Rajouri Garden	46908500
Full Circle	GK-I N Block, Khan Mkt	24655641
Galgotia	Noida	0120-4633700/05
Jain Book Agency	CP, Gurgaon, Hauz Khas	23416390
Jain Book Depot	CP	9811099506
Landmark	Gurgaon	0124-4201000
Midland	Hauz Khas, South Extn	26867121, 24653880
New Book Depot	CP	23320020
New Midland	Gurgaon	9310523999
Odyssey	Noida, Ghaziabad	0120-4249581/82
Om Book Shop	South Extn, Vasant Vihar, Vasant Kunj, Noida, Gurgaon	(Customer Care- 9711222333)
Oxford Book Store	CP	23766080/81
Quill & Canvas	Gurgaon	0124-2574416
Pages	Noida	0120-4212011
Reliance	Gurgaon, Faridabad	9717995302
Teksons	South Extn, Malviya Nagar, GK-1 M Block	24617030
University Book Depot	Bungalow Road	9810253415
Wordsworth	Janakpuri	25527792/93

Boutiques/Tailors

From fashionable designer boutiques to local skilled tailors, the city gives you plenty of options.

Aafreen

1st Floor, 26, Hauz Khas Village,
New Delhi, Ph: 26963648, 9899672666

Aditi's Boutique

12B, Opp. Janmashtami Park, Main Road,
East Punjabi Bagh, Delhi

Ambika's Creation Boutique

65A, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave,
New Delhi, Ph: 9910549451

Arya's Bliss

487/93, Pira Garhi, New Delhi,
Ph: 25252829, 9810155215

Aza Fashions Pvt. Ltd

Eros, GF, F-48, South Extension, Part I,
New Delhi, Ph: 43237878

Balaji Rajasthani Boutique

Flat No. 60, Near Sangam Cinema,
Sec 9, RK Puram, New Delhi

Barnaala Sarees

580, Katra Ashrafi, Chandni Chowk,
Delhi, Ph: 23268905

Bombay Selections

101, Central Mkt, Lajpat Nagar,
New Delhi, Ph: 41008585

Chhabra 555

555, Katra Ashrafi, Chandni Chowk,
New Delhi, Ph: 23275134

CTC Mall

3, Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar,
New Delhi, Ph: 45112000-03/05

Grover Cloth House

47A, Khan Market, New Delhi,
Ph: 9810026788

Pal Zileri

The American Plaza, GF, International
Trade Tower, Hotel Intercontinental Eros,
Nehru Place, New Delhi, Ph: 46518474

Paul Smith

212, DLF Emporio Mall, Nelson Mandela
Road, New Delhi, Ph: 46040734

Pehchan Boutique

G-1, Vardhaman Complex, Near Subzi
Mandi, Yamuna Vihar, Delhi,
Ph: 9873529093

Ritu Boutique

WZ-54, J Block, Beri Wala Bagh, Subhash
Nagar, Delhi, Ph: 9213135983

Varsha Boutique

128, Arjun Nagar, Safdarjung, New Delhi,
Ph: 9213786351

Vividha Boutique

35-A, DDA Mkt, Near DMS Milk Booth,
Swasthya Vihar, Vikas Marg, Delhi,
Ph: 22444016, 42440181

Car Rentals

Delhi has a good number of rent-a-ride options. From hired cars to radio taxis you can avail their services.

DTTDC Rent-a-Car Service

N-36, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23315322

**Coffee Home, Baba Kharak Singh
Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 23365358/3607
<http://delhitourism.gov.in>,
HELPLINE: 1280**

Hertz Car Rental

E-4, Jhandewalan Extn, Rani Jhansi Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 41520995, 43083000

KTC Car & Coach Rentals

5H, Vandana Building, 11, Tolstoy Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 23313541

Mann Tours India (P) Ltd

29, Panchkuian Road, Opp. Palika Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 46474899, 23561111

Metropole Tourist Service

224, Def Col Flyover Mkt, New Delhi,
Ph: 24310313, 24312212

Call Taxis

The tariff of city radio taxis has been fixed by the Government of Delhi at ₹15 per km. The mileage is determined by using tamper-proof electronic fare meters. There are no hidden costs or overcharging. You are charged only from your pick-up point to your drop point. A Night Surcharge of 25% is levied from 11pm to 5am.

Carzonrent	41841212	www.carzonrent.com
EasyCabs	43434343	www.easycabs.com
Home Safe	41051010	www.homesafeindia.com
Mega Cabs	41414141	www.megacabs.com
Meru Cab	44224422	www.merucabs.com
Metro Cab	1923	
Orix Cabs/Delhi Cab	44333222, 45628200, 25917441, 0124-3014700	www.orixindia.com
Quick Cabs	45333333	www.quickcabs.in
Smaart Cab	46474647	www.smaartcabs.com

Chemist Shops

Some medical shops function round the clock in the city. Some even have home delivery options. In fact, most of the hospitals have 24-hour chemist shops. So, you may even refer to the 'Hospitals' section.

98.4

Central Arcade, DLF Phase II, Gurgaon,
Ph: 41984984

Apollo Pharmacy

Apollo Hospital, Sarita Vihar,
Ph: 41626200

10-A/31, East Patel Nagar, New Delhi,
Ph: 25882629, 42481428

Escorts Hospital

Neelam Bata Road, Opp. Neelam Cinema,
NIIT, Faridabad, Ph: 0129-2416096/97

Fortis Healthworld

S-549, M Block Mkt, Greater Kailash-II,
New Delhi, Ph: 64529942/43, 9910588057

Friends Medicos

Opp. GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi,
Ph: 23243587

Goyal Pharmacy & Opticals

Sant Parmanand Hospital,
18, Sham Nath Marg, Civil Lines,
New Delhi, Ph: 23981260, 23994401-10

Help Plus Care Chemist

7/1-2, Lower Ground Floor, Yusuf Sarai,
New Delhi, Ph: 64514466

Kailash Hospital

H-33, Sector 27, Noida, Ph: 0120-2444444

Max Medicentre

HG Twin Tower, Pitampura, New Delhi,
Ph: 47351004, 27351844/1110

Medicine Corner

Shop No. 2, AIIMS-Safdurjung Subway,
New Delhi, Ph: 26183370

New Delhi Medical Store

Gate No. 6, Old RK Ashram Marg,
Nr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital,
New Delhi, Ph: 23347151

Religare Wellness Ltd

Shop No. 13, Near Swagat Restaurant,
Def Col Mkt, New Delhi, Ph: 46586125

St Stephen's Pharmacy

Civil Lines, Tis Hazari, New Delhi,
Ph: 23966021/27

The Pharmacy

GTB Hospital, Dilshad Garden, 22115486

Triveni Medicos

Shop No. 7, MCD Shopping Complex,
Opp. GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi,
Ph: 23243649

Cinemas

With plush multiplexes mushrooming in the city, cine buffs are sure to have a good time. Check out the one nearest to you and catch a show!

Ad Labs

Imax, Pacific Mall, Opposite Anand Vihar
ISBT, Kaushambi, Ghaziabad

Ansal Plaza, Vaishali, Ghaziabad,
Ph: 0120-3989404

DT Multiplex Cinema

DT City Centre, Block-A, Banquet Hall,
Shalimar Bagh, Delhi, Ph: 39895050

Filmistan

Rani Jhansi Road, Model Basti,
Ph: 23673120

Golcha

Daryaganj, New Delhi, Ph: 23265192

G3S Cinemas

Garg Trade Centre, Sec-11, Rohini, Delhi,
Ph: 39895050, 27573637, 27573536

Liberty

19-B, New Rohtak Road, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi, Ph: 28715896, 28711800

M2K

16, Distt Centre, Mangalam Palace,
Sector 3, Rohini, Delhi, Ph: 27941641

Community Centre, Road No. 44,
Pitampura, Delhi, Ph: 27942944

Moti

Chandni Chowk, Delhi, Ph: 23860383

Odeon

Odeon Building, Connaught Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 9350922465

Paras

Paras Cinema Building, Nehru Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 26484401-03

PVR Cinemas

PVR Anupam, Saket, New Delhi

PVR Payal, Industrial Area, Community
Centre-1, Naraina, Delhi

PVR Plaza, H-Block, CP, Delhi

PVR Premiere, Select Citywalk, Saket,
New Delhi

PVR Sonia, Community Centre,
Vikas Puri, New Delhi,
Ph: 5050787, 505787

Regal

Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23361583, 23362245

Sapna

54, Suraj Parbat, Community Centre,
East of Kailash, New Delhi,
Ph: 26432100, 26431787

Satyam

Patel Nagar, Janak Place, Nehru Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 25893322

Shiela

DB Gupta Road, Paharganj, New Delhi,
Ph: 23528299, 23672100

Wave

Centrestage Mall, Noida,
Ph: 0120-4364666

Cultural Centres

Delhi houses several centres where various cultural activities are held. Some of them even promote inter-cultural exchanges and learning.

Alliance Française

72, Lodhi Estate, Lodhi Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 43500200

American Center

24, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught
Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23316841/4251

French Cultural Centre

2, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23014682

India International Centre

40, Near Dayal Singh College, Max
Mueller Mg, Lodhi Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 24619431, 24634225

India Islamic Cultural Centre

87-88, Lodhi Estate, Lodhi Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 43535353-56

Iranian Cultural Centre

18, Tilak Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 23383232/34

Italian Embassy Cultural Centre

E-50, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakya
Puri, New Delhi, Ph: 26871901

North Central Zonal Cultural Centre

B-Wing, 3rd Floor, Janpath Bhawan,
Janpath, New Delhi, Ph: 23383420,
23318016

NSD Repertory Co.

Bahawalpur House,
Bhagwan Das Rd, Mandi House,
New Delhi, Ph: 23383420

Russian Centre for Science & Culture

24, Ferozshah Rd, New Delhi,
Ph: 23329101-03

Sangeet Natak Akademi

Rabindra Bhavan, Ferozshah Road,
Ph: 23387246

Shri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra

1, Copernicus Marg,
Mandi House, New Delhi,
Ph: 43503333, 23384068

Spanish Cultural Centre

12, Prithviraj Road, Prithviraj Market,
New Delhi, Ph: 41293000

Saudi Arabian Cultural Centre

82, Sunder Nagar, New Delhi,
Ph: 24325119-21

Umak Centre for Culture

J-1852, Near Allahabad Bank, CR Park,
New Delhi, Ph: 26271060, 26278877,
65361060, 9810022228, 9818422228

Diagnostic Centres

Every part of the city has reputed and reliable diagnostic centres for your help.

Arora Diagnostic Centre

P-10, Patparganj Road, Mayur Vihar,
Phase I, Delhi, Ph: 22751817

Bhargava Diagnostic Centre

19, Guru Gobind Singh Marg, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi, Ph: 9871977223, 23524433

CD Diagnostic

Ashok Vihar, Phase III, New Delhi,
Ph: 27240484

City Diagnostic Center

3, HBC, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4032166

Diwan Chand Satyapal Aggarwal Imaging Research Centre

10-B, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 43707700/77

Dr Lal PathLabs

C-49, Main Vikas Marg, Preet Vihar, Delhi,
Ph: 30403240

Dr Mittal's Diagnostic Centre

193/C-8, Sector-8, Rohini, New Delhi, Ph:
27941155, 27942166, 27946579

Dr P Bhasin Path Lab

S-13, Greater Kailash Part I,
New Delhi, Ph: 41634173, 9810130372

Dr V Kumar's Lab & X-Ray

D-415, Palam Extn, Sector-VII, Dwarka,
New Delhi, Ph: 25073575

EmBee Diagnostics

1864/65, Haveli Jugal Kishore, Chandni
Chowk, Delhi, Ph: 23273567, 23267172

Kapoor Diagnostics

20/21-L, Fruit Garden, NIT, Nr Green
Automobile, Faridabad, Ph: 0129-2424809

Medical Diagnostic Centre

D-1, Hauz Khas, New Delhi,
Ph: 41044445, 9899220533

Modern Diagnostic & Research Centre

New Railway Road, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4104002-04

Noida Diagnostic Center

D-162, Sector 27, Noida,
Ph: 0120-2521456, 2443939

Sachdeva Diagnostics

D-616, CR Park, New Delhi,
Ph: 41600800/01

Saral Advanced Diagnostic

E-1073, Saraswati Vihar, Pitampura,
New Delhi, Ph: 47111111, 9810273400

Embassies/High Commissions

The contact numbers and addresses of the Embassies/High Commissions of different countries in New Delhi are given below:

ARGENTINA

A-2/6, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 41661982/84

AUSTRALIA

1/50-G, GF, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 41399900

AUSTRIA

EP 13, Chandragupta Marg,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 24192700

BANGLADESH

EP-39, Dr Radhakrishnan Marg,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 24121389-94

BELGIUM

50N, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 42428000

BOTSWANA

F-8/3, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 46537000

BRAZIL

8, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23017301

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

4, Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 26148340/43

CAMBODIA

W-112, Greater Kailash Part II,
New Delhi, Ph: 29214435

CANADA

7/8, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 51782000

CHILE

A-16/1, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 43100400

CHINA

50D, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26112345

CUBA

W-124 A, Greater Kailash Part I,
New Delhi, Ph: 29242467/68/70

CYPRUS

67, Jor Bagh, New Delhi,
Ph: 24697503, 24697508

DENMARK

11, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 42090700

ECUADOR

B-9/1A, 2nd and 3rd Floor, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 46011801-03

EGYPT

1/50-M, Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26114096/97

ETHIOPIA

7/50-G, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26119513/14

FIJI

N-87, Panchsheel Park,
New Delhi, Ph: 41751092-94

FRANCE

2/50 E, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi, Ph: 24196100

GERMANY

6/50G, Shanti Path, Chanakya Puri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26871831-36, 44199199

GHANA

50N, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi, Ph: 24193500/02

GUYANA

B-3/20, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 41669717/18

HUNGARY

2/50M, Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi, Ph: 26114737-40

IRELAND

230, Jor Bagh, New Delhi,
Ph: 24626733, 24626741/43

ISRAEL

3, Aurangzeb Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 30414500/01

ITALY

50E, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26114353/55/59

JAPAN

50G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26876564/81

JORDAN

17, Motilal Nehru Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 24653318, 24653099

KENYA

34, Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 26146537/38/40

LAOS

A-104/7, Parmanand Estate, Maharani
Bagh, New Delhi, Ph: 41327352

LEBANON

H-1, Anand Niketan, New Delhi,
Ph: 24110919, 24111415

LESOTHO

B-8/19, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 41660713-15

LUXEMBOURG

730, Gadaipur Road, Branch Post Office,
Gadaipur, New Delhi, Ph: 26801954/66

MALAYSIA

50M, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi, Ph: 26111291/93/97

MALDIVES

B-2, Anand Niketan, New Delhi,
Ph: 41435701-08

MALTA

N-60, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi,
Ph: 26494961-65

MAURITIUS

EP-41, Jesus & Mary Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 24102161-63

MEXICO

68, Anand Niketan, New Delhi,
Ph: 24117180-82

MOZAMBIQUE

F-8/22, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 26156663-65, 43399771/73

NAMIBIA

B-8/9, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 26140389, 26140890, 26155481

NETHERLANDS, The

6/50F, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 24197600

NEW ZEALAND

Sir Edmund Hillary Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi,
Ph: 46883170

NIGERIA

EP-4, Chandragupta Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 24122138, 24122142-44

PAKISTAN

2/50G, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri
New Delhi Ph: 26110601/03/05,
24676004, 24678467

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

B-2/19, 1st Floor, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 46012813, 26145909

PERU

A-9/5, Bucharest Marg, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 46163333, 46163308

PHILIPPINES

50N, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 24101120, 26889091

PORTUGAL

4, Panchasheel Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 46071001/05

QATAR

2, EP-31A, Chandragupta Marg,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 26117988/8787/8486

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Shantipath, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 26873799, 26873800/02, 26110642

RWANDA

41, Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 26186604

SAUDI ARABIA

2, Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 26144102, 26144073/83

SERBIA & MONTENEGRO

3/50G, Niti Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26873661, 26872073

SEYCHELLES

F-6, Radhay Mohan Drive Bandh Road,
Gadaipur, Mehrauli, New Delhi,
Ph: 26658853

SINGAPORE

E-6, Chandragupta Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 41019801-04, 46000800

SOUTH AFRICA

B-18, Vasant Marg, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 26149411-20

SPAIN

12, Prithvi Raj Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 41293000

SRI LANKA

27, Kautilya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New
Delhi, Ph: 23010201-03, 23017498

SUDAN

Plot No. 3, Shantipath, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26873785, 26873185

SWITZERLAND

Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26878534, 26878372-74

SYRIA

D-5/8, Vasant Marg, Vasant Vihar, New
Delhi, Ph: 26140233, 26148298

THAILAND

56N, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 26118103/04, 26115678

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

B-3/26, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 26888427/47, 46007500

TURKEY

N-50, Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 24101921, 26889053-54

TURKMENISTAN

C-11, West End Colony, New Delhi,
Ph: 24116527

UGANDA

D-5/4, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 26145817, 26144413

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

5, EP-12, Chandragupta Marg,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 24670830,
24670945, 26872822, 26872937,
26111111

UNITED KINGDOM

British High Commission, Shantipath,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26872161,
24192100

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

American Embassy, Shantipath,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 24198000

VENEZUELA

E-106, Malcha Marg, New Delhi
Ph: 41680218/19

ZAMBIA

E-86, Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 26145883, 26145785

Florists

Looking for florists? You are sure to find one at almost every corner of the city offering bouquets, basket arrangements and bunches with a smile.

Ashok Florist

Ashok Hotel, 50-B,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 24103333, 26870506

Bunny Florist

26, Basement, Defence Colony Market,
New Delhi, Ph: 9818324201

Ferns and Petals

C-17, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 9711304355, 9312499845

Florist the Cosmos

K-558, Jahangir Puri, Delhi,
Ph: 8802774921/22

Gillu Florist

Gate No. 7, Palika Bazaar, Connaught
Place, New Delhi, Ph: 9891058480

MK Florist

Parikrama Restaurant, Antriksh Bhawan,
22, KG Marg, Connaught Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 9210448184

Nidhish Florist

33A/1, Nangli, Near Nizamuddin Railway
Station, New Delhi, Ph: 66361491

Novelty Florist

M-Block Market, Greater Kailash,
New Delhi, Ph: 9810275126, 8010533075

Paigam Florist

304A, Pocket N, Near Apollo, Sarita Vihar,
New Delhi, Ph: 9811258137, 9810985601

Poonam Florist

Mother Dairy Booth, Opp. Lajpat Nagar
Main Market, New Delhi,
Ph: 9810035708

Rajdhani Florist

H-13, Main Market, Lakshmi Nagar,
Delhi, Ph: 42486091

Rajindra Florist

48, Main Market, Defence Colony,
New Delhi, Ph: 41553155/56/57

Sugandhaa Florists

N-102B, Opp. Geeta Bhawan Mandir,
Kirti Nagar, New Delhi, Ph: 9313661212

Twince Florist

B-10, Gali No. 4, Vikas Nagar Extension,
Near Rajdhani Public School, Rohini,
Delhi, Ph: 66361857

Golf Courses

India is fast becoming known for its golf tourism. Delhi offers you several golf courses to make the best of your leisure time.

Army Golf Course

Timings: Wed-Mon 5.30am-8pm
Dhaura Kuan, New Delhi, Ph: 25693830

Air Force Golf Club

Timings: Tue-Sun
Air Force Station, Race Course,
New Delhi, Ph: 23012372

Bhalswa Golf Course

Timings: Fri-Wed 6am-7pm
Bhalaswa Lake Complex, Delhi,
Ph: 65900102

Classic Golf Resort

Munirka Marg, 25, Community Centre,
Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi,
Ph: 0124-2378841/42, 9818700562

Delhi Golf Club, The

Timings: 5am-11am
Dr Zakir Hussain Marg, Golf Links,
New Delhi, Ph: 24307100

DLF Golf and Country Club

Timings: Wed-Mon 10am-7pm
Off Gurgaon-Faridabad Road,
DLF City, Phase V, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4525274

Jaypee Greens Golf Club

Timings: 6am-6pm
G Block, Surajpur-Kasna Road,
Greater Noida, Ph: 0120-2326533-36

Noida Golf Course

Timings: 5.30am-5.30pm
Captain Shashikant Sharma Marg,
Sector 38, Noida,
Ph: 0120-4222111, 4222940/41

Outab Golf Course

Timings: 5.30am-5pm
Press Enclave Road, Lado Sarai,
New Delhi, Ph: 26969127

Hairstylists

A number of acclaimed hairstylists and salon chains well known for their quality and variety of hairstyles are found in Delhi.

Ambika Pillai Designer Salons

Hotel Qutab, Shaheed Jeet Singh Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 46064100-05

Jawed Habib

48, Khan Market, New Delhi,
Ph: 43646809

8/16, Hospital Road, Jangpura Extension,
New Delhi, Ph: 24318788

17A/60, Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi, Ph: 43464440

41, The Metropolitan Mall, Saket,
New Delhi, Ph: 40597596

Kimrobinson

Lodhi Road, New Delhi, Ph: 43633475

Looks

10, Khan Market, New Delhi,
Ph: 41757233

Martina Wu

Ground floor, C-93, Shivalik,
New Delhi, Ph: 40515496

Ravissant

50-51, Community Centre,
New Friends Colony, New Delhi,
Ph: 26328648

Shear Perfection

Shop No. 240A, Central Arcade,
DLF City Phase II, MG Road, Gurgaon,
Ph: 9810675095

Silhouette

The Oberoi Hotel, Zakir Hussain Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 24395012

Villa Appearance

M-45, GK-I, New Delhi,
Ph: 29233958, 29238663

Home Décor

Give your home a facelift. Pick what you desire from the following places.

Craft House India

Deals in: Spa, jewellery and much more

The Metropolitan Hotel, Bangla Sahib
Road, New Delhi, Ph: 42500200

1st Floor, Time Tower, Main
Mehrauli-Gurgaon Road, Gurgaon,
Ph: 0124-4200952

D Pearls India Pvt. Ltd

Deals in: Italian marble dealers,
marble importers, home décor

D-14D, Ring Road, Rajouri Garden, Delhi,
Ph: 25115179, 25460303

Ebony Gautier

Deals in: Bedroom, living and dining
room, kids room and other home
accessories, textiles and office
accessories

K-5-9, Sector 18, Noida,
Ph: 0120-3062335

JMD Regent Arcade, Lower Ground Floor,
MG Road, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4214570

FCML Home

Deals in: Bar, bath, décor, kitchen,
office, tableware, travel and
miscellaneous accessories

Sultanpur Chowk, Sultanpur, MG Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 26800482

Luxury Dialogues

Deals in: Furnishings for homes and
shops

M-70, Great Kailash-II, New Delhi,
Ph: 40564101-04, 9899015252

Oma

Deals in: Home decorative item
dealers, home décor

DLF Emporio Mall, 1st Floor,
Shop No. 245A, Vasant Kunj,
New Delhi, Ph: 45756918-19

Renaissance Homez

Deals in: Furniture and carpet
Shop No. 331, Emporio Mall, Vasant Kunj,
Delhi, Ph: 46098288

RSK Industries

Deals in: Home furnishing
B-68, Near Pari Chowk, P-3, Greater
Noida, Ph: 9818105768, 9958238887

Shaw Brothers

Deals in: Carpets and wall hangings
6/54, Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh,
New Delhi, Ph: 9911556233

Stanley Boutique

Deals in: Stylish and elegant
furniture
369, CRC Building, Sultanpur Crossing,
MG Road, New Delhi, Ph: 9313840882,
9810847889, 9717247889

White of London

Deals in: Home furnishing and
home décor
216, Mega Mall, 2nd Floor, Gurgaon,
Ph: 9871320460
Shop No. 16, 1st Floor, City Square Mall,
Rajouri Garden, New Delhi, Ph: 42225521

Hospitals

It always makes sense to be ready for an emergency. If one falls ill, the first thing one needs is a good hospital.

AIIMS

Ansari Nagar, Ring Road–Aurobindo Marg
Crossing, New Delhi, Ph: 26561123,
26864851/53/59, www.aiims.edu

Indraprastha Apollo Hospital

Sarita Vihar, Mathura Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 26925801/58
E-2, Sector 26, Noida, Ph: 0120-4012000,
2445353, www.apollohospdelhi.com

Fortis Escorts Hospital

Neelam Bata Road, Faridabad,
Ph: 0129-2466100
Okhla Main Road, Jamia Nagar, Delhi,
Ph: 47135000
Mehrauli Road, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-
2223615/16 www.fortisesorts.in

Fortis Fit Lt Rajan Dhall Hospital

Sector B, Pocket 1,
Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, Vasant Kunj,
New Delhi, Ph: 42776222

Fortis Hospital

B-22, Sector 62, Noida,
Ph: 0120-2400222

Fortis Jessa Ram Hospital

(Multi-Speciality Hospital)
WEA, Karol Bagh, New Delhi,
Ph: 45013222/90

Fortis La Femme

S-549, GK II, New Delhi, Ph: 40579400

Hindu Rao

B-8, Subzi Mandi, Malka Ganj, Delhi,
Ph: 23973946

Max Balaji Hospital

108A, Indraprastha Extension, Patparganj,
New Delhi, Ph: 22235555

Max Devki Devi Heart & Vascular Institute

2, Press Enclave Road, Saket, New Delhi,
Ph: 26515050, 66114444, 66115050

Max Hospital

Near TV Tower, Wazirpur District Centre,
Pitampura, New Delhi, Ph: 27351844
A-364, Sector 19, Noida,
Ph: 0120-2549999, 2535500
Max Medcentre, N-110, Panchsheel Park,
New Delhi, Ph: 26499870

Money Matters

Nothing goes without money. Banks and foreign exchange centres are essential in any city.

Centralized Nos. of Important Banks

Axis Bank	18604258888, 23736555
Bank of America	66162000, 23715567/72/73
Bank of Baroda	1800224447, 27213681
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ	41003456, 41003155
Canara Bank	25971019/47/49/56
Central Bank of India	23318964, 23319268/69, 1800221622
Citibank	0124-2542484
Corporation Bank	18004252407, 080-26941544
Deutsche Bank	18002096601
HDFC Bank	41514332
HSBC Bank	23738989, 23739696
ICICI Bank	1800224848, 41718000
IDBI Bank	1800221070, 46574124-26
Punjab National Bank	18001802222, 25938456
Standard Chartered	39404444, 66014444
State Bank of India	1800112211
Syndicate Bank	18004256655
The Royal Bank of Scotland NV	0124-4111111

Foreign Exchange

Foreign Exchange is available at most hotels or at the airport. The Central Bank of India counter at Ashoka Hotel is open round the clock as is Thomas Cook. It is advisable to bring currency in American Express or Thomas Cook traveller's cheques or to draw against your Visa, Amex or MasterCard.

Delhi Tourism Foreign Exchange Office, N-36, Bombay Life Building, Connaught Place, Ph: 23730416, 23315322

American Express Bank, Wenger House, Connaught Place, A-Block, Ph: 66223090, 0124-4190000, 18004191414

Banque Nationale de Paris, Hansalaya Building, Barakhamba Road, Ph: 23313883

Citibank, Jeevan Bharati Building, Connaught Place, Ph: 23712484

Deutsche Bank, 28, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, Connaught Place, Ph: 66009400

HongKong & Shanghai Bank, 25, Barakhamba Road, Ph: 23738989

RBS, 15, Hansalaya Building, Barakhamba Road, Ph: 0124-4111111

Standard Chartered Bank, 17, Sansad Marg, Ph: 23360321

Thomas Cook, Room No. 4, Hotel Janpath, Ph: 64641057, 23340564

Moving Around

There are several options for moving around in Delhi. You have public transport like bus, Metro and even the conventional train.

Railway Booking and Enquiry

For online reservations of railway tickets, visit www.irctc.co.in. For enquiry regarding arrival, departure, reservation status, etc., visit www.indianrail.gov.in. You may also dial 139 for this purpose.

Inter-State Bus Terminals (ISBTs)

Maharana Pratap ISBT	Kashmere Gate	23868836, 23865181
Vir Hakikat Rai ISBT	Sarai Kale Khan	24358092
Swami Vivekanand ISBT	Anand Vihar	22152431

Delhi Metro

Delhi Metro provides a quick, economical, hassle-free and air-conditioned way of zipping around the city. The Metro trains are reliable and fast. Fares are in the range of ₹8–30. Alternately, you can buy a Smart Card for ₹100, which is worth ₹50 and includes a ₹50 deposit. You can add more value to the card in multiples of ₹50, as and when you require, up to a maximum amount of ₹800.

ROUTES

Red Line	Dilshad Garden - Kashmere Gate - Rithala
Yellow Line	Jahangirpuri - Rajeev Chowk - Central Secretariat - Qutub Minar - HUDA City Centre
Blue Line	(i) Noida City Centre - Yamuna Bank - Rajeev Chowk - Dwarka Sector 9; (ii) Anand Vihar - Yamuna Bank - Rajeev Chowk - Dwarka Sector 9
Green Line	Inder Lok - Mundka
Airport Express	New Delhi Railway Station - IGI Airport
Violet Line	Central Secretariat - Badarpur
Contact Nos.	
Anuj Dayal, Chief Public Relations Officer	23418415
24-hour Helpline	128128

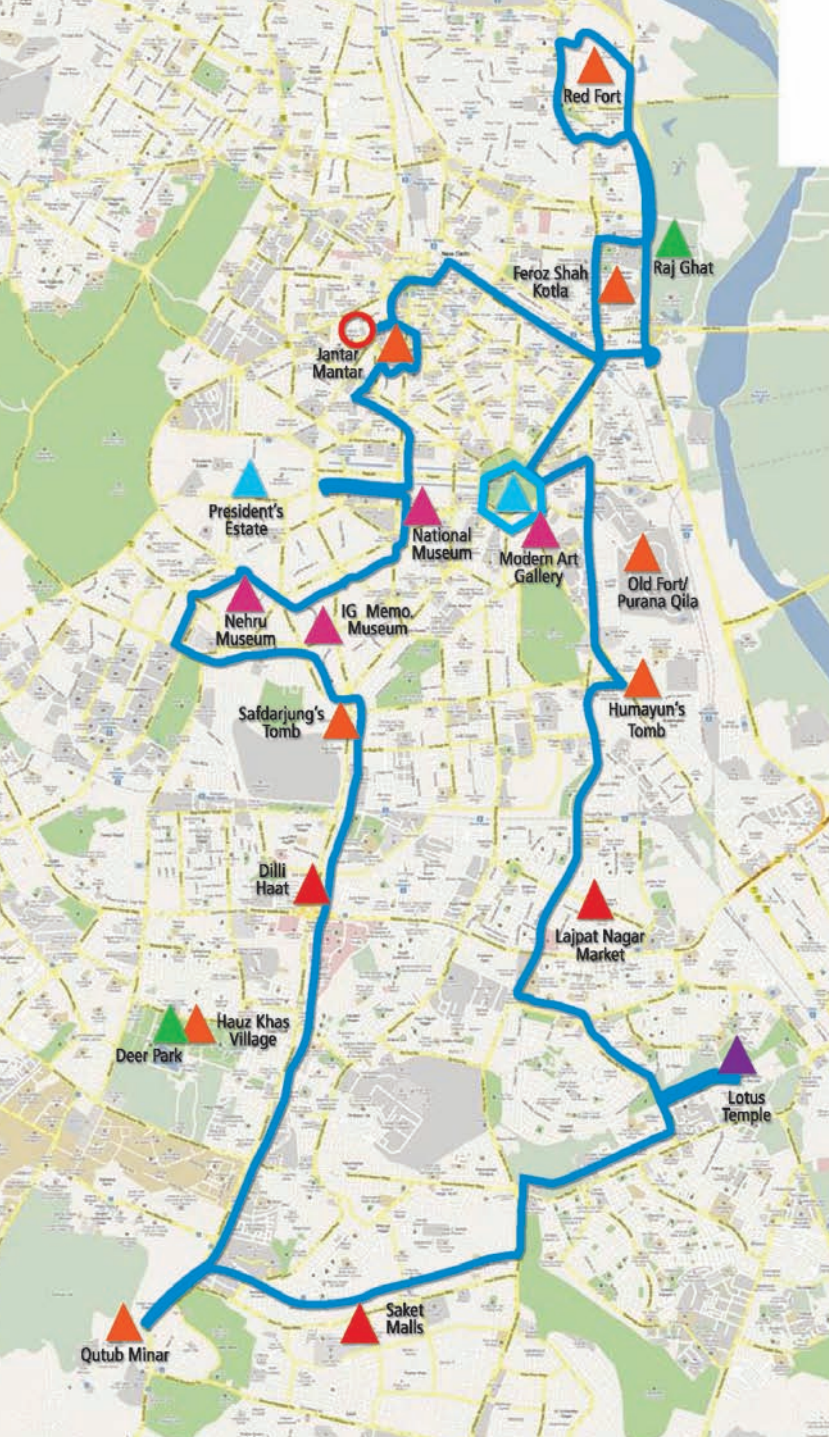
Auto-Rickshaw Fares

(a) Minimum fare for 2 km: ₹19

(b) Additional fare per km: ₹6.50

Night Charges: 25% extra from 11pm to 5am

Waiting Charges: ₹25 per hour (minimum 15 minutes)



Red Fort

Feroz Shah Kotla

Raj Ghat

Jantar Mantar

President's Estate

National Museum

Modern Art Gallery

Old Fort/Purana Qila

Nehru Museum

IG Memo. Museum

Safdarjung's Tomb

Humayun's Tomb

Dilli Haat

Lajpat Nagar Market

Deer Park

Hauz Khas Village

Lotus Temple

Saket Malls

Outub Minar



HOP ON, HOP OFF

Starting Sep 15, Delhi will have a 'hop on, hop off' bus service. It will take tourists to monuments, museums, shopping areas, foreign exchange bureaus and parks as per the route given below. Buses will run at a frequency of 30 minutes. Tourists can hop off at a site and hop on the next bus.

START COFFEE HOME BABA KHARAK SINGH MARG

DELHI GATE	Khooni Darwaza, Feroz Shah Kotla, National Gandhi Museum, Ambedkar Stadium, Daryaganj
RED FORT	Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk, Salim Garh
RAJ GHAT	Shanti Van, Shakti Sthal, Veer Bhumi
MODERN ART GALLERY	National Stadium, India Gate
PURANA QILA	Pragati Maidan, Crafts Museum, Zoo
HUMAYUN'S TOMB	Isa Khan's Tomb, Nizamuddin, Gol Gumbaj
DEF COL METRO STN	Def Col Mkt, Lajpat Nagar Central Mkt
LOTUS TEMPLE	Kalkaji Park, ISKCON Temple
METROPOLITAN MALL SAKET	Hilton Garden Inn, Select City Walk
QUTUB MINAR	Garden of Five Senses, Qila Rai Pithora, Ahinsa Sthal, Indian Handicraft Emporium
HAUZ KHAS VILLAGE	Deer Park, Hauz Rani
DILLI HAAT	INA Market
SAFDARJUNG'S TOMB	Lodi Road, Jaipur Polo Ground
SANTUSHTI	Chanakyapuri Mkt, Hotel Samrat
THE ASHOK HOTEL	The Ashok
TEEN MURTI	Shanti Path, Nehru Planetarium, Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum
NATIONAL MUSEUM	Rajpath
VIJAY CHOWK	Parliament House, Rashtrapati Bhawan
JANTAR MANTAR	Ashoka Road, Le Meridien, Ramada Plaza, Patel Chowk Metro Museum
JANPATH	Hotel Imperial, Janpath Mkt, Emporium

STOP COFFEE HOME/EMPORIA COMPLEX/ HANUMAN MANDIR BABA KHARAK SINGH MARG

Tours Conducted by Delhi Tourism

Regular Tours

Local sight-seeing	Tue–Sun	9am–1.30pm and 2.15pm–5.45pm
Same-day Agra	Wed, Sat, Sun	7am–10pm
Haridwar-Rishikesh (Overnight)	Sat	7.15am–Sun eve
Golden Triangle (Agra - Jaipur 3 days)	Tue, Fri	Dep. 7am
Delhi by Evening (On group demand)	Tue–Sun	7pm–10.30pm

Seasonal Tours (Summer - Pooja - Winter)	Duration	Departure
Ajmer - Pushkar - Jaipur	4 days	7am
Haridwar - Rishikesh - Mussoorie	3 days	7am
Jaipur - Udaipur	5 days	7am
Badrinath	5 days	6.30am
Shimla - Manali - Chandigarh	7 days	7am
Badrinath - Kedarnath	8 days	7am
Explore Rajasthan	9 days	7am
Shimla - Manali - Dalhousie	9 days	7am

For details contact DTTDC, Coffee Home-1, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 23365358, 23363607

Museums

Want to savour a slice of history? Take a tour of the museums in Delhi.

Air Force Museum

Air Force Station, Palam, Delhi,
Ph: 25697551–61

Bal Bhawan National Children's Museum & Aquarium

Kotla Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23232672, 23237856

Crafts Museum

Pragati Maidan, Bhairon Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 23371887/641

Gandhi Smriti Museum

5, Tees January Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 23011480

Ghalib Academy and Library

Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, New Delhi,
Ph: 24351098

Indian War Memorial Museum

Naubat Khana Building,
Red Fort, Delhi

Indira Gandhi Memorial

1, Safdarjang Road, New Delhi

Malliah Memorial Theatre Craft Museum

5, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg,
New Delhi

National Gallery of Modern Art

Jaipur House, India Gate, New Delhi,
Ph: 23386111

National Gandhi Museum

Opp. Raj Ghat, Ring Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23310168, 23311793

National Museum

Janpath, New Delhi,
Ph: 23019272/322

National Museum of Natural History

FICCI Museum Building, Barakhamba
Road, New Delhi, Ph: 23314849

National Philatelic Museum

Dak Bhavan, Sardar Patel Chowk, Sansad Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 23036447, 23036727, 23096020

National Police Museum

Block No. 4, CGO complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi

National Rail Museum

Chanakyapuri, Behind Royal Bhutanese Embassy, Ph: 26881826–30

National Science Centre Museum

Pragati Maidan, Near Gate No. 1, New Delhi

Nehru Memorial Museum & Planetarium

Teen Murti House, Ph: 23014504/2994

Red Fort Museum of Archaeology

Red Fort, New Delhi, Ph: 23273703

Sanskriti Museum

Anandgram, Ayanagar, Mehrauli–Gurgaon Road, New Delhi, Ph: 26527077, 26501796

Shankar's International Dolls Museum

Nehru House, 4 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi

Tibet House Museum

1, Institutional Area, Lodhi Road, New Delhi, Ph: 24611515

Zakir Hussain Memorial

Jamia Millia Islamia, Okhla, New Delhi

Music Shops

From shops that sell musical instruments to shops that sell music packed in glossy CDs, you can pick whatever you like.

Indian Musical Shop, The

Deals in: Flute, *damru*, cymbal, miniature tabla

E-6, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 9212987688

Infinity Music Shop

Deals in: DVD library, disc jockey, music shop

20, Balaji Plaza, Sector 8, Rohini, Delhi, Ph: 27946087, 9811276602

Raj Musicals

Deals in: Amplifiers, effect processors, keyboards, drum sets, acoustic and electric guitars

2188/6, West Patel Nagar, New Delhi, Ph: 25700413, 9899272572

Rave Music Shop

Deals in: Video CD, audio CD and audio systems

34, Central Mkt, Ashok Vihar, Delhi, Ph: 42283033, 42283051

Reemu Music Shop

Deals in: DVD players and MP3 players

206A, Jeewan Nagar, Maharani Bagh, New Delhi, Ph: 9810673107

Rikhi Ram

Deals in: Indian classical instruments

G-8, Marina Arcade, Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23327685

Teenage Music Shop

Deals in: Audio cassettes

GC-12, G Block, Hari Nagar, New Delhi, Ph: 25595966

Opticians

All major markets in the city have opticians where you'll find everything from designer eyewear to regular spectacles.

Darshana Optical & Contact Lenses Clinic

Raja Bhawan, Near Red Light, Rang Puri Road, Mahipalpur, Delhi, Ph: 66358609

Dayal Optical

G-8, Crossriver Mall, Karkardooma, Delhi, Ph: 66364350

Eyeco Optical Eye Care Centre

C-58/A, Thana Road, Bhajan Pura, Delhi, Ph: 9212300308, 9210309566

Muaaz Opticians & Gaur Vision Care

LG-8, Shipra Mall, 9, Vaibhav Khand-1, Indirapuram, Ghaziabad, Ph: 66358852

Optical Gallery

KD-173/3, Near Kohat Enclave Metro Stn, Main Rd, Pitampura, Delhi, Ph: 66361487

Optical Palace

16A/17, Ajmal Khan Road, Karol Bagh, New Delhi, Ph: 25728476, 25755638

Paul Optical

108, Bajaj House, 97, Nehru Place, New Delhi, Ph: 26418100, 26422587

Satyam Optical

S-48, Kanchanjunga Shopping Complex, Sector 53, Noida, Ph: 0120-4347452

SR Optical

SCF-90, Ground Floor, Sector 14 Market, Near Om Sweets, Gurgaon, Ph: 66264592

Twinkle Optical

Shop No. 1, Hukum Singh Market, Sector 27, Noida, Ph: 0120-2531555, 9871769228, 9810737802

Parks/Gardens

When you get tired of your hectic life, there is nothing like greenery to rejuvenate you. Check out the parks and gardens.

Aartha Kunj

Near Nehru Place, New Delhi

Buddha Jayanti Smarak Park

Southern part of the Delhi Ridge, Sardar Patel Marg, New Delhi

Central Park

Connaught Place, New Delhi

Children's Park

Near India Gate, New Delhi

Deer Park

Near Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi

Garden of Five Senses

Said-ul-Ajaib village, near the Mehrauli heritage area, New Delhi

Hauz Khas District Park

Africa Avenue, Hauz Khas Village, New Delhi

India Gate Lawns

India Gate, New Delhi

Jahanpanah

Chirag Delhi, New Delhi

Kalindi Kunj

On the bank of the Yamuna between Sarita Vihar and Noida, New Delhi

Kalkaji District Park

Near Nehru Place, New Delhi

Lodi Gardens

Between Khan Market and Safdarjung's Tomb on Lodi Road, New Delhi

Mahatma Gandhi Park

Behind Town Hall, Delhi

Millennium Indraprastha Park

Near Sarai Kale Khan, Outer Ring Road, New Delhi

Mughal Gardens

On the Rashtrapati Bhavan premises, New Delhi (Only 15 Feb to 15 Mar)

National Rose Garden

Chanakyapuri, New Delhi

National Zoological Park

Between Purana Qila and Humayun's Tomb, Mathura Road, New Delhi

Nehru Park

Chanakypuri Diplomatic Enclave,
New Delhi

Netaji Subhash Park

Opp. Sunehri Masjid, Netaji Subhash
Marg, Delhi

Qudsia Bagh

Near Kashmere Gate ISBT,
Shamnath Marg

Ridge, The

i) Northern Ridge: Near Delhi University

ii) Central Ridge: South of Sadar Bazaar
to Dhaula Kuan

iii) South-Central Ridge: Sanjay Van near
JNU

iv) Southern Ridge: Near Tughlaqabad,
including Asola and Bhatti wildlife
sanctuaries

Roshanara Bagh

Near Malkaganj Clock Tower, Roshanara
Road, Delhi

Shalimar Garden

Beyond Badli Sarai, off Delhi-Karnal Road

Talkatora Gardens

Willingdon Crescent, New Delhi

Sacred Places

The sacred places in the city give you spiritual comfort on the one hand and are repositories of architectural beauty on the other.

BUDDHIST**Buddha Vihara**

Mandir Marg, New Delhi, Ladakh Buddha
Vihar, Near Kashmere Gate ISBT, Delhi

CHRISTIAN**Cathedral Church of the Redemption**

East of Parliament House, Church Road,
New Delhi

Church of the Sacred Heart

Near Gol Dak Khana, South end of Bhai
Vir Singh Marg, New Delhi

Free Church

Parliament Street, New Delhi

St James' Church

Near Kashmere Gate, Delhi

HINDU**Akshardham Temple**

On the eastern bank of Yamuna at NH
24, Delhi

Ayyappa Temple (Malai Mandir)

Sector 2, RK Puram, New Delhi

Chhatarpur Mandir

4 km from Qutub Minar, New Delhi

Gauri Shankar Temple

Chandni Chowk, Delhi

Hanuman Mandir

Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Connaught
Place, New Delhi

ISKCON Temple

Sant Nagar, East of Kailash,
New Delhi

Kali Bari Mandir

Near Birla Mandir, New Delhi

Kalkaji Temple

Nehru Place, New Delhi

Laxmi Narain Temple/Birla Mandir

Near Connaught Place, Mandir Marg,
New Delhi

Sheetla Devi Temple

Gurgaon village, Haryana

JAIN**Digambar Jain Temple**

Opp. Red Fort, Delhi

JEWISH**Judah Hyam Synagogue**

2, Humayun Road, New Delhi

MUSLIM**Jama Masjid**

Opp. Red Fort,
Netaji Subhash Marg, Delhi

Moth ki Masjid

Between Uday Park and South Extension
Part II, New Delhi

Gurdwara Bangla Sahib

Near Connaught Place, Ashok Road,
New Delhi

Gurdwara Majnu ka Tila

Near Timarpur, GT Road, Delhi

Gurdwara Nanak Piao

Rana Pratap Bagh, Shakti Nagar, Delhi

Gurdwara Rakab GanjNear Parliament House,
GB Pant Road, New Delhi**Gurdwara Sis Ganj**

Chandni Chowk, Delhi

OTHERS**Bahai/Lotus Temple**

Near Nehru Place, New Delhi

Nizamuddin DargahNear Humayun's Tomb, Mathura Road,
New Delhi**Sports Clubs**

For those who love the outdoors, Delhi offers quite a few sports clubs. See p. 244 for adventure activities of Delhi Tourism.

Balloon Club of India, The

Timings: 6am–9am and 4pm–Sunset
8B, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 23716665

Delhi Race Club

Timings: 10.30am–5.30pm
Race Course Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23015073, 23012943

Indian Mountaineering Foundation

Timings: 10am–5pm
6, Benito Juarez Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 24111211, 24117935

Janak Horse Riding Club

Timings: 5:30am–9am and
4pm–8pm
New Sohna Road, Sushant Lok Phase III,
Opp. Sector 57, Gurgaon,
Ph: 9910458106, 9310858373

Okhla Dam

Timings: 10am–6pm
18A, Shopping-cum-Office Complex,
Defence Colony, New Delhi,
Ph: 24629365

Sports Complexes

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has developed quite a few sports complexes with excellent facilities.

Baba Gang Nath Sports Complex

Facilities: Multi-gym, swimming pool, children's park
Near Baba Gang Nath Mandir, Munirka,
New Delhi, Ph: 26136731

Chilla Sports Complex

Facilities: Tennis, cricket, jogging track, badminton, skating, snack bar, table tennis, cricket practice, pro shop, billiards/snooker/pool, pitches, aerobics hall, basket ball, etc.
Dallu Pura, Near Vasundhara Enclave,
Delhi, Ph: 22624859

Dwarka Sports Complex

Facilities: Tennis (clay & hard courts), badminton including covered badminton hall, table tennis, billiards/snooker/pool, basketball,

volleyball, jogging track, cricket, etc.
Sector 11, Dwarka, New Delhi,
Ph: 25089733

Hari Nagar Sports Complex

Facilities: Tennis, tennis practice wall, badminton including covered badminton hall, squash, table tennis, billiards/snooker, basketball, volleyball, cricket, football, carrom, etc.
Near Deen Dayal Upadhyay Hospital,
Hari Nagar, Beri Wala Bagh, New Delhi,
Ph: 25136683

Major Dhyani Chand Sports Complex

Facilities: Tennis (synthetic, hard, clay)/tennis practice wall, badminton (outdoor), squash, table tennis hall,

billiards/snooker, basketball, volleyball, children's park, etc.
Behind Kanhaiya Nagar Metro Station, Ashok Vihar, Phase IV, Delhi, Ph: 27305012

Netaji Subhash Sports Complex

Facilities: Tennis, badminton, table tennis, billiards/snooker/pool, basketball, skating, jogging track, cricket, cricket practice pitches, football, swimming pool, hockey, squash & multi-gym
Jasola Vihar, New Delhi, Ph: 26971301

Paschim Vihar Sports Complex

Facilities: Lawn tennis, tennis practice wall, badminton, squash, table tennis, billiards/snooker, basketball, volleyball, cricket, cricket practice pitches, etc.
A-6 Block, Paschim Vihar, New Delhi, Ph: 25270959

Poorvi Delhi Khel Parisar

Facilities: Tennis including two synthetic courts, tennis practice wall, badminton including covered badminton hall, squash, table tennis, billiards/snooker, basketball, cricket, etc.
Near GTB Hospital, Dilshad Garden, Delhi, Ph: 22134167, 22119952

Rashtriya Swabhimani Khel Parisar

Facilities: Tennis, Badminton, Badminton Hall, Table Tennis, Billiards/Snooker/Pool, Basketball, Volleyball, Skating, Jogging Track, Cricket, Cricket Practice Pitches, etc.
Near Pitam Pura TV Tower, Pitam Pura, Delhi, Ph: 27326147, 27326265

Rohini Sports Complex

Facilities: Tennis, tennis practice wall, badminton including covered badminton hall, squash, table tennis,

billiards/snooker, basketball, mini basketball court, cricket, etc.
Near CRPF School, Sector 14, Rohini, Delhi, Ph: 27561986

Saket Sports Complex

Facilities: Tennis including six synthetic courts, tennis practice wall, badminton, squash, glass back wall squash court, table tennis, billiards/snooker, basketball, cricket, cricket practice pitches, etc.
Opp. Welcome Marriott Hotel, Saket, New Delhi, Ph: 29561742

Siri Fort Sports Complex

Facilities: Total 12 tennis courts including 8 synthetic courts, tennis practice wall, indoor multipurpose stadium, badminton, glass back wall squash courts, table tennis, etc.
August Kranti Marg, Near Siri Fort Auditorium, New Delhi, Ph: 26497482, 26496657

Vasant Kunj Sports Complex

Facilities: Synthetic tennis courts, table tennis hall, badminton court, skating rink, squash courts, yoga, multi-gym, billiards/snooker, swimming pool, children's park, tennis practice wall, etc.
Sector D-II, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, Ph: 26136731
Sector II, Bhawani Kunj, New Delhi, Ph: 20913958

Yamuna Sports Complex

Facilities: Tennis, synthetic tennis courts (2), clay (5), cement (3), tennis practice wall, table tennis, badminton, fitness centre, ladies' gym, carrom, chess, billiards/snooker/pool, etc.
Surajmal Vihar, Delhi, Ph: 22164726

Delhi Tourism Adventure Activities

If you are a person who loves the outdoors, Delhi Tourism has activities lined up for you. Adventure camping, nature camping, para-sailing and rock-climbing are some of the routine activities on offer. Educational tours for school children are also available.

Eco Adventure Camp

In keeping with rising awareness about environmental concerns, Delhi Tourism has launched the Eco Adventure Camp concept. The camp is conducted for school children at a 60-acre farm near Dehradun. The children learn about organic food and farming, and about the wealth of bio-diversity. The camp is conducted for a minimum group size of 40. The camp comes in two packages: ₹2300 per head for two days and ₹3550 per head for three days. The three-day camp has an added advantage: Children are taken to Mussoorie for trekking and rock-climbing.

Safaris

Delhi Tourism conducts road safaris or overland trips taken to observe and photograph animals, wildlife, or even nature and its terrain. The road safaris are conducted in the Spiti valley in Himachal Pradesh, in Laddakh in Jammu and Kashmir, and in parts of Uttarakhand. Jeep safaris are available from Bomdila to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. The journey takes the tourists through some breathtaking valleys of Dirang and the famous Sela Pass (4,300m). Tawang is hooked at a height of over 3,400 m above sea level, and is world-renowned for its 400-year-old Buddhist monastery. Delhi Tourism also conducts camel safaris in Jaisalmer (Rajasthan) from November to February.

Water Sports

Delhi Tourism offers water sports of various kinds — kayaking, canoeing, white water-rafting, and boating. Venues include Purana Qila, the Naini lake at Model Town, and the Bhalswa lake near Jahangir Puri.

For details on adventure activities you may contact the following:

Mr Ashok Kakkad, Manager, Adventure Tourism Division,
Delhi Tourism, Dilli Haat, Pitampura, Netaji Subhash Place, Delhi,
Ph: 27310189, 9810746288

Tourism

The Tourist Information Centres (TICs) in Delhi address all enquiries and concerns of incoming tourists. For the first-timers to the city, the TICs prove to be very helpful. A host of private tour operators offer a variety of packages to help you explore the city and take back memories of a comfortable and enjoyable holiday.

Government Offices

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India

Transport Bhawan, Room No. 123,
Transport Bhawan, No. 1, Parliament
Street, New Delhi, Ph: 23714868,
23351032, 23714717, 23715306,
23716892, 23736797, www.tourism.gov.in

The Government of India Tourist Office

88, Janpath, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23320342, 23320005/08
www.incredibleindia.org,
www.tourism.gov.in

Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation Ltd

18 A, DDA SCO Complex, Defence Colony,
New Delhi, Ph: 24647005, 24698431

N-36, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23315322

Central Reservation Office, c/o Coffee Home, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 23365358/3607 <http://delhitourism.gov.in>, HELPLINE: 1280

Dilli Haat, Ph: 24629365, 26119055

Andhra Pradesh Tourist Information Centre (TIC)

AP Bhawan, 1, Ashoka Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 23381293, 23382031,
www.aptourism.in

Arunachal Pradesh TIC

Arunachal Bhawan, Kautilya Marg,
Chanakypuri, New Delhi,
Ph: 26117727, 23012152,
www.arunachaltourism.com

Assam TIC

B-1, Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Emporia
Complex, New Delhi, Ph: 23345897
www.assamtourism.org

Bihar TIC

Room No. 6, Hotel Janpath, Janpath Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 9811800716
<http://bstdc.bih.nic.in>

Chhattisgarh TIC

3rd Floor, Chanakya Bhawan,
Chanakypuri, New Delhi
www.chhattisgarhtourism.net

Goa TIC

Goa Sadan, 18, Amrita Shergil Marg, New
Delhi, Ph: 24629967/68, 24641318
www.goatourism.gov.in

Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd

A/6, State Emporia Bldg, Baba Kharak
Singh Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 23744015
www.gujarattourism.com

Haryana Tourism Corp.

36, Janpath, Chanderlok Bldg, New Delhi,
Ph: 23324910, 23311548,
www.haryanatourism.gov.in

Himachal Pradesh Tourism

36, Janpath, Chanderlok Bldg,
Opp. Imperial Hotel, New Delhi,
Ph: 23325320, 23731072, 23717473
<http://himachaltourism.gov.in>

J&K Tourism

Hotel Janpath, Janpath Road, Connaught
Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23744948,
www.jktourism.org

Kerala TIC

Travancore Palace, Near Bhartiya Vidya
Bhawan School, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 23382067, 18004254747
www.keralatourism.org

Madhya Pradesh Tourism

Room No. 12, Hotel Janpath, Connaught
Place, New Delhi, Ph: 23366528,
32599000, 23341187,
www.mptourism.com

Maharashtra TIC

Hotel Janpath, Janpath Road, Connaught
Place, New Delhi,
www.maharashtratourism.gov.in

Manipur TIC

Baba Kharak Singh Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 23746359
<http://manipur.nic.in>

Meghalaya TIC

Meghalaya House, 9, Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 23014417, 23015605,
<http://megtourism.gov.in>,
www.meghalaya.nic.in,
www.meghalayatourism.com

Mizoram TIC

Mizoram House, Pt Uma Shankar Dixit
Marg, New Delhi,
<http://mizotourism.nic.in>

Nagaland TIC

Nagaland House, 29 Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi, Ph: 09436061415
www.tourismnagaland.com

Orissa Tourism

Utkalika, B/4, Baba Kharak Singh Marg,
Emporia Building, New Delhi, Ph:
23364580, 23360237, 09313503090
www.orissatourism.gov.in

Punjab TIC

Kanishka Shopping Plaza, Ashoka Road,
New Delhi,
<http://punjabgovt.nic.in/tourism>

Rajasthan Tourism

Bikaner House, Pandara Road, Near India
Gate, New Delhi, Ph: 23389525,
23383837, www.rajasthantourism.gov.in

Sikkim Tourism

New Sikkim House, 14, Panchsheel Marg,
Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, Ph: 26113747,
26119870, 26115346, 26883026,
www.sikkimtourism.travel

Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation

C-1, State Emporia Complex,
Baba Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi,
Ph: 23745427, 23366327
www.tamilnadutourism.org

UP State Tourism Development Corp. Ltd

36, Janpath, Chanderlok Bldg, New Delhi,
Ph: 23322251, www.up-tourism.com

Uttarakhand Tourism

Room No. 1, Hotel Janpath, Janpath Road,
Connaught Place, New Delhi, Ph:
23364177, 23746433/41
<http://gov.ua.nic.in>

West Bengal Tourism Office

State Emporia Building (1st Floor), Baba
Kharak Singh Marg, New Delhi, Ph:
23742840
www.westbengaltourism.gov.in

Travel Agents/Tour Operators**Abercrombie & Kent India Ltd**

B-6/20, Local Shopping Centre, Safdarjung
Enclave, New Delhi, Ph: 46001600/01,
www.akdmc.com

Ambassador Travels (P) Ltd

60, Regal Bldg, Connaught Place,
New Delhi, Ph: 23362340/48, 23342956

Cox & Kings (India) Ltd

Indra Palace, H-Block, Connaught Circus,
New Delhi, Ph: 41297900, 23738811,
41513806, <http://msn.coxandkings.com>

Creative Travel Pvt. Ltd.

Creative Plaza, Nanakpura,
Moti Bagh, New Delhi, Ph: 24679192,
26872257-59, www.travel2india.com

Delhi Tourism & Transportation Development Corporation Ltd

N-36, Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 23315322

Coffee Home, Baba Kharak Singh Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 23365358/3607
<http://delhitourism.gov.in>, Helpline: 1280

Far Horizon Tours Pvt Ltd

66 LGF, Charmwood Plaza, Near Suraj
Kund, Eros Garden, Charmwood Village,
Faridabad, Ph: 0129-4098000,
www.farhorizonindia.com

Ibex Expeditions Private Limited

30, Community Centre, East of Kailash,
New Delhi, Ph: 26460244/46,
www.ibexexpeditions.com

India Safaris & Tours (P) Ltd

304, Empire Apts, MG Road, New Delhi,
Ph: 26807750/34, www.indiasafaris.com

Indian Legends Holidays

533, Somdutt Chamber-II,
Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 40784400 (100 lines)
www.indianlegendsholidays.com

Indiana Travels (P) Ltd

124, Yashwant Place, Chanakyapuri,
New Delhi, Ph: 24671990/93,
www.indiananetwork.com

Indo Asia Tours

Indo Asia House, Plot No. 56, Sector 44,
Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4534500/600,
<http://www.indoasiatours.com>

Jetair Tours Pvt. Ltd

Jetair House, 13, Community Centre, Yusuf
Sarai, New Delhi, Ph: 26857305/08
www.jetairtours.com

Kuoni Destination Management

Delta Square, Tower B, MG Road,
Sector 25, Gurgaon, Ph: 0124-4563000,
www.kuoni-dmc.com

Le Passage to India

E 29, Hauz Khas, New Delhi,
Ph: 41653100,
www.lepassagetointia.com

Mercury Travels Ltd

Jeevan Tara Bldg, Parliament Street,
New Delhi, Ph: 45186100/10/58,
www.mercury-india.com

Minar Travels (India) Pvt. Ltd

29 Regal Building, Parliament Street,
Connaught Place, New Delhi,
Ph: 43368700, www.minartravels.net

STIC Travels Pvt. Ltd

G-55, Connaught Circus,
Opp. Exit Gate of Palika Parking,
New Delhi, Ph: 46206600,
www.stictravel.com

Swagatam Tours Private Limited

203, Swagatam Chamber, 23-A, Shivaji
Marg, Najafgarh Road, Moti Nagar,
New Delhi, Ph: 25444000-09,
www.swagatam.com

Thomas Cook

C-33, 1st Floor, Inner Circle, Connaught
Place, New Delhi, Ph: 66271900,
18002099100, www.thomascook.in

Travel House

T-2, Community Centre, Sheikh Sarai
Phase-1, New Delhi, Ph: 26017808,
41005555, 46059121
www.travelhouseindia.com

Commonwealth Games

In Delhi we will see approximately 6,500 athletes and officials from 71 Nations and Territories competing across an exciting sport programme from **October 3 to 14, 2010**. Delhi has previously hosted the Asian Games in 1951 and 1982. This is only the second time the Commonwealth Games are being held in Asia. The first was in Kuala Lumpur in 1998.

The Commonwealth's 1.8 billion people make up one-third of the world's population and are of many faiths, races, languages and cultures. India officially became a member of the Commonwealth of Nations in 1931.

The Organizing Committee of the Commonwealth Games (OC CWG) 2010 has set for itself a Green Games Vision and Mandate. The Green Games Vision is to "Strive towards reducing carbon footprints and become the benchmark for the multi-disciplinary games in the future." The key Mandate is of 'Ecological Consciousness'.

Mascot

Shera is the mascot of the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010. His name comes from the Hindi word *sher*, which means 'tiger'. He represents the modern Indian: an achiever with a positive attitude, a global citizen but justifiably proud of his nation's ancient heritage, a fierce competitor but with integrity and honesty. Shera is also a 'large-hearted gentleman' who loves making friends and enthusing people to 'come out and play'.



In Indian mythology, the tiger is associated with Goddess Durga, the embodiment of Shakti (or female power) and vanquisher of evil. She rides her powerful vehicle — the tiger — into combat, especially in her epic and victorious battle against Mahishasur, a dreaded demon.

Shera embodies values that the nation is proud of — power, charisma, intelligence and grace. His athletic prowess, courage and speed on the field are legendary. He is also a reminder of the fragile environment he lives in and our responsibility towards the protection of his eco-system.

Logo

The logo for the XIX Commonwealth Games 2010 Delhi is inspired by the *Chakra*, the national symbol of freedom, unity and power. Spiralling upwards, it depicts the growth of India into a proud, vibrant nation. It depicts how her billion people are coming together to fulfil their true destinies. It depicts India's journey from tradition to modernity. India is poised to become a superpower. That she is hosting the Commonwealth Games heralds her having arrived on the stage. She enthusiastically embraces all the 71 CGA (Commonwealth Games Association) nations and territories of the Commonwealth to become one.



Venues

Dr SP Mukherjee Aquatic Complex

Hosted Sports: Swimming, Diving, Synchronised Swimming, Para Swimming

Address: Willingdon Crescent Road, Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Patel Chowk and RK Ashram

The SP Mukherjee Aquatics Centre is owned by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). It is 12 km from the Games Village. With a capacity of 5,178, the complex consists of an indoor competition pool, a diving pool and a warm-up pool. It comprises three specific zones: field of play, front of house and back of house.

Yamuna Sports Complex

Hosted Sports: Archery (Qualification & Elimination), Table Tennis, Training Venue for Gymnastics, Lawn Bowls, Archery, Hockey, Swimming

Address: DDA, Suraj Mal Vihar, Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Jhilmil

This East Delhi sports complex is owned by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). It is approx. 10 km from the Games Village. It has a capacity of 1,500.

Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium

Hosted Sports: Opening & Closing Ceremonies, Athletics, Weightlifting, Lawn Bowl

Address: Lodhi Complex, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Jangpura

The Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium lies within the Jawaharlal Nehru Sports Complex and is owned by the Sports Authority of India (SAI). It is located in Lodhi Estate in south Delhi, approximately 6 km from Pragati Maidan. The weightlifting complex consists of a field of play and 12 warm-up areas. The stadium has capacity as follows: 60,000 (athletics), 2,500 (weightlifting), 416 (lawn bowl Green I), 680 (Green II), 448 (Green III) and 112 (Green IV).

Siri Fort Sports Complex

Hosted Sports: Badminton, Squash

Address: Near Asiad Village, Siri Fort Road, New Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Green Park

The Siri Fort Sports Complex is owned by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA) and is located in south Delhi approx. 10 km from Pragati Maidan. It has a capacity of 4,748 for badminton and 3,128 for squash.

Talkatora Indoor Stadium

Hosted Sport: Boxing

Address: Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Patel Chowk and RK Ashram

The Talkatora Indoor Stadium is owned by the New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) and is 11 km from the Games Village. It consists of a competition ring with four warm-up areas for competing athletes. It comprises three specific zones: field of play, front of house and back of house. It has a seating capacity of 3,035.

IG Complex

Hosted Sports: Gymnastics, Wrestling, Cycling

Address: Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, New Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Indraprastha

The Indira Gandhi Sports Complex is located east of Delhi, 6 km from the Athletes Village. It has a capacity of 14,348 for gymnastics, 4,348 for cycling and 6,932 for wrestling.

Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium

Hosted Sport: Hockey

Address: Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium, C-Hexagon Road, New Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Mandi House

The Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium for hockey is owned by the SAI. It is located in central Delhi, approximately 2 km from Pragati Maidan. It boasts of two pitches. Pitch I has a capacity of 16,055 and Pitch II 2,500.

Thyagaraj Sports Complex

Hosted Sport: Netball

Address: Near Safdarjung Bus Terminal adjacent to Thyagaraj Park, New Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: INA Market

The Thyagaraj Sports Complex is owned by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi. Located in south Delhi, south-west of Connaught Place, it is approx. 6 km from Pragati Maidan. It has a total capacity of 4,495.

Delhi University

Hosted Sport: Rugby Sevens

Address: University Ground, Delhi University, North Campus

Nearest Metro Station: Vishwavidyalaya

Delhi University Sports Complex is owned by the University of Delhi and is located in its north campus. The venue is approximately 16 km (40 minutes by coach) from the Games Village. It has a total seating capacity of 10,000.

Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range

Hosted Sports: Shooting — Clay Target, Small Bore, Pistol

Address: Surajkund Road, Tughlakabad

Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range is owned by the SAI. It is located in south Delhi, approximately 16 km from Pragati Maidan. It has a capacity of 500 for 10m, 25m and 50m range, 1000 for finals range and 2000 for clay target.

CRPF Kadarpur

Hosted Sport: Full-bore Shooting

Address: CRPF Kadarpur, Gurgaon

The CRPF Kadarpur venue is owned by the Centre Reserve Police Force (CRPF). It is located in NCR, approx. 42 km (90 minutes) from the Athletes Village. It is very close to Sector 56, Gurgaon — just 4 km away from there. It has a capacity of 500.

RK Khanna Tennis Complex

Hosted Sport: Tennis

Address: 1, Africa Avenue, New Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Green Park

RK Khanna Tennis Complex is owned by the All India Tennis Association (AITA). It is located in south Delhi, approx. 18 km from Pragati Maidan. It has a capacity of 6,000.

Commonwealth Games Village

Address: Commonwealth Games Village, Near Akshardham Temple, New Delhi

Nearest Metro Station: Akshardham

The Commonwealth Games Village will be home to about 8000 athletes and team officials. Its prime location ensures that it is easily accessible from all competition and training venues as well as from the media centre at Pragati Maidan.

Spread over an area of 63.5 hectare (158.4 acre), the Village has 14 blocks, 34 towers and 1,168 air-conditioned flats. The accommodation types range from two- to five-bedroom units, each with *en suite* facilities. With only two occupants per room, this is the highest ratio of facilities provided for any Games.

The Village will also contain training areas for athletics (400m eight-lane synthetic track and separate area for throwing events), swimming pool (50 x 25m), weightlifting and wrestling, a fitness centre and a leisure pool. Temporary structures will house the International Zone, village operation and support areas.

Ticket Kiosks

There are four ways of buying the tickets to the Commonwealth Games:

Buy online: Visit the website www.cwgdelhi2010.org and click on the icon "Buy Tickets". Follow the steps as instructed.

Buy on phone: Call the toll-free numbers 18001021294 or 18002001294 and you will be guided step by step.

Buy at retail outlets: Approach any CWG Delhi 2010 Retail Outlet (see list) and get in touch with the retail sales agent. Generally, the tickets are available from Monday to Saturday 9am to 8pm. Some of the Hero Honda outlets are open on Sundays also.

Buy at box office: Approach the venue box office and get your ticket from the agent.

CWG Delhi 2010 Retail Outlets

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA		
ANAND VIHAR C-53, Anand Vihar, Delhi	SECTOR-15A, NOIDA Sector 15-A, RWA, Noida	
BENGALI MARKET 63, Babar Road, Bengali Market, New Delhi	SECTOR-22, NOIDA B-24, Sector-22, Noida	
CHANDNI CHOWK Central Bank Building, 1398, Chandni Chowk, Delhi	OC, CWG HEADQUARTERS Commonwealth Games Branch, NDCC Building, Phase II, New Delhi	
DARYAGANJ 13-B, Netaji Subhash Marg, New Delhi	PARLIAMENT STREET 5, Jeevan Tara Building, New Delhi, Ph: 23361460	
DEFENCE COLONY 28-C, Moolchand Shopping Complex, New Delhi, Ph: 24653123	PATEL NAGAR 2/14, East Patel Nagar, Patel Road, New Delhi	
DWARKA Modern International School, Sector-19, Dwarka, New Delhi	PRESS AREA Link House, 3, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi, Ph: 23312472	
GREATER KAILASH-I M-67, M-Block Market, New Delhi, Ph: 29233321	SEC-18, ROHINI H-3/27, Sector-18, Rohini, Delhi	
JANAKPURI B-1/29, Community Centre, New Delhi, Ph: 25591718	SAFDARJUNG ENCLAVE 1-AB, Safdarjung Encl., New Delhi	
KHAN MARKET 8-10, Lok Nayak Bhawan, Khan Market, New Delhi, Ph: 24618961	SOUTH EXTENSION M-2, South Extn Part II, New Delhi	
NEHRU PLACE Madhuban, 55, New Delhi, Ph: 26440213	HERO HONDA	
NEPJ Noida Export Processing Zone, Surajpur–Dadri Road	DWARKA M/s Singla Automobiles F-1/22A, Palam–Dabri Road, Mahavir Enclave, New Delhi, Ph: 43110000	
	EAST DELHI M/s Auto Needs (India) Pvt. Ltd, E-1/4, Pandav Nagar, Opp. Mother Dairy Plant, Patparganj, Delhi	

DELHI

FARIDABAD

M/s Yuva Motors Pvt. Ltd
29, Neelam Bata Road, NIT, Faridabad

GURGAON

M/s Auto Needs, 501/2, Mehrauli Road,
Gurgaon

KRISHNA NAGAR

M/s Hingiri Automobiles Pvt. Ltd
A-74, Main Road, Kanti Nagar
Krishna Nagar, Delhi, Ph: 22099000

NOIDA

M/s Uppal Motors (Pvt.) Ltd,
B-7, Sector-4, Noida

NORTH DELHI

M/s Oswal Motors Pvt. Ltd
A-20, GT Karnal Road, Near Azadpur
Chowk , Delhi

IRCTC

CONNAUGHT PLACE

Rail Tourism Facilitation Centre, IRCTC,
STC Building, Ground Floor, Jawahar
Vyapar Bhawan, 1, Tolstoy Marg,
New Delhi, Ph: 23325615

For schedule and other details visit
www.cwgdelhi2010.org

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