

# Contents

## Plan Your Trip

India's Top 12 .....	4	Essential India .....	20	Itineraries .....	26
Need to Know .....	16	Month by Month .....	22	Family Travel .....	32
Hotspots For .....	18	Get Inspired .....	25		

## Delhi 35

...at a Glance 36

<b>Red Fort .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Old Delhi's</b>	
<b>Bazaars .....</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Qutab Minar .....</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Walking Tour:</b>	
<b>Lutyens' Delhi .....</b>	<b>46</b>
Sights .....	48
Tours .....	51
Shopping .....	51
Eating .....	52
Drinking & Nightlife .....	57
Information .....	58
Getting There	
& Away .....	58
Getting Around .....	59
Where to Stay .....	61

## Agra & the Taj Mahal 63

...at a Glance 64

<b>Taj Mahal .....</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>Fatehpur Sikri .....</b>	<b>74</b>
<b>Agra Fort .....</b>	<b>78</b>
Sights .....	82
Eating .....	83
Information .....	83
Getting There	
& Away .....	83
Getting Around .....	83

## Jaisalmer 85

...at a Glance 86

<b>Jaisalmer Fort .....</b>	<b>88</b>
<b>Camel Safaris .....</b>	<b>90</b>
Sights .....	94
Shopping .....	95
Eating .....	96
Drinking & Nightlife .....	96
Getting There	
& Away .....	96
Getting Around .....	97

## Jaipur 99

...at a Glance 100

<b>Amber Fort .....</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>City Palace .....</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Walking Tour:</b>	
<b>Pink City .....</b>	<b>106</b>
Sights .....	108
Activities .....	109
Shopping .....	110
Eating .....	111
Drinking & Nightlife .....	111
Information .....	112
Getting There	
& Away .....	113
Getting Around .....	113

## Ranthambhore National Park 114

## Mumbai 117

...at a Glance 118

<b>Bazaar District .....</b>	<b>120</b>
<b>Dining in Mumbai .....</b>	<b>122</b>
<b>Bollywood .....</b>	<b>124</b>
<b>Walking Tour:</b>	
<b>Architectural</b>	
<b>Mumbai .....</b>	<b>126</b>
Sights .....	128
Shopping .....	131
Eating .....	131
Drinking & Nightlife .....	133
Information .....	134
Getting There	
& Away .....	134
Getting Around .....	135

## Ajanta & Ellora 137

...at a Glance 138

<b>Ajanta Caves .....</b>	<b>140</b>
<b>Ellora Caves .....</b>	<b>144</b>
Aurangabad .....	150
Sights .....	150
Tours .....	151
Eating .....	151
Drinking & Nightlife .....	153
Information .....	153
Getting There	
& Away .....	153
Getting Around .....	153



<b>Goa</b>	<b>155</b>
...at a Glance	156

<b>Old Goa Day Trip</b>	<b>158</b>
<b>Goa's Beaches</b>	<b>160</b>
<b>Yoga by the Sea</b>	<b>164</b>
Panaji (Panjim)	166
Palolem	167
Anjuna	170

<b>Kerala</b>	<b>173</b>
...at a Glance	174

<b>Backwater</b>	
<b>Boat Trips</b>	<b>176</b>
<b>Ayurvedic</b>	
<b>Resorts</b>	<b>178</b>
<b>Kerala's Beaches</b>	<b>180</b>
<b>Kathakali</b>	<b>182</b>
Thiruvananthapuram	
(Trivandrum)	184
Kovalam	185
Alappuzha	
(Alleppey)	187
Kochi (Cochin)	189

<b>Mysuru</b>	<b>195</b>
...at a Glance	196

<b>Mysuru City Tour</b>	<b>198</b>
Mysuru	202
Kodagu (Coorg)	205
Bengaluru	206

<b>Hampi</b>	<b>210</b>
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<b>Darjeeling</b>	<b>213</b>
...at a Glance	214

<b>Tea Experience</b>	<b>216</b>
<b>Singalila</b>	
<b>Ridge Trek</b>	<b>218</b>
Sights	222
Shopping	225
Eating	225
Drinking & Nightlife	226
Information	226
Getting There	
& Away	227
Getting Around	227

<b>Varanasi</b>	<b>229</b>
...at a Glance	230

<b>The Ghats</b>	<b>232</b>
Sights	236
Tours	237
Shopping	237
Eating	239
Drinking & Nightlife	240
Information	241
Getting There & Away	242
Getting Around	242

<b>Manali</b>	<b>245</b>
...at a Glance	246

<b>Manali Adventure</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	<b>248</b>
Sights	252
Shopping	253
Eating	253
Drinking & Nightlife	256
Information	257
Getting There & Away	257
Getting Around	257

<b>Tibetan Culture in</b>	
<b>McLeod Ganj</b>	<b>258</b>

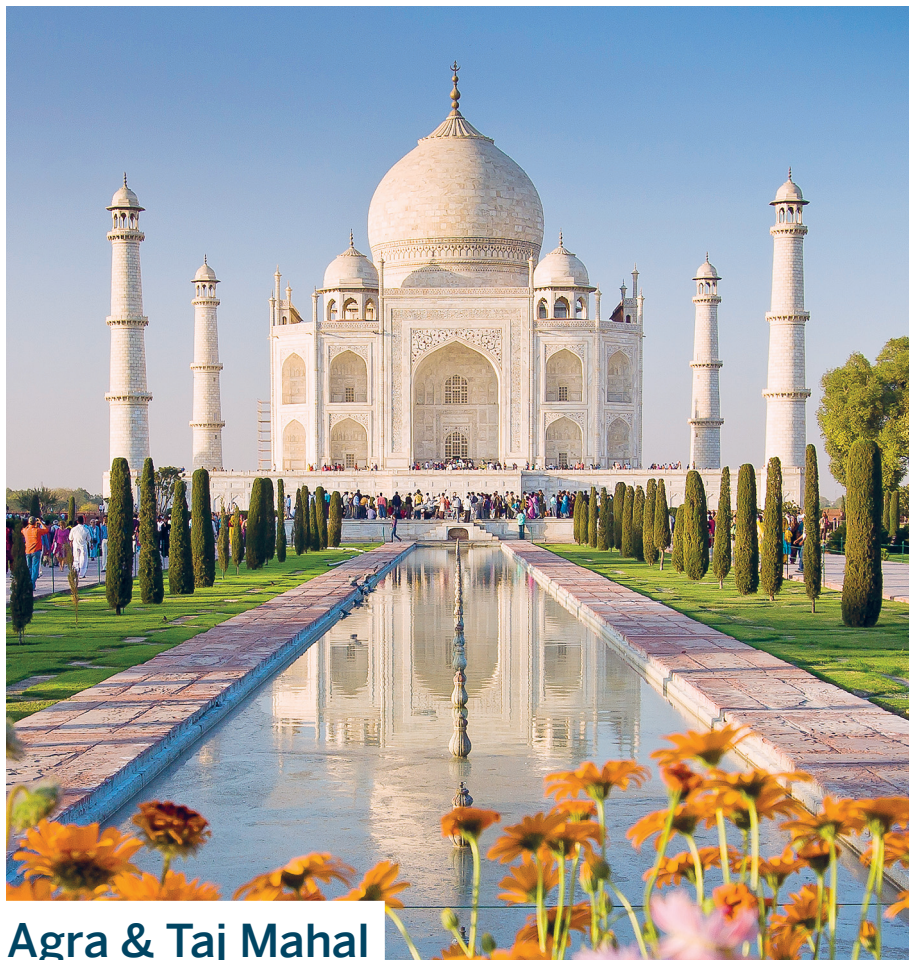


<b>In Focus</b>	
India Today	264
History	266
The Way of Life	277
Understanding	
Hinduism	280
Delicious India	282
Architecture &	
the Arts	285
Landscape &	
Wildlife	288

<b>Survival Guide</b>	
Directory A-Z	292
Transport	308
Language	313
Index	316
Symbols &	
Map Key	322

# Plan Your Trip

## India's Top 12



### Agra & Taj Mahal

#### *A timeless monument to love*

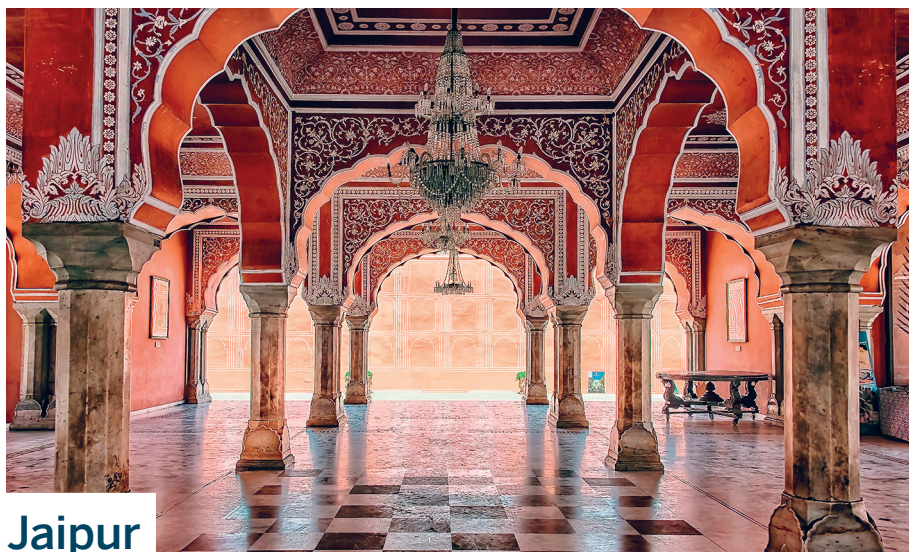
The exquisite tomb of an emperor's beloved wife, the Taj Mahal (p66) is arguably the world's most beautiful building, and has been enshrined in the writings of Tagore and Kipling. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in adoration of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, this white-marble mausoleum is inlaid with calligraphy, precious stones and floral designs. It represents the pinnacle of Mughal architecture and romance. Left: Taj Mahal (p66) and reflecting pool; Right: Interior of Taj Mahal



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## Jaipur

### *An enthralling city with regal heritage*

Jaipur (p99) encapsulates the chaotic and colourful magic of Rajasthan (the land of kings), of which it is the state capital. It's a city of seething bazaars selling everything from brocaded saris to sparkling jewellery to meenakari enamelwork, honking traffic, awe-inspiring palaces and massive fortresses. In between seeing all the sights, there's wonderful shopping, fine dining and even balloon flights over the majestic Amber Fort. Top: Hawa Mahal (p108); Bottom: City Palace (p104)

2





## Kerala

### *Drifting lazily on shimmering lagoons*

Visiting Kerala (p173) is like heading into a dream. Go on a slow cruise through the state's tropical backwaters, comprising 900km of interconnected rivers, lakes, canals and lagoons lined by coconut groves and picturesque villages. Navigate the serene waterways on a teak-and-thatch houseboat – watch the sun sink behind the trees as you sip a gin and tonic and snack on succulent Keralan seafood, and you'll forget all about life on land for a while.

# 3



## Delhi

### ***Fantastic empires, fine food, fabulous shopping***

India's throbbing capital (p35) bears the remnants of former empires, from Mughal tombs to British-era mansions. There's so much to see here, from the splendour of Old Delhi to the architectural wonders of the Qutab Minar and Mehrauli. Add the many fine eateries, superb museums, a pulsating entertainment-and-nightlife scene and some amazing shopping along the way, and it's easy to see why Delhi mesmerises so many. Above: Pouring hot milk for chai

6





## Mumbai

### *India's eclectic film-star city*

Mumbai (p117) absorbs influences into her midst and inventively makes them her own. Architecturally, the art deco and modern towers lend the city its cool, but it's the dramatic flourishes of its Victorian-era structures that are the essence of Mumbai's visual magic. Today, the city is gathering culinary threads from around the world and leads India in the creativity of its restaurants. It's the country's capital of cinema, fashion and nightlife. Above: Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (p129)

