



## Practical Information for the Participants

### History and Culture of Delhi

#### 1. New Delhi:

New Delhi, the capital city of India, enjoys a rich cultural heritage, exemplified by a variety of architectural and culinary contributions by the Mauryas, Lodhi dynasty, Mughals and the British over the centuries. With a population of over 20 million people, New Delhi is one of the four megacities in the country. Beyond the hustle and bustle of the city centre, New Delhi also boasts of many beautiful parks that provide the opportunity for leisurely walks. Old Delhi area is popular for its ancient monuments along with its overcrowded gastronomical lanes, which serve food from various cuisines across the country. Being the capital city, New Delhi is the seat of the national government and houses the secretariats of the various Ministries. With its tourist attractions, New Delhi continues to bring in tourists from around the world throughout the year, especially from mid-October to mid-March, which is considered an ideal time as the weather conditions are pleasant during this period.

### NEW DELHI TOURIST ATTRACTIONS

#### Qutub Minar

Qutub Minar in Delhi is world heritage site. The tall minaret was constructed in 1192 by **Qutab-ud-din Aibak**, and later completed by his successor Iltutmish. The soaring conical tower is an exquisite example of Indo-Islamic Afghan architecture. The Minar of Delhi is surrounded by a lush green garden, which is an ideal leisurely place for visitors. Qutab Minar is the favourite destination of tourists. It is India's most visited monument attracting around 3.9 million visitors every year.



## Gurudwara Bangla Sahib

Gurudwara Bangla Sahib is one of the most prominent [Sikh gurdwara](#), or Sikh house of worship, in [Delhi](#), India and known for its association with the eighth [Sikh Guru](#), [Guru Har Krishan](#), as well as the pool inside its complex, known as the "Sarovar." It was first built as a small shrine by Sikh General Sardar Bhagel Singh Dhaliwal in 1783, who supervised the construction of nine Sikh shrines in Delhi in the same year, during the reign of [Mughal Emperor](#), [Shah Alam II](#).



## Swaminarayan Akshardham

'Akshardham' means the divine abode of God. It is hailed as an eternal place of devotion, purity and peace. Swaminarayan Akshardham at New Delhi is a Mandir – an abode of God, a Hindu house of worship, and a spiritual and cultural campus dedicated to devotion, learning and harmony. Timeless Hindu spiritual messages, vibrant devotional traditions and ancient architecture all are echoed in its art and architecture. The mandir is a humble tribute to Bhagwan Swaminarayan (1781- 1830), the avatars, devas and great sages of Hinduism. The traditionally-styled complex was inaugurated on 6 November 2005 with the blessings of HH Pramukh Swami Maharaj and through the devoted efforts of skilled artisans and volunteers.



## Humayun's Tomb

It was built in 1565 A.D. nine years after the death of Humayun, by his senior widow Bega Begam. Inside the walled enclosure the most notable features are the garden squares (chaharbagh) with pathways water channels, centrally located well proportional mausoleum topped by double dome.

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



## India Gate

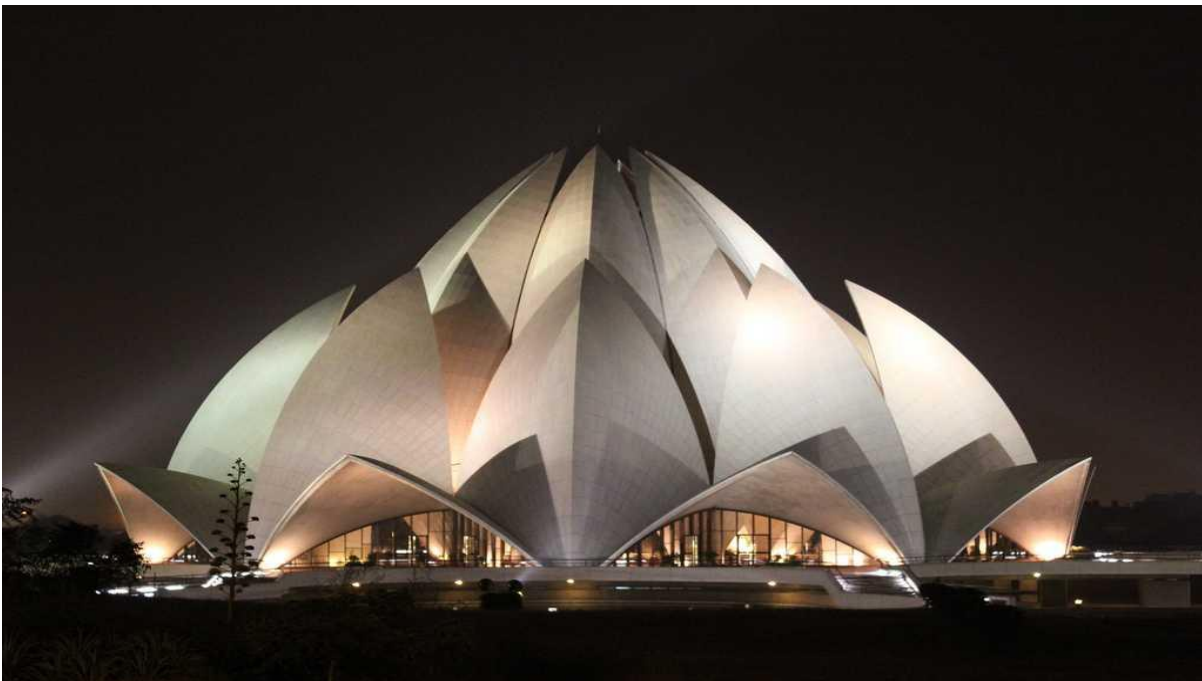
At the centre of New Delhi stands the 42 m high **India Gate**, an "**Arc-de-Triomphe**" like archway in the middle of a crossroad. Almost similar to its French counterpart, it commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who lost their lives fighting for the British Army during the World War I. The memorial bears the names of more than 13,516 British and Indian soldiers killed in the Northwestern Frontier in the Afghan war of 1919. The foundation stone of India Gate was laid by His Royal Highness, the Duke of Connaught in 1921 and it was designed by Edwin Lutyens. The monument was dedicated to the nation 10 years later by the then Viceroy, Lord Irwin. Another memorial, **Amar Jawan Jyoti** was added much later, after India got its independence. The eternal flame burns day and night under the arch to remind the nation of soldiers who laid down their lives in the **Indo-Pakistan War of December 1971**.





### **Lotus Temple**

Located in the national capital of New Delhi, the Lotus Temple is an edifice dedicated to the Baha'i faith. The magnificent structure of this building unfolds in the form of a stupendous white petal lotus and is one of the most visited establishments in the world. The design of this shrine was conceptualized by Canadian architect Fariborz Sahba and was completed in the year 1986. This temple seeks to propagate the oneness of the Almighty and is open to all regardless of their nationality, religion, race or gender. The Lotus temple is one of the seven Baha'i House of Worship present around the world.



### **Red Fort**

A Delhi Tour is synonymous with a trip of Red Fort, famously called as **Lal Kila** of Delhi. Originally Red Fort was known as 'Qila-I-Mubarak', meaning a residence for the royal family. Comprising of many buildings with intricate carvings, floral motifs, double domes and majestic defence wall of around 2.5 km, Red fort is spread over an area of 255 acres.

Built as palace of Shahjahanabad which was the capital city of fifth Mughal emperor it is now one of the most popular monuments not only of Delhi but of India. **It was Emperor Shah Jahan who built Red Fort**; he also created another popular architecture of India- Taj Mahal of Agra. Owing to the red sandstone used for its construction, this fort is called as Red Fort.

With an impressive structure of red sandstone and rich historical background and a prominent national importance, **Red Fort Delhi** is a place which must be visited by all. Delhi Red Fort has been recognized as a **UNESCO world heritage site** too.



### **India International Trade Fair (IITF)**

This is the largest integrated trade fair with both B2B and B2C components. It is one of the largest trade fairs in the world both in terms of exhibitors and visitors participation and has evolved its unique character as an iconic International event. It provides a great platform for trade and industry for sourcing, finding buyers, business interactions, technology transfer opportunities, test marketing, and market access. For more information please visit: [www.delhitourism.gov.in](http://www.delhitourism.gov.in)

---