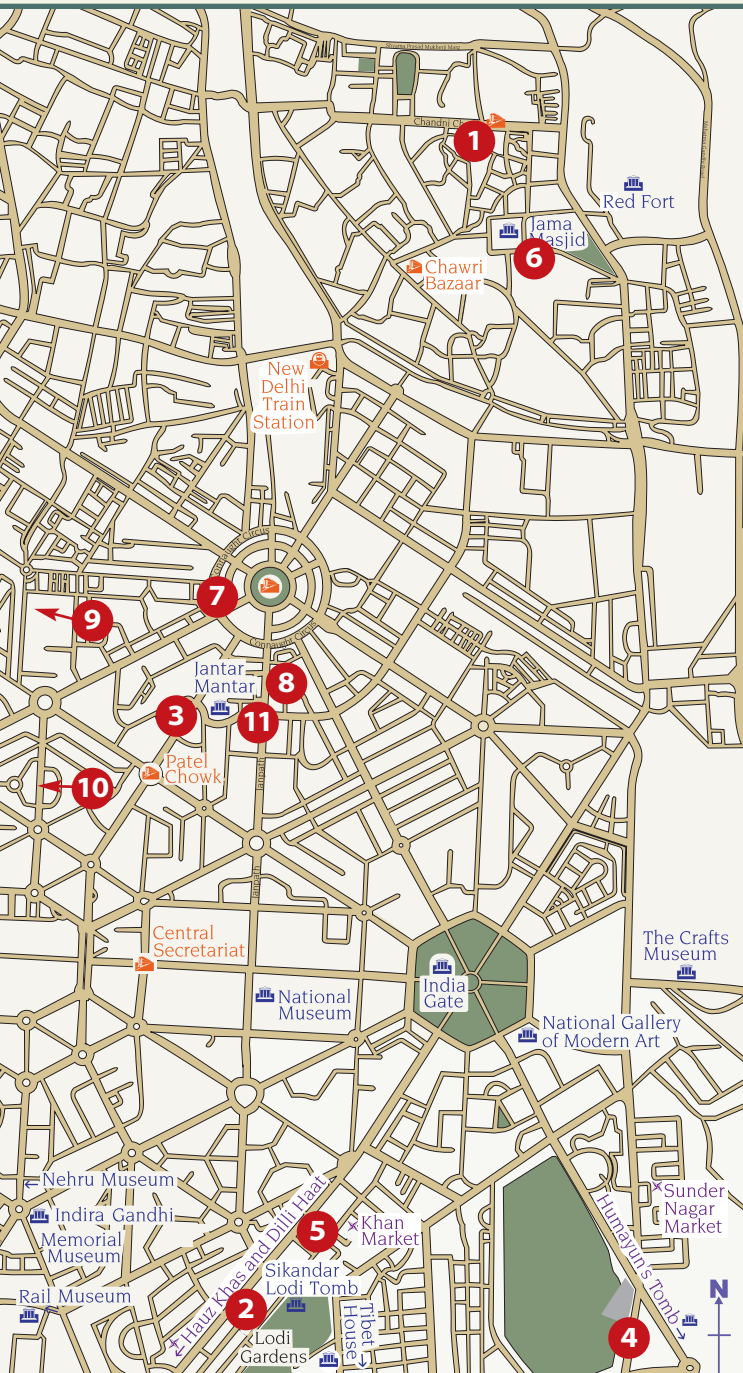


With a history dating back to 1000 BC today's Delhi is an amalgamation of modern India and the city's fascinating past. Most visitors only have time to scratch the surface of this bustling city from the Red Fort and the Jama Masjid Mosque of the Mughal Dynasty in Old Delhi, to the wide tree-lined streets and colonial architecture of New Delhi designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, the eminent 20th century British architect. Often at the start or end of a trip, Delhi can be explored in one or two days, however those who have more time will uncover a captivating city that offers something new around every corner.



Lodi Gardens, New Delhi

Experience

1 Walking tours

To get the most out of a visit to Old Delhi we recommend a walking tour of its bustling, narrow streets. Start on Chandi Chowk, the main drag, where you'll pass places of worship from five different religions before heading into the narrow lanes of the old city. Your expert guide will point out the city's highlights and can provide a wonderful insight into how everyday life takes place in this chaotic environment. Tours can be tailored to your specific interests, so whether you're an architecture buff or interested in the Indian Rebellion of 1857, just let us know.

2 Green Delhi

Despite its size and density, Delhi is a very green city with numerous parks and gardens. Our favourite is Lodi Gardens where you'll find the Bara Gumbad mosque and a series of elaborate tombs. The intricate design of the monuments here clearly influenced elements of the Taj Mahal. The gardens are well tended and shady and make a lovely spot for a stroll as you watch the locals chat, jog or practice yoga on its leafy lawns.

3 Sikh Temple

The Sikh temple, Bangala Sahib is often overlooked by visitors but offers a wonderful insight into Sikhism. A place of pilgrimage, it has a pond considered to have healing properties and a stunning golden dome. Perhaps the most interesting aspect though, is the large kitchen where temple staff prepare hundreds of free meals for devotees. A visit is easily combined with a tour of New Delhi.

4 Hope Project Walk

Located in Basti Hazrat Nizamuddin, a 12th-century urban village, the Hope Project offers opportunities to the predominantly Muslim community of the area. A community health centre, crèche, non-formal school and a women's micro-enterprise unit have helped improve the lives of the local people, and the children involved with the project can guide you around the area. Full of tiny streets, Sufi tombs, street hawkers, music, markets and mosques it's a wonderful and very personal insight into this little visited area of Delhi.



Last visit
by **Lucinda Paxton**
India specialist

If you want to understand why India is said to be the land of contradictions, just head to the Delhi metro. It's a shock to find this oasis of air-conditioning and brushed steel amongst the frenzied streets. I couldn't believe that Delhi-ites can scoot so easily and comfortably across the city. I hopped off at the crazy Rajouri Garden Market, a chaotic taste of 'real' India. It's full of sari shops and jewellers with great photo opportunities everywhere.

The short route back to Shanti Home, where I was staying, becomes an evening fruit market where the stallholders will practically beg you to take their photographs! If you have a few hours to spare, this is an unforgettable experience and really gets you into the heart of this magical city. If you feel nervous about doing this alone just let us know we will arrange for a guide to show you the way.

Eat

5 Khan Chacha's Kebab Corner

Tucked away in Khan Market, this place is famous for kebabs (chicken, lamb or paneer cheese) served in roti bread. It's Delhi's best takeaway food.

6 Karim's

Hidden in the narrow streets of Old Delhi, Karim's has been serving traditional Mughlai cuisine since 1919. Its meat-heavy menu means it's not sympathetic to vegetarians but it has a loyal local following and is a popular spot with visitors.

7 Saravana Bhavan

A local favourite, this place offers authentic vegetarian food. The masala dosa is ideal for a lunchtime snack.

8 The Spice Route

Serving an array of Southeast Asian cuisine, this restaurant at the Imperial Hotel offers exquisite food in a wonderful environment.

Sleep

9 Experience: Saubhag

A charming guest house run by Meera, a retired teacher. You will be welcomed into her home, treated like a long lost friend and get to experience some fantastic home cooking. Meera can also offer some excellent insider tips for exploring Delhi.

10 Clean & Comfortable: Shanti Home

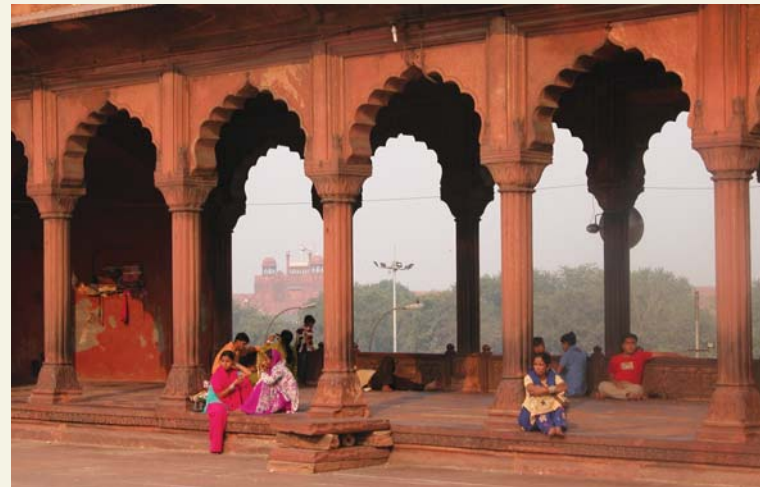
A small, independently-owned hotel located 15 kilometres east of central Delhi. Each room has been tastefully styled with touches of India, whilst the delightful rooftop restaurant has particularly good tandoor options.

11 Splurge: The Imperial

Built in 1931 as part of Lutyens' New Delhi, is a truly unique property. Guests are transported back to days of the Raj with luxurious and characterful rooms and wonderful service.



Chandni Chowk



Jama Masjid, Old Delhi



Sikh gentlemen



Spice Route Restaurant, Imperial Hotel

FACT file

A ten-day tour of North India, including three nights in Delhi staying at Saubhag costs from £1,570 per person including international flights. For more information please call our India specialists on 01993 838 330.

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