

India Central

The Heart of Spiritual India Experience

The central provinces of India offer a fantastic chance to understand the sheer diversity of India. Your journey will include **Mughal Lucknow, Spiritual Varanasi, The Chandela Temples** at Khajuraho (home of Kama Sutra), **Regal Gwalior** and **Agra**.

The diversity of India is on offer on this journey, a chance to explore the many facets that make up the patchwork quilt of Indian culture. Your journey begins in **New Delhi**, spend **2 nights** at **Taj Mahal Palace** and enjoy the sites. Then fly to Lucknow, once the literary centre of Mughal India and home to countless monuments and pristine streets. The British annexation of Oudh in 1856 partly spurred the Indian Mutiny and it was in Lucknow that the Residency was surrounded and almost 3000 British inhabitants were there for 87 days before relief. Spend **2 nights** at **Taj Residency**.

The city of **Varanasi**, or **Benares** as it was once known is a complex and enchanting vision of India in its most graphic and absorbing. The sacred **Ganges** runs through a plethora of ghats (or terraced steps on the river bank leading to the river), with thousands of devotees, burning pyres and solemn chanting. Nothing can quite prepare you for the wonderful experience that is Varanasi. Take a train to Varanasi and Spend **2 nights** at **Taj Ganges**

A short flight to **Khajuraho** will bring you to the home of the graphically and wonderfully ornately carved Chandela Temples-home of Kama Sutra. You will pass through the sleepy town of **Orchha** before taking the train to Gwalior, with the impressive Gwalior Fort rising above the town and home to some brutal fighting in the closing chapters of the Indian Mutiny in 1857. Spend **2 nights** at **Usha Kiran Palace** (Taj Group)

You will then take the train or will be driven to Agra where the immortal Taj Mahal can be visited from the comfort of the Oberoi Amavilas Hotel (**2 nights**); a perfect final stop on a journey caressed by diversity and offering such a cross-section in Indian culture and people. Drive back to Delhi to catch a flight back home next day.



/ Usha Kiran Palace

The **Usha Kiran Palace** in **Gwalior** is an elegant heritage hotel set in nine acres of landscaped gardens.

With only 40 rooms, this intimate and beautiful hotel captures the imagination, giving the Palace a regal aura coupled with a sense of luxury and refinement. The hotel is only a short train ride from Agra or Delhi and is easily added to a tour of Rajasthan or a stop off on the way to the National Parks of Madhya Pradesh.

The hotel has a coffee shop, speciality restaurant and bar. There is also a swimming pool, Taj Spa and gym.

It is a suggested itinerary and can be tailored to suit your individual needs, please call us on +44 (0)2073761950 or e-mail us to info@carteblanche.com for your personal quote.

Accommodation

40 rooms including 2 Royal Suites, 6 Luxury Suites, 15 Deluxe Rooms, 15 Superior Rooms and 2 Villas with private pools.

Getting there

8.5hr flight, 3hr train

Children

Welcome with complimentary childrens activities, childrens pool

Facilities

Badminton, Billiards, Childrens Pool, Restaurant, Bar, Coffee Shop, Taj Spa

Weather

Generally pleasant from September to April. The summer is the monsoon.

