

# Agra



Gentle breezes dance across a leafy canopy, revealing a tapestry of green. In the distance, a legendary dome rises against a slowly brightening sky. White marble blushes in the dreamy haze of dawn. From a balcony of the magnificent Mughal in Agra, a breathtaking scene unfolds each morning. At its core, the Taj Mahal enchants with majestic grace. The unrivaled symbol of India, this emblematic treasure presides over a city where historic palaces and mosques are infused with the legacy of the Mughal Empire. Stunning façades, inlaid with motifs of Persian and Islamic design, reside among glorious fountains and tranquil gardens, interwoven with the modern city of Agra like an everlasting melody.

## Memorable Experiences

### A Colorful Carnival

Be surrounded by craft and culture at the annual Taj Mahotsav festival.

### Singular Design

Watch the domes of a Mughal cityscape take shape in the light of morning.

### Evening Majesty

Witness the moon's soft glow fall upon the Taj Mahal as night clouds part.

### Historic Enchantments

Cross the river and stroll around the octagonal pool of the Mehtab Bagh.

## Distinctive Details

Sweet white pumpkin soaks first in lime juice, then a mixture of sugar syrup and cardamom, to create the sublime dessert known as petha. An Agra specialty, the sweet morsel comes in dozens of varieties.

## Starwood Preferred Guest Recommends

### Kaya Kalp, the Royal Spa

As dusk descends, the illuminated waters of a swimming pool merge with the sky, creating a serene ambience. Combining an Ayurvedic philosophy with opulent Mughal interiors, Kaya Kalp is an oasis of rejuvenation.

## Destination Information

**Country** India  
**State** Uttar Pradesh  
**Elevation** 171 meters  
**Population** 1,650,000 (2008)  
**Language** Hindi, Urdu, English



**Area Code:** 562  
**Country Code:** 91



**Agra Airport (AGR)**



**Transportation:**  
Car, Train, Bus, Taxi



**Indian Rupee**

## Nearby Luxury Collection Hotels and Resorts



### The Mughal, Agra

Taj Ganj  
Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282001, India  
Phone: (91)(562) 4021700



## Culture

Architectural masterpieces of incomparable significance inspire splendor.

### Highly Recommended



#### Agra Fort

A vast wall of red sandstone glows in the warmth of a brilliant Indian sun. Nuances in its alluring earthen pigment emerge as it curves for two and a half kilometers around the boundary of a historic imperial city constructed by Akbar the Great. Beyond an impressive entrance, known as the Delhi Gate, a paradise of serene gardens, magnificent palaces, and exquisite mosques takes shape. Wide marble lanes lead toward splendid facades, carved and inlaid with vivid tile motifs that hint at the unrivaled past of this enchanting sixteenth century fortress.

**Address: Rakabganj, east of the city center, on the western banks of the Yamuna River, two kilometers northwest of the Taj Mahal.**



#### Taj Mahal

Soft light falls upon white marble, washing the iconic form of a captivating mausoleum in ethereal splendor. Four regal minarets stand at each corner of its square base like devoted sentries, while tendrils of agate and jasper frame gentle archways in exquisite delicacy. Beneath the inspiring dome of this legendary structure, Shah Jahan lies beside his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal, for whom the tomb was built. Amidst the sumptuous gardens that surround, lies a tranquil pool that reflects the symmetrical façade of this enduring treasure of Islamic architecture.

**Address: On the banks of the Yamuna River, two kilometers southeast of Agra Fort.**



#### Musamman Burj

Jasmine blossoms, inlaid into cornices of white marble, decorate the palace of a Mughal queen. Cool, quiet rooms, nestled into the interior of a graceful pavilion, lead toward a stunning veranda. Adorned with carvings of exceptional delicacy, a ring of columns supports a gleaming copper dome. Refreshing breezes sweep across the vast expanse that stretches out below as they did in the days when Mughal courtiers strode within this timeless ambience. Towering above the main wall of the Agra Fort, Musamman Burj offers one of the city's most radiant views.

**Address: Agra Fort, where the main wall turns toward the east.**



#### The Mausoleum of I'timad ud-Daulah

Like the exquisite patterns that decorate Persian pottery, intricate marble inlay, known as pietra dura, cover the walls of this distinguished tomb. Semi-precious stones such as cornelian and onyx form graceful images of urns and cypress trees. Through the perforated marble of its rooftop pavilion, sunlight filters in, filling a serene interior with natural light. Constructed in 1628 for Empress Nur Jahan's father, Mirza Ghiyas Beg, this masterwork of Mughal architecture marked a transition between the red sandstone of earlier eras and the use of white marble.

**Address: The left bank of the Yamuna River**



## Shopping

Vivid colors saturate the threads, gems, and stones of exquisite traditional wares.

## Neighborhoods



### Kalakriti

A grand building of red sandstone rises above the verdant hedges that line Fatehabad Road, the impressive thoroughfare that leads to the Taj Mahal. Within this elegant abode, enchanting dancers perform upon the stage of an acclaimed cultural auditorium, while authentic Indian wares fill the rooms of an enticing handicrafts emporium. Vibrant images of peacocks and palaces hang in a gallery of artworks, while fine textiles line the shelves in a room filled with linens. Persian rugs unfurl to reveal exquisite designs nearby bronze figures of Hindu deities.

**Address: 41/142, A/1 VIP Road to Taj Mahal, Fatehabad Road**  
**Phone: (91)(562) 2231011**

## Local Charms



### Akbar International

Dedicated artisans polish semi-precious stones and expertly set them into white marble. Around a tall, elegant vase, a ring of billowy flowers allures with its deep blue tones of lapis lazuli. Vivid turquoise mingles with the rich earthy red of jasper upon a lavishly decorated platter. And on a breathtaking, embellished table top, an extravagant butterfly spreads its vibrant wings of crimson and sapphire stones among a spray of morning glory. In the workshops of this specialty manufacturer, the ancient techniques of a cherished art form take shape.

**Address: 289, Fatehabad Road**  
**Phone: (91)(562) 2330076**

## Shops & Boutiques



### Kohinoor Jewelers

With a matchless hue that mimics the eternal color of the sky, an oval tourmaline captivates from within a diamond-studded ring of eighteen-karat white gold. In an alluring necklace, emeralds dangle from over a dozen exquisite strands of leafy, yellow gold vines like luscious drops of shimmering dew. With names like "Moonlit Dream" and "The Break of Dawn" the collections of this revered jewelry house capture the essence of nature's magnificence. Once jewelers to the Mughals, the Kohinoor family joins traditional elements with ravishing contemporary designs.

**Address: Fatehabad Road**  
**Phone: (91)(562) 2230027**



### Kalra's Cottage Industry

Long, woolly rolls reveal hints of intriguing designs. Grouped together against the walls of a renowned showroom, they beckon with warm shades of burgundy and soft, rich textures. Hand woven in the homes of over forty families in the Agra region these fine carpets are adorned with the motifs of ancient Persian tradition. Some shimmer with the sumptuous sheen of silk, saturated with ruby dyes. Others reflect their unparalleled heritage with the intricacy of their patterns, which radiate from their center organically, often incorporating emblems of India.

**Address: 1A, Jasoria Enclave, Fatehabad Road**  
**Phone: (91)(562) 2334209**



## Cuisine

Evocative ingredients combine in native recipes honored for their intricacies.

### Acclaimed



#### Mahjong Room

Cashew nuts mingle with red and green peppers on a plate of Governor's chicken. Black pepper sauce infuses slices of fried tenderloin while baby corn joins black mushrooms in an authentic dish of fried rice. Delicacies of Sichuan and Cantonese cuisine are skillfully prepared in the kitchen of this transporting restaurant, where enticing appetizers give way to vegetarian and meat entrees before culminating in a selection of fine desserts. Tantalizing aromas waft through a stunning dining room adorned with the most exquisite Mughal décor.

**Address:** ITC Mughal  
**Phone:** (91)(562) 4021700



#### Peshwari

Marinated in a concoction of yoghurt, red chilies, and garam masala, jumbo prawns are slowly roasted over a charcoal fire, while cauliflower, covered in yellow chili powder and ginger is fried, skewered, before being chargrilled. Techniques of Indian northwest frontier cuisine merge with native ingredients like cumin, turmeric, coriander, and masala to form meals of the most inherent authenticity. A specialty restaurant, based around that iconic clay oven known as the tandoor, Peshwari offers an unparalleled encounter with the indigenous flavors of India.

**Address:** ITC Mughal  
**Phone:** (91)(562) 4021700

### Local Charms



#### Agra Sweets Shops

Creamy desserts allure from behind the glass of long display cases. Formed from recipes passed down through generations of confectioners, each tantalizing selection combines an authentic mix of indigenous ingredients. Jaggery, an unrefined cane sugar, fuses with sesame to form bars of gazak, while rose water drizzles over exquisite morsels of the emblematic petha, renowned throughout India as a specialty of Agra. Dozens of sweet shops are located throughout the city, but Hari Parwat, Panchi's, and Bhimsain BaidyaNath are some of the most exceptional.

**Address:** Sweet Shops can be found throughout the city

### Indigenous Flavors



#### Mughlai Cuisine

A plate of crisp masala papad leads to a bowl of fresh raita. Dishes of expertly roasted chicken tikka give way to heaping platters of fragrant tandoori chicken. From turmeric to cardamom, and ginger to cumin, a sumptuous melody of indigenous spices pervades an alluring table laid out with elements of classic Mughlai cuisine. Derived from the royal courts of the Mughal Empire, enduring recipes, once prepared for emperors and aristocrats, persist in the kitchens of modern India. In flavor and name, dishes like biryani and naan, reveal their Persian origins.



## Noteworthy

Surprising destinations enchant with intrinsic grandeur and natural serenity.

## Day Excursions



### Fatehpur Sikri

The outline of a series of discreet domes takes shape in the distance. Terraces unfurl beneath them in a harmonious cascade of red stone. Under an hour's drive from Agra, this enchanting, historic complex was once the capital of the Mughal Empire. Palaces and temples, where Emperor Akbar and his court resided for thirteen years, rise gracefully around open-air patios and the still waters of jade pools. Gentle breezes drift through regal columns. A masterpiece of sixteenth century architecture, this princely domain continues to inspire contemporary design.

**Address: 37 kilometers southwest of Agra, off Highway 11**

## Highly Recommended



### Sikandra -The Tomb of Akbar the Great

White florets lie at the center of golden stars. Geometric shapes of saffron and cornflower link them in a radiant tapestry, which in turn merges with the multi-colored inlaid panels that cover the extraordinary surface of a magnificent gate. Crowned by four minarets, this remarkable passage opens onto a vast square garden. At its heart, among grassy lawns and low palms, lies the final resting place of one of India's most important figures, Akbar the Great. A jewel of architectural artistry, the tomb is capped by a series of airy, canopied pavilions.

**Address: 8 kilometers northeast of the city center, on the Agra-Delhi Road.**

## Family



### Keoladeo National Park

The peacock spreads its plumes in a shimmering display of iridescence. The dazzling prince of this peaceful reserve, he retreats into the cool shade of a jamun tree as the chuckling call of the white-breasted kingfisher fills the air. Once the hunting reserve of the Maharajas, this twenty-nine square-kilometer paradise is a protected refuge where over three hundred species of birds reside. Tranquil paths wind through these verdant parklands where migratory birds like parakeets and orioles, greyleg geese and majestic Siberian cranes all come to roost.

**Address: 50 kilometers west of Agra**  
**Phone: (91)(112) 7948870**

## Adventure



### All-Terrain Vehicle Adventures

Burly wheels charge across the rocky landscape as the Polaris Predator speeds around twists and turns of a track. The roar of its exceptional engine fills the air and the atmosphere turns electric. Guests of the The Mughal, Agra have the rare opportunity to embark on a distinctive adventure. A dirt track, constructed especially for all terrain vehicles, offers an afternoon of four-wheeling excitement. Climb aboard the impressive machine, rev the engine, and experience the thrill of a lifetime.

**Address: The Mughal**  
**Phone: (91)(562) 4021700**