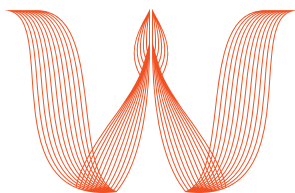


SERVICE DIRECTORY

About Delhi



WELCOMHOTEL

DWARKA NEW DELHI

MEMBER ITC'S HOTEL GROUP

ABOUT DELHI



Delhi is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world. A sandstone slab has an inscription from the reign of Emperor Ashoka telling us that “Delhi” was on the “Uttarapath”, the Great Northern Highway linking the Mauryan Capital City of Pataliputra (in modern day Bihar), with Takshashila (Taxila in Pakistan). Having been the capital city of several ancient empires, many ancient monuments, archaeological sites and remains of national importance have been erected in its history. The Mughals built a section of the city (now known as Old City or Old Delhi) that served as the capital of the Mughal Empire for a long period. During the British Raj, New Delhi was built as an administrative quarter of the city. New Delhi

was declared the capital of India after India gained Independence in 1947.

As the seat of the Government of India, New Delhi houses important offices of the Federal Government, including the Parliament of India, making Delhi a powerhouse of Indian politics. This vibrant and cosmopolitan city has grown to be the second largest commercial centre in South Asia after Mumbai. The tertiary sector contributes 70.95% of Delhi's Gross Domestic Product, followed by secondary and primary sectors with 25.2% and 3.85%. Construction, power, telecommunication, health and community services, and real estate form integral parts of

Delhi's economy. Delhi's manufacturing industry has also grown considerably as many consumer goods industries have established manufacturing units and headquarters in and around Delhi. Key service industries also include information technology, telecommunication, hotels, banking, media and tourism.

Places of Interest in Delhi

Delhi has much to offer Here you can enjoy a broad range of architectural styles, some of the best museums and art galleries, diverse theatre and excellent shopping. The areas surrounding the hotel offer a wide range of activities.

Golfing

Golf has been played in Delhi for decades now. The city boasts of some very fine golf courses and for a golf enthusiast it would be sacrilege to pass this opportunity over. Amidst Delhi's historical splendor is nestled the prestigious Delhi Golf Club. Established in 1931, it has undulating fairways, lush vegetation and deep bunkers. Renovated in 1977 by Peter Thompson, it also offers winter golfing. While golfing you will play past historical monuments such as the red sandstone Lal Bangla and the tomb of an emperor's favorite concubine. It is a sanctuary for over 300 bird species and features over 200 different kinds of trees. (It is 20 minutes away from the hotel. Our Concierge can assist with advance reservations. Club fees will apply.)

National Museum

The National Museum has a remarkable collection of Indian art and sculpture which dates from the prehistoric era through the late medieval period. The museum was started in 1960 and the rich and varied collection is spread over three spacious floors. The ground floor has displays from the Palaeolithic period as well as terracotta pieces from the Chalcolithic period. There is a good collection of finds from the Indus Valley sites of Mohenjodaro and Harrappa. There are also galleries of sculptures from the Mauryan era, Gandhara period, Gupta period, together with carved temple lintels from Hampi in South India. There is also a very fine collection of fine Chola era bronzes, a jewelry section, a collection of fine Indian miniature paintings, a maritime heritage gallery, a display of arms and armor and a Central Asian antiquities gallery. At least one full day is required to see all the objects on display.

TIMINGS: 1000 – 1700 HRS; CLOSED ON MONDAY

National Rail Museum

Set amidst a sprawling park, this museum is a must not just for train buffs but for everyone. This compact but informative indoor museum displays a range of interesting objects, but the main attractions are the old steam engines parked in the grounds outside.

**TIMINGS: April TO September: 0930 – 1930 HRS;
October TO MARCH: 0930 – 1730 HRS;
CLOSED ON MONDAY AND NATIONAL HOLIDAYS**

Gandhi Smriti Museum

The Birla House is the place where Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated on 30 January 1948. The museum has a large collection of photographs on his life and a few of his personal belongings. Gandhiji's life has been illustrated in an unusual way at this museum with a series of small doll houses and terracotta dolls portraying the major events in his journey. Address: Birla House, 5 Tees January Marg.

TIMINGS: 1000 – 1700 HRS; CLOSED ON MONDAY AND NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Nehru Memorial Museum

This elegant colonial building, once the official residence of the British Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, is a memorial to Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, who lived here for 16 years. His life is depicted using rare photographs from his family album. Address: Teen Murti House.

TIMINGS: 1000 – 1700 HRS; CLOSED ON MONDAY

National Gallery of Modern Art

The NGMA is housed in a magnificent building which once belonged to the Maharaja of Jaipur. Some of the best sculptors in India have their works displayed in the museum gardens. Works of modern Indian artists dating from 1850 are preserved here and include paintings by Amrita Shergill and Raja Ravi Varma. Address: Jaipur House, India Gate.

TIMINGS: 1000 – 1700 HRS; CLOSED ON MONDAY

India Gate

Designed by Edwin Landseer Lutyens, this 42 metre free-standing arch was built in 1931. Known also as the All India War Memorial in memory of the 90,000 Indian and British soldiers of the British – Indian Army who died in World War I and those who fell in the North-West Frontier Province and the Third

Afghan war. In 1971 an eternal flame called the "Amar Jawan Jyoti" (Eternal Flame to the Immortal Soldier) was lit here to honor the memory of the soldiers who died in the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war.

Lodi Garden

The garden is laid out around the beautiful tombs of the Lodi Sultans who ruled North India in the 15 Century. The gardens were laid out in 1936 and called Lady Willingdon Park. It was renamed Lodi Garden in 1947 and landscaped by J.A. Stein and Garrett Eckbo in 1968.

TIMINGS: 0600 – 1900 HRS; OPEN ON ALL DAYS

Connaught Place

Connaught Place, now renamed as Rajiv Chowk, is an important business and shopping Centre. It is in the shape of concentric circles. The inner and outer faces have spacious colonnaded walkways, which give the place its unique identity.

Central Cottage Industries Emporium

This emporium is truly representative of all the various Indian arts and crafts – all under one roof. Antiques, fabrics, household linen, carpets, lamps, paintings, jewelry, handmade paper, furniture and art objects in wood, brass and other metals can be found here. Address: Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath.

TIMINGS: 1000 – 1900 HRS; OPEN ON ALL DAYS

Qutab Minar Complex

The Qutab Minar is the tallest brick minaret in the world and an excellent example of Indo-Islamic architecture. The tower is in the Qutab complex at Mehrauli in South Delhi. The Qutab Minar and its monuments are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Qutab Minar is 72.5 metres high (237.8 ft) with 399 steps leading to the top. Entry inside the minaret is however closed. The diameter of the base is 14.3 metres wide, while the top measures 2.75 metres in diameter. Construction began in 1193 AD and the fifth and final storey was completed in 1368 AD. The Iron Pillar of Delhi, one of the world's foremost metallurgical curiosities, also stands in the famous Qutab complex.

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1700 HRS; OPEN ON ALL DAYS

Tughlaqabad Fort

Tughlaqabad Fort is a ruined fort in Delhi built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq of the Delhi Sultanate

in 1321, which was later abandoned in 1327.

Tughlaqabad still consists of remarkable, massive stone fortifications that surround the irregular ground plan of the city. The sloping rubble-filled city walls, a typical feature of monuments of the Tughlaq Dynasty, are between 10 and 15 metres high, topped by battlemented parapets and strengthened by circular bastions of up to two stories height. The city is supposed to once have had as many as 52 gates of which only 13 remain today. Today most of the city is inaccessible due to dense thorny vegetation. The monument should only be visited with a guide.

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1700 HRS

Red Fort

The Red Fort was commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1639 and took nine years to build. The fort was the seat of Mughal power upto 1857. The fort has within its precincts important buildings such as the Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas and the Moti Mahal. The Diwan-e-Khas is a beautifully ornamented building, which used to house the Peacock Throne. Over the corner of its beautiful arches is inscribed the beautiful couplet, "Agar firdaus bar rue zamin ast, Hamin ast o Hamin ast o Haminast". "If there is paradise on earth, it is here, it is here, it is here".

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1700 HRS; CLOSED ON MONDAY

Chandni Chowk

Moonlight Square now refers to the wide street that links the Lahore Gate with the Fatehpuri Masjid. This street, now bustling with vehicles and people of all hues, was once a tree-lined avenue street where water in a canal ran down its length from a pool which reflected the moonlight and hence the name. The street is now a busy commercial centre.

Humayun's Tomb

This is the first great example of a Mughal Garden mausoleum and in many ways this magnificent red and white building is as spectacular as the Taj Mahal. The monument was built in 1565 and was commissioned by Humayun's senior widow, Haji Begum. The mausoleum is accessed through a lofty double storeyed gateway and is set in the Centre of a large square garden. The garden is divided into four parts by wide causeways and water channels, interspersed with fountains. The Masoleum also houses the grave of Dara Shikoh, Shah Jahan's scholarly son.

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1700 HRS; CLOSED ON MONDAY

St. James Church

Built by Col. James Skinner, this church was consecrated in 1836. St. James is the oldest surviving church in Delhi. The church is of a Western Classical design with a Greek cross plan. Three of the arms of the cross have porticoes, while the eastern arm contains the altar. The central area of the church is covered by a dome which bears some resemblance to the dome of the Florence Cathedral. The church is normally kept closed except for services on Sunday, but can be opened on request.

Lakshmi Narayan Mandir

It is amongst the most popular Hindu temples in Delhi. It was built in 1938 and is also known as Birla Mandir. The temple is dedicated to Laxmi (Goddess of Wealth) and Narayana (the Preserver). The annual festival of Janamashtami, commemorating the birth of Lord Krishna, is celebrated with a lot of pomp and gaiety. The Laxmi Narayan Temple was inaugurated by

Mahatma Gandhi on the condition that people of all castes be allowed to enter the temple.

TIMINGS: 0430 – 2100 HRS; OPEN ON ALL DAYS

Akshardham Temple

Consecrated in 2005, the Akshardham Temple is the world's largest Hindu temple. It measures 356 feet long, 314 feet wide and 141 feet high, covering an area of 86.342 sq ft. The grand, ancient-style, ornately hand-carved stone temple has been built without the use of structural steel by 11000 artisans within five years. The building itself is constructed entirely from Rajasthani pink sandstone and Italian Carrara marble, and its carved details of flora, fauna, dancers, musicians and deity from top to bottom, leave most visitors in awe.

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1830 HRS; CLOSED ON MONDAY

Lotus Temple

The Baha'i house of worship is one of Delhi's most innovative modern structures. The Baha'i sect originated in Persia and this temple has been designed by a Persian architect, Fariburz Sahba. Work on the temple began in 1980 and was completed in 1986. The edifice is in the shape of an unfurling 27 petalled white marble lotus hence the name "Lotus Temple". The temple is surrounded by nine pools and about 25 acres of landscaped and well-manicured lawns. The temple looks

spectacular after dark when the lights give the marble a very luminous quality.

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1700 HRS (OCT-MAR); 0900 – 1900 HRS (Apr-Sep.); CLOSED ON MONDAYS AND PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

Hauz Khas

The area gets its name from the royal tank which Alauddin Khilji excavated in 1300 to supply water to his new city of Siri. In 1352 Sultan Feroz Shah Tughlak built a madrasa and also an enclosure for his own tomb. Boutiques, art galleries and restaurants have taken over a part of this complex.

Firoz Shah Kotla

The palace complex was Delhi's fifth city, erected by Feroze Shah Tughlak in 1354. Only the remains of the citadel, the Ashoka pillar, the remains of the Jama Masjid and a circular step well survive. The Ashoka Pillar is a monolith polished stone pillar 12.8 metres high and 17 tonnes in weight. It was from the Ashokan edicts on this pillar that James Prinsep deciphered the ancient Brahmi script in 1837. A local guide is recommended to accompany visitors.

War Graves Cemetery

This historic site is located approximately 2 km from the Dhaula Kuan circle. The cemetery houses the graves of the brave soldiers and airmen of the British Commonwealth who died on the Eastern Front during World War II. The entrance plaque proudly reads "Their Name Live Ever-more". The graves are set in neat rows with matching headstones with etchings of Regimental Insignia and biblical texts. Every Remembrance Day (11 Nov), wreaths are laid at the Memorial Column.

Purana Qila

This was the site where in 1538 Emperor Humayun began construction of his city called "Dinpanah", or Asylum of Faith. The inner citadel of this fort today is known as Purana Qila (Old Fort). Of the many palaces and houses which were once within its perview, only the single domed Qila-iKuhna mosque built by Sher Shah Suri in 1541 and the Sher Mandal, an octagonal pavilion in red sandstone, said to be Emperor Humayun's library, remain.

Raj Ghat

The Raj Ghat is located to the southeast of Red Fort, between the Ring Road and the Yamuna. It is a memorial to the Father of the Nation, Mohandas

Karamchand Gandhi. The Mahatma was cremated here on 31 January, 1948. Raj Ghat is a National Memorial. A stone walkway, with well-kept lawns lead to a walled enclosure with a stone platform in black marble.

TIMINGS: 0600 – 1900 HRS; OPEN ON ALL DAYS

Jama Masjid

A short distance from the Red Fort, this Grand Mosque was built in 1656 by Emperor Shah Jahan. On its Eastern side a magnificent flight of steps leads to great arched entrance ways. Today this place is quite congested with a crowded bazaar at its steps. Three imposing black and white marble domes crown the enormous prayer hall and two slender minarets flank the sides.

Jantar Mantar

This unique early 18th Century observatory was built by Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur. A keen astronomer, the Maharaja built five observatories to calculate planetary positions and eclipses. The instruments are "Samrat Yantra", an instrument whose hypotenuse is perpendicular to the earth's axis, "Jai Prakash Yantra", which verifies the time of the summer equinox, the "Ram Yantra", which reads the altitude of the sun, and the "Mishra Yantra", used for a variety of astronomical observations. The observatory lies today in a pleasant park surrounded by high rises at the end of Parliament Street.

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1800 HRS; OPEN ON ALL DAYS

India International Centre

India International Centre has been created as an international centre for the exchange of ideas among scholars. Lectures and seminars held here cover subjects ranging from current affairs to ecology. These are open to all and are regularly announced in the dailies. The architecture of the IIC building is notable for its meticulous detailing and use of traditional jalis, which accentuate the soft quality of light masterfully captured by the architect J.A. Stein. There is also a library, auditorium, conference rooms, a restaurant and a garden.

Safdarjung's Tomb

This was the last of Delhi's enclosed garden tombs. It was built in 1754 for Safdarjung, the powerful Prime Minister and also the Viceroy of Awadh, during the reign of Emperor Muhammad Shah. Monument is approached by an ornate gateway and stands in a charbagh, cut by water channels. Its red and buff sandstone face is extensively ornamented and the plaster stucco carving is well preserved. The central chamber is well lit.

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1800 HRS; OPEN ON ALL DAYS

North Block / South Block

Edwin Landseer Lutyens had originally intended the Kingsway (Rajpath) to slope up to the Viceroy's palace. However, Herbert Baker, his colleague, felt it necessary to level the space between the two secretariat buildings, thus creating the North and South Block. The two secretariat buildings are raised on a plinth so as to be level with the Rashtrapati Bhavan. The secretariat buildings are now the offices of the Government of India. The Home Affairs and Finance ministries are in the North Block and the Prime Minister's office, External Affairs Ministry and the Defense Ministry are in the South Block. The vast open space at the base of the slope is called Vijay Chowk meaning Victory Square. The Beating the Retreat ceremony takes place here on 29 January each year.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum

The Bungalow on No. 1 Safdarjung Road, in which Mrs. Indira Gandhi lived as Prime Minister, has been converted into a memorial. Some of the well furnished rooms and a few personal belongings can be seen through large picture windows. It also has a collection of photographs covering the nationalist movement and also the Nehru Gandhi family. In the garden, an area under a glass frame marks the spot where Mrs. Gandhi was assassinated in 1984.

TIMINGS: 0900 – 1700 HRS; CLOSED ON MONDAYS