

## DELHI PLACE

### HISTORICAL PLACES

**INDIA GATE**: The 42 m high monument, India Gate, was constructed in the year 1931, as a memorial in the memory of more than 80, 000 soldiers who laid down their lives during World War I. The names of the soldiers are inscribed along the arches of the monument. Located at Rajpath, the gardens surrounding India Gate are a popular relaxation area during the summer evenings and a popular picnic spot during winter. Also known as the All India War Memorial, India Gate was designed and constructed by Edwin Lutyens who is considered the chief proclaimer in designing the New Delhi plans.

*Sources: [www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)*

**NATIONAL MUSEUM**: Possess the largest number of artifacts of the Indus Valley Civilization. Here we can find information of ancient India, viz.:

Pottery

Rare coins

Architecture

Costumes

The Museum has in its possession approximately 2, 00,000 works of exquisite art of diverse nature, both Indian and foreign and its holdings cover a time span of more than five thousand years of our cultural heritage.

*Source: [www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in](http://www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in)*

**NATIONAL RAIL MUSEUM**-A must visit for those who love locomotives. Sprawling over 11 acres, it comprises an indoor gallery devoted to the display of various exhibits, models, records, photographs, coat of arms, documents etc. over 100 real size exhibits display the glory of the bygone era.

*Source: [www.nationalrailmuseum.org](http://www.nationalrailmuseum.org)*

**LAL QILA OR THE RED FORT**: The red sandstone walls of the massive Red Fort (Lal Qila) rise 33-m above the clamour of Old Delhi as a reminder of the magnificent power and pomp of the Mughal emperors. The walls, built in 1638, were designed to keep out invaders, now they mainly keep out the noise and confusion of the city. The fort also houses Naubat- or Naqqar-Khana (Drum House), Diwan-i-' Am (Hall of Public Audience), Diwan-i-' Khass (Hall of Private Audience), Rang Mahal (Painted Palace), Nahr-i-Bihisht (Stream of Paradise), Mumtaz Mahal, Tashibh-Khana (Chamber for counting beads for private prayers), Khwabgah (Sleeping Chamber), Khas Mahal (Private House), Muthamman-Burj, Hayat-Baksh-Bagh (Life-giving garden), Zafar Mahal, Hammam (the Bathing Area) and Moti Masjid (the Pearl Mosque).

*Source: [www.asi.nic.in](http://www.asi.nic.in)*

**QUTAB MINAR:** Qutab Minar is a soaring, 72.5 m-high tower of victory, built in 1193 by Qutab-ud-din Aibak immediately after the defeat of Delhi's last Hindu kingdom. The tower has five distinct storeys, each marked by a projecting balcony and tapers from a 14.32 m diameter at the base to just 2.75 m at the top. The first three storeys are made up of red sandstone; the fourth and fifth storeys are of marble and sandstone. At the foot of the tower is the Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque, the first mosque to be built in India. An inscription over its eastern gate provocatively informs that it was built with material obtained from demolishing '27 Hindu and Jaina temples'. A 7 m-high iron pillar stands in the courtyard of the mosque. It is said that if you can encircle it with your hands while standing with your back to it your wish will be fulfilled.

*Sources: [www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)*

**PURANA QILA:** It has been built on a small hill standing on the banks of river Yamuna with its massive rubble wall and imposing gateway houses. The structure houses a mosque, which has a double storied octagonal tower. According to Hindu literature the fort marks the site of Indraprastha, the magnificent capital of the Pandavas, though the construction was carried out by an Afghan ruler Sher Shah Suri from 1538 to 1545 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century who wrested the throne of Delhi from the Mughal emperor Humayun.

*Sources: [www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)*

**HUMAYUN TOMB** - The Humayun's Tomb was a landmark in establishing some of the essential norms for later Mughal mausoleums in India. The structure is built mainly with red sandstone along with use of white and black marble to relieve the monotony. The marble is used largely in the borders. The dome is made of white marble. The Humayun's tomb is the first Indian building to use the Persian concept of a double dome. The splendour of this monument becomes evident on entering the grandiose double-storeyed gateway. High rubble walls enclose a square garden divided into four large squares separated by causeways and water channels. Each square is divided again into smaller squares by pathways, forming a typical Mughal garden called Charbagh. The fountains were worked with simple yet highly developed engineering skills quite common in India during this period. UNESCO has declared this magnificent masterpiece a world heritage.

*Sources: [www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)*

**LOTUS TEMPLE:** Lotus temple is built in the shape of a lotus flower and set among the lush landscaped gardens, the latest of seven Major Bahá'í temples built around the world was completed in 1986. Its soothingly quiet Prayer Hall and tranquil surroundings have touched the hearts of the Temple's numerous visitors, awakening in them a desire to trace its inspirational source and capture a bit of its peace for themselves. The aura of silence surrounding the Hall instills reverence. Some are moved by its 'eloquent silence' and 'divine atmosphere'. People are affected in varied degrees by the peace and beauty of the sanctum sanctorum. Not only does it embody the spiritual aspirations and basic beliefs of the world-wide Bahá'í community, but, significantly in a land of myriad religions, it has begun to be seen as providing a unifying link, bringing divergent thoughts into harmony by virtue of its principle of oneness - of God, religion, and mankind. The temple looks spectacular after being lit up at dusk. Adherents of any faith are free to visit the temple and pray or meditate.

*Sources: [www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)*

**JANTAR MANTAR** : The Yantra Mandir (literally the 'temple of instruments', and often called the Jantar Mantar) consists of a collection of architectural astronomy instruments, built by Sawai Jai Singh II of Jaipur, for his own use, from 1724 onwards. The primary purpose of the observatory was to compile astronomical tables, and to predict the times and movements of the sun, moon and planets. Some of these purposes nowadays would be classified as astrology. Sawai Jai Singh II later had another similar observatory, now known by the same name, built for him at Jaipur. Today the observatory is mainly a tourist attraction, and is significant in the history of astronomy.

*Sources: [www.india.gov.in](http://www.india.gov.in)*

## **SHOPPING**

**CONNAUGHT PLACE** – Connaught Place (CP) named after the Duke of Connaught, a member of the British royal family, this market was designed by Robert Tor Russell in collaboration with WH Nicholls. CP being a major commercial and business hub of Delhi, outlets of almost all international brands are available.

Janpath and Palika Bazaar also attract people. Janpath for ITR (Perfumed oils), variety of Stoles and Scarves, Junk & Glass Jewellery and Palika bazaar for Cheap Imported Goods, Electronic Items, Embroidered Bead Work Dresses, Handicrafts.

**KHAN MARKET** – One of the popular shopping destinations of Delhi. Khan Market is frequented crowded by shopaholics from all parts of the city. Market is located in the South Delhi, Khan Market is considered to be a classy and posh shopping market.

**DILLI HAAT** – A wide variety of skillfully crafted handicrafts, intrinsic to each part of the country are available in this exotic bazaar. These range from intricate rosewood and sandalwood carvings, embellished camel hide footwear, to sophisticated fabric and drapery. Gems, beads, brass ware, metal crafts, silk and woolens....the range is limitless.

**CHANDNI CHOWK** – Also known as the 'Moonlight Square' is the most famous and historic street of Delhi, built around 300 years ago when the walled city of Shahjahanabad. The 'Trafalgar Square' of Delhi, Chandni Chowk is widely known for its century old heritage and meeting point of different cultures and traditions over the centuries. At present the street is a busy thoroughfare with its traditional framework of Spices, Silver, Trimmings and Tinsel, Bridal Trousseau, Brassware. This place is also famous because of “parathe wali gali”.

**KAROL BAGH**: A most popular market located in the heart of the city. Karol Bagh is famous for the food as well as one and all shopping place. Market provides a huge variety of things to shop. Wedding dresses and jewellery collection make Karol bagh market much more popular among the Delhi people.

**STATE EMPORIA COMPLEX**: Eighteen stores in all, the State Emporia is a showcase of handicrafts and handlooms of the Indian states it represents. Prices are fixed and reasonable. Some particularly good bargains are carpets and shawls in Zoon, the Kashmir Emporium, the bronze icons and lamps at Poompuhar, the Tamil Nadu Emporium and silks at Cauvery, and the Karnataka Emporium.

## **RELIGIOUS PLACES**

**AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE** - Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi epitomises 10,000 years of Indian culture in all its breathtaking grandeur, beauty, wisdom and bliss. It brilliantly showcases the essence of India's ancient architecture, traditions and timeless spiritual messages. The Akshardham experience is an enlightening journey through India's glorious art, values and contributions for the progress, happiness and harmony of mankind. Akshardham means the eternal, divine abode of the supreme God, the abode of eternal values and virtues of Akshar as defined in the Vedas and Upanishads where divine bhakti, purity and peace forever pervades.

*Sources: [www.akshardham.com](http://www.akshardham.com)*

**CHHATARPUR TEMPLE**- One of the most popular Hindu temple of the capital. Completely built with white marble and richly crafted. The temple complex has many temples dedicated to different deities. A characteristic example of modern temple architecture, Chattarpur Mandir attracts a large number of devotees, especially at the time of Navratras and Durga Puja. During these periods, it is very difficult to get a glimpse of the deity. People start gathering at the temple in the early morning to ensure that they get Darshan. It is believed if you tie a thread on a tree situated inside the grounds of the temple, your wishes will get fulfilled.

*Sources: [www.bharatonline.com](http://www.bharatonline.com)*

**GURDWARA SHISH GANJ**: Located at Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi, was built on the place where Mughal Emperor Aurungzeb beheaded the ninth Sikh Guru, Shri Tegh Bahadur in 1675. 'Shish' literally means 'the head'. The Guru was killed along with three of his disciples, for protesting against forced conversion of Kashmiri Hindus by Aurungzeb. It is said that his followers secretly took the Guru's head to Anandpur Sahib and his body was taken for cremation to a house which is today known as Gurdwara Rakab Ganj. Shish Ganj is a prominent pilgrim center of the Sikh Community and it is equally revered by the Hindus.

*Sources: [www.india9.com](http://www.india9.com)*

**JAMAMASJID**: A flawless piece of architecture, it is situated on a natural elevation south west of the Lal Qila. to the eastern front of the minaret, with the ceremonial entrance gateway, is a cluster of shops. As one ascends the southern minaret, one can experience a spectacular panorama of the city and the southern skyline of New Delhi's high rise buildings.

*Sources: [www.india9.com](http://www.india9.com)*

**Iskon temple**- Also known as **The Embassy of Spiritual World**. ISKCON Delhi is surrounded by lush green gardens. This marvelous and huge structure houses the beautiful deities of Sri Radha Krishna Parthasarathi, Sri Sri Gaura Nitai and Sri Sri Rama Lakshmana Hanumana. The Temple has air-conditioned hall that can accommodate as many as 1,500 people at once. Known as the glory of India, The temple has Hi-tech museum with multimedia shows.

*Sources: <http://www.iskcondelhi.com>*