



NCR Guide
National Capital Region

Delhi Traveler's Guide: Your Companion to Navigating the Capital City

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1. Introduction to Delhi

A Glimpse into Delhi

Welcome to Delhi, a city that beckons with its rich history, diverse culture, and vibrant atmosphere. As the capital city of India, Delhi stands as a testament to the country's past, present, and future. In this guide, we'll help you explore this dynamic metropolis and make the most of your journey.

Delhi's Historical Significance

Delhi's history is like a tapestry woven with threads of empires, dynasties, and rulers. It has been the seat of power for various civilizations, including the Mughals, Delhi Sultanate, and the British Raj. As you wander through its streets, you'll encounter historic monuments, each telling a unique story of the city's past.

Diversity and Culture

Delhi is a melting pot of cultures, languages, and traditions. People from all over India and the world call it home, contributing to its rich cultural tapestry. Here, you'll experience the harmonious coexistence of tradition and modernity.

2. Before You Go

Visa and Travel Requirements

Before embarking on your journey, ensure you have the necessary travel documents. Most travelers to India require a visa. Visit the official website of the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs for detailed visa information and application procedures.

Packing Tips

Delhi experiences diverse weather throughout the year. Check the weather forecast for your travel dates and pack accordingly. Essentials include comfortable clothing, sunscreen, a hat, and insect repellent. Don't forget any prescription medications you may need.

Currency and Banking

The currency used in Delhi is the Indian Rupee (INR). It's advisable to carry a mix of cash and cards. ATMs are widely available, and credit/debit cards are accepted at most establishments. Inform your bank of your travel plans to avoid card issues abroad.

3. Getting to Delhi

Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL)

Delhi's primary airport, Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL), is well-connected to major cities worldwide. After landing, you'll go through immigration and customs. The airport provides various transportation options to reach the city center.

Transportation from the Airport

- **Delhi Metro:** The Airport Express Line of the Delhi Metro connects the airport to the city center. It's a fast and convenient option.
- **Taxis and Ride-Sharing:** Prepaid taxi counters and app-based ride services like Uber and Ola are available at the airport. Ensure you book through authorized services.
- **Airport Shuttle:** Some hotels offer complimentary airport shuttle services. Check with your hotel in advance.
- **Buses:** Public buses and airport shuttles provide economical transportation options.

Arrival Procedures

- Customs and Immigration: Fill out the required immigration and customs forms accurately. Keep your passport, visa, and travel documents handy.
 - Baggage Claim: Collect your checked luggage from the baggage claim area.
 - SIM Card Purchase: If you plan to buy a local SIM card, there are kiosks at the airport. Ensure you have a copy of your passport-sized photo and identification.
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4. Accommodation

Choosing the right accommodation is essential for a comfortable stay in Delhi. The city offers a wide range of options, from budget-friendly guesthouses to luxury hotels. Here are some considerations:

Recommended Neighborhoods

- Connaught Place: A bustling commercial area with plenty of dining and shopping options.
- Karol Bagh: Known for its budget-friendly hotels and lively street markets.
- Paharganj: Ideal for backpackers with affordable guesthouses and proximity to the railway station.
- South Delhi: Offers upscale hotels, green spaces, and a quieter atmosphere.
- New Delhi: Home to many luxury hotels and government buildings.

Budget-Friendly Options

- Guesthouses: Look for reputable guesthouses in Paharganj or Karol Bagh for budget accommodations.
- Hostels: Delhi has several hostels that are popular among backpackers.

Luxury Stays

- Five-Star Hotels: Explore luxurious options in areas like Connaught Place and Chanakyapuri.
- Heritage Properties: Some palaces and havelis have been converted into boutique hotels for a unique experience.

Booking Platforms

Popular online platforms like Booking.com, Agoda, and Airbnb can help you find the perfect accommodation that suits your preferences and budget.

5. Getting Around Delhi

Transportation Options

Delhi offers several transportation options to help you get around the city conveniently:

Delhi Metro

The Delhi Metro is a clean, efficient, and widely used mode of transportation. It connects various parts of the city and offers different lines. You can purchase tokens or use a rechargeable smart card for multiple journeys.

Taxis and Auto-Rickshaws

Taxis and auto-rickshaws are readily available in Delhi. Ensure that the taxi has a functional meter or negotiate the fare with the driver before starting the journey. Ride-sharing apps like Uber and Ola are also popular and offer transparent pricing.

Buses

Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) buses provide extensive coverage within the city. Buses are an economical option, but they can be crowded during peak hours.

Cycle Rickshaws

In Old Delhi and certain areas, you'll find cycle rickshaws, a traditional mode of transport. Negotiate the fare before hopping on.

Walking

Exploring Delhi on foot is a great way to soak in the local atmosphere, especially in areas like Connaught Place and Chandni Chowk.

Transportation Etiquette

- Always carry a copy of your hotel's address in case you need assistance returning.
 - While the Delhi Metro is generally safe, be cautious of crowded trains and keep an eye on your belongings.
 - Negotiate fares with auto-rickshaw and cycle rickshaw drivers before starting the ride.
 - Use only authorized taxi services, and insist on the use of the meter.
 - Follow traffic rules and exercise caution when crossing roads.
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6. Navigating the City

Maps and Navigation

Navigating Delhi can be easier with the help of maps and navigation tools:

- Paper Maps: Pick up a free Delhi Metro map or a tourist map from your hotel or a local tourist information center.
- Mobile Apps: Download navigation apps like Google Maps, which provide real-time directions and public transport information.

Recommended Routes

To make the most of your visit, consider the following routes:

- Historical Delhi: Visit the Red Fort, Jama Masjid, and Chandni Chowk for a taste of Delhi's history.
- Modern Delhi: Explore Connaught Place, India Gate, and take a leisurely walk in Lodi Gardens.
- Cultural Delhi: Experience the Qutub Minar, Lotus Temple, and Humayun's Tomb.

Using Public Transport

- For Delhi Metro: Check route maps and schedules, and keep your metro card or token handy.
- For Buses: Look for designated bus stops, check route numbers, and pay the fare using exact change or a bus card.

7. Safety and Health

Emergency Contacts

In case of emergencies, dial:

- Police: 100
- Fire: 101
- Ambulance: 102

Always carry a copy of your passport, visa, and important contact numbers.

Staying Safe

- Avoid poorly lit areas, especially at night.
- Keep your belongings secure, and be cautious of pickpockets in crowded places.
- Be wary of touts and unsolicited offers from strangers.
- Stay hydrated, and carry a reusable water bottle.

Healthcare Facilities

Delhi has several reputable hospitals and healthcare facilities. In case of illness or injury, consider visiting hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) or Apollo Hospitals.

8. Language and Communication

Common Phrases

While English is widely spoken in Delhi, learning a few common phrases in Hindi can be helpful and appreciated by locals:

- Hello: Namaste (नमस्ते)
- Thank You: Dhanyavaad (धन्यवाद)
- Yes: Haan (हाँ)
- No: Nahin (नहीं)

- Please: Kripya (कृपया)
- Excuse Me: Maaf Kijiye (माफ़ कीजिये)
- How much is this?: Yeh kitne ka hai? (यह कितने का है?)
- Where is...?: ... kahan hai? (... कहां है?)

SIM Cards and Connectivity

To stay connected in Delhi, consider purchasing a local SIM card. You'll need a copy of your passport-sized photo and identification for the verification process. Major service providers include Airtel, Vodafone Idea, and Jio.

9. Money Matters

Currency

The official currency of Delhi is the Indian Rupee (INR). It's essential to carry some cash for small purchases and in areas where card acceptance is limited.

ATMs

ATMs are readily available throughout Delhi. Ensure your ATM card is internationally accepted (Visa, MasterCard, etc.). Notify your bank about your travel plans to avoid any issues with your cards.

Currency Exchange

You can exchange foreign currency at banks, authorized exchange counters, and at the airport. Be cautious of unofficial money changers who may offer less favorable rates.

Payment Methods

- Cash: Useful for small purchases and in local markets.
- Credit/Debit Cards: Widely accepted at hotels, restaurants, and major retail outlets.
- Mobile Wallets: Apps like Paytm and Google Pay are commonly used for digital payments.

- Travel Cards: Consider prepaid travel cards for added convenience and security.
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10. Sightseeing and Attractions

Iconic Landmarks

Delhi is a treasure trove of historic and cultural landmarks. Don't miss:

- Red Fort (Lal Qila): Explore this UNESCO World Heritage Site, known for its stunning architecture and historical significance.
- Qutub Minar: Marvel at the towering minaret and the complex's intricate carvings.
- India Gate: Pay your respects at this war memorial and enjoy a leisurely stroll in the surrounding park.
- Humayun's Tomb: Visit this architectural masterpiece, a precursor to the Taj Mahal.
- Jama Masjid: Experience the grandeur of India's largest mosque.

Museums and Galleries

- National Museum: Discover India's history, art, and culture.
- National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA): Explore contemporary Indian art and exhibitions.
- Gandhi Smriti: Visit the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi, now a museum.

Gardens and Parks

- Lodi Gardens: Enjoy a serene walk among ancient tombs and lush greenery.
- Nehru Park: Relax in a peaceful setting and attend outdoor events.

11. Shopping and Markets

Popular Shopping Areas

Delhi offers diverse shopping experiences:

- Chandni Chowk: Navigate the bustling lanes for textiles, jewelry, and street food.

- Sarojini Nagar: Find budget-friendly clothing and accessories.
- Dilli Haat: Discover traditional handicrafts and regional cuisine.

Bargaining Tips

Haggling is common in local markets. Here are some tips:

- Start with a lower price and negotiate gradually.
- Be polite and friendly while bargaining.
- Don't be afraid to walk away if the price doesn't meet your budget.

12. Dining and Cuisine

Culinary Adventures

Delhi is a food lover's paradise:

- Street Food: Try local delights like chaat, golgappa, and parathas in Old Delhi.
- Mughlai Cuisine: Savor rich biryanis, kebabs, and butter chicken at Mughlai restaurants.
- Punjabi Dishes: Explore hearty Punjabi fare with dishes like dal makhani and tandoori roti.
- Fine Dining: Experience upscale dining at restaurants offering a fusion of Indian and international cuisines.

Dining Etiquette

- Wash your hands before and after eating.
- It's common to eat with your right hand.
- Tipping is customary; 10-15% of the bill is appreciated.

13. Cultural Etiquette

Respect Local Customs

- Clothing: Dress modestly, especially when visiting religious sites. Cover your shoulders and knees.

- Shoes: Remove your shoes before entering someone's home or a place of worship.
- Greetings: Use the traditional greeting of "Namaste" with a slight bow.
- Respect for Elders: Show respect to elders by addressing them as "ji."

14. Events and Festivals

Celebrations in Delhi

- Diwali: Experience the Festival of Lights with fireworks and decorations.
- Holi: Join in the colorful celebration of the Festival of Colors.
- Eid: Witness the festivities during Eid, marked by feasts and prayers.
- Christmas: Enjoy the festive spirit with decorations and church services.

Cultural Festivals

- Jaipur Literature Festival: Attend this literary festival featuring renowned authors.
 - Dilli Ke Pakwaan: Savor Delhi's culinary delights and cultural performances.
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