



## ***An Alternate Angle to the Golden Triangle***

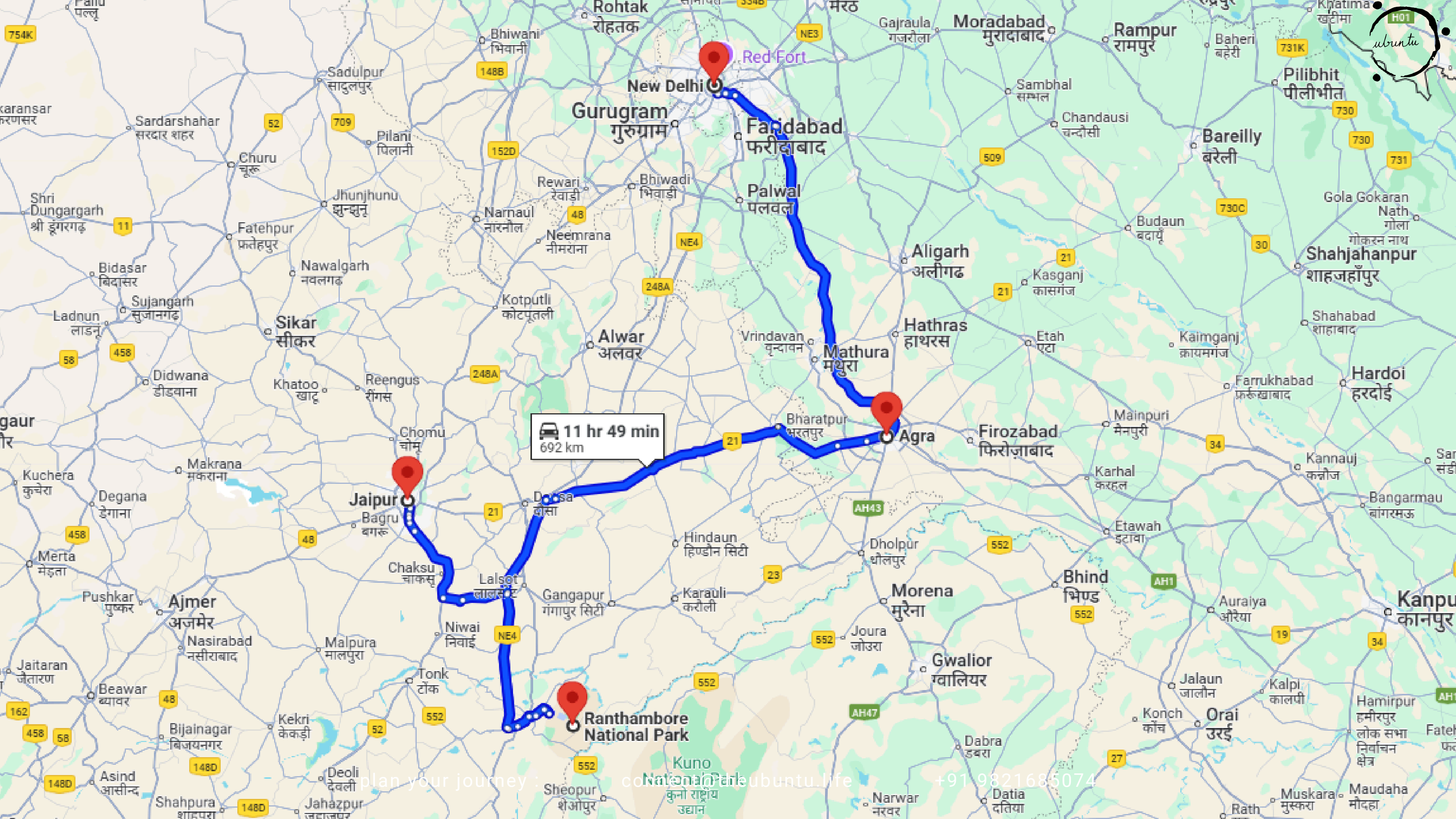
**Option 1: 8 nights (w/2n in Delhi) : 21st March 2025 – 29th March 2025**

**Option 2: 9 nights (w/3n in Delhi) : 21st March 2025 – 30th March 2025**

plan your journey :

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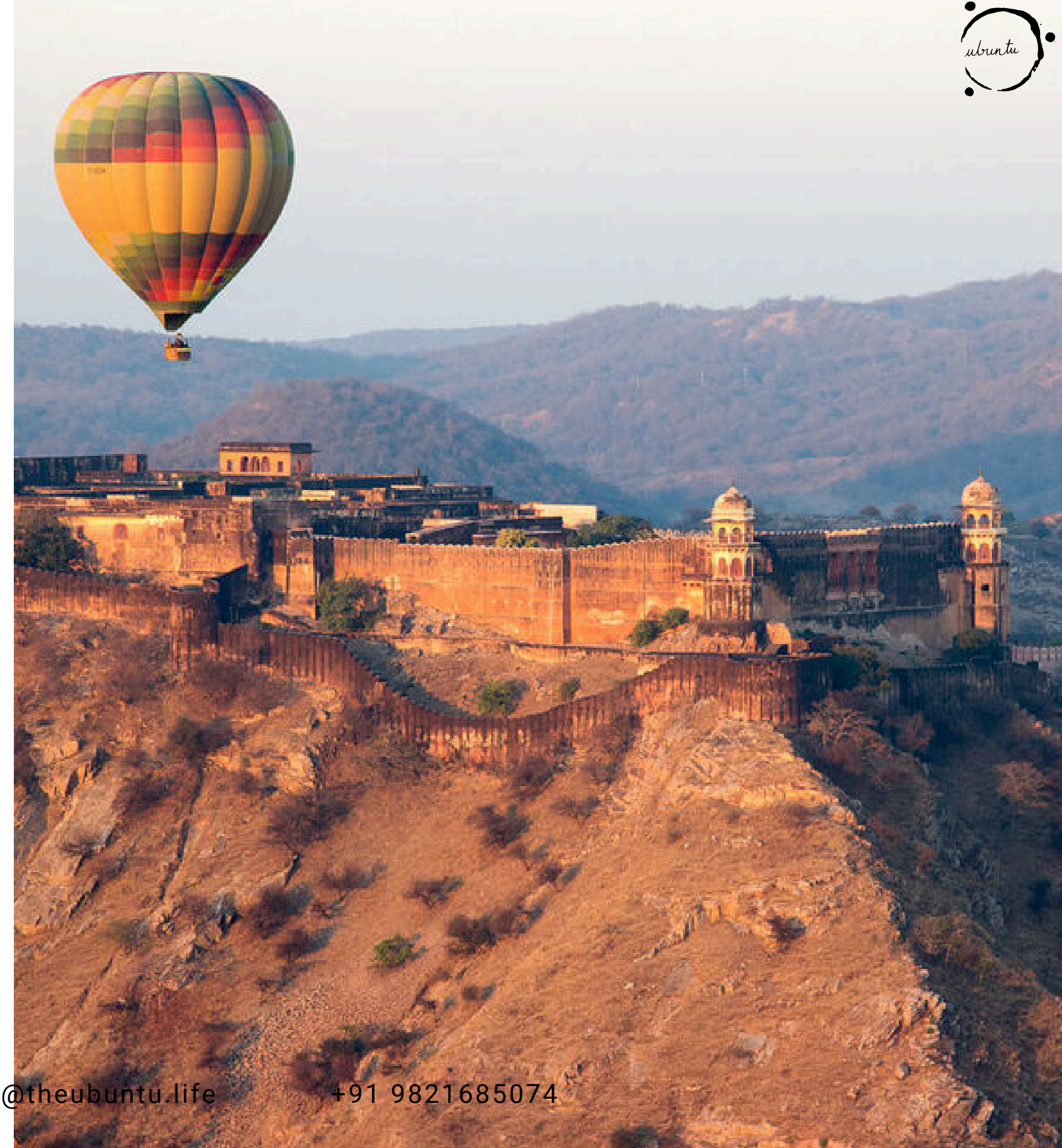
## ***JAIPUR (21st March to 24th March)***

The gateway to Rajasthan and part of India's famed Golden Triangle, Jaipur (also known as the Pink City) is a fascinating mix of ancient forts, royal palaces and vibrant bazaars with modern shopping malls and busy commercial centres.

At the heart of Jaipur is the historical 18th century old city, surrounded by huge fortification walls and entered through eight towering gates. Timeless bazaars are crammed with colourful textiles, beautiful pottery and the region's famed jewellery.

### **Sunset: Hot-Air Balloon ride over Jaipur**

The Sunset Hot Air Ballooning experience in Jaipur offers a breathtaking view of the Pink City as the sunsets over its forts, palaces, and landscapes. Floating high above the city, you'll witness stunning panoramic views of Amber Fort, Jal Mahal, and the surrounding countryside, bathed in golden light. This serene, one- hour journey is perfect for capturing the beauty of Jaipur from a unique perspective, making it an unforgettable adventure for visitors.





## Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing

Begin your journey at the Anokhi Museum, nestled near the Amber Fort, where you'll dive into the world of traditional block printing, one of Rajasthan's most cherished crafts. Guided by experts from the Anokhi Foundation, you'll witness a live demonstration of artisans carving intricate designs on wooden blocks and applying natural dyes to fabric, bringing history to life through textiles. You'll even have the opportunity to create your own hand-printed masterpiece to take home, making this experience truly personal.

## Explore the City Palace and Jantar Mantar.

**City Palace:** Begin your tour at the City Palace, situated at the heart of the vibrant pink city of Jaipur. The impressive grounds of this royal complex house the imperial residence, as well as the more modern museum. The Palace is made up of a vast array of courtyards, meticulously landscaped gardens and elegant buildings, including temples and lower palaces. The Palace complex incorporates diverse architectural styles such as Rajput, Mughal and European, however it is dominated by the Hindu design style of Shilpa Shastra. There are three main entrances into the property, with the most impressive of these, the Tripolia Gate, reserved solely for the royal family. All three gateways feature intricate etchings and carvings along arches that boldly jut out from thick walls.





**Jantar Mantar:** Just across the street, lose yourself among the fascinating exhibits at the Jantar Mantar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This is dedicated to various astronomical and architectural instruments used by scientists in the past and borrowed from various civilisations, drawing on diverse cultures and religious beliefs. The collection was put together by the Rajput king Sawai Jai Singh II and was completed in 1734, allowing scientists to find various astronomical points with the naked eye. The observatory houses the world's largest stone sundial, exhibits several ancient methods used to measure declination and features a display for each of the twelve signs of the Zodiac. The exhibits range from masonry, stone and brass instruments to venerable Hindu Sanskrit texts. The massive stone structure is a sight to behold, with large arches and inviting passageways, as well as a vast dome used to plots the position of the stars.

## **The Nahargarh Water Walk**

Led by our storyteller this offers a fascinating and immersive journey into Jaipur's traditional water management systems. Set amidst the historic Nahargarh Fort, this walk takes you through the elaborate structures built centuries ago to manage and conserve water in an arid region like Rajasthan. As you follow him through the fort's ancient step wells, aqueducts, and underground channels, you'll learn about the advanced engineering and sustainable practices that were employed to ensure a continuous water supply to the fort and its surrounding areas. The walk also provides a deeper understanding of how water scarcity shaped the lives and culture of the people in this region. What makes this experience unique is his in-depth storytelling, blending history, architecture, and environmental wisdom. The serene surroundings of the fort, combined with the intricate water systems, make it a peaceful yet informative tour, perfect for those looking to experience Jaipur's heritage beyond its usual tourist sites. This walk is an excellent way to connect with the city's past, understand its relationship with water conservation, and appreciate the sustainable techniques that are still relevant today.



## **Rajasthani Pop-Up Curated Food Experience (approx. 3 hrs. Dinner)**

Experience the vibrant culinary diversity of Rajasthan with a special pop-up event curated by a renowned chef from Jaipur. This unique gastronomic journey will take you through the distinct flavors of Rajasthan's various districts, each known for its own traditional dishes and local ingredients. From the spicy fare of Jodhpur to the rich flavors of Udaipur and the desert specialties of Bikaner, this event celebrates the essence of Rajasthan's culinary heritage. Join us for a feast that brings together the authentic tastes and aromas of the region in one memorable evening.

***Visit Sheesh Mahal, Amber/Amer Fort, City Palace, Sawai Man Singh II Museum***

Start with a visit to the iconic Amber Fort, where your guests can explore the stunning palaces, courtyards, and the intricate Sheesh Mahal (Mirror Palace). A guided tour will enrich their experience with historical insights into Jaipur's royal past. Afterward, head to the City Palace, the current royal residence, known for its blend of Mughal and Rajput architecture. The Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum within the palace offers a glimpse into royal artifacts and history. Just a short walk away is Jantar Mantar, an 18th-century astronomical observatory and a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with massive instruments that display India's scientific prowess.

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### **Afternoon Optional Experience: Gem-Cutting**

**Workshop:** Step into the world of Jaipur's legendary jewelry craftsmanship with a private Gem-Cutting Workshop. Led by master gemologists and artisans, this session offers an insider's look at how raw gemstones are cut, polished, and transformed into exquisite pieces of jewelry. Participants can try their hand at basic techniques under expert guidance and gain a deeper understanding of Jaipur's historic connection to the gem trade.

### **Visit the Hawa Mahal and visit local bazaars (Johri Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar)**

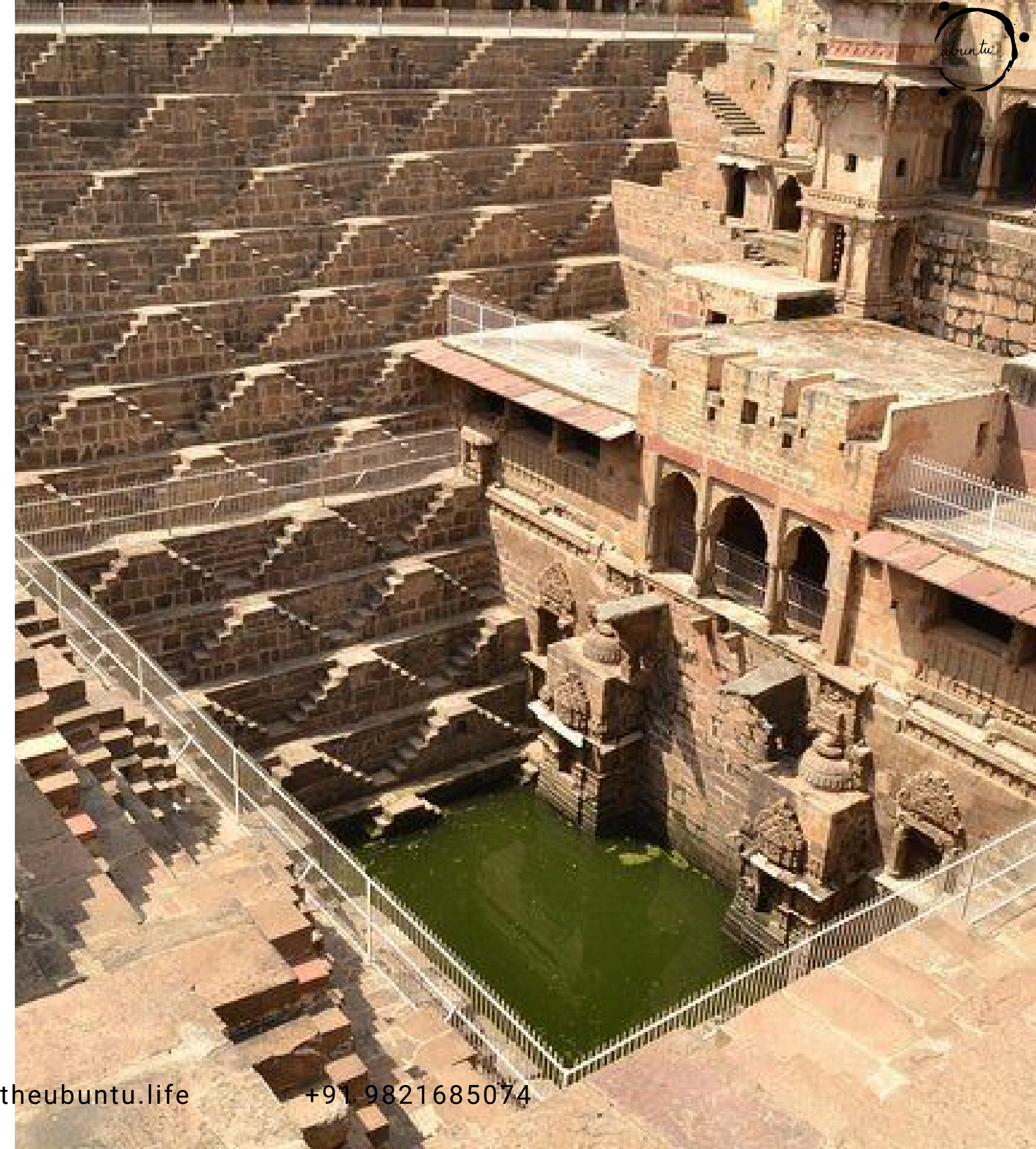
In the evening, visit the iconic Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), known for its distinctive honeycomb façade. After taking in the views and capturing some photos, immerse in Jaipur's vibrant culture with a visit to the local bazaars. Stroll through Johari Bazaar to discover traditional jewelry or explore Bapu Bazaar for textiles, handicrafts, and leather goods.



### **Enroute visit Chand Baori (Jaipur to Ranthambore)**

The Chand Baori can be found in Abhaneri, about 95 km from Jaipur. A convenient detour off the much-feted Golden Triangle route-Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, Chand Baori is a less sought after destination that is worth the effort to visit it. The Chand Baori is a stepwell built over a thousand years ago in the Abhaneri village of Rajasthan. It is one of the largest stepwells in the world and also one of the most beautiful ones. Located in the eastern part of the province of Rajasthan, it was built by King Chanda somewhere in the 9th century.

The Chand Baori is not an easy landmark to find, thus it is one of the hidden secrets of India! Stepwells, also called bawdi or baori, are unique to this nation. The wells have steps built into the sides that lead down to the water.



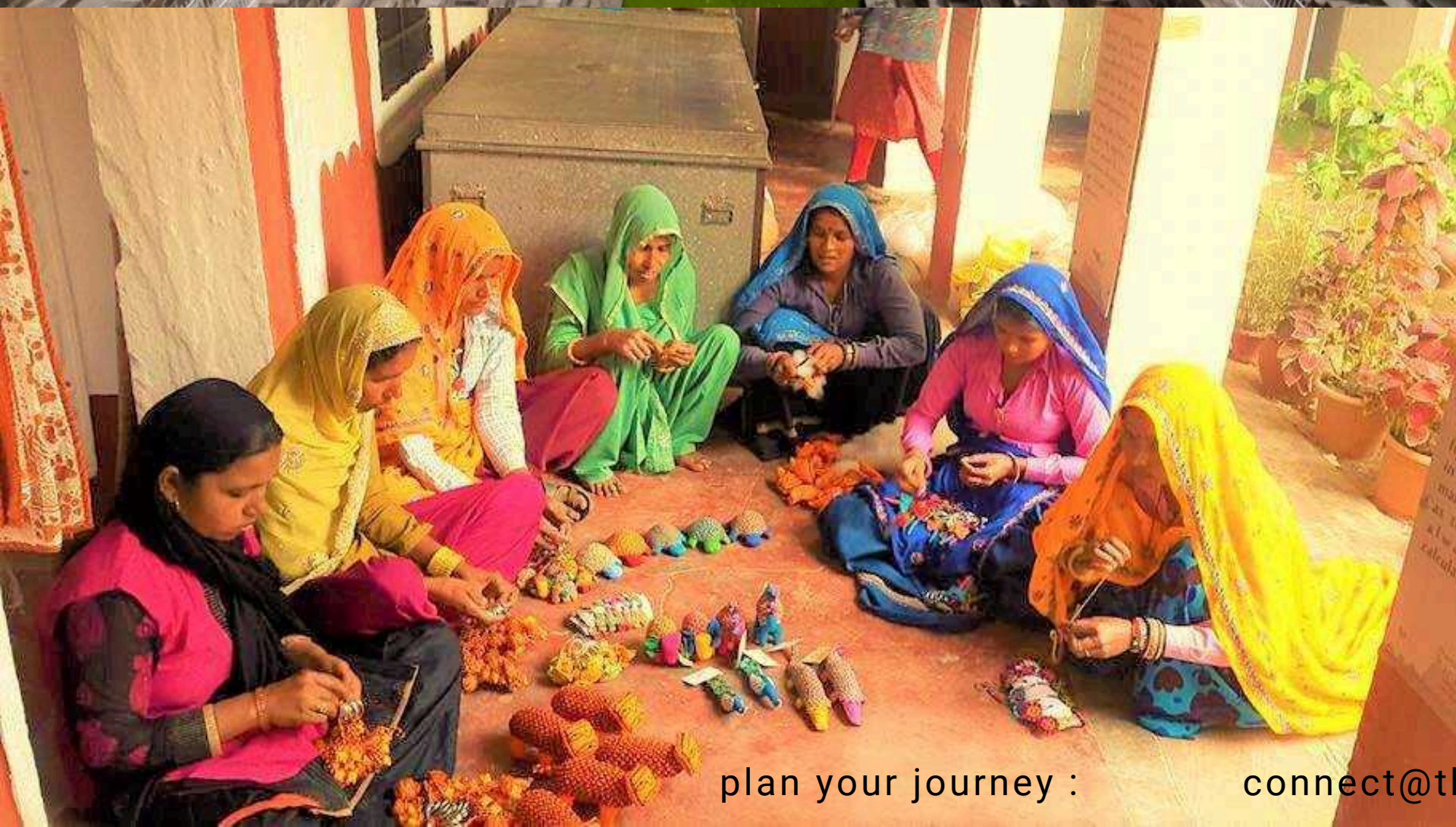


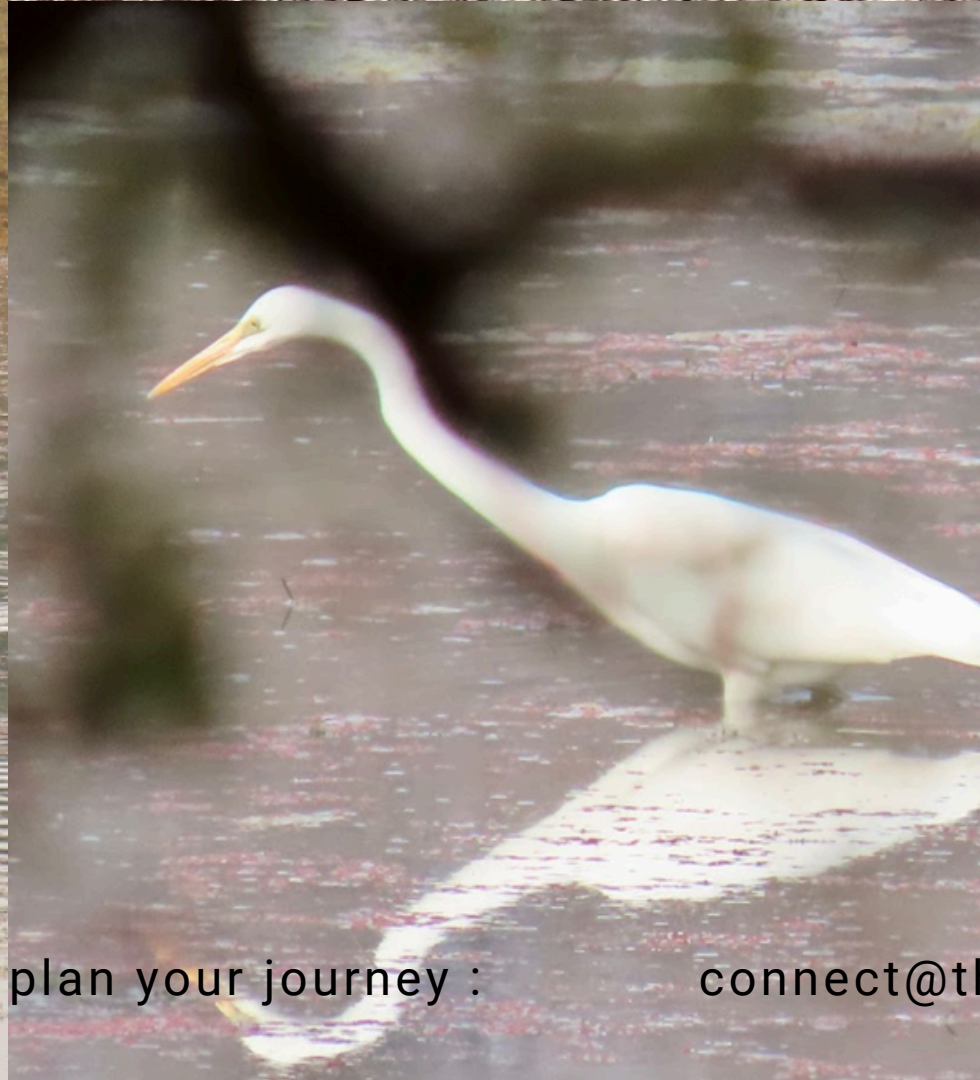
## **RANTHAMBORE (24th March to 26th March)**

Tucked between the rugged Aravalli and Vindhya hills, the Ranthambhore National Park boasts a spectacular landscape filled with boulder-strewn highland plateaus, lakes and rivers – dotted with old forts and abandoned mosques – creating a wonderful atmosphere for both bird and mammal viewing. Ranthambore is perhaps most famous for being one of the original ‘Project Tiger’ reserves and it still affords one of the best opportunities anywhere in India of seeing a tiger. At the centre of the park lie the ruins of the 10th to 16th century Ranthambhore Fort, which dominates the leafy forests from its perch atop a dramatic rocky outcrop.

### **Dastkar Ranthambore**

This is a remarkable artisan empowerment initiative aimed at reviving traditional crafts and providing sustainable livelihoods to local communities around the Ranthambore region. Established in response to the displacement of villagers during the creation of the Ranthambore National Park, Dastkar has helped artisans preserve and adapt their heritage crafts, including textiles, embroidery, block printing, and pottery. By promoting local skills and connecting artisans to broader markets, Dastkar empowers these communities economically, while fostering cultural preservation and sustainable development. It has become a vital platform for showcasing the rich craftsmanship of the region and supporting rural artisans.





## **Nature Walk with naturalist**

An evening guided nature trek in Ranthambore offers a serene and intimate way to explore the park's wilderness beyond the typical safari. As the sun sets, the forest transforms, casting a warm glow over the landscape. Led by an experienced naturalist, the trek takes you through the park's buffer zone, providing opportunities to observe wildlife such as sambar deer, langurs, and various bird species that become more active in the evening. Along the way, your guide will share fascinating insights into the park's rich biodiversity, conservation efforts, and the local community's connection to the forest. Unlike the fast-paced jeep safaris, this trek allows for a deeper, more peaceful connection with Ranthambore's natural beauty, as you tune into the subtle sounds of the forest—rustling leaves, bird calls, and perhaps the distant roar of a tiger. Ending with a reflective moment at your lodge, this experience leaves you immersed in the tranquility of the jungle night.

## Morning and Evenings Tiger Safari in Jeeps

A jeep safari in Ranthambore National Park offers an exhilarating way to explore the park's wildlife as the jungle comes alive with activity and then before they all turn in for the day. The early hours, with mist rising over the forests, are the prime time for spotting the park's famous Bengal tigers, which are more active in the cooler parts of the day. Riding in a 6-seater open jeep, you'll venture deep into different zones of the park, accompanied by an experienced naturalist who helps track not only tigers but also leopards, sloth bears, spotted deer, sambar, and a wide variety of bird species. The naturalist's expertise ensures you don't miss key sightings and offers insights into animal behaviors and the park's conservation efforts. Beyond the thrill of spotting wildlife, the crisp morning air, bird calls, and sunlight filtering through the trees make this a magical experience. After the morning safari, you'll return to your lodge for a hearty breakfast, reflecting on the wild beauty you just witnessed. The evening safaris usually take place from about 3pm to 6pm.

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## **Enroute visit to Fatehpur Sikri (Ranthambore to Agra)**

A guided tour of Fatehpur Sikri takes you through the majestic remains of Emperor Akbar's short-lived capital. This UNESCO World Heritage Site features the towering Buland Darwaza, the grand Jama Masjid, and intricately designed halls like the Diwan-i-Aam and Diwan-i-Khas. Highlights include the Tomb of Salim Chishti, where visitors tie threads to marble screens for blessings, and the Panch Mahal, a five-story structure offering panoramic views. A guide will bring the rich history of this architectural masterpiece to life, offering insight into Akbar's vision of cultural fusion and Mughal grandeur.



## ***AGRA (26th March to 27th March)***

Known globally as the home of the ultimate testament to love, the inimitable Taj Mahal, the story of Agra begins much earlier than the construction of this extraordinary monument.

Capital of the Mughal Empire, during the 16th and 17th centuries, Agra is home to some of the finest architectural achievements of this remarkable dynasty. As such, it forms the third apex of the Golden Triangle, a popular itinerary that takes in some of India's famed architectural highlights.

Agra is situated along the banks of the Yamuna River and most of its historical monuments overlook this waterway. It is home to three World Heritage Sites; The Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and the nearby Fatehpur Sikri.

### **Visit to the Sheroes Café :**

A visit to Sheroes Hangout Café in Agra is a truly inspiring experience. Run by acid attack survivors, the café serves as a powerful space for women who have overcome personal adversity and now advocate for women's empowerment and justice. Beyond the delicious food, the café offers a chance to hear the courageous stories of resilience and survival firsthand. Operating on a pay-what-you-want basis, Sheroes is more than just a café—it's a movement for change, promoting awareness about acid attacks and gender equality. A stop here is an unforgettable part of any visit to Agra, leaving a lasting impact on visitors.

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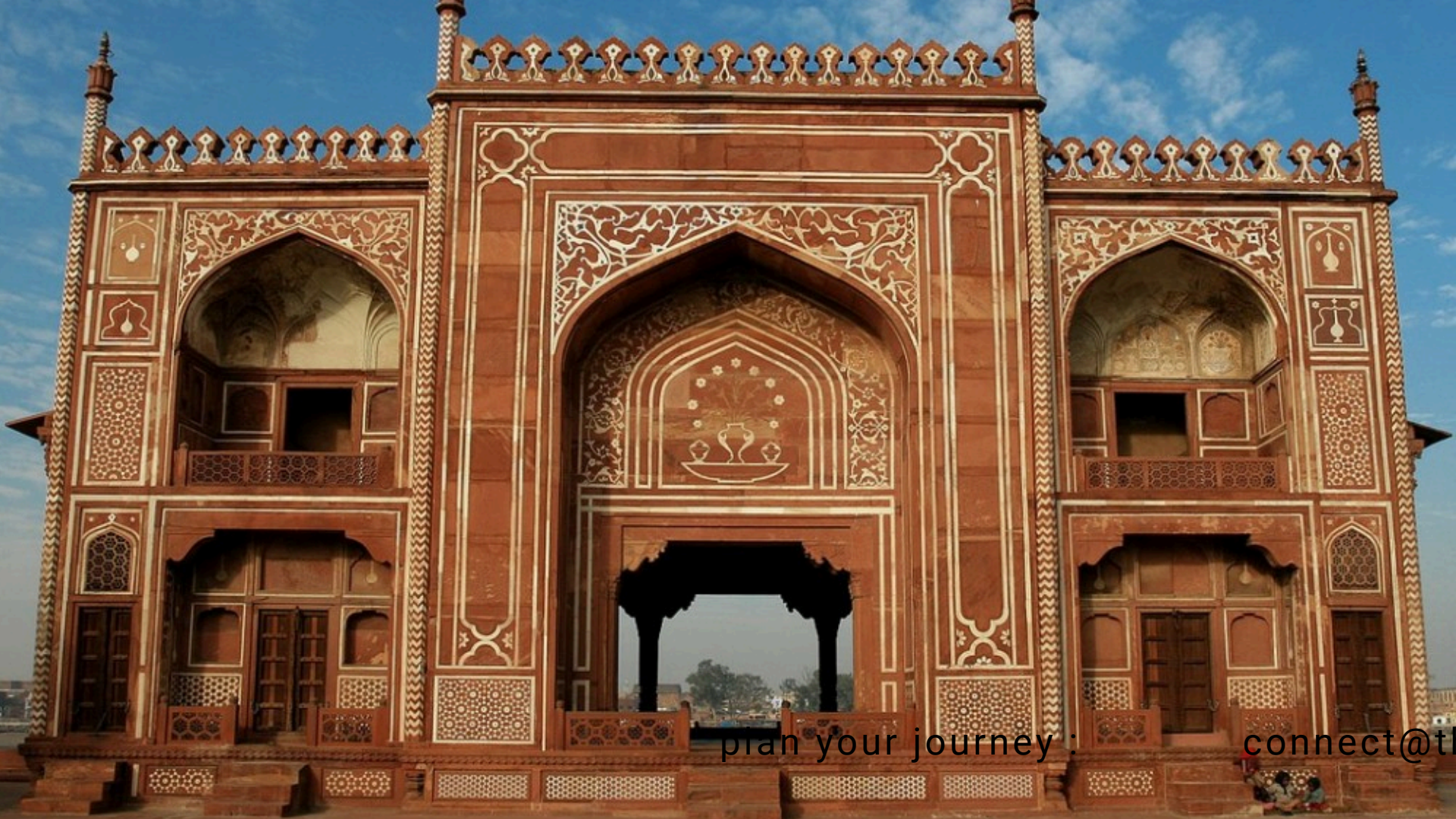
### **TAJ Mahal by Sunset**

Watching the sunset at Mehtab Bagh in Agra offers a magical and serene experience, with a breathtaking view of the Taj Mahal bathed in the warm hues of the setting sun. Situated across the Yamuna River, Mehtab Bagh (Moonlight Garden) is a historical Mughal garden, perfectly aligned with the Taj Mahal. As the sun begins to dip, the white marble of the monument slowly changes colors, transitioning from a golden glow to soft pastel tones, creating a picture-perfect backdrop for photography or quiet contemplation. The garden provides a peaceful setting, away from the usual crowds, where you can enjoy a less conventional but equally mesmerizing view of the Taj Mahal. The reflection of the Taj in the Yamuna River, especially during sunset, adds to the enchanting atmosphere, making it a favorite spot for travelers seeking tranquility and beauty.



### **Sunrise at the Taj Mahal (before breakfast)**

A sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal is an unforgettable experience, offering a tranquil and serene atmosphere as the monument is bathed in soft morning light. The white marble shifts through stunning hues of pink and gold as the sun rises, creating a mesmerizing view. With fewer crowds, it's the perfect time to appreciate the beauty and intricacies of the Taj Mahal, while the cool, crisp air adds to the peaceful ambiance. Whether you're admiring the monument up close or capturing breathtaking photos, a sunrise visit provides a truly magical start to the day.



## Visit Agra Fort and the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah

**Agra Fort:** At Agra Fort, your storyteller will guide you through this massive red sandstone fortress, built by Emperor Akbar in 1565. You'll explore its palatial structures, including the Diwan-i-Aam (Hall of Public Audience), Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience), and the Sheesh Mahal (Mirror Palace). Each section of the fort has its own significance, and your storyteller will bring these sites to life by recounting the tales of the emperors who ruled from within its walls, including Shah Jahan, who was imprisoned here by his son, Aurangzeb, and spent his final years gazing out at the Taj Mahal from his window.

**Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah:** Known as the "Baby Taj," the Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah is a stunning example of Mughal architecture, built by Nur Jahan, the wife of Emperor Jahangir, in honor of her father. The storyteller will explain how this tomb is considered a precursor to the Taj Mahal, introducing the use of white marble, intricate inlay work, and gardens—elements later perfected in the Taj Mahal's design. You'll hear about the life of Itimad-ud-Daulah, his rise to power, and his significance within the Mughal court. This guided journey through both monuments not only highlights their architectural beauty but also dives into the captivating stories of the people who built and lived within these masterpieces, offering a rich historical context that enhances the entire experience.

***Optional Stop over Experience: Wildlife SOS (Agra to Delhi)***

A visit to Wildlife SOS in Agra offers a heartwarming and educational experience for wildlife lovers and conservation enthusiasts. This rescue and rehabilitation center focuses on protecting Asian elephants and sloth bears from cruelty and illegal poaching. Visitors can see rescued elephants up close, hear their powerful stories, and learn about the ongoing efforts to provide them with a peaceful, cruelty-free life. With opportunities to feed and observe the animals, this visit not only connects you with wildlife but also supports important conservation efforts, making it a meaningful addition to any trip to Agra.



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***NEW DELHI (27th March to 29th March/30th March)***

**Visit with guide to Humayun's tomb, India Gate and  
Rashtrapati Bhavan, Qutab Minar**

For the first half of the day in Delhi, start with a visit to Humayun's Tomb, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an architectural marvel that laid the foundation for Mughal architecture in India. The peaceful surroundings of the early morning make it an ideal time to explore the stunning gardens and the intricate design of the tomb. Next, head to the iconic Qutub Minar, the world's tallest brick minaret, surrounded by ancient ruins and monuments from Delhi's early Islamic period. A walk through this UNESCO site offers insight into Delhi's medieval history.

From there, stop at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the grand residence of the President of India. Admire the majestic architecture of this colonial-era palace, set amidst sprawling gardens. Continue to the nearby India Gate, a war memorial honouring Indian soldiers, where you can take a leisurely walk around the lawns and reflect on the monument's historical significance.

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## Visit to Dilli Haat and Khan Market

Dilli Haat, an open-air market showcasing crafts, textiles, and food from different Indian states. Shop for handmade crafts and jewelry, while experiencing the rich cultural diversity of India's artisans.

Khan Market is one of Delhi's most iconic and upscale shopping destinations, perfect for a leisurely stroll that blends heritage, culture, and modern luxury. As you walk through the bustling lanes, you'll find a unique mix of boutique shops, high-end fashion brands, and charming bookstores, interspersed with some of the best cafes and eateries in the city. The market has a timeless charm, attracting locals and expats alike who come to browse through its stylish boutiques, pick up imported goods, or simply enjoy a coffee at one of its famed cafes. The narrow lanes of Khan Market also hide cultural gems like Fakir Chand & Sons, a renowned independent bookstore, and quaint art galleries. Whether you're interested in designer fashion, organic skincare, or artisanal home décor, the market offers an eclectic shopping experience. For food lovers, it's a culinary hub, offering everything from authentic Indian street food to global gourmet dining. A stroll through Khan Market is a journey through Delhi's cosmopolitan life, wrapped in the charm of a bustling market that retains its elegance and rich history.





## Special Evening

On the final evening of the tour (For those choosing 2 nights Delhi) , we invite you to an intimate gathering with renowned Sufi musician Sonam Kalra, set in a serene outdoor space under a majestic peepal tree on the outskirts of Jaipur. This exclusive event allows guests to engage with Sonam as she shares insights into her life, philosophy, and music, followed by a mesmerizing private concert. The evening will conclude with a delightful dinner, creating a truly soulful and memorable experience.



**About Sonam Kalra:** Sonam Kalra is an acclaimed Indian singer and composer, celebrated for her unique ability to blend Sufi music with gospel, Indian classical, and Western traditions. Known for her project The Sufi Gospel Project, Sonam's performances transcend barriers of religion and culture, offering a message of unity, peace, and spirituality. Her soulful voice and innovative fusion of genres make her a beloved figure in the global music scene.

**Dinner Suggestion:** At Bukhara, famous for its North Indian delicacies.

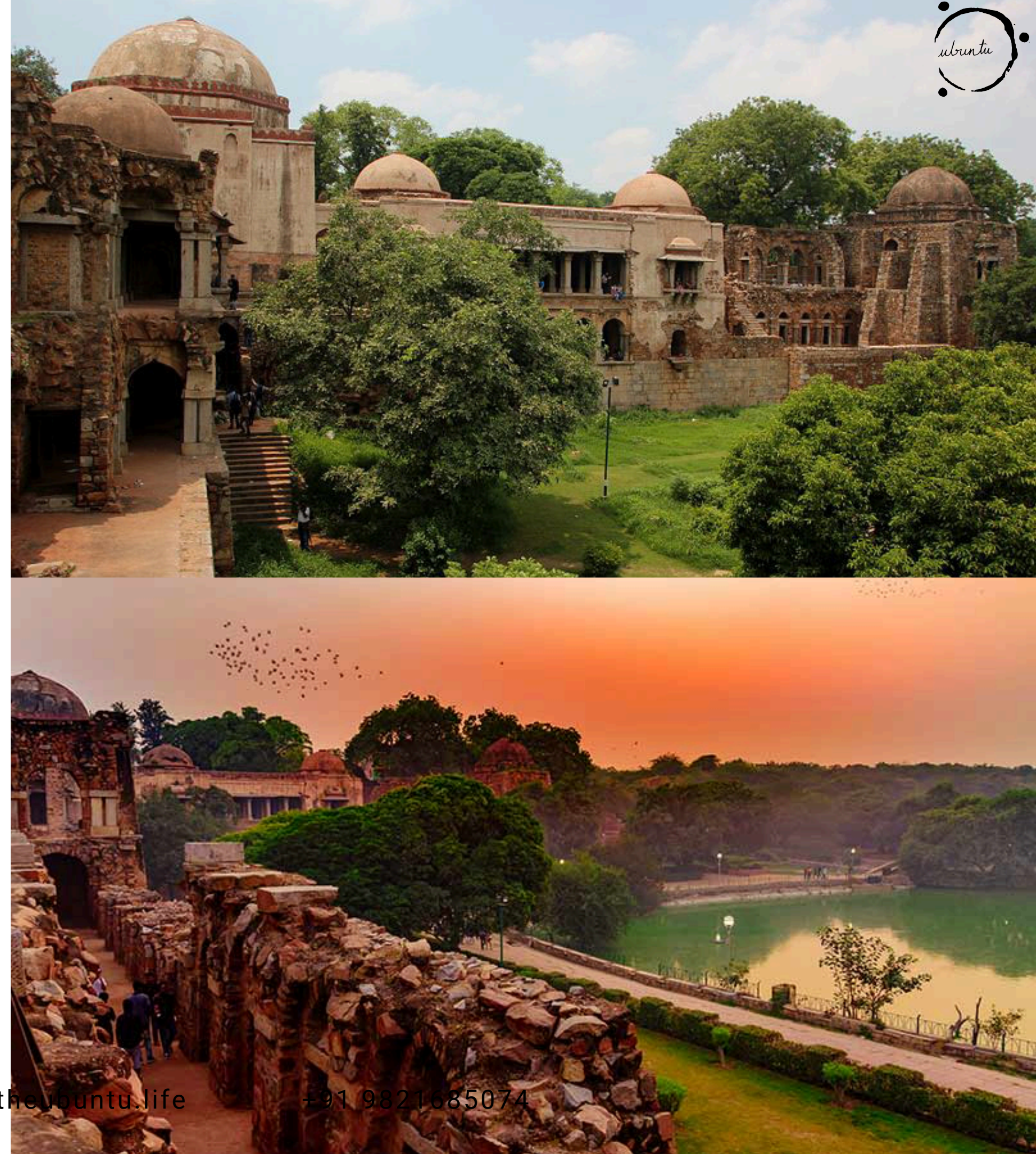
## Hauzkhas with the owner of Kunzum Books

A 2-3 hour storytelling walking tour of Hauz Khas, Delhi, led by the owner of Kunzum Books. This immersive experience will guide participants through the vibrant lanes of Hauz Khas Village, blending history, culture, and local stories. The tour will include visits to boutique stores, galleries, and cafés, while uncovering the area's rich past, from its historical landmarks to its evolution into a creative hub. Along the way, the guide will share tales of Hauz Khas' royal heritage, architectural marvels, and its thriving contemporary community, offering a memorable and engaging exploration of one of Delhi's most fascinating neighborhoods.

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## Visit with guide to Juma Masjid, Chandni Chowk, Red Fort and Raj Ghat

**Red Fort:** This is a monumental example of Mughal architecture. Your guide will lead you through its halls and pavilions, sharing stories of its history and significance during the Mughal era. Marvel at the craftsmanship of this UNESCO World Heritage site while learning about its role in India's independence.

**Jama Masjid:** India's largest mosque, and take in its majestic architecture. As you explore the narrow lanes, you'll pass vibrant street vendors, local shops, and historic landmarks.

**Raj Ghat:** This is a memorial in Delhi where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated following his assassination in 1948. It is a simple black marble structure set amid a stunning garden and is visited by people from all over the world who come to pay their respects to the great leader. It is also home to the samadhis or memorials of other notable Indian leaders, such as Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri, and more. The name Raj Ghat translates to "King's Bank" about its location on the bank of the Yamuna River. In addition to being a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, Raj Ghat celebrates his life and philosophy through sculptures, pictures, and photographs. The Gandhi Memorial Museum at Raj Ghat showcases his life and the philosophy of the Sarvodaya Movement through a film that is screened in both English and Hindi.

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### ***Optional: Delhi with a local travel writer***

*For an engaging half-day experience with Akanksha Seth, a travel writer and researcher with deep ties to the city, you will have a rare opportunity to explore Delhi through her personal lens. Born and raised in this dynamic city, Akanksha blends her love for writing, history, and urban exploration into a narrative that brings to life the layers of old and new Delhi.*

*During this experience, Akanksha will take you to her favorite spots—places that reflect her connection to the city's evolving culture and deep-rooted history. Whether it's a hidden café tucked away in a vibrant market, a historical site rich with stories, or a lively street brimming with local life, this journey will offer insight into Delhi as both her home and a subject of her research. Through this immersive interaction, travelers will get to see Delhi's soul, guided by someone who has spent her life not just living in the city but learning and writing about it..*