



Delhi

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Best Places to Eat

- » Saravana Bhavan (p89)
- » Bukhara (p90)
- » Indian Accent (p92)
- » Monsoon (p90)
- » Olive (p92)
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- » Rajdhani (p89)

Best Places to Stay

- » Shanti Home (p85)
- » Devna (p86)
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- » Cottage Yes Please (p83)

Why Go?

Medieval mayhem, the New India, stately maiden aunt: give it a chance and this schizophrenic capital could capture your heart. Yes, it's aggravating, polluted and hectic, but hey – nobody's perfect.

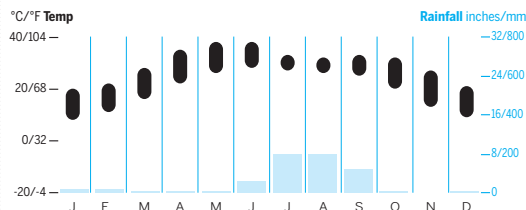
Like a subcontinental Rome, India's capital is punctuated by vestiges of lost empires: ancient forts freckle the suburbs; Old Delhi was once the capital of Islamic India; the British built New Delhi, with its exaggerated avenues; and even-newer Delhi features utopian malls linked by potholed roads. These disparate, codependent elements are all now gloriously intertwined via the new metro system.

There are also magnificent museums, temples, mosques, and a busy cultural scene – and shopaholics, you are home: all the riches of India twinkle in Delhi's emporiums.

Prepare yourself to tuck into some of the subcontinent's finest food, including the famous *Dilli-ka-Chaat* (Delhi street food) – which, rather like the city itself, jumbles up every flavour in one bite.

When to Go

Delhi



Oct–Mar Delhi at its best – the weather is bright and sunny but not too hot.

May–Aug These are the months to avoid – it's hot and humid.

Jun–Sep Monsoon season (heaviest from July to September) is also worth avoiding if you can.

Top Tips

- » Ensure your taxi or autorickshaw driver has taken you to the hotel/shop you requested, as some try to offload passengers at places where they receive commission.
- » Decline offers from taxi or auto drivers to take you to hotels/shops of their choice.
- » Avoid chatty young men who hang around touristy spots, some of whom claim humbly to be students wanting to improve their English.
- » Don't believe the helpful chaps who try to direct you to a 'tourist office' around Connaught Place. There is only one Government of India tourist office, at 88 Janpath.
- » Carry small denominations (below ₹50) as drivers often have a lack of change.
- » Ignore touts who surreptitiously dirty your shoe and offer to clean it at a price.

DON'T MISS

One of Delhi's most mystical and atmospheric experiences is to hear *qawwali* singers and musicians perform devotional songs at the **Hazrat Nizam-ud-din Dargah**. This is a beautiful Islamic holy shrine, where song performances take place after sunset prayers on Thursday. The air is thick with incense and the shrine thronged with pilgrims.

Delhi's Top Festivals

- » To check dates contact India Tourism Delhi (p98).
- » Delhi celebrates Diwali and Dussehra (Durga Puja) with particular verve.
- » Republic Day (26 Jan, Rajpath, p71) Incorporates a spectacular military parade.
- » Beating of the Retreat (29 Jan, Rajpath, p71) The closing of the Republic Day celebrations is marked by the Beating of the Retreat – more military pageantry. Tickets are essential for both events and are available at India Tourism Delhi.
- » Independence Day (15 Aug, Red Fort, p62) India celebrates its Independence from Britain in 1947 and the prime minister addresses the nation from the Red Fort ramparts.
- » Qutb Festival (Oct/Nov, Qutb Minar, p102) Held over several days, featuring Sufi singing and classical dance performances.
- » Delhi International Arts Festival (DIAF, Dec) Three weeks of exhibitions, performing arts, films, literature and culinary events at Delhi-wide venues.

MAIN POINTS OF ENTRY

Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi train station, Old Delhi train station, and the Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT).

Fast Facts

- » Population: 12.8 million
- » Area: 1483 sq km
- » Area code: 011
- » Main languages: Hindi and English
- » Sleeping prices: \$ below ₹1000, \$\$ ₹1000 to ₹5000, \$\$\$ above ₹5000

Planning Your Trip

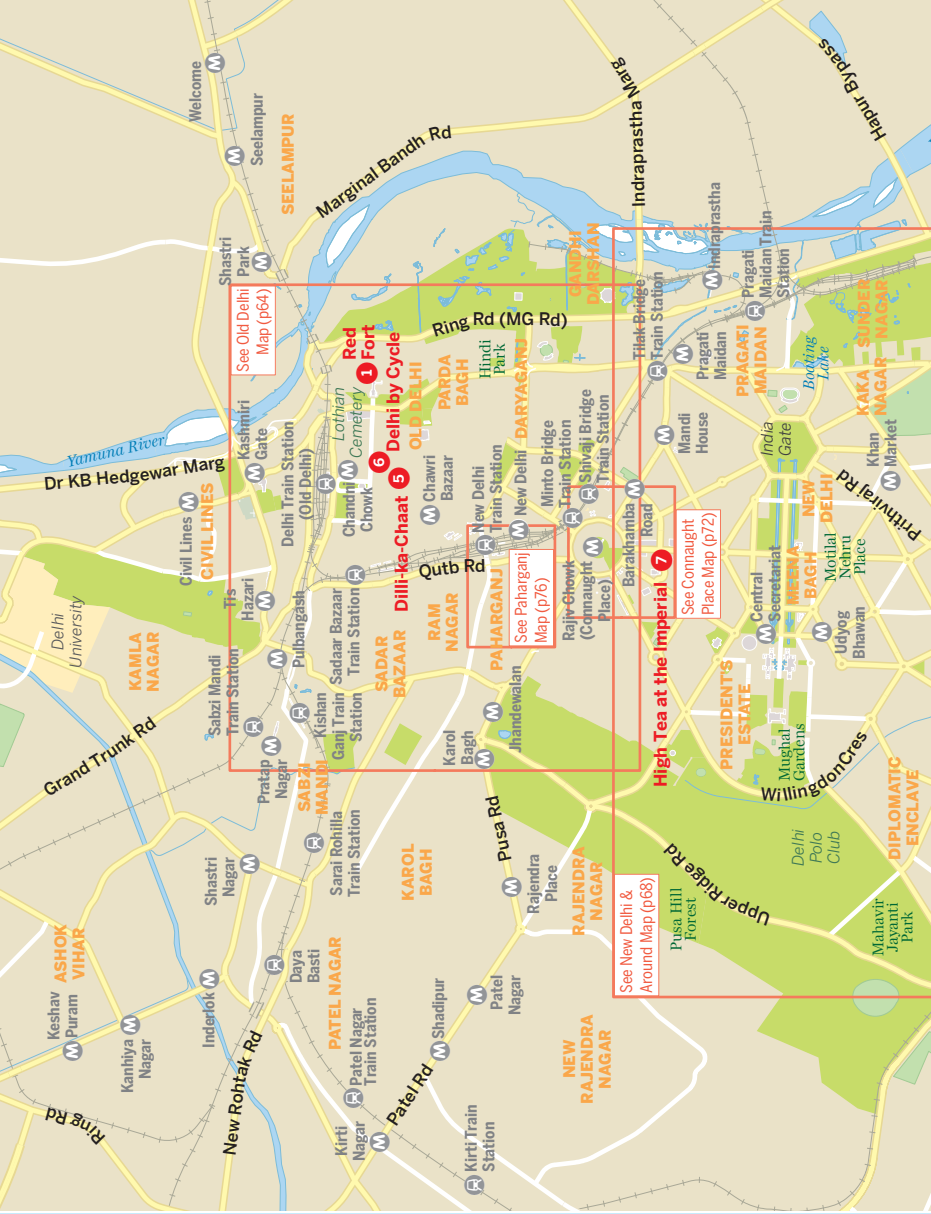
- » Book accommodation ahead at <http://hotels.lonelyplanet.com>
- » Call your hotel to confirm the day before you arrive
- » Book train tickets for longer journeys at least a week ahead on www.indianrail.gov.in

Resources

- » Delhi Tourism (<http://delhitourism.nic.in/delhitourism/index.jsp>) lists government-rated home-stays and recommended tourist agencies.
- » A free AA map is available in many places but, for street-by-street detail, Delhi newsstands sell the excellent 245-page *Eicher City Map* (₹340).

Delhi Highlights

- 1 Experience the sometime splendour of the **Red Fort** (p62), a sandstone queen bee overlooking the Old Delhi hive
- 2 See the great Mughal tomb that inspired the Taj Mahal, **Humayun's Tomb** (p67)
- 3 Explore the greenery-surrounded **Qutb Minar** (p102), in a Delhi suburb.
- 4 Hear qawwali singers at **Hazrat Nizam-ud-din Dargah** (p69)
- 5 Sample delicious **Dilli-ka-Chaat** (p87), Delhi's famous street food
- 6 Take an early-morning ride around Old Delhi with **DelhiByCycle** (p80), ending at **Karim's** (p87)



7 Indulge in high tea at the **Imperial** (p84) – more English than the English, with a decadent array of dainty sandwiches and cakes



Red Fort

HIGHLIGHTS

The main entrance to the Red Fort is through Lahore Gate **1** – the bastion in front of it was built by Aurangzeb for increased security. You can still see bullet marks from 1857 on the gate.

Walk through the Chatta Chowk (Covered Bazaar), which once sold silks and jewellery to the nobility; beyond it lies Naubat Khana **2**, a russet-red building, also known as Hathi Pol (Elephant Gate) because visitors used to dismount from their elephants or horses here as a sign of respect. From here it's straight on to the Diwan-i-Am **3**, the Hall of Public Audiences. Behind this are the private palaces, the Khas Mahal **4** and the Diwan-i-Khas **5**. Entry to this Hall of Private Audiences, the fort's most expensive building, was only permitted to the highest official of state. Nearby is the Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque) **6** and south is the Mumtaz Mahal **7**, housing the Museum of Archaeology, or you can head north, where the Red Fort gardens are dotted by palatial pavilions and old British barracks. Here you'll find the *baoli* **8**, a spookily deserted water tank. Another five minutes' walk – across a road, then a railway bridge – brings you to the island fortress of Salimgarh **9**.

TOP TIPS

» **To avoid crowds**, get here early or late in the day; avoid weekends and public holidays.

» **An atmospheric way** to see the Red Fort is by night; you can visit after dark if you attend the nightly Sound-&-Light Show.

ARBAIGAL HOLE



Salimgarh

Salimgarh is the 16th-century fort built by Salim Shah Sur. It was constructed on an island of the Yamuna River and only recently opened to the public. It is still partly used by the Indian army.



Lahore Gate

Lahore Gate is particularly significant, as it was here that Jawaharlal raised the first tricolour flag of independent India in 1947.

Naubat Khana

The Naubat Khana (Drum House) is carved in floral designs and featured musicians playing in the upper gallery. It housed Hathi Pol (Elephant Gate), where visitors dismounted from their horse or elephant.



ARBAIGAL HOLE



ARBAIGAL HOLE

Baoli

The Red Fort step well is seldom visited and is a hauntingly deserted place, even more so when you consider its chambers were used as cells by the British from August 1942.

**Moti Masjid**

The Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque) was built by Aurangzeb in 1662 for his personal use. The domes were originally covered in copper, but the copper was removed and sold by the British.

Diwan-i-Khas

This was the most expensive building in the fort, consisting of white marble decorated with inlay work of cornelian and other stones. The screens overlooking what was once the river (now the ring road) were filled with coloured glass.

Baidon Pavilion**Zafar Mahal****Hammam****Rang Mahal****Mumtaz Mahal****Delhi Gate****Pit Stop**

To refuel, head to Paratha Gali Wali, a food-stall-lined lane off Chandni Chowk noted for its many varieties of freshly made *paratha* (traditional flat bread).

**Diwan-i-Am**

These red sandstone columns were once covered in shell plaster, as polished and smooth as ivory, and in hot weather heavy red curtains were hung around the columns to block out the sun. It's believed the panels behind the marble throne were created by Florentine jeweller Austin de Bordeaux.

Khas Mahal

Most spectacular in the Emperor's private apartments is a beautiful marble screen at the northern end of the rooms; the 'Scales of Justice' are carved above it, suspended over a crescent, surrounded by stars and clouds.



Two Days

Acclimatise gently at tranquil sites, such as the **National Museum** (p70), **Gandhi Smriti** (p73) and **Humayun's Tomb** (p67). In the evening head to **Hazrat Nizam-ud-din Dargah** (p69) to hear the Sufis sing *qawwalis*.

On day two, ramble around Old Delhi's **Red Fort** (p62), then scoff *jalebis* (fried sweet 'squiggles'), launch into the old city's action-packed **bazaars** (p95) and visit the mighty **Jama Masjid** (p66). Afterwards, grab an autorickshaw south to **Connaught Place** (p75) for a bite to **eat** (p89) and to explore the hassle-free, treasure-trove **government emporiums** (p95).

Four Days

Follow the itinerary above, then on the third day wander around **Qutb Minar** (p102) and **Mehrauli** (p103) before indulging in some quiet meditation at the **Bahai House of Worship** (p75). In the evening, watch the mesmerising **Dances of India** (p94), then kick back at a **bar** (p92).

On day four, wonder at the glories in the laid-back **Crafts Museum** (p70) and nearby **Purana Qila** (p73). Then head to **Hauz Khas** (p77) to wander around the forgotten tank and mausoleum, and browse in its boutiques.

History

Delhi hasn't always been India's capital but, as a gateway city, it has long played a pivotal role. It was built on the plains near a fording point on the Yamuna River, and on the route between western and Central Asia and Southeast Asia. It's believed to be the site of the fabled city of Indraprastha, which featured in the Mahabharata more than 3000 years ago, but historical evidence suggests that the area has been settled for a mere 2500 years.

At least eight known cities have been founded here. The first four cities of Delhi were to the south, around the area where the Qutb Minar now stands. The fifth Delhi, Firozabad, was at Firoz Shah Kotla, while Emperor Sher Shah created the sixth at Purana Qila (both in present-day New Delhi). The Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, constructed the seventh Delhi in the 17th century; his Shahjahanabad roughly corresponds to Old Delhi today. In 1911, the British announced the shifting of their capital from Kolkata (Calcutta) and proceeded to build New Delhi, which was inaugurated in 1931. Only 16 years later, the British were out, and Delhi became the capital of an independent India.

Since Independence, the capital has prospered. The downside of this boom is chronic overcrowding, housing shortages, pollution, traffic congestion, and ever more extreme contrasts between rich and poor.

Sights

Most sights in Delhi are easily accessible via metro. Note that many places are closed on Monday.

OLD DELHI

Medieval-seeming Old Delhi is a crazy hub-bub that bombards the senses. Set aside at least half a day to do this fascinating area justice. All of the following attractions feature on Map p64.

Red Fort (Lal Qila)

FORT

(Indian/foreigner ₹10/250, video ₹25, combined museum ticket ₹5; ☀9am-6pm Tue-Sun; 🚶Chandni Chowk) This massive fort is a sandstone shadow of its former self; but it's the best place in Delhi to imagine the Mughal city's sometime splendour. It dates from the peak of the dynasty's power; a time of unparalleled pomp: of eunuchs, ceremonial elephants, palanquins, and buildings lined with precious stones.

The walls of the fort extend for 2km and vary in height from 18m on the river side to 33m on the city side. Shah Jahan constructed the fort between 1638 and 1648, but never completely moved his capital from Agra to his new city of Shahjahanabad, because he was deposed and imprisoned in Agra Fort by his son Aurangzeb.

Mughal reign from Delhi was short; Aurangzeb was the first and last great Mughal emperor to rule from here. Subsequent rulers, sapped by civil war, were unable to maintain the fort properly, and slums within the walls were thronged with impoverished imperial

descendants. By the 19th century it was already much dilapidated. Following the 1857 First War of Independence, the British cleared all but the most important buildings to make way for ugly barracks and army offices.

The 10m-deep moat, which has been dry since 1857, was originally crossed on creaky wooden drawbridges, replaced with stone bridges in 1811.

Since Independence many landmark political speeches have taken place at the fort, and every year on Independence Day (15 August) it hosts the prime minister's address to the nation.

Lahore Gate

The fort's main gate is so named because it faces towards Lahore, now in Pakistan. The gate is a potent symbol of modern India: during the fight for Independence, there was a nationalist aspiration to see the Indian flag flying over the gate – a dream that became reality in 1947.

You enter the fort through here and immediately find yourself in the vaulted arcade known as the **Chatta Chowk** (Covered Bazaar). The tourist-trap arcade once sold rather more exclusive items to the royal household – silks, jewellery and gold.

The arcade leads to the **Naubat Khana** (Drum House), where musicians used to perform. There's an **Indian War Memorial Museum** upstairs, full of fearsome weaponry and phallic shells.

Diwan-i-Am

In the **Hall of Public Audiences** the emperor would hear disputes from his subjects. Many of the precious stones set above the emperor's throne were looted following the First War of Independence. The hall was restored following a directive by Lord Curzon, the viceroy of India between 1898 and 1905.

Diwan-i-Khas

The white marble **Hall of Private Audiences** was the luxurious chamber where the emperor would hold private meetings. The centrepiece was once the magnificent solid-gold and jewel-studded Peacock Throne, looted from India by Persia's Nadir Shah in 1739. In 1760 the Marathas removed the hall's silver ceiling.

Royal Baths

Next to the Diwan-i-Khas are the hammams (baths) – three large rooms surmounted by domes, with a fountain in the centre – one of which was set up as a sauna. The floors were once inlaid with more pietra dura and the

rooms were illuminated through stained-glass roof panels.

Shahi Burj

This modest, three-storey, octagonal tower to the northeastern edge of the fort was once Shah Jahan's private working area. From here, cooling water, known as the *nahr-i-bihisht* (river of paradise), used to flow south through the Royal Baths, the Diwan-i-Khas, the Khas Mahal and on to the Rang Mahal.

Moti Masjid

The small, enclosed, marble **Pearl Mosque** is next to the baths. Its outer walls are oriented exactly in symmetry with the rest of the fort, while the inner walls are slightly askew, so that the mosque is correctly orientated to Mecca.

Other Features

The **Khas Mahal**, south of the Diwan-i-Khas, was the emperor's private palace. It was divided into rooms for worship, sleeping and living, with carved walls and painted ceilings.

The **Rang Mahal** (Palace of Colour), further south again, took its name from its vividly painted interior, now long gone. This was the residence of the emperor's chief wife and is where he dined. On the floor in the centre there's an exquisitely carved marble lotus; the water flowing along the channel from the Shahi Burj would end up here.

Relics from the Mughal era are displayed at the **Museum of Archaeology** in the **Mumtaz Mahal**, once the women's quarters, still further south along the eastern wall. In one of the British-built barracks there's also the interesting **Museum of India's Struggle for Freedom**, with some dramatic life-size dioramas.

It's worth seeking out the deserted **baoli** (step well). A short walk away is **Salimgarh** (☉10am-5pm) built by Salim Shah Suri in 1546. Few visitors make it over here to see the ruined mosque and broad, much restored walls – it's still partly occupied by the Indian army and was only opened to the public in 2008.

The old walled city of **Shahjahanabad** stretches west from the Red Fort. It was at one time surrounded by a sturdy defensive wall, only fragments of which now exist. The **Kashmiri Gate**, to the north, was the scene of desperate fighting when the British retook Delhi during the 1857 First War of Independence.





Old Delhi

📍 Top Sights

Jama Masjid.....	F4
Red Fort (Lal Qila).....	G3

📍 Sights

1 Ashoka Pillar.....	H6
2 Bird Hospital.....	F3
3 Chhattak Chowk.....	G3
4 Digambara Jain Temple.....	F3
5 Diwan-i-Am.....	G3
6 Diwan-i-Khas.....	G3
7 Fatehpuri Masjid.....	E3
8 Indian War Memorial Museum.....	G3
9 Kashmiri Gate.....	F1
10 Khas Mahal.....	G3
11 Kotla Firoz Shah.....	H6
12 Lahore Gate.....	G3
13 Lakshmi Narayan Temple (Birla Mandir).....	A7
14 Moti Masjid.....	G3
15 Mumtaz Mahal.....	G3
Museum of Archaeology.....	(see 15)
16 Museum of India's Struggle for Freedom.....	G3
17 National Gandhi Museum.....	H6
Naubat Khana.....	(see 8)
18 Nicholson Cemetery.....	E1
19 Raj Ghat.....	H5
20 Rang Mahal.....	G3
21 Red Fort Ticket Kiosk.....	G3
22 Royal Baths.....	G3
23 Salimgarh.....	G2
24 Shahi Burj.....	G3
25 Shankar's International Dolls Museum.....	G7
26 Shanti Vana.....	H4
27 Sunehri Masjid.....	G4

🛏 Sleeping

28 Ginger.....	E5
29 Hotel Bombay Orient.....	F4
30 Hotel Broadway.....	G5
31 Hotel New City Palace.....	F4

32 Maidens Hotel.....	E1
33 Yatri House.....	B5

🍴 Eating

34 Al-Jawahar.....	F4
35 Angan.....	A4
36 Ashok & Ashok.....	C3
37 Bade Mian's.....	E4
38 Bikanerwala.....	E3
Chor Bizarre.....	(see 30)
Ghantewala.....	(see 45)
39 Haldiram's.....	F3
40 Jalebiwala.....	F3
Karim's.....	(see 34)
41 Kuremal Ice Cream Shop.....	E5
42 Moinuddin.....	E4
43 Moti Mahal.....	G5
44 Nathu's.....	F7
45 Paratha Wali Gali.....	F3
46 Roshan di Kulfi.....	A4

🎭 Entertainment

47 Dances of India.....	G6
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🛍 Shopping

48 Chowri Bazaar.....	E4
49 Cloth Market.....	E2
Dariba Kalan.....	(see 40)
50 Daryaganj Book Market.....	G5
51 Delhi Musical Stores.....	F4
52 Karol Bagh Market.....	A4
53 Kinari Bazaar.....	F3
54 Lajpat Rai Market.....	F3
55 Nai Sarak.....	F4
56 New Gramophone House.....	F3
Roopak's.....	(see 52)
57 Spice Market.....	D3

🚗 Transport

58 Inter State Bus Terminal.....	F1
59 Jhandewalan Cycle Market.....	A5
60 Lalli Motorbike Exports.....	A4

Sound-&Light Show

Each evening (except Monday) this one-hour **show** (admission ₹60; 🕒 in English 7.30pm Nov-Jan, 9pm May-Aug, 8.30pm rest of yr) gives Red Fort history the coloured-spotlight and portentous-voice-over treatment. It's great to see the fort by night, though the history lesson is a tad ponderous. Tickets are available from the fort's **ticket kiosk**. Bring mosquito repellent.

🏠 **TOP CHOICE** Jama Masjid

MOSQUE

(camera, video each ₹200; tower ₹100; 🕒 non-Muslims 8am-½hr before sunset, minaret 9am-5.30pm; 📍 Chandni Chowk) India's largest mosque can hold a mind-blowing 25,000 people. Towering over Old Delhi, the 'Friday Mosque' was Shah Jahan's final architectural opus, built between 1644 and 1658. It has three gateways, four angle towers and two minarets standing 40m high, and is con-

structed of alternating vertical strips of red sandstone and white marble. You can enter from gate 1 or 3.

For an extra charge you can climb the narrow southern minaret (notices say that unaccompanied women are not permitted), up 121 steps, for incredible views. From the top of the minaret, you can see one of the features that architect Edwin Lutyens incorporated into his design of New Delhi – the Jama Masjid, Connaught Place and Sansad Bhavan (Parliament House) are in a direct line.

Visitors should remove their shoes at the top of the stairs. There's no charge to enter the mosque, but you'll have to pay the camera charge whether you want to use your camera or not.

Chandni Chowk

AREA

Old Delhi's backbone is the madcap Chandni Chowk or 'moonlight place', a wide avenue thronged by crowds, hawkers and rickshaws. In the time of Shah Jahan, a canal ran down its centre, lined by peepal and neem trees – at night the waters reflected the moon, hence the name. Tiny bazaar-crammed lanes snake off the Broadway like clogged arteries. At the eastern (Red Fort) end of Chandni Chowk, there's the 16th-century **Digambara Jain Temple** (☺5am-noon & 6-9pm) (remove shoes and leather before entering). The fascinating **bird hospital** (donations appreciated; ☺8am-9pm) here was founded in 1939 and is run by the Jains, who believe in the preservation of all life. Only vegetarian birds are admitted, though carnivores are treated as outpatients. The upstairs pigeons' section brings to mind Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

The western end of Chandni Chowk is marked by the mid-17th-century **Fatehpuri Masjid**, named after one of Shah Jahan's wives. It offers a striking tranquility after the craziness of the street. After the 1857 First War of Independence the mosque was sold to a Hindu merchant, who used it as a warehouse, but it was later returned to local Muslims.

There's a CNG shuttle service (small green buses) between Digambara Jain Temple and Fatehpuri Masjid (₹5).

Sunehri Masjid

MOSQUE

South of the Red Fort is the 18th-century Sunehri Masjid. In 1739 Nadir Shah, the Persian invader, stood on its roof and macabrely watched his soldiers conduct a bloody massacre of Delhi's inhabitants.

Raj Ghat

MONUMENT

South of the Red Fort, on the banks of the Yamuna River, a simple square platform of black marble marks the spot where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated following his assassination in 1948. It's inscribed with what are said to have been his final words, 'Hai Ram' (Oh, God), and has a hushed, peaceful atmosphere, set amid tranquil lawns.

Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Indian prime minister, was cremated just to the north, at **Shanti Vana** (Forest of Peace), in 1964. Nehru's daughter, Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1984, and grandsons Sanjay (who died in 1980) and Rajiv (assassinated in 1991) were also cremated in this vicinity.

Nicholson Cemetery

CEMETERY

(9am-5pm) Close to the Kashmiri Gate is this 3-hectare forgotten corner of Delhi. It's named after John Nicholson, who died in 1857 and is buried here amid a sea of British graves that hint at fascinating stories. At the time he was described as the 'Hero of Delhi' but author William Dalrymple calls him an 'imperial psychopath' in *The Last Mughal*. Northwest of here is the British-erected **Mutiny Memorial**, dedicated to the soldiers who died during the First War of Independence. Near the monument is an **Ashoka Pillar**; like the one in Firoz Shah Kotla, it was brought here by Firoz Shah.

FREE National Gandhi Museum

MUSEUM

(☺23311793; ☺9.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sun) Contains photos and some of Gandhi's belongings.

NEW DELHI & AROUND

All of the attractions in this section feature on Map p68.

TOP CHOICE

Humayun's Tomb

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Indian/foreigner ₹10/250, video ₹25; ☺dawn-dusk; 🏟JLN Stadium) This tomb is the city's most sublime sight, and the one the Obamas were taken to visit when they were in Delhi. A beautiful example of early Mughal architecture, this tomb was built in the mid-16th century by Haji Begum, the Persian-born senior wife of the second Mughal emperor Humayun. The tomb brought Persian style to Delhi, but the two-tone combination of red sandstone and white marble is entirely local, showing the complementary merging of the different cultures. Various elements in the design of Humayun's Tomb – a squat building with high arched entrances that let in light, topped by a bulbous dome and



surrounded by 12 hectares of formal gardens – were to be refined in the years that followed to eventually create the magnificence of Agra's Taj Mahal.

Other beautiful tombs dot the complex, including that of the emperor's favourite

barber, as well as one belonging to Haji Begum herself and the tomb of Isa Khan – a fine example of Lodi architecture through a gate to the left of the entrance. The magnificent Mughal gardens are a magical place to wander, particularly towards sunset.



Hazrat Nizam-ud-din Dargah

SACRED SITE

(🕒24hr) Amid a tangle of alleys, and attracting hordes of devotees, is the vibrant marble shrine of the Muslim Sufi saint, Nizam-ud-din Chishti. He died in 1325, aged 92, but

the mausoleum has been revamped several times, and dates from 1562. Other tombs include the later grave of Jahanara (daughter of Shah Jahan), and the renowned Urdu poet, Amir Khusru. It's one of Delhi's most extraordinary pleasures to experience the

New Delhi & Around

📍 Top Sights

Hazrat Nizam-ud-din Dargah	G5
Humayun's Tomb	H4
National Museum	E3

📍 Sights

1 Archaeological Survey of India	E3
2 Bara Gumbad Tomb	E4
3 Crafts Museum	G2
4 Gandhi Smriti	E4
5 Gurdwara Bangla Sahib	D1
6 India Gate	F2
7 Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum	D4
8 Lodi Garden	E5
9 National Gallery of Modern Art	G3
10 National Rail Museum	B5
11 National Zoological Gardens	H3
12 Nehru Memorial Museum	D4
13 Nehru Planetarium	C3
14 Purana Qila	G3
15 Rashtrapati Bhavan	C2
16 Safdarjang's Tomb	D5
17 Sansad Bhavan	D2
18 Secretariat (North Block)	D2
19 Secretariat (South Block)	D2
20 Tibet House	F5

📍 Activities, Courses & Tours

21 Amatrra Spa	C4
22 Delhi Golf Club	G4
23 Hope Project	G5
24 Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga	D1

Parul Puri	(see 30)
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📍 Sleeping

25 Bnineteen	H5
26 Colonel's Retreat	F6
27 Devna	G3
28 Inn at Delhi	A6
29 ITC Maurya	A4
30 K-One One	G5
31 Lutyens Guest House	E5
32 Youth Hostel	C3
33 YWCA Blue Triangle Family Hostel	D1

📍 Eating

34 All American Diner	F5
Amici	(see 44)
35 Andhra Bhawan Pradesh Canteen	F2
Baci	(see 46)
Basil & Thyme	(see 45)
Bukhara	(see 29)
Chicken Inn	(see 40)
36 Dhaba	E4
Eatopia	(see 34)
Gulati	(see 40)
Havemore	(see 40)
Karim's	(see 23)
Khan Chacha	(see 44)
Kitchen	(see 44)
37 Lodi Garden Restaurant	E5
Mamagoto	(see 44)
38 Monsoon	E2

buzz around the site and hear Sufis sing *qawwali* at around sunset, just after evening prayers on Thursdays and feast days.

National Museum

MUSEUM

(📍23019272; www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in; Janpath; Indian ₹10, foreigner incl English, French or German audio guide ₹300, Hindi audio guide ₹150; camera Indian/foreigner ₹20/300; 🕒10am-5pm Tue-Sun; 🚗Central Secretariat) An overview of India's last 5000 years, this is a splendid museum – perfect for a rainy day and not so large that it overwhelms. Exhibits include rare relics from the Harappan Civilisation, including some fascinating mundane items such as tweezers and hairpins from around 2700 BC, Central Asian antiquities including many artefacts from the Silk Route, a mesmerising collection of jewel-bright miniature paintings, exquisite old coins including pure

gold examples from the 1st century, wood-carving, textiles, musical instruments, and Indus jewellery made from shells and bones. Give yourself at least a few hours – preferably half a day – to explore this museum.

You'll need some identification to obtain an audio guide. Video cameras are prohibited.

Next door is the **Archaeological Survey of India** (📍23019108; asi.nic.in; Janpath; 🕒9.30am-1pm & 2-6pm Mon-Fri) which stocks publications about India's main archaeological sites.

FREE Crafts Museum

MUSEUM

(📍23371641; Bhairon Marg; 🕒10am-5pm Tue-Sun; 🚗Pragati Maidan) This is a tree-shaded treasure trove of a museum. The galleries contain more than 20,000 exhibits from around India, including metalware, woodwork, tribal masks, paintings, terracotta figurines and

- 39 Nathu's G3
 40 Pandara Market F3
 Pindi (see 40)
 Sidewok (see 44)
 Sweets Corner (see 39)

☕ Drinking

- 41 24/7 F1
 Barista (see 44)
 Big Chill (see 44)
 Café Coffee Day (see 44)
 Café Oz (see 44)
 Café Turtle (see 44)
 Latitude (see 44)

🎬 Entertainment

- Habitat World (see 34)
 42 India International Centre E4

🛒 Shopping

- Anand Stationers (see 44)
 Anokhi (see 45)
 Anokhi (Branch) (see 44)
 Bahri Sons (see 44)
 43 C Lal & Sons E5
 Fabindia (Branch) (see 44)
 Full Circle Bookstore (see 44)
 Good Earth (see 45)
 Good Earth (see 44)
 44 Khan Market F4
 Mittal Tea House (see 46)
 OCM Suitings (see 44)
 Regalia Tea House (see 46)

- 45 Santushti Shopping Complex C4
 Shyam Ahuja (see 45)
 Silverline (see 44)
 46 Sunder Nagar Market G4

Information

- 47 Australian Embassy C4
 48 Bangladeshi Embassy A4
 49 Bhutan Embassy B5
 50 British Embassy C4
 51 Canadian Embassy B5
 52 Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital C1
 53 Dutch Embassy B5
 54 French Embassy C4
 55 German Embassy B5
 56 Irish Embassy E5
 57 Israeli Embassy E4
 58 Malaysian Embassy B5
 59 Ministry of Home Affairs
 (Foreigners Division) F3
 60 Myanmar (Burma) Embassy B4
 61 Nepalese Embassy F1
 62 New Zealand Embassy B5
 63 Pakistani Embassy C4
 64 Singaporean Embassy B5
 65 Sri Lankan High Commission C3
 66 Swiss Embassy B4
 67 Thai Embassy B5
 68 US Embassy C4

Transport

- 69 Bikaner House F3
 70 Metropole Tourist Service G6

richly coloured textiles. The fascinating items display the application of art to everyday life, from village toys to a huge 18th-century wooden Gujarati *gharokha* (elaborate balcony). Artisans demonstrate their skills and sell their products. The on-site **shop** is particularly good. Photography is only allowed with prior permission.

Lodi Garden

PARK

(Lodi Rd; ☀6am-8pm Oct-Mar, 5am-8pm Apr-Sep; 📍Khan Market) Lodi garden is Delhi's loveliest escape, popular with everyone from power-walking politicians to canoodling couples. The gardens are dotted by the crumbling **tombs** of the Sayyid and Lodi rulers, including the impressive 15th-century **Bara Gumbad**, and inhabited by fluttering butterflies, stalking peacocks and all sorts of birds.

If you want serenity, avoid Sunday.

National Gallery of Modern Art

ART GALLERY

(📍23382835; ngmaindia.gov.in; Jaipur House; Indian/foreigner ₹10/150; ☀10am-5pm Tue-Sun; 📍Khan Market) This gallery has a fantastic new wing alongside the Maharaja of Jaipur's former place. It includes all the great modern Indian masters, such as the fascinating 'Company Paintings', which were provided by local artists to suit their new British patrons, beautiful works by Amrita Sher-Gil and Nobel Prize-winner Rabindranath Tagore (who started painting aged 67), and stunning pieces by FN Souza and MF Husain. Photography isn't allowed.

Rajpath

AREA

Rajpath (Kingsway) is the imposing approach to New Delhi. It hosts the huge Republic Day parade every 26 January and the Beating of the Retreat on 29 January.

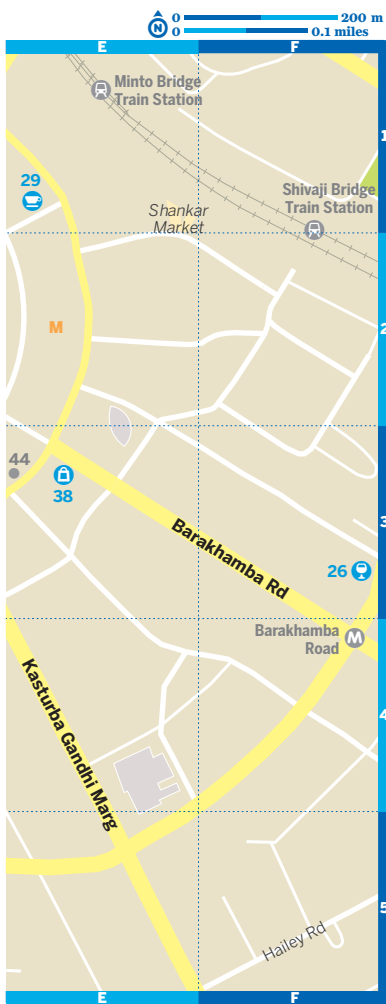


Raj-appointed English architect Edwin Lutyens constructed New Delhi between 1914 and 1931, when the British moved their capital here from Calcutta. His designs were intended to spell out in stone the might of the British empire – but 16 years later, the British were out on their ear. New Delhi became the powerhouse of the new Republic.

At the western end of Rajpath is the official residence of the president of India, the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** (President's House), built in 1929. Pre-Independence, this 340-room palace was the viceroy's residence. At the time of Mountbatten, India's last viceroy,

the number of servants employed here was staggering. There were 418 gardeners alone, 50 of whom were boys employed to chase away birds. To its west, the **Mughal Gardens** occupy 130 hectares; it's only open (admission free; photography prohibited) to the public for several days in February/March – for dates contact India Tourism Delhi.

Rashtrapati Bhavan is flanked by the mirror-image, dome-crowned North and South **Secretariat buildings**, housing government ministries, which have over 1000 rooms between them. The three buildings sit upon a small rise, known as Raisina Hill.



At Rajpath's eastern end is **India Gate**. This 42m-high stone memorial arch, designed by Lutyens, pays tribute to around 90,000 Indian army soldiers who died in WWI, the Northwest Frontier operations of the same time and the 1919 Anglo-Afghan War.

Sansad Bhavan (Parliament House), a circular, colonnaded structure 171m in diameter, stands at the end of Sansad Marg.

Purana Qila

FORT

(Old Fort; ☎24353178; Mathura Rd; Indian/foreigner ₹5/100, video ₹25; ☀dawn-dusk; 🚶Pragati Maidan) With its massive walls and impressive gateways, Purana Qila was built by Af-

ghan ruler Sher Shah during his reign (1538-45), before the emperor Humayun (whom he had previously defeated) regained control of India. The site is thought to be that of ancient Indraprastha

Entering from the south gate you'll see the graceful octagonal, red-sandstone tower, the **Sher Mandal**, later used by Humayun as a library. It was while hurriedly descending the stairs of this tower in 1556 that he slipped and sustained injuries from which he later died. Just beyond it is the 1541 **Qila-i-Kuhran Mosque** (Mosque of Sher Shah), which delicately combines black-and-white marble with the more easily available deep red sandstone.

A popular, picturesque **boating lake** has been created from the former moat, with pedaloes for hire.

FREE Gandhi Smriti

MUSEUM

(☎23012843; 5 Tees January Marg, camera free, video prohibited; ☀10am-1.30pm & 2-5pm Tue-Sun, closed every 2nd Sat of month; 🚶Racecourse) This poignant memorial is where Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead by a Hindu zealot on 30 January 1948. Concrete footsteps represent Gandhi's final steps and lead to the spot where he died, marked by a small pavilion known as the Martyr's Column.

The impressive indoor museum has photographs, paintings and dioramas depicting scenes from Gandhi's life, including some whizz-bang interactive exhibits.

Gandhi had been staying in the house as a guest, and spent the last 144 days of his life here. In the room he occupied, his meagre possessions are on display, such as his walking stick, spectacles, spinning wheel and chappals (sandals).

Gurdwara Bangla Sahib

SIKH TEMPLE

(Ashoka Rd; ☀4am-9pm; 🚶Shivaji Stadium) The Gurdwara Bangla Sahib is an important Sikh shrine and a constant hive of activity. Topped with gold onion domes, it was constructed at the site where the eighth Sikh guru, Harkrishan Dev, spent several months in 1664. This guru dedicated most of his time to helping the destitute and sick and was revered for his healing powers. At the back of the gurdwara (Sikh temple) is a huge tank, surrounded by a graceful colonnade. The water is said to have curative properties. Devotional songs are sung throughout the day.

Safdarjang's Tomb

HISTORIC BUILDING

(Aurobindo Marg; Indian/foreigner ₹5/100, video ₹25; ☀dawn-dusk; 🚶Jor Bagh) Built by the

Connaught Place

Sights

- 1 Jantar Mantar C5

Activities, Courses & Tours

- 2 Delhi Tourism & Transport
Development Corporation
(Branch) B3

Sleeping

- 3 Corus C2
4 Hotel Alka B2
5 Hotel Palace Heights D2
6 Imperial C5
Prem Sagar Guest House (see 4)
7 Radisson Marina C1
8 Ringo Guest House D4
9 Sunny Guest House D3
10 Park B4
11 York Hotel D1

Eating

- 12 Embassy D2
Haldiram's (see 29)
13 Kake-da-Hotel D1
14 Kerala House B5
Kwality (see 39)
Nirula's (see 25)
15 Nizam's Kathi Kabab D1
16 Rajdhani B3
17 Sagar Ratna D1
18 Saravana Bhavan D5
Saravana Bhavan (Branch) (see 4)
19 Tao D2
20 Chinese D3
21 United Coffee House D2
22 Veda C1
23 Wenger's C2
Zaffran (see 5)
24 Zen D1

Drinking

- 25 @live D1

- 1911 (see 6)
26 24/7 F3
27 Pind Balluchi C3
Aqua (see 10)
Bonsai (see 3)
28 Café Coffee Day D3
Cha Bar (see 38)
29 Costa E1
30 Indian Coffee House B3
Q'BA (see 21)
31 Blues D3
32 Rodeo C2

Entertainment

- Attic (see 39)
33 PVR Plaza Cinema D1

Shopping

- 34 Central Cottage Industries
Emporium D5
Fabindia (Branch) (see 24)
35 Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan C3
M Ram & Sons (see 21)
36 Marques & Co C2
37 Nalli Silk Sarees B2
38 Oxford Bookstore (Statesman
House) E3
39 People Tree C3
Shop (see 39)
40 Soma D1
41 State Emporiums A3

Information

- 42 India Tourism Delhi
(Government of India) D4

Transport

- 43 Jagson Airlines D5
44 Kingfisher Airlines E3
Kumar Tourist Taxi Service (see 11)
Prepaid Autorickshaw Booth (see 42)
45 Prepaid Autorickshaw Booth C2

Nawab of Avadh for his father, Safdarjang, this grandiose mid-18th-century tomb is one of the last examples of Mughal architecture. It's a fantastical work of overwrought mannerism, which seems reflect the final throes of the great empire.

Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum

MUSEUM

(📍23010094; 1 Safdarjang Rd; 🕒9.30am-4.45pm
Tue-Sun; 🚗Racecourse) The former residence
of Indira Gandhi is now a fascinating mu-

seum, displaying artefacts, photos and newspaper clippings, as well as personal belongings, including the blood-stained sari she was wearing when she was assassinated in 1984. Some of the rooms are preserved as they were, an interesting window into the understated elegance of her life. Another section is devoted to her son Rajiv, also assassinated in 1991 by a suicide bomber. Fragments of the clothes he was wearing and, even more poignantly, his trainers, are

on display. On the way out, you'll pass an enclosed crystal pathway that marks Gandhi's final footsteps before her murder.

FREE **Nehru Memorial Museum & Planetarium** MUSEUM

(📍23016734; 🕒9am-5.15pm Tue-Sun) Teen Murti Bhavan is the former residence of Jawaharlal Nehru (India's first prime minister), and was previously Flagstaff House, home to the British commander-in-chief. Just off Teen Murti Rd, it has been converted into a must-see museum for those interested in the Independence movement. Some rooms have been preserved as Nehru left them, and there's a wealth of photographs, though some contextualisation would come in handy.

In the grounds is a recently renovated **planetarium** (📍23014504; <http://nehruplanetarium.org>; 45min show ₹50; 🕒in English 11.30am & 3pm).

Tibet House MUSEUM

(📍24611515; 1 Lodi Rd; admission ₹10; 🕒9.30am-1pm & 2-5.30pm Mon-Fri; 🚶JLN Stadium) Tibet House has a small museum displaying ceremonial items, including sacred manuscripts, sculptures and old *thangkas* (Tibetan paintings on cloth). All were brought out of Tibet when the Dalai Lama fled following Chinese occupation. Photography prohibited.

The **bookshop** sells Buddhist books, chanting CDs, prayer flags and *katas* (sacred Tibetan scarves).

National Zoological Gardens ZOO

(📍24359825; Mathura Rd; Indian/foreigner ₹10/50, video ₹50; 🕒9am-5pm Sat-Thu; 🚶Pragati Maidan) Wildly popular with families and couples, this is India's biggest zoo, set in 86 hectares. There are white Bengal tigers, Himalayan black bears, rhinos, wolves, elephants and some spectacular birds.

CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA

New Delhi's colonnaded heart is commercial centre Connaught Place (CP; Map p72), named after George V's uncle who visited in 1921. Its streets radiate from the central circle, divided into blocks and devoted to shops, banks, restaurants, hotels and offices.

Often creating confusion, the outer circle is technically called Connaught Circus (divided into blocks from G to N) and the inner circle Connaught Place (divided into blocks from A to F). There's also a Middle Circle. In 1995 the inner and outer circles were re-

named Rajiv Chowk and Indira Chowk respectively, but these names are rarely used.

Touts are especially rampant in Connaught Place.

Jantar Mantar HISTORIC SITE

(Map p72; Sansad Marg; Indian/foreigner ₹5/100; 🕒9am-dusk; 🚶Patel Chowk) The most eccentric of all Delhi's inner-city structures, Jantar Mantar is an odd collection of huge curved terracotta buildings, a giant playground which makes for great photo opps. 'Jantar Mantar' may mean the equivalent to 'abracadabra' in Hindi, but the site was constructed in 1725 for scientific purposes – it's the earliest of Maharaja Jai Singh II's five observatories. It's dominated by a huge sundial and houses other instruments plotting the course of heavenly bodies.

OTHER AREAS

Bahai House of Worship

(Lotus Temple) TEMPLE

(Map p78; 📍26444029; Kalkaji; 🕒9.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sun; 🚶Kalkaji Mandir) This extraordinary temple is shaped like the sacred lotus flower and is a wonderful place to seek some otherworldly peace. Designed by Iranian-Canadian architect Fariburz Sahba in 1986, it has 27 immaculate white-marble petals. The Bahai philosophy revolves around universal peace and the elimination of prejudice, and adherents of all faiths are welcome to pray or meditate silently according to their own religion.

Refrain from speaking in the temple; photography inside is prohibited.

Akshardham Temple TEMPLE

(www.akshardham.com; Noida turning, National Hwy 24; 🕒9am-6pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar, 10am-7pm Tue-Sun Apr-Sep; 🚶Akshardham) The Hindu Swaminarayan Group's controversially ostentatious Akshardham Temple, on Delhi's outskirts, has something of a Disney feel. Inaugurated in 2005, it's made of salmon-coloured sandstone with an interior carved from white marble in giddy detail. It contains around 20,000 carved deities, and reflects traditional Orissan, Gujarati, Mughal and Rajasthani architectural elements. Outside there are 148 carved elephants, each different.

Allow at least half a day to do it justice (weekdays are less crowded) as there's lots to see, including a boat ride through 10,000 years of Indian history, elaborate animatronics telling stories of the life of Swaminarayan, and musical fountains.



Paharganj

Activities, Courses & Tours

Salaam Baalak Trust (see 8)

Sleeping

- 1 Ajay Guest Hosue B2
- 2 Cottage Ganga Inn B2
- 3 Cottage Yes Please A2
- 4 Hare Krishna Guest House B2
- 5 Hare Rama Guest House B2
- 6 Hotel Amax Inn C1
- 7 Hotel Grand Godwin C1
- 8 Hotel Namaskar B2
- 9 Hotel Rak International B2
- 10 Major's Den B2
- 11 Metropolis Tourist Home A2
- 12 Roxy Hotel A2
- Vivek Hotel (see 17)

Eating

- 13 Khosla Café A2
- 14 Kitchen Café B2
- 15 Madan Café A2
- 16 Malhotra A2
- Metropolis Restaurant & Bar (see 11)
- 17 Sam's Café B2
- 18 Sita Ram Dewan Chand A2
- 19 Tadka B2

Drinking

- 20 Gem C2
- Metropolis Restaurant & Bar (see 11)
- 21 My Bar A3
- 22 Open Hand Café A2

Transport

- 23 International Tourist Bureau D2

Lakshmi Narayan Temple (Birla Mandir)

TEMPLE

(Map p64; Mandir Marg; ☉6am-9pm; RK Ashram Marg) West of Connaught Place, the Orissan-style Lakshmi Narayan Temple, a rather overexerted red-and-cream confection, was erected in 1938 by the wealthy industrialist BD Birla. It was inaugurated by Gandhi as a

temple for all castes; a sign on the gate says, 'Everyone is Welcome.'

National Rail Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p68; ☎26881816; www.nationalrailmuseum.org; Chanakyapuri; admission adult/child ₹20/10, video ₹100; ☀9.30am-5pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar, to 7pm Apr-Sep) Trainspotters and kids will adore this museum, with around 30 locomotives and old

carriages. Exhibits include an 1855 steam engine, still in working order, and various oddities including the skull of an elephant that charged a train in 1894, and lost.

There's also the 10-minute **JoyTrain** ride (adult/child ₹10/5), and **boating** is also possible (adult/child ₹30/15).

Hauz Khas

AREA

Hauz Khas means 'royal tank', named after a 13th-century reservoir built by Allauddin Khilji. The artificial lake was once the water source for Siri Fort – the second city of Delhi – and now is a beautiful blue-green expanse that feels forgotten by the modern city. Overlooking it are Firoz Shah's 14th-century domed madrasa (religious school) and his **tomb** (Map p78), which were once covered in brilliantly painted white plaster and topped by gold domes. Some Lodi and Tughlak tombs also dot the area, which whirls with grass-green parakeets and other birds. This is a fascinating, secluded place to explore, and neighbouring **Hauz Khas village** (Map p78) is one of Delhi's artiest enclaves, filled with upmarket boutiques, quirky bars and curio shops.

Shankar's International Dolls Museum

MUSEUM

(Map p64; ☎23216970; www.childrensbooktrust.com; Nehru House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg; adult/child ₹15/5; ☀10am-5.30pm Tue-Sun) From Spanish bullfighting figurines to Indian bridal dolls, this remarkable museum has 6500 dolls from 85 countries.

Coronation Durbar Site

HISTORIC SITE

In a desolate field, north of Old Delhi, stands a lone obelisk. Here, in 1877 and 1903, the great durbars, featuring Indian nobility, paid homage to the British monarch. In 1911, King George V was declared emperor of India here.

Kotla Firoz Shah

HISTORIC SITE

(Map p64; Indian/foreigner ₹5/100, video ₹25; ☀dawn-dusk; 📍Pragati Maidan) Firozabad (the fifth city of Delhi) was built by Firoz Shah in 1354. Its ruins, including a mosque and step well, can be found at Kotla Firoz Shah, off Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg. Visit on a Thursday afternoon when crowds come to pray, light candles and leave bowls of milk to appease Delhi's djinns (invisible spirits or genies) that are reputed to inhabit the kotla. In the fortress/palace is a 13m-high sandstone **Ashoka Pillar** inscribed with Ashoka's edicts (and a later inscription).

Sulabh International Museum of Toilets

MUSEUM

(☎25031518; www.sulabhtoiletmuseum.org; Sulabh Complex, Mahavir Enclave, Palam Dabri Rd; admission free; ☀10am-5pm Mon-Sat) This quirky museum houses toilet-related paraphernalia dating from 2500 BC to modern times. It's not just a curiosity: Sulabh International has done extraordinary work in the field of sanitation, developing pour-flush toilets and bio-gas plants, and educating the children of 'manual scavengers' (whose job is to remove the crap from dry toilets) for other work. A guided tour (free) brings the loos to life.



Activities

TOP CHOICE Amatra Spa

SPA

(Map p68; ☎24122921; www.amatraspa.com; Ashok Hotel, Chanakyapuri; ☀9am-10pm; 🏊Racecourse) The most legendarily luxurious of all Delhi's luxury spas, Amatra is the A-list place to be pampered. There's a cover charge of ₹1000 for nonguests; massages, such as 'Asian Blend', cost from ₹3000, and there are many other treatments, like 'Sparkle Body Scrub' (₹3500).

Delhi Golf Club

GOLFING

(Map p68; ☎24307100; www.delhigolfclub.org; Dr Zakir Hussain Marg; weekdays/weekends US\$50/70; ☀sunrise-sunset; 📍Jor Bagh) Dates from 1931 and has beautiful, well-tended fairways; weekends are busy.

Kerala Ayurveda

AYURVEDA

(Map p78; ☎41754888; www.keralaayurveda.biz; E-2 Green Park Extn; ☀8am-8pm; 📍Green Park) For *abhyangam* (oil treatment; ₹1200 for 45 minutes), plus other Ayurvedic therapies, try this place.

Lambency Spa

SPA

(Map p78; ☎40587983; www.chandansparsh.com; M-24 Greater Kailash II; ☀9am-9pm) Here you can have a top-of-the-range manicure and pedicure (₹1000) or one-hour body massage (from ₹1000). Prices don't include tax.

Jaypee Vasant Continental Hotel

SWIMMING

(Map p78; ☎26148800; Basant Lok complex, Vasant Vihar; per person ₹1202) Escape the summer heat at this five-star hotel pool.

Siri Fort Sports Complex

SWIMMING

(Map p78; ☎26496657; day membership Indian/foreigner ₹40/100; ☀Apr-Sep; 📍Green Park) Olympic-sized swimming pool plus a toddler pool.



Courses

Tannie Baig

COOKING

(☎9899555704; baig.murad@gmail.com; 2hr lesson ₹3200; 🚇Hauz Khas) The elegant Tannie, who runs Treetops Guest House in Hauz Khas has written 16 cookery books. A two-hour cooking lesson sounds pricey, but it's a flat rate for up to five people. If you stay at the guesthouse, lessons are half price.

Parul Puri

COOKING

(Map p68; ☎9810793322; www.koneone.com; 🚇Jangpura) K-One One (p85) runs two-hour classes with a focus on cuisine from

North India regions. The charge is ₹1200 per person; book at least two days in advance.

Central Hindi Directorate

LANGUAGE

(☎26103160; hindinideshalaya.nic.in; West Block VII, RK Puram; 60hr course ₹6000) Runs basic Hindi courses (minimum numbers apply) of 60 hours (two hours daily, three lessons per week).

Dhyan Foundation

MEDITATION, YOGA

(☎26253374; www.dhyanfoundation.com) Various yoga and meditation options based in South Extension II.



Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga

MEDITATION, YOGA
(Map p68; ☎23721472; www.yogamdniy.com; 68 Ashoka Rd; 🚶Patel Chowk) Offers one-year diploma courses that include pranayama and hatha yoga as well as meditation.

Sri Aurobindo Ashram MEDITATION, YOGA
(☎26858563; Aurobindo Marg; classes per month ₹500) Yoga and meditation, morning, afternoon and evening, three days a week.

Studio Abhyas MEDITATION, YOGA
(☎26962757, bookings Monica 9810522624; F-27 Green Park) Yoga classes combining *asanas* (fixed body positions) and pranayama,

meditation classes, and Vedic chanting classes (evenings or by appointment).

Tushita Meditation Centre MEDITATION
(☎26513400; 9 Padmini Enclave, Hauz Khas) Tibetan/Buddhist meditation sessions on Monday and Fridays at 6.30pm. Donations are appreciated.

👉 Tours

Delhi is a spread-out city so taking a tour makes sense, although you can feel rushed at some sites. Avoid Monday when many sites are shut. Admission fees and camera/video charges aren't included in tour prices

South Delhi

Sights

- 1 Bahai House of Worship (Lotus Temple) H2
- 2 Firoz Shah's Tomb C2
- 3 Garden of 5 Senses C5
- 4 Mehrauli Archaeological Park C5
- 5 Qutb Minar Complex C5
- 6 Tughlaqabad H5

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Jaypee Vasant Continental Hotel (see 24)
- 7 Kerala Ayurveda D2
 - Lambency Spa (see 20)
 - 8 Siri Fort Sports Complex E2
 - 9 Sri Aurobindo Ashram D3
 - 10 Studio Abhyas C2
 - 11 Tushita Meditation Centre D3

Sleeping

- 12 Amarya Haveli D3
- 13 Amarya Villa C1
- 14 Chhoti Haveli A5
- 15 Home Away From Home D2
- 16 The Manor H1
- 17 Treetops D3

Eating

- 18 Arabian Nites A2
- Diva (see 20)
- 19 Evergreen D2
- Gunpowder (see 27)
- Indian Accent (see 16)
- Moti Mahal (see 29)
- 20 Not Just Parathas F5
- 21 Olive B5
- Punjabi by Nature (see 18)
- Sagar Ratna (see 22)
- Smokehouse Grill (see 20)
- 22 Swagath F1
- Zaffran (see 30)

Drinking

- Café Turtle (Branch) (see 30)
- Haze (see 24)
- Kunzum Travel Café (see 27)
- Love Hotel (see 25)
- Red Monkey (see 22)
- Shalom (see 30)
- 23 Shalom A2
 - TLR (see 27)
 - Urban Pind (see 30)

Entertainment

- 24 PVR Priya Cinema A2
- 25 PVR Saket (Anupam 4) D5

Shopping

- Anokhi (Branch) (see 30)
- Defence Colony Market (see 22)
- 26 Dilli Haat D1
 - Fabindia (see 30)
 - Full Circle Bookshop (see 30)
 - 27 Hauz Khas Village C2
 - 28 Lajpat Nagar Central Market G1
 - 29 M-Block Market F3
 - Nalli Silk Sarees (see 20)
 - 30 N-Block Market F2
 - 31 Sarojini Nagar Market C1
 - 32 Timeless F1



Information

- 33 All India Institute of Medical Sciences D1
- 34 Central Hindi Directorate B1
- 35 Concern India Foundation G1
- 36 East West Medical Centre F2
- 37 Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO) C1
- 38 Maldives High Commission A1

below, and rates are per person. Book several days in advance as minimum numbers may be required. India Tourism Delhi (p98) can arrange multilingual, government-approved guides (from ₹150/300 per half-/full day).

 **DelhiByCycle** CYCLING
 (☎9811723720; www.delhibycycle.com; ₹1250; ☀6.45-10am) Run by Jack Leenaars, a journalist from the Netherlands, this is a fantastic way to see Delhi. There's the Shah Jahan Tour around the back lanes and bazaars of Old Delhi, and the Raj Tour around

New Delhi. Tours start early to avoid the traffic and the price includes chai and a Mughal breakfast.

 **Salaam Balaak Trust** WALKING
 (Map p76; ☎23584164, 9910099348; www.salaambalaktrust.com; Gali Chandiwali, Paharganj; suggested donation ₹200;  RK Ashram Marg) This charitable organisation offers two-hour 'street walks' with a twist – your guide is a former (Trust-trained) street child, who will show you first-hand what life is like for inner-city homeless kids. The

money goes to the Trust to assist children on the streets.



Hope Project

WALKING

(Map p68; ☎24353006; www.hopeprojectindia.org; 127 Hazrat Nizamuddin; 90min walk ₹150) Ninety-minute walks around the basti (slum) of Nizamuddin, which surrounds the Dargah, learning about the area. It's a poverty-stricken place, so can be shocking as well as insightful. The walk fee goes towards supporting the Hope Project's work. Wear modest clothing as this is a very traditional area.

Delhi Tourism & Transport

Development Corporation

BUS TOURS

(DTTDC; delhitourism.nic.in) Baba Kharak Singh Marg (Map p72; ☎23363607; ☀7am-9pm); international airport (☎25675609; ☀8am-9pm) Bus tours (₹310 AC) of New Delhi (9am to 2pm) and Old Delhi (2.15pm to 5.15pm). Also runs the new air-conditioned **Hop-on, Hop-off (HOHO) Bus Service** (☎1280; ₹300; ☀every 30 min, 7.30am-8pm Tue-Sun), which passes by all Delhi's major sights. Same-day trips to Agra (₹1100 AC) run three times a week while three-day tours of Agra and Jaipur (₹6350, via rail) operate twice weekly.

Old Delhi Walks

WALKING

(Intach; ☎24641304; www.intachdelhichapter.org; tour ₹50) Intach runs a walking tour (approximately two hours) every month with an expert guide, exploring different areas, such as Chandhi Chowk, Nizamuddin, Hauz Khas, and Mehrauli. Customised tours are also possible. Book ahead.

Sleeping

It's wise to book in advance, as Delhi's most salubrious places can fill up in a flash, leaving new arrivals easy prey for commission sharks. Most hotels offer pick-up from the airport with advance notice.

Be warned that street din can be diabolical – request a quiet room and keep earplugs handy. Also, room quality in less expensive hotels can vary radically so try to inspect a few rooms first. Delhi's budget bunch tend to offer dreary rooms, bathrooms in need of a good scrub and patchy service. Most backpackers head for hyperactive Paharganj, a touristy pocket near the New Delhi train station that has some of the city's cheapest beds.

Midrange prices have rocketed upwards over recent years, so homestays are becoming an attractive alternative. For details of government-approved places contact India

Tourism Delhi, or check www.incredibleindianhomes.com and www.mahindrahomestays.com.

Long-term stayers could consider renting a furnished apartment – check ads in the latest *Delhi City Guide*, *Delhi Diary* and local newspapers. Two good websites are www.speciality-apartments.com and www.delhiescape.net.

Hotels with a minimum tariff of ₹1000 charge 12.5% luxury tax and some also whack on a service charge (5% to 10%). Taxes aren't included in this chapter unless indicated and all rooms have private bathrooms unless otherwise stated. Most hotels have a noon checkout and luggage storage is usually possible (sometimes for a small charge).

It's a good idea to call or email ahead to confirm your booking 24 hours before you arrive.

NORTH DELHI

OLD DELHI

Few foreign tourists stay in teeming Old Delhi – those who do will probably attract a bit of innocuous attention.

Maidens Hotel

HOTEL \$\$\$

(Map p64; ☎23975464; www.maidenshotel.com; Sham Nath Marg; r from ₹15,000; ☎@☎; M Civil Lines) Set in a 3.2-hectare garden, Maidens is a graceful wedding cake of a hotel, built in 1903. Lutyens stayed here while supervising the building of New Delhi. The high-ceilinged rooms are traditional and well equipped, and some have good views.

Hotel Bombay Orient

HOTEL \$

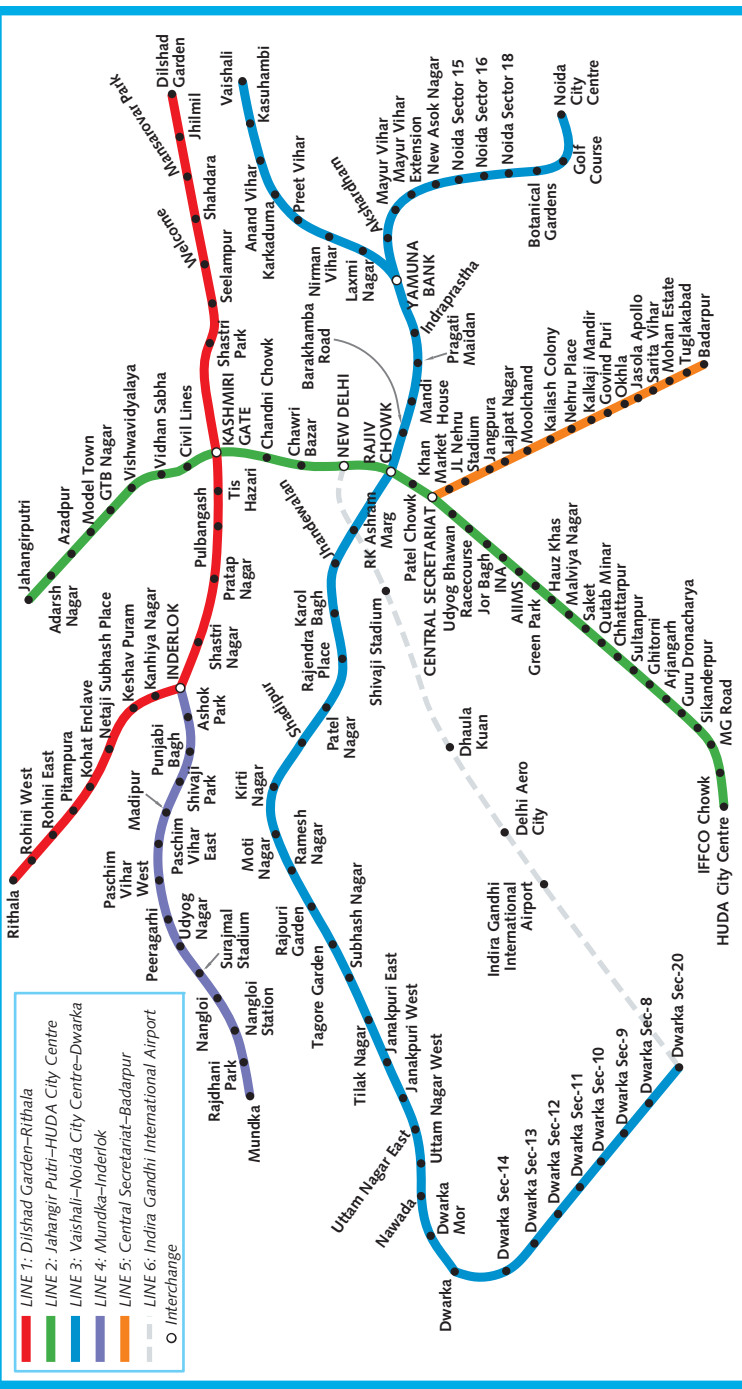
(Map p64; ☎23242691; s/d ₹400/625; ☎; M Chawri Bazaar) Set on the busy bazaar leading from the Jama Masjid's south gate. You'll need to book ahead here. It's one of the old city's best budget bets but, even so, don't expect too much and request one of its newer rooms.

Hotel Broadway

HOTEL \$\$

(Map p64; ☎43663600; www.hotelbroadwaydelhi.com/; 4/15 Asaf Ali Rd; s/d incl breakfast ₹2495/4495; ☎@; M New Delhi) Semiluxurious Broadway, between the old and new cities, has some rooms with views over Old Delhi. Room standards vary (some are sleek and smart), so look at a few. Nos 44 and 46 have been kitschily kitted out by French designer Catherine Lévy, as has the Chor Bizarre restaurant, and there's the atmospheric, if divey, 'Thugs' bar upstairs.

Delhi Metro Map



Hotel New City Palace

HOTEL \$

(Map p64; ☎23279548; www.hotelnewcitypalace.in; d ₹400-500, tr ₹600, q ₹700-1300; ☎; 🍷Chawri Bazaar) A palace it's not, but this has an amazing location overlooking the Jama Masjid (some rooms have views over the mosque), snug rooms, bathrooms that could do with a good scrub but are bearable, and friendly reception.

Ginger

HOTEL \$\$

(Map p64; ☎1800 209 3333; www.gingerhotels.com; Rail Yatri Niwas; r incl tax ₹1300; ☎; 🍷New Delhi) Offers reasonably smart rooms that are ideal for business travel on the cheap. It is in an ugly building in a desolate-feeling location that's nevertheless a few minutes' walk from New Delhi train station. There's a 24-hour restaurant.

PAHARGANJ AREA

With its bumper-to-bumper budget lodgings, Paharganj – with its seedy reputation for drugs and dodgy characters – isn't everyone's cup of *chai*, though it's certainly got a lively feel. Grot aside, it's walking distance from New Delhi train station and close to the hub of Connaught Place – and it's *the* place to tap into the backpacker grapevine. Paharganj has some of Delhi's cheapest places to sleep, but sun-starved, grimy cells are depressingly common, and hot water erratic.

Despite drastic street-widening measures that forced many businesses to destroy their encroaching facades in preparation for the Commonwealth Games, Main Bazaar remains overwhelmingly congested. Thus, taxi-wallahs may (understandably) refuse to drop you at your hotel's doorstep; however, most are a short walk from the train station. All the following are close to metro stop RK Ashram Marg unless otherwise stated. Note this stop is more convenient for the Main Bazaar than metro stop New Delhi, as from the latter you have to walk all the way through the busy station. The following accommodation features on Map p76.

**Cottage Yes Please**

HOTEL \$

(☎23562300; cottageyesplease@yahoo.co.in; 1843 Laxmi Narayan St; d ₹900; ☎; 🍷) Around the corner from Cottage Crown Plaza is this place, its sibling, and one of the best deals in Paharganj, with a range of glitzy, clean rooms, with TVs, fridges, brassware fans and stained glass windows.

Hotel Grand Godwin

HOTEL \$\$

(☎23546891; www.godwinhotels.com; 8502/41 Arakashan Rd, Ram Nagar; s/d incl breakfast ₹2300/2600; ☎; 🍷; 🍷New Delhi) Located

north of Main Bazaar in Ram Nagar, the Grand Godwin is the best midrange choice in this area, with smart rooms, a snazzy lobby, glass-capsule lift and room service. Godwin Deluxe at number 15 is a more upmarket hotel, owned by the same management.

Hotel Amax Inn

HOTEL \$

(☎23543813; www.hotelamax.com; 8145/6 Arakashan Rd; s ₹400-450, d ₹550-750, AC s ₹650, d ₹750-850; ☎; 🍷; 🍷New Delhi) Away from the main bazaar, this chilled place is fantastic value, with nice clean rooms and bathrooms, tucked away in a lane off Arakashan Rd. There's a small roof terrace and wi-fi in reception.

Hotel Namaskar

GUESTHOUSE \$

(☎23583456; www.hotelnamaskar.com; 917 Chandiwalan, Main Bazaar; d/tr/q from ₹350/500/600, AC d ₹600; ☎; 🍷) This old favourite is run by two amiable brothers. Rooms are spartan – you get what you pay for, but they're usually freshly painted and the colour scheme is bound to tickle you pink. Car hire can be arranged, and wi-fi is available courtesy of the net cafe next door (₹100 per 24 hours).

Cottage Ganga Inn

HOTEL \$\$

(☎23561516; cottagegangainn@yahoo.co.in; 1562 Bazar Sangtra shan; s/d ₹800/1100; ☎; 🍷; 🍷) Popular with overlanders, this hotel is tucked away off the Main Bazaar in a courtyard, located next to a nursery school. It is clean, comfortable and a great deal for Paharganj.

Ajay Guest House

GUESTHOUSE \$\$

(☎23583125; www.anupamhoteliersltd.com; 5084 Main Bazaar; s/d ₹900/1000; ☎; 🍷) Ajay is more promising than it appears from its hallways. Fresh coats of paint mean rooms look bright and snazzy, and some have colourful geometric detailing. Bathrooms are clean and colourfully tiled.

Hotel Rak International

HOTEL \$

(☎23562478; hotelerakint@yahoo.co.in; Tooti Chowk, Main Bazaar; s/d ₹450-750, ₹550-850; ☎) Tucked off the main bazaar and overlooking a messy little courtyard with a temple, the modest rooms at this popular hotel have marble floors, TVs, wardrobes, small dressing tables and...windows!

Vivek Hotel

HOTEL \$

(☎46470555; www.vivekhotel.com; Main Bazaar; r ₹600-1000; ☎; 🍷) This multistorey favourite has a good range of rooms – cheaper ones are reasonable and clean and the more expensive even have a small window with a view.

Metropolis Tourist Home HOTEL \$\$
 (☎23561794; www.metropolistravels.com; 1634 Main Bazaar; s/d incl tax from ₹1000/1250; 🏠📞) Rooms (some with tight balconies) here are simple and characterless but come with smooth tiled floors, TVs and fridges. The rooftop restaurant is an added bonus.

Major's Den GUESTHOUSE \$
 (☎23589010; s/d ₹500/600; 🏠) In a quietish sidestreet, the friendly Den has no-frills, bearably clean rooms, with cleanish walls; not all have windows.

Hare Krishna Guest House GUESTHOUSE \$
 (☎41541341; 1572 Main Bazaar; r from ₹300) Scuffed but bearable rooms.

Hare Rama Guest House GUESTHOUSE \$
 (☎23561301; Main Bazaar; s/d from ₹300/400; 🏠) Grotty but bearable rooms, tucked in behind the bazaar.

MAJNU-KA-TILLA

The antidote for anyone who's got the big-city blues, this mellow enclave (aka Tibetan Colony), a block intercut by narrow lanes, is a long way from the centre, but good for a little Lhasa vibe. It's packed with travel agents, cyber cafes and trinket markets, and you'll rub shoulders with maroon-clad Buddhist monks, curio vendors, local residents and rather a lot of beggars. It's tricky to find though, north of the ISBT (bus station), and its rubbish problem makes Paharganj look tidy. From the centre, take the metro to Vidhan Sabha, then take a rickshaw.

Wongdhen House GUESTHOUSE \$
 (☎23816689; wongdhenhouse@hotmail.com; ₹575, without bathroom ₹375; 🏠) The pick of the Majnu-ka-Tilla bunch has basic but good-sized, clean rooms. The rooftop has views over the Yamuna and the tasty restaurant rustles up everything from banana pancakes to Tibetan noodles (and does room service).

NEW DELHI & AROUND

CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA

CP properties are unbeatably central, but you pay a premium for the location. These listings feature on Map p72 and are close to metro stop Rajiv Chowk.

TOP CHOICE Imperial HOTEL \$\$\$
 (☎23341234; www.theimperialindia.com; Janpath; s/d ₹15,000/17,500; 🏠📞🍷) The inimitable, Raj-era Imperial marries Victorian colonial classicism with gilded art deco, houses an impressive collection of 17th- and 18th-century paintings, and has hosted ev-

eryone from princesses to pop stars. The high-ceilinged rooms have it all, from French linen and puffy pillows to marble baths and finely crafted furniture. There's a great bar, **1911**, which is perfect for high tea.

Radisson Marina HOTEL \$\$\$
 (☎43582610; www.hotelpalaceheights.com; 26-28 D-Block; s/d ₹6500/7000; 🏠📞🍷) CP's flashiest hotel, the Radisson's update of the old Hotel Marina is nice, with sleek, stylish all-mod-con rooms, two restaurants and a cool bar, the **Connaught**.

Park HOTEL \$\$\$
 (☎23744000; www.theparkhotels.com; 15 Parliament St; s/d from ₹12,000/14,000; 🏠📞🍷) Conran-designed, with lots of modern flair, and has a smashing spa, breezily chic restaurant and a great poolside bar.

Hotel Palace Heights HOTEL \$\$\$
 (☎43582610; www.hotelpalaceheights.com; 26-28 D-Block; s/d ₹6500/7000; 🏠📞🍷) Connaught Place's most accessibly priced boutique hotel has sleek rooms with gleaming white linen, black lampshades and caramel padded headboards. There's an excellent restaurant and 24-hour room service.

Corus HOTEL \$\$\$
 (☎43652222; www.hotelcorus.com; 49 B-Block; s/d from ₹6000/6500; 🏠📞) This has clean, swish, compact rooms, with dazzling white sheets. More money buys you a lot more space. But readers report mixed service and occasional problems with hot water. There's an attractive restaurant, **Bonsai**, good for a drink, with outdoor seating in a white-pebbled courtyard.

Hotel Alka HOTEL \$\$\$
 (☎23344328; www.hotelalka.com; P-Block; s/d from ₹2950/5000; 🏠) Alka's cramped standard rooms are overpriced but comfortable, some with wood-panelled walls. More money buys more pizzazz, including grrrrroovy leopard-skin-themed rooms. There's a good vegetarian restaurant.

Prem Sagar Guest House GUESTHOUSE \$\$
 (☎23345263; www.prem sagarguesthouse.com; 1st fl, 11 P-Block; s/d from ₹3000/3500; 🏠📞) This is a reliable choice. The 12 snug rooms aren't flash, but they're clean, with TV, fridge and wardrobe. There's a pot-plant filled outdoor area, and internet in reception.

Ringo Guest House GUESTHOUSE \$
 (☎23310605; ringo_guest_house@yahoo.co.in; 17 Scindia House, Connaught Lane; s/d ₹350/550, without bathroom ₹350/450)

Sunny Guest House

GUESTHOUSE \$

(☎23312909; sunnyguesthouse1234@hotmail.com; 152 Scindia House, Connaught Lane; s/d ₹400/500, without bathroom ₹200/350)

WEST OF CONNAUGHT PLACE

If you like home-style lodgings you will love these hassle-free places but be aware that they fill up fast – so you should book ahead.

**Shanti Home**

HOTEL \$\$\$

(☎41573366; www.shantihome.com; A-1/300 Janakpuri; r incl tax & breakfast from ₹8500; 🍷🍷🍷; 🏠Janakpuri West) Though in an off-the-radar location in West Delhi, this is close to the metro station and is a gorgeous hotel with beautifully decorated rooms and an excellent rooftop restaurant. Spa treatments are available.

Master Guest House

GUESTHOUSE \$\$\$

(☎28741089; www.master-guesthouse.com; R-500 New Rajendra Nagar; s/d incl tax & breakfast from ₹2500/3500; 🍷🍷🍷; 🏠Rajendra Place) Run by an obliging couple, this polished suburban residence is somewhat out of the way, and has three thoughtfully furnished, characterful rooms with smart, spotless bathrooms. There's a leafy rooftop terrace.

Bajaj Indian Home Stay

GUESTHOUSE \$\$\$

(☎25736509; www.bajajindianhomestay.com; 8A/34 WEA Karol Bagh; s/d/tr incl tax & breakfast ₹4000/5000/6300; 🍷🍷; 🏠Karol Bagh) It doesn't feel like a homestay, but this highly professional place has 10 well-decorated rooms. The tariff has almost doubled in recent years, but includes complimentary tea/coffee, local telephone calls and airport transfers. There's a rooftop restaurant.

Ess Gee's

GUESTHOUSE \$\$\$

(☎5725403; www.essgees.net; 12/9 East Patel Nagar; d incl breakfast ₹1250; 🍷🍷; 🏠Patel Nagar) An out-of-the-way, somewhat dowdy guesthouse (no signboard), with shrines in the hallways, this may bring back fond memories of grandma's place – ask to look at a few of the rooms as some are better than others.

Yatri House

GUESTHOUSE \$\$\$

(☎23625563; www.yatrihouse.com; 3/4 Panchkuian Marg; s/d from ₹4000/4500; 🍷🍷🍷; 🏠RK Ashram Marg) Central yet serene, Yatri is less homey than some of its peers, with spacious rooms that have flat-screen TVs. It is fronted by a small garden and backed by a courtyard with wrought-iron furniture. Price includes an airport pick-up and drop-off, free internet, local calls, tea and coffee and afternoon snack. It's only 200m to the metro.

CHANAKYAPURI & ASHOKA ROAD**Youth Hostel**

HOSTEL \$

(Map p68; ☎26871969; www.yhaindia.org; 5 Nyaya Marg, Chanakypuri; dm/s/d ₹275/450/900, with AC ₹600/650/1300; 🍷🍷) The dormitory is good value (YHA membership costs ₹100 per year), pretty clean, basic and centrally located – it's in the diplomatic enclave.

YWCA Blue Triangle Family**Hostel**

HOSTEL \$\$

(Map p68; ☎23360133; www.ywcaofdelhi.org; Ashoka Rd; dm ₹600, s/d incl tax & breakfast ₹1485/2585; 🍷🍷; 🏠Patel Chowk) Despite having an institutional vibe and hint of eau de mothball, this Y (men and women) is central and has reasonable rooms.

LODI, DEFENCE COLONY & NIZAMUDDIN**ITC Maurya**

HOTEL \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎26112233; www.starwoodhotels.com; Sardar Patel Marg; s/d ₹13,500/15,000; 🍷🍷🍷🍷) This is where the Obamas stayed when they were in town in 2010. In the diplomatic enclave, it offers all creature comforts, and excellent service. Luxuriate in high thread counts and dine at a clutch of sterling restaurants, including **Bukhara**.

K-One One

GUESTHOUSE \$\$

(Map p68; ☎43592583; www.parigold.com; K-11 Jangpura Extn; s/d incl breakfast ₹3500/4000; 🍷🍷🍷; 🏠Jangpura) Set in a peaceful enclave, the four rooms are spacious and painted in jewel-bright hues, with good bathrooms and LCD TVs, and there's a cool roof terrace dotted by red-painted pots. The owner offers the Parul Puri cooking lessons.

Colonel's Retreat

GUESTHOUSE \$\$

(Map p68; ☎9999720024; D-418, Defence Colony; s/d incl breakfast ₹3500/3800; 🍷🍷🍷; 🏠Lajpat Nagar) With four smart, nicely furnished rooms, this is a bright and well-kept option in a Delhi suburb. It's handily close to the metro.

Lutyens Guest House

GUESTHOUSE \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎24625716; www.lutyensguesthouse.com; 39 Prithviraj Rd; d incl tax & breakfast from ₹8000; 🍷🍷🍷🍷; 🏠Racecourse) This great rambling house is an atmospheric green oasis. The garden is great – lawns, flowers and fluttering parrots – but rooms are basic, and rates have sky-rocketed in recent years, and it's now absurdly overpriced. However, it's a good place to stay with kids.

SOUTH DELHI

TOP CHOICE **Bnineteen** GUESTHOUSE \$\$\$
(Map p68; ☎41825500; www.bnineteen.com; B-19 Nizamuddin East; d from ₹7500; ☼@) Secluded, and located in fascinating Nizamuddin East, with fabulous views over Humayun's Tomb from the rooftop, this gorgeous place shows an architect's touch. The rooms are spacious and cool, and great for long stayers, with a state-of-the-art shared kitchen on each floor.

Manor HOTEL \$\$\$
(Map p78; ☎26925151; www.themanordelhi.com; 77 Friends Colony (West); d incl breakfast from ₹8500; ☼@) If you're looking for a more intimate alternative to Delhi's opulent five stars, this 16-room boutique hotel is it. Off Mathura Rd, set amid manicured lawns, the renovated bungalow combines contemporary luxury with caramel-hued elegance that seems from another era. The restaurant, **Indian Accent**, is superb, and lush lawns and a sun-warmed terrace complete the picture.

Treetops GUESTHOUSE \$\$
(Map p78; ☎9899555704; baig.murad@gmail.com; R-8, Hauz Khas Enclave; d incl breakfast ₹4000; ☼@☎; 🏠Hauz Khas) The elegant home of a hospitable couple, journalist Murad Baig and his wife Tannie, who is a cookery writer and teacher, this has two lovely large rooms opening onto a leafy roof terrace – truly in the treetops. It's minutes from the metro and Tannie gives cookery lessons (see p78). There's a cheaper, single (also en suite) room which occupies the apartment's study (₹2500). Dinner is available (₹300).

Amarya Haveli GUESTHOUSE \$\$\$
(Map p78; ☎41759267; www.amaryagroup.com; Hauz Khas Enclave; s/d ₹6500/6900; ☼@; 🏠Hauz Khas) The French owners of Amarya Haveli have created a haven in Hauz Khas, a boutique place that is funkily furnished with Indian artefacts, carved furniture and textiles, and has an appealing roof terrace swathed in pink and orange. They also opened in 2010 the even-more-chic **Amarya Villa** (D-179 Defence Colony; 🏠Lajpat Nagar), with slightly more expensive rooms (same contact details).

Home Away from Home HOMESTAY \$\$
(Map p78; ☎26560289; permkamte@sify.com; 1st fl, D-8 Gulmohar Park; s/d incl breakfast from ₹2000/2200; ☼; 🏠Green Park) This stylish apartment, in a classy suburb, is home

to Mrs Kamte and she keeps the place in a gleaming condition. There are just two rooms, each tasteful, antique-decorated and with small balconies; there's a mid-night curfew.

TOP CHOICE **Devna** GUESTHOUSE \$\$\$
(Map p68; ☎24355047; www.newdelhiboutiqueinns.com; 10 Sunder Nagar; d ₹5500; ☼) Fronted by a pretty garden, gloriously pretty Devna is one of Delhi's most charismatic choices, with four curio- and antique-furnished rooms. Those opening onto the terrace upstairs are the best.

AIRPORT AREA

New Delhi Bed & Breakfast HOMESTAY \$\$
(☎2689 4812; www.newdelhibedandbreakfast.com; C8/8225 Vasant Kunj; s/d ₹3000/3500; @) Renu Dayal's welcoming homestay has two cosy double rooms (one en suite) in her elegant house in a leafy enclave, only 10 minutes' drive from the airport.

Inn at Delhi HOMESTAY \$\$
(Map p68; ☎24113234; www.innatdelhi.com; s/d ₹3500/4500; ☼@☎) Between the city and the airport, in a smart area close to the diplomatic enclave, this is a good choice for single women. Your hosts are a professional couple, the rooms are spacious and comfortable and, upstairs, one has an impressive wooden carved bed from Rajasthan.

Chhoti Haveli HOMESTAY \$\$
(Map p78; ☎2612 4880; http://chhotihaveli.com; A1006, Pocket A, Vasant Kunj; s/d ₹3100/3500; ☼@) Set in a block of low-rise apartments, in a quiet, leafy area near the airport, this well-kept place offers nicely decorated rooms; there are lots of plants, with little touches such as petals adorning the steps.

Radisson Hotel HOTEL \$\$\$
(☎26779191; www.radisson.com/newdelhiin; National Hwy 8; s/d from ₹11,500/12,500; ☼@☎☎) Radisson's rooms are business-hotel comfortable. But oh, what a joy to lie down on soft linen and orthopaedic beds after a long-haul flight. On site are Chinese, kebab and Italian restaurants.

Eating

Delhiites love to eat, and visitors will find plenty of delicious options, ranging from ramshackle stalls serving delicious kebabs to top-of-the-range temples of excellence.

Most midrange and all upmarket restaurants charge a service tax of around 10%, while drinks taxes can suck a further 20%

EAT & DUST

Pamela Timms is a Delhiite food writer and blogs at eatanddust.wordpress.com. She can sometimes be persuaded to do food walks in Old Delhi (pamelatimms@gmail.com). Here are some of her top tips.

The Delhi street food I can never resist in the cooler months when Delhi's (particularly Old Delhi's) street food is at its most appealing:

- » *Daulat ki chaat*, which is only available in the winter, is a not-too-sweet frothed milk, whisked overnight and, allegedly, set with the morning dew. Vendors bearing huge great platters of it can be seen all over Old Delhi from November to February.
- » Roasted and spiced sweet potato (*shakarkandi*) served with slices of star fruit, lime juice and masala is wonderful, available all over Delhi.
- » I find it very difficult to walk by the *aloo tikka* vendors. These deep-fried stuffed potato patties a great for filling awkward gaps between meals.
- » For possibly the best kebabs in Delhi, head to **Moinuddin** (Map p64; Lal Kuan nr crn Gali Qasimjan; Chawri Bazaar) for melt-in-the-mouth buffalo.
- » For a wonderful Korma, chicken and lamb, go to **Ashok and Ashok** (Map p64; 42 Subhas Chowk, Sadar Thana Rd, Sadar Bazaar, Old Delhi; Sadar Bazaar).
- » If you have a sweet tooth, stop at the old and famous Jalebiwala (p88). Their deep fried fritters drenched in sugar syrup are about as good as sugar-hits get.
- » If *kheer* (rice pudding) is more to your taste, go to **Bade Mian's** (Map p64; Lal Kuan; Chawri Bazaar) shop in Lal Kuan.
- » Also near Chawri Bazaar is the legendary **Kuremal ice cream shop** (Map p64; Kucha Pati Ram, off Sitaram Bazaar; Chawri Bazaar) with flavours such as mango, pomegranate and falsa.

(alcoholic) or 12.5% (nonalcoholic) from your moneybelt. Taxes haven't been included in this chapter unless indicated.

Telephone numbers have only been provided for restaurants where reservations are recommended.

NORTH DELHI

OLD DELHI

The following eateries are featured on Map p64.

Karim's MUGHLAI \$
(mains ₹27-110; ☎7am-midnight) Old Delhi (Chawri Bazaar); Nizamuddin West (168/2 Jha House Basti) Down a lane across from the Jama Masjid's south gate (No 1), legendary Karim's has been delighting Delhi folk with divine Mughlai cuisine since 1913. The chefs prepare brutally good (predominantly non-veg) fare: try the *burrah* (marinated mutton) kebab. There's a newer branch close to Nizamuddin.

Haldiram's FAST FOOD \$\$
(mains ₹50-140; ☎9.30am-10.30pm); Old Delhi (Chandni Chowk; Chandni Chowk); Connaught Place (Map p72; 6 L-Block; Rajiv Chowk)

This clean, bright cafeteria-sweet shop is a handy spot for a top-notch thali (₹156), choley bhature and other morsels, some tasty South Indian cuisine, or *namkin* (savouries) and *mithai* (sweets) on the dash. Try the *soan papadi* (flaky sweet with almond and pistachio).

Chor Bizarre

KASHMIRI \$\$

(☎23273821; Hotel Broadway, 4/15 Asaf Ali Rd; mains ₹240-500; ☎7.30-10.30am, noon-3.30pm & 7.30-11.30pm; New Delhi) A dimly lit, atmospheric place, filled with eccentric clutter, Chor Bizarre (meaning 'thieves market') offers particularly delicious Kashmiri cuisine. It's popular with tourists and locals

Paratha Wali Gali

STREET FOOD \$

(parathas ₹15-35; Chandni Chowk) Head to this foodstall-lined lane off Chandni Chowk for delectable *parathas* (traditional flat bread) fresh off the *tawa* (hotplate). Stuffed varieties include *aloo* (potato), *mooli* (white radish), smashed pappadams and crushed *badam* (almond), all served with a splodge of tangy pickles. Some of the foodstalls have seating.

Jalebiwala

STREET FOOD \$

(Dariba Corner, Chandni Chowk; jalebis per kg ₹250; 🍷Chandni Chowk) Calories schmalories! Century-old Jalebiwala does Delhi's – if not India's – finest *jalebis* (deep-fried, syrupy squiggles), so pig out and worry about your waistline tomorrow.

Al-Jawahar

MUGHLAI \$\$

(mains ₹20-120; ☀️7am-midnight; 🍷Chawri Bazaar) Next door to Karim's, this offers brighter surroundings for Mughlai cuisine. It serves similar and cheaper, if less legendary, fare (some swear it's even better). You can watch the naan being deftly made at the front of the shop.

Moti Mahal

NORTH INDIAN \$\$\$

(📍23273661; 3704 Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj; mains ₹110-250; ☀️noon-midnight) This faded, family-oriented restaurant has been wooing diners with its Indian food for some six decades. It's famed for its butter chicken and dhal Makhani. There's live *qawwali* Wednesday to Monday (8pm-midnight).

Ghantewala

SWEETS \$

(Chandni Chowk; mithai per kg from ₹220; 🍷Chandni Chowk) Delhi's most famous sweetery, 'the bell ringer' has been churning out *mithai* (Indian sweets) since 1790. Try some *sohan halwa* (ghee-dipped gram flour biscuits).

Bikanerwala

FAST FOOD \$

(snacks ₹8-60; ☀️7am-midnight; 🍷Chandni Chowk) This bright little canteen offers tasty snacks such as *paratha* (stuffed bread) and *channa bhatura* (spicy chickpeas with fried puffed bread).

PAHARGANJ AREA

Yielding wobbly results, Paharganj's menus are of the mix-it-up variety, serving anything from Israeli to Italian, Mughlai to Mexican. The eateries are nothing fancy but are cheap and abuzz with chattering travellers.

The following places are along, or just off, Main Bazaar (Map p76) and near the RK Ashram Metro Stop.

Sita Ram Dewan Chand

STREET FOOD \$

(2246 Chuna Mandi; half/full plate ₹17/30; ☀️8am-6pm) Pran Kohli now runs this place, which his grandfather started over 60 years ago. It's a basic and devoted to just one dish: *chole* (spicy chickpeas) accompanied by delicious, freshly made *paratha* stuffed with spices and paneer.

Tadka

INDIAN \$

(4986 Ram Dwara Rd; mains ₹70-85; ☀️noon-11pm) Nothing flash, but one of the best bets in Paharganj: a simple, clean and tasty pure veg restaurant. Try the *saag paneer* (spinach and cottage cheese) and Tadka dhal.

Malhotra

MULTICUISINE \$\$

(1833 Laxmi Narayan St; mains ₹90-425) Snug, smartish Malhotra offers tasty Indian, continental and Chinese food that keeps it busy with a mix of locals and backpackers.

Sam's Café

MULTICUISINE \$\$

(Vivek Hotel, 1534-1550 Main Bazaar; mains ₹90-190) On Vivek Hotel's ground floor and (much more atmospheric) rooftop, Sam's does reasonable breakfasts and is a tranquil place to hang; it's usually packed with travellers. The pizzas are a good bet.

Metropolis Restaurant & Bar

MULTICUISINE \$\$\$

(Metropolis Tourist Home, 1634 Main Bazaar; mains ₹225-500) On a rooftop, this crammed, humming travellers' haunt is one of the more upmarket in the area, with an encyclopedic, have-a-go-at-anything menu. It serves alcohol.

Madan Café

CAFE \$

(Main Bazaar; mains ₹20-45) Cash crisis? Tuck into a basic thali for just ₹40 at this basic veg cafe; outside tables are ideal for watching the human traffic. Facing is the similar **Khosla Café**.

Kitchen Café

CAFE \$

(Hotel Shelton, 5043 Main Bazaar; mains ₹55-150) This cane-furnished, plant-strewn rooftop restaurant is a relaxing place to kill time over the usual world-ranging menu.

KAROL BAGH**Angan**

INDIAN \$

(Map p64; Chowk Gurudwara Rd; mains ₹60-125; 🍷Karol Bagh) A small but buzzing canteen-style pitstop for Indian and South Indian food, plus yummy snacks (try the *channa bhatura*).

Roshan di Kulfi

ICE CREAM \$

(Map p64; Gafal Market, Ajmal Khan Rd; kulfi ₹45; 🍷Karol Bagh) A Delhi institution for its scrumptious *kulfi* (pistachio-, cardamom- or saffron-flavoured frozen milk dessert). Also has good *golgappas* (small fried bread filled with water, tamarind, chilli, chaat masala, potato, onion and chickpeas) and lassi.

NEW DELHI & AROUND

CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA

The following eateries appear on Map p72, unless otherwise indicated, and are closest to Metro Rajiv Chowk, unless otherwise stated.

TOP CHOICE **Saravana Bhavan** SOUTH INDIAN \$
(mains ₹55-120; ☎8am-10.30pm) Connaught Place (15 P-Block); Janpath (Map p72; 46 Janpath); Karol Bagh (Map p72; 8/54 Desh Bandhu Gupta Rd; 🚶Karol Bagh) Massively popular, Tamil Saravana has a fast-food feel, but food is by no means junk: dosas, *idlis* and other southern specialities, accompanied by delectable coconut chutneys. Inventive sweets include cucumber-seed *laddoos* (sweet balls). Finish with a South Indian coffee.

Rajdhani INDIAN \$\$
(1/90 P-Block; thalis from ₹125-249; ☎noon-3.30pm & 7-11pm) Opposite PVR Rivoli Cinema, this pristine, nicely decorated two-level place serves up excellent-value delicious vegetarian Gujarati and Rajasthani thalis, to grateful local and foreign punters.

Nizam's Kathi Kabab FAST FOOD \$\$
(5 H-Block; kebabs ₹110-150) This takeaway eatery has some seating and creates masterful kebabs and *kathi* rolls (kebab wrapped in *paratha*). It's always busy with kebab-loving hoards.

Andhra Pradesh Bhawan Canteen SOUTH INDIAN \$
(Map p68; 1 Ashoka Rd; veg thalis ₹80; ☎noon-3pm; 🚶Patel Chowk) A hallowed bargain: tasty unlimited South Indian thalis at cheap-as-chips prices; nonveg is also available. It's canteen-style, delicious and hugely popular.

Chinese CHINESE \$\$\$
(☎65398888; 14/15 F-Block; mains ₹300-1200; ☎lunch & dinner) Popular with Chinese diplomats, here the Hunan chef serves up authentic cuisine, such as Hunan smoked lamb or *gong boa ji ding* (chicken with onion, chilli, peanut and hot garlic sauce) in a wow-factor calligraphy-decorated interior.

United Coffee House MULTICUISINE \$\$\$
(15 E-Block; mains ₹300-400; ☎10am-midnight) Oozing old-world charm and full of characters that look as elderly as the fixtures and fittings, this classic 1940s restaurant is a splendid spot to slow the pace. It has a long menu covering everything from pizza to *paneer* (cottage cheese). Try the butter chicken. It's great for an afternoon drink too (small Kingfisher ₹165).

Zen CHINESE \$\$\$
(25 B-Block; mains ₹229-400; ☎11am-11pm) A high-ceilinged place with a dash of old-style glitz – its walls are quilted like a Chanel handbag – this has a venerable Chinese menu, including tasty dishes such as crispy sesame lamb and Szechwan prawns, with a few Japanese and Thai cameos.

Kwality INDIAN \$\$\$
(7 Regal bldg; mains ₹200-350; ☎noon-11pm) Charming old-school, with its waiters clad in dark-red jackets, Kwality's speciality is *channa bhatura*, but you might want to try some other hits, such as *malai* kofta or *murgh malai kebab* (chicken and cheese). A Kingfisher beer will set you back a refreshing ₹90.

Véda INDIAN \$\$\$
(☎41513535; 27 H-Block; mains ₹300-700; ☎noon-midnight) Head here for atmosphere: fashion designer Rohit Baal created this sumptuous interior – dim red lighting, neo-Murano chandeliers, and twisted gold-a-go-go. Mughlai and North West Frontier specialities are on the menu (try the tandoori grilled lamb chops or the Parsi sea bass). A DJ plays (loudly) in the lounge bar. They also do a mean margarita.

Wenger's BAKERY \$
(16 A-Block; cakes/pizza from ₹40/85; ☎10.45am-7.45pm) Legendary Wenger's has been baking since 1926 when it was opened by a South African expat. It's always buzzing and there's a great array of sweet and savoury treats, including perfect patties.

Sagar Ratna SOUTH INDIAN \$
(dishes ₹60-120); Connaught Place (15 K-Block; mains ₹60-120); Defence Colony (Map p78; 18 Defence Colony Market; 🚶Lajpat Nagar) Another dosa dreamland, with expertly prepared dosas, *idlis*, *uttapams* (savoury rice pancakes) and other smashing southern goodies, plus thalis.

Embassy INDIAN \$\$
(11 D-Block; mains ₹160-380; ☎10am-11pm) A long-time favourite, gracious and old-fashioned, featuring Indian and continental creations.

Zāfrān MUGHLAI \$\$\$
(mains ₹230-400; ☎noon-3.30pm & 7pm-midnight); Connaught Place (☎43582610; Hotel Palace Heights, 26-28 D-Block); Greater Kailash (Map p78; 2 N-Block) An excellent restaurant serving Mughlai cuisine and designed to feel like a bamboo-shuttered terrace.

Kake-da-Hotel

MUGHLAI \$\$\$

(☎913666820; 74 M-Block; mains ₹80-110; ☉11.30am-midnight) This simple *dhaba* (snack bar) is a basic hole in the wall that's popular with local workers for its butter chicken and other Mughlai Punjabi dishes.

Kerala House

SOUTH INDIAN \$

(3 Jantar Mantar Rd; meal ₹30; ☉1-3pm; 🚶Patel Chowk) The staff canteen at Kerala House was, at the time of writing, housed in part of the underground car park, but don't let this put you off. It's open to the public and tasty meals here are a bargain, including unlimited rice, sambar, a couple of veg dishes and pickle.

Tao

PAN-ASIAN \$\$\$

(8 E-Block; mains ₹189-429; ☉11am-11pm) Sleek and swish, but with something of the feel of an upmarket airport dining option, this is a popular place for its dim sum, Japanese, Thai and Chinese cuisine.

Nirula's

ICE CREAM \$

(14 K-Block Connaught Place) Drop into Nirula's for its hot chocolate fudge ice cream, every Delhiite's favourite flavour.

DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE & CHANAKYAPURI AREA**Bukhara**

NORTH INDIAN \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎26112233; ITC Maurya, Sadar Patel Marg; mains ₹600-800; ☉lunch & dinner; 🚶) Considered Delhi's best restaurant, this rustic place serves Northwest Frontier-style cuisine. Its tandoor and dhal are particularly renowned. Clinton and Obama have eaten here. Reservations are essential (taken between 7pm and 8pm).

Monsoon

INDIAN \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎23710101; Le Meridien, Janpath; mains around ₹600-1000; 🚶; 🚶Patel Chowk) With waterfall plate-glass windows, this is a wow-factor restaurant for sampling some creative Indian cuisine. Enjoy beautifully presented, taste-sensation dishes such as *millefeuille* of sole with mint chutney, and sumptuous pistachio *kulfi* to finish off.

Dhaba

PUNJABI \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎23010211; The Claridges, Chanakypuri, 12 Aurangzeb Rd; mains ₹400-500; ☉11.30am-4pm & 7pm-midnight) Claridges does Punjabi highway cuisine, complete with kitsch 'roadside' decor (try the balti meat and fish or chicken tikka).

LODI COLONY & PANDARA MARKET

The eateries below feature on Map p68.

Lodi Garden Restaurant

MEDITERRANEAN \$\$\$

(Lodi Rd; mains ₹395-895; ☉lunch & dinner; 🚶Jor Bagh) Set in an elegant garden shaded by trees hung with lanterns, and with a fountain made out of watering cans, beside Lodi Garden. The menu and clientele are remarkably non-Indian, but it's good for Mediterranean and Lebanese cuisine (think lamb chops with mint and tamarind, and herb-crusted Manali trout). Brunch (₹1399) is available at weekends.

All American Diner

FAST FOOD \$\$\$

(India Habitat Centre, Lodi Rd; mains ₹120-270; 🚶JLN Stadium) Make like it's 1950s USA and head down to the cherry-red booths and bar stools of the All American, to eat stars-and-stripes classics, from buttermilk pancakes to hot dogs, and work the jukebox. Or try the Habitat's cheap-and-cheerful food court **Eatopia**, with good *chaat*, Chinese and Indian food.

Pandara Market

INDIAN \$\$\$

(🚶Khan Market) This market has a little horseshoe of restaurants popular among night owls – most are open daily from noon to 1am or 2am. Highlights: **Pindi** (mains ₹130-370), serving tasty Mughlai Punjabi food since 1948; **Gulati** (mains ₹140-480), which has a North Indian focus amid the beige and mirrored decor; **Chicken Inn** (mains ₹150-430) flashier than the name suggests, and a popular choice for Indian and Chinese; and **Havemore** (mains ₹160-390), a snug, smartish spot, serving Indian food with a venerable veg selection.

SOUTH DELHI**KHAN & SUNDER NAGAR MARKETS**

If you're shopping at the Khan (🚶Khan Market) or Sunder Nagar Markets, there are some great places to top up your tank.

Amici

ITALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p68; Khan Market; mains ₹300-400; ☉lunch & dinner) This sleek, calm jewel of a cafe serves up splendid pizzas and tasty burgers. It has a soothing biscuit-coloured walls and a palpable sense of style. The only thing missing is a booze licence.

Sidewok

ASIAN FUSION \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎46068122; Khan Market; mains ₹225-475; ☉11am-11.30pm) Sleek Sidewok dishes up top-notch Asian cuisine, amid dark slatted wood and Japanese minimalism. Try the delicious Vietnamese spring rolls.

Khan Chacha

MIDDLE EASTERN \$\$

(Map p68; Khan Market; snacks ₹110-160; ☀️noon-11pm) Chacha has gone chi-chi, the prices have doubled, and it has lost something of its original charm in the process. But all is not lost – it still turns out pretty lip-smacking roti-wrapped mutton/chicken/paneer. There is now plentiful seating, set under nail-formed lamps that look like torture implements.

Magagoto

ASIAN FUSION \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎️45166060; 1st fl, Middle Lane, Khan Market; mains ₹325-500; ☀️12.30pm-12.30am) The name means 'to play with food' in Japanese, the decor is prettily kitsch and the food is fun – a meal can span snow peas and green bean salad, lamb sticky rice and date rolls with vanilla ice cream.

Baci

ITALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎️41507445; Sunder Nagar Market; mains ₹360-700; ☀️11am-1am) Reasonable Italian cuisine and good coffee is served up here in grown-up surroundings, either at the informal cafe or in the sleek upstairs restaurant. On Thursday there's live jazz from 8pm. Cocktails are ₹385.

Kitchen

PAN-ASIAN \$\$\$

(Map p68; ☎️41757960; Khan Market; mains ₹269-399) A buzzing, small, backstreet all-rounder, simply and chicly decorated. Kitchen offers tasty dishes such as Thai red curry with rice, yummy *pad thai* and fine fish and chips.

Nathu's

INDIAN \$

(mains ₹27-105); Sunder Nagar (Map p68; Sunder Nagar Market); Connaught Place (Map p64; 23-25 Bengali Market) Famous sweet shop serving up yummy *chaat* (snacks), *namkin* (savouries) and *mithai* (sweets), plus good thalis (₹130).

Sweets Corner

SWEETS & SNACKS \$

(Map p68; Sunder Nagar Market; mains ₹16-90) Next door to Nathu's, this is another popular canteen-style eatery, with a terrace out the front where local families tuck into *chaat*, sweets, South Indian dishes and thalis.

Basil & Thyme

ITALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p68; Santushti Enclave; mains ₹375-435; ☀️11am-6pm Mon-Sat) A chic yet simple white-washed restaurant that buzzes with expats and locals, here for the reasonable Mediterranean cooking.

HAUZ KHAS AREA**TOP CHOICE Gunpowder**

SOUTH INDIAN \$\$\$

(Map p78; ☎️26535700; 22 Hauz Khas Village; mains ₹80-300; ☀️noon-3pm & 7.30-11pm Tue-Sun; ☒Hauz Khas) You reach this cool place up numerous flights to the 3rd floor. The setting is great: a simple room with wicker chairs that opens onto huge views over the greenery of Hauz Khas. The food is fit to match, with dishes such as Kerala-style vegetable korma, toddy-shop *meen* (fish) curry, and sweet-and-sour pumpkin. Bookings are essential.

Evergreen

INDIAN \$

(Map p78; S29-30 Green Park Market; mains ₹50-115; ☀️8am-10.30pm; ☒Green Park) Since 1963 Evergreen has been keeping punters happy with its snacks, *chaat* and South Indian dishes. It's a hugely popular, bright, clean two-level place that's perfect for a quick lunch or dinner.

VASANT VIHAR**Punjabi by Nature**

PUNJABI \$\$\$

(Map p78; ☎️41516666; Basant Lok complex; mains ₹425-650; ☀️12.30pm-1am) Served against a masculine backdrop featuring murals of turbaned men, this place offers ravishingly delicious Punjabi food. Mop up flavour-packed sauces with *rumali roti* (paper-thin chapatis) or thick garlic naan. Go on, try the vodka *golgappas!*

Arabian Nites

KEBAB \$\$

(Map p78; 59 Basant Lok complex; snacks ₹70-230; ☀️10.30am-11pm) This teeny takeaway (there are a few inside seats) does mighty good chicken shawarma.

GREATER KAILASH I**Moti Mahal**

MUGHLAI \$\$

(Map p78; 30 M-Block; mains ₹140-450; ☀️lunch & dinner Wed-Mon) Smarter than the Old Delhi original and popular with well-off families for its North Indian and Mughlai cooking.

GREATER KAILASH II**Diva**

ITALIAN \$\$\$

(Map p78; ☎️29215673; M-Block; mains ₹500-950; ☀️lunch & dinner) Chef Ritu Dalmia's *molto chic* Italian restaurant is an intimate space on two levels, with white tablecloths, plate-glass windows, and a wood-fired oven behind glass. Cooking is superlative, imaginative and delicious. *Avanti!*

Smokehouse Grill

MULTICUISINE \$\$\$

(Map p78; ☎️41435530; 2 VIPPS Center, LSC Masjid Moth; mains around ₹600-800; ☀️7.30pm-1am)

Another uberhip hangout, suffused in minimalist chic, with lots of good, smoked(!) food on the menu. Try the smoked melon mojitos, and leave room for the divine chocolate soufflé. On Friday and Saturday nights there's a DJ playing everything from '80s to Bhangra.

Not Just Parathas

NORTH INDIAN \$\$\$

(Map p78; 84 M-Block; dishes ₹80-300; ☀️noon-midnight) Yes, this cheery place offers not just *parathas* but, with 120 types on the menu, you've gotta go for the speciality, be they Tawa-fried or roasted tandoori and stuffed with *palak* (spinach), chicken *tikka* or *aloo gobi* (potato and cauliflower), to name a few.

DEFENCE COLONY & FRIENDS COLONY



Indian Accent

INDIAN \$\$\$

(Map p78; ☎️26925151; Manor Hotel, 77 Friends Colony; tasting menu veg/nonveg ₹1875/1975) Overlooking the hotel veranda and lush lawns, this is a remarkable restaurant with inspired creative Indian cuisine. Expect starters such as baked paneer pinwheel and indian coriander pesto, and main dishes such as masala wild mushrooms and water chestnut paper-roast dosai.

Swagath

SOUTH INDIAN \$\$\$

(Map p78; Defence Colony Market; mains ₹235-645; ☀️11am-midnight; 🚏Lajpat Nagar) Supremely scrumptious Indian fare with a focus on Mangalorean and Chettinad cuisine (especially seafood), this smart six-floor restaurant swarms with well-heeled locals, here for the excellent *dhal-e-Swagath* (lentil curry), delicious *surma rawas* (fish), butter pepper garlic, butter chicken and similarly satiating dishes.

SAKET & MEHRAULI

Olive

MEDITERRANEAN \$\$\$

(Map p78; ☎️29574443; One Style Mile, Mehrauli; tasting lunch menu from ₹495, dinner mains from ₹575; ☀️noon-12pm; 🚏Qutab Minar) Uberchic, the original Olive has reopened, much to the delight of the Delhi in-crowd. The *haveli* setting, decorated in rustic beach-house chic, with its mismatched antiques, is unlike anywhere else in Delhi. As well as creative Mediterranean dishes, the menu includes pasta and pizzas - as tasty as the clientele.



Drinking

Whether it's cappuccino and pastries for breakfast, or beer and kebabs for supper, Delhi's cool cafes and buzzing bars deliver. Most Delhi bars double up as both restaurants and nightclubs. The scene might not be huge, but as the sun goes down, the party

starts, particularly from Wednesday to Saturday night. A smart-casual dress code (no shorts, vests or flip-flops) applies at most places.

The fancier bars are overflowing with domestic and foreign booze, but taxes can pack a nasty punch (alcoholic 20%, nonalcoholic 12.5%); taxes aren't included here unless stated. Most bars have two-for-one happy hours from around noon till 8pm or on certain days.

NEW DELHI & AROUND

Latitude

CAFE

(Map p68; Khan Market; ☀️11.30am-10.30pm; 🚏Khan Market) Above the exclusively priced Good Earth homewares store, this is Khan Market's prettiest cafe, with sparkly chandeliers and handpainted walls. It's a good place for a chi-chi light lunch and to pretend you're not in Delhi.

Café Turtle

CAFE

Greater Kailash Part I (Map p78; N-Block); Khan Market (Map p68; 2nd fl, Full Circle Bookstore; ☀️9.30am-9.30pm; 🚏Khan Market) This bookish, boho cafe ticks all the boxes when you're in the mood for coffee and gateau (the 'gooey chocolate cake' is a triumph).

Big Chill

CAFE

(Map p68; Khan Market; ☀️noon-11.30pm; 🚏Khan Market) Khan Market has two film-poster-lined branches of BC, packed with chattering, well-manicured, wholesome folk. The menu is a telephone directory of continental, Indian and other dishes.

Café Oz

CAFE

(Map p68; Khan Market; ☀️9am-midnight; 🚏Khan Market) A busy Australian cafe, this has reasonable food and Delhi's best coffee, including flat whites.

Indian Coffee House

CAFE

(Map p72; Mohan Singh Place; ☀️9am-9pm; 🚏Rajiv Chowk) Stuck-in-time Indian Coffee House is down at heel, but serves up basic, cheap snacks and south Indian coffee (₹13!) and has a 2nd-floor terrace.

PAHARGANJ

The following are on Map p76, and close to Metro RK Ashram.

Open Hand Cafe

CAFE

(Main Bazaar; ☀️8am-10pm; 🚏RK Ashram Marg) Bringing a touch of class to Paharganj, this South African-owned, two-level cafe has a chic, arty feel, sculptural chairs, good coffee and yummy cheesecake.

Gem

BAR

(Main Bazaar) In this dark, wood-pannelled dive, a large Kingfisher costs a bargain ₹102 (including tax). Upstairs has more atmosphere. The snacks are good too.

My Bar

BAR

(Main Bazaar; ☺10am-12.30pm) Another dark and dingy bar where the main charm is the cheap beer (Kingfisher costs ₹72 for 330ml) and the chance to hang out with other backpackers.

Metropolis Restaurant & Bar

BAR

(Metropolis Tourist Home, 1634 Main Bazaar; ☺7am-11pm) This hotel's rooftop restaurant is a breezier choice than Gem, with al fresco drinking on its terrace and a 330cl Kingfisher for ₹80.

CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA

The following venues are located on Map p72, close to Metro Rajiv Chowk, and most have happy hours during the daytime.

1911

BAR

(Imperial Hotel, Janpath) Named after the year in which Delhi was proclaimed British India's capital, this is the ultimate neocolonial treat. Sip cocktails, while being overlooked by oil-painted Maharajas (drinks ₹650 plus).

Aqua

BAR

(Park Hotel, 15 Parliament St; ☺11am-1am) A chic poolside bar, this see-and-be-seen place is a perfect bolthole after visiting Jantar Mantar or shopping in Connaught Place. There's seating overlooking the pool, or white-clad, curtained daybeds on which to lounge. A Kingfisher costs ₹225, and you can munch on mezza, kebabs or Lebanese snacks.

Cha Bar

CAFE

(Map p72; Oxford Bookstore, Statesman House, 148 Barakhamba Rd; ☺10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-7.30pm Sun; ☺Barakhamba Rd) After browsing at the Oxford, pop into Cha for a tea with a view (over CP). More than 75 flavours to choose from, and the blueberry muffins are fab too.

@live

LIVE MUSIC

(12 K-Block) Intimate and smart without being formal, @live has a cool gimmick: a live jukebox. The band plays from 8.30pm, and there's a song menu, so you choose the songs from a list including the Bee Gees, Bob Dylan and Sir Cliff. The band mightn't be the most dynamic you've seen, but they're great, and it's a fun night out (food's good too).

Q'BA

BAR

(1st fl, 42 E-Block) Connaught Place's swishest watering hole has a Q-shaped bar, dim lighting, leather chairs and Chesterfield sofas. Upstairs is the fine-dining restaurant (from 7pm) and there's a roof terrace, ideal on sultry evenings.

24/7

BAR

(Lalit Hotel, Maharaja Rajit Singh Marg; ☺24hr) Every now and again, a 24-hour bar comes in extremely handy. This is at the Lalit hotel, so if you're hankering after a Martini at 5am you can drink it somewhere defiantly unseedy.

Costa

CAFE

(Map p72; L-Block, Connaught Place; ☺9am-11pm; ☺Rajiv Chowk) Arguably the best of the coffee chains, a dapper downtown cafe with strong coffee, delicate teas, English-toffee milkshakes and good cakes.

Café Coffee Day

CAFE

Connaught Place (Map p72; 11 N-Block, Connaught Place; ☺9am-11pm; ☺Rajiv Chowk); Khan Market (Map p68; ☺Khan Market). You know what you're getting at CCD: cappuccinos, Americanised cheery staff and brownies. But sometimes that's what you need. Citywide branches galore.

Pind Balluchi

BAR

(Regal Bldg; ☺noon-11pm) This location has undergone yet another makeover, and this time emerged as a high-kitsch 'village restaurant' complete with a fake central tree. It still has possibly CP's cheapest beers and cocktails (Kingfisher ₹120, cocktails from ₹120).

Blues

BAR

(18 N-Block) A dark den with reasonably priced beers. The brick walls are plastered with the likes of Jimi Hendrix and other less-recognisable figures. With its cheerily unhip soundtrack (think Sonny and Cher), this is a lively, snob-free zone.

Rodeo

BAR

(12 A-Block) In the mood for saloon doors, tequila, saddle barstools and staff in cowboy hats? Then easygoing Rodeo is for you, partner. Cocktails cost from ₹275, but give the nachos a miss.

SOUTH DELHI

The following drinking venues are on Map p78.

Kunzum Travel Cafe

CAFE

(Map p78; Hauz Khas Village; ☺11am-7.30pm Tue-Sun; ☺; ☺Hauz khas) This unique cafe is run

by travel authors and photographers and has a pay-what-you-like policy, self-service French-press coffee and tea, and travel books and magazines to browse. You can also BYO drinks and food and put your iPod in the dock!

Love Hotel

BAR

(2nd fl, MGF Metropolitan Mall; ☉1pm-1am; 📍Saket) In a mall, but worth seeking out nonetheless: the Love Hotel adjoins **Ai**, an exclusive, popular and chic Japanese restaurant, and occupies a little open terrace. The food is excellent and the atmosphere is best here when there's a party going on – check local listings for what's on. Cocktails cost around ₹400.

Shalom

BAR

Greater Kailash I (18 N-Block; ☉noon-1am); Vasant Vihar (4 D-Block) This loungey bar-restaurant, with wooden furniture and whitewashed walls, is one of the doyennes of the Delhi loungebar scene. As well as wine, beers, cocktails (around ₹400) and nightly DJs, there's top-notch Mediterranean fare.

Urban Pind

BAR

(4 N-Block, Greater Kailash I; ☉noon-1am) Three-floored, this has cushy flocked sofas, mock-Khajuraho carvings and nightly DJs. Tuesday is Salsa night, with free lessons from 9pm, while expats and diplomats flock on a Thursday for the all-you-can-drink deal.

Red Monkey

BAR

(📍24618358; 7 Defence Colony Market; ☉4pm-1am; 📍Lajpat Nagar) A small cosy bar, this is a buzzy if unexciting choice in the Defence Colony. Cocktails cost ₹300-500 and it's worth making it for happy Monday, where it's two-for-one.

★ Entertainment

To access Delhi's dynamic arts scene, check local listings (see p98). October and March is the 'season', with happenings (often free) nightly.

TLR

LIVE MUSIC

(www.tlrcafe.com; Hauz Khas Village; ☉11am-1am; 📍Hauz Khas) Delhi's coolest and most boho hangout, TLR (The Living Room) is in laid-back Hauz Khas Village. It's worth the trek: a 2nd-floor bar with live music, jam sessions and other events from 9pm most evenings. It has a tiny stage complete with a three-piece suite. Meals are also available and cocktails cost from ₹400. If there's something on, book a table or arrive early.

Attic

CULTURAL PROGRAM

(Map p72; 📍23746050; www.theatticdelhi.org; 36 Regal bldg; 📍Rajiv Chowk) Small arts space, with regular free classical concerts and talks. There are also explorations of forgotten foods and 'food meditation' (where participants eat in silence and then have a discussion) – these sessions cost ₹100 and should be booked in advance.

Dances of India

DANCE

(Map p64; 📍26234689; Parsi Anjuman Hall, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg; ₹400; ☉6.45pm) A one-hour performance of regional dances that includes Bharata Natyam (Tamil dance), Kathakali, bhangra and Manipuri.

Haze

LIVE MUSIC

(8 Basant Lok, Vasant Vihar; ☉3pm-midnight) A hip yet unpretentious haunt, this moody, intimate, inexpensive jazz bar has real soul and is *the* place to see live Indian blues and jazz at weekends.

Habitat World

CULTURAL PROGRAM

(Map p68; 📍43663333; www.habitatworld.com; India Habitat Centre, Lodi Rd) Check out the Visual Arts Gallery's excellent temporary exhibitions.

India International Centre

CULTURAL PROGRAM

(Map p68; 📍24619431; 40 Max Mueller Marg) The IIC holds regular free exhibitions, talks and cultural performances.

PVR Plaza Cinema

CINEMA

(Map p72; 📍41516787; H-Block, Connaught Place)

PVR Priya Cinema

CINEMA

(Map p78; www.pvrcinemas.com; Basant Lok complex, Vasant Vihar)

PVR Saket (Anupam 4)

CINEMA

(Map p78; www.pvrcinemas.com; Saket Community Centre, Saket)

🛍 Shopping

From bamboozling bazaars to *bijoux* boutiques, Delhi is a fantastic place to shop. There's an astounding array of wonderful stuff: handicrafts, textiles, clothing, carpets, jewellery and a kaleidoscope of saris.

Away from the emporiums and other fixed-price shops, put on your haggle hat. Many taxi and autorickshaw drivers earn commissions (via your inflated purchase price) and may not take you to the most reputable stores, either, making it best to decline their shopping suggestions.

For dependable art gallery recommendations (many of which sell exhibits), check *First City* and *Time Out*.

OLD DELHI'S BAZAARS

Old Delhi's **bazaars** (Map p64; 📍Chandni Chowk) are a headspinning assault on the senses: an aromatic muddle of flowers, urine, incense, chai, fumes and frying food. They're busiest (and best avoided) on Monday and Friday and during other afternoons. Come at around 11.30am when most shops have opened and the jostling is bearable.

For silver jewellery (some gold) head for **Dariba Kalan**, near the Sisganj Gurdwara. Nearby **Kinari Bazaar** (literally 'trimmings market') is famous for *zari* (gold-thread weaving) and *zardozi* (gold embroidery), and is the place to head for your bridal trousseau. The **cloth market** sells swathes of uncut material and linen, while electrical gadgets are the speciality of **Lajpat Rai Market**. **Chowri Bazaar** is the wholesale paper and greeting-card market. Nearby, **Nai Sarak** deals in wholesale stationery, books and saris.

Near the Fatehpuri Masjid, on Khari Baoli, is the nose-numbing **Spice Market**, ablaze with powdery piles of scarlet-red chilli powder and burnt-orange turmeric, as well as pickles, tea and nuts. As it's a wholesale market, spices here rarely come hermetically sealed – for these, go to Roopak's in Karol Bagh.

The **Daryaganj Book Market**, north of Delhi Gate, is a bookworm's delight (Sunday afternoons).

NORTH DELHI

Chandni Chowk

CLOTHING

(Map p64; Old Delhi; ☺Mon-Sat; 📍Chandni Chowk) Pure pandemonium, this is the old city's famed shopping strip, with endless haphazard traffic, stores selling a mish-mash of saris, Nehru suits, glittering shoes and electrical goods. There are roadside tailors and locksmiths, hawkers selling birdseed, labourers catching a snooze amid the chaos and half-dead dogs everywhere you look. Some stores open from around 10am to 7pm, others from noon to 9pm.

New Gramophone House

MUSIC STORE

(Map p64; 📍23271524; Pleasure Garden Market; ☺10am-9pm Mon-Sat; 📍Chandni Chowk) Opposite Moti Cinema, this is a 1st-floor wonderland of vintage Bollywood records (₹50 to ₹200) and even older gramophones.

Main Bazaar

MARKET

(Map p76; Paharganj; ☺around 10am-9pm Tue-Sun; 📍RK Ashram Marg) The backpacker-oriented spine of Paharganj is the perfect place to pick up bargains in the form of T-shirts, bags, costume jewellery, essential oils, incense and more. Although the Main Bazaar is officially closed on Monday, many of the shops remain open during the tourist season.

Karol Bagh Market

MARKET

(Map p64; ☺around 10am-7pm Tue-Sun; 📍Karol Bagh) This brash middle-class market shimmers with all things sparkly, from dressy *lehanga choli* (skirt-and-blouse sets) to princess-style shoes. Get spice-happy at

Roopak's (6/9 Ajmal Khan Rd), two neighbouring shops with similar spices (around ₹60 to ₹100 per 100g and well packed).

CONNAUGHT PLACE

Central Cottage Industries

Emporium

HANDICRAFTS

(Map p72; 📍23326790; Janpath; 📍Rajiv Chowk) This government-run, fixed-price multilevel Aladdin's cave of India-wide handicrafts is a great place to shop: woodcarvings, silverware, jewellery, pottery, papier mâché, brassware, textiles (including shawls), beauty products and heaps more.

State Emporiums

HANDICRAFTS

(Map p72; Baba Kharak Singh Marg; ☺11am-7pm Mon-Sat; 📍Rajiv Chowk) These neighbouring state government emporiums showcase products from different states, from Rajasthan to Bihar. Set aside several hours for these fabulous shops.

Shop

CLOTHING & HOMEWARES

(Map p72; 10 Regal Bldg, Sansad Marg; ☺9.30am-7pm Mon-Sat; 📍Rajiv Chowk) There are lovely homewares and clothes (including children's clothes) from all over India in this chic boutique with reasonable fixed prices.



Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan

HANDICRAFTS

(Map p72; Regal Bldg, Sansad Marg; ☺10.30am-7.15pm Mon-Sat; 📍Rajiv Chowk) Best known for its excellent *khadi* (homespun cloth) clothing, including good-value shawls, but also worth a visit for its handmade paper, incense, spices, henna and lovely natural soaps.

Oxford Bookstore**(Statesman House)**

BOOKSTORE

(Map p72; 14 G-Block, Connaught Place; ☺10am-9.30pm Mon-Sat, 11am-9.30pm Sun; 🚶Rajiv Chowk) A fantastic bookshop where you could spend hours. It also sells some good gifts, such as handmade paper notebooks. Attached is the **Cha Bar**.

**People Tree**

HANDICRAFTS

(Map p72; Regal Bldg, Sansad Marg;

☺10.30am-7pm Mon-Sat; 🚶Rajiv Chowk) The blink-and-you'll-miss-it People Tree sells cool, etching-style or embroidered T-shirts, many featuring Indian gods, as well as skirts, dresses, shirts (for men and women), shoulder bags, costume jewellery and books.

Soma

HOMEWARES

(Map p72; 1st fl, 44 K-Block, Connaught Place;

☺10am-8pm; 🚶Rajiv Chowk) Situated opposite PVR Plaza Cinema, 1st-floor Soma stocks brilliant block-printed textiles at reasonable prices: anything from scarves to pyjamas, cushion covers to children's clothing.

Marques & Co

MUSIC STORE

(Map p72; 14 G-Block, Connaught Place;

☺10.30am-1.30pm & 2-6.30pm Mon-Sat; 🚶Rajiv Chowk) This vintage music shop (since 1918) houses polished guitars (from ₹3000), tablas (from ₹6000) and harmonicas (from ₹300) in stuck-in-time glass cabinets. Sheet music is also available.

Janpath Market

MARKET

(Map p72; Janpath; ☺10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat;

🚶Rajiv Chowk) Aka the Tibetan Market, this touristy strip sells the usual trinkets: shimmering mirrorwork textiles, colourful shawls, brass ornaments, and dangly earrings and trinkets galore. It has some good finds if you rummage through the junk. Haggle hard.

Rikhi Ram

MUSIC STORE

(☎23327685; www.rikhiram.com; 8A G-Block,

Connaught Place; ☺11.30am-8pm Mon-Sat; 🚶Rajiv Chowk) A beautiful old shop, selling professional classic and electric sitars, tablas and more.

M Ram & Sons

CLOTHING

(Map p72; ☎23416558; 21 E-Block, Connaught

Place; ☺10am-8pm Mon-Sat; 🚶Rajiv Chowk) Men's suits from ₹4000 (excluding material), ladies long skirts from ₹500 (excluding material). Tailoring is possible in 24 hours.

SOUTH DELHI**Khan Market**

MARKET

(Map p68; ☺around 10.30am-8pm Mon-Sat; 🚶Khan Market) Favoured by expats and Delhi's elite, the boutiques in this enclave are devoted to fashion, books, homewares, and gourmet groceries. For handmade paperware check out **Anand Stationers**. For a fantastic range of English-language fiction and nonfiction head to **Full Circle Bookstore** and **Bahri Sons**. There's a TARDIS-like branch of **Fabindia** (p97). **Anokhi**, wow-factor homewares store **Good Earth** (featuring London-style prices) and the excellent **Silverline**, which does attractive, reasonable silver and gold jewellery.

Dilli Haat

HANDICRAFTS

(Map p78; Aurobindo Marg; admission ₹15;

☺10.30am-10pm; 🚶INA) Located opposite the colourful INA Market, this open-air food-and-crafts market sells regional handicrafts; bargain hard. Tasty on-site food stalls cook up regionally diverse cuisine. Avoid the busy weekends.

Hauz Khas Village

ANTIQUES & CLOTHING

(Map p78; ☺11am-7pm Mon-Sat; 🚶Hauz Khas)

This arty little enclave is packed with designer Indian-clothing boutiques, art galleries and furniture shops. It's a great place to find superb old Bollywood posters. Try Country Collection for antique and new furniture (they'll post overseas), and Cotton Curios for handprinted *kameez* (women's tunics) and soft furnishings.

C Lal & Sons

HANDICRAFTS

(Map p68; 9/172 Jor Bagh Market; ☺10.30am-

7.30pm; 🚶Jor Bagh) After sightseeing at Safdarjāng's tomb, drop into kindly Mr Lal's 'curiosity shop'. Much loved by Delhi-based diplomats for its dazzling Christmas-tree decorations, it also sells handicrafts such as papier mâché and carvings.

Timeless

BOOKSTORE

(Map p78; ☎24693257; 46 Housing Society, Part I)

Hidden in a back lane (ask around), Timeless has a devoted following for its quality coffee-table books, from Indian textiles to architecture.

Sarojini Nagar Market

CLOTHING

(Map p78; ☺around 11am-8pm Tue-Sun; 🚶INA)

Rummage here for good-value Western-style clothes (seek out the lanes lined exclusively with clothing stalls) that have been dumped here either because they were an export surplus or from a cancelled line. Check for faults. Bargain hard.

Sunder Nagar Market

HANDICRAFTS, TEA

(Map p68; ☉around 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Just south of Purana Qila, this genteel enclave specialises in Indian and Nepali handicrafts and 'antiques' (most are replicas). There are two outstanding teashops here: **Regalia Tea House** (☉10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 11am-5pm Sun); and its neighbour **Mittal Tea House** (☉10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 10am-4.30pm Sun). They stock similar products and offer complimentary tea tastings. There's plenty on offer, from fragrant Kashmiri kahwa (green tea with cardamom; ₹110 per 100g) to the finest of teas, Vintage Musk (₹700 per 100g) and Royal Muscatel (₹600 per 100g). The white tea (₹600/350 per 100g organic/nonorganic) is said to contain more antioxidants than green tea, while dragon balls (₹35-80 each) are a visual thrill when brewed.

Santushti Shopping Complex

HOMEWARES, CLOTHING

(Map p68; Santushti Enclave; ☉10am-7pm Mon-Sat) This enclave across from the Ashok hotel is an unusually relaxing, if expensive, place to browse and shop, with stores such as **Anokhi**, **Good Earth** and **Shyam Ahuja** (which sells carpets), housed in appealing little pavilions in a landscaped area.

M-Block & N-Block Markets

MARKET

(Map p78; Greater Kailash I; ☉Wed-Mon) This two-part upmarket shopping enclave is perhaps best known for the awesome mothership of **Fabindia**. Also worth checking out is the clothes store **Anokhi** (N-Block) and the big branch of the lovely **Full Circle Bookstore**, complete with a Café Turtle.

Fabindia

CLOTHING, HOMEWARES

GKI (Map p78; www.fabindia.com; 7 N-Block Market; ☉10am to 7.30pm); Khan Market (Map p68; Above shop 20 & 21; ☉Khan Market); Connaught Place (Map p72; Upper Ground fl, 28 B-Block; ☉Rajiv Chowk) Readymade clothes that won't look odd back home, plus great tablecloths, cushion covers, curtains and other homewares.

Nalli Silk Sarees

CLOTHING

Greater Kailash (Map p78; ☎24629926; Greater Kailash II; ☉10am-8.30pm); Connaught Place (Map p72; 7/90 P-Block; ☉Rajiv Chowk) This multistorey sari emporium is a kaleidoscope of silk varieties, specialising in those from South India. Prices range from ₹1000 to ₹30,000.

Lajpat Nagar Central Market

MARKET

(Map p78; ☉around 11am-8pm Tue-Sun; ☉Lajpat Nagar) This market attracts bargain-hunting locals on the prowl for household goods, clothing and jewellery. Look out for the local *mehndiwallahs*, who paint beautiful henna designs.

Delhi Musical Stores

MUSIC STORE

(Map p64; ☎23276909; www.indianmusicalinstruments.com; 1070 Paiwalan, Old Delhi; ☉10am-6.30pm Mon-Sat; ☉Patel Chowk) Opposite Jama Masjid's Gate No 3. Check the website for details.

OCM Suitings

CLOTHING

(Map p68; ☎24618937; Khan Market; ☉11am-8pm Mon-Sat; ☉Khan Market) Men's wool suits from ₹9000 to ₹22,000 (including material); ankle-length skirts from ₹500 (excluding material). Suits take around 7 to 10 days.

i Information**Dangers & Annoyances**

HOTEL TOUTS Taxi-wallahs at the international airport frequently act as touters. These sneaky drivers will try to persuade you that your hotel is full, poor value, overbooked, dangerous, burned down or closed, or even that there are riots in Delhi. Their intention is to take you to a hotel where they'll get some commission. Some will even 'kindly' take you to a 'tourist office' where a colleague will phone your hotel on your behalf, and corroborate the driver's story. In reality, of course, he's talking to his mate in the next room. Alternatively, the driver may claim that he's lost and stop at a travel agency for directions. The agent supposedly dials your hotel and informs you that your room is double-booked, and 'helpfully' finds you another hotel where he'll get commission and you get a high room rate.

Tell persistent taxi drivers that you've paid for your hotel in advance, have recently confirmed the booking, or have friends/relatives waiting for you there. If they continue, ask that they stop the car so that you can write down the registration plate number. Just to be sure, call or email to confirm your hotel booking, if possible, 24 hours before check-in.

TRAVEL AGENT TOUTS Be cautious with travel agencies, as many travellers every year report being overcharged and underwhelmed by unscrupulous agents. To avoid grief, ask for traveller recommendations, or ask for a list of recommended agents from the India Tourist office (88 Janpath). *Think twice before parting with your money.* Choose agents who are members of accredited associations such as the Travel Agents Association of India and the Indian Association of Tour Operators.


Be especially careful if booking a multistop trip out of Delhi. Lonely Planet often gets letters from travellers who've paid upfront and then found out there are extra expenses, they've been overcharged, or the accommodation is terrible. Given the number of letters we've received from unhappy travellers, it's also best not to book tours to Kashmir from Delhi.

TRAIN STATION TOUTS These touts are at their worst at New Delhi train station. Here they may try to prevent you reaching the upstairs International Tourist Bureau and divert you to a local (over-priced and often unreliable) travel agency. Make the assumption that the office is *never* closed (outside the official opening hours; see p99) and has not shifted. It's still in its regular place on the 1st floor, close to the Paharganj side of the station.

Other swindlers may insist that your ticket needs to be stamped or checked (for a hefty fee) before it is considered valid. Some may try to convince wait-listed passengers that there is a charge to check their reservation status – don't fall for it.

For more info on Scams & Touts, see p1156.

Internet Access

Internet cafes are mushrooming, with centres in Khan Market, Paharganj and Connaught Place, among others, usually charging around ₹35 per hour, ₹5 to print a page and ₹25 to scan/write a CD. Reviewed places with wi-fi are indicated with .


Media

To check out what's on, grab *Delhi Diary* (₹10). Fab monthly magazine *First City* (₹50) has comprehensive listings/reviews, ranging from theatre to so-now bars, while *Time Out Delhi* (₹40) is a hip take on the city. Publications are available at newsstands and bookshops.

Medical Services

Pharmacies are ubiquitous in most markets.

All India Institute of Medical Sciences

(Aiiims; Map p78; ☎26588500; www.aiims.edu; Ansari Nagar;  AllIMS)

Apollo Hospital (☎26925858; Mathura Rd, Sarita Vihar)

Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (Map p68; ☎23365525; Baba Kharak Singh Marg)

East West Medical Centre (Map p78; ☎24690429; www.eastwestrescue.com; B-28 Greater Kailash Part I) Opposite N-Block Market; this is one of the easier options if you have to make an insurance claim.

Money

There are ATMs almost everywhere you look in Delhi. Many travel agents and money changers, including Thomas Cook, can do international money transfers.

Baluja Forex (Map p76; ☎41541523; 4596 Main Bazaar, Paharganj; ☉9am-7.30pm) Does cash advances on MasterCard and Visa.

Central Bank of India (Map p68; ☎26110101; Ashok Hotel, Chanakyapuri; ☉24hr)

Thomas Cook International airport (☎256653439; ☉24hr; Janpath (Map p68; ☎23342171; Hotel Janpath, Janpath; ☉9.30am-7pm Mon-Sat)

Post & Telephone

Delhi has tons of telephone kiosks where you can make cheap local, interstate and international calls.

DHL (Map p72; ☎23737587; Mercantile Bldg, ground fl Tolstoy Marg; ☉8am-8pm Mon-Sat) Organises international air freight.

Post office Connaught Place (Map p72; 6 A-Block; ☉8am-8pm Mon-Sat); New Delhi main post office (Map p68; ☎23364111; Baba Kharak Singh Marg; ☉10am-1pm & 1.30-4pm Mon-Sat) Poste restante available at the main post office; ensure mail is addressed to GPO, New Delhi – 110001.

Tourist Information

Beware Delhi's many dodgy travel agencies and 'tourist information centres'. Do *not* be fooled – the only official tourist information centre is India Tourism Delhi. Touts may (falsely) claim to be associated with this office.

For Indian regional tourist offices' contact details ask at India Tourism Delhi, or dial directory enquiries on ☎197.

India Tourism Delhi (Government of India; Map p72; ☎23320008/5; www.incredibleindia.org; 88 Janpath; ☉9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat) Gives tourist-related advice as well as a free Delhi map and brochures. Has a list of recommended agencies and bed & breakfasts. Their special branch investigates tourism-related complaints.

Getting There & Away

Delhi is a major international gateway. It's also a centre for domestic travel, with extensive bus, rail and air connections. Delhi's airport can be prone to thick fog in December and January (often disrupting airline schedules), making it wise not to book back-to-back flights during this period.

Air

International and domestic flights all leave from and arrive at the airport's gleaming new Terminal 3. For flight inquiries, call the **international airport** (☎0124-3376000; www.newdelhiairport.in). At the new Terminal 3 there are 14 'nap & go' rooms with wi-fi, a desk, TV and bed (₹315/hr).

PUBLIC BUSES

Apart from public buses, there are comfortable private bus services (including sleepers), leaving from central locations, but their schedules vary (enquire at travel agencies or your hotel). Example routes are Delhi to Jammu (₹500, 15 hours) and McLeon Ganj (₹650, 14 hours). Himachal Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (HPTDC) also runs a bus for Dharamsala from Connaught Place. There are buses to Agra, but the train is much easier and quicker.

DESTINATION	ONE-WAY FARE (₹)	DURATION (HR)	DEPARTURES
Amritsar	500-665 (B)	10	hourly 5.30am-9.30pm
Chandigarh	180/345-515 (A/B)	5	every 30min 6am-1.50am
Dehra Dun	179/278-460 (A/B)	7	hourly 5am-11pm
Dharamsala	395/500-780 (A/B)	12	hourly 4.30am-11pm
Kullu	490/830-1050 (A/B)	13	9am
Manali	490/830-1050 (A/B)	15	hourly 1-10pm
Shimla	310/580-860	10	hourly 5am-10.30pm

A – ordinary, B – deluxe AC

For comprehensive details of domestic air routes, see *Excel's Timetable of Air Services Within India* (₹55), available at newsstands. When making reservations request the most direct (quickest) route. Note that airline prices fluctuate and website bookings with some carriers can be markedly cheaper.

DOMESTIC ARRIVALS & DEPARTURES

Check-in at the airport for domestic flights is one hour before departure.

DOMESTIC AIRLINES The **Air India office** (3 Safdarjung Airport; ☎9.30am-5.30pm) is in South Delhi. To confirm flights dial ☎1407.

Other domestic airlines:

Jagson Airlines (Map p72; ☎23721593; Vandana Bldg, 11 Tolstoy Marg)

Kingfisher Airlines (Map p72; ☎23730238; 42 N-Block, Connaught Place)

INTERNATIONAL ARRIVALS The arrivals hall has 24-hour money-exchange facilities, ATM, prepaid taxi and car-hire counters, a tourist information counter, cafes and bookshops.

INTERNATIONAL DEPARTURES At the check-in counter, ensure you collect tags to attach to hand luggage (mandatory to clear security later).

Bus

Bikaner House (Map p68; ☎23383469; Pandara Rd), near India Gate, operates good state-run buses. These are the best buses for Jaipur (super deluxe/Volvo ₹325/625, six hours, hourly); Udaipur (₹750, 15 hours, one daily); Ajmer (₹400, nine hours, three daily); and Jodhpur (₹500, 11 hours, one daily).

Delhi's main bus station is the **Inter State Bus Terminal** (ISBT; Map p64; ☎23860290;

Kashmiri Gate; ☎24hr), north of the (Old) Delhi train station. It has a 24-hour left-luggage facility (₹14 per bag). This station is chaotic so arrive at least 30 minutes ahead of your departure time. State-government bus companies (and their counters) at the ISBT include the following (timetables are online):

Delhi Transport Corporation

(☎23865181; dtc.nic.in; Counter 34)

Haryana Roadways

(☎23861262; hartrans.gov.in; Counter 35)

Himachal Roadways (☎23868694; Counter 40)

Punjab Roadways (☎23867842; www.punjabroadways.gov.in; Counter 37)

Rajasthan Roadways

(☎23386658, 23864470; Counter 36)

Uttar Pradesh Roadways

(☎23868709; Counter 33)

Train

For foreigners, it's easiest to make ticket bookings at the helpful **International Tourist Bureau** (Map p76; ☎23405156; 1st fl, New Delhi train station; ☎8am-8pm Mon-Sat, to 2pm Sun). Do *not* believe anyone – including porters – who tells you it has shifted, closed or burnt down and don't let anyone stop you from going to the 1st floor of the *main* building for bookings. When making reservations here, if you are paying in rupees you may have to provide back-up money-exchange certificates (or ATM receipts), so take these with you just in case. You can also pay in travellers cheques: in Thomas Cook US dollars, euros or pounds sterling, Amex US dollars and euros, and US dollars in Barclays cheques. Any change is given in rupees. Bring your passport.

When you arrive, complete a reservation form, then wait to check availability at the Tourism Counter in the office. You can then queue to pay for the ticket at one of the other counters.

There are two main stations in Delhi – (Old) Delhi train station (Map p64) in Old Delhi, and New Delhi train station (Map p64) at Paharganj; make sure you know which station serves your destination (New Delhi train station is closer to Connaught Place). If you're departing from the Delhi train station, allow adequate time to meander through Old Delhi's snail-paced traffic.

There's also the Nizamuddin train station (Map p68), south of Sunder Nagar, where various trains (usually for south-bound destinations) start or finish.

Railway porters should charge around ₹30 per bag.

There are many more destinations and trains than those listed in the boxed text, p101 – check the Indian Railways Website (www.indianrail.gov.in) consult *Trains at a Glance* (₹45), available at most newsstands, or ask tourist office staff.

i Getting Around

The metro system has transformed getting around the city, making it incredibly easy to whizz out to places that were once a long traffic-hampered struggle to reach. Most of Delhi's main sights lie close to a metro station. Local buses get horrendously crowded so the metro, autorickshaws and taxis are desirable alternatives. Keep small change handy for fares.

To/From the Airport

Many international flights arrive at ghastly hours, so it pays to book a hotel in advance and notify it of your arrival time.

PRE-ARRANGED PICK-UPS If you arrange an airport pick-up through a travel agency or hotel, it's more expensive than a prepaid taxi from the airport due to the airport parking fee (up to ₹140) and ₹80 charge for the person collecting you to enter the airport arrivals hall. Sometimes drivers are barred from arrivals for security reasons, in which case most will wait outside Gates 4–6.

METRO The new high-speed metro line is the best way to get to/from the airport, and runs between New Delhi train station and Dwarka Sector 21, via Shivaji Stadium, Dhaula Kuan NH8 (Mahipalpur station) and Indira Gandhi International station (Terminal 3). Trains operate every 10 minutes from 5am to 1am.

BUS Air-conditioned deluxe buses run to the airport about every 40 minutes from ISBT Kashmere Gate, via the Red Fort, LNJP Hospital, New Delhi Station Gate 2, Connaught Place, Parliament Street and Ashoka Rd (₹50). There are several other routes, one of which goes via Saket and Vasant Kunj; another calls at Hauz Khas and Vasant Vihar.

TAXI There is a **Delhi Traffic Police Prepaid Taxi counter** (☎helpline 23010101; www.delhitrafficpolice.nic.in) inside the arrivals building. It costs about ₹310 to Connaught Place, plus a 25% surcharge between 11pm and 5am.

You'll be given a voucher with the destination on it – insist that the driver honours it. Never surrender your voucher until you get to your destination; without that docket the driver won't get paid.

You can also book a prepaid taxi at the **Mega-cabs** counter inside the arrivals building at both the international and domestic airports. It costs around ₹600 to the centre, but you get a cleaner, car with air-con, and you can pay by credit card.

Car

HIRING A CAR & DRIVER Numerous operators offer chauffeur-driven cars. The following companies get positive reports from travellers. Each has an eight-hour, 80km limit per day. All offer tours beyond Delhi (including Rajasthan) but higher charges apply for these. The rates below are only for travel within Delhi. Beware of frauds/touts claiming association with these companies or insisting their offices have closed.

Kumar Tourist Taxi Service (Map p72; ☎23415930; kumartaxi@rediffmail.com; 14/1 K-Block, Connaught Place; non-AC/AC per day ₹800/900; ☀9am-9pm) Near the York Hotel. Tiny office run by two brothers, Bittoo and Titoo. Their rates are among Delhi's lowest.

Metropole Tourist Service (Map p68; ☎24310313; www.metrovista.co.in; 224 Defence Colony Flyover Market; non-AC car per day from ₹850; ☀7am-7pm) Under the Defence Flyover Bridge (on the Jangpura side).

Cycle-Rickshaw & Bicycle

Cycle-rickshaws are still in use in parts of Old Delhi, though they have been banned in Chandni Chowk to reduce congestion. Let's hope they're not banned in other areas, as they're the best way to get around Old Delhi – the drivers are wizards at weaving through the crowds. Tips are appreciated for this gruelling work.

Cycle-rickshaws are also banned from the Connaught Place area and New Delhi, but they're handy for commuting between Connaught Place and Paharganj (about ₹30).

The largest range of new and secondhand bicycles for sale can be found at **Jhandewalan Cycle Market** (Map p64).

Metro

Delhi's marvellous metro (Map p82) has efficient services with arrival/departure announcements in Hindi and English. Two carriages on each train are designated women-only – look for the pink signs on the platform. The trains can get very busy, particularly at peak commuting times (around 9-10am and 5-6pm).

MAJOR TRAINS FROM DELHI

DESTINATION	TRAIN NO & NAME	FARE (₹)	DURATION (HR)	FREQUENCY	DEPARTURES & TRAIN STATION
Agra	12280 <i>Taj Exp</i>	75/263 (A)	3	1 daily	7.10am HN
	12002A <i>Bhopal Shatabdi</i>	370/700 (B)	2	1 daily	6.15am ND
Amritsar	12013 <i>Shatabdi Exp</i>	645/1200 (B)	5½	1 daily	4.30pm ND
	12029/12031 <i>Swarna/Amritsar Shatabdi</i>	600/1145 (B)	5½	1 daily	7.20am ND
Bengaluru	12430 <i>Bangalore Rajdhani</i>	2100/2740/4580 (C)	34	4 weekly	8.50pm HN
Chennai	12434 <i>Chennai Rajdhani</i>	2075/2700/4500 (C)	28	2 weekly	4pm HN
	12622 <i>Tamil Nadu Exp</i>	528/1429/1960/3322 (D)	33	1 daily	10.30pm ND
Goa (Madgaon)	12432 <i>Trivndrm Rajdhani</i>	2035/2615/4370 (C)	25½	2 weekly	11am HN
Haridwar	12017 <i>Dehradun Shatabdi</i>	435/825 (B)	4½	1 daily	6.50am ND
Jaipur	12958 <i>ADI SJ Rajdani</i>	605/775/1285 (C)	5	6 weekly	7.55pm ND
	12916 <i>Ashram Exp</i>	175/434/581/969 (D)	5¾	1 daily	3pm OD
	12015 <i>Shatabdi Exp</i>	465/885 (B)	4¾	6 weekly	6.05am ND
Khajuraho	12448 <i>Nizamuddin-Khajuraho Exp</i>	269/802 (E)	10¼	3 weekly	8.15pm HN
Lucknow	12004 <i>Lko Swran Shatabdi</i>	700/1360 (B)	6¼	1 daily	6.15am ND
Mumbai	12952 <i>Mumbai Rajdhani</i>	1495/1975/3305 (C)	16	1 daily	4.30pm ND
	12954 <i>Ag Kranti Rajdani Exp</i>	1495/1975/3305 (C)	17¼	1 daily	4.55pm HN
Udaipur	12963 <i>Mewar Exp</i>	320/801/1087/1821 (D)	12	1 daily	7.05pm HN
Varanasi	12560 <i>Shivganga Exp</i>	320/806/1095/1805 (D)	13	1 daily	6.45pm ND

Train stations: ND – New Delhi, OD – Old Delhi, HN – Hazrat Nizamuddin

Fares: A – 2nd class/chair car; B – chair car/1st-class AC; C – 3AC/2AC/1st-class AC;

D – sleeper/3AC/2AC/1st-class AC; E – sleeper/3AC

Tokens (₹8 to ₹30) are sold at metro stations; there are also one-/three-day (₹70/200) 'tourist cards' for unlimited short-distance travel; or a Smart Card (₹50, refundable when you return it), which

can be recharged for amounts from ₹50 to ₹800 – fares are 10% cheaper than paying by token.

For the latest developments (plus route maps) see www.delhimetrorail.com or call 23417910.

AUTORICKSHAW RATES

To gauge fares vis-à-vis distances, the following list shows one-way (official) rates departing from Janpath's pre-paid autorickshaw booth. Taxis charge around double.

DESTINATION	COST (₹)
Bahai House of Worship	100
Humayun's Tomb	50
Karol Bagh	50
Old Delhi train station	50
Paharganj	30
Purana Qila	30
Red Fort	50
Defence Colony	65

Motorcycle

For motorcycle rental details, see p1183.

Radiocab

If you have a local mobile number, you can call a radiocab. These air-conditioned cars are clean, efficient, and use reliable meters. They charge ₹20 per km. After calling the operator, you'll receive a text with your driver's registration number, then another to confirm arrival time (book 20 to 30 minutes in advance). You can also book online.

Some companies:

Easycabs (☎43434343; www.easycabs.com)

Megacabs (☎41414141; www.megacabs.com)

Quickcabs (☎45333333; www.quickcabs.in)

Taxi & Autorickshaw

All taxis and autorickshaws have meters but they are often 'not working' or drivers refuse to use them (so they can overcharge). If the meter isn't an option, agree on a fare before setting off. If the driver won't agree, look for one who will. From 11pm to 5am there's a 25% surcharge for autorickshaws and taxis.

Otherwise, to avoid shenanigans, catch an autorickshaw from a prepaid booth:

Janpath (Map p72; 88 Janpath; ☀11am-8.30pm) Outside the India Tourism Delhi office.

New Delhi train station car park (Map p76; ☀24hr)

Palika Bazaar's Gate No 2 (Map p72; Connaught Place; ☀11am-7pm)

GREATER DELHI

TOP CHOICE **Qutb Minar** HISTORIC SITE
(Map p78; ☎26643856; Indian/foreigner ₹10/250, video ₹25; ☀sunrise-sunset; 🕌Qutab Minar) The beautiful religious buildings of the Qutb Minar complex form one of Delhi's most spectacular sights. They date from the onset of Islamic rule in India, and tell of tumultuous rises and falls in stone. Today on Delhi's outskirts, once these constructions formed the heart of the Muslim city.

The Qutb Minar itself is a mighty, awe-some tower of victory, which closely resembles similar Afghan towers, and was also used as a minaret. Muslim sultan Qutb-ud-din began its construction in 1193, immediately after the defeat of the last Hindu kingdom in Delhi. It's nearly 73m high and tapers from a 15m-diameter base to a mere 2.5m at the top.

The tower has five distinct storeys, each marked by a projecting balcony. The first three storeys are made of red sandstone, the 4th and 5th storeys are of marble and sandstone. Qutb-ud-din built only to the 1st storey. His successors completed it and then, in 1326 it was struck by lightning. In 1368, Firoz Shah rebuilt the top storeys and added a cupola. An earthquake brought the cupola crashing down in 1803 – it was replaced with another in 1829, which was later removed.

There's a **Decorative Light Show** (Indian/foreigner ₹20/250; ☀6.30-8pm) nightly. The Qutb Festival takes place here every October/November.

Be warned that Qutb Minar gets crowded on weekends.

Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid

At the foot of the Qutb Minar stands the first mosque to be built in India, known as the **Might of Islam Mosque**. Also constructed in 1193, with various additions over the centuries, this building symbolises in stone the ascendance of one religious power over another. The original mosque was built on the foundations of a Hindu temple, and an inscription over the east gate states that it was built with materials obtained from demolishing '27 idolatrous temples' – it's possible to see many Hindu and Jain elements in the decoration.

Altamish, Qutb-ud-din's son-in-law, surrounded the original mosque with a cloistered court between 1210 and 1220.

Iron Pillar

This 7m-high pillar stands in the courtyard of the mosque and it was here a long time prior to the mosque's construction. A six-line Sanskrit inscription indicates that it was initially erected outside a Vishnu temple, possibly in Bihar, and was raised in memory of Chandragupta II, who ruled from AD 375 to 413.

What the inscription does not tell is how it was made, for the iron in the pillar is of exceptional purity. Scientists have never discovered how the iron, which has not rusted after some 2000 years, could be cast using the technology of the time.

Alai Minar

When Ala-ud-din made his additions to the mosque he also conceived a far more ambitious construction program. He aimed to build a second tower of victory, exactly like the Qutb Minar, but twice as high! By the time of his death the tower had reached 27m and no one was willing to continue his over-ambitious project. The incomplete tower, a solid stack of rubble, stands to the north of the Qutb Minar and the mosque.

Other Features

Ala-ud-din's exquisite **Alai Darwaza** gateway is the main entrance to the whole complex. It was built of red sandstone in 1310 and is just southwest of the Qutb Minar. The **tomb of Imam Zamin** is beside the gateway, while the **tomb of Altamish**, who died in 1235, is by the northwestern corner of the mosque. The largely ruined **madrasa of Ala-ud-din** stands at the rear of the complex.

There are some **summer palaces** in the area and also the **tombs** of the last kings of Delhi, who succeeded the Mughals. An empty space between two of the tombs was intended for the last king of Delhi, who died in exile in Yangon, Burma (Myanmar), in 1862, following his implication in the 1857 First War of Independence.

Tughlaqabad

FORT

(Map p78; Indian/foreigner ₹5/100, video ₹25; ☀8.30am-5.30pm; 🚇Tughlaqabad) Crumbling Tughlaqabad was the third city of Delhi. This mammoth, battered-looking stronghold, with 6.5km of walls and 13 gateways, was built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. Its construc-

tion was said to have sparked a quarrel with the saint Nizam-ud-din: when the Tughlaq ruler refused the workers whom Nizam-ud-din wanted for work on his shrine, the saint cursed the king, warning that his city would be inhabited only by shepherds. Later, this was indeed the case.

Later, when Ghiyas-ud-din was returning from a military campaign, Nizam-ud-din again prophesied doom for him, telling his followers, 'Delhi is a long way off'. And it was: the king was killed on his way towards Delhi in 1325.

The metro runs to Tughlaqabad.

FREE Mehrauli Archaeological Park

HISTORIC PARK

(Map p78; ☀dawn-dusk; 🚇Qutab Minar) There's an entrance a few hundred metres to the left of that to Qutb Minar as you face it - walk down a narrow road which leads into the park. It's a rambling forest, once a hunting ground for the Mughals, then a favoured spot of colonial officers. It's dotted by extraordinary monuments, and has an undiscovered feel. The major monuments include **Jamali Kamali** (sunrise-sunset), a mosque, alongside which lies a small building containing two tombs: that of Jamali, a sufi saint, and Kamali, his unknown male friend, obviously important enough to be buried alongside him. Ask the caretaker to unlock the building to see the well-preserved painting within. A short walk from here is the dizzying **Rajon ki Baoli**, a majestic 16th-century step-well with an Escheresque sweeping flight of steps.

Garden of the 5 Senses

PARK

(Map p78; admission ₹15; ☀8am-9pm; 🚇Saket) This relaxing garden, an 8-hectare landscaped park inaugurated in 2003, is filled with intriguing contemporary sculptures, formal gardens and features such as wind chimes and lily ponds. Its discreet corners make it a favourite of canoodling couples. There are several upmarket restaurants and bars close to Gate 3.

Getting There & Away

The metro extends to Qutb Minar, but the entrance is a couple of kilometres away along busy, broad roads from the station, so catch a rickshaw (₹30).

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