CRICKET in the CITY DELHI
India’s capital is a place of incredible contrasts where fine-dining restaurants, cafes and malls stand shoulder to shoulder with medieval bazaars, century-old eateries and ancient monuments. This city blends different experiences seamlessly and offers the best of both worlds – old and new.

**TRANSPORT**

**GETTING THERE**
- **Air:** Indira Gandhi International airport has two terminals. Terminal 1D, also called Palam or the domestic airport, that’s connected to most of the country via daily flights. Terminal 3 has international flights and domestic operations by Jet Airways, Vistara and Air India.
- **Train:** New Delhi, Old Delhi and Nizamuddin are the three railway stations with daily trains to rest of the country.

**LOCAL TRANSPORT**
- **Metro:** Six lines connect different parts of the city. The Airport Metro Express connects to Terminal 3. Two kinds of cards available – a one day card for ₹100 and a 3-day card for ₹250. Both allow unlimited travel on the metro.
- **Taxi:** Black and yellow cabs and radio cabs are available. The black and yellow ones can be hired from a local taxi. Radio taxis (Meru, Olacabs, Easycabs, TaxiForSure and others) have to be pre-booked. The charges vary from ₹12 to 25 a kilometer.
- **Auto:** They charge ₹25 for the first 2 kilometers (upon downing the meter) and then ₹8.50 for every kilometer.
- **Bus:** CNG DTC buses cost from ₹4 to 25.
- **Connectivity:** Most big hotels have business centres or offer free wi-fi. Restaurants and coffee shops may not provide wi-fi. Internet cafes are easily available.

**Quick Facts**

**STD Code:** 011

**Helpful Websites**
- www.delhitourism.nic.in
- www.lonelyplanet.com/india/delhi

**TOP TIP**

In Old Delhi’s medieval bazaars whole streets are devoted to the sale of kites, tin pots, wrapping paper, saris, fancy brocade and many other interesting things.
**TOP EXPERIENCES**

**Red Fort** This massive fort is a sandstone shadow of its former self, but it dates from the peak of Mughal power. Each evening (except on Mondays), a one-hour sound-and-light show gives Red Fort the coloured-spotlight treatment.

**Jama Masjid** India’s largest mosque can hold 25,000 people. Towering over Old Delhi, it was Shah Jahan’s final architectural opus, built between 1644 and 1658.

**Humayun’s Tomb** Set amid landscaped gardens, this red sandstone and white marble mausoleum is the most graceful monument belonging to the Mughal era in Delhi. What gives it a special touch is the restoration work done for over six years to return this monument to its original glory.

**Qutub Minar** This soaring 73m tower dominates the skyline of south Delhi. Covered with intricate carvings and verses from the Koran, it is one of the world’s tallest towers.

**Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah** The marble shrine of the Sufi saint Nizamuddin Chishti stands amid a tangle of alleys, attracting many devotees.

**Lodi Garden** The landscaped garden is dotted by tombs of the Sayyid and Lodi rulers and is popular among all people, from politicians to couples.

**India Gate** This 42m-high stone memorial arch pays tribute to around 90,000 Indian soldiers who died fighting for the British cause in World War 1 and the 1919 Anglo-Afghan War.

**Rashtrapati Bhawan & Around** A walk from Rajpath to Rashtrapati Bhawan is an experience in itself. Rajpath was the imposing approach to New Delhi and hosts the huge Republic Day parade each year. At the western end of Rajpath is the Rashtrapati Bhavan, built in 1929.

**Connaught Place** This is a famous white colonnaded colonial era market is divided into blocks. Its streets radiate from the central circle leading to outer and inner circle.

**Jantar Mantar** This striking 18-century astronomical observatory is an architectural marvel.
Hauz Khas The artificial lake is a beautiful blue-green expanse, alive with birds, overlooking which are Firoz Shah’s 14th-century domed madrasa and his tomb.

Raj Ghat On the banks of the Yamuna River, a square platform of black marble marks the spot where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated following his assassination in 1948.

Safdarjung’s Tomb This grand mid-18th-century tomb is one of the last examples of Mughal architecture.

Lotus Temple The Bahai House of Worship is shaped like the lotus flower with 27 white-marble petals.

Akshardham Temple The temple is home to around 20,000 carved deities.

AROUND DELHI
Agra, Uttar Pradesh 210km
The allure of the Taj Mahal draws thousands to Agra. But the Taj is not a stand-alone attraction. Visit here for the magnificent Agra Fort, and other fascinating tombs and mausoleums. Make a side trip to Fatehpur Sikri to complete the experience.

Jaipur, Rajasthan 240km
Jaipur encapsulates the entire Rajasthan experience: magnificent forts and palaces, traditional eateries, exotic jewellery, textiles and handicrafts. In the midst of the chaotic streets are the splendours of Jaipur’s majestic past – the City Palace, Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal.

Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand 275km
India’s first national park and tiger reserve still remains a magnet for wildlife enthusiasts. Corbett is an exciting getaway in the midst of nature, where affordable luxury resorts are dime a dozen.

Kasauli, Himachal Pradesh 315km
In Kasauli it’s hard to resist the soothing pleasure of visiting old stone churches, and listening to the warble of birds while walking along endless forest pathways.

Shimla, Himachal Pradesh 373km
North India’s blue-chip hill station and Himachal Pradesh’s capital, Shimla, is alive with the buzz of restaurants, cafes and has splendid Raj architecture.
MAIDENS HOTEL  
23975464; www.maidenshotel.com; 7 Sham Nath Marg; rooms from ₹10,000  
Set in immaculate gardens, Maidens is a graceful hotel, built in 1903. Lutyens stayed here while supervising the building of New Delhi and the enormous high-ceilinged rooms still have a certain colonial-era charm. There are two restaurants, a swimming pool and a bar.

IMPERIAL  
23341234; www.theimperialindia.com; Janpath; rooms from ₹18,000  
The Raj-era Imperial marries colonial classicism with gilded art deco. In terms of style, service and luxury, it leaves other hotels in the cold. Rooms boast high ceilings, flowing drapes, French linen, marble baths and finely crafted furniture, and the hallways and atriums are lined with 18th- and 19th-century paintings and prints. The 1911 bar and Spice Route restaurant are highly recommended.

MANOR  
26925151; www.themanordelhi.com; 77 Friends Colony West; rooms from ₹9000 with breakfast  
This 16-room boutique hotel oozes privacy and elegance. Set amid lush lawns, there’s a colonial air to the opulent rooms and the restaurant, Indian Accent, with a creative menu, is one of Delhi’s finest.

NEW DELHI BED & BREAKFAST  
26894812; www.newdelhibedandbreakfast.com; C8/8225 Vasant Kunj; rooms from ₹3000  
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.
EATING

KARIM’S
23269880 Gali Kababyan; Old Delhi
Just off the lane leading south from the Jama Masjid, Karim’s has been delighting carnivores since 1913. Don’t miss the mutton burrah (marinated chops), seekh kebabs and tandoori chicken. There’s a branch in Nizamuddin West.

GALI PARANThA WALI
Chandni Chowk
Head to this foodstall-lined lane off Chandni Chowk for delectable paranthas fresh off the tawa. Choose from a spectacular array of stuffings, from green chilli and paneer, lemon and banana to rabri and kaju.

MOTI MAHAL
23273661; 3704 Netaji Subhash Marg
The original, much-copied Moti Mahal has been open for six generations. Delhiites rate the place for its superior butter chicken, dal makhani and sarson ka saag. There’s live qawali Wednesday to Monday (8pm to midnight).

INDIAN ACCENT
26925151; Manor, 77 Friends Colony
Overlooking lush lawns at the Manor hotel, this exclusive restaurant serves inspired modern Indian cuisine. Familiar and unfamiliar ingredients are thrown together in surprising combinations – don’t skip the silken tofu with quinoa pulao and blue cheese naan.

BIG CHILL
Khan Market
This film-poster-lined cafe is packed through the day. The menu is a telephone directory of continental and Indian dishes. There’s a branch Saket, Vasant Kunj and Kailash Colony.

WENGER’S
23324403 16 A-Block Connaught Place
Legendary Wenger’s has been baking since 1926; come for cakes, sandwiches, savoury patties, shami kebab and other snacks to eat on the trot.

ZEN CHINESE
23357444; 25 B-Block Connaught Place
Zen is one of the better Chinese restaurants in the city. Try claypot tofu and spicy shredded lamb.

* SARSON KA SAAG IS A SEASONAL OFFERING; © SHWETA ANDREWS
SHOPPING

KHAN MARKET
10.30am–8pm Mon–Sat
Favoured by expats and Delhi’s elite, the boutiques in this enclave are devoted to fashion, books and homeware and plenty of restaurants and cafes.

DILLI HAAT
Aurobindo Marg; admission ₹20; 10.30am–10pm
Located opposite INA Market, this colourful open-air food-and-crafts market sells handicrafts. There are some gorgeous bits and pieces on offer and food from states across the country.

SAKET MALLS Press Enclave Marg, Saket; 10am–11pm
At Delhi’s glitziest malls

− Select Citywalk, MGF Metropolitan and DLF Place – you’ll find chain stores, chain eateries, chain bars and soft play for kids. Glitzy Select Citywalk has a PVR cinema, branches of Fabindia and Good Earth, and many big-name eateries. DLF Place has more of the same, including a branch of Bahrions bookstore, while nearby MGF Metropolitan has several bars.

OLD DELHI BAZAARS
Chandni Chowk is all clothing, electronics and break-as-soon-as-you-buy-them novelties. For silver jewellery, head for Dariba Kalan, the alley near the Sisganj Gurdwara. Off this lane, the Kinari Bazaar is famous for zardozi, temple trim and wedding turbans. Nai Sarak is lined with stalls selling saris, shawls, lehangas, while nearby Ballimaran has sequinned slippers and fancy jootis.

ACTIVITIES

DELHIBYCYCLE
☎ 9811723720; www.delhibycycle.com;
tour ₹1600; 6.30–10am
This cycling tour is run by a Dutch journalist. Tours focus on specific neighbourhoods – Old Delhi, New Delhi, Nizamuddin and Lodi Road, and the banks of the Yamuna. The price includes tea and a Mughlai breakfast.

OLD DELHI WALKS
☎ 011 24641304; www.intachdelhichapter.org; tour ₹50
Intach runs a walking tour (two hours) every weekend with an expert guide, exploring different areas, such as Chandni Chowk, Nizamuddin, Hauz Khas, and Mehrauli. Custom walks can be arranged on request.