



Delhi

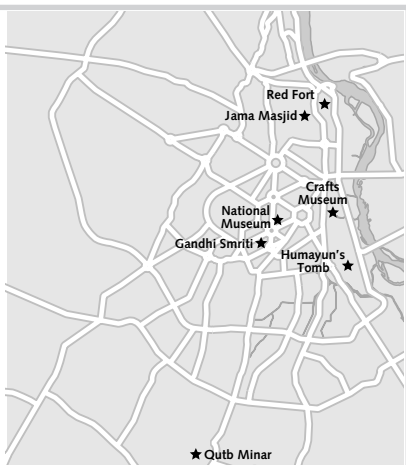
Delhi – with its tenacious touts and crush of mechanical and human traffic – can be downright confronting and confounding for the first-time visitor. But don't let petulant first impressions muddy the plus points of this truly multidimensional metropolis. Scratch beyond the gritty surface and you'll swiftly discover that India's capital is sprinkled with glittering gems: captivating ancient monuments, magnificent museums, a vivacious performing-arts scene and some of the subcontinent's yummiest places to eat.

A vibrant melting pot, you'll hear a jumble of vernaculars spoken in Delhi, the most common being Hindi, English, Punjabi and Urdu. In terms of its layout, Delhi encapsulates two very different worlds, the 'old' and the 'new', each presenting deliciously different experiences. Spacious New Delhi was built as the imperial capital of India by the British; rambunctious Old Delhi served as the capital of Islamic India. Visitors can easily dip into both, spending half the day immersing themselves in history at the dramatic Red Fort, Jama Masjid and medieval-flavoured bazaars of Old Delhi, and the other half reviving themselves over frothy cappuccinos or frosty cocktails at one of New Delhi's swanky cafés and bars. Furthermore, Delhi's recent global cuisine revolution means that hungry travellers can now feast on everything from meaty Mughlai curries and plump South Indian *idlis* (rice cakes), to crispy wood-fired pizzas and squishy sashimi.

For those here to catch a flight home there are some glorious last-minute shopping opportunities, with handicrafts from all around India – a real blessing if you regret not buying that twinkling mirrorwork bedspread in Rajasthan or striking Madhubani painting in Bihar.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wander around the **Red Fort** (p127), a phenomenal testament to the once-mighty Mughals
- Peruse the capital's outstanding museums and monuments: shining stars include the **National Museum** (p131), **Humayun's tomb** (p130), **Gandhi Smriti** (p130) and **Crafts Museum** (p131)
- Marvel at India's largest mosque, the majestic **Jama Masjid** (p129), which can hold a staggering 25,000 worshippers
- Gaze upon **Qutb Minar** (p161), a soaring victory tower built to proclaim the arrival of Islam in India
- **Shop** (p152) like a mad thing at the capital's bevy of earthy bazaars and chichi boutiques
- Quaff cocktails at a swish **bar** (p150) then dine at one of Delhi's superlative **restaurants** (p145)





See Central Delhi Map (pp132-3)

See Qutub Minar Complex Map (p161)

To Ashok Country Resort (15km), Jaipur (259km)

To Subah International Museum of Toilets (11km); Centaur Hotel (7.5km); International Terminal 2 (4km)

To Apollo Hospital (2km); Swakund (24km); Agra (200km)

To Temple of Gurukul (1.4km)

To Gurgaon (15km); Airways (12km)

To Gurgaon (15km); Airways (12km)

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INFORMATION		SLEEPING 		Geoffrey's.....(see 45)	
All India Institute of Medical Sciences..... 1 D7		Bajaj Indian Home Stay..... 22 C3		Hookah Bar & Lounge.....(see 46)	
Bangladeshi Embassy..... 2 C5		Ess Gee's..... 23 C3		Kylin.....(see 46)	
Citibank ATM.....(see 35)		Home Away From Home..... 24 D7		Lizard Lounge.....(see 55)	
East West Medical Centre..... 3 E7		Hotel Tarra..... 25 A7		Shalom Med Lounge Bar.....(see 52)	
Foreigners' Regional Registration Office (FRRO)..... 4 C6		Icon Towers..... 26 B7		ENTERTAINMENT 	
Maldives High Commission.....(see 9)		Icon Villa..... 27 B7		Dances of India..... 42 E4	
New Zealand Embassy..... 5 C6		Master Guest House..... 28 C4		PVR Priya Cinema.....(see 46)	
Singaporean Embassy..... 6 D7		One Link Rd..... 29 E6		PVR Saket (Anupam 4)..... 43 D8	
South African Embassy..... 7 C7		Peace House.....(see 33)		Satyam Cineplex..... 44 B3	
Teksons.....(see 54)		Radisson Hotel..... 30 A8		Tapas Lounge.....(see 46)	
Timeless..... 8 E6		The Manor..... 31 F6		SHOPPING 	
Wildlife Protection Society of India.....(see 51)		Uppal's Orchid..... 32 A7		Ansal Plaza..... 45 E7	
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		Wongdhen House..... 33 E1		Basant Lok Complex..... 46 C7	
Ashoka Pillar.....(see 13)		Yatri House..... 34 D4		Cottons.....(see 52)	
Ashtaang..... 9 C6		EATING 		Defence Colony Market.....(see 40)	
Bahai House of Worship (Lotus Temple)..... 10 F7		Arabian Nites..... 35 C7		Dilli Haat..... 47 D6	
Concern India Foundation..... 11 E7		Café Turtle (Branch).....(see 52)		Fabindia.....(see 52)	
Coronation Durbar Site..... 12 D1		China Garden.....(see 39)		Hauz Khas Village..... 48 D7	
Firoz Shah Kotla..... 13 E4		Diva.....(see 39)		Karol Bagh Market..... 49 D3	
Firoz Shah's Tomb..... 14 D7		Ego Thai..... 36 F7		Lajpat Nagar Central Market..... 50 E6	
Jahanpanah..... 15 D8		Flavours..... 37 E7		M-Block Market..... 51 E7	
Jaypee Vasant Continental Hotel.....(see 46)		Govinda's..... 38 F7		N-Block Market..... 52 E7	
Lakshmi Narayan Temple (Birla Mandir)..... 16 D4		La Piazza.....(see 4)		Planet M.....(see 55)	
National Rail Museum..... 17 C6		Naivedyam.....(see 48)		Roopak's.....(see 49)	
Nirmal Hriday (Missionaries of Charity)..... 18 E1		Not Just Parathas..... 39 E8		Sarojini Nagar Market..... 53 D6	
Shankar's International Dolls Museum..... 19 E4		Park Baluchi.....(see 48)		South Extension Market (Part I)..... 54 E6	
Shishu Bhavan (Missionaries of Charity)..... 20 E2		Punjabi by Nature.....(see 35)		South Extension Market (Part II)..... 55 D7	
Tughlaqabad..... 21 F8		Sagar.....(see 40)		TRANSPORT	
		Sugar & Spice.....(see 46)		Air Canada..... 56 E4	
		Swagath..... 40 E6		Inter State Bus Terminal..... 57 E3	
		Tamura..... 41 B7		Jhandewalan Cycle Market..... 58 D3	
		DRINKING		Lalli Motorbike Exports.....(see 49)	
		Barista (Branch).....(see 40)		Thai Airways International..... 59 E7	
		Barista (Branch).....(see 46)			
		Barista (Branch).....(see 54)			
		Ego Lounge.....(see 36)			

HISTORY

Delhi hasn't always been India's capital, but it has played a pivotal part in Indian history as it has always been a gateway city, built on the plains initially near a fording point on the Yamuna River and on the route between western and central Asia and Southeast Asia. It's also believed to be the site of the fabled city of Indraprastha, which featured in the Mahabharata over 3000 years ago, but historical evidence suggests that the area has been settled for around 2500 years.

At least eight known cities have been founded around modern Delhi, the last of which was the British Raj's New Delhi. 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 in present-day New Delhi, while Emperor Sher Shah created the sixth at Purana Qila, also in New Delhi. The Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan, constructed the seventh Delhi in the 17th century, thus shifting the

Mughal capital from Agra to Delhi; his Shah-jahanabad roughly corresponds to Old Delhi today and is largely preserved. The Chauhans seized control in the 12th century and made Delhi the most significant Hindu centre in northern India. But when Qutb-ud-din occupied the city in 1193, he ushered in more than six centuries of Islamic rule. In 1803, the British captured Delhi and promptly installed a British administrator. Delhi wasn't the capital of India at the time, but it was a critical commercial centre.

In 1911, the British announced the shifting of their capital from Kolkata (Calcutta; Bengal

FAST FACTS

- Population: 12.8 million
- Area: 1483 sq km
- Telephone code: ☎ 011
- When to go: November to March

was ardently championing independence) and proceeded to build New Delhi as though the sun would never set on the Raj. Construction wasn't completed, and the city officially inaugurated, until 1931. However, only 16 years after the grand inauguration, the British were booted out of India and Delhi became the capital of an independent India.

Since Independence, Delhi has prospered as the capital of modern India, with its population spiralling upwards due to rapid economic expansion and increased job opportunities. The downside of this boom – apart from growing pressure on the city's groaning infrastructure – is chronic overcrowding, traffic congestion, ballooning child labour, housing shortages and pollution.

ORIENTATION

Although Delhi is spread out, the areas of interest to travellers are relatively easy to navigate. In Old Delhi there's the main Inter State Bus Terminal (ISBT) and, to the south, the New Delhi train station. Near this station, acting as a sort of buffer zone between the old and new cities, is Paharganj, jam-packed with cheap accommodation.

New Delhi can be further subdivided into the business and residential areas around Connaught Place (the city's core) and the government areas around Rajpath to the south. Running south from Connaught Place is Janpath, which has the tourist office, hotels and a shopping strip.

The domestic terminals of the Indira Gandhi International Airport are 15km southwest of the centre and the international terminal is a further 8km away.

Urban sprawl – in the form of shanty settlements and affluent residential pockets – is rife.

The prosperous satellite city of Gurgaon, around 25km south of the centre, is a prominent multinational outsourcing hub that's largely characterised by ultramodern office blocks and snazzy shopping malls.

Maps

India Tourism Delhi (p125) has a free fold-away Delhi map. For exceedingly more detail, most bookshops sell the 245-page *Eicher City Map* (Rs 290); Eicher also produces a *Delhi Road Map* (Rs 30) and the *Good Earth Delhi Tourist Map & Guide* (Rs 69).

INFORMATION

Bookshops

Delhi has brilliant bookshops with some (especially those at Khan Market) selling gorgeous leather-bound novels at a fraction of the price they'd cost back home.

Most of the following places are well-stocked with novels, nonfiction, guidebooks, magazines and maps.

CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA

New Book Depot (Map p136; ☎ 23320020; 18 B-Block, Inner Circle; 🕒 11am-8pm Mon-Sat)

Oxford Bookstore (Map p136; ☎ 23766080; www.oxfordbookstore.com; Statesman House, 148 Barakhamba Rd; 🕒 10am-8pm Mon-Sat, noon-8pm Sun) Attached is the Cha Bar (p150).

People Tree (Map p136; ☎ 23744877; www.peopletreeonline.com; Regal Bldg, Sansad Marg; 🕒 10.30am-7pm Mon-Sat) Apart from fiction, there's cerebral nonfiction (gender issues, human rights, environmental matters etc).

FESTIVALS IN DELHI

Delhi's festival dates and venues can be variable – for this year's details, contact the India Tourism Delhi office (p125).

Delhi celebrates Diwali (p1137) and Dussehra (p1137) with particular verve.

Republic Day (26 Jan; Rajpath, p130) Incorporates a spectacular military parade.

Beating of the Retreat (29 Jan; Rajpath, p130) The closing of the Republic Day celebrations is marked by the Beating of the Retreat, also entailing military pageantry. Tickets are essential for both events and are available at India Tourism Delhi (p125).

Delhi Flower Show (Jan/Feb) Held over a few days, this colourful event features a variety of flowers including hybrids.

Mango Festival (Jul; Talkatora Gardens) Running for several days, this juicy festival showcases hundreds of mango varieties.

Independence Day (15 Aug; Red Fort, p127) On this day, when India celebrates its Independence from Britain in 1947, the prime minister addresses the nation from the Red Fort ramparts.

Qutb Festival (Oct/Nov; Qutb Minar, p161) Held over several days, featuring Indian music and dance performances.

KHAN MARKET**Bahri Sons** (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24694610; 🕒 11am-7.30pm Mon-Sat)**Faqir-Chand & Sons** (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24618810; 🕒 10am-8pm Mon-Sat)**Full Circle Bookstore** (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24655641; 🕒 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Café Turtle is upstairs (p150).**SOUTH EXTENSION****Teksons** (☎ 24617030; Part I; 🕒 10am-8pm Tue-Sun)**Timeless** (☎ 24693257; 46 Housing Society, Part I; 🕒 10am-7pm) Hidden in a back lane (a few minutes' walk from the South Extension Part I Market's 'Bengal Sweets'), Timeless specialises in quality coffee-table books, from Indian textiles to architecture. Browse over a complimentary coffee or tea.**Cultural Centres & Libraries**

Cultural centres often host exhibitions and seminars as well as dance, music and theatrical performances (telephone for current happenings).

Alliance Française (Map pp132-3; ☎ 43500200; 72 Lodi Estate)**American Center** (Map p136; ☎ 23316841; 24 Kasturba Gandhi Marg)**British Council** (Map p136; ☎ 23711401; 17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg)**Delhi Public Library** (Map p128; ☎ 23962682; SP Mukherjee Marg)**India International Centre** (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24619431; 40 Max Mueller Marg)**Max Mueller Bhavan** (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23329506; 3 Kasturba Gandhi Marg)**Rabindra Bhavan** (Map pp132-3; Copernicus

Marg); Lalit Kala Akademi (Academy of Contemporary Art; ☎ 23384634); Sangeet Natak Akademi (Academy of Performing arts; ☎ 23387246); Sahitya Akademi (Academy of literature; ☎ 23386626)

Internet Access

Internet centres are mushrooming, with most charging Rs 5 to print a page and Rs 25 to scan/write a CD.

Cyber Graphics (Map pp132-3; Khan Market; per 30min Rs 40; 🕒 9.30am-7.30pm) Well-spaced terminals.**Cyber Station** (Map p140; Main Bazaar, Paharganj; per 30min Rs 10; 🕒 7.30am-10pm) One of many places to surf the internet in Paharganj.**DSIDC Cyber Café** (Map p136; N-Block, Connaught Place; per hr Rs 35; 🕒 9am-8pm Mon-Sat) Some keyboards are battered but this is one of the limited internet centres in Connaught Place.**Media**Information-rich publications (excellent for ascertaining what's on during your visit) include the *Delhi City Guide* (Rs 20) and *Delhi Diary* (Rs 10). *First City* (Rs 30) is a glossy monthly magazine with comprehensive listings/reviews ranging from theatrical performances to in-vogue bars. Delhi'ed out? Grab Outlook Traveller's *Weekend Breaks from Delhi* (Rs 225). Most publications are available at newsstands and bookshops.**Medical Services**

The East West and Apollo get good traveller reports. Pharmacies are found in virtually all markets.

DELHI IN...**Two Days**To gently acclimatise to dizzying Delhi, spend your first day exploring these calm sites: the **National Museum** (p131), **Gandhi Smriti** (p130) and **Humayun's tomb** (p130).On day two, ramble around Old Delhi's **Red Fort** (p127) and **Jama Masjid** (p129), then sniff spices, gobble *jalebis* (fried sweet 'squiggles') and browse for bangles in the old city's action-packed **bazaars** (p152). Afterwards, grab an autorickshaw south to **Connaught Place** (p135) for a bite to eat (p146) and a spot of **shopping** (p152).**Four Days**Follow the itinerary above, and on the third day wander around **Qutb Minar** (p161) then spend the afternoon in quiet meditation at the **Bahai House of Worship** (p135). In the evening, watch the mesmerising **Dances of India** (p151), then kick back at a **bar** (p150).On day four, spend the morning at the laid-back **Crafts Museum** (p131) and nearby **Purana Qila** (p130). Those keen on doing more **shopping** (p152) can easily devote the rest of the day to doing so, while those who are all shopped out can do more **sightseeing** (p127).

All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Aiiims; Map pp120-1; ☎ 26588700; Ansari Nagar)

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

Apollo Pharmacy (Map p136; ☎ 32604579; G8 Connaught Place; ☎ 24hr) Near the Hotel Marina.

Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (Map pp132-3;

☎ 23365525; Baba Kharak Singh Marg)

East West Medical Centre (Map pp120-1; ☎ 24623738; B-28 Greater Kailash Part I) Opposite N-Block Market.

Money

ATMS

ATMs are spreading like wildfire – these are just a smattering of possibilities:

Citibank Basant Lok complex (Map pp120-1; Vasant Vihar); cnr C- & K-Blocks (Map p136; Connaught Place); Khan Market (Map pp132-3)

HDFC (Map p140; Main Bazaar, Paharganj)

ICICI Connaught Place (Map p136; 9A Phelps Bldg); Paharganj (Map p140; Rajguru Rd)

UTI (Map p140; Rajguru Rd, Paharganj) Next to Hotels Roxy and Kelson.

FOREIGN CURRENCY & TRAVELLERS

CHEQUES

American Express (Amex; Map p136; ☎ 23719506; A-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 9.30am-6.30pm Mon-Fri, to 2.30pm Sat) Also has an Amex-only ATM.

Central Bank of India (Map pp132-3; ☎ 26110101; Ashok Hotel, Chanakyapuri; ☎ 24hr)

Chequepoint Foreign Exchange (Baluja Forex; Map p140; ☎ 41541523; 4596 Main Bazaar, Paharganj; ☎ 8.30am-7.30pm) Also does cash advances on MasterCard and Visa.

Delhi Tourism & Transport Development Corporation (Map p136; ☎ 23315322; N-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat) Has a foreign-exchange counter.

Thomas Cook international airport (☎ 25653439; ☎ 24hr); Janpath (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23342171; Hotel Janpath, Janpath; ☎ 9.30am-7.30pm Mon-Fri, to 6pm Sat); New Delhi train station (Map p140; ☎ 23211819; ☎ 24hr)

INTERNATIONAL TRANSFERS

Thomas Cook (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23342171; Hotel Janpath, Janpath; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat)

Western Union (Head Office) (Map p136; ☎ 23355061; Sita World Travels, 12 F-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 9.30am-8pm Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm Sun) Numerous branches citywide.

Photography

For photographic services (including digital) and passport photos, these are some dependable options:

Delhi Photo Company (Map p136; ☎ 23320577; 78 Janpath, Connaught Place; ☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat)

Kinsey Bros (Map p136; ☎ 23324446; 2 A-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 10am-7pm Mon-Sat)

Rama Color (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24628890; Khan Market; ☎ 10.30am-8pm Mon-Sat)

Post & Telephone

Delhi has loads of telephone kiosks where you can make local, interstate and international calls (cheaper than hotels).

DHL (Map p136; ☎ 23737587; Vandana Bldg, 11 Tolstoy Marg; ☎ 8am-9pm Mon-Sat) International air freight.

Post offices Connaught Place (Map p136; 6 A-Block); New Delhi main post office (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23364111; Baba Kharak Singh Marg; ☎ 10am-1pm & 1.30-4.30pm Mon-Sat) Poste restante available at the main post office; ensure mail is addressed to GPO, New Delhi – 110001. The Connaught Place office is the more conveniently located of the two.

Tourist Information

Beware of the many (profit-driven, usually substandard) travel agencies and others posing as 'tourist information centres' in Delhi. Do *not* be fooled – the only official one is India Tourism Delhi, listed below. Touts may (falsely) claim to be associated with this office.

For contact details of Indian regional tourist offices ask at India Tourism Delhi, or dial the operator on ☎ 197.

India Tourism Delhi (Government of India; www.incredibleindia.org); Connaught Place (Map p136; ☎ 23320008; 88 Janpath; ☎ 9am-6pm Mon-Fri, to 2pm Sat); domestic airport (☎ 25675296; ☎ 8am-last flight); international airport (☎ 25691171; ☎ 24hr) Gives tourist-related advice as well as a free Delhi map and various brochures. Their special branch investigates tourism-related complaints.

DANGERS & ANNOYANCES

Lonely Planet receives many reports from travellers who have been victim to at least one of a number of scams operating in Delhi. Most scams involve touts, usually around tourist hubs such as Connaught Place, Paharganj and the New Delhi train station. These pushy fellows will try to cart you off to shops, travel agencies or 'official' tourist offices (the only official tourist office is India Tourism Delhi, above), where they earn commission at your expense. If you're being pestered by touts or face other problems, seek out the 'tourist police', who have clearly marked jeeps

stationed at tourist centres including the international airport, New Delhi train station and Janpath.

Always exercise caution with travel agencies, as scores of travellers have reported being hoodwinked by unscrupulous agents. To avoid grief, always shop around to gauge exactly what's on offer and choose agents who are members of accredited associations such as the Travel Agents Association of India and the Indian Association of Tour Operators. Finally, before parting with your hard-earned cash, insist on getting what you've been promised in *writing* – this will be invaluable if you

need to lodge a complaint with the tourist office or police.

More and more travellers are being sweet-talked by Delhi travel agents and touts into taking tours to Kashmir, either as part of a 'special package' or stand-alone trip. Once in Kashmir most travellers discover they've been given a very raw (often dodgy) deal, with far less delivered than promised. Given the number of complaints we've received, it's probably best not to book tours to Kashmir from Delhi; also read p352 and p357.

For shopping scams, see p1132. Women should read p1161.

DODGING THE DODGY

Touts may come in the form of taxi-wallahs, especially at the international airport; sneaky drivers may insist you need to confirm your hotel booking before actually arriving – complete hogwash! With this scam, either the driver phones your hotel (or so you think), or, you're whisked off to an office where someone else calls the hotel on your behalf. You're inevitably told that you don't have a reservation when in reality you've been talking to someone in cahoots with the driver. You're then dropped off at another hotel (often in Karol Bagh) where the driver receives a fat commission and you get an inflated room rate. Another scam involves the driver frightening you into thinking there are riots in Delhi with the hidden agenda of bundling you off to a hotel of *his* choice in an allegedly safe area (again, where he receives commission). Alternatively, the driver may claim that he's lost and stop at a travel agency for directions. The agent (also in on the scam) supposedly dials your hotel and informs you that your room is double-booked. The seemingly concerned agent promptly finds you another hotel, where he and the taxi driver both earn commission. Autorickshaw drivers are also often knee-deep in the commission racket, so politely decline offers to visit hotels or shops of their choice. It also pays to double-check that your driver has indeed taken you to the hotel/shop you requested, as some cunningly try to offload passengers at places where they receive commission – don't pay the fare until you are sure you're at the right destination.

Train stations also attract rapacious tricksters who feed off the tourist traffic. At the New Delhi train station touts may try to stop you from booking tickets at the upstairs International Tourist Bureau and divert you to one of the (overpriced and often unreliable) travel agencies over the road. Make the assumption that the office is *never* closed (outside official opening hours; see p157), isn't being renovated and hasn't shifted. Other swindlers may insist your ticket needs to be stamped/checked (for a hefty fee) before it's valid. Some may try to convince wait-listed passengers that there's a charge to check their reservation status – don't fall for it. Once out of the station, avoid overpriced conveyance by heading for the car park's prepaid autorickshaw and taxi booths.

The 'shit on the shoe' scam in Connaught Place has declined but not vanished. A shoeshiner grabs your attention by pointing to a goopy splotch on your shoe that wasn't there seconds ago. The shoeshiner (who is actually responsible for it) offers to remove it (for a ridiculously high amount). Look out for these tricksters in advance – they have minimal equipment whereas genuine shoeshiners have a box full of shoe-cleaning products, often laid out on the footpath, and charge around Rs 25 for a polish. If your shoes get poo-splotched, seek out a genuine shoeshiner.

Steer clear of young men lurking about (often around Connaught Place), some of whom humbly claim they're students merely wanting to improve their English – 99% are commission tricksters.

Finally, it's a good idea to always carry small denominations (i.e. anything below Rs 50 notes), as drivers seem to have a perpetual lack of small change.

SIGHTS

Delhi's major sights are predominantly found in Old Delhi and in the vicinity of New Delhi's Connaught Place.

Shuttling between attractions is quickest on Sunday, when there's less traffic – you'll usually beat the crowds if you arrive as close to opening times as possible. Note that many sites are shut on Monday and that US-dollar admission charges are payable in the rupee equivalent.

Behave and dress conservatively whenever visiting places of worship.

Old Delhi

Unruly Old Delhi has a wonderfully raw and unique charm. Set aside at least half a day to do this fascinating area justice. All of the attractions in this section feature on Map p128.

The old walled city of Shahjahanabad stretches west from the Red Fort and was at one time surrounded by a sturdy defensive wall, only fragments of which now exist. The **Kashmiri Gate**, at the northern end of the walled city, was the scene of desperate fighting when the British retook Delhi during the 1857 Indian Uprising. West of here is the British-erected **Mutiny Memorial**, dedicated to the soldiers who died during the Uprising. Near the monument is an **Ashoka Pillar**; like the one in Firoz Shah Kotla, it was brought here by Firoz Shah.

RED FORT (LAL QILA)

This massive **fort** (Indian/foreigner Rs 10/US\$2, video Rs 25; ☎ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun) stands rather forlornly, a sandstone carcass of its former self. When Emperor Shah Jahan paraded out of the fort atop an elephant into the streets of Old Delhi, though, he and the fort that he built were a grandiose display of pomp and power.

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 began construction of the massive fort in 1638 and it was completed in 1648. Shah Jahan never completely moved his capital from Agra to his new city of Shahjahanabad in Delhi because he was deposed and imprisoned in Agra Fort by his sly son Aurangzeb.

The Red Fort dates from the very peak of Mughal power. The Mughal reign from Delhi was a short one, however; Aurangzeb was the first and last great Mughal emperor to rule from here.

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

You can purchase tickets to the fort from the **ticket kiosk** opposite Lahore Gate (the main gate).

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** takes its name from the fact that it faces towards Lahore, now in Pakistan. It's a potent symbol of modern India, because during the fight for independence from British rule, there was a nationalist aspiration to see the Indian flag flying over the gate – the dream 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 arcade of shops here once sold items that the royal household might fancy – silks, jewellery and gold.

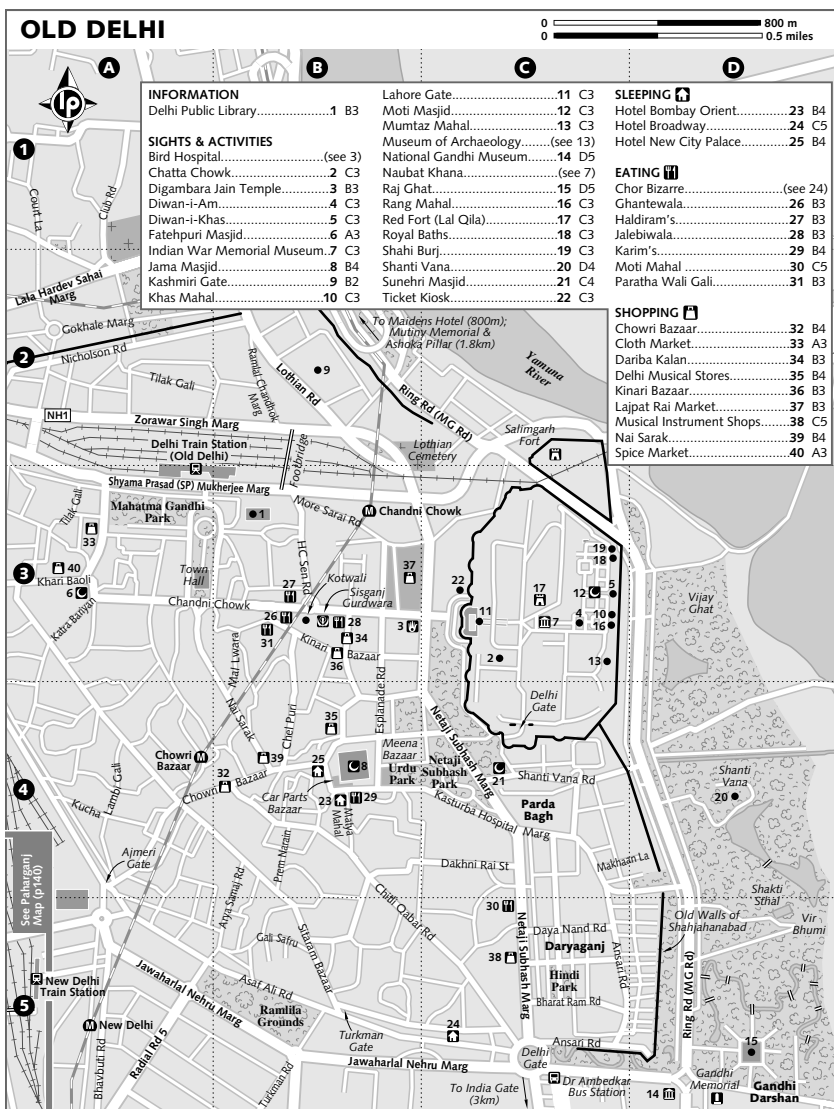
The arcade leads to the **Naubat Khana** (Drum House), where musicians once performed for the emperor. There's an **Indian War Memorial Museum** (admission Rs2) upstairs. The open courtyard beyond the Drum House formerly had galleries along either side, but these were removed by the British army when the fort was used as its headquarters.

Diwan-i-Am

The **Hall of Public Audiences** was where the emperor would hear disputes from his subjects. His alcove in the wall was marble panelled and set with precious stones, many of which were looted following the Indian Uprising. The hall was restored following a directive by Lord Curzon, the viceroy of India between 1898 and 1905.

Diwan-i-Khas

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



so today it's only a pale shadow of its former glory.

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 *pietra dura* (marble inlay work), and the rooms were illuminated through panels of coloured glass in the roof.

Shahi Burj

This modest, three-storey, octagonal **tower** located at the northeastern edge of the fort was once Shah Jahan's private working area.

From here, water used to flow south through the Royal Baths, the Diwan-i-Khas, the Khas Mahal and on to the Rang Mahal.

Moti Masjid

Built in 1659 by Aurangzeb for his own personal use and security, the small and totally enclosed **Pearl Mosque**, made of marble, is next to the baths. One curious feature of the mosque is that 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 has the correct orientation with 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.

The **Rang Mahal** (Palace of Colour), further south again, took its name from its painted interior, which is now gone. This was once 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 used to end up here.

Relics from the Mughal era are displayed at the **Museum of Archaeology** (admission Rs 2) in the **Mumtaz Mahal**, still further south along the eastern wall.

Sound-&Light Show

Each evening (except Monday) this one-hour **show** (admission Rs 50; 🗣️ in English 7.30pm Nov-Jan, 8.30pm Feb-Apr & Sep-Oct, 9pm May-Aug) re-creates events of India's history, particularly those associated with the Red Fort. Tickets are available from the fort's ticket kiosk or from the Indian Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) counter at the India Tourism Delhi office (p125).

CHANDNI CHOWK

Old Delhi's backbone is the chronically congested **Chandni Chowk** which has narrow lanes snaking off it. At the eastern (Red Fort) end of Chandni Chowk, there's the 16th-century **Digambar Jain Temple** (remove shoes and leather before entering). The **bird hospital** (donations appreciated; 🕒 10am-5pm) here is run by the Jains, who believe in the preservation of all life.

The western end of Chandni Chowk is marked by the mid-17th-century **Fatehpuri Masjid**.

SUNEHRI MASJID

Just south of the Red Fort is the **Sunehri Masjid**. In 1739 Nadir Shah, the Persian invader, stood on the roof of this mosque and macabrely watched his soldiers conduct a bloody massacre of Delhi's inhabitants.

JAMA MASJID

This stunning **mosque** (camera/video each Rs 150; 🗣️ non-Muslims 8.30am-12.30pm & 1.45pm-30min before sunset, closed noon-2pm Fri) is the largest in India and the final architectural magnum opus of Shah Jahan. Construction of the mosque began in 1644, but it wasn't completed until 1658. It has three gateways, four angle towers and two minarets standing 40m high, and is constructed of alternating vertical strips of red sandstone and white marble. The main entry point is Gate No 3. The mosque's courtyard can hold a mind-blowing 25,000 people.

For Rs 20 it's possible to climb the southern minaret (women must be accompanied by a male; sometimes unaccompanied men may also not be permitted), where the views are superb. 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 (pay the shoeminder Rs 5 upon collection). Beware of fake guides insisting there's a charge to enter the mosque (admission is free). If you wish to hire a guide, ask to see accreditation.

RAJ GHAT

South of the Red Fort, on the banks of the Yamuna, a simple square **platform** of black marble marks the spot where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated following his assassination in 1948.

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 (died 1991) were also cremated in this vicinity.

The Raj Ghat area is now a beautiful park. The **National Gandhi Museum** (☎ 23311793; admission free; 🕒 9.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sun) contains assorted memorabilia, mostly photos.

Central Delhi

All of the attractions in this section feature on Map pp132–3.

RAJPATH

Broad **Rajpath** (Kingsway) is another focus of the Raj-appointed English architect Edwin Lutyens' New Delhi. It hosts the spectacular Republic Day parade every 26 January and the Beating of the Retreat on 29 January.

At the eastern end of Rajpath is India Gate, while at the western end is Rashtrapati Bhavan, which is flanked by two large Secretariat buildings. These three buildings sit upon a small rise, known as Raisina Hill.

India Gate, a 42m-high stone memorial arch, pays tribute to around 90,000 Indian army soldiers who died in WWI, the Northwest Frontier operations of the same time and the 1919 Afghan fiasco.

The official residence of the president of India, the palacelike **Rashtrapati Bhavan** (President's House), was completed in 1929. To its west, the **Mughal gardens** occupy 130 hectares, open (admission free; photography prohibited) to the public for several days in February/March – for dates contact India Tourism Delhi (p125).

Pre-Independence, Rashtrapati Bhavan was the viceroy's residence. At the time of Mountbatten, India's last viceroy, the number of servants needed to maintain its 340 rooms and gardens was colossal. There were 418 gardeners alone, 50 of whom were boys employed to chase away birds.

The north and south **Secretariat buildings** are on either side of Rajpath on Raisina Hill. These imposing buildings, topped with small domes, now house government ministries.

Standing at the end of Sansad Marg is **Sansad Bhavan** (Parliament House). The building is a circular, colonnaded structure 171m in diameter.

HUMAYUN'S TOMB

This must-see **tomb** (Indian/foreigner Rs 10/US\$5, video Rs 25; ☞ dawn-dusk), off Mathura Rd, is a brilliant example of early Mughal architecture. It was built in the mid-16th century by Haji Begum, the Persian-born senior wife of the second Mughal emperor Humayun. Elements in its design – a squat building with high arched entrances that let in light, topped by a bulbous dome and surrounded by formal gardens – were to be refined over the years to

eventually create the magnificence of Agra's Taj Mahal. Haji Begum is buried in the red-and-white sandstone and black-and-yellow marble tomb.

The octagonal tomb of Isa Khan is through a gate to the left of the entrance and is a fine example of Lodi architecture.

PURANA QILA

With massive walls and three gateways, **Purana Qila** (Old Fort; ☎ 24353178; Mathura Rd; Indian/foreigner Rs 5/US\$2, 2-video Rs 25; ☞ dawn-dusk) was the site of ancient Indraprastha (p45). The Afghan ruler, Sher Shah, who briefly interrupted Mughal sovereignty by defeating Humayun, completed the fort during his reign (1538–45), before Humayun regained control of India.

Entering from the south gate you'll see the small, octagonal, red-sandstone tower, the **Sher Mandal**, later used by Humayun as a library. It was while descending the stairs of this tower in 1556 that he slipped and sustained injuries from which he later died. Just beyond it is the **Qila-i-Kuhran Mosque**, or Mosque of Sher Shah.

There's a small **archaeological museum** (admission free) just inside the main gate.

GANDHI SMRITI

Paying tribute to the Father of the Nation, this poignant **memorial** (☎ 23012843; 5 Tees January Marg; admission free, camera/video free/prohibited; ☞ 10am–1.30pm & 2–5pm Tue–Sun, closed every 2nd Sat of month) 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, which is marked by a small pavilion known as the Martyr's Column. Gandhi's last words were 'Hey Ram' (Oh God).

The impressive indoor museum runs a short animation film and has a riveting multimedia exhibition that includes the 'Pillar of Castelessness', which lights up when people join hands. In another section of the museum is a series of glass-encased minifigures depicting scenes from Gandhi's life, including his 1931 meeting with the king at Buckingham Palace.

The room where Gandhi spent his final 144 days is also open to the public. On display are his walking stick, spectacles, spinning wheel, chappals (sandals) and other personal items.

SUPREME COURT OF INDIA MUSEUM

Showcasing India's judicial history, this small **museum** (☎ 23388942; Supreme Court of India, Tilak Marg;

admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun), which is accessed from Mathura Rd (opposite Appu Ghar Gate), contains two interesting galleries. One gallery has a focus on the evolution of India's justice system, which harks back to the Indus Valley civilization (3500 BC). The second gallery is dedicated to the Federal and Supreme Courts with exhibits including an early-20th-century judge's chair, portraits of Raj-era judges and original manuscripts of landmark cases including the assassination case of Mahatma Gandhi. Photography is prohibited.

CRAFTS MUSEUM

Near Pragati Maidan is this delightful tree-shaded, exhibit-packed **museum** (☎ 23371641; Bhairon Marg; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) and craft stalls where artisans sell direct to buyers. It's part of a contrived, yet enjoyable, 'village life' complex and is certainly a soothing escape from the city madness.

Peruse the well-presented galleries which house more than 20,000 exhibits from around India, including metalware, woodwork, old silver jewellery, tribal masks, paintings and terracotta figurines. There's also a huge 18th-century wooden *jharkha* (elaborate balcony) from Gujarat. The on-site shop sells quality crafts.

Photography is only allowed with prior permission.

NATIONAL MUSEUM

Thousands of historic artefacts are on display in the spacious galleries of this excellent **museum** (☎ 23019272; Janpath; Indian/foreigner Rs 10/300, foreigner price includes audio-guides in English/Hindi/French/Japanese/German; camera Indian/foreigner Rs 20/300; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun). Exhibits include rare relics from the Harappan Civilisation, Central Asian antiquities (including silk paintings from the 1st century AD), Indian textiles, tribal masks, sculptures, musical instruments, old coins

(including Portuguese, Dutch and Danish), miniature paintings and weapons (including a battle-axe from AD 1739). Give yourself at least a few hours – preferably a half-day – to explore this museum, one of India's finest.

When collecting audio-guides, you'll have to deposit some form of personal identification which will be returned when you give back the headsets. Video cameras are prohibited.

Next door is the **Archaeological Survey of India** (☎ 23010822; Janpath; ☎ 9.30am-1pm & 2-6pm Mon-Fri) which stocks publications about India's main sites.

GURDWARA BANGLA SAHIB

Topped with gold domes, the **Gurdwara Bangla Sahib** (Ashoka Rd; ☎ 4am-9pm) 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; a tank on the premises of the gurdwara (Sikh temple) contains water said to have curative properties. Soul-warming *kirtan* (devotional songs) often drift from the temple.

SAFDARJANG'S TOMB

Built by the Nawab of Avadh for his father, Safdarjang, this mid-18th-century **tomb** (Aurobindo Marg; Indian/foreigner Rs 5/US\$2, video Rs 25; ☎ dawn-dusk) is one of the last examples of Mughal architecture before the final remnants of the great empire collapsed.

INDIRA GANDHI MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The former residence of Indira Gandhi is now a **museum** (☎ 23010094; 1 Safdarjang Rd; admission free; ☎ 9.30am-4.45pm Tue-Sun), displaying some of her personal belongings, including the blood-stained sari she was wearing when she was assassinated in 1984. There are also newspaper clippings, letters and photos. On the way

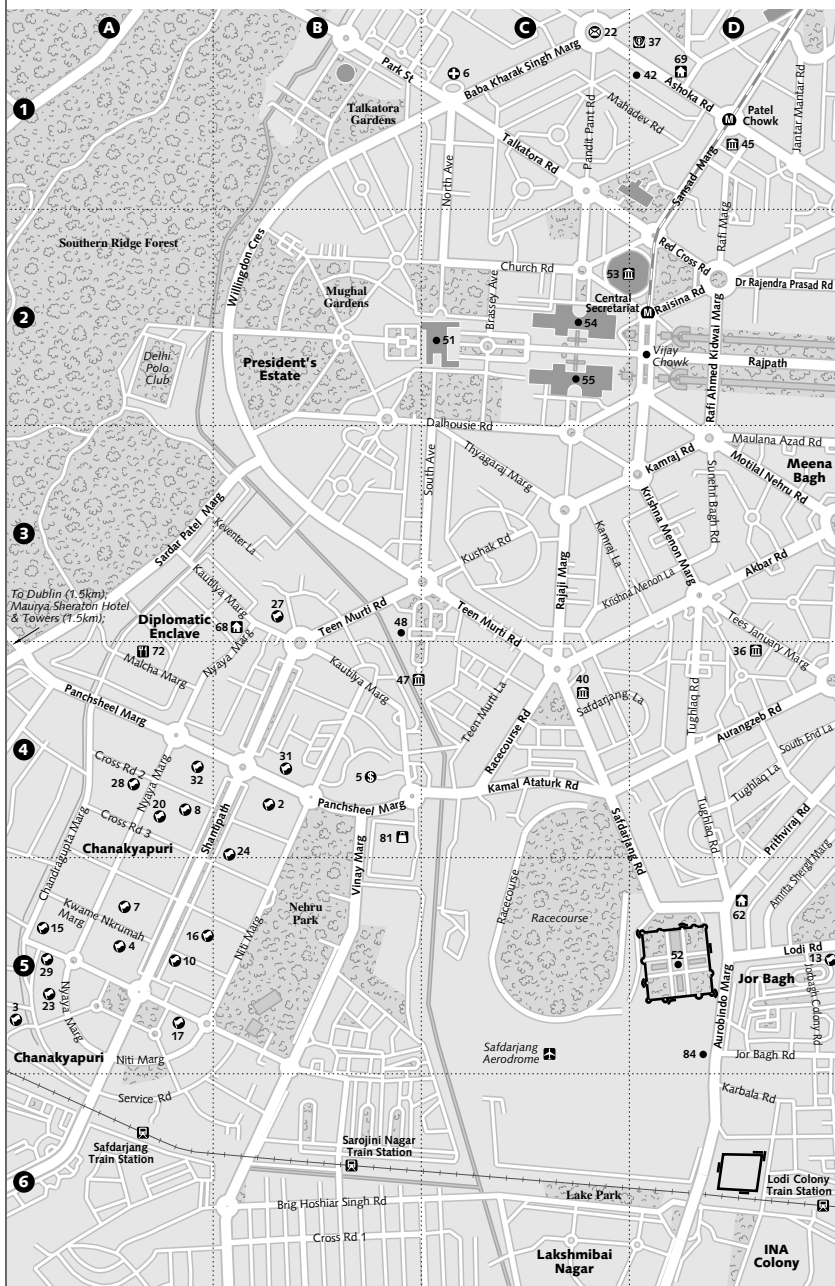
URBAN JUNGLE RETREATS

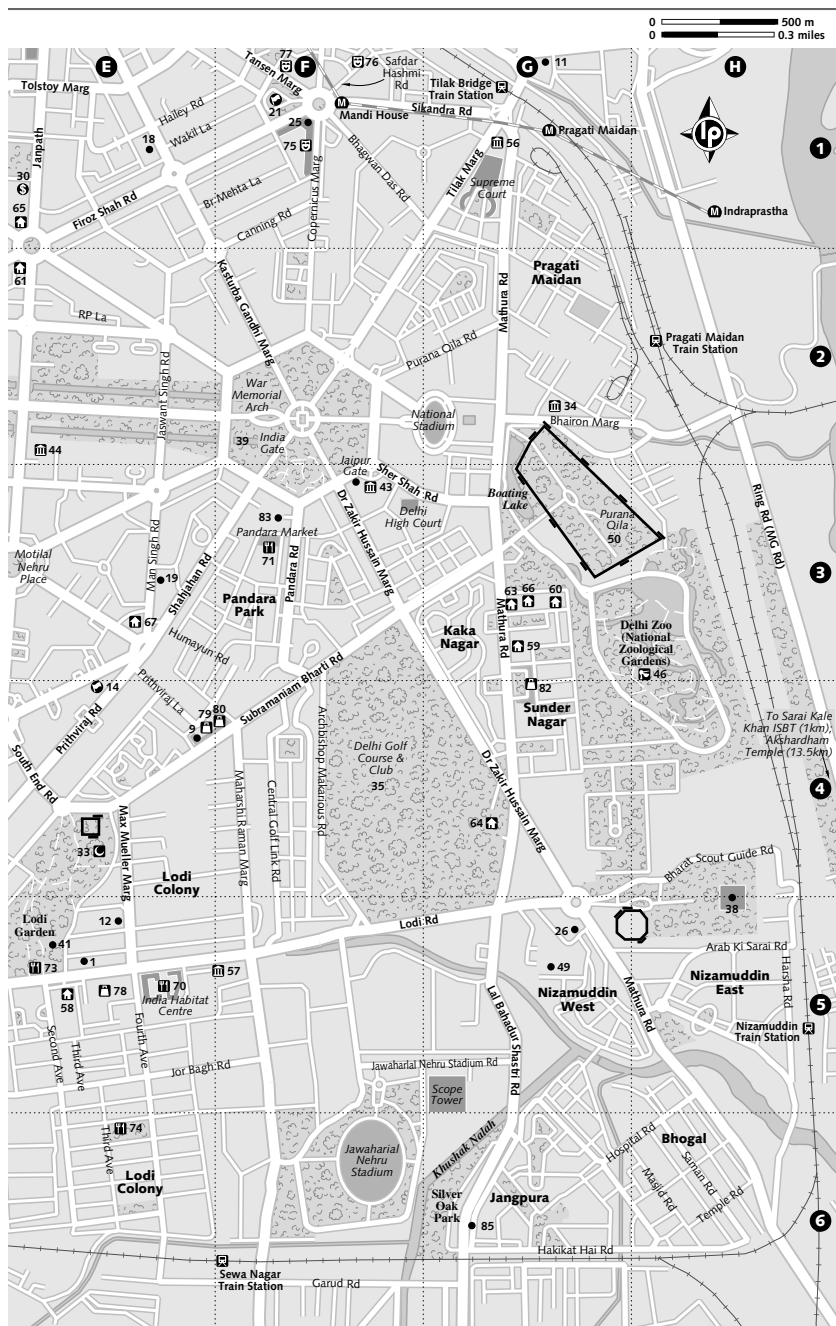
Raucous Delhi, with its suffocating crowds, snarling traffic and bothersome touts, can be incredibly frazzling. Thankfully there are some scenic spots to steal solace. During the cooler months, retreat to the pleasant grounds of Humayun's Tomb (opposite), Qutb Minar (p161), Safdarjang's tomb (above), Lodi Garden (p134), Hauz Khas (p137), Raj Ghat (p129) and India Gate (opposite).

If you're in town during summer, top-end hotels (p144) – with their igloo-cold air-conditioning and lavish interiors – are rejuvenating spots to recharge your batteries, most with 24-hour coffee shops. Air-conditioned comfort can also be found at Delhi's modern cineplexes (p151).

Another great escape from the rat race is the Crafts Museum (above), where you can casually peruse the galleries and watch visiting artisans turn mud into masterpieces.

CENTRAL DELHI





INFORMATION		Crafts Museum.....	34 G2	Baci.....	(see 82)
Alliance Française.....	1 E5	Delhi Golf Club.....	35 F4	Basil & Thyme.....	(see 81)
Australian Embassy.....	2 B4	Delhi Riding Club.....	(see 52)	Chicken Inn.....	71 F3
Bahri Sons.....	(see 79)	Gandhi Smriti.....	36 D4	Fujiya.....	72 A4
Bhutan Embassy.....	3 A5	Gurdwara Bangla Sahib.....	37 D1	Gulati.....	(see 71)
Canadian Embassy.....	4 A5	Hotel Samrat.....	(see 5)	Havemore.....	(see 71)
Central Bank of India.....	5 B4	Humayun's Tomb.....	38 H5	Khan Chacha.....	(see 79)
Citibank ATM.....	(see 79)	India Gate.....	39 F2	Lodi, The Garden Restaurant.....	73 E5
Cyber Graphics.....	(see 79)	Indira Gandhi Memorial Museum.....	40 C4	Pindi Restaurant.....	(see 71)
Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.....	6 C1	Lodi Garden.....	41 E5	Ploof.....	74 E6
Dutch Embassy.....	7 A5	Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga.....	42 D1	Sugar & Spice (Branch).....	(see 80)
Faqir-Chand & Sons.....	(see 79)	National Gallery of Modern Art.....	43 F3	DRINKING	
French Embassy.....	8 A4	National Museum.....	44 E2	Barista (Branch).....	(see 9)
Full Circle Bookstore.....	9 E4	National Philatelic Museum.....	45 D1	Big Chill.....	(see 79)
German Embassy.....	10 A5	National Zoological Gardens.....	46 H3	Café Coffee Day.....	(see 79)
Income Tax Office.....	11 G1	Nehru Memorial Museum.....	47 B4	Café Turtle.....	(see 9)
India International Centre.....	12 E5	Nehru Planetarium.....	48 B3	Rick's Bar.....	(see 67)
Irish Embassy.....	13 D5	Nizam-ud-din's Shrine.....	49 G5	ENTERTAINMENT 📺	
Israeli Embassy.....	14 E4	Purana Qila.....	50 G3	Habitat World.....	(see 70)
Italian Embassy.....	15 A5	Rashtrapati Bhavan.....	51 C2	Kamani Auditorium.....	75 F1
Japanese Embassy.....	16 A5	Safdarjang's Tomb.....	52 D5	Sangeet Natak Akademi.....	(see 25)
Lalit Kala Akademi.....	(see 25)	Sansad Bhavan.....	53 C2	Shri Ram Centre.....	76 F1
Malaysian Embassy.....	17 A5	Secretariat (North Block).....	54 C2	Triveni Kala Sangam.....	77 F1
Max Mueller Bhavan.....	18 E1	Secretariat (South Block).....	55 C2	SHOPPING 🛍️	
Ministry of Home Affairs (Foreigners Division).....	19 E3	Supreme Court of India Museum.....	56 G1	Anokhi (Branch).....	(see 79)
Myanmar (Burma) Embassy.....	20 A4	Tibet House.....	57 F5	Anokhi.....	(see 81)
Nepalese Embassy.....	21 F1	SLEEPING 🛏️		C.Lal & Sons.....	78 E5
New Delhi Main Post Office (GPO).....	22 C1	Jorbagh 27.....	58 E5	Delhi Cloth House.....	(see 80)
New Zealand Embassy.....	23 A5	Jukoso Inn.....	59 G3	Fabindia.....	(see 79)
Pakistani Embassy.....	24 B4	La Sagrta Tourist Home.....	60 G3	Kastro's.....	(see 81)
Rabindra Bhavan.....	25 F1	Le Meridien.....	61 E2	Khan Market.....	79 E4
Rama Colour.....	(see 79)	Lutyens Guest House.....	62 D5	Lotus Eaters.....	(see 81)
Sahitya Akademi.....	(see 25)	Maharani Guest House.....	63 G3	Mittal Tea House.....	(see 82)
Sangeet Natak Akademi.....	(see 25)	Obero.....	64 G4	Music Shop.....	80 F4
SOS Childrens Village.....	26 G5	Shangri-La Hotel.....	65 E1	Regalia Tea House.....	(see 82)
Sri Lankan High Commission.....	27 B3	Shervani.....	66 G3	Santushti Shopping Complex.....	81 B4
Swiss Embassy.....	28 A4	Taj Mahal Hotel.....	67 E3	Sunder Nagar Market.....	82 G4
Thai Embassy.....	29 A5	Ten.....	(see 60)	TRANSPORT	
Thomas Cook.....	30 E1	Youth Hostel.....	68 B3	Bikaner House.....	83 F3
UK Embassy.....	31 B4	YWCA Blue Triangle Family Hostel.....	69 D1	Indian Airlines (Safdarjang Airfield Office).....	84 D5
US Embassy.....	32 A4	EATING 🍴		Metropole Tourist Service.....	85 G6
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES		All American Diner.....	70 E5		
Archaeological Survey of India.....	(see 44)				
Bara Gumbad Tomb.....	33 E4				

out, you'll pass an enclosed crystal pathway which is where Gandhi walked moments before being fatally shot by two of her Sikh bodyguards – the clear glass portion marks the spot she fell. For events that sparked Gandhi's assassination, read p52.

NIZAM-UD-DIN'S SHRINE

Across from Humayun's tomb is the **shrine** (🕒 24hr) of the Muslim Sufi saint, Nizam-uddin Chishti, who died in 1325, aged 92. The construction of Nizam-ud-din's tank ignited a dispute between the saint and the constructor of Tughlaqabad (p161). Other tombs include the later grave of Jahanara, the daughter of Shah Jahan and the renowned Urdu poet,

Amir Khusru. Qawwali (Urdu devotional singing) occasionally takes place at the shrine (inquire directly).

LODI GARDEN

This well-tended **garden** (Lodi Rd; 🕒 6am-8pm) is a popular place for a morning/evening stroll or jog. Within the grounds are the crumbling **tombs** of the Sayyid and Lodi rulers, including the 15th-century **Bara Gumbad**.

Avoid visiting on Sunday, when crowds can mar the garden's serenity.

NATIONAL PHILATELIC MUSEUM

Located in the Dak Bhavan post office, this **museum** (☎ 23036727; Sadar Patel Chowk, Sansad Marg;

admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri) exhibits more than 1700 post-Independence stamps. Photography is prohibited.

NATIONAL GALLERY OF MODERN ART

This gallery (☎ 23382835; Jaipur House; Indian/foreigner Rs 10/150; ☎ 10am-5pm Tue-Sun) has rotating exhibitions of more than 300 paintings (by Indian artists) which include tempera, oils, watercolours and lithographs. Photography isn't allowed.

NEHRU MEMORIAL MUSEUM & PLANETARIUM

Teen Murti Bhavan, the former residence of Jawaharlal Nehru (India's first prime minister), just off Teen Murti Rd, has been converted into a museum (☎ 23016734; admission free; ☎ 9am-5.15pm Tue-Sun). Its photographs and newspaper clippings offer perceptive insights into the Independence movement.

In the grounds is a planetarium (☎ 23014504; 45min show Rs 15; ☎ in English 11.30am & 3pm).

TIBET HOUSE

Tibet House has a small museum (☎ 24611515; 1 Lodi Rd; admission Rs 10; ☎ 9.30am-1pm & 2-5.30pm Mon-Fri) with ceremonial items brought out of Tibet when the Dalai Lama fled following Chinese occupation. Pieces include sacred manuscripts, sculptures and old *thangkas* (Tibetan paintings on cloth). Photography prohibited.

On the 1st floor is a bookshop that specialises in Buddhist titles and sells Buddhist chanting CDs, prayer flags and *katas* (sacred Tibetan scarves).

NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

Popular with families and courting couples, the well-kept zoo (☎ 24359825; Mathura Rd; Indian/foreigner Rs 10/50, video Rs 50; ☎ 9.30am-4pm Sat-Thu) is a welcoming green retreat from the concrete jungle. There's a bevy of beasts such as big jungle cats (including rare white tigers), Himalayan black bears, rhinos, hippos, wolves, elephants, giraffes and some truly spectacular birds – don't miss the crowned crane and great Indian hornbill. Arrive early for maximum tranquillity.

Connaught Place Area

CONNAUGHT PLACE

The heart of New Delhi is the vast traffic circle of **Connaught Place** (CP; Map p136) and the seven streets that radiate from it, which

are divided into blocks. It has an architecturally uniform series of colonnaded buildings 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 renamed Rajiv Chowk and Indira Chowk respectively, but these names are rarely used.

Touts are especially rampant in Connaught Place (read p125).

JANTAR MANTAR

Comprised of curious terracotta-red structures, **Jantar Mantar** (Map p136; Sansad Marg; Indian/foreigner Rs 5/US\$2; ☎ 9am-dusk) was one of Maharaja Jai Singh II's observatories, constructed in 1725. 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)

This eye-catching temple (Map p120-1; ☎ 26444029; Kalkaji; ☎ 9.30am-5.30pm Tue-Sun), poetically shaped like an unfurling white lotus, was completed in 1986 and is flanked by well-manicured lawns. The Bahai philosophy revolves around universal peace and the elimination of prejudice. Adherents of all faiths are welcome to pray or meditate silently according to their own religion.

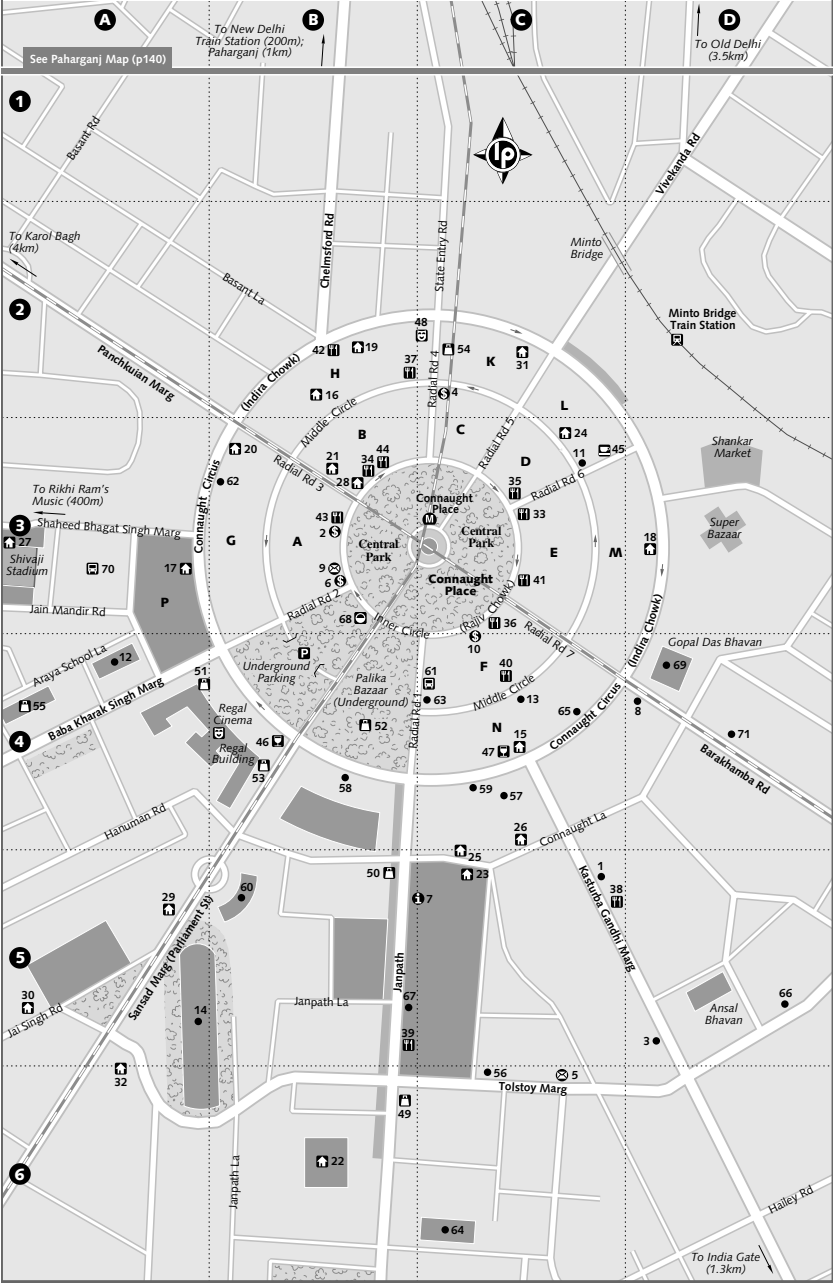
Refrain from speaking in the temple and note that photography inside is prohibited.





AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE

Located on Delhi's outskirts is the mammoth and elaborate **Akshardham Temple** (www.akshardham.com; Noida turning, National Hwy 24; ☎ 9am-6pm Tue-Sun), a recently built structure (inaugurated in 2005) made of pink sandstone and white marble. Part of the Hindu Swaminarayan Group, this extraordinary temple reflects traditional Orissan, Gujarati, Mughal and Rajasthani architectural elements and has exquisite domes and pillars. It contains around 20,000 carved deities.

Allow at least half a day to do justice to this sprawling temple complex (weekdays are less crowded) as there's lots to see (the website has more details).

CONNAUGHT PLACE



INFORMATION		Prem Sagar Guest House.....(see 17)	SHOPPING 
American Center.....1 C5	Ringo Guest House.....25 C5	Sunny Guest House.....26 C4	Central Cottage Industries
American Express.....2 B3	The Connaught.....27 A3	The Corus.....28 B3	Emporium.....49 B6
Apollo Pharmacy.....(see 20)	The Park.....29 A5	YMCA Tourist Hostel.....30 A5	Fabindia (Branch).....(see 44)
British Council.....3 D5	York Hotel.....31 C2	YWCA International Guest	Janpath (Tibetan) Market.....50 B5
Citibank ATM.....4 C2	House.....32 A6		Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan.....51 A4
Delhi Photo Company.....(see 7)			M.Ram & Sons.....(see 41)
DHL.....5 C6			New Prominent Tailors.....(see 54)
DSIDC Cyber Café.....(see 13)			Palika Bazaar.....52 B4
DTTDC Foreign-Exchange			People Tree.....53 B4
Counter.....(see 13)			Rikhi Ram.....(see 20)
ICICI ATM.....6 B3	EATING 		Soma.....54 C2
India Tourism Delhi (Government of	Banana Leaf.....(see 15)		State Emporiums.....55 A4
India).....7 C5	Barco's.....33 C3		
Kinsey Bros.....(see 6)	Café 100.....34 B3		
New Book Depot.....(see 28)	Embassy.....35 C3		TRANSPORT
Oxford Bookstore (Statesman	Host.....36 C3		Aeroflot.....56 C6
House).....8 D4	Kwality.....(see 53)		Air France.....57 C4
People Tree.....(see 53)	Nizam's Kathi Kabab.....37 B2		Air India.....58 B4
Post Office (Branch).....9 B3	Parikrama.....38 C5		Delhi Transport Corporation.....59 C4
Western Union.....10 C4	Ruby Tuesday.....(see 18)		El Al Israel Airlines.....(see 66)
	Sagar Ratna.....(see 31)		Emirates.....60 B5
	Saravana Bhavan.....39 B5		Ex-Servicemen's Air Link Transport
	Saravana Bhavan		Service.....61 C4
	(Branch).....(see 17)		Gulf Air.....62 B3
SIGHTS & ACTIVITIES	The Chinese.....40 C4		Indian Airlines.....63 C4
Ashok Travels & Tours (Indian Tourism	United Coffee House.....41 C3		Jagson Airlines.....(see 5)
Development Corporation).....11 C3	Veda.....42 B2		Japan Airlines.....64 C6
Delhi Tourism & Transport	Wenger's.....43 B3		Jet Airways.....65 C4
Development Corporation	Zen.....44 B3		Kingfisher Airlines.....(see 65)
(Branch).....12 A4			KLM - Royal Dutch Airlines.....66 D5
Delhi Tourism & Transport			Kumar Tourist Taxi Service.....(see 31)
Development Corporation			Lufthansa Airlines.....67 B5
(DTTDC).....13 C4	DRINKING 		Malaysian Airlines.....(see 69)
Jantar Mantar.....14 A5	1911.....(see 22)		Pakistan International Airlines.....(see 71)
	Barista.....(see 15)		Prepaid Autorickshaw Booth.....68 B3
SLEEPING 	Café Coffee Day.....(see 15)		Prepaid Autorickshaw Booth.....(see 7)
Central Court Hotel.....15 C4	Cha Bar.....(see 8)		Qantas.....(see 66)
HK Choudhary Guest House.....16 B2	Costa.....45 C3		Rangarsons Music Depot.....(see 31)
Hotel Alka.....17 A3	DV8.....46 B4		Royal Nepal Airlines
Hotel Bright.....18 D3	Q'BA.....(see 41)		Corporation.....(see 39)
Hotel Fifty Five.....19 B2	Regent's Blues.....47 C4		Sahara Airlines.....69 D4
Hotel Marina.....20 B3	Spirit.....(see 33)		Scandinavian Airlines.....(see 22)
Hotel Metro Park.....21 B3			Shivaji Stadium Terminal.....70 A3
Imperial.....22 B6			Singapore Airlines.....71 D4
Janpath Home.....23 C5	ENTERTAINMENT 		
Jukaso Inn Downtown.....24 C3	PVR Plaza Cinema.....48 C2		

LAKSHMI NARAYAN TEMPLE (BIRLA MANDIR)

West of Connaught Place, with soaring domes, the Orissan-style **Lakshmi Narayan Temple** (Map pp120-1; Mandir Marg; ☎ 6am-9pm) was erected in 1938 by the wealthy industrialist BD Birla. The main temple is dedicated to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth, and her consort, Narayan the Preserver.

NATIONAL RAIL MUSEUM

Trainspotter's will relish this **museum** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26881816; Chanakyapuri; admission Rs 10, video Rs 100; ☎ 9.30am-5pm Tue-Sun Oct-Mar, to 7pm Apr-Sep) which has intriguing indoor and outdoor sections. On site are almost 30 locomotives and old carriages as well as assorted railway memorabilia. 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.

On Sunday between 2.30pm and 4.30pm you can ride the coal-run monorail (Rs 20).

HAUZ KHAS VILLAGE

This urban 'village' (Map pp120-1) surrounded by parkland was once the reservoir for the second city of Delhi - Siri - which is situated slightly to the east. Today, Hauz Khas is a posh suburb known for its upmarket boutiques and art galleries.

Hauz Khas is also the site of the crumbling **Firoz Shah's tomb**.

SHANKAR'S INTERNATIONAL DOLLS MUSEUM

Boasting one of the planet's biggest collections of dolls, this **museum** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 23316970;

Nehru House, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg; admission Rs 10; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Tue-Sun) has 6500 dolls from around 85 countries. Apart from the noteworthy international collection, which includes dolls from Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East, there are brightly costumed Indian dolls, including brides.

CORONATION DURBAR SITE

North of Old Delhi, in a desolate field, stands a lone **obelisk** (Map pp120-1) – this is where, in 1877 and 1903, the great durbars, featuring Indian nobility, paid homage to the British monarch. In 1911, it was here that King George V was declared emperor of India.

FIROZ SHAH KOTLA

The ruins of Firozabad (the fifth city of Delhi), erected by Firoz Shah in 1354, can be found at **Firoz Shah Kotla** (Map pp120-1; Indian/foreigner Rs 5/US\$2, video Rs 25; ☎ dawn-dusk), just off Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg. 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

Get up-close-and-personal with toilets at this quirky **museum** (☎ 25053646; www.sulabhtoiletmuseum.org; Sulabh Complex, Mahavir Enclave, Palam Dabri Rd; admission free; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Sat) southwest of the centre. It houses a mind-boggling collection of toilet-related paraphernalia dating from 2500 BC to modern times. A guided tour (free) brings the loos to life.

ACTIVITIES

Golf

Delhi Golf Club (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24362768; Dr Zakir Hussain Marg; weekdays/weekends US\$45/60, caddies Rs 120; ☎ 6am-5pm) Scenic grounds; weekends can get crowded.

Horse Riding

Delhi Riding Club (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23011891; Safdarjung Rd; admission Rs 1700 plus Rs 1600 for 8-hr per month plus 12.24% tax) Advance bookings essential.

Massage & Ayurvedic Treatments

Ashtaang (Map pp120-1; ☎ 24111802; E-2 Anand Niketan; ☎ 9am-6pm) Opposite Delhi University (South Campus), come here for authentic Ayurvedic treatments such as *sirodhara* (warm oil drizzled on forehead; 40 minutes Rs 1000). A heavenly head or foot massage is Rs 350 and there are also treatments for ailments such as arthritis.

Swimming

Deluxe hotels have the best pools but most are exclusively for guests. The following do allow outsiders, for a stout amount (taxes extra).

Centaur Hotel (☎ 25696660; National Hwy 8; per person Rs 230)

Hotel Samrat (Map pp132-3; ☎ 26110606; Chanakyaपुरी; per person Rs 300)

Jaypee Vasant Continental Hotel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26148800; Basant Lok complex, Vasant Vihar) On Sunday (April to October; ☎ 11.30am-3.30pm) there's a brunch-and-pool package for Rs 699 per person.

Radisson Hotel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26779191; Gurgaon Rd; per person Rs 500)

COURSES

See p124 for publications containing up-to-the-minute details about various courses.

Cooking

Parul Puri's Cooking Classes (☎ 9810793322; www.onelinkroad.com), with a focus on North Indian cuisine, is run by the One Link Road folks (p144) with at least two days advance notice. The two-hour class costs Rs 1000 per person and includes recipes as well as the food cooked. For bookings and further details (including venue) contact the glamorous cook, Parul.

Hindi

The **Central Hindi Directorate** (☎ 26103160; West Block VII, RK Puram) runs basic Hindi courses (minimum numbers apply) which cost Rs 6000 for 60 hours (two hours daily, thrice weekly).

Meditation & Yoga

The following places are top spots to stretch the body and nourish the soul. Telephone for session timings and, if not stated below, venues. Where no charges are mentioned, donations are appreciated.

Ashtaang (Map pp120-1; ☎ 24111802; E-2 Anand Niketan; 1hr Rs 500) Beginner and advanced hatha yoga (includes meditation).

Dhyan Foundation (☎ 9811400005; www.dhyanfoundation.com) Various yoga and meditation options (see website).

Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23721472; www.yogamdny.com; 68 Ashoka Rd) Includes pranayama and hatha yoga as well as meditation. Diploma courses are possible (consult website) and there's yoga for kids.

Sri Aurobindo Ashram (☎ 26567863) Hatha yoga and meditation.

Studio Abhyas (☎ 26962757) Yoga classes (1¼ hours) combine *asanas* (fixed body positions), pranayama and meditation. Vedic chanting on some evenings.

Tushita Meditation Centre (☎ 26513400) Twice-weekly Tibetan/Buddhist meditation sessions.

Vedic Wisdom Ashram (☎ 9213204094) Meditation (including Vedic mantras) and hatha/Raja yoga. By appointment only.

TOURS

Delhi is a spread-out city so taking a tour makes sense, although they can be hurried. Avoid Monday when many sites are shut. Site admission fees and camera/video charges aren't included in tour prices below and rates are per person. Book several days in advance as minimum numbers may be required.

India Tourism Delhi (p125) can arrange multilingual, government-approved guides (from Rs 350/500 per half-/full day).

Ashok Travels & Tours (ITDC; Map p136; ☎ 23412336; L-Block, Connaught Place; 🕒 6am-8pm) It's also possible to book tours at the India Tourism Delhi office or any ITDC hotel. Tours include a morning (8am to 1pm) excursion of New Delhi and an afternoon (2pm to 5.15pm) tour of Old Delhi; each Rs 210. A tour of Old and New Delhi is Rs 315 (8am to 5.15pm). Same-day trips (Saturday to Thursday) to Agra are Rs 1000 (includes breakfast).

Delhi Tourism & Transport Development

Corporation (DTTDC; Baba Kharak Singh Marg (Map p136; ☎ 23363607; 🕒 7am-9pm); domestic airport (☎ 25675609; 🕒 5am-11pm); international airport (☎ 25691213; 🕒 24hr); N-Block (Map p136; ☎ 23315322; 🕒 10am-6pm Mon-Sat); New Delhi train station (no phone; 🕒 8am-8pm). Morning tour (9am to 1.15pm) of New Delhi, and an Old Delhi tour from 2.15pm to 5.15pm; each for Rs 105. Same-day trips to Agra (Rs 850) run thrice-weekly while three-day tours of Agra and Jaipur (Rs 3400) operate twice-weekly.

Hotel Broadway (Map p128; ☎ 23273821; 4/15 Asaf Ali Rd; Rs 495) Two-hour 'heritage walking tours' of Old Delhi that include lunch at Chor Bizarre (p146).

Old Delhi Walks (Intach; ☎ 24641304; intachdelhi@rediffmail.com; Rs 30) This walking tour (approximately two hours) is with an expert guide and explores places of historic, spiritual and architectural interest. Customised tours are also possible. Advance bookings of at least a week are requested.

Salaam Baalak Trust (Map p140; ☎ 23681803; www.salaambaalaktrust.com; Chandiwalan, Paharganj; Rs 200) This praiseworthy charitable organisation (p1156) offers '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 walk takes around two hours and the money goes to the Trust to

further assist children. For details contact Shekhar at the above number or on ☎ 9873130383.

SLEEPING

It's wise to book a room in advance as Delhi's most salubrious places can fill up in a flash, leaving new arrivals easy prey for commission sharks (read p125). Most hotels offer pick-up from the airport (p158) with advance notice.

Be warned that street din can be diabolical – to snooze soundly, request a quiet room and keep earplugs handy. Also, room quality within budget and midrange hotels can radically vary so try to inspect a few rooms first.

Long-term stayers should consider renting a furnished apartment – to find out what's currently on offer flick through the latest *Delhi City Guide* and *Delhi Diary* (p124) as well as local newspapers. It's also worth surfing the net: two good websites are www.speciality-apartments.com and www.delhiescape.net.

For details about staying with an Indian family contact India Tourism Delhi (p125); doubles start at around Rs 1000.

Hotels with a minimum tariff of Rs 500 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 check-out and luggage storage is usually possible (sometimes for a small charge).

Budget

Delhi's budget bunch is decidedly dreary and the service is patchy. Most rooms are typically small and screaming for a fresh lick of paint and bathroom blitz. On the upside, rooms aren't as expensive as they could be for a capital city.

Most backpackers head for hyperactive Paharganj, a touristy pocket near the New Delhi train station that has some of the city's cheapest beds.

In the following budget listings, only the cheapest, non-AC room rates have been provided; AC rooms, where available, will be several hundred rupees higher.

NORTH DELHI

Old Delhi

Few travellers stay in teeming Old Delhi and solo women are likely to be viewed with curious disdain.

rooms are sparsely furnished but the colour scheme is bound to tickle you pink. Car hire can be arranged.

Hotel Vishal (☎ 23562123; vishalhotel@hotmail.com; 1575 Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 200/300; 🏠 📺) A labyrinth of a place with scrawny cats creeping through the corridors, Vishal's rooms are a real mixed bag, some larger (and with cleaner sheets) than others.

Hotel Downtown (☎ 41541529; 4583 Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 250/300) The rooms are smallish and minimally furnished but this hotel is still in better shape than many of its budget brothers.

Ajay Guest House (☎ 23583125; ajay5084@hotmail.com; 5084 Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 250/350; 🏠 📺) Attracts travellers for its chilled-out vibe, not its ragged rooms, many with flaky walls and peculiar odours.

Vivek Hotel (☎ 51541435; reservation@vivekhotel.com; 1534-1550 Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 300/350; 🏠 📺) Rooms are small and sparingly furnished, but still a cut above many Paharganj offerings, plus it boasts Sam's Café (p146).

Heritage Inn (☎ 23588222; Rajguru Rd; d Rs 350; 🏠) You certainly won't be able to rumba in the poky rooms, but at least you get smooth marble floors, a TV and bearable bathroom.

Major's Den (☎ 23589010; s/d Rs 290/365; 🏠) Away from the madness of Main Bazaar, the Den has threadbare rooms but is a drug- and hype-free place. The retired Major, a sprightly septuagenarian, lives on site with his family. The two (pricier) rooftop rooms enjoy more sunbeams.

Hotel Rak International (☎ 23562478; Tooti Chowk, Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 300/400; 🏠) The modest rooms at this popular hotel all have marble floors, tiled bathrooms, TVs, wardrobes, small dressing tables and, importantly, windows. Stock up on midnight snacks at nearby Raghu's Cookies World.

Royal Guest House (☎ 23586176; royalguesthouse@yahoo.com; Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 490/590; 🏠) Royal they're not, but the small rooms do have clean sheets, TVs, fridges, bedside tables and tiled floors.

Other possibilities:

Hotel Navrang (☎ 23581965; Tooti Chowk, Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 100/120) Elementary cell-like rooms (especially the singles) but you're paying peanuts!

Hotel Moon Palace (☎ 23587638; Tooti Chowk, Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 200/250; 🏠) Pint-sized and nondescript rooms, but not bad at this price.

Hare Krishna Guest House (☎ 41541341; 1572 Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 200/250) Scuffed but cheap, inhabitable rooms.

Bless Inn (☎ 23688400; narang_kelson@hotmail.com; Rajguru Rd; d Rs 350; 🏠) Rooms are oversized shoe-boxes but you can guzzle free coffee and tea round-the-clock.

Hotel Kelson (☎ 41541020; narang_kelson@hotmail.com; Rajguru Rd; d Rs 400; 🏠) Small themeless rooms but the floors are marble and there's 24-hour free coffee and tea. Adjoining is its (similar) sister property, the Roxy Hotel.

Lord's Hotel (☎ 23588303; 51 Main Bazaar; s/d Rs 350/450; 🏠) Rather gloomy rooms but with cool marble floors and TVs.

Majnu-ka-Tilla

Just the antidote for anyone who's got the big-city blues, this mellow enclave (aka Tibetan Colony) certainly isn't as centrally located as Paharganj but has better-value rooms. Here you'll rub shoulders with maroon-clad Buddhist monks, curio vendors and local residents all going about their daily business.

There have been unconfirmed reports that authorities may shut down some of this area's commercial lodgings, so do check ahead.

Peace House (Map pp120-1; ☎ 23939415; d 4th/3rd/2nd/1st fl Rs 175/275/335/325) The rooms are plain but neat and the kitchen makes good *momos* (stuffed dumplings).

Wongdhen House (Map pp120-1; ☎ 23816689; wongdhenhouse@hotmail.com; s/d with shared bathroom Rs 225/250, with private bathroom Rs 375/450; 🏠) The pick of the Majnu-ka-Tilla bunch, happy-go-lucky Wongdhen welcomes weary travellers with basic but good-sized, clean rooms. The restaurant rustles up everything from banana pancakes to Tibetan noodles.

CENTRAL DELHI

Connaught Place Area

If you choose to stay here you're essentially paying for the central location, not the room quality or service, which is, frankly, so-so. The following feature on Map p136.

Central Court Hotel (☎ 23315013; N-Block; s/d incl tax Rs 1020/1260; 🏠) It may be frayed around the edges, but this half-a-century-old hotel has a certain time-warped appeal. The lacklustre rooms have high ceilings, TVs and fridges – some can be noisy so choose prudently. More dosh buys you more space and character; some rooms have gingham bedspreads and old-fashioned light-fittings.

YWCA International Guest House (☎ 23361561; www.ywcaindia.org; 10 Sansad Marg; s/d incl tax & breakfast Rs 1300/1660; 🏠 📺) Like many Ys, this place

has a semi-institutional flavour. The rooms are underwhelming but they're adequately comfortable.

Hotel Metro Park (☎ 23329589; hotelmetropark@yahoo.com; 50 B-Block; s/d Rs 1400/1700; 🚻 📺) The smallish rooms don't have much oomph but are reasonably well-furnished; angle for one of the big-windowed rooms.

YMCA Tourist Hostel (☎ 23361915; ymchat@ndf.vsnl.net.in; Jai Singh Rd; s/d with shared bathroom Rs 915/1705, with private bathroom Rs 1385/2410; 🚻 📺 🚿) This busy Y (men and women) has the whiff of a boarding house and some lemon-lipped staff. However the rooms aren't bad, although some have more charm than others – inspect a few first. The large pool (open April to November) sparkles, but the Rs 150 charge to get wet is very uncool. All rates include tax, breakfast and dinner.

Hotel Bright (☎ 41517766; www.hotelbrightdelhi.com; 1st fl, 85 M-Block; d incl breakfast from Rs 1800; 🚻) Part of a 1930s building, Bright's decent rooms sport high ceilings and some even boast ornamental fireplaces. Renovations are planned so the rooms should be shining even brighter by the time you read this.

The following are crusty to the core but cheap for Connaught Place:

Ringo Guest House (☎ 23310605; ringo_guest_house@yahoo.co.in; 17 Scindia House, Connaught Lane; dm Rs 90, s/d with shared bathroom Rs 125/250, with private bathroom Rs 300/400)

Sunny Guest House (☎ 23312909; sunnyguesthouse.123@hotmail.com; 152 Scindia House, Connaught Lane; dm Rs 90, s/d with shared bathroom Rs 170/250, d with private bathroom Rs 350)

HK Choudhary Guest House (☎ 23322043; harsh@del3.vsnl.net.in; 35/3 H-Block; s with shared bathroom Rs 300, s/d with private bathroom Rs 550/650; 🚻 📺)

AIRPORT AREA

Hotel Tarra (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26783677; A-72, St 2, Mahalpur Extn, National Hwy 8; s/d Rs 450/495; 🚻) Hallelujah! Budget travellers have somewhere respectable to stay if their flight departs at a silly hour. Tarra has eight ordinary but comfy rooms arranged around a small garden courtyard. Its location, in a quiet (unpaved) lane, means you can sleep like a baby.

Passengers departing within 24 hours of arriving by plane, can avail of the retiring rooms of the **domestic terminal** (☎ 25675126; per person Rs 505 🚻) and the **international terminal** (☎ 25652011; dm Rs 100; 🚻) at the Indira Gandhi International Airport.

Midrange NORTH DELHI Old Delhi

Hotel Broadway (Map p128; ☎ 23273821; www.oldworldhospitality.com; 4/15 Asaf Ali Rd; s/d incl breakfast Rs 1450/2495; 🚻) Semiluxurious Broadway, which straddles the old and new cities, is this area's best midrange bet. The three-star hotel has slightly dated rooms but is otherwise good, with modernish amenities. Broadway runs the popular 'heritage walking tour' (p139) and is home to the highly regarded Chor Bizarre restaurant (p146).

Paharganj Area

Paharganj's midrange properties have about as much charisma as a kitchen sponge, but are exonerated for their proximity to Connaught Place and the New Delhi train station. For an overview of Paharganj, see p140. The following listing are featured on Map p140.

Metropolis Tourist Home (☎ 23561794; metravel@bom9.vsnl.net.in; 1634 Main Bazaar; d incl tax Rs 1000; 🚻) Rooms (some with tight balconies) here are simple and characterless but come with smooth tiled floors, small TVs and fridges. One of the redeeming features is the rooftop restaurant (p146).

Pearl Plaza (☎ 23585544; narang_kelson@hotmail.com; Rajguru Rd; d Rs 1000; 🚻) PP has some of Paharganj's most likeable (but still far from scintillating) rooms, with wrought-iron bed-heads, sofas, TVs, marble floors and complimentary round-the-clock tea and coffee.

Hotel Grand Godwin (☎ 23546891; www.godwinhotels.com; 41 Arakashan Rd, Ram Nagar; s/d Rs 900/1100; 🚻 📺) North of Main Bazaar in Ram Nagar, this is the area's finest midrange choice, with a snazzy lobby and glass-capsule lift. The tidy rooms all have marble floors, wardrobes, fridges, full-length mirrors and TVs.

Hotel Relax (☎ 23562811; vidur109@hotmail.com; Nehru Bazaar; d Rs 1200; 🚻) Set over several airy floors, the rooms are dowdily decorated but comfortable, all with TVs and fridges. There's a small open-air courtyard.

Other possibilities:

Prince Polonia (☎ 23581930; polinter@del3.vsnl.net.in; 2325 Tilak Gali; s/d incl tax Rs 900/1000; 🚻 📺) Rooms are tired-looking and small, but otherwise satisfactory.

Hotel Gold Regency (☎ 23562101; www.goldregency.com; 4350 Main Bazaar; s/d incl breakfast Rs 950/1200; 🚻 📺) The drab rooms struggle to excite, but are clean-ish and spacious.

CENTRAL DELHI**Connaught Place Area**

Although CP properties lack the 'wow' factor, they're unbeatably central. These listings feature on Map p136.

Hotel Fifty Five (☎ 23321244; www.hotel55.com; 55 H-Block; s/d Rs 1800/2300; 🏠 📺) Found up a flight of stairs, this modest one-star hotel has simply decorated but adequately comfortable rooms, some better (and quieter) than others. There's a small open-air terrace.

Prem Sagar Guest House (☎ 23345263; premsagar delhi@hotmail.com; 1st fl, 11 P-Block; s/d Rs 2000/2500; 🏠 📺) Mrs Singh, the courteous owner, keeps this place shipshape, making it a reliable choice. The rooms aren't flash, but they're clean, with TV, fridge and wardrobe. There's a pot-plant filled outdoor area.

York Hotel (☎ 23415769; www.hotelorkindia.com; K-Block; s/d Rs 2150/2950; 🏠 📺) Harking back to the 70s, York's rooms aren't as swinging as they once were, but they're good sized and clean, some with wood-panelled floors and satiny bedcovers. Try to avoid the noisy, street-facing rooms.

Hotel Alka (☎ 23344328; www.hotelalka.com; P-Block; s/d Rs 2100/3200; 🏠 📺) Alka's space-deprived standard rooms won't make you jump for joy but at least they have contemporary comfort, some with smart wood-panelled walls. More money buys more pizzazz, including grrrroovy leopard-skin-themed rooms. There's a good vegetarian restaurant.

Jukaso Inn Downtown (☎ 23415450; www.jukaso.com; L-Block; s/d Rs 2700/3500; 🏠 📺) Small but modern-style rooms (some superior), many with corporate-style carpets and upholstery. There's a round-the-clock coffee shop.

Corus (☎ 23315903; www.thecorus.com; 49 B-Block; d Rs 4000; 🏠 📺) One of the newest kids on the block, this is a super choice, with 28 fairly spacious rooms. The standard rooms (wooden or marble floors) are contemporarily furnished and have flat-screen TVs. Deluxe rooms are bigger, with a small sitting area and tasteful scatter rugs. Also recommended:

Janpath Home (☎ 9910444634; anniejessyus@yahoo.com; 86/17 Janpath; s/d with shared bathroom Rs 2500/3500; 🏠 📺) Low-key apartment with three rooms around a small open-air courtyard. Advance bookings essential.

Hotel Marina (☎ 23324658; 59 G-Block; s/d incl breakfast Rs 5000/5500; 🏠 📺) Kitsch but comfortable.

Connaught (☎ 23742842; www.hotelconnaughtdelhi.com; 37 Shaheed Bhagat Singh Marg; d incl breakfast Rs 6000; 🏠 📺) Rooms are dated but cosy.

West of Connaught Place

If you like home-style lodgings you'll love these hassle-free places (on Map pp120-1), but they can fill up fast – book ahead.

Ess Gee's (☎ 25814419; www.essgees.net; 12/9 East Patel Nagar; s/d incl breakfast Rs 800/850; 🏠 📺) A mel-low guesthouse – which may bring back fond memories of grandma's place – with unfussy rooms that all have TVs, writing desks and wardrobes. There's no signboard outside the white residential building – a nearby landmark is the Hotel Siddharth.

Master Guest House (☎ 28741089; www.master-guesthouse.com; R-500 New Rajendra Nagar; s/d with shared bathroom Rs 1300/1400; 🏠 📺) Run by an obliging couple, this suburban residence has five nicely-furnished rooms (two clean communal bathrooms) and a sweet little rooftop terrace. The ever-calm Ushi is a Reiki Master and her hubby, Avnish, runs tours.

Yatri House (☎ 23625563; www.yatrihouse.com; 3/4 Panchkuian Marg; s/d from Rs 1700/2000; 🏠 📺) Centrally located yet astonishingly serene, Yatri is fronted by a small secluded garden and also has a pleasant open-air courtyard with wrought-iron furniture. There are six clean and comfy rooms with an uncluttered charm, all with light quilts and fresh flowers. The reliable owner, Sanjay, can arrange car hire and his wife, Parul, has her finger on Delhi's entertainment pulse.

Bajaj Indian Home Stay (☎ 25736509; www.indian homestay.com; 8A/34 WEA Karol Bagh; s/d incl tax & breakfast Rs 2661/3403; 🏠 📺) This home-style – yet professionally-run – residence has 10 immaculate and thoughtfully-decorated rooms, all differently themed (see website). Room amenities include safes, fridges and hair-dryers. The tariff includes complimentary tea/coffee, local telephone calls and airport transfers. There's a rooftop restaurant.

Chanakyapuri & Ashoka Road

Youth Hostel (Map pp132-3; ☎ 26116285; yhostel@del2.vsnl.net.in; 5 Nyaya Marg, Chanakyapuri; dm without/with AC Rs 90/270, d without/with AC Rs 350/750; 🏠 📺) The dormitory is good value for members (non-members pay an extra Rs 50/250 per day/year), but the staff can be impersonal.

YWCA Blue Triangle Family Hostel (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23360133; ywca@del2@yahoo.co.in; Ashoka Rd; s/d incl tax & breakfast Rs 1136/1975; 🏠 📺) Despite having a somewhat institutional vibe and hint of eau de mothball, this Y is centrally located and has fairly good rooms. It's open to both genders.

SOUTH DELHI

Home Away from Home (Map pp120–1; ☎ 26560289; permkamte@sify.com; 1st fl, D-8 Gulmohar Park; s/d incl breakfast from Rs 1375/1575; 🍷) This stylish apartment, in a classy suburb, is home to Mrs Kamte and she keeps the place in tip-top condition. There are just two rooms, each very tastefully decorated and with small balconies. Hush and Puppy, the pet basset hounds, thrive on affection.

One Link Road (Map pp120-1; ☎ 41824083; 1 Link Rd, Jangpura; www.onelinkroad.com; s/d incl taxes & breakfast Rs 1900/2300; 🍷 🍷) Near the Defence Colony Flyover, this elegant guesthouse is situated on the ground floor of an apartment complex. It has four cared-for and spacious rooms, with marble floors, wardrobes and writing tables.

Jorbagh 27 (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24698647; guesthouse 27@hotmail.com; 27 Jorbagh; s/d Rs 2200/2600; 🍷 🍷) A rambling guesthouse in a leafy suburb that has 18 renovated rooms in an old-style building. The comfy standard rooms have an un-presumptuous charm, while the nicer deluxe rooms offer more space and personality.

Lutyens Guest House (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24625716; www.lutyensguesthouse.com; 39 Prithviraj Rd; s/d incl tax & breakfast Rs 3000/3500; 🍷 🍷 🍷) This easy-going guesthouse is a green oasis in dusty Delhi and even has its own (splendid) pool. The rooms are well-kept and homy, with summery furnishings. Guests can sip tea in the relaxing, large garden where Looney and his canine chums chase squirrels and parrots. Lutyens has no signboard – look for ‘39Amar Nath’ (there’s a small garden-pottery shop on site).

Icon Villa (Map pp120-1; ☎ 41669766; www.icon-ysf.com; F-75 Poorvi Marg, Vasant Vihar; d incl breakfast Rs 3500; 🍷 🍷) Especially good for long-term stayers, Icon is in an elite suburb, southwest of the centre. The 15 well-presented rooms have balconies, writing desks, TVs, marble floors and complimentary cookies. Some rooms can absorb sporadic traffic din, but overall this villa scores top marks.

Icon Towers (Map pp120-1; ☎ 46016611; www.icon-ysf.com; 46 Paschimi Marg, Vasant Vihar; d incl breakfast US\$170; 🍷 🍷) Not far from Icon Villa, and its boutique sister property, Icon Towers’ rooms are very elegantly furnished and equipped with modern facilities. It’s especially popular with business travellers.

The Manor (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26925151; www.themanordelhi.com; 77 Friends Colony (West); d incl breakfast US\$175; 🍷 🍷) This sleek boutique hotel, in a renovated old-style building, is off Mathura

Rd (near Friends Club) in a tree-loving locale. The streamlined beige-and-tan rooms have opulent touches such as silk drapes, Italian marble, wood-panelling and hand-knotted carpets. There’s a stylish restaurant and sun-warmed terrace.

Sunder Nagar

Posh Sunder Nagar has a clutch of comfortable moderately-sized guesthouses, but the spiralling tariffs, vis-à-vis room quality and service have left some travellers slightly cheesed off. The following guesthouses feature on Map pp132–3.

Maharani Guest House (☎ 24359521; www.mymaharani.com; 3 Sunder Nagar; s/d Rs 2650/3250; 🍷) The jaded rooms are comfortable enough – if a smidgen small – and the price is competitive for this area.

Ten (☎ 24355047; 10 Sunder Nagar; d Rs 5000; 🍷) Fronted by a pretty garden, Ten has just five rooms, all with caramel-brown marble floors, thick bedcovers and lovely antique furnishings. Its recently renovated 1st-floor rooms are best.

Shervani (☎ 24354771; www.shervanihotels.com; s/d incl breakfast Rs US\$160/170; 11 Sunder Nagar; 🍷 🍷) Boutiquish Shervani is unquestionably Sunder Nagar’s most impressive place to stay. The 19 smart rooms have wooden floors, LCD TVs, cocoa-brown furniture, electronic safes, tea-and-coffee-making facilities and fridges. There’s a café on site.

Other options:

La Sagrta Tourist Home (☎ 24358572; www.lasagrta.com; 14 Sunder Nagar; d Rs 3690; 🍷 🍷) The soothing garden gets kudos, but the standard rooms could do with a facelift – the penthouses (Rs 4890) are much better, especially No 302.

Jukaso Inn (☎ 24350308; www.jukasohotels.com; 50 Sunder Nagar; s/d Rs 6000/7000; 🍷 🍷) A mixed bag of comfortable but overpriced rooms. The planned renovations should make them better value for money.

Top End

Maidens Hotel (☎ 23975464; www.oberoihotels.com; Sham Nath Marg; d from US\$175; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Set in a 3.2-hectare garden, this 1903-built Oberoi property has period-styled, but modern-equipped, rooms.

Shangri-La Hotel (Map pp132-3; ☎ 41191919; www.shangri-la.com; Ashoka Rd; s/d US\$325/345; 🍷 🍷 🍷) Shangri-La’s rooms have plenty of froufrou – bouncy beds with sugar-white sheets, scatter cushions, LCD TVs and touches of Oriental

design. They do a jolly good afternoon tea (Thursday/Friday) and offer de-stressing massages, body-wraps and herbal baths.

Le Meridien (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23710101; www.starwoodhotels.com; Janpath; s/d US\$350/388; 🏠 📺 📺) This glassy monolith has gingery-toned and comfort-packed rooms, kitted out with the usual five-star trappings: stuffed minibars, fluffy bathrobes and ample minisized shampoos, body gels and other bathroom goodies.

Taj Mahal Hotel (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23026162; www.tajhotels.com; Man Singh Rd; s/d US\$375/400; 🏠 📺 📺) High-brow artwork, Persian rugs and rich silk furnishings are a hallmark of this ritzy hotel. The luxuriously-appointed rooms have all the five-star frills, while amenities include fine restaurants, a fitness centre and Rick's bar (p150).

ourpick Imperial (Map p136; ☎ 23341234; www.theimperialindia.com; Janpath; d US\$425; 🏠 📺 📺) The inimitable Imperial amalgamates multiple design styles – from classic Victorian to colonial to Art Deco – and houses sublime artwork. Gracefully appointed, this sophisticated Rajera property has hosted everyone from princesses to pop stars. The high-ceiling rooms have it all, from French linen and puffy pillows, to deep marble baths and finely-crafted furniture. The suites are *seriously* sumptuous.

Maurya Sheraton Hotel & Towers (☎ 26112233; www.itcwelcomgroup.in; Sardar Patel Marg; d US\$425; 🏠 📺 📺) Premium rooms with all the creature comforts you'd expect at this price tag, even an exclusive ladies'-only floor. Snuggle into marshmallow-soft beds, consult the in-house astrologer and dine at a clutch of sterling restaurants including award-winning Bukhara, which does dynamite dhal.

Other five-star beauties:

Park (Map p136; ☎ 23744000; www.theparkhotels.com; 15 Parliament St; s/d US\$300/350; 🏠 📺 📺) Not as bombastic as its five-star cousins, but with a hushed luxury.

Oberoi (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24363030; www.oberoihotels.com; Dr Zakir Hussain Marg; s/d US\$350/375; 🏠 📺 📺) Superlative rooms with views over Humayun's tomb, the pool or golf course.

Airport Area

Ashok Country Resort (☎ 25064590; www.ashokcountryresort.com; Rajokri Rd; s/d US\$135/155; 🏠 📺 📺) Set in sprawling verdant grounds, the Ashok may not be of the five-star ilk, but it has an unclaustrophobic appeal and comfortably-appointed rooms.

Radisson Hotel (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26779191; www.radisson.com/newdelhi; National Hwy 8; s/d incl breakfast US\$275/290; 🏠 📺 📺) The urbane rooms have every conceivable comfort including orthopedically certified beds with tightly tucked-in sheets. On site is the popular Great Keabab Factory restaurant.

Uppal's Orchid (Map pp120-1; ☎ 25061515; National Hwy 8; www.uppalsorchidhotel.com; s/d US\$325/350; 🏠 📺 📺) Peacefully positioned on 4 hectares of manicured gardens, this boutique-style and environmentally-conscious hotel doesn't have particularly huge rooms, but they're super-suave and furnished in soporific tones. The patisserie bakes creative creamy delights.

EATING

Delhi delights diners with some of India's best places to eat, from ramshackle roadside kebab stalls, to multicuisine restaurants replete with crisp white tablecloths, dim lighting and mood music.

Travellers pining for familiar fast food will find ever-multiplying chains, including McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Subway and TGI Friday's.

Most midrange and all upmarket restaurants charge a service tax of around 10%, while drinks taxes can suck a further 20% (alcoholic) or 12.5% (nonalcoholic) from your moneybelt. Taxes haven't been included in this chapter unless indicated.

Telephone numbers have been provided for restaurants where reservations are recommended, especially on weekends.

North Delhi

OLD DELHI

The following eateries feature on Map p128.

Restaurants

Moti Mahal (☎ 23273661; 3704 Netaji Subhash Marg, Daryaganj; mains Rs 80-220; 🕒 11am-midnight) This family-oriented restaurant has been wooing diners with its Indian food for some six decades. Don't miss the butter chicken. There's live Qawwali Wednesday to Monday (from around 8pm).

Karim's (☎ 23269880; mains Rs 80-300; 🕒 noon-3pm & 6pm-midnight) Down a lane across from the Jama Masjid's south gate, Karim's ambience is distinctly masculine, but it's been delighting Delhiites with divine Mughlai cuisine since 1913. The chefs prepare brutally good (predominantly nonveg) fare including tasty

tandoori burra (clay-oven-roasted mutton). During Ramadan it only opens after sunset.

Chor Bizarre (☎ 23273821; Hotel Broadway, 4/15 Asaf Ali Rd; mains Rs 150-325, veg/nonveg Kashmiri thalis Rs 325/395; ☎ 7.30-10.30am, noon-3.30pm & 7.30-11.30pm) Dimly-lit and with an eclectic décor – from the ‘buffet bar’ vintage car to the four-poster bed table – Chor Bizarre specialises in Kashmiri and Mughlai cuisine. Its signature dish, *sharabi kababi tikka masala* (brandy-flamed chicken) gets a round of applause, as does the *phirni* (semolina pudding).

Quick Eats

Haldiram’s (Chandni Chowk; samosas/pakoras Rs 6) High turn-over Haldiram’s is deservedly popular for a salty or sugary snack on the dash.

Paratha Wali Gali (parathas Rs 10-35) A foodstall-lined lane off Chandni Chowk specialising in *parathas* (traditional flat bread) fresh off the *tawa* (hotplate). The stuffed varieties include *aloo* (potato), *murlī* (white radish), smashed pappadams and crushed *badam* (almond), all served with a splodge of tangy pickles.

Jalebiwala (Dariba Corner, Chandni Chowk; jalebis per kg Rs 160) Calories schmalories! Century-old Jalebiwala does Delhi’s – if not India’s – finest *jalebis* (deep-fried ‘squiggles’), so pig out and worry about your waistline tomorrow. Luring everyone from taxi-wallahs to Bollywood stars, you’ll quickly see what all the fuss is about once you’ve taken your first crunchy-yet-oh-so-syrupy bite.

Ghantewala (Chandni Chowk; mithai per kg Rs 200) Near the Sisganj Gurdwara, this simple sweetery has been churning out traditional *mithai* (Indian sweets) since 1790.

PAHARGANJ AREA

Yielding wobbly results, Paharganj’s menus are of the bamboozling have-a-go-at-anything variety, from Israeli to Italian, Mughlai to Mexican. The eateries are nothing fancy but are inexpensive and always abuzz with chattering travellers.

The following places are along, or just off, Main Bazaar (Map p140).

Madan Café (mains Rs 20-45; ☎ 7am-11pm) Cash crisis? Tuck into a tasty thali for just Rs 25 at this basic veg café.

Sonu Chat House (mains Rs 25-100; ☎ 8am-11.30pm) Pleasing South Indian fare – by golly, there’s even a chocolate banana dosa (a travesty according to dosa traditionalists; you decide) – as well as Chinese and Continental dishes.

Malhotra (mains Rs 35-240; ☎ 7am-11pm) Malhotra gets kudos for its hearty Indian, Continental and Chinese food with possibilities including stuffed tomatoes, cheese macaroni and *rajma* (curried kidney beans). Breakfast options include papaya curd, jam pancakes, masala omelettes and banana porridge. Or maybe fried eggs with greaselicious chips is more your thing? Next door is Malhotra’s southern sister, Malhotra’s Dosa Please, with dosas from Rs 30.

Kitchen Café (Hotel Shelton, 5043 Main Bazaar; mains Rs 45-100; ☎ 8am-11.30pm) With cane furniture scattered around a pot plant-strewn terrace, this cheap and cheerful multicuisine rooftop restaurant is a relaxing place to kill time over scrambled eggs, enchiladas, spaghetti carbonara, chicken masala and more.

Appetite German Bakery (mains Rs 45-105; ☎ 7am-11pm) Dive into mushrooms on toast for breakfast, moussaka for lunch and roast chicken for dinner, or just drop by for a cup of lemongrass tea. Multicuisine Appetite adjoins the Hotel Vishal.

Diamond Restaurant (mains Rs 50-250; ☎ 7.30am-11.30pm) Diamond shines when it comes to pasta, however its stab at other world cuisines produces haphazard results. Servings are generous.

Sam’s Café (Vivek Hotel, 1534-1550 Main Bazaar; mains Rs 70-160; ☎ 8am-11pm) Located on Vivek Hotel’s ground floor and (more atmospheric) rooftop, Sam’s does cracking breakfasts and equally good postbreakfast fare – avocado salad, cannelloni, chicken stew, thalis and more. The cakes (Rs 35 per slice) are baked daily.

Metropolis Restaurant & Bar (Metropolis Tourist Home, 1634 Main Bazaar; mains Rs 125-375; ☎ 8am-11pm) The tables at this rooftop restaurant may be tightly-packed, but this humming travellers’ haunt has a great variety of international food (and beverages – see above), from tandoori chicken to spaghetti bolognese. There are also good nibbles such as *paneer* (unfermented cheese) tikka and potato wedges.

Central Delhi

CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA

The following eateries appear on Map p136.

Restaurants

Saravana Bhavan (46 Janpath; dosas from Rs 45, thalis Rs 90; ☎ 8am-10.30pm) Massively popular, Saravana does dosas, *idlis* and other southern speci-

alities with aplomb, most served with lovely fresh chutneys. It also has inventive sweets such as the cucumber-seed *ladoos* (sweetmeat balls). There's a first-in-first-served policy – arrive early! Branch at 15 P-Block, Connaught Place.

Sagar Ratna (15 K-Block; dosas from Rs 45; ☎ 8am-10.30pm) Another dosa dreamland, with expertly-prepared *uttapams* (savoury pancakes) and other southern goodies.

Banana Leaf (12 N-Block; dosas Rs 50-80, thalis Rs 85; ☎ 11am-11pm) First-rate South Indian standards as well as some more obscure options such as *bath masala dosa* (dosa stuffed with lemon rice). The *dahi idli* is a cool yogurty elixir – just the thing for Delhi Belly-ravaged tummies.

Host (8 F-Block; mains Rs 100-395; ☎ 10am-11.30pm) With a faded charm, the Host's stern-faced waiters serve satisfying Indian and Chinese fare to diners deep in discussion. The *mathtar paneer* (unfermented cheese and pea curry) and egg curry are good.

United Coffee House (15 E-Block; mains Rs 115-300; ☎ 11am-11pm) Oozing old-world charm, this classic 1940s restaurant is a splendid spot to slow the pace. Popular with travellers and Delhi denizens alike, its menu has oodles to choose from – soups, grilled sandwiches, sizzlers, pastas and scrummy Indian cuisine; the *haryali paneer kofta* (stuffed dumplings) is delish, especially with *garam garam naan*.

Kwality (Regal Bldg, Sansad Marg; mains Rs 115-375; ☎ noon-11pm) Feeding Delhi for around seven decades, Kwality squeezes in the tables but the food (especially Indian) deserves praise – the *murgh malai* (clay-oven-cooked chicken) kebab is a favourite.

Embassy (11 D-Block; mains Rs 130-350; ☎ 10am-11.30pm) Embassy has a mishmash of Indian and Continental creations, from chicken stroganoff and chutney sandwiches to *rogan josh* (rich, spicy lamb curry) and chicken masala. It's also an offal aficionado – anyone for brain cutlets and fries?

Zen (25 B-Block; mains Rs 140-485; noon-midnight) A quintessentially Chinese menu, but with Japanese and Thai dishes making a cameo appearance. The crispy sesame lamb and Szechwan beancurd are both good.

Parikrama (☎ 23721616; 22 Kasturba Gandhi Marg; mains Rs 150-450; ☎ lunch 12.30-3.30pm, snacks 3.30-7pm, dinner 7.30-11pm) A revolving 24th-floor restaurant where you can dine on Indian and Chinese food while spinning oh-so-slowly (one revolution takes 1½ hours). The views are

glorious, especially during daylight when you can identify landmarks.

Ruby Tuesday (48 M-Block; mains Rs 275-650; ☎ noon-11pm) Hearty American and Tex-Mex food served in a comfy bistro-style setting. The pork ribs (Rs 475/650 per half-/full rack) are fingerlicking good and perfect with a draught beer (Rs 115 per glass).

Veda (☎ 41513535; 27 H-Block; mains Rs 350-600; ☎ noon-4pm & 6-11.30pm) Indian food, with Mughlai and North-West Frontier specialties, served in an ultrachic interior featuring *pietra dura* tables. The veg/nonveg tandoori platter feeds two.

Also recommended:

Café 100 (20 B-Block; mains Rs 115-330; ☎ 8.30am-11pm) Easygoing and with a varied menu. Recommendations include the masala fish fingers, chicken cacciatore and chocolate mud pie.

Berco's (8 E-Block; mains Rs 125-295; ☎ 12.30-11pm) Popular with Delhiites for its flavoursome Indianised Chinese cuisine. It does a mean sweet chilli tofu and the Mongolian chicken isn't bad either.

Chinese (☎ 65398888; 14/15 F-Block; mains Rs 235-685; ☎ 12.30-11.30pm) Thoughtfully-prepared Hunan cuisine served in an imaginative interior. The *gong bao ji ding* (sauteed chicken) and okra in black-bean sauce are hot sellers. It's down the lane opposite Palika Bazaar's Gate No 6.

Quick Eats

Wenger's (16 A-Block; cakes/sandwiches Rs 28/35) The legendary Wenger's has been baking since 1926 – its convoluted purchasing procedure certainly harks back to ye olde days! But the rigmarole is worth it, with a rewarding pastiche of sweet and savoury treats, including a frightfully good fig tart. It also does birthday cakes, cookies, muffins, marzipan and around 30 types of homemade chocolate.

Nizam's Kathi Kabab (5 H-Block; kebabs from Rs 50) This tiny (mainly takeaway) eatery masterfully prepares kebabs and *kathi* rolls.

DIPLOMATIC ENCLAVE & CHANAKYAPURI AREA

Fujiya (Map pp132-3; 12/48 Malcha Marg Market; mains Rs 100-260; ☎ noon-11.15pm) Happy-go-lucky Fujiya has a Chinese menu laced with Japanese dishes. Whether it's Peking lamb, Sukiyaki pork, or just a bowl of glass noodles, diners are rarely disappointed.

Basil & Thyme (Map pp132-3; Santushti Shopping Complex, Chanakyapuri; mains Rs 255-300; ☎ 10.30am-6pm Mon-Sat) Hobnob with society ladies who duck

into B&T for mushroom risotto or blueberry crepes in-between shop-hopping.

LODI COLONY & PANDARA MARKET

Coordinate a meal here with a visit to the tombs of Safdarjang (p131) and Humayun (p130). The eateries below feature on Map pp132–3.

All American Diner (India Habitat Centre, Lodi Rd; mains Rs 140-365; ☎ 7am-midnight) True to its name, this groovy diner – with its cherry-red booths and bar stools – serves stars-and-stripes classics, from butter-milk pancakes and peanut-butter malts to podgy burgers and onion rings. Breakfast is an all-day affair with chefs rustling up eggs, bacon and hash browns on demand. The jukebox has everything from Frank Sinatra to Pink Floyd.

Ploof (☎ 24634666; 13 Main Market, Lodi Colony; mains Rs 225-750; ☎ 12.30-3pm & 7-11pm) Near the India Habitat Centre, Ploof specialises in seafood, but the menu is a bit hit-and-miss. Deep-sea delights include Himalayan rainbow trout and baked crab.

Lodi, the Garden Restaurant (Lodi Rd; ☎ 11am-11.30pm; mains Rs 275-635) Just the place to cool your heels after a power-walking session at the nearby Lodi Garden. There's Continental, Mediterranean and Lebanese cuisine, with top picks including the couscous salad and *lahm* (lamb) Moroccan. There's breezy terrace seating upstairs.

Pandara Market has a cluster of restaurants, most open daily from around noon to midnight. They include the following:

Pindi Restaurant (mains Rs 100-350) Tasty North Indian food – the butter chicken and *mattar paneer* are recommended.

Chicken Inn (mains Rs 110-320) Indian and (some) Chinese dishes served in a pleasant interior.

Havemore (mains Rs 110-385; ☎ Wed-Mon) Indian food with a venerable veg selection.

Gulati (mains Rs 135-450) A North Indian focus; try the *tangri kebab* (charcoal-grilled chicken drumsticks) and *dum aloo* (stuffed potatoes).

South Delhi

KHAN & SUNDER NAGAR MARKETS

If you're shopping at the Khan or Sunder Nagar Markets, there are some good places to top up your tank. Khan Market also has commendable cafés (opposite).

Baci (Map pp132-3; ☎ 41507445; Sunder Nagar Market; ☎ 12.30-11.30pm; mains Rs 275-595) Reliable Italian cuisine is served up here in sleek surround-

ings, either at the informal café or in the fine-dining section.

Quick Eats

Khan Chacha (Map pp132-3; Khan Market; snacks Rs 30-60; ☎ noon-10pm Mon-Sat, 4-10pm Sun) This hole-in-the-wall kebab joint is so popular you'll probably have to queue – it's worth the wait.

HAUZ KHAS AREA

Naivedyam (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26960426; Hauz Khas Village; dosas Rs 45-75, thalis Rs 90; ☎ 11am-11pm) A snuggly South Indian restaurant that dishes out great food at great prices. The *paneer masala dosa* (large savoury crepe stuffed with spiced unfermented cheese) is a winner.

Park Baluchi (☎ 26859369; Hauz Khas Village; mains Rs 140-530; ☎ noon-11.30pm) Although the service gets the thumbs down, this greenery-enveloped restaurant cooks some enterprising dishes such as *murg potli* (barbecued chicken wrapped around minced mutton, served on a burning sword). Avoid weekends when squealing kiddies can drive you nuts.

La Piazza (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26791234; Hyatt Regency, Bhikaji Cama Pl, Ring Rd; mains Rs 450-1200; ☎ noon-2.45pm & 7-11.30pm) Come here for quality wood-fired pizzas, exquisite potato gnocchi, succulent Australian lamb chops and authentic hand-made pasta.

VASANT VIHAR

Restaurants

Tamura (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26154082; D-Block Market; mains Rs 200-400; ☎ noon-3pm & 6.30-10pm) Tired of curries? Tamura – armed with a Japanese chef – creates an authentic repertoire, from prawn tempura and baked salmon to sushi and sashimi. Reserve a downstairs table.

Punjabi by Nature (Map pp120-1; ☎ 41516666; Basant Lok complex; mains Rs 245-425; ☎ 12.30-11pm) Ravishingly delicious North Indian food such as lamb korma and Punjabi meat masala; mop up flavour-packed sauces with *rumali roti* (paper-thin chapatis) or thick garlic naan.

Quick Eats

Sugar & Spice (Map pp120-1; Basant Lok complex; sandwiches/cakes Rs 45/40) Takeaway cakes and savoury snacks: the apple strudel, tandoori chicken sandwiches and walnut tarts are recommended, but the desert-dry croissants and doughnuts are not. Birthday cakes are available to order. There's a branch at Khan Market (Map pp132-3).

Arabian Nites (Map pp120-1; Basant Lok complex; noon-11pm; snacks Rs 45-230) This teeny takeaway does mighty good chicken doner kebab.

EAST OF KAILASH

Govinda's (Map pp120-1; Hare Krishna Iskon temple complex, East of Kailash; buffet Rs 180; ☎ 12.30-3.30pm & 7-10pm) Promising a 'transcendental dining experience', Govinda's pure-veg (no onion or garlic) Indian buffet is indeed otherworldly. Every Sunday there's a jaw-dropping 56 dishes (around 30 on other days) – come on an empty stomach!

GREATER KAILASH

Not Just Parathas (Map pp120-1; M84 GK II; parathas Rs 40-155; ☎ noon-midnight) Master the art of eating with your hands at this chirpy cutlery-free restaurant. There are more than 120 types of paratha, including low-calorie (wholemeal, olive-oil smothered) options. Stuffings include *palak* (spinach), sweet corn, soybean, mushroom and broccoli, just to name a few. For something more adventurous try the *sharabi paratha* (filled with alcohol-soaked dried fruit).

China Garden (Map pp120-1; ☎ 29223456; M73 GK II; mains Rs 225-850; ☎ 12.30-3.30pm & 7.30-11.30pm) Spread over three levels and with a subterranean bar-nightclub, this well-regarded Chinese restaurant does sensational *loo phai kut* (spare ribs), soya and wine chilli-fish and, on request, homemade date pancakes. The googly-eyed Dragon fish in the foyer's tank are strictly ornamental.

Diva (Map pp120-1; ☎ 29215673; M-Block, GK II; ☎ 12.30-3.15pm & 7.30-11.15pm; mains Rs 420-790) A stylish Italian restaurant with a carefully thought-out menu that includes *agnolotti della casa* (asparagus-and-ricotta-stuffed pasta pillows in thyme sauce) and wood-grilled prawns. The chocolate soufflé is orgasmic.

DEFENCE COLONY AREA

Sagar (Map pp120-1; Defence Colony Market; dosas Rs 43-65; ☎ 11am-11pm) Delectable dosas, irresistible *idlis* and other authentic South Indian specialities.

Swagath (Map pp120-1; Defence Colony Market; mains Rs 125-475; ☎ 11am-midnight) Supremely scrumptious Indian fare with a focus on Mangalorean and Chettinad cuisine (especially seafood), this multilevel restaurant swarms with locals (always a good sign), who gather here for the excellent dhal-e-Swagath, chicken *gassi*

(coconut-based curry) and similarly satiating dishes.

Ego Thai (Map pp120-1; Community Centre, New Friends Colony; mains Rs 200-420; ☎ 12.30-3.30pm & 7.30-11.30pm) One of Delhi's most likeable Thai restaurants (go upstairs for more atmosphere), but skip the satay sticks.

Flavours (Map pp120-1; 51-54C Moolchand Flyover Market, Ring Rd; mains Rs 230-440; ☎ noon-11pm) Filled with diners gleefully tucking into appetizing pasta dishes and wood-fired pizzas; the fettuccine with smoked salmon and the grilled-vegetable-and-goats-cheese pizza get good reports. There are also fresh salads, gourmet sandwiches (with ciabatta) and tempting desserts.

DRINKING

Whether its espresso coffee and buttery croissants for breakfast, or beer and burgers for supper, Delhi's perky cafés and hip bars deliver.

Cafés

Caffeine addicts won't suffer withdrawal symptoms from lack of a *real* cup of coffee, thanks to Delhi's rockin' café scene, where cappuccinos and lattes are all the rage. Tea is beginning to turn heads though, with more and more menus flaunting everything from Earl Grey and Russian Caravan, to chamomile and rosehup.

Barista (Map p136; 16 N-Block, Connaught Place; snacks Rs 27-65; ☎ 9pm-1am) Hip and happening, Barista serves comforting café fare including smoked-tuna sandwiches, choc-chip muffins, and, of course, foamy cappuccinos. Branches include Khan Market (Map pp132-3), South Extension Part I (Map pp120-1), Defence Colony Market (Map pp120-1) and Vasant Vihar's Basant Lok complex (Map pp120-1).

Café Coffee Day (Map p136; 11 N-Block, Connaught Place; snacks Rs 35-70; ☎ 9am-midnight) This bubbly café is a fabulous place to loll around and natter over endless cups of hot brew, brownies and caramelised-walnut pie. The sandwiches and focaccias aren't bad either, while the icy granitas will quench even the most savage summer thirst. There are many city-wide branches including one at Khan Market (Map pp132-3).

Big Chill (Map pp132-3; Khan Market; mains Rs 60-350; ☎ noon-11pm) There are now two BC branches in Khan Market, equally merry and both with wall-to-wall film posters, from James

Whale's *Frankenstein* to Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*. Everything about the menu is magical, from the velvety smoothies and homemade ice cream (the Tobelerone is tops), to the chicken-and-blue-cheese fettuccine and baked potatoes. The cakes are impossibly delicious.

Café Turtle Greater Kailash (Map pp120-1; N8 Greater Kailash Part I); Khan Market (Map pp132-3; 2nd fl, Full Circle Bookstore, Khan Market; mains Rs 95-295; ☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Although some meal servings can be skimpy, the Turtle is terrific for coffee and gâteau (the 'gooey chocolate cake' is a triumph). Apart from salads, sandwiches and pastas, there's also quiche, bruschetta, couscous salad and falafel wraps with hummus. Liquid delights include ice-cream sodas, milkshakes, iced teas and seasonal juice (from guava to cucumber).

Costa (Map p136; L-Block, Connaught Place; snacks Rs 25-75; ☎ 9am-11.30pm) Strong coffee, delicate teas, English-toffee milkshakes, almond croissants, tarts, white chocolate muffins, cookies, vegetable and pesto sandwiches, chicken salsa focaccias, and a damn fine date and fig cake. That's just a splash of what's on offer at this dapper downtown café.

Cha Bar (Map p136; Oxford Bookstore, Statesman House, 148 Barakhamba Rd; snacks Rs 45-105; ☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, noon-7.30pm Sun) After browsing at the attached bookstore, pop into Cha and ponder over its long list of teas which include liquorice, peppermint and even thyme. For something more nourishing, try the milk with honey and nuts. If you've got the munchies, Cha has the usual (café) suspects – muffins, sandwiches, cakes, salads and the like.

Bars & Nightclubs

Sex on the Beach, Screwdrivers and similarly seductive beverages replace milky chai and frothy cappuccinos when Delhi gets dark. With a blossoming bar scene (most bars doubling up as nightclubs), Delhi parties hard long after the sun calls it quits. Be warned that most bars seriously pump up the music anytime after 8pm, turning civilised conversations into screaming matches. A smart-casual dress code (no shorts, scrappy singlet tops or flip-flops) applies at most places.

The fancier bars are overflowing with domestic and foreign booze, but the taxes can pack a nasty punch (alcoholic/nonalcoholic 20%/12.5%; taxes aren't included here unless stated).

What's hot and what's not can change in the blink of an eye, with five-star hotels having the city's most svelte (but wallet-wounding) bars/nightclubs.

Two uberhip hotel drinking venues during our visit:

Rick's (Map pp132-3; Taj Mahal Hotel, Man Singh Rd; ☎ 12.30pm-12.45am) An intimate bar at the Taj Mahal Hotel (p145) where you can quaff all manner of spirits and beers as well as Singapore Slings (Rs 395) and in-house concoctions such as woo woo (cranberry juice and peach schnapps; Rs 395). Pan-Asian snack menu.

Dublin (Maurya Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Sardar Patel Marg; ☎ 6pm-1am) Irish-themed, with a long wooden bar and lots of cosy nooks. A can of Kilkenny is Rs 325.

PAHARGANJ

Those nursing hangovers can get a vitamin C boost at one of the **juice stalls** (small/medium/large glass Rs 10/15/20) speckled throughout Main Bazaar.

The following places serve drinks until around 11pm. They're located on Map p140.

Hotel Gold Regency (4350 Main Bazaar) Cheap beer (a large Kingfisher is Rs 72 including tax) at the hotel's bar and live Indian music nightly except Tuesday.

Gem (De Gem; Main Bazaar) A bottle of Kingfisher or Foster's beer is Rs 72 (including tax), while a shot of Old Monk rum is a piddly Rs 18. Go upstairs for more character and to catch a cricket match on the wide-screen TV.

Metropolis Restaurant & Bar (Metropolis Tourist Home, 1634 Main Bazaar) This hotel's rooftop restaurant (p146) is a bit pricier than the above places, but it has more pizzazz and offers greater variety. Cocktails start at Rs 90.

CONNAUGHT PLACE AREA

The following venues are on Map p136.

Q'BA (1st fl, 42 E-block; ☎ noon-midnight) Above Greenways sari shop, this is Connaught Place's swishest watering hole, with a Q-shaped bar, leather chairs and inviting sofas. If it's been one of *those* days a shot of tequila (Rs 230) should do the trick, or simply swill beer (Corona, Heineken, Guinness or Kilkenny starts at Rs 250) while grazing on a mezza platter (Rs 275). This edgy split-level bar-restaurant has occasional live entertainment and happy hour falls between 3pm and 7.30pm.

DV8 (Regal Bldg; ☎ noon-midnight Mon-Sat, 4.30pm-midnight Sun) Sure to put the fizzle back into

fizzled-out souls, this convivial bar, with its wide-screen TV and glossy magazines, is a relaxing spot to knock back a few drinks. Budweiser costs Rs 250, Baileys is Rs 180 and there's a good food menu. Happy hour is from 4pm to 8pm.

1911 (Imperial hotel, Janpath; ☎ 11.30am-12.45am) Named after the year in which Delhi was proclaimed British India's capital, this grand bar boasts more than 500 beverages, from killer Bloody Marys (Rs 550) to green apple martinis (Rs 600). It ain't cheap, but it's certainly stress-banishing and guaranteed to restore your sanity after madly haggling at the nearby Janpath (Tibetan) Market.

Regent's Blues (18 N-Block; ☎ noon-midnight) A dark den where the hoi polloi gather, especially during happy hour (4pm to 8pm). Thumping to the beat of cheesy muzak (Foot-loose was the soundtrack of choice when we beer'ed here), gritty RB is a refreshingly snob-free zone.

Spirit (34 E-Block; ☎ noon-midnight) Up a flight of stairs, this dimly-lit bar-restaurant has a cosmopolitan flavour, amicable staff and a good Lebanese-speciality food menu. A glass of domestic/imported wine is Rs 200/300.

SOUTH DELHI

The following drinking venues are on Map pp120-1.

Shalom Med Lounge Bar (18 N-Block, Greater Kailash I; ☎ noon-midnight) This loungey bar-restaurant, with its rustic wooden furniture and white-washed walls, dares you to down an 'Angry Fijian' (crème de banana, Baileys and Malibu) or other similarly exotic beverages. The 'happiness comes when you feed your soul first' menu is true to its word, with blissful Mediterranean fare such as *shish taouk* (spiced char grilled chicken). Entry is via a back lane.

Hookah Bar & Lounge (Basant Lok complex, Vasant Vihar; ☎ noon-midnight) A trendy lounge-bar (adjacent to the Standard Chartered Bank) where you can drink a decent gin and tonic, snack on Greek vine leaves and puff on a fruit-flavoured sheesha pipe.

Kylin (Basant Lok complex, Vasant Vihar; ☎ noon-midnight) Mega-stylish, Kylin is ideal for an unhurried drink and Cuban cigar. Twenty single-malt whiskies feature on its extensive beverage list. There's also an appealing Oriental-inspired menu, with dim sum and sushi as well as more substantial dishes – the

burnt-chilli-and-orange-liqueur sliced duck is a Delhi first.

Ego Lounge (Community Centre, New Friends Colony; ☎ 7.30-11.30pm) Adjoining the Ego Thai restaurant (p149) and crammed with couches, you really can't get much loungier than this. Apart from the usual beer and spirits, there's French, Italian, Californian and Aussie wine (from Rs 275 per glass). Ego's music glides between salsa, '80s pop, hip-hop and World, depending on the clientele.

Lizard Lounge (1st fl, E5 South Extension Part II; ☎ noon-midnight) After shopping in South Extension (p153) wiggle your way to the Lizard for a revitalising drink.

Geoffrey's (Ansal Plaza, Khel Gaon Marg; ☎ 12.30pm-midnight) If you're in the area, English pub-themed Geoffrey's is recommended for a languid Long Island Iced Tea or beer on tap – perfect with lemongrass prawns or chicken tikka.

ENTERTAINMENT

Cultural Programmes

To access Delhi's dynamic performing arts scene, peruse local newspapers and magazines – *First City* (p124) is especially recommended. Dance, theatrical, music and talk venues:

Dances of India (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26234689;

Parsi Anjuman Hall, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg; Rs 200;

☎ 6.45pm) A one-hour performance of regional dances that includes Bharata Natyam (Tamil dance), Kathakali, bhanga and Manipuri. Tickets sold on site.

Habitat World (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24682222; India Habitat Centre, Lodi Rd)

India International Centre (Map pp132-3;

☎ 24619431; 40 Max Mueller Marg)

Kamani Auditorium (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23388084; Mandi House, Copernicus Marg)

Sangeet Natak Akademi (Map pp132-3;

☎ 23387246; Rabindra Bhavan, Copernicus Marg)

Shri Ram Centre (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23714307; 4 Safdar Hashmi Rd)

Tapas Lounge (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26148800; Jaypee

Vasant Continental Hotel Basant Lok complex, Vasant Vihar) Salsa night every Saturday from 9.30pm with an experienced instructor on hand.

Triveni Kala Sangam (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23718833; 205 Tansen Marg)

Cinemas

Consult newspapers for movie session details. The PVR cinemas have an online booking option at www.pvrcinemas.com.

PVR Saket (Anupam 4) (Map pp120-1; ☎ 41671787; Saket Community Centre, Saket)

PVR Plaza Cinema (Map p136; ☎ 41516787; H-Block, Connaught Place)

PVR Priya Cinema (Map pp120-1; ☎ 9810708625; Basant Lok complex, Vasant Vihar)

Satyam Cineplex (Map pp120-1; ☎ 25893322; Patel Rd, Patel Nagar)

SHOPPING

From energy-zapping bazaars to chilled-out *haute couture* boutiques, Delhi is a shoppers' paradise. There's plenty on offer, from handicrafts, textiles, clothing and carpets, to woodwork, brassware, jewellery and leatherwork. You'll also find a sterling range of regional saris from lavish silk, chiffon and georgette varieties, to casual cottons and crepes.

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

For dependable art gallery recommendations (many of which sell exhibits), flick through *First City*.

Government & State Emporiums

Browse hassle-free at these fixed-price emporiums, which stock items from across the country. Although prices can be higher than elsewhere, you're assured of quality. It's sensible to scout here to get an idea of prices before hitting the markets – you can always return if you didn't find comparable products at better prices in the bazaars.

Central Cottage Industries Emporium (Map p136; ☎ 23326790; Janpath; ☎ 10am-7pm) A multilevel Aladdin's cave of India-wide handicrafts: woodcarvings, silverware, jewellery, pottery, papier-mâché, brassware, textiles, beauty products and heaps more.

State Emporiums (Map p136; Baba Kharak Singh Marg; ☎ 10am-6pm Mon-Sat) These side-by-side state government emporiums showcase products from right around the country. Set aside several hours to do these fabulous shops justice (some close for lunch between 1.30pm and 2.30pm).

Markets & Complexes

NORTH DELHI

Chandni Chowk (Map p128; Old Delhi; ☎ Mon-Sat) Pure pandemonium, this is the old city's famed

shopping strip, with some stores opening from around 10am to 7pm and others from noon to 9pm. Winding your way through the jumble of frenzied bazaars is a veritable assault on all senses (see the boxed text, opposite).

Main Bazaar (Map p140; Paharganj; ☎ around 10am-9pm Tue-Sun) The backpacker-oriented spine of Paharganj has piles of bargain T-shirts, shawls, leatherware, costume jewellery, essential oil, incense, bindis and even bongos. Wood-bead necklaces, which make great gifts, start at a tiny Rs 10. Although officially closed on Monday, many shops remain open during the tourist season.

Karol Bagh market (Map pp120-1; ☎ around 10am-7pm Tue-Sun) This middle-class market sells competitively-priced consumer goods, from kidswear to kitchenware. Get spice-happy at Roopak's (6/9 Ajmal Khan Rd) two side-by-side shops with similar spices (most around Rs 100 per 100g and well packed). Their *namkin* (savoury nibbles) are ideal for long train journeys – the roasted green lentils are a healthy alternative to the mostly fried varieties.

CENTRAL DELHI

Fabindia (Map p136; www.fabindia.com; 1st fl, 28 B-Block; ☎ 10am-7pm) For details about this clothing and home-furnishings chain (Fab's mother-ship is in Greater Kailash) see opposite.

Janpath (Tibetan) Market (Map p136; Janpath; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Beckoning tourists with its shimmering mirrorwork textiles, colourful shawls, brass ornaments, psychedelic T-shirts, dangly earrings and trinkets galore, is this touristy belt running north of the Imperial hotel. It has some good finds if you rummage through the junk. Haggle hard.

Khadi Gramodyog Bhawan (Map p136; Regal Bldg, Sansad Marg; ☎ 10.30-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Best known for its *khadi* (homespun cloth) Indian-style clothing, but also worth a visit for its hand-made paper, incense, spices and henna. There are also natural soaps that look good enough to eat, from basil and rosewater to mango and mint. The multicounter purchasing system is ludicrous – arrive early to avoid queues, especially just before the Diwali festival.

Palika Bazaar (Map p136; Connaught Place; ☎ 11am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) A bustling underground bazaar with all sorts of consumer goods (clothing, electronics, fake wristwatches, CDs etc) aimed at Delhi's middle-class. Tourists are invariably quoted inflated prices, so don't be shy to bargain.

People Tree (Map p136; Regal Bldg, Sansad Marg; ☎ 10.30am-7pm Mon-Sat) The blink-and-you'll-miss-it People Tree sells avant-garde T-shirts (from Rs 170) as well as skirts, dresses, shirts (men and women) shoulder bags, ethnic costume jewellery and books.

Soma (Map p136; 1st fl, 44 K-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 9.30am-7.30pm) Opposite PVR Plaza Cinema, Soma has brilliant block-printed textiles: oven mitts, aprons, scarves, shirts, table linen, cosmetic bags, cushion covers, children's clothing and more.

SOUTH DELHI

Ansal Plaza (Map pp120-1; Khel Gaon Marg; ☎ 11am-9.30pm) A modern shopping mall squarely geared towards well-to-do locals, with shops selling designer clothes, foreign-brand cosmetics, fashionable costume jewellery etc.

Dilli Haat (Map pp120-1; Aurobindo Marg; admission Rs 10; ☎ 10.30am-10pm) Opposite INA Market, this rather contrived open-air food-and-crafts market sells regional handicrafts of variable quality. The on-site food stalls cook up regionally diverse cuisine. Avoid the busy weekends.

Greater Kailash's M-Block & N-Block Markets (Map pp120-1; Greater Kailash I; ☎ Wed-Mon) An upmarket shopping enclave best known for its awesome garment and home-furnishings store Fabindia (N-Block Market; www.fabindia.com; open 10am to 7.30pm), which has fantastic ready-made clothes that won't look odd back home. It also sells organic jams and bodycare products. Next door is Cottons (open 10.30am to 7pm), which has a smaller clothing selection but is also worth a peek.

Hauz Khas Village (Map pp120-1; ☎ 11.30am-9pm Mon-Sat) This urban 'village' is known for its glam clothing boutiques, art galleries and furniture shops catering to Delhi's upper crust.

C.Lal & Sons (Map pp132-3; 9/172 Jor Bagh Market; ☎ 9.30am-7.30pm) After sightseeing at Safdarjang's tomb, drop into this humble little 'curiosity shop' owned by the kindly Mr Lal. Much loved by Delhi-based diplomats for its dazzling Christmas-tree decorations, it also sells competitively priced handicrafts such as papier-mâché painted eggs, soft toy camels/elephants, carvings, silk scarves and pretty glass beads to string your own necklace.

Khan Market (Map pp132-3; ☎ around 10.45am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Favoured by expats and Delhi's elite, this enclave has shops devoted to fashion (including tailoring), books, sunglasses, homeware and accessories. This is also the place to find gourmet groceries. For Australian grapefruit to Italian pesto. For handmade paperware (cards, diaries, photo albums etc) check out Anand Stationers. There's a small branch of Fabindia here (see left) here. Avoid Saturday when the crowds can be exasperating.

Lajpat Nagar Central Market (Map pp120-1; ☎ around 11am-8pm Tue-Sun) This market attracts bargain-hunting locals on the prowl for household goods, clothing and jewellery. If you've fallen in love with those colourful jangly bangles widely worn by Indian women, you can find them here.

Santushti Shopping Complex (Map pp132-3; Chanakyaपुरी; ☎ around 10am-6.30pm Mon-Sat) A calm green haven sprinkled with swanky boutiques, Santushti is the antithesis of Delhi's boisterous

A BAZAAR AFFAIR

The pandemonium of Old Delhi's convoluted bazaars (Map p128) is a headspinning assault on the senses, with a mindbending array of things to see and an aromatic muddle of flowers, urine, incense, chai, fumes and frying food, all discernible in one whiff. These frenetic bazaars are 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 has a focus on bridal gear, from fancy sari borders to iridescent tinsel decorations. The cloth market, not surprisingly, 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 and books and also has a portion devoted to saris.

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

bazaars. Cigar aficionados will appreciate Kastro's which has fine Cuban cigars, Davidoff mini-cigarillos etc. Meanwhile, Lotus Eaters sells sublime old gold and silver pieces including Ganesh pendants from Rs 1800, while Anokhi (branch also at Khan Market) specialises in quality block-printed textiles, from tablecloths to garments.

Sarajini Nagar Market (Map pp120-1; ☎ around 11am-8pm Tue-Sun) 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 holes, faulty zips, crooked seams, stains and missing buttons. Bargain hard. Avoid Sunday afternoons when Sarajini swarms with elbowing shoppers.

South Extension Market Parts I & II (Map pp120-1; ☎ around 11am-8pm Tue-Sun) This high-class market is comprised of two enclaves, on opposite sides of the road, each selling designer clothing, jewellery, shoes, handbags and sportswear. Bg's (G5 Part I) is strictly chick territory, with a glittering treasure trove of costume jewellery and flashy hairclips.

Sunder Nagar Market (Map pp132-3; ☎ 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 **Mittal Tea House** (☎ 10am-7.30pm Mon-Sat, 10.30am-4pm Sun). They stock similar products and offer complimentary tea tastings (for most varieties). There's plenty on offer, from masala tea (Rs 50 per 100g) and Kashmiri *kahwa* (green tea with cardamom; Rs 90 per 100g), to hibiscus (with real petals; Rs 80 per 50g) and mango (Rs 80 per 100g); the latter two make refreshing iced teas. The white tea (Rs 340 per 40g) is said to contain even more antioxidants than green tea, while the dragon balls (Rs 75 each) are a visual thrill when brewed.

Music

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

These reputable outlets stock a wide range of Indian and non-Indian musical instruments: **Delhi Musical Stores** (Map p128; ☎ 23276909; www.indianmusicalinstruments.com; 1070 Paiwalan, Old Delhi; ☎ 10.30am-7pm Mon-Sat) Opposite Jama Masjid's Gate No 3. The website details what's on offer.

Rangarsons Music Depot (Map p136; ☎ 23413831; 12 K-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 10am-5.30pm Mon-Sat) Tablas/trumpets/sitars/guitars Rs 3000/3000/2500/2500.

Rikhi Ram (Map p136; ☎ 23327685; 8 G-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 11.30am-8pm Mon-Sat) Classic/electric sitars (Rs 22,000/32,000), tablas (Rs 5500) and much more.

Rikhi Ram's Music (☎ 23340496; www.rikhiram.org; 144 Bhagat Singh Market; ☎ 11am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Near Gole Market. See the excellent website for comprehensive details.

For competitively priced instruments, inspect the **musical instrument shops** (Map p128; ☎ Mon-Sat) along Neetaji Subhash Marg in Daryaganj.

MUSIC CASSETTES & CDS

Music retailers stock stacks of CDs (including East-meets-West fusion) and a limited range of cassettes – handy if you're hiring a car as most only have cassette decks. There are lots of little music shops in Connaught Place, while suburban recommendations include the following:

Music Shop (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24618464; Khan Market; ☎ 11am-8pm Mon-Sat)

Planet M (Map pp120-1; ☎ 26251620; South Extension Market Part II; ☎ 11am-8.30pm) Two well-arranged floors: 1st/2nd for English/Indian music.

Tailors

Allow a week for tailoring, although some places will sew at lightening speed.

Delhi Cloth House (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24618937; Khan Market; ☎ 10.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Men's wool suits from Rs 5000 to Rs 25,000 (including material); ankle-length skirts from Rs 400 (excluding material).

M Ram & Sons (Map p136; ☎ 23416558; 21 E-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 10am-8pm Mon-Sat) Men's suits from Rs 3500 (excluding material), ladies long skirts from Rs 500 (excluding material). Tailoring possible in 24 hours.

New Prominent Tailors (Map p136; ☎ 23418007; 25 K-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 11.30am-7.30pm Mon-Sat) Men's trousers (excluding material) cost Rs 300, women's skirts (with lining) cost Rs 250.

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

The domestic terminals (Terminal 1) of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (Map pp120-1) are around 15km southwest of Con-

naught Place, and the international terminal (Terminal 2) is a further 8km away. There's a frequent (free) shuttle bus between the two terminals or you can use the Ex-Servicemen's Air Link Transport Service (p158).

For flight inquiries, call the **international airport** (☎ 25652011; www.delhiairport.com) or the **domestic airport** (☎ 25675126).

DOMESTIC

Arrivals & Departures

Check-in at the airport for domestic flights is one hour before departure. Note that if you've just arrived and have an onward connection to another city in India, it may be with Air India, the country's international carrier, rather than its major domestic carrier, Indian Airlines. If this is the case, you must check-in at the international terminal, not the domestic terminal.

Airlines

The most convenient **Indian Airlines office** (Map pp120-1; ☎ 23313317; F-Block, Malhotra Bldg, Connaught Place; ☎ 10am-1pm & 2-5pm Mon-Sat) is at Connaught Place. There's also a ticket office at **Safdarjang airfield** (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24631337; Aurubindo Marg; ☎ 7am-11pm). For Indian Airlines' recorded flight arrival and departure details, dial ☎ 1407.

Other domestic airlines (for websites see above):

Air Deccan (no office; ☎ inquiries 9818177008)

Jagson Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23721593; Vandana Bldg, 11 Tolstoy Marg; ☎ 9.30am-6pm Mon-Sat)

Jet Airways (Map p136; ☎ 39841111; 40 N-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 9am-9pm Mon-Fri, to 6pm Sat & Sun)

Kingfisher Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23730238; 42 N-Block, Connaught Place; ☎ 8am-9pm Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm Sat & Sun)

Sahara Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23326851; Gopal Das Bhavan, 28 Barakhamba Rd, Connaught Place; ☎ 10am-5pm Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm Sat)

INTERNATIONAL

Arrivals

The international airport's arrivals hall has 24-hour money-exchange facilities, a prepaid taxi counter and a tourist information counter. The train booking counter is only open from 8am to 8pm.

Departures

You *must* have your check-in bags X-rayed and sealed – don't forget to do this or you'll be

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

Airlines

Aeroflot (Map p136; ☎ 23723241; 15-17 Tolstoy Marg)

Air Canada (Map pp120-1; ☎ 41528181; World Trade Tower, Barakhamba Rd)

Air France (Map p136; ☎ 23466262; 7 Atma Ram Mansion, Connaught Place)

Air India (Map p136; ☎ 23731225; Jeevan Bharati Bldg, Connaught Place)

British Airways (☎ 951244120747; DLF Plaza Tower, DLF Phase 1, Qutb Enclave, Gurgaon)

El Al Israel Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23357965; Prakash Deep Bldg, 7 Tolstoy Marg)

Emirates (Map p136; ☎ 66314444; DLF Centre, Sansad Marg, Connaught Place)

Gulf Air (Map p136; ☎ 23324293; 12 G-Block, Connaught Place)

Japan Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23324922; Chandralok Bldg, 36 Janpath)

KLM-Royal Dutch Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23357747; Prakash Deep Bldg, 7 Tolstoy Marg)

Lufthansa Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23724200; 56 Janpath)

Malaysian Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 41512121; Gopal Das Bhavan, 28 Barakhamba Rd)

Pakistan International Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23737791; 23 Barakhamba Rd)

Qantas (Map p136; ☎ 23321345; Prakash Deep Bldg, 7 Tolstoy Marg)

Royal Nepal Airlines Corporation (RNAC; Map p136; ☎ 23321164; 44 Janpath)

Scandinavian Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 43513202; Thapar House, 124 Janpath)

Singapore Airlines (Map p136; ☎ 23356283; Ashoka Estate Bldg, 24 Barakhamba Rd)

Thai Airways International (Map pp120-1; ☎ 41497777; Park Royal Intercontinental Hotel, America Plaza, Nehru Pl)

Bus

Bikaner House (Map pp132-3; ☎ 23383469; Pandara Rd), near India Gate, operates good state-run buses. There are services to Jaipur (non-AC/AC Rs 270/460, six hours, several services daily between 6am and midnight); Udaipur (Rs 518, 15 hours, one daily service at 7.30pm); Ajmer (Rs 36, nine hours, daily at 7.30pm, 10pm and 11.15pm); and Jodhpur (Rs 460, 11 hours, one daily service at 10pm).

Delhi's main bus station is the **Inter State Bus Terminal** (ISBT; Map pp120-1; ☎ 23860290; Kashmiri Gate; ☎ 24hr), north of the (Old) Delhi train

DOMESTIC FLIGHTS FROM DELHI

These are just some domestic air routes – for comprehensive and current details, see *Excel's Timetable of Air Services Within India* (Rs 45), available at newsstands and some bookshops. When making reservations request the most direct (quickest) route. Note that airline prices fluctuate and website bookings with some carriers can be markedly cheaper.

Destination	Airline code	Fare (US\$)	Duration (hr)	Frequency
Ahmedabad	IC	171	1¼	3 daily
	9W			2 daily
	S2			1 daily
	SG			1 daily
Amritsar	IC	126	1	4 weekly
Bengaluru	S2	311	2½	3 daily
	IC			4 daily
	9W			5 daily
	SG			2 daily
	IT			4 daily
Chennai	9W	321	2½	5 daily
	IC			4 daily
	DN			3 daily
	S2			4 daily
Dharamsala	JA	206	1½	3 weekly
Goa	S2	281	2½	1 daily
	IC			1 daily
	IT			1 daily
	SG			1 daily
	G8			2 daily
Hyderabad	IC	260	2	4 daily
	S2			2 daily
	DN			2 daily
	9W			2 daily
	SG			1 daily
Jaipur	9W	81	45min	1 daily
	IC			1 daily
Jodhpur	CD	131	1½	3 weekly
	9W			1 daily
Khajuraho	IC	126	1¼	1 daily
	9W			1 daily
Kolkata	S2	251	2	4 daily
	IC			3 daily
	9W			3 daily
	DN			3 daily
	IT			1 daily
Kullu	JA	186	1¼	1 daily
	DN			1 daily
Leh	9W	156	1¼	6 weekly
	IC			1 daily
Mumbai	S2	221	2	5 daily
	IC			11 daily
	9W			11 daily
	IT			7 daily
	SG			3 daily
	DN			5 daily

Destination	Airline code	Fare (US\$)	Duration (hr)	Frequency
Shimla	JA	125	1	3 weekly
Trivandrum	IC	426	4½	1 daily
	9W			1 daily
	DN			1 daily
Udaipur	CD	130	2½-3	4 weekly
	9W			2 daily
Varanasi	S2	156	1¼	1 daily
	IC			2 daily
	9W			1 daily
	SG			1 daily

CD – Alliance Air (Indian Airlines), IC – Indian Airlines, S2 – Sahara Airlines, 9W – Jet Airways, JA – Jagson Airlines, DN – Air Deccan, SG – Spicejet, IT – Kingfisher Airlines, G8 – Go Airlines

station. It has a 24-hour left-luggage facility (Rs 15 per bag). This station can be 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:

Delhi Transport Corporation (☎ 23865181; Counter 34)

Haryana Roadways (☎ 23861262; Counter 35)

Himachal Roadways (☎ 23863473; Counter 40)

Punjab Roadways (☎ 23867842; Counter 37)

Rajasthan Roadways (☎ 23381884; Counter 36)

Uttar Pradesh Roadways (☎ 23868709; Counter 38)

Train

For foreigners, it's easiest to make ticket bookings at the **International Tourist Bureau** (Map p140; ☎ 23405156; 1st fl, New Delhi train station; ⏰ 8am-8pm Mon-Sat, to 2pm Sun). Do *not* believe anyone who tells you it has shifted, closed or burnt down – this is a rampant scam to divert you elsewhere (see the boxed text, p126). There are reportedly railway porters involved in scams, so stay on your toes and don't let anyone stop you from going to the 1st floor of the *main* building for bookings. When making reservations at the International Tourist Bureau, tickets must be paid for in rupees backed up by money-exchange certificates (or ATM receipts) or in US dollars, euros or pounds sterling; any change is given in rupees. Bring your passport. There's a train booking counter at the airport (p155).

There are two main stations in Delhi – (Old) Delhi train station (Map p128) in Old Delhi, and New Delhi train station (Map p140) 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 you should allow adequate time to meander through the often-snail-paced traffic of Old Delhi.

There's also the Nizamuddin train station (Map pp132-3), south of Sunder Nagar, where various trains (usually for south-bound destinations) start or finish.

Many trains between Delhi and Jaipur, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Udaipur operate to and from Sarai Rohilla train station (Map pp120-1), about 4km northwest of Connaught Place.

Railway porters should charge between Rs 20 and Rs 30 per bag.

There are many more destinations and trains than those listed in the boxed text, p159 – consult *Trains at a Glance* (Rs 45), available at most newsstands, or ask tourist office staff.

GETTING AROUND

Local buses can get horrendously crowded so autorickshaws and taxis are desirable alternatives. Keep small change handy for fares.

Women should read *Taxis & Public Transport* in the Women Travellers section (p1161).

To/From the Airport

Airport-to-city transport is not as straightforward as it should be, due to predatory taxi drivers – see p125.

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

PREARRANGED PICK-UPS

There's nothing more comforting after a long-haul flight than seeing someone holding a placard with your name on it. Be aware that 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 Rs 120) and Rs 60 charge for the person collecting you to enter the airport arrivals hall.

BUS

The **Ex-Servicemen's Air Link Transport Service** (EATS; Map p136; ☎ 23316530; F-Block, Connaught Place; 🕒 8am-10pm) has a bus service between the airport (both terminals) and its office, near Indian Airlines. The fare is Rs 50, plus Rs 10 per large piece of luggage. The bus will drop you off at most of the major hotels and, en route, at the Ajmeri Gate entrance to New Delhi train station (for Paharganj). There's no set timetable as the bus operates according to flight arrivals.

When leaving the international terminal, the counter for EATS is just to the right as you exit the building.

TAXI

Look for the Delhi Traffic Police Prepaid Taxi Booth to the right just outside the international terminal entrance. It costs about Rs 220 to Paharganj; there's a 25% surcharge between 11pm and 5am.

You'll be given a voucher with the destination on it – insist that the driver honours it and,

if not, return to the booth. Never surrender your voucher until you get to your destination; without that docket the driver won't get paid.

At the domestic airport, the prepaid taxi-booking counter is inside the terminal.

Bus

The Delhi Transport Corporation runs some buses, and others are privately owned, but they all operate along the same set routes. Tickets cost a maximum of Rs 15 for travel within the city precincts. Whenever possible, try to board at a starting or finishing point, such as the **Shivaji Stadium terminal** (Map p136; Connaught Place), as there's more chance of a seat.

Useful buses:

Bus 101, 104 or 139 Shivaji Stadium terminal to the Red Fort.

Bus 505 Janpath to Qutb Minar.

Bus 604 or 620 Connaught Place (on Sansad Marg) to Chanakyapuri.

Car**HIRING A CAR & DRIVER**

Numerous operators offer chauffeur-driven cars – for important tips read above.

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.

Kumar Tourist Taxi Service (Map p136; ☎ 23415930; kumartaxi@rediffmail.com; 14/1 K-Block, Connaught Place;

PUBLIC BUSES

Apart from public buses, there are comfortable private bus services but their schedules can be erratic (inquire at travel agencies).

Destination	One-way fare (Rs)	Duration (hr)	Departures
Agra	130/200 (A/B)	5½	6am-10pm (half-hourly)
Amritsar	225 (A)	11	4.30am-9.30pm (hourly)
Chandigarh	132/255/360 (A/B/C)	5	6am-9pm (half-hourly)
Dehra Dun	126/211 (A/C)	7	5.30am-10.30pm (hourly)
Dharamsala	290/500 (A/B)	13	4.30am-11pm (hourly)
Jammu	300 (A)	12	5.15am-11pm (hourly)
Kullu	325/550/690 (A/B/C)	13	9am
Manali	360/600/800 (A/B/C)	16	1-10pm (hourly)
McLeod Ganj	305/515 (A/B)	14	7.40pm
Shimla	232/437/570 (A/B/C)	10	5am-10.30pm (hourly)

A – ordinary, B – deluxe, C – AC

non-AC/AC per day Rs 550/650; ☎ 8am-9pm) Near the York Hotel is this tiny office run by two brothers, Bittoo and Titoo. Their rates are among Delhi's lowest – beware of frauds claiming association with this company.

Metropole Tourist Service (Map pp132-3; ☎ 24310313; www.metrovista.co.in; 224 Defence Colony Flyover Market; non-AC/AC per day Rs 600/750; ☎ 7.30am-7pm) Under the Defence Flyover Bridge (on the Jangpura side), this is another reliable choice.

Cycle-Rickshaw & Bicycle

Authorities have decided to ban cycle-rickshaws (citing congestion problems) in the coming years, but they should still be around during the life of this book.

Cycle-rickshaws are banned from the Connaught Place area and New Delhi itself, but they can be handy for commuting between Connaught Place and Paharganj (about Rs 25). They're recommended in Chandni Chowk (Old Delhi), as the drivers are veritable wizards at weaving through the crowds (around Rs 50 per hour). Tips are appreciated for this gruelling work.

To purchase a pushbike, the largest range of new and second-hand bicycles can be found at Jhandewalan Cycle Market (Map pp120-1).

Metro

Delhi's outstanding Metro system has extremely efficient services with arrival/departure announcements in Hindi and English. Smoking and eating is prohibited, as is carrying firearms and travelling on the roof!

At the time of writing, three sections of the Metro system were operational: the Shahdara-Rithala phase (18 stations), the Vishwa Vidyalaya-Central Secretariat route (10 stations) and the Dwarka-Barakamba Rd line (28 stations). The Metro is scheduled for completion around 2010.

Tickets (Rs 6 to Rs 22) are sold at Metro stations; there are also one-/three-day (Rs 70/200) 'tourist cards' for unlimited short-distance travel. For the latest developments (as well as route maps) see www.delhimetro rail.com or call ☎ 24369912.

Motorcycle

For information about motorcycle rental, see p1175.

Taxi & Autorickshaw

All taxis and autorickshaws are metered but you may find the meters are 'not working' or

MAJOR TRAINS FROM DELHI

Destination	Train No & name	Fare (Rs)	Duration (hr)	Frequency	Departures & train station
Agra	2180 <i>Taj Exp</i>	82/266 (A)	3	daily	7.15am HN
	2002 <i>Shatabdi Exp</i>	370/720 (B)	2	daily	6am ND
Amritsar	2013 <i>Shatabdi Exp</i>	635/1215 (B)	5½	daily	4.30pm ND
	2031 <i>Shatabdi Exp</i>	655/1115 (B)	5½	daily	7.20am ND
Bengaluru	2430 <i>Rajdhani Exp</i>	2105/2840/4870 (C)	34	4 weekly	8.50pm HN
Chennai	2434 <i>Rajdhani Exp</i>	2005/2710/4645 (C)	28	twice weekly	4pm HN
	2622 <i>Tamil Nadu Exp</i>	537/1455/2071/3609 (D)	33	daily	10.30pm ND
Goa	2432 <i>Rajdhani Exp</i>	1985/2715/4655 (C)	25½	twice weekly	11am HN
Haridwar	2017 <i>Shatabdi Exp</i>	430/840 (B)	4½	1 daily	6.55am ND
Jaipur	2958 <i>Rajdani Express</i>	600/860/1585 (C)	5	six weekly	7.35pmHN
	2414 <i>Intercity Exp</i>	107/441/665/1244 (D)	6	1 daily	4.40am OD
	2015 <i>Shatabdi Exp</i>	465/915 (B)	4½	6 weekly	6.10am ND
Lucknow	2004/36 <i>Shatabdi Exp</i>	700/1385 (B)	6	daily	6.15am ND
Mumbai	2952 <i>Rajdhani Exp</i>	1485/2210/4135 (C)	16½	daily	4pm ND
	2954 <i>Rajdani Exp</i>	1485/2210/4135 (C)	17	daily	4.55pm HN
Udaipur	2963 <i>Mewar Exp</i>	269/814/1144/1970 (D)	12	daily	7pm HN
Varanasi	2560 <i>Shivganga</i>	311/820/1153/1985 (D)	13	daily	6.25pm ND

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

Fares: A – 2nd class/chair car, B – chair car/executive class, C – 3AC/2AC/1st-class AC, D – sleeper/3AC/2AC/1st-class AC

**THIS MAP
NOT AVAILABLE
IN PICK & MIX**

AUTORICKSHAW RATES

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

Destination	Cost (Rs)
Ansal Plaza	50
Bahai House of Worship	60
Humayun's tomb	40
Karol Bagh	25
Majnu-ka-Tilla	60
Old Delhi train station	40
Paharganj	18
Purana Qila	25
Red Fort	40
South Extension	50

that drivers will simply refuse to use them (so they can overcharge). Insist on using the meter, or agree on a fare before setting off. If the driver disagrees, look for one who will. From 11pm to 5am, there's a 25% surcharge for autorickshaws and taxis.

To avoid shenanigans, catch an autorickshaw from a prepaid booth:

Janpath (Map p136; 88 Janpath; ☎ 11am-7pm Mon-Sat, to 2pm Sun) Outside the India Tourism Delhi office.

New Delhi train station car park (Map p140;

☎ 24hr)

Palika Bazaar's Gate No 2 (Map p136; Connaught Place; ☎ 11am-7pm)

At the time of writing there was no prepaid taxi stand in Connaught Place, but the New Delhi train station (car park) has a 24-hour counter offering meter-operated taxis.

GREATER DELHI

For details about possible day trips from Delhi to neighbouring Haryana, see p277.

TUGHLAQABAD

Crumbling **Tughlaqabad** (Map pp120-1; Indian/foreigner Rs 5/US\$2, video Rs 25; ☎ 8.30am-5.30pm) was the third city of Delhi. The walled city and fort with its 13 gateways was built by Ghiyas-ud-din Tughlaq. Its construction involved a legendary quarrel between Ghiyas-ud-din and the saint Nizam-ud-din: when the Tughlaq

ruler took the workers whom Nizam-ud-din wanted for work on his shrine, the saint bitterly cursed the king, warning that his city would be inhabited only by shepherds. Today, this is indeed the situation.

The dispute between king and saint did not end with a curse. When the king prepared to take vengeance on the saint, Nizam-ud-din calmly told his followers, 'Delhi is a long way off'. Indeed it was, for the king was murdered on his way from Delhi in 1325.

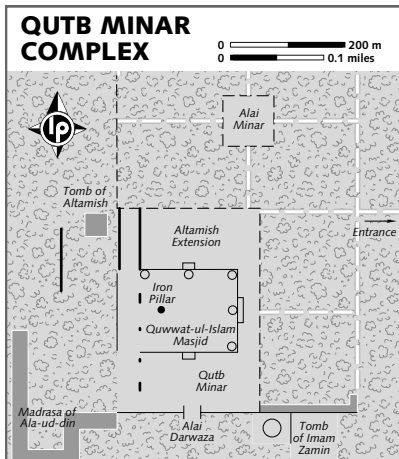
From Janpath a return autorickshaw costs around Rs 165, which includes 30 minutes' waiting time (Rs 25 per extra hour).

QUTB MINAR

The imposing buildings in the **Qutb Minar complex** (Map p161; ☎ 26643856; Indian/foreigner Rs 10/US\$5, video Rs 25; ☎ dawn-dusk) date from the onset of Islamic rule in India and are fine examples of early Afghan architecture.

The Qutb Minar itself is a soaring tower of victory that was started 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 just 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. Although Qutb-ud-din began construction of the tower, he only got to the 1st storey. His successors completed it and, in 1368, Firoz Shah rebuilt the top storeys and added a cupola. An earthquake brought the cupola



crashing down in 1803 and an Englishman replaced it with another in 1829. However, that dome was deemed inappropriate and was removed some years later.

Today, this impressively ornate tower has a slight tilt, but otherwise has worn the centuries remarkably well. It's no longer possible to climb the tower.

The Qutb Festival takes place here every October/November (see p123).

Avoid visiting Qutb Minar on weekends, as it can get crowded.

Quwwat-ul-Islam Masjid

At the foot of the Qutb Minar stands the first mosque to be built in India, the **Might of Islam Mosque**. Qutb-ud-din began construction of the mosque in 1193, but it has had various additions and extensions over the centuries. 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'. Many of the elements in the mosque's construction indicate their Hindu or Jain origins.

Altamish, Qutb-ud-din's son-in-law, surrounded the original mosque with a cloistered court between 1210 and 1220. Ala-ud-din added a court to the east and the magnificent **Alai Darwaza** gateway in 1300.

Iron Pillar

This 7m-high pillar stands in the courtyard of the mosque and it was here long before 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 quite 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.

It is said that if you can stand with your back to the pillar and encircle it with your arms your wish will be granted; however, the pillar is now protected by a fence.

Alai Minar

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

Other Features

Ala-ud-din's **Alai Darwaza** gateway is the main entrance to the whole complex. It was built of red sandstone in 1310 and stands 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 north-western 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 Indian Uprising.

Getting There & Away

Catch bus 505 (Rs 15) from the Ajmeri Gate side of New Delhi train station or from Janpath.

From Janpath, a return autorickshaw costs around Rs 140, including 30 minutes' waiting time (Rs 25 per extra hour).