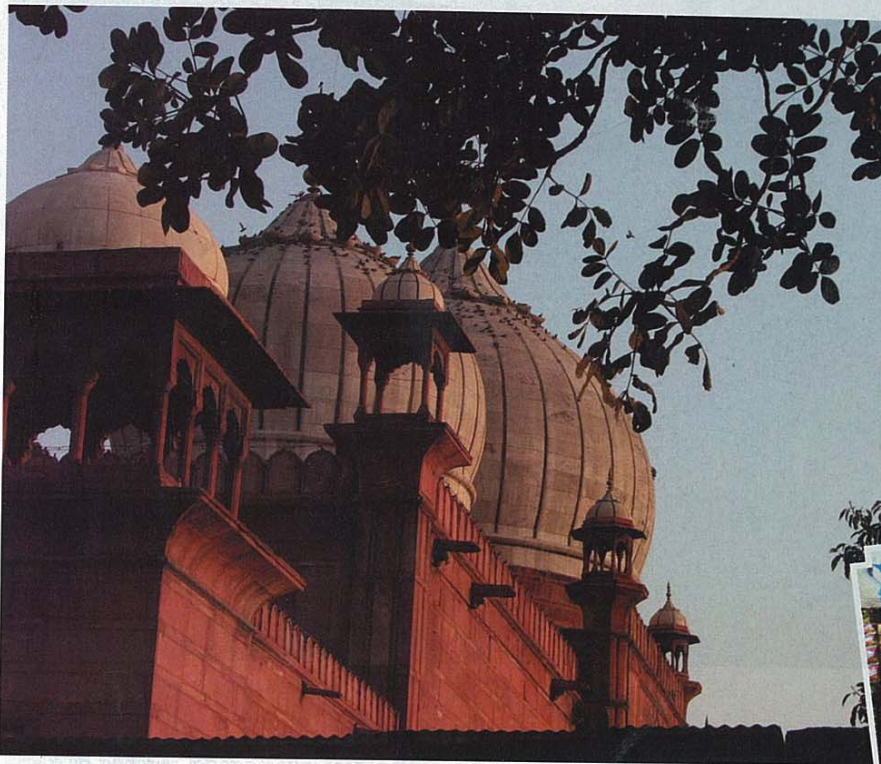


24 HOURS by Summer Block

24 hours in delhi

forts, bazaars, peacocks and butter chicken



eat

Haldirams

1454/2 Chandni Chowk,
Old Delhi (+91 11 292 4480)

Moti Mahal

3704 Netaji Subhash Marg,
Daryaganj, Old Delhi
(+91 11 2327 3661)

1911, Imperial Hotel, Janpath,
New Delhi (+91 11 2334 1234)

play

National Gallery of Modern Art

Jaipur House, India Gate,
New Delhi (+91 11 2338 4640)

Cottage Industries Emporium

Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath,
New Delhi (+91 11 2372 5035)

TRAVEL PACK



delhi is a confounding city: arduous to navigate, difficult to comprehend, impossible to forget. This cosmopolitan capital of more than 14 million is only the latest incarnation in a series of cities that have sat on the same spot along the banks of the Yamuna River for more than 3,000 years. Today Delhi draws thousands of new residents a year from all over the country, eager to take part in India's booming future.

9am: The best way to navigate Old Delhi is on foot, so grab your *chappals* and join the throngs. Start your walk at the Red Fort, an imposing sandstone edifice built at the height of the Mughal Empire, now teeming with rickshaw *wallahs* and *paan* vendors selling small pouches of spices wrapped in betelnut leaves. Next door is a Jain temple and bird hospital where adherents nurse injured city birds as part of their mission to protect all living things.

10am: After exploring the fort and temple, continue down Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi's main thoroughfare and a riotous bazaar. Don't be afraid to veer off and

get lost among the little lanes – each alleyway is known for its particular wares, whether silver, *saris* or sweets.

Midday: Your walk through Old Delhi winds up at the graceful Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. The steps leading into the central courtyard are the perfect place to sit and watch traffic go by.

1pm: Grab a quick, satisfying bite at the cafeteria-style Haldirams. Upstairs you can sit and enjoy both north and south Indian staples; downstairs a take-out counter is filled with sweets – their specialty – to enjoy later or bring home as gifts.

2pm: After lunch, flash forward to New Delhi and take a stroll through the National Gallery of Modern Art, where you can find works by major artists including Abanindranath Tagore, J Swaminathan, NS Bendre and Raja Ravi Varma.

4pm: Browse the bookshops around Connaught Place, where discounted best-sellers share space with rare finds. Stock up on the many award-winning titles by contemporary Indian writers.

5pm: Enjoy the cool afternoon breezes in the Mughal Gardens that surround Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's House. Wild parrots and peacocks add vibrant spots of color to the spacious lawns and flowerbeds.

6pm: Browse the government-run Cottage Industries Emporium for must-have gifts from all over the subcontinent, including textiles, jewelry, houseware and cosmetics.

8pm: No trip to Delhi is complete without sampling butter chicken (chicken *makhni*). Try it at Moti Mahal, which claims to have invented the dish more than 50 years ago. Make sure to order plenty of *naan* to soak up the rich sauce.

10pm: Wind up your evening at 1911 Bar in the stunning Imperial Hotel, Delhi's undisputed leader in elegance. The art deco enclave offers hundreds of expertly mixed cocktails, but the real draw is the atmosphere of congenial (air-conditioned) calm. ■