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The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

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<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>Body</div> </div>	Agra Municipal Corporation
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>Mayor<sup>[3]</sup></div> </div>	Naveen Jain (BJP)
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>Divisional Commissioner</div> </div>	Anil Kumar, IAS <sup>[1]</sup>
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>Deputy Inspector General</div> </div>	Love Kumar, IPS <sup>[2]</sup>
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>District Magistrate and Collector</div> </div>	Ravi Kumar N. G., IAS <sup>[1]</sup>
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>Senior Superintendent of Police</div> </div>	Amit Pathak , IPS <sup>[2]</sup>
Elevation	171 <span> </span> m (561 <span> </span> ft)
Population (2011) <sup>[4]</sup>	
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>City</div> </div>	1,585,704
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>Rank</div> </div>	24th
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>Metro<sup>[5]</sup></div> </div>	1,760,285
Languages,	
<div> <div><div>•</div></div> <div>Official</div> </div>	Hindi, English
Time zone	UTC+5:30 (IST)
Telephone code	0562
Vehicle registration	UP-80
Sex ratio	0.875 ♂ / ♀
Literacy	73.11%
Website	Official District Website

## Climate

Agra features a semiarid climate that borders on a humid subtropical climate. The city features mild winters, hot and dry summers and a monsoon season. However the monsoons, though substantial in Agra, are not quite as heavy as the monsoon in other parts of India. This is a primary factor in Agra featuring a semiarid climate as opposed to a humid subtropical climate

Climate data for Agra, India													
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year
Record high °C (°F)	33.0 (91.4)	35.6 (96.1)	42.8 (109)	46.5 (115.7)	48.6 (119.5)	48.5 (119.3)	46.5 (115.7)	43.0 (109.4)	41.4 (106.5)	41.1 (106)	36.1 (97)	31.0 (87.8)	48.6 (119.5)
Average high °C (°F)	22.3 (72.1)	25.2 (77.4)	32.0 (89.6)	38.5 (101.3)	41.6 (106.9)	40.7 (105.3)	35.2 (95.4)	33.7 (92.7)	34.4 (93.9)	34.3 (93.7)	29.7 (85.5)	24.0 (75.2)	32.6 (90.7)
Daily mean °C (°F)	15.1 (59.2)	17.8 (64)	24.0 (75.2)	30.5 (86.9)	34.0 (93.2)	34.6 (94.3)	31.1 (88)	29.6 (85.3)	29.4 (84.9)	27.0 (80.6)	21.7 (71.1)	16.6 (61.9)	26.0 (78.8)
Average low °C (°F)	8.0 (46.4)	10.4 (50.7)	15.9 (60.6)	22.3 (72.1)	26.4 (79.5)	28.5 (83.3)	26.8 (80.2)	25.8 (78.4)	24.4 (75.9)	19.9 (67.8)	13.7 (56.7)	9.1 (48.4)	19.3 (66.7)
Record low °C (°F)	−2.2 (28)	−1.7 (28.9)	5.6 (42.1)	10.0 (50)	14.0 (57.2)	12.0 (53.6)	14.5 (58.1)	12.0 (53.6)	13.0 (55.4)	9.4 (48.9)	2.8 (37)	−0.6 (30.9)	−2.2 (28)
Average rainfall mm (inches)	13.2 (0.52)	17.6 (0.693)	9.3 (0.366)	6.3 (0.248)	11.3 (0.445)	55.7 (2.193)	203.3 (8.004)	243.2 (9.575)	129.7 (5.106)	24.8 (0.976)	4.3 (0.169)	6.1 (0.24)	724.8 (28.535)
Average rainy days <span>(≥ 1.0 mm)</span>	1.6	1.5	1.6	1.1	2.0	4.7	13.6	13.7	6.5	1.5	0.6	0.8	49.2
Average relative humidity (%)	64	55	45	35	34	46	72	77	67	54	56	64	56
Source #1: NOAA (1971–1990), <sup>[11]</sup> World Meteorological Organization (precipitation 1901–2000) <sup>[12]</sup>													
Source #2: India Meteorological Department (records) <sup>[13]</sup>													

Population

Demographics

As of 2011 India census,<sup>[4][14]</sup> Agra city has a population of 1,585,704, while the population of Agra cantonment is 53,053. The urban agglomeration of Agra has a population of 1,760,285.<sup>[14]</sup> Males constitute 53% of the population and females 47%. Agra city has an average literacy rate of 73%, below the national average of 74%.<sup>[14]</sup> Literacy rate of males is considerably higher than that of women. The sex ratio in the city was 875 females per thousand males while child sex ratio stood at 857.<sup>[14]</sup> Agra district literacy rate is 62.56%.<sup>[15]</sup>

According to the 2011 census, Agra district has a population of 4,380,793,<sup>[16]</sup> roughly equal to the nation of Moldova<sup>[17]</sup> or the US state of Kentucky.<sup>[18]</sup> This gives it a ranking of 41st in India (out of a total of 640).<sup>[16]</sup> The district has a population density of 1,084 inhabitants per square kilometre (2,810/sq mi) .<sup>[16]</sup> 52.5% of Agra's population is in the 15–59 years age categoryAround 11% of the population is under 6 years of age.

Religion

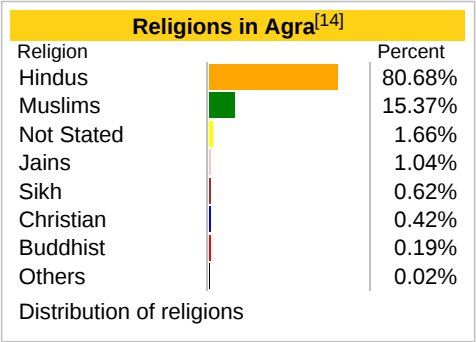
Hindus are 88.8% while Muslims are 9.3% of the population in Agra district.<sup>[19]</sup> Hinduism, Islam and Jainism are the major religions in Agra city with 80.7%, 15.4% viz. 1.0% of the population adhering to them; others are 1.5%. The Catholic minority is served by its own MetropolitanArchdiocese of Agra

History

Origins

There was an early reference to an “Agrevana” in the ancient Sanskrit epic Mahabharata, and Ptolemy is said to have called the site “Agra.” and yet nevertheless Sultan Sikandar Lodī, the Muslim ruler of the Delhi Sultanate, founded Agra in the year 1504. After the Sultan's death, the city passed on to his son, Sultan Ibrāhīm Lodī. He ruled his Sultanate from Agra until he fell fighting to Mughal Badshah Bābar in the First battle of Panipat fought in 1526.

Mughal era





The Red fort, Agra, c. 1820

The golden age of the city began with the Mughals. It was known then as **Akbarabād** and remained the capital of the Mughal Empire under the Badshahs Akbar, Jahāngīr and Shāh Jahān. Akbar made it the eponymous seat of one of his original twelve subahs (imperial top-level provinces), bordering (Old) Delhi, Awadh (Oudh), Allahabad, Malwa and Ajmer subahs. Shāh Jahān later shifted his capital to Shāhjahanābād in the year 1648!<sup>[20]</sup>

Since Akbarabād was one of the most important cities in India under the Mughals, it witnessed a lot of building activity. Babar, the founder of the Mughal dynasty, laid out the first formal Persian garden on the banks of river Yamuna. The garden is called the Arām Bāgh or the Garden of Relaxation. His grandson Akbar the Great raised the towering ramparts of the Great Red Fort, besides making Agra a centre for learning, arts, commerce and religion. Akbar also built a new city on the outskirts of Akbarabād called Fatehpūr Sikrī. This city was built in the form of a Mughal military camp in stone.

His son Jahāngīr had a love of flora and fauna and laid many gardens inside the Red Fort or Lāl Qil'a. Shāh

Jahān, known for his keen interest in architecture, gave Akbarabād its most prized monument, the Tāj Mahal. Built in loving memory of his wife Mumtāz Mahal, the mausoleum was completed in 1653.

Shāh Jahān later shifted the capital to Delhi during his reign, but his son Aurangzeb moved the capital back to Akbarabād, usurping his father and imprisoning him in the Fort there. Akbarabād remained the capital of India during the rule of Aurangzeb until he shifted it to Aurangabad in the Deccan in 1653.

## Later periods

After the decline of the Mughal Empire, the city came under the influence of Marathas and was called Agra, before falling into the hands of the British Raj in 1803.

In 1835 when the Presidency of Agra was established by the British, the city became the seat of government, and just two years later it was witness to the Agra famine of 1837–38. During the Indian rebellion of 1857 British rule across India was threatened, news of the rebellion had reached Agra on 11 May and on 30 May two companies of native infantry, the 44th and 67th regiments, rebelled and marched to Delhi. The next morning native Indian troops in Agra were forced to disarm, on 15 June Gwalior (which lies south of Agra) rebelled. By 3 July, the British were forced to withdraw into the fort. Two days later a small British force at Sucheta were defeated and forced to withdraw, this led to a mob sacking the city. However, the rebels moved onto Delhi which allowed the British to restore order by 8 July. Delhi fell to the British in September, the following month rebels who had fled Delhi along with rebels from Central India marched on Agra but were defeated. After this British rule was again secured over the city until the independence of India in 1947!<sup>[21]</sup>



Map of the city, c. 1914

## Legacies

Agra is the birthplace of the religion known as Dīn-i Ilāhī, which flourished during the reign of Akbar and also of the Radhaswami Faith which has around two million followers worldwide. Agra has historic linkages with Shauripur of Jainism and Runukta of Hinduism, of 1000 BC. The Tāj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikrī are all UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

# Administration and politics

## Administration

### General administration

Agra division which consists of four districts, and is headed by the divisional commissioner of Agra, who is an IAS officer, the commissioner is the head of local government institutions (including municipal corporations) in the division, is in charge of infrastructure development in his division, and is also responsible for and is also responsible for maintaining law and order in the division.<sup>[22][23][24][25]</sup> The district magistrate of Agra reports to the divisional commissioner. The current commissioner is K. Ram Mohan Rao!<sup>[26][1][27]</sup>

Agra district administration is headed by the district magistrate and collector (DM) of Agra, who is an IAS officer. The DM is in charge of property records and revenue collection for the central government and oversees the elections held in the city. The DM is also responsible for maintaining law and order in the city.<sup>[22][28][29][30]</sup> The DM is assisted by a chief development officer; six additional district magistrates for finance/revenue, city, administration, land acquisition, civil supply, and protocol; one city magistrate; and three additional city magistrates.<sup>[27]</sup> The district has six tehsils viz. Sadar, Etmadapur, Kirawali, Fatehabad, Khairagarh and Bah, each headed by a sub-divisional magistrate<sup>[27]</sup> The current DM is Gaurav Dayal!<sup>[26][1][27]</sup>



Kos Minar #793 at 12 mile on Agra-Fatehpur Sikri Road section of National Highway 21



Agra, Main Street, c. 1858

## Police administration

Agra district comes under the Agra Police Zone and Agra Police Range, Agra Zone is headed by an additional director general(ADG)-ranked Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, and the Agra Range is headed by a deputy inspector general(DIG)-ranked IPS officer. The current ADG, Agra Zone is Ajay Anand,<sup>[31]</sup> and DIG, Agra Range is Love Kumar<sup>[32]</sup>

The district police is headed by a senior superintendent of police (SSP), who is an IPS officer, and is assisted by six superintendents of police or additional superintendents of police for city, east, west, crime, traffic, and protocol, either from the IPS or the Provincial Police Service.<sup>[2]</sup> Each of the several police circles is headed by a circle officer in the rank of deputy superintendent of police.<sup>[2]</sup> The current SSP is Amit Pathak.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Infrastructure and civic administration

The development of infrastructure in the city is overseen by Agra Development Authority (ADA), which comes under the Department of Housing and Urban Planning of the Uttar Pradesh government. The divisional commissioner of Agra acts as the *ex-officio* Chairman of ADA, whereas a Vice Chairman, a government-appointed IAS officer, looks after the daily matters of the authority.<sup>[33]</sup> The current vice-chairman of ADA is Shubhra Saxena.<sup>[34]</sup>

The Agra Municipal Corporation oversees the city's civic infrastructure. The head of the corporation is the mayor, but the executive and administration of the corporation is the responsibility of the municipal commissioner, who is a Uttar Pradesh government-appointed Provincial Civil Service officer of high seniority. The current mayor of Agra is Naveen Jain from the Bharatiya Janata Party, whereas the municipal commissioner is Arun Prakash.<sup>[35]</sup><sup>[36]</sup>

## Politics

Agra district has two Lok Sabha viz. Agra and Fatehpur Sikri, and nine Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha (Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly) constituencies in it. The current member of parliament (MP) for Agra in the Lok Sabha (House of the People) is Ram Shankar, and the current MP for Fatehpur Sikri in the House of the People is Babulal Chaudhary.

# Transport

## Air

Air India flies to Agra airport on the following route: Delhi – Varanasi – Agra – Khajuraho – Varanasi – Delhi

## Rail

Agra City Comes Under the Jurisdiction Of Agra Division Of North Central Railways Zone Of the Indian Railways . Agra is on the Central Train line between Delhi (Station Code: NDLS) and Mumbai (Station Code: CSTM) and between Delhi and Chennai (Station Code: MAS) and many trains like Bhopal Shatabdi, Taj Express, Gatimaan Express, Bhopal Express, Malwa Express, Gondwana Express, Jabalpur - Jammutawi Express, Shreedham Express, Garib Rath, Tamil Nadu Express, Chennai Rajdhani, Agra Mathura Express etc. connect Agra with all major Indian cities like New Delhi, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Pune, Bhopal, Indore, Kochi, Gwalior, Jabalpur, Ujjain, Jaipur, Aligarh, Mathura, Alwar, Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram etc. every day. Some east-bound trains from Delhi also travel via Agra, so direct connections to points in Eastern India (including Kolkata) are also available. There are close to 20 trains to New Delhi and Gwalior Junction every day, and at least three or four to Bhopal, Indore, Nagpur, Mumbai and Chennai. There are three main railway stations in Agra: Agra Cantt, Raja Ki Mandi, and Agra Fort.



Agra Cantt Railway Station

## Railway stations

Railway Stations served by the Agra Division, North Central Railways network at Agra are:

- Agra Cantonment Railway Station, Agra
- Agra Fort Railway Station, Agra
- Agra City Railway Station, Agra
- Raja Ki Mandi Railway Station, Agra
- Idgah Railway Station, Agra
- Yamuna Bridge Railway Station, Agra

## Agra-Delhi Semi-High Speed Train — Gatimaan Express

In July 2014, a trial run of a "semi-high speed train" with 10 coaches and 2 generators reached a speed of 160 km/h (99 mph) between New Delhi and Agra. The railways plan to introduce such trains commercially from November 2014. New Delhi Agra Shatabdi Express is the same type of train, which takes 2 hours to complete its journey. A new semi-high speed train Gatimaan Express that reduces travel time between Delhi and Agra to 100 minutes has been started from 5 April 2016.

## Road

Idgah Bus Stand, Taj Depot, Fort Depot and Inter State Bus Terminal (I.S.B.T.) are the major bus stands in Agra, connecting Agra to most of the bigger cities in North India. It is a major junction of highways with three national highways and two expressways (Yamuna Expressway & Agra Lucknow Expressway) originating from Agra.



- From Delhi: NH 19 (old number: NH 2), a modern divided highway connects the 200 km (124 mi) distance from Delhi to Agra.
- From Delhi / Noida: Yamuna Expressway, a modern access controlled highway connects the 200 km (124 mi) distance from Delhi to Agra.
- Yamuna Expressway (formerly Taj Expressway) is a six lane (extendable to eight lanes), 165 km (103 mi) long, controlled-access expressway that connects New Delhi with Agra via Greater Noida and Mathura in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.
- NH 509 (old number: NH 93) connects Agra to Moradabad via Aligarh.
- Agra Lucknow Expressway is a six lane (extendable to 8 lanes), 302 km (188 mi) long, controlled-access expressway that connects Lucknow with Agra via Kannauj and Etawah in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh.



Agra Cantt. Railway Station

## Local transport

### City low floor buses

Bus services are run by the Agra Municipal Corporation. Other para-transit modes include rickshaws and autorickshaws. Polluting vehicles are not allowed near the Tāj Mahal.

### E-rickshaw and Ola Cabs

Electric rickshaws have been increasing in the city. Ola Cabs and Agra Cabs & Taxi also operate their services in the city round the clock and can be used via mobile app and website.



Inner Ring Road, Agra

## Agra Metro Rail Transport

Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) has proposed 30 stations, 11 underground and 19 elevated, for two corridors of the Metro Rail in the city. The two routes are Sikandra to the Taj Mahal's east gate via Agra Fort and Agra Cantt to Kalindi Vihar. On 24 March 2017, State Chief Minister Aditya Nath Yogi approved the project. In December 2017, the cabinet of the UP Government approved the DPR as per New Metro Policy. Work was expected to commence in March 2018.

## Monumental Mughal legacy

### Tāj Mahal

The Taj Mahal is one of the most famous buildings in the world, the mausoleum of Shah Jahan's favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. It is one of the New Seven Wonders of the world, and one of the three World Heritage Sites in Agra. Agra is commonly identified as the "City of Tāj".<sup>[37]</sup>

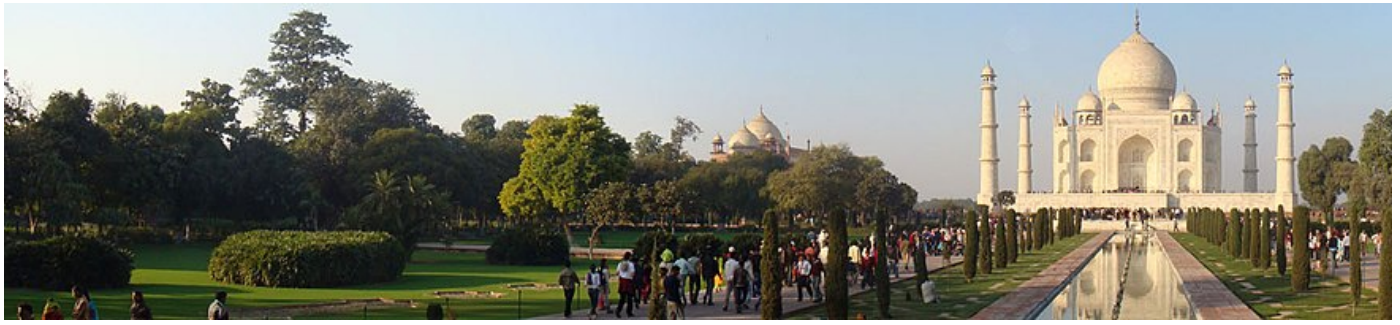
Completed in 1653, the Tāj Mahal was built by the Mughal king Shah Jahan as the final resting place for his beloved wife, Mumtāz Mahal. Finished in marble, it is one of India's many beautiful monuments and is set amidst landscaped gardens. Built by the Persian architect, Ustād 'Īsā, the Tāj Mahal is on the south bank of the Yamuna River. It can be observed from Agra Fort from where Emperor Shāh Jahān gazed at it for the last eight years of his life, a prisoner of his son Aurangzeb. Verses of the Quran are inscribed on it and at the top of the gate are 22 small domes, signifying the number of years the monument took to build. The Tāj Mahal was built on a marble platform that stands above a sandstone one. The most elegant dome of the Tāj Mahal has a diameter of 60 feet (18 m), and rises to a height of 80 feet (24 m); directly under this dome is the tomb of Mumtāz Mahal. Shah Jahān's tomb was erected next to hers by his son Aurangzeb. The interiors are decorated with fine inlay work, incorporating semi-precious stones.



Taj Mahal from Agra fort



Tombs of Shah Jahan and his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal



A panoramic view of Tāj Mahal

## Agra Fort

Agra Fort (sometimes called the *Red Fort*), was commissioned by the conquering Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great in 1565, and is another of Agra's World Heritage Sites. A stone tablet at the gate of the Fort states that it had been built before 1000 but was later renovated by Akbar. The red sandstone fort was converted into a palace during Shāh Jahān's time, and reworked extensively with marble and pietra dura inlay. Notable buildings in the fort include the Pearl Mosque or *Moti Masjid*, the *Dīwān-e-ʿĀm* and *Dīwān-e-Khās* (halls of public and private audience), Jahāngīr's Palace, *Khās Mahal*, *Shish Mahal* (mirrored palace), and the Musamman Burj.

The forbidding exteriors of this fort conceal an inner paradise. The fort is crescent shaped, flattened on the east with a long, nearly straight wall facing the river. It has a total perimeter of 2.4 kilometres (1.5 mi), and is ringed by double castellated ramparts of red sandstone punctuated at regular intervals by bastions. A moat 9 metres (30 ft) wide and 10 metres (33 ft) deep surrounds the outer wall.

Chhatrapati Shīvajī visited the Agra Fort, as a result of the conditions of the Treaty of Purandare entered into with Mirzā Rājā Jaisingh to meet Aurangzeb in the *Dīwān-i-Khās* (Special Audience Chamber). In the audience he was deliberately placed behind men of lower rank. An insulted Shīvajī stormed out of the imperial audience and was confined to Jai Sing's quarters on 12 May 1666. Fearing the dungeons and execution he escaped on 17 August 1666.

The fort is a typical example of Mughal architecture, effectively showing how the North Indian style of fort construction differed from that of the South. In the South, the majority of forts were built on the seabed like the one at Bekal in Kerala.<sup>[38]</sup>

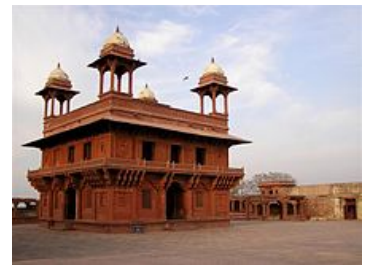


Amar Singh Gate, one of two entrances into Agra's Red Fort

## Fatehpur Sikri

The Mughal Emperor Akbar built Fatehpūr Sikrī about 35 km (22 mi) from Agra, and moved his capital there. Later abandoned, the site displays a number of buildings of significant historical importance. A World Heritage Site, it is often visited by tourists. The name of the place came about after the Mughal Emperor Bābar defeated Rānā Sāngā in a battle at a place called Sikrī (about 40 km (25 mi) from Agra). Then the Mughal Emperor Akbar wanted to make Fatehpūr Sikrī his headquarters, so he built a majestic fort; due to shortage of water, however, he had to ultimately move his headquarters to Agra Fort.

Buland Darwāza or 'the lofty gateway' was built by the great Mughal emperor, Akbar in 1601 CE. at Fatehpūr Sikrī. Akbar built the Buland Darwāza to commemorate his victory over Gujarat. The Buland Darwāza is approached by 52 steps. The Buland Darwāza is 53.63 metres (175.95 feet) high and 35 metres (115 feet) wide. it is made of red and buff sandstone, decorated by carving and black and white marble inlays. An inscription on the central face of the Buland Darwāza demonstrates Akbar's religious broadmindedness, it is a message from Jesus advising his followers not to consider this world as their permanent home.



Dīwān-i-Khās – hall of private audience

## I'timād-Ud-Daulah

The Empress Nūr Jahān built I'timād-Ud-Daulah's Tomb, sometimes called the "Baby Tāj", for her father, Mirzā Ghiyās Beg the Chief Minister of the Emperor Jahāngīr. Located on the left bank of the Yamuna river, the mausoleum is set in a large cruciform garden, criss-crossed by water courses and walkways. The area of the mausoleum itself is about 23 m<sup>2</sup> (250 sq ft), and is built on a base that is about 50 m<sup>2</sup> (540 sq ft) and about one metre (3.3 feet) high. On each corner are hexagonal towers, about thirteen metres (43 feet) tall. Small in comparison to many other Mughal-era tombs, it is sometimes described as a jewel box. Its garden layout and use of white marble, pietra dura, inlay designs and latticework presage many elements of the Tāj Mahal.

The walls are white marble from Rajasthan encrusted with semi-precious stone decorations – cornelian, jasper, lapis lazuli, onyx, and topaz in images of cypress trees and wine bottles, or more elaborate decorations like cut fruit or vases containing bouquets. Light penetrates to the interior through delicate qālī screens of intricately carved white marble.



The I'tmad-Ud-Daulah's Tomb

Many of Nūr Jahān's relatives are interred in the mausoleum. The only asymmetrical element of the entire complex are the tombs of her father and mother, which have been set side-by-side, a formation replicated in the [Tāj Mahal](#).

## Akbar's Tomb, Sikandra

[Sikandra](#), the last resting place of the Mughal Emperor [Akbar the Great](#), is on the Delhi-Agra Highway, only 13 kilometres (8.1 miles) from the [Agra Fort](#). [Akbar's tomb](#) reflects the completeness of his personality. The vast, beautifully carved, red-ochre sandstone tomb with deers, rabbits and langurs is set amidst a lush garden. Akbar himself planned his own tomb and selected a suitable site for it. To construct a tomb in one's lifetime was a [Turkic](#) custom which the Mughals followed religiously. Akbar's son [Jahāngīr](#) completed construction of this pyramidal tomb in 1613. The 99 names of Allah have been inscribed on the tomb.



Tomb of Akbar the Great

## Jamā Masjid

The [Jāma Masjid](#) is a large mosque attributed to Shah Jahan's daughter, Princess [Jahanara Begum](#), built in 1648, notable for its unusual dome and absence of minarets. The inscription at its entrance shows that it cost Rs 5 Lakhs at that time for its completion.

## Chīnī kā Rauza

Notable for its [Persian](#) influenced dome of blue glazed tiles, the [Chīnī kā Rauza](#) is dedicated to the Prime Minister of Shāh Jahān, 'Allāma Afzal Khāl Mullā Shukrullāh of Shiraz.



Chīnī kā Rauza

## Ram Bagh(Aaram Bāgh)

The oldest [Mughal garden](#) in India, the [Rām Bāgh](#) was built by the Emperor [Bābar](#) in 1528 on the bank of the Yamuna. It lies about 2.34 km (1 mi) north of the [Tāj Mahal](#). The pavilions in this garden are designed so that the wind from the Yamuna, combined with the greenery, keeps them cool even during the peak of summer. The original name of the gardens was [Ārām Bāgh](#), or 'Garden of Relaxation', and this was where the Mughal emperor Bābar used to spend his leisure time and where he eventually died. His body was kept here for some time before sending it [to Kabul](#).

On Ram Bagh to Tundla road near Etmadpur, there is a famed Yoga Ashram of Mahaprabhu Ramlal ji Maharaja(First Guru Gaddi), Yogeshwar Mulakhraj Ji Maharaja(Second Guru Gaddi) & Yogeshwar DeviDayal Ji Mahadev(Third GuruGaddi) blessed Swami Chandra Mohan Ji Maharaj named Shri Siddha Gufa Sawai. Thousands of devotees and seekers visit this holy place.

## Mariam's Tomb

[Mariams Tomb](#), is the tomb of Mariam, the wife of great Mughal Empero[Akbar](#). The tomb is within the compound of the Christian Missionary Society

## Mehtāb Bāgh

The [Mehtāb Bāgh](#), or 'Moonlight Garden', is on the opposite bank of the River [Ymuna](#) from the [Tāj Mahal](#).

## Keetham Lake

Also known as Sur Sarovar, [Keetham Lake](#) is situated about 7 kilometres (4.3 miles) from the Akbar tomb in Agra, within the Surdas Reserved Forest. The lake has an impressive variety of aquatic life and water birds.



Plan of the Tāj complex with the Mehtab Bagh gardens to the left

## Mughal Heritage Walk

The Mughal Heritage Walk is a part of community development programme being implemented with support of Agra Municipal corporation, USAID and an NGO; Center for Urban and Regional Excellence. It seeks to build sustainable livelihoods for youth and women from low resource communities and improve their living environments through infrastructure services and integration within the city

The Mughal Heritage Walk is a one-kilometre (0.62-mile) loop which connects the agricultural fields with the Rajasthani culture, river bank connected with the ancient village of Kuchhpura, the Heritage Structure of [Mehtab Bagh](#), the Mughal aqueduct system, the [Humanyun Mosque](#) and the [Gyarah Sidi](#).

## Other places of interest

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### Mankameshwar Temple

The [Mankameshwar Temple](#) is one of four ancient temples dedicated to Lord [Shiva](#) located on the four corners of Agra City. It is located near the Jāma Masjid and is about 2.5 kilometres (1.6 miles) from the [Tāj Mahal](#) and less than 1 km (0.6 mi) from [Agra Fort](#). Being located in the old city, the temple is surrounded by markets, many of which date back to the Mughal Era.



## Indrabhan Girls' Inter College

The college is widely considered to be the birthplace of great poet Mirza Ghalib. It is located near the Mankameshwar Temple and is about 3 kilometres (1.9 miles) from the Tāj Mahal and less than 1 km (0.6 mi) from Agra Fort. Being located in the old city, the College is surrounded by markets. Approximately four or five years ago, the birth room of Mirza Ghalib was hidden behind the wall by the Management of the college to keep the identity of the place secret.

## Gurudwara Guru ka Tāl

Guru ka Tal was originally a reservoir meant to collect and conserve rainwater built in Agra, near Sikandra, during Jahangir's reign next to the Tomb of I'tibār Khān Khwājasara in 1610. In the 1970s a gurudwara was erected here. Guru ka Tal is a holy place of worship for the Sikhs. Four of the ten Sikh Gurus are said to have paid it a visit. Enjoying both historical and religious importance, this shrine attracts a large number of devotees and tourists. Boasting elaborate stone carvings and eight of the twelve original towers. It is located by national (Delhi-Agra) highway-2.

## The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception is the seat of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Agra

## Paliwal Park (Hewitt Park)

Paliwal Park, during the British Raj was known as **Hewitt Park**, is now renamed in memory of Shri Krishna Datta Paliwal, who was the first finance minister of Uttar Pradesh, when Shri Govind Ballabh Pant was the Chief Minister of the State.

Paliwal Park is located in the heart of Agra, spread over an area of around 70 acres (280,000 <sup>2</sup>m). It also has a small lake and a vast variety of trees.

Paliwal Park links the residential areas of Vijay Nagar Colony and Gandhi Nagar to the financial Hub of the city i.e. Sanjay Place.

John's Public Library also known as the Agra Municipal Library is also located here and has rare books on diverse topics.

Many people come here for morning walk, as a result this place is full especially during the summer holidays when youngsters play all sort of different games.

## Soamibagh Samadhi

Located in Dayalbagh area, Soamibagh Samadhi<sup>[39]</sup> is another magnificent marble building and a popular tourist attraction. The carving of the marble pillars and posts is intricate and exhibits good craftsmanship. It is a place of worship for Radhasoami Faith followers and is dedicated to the founder of Radhasoami Faith, Param Purush Puraṇ Dhani Soami Ji Maharaj (Sri Shiv Dayal Singh Seth). It is very quiet and peaceful inside the Satsang hall, an environment built for meditation.

## Economy



A marble table top in *Pietra Dura*, a craft practised since the Mughal era in Agra

Due to the presence of the Taj Mahal and other historic monuments, Agra has a booming tourism industry as well as royal crafts like *Pietra Dura*, marble inlay and carpets.

Today 40% of the population depends largely on agriculture, and others on the leather and footwear business and iron foundries. Agra is the second most self-employed in India in 2007, behind Varanasi, followed by Bhopal, Indore and Patna. According to the National Sample Survey Organization, in 1999–2000, 431 of every 1,000 employed males were self-employed in the city, which grew to 603 per 1,000 in 2004–05.<sup>[40]</sup> Tourism contributes to the economy of Agra. Agra is home to Asia's largest spa called Kaya Kalp – The Royal Spa, at the Hotel Mughal in Agra.<sup>[41]</sup>

Agra has many industries. Uttar Pradesh's first plant biotech company Harihar Biotech is located near the Taj. There are about 7,000 small scale industrial units. Agra city is also known for its leather goods, the oldest and famous leather firm Taj Leather World is in Sadar bazar. The carpets, handicrafts, *zari and zardozi* (embroidery work), marble and stone carving and inlay work. Agra is known for its sweets (Petha and Gajak) and snacks (Dalmoth), garment manufacturers and exporters and an automobile industry. Carpet making was introduced to the city by Moghul Emperor Babur and since then this art has flourished.

The city centre place at Agra has jewellery and garments shops. The silver and gold jewellery hub is at Choube Ji Ka Fatak. The Shah Market area is an electronics market while Sanjay Place is the trade centre of Agra.



A shopping mall situated on the Fatehabad Road



The Sadar Bazar market

## Development

Agra ranked fifth on both the financial penetration index, which measures things like the presence of ATMs and bank branches, and on the consumption index, indicating the city's transformation into an urban town. There are many new buildings, shopping complexes, malls, roads, flyovers and apartments coming up. On the [India City Competitiveness Index](#), the city ranked 26th in 2010<sup>[42]</sup> 32nd in 2011<sup>[43]</sup> and 37th in 2012<sup>[44]</sup>

## Education

It was during the advent of the Mughal era that Agra grew as a centre of Islamic education. British people introduced the western concept of education in Agra. In the year 1823, [Agra College](#), one of the oldest colleges in India was formed out of a Sanskrit school established by the Scindia rulers. In the British era, Agra became a great centre of [Hindi literature](#) with people like Babu Gulab Rai at the helm.



An Agra craftsman working with marble stone inlays. The marble is coloured red to give contrast while working.

## Universities and colleges

[Agra University](#) was established on 1 July 1927 and catered to colleges spread across the United Provinces, the Rajputana, the Central Provinces and almost to entire North India, at present 10 institutes comprising various departments and around 700 Colleges are affiliated to this university. The historic Agra University was later rechristened as Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar University by the then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Mayawati.

- [Sachdeva Institute of Technology](#), Also known as SIT Mathura since 2001.
- The Institute of Mental Health and Hospital formerly known as Agra Lunatic Asylum, was established in September 1859 governed by the State of Uttar Pradesh. It is spread over on extensive and beautiful ground of 172.8 acres (69.9 ha) land and is well known centre for the treatment, training and research on mental disorders in Northern India. The institute was renamed as Mental Hospital, Agra in 1925. It was being managed under the provisions of Indian Lunacy Act, 1912 till 1993. Presently all admissions and discharges are being done under the provisions of Mental Health Act, 1987. Following a public writ, the Supreme Court of India in the year 1994, renamed the Institution as Agra Mansik Arogyashala, made it an autonomous institution and outlined the objectives to improve treatment and care of mentally ill persons including rehabilitation as well as to develop activities for professional teaching, training and research. In compliance of the order of the Supreme Court, the UP government declared the hospital as an autonomous institution on 31 January 1995. In view of the objectives laid down by the court, it was renamed as Institute of Mental Health and Hospital on 8 February 2001.
- Central Institute of Hindi (also known as Kendriya Hindi Sansthan) is an autonomous institute under Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India engaged in teaching Hindi as a foreign and second language. Apart from running residential Hindi language courses for foreign students, the institute also conducts regular training programmes for teachers of Hindi belonging to non-Hindi states of India. The institute is situated at a 11 acres (4.5 ha) campus on the outskirts of Agra city. Headquartered in Agra the institute has eight regional centres in Delhi, Hyderabad, Mysore, Shillong, Dimapur, Guwahati, Ahmedabad and Bhubneshwar. The institute is the only government run institution in India established solely for research and teaching of Hindi as a foreign and second language.
- Sarojini Naidu Medical College is one of the three oldest medical colleges of India. It is located in Agra, Uttar Pradesh state. It is named after the first lady Governess of Uttar Pradesh, poet and freedom fighter Bharat Kokila Smt. Sarojini Naidu.
- [Agra College](#) is one of the oldest institutions in India. Pandit Gangadhar Shastri, a noted Sanskrit scholar founded the college in 1823. In 1883 the institute was a government college and after that a Board of Trustees and a Committee of Management managed the college. Agra College produced the first graduate in Uttar Pradesh and the first Law graduate to Northern India.
- St. John's College, Agra is a college established in 1850, now part of the Dr Bhim Rao Ambedkar University earlier known as Agra University. It is amongst the oldest and one of the most beautiful Christian colleges in India. The college runs a study centre [Bhira Gandhi National Open University](#) (ignou), a central university.
- Raja Balwant Singh College Established in 1885 owes its existence to Raja Balwant Singh Ji of Awarh who enabled the institution to grow as one of the oldest and biggest colleges of Uttar Pradesh. Raja Balwant Singh College is located at Bichpuri, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India. The college is affiliated to Uttar Pradesh Technical University Lucknow, and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Agra.
- Dayalbagh Educational Institute Radhasoami Satsang Sabha, started the Radhasoami Educational Institute, as a co-educational Middle School, open to all, on 1 January 1917. It became a Degree College in 1947, affiliated to Agra University. In 1975, it formulated a programme of undergraduate studies which received approbation from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and the University Grants Commission, as a result of which in 1981 the Ministry of Education, Government of India, conferred the status of an institution deemed to be a University on the Dayalbagh Educational Institute, to implement the new scheme.
- UEI Global, consecutively ranked among the top management institutes of India by Competition Success Review for year 2013 and 2012. The college has 12 campuses across India and provide programs in Hotel Management and Business Management.

## Media

Agra is home to the *Dainik Jagran* newspaper, the most read Hindi newspaper in India. Other widely read papers include *Amar Ujala*, Hindustan *Rajasthan Patrika*, *Aaj, Hindustan*, *The Sea Express*, Deepsheel Bharat, DLA. The English dailies published are *The Times of India*, *Hindustan Times*, *Economic Times*, and *The Pioneer*. The Urdu dailies published are *Prabhanjan Sanket* and *Inksaaf*. There is also the Hindi and English mixed newspaper tabloid *NEXT*.

Morphers Animation Studios LLP is an animation studio in Agra, which caters 3d visualisation services to clients. State-owned [All India Radio](#) has a local station in Agra which transmits various programs of mass interest. There are four private FM radio stations, 92.7 BIG FM (Reliance Broadcast Network Limited), 93.7 Fever FM, 94.5 Tadka FM and Radio City 91.9 FM.<sup>[45]</sup> There is a community Radio Station 90.4 FM.

## Radio stations

- 90.4 MHz – Agra ki Awaaz
- 90.8 MHz – Aap ki Awaaz
- 93.7MHz – Fever FM
- 91.9 MHz – Radio City
- 92.7 MHz – Big 92.7 FM
- 94.5 MHz – Tadka FM

- 105.6 MHz – IGNOU Gyan Vani

## Fairs and festivals

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### Taj Mahotsav

- Taj Mahotsav is a cultural festival that was started in year 1992 and has grown since then. The year 2017 is the 26th year of this Mahotsav. This festival also figures in the calendar of events of the Department of Tourism, Government of India. A large number of Indian and foreign tourists coming to Agra join this festivity in the month of February (18 to 27). One of the objectives of this craft fair is to provide encouragement to the artisans. It also makes available works of art and craft at reasonable prices that are not inflated by high maintenance cost.

### Ram Barat

Ram Barat (Hindi: राम बारात) is a part of Ramlila celebration in Agra. It is one of the biggest annual events in North India. Ram Barat literally means Baraat Marriage procession of Sri Ram. Every year a new locality is chosen in Agra and is elaborately decorated with lights & flowers. The area is given a major face lift befitting the venue for the divine marriage.

### Taj Literature Festival

Taj Literature Festival saw stars of the literary world manifest themselves on the earth of Agra. The galaxy included the stalwarts, Muzaffar Ali, Shobha De, Prahlad Kakker and Raghu Rai. The stage shone brilliant and the heritage city breathed life. This festival, an attempt to rejuvenate that aesthetic spirit which is a soul of this historically rich city Agra. The city that nurtured the likes of Ghalib, Ansen, Surdas, Nazeer and many more.

### Kailash Fair

The Kailash Fair is held in the town of Kailash, about 12 km (7 mi) from Agra, in the month of August/September. It is a major fair celebrated in honour of Lord Shiva who is believed to have appeared here in the form of stone Lingam.

### Gangaur Fair

Gokulpura / Moti Kutra, Agra

### Taj Municipal Museum in Paliwal Park Agra

The museum-cum-public library is housed in an old heritage structure, built in 1922 and renovated in the 1940s. Queen Victoria's bronze statue's are also exposed in this Museum. The other old statues and memories of the Mughal Era are exposed for the attraction of tourists, something new other than usual attraction.

### Balloon Festival

Agra Balloon Festival is organised in February every year.

## Notable individuals



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Abdul Karim (the Munshi), Huzur Shiv Dayal Singh<sup>[46]</sup> Hazur Rai Saligram Bahadur<sup>[47]</sup>, second revered leader of Radhasoami faith, poet Surdas, Ram Sharma, Amrit Lal Nagar, Rajendra Yadav, Mirza Ghalib, Mir Taqi Mir, Nazir Akbarabadi, Motilal Nehru, actress Nimmi and Raj Babbar are some notable people from Agra.

## Sister cities

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Agra is twinned with:

-  Chengdu, Sichuan, China <sup>[48]</sup>
-  Petra, Jordan <sup>[49]</sup>

## See also

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- Nand Ram Ka Tila
- Runakta

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