

## Taj Mahal – Quick Q&A

Q1: Where is the Taj Mahal?

A: Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India — on south bank of Yamuna River.

Q2: Who built it and why?

A: Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan — as a mausoleum for his wife Mumtaz Mahal (died 1631).

Q3: When was it built?

A: 1632–1653 (22 years).

Q4: What material is it made of?

A: White Makrana marble + semi-precious stones (pietra dura inlay).

Q5: How many workers built it?

A: ~20,000 artisans & laborers (led by architect Ustad Ahmad Lahori).

Q6: Why is it a UNESCO site?

A: “Jewel of Muslim art in India” — peak of Mughal architecture (listed 1983).

Q7: Is it a mosque?

A: No — it’s a tomb. But has a mosque (west) and guest house (east) flanking it.

Q8: Why does it change color?

A: Marble reflects light: pinkish at dawn, white at noon, golden at sunset.

Q9: Can you go inside?

A: Yes — main chamber (Mumtaz & Shah Jahan’s cenotaphs); real graves are in basement.

Q10: Best time to visit?

A: Oct–Mar (cool weather); sunrise for fewer crowds + golden light.

✓ UNESCO fact: One of New7Wonders of the World (2007).