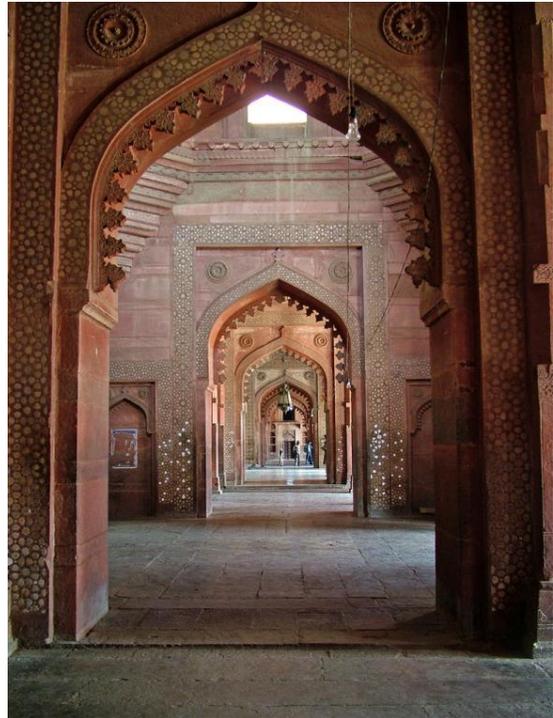


Fatehpur Sikri

Fatehpur Sikri is a UNESCO world heritage site. Built in the the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for about 10 years. Then it was abandoned for reasons that are still something of a mystery. probably a lack of potable water. If you want to visit, you can visit two things: First: the Jama Masjid (The mosque), the entrance is free. It is worth it to take a guide here, but do expect the guide to try to convince you to buy some marble or something from his 'family', selling stuff inside the mosque. You have to leave your shoes outside the mosque if you want to enter.

Secondly, visit the abandoned city (this part is paid). It is a beautiful collection of different buildings in red sandstone, build by craftsmen from various regions. One of the striking features is that elements of different religions are seen, influences from Hindu and Jain architecture hand in hand with Islamic elements. The pressure of taking a guide here can be very high if it is quiet, potential guides will follow you around and start explaining things even if you made it clear you did not need a guide because you appreciate the calmness of walking around without a guide. If you would consider taking one, first test his English and test if the guide knows more than just the obvious things (some guides just point out things and tell you what they see, but do not explain anything). Also discuss the price beforehand.



Fatehpur Sikri is about an hours' drive from Agra. Should you arrive in Agra by train and take a pre-paid taxi for the day, decide beforehand if you want to visit this place or not so that you can include it in the ticket. From the parking lot to the actual entrance you need to take an autorickshaw (haggle about the price!), pay after so it will also take you back to the parking.

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