



## Get Lost in Old Delhi

Landing in Delhi and, and right after checked in at the hotel, heading to Old Delhi is a unique experience in life. The adventure begins with the traffic: an ordered chaos. Many cars, many rickshaws, lots of people and some sacred cows in the middle of the streets. The capital counts with a not extensive subway line and the stop for the chosen destiny is Chandni Chowk, main road of Old Delhi. Followed the intense adrenaline shot of being in the middle of the town buzz, the next sensation is totally Zen. It's a turn back to the XVIII century, when intense trade took place there. Labyrinths. An incomplete synthesis of the scene. Without fear, let yourself loose in the bazaars, one beside the other. The colors are going to invade your soul. Walking in circles, or reaching a cul-de-sac, with the friendly Indians observing. Infuse yourself whit the odors of the street food and with the local habits. To notice that there is an organized division of sectors: clothing, jewelry, spices, decorations for gods and its temples. And, later, discovering a larger avenue realizing that exists, finally, a way out of the cornucopia of alleys. The cultural differences are only blossoming. In the middle of the multicolored people, a naked man appears all of a sudden. The knowledge that Jain sometimes doesn't wear clothes is something; to see them live is totally something else. The strangest is the feeling that the strangers are us. It's to live another society, probably, a la Lévi-Strauss. Trying to break down prejudices and take advantage of it. The tip for lunch is at Parathe Wali Gali, one of the traditional streets of the area. As the name indicates, the specialty is the paratha, typical fried bread accompanied by several and delicious sauces. To freshen up: a glass of Lassi, a yogurt beverage. Hours and hours had already passed. Even though there is a whole world yet to be discovered, the body is tired. The journey back to the hotel is in local style at its best: on a rickshaw. Auto-Rickshaw, religiously bargained for the right rate, before departure. Get ready for thrilling emotions when embarking on this kind of vehicle, Indian equivalent to the roller coasters, which, so respectfully, gives to the elephant found in the way back to frenetic Palika Bazaar his deserved preference. Gran finale!

Lisiane Jaquet and Carlos Stucky, directors of The Charmed Voyager, traveled to the regions of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan, from April 21 to May 5, 2009. For this and other itineraries in India, contact [info@thecharmedvoyager.com](mailto:info@thecharmedvoyager.com)