

Delhi



The capital of India, Delhi, is the fusion of seven former capitals under different rulers of India. The nerve centre of Indian politics and a throbbing metropolis, Delhi has all you're looking for—flamboyant restaurants and nightclubs, haute couture boulevards, upmarket shopping malls, polo grounds, imperial gardens, racing flyovers and much more. The architecture of Delhi is one of its main tourist attractions. But what would Delhi be without its history?

The Old and New Delhis are distinct from each other: Old Delhi has expanded around Shahjahanabad, built by the Mughal emperor Shahjahan. Edward Lutyens's New Delhi has eminent landmarks like the President's House, the Secretariat, India Gate and Parliament House. For tourists, the city's strategic location facilitates easy movement through the rest of the country by rail, road or air. No other city conveys the essence of India like Delhi does. Welcome to Delhi, welcome to India.

City Lights

Monuments and Architectural Marvels

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An architectural marvel in Delhi is the **Qutab Minar**, built by Qutab-uddin Aibak in 1199 AD and completed by Iltutmish. The tower is 72.5 m high and has a mosque at its base. In front of the imposing structure stands a 5th



Qutab Minar

century iron pillar, that has remained rust free. Tourists are not allowed to climb the tower. The **Red Fort** or **Lal Qila**, built in red sandstone on the



Red Fort



Jama Masjid

banks of River Yamuna, has two main entrances: Delhi Gate and Lahori Gate, which face the famous **Chandni Chowk** – one of the best known wholesale markets for textiles, electronic goods, fabric, auto-accessories, jewellery and watches. The entire area was designed by Jahanara Begum, Shahjahan's favourite daughter and was inhabited by well-to-do families of the time. A 'Sound and Light Show' in Lal Qila every evening in Hindi and English, brings alive the history of Delhi. Facing the Red Fort is another architectural marvel built by Shahjahan, the **Jama Masjid**, which is the country's largest mosque. **Purana Qila (Old Fort)**, believed to be the site of Indraprastha, the original city of Delhi, was built by Sher Shah Suri and was completed in 1545 AD. The small lake on its premises offers boat rides during summer. Now declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO, **Humayun's Tomb**, built by Haji Begum, Humayun's wife, in the mid



Humayun's Tomb

16th century, epitomises the architectural elements that would later be seen in the Taj. Across the road is the shrine of the Sufi Saint, **Nizamuddin Auliya**. For those who enjoy *qawwali* (Sufi devotional songs), a visit to Nizamuddin at sunset (Thursdays only) is recommended. The tomb of **Amir Khusro**, the famous Urdu poet, is nearby. **Jantar Mantar**, the observatory, commissioned by the ruler of Jaipur, completed in 1724, is where experiments were undertaken to track the movement of stars and heavenly bodies. In the heart of the city is the



Jantar Mantar

circular **Parliament House**, with a continuous open colonnade comprising 144 columns. The famous **Mughal Gardens** at the **Rashtrapati Bhavan** are open to public from February-end to mid-March. The large



Rashtrapati Bhavan

square where **Rajpath** broadens as it meets Raisina Hill is called **Vijay Chowk**, the venue for the *Beating of The Retreat* when massed regimental bands gather to honour an unforgettable tradition. To the left and the right are the impressive **North** and **South Blocks**, designed by Herbert Baker. This is where several of the important ministries are housed, including the Prime Minister's Office. **Teen Murti Bhavan**, the official residence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, is now a museum. **Connaught Place/Rajiv Chowk**, designed by Robert Tor Russel and named after the Duke of

Connaught, is a major commercial centre of New Delhi.



Connaught Place

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Memorials

The famous war memorial is situated at the east end of Rajpath, straight down the road from Rashtrapati Bhavan. A 42 m high structure called **India Gate**, it was designed by Edward Lutyens and built in the memory of thousands of Indians who died in World War I. Under the gate is the eternal flame (Amar Jawan Jyoti) which honours the unknown soldiers who lost their lives in the Pakistan war



India Gate

of 1971. A simple square platform, with the words 'Hey Ram', marks **Raj Ghat** where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated after his assassination in 1948. Towards its north is **Shanti**

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Raj Ghat

Vana and Shakti Sthal, where Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and her two sons, Rajiv and Sanjay, were cremated.

Places of Worship

An important landmark on the South Delhi skyline, is the Baha'i, or **Lotus Temple**, shaped like an opening lotus flower, and reminiscent of the Sydney Opera House. Opposite the state



Lotus Temple

emporia is **Hanuman Mandir**. Due west from Connaught Place is the **Laxmi Narayan Mandir**, built by industrialist G D Birla in 1938.



Laxmi Narayan Mandir

Adjacent to it is one of Delhi's older temples, **Kali Bari**, worth visiting during the Dussehra/Durga Puja festival in October-November. One of the most important sites of worship for Delhi's thriving Sikh community, **Gurudwara Bangla Sahib** is built on the spot where the 8th Guru of the Sikhs, Guru Harkrishan Dev, stayed when he visited Delhi in 1664. An important place of worship of the Muslims, '**Jama Masjid**' has been discussed earlier. Another important place of worship in the vicinity is the **Sacred Heart's Cathedral**, an important church of North India. Across the river Yamuna is the new **Akshardham Temple** a marvel of modern engineering and animation.

City Culture

New Delhi could well be termed the **cultural capital of the country**. Look at the options!

Museums

National Museum: 23019272, National Museum of Natural History: 23710576, Nehru Memorial Planetarium, Museum & Library: 23016734, National Gandhi Museum: 23311793, Shankar's International Dolls Museum: 23316970, Crafts Museum: 23371817, National Rail Museum: 26881816, Tibet House Museum: 24611515, National Philatelic Museum: 23036447, National Science Centre Museum: 23237491, Archaeological Museum, Red Fort: 23267961.

Art Galleries

The National Gallery of Modern Art: 23382835, Triveni Art Gallery & Shridharni Art Gallery: 23718833,

Vadehra Art Gallery: 24615368, Art Today: 23320689, Art Heritage: 23719470, Art Junction: 23411001, Dhoomimal Art Gallery: 23713025, Gallery Espace: 26326267, Gallery Ganesh: 29217306, Lalit Kala Akademi: 23387243, Habitat World: 24682222, Art Indus: 26883738.

Cultural Institutions

Academy of Fine Arts & Literature: 26494444, AIFACS: 23711315, American Centre: 23316841, British Council: 23711401, French Cultural Centre: 26251404, India Habitat Centre: 24682222, India International Centre: 24619431, India Trade Promotion Organisation: 23371540, Max Mueller Bhavan: 23329506, National School of Drama: 23389402, Rajiv Gandhi Foundation: 23755118, Sangeet Natak Akademi: 23387246, Shri Ram Bhartiya Kala Kendra: 23386429, Triveni Kala Sangam: 23718833.

Auditoria

FICCI Auditorium: 23738760, Gandhi Memorial Hall: 41509110, Kamani Auditorium: 23388084, LTG Auditorium: 23389713, Shakuntalam Theatre: 23371849, Shri Ram Centre: 23714307, Vigyan Bhawan: 23022231.

Parks and Gardens

National Zoological Park: 24358500, summer 8 am to 6 pm, winter 9 am to 5 pm, Friday closed; Appu Ghar: 23371838, Fun 'N' Food Village: 25064501, Wet 'N' Wild Resorts: 25700362, Buddha Jayanti Park, Children's Park, India Gate Lawns, Lodhi Gardens, Mughal Gardens,



Appu Ghar

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Nehru Park, Jamali-Kamali Gardens, Kalindi Kunj (bordering Noida), Deer Park, and the latest, DTTDC's Garden of Five Senses at Mehrauli.

Amusement Arcades: 32nd Milestone: 95124-2332571, Destination Point: 95129-274602.

Beauty Parlours: Bindiya at Maurya Sheraton: 26112233, Oxford Cut-Men's Saloon in Basant Lok: 26149212, Barber Shop at The Oberoi: 24304351.

Astrologers: Ma Prem Usha (Tarot Cards) 26112233.

Gourmet's Delights

Eating out in Delhi can be very exciting. The city is said to have 800 restaurants, with a new one being added almost every week! While the top note remains the robust flavour of the Punjab, melded with the more delicate artistry of Mughlai cooking – topped off with remnants from the Raj – one will find everything from Gujarati to Thai, French, South Indian, Lebanese, Italian, Indonesian Tex-mex-nouvelle to health food.

Delhi also plays host to several different pizza and fast food chains, from the indigenous Nirulas to imported versions of Domino's, Pizza Hut, Pizza Corner and McDonald's. Some of the better *chaat* and *mithai*

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Bengali Sweets (Bengali Market)

shops are: **Nathu's** and **Bengali Sweets** in Bengali Market, the *chaat* shops in Sunder Nagar, and **Kwality Chaat Bhandar** in Greater Kailash.

Some selections:

North Indian: Dum Pukht: 26112233, Great Kebab Factory: 26779191, Zaffran: 95125-2356030, The Village: 26493628, Karim's: 24358300, Rampur Kitchen: 24631222, Nizam's Kathi Kebab: 23713078, Masala Art: 26110202, Kashmir Club: 26110101.

North West Frontier: Bukhara: 26112233, Baluchi Pakwan: 23710101, Haveli: 23026162.

Far East: Pan-Asian: 26521122, TK's The Oriental Grill: 26791234, Spice Route: 23341234, I'Ching: 26779191, House of Ming: 23026162, Sampan: 26835070, Golden Dragon: 26142706, Turquoise Cottage From the Orient: 26853896, Lotus Garden: 26160244, China Fare: 24618602, Mandarin Room: 23340070, The Tarot Nest: 26522121, Fujiya: 26876059, The Kowloon: 26493628.

Japanese: Enoki: 23342000, Sakura: 26771234, Tokyo: 26110101.

South Indian: Dakshin: 26521122, Naivedyam: 26960426, Kanchi: 23329124.

Italian: La Pizza: 26791234, San Gimignano: 23743000,

Italiannis: 26779191,
Flavours of Italy: 24645644.

Mexican: Gourmet Gallery:
26258815, Rodeo: 23713780.

Continental: West View: 26112233,
Olive: 26643914, Basil & Thyme:
24673322, Brix: 26771234, The Grill:
2341101, Pierre: 23710101, La
Rochelle: 24363030, Orient Express:
26110202, The Buck Stops Here:
26257696, Pebble Street: 26844380,
TGI Friday: 26140964, Diva Art Café:
26494554, Ruby Tuesday: 23323627,
Daniell's Tavern: 23341234.

Coffee Bars: Barista, outlets all over
the city; such as Vasant Vihar,
Connaught Place, New Friends
Colony and more. **Starbeans:**
23755111, Qwickly's, Café Turtle:
24655641, Café Coffee Day.

Night Out – Clubs/Discos

Dublin- Maurya Sheraton: 26112233,
Ralph's- Uppal's Orchid: 25061516,
Steel- Ashoka Hotel: 26110101,
Orange Room - Ashoka Hotel:
26110101,
My Kind of Place- Taj Palace:
26110202,
Trafalgar's- Tivoli Gardens:
26301111,
Peppers- The Bristol: 95124-2356030,
CJ's- Le Meridian: 23710101,
Someplace Else- The Park: 23743000,
Djinns- Hyatt Regency: 26791234,
Athena - Park Royal Inter-
Continental 26223344.

Bars/Lounge Bars

Golf Bar- Maurya Sheraton:
26112233
Ricks: 23026162
Savannah Bar: 26779191

Tuskers: 23342000

Patiala Peg: 1911-23341234

Buzz: 26533999

Geoffrey's: 26261305

Buoys & Gulls: 26148800.

Pubs: We2, Mezz, No Escape, Buzz, RG's, Plutos, Iridium, F-Bar, Delhi's Devils, Ego.

Shopper's Paradise

Delhi is definitely a shoppers' paradise when it comes to buying clothes, handicraft and jewellery. There are



Connaught Place

plenty of good bargains to be had. **Connaught Place** and the surrounding area of **Janpath**, including the **Cottage Industries Emporium**, is where most tourists tend to do their shopping. Here one can find ethnic gold and silver jewellery, footwear, carpets and handicrafts. All main markets remain closed on Sundays. **Palika Bazaar** is the underground shopping complex located in Connaught Place, and is a well-known landmark. Close to Janpath is **Baba Kharak Singh Marg** which houses the emporia of various states. These stock handicrafts from a particular state and are very popular with tourists. **Chandni Chowk** is where one goes for special needs, such as jewellery, trousseau shopping, electronic goods, etc. To shop where



Chandni Chowk

the locals do, visit **South Extension** market, or South Ex as it is more commonly known. This is where one sees brands like Wills Sport, Nike, Givo, etc. **Lajpat Nagar** is another favourite for daily needs. For great clothing bargains, **Sarojini Nagar** market offers export surplus garments of known international brands and latest trends in Indian styles. **Dilli Haat**, **Hauz Khas** and **Santushti** are outdoor shopping complexes, now firmly part of the Delhi shopping experience. Dilli Haat is a popular craft bazaar where craft persons sell directly to customers. Santushti has many elegant boutiques. **Ansal Plaza Mall** is half a km away from South Extension and offers a good mix of shops and eating places. It has the Delhi outlet of national chain Shopper's Stop, Marks & Spencers, Music World, a bumper store with just about every kind of music. **Greater Kailash I** as well as **II**, have exclusive designer fashion wear stores and boutiques, such as Bizarre, Nextt, Study by Janak, Finesse, Shoe Shoppe, TNG, etc. **Khan Market** is another hotspot, as are the **Vasant Vihar** area. The international 'mall fever' is catching on in Delhi too, with suburbs like Gurgaon and Noida witnessing new shopping havens. Notable among

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these are the **Metropolitan Mall** and **Centrestage Mall**. Fashionable lifestyle chains like Westside, Shopper's Stop, Bombay Stores, Lifestyle, are all here, in fact at many locations. Some recommendations:

Handicrafts: Central Cottage Industries Corporation of India: 23320439, Lepakshi: 23363892, Pragjyotika: 23344784, Ambapali: 23363081, Bharat: 23363287, Gurjari: 23363802, Manjusha: 23344745, Gangotri: 23343559, Poompuhar: 23363913, Himachal Emporium: 23363087, Kashmir Govt. Arts Emporium: 23364723, Uthalika: 23365515, Rajasthali: 23343140.

Sarees: Handloom House: 23323050, Uttam's: 23363384, Karol Bagh Saree House: 25754477, Heritage: 24623208, Nalli's: 24629926.

Designer Wear: JJ Valaya: 26802097,

Ravi Bajaj: 26448204, Rohit Bal: 24658005, Ashish Soni: 26433216, Manish Arora: 29534250.

Excursions

Damdama Lake, 59 km from Connaught Place, overlooks the Aravalli hills, amidst lush greenery and fruit orchards.

Kurukshetra, about three and a half hours drive from Delhi, is where the



Brahma Sarover – Kurukshetra

mythological war of Mahabharata was fought between the Pandavas and Kauravas. 'Kurukshetra Lake' is believed to be a mixture of all the holy



Surajkund Mela

waters.

Surajkund, about 35 km away from the city centre, is famous for its crafts' mela held between 1st February and



Neemrana Fort Palace

15th February, every year.

Neemrana Fort Palace, about 150 km away, is a heritage resort on a majestic plateau, concealed in a horseshoe formation of the Aravalli ranges.



Indira Gandhi International Airport

Access: By Air: Delhi's international airport **Indira Gandhi International** is the most important gateway to North India. Most international airlines offer flights to and from Delhi, connecting to almost every part of the world. On the domestic circuit, the **Domestic Airport** provides flights to every corner of the country, and is as important as Mumbai for air travel. Besides Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Air Sahara, even Air-India operates night flights to many metro cities. **By Rail:** Being a strategically located capital, Delhi is connected to nearly all state capitals and tourist and business centres in the country, through a large rail network. Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains run from Delhi to all the other major metros daily. **Metro Rail**, the fastest means of transport in a city, started in 2003 in Delhi, is fast emerging as an efficient alternative to crowded buses. **Railway Stations:** There are four major stations in Delhi: the **Old Delhi Railway Station** (situated in the Walled City), **New Delhi Railway Station** (close to Connaught Place), **Nizamuddin Railway Station** (close to The Oberoi flyover) and **Sarai Rohilla Railway Station**. Apart from these, there is the

Delhi Cantonment Railway Station in West Delhi, the boarding point for tourist trains like 'Palace on Wheels' and 'Fairy Queen'. **By Road:** The Inter State Bus Terminus (ISBT) has buses arriving and departing for all the states in the northern region. **Bus Terminus:**



ISBT at Kashmere Gate

Delhi is linked by the Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus service and state roadways of the neighbouring states to all important cities and destinations in Northern India. There is an **ISBT at Kashmere Gate** and others at **Sarai Kale Khan** and **Anand Vihar**. **Distances:** Agra 200 km, Ajmer 399 km, Amritsar 446 km, Bhopal 740 km, Varanasi 765 km, Udaipur 635 km, Jaipur 265 km, Kanpur 490 km, Lucknow 569 km, Kota 500 km, Chandigarh 249 km, Shimla 368 km. **Temperatures:** Summer: Max 45°C, Winter: Min 4°C. **Best time to visit:** October to April.

City Code: 011

IGI Airport: 25652011

Air India: (Arr.) 144, (Dep.) 145, 25652050

Domestic Airport: 25675126

Indian Airlines: 140, 25675121, (Resvn.) 141, (Arr. & Dep.) 142

Jet Airways: 41641414,

Airport: 25675404

Air Sahara: 23326851,

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Airport: 25675234
Jagson Airlines: 23730685,
Airport: 25675545
Railways: 131
Travel House City Tours:
23322401, 23322456
**Tourist Offices: Government of
India Tourist Office:** 23320342,
23320005
**Government of India Tourist
Information Counter (Domestic):**
23295296
**Government of India Tourist
Information Counter
(International):** 23291171
**Delhi Tourism and Transportation
Development Corporation
(DTTDC):** 23314229, 23315322
Police: 100
ATMs: ABN Amro: 23755130,
American Express: 23327602,
Bank of America: 23722332,
Citibank: 23712277,
Hong Kong & Shanghai: 23716000,
Standard Chartered: 23368888,
SBI: 23340051
Head Post Office: 23715605
General Post Office: 23364111
Speedpost: 25675499
Hospitals: Ambulance: 102,
Centralised Accidents & Trauma
Services: 1099, All India Institute of
Medical Sciences: 26588500,
Apollo: 26925858, GB Pant:
23233001, Holy Family: 26845900,
Sir Ganga Ram: 25735218, Batra:
26083747, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:

**23365525, Escorts Heart Institute &
Research Centre:** 26825000

Chemists: New Delhi Medicos,
Spring Meadows, Super Bazar
Medical Stores.

Home Away From Home

The Maurya: 26112233,
Ashok Hotel: 26110101,
The Grand: 26771230,
Hyatt Regency: 26791234,
Crowne Plaza Surya: 26835070,
The Imperial: 23341234,
Inter-Continental The Grand:
23411001, Marriott WelcomHotel:
26521122, Le Meridien: 23710101,
The Metropolitan Nikko: 23342000,
Radisson: 26779191, Taj Palace:
26110202, Taj Mahal: 23026162,
The Oberoi: 24363030, The Park:
23733737, Centaur: 25696660,
The Claridges: 23010211,
India Habitat Centre: 24682222,
Hans Plaza: 23316861.
Samrat: 26110606, Marina:
23324658, The Tivoli Garden Resort:
26301111, Maharani Guest House:
24359521, Jukaso Inn: 24350308,
Youth Hostel: 24101246,
YMCA Tourist Hostel: 23361915,
YWCA: 23360133.

Satellite Towns: In Noida (0120):
Nirula's: 2526512, Hotel Great Value
Shipra: 2515073. In Ghaziabad
(0120): Shipra: 2793625, Hotel Best
Western Mela Plaza: 24722255.



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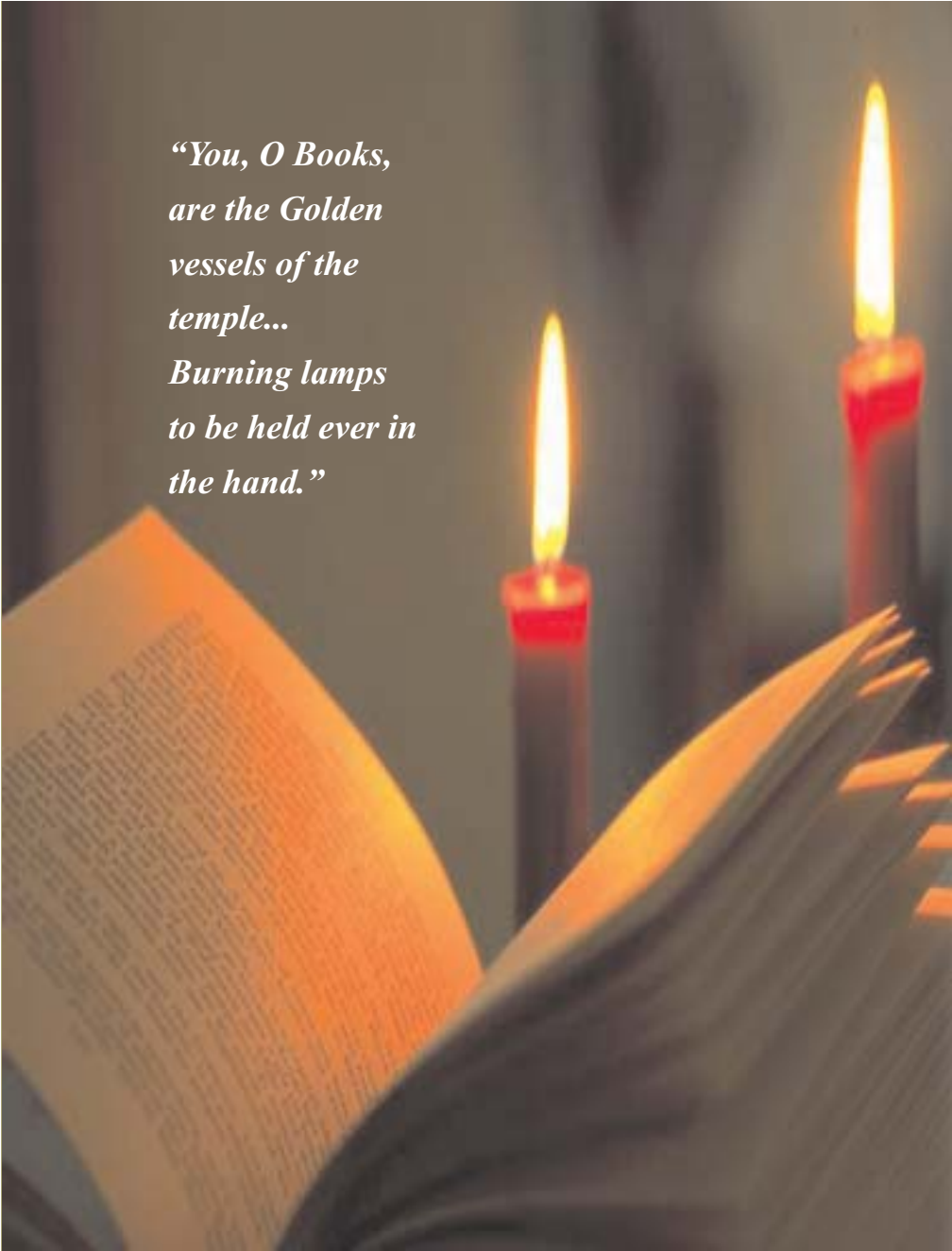
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are the Golden
vessels of the
temple...
Burning lamps
to be held ever in
the hand.”*



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