



# The Taj Mahal: The History of India's Most Famous Monument

*Charles River Editors, Jesse Harasta*

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\*Includes pictures.

\*Explains the Taj Mahal's construction history and cultural influences.

\*Includes footnotes and a bibliography for further reading.

“Should guilty seek asylum here, Like one pardoned, he becomes free from sin. Should a sinner make his way to this mansion, All his past sins are to be washed away. The sight of this mansion creates sorrowing sighs; And the sun and the moon shed tears from their eyes. In this world this edifice has been made; To display thereby the creator's glory.” – Emperor Shah Jahan’s description of the Taj Mahal

“The Taj Mahal rises above the banks of the river like a solitary tear suspended on the cheek of time.” - Rabindranath Tagore, Bengali Nobel Laureate Poet

“Rahul had wondered how someone could love their beloved so much that their dedication to them became one of the wonders of the world.” - Faraaz Kazi, modern novelist

Taj Mahal is Arabic for “crown of palaces”, and the name could not be more fitting for one of the most instantly recognizable buildings in the world. Constructed over a span of about 20 years in the mid-17th century as a mausoleum for the wife of Emperor Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal is aptly described by UNESCO, which designated it a World Heritage site, as “the jewel of Muslim art in India and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage”. Indeed, the Taj Mahal is truly a global icon because it masterfully fused the artistic and architectural elements of several cultures, including Indian, Ottoman, Persian, and Islamic cultures across the region.

While the marble dome is the first feature that pops out about the Taj Mahal, the careful layout of the entire structure is also incredibly impressive, and it took thousands of laborers several years to work on the other features, from the gardens to the calligraphy inscribed on the exterior. The Taj Mahal also includes other buildings, including a mosque and other tombs and mausoleums for people close to the emperor.

Not surprisingly, given the scope and quality of the work, the Taj Mahal has fascinated people around the world for centuries, and naturally, all sorts of myths about it have sprung up. For the most part, however, people are simply drawn to it today as one of the premiere tourist sites in the world, and millions of people come from around the world to visit it every year.

The Taj Mahal: The History of India’s Most Famous Monument chronicles the origins, construction, and history of the Taj Mahal over the last 350 years. Along with pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about one of the world’s most famous memorials like you never have before.



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