

# Online Information

## The Mystery at the Taj Mahal

# Fascinating Facts

1. Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan designed the Taj Mahal and had it built in memory of his third wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died giving birth to their fourteenth child.
2. The Taj Mahal is over 350 years old. Construction of the mausoleum began in 1632 and took 22 years to complete.
3. Over 1,000 elephants were used to help transport materials used to make the Taj Mahal.
4. The main dome of the Taj Mahal is over ten stories high, is completely unsupported by pillars, and has over 30 precious and semi-precious stones inlaid in the marble covering the outside of the dome.
5. Calligraphy, which cites the Quran, can be found carved into the stone of the Taj Mahal.
6. The Taj Mahal is completely symmetrical, except for Shah Jahan's tomb, which was placed in the Taj Mahal after his death.
7. The Taj Mahal takes on different colors depending on the time of day.
8. Many of the descendants of the hundreds of artisans that worked on the Taj Mahal are still actively carving things today, like furniture and jewelry boxes.
9. Once construction of the Taj Mahal was complete, Emperor Shah Jahan became ill. He was put under house arrest in the Agra Fort by one of his sons, who forcefully took over the role of emperor.
10. During recent wars, scaffolding was used to cover the dome of the Taj Mahal to protect it from bombings from the air.

