

Essence Of Rajasthan I The Unique Desert State

Immerse yourself in the everyday life, culture, history and traditions of the unique desert state of India. Experience on foot, tuk-tuk or on the backs of camels or elephants the magnificent cities and natural landscapes.

- UNESCO World Heritage Site: Taj Mahal
- CityTour of Jaipur By Tuk-Tuk
- Enjoy a Turban/Sari wearing demonstration in Udaipur
- Walk through the old Bazaars of Bikaner

Day - 1 Delhi

DELHI ARRIVAL

Upon your arrival at the airport, you are welcomed and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is free at leisure.

Overnight: Delhi

Day - 2 Delhi

DELHI: CITYTOUR (B)

Begin your day with a guided tour of the Old City of 'Shahjahanabad'. Your introduction to the city will be with a visit to the Raj Ghat – the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. On your way, drive past the Red Fort, the magical monument in red sandstone built at the pinnacle of the Mughal Empire. Stroll through the bustling narrow lanes of Chandni Chowk to Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India built by Shahjahan. In the afternoon continue with your sightseeing tour of New Delhi, which reflects the legacy the British left behind. You will visit the Qutab Minar, the tallest stone tower in India built to establish the might of Islam and onset of Muslim rule in India. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing India Gate(War Memorial Arch), the Parliament buildings and the Rashtrapati Bhawan (the President's residence).

Overnight: Delhi

Day - 3 Agra

DELHI – AGRA (B)

After breakfast, check out and drive towards Agra. Upon arrival, check into your hotel. In the afternoon visit the world renowned Taj Mahal. Referred to as one of the wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal in Agra is the epitome of tourism in India and is celebrated for its architectural magnificence and aesthetic beauty. A symphony in white marble, a tribute to eternal love, it was built by the Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. There are tombs of Mumtaz and Shahjahan within the mausoleum. Continue to visit Great Fort of Agra, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture and the seat and stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive

generations. Originally planned as an impregnable military structure by Akbar, the Agra Fort, over a period of time, acquired all the elegance, lavishness and majesty of an imperial palace. End the tour with a visit to Agra's local market and witness the marble inlay work demonstration.

Overnight: Agra

Day - 4 Agra

AGRA: EXCURSION TO CHAMBAL (B, L)

The Chambal Ravines are the product of centuries of soil erosion by flood and rain waters. They form an incredible maze of intertwining mud cliffs, with tropical dry scrub forest vegetation, that provide shelter for numerous birds, mammals and reptiles. This morning enjoy a River Safari. The calm and gentle waters of the Chambal River are best explored on boats and the River Safari provides spectacular opportunities to view the wildlife. The Chambal Safari boatmen are exceptionally skilled at cutting the boat engines, and manoeuvring as close to the birds and animals as possible without disturbing them. Lunch is then served at the lodge. Afterwards, enjoy the Camel Safari to the Fort Ater and back. Camels remain an important mode of transport for man and goods alike. They are also an ideal means for exploring the wildlife. Be transported back in time as you amble along long forgotten trails and pathways on these haughty beasts, with their snootily upturned noses and disdainfully curled lips. Enjoy a guided tour of Fort Ater as well.

Overnight: Agra

Day - 5 Jaipur

AGRA – JAIPUR (B)

This morning, drive to Jaipur with en-route visiting Akbar's abandoned capital, Fatehpur Sikri. Built by Mughal emperor Akbar in 1571 in honour of the Sufi saint, Sheikh Salim Chisti, it was the Mughal capital for 14 years after which it was abandoned due to paucity of water. It is made of red sandstone and combines influences from both Hindu and Mughal architecture. Even to this day, the entrance to the fort is through the road that Akbar built which leads to the Buland Darwaza, a huge 54 metres gateway. Other inspiring monuments in Fatehpur Sikri are the Hiran Minar that Akbar built in memory of his favourite elephant, Tomb of Sheikh Salim Chishti, Birbal's House and the Diwan-i-Khas. Continue to Jaipur. On arrival you will check into your hotel and the rest of the day is free at leisure.

Overnight: Jaipur

Day - 6 Jaipur

JAIPUR: AMBER FORT – ANOKHI MUSEUM – CITYTOUR OF JAIPUR (B, D)

Drive in the morning to the ancient capital of Amer to see the fabulous Amber Fort, situated on a ridge just outside Jaipur city. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century. The fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Continue then to the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing, to observe the consuming and exhausting method of hand-block printing in entirety, from carving of wooden blocks to transformation of raw fabric into a piece of art. Enjoy then a CityTour of Jaipur on a quirky Tuk-Tuk. Start your tour at the Pink City, an "abode of rajahs". The highlights

of the tour include a visit to the City Palace Museum, which has a superb collection of Rajasthani costumes. Continue to the awe inspiring Jantar Mantar Observatory, a stone astrological and astronomical Observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh in the 18th century. Also enjoy a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) - a five-storied wonder with a spectacular pyramidal façade and overhanging windows with latticed screens, domes and spires. Your dinner will be served tonight at a special place: inside the famed Amber Fort! The seating is split in various small sections, decorated with chandeliers, silk rugs and silver furniture. Not one of the most crowded places, the highlight includes Thali meals in an exotic ambience.

Overnight: Jaipur

Day - 7 Udaipur

JAIPUR – UDAIPUR (B)

Before you leave Jaipur enjoy an elephant safari at Dera Amer. It is going to be a unique opportunity to enjoy an interesting insight into the countryside and rural life of Rajasthan. With a beautiful wooden howdah on its back, the elephant and his mahout welcomes you and the safari starts. The elephants take you through farms, agricultural fields, hills and ancient monuments tucked away in the countryside. The atmosphere is peaceful and all you can hear is the ringing of bells that are a part of the ornaments your elephant wears, occasional dialogue between the mahouts and the elephants and sometimes the cheers of excited children from the villages who gather and follow the elephants enjoying this rare sight. Enjoy a sumptuous breakfast afterwards, before you continue to

Udaipur Overnight: Udaipur

Day - 8 Udaipur

UDAIPUR: SIGHTSEEING (B)

Commence your Citytour with a visit to the City Palace, which stands on a hill on the banks of Lake Pichola, surrounded by crenulated walls. Built in 1567, it is composed of four major palaces and several minor palaces that form a single façade. Its main entrance is through a triplearched gate, the Tripolia, built in 1725. The gate leads to a series of courtyards, corridors and gardens. Continue on to Saheliyon-ki-Bari (Garden of the maids of honour), a small ornamental garden which was a popular relaxing spot where royal ladies came for a stroll. The garden has many fountains in its four delightful pools, chiselled kiosks and marble elephants. Witness the art of Miniature Painting and walk through the old city of Udaipur. Enjoy a boat ride on the Lake Picholabay in the afternoon (depending on the water level). Lake Pichola derives its name from Pichola Village, with the City Palace extending along its eastern bank and the Jag Niwas Island and the Jag Mandir enclosed in its vast expanse. Maharana Udai Singh enlarged the lake after he founded the city of Udaipur. The lake is surrounded by hills and its panoramic beauty is best viewed against the backdrop of the setting sun. Overnight: Udaipur

Day - 9 Jodhpur

UDAIPUR – JODHPUR (B)

On your way to Jodhpur, visit the Ranakpur Temples. Ranakpur boasts some of the most exquisite Jain temples in the country famous for their intricate friezes and sculptures. It is one of the holiest Jain sites of India. Nestled on the banks of the river Maghai and sequestered by mountains, Ranakpur's beauty is accentuated by its seclusion.

The main Chaumukha (four faced) temple was built in 1439 and is dedicated to the first Enlightened One, Adinatha Rishabdeva. An inscription in it traces its origin to the reign of Rana Kumbha. Erected on a raised platform, it is surrounded by 66 subsidiary shrines. It has 1444 beautifully carved pillars, of which no two are alike. Two Jain temples dedicated to Neminath and Parsvanath and a Sun Temple a little distance away are also noteworthy.

Overnight: Jodhpur

Day - 10 Jodhpur

JODHPUR: BISHNOI VILLAGE SAFARI (B)

You will be taken on jeeps to nearby villages at Rohetvisiting local tribal – called the Bishnois. Bishnois are an integral part of this region, a very hard working and hospitable tribal community. See village folk in their rustic and traditional attire, women clad in their ancestral silver jewellery. Meet them in their homes and talk to them. En-route, you have the opportunity to witness and photograph a variety of wildlife -black buck, chinkaras etc., all endangered species protected by “Bishnois”.You shall also witness the traditional Opium ceremony, which is a unique customary feature besides the cottage craftsmanship of the potters and weavers. In the afternoon, visit the magnificent Mehrangarh, one of Rajasthan's finest forts, looks down protectively over the city, from the hilltop. Still run by the Maharaja of Jodhpur, this 5 km long majestic fort on a 125 metre high hill is one of the most impressive and formidable structures. The palace apartments with marvellously carved panels, latticed windows have evocative names such as Sukh Mahal (Pleasure Palace), Moti Mahal (Pearl Palace), the Phool Mahal (Flower Palace) and the Sheesh Mahal (Palace of Mirrors). The Chamunda Devi Temple, dedicated to goddess Durga, stands on the southern end of the fort. Continue your tour to Jaswant Thada, located a short distance from the fort, just off the fort road, is a white marble memorial to Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. The cenotaph built in 1899, was followed by the royal crematorium and three other cenotaphs that stand nearby. There are some beautiful marble jali (lattice) work and fine views from the terrace in front of the cenotaphs. End the tour with a Turban or Sari wearing demonstration in Jodhpur.

Overnight: Jodhpur

Day - 11 Jaisalmer

JODHPUR – JAISALMER (B)

Upon arrival in Jaisalmer, the rest of the day is free at leisure.

Overnight: Jaisalmer

Day - 12 Jaisalmer

JAISALMER: CITYTOUR (B)

This morning, enjoy your guided Citytour of Jaisalmer. Visit Jaisalmer Fort, the main attraction of this picturesque desert city of Rajasthan. Located on the top of the Trikuta Hill, the ramparts, bastions and the long-stretching walls of the fort dazzle gloriously during early morning and at sunset. Continue on to Jaisalmer's most intricately carved havelis or mansions-Salim Singh ki Haveli, built around 300 year ago. This haveli belonged to Salim Singh, the Prime Minister to then Maharaja of Jaisalmer, Maharaja Rawal Gaj Singh. Yellow stone that is covered with intricate carvings, elaborate balcony and beautiful blue cupola roof characterizes Salim Singh ki Haveli; Patwon-ki-Haveli,

the grandest mansion in Jaisalmer, having a ceiling supported by exquisitely carved pillars. The delicately chiselled balconies and extensive corridors and chambers of this haveli also present an impressive sight. Round off the tour with a walk through narrow cobbled street. The afternoon is free at leisure. Later in the afternoon enjoy a camel ride to the sand dunes to see the sunset. Drive out of Jaisalmer City to visit one of the most panoramic sites –the golden sand dunes, where the wind carves out various patterns on the sand! Embark upon a camel to reach the nearby sunset point on the dunes in time to catch the last rays of the setting sun over the dunes. The vista creates a delightful mirage, definitely a photographer's ecstasy; the sense of time ceases as one gets lost in the silken smooth sands of the Thar, and a lifetime experience.

Overnight: Jaisalmer

Day - 13 Bikaner

JAISALMER – BIKANER (B)

Leave Jaisalmer in the morning and continue to Bikaner. Upon arrival, enjoy a guided Citytour of Bikaner. Visit Junagarh Fort, one of the most interesting forts in Rajasthan, with its sumptuously decorated interiors. Built in 1588 by Raja Rai Singh it is unusual in the sense that it was one of the few major forts of Rajasthan that was not built on a hilltop. Instead, it was built on the desert plains; its rugged sandstone bastions and graceful pavilions and balconies are silhouetted against the sky.

Overnight: Bikaner

Day - 14 Mandawa

BIKANER – MANDAWA (B)

Next stop on your tour through Rajasthan is Mandawa. Enjoy a walking tour of the painted havelis in the afternoon upon arrival. The rest of the day is free at leisure.

Overnight: Mandawa

Day - 15 Delhi

MANDAWA – DELHI DEPARTURE (B)

After breakfast, drive back to Delhi, where you catch your departing flight back home or keep on travelling.

Inclusions

- 14 nights in your chosen accommodation
- Meal as specified in itinerary
(B = Breakfast, BR = Brunch, L = Lunch, D = Dinner)
- Activities and excursions according to itinerary

FOR EXAMPLE:

- CityTour of Delhi
 - Visit the Taj Mahal & Great Fort in Agra
 - River & Camel safari in Chambal
 - Visit the Amber Fort & the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing
 - CityTour of Jaipur by Tuk-Tuk
 - Elephant safari
 - Boat ride on Lake Pichola
 - Visit Ranakpur Temples
 - Bishnoi Village Safari
 - CityTour of Jaisalmer
 - Camel ride to the sand dunes to see the sunset
 - CityTour of Bikaner
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- Tours and excursions in mini buses/buses
or with public transportation according to itinerary
 - English speaking tour guide
 - Admission fees according to itinerary
 - 1 litre of mineral water per person per day

Exclusions

- International flights
- Meals other than mentioned in itinerary
- Tours and Excursions other than mentioned in itinerary
- Early check-in and late check-out at hotels
- Personal travel insurance
- Personal expenses and tips for driver/guides
- Visa fees

Payment Details:

Group from 6 persons and
more starting from (p.P)

USD 2105

Private tour for 2 persons
starting from (p.P.) USD 2608

Booking Availabilities

Booking in between : **16th April 2019 & 1st March 2022**

★★★★ Deluxe Hotel

Single Supplement	: USD 1276.00
Double Room Price(per person)for the 1st + 2nd person	: USD 2608.00
Double Room Price(per person)for the 3rd + 4th person	: USD 2427.00
Double Room Price(per person)for the 5th + 6th person	: USD 2105.00