

**BEST OF RAJASTHAN
15 DAYS / 14 NIGHTS**

Day 01 : Leave Europe for Delhi

Accommodation is booked from this day for immediate occupancy.

Day 02: Arrive Delhi.

Welcome, meeting and assistance at the International Airport and transfer to hotel.

Breakfast at hotel.

Later proceed for city Combined Sightseeing of New and Old Delhi. In New Delhi drive past the 12th century 230 feet high Qutab Minar, gracefully hand-carved for its entire height of 234ft, the mausoleum of emperor Humayun - a forerunner of the Mughal style of architecture, the imposing Lakshmi Narayan temple, India Gate (memorial to the India army soldiers who died in the World War), the Rashtrapati Bhavan (formerly the viceroy's residence) and the parliament House.

Later continue to Old Delhi. See the Red Fort - a marvel in red sandstone, the Raj Ghat, memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, the Jama Masjid - the largest mosque in India. Spend some time in Chandni Chowk to savour the ambience of a crowded oriental bazaar.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 03: Delhi / Mandawa By surface 255 kms/05 hrs

Morning breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, drive to Mandawa and on arrival, check in at the hotel.

In the heart of the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan lies the beautiful small town Mandawa, known throughout the state for its forts and havelis. The structures of this place reminds one of the cultural and social hotspot this place used to be in the bygone era.

Mandawa is situated in the north Indian state of Rajasthan around 190 km off Jaipur, the capital of the state. The town lies between latitude 28.06° in the north and longitude 75.20° in the east. The fort town of Mandawa is well connected with the other places in region through a good network of roads. The compact and busy little market town of Mandawa was settled and fortified in 18th century by the dominant merchant families of the region. The wealthy businessmen of the village constructed many havelis and baolis with colored painting adorning their walls. Later on, with the migration of these merchant families, their old settlements remained in total obscurity with no one to look after them. Despite the time lapse and ignorance about these visual and architectural extravaganzas, their attraction did not fade and today they are some of the major attractions for the tourists visiting Rajasthan

Overnight at hotel.

Day 04: Mandawa/Bikaner By surface 205 kms/05 hrs

Morning breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, drive through typical desert country to Bikaner in the middle of the Rajasthan's Thar Desert. On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Bikaner founded by Rao Bika in 1488. An oasis town among scrub and sand dunes. The walled city retains a medieval air and sandstone architecture. Afternoon tour of Bikaner takes you to visit the Junagarh Fort which is unusual, because other major forts of Rajasthan were built on hilltops, but this fort is built on the desert plain, surrounded by a moat.

Afternoon sightseeing of Bikaner. The city is bolstered by imposing walls and has a 16th century fort housing old palaces, temples and a mosque. Founded by Raja Rai Singh, the fort is distinguished by its long range of 37 pavilions, a line of balconies and aerial windows of varying designs. An enormous arched doorway leads to the Joramal temple. The royal chapel is Har Mandir where royal weddings and births were once celebrated.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 Bikaner / Jaisalmer – By surface 333 Kms/07 hrs

Morning breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, drive to Jaisalmer and on arrival, check in at the hotel.

Jaisalmer across the hot barren desert is magical as the city shimmers like a mirage. The golden sandstone town walls and narrow streets lined with exquisitely carved buildings, through which camel carts trundle leisurely, has an extraordinarily medieval feel and an incredible atmosphere. The fort inside perched on its hilltop contains some gems of Jain temple building, while beautifully decorated merchants' havelis are scattered through the town.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day06: Jaisalmer

After breakfast, visit the Jaisalmer fort that stands about 100 meters over the city and in fact houses a citadel within its huge ramparts. Walking down the narrow cobbled stone lanes, one can feel the sheer magic of Jaisalmer. Several entrances called Pols , including the Ganesh Pol, Suraj Pol, Bhoota Pol and the Hava Pol guard the Megh Durbar and the Jawahar Mahal which were occupied by the royal family. Also visit the Havelis (mansions of the rich merchants) have beautifully carved facades, jali screens and oriel windows overhanging the streets below. Visit Salim Singh Haveli (17 century) which is especially attractive with peacock brackets. Nathumal Haveli (1885) was built for the prime minister. Patwon Haveli (1805) is a group of five, built for five brothers. Possibly the finest in town. They have fine murals and carved pillars. A profusion of balconies cover the front wall.

Late afternoon excursion to Sam sand dunes to enjoy a camel ride and a magnificent sunset.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 07: Jaisalmer / Jodhpur By surface 290 kms. /06 hrs

Morning breakfast at hotel.

After early breakfast drive to Jodhpur . On arrival check-in at hotel.

Jodhpur is at the edge of the Thar Desert and is the largest city in Rajasthan after Jaipur. Among Rajasthan's many princely settlements, Jodhpur is one of the most distinctive. This five hundred year old settlement was the headquarters of the Rathore Rajputs' celebrations for their tales of daring. Jodhpur is known for its impressive fortfield bastions, specially those of Mehrangarh which have been witness to many battles and were associated closely with the history of the region. The years of peace that followed resulted in the building of palaces that were laid on open grounds and spread out in an elaborate European manner.

On arrival, visit the impressive Mehrangarh Fort on a 37 m low sandstone hill built by Rao Jodha in 1459. From the top of the fort one can get a bird's eye view of the old city. You will notice the predominance of blue houses referred to as Brahmin houses - the colour being associated with the high caste. Proceed to the Jaswant Thada, an imposing marble cenotaph built in 1899 for Maharajah Jaswant Singh II, and smaller memorials to other Maharajahs of Jodhpur. At the end of the tour enjoy a short walk through the local and vibrant bazaar of Jodhpur.

Overnight at hotel.

Day08: Jodhpur / Ranakpur / Udaipur - By surface

290 Kms/07 hrs

Morning breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast drive to Udaipur. En-route visit **Ranakpur**, the wonderful 3 temples of the Jain sect dating back to the 14th/15th century. The unforgettable main Temple dedicated to Adinatha the first Tirthankar (1439) built in marble took 65 years to complete. It is one of the five holy Jain pilgrimage centres, and has one of the best temple complexes.

On arrival in Udaipur, check in at the hotel.

Udaipur lies in the Girwa valley amidst the Aravali hills of south Rajasthan. It is considered a romantic city - with its lakes, gardens, temples and palaces - an Oasis in the Thar desert. The old city is a traditionally planned fortified walled city, a maze of narrow winding lanes flanked by houses with doorways decorated with Mewar folk art, windows with stained glass or jali screens, massive havelis with large inner courtyards and shops. The legendary Ranas who ruled, traced their ancestry to the Sun Dynasty.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day09: In Udaipur

Morning breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast visit the City Palace built on the bank of the Pichola Lake, by Maharana Udai Singh in 1570. The impressive complex of several palaces is a blend of Rajput and Mughul influences. Half of it is still occupied by the Royal family, and part converted into a museum. The Jagdish Temple (1651) was built by Maharana Jagat Singh. A fine example of the Nagara style of temple architecture. A brass Garuda stands outside and stone elephants flank the entrance steps. Inside is a black stone image of Vishnu as Jagannath, the Lord of the Universe. Sahelion-ki Bari an ornamental pleasure garden specially made for the ladies of the palace in the 18th century. It has beautiful fountains, trees and flowers.

Later enjoy boat ride on Lake Pichola. (Boat ride is subject to water level in the lake)

Overnight at the hotel.

Day10: Udaipur/ Pushkar

By Surface

285 Kms/06 hrs

Morning breakfast at hotel.

After early breakfast drive down to Pushkar. On arrival check-in at hotel.

PUSHKAR- Just 11 km. Northeast of Ajmer is Pushkar, a small town sacred to the Hindus and now a tourist attraction for its annual camel fair, the largest in the world. Many legends have grown over the origin of Pushkar. According to one of them, a lotus slipped out of Lord Brahma's hands and fell on the earth. Water gushed out of the spot where it fell. Thus the lake of Pushkar was created in the Thar Desert. Pushkar is one of the traditional "once in a lifetime" places of pilgrimage. Epics, religious texts, coins and inscriptions bear evidence to the sanctity of Pushkar.

Overnight at hotel.

Day11: Pushkar / Jaipur – By surface

140 Kms/03 hrs

After breakfast leave for Jaipur. On arrival in Jaipur, check in at the hotel.

Morning visit surrounding areas in Pushkar also visit " Brahma Temple " after visiting Pushkar depart by surface for Jaipur.

Jaipur was built in the 18th century by Maharaja Jai Singh II. It is a planned city built with ancient Hindu rules as the colonial capital of a richly colorful state. It was made attractive with the pink wash - a traditional colour of welcome in 1853 in honour of the visit of Prince Albert.

On arrival check in at hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day12: In Jaipur

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, an excursion trip takes you to Amber Fort. En route, make a photo stop at the palace of winds the Hawa Mahal. A 5-storied building with 25cm thick facade from the 18 century having 953 windows and niches so that ladies of royal family could see the processions and events in the city without being visible to the people. Proceed to the Amber Fort situated 130m high with the Aravalli hills around and 11 km north of Jaipur. It was the ancient capital of the Rajputs till 1037.

Afternoon visit the "Pink City" of Jaipur. The City Palace occupies the center of Jaipur. It now houses the Royal residence and museums with collections of textiles and costumes, armoury, manuscripts, paintings etc. Also visit Jantar Mantar (1728-34) by king astrologer Jai Singh II. The instruments are built of stone with marble facing on the important plains for measuring the harmony of the heavens. Each instrument serves a particular function and each gives an accurate reading.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day13: Jaipur / Ranthambore National Park (ca. 140 km / 04 Hr.)

After breakfast leave Jaipur for Ranthambore National Park.

Ranthambore National Park is best known for its population of majestic Royal Bengal Tigers. The tigers of Ranthambore feed on the plentiful herds of deer, including chital (spotted deer), sambhar (large stag), and nilgai (blue bull) and smaller animals like wild boar in the park.

The Tigers of Ranthambore National Park are around 36 in number and their territory extends over the 392 sq Km area of the sanctuary. This wildlife reserve offers the tigers of Ranthambore a safe haven from poachers. Tourists can only shoot the tigers of Ranthambore through the lenses of their cameras now.

Day14: In Ranthamore – Park Safari by Jeep / Canter

Early morning visit to Jungle by canter (Open Truck) to view the wild life.

Return hotel for the breakfast.

Lunch at hotel.

Late afternoon visit to Jungle by canter (Open Truck) to view the wild life.

Dinner and overnight stay at hotel.

Day15: Ranthambore National Park / Fatehpur Sikri / Agra – By surface 265 km/ 06 hr

Morning breakfast at hotel

Depart Ranthambore for Agra, altogether a journey of about 6-7 hours (237 Kms). Enroute visit Fatehpur Sikri. Fatehpur Sikri was built by Emperor Akber in 1569 and abandoned after 15 years due to scarcity of water. Visit the remarkably well-preserved, graceful buildings within the 'Ghost City' including the Jama Masjid, tomb of Salim Chisti, Panch Mahal Palace and other palaces that speak of the grandeur and splendor of the Mughal empire at the height of its power.

After visiting Fatehpur Sikri drive continue to Agra and check-in at Hotel.

Agra stands on the right bank of the river Yamuna, was once the seat of the Mughal rulers, the zenith of art and an enshrined romance. A town famous for its beautiful medieval monuments. The passion of the Mughals for building endowed it with some of the loveliest buildings in the world.

Overnight at Hotel

Day 16: In Agra.

Breakfast at hotel.

After breakfast, visit the Taj Mahal (1631-1653), a poem in white marble, built by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Rabindranath Tagore calls *"a teardrop on the cheek of time"*. *Taj Mahal* means "Crown Palace" and is in fact the most well-preserved and architecturally beautiful tomb in the world. It is best described by the English poet, Sir Edwin Arnold, as *"Not a piece of architecture, as other buildings are, but the proud passions of an emperor's love wrought in living stones."* It is a celebration of woman built in marble and that's the way to appreciate it. As a tribute to a beautiful woman and as a monument for enduring love, the Taj reveals its subtleties when one visits it without being in a hurry. The dome is made of white marble, but the tomb is set against the plain across the river and it is this background that works its magic of colours that, through their reflection, change the view of the Taj. The colours change at different hours of the day and during different seasons. Like a jewel, the Taj sparkles in moonlight when the semi-precious stones inlaid into the white marble on the main mausoleum catch the glow of the moon. The Taj is pinkish in the morning, milky white in the evening and golden when the moon shines. These changes, they say, depict the different moods of woman. **(Taj Mahal remains closed on Friday)**

Also visit the Agra fort, built alongside the Yamuna river stretching almost 2.5 km. The fort's colossal double walls rise 20 m in height and measure 2.5 km in circumference. The fort is surrounded by a moat. The lofty battlements of the Agra fort cast its protective shadow over the far stretching mansions of nobles and princes built along the riverfront. The magnificent towers, bastions and ramparts and majestic gateways symbolized the confidence and power of the third Mughal emperor. The fort contains splendid palaces both in red sandstone and white marble built by two generations of prolific builders, Akbar and later on by Jahangir and Shahjahan. Of the nearly 500 Akbari buildings built in the Bengal and Gujarati traditions, only a few have survived, arrayed in a band on the riverfront.

Overnight at hotel.

Day17: Agra/Delhi By surface

205 kms/ 05 hrs.

Breakfast at hotel.

Morning at Leisure.

Afternoon depart by surface for Delhi, on arrival transfer to a local restaurant for dinner later in time departure transfer from restaurant to International airport to connect flight for onwards destination. **(No accommodation envisaged in Delhi).**

End of Program

All Check in / Check out time 12 noon

Flex – 2009/2010

Based on the above program our best rates would be as follows:

Hotel Envisaged: (Base category room)

City	First Class Hotel	Room Category	Nights
Delhi	Crowne Plaza	Deluxe	02
Mandawa	Sara Vilas	Standard	01
Bikaner	Heritage Resort	Standard	01
Jaisalmer	Gorbandh Palace	Deluxe	02
Jodhpur	The Ummed	Standard	01
Udaipur	Radisson Resort & Spa	Standard	02
Pushkar	Pushkar Resort	Standard	01
Jaipur	Golden Tulip	Standard	02
Agra	Hotel Mansingh Palace	Standard	02

Standard category of rooms are envisaged unless or otherwise specified.

IMPORTANT: Kindly note that names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels and it is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey such confirmation to you. In the event of any of the above mentioned hotels not becoming available we shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement / reduction whatever applicable) to you.

ALL RATES ARE IN INR (Indian Rupees) and per person.

Rates valid from 01 October'2009 to 30 April'2010

(Rates are not valid during Pushkar Festival from 25 October'2009 till 02 November'2009) & from 20 December'2009 till 05 January'2010

No of pax	Rate per person in INR
01 Paying person	INR 112612 Per person
Each 02 paying person	INR 61107 Per person
Each 03 paying person	INR 52784 Per person
Each 04-06 paying person	INR 49212 Per person
Supplement for single Room	INR 26535 Per person
Supplement for Half board (starting from day 02 total 14 Dinner inclusive dinner on last day before departure)	INR 8850 Per person
Supplement for German Speaking accompanied guide from Delhi to Delhi who will not stay in similar hotel	INR 24, 800 (total)

Supplement for Pushkar Period : **25 October'2009 to 02 November'2009.**

Supplement for Pushkar Festival Period at Pushkar (On full board basis) and during this period group will be stay in Deluxe tented accommodation instead of PUSHKAR RESORT. (From 25 October'2009 to 02 November'2009)

Twin sharing	INR 4018 per person per night on full board
Supplement for additional Single	INR 4417 per person per night on full board

Rates valid from 01 May '2010 to 30 September'2010

No of pax	Rate per person in INR
01 Paying person	INR 96211 Per person
Each 02 paying person	INR 52315 Per person
Each 03 paying person	INR 43991 Per person
Each 04-06 paying person	INR 40420 Per person
Supplement for single Room	INR 18926 Per person
Supplement for Half board (starting from day 02 total 14 Dinner inclusive dinner on last day before departure)	INR 8850 Per person
Supplement for German Speaking accompanied guide from Delhi to Delhi who will not stay in similar hotel	INR 24, 800 (total)

MONUMENTS FEES INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM

Delhi	Red Fort, Humayun Tomb and Qutub Minar
Mandawa	Havelis
Bikaner	Junagarh Fort
Jaisalmer	Salim Singh Ki Haveli, Patwon Ki Haveli, Camel ride
Jodhpur	Jaswant Thada, Mehrengarh Fort
Udaipur	City Palace, Sahelion Ki Bari, Boat Cruise
Jaipur	City Palace, Observatory and Amer Fort
Agra	Taj Mahal , Red Fort and Fatehpur Sikri

RATES INCLUDES:**A. HOTEL:**

Accommodation on twin sharing basis for a total of 14 nights. **No accommodation envisaged in Delhi on day 15.**

B. MEALS:

On room plus breakfast basis. **Shall provide dinner at local city restaurant in Delhi on Day 15 before transfer to International airport.**

C. TRANSPORT:

01 – 02 Pax Air-conditioned Medium Car

03 Pax Air-conditioned Innova

04-06 Pax Air-conditioned Tempo Traveller

Meeting and assistance on arrival/departure by representative at the Airport

D. GUIDES:

Services using German failing English speaking local guide. At Mandawa , Bikaner and Jaisalmer we will provide English speaking guide.

E. ENTRANCES FEES:

Entrance fees included as mentioned on program (as per monuments details mentioned above).

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE:

(MANDATORY SUPPLEMENT FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR EVE DINNER WILL CHARGED EXTRA AS PER ACTUAL)

Any airport taxes on departure (if applicable), and items of personal nature such as any table drinks, laundry, telephone calls, tips to bell boy, driver and guide, camera / video-camera fee etc.

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