

# ROYAL RAJASTHAN, INDIA



★ Anglo Indiago Travels (P) Limited ★

## 14 Nights Hotels

Explore the Indus Valley Civilization in the state of Rajasthan which has a history dating back thousands of years. The early medieval period saw the rise of the Mughal Empire. After Indian Independence in 1947, the various princely states of Rajasthan were integrated into India.

We have made this tour specially to explore the fascinating culture, history and discover its revered landmarks. Enjoy a rickshaw ride through old Delhi and discover many highlights of Delhi including the elegant architecture of colonial era.

Explore Rajasthan, the land of warrior Rajputs. You will have chance to visit the abandoned painted house and havelis of rich merchants in Shekhawati, the massive Fort at Bikaner and Jodhpur the blue city. Explore the City Palace complex and take a relaxing cruise on Lake Pichola in Udaipur and mystical sand dunes of the Thar Desert in Jaisalmer. Feel like Maharaja on the back of the elephant going up to visit the massive Amer Fort in Jaipur, the pick city of India.



Experience the mesmerizing beauty of the Taj in Agra city, which was built between 1631–1648 by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the memory of his favourite wife Mumtaz Mahal. Taj Mahal is an immense mausoleum of white marble, a jewel of Muslim art and one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage.

During this tour you will visit the hidden secrets of India, the most fascinating and largest 9th century stepwell built by King Chanda. It has 3,500 narrow steps arranged in perfect symmetry, which descend 20m to the bottom of the well. About 64 feet deep, it is India's largest and deepest stepwells with 13 floors.

## ITINERARY: -

### Day 01: Arrive in Delhi

Upon arrival at Delhi Airport, you will be met by our airport representative who will assist you and your driver will take you to the hotel for night stay. Rest of the day free. Night in Delhi

**Note:** No meals neither early check in is Included on day1. (Normal check in time: 14h)

### Day 02: in Delhi

Breakfast. Full day sightseeing of Delhi with guide. You could include some of the following: Old Delhi, Red Fort from outside, the Jama Masjid Mosque, with a rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk visiting the Spice, Wedding and Silver Markets and then the Birla Temple, Parliament Buildings of Sir Edwin Lutyens, India Gate and Humayun's Tomb.

Start the morning with a visit to Old Delhi. Built in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan this old city is still a dense network of overcrowded homes, markets and endless alleyways dominated by the enormous **Red Fort** (closed on Monday). Go by **cycle rickshaw through Chandni Chowk** (closed on a Sunday) a bustling thoroughfare of shops, craftsmen's workshops, mosques, and temples. Continue onto **Jama Masjid** the largest mosque in India and then to the Red Fort (closed on a Monday) with its imposing appearance and towering entrance. Also visit **Rajghat**, the cremation place of Mahatma Gandhi.



In the afternoon drive south to New Delhi designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens in a combination of western and eastern styles. Proceed up to **Rashtrapati**

**Bhavan** once the Viceroy's abode but now the official residence of the President of India and then across to the eastern end of the Rajpath to the imposing **India Gate**. This war memorial, designed by Lutyens, commemorates the Indian soldiers who died in the First World War, on the Northwest Frontier and in the Afghan War of 1919 and, most recently, in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.

Continue to visit the **Qutub Minar** complex housing an impressive 13<sup>th</sup> Century 72m victory tower, one of the most perfect towers in the world. The tower was built to celebrate Muslim dominance in Delhi after the defeat of Delhi's last Hindu ruler. The first three storeys of the Qutub Minar are made of red sandstone and the last two are made of marble and sandstone.

Night stay in Delhi.

**Day 03: Delhi – Nawalgarh (Shekhawati) (Approx. 6h drive)**

After breakfast leave Delhi towards Nawalgarh for the beginning of your tour of Rajasthan. You will drive to the Shekhawati region, famous for its rich heritage, beautiful architectures full of fresco paintings, painted Havelis and wild peacocks and located in the northeast part of Rajasthan. Also known as the silk route to China, whose inhabitants, rich merchants, lavishly decorated their houses with paintings on religious, historical, folk, and social themes.

In the afternoon visit to the painted Havelis in the surrounding villages of Nawalgarh, Dundlod and Mandawa itself. Night stay in Nawalgarh.

**Day 04: Nawalgarh - Bikaner (Approx., 4h drive)**

After breakfast, drive through the Shekhawati towards Bikaner for one night stay. Your afternoon sightseeing will include a visit to the Junagarh Fort. One of the most interesting forts in Rajasthan, it houses the palaces of the royal family and a splendid museum. If time allows, also worth a visit are the Jain Temples of the brothers Sandeshwar and Bhandeshwar plus the nearby Neminath Sandeshwar Temple. Bikaner retains the medieval grandeur that permeates the city's lifestyle. Night stay in Bikaner.



**Day 05: Bikaner – Pokhran - Jaisalmer (Approx., 6h)**

Half Board. Leave after breakfast for the drive west into the Thar Desert and the walled fortress town of Jaisalmer. This was once a stopping place on the silk route for the caravanserais from China to Saudi Arabia.

☞ On the way stop for lunch at Pokhran Fort, a small Heritage Hotel. Pokhran is a heritage city in the Thar Desert, bounded by five big salt rocks, which means a place of five mirages. The 14 century Fort Pokhran has beautiful architecture and a golden history. The museum has remarkable attire, weapons and pottery belonging to the Rajput period.

In the afternoon we suggest you enjoy sunset at Bada Bagh, which literally means 'Big Garden'. It was commissioned by Maharawal Jait Singh in the early 16th century and completed by his son Lunakaran after his death. The site has three different things to watch, a garden, a tank, and a dam. In the vicinity itself you will find Govardhan Stambh (pillar). This pillar was constructed to commemorate the construction of the Dam and the tank. In the local dialect the Dam and the tank are known as Jait Bandh and the Jait Sar, respectively. It is believed that these are based on the name of the man who constructed them. The Jait Bandh is a dominating structure. It is about 1,200 feet in length and 350 feet in width. If you observe it closely you will notice that this has been built out of solid blocks of stone. The same material has been used for the construction of well as well as the tank. Return to your hotel for night stay.

**Day 06: In Jaisalmer**

After breakfast visit the sandstone havelis (merchant's houses). The most well-known are the Patwon-ki-haveli, Salim Singh-ki-haveli and the Nathmal-ki-haveli. Further interesting sights are the lake, citadels, chhatris (monuments to the Maharajas) Jain Temples, the Fort and of course the bazaars. There are many rooftop restaurants in and around Jaisalmer where you can see the Fort itself, with its 90 turrets fully illuminated at night.



A trip out to the desert is also suggested today. You could leave Jaisalmer late afternoon for the drive out towards the village of Sam. Here you can mount camels for a short camel ride which will take you to the sand dunes at Sunset Point. After sunset return to your hotel for overnight stay in Jaisalmer.



**Day 07: Jaisalmer – Jodhpur (Approx. 6h)**

Morning drive to the blue city of Jodhpur, the second largest city in Rajasthan, Jodhpur stands at the edge of the Thar desert. The city of Jodhpur was founded by Rao Jodhaji in 1459. Right in the middle of the Thar desert rises a fort 120 meters high overlooking the imperial city of Jodhpur. In Jodhpur, the genius of ancient craftsmen comes to life in the exquisite palaces, forts, temples and havelis, or homes, which stand testimony to the imperial grandeur of the erstwhile rulers of the state. The most alluring part of Jodhpur is the traditional lifestyle and festivity, and the smiling people of this former princely state. Check in and rest of the day free. Night in Jodhpur

### Day 08: in Jodhpur

After breakfast visit the magnificent fort palace of Mehrangarh. Perched more than 300 feet above the city, it not only is a fascinating place to visit but affords incredible views over the city, which is painted blue. Continue to visit Jaswant Thada, lies to the left of the Mehrangarh fort complex. It is a royal cenotaph made up of white marble. It was built to commemorate Maharaja Jaswant Singh. Some rare portraits of the former rulers of Jodhpur are also displayed here. You can include also visiting the bazaar and Jodhpur city by foot, which is fascinating.

In the afternoon enjoy a village safari to the Bishnoi Village, the organization started by Rajas and Maharaja's of Jodhpur to show that Indian and foreign guest a glimpse of rich cultural life around their state of Marwar, A True Rajasthan. The Bishnois are one of the different communities of Rajasthan famous for their rich cultural and their true love for nature and animals especially to the deer. Night stay in Jodhpur

### Day 09: Jodhpur – Ranakpur – Udaipur (Approx.: 6h)

Half Board. After breakfast drive to Udaipur, stopping on the way at Ranakpur to visit the Jain Temples. These temples were built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century in a stunning location and set amidst deep forest. Built on 1444 marble pillars, they are some of the finest examples of Jain architecture and not to be missed. Generally, the Jain temples of Ranakpur present a distinct style of their own. The ceilings of the temples are adorned with foliate scrollwork and geometric patterns. The top and bottom part of the domes are joined by Brackets with figures of deities on them.

The most important amongst all the temples within the complex is the Chaumukha Temple, dedicated to the first Jain Tirthankara, Adinath, it is a four faced temple which has a basement of 48000 sq feet. The temple boasts of four subsidiary shrines, 24 pillared halls and 80 domes standing on the support of nearly 400 columns (the total number of columns in the temple complex, however, is much larger, around 1444). Each of the columns is richly carved and



interestingly no two columns present the same design. Moreover, the columns change color from golden to pale blue with the passage of every hour during the day.

☞ Lunch at local restaurant in Ranakpur. **Note:** The restaurants on the way are basic but neat and clean and offer tasty hygienically cooked food.

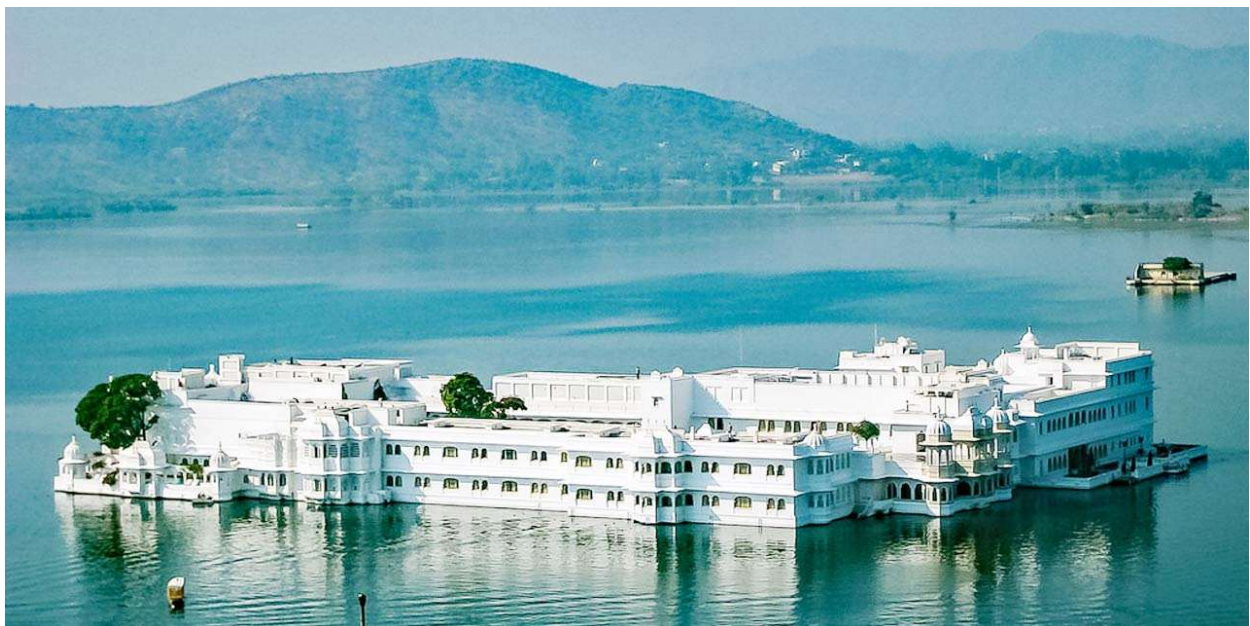
Continue drive to Udaipur, a beautiful city, set amidst the Aravalli Ranges of Rajasthan. Known for its picturesque lakes, Udaipur also called 'the city of lakes'. The elevated hills and the beautiful lakes take a picture-perfect backdrop to the Udaipur city. Udaipur is regarded as one of the most romantic cities of the World and subsequently, also known as the 'Venice of East'.

**Day 10: in Udaipur**

After breakfast, we suggest a morning visit to the City Palace, the Jagdish Temple and the bazaars. Udaipur has many, selling handmade paper books, Indian clothing, and silk saris. The town is famous for its art schools where young boys are taught the art of miniature Moghul painting.

**In the afternoon enjoy a boat ride over the lake Pichola to the Jag Mandir Island.** A visit to Udaipur is incomplete without a boat ride at The Lake Pichola. Enjoy the best scenic view of the lake and city itself during boat ride. The historic 14th century lake made by a local gypsy that was extended in the 16th century by Rana Udai Singh II to establish Udaipur, the city of lakes

**Optional:** After the boat ride if you wish you can enjoy High Tea **(OPTIONAL & NOT INCLUDED)** at the Fateh Prakash Palace with its magnificent views over the lake. Upstairs is the Crystal Gallery which Palace.



**Day 11: Udaipur – Pushkar (Approx 6h drive)**

After breakfast drive the holy village of Pushkar. Pushkar with its lake is one of the holiest Hindu sites in Rajasthan. The lake is surrounded by more than 100 temples which all have ghats “staircases” leading down into the lake. Here the pilgrims perform their daily prayers and rituals, and you are welcome to join in. Pushkar is best seen by foot and for the adventurous there is a climb up to the Savitri Temple or a short camel safari into the dunes to watch the sunset.

Pushkar is also famous for the most popular and colorful fairs of Rajasthan is the Pushkar fair, held on the 11th day of the bright half of the moon in the Hindu month of ‘Kartika’ (October or November)

Night stay in Pushkar.

**Day 12: Pushkar - Jaipur (Approx. 3h drive)**

Today drive north to Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. This is a busy bustling city where the bazaars spill over on to the streets, to mingle with the handcarts, camels, elephants, scooters, rickshaws and tuk-tuks. It is lively and colourful and painted pink!

Jaipur, the highly distinctive planned city of Jaipur, founded in 1727 by Maharaja Jai Singh II, is a colourful capital characterized by fine bazaars, intricately carved palaces and havelis as well as powerful forts. Inheriting the kingdom in a period of instability Maharaja Jai Singh II defeated the Maratha armies of Gujarat and



Maharashtra and successfully forged diplomatic ties with the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb thus achieving the political stability he needed to pursue his scientific and cultural interests.

Jaipur is very much the product of his intellectual talent and with the Brahmin scholar Vidyadhar Bhattacharya he was able to utilize his love of mathematics, science, and astrology to design his city on a distinctive grid based on Hindu representations of the universe which lasts to this day.

Check in at your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Night in Jaipur.

**Day 13: in Jaipur**

Half Board. Breakfast in the hotel. We will start the day by taking photos of an incomparable



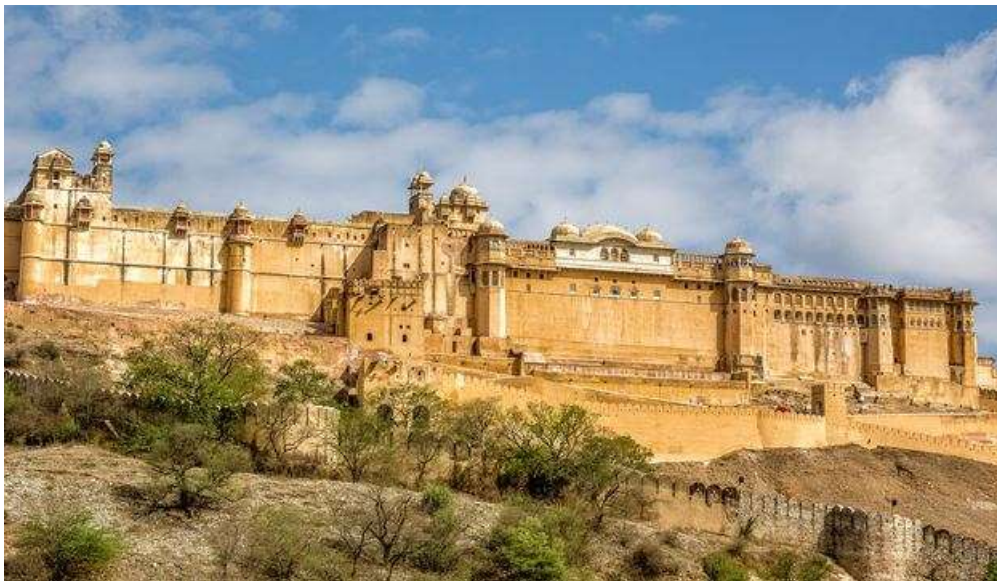
work of art, the famous **Palace of the Winds or Hawa Mahal**, was built in 19<sup>th</sup> century. (only photo stop) It has a majestic pink and white facade. It was built for the ladies of the palace that they could observe the exterior without being seen through. It has

many viewpoints filled with almost a thousand of windows and lattices.

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Then we will approach the **Amber Fort**, one of the greatest jewels of all Rajasthan, with a succession of ramparts, gates and palaces towering over a hill rocky next to a lake. Like the Rajputas, we will arrive at the palace on the back of an elephant to view the beautiful palace with its ornate mosaics, coloured stone inlays, intricately painted murals, palaces, temples & cooling courtyard watercourses.

**Note>** you will go only uphill by elephant but downhill will be by Jeep or walking.



In the afternoon continuing onto the **City Palace** complex that occupies the centre of Jaipur. Painted pink as a mark of welcome, the City Palace was completed in 1732 & houses the intriguing Armory Museum. Further along is the **Jantar Mantar (Observatory)** the largest stone observatory in world.

✚ If time allows enjoy walking tour through the old city to explore the colourful markets & bazaars before. Jaipur is famous as a centre for carpet weaving – silk and wool – and for Jaipur blue pottery, but probably best known for its exquisite gems and jewellery, as well as local art of block printing.

♥ Enjoy dinner with typical Rajasthani dance show at Narayan Niwas Palace or similar.

The show includes different dance performances by talented artists. The dance forms demonstrate the richness of Indian art and culture. It is a simple way to learn Indian classical dance forms but also amuses them with beautiful dance postures. IT IS A MUST!

Night stay in Jaipur.



**Day 14: Jaipur – Abhaneri - Fatehpur Sikri – Agra (6h drive)**

Breakfast. Leave Jaipur after an early breakfast for the drive to Agra, stopping on the way to visit hidden secrets of India, the most fascinating and largest stepwell built by King Chanda somewhere in the 9th century. It has 3,500 narrow steps arranged in perfect symmetry, which descend 20m to the bottom of the well. About 64 feet deep, it is India's largest and deepest stepwells with 13 floors.

Before reaching Agra, we will visit Fatehpur Sikri, the deserted capital city of Emperor Akbar. Visit the beautiful Dargah Mosque, the Buland Darwaza and the tomb of Shaikh Salim Chishti. Also, the palaces of Akbar's women; Jodh Bal Palace for his Hindu mother, Birbal Bhawan for his favourite courtier and Golden House for his Christian wife. Also make a visit to the Karawan Serai which is a courtyard surrounded by hostels used for visiting merchants, the Paanch Mahal, the Treasury, the Diwan-I-Khas and the Diwan-I-Am.



Continue the short drive to Agra for overnight stay. Rest of the day free. Night in Agra.

♥ For shopping lover Agra is famous for marble items inlaid the semi-precious stones and gems.

**Day 15: Visit Agra and Drive Back to Delhi airport. (4h drive)**

Breakfast in the hotel. We would suggest beginning your day visiting **Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays)**, the tomb of Mumtaz, beloved wife of the emperor Shah Jahan and arguably the greatest monument to love, built by Shah Jahan as a memorial to his wife Mumtaz & a building world renowned for its power and beauty. The craftsmanship is outstanding with semi-precious stones inlaid into the marble in beautiful patterns, a process known as pietra dura, whilst the white marble reflects every change in light allowing the Taj to appear to change its hue according to the light & time of day.

Continue to visit the imposing **Agra Fort** on the banks of the River Yamuna which was established by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1565. This powerful imperial fortress dominates the centre of the city & the red sandstone walls enclose a vast area which comprises of palaces, impressive reception rooms and two incredibly beautiful mosques.

After visit Agra drive back to Delhi airport for onward journey...

**Note:** Today, NO hotel booked in Delhi neither at any other city.

End of our services....