

## **INDIA, FAMILY RAJASTHAN ADVENTURE**

Delhi – Jodhpur – Jaisalmer – Ranakpur – Udaipur – Pushkar - Jaipur – Agra  
13 Nights / 14 Days



The colours of its landscapes, the aromas and sounds, and the deep gazes of its people will excite you from your arrival in Delhi. Beyond the chaos and madness of some of its streets, India holds for you a treasure of unforgettable sensations and new learning, travelling through a land full of contrasts on this compact India tour, jam-packed with unforgettable highlights.

The magnificent Taj Mahal, the history of enormous forts, the wealth and splendour of Rajasthan's palaces, the hustle and buzz of markets and bazaars are all things to see and do in Rajasthan.

Explore the splendour and diversity of Rajasthan, a royal state. Rajasthan has never failed to fascinate visitors with its vibrant colours and breath-taking beauty. Invincible forts, marble temples, waves of sand dunes, magnificent palaces, and beautiful lakes are just a few of the reasons to visit Rajasthan once in a lifetime.

## ITINERARY

### Day 01 Arrive Delhi

Upon arrival at Delhi Airport, you will be met by your car with chauffeur for the short transfer to your hotel for night stay. Rest of the day free. Night in Delhi. **Note**> No meals neither early check in is Included on day1. (Standrad Hotel check in 14h)

### Day 02 In Delhi

Breakfast at the hotel. 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 Mondays (DECLARED A WORLD HERITAGE SITE BY UNESCO IN 2007) which you will see from the outside, a huge octagon of colossal proportions.

From Red Fort take a 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. **Note** > Both men and women should not wear sleeveless clothing and must cover their legs and head before entering to the Mosque. In fact, this rule apply to all religious places in India.

Also visit Rajghat, the cremation place of Mahatma Gandhi, known as the father of the Nation. Mahatma Gandhi was one of the leaders of India's independence movement, Gandhi is known for the philosophy of "satyagraha", which fosters combatting violence with non-violent resistance.

[Optional & Not Included > lunch at local restaurant.](#)

After lunch drive south to New Delhi designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens in a combination of western and eastern styles. Photo stop near by The President House, always subject to security protocol. Once it was the Viceroy's abode but now the official residence of

the President of India. Drive through just across to the eastern end of the Rajpath to the imposing India Gate, the war memorial. India Gate was 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.

Last, we will visit the Qutub Minar complex housing an impressive 13<sup>th</sup> Century 72m victory tower, an excellent example of Afghan architecture constructed with marble and red sandstone. Return to your hotel for night stay.

### **Day 03      Fly, Delhi - Jodhpur and drive to Jaisalmer**

After breakfast, transfer at Delhi airport for Jodhpur. Upon arrival at Jodhpur airport, you will be met by your car with chauffeur for the road transfer into the Thar Desert and the walled fortress town of Jaisalmer. (Approx 6h drive) This was once a stopping place on the silk route for the caravanserais from China to Saudi Arabia.

Upon arrival check in at hotel. We suggest you enjoy sunset at Bada Bagh, which literally means 'Big Garden', is located on the Ramgarh road. 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 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. Night stay in Jaisalmer.

### **Day 04      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.



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.

Continue drive to Udaipur for night stay. Check in hotel and rest of the day free. Night stay in Udaipur.

### **Day 08 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.

Udaipur is 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'. In context of Rajasthan, Udaipur is the second most-sought after tourist destination of the state, the first being Jaipur. Udaipur had been the capital of Mewar for centuries.

Afternoon we would suggest an afternoon boat ride over the lake to the Jag Mandir Island, then back for High Tea (**OPTIONAL & NOT INCLUDED**) at the Fateh Prakash Palace with its magnificent views over the lake. Upstairs is the Crystal Gallery which Palace. Overnight stay.

### **Day 09 Udaipur - Pushkar**

Today drive north to the holy site of Pushkar. The journey will take approximately 6 hours. Built around a holy lake it is a place of pilgrimage for Hindus. Here the pilgrims perform their daily prayers and rituals. The lake is surrounded by more than 100 temples which all have Ghats - staircases- leading down into the lake.

Pushkar is best seen by foot and for the adventurous there is a climb up to the Savitri Temple. Night stay in Pushkar.



## **Day 10 Pushkar - Jaipur**

If you wish morning stroll around the Ghats if you wish to witness the pilgrim's doing "puja" at the lakeside. After breakfast, leave for the drive (Aprox 3hrs) 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 at rest of the day free. Night stay in Jaipur.

## **Day 11 In Jaipur**

After breakfast the whole day to sightsee with an English-speaking guide. We will start the day taking photos of an incomparable work of art, the famous Palace of the Winds. It has a majestic facade in pink and white; the ladies of the palace, for whom it was built, could observe the outside without being seen through its many verandas filled with almost a thousand windows and latticework. **Note >** due to traffic rules it will be a quick stop to take the photos of the façade only.

After photo stop, we will approach the Amber Fort Palace, one of the greatest jewels in all of Rajasthan, with a succession of walls, access doors and palaces that rise on a rocky hill located next to a lake. Ascent to Amber Fort on foot or by Jeep. (NO Elephant ride\*\*) \* \* Due to the animal protection law in India and of respect for the animals, we do NOT use the elephant to go up to the fort. However, if still someone wants to ride an Elephant, please let your guide know in the morning when you start your tour. He will do his best to help you, but sometimes the Elephants are NOT available at the last moments. However, payment must be made directly with the Mahout (elephant driver)

[Optional & Not Included > lunch at local restaurant.](#)

We will continue with the Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory with 18 giant precision instruments. We will end with a visit to the City Palace, or the Maharajah's Palace, which is a huge enclosure with numerous courtyards surrounded by various buildings.

If time permits, enjoy walking tour through the old city to explore the colourful markets & bazaars where you can enjoy shopping, both in bazaars and in small local shops. You can find handicrafts from India and the Rajasthan area, handmade rugs, goldsmiths, jewellery, and endless objects that will surprise you. 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. Night stay in Jaipur.

### **Day 12 Jaipur – Abhaneri - Fatehpur Sikri – Agra**

After breakfast, leave Jaipur after an early breakfast for the drive (approx. 6hrs) to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal. On the way we will 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.

**Optional Lunch & Not Included** > If time allows and no other visits are scheduled, you might stop for lunch at Bhaktapur's Laxmi Vilas Palace on the way. A great place to stop for lunch before heading to Agra. It's a lovely area where you can breathe serenity and tranquillity, and your spirit shakes in the presence of so much beauty.

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 Bai 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.

### **Day 13 In Agra**

We suggest visiting the Taj Mahal at dawn, **(Closed on Fridays)** one of the most beautiful, suggestive, and fascinating architectural works in the world, and that never disappoints, no matter how many expectations you might had as it is the most beautiful, perfect, and balanced mausoleum in the world. It combines elements of Islamic, Persian, Indian and even Turkish architecture. 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.

We will have time to walk around and enjoy the whole atmosphere of this monument dedicated to love. We return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast we will visit the Red Fort, built in red sandstone which contains an impressive set of palaces and stately buildings with different architectural styles, 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 very beautiful mosques. The Great Mughals of the Mughal Empire lived and ruled from here.

Continue to visit the mausoleum of Itmad-ud-Daula, one of the most beautiful existing Mughal Tombs, built entirely in marble. The tomb is also famous for the glorious pietra dura (stone inlay) decoration which depicts cypresses, wine glasses and an amazing variety of geometrical arabesque. This magnificent tomb belongs to the era of Jahangir, and it contains cenotaphs of Mirza Ghivas and Asmat Begum, the parents of the powerful Mughal Empress Nurjahan, queen of Jahangir who was an exceptional beauty and an astute administrator. The tomb is significantly built quite departed and aloof from the other Mughal Tombs.

Agra has many markets selling handicrafts, especially copies of the Taj Mahal, a variety of leather goods including shoes, bags, and knick-knacks, brass, stone, embroidered clothing, stonework inlaid with semi-precious stones. Night in Agra.

Afternoon at leisure. If you wish you en experience **(OPTIONAL & NOT INCLUDED)** an Ayurvedic massage. Ayurveda, also known as "The Science of Long Life". It is natural, ecological and exclusively prepared based on medicinal herbs and natural oils.

#### **Day 14 Back to Delhi airport.**

Breakfast and free time on your own. (Official hotels check out: 11h)

In time drive (approx. 4 hrs) back to Delhi airport for onward journey...

End of our services....



## **ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- These are some optional suggestions that are not included and are subject to change at any time. Most places require advance reservations, which are chargeable.
  
- The itinerary can be changed as needed if necessary.
- During your stay, you can have an Ayurvedic massage if you like.
- Yoga and meditation classes are also available.
- For lunch, the superb restaurant 1135 AD at Amer Fort is strongly recommended.
- In Jaipur, you can have lunch or dinner with a local family.
- A mock wedding can be held throughout the tour. (It has no legal significance.)
- You can ride a man-pulled rickshaw through Jaipur's small bazaars.
- In Jaipur, you can have dinner with a traditional Rajasthani dance performance.
- In Agra, you may see Mohabbat the Taj Show.
- In Rajasthan, you can take a Rickshaw or Tuk-Tuk trip.
- The Imperial Hotel in Delhi, The Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, The Oberoi Amarvilas in Agra, or The ITC Mughal in Agra, The Taj Lake Palace hotel or Shiv Niwas Palace in Udaipur, and the Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur all offer high-end dining.

For more information and reservation mail us @

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