



Le Passage
to India

Local experts for

destination
services

Incredible Rajasthan

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INDIA | 12DAYS / 11NIGHTS

Route: Round-trip from and to Delhi

Type of tour: Culture and safari

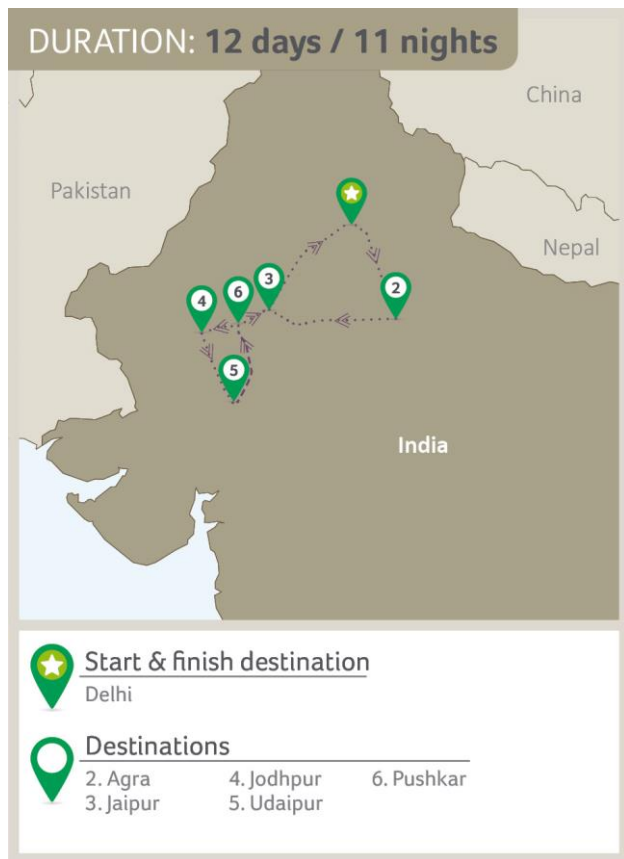
Departure day: Saturday

Validity: 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020

TOUR OVERVIEW

Discover the mysteries of Rajasthan as you travel through big cities to desert areas, see mountains and admire fantastical palaces. Experience Rajasthan's cultural colours and how they intertwine with its royal past and awe-inspiring architectural creations. See the best of Rajasthan over 12 unforgettable days.

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Delhi: Old and New Delhi come to life during visits to the Jama Masjid, Qutab Minar and the grandiose colonial district

Agra: Behold the love poem written in stone that is the Taj Mahal and explore the city's imposing Red Fort

Jaipur: Admire amazing Amber Fort, visit the dazzling City Palace and see the romantic Palace of the Winds

Jodhpur: Enjoy the 'blue city' as you visit Mehrangarh Fort and acquaint yourself with fascinating tales of valour and honour of the royals

Udaipur: Experience the beauty of a rich royal past set in the desert city of many lakes

Pushkar: Explore the rich tapestry of desert life at this desert oasis. End the experience on a high in this holy city

DON'T MISS!

Delhi: Head to the Nizamuddin West area near the India Gate to check out the Sufi Nizamuddin Dargah mausoleum and hear some Quawwali music

Jodhpur: Savour mirchi vada, a spicy street snack, washed down with lassi (sweet buttermilk) while exploring Sadar market by the Ghanta Ghar clock tower

Agra: Hop on a horse-drawn 'tonga' carriage and enjoy a thrilling ride through the city's bustling market

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 | ARRIVAL DELHI

Arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport with meet and greet by a representative followed by transfer to your hotel. In the evening, enjoy a welcome briefing session with the tour manager. Delhi is a bustling metropolis where the past and the present merge, and where the Old and the New cities define the capital's cultural and architectural heritage.

- **Overnight in Delhi hotel on a bed-and-breakfast basis.**

DAY 2 | DELHI

After breakfast, go out on a **sightseeing tour of Old Delhi** seeing the largest monument of Old Delhi, the imposing **Red Fort**, built in red sandstone (photo stop from outside, entrance not included). The walls of the massive Red Fort rise a daunting 33 metres (108 ft) above the bustle of Old Delhi as a reminder of the magnificent power of former emperors. Very near the fort is the 17th-century **Jama Masjid** ('Friday Mosque'), the largest mosque in India. Walk through the famous bazaars of

Chandni Chowk, to experience the hustle and bustle of a crowded oriental bazaar. Also visit **Raj Ghat**, the Mahatma Gandhi memorial, a simple black marble platform that marks the spot of his cremation. In New Delhi, visit the **India Gate**, the memorial of the First World War and the road that leads from there to the **President House**, flanked by the **houses of Parliament**, the Secretariat building, the **Birla Temple** and **Lotus Temple**.

- Overnight in Delhi hotel on a bed-and-breakfast basis.

Optional Akshardham Temple tour (not included): Discover the essence of Hinduism at Akshardham Temple, one of the largest and most intricate places of worship in the country. This religious complex is a look into Delhi's rich cultural past and the best of Hindu culture. Combining several different and contrasting architectural styles of Hindu temple architecture of northern India, this monument is a fusion of pink sandstone and pure white Italian Carrara marble. (Closed on Mondays)

DAY 3 | DELHI – AGRA (210km – 4.5 hrs)

Take to the road after breakfast at the hotel, driving southwards to Agra on the banks of the River Yamuna. Check in on arrival. Agra rose to fame in the 17th century as the capital of the Mughal Empire and was beautified with gardens, waterfalls, bathhouses and canals. In modern times, the city houses a thriving crafts industry, including marble inlay work and carpets. In the afternoon, go out on a **sightseeing tour of Agra** which includes the awe-inspiring **Taj Mahal**. Built in the mid-17th century by the heartbroken Shah Jahan following the death in childbirth of his queen, Mumtaz Mahal, this mausoleum is an eternal love poem written in stone. During the visit, you can admire the intricacy of the work of the 20,000 craftsmen who were brought from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy to build this astonishing monument. (Closed on Fridays)

- Overnight in Agra hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

Optional Agra Fort visit (not included): Visit Agra Fort, whose forbidding red sandstone battlements hide a number of majestic Mughal palaces. Explore the delightful Diwan-i-Am (Hall of Public Audience) where the emperor once sat on his throne to address his subjects, and the Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience) where he hosted kings and foreign dignitaries. The white marble Mina Masjid (Heavenly Mosque) stands in contrast to the rest of the Red Fort.

DAY 4 | AGRA – FATEHPUR SIKRI – JAIPUR (5.5 hrs total by road)

After breakfast at the hotel, depart Agra, heading to Jaipur, arriving in the 'Pink City', as it is popularly known, in the afternoon. Check-in on arrival with the remainder of the day at leisure.

- Overnight in Jaipur hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

Optional Fatehpur Sikri visit (not included): While driving towards Jaipur, make a brief stop at Fatehpur Sikri. To wander the 'ghost city' of Fatehpur Sikri is to go back five centuries in time to the height of the Mughal Empire. This monumental walled city was built by Akbar the Great, the third emperor, to be his capital but it was abandoned within a few years of its completion due to a lack of water. Today, it is a remarkably well-preserved collection of red sandstone palaces, pavilions and mosques. The buildings here present a unique blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural styles, and include the Panch Mahal, the Buland Darwaza and the Dargah of Sheikh Salim Chisti, which speak of the grandeur and splendour of the Mughals.



DAY 5 | JAIPUR

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by a morning tour of **Amber Fort**. Located on a spur overlooking a lake, Amber Fort's robust, time-ravaged walls appear imposing from the outside but they hide an interior packed with beautifully decorated palaces and temples, and landscaped gardens. Be dazzled by the Sheesh Mahal, a room with its four walls and ceiling completely embedded with glittering mirror pieces. Admire the frescoes of the Ganesh Pol gate and the colonnade of the Diwan-i-Aam.

Return to the old city to visit the **City Palace** and the beautiful palaces within such as the Chandra Mahal and Mubarak Mahal and the intricately decorated Peacock Gate. Also of interest is the Armoury Museum, which houses an impressive collection of antique weapons such as blunderbusses, flintlocks, swords, rifles and daggers, which belonged the royals.

Then, make a stop at the spellbinding Hawa Mahal or **Palace of the Winds** (photo stop) and the famous **Johari bazaar** famous for its jewels and saris, the Tripolia bazaar with bronzes, sculptures and lacquerware, the Bapu bazaar renowned for its perfumes and textiles, and Chandpol bazaar for pottery and bracelets.

- Overnight in Jaipur hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

Optional one-way elephant ride at Amber Fort (not included): Enjoy a one-way trip travelling on elephant back to the top of the hill on which the fort is situated.

DAY 6 | JAIPUR – JODHPUR (310km – 6 hrs)

After breakfast, drive to Jodhpur. Upon arrival, check-in at the hotel. **Jodhpur** is the second largest city in Rajasthan and is the gateway to the Thar Desert in the Marwar region. The old city, originally founded in the mid-15th century is familiarly known as the blue city, due to its blue-painted buildings and rooftops, and is surrounded by a 10-kilometre long wall that dates from the 16th century. The massive **Mehrangarh Fort** perched high above overlooks the city and the red sandstone palaces within the fort form one of the most impressive architectural complexes in Rajasthan.

- Overnight in Jodhpur hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

DAY 7 | JODHPUR

After a leisurely breakfast, proceed for **city tour of Jodhpur** starting from the **Mehrangarh Fort**. One of the largest forts in India, Mehrangarh is the pride of Jodhpur. The main palaces that make up the fort are the Moti Mahal, Phool Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Takht Vilas and Jhanki Mahal. The fort's museum displays a rich collection of old royal palanquins, arms, paintings, costumes, and more. There are also a number of galleries and temples inside the fort. Also visit the stunning **Jaswant Thada** a royal cenotaph built in the memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. This white marble memorial is adorned with exquisite carvings and intricate detail. Built like a temple, the Thada is a testament of the skill of the Jodhpuri sculptors.

- Overnight in Jodhpur hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.



DAY 8 | JODHPUR – UDAIPUR (285km – 6.5 hrs)

Check out of the hotel after breakfast and continue the journey driving to Udaipur. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. **Udaipur** was founded in the mid-16th century and became the capital of Mewar. The rulers of Mewar, who belonged to the Sisodia clan of Rajputs, have traced their dynasty back to the year 566. Fiercely independent, they refused matrimonial alliances with the Mughal emperors, and took great pride in their reputation as the prime defenders of Rajput honour. *Visit of Ranakpur Jain temple* often regarded as poetry on marble, this 15th century Jain temple honouring Adinath is a work of architectural genius. The intricate marble carvings boast an enormous degree of skill and delicacy. Another interesting aspect about the temple is its play of shadow and light on the nearly 1,500 pillars, each of which proudly display a different motif.

- Overnight in Udaipur hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

DAY 9 | UDAIPUR

Morning will start with a **sightseeing tour of the city**. Visit the **Jagdish Temple**, a large Hindu temple in the middle of the city. The temple, dedicated to Lord Vishnu, was built in 1651. Then visit **Saheliyon Ki Bari**, the garden of maidens, built in the mid-18th century. Stroll by the pools dotted with elegant kiosks, flowerbeds, lawns, fountains, along with an array of trees that make this garden worth visiting.

Continue to visit **Fateh Sagar Lake**. This artificial lake was originally built around the year 1680. Later, explore the grand **City Palace**, a fusion of mediaeval European and Chinese architecture. This marble monument is situated on the eastern banks of Lake Pichola. The palace's numerous balconies, towers and cupolas provide a fantastic view of the lake and the city below.

- Overnight in Udaipur hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

Optional boat cruise on Lake Pichola (not included): Enjoy a leisurely boat ride on Lake Pichola. With its main attractions being the two palaces on the islands in the lake, Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir, the spectacular views from the lake are sure to impress. Jag Niwas, known as the Lake Palace, was once the summer retreat of the prince of Mewar and is now a five-star hotel.

DAY 10 | UDAIPUR – PUSHKAR (300km – 6.5 hrs)

After breakfast, continue your drive towards Pushkar. Upon arrival, check in at your hotel. The village of **Pushkar** lies on the edge of the Thar Desert and located at its heart is one of India's most sacred lakes, Pushkar Lake. Apart from its religious significance, Pushkar is known for its camel fair held every year in the festival month of Kartik (October and November). Being a religious town, alcohol and non-vegetarian food are taboo. Take an evening walk to admire the beautiful Pushkar Lake and colourful Pushkar market (unguided visit).

- Overnight in Pushkar hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

DAY 11 | PUSHKAR – AJMER – DELHI (by train)

After a leisurely breakfast, take a **sightseeing tour of the city** visiting **temple of Lord Brahma** surrounded by **Pushkar Lake**. Witness the devotees taking a dip into the holy waters and offering prayers on the banks of the lake. Also visit the **Pushkar fair site**, located opposite the Pushkar Lake. Later, transfer to the Ajmer railway station to board the Shatabdi Express for Delhi. Upon arrival at Delhi railway station, transfer to the hotel for check-in.

- Overnight in Delhi hotel on bed-and-breakfast basis.

DAY 12 | DEPARTURE DELHI

At the appropriate time, transfer to Delhi International Airport to board your onward flight.

- Breakfast included.

END OF SERVICES

DEPARTURE DATES (2019 – 2020)

There are guaranteed departures on the dates highlighted below:

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S							
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28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				
JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH							APRIL							MAY							JUN						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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