

SUPERB RAJASTHAN with TAJ MAHAL



Package is for 9 Nights \ 10 Days and it covers Delhi – Agra – Jaipur – Jodhpur – Udaipur. A tourist can enjoy the places of sun city, pink city and lake city of Rajasthan...

Duration: 9 Nights \ 10 Days

Destination Covered: Delhi (2 Nts) – Agra (1 Nt) – Jaipur (2 Nts) – Jodhpur (2 Nts) – Udaipur (2 Nts)

Day 01: Arrival Delhi

Welcome to India - the Land of Dreams & Romance. On arrival at Airport/Railway Station in New Delhi, our local representative will be waiting outside the customs area to welcome you and to take you to your hotel.

Your hotels have been carefully chosen and are ideally located.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Delhi.

Day 02: Delhi

After breakfast, spend a delightful day in Delhi.

Delhi: India's capital & a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis which successfully combines in its fold the ancient & the modern. Its strategic location was one of the prime reasons why successive dynasties chose it as their seat of power. New Delhi also reflects the legacy the British left behind. The division between New & Old Delhi is the distinction between the capitals of the British & the Moghuls respectively. So, wherever the visitor goes, he will invariably confront the city's past.

Sightseeing places:

NEW DELHI

Rashtrapati Bhawan: Visit the Viceroy's House (now the residence of President of India known as Rashtrapati Bhawan) and Lutyen's magnum opus. It is larger than Versailles and architecturally is a fusion of Indian and Western design. Within the courtyard is the 145 feet high Jaipur column, a symbol of victory designed by Luyten. Luyten created masterpiece - the 250 acre Mughal Gardens on the grounds of the Rashtarpati Bhavan, which at one time required the care of 418 men and the great Vice Regal Palace required a staff of 2000.

India Gate: a war memorial arch which Luyten built in honor of 60,000 soldiers who died in World War- I. It is also inscribed with the names of some 13,000 Indian and British soldiers missing presumed dead. Next to it is Luytens last Imperial monument he

built, a stone canopy in which he placed the marble statue of King George V after his death in 1936.

QutubMinar: which is Delhi's Eiffel Tower, its Statue of Liberty and Nelson Column. Visit the mosque, mausoleums and ruins of forts that lie around it including the Iron Pillar which is Delhi's totem pole 24 feet high, made of 99% steel and which has stood for 1600 years without a speck of rust on it.

OLD DELHI

Red Fort: This palace citadel was built Shah Jahan in 1648 and was a veritable city within a city. When Shah Jehan transferred his capital from Agra to Delhi he built the Red Fort as his residential palace as well as his military fortress. The fort is a complex of marble buildings with balconies, filigreed windows, massive red sandstone walls, ramparts and gateways. The most elegant building is the DIWAN-E-KHAS or the Hall of Private Audience.

Jama Masjid: This great mosque, the largest in India, lying opposite the Red Fort, was built by Shah Jahan between 1650 and 1656, as a part of his new city Shahjahanabad. Five thousand workmen are said to have laboured for six years to construct it.

ChandaniChowk: From the Red Fort you will take a cycle rickshaw to ChandniChowk or the Moonlit Square. It is a medieval area in which you will recognize not just Cairo or Istanbul, but also Chester and Heidelberg. This is perhaps one of the Delhi's most populated areas and the largest marketplace - jewelers, spice merchants, food vendors, money lenders, shopping arcades, workshops as well as residences, are crammed here. Within this area is the British built Town Hall, the St. James Church built by Colonel Skinner in the early 19th century, the old St. Stephens College and the office of the state department of Archeology with a colonnaded facade going back to the 19th century when it was the British Residency.

Raj Ghat and Shantivan: North-east to FerozshahKotla, on the banks of the river Yamuna lies Raj Ghat, a simple square platform of black marble, the place where Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, popularly known as Bapu, was cremated on January 31, 1948 following his assassination. The Samadhi is set amidst sprawling lawns. Adjacent to Raj Ghat is Shanti Van or the Grove of Peace, a secluded and wooded place, where Pt. JawaharLal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India was cremated his daughter and the third Indian Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi. The site of her Samadhi is known as Shakti-sthal or the Place of Power. This whole area is a beautiful green stretch full of trees, flowering plants and shrubs.

To Shop In Delhi: Delhi is a shopper's paradise. The most famous bazaars, shopping arcades, emporia and bargain centers, brass and copper ware, brocades and silk, leather goods, perfumes, paintings, sandalwood carvings, etc., include Connaught Place, Janpath, Central Cottage Industries Emporium, State Emporia Complex on Baba Kharak Singh Marg, Kinari Bazaar, Ajmal Khan Market, Hauz khas and Sunder Nagar Market.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Delhi.

Day 03: Delhi - Sikandra - Agra (200 kms)

After breakfast, drive to Agra, by road. Enroute visit **Sikandra**

Sikandra: Built by Akbar himself, and completed by Jahangir in 1613, stands **Akbar's Mausoleum**. It is characterized by a fusion of Hindu and Muslim art and architecture.

Sikandra takes its name after Sultan Sikander Lodi defeated by Babar in 1526 in the battle of Panipat).

Later continue drive to Agra. On arrival check-in to the hotel.

Afternoon visit Agra - The Taj City.

Agra: The royal seat and capital of yesteryears, the city of Mughal might and splendour. Agra derives its name from Agra Vana (a grove) where Krishna used to sport with his female friends in his boyhood and early youth on the banks of Yamuna. Agra's chequered history goes back to times of Mahabharata, but its modern history begins from 1505 when Sultan Sikander Lodi of Afghan Dynasty chose it as his capital city. Sikandrabad, the place where Akbar is buried takes its name after him.

Sightseeing places:

Agra Fort: Emperor Akbar started its construction in 1565 when he was just 23 years of age. Within the fort are several fascinating buildings - the Pearl Mosque built of marble, the Hall of Public Audience where the famous "peacock throne" was kept, the Octagonal Tower, the Jehangir Palace built by Akbar for his son Jehangir and the KhasMahal, a beautiful white marble structure used as a private palace.

TajMahal: It is often described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love. It took 22 years for the TajMahal to be built and in total 20000 people worked on the Taj. Several experts contributed to the designing of the TajMahal such as Frenchman Austin of Bordeaux and the Italian Veroneo of Venice. The TajMahal is amazingly graceful from almost any angle. The semi-precious stones inlaid the marble in beautiful designs through a process called "pietradura".

Note: To visit the Taj is up to your choice (you want to visit at the time of sunset or sunrise, Remember TajMahal is closed on Friday).

To Shop in Agra: If miniature replicas of the TajMahal make perfect souvenirs, it is the fine work on marble that is the speciality of Agra. You can choose from an array of handicrafts items like tabletops, marble items, boxes, elephants and precious and semi-precious stones.

Later you can browse through the markets and enjoy the ambience of Agra city.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Agra.

Day 04: Agra – FatehpurSikri – Bharatpur – Jaipur (235 Kms)

After breakfast drive to Jaipur. En-route visit the Old Deserted Town of **Mughal Dynasty – FatehpurSikri and Bharatpur (The Keoladeo Ghana Sanctuary)**.

FatehpurSikri: Built by Emperor Akbar in 1569, was the old capital of the Moghuls, which was abandoned after 15 years due to scarcity of water. See the graceful buildings including the Jama Masjid, Tomb of SalimChisti, PanchMahal & other Palaces which are still preserved in its original glory.

Bharatpur: Visit The Keoladeo Ghana Sanctuary covering a 52 sq. Kms. Low lying marsh area, is a paradise for bird lovers and nature-enthusiasts, birds found here include grey geese, Siberian cranes, Chinese bar-headed geese and troupes of other migratory winged beauties from Afghanistan, Central Asia, and Tibet. The local birds include pelicans, ibis, egret; painted storks, darters, king fishers, cormorants, purple moor hens and many other water birds.

Later continue drive to Jaipur. On arrival check-in to hotel.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Jaipur.

Day 05: Jaipur

After breakfast, spend an exciting day in Pink City.

Jaipur: This famous city is the capital of Rajasthan and has earned universal renown as the 'Pink City', and pink it is, with beautiful constructed palaces, havelies and forts. Tall, rugged men with handle-bar whiskers sport bright-pink turbans. Jaipur, which means the city of victory, was built exactly 269 years back and is 262 km by road from Delhi. A strong wall encircles the old city and even today has a suggestion of formidable strength, its function of protecting all within is obvious.

Sightseeing Places:

Amber Fort: At a distance of 11 Kms from Jaipur, Amber was the ancient capital of Jaipur state. Construction of the fort began in 1592 by Raja Man Singh, the Rajput commander of Akbar's army and is a superb example of Rajput architecture. **At Amber Fort, Elephant ride from the foothill to the Fort entrance.**

City Palace: The City Palace is a historic landmark. The carved arches are supported by grey-white marble columns studded with floral motifs in gold and coloured stones. Two elephants carved in marble guard the entrance, where retainers whose families have served generations of rulers are at hand to serve as guides. The palace interior houses a Museum containing select collection of various types of Rajasthani dresses, a fascinating amourey of Mughal and Rajput weapons swords of all shapes and sizes, with chased handles, some of them inlaid, enameled, encrusted with jewels and encased in bold and magnificent scabbards. It also has an Art Gallery with a fine collection of paintings, carpets, royal paraphernalia and rare astronomical works in Arabic, Persina, Latin and Sanskrit, acquired by Sawai Jai Singh-II for his study of planets and their movements.

HawaMahal: Also known as The Palace of Winds, was built by the poet-king SawaiPratap Singh, the HawaMahal is the most strikingly designed monument in Jaipur. What is seen from the SirehDeorhi Bazaar is the multined five storey backside of the complex. It was conceived to provide adequate vantage position behind delicate stone-carved jail screens to the palace women for watching the royal processions passing through the bazaar below.

JantarMantar: JantarMantar is one of Jai Singh's five remarkable observatories. Constructed with stone and marble its complex instruments whose setting and shapes are precisely and scientifically designed represent the high-points of Medieval Indian astronomy. The two Ram Yantras used for gauging attitudes are unique in their isolation. This is the largest of five observatories founded by Sawai Jai Singh-II various parts of the country.

Birla Temple: Birla Temple forms one of the major attractions of Jaipur. Birla Temple of Jaipur looks stunning, when it is brightly lit in the night. Birla Mandir, in pure white marble, dominates the skyline of southern part of Jaipur. The enormous temple was built during the year 1988, by Birla Group of Industries, one of the business tycoons of India. The Temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu (Narayan), the preserver and his consort Lakshmi, the Goddess of wealth. Due to this reason, Birla Temple is also known as Laxmi Narayan Temple.

To Shop in Jaipur: Visit the famous Markets of Textiles, Gems, Carpets, and handicrafts. Jaipur is an ideal place for buying souvenirs.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Jaipur.

Day 06: Jaipur – Ajmer/Pushkar – Jodhpur (340 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel and drive to Jodhpur. En-route visit **Pushkar / Ajmer.**

Pushkar: The picturesque township and the sacred lake of Pushkar lie 11 km, from Ajmer. Pushkar is separated from Ajmer by the Nag Pahar (Snake Mountain). This beautiful lake surrounded by bathing ghats has its religious significance rooted in a myth. According to the Padma Purana, Lord Brahma was in search of a suitable place for a Vedic yojna (sacrifice). While contemplating, a lotus fell from his hand on the earth and water sprouted from three places. One of them was Pushkar, and Brahma decided to perform his yojna here.

Ajmer: **The Dargah** In the heart of the city is the tomb of Saint Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chishti, popularly known as Dargah Sharif. The shrine of Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chishti is considered today, a second Mecca/Medina for the Muslims of South Asia.

Later proceed to Jodhpur. On arrival check-in to Hotel.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Jodhpur.

Day 07: Jodhpur

After breakfast, visit the charming Blue City.

Jodhpur: The former capital of Marwar state, was founded in 1459 by Rao Jodha who claimed descent from Lord Rama (the hero of the epic Ramayana). The city was built as a result of warring brothers. Exploring the city promises you a delightful encounter with an array of tempting art and craft creations as also the unusual lifestyle and costumes of Jodhpuris. The roads are wide but crowded with pavement stalls. The women-folk wear wide gathered skirt; slightly shorter than seen in Jaipur and a hip length jackety modestly covering front and back with three-quarter length sleeves brightly coloured and aesthetically designed.

Begin the morning tour with **Village Safari** around Jodhpur. Jeep safaris around Jodhpur countryside are one of the most interesting part of your Jodhpur visit. You visit the Bishnoi villages, the potter house, the weaver house and even other tribals like Raikas, Pitals. You can see these people in their traditional costumes. The houses in old traditional style called Dhanis. While driving around the country side you can see the wild life like chinkaras, blue bulls, even at the time of winter around the lake side you can see the migratory birds which fly all over from Siberia and come to this region. Jeep safaris can be fun because the pace can be varied to suit one's needs

Enjoy a traditional Lunch at village during safari. After lunch drive back to Jodhpur City.

Sightseeing places:

Mehrangarh Fort: Spread over 5 km on a stiff rugged hill and looking down from a height of about 100 metres, the fort appears invincible and impenetrable from outside but houses some of the most intricately adorned palaces with exquisitely carved panels and latticed windows. Moti Mahal. Phool Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Silehkhana and

Daulatkhana are some of the important palaces to visit and view the collection of palanquins, hawdahs, royal cradles miniatures, musical instruments, costumes, colourfulpagaris and furniture.

JaswantThada:A cluster of royal cenotaphs in white marble lies very close to the fort. Built in 1899 in the memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh, the cenotaphs also house portraits of the rulers of Jodhpur. It has extremely rare 15 cm thick milk white marble slabs.

Clock Tower &Sardar Market: A prime attraction of the city, is the Clock Tower and the colourfulSardar Market near it. Narrow alleys lead to quaint bazaars selling fresh vegetables, spices, textiles, antiques, silverware and handicrafts.

To Shop in Jodhpur: A Shopper's paradise, Jodhpur boasts of array of handicraft items. The internationally known Jodhpur breeches, locally called Jodhpur's, are a favourite buy. Besides, you can go for embroidered leather shoes, knowm as JodhpuriJutis, Bed covers, cusion covers, old textiles, silver jewelry & most important while your tour to villages you can buy Durries directly from the weavers.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Jodhpur.

Day 08: Jodhpur - Ranakpur - Udaipur (270 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from hotel and drive to Udaipur. En-route visit Ranakpur.

Ranakpur:Ranakpur is one of the five holy center of the Jain community. In a quiet and picturesque glen which runs into the western slopes of the Aravalli hills is a remarkable complex of Jain temples of Ranakpur; one of the five main holy places of the Jain sect. Though over 500 years old, the temples here are superbly preserved in a near-perfect condition. In the centre is the main temple dedicated to TirthankaraRishabdeo with a chaumukha or four-faced shrine dedicated to Adinath. The most distinctive features are the 29 halls of the temple, which contain 1444 pillars of which no two are exactly alike.

Later continue drive to Udaipur. On arrival check-in at hotel.

Overnight stay at hotel in Udaipur.

Day 09: Udaipur

After breakfast, visit the Romantic Lake city.

Udaipur: Is often called the "Venice of the East" and the most romantic city in the state of Rajasthan. Udaipur nestles like a gem in a valley surrounded by green hills, reflected smooth and white in the clear blue waters of Lake Pichola. Visit the city Palace which once was the home of the Mewar rulers. Most of the Palace is converted into a museum and a luxurious hotel. Wander through the markets and bazaars to get a feel of the city.

Sightseeing places:

City Palace: Completely white and majestic, the city Palace stands on a hill surrounded by crenellated walls, its main entrance is through the triple arched gate, the Tripolia, built in 1725. There is SurajGokhada, the Balcony of the Sun, where the SuryavanshiMaharanas of Mewar presented themselves in time of trouble to the people to restore their confidence. The More Chowk or the Peacock Courtyard, gets its name from the vivid mosaics in glass which decorate its walls. The ChiniChittrashala is noteworthy for its blue and white ceramics.

Jagdish Temple: Built 1651 A.D. BY MaharanaJagat Singh I with imposing sculptured figures. It is the largest and most splendid temple in Udaipur.

Bharatiya Lok Kala Museum: This Indian folk arts museum displays a rich collection of folk dresses, ornaments, puppets, masks, dolls, folk musical instruments, folk deities and paintings.

Saheliyon-Ki-Bari: This garden of the maids of honour, brings to the fore the unique life-style of the royal ladies who once strolled in these gardens. This spectacular garden has numerous fountains in four pools embellished with delicately chiseled kiosks and elephants.

Pratap Memorial: Erected in the memory of Maharana Pratap at Moti Magari or Pearl Hillock overlooking Fateh Sagar Lake. A bronze statue of Maharana Pratap is placed on the top of this hill.

Evening enjoy **Boat Ride at Lake Pichola.**

Lake Pichola: The legendary lake the entranced Maharana Udai Singh. It is surrounded by hills, palaces, temples, bathing ghats and embankments. Set splendidly in the lake are two inland palaces, Jag Mandir and Jag Niwas (Lake Palace).

To Shop in Udaipur: Udaipur is an ideal place for shopper's hunters. Items, including folk toys, shimmering tie-and-dye sarees and garments, hand painted textiles, silver jewellery, wall hangings and wall paintings are strongly recommended. The terracotta images of various gods and goddesses made in Mollela village near Nathadwara are also available in Udaipur.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Udaipur.

Day 10: Udaipur

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel.

Transfer to the Udaipur Airport/Railway Station to board the scheduled flight/train for further destination.

It's time to say goodbye to all the new friends you have made. We hope you take back many happy memories of your Tour.

Note: If client is flying back to Delhi/Mumbai, we can provide air tickets and transport for pickup & drop from Domestic Airport to International Airport OR Hotel, on extra applicable charges.