

RAJASTHAN WILDLIFE with AGRA



The package includes Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and wild life sancturies at Sariska, Ranthambore and Bharatpur..

Duration: 8 Nights \ 9 Days

Destination Covered: Delhi (2 Nts) – Sariska (1 Nt) – Jaipur (2 Nts) – Ranthambore (1 Nt) – Bharatpur (1 Nt) – Agra (1 Nt) – Delhi (Drop)

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, HauzKhas and Sunder Nagar Market.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Delhi.

Day 03: Delhi – Sariska (190 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from hotel and drive to Sariska. On arrival check-in to hotel at Sariska.

Sariska National Park: Nestling in a picturesque valley of the Aravallis a forest comes to life. It pulses a beat of its own. The nature's rhythm reveals wildlife in its own natural

habitat. This sanctuary established in 1955, offers an exceptional opportunity to see a variety of animals at a close range. There are tiger, nilgai (blue bull), sambhar, cheetal, four-horned antelope and wild bear. The thick forests here are the dry deciduous type and cover an area of 480 sq. kms. There is a spectacular palace here built by Maharaja Jai Singh in honour of the Duke of Edinburgh when he visited the sanctuary, recently converted into a hotel.

Evening at leisure.

Overnight stay at hotel in Sariska.

Day 04: Sariska – Jaipur (100 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel and drive to Jaipur.

On arrival check-in to the hotel at Jaipur.

Evening visit **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 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 multiniched 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.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Jaipur.

Day 06: Jaipur – Ranthambore (160 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel and drive to Ranthambore. On arrival check-in at hotel/tent.

Ranthambore National Park: The park is one of the finest tiger reserves in the country under the Project Tiger, Ranthambore sanctuary has a large number of sambhar, cheetal, nilgai, chinkara, langur, wild boar and peafowl. A system of three pretty artificial lakes PadamTalab, Rajbagh and MilakTalab along with a number of anicuts are part of the biosphere. The local fauna of the park includes leopard, hyena, jackal, Jungle cat, Sloth bear and a little population of pythons,

Overnight stay at hotel/tent in Ranthambore.

Day 07: Ranthambore – Bharatpur (245 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel and drive to Bharatpur (**The Keoladeo Ghana Sanctuary**). On arrival check-in at hotel.

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.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Bharatpur.

Day 08: Bharatpur – FatehpurSikri – Agra (55 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from the hotel and drive to Agra. En-route visit the Old Deserted Town of **Mughal Dynasty – FathepurSikri**.

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 Salim Chisti, Panch Mahal & other Palaces which are still preserved in its original glory.

Continue drive to Agra. On arrival, check-in at hotel.

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 Khas Mahal, a beautiful white marble structure used as a private palace.

Taj Mahal: It is often described as the most extravagant monument ever built for love. It took 22 years for the Taj Mahal to be built and in total 20,000 people worked on the Taj. Several experts contributed to the designing of the Taj Mahal such as Frenchman Austin of Bordeaux and the Italian Veroneo of Venice. The Taj Mahal is amazingly graceful from almost any angle. The semi-precious stones inlaid in the marble in beautiful designs are through a process called "pietra dura".

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

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

Overnight stay at hotel in Agra.

Day 09: Agra - Delhi (200 kms)

After breakfast, check-out from hotel and drive to Delhi. (Depending on your flight/train timing, you will be taken to airport/railway station for your flight/train)

Transfer to the Delhi Airport/Railway Station to board the scheduled flight/train back home.

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.