

Essence of Rajasthan

Tour My India Itinerary

2009-2010

Outline Itinerary

Day 01 Arrive Delhi

Day 02 Delhi

Day 03 Delhi – Mandawa

Day 04 Mandawa – Bikaner

Day 05 Bikaner – Jaisalmer

Day 06 Jaisalmer

Day 07 Jaisalmer – Jodhpur

Day 08 Jodhpur – Udaipur

Day 09 Udaipur

Day 10 Udaipur – Pushkar

Day 11 Pushkar – Jaipur

Day 12 Jaipur

Day 13 Jaipur – Agra

Day 14 Agra – Delhi

Day 15 Delhi – Departure



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Introduction

Rajasthan is a lively, exotic state where custom and royal glory meets within the riot of colors touching the gigantic backdrop of sand and desert. The state has an unusual diversity in its entire forms people, customs, culture, costumes, music, manners, dialects, cuisine and physiographic. The land is endowed with invincible forts, magnificent palace havelis, rich culture and heritage, beauty and natural resources. The land is affluent in music, dance, art & craft and adventure, and never ceases to intrigue & enchant. There is a haunting air of romance about the state, which is palpable in its every corner. This abode of kings is one of the most exotic locales for tourist world over. The state has not only survived in all its ethnicity but owes its charisma and color to its enduring traditional way of life. A visit to this amazing land will leave a lasting charm on your mind.

Day 01**Arrive Delhi**

Meet on arrival at Airport and transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 02**Delhi**

Today we take you a guided tour of Old Delhi, the 17th century walled city of Shah Jahanabad, and visit the great Jama Masjid, the principal mosque of Old Delhi. Built in the year 1656 AD by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, it is the largest & best known mosque in India. Later we walk down or take a rickshaw ride through Chandi Chowk, the old marketplace of Shah Jahanabad now a picturesque bazaar to reach Red Fort, built in the year 1648 by Shah Jehan.

In New Delhi, we visit Raj Ghat, memorial to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. It is a simple black marble platform that marks the spot of his cremation on 31 January 1948. Further we drive past India Gate, memorial built in the year 1931 to commemorate the Indian soldiers who died in the World War I & the Afghan Wars. The names of the soldiers who died in these wars are inscribed on the walls. President's House, the official residence of the President of India, built in the year 1931. Until 1950 it was known as Viceroy's House & served as the residence of the Governor-General of British India. We will also visit Humayun's Tomb, memorial of Mughal Emperor Humayun, built in the year 1562.

The complex is a World Heritage Site & the first example of this type of Mughal architecture in India. Qutub Minar, built in the year 1206 by Qutub-ud-din Aibek. It is the

tallest (72m) brick minaret in the world, an important example of Indo- Islamic Architecture. Qutub Minar & its monuments are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Optional - Sound & Light Show at Red Fort with dinner at Chor Bizarre. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 03**Delhi - Mandawa**

After breakfast drive to Mandawa, en-route visit to Jhunjhunu, on arrival in Mandawa transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

In the heart of the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan there is a beautiful small town Mandawa, known throughout the state for its forts and havelis. Mandawa is situated in the north Indian state of Rajasthan around 190 km off Jaipur, the capital of the state. The fort town of Mandawa is well connected with the other places in region through a good network of roads.

Like most of the other places in north India, Mandawa too has an extreme climate. The summers can be very hot with the mercury touching 40.5°C, whereas winters can be chilly and the temperature can fall below 10°C. The best season to visit this place is winter i.e. October to March. The compact and busy little market town of Mandawa was settled and fortified in 18th century by the dominant merchant families of the region. Despite the time lapse and ignorance about these visual and architectural extravaganzas, their attraction did not fade and today they are one of the major attractions for the tourists visiting Rajasthan.

Day 04**Mandawa - Bikaner**

After breakfast enjoy walking tour of Mandawa Village, thereafter drive to Bikaner, on arrival transfer to Hotel have your leisure time. Overnight stay at Hotel.

The royal walled medieval city dating back to 1486 AD lies on the northern point of the triangle of desert cities. It was established by Prince Bika Rathore and came to be called Bikaner after him. Bika was the eldest son of the founder of the Jodhpur State – Rao Jodha. Bikaner was well protected from its enemies by the harsh deserts. Bikaner was also a major trade center as it stood on the ancient caravan route, which linked Central Asia and North India with Gujarat seaports. It was thereafter a great center of trade in the ancient world.

Bikaner stands on a slightly raised ground and is circumscribed by a seven km long embattled wall with five gates. The magnificent forts and palaces, created with delicacy in reddish-pink sandstone, bear testimony to its rich historical and architectural legacy. Undulating lanes, colorful bazaars and bright and cheerful folks make Bikaner an interesting place.

Day 05

Bikaner - Jaisalmer

After breakfast have morning tour of Bikaner where you will visit Bikaner Fort, Lalgarh Palace and Deshnok Temple. Afternoon drive to Jaisalmer, en-route visit to Pokhran Fort, on arrival in Jaisalmer check in at Hotel, evening at Leisure. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 06

Jaisalmer

After breakfast full day city tour of Jaisalmer city. Visit The Fort, Manak Chowk and Havelies, Gadisar lake, and colorful market. Afternoon excursion to Sam Sand Dunes, evening camel safari and enjoy sun set at sand dune, later drive back to Jaisalmer and transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Jaisalmer town in India was founded by Prince Jaisal Bhatti. It is located deep in the heart of the Thar Desert. Centuries ago Jaisalmer's strategic position on the camel train routes brought its townspeople enormous wealth that they spent on building intricately carved palaces and temples in golden-yellow sandstone. These fortresses of Jaisalmer called as "Havelis of Jaisalmer" are like a mirage from the barren Thar Desert. On either side of the narrow lanes are the sandstone havelis, with stone carvings, screen windows, delicate pavilions & balconies. These beautiful Havelis (mansions) were built by Jaisalmer's wealthy merchants.

Day 07

Jaisalmer - Jodhpur

After breakfast drive to Jodhpur, en-route visit Mandore, on arrival in Jodhpur transfer to Hotel, evening at leisure. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Jodhpur was once the capital of the strong and powerful kingdom of Marwar, Rajasthan's largest princely state. In medieval times, Jodhpur lay on the trade routes between Central Asia and the ports of Gujarat, and became a major trade centre during the 16th century. Modern day Jodhpur with a population of over six hundred thousand, is the second largest city in the state of Rajasthan and continues to be a thriving centre for textiles and crafts.

Day 08**Jodhpur - Udaipur**

After breakfast city tour of Jodhpur, visit Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada, Umaid Bhawan palace. In the afternoon drive to Udaipur. On arrival check in at the hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 09**Udaipur**

Enjoy the experience of morning boat ride at Lake Pichola thereafter visit City Palace, Jagdish Temple, Museum, Saheliyon ki Bari (Gardens of the maids of Honor). In evening transfer to hotel and have overnight stay.

Udaipur is situated 190 feet about the sea level in the Aravali Hills. This beautiful city was founded by Maharaja Udai Singh in 1559 AD and is named after him. It is one of the most romantic cities in Rajasthan and also known as the city of lakes. The marble palaces, beautifully laid out gardens and the lakes make Udaipur seem almost like a mirage in the desert.

Day 10**Udaipur - Pushkar**

After breakfast drive to Pushkar, en-route visit to Elkingi (Temple complex), Nagda (Group of Jain Temples), on arrival in Pushkar transfer to Hotel. Overnight at Hotel.

Pushkar is a town of Rajasthan in India and well known as a Hindu religious center. It even has various sacred temples. Pushkar is located on the shores of Pushkar Lake and has five main temples along with other small temples and almost 52 ghats. Pushkar is at an elevation of 1673 feet approximately. Reaching Pushkar is easy as the town has good connectivity of roads and the nearest airport is Sanganer Airport of Jaipur. The closest railway station is at Ajmer. October to March is the best time to visit Pushkar as the weather remains comparatively cooler at this time of the year.

Day 11**Pushkar - Jaipur**

Morning free to explore Temples, Ghats, afternoon visit Ajmer (Tomb of a Sufi saint), thereafter drive to Jaipur, on arrival in Jaipur transfer to Hotel. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 12**Jaipur**

After breakfast excursion of Amer Fort ascend Fort on Elephants back, afternoon tour of city visiting City Palace, Jantar Mantar (observatory), Palace of Winds, Birla temple. In evening transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh in 1728 A.D. It is also called Pink City because most houses in old city are pink colored. The city is surrounded by thick wall 20 feet high and 9 feet wide with eight gates. Ajmeri gate and the Sanganeri gate in the south, Chand Pole gate in west and the Ghat Darwaja in the east are the main gates. The city is surrounded by the hills except in the southwest. Fort and the temples can be seen on the hills.

Day 13**Jaipur - Agra**

After breakfast drive to Agra en-route visit Fatehpur Sikri, on arrival in Agra transfer to Hotel. In the evening visit Taj Mahal at Sunset. Overnight stay at hotel.

Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the world - The Taj Mahal. The architectural splendour of the Moslems, the fort and the palaces is a vivid reminder of the opulence of the legendary Mughal empire, of which Agra was the capital in the 16th and early 17th centuries. While its significance as a political center ended with the transfer of the capital to Delhi in 1634 by Shah Jaha, its architectural wealth has secured its place on the international map.

Agra was founded by Raja Badal Singh around 1475 A.D. However the mention of Agraban in the Mahabharata suggests that it has been the sister of Matura, an ancient city in the vicinity, from a very early period. Sikandar Lodi made this place his capital when the Lodis ruled North India. But according to an ancient legend, the name of Agra is derived from Agra vans of the twelve groves of Brijmandala, where teenager Lord Krishna is said to have sported with his companions. Situated on the banks of Yamuna, this town was chosen by the emperor Babar as a base for the Mughals.

Day 14**Agra - Delhi**

Morning visit Red Fort, Itmad-Ud-Daulah Tomb, Sikandra. Later in the evening drive to Delhi. On arrival check in at the hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 15**Delhi - Departure**

Transfer to the International airport to board the flight for onward destination.

The Above Quote Includes

- ✓ Accommodation on double sharing basis
- ✓ Daily Breakfast
- ✓ English Speaking guide for Golden Triangle only.
- ✓ All the Transfers with English speaking representative
- ✓ A/c car for entire tour
- ✓ Services of English speaking driver
- ✓ 01 Elephant ride at Amber fort
- ✓ Toll Taxes and Parking
- ✓ Road Taxes
- ✓ Fuel expenses
- ✓ All the applicable taxes

The Above Quote does not Includes

- ✓ Monument / entry fees, (Supplement is given separately)
- ✓ Laundry/Tips/Alcoholic drinks/mineral water.
- ✓ Any airfare/monument fees/ meals other then mentioned any other expenses not mentioned above

Weather

Located in Western India, Rajasthan is the largest state that borders Pakistan to the west, Gujarat to the southwest, Madhya Pradesh to the southeast, Punjab to the north, and Uttar Pradesh and Haryana to the northeast.

Rajasthan has changing climate like its varying topography. The Aravalli Range cradles Mount Abu, the sole hill station of Rajasthan. The mountain range, the eastern fertile plains, the western arid plains, experiences different climatic conditions. The state covers most of the area of Thar Desert with one edge paralleling the Sutlej -- Indus river valley.

However, the climate of Rajasthan can be divided into four seasons, namely summers, winters, monsoon and post-monsoon. Read on to further explore Rajasthan Climatic Conditions:

Summer

The hottest season of Rajasthan, summer, extends from April to June. The temperature in this season ranges from 32° C to 45° C. The only place in Rajasthan that is a little cool in summers is the hill station, Mt Abu. However, the nights in Rajasthan are pretty cool, with the night temperature falling considerably.

Winters

Extending from December to March is the winter season. The coldest month of the season is January. The temperature ranges from 10° C to 27° C. However, there may be considerable difference in the maximum and minimum temperatures.

Food & Accommodation

Only breakfast is included you can see the supplement given separately for meals in rest of the places.

Extra Expenses

Please note that meals (Lunch + Dinner) are not included in the above cost, international air tickets , Tips, drinks, laundry and souvenirs.

Entry Requirements

- 1- All Australian passport holders and most of the other nationalities require a visa for India, which is obtainable in advance from your nearest embassy.
- 2- No vaccinations are mandatory for entry, but as recommended in our brochure we think it is wise to be protected against TB, polio, typhoid, tetanus and hepatitis A and take malaria prophylactics.
- 3- Above all, it is essential to consult your GP about your individual requirements as soon as possible before travelling.

Extensions

All our tours can be extended by visits to other areas in India. We will be glad to discuss options with you and provide quotations as required