



# Enchanting Rajasthan



high places  
TAILOR-MADE  
ADVENTURES



Fairly Easy

## TOUR INFORMATION

**ACTIVITY:** DISCOVERY

**TOUR DURATION:** 16 DAYS

**MIN AGE FOR TRIPS:** 14+

## INCLUSIONS

- 12 NIGHTS HOTEL
- 3 NIGHTS CAMPING
- 16 BREAKFASTS, 12 DINNERS, 3 LUNCHESES
- FULLY SUPPORTED CAMEL SAFARI

*This information should answer some of your questions about the trip and give you a better idea of what we do day-to-day. It doesn't hope to answer everything. If you have any questions please get in touch.*

## Trip Highlights

- Trek through the Thar Desert on a camel
- Visit medieval forts & magnificent palaces
- Meet locals and stroll through colorful markets
- Magnificent Taj Mahal at sunset

## India

India is a unique place to travel around and see its beautiful sights. Rajasthan is often referred to as the land of Maharajas. It has got vast area of sand dunes, medieval forts, magnificent palaces and colorful markets. This trip gives you firsthand experience of the Grandeur of the Royal extravaganza. That's not all, we experience Starry nights in the tent during the camel trek through the Thar Desert.

## Itinerary

This itinerary will always need to remain flexible and may change due to weather conditions, the pace of the group or other unforeseen circumstances. Times and distances are approximate. **(B,L,D)** refers to meals included in the trip cost: **breakfast, lunch, dinner.**

**This trip is 16 days ex- DELHI. The first and last days refer to the days of arrival in and departure from DELHI, and may not be the days you leave or return home.**

### Day 1 - Arrive Delhi.

Hotel

### Day 2 - Delhi

Delhi, the capital of India blends together a great cultural variety and an unceasing range of activity. In its monuments the city reminds us of the various civilizations that flourished here for more than three thousand years. Indraprastha, according to legends, the city founded by the Pandavas in the times of the epic Mahabharata (circa 1500 B.C.), was located near the Old Fort that stands on a large mound overlooking the river. Today, the city is a charming blend of the traditional and modern, skyscrapers, beautiful gardens and wide tree-lined avenues perpetuate the Mughal passion of landscaping and architectural excellence.

We have a half-day city tour on foot / in a rickshaw around Old Delhi. In the afternoon we drive to Mandawa (180 kms / 4 Hours Drive). **(B/D)**

### Day 3 - Mandawa

Mandawa, also known as Shekhawati, is the open air Art Gallery of Rajasthan. The town of Mandawa came into existence in the 18<sup>th</sup> century when powerful & wealthy merchants built a number of luxurious residences known as havelies and decorated the walls and interiors with beautiful murals. In time the merchants migrated to other cities but the havelies still exist, although they are a shadow of what they used to be. This morning we visit some of the best havelies and then drive to Bikaner (190 Kms / 4 hours ). We are now in the middle of the Thar Desert. Of particular interest are the mighty

Junagarh Fort and a camel breeding farm. **(B/D)**



**Day 4-6 - After visiting the Karni Mata Rat Temple and driving up Nokhra (70 km / 2 hours)**

After visiting the Karni Mata Rat Temple and driving up Nokhra (70 km / 2 hours), we begin our camel trek through the Thar desert. Our Cameleers will introduce you to the animals and demonstrate the correct use of the bridle. Now we ride up to 15 miles in comfortably upholstered camel saddles for about 5 hours over the dunes of the Thar Desert, enjoying the pristine panoramas. Men with turbans come; women in brightly coloured dresses, proud desert people display touchingly warm friendliness. Three nights are spent in tents under the stars in the silence of the desert. The camel trekking ends at Jamba, on the seventh day. **(B/L/D)**

**Day 7 - Drive to Jaisalmer**

We say goodbye to our desert companions and drive to Jaisalmer (195 km / 4 hrs). **(B/D)**

**Day 8 - Jaisalmer**

Jaisalmer is still like a backdrop for the "Tales of 1001 Arabian Nights." The caravan city became rich through trade in gold and opium. The Jain Temple and the facades of old havelis display magnificent stone carvings. There is also the impressive Jaisalmer fortress and palace perched on the Mahawaral. Today we will visit the fort, havelies & local market. **(B/D)**

**Day 9 - We drive to Jodhpur (245 km / 5 hours)**

We drive to Jodhpur (245 km / 5 hours); we visit the Mehrangarh fortress perched on a hill with breathtaking views over the city. Jodhpur, also known as the Blue City, is famous for its many forts and palaces. The Old City is surrounded by about 10 km of walls with 7 gates and yet is small enough to

walk around. Its winding streets are still the preserve of intriguing bazaars and ancient colorful houses. A stroll through the fragrant Spice Market is a highlight. **(B/D)**



#### **Day 10 - Drive to Pushkar (190 kms / 4 hrs)**

We drive to Pushkar (190 Kms / 4 Hrs); In the afternoon we visit the Holy Lake. Pushkar is a sacred town for Hindus. The legend of the Creator God, Bramha describes the creation of this lake. When the demon Vajra Nabha killed Brahma's children, he in turn struck the demon with his weapon, a lotus flower. Vajra Nabha was killed by the blow and the petals of the lotus fell at three places. One of them is Pushkar, where the lake sprung into being. **(B/D)**

#### **Day 11**

We start the day with a one hour trek to the Savitri Temple overlooking the lake. In the afternoon we visit the temple and the local market. If you have opted for Pushkar Festival departure, we will also experience the bustle of this colorful nomadic festival. **(B/D)**

#### **Day 12 - Drive to jaipur**

We drive to Jaipur: The capital of Rajasthan is also known as the "Pink City" and is one of the most attractive and colorful cities in India. The afternoon is free for exploration. **(B/D)**

#### **DAY 13**

Today we continue to explore the ancient city of Jaipur with a visit to the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds). We then visit the Amber Fort-Palace, set in a picturesque location 7 miles away from Jaipur presenting a fascinating blend of Hindu and Muslim architecture). **(B/D)**

#### **Day 14 - Leave for Agra (255 km / 5 hours)**

We En route we visit Fatehpur Sikri. This fascinating deserted city was founded in 1569 by Emperor Akbar

as a residence, but soon abandoned when his enemies cut off the water supply. **(B/D)**

### Day 15 - Visit Taj Mahal

A morning visit to the Taj Mahal & Agra Fort, then drive to Delhi (205 km / 5 hours). The Taj Mahal, which means "Crown Palace" is a dream of white marble, built by Emperor Shahjehan in 1630 for his beloved wife Mumtaz. It is in fact probably the most well-preserved and architecturally beautiful tomb in the world. Less than 2 kilometers from the Taj Mahal, is the impressive Agra Fort. The fort is built alongside the Yamuna river and stretches for almost 2.5 km. It consists of a massive red sandstone wall with several buildings inside. The wall has 2 gates, the Delhi Gate and the Amar Singh Gate.

**(B/D)**



### Day 16

Transfer to Airport. **(B)**

## Accommodation

We stay in a range of Hotels from Standard to Comfortable.

## Language

The national language is Hindi. Some locals will speak enough English for simple conversations, but many will not.

## Climate

Post monsoon weather in October to March is typically cool and dry. It is warm enough during the day for light clothing but can be drop around 5 degrees at night. In March/April/May it is warmer during the day. May to September is generally monsoon time.

## Indian Visas

A full passport is required to apply for the Indian visa, with a validity of at least 6 months beyond the intended duration of stay in the country. It is the client's responsibility to complete all the application procedures and obtain their visas before the intended date of departure. A simplified facility of applying for an eVisa is now available to British passport holders, this will entitle the applicants to a 60 day tourist visa, for more details please log on to the official website of Indian Government <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/> Alternatively UK passport holders can apply themselves for Indian Visa through India High Commissions Visa service VFS by logging on to <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/>. Current visa fee for British passport holders

