

Delhi \* Agra \* Jaipur \* Pushkar \* Udaipur \* Jodhpur \* Jaisalmer \* Bikaner \* Mandawa \*  
Delhi \*

### DETAILED ITINERARY

#### **DAY - 01      Arrive Delhi                      By: International Flight**

Today you will arrive at Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, a representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVALS TERMINAL building and transfer you to your hotel.

India's capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary **Delhi** is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds - the ancient with the modern. Amidst the fast spiraling skyscrapers the remnants of a bygone time in the form of its many monuments stand as silent reminders to the region's ancient legacy. The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.

#### **Overnight stay at the Hotel**

#### **DAY - 02                      Delhi**

After buffet breakfast in the hotel, Proceed for full day sightseeing tour of Delhi and Old Delhi



Tour starts with visit to Old Delhi - Old Delhi is a world all in its own. As you meander through the bustling streets of this Mughal nerve-centre of old, is difficult to imagine that way back in 1648, Emperor Shah Jahan's daughter Jahanara built up the area only to pander to her father's fetish for grandiose processions, Here you will see the **Jama Masjid**, built in 1650 AD, and one of the largest mosques in India. Drive through the fabled **Chandni Chowk** (literally, 'Silver Street'), once

the most opulent perfume market of India, but now a bustling market, good for hunting down old and new silver and gold from jewellers whose forefathers served the emperors. Drive past the





**Red Fort (closed on Mondays)**, dating back as far as 1639-48 AD, and built by Emperor Shah Jahan, who also built the Taj Mahal. Visit **Raj Ghat** where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated following his assassination in 1948. Continue visit to India Gate.

Later lunch on your own

Post Lunch continue tour of the New Delhi - New Delhi was planned and built by the British in the 1920s and is characterized by Sir Edwin Lutyen's monumental architecture. You will visit **Humayun's Tomb**, aptly called the predecessor of the Taj Mahal because of its ornate Mughal style of architecture, later perfected in the Taj Mahal. Continue drive to 12th century **Qutab Minar**, considered one of the most perfect towers in the world, measuring 72 meters high. Nearby, amidst the ruins of the Quwwat ul Islam Mosque stands the iron pillar, which is over 1500 years old and seemingly immune to rust. Drive through the Rajpath viewing the **government buildings, President's House, Parliament House and India Gate**.



**Overnight stay at the Hotel**

### **DAY - 03    Delhi / Agra    (Surface)**

After buffet breakfast in the hotel you will be driven from Delhi to Agra (205 Kms / 04½ Hrs).

**Agra** in terms of ambiance is still associated with its Mughal period. The Mughals besides being great rulers were also great builders and they preserved their best architectural wonders for Agra & its neighborhood. It has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best. The massive but elegant Agra Fort, the delicate artistry of Itmad-ud-daulah's tomb, the magnificent Taj and Akbar's deserted capital, Fatehpur Sikri, are each unique and outstanding.

Upon arrival check in at hotel,

Afternoon proceed for the sightseeing tour of **Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays)**. The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid

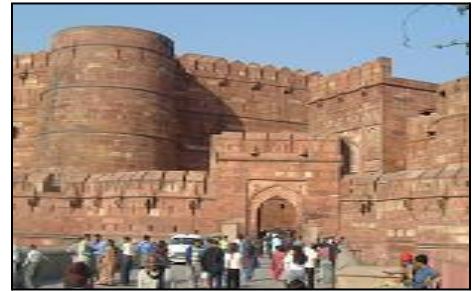


17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is



really astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.

Further drive to **Red Fort or Agra Fort** - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. This was the seat of Mughal rule and administration and the present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.



Rest of the day at leisure

### **Overnight stay at the Hotel**

#### **DAY - 04                      Agra / Fatehpur Sikri / Jaipur**

After buffet breakfast in the hotel you will be driven from Agra to Jaipur (250 Kms / 06 Hrs). Enroute your drive to Jaipur, you will visit Fatehpur Sikri.



**Fatehpur Sikri** - the deserted red sandstone city, built by the Great Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the late 16th century. Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for only some 10 years. It was abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry and it remains today in much the same condition that it was over 300 years ago. It is complete with palaces and mosques and used to be a town larger than London

when it was originally constructed.

Later this afternoon you will arrive into Jaipur & check in at your hotel.

**Jaipur's** past is never too far from hand. The city of victory, Jaipur presides over the fascinating desert state and its people: surrounded by rugged hills, ea76ch crowned by a formidable fort; and beautiful palaces, mansions and gardens dotted throughout its precincts. The palaces and forts of yesteryear that were witness to royal processions and splendour are now living monuments, accepted quite naturally into the lifestyles of the people of the "pink city". Except for the busy traffic of bicycles, cars and buses, little seems to have changed. There is a timeless quality to Jaipur's bazaars and its people. With its historical past, Jaipur revives legends of the ancient Rajputs. The dresses of the women and the turbans of the men add colour to this fascinating city.

Upon arrival check in at Hotel

Rest of the day at leisure

## Overnight stay at the Hotel

### DAY - 05 Jaipur

After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven just outside Jaipur to the **ancient capital of Amber** to see the fabulous Amber Fort. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. **An elephant / Jeep** will spare you the trouble of reaching up to the fortress (**Elephant ride is subject to availability**). Once on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls.



Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room. Come back to your hotel after your excursion.

In the afternoon you will proceed for **city tour of Jaipur**.



Among the highlights to be seen while touring Jaipur include the **City Palace**, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armoury, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings. Walk to the adjacent **Jantar Mantar or Astronomical Observatory** made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders built by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day.

You will stop and see the '**Palace of Winds**', otherwise known as Hawa Mahal. It is really an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city. You will also have the opportunity to wander about the local markets

Return to your hotel after the sightseeing tour.

## Overnight stay at the Hotel





**Day 06**

**JAIPUR - PUSHKAR**

**BY: SURFACE**

Morning breakfast at hotel. Later depart for Pushkar (140 Km 4 hrs)



Pushkar is a town in the state of Rajasthan in India. Pushkar means born due to a flower. Hindus believe that the gods released a swan with a lotus in its beak and let it fall on earth where Brahma would perform a grand [yagna](#). The place where the lotus fell was called Pushkar. It is situated at 14 km North West from Ajmer and is one of the five sacred dhams (pilgrimage sites for devout Hindus. It is often called "Tirth Raj" - the king of pilgrimage sites - and has in recent years become a popular

destination for foreign tourists.

Pushkar is one of the oldest cities of India. The date of its actual origin is not known, but legend associates Lord Brahma with its creation. It is mentioned that Brahma performed penance here for 60,000 years to have glimpse of Radha Krishna.

**Upon arrival check in at hotel.**

Rest of the day free to explore the town on your own. Places to visit in Pushkar's - temples Rangji Temple, Ramavaikunth Temple, Mahadev Temple, Savitri Temple and of course the temple of Lord Brahma - the creator of the universe.

**Overnight at hotel.**

**Day 07**

**PUSHKAR - UDAIPUR**

**BY: SURFACE**

Morning after breakfast at hotel, depart for Udaipur 250 kms / 5½ hrs.

Set amidst the Aravali hills of south Rajasthan, Udaipur (City of Sunrise) is a beautiful city regarded as one of the most romantic in India. Presenting an enchanting image of marble palaces, placid lakes, Attractive gardens and green hills, it has been called "the Venice of the East". It was founded by Maharana Udai Singh II in 1568 as a traditionally planned, fortified city full of palaces, temples and Havelis. The city also became a centre for the performing arts, painting and crafts.

Upon arrival assistance and check in at hotel.

Rest of the day free to relax.

Overnight at hotel.

Day 08

UDAIPUR

After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will proceed for a half-day sightseeing tour of Udaipur.

Begin your tour with the City Palace and Museum. The largest palace complex in India, it is a blend of Mughal and Rajput influences. Visit the Saheliyon ki Bari (the Garden for the Maids of Honour), an ornamental pleasure garden with fountains and marble kiosks. Also see the 17th century Jagdish temple, drive around the Fatehsagar Lake. Later visit the Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandir or the Folk Art Museum.



Later in the afternoon enjoy the boat ride on the placid waters of **Lake Pichola**. The beautiful Lake Pichola was enlarged by Maharana Udai Singh after he founded the city. The city palace extends a considerable distance along the east bank of the lake. From the boat you will be able to view the city of Udaipur as it rises majestically above the lake in the middle of the Rajasthan desert. One would get an interesting view of the Dhobi (laundry) ghats..

**Overnight at hotel.**

Day 09

UDAIPUR - JODHPUR

BY: SURFACE

After buffet breakfast at the hotel, you will be driven from Udaipur to Jodhpur (280 KMS / 6 Hours). Upon arrival, proceed for check-in at your hotel.

The old city of Jodhpur is surrounded by a wall 10km long, which was built about a century after the city was founded. From the fort you can clearly see where the old city ends and the new begins. The old city is a fascinating jungle of winding streets of great interest to wander around. Eight gates lead out from the walled city. It's one of the more interesting cities in India and those baggy-tight horse riding trousers, jodhpurs, took their name from this locale.

Upon arrival check in at hotel.

Later proceed for sightseeing tour of Jodhpur City visiting Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada.

The Mehrangarh Fort is sprawled across a 125-meter high hill and is the most impressive and formidable fort in the fort-studded Rajasthan. On the wall adjacent to the Lahapol or "Iron Gate" are 15 handprints, the sati marks of the widows of Maharaja Man Singh who threw



themselves upon his funeral pyre in 1843. Inside the fort, which is still run by the Maharaja of Jodhpur, there is a whole series of courtyards and palaces.

Evening at leisure.

Overnight at hotel

**Day 10**

**JODHPUR - JAISALMER**

**BY: SURFACE**

Morning after breakfast, you will be driven from Jodhpur to Jaisalmer 290 KMS / 5.30 Hours

Jaisalmer, the golden beauty etched in yellow sandstone, standing tall against miles of gleaming sand. Founded in 1156 AD by Maharawal Jaisal, Jaisalmer's location kept it almost untouched by outside influences and even during the days of the Raj, Jaisalmer was the last to sign the Instrument of Agreement with the British.

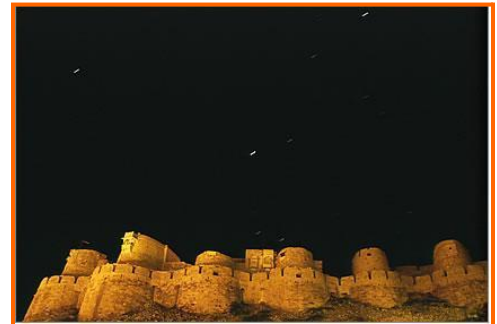
Upon arrival in Jaisalmer, proceed for check-in at your hotel following which remainder of the day will be at leisure

**Overnight at hotel.**

**Day 11**

**JAISALMER**

After buffet breakfast, proceed for a **city tour of Jaisalmer**. You will walk up to the Fort, which dominates the town. Built in 1156, it is one of the oldest forts in Rajasthan. About a quarter of the old city's population resides within the fort walls, which have 99 bastions around the circumference. Within the fort are a fine group of Jain temples built between the 12th and 15th centuries, many containing ancient manuscripts. Walk through Jaisalmer's narrow streets dotted with ornately decorated Hindu and Jain temples.



Walk around this desert city, its fort emerging from the flat dry sands, bounding in ancient palaces, temples and delicately sculpted havelis - all witness to the emergence of this Rajput state into a market centre for traders.

Late afternoon drive to **Sam Sand Dunes** for a **camelback ride** into the desert to watch the sun set on this golden desert city, emitting a lustrous glow off the desert sand. Camel Safari is one of the unique ways to explore small villages in Rajasthan. Atop this ship of the desert embark on an exciting soft adventure. This safari is across India's Thar Desert, one





of the harshest environments in the world. Board camels to discover the rich desert culture and meet the colorful tribal people. The capital of this exotic region is the golden city of Jaisalmer. Here we'll explore palaces, local markets, and venture down the narrow alleys to visit with the inhabitants of the intricately carved sandstone buildings.

Return to the hotel after your tour.

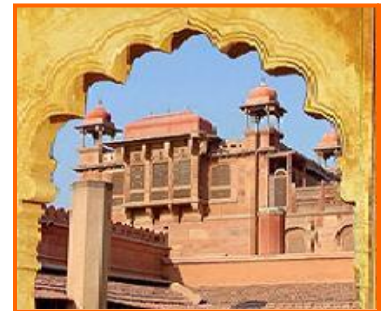
### **Overnight at the hotel**

**Day 12**                      **JAISALMER - BIKANER**                      **BY: SURFACE**

After buffet breakfast, you will be driven from Jaisalmer to Bikaner (330 KMS / 7 Hours).

**Bikaner** is a District in the northwest of the state of Rajasthan in northern India. The city is the administrative headquarters of Bikaner District and Bikaner division. It was formerly the capital of the princely state of Bikaner. The city was founded by Rao Bika in 1486 and from its small origins it has developed into the fourth largest city in Rajasthan.

Late in the afternoon, you will proceed for a **sightseeing tour of Bikaner**. Visit **Junagarh Fort**, one of the most interesting forts in Rajasthan, with its sumptuously decorated interiors. Built in 1588 by Raja Rai Singh it is unusual in the sense that it was one of the few major forts of Rajasthan that was not built on a hilltop. Instead, it was built on the desert plains; its rugged sandstone bastions and graceful pavilions and balconies are silhouetted against the sky.



Rest of the day at leisure.

### **Overnight stay at the Hotel**

**Day 13**                      **BIKANER - MANDAWA**                      **BY: SURFACE**

After buffet breakfast at your hotel, you will be driven from Bikaner to Mandawa (220 KMS / 04 Hours). Upon arrival, proceed to check-in at your hotel.

The Rajput ruler of Mandawa built a fort in 1755 to protect this trading outpost that fell in the ancient caravan routes from China and Middle East. The township that grew around the fort attracted a large community of traders, who settled here. When the caravan traffic ceased in the late 18th century, the traders created business empires in other parts of the country, but returned to Mandawa build palatial mansions in their hometown.





This afternoon, you will **explore this storybook town of Mandawa** known for its colourful frescoes on a wide variety of subjects ranging from religious to the erotic; from copies of popular English prints to witty social satire rendered in the inimitable style of local artist. Every home here is adorned with gaily-painted murals that illuminate the arid landscape.

Overnight at the hotel

**Day 14          MANDAWA - DELHI          BY: SURFACE**

After buffet breakfast, you will be driven from Mandawa to Delhi (260 KMS / 06 Hours).

Upon arrival in Delhi transfer straight to International airport to board your train for onward destination.

**\*\*\* END OF TOUR \*\*\***