

# INDIA WITH RAJASTHAN LUXURY TOUR EX DEHLI 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023



**India** is both a destination and a journey. It has woven its magic for millennium now, on travelers from all parts of the world. It is a complex and rich culture, with so much to offer, to explore this sort of complexity, you have to step out from the comfort zone of neatly labeled racks and polite checkout greeters.

Agra - Located 220 kms from Delhi, Agra is a must visit city on any Tour of India. Home of the World famous Taj Mahal, Agra provides avid glimpses of Mughal architecture. To be in Agra is like taking a walk through India's Mughal period history. Other than the Taj Mahal, Agra's attractions include the Red Fort, built by Emperor Akbar on the banks of the River Yamuna, Sikandra, the mausoleum of Emperor Akbar, the Itmad-ud-Daulah, a mausoleum built for Empress Noor Jahan's father and last but not the least and a short distance away, Fatehpur Sikri, with its very impressive architecture and interesting stories of it having been built and then abandoned.

Jaipur, the capital of the North Indian State of Rajasthan, is named after its founder Maharaja Jai Singh II (1693-1743). The city is surrounded by hills and dotted with forts. Houses with pink latticed windows line the streets, and look almost magical at sunset. An extremely well planned city, Jaipur was designed by an engineer and scholar Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, in accordance with ancient Hindu treatise on architecture, the Shilpa Shasta (Vastu).

Ladakh is part of India and belongs to the state of Jammu Kashmir. It is in the north east of India, neighboring Tibet. Surrounded by the Karakoram and Great Himalayan Ranges, it is a high altitude desert land and therefore sheltered from the rain bringing clouds of the Indian monsoons. Once a lake covered Ladakh and the leftover today are the 3 lakes of Tso Moriri, Tso Kar and Pangkong Tso. The main source of water in Ladakh are the winter snow falls. If you would go by road to Ladakh, you would have to cross 3 passes, which are all between 4000 and 6000 meters. The people of Ladakh are Buddhists and Muslims. They live together in harmony and this makes it a safe place. The first inhabitants of Ladakh were most probably a mixture of nomads, which wandered the Tibetan high plateau, and some early Buddhist refugees from northern India, called the Mons. In the 7th century the Buddhism from India was brought to Ladakh by the wondering sage Padmasambhava and gradually displaced the shamanic cult of the Bons. With His Holiness the Dalai Lama as its head, Gelukpa or Yellow Hat is now the most popular school of Tibetan Buddhism in Ladakh. Today, Ladakh has still many functioning monasteries and a very alive Buddhist tradition.

Set like a jewelled crown on the map of India, Kashmir is a multi-faceted diamond, changing its hues with the seasons - always extravagantly beautiful. Two major Himalayan ranges, the Great Himalayan Range and the Pir Panjal, surround the landscape from the north and south respectively. They are the source of great rivers, which flow down into the valleys, forested with orchards and decorated by lily-laden lakes.

The Mughals aptly called **Kashmir 'Paradise on Earth'** where they journeyed across the hot plains of India, to the valley's cool environs in summer. Here they laid, with great love and care, Srinagar's many formal, waterfront gardens, now collectively known as the Mughal Gardens. They also patronized the development of art & craft among the people of Kashmir, leaving behind a heritage of exquisite artisanship among these people and making the handicrafts of the land prized gifts all over the world.

**Kashmir** is a land where myriad holiday ideas are realised. In winter, when snow carpets the mountains, there is skiing, tobogganing, sledge-riding, etc. along the gentle slopes. In spring and summer, the honey-dewed orchards, rippling lakes and blue skies beckon every soul to sample the many delights the mountains and valleys have to offer. Golfing at 2,700 m above the sea, water-skiing in the lakes and angling for prized rainbow trout, or simply drifting down the willow fringed alleys of lakes in shikaras and living in gorgeous houseboats are some of the most favoured ones.



The short trek is very ideal for the novice and less experienced, as it is much easier than any other trek in Ladakh. This trek passes through many villages and monasteries deep in mountains giving more chance to interact and observe the locals lifestyle of Ladakh villages.

## PROPOSED ITINERARY EX DEHLI

### DAY 1 ARRIVE DELHI (BY FLIGHT)

Day 1 Arrive Dehli 2030 Met at Delhi International airport & transfered to your hotel. Check in at the hotel. **(B) Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October**

### DAY 2 SIGHTSEEING DEHLI

This day after breakfast, proceed for the half day combined city tour of Old & New Delhi. In Old city drive past the Red Fort built by Emperor Shah Jahan; Raj Ghat- the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi and enjoy a walking tour in Chandni Chowk- the silver street of Delhi bustling with activity.

In New Delhi visit Qutab Minar, the tallest stone tower in India; Humayun's Tomb built in the Indo Persian style and a predecessor to The Taj Mahal in Agra; India Gate – A War Memorial Arch. Also drive past the President's house, Parliament house, Government secretariat buildings and Connaught place – the heart of New Delhi and a busy shopping center.

**Overnight stay is at the hotel (B)**



**DAY 3 DEHLI – SRINIGAR BY FLIGHT** After breakfast transfer from Hotel to airport to board our flight for Srinagar.

Upon arrival at Srinagar airport, you will be met and assisted for check in at the houseboat. Later at evening enjoy your relaxing Shikara ride in famous Dal Lake to enjoy the beauty that God has graced this city with which is often compared to Venice. You will get a view of some very interesting Places around the Lake. **Overnight stay is at the houseboat (BLD)**

**DAY 4 IN SRINAGAR** Morning after breakfast visit to Moghul Gardens and city tour. Afternoon relaxing on houseboat. **Overnight stay at the houseboat. (BLD)**

#### **DAY 5 SRINAGAR – GULMARG (BY SURFACE)**

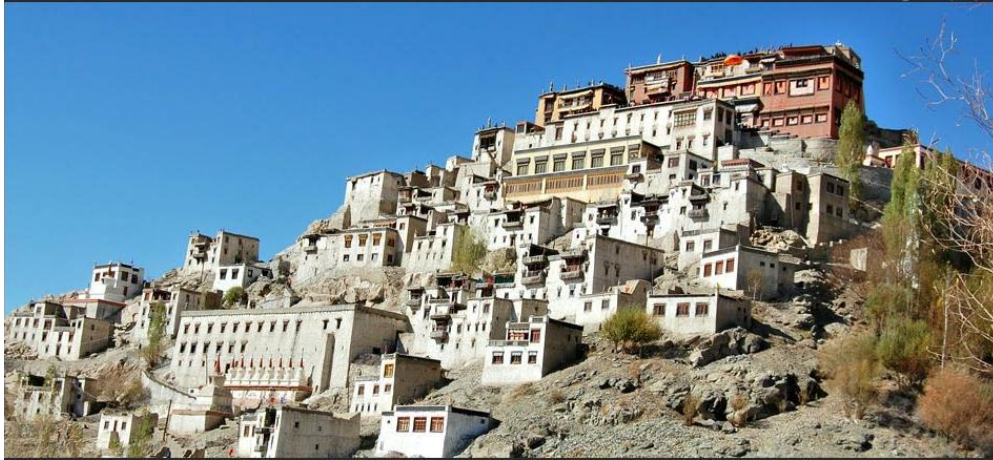
After breakfast leave for Gulmarg - one of the most beautiful summer resorts in the valley. Enjoy the splendor of nature and the snowy mountains. Here you can opt for a cable car ride from Gulmarg to Khalinmarg on your own. **Check in at the hotel for overnight stay. (BLD)**

#### **DAY 6 GULMARG – SRINIGAR DAY WALKING**

After breakfast the day is at leisure to enjoy the walking around Khilinmarg area. Return to Srinagar **Overnight Houseboat (BLD)**

**DAY 7 - SRINIGAR – LEH** transfer to the airport for your flight to Leh.

Srinagar to Leh - THIS IS EARLY FLIGHT FROM SRINAGAR - The departure is at 09:45 and reporting is at 07:45 and departure from houseboat is around 07:00 AM



On arrival transfer to your hotel. Leh City: The capital of Ladakh, at one time was a major stop on the Asian "Silk Route". A stroll along the main bazar, observing the varied crowd and peering into the curio shops, is an entrancing experience. Chang Gali, behind the main bazar is less bustling but has intriguing little shops selling curios and jewelry like pearls, turquoise, coral, malachite, lapis and many other kinds of semi-precious stones, as well as curiously carved Yak-horn boxes, quaint brass locks, china or metal bowls etc.

Meet and assist on arrival at the airport and transfer to the hotel. Rest of the time is at leisure.

**Complete day for the acclimatization. Overnight stay is at hotel (BLD)**

## **Day 08 IN LEH**

After breakfast proceed for a day excursion to visit Likir gompa situated atop a windy cliff top overlooking the beautiful village of Likir. It was founded in the 12th Century although the present construction dates back to the 18th century as the original one was destroyed by fire. In its courtyard is a yellow-coloured 3 storey high mammoth statue of the Lord Buddha, which was constructed by a resident monk. The top floor has an impressive museum containing old tangkhas and weapons used many centuries back.

Then we drive and cross the River Indus and reach Alchi, Ladakh's most loved monastery. Over a century old, its wall paintings are very similar to those of the Tabo gompa in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Unlike other monasteries, which are usually on a cliff top or cling to a mountainside, Alchi is at ground level and is nestled in the shade of a garden.

**Return to Leh, overnight stay is at the hotel. (BLD)**

## **Day 09 IN LEH    WALKING + Overnight in Homestay.**

An excursion to famous monasteries of Ladakh. It is interesting to visit early in the morning to enjoy the praying ceremony at Thiksey monastery. Continue drive to Hemis monastery which is one of the most famous monasteries of the Ladakh region. On the way back visit to Shy Palace. Also visit Stok Palace and later walking up to the base of Stokla and our homestay for the night. **(BLD)**



### **DAY 10 IN LEH**

After breakfast walk around the area and return to Stok village and your cars will bring you back to Leh. After wash – rest and lunch visit Spituk monastery and Shanti Stupa and have the grand view of Indus valley. **Dinner and overnight in the hotel. (BLD)**

### **DAY 11 LEH - DELHI – UDAIPUR (BY FLIGHT)**

This day you will be transferred to the airport to board flight to Udaipur via Dehli. We will have a 4 hour transit in Delhi and rather than wait at the airport we will take a transfer to visit the Lotus Temple. Afternoon flight to Udipur. On arrival at the airport, you will be met by our representative & transferred to the hotel for check in. Rest of the day is at leisure. **Overnight stay is at the hotel**

### **DAY 12 – 13 IN UDAIPUR**



After breakfast, visit the romantic city of Udaipur including Jagdish temple, the Garden of the Maidens of Honor, a small garden with fountains, kiosks, marble elephants & lotus pool, and the City Palace which is the largest palace complex in Rajasthan.

In the evening enjoy a leisurely boat ride on Lake Pichola

**Overnight stay is at the hotel (B)**

## **DAY 14 UDAIPUR – RANAKPUR - JODHPUR (BY SURFACE)**

This morning you will drive to Jodhpur. En-route visit the Jain temples at Ranakpur to explore one of the most important Jain temples in India. This marble complex is noted for the 29 halls supported by 1,444 pillars, each adorned with hundreds of carved figures, no two alike.

Upon reaching Jodhpur, check in at your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure

**Overnight stay is at the hotel (B)**

## **DAY 15 IN JODHPUR**

Situated on a steep hill, Mehrangarh fort is one of the largest forts in India. Witness the beauty and the grandeur of numerous palaces in the fort narrate a saga of hard sandstones yielding to the chisels of skilled Jodhpuri sculptures. Mehrangarh Fort, spreading over 5 km on a perpendicular hill and looking down 125 meters, presents a majestic view on city horizon. It was built on advice of a saint in 1459 to establish an impregnable head-quarter. This Fort is one of the best in India with its exquisitely latticed windows, carved panels, elaborately adorned windows and walls of Moti Mahal, Phool Mahal, Sheesh Mahal. A collection of musical instruments, palanquins, royal costumes, furniture and the cannons on the fort's ramparts are well preserved. Jaswant Thada

Close to the fort complex, lies Jaswant Thada. This 19th century royal cenotaph built in white marble in commemoration of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II and three other cenotaphs, stand nearby. The cenotaph of Maharaja Jaswant Singh holds the rare portraits of the rulers and Maharajas of Jodhpur. A visit inside the cenotaphs, with some villagers of the region, would bring forward the reverence they still hold for their brave kings. Also visit the romantic looking Umaid Bhawan Palace was actually built with the purpose of giving employment to the people of Jodhpur during a long drawn famine. The royal family of Jodhpur still lives in a part of the palace. Another part of the palace houses a well-maintained museum, displaying an amazing array of items belonging to the Maharaja and the royal family - weapons, antiques & fascinating clocks, crockery and trophies **Overnight stay is at the hotel (B) Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October**

## **DAY 16 JODHPUR – JAIPUR (BY SURFACE)**

Check out of the hotel after breakfast and drive to Jaipur.

**Jaipur**, the capital of the state of Rajasthan is popularly known as the 'pink city' as the buildings in its old, walled city is all constructed in pink-colored sandstone. Jaipur owes its name, its foundation and its careful planning to the great warrior-astronomer Maharaja Jai Singh II (1699-1744). He laid out the city with its surrounding walls and six rectangular blocks by principles of town planning set out in an ancient Hindu treatise on architecture. In 1728 he constructed the remarkable observatory, which is still one of Jaipur's central attractions. Upon reaching, check in at the hotel. Rest of the day is to relax or visit the markets on own.

**Overnight stay is at the hotel (B) Friday**

## DAY 17 IN JAIPUR



This morning you will drive to the outskirts of the city to visit **Amber Fort**, the ancient capital of the State until 1728. Amer, originally, was the capital of the state before Jaipur is an old fort, built in 1592 by Raja Man Singh. This fort is also very popularly known as the Amer Palace. The Amer Fort was built in red sandstone and marble and the Maatha Lake adds a certain charm to the entire Fort. Though the fort is quite old and may even look so from the outside, it is beautiful on the inside and boasts of various buildings of prominence like the 'Diwan-i-Aam', the 'Sheesh Mahal' and even the 'Sukh Mahal'. The Amer Fort has influences of both Hindu and Muslim architecture. This fort also has the 'Shila Devi' Temple and the 'Ganesh Pol' which is a gate that leads to the private palaces of the kings. Visit the **Temple of Kali**, the Hall of Victory or Jai Mahal and Jagmandir. You can have the unique **experience of traveling on elephant back to the top of the hill** on which the fort is situated.

In the afternoon visit the **Observatory**, the Palace of Winds and the **City Palace and Museum**. The museum has an interesting textile section, which contains dresses and costumes of the former Maharajas and Maharanis of Jaipur. Check in at the hotel followed by overnight stay **Overnight stay is at the hotel (B) Saturday**

## DAY 18 JAIPUR - AGRA (BY SURFACE)

Morning drive to Agra en-route visiting the ancient Moghul capital of FATEHPUR SIKRI en-route. This 16th century capital of Moghul emperor Akbar is a complex of forts, palaces and mosques built in sandstone. The city had to be deserted because of lack of water. The white marble Tomb of Sheikh Salim Chisti, Akbar's spiritual adviser, is now observed as a Muslim pilgrimage spot here **Arrive in Agra; check in at the hotel followed by overnight stay. (B)**



## DAY 19 IN AGRA



Sunrise visit to the famous white marble mausoleum, **The Taj Mahal**, (closed on Fridays) which was built in the middle of the 17th century by the Moghul emperor Shah Jehan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. Taj Mahal is the greatest monument to love and one of the wonders of the modern world. Completed in 1652, skilled craftsmen from Persia, Turkey, France and Italy and some 20,000 laborers worked for 17 years to build this edifice, constructed by Emperor Shah Jehan as a mausoleum for his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal. Marble was brought from Makrana, near Jodhpur and precious stones of onyx, amethyst, malachite, lapis lazuli, turquoise, jade, crystal and mother of pearl were carried to Agra from Persia, Russia, Afghanistan, Tibet, China and the Indian Ocean. Return to your hotel for breakfast. Later visit the red sandstone marvel, **Agra Fort**, which stands like a crescent on the banks of the Jamuna River closed by forbidding 20-meter high walls, with a 12- meter moat between them. Three successive Mughal emperors - Akbar, Jehangir and Shah Jehan - helped create this massive structure which contains Hindu and Muslim architecture.

**Overnight stay is at the hotel (B)**

## DAY 20 AGRA – DELHI - AIRPORT (BY SURFACE)

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and drive to Delhi, we will have a few hours in Delhi sightseeing before 2130 flight to Singapore.

### END OF OUR SERVICES

**Cost: Aust\$5750 twin share**

**Single supplement \$2000**

### **HOTELS OR SIMILAR ARE ALL RATED 4 STAR twin rooms**

<b>CITY</b>	<b>NIGHTS</b>	<b>HOTELS</b>
Delhi	2 Night	The Oberoi Maidens –
Udaipur	3 Nights	Fateh Prakash Palace
Jodhpur	2 Nights	Ranbanka Deluxe - Garden facing rooms
Jaipur	2 Nights	Mandawa Have Haveli

Agra	2 Nights	JP Palace -
Leh	4 Nights	Omasila / City Palace (if open in October)
Srinagar	3 Nights	Deluxe Houseboat
Gulmarg	1 nights	Heevan

### **COST INCLUDES**

1. Accommodation at the 4 – 5 star hotels in standard TWIN share
2. Daily Breakfast at the hotels on all days
3. All meals during stay at Houseboat in Srinagar overnight guesthouse in Leh
4. Services of an English speaking local guide for sightseeing tours as per the itinerary.
5. All prevailing taxes like Luxury tax in all hotels and Expenditure tax wherever applicable.
6. Boat ride across Lake Pichola in Udaipur - shared boat
7. Elephant failing Jeep ride in Jaipur
8. Rickshaw ride in Jaipur
9. Tonga ride in Agra
10. Shikara ride at Dal Lake in Srinagar
11. All transfers to or from hotels, city tours, excursions, drives by AIR-CONDITIONED TRANSPORTATION
12. All camping equipment and food whilst on overnight trek
13. Mandatory Government Service Tax as applicable
14. Interstate road tax, toll tax, driver's allowance, parking etc
15. Entry fee to monuments - around AU\$ 120/- per head
16. Air fare - Delhi – Srinigar – Leh – Dehli – Udaipur
17. The full use of a Hotel room in Delhi on last evening before departing to your flight.

\*\*\*Please note the above Air fares are current fares, subject to change and availability of seats - All domestic carriers allow 15 kilos as registered baggage and 5 kilos as hand baggage.

### **COST DOES NOT INCLUDE**

1. International Flights
2. Any lunch, dinner where not stated in itinerary
3. snacks, mineral water etc. unless mentioned in the itinerary.
4. Entrance fee to any monuments
5. Any camera fee at the monuments
6. Portage, laundry, telephone calls, table drinks or any other expenses of personal nature
7. Any item not specified under cost includes
8. Visa
9. 5kg Hand luggage allowed

The hotels which are above mentioned are subject to availability, or similar hotels will be provided.

The above cost is worked on todays exchange and may increase/decrease depending on exchange rate