



Royal Rajasthan

15 Nights / 16 Days

A tour of Delhi, Agra, Ranthambore, Jaipur, Pushkar, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Alsisar

ROYAL RAJASTHAN

(Country: India)

Duration: 16 DAYS

Welcome to the Land of Queens and their Kings, showcasing India at its magical best. Like a legend come to life, Rajasthan boasts an incredible array of mighty forts, elaborate palaces and cities awash in searing, riotous colour. Explore Old Delhi's ancient sites, then see the world's most famous monument of love, the Taj Mahal, in Agra. It was built by a king for his queen. Experience the seductive pink mayhem of Jaipur, track tigers in Ranthambore and admire enchanting Pushkar with its scenic holy lake. Then explore the luminescent blue patchwork of Jodhpur, the desert magnificence of Jaisalmer and the majestic forts of Bikaner. We end our journey at the storybook town of Mandawa, with its wildly colorful, beautifully and bizarrely painted havelis (traditional ornately decorated residences).

Tour Summary

Day #	Destination	Overnight	Meals
1	Arrival at Delhi	ITC WelcomHotel Dwarka New Delhi (2 Night)	
2	Tour of Delhi	ITC WelcomHotel Dwarka New Delhi	(B, D)
3	Delhi/Agra	Taj Hotel & Convention Centre (2 Nights)	(B, D)
4	Agra	Taj Hotel & Convention Centre	(B, D)
5	Agra/Ranthambore	Anuraga Palace (1 Night)	(B, L, D)
6	Ranthambore/Jaipur	Shiv Vilas Jaipur/ Radisson Blu Jaipur (2 Nights)	(B, D)
7	Jaipur	Shiv Vilas Jaipur/ Radisson Blu Jaipur	(B, D)
8	Jaipur/Pushkar	Clarks Safari Resort (1 Night)	(B, D)
9	Pushkar/ Udaipur	Hotel Fateh Niwas/ Udai Kothi (2 Nights)	(B, D)
10	Udaipur	Hotel Fateh Niwas/ Udai Kothi	(B, D)
11	Udaipur/Jodhpur	ITC WelcomHotel Jodhpur (1 Night)	(B, D)
12	Jodhpur/ Jaisalmer	The Desert Palace (2 Nights)	(B, D)
13	Jaisalmer	The Desert Palace	(B, D)
14	Jaisalmer/ Bikaner	Lallgarh Palace (1 Night)	(B, D)
15	Bikaner/Mandawa/Alsisar	Alsisar Mahal (1 Night)	(B, D)
16	Alsisar/Delhi/ Home	ITC WelcomHotel Dwarka New Delhi (Day use till 20:00 Hrs)	(B, D)

Day 01: Delhi (Arrival)

Namaste – Welcome to India! Upon arrival, we are greeted the traditional Indian way with hands clapped together. We are transferred to our hotel. Balance of the day is free.

Overnight: ITC WelcomHotel Dwarka New Delhi (2 Nights)

Day 02: Delhi

The capital of India is truly a tantalizing mixture of old and new. We start our morning tour with Old Delhi where we visit the historical Red Fort* built by the Moghul Emperor, Shah Jehan. Most of the Moghul forts were "Palace Forts" as these were also the official residences of the royalty. We then embark on a walking tour through the bazaars at Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi's oldest and busiest market. We then drive to the monumental Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. End the day at Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. In the evening we enjoy a welcome dinner at hotel.

(B, D)



Day 03: Delhi / Agra (Drive: 220 km/ 4 Hours)

Our exciting morning tour through New Delhi starts with a visit to Birla House, the Former Residence of Mahatma Gandhi before he was assassinated by Nathu Ram Godse in 1948. Next we explore the famous India Gate, followed by the Houses of Parliament, Connaught Place and Humayun's Tomb*, built in 1570 as the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent. The tomb inspired several major architectural innovations, culminating in the construction of the Taj Mahal. Our next stop is Qutb Minar and its Monuments*. Built in the early 13th century, the magnificent red sandstone tower of Qutb Minar is 72.5 meters high. The surrounding archaeological area contains funerary buildings, notably the magnificent Alai-Darwaza Gate, a masterpiece of Indo-Muslim art and two mosques. After the tour of New Delhi, we drive to Agra. On arrival in Agra, we check in to our hotel.



Overnight: Taj Hotel & Convention Centre (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 04: Agra

We start our day with a sunrise visit to one of the most well-known wonders of the world, the Taj Mahal*. An immense mausoleum of white marble, built between 1631 and 1648. Built by the Moghul Emperor, Shah Jahan in memory of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, the Taj Mahal is the jewel of Muslim art in India and a universally admired masterpiece of world heritage. Situated on the right bank of the Yamuna in a vast Moghul garden, this funerary monument combines elements and styles of Persian, Central Asian and Islamic architecture. After visiting the Taj Mahal, we return to our hotel for breakfast. Following some rest time, we visit Agra Fort*. This powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses the spectacular imperial city of the Moghul rulers. Explore fairy-tale palaces, audience halls and two very beautiful mosques.

Afternoon, we visit Fatehpur Sikri*. Built during the second half of the 16th century by the Moghul Emperor Akbar, this stunning complex was once the capital of the Moghul Empire. Just 10 years after its construction, the city with its beautiful temples, mosques and monuments were abandoned due to lack of water. Surprisingly, many structures are still in existence and used even today including one of the largest mosques in India and the artistically designed mausoleum of the revered Sufi saint, Salim Chisty. We will learn of a very interesting historical fact associated with Salim Chishti and the Moghuls. Evening is free to explore this small town, Agra, home to three UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

(B, D)

Note: On nights with a Full Moon the Taj Mahal's pure white marble shimmers silver in the moonlight and is open to visitors. Bestway Tours & Safaris can arrange an optional tour to enjoy this very special occasion.



Day 05: Agra / Ranthambore (Drive: 290 Km/ 6 Hours)

Our adventure continues as we set off for Ranthambore, the former hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur. Ranthambore National Park boasts one of the largest and most diverse collections of wildlife species in India. It's rugged terrain and dense deciduous forests also offer stunning panoramas. After lunch at our lodge in Ranthambore, we take an adventurous safari through the park, spotting tiger, nilgai, chausingha, chital, chinkara, wild boar, jungle cat, rattle, hyena, porcupine and the black-faced langur. About 150 bird species can also be found here, including migratory birds that arrive in winter. The safari lasts for about 3 hours. Evening is fun time with the other guests and Resort team.



Overnight: Anuraga Palace (1 night) (B, L, D)

Day 06: Ranthambore / Jaipur (Drive: 180 Km/ 4 Hours)

Ranthambore was established as a game sanctuary in 1955 and declared a Project Tiger reserve in 1973. Spotting Ranthambore's famous Royal Bengal tigers in their natural habitat is an awe-inspiring experience. Early morning, we take another safari through the park with our eye out for these majestic animals. After our morning safari, we drive to Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan. Jaipur is also called the Pink City, since most of the buildings in the old city are made of pink sandstone. In the evening, we enjoy dinner followed by a unique Rajasthani cultural dance show.

Overnight: Shiv Vilas Jaipur/ Radisson Blu Jaipur (2 nights) (B, D)

Day 07: Jaipur

This morning, we are treated like the royalty of yesteryear with a journey to the Amber Fort, located in a picturesque valley among the Kalikho Hills. Known as the gem of Jaipur, this imposing fort dating from the late 16th century was never attacked or invaded. Built from a combination of yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, the fort includes distinguished halls, intricate carvings and ornate gardens. Next we return to Jaipur to visit the majestic City Palace, which houses a rare collection of Indian art. We also stop at the stunning Hawa Mahal, or Palace of Winds, where the ladies of the royal harem used to watch the city from behind the intricately carved façade, and the Jantar Mantar*, a historic astronomical observation site boasting instruments used to star-gaze with the naked eye. The evening is free to enjoy the one-of-a-kind shopping of the bazaars. Jaipur is noted for its craftsmen, skilled in brass inlay, lacquer work and stone setting.

(B, D)



Day 08: Jaipur / Pushkar (Drive: 140 Km/ 3 ½ Hours)

A leisurely drive to Pushkar the bewitching little town on the edge of the desert. Pushkar is famous for its temples, bathing Ghats, onion domes and chalk-coloured buildings clustering around its holy lake, said to have appeared when Brahma dropped a lotus flower. The lake is an important pilgrimage centre and we shall see many pilgrims and Sadhus, (Hindu holy men). We visit the famous Lord Brahma Temple one of the few temples in the world dedicated to this deity. Evening, we walk through the town and meet local folks.



Overnight: Clarks Safari Resort (1 night) (B, D)

Day 09: Pushkar / Udaipur (Drive: 280 Km/ 6 Hours)

Enjoy superb countryside views as we journey through Rajasthan to the city of lakes, Udaipur. Rajasthan literally means “the land of the Rajas” and the region’s royal heritage is still readily apparent. Udaipur was the historic capital of the former kingdom of Mewar and no other city in Rajasthan is quite as romantic. Centred around the shimmering Lake Pichhola, Udaipur offers beautifully intricate buildings set amid misty, rolling hills. It is also famous for the Lake Palace Hotel built as a palace on the lake and later turned into a deluxe hotel. On arrival, we check in to our hotel. Evening free to enjoy a walk and feel the city.

Overnight: Hotel Fateh Niwas/ Udai Kothi (2 nights) (B, D)

Day 10: Udaipur

Our fascinating exploration of Udaipur starts with a visit to the enchanting City Palace, which overlooks the Lake Palace located in the blue waters of Lake Pichhola. The palace features several architectural and artistic treasures, such as the stunning peacock mosaics in the Mor Chowk and the murals of the Bhim Vilas Palace. At the Jagdish Temple we view some remarkable friezes dating back to 1651. Next we explore Fateh Sagar Lake and Saheliyon Ki Bari, the Garden of Maids. Our tour of the romantic city of Udaipur ends with a boat ride on Lake Pichhola, sailing past the picturesque Ghats and palaces visiting Jag Mandir, a 17th century palace built on an island in the middle of the glistening lake. The palace was used by the royal family as a summer resort.



(B, D)

Day 11: Udaipur / Jodhpur (Drive: 290 Km/ 6 Hours)

After breakfast we drive to Jodhpur, also known as the Blue City for the blue colours that decorate many of its heritage buildings. On arrival, we check in to our hotel. In the afternoon, we visit Mehrangarh Fort, one of the largest forts in India. The fort is situated 400 feet (122 m) above the city and is enclosed by imposing thick walls. Inside its boundaries, there are several palaces known for their intricate carvings and expansive courtyards. We enter through the Gate of Victory (Jaipal) and explore the series of courtyards and palaces decorated with beautiful terracotta lattice work. The museum in the fort has one of the best collections of the splendid trappings of Indian royalty, including some amazing elephant's howdahs (essential for glittering processions), miniature paintings and the inevitable Rajput armory and ephemera from ivory inlaid ladies dumbbells to camel bone carpet weights. Later we visit Jaswant Thada, a white marble memorial to Maharaja Jaswant Singh II with an array of whimsical domes.

Overnight: ITC WelcomHotel Jodhpur (01 Night) (B, D)



Day 12: Jodhpur / Jaisalmer (Drive: 300 Km/ 6 Hours)

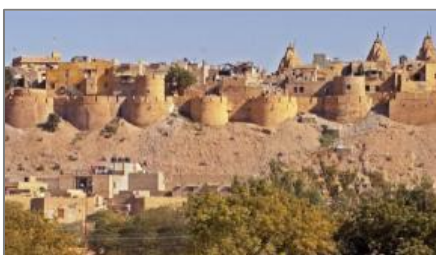
After breakfast, an interesting rural Rajasthan drive to Jaisalmer. Also known as the “Golden City” for its yellowish sandstone, Jaisalmer lies in the heart of the Thar Desert. Its crown is a fort that contains a palace and several finely sculptured Jain temples. On arrival, we check in at our hotel. The remainder of the day is free for relaxation.

Overnight: The Desert Palace (2 Nights) (B, D)

Day 13: Jaisalmer

Today we visit Jaisalmer Fort*, one of the largest forts in the world. Built almost a millennium ago, the fort stands proudly on Thikuta Hill. As the sun sets, its yellow sandstone walls fade to a honey-gold, camouflaging the fort in the surrounding desert. Life within the citadel conjures up images of medieval times as we wander through narrow lanes filled with havelis (mansions), temples, skilled artisans and, of course, camels. We then explore the Jain temple dating to 11th century B.C. and the Folk Museum. Next we visit Patwon-ki-Haveli, the home of a wealthy merchant belonging to a powerful Oswal Jain community which had over three hundred trading centers from Afghanistan to China. This ornate five-story complex took fifty years to complete and is the largest and most elaborate of Jaisalmer's havelis. We also experience Gadisar Tank, a scenic rainwater lake surrounded by numerous beautiful shrines and a spectacular variety of birds. In the late afternoon, we drive to Sam village in the Thar Desert. Here we ride on camels to the nearby sand dunes and enjoy the beautiful desert sunset.

(B, D)



Day 14: Jaisalmer / Bikaner (Drive: 330 Km/ 7 Hours)

Continue our journey to Bikaner, where we check in to our spectacular heritage hotel. Lalgarh Palace was built between 1902 and 1926 in splendid Rajput, Mughal and European architectural styles. Commissioned by Maharaja Ganga Singh, the building is covered in red sandstone. It boasts several grand halls, lounges, cupolas and pavilions, as well as magnificent pillars, elaborate fireplaces, Italian colonnades and intricate latticework. Housed inside is the Shri Sadul Museum and the Anup Sanskrit Library, as a large and important collection of Sanskrit manuscripts. Afternoon explore Junagarh Fort, built by Raja Rai Singh. The Raja travelled extensively while in the imperial service, and his appreciation of the art and architecture that he had seen was meticulously incorporated into Junagarh Fort. Later we visit a camel breeding farm set within the sand dunes, the only farm of its kind in the whole of Asia.

Overnight: [Lalgarh Palace](#) (01 Night) (B, D)



Day 15: Bikaner / Mandawa/ Alsisar (Drive: 250 Km/ 6 Hours)

After breakfast we drive to Deshnok to visit the famous Rat Temple dedicated to the Goddess Karni Mata. This ornate, isolated Hindu temple was constructed by Maharaja Ganga Singh in the early 1900s as a tribute to the rat goddess, Karni Mata. Intricate marble panels line the entrance and the floors, and silver and gold decorations are found throughout. But by far the most intriguing aspect of the interior are approximately 20,000 rats that call this temple home. These holy animals are called kabbas, and many people travel great distances to pay their respects. Later we drive to Mandawa, one of the finest of the small towns in the Shekhawati region. We explore Mandawa's famous "The Open-Air Art Gallery of Rajasthan", visiting havelis, where the walls have been decorated with beautiful frescos depicting different aspects of the life in Rajasthan. From here we continue our drive to Alsisar and check in at Alsisar Mahal.



Overnight: [Alsisar Mahal](#) (01 Night) (B, D)

Day 16: Alsisar / Delhi (Drive: 260 Km/ 6 Hours)

After a fascinating tour of Royal Rajasthan, we are driven to Delhi. Here we check in at hotel ITC WelcomHotel Dwarka New Delhi for day rooms until 8:00 PM. After a farewell dinner, we are transferred to the international terminal for our flight home. We bid farewell to India after what will have been a memorable journey into history, culture, art and architecture, having made

new friends and lots of memories. Or extend our adventure with one of our small group cultural journeys to South India.

(B, D)

** DENOTES UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES INCLUDED:*

- Agra Fort
- Amber Fort- Jaipur
- Fatehpur Sikri
- Humayun's Tomb, Delhi
- Qutub Minar and its Monuments, Delhi
- Red Fort Complex
- Jaisalmer (Sonar) Fort
- Taj Mahal
- The Jantar Mantar, Jaipur
- The Walled city of Jaipur

B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

**** - Red Fort in Delhi will be closed between 21st Jan to 31st Jan due to security on Republic Day**

Tour Price Includes

- Hotels as mentioned or similar
- Meals as mentioned: 15 breakfast, 01 Lunch & 15 Dinners (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- All sightseeing and transfers by Air- conditioned transportation
- Services of English-Speaking guide for sightseeing (Local guides for 1-5 Pax and tour escort throughout the tour for 6 pax and above)
- Entrances fees
- Camel Safari at Sam Sand Dunes, Jaisalmer
- Boat Ride (Common Boat) at Lake Pichhola in Udaipur.
- 2 Safaris through Ranthambore National Park (October to June Departures) (Subject to availability)
- Rickshaw Ride in Delhi

Tour Price does not include

- International airfare & departure taxes
- Insurance & visa fees
- Drinks/beverages with meals
- Tips/gratuities

General Conditions

- **The prices are on Per Person basis in AUD.**
- The above cost is valid for the mentioned departure dates only
- Please note that smoking is prohibited in public and all parts of the hotels except in designated areas and bedrooms, where smoking is permitted. Should you desire a smoking bedroom, please let us know. The fulfilment of this request is subject to availability.
- Unless specified, check-in at hotels in India is at 14:00 Hrs and check out is at 12:00 Hrs
- Our liability does not arise in case of Force Majeure (political disturbances, natural phenomenon etc.)
- Reporting time at the International at airport is generally 3 hrs prior to departure of flight
- Check-in counters of most flights close approximately 45 minutes before departure and boarding gates close about 15 minutes prior departure
- We will be providing transport as per below
 - 2 to 3 pax we provide AC Toyota INNOVA SUV
 - 4 to 8 pax we provide AC Tempo Traveler
 - 9 pax to 14 pax we provide AC Mini 18 seater coach