

# Colourful Rajasthan with Taj mahal Tour

## Itinerary

### Day 01 : Arrive Delhi

Arrive Delhi . On arrival check in at hotel . The capital of India was destroyed and rebuilt a number of times, and virtually carries in its bosom the history of 07 cities. The present New Delhi was designed by Edwin Lutyens, and its main architect was Herbert Baker. In 1911 the capital of the British Raj was shifted from Kolkata to Delhi. Today it is the seat of power of the country and a major Gateway to the country for the tourists. Old Delhi visit Raj Ghat which is located on the banks of the river Yamuna, This is Mahatma Gandhi's Memorial, where he was cremated following his assassination in January 1948. The memorial lies in the midst of landscaped gardens and made of a simple square platform of black marble inscribed with his last words "Hey Ram". Red Fort (closed on Monday) the 17th century imposing fortress built in red sandstone is surrounded by a huge boundary wall 33m high. Inside are exquisite palaces and beautiful gardens. Opposite the Red Fort lies Jama Masjid (Friday Mosque) made of red sandstone and white marble, completed in 1656. It is India's largest mosque where more than 20,000 people can kneel in prayer at one time. New Delhi visit Humayun's Tomb, built by his wife Haji Begum in the 16th Century. An early example of Mughal architecture considered the predecessor of the Taj Mahal. The Qutub Minar, the landmark of Delhi, a huge tower of victory started in 1199 and completed in 1368. The Minar is 72.5m high with a diameter at the base 14.4m and 2.7m at the top. Proceed to the Rashtrapati Bhawan (Drive Pass) once the Viceroy's residence and now the official residence of the President of India. Designed by Lutyens, it combines western and eastern styles - the dome reflects the Buddhist stupa, the chhatris "Hindu" and the graceful colonnades very "British". It has 340 rooms. The India Gate (42m), commemorates the 70,000 Indian soldiers who died in the 1st world war. 13516 names of British and Indian soldiers killed in the Afghan War of 1919 are engraved on the arch and foundations. Under the arch, glows the Amar Jawan Jyoti flame commemorating Indian armed forces' losses in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971. Stay overnight at the hotel.

### Day 02 : Delhi – Agra

In and around Agra

Drive to Agra . On arrival check in at hotel . A mediaeval city on the banks of the Yamuna River. It was founded by Sultan Sikandar Lodi in the year 1506. Agra

achieved fame as the capital of the Mughal emperors from 1526 to 1658 and remains a major tourist destination because of its many splendid Mughal-era buildings. Most notably the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, all three of which are UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Agra Fort was originally a brick fort and the Chauhan Rajputs held it. It was mentioned for the first time in 1080 AD when a Ghaznavide force captured it. Sikandar Lodi (1487-1517) was the first Sultan of Delhi who shifted to Agra and lived in the fort. He governed the country from here and Agra assumed the importance of the second capital. He died in the fort in 1517 and his son, Ibrahim Lodi, held it for nine years until he was defeated and killed at Panipat in 1526. He built several palaces, wells and a mosque in the fort during his period. World famous monument The Taj Mahal, Overlooking the River Yamuna, the Taj Mahal is a classic example of Mughal architecture, with the Taj itself built as a mausoleum at the northern end of an extensive formal walled garden designed in the charbagh style and structured on the Islamic theme of 'paradise'. The whole site was built by Shah Jahan between ad 1632 and 1653 as the final resting place of his favourite wife Arjumand Bano Begum (also known as Mumtaz Mahal) who died in ad 1631 shortly after giving birth to their fourteenth child. Upon his death in ad 1666, Shah Jahan was buried alongside his wife in the Taj. (Closed on Fridays). Stay overnight at the hotel.

### **Day 03 : Agra – Jaipur**

In and around Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur En route visit Fatehpur Sikri. Fatehpur Sikri, which is a beautiful and deserted mediaeval city, built by Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great in the 16th century to serve as the capital of his vast empire. It was mysteriously abandoned after 15 years due to scarcity of water. Today, it is perfectly preserved as a ghost city built at the height of the empire's splendour. See Darbar-e-Aam, Palaces, Panch Mahal Taansen Seat & great Sufi Sent doom etc. On arrival check in at hotel

### **Day 04 : Jaipur**

Today after breakfast explore the Pink City with an excursion to Amber Fort, situated just outside the city, enjoy the experience of ride on elephant back to and from the top of the hill on which the fort is situated. Afternoon sightseeing tour of City Palace in the heart of Jaipur is known for its blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture. Not far away is the Central Museum. Jantar Mantar is the largest of the five observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh. The Hawa Mahal or the Palace of Winds was constructed for the royal ladies to watch the royal processions without being seen, all monuments are located in the vicinity of City Palace Complex of Jaipur. Later afternoon is kept free to visit the famous Markets of Textiles, Gems, Carpets, and handicrafts. Jaipur is an ideal place for buying souvenirs.

**Day 05 : Jaipur - Bikaner**

In and around Bikaner

Today drive to Bikaner. On arrival check in at hotel . After check in sightseeing of Bikaner visiting Junagarh Fort , Camel breeding farm

**Day 06 : Bikaner – Jaisalmer**

In and around Jaisalmer

Drive to Jaisalmer . On arrival check in at hotel .

**Day 07: Jaisalmer**

Have your breakfast in the hotel and afterward visit to the splendid Jaisalmer Fort also known as the Sonar Kila. The fort placed approximately 30 metres above the city and serves as a residence to a whole living region within its massive walls.

Jaisalmer is also famous for its old and traditional havelis and during your sightseeing tour you also include the visit to Patwon ki Haveli, Salim ji ki Haveli and Gadi Sagar Lake. Evening drive to sand dunes to enjoy sunset & camel ride along with the stay at camps ( Camps Operate from October to March only )

**Day 08 : Jaisalmer – Jodhpur**

In and around Jodhpur

Drive to Jodhpur via Osian . On arrival check in at hotel . Sightseeing of Jodhpur .

Jodhpur is the second largest city in Rajasthan. Jodhpur is also known as the blue city as most of the houses of the old city are painted blue. The old city is surrounded by a huge 10 km long wall which has 101 bastions and seven gates. Jodhpur lies on the once strategic Delhi-Gujarat trading route and the marwaris benefited from the passing traffic of opium, copper, silk which was traded to China. Today We will visit the Mehrangarh Fort(majestic fort).

Mehrangarh Fort was built on a steep hill and is among the best in India with exquisitely latticed windows in residential apartments within. We also visit the Jaswant Thada, a royal cenotaph built in white marble.

**Day 09: Jodhpur – Udaipur**

In and around Udaipur

Drive to Udaipur via Ranakpur . On arrival check in at hotel .

**Day 10 : Udaipur**

Today we visit Udaipur, also known as the city of sunrise. We start our sightseeing with the visit of Sahelion-Ki-Bari. This Garden of the Maids of Honour is well laid out with extensive lawns and shady walks. After the visit of Garden of Maids we visit a Museum of folk art. This museum has a rich collection of Folk dresses, ornaments, puppets, masks, dolls, folk musical instruments and paintings on display. After a break we proceed to city palace, the biggest Palace in India,

where 4 generations of Maharajas added their contribution, is so carefully planned and integrated with the original buildings that it is difficult to believe that it was not conceived as a whole. The museum of the palace includes the beautiful peacock mosaic and miniature wall paintings of Indian mythology. Today we have an opportunity to visit a traditional painting school and see the famous miniature paintings done. In the evening we have a Boatride on the lake Pichola. The famous Lake Palace of Udaipur was the summer residence of the former rulers. The James bond Film Octopussy was shot here and made this palace more known in the west.

**Day 11 : Udaipur departure**

Today on time transfer to Udaipur airport for onward journey