

ROYAL RAJASTHAN DISCOVERY

Rajasthan is one of India's brightest jewels, a vast desert province where Rajput princes ruled for centuries in extravagant pomp and splendor. The great forts and palaces of the maharajahs bear witness to this proud and glorious past, but Rajasthan has more than just this rich historical legacy – it is also a land of traditional crafts, musicians and folk dances, women wearing bright saris bedecked with bangles and silver nose rings, festive village life and the contrasting forms and colors of the desert. Rajasthan is, simply, India at its best.

JOURNEY HIGHLIGHTS

Free and easy tour * Comprehensive sightseeing tours * World heritage sights visits * A delightful and thrilling shopping experience * In-depth knowledge on Indian rich Culture, Traditions, Arts, Crafts, History, Heritage, Religions and much more * Visit to the finest museums of the country * Opportunity to explore some of the grandest forts & palaces of Rajasthan * Visit to the awe-inspiring Taj Mahal * Adventure of Riding a decorated painted elephant to ascend the hilltop Amber Fort in the royal city of Jaipur * Explore the ancient, winding bazaars of old Jaipur and Delhi by rickshaw * Cultural evening in a famous ethnic village resort in Jaipur * Camel ride by the sand dunes in Jaisalmer * In Udaipur evening, cruise along Lake Pichola, admiring the magnificent sunset across the sparkling waters * Indian classical dance performance and farewell dinner in Delhi



Day 1 Arrival Delhi

Warm welcome with fresh flower garlands, your room is available for immediate occupancy.

Day 2 Delhi - Agra

After a morning at leisure we travel to the city of Taj, Agra, home of the legendary shrine built and dedicated to love, the Taj Mahal. Overnight Hotel.

Day 3 In Agra

The highlight of this morning's tour is a visit to the magnificent « **Taj Mahal** », one of the Seven Wonders of the World and surely the most extravagant expression of love ever created. 20,000 men labored for over 17 years to build this memorial to Shah Jahan's beloved wife. It's a wealth of white marble and semi-precious stone - undoubtedly the highlight of the tour. Post lunch visit to imposing **Agra Fort**, built of red sandstone and marble is a cluster of mosques and palaces on the banks of the river. Evening explore on your own, shop or relax at your hotel's poolside. Overnight Hotel.

Day 4 Agra - Jaipur

A leisurely drive takes us to Jaipur, the fabled « pink city » famous for its exquisite buildings of rose-colored terra cotta. En route we stop at **Fatehpur Sikri**, 16th century red sandstone city once a glittering capital but later abandoned due to scarcity of water. Evening to enjoy the **Rajasthani folk culture** which comes alive as children dance rhythmically to the loud tenor of folk songs sung by men and women, festooned in bright clothes. Overnight Hotel.

Day 5 In Jaipur

Tour the fabled **Amber Fort**, traveling to the citadel on **elephants back**. Other visits include the elegant **Hawa Mahal** or « Palace of the Winds », **Maharajah's City Palace** and **Jantar Mantar Observatory**. Enjoy a leisure evening in picturesque Jaipur to explore on your own. Overnight Hotel.

Day 6 Jaipur - Mandawa

We travel to Mandawa, often called the 'open air art gallery of Rajasthan'; the region is famous for the high quality frescoes. Afternoon sightseeing of Mandawa. Overnight Hotel.

Day 7 Mandawa - Bikaner

We will be driven to the relatively remote city of Bikaner, tucked away in the desert region of western Rajasthan. Post lunch visit to **temple of rats at Deshnok** - rats are held sacred in this temple. Overnight Hotel.

Day 8 Bikaner - Jaisalmer

Visit to the unusual **Junagarh Fort**, sumptuously decorated with its ornately lacquered walls in red and gold and panels of dazzling colored glass inlay set over the coronation throne. Our journey to the ancient caravan city of Jaisalmer takes us through the vast Thar Desert. Overnight Hotel.

Day 9 In Jaisalmer

Explore the **honey-colored fort** that emerges from the flat dry desert sands and enjoy a walk through the maze of narrow streets in the city with ornately decorated 'havelis' in yellow sandstone, built by rich merchants at a time when the city was a key stopping place on the caravan routes from the Middle East. Evening we enjoy Camel ride by the sand dunes – an incredible experience! Overnight Hotel.



Day 10 Jaisalmer - Jodhpur

Travel to Jodhpur through the most interesting contours of the desert landscape, forts, temples, royal residences and settlements retain its medieval character and comprise the town's multifaceted attractions. Overnight Hotel.

Day 11 In Jodhpur

Morning visit the majestic **Mehrangarh Fort**, which dominates and offers spectacular vistas of the blue-hued city. Other visits include **Jaswant Thada**, white marble mausoleum built in 1899 and the excursion tour to **Mandore**, the ancient capital of the Pratihara Rajputs, whose most remarkable monuments are the royal cenotaphs. Overnight Hotel.

Day 12 Jodhpur - Kumbhalgarh - Ranakpur - Udaipur

Our daylong drive to Udaipur begins this morning with an en route stop at **Jain temples** at Ranakpur, superbly preserved in a near-perfect condition for over 500 years. The most attractive features are 29 halls of temple, which have 1444 pillars of which no two are like. Our next stop is **Kumbhalgarh**, famous for its Fort, we visit fort and enjoy its superb views. We enjoy lunch here and proceed to Udaipur, there is no place in Rajasthan, which appeals more to the imagination of poets and painter, travelers and writers than Udaipur, an oasis in the desert state of Rajasthan. Overnight Hotel.

Day 13 In Udaipur

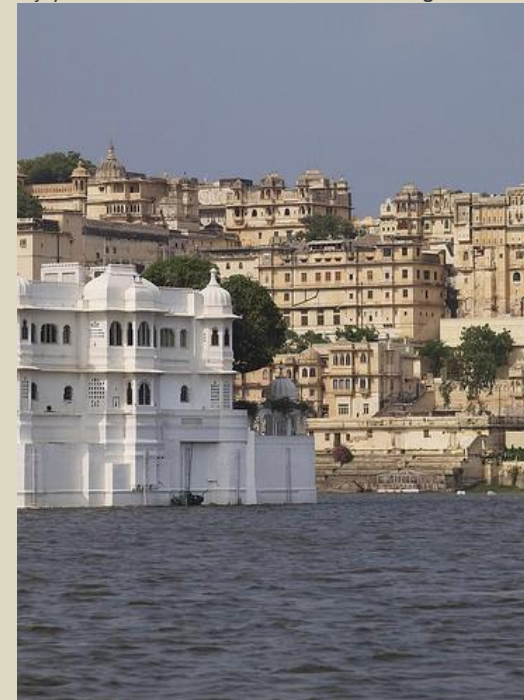
A morning excursion takes us to the famous temple complex of **Eklingji and Nagda**, which enshrines the deity of the Maharanas of Mewar. Spend the rest of the day exploring this charming lake city by car. Evening we witness the "**Mewar sound & light show**", a legacy of honor, which takes you on a journey through the history of Mewar through 15 centuries. Overnight Hotel.

Day 14 In Udaipur

Wander through the opulent **City Palace** grounds and the museum, which are testament the valor and chivalry of Mewar rulers. Visit **Saheliyon-Ki-Bari**, or « Garden of Friends », **Jagdish Temple** on the shores of Lake Pichola and **Crystal Gallery**. The breathtaking beauty of Lakes – Pichola and Fateh Sagar truly make Udaipur an oasis in the desert. Overnight Hotel.

Day 15 Udaipur - Delhi

Morning at leisure. Afternoon we have option to fly back Delhi. Evening post dinner at popular Delhi restaurant followed by Indian Classical Dances transfer to airport to board your homeward flight or you can stay at Udaipur to enjoy **Post Tour Extension of Mumbai & Aurangabad**.



Extend Your Stay

Not quite ready to end your holiday, take our extension trip to « Mumbai & Aurangabad ».

OPTIONAL POST – TOUR EXTENSION

Mumbai & Aurangabad

Explore Mumbai, India's most important commercial and industrial center and the world famous rock cut temples of Ajanta and Ellora in Aurangabad

Day 15 Udaipur / Mumbai

Morning we fly to Mumbai and after lunch we visit **Elephanta Caves** by motor launch (except during Monsoon) famous for its four rock cut temples. The most renowned of the caves' sculptures is a « Trimurthi », a 3 headed figure, 20ft tall, of Lord Shiva. Overnight Hotel.

Day 16 In Mumbai

Today's visits include the **Prince of Wales museum**, **The Gateway of India** overlooking the harbor and the **Dhobi Ghat**, a unique and colorful outdoor laundry. Then drive up Malabar Hill to the lovely **Hanging gardens** and **Kamla Nehru Park**. Back in the city we visit **Mani Bhawan**, a small museum dedicated to the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi and end our day at bustling Crawford market. Overnight Hotel.

Day 17 Mumbai - Aurangabad

Morning fly to Aurangabad. Time at leisure till lunch. Visit the **Ellora Caves** where a complex of temples and monasteries has been hewn from volcanic lava rock by Buddhist, Hindu & Jain monks. Overnight Hotel.

Day 18 In Aurangabad

Full day visit to **Ajanta Caves** where 24 monasteries and 5 temples embedded in rock in a horse-shoe shaped gorge, contain the finest Buddhist mural art and sculpture in the world. Overnight Hotel.

Day 19: Aurangabad - Mumbai

Fly back to Mumbai, day at leisure for personal activities.

Day 20 Departure

Early morning transfer to airport to Board your homeward flight or onward destination.

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Pacific Classic Tours (India)

49, Bansal Nagar, Fatehabad Road,
Agra 282001 (U.P.) INDIA
Tel. +91 562 4031350
Fax: +91 562 4005987

E-mail: sales@discoverydreams.com
Web: www.discoverydreams.com