

09 Nights /10 Days Programme Visiting

UDAIPUR – JODHPUR – JAISALMER – BIKANER – JAIPUR – AGRA – DELHI



Date & Programme

Day 01 : ARRIVE UDAIPUR

Meeting and assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel.

Udaipur is a beautiful city, set amidst the Aravalli Ranges of Rajasthan. Known for its picturesque lakes, also called 'the city of lakes'. The elevated hills and the beautiful lakes make a picture-perfect backdrop to the Udaipur city. It is famous for its captivating lakes, but the city has many more attractions that catch the attention of the tourists with their charm. The famous "White City" of Rajasthan stands on the banks of the lake Pichola, its many white marble palaces reflecting in the lake's calm waters.

Depending on the arrival time proceed for half day sightseeing visiting **The Bharatiya Lok Kala** dresses, ornaments, puppets, masks, dolls, folk musical instruments, folk deities and **Museum**, has interesting collection exhibited by this Indian folk arts museum includes folk paintings and the high point of the exhibits puppets. **City Palace** - Towering on the banks of Pichola Lake, City Palace is truly a feast to the eyes. It boasts of the wonderful blend of Medieval, European and Chinese Architecture. The Palace has various towers, domes and arches, which add to the flavor of heritage site. **Jagdish Temple** - is made in the Indo-Aryan style of architecture.

Saheliyon-ki-Bari (Queen resort for her friends) is a small ornamental garden was a popular relaxing spot where royal ladies came for a stroll and hence the name.

Bharatiya Lok Kala Museum has interesting collection exhibited by this Indian folk arts museum includes folk dresses, ornaments, puppets, masks, dolls, folk musical instruments, folk deities and paintings and the high point of the exhibits puppets.

In the evening enjoy a boat cruise and watch spectacular sunsets on the sparkling **Lake Pichola** that overlooks green hills and pleasant Udaipur vistas.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 02 : UDAIPUR – JODHPUR BY SURFACE (259 KMS)

After breakfast drive to **Jodhpur** and enroute visiting **Ranakpur**.

Renowned for some marvelously carved **Jain Temples** in amber stone, Ranakpur is one of the five holiest places of the Jain community and exceptional in beauty. The temple is located in the gorgeous Aravali ranges. It is one of the most important pilgrim among the five pilgrims of the Jainism. These temples were constructed in the AD 1439. It is perhaps the most Byzantine and massive of Jain temples in India.

Jodhpur is a very popular tourist destination. The city is known as the "**Sun City**" because of its bright and sunny weather throughout the year. The landscape is scenic and mesmerizing. It has been drawing the attention of tourists from all over the world. Standing as the sentinel of the country's western border, Jodhpur is famous for its magnificent forts and palaces.

Afternoon proceed for half day sightseeing visiting **Umaid Bhawan Palace** - This immense palace known as Chittar Palace because of the local chittar sandstone used, the only palace built in 20th century under the famine. This is the last of the great palaces of India and one of the largest residences in the world. The palace now runs as a hotel, though, a part of it has been retained as a museum and part as royal residence. **Government Museum** - This museum has a rich collection of weapons, textiles, miniature portraits, sculptures, antique weapons, local crafts and images of Jain Tirthankaras. It is situated in the middle of the Umaid public gardens.

Mehrangrah Fort - Also known as the "Majestic Fort" situated on a low sandstone Hill, including **Moti-Mahal** and **Phool Mahal**. It has been a witness to the splendor of bygone era. The beauty and the grandeur of numerous places in the fort narrate a saga of hard sandstones yielding to the chisels of skilled Jodhpur sculpturers. A collection of musical instruments, palanquins, furniture and cannons on the fort's ramparts are well - preserved. **Jaswant Thada** - The traditional cremation ground of the rulers of Jodhpur.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 03 : JODHPUR – JAISALMER BY SURFACE (295 KMS)

After breakfast drive to **Jaisalmer** and check-in at the hotel.

Jaisalmer – One of Rajasthan's most alluring cities, Jaisalmer, deep in the heart of Thar Desert, abounds in ancient palaces, temples and quaint settlements. As the sun sets, the sandstone buildings emit a lustrous glow, that make Jaisalmer the "Golden City". Founded by Rawal Jaisal in 1156 AD, the remote location of Jaisalmer, kept it almost untouched by outside influences, even during the days of the British Raj.

Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 04 : JAISALMER

After breakfast proceed for half day city sightseeing tour to visit this city of gilded magic. See the Citadel, the fort built by Rawal Jaisal and where a fourth of the population lives; Jaisalmer fort is the main attraction of this picturesque desert city of Rajasthan. Located on the top of the Trikuta Hill, it is visible from a distance of about 15 Kms. The ramparts, bastions and the long-stretching walls of the fort dazzle gloriously during early morning and at sunset, **Jain Temple** – This group of fine Jain Temples were built in the 12th to 15th century within the Jaisalmer fort. They are beautiful carved and dedicated to Rikhabdevji and Sambhavnathji, there is also a **Shiva and Ganesh Temple** inside the fort. **Gyan Bhandar** or Library : Some of the oldest manuscripts of India are found in this library established as a part of Jain temples.

Patwon ki Haveli – the life within the citadel gives you a clear picture of the medieval majesty with its magnificent palace, havelis, temples and the skilled artisans and camels all around. Among the havelis made by Jaisalmer's wealthy merchants include the **Patwon ki Haveli, Salim ki Haveli and Nathmal ki Haveli**. The Patwon ki Haveli is the grandest mansion in Jaisalmer, having ceiling supported by exquisitely carved pillars. The delicately chiseled balconies and extensive corridors and chambers of this haveli also present an impressive sight.

Afternoon proceed half day excursion to **Sam Sand Dunes** of the Thar Desert near Jaisalmer.

Sam Sand Dunes at Jaisalmer, Rajasthan is located 42 kms from Jaisalmer in the midst of the desert wilderness of the Thar Desert. The Sam Sand dunes are a tourist hot spot in more ways than one. 3km long, 1km wide and as much as half a kilometer high, the dunes are as unreliable as they are scenic. There is no vegetation here and the swirling air currents are almost as intense as the sandstorms in the Sahara. Despite of the tourists pouring in, it is still quite a magical place. It is best to be here at sunrise or sunset.

Immersed in a laid-back haze, the beautiful Sam sand dunes create engrossing and absorbing views. The winds draw patterns on the constantly drifting sand dunes. One can gaze till eternity at the dunes. Sitting there in the evening with the sun setting, listening to the ballads of the legendary lovers on the Jew's harp or the traditional musical instrument, one might feel that time has come to a stand halt. An overnight trip to the area is a must if one really wants to enjoy the sights and sounds, the ruins and the temples.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 : JAISALMER – BIKANER BY SURFACE (333 KMS)

After breakfast drive to **Bikaner** and check-in at the hotel.

Bikaner, the northern most point on the triangle of desert cities, was founded in 1488 AD. by Rao Bikaji, a descendant of the founder of Jodhpur, Rao Jodha. Like Jaisalmer, in the south, it was, once, an important trade centre. The old city is bolstered, by 7 km long imposing walls, with 5 entrance gates, built in the 18th century.

Afternoon proceed half day sightseeing of **Bikaner**, offers several attractions to the tourists besides, of course, the exotic camel safaris. Some of the major attractions around the city are **Junagarh Fort**, sumptuously decorated with its ornately lacquered walls in red & gold and panels of dazzling coloured glass inlay set over the coronation throne, it has several Palaces. Among them are **Karan Mahal, Anup Mahal, Badal Mahal** are prominent. Lalgarh Heritage Hotel.

Visiting **Mata Karni Temple** where rats are considered sacred and worshipped. The camel festival held in the month of January is also an event worth witnessing. **Camel Breeding Farm, Gajner Palace, Deshnoke Temple and Ganga Golden Jubilee Museum**.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 06 : BIKANER – JAIPUR BY SURFACE (321 KMS)

After breakfast drive to **Jaipur** and check-in at the hotel.

Jaipur the capital city of Rajasthan is the first planned city of India. It has been the capital of the royalty and it still retains the glory of the past through the monuments, forts and palaces built by Rajaputs, the Royal Family. The entire city of Jaipur is painted in pink and thereby attained the name Pink City. The customs, traditions, civilization and legacy of the place is truly different. Artistic temples and gardens of Jaipur make the atmosphere serene and the cultural heritage makes it effervescent.

Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 07 : JAIPUR

After breakfast proceed excursion to the **Amber Fort**.

The **Amber Fort** looks stunning, all-built in white marble and red sandstone. To add to its charm, Maottha Lake makes its foreground. The crystal mirror image of the Fort, on the still waters of the lake, seems to be a beautiful illusion. The marvelous decoration of the Amber Fort is influenced by both, the Hindu and Muslim manner of ornamentation. The best part of this tourist attraction situated on a crafty hill, is the royal elephant ride. The flawless beauty of the Fort can be enjoyed royally with an elephant ride.

Within the palace are the **Diwan-e-Aam** or the "Hall of Public Audience", the **Diwan-e-Khas** or the "Hall of Private Audience" and the **Sukh Niwas** where a cool breeze blows across channels of water for the purpose of air-conditioning. The **Jai Mandir** or the "Temple of Victory", with its famed **Sheesh Mahal**, the scintillating "Hall of Mirrors".

Visiting **The City Palace** – is now converted into a Museum. The architecture of the City Palace is a synthesis of Rajasthani and Mughal styles. The Complex comprises of many structures, courtyards, gardens and buildings. The City Palace does not only have a lot of historical significance but is also a reminder of the royal past. It stands as a symbol of the royal elegance and courtly splendor that is no longer visible. Other important attractions are the **Textile and Costume Museum, Art Gallery, Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, and Diwan-i-Khas and Diwan-i-Am**.

Hawa Mahal is a major landmark and a famous tourist attraction of Jaipur. The literal meaning of Hawa Mahal is Palace of Winds. The Palace offers a beautiful sight to behold. The splendid Rajputana architecture of Hawa Mahal, still speaks the glory of the royal family. This sandstone edifice was named Palace of Winds after the many brass wind vanes that adorned it until 1960s.

Jantar Mantar (Observatory) - at Jaipur is the largest stone observatory in the World and this feature makes it, a special destination for a traveler. Jantar Mantar has a remarkable collection of architectural astronomical instruments. It portrays noteworthy attempt of the ancestors, who were interested in astronomy and knowledge of celestial bodies. Amongst all the instruments, the Sundial usually attracts the maximum attention of people, which tells the time to an accuracy of about two seconds in local time of Jaipur.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 08 : JAIPUR – AGRA BY SURFACE (237 KMS)

After breakfast drive to **Jaipur** enroute visiting **Fatehpur Sikri**.

Fatehpur Sikri Thirty-nine kilometres from Agra stands Fatehpur Sikri, the red sandstone city of yesteryears. The city was built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar in AD 1564 in honour of the Muslim saint Sheikh Salim Chisthi. One of the major attractions of this city is the marble tomb of Sheikh Salim Chisthi. Other places of interest include **Diwan-i-Aam, Diwan-i-Khas, Buland Darwaza, Panch Mahal, Jodha Bai's Palace and Birbal Bhavan**.

Agra is famous as being home to one of the "**seven wonders of the world - The Taj Mahal**". This city was once the capital of the Mughal empire and it has several monuments which display the splendour of Mughal architecture. Besides the monuments, Agra is worth a visit for the masterpieces of craftsmen recreating the glory of the Mughal period and for the Mughlai cuisine, the aroma of which fills the narrow lanes of Agra.

Afternoon visit Agra Fort - **Agra Fort** is Agra's dominant human made structure. Agra Fort was constructed by the Mughal Emperor Akbar on the year 1565 and beautified with palaces and gardens by Jehangir. Agra Fort is noted for its tasteful marble and pietra dura inlay. One can enter the fort only through the **Amar Singh Gate**. The public access is limited to the southern part of the fort, which includes nearly all the buildings of tourist interest. The **Diwan-i-Aam** (hall of public audience) and **Diwan-i-Khas** (hall of private audience) were built by Shahjahan for receiving audiences & **Pearl Mosque**.

Jehangir's Palace built by Akbar was the largest private residence in the fort. Close to Diwan-i-Khas, stands an octagonal tower known as Musamman Burj. It was here that Shahjahan breathed his last after seven years of imprisonment. Other places to see within the fort include the **Khas Mahal, Sheesh Mahal** (the mirror palace) and the **Anguri Bagh** (the Grape Garden).

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 09 : AGRA – DELHI BY SURFACE (204 KMS)

Early in the morning visiting The **Taj Mahal**. Taj looks extremely enchanting at sunrise when it changes its colour from a **Light Pink to White**.

Taj Mahal - The enchanting mausoleum, on the bank of river Yamuna was built by a grief stricken Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. A world-renowned wonder, Taj Mahal Sits pretty on the northern side of this green paradise. It looks the same from all the four sides! This magnificent monument is set around a Charbagh or 'four garden' plan, which is split by watercourses-a reflection of the Persian style.

After breakfast drive to **Delhi** and check-in at the hotel.

Delhi – The name brings the complexities, the contradictions, the beauty and the dynamism of a city where the past co-exist with the present. Many dynasties ruled here and have left behind a rich heritage of architectural value through their monuments. Drives cultural elements absorbed into the daily life of the city have enriched its characters. Exploring the city can be a fascinating and rewarding experience.

Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 10 : DEPART DELHI

After breakfast proceed for half day sightseeing of **New Delhi** visiting **Qutab Minar**, is an excellent example of Afghan Architecture. **Lakshminarayan Temple** – a modern Hindu Temple. Also drive past **Presidential House, Parliament House, and Government Secretariat Buildings**.

Old Delhi visiting – **Raj Ghat and Shanti Vana** – the **cremation sited of Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru**. Also drive past **Red Fort**, built in 1648 by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan, **Jama Masjid**, one of the longest mosque in India and **Chandni Chowk**, shopping center of Delhi.

In time trsansfer to the **Airport** to board flight for onward destination.

End of the programme.

Price \$ 900 or Euro 700 per person

Includes:

- Accommodation for 9 nights in 3 star hotels
- Breakfast
- Transfers and sightseeing by AC deluxe coach asper itinerary
- English speaking guide during sightseeing
- Entrance fees to monuments
- Camel ride at Jaisalmer
- Elephant ride at Jaipur

Excludes:

- Meals other than breakfast
- Tips, telephone calls, portrage, beverages, joy rides except for those mentioned above