

Glimpses of India

India-the land that evokes flights of imagination and curiosity, a canvas of spectacle and colour Ruled



by a succession of native kingdoms, and often overrun and inhabited by invading armies of Central Asian origin, followed by the Mughals and finally the British, transformation has been never ending and the results are deeply and visibly etched in today's milieu. A profusion of races and cultures, and the magnitude of their legacies, are evident today.

This extroverted journey takes the traveler along a richly historic route, full of lore and splendor, punctuated by photographic attractions, and features varied sightseeing and sojourns in historic places.

ITINERARY....

26 DEC / MON **DELHI – AGRA** **(B)**

After breakfast drive to Agra (205 / 4-5 hrs).

Agra - Badal Singh established the city of Taj in 1475 AD. Agra finds mention in the Mahabharat as Agraban. Sikandar Lodi made Agra his capital but Babur defeated the Lodis to capture not only Agra but also laid the foundation of the Mughal Empire. In the mid 16th century and earlier 17th century AD, Agra witnessed a frenzied building activity and it was during this time when the symbol of love Taj Mahal was built.

Upon arrival in Agra, check in to hotel.

Late afternoon visit to Agra Fort & Taj Mahal.

Agra Fort, a massive structure with 70-foot high, 1.5-mile long walls encompassing an astounding collection of well preserved buildings, many of them completed during the reign of Emperor Shah Jahan. The most unusual story about the Taj, is that there might have been two of them. The emperor intended to build a second tomb in black marble, a negative image of the white Taj for Mumtaz. Tragically, before he could begin, he was deposed by his son and imprisoned in the Agra Fort where he remained until his death, spending the rest of his life looking out along the river to the final resting-place of his wife.

Stay overnight at Agra.

27 DEC / TUE **AGRA - FATEHPUR SIKRI - JAIPUR** **(B)**

Rise early for morning coffee and prepare for a truly spectacular sight, the legendary Taj



Mahal at daybreak. It is often said that Taj Mahal changes its colours by every minute depending upon angle of sunrays and it is best seen either by sunset or sunrise. Sunrise however is best timing for taking pictures of this monument under mild sun light.

Taj Mahal- Little needs to be said about this architectural wonder, which is always the soul raison-de-etre for every tourist's visit to Agra. Built by Shah Jahan, the Taj is a white marble memorial to his beautiful wife Mumtaz Mahal. This monument took 22 years to be completed and was designed, and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. Apart from its stunning design balance and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens and some of the best inlay work ever seen.

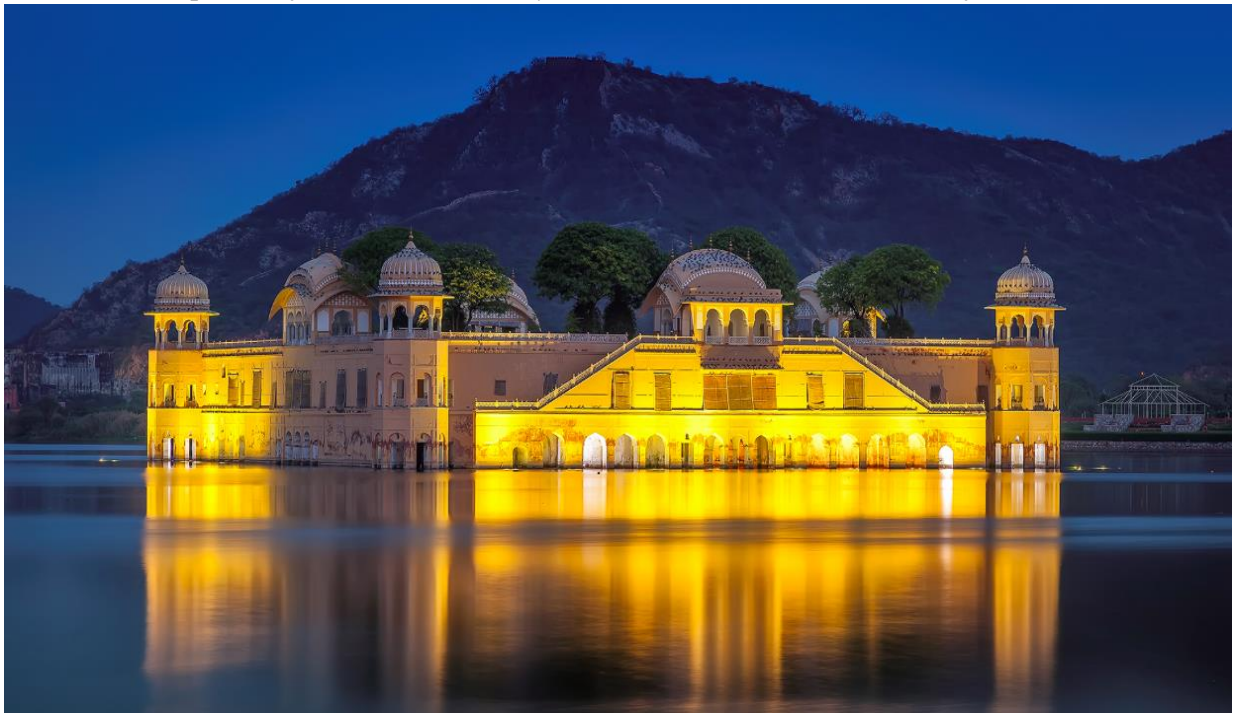
(Note: Taj Mahal remains closed on Fridays).

After returning to your hotel for a full American breakfast, drive to Jaipur en-route visit Fatehpur Sikri.

Fatehpur Sikri: The Red Sandstone City, Emperor Akbar built as his capital and palace in the late 16th century. Also visit the Bulund Darwaza, the largest gateway in the world.

Upon arrival in Jaipur, check into the beautiful palace.

Jaipur: The capital city of the state of Rajasthan, also known as "Pink City" owes its name, its



foundation and planning to the great warrior astronomer Maharaja Jai Singh II. The city sits on a dry lakebed in a wild and somewhat arid landscape, surrounded by barren hills surmounted by fortresses and crenellated walls.

Stay overnight at Jaipur.

28 DEC / WED

JAIPUR

(B)

After breakfast proceed for excursion of Amber Fort and Cycle rickshaw tour.

Morning proceed for Gems of Jaipur City Tour: This morning visit the magnificent Amber



Fort, the most iconic monument of Jaipur .You can have the experience of travelling on elephant back to the top of the hill where the fort is situated. Housing many palaces, halls, gardens, and temples. Including Sheesh Mahal, an elaborate mirror Palace work adds to the grandeur of this historic part, a visit to Amber is indeed well worth.

Later embark on our uniquely designed Cycle Rickshaw tour. This tour is planned to offer you an insight on the socio economic aspects of the city. Every lane in the walled city has something interesting to offer and the relaxed Rickshaw ride is the best way to explore the city like the locals do.

Later Wonders of Pink City Tour: For the visitor, the Pink City of Jaipur is definitely a feast for the eyes. This planned city built in AD 1727 by a visionary King Sawai Jai Singh II. He designed a city so perfect, so beautiful, the likes of which cannot be found the world over.

Join us on this memorable guided tour to visit City palace, the residence of the present Royal family who have opened their gates to visitors and converted a part of their palace into a museum. Afterwards visit the Observatory (Jantar Mantar) which boasts of having the largest Sun Dial of the World.

Also enjoy a heritage walking tour, great way to explore Jaipur's architecture. You see an amazing variety of historic landmarks and buildings, interaction with local people and witness some of Jaipur famous art and craft.

Return back to the hotel.

Stay overnight at Jaipur.

29 DEC / THU

JAIPUR

(B)



Cooking Demo along with Lunch: The cooking demonstration and meal involves the cooking instructor working and demonstrating to the guests all ingredients and techniques neatly typed cooking recipes in a Sanganeri hand made paper folder given as a take away to every guest. Our cooking

demonstration is unique in as much that it covers ingredients and recipes of Rajasthan which the guest easily replicate. The guest also works hands on and can cook on the cooking station.

We would like to show and serve dishes which normally the guests would not find easily. The reference is both to ingredients, techniques and different segments of citizens preparing and having these dishes.

Shri and Shrimati Durga SinghSmt ...Usha Kumari is a keen enthusiastic cook and instructor. Shri Durga Singh developed his interest in cooking while translating for royal chefs at Jodhpur to visitors and camping while on horse and camel safaris.

Stay overnight at Jaipur.

30 DEC / FRI

JAIPUR - CHHATRASAGAR

(B, L, D)

Today you drive to ChattraSagar(280 kms / 5-6 hrs). Previously ChattraSagar acted as a hunting lodge on the Nimaj estate. Nowadays it is a luxury tented camp, situated in a stunning and romantic position overlooking the lake and its east-facing tents with private sit outs offer panoramic views. The very comfortable tents are stylishly furnished and decorated and have attached bathrooms with hot water. The food offered here is also exceptional.

This is wonderful spot for bird watchers and nature lovers and in the afternoon you will have a walk by the lake and can then enjoy a sundowner while admiring the view.

Stay overnight at Luxury Tented Camp.

ChhatraSagar, Nimaj- A truly magical place which comprises delightful tents pitched on a dam,



overlooking a lake teeming with birds (seasonal) and surrounded by grasslands replete with wildlife. The charming Nimaj family are personally involved in looking after guests and the gorgeous tents are amongst the best of their kind, sited in a location that is truly exceptional. They are very pretty and



comfortable with fabulous stone bathrooms, a small sitting area and a dressing room. Each tent faces directly onto the lake and whilst sitting on your verandah you are rewarded with glorious, uninterrupted views and virtually no sign of habitation – a rarity in India! The food served is cooked by the gentle ladies of the house and comprises family recipes passed down over generations. The result is a constant culinary feast and you will enjoy some of the finest home cooking in Rajasthan.

31 DEC / SAT

CHHATRASAGAR - JODHPUR

(B, D)

After breakfast proceed for village & farm tour or bird watching.

Drive to Jodhpur (110 kms / 2 hrs). Upon arrival check in to the hotel.

Jodhpur (known as the “Sun City” for the bright, sunny weather it enjoys year-round) was founded by Rao Jodha, a chief of the Rathore clan, in 1459. It is the second largest city in Rajasthan, and is divided into two parts - the old city and the new city. The old city is separated by a ten kilometre long wall surrounding it, with eight gates leading out of it. The new city is outside the walled city. Jodhpur has many beautiful palaces and forts such as Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada, Umaid Bhavan Palace and Rai ka Bag Palace. Other charms of Jodhpur include Government museum and its beautiful Umed garden.

Upon arrival at Jodhpur, check in to hotel.

Today you will have the New Year Dinner celebration at Umaid Bhawan Palace hotel which is organised at Mehrangarh Fort (Venue subject to change).

Stay overnight at Jodhpur.

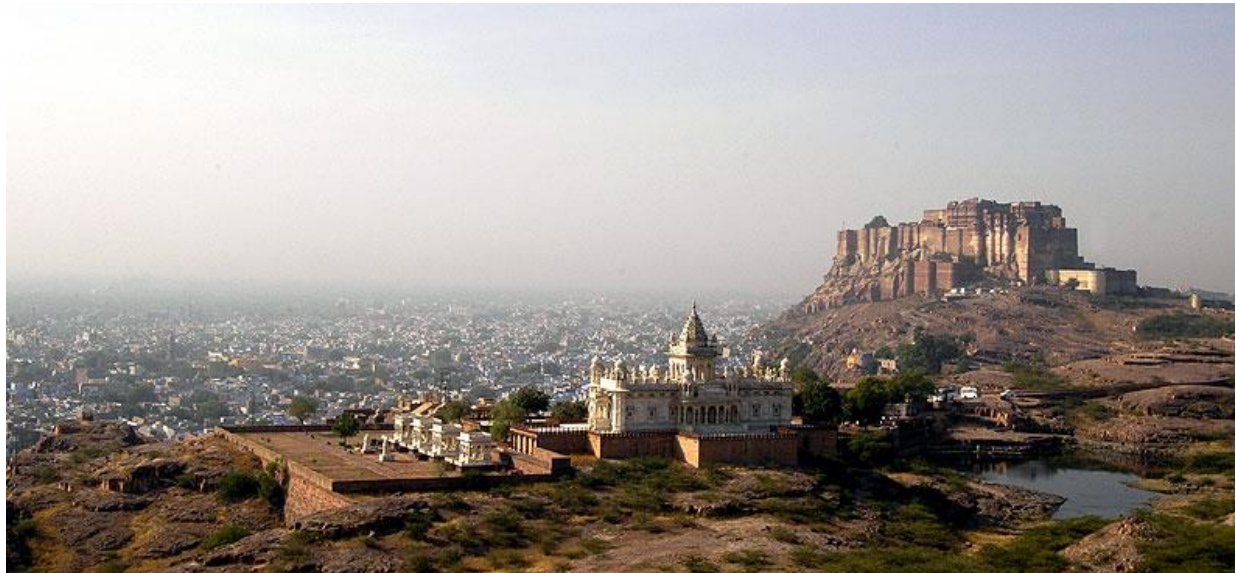
01 JAN / SUN

JODHPUR

(B, L)

After Breakfast proceed for sightseeing of Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada.

Mehrangarh Fort: Spread over 5 km. On a stiff rugged hill and looking down from a height of



about 100 Mts. the fort appears invincible and impenetrable from outside but houses some of the most intricately adorned palaces with exquisitely carved panels and latticed windows. Moti Mahal, Phool Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Sileh Khana and Daulat Khana are some of the important palaces.

Today we will visit Indian family for the lunch. As you venture through the colorful bustling streets of Jodhpur, one can work up an appetite, especially when a warm home cooked meal is promised. Full of memories, you will have the opportunity to see what the typical Rajashtani home looks like and imagine its liveliness as children ran from room to room, with echos heard in the courtyard. While enjoying some of the traditional dishes every Jodhpur house has grown up on.

Special walking of Brahmins and Blue City: Drive deep into the heart of Jodhpur to discover the lesser known treasures of this enchanting city. Peep into the life of locals , Meet and interact with city's

residents ,wonder through narrow alleyways dotted with Indigo colored houses. Led by our expert team of City Explorers this walking tour offers a great insight into majestic Marwar. The old Town of Jodhpur was planned in the form of human body, where Mehrangarh Fort, the seat of the King represents the head of the body. Right hand represents the Brahmins or the priest community. Left hand for ministers, important Thakurs, landlords & other people who were appointed for the Durbar, service of the Royal Court. The Stomach of the body represents business class people, who very wealthy merchants engaged in trade and commerce. The Legs represent all the manual laborers.

Significant Tour highlights

- Visit historic Krishna Temple, tucked inside the heart of the Blue City and meet the priest family.
- Explore the narrow alleyways of the Blue City to meet locals and hear interesting stories of Jodhpur and its living traditions.
- Discover ancient step wells which play a vital role in the religious and social life of the surrounding residents.
- Sample out some mouth watering sweets of Jodhpur, like Julab Jamun, Mave ki kachori etc.
- Visit fee community kitchen , Grain Mandi & Clock Tower to feel the buzz of this city

Stay overnight at Jodhpur.

02 JAN / MON JODHPUR –DELHI – ONWARD JOURNEY (B)

On time transfer to airport to board the flight to Delhi.

9W-2552 (Jet Airways)

Jodhpur/Delhi

1340/1520 hrs

Upon arrival at Delhi airport you will be met by our representative and transferred to the hotel for stay.

On time departure transfer to International airport to board the flight to onward destination/ Home.

Hotel Envisaged:

City / No of Nights	Hotels		
Agra/ 1	The Oberoi Amarvilas		
Jaipur/ 3	Taj Rambagh Palace		
Nimaj/ 1	Chhatrasagar		
Jodhpur/ 2	Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace		
Delhi/ 1	JW Marriot		

