

Rajasthan Forts and Palaces

All-inclusive 14-nights/ 15 days tour to north India



Rajasthan Forts and Palaces

A grand tour of all the best places of this fascinating state. See the great fortresses of the desert cities of Bikaner and Jaisalmer, the great city of Jodhpur, the beautiful city of Udaipur and holy Mount Abu. Experience a camel ride and dinner on the sand dunes, spice markets, romantic boat ride at lake Pichola, and fabulous handicrafts offering splendid shopping opportunities. Stay at beautiful heritage hotels and experience the real India.

**Forts and palaces of Rajasthan
Itinerary**

Day 1 Saturday	Arrive at New Delhi International Airport. Meet and greet then transfer to hotel.	Delhi Blueberry Hotel
Day 2 Sunday	Breakfast at hotel. Delhi-Mandawa drive 243 kms, approx. 5 hours After Breakfast drive to Shekhawati region with lunch en route. Check in to hotel. Welcome drinks and dinner at restaurant.	Mandawa Udai Vilas Hotel B, L, D
Day 3 Monday	Breakfast at hotel. Mandawa-Bikaner drive 188 kms, approx. 3 1/2 hours Morning drive to Bikaner city. Lunch while on city tour and dinner at the hotel.	Bikaner Harasar Haveli Hotel B, L, D
Day 4 Tuesday	Breakfast at hotel. Full day sightseeing in Bikaner visiting Junagarh Fort, Jain Temples and museum. Lunch at restaurant, dinner at hotel.	Bikaner Harasar Haveli Hotel B, L, D
Day 5 Wednesday	Breakfast at hotel. Bikaner-Jaisalmer drive 331 kms, approx. 5 hours Morning proceed to Jaisalmer, Lunch en-route. Check into hotel. Dinner at hotel.	Jaisalmer Fort Rajwada Hotel B, L, D
Day 6 Thursday	Breakfast at hotel. Full day sightseeing in Jaisalmer, with lunch, while on the city tour. Experience sunset on Sam Sand dunes and adventure camel ride. Dinner on the sand dunes specially organized for the group. Return to hotel.	Jaisalmer Fort Rajwada Hotel B, L, D
Day 7 Friday	Breakfast at hotel. Jaisalmer-Jodhpur drive 272 kms, approx. 5 hours Morning drive to Jodhpur with lunch en-route. Dinner upon arrival in the hotel.	Jodhpur Pal Haveli Hotel B, L, D
Day 8 Saturday	Breakfast at hotel Morning city tour of Jodhpur covering Mehrangarh Fort, Umaid Bhavan Palace, Jawant Thada with lunch in a local restaurant. Evening visit spice market and dinner in the hotel.	Jodhpur Pal Haveli Hotel B, L, D
Day 9 Sunday	Breakfast at hotel. Jodhpur-Mt. Abu drive 270 kms, approx. 5 ½ hours Proceed to Mt. Abu, Lunch and dinner at the hotel. Evening free for leisure.	Mt. Abu Connaught Hotel B, L, D
Day 10 Monday	Breakfast at hotel. Morning proceed to city tour of Mt. Abu covering Dilwara Temple, sunset point with lunch en-route and dinner in the hotel.	Mt. Abu Connaught Hotel B, L, D
Day 11 Tuesday	Breakfast at hotel. Mt. Abu-Udaipur drive 160 kms, approx. 3 ½ hours Drive to Udaipur via Ranakpur. Lunch en-route, afternoon free and dinner in the hotel.	Udaipur KaroHi Haveli Hotel B, L, D
Day 12 Wednesday	Breakfast at hotel. Morning proceed to city tour of Udaipur covering City Palace, Jag Mandir, Lake Palace and lake Pichola. Lunch en-route and dinner at the hotel.	Udaipur KaroHi Haveli Hotel B, L, D
Day 13 Thursday	Breakfast at hotel. Day is free for leisure. Enjoy and indulge in shopping. Udaipur is famous for paintings, bronze antiques, rugs and carpets. Lunch at restaurant and dinner the hotel.	Udaipur KaroHi Haveli Hotel B, L, D
Day 14 Friday	Breakfast at hotel. Morning transfer to airport for flight to Delhi. Lunch at restaurant. Evening free for shopping and leisure. Farewell dinner and drinks at restaurant.	Delhi Blueberry Hotel B, L, D
Day 15 Saturday	Breakfast at hotel. Free day for leisure, shopping or individual sightseeing. Transfer to airport. End of service.	Fly away! B, Early Dinner

*** This itinerary is correct at the time of issue and in good faith, but is liable to change at any time or place for any reason.

Cost per person:

Single Supplement

USD 2640	USD 913
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Dates

2013: 12th Oct || 23rd Nov

2014: 11th Jan || 29th March || 22nd Nov

Included:

- Accommodation in 3 and 4 Star modern and heritage hotels with private bath, air-conditioning, television etc.
- Breakfast at hotels. Lunch and dinner in quality restaurants and at hotels.
- Transportation by air-conditioned bus with English speaking driver.
- All city tours, sightseeing and transfers.
- Services of English speaking local guides at all places.
- Economy class flight: Udaipur to Delhi
- Bottled water on bus and in hotels
- Camel ride at Sum Sand dunes
- Special supper at the Sum Sand dunes
- Boat ride at Lake Pichola in Udaipur.
- Wet tissues to clean face, feet and hands when coming from monuments where shoes are not allowed.
- All entrance fees and taxes.
- Assistance at all the places.
- Accompanied at all times by experienced gay tour manager.

Not Included:

- Any hard/soft drinks
- Any tips/laundry/porterage etc.
- Anything, which is not mentioned in the inclusions.
- Any international airfare, travel insurance or Visa Fee.



Forts and Palaces of Rajasthan

Destination Information

Mandawa

The open-air art gallery of Rajasthan, This region came into prominence in the 14th century when a number of Muslim clans moved into the area and the towns of this region developed into important trading posts on the caravan routes emanating from the ports of Gujarat. This region is famous for painted havelis most of which date back from the 18th century. The famous and must visit among the painted havelis are Chowkhani Haveli, Gulab Rai Ladia Haveli, Lakshmi Narayan Ladia Haveli, Mohahanlal Saraf Haveli and Bhagchandika Haveli. See the splendor of almost 100-year-old frescoes.

Bikaner

The city of Bikaner was founded in 1488 from Jangaldesh or the country of wild bushes. It has been almost 550 years since its inception and the city has spread across the desert and has also acquired expertise viz, camel breeding and dry irrigation which is unique to it. Bikaner city along with its rocky scrubland, is located on an elevated plain in the desert. The old city is encompassed by a long embattlement wall which intermittently breaks to give way to five huge gates. Now a major trade center for wool, building stones, carpets, blankets, salt and grain, Bikaner has emerged as the lifeline of the state. **Junagarh** was built in 1593 A.D. by Raja Rai Singh, a general in the army of Emperor Akber. The structure is encircled by a moat and has beautiful palaces in between made of Redstone and marbles. **Devi Kund** is a royal crematorium with several ornamented cenotaphs built in the memory of Bika Dynasty rulers. Maharaja Suraj Singh's cenotaph is the most impressive one created entirely with white marble with secular rajput paintings on the ceilings. **Bhandasar Jain Temple** is dedicated to the 23rd Tirthankara, Parasavnathji. The temples have colorful wall painting and some beautiful carving. **Ganga Golden Jubilee Museum** has one of the richest collections of terracotta ware, weapons miniature paintings of Bikaner schools and coins. It also has separate section displaying exclusive arts and crafts of the region

Jaisalmer

This fantastic city, forming a part of the Great Indian Desert, was founded in centuries back by Rawal Jaisal of the Yadav community and the name Jaisalmer means the hill fort of Jaisal. This medieval has grown into fame as a romantic gateway for exotic enjoyments and breathtaking views. Magnificent palaces, Golden fort, ancient imposing temples and havelis provide this wonderful place a permanent spot in the tourist map of India. This city boasts many medieval period Jain temples as well. The city is enriched with the exquisite collections of arts, textiles and crafts. The majority of the inhabitants are Rajputs, who have renowned as great warriors. **The Fort** This 12th century fort has withstood the ravages of time and rises out of the sea of sand. Its rounded battlements of golden sandstone echo the colours of the desert. The fort has four approach gateways. Several entrances guard the Megh Durbar and the Jawahar Mahal, which bear the imperial symbols of the Bhatti clan's lunar lineage. Outside the fort is the main market place called Manek Chowk. From Manek Chowk, one can walk into the lanes, where the famous carved havelis, beautifully sculptured Jain Temples of the 12th -15th century and five interconnected palaces can be found. **Tazia Tower**, one of the major tourist destinations in Jaisalmer, is an amazing five storied structure. This marvelous attraction is located at the eye catching complex of Badal Palace near Amar Sagar Gate. The Tazia Tower is credited with imposing balconies in each of its floor and they are pretty attractive with its distinct design and architectural style. **Gadsisar Lake** is a scenic rainwater lake surrounded with numerous beautiful shrines. The lake is a tranquil spot for outings. **Lodurva** (15 kms) is the ancient capital of Jaisalmer and an important pilgrim centre of the Jains. Some magnificent Jain temples are located here. The temples have intricate carvings on the arches at the main entrance. A 'Kalptaru' or a divine tree is the main attraction of the temple. **Manak Square** The main marketplace outside the fort leads to the narrow lanes dotted with famous havelis. **Sam Sand Dunes** (42 Kms) No trip to Jaisalmer is complete without trip to the very picturesque dunes of Sam. The ripples of the wind have caressed the dunes creating an enchanting mirage, surely a delight for trigger-happy photographers. Various cultural programmes are organized against the back drop of these fascinating sand dunes, Exciting camel rides allow you to experience the real desert

Jodhpur

the blue city of Rajasthan is located on the eastern fringe of the Thar Desert and has the distinction of neither being a part of the Thar Desert nor out of it. At best, it is a doorway to the wonderland of sand dunes and shrubs, rocky terrain and thorny trees. It is the home of the Rathors - the awesome princely state of Rajasthan, who conquered Marwar the land of the sand after the fall of Delhi and Kannauj.

Jaswant Thada: On the way down from the fort, on left is Jaswant Thada, the graceful marble cenotaph of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. His son Maharaja Sardar Singhji built the Taj Mahal of Marwar in the memory of Maharaj Jaswant Singhji II of Jodhpur. **Maha Mandir:** The Mahamandir Temple is supported by 100 pillars and has carvings depicting yoga postures. **Mandore Gardens:** Mandore was the former capital of Maharajas of Marwar and is located about 5 miles north of Jodhpur, but was later abandoned for the security of Mehrangarh fort. Here you will find the dewals, or cenotaphs of Jodhpur's former rulers. Unlike the usual chhatri-shaped cenotaphs typical of Rajasthan, they were built along the lines of a Hindu temple, four stories high, with fine columns and an elegant spire, all in red sandstone. Evening you have the walking tour of Clock Tower market also called as the Spice Market and is quite interesting to see the villagers shopping..

Ranakpur

is mainly famous for its Jain temples, which are all exquisitely carved structures. A view of these temples can be breathtaking when seen along with the background of endless desert sands. The huge complex is enclosed within walls, and houses Jain temples that are made of amber stone. The Chamukha temple that is located in this complex is the main temple in the region. This temple is dedicated to Adinathji, who is revered among Jains and regarded as the first tirthankara. This temple is a very huge structure that has around twenty nine halls and close to 1444 pillars in its premises. All these portions are distinctly carved, and they are all unique. No two pillars or structures in this temple have the same carvings. The temple is thus an architectural marvel that can excite any architecture buff or history buff that visits the place

Mt. Abu.

Mount Abu is one of the renowned Jain pilgrimage locations in India and is the only hills station in the state of Rajasthan, India. Mount Abu, the oasis among the deserts in Rajasthan, is located at a height of 1220 meters from sea level and is enclosing a serene and beautiful lake. It is placed at the pinnacle of a granite table peak on Aravalli ranges and is surrounded by thickly populated green forests. The cool and fragrant ambience with rich flora in Mount Abu attracts thousands of tourists every year. Nakki lake, Toad rock, Raghunath Temple, Sun set point, Brahma Kumari's peace Hall and Museum are some of the attractions.

Udaipur

Udaipur City, one of the most beautiful cities and known as 'Jewel of Mewar', is the administrative headquarters of Udaipur District in the state of Rajasthan, India.

City Palace One of the largest royal complexes in Rajasthan, situated on a promontory on the picturesque Lake Pichola. The complex has 11 beautiful palaces with balconies and towers. Offering the breathtaking view of the lake the City **Lake Palace**, also known as Jag Niwas is a beautiful Island Palace built by Maharana Jagat Singh II in 1754. Situated on picturesque Lake Pichola, the white marble structure appears like emerging out of the shimmering blue waters on the lake, creating a spellbound effect. **Eklingji** (21 Kms) is a religious complex in the northern region of Mewar. It houses 108 temples chiseled out of sandstone and marble. The temple of Eklingji was built in 734 A.D. Enclosed by high walls, it is devoted to Eklingji. Built by Maharana Jagat Singh I in 1651, the temple enshrines a black stone image of Lord Vishnu. The exterior and the plinth are covered with base relief of alligators, elephants, equestrian and celestial musicians rise in tiers.

