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THAR DESERT EXPLORER

Duration: 08N/09D

Key Sights: Delhi - Jodhpur - Osian - Khichan - Manvar - Jaisalmer

Day	Program	Mode	Distance/Time
Day 1	Arrived Delhi	By Flight	
Day 2	Delhi		
Day 3	Delhi – Jodhpur	By Flight	
Day 4	Jodhpur – Osian	By Surface	67KM/01-02 Hours
Day 5	Osian – Khichan – Manvar	By Surface	85KM/01-02 Hours
Day 6	Manvar – Jaisalmer	By Surface	170KM/02-03 Hours
Day 7	Jaisalmer		
Day 8	Jaisalmer – New Delhi	By Train	
Day 9	Departure Delhi	By Flight	



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Day 1	Arrived Delhi	By Flight	
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Arrival in India (New Delhi), traditional welcome by our representative at airport, transfer assistance to hotel. Check-in at hotel, before you proceed to your room/s, our representative will hand-over the travel documents and brief you about the tour programme. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 2	Delhi		
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Breakfast at hotel, this morning explore India's capital city by touring its magnificent monuments, start your tour by visiting - Old Delhi: An ancient walled city earlier known as Shahjahanabad. Take a photo stop at Red Fort: the most opulent Red sandstone fort and palace of the Moghul Empire (1639-1648 built by Shah Jahan the 5th Mughal Emperor of India and the builder of the Taj Mahal in Agra), visit Jama Masjid, Largest mosque in India, the foundation of the historic Jama Masjid was laid on a hillock in Shahjahanabad by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1650 AD, this mosque was the result of the efforts of over 6,000 workers, over a period of six years (1650-1656 AD). The cost of the construction in those times was 1 million rupees. This Mosque has three great gates, four towers and two 40 m-high minarets constructed of strips of red sandstone and white marble. About 20,000 people can pray here at a time. The mosque has a vast paved rectangular courtyard, which is nearly 75 m by 66 m. The whole of the western chamber is a big hall standing on 260 pillars.

Visit Chandni Chowk, the bustling and colorful market of the old city, designed by Emperor Shah Jahan's daughter Jahanara Begum. Jahanara laid the foundation of Chandni Chowk, which is the largest trading center of Delhi as well as India. At present the street is a busy thoroughfare and is really congested. This area is renowned for 'Kuchas and Katras' also known as Alleys. These alleys house traditional Havelis, places of worship: Temples, Mosques, Church and Gurudwara, popular specialised markets and century-old eating joints. Enjoy a cycle-rickshaw ride.

Visit the Raj Ghat, the memorial site of Mahatma Gandhi - Father of Nation.

Later visit New Delhi designed and built by the British in the 1920's it's a city of wide boulevards impressive Government buildings, green parks and gardens. First drive past Connaught Place, the heart and main shopping district of the capital, then drive to Rajpath (King's Way), India Gate - the 42m high stone Arch of Triumph, erected in the memory of Indian soldiers who died in First World War. Drive past Rashtrapati Bhawan (President Palace) and Parliament House.

Sightseeing will also include drive past the elegant Lodhi Garden and Safdarjung's tomb.

Visit the exquisite Humayun's Tomb, built in 1570 is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent, the structure was built inspired by Persian Architecture, its architect was Mirak Mirza Ghiyath. This memorial of Emperor



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Humayun, second Mughal ruler of India was built by his widow, Hajji Begum 14 years after his death.

Later visit Qutab Minar 12th century minaret built by Qutub-ud-din Aibek of the Slave Dynasty - this building complex dates back to the onset of Muslim rule in India and is fine example of Afghan architecture which is graceful and well sculptured and stands 75 mt. Also visit the Baha'i Temple (Lotus Temple) Lotus being a symbol of peace and prosperity all around the world, the shape of the temple personifies the purpose for which the foundation of this marvelous man-made architectural was laid. Lotus temple is made of pristine marble blocks, cement, dolomite and sand and the entire ascetic value is coddled by the group of nine pools filled with crystal clear water. In accord with the mores of Baha'i religion, the temple is open to everyone from anywhere in the world who is looking for inner peace & tranquility.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 3	Delhi – Jodhpur	By Flight	
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Breakfast and check-out from hotel. Transfer in-time to airport to board flight for Jodhpur. Arrive in Jodhpur, transfer assistance from airport to hotel. Check-in at hotel.

Proceed for the city tour of Jodhpur, visit Umaid Bhawan Palace designed by the renowned Edwardian architect Henry Lanchester. Constructed between 1929 and 1944, visit magnificent Mehrangarh Fort standing sentinel to the grandeur of the past, and houses a palace houses with rich collection of palanquins, howdas, royal cradles, miniature paintings etc. The fort has a series of spectacular palaces and museum, each decorated with exquisite engravings, lattice and mirror work. Of particular note is the museum that exhibits a magnificent collection of royal memorabilia.

Down the road from Mehrangarh fort is Jaswant Thada, an attractive marble memorial to Maharaja Jaswant Singh.

A prime attraction of the city is clock tower and the colorful Sadar Market near to it. Narrow alleys lead to quaint bazaars selling vivid tie and dye fabric, textiles, antiques, glass bangles, silverware and handicrafts. These colorful markets with tiny shops are situated in the heart of city.

Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 4	Jodhpur – Osian	By Surface	67KM/01-02 Hours
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Breakfast and check-out. Drive to Osian, arrive and check-in at desert camp.

During the day take a camel ride to nearby villages, also visit the ruined Brahmanical and Jain temples dating from the 8th to 11th centuries. The city was a major religious centre of the kingdom of Marwar during the Pratihara dynasty. Of the 18 shrines in the group, the



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Surya or Sun Temple and the later Kali temple, Sachiya Mata Temple - this temple originally built in the 8th century, however today's temple dates back to 12th century and the main Jain temple dedicated to Lord Mahavira [783 A.D] temple was built by Pratihara King Vatsa. Dedicated to Lord Mahavira (24th Jain Tirthankara), the temple is considered as an important pilgrimage of the Jains.

Evening cultural dance and folk music accompanied with dinner.
Overnight stay in camps.

Day 5	Osian – Khichan – Manvar	By Surface	85KM/01-02 Hours
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Early breakfast and check-out. Drive to Khichan village, home to the famous bird Demoiselle Cranes, also locally known as Kurjaan. Thousands of these birds migrate from Siberia. Kheechan is a proud host to these migratory birds in the Winter season, from October to February. The villagers have demarcated certain areas where food and water are regularly put for the migratory birds. Numerous flocks of birds visit these areas and stay around them; their collective presence turns the skyline into a beautiful canvas. Also, the Village exhibits more than hundred Havelis, each of which is a finest specimen of carving and construction. The art and spirit with which these artisans craft their items is worth witnessing.

After the visit continue your drive to Manvar. Arrive and check-in at resort.

In the evening [Optional] take a jeep ride to the sand dunes to the village activities and High tea.

Return to resort for overnight stay.

Day 6	Manvar – Jaisalmer	By Surface	170KM/02-03 Hours
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Breakfast and check-out. Later drive to Jaisalmer, upon arrival check in at hotel. Rest and relax in your room, in the evening visit the Sunset point and witness the most spectacular Sun set reflecting on the ramparts and top terraces. The setting Sun turning Jaisalmer into beautiful Golden Brown. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 7	Jaisalmer		
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Morning breakfast at hotel and leave for city tour visit The Golden hued Fort built of yellow sandstone housing the entire township within its ramparts its houses palaces and old Jain temples dating back to 12th - 15th century. Also visit Some of the most exotic mansions or Havelis all intricately latticed are strewn all over Jaisalmer are Nath Mal ji Ki haveli, Salim Singh Ki haveli and the Patwon Ki Haveli.

Visit the Gadisar Lake which being a rain water conservation lake built by the then Maharaja of Jaisalmer Maharawal Gadsji in 14th century. It was once the main source of drinking



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water for the entire town of Jaisalmer. Lake encircled with shrines and temples. The most popular among them is perhaps the Tilon Ki Pol, a Yellow sandstone gateway.

Visit Kuldhara abandoned village now in ruins located outside the city, this village was once home to Brahmin community who left it according to different legends to it.

Afterwards drive to the most picturesque dunes at Sam and enjoy Camel ride.

Return to city for overnight stay.

Day 8

Jaisalmer – New Delhi

By Train

Breakfast and check-out from hotel by noon. [1200 hrs] Remaining day will be for independent activities Transfer to railway station to board train for overnight journey to Delhi.

Day 9

Departure Delhi

By Flight

Meeting assistance at railway station, transfer to hotel where room/s will be provided for day usage. In the evening transfer to international airport to board flight for return journey.