



Essence of Rajasthan

Duration: 13N/14D

Key Sights: Delhi - Udaipur - Kumbhalgarh - Sardargarh - Rohetgarh - Manvar - Jodhpur - Jaipur - Agra - Delhi

Day	Program	Mode	Distance/Time
Day 1	Arrived Delhi		
Day 2	Delhi		
Day 3	Delhi – Udaipur	By Flight	
Day 4	Udaipur		
Day 5	Udaipur – Ranakpur	By Surface	93KM/01-02 Hours
	Ranakpur - Kumbhalgarh	By Surface	33KM/01 Hour
Day 6	Kumbhalgarh – Sardargarh	By Surface	68KM/01-02 Hours
Day 7	Sardargarh		
Day 8	Sardargarh – Rohet	By Surface	316KM/05-06 Hours
Day 9	Rohet – Manvar	By Surface	
Day 10	Manvar – Jodhpur	By Surface	116KM/01-02 Hours
Day 11	Jodhpur – Jaipur	By Surface	338KM/05-06 Hours
Day 12	Jaipur		
Day 13	Jaipur – Fatehpur Sikri – Agra	By Surface	240KM/04-05 Hours
Day 14	Agra – Delhi		232KM/03-04 Hours
Day 15	Departure Delhi	By Flight	



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Day 1	Arrived Delhi		
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Arrival at New Delhi International Airport, meeting assistance by our representative who will welcome you and will provide transfer to the hotel. Upon reaching your hotel, you will be handed over the travel documents with a complete briefing of your tour by the representative. Check-in and proceed to your room. 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 25,000 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 42mt 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, it's architect was Mirak Mirza Ghiyath. This memorial of Emperor 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



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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.

Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 3

Delhi – Udaipur

By Flight

After breakfast, check-out from hotel. Transfer to domestic airport to board your flight to Udaipur. Arrival in Udaipur and transfer to hotel, the famed "City of sunrise", founded in 1567 by Maharana Udai Singh, from the lineage of the legendary Sisodias of Mewar - the decedents of the Sun God. A city where the sun truly never set, where tradition and a strict code of heroism were happily united with a love of fine living. A city that has come to be an oasis of romance in the warrior state of Rajasthan. In evening enjoy a boat cruise on the serene and beautiful Lake Pichola. The island palace on the Lake called Jagmandir Palace is quite fascinating. The banks of the lake provide interesting glimpses of the daily bathing and the laundry that takes place here. Looking across the lake, with the city and its great palace rising up behind the island palace, is a scene of rare beauty. Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 4

Udaipur

After breakfast, proceed for the sightseeing of Lake City. Visit the City Palace, the former home of the Maharanas of Udaipur. A majestic architectural marvel, within the four walls are mosaics of peacocks, exquisite mirror work and exotic paintings. It is a conglomeration of courtyards, pavilions, terraces, corridors, rooms and hanging gardens. Also visit Crystal Gallery, which has been hailed as probably the single largest private collection of crystal anywhere in the world. The collection includes a bewildering number of objects d'art, dinner sets, perfume bottles, decanters, glasses, washing bowls and even furniture. The Crystal Gallery also houses the only crystal bed in the world. After touring the City Palace, you will visit the Sahelion Ki Bari - the Gardens of the Maids of the queen. The garden has many fountains in its four delightful pools, chiselled kiosks and marble elephants.

The Jagdish temple next to the City Palace enshrines a black stone image of Lord Vishnu and his vehicle- a mighty bird called Garuda - in a brass image. The temple is a very fine example of Indo-Aryan Art and also visit Saheliyon Ki Bari. Remaining day is at leisure for independent activities.

Overnight stay at hotel.



Day 5	Udaipur – Ranakpur Ranakpur - Kumbhalgarh	By Surface By Surface	93KM/01-02 Hours 33KM/01 Hour
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Breakfast at hotel and later check-out. This morning drive to Kumbhalgarh, enroute visit Ranakpur. The Ranakpur Jain Temples were built during the reign of the liberal and gifted monarch Rana Kumbha in the 15th century. There are four subsidiary shrines, 24 pillared halls and domes supported by over four hundred columns. The total number of columns is 1,444 all of which are intricately carved with no two being alike. The artistically carved nymphs playing the flute in various dance postures at a height of 45 feet are an engrossing sight. In the assembly hall, there are two big bells weighing 108 kg whose sound echoes in the entire complex. The main temple is of Chaumukh or four-face temple dedicated to Adinath. After the tour of Ranakpur Jain Temples we continue our ride to Kumbhalgarh. Upon arrival check- in at hotel, PM - Explore the beautifully preserved and one of the most majestic forts of India. 13 mountain peaks surround the impregnable fortress of Kumbhalgarh at a height of 3281 ft. Seven towering gateways pierce the massive walls of this prominent fortress of Mewar. The young Udai Singh founder of Udaipur took shelter here.

Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 6	Kumbhalgarh – Sardargarh	By Surface	68KM/01-02 Hours
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After breakfast check-out from hotel, and drive to Sardargarh. Upon arrival in Sardargarh, check-in at hotel. Remaining day at leisure for independent activities. OPTIONAL - Night Safari at Sardargarh. Overnight stay hotel.

Day 7	Sardargarh		
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Optional Yoga classes are available under trained instructors for 01 hour. This can be booked directly at the resort the previous day.

After breakfast, embark upon a unique experience – a 44 kms Train ride between two villages. We will go native today, and travel with the villagers through exceedingly fascinating countryside and landscapes. The track passes through a breath taking scenery of Ravli Sanctuary, with 100 feet high bridges, two long tunnels, waterfalls, thick jungle, and above all an unchanged ambience of a bygone era. The track is cut on a cliff side and one comes down by almost one thousand feet. All along one can only appreciate the Herculean effort by the engineers in 1928.

The safety devices are most amusing. At one place the driver has to get down physically to change the track (when going down). We ride on a meter gauge local train, having wooden sleepers, accompanying villagers traveling to Marwar. One travels through a Ghat section and descends 1200 feet to Phulad Railway Station. En-route we stop at Kamlighat flag station where monkeys descend from neighboring scrub jungle to feed on articles given by the villages. Your car awaits you at Phulad 19 Kms away that brings you back to Sardargarh. Overnight stay at hotel.



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Day 8	Sardargarh – Rohet	By Surface	316KM/05-06 Hours
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After breakfast check-out from hotel, and drive to Rohet. Upon arrival check in at hotel. This afternoon, we would explore Rohet, which is a fascinating small feudal town, which seems to be straight out of the Arabian Nights. There is no proper road here - only one main dusts trail. On either side are typical thatched houses and shops of all kinds - colourful bangles, silver jewellery, potters, fruit vendors on carts, dress shops, tailors etc. One can witness the 'opium ceremony'. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 9	Rohet – Manvar	By Surface	
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Morning, we enjoy jeep safaris to visit the heart of Rajasthan villages where tradition centuries old still permeate life styles. Gaily attired men and women carry on their chores and one can catch a glimpse of their norms and customs. The smoothed mud floors of the village huts remind one of the simple and traditional living here.

After breakfast we will drive to Manvar. Upon arrival, check into Manvar. It is an unprecedented destination offering a rare opportunity to enjoy Rajasthan's desert life, culture, wildlife & beauty. The place provides every comfort the modern traveler could wish for. Built in the style of a traditional desert village, the resort complex is spread over 5 acres. Constructed using local materials & techniques. Manvar offer great outdoor adventure and a taste of the Thar Desert. We would enjoy jeep safaris and a camel safari today to the Mustard and Red Chili fields in the middle of the desert. We would also witness traditional desert villages and lifestyles unchanged for centuries.

Overnight stay at Manvar.

Day 10	Manvar – Jodhpur	By Surface	116KM/01-02 Hours
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Early morning excursion to Khichan. The tiny village of Khichan has assumed a popular appeal with the bird watching community. The local people offer large amounts of grain to birds every morning and this has attracted large numbers of Demoiselle Cranes to usurp this food supply. It is great spectacle to watch these Cranes swoop down to specially created rectangular enclosure, for their early breakfast. The feeding session lasts for an hour and a half, one group takes off as another settles. Their flight across the backdrop of the traditional mansions of the village, presents wonderful opportunities for photography, as do the feeding birds on the ground. We are very close by and can be offered vantage positions over the terraces, by the local people who feel proud of their visitors. Return to hotel, for breakfast.

After checkout drive to Jodhpur, upon arrival, check into hotel. After rest and relaxation, proceed on a guided tour of Jodhpur. Our tour includes the massive fort – The Mehrangarh Fort. In olden days this must have been impregnable since its rocky base is scraped straight down making it nearly impossible to ascend. Once inside, royal palaces abound with fascinating history and priceless jewels, on to the armoury, later visit Jaswant Thada - the Royal Crematorium.

Evening, you would ride on horse carriage to the Clock Tower Bazaar. This is one of India's



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largest and most colourful wholesale markets especially with respect to clothes, fabrics, spices, vegetables etc. It is a fantastic experience to walk through observing and photographing this incredible spectacle of vibrant lifestyles and incredible colours. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 11	Jodhpur – Jaipur	By Surface	338KM/05-06 Hours
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Breakfast and checkout. This morning drive to Jaipur, arrive and check-in at hotel. In the evening, visit the Birla Temple, built as recently as 1985 in marble, houses ornate statues including one of Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth and Beauty) and Narayan dressed in gaudy robes, representing a Hindu vision of heavenly luxury. Witness the Aarti Ceremony (Prayer ceremony) which involves oil lamps being lit and waved, in order to awake and invoke the deity. Also visit the Albert Hall for a photo stop. Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 12	Jaipur		
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After your breakfast at hotel, embark for an excursion to Amber Fort in the morning, situated outside the city, it is perhaps the most beautiful example of Rajput forts, this complex stands amidst wooded hills, with its threatening battlements reflected in the motionless waters of the Maota Lake below. You can have the unique experience of riding on a decorated elephant to the top of the hill. One of the premium examples of Rajput architecture, it was the ancient capital of the Kachhawaha rulers. The original palace was built by Raja Man Singh and additions were made later by Sawai Jai Singh. Here are the personal chambers of the Queens with windows having latticed screens so that the ladies could look at the events of the Royal court in privacy. There is also the Jai Mandir or the "Temple of Victory", with its well-known Sheesh Mahal, the sparkling "Hall of Mirrors". 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.

Return to city and visit City Palace complex, located in the heart of Jaipur known for its blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture, the museum houses the rare and rich collection of Ornaments, 15th century Arms & Weapons, Royal Costumes, Carpets, Sanganeri block prints, Kashmiri Pashmina Shawls, folk embroideries and Decorative Art objects of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal art and architecture. Complex has several palatial structures like the Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Badal Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Ji Temple and the City Palace Museum and is divided into two parts- One part Sawai Man Singh Museum and other is still the Residential Palace of the former Maharaja.

Next we visit the Jantar Mantar, a solar observatory - It is the largest of the five astronomical observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh-I, the founder ruler of Jaipur. It is an astronomical treasure house, with solar device that give accurate predictions till date, it is classified as a UNESCO World heritage site.

Photo-stop at Hawa Mahal or the Palace of Winds, a four storied facade of pink sandstone and one of the most picturesque landmarks with semi-octagonal and delicately honeycombed windows overlooking the main street of the old city. It was built in 1799 so that veiled royal women could see the royal processions through its 593 stone screens



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without being seen by the outsiders.
Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 13	Jaipur – Fatehpur Sikri – Agra	By Surface	240KM/04-05 Hours
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After breakfast check-out from hotel, later drive to Agra, en-route stop to visit Fatehpur Sikri - Built in 1571, it is a synthesis of the flourishing styles of the Persian courts and the prevailing Hindu Islamic trends. It was planned as a great town by Emperor Akbar with great care and planning, but it had to be abandoned after fifteen years due to scarcity of water in the town. Constructed mainly as a tribute to the great Sufi Saint Shaikh Salim Chisti who had blessed Akbar with a son. His son was named after the Saint as Salim and he succeeded the Emperor Akbar and was known as Emperor Jehangir. The town was originally named Sikri after the village, where it was founded but its twin city Fatehpur (Victory Town) was erected to celebrate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat. However, ruins of the temple dating back to 12th century suggest the reign of Rajputs in the area long before Mughals took over the area. The two mosques in the village of Sikri have inscriptions, which announce their conception in 1314 under Mohd. Khilji. There have been records that Babur renamed the village 'Sikri' as 'Shukri', meaning 'thanks to the god'. It was also the famous dwelling place and Khanqah of Shiekh Salim Chishti, the famous Sufi saint whom Akbar revered for blessing him with child. Built in Red Sandstone, an example of robust stability combined with originality each important edifice here represents a type by itself. Notable among them is the Buland Darwaza, Tomb of Shaikh Salim Chisti, Jama Masjid, Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Panch Mahal, Palace of Jodha Bai, Birbal Bhawan, Miriam's Palace, Karawan Serai and Hiran Minar.

After the visit continue your drive to Agra, upon arrival proceed to hotel for check-in. In the evening visit Itmad-Ud-Daulah's Tomb. Along with the main building, the structure consists of numerous outbuildings and gardens. Tomb of Mirza Ghiyas Beg - A Wazir (Chief Minister) in the court of Mughal Emperor Jehangir. Ghiyas Beg was honored with the title of Itmad-ud-Daulah or the Pillar of the State. Emperor Jehangir married her beautiful widowed daughter Mehr-un-Nissa, she was later christened Noor Jahan and went down in the history as one of the most beautiful and artistically gifted women in the world. After the death of Mirza Ghiyas Beg in 1622, Noor Jahan undertook the project to build his mausoleum, which took six years to get complete. It is entirely made of white marble. This tomb represents the transition between the first phase of monumental Mughal architecture - primarily built from Red sandstone with marble decorations with mosaic and lattice.
Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 14	Agra – Delhi		232KM/03-04 Hours
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A visit to the Taj Mahal early in the morning at the time of Sunrise, Taj Mahal - One of the Seven Wonders of the World, a pristine monument of undying love, built by Emperor Shah Jahan to enshrine the body of his beloved wife Arjumand Banu Begum (Mumtaz Mahal) after she died in 1631 at Burhanpur. The Taj has continued to be a mark of love since ever. This monument took 22 years to be completed and was designed, and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. The construction started in 1632 and was completed in 1653. The workforce of some 20,000 and 1,000 elephants, included Masons, Stonecutters, Inlayers,



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Carvers, Calligraphers, Dome-builders and other artisans were requisitioned from the empire and also from Italy, Central Asia and Persia. In accordance with Islamic tradition, verses from the Quran were inscribed in calligraphy on the arched entrances to the mausoleum, in addition to numerous other sections of the complex. 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. Witness the white marble reflect the nuances of the changing light from the Sun. Taj Mahal symbolize the richness of art and architecture of the Mughal period.

Return to hotel for breakfast, afterwards visit - Agra Fort which retains the irregular outline of the demolished mud-wall fort of the Lodhis. It is a World Heritage Site, located near to the Taj Mahal gardens on the banks of River Yamuna. The real specimen of architectural marvel, this fortress was constructed in the 15th century. The construction of this mammoth structure started during 1565 during the reign of Emperor Akbar and continued the developments up to the period of Emperor Shah Jahan. The fort, in a length of 2.5 km marvelous enclosure walls, was built in red sandstones and encloses many monuments which are real architectural wonders. Many exquisite palaces such as the Jehangiri Mahal, Shah Jahani Mahal, the Khas Mahal, Diwan-i-Aam - which was used as a communications ground between the public and the aristocracy and once housed the Peacock Throne, Diwan-i-Khas - a hall of private audience, it was used to welcome Kings and dignitaries and Mussaman Burj - a large, octagonal tower with a balcony facing the Taj Mahal are enclosed in the Fortress. Other monuments include the Fish Pavilion, the Nagina Masjid, Garden of Grapes and the Pearl Mosque. Views of the Taj Mahal from the Fort are amazing. Later drive to Delhi, upon arrival transfer to a local restaurant for Farewell Dinner, afterwards transfer to international airport to board return journey flight.

Day 15

Departure Delhi

By Flight

Departure by an international flight early in the morning.