

Royal Rajasthan and Villages of India

TAJ MAHAL, JAIPUR, AND A RURAL CAMEL FAIR



TRIP DATES

2024

February 12-24, 2024 Nagaur Fair

November 8-20, 2024 Pushkar Fair

2025

January 31-February 12, 2025 Nagaur Fair

October 28-November 9, 2025 Pushkar Fair



Wilderness Travel

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Royal Rajasthan

TAJ MAHAL, JAIPUR, AND A RURAL CAMEL FAIR

Traditional desert tribes, camels painted with henna, airy Mughal palaces of marble and onyx—our Rajasthan adventure brings an unforgettable taste of India. We'll have sunrise and sunset visits to the Taj Mahal, a camel ride and sunset dune walk amid the herders' camps at the Pushkar or Nagaur fairs, and a rickshaw ride through Jaipur, where our accommodation is the atmospheric Rambagh Palace—once the home of the Maharaja of Jaipur. We'll also visit Ranakpur's fine Jain temples and take a Jeep safari in search of leopards near the village of Narlai. Our grand finale finds us in romantic Udaipur, exploring whitewashed havelis (mansions), parks, and temples on the shores of Lake Pichola.



Wilderness Travel

1102 Ninth Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

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Itinerary

We recommend arriving a day early to allow time to recover from jet lag. We are happy to arrange hotel nights (an “on your own” expense).

DAY 1

DELHI, INDIA

Arrive in Delhi, where you are met by a WT representative and transferred to the hotel. Overnight at Claridges Hotel...meals on your own

DAY 2

AGRA FORT / SUNSET AT TAJ MAHAL

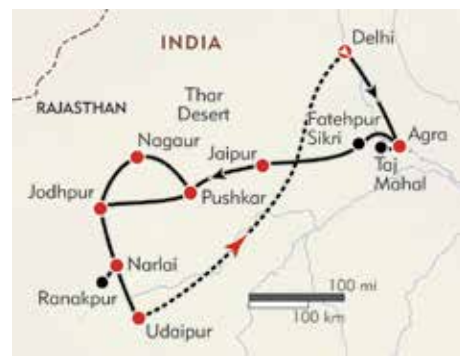
We head to the city of Agra, capital of the Mughal Empire from the 16th to the early 18th centuries. Our afternoon explorations include the beautiful four-gated Agra Fort, the first major building project of the Emperor Akbar, built in 1565 on the site of an earlier castle. Later in the day we make a sunset pilgrimage to the exquisite Taj Mahal, set on the banks of the Yamuna River. This white marble palace was constructed over a 21-year period from 1632 to 1653 by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who died in childbirth. It was described by the English poet Sir Edwin Arnold as “Not a piece of architecture, as other buildings are, but the proud passions of an emperor’s love wrought in living stones.” Note: In order to be at the Pushkar/Nagaur fairs on the optimal days, your sunrise or sunset viewing of the Taj Mahal may take place at the Mehtab Bagh (“Moonlight Garden”), a beautiful viewpoint on the Yamuna River just opposite the Taj. In the evening we gather for a Welcome Dinner. Overnight at the ITC Mughal Agra...BLD
Approximate Driving Time: 4-5 hours

DAY 3

SUNRISE AT TAJ MAHAL / FATEHPUR SIKRI / JAIPUR / RAMBAGH PALACE HOTEL

After a sunrise visit to the Taj, we depart Agra for the haunting desert ruins of Fatehpur Sikri, once the capital of Mughal Emperor Akbar. The emperor and his court stayed here only from 1570 to 1586, and this fabulous city of red sandstone has lain abandoned ever since. The palaces and courtyards remain in pristine condition, offering us an extraordinarily accurate glimpse of a Mughal city. After lunch at the Bagh Resort, a 12-acre property with 200-year-old orchards and garden in the ancient town of Bharatpur, we head to Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan. Along the way we stop at the baori, a 17th century step-well that goes down nine levels into the ground with pillared hallways and verandas. Our unforgettable accommodation this evening and tomorrow is the Rambagh Palace Hotel, the former princely residence of the Maharaja of Jaipur, now a wonderful hotel managed by the prestigious Taj group. Set right in the heart of Jaipur, the palace is a beloved landmark full of original paintings, marble sculptures, and sparkling fountains. There are vast lawns where peacocks roam as well as a large indoor pool and places to play croquet. The Old India atmosphere has been lovingly retained while modern amenities add to the comfort...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 2-3 hours to Fatehpur Sikri, 4-5 hours to Jaipur



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length:	13 days
Arrive:	Delhi, India
Depart:	Delhi, India
Lodging:	2 nights maharaja's palaces, 8 nights first-class hotels, 2 nights tented camp or hotel
Meals:	All meals included except 1 dinner (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity:	Cultural Adventures
Trip Level:	① 2 3 4 5 6 Overland travel with walking tours, cultural explorations

HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy an insider's view of Rajasthan's fascinating culture with our expert Trip Leaders
- Mingle among nomads, musicians, and camel traders at Pushkar or Nagaur fairs
- Enjoy the markets of Jaipur and Udaipur, see sunset and sunrise at the Taj Mahal
- Stay in unique hotels that bring Rajasthan's princely heritage to life



DAY 4

JAIPUR / RAMBAGH PALACE HOTEL

Jaipur, is a remarkable ancient city of palaces and fortresses of famed “pink” sandstone architecture. Built by Maharaja Jai Singh II in the early 18th century, elegant Jaipur is unsurpassed as a testament to the craftsmanship of the old masters. Fresco painting and mirror work were two renowned forms of adornment here, and the frescoed interior spaces in Jaipur’s forts and gracious residences show preening peacocks, caparisoned elephants or often floor-to-ceiling extravaganzas of flowers and stylized motifs.

Our full day of sightseeing includes Jaipur’s City Palace, a splendid blend of traditional Rajasthan and Mughal architecture, inside of which is the unique Jaipur Observatory, which looks futuristic although it was built in the 1700s. Also within this great palace complex is the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds), not a palace at all but a five-story facade of more than 900 ornately decorated sandstone windows where the women of the royal family could look out over the street scene of the city but not be seen. We also visit the bustling market, one of the most vibrant in Asia, renowned for embroidered textiles, jewelry, and precious stones. In a valley near Jaipur, we visit the mighty Amber Fort, a Rajput hilltop stronghold fortified by natural hills and high ramparts. Overnight at the Rambagh Palace Hotel...BLD

DAYS 5-6

PUSHKAR OR NAGPUR CAMEL FAIR

November Departure (Pushkar Camel Fair):

Heading into Rajasthan’s countryside, we reach the ancient Hindu pilgrim town of Pushkar to witness the extraordinary Pushkar Fair, held each year in the Indian month of Kartik (Oct.-Nov.) for the two weeks leading up to the first full moon. The small, sleepy town of Pushkar comes alive with brilliant color as hundreds of thousands of pilgrims arrive for a ritual cleansing of the soul in the waters of Pushkar Lake, a holy lake in the center of town surrounded by bathing ghats and whitewashed temples. This two-week-long religious gathering in turn attracts all kinds of trading opportunities for Rajasthani villagers. In the desert, the raising of animals is far more important than agriculture, and with livestock trading so central to the culture, Pushkar has developed into one of the largest camel, cattle, and horse markets in the world.

The atmosphere on the dunes outside Pushkar, where all the animals are kept, is a lively one, with families dressed in their festive best, chatting and trading. Even marriages may be arranged in this great annual meeting place. In Pushkar town itself, families gather at over 300 temples, singing religious chants, performing age-old Hindu rituals, and making wishes for their loved ones and ancestors by the lakeside. Nearby, the Pushkar Fairground is abuzz with activity, from tented bazaars to itinerant musicians to camel and horse owners proudly showing off prized animals adorned in hand-tooled leather saddles and beadwork.

“A wonderful collection of the
luxurious and the romantic!”

Peter F., Cambria, CA

We experience this spectacular fair with morning and evening walks amid the herder camps as the sound of temple bells drifts across the lake, on visits to the lakeside to watch Hindu priests perform pujas, and on camel rides through the fairgrounds, where singers and dancers celebrate around campfires. The Pushkar Fair is a dazzling experience of the vibrancy of India. It is also a coming together of traditional peoples to rejoice in the richness of their culture. Our Trip Leader will bring us deep into this world with his cultural insights and local connections. Royal Heritage Camp, our accommodation, is a comfortable tented camp with an excellent location for enjoying the fair. Please note that this property only serves vegetarian meals...BLD each day

Approximate Driving Time: 3 hours on Day 5

February Departure (Nagaur Fair):

We stop at the town of Pushkar for lunch and a short visit en route to Nagaur, a picturesque Rajput township that comes alive with activity as thousands and thousands of colorful camels and young bulls (the renowned Nagauri breed), along with oxen and horses, are brought in for trade and sale at the Nagaur Cattle Fair. These prized animals are lavishly adorned and even their owners flaunt colorful turbans and long moustaches. We spend the day enjoying the festivities of the fair, the second largest in all Rajasthan, held annually for eight days between late January and February. Along with camel and cattle trading, there are also events like tug-of-war and bullock races to entertain the fairgoers. In the evenings, there are campfires and performances of Rajasthani folk music. The fair is a great celebration, a coming together of traditional peoples to reaffirm their identity and rejoice in the richness of their culture. One evening at sunset, we enjoy a camel ride through the fair, a wonderful experience of this



"It was a splendid experience all around. I did not want to come home."

Elizabeth P., Santa Fe, NM



Itinerary (cont'd)



“Great trip, great hotels (how can you not like staying in palaces), and a great itinerary with just enough down time.”

William B., Portland, OR



uniquely Rajasthani event. Overnights at a beautiful heritage hotel built within the historic Nagaur Fort...BLD each day

Approximate Driving Time: 7-8 hours on Day 5

DAY 7

JODHPUR

A morning journey brings us to Jodhpur, called the “Blue City” for the color of its traditional homes. We enjoy a walk through the colorful spice and textile markets, where craftsmen continue centuries-old artisan traditions. Overnight at the Raas Haveli, a charming boutique hotel set beneath the ancient Mehrangarh Fort...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 4 hours

DAY 8

JODHPUR

This morning we explore the great Mehrangarh Fort, a grand edifice that straddles a steep rocky eminence rising over the desert valley. This red sandstone fort was founded in 1459 by Prince Jodha of the Rathore clan. Here we see the color and vibrancy of Rajasthan on a princely scale. Seven massive gateways lead into the walled city, with its temples and palaces, gardens and lakes. Passing through cannon-scarred gateways and walls that carry the poignant palm prints of proud Rajput queens who immolated themselves on funeral pyres, we enter a series of palaces and courtyards: the Pearl Palace, the Flower Palace, the Palace of Delight. Beautifully painted and delicately carved and ornamented, they house a royal collection of rare miniature paintings, silver howdahs, palanquins, armor and royal cradles. The remainder of the day is free to explore on your own...BLD

DAY 9

NARLAI

Departing Jodhpur, we head to Narlai, a village that once had a hundred temples (nowadays there are 22 that are open to visitors). We arrive at our hotel, Rawla Narlai, in time for lunch. In the afternoon we head to Ranakpur, famous for its marvelous complex of finely ornamented Jain temples. Nestled at the base of the Aravalli Hills, these hilltop temples are in a peaceful setting where peacocks and langur monkeys roam. One of the temples we visit is the Adinatha, the complex's most noteworthy building, with its 1,444 engraved pillars, no two of which have the same carvings. We return to our hotel in Narlai for dinner and overnight...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 1 hour

DAY 10

NARLAI

We spend the day exploring the village of Narlai. You can visit the temple dedicated to “Aye Mata” where a miraculous flame is reputed to have burned for centuries, producing saffron instead of soot. Wishes made here are said to come true. You can also visit the cave temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, a cool, serene and silent oasis. Feeling energetic? Climb over 750 steps (an easy

30-minute walk up) to the top of Elephant Hill (so called as there is a 12-foot elephant statue right at the top). The hotel staff can accompany you on simple village walks to local homes, which allow an insight into the villagers' lives. In the evening we depart on a Jeep safari in search of leopards—the rugged countryside around Narlai is an ideal site for these elusive creatures. Overnight at hotel...BLD

DAY 11

KUMBALGARH / UDAIPUR

We drive through peaceful rural villages to reach little-known Kumbalgarh, with its enormous fort, the most imposing of the 32 forts built by the Maharana Kumbha in the 15th century. Set atop a high ridge, the fort is encircled by massive and spectacular walls that measure more than 20 miles in length. It's a steep walk to reach the palace at the top but well worth the effort for the panoramic views. After lunch, we continue to Udaipur, one of the most romantic cities in the world, with its palaces, traditional havelis (mansions), parks, fortresses, and temples on the shores of Lake Pichola. The afternoon is free to enjoy the atmosphere of our hotel and relax. Overnight at the Taj Fateh Prakash Palace...BLD

Approximate Driving Time: 8 hours

DAY 12

UDAIPUR

Today we explore the City Palace, set on a rocky bluff above the shore of the lake. It is truly an architectural marvel, actually a blend of 11 palaces, each built by successive maharajas during the 16th to 18th centuries. The crenellated walls of the City Palace are adorned with brilliant miniature paintings and decorative tiles and mosaics, and a warren of narrow passages connect courtyards and royal apartments. The triple-arched marble main entrance is where the maharanas (queens) of Udaipur were weighed and their weight in gold distributed to the populace. On the grand Suraj Gokhada ("Balcony of the Sun"), the Suryavanshi Maharanas of Mewar once stood to present themselves to the people. The Zenana Mahal, the women's quarters, are among the most spectacular spots in the palace. We also visit the elegant 18th century Sahelion-ki-Bari gardens, created as a retreat for the royal ladies, and Udaipur's local markets. The city is proud of its heritage as a center for the arts, and there is an abundance of craftwork including colorful Rajasthani puppets. We enjoy an evening boat ride on the lake, then gather for our festive Farewell Dinner this evening. Overnight at hotel...BLD

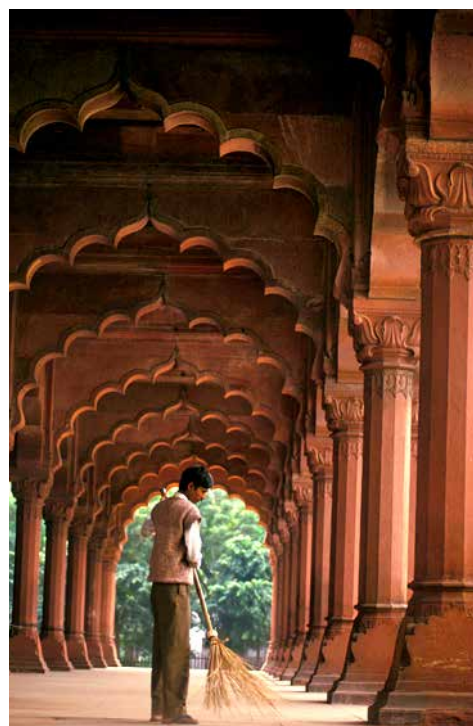
DAY 13

DELHI / DEPART

After a morning for independent exploration, we fly to Delhi, where day rooms are held for us at the Radisson Blu Airport Hotel until 8:00 pm. Transfer to the airport for flights departing in the evening of Day 13 or early the following morning. For flights departing after 2:00 am, we recommend you extend our hotel day room to a full overnight (at additional cost)...BL

**"Exciting, amazing, insightful,
historical, educational, and fun."**

Abbe L., Melbourne Beach, FL



Trip Cost, Payment & Insurance

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through March 31, 2024

\$9695 (13-16 members)

\$10195 (10-12 members)

\$10995 (7-9 members)

Single supplement: \$3595

Internal airfare: \$325 (subject to change)

2025 Trip Cost: Please call for details

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations
- All meals included except 1 dinner as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Ground transportation
- Airport transfers

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, internal airfare, airport departure taxes, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, optional tipping or gratuities to leaders or staff, hotels en route to or on return from Delhi or additional hotel nights that may be necessary due to airline schedule changes or other factors, visa fees, cost of medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: \$600

120 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: \$300 per person

76-90 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

75 days or less: 100% of trip cost

*Please note that this differs from our regular catalog departures.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details: www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

Extend Your Adventure!

To help you make the most of your adventure, we've created several exciting trip extensions. For detailed information, including full itineraries and complete pricing, please visit our webpage and click on "Extend Your Trip": www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/india-rajasthan-taj-mahal-jaipur-camel-festival-tour/

SOUTH INDIA EXTENSION: THE MALABAR COAST

Roam the narrow lanes of Cochin, set along the Arabian Sea and a favorite port of call in the spice trade for two thousand years. Then, in enchanting tropical Kerala, watch the pageant of traditional riverside life as you journey through tranquil waterways and overnight aboard a beautiful private houseboat (and enjoy the good life as your on-board chef serves you a selection of savory Keralan cuisine!).

5 days. From \$2995.

KANHA NATIONAL PARK EXTENSION

Kanha is one of the Indian subcontinent's greatest wildlife reserves and a great place in India to see the Royal Bengal tiger. Besides tigers, there are more than 200 species of birds and some 22 species of mammals in residence here. On guided excursions, explore by jeep through the park's bamboo thickets, dadar (plateau grasslands) and sal forests, which gave birth to Rudyard Kipling's classic *The Jungle Book*. Overnights are at the Baagh Resort, a comfortable jungle-surrounded retreat adjacent to the edge of the park, or the Taj Banjaar Tola (deluxe option), an elegant tented camp on the banks of the Banjaar River overlooking Kanha.

5 days. From \$2495.

VARANASI AND KHAJURAHO EXTENSION

As one of the seven sacred cities of Hinduism, the holy city of Varanasi is a magnet for more than a million pilgrims from around the world who come annually to worship, meditate, and bathe in the sacred waters of the Ganges River. With your private guide, stroll through ancient alleys and past golden temples and ashrams, and watch the slanting sun rise over haunting riverside ghats. At the World Heritage Site of Khajuraho, discover some of India's most famous temples, a showcase of sculpture reflecting the celebration of human activity in everyday life. Accommodations throughout are in garden-set hotels, oases of comfort after an active day of exploring.

4 days. From \$1795.

Please Note: These extensions can be taken privately or with other trip members who join the extension.



Accommodations



CLARIDGES HOTEL

Delhi, India

Day 1 (1 night)

Set on three acres right in the heart of New Delhi, this hotel has been a landmark since the 1950s and it's just a five-minute walk from the trendy Khan Market, an upscale shopping area patronized by diplomats, ex-pats, and Delhi's elite. The hotel offers spacious, well-appointed rooms, a 24-hour coffee shop, two restaurants, and lovely garden, and a courteous staff.



ITC MUGHAL AGRA

Agra, India

Day 2 (1 night)

The ITC Mughal Agra Hotel is a comfortable property set on 35 acres of lush gardens complete with two swimming pools and an excellent spa. It is well located for our visit to the Taj Mahal and Agra's other sites.



TAJ RAMBAGH PALACE

Jaipur, India

Days 3 to 4 (2 nights)

Experience one of life's rare treats—a stay at the Rambagh Palace, an authentic royal residence and a treasure of India, with its Rajasthani charm, centuries-old grandeur, and unparalleled level of service. Originally built in 1835 by a queen for her favorite handmaiden, the Maharaja of Jaipur made the Rambagh his royal residence in 1925, and its princely splendors abound in its lovely terraces, immaculate gardens, spacious corridors, and elegant rooms. This 5-star heritage hotel is truly in a class of its own, and a night here allows you to feel like a maharaja, too.



ROYAL HERITAGE CAMP

Pushkar, India

Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)

Pushkar Departures

Set in the Thar Desert near Pushkar, where one of India's captivating traditional livestock fairs takes place each year, Royal Heritage Camp offers walk-in tents with twin beds and en suite baths (hot water shower, sink, and seated flush toilet). Bright textiles and traditional rugs add to the ambience. The tents are very comfortable and make the ideal base for the Pushkar experience. Please note that this property only serves vegetarian meals.



RANVAS NAGAU

Nagaur, India

Days 5 to 6 (2 nights)

Nagaur Departures

Ranvas ("Abode of Queens") is a stunning new heritage hotel built in the heart of an ancient fort on the edge of the Thar Desert. The massive fortress has been restored to its former glory through the efforts of the Maharaja of Jodhpur, and the hotel is set within the ramparts. This atmospheric accommodation offers a step back in time—but with tasteful modern rooms that blend beautifully with the stunning architecture of the fort. Dining outside in the pavilion under billowing awnings is a delightful experience.



RAAS HAVELI

Jodhpur, India

Days 7 to 8 (2 nights)

Nagaur Departures

The Raas Haveli occupies a stunning position beneath Jodhpur's imposing Mehrangarh Fort and is the only boutique hotel in India located right within an ancient walled city. Combining contemporary comfort and the charm of a 300-year-old mansion, it offers charming, spacious rooms and an inviting swimming pool. The view of the Mehrangarh Fort is especially dramatic at night from here.

Accommodations (cont'd)



RAWLA NARLAI

Narlai, India

Days 9 to 10 (2 nights)

This restored 17th century country manor is set right in the heart of a small traditional town and lies beneath the imposing granite monolith of Elephant Hill. We stay in elegant guest rooms with a sitting area that, while featuring modern elements, reflect the heritage of this corner of the world. A tented spa offers soothing treatments and there's a large outdoor swimming pool with a wonderful view of Elephant Hill framed in the background.



TAJ FATEH PRAKASH PALACE

Udaipur, India

Days 11 to 12 (2 nights)

Set on the eastern shores of Lake Pichola, this historic 65-room palace-hotel is part of the City Palace complex. You'll feel you're living the life of a royal as you take in gorgeous views of the lake and the Aravalli Hills from your lakeside room. The excellent staff is the "jewel in the crown."



RADISSON BLU AIRPORT HOTEL

Delhi, India

Day 13 (dayroom)

This stylish business hotel is just a few miles from Delhi's international airport, with comfortable rooms and all the services you'd expect from a 5-star property. You can visit the hotel's fitness center and keep up with your workout routine, take a dip in the outdoor pool, or relax at its welcoming spa.

These are our signature accommodations for this trip. Although it is highly unlikely, we may make substitutions when necessary. To see more photos and descriptions, please visit our *Royal Rajasthan and Villages of India* webpage and click on the "Accommodations" tab.

Arrival & Departure

Upon confirming your trip reservation, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a list of documents (passport, visas, etc.) required for your trip. Please feel free to call if you would like this information before making your air arrangements.

If you have booked extra services before or after the trip, an Extra Services Confirmation will be sent with your Final Documents.

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Delhi, India

Suggested Airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 1, in the evening

Meeting Place: A complimentary transfer is provided from Indira Gandhi International Airport to the Claridges Hotel. Our WT representative will meet you outside the customs area and will be holding a Wilderness Travel sign. There are no scheduled activities on Day 1. (Some trip members may arrive very early in the morning of Day 2 because of air schedules).

DEPARTURE

Delhi, India

Suggested Airport: Indira Gandhi International Airport (DEL)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 13, after 8:00 pm

We arrive in Delhi in the late afternoon on Day 13. Day rooms are held for us at the Radisson Blu Airport Hotel until 8:00 pm. An airport transfer is provided for flights departing in the evening or early the following morning. If your departing flight is after 2:00 am, you may want to extend the hotel day room to a full overnight (at additional cost).

If you are departing on a different day, extra hotel nights and airport transfers can be arranged at additional cost.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from Delhi.

There are many online consolidators for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 1-800-655-4053 in the US or 1-800-670-2605 in Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most far-flung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. We recommend you arrive at least one night early so that you have a full day to recover from jet lag. Extra hotel nights can be arranged (at extra cost). The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so we can reserve your airport transfers. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific trips they will be leading, please visit our webpage and click on “Trip Leaders”: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/india-rajasthan-taj-mahal-jaipur-camel-festival-tour/



DEVENDRA BASNET

Devendra Basnet was born in the foothills of the Himalayas in Darjeeling, India, and makes his home in Kathmandu, Nepal, with his wife and two children. A WT Trip Leader since 1987, “DB” leads our cultural and hiking journeys into the Himalayas, across India, and along the ancient Silk Roads of Central Asia. His university studies in Zoology launched him in an early career as a naturalist guide, tracking tigers and spotting rare birds in Nepal’s renowned Royal Chitwan National Park, and collecting elusive Himalayan butterflies for the British Natural History Museum. “I love working with people and working in beautiful surroundings, so guiding is a natural for me. I especially love being in the high Himalayas, from Tibet to Bhutan to India, and in areas rich in nature and wildlife. I want my trip members to appreciate how fast everything is changing, and help them take back wonderful memories of the wild places and rich cultures we visit.” Devendra speaks English, Nepali, Hindi, as well as some Tibetan and Bengali and is learning Chinese.



HASHMAT SINGH

Hashmat Singh has led over 180 journeys on three continents for us since 1990. He holds a BA in History from Delhi University and is a noted photographer. His book, *Trekking in the Himalaya* (Roli Books), features photographic essays from Ladakh to Bhutan. Born an army brat, Hashmat traveled extensively as his father was posted in various remote regions of India. His first big Himalayan trek was at age 12, with his school group, and during college, he headed into the Himalaya to take mountaineering courses. “Big mountains of the world, whether they are in the Himalaya, Alps, or the Andes, hold a special fascination for me, as do the people living amongst them, holding on to their ancient cultures in a world where everything is rapidly changing.” A passionate traveler, Hashmat has been instrumental in designing and leading adventures for us throughout Asia, and in summer, he joins our team of Trip Leaders leading hikes in the Alps. The profession of Trip Leader combines several of his interests—hiking, exploring the mountains, photography, and meeting new people. He’s a favorite of WT travelers—as one of them put it, “Hashmat is a longstanding member of the guiding hall of fame.” He lives in Delhi with his wife and two children.

Trip Details

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 1+, Easy. It is a comfortable, vehicle-based sightseeing trip. Accommodations include comfortable, modern hotels reflecting the traditional architecture of Rajasthan as well as former palaces and royal residences that have been converted into luxurious heritage hotels. At our tented camp at the Pushkar Fair, we sleep in Rajasthani-style air-conditioned tents furnished with cots and en suite facilities. There are some long days of driving on rough, bumpy roads.

An optional early morning camel ride is offered at the Pushkar or Nagaur fair for an “above the crowd” view of the activities around the fairgrounds as the day begins. Anyone participating in this optional activity must acknowledge the inherent dangers in riding and agree to accept any and all risks.

Please remember that travel in India is an intense experience. The essential requirements are flexibility, a sense of humor, curiosity, enthusiasm about new peoples and places, and an openness to the unexpected.

WEATHER

Like the rest of India, Rajasthan has four seasons. In winter (January to March), temperatures vary widely around the state of Rajasthan but this is an ideal season for travel. January is the coolest month of the year. April to June is pre-monsoon, the hottest season, particularly in May and June. June to September is the monsoon season, when 90 percent of the annual rains come. October to December, the post-monsoon season, is a very comfortable season for travel.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in

this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 and ask for the Asia Manager or email us at asia@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us on this or a similar trip.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

PROTECTING THE TIGER

Wilderness Travel is proud to be a member of Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT), a voluntary initiative that supports and funds responsible wildlife tourism practices across the Indian and Nepali park networks. Responsible wildlife and nature tourism can provide an invaluable platform to support and sustain parks, wildlife conservancies, and buffer zones, and can play an important role in poverty eradication in nearby communities. At a time when the magnificent tiger is increasingly under threat, we believe that supporting organizations like TOFT and promoting responsible travel practices can help in efforts to save the tiger and provide sustainable employment for local populations.

TOUCAN CLUB

We're proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business! The Wilderness Travel Toucan Club was established to reward our travelers for their loyalty. For details, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/resources/toucan-club.

Average Daily Max/Min °F												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Jaipur	71/49	74/49	87/63	97/74	103/80	101/83	91/79	89/77	92/75	91/69	82/59	73/51
Delhi / Agra	69/45	74/50	84/59	96/70	102/78	101/82	94/80	92/79	93/76	91/67	82/55	73/47
Rainfall - Inches												
Jaipur	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.6	2.3	7.8	8.0	3.3	0.6	0.1	0.3
Delhi / Agra	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	1.0	2.8	9.3	9.3	4.5	0.7	0.4	0.4



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 2021, 10-time winner

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveller*, 2021 & 2020

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*, 2020

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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