

**Tour Of India
 With A Driver Guide In Your Own Exclusive Air-Conditioned Vehicle.**
THE ROMANCE OF RAJASTHAN

Day	Date	Location	First Class Hotels	Standard Hotels	Schedule
01		Depart UK			
02		Delhi	The Manor Superior Room	Hotel Parkland	>Pick Up From New Delhi Airport >Sightseeing Tour Of Old Delhi With The Red Fort, Jama Masjid And Rickshaw Ride Through Bazaars Of Chandni Chowk >Drive Through Lutyen's Imperial New Delhi With Rajpath, Parliament And India Gate >Sights Of Southern Delhi Including Humayun's Tomb And The Qutub Minar
03		Agra	The Agra Trident Deluxe Garden View Room	Howard Park Plaza	>Emperor Akbar's Tomb At Sikandra >A Visit To The Palatial Walled City Of Agra Fort Delhi-Agra: 126 Miles Approx 4 Hours
04		Jaipur	The Jaipur Trident Deluxe Lake View Room	Umaid Mahal	>A Visit To See The Taj Mahal At Sunrise >Tomb Of Itmad Ud Daulah >Emperor Akbar's Deserted City Of Fatehpur Sikri Agra-Jaipur: 146 Miles Approx 5 Hours
05		Jaipur	The Jaipur Trident Deluxe Lake View Room	Umaid Mahal	>The Romantic Fort Of Amber On Elephant Back >The Pink City Of Jaipur Including The City Palace And The Palace Of Winds
06		Udaipur	The Udaipur Trident Deluxe Garden View Room	Jagat Niwas Deluxe Lake View Room	>Boat Ride On Romantic Lake Pichola >Evening Light And Sound Show At The City Palace Jaipur-Udaipur: 252 Miles Approx 6 Hours
07		Udaipur	The Udaipur Trident Deluxe Garden View Room	Jagat Niwas Deluxe Lake View Room	>The City Palace, The Largest Palace Complex In Rajasthan >The Durbar Hall And Crystal Gallery At The Fateh Prakash Palace >The Maharajah's Classic Car Collection >Beautiful View Of Udaipur From The Monsoon Palace Overlooking The City
08		Jodhpur	Ajit Bhawan Cottage Room	Ratan Vilas	>Lunch In The Pleasant Surroundings Of Maharani Bagh Orchards >The Beautiful Jain Temple At Ranakpur Udaipur-Jodhpur: 162 Miles Approx 5 Hours
09		Jodhpur	Ajit Bhawan Cottage Room	Ratan Vilas	>Magnificent Fort And Palace Of Jodhpur And Jaswant Thada >Relax At Jodhpur And Shopping At Girdikot And Sardar Markets

10		Jaisalmer	Mandir Palace Golden Suite	Rang Mahal Deluxe Room	>Enjoy A Camel Ride Across The Sam Sand Dunes To See The Sunset Jodhpur-Jaisalmer: 178 Miles Approx 5 Hours
11		Jaisalmer	Mandir Palace Golden Suite	Rang Mahal Deluxe Room	>The Medieval Fortress Town Of Jaisalmer In The Heart Of The Thar Desert >The Beautiful Haveli's Of Jaisalmer
12		Bikaner	Laxmi Niwas Deluxe Room	Lallgarh Palace Standard Room	>The Maharajah's Palace Inside Junagarh Fort Jaisalmer-Bikaner: 205 Miles Approx 6 Hours
13		Shekhawati	Castle Mandawa Deluxe Room	Roop Vilas Deluxe Room	>Visit Poda Haveli – The Most Beautiful Mansion Of Rajasthan's Shekhawati Traders Bikaner-Shekhawati: 142 Miles Approx 4 Hours
14		Delhi	Svelte Hotel	Hotel Parkland	>Drive Through Pleasant Rural Countryside Of Shekhawati To Delhi Shekhawati-Delhi: 158 Miles Approx 5 Hours
15		Depart Delhi Arrive UK			>Drop Off At Delhi Airport

Standard Rooms Unless Otherwise Specified



Day 02 – New Delhi



Towers Of The Jama Masjid

Rickshaw Ride Through Old Delhi And A Drive Through New Delhi

Delhi is one of the world's great cities and contains something of interest for everyone. Lose yourself on a **Cycle Rickshaw Ride** through the teeming bazaars and markets of **Chandni Chowk** with outstanding opportunities for bargain-hunting and sampling fine authentic cuisine at superb local restaurants.

The Red Fort Of Delhi (Lal Qila) was the palace of **Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan** and dominates the old city. The **Jama Masjid** is a mosque of vast proportions with a courtyard that can easily accommodate 25 000 people.

From the labyrinthine streets of **Old Delhi**, emerge in to the wide open spaces of imperial **New Delhi**, with its ordered governmental vistas and generous leafy avenues. Those with an appreciation for colonial architecture will marvel at **Sir Edwin Lutyen's** buildings such as **Viceroy's House (Rashtrapati Bhavan)**, **Parliament House** and the **India Gate**, one of **Delhi's** most famous landmarks.

Humayun's Tomb is one of **Delhi's** three **UNESCO World Heritage Sites**. The tomb is located in large, immaculately maintained gardens. The **Qutub Minar** (1193 AD) is the tallest brick minaret in the world (238 ft) and an architectural wonder of **India**.



Delicious Delhi Cuisine

Day 03 – Agra



Emperor Akbar's Mausoleum At Sikandra

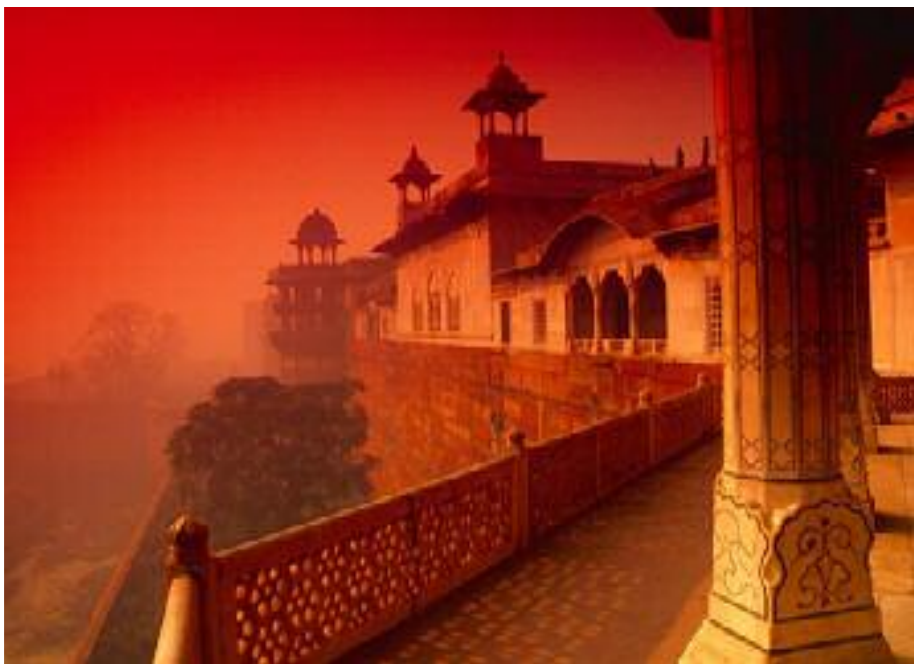
Tomb Of Akbar The Great

The **Mughal Emperor Akbar The Great** (1542 – 1605), himself commenced this huge construction around 1600. The beautiful mausoleum lies besides the main road at **Agra**.

Private Guided Tour Of The Agra Red Fort

People sometimes forget that **Agra** contains more than the **Taj Mahal**. The 16th Century **Mughal** monument known as the **Red Fort Of Agra** was built by **Akbar The Great** (1556-1605) and was a walled palace that remained **India's** premier city for almost two centuries.

The powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses within its 1.5 mile-long enclosure walls many fairytale palaces such as the **Jahangir Palace** and the **Khas Mahal**, audience halls such as the **Diwan-i-Khas**, and **Sheesh Mahal (The Glass Palace)** which is inlaid with thousands of mirrors and was once the harem's dressing room.



Dawn Over The Red Fort Of Agra

Day 04 – Jaipur



Views Of The Taj Mahal

The Amazing Beauty Of The Taj Mahal

The **Taj Mahal** is the world's greatest monument to love. Set overlooking the **River Yamuna**, the **Taj** was built by **Emperor Shah Jahan** to enshrine the body of his favourite wife in 1631. To truly appreciate the wondrous **Taj Mahal** and its many moods, you should aim to visit it at dawn or dusk when the reflection of the sun changes the colour of the dome from white to shades of pink.

The Deserted City Of Fatehpur Sikri

The deserted city of **Fatehpur Sikri** was the capital of **Emperor Akbar** between 1570 and 1585. Due to a severe shortage of water the city was abandoned after only fifteen years and the capital was relocated back to **Agra**. As a result **Fatehpur Sikri** stands untouched and perfectly preserved, a complete medieval fortress of red sandstone, with vast central squares, exquisitely carved multi-tiered pavilions, cool terraces and formal gardens.



Holy Man At Fatehpur Sikri



Day 05 – Jaipur



Peacock Gate At Jaipur

Private Guided Tour Of The Jaipur City Palace

The old **Pink City** of **Jaipur** has a stunning backdrop of ancient forts like **Amber** that stand as dramatic testimonials of a bygone era and a reminder of their lingering romance. The magnificent **City Palace** was built by **Maharaja Jai Singh** in 1728, enclosed by high walls and set amidst fine gardens and courtyards. It is now a vast museum with exhibits that have lost none of their splendour. The **Jantar Mantar Observatory** is a fascinating astronomical observatory with massive instruments used to predict the monsoon and identify the movements of the stars.

The Palace Of The Winds (Hawa Mahal) is **Jaipur's** most acclaimed attraction. Built in 1799, overlooking one of the city's main streets to offer the women of the court a vantage point, behind stone-carved screens, from which to watch the activity in the bazaars below.

The Fabulous Amber Fort And Palace

Amber is situated about 7 miles from **Jaipur** and was the ancient citadel of the ruling clan of **Amber**. The **Amber Fort** (1592) set in picturesque and rugged hills is a fascinating blend of **Hindu** and **Mughal** architecture. The forbidding exterior belies an inner paradise with a beautiful fusion of art and architecture. You have the added attraction of an **Elephant Back Ride** to ascend to the top.



On Elephant Back To Amber Fort And Window Of The Hawa Mahal

Day 06 – Udaipur



Night View Of Udaipur And Lake Pichola

Udaipur

Udaipur captures the imagination like few other places in the world. Surrounded by gently undulating hills and set around peaceful **Pichola Lake**, it is a city of impossible beauty. The location is easily the most romantic in **India** with **The Lake Palace** in the middle of the lake complimented by the grand **City Palace** on one bank and the **Monsoon Palace** on a hill above.

Romantic Boat Ride On Lake Pichola

An evening boat ride will allow you to have a close look at **The Lake Palace** (1743), a magical fairy tale property located in the middle of the **Pichola Lake** on **Jag Niwas Island**. Today the palace is one of the most famous and luxurious hotels in the world.

Light And Sound Show At The City Palace

During the winter season, there is a very watchable **Son Et Lumiere Show** that showcases the history of the **City Palace** from a magnificent setting on the banks of **Lake Pichola**.



The Maharajah's Old Cadillac

Day 07 – Udaipur



Durbar Hall At Fateh Prakash Palace

Private Guided Tour Of The Huge City Palace Of Udaipur

The huge **City Palace** that towers over the lake is the largest palace complex in **Rajasthan**. It is a conglomeration of buildings surmounted by balconies, towers and cupolas with wonderful views over the lake and city. The main part of the palace is now preserved as the **City Palace Museum**, housing an armoury and a large collection of artefacts. The **Mor Chowk (Peacock Square)** has beautiful mosaics of peacocks. The **Saheliyon Ki Bari** is an ornamental garden built for the entertainment of the royal ladies.

The Fateh Prakash Palace

The **Durbar Hall** at the **Fateh Prakash Palace** is undoubtedly the most lavish hall in **India**, and its sheer size makes one gasp in awe. The **Crystal Gallery** also has a breathtaking collection of the finest crystals.

The Maharajah's Classic Car Collection

The **Maharajah's Car Collection** within the grounds of the **Garden Hotel** includes rare vintage vehicles as well as sleek and fast **Cadillacs** and **Chevrolets**.

View Of Udaipur From The Monsoon Palace

The view of **Udaipur** from the **Monsoon Palace** is not to be missed. It is located high up on a peak in a forest covered wildlife sanctuary just outside the city.



The Monsoon Palace Above Udaipur

Day 08 – Jodhpur



Amazing Interior Of Ranakpur Jain Temple

The Jain Temples Of Ranakpur

Ranakpur has one of the one of the biggest and most important **Jain Temple** complexes in **India**. The main **Chaumukha Temple** has carvings of exceptional beauty.

Lunch At Maharani Bagh Apple Orchards – Payable Locally

The **Maharani Bagh**, or **Queen's Garden**, is a fruit orchard with acres of mango, lime and pomegranate beautifully located at the foot of the thickly forested **Aravali Hills**. It is a lovely place to enjoy a lunch of delicious **Rajasthani** cuisine with a spectacular view of the hills.

Jodhpur

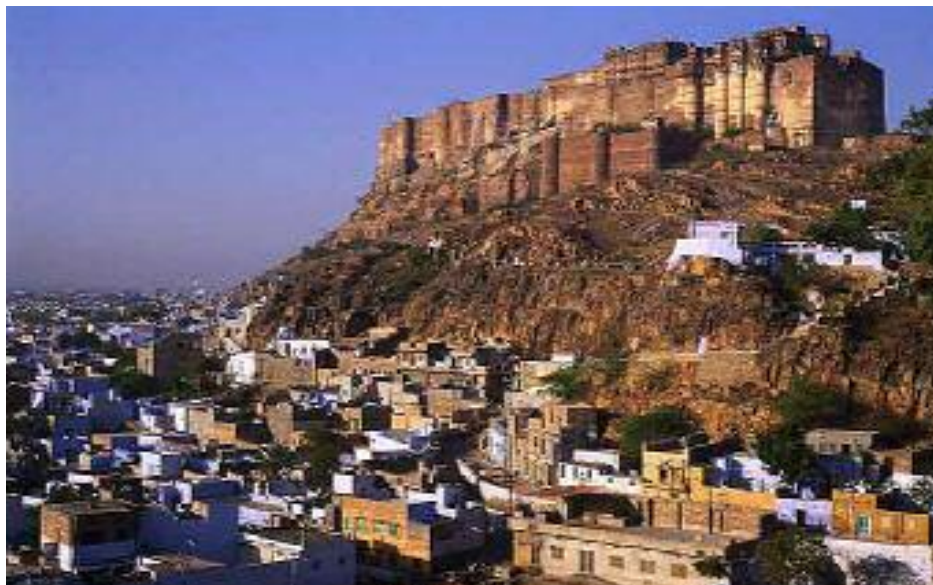
Jodhpur is the second largest city of **Rajasthan**, and sits on the edge of the great **Thar Desert**. The old city offers winding streets with colourful street markets and blue painted **Brahmin** houses dominated by the imposing **Mehrangarh Fort** above.

Near **Jodhpur**, the **Bishnois** are a simple village community who are strong lovers of wild animals. Their passion for protecting trees and wildlife has led to many tales of members of this community sacrificing their lives in order to protect their environment. If interested, you can visit their villages and buy beautiful home made rugs and handicrafts.



Mehendi Hand Painting At Jodhpur

Day 09 – Jodhpur



Mehrangarh Fort At Jodhpur

Private Guided Tour Of The Impregnable Mehrangarh Fort

The impressive and forbidding 15th Century **Mehrangarh Fort** is one of the most stunning hill forts of **Rajasthan**. It offers some excellent views of the old city. The fort itself, with its enormous gateways, has a fairy-tale feel with palatial apartments that have been built over five centuries of bristling history.

The Old City And Its Famous Markets

The colourful **Girdikot** and **Sadar** markets display a wide range of **Rajasthani** handicrafts. One can find textiles, silver, handicrafts, aromatic spices, vegetables and colourful **Indian** sweets in these shops.

Umaid Bhawan Palace (1929) is a beautiful edifice of marble and pink sandstone. This immense palace is also known as the **Chittar Palace** and is now a grand and extravagant heritage hotel that is one of the most luxurious in princely **India**.



Retainer Inside Mehrangarh Fort



Day 10 – Jaisalmer



Nomads At Sam Dunes Near Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer is the golden desert city of **Rajasthan** and it still bears the look of a quaint medieval town. **Jaisalmer Fort**, towers over the city and is often referred to as the '**Golden Fort**' due to the colour of its sandstone walls. **Gadisar Lake** is located outside the city walls, and surrounded by small temples and shrines. A wide variety of waterfowl flock here in winter.

Camel Ride On The Sam Sand Dunes

Sam Sand Dunes are on the edge of the **Desert National Park**. A magical place, especially at sunrise or sunset where it is possible to take **Camel Rides** into the lonely shifting sand dunes of the **Thar Desert**.



Camels At Jaisalmer



Day 11 – Jaisalmer



Gadisar Lake Near Jaisalmer

The Old Walled City Of Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer Fort (1156) merges with the golden hues of the desert and the setting sun gives it a fairy tale look. This is actually a living fort, with one quarter of the old city's population residing in it. The fort has 99 bastions around its circumference and is protected by three walls and is magically lit up at night. It is fascinating to wander around the fort packed with houses, temples, handicraft shops and honeycombed with narrow, winding lanes paved in stone.

The Breathtaking Havelis Of Jaisalmer

The **Manak Chowk** is the main marketplace outside the fort where one can walk through lanes where the famous **Carved Havelis Of Jaisalmer** can be found.



Inside Jaisalmer Fort



Day 12 – Bikaner



Bikaner Royal Cenotaphs

Bikaner And The Junagarh Palace

Once a major trading centre on the caravan route linking **Central Asia** with **North India**, **Bikaner** is dotted with many sand dunes, and the city is renowned for the best riding camels in the world.

Junagarh Fort (1588) would have to be one of the most impressive fort complexes in **Rajasthan**. This fort has a 986m-long wall with 37 bastions, a moat and two entrances.

The palaces within the fort make a picturesque ensemble of courtyards, balconies, kiosks, towers and windows. A major feature of its fort and palaces is the superb quality of stone carving.



Junagarh Fort And Rajasthani Dancer



Day 13 – Shekhawati



Interior Of Podar Haveli

The Painted Havelis Of Shekhawati Including Podar Haveli

The semi-desert region of **Shekhawati** is famous for a fine collection of painted **Havelis**, or splendidly frescoed mansions that were constructed by prosperous **Rajasthani** merchants. You can take an afternoon walk around some of its villages and admire their richly decorated exteriors and interiors. The best is the wonderful **Podar Haveli** in the village of **Nawalgarh**.



Detail Of Fresco At Shekhawati



Haveli At Mandawa



Day 14 – Delhi**Farm At Shekhawati****The Beautiful Countryside Of Shekhawati**

The **Shekhawati** region is a delight to travel, with pretty rural villages dotting the landscape and quaint farms that rear livestock such as goats and camels.

**Rural Rajasthan****Day 15 – Depart Delhi**