

Royal Rajasthan And Orchha Khajuraho Varanasi Tour

Duration : 20 Nights / 21 Days

Destinations : Delhi - Mandawa - Bikaner - Jaisalmer - Jodhpur - Udaipur - Pushkar - Jaipur - Agra - Delhi

Day 01 / Arrival Delhi

Arrive Delhi , Meet assist at the airport & transfer to hotel.

Day 02 / Delhi

After breakfast proceed for sightseeing tour of Old & New Delhi :

OLD DELHI - A sight-seeing tour of Old Delhi would entail visiting the Raj Ghat - the memorial site where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated; Jama Masjid - the largest mosque in India.

NEW DELHI - An extensive sight-seeing tour of New Delhi would include a visit to the Humayun's Tomb, the Qutub Minar, a drive along the ceremonial avenue - Rajpath, past the imposing India Gate, Parliament House, the President's Residence and would end with a drive through the Diplomatic Enclave. Overnight stay in Delhi.

Day 03 Delhi / Mandawa :

Morning drive to mandawa. Rest of the day visit Shekhavati villages of Dundlod, Mandawa, etc. Mandawa was founded in 1755 by Thakur Nawal Singh and is still the home of his descendants. Mandawa houses a collection of armories, costumes of ancestors, canons from 1820, ancient coins, numismatic collection and many other interesting items preserved in a museum. The whole area of Shekhavati has beautiful frescoes, havelis & mansions and is called the open air gallery.

Overnight stay in Mandawa.

Day 04 Mandawa / Bikaner :

Morning drive to Bikaner, on arrival check in hotel. Afternoon tour of this desert city. Bikaner is bolstered by imposing walls and has a 16th century fort housing old palaces, temples and a mosque. Founded by Raja Rai Singh, the fort is distinguished by its long range of 37 pavilions, a line of balconies and aerial windows of varying designs. An enormous arched doorway leads to the Joramal Temple. The royal chapel is Har Mandir where royal weddings and births were once celebrated.

Overnight stay in Bikaner.

Day 05 Bikaner / Jaisalmer :

Morning drive to Jaisalmer. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight stay in Jaisalmer.

Day 06 Jaisalmer :

Morning visit to Jaisalmer. Visit the Fort, bazars and the old mansions known as “havelis”. People still live in these ancient buildings dated 12th to 15th century. Every house has exquisite carvings and filigreed work. Overnight Jaisalmer.

Day 07 Jaisalmer / Jodhpur :

Morning drive to Jodhpur, on arrival check in hotel. Afternoon visit to Mehrangarh Fort, situated on a low sandstone Hill, including Moti-Mahal and Phool Mahal. Also visit Jaswant Thada, an imposing Marble Memorium built in 1899 and the museum located in Umaid Public Gardens. Overnight stay in Jodhpur.

Day 08 Jodhpur / Udaipur :

Morning drive to Udaipur visiting Ranakpur Temples enroute. Ranakpur – 98 kms from Udaipur. The Jain Temples built in the 15th century are situated in the lovely valley of the Aravalis. Its surrounding is quiet and picturesque. Ranakpur has grand structures and beautiful sculpture. There are 1444 pillars in the temple and none of them are similar. The magic of light & shade is really awe inspiring. Surya Temple and other Jain Temples are side attractions. Overnight stay in Udaipur.

Day 09 Udaipur :

Morning tour to Udaipur. Visit the city palace, Jagdish Temple, drive around Fatehsagar Lake, Sahelion ki bari (Queen’s resort for her friends) and Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandir (Folk Art Museum). Afternoon free. Overnight stay in Udaipur.

Day 10 Udaipur / Pushkar :

Morning drive to Ajmer / Pushkar, on arrival check in hotel. Afternoon visit the Tomb of the Sufi Saint, Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti, the Dargah Sharif. The city was founded by the Chauhan ruler, Aiaipal, during the 11th century & is dominated by the Taragarh Fort built by Prithviraj Chauhan.

In Pushkar, visit the holy lake and also the famous Brahma Temple. Pushkar is one of the holiest places for Hindus. Overnight stay in Pushkar.

#### Day 11 Pushkar / Jaipur :

Morning drive to Jaipur, on arrival check in hotel. Afternoon tour of Jaipur. Jaipur – the capital of Rajasthan was given a colour coat of pink a century ago in honour of a visiting Prince. Built by Maharaja Jai Singh, the notable astronomer, this city is 260 years old. Visit Maharaja's City Palace, the Observatory & Ram Niwas Gardens. Drive past Hawa Mahal & through the pink residential & business areas. Overnight stay in Jaipur.

#### Day 12 Jaipur :

In morning visit the Amber Fort of Jaipur – the ancient capital of the State. Visit the Sheesh Mahal or the Hall of Victory glittering with mirrors. Overnight stay in Jaipur.

#### Day 13 Jaipur / Agra

Morning drive to Agra visiting Fatehpur Sikri enroute. Fatehpur Sikri is 40 kms from Agra and built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 and abandoned after 15 years due to scarcity of water. See the graceful buildings including the Jama Masjid, Tomb of Salim Chisti, Panch Mahal and other Palaces. On arrival check in. Afternoon visit the Agra Fort containing the Pearl Mosque, the Halls of Public and Private Audience. Also the Tomb of Itmad-ud-built by Empress Noorjehan in memory of her father. Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays. Overnight stay in Agra.

#### Day 14 : Agra

After breakfast, city tour of Agra. Visit Red fort, which was built by Emperor Akbar in 1565, and additions were made up until the time of his grandson, Shah Jahan. It contains the hall of public and private audiences amongst many other beautiful structures; Itmad-ud-daulah, which was constructed by Nur Jahan between 1622 and 1628 and is very similar to the tomb she constructed for her husband, Jehangir, near Lahore in Pakistan; the highlight of the Day - The Taj Mahal, which was constructed by Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal. Construction of the Taj began in 1631 and was not completed until 1653. Afternoon, free for individual activities. Overnight stay at Hotel.

#### Day 15 : Agra - Jhansi - Orchha - Khajuraho ( 400 kms)

After breakfast, proceed your journey to khajuraho , enroute visit Orchha : A medieval city founded by Bundela rulers with palaces & temples of the 16th & 17th century – which have remarkably withstood the onslaught of time. The city is picturesquely flanked by the river Betwa.

Visit of the surrounding fortress & local Ram Raja temple. Continue drive to Khajuraho, upon arrival, check in Hotel and Overnight stay at Hotel.

#### Day 16 : Khajuraho

After breakfast, visit Khajuraho : Built by the warrior Chandela dynasty that rose to power in Central India between 10th & 11th centuries, the 25 odd surviving temples display different facets of life, including the sensual. These erotic carvings on some panels have given rise to much speculation since Khajuraho's re-discovery by a British officer in 1838. To preserve it for posterity, Khajuraho has been declared a World Heritage Site. Visit the eastern & western group of temples famous for their erotic sculptures. Evening at leisure and overnight stay.

#### Day 17 : Khajuraho - Varanasi ( 410 kms)

After breakfast proceed for your journey to Varanasi approx. 8 hrs. drive. In evening check-in to your pre-booked the hotel at Varanasi. Evening at leisure and overnight stay.

#### Day 18 : Varanasi

Early morning leave for a boat excursion on River Ganges to see the bathing ghats and cremation site. This afternoon, you will also visit Sarnath. Take a glimpse of the ruins, the famous Stupa, Buddhist Temple and the museum. Return to the hotel. After Lunch visit Bharat Mata Temple, Durga Temple, Tulsi Manas Mandir, Banaras Hindu University, Kashi Vishwanath Temple and others. After sightseeing back to hotel . Overnight stay at hotel.

#### Day 19 : Varanasi - Delhi ( 790 kms)

Early morning, leave for boat ride on the Ganges to see the bathing Ghats (river bank) & cremation site. Sunrise on the riverfront, as seen from a boat, can be a spiritually uplifting sight. The life on the Ghats bound in an endless string of rituals, ever-changing aspects of the river & the wide landscape across have fascinated visitors from all over the world. Return to hotel for breakfast. After breakfast, city tour of Varanasi - Visit the Bharat Mata temple with a big relief map of India in Marble, Durga temple, Tulsi Manas Mandir, Benaras Hindu University which has an art gallery & the mosque of Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb. Afternoon, excursion to Ramnagar. Return by boat in the evening, enroute witness the religious ceremonies along the banks of river Ganges. and evening check out hotel and and transfer to Varanasi Railway Station over night in Train.

#### Day 20 : Delhi Departure

Early Morning Pickup from Railway Station and Full day city tour of Old & New Delhi. Visit Jama

Masjid, the largest mosque in India - Built by Shah Jahan, the construction was started in 1644 and was not completed until 1658 ; witness the Red Fort; Visit Humayun's Tomb : built in mid 16th century this is an early example of Mughal architecture ; Visit Qutab Minar, witness the India Gate, President House.. The city tour ends with a visit to Laxmi Narayan Temple (Birla Mandir). and Evening Transfer to New Delhi Airport.

Day 21: END OF SERVICE NIGHT DEPARTURE BACK TO HOME