



BEST OF NORTH INDIA

DELHI – AGRA – RANTHAMBORE – JAIPUR – JODHPUR – DECHU – NARLAI – UDAIPUR





Itinerary

Day 1	Fly Kochi to Delhi
Day 2	Drive Delhi – Agra
Day 3	Agra
Day 4	Drive Agra – Ranthambore
Day 5	Ranthambore
Day 6	Drive Ranthambore – Jaipur
Day 7	Jaipur
Day 8	Drive Jaipur – Jodhpur
Day 9	Drive Jodhpur – Dechu
Day 10	Drive Dechu – Narlai
Day 11	Narlai
Day 12	Drive Narlai – Udaipur
Day 13	Udaipur
Day 14	Fly Udaipur – Delhi – Departure

Accommodations

Delhi	Trident, Gurgaon - Website
Agra	ITC Mughal - Website
Ranthambore	Taj Lodge - Website – Indian Heritage Hotel
Jaipur	Taj Jai Mahal Palace - Website – Indian Heritage Hotel
Jodhpur	Ajit Bhawan Palace - Website – Indian Heritage Hotel
Dechu	Samsara Camps - Website – Luxury tented accommodations
Narlai	Rawla Narlai - Website – Indian Heritage Hotel
Udaipur	Devigarh Palace - Website Indian Heritage Hotel

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly Kochi – Delhi

Arrive in vibrant, exotic Delhi; upon arrival you'll be met at by Worldwide Adventures India representative at the airport and taken straight to your hotel for check in.

Trident, Gurgaon features gardens, courtyards and reflection pools, lending it a resort-like ambience. The sense of calm filters through the entire hotel - the spa, swimming pool, the palm courtyard, the restaurants and the main lobby. And just when you think you have savoured every sight there is, the hotel transforms itself when the stars come out, when fire torches sparkle in the hotel's reflection pools to create a dramatic setting.

This afternoon our guide will meet you at the hotel and take you on a tour of **New Delhi**. We will visit **Qutab Minar**, built in 1199 by Qutbuddin as a victory tower for his victory against a Rajput King. From a base of 14.32 metres, it tapers to 2.75 metres at a height of 72.5 metres. It is still the highest and one of the finest stone towers in India.

Next, you will take you to **Gurudwara Bangla Sahib**. One of the most prominent Sikh temples, Bangla Sahib feeds more than 10,000 people every day, irrespective of cast-creed-color-religion. This is an integral part of 'Seva' or service, which is a highlight in the Sikh faith. The temple also organizes various other socio-philanthropic activities and its picturesque setting is perfect to calm, relax and contemplate.

Overnight: Trident, Gurgaon

Meals: Breakfast





Day 2 Drive Delhi – Agra (5 hrs)

This morning, visit Old Delhi. We will begin the day traveling by rickshaw past colorful bazaars, sacred temples, and colonial monuments through the winding streets of Old Delhi, the capital of Muslim India from the 12th through the 19th centuries. Gain a deeper understanding of India's history and culture as you walk the streets of Old Delhi with a private guide for a short **walking tour**. Learn about the impressive design of the city's 'Havelis' (private mansions), discover the significance of historical sites like the **Red Fort**, the white marble **Jama Masjid** - India's largest mosque, and admire handmade crafts sold at the market in **Chandni Chowk** by walking the same paths that the locals do, you'll be genuinely immersed in the Old Delhi lifestyle.

Enjoy a photo opportunity of the iconic **Red Fort**, built by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan before leaving Old Delhi. Drive past the **India Gate** War Memorial and pass Parliament as you discover India's modern political history.

Later drive to the city of **Agra**. This is a fascinating way to see the country as we wind our way down from the foothills back to the plains and onward to the city of love – Agra, home of the Taj Mahal.

*On arrival, check in to your hotel, **ITC Mughal** offers the finest leisure destination in the historic city of Agra, for an unsurpassable experience of Royal Indian hospitality. True to its stately inspiration, ITC Mughal expresses the untrammelled luxury of a Royal Refuge, with its luxury accommodation, acres of gardens that bear the mark of the paradisiacal landscaping typical to Mughal gardens with the use of water channels, fruit and flower bearing trees and shaded walkways.*

Overnight: ITC Mughal

Meals: Breakfast

Day 3 Agra

This morning rise early to see the sunrise at Shah Jehan's monument to love - **the Taj Mahal** which was built by the Mughal emperor as the final resting place for his favorite Queen, Mumtaz. This perfectly symmetrical monument took 22 years (1630-1652 A.D) of hard labor and 20,000 workers, masons and jewellers to build. It was designed by the Persian architect, Ustad Isa. The Taj can be observed like a mirage from the Agra Fort, from where



Emperor Shah Jehan stared at it for the last eight years of his life as a prisoner of his son Aurangzeb. The verses of Holy Quran are inscribed on it and at the top of the gate's 22 small domes, signifying the number of years the monument took to build. The elegant dome of the Taj has a diameter of 60 feet, and directly under the dome is the tomb of Mumtaz Mahal. Fantastic inlay work, using semi-precious stones, decorates the exterior and interior.

This afternoon we enjoy a brief visit the **Agra fort** to view the place where the Shah Jehan was imprisoned. The great Mughal Emperor Akbar commissioned the construction of the Agra Fort in 1565 A.D., although additions were made until the time of his grandson, Shah Jehan. The forbidding exteriors of this fort hide an inner paradise. The fort is crescent shaped, flattened on the east with a long, nearly straight wall facing the river. It has a total perimeter of 2.4 kilometres, and is ringed by double castellated ramparts of red sandstone punctuated at regular intervals by bastions. A 9-metre wide and 10-metre deep moat surrounds the outer wall.

Later we do an easy nature walk. The **Taj nature walk** is a green belt area, having variety of thorny and broad-leaved tree species dotted with high grass lands. These high grass lands mounds provide a unique platform to enjoy the beauty of Taj Mahal from different directions. The Taj has variation in its hue, colour and radiance with respect to time and season. Along with six grass mounds, the nature trail providing visuals of Taj Mahal from different settings.

In the evening enjoy the grand live performance "**Mohabbat-e-Taj**", based on the love story of Taj Mahal.

Overnight: ITC Mughal

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 Drive Agra – Ranthambore (4-5 hrs)

This morning participate in Yoga class covering Asana, Dhyana and Pranayam at a lush green mound about 150 meters from the Taj Mahal facing the same.



Later we're off by road to the 'Ranthambore' on the fringes of the Vindhya Hills in Eastern Rajasthan, protects 400 square kilometres of rocky hill and plateau country in dry deciduous jungle. A formidable fortress high above the plains provides a dramatic backdrop for viewing game and a glimpse into Rajasthan's valorous past. Although it is one of the smallest reserves in India, Ranthambore is famous as the foremost tiger sanctuary in the country. In addition to Bengal tiger, we hope to see an impressive array of wildlife including langur, sambar, nilgai, chital, wild boar, jackal, fox, and sloth bear.

On arrival check-in at your hotel. Evening is at Leisure.

*Nestled on the pristine location connecting to the Ranthambore National Park, popular for its diverse population of tiger, the **Taj Sawai Madhopur Lodge** offers one of the best comfortable stay to the tourists. It is the only resort in Ranthambore that has got a heritage status. This renowned lodge has a considerable amount of historical importance attached to it as it was built by the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II of Jaipur. The hotel has a sprawling lush green area that includes enchanting lawns and cottages. The lodge is housed with the necessary modern amenities that will guarantee you a pleasant stay. The breathtaking landscape and the majestic ambience go a long way in adding to the natural beauty of this heritage lodge.*

Overnight: Taj Sawai Madhopur Lodge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 5 Ranthambore

Rise before dawn for an open-air **jeep game drive**. Return to the lodge for lunch and set out again until the sun sets for more opportunities to see wildlife.

Romance and adventure await at **Ranthambore National Park**, nestled in the Aravali hills, and once the private preserve of the Maharajas of Jaipur. This haven for the adventure seeker and the wildlife watcher, offers 410 kms of forested hills alive with dhok, ronj, salai, sanbar, tigers, leopard and exotic birds. In short, some of the best wildlife sightings Asia has to offer.

Overnight: Taj Sawai Madhopur Lodge

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 6 Drive Ranthambore – Jaipur (4 hrs)

Late this morning you leave for the urban edge of the Pink City, Jaipur, and the third corner of India's Golden Triangle. It is also located in the state of Rajasthan, created from 22 feudal kingdoms, following the 1947 Partition and is the state's capital city.

*Step into a 270-year-old Indo-Saracenic architectural masterpiece set amidst 18 acres of landscaped Mughal gardens at **Taj Jai Mahal Palace** in Jaipur. This incomparable palace is a repository of Rajasthan's history. The palace has been restored to its 18th century splendour. It has been the residence of three Prime Ministers of the princely state of Jaipur. At this luxury heritage hotel, you experience unparalleled opulence with tantalising comforts. With its blend of heritage, elegance and luxury, you experience an exclusive royal lifestyle at this hotel.*

This evening meet with a local family and join them for dinner.

Overnight: Jai Mahal Palace

Meals: Breakfast, Family Dinner

Day 7 Jaipur

This morning start with 2 hours Hiking / walking (7 Kms - Includes 6 Kms trekking and 1 Km hiking) to Jai Garh Fort and Nahargarh Fort.

Later visit to the magnificently preserved **Amber Fort**, a beautiful complex of palaces, halls, pavilions, gardens and temples. Also see where attitudes had their roots at **Hawa Mahal** (Palace of the Winds), where a high and intricately carved wall sequestered women of the court while allowing them to watch processions below.

Later learn about the Rajasthan's tradition art of **block printing** during your stay. The process of doing block printing flourished since the 12th century when the art received a royal patronage from the kings of the era. It is done on cotton fabrics by using natural colours.



This evening walk through the local markets. You will pass by many vendors preparing the local Indian street food that is a smashing hit amongst the locals. Visit vegetables and fruit markets as well as the meat and fish markets which lie untouched

by modern departmentalism. A visit through the spice market will teach you not only about the different spices commonly used such as haldi (turmeric) and jeera (cumin), but also how the spices are ground and kept.

Overnight: Jai Mahal Palace

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8 Drive Jaipur – Jodhpur

This morning drive to “blue city” of Jodhpur, built on a low hill situated in the heart of the Thar Desert and surrounded by nearly 35,000 square miles of sand. Many of the buildings within the medieval old town are painted the same light blue shade, giving the city its nickname.

This afternoon will take you to the **Mehrangarh Fort**. Towering above the city it is the setting of Kipling's The Jungle Book. The impenetrable walls of the fort rise like cliffs from the rocky outcrop. You'll visit the well-preserved interior and enjoy a magnificent vista over the city from the Fort.

This evening is free to explore the markets. Jodhpur Old clock tower market is a wonderful place to shop for leather goods, handicrafts and spices.



*Tonight you will be stay at the first Heritage Hotel of India named **Ajit Bhawan**. It stands as an epitome of self-indulgent and upscale hospitality in Jodhpur. Built in 1927 exclusively for the Major General Maharaj Dhiraj Sir Ajit Singh Ji, the younger brother of Maharaja Shri Umaid Singhji of erstwhile Jodhpur State, Ajit Bhawan decades later was opened as the*

Pioneer Heritage Hotel of India by his Son and daughter-in-law- late Maharaja Swaroop Singhji and Rani Usha Devi respectively. In this magnanimous spread of 20,500 sq. meters, the legacy of Royal Rajputana and its imperial lifestyle is elegantly shared with those who fancy Rajasthan as a perfect base to taste supreme luxuries of the gorgeous era. A romantic *mélange* of erstwhile elegance and avant garde amenities, Ajit Bhawan globally enjoys a prestigious reputation in the heart of Blue City.

Overnight: Ajit Bhawan Palace

Meals: Breakfast



Day 9 Drive Jodhpur – Dechu

This morning drive to Dechu, the heart of the desert to stay in a **splendid tented camp**, situated to provide commanding views over the desert wilderness.

Samsara is an alluring oasis amidst the endless dunes of the Thar. Beautifully landscaped exteriors compliment creative interiors. Carefully laid out water bodies of moats and fountains, around the property provide that soothing ambience for a perfect get-away from the pandemonium of the city. Offering a host of services in an eclectic mix of rustic and modern aesthetic makes Samsara an ideal background.

From our base we'll walk through nearby villages, explore untouched sand dunes, visit the homes of desert craftsmen, and see chili and mustard farms. Meet local women preparing the afternoon meal on dung-fire. The Thar of Rajasthan is best explored using camels, in the early evening you'll ride through the vast golden dunes to see a glimpse of the desert lifestyle.

This evening enjoy dinner under the stars, on the dunes set amongst hundreds of flickering lanterns accompanied by the evening entertainment of local bards and folk dancers who will leave you mesmerized and wanting more.

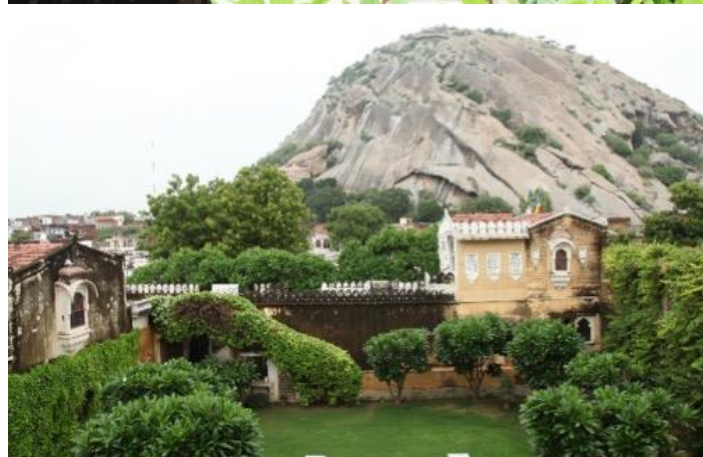
Overnight: Samsara Camps

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day 10 Drive Dechu – Narlai

Today you'll drive part way to Narlai. On arrival check-in at your hotel.

*You stay for two nights in a magnificent restored hunting lodge of **Rawla Narlai**, now a delightful heritage hotel, sensitively renovated to ensure that authenticity wasn't lost in the process of attaching bathrooms and enlarging the spaces. There are sepia photographs of the maharaja's ancestors, cusped window frames, frescoed walls, stained-glass windows, pretty alcoves and colored ceiling baubles.*



In the afternoon take a village walk with your guide. Narlai is a very close-knit community and each individual comes across happy, contented and proud. You travel into the Aravalli hills to the sights and sounds of the 17th century village of Narlai. Here life goes on as it has for centuries. Your hosts will introduce us to daily village life with its agrarian rituals, its temples and its schools.

This evening you are taken on a magical journey from the Rawla through the village streets in to the jungle. Before arriving at the 1100 year old "Step well". The Magical setting is brought to life by dimly lit oil lamps that illuminate setting through flickering night. The very private dinner is laid out in a traditional manner, it promise to remain unmatched

experience to anything you will ever experience for a long time. The entire evening is like a secluded sanctuary inspired by the mystical past, bracing Indian spirituality and unique experience of one being completely with nature.

Overnight: Rawla Narlai

Meals: Breakfast

Day 11 Narlai

The statue of the white elephant on the summit of the Narlai hill offers a beautiful view of the surrounding countryside and the village below. A guided climb of over 700 steps to the summit of this hill gives a spectacular view of sunrise or sunset, whichever one may choose. You can and should enjoy the stiff sunrise walk up the rock (views are intoxicating) before breakfast.

Later drive to **Kumbhalgarh Fort** and explore its massive gates and ramparts. Kumbhalgarh has second longest fort walls in the world, largest being the Great Wall of China. Cradled in the Aravali Ranges the fort was built in the 15th century AD by Rana Kumbha. It is of immense sentimental significance for the people being the birthplace of Mewar's legendary king Maharana Pratap. There is a magnificent array of temples built by the Mauryas of which the most picturesque place is the Badal Mahal or the palace of the clouds. The fort also offers a superb bird's eye view of the surroundings. The fort's massive wall stretches some 36 kms with a width enough to take eight horses abreast. Maharana Fateh Singh renovated the fort in the 19th century. The fort's large compound has very interesting ruins and a walk around it can be very educative.

Late afternoon shuttle back to your Hotel. Evening is at leisure.

Overnight: Rawla Narlai

Meals: Breakfast



Day 12 Drive Narlai – Ranakpur – Udaipur (3hrs)

This morning you'll travel by road to **Ranakpur** to visit the magnificent Jain temple; the marble complex is noted for the 29 halls supported by 1,444 pillars, each adorned with hundreds of carved figures, with no two alike.

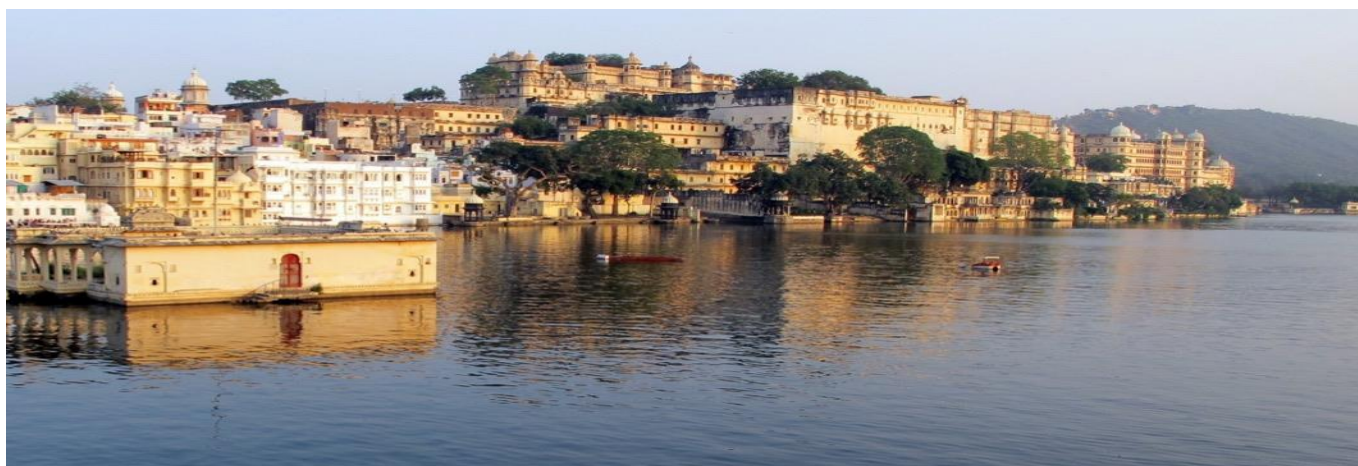
Then it's onward to Udaipur, the "city of sunrise," India's most romantic city, built around four lakes. The blue waters reflect the shimmering white palaces and temples and the

whole city exudes a feeling of peace and space.

Tonight you will be staying at the 18th century **Devigarh palace** in the village of Delwara forms one of the three main passes into the valley of Udaipur. Devigarh, is ready for visitors after years of restoration and rebuilding. The Fort palace was conceived as a place where the past meets the future. The contemporary design showcased within this spectacular heritage property, complemented by personalised and intimate service, creates a new image of hospitality for the modern traveller.

Overnight: Devi Garh Palace

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch



Day 13 Udaipur

This morning is free to enjoy the facilities at the Palace Hotel or Join your guide for walking tour of the nearby villages.

Later visit the City Palace, which sits on a rocky outcropping, its canopies and turrets gleaming – the centrepiece of twelve palaces in Rajasthan's largest royal complex. You will visit the wondrous museum and palaces, shining with marble and granite, then continue to **Jagdish Temple** and the **Pratap Memorial**. Also see the breath-taking collection of crystal at **Fateh Prakash Palace**.

In the late afternoon you'll cruise on Lake Pichola (weather and conditions permitting) to view the City Palace from the water.

Overnight: Devi Garh Palace

Meals: Breakfast

Day 14 Fly Udaipur – Delhi – Departure

Today fly to Delhi to connect your international flight back home.

Meals: Breakfast

THIS PROGRAM SHOWCASES THE BEST OF NORTH INDIA AND CAN BE SHORTENED TO INCORPORATE THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE OR ANY OF THE PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS YOU PREFER.