India: Rajasthan Private Journey

TAJ MAHAL, JAIPUR, AND JODHPUR

WHEN TO GO

Late September to March

For our Private Journey trips, you choose your own group and your preferred dates—there are no set departure dates. Private Journeys are available to groups as few as two people or as large as you like. While many guests choose to book this tour exactly as is, our Area Specialists can work with you to customize it to your wishes. Contact us for availability, questions, or to book your adventure!

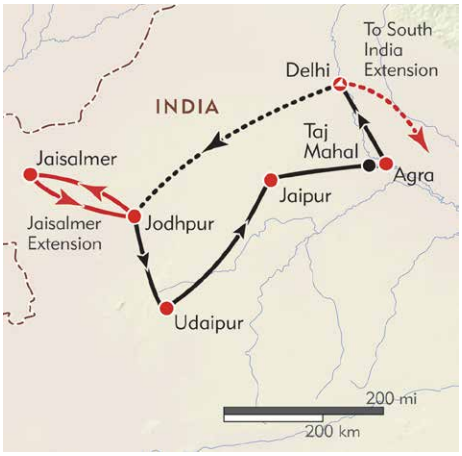
Wilderness Travel

India: Rajasthan Private Journey

TAJ MAHAL, JAIPUR, AND JODHPUR

Rajasthan is an exotic land best described by its colors—the brilliant reds and bold yellows of tribal costumes, the soft pinks of ancient palaces, the muted tawny browns of vast deserts. On this Private Journey, explore with your own private guides in the ancient cities of Jodhpur, Udaipur, and Jaipur, with their ornate palaces of marble and onyx, and journey back in time at Fatehpur Sikri, the fabulously preserved ruin of a Mughal capital. Your journey ends in Agra, where you watch the golden morning light of sunrise fall across the legendary Taj Mahal, "an emperor's love wrought in living stones." Among the travel extensions we offer are a visit to the golden city of Jaisalmer, and to South India's enchanting tropical Kerala to travel by private houseboat and visit the ancient trading port of Kochi (formerly Cochin), with its stunning location on the Arabian Sea.

Itinerary



DAY 1
DELHI, INDIA

Arrive in Delhi, where you are met for a transfer to your hotel...meals on your own

Classic Accommodation: The Claridges Hotel
Optional Upgrade: Taj Palace
(See the Lodging section for descriptions and photos)

DAY 2
DELHI EXPLORATION

After breakfast, meet your private Delhi guide for a full-day excursion in an air-conditioned vehicle, including lunch with your guide. You'll start in Old Delhi, where you visit Jamma Mosque, the main mosque of Delhi, then drive through fabled Chandani Chowk, the busy market area of the old city. At the Red Fort, built by Shah Jehan, the builder of the Taj Mahal, admire its delicately carved, inlaid, and marbled Royal Chambers. You will also visit the exterior of Raj Ghat, the last resting place of the father of modern India, Mahatma Gandhi. In keeping with the austere simplicity in his life, a simple square platform of black stone marks the spot. An eternal flame burns in a copper urn nearby.

Heading to New Delhi, visit Humayan's Tomb, built in 1570 and believed to have inspired the Taj Mahal. A drive brings you past Safdarjung's Tomb and the ancient Qutab Minar complex, whose magnificent sandstone tower was built by the Muslim king Kutab-ud-din Aibak in 1199 AD (India's oldest surviving mosque, the 12th century mud-brick Qutab-ud-din, is also part of this complex). Your explorations of New Delhi include a drive past the embassy area, government buildings, Birla temple, and the Jantar-Mantar Astronomical Observatory, as well as Connaught Place, New Delhi's main shopping area.
Overnight at hotel...BLD

DAY 3
DELHI / JODHPUR

After a free morning in Delhi, fly to Jodphur, known as "the blue city" for the color wash of its old town houses. This afternoon, visit the Clock Tower and the Sardar Market, a vibrant exotic bazaar offering everything from jewelry, pottery, and Rajasthani textiles to fruits, vegetables, and spices. Dinner and overnight at your hotel...BLD
Our Optional Mid-Trip Jaisalmer Extension begins Day 3 (see page 13).

Classic Accommodation: Vivanta by Taj - Hari Mahal
Optional Upgrade: Raas Haveli

DAY 4
JODHPUR

Enjoy a full-day guided tour the old walled city, which you enter on foot, passing through one of its seven massive gateways to explore lavish temples, palaces, and the mighty Mehrangarh Fort. Perched atop a steep rocky

TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

Length: 10 days
Arrive: Delhi, India
Depart: Delhi, India
Lodging: 9 nights in comfortable hotels (first class or deluxe option)
Meals: All meals from Day 2 through lunch on Day 10 (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
Activity: Cultural Adventures, Walking
Trip Level: 1+ 2 3 4 5 6
Overland travel with walking tours

HIGHLIGHTS

- The walled city of Jodhpur, with its extravagant palaces
- Udaipur, one of the world's most romantic cities, in a lakeside setting
- Sunrise and sunset at the celebrated Taj Mahal

"It was the trip of a lifetime! I'm still trying to process all that we saw and experienced!"

Joan B., Bend, OR

Itinerary

"Everything went like clockwork. We were very impressed with our guides and accommodations, and with how well things were coordinated."
Rhonda K., Fargo, ND

eminence that rises over the desert valley, the fort is incredibly ornate with its small courtyards and gold-leafed durbar halls, and the views from the roof are amazing. Additional explorations of Jodhpur include a visit to the vast Umaid Bhawan Palace, with its Art Deco interior, and Jaswant Thada, an imposing marble memorial site built in 1899. Lunch is with your guide at a local restaurant. Dinner and overnight at hotel...BLD

Mehrangarh Fort: Seven massive gateways lead into Jodhpur's walled city, and a steep climb brings you up to the fort, passing through cannon-scarred gateways and ancient walls that carry the poignant palm prints of proud Rajput queens who immolated themselves on funeral pyres. The fort's series of palaces and courtyards—the Pearl Palace, the Flower Palace, and the Palace of Delight—are beautifully painted and delicately carved and ornamented, housing a royal collection of rare miniature paintings, silver howdahs, palanquins, armor, and royal cradles.

DAY 5
JODHPUR / UDAIPUR

After breakfast, drive to Udaipur, with a visit en route to the Jain temples at Ranakpur and a late afternoon arrival in Udaipur, one of the most romantic cities in the world. Udaipur is an oasis of palaces, traditional havelis (mansions), parks, fortresses, and temples. The city is built on the shores of Lake Pichola,

Itinerary

with 17th century palaces covering the lake's two islands. Overnight at hotel... BLD
Approximate Driving Time: 8 hours, including the visit to Ranakpur

Classic Accommodation: Trident Hotel Udaipur
Optional Upgrade: Taj Lake Palace or Oberoi Udaivilas

DAY 6
UDAIPUR

Enjoy a full-day guided tour of Udaipur. One of the highlights of your visit today is the City Palace, a majestic architectural marvel towering over Pichola Lake. The palace is surrounded by crenellated walls and replete with ornate pavilions, courtyards, reception halls, and balconies. 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. Udaipur is proud of its heritage as a center for the arts, and there is an abundance of fine crafts for sale in the bazaar, including colorful Rajasthani puppets. Lunch is with your guide at a local restaurant. In the evening, enjoy a boat ride on Lake Pichola. Dinner and overnight at hotel... BLD

"WT took care of us from the time we arrived to our departure and was always there, taking care of logistics and allowing us to enjoy India on our own and through our daily guides."

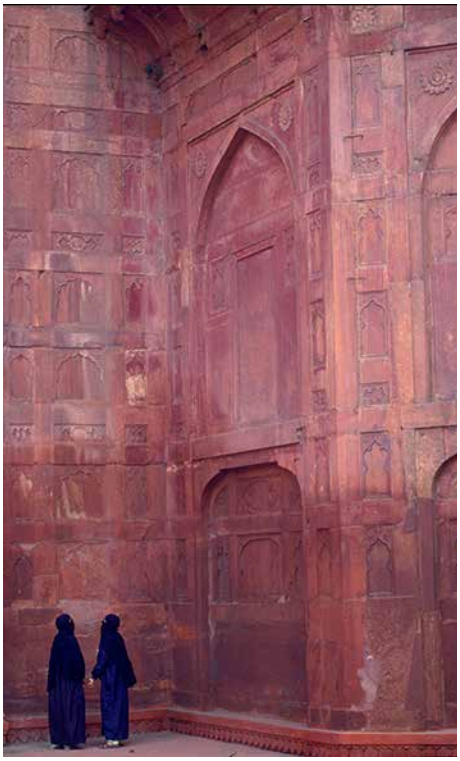
John and Mary P., Fairfax, VA

DAY 7
UDAIPUR / JAIPUR

Fly to Jaipur, Rajasthan's famous walled city of pink stone. After dropping your bags off at the hotel, head out on a tour of the City Palace and Museum and the unique Jantar Mantar Observatory, which looks futuristic although it was built in the 1700s. The afternoon is at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel...BLD
Note: If the flight is non-operational, a 6-7 hour drive will be included instead.
Classic Accommodation: Trident Hotel Jaipur
Optional Upgrade: Taj Rambagh Palace or Oberoi Rajvilas

Jaipur: Built by Maharaja Jai Singh II in the early 18th century, Jaipur is unsurpassed as a testament to the craftsmanship of the old masters. Fresco painting and mirror work were two favorite ways of decorating interior spaces in Jaipur's forts and gracious residences. Frescoes show preening peacocks, caparisoned elephants, or floor-to-ceiling extravaganzas of flowers and stylized motifs. Encircled by a formidable wall, Jaipur was the only planned city of its time. It was designed in accordance with Shilp Shastra, an ancient Hindu treatise on architecture, and built on a grid system. The streets, lanes, and uniform rows of shops on either side of main bazaars are arranged in nine rectangular city sectors called chaukris. The palace lies in the heart of the city and occupies the whole central grid.

Itinerary



"The balance between the sightseeing and relaxing at fabulous hotels was perfect."
Hillary R., Oakton, VA

DAY 8
JAIPUR

Today you enjoy a full day tour of Jaipur, including the Amber Fort overlooking the desert plains of Rajasthan. Ascending by jeep to this striking fortress, you explore its palaces, gardens, and enjoy a grand view of the lake and the city. After lunch with your guide, enjoy a walk through the colorful outdoor markets of Jaipur where vendors sell fruits, vegetables, and spices. Dinner and overnight at the hotel...BLD

DAY 9
FATEHPUR SIKRI / AGRA

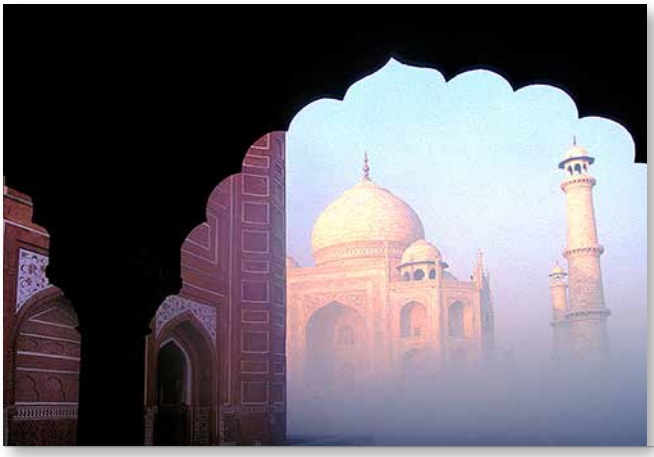
After breakfast, drive to Fatehpur Sikri, once the capital of the Mughal Emperor Akbar. The emperor and his court stayed here only from 1570 to 1586, and this fabulous city of red sandstone has lain deserted ever since. The palaces and courtyards are in pristine condition, offering an extraordinarily accurate glimpse of a Mughal city. After a guided tour, continue an hour to Agra, capital of the Mughal Empire from the 16th to the early 18th centuries. This afternoon we visit 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. At sunset, drive by the legendary Taj Mahal, particularly lovely at this time of day. Dinner and overnight at the hotel. (Please note: The Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays, so please consider this when scheduling your trip.)...BLD
Approximate Driving Time: 3.5 hours

Classic Accommodation: ITC Mughal Hotel
Optional Upgrade: Oberoi Amarvilas

DAY 10
DELHI / DEPART (OR JOIN ONE OF OUR INDIA EXTENSIONS)

Arise early this morning to see the Taj Mahal at sunrise, then enjoy a guided tour of this exquisite white marble palace set on the east banks of the Yamuna River. It 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. Depart on a drive to Delhi, with lunch en route. A day room will be held for you at the Radisson Hotel near the airport until 8:00 pm, when you are transferred to the airport for departure on flights leaving in the late evening of Day 10 or the early morning hours of the following day...BL
Approximate Driving Time: 5 hours

Note: A full overnight can be arranged at extra cost for flights departing after 2:00 am on Day 11. Travelers participating in optional post-trip extensions will need a full overnight at the airport hotel (at extra cost) on Day 10.



Pricing

TRIP COST

Prices are per person, valid through Spring 2027
$7,695 (6-9 members)
$8,495 (3-5 members)
$8,995 (2 members)
Single supplement: $2,725
Internal airfare: $545 (subject to change)

Prices are based on double occupancy and not guaranteed until services are confirmed.

Make it *Your* Trip!
The prices above are for the ready-to-book adventure outlined in this Detailed Itinerary, a popular option that has been handcrafted by our Area Specialists to include the best of every destination. While many travelers choose to book this tour as is, our Area Specialists are also happy to work with you to customize this Private Journey to suit your specific interests and style of travel. We can arrange for longer or shorter stays, offer hotel upgrades (see below for sample costs), or add an extension to additional places of interest. We can even add special activities or customize excursions depending on your interests. We invite you to contact us to discuss your options!

Optional Hotel Upgrades
All upgrade pricing is per person, per night, based on double occupancy. Please call for single occupancy pricing.
Delhi: Taj Palace Hotel, from $63
Jodhpur: Raas Haveli, from $68
Udaipur: Taj Lake Palace, from $348
Udaipur: Oberoi Udaivilas, from $348
Jaipur: Taj Rambagh Palace, from $348
Jaipur: Oberoi Rajvilas Hotel, from $348
Agra: Oberoi Amarvilas, from $348

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Accommodations
- All meals from Day 2 through lunch on Day 10 as indicated in the Detailed Itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Tours and sightseeing as described with private English-speaking guides
- Land transportation as noted
- All airport transfers

TRIP COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare, any meals not specified after each itinerary day, any activities described as optional, airport departure taxes, optional tipping or gratuities to staff, additional hotel nights made necessary by airline schedule changes or other factors, pre-trip expenses such as medical immunizations (if any), travel insurance, or passports and visas; and other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.).

SIGNING UP FOR A TRIP

Early reservations are recommended since accommodations often sell out far in advance. Please call 1-800-368-2794 and ask for our Asia Manager or email us at asia@wildernesstravel.com with any questions that you may have about this trip. To reserve your Private Journey, we will need to know your preferred dates of travel. We will then check availability and send you a proposed itinerary with exact pricing for your adventure. We can typically hold a provisional booking for one week. At that time, we must collect your initial deposit or accommodations will be released. We accept Visa, Mastercard, or American Express card. Upon receipt of your deposit, we will send you a Welcome Packet that includes a letter of confirmation, Detailed Itinerary, Trip Application, Medical Form, and Pre-Departure Information Booklet with information to help you prepare for your adventure. Please see our Cancellations and Transfer Fee Schedule for specific payment information.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

At time of reservation: $1,000
90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION AND TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Minimum fee: $1,000 per person
61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost
46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost
45 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:
http://www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan/travel-insurance

Accommodations

DAYS 1 TO 2 (2 NIGHTS): DELHI, INDIA

In Delhi, you will stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:

THE CLARIDGES HOTEL DELHI

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.

TAJ PALACE HOTEL (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

The prestigious Taj Palace Hotel is the perfect place to unwind after a long flight or a day's exploration of Delhi. We appreciate it for its attentive, cheerful staff, and for providing all the comforts of a 5-star hotel (gym, spa, restaurants, and a tea lounge that serves a hot cup from a menu of 92 varieties!). In Delhi, where crossing town can take two hours, location is everything. We choose the Taj Palace for its convenient distance to the city sights, and we book the Deluxe Rooms, overlooking Delhi's skyline or the hotel's inviting outdoor pool. The Taj Palace is set in six acres of garden—quite a rare find in this bustling city.

DAYS 3 TO 4 (2 NIGHTS): JODHPUR, INDIA

In Jodhpur, you will stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:

VIVANTA BY TAJ — HARI MAHAL

A 21st century palace set in six acres of lush gardens in the heart of Jodhpur, the Taj Hari Mahal has Mughal-inspired architecture of domes, enameled murals, slender columns, and grand interiors. We value the hotel's central location, comfortable rooms, and attentive staff. The evening barbecue and poolside dance performances are a treat.

RAAS HAVELI (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

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

DAYS 5 TO 6 (2 NIGHTS): UDAIPUR, INDIA

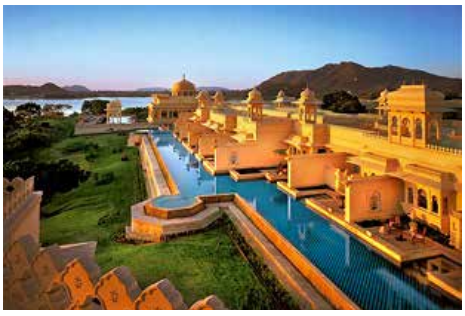
In Udaipur, you will stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:

TRIDENT HOTEL UDAIPUR

This is a peaceful haven in a bustling city, with great views, lush landscaping, a gorgeous swimming pool, a casual ambiance, and cobbled pathways meandering among fragrant gardens. The hotel is set along Lake Pichola, with large and well-appointed guest rooms offering garden or pool views. Lunch by the pool is a relaxing treat.

TAJ LAKE PALACE (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

It's not a stretch to say that the Lake Palace, the 250-year-old former summer palace of the Maharaja of Udaipur, is one of the world's most breathtaking heritage hotels, and to spend a night here is truly a fairytale experience that begins the moment you first see it. Floating in tranquil Lake Pichola with the Aravalli Hills as its backdrop, this palace hotel has been called "a dream of white marble." Inside, you can live the royal life and enjoy its many courtyards, restaurants, elegant terraces, and gardens abloom.



OBEROI UDAIVILAS (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

Built of sandstone and marble in grand Mughul style, this dramatic new hotel on Lake Pichola offers a royal ambiance with graceful domes, intricate tile flooring, grand staircases, Rajasthani artifacts, cascading gardens, and views of Lake Pichola. The swimming pools and spa are beautiful, and the staff is courteous. The Udaivilas' bar is very welcoming—after a day of exploring the old city, stop in and relax with a cocktail and some fresh warm cashews.

Accommodations

DAYS 7 TO 8 (2 NIGHTS): JAIPUR, INDIA

In Jaipur, you will stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:

TRIDENT HOTEL JAIPUR

With a pleasant location across from Jaj Mahal Lake and just a 10-minute drive from the famous Jaipur Fort, this small hotel offers comfortable and spacious rooms and excellent service. The swimming pool is inviting, the breakfast buffet is abundant, and the lobby bar is a great place to unwind in the evening.

TAJ RAMBAGH PALACE (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

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.

OBEROI RAJVILAS HOTEL (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

About 20 minutes outside the city, the Rajvilas is a calm oasis surrounded by gardens, pavilions, and a small lake. Designed as an old Raj fort and set amid 30 acres of landscaped grounds, it offers large, well-laid-out guest rooms, each individually decorated, and all with beautiful bathrooms that have large sunken tubs. The Rajvilas' swimming pool is a great place to relax for a drink, and the restored 260-year-old Shiva temple on the hotel's property adds to the ambiance.

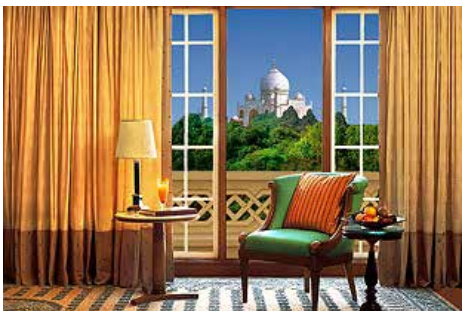
Accommodations

DAY 9 (1 NIGHT): AGRA, INDIA

In Agra, you will stay at one of the following properties based on availability and choice of accommodation:

ITC MUGHAL AGRA

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.



OBEROI AMARVILAS (OPTIONAL UPGRADE)

The Oberoi Amarvilas has well earned its long lists of awards and accolades, and it's the place to stay in Agra. Located less than a half-mile from the Taj Mahal, you can't find a hotel any closer, and each guest room has a marvelous view from its balcony of the Taj rising above a blanket of green trees. The hotel's sandstone arches, manicured gardens, and serene pools and fountains reflect the opulent style of the Mughal emperors. This is an incredible place to return to after a day of exploration at the Taj and Agra's other sites. Please note: To book the Oberoi Amarvilas, you must also book either the Rajvilas (Jaipur) or Udaivilas (Udaipur).

DAY 10 (1 NIGHT): DELHI, INDIA

RADISSON BLU AIRPORT HOTEL (DAY ROOM)

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 *India: Rajathan Private Journey* webpage and click on "Accommodations."

Arrival & Departure

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.

Delhi, India, is the meeting point for this program. An airport transfer will be provided upon your arrival on Day 1 and for your departing flight home from Delhi on Day 10 (or early morning of Day 11). We provide an Arrival & Departure Logistics memo for each program.

FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

Trip members are responsible for making their own arrangements for air transportation. Please do not purchase your airline tickets until you are confirmed on the trip and have reviewed your proposed air schedule with our office. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule so that we can send it on to the local guide (make sure to include your Trip Name and Trip Dates on it). Note: The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly; otherwise you may be denied boarding. Please remember this when reserving your flights. In addition, your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US (in most cases).

Optional Jaisalmer Mid-trip Extension

The origins of Jaisalmer go back to the 12th century when Rawal Jaisal, a Rajput chieftain of the Yadav clan, abandoned his old fort at Lodurva and laid the foundation of a new city on a triple-peaked rock. The Golden Fort and its inner citadel crown the 80-meter-high hill and are approached through the Sun Gate. Within the fort is a seven-story palace with its Megh Durbar, or Hall of Clouds. Also in the inner enclosure is a group of finely carved Jain temples that date from the 12th to the 15th centuries. The glory of Jaisalmer faded when sea trade replaced the old land routes, but an "Arabian Nights" quality remains in Jaisalmer's streets and marketplaces. The narrow streets of the walled city preserve a traditional way of life as craftsmen still work in ancient arts, including stone carving and silver jewelry.

DAYS 1-2 FOLLOW THE REGULAR ITINERARY

See page 3 for more details

DAY 3
DELHI / JAISALMER

After a morning for independent exploration in Delhi, fly to Jodhpur, where you make a drive of 4 to 5 hours, with stops along the way, to the desert city of Jaisalmer. Overnight at The Fort Rajwada...BLD

DAY 4
JAISALMER

Jaisalmer is a golden city that rises out of the yellow sands like a mirage. Remote and desert-bound, it lies on the ancient trade route that linked India with the trading centers of Central Asia. Camel caravans laden with precious cargos of spices and silks crossed the dangerous mountain passes of the north and halted in Jaisalmer, bringing it great wealth. Jaisalmer's princes and merchants displayed their riches in exquisitely carved and ornamented palaces and mansions within the old walled city. Enjoy a full-day tour, visiting the traditional havelis (mansions) of the merchants and the hilltop Golden Fort. Lunch is with your guide at a local restaurant. Overnight at hotel...BLD

DAY 5
JODHPUR

A drive of about 4-5 hours brings you to Jodhpur. Continue with Regular Itinerary Days 3-10; for a full description, see pages 3-6.

2027 EXTENSION COST

To be announced.

EXTENSION COST INCLUDES

- Services of local English-speaking guide
- Accommodations
- Meals as indicated (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Activities as indicated and entrance fees for activities listed
- Ground transportation and transfers as indicated

EXTENSION COST DOES NOT INCLUDE

International airfare; any additional hotel nights that may be needed before or after your extension; airport departure taxes; any meals not specified after each itinerary day; gratuities to local guides, drivers, and transfer agents; pre-trip expenses of medical immunizations; visa fees (if applicable); travel insurance; any other expenses of a personal nature (alcoholic beverages, sodas, laundry, etc.).

Extensions

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 *India Private Journey* webpage and click on the "Extensions" tab: www.wildernesstravel.com/trip/india/india-private-journey/extensions

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 $2,295.*

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 $2,795.*

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 $2,195.*

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is Level 1+, Easy to Moderate. 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. Note: Please remember that travel in India can be an adventure. 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:

January to March, Min Temp 50F, Max Temp 80F, 0.15 to .02 inches of rain: In Winter Season, temperatures vary widely around the state of Rajasthan but this is an ideal season for travel. January is the coolest month of the year. There is slight precipitation in the north and northeastern region and light winds, predominantly from the north and northeast. At this time, relative humidity ranges from 50% to 60% in the morning to 25% to 35% in the afternoon.

April to June, Min Temp 75F, Max Temp 105F, 0.4 to 1.18 inches of rain (not recommended for travel): This is Pre-Monsoon, the hottest season, particularly in May and June. In the desert regions, the temperatures drops at night. Prevailing winds are from the west and sometimes carry dust storms called andhi.

July to September, Min Temp 70F, Max Temp 95F, 4 to 6.5 inches of rain (not recommended for travel): This the Monsoon Season, when 90% of the annual rains come. While the temperatures are only slightly lower than Pre-Monsoon, there is very high humidity.

October to December, Min Temp 55F, Max Temp 85F, 0.11 to 0.31 inches of rain: Post-Monsoon is also a very comfortable season for travel.

PRIVATE JOURNEY GUIDED SERVICES

You will have agents in each city who handle your transfers, and private guides and drivers in each city who lead your sightseeing excursions.

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.

ABOUT PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Wilderness Travel Private Journeys are designed for people who want to travel with their own small private group, but who still want to experience the same superb itinerary design, great accommodations, and signature quality of Wilderness Travel's escorted group trips. These Private Journeys allow you to choose your own dates and your traveling companions—even if it's just the two of you—yet still enjoy a guided adventure.

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.

WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner
World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner
Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row
Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*
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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