

Byroads
Inspiring Escorted Journeys

COLOURS OF RAJASTHAN

Discover the highlights & hidden secrets of northern India

16 DAYS - STARTING NEW DELHI 11 NOVEMBER 2019





COLOURS OF RAJASTHAN

Trip Outline

There's little argument that India is one of the most colourful countries in the world, with Rajasthan at its epicentre. Despite being an essentially arid region, it shimmers with almost every shade in the rainbow. Dusty towns and villages are embellished with dazzling saris and vibrant local markets offer fruit, vegetables and a bright palette of spices. In addition, the state is dotted with numerous stately palaces – some more colourful than others – along with elegant havelis (merchant homes), temples and much more. This tour features some of India's most stunning destinations, including the Taj Mahal, Udaipur, Jodhpur and Jaipur. In addition, we head off the beaten track to less known highlights such as the ancient towns of Karauli and Narlai. And, for lovers of wildlife, we visit Ranthambore, one of North India's largest national parks, with a growing Tiger population along with other animal and bird species.

Our journey begins in Delhi, where we explore the Old City before heading south to Agra and the incomparable Taj Mahal. Heading west, we visit Akbar's wonderful deserted capital at Fatehpur Sikri and the Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary at Bharatpur before arriving in the 14th century town of Karauli, considered one of the holiest towns in Rajasthan. Our next stop is the world famous Ranthambore National Park; a vast wildlife reserve known for its tigers, leopards and marsh crocodiles.

The fabled 'pink city' or Jaipur is one of the three 'pearls' of Rajasthan as well as the state capital. Further on we come to Jodhpur, another highlight, and a particular favourite of Steve's with its spectacular Mehrangarh Fort looming above the town.

Sleepy yet spectacular, the Narlai village sits on an exhilarating back road where our stunning heritage hotel for the night was once a hunting lodge of the Royal family. Having visited the beautiful 15th century Jain temple at Ranakpur we arrive in beautiful Udaipur where we have a further two full days to explore this magical city and its surrounds. Udaipur is often described as one of the worlds most romantic places in India and it is easy to see why.

Tour Host – Steve Mortimer

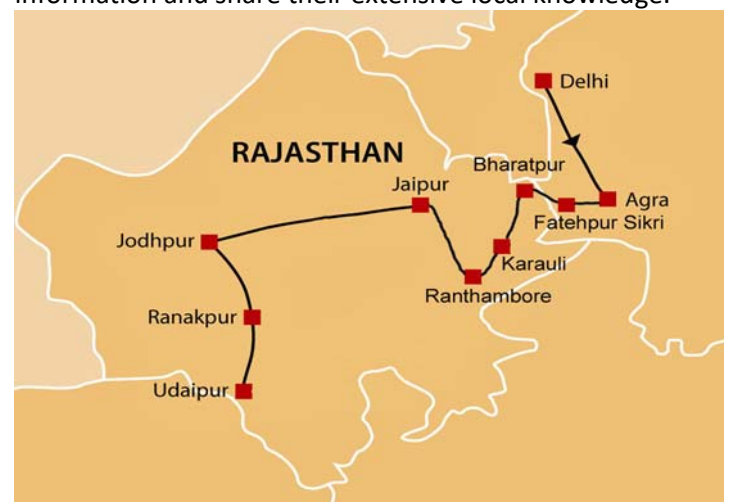


Steve Mortimer heads up Byroads Travel and will be your host on this tour. Steve has nearly 30 years in the travel industry and has travelled to well over 100 countries. He has worked with a number of well-known Australian adventure travel companies including 13 years as a Product Manager and Operations Director for Peregrine Adventures.

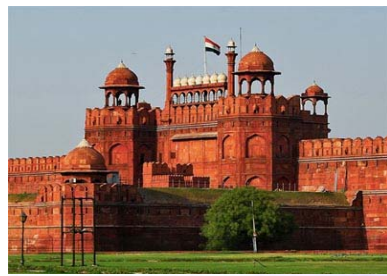
Most recently he has been involved in researching and developing holidays in several different regions of the world, including Latin America and the Middle East where he has lived.

Steve likes nothing better than getting out and about with like-minded travellers, sharing his knowledge and introducing them to some of the world's most interesting places. As a regular visitor to India over many years and having travelled most of the sub-continent, Rajasthan, with its colourful people and incredible history, remains one of his favorite places in this truly remarkable country.

With our itinerary you can be confident you'll visit all the 'must see' attractions – and much more, however there are some days when you'll have time to wander and make some of your own discoveries. Throughout the tour local guides are employed to provide a wealth of background information and share their extensive local knowledge.



ITINERARY - STARTS IN NEW DELHI



MON 11 NOV: NEW DELHI – Upon arrival at Delhi Airport you are met and transferred to your hotel. The balance of the day is at your leisure.

TUE 12 NOV: DELHI – Today we explore the narrow alleys of Old Delhi on a wonderful walk organized by the Salaam Balak Trust. Later we visit the Jama Masjid mosque and pass by the Red Fort enroute to modern New Delhi where we see various government buildings, the Qutab Minar, Delhi's largest Sikh temple and we will stop for that iconic photo at India Gate. (B)



WED 13 NOV: DEL-AGRA – This morning we drive to Agra. No matter how many times you've seen the photos, nothing quite prepares you for the Taj Mahal, which we visit this morning in all its glory. Later we head to Agra Fort, with its dainty pavilions overlooking the River Yamuna. (B)

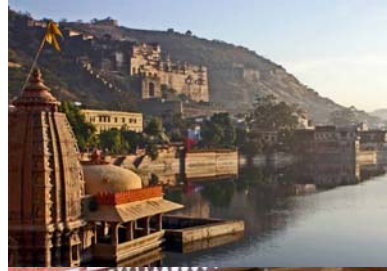
THU 14 NOV: AGRA-FATEHPUR SIKRI-BHARATPUR-KARAULI – At Fatehpur Sikri, is the fabled deserted city of Moghul Emperor Akbar whilst further on at Bharatpur is the historical Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary. Our destination this day is the heritage town of Karauli. (BLD)



FRI 15 NOV: KARAULI – Karauli was founded in 1348 AD. Surrounded by a red sandstone wall and with over 300 temples it is considered one of the holiest cities in Rajasthan. We visit the City Palace with its frescoes and magnificent structures and the Lord Krishna temple. Later we enjoy a stroll through the local village interacting with farmers, school children and handicraft workers. (BLD)

SAT 16 & SUN 17 NOV: RANTHAMBORE – A leisurely drive brings us to the wildlife sanctuary of Ranthambore which was one of the first nine Project Tiger reserves in India. Combating illegal poaching has been the project's biggest task and today, with 47 such sanctuaries dotted all over India, it is believed tiger numbers are finally on the increase. Here we explore this lovely park, on a morning and afternoon game drive, searching for tiger, indigenous deer and numerous bird species. (2B2L2D)

MON 18 NOV: RANTHAMBORE-JAIPUR – A 5 hour drive brings us to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, home to ancient forts and palaces. Jaipur is an exuberance of colour, dance, arts and crafts and in the evening we explore the many facets of Jaipuri crafts such as jewelry, pottery and carpets (B)



TUE 19 NOV: JAIPUR – Amber Palace is one of Rajasthan's most celebrated monuments and after our visit we return to the city to explore the old palace (now a museum), and the ancient astronomical observatory at Jantar Mantar. We'll also see the façade of the Hawa Mahal, which looks like a dainty Viennese pastry! (B)

WED 20 NOV: JAIPUR-JODHPUR – Today we travel to Jodhpur, a city ringed by high stone walls with seven gates and several bastions. This second largest city of Rajasthan was founded by Rao Jodha in 1459 A.D. (B)



THU 21 NOV: JODHPUR – Jodhpur has a great vibe and the Mehrangarh Fort is one of the most spectacular in all of India. It sits above the town like a great galleon stranded upon a rock and is the focus of our attention this morning. Later we have time to explore the bazaar, known for handcrafted articles such as embroidered shoes, metalware, silver and paintings. (B)

FRI 22 NOV: JODHPUR- NARLAI – A leisurely drive brings us to the beautiful village of Narlai and the stunning Rawla Narlai, a meticulously restored 17th-century royal retreat - one of Rajasthan's best-loved heritage hotels. (B)

SAT 23 NOV: NARLAI-RANAKPUR-UDAIPUR – We embark on an open jeep safari in search of antelope, leopard, hyena, jackal and wild boar. Later we take a walk into the village and experience the local traditions, culture, lifestyles and daily activities of the locals before driving on to Udaipur via the beautiful Jain temples at Ranakpur. (B)

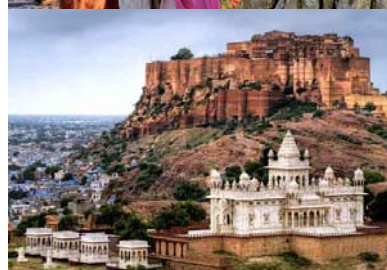


SUN 24 NOV: UDAIPUR – Udaipur is one of the most picturesque cities in India, with numerous palaces and mansions overlooking its lakes. We spend the day seeing some of the highlights, including the City Palace, Jagdish Temple and the lovely Saheliyon-Ki-Bari gardens. This evening there's an optional sunset boat ride on Lake Pichola (water levels permitting), with fine views of the Lake and City Palaces. (B)



MON 25 NOV: UDAIPUR-EKLINGJI-UDAIPUR – This morning we visit two of the most famous of Rajasthan's temples located in Eklingji 22km north of Udaipur. Afterwards we return to Udaipur for a free afternoon to relax or for some final shopping and sightseeing. (B)

TUE 26 NOV: UDAIPUR – Our adventure in Rajasthan ends in Udaipur after breakfast today. Transfers are available to the airport or to the railways station and additional accommodation is also available in Udaipur or Delhi on request. (B)



Prices & Inclusions

16 Day Colours of Rajasthan

Provisional price: USD \$3750 (per person twin-share)

Single Supplement: USD \$1150

Price includes: Steve Mortimer as Tour Escort, local driver and guide, all transfers and transportation, 15 nights accommodation, meals as indicated.

Not Included: Visa fees, travel insurance (compulsory), flights, additional meals, drinks, optional tours, spending of a personal nature, laundry and tips, departure transfer.

Transportation: We travel in a comfortable air-conditioned mini-coach.

Accommodation: India offers an amazing abundance of fantastic and surprising accommodation, including lodges, palaces and havelis (old merchant homes). In Delhi we stay in a top-rating boutique hotel; in Karuli, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Narlai our classic hotels are heritage-listed, whereas in Ranthambore and Udaipur we stay in lovely 'palace-style' properties that will not disappoint. Agra is the only place where the majority of accommodation is a little 'ordinary' and here we've chosen a well-established property that suits our requirements nicely. Four of our hotels have swimming pools.



Boutique hotel, New Delhi



Wilderness luxury, Ranthambore



Former Maharaja's palace, Karauli



Heritage hotel, Narlai



'Palace-style' with pool, Udaipur



Heritage hotel, Jaipur

Food and drink: Breakfast is provided each day along with 4 lunches and 4 dinners. Beer, wine, spirits, soft drinks and 'lassi' are widely available.

Group size: Maximum 16 guests

Additional Expenses: Sampling the food in India is, for most, one of the highlights of the trip, and it is generally pretty good value. Expect to pay around US\$10-\$20 for lunches and US\$20-\$30 for dinners. In addition you should budget for any personal shopping you may wish to do. Please also allow extra funds to tip your local tour leader, driver, local guides and porters (full details will be provided in the pre-trip Field Guide).

Bookings: Travel on Q (Sydney) is the sole booking agent for this tour. Please register your interest ASAP in order to secure your place and note there are a limited number of single rooms available. A non-refundable deposit of AUD 750 per person is required, to secure your place, with final payment due 60 days prior to tour commencement.

Travel on Q (Carole Grassby and Tina Briggs)

Tel: (02) 9357 6800

Email: travel@travelonq.com.au

Currency: Due to the volatility of global currencies the tour price has been quoted in United States Dollars (USD) however you will pay for your tour in Australian dollars based on the buying rate set by Westpac Banking Corporation on the due date of your final balance.

Flights and Transfers: Various airlines fly to Delhi including Malaysian Airlines, Singapore Airlines and Thai International. All arrival flights will be met, however the final departure transfer is not included.

Extra nights in Delhi & Udaipur: Extra nights can be booked pre and post tour but you must advise Travel on Q well in advance to ensure availability.

Visa for India: Australian and New Zealand passport holders require a tourist visa to visit India. These can be applied for online.

Documentation: Upon receipt of your final payment, a comprehensive field guide will be mailed to you and you will be sent the relevant tour and accommodation vouchers prior to departure.

What next? Contact Travel on Q to discuss your travel plans and to make your booking. Further information is also available at www.byroads.com.au.

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