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ROYAL RAJPUTANA

Duration: 11N/12D

Key Sights: Delhi - Tehla - Ranthambore - Bundi - Chittorgarh - Udaipur - Jaipur - Agra

Day	Program	Mode	Distance/Time
Day 1	Arrived Delhi	By Flight	
Day 2	Delhi		
Day 3	Delhi – Alwar – Tehla	By Surface	230KM/04-05 Hours
Day 4	Tehla – Ranthambore	By Surface	163KM/03-04 Hours
Day 5	Ranthambore		
Day 6	Ranthambore – Bundi	By Surface	132KM/03-04 Hours
Day 7	Bundi – Chittorgarh – Udaipur	By Surface	301KM/04-05 Hours
Day 8	Udaipur		
Day 9	Udaipur – Jaipur	By Surface	393KM/05-06 Hours
Day 10	Jaipur		
Day 11	Jaipur – Agra	By Surface	240KM/04-05 Hours
Day 12	Agra – Delhi	By Surface	232KM/03-04 Hours
	Delhi Departure	By Flight	



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Day 1

Arrived Delhi

By Flight

Arrival at New Delhi International Airport, meeting assistance by our representative who will welcome you and will provide transfer to the hotel. Upon reaching your hotel, you will be handed over the travel documents with a complete briefing of your tour by the representative. Check-in and proceed to your room.

Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 2

Delhi

Breakfast at hotel. This morning explore India's capital city by touring its magnificent monuments, start your tour by visiting - Old Delhi: an ancient walled city earlier known as Shahjahanabad. Take a photo stop at Red Fort: the most opulent red sandstone fort and palace of the Moghul Empire (1639-1648 built by Shah Jahan the 5th Mughal Emperor of India and the builder of the Taj Mahal in Agra), visit Jama - Masjid: Largest mosque in India, the foundation of the historic Jama Masjid was laid on a hillock in Shahjahanabad by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1650 AD, this mosque was the result of the efforts of over 6,000 workers, over a period of six years (1650-1656 AD). The cost of the construction in those times was 1 million rupees. This Mosque has three great gates, four towers and two 40 m-high minarets constructed of strips of Red sandstone and White marble. About 20,000 people can pray here at a time. The mosque has a vast paved rectangular courtyard, which is nearly 75 m by 66 m. The whole of the western chamber is a big hall standing on 260 pillars.

Visit Chandni Chowk, the bustling and colorful market of the old city, designed by Emperor Shah Jahan's daughter Jahanara Begum. Jahanara laid the foundation of Chandni Chowk, which is the largest trading center of Delhi as well as India. At present the street is a busy thoroughfare and is really congested. This area is renowned for 'Kuchas and Katras' also known as Alleys. These alleys house traditional Havelis, innumerable places of worship, popular specialised markets and century-old eating joints. Enjoy a cycle-rickshaw ride.

Visit the Raj Ghat, the memorial site of Mahatma Gandhi - Father of Nation.

Later visit New Delhi designed and built by the British in the 1920's it's a city of wide boulevards impressive Government buildings, green parks and gardens. First drive past Connaught Place, the heart and main shopping district of the capital, then drive to Rajpath (King's Way), India Gate - the 42mt high stone "Arch of Triumph", erected in the memory of Indian soldiers who died in First World War. Drive past Rashtrapati Bhawan (President Palace) and Parliament House.

Sightseeing will also include drive past the elegant Lodhi Garden and Safdarjung's tomb.



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Visit the exquisite Humayun's Tomb, built in 1570 is of particular cultural significance as it was the first garden-tomb in the Indian subcontinent. This memorial of Emperor Humayun, second Mughal ruler of India was built by his widow, Hajji Begum 14 years after his death.

Later visit Qutab Minar 12th century minaret built by Qutub-ud-din Aibek of the Slave Dynasty - this building complex dates back to the onset of Muslim rule in India and is fine example of Afghan architecture which is graceful and well sculptured and stands 75 meters. Also visit the Baha'i Temple (Lotus Temple) Lotus being a symbol of peace and prosperity all around the world, the shape of the temple personifies the purpose for which the foundation of this marvelous man-made architectural was laid. Lotus temple is made of pristine marble blocks, cement, dolomite and sand and the entire ascetic value is coddled by the group of nine pools filled with crystal clear water. In accord with the mores of Baha'i religion, the temple is open to everyone from anywhere in the world who is looking for inner peace & tranquility.

Overnight stay at hotel.

Day 3	Delhi – Alwar – Tehla	By Surface	230KM/04-05 Hours
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Breakfast and check-out from hotel. Drive to Tehla, visit Alwar en-route.

Alwar nestled at the foothills of the Aravali Range is an industrial town today. However its rich history is reflected through its many Temples, Fort, Tombs, Gardens and Palace. The monument of the city gives you a perfect example of the Indo Islamic architecture. Perched atop the hill is an ancient and derelict fort that is taken to be the landmark of the city. City Palace or Vinay Vilas Mahal is a famous landmark in the city, was set up by Raja Bakhtayar Singh in 1793 A.D. It is a perfect blend of Indo Islamic architecture. This imposing structure has a central courtyard has a lotus flower base constructed in marble. In its hay days it is said to have housed some of the great Mughal Emperors like Babur and Jehangir.

Visit - City Palace, Alwar gives you a glimpse of the ornate life style of the Maharajas. One of the most famous artifacts found here consist of a cup cut out of a single piece of raw emerald whose value is priceless. Today this colossal palace has been converted into the office of the district collectorate. One of the halls in the palace is named as Salim Mahal as Jahangir is said to have spent a night here. Maharaja Pratap Singh conquered the Fort in 1775 A.D and took away many of its treasures. A part of the complex houses the museum where a rich part of it's history has been preserved. In the gilded Durbar Hall at the City Palace there is a raised platform upon which rests a Gold and velvet throne. On the walls and ceiling you would be able to discover a fabulous wealth of murals and mirror work. The City Museum, located on the upper floors of the Palace has a splendid range of miniature paintings, unusual silver table which used to entertain the nobility of the Raj era and also the vast collection of armory. The City Palace has 15 imposing towers and 51 smaller towers overlooking the mountain slopes.

After the tour drive to Tehla, arrive and check-in at resort. Overnight stay at resort.



Day 4	Tehla – Ranthambore	By Surface	163KM/03-04 Hours
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AM - OPTIONAL Camel cart ride in the village or Jeep safari.

Breakfast and check-out from resort. Drive to Sawai Madhopur, visit Kaila Devi temple en-route, located 23 kms from Karauli. This temple of the Kaila Devi is situated on the banks of the Kalisil River in the hills of Trikut which lies almost 2 km. to the north-west of Kaila village. The temple is dedicated to the goddess Kaila. The goddess Kaila is considered by the people as the protector and savior of mankind. It was basically build by the famous princely Jadaun Rajput rulers of the Karauli Empire. The entire temple is constructed with expensive marbles. The temple also has a large courtyard of a checkered floor. There is one place in this temple where there are several red flags erected by devotees. To pay tribute to the Kaila Devi the local people organizes for a fair, which is known as Kaila Devi fair, every year in this place. The Kaila Devi fair is held annually in the month of Chaitra. During this time of festivity several religious rite are being performed by the people in the Kaila Devi temple to please the Kaila Devi. The Jadaun Rajputs have always regarded the Kaila Devi as their Kul Devi.

OPTIONAL : Visit to Ramathra Fort with lunch.

Drive to Ranthambore, arrive and check-in at lodge. Overnight stay at lodge.

Day 5	Ranthambore		
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Breakfast at Lodge. In the morning to enjoy a game drive safari in the National park, to see the majestic Tiger in the dense scrub jungle of Ranthambhore This national park is one of the finest Tiger reserve in the country under the project Tiger. Apart from Tiger this park is a haven to wild animals and birds. Some of the animal species found here are Leopards, Jungle Cats, Sloth Bears, Indian mole Rats, Indian Fox, Toddy Cats, Five striped Palm Squirrels, small Indian Mongoose and in Reptiles - Rat Snakes, Indian Chameleon, North Indian flap shelled Turtles, Indian Pythons and more.

Lunch at lodge / resort.

PM Game drive, which will include visit to Ranthambhore Fort overlooking the lush Park and Ganesha Temple. The Ranthambhore fort is believed to have been built during the 8th century by the Chauhans ruler, though the exact ruler during whose reign the fort was initiated is difficult to name. Ranthambhore came into existence after Prithvi Raj Chouhan. Prithvi Raj Chouhan's descendents came to Ranthambhore and made this place their capital, but the actual fame of Ranthambore came when most known ruler of this period Raja Hammir Dev was crowned in 1283 A.D. The fort was attacked by a number of times in history. Prominent among these were Qutub-ud-din (1209), Allauddin Khilji (1301), Feroz Tughlaq (1325) and Bahadur Shah of Gujarat (1530). Finally, the fort was captured by the Mughals who earlier used it as a staying place and then later as a prison fortress. In the 19th century, the fort was given back to the Maharaja of Jaipur and it remained with them till the time India gained independence in the year 1947.



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Thereafter return to the lodge and relax. Overnight stay at lodge.

Day 6	Ranthambore – Bundi	By Surface	132KM/03-04 Hours
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Breakfast and check-out and drive to Bundi. Arrive and check-in at heritage hotel.

Early in the evening, visit the important locations in Bundi - named after Bunda, a Meena Chieftain. Bundi nestles along a narrow gorge in the hill town having fascinating Hada Palaces, like Chhatra Mahal or Palace of Tower, Taragarh Fort - also known as the 'Star Fort' is the most striking feature of the city. It was built in the year in 1354 AD upon a sharp hillside. The largest fortification is known as the Bhim Burj, the fort offers a panoramic view of the city. It has three tanks in its premises, which are believed to never dry up. These tanks live to tell the tale of the sophisticated methods of construction and engineering, which were prevalent in medieval India.

Also visit Chitrashala and Sukh Mahal. Return to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 7	Bundi – Chittorgarh – Udaipur	By Surface	301KM/04-05 Hours
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Morning breakfast at hotel and drive to Udaipur. En-route visit Chittorgarh town, known for its massive fort atop a hill. Chittorgarh Fort is truly an embodiment of chivalry and pride of the Rajputs. The fort has a long story of romance, courage, determination and sacrifice. A glimpse of the fort still makes one to think the glory of the Rajputs who once lived here. The imposing Fort boasts of well-designed palaces, magnificent cenotaphs and huge towers. The Fort of Chittorgarh has a colossal structure that is secured by its several strong gateways.

Chittorgarh Fort is an acknowledgement to the courage of the gallant Rajput rulers who sacrificed their life combating dominant rivals instead of surrendering before them. The history of this majestic fort can be traced during the time of Khilji's. Chittorgarh Fort is said to have been the capital of the Gahlot and Sisodia kings who ruled Mewar between the eighth and the sixteenth century. The Fort was named after Chitrangad Maurya.

Other places to see are The Palace of Rana Kumbha, Vijay stambh or Tower of Victory, Kirti Stambh or Tower of Fame etc. Chittorgarh Fort has received the credit of being the largest fort of India. This fort was built by various Maurya rulers in the 7th century. This huge fort covers an area of 700 acres, extending to 3 kms in length and 13 kms in peripheral length.

After the sightseeing of fort, continue your drive to Udaipur.

Arrival in Udaipur and transfer to hotel, the famed "City of Sunrise", founded in 1567 by Maharana Udai Singh, from the lineage of the legendary Sisodias of Mewar - the decedents of the Sun God. A city where the Sun truly never set, where tradition and a strict code of heroism were happily united with a love of fine living. A city that has come to be an oasis of romance in the warrior state of Rajasthan.



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Overnight stay at Hotel.

Day 8

Udaipur

Breakfast at hotel. This morning set out to explore the romantic city of Lakes, with the palaces built around the azure water lakes, hemmed in by the lush hills of the Aravalis.

The highlight will be the City Palace, the former home of the Maharanas of Udaipur, the museum is entered through the Ganesh Deori meaning the door of Lord Ganesh, this leads to the Rajya Angan, the royal courtyard. The rooms of the palace are superbly decorated with mirror tiles and paintings. The Ruby Palace has a lovely collection of glass and mirror work while Krishna Vilas display a rich collection of miniature paintings. Pearl palace has beautiful mirror work and the Chini Mahal has ornamental tiles all over. The Surya Chopal depicts a huge ornamental Sun symbolising the Sun dynasty to which the Mewar dynasty belongs. The Bai Mahal is a central garden with view of the city. This Palace being a majestic architectural marvel, within the four walls are mosaics of Peacocks, exquisite mirror work and exotic paintings. It is a conglomeration of courtyards, pavilions, terraces, corridors, rooms and hanging gardens.

Also visit Crystal Gallery, which has been hailed as probably the single largest private collection of crystal anywhere in the world. The collection includes a bewildering number of objects d'art, dinner sets, perfume bottles, decanters, glasses, washing bowls and even furniture. The Crystal Gallery also houses the only crystal bed in the world.

From here you will drive to the Palace Garage to see private collection of Vintage & Classic cars of House of Mewar. The grand limousines and cars showcased here are Rolls-Royce, 1939 Cadillac open convertibles, rare Mercedes models, 1936 Vauxhall and 1937 Opel models.

Visit Sahelion ki Bari, a spot once reserved for the royal ladies who strolled here, this well-planned garden is blessed with extensive and shady lawns on the banks of the Fateh Sagar Lake. The garden's lotus pools and fountains show ancient science since they've been placed at a lower level than the Lake, thus being gravity-driven. The main fountain lies in the center on a white marble deck with black marble marking its four corners. On the western face are pavilions, delicately sculptured of black stone that are embraced by more fountains on all sides.

Late Afternoon - enjoy a boat cruise on the serene and beautiful Lake Pichola to see the beautiful 17th century Jagmandir Island Palace and Jagat Niwas (Lake Palace : a luxury hotel) set amidst the lake. Lake Pichola is a beautiful lake, the oldest creation and one of the largest in Udaipur, it was constructed in the year 1362 by Pichhu Banjara. Not only the lush green hills surround the Lake Pichola but several temples, elevated hills, bathing ghats and palaces too envelope the lake on all sides. To the south of the lake lies a hill called Machhala Magra. From the top of this hill, one can capture a glimpse of the Eklinggarh Fort. The renowned City Palace in Udaipur extends up to the eastern banks of Pichola Lake. Yet



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another attraction that lies in the north-east direction of the lake is Mohan Mandir. Pichola Lake comprises of numerous islands. Jag Island is one such island of this tranquil lake.

In the evening visit the Jagdish Temple, an Indo-Aryan temple, this temple with Lord Vishnu as the main deity was built by Maharana Jagat Singh in 1651. The temple is constructed by perfectly following the Shipa Shastra, an art and science of construction theories for temples and other buildings. Excellent Carvings showing musicians playing musical instruments, dancing and singing of beautiful lady folks adorn the large hall in the temple.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 9	Udaipur – Jaipur	By Surface	393KM/05-06 Hours
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Early breakfast and check-out. Afterwards drive to Jaipur - The picturesque capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur is colour washed in Pink - the colour associated with hospitality in Rajput culture.

In the evening, visit the Birla Temple to learn more about Hindu religion. The marble structure, built as recently as 1985, houses ornate statues including one of Lakshmi (Goddess of Wealth and Beauty) and Narayan dressed in gaudy robes, representing a Hindu vision of heavenly luxury. Witness the Aarti Ceremony (Prayer ceremony) which involves oil lamps being lit and waved, in order to awake and invoke the deity. Also visit the Albert Hall for a photo stop.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 10	Jaipur		
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Breakfast at hotel, this morning take an excursion to Amber Fort, the former royal capital. On the way, take a photo-stop at Hawa Mahal or Palace of the Winds, a four-storeyed structure of Pink sandstone with semi-octagonal and delicately honeycombed windows overlooking the main street of the old city. It was built in 1799 so that veiled royal women could see the royal processions, unseen by the world through its 593 stone screens.

Amber fort, situated outside the city, it is perhaps the most beautiful example of Rajput forts, this complex stands amidst wooded hills, with its threatening battlements reflected in the motionless waters of the Maota Lake below. You can have the unique experience of riding on a decorated elephant to the top of the hill. One of the premium examples of Rajput architecture, it was the ancient capital of the Kachhawaha rulers. The original palace was built by Raja Man Singh and additions were made later by Sawai Jai Singh. Here are the personal chambers of the Queens with windows having latticed screens so that the ladies could look at the events of the Royal court in privacy. There is also the Jai Mandir or the "Temple of Victory", with its well-known Sheesh Mahal, the sparkling "Hall of Mirrors". Within the Palace are the Diwan-e-Aam or the "Hall of Public Audience", the Diwan-e-Khas or the "Hall of Private Audience" and the Sukh Niwas where a cool breeze blows across channels of water for the purpose of air-conditioning.



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Return to city and visit City Palace complex, located in the heart of Jaipur known for its blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture, the museum houses the rare and rich collection of Ornaments, 15th century Arms & Weapons, Royal Costumes, Carpets, Sangneri block prints, Kashmiri Pashmina Shawls, folk embroideries and Decorative Art objects of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal art and architecture. Complex has several palatial structures like the Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Badal Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Ji Temple and the City Palace Museum and is divided into two parts - One part Sawai Man Singh Museum and other is still the residential Palace of the former Maharaja.

Another monument near the City Palace is Jantar Mantar, the largest of the five astronomical observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh-I, the founder ruler of Jaipur. It is an astronomical treasure house, with solar device that give accurate predictions till date, it is classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

In the evening spend some time in the colourful bazaars in the city, for shopping or buy some souvenir.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 11

Jaipur – Agra

By Surface

240KM/04-05 Hours

Breakfast and check-out from hotel in the morning, later drive to Agra. En-route tour of Fatehpur Sikri.

Fatehpur Sikri - Built in 1571, it is a synthesis of the flourishing styles of the Persian courts and the prevailing Hindu Islamic trends. It was planned as a great town by Emperor Akbar with great care and planning, but it had to be abandoned after fifteen years due to scarcity of water in the town. Constructed mainly as a tribute to the great Sufi Saint Shaikh Salim Chisti who had blessed Akbar with a son. His son was named after the Saint as Salim and he succeeded the Emperor Akbar and was known as Emperor Jehangir. The town was originally named Sikri after the village, where it was founded but its twin city Fatehpur (Victory Town) was erected to celebrate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat. However, ruins of the temple dating back to 12th century suggest the reign of Rajputs in the area long before Mughals took over the area. The two mosques in the village of Sikri have inscriptions, which announce their conception in 1314 under Mohd. Khilji. There have been records that Babur renamed the village 'Sikri' as 'Shukri', meaning 'thanks to the god'. It was also the famous dwelling place and Khanqah of Shiekh Salim Chishti, the famous Sufi saint whom Akbar revered for blessing him with child. Built in Red Sandstone, an example of robust stability combined with originality each important edifice here represents a type by itself. Notable among them is the Buland Darwaza, Tomb of Shaikh Salim Chisti, Jama Masjid, Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Panch Mahal, Palace of Jodha Bai, Birbal Bhawan, Karawan Serai and Hiran Minar.

After the visit continue your drive to Agra, upon arrival proceed to hotel for check-in.

In the evening visit Itmad-Ud-Daulah's Tomb, along with the main building, the structure consists of numerous outbuildings and gardens. Tomb of Mirza Ghiyas Beg - A Wazir (Chief



Minister) in the court of Mughal Emperor Jehangir. Ghiyas Beg was honored with the title of Itmad-ud-Daulah or the Pillar of the State. Emperor Jehangir married her beautiful widowed daughter Mehr-un-Nissa, she was later christened Noor Jahan and went down in the history as one of the most beautiful and artistically gifted women in the world. After the death of Mirza Ghiyas Beg in 1622, Noor Jahan undertook the project to build his mausoleum, which took six years to get complete. It is entirely made of White marble. This tomb represents the transition between the first phase of monumental Mughal architecture - primarily built from Red sandstone with marble decorations with mosaic and lattice.

Return to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 12	Agra – Delhi Delhi Departure	By Surface By Flight	232KM/03-04 Hours
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Visit the Taj Mahal early in the morning at the time of Sunrise, Taj Mahal - One of the Seven Wonders of the World, a pristine monument of undying love, built by Emperor Shah Jahan to enshrine the body of his beloved wife Arjumand Banu Begum (Mumtaz Mahal) after she died in 1631 at Burhanpur. The Taj has continued to be a mark of love since ever. This monument took 22 years to be completed and was designed, and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. The construction started in 1632 and was completed in 1653. The workforce of some 20,000 and 1,000 elephants, included Masons, Stonecutters, Inlayers, Carvers, Calligraphers, Dome-builders and other artisans were requisitioned from the empire and also from Italy, Central Asia and Persia. In accordance with Islamic tradition, verses from the Quran were inscribed in calligraphy on the arched entrances to the mausoleum, in addition to numerous other sections of the complex. Apart from its stunning design balance and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens and some of the best inlay work ever seen. Witness the White marble reflect the nuances of the changing light from the Sun. Taj Mahal symbolize the richness of art and architecture of the Mughal period.

Return to hotel for breakfast, after check-out.

Visit Agra Fort which retains the irregular outline of the demolished mud-wall fort of the Lodhis. It is a World Heritage Site, located near to the Taj Mahal gardens on the banks of River Yamuna. The real specimen of architectural marvel, this fortress was constructed in the 15th century. The construction of this mammoth structure started during 1565 during the reign of Emperor Akbar and continued the developments up to the period of Emperor Shah Jahan. The fort, in a length of 2.5 km marvelous enclosure walls, was built in red sandstones and encloses many monuments which are real architectural wonders. Many exquisite palaces such as the Jehangiri Mahal, Shah Jahani Mahal, the Khas Mahal, Diwan-i-Aam - which was used as a communications ground between the public and the aristocracy and once housed the Peacock Throne, Diwan-i-Khas - a hall of private audience, it was used to welcome Kings and dignitaries and Mussaman Burj - a large, octagonal tower with a balcony facing the Taj Mahal are enclosed in the Fortress. Other monuments include the Fish Pavilion, the Nagina Masjid, Garden of Grapes and the Pearl Mosque. Views of the Taj Mahal from the Fort are amazing.



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Drive to Delhi, upon arrival, transfer to international airport to board return journey flight.