

## Rajasthan Discovery

**Starts At Jaipur Airport / Railway Station Ends At Jaipur Airport / Railway Station**

### Itinerary

#### DAY 1 JAIPUR

Pick up from Jaipur Airport / Railway Station, transfer to hotel. Later In the evening visit Chokhidhani – An Ethnic Village Resort, where you will have an idea of village life of Rajasthan here you will also enjoy various traditional Rajasthan Delicacies, Dances, Puppet show and various other interesting activities. O/N Jaipur.

#### DAY 2 JAIPUR – CITY TOUR EXCURSION

After breakfast proceed to Jaipur local sight seeing visit Birla Temple – also referred as Laxmi Narayan Temple situated below the Moti Dungri fort, City palace – The beautifully caved marble interiors, magnificent pillars, jali or lattice work and inlaid ornamentations make the palace a cherished tourist attraction. The architect of this opulent structure Colonel Jacob has successfully combined the Mughal, Rajput and European styles of architecture., Jantar - mantar (Observatory) – It is a collection of architectural astronomical instruments, It has been inscribed on the World Heritage List as "an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period. Hawa Mahal - known as Palace of Winds or Palace of the Breeze. Its unique five-storey exterior is also akin to the honeycomb of the beehive with its 953 small windows called jharokhas that are decorated with intricate latticework. The original intention of the lattice was to allow royal ladies to observe everyday life in the street below without being seen, since they had to observe strict "purdah" (face cover). , Jal Mahal - (meaning "Water Palace") is a palace located in the middle of the Man Sagar Lake in Jaipur cityThe Jal Mahal palace has got an eye-popping makeover & Amer Fort - It is one of the major tourist attractions in the Jaipur area, located high on a hill. Amer Fort was built by Raja Man Singh I. Amer Fort is known for its artistic style, blending both Hindu and Rajput elements. With its large ramparts, series of gates and cobbled paths, the fort overlooks the Maota Lake. O/N Jaipur.

#### DAY 3 JAIPUR – BIKANER (6 – 7 HRS)

After breakfast proceed to Bikaner, drive of 6 – 7 Hrs. Check into hotel, after refreshment, leave for visit to famous Karni Mata Temple – Karni Mata was a female Hindu sage born in the Charan caste and is worshiped as the incarnation of the goddess Durga by her followers. She is an official deity of the royal family

of Jodhpur and Bikaner. The temple is famous for its rats, which are treated as sacred and given protection in the temple. The temple is famous for the approximately 20,000 Black Rats that live, and are revered in, the temple. If one of the rats is killed, it must be replaced with one made of solid gold. Eating food that has been nibbled on by the rats is considered to be a "high honor". White Rats Out of all of the thousands of rats in the temple, there are a few white rats, which are considered to be especially holy. They are believed to be the manifestations of Karni Mata herself and her four sons. Sighting them is a special blessing and visitors put in extensive efforts to bring them forth, offering prasad (a sweet holy food) Evening spend time at Local Market, as Bikaner is famous for Sweets and Snacks (Namkeen in Hindi) O/N Bikaner.

#### **DAY 4 BIKANER LOCAL SIGHTSEEING & JAISALMER (6 & 7 HRS)**

After breakfast proceed to Bikaner local sight seeing visit Bhandasar Jain Temple - Out of the 27 beautiful Jain temples adorning the landscape of Bikaner city, this temple dedicated to the fifth Tirthankara, Sumatinath, is considered to be the most beautiful and also the highest. This temple was built by a Jain merchant, Bhandas Shah. The foundation of this temple was filled by pure ghee and dry coconuts. This temple is mainly famous for wall paintings and usta art. The temple is built of red sandstone and is divided in three floors. One can see the skyline of Bikaner by climbing to the topmost floor of this temple. Junagarh Fort & The fort was built by Raja Rai Singh, the sixth ruler of Bikaner who reigned from 1571 to 1612. Rai Singh had conquered part of Marwar and had been granted territory in Gujurat and Burhanpur by the Mughal emperor Akbar as a reward for his services as military commander. Lalgarh Palace - Lalgarh Palace was built according to Rajput, Mughal and European architectural styles. The building was commissioned by Maharaja Ganga Singh (1889&1925) in memory of his father Maharaja Lall Singh and was designed by the British architect, Sir Swinton Jacob. It is coated in red sandstone and has several grand halls, lounges, cupolas and pavilions. The building features magnificent pillars, elaborate fireplaces, Italian colonnades and intricate latticework and filigree work. Later proceed to Jaisalmer (The Sun City) & located in Thar Desert, drive of 6 & 7 Hrs - . On arrival Jaisalmer transfer to sand dunes - This is the closest place from where you can lose yourself in 'the Great Thar Desert'. Sam has a truly magnificent stretch of sweeping dunes, with sparse or no vegetation. The best way to get here, of course, is on camelback. Join a camel caravan at Jaisalmer on your Rajasthan tours and ride along the breathtaking crests and troughs. Enjoy the romance of solitude as your camel takes you deep in the hearts of the Thar Desert. Put yourself in the camp and experience the sun setting behind the horizon. Organize a bonfire with the fellow tourists in the night and enjoy the rustic and earthy music and dance of Rajasthan. O/N Sam Dunes in Jaisalmer.

#### **DAY 5 JAISALMER & CITY TOUR EXCURSION**

After breakfast proceed to Jaisalmer. Check in to hotel. Later proceed to Jaisalmer city tour by visiting Jaisalmer Fort, known as Golden Fort or Sonar Kila by locals & Is one of the largest forts in the world. It is situated in Jaisalmer city, it was built in 1156 AD by the Bhati Rajput ruler Rao Jaisal, from where it derives its name. The fort stands proudly amidst the golden stretches of the great Thar Desert, on Trikuta Hill, and has been the scene of many battles. Its massive yellow sandstone walls are a tawny lion color during the day, fading to honey-gold as the sun sets, thereby camouflaging the fort in the yellow desert and is one of the most breathtaking monuments in the locality. local sight seeing visit Golden fort, The Patwon Ji ki Haveli - Is an interesting piece of Architecture and is the most important among the havelis in Jaisalmer. It is believed that

Patwa was a rich man and was a renowned trader of his time. He could afford and thus ordered the construction of separate stories for each of his 5 sons. The havelis are also known as the 'mansion of brocade merchants'. This name has been given probably because the family dealt in threads of gold and silver used in embroidering dresses. Gadisar lake, Its a famous water tank known as "Garisar" It was build by Maharawal Garsi in 1367 AD and hence locally known as Garisar. Tank played a vital role in life of the people of Jaisalmer before water was piped to the city. A natural low-hand was dammed to catch every drop of rain water. The ladies of Jaisalmer wearing colourful costumes used to come here to fetch drinking water every morning and evening. Even the Maharawal and the royal household visited the tank on special occasions. In the middle of the Lake Maharawals constructed a small "Baradari" (special balcony), to have a boat ride during mansoon. On the banks of the tank there were several temples mainly dedicated to Lord Shiva and Vishnu., Nathmal Ji Ki Haveli – The architects of this haveli were Hathi and Lulu who happened to be brothers. There is a very interesting story regarding its construction. It is said that the two brothers started building different facets of haveli simultaneously. In those days there were no such instruments, which could keep a track on continuity and thus when this building came up finally it had irregular shape. Barring that, this haveli is still considered the best in Jaisalmer in terms of grandeur. The rich architectural imagination of the two brothers is reflected in the various paintings of modern ceiling fans and cars on the walls of Nathmalji-ki-Haveli. The construction of the splendid monument added to the old glory and grandeur of Jaisalmer. Back to Hotel. O/N Jaisalmer.

#### **DAY 6 JAISALMER – JODHPUR (5 – 6 HRS)**

After breakfast leave for Jodhpur, Drive of 5 – 6 Hrs. proceed to Jodhpur. On arrival Jodhpur check in to hotel. Later proceed to local sight seeing visit famous Mehrangarh Fort – Is considered to be one of the largest forts in India. The fort is situated 400 feet (122 m) above the city and is enclosed by imposing thick walls. Inside its boundaries there are several palaces known for their intricate carvings and expansive courtyards. To the left of the fort is the chhatri of Kirat Singh Soda, a soldier who fell on the spot defending the Mehrangarh fort. & The museum in the Mehrangarh fort is one of the most well-stocked museums in Rajasthan. The museum exhibits the heritage of the Rathores in arms, costumes, paintings and decorated period rooms. Later proceed to Jaswant Thada – Its an architectural landmark located in Jodhpur. It is a white marble memorial built by Sardar Singh in 1899 in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh. The monument, in its entirety, is built out of intricately carved sheets of marble. These stones are extremely thin and polished so that they emit a warm glow when the sun's rays dance across their surface. Within this cenotaph, there are also two more tombs. It is a traditional cremation ground of Jodhpur rulers. Umaid Bhawan Palace – Is one of the world's largest private residences. A part of the palace is managed by Taj Hotels. This monument has 347 rooms and serves as the principal residence of the erstwhile Jodhpur royal family. The present owner of the Palace is Maharaj Gaj Singh. The Palace is divided into three functional parts - a luxury Taj Palace Hotel, The residence of the erstwhile royal family and a Museum focusing on the 20th century history of the Jodhpur Royal Family. Back to Hotel. O/N Jodhpur.

#### **DAY 7 JODHPUR – UDAIPUR (5 – 6 HRS)**

Morning after breakfast leave for Udaipur, drive of 5 – 6 Hrs - enroute visit Ranakpur Jain Temple – said to be the most spectacular of the Jain temples. There is also a small Sun temple which is managed by the

Udaipur royal family trust. The pillars are all differently carved and no two pillars are the same. It is also said that it is impossible to count the pillars. Also all the statues face one or the other statue. There is one beautiful carving made out of a single marble rock where there 108 heads of snakes and numerous tails. One cannot find the end of the tails. The image faces all four cardinal directions. In the axis of the main entrance, on the western side, is the largest image. O/N Udaipur.

#### **DAY 8 UDAIPUR – CITY TOUR EXCURSION**

After breakfast leave for City tour by visiting City Palace – Towers over the Pichola lake. The Entry to the Palace is from Hati Pol (Elephant Gate). The Bari Pol (Big Gate) brings you to Tripolia (The Triple Gate) It was once a custom that the Maharana would weigh under this gate in Gold & Silver, which was distributed to people, Saheliyon Ki Bari (Garden of Maids) – Was laid for a group of forty-eight young women attendants who accompanied a princess to Udaipur as part of her dowry. It has one the most beautiful garden, it is famous for its lush green lawns, marble art and fountains. Maharana Pratap Memorial – An impressive bronze statue of Fighter Maha Rana Pratap and his loyal horse (Chetak) who has fiercely protective about his master and stood by him till his last breath, stands at the top of Moti Magri (Pearl Mount) overlooking Fate Sagar Lake. Local climb the hill to pay homage to Rana Pratap and his faithful Chetak, who was killed in the battle of Haldighati, Jagdish Temple – It's a large Hindu temple in the middle of Udaipur. It is an example of Indo - Aryan architecture & Art & Last not to be missed The Vintage & Classic Car Collection is a landmark in the city of Udaipur ever since it was inaugurated in February 2000. The grand limousines and cars showcased in the Collection belong to the House of Mewar and are still in perfect running condition. Visitors are privy to the display of the magnificent Rolls-Royce, Cadillac open convertibles, rare Mercedes models, Vauxhall and Opel models. Gulab bagh. O/N Udaipur.

#### **DAY 9 UDAIPUR – PUSHKAR (4 – 5 HRS)**

After break fast proceed to Pushkar - is a town in the Ajmer district and is one of the five sacred dhams (pilgrimage site) for devout Hindus. According to Hindu theology, the pond at the Katas Raj temple Near choa saidan shah in Chakwal District of Pakistan has a theological association with Lord Shiva; it was formed by the tears of Lord Shiva which he is believed to have shed after the death of his wife, Sati. The story goes that when Sati died, Lord Shiva cried so much and for so long, that his tears created two holy ponds one at Pushkara in Ajmer in India and the other at Ketaksha, which literally means raining eyes, in Sanskrit. It is from this name that the word Katas is derived. It is often called "Tirth Raj" - the king of pilgrimage sites - and has in recent years become a popular destination for foreign tourists. Pushkar is one of the oldest existing cities of India. It lies on the shore of Pushkar Lake. The date of its actual origin is not known, but legend associates Lord Brahma with its creation. The most famous among all is the Brahma Temple built during the 14th century. O/N Pushkar.

#### **DAY 10 PUSHKAR – AJMER (20 MINS) – JAIPUR (3 HRS)**

After break fast proceed to Ajmer visit holy Dargah "Khawaza Moinuddin Chishti" It was during the reign of Emperor Akbar (1556–1605) that Ajmer emerged as one of the most important centers of pilgrimage in

India. The Mughal Emperor undertook an unceremonial journey on foot to accomplish his wish to reach Ajmer. The Akbarnāmah records that the Emperor's interest first sparked when he heard some minstrels singing songs about the virtues of the Walā« (Friend of God) who lay asleep in Ajmer. The dargah, which is visited by Muslim pilgrims as well as Hindus and Sikhs as a symbol of intercommunal harmony. After visit to Dargah once can visit to Daulat Bagh & Nasiyan Jain Temple. Later leave for Jaipur, drive of 2 – 3 Hrs. Drop at Jaipur Railway Station / Airport. Journey Ends Here.

## Others