Legends of the Rajputs 11 days

Delight your senses in colourful Rajasthan on this classical itinerary of the North. Visit the famous Taj Mahal, spot a tiger in Ranthambhore, discover opulent palaces and explore ancient forts - all this whilst lapping up legends of the Rajputs!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Delhi / Ends in: Delhi
- Departs: any day of the year
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:10, Lunch: 1, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: Superior
- Tour Guide: Yes (for locally included sights)

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

India Prices ::: Why Us for India? ::: Best Places to Visit ::: Best Time to Visit ::: India Reviews ::: Hotels in India ::: India - Useful Info ::: FAQs on India ::: India Visas ::: India Gallery

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Day 1: Delhi

Once you arrive into Delhi, you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure. Overnight - Delhi

Day 2: Old Delhi

This morning enjoy a sightseeing tour of Old Delhi taking in the impressive Red Fort - dating back to India's Mughal period; Jama Masjid mosque - the final architectural extravagance of Emperor Shah Jahan and the colourful, if crowded, Chandni Chowk bazaar. This afternoon, enjoy a tour of New Delhi. Offering a real contrast to the congestion of Old Delhi, open and relatively streamlined New Delhi was built as the imperial capital of India by the British.

Highlights include the majestic India Gate, Rajpath and bustling Connaught Place. A visit is also made to Qutab Minar, a massive tower built to proclaim the arrival of Islam in India in the 11th century and a carpet emporium. Overnight - Delhi

Day 3: Agra

Delhi - Agra. Today, journey to Agra, once capital of India under the Mughals. We take an exotic horsecart or rickshaw ride to the legendary Taj Mahal. Built entirely of white marble it has no peers. Witness first-hand, the efforts Emperor Shah Jahan went to in constructing the immense mausoleum, stunningly studded with semi-precious stones for his beloved wife, Mumtaz. Visit Agra Fort, which has some of the finest Mughal buildings in India behind its walls, followed by a tour of a marble craftshop. Overnight - Agra

Day 4: Ranthambhore NP

Agra - Bharatpur - Ranthambhore. This morning tour and explore the fascinating former Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri - Emperor Akbar's vision in red sandstone. Early afternoon board the train Kota Jan Shatabdi Express (air conditioned chair car) to Sawai Madhopur station and onward transfer to Ranthambhore National Park. The remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Overnight - Ranthambhore NP

Day 5: Ranthambhore NP

Ranthambhore National Park is one of the prime examples of Project Tiger's conservation efforts in Rajasthan. Sprawling across an area of some 1334 sq. kms, Ranthambhore is scenically beautiful. Set amidst a landscape of hills, lakes and rivers, the park boasts an impressive 10th century fort. The park terrain fluctuates between impregnable forests and open bush land. The entire forest is peppered with ruined pavilions and small domed, Mughal kiosks known as chhatris. In addition to the Bengal tiger, Ranthambhore is home to wild boar, nilgai, sambar deer and a variety of birds. Tiger spottings are more common in the morning or late afternoon, especially if hunting or tending to their young. Venture on morning and afternoon game drives in shared jeeps or Canters. Overnight - Ranthambhore NP

Day 6: Jaipur

Ranthambhore - Jaipur. Indulge with a final game drive this morning before our afternoon transfer to Jaipur. Jaipur is affectionately known as the 'Pink City' as Maharaja Ram Singh had all of the Old City painted a welcoming pink in 1876 to herald a visit by the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), it is also the bustling capital of the state of Rajasthan. Overnight - Jaipur

Day 7: Jaipur

This morning, travel beyond Jaipur to the 16th century Amber Fort. An exotic elephant ride transports us to the lofty fort, where we'll enjoy a tour of this Rajput extravaganza. Later in the afternoon we tour the City Palace, which boasts an interesting museum of regal attire and Jantar Mantar, an ancient astronomical observatory. The 18th century observatory is the largest and best preserved of five observatories built by the astronomer prince, Jai Singh II. He had the huge stone structures built to measure time, chart the declination of celestial bodies and predict eclipses. The observatory complex is remarkably fascinating.

Jaipur is additionally renowned for its wonderful silks, saris and intricate beading. This evening there is time to shop in the colouful local markets or visit a tailor. Good quality tailors are very capable of whipping up European-style clothing and other

garments meeting your specification, at a fraction of prices charged for tailoring in the West. Also, most will often deliver your freshly sewn garments to your door. Overnight - Jaipur

Days 8 - 9: Udaipur

Jaipur - Udaipur. Take a mid-morning flight south to Udaipur, which was founded in 1568 by Maharana Udai Singh II. An oasis of cool, with its massive and Venetian-like appearance, Udaipur is one of the most romantic towns in Rajasthan. A favourite amongst the wealthy and the elite, Udaipur is full of palaces and temples. Spend the afternoon at leisure enjoying our wonderful hotel facilities. On Day 9, you'll enjoy a cruise on Lake Pichola, plus touring of the imposing City Palace, a vision in soft yellow stone on the northeast promontory with breathtaking views of the lake. The City Palace is the largest palace complex in Rajasthan.

Free time to explore the palace or perhaps shop for colourful Rajasthani arts and crafts and Indian spices. Overnight - Udaipur

Day 10: Delhi

Udaipur - Delhi. Departure transfer to the airport for our morning flight to Delhi. The afternoon is free for you to relax by the hotel pool and bar or consider venturing out to further explore this vibrant city. Overnight - Delhi

Day 11: Delhi

Hotel check-out and included onward transfer to airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Old and New Delhi - the magnificent Red Fort, India's largest mosque Jama Masjid, and Gandhi's crematorium Raj Ghat.
- The spectacular Taj Mahal - India's most famous monument in all its glory at sunset
- Fatehpur Sikri - an ancient abandoned Mughal city
- Ranthambhore NP - Beautiful Indian wildlife and (hopefully) some tigers!
- The Pink City of Jaipur - the lofty Amber Fort, the very regal City Palace and the ancient observatory of Jantar Mantar
- An exotic elephant ride into Jaipur's Amber Fort - just like the Raj would have done
- Udaipur - an oasis of cool by Lake Pichola.

What's Included

- 10 breakfasts, 1 lunches, 2 dinners
- 10 nights - 4 superior hotels (standard and deluxe hotels available on request)
- Elephant ride to Amber Fort - Jaipur
- Boat cruise on Lake Pichola - Udaipur
- 2 Economy class flights - Jaipur - Udaipur, Udaipur - Delhi
- 1 train journey - Bharatpur - Ranthambhore (2nd class air-conditioned seater)
- 3 game drives - Ranthambhore National Park
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 11
- Touring, excursions and game drives as per itinerary
- Local English speaking specialist guides
- Entrance fees and game park permits at all included sights
- Chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle (game drives, non air-conditioned)

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will

need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

Balloon over Jaipur - USD $339

Sail within a breath of lofty hilltop forts and fine regal palaces. Look down upon sleepy villages waking to the early morning sun. Drift past expansive waterside manors and intricately stone carved temples with the Pink City of Jaipur in the distance on a magical hot air balloon adventure.

Golden Amritsar - 3 days - USD $599

Home to the world famous Golden Temple and the seat of the Sikh religion, Amritsar is one of the Punjab's principal cities. Built in 1803 and made of marble, copper and pure leaf gold, the temple is an amazing architectural feat. During your stay, enjoy a visit to Wagah - the only road border crossing between India and Pakistan where the fascinating sunset 'retreat' ceremony takes place with great pomp.

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $3,529

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The single supplement price needs to be added to the twin/double price if single rooms are required. If travelling solo, an additional '1-person' supplement will apply. Prices are indicative and will vary depending on your chosen hotels, room availability as well as time of travel i.e. during India's peak travel season of 21 Dec - 10 Jan, additional supplements will apply. Equally, if you with to travel to India during the summer, rates will be cheaper than those quoted.. Please bear this in mind if comparing prices as we always aim to deliver exceptional value. This itinerary is based upon superior accommodation. Standard and deluxe properties are also available upon request. Please note that discounts will apply if there are more 4 our more people in your travelling party, since fixed costs like transportation and guiding are shared across the group.

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.