



# Adventurebug Worldwide Ltd

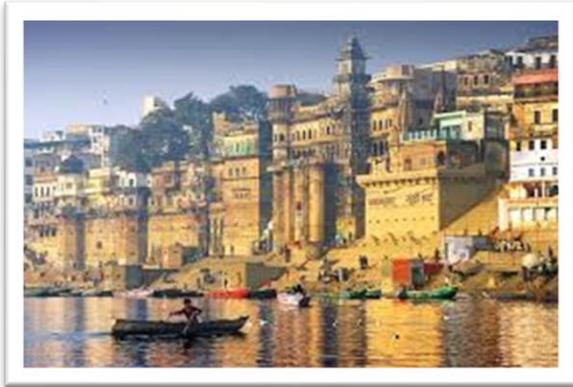
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## INDIA - Royal Rajasthan Discovery

### 12 Nights / 13 Tour Days

Delhi (2 nights) – Agra (1 night) – Jaipur (2 nights) – Tordigarh (2 nights) – Jojawar (2 nights) – Udaipur (2 nights) – Delhi (1 night)



**THEME:** Discovery & sightseeing, light walking, visits to both urban monuments and rural areas. Transport in private air con bus / train and small excursions by jeep, boat and a fun camel cart experience!

**INTENSITY:** Gentle to Moderate – easy walking / longest transfer day is 5 hours in bus (average is 2.5 hours) / no long treks (\*this is not classified as a trekking holiday to India but termed 'discovery'). It is a very diverse experience!

**NAMASTE!** India has captured the imagination of travellers dating back to the spice trade and perhaps even prior to this. As a large and populous land mass in

Eastern Asia with unshakable roots in a complex, yet peaceful religious system, India offers a virtual feast for adventurers of all disciplines and interests.

Adventurebug has travelled extensively in India and claims it to be the ultimate compliment to the discerned traveller's quiver. Although testing at times, India is an authentic experience for the mind, body and soul. Blissful, tantalizing, colourful, and introspective on one hand yet overwhelming and potentially enduring at times on the other. It is the traveller's finest hour...

Striking the right balance for travel in India is a task and this customized program seeks to bring out the country's best. We have chosen Rajasthan, the heart of India to explore and the region that offers the finest blend of monuments, rural areas, cultural attractions, gastronomical delights and a secure infrastructure that lends itself to the comforts we are accustomed to on our international tour programs.

Bright turbans, flowing skirts, twirled moustaches, graceful language, rustic forts, lakes and hillsides, history and culture embedded in every grain of its yellow sand. We find amazing sunsets and sunrises, tales of chivalry and courage and a welcoming culture that has so much to teach us. These are all part and parcel of the fascination of India, and in particular, Rajasthan.

Whether on foot or from our air-conditioned private coach, a historic train journey, rickshaw, jeep safari, evening boat tour and even a camel cart, we experience India using all mediums of transport!



Add Intriguing visits to forts, palaces and monuments and find a stark contrast to our days in rural villages where we visit a local school, doctor's practice and become guests of a tribal community in central India. This is truly a diverse program offering tremendous insight to the discerned traveller. We welcome you to join us on this very unique journey with Adventurebug!



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## ITINERARY

### DAY 1 - Delhi

On your arrival at Delhi airport, we will greet the group and escort you to the comforts of your hotel. Time permitting we may have a stroll around to stretch our legs. Overnight Hotel Suryaa 5 stars. <http://www.thesuryaa.com/Index>. (2 nights). Trip orientation talk with a welcome dinner is included.



### DAY 2 - Delhi

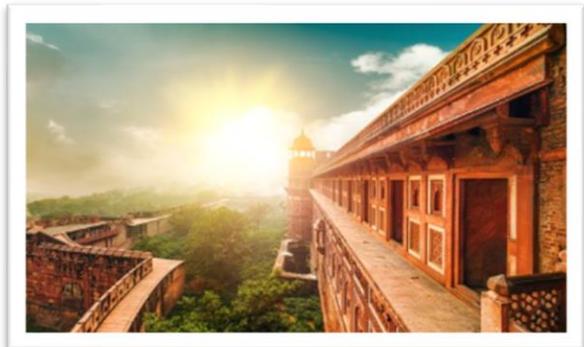
After breakfast this morning, we go on a tour of old Delhi, visiting its imposing Red Fort, the enchanting Jama Mosque and the myriad of lanes and of Chandani Chowk. The Red Fort is a symbol of India's sovereignty and on Independence Day, the Prime Minister unfurls the National Flag from the ramparts of this fort. This was the fort from which the Mughals governed the whole country, and where the famous Peacock Throne and the Kohinoor diamond, now set in the Queen of England's crown, originally came from. We also visit Raj Ghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, father of our nation and a symbol of peace and non-violence. In the evening we take a drive around the fascinating India Gate; the President's Palace, the country's Parliament; and other memorials around Lutyen's Delhi.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner included

### DAY 3 - Agra

Today we have a private coach journey (4 hours) to the city of the inimitable Taj Mahal – Agra, arriving first to check in at our hotel and to take lunch before a busy afternoon of discovery.

In the afternoon, we visit the Red Fort of Agra – an imposing edifice built by Emperor Akbar and his future generations in the 16th and the 17th century. It is known for the Mussaman Burz, where Shahjehan was put under house arrest, and where he died looking at the extra-ordinary monument he made for his wife, the Taj Mahal. We will also have an opportunity to visit The Jehangiri Mahal; Hall of public audience (Diwan-e-Aam) and the Diwan-e-Khas, which are all very interesting.



We end the day at the famous monument of love, the Taj Mahal, a perfect example of symmetry. Built by Emperor Shahjehan in 1631 for his wife Mumtaz, it is an unforgettable structure. It is also the place where both Shahjehan and Mumtaz are buried in peace and where their immortal love story is witnessed by thousands of people everyday. And at sunset, it is even more beautiful and ethereal. Overnight at Agra - Hotel Pushp Villa (1 night only) Breakfast and dinner included



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### DAY 4 - Jaipur

After breakfast our private air conditioned bus transport will drive about 5 hours to Jaipur. This will be our longest single transfer on this trip but offering us a wide range of scenery along the way. En route to Jaipur we visit the mystique Fatehpur Sikri, the famous Mughal monument built by Emperor Akbar in the 16th century, and known to be one of the most beautiful cities of the era. The architecture of the monument epitomizes the emperor's love for all religions. It was inhabited for only a few years and then deserted and is today better known as a ghost town. Even today, it houses the beautiful palaces of the king and his three queens as well as some very interesting buildings like the Diwan-e-Khas, Panch Mahal (Five Storey Palace), the treasury, the step-well and an interesting game of dice which he played with his queens. Upon arrival to Jaipur we check into our hotel. In late afternoon we explore some city attractions. Lunch to be taken on journey at an appropriate hour. Overnight at Hotel Khandwa Haveli (2 nights) Breakfast and dinner included



### DAY 5 - Jaipur

After breakfast, we drive 11 Kms outside the city to the old capital of Jaipur, where, by jeep transfers we find the historical Fort of Amber. The fort is built with white marble and red sandstone and looks even more attractive because of the Maota Lake in the foreground. The attractions at the fort include the famous Hall of Mirrors and the Hall of Victory. The Diwan-e-Khas and the fore square of the fort are also beautiful.

In the afternoon we visit the City Palace Museum and Jantar Mantar Observatory. This Palace (Museum) was built by the founder of Jaipur, Sawai Jai Singh II, who founded the city in the

ancient Indian town planning style of grids, where eight blocks would have houses of different communities; with broad streets lined with shops dividing these blocks and ending at various gates. The ninth block was the City Palace surrounded by the other eight blocks. The museum at the City Palace houses some very amazing and rare artifacts like the biggest bronze vessels in the world and some old manuscripts of very rare books.

The Jantar Mantar observatory, situated in the compounds of the palace, is an early 18<sup>th</sup> century observatory built by the king to observe the astronomical movements. The various brick instruments at the observatory show his foresight and intelligence par excellence. En-route to the City Palace we visit the most famous landmark of Jaipur, Hawamahal or the Palace of Winds - a whimsical façade built by the kings for the queens to witness the royal processions while still maintaining "purdah". On our way back we will hopefully have time to explore the famous Jaipur markets. Breakfast and dinner included





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### DAY 6 - Tordigarh

After breakfast we drive (about 2 ½ hours) to Tordi Garh. Tordi Garh is a small village in the centre of Rajasthan not much explored. Here we stay as guests of the nobles of Tordi who have transformed one of the wings of their fortress into a guest wing. This is truly an authentic experience and an opportunity for us to experience rural India that is relatively untouched by mass tourism. This afternoon we go for a Camel Cart ride to the small dunes near the village. We can go on a small trek on the hillock and return to the carts waiting for us downhill. We return to the hotel for our dinner and overnight stay. Overnight at Tordigarh in a special locally run guest house (2 nights). Breakfast and dinner included



### DAY 7 - Tordigarh

Today we spend the morning in the village school interacting and learning the education system developed to teach the children in remote villages of Rajasthan. We also play games with the children and participate in the community programme. Note – This is very much aligned with Adventurebug's RIFCOM project in Morocco and we are happy to be integrating this experience into our tour program with you.

In the afternoon we go for a walking tour of the village with the locals and visit families of the residents of the village, the local temple and the interesting small market. Late in the afternoon we go to the local

dispensary (a small hospital equipped to meet the requirements of a village) and meet the doctor and the staff to learn about the medical facilities in remote villages of this country. At night we enjoy dinner at the hotel with local tribal musicians performing for us. Breakfast, lunch and dinners included

### DAY 8 - Jojawar

This morning we drive to Jojawar (about 3 hours). Jojawar is set amidst the beautiful surroundings of the Aravali hills. Rawla Jojawar is an aristocratic family house now converted into a beautiful home stay, where the charm is meeting the family of the owners and the various villagers who reside in the village. Here we also visit the neighbouring villages of tribal communities living in the Aravali ranges and take a countryside tour with more opportunities for walking and stretching our legs in this authentic Rajasthan landscape. Overnight at Rawla Jojawar (2 nights) Breakfast, lunch and dinners included





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## DAY 9 - Jojawar

Today we take a jeep ride in the countryside to visit hamlets of Rabari tribes. We also take a short train tour (45 min) on a very local train that passes through this unique rural countryside. The stay in Jojawar will give us opportunities of close interaction with Rabaris, Bhils and Gadulia Luhar tribes of India. The Rabaris are a nomadic tribe which take their cattle to various parts of the country during summers. The Bhils are hunters and a martial tribe. The Gadulias are nomadic ironsmiths.

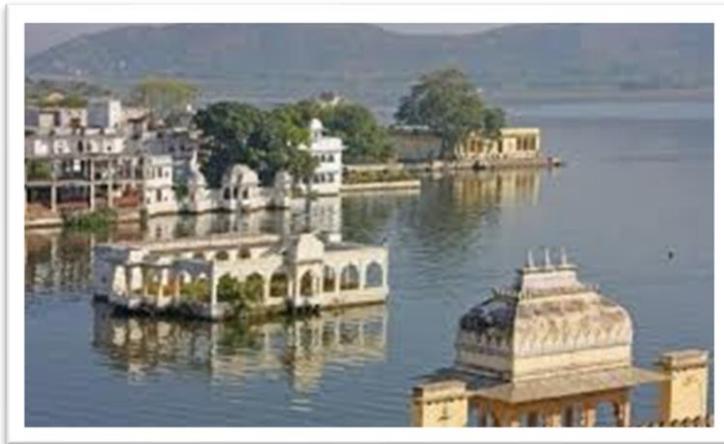
Once again, our visit to Jojawar offers an authentic rural experience to regions of India that have little in the way of 'monuments or palaces' but offer a more personal insight into 'real' life of Indian tribes people. Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner included



## DAY 10 – Udaipur

This morning we make our final transfer and drive (about 3 hrs) to Udaipur – a personal favourite for Matt from Adventurebug and a fitting end to our exploration of India!

TOUR ADDITION – We will also make a stop at RANAKPUR to visit the famous Jane Temple (lunch spot as well) before we carry on to Udaipur.



The city of Lakes, Udaipur is a lovely blend of beautiful lakes and lush green hills. Its palaces are straight out of a fairy-tale book. Lakes, forts, palaces, temples, gardens, mountains and narrow lanes lined with stalls, relive the kingdom's glorious past. Udaipur is one of the most romantic cities in the world and is also known as the Venice of the East. The city was founded by Rana Udai Singh in 1568 after his citadel Chittorgarh was sacked by the Mughal Emperor Akbar. The legend says that Udai Singh was guided by a holy man, meditating on the hill near

Pichola Lake, to establish his capital on this very spot. This afternoon, after our transfer we will explore some of Udaipur on foot. In late afternoon we take a boat cruise by ferry on the lake Pichola where we can catch glimpses of this fascinating city's design and surrounding hillsides dotted with temples and magnificent palaces.

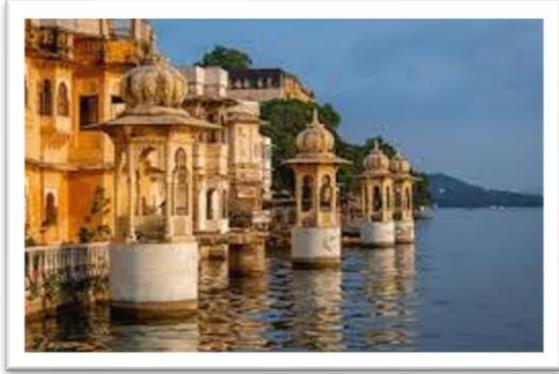
Hotel Mahenda Prakash (2 nights) <http://www.hotelmahendraprakash.com/index.htm>  
Breakfast and dinner included



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## DAY 11 - Udaipur

*This morning we go on a tour of City Palace and Jagdish Temple. The City Palace which towers over Pichola Lake was founded by Udai Singh, the founder of the city, and was added to by every ruler who ruled Udaipur. Thus, today it is a truly amalgamated architecture. Jagdish Temple is a towering edifice in Marble right in the heart of the city. With beautiful sculptures and a black marble Statue of Vishnu (the preserver), this temple is a true example of the Indo Aryan style of Architecture.*

*We also visit the Sahelion ki Bari or the Garden of Maidens. This beautiful garden was made by the king especially for his queen and her hand maidens to be able*

*to enjoy themselves without having to be in purdah. There is a museum attached to the gardens with some beautiful artifacts of those times. The rest of the afternoon is free to explore the lovely shops and markets of this city. Breakfast and dinner included*

## DAY 12 - Udaipur – Delhi Transfer (flight) / Final night in Delhi

*Today, pending flight arrangements, we have some free time to self-explore Udaipur and /or last minute visits to the market or just relax before we fly to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi – shuttle to hotel (TBA) No scheduled activity today. Breakfast and our farewell dinner included*

## DAY 13 Delhi Departure Day / or optional included visit (no accommodation provided)

*Today, pending your onward flight arrangements, the tour will end after breakfast. For those with late departures (most Delhi International flights for Europe, USA, etc. depart in the evening), we offer an included tour day. In Delhi, we visit the Qutab Minar and then the Lotus Temple. The Qutab Minar is considered to be the world's tallest brick minaret. The minaret was started off by the first Muslim ruler in India – Qutb-ud-din-Aibak in 1193. A complex of Hindu temples was destroyed (you can still see the ruins of these temples around the Minar) and the bricks used for the Minar. It was, however, completed in 1386 by Firoz Tuglak. It is one of the earliest and most famous examples of Indo-Islamic architecture. The Lotus Temple is one of the more modern structures, made famous by its unusual design, for which it has won many accolades. It was commissioned as a Bahai House of Worship.*

*In the afternoon we visit the famous Akshardham temple, Swaminarayan Akshardham in New Delhi. This temple epitomizes 10,000 years of Indian culture in all its breathtaking grandeur, beauty, wisdom and bliss. It brilliantly showcases the essence of India's ancient architecture, traditions and timeless spiritual messages.*

*The Akshardham experience is an enlightening journey through India's glorious art, values and contributions for the progress, happiness and harmony of mankind. The grand, ancient-styled Swaminarayan Akshardham complex was built in only five years. The complex was inaugurated on 6 November, 2005. Akshardham means the eternal, divine abode of the supreme God, the abode of eternal values and virtues of Akshar as defined in the Vedas and Upanishads where divine bhakti, purity and peace forever pervades.*

*Early evening airport transfers for onward flights or if you are departing earlier, we will transfer you to the airport at the time that is necessary. Breakfast included today.*



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### INCLUSIONS on Your Tour

- 12 nights accommodation (twin share) all rooms have internal ensuite facilities
- All meals as per itinerary
- All land transport (and airport transfers), in private A.C. microbus with driver / including baggage transfers to / from hotels.
- Other transport including private shuttles to/from station.
- 1 way internal flight – Udaipur to Delhi at end of tour
- Additional Transfers built into tour including a rural Jeep tour – Camel cart ride – Rickshaw ride – Rural train experience - Boat ferry tour on Lake Pichola.
- Guiding and Tour management services of Adventurebug and 1 local Guide (both present for entire tour program).
- Entrance Fees and / or guided visits to all monuments and sites on this itinerary.
- Tips which cover all meals, baggage handlers, hotel services, local day guides, general assistance, etc. (\*see NOT INCLUDED below)
- Taxes and Administration fees (prices are Net with no hidden fees)

### NOT INCLUDED

- Air transport (International)
- Private insurance (emergency, evacuation and / or cancellation)
- Medical expenses and / or services required on tour
- Additional services such telephone, laundry, etc.
- Beverages at meals and personal drink such as alcohol, mineral water, soft drinks.
- \*Tipping for one local guide and one driver

RECOMMENDED minimum TIPPING value (45-50 \$US per person TOTAL):

- Local Guide = 30-35 dollars US / person
- Driver = 15 dollars US / person

### INDIA – The Facts

India has more than a billion people yet is does not feel over crowded due to its immense size. It is desperately poor yet emerging as an economic powerhouse in some areas. However, wealth like in all capitalistic societies is held by less than 2% of the entire population. It is largely a rural – agricultural inhabited society with a complicated religious and political structure however the value system of society is constant with most developing countries worldwide – that is that poverty is undeniable and that family and community are at the centre of importance. Oh, and cricket is THE SPORT!

### What to Expect?

India is a voyage of inner and outer travel that is best managed by those with a healthy and hearty **attitude**. This country will test your mental, physical and emotional capacities yet, with the right perspective, enhance your spiritual connection to what is really important.

Here are a few 'top of list' expectations:

Pollution in city areas; cows EVERYWHERE; men in business suits and women in saris; poverty and extreme wealth; bicycles; motorbikes and people walking everywhere; spicy food and bland food; smog in the cities; friendly welcomes; good beer but little wine; staring and very personal questions about your wealth, your family,



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*your interests; smells of sewage and waste; beautiful landscapes; deserts and woodlands; mountains and lakes; crippled people; children everywhere; temples; holy men with long white beards; beggars and thieves; arts and crafts; busy markets; haggling and hassles! Normal sit down toilets... cozy hotels; India has it all...*

## **The Weather?**

Delhi, our arrival point is mild and dry from December to February. Temperatures range from 55f to 75f. It can be cool and crisp at night but warm and sunny throughout the day. Expect to wear pants and a sweater in evenings and light shirt in the daytime. There is nearly no chance of rain throughout this trip. As we travel south towards Udaipur the weather becomes only slightly milder (average daytime high of 75-80f). Additionally, this program stays very close to sea level throughout – there are no high mountain passes and maximum heights may only reach 1000 feet.

## **What's the food like?**

Generally Indian food, eaten by billions of people is spicy and varied. Curry is only one of hundreds of spices utilized but in the west we naively call everything curry! Traditionally many Indians are vegetarians and staple food tends to be tasty bread (roti), lentils (dhal) and vegetables. However, chicken, goat, lamb and fish are common. Beef however is forbidden (cows are sacred), so forget about steak! Despite the huge difference between the western diet and India, our tour groups, with the right attitude and expectations, tend to enjoy the culinary delights India has to offer.

## **What to Bring and What to Wear?**

As always travel light, bringing easy to wash travel wear and comfy walking shoes (not trekking boots). Light layers, a sun hat and some relaxing evening wear for our cozy hotels. A medium size rolling suitcase is fine and a light day pack to carry your water bottle, camera and guidebook or journal. Bring prescription medicines, toiletries, hand wash and camera batteries.

## **Money and Expenses in India?**

The Rupee is the currency and the exchange is approximately 1\$US = 47 INR

Costs for general goods is very cheap still – bottle of water is about 30 cents US in the market and up to a dollar in restaurants. Beer and soft drinks about 20% more. Shoppers tend to buy crafts and clothing in India at a very good rate.

## **HEALTH Concerns?**

The region of India we visit and the time of year (winter) is one of the healthiest times to travel. Outside of 'Delhi Belly' from adjusting to the food, most travellers to India find few irritations or health problems. Common sense should be practiced however such as regular hand washing before meals; utilizing mineral water; avoiding foods too spicy at first and generally taking care of yourself (mediate alcohol consumption and get plenty of rest).

For full and updated traveller's health information on India, please visit the (WHO) World Health Organization website (<http://www.who.int/countries/ind/en/>)

Malaria is not considered a problem in Delhi or Rajasthan but it's advisable to consult professional advice. Updated vaccinations for travel to the developing world is strongly recommended.

## **SECURITY Issues?**

India is deeply impoverished and despite its very spiritual nature, we as western visitors carry more materialism and wealth on one vacation than they have in a lifetime. Opportunists such as pick pockets and petty thieves exist. Outright muggings and violent attacks are rare. All our hotels and destinations are secure and care should always be practiced in the evening and in certain districts.



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The risk of terrorism is, like anywhere in the world, unpredictable. Mumbai suffered a terrible attack some years ago and there is continual conflict in the far north (Kashmir) and some boarder regions with Pakistan. Our itinerary tends to avoid these conflict zones and is very much in the tourist quarters of the country that has been statistically at peace.

### **PASSPORT and INDIAN VISA**

Be absolutely certain that your passport is valid for travel to / from India and that you have the appropriate VISA. Please consult the embassy or consul in your country for this information and do it well in advance – you may be without your passport for some time to obtain this visa! Visas for India can now be easily obtained via the internet at the OFFICIAL India Visa office run by the Government of India, not a third party company.

Use this link (subject to change as this system is relatively new for India):

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/index.html>

**INDIA – MORE THAN YOU THINK IS POSSIBLE!**