



BROCK UNIVERSITY EDUTRAVEL

THE ROMANCE OF RAJASTHAN: November 4 – 18, 2010



Taj Mahal

Join Brock EduTravel on an exploration to a land of vibrant colours, exotic temples, desert forts and extraordinary monuments. Few destinations rouse the senses like India, where the spirituality of everyday life meets the grandest sights of architecture and scenic splendour. Together, we'll take in the incredible sights of India from bustling Delhi to the blue city of Jodhpur, from the mythic sights of the desert kingdom of Rajasthan to the pink city of Jaipur and the serene marvel of the Taj Mahal.

We'll stay in carefully selected heritage properties that reveal all the pageantry and history of the land of the maharajas. We'll delve into grand bazaars and shop for the finest handmade crafts. We'll meet community leaders at special events throughout the trip to learn about melding the traditional with the contemporary face of India. We'll travel by elephant, camel, jeep and our own deluxe coach. We'll learn to prepare a traditional meal, how to tie a sari and a turban and how good karma can truly shape our lives. Truly a feast for the senses.

FACTS:

- 15 days
- Starts in Delhi
- Finishes in Udaipur
- Splendid heritage accommodation

SIGNATURE MOMENTS:

- Exploring Old Delhi by rickshaw
- Overnighting at the Manvar Desert Camp
- Learning to prepare a thali with our cooks
- Counting the camels along the road from Udaipur to Jaipur
- Bargaining in the bazaars
- Enjoying splendid heritage palaces
- Marvelling at the Taj

ITINERARY IN BRIEF:

- Day 1:** Arrive in Delhi, India
- Day 2:** Delhi
- Day 3:** Agra
- Day 4:** Agra. Drive to Ranthambore National Park
- Day 5:** Ranthambore National Park
- Day 6:** Drive to Jaipur
- Day 7:** Jaipur
- Day 8:** Jaipur
- Day 9:** Drive to Jodhpur
- Day 10:** Jodhpur
- Day 11:** Manvar Desert Camp
- Day 12:** Narlai
- Day 13:** Udaipur
- Day 14:** Udaipur
- Day 15:** Depart Udaipur

COST INFORMATION

START: **Delhi**
FINISH: **Udaipur**
TOUR COST* (PER PERSON): **\$3,695 USD**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$1,850 USD**

If you are a single traveller who is willing to share, we can try to match you with an appropriate roommate. However, if we are unsuccessful, please note that the single supplement will apply.

* Price based on current exchange rates and subject to change and based on a minimum of 15 paying passengers.

TOUR COST INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on twin-share basis in hotels listed or similar
- Meals as specified in itinerary
- Sightseeing with qualified English-speaking guide
- All entrance fees
- All internal transportation by private coach
- Bottled water on coach
- Airport transfers for passengers arriving and departing as per the group itinerary
- Gratuities
- Fully escorted

TOUR COST DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Roundtrip international airfare from your home to India
- Airport and departure taxes
- Airport transfers if arriving or departing separately from group itinerary
- Meals and beverages not included in the itinerary
- Items of a personal nature, ie laundry, drinks, phone calls, etc.
- Cancellation and excess medical insurance offered by Worldwide Quest
- Visa fees if applicable
- Additional arrangements due to any emergency situation

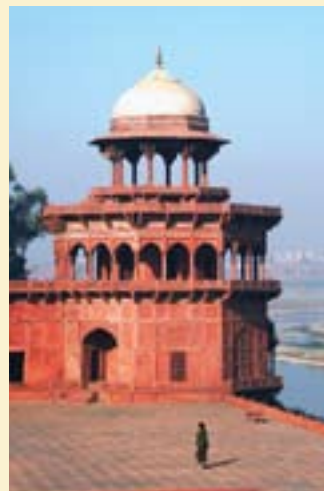


For additional information about Worldwide Quest's terms and conditions, please refer to the current Cultural Explorations brochure.

All participants on tours operated by Worldwide Quest are covered by the terms of the Ontario Travel Industry Compensation Act (Worldwide Quest International, Ontario – License # 2667946).

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO BOOK THIS TOUR, PLEASE CONTACT:

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THE ROMANCE OF RAJASTHAN

November 4 – 18, 2010

ITINERARY IN DETAIL:

Day 1: Arrive in Delhi

We'll have a late night arrival in Delhi. After clearing customs, we'll be met and taken to our hotel.

Overnight – Hotel Lalit, Delhi or similar

Day 2: Delhi

This morning we begin our exploration of “modern” Delhi. This part of the city was designed and built by the British in the 1920s. We will see Humayun's Tomb, a red sandstone structure considered to be the predecessor of Taj Mahal; India Gate, Qutab Minar, a tower built in 1199 to celebrate victory against a Rajput King.

In the afternoon we will explore Old Delhi, starting at the Masjid Jamal, Asia's largest mosque. By rickshaw, we'll visit the winding streets of Old Delhi, the capital of Muslim India from the 12th through the 19th centuries. We'll enjoy a welcome dinner this evening.

Overnight – Hotel Lalit, Delhi or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner

Day 3: Agra

This morning we set off to Agra and the marvel of the Taj Mahal. Near Agra we'll stop at the UNESCO World Heritage site of Fatehpur Sikri, briefly capital of the Mughal Empire, with one of the largest mosques in India within a marvellous complex of monuments and temples. In the afternoon, we visit Agra Fort. The great Mughal Emperor Akbar commissioned the construction of the Agra Fort in 1565 A.D. The fort houses a number of exquisite buildings, including the Moti Masjid, a white marble mosque akin to a perfect pearl.

Overnight – Hotel Trident, Agra or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner

Day 4: Agra. Drive to Ranthambore National Park

We'll get up very early this morning for a special dawn look at the Taj, glowing white through the early morning fog. The fabled Taj was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan as a final resting place for his favourite Queen Mumtaz. This perfectly symmetrical monument took 22 years (1630-1652 A.D) of hard labour and 20,000 workers, masons and jewellers to complete. It may be a visual cliché, but it is also the one of the few architectural icons that surpasses expectation. This afternoon we drive on to Ranthambore National Park where Project Tiger maintains one of the last protected refuges of the Bengal Tiger.

Overnight – Tiger Den Resort, Ranthambore or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner





Day 5: Ranthambore National Park

We'll get up early this morning for a drive in the park and a chance to spot the Bengal Tigers who live here. Among the animals, birds and reptiles that can be spotted in Ranthambore are the tiger – the star attraction for sure – the leopard, sambar, blue bull, chital, chinkara, hyena, jackal, fox, caracal, jungle cat, ratel, sloth bear, langur and wild boar and well as more than 300 species of birds. This afternoon we'll visit Ranthambore Fort set up on high hill overlooking the park. The fort is inhabited by joyful monkeys who 'guard' the fort and welcome visitors!

Overnight – Tiger Den Resort, Ranthambore or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner



Day 6: Drive to Jaipur

Today's drive takes us through fascinating rural scenery on the way to Jaipur. Jaipur is the "Pink City" for the terracotta plaster that coats buildings in the old part of the city. The vibrant culture of the city is on dazzling display on people and in the bazaars. Here people wear bright colours as if to compensate for the barren desert surrounding this. A central repository for the region's wonderful crafts, Jaipur is famous for its gems and jewellery, enamel- and brassware, blue pottery, embroidered leather footwear, rugs, tie-and-dye cotton fabrics, hand-blocked prints, fine saris, and ready-made linens and home furnishings.

Overnight – Alsisar Haveli, Jaipur or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 7: Jaipur

Today we explore the monuments of Jaipur's golden age. The Amber Fort is a beautiful complex of palaces, halls, pavilions, gardens and temples and is magnificently preserved. We approach the palace complex on elephant back. Another highlight is Jantar Mantar, the largest of the five remarkable observatories built by Jaipur's founder. Its complex instruments, with scientifically designed settings and shapes, represent the high points of medieval Indian astronomy. We will also visit the City Palace, a former royal residence built in the centre of the old city in a blend of the Rajasthani and Mughal styles.

Overnight – Alsisar Haveli, Jaipur or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner



Day 8: Jaipur

The nearby village of Samode offers a delightful interlude. Here we visit the Samode Palace, the hereditary property of the Nathawat family and a perfect example of Rajput-Moghul architecture. Along our journey, we've learned that there is indeed life beyond chillies and curries (although we love them) and not everything about Indian cuisine is hot, hot, hot! To learn more today, we'll enjoy a cooking demonstration today to learn how to select spices and vegetables and how to combine flavours to create layers of subtle taste.

Overnight – Alsisar Haveli, Jaipur or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Lunch



Day 9: Drive to Jodhpur

The city of Jodhpur is built on a low hill situated in the heart of the Thar Desert and surrounded by nearly 35,000 square miles of sand. Many of the buildings within the medieval old town are painted the same light blue shade, giving the city its fame as “the blue city”. Here in the historic centre, life continues as it has seemingly forever.

Overnight – Ajit Bhavan Palace, Jodhpur or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner



Day 10: Jodhpur

Towering above the city is the Meherangarh Fort, the setting of Kipling’s The Jungle Book. The impenetrable walls of the fort rise like cliffs from the rocky outcrop. We’ll visit the well preserved interior and enjoy a magnificent vista over the city from the Fort. In the afternoon we’ll enjoy the bustling outdoor market.

Overnight – Ajit Bhavan Palace, Jodhpur or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner



Day 11: Manvar Desert Camp

Rajasthan is India’s desert state and today we venture out into the heart of the desert to stay in a splendid tented camp. From our base here we’ll explore the untouched sand dunes, visit the homes of desert craftsmen and the chili and mustard farms, and watch the children trotting off to school while their mothers prepare the afternoon meal on dung-fire – this is your sanctuary and theirs.

Our tents with private facilities are carefully placed for commanding views over the desert wilderness with traditional camping style teak furniture and lovely fabrics. Dinner under the stars is a breathtaking experience.

Overnight – Manvar Desert Camp, Manvar or similar

Meals – Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner



Day 12: Narlai

Much of India continues to be tranquil, rural and tied to the land. Today we travel into the Aravalli hills where the sights and sounds of the 17th century village of Narlai await. We’ll stroll in the village, admire the colossal statue of an elephant guarding the top of the hill and visit the Hindu and Jain temples.

Our accommodation for the night is a magnificent restored hunting lodge, now a delightful heritage hotel.

Overnight – Rawla Narlai, Narlai or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner



Day 13: Udaipur

This morning we continue by road to Ranakpur to visit the magnificent Jain temples. This marble complex is noted for the 29 halls supported by 1,444 pillars, each adorned with hundred of carved figures, with





no two alike. We drive on to Udaipur, the “City of Sunrise”, India’s most romantic city, built around four lakes. The blue waters reflect the shimmering white palaces and temples and the whole city exudes a feeling of peace and space.

Overnight – Royal Retreat, Udaipur or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Lunch



Day 14: Udaipur

Our visit begins at the City Palace, which sits on a rocky outcropping, its canopies and turrets gleaming – the centerpiece of twelve palaces in Rajasthan’s largest royal complex. We visit the wondrous museum and palaces, shining with marble and granite, then continue to Jagdish Temple and the Pratap Memorial. Later, we’ll see the breathtaking collection of crystal at Fateh Prakash Palace. In the late afternoon we’ll cruise on Lake Pichola to view the City Palace from the water.

Overnight – Royal Retreat, Udaipur or similar

Meals – Breakfast & Dinner



Day 15: Depart Udaipur

The morning is free to enjoy the city before transferring to the airport for departure flights.

Meals – Breakfast



Photo Credits: Carol Rothwell, Liz Knowles, Nancy Samberg, Larry & Fran Marshall, Deepali, Worldwide Quest