

INDIA PUSHKA CAMEL MARKET 15 days



Itinerary:

Day 1 : Arrive Delhi

Upon arrival at Delhi transfer to your hotel.

Experience a traditional welcome - the warmth of Indian hospitality and the custom of welcoming guests is as old as the time itself. Experience New Delhi a touch of faith, philosophy and British India, a melting pot of cultures, politics and religions.

Lodging: Le Merdien Executive

Day 2 : Delhi (B)

After breakfast start your city tour with a visit of the magnificent Red Fort. See the Raj Ghat memorial to Mahatma Gandhi and Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. Explore Chandi Chowk, once an imperial avenue of Mughal Royalty, today is the busiest commercial area of the city. In the afternoon visit the 12th century Qutab Minar, the mausoleum of emperor Humayun and the modern Lakshmi Narayan temple. Drive past the India Gate, the president's residence, the parliament house and the secretariat buildings, an interesting blend of Victorian and 20th century architecture.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Le Merdien Executive

Day 3 : Delhi - Agra (B)

After breakfast drive to Agra. In the afternoon visit the famous Taj Mahal built by Shah Jahan in 1560 in memory of his queen Mumtaz Mahal. Also experience a traditional horse pulled tonga ride. Then continue to Agra Fort, built alongside the Yamuna river, the fort's colossal double walls rise 20 m in height and measure 2.5 km in circumference.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Radisson

Day 4 : Agra - Jaipur (B)

After breakfast drive to Jaipur, en route visit Fatehpursikri, built by Emperor Akbar in 1569 and abandoned after 15 years due to scarcity of water. See remarkably well-preserved buildings within this 'Ghost City' including the Jama Masjid, tomb of Salim Chisti and Panch Mahal palace. Continue to Jaipur. In the evening attend an `aarti' prayer ritual ceremony at Birla Mandir a modern Hindu temple.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Marriott Jaipur

Day 5 : Jaipur (B)

In the morning tour the Amber Fort with an elephant ride all the way up to the entrance. This classic Rajasthani Palace has a breathtaking interior. Visit the Jag Mandir which holds the Sheesh Mahal, a room with its walls and ceiling completely embedded with mirror pieces. Stop at Hawa Mahal the Palace of Winds. In the afternoon start your city tour with a visit to the

Maharaja's City Palace, the former Royal residence, converted into a museum. A small part is still used by the Royal family of Jaipur. Later explore the Jantar Mantar, the largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Marriott Jaipur

Day 6 : Jaipur - Pushkar (B / D)

After breakfast drive to Pushkar. This village-town dates back to the 4th century BC and becomes a cultural phenomenon when colorfully dressed devotees, musicians, acrobats, folk dancers, traders, comedians, 'sadhus' come here during the Pushkar fair. According to Hindu chronology, it takes place in the month of Kartika (October or November) beginning on 'ashtmi' 8th day of Lunar Calendar and continues till full moon ('Poornima'). The camel and cattle trading is at its peak during the first half of festival period. During the later half religious activities dominate the scenery.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner **Lodging:** Tented Camp

Day 7 : Pushkar (B / L / D)

In the morning visit the amazing Pushkar camel fair and later the Brahma Temple dedicated to Lord Brahma, 'the Creator' per Hindu holy trinity. Than experience an authentic camel cart riding.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner **Lodging:** Tented Camp

Day 8 : Pushkar - Bikaner (B)

After breakfast in the morning drive to Bikaner, a 500-year-old town, dating back to 1488A.D, when a Rathors prince, Rao Bikaji, son of Rao Jodhaji of Jodhpur, built this charming city and named it after himself Bikaner'. The rulers here built beautiful forts that echo the images of monsoon clouds in the dry land. In a local temple rats are held sacred. Today the city is known for its flourishing industries of wool and camel breeding. Not only do the traditions come alive here in colorful bazaars and Havelis, Bikaner is also famous for the best riding camels in the world.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Lalit Laxmi Vilas Palace

Day 9 : Bikaner - Jaisalmer (B)

In the morning visit Junagarh Fort, constructed between 1588 and 1593 by Raja Rai Singh the fort has 986 meter long walls with 37 bastions and two entrances. The Bhand Sagar Temple, a 16th century Jain temple, is the most important temple of this complex. Later drive to Jaisalmer.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Brys Fort

Day 10 : Jaisalmer (B)

After breakfast start a city tour of Jaisalmer. First visit the Fort, within its walls, defended by 99 turrets, lies the old city. Than see Gadhi Sagar a tank south of the city walls which once held the towns water supply. It is surrounded by small temples and shrines. The beautiful yellow

sandstone gateway arching across the road down to the tank is the Tilon-ki-Pol. Continue to visit Nathamaji and Patwon ki Haveli. In the evening enjoy an excursion to Khuri Village for a camel safari through sand dunes.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Brys Fort

Day 11 : Jaisalmer - Jodhpur (B)

After breakfast drive for Jodhpur. Later in the afternoon enjoy a city tour. Start with a visit of the Mehrangrh Fort. The chambers of Moti Mahal, Phool Mahal and Sheesh Mahal the Sileh Khana are witness to the splendor of a bygone era. Later see the Jaswant Thadda a cluster of royal cenotaphs in white marble built in 1899 AD in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. End the tour with a visit to the museum housed in the majestic Umaid Bhawan Palace.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Vivanta By Taj Harimahal

Day 12 : Jodhpur - Udaipur (B)

After breakfast in the morning drive to Udaipur, en-route visit the Ranakpur Jain Temples, built in the 15th century, situated in the lovely Aravali valley. The town is named after Rana Kumbha, the legendary warrior king of Udaipur. The temples have grand structures and beautiful sculptures. There is a total of 1444 pillars in the temples and none of them are the same.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Lalit Laxmi Vilas Palace

Day 13 : Udaipur (B)

After breakfast start your city tour of Udaipur. Visit the city palace built on the bank of the Pichola Lake, by Maharana Udai Singh in 1570. The impressive complex of several palaces is a blend of Rajput and Mughul influences. Half of it is still occupied by the Royal family and part converted into a museum. The Jagdish Temple (1651) was built by Maharana Jagat Singh. A fine example of the Nagara style architecture. The Sahelion-ki Bari is an ornamental pleasure garden specially made for the ladies of the palace in the 18th century. It has beautiful fountains, trees and flowers.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** Lalit Laxmi Vilas Palace

Day 14 : Udaipur - Delhi (B)

After breakfast free time till transfer to the airport for domestic flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi transfer to hotel for overnight.

Meals: Breakfast **Lodging:** JW Marriott Aerocity

Day 15 : Delhi - Departure (B)

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your international return flight.

Meals: Breakfast

