

RAJASTHAN IN STYLE WITH OBEROI HOTELS

DAY 1

Today you will proceed to board your flight for Delhi from London.

DAY 2

On arrival in Delhi airport, collect your luggage and pass through customs, where you will be greeted and transferred to your hotel, [THE OBEROI DELHI](#) for check in and a two night stay.

India's capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds the ancient with the modern.

Amidst the fast spiralling skyscrapers the remnants of a bygone time in the form of its many monuments stand as silent reminders to the region's ancient legacy.

The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.

DAY 3

DELHI

After breakfast, you will be taken on full day tour of Old and New Delhi.

Begin with Old Delhi, the Mughal Capital of Shahjahanabad.

Visit the Jama Masjid, the principal mosque of Old Delhi in India. Commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, builder of the Taj Mahal, and completed in the year 1656 AD, it is the largest and best-known mosque in India. It lies at the origin of a very busy central street of Old Delhi, the Chawri Bazar Road.

The mosque of Friday was built from 1644 to 1658 during the reign of Shahjahan. The mosque, which measures 65m on 35m, and whose court forms a square of 100m on side is by its surface the greatest religious construction of Islam.

Later we proceed to visit Raj Ghat where Mahatma Gandhi, The Father Of Nation, was cremated and drive past the Red Fort, the palace for Shahjahan new capital, Shahjahanabad, the seventh Muslim city in the Delhi site.

Wander in the busy streets of the mile long Chandni Chowk, popularly called "The Silver Street".

In the afternoon, proceed for a tour of New Delhi, which reflects the legacy the British left behind.

The division between New and Old Delhi is the division between the capitals of the British and the Mughals respectively. The division in the walled city and New Delhi also marks the division in the life-styles. The walled city is all tradition where one will be able to glean a past life-style in all

its facets, colours and spells. New Delhi in contrast, is a city trying to live up to the best of 21st century standards.

The tour to Imperial Delhi will start by visit to the Qutab Minar, the tallest stone tower in India. The Qutab Minar was started in 1199 AD by Qutab-ud-Din Aibak and completed by the sultan's successor and son-in-law, Iltutmish. The building is 72.5 m high and has 379 steps from the bottom to the top. The Minar is tapering with the diameter of the base is 14.3 m while at the top floor it is 2.7 m. The Qutab Minar is still the highest stone tower as well as one of the finest Islamic structures ever raised in India.

Then visit Humayun's Tomb, built by the widow of the second Mughal Emperor, Humayun. It is an outstanding monument in the Indo-Persian style, a precursor of the Taj Mahal.

The tour also includes a drive past the imposing India Gate, the Parliament building and the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the President's residence.

DAY 4

After breakfast you will be driven to Agra and upon arrival you will check in at your hotel, [THE OBEROI AMARVILAS](#) for an overnight stay.

Agra in terms of ambiance is still associated with its Mughal period. The Mughals besides being great rulers were also great builders and they preserved their best architectural wonders for Agra and its neighbourhood. It has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best.

In the afternoon you will be taken for half day tour of Agra.

The Agra Fort is an outstanding example of Mughal architecture. The Agra Fort was the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. The present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts.

You will also visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

In the evening you will be taken for a sunset visit to the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid 17th century, it is truly one of the world's wonders.

Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is really astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.

DAY 5

After breakfast, you will be driven to Ranthambore.

En-route, you will visit Fatehpur Sikri. Once the seat of Mughal legacy, you will see an abandoned city glowing red under the sun. The deserted red sandstone city was built by the Great Mughal Emperor, Akbar, as his capital and palace in the late 16th century is just 37kms from Agra. It was

abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry and it remains today in much the same condition that it was over 300 years ago. It is complete with palaces and mosques and used to be a town larger than London when it was originally constructed. Now it is an extraordinary place to wander around with its buildings in near perfect condition.

After sightseeing, you will continue with your drive to Ranthambore.

Near the township of Sawai Madhopur, in the state of Rajasthan, Ranthambore National Park is an outstanding example of Project Tiger's efforts at conservation in the country. The forests around the Ranthambore Fort were once, the private grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur. As a result of the stringent efforts in conservation, tigers, the prime assets of the Park, have become more and more active during the day. More than in any other park or sanctuary in India, tigers are easily spotted here in daylight. It is very easy to chance upon a tiger lolling around lazily in the sun, or feverishly hunting down sambhar around the lakes. Apart from tigers, you will come across a few panthers too. The other permanent residents of the park include marsh crocodiles, hyenas, jungle cats and sloth bears. Sambar are found in abundance all over the area, the prime target of all predators. Chital, Nilgai and chinkara are the other inhabitants of the region.

The avian population comprises of black storks, quails, Bonelli's eagles, spur fowls, crested serpent eagles and painted storks.

On arrival, check into your hotel for a two night stay at [**THE OBEROI VANYAVILAS**](#).

DAY 6

RANTHAMBHORE NATIONAL PARK

Today you will enjoy two game drives by shared jeep to view the wildlife of Ranthambore National Park.

The Park was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1955 and as a National Park in 1980, seven years after the launch of Project Tiger.

In 1984, the southern and northeast forests were declared as Sawai Man Singh and Kailadevi sanctuaries.

Before Independence, the forests of Ranthambore were the preserve of the maharajas of Jaipur who frequently hunted here, and royal hunts go back to the 12th century AD. These forests were the favorite hunting grounds of Prithviraj Chauhan, a Rajput ruler whose hunting zeal took him into other ruler's lands and consequently into battle!

In recent times, Britain's Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip were Maharaja Man Singh's special guests in 1960.

DAY 7

In the early morning you will proceed to enjoy one game drive by shared jeep.

Return to the hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast you will drive to Jaipur.

Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan and popularly known as the “Pink City “, due to the Pink sandstone used to construct the buildings in Old walled city. Jaipur owes its name, its foundation and it’s planning to the Great warrior astronomer Maharaja Jai Singh II (1699–1744 AD).

Upon arrival, you will be assisted with check in at your Hotel, [**THE OBEROI RAJVILAS**](#) for a two night stay.

DAY 8

JAIPUR

After breakfast, you will be drive just outside Jaipur to the ancient capital of Amber to see the fabulous Amber Fort.

Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar’s most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. The fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Ruins and remains are spread over the Aravalli hills and sprawling crenulated walls lattice the surrounding area.

An elephant will spare you the trouble of reaching up to the fortress. Once on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls. Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room.

En-route to Amber, you will stop and see the ‘Palace of Winds’, otherwise known as Hawa Mahal. It is really an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city.

In the afternoon, you will enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of the city.

Begin with the City Palace. The magnificent City Palace is in the centre of the pink city of Jaipur, enclosed by high walls and set amidst fine gardens and courtyards. Since, Jai Singh built it in 1728, it has been the principal residence for the Maharajas of Jaipur and the successive rulers have each added to it. The major attractions in the Palace are the Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Diwan-i-Khas, Dilkhush Mahal, Moti Mahal Sheesh Mahal and Krishna Mahal, all of which are adorned with exquisite colours and paintings.

Then walk to the adjacent Jantar Mantar also called Astronomical Observatory made by the Maharaja of Jaipur, built in 1726 and is one of the five such astronomical wonders constructed by Sawai Jai Singh and makes accurate predictions even to this day.

DAY 9

After breakfast, you will be driven to Udaipur.

Set on the shores of Lake Pichola and surrounded by hills, Udaipur grew in complete contrast to the harsh deserts of the rest of Rajasthan. As capital of the old Mewar State it was the only Rajput stronghold to uphold its Hindu allegiance in the face of Muslim invasion.

From the late 16th century, peace brought about an era of renaissance in the arts and encouraged the building of beautiful palaces around the lake, culminating in the City Palace, one of the largest palace complexes in the world.

On arrival at Udaipur, you will check in at your hotel, [**THE OBEROI UDAIVILAS**](#), for a two night stay.

DAY 10

UDAIPUR

After breakfast, you will be taken for a half day sightseeing tour of Udaipur.

Your tour will begin with City Palace. Built in 1725, the grand City Palace is actually a conglomerate of eleven palaces overlooking the sprawling Lake Pichola.

Then proceed to Jagdish Temple. Built in 1651 by Maharaja Jagat Singh, this temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and is located in the centre of the old city. The temple has a black marble image of Lord Vishnu, which is unusual for the northern part of the country, where statues of Gods are normally in marble.

Also visit Sahelion-ki –badi.

In the evening, you will enjoy an exclusive boat cruise on Lake Pichola.

DAY 11

Enjoy tea and coffee at the hotel, before you will be met and transferred to the airport to connect with your flight to Mumbai.

Mumbai also known as Bombay, is located off the west coast and is the commercial and entertainment capital of India, as well as housing important financial institutions.

It has the bubblegum glamour of Bollywood cinema, shopping malls full of designer labels, cricket on the Oval Maidan, promenading families eating bhelpuri on the beach at Chowpatty, red double-decker buses queuing in grinding traffic jams and the infamous cages of the red-light district.

This pungent drama is played out against a Victorian townscape more reminiscent of a prosperous 19th-century English industrial city than anything you'd expect to find on the edge of the Arabian Sea. It's a city with vibrant street life, India's best nightlife, and a wealth of bazaars.

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel, [**THE OBEROI MUMBAI**](#), for a two night stay.

For the rest of the day, you will be at leisure.

DAY 12

MUMBAI

After breakfast, you will enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of Mumbai.

The city's long association with the British is reflected in the old world charm of its buildings, made in the Indo-Saracen style.

A well-known landmark is the Gateway of India. Located on the waterfront in Apollo Bunder area in South Mumbai, the Gateway is a basalt arch 26 metres (85 ft) high. It was a crude jetty used by fisher folks and was later renovated and used as a landing place for British governors and other distinguished personages.

In earlier times, the Gateway was the monument that visitors arriving by boat would have first seen in the city of Bombay. Its design is a combination of both Hindu and Muslim architectural styles. The arch is in Muslim style while the decorations are in Hindu style. The Gateway is built from yellow basalt and reinforced concrete. The stone was locally obtained, and the perforated screens were brought from Gwalior.

Later you will drive past the Malabar Hills. The colonial bungalows that peppered the hillside in the 18th century have now been replaced by the apartment blocks of Mumbai.

You will also visit Victoria Terminus as well as the Mani Bhavan, the old Mumbai residence of Mahatma Gandhi. It's a pretty, two-storied structure that now houses a reference library with over 2000 books, a photo exhibition of the Mahatma's life, and well preserved memorabilia, including an old charkha or spinning wheel that Gandhi-ji used to use.

Later head towards the laundry quarters, Dhobi Ghat, the only one of its kind in world.

In the afternoon, you will be at leisure.

DAY 13

After breakfast, you will be met and transferred to airport to connect with your flight to London.