

Colorful Rajasthan A Royal Journey

DELHI - MANDAWA - BIKANER - JAISALMER - JODHPUR - UDAIPUR
PUSHKAR - JAIPUR - AGRA - DELHI

13 Nights / 14 Days

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Day 01: Arrive at Delhi

Arrive Delhi. On arrival, you will be greeted and assisted by India holiday mall representative and transfer to the hotel.

(Room will be available from 1400 hrs.)

Delhi - Delhi has been the seat of power of several empires for about a millennium. It has been destroyed and rebuilt many times, and interestingly, a number of its destroyers have also been its rulers. Delhi today is a potpourri of two distinct cultural lineages—Old Delhi and New Delhi. Juxtaposed against the immaculately planned New Delhi created by the British Raj, Old Delhi, which was once the capital of Islamic India, is a labyrinthine network of lanes and by lanes with crumbling havelis and formidable mosques.

On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 02: Delhi

After breakfast proceed for visit of Delhi including following:

Photo stop at the Red Fort

Red Fort is the fifth Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan's elegant citadel in red sandstone, built on the western bank of the river Yamuna. Shah Jahan started the construction of this massive fort in 1638, when he decided to shift his capital from Agra to Delhi. The Red sandstone walls of the massive Red Fort rise 33 meter above the clamor of Old Delhi, as a reminder of the magnificent power and pomp of the Mughals.

IMP: It remains closed on Mondays.



Enjoy the Rickshaw Ride (Paddy cab) in old Delhi

We will ride on a rickshaw through the narrow streets of Old Delhi. The humble cycle rickshaw is not only the common man's beast of burden but also generates a considerable amount of employment. In an age, where our cities are beset by the pollution menace of automobiles, cycle-rickshaw is the best alternative and the only viable option for a short-haul.

Drive past the Govt. Buildings

New Delhi houses several government buildings and official residences, reminiscent of the British colonial architecture. Today we will drive past a few of them, like The Parliament House (designed by Baker and 173m in diameter), the Rashtrapati Bhawan (once the Viceroy's residence), now an official residence of the President of India, etc. Designed by Lutyens, it combines western and eastern styles of architecture.

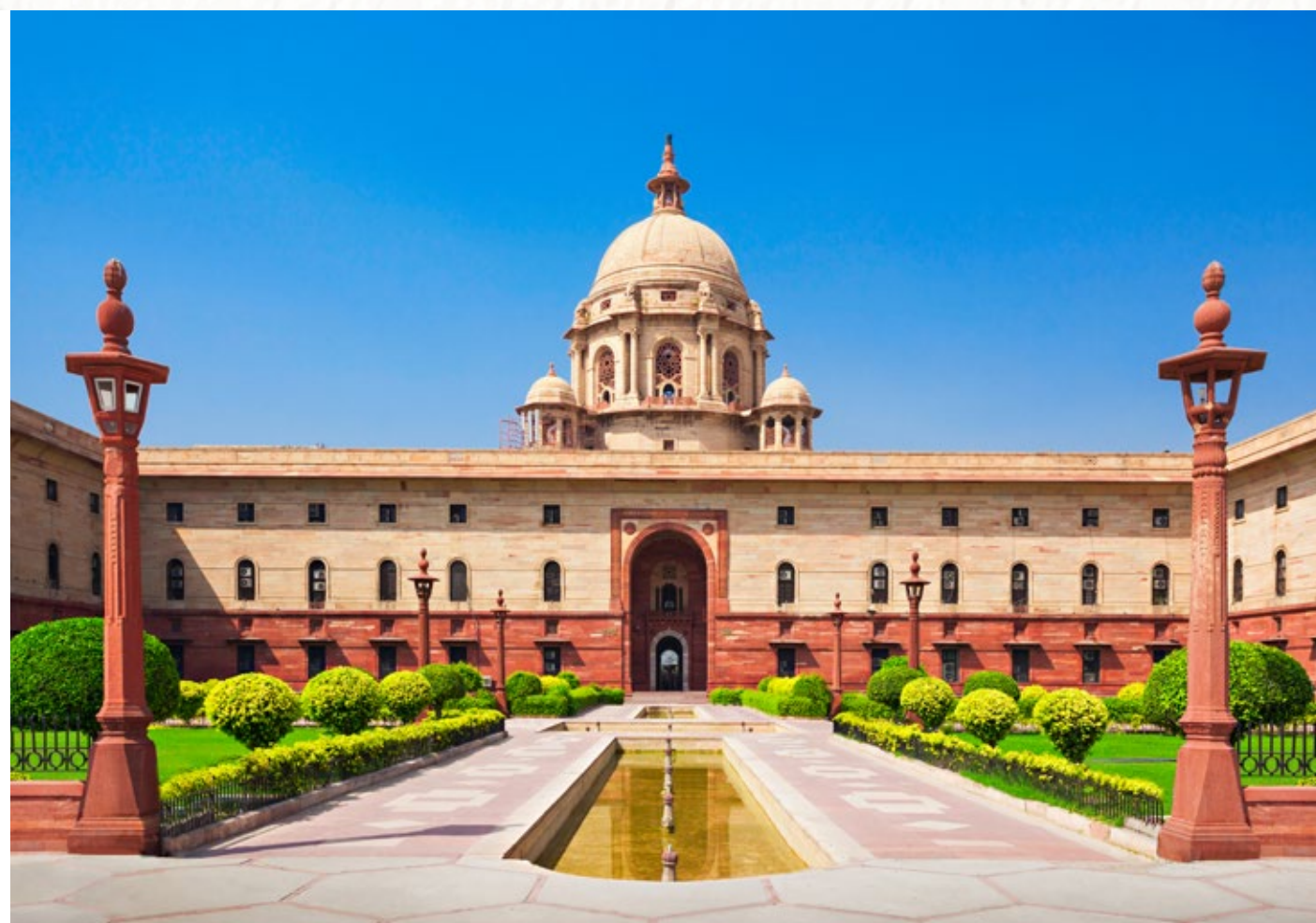




Photo stop at the India Gate

At the center of New Delhi, stands a 42-meter high - India Gate, an “Arc-de-Triumph” like archway, in the middle of a cross-road. Almost similar to its French counterpart, it commemorates 70,000 Indian soldiers, who lost their lives fighting for the British Army, during the World War I. The memorial bears the names of more than 13,516 British and Indian soldiers, killed in the North-western Frontier in the Afghan war of 1919. Under the arch, the Amar Jawan Jyoti commemorating Indian armed forces’ losses in the Indo-Pakistan war of 1971.

Humayun’s Tomb

Humayun’s Tomb is one of the most innovative and experimental monuments of its time, incorporating within it, an Indo-Islamic architectural style. This magnificent garden tomb is the first substantial example of Mughal architecture in India. It was built in 1565 AD, nine years after the death of Humayun, by his senior widow Bega Begam. Inside the walled enclosure, the most notable features are, the garden squares (Charbagh) with pathways and water channels, centrally located well proportional mausoleum topped by double dome.



Later visit the Qutub Minar

Qutub Minar is a soaring, 73 m-high towers of victory, built in 1193 by Qutab ud-Din Aybak. The tower has five distinct levels, each marked by a projecting balcony and tapers from a 15 m diameter at the base, to just 2.5 m at the top. The first three levels are made of red sandstone; the fourth and the fifth story are made of marble and sandstone. At the foot of the tower is the Quwat ul-Islam Mosque, the first mosque to be built in India. Also, a 7 m-high iron pillar stands in the courtyard of the mosque. It is said that, if you can encircle it with your hands, while standing with your back to it, your wish will be fulfilled.

Overnight at hotel

Day 03: Delhi / Mandawa (200 Kms around 04 hrs drive)

After breakfast, Drive to Mandawa.

Mandawa: A small town located in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan, Mandawa was founded in the mid-18th century and was once inhabited by rich merchant families. Famous for its richly painted and decorated havelis and forts, the structures served as a measure of prosperity and success of their owners. Dating from the 18th to the early 20th century, the havelis that were once adorned with paintings and frescoes lie abandoned today. The Chokhani, Ladia, and Saraf havelis are some splendid examples of the type of havelis in this region.

On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Proceed for visit **Havelis in Mandawa**. The Havelis in Mandawa are wonderful example of beautiful Shekhawati paintings. Founded in the 18th century, the medieval fort of Mandawa dominates the town with a painted arched gateway adorned with Lord Krishna and his cows. The Chokhani and Ladia havelis and the street with Saraf havelis are some of the splendid examples of this region's havelis. The Binsidhar Newatia Haveli has some curious paintings on its outer eastern wall-a boy using a telephone, and a European woman in a car driven by a chauffeur. The Gulab Rai Ladia Haveli has some defaced erotic images.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 04: Mandawa / Bikaner (193 Kms around 04 hrs drive)

After breakfast, drive to Bikaner. On the way visit the Rat temple (Without Guide).

Deshnok Karni Mata Temple (Without Guide)

Deshnok is a small village, situated approx. 32 km south of Bikaner city, along the Jodhpur Road. It is a pilgrim centre of Karni Mata (said to be an incarnation of Goddess Durga) who lived here in the 14th century and performed many miracles. The temple here is famous for approximate 20,000 black rats who live here, and are revered in the temple. Out of these thousands of rats in the temple, there are a few white rats as well, which are considered holy. Sighting them is a special blessing and visitors put in extensive efforts to bring them forth, offering prasad. (a sweet holy food.)



Continue drive to Bikaner.

Bikaner: The fourth largest city of Rajasthan, Bikaner is named after Rao Bika, a Rajput of the Rathore clan who founded it in 1488 CE. The city’s rich cultural past of imposing palaces, and richly-sculptured temples of red and yellow sand stones display some of the finest creations of Rajput civilization. The city’s medieval majesty pervades its modern lifestyle. Known for the best riding camels in the world, Bikaner is also called the “Camel

On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 05: Bikaner – Jaisalmer (360 Kms around 05 hrs drive)

After Breakfast, Proceed for visit Junagarh fort was built by a Mughal army general, Raja Rai Singh, in 1593. The courtyard of the fort along with the balcony, kiosks and windows are perfect examples of the artisanship of that time. The beautiful cutworks and dots on the red stones and the marbles are fascinating. The various parts of the palace-the Dewan-i-khas, the Phool Mahal, Hawa Mahal, Badal Mahal and Anup Mahal-reflect the glorious architecture of Bikaner.

Later, drive from Bikaner to Jaisalmer.

It will be a full day's drive westwards to Jaisalmer through the Thar Desert. The drive passes by dry vegetation, with villages of colourfully dressed people, plenty of camels and camel carts, sheep and goats. Arrive in Jaisalmer late afternoon. Check-in at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.

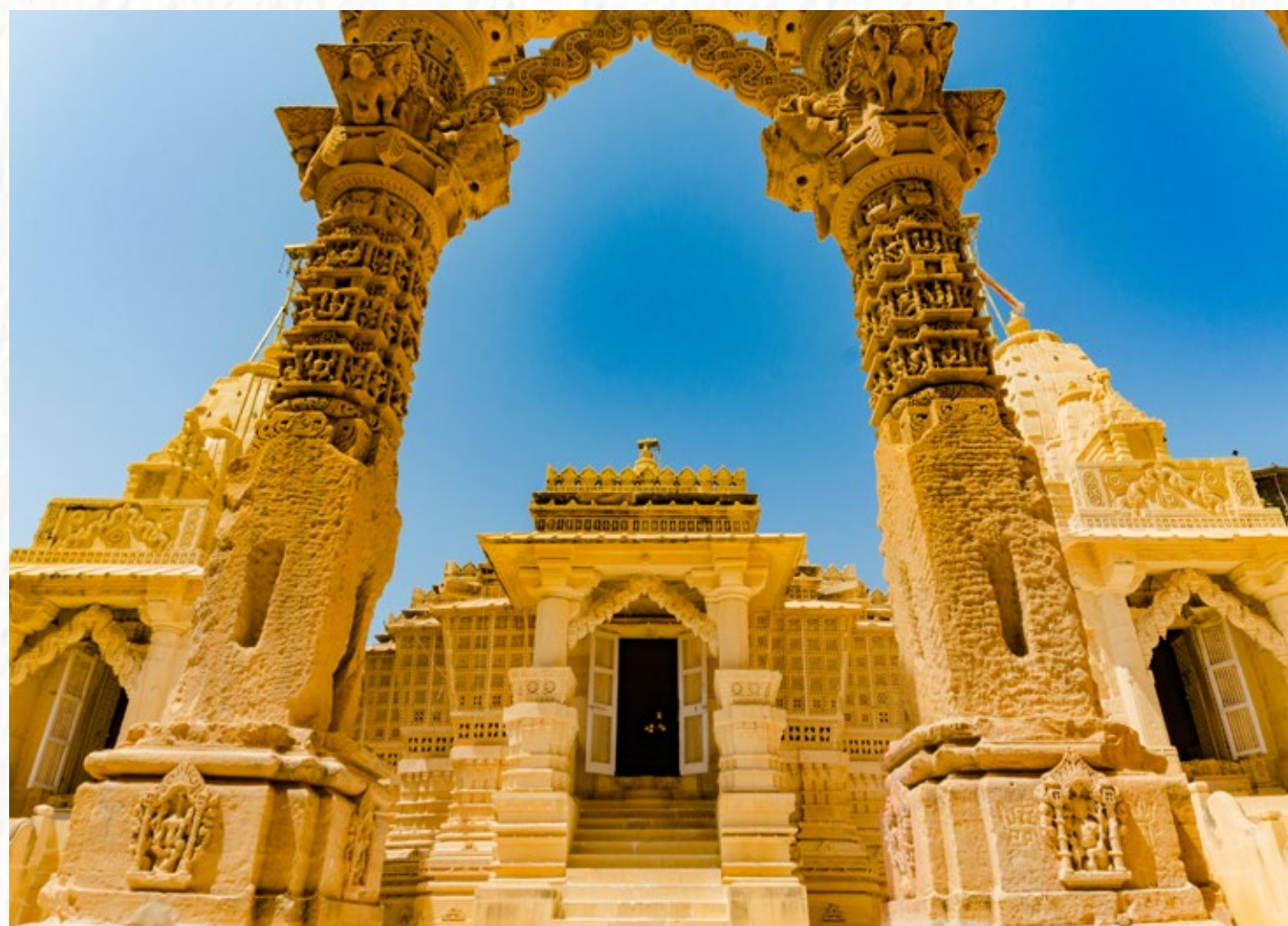


Day 06: Jaisalmer

After breakfast, enjoy sightseeing in Jaisalmer including following:

Jaisalmer Fort

Popularly known as the “Golden Fort”, it is one of the largest forts in the world, built in 1156 AD, by the Bhati Rajput ruler Rawal Jaisal, from where it derived its name. It is also known as the ‘Sonar Quila’ by the locals. The fort stands proudly amidst the golden stretches of the great Thar Desert, on Trikuta Hill, and witnessed many battles. Its massive yellow sandstone walls, resembles a tawny lion in color during the day and slowly fades to honey-gold as the sun sets, thereby camouflaging the fort in the yellow desert.



Jain Temple

The beautiful Jain temples lying in the vicinity of the Jaisalmer Fort are a display of beautiful structural designs. From Tombs to the gateways, every part of the temple is filled with mirrors, frescoes, carvings, etc. Most of these temples were built in between the 12th and 15th century and are dedicated to Jain Tirthankars. Every wall of these temples has beautifully carved figures reflecting the marvellous Dilwara Temple style.

Nathumal Haveli

Walk by Nathumal Haveli (1885) was built for the then prime minister. It is partly carved out of rock by two craftsmen, each undertaking one half of the house. Highly decorative façade with attractive front door are guarded by two elephants. Also walk by Salim Singh Haveli (17 century), which is especially attractive for its peacock brackets.



Overnight at the hotel.

Day 07: Jaisalmer – Jodhpur (365 Kms around 5 hrs drive)

After an early breakfast, drive to Jodhpur. It is the second-largest city of Rajasthan, built by Rao Jodha in 1459 when he shifted his capital from Mandore. You will visit Mehrangarh Fort situated on a 37m-sandstone hill built by Rao Jodha in 1459.

On arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Mehrangarh Fort

Later, Visit Mehrangarh Fort which was built by Rao Jodha in around 1459, it is one of the largest forts in India. Standing sentinel to the city below, it overlooks the rugged and rocky terrain and houses a palace intricately adorned with long carved panels and latticed windows, exquisitely wrought from red sandstone. Moti Mahal (Pearl Palace), Phool Mahal (Flower Palace), Sheesh Mahal (Mirror Palace), Sileh Khana and Daulat Khana with a richly varied collection of palanquins, howdahs, royal cradles, miniature paintings of various schools, folk music, instruments, costumes, furniture, and an impressive armoury, within the fort are magical. The display of cannons on the ramparts near Chamunda temple is among the rarest in India.



Jasawant Thada

Popularly known as the “Taj Mahal of Marwar”, it is a graceful marble cenotaph located adjacent to Mehrangarh Fort. It was built by Maharaja Sardar Singh in the loving memory of his father Maharaja Jaswant Singh II and serves as the cremation ground for the royal family of Marwar. The main memorial is built like a temple with intricately carved marble stone.

Overnight at the hotel.

Day 08: Jodhpur – Ranakpur – Udaipur (243 Kms around 5 hrs drive)

After breakfast, drive to Udaipur. Enroute visit Ranakpur.

RANAKPUR - In a quiet and picturesque glen that runs into the western slopes of the Aravalli hills is a remarkable complex of Jain temples at Ranakpur, one of the five main holy palaces of the Jain sect. Though over 500 years old, the temples here are superbly preserved in a near perfect condition. In the center is the main temple dedicated to Tirthankara Rishabdeo with a chaumukha or four-faced shrine dedicated to Adinath. The most distinctive features are the 29 halls of the temple, which contain 1444 pillars of which no two are exactly alike.

Every conceivable surface of the wall pillars, and ceiling is carved and every corner and angle is engraved with Jain images.

On arrival in Udaipur, check-in at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 09: Udaipur

After breakfast, enjoy the sightseeing of Udaipur, which includes the visits to the following:

City Palace

One of the largest royal complexes in Rajasthan, the City Palace stands majestically on a promontory on the picturesque Lake Pichola. The complex boasts 11 constituent Mahals (palaces), with balconies, towers and cupolas, offering a breathtaking view of the lake and its surroundings. The Durbar Hall, which was used as a venue for formal occasions like state banquets and meetings, has most luxurious interiors highlighted by some of the largest chandeliers in the world. The Palace also houses a museum displaying a number of interesting artifacts.



The Jagdish Temple

Built in 1651 AD by Maharana Jagat Singh, Jagdish Temple is the largest and the most beautiful temple in Udaipur. Dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the temple is famous for its beautiful sculpted images and towering shikhara. The temple represents a fine example of Indo-Aryan architectural style.

Sahelion-ki Bari

The Sahelion-ki-Bari Garden was built in early 18th century AD as a retreat for ladies of the royal household to spend their time in leisure. The enchantingly beautiful Garden is famous for its lotus pool, fountains (in the shape of birds), lush green lawns, flowerbeds, and marble pavilions, offering a breathtaking view to visitors.



Later, you may enjoy a scenic boat ride on Lake Pichola (optional activity), one of the most enchanting experiences in Udaipur. The lake, originally created in the 14th century by a local banjara (tribal), derives its name from the nearby Pichola Village. It was later expanded by Maharana Udai Singh II in the 16th century, following the founding of Udaipur city.

Spanning approximately 4 km in length and 3 km in width, the lake is dotted with beautiful islands, including Jag Niwas—home to the luxurious Lake Palace Hotel—and Jag Mandir, known for its historical charm and serene setting.

Overnight stay at the hotel in Udaipur.



Day 10: Udaipur – Pushkar (276 Kms around 5 hrs drive)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Later, drive to Pushkar

PUSHKAR - The small and beautiful town of Pushkar is surrounded by hills on three sides and sand dunes on the other. Pushkar forms a fascinating location and a befitting backdrop for the annual religious and cattle fair (in Nov), which is globally famous. No pilgrimage is considered complete without a dip in the holy Pushkar Lake. Pushkar has as many as 400 temples and 52 Ghats and the only temple in the country that is dedicated to Brahma is to be found here.

On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 11: Pushkar – Jaipur (276 Kms around 5 hrs drive)

After breakfast, visit the famous Visit the Brahma temple that is believed to be one of the few temples dedicated to lord Brahma in the country. The temple houses a four-headed idol of lord Brahma. The floor of the temple is done in black and white tiles on which coins are engraved. Also visit the Pushkar Lake. This lake is a beautiful spot to be in harmony with your mind and soul.

Later, drive to Jaipur. On arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 12: Jaipur

After breakfast, proceed for visit of Jaipur including following:

Amber Fort with Jeep Ride

Set atop a picturesque hill, Amber Fort is a major attraction in Jaipur, showcasing a splendid fusion of Hindu and Mughal architecture. Built in 1592 by Raja Man Singh I and later completed by Mirza Raja Jai Singh, the fort was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2013. Its structure, made of red sandstone and white marble, exudes regal charm. The interiors are adorned with intricate carvings, expressive paintings, precious stones, and detailed mirror work. Built as a stronghold, its massive walls protected residents during warfare. The highlight is the Sheesh Mahal, or Hall of Mirrors, constructed in 1623. Decorated with Belgian mirrors, it reflects even the faintest light to beautifully illuminate the space.



Photo stop at the Hawa Mahal Palace

Enjoy Photo stop at Hawa Mahal. It is the most well-known landmark of Jaipur city, built by Sawai Pratap Singh in 1799. This five-storied building overlooking the busy street is a fascinating example of Rajput architecture and artistry with its delicately honeycombed 953 pink sandstone windows known as ‘jharokhas’. It was originally built for the ladies of the royal household to watch everyday life and processions in the city from their veiled comfort as they had to obey the rules of “purdah.

City Palace

Located in the heart of the Pink city and a blend of Mughal and Rajput architecture, it was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II as part of his ambitious city project. His successors continued to ornament and add to the elegant buildings up until the 20th century. It is a unique complex of several courtyards, buildings, pavilions, gardens, and temples. The most prominent and most visited structures in the complex are the Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Shri Govind Dev Temple, and the City Palace Museum.



Jantar Mantar

The Jantar Mantar is a collection of architectural astronomical instruments, built by Maharaja Jai Singh II between 1727 and 1734. He constructed a total of five such facilities at different locations which includes one at Delhi and another at Jaipur. The Jaipur observatory is the largest and best preserved out of these and inscribed on the World Heritage List as “an expression of the astronomical skills and cosmological concepts of the court of a scholarly prince at the end of the Mughal period”.

Also enjoy a short Walk in Old Jaipur

In the evening, enjoy a walk in the old town. Stroll through the narrow lanes of Jaipur, through the hustle & bustle of the Old Bazaar (market). The old city is surprisingly well laid out, with its wide, straight streets running in a grid that forms a series of bazaars. While the new enchanting town of Jaipur exhibits the picture of modern India, the old city still unravels its traditional charm and speaks about India's history, culture and tradition. With this tour, you will get a good insight into the different aspects of the city, experiencing it all first-hand. The duration of the walk will be about an hour.



Overnight at the hotel.

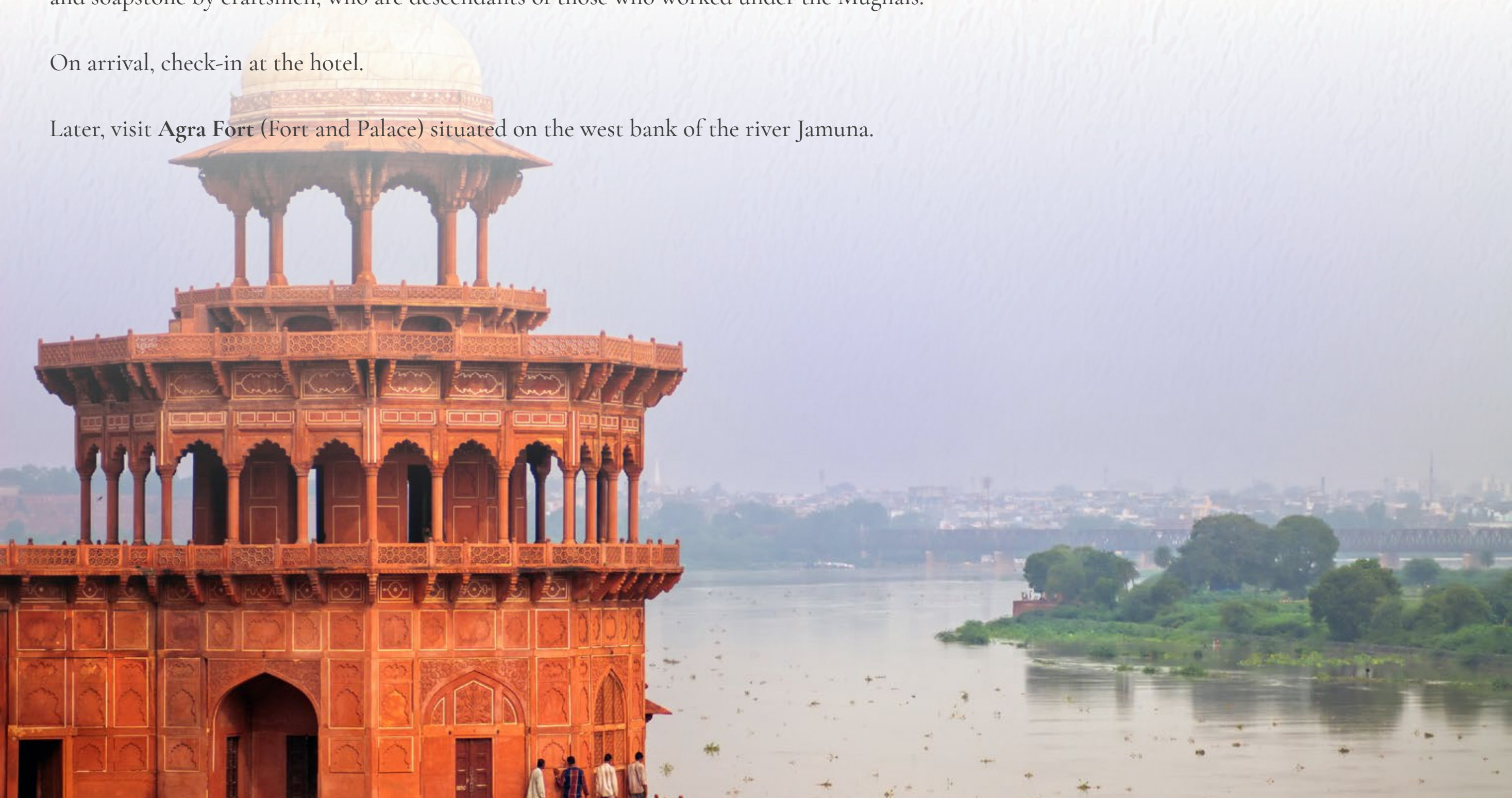
Day 13: Jaipur / Agra (265 Kms around 05 hrs drive)

After breakfast drive to Agra.

AGRA - Located in the heart of Uttar Pradesh, on the banks of River Yamuna, Agra is a slow paced, quiet town. Also known as the city of the Taj Mahal-one of the seven Wonders of the World-Agra's significance as the political center of the Mughal Empire ended when Shahjahan transferred his capital to Delhi. However, Agra architectural legacy has found a place in the pages of history. The architectural splendor of the fort, mausoleums and the palaces here are a reminder of the opulence and artistic taste of the Mughal Empire. Agra is also famous for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen, who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughals.

On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Later, visit **Agra Fort** (Fort and Palace) situated on the west bank of the river Jamuna.



Agra Fort

A UNESCO World Heritage site, Agra Fort was the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty till 1638, before the capital was shifted to Delhi from Agra. The forbidding exteriors of this fort hide an inner paradise as it comprises several exquisite buildings like Moti Masjid - a white marble mosque akin to a perfect pearl; Diwan-I-Am, Diwan-I-Khaas – the audience halls, Musamman Burj - where Shahjahan died in 1666 A.D., Jahangir's Palace; Khas Mahal and Sheesh Mahal. The massive Agra fort is considered as the predecessor of the red fort in Delhi.



Overnight at the hotel.

Day 14: Agra / Delhi (225 Kms around 04 hrs drive)

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel. Later, leave for to explore Taj Mahal.



Taj Mahal

Muted but Soulful, Taj Mahal popularly known as Crown of Palaces is a white marble mausoleum and a UNESCO world heritage site. As a testament to his love, the magnificent structure was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in the loving memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. Situated in the Mughal city of Agra, Taj Mahal looks the same from all the four sides and endorsed as “The Jewel of Muslim art in India”. Commissioned in 1632, it took approximately 22 years to make this marvelous structure and an estimated 20,000 workers to build this masterpiece that reflects different colors under the canopy of sun. Purely ecstatic and iconic, it attracts (7 to 8) million annual visitors every year. (It remains closed on Fridays).

After the sightseeing, head to Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to the international airport to board the flight back home.

End of Services

