

Explore the Colors of North India

DELHI - AGRA - JAIPUR - PUSHKAR - BIKANER - MANDAWA - DELHI

08 Nights / 09 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.

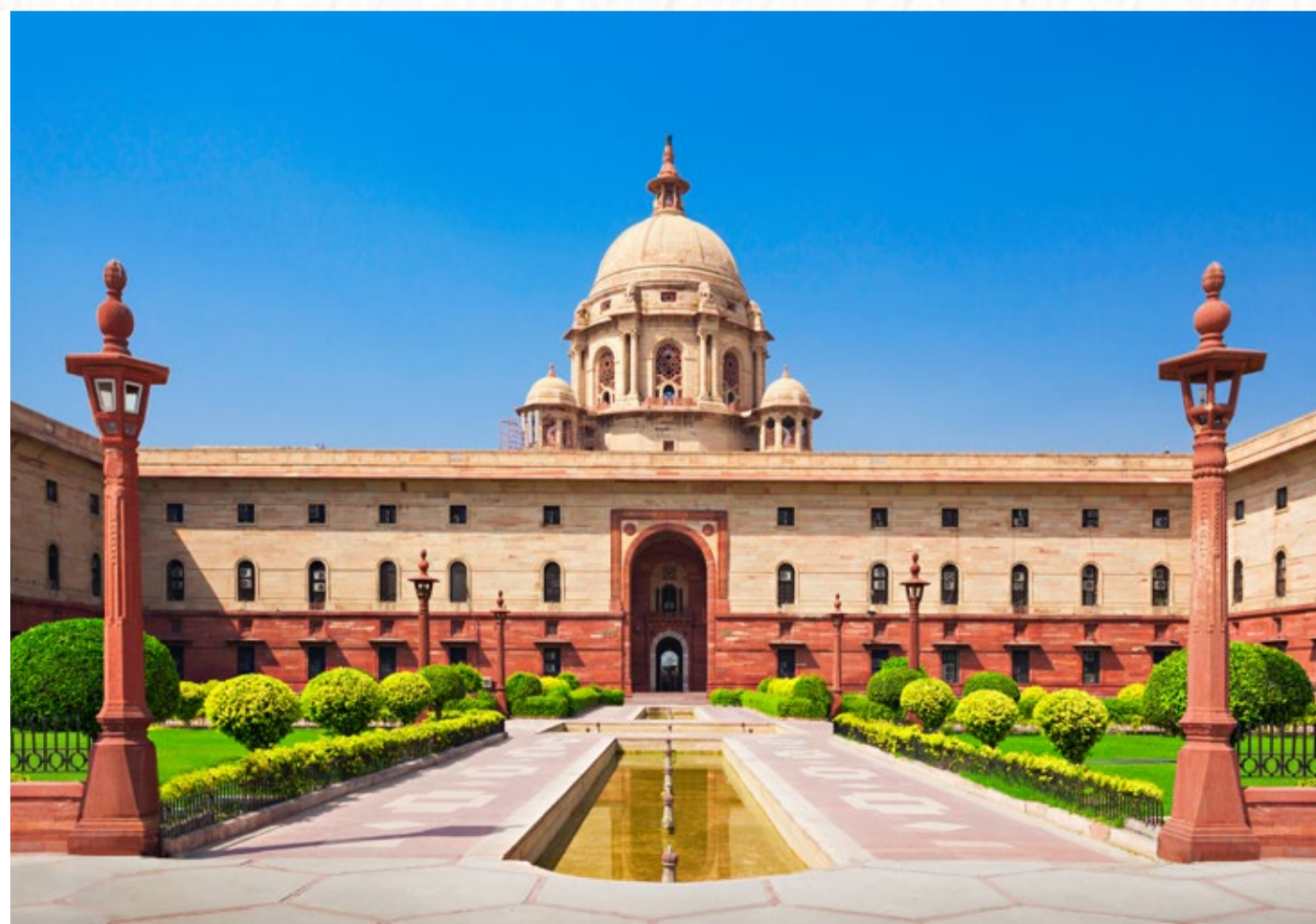




Photo stop at the India Gate

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

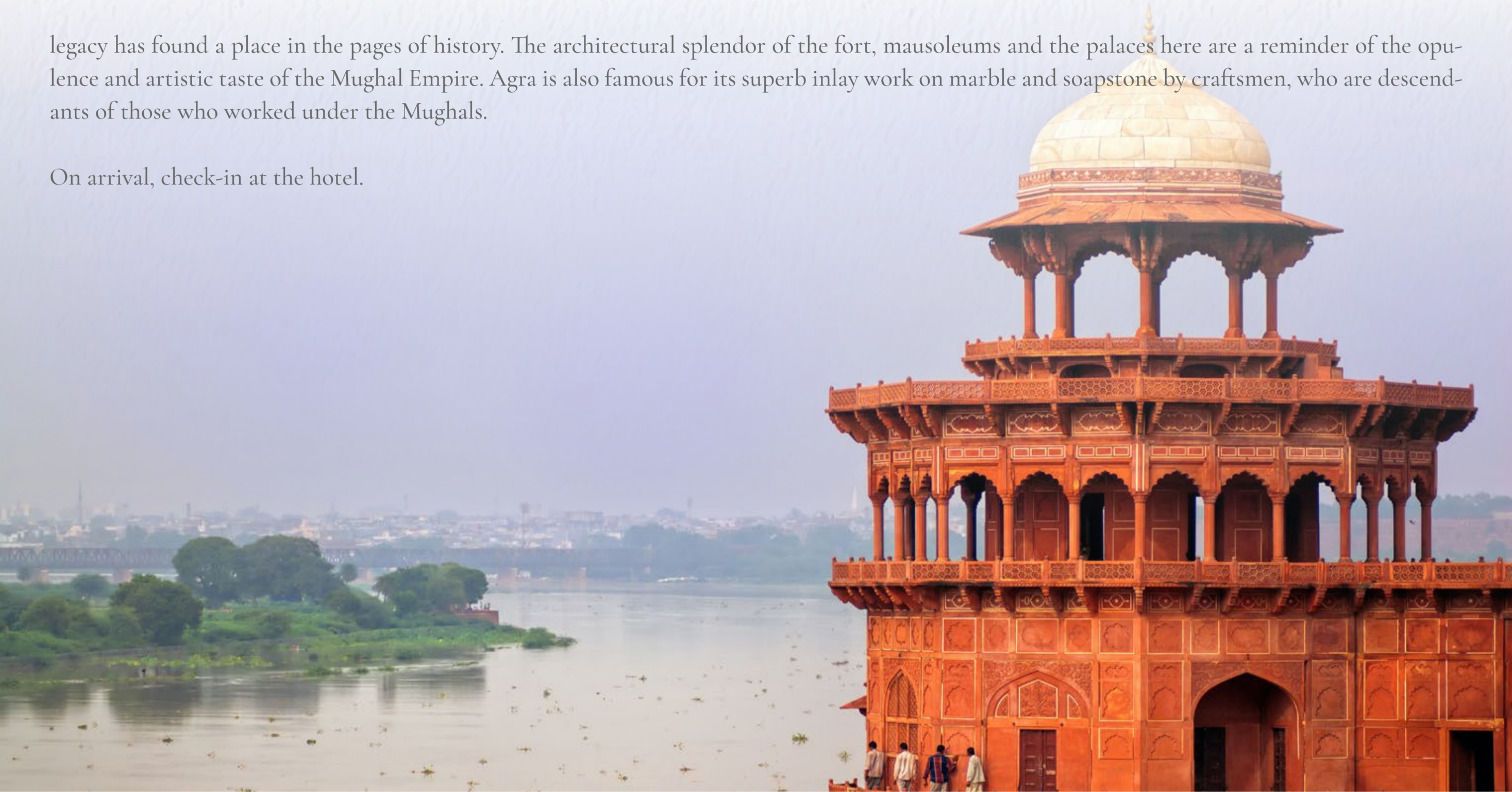
Day 03: Delhi / Agra (225 Kms around 04 hrs drive)

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.



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

Early morning, proceed for the Sunrise visit of 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. *IMP: Taj Mahal remains closed on Friday.*



After the visit, back to the hotel and enjoy the breakfast

After breakfast, Drive to Jaipur.

JAIPUR - The fascinating capital of the marvellous state of Rajasthan. Jaipur is popularly known as the Pink City, thanks to the colour of its buildings. It was built in 1727 A.D by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, followed a grid system, which made it the only planned city of its time. A young Bengali architect Vidhyadhar Bhattacharya designed the city in accordance with Shilp Shastra - an ancient Hindu treatise on architecture. There are innumerable sagas and stories of culture, traditions, practices and valour. This diverse land of rich cultural heritage is a royal treat for tourists all over the world.

On arrival, check-in at the hotel.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 04: Jaipur

After breakfast, proceed for visit of Jaipur including following:

Amber Fort

Set high on a picturesque and rugged hill, it is a principal attraction in Jaipur. A noteworthy fusion of Hindu and Mughal architecture, constructed by Raja Man Singh I in 1592 and completed by Mirja Raja Jai Singh, the fort was declared as UNESCO World Heritage site in 2013. The Fort depicts scintillating aura exquisitely made up of red sandstone and white marbles. The interior walls of the palace portray expressive paintings with carvings, precious stones, and mirror settings. Built mainly for the warring enemies as a safe place, the heavily structured walls defended residents, within the ramparts of the fort. Inside the fort, Sheesh Mahal is a famous hall of mirrors, constructed by Raja Jai Singh in 1623. An integral part of the Jai Mandir, it has been uniquely constructed by decorating the ceilings and walls with mirrors specially imported from Belgium and carved with beautiful designs that reflect even a small ray of light to provide natural light to the entire hall.



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 06: Jaipur / Pushkar (150 Kms around 03 hrs drive)

After breakfast, Drive to Pushkar.

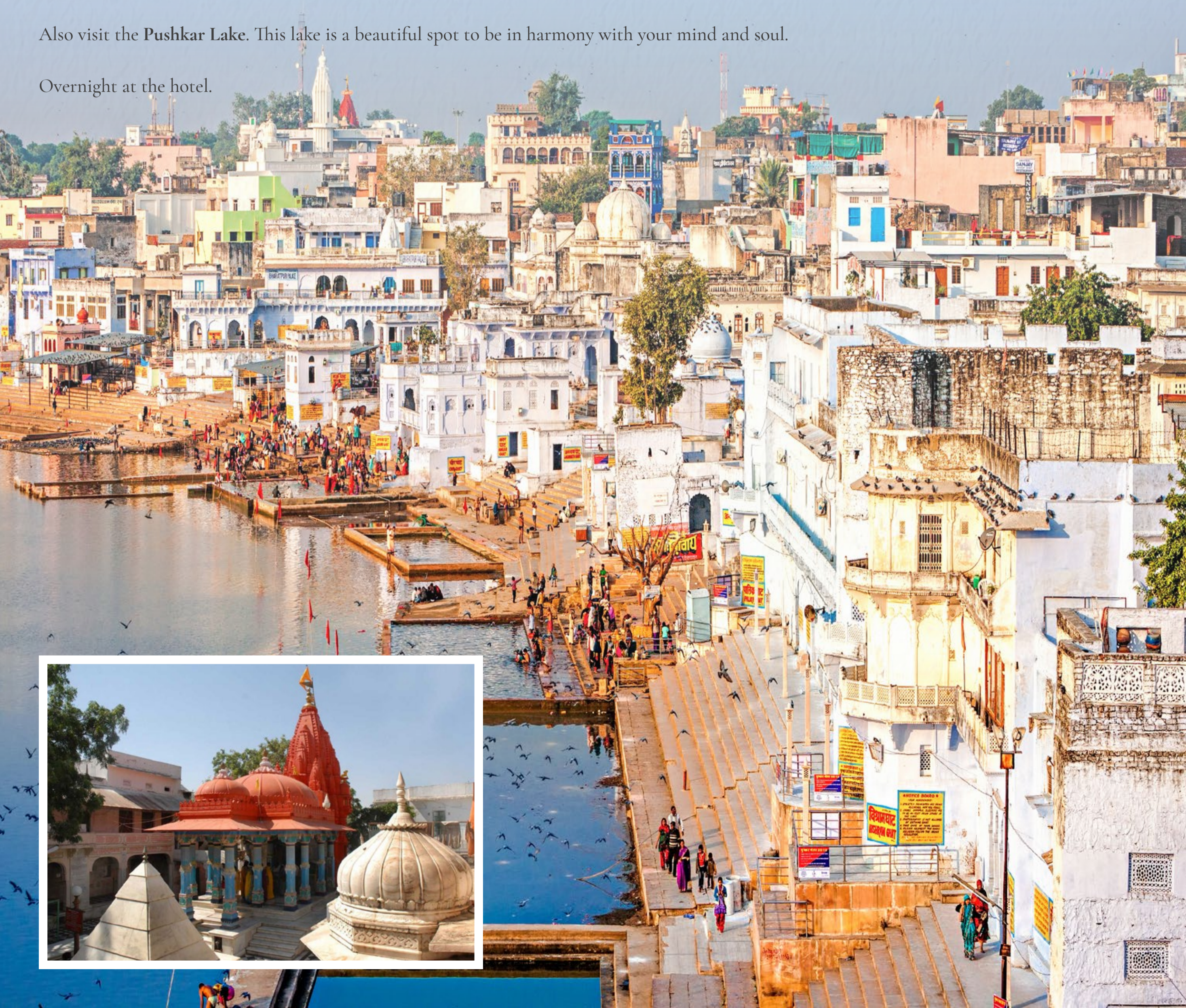
PUSHKAR - The small and beautiful town of Pushkar is surrounded by hills on three sides and sand dunes on the other. Pushkar forms a fascinating location and a befitting backdrop for the annual religious and cattle fair (in Nov), which is globally famous. No pilgrimage is considered complete without 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.

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.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 07: Pushkar / Bikaner (285 Kms around 05 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.)

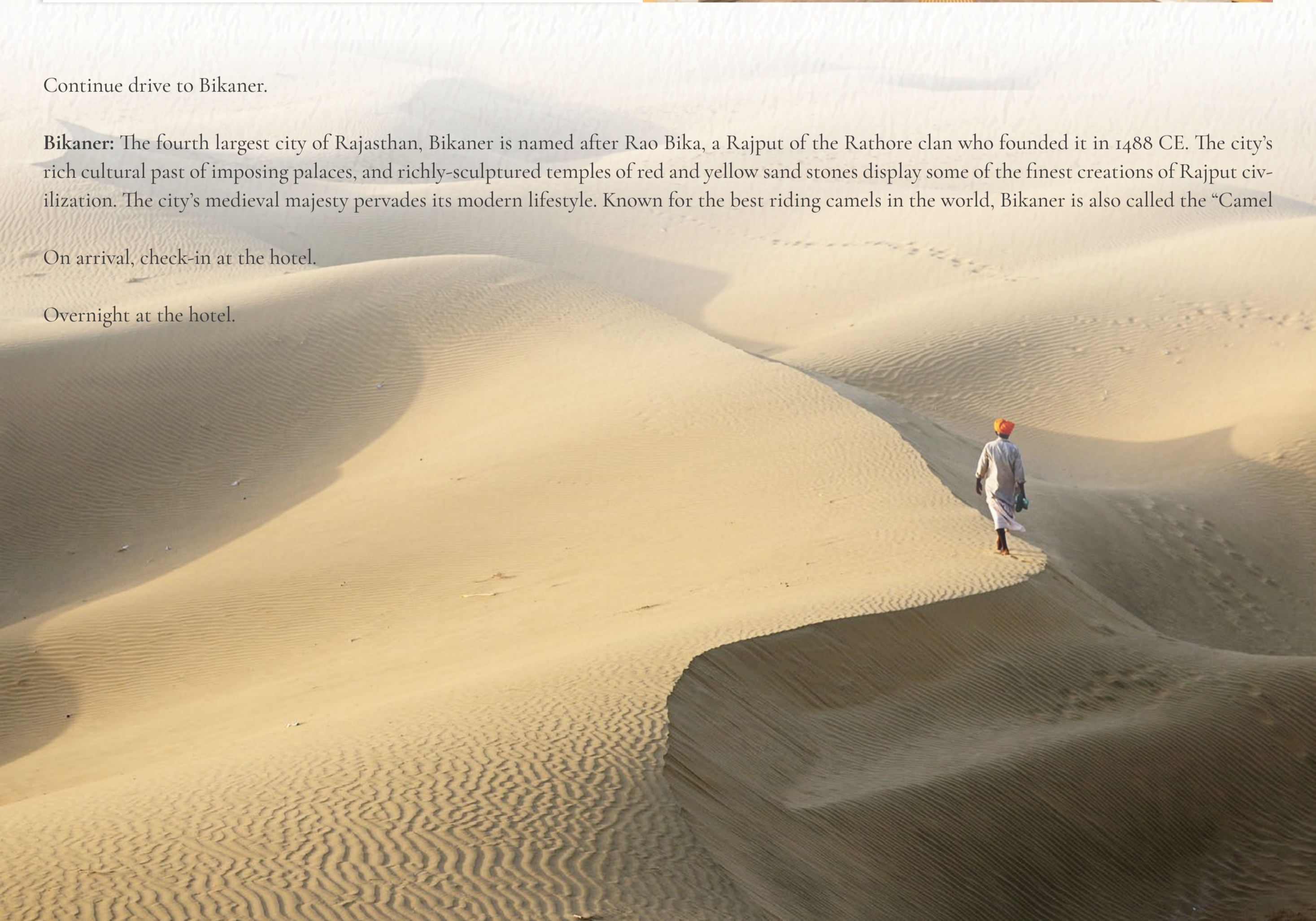


Continue drive to Bikaner.

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 08: Bikaner

After breakfast, enjoy sightseeing of Bikaner including following:

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.

Overnight at the hotel.



Day 09: Bikaner / 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 10: Mandawa / Delhi Departure (275 Kms around 05 hrs drive)

After breakfast, Drive to Delhi.

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

(Room will be available till 1200 hrs. only)

End of Services

