



Golden Triangle with Rajasthan
Delhi • Agra • Jaipur • Jodhpur • Nimaj • Udaipur
(9 nights / 10 days)

Routing

DAY 01	ARRIVE DELHI	<i>By International Flight</i>
DAY 02	DELHI	
DAY 03	DELHI – AGRA	<i>By Surface</i>
DAY 04	AGRA – JAIPUR	<i>By Surface</i>
DAY 05	JAIPUR	
DAY 06	JAIPUR – NIMAJ	<i>By Surface</i>
DAY 07	NIMAJ – JODHPUR	<i>By Surface</i>
DAY 08	JODHPUR – UDAIPUR	<i>By Surface</i>
DAY 09	UDAIPUR	
DAY 10	UDAIPUR - DELHI - DEPARTURE	<i>By International Flight</i>

*** END OF TOUR ***



DETAILED ITINERARY

DAY 01 ARRIVE DELHI

BY: INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

You will arrive today at Delhi, International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, OUR local representative will meet you as you EXIT the ARRIVAL TERMINAL building after which you would be transferred to your hotel.

Delhi is India's capital and a major gateway to the country. Perhaps there is no other capital city in the world so steeped in history and legend as the Indian capital Delhi. It was the magnet, which drew the Mongols, Turks, Persians, Afghans, Mughals and the British, all of whom contributed to its glorious but turbulent past. The fascination with Delhi was such that even though it was abandoned many times, its rulers returned to it again and again rebuilding it at least seven times. Today, the twin cities of Old and New Delhi still intrigue Indians and tourists alike as the cultural and political capital of the largest democracy in the world.

On arrival, check in for your stay.

Meal Plan: No Meal

DAY 02 DELHI

Morning, you will be met by your tour guide in the hotel lobby and taken on a tour of Delhi to begin your introduction to India's vast cultural and architectural heritage.

You will first drive to north of Delhi also known as "Old Delhi", the capital of Mughal dynasty between the 16th and 19th centuries.

Arrive Old Delhi and visit **Jama Masjid** - the largest mosque in India built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in year 1650 AD and completed in the year 1656 AD. From here we board our cycle rickshaws for a tour of **Chandni Chowk** (Silver Street). Here you will get a glimpse into an old world lifestyle slowly fading from Delhi. The hustle and bustle of everyday life can be felt in the Chandi Chowk's narrow lanes. After the rickshaw ride, drive past the Red Fort (photo stop), and we disembark at the **Raj Ghat** – a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, set within a beautiful park.

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Afternoon, visit New Delhi. Drive past **Sansad Bhawan** (the Parliament House) and **Rashtrapati Bhawan** (the President's House) the one-time Imperial Residence of the British Viceroy's governing India. Then proceed to **India Gate** for a photo stop. It's a memorial raised in honor of the Indian soldiers martyred during all the wars until now starting from World War I. Later, proceed to visit **Qutab Minar**, the 12th century Tower of Victory built by a Slave King – Qutub-ud-din Aibak. The Qutub Minar is notable for being one of the earliest and most prominent examples of Indo-Islamic architecture. It is also listed as a UNESCO heritage site.

Cultural connections (Optional):

- Early morning visit to enjoy riots of colors at the flower market in front of a lively Hindu temple. A short walk from here will take you to a prominent and magnificent “Gurudwara” the Sikh Temple buzzing with the morning prayer activities.

Meal Plan: breakfast

DAY 03

DELHI – AGRA

BY: SURFACE 210 KM / 05 HOUR

Morning, drive to Agra. This is an interesting drive as you will be driving on our newest built expressway. You will drive past India's only international standard Grand Prix track “Gautam Buddh circuit” and then vast expanses of agricultural fields dotting the sky. Comfort stops will be made enroute.

Arrive Agra by early afternoon and check in for your stay.

Agra - Once a small village on the banks of the Yamuna, it was transformed by two great Mughal monarchs, Akbar and his grandson Shah Jehan into the second capital of the Mughal Empire – Dar-ul-Khilafat, or ‘seat of the Emperor’ in the 16th & 17th century. A world of contrasting edifices of red sandstone and white marble, narrow galleys, bustling streets and small buggies, Agra retains the irresistible charm that made this the favorite city of the Mughals.

Later visit **Agra Fort** - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. Approachable by two imposing gates and constructed of red sandstone, the citadel was built by the Mughal Emperor Akbar between the years 1565 and 1573. Encircled by a moat, this dramatic city within a city was the palace of three emperors, Akbar, Shah Jehan and Aurangzeb, each of whom made significant contributions to the wonderful architecture of the inner buildings – a combination of Persian (Islamic) and local Hindu styles.

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This evening, experience the **Taj Mahal** (*closed on Fridays*) by sunset. Said to be one of the most elegant and harmonious buildings in the world, Taj Mahal was built by Mughal Emperor Shahjahan in 1630 AD to enshrine the mortal remains of his beloved Queen Mumtaz Mahal. Taj Mahal manifests the wealth and luxury of Mughal art as seen in architecture and garden design, painting, and calligraphy. The 144 foot double dome of the Taj is capped with a finial and the four minarets each 131 ft high and crowned by an open octagonal pavilion highlight the perfect symmetry of the tomb.

Cultural connection (Optional):

- In the evening walk through Kachhpura village to Mehtab bagh a Mughal era garden which is being restored, just behind the Taj Mahal across the river Yamuna. The walk conducted by an NGO working for the local community and includes some lesser known Mughal era monuments along the way.

Meal Plan: breakfast

DAY 04

AGRA – JAIPUR

BY: SURFACE 240 KM / 06 HOUR

Today you will drive to Jaipur en-route visiting **Fatehpur Sikri** - the deserted red sandstone city that was built by Emperor Akbar as his capital. Ponder the mysterious desertion of this capital city that was dramatically abandoned a few years after it was built. It was a veritable fairy tale city and its 'ruins' are still in a pristine condition. It is not hard to imagine what the court life must have been like in the days of its grandeur.

Continue your journey to Jaipur.

Jaipur - the City of Victory was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727. It is the only city in the world symbolizing the nine divisions of the Universe through nine rectangular sectors sub-dividing it. The architect who formalized the city's plans on the Shilpa Shastra, the epic Hindu treatise on architecture, mixed it with the sublimity of the Mughal and Jain influences of those times. The city was painted pink in 1853 in honor of the visit by Prince Albert. Except for the busy traffic of bicycles, cars and buses, little has changed.

Arrive Jaipur by midday and on arrival check in for your stay.

Cultural connections (Optional):

- In the evening drive to the outskirts of Jaipur to Dera Amer to experience a wonderful Elephant safari through the forest followed by a lovely dinner under the stars at an exclusive venue.

Meal Plan: Breakfast



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DAY 05

JAIPUR

This morning, take an excursion to **Amber Fort**. Jaipur's Maharaja Man Singh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started constructing 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. Once you are 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.

Afternoon, you will explore the city starting with **Jantar Mantar**, an observatory built by Sawai Jai Singh II in the 18th century. The Maharajah, a scientist as well as an astronomer, had the principles of Euclid translated into Sanskrit. One of the most remarkable sites in Jaipur, the Jantar Mantar has fourteen major geometric devices for measuring time, predicting eclipses and tracking stars and planets.

Take a photo-stop at **Hawa Mahal** (the Palace of Winds). Five stories in height, and built of red and pink sandstone highlighted with white quicklime, it is thought that the women of the royal harem used the many casements to observe everyday life in the street below without being seen.

Continue to the **City Palace** built within the fortified area of the original city, with one of the finest monumental entrances in India. The Palace is now principally a museum housing a collection of great treasures, including miniature paintings, carpets, royal garments and other interesting objects from Jaipur's intriguing past. The former royal family retains a part of the palace for their personal use.

Cultural connections (Optional):

- Evening Bazaar walk. The pulse of the city often lies in its bazaars or markets. Mingle and talk with the locals whilst observing some of the regions culinary delight. Observe local artisans in their workshops; jewelers and silversmiths, gold and silver foil makers. The iconic Hawa Mahal also called the Palace of the winds is the meeting - point at which this walk begins. Here you also have the option of seeing and trying the art of Henna painting.

Meal Plan: Breakfast



DAY 06 JAIPUR – NIMAJ**BY SURFACE: 220 KM / 04 HOUR**

This morning, drive to Nimaj. Upon arrival, check in for your stay.

Nimaj Palace: One of the oldest Heritage property of the country running as a hotel, which makes you relive the medieval era in its 22 ALL-SUITES accommodation. Over the centuries the Thakurs of Nimaj refurbished the palace as per their likes which even today evokes a feeling of awe and reverence and the imposing gates remind you of the chivalrous days. The palace facade carved in red sand stone makes it a distinctive landmark in the architectural history of India. Many typical Indian Motifs and designs used here have to be seen to be believed which gives the palace a unique flavour.

Wonder through the Palace, which is a testament to the valor and chivalry of Marwar. Afternoon, start on a guided tour to the nearby village to see and understand the traditional, rural Rajasthani lifestyle, which lays stress on harmony, conservation and the full utilization of natural resources. Visit the 9th century temple and end the tour watching the sunset over the 'Chhatra Sagar Lake'.

Meal Plan: Breakfast, lunch and dinner

DAY 07 NIMAJ – JODHPUR**BY SURFACE: 125 KM / 03 HOUR**

This morning, continue your journey to Jodhpur. This drive is on the state highway, passing through smaller towns, villages and local haats (market). These local haats sell everything of daily use and people from nearby villages come over to sell their produce, buy daily groceries, utensils and garments.

On arrival, check in for your stay.

Jodhpur looks out over the desert to the West and the massive fort, topping a sheer rocky hill, which rises right in the middle of the town, totally dominates the city. The old city of Jodhpur is surrounded by a wall 10km long, which was built about a century after the city was founded. From the fort you can clearly see where the old city ends and the new begins. The old city is fascinating jungle of winding streets of great interest to wander around. Eight gates lead out from the walled city. It's one of the more interesting cities in India and those baggy-tight horse riding trousers, jodhpurs, took their name from this locale.

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Afternoon, you will visit the **Mehrangarh Fort (citadel of the Sun)** that evokes the very spirit of the Rathore, the ruling local Rajput clan. Visit its various palaces with their delicate friezes and respective museums, displaying treasures of the royal family.

North of Meherangarh Fort, and connected to it by road is **Jaswant Thada**, a pillared marble memorial to the popular ruler Jaswant Singh II (1878-95), who purged Jodhpur of dacoits, initiated irrigation systems and boosted the economy. The cenotaphs of members of the royal family who have died since Jaswant are close by his memorial; those who preceded him are remembered by *chhatris* at Mandor. This south-facing spot is also the best place from which to photograph the fort, looming above the sheer rocky Meherangarh plateau.

Meal Plan: breakfast

DAY 08 JODHPUR - UDAIPUR

BY SURFACE: 260 KM / 07 HOUR

This morning, drive to Udaipur, en-route visiting **Ranakpur Jain Temples**. This is one of the best complexes of Jain religion, which is particularly noted for the grandiose scale of its architecture and the highly decorated ceilings, walls and 1444 different pillars. The priests of the temples did all the temple designing and their generations are still continuing the work.

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. 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. The lake itself is a romantic setting surrounding the gleaming white Lake Palace and the Jag Mandir.

Arrive Udaipur and check in for your stay.

Meal Plan: Breakfast

DAY 09 UDAIPUR

This morning, proceed for the **sightseeing of Udaipur City**, also known as the City of Sunrise

First on your sightseeing tour, you will proceed for a tour of the **City Palace**, which overlooks the Lake Pichola. The City Palace was built in 1725 of granite and marble with filigreed balconies, ornate windows and craftsmanship in glass. The royal palace walls stretch over a mile on the eastern side of the lake. Within the palace is a maze of courtyards, apartments and decorated halls. The rooms are covered with frescoes, displays of



Royal processions, stone and glass mosaics and ornamental doors and painted windows. The marble throne in the coronation rooms was last used during the time Maharana Sangram Singh II (1710-30) and nearby is the Sun Window installed by Maharaja Bhim Singh (1778-1828). This is the divine symbol of the house of Mewar, which traces its lineage to the Surya Vansha, descendants of the Sun. Each palace within is an outstanding creation of art. Visit **the museums** and the **hall of public audiences, the private chambers of the royal ladies at the palace** and **Sahelion-ki-Badi**.

In the afternoon you will enjoy a **motor launch cruise** on the placid waters of **Lake Pichola**. The beautiful Lake Pichola was enlarged by Maharana Udai Singh after he founded the city. The city palace extends a considerable distance along the east bank of the lake. From the boat you will be able to view the city of Udaipur as it rises majestically above the lake in the middle of the Rajasthan desert. One would get an interesting view of the Dhobi (laundry) ghats. Also visit the Jag Mandir Palace - a lovely island palace in the middle of the lake.

In the evening, experience the hustle bustle of the old market at Udaipur. Walk past the spice shops, jewellery shops, utensil shops, jiggery shops, silver market and local meat & food shop.

Meal Plan: Breakfast

DAY 10 UDAIPUR – DELHI BY FLIGHT – 9W 2630 at 1630/1810 HOUR

Morning at leisure. Check out 12 noon.

Afternoon, transfer to the airport to board the flight for Delhi. Arrive Delhi and connect your onward flight for home.

Meal Plan: Breakfast

:: TOUR ENDS ::

Golden Triangle with Rajasthan

Hotels Envisaged:

City	Nights	Deluxe	Superior	Meal Plan
Delhi	02	Le Meridien- Executive room	The Suryaa- Deluxe room	CP
Agra	01	Double tree by Hilton- Guest room	Four Points by Sheraton- Superior	CP
Jaipur	02	Hilton - Guest room	Holiday Inn City Center- Superior	CP
Nimaj	01	Nimaj Palace - Suite	Nimaj Palace - Suite	AP
Jodhpur	01	Vivanta by Taj Hari Mahal - Superior Garden View	Ajit Bhawan- Executive	CP
Udaipur	02	Fatehgarh- Renaissance	Hotel Ramada - Deluxe room	CP

Services Include:

- Accommodation on twin share basis for total of 9 night's as per the hotels mentioned or similar.
- Buffet breakfast at all hotels except in Nimaj where all meals shall be provided.
- All transport services shall be provided as per the program
 - 02 –03 pax - Toyota Innova
 - 04 - 06 pax - Tempo Traveller
 - 07 – 14 pax –Mini Coach
- English speaking local guides during sightseeing tours.
- One time monument entrance fee as per itinerary.
- Rickshaw ride in Delhi.
- Elephant ride in Jaipur.
- Boat ride on Pichola Lake in Udaipur.
- All applicable taxes.

Not Included:

- International/domestic airfare
- Any room service, telephone charges, mini bar, gratuities, tips.
- Any expenses of personal nature
- Any insurance of any kind.
- Any meals not specified in the itinerary.
- Any item not specified under 'cost includes'.

Special Notes:

- **This Itinerary can be customized and Pricing is available upon request.**
- Hotel Check-In time is 1400 Hrs & check out time is 1200 NOON.
- We reserve the right to modify itineraries and/or substitute hotels of a reasonably similar quality, when available, should circumstances beyond our control deem it necessary.
- Taj Mahal is closed to public on Fridays.
- Elephant ride to visit Amber Fort in Jaipur is subject to availability as government has restricted the number of rides and prior reservation. Clients will have to queue themselves and wait to see if they can get a chance to have the elephant ride. There is no guarantee that even after queuing, they will get an elephant ride if the quota of rides is over. In this case, we shall provide Jeep ride to ascend the Amber Fort.