

## Rajasthan in Style, India

This wonderful Rajasthan holiday captures the romance and colour of India's most culturally rich and scenically splendid region.



### Group departures

See overleaf for departure dates

### Holiday overview

Style	Tour
Accommodation	Hotels, Luxury camp
Grade	Tour
Duration	17 days from London to London
Min/Max group size	4 / 12. Guaranteed to run for 4
Trip Leader	Local Leader India
Land only	Joining in Delhi, India

**Private Departures & Tailor Made itineraries available**



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# Departures

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## Group departures

### 2021 Dates:

Sat 06 Nov - Mon 22 Nov

### 2022 Dates:

Sat 26 Feb - Mon 14 Mar

Sat 05 Nov - Mon 21 Nov

### 2023 Dates:

Sat 23 Feb - Mon 11 Mar

## Group prices and optional supplements

Please contact us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or visit our website for our land only and flight inclusive prices and single supplement options.

## No Surcharge Guarantee

The flight inclusive or land only price will be confirmed to you at the time you make your booking. There will be no surcharges after your booking has been confirmed.

## Will the trip run?

This trip is guaranteed to run for 4 people and for a maximum of 12. In the rare event that we cancel a holiday, we will refund you in full and give you at least 6 weeks warning. Many trips do fill up quickly - we advise you to book early if you want to secure a place(s) on the dates of your choice.

## Insurance

We offer a travel insurance scheme - please contact us for details.

## Private Departures

We can also offer this trip as a private holiday. A Private Departure follows exactly the same itinerary as the group departure but at dates to suit you (subject to availability) - please contact us with your preferred dates.

## Tailor Made service

We pride ourselves on the level of quality and choice we provide for our clients who want a fully tailor made holiday. A holiday will be created especially for you by one of our well-travelled experts. They will be able to advise on the accommodation best suited to your needs, the sights you should visit (and those to avoid!) and the best walks and activities matched to your ability. In short, we will work together with you to create your perfect holiday. If you would like to explore the idea of a Tailor Made holiday with Mountain Kingdoms then please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 or see the Tailor Made pages of our website for further inspiration.

# Your guide

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Your leader will be a knowledgeable, friendly, English-speaking Indian guide. We use one of the largest and oldest tour operators in India who have excellent, highly-trained staff.

## Your trip highlights

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- Visit remote Jaisalmer with its wonderful desert location and impressive fort
- See the iconic Taj Mahal at Agra and the Amber Fort at Jaipur
- Tour majestic Jodhpur fort and visit the city's lively markets
- Enjoy overnight and evening game safaris at quirky Korta Escape
- Spend time in romantic Udaipur with its fabulous palaces and beautiful lake
- Stay at Chhatrasagar luxury camp - a fabulous experience.

## At a glance itinerary

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Days 1-2	Fly to Delhi.
Days 3-4	Fly to Jaisalmer. Evening visit to dunes, camel ride and Rajasthani dinner. Sightseeing in Jaisalmer.
Days 5-6	Drive to Jodhpur and city sightseeing
Day 7	Drive to Korta and evening game safari
Days 8-9	Drive to Udaipur and sightseeing in Udaipur
Days 10-11	Drive to Chittorgarh and sightseeing in Chittorgarh
Days 12-13	Drive to Chhatrasagar and time at Chhatrasagar
Days 14-15	Drive to Jaipur, sightseeing and drive to Agra
Day 16	Sightseeing in Agra and drive to Delhi
Day 17	Fly home

## Trip summary

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Rajasthan epitomises all that is most colourful and exotic about India, with its rugged desert landscapes, romantic warrior forts perched on hilltops, fairytale royal palaces and a vibrant and colourful heritage and culture. Here you will find a fantastic mix of Mogul and Rajput history - colourful tribespeople throng the streets along with their gaily caparisoned elephants, camels and horses, the men wearing amazing flamboyant turbans and the women in colourful dress and clanking with heavy silver jewellery.

Our trip will immerse you in this colourful region. You will see some of Rajasthan's most fabulous sights: 'The Golden City' of Jaisalmer set amidst desert scenery; the lovely town of Udaipur with its marvelous palaces and lakeside scenery; atmospheric Jodhpur with its ancient fort set on a rocky outcrop; Jaipur, the pink city, and finally you will visit the Taj Mahal as a fitting finale to this stunning trip.

Rajasthan also has some wonderful wildlife and you will get a taster of this with a game safari at Korta, and at Chhatrasagar you will stay at a wonderful luxury camp set in an idyllic situation overlooking a lake, where you can watch wildlife and birds whilst sipping a sundowner.

Accommodation on this trip is stylish and interesting - heritage hotels, former mansions and palaces, comfortable cottages as guests of the local landowner and two nights in luxury tents in an idyllic lakeside spot where we can watch wildlife and birds while we sip a sundowner.



# Your trip itinerary

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## Day 1: Fly London to Delhi.

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Fly overnight from London to Delhi.

**Overnight: In flight**

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## Day 2: Arrive Delhi. Group transfer to hotel. At leisure.

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On your arrival in Delhi will be met and transferred to your hotel and you will be at leisure for the rest of the day.

The Maidens Hotel is convenient for some of the sights of Old Delhi such as the Friday mosque, the Red Fort, an amazing Moghul fortress and palace, and Chandni Chowk, the old bazaar. There is a metro station within walking distance if you wish to venture further afield.

Although Delhi can initially still be quite a culture shock with its heat, dust and frenetic activity, it is nowadays a vibrant and cosmopolitan modern city with thriving business areas. Among the modern glass and steel of the 21st century city there are reminders of the past especially Lutyens' impressive buildings built to celebrate New Delhi as the capital of the British Raj.

**Overnight: Hotel Maidens or Similar, Delhi**

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## Day 3: Fly from Delhi to Jaisalmer. Evening visit to sand dunes, camel ride, and Rajasthani dinner.

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After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for the flight to Jaisalmer. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel where you may relax until the late afternoon.

Jaisalmer city is located in the remote far west of the state Rajasthan on the edge of the great Thar Desert. No place better evokes the exotic history of Rajasthan with its massive fortresses, camels plying ancient trade routes, colourful tribes and desert mystery than does Jaisalmer with its stunning fort, narrow twisting alleyways, colourful bazaars, magnificent palaces and extravagant havelis (manor houses) - all built from the same honey-coloured sandstone, leading to Jaisalmer being known as the Golden City.

In the evening you will drive out of the city to sand dunes out in the Thar Desert where you will ride a camel out into the dunes to take in a spectacular sunset over the desert and enjoy an al fresco Rajasthani dinner.

**Overnight: Sonaar Haveli Hotel or Similar, Jaisalmer (Meals: BLD)**

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## Day 4: In Jaisalmer. Tour of City.

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After breakfast you will have a tour of the city, with a visit to the massive fort - for the better part of its 800-year history the fort was the city of Jaisalmer and nearly a quarter of the population of Jaisalmer still lives within the fort. It was built in 1156 AD by the Rajput Rawal (ruler), Jaisal, from whom the city derives its name, and stands at the crossroads of important trade routes. The fort's massive sandstone walls are a tawny, golden colour meaning that it is camouflaged in the yellow desert. You will enter the fort through one of its massive gateways into a magical world of palaces, merchants' havelis (mansions), temples and crowded alleys where a host of craftsmen sell their colourful wares. The beautiful mansions of Jaisalmer are evidence of the fabulous wealth that trade through the city created in the 19th century and you will visit a couple of the better known ones, Nathmal Ki Haveli and Patwon Ki Haveli, also known as the 'mansion of brocade merchants'. You will also visit the famous Jain temples which date back to the 12th and 15th centuries.



**Overnight: Sonaar Haveli Hotel or Similar, Jaisalmer (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 5: Drive to Jodhpur - 285km, 5-6 hours.**

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Today you will have a long drive to Jodhpur but it is very interesting and scenic.

Jodhpur is another fantastic desert city. It was built to control the vital trade route from Delhi to Gujarat and the city thrived on the profits of the trade in opium, sandalwood, dates and copper which the city controlled. Jodhpur is dominated by the huge fort of Mehrangarh, one of the finest in Rajasthan, which overlooks the town from its position on a rocky ridge. Jodhpur is often called the Blue City due to the vivid blue painted houses which cluster around the base of the fort.

**Overnight: Ranbanka Palace or Similar, Jodhpur (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 6: Day in Jodhpur including visit to Mehrangarh Fort. Evening visit to market.**

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Today you will have a leisurely breakfast and then you will tour the stunning Mehrangarh Fort. This fort is a formidable feat of construction and seems to grow out of the rock it is built on. The towering ramparts overlook a sheer drop to the town below and looking down from the fort the town appears really blue because houses in the old city are traditionally painted blue by the town's Brahmin inhabitants. Within this huge fort are several smaller palaces and apartments and a museum with a fine collection of paintings, armoury, royal palanquins, elephant howdahs, textiles, and folk instruments. You can also see the original cannons on the ramparts. Later you will visit the Jaswant Thada, an elegant marble cenotaph built in memory of a former maharaja and known as the 'Taj Mahal of Marwar'.



In the evening you will visit the teeming streets and narrow alleys of the old town below the fort, and the bustling local market which clusters around the Ghanta Ghar (clock tower), a popular local landmark. While you are in Jodhpur there are plenty of good opportunities for shopping, for local handicrafts, fabrics and jewellery and also for looking round local antique shops.

**Overnight: Ranbanka Palace or Similar, Jodhpur (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 7: Drive from Jodhpur to Korta - 157km, 3-4 hours. Evening jeep safari.**

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Today you drive from Jodhpur to Korta, situated near the towns of Sumerpur and Sheoganj. Korta Escape was established as a resort in 2005. The resort is located on a working farm owned by the hospitable family of Mr Nirabhai Singh. Their farm is surrounded by farmland and small villages and a stay here will allow you to experience traditional rural Rajasthan life. The Singhs are the traditional nobility of the area and are related to the royal houses of both Jodhpur and Udaipur. The current generation is the 17th to live at Korta. The family formerly held a very large estate and controlled eight villages. Today they have a smaller estate and as well as running this hotel they breed Marwari horses, an indigenous breed of horses descended from the splendid war horses that served the ruling families and warriors of feudal India. These beautiful and spirited horses have distinctive scimitar shaped ears which curl to meet over the head.

In the late afternoon you will go for a 'safari' game drive through a local reserve on land set aside by the Singh family for protection of wildlife and birds. Here you may see wild boar, herds of Nilgai, hares and other animals as well as lots of birds. You may also visit a couple of small farms where castor oil plants and other crops are grown. Finally you will drive to 'sunset point' where you can watch animals at a small waterhole as the sun goes down. You then return to Korta Escape for cocktails and dinner.

**Overnight: Korta Escape or Similar (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 8: Village visit. Drive from Korta to Udaipur - 175km, 4-5 hours. Time at leisure.**

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In the morning you will visit the neighbouring village to see the locals milking and performing other traditional farming tasks and then you will see the shepherds taking out their flocks of sheep and goats to graze. You can also see the attractive traditional houses of the village with their neat and tidy earth floored yards. You may be invited to visit a house and will have the chance to chat to the charming village ladies.

Later you drive to Udaipur. Udaipur is one of the most romantic cities in Rajasthan with its wonderful lake side setting, beautiful palace architecture and streets thronging with colourful ethnic people. The city is set on the shores of Lake Pichola with the Aravalli Hills as a background and the lake front is dominated by the huge City Palace. From the palace you get fine views of the lake and the pretty Lake Palace situated on an island in the middle of the lake. This palace was built in the 18th century as a summer resort for Udaipur's Royal Family.

Your hotel is next door to the City Palace and is near the lake. In the afternoon you may venture out into the busy streets for some shopping and perhaps to enjoy a sundowner by the lake.

**Overnight: Jagat Niwas Palace Hotel or Similar, Udaipur (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 9: In Udaipur. Sightseeing. City Palace and lakes**

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This morning you will visit Udaipur's imposing City Palace, the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Encircled by fortifications this huge granite and marble building, containing no fewer than 11 palaces, is built in the shape of a ship. The whole palace is an elaborate confection of painted doorways, mirrored walls, ivory doors, coloured glass windows, inlaid marble balconies and peaceful courtyards. The walls are hung with paintings and the rooms are furnished with antiques. You will also see the grand and impressive though rather gloomy Durbar Hall built to impress guests of the Maharaja and the museum with its large collection of weapons and artefacts.



Other attractions in Udaipur are its lovely lakes - Lake Pichola and nearby Fateh Sagar lake. Later you will have some free time for personal exploration or shopping for Rajasthani handicrafts or to just relax at your hotel.

**Overnight: Jagat Niwas Palace Hotel or Similar, Udaipur (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 10: Drive Udaipur to Chittorgarh - 118km, 2-3 hours. Visit Chittorgarh Fort.**

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Chittorgarh's main attraction is its huge fort, the largest fort complex in India, which rises from the plains like a huge rock island. Nearly 6 kms long it is surrounded on all sides by high cliffs and has seven fortified gateways. The fort was built in the 7th century and although partially ruined after many centuries of battles it also contains a beautiful and ancient Kali temple. Chittorgarh Fort holds a special place in the heart of the Rajput people and over the centuries the Hindu rulers of Chittorgarh fought fiercely to maintain their independence. Three times the fort was attacked and laid siege to by more powerful enemies, including in 1567 when it was attacked by the Mughal king, Akbar. Each time, the people of Chittorgarh chose death before dishonour when faced with certain defeat. The men donned saffron martyrs' robes and rode out from the fort to certain death, while the women and children immolated themselves on huge funeral pyres.

**Overnight: Castle Bijaipur Hotel or Similar, Chittorgarh (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 11: Sightseeing at Chittorgarh.**

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Today you will take in more of the sights of the fort and town. Chittorgarh was historically a centre for Jains and today you may visit the beautiful 12th century Jain tower, Kirti Stambh (The Tower of Fame). The Kirti Stambh consists of many columned balconies, latticed arches and intricately carved niches with figurines of Jain saints. You also visit another tower, the ornately sculpted and carved Vijay Stambh tower, where you can climb the 157 steps to the top to enjoy a fantastic view of the city.

**Overnight: Castle Bijaipur Hotel or Similar, Chittorgarh (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 12: Drive to Chhatrasagar with visit to Nimaj en route - 214 km, 5-6 hours.**

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Today you drive to Chhatrasagar. On the way you may stop to visit the lively little town of Nimaj with its bustling and prosperous streets and colourful fruit and vegetable stalls and visit the attractive old palace situated right in the centre of the village and the 9th century temple, dedicated to goddess Durga. The palace, owned by the Thakurs of Nimaj, has been recently refurbished as a pleasant hotel.

You will then continue the short distance to Chhatrasagar. Previously Chhatrasagar acted as a hunting lodge on the Nimaj Estate. Nowadays, it is a luxury camp, situated in a stunning position overlooking the lake. Its east-facing bungalow style tented rooms have private sit-outs and offer panoramic views. They are stylishly furnished and decorated and have attached bathrooms with hot water. The camp has its own heated pool and spa, whilst the food served here is exceptional.

This is a wonderful spot for bird watchers and nature lovers and in the afternoon you will have a walk by the lake and can then enjoy a sun-downer while admiring the view.

**Overnight: Raas Chhatrasagar Luxury Camp, Nimaj (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 13: At Chhatrasagar.**

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Today you will have a full day to enjoy Chhatrasagar and its beautiful surroundings.

You may either just relax, take a bird watching walk round the lake, or a nature walk in nearby country side. There will also be the opportunity to visit a nearby village, or a local farm. If you did not have time to explore the town of Nimaj on your way through, you could return there to visit the palace and temple.



**Overnight: Raas Chhatrasagar Luxury Camp, Nimaj (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 14: Drive to Jaipur - 227 km, 5-6 hours. Evening visit to Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal.**

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Today you drive to Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan and its largest city. It was built in 1727 by Maharaja Jai Singh II in a style of unusual magnificence and today the city is a labyrinth of fascinating bazaars, opulent palaces and historic sights. It is often known as the "Pink City" after the city was painted pink in 1876 to honour a visit by the Princess of Wales in 1876. In the heart of the old city, the City Palace occupies a large area and is divided into a series of courtyards, gardens and buildings. The outer palace was built by Jai Singh but other additions are much more recent some dating to the beginning of the 20th century. You will visit the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), built in 1799, a distinctive five stored building built in sandstone, although in effect what you see is actually little more than a façade. You will also visit the famous Jantar Mantar, an ancient astrological observatory built by Jai Singh.

Jaipur is very good for shopping, both for local handicrafts and for clothing. The city is well known for jewellery manufacture and also as a centre for fabrics.

**Overnight: Alsisar Haveli Hotel or Similar, Jaipur (Meals: BLD)**

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#### **Day 15: Visit Amber Fort. Drive to Agra with visit to Fatehpur Sikri on the way - 204 km, 5-6 hours.**

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After breakfast you will drive the short distance to visit Amber Fort, a magnificent fortress/palace constructed in 1592 by Raja Man Singh, the Rajput commander of Akbar's army. It sits high on a hill enjoying great views of the lake below and of the Aravalli hills.

After your visit to the fort you will drive to Agra with a visit on the way to the ancient city of Fatehpur Sikri. Fatehpur Sikri was built in the 16th century by Akhbar the Great to be the new capital of the Mughal Empire, but only lasted for some 10 years. The complex of monuments and temples, an Indo-Islamic masterpiece, all in a uniform architectural style, includes one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid.

You then continue to Agra.

**Overnight: Radisson Hotel or Similar, Agra (Meals: BLD)**

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**Day 16: Agra Sightseeing including the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. Drive to Delhi - 210 km, 3-4 hours.**

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Today you will sightsee in Agra. The star of the show in Agra is of course, the Taj Mahal and this will certainly not disappoint. It is undoubtedly one of the greatest monuments of all time. It was built as a mausoleum by the fifth Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved and favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal, and fulfilled a promise that he made to her on her deathbed 'to erect a monument to match her beauty'. The Mausoleum stands in a formally laid-out walled garden and the tomb itself is raised on a terrace; you will first see it reflected in the central canal. The building is entirely encased in white marble, and the interior of the building is lit dimly through pierced marble lattices. The whole building features a virtuoso display of carved marble and wonderful designs created with inset semi-precious stones.

You will also visit Agra Fort, an imposing Mughal fort. The fort is built alongside the Yamuna River and stretches almost 2.5 km. Building was started during the reign of Akbar the Great and completed during the reign of Shah Jahan. It was the main residence of the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty till 1638, when the capital was shifted from Agra to Delhi. Part of the fort is still in use by the Indian Army and is not accessible to the public, but there's still enough left to get an insight into the life of the Mughals and their court during the 16th century. The Audience Hall (Diwan I Khas) is very imposing and you will also visit various palaces within the walls of the fort which now only show a small remnant of their former opulence and grandeur.

After your Agra sightseeing you will drive to Delhi where you will stay in a hotel near the airport to be convenient for your flight home in the morning.

**Overnight: Holiday Inn New Delhi International Airport, Delhi (Meals: B)**

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**Day 17: Group transfer to hotel. Fly back to London.**

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After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport to check in for your flight home.



## Our grading system

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Rajasthan in Style is graded as a Tour, as described below.

### Tours

Tours may include any of the following activities: sightseeing, visiting local villages, exploring temples, game viewing, birdwatching, husky sledding, mountain flights, city tours and dramatic journeys by road, rail, or river. Occasionally there will be short, gentle walks so that you can properly explore the cultural sites you are visiting.

## Trip altitude

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**Important** - please be aware that this trip involves travel at altitude. Whilst all our itineraries are carefully designed to optimise acclimatisation to high altitudes, participants on this trip are likely to experience some symptoms of being at altitude. The Dossier pack we provide when you book your holiday includes comprehensive advice on safe travel at altitude. If you require further information or advice on travel at altitude prior to booking please contact the office to speak to an experienced member of our team. Alternatively we recommend [www.medex.org.uk](http://www.medex.org.uk) as a good source of information.

## What the price includes

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**Mountain Kingdoms** aims to offer the best value for money. We do not charge extra for meal packages or apply local charges and try to ensure that all the key elements of your holiday are included.

### What's included:

- ✓ A local in-country English-speaking Indian Leader
- ✓ Good standard hotel accommodation in Delhi, bed and breakfast basis
- ✓ Best available hotels, often heritage hotels, in outlying towns, on full board
- ✓ All road transport by modern, comfortable, quality private vehicles
- ✓ All internal flights and domestic transfers
- ✓ All meals included out of Delhi
- ✓ All sightseeing as specified
- ✓ Economy class return air fares from the UK & UK Departure Tax (flight inclusive only)
- ✓ Single, timed group airport transfer for international flights
- ✓ Carbon offsetting with the Ecoan Tree Planting Project (for clients taking our flight inclusive option)
- ✓ A free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle

### Airport transfers

The cost of a transfer to/from the airport is included in the price of your holiday. This is a single group transfer which is arranged to coincide with the timings of the group flights. If you book your own flights which arrive/depart at different times to this, or we book flights at your request that have different timings, we will be happy to provide a quote for a separate transfer. Please contact us should you require any further information.

### What's not included:

- ✗ Travel insurance
- ✗ Visa fees
- ✗ Lunch and evening meals in Delhi
- ✗ Optional trips
- ✗ Tips

### Water-to-Go Reusable Bottle Campaign

We have joined the campaign to help cut down on the use of plastics and, in particular, single-use water bottles. To do this we have teamed up with the revolutionary company, Water-to-Go who have developed a multi-use drinking bottle with a reusable filter that eliminates over 99.9% of all microbiological contaminants. This makes water from virtually any source safe to drink and significantly reduces the need for travellers to buy bottles of water wherever they are in the world.

Our clients who are not given a free Mountain Kingdoms kit bag for their holiday (these are required for certain treks), will instead receive a free Mountain Kingdoms Water-to-Go bottle. These unique Water-to-Go bottles can also be purchased from us at a discounted rate.

For further information about our campaign visit <https://www.mountainkingdoms.com/water-to-go-reusable-bottle-campaign>.

## Your accommodation

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We will endeavour to secure the hotels named in the itinerary but if our first choice of hotel is not available we will book a suitable alternative of a similar standard.



### **Hotel Maidens or Similar, Delhi**

The Hotel Maidens is a Delhi landmark. This lovely heritage hotel was established in 1903 as one of the very first hotels of Delhi and is steeped in old-world charm and history, but is also very stylish and comfortable, with all facilities. The hotel is convenient to the sights of Old Delhi and is just a 5 minute walk from a metro station if you wish to explore further afield.



### **Sonaar Haveli Hotel or Similar, Jaisalmer**

Sonaar Haveli is a contemporary boutique hotel situated close to the sights and attractions of Jaisalmer city centre. The haveli blends comfort with opulent Rajasthani interiors and contemporary design. Rooms are comfortable and well-appointed with all facilities. From the rooftop terrace you can enjoy views over the desert landscape and the Jaisalmer palace and the fort - sunsets from here are sensational!



### **Ranbanka Palace or Similar, Jodhpur**

Ranbanka Palace is a classic heritage hotel. Originally built in 1927 for Maharajadhiraj Sir Ajit Singh ji part of the palace has been carefully and tastefully restored and converted to a hotel to provide modern amenities but retaining echoes of its palatial past. The hotel has a lovely garden, swimming pool and spa.



### **Korta Escape or Similar**

Korta Escape is a working farm owned by the hospitable Singh family, local landowners. Accommodation at Korta Escape is in cottages a short walk from the farm house, each with a private veranda with cane chairs and tables where you can relax and watch the sun go down on the Aravalli Hills. There are lots of birds in the compound - partridge sometimes come right up to the cottages, there are peafowl everywhere and striped tree squirrels run about the lawns. The excellent food is prepared under the supervision of the family, using local ingredients and produce from the farm, most of which is organic. At Korta Escape you can also visit the stables where they keep rare Marwari horses, known for their prowess as war horses and their distinctive inward-turning ear tips.



### **Jagat Niwas Palace Hotel or Similar, Udaipur**

The Jagat Niwas is a heritage mansion located close to the City Palace and overlooking Lake Pichola. The hotel is a family run property, set in a 17th century haveli (mansion) with an ambience of Rajasthani opulence and hospitality, which has been restored to its former glory. Rooms are palatial, with vintage décor and are either lake facing or courtyard facing. The hotel offers a comfortable and memorable stay.



### **Castle Bijaipur Hotel or Similar, Chittorgarh**

The Castle Bijaipur is a luxury heritage hotel, situated in the Vindhyan Hills 600 metres above sea level, surrounded by flowering trees and overlooking farmland. Built as a castle in the 16th century and converted to a hotel in 1991, it is still home to the local ruling family. The welcome here is warm and rooms are of course comfortable with all facilities.



#### **Raas Chhatrasagar Luxury Camp, Nimaj**

Raas Chhatrasagar is luxurious accommodation in a stunning setting beside a beautiful lake. The very comfortable bungalow style tented rooms are stylishly furnished and decorated and have attached bathrooms with showers and separate bath tubs. The rooms look out over the lake and have private sit-out areas which offer panoramic views. The camp has a heated pool, spa services, bar and an attractive dining area where you can enjoy some exceptional food.



#### **Alsisar Haveli Hotel or Similar, Jaipur**

The Alsisar Haveli is a former mansion, now a comfortable Heritage hotel, located close to a gate into the old city and a good base for sightseeing in Jaipur. The hotel has great character and has comfortable rooms, gardens and swimming pool.



#### **Radisson Hotel or Similar, Agra**

Located on the banks of the Yamuna River, the Radisson is an upscale hotel offering great views of the Taj Mahal. Rooms are stylish and contemporary with a good range of modern conveniences including Wi-Fi and minibars. The hotel has a pool, spa and several dining options including a rooftop restaurant with unobstructed Taj views.



#### **Holiday Inn New Delhi International Airport, Delhi**

The Holiday Inn is situated just 4km from the airport and offers all the facilities you would expect from a good quality hotel. It is also just a short walk from a metro station.



## Meal arrangements

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15 breakfasts, 13 lunches and 13 dinners. Lunches and dinners are included everywhere but Delhi.

## Flight arrangements

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### **Flight inclusive from price**

Our 'Flight inclusive from' price is based on the best fare available at the time of printing. As airfares change on a constant basis, this should be used only as a guide price. Rest assured that, at the time of booking, we will endeavour to get the best possible price for the flights you need. Remember, the earlier you book the greater your chances of securing the best fare.

Flight inclusive packages booked through Mountain Kingdoms are protected through our ATOL bonding scheme.

### **Flight upgrades and regional Airports**

Please call us on +44 (0)1453 844400 for flight options from regional UK airports, Business Class upgrades, alternative airlines and stopovers. Please also check our website for the most up to date flight inclusive 'from' prices.

## Further information

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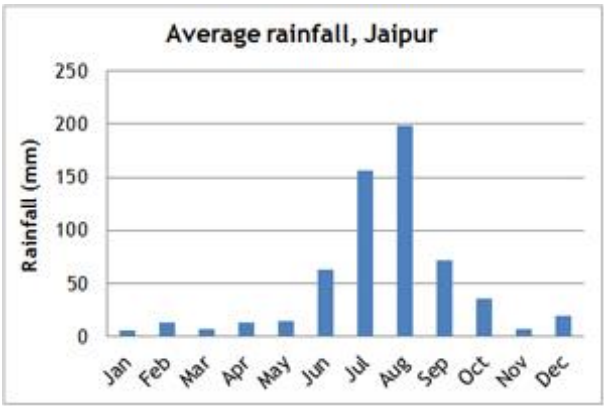
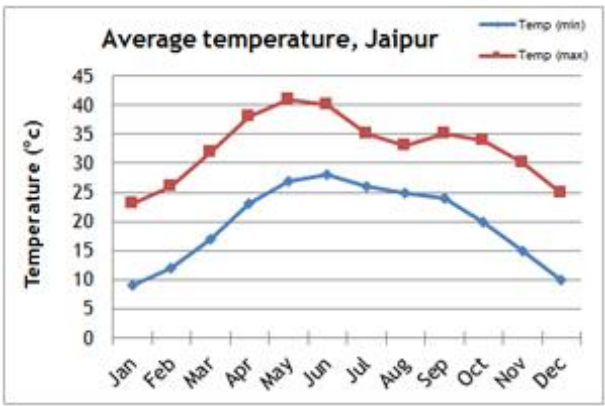
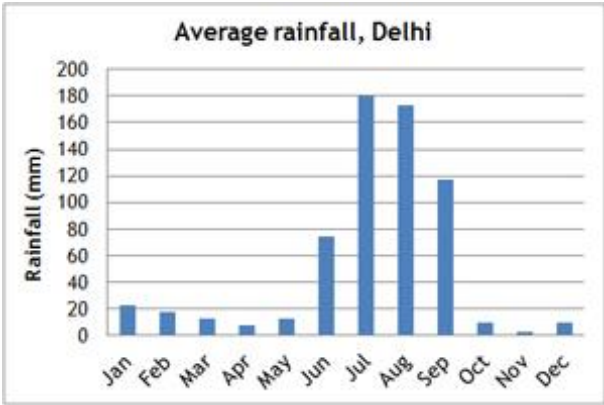
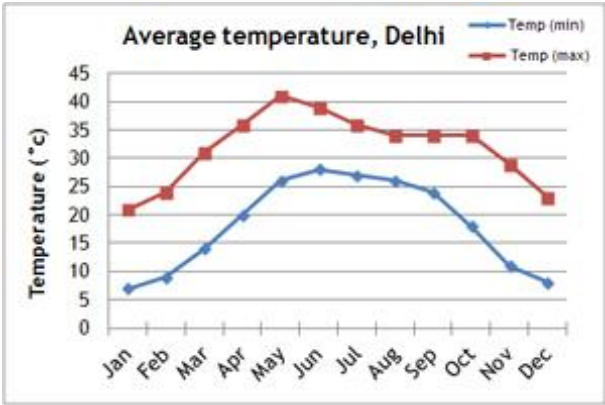
When we receive your booking, we send you a full Trip Dossier which contains details of any visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. If you do have queries at this initial stage do call us on 01453 844400 and we will be pleased to offer advice.

## The nature of adventure travel

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Every effort will be made to keep to this itinerary but we cannot guarantee that things may not change, either before you travel or while you are away. By its very nature, adventure travel involves an element of the unexpected, particularly in more remote areas. A variety of factors such as adverse weather conditions, changes to local schedules and difficulties with transportation can all contribute to the need to make changes to the itinerary, often at the very last minute. Our Operations Manager and your Trip Leader will make every effort to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary and minimise the impact of any changes, but an easy-going and flexible nature is a real asset! Please note that all timings and distances given are approximate.

# Climate information



## Extensions

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### Extending your holiday

If you would like additional inspiration on how or where to extend your holiday please call us on 01453 844400. Alternatively, you can download a range of extension information sheets on our website, at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).



#### **Additional accommodation in Delhi**

If you would like to stay longer in Delhi we can arrange additional nights and upgrades from our selection of first rate hotels such as the Oberoi Maidens in the city or Claridges Hotel in New Delhi.

#### **Ranthambore National Park**

Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan is one of the finest national parks in northern India. It has a diverse range of habitats attracting a fantastic variety of wildlife including tigers, leopard, bears and monkeys as well as a large number of exotic birds. We can arrange a three night stay at a jungle camp from where you can enjoy many wildlife watching activities such as nature walks, jeep safaris and bird watching.



#### **Corbett National Park**

Corbett was India's first national Park and hosts a spectacular range of mammals, reptiles and birds including a large population of Royal Bengal tigers, elephants and leopard. For this extension, you take the train to Ramnagar for a three night stay at a lovely lodge with a full programme of jeep safaris, jungle walks and bird watching.

## Why book this holiday with Mountain Kingdoms?

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- The itinerary has been carefully planned to ensure you have time to thoroughly explore the sights you are visiting but also to have time to relax and enjoy your time in Rajasthan.
- You will stay in some wonderful heritage properties, giving you a real taste of the Raj and princely India.
- Not only will you discover many of Rajasthan's major cultural attractions but you will also visit villages and enjoy excellent wildlife viewing opportunities - a great combination of activities.
- You will travel in a comfortable modern air-conditioned bus.
- Your tour will be led by knowledgeable English-speaking guides.
- We have a maximum group size of 12 to ensure all the benefits of a genuine small group experience without the negative aspects often associated with larger tour groups.
- Within the Mountain Kingdoms team we have several people who have journeyed extensively around Rajasthan. If you have any queries about this holiday please don't hesitate to contact our office.
- We offer a flexible service and can extend your holiday with extra hotel nights, upgrades and exciting activities.
- As part of our commitment to 'Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency', we will be carbon-offsetting all international flights booked through us by donating funds to the Ecoan Tree Planting Project in Peru.
- We are an IATA accredited agent and work directly with some of the world's major airlines. If you wish to fly with a specific airline, from a regional UK airport or on alternative dates to the main group we would be happy to arrange this for you. Please contact our Flights Manager, April, for flight options, quotes and further information.

If we've tempted you to take your next holiday with us, we advise you to check availability and you can do this via our website: [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com) or by calling the team on +44 (0)1453 844400. Bookings can be made online, by phone or by completing a booking form and returning it to us. We can also provisionally hold places if you need time to consider your options.



## What we say

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*My trip to Rajasthan certainly lived up to all expectations. What a fabulous place! It truly does bombard the senses, with continual reminders of its exotic history, breathtaking desert landscapes, imposing forts and flamboyantly dressed peoples. All thrilling stuff! In addition to sightseeing we had time to immerse ourselves in the culture and haggle for handicrafts, and we had the added bonus of a jeep safari to look for wildlife. Our accommodation was equally wonderful - from romantic palaces, to a stay on a working farm and luxury tents overlooking a picturesque lake, every night was a delight. Rajasthan will live on in my imagination.*

*- Ann Sainsbury, Mountain Kingdoms*

# Mountain Kingdoms - distinctly different

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## **Truly independent**

In an age where many so-called 'independent' travel companies have in fact been bought out by multi-national giants, we remain fiercely independent with all the benefits this offers our clients.

## **Value for money prices with an emphasis on quality**

We are not in the business of cutting our itineraries and services to the bone to offer eye-catching cheap prices. We use some of the best airlines, and typically 3 or 4 star hotels in cities. We include the majority of meals and private transport for road travel. We use excellent equipment and appoint well-trained staff and leaders. Last year, over 98% of our clients rated their Mountain Kingdoms holiday as 'excellent' or 'good'. We are members of AITO and bound by their quality charter.

## **Complete financial security**

You can book with us confident that your holiday has full financial protection. Flight inclusive holidays are financially protected by the Civil Aviation Authority under ATOL licence number 2973 and 'Land Only' holidays are covered by a bond secured with ABTOT.

## **No Surcharge Guarantee**

Your peace of mind is important to us so we have a No Surcharge Guarantee on all Land Only and Flight Inclusive bookings. This means that there will be no change to the price of your holiday once we have confirmed your booking, regardless of fluctuations in exchange rates or fuel prices.

## **Award winning Responsible Tourism**

We feel strongly that all our holidays should benefit local communities, protect the environment and respect local traditions, religion and heritage. You can read more about the charities we support and our Responsible Tourism commitments and initiatives on the following page or at [www.mountainkingdoms.com](http://www.mountainkingdoms.com).

## **Genuine small group travel**

Almost all of our holidays have a maximum group size of just 12, plus leader. This provides more contact with your leader, readier access to off-the-beaten-path areas, greater interaction with local communities and a reduced environmental impact.

## **Loyalty Discount**

If you have previously travelled with us we recognise your loyalty with a discount on future trips.

## **Booking your holiday - it couldn't be easier**

Once you've chosen your Mountain Kingdoms holiday you can book online, call the office or complete and post a booking form which can be found in our brochure or downloaded from our website. If you would like to hold a place on one of our trips, whilst you make up your mind, please give us a call to make a provisional booking. This is a no-obligation, no-cost booking and we will hold your place until space comes under pressure or we need your decision.

## **Comprehensive information**

When we receive your booking we send you a full trip dossier which contains details of visas and vaccinations required, a suggested gear and clothing list and lots of useful information. In fact, everything you need to know to give you peace of mind and allow you to prepare for your trip of a lifetime.



## RESPONSIBLE TOURISM STATEMENT CLIMATE EMERGENCY PLAN



For over 33 years, Mountain Kingdoms has been offering people the chance to visit amazing places on this extraordinary planet. We now offer trips to all corners of the world, but we are conscious that inevitably our holidays have a detrimental impact on the world around us, and we want to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions. We are a signatory to Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency, along with a growing number of like-minded, reputable tour operators. For more information, please visit [www.tourismdeclares.com](http://www.tourismdeclares.com)

From 2020 onwards, we will be focusing on how we can reduce the carbon emissions that our holidays produce, and how to counterbalance this carbon by supporting carbon offset measures. Here are some of our current and future plans to minimise the impact of our business as a whole:

### **Carbon Offsetting**

#### **Already doing:**

- ✓ We have been offsetting carbon since 2007, but will be increasing our donations to the [Ecoan tree planting project](#) in Peru this year. This is with a trusted partner where the funds go directly to a project where the community plants trees on its own land.

#### **Will do:**

- ✓ We are working on making our carbon offsetting more accurate and targeted.
- ✓ In future, we will add to that a further estimate for carbon produced by hotels, local road travel, trains and internal flights to arrive at a carbon offset sum for each trip we operate.
- ✓ Carbon offsetting will be included in our holiday prices. For our Flight Inclusive holidays it will include the international flight and any emissions produced by inland travel and accommodation. Our Land Only prices will include the cost of offsetting emissions caused by inland travel and accommodation.

### **Reducing Carbon Emissions**

#### **Already doing:**

- ✓ We already offer the majority of our customers a free filtered water bottle which means they can instantly cut down on their single-use plastic consumption. This will be an ongoing project.
- ✓ We already predominantly use locally owned hotels, but will continue to ensure that, where possible, we use these rather than multinational chains.
- ✓ We have joined the Tourism Declares a Climate Emergency initiative to stand alongside like-minded travel companies, to work together to initiate best practices to make tourism as sustainable as possible.

#### **Will do:**

- ✓ We will re-evaluate our flights to make sure we are using the most fuel efficient airlines with the youngest fleets and, where possible, direct flights for each trip.
- ✓ We will stop offering unnecessary optional flights – for example our Everest sightseeing trip.
- ✓ We will eliminate unnecessary staff flights wherever possible.
- ✓ We will look at minimising internal flights.
- ✓ We will be asking all our worldwide agents and suppliers to look at their own carbon footprint and encourage them to reduce it.
- ✓ We will promote our more low impact trips to give customers an informed choice.

As part of our wider commitment to Responsible Tourism, we will continue to support a number of charities with whom we have had a long standing relationship over many years. These include: Shiva Charity in Nepal (Ginette Harrison School), Simien Mountains Mobile Medical Service and Porter Welfare, as well as setting aside a sum for emergency disaster relief should the need arise.



