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Perfectly crafted tours in India.
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UTTAM TRAVELS PRESENTS
An 'off the tourist trail' Journey
FULL OF LUXURY AND RICH CULTURE

Rare and Royal Rajasthan

YOUR TRAVEL

Itinerary

Small Group Tour - max. 12 people

17 days / 16 nights

7 March - 23 March 2021

Price per person (Half Twin): A\$5,700.00

Or add A\$1600 for Single Supplement



Rare and Royal Rajasthan

INCLUDED IN TOUR COST

All accommodation (16 nights)

All of the accommodation on this tour offers luxury, history, atmosphere and immersion in a very special and fascinating culture. You will experience wonderful hospitality, beautiful settings and great comfort.

Breakfasts, selected lunch & dinner

Full Breakfast each day (17). Lunches and dinners are included only where specified on itinerary. Each day we will stop for breaks for lunch and comfort when we are en-route.

Train Travel

Included in tour cost – as specified in Itinerary.

Transfers to/from airport in Delhi

Airport transfers will be included if within confines of the tour dates – transfers on arrival on 5 March 2021 and Departure from Delhi on 21 March 2021.

Transport outside these times and dates can be arranged at a further cost, on request.

Tour Transport

Each day (unless otherwise specified) in a Deluxe Mini Coach with Air Con.

Guides

English-speaking guides provided during tours of cities and attractions, as per itinerary.

Entrance Fees

All pre-paid for all monuments, forts, places of interest, tour activities, demonstrations and shows etc.

Taxes:

5% India Government (GST).

NOT INCLUDED

Airfares are NOT included.

Most airlines do fly in and out of New Delhi so you must choose what suits you. We find that Singapore Airlines & their connections between Singapore and New Delhi always work well for us. We recommend <https://travelfocusgroup.com/> for assistance with **airfares & insurance**.

Gratuities

It is traditional (but not mandatory) to leave an end of tour tip for the driver/guides and any guide or service staff who you wish to tip along the way. It is also expected that the concierge staff that handle your luggage to and from your rooms and the bus receive tips as we go.

We normally organise as a group to attend to gratuities for Guide, Driver, Helper and daily concierge – we ask that you budget to contribute a minimum amount of \$100.00 to accommodate these needs.

Items of a personal nature

These include laundry, phone calls, drinks, mini bar etc. any medication.

Video/camera fees

Some places charge for you to take video, or a camera inside (usually a very small amount).

Lunches, dinners and snacks / drinks

Lunches and dinners not specified as included. Additional snacks between meals, and drinks and alcohol.

Early check-in or late check-out / non-tour date airport transfers will incur extra charges.

Travel Insurance - IMPORTANT

Your booking with us is dependent on proof of Individual Travel Insurance.



India does have excellent medical facilities BUT it is wise for you to have appropriate and adequate travel insurance to ensure that transfers and high standards of medical assistance can be accessed, should you need it.

ITINERARY CALENDAR – Locations & highlights

17 days / 16 nights – 07 – 23 March 2021

Rare and Royal Rajasthan	DAY 1 <u>DELHI</u> Arrival and Welcome Accom: Maidens by Oberoi	DAY 2 <u>DELHI</u> Heritage & Food Walk in Old Delhi Jama Masjid Mosque Accom: Maidens by Oberoi	DAY 3 <u>DELHI</u> Humayun’s Tomb India Gate & New Delhi Haveli Dharampurra Accom: Maidens by Oberoi	DAY 4 <u>AGRA</u> Ganeshi Lal Museum & Zari Needlework Display. Visit to ‘Baby Taj’ Rooftop Dinner with Taj Mahal View Accom: Grand Imperial Hotel	DAY 5 <u>AGRA</u> Grand Tour Taj Mahal UNESCO site – Red Fort of Agra. Accom: Grand Imperial Hotel	
	DAY 6 <u>JAIPUR</u> Chand Baori Stepwell Check in and Free Time Accom: Alsisar Haveli	DAY 7 <u>JAIPUR</u> Amber Fort, Jal Mahal, Jantar Mantar City Palace & Museum Palace of Winds Bollywood Movie Accom: Alsisar Haveli	DAY 8 <u>BUNDI</u> Check in and free time to relax and explore. Accom: Haveli Braj Bhushanjee	DAY 9 <u>BUNDI</u> Heritage town and Palace visit. Visit to the Taragarh Fort and Lake Jait Sagar. Accom: Haveli Braj Bhushanjee	DAY 10 <u>NARLAI</u> Tribal Village Walk. Accom: Haveli Rawla Narlai	DAY 11 <u>NARLAI</u> Relaxation time – explore village at your leisure Enjoy the beautiful property. Candle-lit Dinner at Stepwell. Accom: Haveli Rawla Narlai
	DAY 12 <u>ROHET</u> We will move Narlai to Rohet. Explore nearby village and local artisans. Free time at this beautiful property. Accom: Rohetgarh	DAY 13 <u>ROHET</u> Jeep Safari to villages. Opium Ceremony. Henna art on Hands. Cooking masterclass Accom: Rohetgarh	DAY 14 <u>JODHPUR</u> City Tour, heritage walk. Mehrangarh Fort Accom: Ajit Bhawan Palace	DAY 15 <u>PUSHKAR</u> Bazaar Walk and Brahma Temple visit. Accom: Pushkar Palace	DAY 16 <u>DELHI</u> Travel from Pushkar to Delhi. Accom: IBIS Hotel Aerocity, Airport	DAY 17 <u>DEPART DELHI</u> You will be picked up and transferred to Delhi airport for your onward flights. Bon Voyage!

ITINERARY DETAIL

DAY 1 - Arrive	DELHI	7 March 2021
<p>Accommodation Maidens by Oberoi (5*) 3 NIGHTS (Includes breakfast)</p> 	<p><i>In 1911 the British Imperial Government moved the capital of British India from Calcutta to Delhi. And accordingly, construction in that year began. There are at least eight historical Delhi's, each constructed on, or near, the ruins of its predecessor, leaving a modern-day citadel that's dotted with ancient monuments. This capital of India offers a glimpse of both ancient and modern-day India. The city of Delhi is a blend of two different yet perfectly balanced parts, the Old and the New Delhi. Old Delhi, founded as Shahjahanabad in 1639 as the capital of the great Mughal Empire, and New Delhi, designed by British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens and set-up in 1931 by viceroy of India Lord Irwin.</i></p> <p>When you have cleared arrivals and luggage pickup at Delhi Airport, make your way out to the arrivals hall. There you will see one of our representatives with a placard with your name on it. You will then be driven in comfort to the hotel and assisted with the check in process.</p> <p>Your luxury accommodation is a charming masterpiece that reveals India's glorious past reminiscent of the erstwhile British India of the 1920's.</p>	
DAY 2	DELHI	8 March 2021
<p>Accommodation Maidens by Oberoi Breakfast and Lunch are included today</p> 	<p>We will be catching the Delhi Metro to Chawri Bazaar for a walking tour of Old Delhi. This is an incredible experience. You will gain an insider's view of Old Delhi's winding lanes, crazy markets, rooftops, mosques, temples and yummy street food from someone whose family has lived there for many generations.</p> <p>We'll have a great lunch at the historic haveli home of Dhruv Gupta, the tour leader.</p> <p>Before returning to the hotel we will visit India's oldest & largest mosque Jama Masjid. We'll also stop outside the majestic Red Fort, which was the old seat of power and residence of the Mughal rulers until the mid-1850's.</p> <p>On arrival back at the hotel the rest of the afternoon and evening is yours. You'll welcome this time to process what you have experienced today!</p>	

Accommodation

Maidens by Oberoi

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner are included today



This morning after Breakfast our expert Delhi guide will take you for city tour of Lutyens City - New Delhi, known for its innovative architecture from the 1930's British raj, and now the political heart of independent India. We will explore fine works of Sir Edwin Lutyen, that later became the fabric and features of modern India.

We cover New Delhi's most imposing Unesco sites such as Qutab Minar, a 73m high soaring Afghan-style victory tower, erected by sultan Qutb-ud-din in 1193. Its ringed by intricately carved sandstone bands bearing verses from the Quran. We will explore Mehrauli Archaeological Park to see various unheard monuments from the 13th to the 19th century including Khalji dynasty, Tughlaq dynasty, Lodhi dynasty of Delhi Sultanate.

Then, Gandhi Smriti, the remembrance home & museum of Mahatma Gandhi; here on 30th Jan 1948 the father of India was assassinated. Ceremonial boulevard Raj Path designed by Lutyens in 1921 taking similarities from the "Champs Elysee of France". Here we explore princely State Houses and architectures of North & South Block incl India Gate, a 42m-high stone memorial arch pays tribute to 70,000 soldiers of British Indian Army who died in the first world war. Presidents estate Rashtrapati Bhawan, former home to the British viceroy and today the largest residence of any head of state in the world. The House of Parliament, designed by Sir Herbert Baker in 1912 to construct a new administrative capital of British India.

Afterwards, we journey to central parks of Delhi surrounded with downtown markets Connaught Place named after the duke of Connaught. This horse-shoe shaped market was built in the spirit of British colonial rule, as a grand shopping place where the new imperial city and the older native settlement would participate in trading. Here we will explore bargaining streets of Janpath known for handicrafts, textiles, tribal clothing/shoes, unique artwork/paintings, indian antiques/artifacts, silver/leather/brassware, rare fragrances, to cheap jewellery.

In the evening, special arrangements will be made for your Dinner at **Haveli Dharampura** complimented with Live Cultural Dances & Traditional Musicians.

DAY 4**DELHI TO AGRA**10 March
2021

Accommodation

Grand Imperial Hotel 2 NIGHTS

Breakfast & Dinner included tonight



Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the world - the Taj Mahal. The architectural splendor of the mausoleums, the fort and the palaces is vivid reminder of the opulence of the legendary Mughal empire, of which Agra was the capital in the 16th and early 17th centuries.

After check in at our Hotel, we will visit a fascinating Museum and needlework display and demonstration run by family group at the Historic property 'Ganeshi Lal'.

At sunset early this evening, special arrangements will be made at a rooftop venue overlooking Taj Mahal. Enjoy Dinner with unique dishes inspired from the regional 'Mughalai Cuizine'. Mughlai cuisine consists of dishes developed in medieval Indo-Persian cultures at the centres of the Mughal empire. It represents a combination of south Asian cuisine with the cooking styles and recipes of Turko-Persian in central Asia, a region where Mughal emperors originally hailed from, and has strongly influenced Northern India. It vary' s from extremely mild to spicy, and are often associated with a distinctive aroma and the taste of ground and whole spices. We'll have a VERY early start today!

DAY 5**AGRA**11 March
2021

Accommodation

Grand Imperial Hotel Breakfast**GRAND TOUR OF TAJ MAHAL & RED**

This morning we will experience a Grand Tour of The **Taj Mahal**. You will be met by our expert Taj Mahal guide who will arrange eco-friendly pollution free vehicles for you to journey to the main gates of the Taj.

Next, we will experience the famous art of Agra - Marble Inlay Work. We will visit certified arts & handicrafts centers to witness a live demonstration of this rare artwork that was performed at the Taj Mahal and other Mughal Monuments in 1600's. You will see traditional tools and the entire process of fixing the precious gemstones in marble. Followed by Lunch on direct payment basis.

This afternoon, we journey to India's finest Mughal fortress - The **Red Fort of Agra**, a UNESCO world heritage site and the imperial residence of 16th century rulers of 'Mughal Dynasty'. This 34-hectare red sandstone fortress dates back to 1080 AD and has seen many battles and dynasties.

DAY 6

JAIPUR

12 March
2021

Accommodation

Alsisar Haveli

Breakfast included



Today we leave Agra and head towards the Pink City of Jaipur.

Enroute we will visit spectacular Chand Baori Stepwells that lie hidden deep in the village of 'Abhaneri'. This 10th century built zigzagged stepwells is a geometric wonder where Royals used to picnic, and today a popular spot for films 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'.

The picturesque capital of Rajasthan, Jaipur is awash in pink - the colour associated with hospitality in Rajput culture. Built in 1727 A.D. by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, Jaipur displays a remarkable harmony and architectural splendour, most notably the renowned Palace of the Winds. The ancient heart of the Pink City still beats in its fairy-tale palaces, rugged fortresses perched on barren hills and broad avenues that dot the entire city. There is a timeless appeal to Jaipur's colourful bazaars where one can shop for Rajasthani handlooms and trinkets. Beautifully laid out gardens and parks, attractive monuments and marvellous heritage hotels (once the residence of Maharajas), are worth admiration. Not to mention the ambling camels and cheerful people in multi-hued costumes that will make your trip to the pink city a memorable one.

DAY 7

JAIPUR

13 March
2021

Accommodation

Alsisar Haveli

Breakfast included



After Breakfast we will proceed towards the rocky mountainside for UNESCO world heritage site and a must see of Jaipur – **The Amber Fortress**. *The Kachhwaha Rajputs, who reigned for over 800 years began construction of the fort in 1592 financed with war booty by Maharaja Man Singh, the Rajput commander of Akbar's army. Built from pale yellow and pink sandstone, the fortress offers magnificent hilltop views.*

Next, we will photo-stop outside Water Palace 'Jal Mahal' located in the center of 'Man Sagar Lake' housing various migratory birds and surrounded by 'Aravalli Ranges'. We continue and arrive in the heart of Old City to visit Astronomical Observatory '**Jantar Mantar**' where our guide will teach you how its bizarre giant instruments work to measure celestial objects. Followed by visit to residence of the Royal Family locally called **Jaipur City Palace and Museum**.

Later, the downtown Jaipur Bazaar for a Tuk-Tuk Tour thru its narrow alleyways. Chaos & amusement goes hand-in-hand here. Inside the bazaar we also visit Jaipur's most distinctive landmark The **Palace of Winds 'Hawa Mahal'** built in a unique pinkcoloured beehive design that is certainly hard to miss. Witness its 958 intricately designed windows that were built for Royal Women to explore city life from a high-rise. Our Tuk-Tuk ride ends outside 1976 Heritage Cinema Raj Mandir where we watch a new release **Bollywood Blockbuster film**.

DAY 8

BUNDI

14 March
2021

Accommodation

Haveli Braj Bhushanjee

Breakfast included



Today we travel to your heritage accommodation in atmospheric Bundi. The Haveli Braj Bhushanjee was built 200 years before and belongs to Bohara Braj Bhushanjee family, which gave Bundi as many as four Prime Ministers all in the 19th Century. Haveli Braj Bhushanjee offers excellent view of Bundi Palace, Fort and Town especially at night when the palace is illuminated.

Located about 200 km from Jaipur and 30 km from Kota, this hamlet almost has a dreamy touch to it. Lying in a beautiful narrow valley, with a fort on a hill overlooking it, Bundi's charm is in its rural simplicity. It is claimed to be once the capital of the Hadoti kingdom of Hada Chauhan clan, legendary Prithviraj Chauhan being one of them. Just like Jodhpur, Bundi's houses also have a noticeable blue colour to them – to keep houses cool during summer. The place saw a period of spectacular prosperity in the 19th century under the rule of Zalim Singh and then decline post his death. The place has, however, still preserved the art and culture from the glorious past, even though with a clearly-evident struggle.

You will have time this afternoon to relax and enjoy this lovely property.

DAY 9

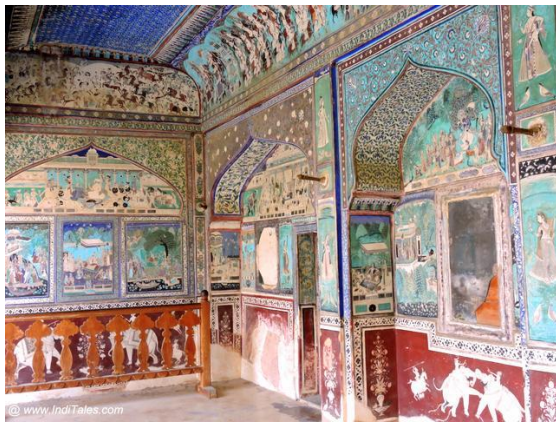
BUNDI

15 March
2021

Accommodation


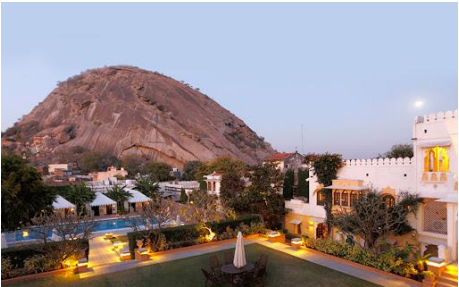

Haveli Braj Bhushanjee




Breakfast included




HERITAGE EXPLORATION TOUR

Today we will visit **Bundi Palace** - One of the major tourist attractions in Bundi, this place is known for its infinite natural beauty. The palace boasts both the cultural and historical significance, which will help you get a glimpse of the town's lifestyle and traditions. Next we visit **Taragarh Fort**, This fort is one of the most impressive structures in the entire town. Constructed in absolute Rajputi style, the fort offers an insight into its history and grandeur. Also, this place is believed to be the first hillside fort in India & one of the oldest forts in Rajasthan. Later we will visit **Sukh Mahal & Lake Jait Sagar**, located close to the Taragarh Fort, near the north gate of the city, this picturesque lake and cream-coloured palace on its bank, is said to have played the muse for none other than Noble prize-winning Kipling. He is believed to have authored a part of his famous novel, Kim, while staying here. Built on a lake and surrounded by mountains on three sides, the palace was the royalty's escape from harsh summer. The lake is covered with pretty naturally-grown lotus flowers that bloom during winter and monsoon.

DAY 10	NARLAI	16 March 2021
<p>Accommodation Rawla Narlai - Breakfast</p> 	<p>Today morning we leave for Narlai a journey of approximately (Approx. 90 kms) and check in at your hotel. This is a hidden jewel of a property - Tucked away amidst the Aravali Mountains, this 17th century Hunting Manor' of Jodhpur Royals now opens its doors to those on a hunt for blissful tranquillity. Ideally located between the popular cities of Jodhpur & Udaipur it's a magical break in rustic countryside.</p> <p>Late afternoon we take you for a Tribal Village Walk to look at the traditional way people live there even today and explore the unique culture of the close knit traditional community of Narlai, who still lead a traditional way of life. Narlai is a very close-knit community and each individual comes across happy, contented and proud. During the walk you can go inside some of the houses, talk to people, ask questions, have a cup of Chai tea with them, interact and hear amazing stories.</p>	
DAY 11	NARLAI	17 March 2021
<p>Accommodation Rawla Narlai</p> 	<p>You have today free to relax or do your own activities</p> <p>Tonight we will enjoy a traditional Candle-lit Dinner with live Musicians at the 16th century Historic Stepwell of your hotel.</p>	
DAY 12	ROHET	18 March 2021
<p>Accommodation - Rohetgarh Breakfast</p> 	<p>Today we will travel to charming Rohet (Approx. 95 Km) & check-in at our gorgeous hotel and relax!</p> <p>The quirky village of Rohet is located 40 km south in the outskirts of blue washed city of Jodhpur. You will fall in love with Rohetgarh – everyone does! You have the rest of today to relax or do your own activities.</p> <p>Enjoy the magic here at night with live, traditional music and entertainment.</p>	

DAY 13	ROHET	19 March 2021
<p>Accommodation Rohetgarh Breakfast and dinner</p> 	<p>TRIBAL TOURS & COOKING MASTERCLASS</p> <p>This morning we hop-on local Jeeps and we take you for a Tribal Tour in the local Bishnoi Village to encounter and interact with raw tribal life of Bishnoi Tribes known for their unique lifestyle, fine artwork and pottery making skills. We will also visit a Braham village and experience their traditions, decorated huts and a unique 'Opium Ceremony' performed especially by the Tribal Chief. We will continue our safari to spot rare flora-fauna around Guda Lake including Indian Black Bucks, Blue Bulls, Demoiselle Cranes and many more.</p> <p>After a relaxed lunch you can choose, at your leisure, to visit the home and shop of the Deen Dayal family business to see their traditional hand stitched textiles and have some henna art done on our hands. Tonight we will participate in a traditional cooking demonstration followed by dinner.</p>	
DAY 14	JODHPUR	20 March 2021
<p>Accommodation Ajit Bhawan Palace, breakfast</p> 	<p>Experience the buzz of Jodhpur, the mystical blue colored town of India. We cover the legendary 15th century built Mehrangarh Fortress that stands 410 feet above the skyline of Jodhpur offering stunning views of this blue painted town. Royal Cenotaphs, built as a milky-white marble memorial to Jodhpur's Maharaja 'Jaswant Singh II'.</p> <p>Next, Heritage Walk thru Old Town to explore Jodhpur's lifestyle, their charming blue washed houses and discover ancient Stepwells and lesser-known secrets.</p> <p>Tonight we will enjoy a great meal and local music at our luxurious and beautiful accommodation.</p>	
DAY 15	PUSHKAR	21 March 2021
<p>Accommodation - Pushkar Palace - Breakfast</p> 	<p>This morning we will drive you to Pushkar (Approx. 220 Km) & check-in at hotel and relax. Pushkar is one of the oldest cities of India. A majestic town located at 510 metres, its surrounded by 'Nag Pahar' aka Snake Mountain built around a sacred Pushkar Lake that is believed to have originated when the creator of universe 'Lord Brahma' accidentally dropped lotus on ground.</p> <p>After your rest, we will take a Heritage Walk around sacred Pushkar Lake to capture local life of pilgrims surrounded by 52 bathing Ghats and hundreds of milky blue temples. Visit 2000 year-old Brahma Temple formed from a curse by Lord Brahma's consort 'Goddess Saraswati'. Afterwards we explore vibrant tribal street markets of Pushkar Bazaar.</p>	

DAY 16	DEPART DELHI	22 March 2021
Accommodation - IBIS Hotel Aerocity, Airport. Breakfast	After checkout this morning we will make our way back to Delhi (Approx. 390 Km). This will be our final night together before everyone departs on their return flights tomorrow.	
DAY 17	DEPART DELHI	23 March 2021
Tour Finishes. 	Today you will be picked up from the hotel and transferred to Delhi airport to catch your onward flights. Bon Voyage!!!	



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