

## EXTRAVAGANT RAJASTHAN

April 12, 2025 to April 29, 2025 (17 days)



*Rajasthan, Northern India, the 'Land of Kings', is synonymous with heroism, royalty and honour. Established in the era marked with wartime ballads yet living in the modern period, this beautiful region is a travellers' destination. Those looking out for the remnants of the past should not pass up a trip to Rajasthan. And for those of you who plan to have a quiet sojourn gazing at the beauty of golden sands, Rajasthan will top your list. Come join us, explore the miscellany of the old and the new in Rajasthan, the glittering jewel of India. And you can enjoy this and 'Diwali' (Festival of Light). Diwali is a five-day event, culminating in the evening of one special day (12th November) celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. The festival, which coincides with the Hindu New Year, celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. While each faith has its own reason to celebrate the festival, one of the most popular stories told is the legend of Lord Rama and his wife Sita returning to their kingdom in northern India from exile after defeating the demon king Ravanna in the 15th century BC. Houses are decorated in excess with colourful lights, and firework displays are held while families feast and share gifts. Diwali celebrates the union of religions and the joy of sharing abunds*

## Program

Delhi

2 nights

On arrival into Delhi in the early evening you will be met at the airport and transferred to your glamorous 5-star hotel. Have a good night's sleep, you deserve it, and wake up refreshed and 'ready to go'.

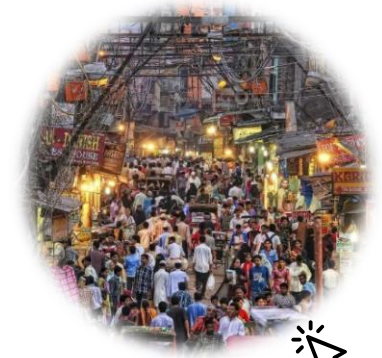
Old Delhi and Jama Masjid - Relax and take it easy, as you might still be jet lagged. After a late breakfast, proceed to the old part of Delhi for a rickshaw ride through the back alleys of Old Delhi, the silver streets, vegetable and spice markets and visit the famous Jama Masjid, one of the oldest mosques in Delhi.

Lotus Temple - Design Iranian Architect Fariborz Sahba. Lotus Temple for all, regardless of religion. The building is composed of 27 free-standing marble-clad petals arranged in clusters. The Lotus Temple has won numerous architectural awards.

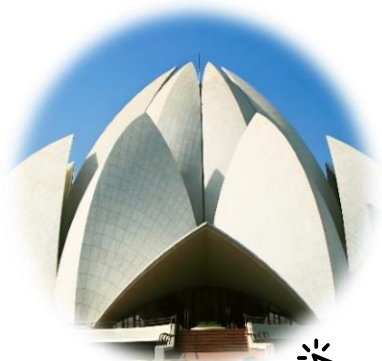
Qutub Minar - this 72.5 m high Victory Pillar is a victory stand of a Muslim King Kutub-ud-din- Aibak in India. In 1199 Kutub-ud-Din started its construction and it was completed in 1236 by Iltutmish, the son-in-law of Kutub.

India Gate - National monument of India. India gate is in the administrative locations of the country. Constructed in memory of 90,000 soldiers of British-Indian army who fought in the Second World War, the structure was built under the leadership of Sir Edwin Lutyens. The architectural complex is made of red stone and granite and is the finest example of Indo-British architectural monument.

And let's go along Rajpath, past the imposing India Gate, Parliament House, the President's Residence and would end with a drive through the Diplomatic Enclave.



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Hotel

'Deluxe Room' at [Shangri-La Hotel New Delhi](#) or similar



Bundi  
2 nights

After breakfast you will be driven to the beautiful town of Bundi, a smaller culturally rich town famous for its 'stepwells' (Baoris) and its' fabulous markets. Life is simple in Bundi but it is its' rich village life that will envelop you. Walks are required in this town, and walks are aplenty. Our rich heritage hotel enjoys a great village view from our rooftop restaurant. Today you will see the Bundi Palace and local attractions, including floral/vegetable markets.



Hotel

'Suite Room' at [Dev Niwas Heritage Hotel](#) or similar

Udaipur  
2 nights

A journey by A/C mini bus brings us to Udaipur. Beside shimmering Lake Pichola, with the ochre and purple ridges of the wooded Aravalli Hills stretching away in every direction, Udaipur has a romance of setting unmatched in Rajasthan and arguably in all India. Fantastical Palaces, temples, havelis and countless narrow, crooked, timeless streets add the human counterpoint to the city's natural charms. For the visitor there's the tranquillity of boat rides on the lake, the bustle and colour of ancient bazaars, a wonderful and lively arts scene, the quaint old-world feel of its better hotels, endless tempting shops and some lovely countryside to explore on wheels or on foot. Udaipur still enjoys the tag of 'the most romantic spot on the continent of India' (with slight bias from Udaipurians!). Your afternoon is free.



Day tour of city and of lakes, and visiting the famous Udaipur City Palace. The Palace is an example of the splendour that the rulers of Mewar enjoyed centuries ago, and it still appears to be just as majestic. It is located on the eastern banks of Pichola lake. The palace is a fusion of Rajasthani, European, Chinese and Mughal Architecture, making it one of the most alluring historical attractions of Udaipur. The Palace complex houses monuments like the Monsoon Palace, Lake Palace, Jagdish Temple, Jag Mandir, and Neemach Mata temple, and it is surrounded by the Aravalli Mountains, giving it a gorgeous background. Built completely with marble and granite, it also has the beautiful appeal of marble-work, mirror-work, silver-work, inlay-work, wall paintings and murals. This was originally a Palace of the Maharaja of Udaipur. A ride by boat on Lake Pichola (optional) is enjoyable and you can see where the famous James Bond movie 'Octopussy' was filmed in the middle of the lake, now a luxury hotel. Afterwards a wander through the market streets by will be wonderful.



Hotel

'Heritage Lake View Room' at [Jagat Niwas Heritage Hotel](#) or similar

Jodhpur

2 nights

*A drive to scenic Jodhpur, stopping (if you wish) for a camel ride in the desert en route. Afternoon tour of the amazing City of Jodhpur. Jodhpur is called the blue city of Rajasthan famous for its grand Jodhpur fort and blue pottery work, not to mention so many buildings being painted in blue also!*

*Today we will visit the famous (and huge) Mehrangarh Fort. The 15th-century Mehrangarh Fort is a former palace, now a museum, displaying weapons, paintings and elaborate royal palanquins. Set on a rocky outcrop, the fort overlooks the walled city, where many buildings are painted the city's iconic shade of blue. An additional 'must visit' is the Umaid Bhawan Palace, a building of Architectural magnificence, now a famous Luxury Hotel. Dependant on time, you may elect to visit the local market or merely return to our hotel to relax.*

Hotel

*' Superior Courtyard Room' at [Ratan Vilas](#) or similar*



Click me

Jaisalmer

2 nights

*A drive to Jaisalmer where we will check into our perfect home with views from the rooftop, all over Jaisalmer. Jaisalmer is also called the 'Golden City of India' as it is famous for its grand forts and amazing sand dunes. Jaisalmer is a former medieval trading centre and a princely state in Rajasthan, in the heart of the Thar Desert. It's distinguished by its yellow sandstone Architecture. Dominating the skyline is Jaisalmer Fort, a sprawling hilltop citadel buttressed by 99 bastions which sits on our hotel doorstep. Behind its massive walls stand the ornate Maharaja's Palace and intricately carved Jain temples. Let's take it easy in the afternoon and either walk the narrow laneways or relax on the roof deck and look at the life below in Jaisalmer.*

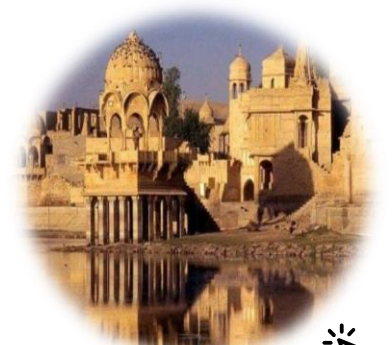
*Morning after breakfast will proceed for the tour of Jaisalmer town visit Jaisalmer Fort. Jaisalmer Fort is a World Heritage Site declared by UNESCO. The fort was built by the Rajput ruler Rawal Jaisal in 1156 AD. Jaisalmer fort stands amidst the sandy expanse of Trikuta Hill and has been the scene of many battles. Its massive yellow sandstone walls are a tawny lion colour during the day, fading to honey-gold as the sun sets, thereby camouflaging the fort in the yellow desert. For this reason, it is also known as the Sonar Quila or Golden Fort. Jaisalmer fort rises to a height of 76 metres and 4.6 metre tall wall forming a double line of defence.*

Hotel

*'Deluxe View room' at [1st Gate Jaisalmer](#) or similar*



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Jaisalmer  
Desert Camp

1 night

Leave the town of Jaisalmer for a beautiful Desert Camp, approx. 30 kms away. Camel ride is included at sunset at the 'Sam Sand Dunes', this is one of the most authentic desert dune sites in all of India, where you will find 30-60 metre tall sand dunes. Also slide down the dunes on your 'bum', great fun! Back to Heritage Juma Resort for dinner and traditional Rajasthani music and dancing.

Hotel

Hotel - (not a hotel but) Luxury Tent, [Heritage Juma Resort](#) or similar



Click me

Bikaner

2 nights

A great journey to Bikaner and check into our hotel, then let's do an afternoon city tour. The Junagarh Fort of was built in 1478 by Rao Bika but just existed as a stone fort then. The present grand structure was inaugurated on 17th February 1589. Besides having a rich history, the Junagarh Fort is a feat of Architecture. The Palaces inside the fort, the gardens, balconies, etc. depict a composite Architectural style which is influenced by the cultural differences of the different rulers and foreign inspirations.

Today, another must visit is to Karni Mata Temple which is also known as the Temple of Rats (not for the faint hearted). Once again time for cocktails and great food and enjoy every sumptuous moment at our great home, the Narendra Bhawan Hotel.



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Hotel

'Residence room' at [Nadrendra Bhawan Hotel](#) or similar



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Jaipur

3 nights

Jaipur, known as the 'Pink City of India,' is famous for its grand fort, palace, textile design, and vibrant colors. The city's bustling streets mix old and new, with buses, camels, cycle-rickshaws, motorbikes, and auto-rickshaws all sharing the roads. Amidst this lively chaos, the splendours of Jaipur's past offer serene islands of calm.

At the city's heart, the City Palace still houses the former royal family, the Jantar Mantar observatory maintains its celestial charm, and the honeycomb Hawa Mahal overlooks the bustling bazaar below. We will visit the City Palace, which includes a Textiles and Armory Museum. We will also explore some of the city's innovative textile hubs. Let's not miss the famous Amer Fort and Hawa Mahal, and we must visit the renowned, yet often overlooked, Lassi shop. WE KNOW WHERE IT IS!



Click me

'Standard Room' at [Narain Niwas Palace](#) or similar

Delhi Today after breakfast we will drive you to Delhi, direct to the Indira Ghandi International  
Home sweet home Airport for your flight back to home. We know you will have LOVED your journey with  
Pillow Menu Tours and we will wish you a VERY pleasant journey home!

### Flights to India and back home again

As your itinerary may vary from this tour, your flights and carrier are at your selection. We are happy to assist in your decision making if this is helpful.

### Hosted Tour Experience

1. AUD \$ 4,764.00 Full experience including accommodation (excluding airfares)

- Prices will be based on per person twin-share, flexibility with dates may be able to be accommodated.
- Luxury 8 to 10 guests private tour, quality accommodation.

### Land Only Costs Include

- Accommodation on bed and breakfast basis as per mentioned above hotels or similar
- All sightseeing, excursions; transfers using A/C Minibus (10 pax +) as per program
- Parking, permits, gasoline, border taxes for the vehicle
- Services of accompanied English speaking escort for the entire duration of the program
- English speaking guides

### Land Only Costs Exclude

- Any additional activities/unique experience in the program on direct payment basis
- Any item of a personal nature such as drinks, laundry, telephone calls, etc.
- Camera fees (still/video) at any monuments
- Visa fees
- Any additional meals (unless specified)

### Terms and Conditions

Land only prices exclude flights from Melbourne. \$1500 per person non-refundable deposit required at time of booking. Booking is non-refundable & dates are non-changeable once booking is confirmed. Please note above pricing is correct at time of printing. Pricing can change due to currency fluctuations. You are responsible for all visas, entry, health and other requirements and any documents required by laws, regulations, orders and/or requirements of countries visited. Pillow Menu Tours is not responsible for passport and visa requirements or for any loss you sustain for failing to comply with laws, regulations, orders and/or requirements of countries visited. The health and safety of our guests has always been our priority.

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