

REMARKABLE RAJASTHAN & DIWALI

10 October - 28 October, 19 days of joy and jubilation



Rajasthan, Northern India, the 'Land of Kings', is synonymous to heroism, royalty and honour. Historic tales of battles fought, and romance of the riches adorn the walls of the state. 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. For wanderers interested in adventures in the various landscapes will get a glimpse of this venturesome state. And for those of you who plan to have a quiet sojourn gazing at the beauty of the golden sand dunes, Rajasthan must top your list. Come join us, explore the miscellany of the old and the new in Rajasthan, a glittering jewel of India.

Program

<i>Delhi</i>	<i>Late afternoon you will arrive at Delhi International Airport and be welcomed by your hosts Kehren and Rakesh. You will be escorted to your hotel and can pamper yourself, ready for a 'rejuvenated' start to the next day on our way to Agra.</i>
<i>1 night</i>	
<i>Hotel</i>	<i>'Deluxe Room' at Hotel Pullman Aerocity or similar</i>

Agra
2 nights

A journey of some 4 hours brings us to the magical city of Agra, home to 'Taj Mahal'. Your afternoon will take you to your grand Colonial Hotel to rest by the pool or walk through the city of Agra, at your choice. Next day with our English-speaking guide to the Taj Mahal. A monument devoted to love, it took approximately 22 years to build and following we will visit the majestic Agra Fort. This fort was the main residence of the Emperors of the Mughal Dynasty until 1638 when the Capital was moved from Agra to Delhi. Early evening drinks by the pool and a delicious dinner.



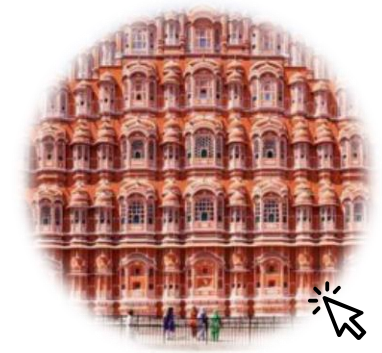
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Hotel

'Deluxe Double Room'
at [The Grand Imperial – Heritage Hotel](#) or similar

Jaipur
3 nights

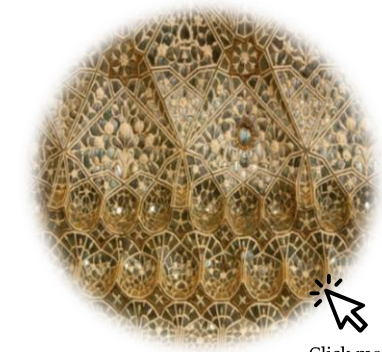
After breakfast will proceed to Jaipur also known as the 'Pink City of India' famous for its grand Fort, Palace and colours. Our 5-hour journey will enthral. Historical Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital, is the gateway to India's most flamboyant state. The city's colourful, chaotic streets ebb and flow with a heady brew of old and new. Careering buses dodge dawdling camels, leisurely cycle-rickshaws frustrate swarms of motorbikes, and everywhere buzzing auto rickshaws watch for easy prey. The splendours of Jaipur's majestic past are islands of calm evoking a different pace and another world. At the city's heart, the City Palace continues to house the former royal family; the honeycomb Hawa Mahal gazes on the bazaar below. Patrika Gate is an Architectural splendour awaiting you, and just out of sight, in the arid hill country surrounding the city, is the fairy-tale grandeur of Amber Fort, Jaipur's star attraction. You can embrace the outstanding workmanship done on this beautiful fort visiting the Mirror Palace, courtyards and see the inlay work done on the walls of the Palace. Amber Palace is a **MUST SEE!!**



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1x Free dinner
1x Free Lassi
Experience



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Hotel

'Deluxe Room'
at [Pearl Palace Heritage Hotel](#) or similar

Samode
1 night

A simple 1 hour journey from Jaipur to Samode leads you to one of the most extravagant Palaces in all Rajasthan. Exclusive and discreet, Samode Palace has been host to royalty, celebrities, artists, and the discerning traveller. Awaken to the quiet dawn, or have a cocktail on the terrace garden to the accompaniment of folk musicians. Run your fingers across the intricate story of an ancient mural on an uneven wall. Emerge from a gentle healing massage at the spa, or perhaps just sink into the lavish bed in your room. Samode Palace weaves its magic on you.



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Hotel

'Deluxe Room' at [Samode Palace](#)

Bikaner

2 nights

A great morning journey leaving Samode Palace at approx. 10AM, travelling to Bikaner and checking into our amazing hotel in the late afternoon. The following day is a day with our guide visiting Junagarh Fort, assorted elaborate havelis of unique Architectural form and the famous Jain Temple. The Junagarh Fort of Bikaner is a magnificent structure around which the city of Bikaner grew up. The fort 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. As time permits, and if there is interest from the group, a visit to Karni Mata Temple which is also known as the 'Temple of Rats' can be included.

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](#)

Jaisalmer

2 nights

A hearty breakfast in Bikaner then enjoy a 5 hour scenic drive to Jaisalmer where we will check into our perfect home with views from the rooftop. 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 in Rajasthan, in the Thar Desert. It's distinguished by its yellow sandstone Architecture. Jaisalmer Fort is a sprawling hilltop citadel buttressed by 99 bastions. Behind its massive walls stand the Maharaja's Palace and intricately carved Jain temples. Take it easy in the afternoon and the narrow laneways or relax on the roof deck and look at the life below.

Next morning after breakfast visit Jaisalmer Fort, 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 walls forming a double line of defence.



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Hotel

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

(A night in Desert Camp)

1 night

A late breakfast at our hotel. At approx. lunchtime we will proceed to the Kafila Desert Camp. Located approximately 30 kilometres outside Jaisalmer on the way to the sand dunes, Kafila is enhanced by the beauty of the Thar Desert. Your overnight stay includes a jeep ride over rough (and fun) terrain into the desert, and also includes a camel trek through the sand dunes to watch the sunset should you desire. In the evening enjoy some local folk music and dance by the dunes. Enjoy a soothing spa at the resort, dinner and breakfast also. Your tents are hardly 'basic', with A/C, your accommodation is complete with plumbing and (again) even more luxury than you could be used to.



Camp

['Glamping' in the desert](#)

Jodhpur

2 nights

A beautiful drive to scenic Jodhpur, the 'Blue' city. Upon arrival, check into hotel and spend the later afternoon relaxing by the pool, shopping, or whatever your taste desires. Tomorrow we will visit the famous 15th-century Mehrangarh Fort, a former palace set on a rocky outcrop. The fort overlooks the walled city, where many buildings are painted the city's iconic shade of blue. An optional visit could be the Umaid Bhawan Palace, a building of unparalleled Architectural magnificence, now a famous Luxury Hotel in Jodhpur, as you and your enthusiasm permits!



Hotel

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

Udaipur

3 nights

After breakfast a journey by A/C mini bus to Udaipur, arriving early afternoon. Nestled on the shimmering Lake Pichola, with the ochre and purple ridges of the wooded Aravalli Hills stretching in every direction, Udaipur has a romance of setting unmatched in Rajasthan. 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 a boat ride on the lake (which we will be doing, including a stop at Jag Mandir in the middle of the lake), the bustle of ancient bazaars with endless tempting shops. To this day, Udaipur still enjoys the tag of 'the most romantic spot on the continent of India' (with slight bias from Udaipurians!)



1x Free dinner



Celebrate the spectacular Diwali (Festival of Lights) with us from our amazing rooftop, 24 Oct.



***1x Free Lake
Pichola cruise***

Your first afternoon is free to enjoy the city or simply relax at the perfect Jagat Niwas Palace where we are staying, grandeur you deserve. The following day we will embrace a 9.30AM start for a full day tour of the city visiting the famous Udaipur City Palace. The Palace is an example of the splendour that the Mewar rulers enjoyed centuries ago and is a fusion of Rajasthani, European, Chinese and Mughal Architecture. The Palace complex houses monuments like the Monsoon Palace, Lake Palace, Jagdish Temple and Neemach Mata temple. We have been invited to 'Animal Aid Unlimited', an internationally recognized animal rescue centre or of this is not to your taste, another journey through the cobbled laneways might be to your taste.



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Hotel

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

Delhi

1 night

It's time to get your late afternoon/early evening flight back to Delhi in preparation for your flight home tomorrow lunch time. Arriving at your hotel, it's time to freshen up and prepare for a last night dinner with friends. After a sumptuous sleep and hearty breakfast, your driver and tour hosts will bid you farewell. You will be dropped at the airport for your flight back home with (very) sweet memories, courtesy of Pillow Menu Tours.

Hotel

'Deluxe Room' at [Hotel Pullman Aerocity](#) or similar

Flights Melbourne to Delhi and Delhi to Melbourne

Outbound

Melbourne to Delhi Air India (Direct flight), leaving Melbourne 10/10/22 @ 09.45
arriving Delhi 10/10/22 @ 16.55

Inbound

Delhi to Melbourne Air India (Direct flight), leaving Delhi 28/10/22 @ 12.50,
arriving Melbourne 29/10/22 @ 06.35

ECONOMY return price approximately AUD \$1,990 at the time of publishing.

Recommended contact for flight booking: (must refer to Pillow Menu Tours for special prices) Josie Di Mauro,
Mobile Travel Advisor, 0424 258 156 or jdimauro@mtatravel.com.au

Hosted Tour Experience

AUD \$4,392.00 full experience including accommodation (excluding airfares)

*Price based on per person twin-share, flexibility with dates may be able to be accommodated.

*Luxury 8 to 10 guests private tour, highest quality accommodation, fine cuisine.

Land Only Costs Include

- Accommodation on bed and breakfast basis as per mentioned above hotels or similar
- Early hotel check-in and late check-out, where possible, subject to availability
- Camp in Jaisalmer with breakfast & dinner basis
- All sightseeing, excursions & transfers using A/C Tempo Traveller Mini Coach (8-10 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
- All Monument/Temple entrance fees
- English speaking guide in each city visiting

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 meals (unless specified)

Terms and Conditions

Land only prices exclude flights from Melbourne. \$1500 per person non-refundable deposit required at the time of booking. Deposit is refundable should DFAT issue a 'Do Not Travel' alert on their website within 30 days of departure or should you elect to simply change your mind within 3 calendar months out from departure. Otherwise, booking deposit is non-refundable & dates are non-changeable. Please note above pricing is correct at time of printing. Pricing can change due to fluctuations. For full details on this and other tours, please see www.pillowmenutours.com

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. Now more than ever it has been essential to revise and upgrade our Health and Safety policy. Effective immediately we will be implementing the below procedures for every guest that travels with us. All our guides have also undertaken a registered Covid-19 health and safety course.

COVID-19 Response

- *Proof of double vaccination and 'booster' shot is required in order to travel with Pillow Menu Tours.*
- *Antibacterial hand gel, face masks and single use gloves will be available on client transport.*
- *The exterior and interior of our vehicle is thoroughly cleaned each day.*
- *All vehicles exterior and interior touch points will be sterilized prior to each individual guest boarding.*
- *Our friendly and professional guides will warmly welcome guests but will not shake hands. As always however, our guides will open and close the vehicle door. Guides will thoroughly clean their hands using alcohol based liquid gel and wash their hands with soap and water where possible.*
- *Proof of COVID-19 Insurance Protection is required prior to travel with Pillow Menu Tours*
- *Consideration will be taken in relation to vehicle loads.*

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