

Royal Rajasthan on Wheels - Itinerary



ROYAL RAJASTHAN ON WHEELS

**Delhi - Jodhpur - Chittorgarh - Udaipur - Ranthambore – Jaipur – Khajuraho – Varanasi
- Agra - Delhi**

DAY 01 (SUN): DELHI – JODHPUR

At Delhi's Safdarjung Railway station, once boarding formalities are undertaken you will be afforded a warm and traditional welcome before boarding the Palace on Wheels. You will be escorted to your cabin and given a brief familiarization tour by the Khidmatgars with a welcome drink, as we start our week-long journey through Rajasthan.

1830 hrs train will depart from the station.

Overnight onboard train

DAY 02 (MON): JODHPUR

Breakfast will be served on board.

Your first stop is Jodhpur, a city ringed by a high stone wall with seven gates and several bastions. This second largest city of Rajasthan, founded by Rao Jodha in 1459 A.D. is known for its rock-solid Mehrangarh Fort. You may admire the grand palaces that lie within, including Moti Mahal, Sheesh Mahal, Phool Mahal, Sileh Khana and Daulat Khana, before continuing onwards to Jaswant Thada, a group of royal cenotaphs made of white marble, and the impressive Umaid Bhawan Palace.

After lunch, return to the train. While in Jodhpur, you may shop for exquisite handcrafted articles including the famous breeches, embroidered shoes, metal curios, silverware, paintings and tie dyed fabrics.

Overnight onboard train

DAY 03 (TUE): CHITTORGARH & UDAIPUR

Breakfast will be served on board.

Welcome to Udaipur, the Lake City. Watermarked by whimsy and splendor, the "Venice of the East" holds stage as one of India's truly seductive cities with palaces, havelis, gardens and temples at every turn. Following breakfast, embark on a sightseeing tour of Udaipur, including a visit to the princely City Palace followed by lunch at a five-star hotel and a trip to the Crystal Gallery this afternoon.

Rejoin the train which travels next to Chittaurgarh, whose story is a saga of valor, tenacity and sacrifice. Chittaurgarh Fort is a treasure trove of history and offers you an insight into the lives of the great Rajput rulers. Tour the 7th century citadel and marvel at the Victory Tower of Vijay Stambh, one of the main attractions. Gaumukh reservoir and the Palace of Queen Padmini are

important spots to the south of the Rana Kumbha Palace. Enjoy a sound & light show at the Fort, and let legends of honor and pride echo in your mind as you travel to Sawai Madhopur.

Overnight onboard train

DAY 04 (WED): SAWAI MADHOPUR & JAIPUR

One can almost sense a life of the wilderness as the train arrives early this morning in Sawai Madhopur, a city named after its founder Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh I. Visit the Ranthambore National Park, a wildlife sanctuary that is considered to be the country's best for observing and photographing the activities of the tiger. The park, covering an area of 392 sq.kms. is also home to more than 300 species of birds. The tiger, hyena, ratel, jackal and fox are among those constituting the carnivorous population here. Pay a visit to the Amareshwar Mahadeo Temple en route to the imposing Ranthambore Fort to catch a glimpse of the history of Rajasthan. Return to the train and depart for Jaipur, where you have the opportunity to watch the colorful countryside passing by in the daylight. Breakfast will be served on board.

You are welcomed to Jaipur by caparisoned elephants and the sweet music of the auspicious 'Shehnai'. This capital city of Rajasthan, popularly known as the Pink City, was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1727 A.D. To explore the city, an air-conditioned coach takes you to Hawa Mahal, also known as the Palace of Winds, which is a remarkable five storied building along the main street of the old city in pink splendor with semi-octagonal and delicate honeycombed sandstone windows.

This is followed by a visit to Amber Fort, eight kms. away, where elephant rides add to the ambiance. Later, you may enjoy shopping for Jaipur's famous jewelry, handicrafts, carpets, blue pottery and textiles. After lunch at a 5-star hotel, you are off to the City Palace, home of the erstwhile royal family. Right across the road from the City Palace is the Jantar Mantar, the largest observatory built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. Enjoy dinner accompanied by a cultural performance and return to the train later this evening.

Overnight onboard train

DAY 05 (THU): **KHAJURAHO**

Breakfast will be served on board.

Arrive this morning in Khajuraho, a city which exudes passion, eroticism, dance, and other forms of creative arts depicted in the sculpture and images of its temples.

These 9th to 12th century temples illustrate the magnificent architecture during the times of the Chandela dynasty. The 85 temples were built in North Indian "Nagara" style, though only 20 of them have survived the harsh weather conditions over time. Return to the train this evening and travel even further back in time to Varanasi.

Overnight onboard train

DAY 06 (FRI): **VARANASI**

Breakfast will be served on board.

Awaken in the holy city of Varanasi, whose history dates back over 3,000 years. Temples can be found at every few paces, including the Jyotirlinga Visvanatha Temple, or Golden Temple which was rebuilt in 1776 and dedicated to Lord Shiva.

The Jnana Vapi Well, meaning "well of wisdom" is believed to have been dug by Lord Shiva himself. The Ganga Ghats (river front) are the most popular pilgrimage spot in Varanasi and are centers of music and learning. The holy city has been a symbol of spirituality, philosophy and mysticism for thousands of years and has produced great saints and personalities like Guatama Buddha, Mahavira, Kabir, Tulsi Das, Shankaracharya, Ramanuja and Patanjali.

Today's sightseeing tour includes visits to the Ganga Ghats, Maha Aarti, Buddhist temples at Sarnath and more. Return to the train and prepare for tomorrow's journey further into Uttar Pradesh to visit the breathtaking Taj Mahal.

Overnight onboard train

DAY 07 (SAT): **BHARATPUR & AGRA**

Breakfast will be served on board.

Agra is one of the world's prominent tourist destinations, boasting three impressive heritage monuments. Explore the abandoned Mughal palatial complex of Fatehpur Sikri, followed by a visit to the Red Fort. Enjoy lunch at a five-star hotel and later, explore the Taj Mahal, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. This pristine monument of undying love was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal. You also have an opportunity for shopping, as Agra is known for its splendid marble inlay work like the Pietra Dura work on the Taj, leather goods and jewelry.

Dinner will be served on board. We bid farewell to the Palace on Wheels and perhaps a final drink in the lounge bar.

Overnight onboard train

DAY 08 (SUN): **DELHI**

Breakfast will be served on board.

Check out time 0745 AM

Today morning you will disembark from the train at the Safdarjung Railway Station

***** TOUR ENDS *****