MercuryHolidays

GRAND TOUR OF RAJASTHAN

Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur & Udaipur

Explore the iconic monuments of Delhi and Agra before travelling further into the enchanting northern province of Rajasthan, awash with all the vibrant colours of India. Brimming with atmospheric cities, stunning scenery and delicious cuisine, discover magnificent forts, opulent palaces and experience an unforgettable night in a deluxe tent under the stars in the immense Thar Desert.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Rajasthan. Please take the time to read this dossier and to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Delhi
Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Delhi International Airport.

DAY 2: Delhi L/D
On arrival in Delhi, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After lunch, a short tour of the beautifully planned city of New Delhi will follow. Offering you a taste of its imperial glory, you'll drive past the India Gate and Parliament Building before visiting the Birla Temple, made purely out of 2,000 tons of Rajasthani white marble.

DAY 3: Delhi B/L/D
Today enjoy a full day tour of Delhi, beginning with the historic Old Delhi. Travelling through the narrow, crowded streets on a rickshaw, pass vibrant food markets and chai wallahs brewing their sweet tea. A visit to the regal Red Fort gives you a sense of the lavish life once led by the former rulers before your tour continues to New Delhi to see the Mahatma Gandhi memorial and the 12th century Qutab Minar with its fine examples of Indo-Islamic architecture.

DAY 4: Delhi to Agra B/L/D
Depart Delhi for a leisurely train journey to Agra. Despite being a small city, Agra was once the capital of the mighty Mughal dynasty whose strength manifested itself in the huge forts and buildings designed to maintain its power. During the afternoon you will visit the vast red sandstone Agra Fort. The colossal walled city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built by the Mughals in 1573 and boasts gigantic pavilions, grand palaces and spectacular courtyards.

DAY 5: Agra B/L/D
This magical day starts with a tour of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal; words do not do this remarkable palace justice. Taking 17 years and 20,000 men to build, the heartbroken Mughal Emperor Shahjahan dedicated this stunning white marble monument of love to his deceased wife to enshrine her mortal remains. Return back to the hotel for lunch and to enjoy the rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 6: Agra to Jaipur B/L/D
This morning drive to the Pink City of Jaipur, en route you will make a stop at the magnificent Fatehpur Sikri, the ancient capital of the Emperor Akbar. A World Heritage Site, the city includes a stunning mosque and three palaces. After lunch, proceed to Jaipur, passing farms and villages before arriving in Jaipur in time for dinner.

DAY 7: Jaipur B/L/D
Begin your day in Jaipur with a visit to the spectacular Amber Fort, the ancient capital of the royal family until 1728. Spanning over four huge courtyards, you will travel to the centre of the fort by either elephant or jeep, passing snake charmers and harems of the Maharajah along the way. An afternoon city tour of Jaipur takes you to the City Palace and astronomical observatory of Jantar Mantar. Lastly marvel at the hundreds of tiny windows on the façade of the Hawa Mahal, known to many as the Palace of the Winds.

DAY 8: Jaipur to Bikaner B/L/D
Following breakfast you will start the drive to Bikaner, stopping en-route for lunch. Bounded by sand dunes and situated on an elevated plain, this vibrant desert town is fondly known as the 'camel country' of India. Arriving early evening you will check-in to your hotel for your overnight stay.

DAY 9: Bikaner B/L/D
A morning tour of the 16th century Junagad Fort awaits you today. With its unique and formidable structure, you will be able to appreciate the amazing network of havelis –

mansions with courtyards and balconies of red sandstone and marble.
The fort also contains numerous monuments with gold plasters, exquisite mirror work and hidden chambers. Returning to the hotel for lunch you will have the rest of the day at leisure to relax.

DAY 10: Bikaner to Jaisalmer B/L/D
This morning you will head to the 'Sun City' of Jaisalmer, located in the great Thar Desert. Dominated by the breathtaking fort, this beautifully evocative city is one of Rajasthan's biggest attractions with its mysterious camel-train trade routes and local bazaars brimming with bright embroideries and dazzling glass mirrors. On arrival into the city you will check into your hotel before visiting some of the main attractions including the 12th century Jain temples and the magnificent golden Jaisalmer fort itself.

DAY 11: Jaisalmer to Manvar B/L/D
Located in the heart of Rajasthan, Manvar's wilderness is beautiful beyond imagination. Surrounded by sand dunes, your desert camp destination is perfectly situated for fantastic views of the vast desert. After check-in and lunch you will be taken on a desert jeep safari to see some of the rural life of the surrounding areas. Later, enjoy the unique experience of a camel ride into the Thar Desert. This evening witness the stunning sunset with a cultural performance and dinner under the starlit skies.

DAY 12: Manvar to Jodhpur B/L/D
After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Jodhpur where you will enjoy an afternoon tour of the buzzing 'Blue City'. Starting at the mighty 15th century Mehrangarh fort, this magnificent architectural masterpiece towers above the sandstone hills of the city and boasts huge courtyards and palatial apartments within. Continue on to Jaswanth Thada, the traditional cremation ground of the rulers of Jodhpur with ornamental gardens containing the fabulous white marble memorial to the Maharaja, Jaswanth Singh II.

DAY 13: Jodhpur & Bishnoi B/L/D
Spend a relaxed morning at leisure before an afternoon visit to a tribal village in the nearby Bishnoi, offering a taste of the past and rich culture of the region. Inhabited by a community of nature worshippers, the beautifully scenic village contains a natural lake surrounded by Khejri trees where migratory birds, antelope and other animals come from nearby areas to drink and graze.

DAY 14: Jodhpur to Udaipur B/L/D
Leaving Jodhpur, en-route to Udaipur you will visit the world famous Ranakpur temple complex. Acclaimed for their intricate and superb architectural style, the temples are the largest of the Jain cult and form one of the five major pilgrimage sites. Wholly constructed in marble with more than 1,400 exquisitely carved supportive pillars, they contain numerous beautifully and delicately carved sculptures and are definitely a highlight of any trip to this area. Continuing on towards Udaipur, you will stop for lunch before arriving at your hotel in the city.

DAY 15: Udaipur B/L/D
Affectionately known as 'The Venice of the East', magical Udaipur is a city of romance with beautiful lakes and fantastical palaces all bordered by lush, forested hills. This morning you will visit the huge City Palace, lining the eastern shore of Lake Pichola, with its balconies gazing out towards the stunning Lake Palace seemingly floating on the waters across the shimmering lake. Next make a stop at the celebrated Jagdish temple, the largest in the city and whose 79 foot sculpted spire dominates the skyline. Here you can appreciate the three-storied temple that is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the preserver of the Universe.

DAY 16: Udaipur to the UK or Extension B
This morning you will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight back to the UK via Delhi, or continue on to your chosen extension.

Hotel Information

Delhi (2 nights): 4★ **Park Hotel** - 15 Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001, India, Contact number: 0091 (0)11 2374 3000

Agra (2 nights): 4★ **Howard Plaza** - Fatehabad Road, Agra-28200, (U.P.), India. Contact number: 0091 562 4048600

Jaipur (2 nights): 4★ **Hotel Mansingh** - Sansar Chandra Road, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302001, India. Contact number: 0091 141 237 8771

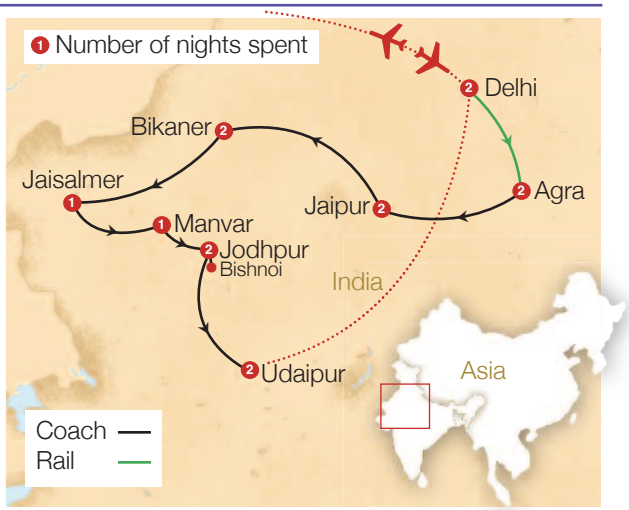
Bikaner (2 nights): 4★ **Heritage Resort** - Post Box No. 33, Milestone, NH 11, Jaipur Highway, Bikaner-334001, Rajasthan, India. Contact: 0091 800 319 2393

Jaisalmer (1 night): 4★ **Gorbandh Palace** - Gorbandh Palace, Jaisalmer 1, Tourist Complex, Sam Road, Jaislamer 345001, Rajasthan, India. Contact: 0091 2992 253801

Manvar (1 night): 4★ **Manvar Camps & Resort** - Khiyansaria, 10 kms Before Dechu Village, Near Dechu, Dechu 342025, Rajasthan, India. Contact: 0091 9414129767

Jodhpur (2 nights): 4★ **Ranbanka Palace** - Circuit House Road, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India. Contact number: 0091-291-2512800-03

Udaipur (2 nights): 4★ **Justa Rajputana** - Sector-11, Hiran Magri, Near Savina Math, Udaipur-313001, Rajasthan, India. Contact number: 0091 9590 777 000



All accommodation is all 4★ and features an en suite bathroom, air-conditioning/heating, TV and tea/coffee making facilities. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available, alternatives will be used of a similar standard. Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately two weeks before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner will either be always taken at local restaurants or at your hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

On your arrival

On your arrival in Delhi you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Jayasree, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Jayasree representative will show you to your transfer vehicle.
Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Jayasree during your stay the details are:

Jayasree Travels and Tours
F 341-Ground Floor
Lado Sarai
New Delhi 110030
Contact number: 0091 11 40565928

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details
for Jayasree Travel and Tours

Contact	Telephone number
Ms Jayasree Vikraman	0091 974 700 5888
Ms Samitha	0091 974 471 3380
Mr Jagdish Nair	0091 956 208 9699
Mr Anil Kumar	0091 984 706 6802
Mrs Prashansa Alkesh	0091 997 148 8995

Visas

A visa is required for entry into India. British Citizen Passport Holders will need to obtain an e-Tourist Visa (eTV) for travel to India. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The cost of the visa is approximately £72 per person. The Travel Visa Company can only apply for this 30 days before your proposed travel date and takes around 10 working days to issue. It is only valid for a 30 day single entry stay from the date of arrival. When calling the Travel Visa Company they will advise you of any changes to the fees or the procedure, they will also advise you of all information they will require in order to apply for the visa.

Insurance

You must obtain suitable travel insurance prior to departure. Mercury Holidays is partnered with Holiday Extras which offer insurance at the following prices:

Age in years	Up to 64	65-74	75-85
Up to 17 days cover	£42	£79	£135
Up to 24 days cover	£48	£94	£146

Worldwide (excluding USA)
For all persons 86 years and over, please contact us for insurance prices. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is strongly recommended that you check the latest health recommendations for travel to India with your GP at least 4-6 weeks before travel. Alternatively up to date information can be obtained by telephoning the MASTA Travel health line on 09068 224100. Any medicines you may need during your journey should be packed in your hand luggage. We suggest it is worth taking a few first aid supplies such as travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, mosquito repellant, antiseptic cream, aspirin etc, because these products can be more expensive abroad & familiar brands are not always available. Please note that it is advisable not to drink the tap water in India.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, and includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date then you may be asked to change to a different date. A full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory and is at your discretion. Should you wish to tip, this will be collected by your guide at the end of your tour for your convenience. It is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency, please do not give coins as these are difficult to exchange.

Currency Exchange - IMPORTANT

The currency in India is the Rupee or Rs. The Rupee is a closed currency and officially you are not allowed to take any cash out of India. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted in India should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour, depending on how much of a bargain-hunter you are!

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

What to Pack

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars
- Travel Plug Adaptor - The voltage in India is 220 Volts with plugs and sockets having either grounded 3 pin connections or ungrounded 2 pin connections. Should you plan to use your own hairdryer, travel iron, video camera, battery charger, electric shaver etc, it is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor.

Flight and Airport Information

Your flight is to Delhi International Airport with Jet Airways (9W), departing from London Heathrow Terminal 4.

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
London Heathrow - Delhi	20:50	10:40	8 hours 30 mins	9W121
Udaipur - Mumbai	06:55	08:15	1 hour 20 mins	9W2094
Mumbai - Heathrow	12:55	17:55	9 hours 45 mins	9W118

IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times/numbers are given for guidance and are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

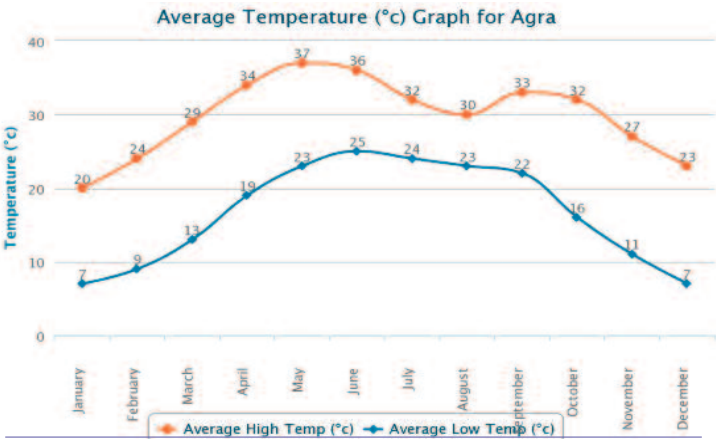
Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 23kg of hold luggage, however weight restrictions will be finalised on your e-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-in should be at least 3 hours before departure. Checked baggage allowance may vary. Please refer to the bottom right of your E-ticket receipt for the correct baggage allowance. For example, if it shows “23k” this means your allowance is 23kg; or “1PC” means One Piece not exceeding 23Kg. Important note: For handling purposes the maximum weight of any single piece of baggage must not exceed 32 Kgs. Please refer to the airline’s website for further details and the most up-to-date information. Hand Luggage: One piece of hand luggage with maximum total dimensions not exceeding a total of 115cm in size and 7kg in weight.

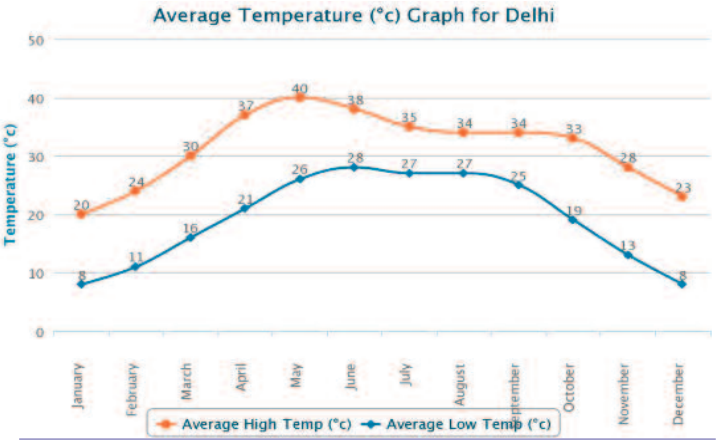
Airport Extras

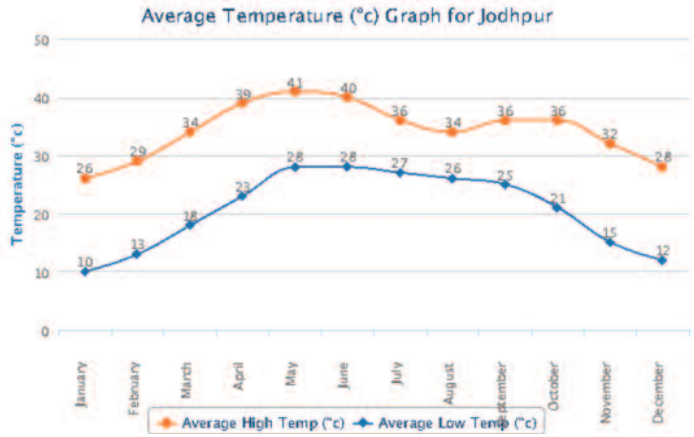
If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, accommodation or lounges at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras - Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

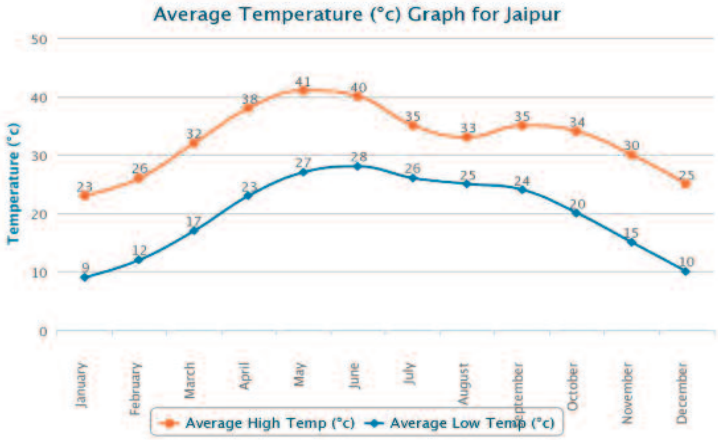
Weather and Climate

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.









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GRAND TOUR OF RAJASTHAN

Tigers of Ranthambore Extension

Once a famous hunting ground for the gallant rulers of Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park is spread over 1,344km² and is one of the biggest national parks in India. This extension gives you the chance to experience a variety of wildlife including tigers, leopards, deer and much more.

This document aims to give you all the information that you require during your add-on to the Ranthambore National Park.

Your included meal guide:
B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 16: Udaipur to Delhi D
This morning you will fly from Udaipur to Delhi where you will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel for the rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 17: Delhi to Ranthambore B/L/D
After breakfast you will transfer to the railway station to board the train for a relaxing journey through rural India to Ranthambore for a wildlife experience of a lifetime.

DAY 18: Ranthambore B/L/D
Enjoy an early morning jungle safari followed by breakfast back at your hotel and some leisure time when you can take advantage of the hotel's outdoor pool. A second safari trip will follow after lunch to visit further areas of the park.

DAY 19: Rathambore to Delhi B/L/D
Following an early breakfast you will catch the train back to Delhi, arriving in time for lunch with the rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 20: Delhi to the UK B
Depart after breakfast for your flight to the UK

Hotel Information

Ranthambore (2 nights): 4★ Ranthambore Kothi - Near Helipad, Village Khilchipur, Sawaimadhopur, Rajasthan, 322001, India.
Contact number: 0091 7462 252 112

Delhi (2 nights): 4★ Park Hotel - 15 Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001, India,
Contact number: 0091 (0)11 2374 3000
If the hotels listed are unavailable alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

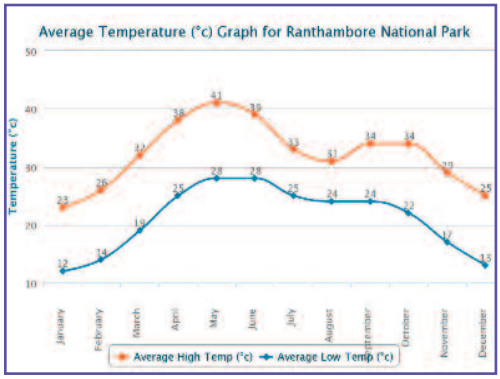
Tour guides

This is a fully escorted tour extension, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs and laundry.

Weather and Climate



Flight Information

Route	Depart	Arrive	Flight Duration	Flight Number
Udaipur - Delhi	07:45	09:30	1 hour 45 mins	9W2634
Delhi - London Heathrow	13:45	18:30	9 hours 15 mins	9W122

IMPORTANT: Please note that all flight times/numbers are given for guidance and are subject to change. Final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 23kg of hold luggage, however weight restrictions will be finalised on your e-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-in should be at least 3 hours before departure. Checked baggage allowance may vary. Please refer to the bottom right of your E-ticket receipt for the correct baggage allowance. For example, if it shows "20k" this means your allowance is 20kg; or "1PC" means One Piece not exceeding 23Kg. Important note: For handling purposes the maximum weight of any single piece of baggage must not exceed 32 Kgs. Please refer to the Airline's website for further details and the most up-to-date information. Hand Luggage: One piece of hand luggage with maximum total dimensions not exceeding a total of 115cm in size and 7kg in weight.