



Rajasthan Panorama
22 days
Fully Inclusive from the UK

Rajasthan is one of India's most colourful and vibrant states. Starting with a brief visit to Delhi and Agra, the tour combines true Indian village life with a camel safari across the sand dunes in the Thar Desert, tiger spotting in Ranthambore National Park and a visit to some of the most opulent palaces and majestic fortresses that India has to offer.

Fully Inclusive price includes:

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- All meals (excluding drinks)
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders

Welcome to Wendy Wu Tours

India continues to amaze, fascinate and thrill our passengers, many of whom have travelled to one country in Asia with us, then another, year after year. We urge you to keep in mind all the rewards, as well as challenges of travelling in a country with a history, culture and attitude so unlike your own.

A typical day's sightseeing may include the bustle and noise of a city street, sights and smells of a local market and interacting with the locals. Travelling in India requires patience as potential delays are to be expected due to standards of service. There is a low level of English spoken throughout India, so your local guides or National Escort will be indispensable during your trip.

Almost everything will be different to what you may be used to. We have found that our passengers who embark with a sense of humour and adventure, who accept that things do not always go to plan, are those who find their experience most rewarding. It is essential that all passengers recognise the demands of factors such as basic facilities and cultural differences they may encounter in some areas.

Book now on **0844 499 3899** visit www.wendywutours.co.uk or see your preferred travel agent.



Your Tour Dossier

This document is designed to be read in conjunction with the other pre-departure information provided by Wendy Wu Tours including the tour itinerary as described in our brochure and/or website. It aims to provide a straightforward description of the physical activities involved in sightseeing or travelling during the tour.

If there are any particular challenges, from the length of time spent on your feet, the length of drives and flights, to the standard of remote accommodation; they will be explained here.

All passengers must read this document to ensure the itinerary is suitable for their interests and physical capabilities. This is not your final itinerary and therefore does not mention all the sites visited.

Rajasthan Panorama - Medium Paced Tour

These tours are not strenuous but do require higher levels of fitness. A typical tour may include longer periods of sightseeing on foot, climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats will be necessary. These tours may involve longer periods of driving; sometimes on poorly maintained roads, and overnight train journeys; as well as some easy hiking. Some Medium Paced Tours may involve several days at altitude.

Anyone with a good level of fitness should be able to complete this itinerary. Of course our local guides always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance, but they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary. If you do have mobility difficulties, please contact us for our range of private tours which are more flexible and can better cater for individual needs.

NB: Please note that times and distances listed in the tour dossier are approximate.

Day 1-2: UK/Delhi

You will be met in the airport arrivals hall tonight by your Local Guide/National Escort, together with any other tour members from your group who may be arriving at a similar time. Transfer approx. 45 minutes to your hotel and check-in. There is no sightseeing arranged for today.

Day 3: Delhi/Alsisar

Drive approx. 7 to 8 hours (260km) to Alsisar and have lunch en route. There is no sightseeing on arrival in Alsisar so the rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 4: Alsisar/Gajner via Bikaner

Drive approx. 4.5 hours (175 km) to Bikaner and stop at Junagarh Fort to commence easy sightseeing including a 'tonga' ride through medieval streets. The various palaces at Junagarh Fort include the Chandra Mahal (Moon Palace) with mirror work, carvings and marble decorations and the Phool Mahal (Flower Palace). The royal chapel is Har Mandir, where royal weddings and births were once celebrated. Afterwards drive approx. 45 minutes (32km) to Gajner and check-in at your hotel.

Day 5: Gajner/Jaisalmer

Drive approx. 7 hours (301km) to Jaisalmer and check-in at your hotel. In the early afternoon, drive out of town to Sunset Point for leisurely sightseeing.

Day 6: Jaisalmer

This morning, sightseeing at Jaisalmer Fort and surrounding havellis and temples involves approx. 2 to 3 hours sightseeing on foot. After lunch, drive approx. 1.5 hours (42km) to Sam Village. Sightseeing here involves a camel ride in the Thar Desert National Park – tourist numbers can be high as camel rides have become very popular.

Day 7: Jaisalmer/Manvar

Drive approx. 3.5 hours (190km) through Thar Desert to Manvar and check-in at the tented camp. The tented camp is operational only from Mid-October to Mid-April. If you are travelling on this tour outside this period, then you will stay in the resort. Sightseeing this afternoon involves taking a jeep and camel ride.

Day 8: Manvar/Jodhpur

Drive approx. 3 hours (190km) to Jodhpur & check-in to your hotel.

Day 9: Jodhpur

Visiting the Meherangarh Fort involves approx. 2 hours of sightseeing with some stairs. Afterwards drive approx. 30 minutes to Umaid Bhawan Palace (also called Chittar Palace);

sightseeing here involves approx. 1 hour of easy walking around the palace and museum.

Day 10: Jodhpur/Udaipur via Ranakpur

Drive approx. 4 hours (180km) to Ranakpur and visit Jain temple complex. Sightseeing here involves approx. 30 minutes of easy walking - refer to the appropriate dress section below. Drive approx. 3 to 4 hours (90km) to Udaipur and check-in at hotel. Before sunset, drive approx. 30 minutes to Lake Pichola for a boat ride. Please note that the Lake Palace (now an exclusive hotel) does not allow visitors. Easy sightseeing at the Jagmandir Lake Palace.

Day 11: Udaipur

Easy sightseeing this morning involves approx. 1 to 2 hours of leisurely sightseeing. After lunch, visit the City Palace, which involves approx. 2 hours of sightseeing on foot. Some stairs at this location are without handrails, so please be cautious. The group will exit at a different gate to that which they entered (entry gate will be Fatehpole Gate while the exit gate will be Tripolia Gate), so any customers who choose to not complete this activity have the option to transfer to the lunch venue and wait for the group there. After lunch you will take an auto rickshaw back to the bus.

Day 12: Udaipur/Deogarh

Drive approx. 8 hours (280km) to Deogarh via Kumbalgarh and check-in at your hotel. This evening's walk through the village is leisurely.

Day 13: Deogarh/Pushkar

Check-out from your hotel and transfer a short distance to the station to board the morning train to Phulad. This is a rural train, built in the 1930's and the ride takes approx. 2 hours. Disembark at Phulad and drive approx. 4.5 hours (150 km) to Pushkar and check in at your hotel. Accommodation is at a tented camp only during Pushkar's famous camel fair. This afternoon, sightseeing involves approx. 2 hours of leisurely walking around the local market and lake. You will be visiting a temple – refer to the appropriate dress section below. Please note that Pushkar observes religious laws against alcohol and non-vegetarian food.

Day 14: Pushkar/Jaipur

Drive approx. 3 hours (140km) to Jaipur and check-in at your hotel. Afterwards there will be leisurely sightseeing on foot at the Maharaja's City Palace. Jaipur is a larger city where we recommend you do not wander around without your Guide/Escort at night.

Day 15: Jaipur

Sightseeing this morning involves 2 to 3 hours of sightseeing on foot. At Amer Fort, you will ride jeeps to and from the bus park and palace entrance. We have not included the elephant ride up to the palace in your itinerary because of the unreliability of this service; visitors usually need to queue for 2 to 3 hours and the service is often shut down without notice by local tourism authorities due to safety concerns. There are stairs within the palace and sightseeing this afternoon involves approx. 2 hours on foot.

Day 16: Jaipur/Ranthambore National Park

Drive approx. 4 hours (170km) south to Ranthambore National Park and check-in at your hotel. As noted above, sections of this road are often undergoing repair and may therefore affect travel time.

Day 17: Ranthambore National Park

You will have morning and afternoon excursions into the park, each involving approx. 2 to 3 hours of driving through the park in canters, on unsealed tracks, returning to the hotel for lunch. There are no toilets available during the park excursions.

Day 18: Ranthambore National Park/Agra

Transfer 10km to the train station in nearby Sawai Madhopur, and board your train to Bharatpur (journey takes 2 hours 15 minutes). After lunch, drive approx. 30 minutes (22km) to Fatehpur Sikri and visit the ancient capital city. Sightseeing involves approx. 1 hour of easy walking. Continue driving approx. 1.5 hours (40km) to Agra and check-in at your hotel.

Day 19: Agra

This morning we rise early in order to catch 'tonga' carts through the awakening streets of Agra, and to evade the heat and crowds at the Taj Mahal later in the day. We usually spend approx. 2 hours here; sightseeing is easy. This afternoon, visit Agra Fort, sightseeing here involves approx. 1.5 hours on foot.

Day 20: Agra/Delhi

Drive approx. 5 to 6 hours (200km) to Delhi. Sightseeing in the afternoon involves approx. 2 to 3 hours of easy walking and shopping time. Transfer to your hotel and check-in for an overnight stay.

Day 21: Delhi

Sightseeing this morning involves approx. 1 to 2 hours of easy walking at Old Delhi. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure.

Day 22: Delhi/UK

Today you will checkout of the hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight home.

If you are travelling on a land only basis, then you will need to make your own way to the starting hotel in Delhi on Day 2. On Day 22, you will checkout from your Delhi hotel, and continue as per your own arrangements.

Please refer to the Wendy Wu Tours brochure and/or website for details on departure dates, prices, itineraries, inclusions and tour extensions available as well as full booking conditions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**Before You Leave**

Itinerary Changes - The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in India are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your Local Guide or National Escort will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Roads in India have generally been improved over recent years, but some road construction and/or weather conditions may still lengthen the driving times, especially whilst driving between Jaipur and Ranthambore.

Visas - A visa is required for entry into India. A standard visa processing service is included in your tour cost. You will need to complete the visa application form online at: <http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/onlineapplication.html>. Once completed you will need to print the completed form, and send it to our office along with your passport and 2 passport photos per person, taken within the last 6 months, in order for our office to process your visa with the embassy. We will require all this information 8 weeks prior to departure. As per our standard visa processing service, we will have your passport for at least 4 weeks. Any passports and visa applications that require an express service, or that are received in our office less than 6 weeks prior to departure will incur a £50 per passport express fee.

In rare cases, you may be required to provide further information or documentation to the Indian embassy and/or be required to attend an interview at the embassy. If this is the case we will notify you as soon as we have been advised.

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your local GP or a travel doctor for advice on vaccinations and travel health. www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk is a comprehensive website that you may also find useful.

Climate - Please refer to our website or brochure for detailed temperature charts.

Insurance - It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance. You must provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book with us or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours 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.

Suggested Packing List - A complete list will be provided with deposit documentation and your final documentation pack.

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What to Expect on Tour

Group Size – All our group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum number of 10 travellers and a National Escort will accompany each group of over 10. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually no more than 18 passengers.

Your accommodation - All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. Electricity in Ranthambore National Park in particular can be unreliable. If you experience any difficulty please speak to your National Escort/Local Guide.

Alternative accommodation - In Manvar (and Pushkar, during November's camel fair), you will be staying overnight in a tented camp – refer to Your Travel Guide's 'Accommodation' section for more information.

Rail journeys - This trip involves 2 day journey's in AC class cars - refer to Your Travel Guide's Transport and Eating in India sections for more information. Getting on and off the trains in India can be quite disordered and amusing as passengers will start boarding well before people have finished getting off! If your group is disembarking at a stop that is not the end of the line, the train will only stop for 10mins and you must have your luggage ready and by your side a few minutes before the train pulls into the station.

Alternative transport - You will take a 2 hour ride on the rural train from Deogarh to Phulad. The carriages have ample room for the average sized westerner, but are in original condition with wooden bench seats, no air-conditioning and basic toilet facilities.

Meals - All meals (excluding drinks) are included in our fully inclusive group tours from the groups' arrival until the day of departure. Our schedule of meals is designed so that you can experience the local dishes, their individual flavours as well as the different ways they are prepared and cooked throughout India.

Tipping - As with most countries, tipping is a recognised part of life in India. For our passengers' convenience we ask for a specified amount to be paid at the beginning of our group tours to cover tipping for guides, drivers, restaurant staff etc. Approximate tipping amounts can be found in our brochure and/or website. Exact tipping amounts will be stated in your final documentation, approx. 2 weeks before departure.

Optional Extras - A number of optional extra programmes/activities may be offered by your National Escort/Local Guide whilst on tour, time permitting. Please feel free to ask your National Escort/Local Guide about any optional touring they may be planning over the next few days and the approximate cost so you can ensure you have the appropriate funds. All the optional extras must be paid for in local currency. If you do not wish to take part in any optional extras, you will have the option of enjoying some free time at leisure or to return to the hotel.

Personal Expenses - You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of £150 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain consider allocating a higher amount.

Climbing steps - Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves the climbing of stairs. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steep steps to slow down the advance of the enemy once they were inside. The stairs tend to be large, uneven and sometimes without handrails. Hindu and Buddhist temples or pagodas also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk a distance uphill from the bus park to the entrance, and/or need to climb stairs once inside.

Appropriate dress – The locals dress conservatively and you should make every effort to do this too. According to their culture, wearing brief shorts or shirts, revealing shoulders and legs, or going without a shirt is offensive no matter if you are a man or woman, and no matter the weather. For men, full-length cotton trousers are preferable, while shorts that cover the knees are acceptable. For women, skirts or trousers that reach below the knee are ideal, worn with tops that cover the shoulders. Women will find a modesty shawl (such as a large shawl or sarong) is useful to carry in your daypack while sightseeing, so that you can cover up when required. Please refer to your Your Travel Guide's 'dress appropriately' section for more information.

When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Religious sites and homes throughout India – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few - require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are 'shoe minders' who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a 'tip' – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove them, you will have to remain outside. Bring some shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces.

Electricity - The supply of electricity in Manvar and Pushkar tented camps (Days 7 and 13) is limited and can be unreliable. It can also be unreliable whilst in the Ranthambore National Park (Days 16-18). Refer to the 'electricity' section of Your Travel Guide.

After Your Booking

Once you have booked with Wendy Wu Tours, you will receive a confirmation invoice followed by deposit documentation, which includes a visa application form, help sheet, and an Indian travel guide. Your final documentation pack will be sent to you approx. 2 weeks prior to departure, and will include a travel wallet, badge, lanyard, suggested packing list and a phrase book, along with your final itinerary and international etickets.

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