

ROMANTIC PALACES & FORTS

14 days/13 nights

HIDDEN AWAY, just off the main tourist track, are some lovely small palaces and hunting lodges of erstwhile maharajas. Linked to make up a complete itinerary, they provide a unique experience and exposure to aspects of the country you may not otherwise see.

Almost at the gates of Jaipur, the richly decorated and elegantly managed Samode Palace takes you back in time to when the rhythm of ankle bells beckoned from mirrored halls, and soft whispers of intrigue scurried around the zenana. Echoes of the past are found in some of the special small forts in little villages, while the fort of Devigarh has been innovatively converted into a beautiful boutique hotel with a minimal interiors concept and spa and wellness programs. Udaipur is soft — a lush oasis in the midst of a harsh land. View the beauty of the city with its richly ornamented havelis.

This is a wonderful itinerary that introduces you to Royal Rajasthan as a guest in some of its most spectacular forts and palaces. Turbaned family retainers will take care of your every need; wait on your smallest command, even as soft whispers of history echo in the rooms around you. Rajasthan is replete with sprawling, stone-faced forts that, perched high on craggy hilltops, are a marvel of defensive building. Elaborate palaces and richly ornamented temples dot the towns and cities with an exuberance that celebrates the skilled hands of the craftsman.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Delhi

Welcome at Delhi Airport followed by transfer to your hotel.

Day 2 Delhi

Today's sightseeing of Delhi introduces you to the different faces of the capital: contemporary Indian, Raj relic, conservative Hindu, Mughal, and more. B

Day 3 Delhi-Agra (200kms – 4hrs drive)

Drive to Agra this morning. Visit the famous Taj Mahal, the Agra Fort, and see artisans inlaying gemstones into marble, then return to see the setting sun paint the Taj in fiery hues. B

Day 4 Agra-Samode via Fatehpur Sikri (295kms – 7hrs drive)

A five-hour drive brings you to the personalised hospitality of the exquisite Samode Palace, located just outside Jaipur. B

Day 5 Samode-Jaipur-Samode (33kms – 45min drive)

Discover Jaipur city and Amber Fort on a full-day tour today. B

Day 6 Samode-Khimsar (320kms – 7hours drive)

A long drive to Khimsar where you will spend the night at the Fort. A highlight here is dinner on the ramparts overlooking the illuminated fort and swimming pool. Experience sunset in the sand dunes in the Thar Desert this evening. B

Day 7 Khimsar-Jodhpur-Rohetgarh (140kms – 3hrs drive)

Late morning drive to Rohetgarh for a two-day sojourn, en route visiting Jodhpur with its spectacular Mehrangar Fort and Jaswant Thada — a white marble cenotaph built in 1899. B

Day 8 Rohetgarh

Take a jeep safari this morning into the desert and visit traditional Bishnoi and Brahmin villages. B

Day 9 Rohetgarh-Deogarh (250kms – 5hrs drive)

On to Deogarh this morning to stay the night in another of the beautiful palaces of Rajasthan. B

