



# India's Royal Rajasthan: Udaipur, Jaipur & Agra

14 days | 18 days with Kerala & Mumbai extension

Rajasthan, India's largest state, got its moniker for the graceful residences scattered throughout it. But what about the natural brilliance of Udaipur's lakes, the divine symmetry of the Ranakpur Temple, and the majestic tigers of Ranthambore National Park? In truth, each corner of the region is fit for royalty, and this tour will immerse you in all its nooks and crannies (with a stop at the Taj Mahal along the way). To further broaden your horizons, add the extension to Kerala and Mumbai and come face-to-face with both the beauty of God's Own Country and one of India's most mesmerizing cities.



## Your tour package includes

- 11 nights in handpicked hotels
- 11 breakfasts
- 7 lunches
- 7 dinners with beer or wine
- 3 tastings
- 14 sightseeing tours
- Expert Tour Director & local guides
- Private deluxe motor coach
- 1 on-tour flight

## Included highlights

- Jama Masjid in Old Delhi
- Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi
- Sikh community kitchen
- Lake Pichola sunset cruise
- Udaipur's City Palace
- Jaipur's Amber Fort
- Game drives through Ranthambore National Park
- Taj Mahal
- I'timad-ud-Daulah

## Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for about two hours daily across moderately uneven terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with some hills and stairs.

## Group size

12-22

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 1: Travel day

Board your overnight flight to Delhi today.

## Delhi → 3 nights

### Day 2: Arrival in Delhi

Welcome to India! After arriving in Delhi, make the short transfer with your groupmates to your hotel. You'll touch down later in the evening, so use the rest of your day to settle into your room, grab a bite to eat at your hotel, catch up on sleep, and look forward to the rest of your journey.

### Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Old Delhi

*Included meals: breakfast, welcome dinner*

Finish shaking off that jet lag during a leisurely morning spent in the comfort of your hotel. Then, meet up with your Tour Director and set out for Old Delhi. Built on the order of Shah Jahan, the fifth Mughal Emperor, this walled city was dubbed Shahjahanabad upon its completion in 1648 and served as the capital of Mughal India for over 200 years. Wind through its narrow lanes on a guided sightseeing tour and bask in its highlights.

- See the black marble pedestal and eternal flame of Raj Ghat, an enduring tribute to Mahatma Gandhi built on the site of his cremation. Then, visit a nearby museum dedicated to the "Father of the Nation," filled with photographs and books documenting his life.
- Enter Jama Masjid, the former imperial mosque of the Mughals. Immediately recognizable by its twin sandstone minarets and three onion-like domes, this immense marble structure is one of Delhi's most iconic sites. Step inside to view this elegant building from within, and enjoy a reverent moment with your thoughts.
- Split into groups and get ready to crank up the volume—and speed—on a rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk. Since opening in

the 16th century, this market has ballooned into one of the largest in India. Zip through the streets of the "Moonlight Square," feeling awed by all the sights, smells, and sounds of the bustling bazaar as you go.

Wrap up your first full day in India with an included welcome dinner, served with beer or wine at a local restaurant.

*Please note: The schedule of your sightseeing tour may vary based on your departure date and the conditions in Delhi. Also, women will be given robes to wear over their clothes at Jama Masjid.*

### Day 4: Humayun's Tomb & the Bangla Sahib temple

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

After walking, driving, and rickshaw-riding through history yesterday, spend your day getting to know India's present in New Delhi. Built over a span of 20 years and inaugurated as the country's capital in 1931, it contains some of the nation's most significant cultural sites. Check them out as you traverse the district with your Tour Director.

- Visit Humayun's Tomb. Rising from an urban green space, the red sandstone walls of this UNESCO World Heritage Site pay striking homage to the eponymous 16th-century Mughal ruler. Enter the mausoleum and explore this prime example of Islamic architecture.
- Enter one of the holiest places in the Sikh faith: Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. Originally a bungalow belonging to a local king, it grew from a small shrine to a gurudwara, or temple, associated with the eighth Sikh Guru, Har Krishan. Its Sarovar, or lake, is said to have healing properties, further highlighting the temple's spiritual importance.
- Learn about the history and traditions of Sikhism. This organized religion is the fifth-largest and one of the youngest in the world. It emphasizes the concept of seva—selfless service—and adherents at Gurudwara Bangla Sahib put it into practice each day. You'll see it in action at the langar, or community kitchen, where free meals are served 24 hours a day.

After an included lunch at a local restaurant,

spice up your afternoon with an optional cooking demonstration, where you'll learn about local cuisine from two talented home chefs.

Alternatively, recharge on your own and prepare for tomorrow's journey to Udaipur.

*Please note: The schedule of your sightseeing tour may vary based on your departure date and the conditions in Delhi. Also, all travelers must wear a head covering in Gurudwara Bangla Sahib. One will be provided for you before entering.*

+ Delhi Cooking Demonstration & Home-Hosted Dinner

## Udaipur → 2 nights

### Day 5: Flight to Udaipur & Lake Pichola sunset cruise

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

Depart from Delhi today and fly to the lakeside city of Udaipur. This former capital of the Mewar Kingdom will be your introduction to Rajasthan, which is India's largest state and famous for its hill forts, palaces, and wildlife.

Take your first look at the majestic terrain of the Land of Kings as you transfer from the airport to your hotel. Then, after dropping off your belongings, head to the shores of Lake Pichola for a sunset cruise.

Step aboard a private boat and push out onto this manmade lake. As you sail, snap pictures of the islands breaking its surface, made more elegant by the evening light. Before heading back, you'll dock at an island for an included drink, sipping as you savor the surrounding views. Look on as golden hour glams up the palaces on Pichola's shores, then return to land. From Lake Pichola, go with your group to your hotel's restaurant for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

*Please note: Travelers must wear a lifejacket during the sunset cruise.*

### Day 6: Sightseeing tour of Udaipur

*Included meals: breakfast*

The City of Lakes. The Venice of the East.

Decide which of these nicknames fits best as you follow your Tour Director on today's guided sightseeing tour.

- Begin at the sprawling City Palace. Despite its name, it isn't a single structure. Spilling out

along the edge of Lake Pichola, this magnificent compound contains the palaces of 11 different rulers, going back almost 500 years. Stroll along its narrow corridors and vibrantly colored rooms, viewing priceless artworks and artifacts—pieces like the armor of Maharana Pratap, leader of the Rajput resistance against the Mughal Empire.

- Walk inland and reach the Old City—the charming, chaotic heart of Udaipur. Breathe in its bazaar-like atmosphere as you roam its streets and pass locals en route to the landmark Jagdish Temple. Recognizable by its bulging grey towers, it has venerated the god Vishnu since 1651. (If you're nursing some nagging aches, look for people surrounding a marble slab—it's said to possess pain-relieving powers.) While there, you'll learn about Hindu prayer practices and watch the Jagdish's langar in action. Hindu temples operate community kitchens, just like their Sikh counterparts, that serve delicious vegetarian dishes free of charge.

For an extra helping of Mewar history—and a lot of modern inspiration in the form of a women's cooperative—add the afternoon's outing to nearby Nagda. Prefer to unwind? Kick back in your hotel and get a head start on packing for tomorrow's transfer to the Deogarh Region. + Nagda Temple & Women's Cooperative Workshop

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## Deogarh Region → 1 night

### Day 7: Deogarh Region via Ranakpur Temple

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Leave Udaipur behind and travel deeper into Rajasthan, stopping to visit Ranakpur Temple. A flash of creamy white in an otherwise verdant landscape, the mesmerizing spires of this house of worship mark one of the oldest and holiest Jain shrines in India. Enter the 48,000-square-foot structure, hewn entirely from marble, and marvel at its 1,444 intricately carved pillars. Once you pick your jaw up off the ground, you'll get the chance to learn about Jain religious practices, immersing yourself a bit more in the symbolic beauty of this place.

Wrap up by heading to a local restaurant for an included lunch, then strike out for the Deogarh region, a mountainous area draped in forests and punctuated by waterfalls. Arrive and freshen up at your hotel—a historic heritage property—then reconvene for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

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## Jaipur → 2 nights

### Day 8: Jaipur via Rajasthani village

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, lunch*

As you make your way to Jaipur, stop one last time in the Deogarh region to get a taste of village life and experience a lifestyle perfectly in sync with nature. Notice locals tending their fields and caring for cattle as you walk through, stopping to visit a pair of craftspeople. First, watch an artisan as they make pottery using a manually operated wheel. Then, visit a jeweler and learn about the art of making Rajasthani bangles—cylindrically layered bracelets that dazzle with their colors and stonework. Wrap up with a tasting of authentic chai (the Hindi word for tea) before continuing to the day's final destination.

If you want to stretch your legs a bit, get active by adding the evening's optional Bollywood dance class and dinner. If not, turn in early and dream about all you've seen so far. + Bollywood Dance Class & Dinner

### Day 9: Sightseeing tour of the Amber Fort & Jaipur

*Included meals: breakfast, tasting, dinner*

This morning, you have two options: Either sleep in and ease into the day, or join your groupmates for a sunrise excursion in a hot-air balloon. Regardless of your choice, join back up with your Tour Director later in the morning for another spot of sightseeing. Your destination: the Amber Fort. Hunkered down atop a hill, this 16th-century complex is a paragon of Rajput architecture—so much so that it earned a spot among UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Climb into a 4x4 Jeep and make the drive up the fort's slopes. Once you've made it to its sandstone-and-marble exterior, disembark and let a combination of history and hilltop views wash over you. Then, take off on a guided tour and walk through gardens, under ornate archways, up serpentine staircases, and past beautifully patterned walls. When it's time to leave, you'll head back to the Pink City of Jaipur—named for the dusty rose hue of the buildings in its Old City. The Rajasthani capital contains architectural marvels galore, and your Tour Director will show you some of its most magnificent.

- Sip masala chai as you walk through Jaipur's bustling markets, where traders offer everything from handmade jewelry to traditional textiles and marble statues.

- Scope out the City Palace—built following the traditional Hindu system of Vastu Shastra—then explore its museum, taking a peek into the lives of the royals who lived there in the 18th century.
- Pass the honeycombed facade of the Hawa Mahal, nicknamed the Palace of the Winds due to a unique structural feature. When it was built in 1799, its architect dotted the exterior with 953 small windows. Besides allowing the royal ladies within to observe the streets below, they also created a gentle wind tunnel effect, ensuring a constant breeze that made the sweltering Rajasthani summers bearable.

Looking to understand Indian culture from a local perspective? Tonight, you and your group will head to a family's home for dinner. You'll sample the region's specialties as you hear about day-to-day life in Jaipur from the Rajput perspective. (The term "Rajput" describes patrilineal clans that are descended from the warrior classes of old Northern India.) Afterward, head back to your hotel with both a full stomach and heart. + Jaipur Hot-Air Balloon Ride

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## Ranthambore → 2 nights

### Day 10: Transfer to Ranthambore & Dhonk visit

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, tasting, dinner*

Once upon a time, the dense forest of Ranthambore served as the royal hunting grounds for the kings of Jaipur. Nowadays, it serves a more wholesome purpose as a national park and a refuge for Bengal tigers. Stop for an included lunch as you make your way there, then pay a visit to Dhonk. This women-run workshop, set up to provide stable jobs for the wives of ex-poachers, teaches its workers handicraft skills and supports the indigenous Moghiya and Bawariya tribes. Step inside to hear more about the organization's work from the folks who run it; discover how groups like theirs help further responsible animal tourism; and, if you'd like, support their mission by buying one of their goods.

After leaving Dhonk, stop once more to enjoy typical Indian snacks at a local farm. Get a primer on the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve during a brief orientation talk, then proceed to your hotel in the region. After unwinding for a spell, meet back up for an included dinner, served with beer or wine.

### Day 11: Game drives in Ranthambore National Park

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Today, set out on a game drive in Ranthambore National Park. In addition to its famous tigers, the preserve is home to over 270 species of birds and 300 species of trees, as well as ancient forts and Jain temples. Needless to say, there's plenty to spot, so lean on the sharp eye of your driver-guide.

After an afternoon break for an included lunch, head back into the park to continue your search for the elusive Bengal tiger. If they prove hard to spot, don't fret—there are also sloth bears, striped hyenas, jackals, and Indian mongeese prowling around, and you'll leave with a deeper appreciation for the country's wildlife.

Sit down for an included dinner this evening and compare sightings with the rest of your fellow travelers before turning in for the night.

*Please note: Bengal tigers are extremely reclusive. We can't guarantee you'll spot one during your game drives.*

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## Agra → 1 night

### Day 12: Transfer to Agra & sightseeing tour of the Taj Mahal

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, farewell dinner*

From Ranthambore, head southwest to the city of Agra, stopping for an included lunch upon arrival. Then, get excited: You have a date with one of the most romantic buildings on the planet. Make for the shores of the Yamuna River and pay a visit to the Taj Mahal, India's crown jewel and a testament of undying love. Commissioned by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his dear wife, Mumtaz Mahal, the sprawling white marble complex is symmetrical in nearly every way—from its soaring onion dome to the minarets framing it against the horizon. Embark on a sunset tour of this Wonder of the Modern World and let yourself get lost in the moment. This evening, celebrate your trip with your fellow travelers during a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 13: I'timad-ud-Daulah, transfer to Delhi & departure

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch*

Begin your final day on tour with one last outing. Your destination: the tomb of I'timad-ud-Daulah, the lavish final resting place of the Mughal

official Mirza Ghiyas Beg. It was built as a loving tribute from daughter to father, and its name derives from the title bestowed upon Ghiyas Beg by the emperor he served: I'timad-ud-Daulah, or "Pillar of the State."

- Walk across its manicured gardens, set out in a perfect cross. (Fun fact: The only asymmetrical parts of the entire complex are the cenotaphs of Ghiyas Beg and his wife, Asmat Begum, laid side-by-side for eternity in the main tomb.)
- Enter the mausoleum with your Tour Director and come to understand why it's known as the "Baby Taj." Its use of white marble, red sandstone, and vibrant stone inlays marks a transition between eras of Mughal architecture, leading some to consider the tomb a first draft of the Taj Mahal.

Sightseeing complete, journey back to Delhi and sit down for an included lunch with your group.

From there, you'll either relax in a dayroom until your overnight flight home, or continue your adventure by flying to Southern India. Which will it be?

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## Arrive Home

### Day 14: Arrival at home

Arrive home today.

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## + Kerala & Mumbai extension

The ghosts of a colonial past in Kochi. The tranquility of houseboats floating atop the backwaters. Kerala's highlights have earned it the nickname of God's Own Country, and capping your tour of India here will help round out your understanding of this remarkably diverse country. But don't stop there: Before heading home, fly back north to Mumbai and experience the buzz and bustle of India's most populous city.

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## Kochi → 2 nights

### Day 13: I'timad-ud-Daulah, transfer to Delhi & flight to Kochi

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Today follows the same outline as day 13 of the main itinerary: a sightseeing tour of the tomb of I'timad-ud-Daulah followed by a farewell lunch.

Instead of retreating to a dayroom, though, you'll make for the airport and board a flight south to Kochi, a port city in the state of Kerala. Touch down, transfer to your hotel, and settle in before joining up for an included dinner.

### Day 14: Sightseeing tour of Kochi & cooking demonstration

*Included meals: breakfast, dinner*

Choose to enjoy a relaxing morning, getting up to speed at your own pace, or take part in a yoga lesson at your hotel early this morning. Then, discover why the city of Kochi is considered the finest jewel in Kerala's crown on today's sightseeing tour.

- Begin at Fort Kochi—a seaside neighborhood with more serenity than its name might suggest. Formerly the site of the first European fort on Indian soil, the district now houses some of the oldest colonial architecture in the country.
- Enter Mattancherry Palace—the "Dutch palace" built by the Portuguese and adorned with priceless Kerala murals—before moving on to the Santa Cruz Basilica. It's of nine such churches in India, and its eggshell walls and Gothic styling immediately catch the eye.
- Make a stop at the oldest European church in India: St. Francis. Standing in the same place as it has since 1503, St. Francis Church was once the final resting place of Vasco da Gama. From there, go to an equally significant site and walk into the Paradesi Synagogue. This Orthodox congregation is the oldest active synagogue in the Commonwealth of Nations; you'll find time-worn gravestones inscribed in Hebrew in its cemetery.
- Continue through the Old City and stroll through the fantastically fragrant Spice Market, navigating its stalls with the expert guidance of your Tour Director.

This evening, join a chef in their own home for a demonstration of Keralite cooking. Watch them whip up some of the region's typical dishes and learn more about the local cuisine before diving into a delicious dinner. Then, return to your hotel for the night.

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## Kerala Backwaters → 1 night

### Day 15: Transfer to Alleppey & Kerala backwaters houseboat cruise

*Included meals: breakfast, lunch, dinner*

Travel to Alleppey, the gateway to the peaceful

Kerala backwaters, and board a houseboat for the day. As you motor along their famed lagoons and canals, you'll enjoy a lunch prepared by private chefs, then have the chance to do some sailing of your own. Hop onto a country boat (a small, traditional watercraft) for a cruise through the more narrow waterways before returning to your houseboat and settling in for the evening. Take in the vistas as your houseboat floats along at a slow, leisurely pace, then sit down to another freshly cooked meal. Retire for the night, and let the sound of lapping water lull you to sleep.

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## Mumbai → 1 night

### Day 16: Transfer to Kochi & flight to Mumbai

*Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner*

Return to shore, disembark, and transfer to the airport in Kochi. Your last stop: Mumbai! Arrive, transfer to your hotel, and celebrate a trip well spent over a farewell dinner, served with beer or wine.

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## Overnight Flight → 1 night

### Day 17: Sightseeing tour of Mumbai & departure

*Included meals: breakfast*

Wrap up your trip with a panoramic bus tour of Mumbai, disembarking at select spots and enjoying expert commentary from your Tour Director as you go.

- Begin at Dhobi Ghat, the largest open-air laundromat in the world. An estimated half-million articles of clothing make their way through its concrete wash pens each day, all of which are cleaned, dried, and pressed by traditional washers ("dhobis" in the local tongue). Admire this chaotic symphony, then continue rumbling down Mumbai's streets.
- Make a pitstop at Mani Bhavan, the "Jewel House" that served as Gandhi's local headquarters from 1917–34. Nowadays, it serves as a museum; enter to view a library and the room the political leader stayed in, complete with his bed and two spinning wheels.
- Drive past a trio of landmarks: the Bombay High Court, part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site honoring the city's Victorian and Art Deco buildings; the University of

Mumbai, main campus of one of the world's largest university systems; and the Gateway of India, a waterfront arch, crafted from basalt, commemorating the visit King George V made to the country in 1911.

- Step inside the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (formerly known as the Prince of Wales Museum) to examine some of the 50,000 archaeological, artistic, and historical artifacts housed within.

Then, relax in a dayroom before traveling to the airport for your overnight flight home.

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## Arrive Home

### Day 18: Arrival at home

Arrive home today.

# Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save \$10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.\* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: [goaheadtours.ca/INR](https://goaheadtours.ca/INR) | 1-800-754-5066

## Day 4: Delhi Cooking Demonstration & Home-Hosted Dinner

\$119CAD/\$129CAD\* (3.5 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

Indian cooking styles are as diverse as the landscapes that make up the country. Today, you'll get a taste of two of India's most popular cuisines, courtesy of Delhi's Kitchen 108. Run by a pair of home chefs, this locally owned restaurant fuses Andhrulu and Punjabi recipes, bringing them to life with freshly sourced ingredients and spices. Watch as your chefs prepare a three-course dinner, demonstrating the techniques they use to do it, and listen as they explain the vegetables and seasonings they choose. Afterward, sit down with your fellow travelers to enjoy your meal, served with beer or wine.

down and continue your day. Please note: This activity is weather-dependent. We recommend wearing layers to stay comfortable in the cooler morning weather.

## Day 6: Nagda Temple & Women's Cooperative Workshop

\$59CAD/\$69CAD\* (4.5 hours, departs in the afternoon)

The village of Nagda was the first capital of the Mewar Kingdom, and is now home to about 230 people—and a pair of ancient temples that underscore its former glory. Begin your outing by traveling to the Sas Bahu Temples. Built in 1093 A.D., these twin ruins were almost lost to history, sacked in battle and neglected until the 20th century. Take a walk through the complex, admiring the buildings' elaborate carvings and learning more about their past. Then, jump back to the present and transfer to Sadhna, a local cooperative that empowers vulnerable women by teaching them textile skills. Gain a better understanding of its mission, try your hand at block printing during a guided workshop, and browse Sadhna's wares—some of the finest hand-embroidered goods in all of India.

## Day 8: Bollywood Dance Class & Dinner

\$99CAD/\$109CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the evening, includes dinner)

Maybe you've heard of Bollywood—or even seen one of the Indian film industry's masterpieces, complete with vibrant scenography, catchy soundtracks, and extravagant dance numbers. This evening, head to a local dance studio and try to master some classic Bollywood moves with help from a professional instructor. Learn how choreographers blend traditional Indian dances with Western steps to create this unique art form. After practicing, head to a local restaurant for an authentic Rajasthani dinner, complete with a glass of Indian wine.

## Day 9: Jaipur Hot-Air Balloon Ride

\$565CAD/\$575CAD\* (3 hours, departs in the early morning)

Rise with the sun this morning, taking to the skies above the Pink City of Jaipur in a hot-air balloon. Gently soar through the air and enjoy a sweeping survey of India's archaeological history, seeing the grand palaces of Rajasthan from a different perspective. After a soothing ride—and plenty of panoramic photos—touch back

\*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at [goaheadtours.ca/terms](https://goaheadtours.ca/terms)