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198 RAJA RAM MOHAN ROY MARG DIAMOND QUEEN BLDG.3 RD FL PRATHANA SAMAJ MUMBAI 4
TEL/FAX 23803552 E.MAIL contact@jkholidays.co.in

Experience another world...Experience Luxury...

Best of Rajasthan

**(10 nights / 11 days, 2 nights each at Jaipur, Jodhpur, Sawai
Madhopur, Jaisalmer & Udaipur)**

Inclusives :

- ✚ Accommodation on base category rooms on a maximum two adults & one child (below 12 years) **or** three adults to a room basis.
- ✚ Meals (breakfast and dinner, on buffet / fixed menu basis).
- ✚ One lunch experience at Ramgarh Lodge.
- ✚ Complimentary in-room tea / coffee making facility, wherever applicable.
- ✚ Local, English speaking guide at all destinations.
- ✚ Sight seeing & transportation arrangements as specified in your itinerary.
- ✚ Toll tax & parking charges, wherever applicable.
- ✚ Surface transportation is offered in an a/c Esteem (or Qualis / Coach for groups). Rajasthan Tours are the ground handling agents for the Best of Rajasthan package.
- ✚ Elephant ride at Amber / Amer Fort, Jaipur.
- ✚ Jeep Safari in Bishnoi Village, Jodhpur in an open air jeep.



ITINERARY

(10 nights / 11 days, 2 nights each at Jaipur, Sawai madhopur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer & Udaipur)
Itinerary can be reversed, change of timings accordingly

DAY 1 :

- ✚ Welcome to Jaipur, the historic Pink City of India (arrival by train or air).
- ✚ Meeting and assistance upon arrival at Sanganer Airport / Jaipur Railway Station.
- ✚ Transfer by a/c Esteem (or Qualis / Coach for groups) to Rambagh Palace or Jai Mahal Palace.
- ✚ Check-in at your Palace.
- ✚ Break for lunch (optional).
- ✚ **1400 hours (2 p.m.)** : Afternoon tour of the historic, old Walled City of Jaipur. Visit the unique **Jantar Mantar Observatory**, built in 1700's, looks futuristic and almost surrealistic even today. A tour of the **City Palace & Museum**, which offers a rare combination of the finest blends of Rajasthani & Mughal architectures, a dedicated collection of Royal costumes, armory, guns, old paintings, dresses, articles of use at the Royal households etc. A visit to the **Hawa Mahal** or the Palace of Winds. An unmistakable landmark of Jaipur, which conjures up several romantic images in the minds of the onlooker.
- ✚ **1730 hours (5:30 p.m.)** : Return to your Palace by evening.
- ✚ **1915 hours (7:15 p.m.)** : Traditional Rajasthani dinner at the upper front lawns of **Jai Mahal Palace**. A very unique and authentic Peacock Thaali (vegetarian / non vegetarian) awaits you at the Jai Mahal. Hand crafted in Rajasthan, the Peacock Thaali is an ensemble of Rajasthani delicacies and delights – starters, main course, vegetarian and non vegetarian accompaniments, lentils and desserts, served alongwith an authentic and refreshing Rajasthani non alcoholic beverage. While you settle in and enjoy the beauty of this 1747 A.D. Palace, folk dancers, puppeteers, fire eaters and musicians weave a magic of the yesteryears and set your soul to a foot tapping delightful evening.
- ✚ Overnight at your Palace.



DAY 2 :

- ✚ Breakfast at your Palace's Coffee Shop.
- ✚ **0900 hours (9 a.m.)** : Depart for a city sight seeing tour of Jaipur. Pink City, as it is popularly known, Jaipur is famous across the globe for its rich culture and traditional lineage. A picturesque symphony in pink, its colour symbolizes, hospitality in Rajput culture. Morning excursion to **Amber / Amer Fort**, one of the finest examples of Rajput architecture, situated on a hillside and over-looking the Mautha lake which reflects the historical ramparts and terraces of the fort. Make your ascent to the Palace fortress on the gaily caparisoned elephant back. Tour the chambers and hallways of the Palace, which are famous for their excellence in design, concept and execution. Alternately, you might like to venture to **Nahargarh / Jaigarh Forts**.
- ✚ **1200 hours (12 noon)** : After driving for around 30 kms from Amer Fort, through a circuitous road, lined with shrubs, fruit bearing trees, remains of fortresses, temples, fields and villages, you reach a very refreshing and breath taking, quaint and romantic **Ramgarh Lodge**.
- ✚ Jamuva Ramgarh, the former capital of Jeypore State was a favourite hunting ground of the Royal family of Jaipur. In 1921, a lake was planned and soon followed the Ramgarh Dam. The place became heaven. Migratory birds flocked over the lake adding to the air of romance, which still surrounds Ramgarh. In 1935, a beautiful hunting retreat with its unmistakable Portuguese style architecture, welcomed Royalty and their privileged guests. Today, it open its doors for you.
- ✚ **1245 hours (12:45 p.m.)** : After, a quick wash and change, settle in for a typical "ghar ka khana", lunch at the Ramgarh Lodge. You could prefer being served in the Dining Hall or opt for an open air lunch overlooking the waters of the Ramgarh Lake. Incidentally, Ramgarh played host to the 1982 Asian Games' Rowing and Yachting competitions on this very lake.
- ✚ **1500 hours (3 p.m.)** : Return to your Palace by evening.
- ✚ Relax through the afternoon.
- ✚ **1830 hours (6:30 p.m.)** : Begin the evening with an exciting **Champagne Tour** of the historical Rambagh Palace, the majestic residence of the Maharaja of Jeypore (as it used to be called, then). The story of Rambagh, actually dates back to 1040 A.D. Re-discover the aura of this fairy tale Palace, through a journey in time. Dine at the majestic, Swarna Mahal, where the present echoes its past.
- ✚ **2130 hours (9:30 p.m.)** : Time for a break at one of India's trendiest night spots, **Steam** – the pub on wheels. A 1915 narrow gauge steam engine and three of her coaches have been transformed into a reverberating pub. Steam offers you a hand picked selection of beverages, groovy music, a spacious dance floor and an evening of a lifetime (* optional).
- ✚ Over night at the Palace.

** Steam opens at 7:30 p.m. everyday except Tuesdays. Entry restricted for children, below 18 years of age.*

DAY 3

✚ Breakfast at the Palace.

- ✚ Morning at leisure or Check out from the Palace.
- ✚ Excursion to **Sawai Madhopur Lodge, Ranthambhore**, a 185 kms drive from Jaipur, is Sawai Madhopur Lodge, in the heart of Ranthambhore National Park, world renowned for its Indian Tiger. Excursion fare with both ways a/c Esteem transfers (with breakfast, lunch, dinner and current taxes)

Near the township of Sawai Madhopur, is Ranthambore National Park, an outstanding example of Project Tiger's efforts pioneering the Indian Tiger conservation project in the country. The kikar forests around Ranthambore Fort, were once, the private hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur. The reserve, sprawls over an estimated area of 400 sq. kms. Steep caves embrace a network of lakes and rivers. Atop these

hillocks is the impressive Ranthambore Fort, built in the 10th century. The terrain fluctuates between impregnable forests to open bush land. The forest is typically dry and deciduous type, Dhok, being the most prominent vegetation.

DAY 4

BREAKFAST, LUNCH AND DINNER AT THE LODGE

SAWAI MADHOPUR

The entry point to the park goes straight to the foot of the Ranthambore Fort and the forest rest house, Jogi Mahal, where one can also witness India's second largest Banyan Tree. Padam Talab, Raj Bagh Talab and Malik Talab are some of the lakes in the area, ideal spots for tiger sighting.

The rugged terrain with old crumbling walls, ruins of the fortress, wells and other rock structures stand witness to the region's glorious past. The entire forest is peppered with battlements and spillovers of the Ranthambore Fort. Tigers, frequent these ruins and sightings are delightful and can be spotted in daylight as well as at sun down. One can see them lolling around lazily in the sun or feverishly hunting the Sambhar and deer population around the lakes. The park is closed during monsoons between July – September.

DAY 5

0900 HRS RETURN BACK TO JAIPUR TO JODHPUR

Should you be interested in visiting some good shopping landmarks in Jaipur, a tour to **Johari Bazar**, **Bapu Bazar**, **Badi Chaupad** and **Chhoti Chaupad** of the old walled city, can be arranged. Lanes of shops, present you with exciting and affordable shopping options. One can select jewellery – both gold as well as ornamental, Jaipuri *jooties*, Jaipuri *razaais* (quilts), Picture frame, wooden artifacts, gem stone paintings, locally popular sweetmeats such as Ghewar, a variety of *Choorans* (digestives), *Bandhej* and *Leheriya*, *Odhnis*, *Safas*, wedding wear, fabrics, textiles and ready made garments. The options are innumerable. This however is an optional tour (alternately you can head for Jodhpur right away and reach there early).

✚ **1130 hours (11:30 a.m.)** : Begin your onward journey to Jodhpur.

✚ **1430 hours (2:30 p.m.)** : Driving past the city of Jaipur is another wonderful experience. Jaipur is known for its good roads and easy accessibility. As one drives 135 kms on the highway, past grasslands, villages and vast open spaces, one reaches the famous temples of **Pushkar** and **Ajmer Sharief**, the holy *dargah* of the sufi saint Khwaja Moinuddin Chisti. Legend has it, that a wish asked for here, is always fulfilled with a blessing. One needs to return, for a thanksgiving.

✚ Pushkar is famous for the serene waters of the Pushkar Sarovar and its Jain Temples. The most outstanding and remarkable of these is the Sri Rangnath Venigopal Mandir popularly known as **Sri Rangji**, which dates back to 1844 A.D. This is the only temple in India where one can witness the culmination of three distinct architectural styles – the Rajasthani style of Chhatris and cenotaphs, the Hindu, spire style of construction and the South Indian, Gopuram style.

✚ Break for lunch (optional). You may prefer to have your lunch at Ajmer or Pushkar or carry packed lunch boxes from Jaipur itself.

✚ Resume your onward journey to Jodhpur.

✚ **1930 hours (7:30 p.m.)** : Arrive at Jodhpur, popularly known as the Sun City of Rajasthan.

✚ Drive through another historic city of Rajasthan, the fabled land of the valiant Rajputs.

✚ Welcome to Taj Hari Mahal.

✚ Check-in at Hotel.

✚ Evening at leisure.

✚ Dinner and overnight at the Taj Hari Mahal. The Taj Hari Mahal was built in 1999, in an authentic Haveli style architecture, retaining all elements, typical to Rajasthan. Its spacious and well laid out interiors, retain the original flavour of old Havelis at the same time give you a luxurious feeling of space and comfort.

DAY 6

- ✚ Breakfast at Taj Hari Mahal.
- ✚ **0900 hours (9 a.m.)** : City sight seeing tour of Jodhpur, gateway to the desert and beyond, home of the valiant Rathores of Marwar. Visit the **Mehrangarh Fort**, rising up on a hillock. The fort was built on the advice of a pious hermit and overlooks the blue city. The fort houses several palaces, cannons, temple and a museum. You would also visit **Jaswant Thada**, a richly carved white marble cenotaph of Maharaja Jaswant Singh ji, which preserves the genealogy of the rulers of Jodhpur along with their life-size portraits. One can listen to a detailed audio on the Mehrangarh Fort through a personal walkman, as well (hire charges are additional). Option of selecting a desired language is available.
- ✚ **1300 hours (1 p.m.)** : Break for lunch (optional).
- ✚ **1600 hours (4 p.m.)** : Late afternoon Jeep Safari to the **Bishnoi village**, a memorable outing in open air jeeps, visit various traditional villages, look at local handicrafts viz., shoe makers, pottery, hand weaving. Bishnois are an integral part of this region, a very hard working and hospitable tribal community.
- ✚ See village folk in their rustic and traditional attire, women clad in their ancestral silver jewellery, en-route watch and photograph wildlife, black buck, chinkaras, peacocks etc., all endangered species protected by "Bishnois".
- ✚ **1830 hours (6:30 p.m.)** : Return to Taj Hari Mahal by evening.
- ✚ Dinner and overnight at the Hotel. Taj Hari Mahal offers you the option of dining at the poolside or the relaxing Verandah Café or at Marwar, the Hotel's multi cuisine coffee shop.

DAY 7

- ✚ After breakfast transfer to JAISALMER excursion to **Jaisalmer**, 300 kms from Jodhpur with two night stay at Rawal Kot, with breakfast dinner and current taxes
Exciting options available at Jaisalmer include a late afternoon drive to Khuri, an ethnic village located 45 kms east of Jaisalmer. Village folk in their traditional attire and welcoming smiles greet you to a different experience – Sand Dunes. Mystic and ever changing, a ride on camel back is an experience, outlasting memory. Camel safaris can be arranged at nominal supplements depending upon the availability of the camels and their riders.

DAY 8:

After breakfast, Jaisalmer, in absolute terms is the Rajasthani heart at large. The Great Indian Thar Desert, with its forts and fortresses built by Maharawal Jaisel in 1156 AD are one of oldest man-made structures in the region. One can visit the Jain Temples, Gadsisar Tank, Folk Museum, Patwon ki haveli, Salem Singh ki haveli, Diwan Nathmal ki **haveli, Badal Niwas Palace and many more intricate pages for history.**
Overnight at the hotel.

DAY 9

- ✚ Breakfast at JAISALMER.
- ✚ **0900 hours (9 a.m.)** : Depart from Jaisalmer via Jodhpur for Udaipur.
- ✚ **1200 hours (12 noon)** : Halt at **Ranakpur** for a tour of the world famous marble cut Jain Temples of Ranakpur. The temples date back to the 15th century. The temple has 29 halls supported by 1,444 pillars none of, which are similar. The temple abounds with intricate friezes and sculptures. Your journey also takes you to two more **Jain Temples** as well as the **Temple of the Sun God**.
- ✚ **1300 hours (1 p.m.)** : Break for lunch in the temple itself or at Maharani Bagh (optional).
- ✚ **1400 hours (2 p.m.)** : Resume your drive to the lake city of Rajasthan.

- ✚ Upon arrival check-in at yet another historical Palace of the Taj, the Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur, situated on the pristine waters of the Pichhola Lake. Over two and a half centuries ago, Maharana Jagat Singh II, decided to build this lovely Palace in white marble. Today, with its 85 rooms and 19 suites, Lake Palace, reflects the same finesse, style and elegance.
- ✚ **1700 hours (5 p.m.)** : Early evening, engage in a motor launch cruise on the placid waters of the Lake Pichhola, which offers you a breathtaking view of the city of Udaipur as it rises majestically above the lake in the middle of the Rajasthan desert.
- ✚ Visit to the **Jag Mandir Palace** - another lovely island Palace on the banks of the Pichhola Lake.
- ✚ Dinner and overnight at the Taj Lake Palace. Lake Palace offers you exciting dining options at Jharokha, the 24 hour coffee shop or the mesmerizing Neel Kamal, the Indian / Continental restaurant, over looking the lily pond.



DAY 10

- ✚ Breakfast at the Taj Lake Palace.
- ✚ **0900 hours (9:00 a.m.)** : Enjoy a Heritage walk through the Taj Lake Palace as its secrets and history engulf you, you'll transcend from the present into the old world charm of yesteryears.
- ✚ **0945 hours (9:45 a.m.)** : Depart for an exciting sight seeing tour of Udaipur. Udaipur, also known as the city of Sunrise, perhaps is the most romantic city in Rajasthan. There would be no doubt on why it is called "Venice of the East".

- ✚ The city was founded by Maharana Udai Singh and is situated at the intersection of three lakes, nestled in the lap of the Aravali mountain ranges. The ambience, climate and history combined, make Udaipur a touristic heaven.
- ✚ Morning excursion to famous temples of **Eklingji & Nagda**. Eklingji, 22 kms from Udaipur, built in 734 AD. This complex of 108 temples enclosed by high walls is devoted to Lord Eklingji, the Deity of the Maharanas of Mewar. **Nagda**, 20 kms from Udaipur, is an ancient and quiet place in Mewar, was the first capital of Bappa Rawal. This houses the famous **Saas Bahu Ka Mandir** which has a lovely torana (decorative arch above the entrance) with exquisitely carved *apsaras*.
- ✚ **1200 hours (12 noon)** : Break for lunch (optional).
- ✚ **1400 hours (2 p.m.)** : Afternoon half-day city tour covering the **City Palace Museum, Jagdish Temple, Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandir, Saheliyon Ki Bari and Fateh Sagar Lake**.
- ✚ **1700 hours (5 p.m.)** : Return to Taj Lake Palace later in the evening.
 - ✚ Dinner and overnight at Taj Lake Palace.



Day 11

- ✚ Breakfast at Taj Lake Palace.
- ✚ Depart for the Dabok Airport / Railway Station for onwards destination.

End of Tour