

Tiwari Tours & Travel



Rajasthan Desert Tour - 20 Days

Rajasthan, the land of the Kings, is India at its exotic and magical best, awash with searing florescent saris and turbans! Like a legend that has come to life, with a fantastic array of ancient forts, elaborate palaces and legendary cities. Highlights are Udaipur, known as “Venice of the East” with its bone white palaces on shimmering lakes and the honey coloured magnificence of Jaisalmer, arising from the desert, then Jodhpur, a luminescent blue patchwork of housing and the seductive pink palace city of Jaipur. Rajasthan truly has its own unique cultural heritage, there is no other place in the world like it, hence making it the most visited and popular state in the whole of India

Our Rajasthan Desert Tour, begins in the eastern state of “West Bengal” which too has a culture of its own and very different to Rajasthan and continues west to Uttar Pradesh, the Holy city of Varanasi on the Ganges. We slowly make our way further west through Madhya Pradesh to witness the splendor of the 1000 year old Kama Sutra temples in Khajaraho and then onto the forest village of Orchha, and onto Agra to witness the splendor of the Taj Mahal. The final half of the tour is into we make into our destination of Rajasthan.

The beauty of this tour is the variety of places you will see. Every town is remarkably different to the next. A kaleidoscope of North Indian culture! We shall travel in our own private Toyota vehicles, for comfort, safety and flexibility, with an overnight train trip to experience the delights of Indian train travel. The tour is fully inclusive and you can sit back relax and see the best North India has to offer. We shall finish up in India’s capital, New Delhi and spend time shopping and exploring what this wonderful city has on offer...

So bring along a friend and join us on this journey of true history and culture...

The Blue City of Jodhpur, Rajasthan



Places Visited:

Kolkata - Varanasi – Khajuraho – Orchha – Agra – Jaipur - Udaipur – Jodphur – Jaisalmer - Bikaner – Shekhawati – Delhi

Day 1/2 - Kolkata

Kolkata, the former capital of India, known as the “City of Joy” is a buzzing city of modern and ancient architecture. The first morning of the tour, we shall have our ‘orientation meeting’ for the upcoming tour over breakfast on the rooftop of our hotel. Kolkata will provide you some magnificent British Colonial history like no other in India. We shall wander the buzzing streets of the infamous “Sadar Street Markets”, visit Queen Victoria Memorial Park, and Millennium Park next to the famous Hooghly River. A special visit is arranged to Mother Teresa’s Tomb and Children’s Orphanage. Mother Teresa’s work in helping the poor and downtrodden of Kolkata is a truly unforgettable experience! The evening of day two will be spent on a comfortable overnight sleeper train to Varanasi. Train travel in India is an experience within itself and not to be missed!

Day 3/4 - Varanasi

Arrive early morning to the “Holy Hindu city of Varanasi”. Known as the oldest city in the world. Varanasi, is a highlight on all our trips. You will witness the infamous ‘burning ghats’ on the Ganges River. The cremation site for Hindu’s. We will also visit the old city laneways for great market shopping, and take a sunrise and sunset boat trip on the Ganges River, witnessing all the splendor of this buzzing Hindu city. We shall also venture over to the magnificent Ramnagar Fort (with great views of the whole of Varanasi!) where the Maharaja is still in residence. Evenings will be spent listening to some traditional Indian classical music on the rooftop of a palace. Stay 2 nights

Day 5 - Khajuraho

The greatest achievement of the Chandella dynasty, these erotic “Kama Sutra” temples were built between the tenth and twelfth centuries AD and are among the most essential stops on any itinerary of India’s historic monuments. A relaxing scenic half day drive to Khajuraho, the main highlight will be touring the around the beautiful gardens and grounds of these 1000 year old temples. The evening will be spent watching the sound and light show on the temples from a traditional North Indian Restaurant. Stay 1 night.

Day 6/7 - Orchha

Early morning rural drive enroute to this exotic peaceful village, located in lush green forests on the edge of the Betwa River (great for a swim!) A hidden spot not known to many travellers. Orchha will take your breath away with its ancient temples and palaces. Evenings will be spent having dinner on the roof top of an ancient palace watching some traditional Indian dancing. Stay 2 nights.

Day 8 - Agra

Agra is home of the infamous “Taj Mahal” Arguably the worlds greatest building, and one of the seven wonders of the world, Shah Jahan’s monument to love, fully lives up to all expectations. We will visit the Taj during sunrise and sunset. We shall also spend time wandering around the magnificent ancient Agra Fort, which runs for 2kms around the city. There is also excellent shopping in Agra for jewellery, crafts and carpets. 1 night Agra

Day 9/10 – Jaipur

The “Pink City” the capital city of Rajasthan is a place of rich colour and endless bazaars. There is much to see here. The Hawa Mahal, or Palace of the Winds, will fascinate whilst a visit to the City Palace will leave you breathless. We will also see the Mubrak Mahal museum of textiles and armory and the Jantar Mantar Observatory. Day 2 will be spent visiting the Palace and Fortress at Amber. Stay 2 nights



Day 11/12 - Udaipur

“Venice of the East” Udaipur is a peaceful quaint town, situated on Pichola Lake. Known for its abundance of Indian artists and miniature paintings, is a true artistic experience. The exotic Lake Palace Hotel on the Pichola Lake was built in 1754 and open to visitors via a short boat ride. Stay 2 nights.

Day 13/14 - Jodhpur

Referred to as the “The Blue City” for its sky blue painted houses, Jodhpur is the second largest city in Rajasthan. The incredible “Mehrangarh Fort” overlooks the city and the red sandstone palaces within the fort form one of the most impressive complexes in Rajasthan. We shall wander among the fragrant spices, colourful vegetables and vibrant saris of the Sadar Bazaar. Stay 2 nights.

Day 15/16 - Jaisalmer

Located on traditional trade routes brought Jaisalmer great wealth and the towns people built magnificent houses and mansions, exquisitely carved from wood and golden yellow sandstone. The ancient religions of the Jain’s, built temples dating from the 12th century and are truly ornate and unique. We shall venture up to the hilltop fort with expansive views of the desert and dine in many of the quaint traditional restaurants while listening to traditional Indian music! Stay 2 nights.

Day 17 - Bikaner

One of India’s most exotic desert towns. We shall travel deep into the Thar desert. See the Kami Mata Temple and stroll through the cobbled streets and absorb the atmosphere. For the adventurous an optional camel ride through desert villages and ancient trade routes. Stay 1 night.

Day 18 – Shekhawati

The heavily decorated “Havelis” home to merchants in the days of the great camel caravans, make for a spectacular open-air museum. Gain an insight into rural Rajasthani life as we explore this ancient town. Stay 1 night

Day 19/20 - Delhi

After breakfast we take off to India’s capital Delhi. We will stay in the trendy market district of Karol Bagh, visit Connaught Circus with its great shopping and restaurants, the Old Delhi Spice markets, and Mahatma Gandhi’s Memorial Tomb. A true modern cultural wonder, there is plenty to see and do in Delhi. Tour officially finishes on afternoon of day 20.



Tour Dates

This Yoga tour runs monthly all year. This tour is also available to be booked for 10 or 15 day trips.

Airport Pickup....The Tiwari Tour Leader will meet and greet all passengers on your arrival at Kolkata international airport. Airline tickets and confirmations can also be arranged.

Accommodation...All hotels are 3/4 star and based on twin share basis, with attached bathrooms and a/c. Please let us know if you request a single room. (extra \$750 per person for 19 nights) Hotels are generally 12noon checkout. In cases of late check out Tiwari will hold 1 or 2 rooms for group to share. If you require late check-out in your own room, you will need to pay additional night accommodation.

Transport...Private Toyota Qualis 4WD tourist vehicles, a/c sleeper trains, local taxis, minivans, cycle & auto 3 wheeler rickshaws.

Physical Fitness and Cultural Shock...

On this tour, you will require basic fitness, enough for the tolerance of daily walking, hot weather and some long hours of travel in cars and overnight trains. At times you will need to use the great outdoors for toilet stops, or Indian squat loos. You need to let go of your western ways and let things happen as they do in India! Occasionally we may experience power cuts, no hot water and flat tyres! But all in all, it will be eye opener for all! Please advise us in advance if you have any health issues or are taking any form of medication. All is confidential.

Money/Budget... Allow approx. \$600 AUD miscellaneous expenses for 20 days. If you intend to shop till you drop bring more! Tiwari Travel can arrange your cash/travellers cheques to be changed at the hotel on your arrival. ATM's are also available in main cities for visa cash advances. Check with your bank for international transaction fees!

Meals...Continental breakfasts included (1 cup tea/coffee, omelette, toast with jam, corn flakes & milk) One main meal per day. (either lunch or dinner dependant on travel) Passengers will be required to pay any additional food items themselves. Mineral water, drinks, deserts/sweets, extra tea/coffee etc are not included.

Keep in Mind.....Tiwari Tour groups travel in a way that fully appreciates cultures and lifestyles very different to our own. While striving to provide the very best holiday possible, we don't shield you from the cultural differences, inefficiencies and frustrations that are a part of traveling in India. Indeed the emphasis is on getting out there amongst the chaos, vibrancy that is India and experiencing all the country has to offer, warts and all! Please be patient with us and remember to just "let things flow" We expect the group to follow the guiding and advice of the tour leader for safety issues and to accommodate all people on the tour.

Tipping in India...Its is customary to tip on all services in India, including hotels, restaurants, transport, porters, room service etc. We ask that everyone contributes generously by either forming a group tip kitty or paying themselves as we go along. We can advise anytime on correct amounts to be given. Tipping is not included in price of tour.

Weather.....September through to March is a great time of year to travel in Northern India. It will be warm & dry. Approx. 28 day and 15 at night.



What to bring...

Please travel as light as possible, everything you will need is available in India. The requirement is one backpack/suitcase per person, plus a day pack.

Bring light comfortable clothing for walking and travel in cars. Hat/cap, thongs, trekking shoes/sandshoes, shawl, scarf, beanie for early mornings! Long cotton pants, t-shirts, long sleeved shirt, light pullover, jacket, tracky dacks, mossy repellent, a torch for night. Remember India is conservative, no short shorts or short skirts. All leg wear must be below the knee and shoulders covered!

What the Tour includes;

Tour itinerary preparation and advice.

International airport transfers

All hotels, guesthouses

Meals - all continental breakfasts - generally cereal, toast jam, egg/omelet tea or coffee 1 x main meal per day – generally vegetarian North Indian food, No drinks included. Filtered water is provided at meals.

Transport – Private Toyota Commercial vehicles, all insurance, petrol, road tolls, parking, English speaking driver, 4-6 pax per car.

Local taxis in Kolkata only

2 x overnight sleeper trains

1 x English and Hindi speaking Tour Leader for whole trip

1 x yoga class – Varanasi

Sightseeing and entrance fees to all sights except Taj Mahal

Local tour guides

Sunrise and sunset boat trips in Varanasi (2 trips)

Fee free Foreign currency exchange in Tiwari shop – Varanasi

What the Tour Does Not include...

Bottled Mineral water, extra food/meals outside what is stated.

Drinks, tea/coffees, desserts/sweets, any personal items.

Laundry

Local 3 wheeler auto and cycle rickshaws, (very cheap!)

Any domestic flights, travel insurance,

Tipping and or charity donations

Any extra nights for hotel outside tour dates

Luggage porters at train stations

Any individual sightseeing entrance fees etc outside what is organized on itinerary with group

Taj Mahal entrance fee and guide

Trip Extensions...

Tiwari Tours & Travel is able to advise and organise any further travel for you before or at the end of the tour.

**Fully Inclusive Tour Cost \$3199 AUD per person
(plus 10% service tax)**



Booking Terms & Conditions

Validity

Price is based on the costs and exchange rates current at date of quote

Exchange Rate

Conversion from Australian Dollars to Indian Rupees based \$1 – 35 Rs. This is non changeable.

Responsibility

You acknowledge that travel in India requires a degree of flexibility and understand that hotels, accommodation, etc are subject to change.

Payments

20% deposit to confirm booking required to Meredith Wilks (Tiwari Travel Sydney office) via either Direct bank deposit, cheque or cash. Final payment due 1 month prior to departure.

Cancellations by Passenger

Deposits not refunded at any cost. Final Payment refunded with 1 month notice.

Cancellation by Tiwari Tours & Travel

Please see website for Terms and Conditions.

Disclaimer

Its is a pre-requisite of acceptance of travelling/booking with Tiwari Tours & Travel, that all passengers remove any form of responsibility from Tiwari Tours & Travel and its staff in the event of personal accident or injury or any personal loss due to travel to India. This requires each person signing a “Participation Consent Form” It is also a pre-requisite that all passengers have fully comprehensive travel insurance.

Guarantee

Tiwari Travel guarantees, once payment has been made, to provide you the passenger with the travel services indicated in the itinerary. Please take the time to read our website for further details on health & safety, travel insurance, visas etc.

Tour Changes

Due to nature of India and things running to “Indian time” the itinerary is subject to minor changes.

NAMASTE!

Incredible India