

Journey Idea Rajasthan and the Pushkar Camel Fair

11 Days



Pushkar Camel Fair

Prepared for
Steppes Travel Clients

QUICK REFERENCE ITINERARY

Day 1	Fly UK/Delhi
Day 2	Delhi
Day 3	Delhi
Day 4	Delhi/Agra
Day 5	Agra/Jaipur
Day 6	Jaipur
Day 7	Jaipur/Pushkar
Day 8	Pushkar
Days 9	Pushkar
Day 10	Pushkar/Delhi
Day 11	Delhi/UK

Steppestravel
travel beyond the ordinary

DETAILED TRIP ITINERARY

Day 1

UK/Delhi

Depart the UK on a flight to Delhi, a flight time of approximately 8 ½ hours, flying overnight.

Day 2

Delhi



You will be met upon arrival by the Steppes Travel representative at the airport and transferred to your hotel. All transfers are private (unless stated otherwise) and included in your trip, however it will not detail every transfer on this itinerary.

The Claridges is located in New Delhi and close to historical landmarks and shopping centres, this colonial property offers its guests the magic of old world charm, redefined with new age grandeur and hospitality.

Delhi, India's capital and political hub is an ancient city that has something for everyone. Settled seven times over the centuries, this city has grown in a way that reflects its past, while retaining its cosmopolitan flavour. Delhi is India's showcase, be it architecture, religion, shopping, culture - everything is available here - waiting to be discovered.

Overnight at The Claridges hotel in Delhi in a deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 3

Delhi



Today after breakfast, meet your guide at the hotel lobby and start your day of sightseeing by exploring Old Delhi. A walking tour will take you to the heart of old Delhi, allowing you to savour the sights, smells and sounds of this ancient city, who's past is reflected in its present. Lead by an experienced 'Dilliwallah', your guide will lead you through winding lanes recounting tales, anecdotes and legends of a Delhi that goes back thousands of years. The walk takes you to the age old Silver market, through quaint streets selling incredible ware, to the tranquillity of a Jain temple and to the flower market which is a riot of colour.



This afternoons sightseeing visits New Delhi, created to reflect the might of the British Empire. New Delhi consists of tree-lined avenues, spacious parks and somber government buildings. The 12th century Qutab Minar is gracefully hand-carved for its entire height of 234 feet. Visit Humayun Tomb - the mausoleum of emperor Humayun a forerunner of the Mughal style of architecture. Drive past the India Gate, a World War I memorial, the Presidential Palace, Parliament House and the Secretariat buildings - an interesting blend of the Victorian and 20th century architecture.

Overnight at The Claridges hotel in Delhi in a deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 4

Delhi/Agra



After breakfast you will be transferred to Delhi Railway Station to board your train to Agra, departing at 0615hrs and arriving at 0812hrs. You will be assisted at the railway station in both Delhi and Agra with portering help with luggage. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel The Trident.

Presenting a unique and relaxed ambience and an ideal base from which to explore the Taj Mahal. This elegant low rise hotel is situated in 6 acres of beautiful gardens. The central courtyard and stone work at the hotel is reminiscent of the Mughal era.

Agra is renowned the world over due to the fabulous Taj Mahal and is situated on the right bank of the river Yamuna. Agra is a city with a glorious past and has the distinction of being the capital of various ruling dynasties.



Later today you will be met by your guide and visit the Seventh Wonder of the World at sunrise - built by Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife Mumtaz Mahal by the banks of river Yamuna. After her untimely death, Shahjahan had her mortal remains buried in this mausoleum. And after his own demise he was placed to rest next to his beloved queen in the same mausoleum. The Taj has been called the most extravagant monument ever built in the name of love. The great monument took almost 22 years to build and was completed in 1653. Around 20,000 workers from all over the country and central Asia were recruited to translate this dream into a reality.

Thereafter visit the Agra Fort - begun by Emperor Akbar in 1565. The high red stone monument stretches for around one and a half miles. The palace is a notable for its smooth blending of Hindu and central Asian architectural styles. See the Diwan-i-Am (hall of public audiences), Diwan-i-Khas (hall of private audiences), the Khas Palace, the Sheesh Mahal (palace of mirrors), the Shah Jahani Mahal (Shahjahan's Palace), Jahangiri Mahal (Jahangir's Palace) and the Akbari Mahal (Akbar's palace) inside the fort.

Overnight at The Trident in a deluxe garden view room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 5

Agra/Jaipur



After breakfast you will be driven to Jaipur. En route visit Fatehpur Sikri situated about 40 Kms from Agra, this was the erstwhile capital of the great Mughal ruler - Emperor Akbar. This magnificent fort palace had to be abandoned after just 15 years of occupation due to lack of potable water.

On arrival in Jaipur, you will be assisted in check-in at your hotel. The townhouse of the Samode family, this is another gem, lying in the heart of Jaipur. Again, it is home to some fabulous frescoes and, with its large gardens, it is difficult to believe that from this sanctuary you can stroll out into one of the city's busiest streets. As with Samode Palace, the bedrooms are scattered around the rambling building and are superbly decorated. The huge new swimming pool is one of Jaipur's finest and is a draw in itself.

Samode Haveli is the only option for anyone wanting a heritage hotel in Jaipur.



Situated 190 miles southwest of Delhi, Jaipur is an essential stop in any tour of Rajasthan. The old walled section of the city is known as the Pink City; it was painted red (a lucky color in Hindu culture) to welcome England's Prince Alfred in 1853 and the fading old buildings retain their hue. Jaipur is one of India's newer cities, founded in 1727, and was the creation of Jai Singh II, the Maharaja of the Kuchwaha Rajputs, who decided when Mogul power was on the decline to move from his outmoded hillside fortress at Amber to establish a new capital on the plains further south. The Pink City was built in only eight years. Much of it was designed by Jai himself, including the City Palace and the Jantar Mantar, a fascinating astronomical observatory with massive instruments used to predict the monsoon and identify the movements of the stars. Most impressive is a gigantic sundial that is accurate to the nearest two minutes. All seven gates into the old city remain, one of which leads into Johari Bazaar - the famous jewelers' market that has the best selection of precious stones in India.

Overnight at the Samode Haveli in a deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 6

Jaipur



After breakfast, this morning's sightseeing visits the Amber Fort which is a classic, romantic Rajasthani Fort Palace, with its rugged, time-ravaged walls and fascinating palaces inside. Enjoy the ride on elephant back to climb up the hill to enter the fort. Visit the enchanting palaces and gardens inside the fort palace to complete your tour.

On your way back, stop at Hawa Mahal - Palace of Winds in the heart of Jaipur's shopping district to hunt for souvenirs.

This afternoon you will visit the City Palace, the former residence of the royal family, a part of which is converted into a museum. Built in the style of a fortified campus, the palace covers almost one-seventh in area of the old city. One of the major attractions in the museum is the Armory Museum housing an impressive array of weaponry. Later visit the Jantar Mantar, which is the largest stone and marble crafted observatory in the world. The observatory has 17 large instruments, many of them still in working condition.



You will also have time to explore the "pink city". Jaipur's traditional markets, streets and lanes are loaded with one noticeable feature: color! You will be amazed to see the fusion and variety of hues all around... in clothing, houses, painted carts and vehicles, painted elephants, and tattooed camels.

Overnight at the Samode Haveli in a deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 7

Jaipur/Pushkar



Today after breakfast, you will be driven to Pushkar. You will be met upon arrival and assisted with check in at the resort.

The Orchard is a luxury tented resort situated on the outskirts of Pushkar amidst green fields. It is an ideal setting to participate in this program, where the surroundings enhance the experience while revitalising your soul. As Pushkar is a holy town the resort serves no alcohol or non-vegetarian food, though a wide variety of vegetarian delicacies from around the world are on offer here.



On the edge of the desert lies the tiny tranquil town of Pushkar along the bank of the picturesque Pushkar Lake. This important Hindu pilgrimage has the only temple of Lord Brahma (The Creator in Hindu Mythology) in the world. Pushkar became famous due to its Camel Fair, the largest in the world. Cattle traders from all over Rajasthan and neighbouring states converge here to buy and sell camels and all kinds of cattle.

Overnight at The Orchard in a luxury tent on a full board basis.

Day 8 & 9

Pushkar

Pushkar Camel Fair



Both days at leisure for you to explore the charming town of Pushkar and to visit the camel fair. There are different competition one can witness during the day - from camel races, beauty contest and other enchanting events. The evening is full of entertainment and great food.

Overnight at The Orchard in a luxury tent on a full board basis.

Day 10

Pushkar/Delhi

Morning at leisure.

This afternoon you will be transferred to Ajmer Railway Station which is 45 minutes from Pushkar to board the Shatabdi Express train to Delhi, departing at 1550hrs and arriving at 2240hrs. You will be assisted at the railway station in both Ajmer and Delhi with portering help with luggage. On arrival you will be transferred to your hotel The Claridges.

Overnight at The Claridges hotel in Delhi in a deluxe room on a bed & breakfast basis.

Day 11

Delhi/UK

After breakfast you will be transferred to the International Airport to board your home bound flight.

TRIP PRICE

In each location there is a variety of different category of hotels, lodges and guest houses, therefore the price below is a guide only.

Price from £1,550 per person, based on two sharing

The rates quoted are subject to the availability of all services, currency fluctuations, written confirmation and Steppes Travels terms and conditions.

The price includes local transport, airport-hotel transfers and tours, accommodation (twin/double with private facilities where available) and board. Accommodation is on a bed and breakfast basis, unless staying in a lodge when normally this will be on a full board basis.

The price excludes extra local excursions and guided tours, travel insurance, visas, single supplements (if applicable) and items of a personal nature, such as laundry, drinks, etc.

Please note that the above is only a suggested journey, allowing in-depth visits to the highlights of the country and the chance to explore the wide range of possibilities this fascinating country has to offer. We have a separate list of escorted tours and specialise in tailoring individual itineraries to your particular interests and requirements. This journey idea serves more as a general guide on what there is to see and do, as well as a guide on price.

Why Travel with Steppes?

Steppes Travel was founded in 1989 with the objective of creating a travel company where service and knowledge are of the highest priority. We aim to design itineraries and include the highlights of any country, whilst taking travellers off the beaten track to see lesser known, interesting places not frequented by large numbers of tourists. We offer individuals the ability to travel safely in remote areas, with the knowledge that we have travelled there before.

Financial Protection

Steppes Travel is a fully bonded tour operator that complies with the Civil Aviation Authority bonding conditions of the UK. This fully guarantees your money in the unlikely event of us going out of business before you start your holiday. Our ATOL number is 6945 and we have full insurance to cover the financial failure of an airline. In addition, all accommodation-only bookings (such as hotels, lodges and boats) which are not covered by the ATOL regulations are financially protected with all payments being held in a separate trust account until the date of departure. This is in accordance with the Package Travel Regulations Act 1992.

Specialist Knowledge

We demand and employ only a very high calibre of staff. All of our specialists have a wealth of travel experience and have travelled, and continue to travel, extensively throughout their regions of specialisation. You can therefore rely on their first hand knowledge and expertise. Some have been with us for more than ten years. They will tell you about those intimate, friendly hotels and introduce you to our charismatic guides - those little extra qualities that make your holiday both unique and special.

A Tailor-made Journey

After an initial discussion with you, one of our specialists will create a unique itinerary for your trip, designed around your own interests, preferred style of accommodation and the pace at which you like to travel. This will be fine tuned until you are completely satisfied with it. Throughout this whole process, you will be dealt with by the same specialist and you are welcome to call them at any time.

24 hour Emergency Service

We have an emergency service so that we can be contacted 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Recognition

More than 65% of our business is achieved through recommendations, referrals and repeat bookings. This, for us, is the highest endorsement we could have. In addition, our 20 years of experience in this specialist travel sector confirms our expertise.

Please contact the Steppes East team on 01285 651010 or visit our website www.steppestravel.co.uk for further information.

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