

Pushkar Camel Fair

by land



Imagine the scene at dusk on the steps of an ancient temple on the banks of Pushkar's sacred lake, created, according to legend, when a lotus blossom dropped from the hand of God Brahma into the Pushkar valley. Suddenly, the ululations of an itinerant sadhu ring out through the evening air as the golden haze is parted by a line of camels stretching over the horizon. The Pushkar Camel fair is the world's largest, held in the desert state of Rajasthan, and attended by camel traders, Hindu pilgrims, Rajput warriors, enterprising mendicants and you.



IMMERSE YOUR SENSES...

SEE

The wild kaleidoscope of exotic sights, sounds and colours that exist in the village marketplaces of Rajasthan as camel-traders and spice traders ply their trades

SMELL

The fragrant aromas of Indian cuisine's most important spices, from chilli pepper, black mustard seed, coriander and asafoetida to garam masala which is usually a powder of five or more dried spices, commonly comprising cardamom...

TOUCH

The cool marble with your bare feet as you explore the Taj Mahal at dawn, experiencing this monumental poem in marble as it was meant to be experienced - in the peace of the early morning light, before the crowds arrive to disturb the serenity of one of the world's most beautiful buildings

HEAR

The sound of silence and spiritual peace that descends over the holy Pushkar Lake in the early hours of the morning as the Hindu pilgrims make their way down to the bathing ghats to cleanse themselves of evil in the sacred ritual of bathing

The Trip



ARRIVE DAY 1 ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive Delhi this evening. You will be received at the airport and taken to the hotel The Imperial. Meals: B

DAY 2 DELPHI

Today you will do a full-day guided tour of Delhi. In the first half you will visit Old Delhi – visiting Jama Mosque, Red Fort and Mahatma Gandhi's memorial. In the afternoon you will be taken on a tour of New Delhi – visiting Qutab Minar, Humayun's Tomb, drive past Government Buildings and India Gate. The Imperial. Meals: B

DAY 3 DELPHI-UDAIPUR

After breakfast transfer to airport for flight 9W 3317 (1125/1305 hours). Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel (45 minutes). Rest of the day is at leisure Devi Garh. Meals: B

DAY 4 UDAIPUR

Udaipur – known as the “City of Lakes” is considered by many as one of the most romantic cities in India, surrounded by hills, lakes and it's magical palaces. The sightseeing of this city includes visit to the City Palace Museum, Garden of Maids of Honour and Jagdish Temple. Rest of the day is at leisure in this magical city. Afternoon is at leisure Devi Garh. Meals: B

DAY 5 UDAIPUR-DEOGARHU

After leisurely breakfast, you will be driven to Ranakpur (90 km/2 hours) where you will visit the beautiful Ranakpur Jain temples in marble. Continue to Deogarh (95 km/2 hours) and upon arrival check in at the hotel. Seengh Sagar. Meals: B

DAY 6 DEOGARH

A drive of 5 km from Deogarh Mahal through rocky terrain and past the ruins of the deserted ancient village, rising from beyond the rocks overlooking the lake is the island fortress of Seengh Sagar. It was built in 17th century as hunting and recreation lodge. This small fortress has only 4 Royal suites. Day is at leisure to explore the nearby village or simply relax. Seengh Sagar. Meals: B

LOCAL DIVERSIONS...

COLLECTABLES

Rajasthan is justly famous for the brightly coloured silks, artistically woven fabrics, richly detailed carpets and other exotic textiles. Be sure to stop in to a shop for a glass of chai, a leisurely conversation, and the chance to admire some beautiful fabrics

CULINARY DELIGHTS

The Perfect Chai Tea
1 cup boiling water
1 tsp tea leaves
1 tsp of spices (cardamom, ginger, cloves, black pepper, cinnamon)
1 dash of milk

HISTORIC MOMENT

The renowned Jain temple at Ranakpur is dedicated to Adinathe. Light colored marble has been used for the construction of this grandiose temple which occupies an area of approximately 60 x 62 meters. The temple, with its distinctive domes, shikhara, turrets and cupolas rises majestically from the slope of a hill. Over 1400 marble pillars, carved in exquisite detail, support the temple.

DAY 7 DEOGARH-PUSHKAR

This morning after breakfast drive to Pushkar (160 km/4 hours). Upon arrival in Pushkar you will check in at your Luxury Camp. Royal Desert camp. Meals: BLD

DAY 8-9 PUSHKAR

Pushkar is famous for Pushkar Lake and the 14th century temple to Brahma, the Hindu god of creation. This is the only temple of the god Brahma in the world. It is also famous for its annual Pushkar Camel Fair, the world's largest camel fair (and indeed, world's largest cattle fair in general). The Fair is held for 7 days and finishes on the day of Kartik Poornima as per the Hindu calendar (Full Moon). Thousands of devotees from all faiths assemble to take a dip in the holy lake. Dance, music, gaily-attired folks and various cultural events add to the fun and charisma of the occasion. The phenomenal camel races are the most interesting part of the fair augmented by cattle auction and colourful shops exhibiting beautiful handicrafts Royal Desert camp. Meals: BLD

DAY 10 PUSHKAR-JAIPUR

After breakfast drive to Jaipur (150 km/3.5 hours) and upon arrival you will check in at your hotel. Rambagh Palace. Meals: B

DAY 11 JAIPUR

Jaipur, or the City of Victory, was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Jai Singh II and is a marvellous synthesis of architectural influences - Hindu, Jain and Mughal. In the morning, drive past the Hawa Mahal, otherwise known as the palace of Winds. This is just an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to sit and observe life in the streets below. Continue to Amber Fort, the ancient capital of the region. Here, elephants still carry visitors in stately splendour to the main Palace, through unusually high gateways, obviously designed to accommodate this archaic mode of transport (subject to availability). It is an extremely well preserved building and very delightful to explore. Later in the day, see Jaipur city, visiting the City Palace Museum and the Jantar Mantar (observatory). Rambagh Palace. Meals: B

DAY 12 JAIPUR-AGRA

This morning drive to Agra (260 km/6 hours) en route visiting the deserted Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri. In the afternoon proceed for the sightseeing tour including visit to the Agra Fort and the fabled Taj Mahal. **Amarvilas. Meals: B**

DAY 13 AGRA-DELHI DEPARTURE

Drive to Delhi (210 km/ 4 hours) in time to connect to your International flight. Meals: B.

The Details

Level of Activity: *Light* - Strolling through city streets, country walking, camel riding (optional...). Suitable for all ages and abilities, with some opportunities for extended walks or alternate activities.

Start: Delhi, India

Finish: Delhi, India

What's Included:

- all accommodations on a shared twin/double room basis
- most meals (as indicated)
- all domestic flights and international flights within Indochina
- all entrance fees and tours
- all transfers and baggage handling
- all local experts and specialists
- the leadership of a local guide throughout the trip
- all special events and on-trip surprises
- all gratuities to porters, drivers, restaurants and other service staff
- all pre-departure materials, including documents wallets and destination details

Trip Operator: **Horizon & Co.** (founded in 1963), is Canada's leading boutique travel company. Horizon designs and stages authentic and deeply personal travel experiences that are carefully choreographed to induce a life-long memory. In addition to offering published trips on seven continents, Horizon builds private custom trips for discerning individuals and small groups.

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DURATION 12 NIGHTS / 13 DAYS

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PRICES FROM \$6,750

SGL SUPP N/A