

A ROYAL INDIAN ODYSSEY



TRIP OVERVIEW

From Delhi to Mumbai, this epic journey through royal Rajasthan delves into the history of India's Maharajas, discovers magnificent forts, opulent palaces and breathtaking scenery along colonial railways deep into the heart of this majestic country. Feel the magnetism of Pushkar's pilgrimage site, marvel at the white marble Ranakpur temple complex and discover the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to India. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as airline and hotel details and visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B=Breakfast, BR=Brunch, L=Lunch, D=Dinner,

DAY 1: UK to Delhi

Depart London on your scheduled overnight flight to Delhi.

DAY 2: Delhi L/D

On arrival in Delhi, you will be met by your local guide and transferred to the hotel. After lunch and some time to settle in, a short tour of the beautifully planned city of New Delhi will follow. Offering a taste of its imperial glory, you'll drive past the India Gate, President's House, Parliament Building and visit the Birla Temple, made purely out of 2,000 tons of Rajasthani white marble.

DAY 3: Delhi B/L/D

A full day tour of Delhi commences after breakfast, beginning with the historic Old Delhi in the morning. Lying side by side, Old Delhi dates back to the Mughal period, whilst New Delhi was built just over a hundred years ago. Travelling through the narrow and crowded streets on a rickshaw will transport you back in time, passing vibrant food markets of Old Delhi where bread makers bake delicious scented naan from the tandoor ovens and chai wallahs brew their sweet tea. A visit to the regal Red Fort gives you a sense of the lavish life once led by the former rulers before stopping for lunch in a local restaurant. Your tour will continue on to New Delhi to see the Mahatma Gandhi memorial and the 12th century Qutab Minar. Built on the foundations of Jain and Hindu temples, the complex was built in 1193 after the defeat of Delhi's last Hindu kingdom and displays fine examples of Indo-Islamic architecture as well as the tallest stone tower in India.

DAY 4: Delhi to Agra B/L/D

Waking early, it's time to board the Taj Express (or similar) to Agra. This train journey swiftly leaves behind the hustle and bustle of Delhi and arrives into Agra with time for lunch before your afternoon excursions. Despite being a small city, Agra was once the capital of the mighty Mughal dynasty whose strength manifested itself in the huge forts and buildings built to maintain its power. During the afternoon, you will visit the vast red sandstone Agra Fort. The colossal walled city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built by the Mughals in 1573 and boasts gigantic pavilions, grand palaces and spectacular courtyards. **Please note breakfast today will be either a packed breakfast from the hotel or on the train, due to the early train departure.**

DAY 5: Agra to Jaipur B/L/D

This magical day starts with an early morning tour of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal. Words do not do this remarkable palace justice; it really must be seen to appreciate its stupendous beauty. Taking 17 years and 20,000 men to build, the heartbroken Mughal Emperor Shahjahan dedicated this stunning white marble monument of love to his deceased wife to enshrine her mortal remains. After breakfast back at the hotel, visit Fatehpur Sikri. Built in 1569, it is the ancient capital of Akbar and known as the 'abandoned city' as the area suffered from water shortages making it an unsuitable residence. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant with some time to spare in the afternoon before proceeding to the railway station to catch your train to Jaipur which includes dinner on-board, arriving in Jaipur later that evening.

DAY 6: Jaipur B/L/D

Begin your first day in Jaipur with a visit to the spectacular Amber Fort, the ancient capital of the royal family until 1728, located just 11km from Jaipur. Spanning over four huge courtyards, you will travel to the centre of the fort by either elephant or jeep, passing snake charmers, harems of the Maharajah and the Palace of Mirrors along the way which all make for a truly unforgettable morning. An afternoon city tour of Jaipur takes in the major sights including the home of the royal family of Jaipur - The City Palace and the Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory. Lastly, marvel at the hundreds of tiny windows on the facade of the Hawa Mahal, known to many as the Palace of Winds, where it is said that the women of the royal family could once watch the streets below without being seen. Stop for lunch at a local restaurant and some time to walk through the colourful bazaars before returning to the hotel for dinner.

DAY 7: Jaipur to Pushkar and Jodhpur B/L/D

Depart your hotel after breakfast and travel onwards by train to Ajmer, then transfer to Pushkar, an important Hindu pilgrimage site. The town has hundreds of temples, the most famous being Brahma Temple, said to be one of the few temples in the world dedicated to this deity. The town winds around a vast lake where Hindus come and use one of the 52 ghats to enter and bathe in the holy water during religious ceremonies and festivals. After a tour of the city, continue by coach to Jodhpur, arriving in time for dinner at your hotel.

DAY 8: Jodhpur B/L/D

Situated on the edge of the Thar desert, Jodhpur is the birthplace of the last Maharaja of India. You'll begin your day-long tour with a visit to the Mehrangarh Fort, a beautiful fort founded in the 15th century by the Rathore Rajputs that appears to rise from bluff-coloured sandstone within the hill itself making it hard to tell where the land ends and the building begins. Strolling through stately palace apartments you'll get a real feel for life as a royal in an Indian court. Later visit Jaswanth Thada, the traditional cremation ground of the rulers of Jodhpur with grandiose white marble memorials amongst ornamental gardens.

DAY 9: Jodhpur to Deogarh B/L/D

Leaving Jodhpur, en-route to Deogarh you will visit the world famous Ranakpur temple complex. Acclaimed for their intricate and superb architectural style, the temples are the largest of the Jain cult and form one of the five major pilgrimage sites. Wholly constructed in marble with more than 1,400 exquisitely carved supportive pillars, they contain numerous beautifully and delicately carved sculptures and are definitely a highlight of any trip to this area. There will be a break for lunch in a local restaurant before continuing the journey to Deogarh, arriving in time for dinner at the hotel.

DAY 10: Deogarh to Udaipur B/L/D

Begin your day with a trip on Deogarh's metre-gauge train for a journey around the picturesque local area, passing waterfalls and thick jungle, soaking up the ambience of a bygone era. After lunch in a you'll continue on to Udaipur.

DAY 11: Udaipur B/L/D

Affectionately known as 'The Venice of the East', magical Udaipur is a city of romance with beautiful lakes and fantastical palaces all bordered by lush, forested hills. This morning you will visit the huge City Palace, lining the eastern shore of Lake Pichola, with its balconies gazing out towards the stunning Lake Palace seemingly floating on the waters across the shimmering lake. Next make a stop at the celebrated Jagdish temple, the largest in the city and whose 79-foot sculpted spire dominates the skyline. Here you can appreciate the three-storied temple that is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the preserver of the Universe.

DAY 12: Udaipur to Ahmedabad B/L/D

Leaving Rajasthan behind the tour travels onwards to Ahmedabad where you'll explore the city on a varied sightseeing tour, visiting Sabarmati Ashram, the former home and retreat of Mahatma Gandhi as well as the Science City, Swaminarayan Temple and Sidi Saiyyed Mosque, famous for its intricately carved ten stone latticework windows.

DAY 13: Ahmedabad to Mumbai B/L/D

This morning board the 'double decker express train' to Mumbai which arrives in the afternoon. The rest of the afternoon is at leisure to explore the surrounding area before dinner with your group.

DAY 14: Mumbai B/L/D

An early morning start to commence your full day tour of Mumbai awaits you. Your first stop is the iconic stone arch landmark known as the Gateway of India

to board a motorboat to Elephanta Island, explore the ancient caves dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva which are a UNESCO World Heritage Site (**Please note there are 120 steps with a steep climb to access the ancient caves on Elephanta Island**). Back in Mumbai you will delight in admiring such sites as the grand Jain Temple before meandering through the picturesque Hanging Gardens which offer beautiful views of the city and sea before arriving at the beach at Chowpatty. Continue to the museum of Mani Bhavan where Mahatma Gandhi stayed during his visits to Mumbai between 1917-1943 and finally explore the beautiful Kamala Nehru Park. Enjoy a final dinner together with your group on your last evening in India.

DAY 15: Mumbai to the UK or extension B

After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Hotel information

Delhi (2 nights): 4★ The Park Hotel

15, Parliament Street, New Delhi, Delhi 110001, India.

Contact number: 0091 90909 09090

Agra (1 night): 4★ Ramada Plaza

672, Basai, Fatehabad Road, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282001, India.

Contact number: 0091 562 712 3500

Jaipur (2 nights): 4★ Lemon Tree Premier

Address: Sindhi Colony, Bani Park, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302016, India

Contact number: 0091 141 405 110

Jodhpur (2 nights): 4★ The Ummed

Jaipur Highway, Banar Rd, Prem Nagar, Jodhpur, Rajasthan 342027, India.

Contact number: 0091 291 662 1111

Deogarh (1 night): 4★ Deogarh Palace

Palace Road, Deogarh, Rajsamand dist, Udaipur, Rajasthan 313331, India.

Contact number: 0091 99288 34777

Udaipur (2 nights): 4★ Just Rajputana

Sector 11, Hiran Magri, Near Savina Math, Udaipur, Rajasthan 313001, India.

Contact number: 0091 95907 77000

Ahmedabad (1 night): 4★ The Ummed Ahmedabad

Airport Circle, Ahmedabad, Gujarat 382475.

Contact number: 075678 99030

OR

(1 night): 4★ Lemon tree Ahmedabad

434/1, Mithakali Six Cross Roads, 380006 Ahmedabad, India

Contact number: 0091 79 44232323

Mumbai (2 nights): 4★ The Fern Residency

B-411, Acres Club, Hemu Kalani Marg, Sindhi Society, Chembur, Mumbai,

Maharashtra 400071, India. Contact number: 0091 22 2523 8000



Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and will either be taken in the hotel or as a packed breakfast. Lunch and dinner will either be taken in local restaurants or at your hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.

Train Upgrades

Upgrades are available for your train journey from Jaipur to Jodhpur. Please call our Reservations Department for details. Upgrade your train journey to Executive Class from £24 per person.

Accommodation

All accommodation is 4★ and features an en-suite bathroom, heating, air-conditioning, satellite TV, safety deposit box and tea and coffee making facilities. Sunspot Tours has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. The hotels listed are a guide only and if the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to **Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport** with **Jet Airways (9W)**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 4**.

DEPARTURES FROM SEPTEMBER 2019: Your initial flight is to **Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport** with **Emirates (EK)**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 3**.

IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Baggage Allowance - Jet Airways

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 23kg of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 55cm x 35cm x 25cm in size or 7kg in weight.

Baggage Allowance - Emirates

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 30kg of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 55cm x 38cm x 20cm in size or 10kg in weight.

Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Delhi you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Jayasree, holding a sign displaying: "Sunspot". The Sunspot/Jayasree representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Jayasree during your stay the details are:

Jayasree Travels and Tours

P.O Box 5236, Pettah, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
Contact number: 0091 471 2505067

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Jayasree Travel and Tours:

Contact	Telephone number
Ms Jayasree Vikraman	0091 974 700 5888
Ms Samitha	0091 974 471 3380
Mr Biju Unnikrishnan	0091 952 618 8860
Mr Harish Kumar	0091 952 618 8859
Mrs Prashansa Alkesh	0091 997 148 8995/0091 9958988772

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is required for entry into India. British Citizen Passport Holders will need to obtain an e-Tourist Visa (eTV) for travel to India. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Sunspot". The cost of the visa is approximately £114 per person. The Travel Visa Company can only apply for this 120 days before your proposed travel date and takes around 10 working days to issue. It is only valid for a 60 day single entry stay from the date of arrival. When calling the Travel Visa Company they will advise you of any changes to the fees or the procedure, they will also advise you of all information they will require in order to apply for the visa. Alternatively you can visit The Indian Visa Application Centre in London: 142-148 Goswell Road, London, EC1B 7DU. **Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months before you enter India. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Sunspot. We recommend you check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.**

Accommodation/Hotel Voucher

We do not produce a separate Accommodation/Hotel voucher; simply ensure that you take your Confirmation Invoice with you because it doubles as your voucher. If you have not yet received an Invoice please call our Administration Department on 0843 224 0723 or email us using the "Contact us" option on our website: www.sunspottours.com. Please note that it is not necessary for you to have an Invoice showing your balance paid; your original invoice will suffice for the hotel.

Tour Guides

This is an escorted tour, meaning that you will have the services of an English speaking guide during each excursion ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory and is at your discretion. Should you wish to tip, this will be collected by your guide at the end of your tour for your convenience. It is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency, please do not give coins as these are difficult to exchange.

Currency Exchange

The currency in India is the Rupee or Rs. The Rupee is a closed currency and officially you are not allowed to take any cash out of India. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted in India should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you. There are restrictions on taking Indian rupees into India. Visitors, including tourists, are not permitted to take any amount of Indian currency into the country. You can take cash or travellers' cheques (in pounds sterling or another foreign currency) and/or a bank card with you and exchange or withdraw rupees once in India.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £200-£300 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

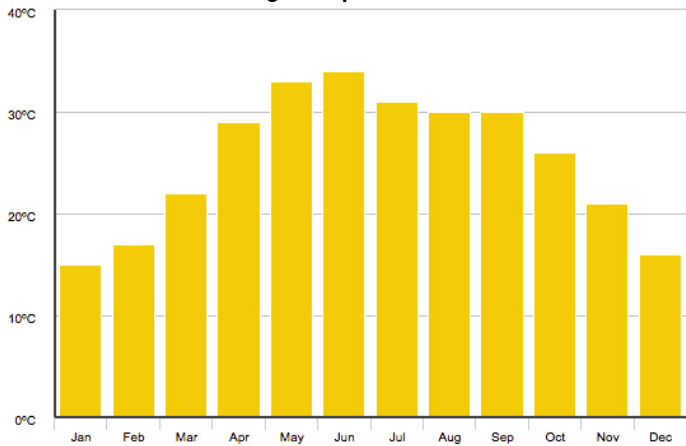
WHAT TO PACK

- Sunglasses, sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Warm clothing and thermals in winter
- Camera and charger/spare batteries
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars
- Mosquito Repellent
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit
- Anti-bacterial hand gel
- Long sleeve shirt and long trousers
- Swimwear
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- An electric plug converter - The voltage in India is 220 Volts with plugs and sockets having either grounded 3 pin connections or ungrounded 2 pin connections. Should you plan to use your own hairdryer, travel iron, video camera, battery charger, electric shaver etc, it is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor.

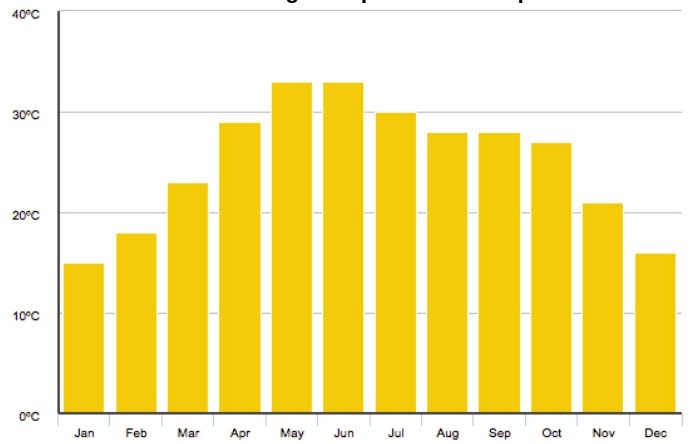
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.

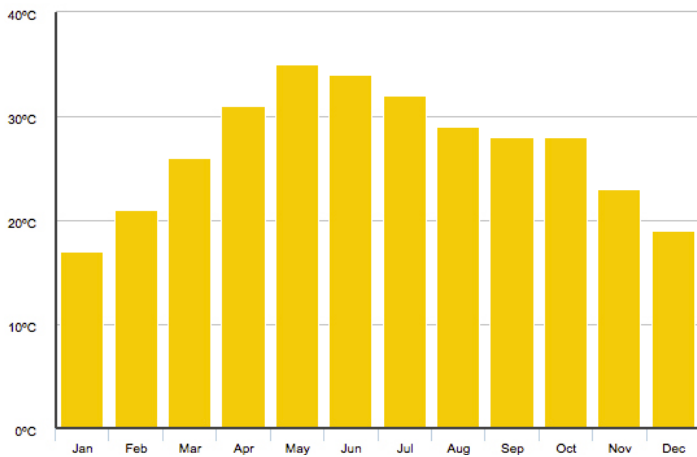
Average Temperature for Delhi



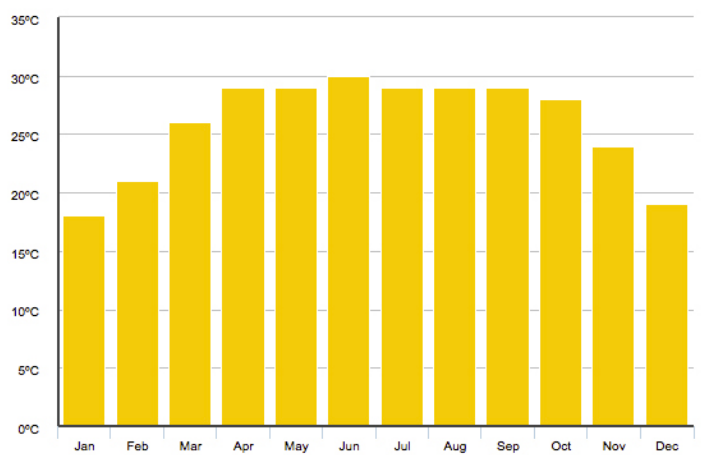
Average Temperature for Jaipur



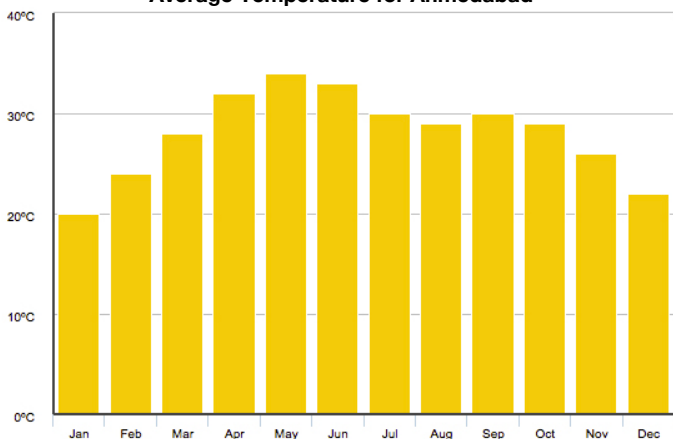
Average Temperature for Jodhpur



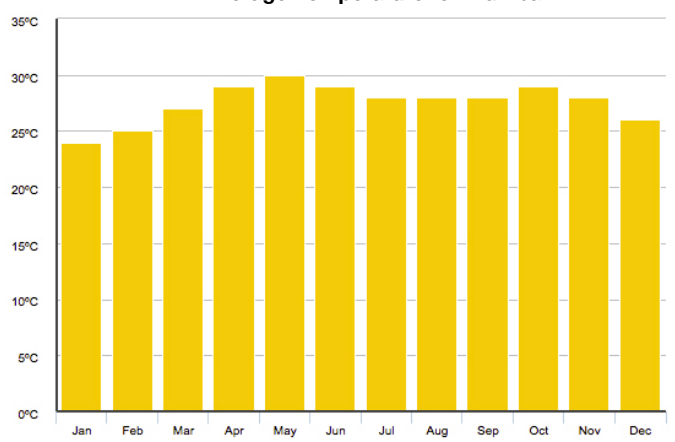
Average Temperature for Udaipur



Average Temperature for Ahmedabad



Average Temperature for Mumbai



MUMBAI EXTENSION

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so, please contact your travel agent



TRIP OVERVIEW

Home to India's financial hubs, tropical forests, religious epicentres, a booming fashion industry and culinary hotspots shaped by the country's wild flavours, discover Mumbai's intriguing sights on your three night extension in the city.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your Mumbai extension.

Your included meal guide:

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Day 15: Mumbai B/L/D

Today is at leisure to relax or explore your surroundings.

Day 16: Mumbai B/L/D

This morning embark on a cruise to Elephanta Island and its host of UNESCO recognised Hindu temples carved into the rock to form intricate caves that protect ancient scriptures, sculptures and decorated panels displaying a multitude of gods and goddesses.

Day 17: Mumbai B/L/D

Enjoy a day at leisure to relax or perhaps venture into this bustling metropolis.

Day 18: Mumbai to UK B

This morning transfer to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

Hotel Information

5★ The Fern Residency (3 nights): Showcasing contemporary Indian designs throughout, the Fern Residency offers guests the perfect cosmopolitan retreat with the additional benefit of a nearby monorail in walking distance. Each room is fully air-conditioned with tea/coffee making facilities, safe, Wi-Fi and room service. Outside of your room, discover a large outdoor swimming pool and restaurant serving a delicious selection of international cuisines.

Hotel information: The Fern Residency Mumbai- No. B-411, Hemu Kalani Marg, Sindhi Society, Chembur East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400071, India
Telephone number: 0091 22 2523 8000

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, drinks and snacks.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour extension, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip.



The Fern Residency

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.