

# Cycling Tour of Rajasthan

Trip Code: RJMB

Version:



CYCLE



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet the locals as we cycle through timeless Rajasthan villages
- Game drive in search of tigers at Sariska National Park
- Chill out at the sacred lakeside settlement of Pushkar
- Visit Agra, with its magnificent Taj Mahal and Red Fort
- RJMB.2 coincides with the colourful Pushkar Camel Festival

## AT A GLANCE

- 7 days biking
- 360 kilometres (225 miles)
- 100% tarmac or dirt road. 100% vehicle supported
- max altitude - 1100 metres
- Join at Delhi

## ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

# Introduction

Our popular bike traverse of Rajasthan is a medley of sights, sounds and other sensory stimulation, as we ride on backroads from Udaipur to the Taj Mahal in a little over a week. After a backstreets city tour by bike, we take the overnight train from Delhi to Udaipur. Here, in the City of Lakes, we begin with a cycle tour amongst its fabulous landmarks. Then, we set off riding through the rolling Aravali Hills to Kumbhalgarh and the atmospheric lakeside town of Pushkar.

Passing farmers working in the fields and the locals travelling to market by foot and oxcart, we get a true feel for the lifestyle here. Throughout we have the reassurance of constant back-up from a support vehicle with a mechanic. Arriving at the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, we have a rest day to visit the famous landmarks including the fabulous Palace of the Winds and the imposing Amer Fort. Continuing our traverse of these majestic lands, we journey to the Sariska National Park where we can have another afternoon off the bikes, as we set off on a game drive in search of the elusive tiger. The next stops on our 2-wheel journey are at the Bharatpur bird reserve and at the former Mughal capital of Fatehpur Sikri, before a short, final transfer to Agra. Here, we walk from our hotel to make a dawn visit to the peerless Taj Mahal and also visit the very impressive Agra Fort, before transferring back to Delhi. If you are looking for a fun and at times quite frenetic biking adventure that's jam-packed with Indian culture and history, then this is the perfect holiday for you.

View our full range of [walking and trekking holidays in India](#).

## Is this holiday for you?

**ADVENTURE CYCLING.** A mountain bike fitted with semi-slick tyres is ideal for this trip, which offers a technically straightforward ride mainly on quiet and fairly level tarmac side roads. There are 7 days of biking on the holiday and the first of these is a short introductory ride on the backstreets of Delhi. After this, we have 6 days averaging about 60 kilometres per day on roads that include only moderate hills. It is our intention at all times to enjoy the beauty of Rajasthan, and our full-time support vehicle means that if we have spent too much time sightseeing during any of the days, we have the option to cut short the day's ride and transfer to our next night's accommodation. We have included a couple of sightseeing days and half-days to ensure we get the most out of this outstanding area. Regular weekend leisure

cyclists will cope well with the biking on this holiday. BIKE HIRE AVAILABLE LOCALLY.

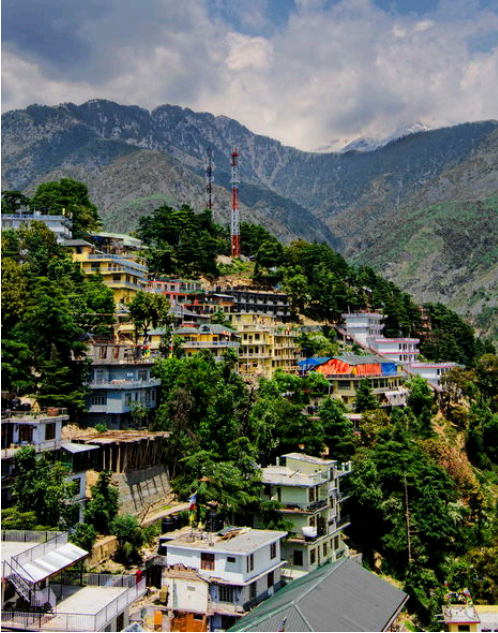
# Itinerary

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Version:

# Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



## Dharamsala and the Dalai Lama

Dharamsala is a former British Raj hill-station in the Dhauladhar mountain range and currently home to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in exile. On this four day extension, you will be able to sample a flavour of life in Tibet and enjoy visits to the Dalai Lama's temple complex; the Norbulingka Institute; the Tibetan children's village and visit a local Gaddi Tribal village to experience the life of the people who traditionally inhabit the lower reaches of the Dhauladhar.



## Delhi Sightseeing Tour - Full day

Old Delhi is centred on the Red Fort and is a labyrinth of narrow, bustling streets including Chandni Chowk bazaar. Must-sees here include the Red Fort, built by Emperor Shah Jahan; Hummayan's Tomb, constructed in similar style to the Taj Mahal and the towering Qutab Minar minaret. New Delhi was the creation of the British Raj who wanted to show their ascendancy over the former Mogul rulers with many grand buildings designed by the greatest ever British architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens. Exploring this area by vehicle will give a glimpse of this interesting aspect of India.

# Holiday Information

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## What's Included

- A professional local English speaking biking leader
- A single group transfer from Delhi Airport on Day 1
- A single group transfer to Delhi Airport on Day 12
- Overnight train from Delhi to Udaipur
- All land transport involved in the trip itinerary
- Support vehicle / driver and mechanic
- All accommodation as described
- One game drive in Sariska National Park and park fees
- Monument entrance fees as per itinerary
- All meals

## What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Indian Visa
- Delhi Airport transfers (other than the group transfers on Day 1 and Day 12)
- Tips for drivers and other staff
- Miscellaneous personal expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc
- Bike hire

## Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Delhi on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary.

A single group transfer is provided from Delhi Airport on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary and back to the same airport on the final day of the Land Only itinerary.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

## Meal Plan

All meals are included, from lunch on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary to breakfast on Day 12.

## Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Part of the experience of a visit to India is sampling the excellent local food. Indian cuisine offers a wide choice of dishes, much more variety than the 'curries' we are used to in Indian restaurants at home. Whether the food is presented as a dinner buffet or as a set menu, there will always be vegetarian options. In some places, there will also be familiar international dishes. Breakfasts include cereals, bread, possibly in the form of local 'rotis', eggs, hard-boiled or omelette, often one or two delicious, spicy Indian breakfast options, fruit, juice, hot water for tea or coffee. Lunches will usually be at a restaurant where you can choose what you want - the guide will help with this.

## Accommodation

The group will have one night at a hotel close to Delhi Airport at the beginning of the trip and another night at the same hotel at the end of the holiday. Along the route we have 9 nights in various hotels and lodges at a comfortable 'tourist' standard. There is also a single night on the sleeper train from Delhi to Udaipur. The train bookings are made in 2nd Class AC which is the best standard that can be pre-booked. The compartments are separated by curtains into 4-berth (2 bunk-beds) and 2-berth (1 bunk-bed) sections with sheets, blankets and a pillow provided. All accommodation (except on the train as described) is allocated on a twin-sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Depending upon availability it may also be possible to arrange single rooms. For additional hotel prices and single supplement costs please refer to the Dates and Prices page of the trip on our website.

## Group Leader & Support Staff

The trip will be led by an experienced local English-speaking biking leader. In addition the group will be accompanied by one or more support vehicles and a designated mechanic.

## Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

## Spending Money

Approximately £150 - £200 (or equivalent in Euros, US dollars etc.) changed into local currency (Indian rupees), should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses, including snacks or lunches, tips for your guides, beer and soft drinks, etc. There are several opportunities to buy souvenirs on this trip. It is not necessary to purchase local currency (Indian Rupees) before you travel. Sterling, US dollars and Euros are readily exchanged in Delhi. Since you will be changing the majority of your spending money into local currency on the day of arrival, we recommend taking this in cash. You can change an initial amount on arrival at Delhi Airport, where the rate is likely to be a few rupees down on what you can expect to get on the high street. Credit cards can be used to purchase many goods in Delhi, Udaipur, Jaipur and Agra and are particularly useful for more expensive souvenirs. It is possible to withdraw cash (rupees only) from cash machines in Delhi, Udaipur, Jaipur and Agra using credit and debit cards.

## Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is an accepted and expected part of Indian culture, although you should only tip for services which are well done. We recommend that tips to your guides and driver be made from the group as a whole and that the group decides together on an appropriate amount. Your guide will help with sundry tipping; bell boys, other hotel staff, toilet attendants, lunchtime restaurant staff, Sariska staff and railway porters. This means you don't need to concern yourself with who to tip and who not to tip. Your guide will set up a tip 'kitty' for this and you will probably be asked to contribute 2000 rupees (£20) each for this. Separately from this, you will need to tip the driver. And you will need to tip your guide. As a rough guide we suggest that £50 (depending on group size) will allow you to pay reasonable tips.

## Additional Information

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are responsible for the conservation of many monuments in India (including the Taj Mahal). This organisation will occasionally undertake work to restore the various monuments, but often without notice, so it is difficult to forewarn our customers of this work. It is possible that, at any time, monuments on this holiday could be having work done on them.

## Your Bike

If you are taking your own bike, we suggest that a 'hardtail' mountain bike with front suspension is appropriate for this holiday. It should have a good range of gears and we recommend you fit fast-rolling all-rounder or semi-slick tyres which work well on the surfaced roads and non-technical trails typically found on our **Adventure Cycling** holidays.

Since you are depending on your bike to transport you throughout your holiday, it's important to ensure it is in good working order. If you are not mechanically minded, get your local bicycle dealer to service it for you.

Please contact us if you are unsure about the suitability of your bike.

## Bike Hire

Bike hire is available locally for this holiday. Our local agent has a range of Merida (Matts 40 and Matts 20 hardtails). These bikes generally have Shimano Acera and Altus components. They have Tektro Disc Brakes, 100mm front suspension and 26 inch diameter wheels. They are available in a range of frame sizes - from 13 to 21 inches. Bikes can be reserved, subject to availability, at a cost of £117 (January 2023 - subject to change). This cost must be paid locally in cash (either in £GBP or rupee equivalent) and does not cover you if you lose the bike or damage it beyond 'fair wear and tear'. Contact the KE office if you want us to reserve a bike for you. Your hire contract will be with our local agent and KE cannot be held responsible for any issues arising from bike hire. If you do hire a bike, we recommend that you take your own shoes, pedals and possibly even your saddle, which will go a long way towards making it feel like your own bike. You must also take your bike helmet, which you will wear whenever you are biking.



## Travelling With Your Bike

Airlines require that you pack your bike properly for travel and for this holiday we recommend that you use a purpose-made soft bike bag. These can be relatively inexpensive. They are also light in weight, easy to handle and, most importantly, can be packed into a small space to allow easy transportation in the support vehicle. You will need to partially dismantle your bike to pack it in your bag.

PLEASE DO NOT USE a purpose-made rigid bike box for this holiday. We do not have the space in the support vehicle to transport these bulky items.

Please contact us if you have any questions regarding travelling with your bike.

## Vehicle Support

Throughout this trip we have the back up of one or more support vehicles. Each morning our main baggage will be loaded onto the support vehicle which will follow the group on the day's ride. The local biking leader and the support vehicle driver will watch over the group and will carry mobile phones, allowing you to contact them in the case of a breakdown or other incident. We want everyone to enjoy their cycling experience on this trip and we recognise the importance of group members being allowed to cycle at their own pace. On most of our biking holidays it is usual that there can be a fair distance between the front and rear cyclists in the group and there may be times when other group members, vehicle support and biking leader are out of sight. However, our regular stops mean that it's never long before we regroup. The support vehicle will pick up any group members who wish to take a break from cycling at any time.

## Baggage Allowance

Apart from your bike in its bag (if you are taking your own bike), you should travel with one main item of luggage, such as a KE Trek Bag or similar holdall, as well as a small day pack or mountain bike-specific hydration pack. The day pack can be used to carry valuable items such as cameras and GPS devices whilst travelling and will also carry your day-ride essentials during the rides.

Your baggage allowance on the flights will depend on your airline. When choosing your flights, whether booking them directly or through KE, you will need to consider the cost of carrying your bike. These costs are your responsibility.

## Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the 'Dates and Prices' table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

# General Information

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## Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders. A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

**It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check for the latest advice before travel. For the most up to date information on entry requirements, please visit the [UK Government website](#).

## Visa India

Most nationalities, including travellers from the UK, the USA and many European countries can apply for their Indian Visa online through the **E-Visa Application** process. You must make your application at least four days prior to departure. Please download the detailed information document for details of how to apply for your visa: [Visa India PDF](#)

## Health & Vaccinations

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

Dengue fever is a known risk in places visited. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you [take precautions to avoid mosquito bites](#).

Zika virus has been confirmed as active in this country. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites. The mosquitoes that transmit ZIKV are unlikely to be found above 2,000m altitude. For more information, visit the website of the National Travel Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) at <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk>

## Vaccinations

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid.

Malarial prophylaxis is not usually required for trips in the mountains, however if you are visiting rural and remote low lying areas then they might be necessary.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dentist check up. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

## Currency

The currency of India is the Indian Rupee.

## Preparing for your Holiday

The better shape you are in, the more you will enjoy your trip. We suggest that you follow a sensible weekly exercise regime and fit in a number of long cycle rides in hilly country before your holiday. This will also provide you with an opportunity to make sure your riding kit is tried and tested before you travel. Whilst cycling is obviously the best activity to prepare you for this trip, running and swimming are also good for developing aerobic fitness and stamina.

## Climate

From November to February, the climate in this part of India will offer very pleasant riding conditions. Daytime maximum temperatures are usually between 25 and 30 degrees Centigrade, with little humidity. Evenings and mornings can be cool, however, especially in December, with temperatures falling as low as 10 degrees Centigrade. There is likely to be very little rainfall in Rajasthan during this period, although the odd shower can never be ruled out.

## Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at [travellaware.campaign.gov.uk](http://travellaware.campaign.gov.uk) and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

## Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

## Books

- Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra. Lonely Planet
- Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra. Rough Guides

## Maps

### **Rajasthan Flexi Map. Insight Guides. Scale: 1:1,900,000**

On one side is a road map of Rajasthan at 1:1,900,000. (includes Delhi and Agra). Topography is shown by relief shading and colouring with spot heights. The map presents the region's road and rail networks, including selected local roads, with driving distance shown on main routes. On the reverse are indexed street plans of central Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur, highlighting various sights, public buildings and selected hotels. A special feature of the Insight Flexi series are panels with additional tourist information.

## Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

## Explore International

This holiday is part of our Explore International range. Participants on these trips can book through KE or through one of our international partners. This helps us to gather together sufficient numbers of like-minded adventurers to get your holiday up and running quickly. Led by an English-speaking guide, the cosmopolitan nature of these groups can be an important part of the experience!

# Equipment Information

## Equipment List

For this holiday you will need your usual cycling clothing, including shoes, cycling gloves and helmet (which must be worn at all times when cycling).

Whether you are hiring a bike or taking your own, we recommend that you take the usual day-ride essentials of: mobile phone, multi-tool, mini-pump, tyre levers, spare tubes and puncture repair kit.

## Bike Wear

- Cycling helmet
- Trainers or stiff-soled cycling shoes
- Daypack or mountain bike-specific hydration pack (e.g. Camelbak)
- Water bladder - min. 2 litres water capacity (we encourage re-filling rather than single use plastic)
- Padded (baggy) cycling shorts
- Base-layer - short sleeve cycling tops
- Mid-layer - long sleeved cycling tops
- Fleece jacket or jumper
- Lightweight windproof-waterproof jacket
- Regular biking gloves
- Buff
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream (inc. total bloc for lips/nose)
- Camera

## Other Stuff

- Travel and off-the-bike clothing and footwear
- Lightweight, loose-fitting trousers to cover up on village visits
- Wash bag, towel, toiletries, including anti-bacterial handwash
- Headtorch and spare batteries
- Swimwear
- Basic First Aid kit and personal medication
- Chamois cream (e.g. Assos/Ozone)
- Water purification tablets
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

## Spares

If you are hiring a bike you do not need to bring any spares. The hire bikes are provided in good condition and a supply of spares is carried. You may be asked to pay directly for any spares used, especially in the case of crash damage or damage by mis-use. If you are taking your own bike, you should consider taking a minimum of spares, including a couple of spare spokes (for each wheel if they are different), spare brake blocks (or brake disc pads), chain links/chain connector, rear derailleur hanger and any non-standard parts specific to your bike.

## Repairs

Whilst not essential, it is a good idea that you familiarise yourself with how to carry out at least some basic repairs to your bike e.g. changing an inner tube and fixing a puncture. Your bike guide will be happy to help with repairs and general maintenance, but being able to carry out a simple repair yourself could save the inconvenience of having to wait for assistance.

## Hydration and Energy Snacks

You should take suitable water bottle(s) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic) or a hydration pack and you should also consider taking a small supply of the gels, power bars or sports drink mix that you would normally use on a ride at home.

Please contact us if you have any questions about your equipment.

## Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

## Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary starting at the hotel in Delhi. A single group transfer is provided from Delhi Airport on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary and back to the airport on the final day of the Land Only itinerary.

## Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Delhi. Outbound flights will usually depart the UK in the early evening, arriving in the morning of the following day (Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Delhi Airport in the morning of the final day of the holiday, arriving in the UK later the same day.

# Why Choose KE

## Why KE

The best of Rajasthan and amazing valueOur improved itinerary includes many of the highlights of Rajasthan - Udaipur, Jaipur, a game drive in search of tigers at Sariska and, of course, the magnificent Taj Mahal. All of this at a leisurely pace, with full vehicle support and a professional cycling guide. What's more, Delhi Airport transfers and all meals are included. The saving on meals alone over some of our competition can amount to as much as £300.

**Please Note** This document was downloaded on 23/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change