

Heritage Trails of Rajasthan

Trip Code: HTR

Version:



WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Trek through tribal villages of the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary and Aravalli Hills
- Wander through the palaces of Udaipur, the 'Venice of the East'
- Follow heritage trails surrounding Jodhpur, Agra and Amber Fort
- Experience sunrise at the Taj Mahal and sunset ceremonies at Pushkar
- Track the elusive tiger on safari in Ranthambore

AT A GLANCE

- 15 days walking tour of Rajasthan
- Join at Delhi

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Rajasthan is a vibrant and dazzling state in Northern India. This is a land of opulent palaces, magnificent crumbling forts and proud tribes. There is an incredible diversity of landscape here, including jungle, mountains and desert. We have created a walking holiday that brings all that we love about Rajasthan into one incredible itinerary. We do not just visit the extravagant former royal residences of the maharaja and their strategic military strongholds; we explore the hills and communities that surround them on a collection of well-planned treks and heritage trails.

We will start with a guided walk of 'Old Delhi', exploring some of the maze-like bazaars and ancient temples and experience an opportunity to help cook in a Sikh temple kitchen! Arriving by sleep-train into Jodhpur, we explore the imposing Meherangarh Fort and spice markets of this blue-hued city. We then enjoy three days of trekking through the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, with time to explore the walls of the magnificent fortress and the serene temples of Ranakpur. The City Palace of Udaipur cannot be missed and we will walk in the Aravalli Hills through the tribal villages that surround this most romantic of lakeside cities. We then visit the spiritual town of Pushkar, a firm KE favourite, before heading to the Pink City of Jaipur. After visiting Amber Fort we will take to the hills that surround this impressive sprawling building and then enjoy a market visit a meal with a local family. Our epic voyage through Rajasthan is ended off in style with game drives at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and an unforgettable visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra.

Is this holiday for you?

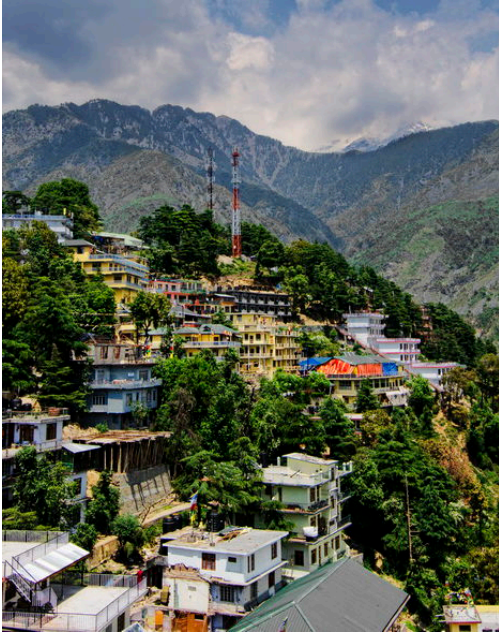
The antithesis of classic coach tours with length drives, this superb walking adventure incorporates many of the jewels of Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra into a two-week holiday and is perfect for anyone wanting to explore the region, in more depth, on foot. The opportunities for cultural immersion and wildlife spotting are immense. There is a fair amount of travelling, as we journey between the royal cities of Rajasthan. However, using private air-conditioned minibuses and a sleeper trains, the effect of this is kept to a minimum. Our game drives in the Ranthambore National Park are in jeeps which are open vehicles fitted with seats and offering a good field of view. This itinerary enjoys more time lingering in each destination, and there are one or two days of extended walks (one of two of around six hours), but these are at a gentle pace on non-serious terrain.

Itinerary

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.

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional English-speaking local leader
- Delhi Airport group transfers on the first and last day of the itinerary
- All land transport involved in the itinerary including overnight sleeper train
- Use of shared 'day-rooms' at the group hotel on the last day of the itinerary
- All accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- All meals as detailed in the itinerary
- Wildlife safari guides for the game viewing
- Guided sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Entrance fees and permits

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Delhi Airport transfers if travelling earlier/later than the group transfers
- Indian Visa
- Meals that aren't included as detailed in the itinerary
- Tips for local staff
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Meal Plan

There are a total of 14 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 6 dinners included. Where there is a wealth of variety and options for places to eat, we have left you the choice of where you dine to take advantage of the cuisine on offer.

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 and the nan breads are like nothing you'll have experienced. Whether the food is presented as a dinner buffet or as a set menu, there will always be vegetarian options. In some place, 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

We will have a total of 13 nights in good standard hotels throughout the trip from Delhi, throughout Rajasthan and Agra; along with 1 night on a sleeper train. All accommodation except the sleeper train is allocated on a twin-sharing basis in second class air-conditioned berths. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Depending upon availability it may be possible to arrange single rooms for the hotel nights. For 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 group will be accompanied by an experienced professional leader throughout and there will also be various wildlife guides during the game viewing, as well as cultural guides when sightseeing in Delhi and Agra.

Spending Money

Approximately £300 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses, including tips for your guides (allow approximately £75) and soft drinks, etc. (allow approximately £40). 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. Credit cards can be used to purchase many goods in the cities and are particularly useful for more expensive souvenirs. It is possible to withdraw cash (rupees only) from cash machines in certain banks in the cities 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, Ranthambore 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 4000 rupees (£40) each for this. Separately from this, you will need to tip the driver who is with you for the whole trip. And you will need to tip your guide. As a rough guide we suggest that £80 (depending on group size) will allow you to pay reasonable tips.

Baggage Allowance

You should restrict your luggage to one main travel bag plus a small daypack to carry cameras, binoculars, water etc. We recognise that for some of our holidays and for some of our travellers, the KE Trek Bag may not provide the best solution when packing for your trip. A bag with fitted wheels and with more than one compartment and more than one access zip is probably more appropriate for this kind of trip.

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

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](#).

Preparing for your Holiday

Although there is no strenuous walking on this holiday, there are several sights which are best explored on foot and it makes a lot of sense to get some additional exercise before coming on any active holiday. Some of the days it will get quite hot and you should be prepared for this. Before departure, we suggest that you do some reading about the country, its people and the wildlife you are likely to see.

Climate

Outside of the Indian Monsoon (June to September) you should experience little if any rainfall. By mid August the monsoon has lost most of its force although short lived cloud bursts particularly in the afternoon, are reasonably common except in Rajasthan which tends to be very dry at this time. The coolest temperatures are encountered during November and December when the maximum daytime temperatures will generally be in the mid to high twenties of Celsius. From February temperatures start to rise reaching mid thirties during trips in March and April. The arrival of the monsoon cools everything down again and temperatures in August and September can often be the same or even less than April. Evening temperatures from late October to February can be quite chilly (requiring a jacket).

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 travelaware.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 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 & Agra - Lonely Planet
- Guide India - The Rough Guide
- Indian Wildlife Insight Guide
- Field Guide to the Mammals of the Indian Subcontinent. K. K. Gurung and Raj Singh
- The Last Mughal - William Dalrymple
- The Jungle Book. Rudyard Kipling

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.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You SHOULD bring the following items:

- Strong shoes or walking boots
- Socks
- Underwear

- Lightweight trousers
- Shirts (at least one long-sleeved with collar)
- Casual shirts or T-shirts
- Jacket
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses
- Small padlock (to lock your KE trek bag)
- Small daypack 20 to 25 litres
- Torch
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

◆ **The following items are optional:**

- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera and batteries

- Travel clothes
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

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 early hours of the final day of the holiday, arriving in the UK later the same day.

Why Choose KE

Why KE?

Our exclusive walking holiday in Rajasthan is packed with rewarding treks, fascinating heritage trails and bags of opportunity to explore on foot. Here, at KE we have always believed that the world is best experienced at walking pace, and this itinerary is the perfect way to find out why. Whether your interest is in rare wildlife, exploring the corridors of royal palaces and temples or walking through tribal hill villages, this holiday will immerse you into all Rajasthan has to offer.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 21/11/2024 and the trip is subject to change