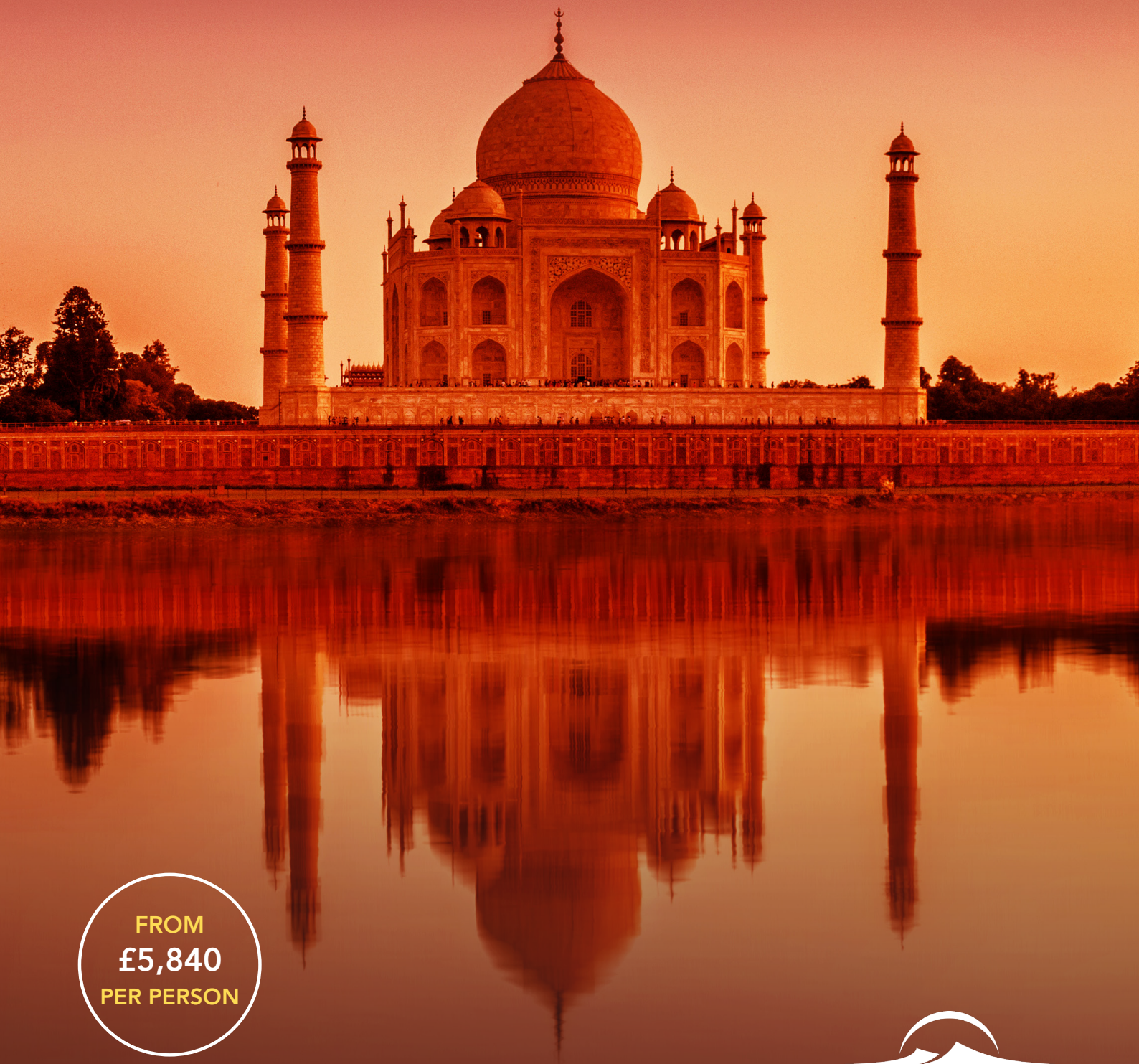


# CLASSIC RAJASTHAN

9 – 23 FEBRUARY 2025



FROM  
**£5,840**  
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Joanna Worsley

  
**The Ultimate**  
TRAVEL COMPANY





Join Joanna Worsley on this captivating tour of Rajasthan which offers a comprehensive introduction to one of India's most fascinating regions. It combines not only the extravagant palaces and imposing hilltop forts of the Mughals, but also exquisite ancient temples, the colonial heritage of British India, the rich and varied wildlife, and the unspoiled age-old traditions and natural beauty of the countryside.

We begin in India's capital, Delhi, exploring the colonial legacy of Lutyens' New Delhi and the Old Delhi of the Mughals, before moving to Agra, setting for one of the finest riverside forts in India and also the world's most exquisite and greatest monument to love - the Taj Mahal. We travel, via the ruins of the 16th century city of Fatehpur Sikri, to the Ranthambore National Park where a profusion of wildlife includes the elusive Royal Bengal tiger, which may just be spotted in the course of game drives. We continue to the 'Rose City' of Jaipur with its colourful markets and remarkable mixture of Hindu, Jain and Mughal architecture including the imposing Amber Fort, before flying to the beautiful city of Udaipur on Lake Pichola where imposing marble palaces filled with treasures and exquisite lakeside gardens are India at its most exotic and decorative best. We drive through in the peaceful countryside of the Aravalli Hills to Jodhpur with its jumble of white and blue painted houses dominated by the formidable Mehrangarh Fort. This magical journey ends in Mumbai, the old East India Company trading station of Bombay, where we explore the rich architectural heritage left behind by the British.





Ranthambore National Park



Baby Taj



Agra Fort

## 15 - DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 9 FEBRUARY 2025

### 9 February London / Delhi

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 257 departing London Heathrow at 18.35 hrs.

### 10 February Delhi

Arrive in Delhi at 08.45 hrs and group transfer to The Claridges Hotel where two nights are spent. Located in the heart of the city, The Claridges has been a landmark in Lutyens Delhi since the 1950's. Rooms are sumptuously furnished and overlook the swimming pool, landscaped gardens and the surrounding diplomatic avenue. The hotel has an impressive array of dining options and facilities including a gym, spa and swimming pool.

Lunch under own arrangements. Visit the Jama Masjid Mosque, India's largest and one of the buildings not demolished after the Mutiny, followed by rickshaw rides through Old Delhi's bustling and vibrant Chandni Chowk market place. Dinner at the hotel.

### 11 February Delhi

Visit Lutyens' Rashtrapati Bhavan, once the Viceroy's Palace, followed by its Moghul Gardens.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon panorama of Lutyens' Delhi including the Church

of Redemption (the Anglican Cathedral), the India Gate, Teen Murti Bhavan (initially the Governor General's house, then Nehru's residence, now a Museum). Visit Humayan's Tomb, the first great Mughal garden tomb built in 1565. Dinner under own arrangements.

### 12 February Delhi / Agra

Drive to Agra (journey time approx. 4 hrs) and check into the Tajview Agra hotel where one night is spent. Spread over six acres of manicured gardens the hotel could hardly be closer to the Taj Mahal and offers the finest amenities and some of the most spectacular views of Agra's most famous monument.

Lunch at the hotel. Visit the impressive 16th century Agra Fort, which was started in 1565 by Akbar with later additions made by his son, Jahangir, and grandson, Shah Jahan. Continue to the white marble Tomb of I'timad ud Daulah, known as the Baby Taj, considered to be the forerunner of the Taj Mahal and profusely decorated with non-precious stone inlay work. End the afternoon with a visit to the Taj Mahal, the world's greatest monument to love and devotion with its superb craftsmanship of semi-precious stones inlaid into the marble in beautiful patterns, a process known as pietra dura. Dinner at the hotel.

### 13 February Agra / Ranthambore

After a dawn return to the Taj Mahal, drive to Fatepur Sikri, the deserted red sandstone city that was built by Emperor Akbar as his splendid capital and palace in the late 16th century.

Continue to Bharatpur and lunch at a local restaurant. Board the Kota Jan Shatabdi train in Bharatpur (journey time 2 hrs 20 mins) to Sawaimadhapur. Transfer to Ranthambore where two nights are spent at the Dev Vilas Hotel built in Indo-Saracen style reminiscent of the Shikhar or hunting lodges built by the Maharajahs. Dinner at the hotel.

### 14 February Ranthambore

Today is spent in the Ranthambore National Park, originally the private hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur. The park is home to an impressive range of bird life and animal species, and tigers can be encountered in broad daylight, though sightings are always a matter of luck. There will be morning and late afternoon game drives. Lunch and dinner at the hotel.

### 15 February Ranthambore / Jaipur

Morning game viewing. Drive to Jaipur (journey time approx. 4 hrs), known as the 'Rose City', having been painted pink in 1876, where two nights are spent at the Samode Haveli Hotel, a traditional Indian mansion





Amber Fort



City Palace



St. Thomas's Cathedral, Mumbai

built 225 years ago as a residence of the rulers of Samode. It is set in a verdant garden with rooms arranged around a series of intimate courtyards and facilities include a large Moorish-style pool and a spa offering a range of massages.

Lunch at the hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the Spice Court with a puppet show and cultural dances.

### 16 February Jaipur

Morning visit to the impressive Amber Fort which dates from the 16th / 17th century, where the majestic 18km ramparts rise steeply above its hilltop site. Within, a series of courtyards lead to a rich interior of lavishly decorated pavilions, rooms and apartments – gold and silver, coloured and mirrored glass, carved marble, plaster and wood and exquisite wall paintings abound.

Lunch at the City Palace. Afternoon at leisure to explore the bazaars which teem with people, camels, horses and a multitude of vehicles. Dinner under own arrangements.

### 17 February Jaipur / Udaipur

Visit the City Palace Complex, Jai Singh's model palace, with its magnificent Hawa Mahal, known as the Palace of the Winds, an elaborate five storey façade of windows and tracery from where the ladies of the court used to sit and observe the outside world and enjoy the cooling breezes (hence the name). Visit Govind Devi Temple, with its series of courtyards and gardens and also

the 18th century Royal Observatory with its monumental sundials and signs of the zodiac.

Lunch at the hotel. Afternoon flight to Udaipur. On arrival transfer to Amet Haveli, situated on the Western Banks of Lake Pichola, where two nights are spent. The hotel offers a unique panoramic of the old city, lake Pichola, Ghanghaur Ghat, Mohan Mandir, Lake Palace, Jagmandir and the beautiful Aravali ranges. Dinner at the hotel.



Jagdish Temple

### 18 February Udaipur

Morning visit to the grand City Palace Complex which towers over Lake Pichola, started in 1567 by Maharana Udai Singh with carefully integrated subsequent additions. Within are a series of courtyards, corridors and gardens, along with a fascinating collection of museums.

Cooking Demonstration with lunch. Afternoon visit to the superb 17th century Jagdish Temple noted for its imposing 25-metre pagoda covered with bas-relief of horsemen, dancers, musicians and elephants,

along with black stone images of Vishnu as Jagannath. Also visit the small Saheliyon-Ki-Bari ornamental garden and enjoy a cruise on Lake Pichola. Dinner under own arrangements.

### 19 February Udaipur / Jodhpur

Visit the Jain Temples at Ranakpur dating from the 15th century.

Lunch at a local restaurant in Ranakpur. Drive to Jodhpur (journey time approx. 4 hrs) with its white and blue painted houses dominated by an impressive hilltop fortress. Check in at the Balsamand Lake Palace, built of red sandstone originally as the summer palace of the Jodhpur royalty and surrounded by lush gardens, where two nights are spent. Dinner at the hotel.

### 20 February Jodhpur

Full day city tour of Jodhpur including the formidable Mehrangarh Fort which spreads over five kilometres of perpendicular hill and houses a palace intricately adorned with long carved panels and latticed windows exquisitely wrought from red sandstone. It also has a museum with a rich collection of items from palanquins to howdahs, royal cradles, miniature paintings and costumes. Also visit the magnificent white marble Jaswent Thada Cenotaph.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon visit to the vibrant and colourful Sadar Market in the old city. Dinner under own arrangements.





## TOUR PRICES PER PERSON

Tour Price	£5,840
Single Supplement	£1,930

*Please note we have not included the cost of the flights in the tour price. Please contact us for prices should you wish to book them through us.*

## PRICE INCLUDES

- Domestic flights as shown in the itinerary
- Accommodation throughout as shown in the itinerary
- Breakfast daily; 11 lunches; 9 dinners
- All entrance fees, visits and excursions as per the itinerary
- Group transfers and all transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- Local English-speaking guide/s
- Gratuities to driver/s; gratuities to guide/s; gratuities in restaurants; portage
- The services of your tour leader throughout

## PRICE EXCLUDES

- International flights
- Travel insurance
- Items of personal expenditure (e.g. telephone calls / laundry etc.)
- Visa fees
- Government levies or taxes introduced after costing and publication of this programme on 06/05/24

### 21 February Jodhpur / Mumbai

Transfer to the airport for a late morning flight to Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay.

Lunch under own arrangements (snack provided on the flight). Transfer to the luxurious Taj Mahal Palace and Tower Hotel where two nights are spent. Built in 1903, bringing together Moorish, Oriental and Florentine styles, the hotel has panoramic views of the Arabian Sea and the Gateway of India, built to receive George V and Queen Mary for the 1911 Durbar and itself a city landmark. The renowned American architect, Melton Bekker, conceived the Tower wing in 1973 with its arched balconies topped by a jagged diadem. Remainder of the afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the hotel.

### 22 February Mumbai

Morning tour on foot and by coach passing a stunning panorama of mostly late Victorian Gothic architecture built by the British such as the Wellington Fountain, Prince of Wales Museum, and Elphinstone College. Drive past the High Court and the Central Telegraph Building

and the monumental Victoria Terminus, on past Andrew's Church, the Writer's Building, the old docklands wall and the Customs House of 1665 to St. Thomas's Cathedral.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Optional either for shopping at Fab India or to visit the Victoria and Albert Museum, now called Dr Bhau Daji Lad Museum, classical without and a Victorian ironwork fantasy within. Dinner at a local restaurant.

### 23 February Mumbai / London

Group transfer to the airport. Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 256 departing Mumbai at 13.15 hrs arriving London Heathrow at 18.10 hrs.







## YOUR TOUR LEADER



### JOANNA WORSLEY

After leaving school, Joanna travelled extensively through Asia working in Hong Kong and Delhi and developing a passion for India. She then spent several years in Los Angeles producing film and music videos. Being half Greek she has a particular love for Greece too and has a house on the island of Skyros. She has led several tours to India for The Ultimate Travel Company.



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