

ULTIMATE RAJASTHAN

22 February - 8 March 2027



FROM
£7,640
PER PERSON

Tour Leader: Chris Caldicott


The Ultimate
TRAVEL COMPANY

Join Chris Caldicott 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 at the 'Rose City' of Jaipur with its colourful markets and remarkable mixture of Hindu, Jain and Mughal architecture including the imposing Amber Fort, before moving to Barwara, home to the remarkable Chauth ka Barwara Mandir temple. A 14th century fort nestled in the Aravalli Hills, it is now a luxurious Sixth Senses resort where we will explore local rural village life. Our trip continues to Ajmer for a walking tour of the sacred town of Pushkar, known for its vibrant annual camel fair. Continue to Jodhpur to take in the sites of its jumble of white and blue painted houses dominated by the formidable Mehrangarh Fort. Spend the day in the village of Rohet, where we will enjoy the rare privilege of being welcomed into the homes of the local community. Continue to Narlai, a serene, quaint 15th century village hidden in the Aravalli Hills. The tour ends in the city of Udaipur where we enjoy an exclusive boat cruise along Lake Pichola, featuring a visit to Jagmandir Island, and take in the views of Udaipur's marble palaces filled with treasures and exquisite lakeside gardens.





Amber Fort



Panna Meena Stepwell

15-DAY ITINERARY, DEPARTING 22 FEBRUARY 2027

22 February London / Delhi

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 257 departing London Heathrow at 18.50 hrs.

23 February Delhi / Jaipur

Arrive in Delhi at 08.45 hrs and group transfer to the Samode Haveli Hotel where three nights are spent. Tucked away in a serene corner of Jaipur's historic old town, the traditional Indian mansion was 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 pool and spa.

Lunch on arrival at the hotel. Afternoon at leisure followed by welcome drinks and dinner at the hotel.

24 February Jaipur

Morning visit to the impressive Amber Fort which dates from the 16th century, where the majestic 18km ramparts rise steeply above its hilltop site. A series of courtyards leads 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 Dera Amer, a luxury safari camp in the wilderness with two charming resident elephants. Walk to the Anokhi Museum, located in a magnificently restored haveli, containing a selection of block printed textiles alongside images, tools and related objects – all chosen to provide an in-depth look into the complexity of this ancient tradition.

Visit the Panna Maana Stepwell, the 16th century stepwell renowned for its unique symmetrical, geometric and criss-cross staircases.

Enjoy a walking tour of the local bazaars to mingle and talk with locals whilst sampling some of the region's culinary delights; try Samosa, Kachori, Kulfi and Lassi and sample sweets from some of the city's most popular Mithai Wala's. Dinner under own arrangements.

25 February Jaipur

Early morning rickshaw ride as the city wakes to experience of the morning aarti or prayer chanting at the Govind Devji Temple at the City Palace where crowds chant songs to the deity. Continue to the wholesale flower market near Hawa Mahal before stopping at a chaiwalla on Chaura raasta for some cardamom early morning tea in Kullad. Return to the hotel for breakfast and the remainder of the morning at leisure.

Lunch at the hotel, before visiting the Maharaja's City Palace and the 18th century Royal Observatory (Jantar Mantar) with its monumental sundials and signs of the zodiac. See the magnificent Hawa Mahal, known as the 'Palace of the Winds', an elaborate five storey façade of windows and tracery from where the women of the court used to sit and observe the outside world and enjoy the cooling breezes (hence the name). Dinner under own arrangements.

26 February Jaipur / Barwara

Morning transfer to Six Senses Fort Barwara where two nights are spent. A 14th century fort originally owned by a Rajasthani royal family,

this elegant sanctuary provides a wonderful insight into a bygone era of more than 700 years.

Lunch and dinner are at the hotel. Afternoon at leisure.

27 February Barwara

Morning at leisure or explore local village life.

Lunch at the hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Evening drive through the Aravalli Hills to watch the sunset melt into the horizon across the Rajasthani landscape. Dinner at the hotel.

28 February Barwara / Ajmer

Group transfer to the Pratap Mahal Hotel, where one night is spent. Surrounded by the majestic Aravalli range and nestled between the historic city of Ajmer and the sacred town of Pushkar, Pratap Mahal's rooms blend traditional haveli-inspired design with modern comforts.

Lunch at the hotel. Afternoon walking tour of Pushkar, a sacred Hindu pilgrimage city and one of the oldest in India, famous for its Brahma temple, the only one dedicated to Lord Brahma in the world. Dinner at a local restaurant.





Streets of Jodhpur



Mehrangarh Fort

1 March Jodhpur

Morning transfer to Jodhpur, with its white and blue painted houses dominated by an impressive hilltop fortress. On arrival, transfer to the Raas Hotel where three nights are spent. Based around an original 18th century haveli in the heart of the vibrant walled city, this contemporary hotel is a tranquil haven with breath-taking views over the Mehrangarh Fort.

Lunch at the hotel on arrival. Afternoon walking tour of the vibrant Blue City, with opportunities to visit historic stepwells, bustling bazaars and take tuk-tuk rides through the city's winding streets. Dinner under own arrangements.

2 March Jodhpur

Morning sightseeing 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 Jaswant Thada Cenotaph.

Lunch at a local restaurant. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner at the hotel.

3 March Jodhpur

Morning at leisure.

Lunch at the hotel. Afternoon jeep safari trip to Rohet Village, where the local community warmly welcomes visitors into their homes, providing a

glimpse into their culture and way of life. Harking back to the days of the Raj, enjoy a unique Shikar Dinner at the Mihir Garh Fort situated in the Thar Desert. Return to the hotel.



Rohet Villager

4 March Jodhpur / Narlai

Depart for Rawla Narlai where one night is spent. The fully restored 17th century royal retreat is hidden away in a quaint village, deep in the heart of the Aravalli Hills. Surrounded by forestry and rocky outcrops, it is reminiscent of a Rajasthan that few see today and is in one of the most beautiful parts of the state.

Lunch under own arrangements and time at leisure followed by an afternoon wildlife safari. The area is home to over 130 species of birds, antelope, sloth bears, hyenas, caracals and the elusive leopard. Enjoy dinner on the edge of an ancient 11th century stepwell, lit up by more than 100 traditional oil lamps.

5 March Narlai / Udaipur

Morning village walk. Drive to the Jain Temples of Ranakpur in the

Aravalli Valley. Visit the Chaumukha Temple, built in 1439 and dedicated to Lord Adinath. Check in to Jagat Niwas Palace where two nights are spent. Built in the early 17th century and stood in the heart of Udaipur, Jagat Niwas is a palatial boutique hotel perched on the lakefront of Pichola's waters offering uninterrupted views of the Aravalli Hills.

Lunch under own arrangements. Afternoon boat cruise on Lake Pichola, followed by dinner at the hotel.



Sandstone carving at Parshvanath Jain temple



Lake Pichola

6 March Udaipur

Morning city tour including a visit to the Crystal Gallery at Fateh Prak. See the grand City Palace started in 1567 by Maharana Udai Singh. Within are a series of courtyards, corridors and gardens, along with a fascinating collection of museums. Lunch at local restaurant, followed by a visit to the Mewar School of Art. Learn about the distinguished tradition of Indian miniature painting which originated in the 17th century royal Udaipur courts. Meet local artists and take part in a miniature painting workshop. Farewell dinner at local restaurant on the Western Banks of Lake Pichola.

7 March Udaipur / Mumbai

Optional morning bike ride through the outskirts of the city, taking in views of scenic villages, local wildlife and diverse, rural landscapes.

Lunch under own arrangements. Transfer to Udaipur Airport for a domestic flight to Mumbai. Upon arrival, transfer to Leela Mumbai Airport to freshen up before returning to Mumbai airport. Dinner under own arrangements.

8 March Mumbai / London

Suggested flight (not included in the cost of the tour) British Airways BA 138 departing Mumbai at 02.15 hrs arriving in London Heathrow at 07.15 hrs.



TOUR PRICES

Tour Price	£7,640
Room Upgrades	£220

SINGLE SUPPLEMENT PRICES

Single Supplement	£2,745
Room Upgrades	£410

Prices are per person

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; 10 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 26/02/2025





YOUR TOUR LEADER

Chris Caldicott

Since travelling to some of the most remote parts of the world as Photographer-in-Residence to the Royal Geographical Society, Chris Caldicott has continued his globetrotting lifestyle as a freelance photographer, writer and lecturer specialising in food and travel. He has had several books published about food, travel and the spice trade and visited 118 countries on assignments to capture evocative images and write about memorable experiences for publications such as *Vanity Fair*, *Condé Nast Traveller*, *The Sunday Times*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Tatler*, *House and Garden* and *The Telegraph*.

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