

GUJARAT & RAJASTAN TOUR
21 NIGHTS / 22 DAYS

BHUJ - GREAT RANN OF KUTCH - DASADA- BHAVNAGAR - ADALAJ - AHMEDABAD -PATAN - UDAIPUR - JODHPUR - JAISALMER - BIKANER - PUSHKAR - BUNDI - JAIPUR - AGRA - DELHI

HOTEL SUMMARY

PLACES COVERED	NO OF NIGHT	HOTELS
BHUJ	01	HOTEL MANGALAM (Room reserved for Early Check in)
BHUJ	01	HOTEL MANGALAM
GREAT RANN OF KUTCH	02	TENTS
DASADA	01	TENTS/ BUNGALOWS
BHAV NAGAR	02	HOTEL NARYANI HERITAGE
AHMEDABAD	01	EPSILON HOTEL
PATAN	01	BALARAM PALACE
UDAIPUR	02	MAHENDRA PRAKASH
JODHPUR	01	THE KOTHI HERITAGE
JAISALMER	02	JAISAL CASTLE HOTEL
BIKANER	01	HOTEL BASANT VIHAR PALACE
PUSHKAR	01	GULAAB NIWAS PALACE
BUNDI	02	BUNDI INN
JAIPUR	02	MANDAWA HAVELI
AGRA	01	TAJ RESORTS

Hotels check-in & check-out time is 1400 and 1200 Hrs respectively at most hotels

TOUR PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Accommodation on Twin room basis in the listed hotels (or) equivalent
- Daily breakfast
- Boat Ride in Udaipur (common)
- Jeep ride to Amber fort.
- All internal transportation driven by private chauffeur vehicle as per the itinerary
- All Applicable taxes

TOUR PACKAGE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Meals at hotels except those listed in above inclusions
- Still Camera/Video Camera, entrance, and extra activities charges
- Expenses of personal nature such as tipping, porters, laundry etc
- Anything not mentioned in inclusions

DETAILED ITINERARY :

DAY 01: BHUJ

Room reserved for early check-in

DAY 02 : ARRIVAL BHUJ

Fly Bombay - Bhuj (jet airways 2535) BOM (06.10)/ Bhuj (08.00) hrs, arrival Bhuj transfer to Hotel .
(Room Booked for early in) . BHUJ: The historic city of Bhuj derives its name from the Bhujiyo Dungar, a hill, overlooking the present day Bhuj town. Bhuj is a typical example of a desert town located between two geographical features - Bujiyo Dungar on the east & Hamirsar lake on the west. Overnight stay at Bhuj.

DAY 03-04 : BHUJ – GREAT RANN OF KUTCH

After Breakfast proceed for full day excursion tour to Banni Region. Amidst the Desert land of infinite dimensions, are suspended, quaint little villages. These are the last villages on the India-Pakistan border. Here you will come across master craft people' exposing their traditional art, turning out master pieces every day. Their ornaments, clothes, utensils, everything they use -will make you feel as if you have stepped into lifestyle museum leaving you spellbound. Banni Embroidery of Kutch This needle work derived its name from the semi-desert areas called Banni in the Kutch district. It is a long tract of 2,144 Sq. Km. where 44 villages form hamlets (Vandhs) People in this area are engaged in tertiary occupations like embroidery, leather work, dairy and other cottage industries. Banni embroidery is locally known as "Kutch Bharat" Khambira, Kharek, Kodi, Kacho Bharat Fako, Bharat etc are main stitches used in this area. The work is known for minute designs Gorgeous colors embroidered articles are closely associated with their day to

day needs. Drive to Hodka. Take typical Kutchi Lunch at Shaame-e-Sarhad Village Resort. Hodka – a cultural village is located in the Banni Grassland, right on the edge of the great Salt Desert – the Rann. The name Hodka is derived from the Gujarati word “Hodi” meaning Boat, as the shape of the Jheel is believed to be in the shape of a Boat. It is believed to have been set up by the Halepotra clan. 'Halepotra' literally means the 'Son or the descendant of Halaji', who is believed to have immigrated from Sindh. The village is now a part of National project. The village is famous for its craft like Decorative Mirrors, Lamps, Hand Fans, Letter Boxes, Wall Hanging, Lather, Clay, Wood, Metal, Mud Work and especially the exquisite Silver Jewellery. The artisans sell their goods directly from their artistic Huts. Visit the Bhirandiyara – is a favorite Tea stop for locals and visitors alike on the road to Khavda. The village boasts of a delicious sweet – fresh Maavo. This milk-based sweet is best when eaten hot. Most of the roadside stalls sell Maavo. The local Meghwal Community has exquisite embroideries and skillfully decorated, colorful Mud Bhungas. Mud-Mirror work - Lippan kam is a decorative art done by common people mainly women. Lippan kam is done inside bhungas / mud huts in villages of Kutch; sometimes you can find it on outer walls too. Generally women make birds, trees, animals, and peacock, human figures etc in lippan kam. It is done with a mixture of clay and camel dung. Then gum is used to stick mirrors. Originality of lippan kam lies in adding no color or only whites. Small round, diamond-shaped or triangle mirror pieces are essential to lippan kam . Overnight in Bhuj

NOTE : All the tourists visiting Bhuj / Kutch area are required to obtain the permit from the Police Office for the interior Kutch visit the villages north of Kutch, including Khavda, Bhirandiara and Dumaro.

DAY 05 BHUJ - DASADA - (275km/7hr)

Today you will drive to Little Rann Of Kutch. The highlight of this sanctuary is the Asiatic Wild Ass or 'Gudkhur' that is endemic to the region & is one of the most endangered species in the world. Other mammals that could be seen are nilgai, black buck antelope, chinkara gazelle, Indian wolf, Indian desert foxes, jackals & lesser cats. Also is a paradise for bird watchers. The key dryland birds are McQueen's houbara bustard, chestnut bellied & spotted sand grouse, Indian courser, 13 species of larks & sparrow larks, 5 of quails (including buttonquails), thick-knee, desert warbler, desert & variable wheatear, aquila eagles, short toed snake eagle, six species of falcon & three harriers. Five species of vulture have been recorded. Apart from all these you can hope to see greater & lesser flamingo, three species of pelican, spoonbill, demoiselle & common cranes, and a number of ducks in flocks of several thousand during winters.

Overnight stay at Dasada / Bajana.

DAY 06 : DASADA - BHAVNAGAR - (210km/6 hr)

Today morning enjoy morning safari to Little Rann Of Kutch and drive to Bhavnagar via Lothal, visit of Lothal it's an example of Harappa Ancient civilization, darshan of Goddess Maha Kal . Continue your drive and check-in proceed for Bhavnagar sightseeing. In the evening visit of Takhteshwar temple of Lord Shiva, temple was named of Maharaja Takht Sinh ji, Temple was located on hill & made of marbles. Gandhi smriti, an institute, library, museum & gallery of Photographs represent the life of Gandhi. Barton library & museum is a collection of Colonel Barton, An important British representative in Saurashtra. Coin collection is the attraction of this museum . Overnight in Bhavnagar

DAY 07 : BHAVNAGAR (Excursion to PALITANA - TALAJA)

Today you will proceed excursion to Palitana is the gateway to the Shatrunjaya hill and one of the holiest pilgrimage sites for Jains. There are about 863 temples on the top of the hill, exquisitely carved in marble and built over a span of 900 years. After reaching the top of the hill we will visit the Jain temple. The temple which is dedicated to Shri Adishwara, the first Jain Tirthankara (apostle) is one of the most magnificent temples and the most sacred temple on Shatrunjaya hill. After visiting the temple we will visit the Chaumukha or the four faced temple. It has an image of Adinath facing out in the four cardinal directions . Post lunch you will drive to visit Talaja Buddhist Caves on the top of small hill Evening return to Bhavnagar . Overnight stay in Bhavnagar

DAY 08 : BHAVNAGAR - AHMEDABAD - ADALAJ STEPWELL - (175km/5hr)

After breakfast, drive to Ahmedabad , This multicultural city is home to some of the finest Indo-Saracenic mosques & Jain temples. Ahmedabad straddles the ancient and modern with equal poise. Evening head out Adalaj Step-well, Situated 17 km north of Ahmedabad, this step well at the village of Adalaj is another fine example of magnificent architectural form. 'Adalaj Vav' is richly carved. Every pillar and wall surface is covered with leaves, flowers, birds, fishes and friezes of ornamental designs. Overnight Ahmedabad

DAY 09 : AHMEDABAD - MODHERA-PATAN -BALARAM PALACE - (165km/5.5hr)

Today morning proceed to visit The Sun temple of Modhera is one of the finest examples of Indian architecture of its period. Built in 1026 A.D. the temple is dedicated to the Sun-God, Surya and stands high on a plinth overlooking a deep stone-steeped tank. Every inch of the edifice, both inside and outside is magnificently carved with Gods and Goddesses, birds, beasts and flowers. Sun Temple of Modhera was built by King Bhimdev I (1026-27) and bears some resemblance to the later and far better known, Sun Temple of Konark in the state of Orissa, which it predates by some 200 years. Like that temple, it was designed so that the dawn sun shone on the image of Surya, the sun God, at the time of the equinoxes. The main hall and shrine are reached through a pillared porch and the temple exterior is intricately and delicately carved. As with the temple of Somnath, this fine temple was ruined by Mahmud of Ghazni. and then to Patan: Home of the famous patola silk saris, Patan is a beautiful old

town with Jain temples and carved wooden houses. Rani ki vav (step well) is an excellent example of subterranean architecture of Gujarat. The exclusively carved side walls, pillars, beams, series of steps & platforms lead to the elaborately carved water well. Every surface is adorned with finely chiseled sculptures of maidens & Hindu deities, religious motifs & geometrical patterns. Rani ki Vav represents the finest of the Indian sculptures and architecture. Continue your drive to **Balaram Palace Resort**.

Overnight stay

DAY 10 : AHMEDABAD - UDAIPUR - (265km/6hr)

After breakfast, check out from hotel then drive to Udaipur **formally known as the city of lakes and Venice of East**. Udaipur, the capital of the former princely state of Mewar is a beautiful city in Rajasthan. Udaipur is also referred to as the "Venice of the East", the "Most Romantic City of India" and the "Kashmir of Rajasthan". The city of Dawn, Udaipur is a lovely land around the azure water lakes, hemmed in by the lush hills of the Aravalis. A vision in white drenched in romance and beauty, Udaipur city of Rajasthan state is a fascinating blend of sights, sounds and experiences - an inspiration for the imagination of the poets, painters and writers. Evening take a Boat ride in lake Pichhola, their reflection in the placid waters is an enticing sight. Overnight in Udaipur

DAY 11 : UDAIPUR - FULL DAY TOUR

Full day to explore this beautiful city visiting The City Palace and Museum, it is considered as the largest palace complex in Rajasthan. Pratap Memorial has the bronze statue of Maharana Pratap, the legendary warrior king of Udaipur. Jagdish Temple which was built in 1651 AD. Saheliyon Ki Bari a small ornamental garden. In the evening take a walking tour through the narrow lanes and back streets of Udaipur upto the Washing Ghats at the lake Pichhola. Visit one of the fine downtown restaurants for an optional dinner. Return to hotel for overnight stay

DAY 12 : UDAIPUR - JODHPUR - (265km/5hr)

Today you will drive to Jodhpur, known as the 'Blue City' and is overlooked by the magnificent Meherangarh Fort, perhaps one of the best preserved forts in Rajasthan. Named after its 15th century founder, Rao Jodha, this city, strewn at the base of a sandstone ridge, is the second largest in Rajasthan, and was capital of the Marwar kingdom for five centuries. Stopping en-route to visit the beautifully sculptured Jain temples in Ranakpur in the Aravalli Valley, also known as 'the tranquil pilgrimage town'. Built in the 15th century during the reign of king Rana Kumbha, Ranakpur is one of the five holy places of the Jain community. Built during the reign of the liberal and gifted Rajput monarch Rana Kumbha in the 15th century, the temple is an astounding creation and an example of architectural genius. It comprises four subsidiary shrines, twenty-four pillared halls and domes, supported by over four-hundred columns. The total number of columns is 1,444 and all of them are intricately carved with none of them being alike. The assembly hall has two big bells weighing nearly 108 kilograms and their sound echoes through the entire complex. The main temple is the Chaumukh or the four faced temple dedicated to Adinath. Continue to reach Jodhpur and check in. In the afternoon you will leave for a half-day tour of Jodhpur that will begin with a visit to the majestic Meherangarh Fort, visit the Jaswant Thada memorial, stroll around the royal gardens at Mandore, and the wonderful bazaars of the old city. Another fascinating sight is the Umaid Bhawan Palace, an incredible art-deco palace, built between 1929 and 1942 as a famine-relief project to generate employment for the Maharaja's impoverished subjects. Today although a portion of the palace remains the residence of Jodhpur's Royal Family, the rest has opened its door to be one of Rajasthan's most sought after luxurious heritage hotels. Overnight in Jodhpur

DAY 13 : JODHPUR - JAISALMER - 265Kms/ 06Hrs

Optional : Early Morning take a short safari to immaculately kept villages of Bishnoi tribals who are known for their belief in the sanctity of plant and animal life. A variety of deer roaming freely is the attraction of these villages. And drive to Jaisalmer - Popularly described as the Golden City of India, the

desert city of Jaisalmer is also famous for thrilling sand dunes and exciting camel safaris. During your tours to Jaisalmer as a part of Rajasthan tours you will observe that the golden city of Jaisalmer is also rich in its culture and heritage. Arts and architectures, exotic handicrafts and festivals, all are worth visiting attractions of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India. The city of Jaisalmer is a mesmerizing tourist destination in the vibrant and colorful state of Rajasthan which is waiting your arrival in the city. On arrival transfer to hotel. Evening at leisure. Night stay in Jaisalmer.

DAY 14 : JAISALMER

Morning city sightseeing tour of Jaisalmer. Throbbing in the heart of the Thar, the burnished sandstone, is an intricately molded wonderland in place of a barren land, today stands a city of gilded magic. The origins of Jaisalmer go back to the 12th century, when Rawal Jaisal abandoned his old fort at Ludarwa and laid the foundation of a new city. Visit the magnificent fort, the Patwon Ki Haveli (Mansion) and Salim Singh Ki Haveli, with their carved balconies and brackets which are supreme examples of the art. Evening camel ride to visit Sam Dunes. Night stay in Jaisalmer.

DAY 15 : JAISALMER - BIKANER - (335Kms/07Hrs)

Morning drive to Bikaner. Blink and you'll miss the small outpost of Phalodi, halfway between Jaisalmer and Bikaner. Many tourists may only look at this dusty two-horse desert town as a refueling stop; but in recent years, as tourism continues to spread across the outer rim of Rajasthan, a local ritual in the nearby village of Keechen has attracted a lot of attention. It's this area where, at last count, nearly 7,000 demoiselle cranes come to winter. On arrival transfer to the hotel. Later city sightseeing tour. Bikaner is named after its founder Rao Bikaji in 1488. But long before this, the city was trade center on the caravan routes from Africa and West Asia. Bikaner's dominant features are rippling sands and abundant sunshine. The city stands on an elevation, enclosed by a 7 Kms wall, which can be entered from 5 gate. Bikaner City is bolstered by imposing walls and has a 16th century fort housing old palaces, temples and mosque. Founded by Raja Rai Singh the fort is distinguished by its long range of 37 pavilions, a line of balconies and aerial windows of varying designs. Also visit Lallgarh Palace, Bhandra Sagar Jain and Deshnok Rat temple. Night stay in Bikaner

DAY 16 : BIKANER - PUSHKAR - (260km/5hr)

Drive to Pushkar, town famous for Pushkar fair (largest camel fair in the month of November), where a large number of cattle owners and dancers come to this village for their livelihood. On arrival, check into the hotel.

Evening explore the town by walk. Pushkar has its great importance in Hindu mythology as one and only temple of Lord Brahma, 'the creator of the universe' is located here, visit the nearby lake which is also a religious lake, see the people, dipping in the lake. Overnight in Pushkar

DAY 17 : PUSHKAR - BUNDI - (190km/4.5hr)

Today you will drive to Bundi. The small, rustic town of Bundi was the capital of one of the erstwhile princely states of Rajasthan. It is known for its palaces, baolis (step wells) and water tanks. The monuments and their architecture reflect the splendor of the local Rajput chiefs. The walls of the palaces at Bundi are decorated with life-size frescoes depicting the glory of its rulers. Enroute visit Nasiyan temple is regarded as one of the best Jain temples in Rajasthan. Built in 1865, Nasiyan Temple is also known as Lal Mandir (Red Temple). Enjoy the astonishing and inimitable display of the shrine, made it to be recognized, as the Golden Temple (Swarna Mandir). Overnight in Bundi

DAY 18 : BUNDI

Today navigate Bundi's narrow streets on a walking tour. Wander through the downtown market and engage with the locals. Visit intricately carved baoris (step wells) and explore the 16th-century Bundi Palace (be sure to check out its famous murals).

DAY 19 : BUNDI - JAIPUR - (220km/5.5 hr)

After breakfast, drive to the capital of the state of Rajasthan—Jaipur. Jaipur is known as the "Pink City" after the rusty colour that many of the houses are painted. With beautiful palaces, forts, gardens, temples, and unending market streets, it has a bit of everything that Rajasthan has to offer.

DAY 20 : JAIPUR

Start early excursion to Amber fort, on the way to the fort don't forget to take photographs of the beautiful Pink Palace called The Wind Palace. In the morning, sunlight on the palace seems like a flower in its full bloom. Continue to Amber Fort. **Optional** You can enjoy the elephant ride ascent to the fort. From the roof top of the fort you will marvel at the unforgettable views of the ancient capital of Royal Family of Jaipur. Bring your camera; it is a must! The fort is surrounded by the Aravalli Mountain Ranges and the great wall of Amber. The Mirror Palace, Persian Gardens, The Turkish Baths, Diwan-e-aam, Ganesh-Pole are the finest example of the Indo-Islamic architecture.

After lunch proceed to visit the City Palace, the royal residence of Jaipur. Chandra mahal (the moon palace), Mubarak mahal (the welcome palace) and the Palace Museum are some interesting parts of the City Palace.

Next to the City Palace is JantarMantar a scientific observatory built by astrologer King Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in 1728 AD. Singh measured time by the course of the sun's shadow and charted the annual progress through the zodiac. The various instruments in the observatory help you to learn the scientific part of astrology.

Overnight in Jaipur

PS Note : elephant ride is subject to availability of elephant, If elephant is not available due to any cause then we take the clients to Amber Fort by Jeep. It is recommended to visit the Amer Fort early in the day (before 9:00 am), to guarantee a ride and avoid the queues. During the tourist season most of the elephants have finished their quote of rides by 11:00 am

DAY 21 : JAIPUR - AGRA - (250km/5hr)

Today after breakfast continue your journey to the Historic City-Agra. On arrival check in . enroute visit of **Fatehpur Sikri**, a city built in red sandstone by Emperor Akbar to commemorate the birth of his son. A royal city perfectly preserved, Fatehpur Sikri provides a marvelous escape into the past. Akbar embarked on the construction of a new capital here when a prophecy of the birth of a male royal heir, by the Sufi Saint Salim Chisti of Sikri, came true. Imposing gateways and light- hearted palaces were built in red sandstone within this fortified city only to be abandoned a few years later. Among its many architectural game are the places for his queens - Jodha Bai, Mariyam and his Turkish sultana, built in varying styles, each perfect in itself. Upon arrival check in to the hotel .

DAY 22 : AGRA - DELHI DEPARTURE - (240km/4hr)

Rise early visit sunrise of Taj Mahal (Taj Mahal Closed on Fridays), perhaps the most photographed monument in the world, may you heard about the Taj Mahal and once you see so many picture of building your expectations are real high and this is the enigma about the Taj Mahal. Taj Mahal glory and beauty of building surpasses beyond all human imaginations. return hotel for Breakfast . Then visit Agra Fort, this massive building inside reflecting an interesting synthesis of Hindu and Central Asian architectural style built by Emperor Akbar. Visit a very beautiful monument called Baby Taj Mahal , It is Mughal's Prime Minister Etmad ud Daulla's tomb

Later in the afternoon drive back to Delhi International Airport Connect Flight back to home with lovely memories of Incredible India.

END OF SERVICES