

# EXPLORE!

Book with confidence



## Rajasthan Village Trails

INDIA - TRIP CODE RVT

WALKING AND TREKKING

### Why book this trip?

Discover Rajasthan's rich culture and natural splendours on this walking holiday through its historic cities, remote villages, hills and deserts. Visit majestic forts, opulent palaces and exquisitely carved temples. Immerse yourself in the vibrant street life on carefully planned heritage walks and encounter rural life up close, hiking through tribal heartlands.

- **Aravalli Hills** - Trek through the forests of the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary and search for chinkara, wild boar, monkeys and other wildlife
- **Udaipur** - Relax in this historic city on the shores of Lake Pichola
- **Agra and Jaipur** - Visit spectacular monuments to the might of the Mughals and Rajputs

- **Pushkar camel fair** - 20th November 2020 departure coincides with the annual camel fair and will spend two nights at a tented camp

					
<b>INCLUDED MEALS</b> Breakfast: 14 Lunch: 1	<b>TRIP STAFF</b> Explore Tour Leader / Trek Guide Driver(s) Local Guide(s)	<b>TRANSPORT</b> Bus Rickshaw	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b> 12 nights comfortable hotel 1 nights premium hotel	<b>WALKING GRADE:</b> Easy To Moderate	<b>GROUP SIZE:</b> 10 - 16

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

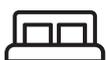
### DAY 1 - Trip starts in Delhi; stroll in Lodhi Gardens

The trip starts today in New Delhi, India's bustling capital which successfully combines the ancient with the modern. Amidst the tall and modern skyscrapers, there are still the remnants of a bygone time with numerous monuments and temples.

Your trip leader plans to meet everyone in the hotel reception at 2pm for a welcome meeting. After this, by way of a leisurely introduction to the city, we head out to stretch our legs in the peaceful surroundings of New Delhi's Lodhi Gardens. On our drive there we pass by the iconic India Gate (war memorial designed by Sir Edward Lutyens) and imposing Presidential Palace. One of the city's most beautiful and popular parks, this 90 acre garden contains 15th century tombs, mosques and bridges and a rich variety of trees and birds. Popular with Delhiites as a place to stroll, we plan to join the locals for a cup of chai (strong and sweet milky tea) at a tea shop in the middle of the gardens.

If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you'll need to arrive into New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport (DEL), which is 14km, around 45 minutes from our hotel.

Please note that if you wish to join the afternoon walk in Lodhi Gardens today, you must arrive at the hotel by 2pm. If you are booking your own flights, we recommend giving yourself at least one hour to clear the airport. From the airport to the hotel is around 45 minutes drive, so therefore the latest your flight can arrive is 12.15pm. Should you miss the welcome meeting, your Leader will inform you of any essential information as soon as you catch up.





ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Jivitesh (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 2 - Explore Old Delhi by cycle rickshaw; drive to Agra

By way of complete contrast, we immerse ourselves this morning in the frenetic streets and alleys of Old Delhi on a guided cycle rickshaw tour. The Old City is much closer to the image conjured up by Rudyard Kipling. Weaving our way through the crowds we take in Dariba Kalan (the silver market) and Paranthewali Galli (Lane where Paratha flat breads are made) followed by visit to the Sikh Gurdwara, Sees Ganj Sahib and the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India.

In the afternoon we depart the capital and drive south to Agra, a journey of around four hours.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Pushp Villa (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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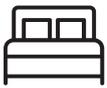
## DAY 3 - Visit Taj Mahal at sunrise and Agra Fort; afternoon guided heritage walk

This morning's early start is rewarded with the spectacular sight of the sun rising over the Taj Mahal during our visit. Over 300 years have elapsed since the construction of what is arguably the world's most

perfect and poetic building, yet its beauty and symmetry seem unscarred by age. Created by Shah Jahan as a funerary monument to his favourite wife, Mumtaz, it took 22 years to build. The Great Moghul emperor lies beside his beloved under the white marble dome. We return to our hotel for breakfast before heading out to visit Agra Fort, a magnificent blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture; it contains the beautiful Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque) with its three domes of white marble.

In the afternoon we set out on a guided heritage walk to discover both Agra's past and present. Our route begins at the gigantic Jama Masjid, passing through a maze of crowded lanes before heading to join the throngs at the ever-lively Hindu Mankameshwar Mahadev Temple, dedicated to the God Shiva and famed for its silver lingam (abstract phallic symbol of Shiva's energy). Behind the sanctum sanctorum are several small temples within the main complex. We follow the narrow lanes of the city and head to the spice market of Rawat Para and Namak Ki Mandi, where artisans beat gold and silver foils for use in ayurvedic medicine. Stopping at the 16th century Akbari Mosque, we then follow the stone paved streets to the colourful shops of the Kinari (wedding) Bazaar.

Today's four kilometre guided heritage walk is expected to take approximately two-and-a-half hours.



**ACCOMMODATION:**

Hotel Pushp Villa (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**



**SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE**



**MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST**

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#### **DAY 4 - Drive to Karauli via Fatehpur Sikri; walk in Karauli**

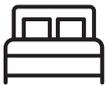
Heading west this morning, we soon reach the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. Founded in 1569 and abandoned scarcely 16 years later, it is a perfectly intact example of Akbar's imperial court. Among the many noteworthy buildings is the five-storied Panch Mahal, probably a pleasure pavilion for the ladies of the harem. In the centre of the courtyard is the Pachisi Board, where the emperor played a game like chess, with dancing slave girls as pieces. Perhaps the finest structure of all though is the lotus-shaped carved central pillar of the Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience). Continuing to Karauli, our drive takes us deep into rural Rajasthan passing through many small villages along the way.

Karauli is a holy town which has been strongly fortified by its rulers throughout history and you can still see the remains of its walls in places. Legend has it that the ruling family were descendants of Lord Krishna, one of the most loved gods of Hindu mythology. We stay at the family-run heritage hotel, Bhanwar Vilas Palace. This sprawling Art Deco palace is the property of the Maharajah of Karauli - its

antique furnishings and decor create an ambience that feels like we have stepped back in time to the days of the Raj.

In the afternoon to walk from our hotel into the centre of Karauli where we visit the City Palace. Also used as a residence by the royal family until 1950, it has now been abandoned. Few travellers make it to Karauli and we're likely to have this beautiful building all to ourselves. There's a great view from the palace roof out over Karauli and the surrounding countryside. Among a number of temples within the palace itself is the important Madan Mohanji Temple, dedicated to the Hindu God Krishna, it is renowned for its ancient idols of Krishna and Radha. In the evening it's worth returning to the palace to watch the Aarti ceremony at the temple - its elaborate rituals are an unforgettable experience. After visiting the palace we head off on a guided walk around the streets and sights of the town.

Today's three kilometre town walk is expected to take approximately two hours.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Bhanwar Vilas Palace (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 5 - Mamchari Lake Walk; optional cookery demonstration

Today we enjoy a hike in the countryside outside of Karauli, heading to Mamchari Lake. We'll pass by many red sandstone mines where camel carts are loaded to transport the stone around Rajasthan. Formed by the Mamchari dam and a vital source of water in this arid region, there's a chance to spot crocodiles and various species of bird which live here. We drive back to Karauli from the lake and the rest of the day is free to explore Karauli further or simply relax in the atmospheric surroundings of our heritage hotel. There is also the option to attend a cooking demonstration. Focusing mainly on Rajasthani specialties, there will also be the chance to try some of these delicious (and very spicy!) dishes at the end of the session.

Today's 12 kilometre walk is expected to take approximately four hours with a total ascent of around 220 metres and descent of 195 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Bhanwar Vilas Palace (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 6 - Drive to Jaipur; afternoon 'temples and havelis' heritage walk

This morning we head for the city of Jaipur. Popularly known as the Pink City, it's the capital of Rajasthan. The city was established in 1727 by Maharajah Sawai Jai Singh II, the then ruler of Amer. Jaipur was the first planned city of its time with imposing forts, dazzling palaces, beautiful gardens, lakes and markets.

In the afternoon we'll be introduced to the city on a guided heritage walk. Designed to reveal some of this walled city's hidden architectural gems as well its street life. Our walk begins from the Hanuman Temple in Chandpol market which includes many havelis, old temples and artisans' workshops. Stop and enjoy a cup of the sweet masala tea at one of the many street carts.

Today's three kilometre heritage walk is expected to take approximately two-and-a-half hours.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Fort Chandragupt (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

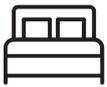


### **DAY 7 - Visit Amber Fort, hike from Amer. Sightseeing in Jaipur**

Before heading out of Jaipur this morning we'll stop to pay a visit to the unique majesty of the Hawa Mahal which is famously known as the 'Palace of the Winds'. We then head on to the town of Amer, 11 kilometres from Jaipur, it is famous for the massive Amber Fort perched high on a hillside with impressive views back down to the town and surrounding hills. We first pay a guided visit to the fort before setting out on a walk exploring both Amer's rich heritage and the natural beauty of Aravalli mountain range. Along our route we meet the local Meena tribal community who live here and learn about their daily lives. We'll pass a number of ancient temples along our way including the 5,000 year old Ambikeshwar Mahadev Temple dedicated to Shiva. Our walk ends at Sagar Lake where we can see the mysterious 'floating palace' of Jal Mahal in the middle of the lake. Four of the palace's five floors are actually submerged beneath the water.

Returning to Jaipur we will visit the most famous sights of the city this afternoon; the splendid City Palace, a dazzling fusion of Mughal and Rajasthani design and the remarkable 18th Century observatory of Jantar Mantar.

Today's seven kilometre walk is expected to take approximately three-and-a-half hours with a total ascent and descent of 180 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Fort Chandragupt (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 8 - Drive to Pushkar; optional camel cart ride through villages**

Today we drive to Pushkar, a small town located on the edge of the desert with a tranquil lake, small hills with temples on top and a world famous Brahma Temple which is an important pilgrimage spot for Hindus. In the afternoon there is the option to take a camel cart safari, riding on sandy tracks through some of the small villages near to Pushkar, it's a great opportunity to experience this popular form of local transport and interact with local people.

NOTE: The RVT20th November 2020 departure has been planned to visit Pushkar during the annual camel fair. Expect the itinerary whilst in Pushkar for this departure only to vary so as to allow time to enjoy the spectacle of the fair. This departure will also be accommodated for the 2 nights in Pushkar at a tented camp specially set up to accommodate guests during the fair rather than at a hotel. The festival camps consist of large walk-in pre-erected tents with proper camp beds and all bedding provided, en-suite washroom tents with flush toilet, washbasin and (cold water) showers.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Pushkar Resort (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 9 - Hiking in and around Pushkar; enjoy desert views from Savitri temple

We start our walk this morning with an ascent to the top of Ratnagiri Hill where the Savitri temple, dedicated to Brahma's wife Savitri, is located at 692 metres. We will need to climb a long series of 890 steps to reach the shrine from where there's a fantastic panoramic view of Pushkar with its beautiful lake and surrounding villages. After descending the hill by the same steps we continue our walk through the town and local markets to the lakeside area. Said to have been created by the tears of Shiva after the death of his wife Shakti, the lake is surrounded by ghats (steps) and many pilgrims come here to bathe. Pushkar is also known for its colourful camel and livestock fair which takes place over five days every autumn and its Brahma Temple, one of only a few such temples in India dedicated to the Hindu God Brahma. We walk across the festival grounds on our way back to the hotel with the rest of the day left free to explore Pushkar further and soak up the atmosphere in this religious town.

Today's six-and-a-half kilometre walk is expected to take approximately three-and-a-half hours with a total ascent of 280 metres and descent of 250 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Hotel Pushkar Resort (or similar)

## Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE

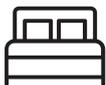


MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 10 - Drive to Kumbhalgarh; free afternoon to visit fort

Departing Pushkar today, we head to the village of Kumbhalgarh in the heart of the Aravalli hills, a journey of around five hours. One of the oldest ranges in the world, the Aravallis are the eroded stub of an ancient range running for almost 700 kilometres from near Delhi to Gujarat. The range has a high point of 1,722 metres at the hill station of Mount Abu in the south of Rajasthan. The highest point of our trip is here at Kumbhalgarh, an altitude of some 1,100 metres. This afternoon is free to relax and explore and an optional visit to the imposing Kumbhalgarh Fort is highly recommended. One of the finest defensive fortifications anywhere in Rajasthan, the fort was built by in the 15th century and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Its massive walls have a total length of 38 kilometres and the view from its ramparts of the surrounding hills and plains below is outstanding.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Kumbhalgarh Forest Retreat (or similar)

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## Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



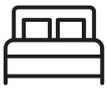
MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 11 - Trek through the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary to Ghanerao

The hills surrounding the fort comprise the 578 square kilometre Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary; our trek today descends gradually through the dry deciduous forest of the Sanctuary. Wildlife present in the Sanctuary includes panther, wolf, bear, four horn chinkara, monkeys and wild boar and many species of birds although we are unlikely to see the larger mammals which are incredibly shy. Our route sets out from the village of Mogia Ka Thana (a short drive from the hotel) and passes through a Bhil tribal village and stops at a small water reservoir called the Crocodile Lake (Thandi Beri) where, as the name suggests, we can try and spot a couple of crocodiles sunbathing on the reservoir wall. We plan to stop here for lunch before continuing through some hamlets populated by another Rajasthani tribe, the Garasiya, to the Muchala Mahavir Jain Temple where the trek ends. It's a short drive from here to the village of Ghanerao where we stay in our second heritage hotel of the trip, the Ghanerao Royal Castle which is still the home of the local royal family.

Today's 14 kilometre trek is expected to take approximately five-and-a-half hours with a total ascent of 260 metres and descent of 785 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Ghanerao Royal castle (or similar)



Grade: **Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST & LUNCH

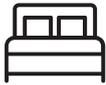
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## DAY 12 - Walk to Ranakpur Jain Temples; drive to Udaipur

Today's trek starts from nearby the Muchala Mahavir Jain Temple and sets off through the dense forests of the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary once again, to a point close to the magnificent white marble Jain temples at Ranakpur. Situated in a wooded valley, the temples date back to the 15th century with the carvings depicting scenes from the lives of the Jain Saints at that time. The Adinath temple contains 1444 exquisitely carved pillars, with no two alike.

Later we drive to the beautiful lakeside town of Udaipur. Considered by many to be one of Rajasthan's most elegant and sublime settings, Udaipur is a city of temples, palaces and gardens, encompassing some of the finest examples of Rajput architecture anywhere in India. The focal point of the city is Lake Pichola with its island palace (now a hotel) and Jag Mandir Island. Here the future Shah Jahan sought sanctuary from his father after he had been found guilty of plotting against him. The Lakeside is a beautiful place to watch the sunset, either from the shore or on an optional boat trip.

Today's 14kilometre walk is expected to take approximately four-and-a-half hours with a total ascent of 110 metres and descent of 120 metres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Swaroop Vilas Hotel (or similar)



**Grade: Premium Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 13 - Heritage walk in Udaipur; fly to Delhi**

We head out straight after breakfast this morning on a heritage walk around the winding streets and alleyways of the Old City. Our route takes in some of the most interesting markets, artisans workshops and temples including the Jagdish Temple, the largest and the most beautiful temple of Udaipur. After the walk ends you'll be free to explore. You may wish to visit to the City Palace, a fascinating collection of buildings built by various Maharanas (Warrior Kings) after Udai Singh and completed in the year 1725. Udaipur is one of the more relaxing cities in Rajasthan and there are also plenty of shopping opportunities for anyone after souvenirs.

Some time in the afternoon (flight times may vary) we fly back to Delhi for the final night of the holiday. Our hotel is located in a suburb of the city not far from the airport.



ACCOMMODATION:  
Ashok Country Resort (or similar)



**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



SWIMMING POOL AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### DAY 14 - Trip ends in Delhi

The trip ends this morning after breakfast at our hotel in Delhi.

There are no activities planned today, so you are free to depart from Delhi at any time. If your flight is departing later in the day luggage storage facilities are available at our hotel. If you would like to receive a complimentary airport transfer today, you need to depart from New Delhi's Indira Gandhi International airport (airport code DEL), which is around 20 minutes drive from our hotel.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## Trip information

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### Country information

#### India

##### Climate

There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. Summer temperatures on the plains are very hot, but cooled by the South-West Monsoon, which lasts from June- September. During these months it can be very wet and therefore very humid. At altitude, temperatures can become quite cool at night even in the summer and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary. In the winter, northern and mid India can be very cool, with cold evenings, so warm clothing, including plenty of layers, are essential. The south of India remains warm and sunny during the winter months.

##### Time difference to GMT

+5

##### Plugs

3 Pin Round

##### Religion

Catholicism, Hindu, Islam and Sikhism

##### Language

Hindi and English.

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### Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

Karauli: Rajasthani cookery demonstration (at our hotel) - 1500 INR (includes dinner)

Pushkar: Camel cart ride through desert villages - 650 INR per person (1-4 people per cart)

Kumbalgarh: Visit to fort - 250 INR

Udaipur: Sunset Cruise on lake Pichola - 1000 INR per person

Udaipur: Half day guided city tour - 2000 INR (to be divided between 1-5 people) + 425 INR entrance fee at City Palace

## Clothing

Bring a range of comfortable lightweight clothing that can be layered according to the fluctuating temperature. While between November and March daytime temperatures are generally warm and comfortable, evenings and nights can be cold and hotels rarely have heating arrangements comparable with the UK. Although the monsoon rainy season is from June through to early October, it can rain outside of this time so a lightweight rain jacket is recommended. Please bear in mind that shorts and tight revealing clothing worn by women can cause offence and unwelcome interest.

## Footwear

We recommend you bring lightweight walking boots with ankle support, make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Also trainers or sandals for relaxing and general wear. We suggest that on international flights you either carry your walking boots in your hand luggage or wear them - should your luggage be lost or delayed, your own boots are the one thing that will be irreplaceable.

## Luggage

15Kg

### Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a daypack. One main piece of baggage and a daypack. Please note that the internal domestic flight from Udaipur to Delhi has a weight restriction of 15kg for main luggage and 7kg for hand luggage so please pack accordingly. An additional 5kg allowance can be purchased locally for 2500 Indian Rupees.

## Equipment

Bring a 2 litre water bottle, sun cream, sunglasses and head torch. Bring your walking poles if you usually use them. An umbrella is useful for both rain and as a sun shade.

# Tipping

## Explore leader

Tipping isn't compulsory, and we work hard to ensure that our leaders all receive a fair wage. However, you might want to recognise a leader that's done a great job or really added to your trip by giving them a tip. We're often asked about the recommended amount. It's a tricky one, and down to personal preference, but we'd recommend between £15 to £20 per person per week as a guideline

## Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognized part of life in this region of the world. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, your leader may organise a group's tips kitty for included activities and meals and if this is the case, they will account for it throughout the tour.

Accordingly, you should allow GBP40, approx. 3'350 Indian Rupees for group tipping.

For all non-included services and meals on your trip please tip independently at your discretion.

## India

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£8	£10	£3	£0.5

### Foreign Exchange

#### Local currency

Indian Rupee Recently new 500 and 2000 rupee notes have been bought in to circulation and as the old notes are no longer accepted there have been some cash flow issues. You don't need to worry about being given old notes as it's very easy to tell the difference, the new notes are pristine in comparison with most Indian money which is fairly tatty.

#### Recommended Currency For Exchange

GBP/US\$ are the best currency to change into local currency.

#### Where To Exchange

The Indian rupee is a restricted currency and it is best not to obtain in the UK as rates are very poor. You can either change money at the airport on arrival or in major towns during the tour. Your Tour Leader will advise you on the best places in each town. Both GBP and USD cash are easy to exchange at the airport and at hotels however you will be restricted to changing £60 cash at a time and it's not possible to change money at these locations using a credit or debit card.

#### ATM Availability

ATMs are available in most large cities in India but they are very limited elsewhere so please do not rely on this.

**Credit Card Acceptance**

Very rarely, only in the larger outlets.

**Travellers Cheques**

Opportunities to exchange are limited.

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**Transport, Accommodation & Meals****Transport Information**

Bus, Rickshaw

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**Essential Information****Government Travel Safety Advice**

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office advice [click here](#).

For more information from Explore about travel advice, [click here](#)

**Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

**Price Guarantee**

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

**Visa and Passport Information**

India: Visas are required for citizens of the UK, Australia, New Zealand, US and Canada and can be obtained in the form of an e-visa. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

The e-visa can be applied for through the official Indian government visa website only - <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html> . Please check all eligibility criteria that can be found on the website but important points are listed below -

You must be arriving into one of 28 selected entry points which can be found via the official Indian Government website link above. However, you can exit from any of the authorised immigration check posts in India.

Passports must have at least 6 months validity from the date of arrival in India and at least two blank pages for stamping. Visa applications will take approximately 4 days to process.

There are different validity visas and the costs are as follows:

30-day validity (travelling between April and June) - \$10

30-day validity (travelling between July and March) - \$25

1-year validity - \$40

5-year validity- \$80

Those applying for a 30 day electronic visa can only apply within 30 days of arrival for your visa to be valid. Furthermore double entry is permitted and you can only obtain two 30-day visas in a calendar year.

Please note these costs are subject to frequent change so you should check on the official Indian government visa website mentioned above. Biometric data will be collected on arrival in India.

If you are not eligible for the e-Tourist Visa, please refer to VFS Global to apply for your Indian visa - [https://www.vfsglobal.com/india/uk/how\\_to\\_apply.html](https://www.vfsglobal.com/india/uk/how_to_apply.html)

Whilst the online form offers a relatively quick way to apply for a visa, some applicants have reported difficulty in completing the form. If you do require assistance, then you may consider applying through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. They can complete the online visa on your behalf for a fee of £30 + the visa cost. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## **Booking conditions**

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## **Transfers**

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

## **Booking a land only package with Explore**

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you

have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### **Joining Tour Abroad**

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

### **Insurance**

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

### **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them [here](#).

#### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

#### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our

dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport. On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Maximum altitude (m)

1100

## India

### Vaccinations

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Please consult your travel clinic for the latest advice on Malaria, Dengue and Zika Virus. Please check the latest requirements with your travel clinic or doctor prior to departure. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at Explore Travel Health and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed by you before travelling.

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## Walking and Trekking information

DAILY DISTANCES		
Day 3	4km	2.5hrs
Day 4	4km	2hrs
Day 5	12km	4hrs
Day 6	3km	2.5hrs
Day 7	7km	3.5hrs
Day 8		
Day 9	6.5km	3.5hrs
Day 10		
Day 11	14km	5.5hrs
Day 12	12km	4.5hrs
Day 13	3km	1.5hrs

### Walking grade

Easy to moderate

### Trek details

Walks on 9 days for between 2 to 5.5 hours. Terrain includes village footpaths, rocky trails in the Aravalli Hills and through city streets. The heritage walk timings include sightseeing.

### Max walking altitude (m)

1100

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### Additional Information



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## Reviews



**AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS**



**PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE**



**AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS**