



MOHINDER AND MARIA'S INVITATION TOUR TO INDIA

CULTURES, CRAFTS AND PEOPLE OF RAJASTHAN

26 October to 05 November 2021

DELHI/AGRA/JAIPUR/NIMAJ/UDAIPUR

HIGHLIGHTS

- Celebrating the festival of Diwali with an Indian family
- Private Champagne tour of the City Palace in Jaipur
- Two nights staying in a luxury tented camp exploring the Indian Countryside
- An insider’s tour of the craft of Mewar with an NGO

Day	Date	City	Description	Hotel
Tue	26 Oct	Delhi	Arrive Delhi. You are met as you exit the aircraft and you are assisted with immigration and custom formalities. You are transferred to your hotel	The Oberoi
Wed	27 Oct	Agra	The morning is at leisure to rest after your long flight over. After brunch you will depart for Agra arriving in time for sunset cocktails on terraces of the Oberoi Amarvilas.	Oberoi Amarvilas
Thu	28 Oct	Jaipur	Rising early you will visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise. After breakfast you visit the Agra Fort and you continue to Jaipur. The drive will take four and a half hours.	Oberoi Rajvilas
Fri	29 Oct	Jaipur	In the morning you visit the Fort Palace at Amber . From the Fort you begin a walk through the narrow alleys of the settlements that surround the fort. You will explore these lanes, stopping a tea shops making local snacks, a beautifully carved temple, and a traditional stepwell will feature among the sites along the way. It is a great way to observe the life in a very historic area of Jaipur. Amber is a part of the city and yet the rhythms of life here are slower and much more traditional than nearby Jaipur. On the walk you will visit the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing . The morning is free to go shopping – Jaipur is famous for its textiles, gems, and pottery as well as lifestyle items.	Oberoi Rajvilas
Sat	30 Oct	Jaipur	Rising early today you will drive to Shivaji Park and you will join local groups who gather for a morning of yoga – a combination of traditional yoga and the very invigorating laughing yoga! You then continue exploring the city as it wakes up – stopping at the flower market; the vegetable market; the local milk market and watch the small cafes light up and prepare for their first morning customers.	Oberoi Rajvilas

			<p>You return for breakfast and later you will visit the City, exploring the old city market, and taking a private tour of the City Palace visiting the residential and ceremonial rooms not usually open to the public</p> <p>You will have a gala dinner tonight at private haveli in the city. Welcomed with flowers and garlands, dinner which will be a silver plated sit down affair will be preceded by the dances of Rajasthan.</p>	
Sun	31 Oct	Nimaj	The drive will take four and a half hours. Set along a picturesque reservoir, Nimaj has recently been given a complete makeover and has transformed from a deluxe camp to a luxury camp. It encourages you to sit with a chilled beverage and a book and enjoy the varied birdlife, or take a leisurely walk through the farmlands.	Chattrasagar
Mon	01 Nov	Nimaj	You have the luxury of planning your own day today. You can enjoy the scenery, take a boat out in the reservoir to see the birdlife, or take a guided walk through the village and watch the cattle come home at sunset – a magical time in the Indian countryside.	Chattrasagar
Tue	02 Nov	Udaipur	At leisure you drive to Udaipur. On arrival you will take a boat across Lake Pichola to your hotel.	Taj Lake Palace
Wed	03 Nov	Udaipur	You drive out today to Delwara. You take the three hour walk with Delwara Heritage and Community walk with the NGO Sadhna who use guides from local communities. You will walk through the village of Delwara along various temples and monuments. And visiting Sadhna facility and interacting and exploring with the artisans.	Taj Lake Palace
Thu	04 Nov	Udaipur	<p>In the morning you visit the City Palace and explore the old city markets. You will stop in the Old City to see a rare art.</p> <p>You are in Udaipur for one of India’s most beautiful festivals – Diwali, the festival of lights. In the evening you walk through the old city lit by fairy lamps and butter lamps, and you will stop at a temple to see the worship of Lakshmi the goddess of wealth, before returning to your hotel which will lit by hundreds of clay lamps to enjoy the fireworks over the city and a special Diwali dinner</p>	Taj Lake Palace

Fri	05 Nov	Delhi	You return to Delhi today and on arrival you will transfer to the Oberoi Gurgaon until your later transfer to the international airport.	
-----	-----------	-------	--	--



26 October, Tuesday

Arrive Delhi. You are met as you exit the aircraft and you are assisted with immigration and collecting your baggage. You are transferred to your hotel.

DELHI

The capital of India, Delhi is home to 16 million people, making it the third largest city in India. The strategic location of the city made it an attractive location for invading armies, and it served as the capital for many great empires that ruled India. Many of these Empires built significant monuments, and whilst the Mughal and the British are the most visible, while driving through the city you will see ruins from previous capitals, the earliest dating back to the 12th century.

**Hotel
Room**

**The Oberoi
Premier Plus Room**



27 October, Wednesday
Delhi/Agra
After brunch you will depart for Agra.

AGRA

This was the seat of the mighty Mughal Empire before it shifted its capital to Delhi, and it is home to some of their most inspired architectural creations including the Taj Mahal. In the 16th and 17th century, the Mughal Courts were at their most powerful, and were great patron of the arts, and Agra attracted artisans, poets and musicians from across India as well as Persia and Central Asia, transforming Agra into a cultural and architectural paradise.

This evening you will have cocktails on the terrace of the hotel and watch sunset over the Taj Mahal.

Hotel	Oberoi Amarvilas
Room	Premier
Meals	Breakfast, Brunch, Dinner

28 October, Thursday

Agra/Jaipur

This morning you visit the Taj Mahal when it is the least crowded. This monument was built by Shah Jahan for his wife Mumtaz Mahal. It took 22 years to build this sublime garden tomb, an image of the Islamic garden of paradise. It's perfect proportions and exquisite craftsmanship was the work of artisans from both India and overseas. The Taj Mahal represents the wealth and luxury of Mughal art and architecture.





After breakfast you visit **the Agra Fort**. This imposing red sandstone citadel, which predates the Taj Mahal, was begun as a defensive fort, but completed as an elegant fort palace, highlighting the Mughal talent for blending art and architecture. The complex houses robust barracks and courtly and elegant palaces, pleasure gardens, and galleries. It offers a stunning view of the Taj Mahal from across the river.

You continue to Jaipur stopping on the way for lunch at the Bagh in Bharatpur.

JAIPUR

A labyrinth of fascinating bazaars, opulent palaces and a futuristic observatory, Jaipur was the inspiration of the ruler *Sawai Jai Singh*, who moved the capital from Amber in 1727. Jaipur was designed by a young architect from Bengal and together they planned a city along the ancient Hindu treatise of “*Shilpa Shastra*”, a science similar to the better known Feng Shui. Jaipur is laid out in a geometric grid of streets and squares making it one of the earliest planned cities in India. In honor of the visit of the Prince Edward, then the Prince of Wales, the City was painted a rich terracotta, a tradition which has continued through the years. This is the reason why Jaipur is often called the “pink city”. Today it serves as the State capital for Rajasthan.

Hotel	Oberoi Rajvilas
Room	Premier
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



29 October, Friday

Jaipur

In the morning you visit the stunning **Amber Fort**. The Rajputs built their Forts on high hills and ridges giving them a 360 degree view of the surrounding area and protecting them from invading armies. Most of the forts they built were built as a defensive structure but included pleasure palaces, rich in art and architectural features. Amber is perhaps among the finest of all the fort palaces, and reflected the opulence and elegance of the nearby Mughal courts.

You will have lunch at the restaurant at the Fort which offers spectacular views of the surrounding ruins and forested valleys.

The afternoon is at leisure to enjoy the spa and pool or you can go shopping for Jaipur's many treasures ranging from textiles, gems, pottery and embroidered shoes and accessories.

Hotel	Oberoi Rajvilas
Room	Premier
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

30 October, Saturday

Jaipur

You take an early morning tour today, visiting the old and modern city as it is waking and preparing for the day. You ride a tuk tuk from the Maharaja Jai Singh circle popularly referred to as “Statue Circle” and you drive to Central Park where locals gather for a morning of “**laughing yoga**”. From here you continue to the old city travelling through the narrow lanes stopping take a photograph at the iconic “**Palace of the Winds**”, beautiful in the morning sunlight.



You stop by the **flower market** and your path leads you to the **300 year old Krishna temple** in the old city which has beautiful frescos and carved pillars. You will arrive in time for the morning singing and “aarti” Ceremony. During the walk you see the roadside tea shops, street food, pavement barbers, people at shrines greeting the morning sun – all preparing to start their day.



After breakfast your tour of Jaipur starts with a stop at the **Hawa Mahal**, the ornate pink façade an icon of the city. This five story high “screen” composed of projected windows and balconies protected by fine latticed screens was destined to enable the ladies of the harem to observe the lively street scenes of the city from a position of privacy.

You will continue to the sprawling **City Palace** which, painted pink in keeping with the color theme of the old city, is a blend of predominately Rajput and Mughal styles of architecture.

You have a private tour of the ceremonial rooms of the palace which will include the stunning mirror room and the rich gold and red room which were used to entertain visitors. You continue through the wedge wood blue balcony where the queens spent the monsoon ending in the grand drawing room which even today is used by the former royal family to entertain royalty and VIP visitors from around the world.



You have a light lunch at Café Palladio, a cheerful casual café, set around a leafy courtyard and return to your hotel for some time at leisure.



This evening you will have a gala dinner at a private haveli in the city. You will be welcomed with a shower of rose petals and garlands and the vibrant dances of Rajasthan, before sitting down to a table decorated with crystal and flowers and you will be served a silver plated traditional dinner.

Hotel	Oberoi Rajvilas
Room	Premier
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



31 October, Sunday
Jaipur/Nimaj

You drive to Nimaj the drive taking two and a half hours. Nimaj has recently been given a complete makeover and has transformed from a deluxe camp to a luxury camp. It encourages you to sit with a chilled beverage and a book and enjoy the varied birdlife, or take a boat to explore the mangroves.

Hotel	Raas Chattrasagar
Room	Luxury Tent
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



01 November, Monday
Nimaj

The opportunities for photography during your visit are exceptional and the insight into the lifestyles and cultures of the Indian countryside unparalleled. Life in Nimaj follows its own rhythm, one which has not changed through the years, In the afternoon you will visit a settlement along with a member of the family; walk in the surrounding farms and visit the charming village where you will see unique sights such as a rustic oil extractor operated by bullocks,

crafts people making jewelry for the local women using methods passed down through the ages.

On one of the days you will take a walking tour through the surrounding villages and farmlands. This hour is known as "Gaudhuli" or the cow dust hour, a name which is result of the dust raised by cattle returning home at this hour. It is a magical time to be out in the countryside. Sunrise and sunset are considered auspicious times in India, and as you drive through the village stopping perhaps for a cup of tea, you will see small rituals performed to welcome in the night and to ward off the dark spirits. This is a rare opportunity to see life in rural India.

Hotel	Raas Chattrasagar
Room	Luxury Tent
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



02 November, Tuesday

Nimaj/Udaipur

You will depart for Udaipur today. On arrival you transfer to the jetty and take a boat across Lake Pichola to your hotel.

UDAIPUR

It is said that the ghost of Udaipur looks towards Chittorgarh, for it was after the tragic fall of that fort, that Udaipur, a fairy tale city of marble palaces and lakes came into existence. The City was founded by Maharana Udai Singh in 1559 and became the capital of the region of Mewar. The rulers of Mewar, the *Sisodia Rajputs* trace their dynasty to AD 566 and believe they are the defenders of Rajput honor. Unlike other Rajput royal families, this was a fiercely independent clan who refused to enter into matrimonial alliances with the Mughals or military alliances with the British. The city is dominated by the massive City Palace which overlooks the lovely Lake Pichola with its romantic island palaces.

On arrival you will transfer to the jetty and take a boat to your hotel

Hotel	Taj Lake Palace
Room	Palace
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

03 November, Wednesday

Udaipur

Today you will depart for a walking tour of Delwara village and the surrounding farmlands with the NGO Sadhna. You will stop at small shrines; see an ancient stepwell; and visiting Sadhna facility and interacting and exploring with the artisans. This is an insider introduction to some of

the crafts that exist in the area, many which have been passed down orally through the generations. You will have lunch at the lovely Devigarh Palace.

In the afternoon you will visit the small but beautiful complex at **Nagda**. These elaborately carved 10th century temples are dedicated to Lord Vishnu. On the larger temple, there are beautiful friezes with scenes from the Ramayana, meeting of lovers, and images of the Hindu trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. The temple has a richly carved archway and columns profusely carved with female figurines. The setting is idyllic amongst farmlands with the only activity being children playing on the site and cows grazing in the field.



Hotel	Taj Lake Palace
Room	Palace
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



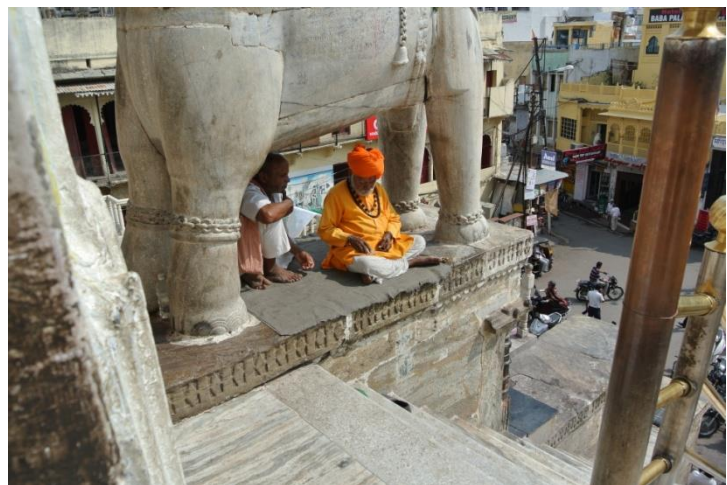
**04 November, Thursday
Udaipur**

In the morning you visit the **City Palace**. The detailed art and workmanship is a tribute to the skills of local artisans and craftspeople. Built as a stepped palace encompassing a hill, the four palaces illustrate various architectural styles, reflecting prevailing influences, mostly Mughal and Rajput. In keeping with the claim of the royal family

that they are “Surya vansh” – descendents of the Sun, the whole structure faces east, and a stunning bejeweled image of the sun greets you at the entrance. Also of interest here is the remarkable collection of Rajput miniature paintings and the Silver Gallery with its collection of the family silver including a wedding pavilion

You will have a light lunch in a café in the old city with views over the Lake.

After lunch you enter the old city with your guide. Sharing space with cows, elephants, people, and the walk through the winding lanes is an interesting insight into lifestyles in what is referred to as “small town India”. Shops selling a variety of items, unexpected folk art decorating the walls of houses and small architectural gems like a latticed work Haveli window.





Today is also the **festival of Diwali**, the festival of lights and one of the Country’s most beautiful celebrations. Oil lamps are lit to decorate homes, and in the evening a “puja” is performed to welcome the Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth. you will stop at a private home to see the worship of Lakshmi the goddess of wealth, before returning to your hotel which will lit by

hundreds of clay lamps to enjoy the fireworks over the city and a special Diwali dinner.

Hotel	Taj Lake Palace
Room	Palace
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

05 November, Friday
Udaipur/Delhi

The morning is at leisure. In the afternoon you transfer to the airport and you return to Delhi. and you will have rooms at the Oberoi Gurgaon until your later transfer to the international airport.

Hotel	Oberoi Gurgaon
Room	Premier Room
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch

END OF TOUR.