

Heritage Trails of Rajasthan - Swinnerton-Ions

Trip Code: HTRS

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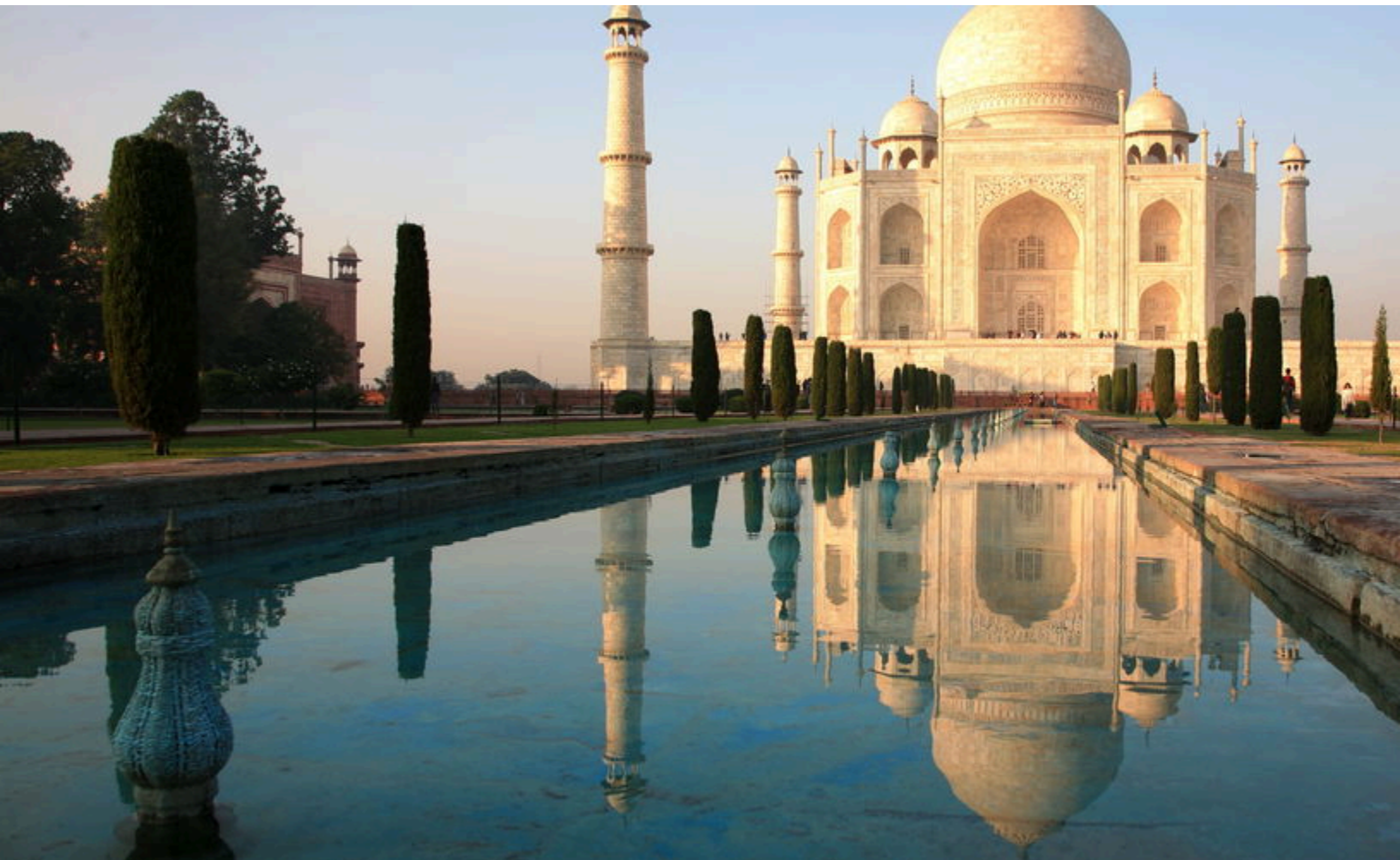
WALK & TREK



GUIDED GROUP



MODERATE



HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk through tribal villages of the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary and Aravalli Hills
- Wander through the palaces of Udaipur, the 'Venice of the East'
- Follow heritage trails surrounding Jodhpur, Agra and Amber Fort

- Experience sunrise at the Taj Mahal and sunset ceremonies at Pushkar
- Track the elusive tiger on safari in Ranthambore

AT A GLANCE

- 15 days walking tour of Rajasthan
- Join at Delhi

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 14 Breakfasts
- 2 Lunches
- 6 Dinners
- 13 nights Hotel
- 1 nights Sleeper Train

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Rajasthan is a vibrant and dazzling state in Northern India. This is a land of opulent palaces, magnificent crumbling forts and proud tribes. There is an incredible diversity of landscape here, including jungle, mountains and desert. We have created a walking holiday that brings all that we love about Rajasthan into one incredible itinerary. We do not just visit the extravagant former royal residencies of the maharaja and their strategic military strongholds; we explore the hills and communities that surround them on a selection of well-planned walks.

We will start with a guided walk of 'Old Delhi', exploring some of the maze-like bazaars and ancient temples and experience an opportunity to help cook in a Sikh temple kitchen! Arriving by sleeper-train into Jodhpur, we explore the imposing Meherangarh Fort and spice markets of this blue-hued city. We then enjoy three days of walking through the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, with time to explore the walls of the magnificent fortress and the serene temples of Ranakpur. The City Palace of Udaipur cannot be missed and we will also walk in the Aravalli Hills through the tribal villages that surround this most romantic of lakeside cities. We then visit the spiritual town of Pushkar, a firm KE favourite, before heading to the Pink City of Jaipur. After visiting the sprawling Amber Fort, we will hike to a nearby tribal village and then enjoy a market visit and a meal with a local family. Our epic voyage through Rajasthan is ended off in style with game drives at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and an unforgettable visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra.

Is this holiday for you?

The antithesis of classic coach tours with length drives, this superb walking adventure incorporates many of the jewels of Rajasthan, Delhi and Agra into a two-week holiday and is perfect for anyone wanting to explore the region, in more depth, on foot. The opportunities for cultural immersion and wildlife spotting are immense. There is a fair amount of travelling, as we journey between the royal cities of Rajasthan. However, using private air-conditioned minibuses and a sleeper trains, the effect of this is kept to a minimum. Our game drives in the Ranthambore National Park are in jeeps which are open vehicles fitted with seats and offering a good field of view. This itinerary enjoys more time lingering in each destination, and there are one or two days of extended walks (one of two of around six hours), but these are at a gentle pace on non-serious terrain.

Itinerary

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DAY 1

Meet at the group hotel in Delhi. A single timed transfer from Delhi Airport is provided.

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Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 2

Sightseeing tour and rickshaw ride through the streets of Old Delhi. Help to cook at the Sikh temple kitchen. Catch the night-train to Jodhpur.

After an early breakfast, we start our guided tour of Old Delhi, exploring its ancient monuments, narrow streets and bustling bazaars. We will visit the majestic Jama Masjid, one of the largest and most important mosques in India, built in 1658 by Shah Jahan, who was also responsible for the Taj Mahal. We pass by the Red Fort, still in use by the Indian military, and take rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk, the famous market of Old Delhi where one can purchase silk saris and beautiful silver jewellery. We then continue the tour at Raj Ghat, Mahatma Gandhi's memorial and location of his cremation. Afterwards we visit the Rajpath, adjacent to the Lutyens-designed governmental buildings where we can inspect the India Gate, a truly humbling memorial to the 13,000 men who gave up their lives for the Commonwealth during World War I. We end our day with a very special experience: we visit the Sikh Gurdwara of Bangla Sahib. Here we can take part, helping in the temple's kitchen to bake chapattis and cook rice and lentils for the devotees and visitors. This charitable endeavour means that an estimated 10,000-15,000 people receive a free daily meal from the temple. We transfer to the train station to catch the overnight train to Jodhpur, a quintessential form of travel in India!

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Sleeper Train

DAY 3

Arrive Jodphur. Afternoon walking tour of the city streets and the hilltop Meherangarh Fort.

After arriving into Jodphur and transferring to our hotel, we take a guided walk which starts with a visit to the white marble cenotaph of Jaswant Thada. We then explore the Meherangarh Fort, one of the most impressive and formidable forts in India. Perched on a seemingly impregnable hill, this sprawling fortification's walls protect a splendid palace, complete with intricately carved lattice windows with sublime views in all directions. The fort did a good job of protecting its royal inhabitants, who still live there. Indeed, one can still see the scars of cannon balls from the turn of the 19th century! We can explore the expansive grounds and walls of the fort before walking back via the 16th century city walls and descending through narrow, winding lanes of the old blue city past havelis, town houses, temples and bazaars. We may choose to stop off to watch the sunset with a restorative masala chai at a local Brahmin house. Return to our hotel.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
3 hrs walking

DAY 4

Transfer from Jodphur to Kumbhalgarh. Take a walking tour at Kumbhalgarh Fort.

After breakfast, we take a scenic drive to the village of Kumbhalgarh, in the heart of the Aravalli Hills, a journey of 4 to 5 hours. The Aravalli Hills are some of the oldest in the world, now just an eroded stump of an ancient range running from Delhi to Gujarat. The highest point of our trip is here at Kumbhalgarh, at an altitude of around 1100 metres. This afternoon, we visit Kumbhalgarh Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The impressive defensive fortifications were built in the 15th century and the walls stretch for over 38 kilometres! We can walk on the walls and enjoy the outstanding views of the surrounding hills and plains.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
2 hrs walking

DAY 5

Trek through the Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary to Ghanerao through tribal villages.

After an early breakfast, we set off on a trek through a part of the extensive Kumbhalgarh Wildlife Sanctuary, an area covered in a dry deciduous forest that is home to a rich variety of wildlife including leopard, wolf, bear, monkeys and wild boar. There are many species of birds to spot too. Our route will

take us through a village of the Bhil tribe and past a small reservoir known as Thandi Beri (Crocodile Lake) where, as the name suggests, we can observe crocodiles sunbathing on the edge of the water. After lunch, we continue our walk through hamlets inhabited by another Rajasthani tribe, the Garasiya. We arrive at the historic Muchhala Mahavir Jain Temple where our trek ends. From here, we transfer to the village of Ghanerao where we stay in a heritage hotel.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
5 - 6 hrs walking

DAY 6

Trek to the white marble temple Jain temples of Ranakpur. Transfer to Udaipur, the 'Venice of the East'.

After breakfast, we make the short drive back to the Muchhala Mahavir Temple and continue our walk through the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary, hoping to spot more of the fascinating wildlife. The pleasant trails here meander through the forest and arrive at the remarkable white marble temples of Ranakpur, one of the most important in India. We can visit the temple, perhaps leaving an offering, before driving to Udaipur. Located on the banks of Lake Pichola, the skyline dominated by the Aravalli Hills, Udaipur enjoys a particularly romantic situation. Packed with incredible fairy-tale palaces, temples and winding, narrow lanes; this ancient lakeside town demands exploration. In the evening, we can take a stroll to the water's edge and perhaps enjoy a beautiful sunset over the bathing ghats, palaces and temples.

Meals: **B L D**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
3 hrs walking

DAY 7

Morning walk through the surrounding Aravalli Hills. Afternoon walking tour of Udaipur.

After breakfast and a short transfer to the start of our trek point, we take a trail that connects a number of Bhil and Rajput tribal villages, the latter a caste of warriors who are mostly farmers these days. These villages will give us a fascinating insight into a traditional way of life and we can enjoy panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Our walk will finish at two temples, dedicated to Lord Shiva and the mother goddess Shakti. Returning to Udaipur, we visit the City Palace. Some may experience a sense of déjà-vu; indeed, this was a filming location for the James Bond film Octopussy! The captivating palace complex was added to by various marahas (warrior kings) and finally completed in 1725. The ornate features of the palace, include filigreed balconies and cupola-topped towers, soar over the lake. Within the walls, we will find extravagantly decorated courtyards and suites. Much of the palace remains untouched from the

days it was occupied by the royal family and gives the visitor an insight into life in a bygone era. After the palace visit, we visit the Jagdish Temple and take a sunset boat ride out onto Lake Pichola, an experience not to be missed.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
4 hrs walking

DAY 8

Transfer from Udaipur to Pushkar. Walking tour of the holy lake and unique Brahma temple.

This morning we set off on the 5 to 6 hour drive to Pushkar, a pilgrimage town set on a sacred lake which has an incredible spiritual and mystical atmosphere. It is also the location of only temple in India dedicated to the Lord Brahma, considered to be the creator of the world. The creation of the lake is steeped in legend. Pushkar is also renowned for its colourful, rather chaotic, camel fair. After checking into our hotel, we can try our hand at driving a camel cart, a popular form of local transport. Afterwards we visit the Brahma Temple and the bathing ghats beside the sacred lake. In the evening, we can participate in one of the prayer ceremonies on the banks of the lake, as the melodious sound of the bells from surrounding temples fills the air. As the sun sets, candles are lit, incense is burned and flower petals are scattered, which all adds to the spiritual atmosphere.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 9

Early morning climb of Ratnagiri Hill to the Savitri Temple above Udaipur. Transfer to Jaipur.

We arise just before dawn to take the 890 steps to the summit of Ratnagiri Hill, overlooking Pushkar. At the top is a Savitri Temple dedicated to the Lord Brahma's consort. The views from here, across Pushkar and the surrounding hills, as the dawn breaks are stunning. After descending the steps, we explore the local market stalls and bazaars, before enjoying a late breakfast and setting off to the Jaipur. Known as the Pink City, Jaipur was painted a pink hue to celebrate a visit by Prince Albert in 1876 and now enjoys UNESCO World Heritage status.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
3 hrs walking

DAY 10

Visit Amber Fort and Amber Village. Afternoon walking tour of Jaipur and evening meal with a Rajasthani family.

After breakfast, we visit the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) to marvel at its intricate facade. We continue to the nearby Amber Fort, a sprawling construction strategically located above the city. The fort boasts impressive frescoed courtyards and doorways and there are far-reaching views from the walls. We extend our exploration to include the nearby Amber Village on a walk that takes in temples and a lake and which allows us to meet members of the Meena tribe who live here. Talking to them, we can learn a little about their daily lives. Returning to Jaipur, we visit the ornate City Palace and the remarkable Jantar Mantar, a royal astronomical observatory consisting of huge monuments that use shadows to track celestial objects. As we walk through the streets, we will visit a local market and marvel at the abundance of fruit, vegetables and spices on offer. We will then spend some time with a local Rajasthani family who will show us how to make the most of this fresh produce and eat a traditional dinner together. This will also be an opportunity for females to be decorated with henna and for the males to be taught how to tie a safa turban.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
3 hrs walking

DAY 11

Transfer to Ranthambore National Park. Walk to Ranthambore Fort and village.

After breakfast, we bid farewell to Jaipur and drive to Ranthambore. The land here used to be used for private hunting parties by the Rajput rulers of Jaipur. Now a protected tiger reserve, it is probably one of the best places in the world to observe tigers in the wild. Arriving mid-afternoon, we stretch our legs with a walk to Ranthambore Fort. Perched on top of a hill, this crumbling fort is filled with decaying pavilions, temples and palace structure, slowly being reclaimed by nature. This is the jungle of Kipling's The Jungle Book. We check in to our overnight accommodation at a nearby hotel.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
2 hrs walking

DAY 12**Morning and evening game drives in Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.**

Today, we have two safari drives in shared, open 4x4 jeeps. Our first tiger safari will depart in the early morning, to try our luck spotting the elusive tiger and perhaps capturing one on camera. Whilst we keep our eyes peeled for these rare beasts, we will also be able to observe a great range of other wildlife, including leopards, hyenas, monkeys, birds and deer. After lunch, we head back out for a second safari game drive. We will explore a variety of terrains that make up the reserve, including dry deciduous forest and open, grassy meadow. We return to our hotel for a second night.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 13**Transfer to Agra stopping to explore the abandoned royal city of Fatehpur Sikri.**

After a leisurely breakfast, we set off on the drive to Agra, winding our way through rural India. On the way, we pay a visit to the deserted royal city of Fatehpur Sikri. Founded in 1571 by the Mughal Emperor Akbar, this served as the capital of the sprawling Mughal Empire until 1585, when after only fourteen years it was abandoned; the reason, widely held, was due to the failure of the water supply and distant wars to fight. This ghostly, fortified city palace is well worth exploring to marvel at the red sandstone colonnades and ornate carvings. Akbar understood the importance of uniting the ethnic and religious factions within his empire, reflected in the architecture, incorporating Persian, Hindu and Muslim elements in tribute to his three wives. We continue to Agra and check in to our hotel.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 14**Sunrise visit to the incomparable Taj Mahal and majestic Agra Fort. Afternoon walking tour to discover hidden Agra.**

At sunrise, we will experience something very special: watching the rising sun illuminate the ivory marble of the Taj Mahal. Many have tried to encapsulate the experience of being in the presence of something so special, but it is something you have to sample for yourself. The Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan in the mid-17th century as a tomb for his beloved wife Mumtaz. The gardens and water features of the Taj Mahal perfectly frame the mausoleum, and the surrounding buildings are beautiful too. Everyone has seen pictures of the Taj Mahal, but these do not detail the incredible and intricate patterns of inlaid

gemstones and black onyx calligraphy, delicately tattooed across its surface. We follow this with a visit to Agra Fort, which is in itself worthy of a special trip to Agra. Once the main residence of emperors before the capital was relocated to Delhi, the fort is an astonishing complex of white marble palaces, red sandstone gates and barracks that are still in use. In the far corner of the fort is the cell where his own son, who had overthrown him, held Shah Jahan. From the window, you can reflect on the view he had of the Taj Mahal where his late wife had been laid to rest. After lunch, we will undertake a guided walk to delve into the heritage of Agra, so often overlooked by daytrippers who stop at the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. Our starts at the Jama Masjid, and follows the maze-like winding streets and visits the Hindu temple of Mankameshwar Madadev and the spice markets of Rawat Para. The rest of the evening is ours to explore or relax at the hotel.

Meals: **B**



Accommodation
Hotel



Time
3 hrs walking

DAY 15

Transfer from Agra to a hotel close to Delhi Airport. A single late transfer to Delhi Airport is provided.

After breakfast in Agra, we set off on the drive to Delhi and can reflect on an incredible adventure through the splendours of Rajasthan. Arriving in Delhi we have the use of day-rooms at a hotel close to Delhi Airport. A single late transfer to Delhi Airport is provided.

Meals: **B**

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional English-speaking local leader
- Delhi Airport group transfers on the first and last day of the itinerary
- All land transport involved in the itinerary including overnight sleeper train
- Use of shared 'day-rooms' at the group hotel on the last day of the itinerary
- All accommodation as detailed in the itinerary
- All meals as detailed in the itinerary
- Wildlife safari guides for the game viewing
- Guided sightseeing tours as detailed in the itinerary
- Entrance fees and permits

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Delhi Airport transfers if travelling earlier/later than the group transfers
- Indian Visa
- Meals that aren't included as detailed in the itinerary
- Tips for local staff
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Meal Plan

There are a total of 14 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 6 dinners included. Where there is a wealth of variety and options for places to eat, we have left you the choice of where you dine to take advantage of the cuisine on offer.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Part of the experience of a visit to India is sampling the excellent local food. Indian cuisine offers a wide choice of dishes, much more variety than the 'curries' we are used to in Indian restaurants at home and the nan breads are like nothing you'll have experienced. Whether the food is presented as a dinner buffet or as a set menu, there will always be vegetarian options. In some place, there will also be familiar international dishes. Breakfasts include cereals, bread, possibly in the form of local 'rotis', eggs, hard-boiled or omelette, often one or two delicious, spicy Indian breakfast options, fruit, juice, hot water for tea or coffee. Lunches will usually be at a restaurant where you can choose what you want - the guide will help with this.

Accommodation

We will have a total of 13 nights in good standard hotels throughout the trip from Delhi, throughout Rajasthan and Agra; along with 1 night on a sleeper train. All accommodation except the sleeper train is allocated on a twin-sharing basis in second class air-conditioned berths. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Depending upon availability it may be possible to arrange single rooms for the hotel nights. For hotel prices and single supplement costs please refer to the dates and prices page of the trip on our website.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied by an experienced professional leader throughout and there will also be various wildlife guides during the game viewing, as well as cultural guides when sightseeing in Delhi and Agra.

Spending Money

Approximately £300 (or the equivalent in US dollars or euros) should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses, including tips for your guides (allow approximately £75) and soft drinks, etc. (allow approximately £40). There are several opportunities to buy souvenirs on this trip. It is not necessary to purchase local currency (Indian Rupees) before you travel. Sterling, US dollars and euros are readily exchanged in Delhi. Since you will be changing the majority of your spending money into local currency on the day of arrival, we recommend taking this in cash. Credit cards can be used to purchase many goods in the cities and are particularly useful for more expensive souvenirs. It is possible to withdraw cash (rupees only) from cash machines in certain banks in the cities using credit and debit cards.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is an accepted and expected part of Indian culture, although you should only tip for services which are well done. We recommend that tips to your guides and driver be made from the group as a whole and that the group decides together on an appropriate amount. Your guide will help with sundry tipping; bell boys, other hotel staff, toilet attendants, lunchtime restaurant staff, Ranthambore staff and railway porters. This means you don't need to concern yourself with who to tip and who not to tip. Your guide will set up a tip 'kitty' for this and you will probably be asked to contribute 4000 rupees (£40) each for this. Separately from this, you will need to tip the driver who is with you for the whole trip. And you will need to tip your guide. As a rough guide we suggest that £80 (depending on group size) will allow you to pay reasonable tips.

Baggage Allowance

You should restrict your luggage to one main travel bag plus a small daypack to carry cameras, binoculars, water etc. We recognise that for some of our holidays and for some of our travellers, the KE Trek Bag may not provide the best solution when packing for your trip. A bag with fitted wheels and with more than one compartment and more than one access zip is probably more appropriate for this kind of trip.

General Information

Preparing for your Holiday

Although there is no strenuous walking on this holiday, there are several sights which are best explored on foot and it makes a lot of sense to get some additional exercise before coming on any active holiday. Some of the days it will get quite hot and you should be prepared for this. Before departure, we suggest that you do some reading about the country, its people and the wildlife you are likely to see.

Climate

Outside of the Indian Monsoon (June to September) you should experience little if any rainfall. By mid August the monsoon has lost most of its force although short lived cloud bursts particularly in the afternoon, are reasonably common except in Rajasthan which tends to be very dry at this time. The coolest temperatures are encountered during November and December when the maximum daytime temperatures will generally be in the mid to high twenties of Celsius. From February temperatures start to rise reaching mid thirties during trips in March and April. The arrival of the monsoon cools everything down again and temperatures in August and September can often be the same or even less than April. Evening temperatures from late October to February can be quite chilly (requiring a jacket).

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- Rajasthan, Delhi & Agra - Lonely Planet
- Guide India - The Rough Guide
- Indian Wildlife Insight Guide
- Field Guide to the Mammals of the Indian Subcontinent. K. K. Gurung and Raj Singh
- The Last Mughal - William Dalrymple
- The Jungle Book. Rudyard Kipling

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

HTR Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You **SHOULD** bring the following items:

- Strong shoes or walking boots
- Socks
- Underwear
- Lightweight trousers
- Shirts (at least one long-sleeved with collar)
- Casual shirts or T-shirts
- Jacket
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses
- Small padlock (to lock your KE trek bag)

- Small daypack 20 to 25 litres

- Torch

- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)

- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries

- Antibacterial handwash

- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

◆ **The following items are optional:**

- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)

- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)

- Camera and batteries

- Travel clothes

- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary starting at the hotel in Delhi. A single group transfer is provided from Delhi Airport on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary and back to the airport on the final day of the Land Only itinerary.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Delhi. Outbound flights will usually depart the UK in the early evening, arriving in the morning of the following day (Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Delhi Airport in the early hours of the final day of the holiday, arriving in the UK later the same day.

Why Choose KE

HTR Why KE?

This exclusive walking holiday in Rajasthan includes rewarding hikes, fascinating heritage trails and bags of opportunity to explore on foot. Here, at KE we have always believed that the world is best experienced at walking pace, and this itinerary is the perfect way to find out why. Whether your interest is in rare wildlife, exploring the corridors of royal palaces and temples or walking through tribal hill villages, this holiday will immerse you into all Rajasthan has to offer.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 28/04/2025 and the trip is subject to change