

# **RAJASTHAN CYCLE WITH CULTURE & WILDLIFE**

# Tour Overview

India is rich a land not just associated with its ancient rich heritage, but also it's known for its copious wildlife. In the following Rajasthan cycle tour, we shall visit the well-known cultural centers of Delhi, Agra, Karauli, Jaipur and wildlife Ranthambore where we will witness the fascinating ancient monuments of a bygone era.

For the wildlife tour, we shall first cycle in the Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary, one of the premium bird sanctuaries in the world with over 300 species of birds. We bike through the Kaila Devi National Park which is part of the Project Tiger and which has a diversity of birds and mammals. India is the largest repository with about 55% of world's tigers. We shall also attempt to catch a glimpse of this majestic national animal at the Ranthambore National Park.

### Cycling / Terrain:

In Rajasthan most of the roads are asphalt, however, in small villages, the roads are either broken or have been cobbled, thus making it difficult to use road bikes. Mostly along rustic rural lanes where there is little or no traffic, you get to experience rural India at its best. There are occasional stretches of busier roads as well, however, we provide 100% support vehicle to give you a lift if you would rather not ride on these sections.

Daily cycling ranges between 40 to 50 kilometers. Instead of giving a certain number of kilometers each day, we mention total distances between the destinations and leave the choice of cycling distances to our guests as each cyclist is different.

| Tour Type     | Guided with 100% Support Vehicle       |
|---------------|--|
| Bike Hire     | Included                               |
| Cycling Grade | Easy ••••                              |
| Cycling       | 6 Days (Approx. 222 Kms / 138 Miles)   |
| Group Size    | Minimum 2 people to groups of any size |

#### WEATHER

January to mid-April and October to December is the best time to cycle in Rajasthan. Average temperatures range from max of 25°C and minimum of 7°C. The desert sun is not so intense and the days are cool and pleasant, perfect for cycling. Please bring a sun hat, sun cream and sunglasses. The mornings and evenings are generally cool and mild, however, January and late December can be very cold. Please bring a jumper/windcheater and a sweater/shawl. There is no humidity and little or no rain can be expected. For detailed travel kit recommendations, please refer to our FAQ section

# Rajasthan- Culture & wildlife Cycle Tour

(10 Nights / 11 Days)

Delhi - Agra - Bharatpur - Karauli - Ranthambhore - Jaipur - Delhi

#### Day 01: Arrival at Delhi

You will be acknowledged and warmly welcomed at the Delhi Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, our representatives will greet you and welcome you with a floral garland as you exit the Arrivals Terminal following which you will be transferred to your hotel.

### Day 02: Delhi

After breakfast start full day sightseeing of New Delhi. Morning drive past Red Fort-Shah Jehan's elegant citadel in red sandstone, visit Jama Masjid -India's largest mosque and enjoy a cycle rickshaw ride (02 pax in one rickshaw) through the bustling bazaar of Chandni Chowk "silver street" with its quaint shops & ancient gateways. Walk through the Asia's largest wholesale spice market -Khari Baoli (remains close on Sundays). Situated in Old Delhi known for its wholesale grocery and Asia's largest wholesale spice market selling all kinds of spices, nuts, herbs and food products like rice and tea. Return to New Delhi by driving past the stately government buildings of the British Era designed by Lutyen, including the India Gate & the Presidential Palace. Lunch in a local restaurant in the city. Post lunch visit the beautiful 'Humayuns Tomb' of the Mughal era -predecessor of the world famous Taj Mahal. Thereafter proceed for the visit of Qutab Minar - the world's tallest brick minaret. Construction commenced in 1193 under the orders of India's first Muslim ruler Qutub-ud-din Aibak, and Firuz Shah Tughluq completed the topmost storey of the minaret in 1386. We stay overnight in Delhi

### Day 3: Delhi - Agra

(Drive 170 Kms / Cycling - 40 Kms).

(Drive 40 Kms / Cycling - 30 Kms).

Post breakfast start our excursion driving towards Agra, which takes about 2 hrs. from Sohna towards via the back road till Nuh. From here we begin cycling for around 3 hrs. to Hodal (Koshi). After taking the lunch we continue our drive for Agra to witness the symbol of Love, 'The Taj Mahal'. It took 22 years and 20,000 men to build; the marbled beauty. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal, in the 17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly among the Seven Wonders of the World. We stay overnight in Agra.

#### Day 4: Agra - Bharatpur

On the Day 2 morning we visit the beautiful white marble Taj Mahal, and later we move on to visit the Red fort of Akbar after which we drive for about an hour to visit The Fatehpur Sikri. Emperor Akbar built the abandoned city of Fatehpur Sikri in 1569, in righteousness of the great Saint Sheikh Salim Chisti who sanctified Akbar and prophesized the birth of the three sons to the heirless Emperor. After the excursion we proceed for delightful Indian lunch and afterwards visit the Bharatpur wildlife sanctuary. We shall ride our bikes for Bharatpur and view the mesmerizing country sites. We stay overnight in Bharatpur.

### Day 5: Bharatpur - Karauli

On Day 4, in the morning we shall begin cycling as we stopover at the Keoladeo Ghana bird sanctuary. This is one of the finest bird sanctuaries in the world with over 360 species of birds. Post lunch we shall partly drive and partly cycle to Karauli, a heritage and sacred town in the heart of the rural Rajasthan. Historically the royal family built the 600-year-old Karauli's city palace in the 14th century in 1635 AD. The fort and the city palace remind the official residence of the royal family of Karauli till 1938 AD. During that time the Bhanwar Vilas palace (a much more modern structure) was built by Maharaja Ganesh pal Deo Bhadur. We stay overnight in Karauli.

(Drive 85 Kms / Cycling 37 Kms)

#### (Cycling 40-50 Kms).

(No-Cycling)

We start our 5th day's excursion with a picnic lunch around Kaila Devi National Park, a part of the Project Tiger and buffer zone to Ranthambore National park. In the evening, we shall explore the 600-year-old Karauli city palace full of frescos, fine stone statuettes, paintings and also witness the local markets of handicraft such as the lac work used to make jewelry, wooden toys and traditional sweets etc.

### Day 7: Karauli - Ranthambore

This morning on day 7 we cycle through the breath taking landscape that is dotted with trivial hamlets till the Ranthambore National Park that is famous for tigers. The Ranthambore National Park is one of the most fascinating places in the country to get a close glimpse of the majestic predators. We stay overnight at Ranthambore.

## Day 8: Ranthambore

The day 8<sup>th</sup> brings to you an open jeep safari ride inside the National Park to attempt catching the glimpse of the wild cats that wander proudly around. Other wildlife can also be seen along. The safari lasts for 3-4 hours. After lunch again start afternoon jeep safari ride inside the National Park.

## Day 9: Ranthambore - Jaipur

Early morning on the 9th day of your excursion post your breakfast you partly drive and cycle towards Jaipur. Lunch enroute. After lunch we continue drive to Jaipur. The "Pink City", is the capital of Rajasthan state. Jaipur is worldwide famous for its Architecture, monuments, Palaces, Art and Craft, Culture and its unique cuisines. The city of victory, Jaipur presides over the fascinating desert state and its people: surrounded by rugged hills, each crowned by a formidable fort; and beautiful palaces. We stay overnight in Jaipur

# Day 10: Jaipur

After breakfast in the hotel you will be driven just outside Jaipur to the ancient capital of **Amber** to see the fabulous **Amber Fort** Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. After lunch visit City Palace, Jantar Mantar (medieval observatory) and Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), etc.

## Day 11: Jaipur - Delhi - Onward Journey

On the day 11<sup>th</sup> you will be driven to the Delhi airport for your international flight departure. Our representatives will escort you at the Delhi airport.

### Day 6: Karauli

(Drive 70 Kms / Cycling 35-40 Kms)

(Drive 120 Kms / Cycling 25 Kms).