

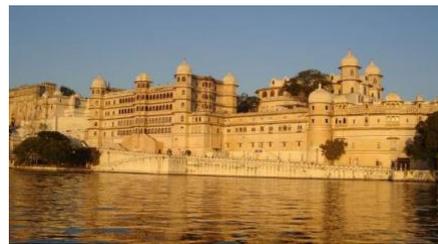


Festive New Year Palace to Palace Ride, Rajasthan, India, 27th December 2020 – 2nd January 2021

The ride starts at Udaipur and ends at Jodhpur, both these cities can be reached by internal flights from Mumbai or Delhi, which are International Airports, or by train or road. We can help you with internal arrangements to/from the start/end of this ride at extra cost.

Day 1 – Friday 27th December 2020

Arrive Udaipur, late afternoon boat ride around Lake Pichola. Beside Lake Pichola, with the ochre and purple ridges of the wooded Aravalli Hills stretching away in every direction, Udaipur has a romance of setting unmatched in Rajasthan and arguably in all India. Fantastical palaces, temples, havelis and countless narrow, crooked, colourful streets add the human counterpoint to the city's natural charms.



Overnight: hotel at Udaipur

Day 2 – Saturday 28th December

Morning sightseeing Udaipur

Udaipur is the city of cream, rose and honeysuckle hues. The huge, cupola-crowned City Palace lines the eastern shore of Lake Pichola, with its balconies gazing out at Udaipur's other famous landmark, the Lake Palace – a fairy-tale confection that seems to float on the lake's waters, gleaming by day and spotlighted by night. Eastward, away from the lake shore, extends a tangled inner city of lanes lined with homes, temples, shops and businesses that is fascinating to explore.

Afternoon: Transfer by road North to Kumbhalgarh 2 hours

Overnight: hotel at Kumbhalgarh

Day 3 – Sunday 29th December

Morning visit to Kumbhalgarh Fort.

Kumbhalgarh Fort is the second most important fort of Rajasthan after Chittorgarh. This unconquerable fortress is secured under the kind protection of the Aravali ranges. Kumbhalgarh Fort was built by Maharana Rana Kumbha in the 15th century. Encircled by thirteen elevated mountain peaks, the fort is constructed on the top most ridges around 1,914 meters above sea level. The fortifications of the fort extend to the length of 36 kilometers and this fact has made this fort to be in the international records. It is stated to be the second longest wall in the world, the first being "the Great Wall of

China". The huge complex of the Fort has numerous palaces, temples and gardens making it more magnificent.



Late Morning: Start Horse Safari.

Meet your Marwari horses and ride slowly down through the Khumbalgarh Sanctuary and Ghanerao forest. We enter the sanctuary near Kumbhalgarh Fort and pick our way through the wood using old paths, crossing small rivers to the edge of the Ghanerao forest. The route is shaded and quiet, although harbours much wildlife – keep your eyes open, you never know which animals are watching you through the trees. Late picnic lunch en route.



Standing watch over the small village of Ghanerao is the *Ghanerao Rawla* (castle). A magnificent showcase of Marble and Red sandstone Rajput Architecture built in 1606 that serves as the home of the royal family who still reside. There is a nostalgic air of past glory and of the royal lifestyle that the Thakurs led. The castle has 17 beautiful rooms, having their own quaint sit outs and verandhas. A recent developing project of the museum is under away, where one can see the old elephant hodas and palkis which were used by the rulers when elephants and horses were the only means of travel. The House of *Ghanerao* has also been patron of the unique style Rajput miniature paintings. A School of Ghanerao Paintings is still functioning in the village employing local artists.



Overnight: Ghanerao Castle

Day 4 – Monday 30th December

Full day ride to Ranakpur. Passing through villages and riding in the plains of the Aravalli hills, stopping for a picnic lunch, we visit the marble Jain Temple at Ranakpur, built in the 15th Century and with intricate carving this is one of the most spectacular Jain temples in Rajasthan.



Overnight: hotel at Ranakpur

Day 5 – Tuesday 31st December

Full day ride to Kotri.

We ride along the bottom of the Aravelli hills heading North East to Kotri. We pass villages and rural farmsteads, making our way through the volcanic smooth rock formations, stopping in the shade, or by a lake, for a picnic lunch and arriving at the 200 yr old heritage country seat at Kotri Castle, set amidst a farming village.

Kotri Raola is a 200-year-old small fort palace where continuity with the past is still a norm. The village is located at the foot of Aravalli Hills and a 7th century archaeological site is near by.



Early evening 'dress up' and drinks before a short transfer by road to Shobhawas for a spectacular and very special New Years Eve dinner and celebrations.

Overnight: Kotri Castle.

Day 6 – Wednesday 1st January 2021

Allowing for a lie-in after last nights' celebrations, we set off on our ride at a very respectable mid-morning. We ride past lakes and villages to arrive at the old haveli in the village of Narlai.

Rawla Narlai is a delightful 17th century property, which was once a favourite hunting lodge of the Jodhpur Royal Family. It is still owned by members of the Jodhpur family who have invested vast amounts of time, money, love and care into restoring this little gem. Over the years it has transformed from a simple lodge into a stunning, stylish boutique hotel, albeit with all its original character and structure retained. The rooms are scattered all around the property and each varies significantly in shape, size and décor. Here we say goodbye to our horses.



Overnight: hotel Rawla Narlai

Day 7 – Thursday 2nd January

Early morning departure for Jodhpur by road. Afternoon sightseeing Mehrangarh Fort. Mehrangarh Fort stands a hundred feet in splendour on a perpendicular cliff, four hundred feet above the sky line of Jodhpur. Burnished red sand stone, imposing, invincible and yet with a strange haunting beauty that beckons. Much has been written about the Citadel of the Sun, for truly, it is one of the most impressive in all Rajasthan. So colossal are its proportions that Rudyard Kipling called it “the work of giants”. Today, it is acknowledged as one of the best preserved fort in India.



Overnight: hotel Jodhpur

Day 8 – Friday 3rd January

After breakfast, departure for onward destination.
End of trip/...

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

What is included:

- Full Board.
- Mineral Water, and small selection of alcoholic drinks on the ride.
- Horses, grooms, saddlery and transport / care thereof.
- Ride leader: Dr Rao Ajeet Singh
- Internal transfers by road during the ride (Udaipur to Khumbhalgarh and Narlai to Jodhpur)
- Sightseeing tickets

What is NOT included:

- International and Internal flights
- Indian Visa costs
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, shopping etc)
- Drinks at hotels.
- Tips

NB: We reserve the right to alter the itinerary or accommodation, and change horses where necessary, but will keep you informed at all times.

Ride start / end:	Start at Udaipur. End at Jodhpur
Timescale:	8 days, 7 nights, 4 days riding
Riding Ability*:	Novice / Intermediate / Advanced *riders should be confident in canter on open ground
Rider Max Weight:	90kg / 200lbs / 14 stone
Group Size:	Minimum 4, Maximum 12
Riding per day:	4-6 hours
Pace:	Slow/Moderate/Fast according to terrain and group riding ability
Tack:	Indian Sawar saddles
Horses:	Marwari breed, typically between 15 – 16hh of slight build.
Riding Hat:	We thoroughly recommend you wear a riding hat that meets current safety standards.