



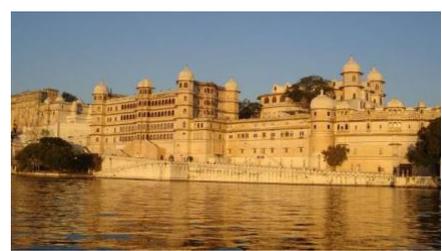
Holi Ride

**Leopard Trail, Palace to Palace & Holi (Festival of Colours),
Rajasthan, India,
29th February ~ 12th March 2020**

The ride starts in Udaipur and ends at Jodhpur, both cities can be reached by internal flights from Mumbai or Delhi (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: Saturday 29th February 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 (Lake Pichola or Udai Kothi)

Day 2: Sunday 1st March 2020

Morning guided 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 spot lit 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.

After lunch: Transfer by road North to Kumbhalgarh 2 hours

Overnight: hotel at Aodhi, Kumbhalgarh

Day 3: 2nd March 2020

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.

Ride down through the Khumbalgarh Sanctuary and Ghanerao forest.

We enter the sanctuary near Kumbhalgarh Fort and pick our way through the wooded sanctuary 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, arriving at camp on the edge of Muthana Lake at dusk.



Our tents come each with attached bathrooms, all linen and proper beds. They are erected and dismantled and moved on every day.

Overnight: Camp

Day 4: 3rd March 2020

Full day ride to Dantiwara Lake. Passing through villages and riding in the plains of the Aravalli hills, stopping for a picnic lunch, we reach our camp situated in front of the lake. Camp overnight.



Day 5: 4th March 2020

Full day ride to Perwa We make our way along the bottom of the Aravalli hills South West through the Bali forest of acacia to Perwa. We pass villages and rural farmsteads, making our way through the volcanic smooth rock formations, stopping in the shade for a long picnic lunch. Just before camp we stop and look for leopard just outside the village.



Day 6: 5th March 2020

Full day ride to Jawai Bandh. Today we continue onwards to reach Jawai Bandh – Lying at the heart of an untrammelled wilderness, where leopards roam wild and free encapsulated in a landscape surrounded by craggy granite formations of caves, kopjes, *Anogeissus* scrub and winding sand river–beds.



Camp overnight

Day 7: 6th March 2020

Morning ride around the lake and to search for Leopard.

This area is where “the hills throw the moon out and just as soon absorb its glow into their gorges. Where nomadic Rabari herdsmen are as much a part of the earth's tales as the mysterious felines that grace these hills and vanish at will into their folds. Where pastoral fields meet and merge with wild grasslands and the swells of the JAWAI Bandh's waters lap at the toes of mighty granite forms. Where flamingos flock and cranes in their hundreds dance to springtime. This special location, the unique flavour of this land and its offerings, provide for an entirely different experience from the rest of Rajasthan”.



Evening Jeep safari to search for Leopard.

Camp overnight

Day 8: Saturday 7th March 2020

Morning ride then transfer to visit the marble Jain Temple at Ranakpur in the afternoon, built in the 15th Century and with intricate carving this is one of the most spectacular Jain temples in Rajasthan.



Overnight: hotel at Fatehbagh, Ranakpur

Day 9: Sunday 8th March 2020

Full day ride to Ghanerao.

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 10: 9th March 2020

Full day ride to Kotri

We ride along the bottom of the Aravalli hills passing 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.



Transfer to Jodha Stud in the evening for our special Holika Dahan dinner. Tonight is the start of our Holi celebrations, with a Holika Dahan where we gather, perform religious rituals in front of a bonfire, and pray that our internal evil be destroyed the way Holika, the sister of the demon king Hiranyakashipu, was killed in the fire. The horses dance and put on a display for you in full decoration with traditional music & food.



Transfer back and Overnight: Kotri Castle.

Day 11: 10th March 2020 (Holi)

Morning ride, to arrive at Jodha Stud (the horses home) where after lunch you will spend the afternoon celebrating Rangwali Holi – a free-for-all festival of colours, where people smear each other with colours and drench each other. Water guns and water-filled balloons are also used to play and colour each other. Anyone and everyone is fair game, friend or stranger, rich or poor, man or woman, children and elders. The frolic and fight with colours occurs in the open streets, open parks, outside temples and buildings, but you will celebrate in the safety of the farm. Fresh white clothes are provided for this. (Tip: moisturise or oil your face and hair beforehand to make washing off easier!)



After a wash and change you are transferred to the nearby 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 12: 11th March 2020

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: Balsamand Lake Palace, Jodhpur

Day 13 : 12th March 2020

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 Jawai to Jodhpur)
- Sightseeing tickets at Udaipur, Kumbhalgarh and Jodhpur

What is NOT included:

- International and Internal flights
- Indian Visa costs
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, shopping etc)
- 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:	13 days, 12 nights, 9 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 2, 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.

