



Magical Marwar

Ride includes ~ Leopard Trail, Osian Dunes & Pushkar Fair

Rajasthan, India,

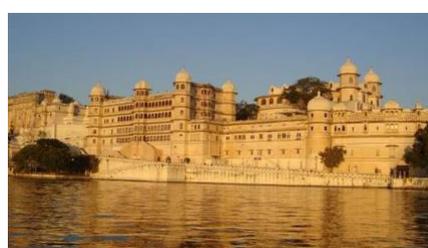
14th – 26th November 2020

The ride starts at Udaipur, takes in Jodhpur and Pushkar, and ends at Jaipur. You can reach by internal flights from the International Airports of Mumbai or Delhi.

Day 1 – Saturday 14th November 2020 – Diwali Festival of Lights

Arrive Udaipur by midday, pick up from airport and transfer to hotel, sunset boat trip 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. Fantastic palaces, temples, havelis and countless narrow, crooked, colourful streets add the human counterpoint to the city's natural charms.



Overnight: Udaipur Hotel

Day 2 – Sunday 15th November

Morning: sightseeing City Palace complex and shopping.

Lunchtime: 1pm transfer by road 3 hours to Narlai.

Afternoon: Quick check in and change, meet your Marwari horses for a late afternoon 1 hour trial ride from hotel to Jodha Stud Farm (the horses home), where a delicious home cooked Rajasthani dinner is provided within the magic of the stable complex.

Your hotel 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.



Overnight: Hotel 'Rawla Narlai'

Day 3 – Monday 16th November

Full day ride to Dantiwara. 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. All tents have en suite bathrooms and come fully equipped with all furniture, linen, towels etc. Camp overnight.



Day 4 – Tuesday 17th November

Full day ride to Perwa in the Bali Forest. We make our way along the bottom of the Aravalli hills South West to the village of 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.



Camp overnight.

Day 5 – Wednesday 18th November

Early morning Leopard spotting, breakfast, then ride to Jawai Bandh. Today we continue onwards to reach Jawai Bandh (reservoir) – 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.



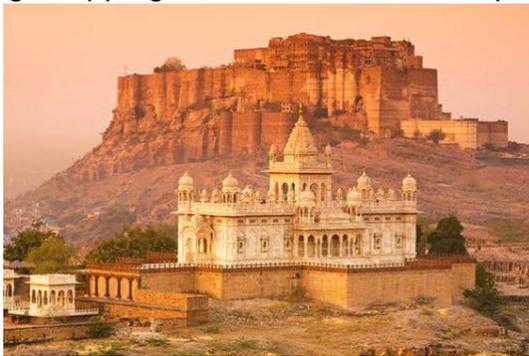
Late afternoon / Evening jeep search for Leopard.
Camp overnight

Day 6 – Thursday 19th November

Morning transfer by road Jodhpur and to hotel. 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.

Evening shopping in the market and antiques warehouse.



Overnight: Jodhpur Hotel.

Day 7 – Friday 20th November

Morning: short road transfer to Mathania, meet up again with your Marwari horses.

Full day ride Mathania to Osian

Today we ride North West, making our way over the pink granite local to the area that was used to build the Mehrangarh Fort, passing small hamlets and farmsteads, taking in the vistas from the edge of the Great Thar Desert of Rajasthan.

We stop for a picnic lunch and little siesta, before heading off again to reach our next camp on the outskirts of Osian.



Overnight: Tented Camp

Day 8 – Saturday 21st November

Full day ride Osian to Hacra.

Today we start to head deeper into the sand and dunes. You will see the local huts with thatched roofs as well as the scrub of desert vegetation, acacia bushes etc. We may encounter wild Nilgai (Asian antelope) small chinkara gazelle, mongoose as well as other flora and fauna local to this desert environment. We arrive at our tented camp close to the community hamlet of Hacra.



Overnight: Tented Camp

Day 9 – Sunday 22nd November

Full Day ride Hacra to Cullu

Today we ride North, the sand is deeper but your trusted Marwari have a stamina not known in other breeds; they are desert horses and you are riding in the heart of their Marwar district, from where their name derives.



Overnight: Tented Camp

Day 10 – Monday 23rd November

Full day ride Cullu to Khichan

Our final day riding. By now you will have built up a good partnership with your horse and we can take full advantage of the open lands!

We arrive at Khichan, famous for the Demoiselle cranes that visit during the winter season (Oct to March). The birds migrate here from the Mongolian steppes and at the peak (Dec, Jan, Feb) the numbers reach over 10,000 which is a sight to see!

Say goodbye to the horses as they travel home overnight for a well-earned rest.



Overnight: Hotel Kurja Resort, Khichan

Day 11 – Tuesday 24th November

Early morning visit to the nearby bird feeding grounds – what a sight!
After breakfast transfer by road 4 hours to Pushkar.

This fair is one of the largest horse and camel fairs in Rajasthan. We will visit the fair in the mornings and evenings, you will see different styles of dress as people make the trek from all corners of Rajasthan in order to trade horses, camels and cattle. Evening visit to the fair, go up the hill to stand and survey the fair, watching the sun go down in the 'golden hour' or, as it is known, 'cow dust time'.
Camp overnight.



Overnight: Tented Camp

Day 12 – Wednesday 25th November

Full day at Pushkar Camel Fair ~ this is one of India's most highly-rated travel experiences, a spectacle on an epic scale, attracting more than 11,000 camels, horses and cattle and it is visited by over 400,000 people during the 14 days.



For visitors it is a once in a lifetime opportunity to witness the colour, spectacle and carnival of one of the last great traditional mela's. We are nearing the full moon (on Friday 23rd Nov) when all pilgrims come to bathe in the holy lake on this auspicious day, and last minute trading deals are done before horses and camels depart for another year.

Overnight: Tented Camp

Day 13 – Thursday 26th November

Early morning road transfer 3 hours to Jaipur, lunch, quick shopping.
Early afternoon transfer to airport for departure to onward destination.

End of trip/...

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

What is included:

- Full Board Accommodation
- Mineral Water
- 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
- Sightseeing tickets

What is NOT included:

- International and Internal flights
- Indian Visa costs
- Travel Insurance
- Alcoholic drinks at hotels
- 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 Jaipur
Timescale:	13 days, 12 nights, 7 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:	Maximum 14
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.