



**Pushkar Fair and Leopard Trail, Rajasthan, India,
27th November – 7th December 2020**

The ride starts at Pushkar and ends at Udaipur. Pushkar can be reached by road from Jaipur (4 hours), Jaipur is an international airport as well as having connecting flights to Delhi or Mumbai. Internal flights depart from Udaipur back to Delhi or Mumbai. We can help you with internal arrangements to/from the start/end of this ride at extra cost.

Day 1 – Friday 27th November 2020

Afternoon arrival at Pushkar tented camp on the outskirts of the Pushkar fair (Ajmer). 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.



Day 2 – Saturday 28th November

Pushkar Camel Fair 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 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.

Camp overnight.



Day 3 – Sunday 29th November

A day exploring either the fair, the holy lake, Brahma temple or watching the activities in the main arena. Shopping opportunities galore!
Camp overnight.

Day 4 – Monday 30th November

Early morning departure by minibuss - transfer by road for Kumbhalgarh stopping off en route to take the metre gauge railway at Phulad to experience a 2 hour magical train ride winding through the Aravalli Hills.

This train cuts right through one of the most rugged, the Aravalli mountains, with the help of some spectacular British engineering left intact from 1835! This is one of the highest tracks in the western railway system of India. The landscape is dramatic and does not stay constant. There is a good mix of steep hills, flowing water and plains. The journey cuts through some of the most inhospitable and untouched terrains. All in all, it is a picturesque journey through a relatively unexplored part of Rajasthan.

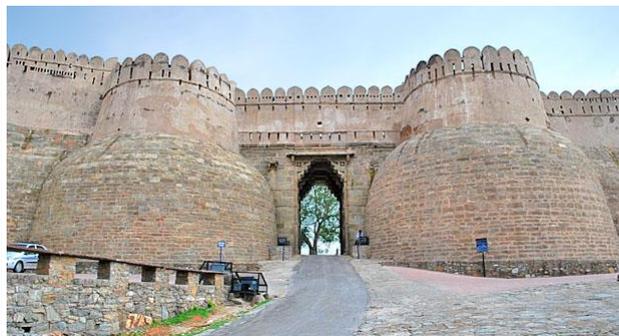
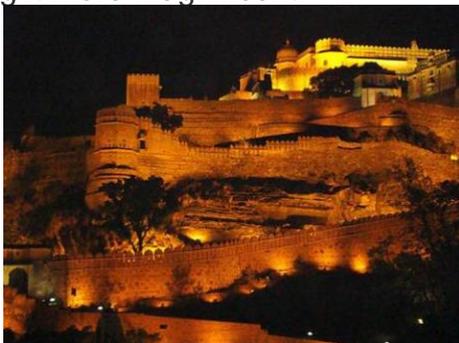


Arrive at Khamlighat and pick up our minibuss again to continue on to Kumbhalgarh.
Overnight: Hotel at Kumbhalgarh.

Day 5 – Tuesday 1st 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.
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 Muthana Lake at dusk.



Overnight: Camp

Day 6 – Wednesday 2nd December

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 7 – Thursday 3rd December

Full day ride to Bali Forest.

We make our way along the bottom of the Aravalli hills South West to Bali. 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 8 – Friday 4th December

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 9 – Saturday 5th December

Morning ride 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 10 – Sunday 6th December

Morning depart for Udaipur by minibus road transfer. Check in to hotel.

Afternoon sightseeing - lake boat trip.

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. 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.



Overnight: hotel in Udaipur

Day 11 – Monday 7th December

Day at leisure for shopping and/or City Palace tour.

While passing through the markets of Udaipur, the markets present an assortment of items covering handicrafts, pottery, jewellery, wooden toys, antique items and paintings. Udaipur is particularly famous for its miniature paintings inspired by style of Rajputs & Mughals.

After lunch departure for onward destination

End of trip/...

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

What is included:

- Full Board on ride and in camp.
- Mineral Water, and small selection of alcoholic drinks on the ride only.
- Horses, grooms, saddlery and transport / care thereof.
- Ride leader: Dr Rao Ajeet Singh
- Internal transfers by road and train trip during ride
- Sightseeing tickets

What is NOT included:

- International flights
- Internal road/flights before start, and at end of ride.
- 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.

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| Ride start / end: | Start: Pushkar, End Udaipur |
| Timescale: | 11 days, 10 nights, 6 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 |

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| 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. |