

RAJASTHAN & RAJPUT EXPLORER, (SDM)

Delhi to Mumbai 16 Days, departing 5th October 2020



TRIP OVERVIEW

Trip Style: Overlanding
Route: Delhi to Mumbai
Duration: 16 Days
Transport: Overland Expedition Vehicle, Camel
Accommodation: Comfortable Hotel 2 nights
 Basic Hotel 7 nights
 Guesthouse 2 nights
 Camping 2 nights
 Camping without facilities 2 nights
Meals: Breakfasts x 6, Lunches x 4, Dinners x 6

Physical Challenge: ● ● ○ ○ ○

Your itinerary may include easy-paced day walks, bike rides, and other activities that are not too strenuous.

Lifestyle Challenge: ● ● ● ○ ○

This trip has a bit of everything. Some areas that you travel through may be physically challenging; for example you may be at altitude some of the time and you may be camping for several nights. The pace of the trip can be tiring at times and some facilities will be basic. However there will also be plenty of time to relax and some comfortable accommodation.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1 - Delhi (5th October 2020)

Border Information: If joining the trip in Delhi, you will most likely enter India at Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport (IATA code: DEL).

Today is a free day to explore Delhi. There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm - please look for a note from your tour leader when you arrive at the hotel giving more details about this meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Delhi before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Delhi.

Accommodation: Florence Inn A""

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Explore the Sanjay Colony 'slum' area of Delhi on a guided tour to see the micro-industries, schools and residential life there

Entrance: 1,000 INR

Explore the site of Humayun's Tomb a phenomenal early Mughal tomb that is said to be a major inspiration for the Taj Mahal

Entrance: 500 INR

See the India Gate at the end of Delhi's ceremonial axis built to commemorate all Indians who have died in various wars

Entrance: Free

Freely explore the colossal Mughal Red Fort in Old Delhi built by the emperor Shah Jahan in 1648 upon moving the capital there

Entrance and audio guide: 620 INR

Day 2 - Bikaner (6th October 2020)

Today we start our journey with a full day drive to the city of Bikaner.

In Bikaner we will either stay in a local hotel or camp at an eco-lodge a short distance outside the city.

Day 3 - Jaisalmer (7th October 2020)

Today we continue our journey with a drive to the ancient Rajasthani city of Jaisalmer, stopping at the Karni Mata (Rat Temple) for an included visit en route.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Witness the holy rats in the Karni Mata rat temple near Bikaner

Included

Day 4 - Jaisalmer (8th October 2020)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

We will have free time this morning to explore the sights of Jaisalmer. In the late afternoon we will head out on an included camel safari into the Thar Desert - exploring the desert with local Rajasthani camel drivers is the most authentic way to experience the area!

Tonight we will camp out on the outskirts of the desert, sleeping under the stars.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Trek into the Thar Desert on an overnight camel safari with Rajasthani camel drivers

Included

Day 5 - Jaisalmer (9th October 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

This morning we will return to Jaisalmer from our camel safari. The rest of the day will be free to relax or explore more of Jaisalmer and the surrounding area.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Jaisalmer Fort

Museum Entrance: 500 INR

Visit the beautiful and ornate 18th-century mansions of Salim Singh-ki Haveli and Patwa-ki Haveli

Entrance: 220 INR

Watch the sunset from the stunning Amar Sagar Jain Temple in Jaisalmer

Entrance: 150 INR

Jeep (cost per vehicle, max 6 pax): 1,800 INR

Jaisalmer Kuldhara Ghost Town

Entrance: Free

Day 6 - Jodhpur (10th October 2020)

Meals: Dinner

This morning we will drive from Jaisalmer to another famous Rajasthani city, Jodhpur. En route to Jodhpur we will make an included visit to the Sambhali Trust project (a charitable project that works for the empowerment of women and girls in Rajasthan), where we will learn about the efforts of the project and make a group donation from the kitty.

After our visit we will make our way to our accommodation, rooms that have been set up by local families in their own homes for visitors. We will be splitting up into 2 or 3 small groups for our community guesthouses.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit and support the Dragoman-supported Sambhali Trust near Jodhpur and see the excellent work they do to provide local women and girls with education and vocational skills

Included

Day 7 - Jodhpur (11th October 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

After breakfast we will have an included visit to the Mehrangarh Fort and palace. The afternoon is then free to explore this wonderful city independently.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Explore the blue city of Jodhpur and the mighty Meherangarh fort

Included

Optional Activities

Prepare a meal with a local chef, learning traditional Indian cooking techniques along the way

Class with dinner: 1,000 INR

Explore the white marble memorial of Jaswant Thada, the traditional cremation ground of Jodhpur rulers

Entrance: 100 INR

Explore the nearby Mandore Gardens and ancient ruined fort

Entrance: Free

Explore the museum of the Jodhpur Royal Family in the Umaid Bhawan Palace, one of the world's largest private residences

Museum Entrance: 50 INR

Go out on an exhilarating zip-lining excursion over the gardens of the Mehrangarh Fort

6 lines: 1,999 INR

Day 8 - Udaipur (12th October 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

After breakfast we set off for our drive to Udaipur, visiting the Jain Temple at Ranakpur en route. We will have 3 nights in Udaipur, giving us plenty of time to discover this amazing, romantic Rajasthani city.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to Ranakpur Jain marble temple

Included

Day 9 - Udaipur (13th October 2020)

On these 2 days we will have free time to explore the sites in and around Udaipur, take part in some optional activities, and relax on one of the many roof-top terraces in the city.

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Visit the Animal Aid Unlimited animal shelter and hospital in Udaipur and support the incredible work they do there to look after injured street animals in the area

Donation: 10 INR

Learn all about the folk art culture songs and festivals of Rajasthan at the Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal cultural institution

Entrance: 50 INR

Visit the flamboyant City Palace of Udaipur built in a fascinating fusion of Rajasthani and Mughal styles

Entrance and Audio Guide: 700 INR

Enjoy some Rajasthani folk music and traditional dances set in an old haveli

1 hr: 150 INR

Head out on a half-day horse ride through the beautiful surroundings of the foothills of the Aravalli Mountains around Udaipur

4 hrs: 3,500 INR

Visit the iconic Monsoon Palace perched on a mountain overlooking Udaipur

Entrance: 160 INR

Explore the Pichola Lake, and its famous temple islands of Jagniwas and Jagmandir, on a stunning and peaceful boat cruise

1 hr: 430 INR

30min: 300 INR

Take an evening ride on the Udaipur Ropeway to see the stunning vista of the city after sunset

Return: 103 INR

Day 10 - Udaipur (14th October 2020)

We have a 2nd full day in Udaipur to give us plenty of time to discover this amazing, romantic Rajasthan city and relax on one of the many roof-top terraces

Day 11 - Mandu (15th October 2020)

Meals: Lunch, Dinner

Leaving Udaipur, we will be joined by a local cook who will accompany us during the next few days as we travel through Ajanta and Ellora.

Today will mostly be spent travelling to Mandu via the backroads of rural Rajasthan. We will be off the tourist trail here and tonight we will camp or stay in a local hotel.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit the tomb of Hoshang Shah, the first Muslim leader of Mandu - the tomb itself is India's first marble building and one of the most refined examples of Afghan-style architecture in the country

Included

Day 12 - Mandu (16th October 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will visit Mandu, an extensive and largely abandoned hill-top fort from the Mughal era. We will then spend the afternoon driving to our camping spot near Kharwand Dam, en route towards Ajanta.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Visit to the Jahaz Mahal (the Ship Palace) - the most famous building in Mandu

Included

Visit the deserted hilltop ghost city of Mandu

Included

Day 13 - Ajanta (17th October 2020)

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we complete the drive to Ajanta, arriving in the afternoon. We will visit the complex of 29 ancient Buddhist temples cut into the rock face. We will find a basic camp nearby or continue onto Ellora depending on time.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Take a guided visit around the incredible Buddhist rock caves and paintings of Ajanta some dating back as far as the 2nd century BCE

Included

Day 14 - Ellora (18th October 2020)

Meals: Breakfast

Today we will drive a short distance to Ellora where we will have an included visit to the ancient Buddhist, Hindu and Jain caves - a set of a small temples in the rock face dating from the 6th to 11th Centuries CE. We will camp in the grounds of a hotel tonight.

Daily Activities

Included Activities

Guided visit to the Buddhist Hindu and Jain rock-cut temples and monasteries of Ellora

Included

Day 15 - Mumbai (19th October 2020)

Setting off early today, we will say goodbye to our local cook and drive to the bustling city of Mumbai.

Day 16 - Mumbai - End Date (20th October 2020)

Border Information: If you are leaving in Mumbai, you will most likely exit India from Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (IATA code: BOM).

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Mumbai. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact your sales agent if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities listed below.

Accommodation:

Daily Activities

Optional Activities

Take a Bollywood dance class in one of Mumbai's premier dance studios

1hr: 500 INR

Take a fascinating tour of Film City one of Mumbai's premier Bollywood filming studios

Entrance: 3,500 INR

Take a guided tour of the backstreets shops and schools of the Dhavari district to experience a slice of the real Mumbai

2.5hr Tour, price for a group of 5: 3,250 INR

4.5hr Tour, price for a group of 5: 6,000 INR

Explore the labyrinth of cave-temples on Elephanta Island near Mumbai some of the most impressive rock carvings in all of India

Boat: 125 INR

Discover the marvellous collection of historical objects and art at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum one of India's premier museums

Entrance: 500 INR

ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities,

you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564

A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

ISSUES ON THE TRIP

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk.

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

IMPORTANT NOTES

OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

INDIA NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 22nd September 2020**