

Birds, Wildlife & Palaces of Rajasthan 14N15D

Delhi, Ranthambhore, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Kumbhalgarh, and Udaipur

Travel Dates: November 16 to 30, 2019

Duration: 15 Days

Tour Code: JVD2-RAJ-NOV2019

Tour Pace: Easy to Moderate

Asian Adventures Wildlife & Culture Guides

Description

This tour takes you to the best wildlife, birding and cultural sites of Rajasthan.

One can get over 250+ species of birds on this trip. It encompasses varied landscapes and experiences that North India offers. These features make this tour very fruitful and popular.

Itinerary overview

16 Nov. 2019: Arrive Delhi

17 Nov. 2019: Delhi to Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

18 Nov. 2019: Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

19 Nov. 2019: Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

20 Nov. 2019: Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve to Jaipur

21 Nov. 2019: Jaipur to Jodhpur

22 Nov. 2019: Jodhpur to Jaisalmer

23 Nov. 2019: Jaisalmer

24 Nov. 2019: Jaisalmer

25 Nov. 2019: Jaisalmer to Jodhpur

26 Nov. 2019: Jodhpur to Kumbhalgarh

27 Nov. 2019: Kumbhalgarh

28 Nov. 2019: Kumbhalgarh to Udaipur

29 Nov. 2019: Udaipur to Delhi

30 Nov. 2019: Departure

Highlights

- A large list of bird species; Easy and Guided birding
- Great birding in Scrubland, Wetlands, and Thar Desert Eco-system
- A variety of mammals during the safaris such as Tiger, Leopard, Hyena, Sloth Bear, Hanuman Langur, Golden Jackal etc.
- Forts & Palaces
- Farm Fresh Indian meals
- Quaint Lodges, Desert Camps, Havelis and Palace Hotels
- Cultural Sights such as:

-Temples; Monuments & Forts

-Artists' Village

-Social Enterprise

-Painting School

-Local Colourful Markets

-Local Villages and Architecture

- Activities such as:

-Picnic Dining

-Camel Rides in the desert

-Culinary Sessions

-Photography

-Temple Prayers

-Shopping in Local Market

- Glimpses of the beautiful landscape and lifestyle of Rajasthan
- Visits to Cattle Herding Community

Destinations

Ranthambhore National Park

Ranthambhore is a magical place full of romance of the wilds and intrigue of history. Once the hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur and the British, it was declared the Sawai Madhopur Wildlife Sanctuary in 1955 and a National Park in 1980. A famous Ganesh temple within the old fort inside park is still visited by worshippers walking through the forest. The tigers here have been reputed to be fearless of human company and are often seen during the daytime, hence increasing the sightings and popularity among visitors.

The days are dedicated to exploring Ranthambhore more. We will take you for an afternoon drive in a 4WD to the park for tiger-tracking and animal viewing.

Along with the scheduled morning and afternoon safaris, you can explore the ancient Ranthambhore Fort and the Ganesh Temple.

A visit to the local village may also be a good option for those interested.

Art lovers must also visit the Ranthambhore school of Art for the wildlife paintings created by local artists. The school contributes towards tiger conservation.

Jaipur

Our quest then takes us to Jaipur, the pink city of India. Here, you can witness a perfect example of urban conservation. Encompassing an area of mere 17sq km, Jhalana Park hosts more than 20 leopards which makes it a wildlife hotspot.

In the outskirts of Jaipur city, lie the twin lakes of Chandlai and Barkheda. These host some amazing water-bird life. In winters one can see Dunlins, Flamingos, Crakes, Egrets, Cormorants, Bar headed goose and other regular water birds of this region.

Also, there are cultural and architectural sites such as Hawa Mahal, Jantar Mantar, Albert Hall Museum, City Palace, Amber Fort, Jaigarh Fort, Nahargarh fort and Birla Mandir to name a few.

Considering the cultural and biological diversity that this city possesses, it makes Jaipur worthy of a visit.

Jodhpur

Jodhpur, the second largest city of Rajasthan is known as the blue city. The name is befitting as all the forts, palaces, temples, havelis and even houses are painted in vivid shades of blue. The city houses the Mehrangarh Fort, an architectural marvel and the centre of tranquillity, Somnath Temple. Other architectural and cultural sites are Moti Mahal, Umaid Bhawan Palace, Chamunda Mataji Temple, Mahamandir Temple, Mandaleshwar Mahadev and Sheesh Mahal to name a few.

Machiya Safari Park and Kailana Lake are the best wildlife and birding spots in Jodhpur where one can enjoy sights of wild animals roaming freely in their natural habitat.

Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer is known as the Golden City because most of the structures in the city are constructed out of yellow Sandstone. The Jaisalmer Fort looms out of the yellow sands of the Thar desert and contains the Palace and several ornately carved Jain temples that have been declared a World Heritage Site. Jaisalmer is the base from which you will visit the Desert National Park.

The Desert National Park lies in the sand dunes of the Thar desert and is one of the largest national parks in India. The Park hosts an astounding variety of animals and birds including the endangered Great Indian Bustard.

Kumbhalgarh

Kumbhalgarh is a very rich city in terms of culture and wildlife. Much like all major cities of Rajasthan, Kumbhalgarh is dotted with temples and palaces. Located within this city is the famous Kumbhalgarh Fort which stands a testament to ancient Indian architecture. Built in the 6th century the fort still stands unscathed. The major attraction here is the fort wall, which stretches to 36 km, making it the longest wall in India.

Adjacent to the fort is the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary where animals such as Wolf, Leopards, Sloth Bear, Hyena, Jackal, Jungle Cat, sambhar, Nilgai, Chausingha (the four-horned Antelope), Chinkara and Hare. Birds such as Dancing Peafowl, Treepie, Drongo, Prinia birds and Jungle Babblers are also found in the park.

Udaipur

The city of Udaipur is famous for its forts, palaces and gardens and in recent times as a destination wedding hotspot. But Udaipur is the city of lakes and when there are lakes around, they provide the good habitat for birds, especially migratory birds. There are lakes such as Pichola, Fatehsagar and Swaroop Sagar, which are good for bird-watching. Birds such as Spot-billed Pelicans, Common Moorhens, common coots, Lapwings and Partridges are frequently spotted at these lakes.

ITINERARY

November 16, 2019: Arrive Delhi

Meals: on own

Accommodation: Hotel Pride or similar

Arrive Delhi in the Evening. You will be met and transferred to the Hotel, check-in and overnight stay.

November 17, 2019: Delhi to Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

Meals: Breakfast in Delhi, Lunch and Dinner in Ranthambhore

Accommodation: Hotel Shergarh or similar

Morning transfer to Delhi Train station to connect day train to Ranthambhore at 0720 hrs. Arrive Ranthambhore at 1300 hrs. You will be met and transferred to Ranthambhore Heritage Haveli. Afternoon safari to the national park for tiger tracking, wildlife viewing and bird watching. Overnight stay

November 18 & 19, 2019: Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner in Ranthambhore

Accommodation: Hotel Shergarh or similar

Morning and afternoon safaris into the national park for tiger tracking, wildlife viewing and bird watching. You will have time to visit a social enterprise, the Fort and an Artists' School. Overnight stay

November 20, 2019: Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve to Jaipur

Meals: Breakfast in Ranthambhore, Lunch & Dinner in Jaipur

Accommodation: Hotel Umaid Mahal or similar

Drive to Jaipur in the morning (4 hours). Afternoon safari to sight a Leopard in Jhalana. Overnight stay.

November 21, 2019: Jaipur to Jodhpur

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch in Jaipur, Dinner in Jodhpur

Accommodation: Hotel Inn Season or similar

Morning safari to Jhalana for Leopard & Bird Watch. Connect train to Jodhpur in the afternoon (4 hours). Overnight stay.

November 22, 2019: Jodhpur to Jaisalmer via Kheechan

Meals: Breakfast in Jodhpur, Lunch en route & Dinner in Jaisalmer

Accommodation: Fort Rajwada or similar

Morning at leisure, you can opt for an hour-long drive in the town for photography. Drive to Kheechan to look at the large congregation of Demoiselle Cranes, stopping en route in a haveli for lunch. Arrive late in the evening at Jaisalmer. Overnight stay.

November 23, 2019: Jaisalmer

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner in Jaisalmer

Accommodation: Fort Rajwada or similar

Full day birding, camel ride and cultural sightseeing in and around Jaisalmer. Overnight stay.

November 24, 2019: Jaisalmer

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner in Jaisalmer

Accommodation: Fort Rajwada or similar

Full day birding, camel ride and cultural sightseeing in Thar Desert. Overnight stay.

November 25, 2019: Jaisalmer to Jodhpur

Meals: Breakfast in Jaisalmer, Lunch en route & Dinner in Jodhpur

Accommodation: Hotel Inn Season or similar

Drive to Jodhpur, stopping en route for birding, photography and lunch. Afternoon visit to Mehrangarh Fort. Evening ride through the market lanes and by-lanes in Cycle Rickshaws. Overnight stay.

November 26, 2019: Jodhpur to Kumbhalgarh

Meals: Breakfast in Jodhpur, Lunch in Ranakpur & Dinner in Kumbhalgarh

Accommodation: Hotel Aodhi or similar

Drive in the morning to Kumbhalgarh. We spend two days here for a great birding and a couple of safaris to look for Sloth Bear. We will stop en route to see the Jain Temples at Ranakpur and for Photography.

Overnight stay.

November 27, 2019: Kumbhalgarh

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner in Kumbhalgarh

Accommodation: Hotel Aodhi or similar

Morning and afternoon safari to look for Sloth Bear, other mammals and go bird watching. Overnight stay.

November 28, 2019: Kumbhalgarh to Udaipur

Meals: Breakfast in Kumbhalgarh, Lunch & Dinner in Udaipur

Accommodation: Hotel Shikarbadi or similar

Morning birding in Kumbhalgarh. Drive to Udaipur (a 3-hour drive). Afternoon sightseeing in Udaipur. Dinner by the lake. Overnight stay.

November 29, 2019: Udaipur to Delhi**Meals: Breakfast in Udaipur, Lunch en route & Dinner in Delhi**

Accommodation: Hotel Pride or similar

Morning excursion to the city (time permitting!). Fly back to Delhi. Overnight stay.

November 30, 2019: Delhi – Departure**Meals: Breakfast**

Accommodation: None

Transfer to Delhi airport to connect flight back home.

Tour Ends.

Tour cost (per person) – UK £ 2800 (minimum 10 guests)**UK £2900 (minimum 8 guests)****Single room supplement - UK £ 540****Validity: November 2019****Services includes only:**

- Accommodation on twin room basis
- All meals as per the itinerary
- Arrival and departure transfers in Delhi
- 05 Private Canter safaris in Ranthambhore
- 02 Private jeep safaris in Jhalana Park
- 02 Private safaris in Kumbhalgarh
- All park entrance fee
- 01 session of Camel ride in Jaisalmer
- All sightseeing in Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Udaipur
- All monument entrance fee
- Birding guide and culture guides
- Train tickets
- Domestic flight (Economy class)
- All taxes

Above cost does not include:

- Optional Tours, Tips, Laundry, Drinks, Camera Fee
- International Air fare, Visa, and Insurance
- Personal or Incidental Expenses

TOP Birds of Rajasthan Tour**Ranthambhore National Park**

Graylag Goose, White-naped Woodpecker, Indian Grey Hornbill, Common & Stork-billed Kingfisher, Little Green Bee-Eater, Asian Palm Swift, Dusky-horned Owl, Indian Nightjar, Yellow-footed Green Pigeon, Collared Dove, Great Crested Grebe, Crested Serpent Eagle, Darter, Cormorants, Egrets & Herons, Yellow Bittern, Black & Sacred Ibis, Rosy Pelicans, Painted and Black-necked Stork, Indian Pitta, Long-tailed and Bay-backed Shrike, Rufus Treepie, Golden Oriole, Barred Cuckoo-Shrikes, Rosy Minivets, Black & White-bellied Drongo, Verditer and Red-throated Flycatcher, Common Iora, Common Woodshrike, Olive-Backed Pipits, White-browed Wagtail, Silverbill, Red-vented Bulbul, Common & Asian Pied Mynas, Hobby & Common Kestrel etc.

Jaipur

Waders, Cormorants, Egrets, Herons, Common Moorhen, Black-winged Stilt, Laughing Dove, Common Teal, Eurasian Wigeon, Grey Gadwall, Northern Pintail and Ruddy Shelduck, Common Coot, Black Kite, Rufous Treepie, Pigeons, Pelicans, Grey Francolin, Spotted Dove, Barn Owl, White-breasted Waterhen, Painted Sandgrouse, Greater Painted Snipe, Yellow-wattled Lapwing, White Backed Vulture, Brahminy Kite, Oriental Honey-Buzzard etc. Black-necked Stork, Sarus & Common Cranes, Eurasian Spoonbill, Glossy and Black-headed Ibis, White-tailed Lapwing, Greater Painted-snipe, and Black Bittern, Yellow-crowned Woodpecker.

Jodhpur

Demoiselle & Common Crane, Rosy Pelican, Painted Stork, Flamingo, Bar-headed Goose, Spotbill Duck, Black-headed Ibis, Mallard, Common Teal, Common Pochard, Pin Tail, Shoveller, Tufted Duck, Wigeon, Brahminy Ducks and Coots

Jaisalmer

Great Indian bustard, Desert wheatear, Indian Courser, Cinerous Vulture, Egyptian Vulture, White-rumped Vulture, Common Quail, Indian Roller, Spotted Dove, Rock Pigeon, Green Sandpiper, Green bee-eater, Red-wattled Lapwing, Eurasian Griffon, Common Raven, Black Drongo, Indian Robin, Pied Bushchat, Brahminy Starling, Common Myna, Jungle Prinia, White Wagtail, Long-billed Pipit, Indian Peafowl, Blue-cheeked Bee-eater, House Swift, Eurasian Nightjar, Trumpeter Finch, Sind Sparrow, Desert Warbler etc.

Kumbhalgarh

Yellow-footed green Pigeon, Grey Junglefowl, Alexandrine Parakeet, Shikra, Yellow Crowned Woodpecker, Common Kestrel, Scaly Breasted Munia, Brown-headed Barbet, White-Throated Fantail, Plain Prinia, Spotted Dove, Indian Scops Owl, Indian Peafowl, Jungle Owlet, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher, Alexandran & Plum-headed Parakeet, Asian Koel, Black-rumped Flameback, White-throated Kingfisher, Great Tit, Oriental White-eye, Oriental Honey Buzzard

Udaipur

Bar-headed Goose, Common Coot, Little Grebe, Painted Stork, Black-necked Stork, Asian Openbill, Woolly-necked Stork, Great White Pelican, Black-headed Ibis, Black Ibis, Greater Flamingo, Red-wattled Lapwing, Little Cormorant, Common Hoopoe, Short-eared Owl, Egyptian Vulture and White-browed Fantail, Indian Pitta, Rosy Starling.

TOP Mammals of Rajasthan Tour

Tiger, Common Leopard, Jungle Cat, Sloth Bear, Golden Jackal, Striped Hyena, Indian Fox, Common Palm Civet, Small Indian Mongoose, Grey Mongoose, Northern Plains Langur, Rhesus Macaque, Indian Wild Pig, Sambar, Spotted Deer, Blue Bull or Nilgai, Indian Gazelle (Chinkara), Blackbuck, Indian Hedgehog, Indian Hare, Indian Pangolin, House Shrew, Indian Crested Porcupine, Northern Palm Squirrel, Indian Gerbil, House Mouse, Little Indian Field Mouse, Large Bandicoot Rat, Indian Mole Rat, Short-tailed Bandicoot Rat, House Rat, Indian Flying Fox, Fulvous Fruit Bat, Greater Short-nosed Fruit Bat.