



"Djoser... Organized Adventures for Independent Minded Travelers"



India-Rajasthan with Palaces & Fort Stays,
14 days





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Itinerary

- Day 1 Arrival Delhi . (Dutch participants arrive 14:45)
- Day 2 Delhi, night train to Bikaner
- Day 3 Arrival in Bikaner
- Day 4 Bikaner - Phalodi - Jaisalmer
- Day 5 Jaisalmer, Camel ride
- Day 6 Jaisalmer - Jodhpur, excursion Mehrangarh-Fort
- Day 7 Jodhpur - Ranakpur - Udaipur
- Day 8 Udaipur
- Day 9 Udaipur - Chittorgarh - Pushkar
- Day 10 Pushkar - Jaipur, excursion Amber-Fort
- Day 11 Jaipur
- Day 12 Jaipur - Fatehpur Sikri - Agra
- Day 13 Agra - Sikandara - Delhi
- Day 14 Delhi - (Dutch depart 11 AM)



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Day by day

On the Road with Djoser

Djoser's active journeys offer an ideal balance of guidance and freedom. Our guide-assisted adventures cover the globe and feature wildlife, beautiful natural settings, historic sights and authentic cultural experiences. During Djoser travels, the daily schedule is not rigidly set.

The day-to-day descriptions describe the anticipated, or possible daily activities. Our travel days are obviously fixed, but each day the program may deviate depending on the preferences of the group, in consultation with the tour leader. The tour guide offers a program daily, with planned excursions. You are never obligated to participate. Those who desire more freedom may go out exploring or may dine on their own. Your tour leader can offer suggestions for safe explorations and fun restaurants. You will find that Djoser participants will take advantage of this flexibility. We believe a sense of discovery is an integral element of a great trip.

We offer the land program only. Below, you will find the day-to-day description days numbered to correspond with that of the Dutch participants (which includes their transit days from/to Amsterdam). This is so that when you are traveling and refer to this day-to-day description, all travelers will be referring to the same day number.

Amazing Delhi

Day 1. In transit

Day 2. Arrival Delhi

Day 3. Delhi - Agra

The journey starts in the busy Indian capital Delhi. Once you leave the airport, you are in a completely different world. Countless cars, mopeds, rickshaws and huge crowds of people make their way through the city, full of beautiful buildings such as the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. In New Delhi, the imposing government buildings from the colonial era are located on the wide avenues. The temple complex, Akshardham, and the Red Fort are also recommended.

After a short stay in this hectic metropolis we continue our journey to Agra, where you have enough time to visit the famous Taj Mahal. This monument of love is for many travelers a highlight of their journey through India. Around the Taj Mahal is a beautiful garden full of ponds, mango trees and fountains. At sunrise, the building is bathed in a magical glow, making it look like a palace from a fairy tale; a unique experience that will remain etched in your memory. Agra Fort is located near the lively old town, where you can find different palaces and mosques of pure marble. The rickshaw is also an excellent means of transport here.



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Colorful Rajasthani

Day 4. Agra - Fatehpur Sikri - Karauli

Day 5. Karauli - Bundi

Day 6. Bundi - Bijola - Chittorgarh - Udaipur

Via Fatehpur Sikri, the old, deserted capital of the Moghul Empire, we drive to the rural town of Karauli. It is known for its beautiful temples dedicated to Krishna and is walled with a red sandstone city wall. During a walk you will get acquainted with local life and local markets. In the 600-year-old City Palace we can attend an Aarti ceremony. A guru and his followers sing prayers for the Hindu god, Krishna. With earthen oil lamps they make rotating movements for the image of God to make contact with this saint. Indeed, it is believed that the image contains the spirit of the deity. This ritual inspires believers to devote part of their lives to worshipping Krishna and eventually gain inner enlightenment.

The town of Bundi is less known, but well worth a visit. You can wander for hours through the atmospheric streets, where the houses are painted blue, just like in Jodhpur. Sights not to be missed are the impressive and stately Taragarh Fort that towers above the city, the Bundi Palace, with its beautiful frescoes, the Baori's, or deep wells flanked by steep stairs and petroglyphs which were only recently discovered by a local archaeologist.

Special temples & impressive forts

Day 7. Udaipur

Day 8. Udaipur - Ranakpur - Jodhpur, excursion Mehrangarh fort

In Ranakpur, stands one of the most beautiful and largest Jain temples in India. This shrine from the 15th century is world famous for its complex architecture and counts no less than 1444 beautifully decorated columns. Jainism is a separation from Hinduism and preaches a doctrine against the use of violence against all living beings.

After a wonderful bus ride through mountainous area, we arrive in Udaipur, a veritable treasure trove full of elegant palaces, temples and havelis. This 'City of the Sunrise' is an enchanting place where we take the time to enjoy the romantic atmosphere and the beautiful lakes and palaces. The old town attract visitors with countless little streets, colorful markets and shops, and all kinds of temples. The City Palace is breath-taking as is the fairy-tale Lake Palace, which is built on an island in the middle of the lake. From the islands in the two lakes, you can rent a rowboat. You will have a good view over the place. The city is also a favorite wedding destination and attracts celebrities, including movie stars and politicians,

On our way to Jodhpur we stop at the formidable Chittorgarh Fort, beautifully situated on a hill. A steep zigzag road with seven gates leads you there. In Jodhpur, we visit the impressive Mehrangarh fort and busy market place. From the fort you have a nice view of the blue district, where the Brahmins live. In



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In addition, the old center of the market recognizable by the bell tower deserves a visit. At one of the many bazaars, including the Sadar Bazaar, you can indulge your desire to shop in the numerous, often tiny, dark shops and workshops, the Rajasthani traditionally make their attractive handicraft products.

We sleep in the 18th century castle of Jhalamand, just outside the bustle of the city. From here you can visit the traditional Bishnoi villages, where time seems to have stood still.

Atmospheric Bijaynagar & Bikaner

Day 9. Jodhpur - Phulad - train to Kamalighat - Bijaynagar

Day 10. Bijaynagar - Deshnok temple - Bikaner

Day 11. Bikaner

A train ride takes us to the authentic Bijaynagar, where time seems to have stood still. We spend the night in a charming palace, where the friendly owners warmly welcome you. Towards the evening we make a ride on an ox cart to get to know the Indian countryside.

Before we arrive in Bikaner, a city along the old caravan route, we can visit the Karni Mata temple in Deshnok. Those who are afraid of rats can choose to skip this 'rat temple', because there are many dozens of these 'sacred' creatures walking around. We have plenty of time to view the impressive desert city of Bikaner. The atmospheric old walled area has many markets, temples and havelis, the characteristic merchant houses. The proud residents are colorfully dressed. The main attraction of Bikaner is the Junagarh fort, built from pink-red sandstone, with a fortress wall of almost one kilometer long.

Jaipur, the pink city

Day 12. Bikaner - Pushkar - Jaipur

Day 13. Jaipur, visit Amber Fort

Day 14. Jaipur - Delhi

Day 15. Delhi – Program ends

Jaipur is also called the "pink city", because of the color of the sandstone where the houses and city walls are built. Prior to a visit by a British prince, the then Maharaja ordered that all houses and buildings in the center be dyed pink; around that time pink was the color of hospitality. In the center are the famous Palace of Winds (Hawa Mahal) and the Museum of the Maharaja. The Hawa Mahal Winds, with its small 1,000 richly decorated windows, is the most characteristic building of Jaipur. Outside the city you will find the Amber Fort a famous castle from the 16th century. Here you can wander through the various rooms where royal families used to live in luxury. In the heart of the city lies the royal palace, now a museum, and the well-preserved observatory from the 18th century. On our way back to Delhi we make a stop in Sikandra at the mausoleum of the great Moghul ruler, Akbar, whose legacy we have often observed on this trip.

You leave India with a wealth of impressions.



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Practical information

Accommodations & Meals

Our hotels are a pleasant resting point in the busy Indian street life. We spend the night in centrally located tourist class hotels, where rooms are reserved with air conditioning, shower and toilet. The hotels often have a good restaurant. Some hotels have a swimming pool.

You can feel like a Maharaja in our accommodations in Karauli, Bundi, Jodhpur, Jaipur, Bijaynagar and Bikaner, where we spend the night in atmospheric fortresses, palaces and havelis (richly decorated merchants' houses).

Delhi	Metro Heights
Agra	Hotel Amar
Karauli	Bhanwar Vilas Palace
Bundi	Ishwari Niwas Palace
Udaipur	Paras Mahal
Jodhpur	Jhalamand Garh
Bijaynagar	Bijay Niwas Palace
Bikaner	Hotel Bhairon Vilas
Jaipur	Bissau Palace

Single room

Individual travelers are, matched with other single travelers of the same sex. If you wish to have a single room, you can request on your booking form. Our rates are reasonable. You can find the costs in our Cost Summary section.

Extension Hotel

When the land program begins early in the A.M. we recommend that you book an extension hotel night so that you will be well-rested and available for the WELCOME meeting and first activity.

Meals

Meals are not included in the fare in India. The advantage of this is that you, or a number of others,



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can look for a restaurant or restaurant of your choice. You can get an excellent Indian meal in our hotels and other restaurants.

Indian cuisine, with lots of different curries, is world famous and delicious. In Rajasthan you could order a so-called thali. Thali means plate in Hindi. On this you will find a large variety of dishes combined with rice and bread. A delicious cooling snack is the lassi, a yogurt drink, sometimes mixed with fruit.

NB: Many hotels in India organize a special party dinner on Christmas and New Year's Eve with entertainment for hotel guests. A compulsory supplement is usually levied for this, regardless of whether or not you participate in this dinner. The amount of this allowance can be as high as \$40 per person.

Flights & Transportation

Scheduling Your Flights

We provide your land program. You will need to organize your own international flight.

As most travelers will arrive from the Netherlands, our program start and end dates are built around their arrival and departure times. Please schedule your flight to arrive prior the Dutch participants so that you will not miss any portion of the program.

For most trips, Dutch participants will arrive at . Arrive 2:45 PM

For most trips, Dutch participants will arrive at . Depart 11 AM

Please check with our office to confirm their flight times before you book your own flights.

NOTE: Do not book your flight until you receive an email confirmation of with the current itinerary and confirmation stating that we have reached sufficient enrollment for a trip to go. We are typically safe with 10 for a "GO". You can follow the enrollment postings on the website Dates & Prices page.

Please send us a copy of your flight. This way the tour leader can track your arrival.

Transport

We use our own bus throughout the journey. Traveling with own transport has the advantage, especially during a long travel day, that we can regularly stop in the villages and places we drive through, for example to visit a local market or other attractions. The buses have air conditioning



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throughout the year.

A domestic flight takes you from Mumbai to Udaipur and from Varanasi to Delhi. We bridge the Agra - Varanasi route with a night train in which we have reserved seats in air-conditioned sleeping compartments. Sheets and pillows are provided.

The cities are best explored on foot. Of course you can also use the famous bicycle or motor rickshaw for the longer distances. It is possible to rent a bicycle in some places.

Money Matters

In India and Nepal the rupee is the local currency. Look for the current exchange rates on oanda.com.

ATM: available in many cities, both in India and in Nepal.

Cash: euros or U.S. dollars accepted in small denominations. Bring newer, undamaged bills (10 years old or less)

Credit card: usable in different places.

Out of Pocket Expenses -You should budget for expenses that are not included in the fare, such as meals, entrance fees, optional excursions and personal expenses. (See Costs Overview)

Tips

It is customary to give tips for services rendered. In order to avoid having to always dispose of tips, a tip jar is set up at the beginning of the trip, from which the (joint) tips are paid to the drivers, guides, hotel staff, etc. The amount of the tip pot depends on the group size and length of the trip. The amount per person is usually \$25-\$30 for shorter trips and \$40-\$50- for longer trips. This does not include a tip for your tour leader. Tipping your tour leader is appreciated. The amount is at your discretion. (See Costs Overview)

Payment Schedule

- Deposit is due upon booking to hold your place
- 20% of total costs due (or \$500 minimum)
- Payments by charge card or check accepted
- Balance is due 60 days prior to departure date.

While you are traveling



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Local Currency: Indian Rupee
Other currency accepted: Dollars in small denominations
ATMs: Available in major cities
Charge Cards: Accepted in major cities

Excursions

The tour leader will plan many group excursions however Djoser trips allow for plenty of personal freedom. One person may prefer to roam over the market in Delhi or Kathmandu in search of bargains, while another wants to look around at a museum, the Red Fort, the Taj Mahal, or settle on a roof terrace to enjoy a drink and watch the daily life. In most cases you can go on your own or with fellow travelers, with or without help from our tour guide, on foot or with local transport. Admission fees are therefore not included in the fare, so you are free to choice, according to your personal preferences.

Some places of interest should not be missed or they are difficult to reach or are 'en route' to our next place of accommodation. Such excursions are included in the program. The admission fees are additional. You can find the estimated out-of-pocket expenses summarized in the Cost Overview (Dates & Prices section).

During this trip through India, the following excursions are included in the itinerary:

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- Excursion Mehrangarh fort. The impressive fort towers high above Jodhpur and lies on a major trade route from the 15th and 16th centuries.
- Excursion Amber fort. The fort is the former residence of the Moghul Ruler Jai Singh I and has 4 courtyards, on different levels.

On the way our bus stops at a number of places, for which you only have to pay any entrance fees to enter:

- Fatehpur Sikri, the completely deserted 16th century capital of the Moghul Empire, we visit on our way to Agra.
- Bijolia, this town is known for the temples from the eleventh and twelfth century. The richly decorated Undeshwar Temple is the most famous sanctuary.
- We stop at the formidable Chittogarh Fort, beautifully situated on a steep hill, on the way to Udaipur.
- Via Ranakpur we drive to Udaipur. Here we visit one of the most impressive Jain temples in India.



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Jainism has been important to Indian culture from the beginning.

- In Deshnoke we can visit the Karni Mata temple, also called the "Rat Temple".

During the trip, other excursions are possible that are certainly worthwhile. A visit to a Bollywood film in Jaipur is quite an experience. In Agra, go to one of the highlights of this trip, the Taj Mahal. Agra fort is also worth a visit. In the charming town of Bundi are the Baori's, deep wells flanked by steep stairs, an attraction in itself.

Travel Documents

For U.S. citizens.

- Passport, which is valid for at least six months after departure from each country.
- India - Visa (you can fill in e-visa online). We will provide you with needed information to complete this form. (DOUBLE ENTRY / 60 days)

Please verify your visa requirements on the appropriate embassy site for the country of your residence. Visa requirements can change. We will update you regarding requirements when you book your trip.

Health Issues & Insurance

Health - Check for the Center for Disease Control – Travelers information for recommendations. Keep in mind that they may recommend an inoculation or medication such as malaria pills, which may be necessary for one specific part of a country but not another, or for a particular season. Shots are expensive. Make sure to get only what is needed. We recommend asking your doctor for a prescription to combat a more serious intestinal disorder.

When you book a trip we will provide you with information regarding the usual recommendations for the region we will visit. You will be responsible to check with your travel clinic or physician to review your plans and to find out the most up-to-date recommendations and needs for your particular situation. Plan to get your inoculations four to six weeks in advance of your trip. Some offices may need to preorder the medicines so call in advance. It is wise to pay careful attention to what you eat. Also, we recommend you bring medicines such as pain-killer and for remedy for intestinal disorders (such as immodium). Bring a small first aid kit. Tweezers, band-aids, antiseptic cream, insect repellent, salt rehydration tablets. The tour leader will have a first aid kit.

Climate and altitude changes can sometimes cause illness. Be sure to drink plenty of water. Bottled



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water is readily available. Excessive alcohol intake contributes to dehydration and makes you more vulnerable to illness. Make sure that you get plenty of rest and enough food and drink during the trip.

Most people are recommended to get

- DTP vaccinations, typhoid and hepatitis A
- Malaria tablets

Insurance - For peace of mind, we recommend that you procure travel insurance. In the event of an illness or injury, an emergency evacuation can be incredibly expensive and you would want access to the best possible facility. Also, lost baggage or missed flights can mean added expenses. Even events at home may prevent you from taking a trip, such as a lost job or ailing family member. It is important to get travel insurance immediately after booking. Most companies have a brief window (within 10 days of booking) for coverage for a preexisting condition. You will be asked to provide us with travel insurance contact information before your departure.

You are free to choose your own provider. Over the years, we have recommended TRAVELEX for U.S. clients. They offer a variety of plans and most importantly, they are responsive. Should you choose to go with TRAVELEX, you will contact them directly and the cost of your coverage will depend on the plan you choose. The cost will be based over the total cost of your trip and flights, and the amount is also subject to your age. Ask about the TRAVEL PLUS plan and the more economical TRAVEL LITE plan. * Arrange for insurance immediately after booking your trip so that you are covered for any pre-existing situation. TRAVELEX 1-800-228-9792

Group Composition

Djoser travelers are active, enthusiastic travelers of all ages. Join an international group with travelers from the Netherlands, Belgium and North America, who will be the minority group on these trips. Most of our trips range from a minimum of eight participants to a maximum of 20 or 22. You will find couples and singles on our trips. Feel free to call us if you wish to know the demographic make-up of a particular trip (number of singles and age range).

Minimum group size: 10
Maximum group size: 20

What to expect when traveling with an international group - Djoser, Inc. (in the United States office) has offered tours in the region since 1998. Our group trips are arranged in cooperation with Djoser, B.V. (in the Netherlands). Because they cater to the voracious travel appetites of the Dutch, we can offer a vast number of programs around the world with hard-to-find itineraries, with numerous departure dates.

On Djoser's India and Nepal group tour you will travel with an international group, with most



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participants from Holland and Belgium. The international make-up of our groups is the attraction for many regular Djoser travelers and adds another cultural element to the trip. Typically, there are only one to five North Americans per group. You will find that almost all of your fellow travelers have an excellent command of English and will be very willing to socialize.

But we find that extending an invite to a couple of fellow travelers for a coffee or beer creates a good environment for them to brush up on rusty English skills. Group members tend to warm up to one another in a day or two. As with every tour group, compatibility has most to do with individual personalities.

Djoser clients are active travelers of all ages and we enjoy the mix! You will find our participants welcome opportunities for independent explorations in addition to group activities.

The Dutch and Belgian travelers will fly as a group from Amsterdam. You will meet the group and tour leader at the hotel. Your tour leader will contact you to let you know when and where to meet the group for the first group meeting in the hotel. At the group meeting, the tour leader will make introductions and give everyone the nuts and bolts of the upcoming days. He or she will conduct this meeting in Dutch and English. The tour leader will arrange some one-on-one time to go over some details with you, in English, and will make sure you have the the necessary information for the days to come.

Tour Leaders & Support Staff

Our trips will be guided by an experienced Dutch guide who speaks Dutch and English. He or she will be responsible for the organizational and technical aspects of the trip. He/she coordinates with the driver, hotels, and other vendors along the way. The tour leader has extensive travel experience and expertise as well as a comprehensive training.

Your guide will address the group in Dutch and English. The guide is a logistics coordinator (not a lecturer) and will take care that you get all the important information. They ensure that the trip runs smoothly and are the point of contact for questions and wishes. Their own passion, combined with extensive training and induction procedure, forms the basis for their expertise and professionalism.

Land Representatives

Our experienced land representatives are situated in the destination country you will visit. Most of our land representatives have worked with us for twenty years or more. We work closely with them and they function as the liaison between our office, the guide, drivers and hotels. They are also available in the case of an emergency and their number will be provided on your emergency contact list.

Climate & Geography

In North India, weather conditions are highly dependent on the season. In the autumn (September to



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November) and spring (February to April) the temperatures are particularly pleasant, both during the day and at night. In the winter (December and January) it is warm during the day, while it can cool off considerably in the evening and at night. The summer can be quite warm throughout India, with temperatures reaching above 95 ° F. In

Our trips are organized with weather conditions in mind. On our website, we will provide you with a weather summary of the region: Check temperature and rainfall for specific cities on your trip, during your month of travel at [worldweather.org](http://www.worldweather.org) (<http://www.worldweather.org>)