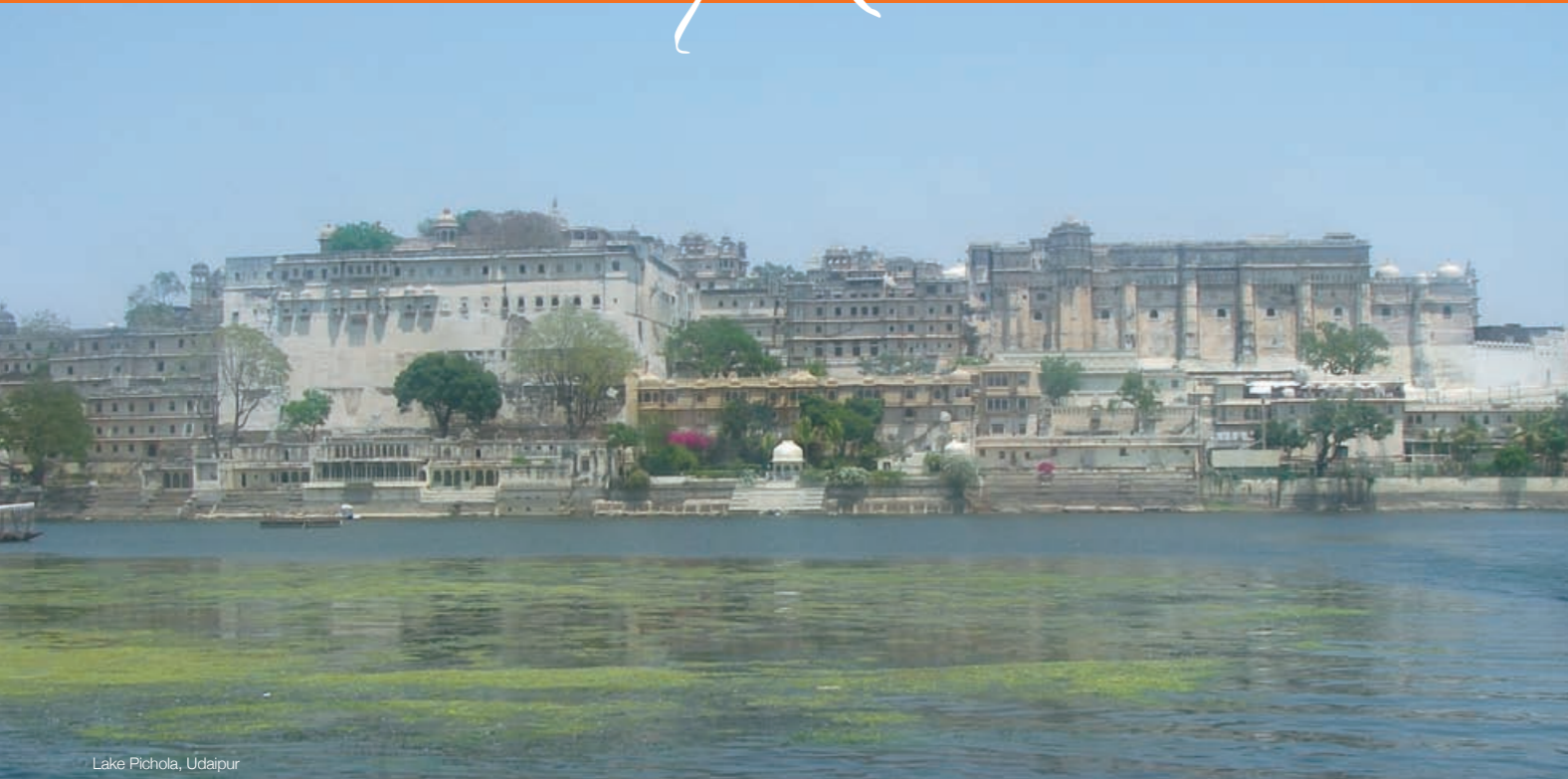


Colours of Rural India



Lake Pichola, Udaipur

From \$4,690 – 17 days. Fully inclusive from Australia

From Mumbai through the rural developments and colourful scenes of Rajasthan to Agra and the exquisite architecture of the Taj Mahal this tour showcases India in all her glory.

Day 1: Australia to Mumbai (Bombay)

Fly with Singapore Airlines to Mumbai. Upon arrival we will be welcomed and escorted to our hotel for overnight stay.

Day 2: Mumbai

Today we tour the city of Mumbai. Drive past the Gateway of India and along Marine Drive. Also visit Prince of Wales Museum and Mani Bhawan Gandhi museum. Stop at the 'Dhobi Ghats', where Mumbai's 'dirties' are scrubbed, bashed, dyed and hung out to dry, and visit the colourful Chor Bazaar (Thieves' market), flanked by rows of antique shops selling just about anything.

Day 3: Mumbai to Aurangabad

Catch an early morning train to Aurangabad located on the banks of river Sabarmati and named after Sultan Ahmed Shah, who was primarily responsible for building it. Aurangabad is dotted with labyrinthine by-lanes called 'polls'. This afternoon embark on a short excursion to Ellora caves dating from the 5th century AD to 11th century AD.

Day 4: Aurangabad

After an early breakfast drive to Ajanta Caves, one of India's most impressive archeological sites. Here Buddhist art attained the peak of its development, in frescoes and wall paintings revealing a fascinating lifestyle.

Carved out of horse shoe-shaped rocks over a period of 900 years, Ajanta Caves is dated back to the 3rd century. Later enjoy a city tour of Aurangabad.

Day 5: Aurangabad to Udaipur

This morning we fly to Udaipur, the capital of Mewar. A romantic and serene city, Udaipur nestles in the scenic valley of Aravalli hills, surrounded by three lakes – Lake Pichola, Fateh Sagar and Udai Sagar. Visit the City Palace and Mewar Art Gallery. Later enjoy an evening cruise on Lake Pichola.

Day 6: Udaipur to Rohet

Drive through valleys in the remote and peaceful Aravalli Range to Ranakpur, home



to the largest Jain temple complex in India. This marble complex is noted for the 29 halls supported by 1,444 pillars, each adorned with hundreds of carved figures, no two alike. Continue north to Rohet, our next stop in the deserts of Rajasthan.

Day 7: Rohet to Jodhpur

A jeep safari this morning will take us to a local Bishnoi village, where we meet Raikas shepherds, Brahmin farmers and weavers. Later we drive to Jodhpur, an oasis in the arid Thar Desert and the second largest city in Rajasthan. This afternoon visit Mehrangarh Fort, one of the most impressive complexes in Rajasthan, followed by the museum located in the Umaid Bhawan Palace and Jaswant Thada, the white marble memorial of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II.

Day 8: Jodhpur to Jaisalmer

After breakfast we drive to Jaisalmer dubbed the 'Gold City'. This desert fort city is one of Rajasthan's most exotic and unusual towns. Enjoy a late afternoon tour of Jaisalmer. See the fort built by Rawal Jaisal in the 12th century atop the 80m high Trikuta Hill. Within the fort there are beautifully carved Jain temples and the Badal Vilas Palace. Tour the famous Havelis (mansions) known for their frescoes.

Day 9: Jaisalmer/Camel Safari / Desert Camp

Today start a one night camel safari into the sand dunes of Rajasthan. Like nomadic medieval travelers you will take your caravan into the heart of the arid desert, passing through local villages and seeing local wildlife. Tonight camp in the sand dunes and enjoy dinner and folk music at the camp.

Day 10: Desert Camp to Bikaner

Enjoy breakfast with sunrise views at the sand dunes. Leave for a drive to Bikaner, once a major trading post between Africa, West Asia and the Far East. The city is renowned for its arts and the best riding camels in the world. Enjoy a horse-cart ride to the old town where we visit many beautiful buildings and the majestic Junagarh Fort, a formidable structure encircled by a moat.

Day 11: Bikaner to Mandawa

This morning drive to Rajasthan's Open Art Gallery, Shekhawati and stay in Mandawa at a mud cottage (The Desert Resort) which captures the mystery and romance of the desert in its unusual architecture. This afternoon explore Mandawa and visit the unique haveli's of the region. Later enjoy a dip in the resorts swimming pool in the midst of the open arid desert.

Day 12: Mandawa to Jaipur

Leaving Mandawa we continue on to Jaipur, known for ancient forts and palaces and known as the 'Pink City'. En route visit Bagru village to see the traditional Rajasthani printing process. This afternoon visit the Jaipur City Palace and Jantar Mantar, the ancient astronomical observatory. This evening enjoy the Aarti ceremony at Lakshmi Narayan Temple.

Day 13: Jaipur

Start the day with an exciting excursion to the Amber Fort on elephant back! Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), Jagmandir and Hall of Victory before returning to the city via the Jal Mahal. Visit gem and carpet weaving factories then haggle for souvenirs in colorful crowded lanes and by-lanes of Jaipur.

Day 14: Jaipur to Agra

We drive to Agra stopping en route at Fatehpur Sikri, a fortified ghost city. Agra arose to fame in the medieval period as the capital of the Moghul Empire and was beautified with gardens, waterfalls, bathhouses and canals. In modern times the city still supports thriving handicraft industries. View the Taj Mahal in all its glory. Visit the red sandstone Agra Fort which stands like a crescent on the banks of Jamuna River. Enjoy the evening at leisure around the Taj Mahal.

Day 15: Agra to Delhi

After breakfast drive to the Indian capital city of New Delhi. Visit Sikandra en route, the tomb of the great Moghul Emperor Akbar.



After lunch marvel at Qutab Minar complex, Humayun's Tomb, Gurudwara Bangla Sahib and India Gate (a War Memorial Arch) after drive past the President's Palace, the Parliament House and other Government Secretariat Buildings.

Day 16: Departure Delhi

Enjoy a morning sightseeing tour of Old Delhi. Visit Jama Masjid (India's largest mosque) and Raj Ghat (the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi). Also drive past the Red Fort and 'Chandni Chowk' (the silver street of Delhi). Later transfer to Delhi International airport to board our flight home.

Day 17: Australia

Arrival home in Australia

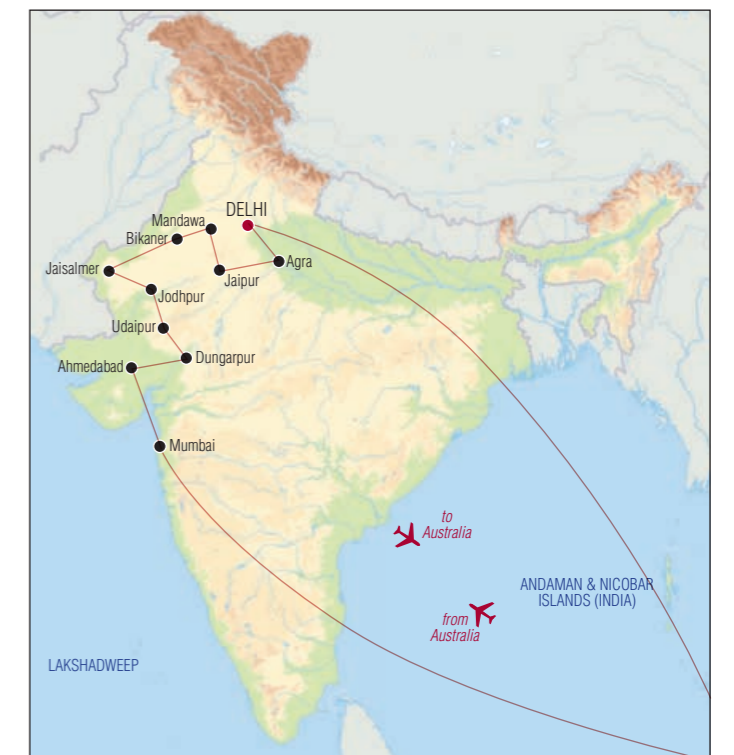
Tour Facts

- Medium Paced Tour – Ideal for those seeking to explore the rural developments and colourful scenes of Central and Northern India.
- Order of events, sightseeing may vary according to local conditions
- All tours are guaranteed at the listed price with a National Escort subject to a minimum of 10 people traveling together

Inclusions

- International airfares, all transportation in India, all meals, entrance fees, guides, daily tours, visa fee for Australian passport holders.

Tour Code	Depart Australia (Fri)	Arrive Australia (Sun)	Twin Share Price
		2009	
I9601	03 April	19 April	\$4,690
I9602	16 October	01 November	\$5,360
I9603	06 November	22 November	\$5,360
		2010	
I9601	05 February	22 February	\$5220
I9602	26 February	15 March	\$5220



Price Guide:

17 Days, Fully inclusive Twin Share. Fly with Singapore Airlines or Thai Airways. From \$4,690 per person – Departing Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Perth Single Supplement – From \$910. Land Only from \$3,690 Airline Depart taxes and fuel surcharge are not included Option: Price start from \$380 per person twin share for a 3 Day/2 Night stopover in Singapore or Bangkok