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# MAHARAJA EXPRESS

## “INDIAN SPLENDOUR”

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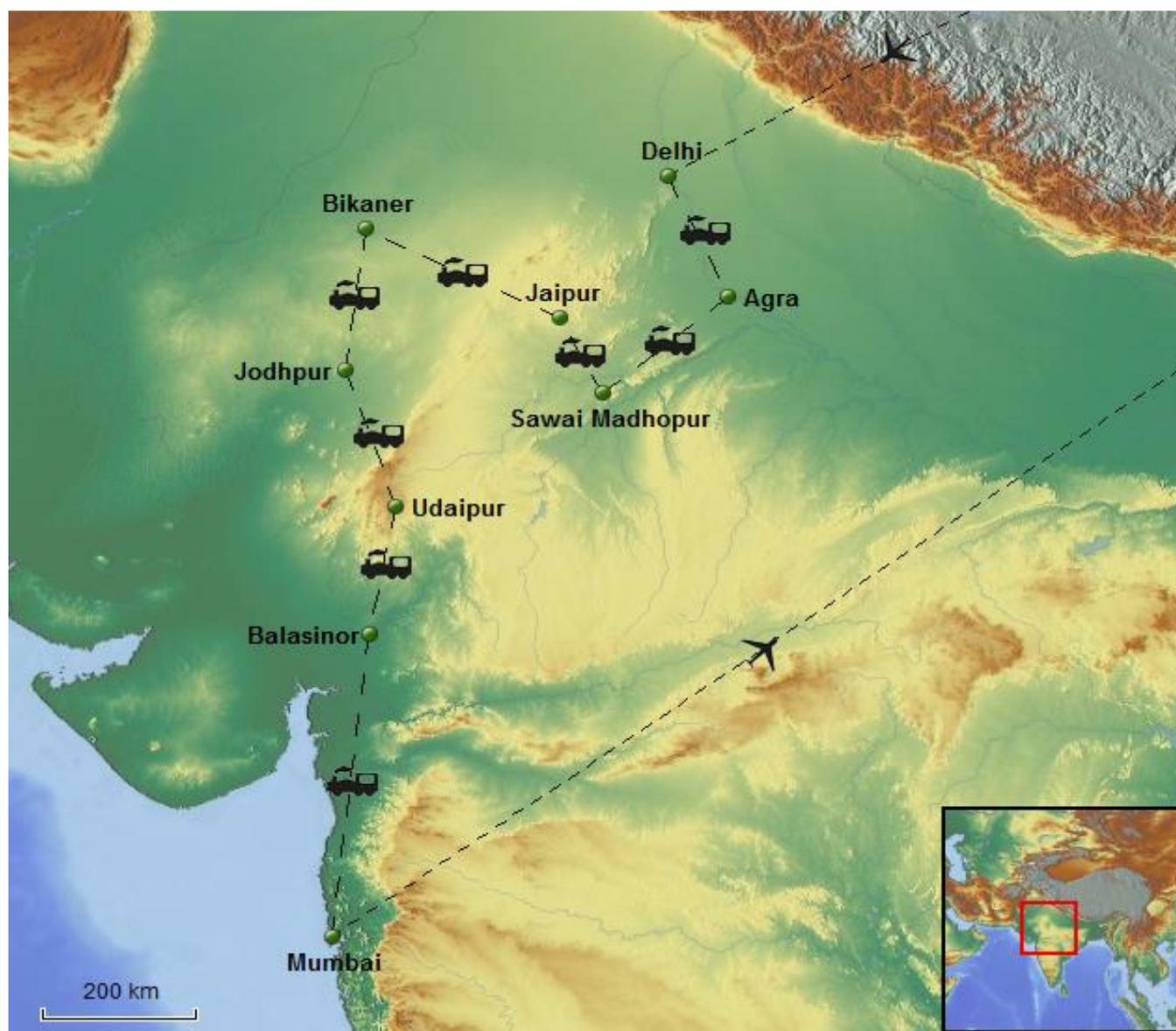
*Over a billion people, several hundred dialects, 29 states, and a cultural diversity that baffles the mind and cannot be put in words...Each of India's states - and the uncountable villages within- has a distinct history, cultural markers and allure. It is a land of a thousand untold stories.*



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

## **ROUTE MAP**

Route: Delhi – Agra – Sawai Madhopur – Jaipur – Bikaner – Jodhpur – Udaipur – Balasinor – Mumbai





*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

## ITINERARY

### Day 01:

### ARRIVE DELHI

### BY FLIGHT

Arrive at Delhi. You will be met and assisted by a Secrets of India's representative who shall handover your travel documents and transfer you to train station to complete the check-in formalities. .

This fascinating city has been in existence since the 6th century BC and has seen ups and downs from the rule of the Pandavas right up to the British Raj. Delhi is not only the metropolis of India but also the museum of its past. Because of its location on the banks of the river Yamuna, many cities have risen and fallen here over the last five millennia; many dynasties ruled from there and the city is rich in the architecture of its monuments.

Dinner will be served on-board in comfort of the Maharajas' Express.

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Dinner

### Day 02:

### AGRA

### BY TRAIN

Arrive into Agra; which is believed to have been founded in 1504 by Sultan Sikander Lodi, but flourished later under the Mughal Empire

Start with a visit to Taj Mahal ... a mausoleum built as a symbol Emperor Shah Jehan's devotion to his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal. Considered an architectural marvel, its construction took thousands of workers over 21 years to complete. A pure white marble structure, Taj acquires different shades at different times of the day.

Breakfast is organized and served at Taj Khema post, which return to comforts of Maharajas' Express and enjoy lunch on board.

Later visit the Red Fort, commissioned in 1565 by Akbar, and subsequently embellished by other Mughal Emperors. Shah Jahan, a great builder, raised exquisite white marble palaces here. He also built three white marble mosques inside: Moti-Masjid, Nagina-Masjid and Mina-Masjid. The beautiful yet forbidding structure is a handsome example of Mughal architecture.

Return back to the

Dinner will be served on-board in comfort of the Maharajas' Express, later depart for Sawai Madhopur

**Overnight:** Train  
**Meals Included:** Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

### Day 03:

### SAWAI MADHO PUR - JAIPUR

### BY TRAIN

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car.



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One can almost sense a life of the wilderness, as the Maharaja Express arrives in SawaiMadhopur, a city named after its founder Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh I. Ranthambore - one of India's largest national parks at 1,334 square kilometers, and probably it's most famed and favorite of wildlife photographers.

Once the hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur, the park gained celebrity status during the 1960s when Queen Elizabeth II visited and Prince Philip shot a tiger here. The park introduced protection for tigers from hunters in 1973 and is now one of the best tiger reserves in India. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1957 and habitat is predominantly dry deciduous forest.

One of the most interesting features of the park is that it's dotted with ancient ruins, including a fort where tigers and leopards are often spotted.

Apart from tigers, the park is home to leopards, jungle cats, sloth bears, hyenas, Indian foxes, jackals and crocodiles.

After the game drive, a safari canter will take you back to Maharaja Express for breakfast on board

Maharaja Express will depart for Jaipur, one of the well planned cities of the world of its time. This capital city of Rajasthan, popularly known as the Pink City, was founded by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II.

Lunch will be served on-board

To explore the city, an air-conditioned coach takes you to Jantar Mantar & Amber Fort.

Your first stop at the Jantar Mantar, the largest observatory built by the Sawai Jai Singh II, comprising geometric devices for measuring time. Later visit Amber Fort, a fascinating blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture. The best way to explore the fort is to ride up to it on elephant back.

Visit the City Palace... again, a synthesis of Rajasthani and Mughal styles followed by dinner.

Return to the comforts of Maharajas' Express and the Maharajas' Express leaves for Bikaner

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

**Day 04:**

**BIKANER**

**BY TRAIN**

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car.

Arrive into Bikaner...if ever beauty has bloomed in a desert, it has been at Bikaner. Founded in 1488 AD by Rao Bika Ji, Bikaner comprises imposing palaces and beautiful, richly sculptured temples of red and yellow sandstone.

Lunch on board.



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

Post lunch, Visit Junagadh Fort... an unassailable fortress, it never been conquered. Built in 1593 A.D. by Raja Rai Singh, one of the most distinguished generals in the army of Emperor Akbar, the fort is a formidable structure encircled by a moat. Inside the fort are some magnificent palaces like Anup Mahal, Ganga Niwas and Rang Mahal or palace of pleasure.

From Junagarh Fort Proceed for Sundowners at the Sand Dunes. En-route, tea break at Gajner Palace

Arrive at the sand dunes followed by cocktails, barbeque and folk dances.

Later return to the comforts of the Maharajas' Express.

The Maharajas' Express departs for Jodhpur

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

#### **Day 05:**

#### **JODHUR**

#### **BY TRAIN**

Breakfast on board as you arrive into Jodhpur, which is the second largest city in Rajasthan and also called the 'Sun City'.

Relax on-board and enjoy your lunch on board.

Post Lunch, visit the Mehrangarh Fort followed by walking tour of the Old Clock Tower Market. Mehrangarh Fort - This spectacular fort made from red sandstone stands on a perpendicular cliff above the skyline of Jodhpur. The foundations of this fort were laid in 1459; today it houses a museum with a fine collection of arms, costumes, paintings and even a collection of palanquins.

Later, enjoy a joy ride on Tuk-tuks. Proceed for an exclusive Royal cocktail evening with cultural performance (puppet show) at Hanwant Mahal

Return to the comforts of the Maharajas' Express and traindepart for Udaipur

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

#### **Day 06:**

#### **UDAIPUR**

#### **BY TRAIN**

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car

Arrive into Udaipur, which is considered to be one of India's most lovely locales and is a medieval town. Set on the shores of Lake Pichola and surrounded by hills, Udaipur grew in complete contrast to the harsh deserts of the rest of Rajasthan.

Enjoy boat cruise in Lake Pichola, which is an artificial fresh water lake, created in the year 1362 AD - The picturesque boat ride on Lake Pichola not only provides the best scenic view of the lake and the mountains in the city, but also presents some of the most important historical monuments, fine havelis, temples and palaces, including the City Palace dotted along the lakeside.



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

Later, visit the City Palace, standing on the east bank of Lake Pichola. The complex is a massive series of palaces built at different times from 1559. The balconies of the palace provide panoramic views of the Lake Palace Hotel and Jag Mandir on one side, and the city of Udaipur on the other. The paintings, mosaics, intricately carved 'chhatris' and the architecturally brilliant facade all contribute to making your visit to the City Palace a truly memorable experience.

Lunch at Satkar Hall of Fateh Prakash Palace, later return to the comforts of the Maharajas' Express

Dinner on board and depart for Balasinor.

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

**Day 07: BALASINOR BY TRAIN**

Breakfast on board as you arrive into Sevalia Railway Station.

Situated in the Kheda district of the West Indian state of Gujarat, Balasinor is a small town. Also known as Vadasinor, it was established during the 18th century. To be precise, this former princely state of Nawab Babi or Yusuzai Pathan Dynasty, was created from the Babis of Junagadh.

Proceed for Dinosaur Fossil Park - Referred to as the India's Jurassic Park, Balasinor Fossil Park is located in Raiyoli village. Developed by the Government Tourism, Raiyoli Dinosaur Fossil Excavation Site contains fossilized bones, eggs etc. of around 13 different species of Dinosaurs.

Continue, village walking tour and Garden Palace, Balasinor

Witness the welcome at Garden Palace followed by lunch hosted by the Royal Family of Balasinor.

Return to the comforts of the Maharajas' Express

Enjoy an "Indian Evening" on board followed by dinner as train departs for Mumbai.

**Overnight: Train**  
**Meals Included: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner**

**Day 08: MUMBAI BY TRAIN**

Breakfast will be served in the restaurant car.

Disembark and bid farewell to the Maharajas' Express as your royal passage through the grand vistas of India comes to an end.

**Meals Included: Breakfast**

*Please note venue of meals & timings of sightseeing's would be subject to change as per Indian railways norms.*



*Between destinations... journey within and without...*

**Departure Dates (2016 - 2017) & (2017 - 2018)**

<b>Month (2016 - 2017)</b>	<b>Dates, Saturday</b>	
October 2016	15	N/A
November 2016	12	N/A
December 2016	10	N/A
January 2017	07	N/A
February 2017	04	N/A
March 2017	04	N/A
April 2017	01	N/A

<b>Month (2017 - 2018)</b>	<b>Dates, Saturday</b>	
September 2017	30	N/A
October 2017	28	N/A
November 2017	25	N/A
December 2017	23	N/A
January 2018	20	N/A
February 2018	17	N/A
March 2018	17	N/A

**Rates are available on request from Guidepost Rail Tours  
valid from Oct 2016 till Apr 2018**

**Inclusions**

- Accommodation in mention cabins with attached bath
- All meals including tea, coffee and mineral water
- Transport for sightseeing in deluxe coaches
- Monument entry fee to all palaces, museums & parks
- Cultural program followed by dinner at Jaipur
- English speaking guide
- Service tax of 4.50%

**Notes**

- 10% extra surcharge during Christmas and New Year departures
- Supplement will be applied for Christmas and New Year
- 10% of the tariff for the children up to 5 years of age
- Half fare for children between 5 to 12 years of age