



Cultural Rajasthan & Heritage Loop — Detailed Itinerary + Summary

Duration: 18 days / 17 nights

Route: New Delhi → Agra → Jaipur → Mandawa → Bikaner → Jaisalmer → Jodhpur → Udaipur → Mumbai

Style: Private / small-group friendly — a deep, relaxed exploration of North & West India: monuments, havelis, desert forts and city life.

Quick summary

This 18-day journey threads together India's most vivid cultural landscapes. Begin with Delhi's Old lanes and New-Delhi grandeur, stand before the Taj Mahal in Agra, then move into Rajasthan's royal world — Jaipur's palaces, Mandawa's frescoed havelis, Bikaner's desert citadel and Jaisalmer's living fort and sand dunes. Continue to Jodhpur's blue lanes and mighty Mehrangarh, unwind by Lake Pichola in romantic Udaipur, then fly to Mumbai for a metropolitan finale. The trip balances iconic sights with slower, local experiences: rickshaw rides, a cooking class/craft visit, desert camping and boat rides — all with private transfers, local guides and hand-picked hotels.

Detailed day-by-day itinerary (high-detail, descriptions & highlights)

Day 1 — Arrive New Delhi

Arrival, warm garland welcome and transfer to your hotel. Evening at leisure to rest or take a short walk in a safe neighborhood (Connaught Place / hotel area).

Why: Gentle introduction; recover from travel.

Day 2 — New Delhi

Full day exploring Old & New Delhi: rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk's narrow, spice-scented lanes; visit **Jama Masjid** and view **Red Fort**. In New Delhi see **India Gate**, **Rashtrapati Bhavan** (photo stop) and the UNESCO sites **Humayun's Tomb** and **Qutub Minar**.

Highlights: Rickshaw ride, spice market stroll, contrasting cityscapes and Mughal + colonial architecture.

Included experiences: English-speaking guide, monument entries, private transfers.



Day 3 Delhi → Agra

Drive or Shatabdi train to **Agra**. Check into hotel and relax. Late afternoon visit **Agra Fort** and nearby artisan workshops. Enjoy an evening view of the Taj from a garden or hotel vantage.

Why: Agra's concentrated Mughal legacy is a short hop from Delhi and makes a perfect cultural stop.

Day 4 Agra (Taj) → Jaipur

Visit the **Taj Mahal** at sunrise or sunset for iconic photography and a quieter experience. After breakfast depart for **Jaipur** (via Fatehpur Sikri if preferred), arriving in the Pink City by late afternoon.

Highlights: The Taj's changing light, marble inlay artisans, the Mughal story.

Day 5—Jaipur

Three full days in Jaipur to soak in Rajput grandeur and craft culture. Core visits include **Amber Fort** (jeep ascent; elephant ascent optional where responsibly available), **City Palace**, **Jantar Mantar** observatory and **Hawa Mahal** photo stop. Enjoy shopping in local bazaars for block-printed textiles, blue pottery and jewelry. Optional experiences: a hands-on **Jaipur cooking class**, a village visit to see craftspeople, or a traditional Rajasthani folk evening with music and dance.

Why: Jaipur is both photogenic and deeply artisanal — great for shopping and immersive cultural experiences.

Day 6 Jaipur → Mandawa

Drive to the Shekhawati region and check into Mandawa. This area is famous for its painted **havelis** (merchant mansions) decorated with frescoes and murals — an open-air gallery of Rajasthani folk art. Afternoon walking tour of Mandawa's lanes and haveli interiors.

Highlights: Fresco art, quiet village pace, excellent photography.



Day 7 Mandawa

Full day to explore nearby villages and havelis (Nawalgarh & Dundlod are common options). Meet local artisans, learn about fresco techniques and enjoy a relaxed evening in a heritage hotel courtyard.

Why: Mandawa offers a slower, intimate contrast to Jaipur's bustle — perfect for art lovers.

Day 08 Mandawa → Bikaner

Drive to **Bikaner**, a fortified desert town. Afternoon visit to **Junagarh Fort**, its palaces and courtyards. Explore the old city markets for camel leather goods and local snacks. Optional visit to a camel breeding farm or a short camel ride at sunset.

Highlights: Strong desert architecture, less-touristed fort, authentic Rajasthani cuisine.

Day 09 Bikaner

Day to visit local temples, the Lalgarh Palace (museum/architecture), and to enjoy more local markets. Evening at leisure or optional rural village visit.

Why: Bikaner is a window into desert life, with fewer crowds and genuine local character.

Day 10 Bikaner → Jaisalmer

Long scenic drive into deep Rajasthan to **Jaisalmer**, the golden city. Arrive and wander the towering **Jaisalmer Fort**, which still houses families, shops and temples within its walls.

Evening stroll through narrow lanes and rooftop views at sunset.

Highlight: A living fort — one of India's most atmospheric medieval towns.

Day 11 Jaisalmer

Two full days to explore: ornate **patwon ki haveli** and other carved merchants' mansions, local workshops, and the famous **Sam Sand Dunes** for a desert experience. Optional overnight desert camp with a sunset camel safari, folk music by the fire, and stargazing — an unforgettable highlight.

Why: Jaisalmer blends architecture, desert romance and rural hospitality.



Day 12 Jaisalmer → Jodhpur

Drive to **Jodhpur**, arriving at the “Blue City.” Afternoon orientation and time to stroll the old lanes. Sunset views of Mehrangarh Fort from the city.

Highlights: Blue-painted lanes, dramatic Mehrangarh perched on its rock.

Day 13 Jodhpur

Full day visiting **Mehrangarh Fort** (museum & ramparts), **Jaswant Thada** and the bustling **Sardar Market** near the clock tower. Optional visit to a local workshop for tie-dye or handicrafts. Evening at leisure.

Why: Jodhpur’s fort is one of Rajasthan’s grandest and the old city has great photography.

Day 14 Jodhpur → Udaipur

Drive south to the lakeside city of **Udaipur** — often called India’s most romantic city. Arrive and relax by Lake Pichola. Evening boat ride (subject to water levels) for city-palace reflections.

Highlights: Scenic drive, first view of Udaipur’s palaces from the water.

Days 15 Udaipur

Two full days in Udaipur to explore **City Palace**, **Saheliyon-ki-Bari**, **Jagdish Temple**, and the **Monsoon Palace** (sunset viewpoint). Enjoy a private boat cruise on Lake Pichola, and time for local arts, miniature painting demonstrations, or a cooking class with a local chef. Udaipur is a relaxed, romantic finale for Rajasthan.

Why: Lakeside palaces, quiet alleys and a gentle pace make Udaipur restorative.

Day 16 Udaipur → Mumbai (flight)

Transfer to Udaipur airport and fly to **Mumbai**. Arrive and transfer to hotel. Evening stroll along Marine Drive or a relaxed harbourfront dinner.

Logistics note: Flight recommended to save time; drive would be long.



Day 17 Mumbai

Two full days to experience India's commercial capital: **Gateway of India**, harbour cruise to **Elephanta Caves** (rock-cut temples), drive past **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus** (UNESCO), visit **Dhobi Ghat**, Kala Ghoda arts precinct and Colaba Causeway markets. Optional guided community/film-set style tour (ethical, educational) or contemporary food walk. Final evening farewell dinner.

Why: A contrast of colonial, cinematic and cosmopolitan India before departure.

Day 18 Mumbai — Departure (Tour ends)

Hotel check-out and transfer to Mumbai airport for your onward flight home, carrying wide-ranging cultural memories.

Trip Highlights (bulleted)

- Old & New Delhi contrasts + rickshaw ride in Chandni Chowk
- Sunrise/sunset Taj Mahal moments in Agra
- Frescoed havelis of Mandawa (Shekhawati)
- Desert citadels: Bikaner & Jaisalmer; Sam dunes overnight camp option
- Mehrangarh Fort & blue lanes of Jodhpur
- Romantic lakes & palaces of Udaipur with boat cruise on Lake Pichola
- Mumbai's colonial and contemporary highlights + Elephanta Caves

CITY NAME	HOTEL NAME
DELHI	PRIDE PLAZA/THE LALIT/ITC DWARKA OR SIMILAR
AGRA	COURTYARD OR SIMILAR
JAIPUR	NARAIN NIWAS OR SIMILAR
MANDAWA	ALSISAR MAHAL OR SIMILAR
BIKANER	NARENDER BHAWAN OR SIMILAR
JAISALMER	HOTEL WELCOMHERITAGE MANDIR PALACE OR SIMILAR
KHURI	MAMA RESORT OR SIMILAR
JODHPUR	THE UMMED JODHPUR, PALACE RESORT AND SPA OR SIMILAR
UDAIPUR	JAGAT NIWAS PALACE OR SIMILAR
MUMBAI	NOVOTEL JUHU OR SIMILAR

Included (typical, ready to use for client docs)

- 17 nights' accommodation in hand-picked hotels (B&B unless otherwise specified)
- Private chauffeur-driven air-conditioned vehicle for all road transfers & sightseeing segments (as per program)
- Domestic flight Udaipur → Mumbai (recommended & included) — other flights on request
- Professional English-speaking local guides for city tours (where indicated)
- Monument entrance fees as listed (Mehrangarh, Amber Fort, Taj Mahal, Elephanta ferry)
- Old Delhi rickshaw ride and Mandawa haveli visits
- Shared jeep / local desert activities in Jaisalmer (camel ride & dune camp optional add-on)
- Airport meet & greets and transfers on arrival and departure
- All local taxes and service charges

Not included / optional extras

- International airfares, visas, travel insurance, gratuities, meals not specified, personal expenses
- Camel safari overnight camp (recommended add-on), private cultural performances, cooking classes (can be added), internal flights other than Udaipur→Mumbai unless requested

Practical notes & travel tips

- **Duration & pace:** 18 days gives time to absorb each region; several long drives (Bikaner→Jaisalmer, Jodhpur→Udaipur) are scenic but can be full-day — domestic flights are recommended where feasible.
- **Approximate road times (estimates):** Delhi→Agra ~3–4 hrs (train option available); Agra→Jaipur ~4–5 hrs; Jaipur→Mandawa ~3–4 hrs; Mandawa→Bikaner ~3–4 hrs; Bikaner→Jaisalmer ~5–6 hrs; Jaisalmer→Jodhpur ~4–5 hrs; Jodhpur→Udaipur ~5–6 hrs. (Exact times vary by route & stops.)



- **Best time to travel: October – March** (cooler days, festival season). Avoid extreme heat months of April–June; monsoon (June–September) brings rain in parts of the route.
- **Clothing & packing:** Layers for cool desert nights; comfortable walking shoes; modest clothing for temple visits; sun hat and sunscreen for daytime excursions.
- **Accessibility:** Many forts & havelis have steps; discuss mobility needs in advance for vehicle and guide adjustments.

Who this trip is ideal for

Travelers who want an immersive, comprehensive Rajasthan and Heritage experience — culture lovers, photographers, families, multi-generation groups and repeat visitors who want deeper regional flavor beyond the Golden Triangle.
