GRAND GUJARAT & RAJASTHAN

DETAILED ITINERARY

Oct 19/26

Few places offer the rich contrasts and deep heritage that we will discover on this journey through Gujarat and Rajasthan, two of India's most captivating regions. From the bustling streets of Ahmedabad, India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, to the vast, sparkling salt plains of the Rann of Kutch, this itinerary blends vibrant city life, ancient history, and breathtaking natural beauty.

We begin in Ahmedabad, exploring historic stepwells, tranquil riverfronts, and the enduring legacy of Mahatma Gandhi. As we travel through Gujarat, we visit impressive forts, ancient Indus Valley sites, and sacred temples, discovering the diverse cultures and crafts that define this part of India. Wildlife lovers will delight in the chance to spot Asiatic lions in Gir National Park and rare wild asses in the Little Rann of Kutch, while cultural experiences, including colorful folk dances and artisan villages, bring the region's traditions vividly to life.

FACTS & HIGHLIGHTS

• 23 land days • Maximum 16 travelers (minimum 8) • Start in Ahmedabad and finish in New Delhi • All meals included • Includes 1 internal flight • Explore Ahmedabad, India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, rich in history and culture • Discover ancient stepwells and important temples in Gujarat • Spot the majestic Asiatic lions on a safari in Gir National Park • Experience the white salt plains of the Rann of Kutch and vibrant local festivals. • Wander through artisan villages and witness traditional crafts passed down for generations • Visit Bera, famously known as the "Leopard Capital of India." • Marvel at the romantic palaces and shimmering lakes of Udaipur, the "City of Lakes." • Explore the Blue City of Jodhpur with its famous fort and lively markets • Journey to Jaisalmer, the Golden City, and enjoy a desert camel ride at sunset

DEPARTURE DATES & PRICE

Jan 13 - Feb 04, 2027 - $9495 USD

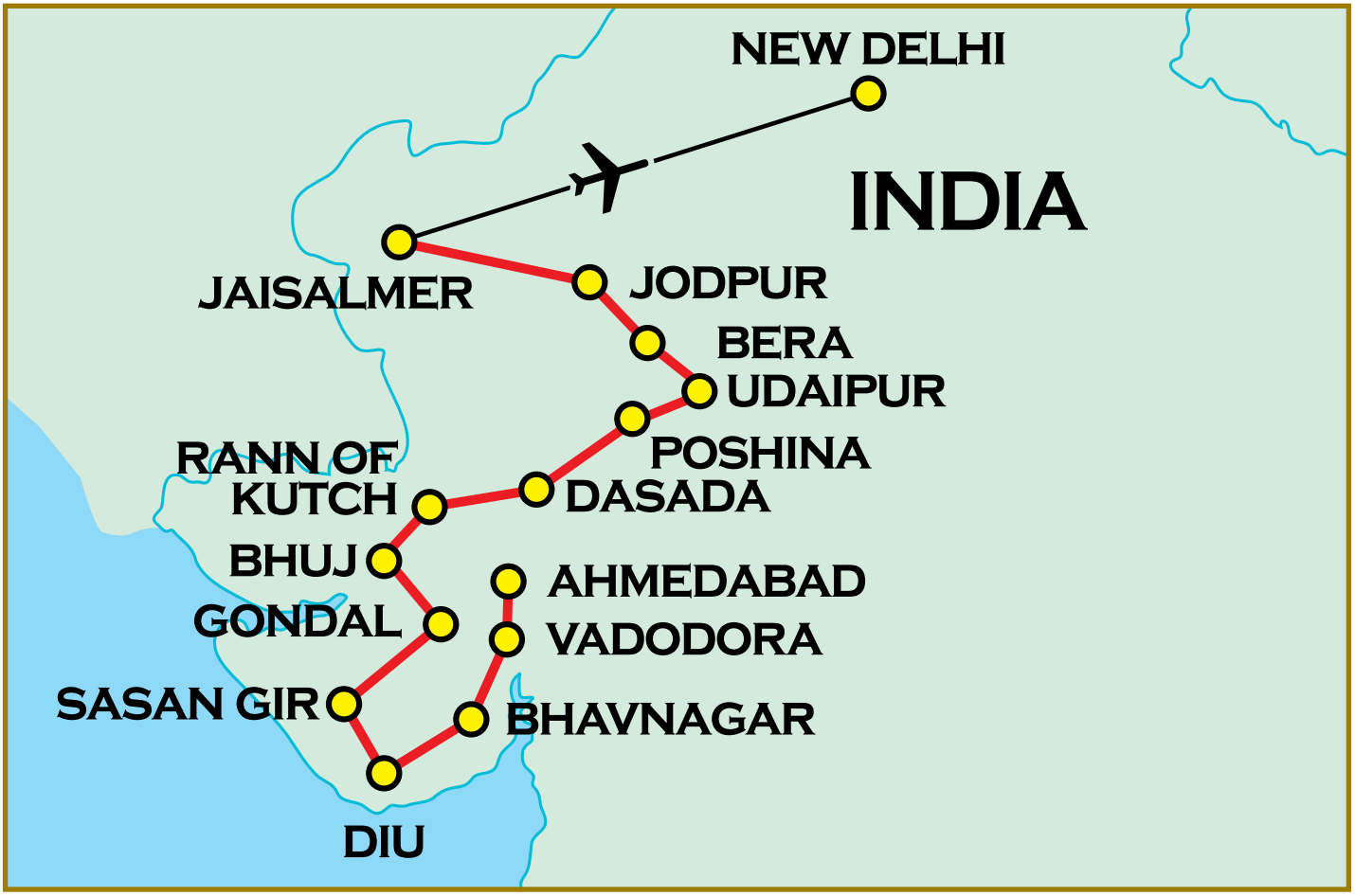
Activity Level: 2

Comfort Level: Some rough/dusty roads and long drives

ACCOMMODATIONS Comfortable hotels with private bathrooms

ElderTreks

SMALL GROUP
EXOTIC ADVENTURES
FOR TRAVELERS 50 PLUS



Crossing into Rajasthan, we visit Poshina, a charming rural destination known for its heritage and tribal culture, before exploring the romantic palaces and lakes of Udaipur. We vist Bera, referred to as the "Leopard Capital of India, one of the few places in the world where humans and leopards coexist peacefully. The "Blue City" of Jodhpur welcomes us with its striking architecture and lively markets, while the golden sands of Jaisalmer offer a magical desert adventure complete with camel rides and folk performances.

Throughout our journey, we immerse ourselves in India's timeless spirit—from ancient temples and royal heritage to bustling bazaars and quiet moments beneath star-filled skies. This is a trip that blends history, nature, and culture, creating unforgettable memories in one of the world's most fascinating destinations.

City Palace Udaipur

DAY 1 ARRIVE IN AHMEDABAD

Arrive in Ahmedabad and transfer to our hotel for check in.

Ahmedabad, India's first UNESCO World Heritage City, is a vibrant blend of ancient and modern. From historic stepwells to Mughal architecture, bustling bazaars, and Gandhi's legacy, the city offers a perfect introduction to Gujarat. The rest of the day is free to relax or to explore, before our orientation meeting and welcome dinner.

Overnight in Ahmedabad.

DAY 2 AHMEDABAD SITES

After breakfast, we enjoy a sightseeing tour of Ahmedabad. We begin with a visit to Swaminarayan Temple (Akshardham Temple) known for it's intricate carvings and peaceful surroundings followed by a walk through the lanes of the Old City.

We visit the beautifully crafted Hutheesing Jain Temple, admired for its exquisite marble architecture and continue with a visit to the Adalaj Stepwell, a magnificent 15th-century structure renowned for its intricate Indo-Islamic carvings.

Later, we visit the serene Sabarmati Ashram, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi, where we can explore the museum and enjoy the peaceful river front. We visit the most significant temples and heritage sites that reflect the city's rich spiritual and cultural traditions.

Overnight in Ahmedabad.

DAY 3 CHAMPANER SITES, LAXMI VILAS PALACE TO VADODORA

After breakfast, we drive to Vadodora stopping en route at the UNESCO listed Champaner-Pavagadh Archeological Park. Explore the magnificent Jami Masjid and Sahar ki Masid, remarkable 16th-century monuments showcasing a fascinating blend of Hindu and Islamic architectural influences. We also visit the unique Helical Stepwell, an extraordinary engineering marvel dating back to the same period.

Adalaj Stepwell

Following lunch, we continue to Vadodora and visit the magnificent Laxmi Vilas Palace, an opulent royal residence built in 1890 and famously four times larger than Buckingham Palace. We explore the Maharaja Fatehsingh Museum, home to royal artifacts, paintings, sculptures, and antique furniture reflecting the grandeur of Gujarat's royal heritage.

Overnight in Vadodora.

DAY 4 LOTHAL TO BHAVNAGAR

After breakfast, we check out and drive towards Bhavnagar, with an en route visit to Lothal, one of the most important archaeological sites of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization.

Renowned for its sophisticated urban planning and one of the world's earliest known dockyards, Lothal offers a fascinating glimpse into a civilization dating back over 4,000 years. We explore the remains of this once-thriving trading port and learn about its remarkable engineering and advanced infrastructure.

Later, we continue our journey to Bhavnagar, where we will visit the impressive Royal Cenotaphs, dedicated to the rulers who shaped the city's history. Continue to Ganga Deri, often referred to as the "Taj Mahal of Gujarat," an elegant white marble memorial pavilion beautifully set beside the lake and admired for its exquisite craftsmanship and regal charm. Commissioned in 1875 by Maharaja Takhatsinhji in memory of his late queen, it features intricate architectural work designed by British architect Sir John Griffith and sits floating atop the Gangajaliya Lake.

Overnight in Bhavnagar.

DAY 5 PALITANA HIKE TO DIU

Today begins with an early morning excursion to the sacred Palitana Temples, one of the holiest pilgrimage destinations in Jainism, dramatically located atop Shatrunjaya Hill. The vast temple complex features more than 800 intricately carved marble temples, showcasing centuries of devotion and exceptional craftsmanship. While the complete climb involves approximately 3750 steps it is not mandatory to complete it. Many guests prefer a short climb of around 200 steps to the first temple cluster, allowing visitors to experience the spiritual ambiance and architecture without undertaking the full climb. (There is also the option of being carried by local porters on a palanquin, which you can pay for directly at the site.)

Following the visit, we enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before continuing our scenic drive to Diu, a peaceful coastal town celebrated for its Portuguese heritage, golden sandy beaches, and dramatic sea-facing fortifications.

On arrival, we check in to our hotel overlooking the fort and enjoy dinner, soaking in the serene coastal ambiance.

Overnight Diu.

DAY 6 SOMNATH TO SASAN GIR

This morning, enjoy a short exploration of the historic Portuguese Fort of Diu, offering beautiful coastal views and fascinating colonial architecture.

Later, we drive to Somnath to visit the revered Somnath Temple, one of the twelve sacred Jyotirlinga shrines of Lord Shiva and an enduring symbol of faith and resilience. Having been rebuilt several times through history, the temple today stands majestically overlooking the Arabian Sea.

Mahabat Maqbara

Shatrunjaya Hill, over 800 beautifully carved marble Jain temples

Rare Asiatic Lion

Flamingos in the Rann of Kutch

Following lunch at a local restaurant, we continue our journey to Sasan Gir, the only natural habitat of the rare Asiatic Lion. On arrival, we check in at our resort and enjoy dinner amidst the serene natural surroundings.

Overnight in Sasan Gir.

DAY 7 SASAN GIR NATIONAL PARK

We begin the day with an exciting early morning jeep safari in Gir National Park, where we may have the opportunity to spot the majestic Asiatic Lion, along with leopards, hyenas, deer, crocodiles, and a rich variety of birdlife in their natural habitat.

We return to the resort for breakfast and enjoy some leisure time amidst the peaceful forest surroundings.

In the afternoon, we embark on another safari to explore a different zone of the park, enhancing the chances of wildlife sightings while exploring the region's diverse landscapes and ecosystems.

The evening is free to relax and soak in the tranquil atmosphere of the wilderness.

Overnight in Sasan Gir.

DAY 8 JUNAGADH, MAHABAT MAQBARA TO GONDAL

After breakfast, we proceed by road towards Junagadh, a historic city steeped in heritage and royal legacy.

Visit the impressive Uperkot Fort, an ancient citadel with over 2,000 years of history, featuring fascinating stepwells, massive gateways, and old cannons overlooking the city. We continue to the magnificent Mahabat Maqbara, admired for its remarkable fusion of Indo-Islamic and Gothic architectural styles, complete with ornate carvings and elegant minarets.

We enjoy lunch at a local restaurant before continuing to Gondal, where we will visit the beautiful Navlakha Palace, dating back to the 18th century and known for its intricately carved façades, graceful courtyards, and royal interiors.

Later, we check in at the scenic Riverside Palace, a charming heritage property that offers an insight into the regal lifestyle of Gondal's erstwhile rulers.

Overnight in Gondal.

DAY 9 BHUJ

After breakfast, we visit another royal heritage property, home to an impressive Vintage Car Museum, showcasing a fascinating collection of classic automobiles once owned by the royal family.

Later, we continue to Bhuj, the cultural heart of the Kutch region, celebrated for its vibrant handicrafts, rich traditions, and dramatic desert landscapes. Enjoy scenic views of rural Gujarat along the way, offering glimpses into traditional village life and local culture. We will enjoy lunch enroute.

Upon arrival in Bhuj, visit the renowned Living and Learning Design Center (LLDC), an outstanding textile museum dedicated to preserving and showcasing the rich weaving, embroidery, and textile traditions of the 12 tribes of the Kutch.

Later, we continue to Ajrak Village, where guests can witness the intricate process of traditional hand block-printing and textile craftsmanship that has been practiced for generations.

Overnight in Bhuj.

Rann of Kutch Festival

DAY 10 BHUJ - LOCAL VILLAGES & RANN OF KUTCH FESTIVAL

After breakfast, we begin the day with a visit to the historic Bhuj Palace complex, including the elegant Aina Mahal (Palace of Mirrors), renowned for its exquisite mirror work and royal artifacts, along with the adjacent Prag Mahal, admired for its striking blend of Italian Gothic architecture and grandeur.

Later, we proceed to nearby artisan villages to experience Gujarat's rich living traditions firsthand. Observe skilled local craftsmen engaged in intricate embroidery, weaving, and handcrafted textile production that reflect the region's cultural identity and artistic excellence.

Following lunch, we continue to the spectacular White Rann of Kutch, an endless expanse of shimmering salt desert that creates one of India's most breathtaking landscapes.

Upon arrival, we check in at the luxurious Tent City, located just a short distance from the desert.

In the evening, we have the opportunity to experience the vibrant atmosphere of the famous Rann of Kutch festival, where colorful folk dances, traditional music, local handicrafts, and captivating cultural performances provide an authentic glimpse into the spirit of Kutch. Enjoy the magical desert ambiance beneath a starlit sky.

Overnight at Tent City, Rann of Kutch.

DAY 11 RANN OF KUTCH FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

Today is dedicated to experiencing the many wonders of the vibrant Rann Utsev Festival.

We spend the day exploring the cultural activities, handicraft bazaars, local cuisine, folk performances, and the magnificent white desert landscape. You may also choose to relax and soak in the unique atmosphere of the desert surroundings while enjoying the facilities at Tent City.

The mesmerizing beauty of the White Rann, especially during sunrise and sunset, creates an unforgettable travel experience.

Overnight at Tent City, Rann of Kutch.

DAY 12 RANN OF KUTCH - DHOLAVIRA (UNESCO) TO DASADA

We begin the day with an early departure across the spectacular Great Rann of Kutch, travelling along the scenic stretch famously known as the "Road to Heaven," a mesmerizing route cutting through the white salt marshes and semi-arid desert landscape.

We visit Dholavira, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the largest settlements of the ancient Indus Valley Civilization, dating back more than 4,500. We explore the fascinating archaeological remains, including ancient fortifications, reservoirs, sophisticated drainage systems, and urban planning that highlight the extraordinary engineering capabilities of the Harappan civilization.

Following lunch, we continue our journey towards Dasada, a peaceful destination located near the Little Rann of Kutch, known for its unique wildlife and desert ecosystem.

Upon arrival, check in at the resort and relax amidst the serene natural surroundings.

Overnight in Dasada.

काजू
1000/kg
किशमिश
300/kg
पिस्ता इरानी
880/kg
काजू
900/kg
अमेरिकन
बादाम
600/kg
मोटा काजू
नमकीन
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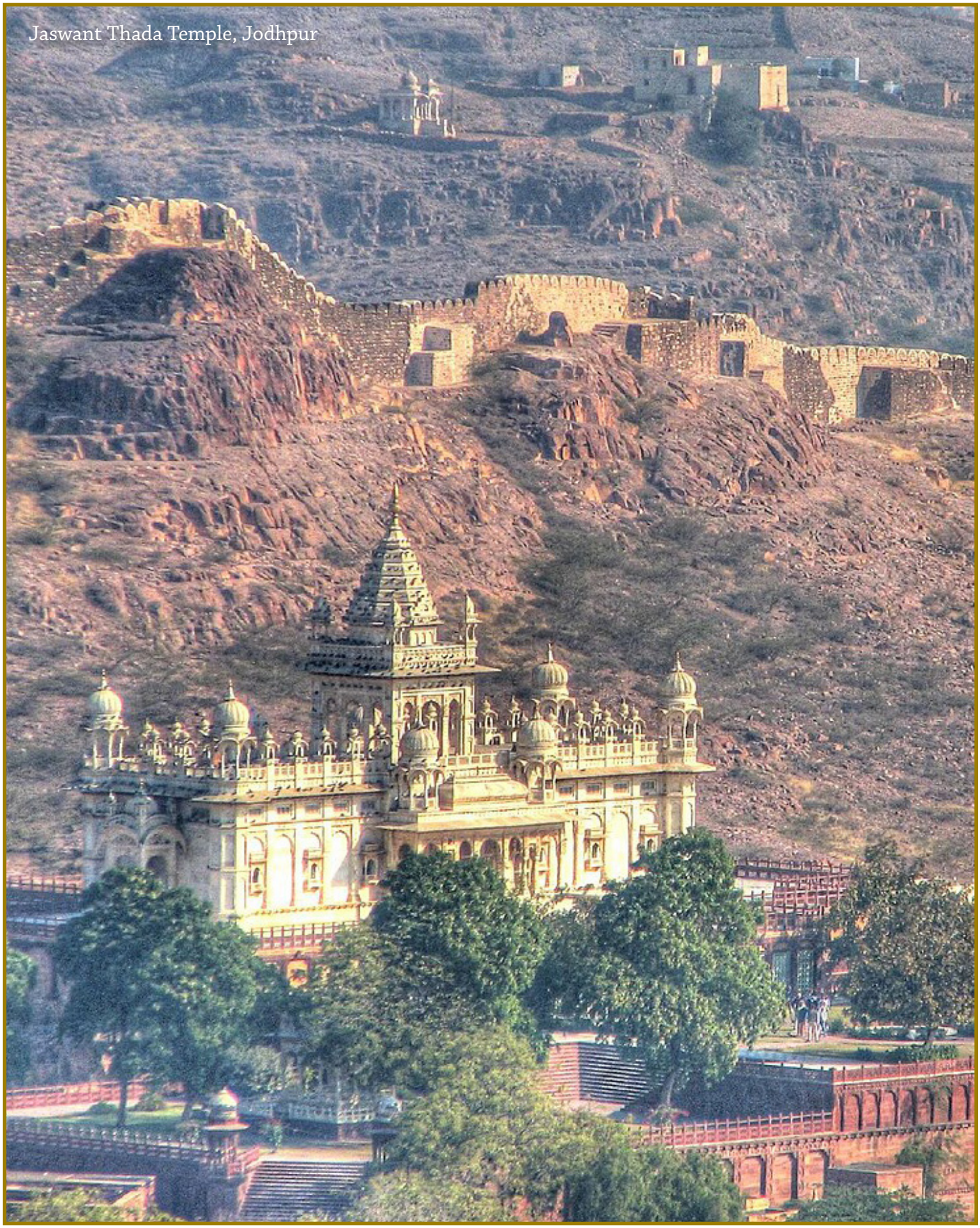
240/kg
मिक्स मेवा
480/-kg

Jaswant Thada Temple, Jodhpur


Jaswant Thada Temple, Jodhpur

DAY 13 LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH - SAFARI & ARTISAN VILLAGES

After breakfast at the hotel, we embark on a morning safari in the Little Rann of Kutch, a distinctive salt marsh known for its unique landscape and diverse wildlife. Keep an eye out for the rare Indian Wild Ass, along with numerous bird species that make this area their home.

Later, we visit nearby artisan villages to experience the vibrant local culture firsthand. Watch skilled craftsmen at work, creating beautiful hand embroidery, pottery, and traditional village art forms that reflect generations of heritage.

The afternoon is at leisure where we have time to relax or explore the peaceful surroundings at our own pace.

Overnight in Dasada.

DAY 14 MODHERA, PATAN TO POSHINA

Today we drive to Modhera to visit the magnificent Sun Temple, an 11th-century architectural masterpiece dedicated to the Sun God. Admire its stunning stone carvings and intricate design, which showcase the brilliance of ancient Indian craftsmanship.

City Palace Udaipur

Fort Rajwada, Jaisalmer

Next, we continue to Patan to explore Rani ki Vav, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the most beautifully carved stepwells in India. This ancient structure is renowned for its detailed sculptures and historical importance, offering a fascinating glimpse into the region's rich past.

We will have lunch en route.

Afterward, we proceed to Poshina, a charming rural destination known for its heritage and tribal culture. Visit the ancient Khumbariya Jain Temple complex, consisting of five beautifully carved temples dating between the 11th and 13th centuries.

Upon arrival, we check in at the heritage Darbargadh Poshina, an ancestral fort converted into a charming heritage hotel.

Overnight in Poshina.

DAY 15 POSHINA TO UDAIPUR

In the morning, we visit the unique Terracotta Horse Shrines, fascinating open-air tribal shrines where hundreds of clay horse sculptures are offered by the local Adivasi communities to fulfil wishes and honor local deities.

Later, we depart Gujarat and drive into the royal state of Rajasthan towards the romantic lake city of Udaipur, often referred to as the "City of Lakes." Upon arrival, we check in at the hotel and relax.

In the evening, we enjoy the colorful Virasat Cultural Dance & Puppet Show, showcasing traditional Rajasthani folk performances, music, and storytelling that beautifully reflect the cultural richness of the region.

Overnight in Udaipur.

DAY 16 UDAIPUR

After breakfast at the hotel, we embark on a full-day sightseeing tour of Udaipur, often called the "City of Lakes," admired for its romantic charm, magnificent palaces, and scenic landscapes.

We begin with a visit to the majestic City Palace, beautifully positioned along the shores of Lake Pichola. Explore its grand courtyards, ornate balconies, royal chambers, museums, and admire the remarkable blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture. We continue to the revered Jagdish Temple, an important Indo-Aryan style Hindu temple known for its intricate carvings, detailed sculptures, and spiritual significance.

Later, we'll also visit Saheliyon Ki Bari, the historic elegant royal garden adorned with fountains, marble pavilions, lotus pools, and lush greenery that once served as a retreat for royal ladies.

In the evening, we enjoy a serene boat ride on Lake Pichola, offering breathtaking views of the iconic Lake Palace, Jag Mandir, and the beautiful cityscape reflected upon the tranquil waters.

Overnight stay in Udaipur.

DAY 17 UDAIPUR TO BERA (JAWAI REGION)

After breakfast, we check out and drive towards Bera, famously known as the "Leopard Capital of India." This remarkable destination is one of the rare places in the world where humans and leopards coexist peacefully amidst dramatic granite hills and rural landscapes.
Upon arrival, check in at the lodge and enjoy some leisure time to relax and absorb the natural surroundings.

Later in the afternoon, we enjoy a game drive by jeep and a chance to see leopards In the wild.

Overnight Bera.

DAY 18 BERA GAME DRIVE, RANAKPUR TO JODHPUR

In the morning we have another game drive. Returning to our lodge we will then enjoy breakfast before driving to Jodhpur. We will stop en route in Ranakpur, home to the stunning Ranakpur Jain Temples, famous for their 1,444 intricately carved marble pillars; each one uniquely designed, showcasing exceptional craftsmanship and architectural beauty. We will enjoy lunch en route. After lunch, we drive to Jodhpur, famously known as the "Blue City" due to its striking blue-painted houses clustered beneath the mighty Mehrangarh Fort.
Overnight in Jodhpur.

DAY 19 JODHPUR

After breakfast, we embark on a full-day sightseeing tour of Jodhpur, a city celebrated for its majestic forts, royal palaces, and vibrant local culture.

We begin with the imposing Mehrangarh Fort, one of India's grandest and best-preserved forts, towering dramatically above the city. Explore its palaces, museums, intricate courtyards, and enjoy spectacular panoramic views over the sea of blue houses below.

Continue to the elegant Jaswant Thada, a beautifully carved white marble cenotaph built in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, set amidst peaceful gardens and reflective pools.

Later, we explore the bustling Clock Tower & Sardar Market, where colorful stalls display spices, handicrafts, textiles, antiques, and local specialties, offering a lively glimpse into the heart of Jodhpur's culture and everyday life.

Overnight in Jodhpur.

DAY 20 JAISALMER

After breakfast at the hotel, we check out and drive to Jaisalmer (approx. 280 km / 5–6 hrs), famously known as the "Golden City," rising spectacularly from the heart of the Thar Desert

We enjoy lunch en route.

On arrival in Jaisalmer, we check in at our hotel. The remainder of the day is free to unwind or explore the charming local markets independently, which are known for traditional Rajasthani handicrafts, textiles, silver jewellery, and desert-inspired souvenirs.

Overnight in Jaisalmer.

DAY 21 JAISALMER SIGHTSEEING & DESERT EXPERIENCE

After breakfast, we embark on a morning sightseeing tour of Jaisalmer, beginning with the iconic Jaisalmer Fort, one of the world's few living forts, where bustling lanes, shops, and residences bring history to life.

We continue to explore Patwon-ki-Haveli and Salim Singh-ki-Haveli, celebrated for their intricate architecture, detailed carvings, and exquisite craftsmanship, reflecting the city's rich mercantile heritage.

In the evening, we visit the Sam Sand Dunes for a classic desert experience. We enjoy a camel ride

across the golden sands, accompanied by traditional folk music and dance performances that showcase the vibrant culture of the region.

Overnight in Jaisalmer.

DAY 22 NEW DELHI

After breakfast, we transfer to Jaisalmer Airport to board the flight to New Delhi .

Upon arrival, we transfer to the hotel and check in. The remainder of the day is at leisure for relaxation, independent exploration, or some last-minute shopping.

In the evening, we enjoy a memorable farewell dinner, reflecting on the wonderful experiences and unforgettable memories gathered throughout the journey across Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Overnight in New Delhi.

DAY 23 DEPART NEW DELHI

Today we say goodbye to this remarkable part of India. You are transferred to the airport for your international departure flight.

Somnath Temple

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. HOW BIG ARE THE GROUPS?

Each group is limited to 16 participants. Small groups are an important ingredient in adventure travel. They allow for more interaction and more personalized service throughout the itinerary.

2. WHAT IS INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

All accommodations throughout; all meals, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day (i.e. the last day of the ElderTreks tour); bottled drinking water throughout the trip; all internal transportation; airport transfers on day 1 and departure day (i.e. the last day of the ElderTreks tour); all day trips and entrance fees as outlined in the itinerary; tips for hotels (porterage), bus driver, restaurants, national guides, and spot guides; services of a trip leader.

3. WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE?

International flights, tips to ElderTreks tour leader, alcoholic drinks, visa's and travel insurance.

4. ARE THESE "EDUCATIONAL" TOURS?

Yes, in the broadest sense of the word, "educational". We visit museums, national parks and reserves and have talks and discussions on many aspects of history, culture and nature. But this is only a portion of the educational experience. We believe that it is equally educational to meet local people on a non-commercial basis, and even try to learn a few words in the native language. Sometimes the most "educational" moments are wandering through the streets of a mountain village.

5. HOW DO WE TRAVEL DURING THE TOUR?

All local transportation, including 1 domestic flight, is included in the land price of the trip. Most of the transportation is by bus, although we also travel by boat, jeep and on foot.

6. WHAT ARE OUR ACCOMMODATIONS LIKE?

Comfortable, well-located accommodations with private bathrooms.

Gujarat is dry state with strict liquor regulations. Tourist can purchase alcohol from authorized outlets generally located in 4-star and 5-star hotels. Certain destinations such as Palitana are strictly vegetarian. Additionally, no alcohol and only vegetarian food is permitted at the Rann of Kutch accommodation.

7. WHAT ABOUT THE WEATHER?

There are wide variations in climate in India with winter, spring, summer, monsoon and autumn experienced in all regions. Generally, December and January are cool, with maximum temperatures around 70°F - 75°F (21°C - 23°C), and minimum temperatures as low as 40°F (4°C). February and March are very pleasant, with temperatures starting to heat up in April, and peaking in late May at around 100°F (38°C). June to September bring the monsoon rains, followed by the October to December period that brings clear skies and cool weather.

8. WHEN IS PAYMENT DUE?

A non-refundable deposit of $500 USD (plus insurance if you require it) is due at time of booking and will reserve your place on the tour. Payment of the full land cost is due 120 days before departure. Cancellation charges are applicable and are outlined in the "Terms and Conditions" section of our brochure.

9. IS MEDICAL INSURANCE REQUIRED?

Insurance coverage is not included in the cost of your trip. Please note that medical insurance is not required for this adventure but is recommended. ElderTreks offers comprehensive travel insurance and we are happy to provide you with a quote if you call our office. If you are purchasing insurance elsewhere, please ensure you provide the details to ElderTreks as soon as possible.
Please note those travelers with pre-existing medical conditions must take out travel insurance at the time of deposit

10. WHAT SHOULD I TAKE ON THE TOUR?

There is a detailed "What to Take" list in our Trip Kit, which we will send to you after receiving your booking deposit for the trip.

11. WHAT MEALS ARE INCLUDED?

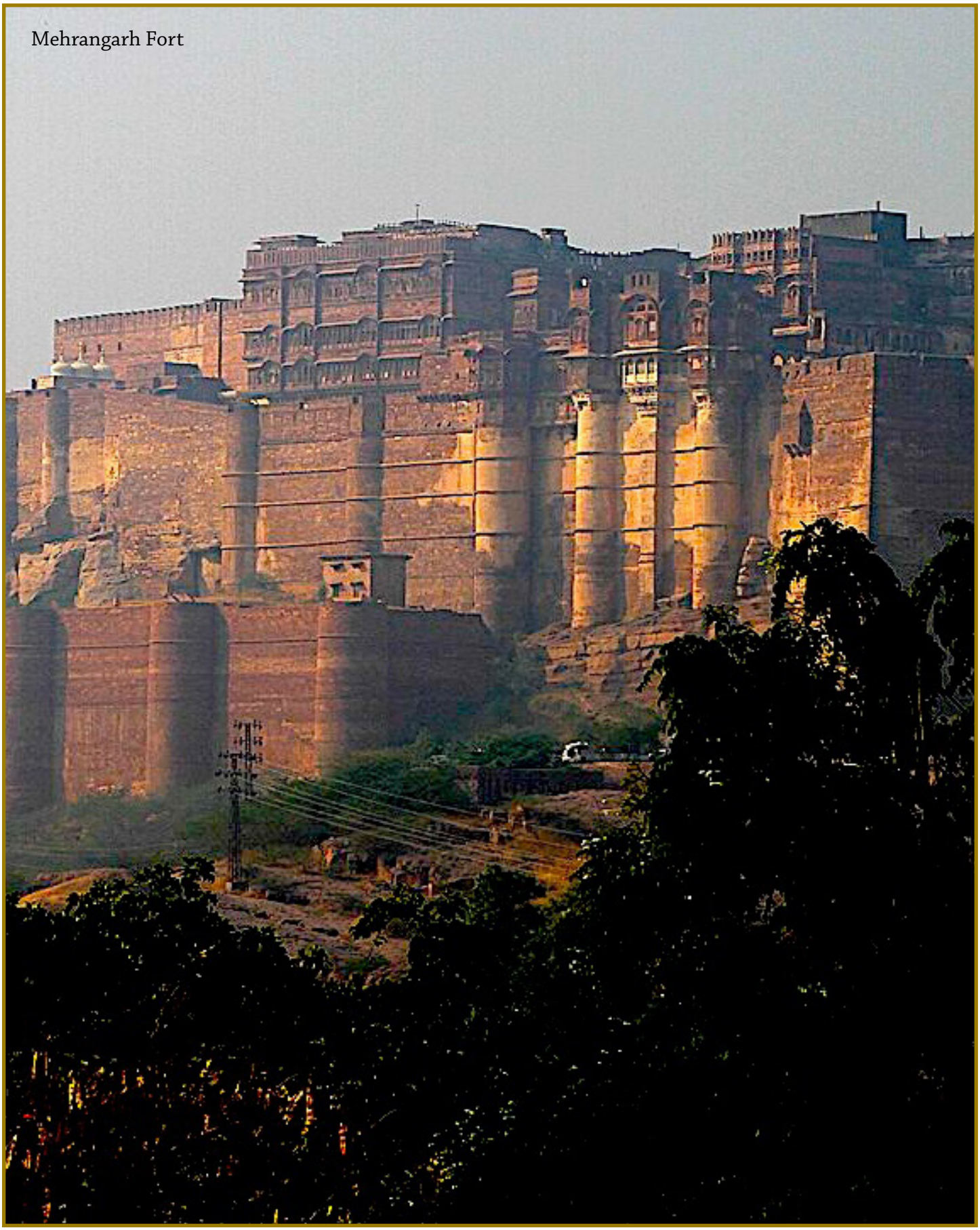
All meals during the itinerary are included, starting with dinner on day 1 and finishing with breakfast on departure day. We eat a variety of local foods prepared in a wide range of settings. In many cases, we simply order a number of dishes and share, allowing you to sample new foods and decide what you enjoy best.

12. CAN YOU ARRANGE MY FLIGHTS?

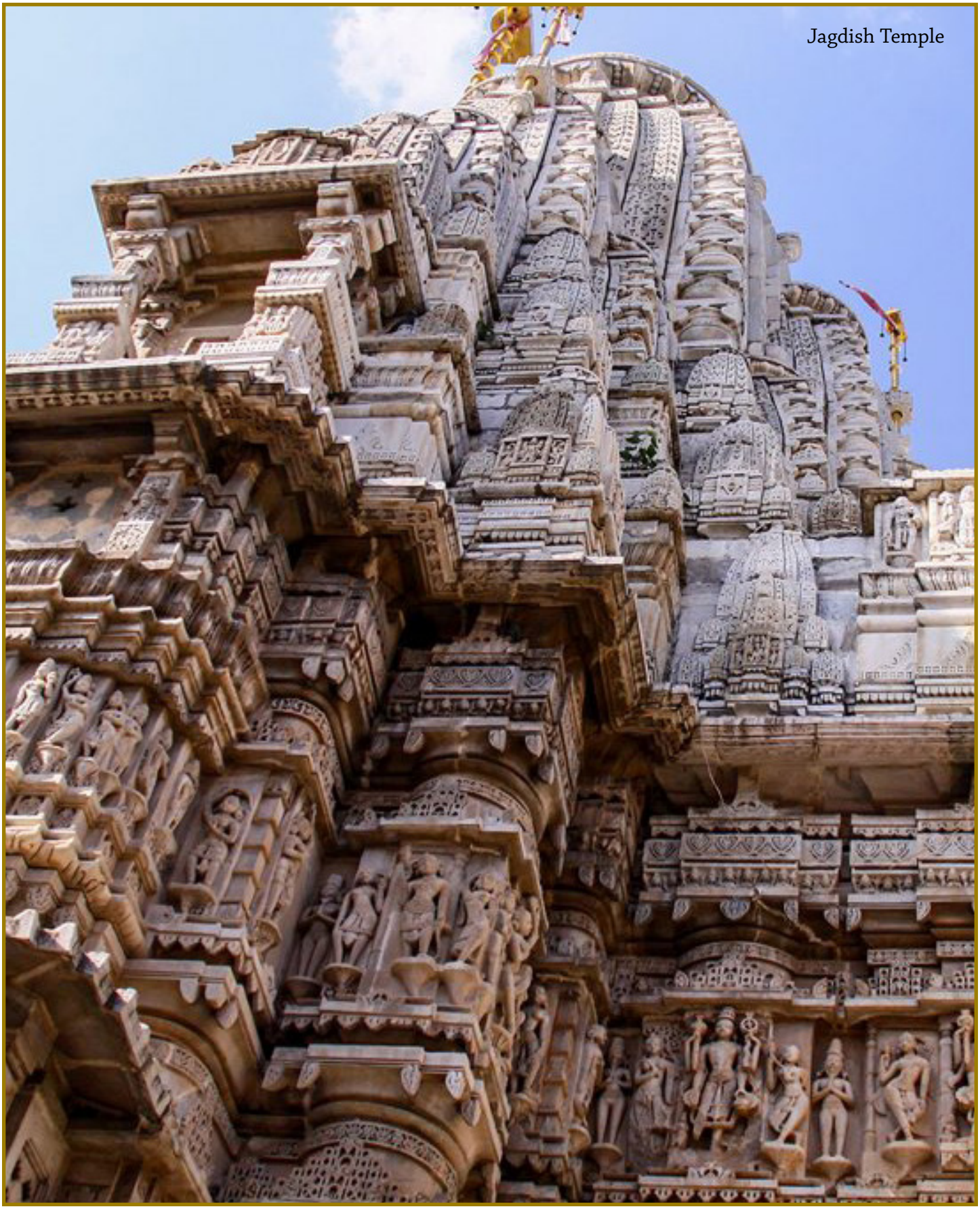
We would be happy to take care of your air arrangements. ElderTreks offers personalized flight itineraries — not group flights. Stop over en route, come in a few days early, or extend your stay. Call us for a customized itinerary.

13. WHAT IF I WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION?

If you have any further questions about the trip, please do not hesitate to contact our office or your travel agent for additional information. A Trip Kit containing further details on the destination will be sent to you once you have booked on the tour.


Mehrangarh Fort

Sabarmati Ashram, former residence of Mahatma Gandhi


Jagdish Temple