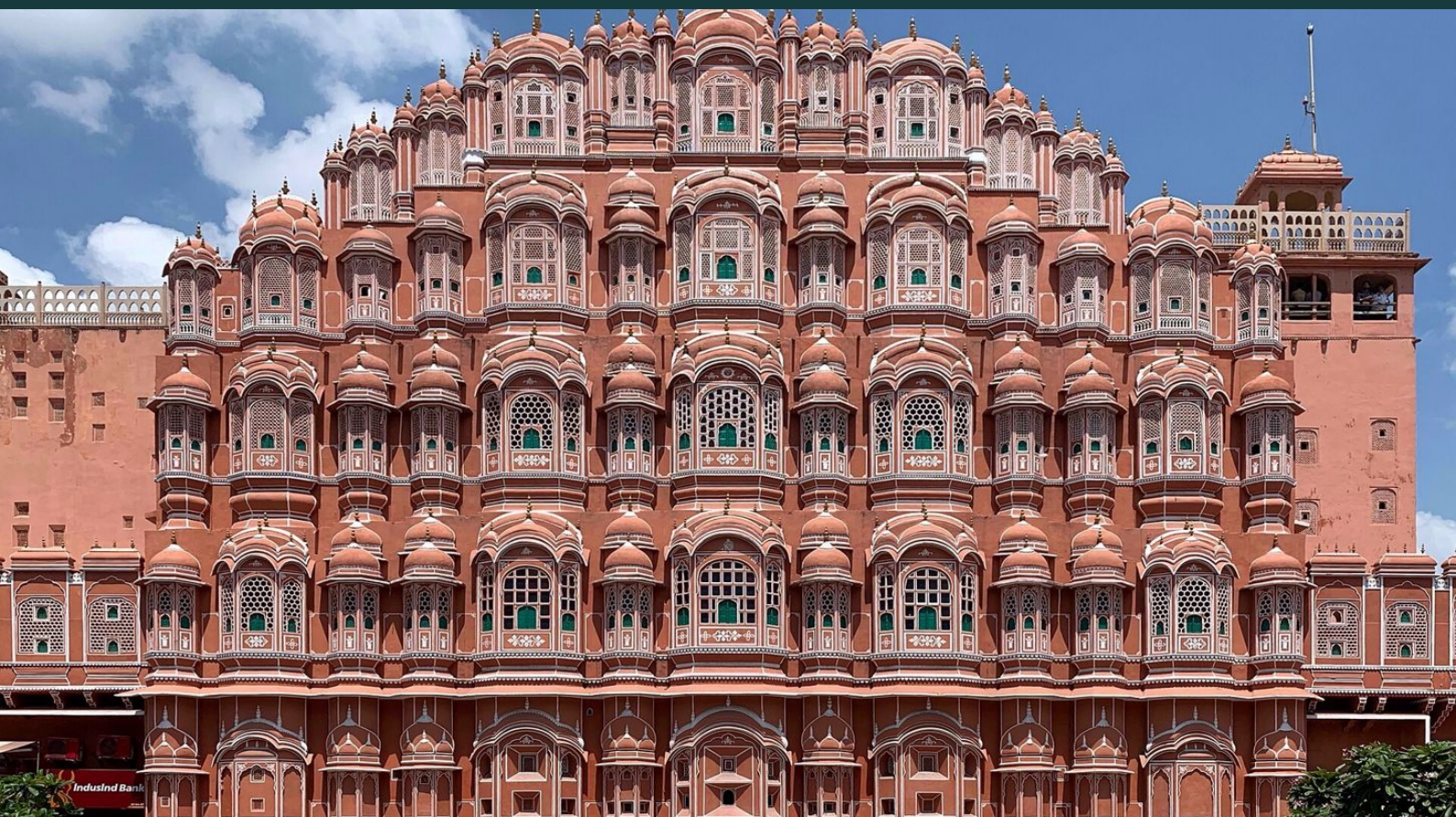




Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

HAND-CRAFTED AROUND YOU

Rajasthan, Beyond the Palaces

Painted havelis, desert cities and the lakes of Udaipur

18 DAYS / 17 NIGHTS

Recommended travel window

January-March and October-December 2027

Private dates and personalised quotation on request.

A JOURNEY WITH TIME TO ENJOY IT

The experience

Rajasthan rewards a journey that goes beyond its best-known palaces. This route follows painted merchant houses in Shekhawati, the golden streets of Jaisalmer, Jodhpur's hilltop fort and the lakefront of Udaipur. Smaller places are given their own time: a village walk near Narlai, a meeting with textile makers, and an evening by Pushkar's sacred lake. Eighteen days allow you to see the contrasts without changing hotels every night. Comfortable city stays and characterful heritage accommodation make this a personal introduction to the region's history, landscapes and living traditions.

What makes this journey special

- Painted havelis in Mandawa and Shekhawati
- Bikaner's Junagarh Fort and old trading streets
- Three nights around golden Jaisalmer
- Mehrangarh Fort and Jodhpur's blue lanes
- Ranakpur's marble carving and rural Narlai
- Udaipur, Pushkar and Jaipur at an unhurried pace

Best time to travel. November-February is ideal for exploring the desert cities and palace courtyards in comfortable temperatures. October and March also work well with earlier starts.

Designed for. Culture lovers, photographers, couples and returning visitors

Pace and activity. Moderate sightseeing; fort steps, old-town walks and a few longer drives.

Your private start date is chosen within the recommended season. The exact hotel list, room categories and final package are provided in your personal quotation.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

18 days, thoughtfully arranged

DAY	EXPERIENCE	OVERNIGHT
01	Arrive in Delhi	Delhi
02	Delhi: a capital of many stories	Delhi
03	The painted houses of Mandawa	Mandawa
04	Mandawa to Bikaner	Bikaner
05	Across the Thar to Jaisalmer	Jaisalmer
06	Inside the living fort of Jaisalmer	Jaisalmer
07	Village life and the desert light	Jaisalmer
08	Jaisalmer to Jodhpur	Jodhpur
09	Mehrangarh and the blue city	Jodhpur
10	Rural Rajasthan around Narlai	Narlai
11	Ranakpur and the road to Udaipur	Udaipur
12	Udaipur: palaces beside the lake	Udaipur
13	Udaipur at your own pace	Udaipur
14	Udaipur to sacred Pushkar	Pushkar
15	Pushkar to Jaipur	Jaipur
16	Jaipur: fort, palace and artisans	Jaipur
17	Return to Delhi	Delhi
18	Depart Delhi	Journey ends

Road distances and travel times in the programme are approximate, excluding major visits. Flight and rail timings are confirmed for your selected dates.



Days 01-02 | Jama Masjid, Old Delhi

DAY 01

Arrive in Delhi

Meet your Midasia representative and transfer privately to your hotel. Today is reserved for settling in after your international flight, with an optional short orientation if you arrive early. Over dinner, your guide introduces the route through Rajasthan and explains how its royal capitals, desert settlements and merchant towns developed. The programme can place greater emphasis on architecture, photography, crafts or family activities according to the interests you share before travelling.

Travel: Private airport transfer; 45-90 minutes.

Meals: Dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 02

Delhi: a capital of many stories

Explore Old Delhi's mosque courtyard and market lanes, using a rickshaw for part of the route. Continue to Humayun's Tomb to see the garden architecture that influenced later Mughal monuments. Your guide connects the contrasting districts through stories of trade, empire and everyday city life. Visit Bangla Sahib to learn about Sikh service and hospitality, then return with time to rest. This introduction provides useful context before the journey turns west towards Rajasthan's smaller towns.

Travel: Local vehicle touring and guided walks.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi



Days 03-04 | Haveli details in Mandawa

DAY 03

The painted houses of Mandawa

Leave Delhi for the Shekhawati region, where merchants once used richly painted houses to display their success and imagination. After arriving in Mandawa, explore a selection of havelis with a guide who can explain the changing subjects of their frescoes, from religious scenes to trains and other signs of modern life. Walk between gateways and quiet lanes, taking time to look closely rather than trying to see every building. Spend the night in a heritage-style property.

Travel: Approximately 260 km; 5.5-6.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Mandawa

DAY 04

Mandawa to Bikaner

Continue through the dry landscapes of northern Rajasthan to Bikaner. Visit Junagarh Fort, whose successive courtyards and decorated interiors offer a detailed introduction to the city's rulers and artistic patronage. Later, walk through part of the old city, where carved merchant houses recall Bikaner's trading connections. The scale and atmosphere feel different from Jaipur or Udaipur, which makes this a valuable addition to the route. There is time to settle into your hotel before dinner.

Travel: Approximately 190 km; 3.5-4.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Bikaner



Days 05-06 | The fort and golden stone of Jaisalmer

DAY 05

Across the Thar to Jaisalmer

Travel towards Jaisalmer through increasingly open desert country. Planned breaks make the drive comfortable and provide a chance to observe village life without rushing onward. Jaisalmer appears above the plain as a compact cluster of golden stone, crowned by its fort. After checking in, enjoy an easy introduction to the town and, when the light is favourable, a viewpoint that shows the fort's full setting. Three nights here allow time for both the city and its desert surroundings.

Travel: Approximately 330 km; 6-7 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jaisalmer

DAY 06

Inside the living fort of Jaisalmer

Walk into Jaisalmer Fort with a local guide, exploring residential lanes and the permitted areas of its Jain temples. The carved balconies and doorways reveal how sandstone became the city's defining material. Continue to Patwon ki Haveli and selected merchant houses, where small decorative details reward a slow visit. Your guide explains the relationship between desert caravans, commercial wealth and the town's architecture. Finish around Gadisar Lake or return to the hotel for a quiet afternoon.

Travel: Old-town walking; uneven lanes and temple steps.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jaisalmer



Days 07-08 | The Thar Desert near Jaisalmer

DAY 07

Village life and the desert light

Leave the city for a carefully chosen village encounter and a closer look at how people live in the Thar. Conversations may focus on water, farming, traditional houses or local music, according to the hosts available. Later, continue to a quieter dune landscape for a gentle walk and time to watch the light change across the sand. Tea and comfortable seating are arranged. Return to your Jaisalmer hotel for the night, keeping the desert experience as an outing rather than a compulsory camp stay.

Travel: Approximately 100-140 km of local driving; short walks.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jaisalmer

DAY 08

Jaisalmer to Jodhpur

Drive east to Jodhpur, once a major centre of the Marwar kingdom. The approach offers a new perspective on Rajasthan, with settlements and agricultural land gradually replacing the widest desert views. Settle in before an easy walk around the clock tower market, where spices, textiles and household goods fill the surrounding lanes. This first encounter is deliberately light; tomorrow gives you time to understand the fort and the old city beneath it.

Travel: Approximately 285 km; 5.5-6.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jodhpur



Days 09-10 | Mehrangarh Fort and Jodhpur

DAY 09

Mehrangarh and the blue city

Explore Mehrangarh Fort, moving through its gateways, palace rooms and museum displays with a guide who brings the history of Marwar into focus. The views over Jodhpur reveal the blue-painted houses clustered below. Continue to Jaswant Thada, then walk through selected old-city lanes, pausing at a stepwell and local workshops. A textile or leathercraft encounter can be included according to your interests. Return to your hotel with time to enjoy the setting at your own pace.

Travel: Guided fort and old-city visits.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jodhpur

DAY 10

Rural Rajasthan around Narlai

Travel into the countryside around Narlai, exchanging a large city for a village setting. A guided walk introduces local shrines, traditional houses and the landscape around the village's granite hill. Meet residents and hear about life beyond Rajasthan's famous capitals, with visits arranged respectfully through local hosts. The afternoon leaves space to enjoy your heritage-style stay. For keen walkers, a short hill walk can be arranged separately from the gentler village route.

Travel: Approximately 140 km; 3-4 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Narlai



Days 11-12 | Marble columns in the Ranakpur Jain temple

DAY 11

Ranakpur and the road to Udaipur

Visit Ranakpur's Jain temple during its visitor opening hours and take time to appreciate the variety of its marble columns and carved ceilings. Your guide explains the principles behind the architecture and the etiquette of visiting an active place of worship. Continue through the Aravalli countryside towards Udaipur. Arrive beside the lakes and settle in without further major touring. The next three nights provide a comfortable base for discovering the city and enjoying its surroundings.

Travel: Approximately 150 km; 3.5-4.5 hours driving, plus the temple visit.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Udaipur

DAY 12

Udaipur: palaces beside the lake

Explore the City Palace, where courtyards, galleries and views over Lake Pichola tell the story of the Mewar rulers. Walk into the old city to see the area around Jagdish Temple and meet a miniature painter who can explain the precision of this regional tradition. Later, take a boat ride on the lake, viewing Udaipur's palaces and waterfront from a different angle. The boat outing is timed to local conditions and the best available light.

Travel: City touring and a lake boat ride.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Udaipur



Days 13-14 | Udaipur and Lake Pichola

DAY 13

Udaipur at your own pace

Enjoy a gentler day in Udaipur. Choose a garden visit, a closer look at a craft tradition or a guided walk through lanes that interest you. Couples may prefer a relaxed lakefront afternoon, while photographers can revisit a favourite view in different light. Your guide can arrange one focused local experience without filling every hour. This extra day is part of the journey's appeal: it gives you time to enjoy a place, rather than remembering it only as a series of appointments.

Travel: A flexible day with private local support.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Udaipur

DAY 14

Udaipur to sacred Pushkar

Continue north to Pushkar, a small town built around a lake that holds great religious significance for Hindu pilgrims. After settling in, walk with your guide through the market streets and along the permitted ghats. Learn about the town's association with Brahma and the rituals performed beside the water. The visit is observational and respectful, with no obligation to participate in ceremonies. Enjoy the quieter mood of the lakeside before returning to your hotel.

Travel: Approximately 280 km; 5.5-6.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Pushkar



Days 15-16 | Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

DAY 15

Pushkar to Jaipur

Take time for a final look around Pushkar before continuing to Jaipur. The shorter drive leaves the latter part of the day free to settle into the Pink City. A gentle orientation introduces its broad streets, gates and planned layout, helping you understand how Jaipur differs from the older settlements already visited. If you wish, visit a small craft workshop or simply enjoy your hotel. Tomorrow is devoted to the city's most important architectural sights.

Travel: Approximately 150 km; 3-4 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jaipur

DAY 16

Jaipur: fort, palace and artisans

Begin at Amber Fort, reached by vehicle, and explore its spacious courtyards and richly decorated rooms. Continue to Jaipur's City Palace and Jantar Mantar, where large instruments were built to observe the sky with remarkable precision. Pause at the Hawa Mahal facade before a short encounter with one of the city's craft traditions. Your guide balances major landmarks with breaks and personal interests, bringing together many of the architectural and artistic themes encountered across Rajasthan.

Travel: Private city touring; fort steps and walking.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jaipur



Days 17-18 | Qutb Minar, Delhi

DAY 17

Return to Delhi

Drive back to Delhi with planned comfort stops, arriving for a final overnight stay before your international flight. The afternoon is free for rest or a short outing according to your arrival time. Over an included farewell dinner, reflect on Rajasthan's contrasts: painted havelis, desert streets, rural villages, sacred water and palace cities. Your Midasia team confirms the next day's airport arrangements so you can enjoy the final evening without attending to practical details.

Travel: Approximately 280 km; 5-6 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 18

Depart Delhi

Breakfast and checkout are arranged around your flight schedule. Your representative assists with the final departure arrangements and your private driver takes you to Delhi airport. If you are continuing elsewhere in India, the onward transfer can instead be coordinated with the next part of your journey. The programme concludes after eighteen days devoted to Rajasthan's celebrated sights and the smaller places that give the region much of its character.

Travel: Private transfer to Delhi airport.

Meals: Breakfast | **Journey concludes today**

PRIVATE TRAVEL WITH MIDASIA ROUTES

The details, taken care of

Your accommodation. 17 nights in individually selected accommodation. Luxury city hotels, heritage stays and suitable resorts or lodges are chosen to match the route. Exact properties and room categories are confirmed in your quotation.

Arrival and transport. Airport meet-and-greet after customs, baggage assistance, private transfers, a suitable air-conditioned touring vehicle and driver, fuel, parking and road tolls. Domestic flights and reserved air-conditioned train journeys described in this programme are included.

Guiding and visits. English-speaking local specialist guides, the scheduled visits, entrance fees and activities described. Your private travelling party is guided at an agreed pace; park excursions and resort activities follow their operating arrangements.

Meals and practical support. All meals shown each day, drinking water and standard tea or coffee. Vegetarian and other dietary preferences are arranged in advance. Standard tourist-visa application support and government fees for eligible travellers, applicable local taxes, and customary local-guide and driver gratuities are included.

Your journey extras. The scheduled cultural encounters, local experiences and boat outings described in the daily programme are included in the final agreed package.

Personal coordination. Pre-travel planning, a detailed arrival briefing and Midasia Routes support throughout your journey. Prices are quoted privately for your dates, room requirements and travelling party.

Not included

International flights; travel and medical insurance; personal shopping and laundry; premium or alcoholic drinks; and optional activities, treatments or extra nights outside the agreed programme.

Let us plan your India journey

sumit@midasiaroutes.com

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USA / Canada: +1-307-650-2452

International: +91-8750970676

WhatsApp: +968-96321788

WhatsApp: +91-8750970676

USA: 1309 Coffeen Avenue, STE 1200, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
India: B/176-Greenfields, Delhi-NCR 121003

A FEW USEFUL DETAILS

Planning your journey

This itinerary does not depend on Pushkar Fair dates. Heritage properties and exact room categories are selected in your private quotation; desert outings return to your hotel.

Visa issue is subject to government approval and traveller eligibility. The programme is personalised when your dates are agreed; no hotel, flight or departure is held by this brochure. Travel windows describe typical seasonal conditions, rather than a weather forecast.

Rajasthan Tourism - Jaipur | Planning checked 9 September 2026.

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