



WORLD DISCOVERY
— HISTORY CULTURE WILDLIFE —

The Palace on Wheels



DAY 1 - Depart UK.

DAY 2 - Arrive Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi in the morning you will be met by a representative of World Discovery outside immigration and customs. You will then be taken by private car direct to your hotel, where a day room has been reserved for you. In the late afternoon you will be taken to the railway station to board the 'Palace on Wheels'. The train departs at 6.00 p.m. on a week-long journey of discovery.

Meals included: Dinner.

DAY 3 – Jaipur and Amber Fort

First stop on the itinerary is **Jaipur**, one of the most well-planned cities of the world of its time. This capital city of Rajasthan, popularly known as the 'Pink City', was founded by Maharaja Swai Jai Singh II, in 1727 A.D. To explore the city, an air-conditioned coach takes you to the **Hawa Mahal** or the 'Palace of Winds', which is a remarkable five-storied building along the main street of the old city. Continue to the **Jantar Mantar**, the large outdoor observatory built by the Sawai Jai Singh II. This is followed by a visit to **Amber**, the dramatic hilltop fortress which was capital of the region before Jaipur was built. Lunch is taken at Amber. Return to the city centre for some shopping' near Ajmeri Gate can be found Rajasthali - the only Rajasthan Government Emporium selling genuine handicrafts at fixed prices. Return to the train to get freshen up, and then in the evening visit one of Jaipur's top hotels for dinner, accompanied by a folk performance.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 4 - Ranthambhor National Park. Chittorgarh.

An early breakfast will be served at the Hotel Vinayak in Sawai Madhopur, followed by a visit to **Ranthambhor National Park**. Originally a hunting estate for the Maharajah of Jaipur, Ranthambhor is famous for its tiger population, but you may also see leopard, sloth bear, sambar, Indian gazelle, wild boar, nilgai and hundreds of birds, including the serpent eagle. . Lunch will be served back at the train before travelling westward through rural Rajasthan to visit the legendary **Chittorgarh Fort**, one of the most dramatic of all Rajasthan's fortresses, with more than 5 kilometres of honey-coloured battlements set high on a rocky promontory. In the evening enjoy a Sound and Light performance at the fort followed by dinner and a cultural show at a local hotel restaurant before reboarding the train.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 5 - Udaipur.

After breakfast depart by luxury coach to **Udaipur**, considered by many to India's most romantic destination. Built around a man-made lake in the heart of the Aravali Hills, the city was founded by Maharana Udai Singh of Mewar in 1559, after the Sisodia dynasty was driven away by the Mughals. On islands in the lake are two beautiful white marble palaces - the famous Lake Palace (now a luxury hotel) and the smaller Jag Mandir Palace. Enjoy a boat ride on the lake followed by lunch, then visit the interesting City Palace. A fairly long drive through the desert will then take you to rejoin the train in Jaisalmer.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 6 - Jaisalmer.

In the heart of the Thar Desert lies **Jaisalmer**, founded in 1156. The yellow sandstone fort is an imposing sight, rising out of the desert like a mirage and towering magnificently over the city. Discover the intricately-carved 'havelis' or mansions with their grand facades. After lunch at the Hotel Moomal, go for an exciting camel ride on the **sand dunes of Sam** before sipping a refreshing cup of tea. Enjoy dinner and a cultural show at a hotel in the city. The train leaves at night for Jodhpur.

DAY 7 - Jodhpur.

Next morning the 'Palace on Wheels' is in Jodhpur, a city ringed by a high stone wall with seven gates and several bastions. This second largest city of Rajasthan, founded by Rao Jodha in 1459, is known for its massive **Mehrangarh Fort**, which you will visit. Near the fort complex lies a group of **Royal Cenotaphs** made of white marble. You will also visit the **Umaid Bhawan Palace**, the largest palace in the world (now partly a luxury hotel). While in Jodhpur shop for the exquisite handcrafted articles including the famous breeches, embroidered shoes, metal curios, silverware, paintings and tie and dye fabrics. Dinner tonight is served on board the train.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 8 - Bharatpur. Agra. The Taj Mahal.

Early next morning, the train arrives in Bharatpur. After breakfast pay a visit to the world famous **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, the nesting place of thousands of egrets, Siberian Cranes, migratory waterfowl and many other species of birds. The park boasts of over three hundred species of birds. Continue to **Agra**, capital of the Mughal Empire, where you will enjoy a city tour, and after lunch visit the incomparable **Taj Mahal**, one of the world's most famous monuments, built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal. Agra is known for its splendid marble inlay work, leather goods and jewellery. Tonight there will be a Gala Dinner at the Mughal Hotel in Agra before the final night on the train.

Meals included: Full breakfast, lunch, dinner.

DAY 9 – Depart for home.

Disembark from the 'Palace on Wheels' in Delhi. Private transfer to the airport for your international flight home.

Meals included: Full breakfast.