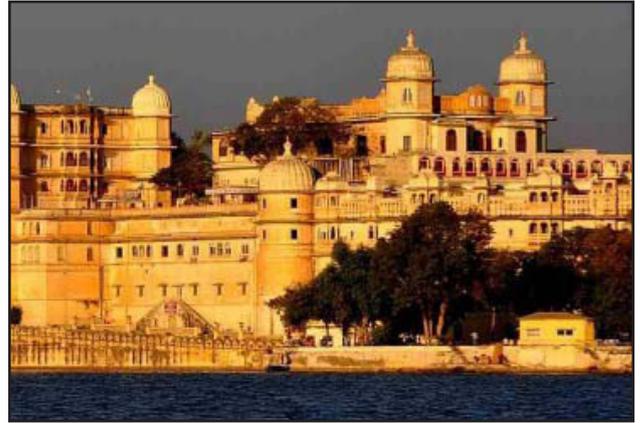


Trip Notes

EXOTIC MARIGOLD INDIA RAJASTHAN TOUR

31 October - 12 November 2017



Time: India is 9.5 hours ahead of Washington DC USA

Language - Hindi is the official national language of India, however, there are 22 official languages. English is also widely spoken and you will be escorted by a local guide who speaks Hindi and English.

Visa/Entry Requirements - Passports must be valid for six months beyond the length of stay. Visas are required for all travelers. You will get a 60 day visa on arrival but you have to book apply and pay online before your arrival at <https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>. You will then pickup your visa at the airport. You will also need an Indian reference. Please use us if you wish: **Ekno Tours & Travels PVT LTD, Dickey's Cottage, Village Molhi, PO Sidhpur, HP 176057, Tel: +91 98166 85999 India**

Vaccinations and Your Health - We recommend that you contact either your GP or consult your nearest Travel Doctor about Vaccinations. If you have a medical condition and are taking medication for this please let us know at the time of booking.

Insurance - Travel insurance is compulsory. We recommend that you take a copy of their travel insurance documents (especially relevant international contact numbers) with you while on tour. We advise that you check the inclusions and procedures for lodging claims prior to your departure. The documents should be stored separately from the originals.

Climate - Seasonal weather patterns can be quite unpredictable. Up to the minute information on worldwide weather can be found at www.accuweather.com.

Suggested Packing List

A complete list will be provided with deposit documentation.

Luggage

All travellers are limited to two items of luggage each; a suitcase with a maximum weight of 15kg and one piece of hand luggage with a maximum weight of 5kg. It is essential that your luggage is lockable. Please note that Indian authorities will only allow bottles onto the aircraft if they have been checked in as main baggage. Bottles in hand luggage maybe confiscated.

Domestic airlines within India have recently reviewed their checked luggage limits, as such all airlines have now implemented a maximum checked luggage limit of 15kg. Please keep this in mind when packing for your upcoming trip. Any excess luggage charges incurred will be at the expense of the passenger.

Tipping

Tipping is a firm and expected element in the tourism industry. A nominated tipping amount is included in all group tour pricing, however is not collected in your final payment received by us. This is so that it can be paid directly to your Local Guide who will then distribute the tips among your main service providers – guides, drivers and attendants – on your behalf.

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Any other tipping, such as tips for bathroom attendants or hotel porters that are taking luggage to your room, is at your discretion based on satisfaction of services received, as are gratuities for additional requested special services. The final tipping amount will be outlined in your final documentation.

Exchanging Cash - Machines that dispense cash are readily available throughout India which accept overseas debit/credit cards. They will dispense Indian Rupees in cash only (up to IR10,000 or US\$200 equivalent at any one time). Please notify your bank that you intend travelling to India. If you have cash, it is highly recommended that when travelling to cities outside of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, and other main cities that extra care and attention is paid when exchanging money. Australian, US Dollars Euros are easily exchanged throughout India however, other currencies can generally be exchanged in hotels and airports provided notes are new and undamaged. We suggest exchanging your money before travelling to remote areas and smaller towns, as exchange facilities can be limited. Your Local Guide will remind you to do this before departure.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money to cover drinks, laundry and souvenirs, plus any additional sightseeing that may be offered to you. Based on the advice of previous customers an approximate amount of USD250 per week should be sufficient; however for those that can't resist a bargain, consider allocating a higher amount.

Your India tour does not include meals while on tour (only breakfast), providing you with freedom to explore the city and discover unique culinary delights. With this in mind, you will also need to allocate a certain amount of money for dinners, snacks and drinks while on tour. These meals are at your own arrangements so the amount allocated will be different for each tour participant.

Optional Tours - Optional tours may be offered in each city you visit during your tour. These are not included in the standard itinerary and will only be available if time permits. Each option will be arranged locally by

your Local Guide.

Your Accommodation - All group tour hotels have private Western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be erratic and quite often the power in hotel rooms is turned off while guests are out of the room. If you experience any difficulty please speak to your Local Guide. Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character, and can range from a business hotel in one city to a boutique family run guesthouse in a smaller town or a heritage type hotel. In remote areas accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all Western amenities. Hotels are generally rated as local 4 star standard, but do please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality do exist between United States and India. Rest assured that all hotels used by us are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

Late Check-Out - Late check-out until 12pm is included in this group tour for passengers travelling on our package in the last hotel of stay. If you want to stay past the 12pm deadline please let us know on at the time of booking as extra charges will apply.

Development - Although India is developing quickly, it still lacks the international standards of civil infrastructure and tourist facilities. Concepts of personal responsibility are also different to those in United States. Consequently, tourist and public facilities may not uphold the same safety standards as in United States; for example, you may see a hole in the road without a warning sign or safety barricade. All of our suppliers meet local safety standards as a minimum. We want you to have an enjoyable holiday so we ask that you take extra care, use your common sense, refer to notices and follow advice from your Local Guide.

Traffic in India - Main and inner city roads in India have a reputation for being very congested.

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For this reason, it may not always be possible to return to your hotel after sightseeing to freshen up before going to the restaurant for dinner. Roads in India have generally been improved over recent years, but traffic and/or weather conditions may extend driving times. Road construction work usually covers an enormous section of road – not just one or two kilometres as you may be used to. For this reason, the timings listed in the sections below are approximations only.

Seatbelts - Please note that seatbelts are not compulsory by law in India and therefore the Indian people largely choose not to wear them. For this reason some vehicles may not be fitted with seatbelts or they may be hidden underneath protective seat covers. It is recommended that where seatbelts are available customers must use them and remain seated at all times while the vehicle is moving.

Rail Journeys - Your trip may or may not involve a train journey in India. Ekno Experience tries to book 1st or 2nd A/c depending on the availability. Getting on and off the trains in India can be quite disordered and confrontational as passengers will start boarding well before people have finished getting off! If your group is disembarking at a stop that is not the end of the line, the train will only stop for 10 minutes and you must have your luggage ready and by your side a few minutes before the train pulls into the station. Follow your Local Guide at all times.

Climbing Steps - Sightseeing at nearly all of the palaces, fortresses and some temples involves climbing quite a number of steps. These palaces were built to provide defence against potential invaders so nearly all of them stand on top of a hill, while the interiors have layers of narrow hallways and steps to slow down the advance of enemies once they were inside. The steps tend to be quite large, not level and sometimes without handrails. Hindu and Buddhist temples also tend to be built at an elevation, as this is the most auspicious position according to ancient beliefs. This means you sometimes need to walk from the bus park to the entrance,

and/or need to climb some steps inside.

People with knee or hip injuries, who have poor balance or are otherwise unable to complete these activities independently should consider the suitability of this itinerary carefully.

Electricity

240V 50Hz

Electric Plug Details

Indian-style plug with two circular metal pins above a large circular grounding pin



OR



European plug with two circular metal pins

Consider Cultural Differences

India has many religions, cultures and histories. Foreign tourists, particularly females, may be stared at as many Indian women don't often go out without their father or husband. Be considerate of this belief, dress with consideration and don't take it personally.

Safety & Security

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade states, 'Due to the risk of harassment and assault, women should take particular care in all parts of India and exercise caution even if they are travelling in a group.' For full advice on travelling to India, visit <http://smartraveller.gov.au/zw-cgi/view/Advice/India>

Appropriate Dress

When visiting temples or mosques, both men and women should dress in non-revealing clothes. Full-length trousers with a shirt or t-shirt for men; and pants or skirts well below the knee with a top that covers the shoulders and upper arms for women. Women might also consider carrying a 'modesty shawl' in their daypack – this could be a sarong or light scarf – which they can wear over their shoulders and heads to feel more comfortable

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while sightseeing at mosques. When visiting Jain temples, you must not wear or take in any leather items such as belts, watches, camera straps, purses and shoes.

Religious sites and homes throughout India – for Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, Muslims or Buddhists to name a few – require all visitors to remove their shoes to enter. Even if you then need to walk outdoors, over hot or rough ground, you will not be allowed to wear shoes. You will often find shoe storage rooms near the entrance of a site where it is customary to leave your shoes near the entrance. Occasionally there are ‘shoe minders’ who will offer to keep your shoes safe for a ‘tip’ – this is not compulsory so each customer can choose to tip for this service or not. If you do not want to remove them, you will have to remain outside.

Bring some shoes that easily slip on and off, and carry a pair of thick, old socks in your daypack, which you can wear to protect your feet from any rough or hot surfaces. The itinerary below will indicate when you need to consider this.

Itinerary changes

1. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

2. Many roads are uneven and or sections may be undergoing repair. Travelling by car is a slow process in India and usually cars travel on average 50kms per hour for distance travel (ie 500kms take 10 hours).

3. The domestic airlines in this region have frequent schedule changes. We will make alternative arrangements if flights are cancelled and your Local Guide will be informed of these.

Flight Delays or Changes to Arrival Times

Due to unforeseen circumstances, flights can be delayed, and therefore connecting flights may be missed. If you find yourself in this situation, please contact our India office on + 91 9418791001 (Local Guide) OR + 91 98166 85999 (24 hours) to urgently advise your arrival

details have changed. Please ensure you have details (flight number and arrival time) handy to pass on to our local office in India. This will ensure your Local Guide can be informed of your most up to date information and ensure someone is at the airport to meet you on arrival. If we are not advised of late changes and missed connections, Ekno Experience/Travels cannot guarantee someone will be able to meet you upon arrival in India as our local office will have no way of knowing which flight you will be arriving on.

We will not be responsible for providing reimbursement of transportation costs from the airport to your hotel in the event that our local office was not advised of changes to arrival times.

Itinerary

Day 0

31 October 2017

Leave from USA and travel to India.

Day 1

1 Nov 2017 Delhi

You will be met at the International Airport and transfer to your hotel in Delhi. Rest of the day relaxing or sightseeing in Delhi (depending on arrival times) Overnight Delhi.

Day 2

2 Nov 2017 - Udaipur

Transfer to the airport for an early morning flight to Udaipur (1.5 hours). On arrival, transfer to your hotel in the Old City, overlooking Lake Pichola. In the afternoon, explore the laneways of the Old City.

Udaipur, also known as the City of Lakes, is one of India's most picturesque cities. Palaces surround the city, the most famous being The Lake Palace, which covers an entire island and was featured in the James Bond film Octopussy. The city was founded in 1559 and was the capital of the Mewar kingdom. There's no doubt you'll enjoy this relaxing, seductive city.

Relax on your orientation walk of this beautiful city so you can get your bearings. Depart from the hotel approximately 6pm for Bagore-ki-Haveli, near

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Gangaur Ghat in the heart of the old city to see a one hour local dance performance. After the dance performance enjoy dinner at a roof top restaurant overlooking the stunning Lake Pichola, the City Palace and enjoy the sweeping views and many treasures housed inside. Overnight Udaipur

Day 3:

3 Nov 2017 - Udaipur

Explore this beautiful city firstly with a visit to the massive City Palace with its many splendourous rooms and glimpses into the era of this opulence. Leisurely stroll the streets around the old city.

Late afternoon we gather to board our boat for a late afternoon cruise around Lake Pichola and sunset cocktails on Jagmandir Island Palace. Overnight Udaipur

Day 4

4 Nov 2017 - Khempur

After an early breakfast leave for Khempur.

Check in hotel – “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” in a small town called Khempur, where the film was shot. Check in and spend the late afternoon strolling through this small village and sampling some of local life. Overnight Khempur

Days 5 & 6

5 & 6 Nov 2017 – Khempur

Spend today quietly around the local village and the hotel. Take the time to contemplate where Judi Dench or Maggie Smith (actresses from the movie) might have enjoyed their ‘post lunch’ chai or indulge yourself by relaxing and have a massage and again sampling the flavor of the local market. Overnight Khempur.

Day 7&8

7 - 8 Nov 2017 - Bishnoi

After breakfast, leave hotel and drive to your next destination in Jodhpur Bishnoi village homestay.

Driving through the Thar Desert you will witness desert life of villagers dressed in colourful clothes herding animals and of desert scenery as you drive

through the desert. There will be ample time to stop on the way for refreshments and lunch and a visit to Ranakpur, to see the amazing Jain Temple.

On arrival at Bishnoi village homestay, there you will be able to have close look of rural culture of Rajasthan experiencing Bishnoi culture and village is famous for true love to nature and animals, have an opportunity to visit the Bishnoi families & meet village people. You will be able to see weavers, potters and block printers on their work.

The Bishnoi religion is well known for their eco-friendly attitude and their efforts in preserving tree and animals.

Day 9

9 Nov 2017 - Jodhpur

After breakfast, leave your homestay and drive to Jodhpur. Arrive and check in to your accommodation. Spend the rest of the afternoon relaxing.

Jodhpur is known as the “Blue City” owing to the many blue houses with the backdrop of the Mehrangarh Fort, one of the largest in India. Why not head to Sadar Bazaar, one of the oldest markets in India, for handicrafts and antiques. The diversity of what’s on offer is impressive. Overnight Jodhpur

Day 10:

10 Nov 2017 - Jodhpur

Jodhpur before heading to the Mehrangarh Fort, one of the largest in India, to take in the sweeping view of the city.

You can either have the late afternoon free or attend a cooking class at a local family’s house and sample your cooking with traditional Indian spices (taste the difference). Overnight Jodhpur

Day 11

11 Nov 2017 - Delhi

After breakfast, check out from hotel and leave to airport to catch flight to Delhi.

Arrive in Delhi, rest of the at leisure in Delhi. Overnight Delhi

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Day 12

12 Nov 2017

Today is your last day in India. Check out of your hotel after breakfast we before we head to the sights of Delhi. These sights to include are India Gate, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk and Raj Ghat (the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi) and Rajpath. Transfer early evening to the international airport for your flight home.

Includes

- Met at Delhi Airport by Ekno Representative
- **All transfers by private vehicles as follows:**
 - Pickup and drop off at Delhi airport
 - Pickup at Udaipur airport
 - Transport from Udaipur – Khempur – Jodhpur
 - Drop off at Jodhpur airport
 - Sightseeing in Delhi
 - Pickup and drop off at Delhi airport
- **2 Domestic Flights**
 - Delhi to Udaipur
 - Jodhpur to Delhi
- 11 nights' accommodation
- Breakfast & 9 Dinners (including Welcome, Farewell Dinners), 2 Lunches at Bishnoi
- Entrance fees to sights
- Local guides in Delhi, Udaipur and Jodhpur
- Services of an English speaking guide throughout the Tour

Excludes

- Airfares to and from India **
- Indian visas
- Travel Insurance (compulsory)
- Cooking class in Jodhpur
- Lunch (except in Bishnoi Homestay)
- Occasional optional items not identified in itinerary description
- Tipping and personal expenses
- Bottled water and other beverages not included with meals

Updated on 19 May 2017

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