



Princes of Marwar - New Year trail

INDIA RAJASTHAN

Ride between Jodhpur and Udaipur travelling through the coloured Vishnoi village on your beautiful **Marwari horse** . You overnight in some beautiful renovated country side ancient Maharajas palaces. Mounted upon beautiful Marwari horses whilst being guided by accomplished horseman Khem Singh Rathore this **horse riding holiday** leads you through historically rich regions from the Kumbalgarh fortress to the semi arid country side.

Trail Riding	 12 days / 7 days riding -	 From £0	   
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Enjoying a canter in Rajasthan



Experienced guides accompany your trail ride



Riding across varied terrain in beautiful Rajasthan

ITINERARY

Highlights

- Ride one of the most beautiful horses in the world, the spirited Marwaris of Rajasthan
- Stay in splendid Maharajas country side palaces.
- Experience true rural Indian life riding through coloured Vishnoi villages on horseback
- Visit Kumbalgarh, the last Rajput resistance stronghold.
- Explore the stunning historic capital of the kingdom of Mawa and its floating palaces.

Day 1 — 1 : EUROPE - DELHI

 Jaypee Vasant Continental

Fly to Delhi. Arrive in New Delhi where you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel close to the airport to avoid traffic (likely Vasant Continental or similar)

Day 2 — 2 : DELHI - JODHPUR

 Jodhpur Ranbanka Palace

This morning domestic flight from Delhi. Depending on your flight schedule, there might be time to organise a short visit to Old Delhi.

On arrival at Jodhpur, you are welcome by your guide and transferred to your hotel. Overnight in Ranbanka Palace or similar.

Note - if your flight is very early, you will visit the Mehrangarh fortress today.

Day 3 — 3 : JODHPUR - LUNI - KHANDI - 2 hours riding

Khandi Camp

In the morning, visit of the Mehrangarh fortress overlooking the whole city (if not done the previous day). This is one of the largest forts in India. Built around 1460 by Rao Jodha, the fort is enclosed by imposing thick walls. Inside its boundaries there are several palaces known for their intricate carvings and expansive courtyards.

After having being transferred by car to Luni river, you meet your guide and the Marwari horses. They are coming from the stables of the expert horseman Kanwar Raghuvendra Singh at Dundlod Castle. In the afternoon you have a short ride to the camp located in the desert of Khandi.

Beautiful tent well furnished.

Day 4 — 4 : KHANDI - ROHET - 3h30 hours riding

Rohet Garh

You ride in the morning in the Bishnoi semi-arid region.

You arrive at lunch in the big village of Rohet where you will stay for the night in a beautiful renovated country side palace.

In the afternoon you may wish to explore the village on foot and take the opportunity to bathe in the swimming pool.

Day 5 — 5 : ROHET - SADAR SAMAND - 5H30 hours riding

Sardar Samand

This morning you will ride on sandy pathways which allow some faster paces. You are crossing the Bishnoi territory, a secluded region with few inhabitants. The Bishnoi people are very peaceful and are not hunting that makes this area a paradise for the Chinkara gazelles, antelopes and the blackbucks with their beautiful black horns. You reach for lunch time the splendid art deco palace of Sadar Samand.

During the afternoon you may wish to relax, visit the area, observe the numerous birds colonizing the lake (if the lake is not dry).

Day 6 — 6 : SADAR SAMAND - KOTRI - 3h hours riding

Kotri Rawla

Free morning at Sadar Samand Lake Palace. After lunch, you ride out towards Kotri. This area is more arid and you may observe some antelopes, gazelles and cranes. You reach Kotri where the people are very open and talkative.

Overnight in a family palace.

Day 7 — 7 : KOTRI - RAWLA NARLAI - 5 hours riding

Rawla Narlai

Your ride either through irrigated or semi arid areas. The first one is dedicated to farming, the second to animals breeding. You have a lunch at Rawla Narlai and visit the picturesque city and its temples. You can see some cenotaphs, an "empty tomb" or monument erected in honour of a person or a group of people buried elsewhere, very old wells. Free afternoon in the surroundings of Narlai.

Overnight in a charming palace hotel.

Day 8 — 8 : RAWLA NARLAI - GHANERO - 5 hours riding

Ghanerao Castle

Today the ride leads you through some small stone villages. They are farming cotton plant, rapeseed and wheat and you may see people harvesting. Once at Ghanero you have a lunch. In the afternoon transfer to Ranakpur where you visit Jain temples dating back from 14th century. This is a complex and sophisticated architecture and the inside is made from white marble. The size, finesse and elegance of the building are in harmony and very well balanced making the temple very impressive.

Overnight in a beautiful castle, property of your guide's family.

Day 9 — 9 : BHARIJA - KUMBHALGARH - 4 hours riding

Aodhi hotel

Short transfer to Ghanero where the horses are waiting for you. Today you ride in the Arawallis forest on a meandering path.

Once primal forest you may see some monkeys, lynx, panther or palm squirrels. You reach Kumbhalgarh fortress which is the end of the ride.

Kumbhalgarh has very impressive 35km long fortification construction on which 8 horses can be ridden side by side.

You overnight in a pleasant hotel in Aodhi located at 2 km of the fortress.

Day 10 — 10 : KUMBHALGARH - JHAIJHAI - DELHI No riding

Day 10 — 10: KUMBHALARG - UDAIPUR - DELHI - NO RIDING

Early morning transfer to Udaipur airport (1h30 drive). Internal flight to Delhi. You are driven directly to your hotel in Delhi. Your flight should leave tonight after dinner.

Note: fog is not uncommon at that time of the year. If air traffic is delayed then you will be taken to Delhi by car so you don't miss your flight home.

Day 11 — 11: EUROPE

Arrival in Europe

DATES & PRICES

We are currently updating our dates and prices they will be online soon. If you want details of this holiday, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Price details

No departure for this destination. Please contact our travel advisers for more information.

- International flights to Delhi are not included.

- Rates are per person, based on two riders sharing a twin or double room/tent.

- Groups are usually composed of a minimum of 4 riders and a maximum of 12 riders.

- Please note: the ride will also confirm for 2-3 riders on payment of a supplement: €650/£590 if there are only two or three riders, €430/£390 for four riders. Once the group has reached 5 people, we will remove this supplement from your invoice and refund you if you have already paid it.

- Airport transfers are included from Delhi except if you are not travelling with the rest of the group.

- Internal flights from Delhi to Jodhpur and Udaipur - Delhi are not included. The cost is approximately £95 - 105 each.

- There is a single supplement payable if you end up in your own room. The supplement is c. €560/£530 and will be refunded to you if a sharer is found.

- A visa is required to enter India and is your responsibility. See "health and visa".

Please Note

The itinerary may be modified at anytime for security reasons, meteorological or events beyond our control such as blocked roads, rivers in flood, drought, strikes and local holidays. Equus Journeys, our local partners and their local guides will always strive to find the best solution and will alter the itinerary as needed.

The names of the hotels and accommodation are given for information only and depending on availability, they may be modified without notice and replaced by another of a similar standard.

Price includes

SUPPORT TEAM

1 support vehicle for logistics

1 horse equipped with saddle and bridle per rider

1 team in charge of the horses

INLAND TRANSPORTS

Airport transfers from Delhi

All land transfers described in the itinerary

ACCOMODATION

2 person tents with beds, comfortable mattress and bedding supplied

Double or triple room in hotel, guesthouse or palace in the countryside

Double room in hotel standard 3*/4*

MEALS

Half board in cities, full board on the ride

1 bottle of mineral water per day during the ride

ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT

saddle bags
First aid kit

Price doesn't include

MEALS

Lunches in Jodhpur and Delhi
Beverage and personal extra

TRANSPORTS

International flights to Delhi bookable on request.

Internal flights from and to Delhi that we can book upon request
Visa fees

EXTRA

Tips to local team
Small group supplement. See above for the price details.
Single room supplement if we are not finding somebody to share

INSURANCE

Cancellation and travel insurances are not included. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend to take out an insurance policy as soon as your travel is booked in case of cancellation.

Optional

ACCOMMODATION

Single room and tent supplement £440 per person

EQUESTRIAN INFO

Horses

The horses are mostly pure bred Marwari horses. They vary in size from 14.2 to 16 hands. They are warm bloods and need to be ridden more with the seat. We do not ride on the mouth as one would ride a thoroughbred. We sit deep almost western style and use the reins very lightly. The horses generally have a soft mouth. The Marwari's extraordinary beauty, arched ears and fiery look adds to their charm.

Minimum riding ability

MINIMUM RIDING ABILITY

You need to be a competent rider, capable and in control in all paces in open spaces. You must be able to rise to the trot and canter in a forward seat.

Weight limit: 85 kgs

PACE

There are long periods of walking, some fast and regular trots and numerous gallops when the terrain allows it.

TACKING ABILITY AND PARTICIPATION

A team of grooms will feed, care for and saddle your horses. You can help with untacking if you wish, but this is not expected.

TRIP CONDITIONS AND REQUESTED EXPERIENCE

You should be at ease at the 3 paces. Having previous experience of a trail ride of several days would be an advantage but it is not compulsory. It is of

particular importance to ensure you are comfortable and balanced when riding at speed across rough and open spaces.

Visiting a new country offers the opportunity to meet other cultures with different mentalities, therefore it is important to accept these differences and respect the local way of life.

EQUESTRIAN EQUIPMENT

The saddles are steel arch cavalry. They are made of leather fitted on a steel frame and the advantage is that they do not sit on the withers of the horse. This way you ride a natural deep seat and it is beneficial for the horse on long rides.

We recommend a seat saver be taken with you and the grooms will happily put it in place.

We recommend our riders to wear a helmet to the correct standard and you should bring your own to ensure a proper fit.

TRAVEL INFO

COMFORT

This is the core point of this ride. You stay in luxurious or more simple country side palaces which belong to Jodhpur or Udaipur Maharajas families or a local civil servant. Some of the palaces offer swimming pool facilities which is very pleasant during hot season. You overnight in a double room with private bathroom. Before or after the ride we have selected high standard hotel.

In Pushkar the camp is very comfortable with bed, shower and toilet.

MEALS

Hotels: On most hotel nights a choice of meals will be available, with wine and spirits also available. Breakfast will be a choice of various fruits, cereals, toast and some cooked items too.

Camping: A help yourself breakfast of toast and cereals with eggs cooked to order if you wish. You have a hot lunch and then another hot meal in the evening around the camp fire. The food is varied and tasty Indian cuisine.

Contrary to popular belief, all Hindus are not vegetarians and strict vegetarianism is limited to the south. However, you are unlikely to be served beef steak as the cow is sacred. You can expect to eat either goat or chicken.

Water:

Take care and do not drink water unless it is out of a bottle. It is better to buy mineral water when staying in the towns. The water you will be offered along the trail will be treated.

There will be limited alcohol to purchase and a variety of soft drinks.

CLIMATE

Rajasthan has a hot dry climate. The monsoon is from June to September during which it is particularly hot. Rain outside the monsoon months is unlikely. The rides are scheduled for the cooler months and at this time the maximum temperature would be around 24°C during the day. Please be mindful that evenings can be cool (c. 5°C) and you should bring a warm sweater and be prepared for a chilly morning just in case there is a snow fall in the Himalayas as the temperature does drop suddenly at times. When camping, the nights can be cold and are felt much more and you are advised to bring warm clothes for sleeping.

GUIDE AND LOCAL TEAM

Who better to lead you than a direct descendant of the House of Ghanerao, a man who can give you the history with anecdotes of the country, offering an experience that is highly personalized and specialized. His passion for nature and conservation of the environment gives a lot of material for exciting stories.

Khem is personally known and related to most of your hosts at the heritage hotels ensuring you are well looked after. He is also a keen naturalist, and can help you identify various species of flora, fauna and avifauna that you may encounter.

A keen sportsman and excellent rider - he has helped to train horses for Polo and now plays golf between Safaris. Khem - a committed bachelor, is a well travelled man and a world citizen, greatly committed to the conservation of the fragile ecology of our planet. All in all, the man most qualified to lead you on your adventure from the plains of Marwar to the hills of Mewar.

TIPS

Tipping is popular in India and it is customary to tip not only your team (guide, cook etc) but also staff in hotels and restaurants. You may find it useful to create a communal tipping "pool" at the start of the trip so that the group tip as a whole. Budget for c. £40-50 per person in total. However, tipping is not an obligation and so this is left to your discretion.

Be careful not to tip too much - being overly generous can affect the general standard of living and destabilise the local economy. If children earn more money than their fathers by begging or asking for money for photos then this can create major distortions within the family.

PACKING LIST

Please pack in accordance with local religious and traditional cultures - it is important to keep your shoulders and knees covered when meeting local populations. Please do not wear shorts or strappy tops in towns and villages. You will also require some smart casual clothes for your hotel nights.

Please note that baggage allowance on Air India (domestic flights) is 25kgs in checked bags and 7 kgs for carry-ons.

Head

- Equus Journeys strongly recommend that you wear a riding helmet and that you take your own to ensure a correct fit. There are many lightweight options available nowadays
- Sunhat for when not riding
- Sunglasses - with a cord attached so they don't fly off when riding
- Woolly hat
- Buff or Bandana to protect against sand, sun and dust

Upper body

- Long sleeved shirts provide protection from the sun and are an extra layer
- T-shirts
- Lightweight fleece or jumper
- A light waterproof jacket

Legs

- Lightweight, comfortable riding trousers or jodhpurs - we recommend riding in them at home before taking them on holiday to ensure they don't rub
- Casual trousers for the evenings.
- Swimsuit to enjoy the swimming pool of the hotels

Hands and Feet

- Comfortable riding boots. We recommend short boots with half chaps. We don't recommend taking your favourite long leather boots in case they get damaged
- Trainers or equivalent light shoes for the evenings
- Socks
- Gloves - your hands are particularly exposed to the sun

Our Recommendations

- Please don't take a hard sided suitcase. Your luggage should be soft sided with a capacity of about 80 litres. We recommend taking a backpack or similar.
- Backpacks cannot be worn whilst riding. MAX LOAD is 15kg.
- We recommend a small bumbag or a coat with pockets so that you can carry small items with you during the day (camera, sunscreen, lipbalm etc) and whilst riding.
- We recommend travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes in your hand luggage - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride.
- Tall riders may benefit from taking a pair of long stirrup leathers with them (the local stirrups are adjustable but are sometimes limited in length)

Other useful items

- Towels - camping ones will both dry and pack more easily
- Small backpack 25-30 liters
- Camera and high capacity memory card. Spare battery
- Bumbag for carrying your camera and small items whilst riding
- Headtorch or small torch for moving around camp at night - bring spare batteries and bulbs
- Water bottle (2 litres or 2 x 1 litre)
- Swiss army knife
- Wet Wipes or equivalent (for when washing facilities aren't available)
- Toilet paper and a lighter to burn it with
- Small plastic bags for rubbish
- Ear plugs (for light sleepers)

In your hold luggage

- Any liquids, such as shampoo, moisturiser, deodorant unless they are less than 100ml and all bottles can fit in a small, clear, plastic ziplock bag. We recommend biodegradable washing products where possible.
- Swiss army knife (or equivalent)

In your hand luggage

- Any valuables, such as your camera, ipod, ipad etc.
- Travelling in your riding boots and carrying your hat and some riding clothes is highly recommended - then if your luggage goes astray you are still able to ride!

Medical kit

- Any medication you regularly take
- Sunscreen and lip balm - should be high factor
- Insect repellent, preferably containing deet
- Blister plasters in case of any rubs
- Antiseptic cream, plasters, aspirin, anti-histamine, insect-bite salve etc...
- Spare prescription glasses/contact lenses
- Eye drops
- Imodium or similar anti-diarrhoea medication
- Re-hydration sachets
- Water purification tablets
- Antiseptic wipes
- Handwash gel

Miscellaneous

- We recommend taking a copy of your passport and insurance documents with you in case you lose your originals
- Please take your rubbish home with you. There are no recycling facilities in Rajasthan, so take your used batteries, aerosols etc back home and dispose of them appropriately. Try to leave excess packaging material at home before travelling
- You may wish to take some photographs or postcards of your home with you to show your hosts. You may also wish to take some crayons, colouring books etc for the children
- If you prefer travelling in a "light way" please choose a biodegradable soap or washing powder/liquid.

VISA & HEALTH

Formalities

Passports:

A passport valid for at least 180 days and with at least two blank pages is required by all Australian, British, USA, Canadian and other EU nationals.

Visas:

Visas for India are required by all nationals referred to above. Nationals not referred to are advised to contact their embassy to check visa requirements for India.

Visa note:

Certain parts of the country have been designated protected or restricted areas that require special permits and in some cases prior government authorisation. You should indicate your intent to visit a specific restricted region when applying for a visa and a permit will be granted to visit that region only. It is advised that you apply for the special permit for restricted areas when you enter India by visiting the FRRO (Foreign Regional Registration Office) which has offices in all major Indian airports and cities. You must complete an additional form, but there is no fee for a restricted area permit.

Passengers are advised to check with the consulate for up-to-date information before departure. You must fill in application forms completely, and with as much detail as possible, otherwise the application may be rejected and a new application only allowed after three months have passed.

You should be aware that there have been changes made by the Indian Government, on visa formalities for foreigners who are hospitalised in India, when travelling on a short-term tourist visa. If you or someone you are travelling with is travelling on a tourist visa and is hospitalised, we would advise you to immediately get in touch with the local Foreigners Registration Office (FRO) to check if visa conversion is required.

IMPORTANT: the information below is for UK citizens. Citizens of other nationalities please contact us. For up to date information please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/india/entry-requirements>

Visa procedure:

You'll need to get a visa before travelling to India. You can find further information about how to apply on the Indian High Commission website (<https://www.hcilondon.gov.in/index/>).

Make sure you get the right visa for your travel and that it's valid for the purpose and duration of your stay. If you enter India on the wrong visa, you could be detained on arrival and you may be deported and blacklisted, meaning that you can't enter India again. Make sure you meet entry requirements.

Tourist visas can't be extended while in India.

From 1 April 2017, the length of stay on an e-visa has been increased from 30 days to 60 days with double entry on tourist and business e-visa and triple entry on medical e-visas. This means you can stay for or re-enter within 60 days of the date of your first entry into India on your e-visa. However, you must leave the country before your visa expires, irrespective of when or how many times you enter. When you arrive at the airport, your passport will be stamped and an expiry date for your e-visa will be handwritten by an Immigration Officer. Please be aware that 60 days is not automatically equal to two calendar months. Check the date that is written on your passport and make sure you leave the country before your visa expires.

Holders of passports endorsed 'British citizen' who meet the eligibility criteria can apply for a double entry e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) to enter India at certain

designated airports. You can find more information about the eligibility criteria on the government of India's e-Tourist Visa website (<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html>). Beware of fake websites offering the e-TV service. You should check carefully whether or not you're eligible for an e-TV before you apply. British subject, British protected person, British overseas citizen, British national (overseas) and British overseas territories citizen passport holders aren't eligible to apply for an e-TV.

Passport validity:

Your passport must be machine readable, with 2 blank pages for your visa and valid for a minimum of 180 days at the time of your visa application. However, the guidelines regarding passport validity on arrival in India are unclear. To avoid possible problems at immigration, make sure your passport is valid for a minimum of 180 days at the time of entry into India.

India's Bureau of Immigration has announced that with immediate effect, foreign nationals who arrive at an Indian port holding non-machine readable passports will be denied entry. Carriers who transport foreign passengers holding non-machine readable passports may be subject to a fine.

Time required

All visa applications in the UK now have to be filed online at <https://www.vfsglobal.com/en/individuals/index.html>. After the mandatory electronic filing of visa applications, applicants are asked to submit printed copies of their applications, photos, passports and fees to respective Indian Visa Application Centres (IVACs). Processing times vary at the sole discretion of the High Commission of India and its consulates in the UK, and some applications may take longer than others to get processed. You should confirm your travel plans only after obtaining the visa.

Postal applications take a minimum of 10 working days (not including transit). In addition, if the High Commission or the Consulate General requires an applicant to attend an interview, the India Visa Application Centre will contact the applicant and inform them of the date and time of the interview accordingly.

ADDRESSES OF CONSULATES

- High commission of India
India House
Aldwych
WC2B4NA London
Tél. : +44-(0)20-76323070/7
Fax :
info.london@hcilondon.in
- Paris | Ambassade d'Inde
15, rue Alfred Dehodencq
75016 Paris
Tél. : 01.40.50.70.70
Fax :
- Ambassade de France en Inde
2/50-E Shantipath - Chanakyapuri
New Delhi
Tél. : +91 (11) 43 19 61 00
Fax :

Health

Vaccinations are sometimes advised for hepatitis A and B, Japanese encephalitis, tuberculosis (for infants), polio and typhoid. Dengue and malaria are both caused by mosquito bites and are prevalent in hot and humid conditions. There are occasional, seasonal outbreaks of dengue fever. Travellers should vigilantly protect themselves against mosquito bites.

Malaria prevention is strongly recommended so use insect repellent and wear protective clothing. Obtain anti-malarial medicine from your doctor before travelling.

Even seasoned travellers may find themselves at the mercy of travellers' diarrhoea. Hygiene standards vary. If possible, travel around with soap or antibacterial gel in order to clean your hands. The culprits that cause diarrhoea are often the microorganisms found in local water supplies, so decrease your chances by drinking bottled or boiled water. You can have alcoholic drinks but say no to ice. Drink carbonated beverages or those with only boiled water like coffee and tea.

Carry rehydration solution packets, Pepto Bismol or Imodium in case you are afflicted. Before your travel, seek medical advice about what to take for self-treatment.

Wear adequate sunscreen or do like the locals to beat the heat and avoid the sun between 1200 and 1600 when it is at its harshest; don a cotton kameez to keep covered and cool.

Insurance

It is a condition of your booking with Equus Journeys that you have travel insurance which covers you for the riding activities to be undertaken. Your travel insurance should cover you for medical expenses and repatriation. Your guides will require your travel insurance details before they allow you to ride and may refuse to let you ride if you cannot provide them. You should take your insurance documents with you.

Our recommendation :

Cancellation and travel insurances are not included. Please note that insurance is mandatory. We recommend to take out an insurance policy as soon as your travel is booked in case of cancellation.

Budget and money

Rupee (INR; symbol Rs) = 100 paise. Notes are in denominations of Rs1,000, 500, 100, 50, 20 and 10. Coins are in denominations of Rs5, 2 and 1, and 50, 25, 20, 10 and 5 paise.

Note: The import and export of local currency is prohibited. Sometimes smaller vendors will not take bills larger than Rs 500. It is best to carry a range of rupee notes if you are shopping at bazaars and local markets.

Credit cards:

In major cities, the full cadre of banks cards are generally accepted including debit cards, American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa. However, in smaller towns and villages, choice is generally narrowed to cash or MasterCard and Visa.

ATM:

24 hour ATM machines can be found in all the major cities and most large towns. Visa, MasterCard, Cirrus, Maestro and Plus are amongst the most commonly accepted cards.

Telephone and jetlag

Roaming agreements exist with most international mobile phone companies. Coverage is limited to major towns but is increasing all the time.

Dialling code +91

GMT +5.30