

Rajasthan Bike

India, A journey through Rajasthan 'The Land of Kings'



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Rajasthan Bike Challenge

Cycle through the 'Land of Kings' finishing at the Taj Mahal

A classic bike adventure through the wilds of the Aravali Mountain Range, with breath-taking scenery, exciting rides, fine campsites and wonderful bird-life. This exhilarating journey starts in Bundi, a captivating little town which has more or less retained a medieval atmosphere. From Bundi we start our 5 day biking challenge to Bharatpur National Park, crossing an area of remarkable diverse flora, fauna and landscape.

We will take in the Aravali Mountain Range (the oldest mountain range in the world), dotted with tribal villages, cultivated fields, fascinating temples, dense forest, sandy deserts, and views of dramatic ruined forts. This is a perfect adventure with exhilarating ascends and descents, rivers, small lakes and a fascinating wildlife like Neelghai or Blue Bull (India's largest antelope), deer, peacocks, and possibly tigers! This exciting adventure comes to an end near the red sandstone buildings of the greatest Mughal Emperor – Akbar. From here our adventure culminates at one of the most famous mausoleums in the world – The Taj Mahal (a love story in marble).



Detailed itinerary

Day 1: Depart UK

Overnight flight from UK to Delhi.

Day 2: Delhi to Kota to Bundi

We arrive in Delhi in the early hours and have breakfast and a chance to freshen up before boarding the Jan Shatabdi Express to Kota (lunch will be on the train). On arrival in Kota we are met by our guides and transfer the final 39km kilometres by jeep to Bundi. Once in Bundi we check into our hotel, where we will have dinner and a briefing about the exciting adventure ahead.

Day 3: Bundi to Indergarh 75kms

After an early breakfast, we will have our bike fitting before beginning our ride. We first cycle through the bustling market and then our into the fields to the base of the Aravali Hills. A gradual ascent takes us to a small ridge and then through the valley offering fine views of the hills, villages fields to a small Talwas Lake (our lunch stop) here, there are great opportunities for bird-watching. After lunch we have a shorter ride to our camp for night just before Indergarh. The camp offers fine views of the Vijasan Mata Temple, which will guard us throughout the night!

Day 4: Indergarh to Ranthambore National Park 55kms

Our day starts with a short descent to Indergarh before we press on through the fields following a dry riverbed. We head to Ranthambore National Park which once was the private hunting reserve of the maharaja of Jaipur; this is one of the most dramatic places to spot tigers, leopards, jungle cats, hyenas and sloths. Animals roam the scrub forests and low hills against a dramatic backdrop of ruined forts, temples and palaces. Following our morning ride we will have lunch and then spend the afternoon on a safari in the park. We camp tonight in the gardens of the hotel Raj Palace, a wonderful experience.



Day 5: Ranthambore National Park to Sapotra 70kms

After early breakfast we set off for another fine ride through the village. As soon as we leave the village we will find ourselves cycling along the riverbed of Banas, which we will have to cross further upstream, there isn't much water though! On the other side, cycling may be difficult for 2 or 3kms as the area is sandy. The views are stunning, we are circled by small dry hills known as Buriparahi, this is a fascinating place till we hit the road again. We continue through another village, through open fields, and dry riverbeds to our overnight camp in the forest which is well shaded by eucalyptus trees.



Detailed itinerary

Day 6: Sapotra to Hindon

85kms

Our morning is filled with a 20km off-road section through the hills and riverbeds until we reach Kelan Devi Temple (the most powerful goddess temple in the area). From here, we continue with fine views of distant ruined forts, cycling through green fields to our camp at Hindon in the gardens of Surot Palace. This Palace is used regularly for local weddings - that last for days! If we are lucky, we may see the groom getting to the wedding the traditional way – on an elephant!

Day 7: Hindon to Bharatpur National Park

85kms

We continue through the open fields this morning with distant views of the Aravali Mountain Range. We are shaded today by dense eucalyptus plantations as we continue on our journey towards the Taj Mahal. We will encounter some local traffic for almost the first time on the ride, small jeeps and camel carts, as we join the national highway from Jaipur for our last 5km cycle into camp. If time permits tonight we will visit the Bharatpur Wetlands (one of the best bird-watching locations in the world).

Day 8: Bharatpur to Fatehpur Sikiri to

Agra

30kms

Today we cycle the final 30 kilometres to Fatehpur Sikiri before we say goodbye to our bikes and transfer a short distance to Agra. In the evening we will visit the Taj Mahal before celebrating our achievements with a special dinner.

Day 9: Agra to Delhi

This morning we transfer back to Delhi and have a free afternoon to explore, or join an organised sightseeing tour of the Red Fort, the Silver Marker by cycle rickshaw. Overnight in a hotel.

Day 10: Return flight to UK

Challenge grade

Moderate

Best time of year

October to February

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This itinerary is complex and
subject to change*

