

Pedaltours

vacations for cyclists since 1985

INDIA

RAJASTHAN

Forts and Palaces

10 days, 9 nights

Superior Accommodation

The tour starts in Delhi, the capital of India. Join Pedaltours as we cycle through villages where we will share the road with goats and camels, sacred cows – perhaps even an elephant; see local women pumping water at the communal well and be overwhelmed by magnificent Moghul forts rising above deserts and towns.

Please bring this information with you to the tour start.

Distances are given in kilometres. 1 km = 0.62 miles.

Cycling distances given are entirely optional; cycle as little or as much as you wish each day, the support vehicle will always be close by. Suggested cycling distances are given for each day



Prior to joining the bike tour you may like to visit Agra, famed for the shimmering white marble domes of the Taj Mahal; it really is a 'must see' We recommend an overnight stay then taking the train to Kota, arriving early evening, to commence the bike tour and meet those who have taken the train direct from Delhi. You may also wish to visit a tiger reserve at Ranthambore, between Agra and Kota.

The diverse State of Rajasthan is home to the Rajput warrior clan whose legacy is an amazing collection of forts and incredibly impressive castles and palaces. One of the highlights of the trip is a two night stay at Castle Bijaipur, in addition to visiting Fort Kumbhalgarh and soaking up the history of the sub continent. The cycling in Rajasthan is less strenuous than Kerala – the terrain easier and the distances shorter.

This tour is fully supported – cycle as little or as much as you wish each day. On most days a reasonably fit cyclist will be able to cycle the entire distance each day.

Meeting Day / Day 1 Arrive Delhi:

Namaste! You will be welcomed in the traditional Indian way with hands clapped together and then transferred to your hotel. (flights into Delhi arrive quite late at night).

Accommodation D

Ramada Plaza Hotel, 4 star +91 11 4355 5555 www.ramadaplazadelhi.com
19 Ashoka Road, New Delhi,

Facilities: Restaurant, bar, gym, pool

Features: Centrally located 4 star hotel in the heart of the business district

Day 02, Delhi - Kota:

Meet your guide and Tour Escort in the lobby of the hotel at 9.00 am where you will meet your fellow travelers and be given an overview of the days ahead. We will then take a sightseeing tour of the city that includes the famous India Gate, the Houses of Parliament, Connaught Place and Birla House, the former residence of Mahatma Gandhi, which has been converted into a museum.

New Delhi, the capital of India is a reflection of the old and new of India, a blend of Mughal India, Hindu India, British India and modern independent India.

After lunch we board the train to Kota.

Jan Shatabdi Express (Chair car seating) Departs: 13.20 Hrs, Arrive at Kota at 19.40 Hrs
(Food can be purchased on board the train)

Accommodation (B,L, D)

Welcome Heritage Umed Bhawan Palace, Palace Rd , Kota +91 744 2325262-65
www.welcomeheritagehotels.com

Facilities: Restaurant, museum, spa, gym

Features: A former palace built for Maharaja Umed Singh 2 in 1905 of pink-hued sandstone

Day 03 Kota- Bijaipur: Total distance 120 kms/ 75 mi

Cycling distance c.60 kms / 38 mi

After breakfast you will be fitted to your Pedaltours bicycle or unpack your own prior to exploring the nearby countryside, heading for Bijaipur, a small village to the south west of Kota. Castle Bijaipur was built in early 16th century AD by Rao Vijay Singh, descendent of great Rajput warrior Shakti Singh. Bijaipur was a strategic location in the former kingdom of Mewar, as it defended the frontiers against the invading Mughal and Maratha armies.

The castle has been renovated and converted into a heritage hotel and offers views of the Vindhyachal ranges, the valley, lake and village encircling it. The roads carry very little vehicle traffic but you will come across goats and camels.

Accommodation (B,L,D)

Castle Bijaipur Tel: +91 1472 276-222 www.castlebijaipur.com

Facilities: Restaurant, bar, pool

Features: A character hotel in a delightful setting

Day 04, Bijaipur: Optional day ride of 69 km/ 43 mi (inc. 5 km unpaved)

Or 34 km / 21 mi direct

A day to either soak up the atmosphere of the castle or explore the surrounding countryside by bike and see the local way of life in this part of Rajasthan. Lunch will be at Panagarh Lake Resort, overlooked by Panagarh Fort. On the western banks of the lake, a luxury camp has been set up by the Bijaipur family. Relax in the castle grounds in the afternoon.

B, L and D

Overnight: Castle Bijaipur Tel: - +91 1472 276-222, 276-292

Day 5 Bijaipur to Udaipur:

Cycling distance: Bijaipur/Chittaurgarh 40 kms/ 25 mi

In the morning we head north on minor roads, passing small villages on our way to Chittaurgarh, famous for India's largest fort. We spend an hour or so soaking up the atmosphere of the fort and then have lunch in town at the Hotel Pratan Palace prior to driving to Udaipur.

Accommodation: (B,L,D)

Udai Koti Hotel – 4 Star, Udaipur +91 294 2432810 www.udaikothi.com

Facilities: Spacious rooms, roof top restaurant, bar

Features: A superb view of the lake and ten minute walk to the Old Bazaar.

Cycling distances given are entirely optional: the support vehicle will be available at all times

Day 06, Udaipur: Optional day Ride to Jhadol: 45 km or 90 km / 56 mi return.

Today we take a beautiful day ride from Udaipur to Jhadol Safari Resort. We drive to the edge of town to commence cycling; a superb day cycling on narrow paved roads through rolling country and little villages. We relax on the lawn with a well earned drink prior to lunch at Jhadol Safari Resort, an oasis nestled in the foothills of the Aravalis at the edge of a magnificent lake. After lunch those with energy to spare could cycle back to town on a circular route, alternatively drive.

Accommodation (B,L,D)

Udai Koti Hotel – 4 Star,Udaipur +91 294 2432810

Day 07, Udaipur –Kumbhalgarh: 102 km. Cycling distance 55 km / 34 mi

We drive out of town to commence cycling on a quiet road – a little climbing through pleasant rural countryside with increasing views. After lunch we visit impressive Kumbhalgarh Fort. Built by Rana Kumbha in mid-15th century, Kumbhalgarh is the second most important bastion of Mewar, after Chittaurgarh, covering an area of 12 sq km.

The fort lies 1,100 metres above sea level and enclosed within its fortified ramparts are palaces, temples, fields, water sources and farms fully self-contained to withstand a long siege. Kumbhalgarh provides an excellent view of the countryside where many fierce battles were fought. It is worth returning in the evening as it is floodlit.

Accommodation: (B,L,D)

Overnight: The Aodhi , Kumbhalgarh Tel: +91 2954 242341-6

Facilities: restaurant, swimming pool, bar

Features: A small comfortable character hotel with views of the hills and close to the fort

Day 08, Kumbhalgarh –Ranakpur:- 54 km / 34 mi

Today cycle to Ranakpur, an easy ride on a quiet road that includes a major downhill. Named after Rana Kumbha, Ranakpur is renowned for some marvelously carved Jain temples dating from 1439; it is amongst the five holiest places of the Jain community. There is the opportunity to visit the impressive Ranakpur temples if you wish.

Accommodation: (B, L, D)

Maharani Bagh Orchard Retreat, Ranakpur www.welcomheritagehotels.com

Phone + 912934 285151

Facilities: Indian and continental cuisine, swimming pool, tennis and badminton

Features: Delightful orchard retreat beneath the Aravalli Hills.

Day 09: Ranakpur – Udaipur:

After breakfast we drive to Udaipur for a (optional) city tour, visiting the City Palace, Saheliyon Ki Bari and the folklore museum where we can see a presentation of the string puppet show typical to this area.

Accommodation: (B,L,D)

Udai Koti Hotel – 4 Star,Udaipur +91 294 2432810

Facilities: Spacious rooms, roof top restaurant, bar

Features: A superb view of the lake and ten minute walk to the Old Bazaar.

Day 10: Udaipur to Delhi

After breakfast we take you to Udaipur Airport for your flight (not included) to Delhi or other destination and home.

We will be pleased to make additional Travel arrangements within India, such as to the Taj Mahal or Ranthanbore Tiger Reserve.

We wish you ‘bon voyage’ and hope to see you again. An airport transfer is included.

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Superior Accommodation

Day	Date	Location	Accommodation	Phone
01		Arrive Delhi	Ramada Plaza Hotel	91 11 4355 5555
02		Kota	Umed Bhawan Palace	91 744 2325262
03		Bijaipur	Castle Bijaipur	91 1472 276-222
04		Bijaipur	Castle Bijaipur	91 1472 276-222
05		Udaipur	Udai Koti Hotel	91 294 2432810
06		Udaipur	Udai Koti Hotel	91 294 2432810
07		Kumbhalgarh	Aodhi	91 2954 242341
08		Ranakpur	Maharani Bagh Orchard	912934 285151
09		Udaipur	Udai Koti Hotel	91 294 2432810
10		depart for home		