

Classic Rajasthan





Classic Rajasthan – 1

**Delhi – Mandawa – Bikaner – Jaisalmer – Jodhpur – Udaipur –
Pushkar – Jaipur – Agra – Delhi**



Sketch Itinerary

Day 1 :	Arrive Delhi	By: Flight
Day 2 :	In Delhi	
Day 3 :	Delhi – Mandawa	By: Surface
Day 4 :	Mandawa – Bikaner	By: Surface
Day 5 :	Bikaner – Jaisalmer	By: Surface
Day 6 :	In Jaisalmer	
Day 7 :	Jaisalmer – Jodhpur	By: Surface
Day 8 :	Jodhpur – Ranakpur – Udaipur	By: Surface
Day 9 :	In Udaipur	
Day 10:	Udaipur – Pushkar	By: Surface
Day 11:	Pushkar- Jaipur	By: Surface
Day 12:	In Jaipur	
Day 13:	Jaipur – Agra	By: Surface
Day 14:	Agra – Delhi Depart Delhi	By: Surface By: Flight

**** **End of Tour** ****



Detailed Itinerary

Day 1

Arrive Delhi

By: International Flight

You will arrive at New Delhi's International Airport. Following customs, immigration formalities and baggage collection, one of our Representatives will meet you outside the Arrival Hall after which you would be transferred to your hotel.

Upon arrival at the hotel, proceed for check-in at the hotel.

India's capital and a major gateway to the country, contemporary Delhi is a bustling metropolis, which successfully combines in its folds - the ancient with the modern. Amidst the fast spiraling skyscrapers the remnants of a bygone time in the form of its many monuments stand as silent reminders to the region's ancient legacy. The first impressions for any visitor traveling in from the airport are of a spacious, garden city, tree-lined with a number of beautiful parks.



DAY 2

In Delhi

Following breakfast, proceed for combined sightseeing tour of Old & New Delhi.

First visit Old Delhi. The tour will begin with a visit to Raj Ghat, a simple memorial to Mahatma Gandhi; drive past Red Fort (closed on Mondays & national holidays) - World Heritage Site, one of the most spectacular pieces of Mughal Architecture. Built by the Mughal emperor, Shah Jahan between 1638 and 1648, the Red Fort has walls extending up to 2 kms in length with the height varying from 18 mts. continuing to the Jama Masjid, one of Asia's largest mosques and which is viewed from the outside. People stream in and out of the mosque continuously and the presence of a nearby bazaar means that the area is rarely quiet.

After visiting Old Delhi, you will be driven to New Delhi, which reflects the legacy the British left behind. The division between New and Old Delhi is the division between the capitals of the British and the Mughals respectively. The division in the walled city and New Delhi also marks the division in the life-styles. The walled city is all tradition where one will be able to glean a past life-style in all its facets, colours and smells. New Delhi in contrast, is a city trying to live up to the best of 21st century standards.

The tour to Imperial Delhi will include a visit to the Qutab Minar, the tallest stone tower in India. Qutub-ud-din Aibak started it in 1199. Pulling down 27 Hindu and Jain temples and using their columns erected the attached Quwat-ul-Islam mosque also built by him. Then visit Humayun's tomb, built by the widow of the second Mughal Emperor, Humayun, it is an outstanding monument in the Indo-Persian style, a precursor of the Taj Mahal. The tour also includes a drive past the imposing India Gate, Sansad Bhawan (the Parliament House) and the Rashtrapati Bhawan, the President's residence.

Return to your hotel after the sightseeing tour.



DAY 3

Delhi – Mandawa

By: Surface – 280 kms / 6h00 drive

This morning you will be driven from Delhi to Mandawa (280 KMS / 6 Hours), a remote feudal principality in the centre of Shekhawati region, enroute visiting Jhunjhunu. Upon arrival, proceed to check-in at your hotel.

The Rajput ruler of Mandawa built a fort in 1755 to protect this trading outpost that fell in the ancient caravan routes from China and Middle East. The township that grew around the fort attracted a large community of traders, who settled here. When the caravan traffic ceased in the late 18th century, the traders created business empires in other parts of the country, but returned to Mandawa build palatial mansions in their hometown.

This afternoon, you will explore this storybook town of Mandawa known for its colourful frescoes on a wide variety of subjects ranging from religious to the erotic; from copies of popular English prints to witty social satire rendered in the inimitable style of local artist. Every home here is adorned with gaily-painted murals that illuminate the arid landscape.



DAY 4

Mandawa – Bikaner

By: Surface – 170 kms / 4h00 drive

Today you will be driven from Mandawa to Bikaner. Upon arrival proceed for check-in at the hotel.

In the afternoon, you will proceed for a sightseeing tour of Bikaner. Visit Junagarh Fort, one of the most interesting forts in Rajasthan, with its sumptuously decorated interiors. Built in 1588 by Raja Rai Singh it is unusual in the sense that it was one of the few major forts of Rajasthan that was not built on a hilltop. Instead, it was built on the desert plains; its rugged sandstone bastions and graceful pavilions and balconies are silhouetted against the sky.



DAY 5

Bikaner – Jaisalmer **By: Surface – 330 kms / 7h00 drive**

After breakfast, you will be driven from Bikaner to Jaisalmer.

Jaisalmer, the golden beauty etched in yellow sandstone, standing tall against miles of gleaming sand. Founded in 1156 AD by Maharawal Jaisal, Jaisalmer's location kept it almost untouched by outside influences and even during the days of the Raj, Jaisalmer was the last to sign the Instrument of Agreement with the British.

Upon arrival in Jaisalmer, proceed for check-in at your hotel following which remainder of the day will be at leisure.



DAY 6

In Jaisalmer

Proceed for a city tour of Jaisalmer. Our first stop will be the Fort also known as Sonar Qila (meaning the Golden Fort), the Jaisalmer fort shimmers like a mirage amidst the desolate beauty of the hot barren deserts of Rajasthan. Built in 1156 by the Bhati Rajput ruler Jaisala and reinforced by subsequent rulers, the fort situated on the Trikuta Hill had been the scene of many battles. Standing at a height of 100 meters over the city, the fort houses a citadel within its huge ramparts. The world's only living fort, about a quarter of city's population lives within the fort's walls. Jaisalmer Fort is sheer magic. Built entirely of yellow sandstone; it turns to a magical honey-gold as the sunsets. Several entrances like the Ganesh Pol, Suraj Pol, Bhoota Pol and the Hava Pol guard the Megh Durbar and the Jawahar Mahal. The main attractions inside the fort are the Raj Mahal (Royal palace), the Lakshminath temple and the Jain temples, which built between 12th and 15th centuries, are dedicated to Rikhabdev and Sambhavanth.

The city of Jaisalmer is famous for its intricately latticed Havelis, built by wealthy merchants. These beautiful sandstone buildings are still in very good conditions even today.

Visit the Patwon-Ki-Haveli - one of the most elaborate and magnificent of all Jaisalmer havelis, the Patwon-Ki-Haveli built by Guman Chand Patwa, one of the wealthiest merchant of the time took over fifty years to complete. Five storied high with some exquisite carved pillars and extensive corridors and chambers, it is divided into six apartments, two owned by archaeological Survey of India, two by families who operate craft-shops and two private homes. The haveli is built of yellow sandstone with a different design on every window and arch. As you enter the haveli through its magnificent arched gateway, you come across its delicately carved yellow-brown frontage with as many as 60 balconies overlooking it. One of the grandest mansions in Jaisalmer, the stone carving far surpasses in beauty the work on brocade and gold.



Salim Singh ki Haveli - believed to have been built about 300 years ago, the Salim Singh ki Haveli was the residence of the powerful Mohta clan - the hereditary ministers of the Jaisalmer rulers. Built in 1815 by Salim Singh, who was the prime minister when Jaisalmer was the capital of the princely state, the eight storied haveli boasts of 38 balconies, each with a different design. It also has a beautifully arched roof capped with blue cupolas and carved brackets in the form of peacocks. Located just below a hill, the haveli, it is said once had two additional wooden storey in an attempt to make it as high as the maharaja's palace, but the maharaja had the upper storey torn down. Today, a part of the haveli is still occupied.

Nathmalji ki Haveli is a late 19th century mansion that was built for Diwan Mohata Nathmal, then Prime Minister of Jaisalmer. Designed by two Muslim brothers Hathi and Lulu, the left and right wings of the haveli was carved out differently by two brothers. Mighty tuskers carved out of yellow sandstone stand guard to the haveli while the entire façade is embellished with a slew of detailing - horses, elephants, soldiers, flowers and birds. The walls are dominated by beautiful miniature paintings.



DAY 7

Jaisalmer – Jodhpur

By: Surface – 290 kms / 5h30 drive

This morning drive from Jaisalmer to Jodhpur. Upon arrival, proceed for check-in at your hotel.

The old city of Jodhpur is surrounded by a wall 10 km long, which was built about a century after the city was founded. From the fort you can clearly see where the old city ends and the new begins. The old city is fascinating jungle of winding streets of great interest to wander around. Eight gates lead out from the walled city. It's one of the more interesting cities in India and those baggy-tight horse riding trousers, jodhpurs, took their name from this locale.

The Mehrangarh Fort is sprawled across a 125-meter high hill and is the most impressive and formidable fort in the fort-studded Rajasthan. On the wall adjacent to the Lahapol or "Iron Gate" are 15 handprints, the sati marks of the widows of Maharaja Man Singh who threw themselves upon his funeral pyre in 1843. Inside the fort, which is still run by the Maharaja of Jodhpur, there is a whole series of courtyards and palaces.

Later visit the Mehrangarh Fort (citadel of the Sun) that evokes the very spirit of the Rathores, the ruling local Rajput clan. Visit its various palaces with their delicate friezes and respective museums, displaying treasures of the royal family. North of Meherangarh Fort, and connected to it by road, Jaswant Thanda is a pillared marble memorial to the popular ruler Jaswant Singh II (1878-95), who purged Jodhpur of dacoits, initiated irrigation systems and boosted the economy. The cenotaphs of members of the royal family who have died since Jaswant are close by his memorial; those who preceded him are remembered by chhatris at Mandor. This south-facing spot is also the best place from which to photograph the fort, looming above the sheer rocky Meherangarh plateau.

Return to the hotel after your tour.



DAY 8

Jodhpur – Udaipur

By: Surface – 270 Kms / 7h00 drive

After breakfast, you will be driven from Jodhpur to Udaipur (270 KMS / 07 hours) en-route visiting Ranakpur Jain Temples, an exceptionally beautiful excursion through the rugged, wooded hills of Rajasthan to the Jain Temples of Ranakpur in the Aravalli Valley, to see one of the best complexes of Jain religion which is particularly noted for the grandiose scale of its architecture and the highly decorated ceilings, walls and 1444 different pillars. The priests of the temples did all the temple designing and their generations are still continuing the work.

Later continue your journey to Udaipur and upon arrival, check-in at your hotel.

Rajasthan is romantic with tales of valour and chivalry, and a history that brings to life forts and palaces and court intrigues. But Udaipur is different - an interlude for the diehard romantics. A splash of colour in colourful Rajasthan that's brighter, tinged with the tones of local legends and lores. Here are lakes that come as a surprise in sandy Rajasthan, and forested hills where wildlife still abounds. And in the lakes or by their edges are palaces straight out of fairy tales, each more beautiful than the other. There are rugged fortresses too -- Chittaurgarh and Kumbalgarh, where the history of Udaipur is told as if it were but a page from yesterday. For in Udaipur the past lives and breathes with the present.



DAY 9

In Udaipur

After breakfast you will proceed to visit the vast and exquisite City Palace Udaipur, a well-fortified, majestic white monument. The main entrance, a triple-arched gate named the Tripolia, was built in 1725 and is a marvel. The Suraj Gokhada, the Balcony of the Sun, where the Suryavanshi Maharanas of Mewar presented themselves in times of trouble to the people to restore their confidence, is also a fascinating sight.

Afternoon visit the Jagdish Temple, a 16th-century temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, it is the largest and most splendid temple in Udaipur.

Drive past Fateh Sagar Lake and visit Sahelion-ki-Bari, the Garden of the Maids-of-Honor, which has numerous fountains in four pools, embellished with delicately chiseled kiosks and elephants. The garden brings to the fore the unique lifestyle of the royal ladies, who once strolled through these gardens.

Later in the afternoon, take a boat cruise on Lake Pichola to visit Jag Mandir Palace by common boat, which covers almost four acres and is noted for its marble pavilion and an imposing dome. You'll see people doing their laundry on the shores of the lake against the backdrop of the massive City Palace and the old city.

Return to your hotel after sightseeing tour.



DAY 10

Udaipur – Pushkar **By: Surface – 285 kms / 6h00 drive**

You will be driven from Udaipur to Pushkar.

The village of Pushkar lies on the edge of the desert. At its heart is one of India's most sacred lakes. There are 52 ghats around the lake, and numerous temples. The Brahma temple, especially, attracts pilgrims all year round. Apart from its religious significance, Pushkar is known for its Cattle and Camel fair held every year in the month of Kartik (October/November), which attracts visitors in their thousands. You can also witness and participate in the evening prayer meetings in the temples. Being a religious town, alcohol and non-vegetarian food are taboo.

Afternoon you will explore the city mainly visiting the Pushkar Lake Ghats and the Bramha Temple, which is one of its kind left In India today.

Return to your hotel after the visits.



DAY 11

Pushkar- Jaipur

By: Surface – 150 kms / 3h00 drive

Proceed from Pushkar to Jaipur. Upon arrival check-in at the hotel.

Jaipur's past is never too far from hand. The city of victory, Jaipur presides over the fascinating desert state and its people: surrounded by rugged hills, each crowned by a formidable fort; and beautiful palaces, mansions and gardens dotted throughout its precincts. The palaces and forts of yesteryear that were witness to royal processions and splendour are now living monuments, accepted quite naturally into the lifestyles of the people of the "pink city". Except for the busy traffic of bicycles, cars and buses, little seems to have changed. There is a timeless quality to Jaipur's bazaars and its people. With its historical past, Jaipur revives legends of the ancient Rajputs. The dresses of the women and the turbans of the men add colour to this fascinating city.

Rest of the day is at leisure.



DAY 12

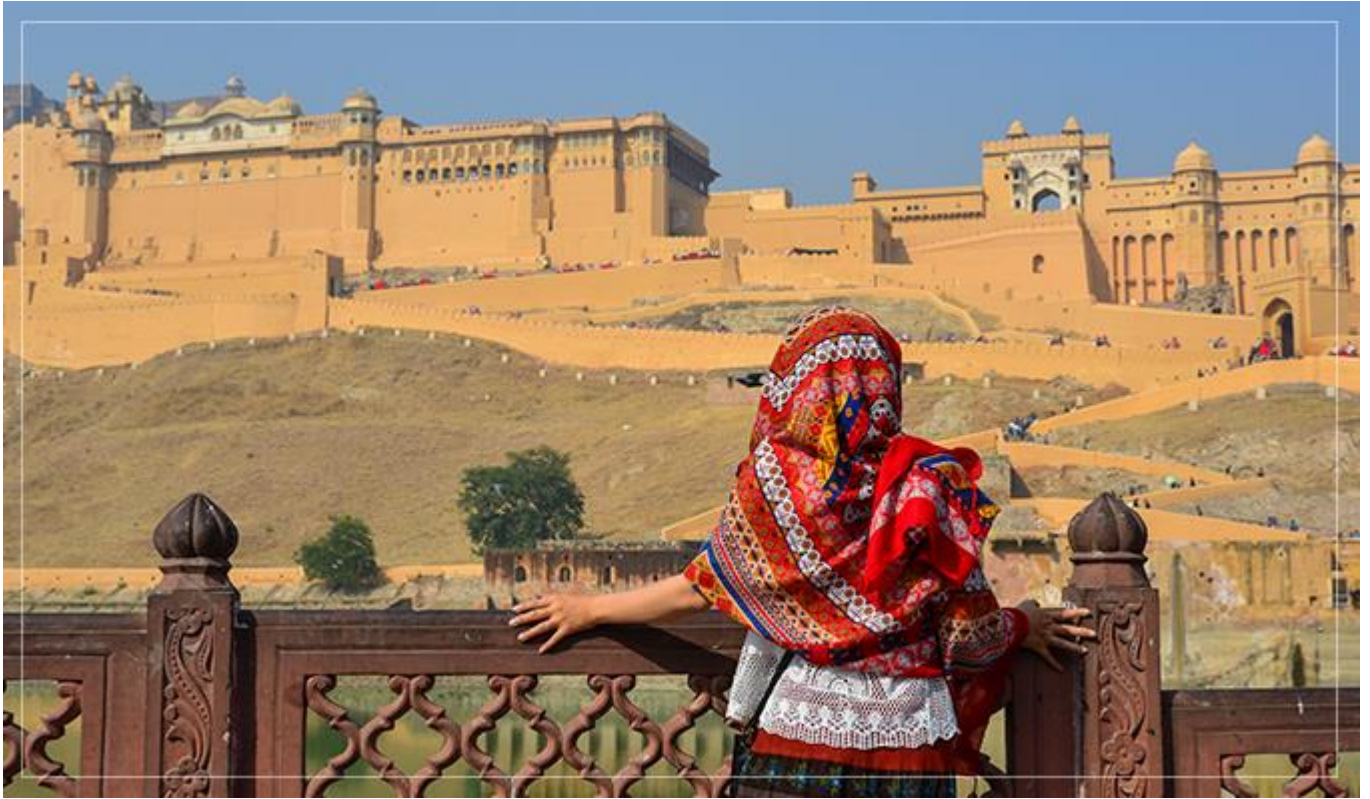
In Jaipur

After an early breakfast, you will proceed to visit the capital of Amber to see the fabulous Amber Fort. Maharaja Mansingh, Mughal Emperor Akbar's most successful General, started the construction of Amber Fort in the 17th century. Before the City Palace was constructed in Jaipur, Amber was the seat of power. The fort is surrounded by fortified battlements and overlooks the Moat Lake. Ruins and remains are spread over the Aravalli hills and sprawling crenulated walls lattice the surrounding area.

An elephant (alternatively by jeeps) will spare you the trouble of reaching up to the fortress. Once on top, stroll through the sprawling complex of courtyards and halls. Many of the rooms have delightful wall paintings, with precious stones and mirrors inlaid in the walls. Most fascinating, perhaps, is the Sheesh Mahal (hall of mirrors) where a single lamplight is reflected in the many mirrors, lighting up the room.

En-route to Amber Fort you will stop and see the 'Palace of Winds', otherwise known as Hawa Mahal. It is really an elaborate facade behind which the ladies of the court used to watch the daily goings on in the street below. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. The cool wind blows through its facade of windows and latticed screens through which the queens of the court once viewed the streets of the city.

Afternoon, you will visit the City Palace, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways. The palace museum houses collections of rare manuscripts, armoury, costumes, carpets and miniature paintings.



Jaipur's Jantar Mantar is the most famous of five observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh in India. Jai Singh was a great admirer of progress and research made in the fields of science and technology, but he was passionate about astronomy. There is a very interesting story behind the construction of this observatory, considered as the largest stone observatory in the world. Sawai Jai Singh sent his emissaries to all parts of the world before commencing the construction of this observatory. The emissaries returned with many manuals on astronomy containing cutting-edge technological information. One of these manuals was a copy of La Hire's "Tables". The king ordered the observatory to be built according to the details contained in this manual. When the construction ended, for the astonishment of the king and others, the observatory was 20 seconds more accurate than the one mentioned in "Table".



DAY 13

Jaipur – Agra

By: Surface – 235 kms / 6h00 drive

Today, you will be driven from Jaipur to Agra visiting Fatehpur Sikri en-route.

Fatehpur Sikri is a deserted red sandstone city, built by the great Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital and palace in the late 16th century. It was abandoned soon after it was built when the local wells went dry and it remains today in much the same condition that it was over 300 years ago. It is complete with palaces and mosques and used to be a town larger than London when it was originally constructed. Now it is an extraordinary place to wander around with its buildings in near perfect condition.

After your visit, continue your drive to Agra and upon arrival, proceed for check-in at your hotel.

Agra in terms of ambiance is still associated with its Mughal period. The Mughals besides being great rulers were also great builders and they preserved their best architectural wonders for Agra & its neighbourhood. It has many wonderful monuments and the Taj Mahal, the greatest of them all, is a masterpiece of Mughal architecture at its best. The massive but elegant Agra Fort, the delicate artistry of Itimad-ud-daulah's tomb, the magnificent Taj and Akbar's deserted capital, Fatehpur Sikri, are each unique and outstanding. Their architectural genius can also be seen in the forts, palaces and aesthetically laid out gardens - each one a silent witness to a grand style of a golden era.



DAY 14

Agra – Delhi
Depart Delhi

By: Surface – 203 kms / 4h00 drive
By: An International Flight

Post breakfast you will proceed for half day sightseeing tour of Agra visiting Taj Mahal (closed on Fridays). Midway Tonga's "horse carriages" would be waiting for you and will drop you at the gates of the Taj Mahal.

The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan as an expression of his love for his wife Mumtaz Mahal, in mid 17th century, the Taj Mahal is truly one of the wonders of the world. Though the Taj appears to be amazingly perfect from almost any angle, it is the close-up marble inlay work, which is really astounding. You will have ample time to view and be mesmerized by this outstanding piece of architecture.

Later also visit Agra Fort, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture. Agra Fort - the seat and the stronghold of the Mughal Empire under successive generations. This was the seat of Mughal rule and administration and the present structure owes its origins to Akbar who erected the walls and gates and the first buildings on the eastern banks of Yamuna River. Shah Jehan added the impressive quarters and the mosque while Aurangzeb added the outer ramparts. Visit its Hall of Public Audience and its Royal Pavilions.

Post sightseeing tours, you will be driven to a hotel in Delhi for Wash & Change and Dinner.

Late evening today, you will be transferred to the International Airport to board a flight for onward journey.

*****End of the tour*****



Classic Rajasthan 13 nights tour |

COST PROPOSAL

CITY	HOTEL	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHTS
Delhi	Crowne Plaza Mayur Vihar	Superior Room	02
Mandawa	Vivana Culture Hotel	Deluxe Room	01
Bikaner	Narendra Palace	Residence Room	01
Jaisalmer	Rawalkot	Deluxe Room	02
Jodhpur	Ratan Vilas	Courtyard Standard Room	01
Udaipur	Trident	Deluxe Garden View	02
Pushkar	Dera Masuda	Deluxe room	01
Jaipur	Sarovar Premiere	Superior Room	02
Agra	Crystal Sarovar Premiere	Superior Room	01

INCLUSIONS & EXCLUSIONS

THE TOUR COSTS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

Accommodation

- 13 night accommodation on twin sharing at the hotels mentioned above or similar.
- Breakfast on all days.
- All other meals on direct payment basis.
- Note: please note above meals do not include any alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages.

Transportation

- All transportation services using Air-conditioned Toyota Innova Car (guests allowed: 02).

Others

- Monument Entrance Fees (one time entry only) as per the detailed the itinerary.
- Services of English speaking Local Guides for sightseeing tours / excursions mentioned in the itinerary.

Trek Nirvana Specials :-

- Assistance by our Representatives during Airport / Railway Station transfers.
- 02 bottles of packaged drinking water (500 ml) per person per day basis during travel in vehicle/s
- All currently applicable taxes

THE TOUR COSTS DO NOT INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING

- Tips
- All beverages including water consumed at hotels/restaurants
- Expense of personal nature like meals other than mentioned above, tips, laundry, telephone/fax calls, alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages, still & video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airfare, airport departure tax, any insurance.
- Any airfare on Domestic sectors.
- Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.



SPECIAL NOTES

- **Tour Costs are valid from 01 October 2021 to 20 Dec 2022 except peak dates, festival period including Pushkar cattle fair, sold-out or blackout dates.**
- Please note that some of the sights / itinerary may change due to season, weather, national holidays and special events. Please refer to insider tips printed in brochure.
- At hotels in India standard Check-In time is 1400 Hrs and Check-Out time is 1200 hrs noon.
- Rates include only those items which are specifically mentioned in the detailed itinerary.
- Please note, the names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels. It is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey the confirmations to you on receipt of your acceptance. However in the event of any of the above mentioned hotels not becoming available at the time of initiating the reservations. We shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement / reduction whatever applicable) to you.
- In case on any currency fluctuations or amendment in local Government taxes, or any fuel hike, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly. The due increase or decrease will be communicated accordingly.