



## TOUR PROSPECTUS

This prospectus sets out the contents of the tour and together with the Booking Conditions and Booking Form is the basis of our contract with you.

# **India – Rajasthan**

## **23 October - 7 November 2017**

### **Tour 1759**

This is a moving-on tour with full vehicle support and several rest days, making it a feasible tour for a wide range of cycling abilities. The accommodation is in good quality, character hotels, several of which were originally the homes of rich merchants or princes. Most of the cycling is on minor roads with light traffic, providing a unique opportunity not only to see the usual highlights of Rajasthan but also to experience rural life at close quarters.

The itinerary includes the Pushkar Mela, a dazzling annual Camel Fair that attracts the greatest concentration of nomadic tribes people to assemble anywhere in India, in which camels and cattle are traded. This is one of India's most exotic gatherings and a magnet to photographers from across the world. Visits to Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur show a lifestyle unchanged for centuries.

#### **Itinerary**

Mon 23 Oct	Fly from London Heathrow on Virgin Airlines flight VS300 to Delhi, departing at 2200.
Tues 24 Oct	Arrive Delhi at 1145. Vehicle transfer to hotel. Prepare cycles. Stay one night.
Wed 25 Oct	Vehicle transfer part way then cycle to Jaipur (the pink city). Stay two nights.
Thurs 26 Oct	Free day in Jaipur to see Jaipur city, the Palace of the Winds and the Amber Fort.
Fri 27 Oct	Cycle from Jaipur to Roopengarh Fort, the home of the Maharaja and Maharani of Kishangarh. There should be time to visit the interesting village before viewing the sunset from the ramparts of the fort. Stay one night at Roopengarh Fort.
Sat 28 Oct	Cycle from Roopengarh to Pushkar. Evening visit to Pushkar lake. Stay two nights in luxury tents.
Sun 29 Oct	Free day to visit Pushkar's camel fair, a colourful gathering of tribal people and their animals from all over Rajasthan.
Mon 30 Oct	Part vehicle transfer and part cycle to Kumbhalgarh. Opportunity to visit the impressive fortress near the hotel. Stay one night.
Tues 31 Oct	Cycle from Kumbhalgarh to Udaipur situated on the banks of romantic Lake Pichola. Stay two nights
Wed 1 Nov	Free day in Udaipur to take a guided tour of the City Palace on the banks of Lake Pichola, view the exquisite architecture of the gleaming Lake Palace Hotel and/or take a sunset cruise on the lake.
Thurs 2 Nov	Vehicle transfer 40kms then cycle through the Aravali Hills through small villages to the impressive Jain temples at Ranakpur. Continue to Narlai. Stay one night.
Fri 3 Nov	Cycle/vehicle transfer from Narlai to Rohet. Stay one night at the Rohet Garh, a 350-year-old house, once the abode of the local ruler, now converted to a heritage hotel.
Sat 4 Nov	Cycle to the city of Jodhpur on the edge of the Thar Desert, dominated by the massive Meherangarh Fort. Stay one night.
Sun 5 Nov	Opportunity for a guided tour of Meherangarh Fort and the bustling Clock Tower market. Vehicle transfer to railway station for overnight sleeper train to Delhi, departing at 1930.
Mon 6 Nov	Arrive Delhi 0630. Vehicle transfer to the hotel. Free day to visit local sights. Prepare bikes for the journey home. Stay one night.
Tues 7 Nov	Early-morning transfer to Delhi Airport for Virgin Airlines flight VS301 to Heathrow, departing at 1400. Arrive Heathrow at 1740.
Distances	70 – 105kms per day

#### **Luggage transfer and support**

Back-up vehicles will be travelling with the group for the purpose of taking luggage, giving assistance to riders on route and providing lunch. Some vehicle transfers will be necessary to cover the distances involved.

## Passports, Visas and Health

EU citizens must hold a passport that is still valid for at least six months at the end of the tour, and a visa will be required. Holders of non-EU passports are advised to check whether they require a visa.

There are no compulsory health-related requirements for EU residents although it is strongly recommended that you are vaccinated against: Typhoid; Hepatitis A and B. Tetanus and polio vaccinations should also be up to date at the time of travel. You should contact your doctor at least 3 months prior to travel to obtain these vaccinations and the latest advice to travellers.



## Accommodation and meals

Eleven nights are spent in good 3-4 star hotels, including some converted forts, most of which should have air-conditioning or a ceiling fan and en-suite facilities. Some have a swimming pool. Rooms will be shared 2 people per room. Two nights are spent in comfortable walk-in tents with flush toilets at the Pushkar Camel Fair, 2 people sharing a tent, and one night is spent on the overnight sleeper train, 6 people per compartment. It should be noted that interruptions to power and water supplies occur all over India, thus hot water is generally available but cannot be guaranteed. Breakfast, lunch and evening meal are included on all cycling days; breakfast and evening meal on all free days.

## Price - £2515

The price is based on a minimum number of 18 participants taking part in the tour and is calculated at a rate of 82 rupees = £1 sterling (based on exchange rates published on [www.x-rates.com](http://www.x-rates.com) on 22 October 2016; please note Booking Conditions, clause 3) If there are insufficient bookings by 14 August 2017 we will contact you and return all monies paid, though in certain circumstances the tour may still run at below minimum numbers but at the same price.

## Price includes:

- Return flight from London Heathrow to Delhi
- Coach transfers Delhi airport to hotel and hotel to Delhi airport
- Vehicle transfers as per the itinerary
- Back-up vehicle to carry luggage and transfer group and cycles on occasions
- 11 nights hotel accommodation, sharing rooms
- 2 nights tented accommodation, two sharing
- 1 night on sleeper train from Jodhpur to Delhi, sharing 6 per compartment
- Half board on 14 days with lunch and light refreshments provided on cycling days
- Mineral water supplied on cycling days
- Porterage and assistance with baggage and cycles
- Services of an English-speaking guide throughout the tour
- Route information
- CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours costs

## Price does not include:

- Travel to and from London Heathrow airport
- Meals in transit
- Drinks with lunches and evening meals
- Lunches on non-cycling days
- Visa costs – budget £60 (see Tour Managers' information)
- Gratuities for support crew – budget £40
- Any other personal expenses
- Travel Insurance

## Payment schedule

A deposit of £250 per person must accompany the Booking Form. The final balance of £2265 per person is to be paid ten weeks prior to departure, by 14 August 2017. See payment slip for ways to make these payments.

## Cancellations

Should you be forced to cancel your booking for any reason you must notify us in writing. Cancellation charges are as follows:

Written notice received:	Cancellation charge:
Before 14 August 2017	Deposit ( £250)
14 August 2017 through to departure	100% (£2515)

## Travel Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you are adequately insured for this tour.

Whether you already hold a policy or will be taking out a new one, the cover it offers must be comparable to that stated in clause 7 of the Booking Conditions, and you must complete the enclosed Insurance Declaration Form and return it with your Booking Form.

CTC Cycling Holidays & Tours Ltd can accept no responsibility for any costs you may incur due to insufficient insurance cover.

## To make a booking

Complete, sign and return the Booking Form, deposit part of the payment slip, together with the relevant part of the Insurance Declaration Form, **directly to the Tour Manager** (address on Booking Form).

## TOUR MANAGER'S INFORMATION SHEET

The information below is given by the Tour Manager to help enquirers decide if the tour is suitable for them.

# India – Rajasthan

## 23 October - 7 November 2017

### Tour 1759

#### The area covered by the Tour

Rajasthan, more than any other State in India, brings to life images of the exotic east. Palaces and forts are scattered like jewels across the mainly desert landscape, bearing silent witness to the once opulent lifestyle of the ruling classes. At the other end of the spectrum, you will be able to contrast the daily life of the rural communities for whom mere existence is a struggle. Whilst much of India rushes headlong into the age of technology, most of Rajasthan remains firmly rooted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

This most exotic of Indian states is often called the desert state. However, only 68% of its vast area is true desert. This tour is centred on the eastern side of Rajasthan and the Aravali Hills where the land is more fertile with green river valleys and even the occasional lake. Folk culture is very much alive and evident in the dress of the various tribal groups who add explosions of colour in defiance of their surroundings.

#### Rides and rest days

You may cycle at your own pace, taking time to explore and take photographs. The leader will co-ordinate the movements of the following vehicle to give priority to the slower riders in the group. Faster riders may go ahead if they wish. Plenty of time has been allowed for personal sightseeing.

There are no major hill climbs, and distances are moderate. Cycling conditions can occasionally be testing due to the poor condition of some of the minor roads we use, but you will benefit from the absence of heavy traffic. Individual use of the back up bus will be available, but at some time during the day it will be delivering luggage to the hotel and may not be available precisely when you need it. You will enjoy this holiday more if you prepare by riding on a regular basis during the weeks leading up to the tour.



#### Accommodation / Meals

Accommodation throughout the tour is of a high standard; in fact the hotels are a feature of the tour. Many of the hotels are listed as heritage buildings and were once owned by the ruling classes of Rajasthan. Some still are. The evening meals served at hotels will be buffet style with good choice for vegetarians. A light lunch will be provided on all cycling days.

#### Visas

It is necessary that all travellers to India obtain a tourist visa before departure from the UK. We will provide information on how to do this, but you will need to apply and obtain this yourself. Budget £60.

#### Group information

The maximum group size will be 20 including the Tour Managers.

#### Weather and clothing

It should be warm and dry with daytime temperatures up to 28 degrees centigrade. Sun cream is strongly recommended. Head and eye protection are essential. A light windproof may be useful as it can be chilly early mornings and evenings. Modesty is expected in villages and when visiting religious sites. Ladies should cover their legs and shoulders when not cycling (a beach wrap is ideal as a quick cover up when stopping in villages) and avoid skimpy tops when cycling.

#### Cycles / Equipment

A lightweight mountain bike or touring bike will be suitable so long as you are able to carry a daypack. It must be in good condition as spare parts will not be available, and pay particular attention to wheels, tyres and brakes. If you use a touring bike with 27" or 700c wheels you will be more comfortable on wide tyres. It is advisable to fit a calibrated cycle computer, as this will aid navigation. Lights will not be necessary. Each participant will be expected to carry sufficient spares and tools to deal with punctures and minor repairs. Helmets are not mandatory but if you do *not* intend to wear one, please check that your travel insurance will cover you in the event of a claim.

**Money**

Sterling can be exchanged for Indian Rupees at Delhi airport. Daily drinks and snacks should cost no more than £10 per day; budget £40 for crew tips: it is customary to tip for small services in India (luggage, restaurants, bar etc)

**Maps**

We will be cycling on minor roads not normally shown on maps available in the UK. Maps and route sheets will be provided.

The 'Lonely Planet Guide to Rajasthan' is a useful source of information.

**Travel Insurance**

Make sure you have read Clause 7 in the Booking Conditions. Before booking you should check the Foreign Office 'Travel Advice by Country' at [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk) or on 0845 850 2829.

**About the Tour Managers**

We are both enthusiastic cyclists and have been CTC members for 25 years. We have led tours to many worldwide destinations, and each year we look forward to the reunion with regular travelling companions but also get great satisfaction from introducing new members to the unique camaraderie of CTC holidays. We do not have a set style of leadership but adapt to suit the needs of the group. We encourage all prospective participants to contact us to talk through the tour prior to booking.

This is a repeat of our previous and highly successful and popular tours to this area of India.

**John and Pat Ashwell**

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