

# Christmas Ride 2019, India

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## Saturday 21-Dec-19

Arrive in New Delhi. Rooms will be available from midday.

Meet the other members of the group. Those arriving in the morning will have a half day sightseeing of Delhi.

Overnight at Hotel Vasant Continental or similar.



*The old city, built by Shah Jehan in the 17th century, stands today as an epitome of the whole history of Indo- Islamic architecture. New Delhi, designed and constructed by the Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker is a mixture of east and west. The public buildings in red sandstone are in the Moghul style. It has a circular Parliament House and an imposing Central Secretariat in two blocks which stand at the approaches to Rashtrapati Bhawan, the residence of the President of India.*

*Delhi is today the political, economic and cultural capital of the World's largest democracy and has also become one of the greatest tourist centres of the World.*

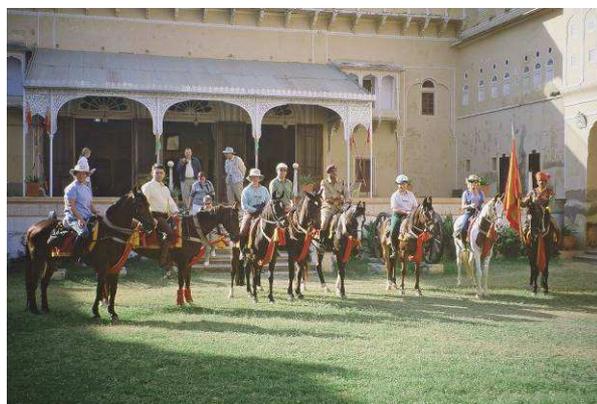
*In Old Delhi, you may visit Jama Mosque and Raj Ghat, where the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi was cremated.*

*In New Delhi, visit Humayun's Tomb (UNESCO World Heritage Site) aptly called predecessor of the Taj Mahal. Drive past Safdarjung's Tomb, the Qutab Minar, (UNESCO World Heritage Site), 72 meters high*

*and one of the perfect towers of the Persian World. Nearby, amidst the ruins of the Quwut - ul - Islam Mosque stands the Iron pillar which has stood the vagaries of the weather and not rusted over 1500 years. An orientation drive through New Delhi includes the Embassy area, Government Buildings. Drive past Jantar- Mantar Astronomical observatory and through Connaught Place, New Delhi's main shopping centre.*

## Sunday 22-Dec-19

After an early breakfast drive to Dundlod (about 7 hours). Lunch either en route or on arrival at Dundlod.



*Dundlod, in the heart of the Shekhawati region, was built in 1750. This majestic fort surrounded by a moat, is a mix of Mogul and Rajputana architecture. The majestic Diwan Khana (the Audience Hall) is furnished with Louis XIV furniture. This old building has been restored but continues to be the family home. It has a huge banquet hall and each bedroom is different with its own charm. The Fort is located on the edge of a small village of the same name.*

Overnight at Dundlod Fort.

## Monday 23-Dec-19

Be matched with your horse and set off for your first ride in and around Dundlod visiting various villages and temples. The terrain is soft and sandy and so there will be plenty of opportunities for some good canters.

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For more information contact in the saddle. Tel: 01299 272 997, Fax: 01299 272 935, Email: [rides@inthesaddle.com](mailto:rides@inthesaddle.com), Internet: [www.inthesaddle.com](http://www.inthesaddle.com)

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In the afternoon you will visit the Frescoed Havelies of Dundlod.

Overnight at Dundlod Fort.

**Tuesday 24-Dec-19**

Today you ride through to Churi Ajitgarh (about 20 kms) passing through villages and farmlands. The terrain is soft and sandy and ideal for riding. Arrive Churi and transfer to Hotel Vivaana Culture Hotel or similar. At one time this used to be a haveli (merchant's mansion) and it has beautiful frescoes.



*Shekhawati is a region of which Churi Ajitgarh, Mandawa, Mehansar and Alsisar are parts. This region is Rajasthan's open air Art Gallery. No other region in India or perhaps even in the world has such a large concentration of high quality frescoes as the region of Shekhawati. In the beginning this semi-arid region had only its blank monochromatic palette to offer. No school of painting thrived till history and circumstances took up this colourless page and made it blossom with art for almost two centuries - from 1750 to 1930. Today this region is commonly called the Open Air Art Gallery of Rajasthan.*

Overnight at Vivaana Culture Hotel or similar.

**Wednesday 25-Dec-19**

Ride to Mandawa (about 25 kms) passing through villages and farmlands speckled with the Khejri trees. The terrain is quite flat except for the sand dunes which keep coming up now and then.

Arrive Mandawa and stay at the Castle Mandawa or similar – a very imposing and luxurious hotel.



Christmas Dinner and celebrations.

Overnight at Castle Mandawa or similar.

**Thursday 26-Dec-19**

Ride to Thimoli (about 28 kms) passing through sandy countryside, farmlands and villages. There are good chances of seeing some wildlife in the form of the Nilgai antelope (which is the biggest antelope in India) and the graceful Chinkara gazelle.



Overnight in a tented camp.

**Friday 27-Dec-19**

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Ride to Mehansar (about 25 kms). Again, there are good chances of seeing some wildlife as you ride through the countryside. Arrive Mehansar and ride into the Narayan Niwas Castle or similar.



Please Note that the Narain Niwas Castle is a private home and facilities are quite basic. Hot water is supplied in buckets. Please do not expect any luxuries here. However the hosts are lovely people and they make you feel at home.

Overnight in Narain Niwas Castle or similar.

#### **Saturday 28-Dec-19**

Ride to Gangiasar (about 25 kms). You are likely to get some good canters as the land is quite open.



Overnight in a tented camp.

#### **Sunday 29-Dec-19**

Ride to Alsisar (about 22 kms). The ride on this day again is very interesting as you ride through the farmlands and hamlets and watch people going about their way. You might even see the endangered Blackbuck Antelope. The distance today is quite short

and you arrive to Alsisar with plenty of time to relax at your hotel.



The Alsisar Mahal hotel has been converted recently and the rooms have been tastefully renovated. The hotel has a swimming pool and facilities for massage making it a nice place in which to relax after a ride.

Overnight at Alsisar Mahal or similar.

#### **Monday 30-Dec-19**

Ride to Ghanghu (about 25 kms). Today you ride through small villages, across open land and past farmers' dwellings. At times you may have to navigate sand dunes and there is a good chance of spotting more wildlife in the form of the Chinkara gazelle, the Nilgai antelope and maybe also the endangered Blackbuck antelope.



Overnight in a tented camp.

#### **Tuesday 31-Dec-19**

Ride to Churu (about 25 kms). As on previous days, the ride today is through desert-like country with opportunities for good canters. You come across sand dunes, open land and some farmer's dwellings.

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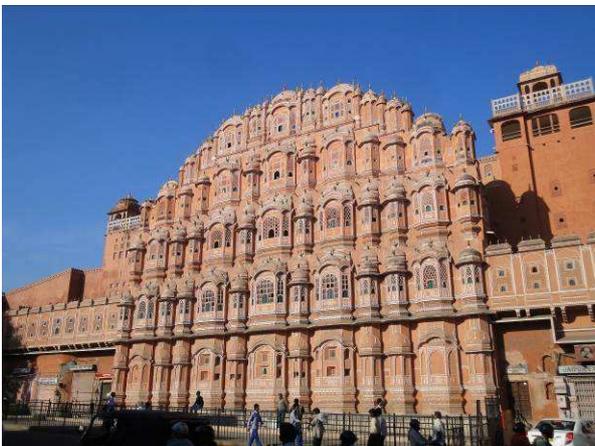


The hotel you stay at tonight used to be a Haveli belonging to a wealthy merchant and now has been converted into a very nice and comfortable Heritage hotel. Here you have your New Year's Eve celebrations.

Overnight at Malji ka Kamra or similar.

### Wednesday 1-Jan-20

After an early breakfast, bid goodbye to your horses, guides and grooms and drive to Jaipur (approximately 4 hours' drive). Arrive Jaipur and transfer to Alsisar Haveli or similar. In the afternoon, sightseeing of Jaipur.



*JAIPUR: The rose-pink capital of Rajasthan, is surrounded on all sides by rugged hills, crowned with forts. Enclosed by embattled walls the city was built early in the eighteenth century. The Maharaja's palace stands in the centre of the city amidst lovely gardens. Houses with latticed windows line the streets, their rose-pink colour lending enchantment to the scene and almost magical at sunset. Jaipur is aptly called the*

*"Pink City of India". It takes its name from the famous Maharana Sawai Jai Singh, who founded the city in 1728. A keen astronomer, he built an observatory which still exists and is equipped with quaint masonry instruments of remarkable size.*

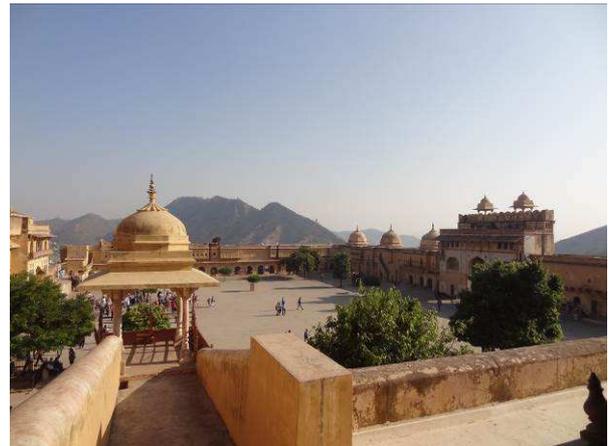
*Jaipur is noted for its craftsmen skilled in the art of cutting precious stones and famed for its garnets and rubies. It is equally well known for brass inlay work, lacquer work and the printings of muslin.*

*CITY SIGHTSEEING : The City Palace which now houses a museum containing rare manuscripts, painting and an armoury; the Jantar Mantar observatory- built in the 17th century by Jai Singh- with a sundial 90ft.high (now a UNESCO World Heritage Site); the Museum amidst the Ram Niwas Palace Gardens founded in 1876 with a large collection of antiques; the palace of Winds which is a landmark of Jaipur made of pink sandstone and of unique design.*

Overnight at Alsisar Haveli or similar.

### Thursday 2-Jan-20

In the morning, sightseeing of Amber Fort.



*The city of Amber (12kms from Jaipur) has ancient imposing Fort/Palace overlooking the lake at the entrance to a rocky mountain grove. Built in the 17th century, the palace is a distinguished specimen of Rajput architecture. The Jai Mandir (hall of victory) is so delicately ornamented with fine inlay work that it glows. The fort of Jaigarh, crowning the summit of a peak is of amazing beauty and grandeur.*

In the afternoon, transfer to Jaipur Airport in time for flight for Delhi.

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Jet Airways 9W 788 departs Jaipur at 16:30 and arrives Delhi at 17:25.

(The e-tickets will be given to you in India by our partners).

Because of the risk of fog at this time of year it is possible that the flight from Jaipur to Dehli might be delayed or replaced by a vehicle transfer.

Arrive Delhi and overnight at Hotel Vasant Continental or similar.

### **Friday 3-Jan-20**

Latest check-out time from your hotel is 12 noon although those on midday flights will be transferred to the airport in the morning.

Transfer to international Airport in time for flight for abroad.