

MERRYGO TRAVELS Pvt. Ltd.

3, MUNICIPAL MARKET, PLAZA OUTER CIRCLE, CONNAUGHT PLACE, NEW DELHI – 110001 (INDIA)

PHONES:- (0091) 78 27 25 0010- 11 - 12 TELE/FAX:- (0091-11) 2334 8294

USA- (001) 718 360 2363, UK- (0044) 207 096 0602

Email:- info.merrygo@gmail.com

Web site:- www.merrygotravels.in

Starts - Delhi

Ends – Delhi

Duration – 21 Days/ 20 Nights

Places Covered - Delhi, Jhunjunu/ Mandawa, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Ranakpur, Udaipur, Kumbalgarh, Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra, Athirapally Water Falls, Munnar, Periyar Wild Life, Allepey House Boat, Kumarakom, Kochi (Cochin).

*“**About Delhi:** India a land of snake charmers and magicians and the capital of this land of mysteries is Delhi. Delhi is just not a city but a book-- a book which narrates the history of India. The city was built and destroyed seven times and has been witness to the various events which has brought India through the history books. Seven times this city went through the pain of being built and rebuilt. Today as the capital of India Delhi is the seat of administration and the monuments which tell the saga of a bygone era stand there. These icons are testimony to the grandeur of past and also an attraction for the tourists. With an area of 1483 sq. Kms, Delhi is all set to acquire full statehood. The charm of Delhi has attracted Emperors, Conquerors and poors equally. It is correctly said that Delhi is a land of 'Dilwalas' that is for people with heart. This phrase acquires a true color when one goes around the lanes of Delhi. Delhi-- a window to the kaleidoscope that is India.”*

Day 01:- Arrive Delhi, meet & assist at the airport & transfer to the hotel. Overnight in Delhi hotel.

Day 02:- After breakfast visit the ancient capital city, with its magnificent Red Fort the pageant of Indian History, from its origin around 1200 BC, through the periods under the Sultans in the 10th century and Mughals from the 14th Century. Then in afternoon visit New Delhi where ornate buildings recall the days when India was jewel in the crown of the British empire. Visit Qutab Minar, India Gate, Humayun’s Tomb, Safdarjung Tomb, The President’s House, Mahatma Gandhi Memorial, Lotus Temple & Laxmi Narayan Temple. Overnight in Delhi hotel.

*“**About Jhunjunu:** Stories of valor abound in the region. Innumerable monuments are connected with lives and tales of warriors of Jhunjunu. The Havelis (Traditional Royal Houses) of the rich and famous attract the tourists with the fresco paintings in different colors and shades. The culture and history of Jhunjunu is very well depicted in these paintings. However, these Havelis now either lie vacant or have been converted to hotels.”*

Day 03:- After breakfast drive to Mandawa/ Jhunjunu & transfer to the reserved hotel. Afternoon visit the beautiful frescoes, Havelis & Mansions. Mandawa witness one of the finest castles of Rajasthan, is now a hotel and house of collection of armories, costumes of ancestors, canons from 1820, ancient coins, numismatic collection of many other interesting items preserved in a museum. Overnight in Mandawa hotel.

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“About Bikaner: *If ever beauty has bloomed in a desert, it has been at Bikaner. Founded in 1488 AD by Rao Bika Ji, it's located in North West part of Rajasthan state in INDIA. The imposing palaces, beautiful and richly sculptured temples of red and yellow sand stones display some of the finest creations of Rajput civilization. It's the lust for "dessert" or affection for "desert" that tickles every heart to visit Bikaner.”*

Day 04:- After breakfast Drive to Bikaner, arrive there & transfer to the hotel. Afternoon city sightseeing tour of Bikaner covering Lalgarh Palace, The Museum, Bhandra Sagar Jain Temple and the famous Deshnok Rat Temple (Where people pray & feed rats). Overnight in Bikaner hotel.

“About Jaisalmer: *Situated amid picturesque Thar Desert, the Jaisalmer city commands premiere position among the tourist attractions scattered all over Rajasthan. The Jaisalmer city is revered both by Indian as well as foreign tourists. Who would have dreamt in such a vast sand oasis a castle worthy of an ancient throne, such an art in carven work of stone? It is like straight out of an Arabian Nights fable. The name Jaisalmer induces a dramatic picture of utter magic and brilliance of the desert. The hostile terrain notwithstanding the warmth and color of people is simply over whelming.”*

Day 05:- After breakfast drive to Jaisalmer, famously known as the “Desert City”. Arrive Jaisalmer and check in a mud hut/ tent in the deserts. Enjoy the traditional folk dances and the Rajasthani meals (Traditional Rajasthani Dinner) in the hut camp in sand dunes. Overnight in hut with cultural programs & bonfire.

Day 06:- After breakfast go on a camel Safari. In Afternoon drive to the city, check in your reserved hotel and then visit the magnificent Jaisalmer Fort, Patwon ki haveli (Heritage Home) & Salim Singh Ki Haveli with its carved balconies & brackets which are supreme examples of art. Overnight in Jaisalmer city hotel.

“About Jodhpur: *Set at the edge of the Thar desert, the imperial city of Jodhpur echoes with tales of antiquity in the emptiness of the desert. Once the capital of the Marwar state, it was founded in 1459 A.D. by Rao Jodha-chief of the Rathore clan of Rajputs who claimed to be descendants of Rama - the epic hero of the Ramayana. The massive 15th century A.D. Mehrangarh Fort looms on the top of a rocky hill, soaring 125 Mts. Above the plains. The city is encompassed by a high wall -10 km long with 8 gates and innumerable bastions. A major trade centre of the 16th century A.D. the fortress-city of Jodhpur is now the second largest city of Rajasthan.”*

Day 07:- After Breakfast drive to Jodhpur, famously known as the “Blue City”. On arrival check in the hotel & evening free at leisure. Overnight in Hotel.

Day 08:- After breakfast morning city tour of the city covering the Mehrangarh Fort situated on a low sandstone hill. Within the fort visit Moti Mahal (Pearl Palace) and Phool Mahal (Flower Palace). Also visit

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Jaswant Thada, an imposing marble cenotaph built in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II around 1899 & Umaid public gardens. Overnight in Hotel.

“About Ranakpur: *The location of Ranakpur, in the tranquil valley of the Aravalli range, 90 km from Udaipur, has also been responsible in attracting a whole lot of visitors to the city. The Ranakpur Jain Temples command huge respect from the Jain community worldwide. Built during the rule of Rana Kumbha, these temples have included Ranakpur in the list of five main pilgrim destinations of Jains in India. History has it that Rana Kumbha donated a vast stretch of land to Dhanna Shah so as to enable him to realize his dream of building a great temple. Today, these temples attract thousands of visitors every year from across the country and abroad.”*

“About Udaipur: *Udaipur is the jewel of Mewar - a kingdom ruled by the Sisodia dynasty for 1200 years. The foundation of the city has an interesting legend associated with it. According to it, Maharana Udai Singh, the founder, was hunting one day when he met a holy man meditating on a hill overlooking the Lake Pichhola. Overlooking the aquamarine expanses of the Lake Pichhola stands the splendid City Palace - a marvel in granite and marble. This city of Dawn, Udaipur is a lovely land around the azure water lakes, hemmed in by the lush hills of the Aravalis drenched in romance and beauty. Udaipur is a fascinating blend of sights, sounds and experiences - an inspiration for the imagination of the poets, painters and writers. Its kaleidoscope of fairy-tale palaces, lakes, temples, gardens and narrow lanes strewn with stalls, carry the flavor of heroic past, epitomizing valor and chivalry.”*

Day 09:- After breakfast drive to Udaipur (The city of Lakes & Palaces). Via Ranakpur. Spend time in Ranakpur, visiting the world famous “Jain Temples”. Arrive Udaipur, check in your hotel. Overnight in Hotel.

Day 10:- After breakfast morning city tour covering The Lake Palace, City Palace museum, Jagdish Temple, Sahelion ki Bari (Queen’s resort for their friends), Bhartiya lok Kala Mandir & the Pratap Memorial. Overnight in Hotel.

“About Kumbhalgarh: *Located to the south of Jaipur and about 105Km from Udaipur is Kumbhalgarh. The city is cradled in the cluster of thirteen mountain peaks of the Aravalli ranges and the formidable medieval citadel-Kumbhalgarh stands a wary sentinel to the past glory. Kumbhalgarh is famous for the Kumbhalgarh Fort which was built and designed by Maharana Kumbha in the 15th century AD and is the second principal fort of Rajasthan after Chittorgarh.”*

“About Pushkar: *Pushkar is a sacred town for the Hindus, situated 11 kms. to the North-West of Ajmer. Pushkar boasts temples, though few are as ancient as you might expect at such an important pilgrimage site.*

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Since many of them were destroyed by Aurangzeb (A Mogul king), but subsequently rebuilt. The most famous is the Brahma Temple, said to be the only temple in the world dedicated to this deity. It stands on a high plinth with the Marble steps leading up to it. A silver turtle is set on the floor facing the Sanctum-Sanctorum. Around the turtle the Marble floor is inset with hundreds of silver coins. Coins engraved with donors names are also embedded in the walls. Peacocks adorn the temple walls as they are supposed to be the vehicle of lord Brahma's consort Saraswati. A small image of the milkmaid Gayatri, flanks the four-faced image of lord Brahma and is called Chaumurti The sanctuary has silver doors inside a carved marble gateway.

Day 11:- After breakfast depart for the famous Pushkar city via Kumbhalgarh. En route also visit the famous Muslim shrine "The Ajmer Sharif" in Ajmer. Arrive Pushkar, check in the hotel. Then visit the temples of Pushkar (Lord Brahma Temple- one & only in the world) & in evening enjoy the sunset at the Pushkar lake . Overnight in Pushkar hotel.

"About Jaipur: The capital of Rajasthan is popularly known as the Pink City. It was founded in 1727 AD by one of the greatest rulers of the Kachhawaha clan, the astronomer king Sawai Jai Singh. The pink color was used at the time of making to create an impression of red sandstone buildings of Mughal cities - and repainted in 1876, during the visit of the Prince of Wales. With broad avenues and spacious gardens, this capital of Rajasthan – Jaipu, is steeped in history and culture. Here the past comes alive in magnificent forts and palaces, blushed pink, where once lived the Maharajas (The Kings). The bustling markets of Jaipur, famous for Rajasthani jewellery, fabric and shoes, possess a timeless quality and are surely a treasure-trove for the shoppers. This fascinating city with its romantic charm takes you to an epoch of royalty and tradition."

Day 12:- After breakfast drive to Jaipur – the fabled “Pink City” of the desert. Arrive Jaipur and transfer to the reserved hotel. In evening, visit the Pink city & its famous Pink Markets, locally known as Badi Chopar and Choti Chopar. Overnight in Jaipur hotel.

Day 13:- After breakfast visit the famous Amber fort. Ride up on the elephant back to the former capital of the Royals set against the back drop of the wooded hills see the luxurious and decorated rooms of the kings and queens also called as Sheesh Mahal. Later visit the Palace of Winds (Hawa Mahal) an architectural gem which is having hundreds of big & small windows which were used by the queens to greet and see their kings in older days of Purdah system (The women were not allowed to step out in public). Then visit the Jantar Mantar, City Palace and the stone observatory. Overnight in Jaipur hotel.

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“About Fatehpursikri: Also known as the Ghost city or the haunted city – which was estranged capital of Mughal Emperor Akbar build in 1569 and deserted when its water supply failed. The founding of Fatehpur Sikri reads like a fairytale. When all else had failed, the Emperor Akbar came here in search of the renowned Sufi mystic, Sheikh Salim Chishti, to ask the blessing of a son. His prayer was heard, and soon a son was born. In honor of the saint, Akbar named the prince Salim and vowed to found a new city. So Fatehpur Sikri, a magnificent new city rose on the craggy hills 40 kms from Agra. Fatehpur Sikri is one of the finest examples of Mughal architectural splendor at its height. The sunset over the ruins is sight to cherish. Fatehpur Sikri is the best example of the culmination of Hindu and Muslim architecture.”

“About Agra: Agra is famous as being home to one of the Seven Wonders of the World - Taj Mahal. The architectural splendor of the muslims, the fort and the palaces are vivid reminders of the opulence of the legendary Mughal empire, of which Agra was the capital in the 16th and early 17th centuries. Though its significance as a political center ended with the transfer of the capital to Delhi in 1634 by the emperor at that time - Shah Jahan, its architectural wealth has secured its place on the international map. A pleasant town with a comparatively slow pace, Agra is known for its superb inlay work on marble and soapstone by craftsmen who are descendants of those who worked under the Mughals. The city is also famous for its carpets, gold thread embroidery and leather shoes.”

Day 14:- After breakfast, drive to Agra via Fatehpursikri (Also known as the Ghost city or the haunted city) – which was estranged capital of Mughal Emperor Akbar build in 1569 and deserted when its water supply failed. Arrive Agra, transfer to the reserved hotel. Freshen up to witness a whole new city of traditions. Afternoon visit the Red Fort – The rusty Majestic Red sand stone fort of Agra standing on the banks of river Yamuna. The construction was started by Emperor Akbar in 1566. Later at the sunset visit the Magnificent TAJ MAHAL- One of the 7 wonders of the world & surely the most extravagant expression of love ever created. It was built by Emperor Shah Jehan for his beloved wife Mumtaz. Overnight in Agra hotel.

About Athirappally Waterfall: Athirappally Waterfall is located 78 kms from Kochi (Cochin), located at the entrance to Sholayar ranges and originates in the upper reaches of the Western Ghats. Many endangered and endemic species of flora and fauna are found in the forests of the Athirappilly-Vazhachal area. . It is one of the most spectacular sights and is locally also know as – The Niagra Falls of India. It about 80 feet high and located in the forest area. Combined with the greenery, it induces the freshness into any tired soul - A tranquil and much needed escape from the stressful life we generally live. The soothing and calming water flow sounds takes you to some another world, right in the lap of nature. The magic of Athirampally & the nature cannot be described by words as it starts calmly from the high ranges, and further crashes through the rocks overhung

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with trees, these waterfall is one of the best places in India to re-capture a real sense of the classical idea of the 'Picturesque' - Not only calm and sweet, but something wild and natural too.

About Munnar: Munnar with its impeccable beauty is the most famous holiday destination in South India. In the green and serene Kamman Devan Hills lies the quiet and restful resort of Munnar. Munnar is located about 6,500 feet above the sea level along the western coasts on the eastern border of Kerala. Sprawling tea plantations, picture-book towns, winding lanes and holiday facilities make this a popular resort town.

Day 15:- After breakfast, drive to the Delhi airport for your flight to Kochi (Kerala). Arrive Kochi & from the airport drive to Munnar. En route visit Athirappally Waterfalls which is located 78 kms from Kochi (Cochin). Munnar is known as "Nature Lover's Paradise" and is at 1800mts above the sea level. Afternoon arrival at Munnar. On arrival check in to the reserved hotel. After arrival visit to Rajamalai Sanctuary and the evening is free at leisure. Overnight at Munnar Hotel.

Day 16:- Munnar- Morning after breakfast you will be taken for a sightseeing of Munnar, which includes Rajamalai, Matuppetty, Kundala Dam for boating, Eco point & Pothanmendu View Point. Evening at leisure. Overnight at Hotel.

About Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary / Thekkady: Set high in the ranges of the Western Ghats, in God's Own Country, Kerala, is the Periyar National Park and Tiger Reserve. Periyar wildlife sanctuary has a picturesque lake at the heart of the sanctuary. Formed with the building of a dam in 1895, this reservoir meanders around the contours of the wooded hills, providing a permanent source of water for the local wildlife. Though it's a Tiger Reserve, tourists come here to see the Indian elephants in the act of ablution and playfulness by the Periyar lake. Apart from Elephants, the other animals to be seen in the Periyar sanctuary are Gaur, Wild Pigs, Sambar, Barking Deer, Mouse Deer, Dole or Indian Wild Dog and very rarely, a Tiger. There are, now, an estimated 40 tigers here. Four species of primates are found at Periyar - the rare lion-tailed macaque, the Nilgiri Langur, Common Langur And Bonnet Macaque. Periyar also happens to be the habitat of the elusive Nilgiri Tahr, which is rarely to be seen.

Day 17: Munnar – Thekkady - This morning after breakfast you will be driven 3 to 4 hours through the most picturesque route covered with flora and fauna typical to Kerala to reach Thekkady, a quaint hamlet next to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. On arrival you will check-in to the reserved hotel. Afternoon game viewing boat ride in Lake Periyar (Periyar Wild Life Sanctuary Tour is through this boat ride). Evening free at Spice Markets or Spice plantation visit (optional). Overnight at hotel

About Kumarakom: In 1878, the marshy mangrove on the bank of the Vembanad Lake was cleared and replaced by coconut plantations. The person in the wake of this maneuver was one George Alfred Baker of

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Essex who had arrived in India sixty years earlier to take up missionary work in Kottayam. The Englishman was so awestruck by the splendor of Kumarakom that he settled here and made Kumarakom his abode. Just 12 km from Kottayam, this exclusive backwater destination sited on the banks of the Vembanad lake is considered the gateway to the backwaters of Kuttanad. The flourishing pastures and the countryside life are interspersed with the beautiful Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary. Stretched across 14 acres, the bird sanctuary is a desired haven of migratory birds and a bird lover's paradise. Teals, egrets, darters, herons, waterfowl, cuckoo, wild duck and migratory birds like the Siberian stork that live there in teams and are an enthrallment for guests.

Day 18 : Thekkady - Kumarakom (125 Kms) - Morning after breakfast you will be transferred to Kumarakom. Rest of the day at leisure at Kumarakom visit The Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary and Pathira Manal Island. Overnight at the reserved hotel.

Day 19:- Kumarakom – Alleppy- After Breakfast, checkout from the Hotel & drive to Alleppy. After breakfast transfer to the reserved house boat. (On all Meal Basis). The house boat is fully furnished with bedrooms and a kitchen and will take you on a tour through the backwaters, a splendid area full of canals, lakes and coves. You can sunbathe on the deck or observe the landscape from the, protection of the cabin. The population's whole life takes place here on the water. The people, sail, fish, swim and bath here. They are so adapted to the water that you can see people talking for an hour, while they are up to their necks in water. Peddlers take care of the supplies and the public transport goes on the water. Countless water birds wait for their chance to catch a fish. The trip goes through a wonderful area full of palm trees, rice fields and floating water plants that surround the boat like Emerald Green Island. Overnight onboard the Houseboat .

About Kochi: Kochi (Cochin) is palm-green commercial town of Kerala and the city consists of the mainland Ernakulam, Willingdon Island, Mattancherry, Fort Cochin, Vypeen Island and Bolghatty Island. Ernakulum is the modern city where shopping market etc. are located. From older times, Arab, Chinese, Dutch and British and Portuguese seafarers followed the sea route to Kochi and left their impression on the town. The Chinese fishing nets swaying in the breeze over backwaters, the Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace, Portuguese architecture, Bolghatty Palace in Kochi enrich the heritage of Kerala.

Day 20:- Alleppy – Cochin- After Breakfast, check out from the Houseboat & drive to Cochin. Afternoon sightseeing of Cochin, Includes Jew Synagogue, Dutch Palace, St. Francis Church, Chinese fishing net etc. Overnight at Kochi Hotel.

Day 21:- Kochi (Cochin) Departure - After breakfast, you are free till transferred to the Kochi Airport for your onward Journey to Delhi. **The Tour Ends.....**

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INCLUDES:-

- Car with Driver as mentioned in the itinerary.
- All fuel costs, state taxes, toll taxes, parking fee, permits.
- All sightseeing at the visiting places as per the itinerary.
- Driver's allowances (like food, accommodations etc.)
- All airport & station transfers.
- Hotels all places with Air conditioned rooms, breakfast & taxes.
- Overnight Desert/ Camel Safari in Jaisalmer with meals.
- Flights from Delhi – Kochi – Delhi.
- One night in House boat in Kerala Backwaters.

EXCLUDES:-

- Anything not mentioned in the "Includes" column.
- Any personal nature expenses like tips, food (lunch & dinners etc), shopping, laundry, camera charges, Payments for personal charges like liquors, wine, mineral water, telephone charges, Portorage at hotels and airports, insurance etc.
- Entrance fee in monuments/ places of visit. Visa Costs.
- Cost incurred due to mishaps, strikes, political unrest etc.
- The prices are subject to change without any prior notice depending on the availability of the hotels/ flights etc unless booked and paid for. We have made no reservations yet.