<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sections</th>
<th>Pages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome to Rajasthan, Delhi &amp; Agra</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan, Delhi &amp; Agra Map</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rajasthan, Delhi &amp; Agra's Top 12</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Need to Know</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If You Like</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Month By Month</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itineraries</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel with Children</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regions at a Glance</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DELHI</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sights</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tours</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking &amp; Nightlife</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entertainment</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Delhi</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGRA &amp; THE TAJ MAHAL</td>
<td>78</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sights</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tours</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eating</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drinking &amp; Nightlife</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shopping</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatehpur Sikri</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

RAJASTHAN ... 102
Eastern Rajasthan ... 103
Jaipur ................. 103
Around Jaipur .......... 122
Bharatpur & Keoladeo Ghana National Park .......... 124
Alwar .................. 127
Sariska Tiger Reserve ... 128
Ajmer .................. 130
Pushkar ............... 133
Ranthambore National Park .......... 138

Udaipur & Southern Rajasthan ... 140
Bundi .................. 140
Kota ................... 144
Chittorgarh (Chittor) .... 145
Udaipur ................ 148
Around Udaipur ........ 159
Mt Abu .................. 161
Around Mt Abu .......... 165
Northern Rajasthan (Shekhawati) ........ 165
Nawalgarh ............. 165
Jhunjhunu ............. 167
Fatehpur ................ 169
Mandawa ............... 169

Western Rajasthan ... 170
Jodhpur ................. 170
Around Jodhpur .......... 178
Jaisalmer ............... 180
Around Jaisalmer .......... 190
Bikaner ................. 190
Around Bikaner .......... 195

Rajasthan, Delhi & Agra Today .......... 198
History ................ 200
Rajasthani Way of Life .......... 213
Sacred India ............ 217
Rajasthani Food .......... 221
Arts, Crafts & Architecture .......... 226
Naturally Rajasthan ... 234

Survival Guide
Scams .................. 240
Women & Solo Travellers .......... 242
Directory A-Z .......... 244
Transport ................ 256
Health .................. 264
Language ............... 270
Index .................. 279
Map Legend ............. 287

Special Features
Red Fort in 3D .......... 36
Taj Mahal in 3D .......... 84
Fatehpur Sikri in 3D .......... 98
Rajasthani Colour .......... 231
The Golden Triangle

One route is so well loved it even has a name: the Golden Triangle. This classic Delhi–Agra–Jaipur trip can be squeezed into a single week.

Spend a day or two in **Delhi**, finding your feet and seeing the big-draw sights, such as the magnificent Mughal Red Fort and Jama Masjid, India’s largest mosque. Then catch a convenient train to **Agra** to spend a day being awed by the world’s most extravagant monument to love, the Taj Mahal, and exploring the mighty Agra Fort. Only an hour away is **Fatehpur Sikri**, a beautiful Mughal city dating from the apogee of Mughal power. It is amazingly well preserved and deserves a full day of exploring.

If you have time, take a rural respite at **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**, one of the world’s foremost bird reserves. Having relaxed at this beautiful and rewarding place, you can then take a train to **Jaipur**. Spend a couple of days in and around Rajasthan’s hectic, dusky-pink capital, seeing the City Palace and Amber Fort, and stocking up on blue pottery, dazzling jewellery and Rajasthani puppets before heading back to Delhi.
With a fortnight to spare, you can forget triangles and go all out for a multifaceted loop taking in Rajasthan’s most spectacular cities, all erstwhile capitals of former princely states, boasting fairy-tale palaces and stern fortresses.

You will most likely start from the nation’s capital of Delhi to see the Mughal monuments, such as the massive Red Fort. No trip to India is complete without a visit to the Taj Mahal at Agra. Spend two days here viewing the Taj during the day, at night and from the maze-like Agra Fort. Spend a day exploring the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri, before heading to the birdwatching mecca that is Keoladeo Ghana National Park. Next stop is the pink city of Jaipur, where you will want to spend two or three days exploring the palaces of Jaipur and Amber.

From Jaipur, take a short trip to the sacred lake of Pushkar, where you can release your inner hippie or attend the camel fair. Move on to the romantic lake-town of Udaipur, visiting the fine City Palace and the impressive Jagdish Temple as well as doing some shopping and relaxing on rooftops while peering at the lake and its famous palace. From Udaipur head towards the extraordinary, bustling, blue city of Jodhpur. Take time to stop at the milk-white Jain temple complex of Ranakpur and the isolated, dramatic fortifications of Kumbhalgarh – as they are fairly close together, you can visit them en route to Jodhpur within a day. In Jodhpur, visit the spectacular Mehrangarh, a fort that towers protectively over the city like a storybook fortress.

Next take an overnight train to the Golden City, Jaisalmer, a giant sandcastle in the desert, with its beautiful Jain temples and exquisite merchants’ havels (traditional, ornately decorated mansions). Take a short camel safari through the bewitching landscape of sweeping dunes and sleep under the stars. If you have the time, break your journey back to Delhi with a stop in the desert city of Bikaner, home of the impregnable Junagarh Fort, and nearest city to the famous rat temple of Deshnok.
A month will allow you to explore Delhi, Agra and Rajasthan to their fullest extent, with plenty of time to linger along the way whenever a particular destination takes your fancy.

After arriving in Delhi and exploring the city sights, take the train down to Agra to gaze at the picture-perfect Taj Mahal, explore Agra Fort and have a day-trip out to the abandoned Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri. To experience Rajasthan's wild side, first head to the World Heritage-listed birdwatching paradise of Keoladeo Ghana National Park, where the sheer numbers of nesting birdlife will astound you. This can be followed by a tiger safari or three at Ranthambhore National Park, one of your best bets of spotting a tiger in all India.

Take a Kota-bound train southwest for a stop at the charming small town of Bundi, to explore the crumbling palace. From here, it is a short train ride to Chittorgarh, where one of Rajasthan’s most impressive fortresses occupies a mountain plateau. Next stop is Udaipur, where you can relax from your travels with a few easy days of sightseeing, elegant dining and souvenir shopping.

From Udaipur it’s worth side-tripping to Mt Abu to see the magnificent Delwara Temples before going north to Jodhpur. Alternatively, head north to Jodhpur, stopping on the way to see the magnificent fort at Kumbhalgarh and the Jain temples of Ranakpur. From Jodhpur it’s an easy train or bus ride to Jaisalmer, the desert town with a romantic picturesque fort rising from the golden sands. Here you can spend a few days exploring havelis and palaces, before taking an overnight camel trek into the desert. After Jaisalmer, head to Bikaner.

Travel south from Bikaner, stopping at the fascinating rat temple of Deshnok before coming to rest at the sacred pilgrimage town of Pushkar. At Pushkar you may be in time for the famous camel festival; otherwise, just relax for a few days and soak in the serenity.

From Pushkar it’s a short hop to Jaipur, with its fabulous citadel at Amber and great shopping. Head north to Shekhawati for a few days, inspecting havelis at Mandawa, Nawalgarh and Fatehpur, before returning to Delhi.
OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that’s all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, Across Asia on the Cheap. Within a week they’d sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony’s belief that ‘a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse’.

OUR WRITERS

Paul Clammer
Coordinating Author, Rajasthan
Paul Clammer has contributed to over 25 Lonely Planet guidebooks, and worked as a tour guide in countries from Turkey to Morocco. In a previous life he may even have been a molecular biologist. He first covered India for LP back in 2004, up in the Himalayas, so jumped at the chance to explore Rajasthan in more depth this time around, staying on to write the chapter in a converted temple in Pushkar, where it was necessary to lock the doors to stop monkeys stealing his notes. Follow @paulclammer on Twitter.

Abigail Blasi
Delhi
This is Abigail’s sixth India title for Lonely Planet, and she was delighted to return to explore Delhi again, learning to love Paharganj, exploring the city’s enclaves, and cycling through the mayhem of Old Delhi. She fell in love with the country on her first visit in 1994, and since then she’s explored and written on India from north to south and back again. She’s covered plenty of other places for Lonely Planet too, from Mauritania and Mali to Rome and Lisbon. Abigail also wrote the Scams, Women & Solo Travellers and Health chapters.

Kevin Raub
Agra & the Taj Mahal
Kevin Raub grew up in Atlanta and started his career as a music journalist in New York, working for Men’s Journal and Rolling Stone magazines. He ditched the rock ‘n’ roll lifestyle for travel writing and moved to Brazil. On his 8th epic Indian journey, Kevin was only out-spiced by an Indian chef once and never outsmarted by a rickshaw driver. This is Kevin’s 30th Lonely Planet guide. Follow him on Twitter (@RaubOnTheRoad).

Read more about Kevin at:
http://auth.lonelyplanet.com/profiles/kraub

Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.