



## Leopard Safari

Weight limit: 90kg

Nearest airport: Udaipur, India

8 days / 7 nights / 5 days riding

This exciting itinerary in north west India combines five days of riding with wildlife spotting, camping in the desert wilderness and visiting the beautiful towns of Udaipur and Kumbhalgarh Fort. Experience rural India at it's best on expertly-trained Marwari horses. Start the trail high up in the Aravelli hills, before cantering across the wooded valleys and open plains to reach camp. Jeep safari is available for morning and evening leopard spotting. Ideal for intrepid travellers who want to experience a true trail riding adventure.



## The Riding

The Leopard Safari offers an adventurous trail beginning at an altitude of 1100 metres and descending through wooded forests, passing cool streams before reaching the plains where you will camp. The riding through the plains is on sandy camel tracks where there are plenty of opportunities for some long canters between farms and villages. You'll be covering between 25-30 km each day.

## Guides & Groups sizes

The Leopard Safari Trail is guided by renowned horse breeder Ajeet Singh who has decades of experience at guiding trails in the region.

The maximum number of riders in a group is 12.



## Horses & Tack

You'll be riding a Marwari horse, a native breed of this part of India. Standing between 15-16hh Marwari horses are spirited but safe. The breed is known for being willing partners; soft to the hand and leg and

with a fantastic, active walk. English bridles are used and Indian Cavalry 'sawar' saddles. You can use a mixture of English riding and neck reining techniques - Marwari horses are adaptable and quick to learn.

## Accommodation and Dining

You'll be spending the first two nights of the trail in local hotels. Once on the trail you'll spend each night camping (5 nights). Tents are large 14 x 14ft Maharajah "shikar" tents. These tents are erected and dismantled every night by a tent team. You can easily stand up in them and they are decorated inside. Each tent comes complete with real beds, linen and an attached private bathroom with a sink, mirror, shower tray and a plumbed-in porcelain toilet.

A variety of food is provided at mealtimes. Breakfast options include toast/butter/Jam, porridge, corn flakes, eggs, fruit, plus Indian options of Poha (savory flaked rice), Puri (puffed bread) and Chai (sweet spicy tea). Coffee is available but bring your own if this is a necessity as Indian coffee is not the same! Lunch is a picnic on the trail and could be rice, chapati, eggs, okra, aubergine, egg plant, peas, carrots, potato, pasta, turmeric chips, chickpeas plus fruit juice and chai, local sweets for pudding, soft drinks (Pepsi, Sprite, cold beer). There is always one plain dish for those who do not want spicy food. Dinner will have similar options to lunch but also a meat dish when available.. A small selection of alcoholic drinks are available (Kingfisher beer, Indian whisky, dark rum and gin).



## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival

Arrive in Udaipur, and take part in a late afternoon boat ride around Lake Pichola admiring the ochre and purple ridges of the wooded Aravalli Hills stretching away in every direction. Udaipur is considered one of India's most beautiful cities, full of gorgeous palaces, a labyrinth of lakes and bridges and countless narrow, crooked, colourful streets to explore. Dinner and overnight in a local hotel.

### Day 2: Morning sightseeing Udaipur

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at the hotel and spend the morning sightseeing in Udaipur. The huge, cupola-crowned City Palace lines the eastern shore of Lake Pichola. Away from the lake shore, extends a tangled inner city of lanes lined with homes, temples, shops and businesses that is fascinating to explore. After lunch you will be transferred by road to Kumbhalgarh, a journey of around 2 hours. Dinner and overnight at a hotel in Kumbhalgarh.

### Day 3: Morning visit to Kumbhalgarh Fort

After breakfast visit Kumbhalgarh Fort, built in the 15th century. Encircled by thirteen elevated mountain peaks, the fort has numerous palaces, temples and gardens to explore. After visiting the fort you will meet the horses for the trail. Ride down through the Kumbhalgarh Sanctuary and Ghanerao forest using old paths and crossing small rivers. The route is shaded and quiet. A late picnic lunch is provided en route, before arriving at Muthana Lake at dusk. Overnight camp.

### Day 4: Full day ride to Dantiwara Lake

Passing through villages and riding in the plains of the Aravalli hills, you'll stop for a picnic lunch, before continuing on the trail to reach that evening's camp situated in front of the lake. Camp overnight.

### Day 5: Full day ride to Bali Forest

You'll make your way along the bottom of the Aravalli hills south west to Perwa. Passing villages and rural farmsteads, making your way through the volcanic smooth rock formations, stopping in the shade for a long picnic lunch. Camp overnight.

### Day 6: Full day ride to Jawai Bandh

Today we continue onwards to reach Jawai Bandh. Lying at the heart of an unspoilt wilderness, where leopards roam wild and free in a landscape surrounded by craggy granite formations and winding sand river-beds. Camp overnight.

### Day 7: Morning ride searching for leopard

This area is where nomadic Rabari herdsmen tend their flocks alongside wild grasslands and the swells of the Jawai Bandh's waters. Flamingos and cranes flock to the river and this special location provides an entirely different experience from the rest of Rajasthan. Optional evening jeep safari. Camp overnight.

Day 8: Departure

After breakfast, departure to Udaipur for onward travel.



Prices 2021

£1994

The trail is confirmed with 2 riders.

Single supplement

£300

### Price includes

- 5 full days of riding
- Trail riding horse, tack and saddlebags
- Double or twin room/tent with private bathroom
- Breakfasts
- Lunches
- Evening meals
- Drinks with meals including water, soft drinks, beer, whisky, rum & gin
- Airport transfers from/to Udaipur
- Local transfers
- All arrangements as detailed in itinerary

### Not included

- Internal or international flights
- Tips
- Drinks outside of mealtimes

### Flights & Airport transfers

Do not book flights until you have received the Booking confirmation email from saddletravel.com.

Please plan your flights to/from Udaipur as follows:

Arrive at Udaipur by midday on the first day of your holiday.

Departure flight on the last day of your holiday should not leave Udaipur before 16:00.

Transfers are included from/to Udaipur airport. Departures or arrivals at different times to the above can be arranged but the itinerary may need to be adjusted.

## What to bring

We recommend wearing your riding boots when travelling and carrying one set of riding clothing and your helmet in your hand luggage, so should your luggage not make it to the destination you'll still be able to ride.

Please use the packing list as a guideline, bearing in mind the time of year you are riding.

- Your own well-fitted hard hat
- Comfortable jodhpurs or riding trousers
- Riding / hiking boots with good grip
- Chaps
- Riding gloves
- Long sleeved T-shirts to protect against the sun
- Warm layer such as fleece or woollen jumper
- Water- and windproof coat
- Comfortable clothes for the evening
- Warm clothes for sleeping
- Lightweight shoes for after riding
- Sun cream & lip balm
- Sunglasses & sunhat
- Plug adapter
- Torch
- Copy of your travel insurance

## Climate

Rajasthan has a hot dry climate. The monsoon is from June to September during which it is particularly hot. Rain outside the monsoon months is unlikely. A good time to travel is between October to March. At this time the maximum temperature would be around 25°C during the day. April and May are warmer with a maximum temperature of around 30°C. Evenings can be cool (around 5°C) and you should bring a warm sweater and be prepared for cold mornings. When camping, the cold nights are felt much more and you are advised to bring warm clothes for sleeping.

## Health

For health and vaccine recommendations, please consult your healthcare provider at least 8 weeks before your trip.

Country specific information can also be found at National Travel Health Network and Centre website: <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk/countries>.

### Travel documents

For entry requirements to India for UK citizens, please visit the Foreign Travel Advice website: <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/india/entry-requirements>

For any other nationalities, please contact your local embassy to check entry requirements.

Having the correct travel documents is entirely your responsibility.



### Currency & Tipping

The local currency in India is Rupees. Tourists are not permitted to bring Rupees into the country. You can bring cash or travellers' cheques (in pounds sterling or another foreign currency) and/or a bank card with you and exchange or withdraw rupees once in India. Tipping your guide is at your discretion.

### Riding declaration

"I am confident and in control at trot and canter out in the open and over uneven ground. I'm able to mount and dismount unaided and have a good level of current riding fitness. I do not suffer from any illness or disability that could prejudice my safety or that of others."

### Cancellation policy

#### Payment & Cancellation Terms

Holidays are confirmed with a 20% non-refundable deposit. The full balance is due 56 days before the start date.

If you cancel your booking less than 56 days before the start date of your trail we are entitled to receive full payment, less refunds as follows:

42 days or more before booking date - 50%

30 days or more - 30%

less than 30 days - nil

#### *Book with confidence – Covid Guarantee:*

*If a ride operator is closed/you are unable to travel due to lockdown:*

*1/ The deposit is reissued as a rebooking voucher to rebook anytime.*

*2/ Any balance payment will be refunded to you in full within 1 week of departure date.*

### Insurance

All saddletravel.com customers are required to take out appropriate travel insurance that covers horse riding and holiday cancellation. Proof of insurance details will be required during the booking process.

## Contact details

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