

WAKEFIELD HOSPICE RAJASTHAN BIKE RIDE 12-22 FEBRUARY 2011



Discover Rajasthan, India's "Land of Kings". This is India at its exotic and colourful best. The harsh landscape and tribal customs have fashioned a people and culture which are visibly different from the rest of the country.



CHALLENGE HIGHLIGHTS

- Experiencing a very different and fascinating culture.
- Cycle through local villages along the way.
- Overnight in old palaces and camp in atmospheric sand dunes.
- Visit the magnificent Taj Mahal as you arrive in India; explore the pink city of Jaipur at the finish of the challenge.

OVERVIEW

GENERAL FACTS

- **Weather in February:** Expect hot & sticky weather with an average daytime temperature of 25-30C.
- **Cycle Days :** 6 days (11 days in total)
- **Distance:** 458km (285 miles approx)
- **Level:** Challenging
- **Accommodation:** Hotels and Camps

COSTS

- **Tour Costs (ball park):** For a group of 10+ riders £1925 and for a group of 20+ riders £1565. The Tour Costs are approximate subject to flight costs available at the time of booking.
- **Costs exclude** visa (approx £38), airport taxes (approx £210) and insurance (approx £60).
- **Minimum sponsorship for Wakefield Hospice:** £2,500

DETAILED ITINERARY



Day 1

Overnight direct flight London – Delhi.

Day 2

Delhi - Agra

Mid-morning arrival at Delhi airport. Bus transfer to Agra (5 hours), stopping for lunch on the way. Free time to recover from the long journey to prepare for the challenge ahead.

Overnight: Hotel.



Day 3

Agra

Free day to visit the Taj Mahal, do the bike fitting and relax before the start of the challenge.

Overnight: Hotel.

Day 4

Agra – Bharatpur

82km approx

Start cycling from the hotel through the bustling Agra roads. This first section will be busy. We cycle toward Fatehpur Sikri, a UNESCO World Heritage Site; built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for just 10 years. Cycle to Bharatpur.

Overnight: Hotel.

Day 5

Bharatpur - Bashawar campsite

95km approx



We start the challenge today cycling through the colourful Rajasthan countryside, through fields and small villages – a spectacular start to the day! The rest of the day's ride is on secondary roads full of pot holes through villages and past temples. Tonight will be our first taste of camping in this wonderful country. Camping is a unique experience and can be one of the highlights. The campsites are pitched in advance for you, tents are large traditional white canvas tents and more luxurious

than you might find elsewhere in the world. Tents have beds, sheets and a pillow, plus a chair just outside the opening. There is a row of toilets (with seats) and shower area. Buckets of hot water are provided.

Overnight : Camp near the village of Bashawar.

Day 6

Bashawar – Bhandarej

92km approx



A great day of cycling today through beautiful Rajasthan along flat roads with hills either side of us in the morning. We cycle on minor roads all day today with little traffic, but again there are many potholes! After lunch we cycle through probably the most scenic section of the whole trip - Rajasthan rural life at its best. After a long day's cycling we reach Bhandarej village and spend the night at the Bhadrawadi Palace. As part of the stay, the owner donates a school uniform to a local school child, the group will make the presentation to the school.

Overnight: Hotel

Day 7

Bhandarej - Tahela camp site

89km approx



It's a tough day today with some short off-road sections. We will begin by cycling to the Abhenrai ancient temple complex which is around 700 years old. Here we visit Chand Baori, one of Rajasthan's most awe-inspiring step wells. It has about 11 visible levels of zig-zagging steps and is an incredible sight. The roads are not bad on the first part of the day but become worse and narrower as the day goes on. In the morning the surroundings are

simply stunning - green valleys with lush vegetation, ancient forts on the hill tops. As the day goes on, it becomes more arid and a bit hillier but we will hopefully see the monkeys playing in the trees. Tonight we camp on the edge of the Sariska Park at Tahela.

Overnight: Camp

Day 8

Tahela Camp – Doela camp site

62km approx



The terrain today is less exotic and more arid, but nonetheless it is a spectacular day of cycling. We will stop to look at the ruins of an ancient city, reaching it by cycling at the edge of the Sariska Park where there is a good chance we will see some wildlife. Certain parts of the roads today are in a bad condition. We arrive at the most spectacular campsite of the trip in the sand dunes next to the village of Doela with two ancient forts perched

on the hills in the distance.

Overnight: Camp

Day 9

Doela Camp – Lal Mahal

38km approx



Our last day of cycling. Part of this area of Rajasthan is arid, almost like desert. We start this morning on an undulating road cycling between sand dunes. Some of the terrain is undulating, some parts of the route the asphalt disappears abruptly and turns into a dirt road which continues for a while and then the asphalt reappears. We have 5km on a dirt track and through a river before we join the tarmac road again to Tala. Villages remain very authentic this morning. We finish the amazing challenge where we will have lunch.

We then transfer 20km to Jaipur. Overnight in Jaipur.

Overnight: Hotel

Day 10

Jaipur

Free day to explore Jaipur, known as the "Pink City" due to the salmon coloured facades of its older buildings. Optional guided tour to the Amber Fort is available this morning. Overnight here for a second night. Tonight we celebrate our achievement with a celebration meal.

Day 11

Jaipur - Delhi – London

Today we have a very early transfer to Delhi (Approx 5 hours). Depart Delhi at 13.45, arrive in London the same day.

This is a complex itinerary and may be subject to change

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