

Cycling in Rajasthan with Cyclomania

Udaipur to Jodhpur over 7 days

My wife ,Yvonne, and I are keen cyclists and wanted to see Rajasthan beyond the major cities and experience life off the beaten track. What followed for the next 7 days was a trip of a life time, thanks to the expert guidance of Vijendra and his support and driver, Vijay.

We were met at our hotel in Udaipur where Vijendra made sure our excellent bikes were the correct size and working perfectly. Our quick ride that evening took us round the lakes and into the countryside to become familiar with the traffic, looks terrible but actually not a problem, London is much worse for cyclists.



One of the lakes with a luxury hotel reached only by boat

The next day was an excellent mix of cycling around Udaipur and seeing some of the stunning Palaces . It quickly became obvious that we were lucky to have found Vijendra who is a well respected official guide. His knowledge gave us insights into life and the history of Rajasthan that we would never have had on a standard tour. He also was able to get us into places easily and without waiting . The other big benefit was having the van close by. As a support vehicle we were constantly supplied with water, fruit, puncture repairs and far too many custard creams !!!! Lovely.

The other good thing was the pacing of the riding. we could tell Vijendra was checking us out to see how far we could go comfortably, this proved to be excellent as we were sufficiently challenged with out overdoing it, very well judged for the entire week

The third day saw us driving a short distance to leave Udaipur then cycle 50Km to Kumbhalgah, stopping to see how bricks are made . This was a stunning ride through small roads , rolling hills and lush vegetation, teeming with birds and wildlife.

A final very tough hill to our hotel was the next surprise, what a place, a one time Palace but oh so comfortable with excellent food.

In fact all the hotels Vijendra had sourced were superb, and truly authentic. Quality was very good and dinners were superb .



Some of the wildlife and the terrain we cycled through, meeting all sorts of really lovely people.



Over the next few days it became more and more interesting with a whole host of extra activities thrown in by Vijendra. Of note was a fantastic rail journey through the mountains, seeing all sorts of wild life but the true highlight was getting up close to, not one, but 4 leopards at Ranakpur.



All through the riding were the sounds of peacocks, monkeys and just observing life in the villages was fascinating, what an experience



Our journey took us from Ranakpur to Jodhpur stopping at Jojawar, Sardar Samand and finally Jodhpur. Each night we were spoilt by excellent hotels, especially the maharajahs hunting lodge teeming with peacocks beside a huge lake

The beauty of cycling was our ability to just stop by the side of the road and see things one would miss in a car. Drawing water up from a well or unique temples, schools or just village life.



Stunning colours, warm friendly people, opulent temples, great scenery and domineering forts, Rajasthan has it all and best seen by bike.

Throw in great food and authentic hotels, it is superb



We would never have found so many interesting, high quality places to stay. It was apparent that Vijendra knew all the owners and made extra sure the food did not disrupt our cycling !!!!!



Our sincere thanks go to Vijendra and Vijay for giving us a wonderful time in Rajasthan, truly memorable and we will be back for more on a bicycle with Cyclomania

Thankyou!

Colin and Yvonne



Sunset at Kumbhalgarh Fort