

MAHARAJAS EXPRESS:

YOUR ROYAL CARRIAGE AWAITS

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Photos: www.maharajas-express-india.com

Luxury train travel has a new benchmark since the introduction of the Maharajas' Express. Within three years of its introduction the train has been bestowed with three international honours for its excellence of service and offering, including this year's World Travel Award in the category of World's Leading Luxury Train beating the likes of Orient Express of Europe and Rovos Rail of Africa. The Maharajas' Express heritage can be traced back to the lavish lifestyle of Indian monarchs of the yore who, fascinated as they were with James

Watts' invention, bought their own personal carriages to be used on occasions like a state visit or a royal hunt. The entire Maharajas' Express train package is designed to recreate a more gracious age of elegance suffused with extravagance as close to the opulent idiosyncrasies of the Indian Maharajas. From the moment you arrive till the moment you depart it's a different world altogether – a world of red carpets and high teas. Depending upon the journey you select, you will check in to your royal carriage from either Safdarjung Station in Delhi or Taj Mahal Palace &



LUXURY AT A GLANCE
The Rang Mahal Restaurant which offers sumptuous Maharaja meals for passengers.



COSY CORNERS
A view of The Junior Suite and The Presidential Suite.

Tower in Mumbai. An imperial welcome with a music band offering royal salute and ethnically dressed ladies adorning you with garlands and vermilion mark on the forehead marks the beginning of an unforgettable ride on one of the most luxurious train in the world. The train has 14 guest carriages which include a lavish Presidential Suite spanning over an entire carriage with a master bedroom, living area, a twin bedroom and bathroom fitted with bathtub. Facilities

inside guest carriages include LCD television, air conditioning, writing table, luggage hold and attached bathroom with all amenities. There are two dining cars aboard the Maharajas' Express. The Rang Mahal Restaurant has a gold floral motif on a hand-painted vermilion ceiling. It boasts of plates that are fine Limoges edged with gold, glasses made of hand-cut crystal and cutlery monogrammed with the letter M. The other dining bar, Mayur Mahal (Pea-

neys – three of them spanning over 8 days and two are 3 nights/4 days packages. What makes Maharajas' Express unique is the cultural interactions at select destinations like a visit to the village of Bishnoi Tribe, an exhibition elephant polo match in Jaipur concluded by the post-match band called Jaipur Terriers, a visit to the workshop of globally renowned modern craftsmen of Jaipur or High Teas and lunch with erstwhile Maharajas in their palaces and getting to know about their heydays firsthand. Other exciting and unique experiences include sundowner cocktail amidst Sam sand dunes in Bikaner while folk artists perform traditional dance and music, trip to India's very own Jurassic Park in Balasinor, tiger 'shooting' in Ranthambore National Park and High Tea at Taj Khema overlooking Taj Mahal. At every railway station where Maharajas' Express halts, there's a red carpet and music with bands

“At every railway station where Maharajas' Express halts, there's a red carpet and music with bands playing traditional royal tunes.”

cock Palace) has peacock-feather pattern for décor on furnishing and mirrored mosaic tile ceiling. Maharajas' Express' dining and cuisine option set it apart from other luxury trains in India. There's an extensive menu to select from, and a different meal is served each day. Cuisine options include lactose free meal, ovo lacto vegetarian meal, Jain meal, vegan, kosher, gluten free, non vegetarian and vegetarian meal. To sum it up, in this luxury train dining 'there's food for everyone!' The bar car, named Safari, is a perfect place to get together and socialize with fellow passengers. Aperitifs, nightcaps and choicest labels of wine and liquor are available in the polished interiors of this bar. There's another lounge cum observation car with library, bar and souvenir shop where one can leisure around. Maharajas' Express offers five train jour-

playing traditional royal tunes. All the excursions are arranged and guests traveling in suite get chauffeur-driven car for sightseeing. Another reason to choose Maharajas' Express over others is its all-inclusive fare. The ticket price of Maharajas' Express covers dining, accommodation on board, transportation and guided sightseeing tours, entrance fee at the monuments visited and porter charges. The train has pneumatic suspension for a smoother ride and comfortable sleep on the moving train, Wi-Fi internet, environment friendly toilets, smoke detectors, international dial telephone, round the clock medical assistance and air ambulance in case of emergency. The price factor of this train does disconcert some, but considering the fact that this is the trip of a lifetime, every cent is worth spending. **G&B**