# Palace on Wheels: a Repertoire of Rajasthan Heritage by Alisa Ray

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When Indian railways decided to gratify the whims, fancies and penchant of luxury rail journeys across India among global travelers, their endeavor took the shape of Palace on Wheels train. Whether itâ€™s about winning PATA Gold award in 1987 or featuring in the list of ten most opulent rail journeys in the world, this luxury train in India has brought much glory to its name over the period of 3 decades.

Now what associates this luxury tourist train with the opulence and elegance of bygone era is a number of factors. One of them is the destinations traversed by this Indian luxury train during the course of 8 days and 7 nightâ€™s journey. Rajasthan is a wonderland laced with various forts, palaces, diverse wildlife, rich culture & heritage and countless tales of Rajput romance and valor. All these factors together make it one of the most celebrated destinations among domestic and international tourists and forms the backbone of Rajasthan tourism.

The weeklong itinerary of the Palace on Wheels train represents the soul of the desert realm of Rajasthan. The itinerary of Palace on Wheels train covers various popular destinations in Rajasthan which include Jaipur, Sawai Madhopur, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bharatpur along with a halt in Agra.

Besides destinations, the fragrance of Indiaâ€™s royal past can be smelled in the plush carriages of the Palace on Wheels train which are reminiscent of the personal rail carriages of the rulers of Rajputana and Nizam as well as Viceroy of India. To add to the royalty of the train, these cabins have been named after erstwhile royal provinces of Rajasthan and patterned to replicate the cultural ethos of the region.

Whereas the first coach named as Alwar has exquisite ceilings adorned with cone work and showcases hunting scenes, the Bharatpur coach flaunts a distinctive color scheme suggestive of the colorful forests of Bharatpur. Then there is Bikaner coach whose walls are filled with the romantic scenes of Dhola Maru depicted through sculptured art and oil paintings along with the royal crest of the state. The walls of Bundi coach are decorated with framed and mounted art pieces brought straight away from the Bundi School of Painting.

Palace on Wheels is an ideal way to begin luxury tours to India. Apart from ethnic dÃ©cor, dining in old-fashioned crockeryâ€™s, traditional red-carpet welcome and round the clock services offered by smartly dressed Khidmatgar, the regal train is set with all the state of the art amenities required to provide the pampering of an opulent rail journey.

Besides on board luxury, the exclusive insider experiences that one gets during the course of this 8 days and 7 nights journey are truly exceptional. From dining in the plush ambience of Jai Mahal palace to feasting upon the Son-et-Lumiere at Chittorgarh Fort and from tryst with tigers in the dense forests of Sawai Madhopur to enjoying cultural folk performances in the Sam sand dunes of Jaisalmer, Palace on Wheels offers an enchanting ride across sublime landscapes of Rajasthan.

Palace on Wheels is reminiscent to the age of graceful travelling when the whims and fancies of luxury knew no bounds. Right from pampering you with the best of modern facilities to acquainting you with the royal and cultural heritage of Rajasthan, Palace on Wheels offers every indulgence required in a royal train journey.

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Alisa Ray - About Author:
When it comes to luxury travel, India is a destination with immense possibilities. Having traveled across the length and breadth of this country, Alisa Ray offers expert advice and travel tips for luxury travel and unique experiences in India to the connoisseurs of luxury traveling around the world. With years of experience behind her back, her tips on luxury train traveling comes handy to those planning to undertake luxury rail journeys including the a luxury trains in India

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