CHAPTER-IV

PALACE-ON-WHEELS & ROYAL RAJASTHAN-ON-WHEELS : A ROYAL JOURNEY OF RAJASTHAN
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PALACE-ON-WHEELS & ROYAL RAJASTHAN-ON-WHEELS : A ROYAL JOURNEY OF RAJASTHAN

There is no better way to see Rajasthan than by train. Train is one of the most important means of transportation in India. Indian Railways has been continuously striving to up their services and they have been quiet successful to attract tourists. One of the things that they have looking at has been to get as much as international tourists use the Indian Railways. They have been fairly successful in it; foreigners are on increasing numbers are actually making use of the Indian Railways. But beyond that, they need something that will provide the essence of India, the culture, the cuisine and with that purpose in mind the luxury trains were started off in India. In addition to the passenger trains, luxury trains of the Indian Railways offers high luxury and comforts on the wheels. These trains cost a bit higher as compared to the charges of other passengers trains. However the breath taking journey and the state of the art facilities offered by these trains is worth their fare. They are designed to focus mainly on travel to popular tourist destinations in India. With their superlative luxury, top notch libraries, outstanding recreational facilities and exemplary customer service these luxury trains brings along the experience of a life time for the tourists. Indian Railway's luxury trains that are available for the tourist are as follows -

- Palace-On-Wheels
- Heritage-On-Wheels
- Deccan Odyssey
- Fairy Queen
The luxury trains in India exhibits a phenomenal extravaganza of visiting various heritage architectures including grand palaces, forts, monuments etc. Every luxury trains reflects an ethnic theme wonderfully by creating the grandeur atmosphere everywhere in the trains including cabins, the color schemes, the décor, the upholstery, the furniture, the restaurants as well as the lounge area. At present, there is almost 4 luxury trains, which run on similar lines in India. Out of which three trains runs through RTDC in collaboration with Indian Railways. First is Palace-On-Wheels which is the oldest luxury train in India, launched in the year 1982. And second on the list of luxury trains is the Heritage-On-Wheels which again was a luxury trains on the heartlands of Rajasthan. Since 2009, the service of this luxury train was suspended due to several reasons. In the same year, the other luxury train Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels started running on the same route of Palace-On-Wheels.
PALACE-ON-WHEELS : INTRODUCTION -

Roll back the pages of time for one glorious week, recapture the pomp and pageantry of a royal past in royal style. Step aboard the Palace-On-Wheels, once the personal railway coaches of the erstwhile rulers of the princely states of Gujarat and Rajputana, the Viceroy of British India and the Nizam of Hyderabad, traveling in the famed Palace-On-Wheels happened, when both the Tourism Industry and the Railways Industry joined hands together and decided to come up with something so spectacular that would give a boost to both the industries. On 26th January, the republic day of 1982 this luxury train was launched with much fanfare. The idea behind this was to promote tourism for the state of Rajasthan. The original Palace-On-Wheels runs through the breadth and the length of Rajasthan and has been catering to a lot of national and international tourists. At the launch, this luxury train was thrown open only to foreigners but now Indians are also allowed in this train. Palace-On-Wheels epitomizes the rich heritage and journeys through one of the most exotic regions in the world-dazzling Delhi, Amazing Agra and specially Rajasthan including Jaipur, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bharatpur.³

History of Palace-On-Wheels -

It is a well said proverb that history always repeats itself and this time it catches the eyes of the beholder. A rebirth of the fabulous traversing tradition of the yore, Palace-On-Wheels, India has brought forth a journey tradition that melds all the diverse shades of India and takes its guests to a crisscrossing move through the heartlands of Rajasthan.

The prestigious project of Palace-On-Wheels has graced the Rajasthan Tourism and Indian Railways on 26th January 1982, and has been voted as the fourth luxurious train in the world. The train runs
through Jaipur, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Ranthambore, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bharatpur and Agra. The train, a mobile hotel, is fitted to look like a traditional maharaja's state carriage. The concept of the train was derived from the royal background of the coaches, which were originally meant to be the personal railways coaches of the erstwhile rulers of the princely states of Rajputana, Gujarat, the Nizams of Hyderabad and the Viceroy of British India.

Originally the train used carriages that once belonged to various maharajas, but these became so ancient that new carriages were refurbished to look like the originals. They were also fitted with air-conditioning. This way, the Palace-On-Wheels started as a unique holiday train hauled by a steam engine with its inaugural trip on 26th January, 1982. It started to roll on its regular operations from October, 1982.

In the year 1991, Palace on Wheels was refurbished again and this time it appeared as a meter gauge train having 13 salons, a Kitchen car, 2 luxuriously appointed restaurants, a bar with a lounge and 4 service cars. To make the journey all the more magical, the train introduced the concept of personal 'Khidmatgars' or Attendants who are made available to the service of the guests round the clock.

In order to further increase the amenities on the train and due to over all gauge conversion in the state a new broad gauge Palace-On-Wheels has been constructed and has been running since 1995.

The Palace-On-Wheels has gained remarkable success and attained world wide acclaim and popularity including the PATA Gold Award in the year 1987 and also caught the attention of the world media including BBC, MTV, MDR of Germany National Geographic and several others. Over the years this Indian luxury train has went
through several renovations to deliver the best traveling experiences to the guests. Presently, it has carried 2,356 tourists upto 2012-13.

Thus, Palace-On-Wheels has graced RTDC and the Indian Railways since 1982 and has completed its 30 years successfully and has become USP of Rajasthan Tourism.

CONCEPT OF PALACE-ON-WHEELS : OVER VIEW -

The Palace-On-Wheels travel package takes to a vibrating journey to the royal land of sand dunes and regal palaces. Visit the majestic expanse where royal Rajputs lived in a grand style. Explore this imperial land on the Palace-On-Wheels, the luxurious train of India that carries with it an intrinsic ambience that goes perfectly well with the majestic charm and beauty spread so lavishly here and there in Rajasthan.7

Table 4.1 : No. of Tourist Journey on Palace-On-Wheels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Tourists Carried by Palace-On-Wheels</th>
<th>Income (In Lacs)</th>
<th>Expenditure (In Lacs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>2699</td>
<td>2006.55</td>
<td>1073.76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>2364</td>
<td>1748.49</td>
<td>1087.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>2883</td>
<td>2228.15</td>
<td>1264.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>2356</td>
<td>2233.66</td>
<td>1260.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14 (till April)</td>
<td>1321</td>
<td>1208.09</td>
<td>682.88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Annual Report 2013-14, Department of Tourism, Rajasthan

Palace-On-Wheels is one of the most luxurious means of transport available for the popular cities of Rajasthan. One of the top ten luxury trains in the world, the Palace-On-Wheels basically features a train service that is known for its luxurious settings and services. It
stands on its tracks; a gleaming sealed carriage, every bit is royal. The air-conditioning works silently, creating a space where only the excitement of the history of the Rajput Kingdoms permeates through, clearly captured in a contemporary mode. In all, there are fourteen saloons, each equipped with four twin bedded chambers, with attached baths that have running hot and cold water and showers. The modern conveniences have been thoughtfully provided, sofas to sink into, strategically placed lights to read by, wonderfully appointed beds with comfortable furnishings, inbuilt wardrobes for the storage of one's clothes and bags, and huge plain glass windows to watch the countryside roll past.

Outside the bedrooms, each coach also has a seating lounge where passengers can get together, just sit watch the cities as they glide past outside the windows, or enjoy a quiet cup of tea. An attached pantry with each saloon helps provide beverages and refreshments to the accompaniment of soothing piped music.

There is the comfortable bar-cum-lounge and attached to it are two restaurants cars, Maharaja and Maharani respectively, with opulently draped curtains, exquisitely crafted lights and table settings. Here accompanying chefs serve up a delicious choice of Indian, including Rajasthani, Continental and even Chinese cuisine that are a feast for the palate.

The Palace-On-Wheels runs on the Golden Triangle Circuit and thus covers the three important destinations of Northern India-Delhi, Jaipur and Agra. A greater part of the journey is devoted to the famous cities of Rajasthan including Jaipur, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bharatpur.

Thus on the Palace-On-Wheels, the journey is full of exuberance and luxurious feeling. A perfect chance to relieve the era when kings
and queens ruled, when royalty spelt magic. When charm and mysticism was in air.

Table 4.2 : List of Palace-On-Wheels Staff During 2013-14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Sanction Post</th>
<th>Posted</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Manager</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tour Escort</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Manager</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Office Accountant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Assistant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Accountant Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager (Bar)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Assistant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Accountant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Assistant</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room Attendant</td>
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<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kitchen Helper</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : www.palaceonwheels.com
FEATURES OF PALACE-ON-WHEELS -

Palace-On-Wheels is most just a train. It is moving palace at Rajasthan than. Once inside, it is hard to think of it as mere means of transportation. Some of the features on Palace-On-Wheels which are also known as facilities provided on the board are:

1. Accommodation -

The Palace-On-Wheels comprises of 14 fully air conditioned deluxe saloons, equipped with world class amenities to enhance the pleasure of traveling.

The names of the saloons are based on the princely states of Rajasthan- Alwar, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Bundi, Dholpur, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jhalawar, Jodhpur, Kishangarh, Kota, Sirohi and Udaipur.

Each saloon is staffed with a captain and attendant 'Khidmatgar'. They cater to the needs of the passengers with all attention.

The saloon are well furnished with decorative, ornamental ceilings, polished teak walls and carved with bony furniture, there are motifs, chandeliers, carpets etc.

Each saloon is equipped with fine and roomy sleeping accommodation in independent 4 twin bedded chambers with channel music, intercom, attached toilets, running hot and cold water, shower and first aid kit.

The Fourteen Coaches are -

➢ Alwar Saloon Coach -

Alwar is home to several species of flora and fauna. The ceiling of the Alwar Coach lounge has been done aesthetically in a delightful mix of cone work and oils in relief, depicting a hunting scene. The royal emblem and a miniature painting adorn the lounge. Subtle tones of pink enhance the romantic ambience of the lounge.
➢ **Bharatpur Saloon Coach** -

Once a fortified township, Bharatpur is now an ornithologist's paradise and well known for the Keoladeo Ghana bird sanctuary. The sanctuary is home to over 376 avian species. Echoing the vividity of nature's gift to Bharatpur, relief work on this coach depicts various species of birds on the tree of life. The colour scheme, with its profusion of beige and aquagreen, is a vivid reminder of lush green forests of Bharatpur and Ghana.

(Saloon Coach)

➢ **Bikaner Saloon Coach** -

The royal state crest is placed on the valance along with some handicrafts of Rajasthan. The ceiling is done up in relief work and an oil painting on canvas, depicting the legendary lovers Dhola & Maru on Camel back. The art work in the lounge is in the mughal-influenced style of the Bikaner school of Art.

➢ **Bundi Saloon Coach** -

The royal crest is highlighted on the valance. The famous Bundi school of painting is depicted in the framed and mounted art pieces and also serves as the basis for the colour scheme and overall décor, including a delightfully frescoed ceiling.
➢ **Dholpur Saloon Coach** -

The rails in the coach are made of teak ply and depicts the fine craftsmanship originally done in stone. The Dholpur crest decorates the valance in Zardozi Work.

➢ **Dungarpur Saloon Coach** -

Dungarpur literally "Hill Town" In local dialect. The lounge roof reflects the Bhil Tribal areas in coloured glass form.

➢ **Jaisalmer Saloon Coach** -

There are intricately carved Jharokhas on the lounge ceiling. It is done on teak wood with a mirror backing. The famous Jawahar Niwas façade has been depicted in the state lounge using cone, metal, copper and silver mediums. The royal insignia adorns the valance of the blinds. The colour scheme reflects the beige of the desert sands.

➢ **Jaipur Saloon Coach** -

The ceiling of the state lounge has been created using the famed 'Phad' or Foil work, depicting festivals like Teej, Gangaur, Holi, Diwali etc. The Royal emblem of the state, in Zardozi work, graces the valance. The walls have been decorated with miniature paintings of the famous Jaipur style of painting. The ceilings have painted frescoes done in complementary colours, reflecting the state's colour scheme of blue & gold.

➢ **Jhalawar Saloon Coach** -

The Royal insignia of the erstwhile state in Zardozi work is seen on the valance along with handicrafts supporting the table tops of the state lounge.

➢ **Jodhpur Saloon coach** -

Mughal influenced designs of the Moti Mahal recreated in mother-of-pearl work on the ceiling. The royal crest is highlighted on
the valance along with the miniature paintings in the lounge which is typical of the Jodhpur school of Art.

➤ **Kishangarh Saloon Coach** -

One of the famous paintings like Bani-Thani Paintings is recreated on the ceiling in acrylic, painted with enamel and foil. The crest appears in Zardozi work on the blinds of the windows with an artwork of the kishangarh school of Art highlighted on the wall of the state lounge.

➤ **Kota Saloon Coach** -

Kota is well known for Kota School of design. The distinctive features of the Kota school of art can be seen in the oil paintings titled. 'Raja aur Praja' (The monarch and his subjects) on the ceiling. It depicts Raja Ram Singh-II (1826-66) of Kota amidst a royal procession.

➤ **Sirohi Saloon Coach** -

This erstwhile state has earned an enviable reputation the world over for its gold fort, near Pratapgarh. Especially the coloured glass work within it is remarkable. The style of work has a typically Indo-European flavour as European influence is quite conspicuous. The room highlights this style through the framed work of art done in the same style. The ambience and colour scheme has also been designed in keeping with this school of art.

➤ **Udaipur Saloon Coach** -

The state lounge and bed rooms take their colour scheme dominant blue and white. The lounge décor is influenced by the ‘Mor Chowk’ or the Peacock Court.

2. **Restaurants** -

Besides, such sophisticated saloons, the train has two lavish restaurants “**The Maharaja**” and “**The Maharani**” with an eating
capacity of 24 and 20 respectively. It has a carriage decorated by red velvet that combines a library, observation lounge and a bar. The restaurant car offers a Rajasthani ambience serving palate tickling continental, chinese, Indian and Rajasthani cuisines are available on the Palace on Wheels.
3. **Bar** -

A well-stocked bar serves wines, liquor, and spirits of Indian and International make, to keep you in ‘High Spirits’.

![Bar](Image)

4. **Shopping** -

Certain handicrafts and other special items of Rajasthani origin can be brought from State Government owned Emporia while the tourists visit the places covered by the Palace-On-Wheels.

5. **Lounge** -

A lounge for relaxing, interacting, making friends, getting and playing games.

![Sitting Lounge](Image)
6. **Medical Aid** -
   First aid is available on the train whereas a doctor can be arranged on call.

7. **Events On Board** --
   There is also celebrate Royal Wedding, Conferences & Business meeting on board.

8. **Culture Shows** -
   Light & Sound program at Chittorgarh, Culture programs and dances at Jaisalmer.

9. **Royal Spa** -
   The well equipped spa offers various massages and therapies and revitalizing solutions amidst royal ambience.

10. **For Disabled persons** -
    Special assistance available in the form of wheel chairs, crèches and a special attendant for assistance.

11. **Indoor Games** -
    Indoor games like chess, playing cards, chinese checkers, carom board and crossword puzzles are also available on Palace-On-Wheels.

    Some other facilities like internet, mineral water, arrival kit consisting of stationery items, brochures, cards etc., laundry services, foreign exchange counter are also available on Palace-On-Wheels.

**The Tour Program on Palace-On-Wheels** -

The Palace-On-Wheels is one of the world’s most exciting journeys, as much for the train and the facilities provided on board, as
for the royal destinations it proceeds to every single day. With everything taken care of dining, accommodation, sightseeing – as well as organized shopping, there is nothing for the travelers to do but sleep in the history of the land soak in the colours and experience the royal life of a Maharaja.

**Detailed Tour Itinerary** -

The 7 nights weekly tour on this Maharaja train departs from Delhi every Wednesday evening (from September to April) and comes back to the city after going through, in order: Jaipur-Chittorgarh-Udaipur-Ranthambore-Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bharatpur-Agra.

Itinerary and program schedule can be change without prior notice by the RTDC and Indian Railways. This day wise schedule are being discussed below -

**Day-1 Wednesday, Departure 6.30 PM** -

The magical tour starts in the evening with a ceremonial welcome on board the Palace-On-Wheels at safdarjung, New Delhi. In Delhi, the tourists treated like Maharaja & Maharani, on welcome by garlanding, tikka and turban with glass of wine. Then, the fellow
travelers introduced to each other and feel free to explore the new Palace and acquaint themselves with various facilities. Relax with a drink at the bar. Dinner will be served on board in its two excellent restaurants.

(Welcome at Jaipur)

Day-2 Thursday, Arrival 3.45 AM, Departure 8:00 PM -

(Amber Fort, Jaipur)

The first stop of the Palace-On-Wheels is Jaipur. When the tourists arrived at Jaipur, the tour began from the Hawa Mahal-Palace of wind followed the amazing Jantar Mantar-Astronomical observatory
are to be explored at leisure. Then visit the City Palace. Soon after reaching at Amber, the tourists enjoy the festively decorated elephant for a ride up to the fort. After lunch in Amber Fort, they visit to Amber Fort which is the best example of splendid fusion of Rajput and Mughal Style of Architecture, the tourists return back to train by bus for fresh-n-up after rest a while enjoy sumptuous dinner on board.

**Day-3 Friday, Arrival 5.30 AM, Departure 10.20 AM -**

![Ranthambore Fort, Sawai Madhopur](image)

(Ranthambore Fort, Sawai Madhopur)

When tourists arrived in Sawai Madhopur, they visit to the Ranthambore National Park. The Ranthambore National Park at junction of the Aravali and the Vindhyas is a unique juxtaposition of natural and historical richess, standing out conspicuously in the vast, arid and denuded tract of eastern Rajasthan, barely 14 kms from Sawai Madhopur. It is the best place to see the tiger at the apex of the food chain lords over the kingdom in a subtle way solitary by nature. The park is also home to 300 species of birds and hyena, jackal and fox among other species. There are lake palaces, chhatries, old
fortifications and a majestic 1000 years old fort over looking the park. After visiting Ranthambore, the tourists return back to Palace-On-Wheels. Then take a breakfast on board and enjoy the afternoon on train as it travels the lush green country and have lunch on board before arriving to Chittorgarh.

On the same day, afternoon, the train arrive to Chittorgarh at 4.00 PM. The tourists visit the sightseeing of Chittorgarh, which includes Padmini Palace, Chittorgarh Fort, Victory Tower, Sound & Light show at Chittorgarh Fort. After sightseeing, tourists take dinner on board. Then train departs from Chittorgarh at 2.00 AM.

Day-4 Saturday, Arrival 8.00 AM, Departure 3.30 PM -

When the tourists arrived to Udaipur, they do have breakfast on board. They visit, the places of interest like Sahelion Ki Bari, City Palace, and having lunch at Palace Hotel. They visit to Crystal Gallery- It is a balcony of Fateh Prakash Banquet Hall which is having a museum of crystal glass furniture, crockery, chandeliers of old time, and ride on boat and back to train.

(City Palace, Udaipur)
Day 5 Sunday, Arrival 9.15 AM, Departure 11.30 PM -

On Sunday, tourists enjoy to visit the sightseeing of Jaisalmer which is today one of Rajasthan’s best loved tourist destinations. They welcome with garlanding at Jaisalmer. Visit the Places such as Sonar Quila Fort, Patwon Ki Haveli and Nathmal Ji Ki Haveli, Salim Singh Ki Haveli. Shopping and Lunch at Moomal Hotel. The sweeping sand dunes, enjoy the romance of solitude at Kuldhara and experience the camel ride in the Thar Desert. As the sun sets they enjoy the evening with tea. Though the winter, followed by the cultural performance-campfire with dinner in dunes.

(Thar Desert, Jaisalmer)

Day-6 – Monday, Arrival 7.00 AM, Departure 4.30 PM -

Before reaching, Jodhpur, tourists enjoy the breakfast on board. Then special welcome on arrival and sightseeing of mighty fort followed by lunch at Star Hotel. Tourists enjoy to visit Mehrangarh
Fort, Umaid Bhawan Palace, Shopping of local handicrafts. After lunch, back to Palace-On-Wheels.

(Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur)

Day-7 Tuesday, Arrival 5.00 AM, Departure 8.45 AM -

(Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur)

In the early morning, Palace-On-Wheels reach to Bharatpur which is known for bird sanctuary. Tourists take breakfast on board and visit the Lohargarh fort in Bharatpur. They also visit Keoladeo Ghana National Park, one of the finest bird sanctuary in the world, the
nesting place for thousands of egrets siberian cranes, migratory water fowl and other species of birds. This train, then take a departure for Agra.

**Day -7 – Tuesday Arrival 11.00 AM, Departure 7.30 PM -**

When the train reach to Agra at 11.00 AM, the tourists visit the Taj-Mahal which is world’s most well known monument and well worth its fame. Later visit marble showrooms and enjoy the lunch at Palace Hotel. After that, the train departs for Delhi at 7.30 PM.

(Taj Mahal, Agra)

**Day-8 Wednesday Arrival 5.00 AM -**

When the royal train Palace-On-Wheels return back to Delhi cantonment Railway Station to step back from fantasy to reality. The tourists can disembark after breakfast till 07.45 AM.

**Information Tariff & Departure Dates -**

**Palace-On-Wheels Schedule -**

Palace-On-Wheels is a weekly departure from September to April each year. It departs from Delhi on every Wednesday.
### Table 4.3: Palace-On-Wheels train tour Departure Ex. Delhi for 2013-2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Dates Sept-2013 to April 2014</th>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Dates Sept-2014 to April 2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>4, 11, 18, 25</td>
<td>September</td>
<td>3, 10, 17, 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>2, 9, 16, 23, 30</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>6, 13, 20, 27</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>5, 12, 19, 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>4, 11, 18, 25</td>
<td>December</td>
<td>3, 10, 17, 24, 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>7, 14, 21, 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>5, 12, 19, 26</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>4, 11, 18, 25</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>5, 12, 19, 26</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>4, 11, 18, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2, 9, 16, 23, 30</td>
<td>April</td>
<td>1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Off season**: May to August No service/annual maintenance.

**Source**: www.palaceonwheels.com

### Table 4.4: Palace-On-Wheels Tariff for Season 2013-14 (Per Person/Night)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>September 2013 &amp; April 2014 (Off Season)</th>
<th>October 2013 to March-2014 (Season)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Occupancy</td>
<td>US$ 575</td>
<td>US$ 770</td>
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<tr>
<td>Double Occupancy</td>
<td>US$ 430</td>
<td>US$ 575</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple Occupancy</td>
<td>US$ 390</td>
<td>US$ 520</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 50% of the prevailing tariff will be charged for the children between 05-12 years of age.
- 10% of the prevailing tariff will be charged for the children below 05 years.

**Source**: www.palaceonwheels.com
Terms & Conditions -  
1. Service tax @ 2.58% and commercial tax US $ 15 per Person extra as applicable.
2. 10% Surcharge is applicable during christmas and New Year eve.
3. The above tariff and itinerary is subject to revise without prior notice.
4. Tariff is inclusive of accommodation onboard Palace-On-Wheels/Travel/all meals/conducted sightseeing tours/entrance fees at Monuments/Parks/Palaces & Cultural Programme.
5. Tariff does not include liquor, laundry, video cameras and other items of personal nature.
6. Charter can be booked in advance during X-mas & New year period subject to 100% advance deposit with the additional 10% of the tariff at the time of booking, during booking season.
7. Online booking is also available for the royal train and entire capacity of the train will be on internet reservation system.
8. Booking/ Cancellation Policy are as follows :-

Booking Policy -  
➢ 20% of ticket value at the time of confirming the booking.
➢ Remaining 80% of ticket value 60 days prior of departure along with the naming list.

Cancellation Policy -  
➢ 5% of ticket value 60 days or more prior to departure.
➢ 20% of ticket value between 59 to 16 days prior to departure.
➢ 100% of ticket value 15 days prior to departure.
HERITAGE-ON-WHEELS : INTRODUCTION -

Backed by the global success of the Palace-On-Wheels, Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation and Indian Railways in their first ever endeavour took tourists on board. The Heritage-On-Wheels, a luxury tourist train on meter gauge en-routed to the unexplored regions of Bikaner and Shekhawati, famous beholders of the Heritage of Rajasthan. The fully air-conditioned luxury train service started operations in January 2006, with 14 lavishly decorated coaches, two restaurants and a well appointed bar-cum-lounge.

Heritage-On-Wheels train that was fit only for those who were ‘Kings at Heart’.

The aim of this luxury train ‘Heritage-On-Wheels’ was to introduce tourists to the heritage of Rajasthan that remains hidden due to the more famous destinations. Moreover, the time framed of both the trains is also different with the Palace-On-Wheels took eight days to complete one journey and the Heritage-On-Wheels just for four days.
Facilities on Board -

1. Fourteen coaches with heritage ambience/décor.
2. Capacity 72 Berths.
3. Two Restaurants- Maharaja and Maharani.
5. Kitchen and Service cars.
6. Each saloon has a capacity to accommodate eight guests in four bedrooms with two bathrooms on sharing basis.
7. Well –experienced staff in traditional uniform on Board ready to serve variety of cuisine including Rajasthani.
8. Facilities aboard on Heritage-on-Wheels also includes an attendant also called the ‘Khidmatgar’.
9. Heritage-On-Wheels serves mineral water to all its guests through the journey.
10. On arrival, the guests are provided with an arrival kit, which consists of Stationary items, brochures, cards etc.
11. Heritage-On-Wheels provided adequate medical aid to its guests.
12. There was also the facilities of adequate safety arrangements, provided essential toiletries like soaps, shampoos, moisturizers, mail box was also provided on board.

Itinerary -

The itinerary of the Heritage-On-Wheels was so planned that tourists could have experienced of Shekhawati Region-Bikaner-Nawalgarh-Ramgarh (Mahansar), Mandawa including Gajner and Tal-Chappar Sanctuaries.

Pre and post sightseeing tour of Jaipur was also offered by RTDC on nominal cost.
Duration -

The tour was of 3 nights/ 4 days. The train left twice a week from Jaipur on Tuesday and Friday and returned back to Jaipur on Friday/Monday morning respectively.

Tariff -

The Tariff was reasonably priced in comparison to Palace-On-Wheels thereby bringing luxury at an affordable price -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>US Dollar</th>
<th>Indian Rupees (For Indian National Only)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Double</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>6,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child</td>
<td></td>
<td>Half fare between 5 to 12 years of age.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.5: Heritage-On-Wheels Tariff

CONVERSION OF ‘HERITAGE-ON-WHEELS’ TRAIN MAY TURN INTO 'RESTAURANT' -

After ferrying tourists to see the splendours of the Shekhawati Region of Rajasthan for two years, the once popular ‘Heritage-On-Wheels’ luxury train, consigned to the railway yard, in 2009. According to officials of RTDC, this train may soon be transformed into a restaurant in Jaipur.

Since, the beautifully designed ‘Heritage-On-Wheels’ parked in a railways shed instead of carrying passenger, the officials decided to turn this train into, a high-end restaurant with traditionally done interiors. This train restaurant would be a unique concept in itself.

The state’s tourism promotion officials said, that the service of this train was suspended due to several reasons -

(i) Low occupancy
(ii) Change from metre-gauge into broad gauge on that sector.
(iii) This train never came anywhere near making profits.

In 2009, when ‘Heritage-On-Wheels’ luxury train was left to idle away at a shed in Jaipur. The another luxury train ‘Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels’ started running in the same year, January 2009.

The Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels is a luxury tourist train run by Indian Railways in collaboration with RTDC. It is modeled on the Palace-On-Wheels and follows a similar route through Rajasthan.

(Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels Train)

ROYAL RAJASTHAN-ON-WHEELS: INTRODUCTION -

After 32 years of successful operations of Palace-On-Wheels (POW) and its popularity, RTDC brought a new luxury tourist train Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels (RROW) in joint collaboration with Indian Railways in the month of January, 2009. The new train is an upgraded version of existing Palace-On-Wheels with an exclusive interior plan, improvised services and structural layout. Keeping in view of the high end international tourists segment, to provide more space, the number of cabins in a saloon has been reduced from four to three in compare to Palace-on-Wheels. There are 22 coaches in the
train comprising of 1 super deluxe coach (2 cabins), 13 deluxe coach (containing 3 cabins each), 2 Restro Bars (40 covers each) 1 Kitchen, 2 Staff cum Store Car and 2 Power cars. The total capacity of the train is 82 pax. The cost of the project is around 43.00 crores. Indian Railways has invested Rs. 12.50 crore by way of providing bare shells, RTDC has invested Rs. 23.00 crore on furnishing of the train and Ministry of Tourism, GOI has granted central assistance of Rs. 7.50 crores under LRGP Scheme. After successful launching of train, up to 2009-10 the itinerary of RROW was same as of POW, to make it more attractive, two new destinations, Khajuraho and Varanasi were added in the itinerary of Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels, to make it a combination of nature and spiritual. Unlike POW in place of revenue share, RTDC has to pay haulage charges per trip fixed by Railways in advance before each trip. The itinerary for the coming season would be Delhi - Jodhpur - Udaipur - Chittorgarh - Sawai Madhopur - Jaipur -Khajuraho - Varanasi - Agra - Delhi. The trip commences on every Sunday during October to March from Delhi (Safdurjung).

Table 4.6 : Financial Performance Since Inception

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Particulars</th>
<th>Year 2008-09</th>
<th>Year 2009-10</th>
<th>Year 2010-11</th>
<th>Year 2011-12</th>
<th>Year 2012-13</th>
<th>Year 2013-14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Number of Tours Operated</td>
<td>05</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Total Capacity (41 Cabins x 2 x No. of Trips operated)</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>1640</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1312</td>
<td>1886</td>
<td>1804</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Paid Guest</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>857</td>
<td>761</td>
<td>928</td>
<td>673</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Complimentary Guest</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Occupancy Percentage</td>
<td>30.73%</td>
<td>45.67%</td>
<td>47.18%</td>
<td>58.91%</td>
<td>50.37%</td>
<td>38.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Total Income</td>
<td>72.18</td>
<td>920.65</td>
<td>1229.17</td>
<td>1325.04</td>
<td>1776.09</td>
<td>1503.68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Total Exp.</td>
<td>255.21</td>
<td>1523.05</td>
<td>1959.56</td>
<td>1230.58</td>
<td>1599.19</td>
<td>1429.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Surplus</td>
<td>-205.79</td>
<td>-602.4</td>
<td>-730.39</td>
<td>+94.96</td>
<td>+176.90</td>
<td>74.53</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Present Total Capacity (41x2x26)-2132 Pax in a Season

Source : www.palaceonwheels.com
History of Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels -

The history of luxury train traveling in India began with the introduction of the Palace-On-Wheels in 1982. The train, composed of the refurbished personal carriages of erstwhile maharajas of India was an instant success. The response of the travelers was overwhelming and soon the booking started running out in advance.¹⁹

To cater to the growing demand of luxury train traveling and to repeat the overwhelming success of the Palace-On-Wheels, Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) decided to introduce the Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels to enable the guests to get a glimpse of undisputable luxury and discover the manifold treasure of Rajasthan manifest in its resplendent fortresses, spectacular palaces, diverse geography and vibrant culture. Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels embarked on her maiden voyage on 11th of January, 2009. Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels is targeted at the more premium segment of travelers arriving in India.

Table 4.7 : No. of Tourist Journey on Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No. of Tourists Carried by Palace-On-Wheels</th>
<th>Income (In Lacs)</th>
<th>Expenditure (In Lacs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>1245.78</td>
<td>1487.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>1378.36</td>
<td>1934.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>1653.23</td>
<td>1483.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>2100.48</td>
<td>1923.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>397</td>
<td>1012.13</td>
<td>990.63</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : Annual Report 2013-14, Department of Tourism, Rajasthan

FEATURES OF ROYAL RAJASTHAN-ON-WHEELS -

Some of the features of Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels which are also known as facilities provided on the board are -
Accommodation -

The train has 14 passenger coaches. The 13 coaches have three deluxe saloons on each coach and 14th coach has 2 super deluxe saloons.

Deluxe Saloons – The Extraordinary Suite -

Each deluxe saloon has different color theme of exquisite jewels like Ruby, Pearl and Sapphire. The saloon has been designed to live upto the grandeur of contemporary princely living with elegant silk furnishings for a befitting aesthetic appeal. Each saloon offers luxuries with meticulously chosen bedding and upholstery, writing-table and chair to make stay more comfortable.

(Super Deluxe Saloon)

Super Deluxe Saloon – The Bravura Suite -

Super Deluxe suites offers a spacious living with complete comfort of royal suites. The exquisite silk and velvet bedspreads and draperies take to the era of munificent living. The suites have been named after the two precious stones, Emerald and Diamond.
➢ **Dining & Cuisines -**

Sheesh Mahal and Swarn Mahal, the two Restro-Bars on the Royal Train await the tourists to savour the grand royal feast. Indulge in mouth-watering delicious from Rajasthani, Indian, Continental and Chinese cuisines. Sheesh Mahal has been adorned with splendid floor lamps and crystal pelmets; the entire Restro-Bar is made of wood and crystal. The Swarn Mahal, has been planned around on theme of gold and brass.

(Restaurant)

➢ **Bar & Lounge -** The sumptuous meals with finest wines and an array of international brands of liquor on the two Restro-Bars Sheesh Mahal and Swarn Mahal on the Royal Train. The fully equipped bar on the train serves selected brands on Aperitif, Malt, Whisky, Scotch, Rum, Vodka, Cognac, Wines and Champagne.

(Bar)
➢ **Souvenirs** - The Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels has souvenirs, to provide, the tourists with knickknacks and keepsakes that tourists would love to pick up. These include products and apparels specially designed to suit their interest like -

- Beer-mug
- Emboss leather Jewellery Box
- Leather Photo Frame
- Cruet Set
- Old Paper Notebook with Train Painting
- T-Shirt, Cap etc.

➢ **Spa** - Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels provides the finest spa services on board. This lifestyle spa provides relaxation and wellness solutions on board with personal care products for hair, skin and body. The well-equipped spa offers various massages and therapies and revitalizing solutions amidst royal ambience. The royal train will have a dedicated coach for excellent spa services.

(Spa)

➢ **Other Facilities** -

- **Hospitality** - At Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels, the gracious hospitality is bound to leave the tourists speechless. The
meticulously trained attendants, the Khidmatgars will serve round the clock.

Table 4.8 : List of Staff of Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No.</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Sanctioned Staff</th>
<th>Working Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>General Manager</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Assistant Accountant Officer</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Assistant Manager</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Junior Accountant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Office Assistant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>House Assistant</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Bar Tender</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Chef/Cook</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Room Attendant</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Kitchen Helper</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Peon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>55</strong></td>
<td><strong>38</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : www.royalrajasthanonwheels.com

- **Splendid Saloons** - The 13 deluxe coaches have been rightly named after the famous palaces of Rajasthan namely, Hawa-

- **Transport**- For a comfortable sightseeing experience, Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels will provide AC buses for the passengers.
- Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels is a no Smoking Train.
- The Royal Train is having internet facility and Satellite TV on board.
- The windows in the Royal Train are the largest in any train running on tracks in India and been made especially for enjoying the visual treat on royal escapade.
- The Royal Train is having Wellness Centre (Gym) facility on board.
- Channel music system and public address system.
- The Super Deluxe Saloons have an individual temperature control facility.
- Get engrossed with a range of board-games and a variety of books on a train.
- A separate safe is provided in each cabin to store their valuables.
- Foreign exchange counters, laundry service & mail box are also available on board.

**The Tour Program on Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels** -

Embark on an unforgettable journey on the Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels and rekindle the romance of travel on a magical landscape of history, nature and culture.
Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels has come up yet another travel option that will take guests on an extended itinerary across the heritage destinations in north and Central India. The 7 Nights/8days itinerary of the luxury train has been specifically designed to enable guests a taste of the royalty of India. Read on to know about the detailed itinerary of the Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels -

**Day 01/ Sunday/ Safdarjung, Delhi – Jodhpur -**

The Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels begins its journey from New Delhi with the ceremonial welcome on board with traditional Aarti and Tika with garlanding and some mock tails to refresh the guests. After check in, they would be escorted to the respective cabins. Then depart for Jodhpur. Dinner & overnight on board.

*(Welcome at Jodhpur)*
Day 02/Monday/Jodhpur-Udaipur -

The first stop is Jodhpur. When the train arrive in Jodhpur at 9:15 AM, the guests take the breakfast on board. In morning, the tourists visits the sightseeing tours of Jodhpur Gate-Way to the desert beyond, home of the Rathore of Marwa. Visit the fort, rising up a hilly scrap, built on the advice of a hermit, which overlooks the city in the image of a long sentinel. Inside the fort are number of palaces added by successive rulers. The cenotaphs of the former rulers are imposing and architecturally remarkable. Lunch at a hotel. Then, Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels departs for Udaipur.

(Mehrangarh Fort)

Day 03/Tuesday/Udaipur-Chittorgarh -

The Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels arrives into Udaipur. The guests take a breakfast at a hotel in Udaipur. Then, they go to visit sight-seeing tour of Udaipur, stopping first at City Palace. Also visit the lovely Sahelion Ki Bari Garden, the Jagdish Temple and the local folk museum. Lunch at a hotel. Enjoy boat ride on Lake Pichola before returning on Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels. Later visit Chittorgarh. There is no place in Rajasthan with a history more romantic than that of Chittorgarh. The centre of rajput resistance against Mughal Rule. Evening tea with sound and light show at the fort. Dinner at a hotel. Overnight on Board.
(Light & Sound Show, Udaipur)

Day 04/Wednesday/Sawai Madhopur-Jaipur -

Early morning, the Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels rolls in to Sawai Madhopur, which is located in the eastern part of Rajasthan, the
tourists take the breakfast on board or Hotel Vinayak, then visit the Ranthambore National Park to catch a glimpse of the majestic tigers roaming around in the open wilderness and also pay a visit to the imposing fort to turn a page in the history of Rajasthan. There is also a temple on route the park by the name of Amareshwar Mahadeo Temple which can be visited by tourist. Lunch on board. The train depart for Jaipur.

(Ranthambore National Park, Sawai Madhopur)

At 1.15 PM, the train then arrive into Jaipur. The guests who board on train are welcome by caparisoned elephants & sweet music of the auspicious 'Shehnai'. They watch the awesome "Hawa Mahal" (The palace of winds), elephants ride at amber fort, shopping of centuries old objects de arts and other items.

Lunch at a hotel on board and visit to the City Palace and its museum, Return to train for tea and freshening up. Enjoy a drive of Jaipur by night followed by dinner at a palace Hotel. Return to Royal Rajasthan-On-wheels. Train departs for Khajuraho.

Day 05/Thursday/Khajuraho-Varanasi -

The next stop of luxury train journey is Khajuraho. The guests have breakfast on board, the guest visit the eastern group of temples which consist of 3 Hindu and 3 Jain Temples, their proximity attests to
the religious tolerance of the times in general and of the Chandela Rulers in particular at leisure for own activities. After lunch, visit the most important and fascinating western group of temples. The temples of Khajuraho have been declared a 'world Heritage' site by UNESCO in order to preserve the rich legacy of architecture, bequeathed to future generations of the kings of the Chandela Dynasty. These temples are famous for their intricate sculptures and erotic carvings that are one of the outstanding achievements of Indian arts. Over night on board.

(Chandela Dynasty, Khajuraho)

Day 06/Friday/Varanasi-Agra -

The Train arrive in to Varanasi. Early morning, the guest take a short trip by country boat on the sacred river Ganges to see the Ghats and witness the living traditions of one of the world's oldest and most important religions. Pilgrims flocks the ghats to have a ritual bath and perform puja to the rising sun, following centuries old tradition. Breakfast at the hotel. Visit some of the many Hindu Temples that live the river Ganges and stroll along the narrow lanes and bazaars full of shops selling, among other things, the world famous Banaras silks. Lunch on board. Afternoon visit Sarnath, 5 miles out of Varanasi one of the holiest Buddhist sites in the world. Then visit a fine archeological Museum which houses an excellent collection of Buddhist art and sculptures found at the site. The main attraction in this
museum is the superb capital from the Ashokan Pillar. It has the Ashokan symbol of four back to back lion which has been adopted as the state symbol of modern India. Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels departs for Agra.

(Ghat, Varanasi)

Day 07/Saturday/Agra-Delhi -

(Taj Mahal, Agra)

The final destination of the Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels is Agra, the City of the Taj Mahal. Sightseeing in Agra, includes a visit to the
Agra fort, followed by the Taj Mahal, a pristine monument of undying love, built by emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved queen Mumtaz Mahal. The building, often styled "A dream in marble" is said to have taken at least 22 years to build. Enjoy sound and light show. Dinner at a hotel. Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels departs for Delhi.

**Day 08/Sunday, Return to Delhi -**

Sunday morning, the Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels rolls back in to the train station in Delhi, where the journey of this train ends.

**Information Tariff & Departure Dates -**

"To be a part of the mesmerizing journey aboard Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels, It is the majestic delight where the passengers will experience the land of regal splendor through the contemporary Royal living."

**Table 4.9 : Given below are the details of the Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels departure schedule for the year 2013-15.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Departure Dates</th>
<th>Months</th>
<th>Departure Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November 2013</td>
<td>3, 10, 17, 24</td>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>5, 12, 19, 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2013</td>
<td>1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>2, 9, 16, 23, 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 2014</td>
<td>5, 12, 19, 26</td>
<td>December 2014</td>
<td>7, 14, 21, 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2014</td>
<td>2, 9, 16, 23</td>
<td>January 2015</td>
<td>4, 11, 18, 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2014</td>
<td>2, 9, 16, 23, 30</td>
<td>February 2015</td>
<td>1, 8, 15, 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>March 2015</td>
<td>1, 8, 15, 22, 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source : [www.royalrajasthanonwheels.com](http://www.royalrajasthanonwheels.com)

**Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels Tariff -**

"Travel like a royal king onboard the most luxurious train of India, Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels."

The details of tariff regarding different class of saloons/ coaches (Super Deluxe and Deluxe), inclusion, exclusion as well as its online booking and cancellation policy.
Table 4.10 : Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels Tariff for Season 2013-14
(per person/journey basis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saloon</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Description (Per Night)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Super Deluxe</td>
<td>1600 US$</td>
<td>Per Suite, Per Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe</td>
<td>590 US$</td>
<td>Twin Sharing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deluxe</td>
<td>825 US$</td>
<td>Single Occupancy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- 50% of the prevailing tariff will be charged for the children between 05-12 years of age.
- 10% of the prevailing tariff will be charged for the children below 05 years.

Source : www.royalrajasthanonwheels.com

Terms & Conditions -
1. Service Tax will be charged extra as applicable.
2. Commercial tax US$ 15 per person extra as applicable.
3. There will be a 10% surcharge levied on the tariff for the trips falling during Christmas and New Year.
4. The above tariff and itinerary is subject to revise without prior notice.
5. No Charter can be booked during X-mas & New year period.
6. **The tariff includes:** Onboard stay with all meals, bottled drinking water, group excursion & sightseeing tours in air conditioned coaches with services of english speaking guide, monument entrance fees, boat ride in Udaipur, canter ride in Ranthambore, elephant ride in Jaipur, boat ride in Varanasi.
7. **Tariff does not include:** Drinks, tips to staff laundry, telephone calls, porter fee, video camera fee, use of spa facilities, tour
insurance, business car facilities, liquor and other items of personal nature.

8. **Booking Policy:** 20% of ticket value at the time of confirming the booking. Remaining balance of ticket value 65 days prior to departure.

9. **Cancellation Policy:**
   - 5% of ticket value 60 days prior to departure.
   - 20% of ticket value 30-59 days prior to departure.
   - 100% of ticket value between less than 30 days prior to departure.

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF PALACE-ON-WHEELS & ROYAL RAJASTHAN-ON-WHEELS -**

Luxury trains, which offer services that can make the best hotels and airlines in the world pale in comparison, are the latest craze.

In India, Palace-On-Wheels and Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels are two luxury trains which are world-renowned and have offered excellent services to their international tourist. Moreover, luxury trains are becoming increasingly popular among domestic tourist, evident from the Palace-On-Wheels booking number from this segment. The recent Palace-On-Wheels journey had 84 passengers, including 23 domestic travelers. According to Managing Director, Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation, the recent new season started in September 2013 and by the end of the fourth trip the royal train had attracted 190 tourists, it is also expecting that, by the end of this season April 2014, about 300 people will come aboard Palace-On-Wheels".

The second super luxury train 'Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels' (2009), is still another milestone inscribed by Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation Ltd. (RTDC) in the arena of Luxury Rail
Journey in the tourism market of India. Like Palace-On-Wheels, this train has also established its brand image in the global travel market in a record time. According to the General Manager of RTDC, there are 87 trips since 2008-2009 total 3286 tourists have made journey in this royal train. An amount of Rs. 48 crore 82 Lakhs has earned till now.

Although both the luxury trains are the pride of the country and are epitomes of luxury, but there are similarities as well as differences.

Table 4.11: Salient features which define the differences and similarities between POW & RROW.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Features</th>
<th>Palace-On-Wheels</th>
<th>Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Started Operations</td>
<td>January 1994</td>
<td>January 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly Departs Day Ex. New Delhi</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places Covered Over 7 Nights</td>
<td>Jaipur, Ranthambore, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Ranthambore, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Varanasi, Agra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part Journey</td>
<td>5 Nights Parts Journey Allowed</td>
<td>5 Nights Parts Journey Allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabins In One Saloon Carriage Car</td>
<td>Four With Attached Bathrooms</td>
<td>Three With Attached Bathrooms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleeping Chambers Type</td>
<td>Standard A.C. Cabins With Twin &amp; Triple Beds</td>
<td>Deluxe A.C. Cabin With Twin Beds &amp; A.C. Super Deluxe Cabin With King Size Double Beds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Triple Occupancy</td>
<td>Allowed</td>
<td>Not Allowed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cabin Size</td>
<td>10’ X 9’</td>
<td>13’ X 9’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bed Size</td>
<td>3’ X 6’</td>
<td>3.3 X 7.8’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spa Saloon</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual A.C. Temperature Control Panel In Cabin</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dining Facility</td>
<td>Two Dining Cars &amp; One Bar Lounge</td>
<td>Two Bar Lounge With Dining Facility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Price Per Person Per Night</td>
<td>US$ 575 + Taxes On Twin Share</td>
<td>US$ 590 + Taxes On Twin Share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Policy</td>
<td>50% For Child &lt;12 Years 10% For Child &lt;5 Years</td>
<td>50% For Child &lt;12 Years 10% For Child &lt;5 Years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wi-Fi-Facility</td>
<td>No (USB Modem On Request)</td>
<td>No (USB Modem On Request)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: www.luxurytrains.in
Similarities -

1. The duration of the journey of both the trains is the same which is 7 nights and 8 days, so is the décor and featured luxuries on the train too. The amenities and services which the guest on the train avail are at par with the international levels. The traveler can take pleasure in various kinds of facilities such as channel music, centralized air conditioning, private bathrooms with all toiletries, LCD TV, electronic safety deposit, medical assistance, personal attendant for the coaches, 2 multi cuisine restaurants, a bar with finest of beverages, a lounge to unwind, a spa to relax tired soul and different variety of rooms to choose from. The décor of both the trains and their cabins ooze out opulence with the upholstery and tapestry having royal touch.

2. Another similarity is that on the journey of both the trains, there get a chance to explore the wildlife in the Ranthambore National Parks.

3. Dish TV has partnered with the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation (RTDC) to setup television screens on two iconic luxury trains, the Palace-On-Wheels and Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels.

4. Recently, Rajasthan's both luxury trains- the Palace-On-Wheels and Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels undergo make over. Palace-On-Wheels is in for major refurbishment at an investment of Rs. 1 crore and Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels at an investment of Rs. 47 Lakhs.

5. Based on the feedback of guests, both the luxury tourist trains sports a new heritage look in 2013-14. Both the trains are undertaking modernization of even minor things, including
water purifiers in washrooms and other modern conveniences like superior communication and entertainment.

6. New carpets, tapestry, curtains, replacements of furniture and upgradation of toilets in both the trains are also being taken up in 2013.

7. To minimize the noise of trains, the wooden floors have richly luxurious carpets.

**Dissimilarities** -

1. There are some differences as well such as the destinations that both the Palace-On-Wheels and Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels cover during its journey. While the former one covers Delhi, Jaipur, Ranthambore, Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bharatpur and Agra, the latter one takes the guests through Delhi, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Sawai Madhopur, Jaipur, Khajuraho, Varanasi and Agra. Though there are quite a few similar destinations but while Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels, it also get a chance to visit the ghats of the holy Ganga River and the age old Khajuraho Temples.

2. Another point of difference is that Palace-On-Wheels explore India's wildlife at two destinations, Ranthambore National Park and Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary while the other luxury train takes the guests to first one.

3. A souvenir shop on Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels is a plus point.

4. Another difference is that there are 14 deluxe cabins on Palace-On-Wheels which have been named after erstwhile Rajputana States such as Alwar, Bundi. On the other hand, Royal Rajasthan-On-Wheels has a total of 13 cabins which have been named after the palaces of Rajasthan such as Hawa Mahal, Chandra Mahal, Surya Mahal and soon.
REFERENCES -


7. Department of Tourism, Government of India, various Annual Reports and Pragati Prativedan.


10. www.rajasthantourism.gov.in

11. www.rtdc.in