

# Varanasi & Pushkar Camel Fair Photography Tour 13th to 28th Nov 2023

Flights, depart Australia 12 Nov, return 29 Nov 2023



Your hosts Atik Ahmed and Susan Moss  
Images by Susan

## Nov 13th - New Delhi to Agra. ( Hotel Crystal Sarovar ) Room with Dinner



Arrive at Delhi. Meet & greet by Atik at the airport. Today we will drive to Agra and it will take 5 hours. Once we reach Agra we will go direct our hotel. In evening we will go to visit Taj Mahal from Other side of river.

## Nov 14th - Agra to New Delhi. ( Hotel Lemon Tree or Similar ) Room with Breakfast



Agra is a historical city in the state of Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The city boasts several historical monuments including the Taj Mahal (the epitome of love), Agra Fort.

Early morning we will go to visit **TAJ MAHAL**. We will try to get in first to avoid the other travelers for beautiful photos. After visiting Taj Mahal we will come back to our hotel for breakfast.

Following breakfast we will leave for New Delhi.



### **Nov 15th - New Delhi to Udaipur ( Hotel Lake Pichola or Similar ) Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

After breakfast we will leave for the airport to catch flight to Udaipur. Once we arrive to Udaipur we will go to our hotel and in the evening we will go for a street walk. Dinner will be at the hotel's rooftop restaurant.



### **Nov 16th - Udaipur**

#### **Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

Early morning we will go to see whole sale vegetable market where you will find lots of opportunities for photography. After visiting the market we will come back for breakfast to our hotel.

This afternoon we will go to visit City Palace. This evening we will go for a sunset shot from a rooftop restaurant, then we will go to a beautiful restaurant for dinner. Return back to hotel.



### **Nov 17th - Udaipur to Ranakpur. ( Hotel Fatehbagh or Similar )Room with Breakfast and Dinner at hotel**

After breakfast we will drive to Ranakpur which is 3 hours driving. On the way to Ranakpur we will see lots of beautiful village life. Once we arrive at our hotel we will have lunch. This afternoon we will go to visit a beautiful Jain Temple. Jain Temples built in the 15th century are situated in the lovely valley of the Aravali. It's surrounding is quiet and picturesque. The temple has grand structures and beautiful sculpture. There are 1444 pillars in the temple and none of them are similar. The magic of light & shade is really awe inspiring. Surya Temple and other Jain Temples are side attractions. Later in the evening we will go to local market where you will see lots of people wearing red turban. This market is a beautiful place for photography. Return back to hotel.



### **Nov 18th - Ranakpur to Jodhpur ( Hotel Ajit Bhawan or Similar ) Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

After Breakfast we will drive to Jodhpur. Arrive Jodhpur and check in at our hotel. Afternoon proceed for local city sight seeing tour. Jodhpur, stronghold of the fierce Rathore clan, was founded in 1459 by Prince Jodha. Visit the Mehrangarh Fort, situated on a low sandstone hill. Within the fort, visit Moti Mahal and Phool Mahal. Also visit Jaswant Thada, an imposing marble cenotaph, built in memory of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II around 1899 and Umaid Public gardens. A visit to Sardar market (clock tower) old city . Street photography of the BLUE CITY. Return back to hotel.



### **Nov 19th - Jodhpur to Pushkar ( Hotel Pushkar Fort or Similar ) Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

After breakfast we will leave for **Pushkar** which is 4 hours driving. A beautiful town on the edge of the Thar desert and a centre for camel trading. Early evening we take our bus into town for Camel Fair. It is the most colorful fairs of India and It is one of the world's largest camel fairs. Apart from the buying and selling of livestock, it has become an important tourist attraction. Competitions such as the 'matka phod', 'longest moustache' and 'bridal competition'. This

traditional festival of India displays 30,000 camels shaved, dressed and adorned with vibrant jewelry. These camels participate in the beauty contests, parade and race organized for them during the fair.

The centre of town is home to a highly regarded Brahmin temple and a large lake which is surrounded by ghats where the faithful bathe in the holy waters. Unfortunately, you cannot take photos of the bathers however we are friends with holy men who will bless us and musicians who will play for us on the water's edge giving plenty of opportunity for photography.



### **Nov 20th - Pushkar**

#### **Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

After breakfast we will go to Camel Fair ( MELA GROUND ) Pushkar is one of the most sacred pilgrimages for Hindus and it's considered to be one of the oldest cities in India, this Holiest city was said to be created by Lord Brahma for the Hindus. Day is free for photography. In evening we will enjoy a cultural folk music and dance program.



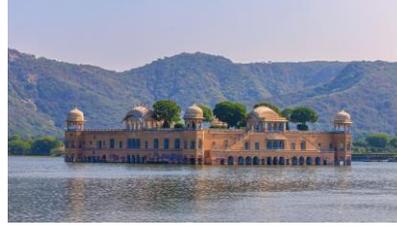
### **Nov 21st - Pushkar to Pachewar ( Hotel Pachewar Fort )**

#### **Room with Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner at hotel**

It doesn't take long to drive out of the Pushkar to start experiencing the rural life of Rajasthan. It only takes 2 hours to drive to our destination but we will almost certainly find it hard not to stop for intriguing road side villages with bright sarees, women driving large water buffalo down narrow lanes.

On arrival in Pachewar it's obvious the star of the show here is the old fort of Pachewar Garh Fort. Now a heritage hotel and our home for 1 night with Royal Family of Pachewar Garh.

A late afternoon visit to the village provides us the opportunities to see ancient Temples, Royal Cenotaphs situated on the banks of lake, different artisans at work like blacksmiths, goldsmiths, potters, and the extraction of oil from seeds by traditional methods with the help of an ox. Return back to hotel.



## **Nov 22nd - Pachewar to Jaipur ( Hotel Traditional Haveli or Similar ) Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

We go for early morning street photography. After Street walk we will come back to hotel and have breakfast. Following breakfast a 2.5 hours drive to **Jaipur**. Once we reach Jaipur we will check into hotel and have lunch at hotel. After Lunch we go to the main city visiting the famous Jal Mahal. Explore other historical monuments like City Palace, Hawa Mahal and Jantar Mantar.

The City Palace Complex is located in the heart of the city. The palace complex includes several courtyards, buildings, pavilions, gardens, and temples. The famous Govind Dev Ji Temple is located within the palace complex. The City Palace was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II.

The Hawa Mahal is one of the main attractions of Jaipur city tour. Built from red and pink sandstone, the palace sits at the edge of the City Palace. The Hawa Mahal was built in 1799 by the Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, the grandson of Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh, who founded the city of Jaipur. This 5-storeyed-structure contains 953 small Windows known called Jharokhas decorated with intricate latticework.

The Jantar Mantar Observatory (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is another attraction in the city that you will visit today. It has a collection of 19 astronomical instruments remarkable at their time. Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II built this royal observatory.

Later in evening we will go for sunset to Jal Mahal. Dinner in town.



## **Nov 23rd - Jaipur**

### **Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

+After breakfast, embark on an exciting start with visiting the Amer Fort, a grand hill fort that was built by Raja Man Singh in 1592. Enjoy an elephant ride is option to reach the entrance of the Amer Fort, situated atop a hill in the outskirts of the city. You will get amazed to see the amazing beauty of the fort complex. It is a pristine example of Rajput and Mughal architectural styles and is made from sandstone and marble. The fort overlooks the entire Pink City and is declared as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Afternoon is free for some shopping or take rest in hotel. Evening we will go for street walk and visit a vegetable market and OLD JAIPUR ( Pink City ).

## **Nov 24th - Jaipur to New Dehi ( Hotel Dharampura Haveli or Similar )**

### **Room with Breakfast**

After breakfast we will leave for **New Delhi** and it will take 5 hours driving. Today we will go to visit Old Delhi for street photography. Dinner will be at the hotel in New Delhi.



## **Nov 25th - New Delhi to Varanasi ( Hotel Suryaoday Haveli or Similar )**

### **Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

Check out from Delhi hotel and catch morning flight to **Varanasi** (1.25 hours flight) Meet our Chauffeur at Airport then to hotel. This afternoon we will go to visit Sarnath, which is located 10 kilometres north-east of Varanasi near the confluence of the Ganges and the Varuna rivers in Uttar Pradesh, India. The deer park in Sarnath is where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma, and where the Buddhist Sangha came into existence through the enlightenment of Kondanna. Back to Varanasi later in the afternoon for city tour -

Varanasi : Is a city dating to the 11th century B.C. Regarded as the spiritual capital of India, the city draws Hindu pilgrims who bathe in the Ganges River's sacred waters and perform funeral rites. Along the city's winding streets are some 2,000 temples, including Kashi Vishwanath, the "Golden Temple," dedicated to the Hindu god Shiva

**Dasaswamedh Ghat** :Dashashwamedh Ghat is the main ghat in Varanasi on the **Ganga River**. It is located close to Vishwanath Temple and is probably the most spectacular ghat. Two Hindu legends are associated with it: According to one, Lord Brahma created it to welcome Lord Shiva. Evening we walk at Ghat side for Photography.



## **Nov 26th - Varanasi**

### **Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

Early morning, you will be taken for a boat ride on the Ganges. Enjoy Subah-e-Banaras in Varanasi. It is a mystical and spiritual experience as you watch people taking holy dip in the Ganges, performing rituals, offering water to the Sun etc, it all happens in Subah-e-Banaras. You will visit all the famous Ghats of Varanasi via boat. After the Boat Ride and will have the walking tour in old part of the city After walk on Ghats we will come back to our hotel for breakfast.

After breakfast take some rest and after we will go to visit the most religious Kashi Vishwanath

temple, Annapurna Temple and then drive out to visit more temples - Bharat Mata temple, Durga temple, Sankat Mochan (Hanuman temple) , Tulsi Manas Mandir, New Vishwanath temple also known as Birla temple located in Banaras Hindu University.

Later Afternoon – Now It's the time for the most memorable experience of Dev Diwali on the Bank of the Ganges. Dev Deepavali or Dev Dipawali is one of the most widely held festivals of Hindu Religion which is celebrated every year in Varanasi in the month of Kartika Purnima or Full Moon of Kartika Month of Hindu calendar, 15 days after Diwali - Festival of Lights. It is celebrated and observed by the people with the great trumpet blast and overwhelms. Dev Deepavali is celebrated in the respect of Mother Ganges and also in the belief that Gods descend on the Earth on this grand occasion. There is another myth of celebrating Dev Deepavali that, at this day, demon Tripurasur was killed by the Gods, so it is named as Dev Deepavali and celebrated as a victory day of the Gods on the Kartika Purnima.

We will go to Harishchandra Ghat where an Exclusive Boat is waiting for us on the bank. We will board the Boat and move towards Dashashwamedh ghat and witness the most memorable experience and once in a lifetime experience.

All the Ghats on the riverfront of the Ganges are lit with millions of Diya's (earthen lamps). Not only the Ghats of Ganges but also all temples of Varanasi are lit with millions of Diya's. People flowing thousands of Diyas (earthen lamps) in the holy water of Ganges dedicating to their Gods according to the ritual beliefs and culture. It's really a special evening; offers most beautiful view of the cultural things. After the mesmerizing Dev Diwali Experience you will return back to ghat and then drive back to the hotel.



## **Nov 27th - Varanasi to New Delhi ( Hotel Imperial or Similar ) Room with Breakfast and Dinner**

After breakfast we will leave for Airport to catch our flight to New Delhi. On arrival in New Delhi we will meet our driver at airport and drive to our beautiful hotel. Later in Evening we will go street photography and New Delhi. Dinner in city. Overnight stay at hotel.



## **Nov 28th - New Delhi to Home.**

### **Breakfast**

After breakfast we will leave hotel and visit New Delhi. Lunch will be in city. Later evening transfer to airport to catch flight with happy memories.....

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## **INCLUSIONS**

- International economy flights from any Australian capital city to New Delhi return with Singapore Airlines\*
- All international flights 30kg checked luggage allowance
- Services, accommodation and meals as described in itinerary above
- Gratuities

## **OPTIONS**

International flights can be upgraded to premium economy or business class where available, for an additional cost. Prices vary, please let us know if you would like to consider this option when booking.

\*Travellers residing outside of Australia are welcome to join this tour.

Please contact [reservations@mcnallytravel.com](mailto:reservations@mcnallytravel.com) to confirm your departure city for flight and payment options available to you.

## **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- Meals where not stated
- Alcoholic beverages, laundry or personal items
- Indian visa
- Comprehensive travel insurance / trip cancellation insurance (required), please let us know if we can offer you a competitive quote.

## **PRICING**

### **Option 1 – Single**

AUD 10,775 per person (ex-PER)

AUD 10,965 per person (ex-ADL, DRW, BNE, SYD, MEL, HBA)

Deposit required to secure place: AUD 4,282 per person

### **Option 2 – Twin Share**

AUD 10,275 per person (ex-PER)

AUD 10,465 per person (ex-ADL, DRW, BNE, SYD, MEL, HBA)

Deposit required to secure place: AUD 4,157 per person

### **Final Balance**

Final balance due: 13 September 2023

### **HOW TO BOOK**

If you would like to join this wonderful photo tour with Susan Moss, the mechanics of booking your trip are made easy. Here is a secure link to provide your travel details and reserve your place on the **Dev Diwali Varanasi & Pushkar Camel Fair**

Go to secure [BOOKING FORM](#)