

## Magical INDIA Tour with HOLI Festival

**\*\*\*\*\*A journey is not about the places you visit,  
but the stories you bring home to share\*\*\*\***



**Your hosts Susan and Atik**

### **Images by Susan**

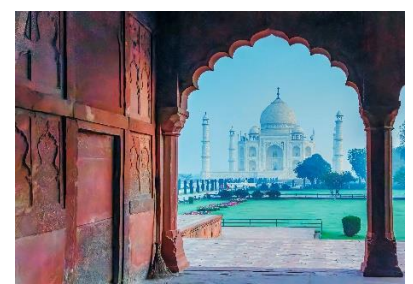
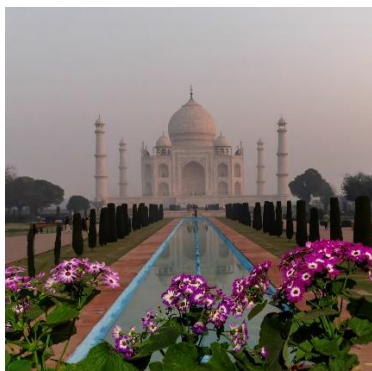
Tours will take you on adventures that are guaranteed to exceed your expectations and to guide you through the cacophony of amazing cultures, sights, sounds, colours, taste and smells that are India. You will experience the best that the country has to offer, visit incredible locations and at the best time of day and night.

Rajasthan, literally translated, means “land of great Rajput kings”. Rich in history, steeped in tradition, and hauntingly beautiful, Rajasthan is truly the jewel in the crown of this fascinating sub-continent.

Our tour begins and ends in Delhi and runs anticlockwise through some of the most charming, vibrant and “photo-friendly” places one could ever wish for.

**Tour Start: - March 16 to 28 2024**

**Tour Cost: - AUD 6750 single AUD 6250 Twin Share pp**

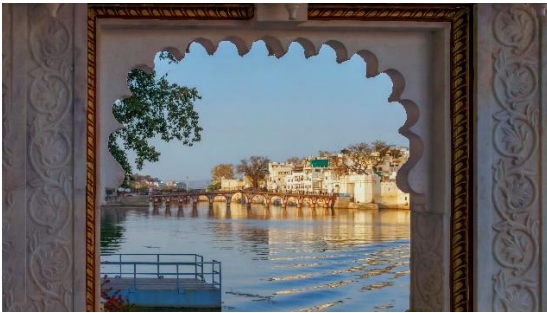


**March 15** - On arrival you will be met by Atik at the airport, who will escort you to your hotel, which he can book for you at your cost by arrangement.

**March 16** - Delhi to Agra.

**Accommodation - Hotel Grand Imperial (or Similar) 1 night (L D)**

This morning we are driving to Agra which will take 4 hours. On the way we will stop for breakfast. Once we reach Agra we will go direct to our hotel. This evening we will go to see the Taj Mahal from other side of Yamuna River. In the evening we will have dinner together and will talk about our tour.



**March 17** Agra to Udaipur ( via New Delhi).

**Accommodation – Hotel Lake Pichola (or similar) 2 nights (B L D)**

After breakfast we will leave for 4 hours drive to New Delhi to catch flight to Udaipur (1.5 hours). Once we arrive in Udaipur we will go to our hotel. You are free to explore around our beautiful hotel. Evening we will go for a street walk. Today we will have dinner at rooftop restaurant in our hotel.



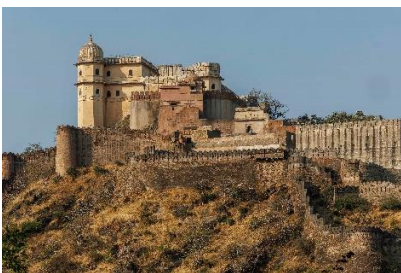
**March 18** - Udaipur.

**(B L D)**

Early morning we will go to see wholesale vegetable market where you will find lots of opportunities for photography. After visiting the market we will come back for breakfast to our hotel. After breakfast you will have free time to take some rest.

This afternoon we will go to visit City Palace. Udaipur was founded in 1553, by Maharana Udai Singh II in the fertile circular Girwa Valley to the southwest of Nagda, on the Banas River. The city was established as the new capital of the Mewar kingdom. Udaipur is known by many names, including “the City of Lakes”. Undoubtedly one of India's most romantic cities, it nestles between the glassy waters of its famous lakes and the ancient Aravelli Hills.

This evening we will go to the main attraction of Bagore, Ki Haveli is the Dharohar Dance Show ( Rajasthani Cultural Show ) which is conducted in the evenings starting around 7 pm. Tonight we will go to a beautiful restaurant for dinner. Return back to hotel.



## **March 19 – Udaipur to Kumbhalgarh**

**Accommodation - Hotel The Aodhi 1 night**

**(B L D)**

After breakfast we will drive to Kumbhalgarh which is 2 hours driving. On the way to Kumbhalgarh we will see lots of beautiful village life and water wheels (Parsian water wheels supply ). Once we arrive at the hotel we will have lunch.

Rana Kumbha constructed the Kumbhalgarh Fort in 1458AD. It took around fifteen years to complete the construction. The fort was built on the ruins of Jain King Samprati, the grandson of Ashoka. The construction of the fort separated Mewar from Marwar.

With the second-longest wall in the world, (about 38 km long), the Kumbhalgarh Fort is recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Also, known as the Mewar Fortress, it was the birthplace of the great Rajput king, Maharana Pratap.

The fascinating story of Kumbhalgarh, the second longest Wall in the World. The beautiful Kumbhalgarh fort was built by Rana Kumbha, the ruler of Mewar. In the evening we will go for village tour. Return back to hotel.





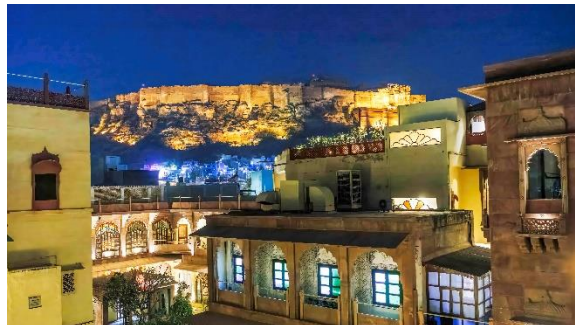
**March 20 - Kumbhalgarh to Ranakpur**

**(B L D)**

**Accommodation - Hotel Ranakpur Safari Resort. 1 night**

After breakfast we will drive to Ranakpur which is 1 hours drive. On the way to Ranakpur we will see lots of beautiful village life. Once we arrive at hotel we will have lunch. This afternoon we will go to visit a beautiful Jain Temple. The Jain Temple, built in the 15th century is situated in the lovely valley of the Aravali. Its surrounding is quiet and picturesque. The Jain Temple features grand structures and beautiful sculptures. There are 1444 pillars and none of them are similar. The magic of light & shade is really awe inspiring. Surya Temple and other Jain Temples are side attractions. Jain temple at Ranakpur is dedicated to Tirthankara Adinatha.

Later in the evening we will go to a local market where you will see many people wearing red turbans. This market is a beautiful site for photography. Later in the evening we will visit a tribal village family. Return to hotel.



**March 21 - Ranakpur to Jodhpur**

**(B L D)**

**Accommodation - Hotel Ajit Bhawan or Pal Haveli 2 nights**

After Breakfast we will drive 4 hours to Jodhpur. Arrive Jodhpur and check in at hotel. In the afternoon enjoy the beautiful hotel. This evening we will go to a garden with cenotaphs. Founded back in the 6th century, Mandore was earlier the capital of the Rajputana Kingdom. Set at a distance of 9 km from Jodhpur city, Mandore Garden is built around the royal cenotaphs (Chhatris) of the Rathore rulers. Return to hotel.

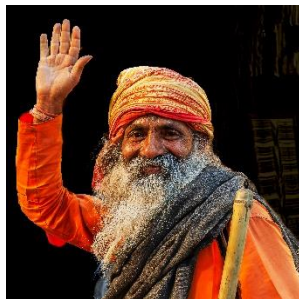


## March 22 - Jodhpur

(B L D)

After breakfast we will go to Bishnois Village. The Bishnois, a Vaishnavite sect living in western Rajasthan on the fringe of the Thar desert, have for centuries been conserving the flora and fauna to the extent of sacrificing their lives to protect the environment.

In the afternoon we proceed for local city sightseeing 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 of Sardar market (clock tower) old city and street photography at the Blue City. Return to hotel.



## March 23 - Jodhpur to Pushkar

**Accommodation - Hotel Pushkar Fort 1 night**

(B L D)

Today we travel to Pushkar. ( 4.30 hours drive ) A busy town on the edge of the Thar desert and a centre for camel trading. Early evening we take our bus into town. 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 the musicians who will play for us on the water's edge giving plenty of opportunities for photography. Return to hotel.





## March 24 - Pushkar to Pachewar

**Accommodation - Hotel Pachewar Fort 1 night**

**(B L D)**

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 and women driving large water buffalo down narrow lanes. On arrival in Pachewar it's obvious the star of the show here is the 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 opportunity to see ancient Temples, Royal Cenotaphs situated on the banks of the 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.

Later in the evening we witness the Holi-ka Dahan ceremony to celebrate the victory of good over evil. Among the residents, the day is also popularly known as Chhoti Holi since the bigger event of playing around with the colours takes place the next day.

Later return to hotel.



## March 25 - Pachewar to Jaipur for Holi Festival

**Accommodation - Hotel Traditional Haveli 2 nights**

**(B L D)**

We go for early morning street photography. The Holi Festival takes place in the morning, so get ready by oiling your skin and hair, wearing old clothes, and taking nothing with you apart from your camera and a water bottle, tissues and some hand sanitizer. We will have chance to play Holi Festival with children and village people. After the village tour we will come back to hotel and have breakfast, then we will drive to Jaipur which will take 2 hours.

We will join a private event to play Holi in safety in Jaipur. Afterwards, those who are more adventurous can give the raucous public event a try. In the evening we are going to visit Galtaji temple where you will see many monkeys. Later we will go to a restaurant to witness cultural dancing and music. Return to hotel.



### **March 26 - Jaipur**

**(B L D)**

Early morning we will leave for Jal Mahal (Water Palace) and then embarking on an exciting visit to the Amer Fort, a grand hill fort that was built by Raja Man Singh in 1592. Enjoying an elephant ride is an option to reach the entrance of the Amer Fort, situated atop a hill in the outskirts of the city. You will be amazed to see the 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 a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After visiting Amber Fort we will stop for tea or coffee.

The City Palace Complex is located in the heart of the city. This includes several courtyards, buildings, pavilions, gardens, and temples. The famous Govind Dev Ji Temple is located within this site. 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 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. Lunch in the old city and later return to hotel.



### **March 27 - Jaipur to New Delhi**

**Accommodation - Hotel Dharampura Haveli 1 night**

**(B L D)**

After breakfast we will leave for New Delhi, a 3 hour drive. In the evening we will go for a street walk in Old Delhi.



### **March 28 – New Delhi**

**(B L)**

After breakfast we will go to visit Jama Masjid, Old Delhi, Lodhi Garden, Old Market, India Gate, Parliament House and later in evening after dinner, drive to airport to catch your flight to home with sweet memories.....

### **Holi Festival**

One of the most popular and largest festivals of India is Holi. It is a 2-day long festival, the first day is called 'Choti Holi' and the second day is 'Rangwali Holi'. On the first day, Holika bonfire is arranged in the evening where people pray to



God to cleanse their internal evil. On the second day, starting from the morning, people start playing Holi with herbal colours and water. The scene of chasing one another to throw Holi colours or coloured water is common on the day of Holi in India.

Jaipur is probably among the best places to **celebrate Holi in India**. It's not just the enthusiasm of the people of Jaipur that makes it a fun city to celebrate Holi. This event features Rajasthani folk dance and song performances.

#### Highlights of the Tour.....

- \* Experience the heritage sites and culture of Udaipur, Kumbhalgarh, Ranakpur, Jodhpur, Pushkar, Pachewar, Jaipur and Agra.
- \* The famous Palaces, Forts, Temples and village tours of Rajasthan.
- \* The Lake city Udaipur.
- \* Visiting Jain Temple at Ranakpur and beautiful villages.
- \* Folk dances and musical performances.
- \* Sightseeing in Jodhpur ( The Blue City ) covering Mehrangarh Fort, Mandore Garden, Jaswant Thada and Clock Tower.
- \* Explore Kumbhalgarh Fort in Kumbhalgarh. The wall of Kumbhalgarh Fort is the second longest continuous wall in the world, after the Great Wall of China.
- \* Beautiful Pushkar with Brahma temple and holy lake.
- \* Beautiful village life and stay with Royal family in Pachewa Fort.
- \* Jaipur ( Pink City ) Sightseeing covering City Palace Complex, Hawa Mahal, Jantar \* Mantar and Visits of Amer Fort.
- \* The beauty of India....Taj Mahal ( Symbol of Love ).

Please note that circumstances could mean the itinerary may change slightly, but every day will be full, enriching and rewarding.

## **INCLUSIONS**

- Services, accommodation and meals as described in itinerary above
- Gratuities

## **WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED**

- International flights
- 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.

Please note that circumstances could mean the itinerary may change slightly, but every day will be full, enriching and rewarding.

## **PRICING**

### **Option 1 – Single**

AUD 6,750 per person

Deposit required to secure place: AUD 2,200 per person

### **Option 2 – Twin Share**

AUD 6,250 per person

Deposit required to secure place: AUD 2,100 per person

## **Final Balance**

Final balance due: 5 February 2024

## **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 **Magical India Tour with Holi Festival**

Go to secure [BOOKING FORM](#)