

Magical India Tour with Holi Festival

25 February – 11 March 2023

Susan Moss is a Perth-based award winning photographer. This will be her fifth visit to India and third to Rajasthan. She met Atik, who represents Colours of Rajasthan Tours, on a photography tour in 2017 and he has created this tour especially for her and 10 photographers. Susan has hosted two very successful tours to China in 2018/19.

On Susan's tours there is not a professional photographer, with the group sharing their knowledge and assisting each other and enjoying the experience of being with like-minded people at fabulous destinations.

Images by Susan, Atik, and Holi images from Pixabay.com



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



This tour will take you on adventure that is guaranteed to exceed your expectations and to guide you through the cacophony of amazing cultures, sights, sounds, colours, tastes and smells that is India. You will experience the best this 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 in and ends in Delhi then runs anticlockwise through some of the most charming, vibrant and "photo friendly" places one could ever wish for.



Day 5 – 1 Mar

Ranakpur

Hotel Ranakpur Safari Resort

(B L D)

After breakfast we will drive to Ranakpur which is 1 hour driving. 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. Jain Temples built in the 15th century are situated in the lovely valley of the Aravali. Its surrounding is quiet and picturesque.

Ranakpur has grand structures and beautiful sculpture. There are 1444 pillars in the temple and none of them are similar. The magic of light and shade is really awe inspiring. Surya Temple and other Jain Temples are side attractions. Later in 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.



Day 6 – 2 Mar

Jodhpur

Hotel Ajit Bhawan or Pal Haveli

(B)

After breakfast we will drive to Jodhpur which is 4 hours driving. Arrive Jodhpur and check in at hotel. 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 9km from Jodhpur city, Mandore Garden is built around the royal cenotaphs (Chhatris) of the Rathore rulers.

Day 7 – 3 Mar

Jodhpur

Hotel Ajit Bhawan or Pal Haveli

(B D)

Early morning we will go for street photography. We will see Blue houses which are house of Brahmins. We will come back to hotel for breakfast.

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 of Sardar market (clock tower) old city. Street photography of the Blue City.



Day 8 – 4 Mar Pushkar Hotel Pushkar Fort (B L D)

Today we travel to Pushkar which is 4.5 hour 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 musicians who will play for us on the water's edge giving plenty of opportunity for photography.

Day 9 – 5 Mar Pachewar Hotel Pachewar Fort (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, 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 2 nights 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.



Day 10 – 6 Mar Pachewar Hotel Pachewar Fort (B L D)

Today we going for day trip (1 hour drive) to Todaraisingh, famous for 360 Step Wells. We will both let you free to explore and work with some local ladies to demonstrate how these wells worked for centuries. We will return to the hotel for the rooftop sunset.

Day 11 – 7 Mar Jaipur Hotel Traditional Haveli or Bissau Palace (B)

We go for early morning street photography. After village tour we will come back to hotel and have breakfast. Afterwards drive to Jaipur which is 2 hours. Afternoon is free for enjoying this beautiful hotel. This evening we will go for photography to vegetable market.



Day 12 – 8 Mar Jaipur

HOLI FESTIVAL

(B D)

After breakfast Holi! 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, kleenex, and some hand sanitizer. We will join a private event to play Holi in safety. Afterwards, those who are more adventurous can give the raucous public event a try.

Return to the main city visiting en-route the famous Jal Mahal. Explore other historical monuments like City Palace, Govind Dev Ji Temple, Birla Mandir, 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 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.

Day 13 – 9 Mar Agra

Hotel Crystal Sarova

(B D)

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 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 as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Thereafter, we move towards Agra by road and en route visit Fatehpur Sikri, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Fatehpur Sikri was built by Mughal Emperor Akbar as his capital. The emperor shortly abandoned this city as his capital due to the scarcity of drinking water. At Fatehpur Sikri, you will see several historical monuments such as, Buland Darwaza (a 54 meters tall marble gateway built to commemorate Akbar's victory over Gujarat), Jama Masjid, Anoop Talao, Tomb of Salim Chishti, Ibadat Khana, Jodha Bai Palace (Mariam-uz-Zamani's Palace), Naubat Khana, Panch Mahal, Birbal's House, Diwan-i-Aam, and Diwan-i-Khas.

After exploring Fatehpur Sikri, continue your drive to Agra. On arrival in Agra, you will have check-in. Evening we will go to Mehtab Garden to see Taj Mahal from other side of the river. Dinner will be at the hotel.



Day 14 – 10 Mar Agra to Delhi

Hotel Lemon Tree or similar

(B L D)

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, and the Itmad-ud-Daulah Tomb (the Baby Taj).

Early morning we will go to visit **Taj Mahal**. We will try to get in first to avoid the other travellers for beautiful photos.

After visiting Taj Mahal we will come back to our hotel for breakfast. After breakfast we will leave for New Delhi which is a 4 hour drive.

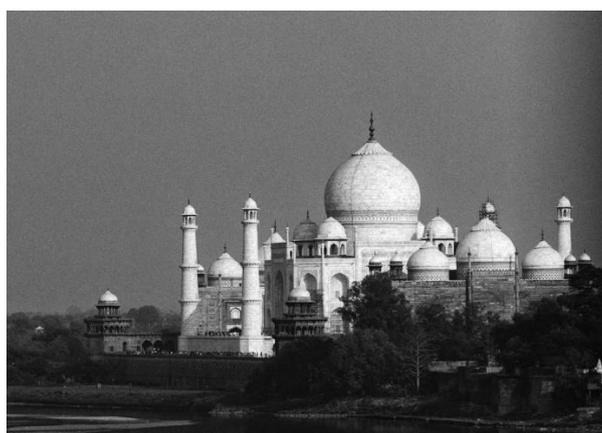


Day 15 – 11 Mar Delhi

Lemon Tree Hotel or similar

(B)

After breakfast drive to airport to catch your flight to home with sweet memories.





TRIP NOTES

Holi Festival

One of the most popular and biggest 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, song performances.

INCLUSIONS

- International economy flights from any Australian capital city to New Delhi return with Singapore Airlines*
- All 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 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 8,590 per person (ex-PER)

AUD 8,790 per person (ex-ADL, DRW, BNE, SYD, MEL, HBA)

Deposit required to secure place: AUD 3,772 per person

Option 2 – Twin Share

AUD 7,820 per person (ex-PER)

AUD 8,020 per person (ex-ADL, DRW, BNE, SYD, MEL, HBA)

Deposit required to secure place: AUD 3,580 per person

Add-on

Agra/Taj Mahal extra day with overnight

AUD 475 per person

Final Balance

Final balance due: 19 December 2022

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 with Holi Festival Tour**

Go to secure [BOOKING FORM](#)