

Pushkar Camel Fair with Tiger Safari and Varanasi 2024

November 4 - 17 2024

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

Our 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.

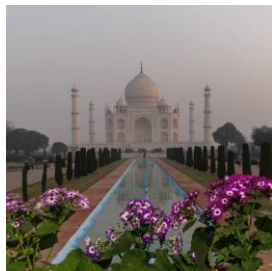
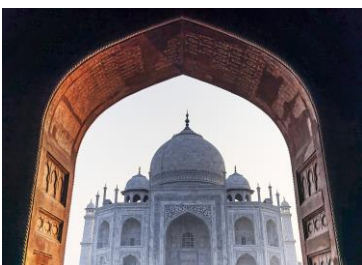
AU\$ 8566 single | AU\$ 8066 twin share per person 13 nights Max 8 guests



Your hosts Atik Ahmed and Susan Moss

Images by Susan and Atik

Singapore Airlines flight from Perth will arrive at 6am and in good time for the start of the tour. Should you wish to arrive a day earlier to relax, as Susan will be doing, please contact us, for Atik to arrange a night's accommodation at the hotel approx AU\$180 at your cost. It is always best to book your flights early, usually a better fare is to be had.



Nov 04 - New Delhi to Agra.

Accommodation - Hotel Grand Mercure 1 night

(B L D)

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 to our hotel. In the evening, we will go to visit the Taj Mahal from the other

side of the river.



Nov 05 - Agra to Jaipur

Accommodation - Hotel Shahpura House or Trident – Samode Havelli 2 nights

(B L D)

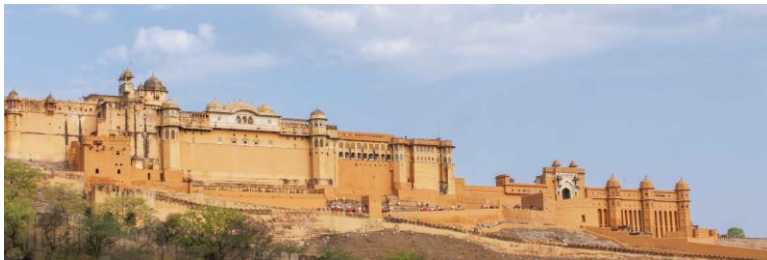
Agra is a historical city in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The city boasts several historical monuments including the Taj Mahal (the epitome of love) and the Agra Fort. Early in the morning we will go to visit the TAJ MAHAL and will get in first to avoid the other travelers for beautiful photos. After visiting the Taj Mahal, we will come back to our hotel for breakfast.

Following breakfast we will leave for a 4 hours drive to Jaipur.

Once we reach Jaipur we will check into our hotel and have lunch. Afterwards we will go to the main city to visit the famous Jal Mahal. Explore other historical monuments like City Palace, Hawa Mahal and Jantar Mantar.

The City Palace Complex is 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 as Jharokhas, decorated with intricate latticework.



Nov 06 – Jaipur

(B L D)

After breakfast, embark on an exciting visit to the Amer Fort, a grand hill fort that was built by Raja Man Singh in 1592. To enjoy an elephant ride is an option to reach the entrance of the Amer Fort, situated atop a hill on 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 architecture styles and is made from sandstone and marble. The fort overlooks the entire Pink City and is declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

The afternoon is free for some shopping or to take a rest in the hotel. In the evening, we will go for a street walk and visit a vegetable market and OLD JAIPUR (Pink Cy).



Nov 07 - Jaipur to TordiGarh

Accommodation - Hotel TordiGarh 1 night (B L D)

It doesn't take long to drive out of Jaipur 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 roadside villages with bright sarees, women driving large water buffalo down narrow lanes.

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

A late afternoon visit to the village provides us with the opportunities 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.



Nov 08 - TordiGarh to Pushkar

Accommodation Hotel Brahma Horizon or Pushkar Palace 2 nights (B L D)

After breakfast we will leave for Pushkar which is 2.30 hours driving. This is 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 the Camel Fair. It is the most colorful fair 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.

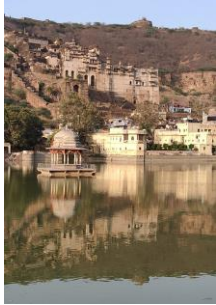
The centre of town is home to a highly regarded Brahmin temple and a large lake which is surrounded by ghats where the faithful bathe in the holy waters. Fortunately, you can take photos of the bathers from distance however we are friends with holy men who will bless us and musicians who will play for us on the water's edge giving plenty of opportunity for photography.



Nov 09 – Pushkar

(B L D)

After breakfast we will go to visit the Gypsy Families to see how they live. After we will go to the 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. The day is free for photography. In the evening, we will enjoy a cultural folk music and dance program.



Nov 10 - Pushkar to Bundi

Accommodation – Hotel Ishwari Niwas

(B L D)

Today is a 3.30 hours drive to Bundi. It is like nowhere else in Rajasthan. Located in the south-eastern region in a narrow valley within the Aravalli Hills like a small oasis, Bundi is also known as the blue city of Eastern Rajasthan and is famous for the Taragarh fort which towers over the city and boasts more than 50 sunken step-wells which were used to draw clean water before the modern water mains were installed. The palace rooms hold a series of fabulous, fading turquoise-and-gold murals that are the palace's chief treasure.

Rudyard Kipling was charmed by the city which he characterized as "a fascinating place – this jumbled city of straight streets and cool gardens dominated by the sprawling crowded assemblage of interconnected buildings of the palace rising like manmade peaks".



Nov 11 – Bundi to Ranthambhore

Accommodation - Hotel the Tigress 2 nights

(B L D)

We spend 2 days in Ranthambhore. This park has the highest density of tigers in India.

The success of 'Project Tiger' has increased tiger numbers over the last few years. In 3 days, we will make 3 game drives either early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Hopefully we will get good opportunities with tigers and maybe a leopard as well as the ubiquitous wildlife of India. It will be the dry season so vegetation will be sparse and better to spot the animals.

Within Ranthambhore, tigers roam through dry deciduous forest or up ravines and swim in lakes ornamented with the crumbling remains of regal hunting pavilions. If you get it right this could make for a best picture of your lifetime.

Once the hunting reserve of the Maharaja of Jaipur, the park is named after the 10th-century fort at its heart. One evening we will take a model or two to the old fort for a photo shoot. If time allows, we will also visit the villages around Ranthambhore to see what life is like for people living around the park.

That said our hotel is the sort of place you will be happy to chill by the swimming pool in any free time you have.

This afternoon we will go for a Jungle Safari. Dinner at the hotel.



Nov 12 - Ranthambhore

(B L D)

Early in the morning we will go for a Jungle safari to see the beauty of the jungle with many animals and birds. After the safari we will come back to the hotel and have breakfast. There is free time for a swim or to take some rest.

After lunch we will go again to the Jungle Safari.



Nov 13 – Ranthambore to Bharatpur

(B L D)

Accommodation – Hotel Laxmi Niwas or similar

Early in the morning we will leave for our train journey which is about 2.30 hours to Bharatpur and after we will drive to our hotel. This afternoon we will go visit a Bird Sanctuary where we will see thousands of birds.

Keoladeo National Park is a vast bird sanctuary and former royal game reserve in the north Indian state of Rajasthan. South of the ancient city of Bharatpur, the park's woods and man-made wetlands protect over 350 species of migratory and resident birds, including herons, cormorants and eagles.

Later this evening we will go to visit Fatehpur Sikri.

To the southeast, Fatehpur Sikri is home to sandstone temples and a mosque, built by Emperor Akbar in the 16th century.

Built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire. The complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform

architectural style.



Nov 14 - Bharatpur to New Delhi

Accommodation - Hotel Roseate House or Radisson

(B L D)

After breakfast we will leave for New Delhi by train for a 2.30 hours journey. It will be a good experience to travel with local people to see how they travel in India with family. This train journey will give us lots of opportunities to click good photos of a journey with the INDIAN RAILWAY.

After reaching the train station we will drive to our hotel near the airport.



Nov 15 – New Delhi to Varanasi

(B L D)

Check out from Delhi hotel and catch morning flight to Varanasi (1.25 hours flight) Meet our driver at the airport then to the hotel. Later in the afternoon we will go for a 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. 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.

In the evening , you will be taken for a boat ride on the Ganges for the AARTI.

Ganga aarti is a magnificent evening ritual in Varanasi. It is believed that when the Goddess Ganga descended to earth, she turned into a River to wash out the sins of predecessors of King Bhagirath.

Ganga Aarti is a Devotional offering to The River Goddess. Lit lamps and flowers floated down the river. This offering is made to the Goddess Ganga, also affectionately referred to as Maa (Mother) The mother Goddess of the most holy river in India.



Nov 16 - Varanasi to New Delhi

Accommodation - Hotel Roseate or Similar

(B L D)

Early in the 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 dips 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 we will have the walking tour in the old part of the city. After walk on the Ghats we will come back to our hotel for breakfast.

In the afternoon we will leave for the airport to catch our flight to New Delhi. On arrival in New Delhi we will meet our driver at the airport and drive to our beautiful hotel. Later in the evening we will go out for street photography. Dinner in city.



Nov 17 - New Delhi to Home.

(B L)

After breakfast - airport transfers arranged to your schedule with sweet memories to take home.....

INCLUSIONS

- Hotel Room with Breakfast, Lunch and dinner.
- Domestic flights, Services, accommodation and all meals as described in itinerary above
- Gratuities

PRICING

Option 1 – Single

AU\$ 8566 per person

Deposit required to secure place: AU\$ 2,075 per person

Option 2 – Twin Share

AU \$8066 per person

Deposit required to secure place: AU\$ 1950 per person

Final Balance

Final balance due: 2 August 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. Please email reservations@mcnallytravel.com for next steps to reserve your place on the Pushkar Camel Fair with Tiger Safari and Varanasi 2024

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International economy flights from any overseas airport or Australian capital city to New Delhi return
- Alcoholic beverages, laundry or personal items
- Indian visa with which we can assist you.
- Comprehensive travel insurance / trip cancellation insurance (required), please let us know if we can offer you a competitive quote.
- 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.

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