



Join me as we journey through the enchanting northern province of Rajasthan, awash with the vibrant colours of India.

- Tour Escort, Sue Verrall

Royal Rajasthan Escorted Tour with Sue Verrall



Your tour highlights:

- Rickshaw ride and the ambience of Dilli Haat in Old Delhi
- Camel ride in Jaisalmer
- Expansive Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur
- Boat ride on Lake Pichola in Udaipur
- Visit Fatehpur Sikri, UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Cooking demonstration followed by dinner in Agra
- Sunrise at Taj Mahal
- The "Best Exotic Marigold Hotel"

19 day Escorted Tour 11-29 September, 2018

Rajasthan is made up of a collection of former princely states and has attracted travellers, traders and explorers for centuries. This exceptional journey takes you slowly around the state, exploring some of the smaller forts and palaces, with visits to Rajasthan's major cities - Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur.

Experience the unhurried pace of village and rural life in Ravla Khempur, featured in the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel film. Take in the sights and smells of the antique bazaars and street markets of Jodhpur, where the mighty Mehrangarh Fort sits majestically over this historic city.

Your tour concludes in Agra - home of the majestic Taj Mahal. Witness the spectacular sunrise over this splendid monument and learn how to make delicious Indian dishes at home, to forever remind you of this exotic destination!

Sue has a great deal of experience in escorting tours to India and is excited to show you the culture and colours of this exotic land.

A very popular tour leader, Sue's passion for revealing the essence of a culture will enhance your experience of this diverse country. Come along and join her on this incredible journey.

Don't miss this sell-out tour

Last year's tour, purposefully designed for our Solo Travellers Club members, was a sell-out. Due to demand, this year's tour is now offered to all travellers based on twin-share in 5 star deluxe hotels. Single occupancy* is available for those who prefer their own room. *supplement applies

Meet your fellow travellers

Meet Sue and your fellow travellers at our social evenings held prior to departure and receive detailed tour information, as well as hints and tips for your travels.

**Discover
Travel**

Experience. The Difference.



Your Tour Itinerary

11 Sep Christchurch - Singapore

Depart mid-morning, arriving in Singapore early evening. Overnight in the Airport Transit Hotel.

12 Sep Singapore - Delhi

Depart Singapore early morning, arrive in Delhi early morning and transfer to your hotel. Your time is your own.

13 Sep Delhi

We begin our day with a guided sightseeing tour of Old & New Delhi. In Old Delhi we drive pass the Red Fort Palace to reach Jama Masjid - the largest mosque in India built in red sandstone. You'll be transported by cycle rickshaw on a photogenic journey through the city. We also visit Khari Baoli,



Asia's largest wholesale spice market, selling a variety of spices, nuts and herbs. This afternoon we discover New Delhi and its historical buildings and conclude our day with a visit to Qutub Minar - an important landmark with calligraphically decorated interiors and inscriptions of verses of the Holy Quran.

This evening we visit Delhi Haat and experience the ambience of a traditional rural village market - a mix of crafts, food and cultural activity. We'll have a light meal here, which is locally known as 'chaat', and return to our hotel for our Welcome Dinner at Patra, a specialty restaurant, renowned for its North Indian cuisine. (B, D)

14 Sep Delhi - Mandawa

Today we travel for approx. 5 hours to Mandawa, a small, delightful town in the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan. Founded in the mid-18th century, this town is known for its forts, castles, stunning havelis and beautiful paintings. Our visit to Mandawa also includes a visit the majestic Mandawa Fort; where its rooms are architecturally adorned with mirror work. The city is quite rightly named as "The Open Air Art Gallery of Rajasthan". (B, D)

15 Sep Mandawa - Bikaner

After breakfast we head towards Bikaner, approx. 4 hours' drive north-west of Rajasthan, and the centre of art and culture of medieval India. This desert city's stark beauty is unique with widespread dunes, palaces, temples and archaeological treasures. Our afternoon includes a guided visit to a Camel Breeding Farm and we visit the small Camel Museum, where we get to taste products made from sweet camel milk. (B, D)

16 Sep Bikaner - Jaisalmer

Our morning starts with a visit to Junagarh Fort. Made of red and pink sandstone, it has 37 domes and is surrounded by high walls and a 30ft trench. We also ride tongas through the narrow alleys of Old Bikaner City, along 'Tea Street' and its traditional red sandstone 'havelis'. Built by well-heeled merchants, these havelis are intricately carved structures representing the trending architectural styles of the 20th century. Our tour ends at the Jain Bhandeshwar Temple, where we will climb up to get a panoramic view of the city. We then drive to the Golden City of Jaisalmer, approx. 5 hours' journey and stay for two nights. (B, D)

17 Sep Jaisalmer

After breakfast we explore Jaisalmer visiting the Jaisalmer Fort, the only living fort in the world. Strolling the narrow cobble streets of this golden city gives you a glimpse into the lifestyle of the locals. Every house is exquisitely carved with filigree work on its walls, many dating back to the 12th-15th centuries. We visit the Jain Temple



and the beautifully carved Nathmal ji Ki Haveli. Early evening we head to the desert to enjoy a camel ride on Jaisalmer's exotic sand dunes at sunset. En-route, we stop at Kuldhara, an abandoned village which is now believed to be haunted. It was the largest of 84 villages belonging to Paliwal Brahmins, all of which were abandoned on a single night in 1825. (B, D)

18 Sep Jaisalmer - Jodhpur

Travel back in time as we journey to Jodhpur and catch a glimpse of the splendour and magnificence of this ancient desert city, built on the edge of the Thar Desert. The rest of the day is free to explore the rustic rural lifestyle of the locals. The folks here wear colourful costumes; bazaars sell a range of items from tie and dye textiles, embroidered leather shoes, lacquer ware, antiques, carpets and puppets, as well as exquisite Rajasthani textiles, clay figurines, miniature camels and elephants, marble inlay work and classic silver jewellery. (B, D)





19 Sep Jodhpur

Built around 1460 by Rao Jodha, the fort is situated 125m above the city and is enclosed by imposing thick walls. Inside its boundaries are several palaces known for their intricate carvings and expansive courtyards. The museum in the Mehrangarh Fort is one of the most well-stocked museums in Rajasthan. In the Old City, which is surrounded by a 10km wall and has 8 gates serving as entrances, blue and white painted houses align the winding streets and adjoining markets. A prominent landmark, the clock tower, best visited at night, sits proudly surrounded by the sights and sounds of the Sadar market. The afternoon is free to explore the local bazaars or there is an option to visit an organisation working for the welfare of women and children. (B, D)

20 Sep Jodhpur - Khempur

This morning we travel 5 hours by road to Khempur and check into the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, a.k.a. Ravla Khempur. Don't worry - this charming converted palace hotel is a lot more comfortable than the film depicts! Once a famous stud, the palace is still home to some fine Marwari horses and the village and surrounding landscape is glorious. The hotel consists of 12 comfortable, en suite rooms which still carry an equine theme. After lunch at the hotel, your afternoon is free to enjoy the surrounds. (B, L, D)

21 Sep Khempur - Udaipur

After breakfast we drive a couple of hours to Udaipur, passing through lush green valleys before visiting Ranakpur, with its intricately carved marble pillars and domes of the Ranakpur Jain Temple. Ranakpur is amongst the five holiest places of the Jain community and is exceptional in beauty. Tucked away in a remote valley in the Aravalli ranges, it boasts one of the largest and most important Jain Temples in the country. (B, D)

22 Sep Udaipur

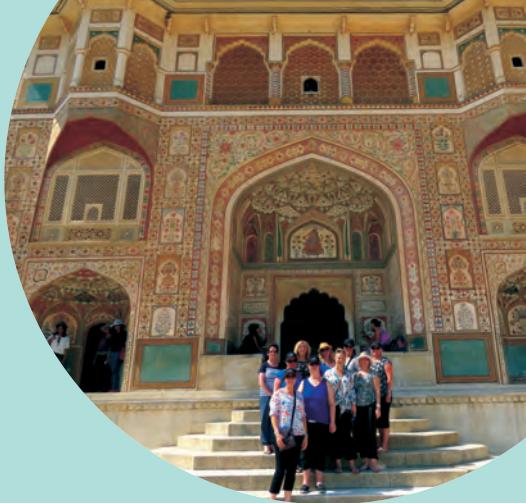
This morning we start our sightseeing with a guided visit to the City Palace complex. The City Palace's grandeur is evident in its blend of medieval, European and Chinese architecture - a conglomeration of several buildings with towers, balconies and cupolas built at the edge of Lake Pichola. It houses a crystal gallery and boasts the world's largest private collection of crystal. Later we visit Jagdish Temple, dating back to 1651AD - an exquisite example of Indo Aryan architecture. We also visit the Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandir, an Indian folk arts museum before our afternoon boat ride on Lake Pichola, an artificial fresh water lake created in the year 1362AD. The remainder of the evening is yours to explore on your own. Visit the numerous shops that dot the narrow, winding streets of Udaipur for souvenirs to take back home. (B, D)

23 Sep Udaipur - Pushkar

Today we travel for roughly 5 hours to a tiny tranquil town of Pushkar, lying along the bank of the picturesque Pushkar Lake. In the afternoon we visit the lake and Brahma Temple. This is a city of pilgrimage with over 500 temples and Ghats, each Ghat said to have miraculous healing powers. Pushkar begets a legacy of timeless architectural heritage and radiates an ambience of peace and spirituality. (B, D)

24 Sep Pushkar - Jaipur

After breakfast we make the 3 hour drive to Jaipur. The first planned city of India, it is a treasure-trove of culture, art and history, famous



for its colour, lifestyle and Rajasthani cuisine. In the afternoon we visit a local family to learn about Rajasthani cooking. We'll relax once cooking is complete and enjoy our dinner which is served with typical Indian accompaniments. (B, D)



25 Sep Jaipur

After an early breakfast we'll start our guided sightseeing tour of Jaipur. We admire the façade of the Hawa Mahal, poetically known as the "Palace of Winds" whilst en-route to the majestic Amber Fort. Later, take a guided tour of Jaipur City starting with the City Palace Museum. The Museum boasts a small collection of ancient, handwritten Hindu scriptures, miniature delicate paintings, preserved painted ceilings and elephant saddles (haudas), and is registered in the Guinness Book of Records as containing the





Your Tour Itinerary (continued)

largest silver objects in the world.

Later we'll explore the famous 'Johary Bazaar' jewellers' market, well known for its gold and silver enamelling. We'll visit bazaars where you can shop for footwear, rich textiles, saris, leather ware, perfume, gemstones, jewellery, rugs, carpets, furniture and carvings. This evening we meet our local henna painting experts who will surprise you with an optional design on both hands and feet while you relax. (B, D)



26 Sep Jaipur - Fatehpur Sikri - Agra

After breakfast drive for approx. 5 hours to The City of Taj - Agra. En-route we will visit Fatehpur Sikri, an outstanding example of Mughal architecture and UNESCO World Heritage Site. The perfectly preserved red sandstone buildings consist of palaces, courtyards, a life-size chess board, tombs and mosques. We'll also visit the Diwan-e-Khas with its remarkable central pillar

and unmissable "Panch Mahal", the five storied structure used as the viewing station for the harem. We then continue our journey to Agra. (B, D)

27 Sep Agra - Delhi

Early morning we drive approx. 4 hours to visit the Taj Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, to catch the sun rising over the Taj Mahal – undisputedly one of the world's most beautiful buildings. Built from dazzling marble, its colour changes from white to yellow, and cream to orange... an image you'll not forget easily. After the visit we return to the hotel for breakfast.

Later, we'll head out for a guided sightseeing tour of Agra Fort, built by Emperor Akbar it's a mix of Islamic and Hindu architectural styles. Next we'll visit Itimad-ud-Daulah, nicknamed as "baby Taj" - another fine example of Mughal architecture. While returning we visit a marble factory to witness some of the remaining artisans creating similar work as seen at the Taj Mahal.

Finally, we travel back to Delhi for a farewell dinner at our hotel's restaurant for a unique dining experience. Our tour finishes with a transfer to Delhi airport to board our flight home. (B, D)

28 Sep Delhi - Singapore

Depart Delhi in the morning, arrive in Singapore and remain in transit before departing a few hours later.

29 Sep Singapore - Christchurch

Our flight arrives in to Christchurch mid-morning, where our tour concludes.

Tour price from \$7,795

per person twin share*
\$8,995 pp single occupancy*

Price includes:

- Economy class airfares from CHCH flying Singapore Airlines
- Tour Escort ex CHCH
- 15 nights' accommodation in 5* hotels with private facilities on a twin-share basis
- Private air-conditioned mini-coach for travel, transfers and sightseeing as per Itinerary.
- Meals as specified (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner)
- Entrance fee/monument charges (one visit only)
- Assistance and transfers
- All current applicable taxes
- Entry Visa.

Not included: Travel insurance (compulsory), drinks and items of a personal nature.

To secure your place: Send your \$1,500 non-refundable deposit per person with completed Booking Form to Discover Travel.

For more details and to book:

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Email: ideas@discovertravel.co.nz
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Discover Travel

New Zealand owned and operated, Discover Travel is a premier boutique travel agency within the House of Travel Group. Specialising in travel to far-flung places, we have travelled extensively within India, returning regularly to ensure our knowledge is current. We aim to experience those places through your eyes and passionately share our knowledge of the destination with you. Our goal is to genuinely connect you with the location and its culture.

Consequently, we like to think that our clients come home with the stories that everyone else misses.

Discover Travel is very proud to be working with Sue to bring you this amazing journey in its second consecutive year.



Experience. The Difference.

***CONDITIONS:** Price - The price of \$7,795 per person is based on twin share. For those who would prefer their own room, the single occupancy tour price is \$8,995 per person. **Land only** - Should you wish to extend your stay, please talk to us, we are happy to provide a land only price and airfare and pre/post tour arrangements. **Business Class Supplement** available on request. Please check with Discover Travel. **Payments** - The price quoted is for payment by cash, cheque or direct bank transfer. Cheques: Should be made payable to 'Discover Travel'. Our postal address is PO Box 2477, Christchurch. **Bank Transfer:** 06 0801 0495605 02 - Discover Travel Worldwide Ltd, using 'India 2018' as a reference. **VISA or Mastercard** payments will incur a 2% convenience fee and American Express a 3% fee. **Deposit:** In order to confirm your booking, a non-refundable deposit of \$1,500 per person is required. Final payment will be due no later than 26 July 2018. Prices are based on a minimum group size of 10 (Maximum 16). Should the group size be less than 10, a small group surcharge will be applied.