

# RAJASTHAN

Literature, Culture & The Taj



TRAVELLING *Divas*  
BOUTIQUE TRAVEL FOR WOMEN



# Rajasthan & The Taj

Literature, Culture & Colour | 14 –28 January 2027

This beautifully curated 15-day journey takes you deep into the regal heart of Rajasthan, where royal history, extraordinary people and unforgettable experiences come together in one remarkable adventure.

Our journey begins in Jaipur, where heritage and creativity sit side by side. Staying in a heritage haveli, you will explore the city's great treasures, from the astronomical marvel of Jantar Mantar and the splendour of Amber Fort to the magnificent City Palace.

As a Friend of the Jaipur Literature Festival, you will enjoy privileged access to one of the world's most celebrated literary gatherings, joining acclaimed authors, thinkers and storytellers from across the globe in a celebration of ideas.

Beyond the festival, some of Rajasthan's most memorable moments unfold through the remarkable people we meet. Share a private dinner in the home of celebrated publisher, author and literary leader Mita Kapur, gaining an insight into contemporary India through warm conversation and exceptional hospitality. Step inside the home of renowned designer Shan Bhatnagar, whose passion for Rajasthan's architecture, craftsmanship and artistic heritage brings the region vividly to life as he shares the design traditions that have shaped Rajasthan for generations.

Jodhpur reveals another side of Rajasthan. Beneath the imposing Mehrangarh Fort, wander the blue-washed lanes of the old city, discover vibrant markets and spend time at Sambhali Dastkar Boutique, part of an inspiring

trust supporting women's education, empowerment and sustainable livelihoods. It is a moving opportunity to meet the women behind the initiative and see how traditional craftsmanship is helping to build brighter futures.

In Narlai, the pace gently slows. Staying in a beautifully restored Royal Hunting Lodge, you will have time to relax, wander the village, soak up the peaceful surroundings and experience one of Rajasthan's most magical evenings with dinner beside an ancient stepwell beneath a canopy of stars.

Our journey continues to romantic Udaipur, where elegant palaces, shimmering lakes and timeless beauty create a fitting finale to Rajasthan. Boat cruises, palace visits and sunset at the Monsoon Palace reveal why this enchanting city has long captured the imagination of travellers.

Then, just when you think the journey cannot become more extraordinary, dawn breaks over the Taj Mahal. Watching the first rays of sunlight illuminate its flawless white marble is one of travel's truly unforgettable moments. As the marble changes colour with the rising sun, it becomes clear why this extraordinary monument has captivated the world for centuries. It is the perfect conclusion to a journey filled with beauty, generosity, inspiration and connection.

With just 12 women, this is an intimate exploration of Rajasthan, thoughtfully designed to take you beyond the guidebooks and into the people, places and stories that make India unforgettable..



# Price Includes

Fully escorted by Zoe Thomas, from Jaipur

Private airport transfers on arrival and departure

### Boutique Accommodation

- 4 nights' at Alsisar Haveli, Jaipur
- 3 nights' at Daspan House Jodhpur
- 2 nights' at Rawla Narlai, Narlai
- 3 nights' at Hotel Bujera Fort, Udaipur
- 2 nights' in a deluxe room at Jaypee Palace Hotel, Agra

### Included Food & Drinks

- Breakfast daily
- Selected meals as per itinerary
- Welcome dinner in Jaipur
- Special dinner at Mita Kapur's residence, celebrated writer and journalist

One-way economy flight Udaipur-Delhi

Guided sunrise entry to the Taj Mahal

Private guided visits in Agra

All private transfers and touring as per itinerary

Services of local expert guides throughout

Tips for drivers and local guides

All entrance fees as per itinerary

Local taxes

### Included Experiences

- Jaipur Literature Festival one-day **'Friend of the Festival'** pass
- Private guided sightseeing tours in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Narlai and Udaipur
- Private tours of City Palace and Amber Fort, Jaipur
- Private tour of Amrapali Museum Jaipur with the museum curator
- Specialised fashion, art and artisan experiences in Jaipur
- Private cooking demonstration in Jodhpur, including lunch
- Visit to Sambhali Trust social enterprise
- Village walk and cultural immersion in Narlai
- Signature Stepwell Dinner experience
- High tea by the lake in Narlai
- Visit to Kumbhalgarh Fort
- Udaipur city tour including City Palace and Crystal Gallery
- Boat ride on Lake Pichola
- Sunset experience at Monsoon Palace

**NOT INCLUDED:** Airfares and departure taxes; transfers unless stated in the itinerary; items of a personal nature; phone calls; passport and visas; laundry or tips not covered in the itinerary. Personal transport; excess baggage; security and government taxes; travel insurance. Meals not specifically mentioned in the itinerary; additional beverages (unless specifically described). Optional excursions or activities that may be offered but are not included in the tour price. Spa treatments and any items not specified. Any changes you choose to make during your holiday.

### Getting there

Flights are available with Qantas over Bangalore and Singapore Airlines via Delhi. IndiGo is the airline in India connecting from your arrival airport to Jaipur and departing from Udaipur.



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## Itinerary

Jaipur to Udaipur

14 –28 January 2027

Twin share: \$16,495 per person on a twin share basis

Single: \$19,995 per person for a private room

Please see full booking terms and conditions at [www.travellingdivas.com/terms-and-conditions](http://www.travellingdivas.com/terms-and-conditions)

### Day 1 – Thursday 14: Hello Jaipur... and Welcome to the Pink City

Arrive into the vibrant Pink City of Jaipur and be met by your private transfer to your heritage hotel, Alsisar Haveli, your home for the next 4 nights. The remainder of the day is yours to relax and settle in, perhaps enjoying the charm of your surroundings. This evening, meet for your welcome drink and a tour briefing before enjoying a special welcome dinner at iconic Bar Palladio, setting the tone for the journey ahead.

**Stay:** Alsisar Haveli

**Meals:** Dinner

### Day 2 – Friday 15: Jaipur Royalty, Palaces and a Fort

Today we begin our exploration of Jaipur with a visit to the fascinating Jantar Mantar, home to the world's largest stone sundial. We then enjoy a guided tour of the magnificent City Palace, a royal residence and the former administrative headquarters of the rulers of the Jaipur State. You will

enjoy an exclusive exploration of the Chandra Mahal, the residence of the Jaipur Royal Family. After a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal (the Palace of the Winds), we continue to the impressive Amber Fort, rich in history and intricate design. Later, we enjoy a special curator led visit to the Amrapali Museum, a beautifully curated museum dedicated to India's rich jewellery tradition. This evening dinner is hosted by Mita Kapur at her private residence. Mita is a celebrated author, freelance journalist and recognised as a leader in the field of literature.

**Stay:** Alsisar Haveli

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 3 – Saturday 16: The Jaipur Literature Festival – Where Stories, Ideas and Culture Come to Life

For literature lovers, those with curious minds and those who love creativity and culture on many levels, the Jaipur Literature Festival is a once-in-a-lifetime experience not to be missed. Often described as the 'greatest literary show on earth' it is full of colour, energy, challenge, world class authors, debate around current events shaping the world and more! Every year, the festival brings together a diverse mix of writers, thinkers, humanitarians, politicians, business leaders, sports people and entertainers on one stage to champion the freedom to express and engage in thoughtful debate and dialogue. Enjoy the festival with a "friend of the festival" pass which gives you special privileges at the this extraordinary event. The day is yours to explore the literature festival at your leisure.

**Stay:** Alsisar Haveli

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



#### Day 4 – Sunday 17: Jaipur Arts, Fashion and Culture

Today offers a deeper look into Jaipur's creative heart. Spend the day with local experts exploring fashion, art and traditional crafts.

Start the day with a talk by Mita Kapur & Shan Bhatnagar at his private residence – a showcase of the heritage, architecture, art and crafts of Rajasthan. Step into a world where artistry is not displayed, it is lived!

Over the course of this carefully curated day, Jaipur reveals itself as it was originally envisioned: a thriving capital of craftsmen, where every street, every courtyard, and every hidden workshop carries forward a legacy of design. Your journey weaves seamlessly between the contemporary and the traditional, offering rare access to both modern design studios and centuries-old artisan ateliers. Walk through the lesser-known lanes of the walled city, where craftsmanship is not staged for display but unfolds naturally. Venture into intimate workspaces where master artisans shape stone into fine artefacts, hand-weave durries with rhythmic precision, and bring to life the timeless brilliance of jadau and meenakari jewellery, once created exclusively for royalty.

This evening, we enjoy a memorable dinner at Sarvato, located in the City Palace – sublime.

**Stay:** Alsisar Haveli

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

#### Day 5 – Monday 18: Jaipur to Jodhpur: From Pink Hues to Blue Horizons

We depart Jaipur and journey towards Jodhpur, stopping en route for lunch at the beautifully restored 16th century

Fort Barli. After experiencing local flavours and heritage hospitality, we continue to the Blue City of Jodhpur. On arrival, check in to your boutique hotel, Daspan House, and enjoy a relaxed evening at leisure.

**Stay:** Daspan House

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

#### Day 6 – Tuesday 19: Explore Jodhpur

Today begin your exploration of the beautiful city of Jodhpur. After breakfast, discover the magnificent city of Jodhpur, where towering forts, blue-washed streets and centuries of royal history create one of Rajasthan's most captivating landscapes.

Your morning begins at the elegant Jaswant Thada, a serene marble memorial whose intricate carvings seem almost translucent in the morning light. From here, continue to the extraordinary Mehrangarh Fort, rising dramatically 122 metres above the city on its rugged sandstone hill. One of India's most impressive fortresses, its grand courtyards, richly decorated royal apartments and fascinating collection of armour and artefacts offer a remarkable glimpse into the lives of Rajasthan's former rulers. Looking out across a sea of blue houses stretching towards the horizon, it is easy to understand why Jodhpur leaves such a lasting impression.

Lunch is served at the renowned Indique Restaurant, where the magnificent silhouette of Mehrangarh Fort provides an unforgettable backdrop as you relax and enjoy the flavours of Rajasthan.

This afternoon, step into the vibrant rhythm of the old city on a guided walking tour through the bustling Clock Tower precinct. Wander colourful laneways alive



## Diva Moments...

Experiencing the Jaipur Literature Festival as a *Friend of the Festival*, with privileged access to one of the world's most celebrated cultural gatherings — where ideas, conversation and creativity unfold in the most vibrant of settings

An intimate evening in the private home of author Mita Kapur, where stories are shared over dinner and Indian hospitality reveals its most gracious and personal side

Rare access to the exquisite Chandra Mahal, still home to Jaipur's royal family — a glimpse into a world few are invited to experience

An exclusively curated journey through Jaipur's world of design — from jewellers and textile houses to fashion ateliers — guided by those who know where true craftsmanship lives

A hands-on culinary experience celebrating the spice, warmth and richness of regional Rajasthani cuisine, shared in a way that feels personal and authentic

A meaningful visit to the Sambhali Trust, meeting the remarkable women behind the craft and witnessing enterprise, independence and creativity in action

High tea by the lake in Narlai, where time slows and the moment feels quietly, perfectly yours

A breathtaking four-course feast beside an ancient stepwell, lit by candlelight and set beneath a canopy of stars — an evening that simply stays with you

Sunrise at the Taj — exquisite

with the scent of freshly ground spices, vibrant tie-dye textiles, gleaming jewellery, handcrafted leather goods and lacquer bangles, where every turn reveals another glimpse of everyday life. The walk continues to Toorji Ka Jhalra, the city's beautifully restored 18th-century stepwell. Once a gathering place for the local community, it is now surrounded by thoughtfully restored heritage buildings housing stylish boutiques, artisan galleries and carefully curated homewares. This is the perfect place to browse, linger over a coffee or simply soak up the atmosphere of one of Rajasthan's most photogenic neighbourhoods. This evening dinner is at leisure — time to discover your own hidden restaurant or dine in-house. The choice is yours.

**Stay:** Daspan House

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 7 – Wednesday 20: Flavours, Traditions and Meaningful Connection

A slower morning offers the perfect opportunity to savour the rhythm of Rajasthan. At your hotel, join a private cooking demonstration where you will discover the distinctive flavours of the Marwar region. Guided by local expertise, you'll prepare two traditional dishes using fresh, seasonal ingredients before sitting down to enjoy a leisurely lunch featuring your own creations, accompanied by warm breads and classic regional accompaniments. This afternoon, experience one of the most meaningful visits of the journey at Sambhali Dastkar Boutique. More than simply a beautiful place to shop, this inspiring social enterprise is part of the Sambhali Trust, dedicated to supporting the education, independence and economic empowerment of women in Rajasthan.



Browse handcrafted textiles, garments and accessories created by local women artisans, each piece carrying its own story of skill, resilience and opportunity. Every purchase directly contributes to the Trust's work, making this a chance to take home something truly special while supporting a remarkable community of women. If time permits, enjoy a final wander through Jodhpur's colourful local markets, perhaps picking up a few last treasures before we continue our journey through Rajasthan.

Enjoy a relaxed evening with dinner at your hotel.

**Stay:** Daspan House

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 8 – Thursday 21: Time for Bliss at Rawla Narlai

Today we travel to the peaceful heritage village of Narlai, where life slows beautifully, an opportunity to live the culture at a gentler pace.

After checking in, enjoy lunch at the hotel before an afternoon jeep excursion and high tea by the lake, surrounded by birdlife and natural beauty. Bliss.

Dinner is at leisure this evening.

**Stay:** Rawla Narlai

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, High Tea

### Day 9 – Friday 22: Embrace the Rhythm

Today is yours to enjoy at your own pace, embracing the gentle rhythm of life at Rawla Narlai. For those feeling energetic, an optional early morning walk with a local guide leads to Elephant Hill. Climbing the 750 steps is

rewarded with sweeping views across the Aravalli Hills and surrounding countryside, before reaching a 300-year-old shrine dedicated to a local chieftain. It is a peaceful way to welcome the day as the village slowly comes to life below.

After breakfast, perhaps join a leisurely guided walk through Narlai village, where quiet laneways, friendly smiles and everyday moments offer a genuine glimpse into rural Rajasthan. It is an opportunity to slow down, connect with the local community and experience a way of life that has changed little over generations.

The afternoon is yours to spend as you wish. Relax by the pool, wander the beautiful grounds of your heritage hotel, indulge in a spa treatment or simply find a quiet corner with a book and savour the luxury of unhurried time.

As dusk falls, prepare for one of the most unforgettable evenings of the journey. Gather with your fellow travellers before making your way to an ancient 11th-century stepwell, where hundreds of flickering lamps illuminate this extraordinary setting beneath the evening sky.

Against this breathtaking backdrop, enjoy a beautifully prepared four-course dinner celebrating the flavours of Rajasthan while the haunting melodies of a traditional Jogi musician drift through the air. It is a magical experience that feels timeless—a moment of beauty, music and connection that will remain with you long after your journey through India has ended.

**Stay:** Rawla Narlai

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner



### Day 10 – Saturday 23: Narlai to Udaipur via Kumbhalgarh

Depart Narlai and journey to Udaipur, stopping en route to visit the impressive Kumbhalgarh Fort, known as the Great Wall of India. Please note to explore the Fort you will need to have a medium level of fitness and stability. After exploring this remarkable site and enjoying lunch at a local restaurant, continue to Udaipur and check in to your hotel, Hotel Bujera Fort. The rest of the day is at leisure.

**Stay:** Hotel Bujera Fort

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

### Day 11 – Sunday 24: Udaipur Sightseeing: Lakes, Palaces and Romantic Udaipur

Today we explore the romantic city of Udaipur. Visit the City Palace and Crystal Gallery, stroll through the beautiful gardens of Saheliyon ki Bari, The Garden of the Maidens, and enjoy lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon, take a serene boat ride on Lake Pichola, soaking in the beauty of the surrounding palaces and hills.

This evening dinner is at a local restaurant.

**Stay:** Hotel Bujera Fort

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 12 – Monday 25: The Many Layers of Udaipur

This morning venture into the back alleys of the old city with your guide, where Udaipur reveals its most authentic and intimate side. As you navigate these quiet, winding lanes, you will witness the city's celebrated tradition of miniature painting—an art form known for its extraordinary detail and delicate craftsmanship. A visit

to a local miniature art centre offers a rare opportunity to observe artists at work and experience a live demonstration of this intricate technique.

As the walk unfolds, small ateliers and family-run workshops open their doors to showcase a range of traditional crafts—from silver jewellery and hand-embroidered textiles to leatherwork and decorative arts. Artisans continue to practice their skills with quiet dedication, preserving techniques passed down through generations. Pause at hidden courtyards and ancient temples, where the rhythm of daily life is punctuated by the soft chime of bells and the fragrance of incense. Along the way, there are opportunities to engage with local vendors and absorb the gentle cadence that defines Udaipur's way of life.

Later, we visit the Monsoon Palace, perched high above the city, where you will take in breathtaking sunset views across Udaipur's lakes.

Dinner is enjoyed at the hotel.

**Stay:** Hotel Bujera Fort

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 13 – Tuesday 26\*: Goodbye Udaipur, Hello Agra & the Taj Mahal

Prepare for a long travel day, as we bid farewell to Rajasthan and journey towards one of the world's most iconic monuments. After breakfast, check out of your hotel and transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi. On arrival, we continue by private coach to Agra, with a packed snack provided along the way, allowing you to relax and enjoy the changing landscapes of northern India.



By late afternoon, arrive at the Jaypee Palace Hotel, your home for the evening. Settle in, enjoy the hotel's beautiful surroundings and perhaps take some time to unwind, knowing that tomorrow morning brings one of the most anticipated moments of the journey—sunrise at the magnificent Taj Mahal.

\*Republic Day in India, celebrated annually on January 26, honours the date India became a truly independent republic with the power to choose its own government. (Please note that today is Republic Day in India and alcohol will not be served.)

**Stay:** Jaypee Palace Hotel, Agra

**Meals:** Breakfast, Packed Snack

### Day 14 – Wednesday 27: The Taj at Sunrise and Agra Explorations

Rise before dawn for one of the defining moments of your journey as we make our way to the Taj Mahal at sunrise. As the first light of day gently illuminates its flawless white marble, the beauty of this extraordinary monument is quietly breathtaking. No photograph can truly prepare you for the experience of standing before one of the world's greatest expressions of love.

Return to the hotel for breakfast before discovering another of Agra's architectural treasures, the magnificent Agra Fort. Wander through its grand palaces, audience halls and courtyards, where Mughal emperors once ruled one of the world's most powerful empires.

Later, gain an appreciation for two of Agra's finest artistic traditions with visits to a Zardozi embroidery workshop and a marble inlay atelier.

This evening, gather for your farewell dinner on the Sky Deck at the Taj View Hotel. With the iconic silhouette of

the Taj Mahal glowing in the distance, it is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this colourful journey: The sites, the experiences and each other.

**Stay:** Jaypee Palace Hotel, Agra

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

### Day 15 – Thursday 28: Time to Say Farewell

Sadly all good things must come to an end. After a leisurely breakfast, checkout and return to Delhi airport for onward connections home or for more exploration of this fabulous country.

Safe travels and thanks for joining us.

**Meals:** Breakfast





## Accommodation

### JAIPUR | Alsisar Haveli

Tucked away in the heart of Jaipur's old city, Alsisar Haveli offers a graceful introduction to Rajasthan's regal charm. Once a noble residence, this heritage haveli is filled with intricate archways, courtyards and traditional Rajasthani details that whisper stories of a bygone era. It feels intimate and atmospheric, a place to slow down, wander and truly arrive into India.

### JODHPUR | Daspan House, Jodhpur

A hidden gem in the Blue City, Daspan House is a boutique stay that feels both personal and quietly luxurious. With just a handful of beautifully designed rooms, every space has been thoughtfully curated with handcrafted details, rich textures and a sense of understated elegance. It is a place where you feel welcomed, cared for and completely at ease after days spent exploring Jodhpur's vibrant streets.





### UDAIPUR | Bujera Fort Hotel

Udaipur's only boutique hotel and a gem of a place, is situated on the edge of the small village of Bujera, with distant views of the lake and city. Truly gorgeous, small, friendly and welcoming. The inspired creation of outstanding interior designer Richard Hanlon and Trish McFarlane, it has immense style and sophistication throughout. The Fort has all the feel and atmosphere of a glorious English country house with wonderful fabrics interspersed with Indian antiques, fabrics and "style". You will only find the best mattresses, pillows and bed linen here, comfort being paramount. In summer there is full central air conditioning and in winter there is heating, working fireplaces and hot water bottles for those chilly winter nights.



### NARLAI | Rawla Narlai

Set within a peaceful heritage village, Rawla Narlai is a beautifully restored royal hunting lodge that offers a truly immersive Rajasthani experience. Surrounded by dramatic granite hills and timeless village life, this is where the pace softens and the atmosphere becomes quietly magical. From tranquil courtyards to candlelit evenings and unforgettable stepwell dining, every moment here feels deeply connected to place and tradition.





## Testimonials

The first leg of the tour was everything and more than I expected. The literature festival was so vibrant and the sessions I chose were mostly positive. I loved the variety. One of the advantages of staying at Clark's was the convenience. The variety of experiences was excellent. Long interesting days followed by magnificent dinners in magnificent locations. Truly magical experiences, especially the Ball as the finale of the festival. Donna has been her usual exceptional leader, always giving us updates, funny stories, background knowledge where we may be heading etc etc. She's a very special person and manages to divide her time equally among all guests. A wonderful trip, Andrea, and so pleased I listened to all those people who encouraged me to go. Travelling Divas has given me the joy of travel and part of that joy is travelling with likeminded women and doing it in style.

**Susie, India 2026**

I have enjoyed each and every one of your trips I have taken.

The local ones ( Hiddenvale and Hobart) and more exotic locations ( India x 3, magical Morocco and divine South Africa) have all delivered on expectations and all show your stamp of picking the eyes out of the most delightful locations to rest our heads, and also extraordinarily well critiqued sites, restaurants and artisan workshops to visit.

I am really looking forward to Sicily in September. Best wishes and many thanks for the joyful travels I have immensely enjoyed.

**Lisa, 2025**

Andrea makes dreams come true ! With wonderful surprises along the way, Portugal was definitely exquisite, guided by our Zoe ever so helpful on many occasions ensuring my dream came true. I've had the most wonderful time, meeting and sharing the trip with amazing Divas.

**Linda, 2025**

This was my second trip with Travelling Divas and I cannot recommend them enough. They have been seamless, the accommodation is always exceptional as is the food & wine throughout the journey.

However it is the company and the laughs that has stayed with me, not only on this trip but on my previous trip to Estonia & Finland. It was the tonic that was needed after our long travel hiatus, thank you so much for what was truly a Journey of a Lifetime (the Northern Lights twice was an added and unexpected bonus... thanks for organising that for us!)

**Yvonne, Diva Iconic**

The trip was fabulous, made even better by the group itself. Terrific bunch of women to travel with. We did some really unique and special things which have created amazing memories. Would definitely travel with the Divas again.

**Kathy, India 2026**



Andrea, Founder of  
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