#### \*\*\*\*\*A journey is not only 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, tastes and smells that is 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 In Delhi and ends in Delhi and runs anti-clockwise through some of the most charming, vibrant and "photo friendly" places one could ever wish for.





Your hosts Atik and Susan provide all images

# Tour Dates: 15 - 28 November 2025(Min 3 / Max 8 participants)Tour Cost: AUD 8,150 Single | AUD 7,650 per person Twin Share

Singapore Airlines have a flight from Perth arriving 5.40am and in good time to start the tour. Should you wish to arrive a day earlier, as Susan does, please contact us so that Atik can arrange an extra night's accommodation for AU\$180 which needs to be paid to Atik in cash please.



Nov 15th - Delhi to Mandawa -

Accommodation – Hotel Gulab Haveli or similar

Arrive at Delhi meet Atik at the airport. Today we will drive to Mandawa. a compact little town in the Shekhavati region. Arrive and check into the hotel. In the afternoon visit Havelis (old mansions) with beautiful frescoes. The medieval fort of Mandawa gradually rises on the horizon like a mirage. A painted arched gateway adorned with Lord Krishna and his cows leads to the bazaar. Later in the evening we are going to visit local market.

(D)







Nov 16th - Mandawa to Bikaner Accommodation - Hotel Lalgarh Palace or Similar 2 nights (B L D)

In the morning we drive to Fatehpur – the town where the finest of the Shekhavati frescoes can be seen. Its havelis still bear witness to the rich and prosperous Marwari era of the 19th century. Worth visiting are the Aath Haveli complex, Anandilal Poddar haveli, Bansidhar Bhagat haveli and Chokhani haveli. Drive to Bikaner – Vale of Serenity, upon arrival check into the hotel. Evening free to relax. Stay overnight at hotel.



#### Nov 17th - Bikaner

(B L D)

Today enjoy city tour covering Junagadh Fort – constructed between 1588 and 1593 by Raja Rai Singh, Fort has a 986 metre long wall with 37 bastions and two entrances, BhandShah Temple – The 15th century Jain temple, is the most important of this temple complex, Camel Breeding Farm – a unique experience where you can ride on a camel and have perhaps the first taste of camel's milk..



Nov 18th - Bikaner to Jaisalmer Accommodation – Hotel Desert Tulip or Similar (B L D)

This morning, we drive to Jaisalmer, allowing time as always to stop en route if we see

something that catches our eye.

After checking into our boutique Haveli hotel we walk the streets of Jaisalmer, the Golden City, which offers photographers a mesmerizing array of subjects set against its unique landscape. The crown jewel, Jaisalmer Fort, is a living fortress that seems to rise organically from the surrounding terrain. Its golden sandstone walls, intricate carvings, and winding streets provide endless opportunities for architectural and street photography, especially during the warm light of sunrise and sunset when the entire citadel glows.

The colourful markets around Manak Chowk burst with photogenic displays of textiles, spices, and handicrafts, offering vibrant subjects for detail and street photography. We can capture portraits of Rajasthani people in their vibrant traditional attire, adding a human element to the city's golden backdrop both in the back streets the walk includes many households which Atik has befriended over the years.

In some cases the people are very poor but are also very colourful and welcoming. We are guaranteed to get some magnificent shots. As the sunsets on the "Golden City" we are surrounded by musicians, gypsies and holi men that Atik has known for a long time and make for endless photo opportunities.



Nov 19th - Jaisalmer

Accommodation - Sam

(B L D)

Jaisalmer — Thar Desert

Before breakfast, we visit Gadsisar Lake for some great sunrise pictures where again we arrange for a model to collect water from the decorative pavilions isolated on the lake. Gadisar Lake presents a tranquil scene especially at dawn when the temples and shrines on its banks are reflected in still waters.

After breakfast, we have time to just meander around the streets and markets of Jaisalmer. The old city's havelies, ornate mansions of wealthy merchants, showcase exquisite sandstone craftsmanship.

The Fort, is a fully inhabited fort with cafés, textile (and other) shops and people's homes. This is

a truly unique experience with never-ending photo opportunities of market stalls, havelis, camels, street food and much more.

After lunch we head out into the desert, via a charming desert village. Colourfully attired Rajasthani villagers offer authentic glimpses into desert life. Traditional mud houses in remote villages, adorned with intricate designs, present interesting architectural subjects contrasting with the arid landscape.

We then check into the Desert Safari Camp.

At around 4pm we drive through the desert to a small village where the locals will play amazing music on unusual instruments while real Sufi ladies dance for you. You will be made very welcome and they will show you around their homes. Sufi musicians and dancers in Rajasthan embody the region's spiritual heritage. Their performances, often held at dargahs (shrines), feature hypnotic qawwali singing and the swirling movements of whirling dervishes. These mystical displays, set against the backdrop of the local architecture, provide captivating opportunities to capture the intersection of spirituality, music, and movement in evocative imagery.

As the sun sets and a handful of musicians and dancers join us in the sand dunes for a private shoot. We then head back to the camp for more music and dance and a buffet dinner.



Nov 20th - Jaisalmer to Jodhpur

Accommodation - Hotel Ajit Bhawan

#### Thar Desert to Jodhpur

We have a very early start this morning as we take camel carts to a wonderful remote location deep in the Thar Desert. The nomadic camel herders, known as Raikas, have a rich history spanning centuries. They have long been integral to Rajasthan's cultural fabric, expertly navigating the harsh desert landscape. Their traditional lifestyle, colorful attire, and deep connection with their camels offer compelling subjects for photographers. It may be a bit chilly, but the herdsmen will get a wood fire going and make us some wonderful hot tea. As the sun rises we start our photo shoot and take some unique shots of the camels on virgin sand.

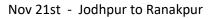
Breakfast will be back at the camp after which head back to Jodhpur.

Upon arrival in Jodhpur, we check into our heritage hotel and then take a walk inside the fabulous walled city with its bustling market and narrow cobbled streets. The bustling Sardar Market and Clock Tower area are excellent spots to capture Jodhpur's vibrant energy, with colorful textiles and spices on display. We then have an arrangement to photograph an amazing Step Well with a few models.

At sunset we make our way to Jaswant Thada, a marble memorial, that offers serene compositions with its delicate carvings and reflective pond, and foreground interest to Mehrangarh Fort, perched atop a hill, dominating the skyline and provides stunning opportunities for dramatic shots.

Dinner will be on the rooftop of a wonderful Haveli located a stone's throw from the famous Merangarh Fort.





Accommodation - Hotel Fatehbagh or Similar

Early morning we have an arrangement to photograph an amazing Step Well with a few models. Breakfast will follow back at the hotel. After breakfast, we travel to the village of Bishnoi where we will spend some time in a local home. We then visit a traditional pottery and get a private demo of local pots being made. From here we drive on to Ranakpur, walk through the town and spend the latter part of the afternoon in small local homesteads where the local population wear the biggest, brightest red headscarves we have seen in India. The nomadic Rabari pastoralists are known for their distinctive appearance, particularly the men's flamboyant red turbans. These intricately wrapped headpieces symbolize honor and identity. Their traditional lifestyle, colourful attire, and weathered faces against the vibrant backdrop offer photographers striking subjects that embody the spirit of Rajasthan's ancient cultures.

This evening, we visit the Ranakpur Jain temple. The crown jewel is the Chaturmukha Dharana Vihara, a 15th-century temple dedicated to Adinatha. Its intricate architecture, featuring 1,444 uniquely carved marble pillars, provides endless opportunities for detail shots and architectural photography.

The exterior offers equally compelling subjects, with its domes, shikhars (spires), and sculptured turrets set against the backdrop of lush green hills. Early morning and late afternoon light bathes the white marble in warm hues, creating magical wide-angle shots. The surrounding

forest adds a layer of natural beauty to complement the man-made wonders



#### Nov 22nd - Ranakpur to Udaipur

(B L D)

Accommodation - Hotel Lake Pichola or Similar After breakfast we head off in search of photographic opportunities in the local farmlands, ending up with some sunrise shots of a traditional sheep herder family we have got to know well. We will go to visit some tribes families.

Traveling from Ranakpur to Udaipur along the country roads is a pretty drive and we have many opportunities to make impromptu stops at water-wheels and small villages.

After checking into our lakeside hotel in Udaipur, we meet up for a quick street stroll and catch the sunset on Lake Pichola as it casts its reflections on the Taj Lake Hotel and the City Palace. Udaipur, the "City of Lakes," offers wonderful opportunities to showcase its regal heritage and natural beauty.

For unique perspectives, the ornate Jagdish Temple is a visual masterpiece. Its intricate carvings, towering shikhara, and constant flow of colourful devotees offer rich visual narratives. From wide-angle shots capturing its grandeur to close-ups of detailed sculptures, photographers can encapsulate the spiritual essence and architectural beauty of Udaipur in compelling images.

The iconic Lake Palace provides stunning sunrise and sunset shots with its white marble façade reflecting in the shimmering waters. The City Palace complex, with its intricate architecture and panoramic views, is another must-visit location.

The ghats and old city streets present endless possibilities for street photography, capturing the daily life of locals against a backdrop of colorful buildings and ancient temples. Early morning ceremonies at lakeside temples provide a spiritually rich atmosphere for authentic moments.

In the evening we enjoy dinner in a restaurant with stunning views of the lake.



Nov 23rd - Udaipur

(B L D)

Accommodation - Hotel Lake Pichola or Similar

In the early morning, we visit some vibrant wholesale markets, where you can experience hustle and bustle on a grand scale. The wholesale vegetable markets burst with vibrant colours and bustling activity. At dawn, farmers arrive with fresh produce, creating a paradise of vivid greens, reds, and oranges. The markets showcase local varieties and seasonal bounty, while interactions between vendors and buyers offer candid moments of daily life, perfect for atmospheric and portrait photography.

This afternoon we will go to visit Jagdish temple and the beautiful city Palace. Evening boat ride.



Nov 24th - Udaipur to Pushkar





(B L D)

Accommodation - Hotel Brahma Horizon or Similar -

Today we travel to Pushkar. A busy town on the edge of the Thar desert and a centre for camel trading. This evening we will go to 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.



Nov 25th - Pushkar to Jaipur

Accommodation - Hotel Bissua Palace or Similar 2 nights Today we wake up early to visit a village of gypsy people. We will go to see how they are living with children and animals. We will visit some families in that village because it will not be possible to go every house. We will see how they cook and the making of their early morning chai.

After our visit we will go back for breakfast at the hotel, following breakfast we hit the road again.

This afternoon, we visit The City Palace complex which, with its blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture, provides endless compositions of ornate doorways, courtyards, and royal chambers.

Later, we explore the main streets of the pink-walled city of Jaipur including a main gate and the pottery quarter. We finish the day with dinner at the Palace of the Winds the Hawa Mahal; with its intricate honeycomb-like facade, presents a stunning subject for architectural photography, especially during the golden hours of sunset.



Nov 26th - Jaipur

Very early in the morning, we depart the hotel in time to set up tripods on the lake steps to see the sun rise over Jah Mahal. Afterwards, we visit a bustling wholesale flower and vegetable market. For those seeking to capture the essence of local life, Jaipur's vibrant wholesale markets offer a kaleidoscope of colours and textures. From the fragrant blooms at the flower market to the fresh produce at the vegetable bazaar, these bustling hubs are perfect for street photography and detail shots that showcase the city's agricultural bounty.

After lunch, we head to the awesome Amber Fort, capturing the early afternoon light - the reflections in the lake below are often breathtaking. Unfortunately, the stepwell, is currently off limits but we will visit the spectacular Shri Jagat Shiromani Ji Temple, where we hire models to collect water and hope we might find holy men to meditate. We then go into the fort where, amongst other things, we see many elephants carrying people up the steep entrance.

Later this afternoon, we visit the beautiful Nahargarh Fort. Built atop Aravalli Hills, the fort offers stunning sunset views over Jaipur city, intricate palace interiors with painted frescos, panoramic cityscapes from its fortified walls, dramatic architecture including stepwells, and

sweeping vistas of surrounding hills and ancient ramparts. Tonight we will go for dinner to a restaurant where we will see Rajasthan cultural dance program.



Nov 27th - Jaipur to Agra

(B L D)

Accommodation - Hotel Grand Mercure or Similar

After breakfast we will drive to Agra. After check-in we will go for lunch and later this evening we will go to visit Taj Mahal from the other side of river Yamuna. Dinner at the hotel.



Nov 28th : Agra to Delhi

#### Accommodation -

Arguably one of the most beautiful buildings in the world, a World Heritage site, and one of the Seven Wonders of the World, The Taj Mahal is on our agenda this morning. We will be inside as soon as the sun rises. You can spend as much time here as you like and then return to the hotel for breakfast.

Later we travel back to Delhi arriving at around 15.30. You may fly out in the late afternoon/evening or stay an additional night and depart the next day.

Message us please, if you would like Atik to arrange an extra night at the Hotel The Lalit or Similar, AU\$180 to be paid to Atik in cash please.

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
- Photography with model at some locations
- Entrance fees at monuments & camera fees
- Gratuities

(B L)

# WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International airfares
- Meals where not stated
- All alcoholic and soft 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 8,150 per person

Deposit required to secure place: AUD 800 per person

# **Option 2 – Twin Share**

AUD 7,650 per person

Deposit required to secure place: AUD 800 per person

# **Final Balance**

Final balance due: Friday, 12 September 2025

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If you would like to join the **Classic Rajasthan Photography Tour** with Susan Moss in November 2025, please email <u>reservations@mcnallytravel.com</u> for next steps to reserve your place.