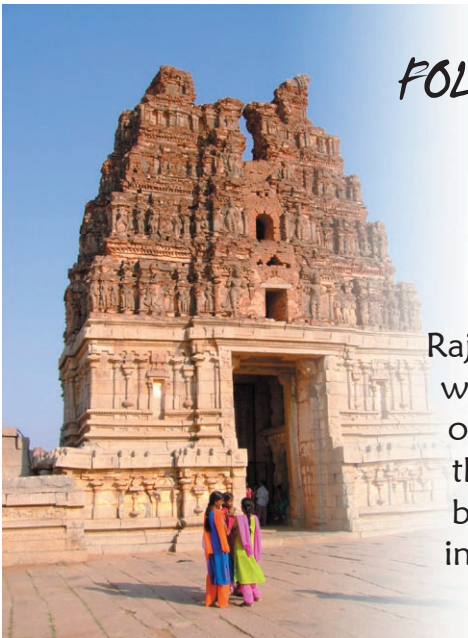


FOLK ART & PALACES of RAJASTHAN, INDIA

2008 Tour with Carol Summers

January 1 - 23, 2008



Rajasthan is a desert state in west central India where color and folk art are an integral part of the towns, the homes and the clothing... the men strikingly handsome in white with bright turbans and the women resplendent in their elaborately decorated costumes and their wealth in their jewelry.



January is an ideal month for travel in Rajasthan - the weather is perfect with a noticeable lack of insects. The tour focuses on folk arts, architecture, textiles, Rajput painting and the fort-palaces of yesteryear, as well as Indian cuisine in all its diverse flavors. The shopping is outstanding for the bargain prices and for the vast variety of Indian artifacts.

This is a first class tour with some lodgings in designated Heritage Hotels, formerly palaces of the Raj's - truly magical places with much of the splendor and grandeur of the days of princely courts but with the welcome addition of plenty of hot water and comfortable beds.

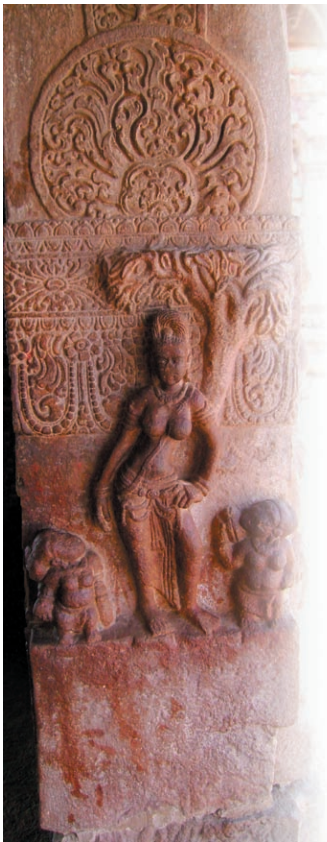
The tour price includes all transportation in India, entrance fees, accommodations and meals, and meal tips. It does not include alcoholic beverages, hotel tips, room service, laundry, telephone charges, independent excursions and meals or airfare to India.

Cost of the tour is US\$4950 double occupancy. Single supplement is \$1600 (estimated). Round-trip airfare on Continental Airlines from San Francisco is approximately \$1400.

To reserve a place please send 25% of total tour cost, a further 25% due October 1 and the remainder is due November 1, 2007. You can arrange for the air ticket from San Francisco on Continental by calling 1-800-231-0856.

The tour is limited to 16 guests. You may wish to contact your travel agency to inquire about trip insurance to protect against trip cancellation, trip interruption, lost ticket, medical, travel accident and baggage loss.

Carol, a California artist who's had a long-time love affair with Indian Folk Arts, has led tours to northern India since 1996. For inquiries, please contact him at 831-423-0181 or at carol@casaspirit.com.



Itinerary January 1-23, 2008

January 1-2, San Francisco - Newark - New Delhi

Leave San Francisco at 11:30 am on Continental – Arrive Newark 7:38 pm, leave Newark at 8:50 pm and arrive 9:15 pm Thursday, January 2, in New Delhi. Our hotel, the Imperial, a restored memento of Colonial India with large grounds, is centrally located in New Delhi. (Imperial Hotel)

January 3, New Delhi

We'll visit the National Museum, by any standard a world class museum, offering general coverage of the panoply of Indian art from ancient times. Superb Rajput painting, Tantric, Mogul and Tribal folk art exhibits. Lunch at a favorite South Indian restaurant. Afternoon visit to the Crafts Museum and Sunder Nagar, an antique market (silk, antiques, silver, tribal art, jewelry, clothing, etc.). (Imperial Hotel)

January 4, New Delhi – Agra

We'll leave at 9:00 am for Agra, a 4 hour drive, stopping at the Qutab Minar, India's first Mosque, and we'll visit Agra Fort (Trident/Hilton Hotel)

January 5, Agra – Keoladi Sanctuary

A morning look at the Taj Mahal, South Indian lunch and visit Fatepur Sikri, the beautiful 16th century, red sandstone, royal city of Akbar, and the Keoladeo Sanctuary. (Laxmi Villas, Bharatpur)

January 6, Keoladi – Kesroli

We drive to Kesroli, where we stay at a delightfully remote, restored hill fort in quiet farm country. (Hill Fort)

January 7, Kesroli – Mandawa

After breakfast we leave Kesroli for Mandawa, perhaps the most charming of the painted villages of Shekawati, an area famous for the elaborately painted havelis (mansions) of the wealthy merchants. Mandawa Castle dates from 1755 and is operated by the original family owners. (Mandawa Castle)

January 8, Mandawa – Jaipur

After lunch visit City Palace and Jantar Mantar – a park of giant astronomical constructions. (Trident/Hilton Hotel)

January 9, Jaipur

Visit Amber Palace by elephant. (Trident/Hilton Hotel)

January 10, Jaipur – Jodhpur

5 hours to Jodhpur. We stay at the first designated Heritage Hotel, a former lodge whose original owners have built a group of bungalows, each with its own folk theme in a whimsical park-like setting. It's quiet and informal, a welcome retreat. We'll explore the old center of Jodhpur, the Sardar Market and maze of alleys and bazaars. Jodhpur is justly famous for its antique shops and markets (antique furniture, architectural devices, carved temples, crafts, etc. Shipping can be easily arranged). (Ajit Bhawan)

January 11-12, Jodhpur – Jaisalmer

We'll leave early to give us time when we reach Jaisalmer to take a quick visit to the weavers cooperative, Kadi Bundar, before our traditional margaritas at sunset on the roof of our hotel, a converted caravansary with the rustic charm of the tribal people of this area. Jaisalmer is the quintessential desert citadel, carved by man and the wind in golden sandstone from the Thar Desert. The Hill of King Jaisal became wealthy as a stop for the trading caravans passing through from the coast, but the development of a railway system and the port of Bombay made it a ghost town. We may be grateful that events left us this medieval gem in such pristine condition. We'll visit the Citadel, Royal Palace and a Jain Temple. Camel ride to the dunes at sunset and a village dinner with local musicians. (weaving, tribal textiles and arts, antiques and much more) (Narayan Niwas Palace)

January 13, Jaisalmer – Jodhpur

Visit antiquaries, dinner at On the Rocks. (Ajit Bhawan)

January 14, Jodhpur – Rohetgarth

We'll visit Mehrangarh Fort, Rajasthan's largest, that dominates the city. To Rohet for lunch. Rohet House is a pleasant country house whose owners were big landowners in former days. They now take guests out in jeeps to visit the villages and family compounds of a group of people called the Bishnois, which in Hindi means 29, the number of precepts in their long-dead founding guru's list of commandments. They are vegetarians and the world's earliest conservationists. One of the precepts is to protect animal life, and consequently they live surrounded by the blackbuck who, though wild, lack the fear of man. The safari returns to the house for supper before dark, having visited weavers and potters in their beautiful homes built of the earth of the desert and painted with simple designs, and participating if you like in a welcome ritual called the opium ceremony. (Rohet House)

January 15, Rohet – Ranakpur

We're off in the morning to Ranakpur, a Jain temple complex set in remote and beautiful country in the Aravalli range. The temple was built in 1439 and boasts 1444 pillars, no two alike. We'll lunch nearby at a lovely rural, outdoor restaurant, and then continue on through wooded hill country to the Aranyawas Hotel.

January 16, Ranakpur – Dungarpur

In the morning we'll drive to Dungarpur and visit the old castle that claims some of the best preserved wall paintings in Rajasthan. Swimming pool and trophy rooms in the new palace by a lake. (Udai Bilas)

January 17, Dungarpura – Ahmadabad

A morning drive to Ahmadabad where we'll have lunch across from the Sidi Saiyad Mosque with its famous carved stone windows. Afternoon to the Shreyes Folk Art Museum. (Le Meridan)

January 18, Ahmadabad – Udaipur

Visit the Calico Textile Museum, which has my vote for the world's finest and certainly the mecca for those with an interest in Indian textile arts. Afternoon drive to Udaipur. (Amet Haveli)

January 19, Udaipur

We'll visit the City Palace with its various collections, architectural wonders and labyrinthine passageways, and have a boat ride on Lake Pichola to lunch at the Lake Palace. There will be plenty of time to wander this most charming town and take advantage of the splendid shopping opportunities (puppets, antiques, jewelry, clothing, paintings, etc.). Lunch at the Lake Palace. (Amet Haveli)

January 20, Udaipur – Pushkar

On our way we'll visit a colorful and lively Siva temple in Eklingi. Pushkar is a city sacred to Hindus, built around a pretty lake. No booze. We stay at the Pushkar Palace on the lake. Many shops and fun wandering. (Pushkar Palace)

January 21, Pushkar – Samode

Lunch and tour of the Palace. Spectacular Durbar Hall. We stay in tents in the Palace gardens, with marble bathrooms. (Samode Bagh)

January 22, Samode – New Delhi

4 hour drive to New Delhi. Depart from New Delhi at 11:45, Continental Flt. 83.

January 23

Arrive Newark 5:05 am, leave for San Francisco at 7 am and arrive San Francisco, 10:38 am Continental Flt. 448.

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Calendar of 2008 Rajasthan Trip January 1-23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				New Delhi Arrive New Delhi 9:15 pm <i>Imperial Hotel</i>	New Delhi National Museum and Craft Museum <i>Imperial Hotel</i>	New Delhi – Agra Qutab Minar Agra Fort <i>Trident/Hilton Hotel</i>
5 Agra – Baratpur Taj Mahal Dasaprakash Fatepur Sikri Keoladi <i>Laxmi Vilas</i>	6 Baratpur – Kesroli <i>Hill Fort</i>	7 Kresoli – Mandawa Lunch in Jhunjhunu City Tour <i>Mandawa Castle</i>	8 Mandawa – Jaipur Lunch at Samode Palace Amber Castle <i>Trident/Hilton Hotel</i>	9 Jaipur City Palace Jantar Mantar Dasaprakash Anokhi <i>Trident/Hilton Hotel</i>	10 Jaipur – Jodhpur Ajit Bhawan	11 Jodhpur – Jaisalmer Lunch at Pokaran Kadi Bundar Narayan Niwas
12 Jaisalmer Citadel Lunch at Trio Sunset on the Dunes Desert dinner <i>Narayan Niwas</i>	13 Jaisalmer – Jodhpur Sardar Market <i>Ajit Bhawan</i>	14 Jodhpur – Rohet Meherangarh Palace Safari <i>Rohetgarh</i>	15 Rohet – Ranakpur Lunch at Maharani Ranakpur Aranyawas	16 Ranakpur – Dungarpur Old Castle <i>Udai Bilas</i>	17 Dungarpur – Ahmedabad Shreyes Museum <i>Le Meridian</i>	18 Ahmedabad – Udaipur Calico Textile Museum <i>Amet Haveli</i>
19 Udaipur City Palace Lunch at Lake Palace <i>Amet Haveli</i>	20 Udaipur – Pushkar <i>Pushkar Palace</i>	21 Pushkar – Samode <i>Samode Bagh</i>	22 Samode – New Delhi Continental Flt. 83 Leaving 11:45 pm	23 Arrive Newark 5:05 am Leave Flt. 448 at 7 am Arrive San Francisco 10:38 am	26	27