



India – Rajasthan Musical Expedition

12 days – Oct 16-27 2015

In association with
Sound Travels
MUSICAL EXPEDITIONS THROUGH INDIA

Rajasthan, famous for its palaces, stunning landscapes, fabrics, spices and music, has fascinated travelers for centuries. This tour sweeps across the lesser-travelled northern part of the desert state, and takes in encounters with artists and musicians as well as visits to spectacular lakes and temples. The tour culminates at the famous Jodhpur RIFF, the Rajasthan International Folk Festival, hosted in the Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur. Musicologist Georgie Pope and cultural activist Gopal Singh will share a wealth of stories and legends about the state along the way and there's time to absorb the atmosphere and get to know personalities as well as places.

All *Songlines Music Travellers* will receive an information sheet about the local music plus recommended recordings and DVDs.

To reserve your place

Please read the booking conditions on the website and contact the reservations office on:

+44 (0)1992 579697
or email:
songlines@thegroupscompany.com

"An extraordinary tour led by a very professional and knowledgeable leader. With her contacts she gave us access to people and places few tourists would even see! I feel honoured to have been part of it"

Hilary Smith – *Songlines Music Travel* trip to the RIFF 2012

Date of Issue: 22/1/15

India – 12 days:
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Itinerary

Day 1 Friday

Delhi At our special welcome dinner you will meet your fellow travellers, cultural historian Gopal Singh and musician and anthropologist Georgie Pope, who will accompany you on the rest of the tour.

Day 2 Saturday

Mandawa From Delhi, we drive to the bustling town of Mandawa, famous for its beautifully painted havelis (traditional homes built around an open courtyard). We'll stop on the way for lunch at Piralal Haveli and enjoy your first taste of Rajasthani music in the evening.

Day 3 Sunday

Mandawa Located in the heart of Shekhawati, Mandawa is the ideal place to explore the villages of this desert region. We will drive to two villages located to the northwest of Rajasthan to meet two extraordinary communities of percussionists.

Day 4 Monday

Mandawa-Jaipur After a tour of Mandawa town and a leisurely lunch, we will head to Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan.

Day 5 Tuesday

Jaipur Today you will have the opportunity to explore the city on a guided tour of its famous sights, and will be introduced to the work of the Jaipur Virasat (Heritage) Foundation – the organisation behind the Jodhpur Festival where we're heading, and Anokhi, the company that revived hand block printing. In the evening, anthropologist Vinod Joshi will introduce you to the fascinating itinerant performers, the kalbeliya – Rajasthan's snake charming, dancing, singing travelling community.

Day 6 Wednesday

Ajmere-Pushkar In the morning we will pay a visit to the stunning sandstone edifice that this morning we make our pilgrimage to the Ajmer Sharif, the most important site for Muslims throughout India and beyond. Here we will be hosted by a direct descendant of Moinuddin Chisti, the Sufi saint to whom the shrine is dedicated, and hear qawwali music in this awe-inspiring sacred place. Tonight we will be staying in Pushkar.

Day 7 Thursday

Pushkar The sites and stories of Pushkar, including a hill-top temple at sunrise, for those of you who are game, will be shared with you by Mukesh, the most unusual and charismatic pundit in the world. In the afternoon, you will be introduced to the nagara drum by the fabulous and famous percussionist Nathoo Lal Solanki, who will give you a percussion workshop on the side of lake Pushkar, introduce you to his incredibly musical family, and take you on a camel cart adventure into the desert, where there will be more musical surprises waiting. This second night in Pushkar will be spent under canvas in a desert camp.

Days 8-11 Friday-Monday

Jodhpur Rajasthan International Folk Festival (The RIFF). After breakfast in our desert camp we leave the wilderness behind and drive to Jodhpur. We spend the next four nights staying at the quirky Krishna Prakash Heritage Haveli and enjoying the incredible variety of music at the Rajasthan International Folk Festival. There will also be the opportunity to discover the city of Jodhpur on a heritage tour. Your guide Georgie Pope worked for the festival for three years and is available for questions, help and advice throughout its duration. Otherwise, be free and party!

Day 12 Tuesday

Jodhpur Today is the last day of the RIFF and the festival ends with a stunning dawn devotional performance at the Jaswant Thada. Our tour ends after the dawn performance and we say farewell and send you off on your onward journeys.

India – 2 night Agra extension
October 14-16 2015

The 2 night pre-tour extension to Agra starts on Wednesday October 14:

Itinerary

Day 1 Wednesday

Delhi Today we check in to our hotel in Delhi then the rest of the day is free to relax and recover from your flight.

Day 2 Thursday

Agra You will leave Delhi early this morning on your drive to Agra so that you have almost a full day here. Your local English speaking guide will accompany you for the next 2 days helping you discover the Magnificent Taj Mahal and the Red Fort, learning about the history and stories surrounding these iconic sites. There will also be the opportunity to visit Fatehpur Sikri.

Day 3 Friday (Day 1 of main tour)

Agra-Delhi This morning will be another early start to catch the sunrise over the Taj Mahal before driving back to Delhi where you will meet up with the rest of the group on Day 1 of the main tour.

Tour Costs

We have designed these tours to give you the option of taking up an all-inclusive package which includes your air seats, or the option of making your own way there and then meeting up with the rest of your party at the first hotel.

India 12-day tour: Oct 16-27, 2015 (ex-Delhi)

Tour Price £1,795 per person

Tour includes:

- 10 nights twin-share hotel accommodation and one night in a desert camp
 - Breakfast each day; packed lunch on day 3; and two dinners on days 1 & 7
 - Music events as listed in the itinerary and passes for the Rajasthan International Folk Festival (RIFF)
 - Half day camel trek, sightseeing and transfers as listed
 - The services of your travel leader from *Songlines Music Travel/Sound Travels*
- Single supplement: £225 per person**

India 14-day tour: October 15-28, 2015 (ex-London)

Our office can arrange flights and airport transfers on arrival at your destination. Flights, together with arrival transfers, are available from London from £850 per person in conjunction with this tour. Flights are overnight from London to Delhi on the outbound journey and on the return leg overnight with a stopover in Mumbai, making your tour 14 days ex-London. You can book flights yourself or we can book them for you.

India 2-night Agra Extension:
October 14-16, 2015 (ex-Delhi)

Tour Price £295 per person

Tour includes:

- 2 nights twin-share hotel accommodation
 - Breakfast each day
 - Transfers as listed in AC car
 - The services of a local English speaking guide whilst in Agra.
- Single supplement: £75 per person.**

If you are taking up the Agra extension you would need to depart from the UK on October 13 to arrive on October 14. **Please note: entry fees are not included in the price of the extension and are payable at each monument. The extension is based on a minimum of 2 passengers travelling.**

Items not included: Single room supplement, travel insurance, visas, all meals with the exception of those listed above, transfers to and from first/last hotel unless booked in conjunction with your flights, gratuities and any items of a personal nature.