

West Rajasthan Music Circuit

Any time of year except May and June (minimum 6 people)

Rajasthan boasts an incredible wealth of diverse musical talent. On this trip, we visit some of India's richest cultural hotbeds - where entire communities of singers, drummers, flutists and string instrumentalists live together, practise their art and pass it on to their children.

With moonlit concerts, personal visits to musicians' homes and the beautiful desert landscapes of Rajasthan, this is a completely magical journey.

Day 1: Arrival in Jodhpur

At Jodhpur airport, we meet fellow travellers and guide Georgie Pope. After checking in to our charming hotel haveli we'll head out to Arna Jharna – the incredible living museum founded by Komal da, legendary godfather of Rajasthani music. In the afternoon we'll walk the magnificent ramparts of Jodhpur's magnificent Mehrangarh fort until it's time for a sundowner and dinner.

Krishna Prakash Hotel

Days 2-3: Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer, in Western Rajasthan, is home to the Manganiyars - India's most talented musicians. Explore the charming haveli-lined streets of Jaisalmer and enjoy an evening of music. The next day we'll visit an artists' colony of world-touring musicians, and see the instruments up close. In the afternoon, make an optional visit to the golden city's magnificent sandstone fort, the Sonar Quila.

Nachna Haveli

Day 4: Pokaran

Next we travel to Pokaran to see the beautiful creations made by the local pit loom weavers. We'll spend a musical evening in an incredible castle setting with a female *damami* singer Mangi Devi.

Fort Pokhran

Day 5: Pokaran - Bikaner

You can't go to Pokaran without paying a visit to the fascinating lake at nearby Kinchan where hundreds of cranes (in Rajasthani *curzan*) flock every spring, welcomed by villagers who spread out tonnes of seeds each year.

We'll make a village visit en route to discover an award-winning Rajasthani master of the Sarengi and then dine in the most beautifully restored haveli in Bikaner.

Day 6: Bikaner

Today we'll explore the city's gorgeous facades and winding market streets, with Bikaner's own musicologist and activist, Gopal Singh.

Bhanwar Niwas

Day 7 - Back to Delhi

Today we catch the 9am train back to Delhi.