

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



MAGICAL RAJASTHAN & THE PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR

A COLOURFUL & LUXURIOUS
JOURNEY THROUGH ICONIC INDIA

HIGHLIGHTS

- The Pushkar Camel Fair
- Dramatic Hindu ceremonies
- Jodhpur's 'Blue City'
- Eagles of Mehrangarh Fort
- Historical step wells
- Superb street and portrait photography
- Historic palaces, forts and temples
- Jaisalmer & Thar Desert
- Flower markets and bazaars
- Udaipur romantic 'Venice' of India
- Aravelli Hills & Jain temples
- Leopard safari
- Two included flights in India

INTRODUCTION

Join Wild Photography Holidays in Rajasthan, "Land of Great Kings". Our varied journey will take you through some of the most magical, vibrant, and photo-friendly places you could ever wish for with the added bonus of the Pushkar Camel Fair, one of India's biggest and best Melas. Our hotels in Rajasthan are all delightful peaceful havens steeped in tradition and stylish comfort. This photographic tour has been designed carefully to minimise the long journeys that are often common in this vast state. We fly from Delhi to Jaisalmer on Day 2 and from Ajmer to Delhi on Day 15, this saving many hours of driving.

Our first stop is in Jaisalmer which is located in the vast Thar Desert. The city fort is a living urban centre with about three thousand people residing within its fortified walls. It is honeycombed with narrow winding lanes, lined with houses, temples and bazaars. The golden hues of the fort particularly at sunset adds to its photographic appeal. Exploring Jaisalmer Fort is a journey into the heart of Rajasthan's rich history and culture. Our first night will be spent in a luxury desert camp close to Jaisalmer where all rooms have en-suite bathrooms and we can easily explore and photograph desert life. Jodhpur the "Blue City" and gateway to the Thar is our next location. A striking fort, step wells, winding lanes of blue houses, Eagles and bustling bazaars afford us a



wide variety of photographic subjects. En route south to Udaipur we make a one night stop in the scenic Aravelli Hills where we will encounter one of India's most beautiful Jain temples. These hills are also home to much wild-life including Leopards, a safari to see these graceful big cats is included.

Following Ranakpur we spend three nights in our penultimate location, Udaipur, the romantic 'Little Venice' of Rajasthan. Now we will be able to relax enjoying the many lakeside locations, temples, striking ceremonies and vibrant street life on offer. Our Rajasthan tour culminates with four nights in Pushkar to witness the significant and celebrated Pushkar Camel Fair, one of the continent's last great traditional melas, the largest of its kind in the world; a spectacle on a truly epic scale. Our photographic journeys in incredible India are the result of the many years we have spent travelling and making pictures in this extraordinarily diverse and mystical land. We provide an opportunity for our guests to travel with professional photographers, interact with local people and to experience the wild and wonderful culture

and landscapes of India. Guests can expect to return home having had great holiday with a great portfolio of images topped off with a bunch of fabulous memories and some new like-minded friends. Namaste!

PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDES & TUTORS

The 2026 Departure will be led by WPH owners [Geraldine Westrupp](#) and [Martin Sammtleben](#)

DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Delhi

Arrive in Delhi and transfer to our city hotel which is well situated in a good location. If you want to add on a couple of days before the trip starts or after it finishes, enquire at the time of booking. We will meet as a group for the first time today at 19:00 for introductions, a trip briefing & dinner at the hotel.

Hotel Delhi (D)

Day 2: Fly to Jaisalmer, Thar Desert

This morning we drive to Delhi Airport for a morning flight across Rajasthan to Jaisalmer, (The Golden City).



On arrival we will transfer to a luxury camp in the Thar Desert. Surrounded by huge hills and sand dunes we will be well placed to explore and photograph life in the desert. We will travel using camels and vehicles suitable for the terrain. At Khuri Village we will experience the hospitality and cultural experiences that are so much a part of Rajasthan. Our tented accommodation has en-suite bathrooms.

Desert Camp (B,L,D)

Day 3,4: Jaisalmer and the Thar Desert

After breakfast we will further explore further Thar local village life before taking the short drive to our Jaisalmer city hotel. Jaisalmer is home to a magnificent fort that is a living urban centre, with about 3000 people residing within its walls. It is honeycombed with narrow winding lanes, lined with houses and temples. The fort's golden hue, particularly at sunset, adds to its allure. Exploring Jaisalmer Fort is a journey into the heart of Rajasthan's rich history and culture. We will spend the afternoon of Day 3 and the whole of Day 4 photographing and explor-

ing. Our locations include iconic step wells, Gadisar Lake at sunrise, The Golden Fort at sunrise and sunset. Arguably the men of Jaisalmer wear the biggest turbans in India and the women the most beautifully coloured saris. Jaisalmer Hotel (B,L,D)

Day 5,6: Jodhpur

Today we drive to Jodhpur (4.5 hrs). Approximately halfway we will stop at the village of Kinchen to photograph a unique gathering of Demoiselle Cranes. Jodhpur is the second largest city in Rajasthan popularly known as the Blue City. It is often called the 'Gateway to Thar' as it is literally on the edge of this vast desert. It is also called the Sun City as the sun shines very brightly almost every day of the year, hence the need for cooling blue houses. The photographic opportunities are diverse and you can expect to spend a photographically productive and enjoyable time exploring this fascinating city. Many of the cities buildings, including the houses that are packed into the winding backstreets are vivid shades of blue. The old city, is a mis-mash of Brahmin residences, little temples and cobbled streets stretch out to the sixteenth century city wall. Inside the maze of blueness, photographers can delight in the winding, glittering medieval streets which never seem to lead where you expect them to and are populated by colourful friendly residents. The bazaars are scented by incense, roses, delicious frying sweets and samosas. Here we can buy everything from temple decorations and Indian sweets to snuff and saris. The huge fort of Mehrangarh perched high on a rocky ridge totally dominates the city skyline. It is common to see and photograph a large number of Eagles that gather on most days. We spend three nights



here staying in a well-appointed and authentic Haveli hotel with excellent views of the surrounding 'Blue City'. Haveli Hotel Jodhpur (B,L,D)

Day 7: Ranakpur

After breakfast we leave for Ranakpur (3.5 hrs). Gradually we leave behind the arid plains of the Thar Desert to encounter the green forested Aravelli hills, lazy rivers and unspoilt local villages. The hills are home to much wildlife including Leopards, a safari to see these graceful big

cats is included. We will spend one night in a hotel in the midst of greenery. We will also spend time exploring and photographing some rarely visited local villages. Perhaps the most outstanding and well known feature of Ranakpur is the remarkable Jain Temple. This temple is hidden away and built in the Aravelli Hills. The construction of this UNESCO heritage temple started back in the 15th century and is home to some of the most impress-



ive marble carvings on earth.
Haveli Hotel Ranakpur (B,L,D)

Day 8,9,10: Udaipur

This morning we leave before sunrise for a Leopard Safari. The Leopards live on the periphery and in harmony with the local villages. We will drive with local spotters who are very familiar with the movements of these graceful big cats. After breakfast we journey for two hours to Udaipur, a magical city that has a romantic setting unmatched in Rajasthan and possibly in all India. Otherworldly palaces, temples, havelis and the lovely Lake Pichola. Lazy travel by boat is common in Udaipur which

is often referred to as the 'Venice of India'. In the town we will be wandering and photographing in a maze of crooked, medieval streets, ancient bazaars and flower markets. In addition to the superb and classic sunsets over Lake Pichola, the country roads and areas surrounding Udaipur are most attractive and populated with small traditional villages. The wooded Aravelli Hills stretch away in every direction.

Lakeside Hotel Udaipur (B,L,D)

Day 11,12,13,14: Pushkar Camel Fair

Today we make our way to the holy town of Pushkar (5hrs). Located on the edge of the Thar Desert, the town

is a visually attractive collection of white-washed temples sprawled around the pink-blue waters of the lake that Hindus believe formed when a lotus flower petal slipped from the hand of the God of creation, Lord Brahma. Pushkar is one of the oldest towns in India and its lake can be dated with certainty to at least the 4th century BC. The Pushkar Mela is attended by a vast number of Pilgrims, Sadhus, Holy men, camels, cattle, horses, traders and, according to Hindu belief, thirty three million gods – the entire Hindu pantheon. Our visit is timed to coincide with the main animal trading of Camels, Horses and assorted livestock that kicks off the Mela.



The camel strewn dunes and the non-stop carnival surrounding the serious business of trading makes for rich photography. Pilgrims, villagers, musicians, acrobats and performers mingle together; a pulsating and colourful pageant that is typical of India! As the full moon approaches, scores of pilgrims and orange robed sadhus and Hindu holy men, stream into town to bathe in the

waters of Pushkar Lake. We stay for three nights in a peaceful and lovely hotel located right on the holy lake, we could not be in a better position spiritually or photographically!

Lake Hotel Pushkar (B,L,D)

Day 15: Fly to Delhi

Today there will be a single group transfer of one hour to Ajmer Airport for the flight to Delhi where WPH services finish. Guests may be getting a homeward flight or perhaps requiring an extra night in an airport hotel. This is not included in the price of the holiday but we can arrange this with our colleagues in Delhi. Flight timings and weight limits will be sent out when we have confirmed these with our local colleagues. (B)

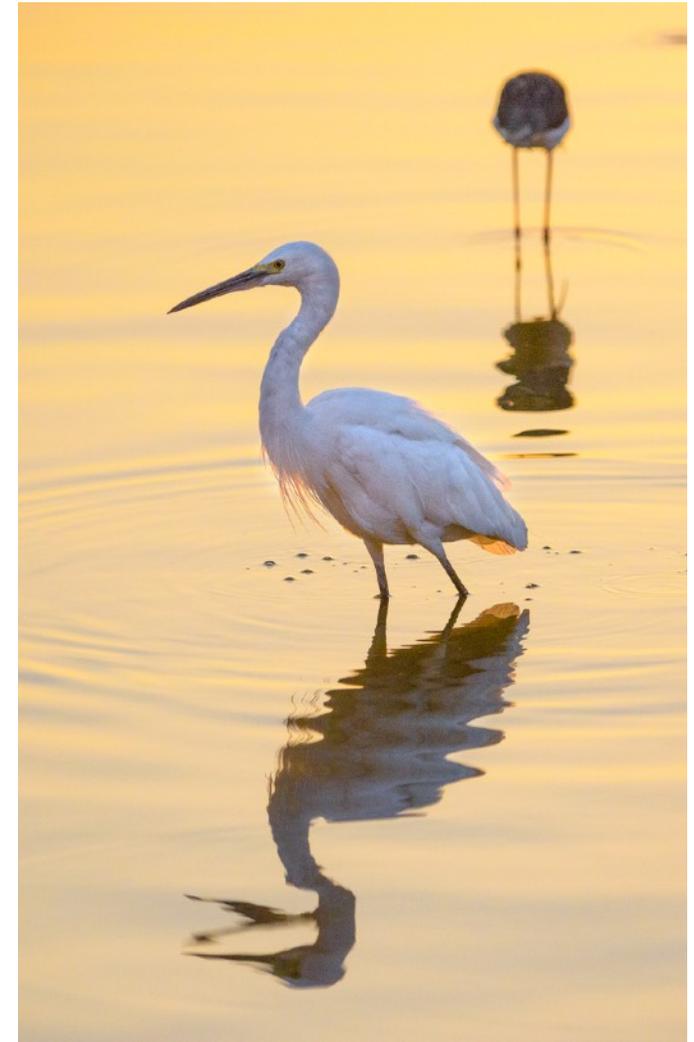
JOINING ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Participants generally arrive at different times of the day/night as they will book their own flights opting for the best deals available. Participants should fly in and out of Delhi International airport as this will tie in with the included transfer. The first night hotel will be available for check-in at mid-day on Day 1. If participants arrive several hours before this they may prefer us to book them in for an early check-in to get some valuable rest. This is not included.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All meals
- All hotels, 14 nights
- Indian guide English speaking
- Spacious AC transport
- Photography tutor/tuition

- English speaking tour guide/organiser
- All entrance fees
- Camera fees except for any video equipment
- Transfers from Delhi Int. Airport to group hotel (Day 1)
- Flight Delhi – Jaisalmer (Day 2)
- Transfer Jodhpur to Ajmer Airport (Day 15)
- Flight Ajmer – Delhi (Day 15)



WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Travel & medical insurance
- Alcohol
- Food/drinks other than meals
- Tips for local staff
- Indian visa
- Transfers onward from Delhi Airport (Day 15)

ACCOMMODATION

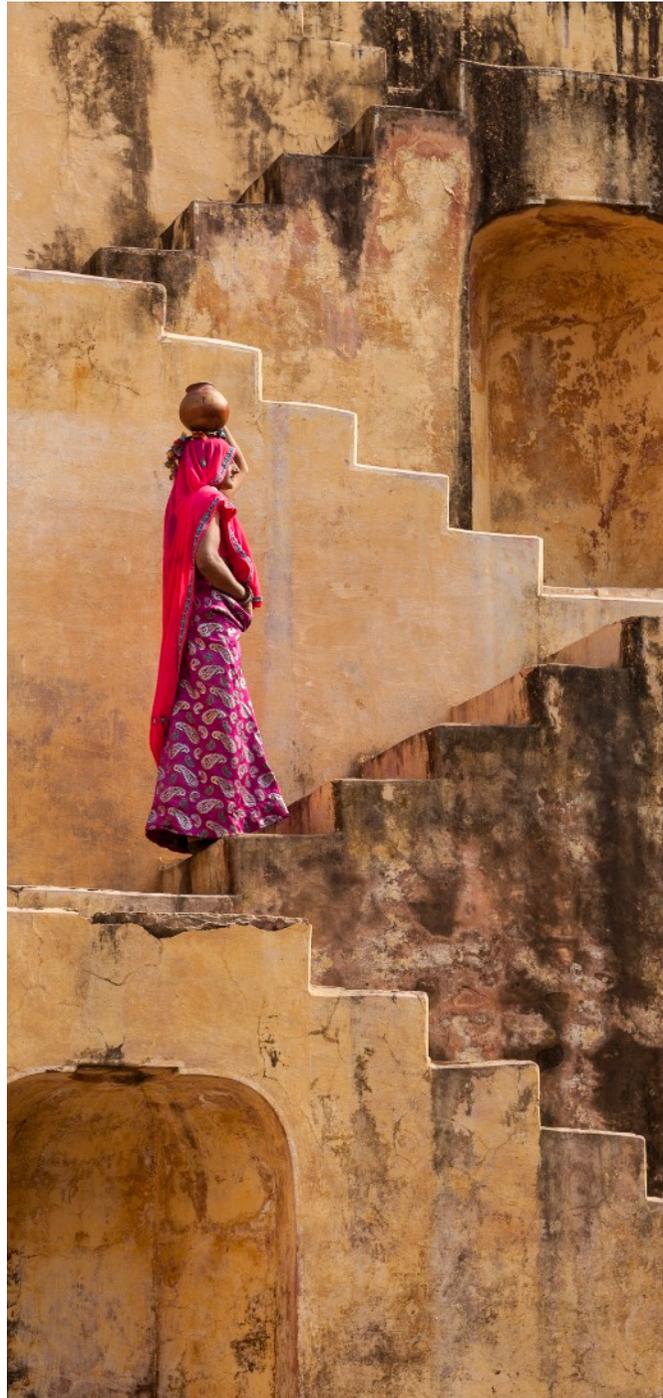
We have chosen accommodation carefully to allow us both access to some exciting locations and as peaceful luxurious retreats from the hustle and bustle of daily Indian life. All accommodation is en-suite. If you do not wish to share a room there will be a single supplement.

FOOD

Western and continental type food is readily available and the Indian cuisine will be of a high standard. We will always take care to eat in establishments that have a high standard of hygiene. Bottled water is always available to buy although many guests bring their own water bottle to re-fill from the hotels filtered water unit. You will get two small bottles of mineral water each day included in the price of the holiday.

SPENDING MONEY

This always depends on personal spending habits. Prices in India tend to be cheaper than the West, although some things like bottled beers can be similar. £200 should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses. This amount will allow money for soft drinks and/or beer and



any non included lunches. If you are intending to buy expensive souvenirs there are cash machines in all of our locations. Bulky items can often be shipped by the seller for a small additional cost.

GUIDANCE ON TIPPING

Tipping is an accepted and expected part of Indian culture, although you should only tip for services which are well done. The total amount that you can expect to pay in tips for your local guide, and drivers, as well as hotel staff, railway porters etc. is around £80 We will offer advice on tipping.

CURRENCY

Indian Rupee. Money can be exchanged either at the airport or the first night hotel. Most participants use a debit card to take money from an ATM machine, if this is your chosen method please inform your bank that you will be travelling to India as sometimes they will temporarily stop transactions until your presence in the location is confirmed.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, repatriation, loss of baggage and holiday cancellation. We will need a copy of your insurance at the time of booking.

VACCINATIONS

You should attend your own doctor and dentist for a check-up. Your doctor will have access to the most up to date information on the required vaccinations for India.



A very good online resource is the Scottish National Health Travellers website at fitfortravel.nhs.uk

PASSPORT & VISAS

A passport (with at least 6 months remaining validity) and a current Indian Visa are required for this trip. Please note that you are required to have a passport with a machine readable bar code. You will need to apply for your Indian Visa in advance, from the relevant issuing authority in your home country. Traditional visas can take a long time to process, so please apply as soon as you send us the booking form and deposit. Please contact us for help with filling in the visa form if needed as we know from experience that it can be a bit daunting! Nowadays you can obtain an E-visa when you arrive at Delhi Airport if you have completed the necessary documentation in advance. We will need your full and accurate name as on your passport for the domestic flights. We will also need your flight details inward and outward at least 6 weeks ahead of your arrival date.

HEALTH

We will have a first aid kit to hand at all times. Please bring your own small personal first aid kit together with any medication for personal use. Hand wash that can be applied without water is always useful for getting rid of germs and removing greasy traces from fingers that will be taking photographs! Only drink bottled or filtered water from special recognised sources (we will advise). Nowadays it is relatively easy to stay healthy and well in India, we will be giving you a full briefing in our Day 1 introduction and get together.

CLIMATE

The climate in November should be warm, clear and sunny. Around 20–25°C in the daytime, dropping to around 15°C at night.



LANGUAGE

The national language of India is Hindi, although there are around 15 other languages spoken (and listed on some of the bank notes). Generally many people speak some English and India is therefore an easy place to make friends and get to know local people. We recommend that you learn some basics such as common greetings. Your efforts to speak a few words of the local language will pay dividends in terms of the warm reaction you receive from the people you meet along the way.

CLOTHING

Generally speaking light cotton clothing allowing freedom of movement will be best suited to the temperatures. Cotton scarves, a sun hat, sun screen, and good sunglasses will protect from the sun. We will sometimes be walking across rough terrain so some quality lightweight walking shoes like trainers are recommended. Although the temperatures will be suitable for shorts, mostly these will not be appropriate for women to wear in



certain areas/temples. Cheap good quality cotton clothing is available in local shops and bazaars.

SUN PROTECTION

The sun can be very strong, so make sure you have some form of sun protection. Sun Lotion with an SPF for UVA & UVB of 15+; good sunglasses with high quality non-tinted lenses and high degree of UV protection.

DAILY ROUTINE

You will need to have adventurous approach in both mind and body. We will be walking in both towns, villages and some well-defined trails. We will often photograph when and where opportunities arise requiring a certain degree of spontaneity from participants. Our journeys will always be punctuated with someone shouting, “stop the bus” when a photo opportunity presents itself. There will also be opportunities for some early morning rises to make

the best of the dawn light, conditions and locations. The sun sets early and dramatically around 18:00, so evenings will be relaxed and focused on socialising, dinner and the opportunity to view the days images. We will always be happy to answer your technical questions and demonstrate programmes such as Lightroom.

KNOW YOUR CAMERA

It's important that you are familiar with the basic operation of your camera, such as setting exposure/AF modes, aperture, shutter speed, ISO, etc. Nowadays there is a huge variety of cameras and systems, and while we will always do our best to help, it's impossible to know every model in depth.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION

- Specially designed camera bags or rucksacks like F-Stop, Lowepro and Peak design.
- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a mirrorless system camera.
- A set of lenses to cover the whole range from wide-angle to telephoto, for example...
For full-frame cameras: 16–35mm wide-angle, 24–105mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom. For crop format cameras: 10–20mm wide-angle, 17–50mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom. See also ‘Special Lens Considerations’ below.
- Spare camera
- Travel tripod (optional)
- Filters – neutral density, graduated filters and polarisers if you use these.

- Lens cloth
- Sensor cleaning device (optional)
- Lightweight 'trekking' absorbent towel for drying cameras and equipment
- Sufficient memory cards for the whole holiday as it may not be possible to buy more during the trip.
- A laptop with the image editing applications of your choice, essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor. All places we stay in have Wi-Fi.
- Backup storage device (optional)
- Spare batteries and chargers
- All the electrical sockets are compatible with European two-pin, so you might need a travel plug adapter.

SPECIAL LENS CONSIDERATIONS

If you own any fast (f/1.4 or f/2.0) prime lenses such as 24,35,50 or 85mm (on full-frame), pop them in your bag. They will be very useful for photographing handheld at dusk & dawn and in dimly lit locations such as temples and markets. As a general rule the 85 makes a fabulous portrait lens while the 24 and 35 are excellent for capturing wider views.

PARTNERS

Although this is primarily a photography holiday, non-photographer partners will be very welcome as there are many options and interesting possibilities in addition to taking photographs.



MORE QUESTIONS?

While we hope that this information has answered most of your questions about the holiday, we know it will not give you all the information you need. If you have any more questions, please get in touch. Talking to us on the phone (we will always call you back) can often be a quick way of sorting out individual questions. It also helps us to get to know each other before the holiday.

BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY

Fill in the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on +44 (0)1270 440222.

LINKS

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website. Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)

