



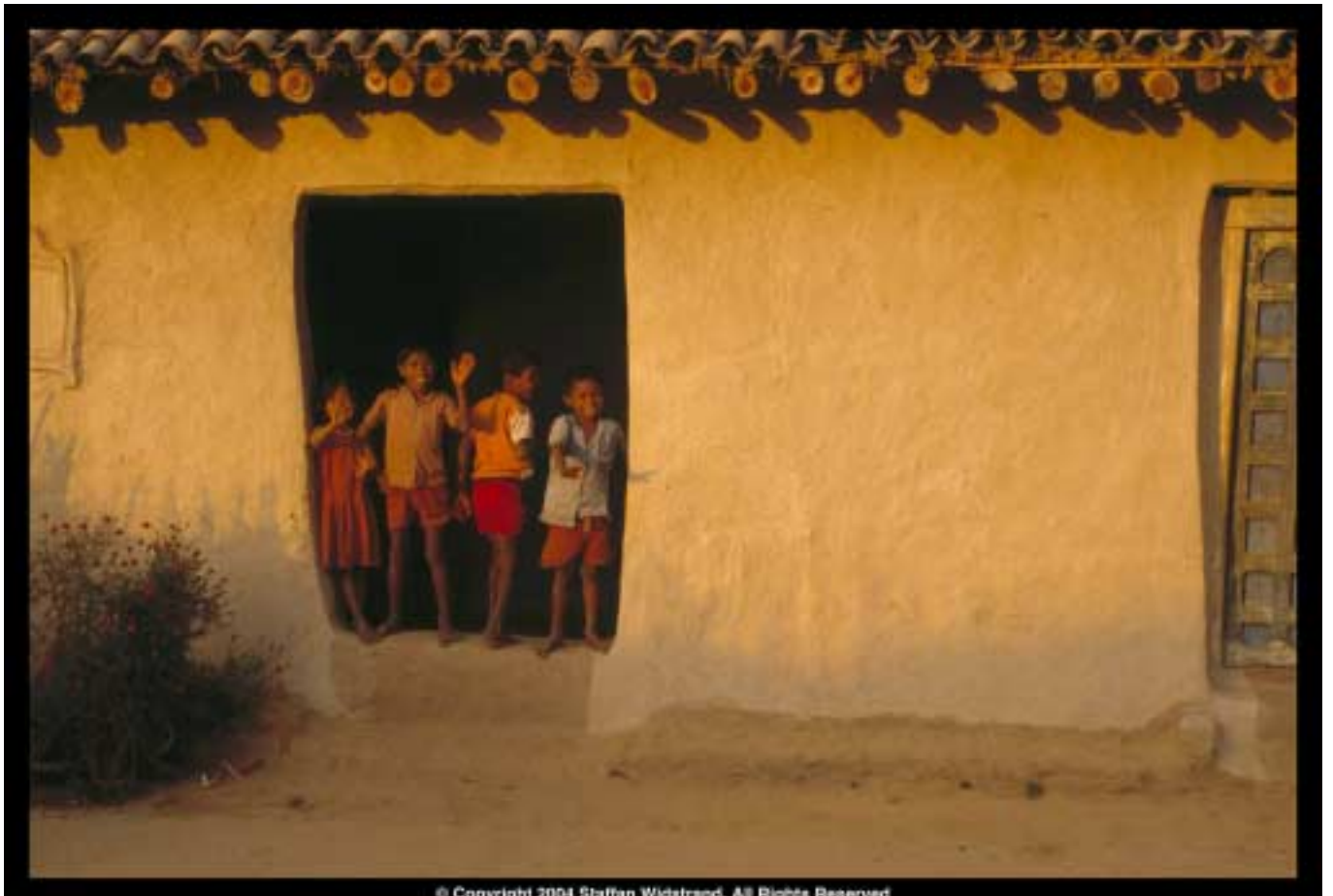
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# RAJASTHAN - INDIA

ON THE HORSES WITH  
EARS THAT TOUCH EACH  
OTHER



# ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR RAJASTHAN ADVENTURE?

The velvet dark night of India surrounds us, as we step off our Marwari horses by the campsite. Music is playing in the air, the musicians are probably in the dinner tent, where after-ride drinks are being served. This is a spicy, hot cocktail of colours and smells.

Truly exotic.

Truly an adventure.



Come along to one of the most colourful of the Indian states, Rajasthan. The name itself is an adventure. The Marwari horse is a local breed that has ears that touch each other, and is a sturdy, rather slim but strong horse. Extremely easy to ride, and with a very comfortable canter.

## SMALL GROUPS, CARING GUIDES

My groups are hardly ever bigger than eight people, making it possible for each guest to feel not just like any other guest. Here in Rajasthan we are cared for by a set of incredibly interesting people. We are guided by a very local, very colourful person like Durga Singh – a person who will help you translate and interpret both nature and culture. And anything else you need, this man is truly a fixer!

## AMAZING FAIRS

This is an adventurous full-immersion into two of the huge Fairs that take place in Rajasthan in March and November each year. We camp close by the fairs – after several days of riding to get there – and go visit the people selling their animals. We can try out horses for sale, and we always have help from our guides to bargain and enjoy ourselves. Even if we do not buy a horse, perhaps a saddle or some equipment might suit you better? Or how about that camel?

## A SPECIAL TRAIL RIDE

I only do these rides in March and November, during the Balotra and Pushkar Fairs. There is also a possibility to go on a Black-buck Talchaper sanctuary ride, in March.

## FULL BOARD AND MORE

Our small outfitter takes care of both our lunches and our dinners. There are some travelling musicians who accompany our group, and one person who is specialized in massage can take care of your back after a long day's riding. There is total relaxation going on in the evenings. Durga Singh and his family and friends will then tell you stories of the old Rajasthan, and of the new one too.

## RAJASTHAN. Just taste the word.

**We ride in deserts and over grasslands, we visit horse fairs and cattle fairs - the Balotra Fair is not as well known as the Puskar Fair, but less touristis. Well worth visiting.**

## RIDES OFFERED IN 2005

Blackbuck Sanctuary ride, 12 day tour:

**March 10-22**

Balotra Horse Fair, 11 day tour:

**March 28 - April 7**

Pushkar Horse & Camel Fair, 14 day tour:

**November 1-14**



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# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM: TALCHAPER BLACKBUCK SANCTUARY RIDE

Talchaper Black Buck Sanctuary Ride 10 - 22 March 2005

**Day 1-** 10 March 2005 Arrival New Delhi, hotel.

**Day 2** Morning drive to Nawalgarh (6 – 7 hrs) to the Roop Niwas Palace, a fascinating blend of European and Rajput style of architecture. Devender Singh will introduce each member to his horse and also advise them how to ride them. Overnight Roop Niwas Palace.

**Day 3** Morning ride out with picnic breakfast, return in time for lunch. Afternoon freetime at the palace, then sightseeing of Nawalgarh by car with guide. Overnight Roop Niwas Palace.

**Day 4** Morning ride around Nawalgarh. During the ride visit farm houses and village homes of people who keep local horse breed the Marwari horses. Traditional folk entertainment and dinner.

Overnight Roop Niwas Palace.

## CROSS COUNTRY SAFARI BEGINS

**Day 5** Ride around 26 kms through semi desert areas with small farms and countryside dotted with Khejri trees. En route picnic lunch. Overnight in deluxe shamiyana oriental tented camp.

**Day 6** Ride through semi desert farm countryside to reach a small woodlot and dry waterhole, surrounded by KER bushes many flocks of bluebull antelopes may be seen around camp site. Overnight in camp.

**Day 7** Morning ride through semi desert region and Fatehpur Beed. Picnic lunch near a typical Shekhawati architecture water tank "Johda". Overnight Camp near a ruined travellers home overlooking the entire Beed. This is a most beautiful campsite.

**Day 8** Riding west today you will enter territory of the Bikaner state. The sudden change in terrain to large sand dunes is surprising. Going will be slow after lunch. The campsite is in a beautiful small woodlot at the base of a temple situated on a rock edifice.

**Day 9** Today, leaving the sand dunes, you will come to flat loam soil ground. Most of the ride will be through or around the peripheries of Tal Chappar the famous black buck game sanctuary. Scarves or turbans will be useful as fine dust rises when you ride past this flat ground. You will get to see black buck deer and also other deer species during the ride. Overnight Camp will be set up on the peripheries of the sanctuary.

**Day 10** Full day ride and explore the area around the peripheries Talchappar Wildlife Sanctuary. It has the largest herds of blackbuck antelope in India, besides chinkara gazelle, desert cat, desert fox and other wildlife. Flocks of demoiselle and common cranes can be seen at nearby lakes and wet lands. Bird life include sand grouse, quails, cream coloured desert courser. Picnic lunch. Overnight Camp will be set up on the peripheries of the sanctuary.

**Day 11** Early morning ride around and say goodbye to your horses. After breakfast drive (3.5 hrs) to Bikaner. On arrival Lunch at Bheruvilas hotel, after lunch sightseeing of Bikaner, an ancient city founded in 12<sup>th</sup> century and is one of the 21 Maharaja states which combine to form the state Rajasthan and merged in the republic of India in 1947. Evening transfer to the Railway station for overnight Train to Delhi. (Air conditioned class)

**Day 12** 22 March

Early morning arrive in Delhi, transfer to day use hotel at Delhi. Evening transfer to the airport for flight home.

**Price: 2600 Euro.**



## Included in our price:

Accommodation in a twin-share basis with attached bathrooms/ shower-rooms as stated in itinerary

All meals from day two to day eleven

Services of grooms to look after horses

Accompanying 4 WD jeep to carry hand baggage, icebox with beverages etc

Campfire, folk music entertainment everyday at the camps

Sightseeing tours & excursions as specified.

Guide and entrance tickets at Bikaner

Transport car/ van /deluxe coach from Tal chapar to Bikaner, sightseeing of Bikaner and railway station transfer.

Our deluxe camps on safari have fully furnished oriental tents which have regular camp cots with complete bed.

Linen, floor covering, chairs, adjoining toilet and bath tents. Towels, soap, hot water provided for bath

morning and evening .

A regular dining tent with sit - down arrangements.

All meals have a choice of Indian and continental dishes.

## Not included in our price:

Trip to reach Delhi, India

Transport from Delhi to Nawalgarh

Travel insurance

Telephone calls, faxes and all forms of communication

Airport taxes

Items of personal nature such as drinks, laundry, sundries etc

Single room or sole occupancy costs supplements in Delhi

Personal service tips and gratuities

## Useful Items to bring:

Soft water bottle for the saddle bag, Riding cap or helmet Sheep skin for saddle, Small torch or flash light, Sun hat and sun cream, Bath gown, Lightweight raincoat, Leather chaps or minichaps, camera battery charger with a cigarette lighter lead (for hooking up to our jeep battery).



# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM: BALOTRA HORSE FAIR

## Balotra Horse Fair Safari 28 March - 7 April 2005

**Day 1** - 28 March 2005 Arrival Delhi Transfer to Country Resort.

**Day 2** Delhi-> Flight to Jodhpur. Transfer to Hotel Ratan Vilas Palace, a family run hotel.

After lunch drive 45 minutes to the base camp where our horses and safari team await us. Choose horses- first riding tour around the countryside to try out our mounts. Return to Ratan Vilas Palace for dinner and overnight.

**Day 3** Sightseeing of Mehrangarh Fort and explore parts of the old city of Jodhpur. Late afternoon drive to the base camp riding in the country side. Overnight Ratan Vilas Palace.

### CROSS COUNTRY SAFARI BEGINS

**Day 4** Morning drive to base camp to start the safari. Each day you will cover a distance of 25 to 30 Kms riding through open countryside, farms and villages. Overnight stay will be in tents and each evening swing to the rhythm of the camp's folk musicians. A Camp barber who also does massages will be available to relieve you of any aches and pains of the day's ride.

**Day 5-7** Ghana/Karmavas/Asotra: Morning and evening rides with a halt for picnic lunch and rest. En route sightseeing of places of tourist interest and also learn about the local culture and meet local people.

**Day 8** Asotra /Balotra Fair (Tilwara): Evening reach Tilwara. Explore the fair grounds on arrival. Evening campfire and folk entertainment.

### BALOTRA HORSE & CAMEL FAIR

**Day 9-10** Balotra Fair: Morning and evening ride. Afternoons explore the fair grounds. Evening campfire and folk entertainment. Overnights in Camp.

**Day 11**, 7th April 2005 Balotra Fair /Jodhpur /Delhi Morning ride around fair ground. After lunch drive to Jodhpur (4 h). Dinner at Ratan Vilas. Rooms will be available for wash & change. Later transfer to airport for flight to Delhi. Transfer to international airport for flight back home.

**Price: 2990 Euro**

### Included in our price:

Accommodation on a twin-share basis with attached bathrooms/showers rooms as stated in itinerary  
Sightseeing tours & excursions as specified  
Entrance tickets at Jodhpur fort  
Airport/ Railway Station transfers as specified at Jodhpur  
All meals during safari and at Jodhpur  
Service of English speaking guide, local representatives, tour managers (Wherever required)  
Transport Private car / Jeep / tempo traveler Van  
All meals starting from arrival in Jodhpur and safari camps, till departure from Jodhpur.

### Not included in our price:

Trip to reach Delhi, India  
Insurance  
Items of personal nature such as Alcoholic/ Non Alcoholic drinks, laundry & sundries  
Single room or sole occupancy costs supplements  
Personal service tips and gratuities.  
Services of arrival departure airport transfer at Delhi

Hotel in Delhi and air/train tickets Delhi-Jodhpur-Delhi can be arranged by our associate travel agency in Delhi.

## Rajasthan – heartland of the Marwari horse

A ride from Jodhpur to the heartland of the famous Marwari horse to visit India's biggest rural horse and cattle fair at Tilwara (Balotra).

The safari recreates the age-old charm of horseback travel. Let your senses sway to the romance of the desert as you pass forts, palaces and historical landmarks. Gallop on the desert plains, canter through the hills or just get off and trek along. Spend evenings in camps and swing to the folk dances or just warm up close to the fire. This trail is a photographer's paradise.



## Balotra Horse & Camel Fair

The owners of the animals camp in the dry riverbed. They may use their carts or make temporary dwellings from acacia bushes. The prosperous horse owners and traders bring their tents and attendant staff, cooks etc. The animal owners occupy the dry riverbed for many kilometers. They cook, sleep & trade in these temporary dwellings called "AALI" in the local dialect. At sunrise and sunset horse owners display their horses riding up and down the riverbed. Audiences and buyers cheer them. Anybody can accost the riders and bid or negotiate the deal.

It is a rare spectacle to see 5 to 7 thousand horses, 15 to 20 thousand camels and about 30 to 40 thousand oxen and cattle and their owners in the flat expanse of the dry sandy riverbed.

The market stands sell all kinds of goods. Camel carts, water tanks, earthenware utensils, rugs, ropes, horse tack, camel saddles, colorful girdles, beds, doors, brass, copper and steel pots and pans. Many stores of recycled material like conveyor belts, parachute materials, musical instruments & more...

The fair is a photographer paradise. It takes a visitor to atmosphere of biblical times. One feels to have walked into the past.

Our safari camp is set up a kilometer away, on the banks of the river bed overlooking the fair site. Guests go on their horses and ride around the fair. At a pre-decided point our grooms await them so they can leave their horses and walk around if they want to. Guests have to be warned that temperatures in March are warmer than January/February and can go up to 28-32°C. However they will be more than rewarded by this extraordinary event and will enjoy the visit immensely. This fair is much larger than the famous Pushkar or Nagaur camel and cattle fair and is not frequented by tourists.

At sunset and sunrise there is spectacular display of horse rider on the flat riverbed. It is an unspoiled horse fair.

### Useful Items to bring:

Soft water bottle for the saddle bag, Riding cap or helmet Sheep skin for saddle, Small torch or flash light, Sun hat and sun cream, Bath gown, Lightweight raincoat, Leather chaps or minichaps, camera battery charger with a cigarette lighter lead (for hooking up to our jeep battery)..

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM: PUSHKAR FAIR SAFARI

## Pushkar Fair Safari 1 - 14th November 2004

13 nights 14 days

**Day 1** - 1 November 2004 New Delhi arrival, transfer to Country Resort .

**Day 2** Morning drive to Nawalgarh (6 – 7 hrs). Royal Welcome on arrival at the Roop Niwas Palace with flower garlands, folk music, horses, camels and a non alcoholic welcome drink. Evening meet at the stables for tea, distribution of welcome gifts then ride around the palace grounds to choose your horse. Dinner. Overnight Roop Niwas Palace.

**Day 3** Morning ride out with picnic breakfast, return in time for lunch. Afternoon sightseeing of Nawalgarh by car or camel buggy with guide. Overnight Roop Niwas Palace.

**Day 4** Morning ride out with picnic lunch followed by visit to various farms and meet village folks. Overnight Roop Niwas Palace. Crosscountry trail commences.

### CROSS COUNTRY SAFARI BEGINS

**Day 5** Ride through dry riverbeds and shady acacias, with the Aravali mountains at the horizon. Horses and kitchen tents are placed under trees for the night, while guests sleep in the rooms at Birla Rest House.

**Day 6** Morning ride in the southwest direction towards Danta following the mountain range again down a dry riverbed to Raghunathgarh. Halt for Lunch at mid-day. Now you approach a large marshy tract with Salt Pans. Evening camp site is on a flat area.

**Day 7** The riding terrain is through a semi desert region with lots of Khajri trees and some farmhouses with mud huts. Halt for Lunch at Kochar Village. We camp near a small dry water hole surrounded by accacia bushes.

**Day 8** The ride goes past the village Ghatwa. From a high sand dune adjoining the mountain ranges the riders will get a breathtaking view of the five famous forts of this region. Lunch is at a ancient water hole. Afternoon riding towards the camp, set on the backdrop of Shyamgarh fort surrounded by Ker bushes.

**Day 9** Morning ride towards Nawa Salt Lake. Not to be missed are the beautiful sunrise and sunsets while riding through this area. Overnight at Camp.

**Day 10** Today we ride through the Salt Lake for 8 to 10 km then follow a stony track along mountain ranges to reach our lunch spot Paner. After lunch we ride into farming and sheep country to reach our camp set up in a dry watering areawith a backdrop of Kuncha grass and picturesque Aravali Mountains in the background.

**Day 11** Today we ride through more fertile land. Most of the farmers here are from the Gujar community with colourful dresses. En route we will visit a Gujar shepard's home, and after lunch we ride into a valley to go through a mountain pass and ravines to reach our last campsite on this safari.

**Day 12** Today we finally arrive at Pushkar by lunchtime. Pushkar is surrounded by orchards and rose gardens. Afternoon visiting the Pushkar Horse, Camel and Cattle Fair grounds. The fair takes place each November when traders and pilgrims flock to Pushkar for livestock trading, camel display and other festivities  
Overnight in the tourist camp.

**Day 13** In Pushkar horse riding and exploring the incredible camel & cattle fair. Ride morning and evening with Shri. Devendra Singh ji. Overnight in the tourist camp.

**Day 14** Monday 14 November - Morning visit to the fair and then drive to Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan, in private car/minibus. Sightseeing of Jaipur City, visit to Amer Fort with elephant ride and lunch included. Evening transfer to the airport for flight home.

**Price: 3150 Euro.**

### Included in our price:

Arrival pick-up services at Delhi  
Accommodation in a twin-share basis with attached bathrooms/ shower-rooms as stated in itinerary  
Sightseeing tours & excursions as specified  
Transfers as specified in program  
All meals during safari and in Jodhpur  
Services of grooms to look after horses  
Accompanying 4 wd jeep to carry hand baggage, baggage, icebox with beverages etc  
Campfire, folk music entertainment at the camps  
Service of English speaking guide and local guide.  
Transport Private car/Jeep/Van.  
Elephant ride to see the Amber Fort.

Our deluxe camps on safari have fully furnished oriental tents with regular camp cots with complete bedding. Linen, floor covering, chairs, adjoining toilet and bath tents. Towels, soap, hot water provided for bath both morning and evening. A regular dining tent with sit-down arrangements. All meals have a choice of Indian and continental dishes.

### Not included in our price:

Trip to reach Delhi, India  
Transfer to Nawalgarh from Delhi or Jaipur  
Journey from Jaipur to onward destination.  
Travel insurance  
Telephone calls, faxes and all forms of communication.  
Airport taxes.  
Items of personal nature such as drinks, laundry, sundries etc  
Single room costs supplements  
Personal service tips and gratuities.

**Hotel in Delhi and transfer to Nawalgarh from Delhi or Jaipur can be arranged by our associate travel agency in Delhi. Ask us for a pricing estimate!**

### Useful Items to bring:

Soft water bottle for the saddle bag, Riding cap or helmet, Sheep skin for saddle, Small torch or flash light, Sun hat and sun cream, Bath gown, Lightweight raincoat, Leather chaps or minichaps, camera battery charger with a cigarette lighter lead (for hooking up to our jeep battery).

