

Mehrangarh Fort in Jodhpur



India – Rajasthan Musical Expedition

12 days – Oct 2-13 2014

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: June 1 2014

India – 12 days:
October 2-13 2014

Itinerary

Day 1 Thursday

Delhi You will be met at the comfortable South Delhi guesthouse, The Colonels Retreat, by musician and anthropologist Georgie Pope and Gopal Singh, for a welcome dinner and music.

Day 2 Friday

Bikaner Today you will experience the famous Indian train system, and meet some of its 1.4 million employees! We will arrive in the bustling city of Bikaner in the early evening, in time for a beautiful concert of classical music from Sarod and Sitar playing twins Asit and Amit Goswami.

Day 3 Saturday

Bikaner This morning we'll have a tour of Bikaner's markets and havelis (traditional houses), with Gopal Singh, a local who has fought hard to help protect the city's unique heritage. We will finish the tour with a visit to the studio of extraordinary miniature painter Mahaveer Goswami, whose work is influenced by the Japanese miniaturists. The afternoon will be free to shop or kick back and relax by the hotel pool.

Day 4 Sunday

Bikaner-Pokhran Today we'll head west and spend time at the home of wonderful singer and percussionist Khasem Khan and his extended family of Langa musicians. Langa are a professional caste of musicians who perform special songs at the births, deaths and weddings of their patrons, and today for us! We will learn about the local pit-loom weavers and visit the small cooperative shop in Pokhran Fort to see (and perhaps buy, if you like them!) their hand-woven wares.

Day 5 Monday

Pokhran-Phalodi-Jaisalmer Today we head further into the desert towards the golden city of Jaisalmer. We will meet the famous sarengi player Lakha Khan, visit the astonishing lake at Phalodi (with its yearly visitation by thousands of cranes) and then check into our haveli hotel in Jaisalmer.

Day 6 Tuesday

Jaisalmer In the morning we will pay a visit to the stunning sandstone edifice that is Jaisalmer Fort. In the afternoon, we'll meet the Manganiyars – the musicians patronized by kings and now, with the help of people like Komal Kothari, John Singh and Roysten Abel, famous throughout the world. Jaisalmer's 'Artists' Colony' may look rather unassuming, but we will find magic there.

Day 7 Wednesday

Jaisalmer-Jodhpur Today we complete our pilgrimage to India's most spectacular music festival – the Rajasthan International Folk Festival. We'll be there in time for the opening concert in Jodhpur City's main square.

Days 8-10 Thursday-Saturday

Jodhpur Rajasthan International Folk Festival (The RIFF). There will also be the opportunity to discover the city of Jodhpur on a heritage tour. Your guide Georgie Pope worked at the festival for three years and is available for questions, help and advice throughout its duration. The show is all in the Mehrangarh Fort. To enjoy everything they've programmed, you won't get much sleep... but you probably won't want to!

Day 11 Sunday

Jodhpur-Delhi A stunning dawn performance marks the end of the festival. We'll transfer to Jodhpur airport in time for our flights to Delhi and then spend the night in a hotel not far from the airport.

Day 12 Monday

Delhi Our tour ends today so we say farewell and send you off on your onward journeys.

India – 2 night Agra extension
September 30 - October 2 2014

The 2 night pre-tour extension to Agra starts on Tuesday 30 September:

Itinerary

Day 1 Tuesday

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 Wednesday

Agra You will catch an early train from Delhi to Agra so that you have almost a full day in Agra. A local guide will accompany you on this overnight excursion to Agra. For the rest of today you will be guided around the Magnificent Taj Mahal and the Red Fort, learning about the history and stories surrounding these iconic sites.

Day 3 Thursday (Day 1 of main tour)

Agra-Delhi This morning will be another early start to catch the sunrise over the Taj Mahal before catching the train back to Delhi. You will be transferred back to our Delhi hotel 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 2-13, 2014 (ex-Delhi)

Tour Price £1,650 per person

Tour includes:

- 11 nights twin-share hotel accommodation
- Breakfast each day; four lunches on days 2,3, 4 & 5; one dinner on day 1
- Music events as listed in the itinerary and passes for the Rajasthan International Folk Festival (RIFF)
- Sightseeing and transfers as listed
- The services of your travel leader from *Songlines Music Travel/Sound Travels*

Single supplement: £295 per person

India 13-day tour: October 1-13, 2014 (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 £590 per person in conjunction with this tour. Flights are overnight from London to Delhi making your tour 13 days ex-London. You can book flights yourself or we can book them for you.

India 2-night Agra Extension:

September 30-October 2, 2014 (ex-Delhi)

Tour Price £250 per person

Tour includes:

- 2 nights twin-share hotel accommodation
- Breakfast each day
- Sightseeing, trains and transfers as listed
- The services of a local English speaking guide throughout.

Single supplement: £85 per person.

If you are taking up the Agra extension you would need to depart from the UK on September 29 to arrive on September 30.

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.