

INDIA

DIWALI IN RAJASTHAN THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

18 - 30 OCTOBER 2019

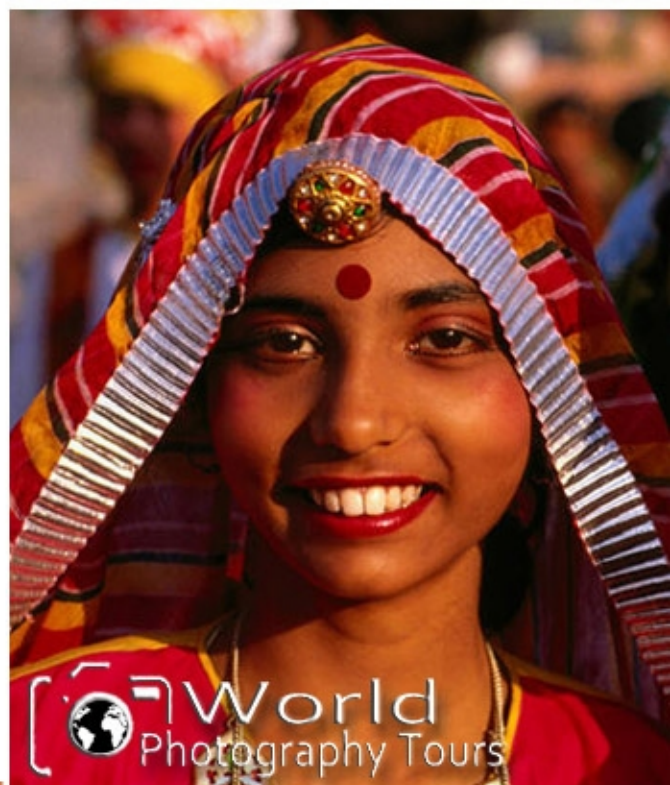




A few years ago India started a campaign to increase the number of tourists traveling to India. It was called: "Incredible India". India is a gallery, and one of the most spectacular galleries in India is Rajasthan. With its vivid blues, pinks, oranges and reds splashed across its buildings, landscapes and people a potential photographic masterpiece exists around every corner. Rajasthan is truly a photographer's dream.

One of the most incredible times to be in India is during one of its biggest days of celebration, Diwali the Festival of Lights. Diwali symbolizes the victory of light over darkness and at this time the country is ablaze of colour and fire with lanterns and candles adorning people's houses, diyas (floating candles) drifting down rivers and fireworks filling the night skies. Join us on this unique tour to capture the incredible spectacle that is Diwali.

"Incredible India" indeed!



ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrive in Delhi

Following the arrival at New Delhi's International Airport and hotel check in we will visit Swami Akshardham a Hindu temple showcasing traditional Hindu and Indian culture, spirituality and architecture.



Day 2 Delhi

On day 2 we will explore the heart of Old Delhi with a walk around the narrow alleys of **Chandni Chowk** and its colorful aromatic Spice Markets.

Later we will go to the calm spiritual oasis known as Bangla Sahib Gurudwara which is one of the most spectacular Sikh houses of worship in the country.





Day 3 Delhi - Mandawa

After an early morning breakfast we commence our journey to Mandawa. In the afternoon we will explore this stunning town on a walking tour. Mandawa is known as an open air art gallery because of the colourful religious to erotic frescoes that adorn its palatial mansions. Every home here is beautified with vividly-painted murals that illuminate the arid landscape.

In the evening enjoy dinner and an overnight stay at the spectacular Castle Mandawa (see adjacent photograph).



Day 4 Mandawa- Bikaner

After breakfast we will head to Bikaner. On the way we will stop at the fascinating Mata Karni Temple famous for its dedication to the rat Gods.

Once we arrive in Bikaner we will head to the Raisar camp in the Thar Desert. Whilst visiting the camp you will have the unique experience of riding a camel through the sand dunes, watching a live performance of folk musicians and Kalbelia dancers and dinner on top of a 70 ft high Sand Dune. Whilst in Bikaner we will be staying at the spectacular Laxmi Niwas Palace. (see adjacent photograph).



Day 5 Bikaner- Jodhpur

After an early breakfast we will take you to one of India's best preserved forts the **Junagarh Fort**. Revel in the architectural splendor, as you take an intimate look at this imposing fort and the photographic opportunities it presents.

Later in the day we travel on to Jodhpur. Jodhpur is an oasis in Thar Desert. The old city, founded in 1459 is surrounded by a 10 km long wall. The massive Mehrangarh Fort overlooks the city and the red sandstone palaces within the fort form one of the most impressive complexes in Rajasthan. Jodhpur is also called "Blue City" because of the indigo-washed houses in the old town.





Day 6 Jodhpur

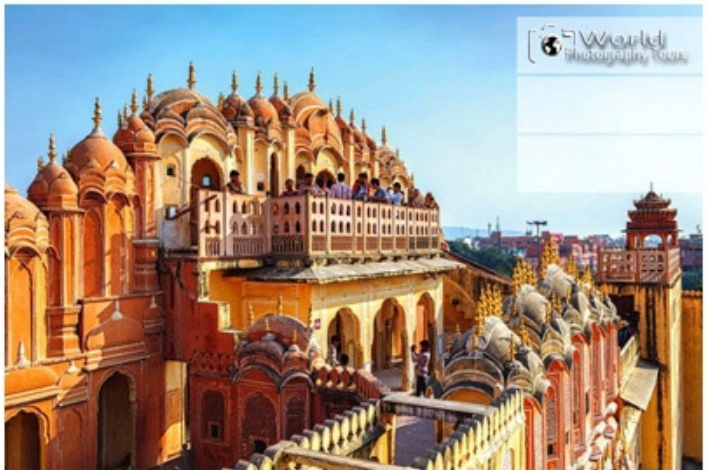
In the morning we will embark on a photographic exploration of the "Blue City". We will take in the **Mehrangarh Fort** arguably one of the most impressive and formidable forts in Rajasthan, set on top of 125m high hill overlooking the indigo houses below.

In the afternoon we will wander the quaint narrow alleys of the old town and visit a local Brahmin (the highest class of Hindus in the caste system) family's home for a fascinating session of street photography.



Day 7 Jodhpur – Jaipur

After breakfast we will make our way to Jaipur. After arriving in Jaipur we will go for an evening photo shoot of the ornate Hawa Mahal. It is extremely intricate in its pink sandstone carving. Following that we will visit the vibrant "Pink City" Bazaar district.



Day 8 Jaipur

After Breakfast drive just outside Jaipur to the ancient capital of Amber to see the fabulous Amber Fort. Enjoy the unique experience of an elephant ride to the top of the fort, before capturing the sprawling elaborate complex of courtyards and halls.

In the afternoon explore the gorgeous City Palace, which is an overwhelming complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways.





Day 9 Jaipur - Abhaneri - Fatehpur Sikri - Agra

In the morning we will make an early start for Agra. Along the way we will stop to photograph the Abhaneri Stepwell which was built over a thousand years ago and is one of the largest and most beautifully geometrically designed stepwells in the world. As we get closer to Agra we will stop at Fatehpur Sikri for a photography session at the abandoned capital city of the Mughals. Even today it stands magnificent – with majestic palaces, and the five-tiered Panch Mahal.



Day 10 Agra (Diwali - Festival of Lights)

In the morning after breakfast at the hotel, we will proceed to the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal is everything that has been said about it and more. Taking 22 years and 20,000 men to build, the white marble was quarried 200 miles away and was transported to the site by a fleet of 1000 elephants. This majestic building is truly one of the wonders of the world.

In the evening enjoy the spectacle that is "Diwali" the festival of lights. The festival gets its name from the row (avali) of clay lamps (deepa) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness.





[World Photography Tours]

DAY 11 Agra Delhi -Varanasi

Following an early morning drive back to Delhi we will board a flight for Varanasi.

Varanasi is the spiritual capital of India, the city of learning, and for Hindus the city of departure from this to eternal life.. After arriving in the afternoon we will explore the streets and alleyways of Varanasi capturing devotees and street life. In the evening we will photograph the mesmerizing Aarti on the Ghats from boats on the Ganga.



DAY 12 Varanasi - Delhi

Get up for an early morning boat ride to shoot a myriad of interesting faces worshipping at the Ghats. One of the integral parts of the city is it's Ghats. Ghats are embankments made in steps of stone slabs along the river bank where pilgrims perform ritual ablutions. There are literally hundreds of Ghats in Varanasi so we will spend most of the day in and around the Ghats capturing this unique colorful, spiritual life.

Later in the day we will catch a return flight to Delhi.



DAY 13 Depart Delhi by International Flight





ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Your Guides

Adam Lazar

Adam is a travel-writer based in Budapest. For his outstanding journalistic work, he received an Acknowledgement of Merit from US President Bill Clinton. Following an offer from Hungarian Television for the post of Editor-in-Chief he moved to Budapest.

He has been visiting and leading groups touring India since 1998. He has written and directed some 80 documentary films about Indian cultural, economic, religious and social issues. He is a travel-writer to many among such prominent magazines as National Geographic.

Francis Keating

Francis has worked as a professional photographer for over 16 years and in that time travelled the world practicing his craft and teaching photography to aspiring photographers from around the world.

He has held photographic exhibitions in Australia, Taiwan and Hungary. The themes of his exhibitions have varied greatly from the Surrealist Nudes in "Tides" to the very humanistic portrait of life on the Yangtze River at the turn of the millennium in "The River".

His photographs have featured in European art magazine Photo Art and the American magazine Carrie Leigh Nude (now a permanent holding of Trove, the National Library of Australia). His travel shots from Albania were highlighted in National Geographic and Explorer magazines.



The Tour

This incredible 13 day journey includes air conditioned bus travel throughout Rajasthan, domestic return flights from Delhi to Varanasi, all excursions and entrance fees to museums and historic sites, tourist and photographic guides, all accommodation, breakfasts and dinners for just \$4290 Aus (per person) (Single supplement \$770)

For further information on all the inclusions, exclusions and terms and conditions please visit www.worldphotographytours.com

For booking information contact :

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ABN 81797861178

Please note : The itinerary may be subject to change depending on altered circumstances.



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