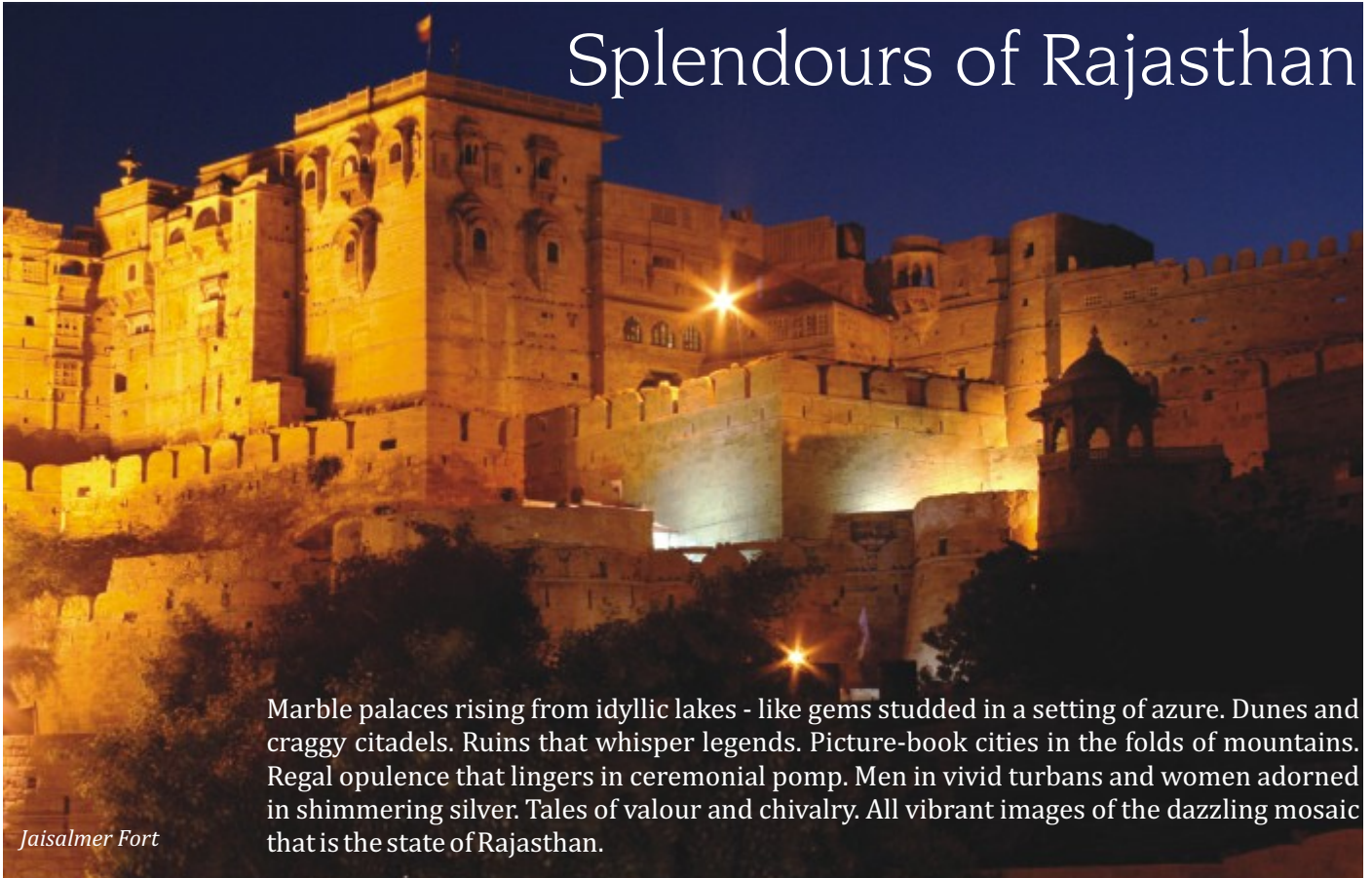


Splendours of Rajasthan



Jaisalmer Fort

Marble palaces rising from idyllic lakes - like gems studded in a setting of azure. Dunes and craggy citadels. Ruins that whisper legends. Picture-book cities in the folds of mountains. Regal opulence that lingers in ceremonial pomp. Men in vivid turbans and women adorned in shimmering silver. Tales of valour and chivalry. All vibrant images of the dazzling mosaic that is the state of Rajasthan.



Lake Palace, Udaipur



Sundown desert safari, Jaisalmer



Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur



Qutub Minar, Delhi

DELHI

In Delhi, the capital of India, history brushes shoulders with modernity quite casually, and this endows it with an ancient soul with a unique appeal. The city, or rather the seven cities of Delhi prior to Lutyens Delhi has also witnessed the rise and fall of many empires. The majestic monuments in Delhi reflect its rich, glorious and troubled past in stones for you to see...and also hear.



A haveli at Mandawa

MANDAWA

Mandawa is one of the major towns in semi desert Shekhawati region of Rajasthan. This area is known for its beautiful painted havelis (mansions) constructed by the merchants of the region. Most of the buildings date from the 18th century to early 20th century, and the entire area has been dubbed by some as the 'open air gallery of Rajasthan'. There are forts, castles, baolis (step wells), chhatris, and a few mosques.

BIKANER

Bikaner is a city that belongs to a fairy tale. From the desert it rises like a golden citadel of rare beauty. Yet it remains suspended in time. At the heart of Bikaner is a fort around which was flung a moat.

Palaces, havelis and public gardens are its other treasures, and an enduring culture of graciousness marks Bikaner as an important link in the desert. Also linked to Shekhawati and Jaipur trails, this is a true camel country. But, whether you sit aloft a camel, or in a more mundane tourist coach, you'll find it easy to relive an era when the maharajas ruled from their splendid palaces, caparisoned armies went to war in full regalia, and beautiful princesses chose death over dishonour.



Junagarh Fort, Bikaner

JAISALMER

Nothing else in India is remotely similar to Jaisalmer. This captivating sandy outpost has been dubbed the 'Golden City' because of the honey colour imparted to its stone ramparts by the setting sun. Its desert fort, which resembles a gigantic sandcastle, is straight out of *The Thousand and One Nights*.

Jaisalmer is by far the oldest of the ancient capitals of Rajasthan. Its history dates back to 1156 A.D. The skyline holds kiosks with parapets, balconies and terraces. It is hard to believe that the human hand is capable of executing the intricate stone carvings on these structures - no corner is left unadorned. The beauty of the Jain temples (12th - 15th centuries) leave visitors breathless and photographers usually run out of film. For anyone who wishes to understand the true spirit of historic Rajasthan, Jaisalmer is the richest source of sights, sounds and impressions.



Desert Safari, Sam Desert, Jaisalmer



Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur

JODHPUR

Set at the edge of the Thar desert, the imperial city of Jodhpur echoes with tales of antiquity in the emptiness of the desert. While the graceful palaces, forts and temples strewn throughout the city bring alive the historic grandeur, exquisite handicrafts, folk dances music and the brightly attired people lend a romantic aura to the city.



City Palace, Udaipur

UDAIPUR

Udaipur has to be the most romantic place in India. The city nestles like a gem in a valley surrounded by the green Aravalli hills, reflected smooth and white in the clear blue Lake Pichola. Udaipur is full of palaces, temples and havelis ranging from the modest to the extravagant. It is also proud of its heritage as a centre for the performing arts, painting and crafts.



Pushkar

PUSHKAR

Famed for its annual camel fair, Pushkar rests on the edge of the desert. Bathing ghats lead down to its holy lake and the area is dotted with scenic temples and colourful shops.

JAIPUR

The fabled "Pink City" of Jaipur is the vibrant, bustling and immensely colourful capital of Rajasthan. The "pink" is derived from the rich hues of the architecture, constructed from rare coloured sandstone.

Many of its well-preserved palaces and mansions are now museums, or heritage hotels, making Jaipur one of the few big cities in India where walking around is a sheer pleasure. There is so much to see and absorb in Jaipur.

BASIC ITINERARY

- DAY 1 - Arrive Delhi. Overnight in Delhi.
- DAY 2 - City tour of Old and New Delhi. Overnight at Delhi.
- DAY 3 - Drive to Mandawa. Overnight at Mandawa.
- DAY 4 - Drive to Bikaner. Afternoon visit the famous 'havelis' (mansions) and Junagarh Fort. Overnight at Bikaner.
- DAY 5 - Drive to Jaisalmer. On arrival day free at leisure. Overnight at Jaisalmer.
- DAY 6 - Morning and afternoon sightseeing tour of Jaisalmer. Overnight at Jaisalmer.
- DAY 7 - Morning drive to Jodhpur. On arrival day at leisure. Overnight at Jodhpur.
- DAY 8 - Morning visit to Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada. Afternoon drive to Rohet. On arrival late afternoon visit to a Bishnoi village. Overnight at Rohet.
- DAY 9 - Morning drive to Udaipur en route visiting Ranakpur Jain temples. Arrive in Udaipur. Overnight at Udaipur.
- DAY 10 - Morning half day excursion of Udaipur city visiting the City Palace, Sahelion ki Bari, Jagmandir and other sites. Late afternoon visit to Nagda and Eklingji. Overnight at Udaipur.
- DAY 11 - Morning drive to Pushkar. On arrival, day at leisure to explore the city. Overnight at Pushkar.
- DAY 12 - Morning at leisure to pursue independent activities. Afternoon drive to Jaipur. On arrival, rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at Jaipur.
- DAY 13 - Morning excursion to Amber Fort. Afternoon visit to the City Palace and Jantar Mantar. Evening at leisure. Overnight at Jaipur.
- DAY 14 - Drive to Agra en route visiting Fatehpur Sikri. On arrival in Agra check in to the hotel. Late afternoon visit to the Agra Red Fort. Evening at leisure. Overnight at Agra.
- DAY 15 - Morning visit to experience the world famous Taj Mahal. Later drive to Delhi. Evening transfer to the International airport for flight back home.

TAILOR MADE TRAVEL

Our private tailor made journeys offer complete freedom of choice. The itineraries shown are designed to give you a flavour of what is possible and can be tailored to suit your preferences. Prices vary according to selection of accommodation and season.