

# Rajasthan Inconnu (undiscovered Rajasthan)

December 15, 2008 to January 15, 2009 Core Trip; January 7 to 8, 2009 ( Extension to Agra); January 7 to 10, 2009 (Extension to Kathmandu)



Rajasthan is most often the region that one visits on the first trip to India. Its palaces (like the Lake Palace in Udaipur), forts (as at Jodhpur) and princely cities (like Jaipur) are justifiably famous for their history and picturesque qualities. They are also often overcrowded, and perhaps if visited decades ago, would have given an impression of the timeless qualities of the great subcontinent. This trip is proposed for those returning to India and for the first time visitor alike, with the goal to explore some of the less frequented, but no less historic or picturesque regions of Rajasthan.

This Western desert region of pre-independent (1947) India was known as Rajputana, the land of the Rajputs, or ‘descendents of the Rajas’. It was governed by numerous warring kings, princes and chieftains belonging to the Kshatriya or ‘warrior’ cast and its numerous clans and sub-clans; all of whom had become woven into a loose

hierarchy that paid tribute to the more powerful amongst them, that came to be known as the handful of Maharajas or ‘great’ Rajas. The Moghuls, and later, more importantly, the British, signed treaties with the Rajas and Maharajas of this region, and brought them under their rule; thus lending some sort of glamour and romance to the idea of colonial rule at that period in time, popularly known as the British Raj.

Rajasthan is the largest state in India, and is in the north just to the east of Delhi. Its name comes from *Rajput* (the groups of independent warrior clans who constitute the once independent and powerful princely states that form India today. The term *Raj* refers to the term of British colonial rule from 1858 to 1947.

Our 23 night journey will take us in a counterclockwise circle from Delhi extending to the east almost to the border with Pakistan in the Thar desert, and will stay (all but two for at least two nights) at twelve places, almost all of them former or current princely palaces or forts, that have been carefully restored to modern standards. They have been chosen as the best available in their locations. We will travel by our own private coach, and our days of travel will be characterized by drives which constantly fascinate with the roadside pageant which is India and the constantly changing scenery. While distances are not great, the quality of

roads is poor, and several of our travel days will be long. We have come to appreciate these journeys as a welcome respite from the normal pace of life, and a chance to read, observe the passing scenery, or engage in conversation with fellow travelers. Frequent stops are made to use the “facilities” (often provided by nature) and for refreshment.

In addition to the core trip, two optional extensions to Agra and Fatehpur Sikri (one night) and to Kathmandu (three nights) are offered.

This very special expedition is quite unique, and one will not find that the usual collection of cultural trips include these destinations. It has been specifically crafted for Stephen Harby and friends by Alok Chandola and Praveena Rai of Realms, and is the sixth such expedition they have created together. Realms have organized many exceptional trips for some of the most discerning museum and cultural groups and are the best at what they do! Unlike other of our trips with which participants may be familiar (like the Art and Craft of the South Indian Temple) on this trip we will all be blazing a new trail going to places that are new to Stephen (although for Realms this is very familiar territory). Thus, this is the chance to join in and be the first to experience these tantalizing places! So please forgo the carols and tinsel and other festivities of the season and join us!



*The golden city of Jaisalmer*

# Rajasthan Inconnu (undiscovered Rajasthan)

Map of Places to be Seen



December 15, 2008 /Monday  
ARRIVE DELHI

Guests will arrive at Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, by an international flight (arrival flight details awaited), will clear Indian Immigration and Customs, and after collecting checked baggage you will exit into the arrival hall...

#### START OF SERVICE

You will be met, welcomed and assisted by a Realms staff member at the arrival hall meeting area, and transferred to the hotel

Radisson Hotel (Superior Rooms)

<http://www.radisson.com/newdelhiin>

– this is an ‘airport’ hotel – ROOMS HELD FROM NOON THIS DAY  
D

December 16 /Tuesday  
DELHI to NEEMRANA

Checking out at the hotel this morning you will board your coach and drive Delhi-Neemrana (125 km/02 hrs by coach).

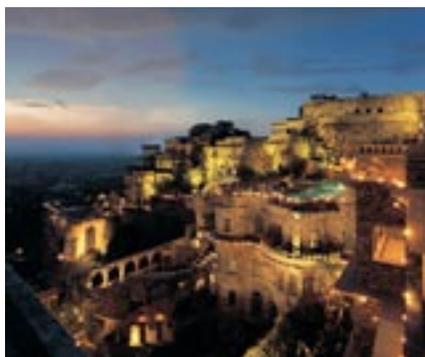
Arrive in Neemrana to check in at the hotel in time for late lunch with the remainder of the day at leisure with time to explore this fort palace and it’s environs. Gather in the evening for welcome cocktails and dinner at the hotel

Neemrana Fort Palace (Grand Rooms)

<http://www.neemranahotels.com/neemrana/index.html.htm>

December 17 /Wednesday  
NEEMRANA to MANDAWA

After breakfast drive Neemrana-Mandawa (170 km/06 to 07 hrs by coach), stopping by en route at Naranaul to visit some of the Islamic monuments that are still to be seen here. These are: the Jal Mahal, built by Shah Quli Khan, an officer of Emperor Akbar and the ruler of Narnaul, in 1591, a synthesis of Persian and Indian architecture and



*Neemrana Fort Palace Hotel*

stands at the centre of a large water tank (now dry); the tomb of Pir Turkman, a tomb-cum-mosque complex; the tomb of Ibrahim Khan Sur, an example of the Pathan style of architecture; the Chor Gumbad, a well planned square building with a large chamber within four minarets outside at each corner, constructed by the Afghan Jamal Khan (as his tomb) during the reign of Feroze Shah Tughlaq, it became a hideout for robber and thieves, thus earning its name (chor, meaning thief); the Tripolia gateway, constructed by Shah Quli Khan in 1589 as the main entrance to a garden, the gate has three sides; the palace of Chatta Rai Bal Mukund Das, built during Emperor Shah Jahan’s reign; and Mirza Ali Jan’s Baoli, a water well or baoli that supplied water to this town during the reign of the Great Moghul, Emperor Akbar. Drive through the Shikhawati region of Rajasthan, past the towns and villages of Khetri, Singhana, Chirawa, Bagar and Jhunjhunu, to arrive at Mandawa in the evening, where we will check into

The Desert Resort (Deluxe Cottage Rooms)

[http://www.mandawahotels.com/desertresort\\_intro.shtml](http://www.mandawahotels.com/desertresort_intro.shtml)



*Desert Resort, Mandawa*

December 18 /Thursday  
MANDAWA

The day is spent visiting some of the towns and villages of the Shikhawati region of Rajasthan, noted for its painted havelis (villas) – visit Nawalgarh and visit the Poddar and Morarka haveils as well as Fatehpur to see some of the havelis there. Return to your hotel in Mandawa in the evening, with time at leisure.

The Desert Resort (Deluxe Cottage Rooms)

December 19 /Friday  
MANDAWA to JHUNJHUNU and ALSISAR

In the morning set off to drive Mandawa-Jhunjhunu (25 km/45 min by coach). In Jhunjhunu you visit the Khetri Mahal, also known as the ‘wind palace’ built by Bhopal Singh, founder of Khetri and grandson of Sardul Singh, in 1770. Wherever possible, marble pillars take the place of walls, allowing the maximum flow of air through the building. A ramp ascends through the Mahal from the entrance right up to the terrace, so that the Rajputs could ride up on their horses. Inside are lovely halls with graceful arches and pillars. Also visit the Mertaniji ki Baori, the oldest and finest of Jhunjhunu’s step wells. It was built by Sardul’s widow in 1783. Step wells are real architectural feats in the desert state of Rajasthan and building them was considered a great act of generosity and benevolence. They served as community centres, where people gathered to help themselves to the most precious commodity – water. The Mertani Baori is a beautiful structure



*Alsisar Mahal Hotel*

with flights of steps descending through arches.

Also visit some of the notable havelis in this town – the Modi Haveli; actually two havelis opposite each other – the paintings here show some modern trappings with a lady sitting in front of a gramophone, as also well as soldiers on horses escorting a train. Visit the Kaniram Narsinghdas Tibrewal Haveli with scenes of a goods train laden with livestock and a passenger train; the Narudin Farooqi Haveli with floral motifs in the Islamic style with dominant shades of blue; the Mohanlal Ishwardas Haveli Haveli where legends of Krishna stealing the clothes of gopis are to be seen.

Continue to Alsisar (25 km/45 min by coach) in the early afternoon, arriving to check in at the hotel in time for late lunch.

The remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities.

Alsisar Mahal (Deluxe Rooms)

<http://www.alsisar.com/alsisarmahal.htm>

December 20 /Saturday ALSISAR

In Alsisar – the day is at leisure or free for optional activities – transport will be available for those wishing to visit any of the nearby towns and villages of Shikhawati

Alsisar Mahal (Deluxe Rooms)

December 21 /Sunday  
ALISISAR to BIKANER

Early this morning you will check out at the hotel and drive Alsisar-Bikaner (275 km/06 to 07 hrs by coach), arriving in

Bikaner in the early afternoon to check in at the hotel in time for late lunch.

Later in the afternoon or evening, visit the unique camel breeding farm where you can see hundreds of camels returning home at sunset. The British Army had a camel corps drawn from here during World War I. Return to the hotel after sunset with time at leisure.

The Laxmi Niwas Palace (Royal Deluxe Rooms)

<http://www.laxminiwaspalace.com/>

December 22 /Monday BIKANER

In the morning visit the Junagarh Fort, constructed between 1588 and 1593 by Raja Rai Singh, a general in the army of Emperor Akbar. Enter the Fort through the ‘Suraj Pol’ or the Sun Gate – the palaces within are at the southern side and make a picturesque ensemble of courtyards, balconies, towers and windows. Visit the Chandra Mahal and the Phool Mahal with its collection of paintings, mirrors and carved marble panels. Also visit the Har Mandir, the royal temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva.



*Laxmi Niwas Palace (exterior and interior)*

The Laxmi Niwas Palace (Royal Deluxe Rooms)

December 23 /Tuesday  
BIKANER

Depart on an excursion to Nagaur (115 km/03 hrs by coach) to visit the fort there, and see some of the restoration work in progress. En route visit Deshnoke (25 km out of Bikaner/45 min by coach) to visit the Karni Mata Temple, where rats are worshipped! Return to Bikaner in the evening with time at leisure.

The Laxmi Niwas Palace (Royal Deluxe Rooms)

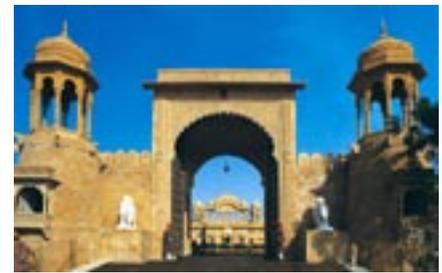
December 24 /Wednesday  
BIKANER to JAISALMER

After an early breakfast check out of the hotel and drive Bikaner-Jaisalmer (330 km/ 07 to 08 hrs by coach) via Phalodi and Pokhran. Stop by en route at Gajner to see the palace there, now somewhat restored and converted into a heritage hotel. Arrive Jaisalmer in the late afternoon and check in at the hotel. in the evening visit Bada Bagh, to view the royal cenotaphs with their beautifully carved ceilings and equestrian statues of former rulers. Watch the sun go down, turning the city a beautiful golden brown – this incomparably romantic and totally unspoiled city has been dubbed the ‘Golden City’ because of the color imparted to its sandstone ramparts by the setting sun

return to your hotel after dusk with time at leisure.

Fort Rajwada (Standard Rooms)

<http://www.fortrajwada.com/>



*Fort Rajwada Hotel*

December 25 /Thursday JAISALMER

Proceed on a sightseeing tour of the spectacular Jaisalmer Fort, built in 1156 by Rawal Jaisal. About a quarter of the old city's population resides within the walls and nothing seems to have changed here for centuries. Enter the fort through a forbidding series of massive gates leading to a large courtyard fronted by the former Maharawal's seven-story palace. Also within the walls are a group of beautifully carved Jain temples built between the 12th and 15th centuries

later walk through the narrow alleyways where the havelis are located. Centuries ago, Jaisalmer's strategic position on the camel route between India and Central Asia brought it great wealth. The merchants built magnificent mansions, all exquisitely carved from the golden-yellow sandstone. Nowhere else in Rajasthan are the havelis quite as exotic as in Jaisalmer. Patwon ki Haveli, the most elaborate and magnificent, stands in a narrow lane and is painted with beautiful murals. Another haveli worth a visit is Salim Singh ki Haveli, built about 300 years ago and still partially lived in. Yellow sandstone elephants guard the 19th century Nathmal Haveli whose front door is a work of art.

In the late afternoon take an excursion to the Khuri or Sam sand dunes (40 km/01 hr by coach), arriving in time for a brief camel ride over the dunes at sunset, a great way to see the desert



*Ajit Bhawan Hotel*

return to your hotel in Jaisalmer after dusk.

Fort Rajwada (Standard Rooms)

December 26 /Friday  
JAISALMER to JODHPUR

Check out of the hotel early this morning and drive Jaisalmer-Jodhpur (280 km/07 hrs by coach)

arrive Jodhpur and check in at the hotel in time for lunch.

In the afternoon you proceed to tour the 15th century town set on the fringe of the Thar Desert, dominated by the gigantic Mehrangarh Fort. Entering the fort through a series of impressive gateways, visit its museums, which exhibit an outstanding collection of the Jodhpur royal family's memorabilia - jewelry, miniature paintings, portraits, armament, elephant saddles, royal cradles and festive tents. Return to the hotel after visiting Jaswant Thada, the royal cenotaph.

The Ajit Bhawan (Luxury Rooms)

<http://www.ajitbhawan.com/index1.htm>

December 27 /Saturday  
JODHPUR to NARLAI

In the course of the morning, or later in the day, drive Jodhpur-Narlai (160km/04 hrs by coach), to arrive Narlai in the early afternoon or evening and check in at the hotel. The remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities - climb to the top of the 'rock of Narad' and visit the numerous temples in the village.

Rawla Narlai (Luxury Rooms)

<http://www.rawlanarlai.com/>

December 28 /Sunday NARLAI



*Rawla Narlai Hotel*

In Narlai - the entire day is at leisure, or depending on the activities schedule at the hotel you may have the option to take jeep safaris and visit some of the villages in this region.

Rawla Narlai (Luxury Rooms)

Today, you also have the option to visit Ranakpur (50 km/01 hr 30 min one way by coach) where some of the most important Jain temples in India are to be found. The extremely beautiful Ranakpur complex lies in a remote and peaceful valley of the Aravali Range. The main temple in the 15th century complex is the Chaumukha, or four-faced temple, dedicated to Adinath, the first Tirthankara. This beautifully crafted marble temple has 29 halls supported by 1444 intricately carved pillars, no two alike. A lunch halt is provided at the nearby Maharani Bagh Orchard Retreat,



*Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur*



*Adinatha Temple, Ranakpur, 1439*

returning to your hotel at Narlai later in the day, with time at leisure.  
Rawla Narlai (Luxury Rooms).

December 29 /Monday  
NARLAI to MOUNT ABU

After an early lunch you board your vehicle to drive Narlai-Mount Abu (160 km/05 to 06 hrs by coach). Arrive Mount Abu in the early afternoon and check in at the hotel later in the day. The remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities.

Cama Rajputana Club Resort (Deluxe Rooms)

[http://www.camahotelsindia.com/AboutUs\\_abu.html](http://www.camahotelsindia.com/AboutUs_abu.html)

December 30/Tuesday MOUNT ABU

Spend the entire day touring Mount Abu, the only 'hill station' in Rajasthan. More than just a summer retreat, it is home to the stunning array of the exquisitely carved Dilwara Jain Temples, dating back 11th-13th Centuries, which make it a popular pilgrimage center as well. The visit to these temples will afford time to appreciate both the architecture here and experience their tranquility. Return to the hotel in the evening with time at leisure.

Cama Rajputana Club Resort (Deluxe Rooms)

December 31/Wednesday  
MOUNT ABU to DUNGARPUR

Checking out at the hotel in the morning you travel Mount Abu-Dungarpur (185 km/06 to 07 hrs by coach), with arrival and check in at Dungarpur in time for lunch. Dungarpur lies in a wild and rugged district at the foot of the Aravali hills. Founded by the tribal Bhil chieftain named 'Dungaria', the town is famous for its unique style of architecture. You stay at the Udai Bilas Palace, residence of the royal family – observe the intricately sculptured pillars and panels, ornate balconies, balustrades, bracketed windows, arches and friezes that have been carved out of white marble.

The remainder of the day is at leisure or free for optional activities.

Udai Bilas Palace (Suites)



*Udai Bilas Palace*

2009

January 01 /Thursday DUNGARPUR

In Dungarpur – in the course of the day visit some of the private temples and shrines of the Royal Family of Dungarpur – also visit the Juna Mahal, a 13th century fort built on a 1500 ft hillock – the inner areas of the fort have colorful and vibrant rooms embellished with frescos, miniature paintings and glass-mirror inlay work. Return to the hotel later in the day with time at leisure or free for optional activities.

Udai Bilas Palace (Suites)

January 02 /Friday  
DUNGARPUR to CHITTAURGARH  
and BASSI

In the morning we will set off to drive Dungarpur-Chittaurgarh (230 km/06 to 07 hrs by coach)

and will arrive Chittaurgarh in the afternoon for a visit to the Chittaurgarh fort, reputed to have been raised to the ground on three different occasions - you may be able to discern the images of love and valor, the scars of battles won and lost. Capital of Mewar for over 800 years, the Chittaurgarh is possibly the most important fort in Rajasthan. Spread



*Bassi Fort*

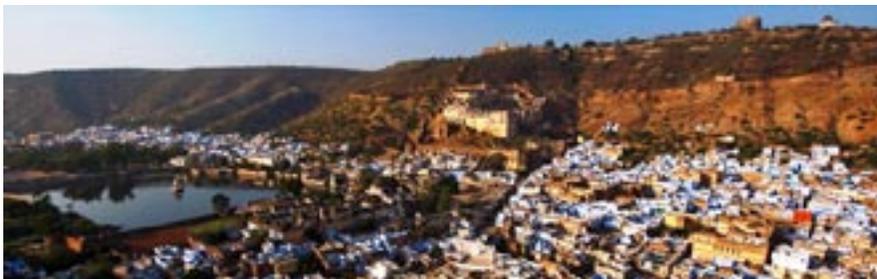
over 280 hectares, the 13 kilometers of battlements enclose fortresses, palaces, temples, bazaars, granaries, reservoirs and lakes; bearing testimony to the glories and tragedies of a people who preferred death to dishonor. In the afternoon you continue another 25 km to Bassi, where on arrival you check in at your hotel, with time at leisure.

Bassi Fort (Standard Rooms)

[http://www.welcomheritagehotels.com/Bassi\\_Fort\\_Chittorgarh/bassi\\_fort\\_chittorgarh.htm](http://www.welcomheritagehotels.com/Bassi_Fort_Chittorgarh/bassi_fort_chittorgarh.htm)

January 03 /Saturday  
BASSI to BUNDI

In the morning you travel Bassi-Bundi (180 km/05 hrs by coach) with an en route stop in Kota to visit Kota Fort overlooking the river Chambal - notable for its elegant 'Durbar Hall' adorned with paintings and mirror work, and doors of ebony inlaid with ivory. Time permitting, visit the Raj Mahal to see the collection of murties (stone idols); the palace interiors embellished with gold stained glass work on the walls, and silver mirror work on ceilings and the marvelous wall paintings. Besides there



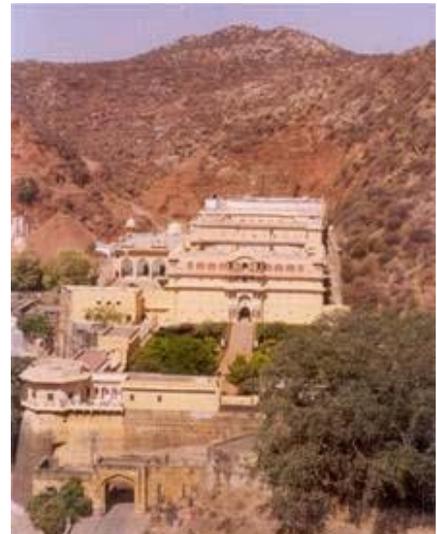
*Bundi*

is the Badal Mahal with the collection of Kota miniatures and paintings from various 'schools' of different periods set in glass on the walls. Also visit the Brij Raj Bhawan Palace, the Jag Mandir island palace and see the splendid haveli style architecture with beautiful frescos, as well as the royal cenotaphs. Continue 35 km (01 hr) beyond Kota to Bundi, arriving in the later afternoon or evening, to check in at the hotel Haveli Braj Bhushanjee (Super Deluxe Rooms) <http://www.kiplingsbundi.com/>

January 04 /Sunday  
BUNDI

In the morning you proceed on a sightseeing tour of the picturesque town of Bundi – visit the Bundi Durg (fort), also called Taraghar, or star-shaped fort, built in 1411 and the monuments within; the Garh Palace with its Diwan-e-am, Hathia Pol, and Naubat Khana; the Chhatra Mahal palace with its miniature style murals, and the Phool Mahal and Badal Mahal palaces to see the collection of paintings to be seen there; and the Chitrashala pavilion to see the wall paintings and murals that adorn the interiors. In the afternoon visit the Raniji-ki-Baori step well, Sukh Mahal, the summer palace, Jait Sagar lake, Phool Sagar the residence of the erstwhile maharaja, the Kshar Bagh garden and the Eighty-Four Pillared Cenotaph. Return to your hotel in the late afternoon or evening, with time at leisure.

Haveli Braj Bhushanjee (Super Deluxe Rooms)



*Samode Palace*

January 05 /Monday  
BUNDI to TONK, JAIPUR and SAMODE

In the morning you drive Bundi-Tonk (120 km/03 hrs by coach), where on arrival you spend some time visiting the main site in this provincial town. Ruled by tribal 'Pathans' chiefs from Afghanistan during the Mughal reign, Tonk is known for its Suneri Kothi, or 'golden bungalow'. An ordinary looking monument from outside, it has stunningly rich ornamental interiors. There are also some interesting buildings that accommodated the British officers in the days of the 'Raj'. Continuing to drive Tonk-Jaipur-Samode (150 km/03 hrs by coach), you arrive in Samode in the late afternoon or evening and check in at the hotel, with time at leisure – you may wish to wander through the Samode Palace to view its intricate and exquisitely decorated formal rooms – cross the elevated courtyard and walk under the hanging arches to enter the inner sanctuary. The interiors reveal a magnificent assembly hall, rooms with elaborately painted murals, panels of fine mirror work, delicate paintings, enamel work and a profusion of gilded embellishments.

Samode Palace (Deluxe Suites)

<http://www.samode.com/home/palace/s-place.htm>

January 06 /Tuesday

SAMODE (optional day return JAIPUR excursion)

in the morning take an optional excursion to Jaipur – tour the Amber Fort (50 km/ 1 hr 30 min by coach), that dominates the rocky hills surrounding Jaipur and guards one of the many defiles that lead to the city. Though no longer as popular as in the past, you may wish to consider riding on elephant back to the top of the fort ramparts. Once the capital of the Rajput rulers of this area, the fortress is laced with narrow passages and alleyways. There are magnificent halls with mirror work embedded in the ceilings and colorful paintings on the walls. After lunch at a hotel or city restaurant, visit the City Palace complex and wander through the vast courtyards around which are clusters of museums housing rare collections of textiles, carpets, paintings and antique weapons of war. Continue on to Jantar Mantar, a medieval observatory with curiously shaped and oversized instruments which, even today, are astonishingly accurate in their astronomical measurements. Return to the hotel in Samode in the early afternoon with the remainder of the day at leisure or free for optional activities. Gather in the evening at the hotels restaurant for farewell cocktails and dinner.

Samode Palace (Deluxe Suites)

January 07 /Wednesday

SAMODE to DELHI and DEPART DELHI

Check out at the hotel during the course of the day and drive Samode-Delhi (275 km/ 05 hrs by coach). Arrive Delhi, and after dinner at one of the airport hotels, you are transferred to Indira Gandhi International Airport, to board the international flight to your onward destination.

departure assistance and send off outside the departure terminal

END OF SERVICE

- clear Indian Immigration and Customs before boarding the international homeward flight depart Delhi for your onward international destination (departure flight details awaited)

Optional Agra Extension

January 7-8, 2009, Samode - Agra - Delhi

January 07 /Wednesday

SAMODE to AGRA

Checking out at the hotel very early in the morning, you set off to drive Samode-Agra (290 km/ 06 to 07 hrs by car), stopping by en route for lunch at Laxmi Vilas Palace, Bharatpur, or a similar roadside hotel or restaurant. Driving further towards Agra after lunch, you once again halt (44 km/ 01 hr short of Agra) to visit the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. Here you can discern interesting facets of everyday life at the Mughal court in the 16th century. Built by Emperor Akbar as the capital of his empire, the city had to be abandoned due to lack of potable water – some of its structures here still remain in a remarkable state of preservation.

Continuing the drive to Agra, arriving late in the afternoon, check in at the hotel. Soon afterwards travel the short distance from the hotel to visit the Taj Mahal, the superlative expression of emperor Shah Jehan's undying love for his queen, extending your stay here in order to view the changing moods of the monument in the fading light of the setting sun. Return to the hotel after dusk, with time at leisure.

The Trident (Deluxe Room)

<http://www.tridenthotels.com/agra/index.asp>

or upgrade to The Oberoi Amarvilas (Premiere Room or upgrade to a Premiere Room with Balcony)

<http://www.amarvilas.com/en-US/Hotel/HOverview.aspx>

- all room upgrades involve an extra cost

Breakfast included

January 08 /Thursday

AGRA to DELHI

After breakfast at the hotel, visit the Agra Fort, a huge complex constructed out of red sandstone, and view its exquisite marble palaces; testimony to the power and artistic sense of successive Mughal emperors. Checking out at the hotel



*Taj Mahal, Agra*

around noon, and after lunch at the hotel's restaurant, set off to drive Agra-Delhi (210 km/04 hrs by car). While driving out of Agra city, take a small detour to visit the tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah, considered to be one of the architectural forerunners of the Taj Mahal. Arrive Delhi, and after dinner at one of the airport hotels, you are transferred to Indira Gandhi International Airport, to board the international flight to your onward destination.

Departure assistance and send off outside the departure terminal.

Breakfast included

#### END OF SERVICE

- clear Indian Immigration and Customs before boarding the international homeward flight  
depart Delhi for your onward international destination (departure flight details awaited)

Optional Kathmandu (Nepal) Extension:  
January 7-10, 2009  
Delhi – Kathmandu – Delhi

January 07 /Wednesday  
SAMODE to DELHI

Check out at the hotel during the course of the day and drive Samode-Delhi (275 km/ 05 hrs by coach). Arrive Delhi, and check in at the hotel, with the remainder of the day at leisure.

Radisson Hotel (Superior Rooms)

<http://www.radisson.com/newdelhiin>

– this is an 'airport' hotel

January 08 /Thursday  
DELHI to KATHMANDU (Nepal)

In the morning you check out at the hotel and are transferred to Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi, for your flight to Kathmandu, Nepal. Fly Delhi/Kathmandu, 9W 264 – 0645/0830 or 9W 262 – 1305/1445 (both flights operate daily, direct) – please note that

Nepal Time is 15 minutes ahead of Indian Standard Time.

Arrive Kathmandu, to be met by our local representative and transferred to the hotel.

In the afternoon visit the Kathmandu Durbar Square, with its old temples and palaces, epitomizing the religious and cultural life of the people. The kings of Nepal were crowned and solemnized here. Interesting sites are the Taleju Temple, the gigantic figure of Kalbhairav (the god of destruction), Basantapur Durbar, and the Temple of Kumari (living goddess). Return to your hotel in the evening, with time a leisure.

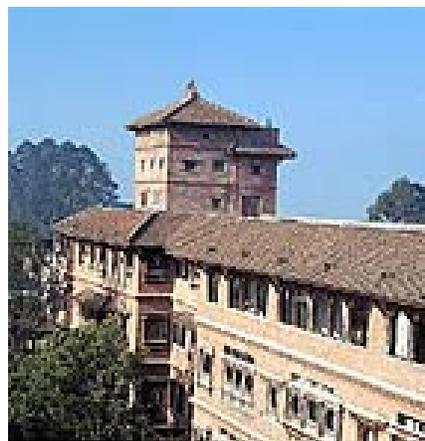
The Dwarika's Hotel (Heritage Deluxe Room)

<http://www.dwarikas.com/index1.html>

B

January 09 /Friday  
KATHMANDU

In the morning set off on a sightseeing tour of Swoyambhunath Stupa, the world's most glorious Buddhist Chaitya built 2000 years ago is situated on a hillock about 77 meter above the level of Kathmandu valley. You will also have a grand view of the valley from this spot. Continue on to the Patan Durbar Square, which boasts of many famous sites and unique architecture. Krishna Mandir in this Square was built to honor an incarnation of Vishnu. One of the



*Dwarika's Hotel, Kathmandu*

best examples of stone architecture in the world, scenes from Mahabharat, Asia's greatest mythological war, are carved on the temple's walls. Home to traditional artists and sculptors, one can find more temples dedicated to Ganesh (the elephant-headed god), Shiva, Narsingha, Taleju, and others are located at Patan Durbar Square. In the afternoon visit the Bhaktapur; which means "the city of devotees" in the Nepali language. It is also known as Bhadgaon and was founded in 889 AD by King Anand Dev. Today it covers an area of four square miles and is flanked by Khasa Khusung and Hanumante Rivers. The Durbar Square in the middle of the city portrays the prosperity of the Malla years and the details at which the crafts people then worked. The Palace of Fifty-five windows stands in the square, which was also home to many kings of Bhaktapur. Among the other monuments in Bhaktapur are the big bell, the Golden Gate, the five-tiered temple of Nyatapola (scene of the film Little Buddha), the Bhairab Temple, and the Dattatreya Square with its woodcarving and metalwork museums. Surrounded by beautiful farming area, visitors to Bhaktapur will easily fall in love with the city.

Return to the hotel in the evening with time at leisure .

The Dwarika's Hotel (Heritage Deluxe Room)

B

January 10 /Saturday  
KATHMANDU to DELHI and DEPART DELHI

In the morning take a sightseeing tour of Pashupatinath Temple, one of the most sacred Hindu shrines in the world, which lies 5 km east of the city center. The richly-ornamented pagoda houses the sacred linga, or phallic symbol, of Lord Shiva. Chronicles indicate the temple's existence prior to 400 AD. Devotees can be seen taking ritual dips in the holy Bagmati river flowing beside

the temple. Cremation of the dead body Hindus/Buddhist takes place at the bank of the same river. Later in the morning visit Bouddhanath, or “Little Tibet”, which is among the largest stupas in South Asia, and it has become the focal point of Tibetan Buddhism in Nepal. The white mound looms thirty-six meters overhead. The stupa is located on the ancient trade route to Tibet, and Tibetan merchants rested and offered prayers here for many centuries. When refugees entered Nepal from Tibet in the 1950s, many of them decided to live

around Bouddhanath. They established many gompas, and the “Little Tibet” of Nepal was born.

Returning to your hotel, there is time to check out, and our local representative will transfer you to Tribhuvan International Airport, Kathmandu, for the flight to Delhi.

Fly Kathmandu/Delhi, S2 502 – 1440/1555 (operates daily, direct) – please note that Indian Standard Time is 15 minutes behind Nepal Time.

Arrive IGI Airport, Delhi, and transfer to the transit lounge at the airport to await the departure time of your homebound departure flight – please note that you will require Multiple Entry Indian Visas to re-enter India after having already been here once.

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END OF SERVICE

- clear Indian Immigration and Customs before boarding the international flight  
depart Delhi on board International flight (departure flight details awaited)



*A Haveli near Jaipur (watercolor by Stephen Harby)*