

SINGING INDIA



DELHI - JAISALMER

Singing opportunities built into each event.

DAY 1: Delhi

Arrive at the hotel. After check-in meet at 2 pm in the foyer.
Full briefing on our journey and introduction to the team.
First singing session at the hotel.
Dinner at the hotel.
Overnight: Delhi.
Meals: Dinner.

DAY 2: Delhi – Jaisalmer.

After breakfast check out of the hotel and transfer to the Delhi airport to board your onward flight to Jaisalmer.
Check-in to the hotel.
Lunch at hotel.
Travel to the 800 year old Jaisalmer Fort, still a living fort, and be welcomed by a family who've lived inside its walls for generations.
Time for singing session surrounded by the beautiful haveli, street life and family.
Dinner at the Suraj Haveli.
Overnight: Jaisalmer.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 3: Jaisalmer

Breakfast at the hotel.
Morning singing rehearsal
Visit glorious Lake Gadisar - We set up outside the cafe with images of Hindu Temples - local characters - markets. All within strolling distance.
Lunch at Mugs4Bugs Cafe.
Travel to Bada Bagh, the old cenotaph of the Maharajahs. Discussion on the Hindu beliefs and the role of the Royal Family in the past and present..
Dinner at Jaisal Treats.
Overnight: Jaisalmer.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 4: Jaisalmer

Breakfast at the hotel.
Morning singing rehearsal
Visit Bhopa Gypsy family in town.
Singing with entire family present.
Lunch in town.
Walk through the winding streets of the old town of Jaisalmer.
Visit the NGO that employs desert women to repair old clothes, pashmina and quilts.
Dinner at hotel.
Overnight: Jaisalmer.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 5: Jaisalmer

Breakfast at the hotel.
Back to the Jaisalmer Fort for a wonderful singing session in the Maharaja's Room at the Suraj Haveli.
Use the haveli as a base from which to explore the people and landscape of the fort.
Lunch at the Suraj Haveli.
Free time to wander the fort.
Dinner at the Sunset Cafe with local musicians.
Overnight: Jaisalmer.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 6: Jaisalmer

Breakfast at the hotel.
Morning singing rehearsal
Depart for a day in the desert, starting with the mysterious abandoned village of Kuldhara.
Lunch at Kuldhara.
Visit a village of Manganiyar musicians who have performed internationally.
Visit the historically significant Lodurva Jain Temple.
Evening of food, song and dance in a camp in the Thar Desert.
Overnight: Jaisalmer.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

JODHPUR

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Day 7: Depart Jaisalmer - Arrive Jodhpur

Morning singing rehearsal

Breakfast at the hotel.

Depart on bus for beautiful 4 hour drive to Jodhpur.

Check-in at hotel.

Lunch at Hotel.

Visit the old town and the famous Toorji's Step Well.

Overnight: Jodhpur.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 8: Jodhpur

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning singing rehearsal

Visit the SKSN school for disabled children. Great opportunity to meet with these wonderful children and learn and sing with them.

Lunch in Jodhpur.

Afternoon visit to the markets that have some of India's finest fabric & jewelry artisans.

Visit Mehrangarh Fort to watch the sun setting over the Blue City below.

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight: Jodhpur.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 9: Depart Jodhpur - Arrive in Varanasi via connecting flights.

Day of connecting flights from Jodhpur to Delhi and then Delhi to Varanasi.

Overnight: Varanasi.

Arrive at the hotel via a boat.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.



VARANASI

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DAY 10: Varanasi

Up early for a pre-dawn float down the Ganges with Dr Sandip Kewale.

Silent time while we float down the river and listen to Sandip accompanied by his flautist.

Sing to the Mother Ganges.

Breakfast on the boat.

CONVERSATION 6 - Morning discussion with Sandip on a range of Indian cultural and musical issues. Dock close to the ghats for rare opportunity to observe Varanasi from the Ganga.

Disembark at Dashashwamedh Ghat.

Visit the Akhara of Hindu Wrestlers, the Sadhu Ashram and various pilgrims bathing in the Ganga.

Walk along the Ganges and re-board boat before the Burning Ghat.

Talk on the rituals of cremation and the beliefs that surround death, dying and rebirth in the Holy City of Varanasi.

Lunch at the hotel

Afternoon free to work or relax.

Dinner at the hotel

Evening conversation with the Kinnar people {third gender community} who live on the margins of Indian society. Big dance and music session with people who survive through dance.

Overnight: Varanasi.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 11: Varanasi

Early morning singing on the Ganges.

Breakfast at the hotel.

Walk through the old city of Varanasi with Dr Sandip Kewale and a visit to the famous Alamgir Mosque.

Lunch at hotel.

Evening conversation with Sufi priest Umesh Kabir. on the development of Sufism and the impact of the poet Kabir. Singing with the Sufis.

Dinner at the hotel.

Float down to enjoy the Aarti on the Ganges.

Overnight: Varanasi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 12: Varanasi

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit Sarnath where the Buddha gave his first sermon as an enlightened being.

Lunch on the lawn at the Tibetan University.

Visit the Tibetan University with an audience with the Vice-Chancellor. Visit the extraordinary library with ancient scrolls.

Return to hotel and host an evening meal with a collection of local people from ICADMY. {International Academy of Arts, Dance, Music and Yoga}

present our music to the invited guests.

Overnight: Varanasi.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner.

DELHI

DAY 13: Varanasi to Delhi

After breakfast, transfer to the airport to board the flight to Delhi.

Dinner at the hotel.

Overnight: Delhi.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner.

DAY 14: Delhi

Breakfast at the hotel.

Visit the Central Cottage Industries Emporium, an ethically sourced collection of fabrics, artefacts and wares from all over India.

Options to visit various galleries and art institutions that suit the group's interests.

Return to hotel.

A wrap of stories and impressions, led by YOU, the participants.

Celebratory recital at the hotel.

Overnight: Delhi

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 15: Delhi Depart

Breakfast.

Check out from the hotel and transfer to the Delhi airport to board your flight for onward destination.

Meals: Breakfast

End of Tour and Services

NAMASTE

“Everything is recycled in India, even dreams.”

— Shashi Tharoor —

“India lives in several centuries at the same time.”

— Arundhati Roy —

“To other countries, I may go as a tourist, but to India, I come as a pilgrim.”

— Martin Luther King, Jr. —

“I like the evening in India, the one magic moment when the sun balances on the rim of the world, and the hush descends, and ten thousand civil servants drift homeward on a river of bicycles, brooding on Lord Krishna and the cost of living.”

— James Cameron —