



THE STORY HUNTERS
@ HOLI FESTIVAL

DELHI - JAISALMER

DAY 1: Delhi

Arrive at Maidens Hotel - Delhi by 1 pm.

After check-in meet at 2pm in the foyer.

CONVERSATION 1 - tuk tuk man

Full briefing on our journey and introduction to the team.

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.

CONVERSATION 2 with oldest son of the family.

Dinner at the Suraj Haveli.

Overnight: Jaisalmer

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 3: Jaisalmer

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit glorious Lake Gadisar.

CONVERSATION 3 with local characters.

Lunch at Mugs4Bugs Cafe at the Lake.

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 HOLI FESTIVAL

Breakfast at the hotel

Visit Bhopa Gypsy family to CELEBRATE HOLI.

Enjoy their performance of singing and dancing.

CONVERSATION 4 - cultural discussion with the family on life of the Bhopa Gypsies.

Lunch in town.

Walk thru the in 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 session in the Maharaja's Room at the Suraj Haveli.

CONVERSATION 5 - Enjoy conversations with local artisans.

Lunch at the Suraj Haveli.

Afternoon discussion on the rooftop of the old 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.

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 played internationally and 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

Day 7: Depart Jaisalmer – Arrive Jodhpur

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.

Visit the SKSN school for disabled children. Great opportunity to meet with these wonderful children.

CONVERSATION 5 - talk to the children and director of the NGO.

Lunch in Jodhpur.

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

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

Dinner at hotel.

Overnight: Jodhpur.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 9: Depart Jodhpur – Arrive 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

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 and his flautist.

Breakfast on the boat.

CONVERSATION 6 - Morning discussion with Sandip on a range of Indian cultural issues - history of Varanasi, caste, cremation, the new India etc

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

Dinner at the hotel.

CONVERSATION 7 - Talk with the Kinnar people {third gender community} who live on the margins of Indian society.

Overnight: Varanasi.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner

DAY 11: Varanasi

Early morning sing and meditation 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.

Depart for Sufi Temple with priest Umesh Kabir.

CONVERSATION 8 - Talk on the development of Sufism and the impact of the poet Kabir.

Visit some nearby classical musical families who have lived in a colony {suburb} for hundreds of years.

Return for 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}

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.

CONVERSATION 9 - Surprise local guest.

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.

Visit the famous Music Store in Connaught Place where the young Beatles bought their sitars, and which has been a place of pilgrimage ever since.

Return to hotel via the Delhi Gate.

CONVERSATION 10 - A wrap of stories and impressions, led by YOU, the participants.

Celebratory dinner 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

