

Women of **INDIA**



DELHI - JAISALMER

DAY 1: Delhi

Arrive at Golden Haveli, Delhi by 1 pm.
After check-in meet at 2 pm in the foyer.
Full briefing on our journey and introduction to the team.
CONVERSATION 1 - The Tuk Tuk wife
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 the family and enjoy a meal by Jaisalmer's only female chef. (She also reached the top 30 of Indians Master Chef)
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 henna artists and street sweepers.
Lunch at Mugs4Bugs Cafe at the Lake.
Travel to Bada Bagh, the old cenotaph of the Maharajas. Discussion on the Hindu beliefs and the role of the Royal Family in the past and present. Discussion on the practice of Sati, the historical practice in which a widow sacrifices herself.
Dinner at Jaisal Treats.
Overnight: Jaisalmer.
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner.

DAY 4: Jaisalmer

Breakfast at the hotel.
Visit Bhopa Gypsy family in town.
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 and local women traders.
Lunch at the Suraj Haveli.
Afternoon rehearsal 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 school in the desert built by an NGO where young girls are being educated for the first time.
Visit the 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 female 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.

Return to the hotel.

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 professional women 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

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 —