





Of all the experiences in Rajasthan that Martha Evans found fascinating, Kalbelia Dancers mesmerised her the most. It was a sight to behold! With an alluring sun setting behind the majestic dunes, the women were skilfully performing the art of dancing, while the men accompanied them with musical instruments to play a folk song. Meena, one of the beautiful dancers, caught Martha's eye, and she knew that this was the passionate and artistic moment she was looking to capture!

FRAMED

KALBELIA -AN AESTHETIC FORM OF FOLK DANCE



NUDGE THE STORYTELLER IN YOU TO SUBMIT A PHOTOGRAPH FROM YOUR TRAVELS AND WIN A TRIP TO EXPLORE THE MARVELS OF INDIA.

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT](#)



CROSSING CULTURES

FORTS OF ROYAL RAJASTHAN

Take a step back in time and relive the legends of Rajputs of Rajasthan, the “Land of Kings”! The state’s history and its glorious past are perfectly showcased in its UNESCO declared forts and palaces, priceless and delicate artwork, traditional crafts, and authentic cuisine and culture. Rajasthan hoards millions of stories about valiant Kings, unrequited love, and lost or won battles. The legend of the royal state of India can be traced back to the Indus Valley Civilization, where it all began! For quite some time, Rajasthan remained without a human settlement, until tribal communities like Bhils and Meena settled and flourished here for good. Rajasthan has a history of various kingdoms, their conflicts and wars. The regal kingdoms that ruled the desert state led to the formation of many imposing palaces and forts, along with other marvels that perfectly reflects the true essence of vibrant Rajasthan. One such fine example is Kumbhalgarh Fort, which is nestled between eleven peaks of the Aravali Ranges and has the second-longest manmade wall in the world after the Great Wall of China. Ranthambore Fort is yet another instance of a well-planned fort that was constructed as part of the kingdom’s defence. Its beautiful ruins were once an epitome of power.

Let the timeless beauty of majestic forts and elegant palaces entice you to explore mysteries and legends of these marvels! Let’s have a look at some of the most prominent ones.

Jaisalmer Fort – The Golden Hued Castle

The golden sandcastle of Jaisalmer beckons history and architecture buffs to get mesmerised by its royal charm! The seamless amalgamation of Rajput and Islamic styles of architecture with yellow sandstone and intricate carvings makes it a glorious structure to behold. The mighty Jaisalmer Fort, also known as Sonar Quila is the only living fort in the world. It was built in 1156 A.D by Rao Jaisal, a Rajput ruler who founded and established the Golden City of Jaisalmer. When in Jaisalmer, take a trip to the picture-perfect Sam Sand Dunes of the Thar Desert. Watch the sunset, dine on the dunes, take a camel ride, and sleep under the starlit sky!

Chittorgarh Fort

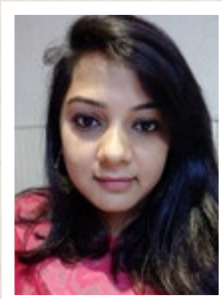
The colossal fort of Mewar region, Chittorgarh is the representation of Rajput chivalry, royalty, resistance and bravery. The tales of Chittorgarh are so incredible and unique that it’s hard to differentiate between fact and fiction! A 3-hour drive from Udaipur will take you to this magnificent fort, believed to be built by the Mauryas between the 5th and the 8th centuries. You’ll find a glorious past of centuries etched on each stone of the time when death was preferred over dishonour! Chittor’s first Jauhar by Rani Padmini (said to be the most beautiful woman the world has ever seen), took place in the fort in 1303 when Allaudin Khalji decided to capture the fort. The women built a massive pyre and performed self-immolation to defend their honour. Rani Padmini Palace, Rana Khumba Palace and Fateh Prakash Palace are among the must-see palaces along with the fort.

Gagron Fort

It’s hard to have witnessed 14 battles and 2 Jauhars, and still, stand strong, but Gagron Fort did it with all its might! The dramatic fort is surrounded by serene waters of Ahu and Kali Sindh and is unique in its own way for its glorious history. A striking hill water fort and a splendid example of Rajput architecture, the fort was established in the 7th century A.D and completed in 14th century A.D by King Bijaldev. One of the most picturesque and royal forts of Rajasthan, Gagron Fort is a delight to explore.

Mehrangarh Fort

Settled on a rocky cliff, Mehrangarh Fort was built by Rao Jodha around 1459. One of the largest forts in India, it is an epitome of royalty and known for its intricate Rajasthani carvings, formidable walls, and the enormous and elegant architecture. Take a step back in time and learn about the numerous battles that the mighty fort has been through, which are clearly visible from the marks of cannonballs on the front walls. It welcomes you with traditional folk songs at the gate and leads you to the in-house museum with an exclusive collection of royal artefacts. The view of the “Blue City” Jodhpur from the fort is one of the must-have experiences in Rajasthan!



KANIKA CHOPRA

Footloose in Udaipur

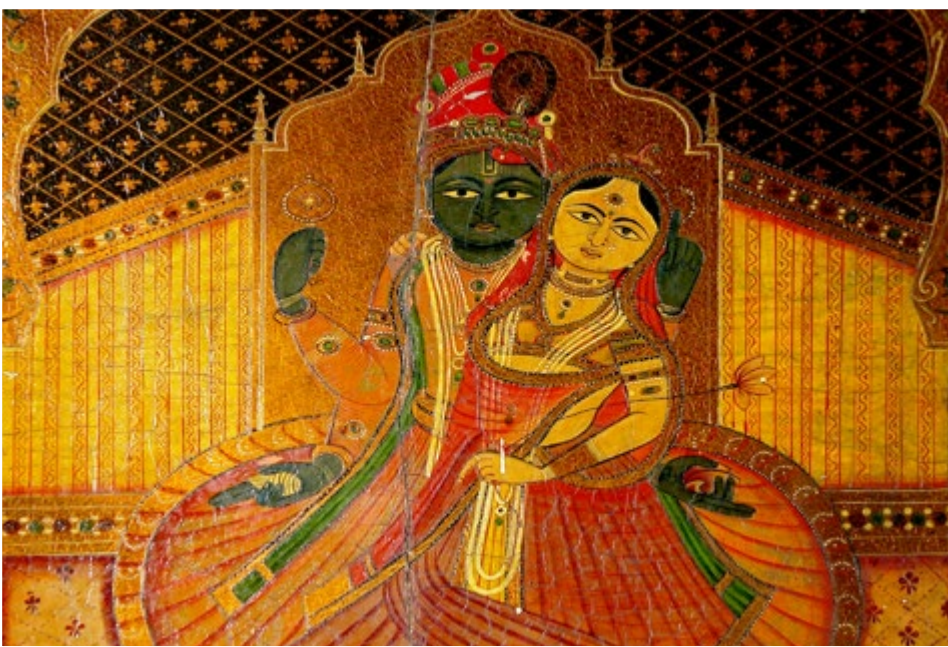
Untold stories and journeys

Love can be found anywhere! It can be found at the epitome of love The Taj Mahal, floating on a boat in the world famous Backwaters of Kerala, sunbathing on the glittering beaches of Goa, or just looking at a glorious sunset at Lake Pichola in Udaipur. “The City of Lakes” or “The Venice of the East”, if there’s any place that defines romance, it is Udaipur! It has been synonymous with romance and beauty ever since it was founded in 1559 by Maharana Udai Singh II. Dotted with royal architecture, old medieval charm, and traditional décor, Udaipur has refined the perception of a heritage city. It’s the place to stay at a luxury heritage hotel, take a boat ride on the Lake Pichola, relive the past at magnificent forts and palaces, dine under the stars by the lake, try your hand at pottery, explore the unusual art forms, and eat and shop like a local. But don't be surprised if all these experiences seem like history, with our hand-picked off-beat experiences blended with the perfect sightseeing options ready to set the tone for your next vacation to Udaipur! Let’s dig out some hidden-gems of this royal city.

Unveil the Art Forms of Udaipur

Art is a legacy that lives on in Rajasthan. Each region has its own inimitable art and craft that contributes to the aesthetics of this land.

The 300-year-old “*Jal Sanjhi*” is a unique form of art which is not done on any canvas or paper but water. Somehow, this beautiful art has been lost in the modernity of this world, the art form depicts the tale of Krishna, from birth to the destruction of Kansa. One family has been practising this art form for generations and trying its best to keep this incredible work alive. *Pichwai* is another amazing form of art that beautifully portrays the tales of Lord Krishna on a hand-spun fabric and is hung behind



the deity’s statue in temples. This major art form has been used extensively for over 400-years by the artists of Nathdwara near Udaipur. Visually striking and intricate, many Pichwais are decorated with gold plating and precious stones. This traditional Indian art has deep religious origins and is created with utmost devotion by artists. A visit to the **City Palace, Fateh Prakash Palace or Shiv Niwas Palace** in Udaipur will offer you glimpses of exquisite arts from the world of

Mewar, known as the **Mewar Miniature**, showcasing the royal lifestyle, festivals and other snippets of the bygone era. The paintings of Maharana Pratap riding on Chetak (his horse) are the most renowned among all.



Walk and Pedal

Experience the true essence of Udaipur! It is undoubtedly the “City of Lakes” but the alluring city has much more to offer than just heritage buildings, palaces, lakes, and boat rides. Udaipur has an exceptional collection of active experiences on offer. Take a look through some of the encounters that will make your ordinary trip to an extraordinary one.

A walk through the **Old City** of Udaipur is like storytelling. After a visit of City Palace, walk down the vibrant **Bazaar** dotted with handicraft shops! Pass through the well-known **Jagdish Temple** and heritage buildings to uncover the city's history and culture. It’s a delight to see goldsmiths at work, artists engrossed in creating intricate art pieces, such as jewellery, pottery and paintings. Wander a little further and explore the **Gangaur and Lal Ghats**, the picturesque waterfronts on the shimmering **Lake Pichola**. To complete your ultimate experience, head to **Fatehsagar Lake** and

admire the beautiful landscapes of Udaipur and its lush rolling hills. Cycle around the lake and witness the awe-inspiring sunrise which will definitely transport you to a different world altogether. A stroll around Fatehsagar is not a bad option, but a **cycling tour** would add a bit of thrill and freshness to the experience.

Out of City Escapades

If you go beyond the surreal city of Udaipur, it will surprise you with charming temples and unseen wildlife beauty! The temples around Udaipur are much talked about for their architecture. Settled in the Aravali Hills, the **Jain Temple of Ranakpur** is adored for its incredible style or architectures and stunning sculptures. The 14th-century temple is bound to take your breath away! While talking about the temples, it is hard to miss the magnificent **Jagat Temple**, also known as the Khajuraho of Mewar. The explicit carvings make it one of the must-visit temples. The wildlife around the city also lures nature enthusiasts. The astonishing beauty of Jawai Hills is defined by the vibrant *Rabari* herdsmen who have shared this land with the wildlife. If you want to catch a glimpse of the graceful *Leopards* in the wild, **Jawai** is the place for you! It is the best place to experience the perfect amalgamation of culture and wildlife.



TOP SPOT

FRAMED CROSSING CULTURES TOP SPOT NEWS & VIEWS IA SAYS



Mumbai airport's main runway will remain shut for five months starting November



Travellers get ready for some more delays and diversions as Mumbai airport's main runway will be closed for five months, from

November to March (2019-2020). The main runway at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport Mumbai (CSIA) handles around 46 flights per hour. But with the renovation work lined, all commercial flights will operate from the secondary runway. With this news, the airlines across are now looking at some major rescheduling, delays, diversions and cancellations of flights, considering the fact that Mumbai airport is the second busiest airport in India. And the main runway is going to be shut during peak hours between 9 am and 5.30 PM from 7 November 2019 to 28 March 2020 because of re-carpeting work, as informed by a spokesperson of Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL).

Important details

Closing duration: 7 November, 2019 to 28 March, 2020

Closing timings: 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM (from Monday to Saturday)

Exception time: 25 December, 1 January, 19 and 21 February, and 10 and 25 March

Jammu And Kashmir Reopens To Tourists After 2 Months



Jammu and Kashmir has been reopened to tourists from 10th October 2019, more than two months after the government asked tourists and pilgrims to leave the state before it made the big announcement of ending the special status for Jammu and Kashmir.

In an order dated October 9, Jammu and Kashmir's Home Department lifted the travel advisory in the state following Governor Satya Pal Malik's instructions. "The tourists desirous of undertaking visiting to the state shall be provided all necessary assistance and logistical support," the order says.

WelcomHeritage to open 3 new hotels by December 2019



WelcomHeritage has opened a new property in Tadoba – WH Tadoba Vanya Villas Resort & Spa and is set to launch 3 more by the end of this year. Sanjeev K Nayar, MIH, General Manager, WelcomHeritage, says, "We have three new properties in the pipeline which includes a heritage property in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh; Inderpura Resort in Udaipurwati, the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan and Mount Valley in Ranthambore in the foothills of the Aravalli range."

WelcomHeritage has opened a new property in Tadoba – WH Tadoba Vanya Villas Resort & Spa and is set to launch 3 more by the end of

India Jumps 6 Places To 34th Rank On World Travel And Tourism



India has moved up six places to rank 34th from the 40th place on world travel and tourism competitiveness index (TTCI), according to World Economic Forum (WEF) report. The report states that India had the greatest improvement over 2017 among the top 25 per cent of all countries ranked in the report. In 2015, India had been ranked at 52nd and at 40th in 2017.

India showed the greatest percentage improvement to its overall TTCI score, which has helped it become the only lower-middle income country in the top 35, it says.

The report further states that Thailand, Brazil and India—which are not high-income economies but rank in the top 35 on the TTCI—stand out in this quartile through their combination of rich natural and cultural resources and strong price competitiveness.

Delhi's second airport to operate first flight

The wait for Delhi's second airport is finally over. Hindon airport is ready for the first commercial flight from 11th October. The first flight from Hindon will be by Heritage Aviation company's nine-seater plane which will take off for Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. After this Heritage Aviation Private Ltd are planning to launch flights for Dehradun, Hubli, Shimla, Faizabad, Gulbarga, Nasik and Coonoor among other

popular destinations. Reducing the load at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, Hindon will serve as the 'second' airport. The air force station is located close to Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

India flags off its first privately-run train with airline-like facilities



For the first time in its 166-year history, Indian Railways is letting go of its monopoly on rail travel.

Beginning on Oct. 05, commuters between Delhi and Lucknow were able to travel in a "private" train that comes with swanky, aircraft-like frills. The Tejas Express, flagged off by Uttar Pradesh chief minister Yogi Adityanath, is run by the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), an arm of the railways that recently made its stock market debut.

The Indian Railways had entrusted IRCTC, its commercial tourism and catering arm, with the task of operating two premium trains using the fully air-conditioned rakes of the semi-high speed Tejas Express. The second private train will soon be run on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Mumbai sector.

The Delhi-Lucknow Private Train No 82502, IRCTC Tejas Express takes 6 hours and 30 minutes to cover the 511 km distance with stops at Ghaziabad (two minutes) and Kanpur Central (five minutes).

NEWS&VIEWS

FRAMED

CROSSING CULTURES

TOP SPOT

NEWS & VIEWS

IA SAYS



India Wins Four UNESCO Heritage Awards Flora Fountain, Others Bring Three Cheers for Mumbai



Mumbai's iconic 155-year-old Flora Fountain and two other heritage landmarks in the country's financial capital are among the

four sites that have been chosen from India for the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation. The fountain, a veritable symbol of Mumbai was opened to the public early this year after painstaking restoration. The UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation awards were announced at a ceremony held in Penang, Malaysia, marking 20 years since its institution. The four winners from India, include one from Ahmedabad — Award of Distinction for Vikram Sarabhai Library, Indian Institute of Management (IIM); and three from Mumbai — Award of Merit for Keneseth Eliyahoo Synagogue and Our Lady of Glory Church; while Honourable Mention for Flora Fountain. "The careful restoration of the fountain completes the series of conservation interventions to revive the city's many Victorian-era fountains, a collection of ornate civic monuments unique in India," Bangkok-based UNESCO Asia-Pacific tweeted after announcing the winners.

3 hotels from Rajasthan have featured on 'Best Hotels In The World' list



Three Indian hotels have featured on the list of 'Best Hotels In The World'. Readers' Choice Awards 2019 UK and USA was recently

announced by the Conde Nast Traveller, which also included a category of 'Best Hotels In The World'. On the 3rd position was Taj Lake Palace in Udaipur, which was followed by Rambagh Palace on number 7 and Alila Fort Bishangarh on number 11. Votes and ratings for favourite travel destinations, hotels, spas, airlines and cruise lines came from six lakh readers from across the world.

Vistara Adds 2 New Destinations, Opens Bookings For Patna and Khajuraho



Vistara, India's full-service carrier, today announced the addition of Patna (Bihar) and Khajuraho (Madhya Pradesh) to its network,

further strengthening its presence in the domestic market. Vistara will operate daily direct flights between Delhi and Patna from 3 November 2019, marking its entry in the state of Bihar. The airline will also fly daily between Varanasi and Khajuraho from 5 November 2019 with convenient connections to Delhi and Mumbai. Vistara has opened bookings for the new flights on all direct and indirect channels.

Flight connection between Udaipur to Aurangabad set to resume after 20 years



The air connectivity to Udaipur, which was snapped twenty years back, is set to be re-established with the introduction of

new flights from Aurangabad airport. Mumbai-Aurangabad-Udaipur will depart from Aurangabad at 7.15 am and reach Udaipur at 8.40am, while the Udaipur-Aurangabad-Mumbai flight will start from Aurangabad at 12.25pm and will reach Mumbai at 13.35pm. The flight is deemed important from the tourism perspective. Jaswant Singh, president of Tourism Promoters Guild, has urged the Maharashtra Tourism Development Corporation to widely promote the flight connectivity between Aurangabad and Udaipur. "It would translate into increased tourist inflow to Aurangabad. The discontinuation of Aurangabad-Udaipur flight twenty years ago had negatively impacted the tourism sector," he said.

Madhya Pradesh to get its 7th tiger reserve near Bhopal at Ratapani

Madhya Pradesh is set to get its 7th tiger reserve, which has been proposed to be carved out of the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary, and will be called the Ratapani Tiger Reserve. The declaration was reportedly made recently and the committee of the state government has submitted a report consisting of the final outline of the core and buffer areas of the reserve that was proposed. The proposal for creating the Ratapani tiger reserve has apparently been pending with the Government for over a decade.

SriLankan Airlines is once again South Asia's Leading Airline



SriLankan Airlines was adjudged the 'Leading International Airline' in South Asia for the third consecutive year at the South Asian Travel

Awards 2019 (SATA) and also bagged the 'Leading Airline Passenger Class – Business' award for the third year running from among airlines in the region. The 4th annual SATA Awards ceremony was held this year on 20th September at Amari Galle and featured airlines from India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and the Maldives. SATA (www.southasiantravelawards.com) is recognized by 15 national tourism bodies and travel trade organisations, and this year drew over 700 nominations for its awards in more than 50 categories ranging from airlines to many different types of hotels, destinations, airport lounges, convention centres, adventure services, destination promoters, dive centres, transport providers, houseboats, travel technology providers and tented camps. SriLankan Airlines has a route network of 109 cities in 48 countries, including codeshare operations in partnership with the world's finest airlines. It is firmly established as one of the leading airlines in the Indian Ocean region, being the largest carrier to both Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and the largest foreign airline in India. A member of the prestigious oneworld global airline partnership, SriLankan Airlines also connects travelers to over 1,000 cities in 160 countries through its oneworld partner airlines.

NEWS&VIEWS



MEET US AT



Indo Asia Tours will be participating in the below mentioned upcoming Travel events. You can schedule an appointment at marketing@indoasiatours.com to meet us in person at the show:

- **NTA - Travel Exchange: 8-12 Dec, 2019, Fort Worth, Texas**
- **CMT: 11-19 Jan, 2020, Stuttgart, Germany**
- **Destination East: 13-14 Jan, 2020, Kolkata, India**
- **Vakantiebeurs: 14-19 Jan, 2020, Utrecht, Holland**
- **Matka: 16-19 Jan, 2020, Helsinki, Finland**
- **FITUR: 22-26 Jan, 2020, Madrid, Spain**
- **Travel Match: 23-Jan, 2020, Oslo, Norway**

IA SAYS



Dear Partners,

At the onset, I'd like to wish you happiness and prosperity on Diwali, one of India's largest festivals. I had a blast spending my childhood in Udaipur and exploring the beautiful "CITY OF LAKES". I also discovered that experience based travel leaves an imprint in your life and since then it has been my Guru Mantra! At that time I never thought that I would share these unique experiences with my clients in future. The city has always surprised me with its royalty, ethnicity and clusters of architectural masterpieces. While everything in Udaipur is enthralling, I want to use this platform to tell you about the lesser-known gems, which I also introduced to the tourism industry. We at Indo Asia Tours strive hard to bring you closest to the local cultures during your travels. While many believe in sightseeing, we have always focused on experience-based tours. I have learned that a traveller can only be satisfied with real exciting encounters. It was 14 August 1974, when I took my first group in Udaipur. I had everything planned with all the sightseeing, but as they say "best moments happen when they are unplanned" and what was about to happen was something that I have always remembered all my life. We left our bus at Bansi Ghat (one of the Lake Palace's/ Shiv Niwas Palace's Jetty two decades ago) and continued our journey on foot, crossing Ghas Ghar to the street that leads to Bada Bazaar, a vibrant textile market visited by people from hinterland to buy colourful clothes. We crossed the painter's street after Ghas Ghar, where the by lanes was filled with painters painting in the Mewar School painting style. This is where I introduced my group to the beautiful art form of Mewar Painting. As we entered Kheradi Wada, also known as Carpenter's Market, everyone was intrigued by the art of making wooden tops. Further, we walked to Anaj Mandi and walked into the shop from where my mother used to buy the monthly supplies. We were greeted and treated with biscuits and cookies from the owner. The group discovered the concept of "Bahi-Khata" in the shop, a diary used for ledger keeping and accounting since many decades in India. After walking through the fresh vegetables and fruits market and a free banana treat from a known vendor. We stopped at Haithpole. During the Battle of Haldighati in 16th century, few men of Akbar's army decided to settle around Haldighati after the war and variety of roses were planted in the region to produce fragrant perfume oils called Attar/Ittar. They supplied it to their friends and relatives who have shops around Hatipole. It's fascinating to see how those people have been involved in this art and science of making attars since centuries at Hathipole Market. Crossing Clock Tower, we reached Sarafa Market, known for the gold and silver jewellery shops. I showed them the interesting contrast of customers buying vegetables and jewellery. They would bargain and haggle over vegetable prices, but they will buy gold or silver jewellery with any second thoughts. After a delightful visit to Jagdish Temple, we ended our walking tour at City Palace. And to my surprise, no one from the group wanted to take a peek at the palace after their ultimate encounter with the authentic side of the city. I still remember their content faces. They retired for the day saying that they never had a travel experience as inspiring as this one. The very next day I took them to a quaint little town of Iswal, and they were stunned to see the records of Maharana Pratap's army and their food supplies in Bahi-Khata, still maintained by a Bania family in the town. We definitely walked on the trail that no one had ever discovered and that's how I introduced Experience Travel at Indo Asia Tour.

Sunirmol Ghosh

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH!



Kiran Sharma | Senior Accounts Executive

Kiran's journey with Indo Asia started 12 years ago. Her passion and perfection for work is a driving force behind her achievements here. She admires and thanks her seniors for the motivation and mentoring. She is most passionate about one thing though and that's Music. Her love for her two sons takes precedence over everything else. Her many qualities make Kiran an important asset for us. Kudos to her for her achievements.