

Imagine Riding



Pushkar Fair Ride :

Once a year we organize a horseback safari from Udaipur to the Camel Market and Pushkar Fair at the edge of the Thar Desert. This safari is certainly most spectacular firstly for its great landscapes and secondly of course for the participation in the colorful Pushkar Fair, probably one of the most vibrant festivals of India.

The safari trail leads from the Aravalli Mountains with its unique geographic features down into the great Thar Desert and the little town of Pushkar. There are only a few places of interest along the way but the rather substantial change of landscape taking place is simply breathtaking. After leaving the Aravalli Mountains behind, the riders will enter the semi-desert stretching around the edges of the Thar Desert where man fights hard in order to make a living from the poor soil. Camels replace horses and cows and the stony terrain of the hills gives way to the sandy desert ground. A few highlights are along the route such as the interesting tribal culture of this region or the impressive fort at Kharwa, which our riders can visit. The local noble family is much interested in horses and if at home, never misses a chat, but the real highlight of this safari is of course the Pushkar Camel Fair where every year around 25 000 animals, camels,

horses and cattle, are traded. It is also a major festival so many people of the region come to Pushkar in order to enjoy the fair, take part in the religious ceremonies or indulge in purchasing all sorts of items.

The first set of dates is the safer from Udaipur to Pushkar. The second set of dates is the safari from Pushkar to Udaipur. The time spend on the Pushkar Fair in both safaris is equal.

10-19.11.2018 Rate: 1584 Euros

19-28.11.2018 Rate: 1530 Euros

single supplement : 306 Euros

ITINERARY

Udaipur - Puskar: 10-19 November, 2018

10 November: Arrival of the participants, sightseeing and overnight stay in a middle class hotel in Udaipur.

11 November: After breakfast pick up from your hotel and transfer to Deogarh, the starting point of the safari and test riding of the horses in the afternoon. On the way there is the opportunity to visit the Nagda and Eklingji Temples.

Overnight stay in our safari camp at a lake side.

12 November: 1st Safari day: Deogarh-Sohangarh

The first day ride goes through the lower hills of the Aravalli Mountains dotted with little villages, fields, rocky hills and sweeping countryside. Arrival in the camp around late afternoon.

13 November: 2nd Safari Day: Sohangarh- Lalpura

Another day riding through the hills. The landscape becomes somewhat drier and the underground rocky. After lunch the riders can visit some tribal villages on the way and their characteristic way of cultivation.

14 November: 3rd Safari Day: Lalpura-Jawaja

The main range of the Aravalli Mountains lies behind and the terrain becomes more open and level. The riders still have to master a handful of ravines and canyons on the way into the Thar Desert. The landscape has changed and green trees and lush vegetation have given way to thorn trees and shrubs. In the villages camels become a common sight and cows are increasingly replaced by goats.

15 November : 4th Safari Day: Jawaja - Kharwa

Today the riders enter the semi-desert which borders the vast expanse of the Thar Desert. Large areas of waste land with little more than thorn bushes have to be traversed. The ground becomes sandy and the predominant colours are now yellow and brown, compared to the previous green. The terrain is level and the hills are left behind. Open savannah invites for long trots, canters and gallops and occasionally antelopes such as Nilgai or Chinkara can be spotted.

16 November: 5th Safari Day: Kharwa-Sarsari

Another day of riding through semi-desert dotted with occasional tribal villages. After breakfast the riders exit the Aravalli Mountains and cross into the sweeping arid plains around Pushkar. The ground becomes sandy and soft and invite for long trots and canter. Arrival in the camp around late afternoon.

17 November: 6th Safari day: Sarsari-Pushkar

The last day ride before reaching Pushkar leads through first semi desert and then proper desert along a range of mountains, which offers breathtaking views. In the morning the riders cross a countryside dotted with thorn trees, home of Nilgai and Chinkara antelopes. Villages are rare and the underground is rocky with occasional stretches of sand. After lunch the trail leads along a major trade route to Pushkar and the riders will pass many animals, especially cattle, camels and occasional horses. Sand roads invite for fast riding, only broken by an occasional village.

Pushkar is reached around early afternoon. In order to reach our safari camp, which is conveniently situated on a small farm at the outskirts of the town, the riders have to ride over parts of the Fair and can catch a glimpse of the colourful gathering.

After arrival in our camp, a walk over the Fair or the participation in some of the evening activities are possible.

18 November: 7th Safari Day: Ride over the Pushkar Fair

Today the riders have a chance of exploring the Pushkar Fair on Horseback. Starting in the early morning they ride over the trading ground and can observe the animals being watered and fed.

Afterwards, the area around Pushkar is explored. Pushkar is situated at the edge of the desert in a spectacular scenery. A lonely mountain ridge of the Aravallis run from south to north and Pushkar is thus at a meeting point between desert and mountains. The countryside is dry and infertile and agriculture rather hard. Most farmers use camels as drought animals and they are a common sight. In the afternoon the riders have another chance of visiting the Camel Fair and participating in the cultural activities organised by the Rajasthan Tourism Board.

19 November: End of the program after breakfast and flight out.

Pushkar – Udaipur, 19-28 November, 2018: Arrival in Pushkar and first sightseeing of the town and market. Visit with us the Pushkar Fair, the Camel and Horse market and the Old town with its many temples, the holy lake and the ghats. You will stay overnight in our Safari Camp which is situated inside a large orchard under mango and lemon trees, within walking distance of the fairground yet very safe and quiet. Overnight stay in our safari camp near the fairground.

20 November: Start for a very early morning ride over the Pushkar Fair. This is the perfect time to see the market from horseback. Everyone is waking up, the animals get fed and the traders are having their cup of tea by a small cow-dung fire on the sand dunes. The ride leads through the middle of the market, through the rows of horses, camels and cattle, all barely a stone throw away. The ride continues over the Pushkar Sand dunes where horses and riders can enjoy some wonderful trots and canters. Return to our safari camp for breakfast. After breakfast you can visit the Pushkar Fair either alone or with us. Every day has a different program with horse, camel and cattle competitions besides fun competitions and cultural events such as folk dances or a spiritual walk through town. It also never gets boring to walk over the Fair and see horses and camels being sold and bought. Some owners will show off their horses' skills as riding or dancing horses, always interesting to see. Dinner is back in our safari camp. Overnight stay in our safari camp in Pushkar.

21 November: Pushkar – Sarsari

On the first day of the safari the trail leads over sand roads out of Pushkar. Pushkar has good wells and so the first part of the ride leads along orchards and fields of roses and other flowers. The ground is soft and sandy and the ride is swift with lots of trots and canters. On the ride we will encounter some horses and camels purchased from the Pushkar Fair and now making their way slowly to their new homes. Further away from Pushkar the plant life is sparse and the riders will ride through thick thorn bush vegetation. Occasionally a field can be seen where a farmer tries to grow pulses on the infertile land. The main means of livelihood here is animal husbandry. On the way a few small temples are passed. Arrival in the safari camp around late afternoon. Overnight stay in our safari camp.

22 November: Sarsari- Kharwa

Another day of riding through semi desert, along sandy trails, passing little villages and their fields. The people here are friendly and always happy to welcome our riders with a friendly smile and a cup of hot, sweet tea. Due to irrigation the villages are quite prosperous with beautifully carved oxen carts and farm gates. The soft ground is perfect for long trots and canters. In the afternoon the riders pass the impressive Kharwa Fort. Arrival in our safari camp in the late afternoon and overnight stay.

23 November: Kharwa – Lalpura

On this day the riders will leave the desert behind. The land rises in front of them and the riders will enter the mountains. A steep road leads up and most of the morning is passed travelling upwards. Around lunch time the land levels out a bit, but here the underground is rocky and there are more stones than sand. Occasionally the riders will encounter nomads with colorful turbans and huge moustaches herding their flock of sheep. They transport everything they own and need for a living on camel backs. As the men tend their sheep, the women walk

with the camels. Small children are allowed to ride along the cooking pots and bed while everyone else is walking. The landscape is now quite different from yesterday with rugged hills and bizarre rock formations. The villages are mostly situated in the valleys where they find water to grow trees and have little fields. Unlike around Pushkar, farming is done exclusively by bullocks. Arrival in our safari camp in the afternoon and overnight stay.

24 November: Lalpura – Jawaja

Today the riders will ride over the pass road between Lalpura and Bheem. It marks the highest point of the trail. The landscape here is unique in its roughness with windswept hills and rocky peaks. Once in a while we pass the occasional village, otherwise the landscape is lonely. Arrival in our safari camp and overnight stay.

25 November: Jawaja – Sohargarh

Today the landscape becomes again more hilly. The desert is left behind and the riders enter the lower ranges of the Aravalli Mountains. The riders can visit a number of tribal villages. They are usually situated on top of small hills surrounded by a wall of thorn bushes. The houses are built in clusters with thatched roofs and walls made of mud. Very often they are nicely decorated with white tribal paintings. Here the riders can experience firsthand the unique culture of the Rajasthani tribes. Our camp tonight is situated near the former hunting lodge of the royal family of Thal. When the family is in, they are always eager to come over for a chat. Overnight stay in our safari camp.

26 November: Sohargarh – Deogarh

On the last safari day the trail will lead through the Aravalli Mountains which are fairly low over here and along long stretches of plain countryside. The route leads through villages and along some small fields. Around noon the riders pass a marble and granite mining area and its unique landscape of rough, oddly sculptured rocks and stones. Later the landscape becomes Around 4 pm the camp which is situated near a lake will be reached. Overnight stay in our safari camp.

27 November: Transfer back to Udaipur after breakfast, on the way we will visit the Nagda and Eklingji Temples. Arrival in Udaipur around noon. In the afternoon there is a boat ride on Lake Pichola together. Overnight stay in a middle class hotel in Udaipur.

28 November : after breakfast departure flight

www.imagineriding.com / email: imagineriding1@gmail.com