

Live & Breathe Rajasthan 2015

A Life Experience Journey

22 days | 8-29 Nov

Taj Mahal | Rajasthan | Varanasi

Experience Enjoy Evolve Embrace

Immerse yourself...and your camera...in a land with breathtaking feats of architecture and delightful splashes of colour in saris that only Indian women can wear so well! Combine your love of photography and travel to meet camel herders, farmers, smiling children and life that spills onto the quaint back lanes and the best masala chai! This is Rajasthan.

Putting you in the Picture. Experience life on the streets, enjoy photography adventures with camera in hand to capture amazing scenes as they unfold before us.

Friendly namastes, shy and cheeky smiles from the children, bustling life in the streets, stunning blue dwellings with cobbled alleys, spiritual temples oozing with atmosphere, take part in festivals, daily activities spilling out onto the paved alleys, sipping cold beers on the rooftops, meeting and photographing people who are the essence of Rajasthan, inhaling the aroma of spices, watching life go by all around you before returning to your divine accommodation that includes a mix of sumptuous palaces, grand colonial architecture, luxury tents complete with own ensuite and authentic haveli and farm stays.

Take Home with You. What I love about travel is that each person has their own highlights that they will take home with them... Memories of those majestic palaces, heartfelt moments, happiness, hard life and havoc, harmony, history and an all-time high from your travel experiences both in life and in your images you have captured that will stay with you for a long time to come on our fully guided *Live & Breathe Rajasthan* journey with Informal Photo Tours.

Planned for Photographers. Small group travel of 4-12, fully guided with Australian Professional Photographer, Sue Tanian, for informal one on one and group tuition for entire trip with the assistance of a local English speaking guide. Notes accompany our customised itinerary which is designed with photographers in mind to make the most of a need for unhurried travel, learning time and lighting conditions. A general level of fitness is required to make it more enjoyable. Landscapes, people, environmental portraits and architecture will keep us busy. This is not a trekking tour but there is walking involved carrying your camera bag, drink and snacks. We will have our own private vehicle and driver allowing us more freedom, efficiency of time and flexibility.

Special Feature. *And as if visiting Rajasthan's stunning sights to keep your cameras busy isn't enough an absolute highlight of Live & Breathe Rajasthan are the feature sessions organised throughout the tour where you will get the opportunity to meet, talk with and photograph individual people of Rajasthan who have their own stories to tell.....*

Live & Breathe Rajasthan is for all experience levels with an aim to encouraging Beginners to Intermediate photographers with an emphasis on learning how to capture your images with the best use of your camera and compositional skills. Sue has been conducting workshops for over 16 years.

Camera type does not matter...this is about learning to use what you have to make the most of you the photographer! Photos are formed before your finger hits the button so learning to see will open up a whole new world of creative thinking! And is that what that button does!

Sessions are optional and informal, relaxed and fun. Non photographers very welcome indeed! I am with you for the entire journey to take of you but there is free time for those who wish....if you need some down time then it's yours! Our customised travel means we can be flexible.

Rajasthan is such a mix of life, hustle and beauty that you will come away with some amazing pictures of this country and its people in your heart and in your camera!! What a wonderful classroom we will have! You will have the added advantage of travelling with other photographers alike which only helps to further enhance your learning experience. Cultural awareness and sensitivity will be reflected in all that we do.

It is the ideal combination of holiday, learning and travel where I look forward to sharing my passion for photography with you in this amazing place.

Travelling around in Rajasthan is not luxury travel but our accommodation is of very fine quality for your comfort. Life and conditions are not as we know it here but all you need is a sense of adventure, a sense of wonderment with new experiences, and a sense of fun!

Live & Breathe Rajasthan!

COMMENCE LIVE & BREATHE RAJASTHAN A PHOTOGRAPHER'S JOURNEY

Day 01| Delhi, India | 8th Nov | Sun

Welcome to India! On arrival at Delhi International Airport, you will be welcomed and transferred to our hotel where you can relax or explore our surrounds. I have been photographing some of the local people here for a couple of years now so will love to return to give them more photos and say gidday.

Stay: Agra

Day 02| Agra | 9th Nov | Mon

The very early morning rise will be oh so worth it! Prepare to be witness to the majestic and stunning Taj Mahal...it will simply take your breath away. There are no words to describe it...you simply have to see it for yourself. Photograph to your hearts content and explore the little visited surrounding grounds and hear the amazing story that has shaped this Wonder of the World. You will love also our visit to Agra Fort and the abandoned citadel of the Mughal Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri. Option to return for sunset or to visit a local village.

Stay: Agra

Day 03 | Jaipur | 10th Nov | Tues

Optional return morning to the Taj Mahal...it truly is that good! Start our road journey to the Pink City of Jaipur. Along the way we will stop by an amazing place called the Abhaneri Stepwell ...see if you can recognise what film this appears in. And a wonderful way to end the day would be to watch the sun set over the pink city from an old fort perched on a hill.

But then again maybe it isn't the end...a walk through the decorated night bazaar is full of life, families out strolling and activity everywhere!

Stay: Jaipur

Day 04 | Jaipur | 11th Nov | Wed

Happy Diwali! Marigolds everywhere! Morning walk of the old city where we will attend the morning prayers at the temple and explore the old city. Amber Fort is very impressive perched on the hill as are it's elephants! A Bollywood classic was filmed here so you know it is good! The soft colours in the buildings are beautiful and it is easy to lose yourself here exploring the amazing architecture, not to mention the views. Enjoy the Diwali festival celebrations...a wonderful atmosphere in the streets with lights and fireworks.

Stay: Jaipur

Day 05 | Jodhpur | 12th Nov | Thur

Travel to the wonderful 'Blue City' of Jodhpur with its stunning walls of blue that make not only a wonderful backdrop to the things we see but a photo in itself. Discover the bazaars that are a riot of colour and sights that will see your head spinning! Horns bipping, children laughing, locals trading, smells of samosas cooking...love it!

Stay: Jodhpur

Day 06 | Jodhpur | 13th Nov| Sat

Morning street walk that will have you so excited to see what is around the next corner! Meet the people as they make their way to work and school with breakfast cooking in the tiny shops along the streets. Smell those spices! Take a visit to Mehrangarh Fort with fantastic views of the city and Jaswant Thada. Dinner on the rooftop tonight!

Stay: Jodhpur

Day 07 | Mukundgarh | 14th Nov| Sun

Our next destination will delight with the opportunity for photos right at our doorstep with our haveli stay. Character, charm and a wonderful place to be...maybe our very own Exotic Marigold Hotel! You may wish to visit the Tal Chappar wildlife sanctuary on the way.

Stay: Mukundgarh

Day 08 | Mukundgarh | 15th Nov| Mon

Visit a rural village to capture a different side of living. This region is made special by the frescoes and well worth a visit. Walk among the bazaars, take a tuk tuk ride, visit the living quarters of tie and dye workers and attend aarti in a local temple. On the outskirts of the village we may get the chance to see some migratory birds.

Stay: Mukundgarh

Day 09 | Mukundgarh | 16th Nov| Tues

Visit some neighbouring villages to capture rural life as it unfolds. There is the option for us to participate in some interesting activities! And we will have fun with our cooking session back at the haveli this evening.

Stay: Mukundgarh

Day 10 | Farm Stay | 17th Nov| Wed

Head off to our farm stay...a chance to share life with the local family and experience a day in their world as they go about their daily activities. Take a jeep ride into the ravines to explore and relax on the hillside to view the sunset.

Stay: Farm Stay

Day 11 | Pushkar | 18th Nov | Thur

A chance to catch the morning light before heading to the holiest city of Rajasthan, Pushkar. But the main reason we are here is for the colourful and culturally entertaining camel fair. You will love our accommodation...on the outskirts of town in an orchard where it is a bit away from the noise of the fair and the bustling streets where we have our own luxury tented accommodation complete with private ensuite and deckchairs. And did I mention the food...the best we have had in all of India! A camel cart will take you to the fair...a wonderful time sitting on cushions as we meander thru the streets and the camel herder's camps.

Stay: Pushkar

Day 12 | Pushkar | 19th Nov | Fri

Let the excitement begin! Colourful dress, fluorescent turbans, prancing Mawari horses, unbelievable moustaches, camels as far as the eye can see, the most amazing faces, carnival activities, singing, dancing, street stalls and various cultural and religious gatherings are just a part of the wonderful atmosphere that is the fair. Share tea over a campfire with the camel herders and learn about their way of life that is slowly disappearing as the camel becomes less needed as a beast of burden with the introduction of machinery to more and more communities. Wandering among the dunes is an absolute delight of Pushkar and you will while away many hours at the fair. The town area is closed to vehicles so is a great place to roam. It is designed around a lake where many people take the pilgrimage to for religious activities (photography not permitted) so there is always plenty going on. And a shoppers paradise! Pushkar Fair is truly a highlight of our Rajasthan journey...it is an annual trading fair where owners can show off their dancing horses (and camels!) and trade the year's livestock. But it is so much more with all the festivities that go with it. Not to be missed!

Stay: Pushkar

Day 13 | Bundi | 20th Nov | Sat

Another chance for an early morning visit to the fair to catch the activity in the best light. Travel to the fascinating old town of Bundi where we will do what we do best...street walking to take in the life and sights around us.

Stay: Bundi

Day 14 | Chandrabhaga | 21st Nov | Sun

Morning visit to the bazaars, stroll or simply relax before driving to our exciting addition to our journey by visiting a lesser known camel fair...one with all the excitement still but without the crowds of tourists and a chance to see more of the traders' life and the fun of the fair. Get those cameras ready!

Stay: Chandrabhaga

Day 15 | Chandrabhaga | 22nd Nov | Mon

On the banks of the holy river we will visit a 1000 year old temple...absorb some of the history before making our way back to the bustle of the fair. It is a huge cattle fair which combines religion with commerce. Farm animals like cows, horses, buffaloes, camels and bullocks are brought here from the distant parts for sale. Traders from different parts converge here and brisk trading takes place. The fair gives a very good opportunity to know more about the rituals, traditions and also about the people of this region.

Stay: Chandrabhaga

Day 16 | Chandrabhaga-Delhi | 23rd Nov | Tues

Another opportunity to catch the morning light at the fair and some relaxation before we head off on our overnight train journey to Delhi. Another wonderful India experience!

Day 17 | Varanasi | 24th Nov | Wed

Disembark from our train early morning to connect with our flight from Delhi to Varanasi and transfer to our hotel. There is a maze of ramshackle alleys with lots to discover around every corner. But for most it is known as the destination for pilgrims to bathe on the banks and stone steps of the

river Ganges with its crumbling buildings, palaces and temples. Blessings, meditation, yoga, enlightenment, the elixir of life and for some, the final resting place. This is a place that holds fascination for all. Visit the Ghats in the evening to see the spectacular transformation to celebrate Dev Diwali festival.

Stay: Varanasi

Day 18 | Varanasi | 25th Nov | Thurs

An early morning boat ride to experience dawn on the River Ganges is one of the best ways to see Varanasi. That impressive light will be so exciting for pictures of the pilgrims with all the colour and clamour. People, mosques, ghats and temples line the shoreline. Explore the old city so full of atmosphere before an evening visit to the Ghats to see the spectacular transformation to celebrate Dev Diwali festival.

Stay: Varanasi

Day 19 | Varanasi | 26th Nov | Fri

Visit the old city and take an excursion to Sarnath...a place with an interesting story. A day to absorb the amazing sights from the festival with Varanasi at its finest. Millions of people offer prayers and take a dip in the Ganges providing amazing photo opportunities all through the day and night.

Stay: Varanasi

Day 20 & 21 | Varanasi | 27th & 28th Nov | Sat & Sun

Take the morning for discovery at our leisure. This is an area that offers so much for exploring that it will be nice to have time for seeing what is around the corner and for us to make the most of any opportunity that arises for us to follow up. It is often the people that we meet that stay in our hearts long after we have returned home so a couple of days of unscheduled program will be an absolute highlight of our Rajasthan experience.

Stay: Varanasi

Day 22 | Delhi | 29th Nov | Mon

A visit to a textile workshop will allow us to meet the people that make up this amazing location and to find out about their lives before we make our way back to Delhi by plane to connect with our flight home. Farewell to amazing Rajasthan and to its people who will have made our travels to India a truly wonderful experience!

Our Journey in India ends....but our journey re-living through our photographs, memories and life experience has just begun...

Live & Breathe Rajasthan 2015 ~ A Photographer's Journey

Tour Price

22 day Rajasthan Journey

USD **\$6300*** Early Bird Special for 4 persons only

***Yikes! This price valid for bookings in April Only...Jaldi!**

Regular Price USD \$6600

Single Supplement available upon request

Booking confirmed upon payment of deposit.

Please note prices are in USD due to fluctuating exchange rate

Itinerary is subject to change to allow increased flexibility when opportunities arise enhancing your customised travel experience. Free time is optional at any time requested that is practical. We use quality accommodation whilst travelling in India for your comfort and respite.

17 day option available upon request

Includes:

All accommodation in double sharing rooms

All meals in Pushkar, Chandrabhaga and farm stay

Breakfast and Dinner in Mukundgarh

Breakfast in Jaipur, Jodhpur, Agra and Varanasi

Domestic airfare (Delhi-Varanasi-Delhi)

English speaking guide in Agra, Mukundgarh, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Varanasi

All ground transportation in air-conditioned private vehicle, taxes, driver allowance, parking

Transfers

Professional Photographer with one-to-one and group photo tuition for entire tour

Pre and post tour photo assistance, Feature Sessions, workshop notes

Does not include:

Travel insurance (compulsory)

Beverages, laundry, personal expenditure, activities outside of itinerary, extra meals

International airfares, Visa

Tips, gifts, vaccinations & medical

Entrance to monuments

Cost incidental to any change of itinerary/stay on account of flight cancellations due to bad weather, ill health, roadblocks or any other factor beyond our control.

Passport must have more than 6 months validity until expiry.

Travel Health is to be taken seriously. Please consult your doctor for information before travelling. Please read **Booking Conditions** <http://www.informalphotography.com.au/booking-conditions/> and submit **Booking Forms** (contact Sue) with Deposit. An information sheet with packing checklist and information will be sent upon booking.

For further information please phone Sue: Mob (+61)0407355670

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We can also assist you in flight bookings, visa applications and tour needs. Informal Photography offsets it's air travel carbon usage with a tree planting program and provides a printer friendly and e-versions of your itinerary and paperwork. We also proudly support volunteer projects, rural assistance programs, street dog programs, school assistance and TAP (Travellers Against Plastic)

We look forward to our Journey Together!

Informal
PHOTO TOURS

A Life Experience Journey

Informal Photo Tours would like to thank you for supporting a fully Australian owned and operated small business