

**Craig**  
travel

LEGENDS OF  
**RAJASTHAN**

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**SMALL GROUP**

**FEB 13-MAR 4, 2027 | 20 DAYS | 52 MEALS**

**JOURNEY LEADER: MICHELE BUYS**

*Colorful dressed Indian woman crossing sand dunes and carrying water from a local well, Thar Desert, Rajasthan, India.*

Welcome to India, a land where the echoes of ancient empires meet a vibrant, living culture. This immersive journey takes you through the architectural heart of Rajasthan, shifting from the grand, red-sandstone monuments of the Mughal era to the golden dunes of the Thar Desert. Beyond the majestic ramparts of hillside forts and the ethereal sunrise glow of the Taj Mahal, we delve into the authentic spirit of the region; connecting with local families in their homes and savouring a rich cuisine born from the earth's bounty. From the shimmering lakes of Udaipur to the living desert fort of Jaisalmer, join us to experience a landscape of profound spirituality, storied traditions, and a warm hospitality that remains unparalleled.

## SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

LIMITED TO ONLY 25 TRAVELLERS



### Tour Highlights

- Explore nine UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the iconic Taj Mahal, the 16th-century Agra Fort, and the 12th-century Jaisalmer Fort
- Venture into the Thar Desert for the Jaisalmer Desert Festival, and a jeep safari across the high dunes
- Discover rural India with a scenic train ride through the Aravalli Hills and a "Rural Ramble" in Deogarh
- Enjoy an array of culinary experiences, from a welcome dinner in a historic Delhi haveli and dining under the stars in the Thar Desert, to an organic farm-to-table lunch at Mharo Khet and an intimate, home-cooked meal with a local family in Jaipur
- Experience the lively energy of Delhi's Chandni Chowk, Jodhpur's Sardar Market, and Jaisalmer's golden alleys while witnessing heritage crafts like Sanganeri block-printing and handmade paper
- Learn about Rajasthani dances and puppetry at Udaipur's historic Bagore-ki-Haveli
- Glide across the shimmering waters of Lake Pichola
- Visit the only temple dedicated to Lord Brahma in holy Pushkar and explore the spiritual wonder of the Akshardham Temple in Delhi

### Inclusive Features

- Return economy group airfare to Delhi
- Accommodations in carefully selected first-class resorts and heritage hotels as indicated or similar
- 52 meals included as shown in the itinerary (B - 17 breakfasts, L - 17 lunches, D - 18 dinners)
- Services of your Canadian journey leader plus a professional English speaking tour guide in India
- All gratuities, surcharges, taxes and fees for inclusions
- India visa fee for Canadian passport holders
- Airport transfer in Canada or equivalent value with purchase of group airfare

### Journey Leader

**Michele Buys** brings warmth, humour, and a true passion for discovery to every journey she leads. After 37 years as a dedicated nurse, she turned her lifelong love of travel into her next adventure, guiding tours across Quebec and beyond. With Dutch roots and a backpacker's spirit, Michele has explored the world from Morocco to Turkey, worked as a nurse in Australia, and even trekked the Annapurna range in Nepal to 5,400 metres. She also completed the famed Camino de Santiago—780 kilometres in 35 days! Most recently, she led Craig Travel's Best of Ireland tour. Michele's enthusiasm and genuine care ensure every traveller feels inspired, connected, and ready for unforgettable memories.



### FEB 13, Saturday

Members gather in Toronto for the overnight flights to Delhi.

### DEPART CANADA

### FEB 14, Sunday

Upon arrival in Delhi, we transfer to our hotel for dinner.

### ARRIVE DELHI, INDIA

**Le Meridien Hotel** (3 nights)

D

### FEB 15, Monday

Our journey begins in Delhi, a city where ancient ruins and modern power sit side by side. We start with a visit to the UNESCO-listed Qutub Minar, the world's tallest brick minaret and a masterpiece of early Indo-Islamic design. Next, we enjoy a panoramic drive on our way to Humayun's Tomb. Declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1993, it remains a stunning example of Mughal architecture. Our welcome dinner at Haveli Dharampura features a live performance that immerses us in the vibrant heritage of the region. BLD

### DELHI

### FEB 16, Tuesday

Today we explore the stunning Akshardham Temple, a spiritual complex showcasing millennia of Hindu culture. Next, we enter the heart of Old Delhi to visit the Jama Masjid. This 17th-century masterpiece remains one of India's largest mosques, built by Emperor Shah Jahan from red sandstone and white marble. Embrace the lively energy of Chandni Chowk on a short rickshaw ride through this Mughal-era market. Then find quiet reflection at Rajghat, the park marking Mahatma Gandhi's cremation site. BLD

### DELHI

### FEB 17, Wednesday

We board our flight to Jaisalmer, the Golden City. Upon arrival, we settle into our hotel and enjoy an elegant high tea, soaking in the tranquil atmosphere of the Thar Desert. In the afternoon, we visit Lodhruva village, once the capital

### DELHI / JAISALMER

of the Bhatti Rajputs before the founding of Jaisalmer. Here, we explore magnificent Jain temples known for their intricate stone carvings, offering a glimpse into the rich history that predates the current city.

**Storii By ITC Hotels Jaisalmer** (3 nights) BLD

**FEB 18, Thursday**

**JAISALMER**

Jaisalmer Fort, a 12th-century UNESCO World Heritage Site, is one of the oldest continuously inhabited forts in the world. We admire the massive sandstone walls, which house nearly one-fourth of the city's population amid narrow, winding alleys and exquisitely carved Havelis. These grand merchant mansions showcase the city's famous stonework, featuring elaborate balconies and latticed windows carved entirely from golden sandstone. We continue to the serene Gadi Sagar Lake, a 14th-century reservoir surrounded by temples. The afternoon is free to explore the city markets or relax at our hotel. BLD

**FEB 19, Friday**

**DESERT FESTIVAL**

This morning, we visit Kuldhara, once a prosperous village of Paliwal Brahmins that was mysteriously abandoned in the 19th century. The site now offers well-preserved stone ruins, and a hauntingly beautiful glimpse into the past. After lunch, we drive to the Desert Festival, a vibrant celebration of Rajasthani culture set against the Thar dunes. While the program remains spontaneous, we'll witness the desert come alive with a kaleidoscope of traditions, including high-energy performances, camel races, and folk music. BLD

**FEB 20, Saturday**

**JAISALMER / DECHU**

We venture deeper into the Thar Desert as we drive to Samsara Camp, a wilderness retreat nestled among endless sand dunes and a destination in itself. After lunch at the camp, we enjoy a thrilling jeep ride through the high dunes, followed by a short camel ride. As night falls, we gather for a special dinner beneath the desert sky, accompanied by the soul-stirring rhythms of local folk music and the mesmerizing movements of Kalbelia dances.

**Samsara Desert Camp** (1 night) BLD

**FEB 21, Sunday**

**DECHU / JODHPUR**

After our desert retreat, we travel to Jodhpur, known as the "Blue City" for its iconic azure-washed houses that blanket the old quarter. On the way, we pause at Mharo Khet for a special farm-to-table experience. This organic farm invites us to tour its fields before we enjoy a plant-forward menu designed to showcase the day's freshest local produce.

**Novotel Jodhpur** (2 nights) BLD

**FEB 22, Monday**

**JODHPUR**

Our morning begins at the 15th-century Mehrangarh Fort, a formidable citadel rising about 400 feet above the skyline. We explore the Jodhpur Museum, housed within the fort's palace wings, home to a rare collection of opulent royal palanquins and historic arms and armour. Nearby, we visit Jaswant Thada, a white marble memorial to Maharaja Jaswant Singh II. A walk through the iconic Clock Tower and Sardar Market reveals the legendary spice and textile trades of the Blue City before we gather for an authentic Rajasthani meal at the elegant Khas Bagh. BLD

**FEB 23, Tuesday**

**RANAKPUR / UDAIPUR**

En route to Udaipur, we stop at Ranakpur, home to one of India's most spectacular Jain temples. We visit the 15th-century marble complex dedicated to Adinatha, renowned for its 1,444 uniquely carved pillars. Following lunch, we drive to Udaipur, famously known as the "City of Lakes" for its sophisticated lake system and romantic waterfront architecture. **Fateh Niwas** (2 nights) BLD



*Admire the iconic Hawa Mahal, or "Palace of Winds"*



*Taj Mahal, a symbol of eternal love in marble*



*Learn about Rajasthani puppetry*



*Jaswant Thada, a white marble memorial to Maharaja Jaswant Singh II*

**FEB 24, Wednesday** **UDAIPUR**  
 Step inside the sprawling City Palace, a masterpiece of Rajasthani design that took 400 years to build. We explore its museum, the formerly Ladies' Chamber, before visiting the 17th-century Jagdish Temple. Our morning continues at Saheliyon Ki Bari, the "Gardens of the Maidens," famous for its marble elephants and lotus pools. After lunch, we glide across Lake Pichola on a scenic cruise for views of the city's shimmering ghats. This evening, we are treated to traditional dance and puppetry at Bagore-ki-Haveli. BLD

**FEB 25, Thursday** **UDAIPUR / DEOGARH**  
 Today we drive to Deogarh, a town with stunning views of the Aravalli Range. We venture into the heartland for the Rural Ramble, an off-road adventure through pastoral landscapes to witness local life in the fields. Our day concludes with the ultimate regional splendour: a stay in a 17th-century palace. **Deogarh Mahal** (1 night) BLD

**FEB 26, Friday** **DEOGARH / JAIPUR**  
 On our way to Jaipur, we hop on a scenic 30-minute ride into the Aravalli Hills aboard a traditional meter-gauge train. After this quick taste of the local rural rail, we drive to Pushkar, a sacred pilgrimage site nestled around a holy lake. We take time to explore the serene waterfront and the only temple dedicated to Lord Brahma. Following lunch, we continue our journey to the vibrant "Pink City" of Jaipur. **Radisson City Center** (3 nights) BLD

**FEB 27, Saturday** **JAIPUR**  
 A visit to the golden-hued Amber Fort provides a grand introduction to Jaipur, where we explore its intricate royal halls. We pause to admire the iconic Hawa Mahal, or "Palace of Winds," famous for its unique honeycomb facade designed for royal ladies to observe the streets below. After lunch, we delve into the wonders of the Jantar Mantar observatory and the regal artifacts of the City Palace. To end the day, we are welcomed into a local home for an intimate dinner, sharing authentic conversation and the rich traditions of a Jaipur household. BLD

**FEB 28, Sunday** **JAIPUR**  
 In Sanganer, we witness the artisan heart of Jaipur, famous for its 17th-century hand-block printing and handmade paper workshops. After exploring these traditional heritage crafts, the rest of the day is at leisure. BLD

**MAR 1, Monday** **JAIPUR / AGRA**  
 We depart for Fatehpur Sikri, the short-lived 16th-century capital of the Mughal Empire. Following lunch, we continue our journey to Agra. **Grand Mercure** (2 nights) BLD

**MAR 2, Tuesday** **AGRA**  
 At sunrise, we witness the Taj Mahal glowing in the first light of day, a breathtaking moment at the world's most famous monument to love. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, this UNESCO World Heritage Site represents the pinnacle of Mughal art. After breakfast, we explore the massive red sandstone Agra Fort, also a UNESCO World Heritage Site that served as the main residence of the Mughal emperors. We then visit Itimad-ud-Daulah (often called "Baby Taj" for its striking resemblance to the Taj Mahal), followed by the sprawling tomb of Akbar the Great in the Sikandra neighborhood. BLD

**MAR 3-4, Wed-Thu** **AGRA / DELHI / CANADA**  
 After a final transfer to Delhi, we enjoy a brief hotel stop to freshen up before dinner. We then head to the airport for our return flight, arriving in Toronto the following morning to conclude our journey. BLD

**CT Rating 3.5/5 - Challenging:** India offers diverse cultural experiences but requires an open mind to enjoy its unique environment. Living standards can differ from those in Canada. Travellers should anticipate a high-energy environment within busy market districts and urban centres. Traffic is often chaotic, and the itinerary includes several long travel days where roadside facilities may be limited. Air quality, especially in busier cities, can be poor. Accommodations range from deluxe to rustic heritage properties. Food is primarily vegetarian or vegan, served buffet-style, and can be spicy. Due to physical and cultural demands, members should be in good health and capable of managing their own luggage.

 **Book Early and Save \$200 Per Person** 

**Tour Cost in Canadian Dollars Per Person**

Land Only* (Join/Leave in Delhi) .....	\$5,895
Toronto.....	\$7,895
Ottawa / Montreal.....	\$8,075
Halifax / Winnipeg .....	\$8,175
St. John's .....	\$8,195
Calgary / Edmonton / Vancouver.....	\$8,275
Regina / Saskatoon / Victoria .....	\$8,295
Single Supplement.....	\$2,175

\*Land only clients join at Le Meridien Hotel, leave the group at the Delhi airport hotel, and includes the domestic flight in India. Airfares from other gateways are available on request. Airfares and air carriers are subject to change and will be confirmed prior to final payment. Refer to inclusive features for details. Prices are per person, based on double occupancy and a minimum of 15 participants. Price is based on taxes, surcharges, and exchange rates effective March 2026 and are subject to change. Group to be escorted with a minimum of 15 members.

**A visa is required for India.** For Canadian passport holders, the e-visa cost is included and assistance is provided for those needing individual applications. As of 2026, travellers must also complete a digital arrival card (e-arrival card) before departure; please contact us for details.

Insurance is NOT INCLUDED but is highly recommended. Premiums are calculated based on the individual's age, destination (country), trip length, and trip booking window – please contact our staff to receive a quote. Please discuss your insurance coverage prior to booking. Check our website for the most current information, and for terms and conditions.

**Final payment is due October 14, 2026**  
**Deposit is \$800 per person**

To reserve your spot on this tour, book online through our website or submit an enrollment form with your deposit to:

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