

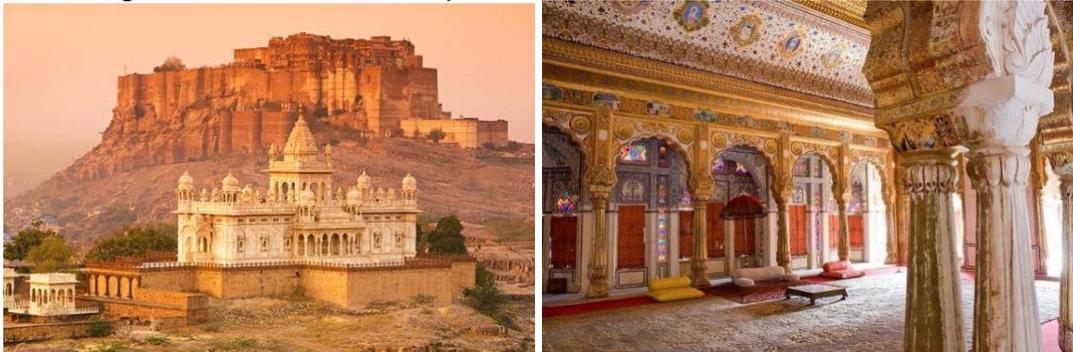


**Osian Dunes Ride, Rajasthan, India,
All year ~ Minimum Group: 2**

The ride starts and ends at Jodhpur, this city can be reached by internal flights from Mumbai or Delhi, which are International Airports, or by train or road. We can help you with internal arrangements to/from the start/end of this ride at extra cost.

Day 1

Arrive at Jodhpur. Transfer to hotel. Afternoon sightseeing: Mehrangarh Fort. Mehrangarh Fort stands a hundred feet in splendour on a perpendicular cliff, four hundred feet above the sky line of Jodhpur. Burnished red sand stone, imposing, invincible and yet with a strange haunting beauty that beckons. Much has been written about the Citadel of the Sun, for truly, it is one of the most impressive in all Rajasthan. So colossal are its proportions that Rudyard Kipling called it "the work of giants". Today, it is acknowledged as one of the best preserved fort in India.



We will also visit Jodhpur market and the central clock tower area of the city.
Overnight: Jodhpur Hotel.

Day 2

Morning: short road transfer to our tented camp at Mathania, and to meet your Marwari horses, lunch in camp and afternoon trial ride around the immediate area. All tents have en suite bathrooms and come fully equipped with all furniture, linen, towels etc.
Overnight: Tented Camp



Day 3

Full day ride Mathania to Osian

Today we ride North West, making our way over the dunes, passing small mud huts and hamlets, taking in the vistas from the edge of the Great Thar Desert of Rajasthan.

We stop for a picnic lunch and little siesta, before heading off again to reach our next camp on the outskirts of Osian.

Osian is an historic town, an oasis in the Thar Desert, and has been known as the "Khajuraho of Rajasthan" for its temples. Osian is famous as home to the cluster of ruined Brahmanical and Jain temples dating from the 8th to 11th centuries. The city was a major religious centre of the kingdom of Marwar. Of the 18 shrines in the group, the Surya or Sun Temple and the later Kali temple, Sachiya Mata Temple and the main Jain temple dedicated to Mahavira stands out in their grace and architecture.



Overnight: Tented Camp

Day 4

Full day ride Osian to Hacra.

Today we start to head deeper into the dunes. You will see the local huts with thatched roofs as well as the scrub of desert vegetation, acacia bushes etc. We may encounter wild Nilgai and black buck, as well as other flora and fauna local to this desert environment. We arrive at our tented camp close to the community hamlet of Hacra. In the evening we will visit a local desert guide at his farm, who will tell the history of the area you have been riding in.



Overnight: Tented Camp

Day 5

Full Day ride Hacra to Cullu

Today we ride North, the sand is deeper but your trusted Marwari have a stamina not known in other breeds; they are desert horses and you are riding in the heart of their Marwar district, from where their name derives.



Overnight: Tented Camp

Day 6

Full day ride Cullu to Khichan

Our final day riding. By now you will have built up a partnership with your horse and we can take full advantage of the open sands!

We arrive at Khichan, famous for the Demoiselle cranes that visit during the winter season (Oct to March). The birds migrate here from the Mongolian steppes and at the peak (Dec, Jan, Feb) the numbers reach over 10,000 which is a sight to see! Khichan village also has more than 100 havelis (decorated merchants houses) and many of them are beautifully carved.



Overnight: Khichan

Day 7

After breakfast say goodbye to the horses and transfer by road to Jodhpur for departure to onward destination.

End of trip/...

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

What is included:

- Full Board on ride and in camp
- Mineral Water, and small selection of alcoholic drinks on the ride.
- Horses, grooms, saddlery and transport / care thereof.
- Ride leader: Dr Rao Ajeet Singh
- Internal transfers by road during the ride
- Sightseeing tickets

What is NOT included:

- International and Internal flights
- Indian Visa costs
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, shopping etc)
- Drinks at hotels
- Tips

NB: We reserve the right to alter the itinerary or accommodation, and change horses where necessary, but will keep you informed at all times.

Ride start / end:	Start at Jodhpur. End at Jodhpur
Timescale:	7 days, 6 nights, 4 days riding
Riding Ability*:	Novice / Intermediate / Advanced *riders should be confident in canter on open ground
Rider Max Weight:	90kg / 200lbs / 14 stone
Group Size:	Minimum 2, Maximum 12
Riding per day:	4-6 hours
Pace:	Slow/Moderate/Fast according to terrain and group riding ability
Tack:	Indian Sawar saddles
Horses:	Marwari breed, typically between 15 – 16hh of slight build.
Riding Hat:	We thoroughly recommend you wear a riding hat that meets current safety standards.