



## Literary + Regal RAJASTHAN

29 January – 6 February 2024

In collaboration with

**Readings®** BOOKS  
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MELBOURNE'S OWN SINCE 1969

It has been nine years since this program was offered by Art of Living in conjunction with Readings, Australia's most revered independent booksellers and we are excited and delighted to offer it again in 2024. This will be the Festival's 17<sup>th</sup> edition and Marieke has attended at least ten of them, previously held at Diggi Palace and now to be staged at the more spacious grounds of Clarks Amer hotel. In past years, she has hosted groups to the festival and also organized bespoke arrangements for various book reading clubs.

This wonderful tour provides a stimulating 5 days immersion in the world of books, ideas and discussions centered on the now internationally famed **Jaipur Literary Festival**, with the option of a four to six day extension to experience the rich and colourful culture and history of Rajputana.

This tour has been designed and will be led by Marieke Brugman, Australia's pre-eminent guide to India and is limited to 14 privileged guests and will be hosted by the congenial, charismatic, visionary owner of Readings Books, Mark Rubbo.

Mother India, the vast Subcontinent constituting the world's largest democracy, home now to over a billion people, an intriguingly complex religious and cultural tapestry with her great mercantile classes, sprawling bureaucracies and exploding economy, remains, even thirty years after Marieke's first visit, one of the most visually memorable and bewitching journeys ever. A scintillating cocktail of philosophies, cultures, ethnicities, cuisines, historical gems, architectural marvels, chivalric memories, landscapes as varied as vast desert sands and lush tropics to snow clad Himalayan peaks combine to intoxicate all the senses.

For the last three decades, Marieke's annual escorted tours have won wide acclaim from guests. Shielded from the more maddening aspects of Indian travel, though none of the local colour, guests are assured of Raj-like luxury and supreme comfort with the opportunity to have all their curiosity and sensibility ignited by the intriguing landscape, humanity, aesthetics and multiple values of this extraordinary and rewarding country.

### **The Tour commences and ends in Delhi.**

Guests may choose to participate only in the Jaipur Festival or continue with us for a cultural insight into Rajasthan, perhaps the most tribally diverse, artistically decorative, architecturally magnificent and regal state in India. It is impossible to experience and absorb in a single trip the magnitude of what India offers: the incredible light, a cacophony of colour, the austere and atmospheric landscapes of desert and ancient Aravali mountains, the romance of Rajasthan's heritage and chivalry, the hospitality, warmth and humour of the people whether from regal lineage or simple, dignified desert-dwellers, the spine-tingling music, and their abundantly diverse, arts and crafts.

**Highlights: 29 January – 6 February**

**In Delhi:** a unique visit to Qutab Minar, followed by a private visit to one of India's most impressive private Art Foundations.

**In Jaipur:** 6 nights' accommodation in an original heritage palace that has been reserved exclusively for the Readings group.

An evening salon convened by a very dear friend, Sumeet Shetty, founder of India's largest book reading club, Literati - introducing you in an informal atmosphere to some of India's great minds and authors and Marieke's local friends.



**Post Tour Extension 6 – 9 | 11 February:** three experiences that express the very heart of exotic Rajasthan:

- An extra curated day in Jaipur with entrée to some of the city's finest ateliers, private museums and cultural institutions (pottery, block print, jewellery etc)
- A wonderful desert resort in the heart of the fascinating Shekhawati region north of Jaipur and
- An optional extension to a stunning intimate boutique fort superbly restored by Maria Grazia Baldan, a dynamic Milano jeweler who undertook a passionate and magnificent restoration of a crumbling fort – now a luxury boutique hotel

In the past we have also curated bespoke, longer extension programs for individuals and Book Reading Clubs, according to their specific interests and budget.

## TOUR OVERVIEW

Day One Monday 29 January

DELHI

On arrival in Delhi on Monday 29 January, you will be met at the airport and transferred to the Trident Gurgaon, a 5-star hotel near the airport. Inspired by Mughal architecture, this serene, modern hotel has soothing gardens, outstanding service, and wonderful facilities including a pool and spa and one of the best breakfasts in the city.

For those arriving in Delhi ahead of the group, (and this is highly recommended to guests wanting to recover from any jetlag or with a desire to explore Delhi in more depth), there is much to see and do in the capital city of independent India. Seven cities have existed here since the 10th century, ruled over by Rajputs, Turks, Afghans, Mughals and the British. Delhi is two cities in one- the Old Delhi of the Mughals, created by Shah Jahan and still a conglomerate of medieval palaces, forts, mosques and bazaars; and the New Delhi built by the British, an elegant metropolis of broad avenues, stately homes and landscaped gardens. Guests can elect to explore this chaotic and fascinating city with its multi-layered history, grand monuments, and the unmissable, remarkable Chadni Chowk in Old Delhi whose narrow alleys remain unchanged since medieval times, and its treasure trove of shopping.

Note: For guests arriving earlier, we make all your arrangements including transfers, accommodation, and a car/driver-guide for private Delhi sightseeing. Overnight; Trident Gurgaon D (depending on time of arrival)

Day Two Tuesday 30 January

DELHI



After a leisurely breakfast, travel to the Qutab Minar complex, the World Heritage listed site dating back to the late 12th century. Built on the foundations of Hindu and Jain temples, the monuments within the complex are fine displays of Indo-Islamic architecture, many incorporating Afghan elements. Standing tall in its red and buff sandstone glory, the Qutub Minar is symbolic of the biggest power shift in Delhi's history. In the 12th century, Mohammad Ghori ousted the Rajputs and his successor, Qutub-ud-din Aibak laid the foundation for the Delhi Sultanate. This victory reshaped the city's culture and architecture and this sky-scraping minaret was soon built to commemorate it. Whether it was used as a watchtower, or by the muezzin to summon the faithful to the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque next-door, the Qutub Minar remains one of Delhi's most treasured monuments.

Later leave for the Sanskriti Kendra Foundation where a simple lunch is offered in the gorgeous gardens, an oasis beyond the chaos of Delhi traffic. Founded by Mr O.P.Jain in 1978, Sanskriti is dedicated to promoting, preserving and presenting the Indian traditional arts and culture through a variety of programmes from artist in residencies, exhibitions, to performances. Their senior curator will take you through

the three astounding private collections: The Museums of Everyday Art, Indian Terracotta and Textiles are a conduit for the preservation and presentation of indigenous heritage, craftsmanship, aesthetic functionality and cultural practices. Tradition and modernity are not two separate categories - one transmutes into another. The preservation of cultural heritage, therefore, has its own validity. The museums at Sanskriti are a base for such preservation as great attention has been given to the socio-cultural context of the objects.

Overnight Trident Gurgaon B L D

**Day Three      Wednesday 31 January**

**DELHI |JAIPUR**

After an early breakfast drive about four hours on a new highway to Jaipur. (This is the most reliable way to reach Jaipur, obviating the need for an extremely early check-in at very crowded Delhi airport and the possibility of fog at that time of year delaying flights).

On arrival transfer to Narain Niwas your delightful heritage property the next 6 nights, via registration for the Festival held at Carks Amer Hotel.



Centrally located in Jaipur, Narain Niwas palace with its stunning entrance façade, was built in 1928 by General Amar Singh Ji. Designed in the Anglo-Indian style popular in the Victorian era, the palace, which served as the country resort for the Kanota royalty, is now one of the better heritage hotels. Decorated with ethnic Indian furnishings, coupled with Rajput flourishes and traditionally painted wall décor, it provides a retreat to its guests. It has been with the same family since it was built, giving it an authenticity that is hard to duplicate. For a taste of Jaipur with all its charms and antiquity, the hotel still retains the quirky touches of a family home. It has a pool and spa and its capacious green grounds house some of the city's most prestigious boutiques and the wonderful Bar Palladio.

Register at the Festival that is held at Clarks Amer Hotel  
Registration is available for a tiny fee and secured on line.

Guests may elect to pay for a more select package that gives access to a special lunch area and other benefits, also an option available on line.

**We will make these online arrangements for our guests once you have indicated the level at which you wish to attend, either by general admission or as a Friend of the Festival (FOF).**

This afternoon sightseeing around Jaipur's historic highlights.

Overnight Narain Niwas Deluxe room B D @ Bar Palladio

## JAIPUR



Afternoon sightseeing: The "Pink City" of Jaipur (pink only since it was painted in 1853 for a visit by Prince Albert) is a marvellous synthesis of Hindu, Jain and Mughal influenced architecture. All around the magnificent palaces and buildings are bazaars teeming with people, camels and horses. Shopping here is a lot of fun, and the jewellery particularly interesting. Amber, once the capital is now a deserted complex of majestic ramparts that can be visited. Below is the charming renovated haveli museum of handblock traditions created by Anokhi. Jantar Mantar, the otherworldly astronomical observatory built by Maharaja Jai Singh II in 1728, is where gigantic arcs and blocks of stone calculate the movements of the stars and planets. The City Palace complex has some wonderful corners: the little haveli housing textiles, the vast pure silver urn that transported the Maharaja's holy Ganges water supply when he needed to sail to London...

### The Jaipur Literary Festival

As the largest literary festival on earth, the ZEE Jaipur Literature Festival, directed by William Dalrymple brings together some of the greatest thinkers and writers from across South Asia and the world.

From Nobel laureates to local language writers, Man Booker prize winners to debut novelists, every year the most remarkable, witty, sensitive and brilliant collection of authors come together for five days of readings, debates and discussions at the Clarks Amer Hotel.

JLF, which began in 2006, is now regarded as a cultural catalyst within India and around the world, exposing audiences to a constant flow of ideas. Featuring live music sessions and interactive workshops, the Festival provides a space to dare, dream and imagine.

Past writers have included Tom Stoppard, David Hare, Lionel Shriver, Antony Beevor, Mary Beard, Jonathan Franzen, AN Wilson, Robyn Davidson, Nicholas Shakespeare, Pico Iyer, Michael Ondaatje, Annie Proulx, Simon Sebag Montefiore, JM Coetzee .... poets, scriptwriters, artists like William Kentridge, historians, art historians, playwrights, fiction and non-fiction writers.

Pico Iyer said of his visit: *I've been to so many literary festivals, from Shanghai to Bogota, and this one is definitely the least dry, the most carnival-like. Where else would you go from Shakespeare to contemporary politics to V.S. Naipaul and then Sufi music—each in such a full-bodied way? The music definitely had a cleansing, clarifying quality after that clash of ideas, like a sorbet in the middle of a rich meal.*

Before the morning sessions commence there is usually an offering on the main lawns of marvellous classical or devotional music.

Concurrent sessions run across different settings. There is a tempting bookstore on site and plenty of chai, refreshment and food stalls.

**Days Four to Eight      Jaipur Literature Festival @ Clarks Hotel**  
**Thursday 1 February – Monday 5 February**

Accommodation at Narain Niwas in a Deluxe room includes daily breakfast and dinner.

JLF General admission in 2023 was 200INR per day (\$4)

**NOTE: Friends of the Festival Pass - This is an additional cost and entirely optional and must be booked online by us. For an early group booking we can obtain a 10% discount. Additional cost mentioned in the Tour Costs below (basically 13500 INR per day USD 160 | AUD 245)**

As a Friend of the Festival (FOF), one gets to experience the best of this sumptuous feast of ideas.

FOF delegates get easy access to the exclusive Friends of the Festival Lounge and are provided with airport transfers, shuttle services, and specially curated meals. The delegates are invited to evening cocktails, the Jaipur Music Stage and the spectacular Heritage Evening set against the backdrop of the historic Amber Fort!

**Perks and Privileges include**

The Friends of the Festival Lounge  
Access to the Jaipur Music Stage  
Special Access to Selected Sessions  
Specially Curated Meals and Beverage (Lunch and Dinner) on All Days  
An Invitation to the Majestic Heritage Event at Amber Fort  
Author Interactions at the Friends of the Festival Lounge  
Book Deliveries at the Friends of the Festival Lounge  
Airport Transfers and Shuttle Service to various Festival Venues  
An Invitation to the glamorous Writers' Ball  
Invitation to Cocktail Evening



One evening will be a salon to meet some authors at a cocktail reception at Narain Niwas, convened by Sumeet Shetty, founder and president of Literati, a corporate book club that hosts monthly presentations from renowned authors to a large and passionate audience.

Each morning we shall provide timed shuttles to the Festival Venue and guests are free to select the sessions of greatest interest.

Afternoons there will also be timed shuttles back to Narain Niwas (a 15-20 minute journey depending on traffic).

Uber works extremely well in Jaipur.

For Guests wishing to take time out for shopping or extra sightseeing, we will arrange transport and guides at additional expense.

Marieke will also provide guests with her edited selection of Jaipur sightseeing and shopping, assembled over more than 30 visits to the city.

Each evening there is also a live music schedule performed at Clarke's Hotel.

Tickets are available online a few weeks before the festival for a nominal amount if you are registered under General Admission and included with the FOF pass.

### Day Nine                      Tuesday 6 February.                      Jaipur | Departure or Tour Extensions

Guests leaving today may return to Delhi by car or flight for onward international evening departures or continue with private travel arrangements arranged by Art of Living.

Guests may also choose to participate in the special extension program, Treasures of Regal Rajasthan

### Post Tour Option One

### Day Nine                      Tuesday 6 February                      Jaipur This can be a stand-alone extra day or the beginning of the Skekhawati Experience

Additional curated day with lunch in Jaipur that might include:

- A visit to Marieke's friend, British designer and long-time habitue of Jaipur, Simon Marks who founded the beautiful [Khanoom Ceramic Studio](#)
- The Amer atelier of renowned blockprint artist, [Brigitte Singh](#)
- Cocktails with and viewing of jeweller [Emma Chapmans](#) designs
- **Jawahar Kala Kendra** designed by architect and urban planner, Charles Correa, that in 1993 opened its doors to Jaipur's cultural connoisseurs as a space that was meant to serve as a cultural hub and preserve Rajasthan's myriad arts and craft. After years of decline it has been given a new facelift and hosts many interesting temporary exhibitions.
- **Gyan Museum**, a private collection of 3000 years of cultural heritage. With over 2500 works of executive art both Indian and foreign origin it displays exquisite textiles, paintings, metal art, silver hookahs, gorgeous antique jewellery, vintage spectacles, paintings of the 17<sup>th</sup> C and older.
- **Nahargarh Fort's** contemporary Sculpture Park in a delightful less visited fort
- **Nila House**, a living museums that celebrates and preserves India's traditional crafts

Overnight Dera Mandawa Suite B L D

### Option Two    Jaipur | Mandawa

### Days Ten – Twelve Wednesday 7 February to Friday 9 February

The Shekhawati region is renowned for its mansions richly decorated in frescoes. Your stay will be at Mandawa Desert Resort that captures the essence of the desert through its mud-wall architecture and local craftsmanship.

After breakfast drive three hours to the fascinating region, once home to wealthy merchants engaged in the Spice Route.



The Shekhawati region is one of the gems of India for art lovers that was established in the 18th century along a caravan trade route, and ruled by the Shekhawat Rajputs and regarded as the world's largest open air art gallery. There are majestic forts and breathtaking views, and features numerous havelis that go back to the 19th century. Businessmen commissioned these mansions and had artists decorate their entire walls inside and out, ceilings, step-wells and temples. Most of the artists came from Jaipur who used their techniques and skills to paint remarkable and luxurious frescos that represented their wealth and power.

The early frescos were influenced by the Mughal art form whereas the later ones were inspired from the Rajput royal courts with mythology and religion providing inspiration as well as depicting European women and men, the increase of the British and western influence, as well as modern inventions such as the motifs of telephones, hot air balloons, and trains.

As for the religious aspect, there are many frescos of Lord Krishna and some of Jesus.

This afternoon, explore Mandawa town's historic lanes, abounding with richly-painted havelis. Marvel at the architectural magnificence and hear tales of yore come alive on the walls of the Gulab Rai Ladia Haveli with its exceptional murals, Lakshminarayan Ladia Haveli, Mohanlal Saraf Haveli, and Chowkhani Haveli.

Overnight Mandawa Desert Resort Deluxe Cottage B D



Day Eleven Thursday 8 February

Mandawa | Nawalgarh

After breakfast, explore the neighbouring town of **Nawalgarh** that has one of the biggest groups of havelis. Aath Haveli ("Eight Havelis") is amusing for its European



influence reflected in its frescoes. Chhawehharia and Poddar havelis are perhaps the most splendid.

Overnight Mandawa Desert Resort Deluxe Cottage B L D

### Day Twelve Friday 9 February Mandawa | Jaipur | Delhi departure

After breakfast, drive about 3.5 to 4 hours to Jaipur airport and board flight for Delhi.

Jaipur / Delhi - IndiGo - 6E 2205 - 14:20 / 15:25 hrs

On arrival in Delhi Airport, transfer to the international terminal for evening departures **OR add**

### Day Thirteen and/or Fourteen 9 and/or 10 February Deeppura Garh

For the ultimate spoil continue to Deeppura Garh for another day or two of relaxation. Located in the historic district of Sikar, the Shekhawati region of Rajasthan, Deeppura Garh has stood for over a century; it is the birthplace of the last ruler of Sikar, Maharajah Rao Raja Kalyan Singh Bahadur, born in June 1886. After years of disuse, this haveli is now owned and has been lovingly restored to its former glory by Italian jeweller and dynamo, Maria Grazia Baldan.

Of all the new properties I investigated in March '23, this property was a sublime stand out and stunning in the most understated way: the elegance of cool whitewashed bedrooms, flower and fountain filled courtyards, an organic vegetable garden, various sitting rooms with plush couches, a library, gorgeously decorated contemplative sanctuaries, a heavenly swimming pool and really delicious cuisine.

Overnight Deeppura Garh Garden view room includes B L D

Departures as above allowing 3 – 3.5 hours drive time to Jaipur.

Stay one or two nights and Depart either Saturday 10 or Sunday 11 February.

END OF SERVICES



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Your Tour Host, Mark Rubbo bought Readings Carlton in 1976 and over the decades has grown it into one of Melbourne's most beloved icons, and Australia's largest independent book sellers with a fiercely loyal audience. As an outstanding supporter of Australian writers and the dissemination of ideas, a visionary creator of a sense of local community, Mark was awarded an OAM in 2006. More recently he established a Foundation that gives back to literacy and the arts and is broadly involved in

organizations such as Melbourne Writers Week and the Wheeler Centre that promote discussion and energise our local culture. These paeans of achievement he wears lightly on his most affable shoulders.



Your Tour Leader, Marieke Brugman (art historian, foodie/chef, global citizen, yogini) has designed, refined and escorted trips to Rajasthan for nearly three decades as well as leading cultural and gastronomic Tours to other regions of the sub-continent (and many European destinations) and has developed a lifelong attraction to the exotic and compelling experience that ignites all the senses with the sights, sounds, tastes, smells, festivals, music, bazaars like no other on earth. Indeed, it makes you think about the meaning of life, in ways that you don't, living in the west. She brings humour, meticulous planning and passion to all her tours. An avid

reader, Marieke has loved Readings since returning from Europe to then live in bohemian Carlton in 1972, and is delighted at renewing this collaboration.

## QUERIES

- ◆ On receipt of your deposit a Comprehensive Travel kit, covering all necessities will be forwarded.
- ◆ Allow at least 6 weeks before departure to seek and implement any medical advice.
- ◆ Also allow at least 4- 2 weeks to obtain the mandatory Indian Visitors Visa. Australian citizens are now eligible for Visa on arrival.
- ◆ People's greatest fear about travelling in India is usually around poverty and illness. Whilst you won't be shielded from experiencing the real India in all its multiplicity, you are not travelling where poverty can be quite confronting. Moreover, in 20+ years of escorting tours, we have never had anyone sick, beyond perhaps a day's discomfort as they adjust to a new diet. Dedicated to seeking out the very finest regional cuisines, we also ensure the highest standards of hygiene. In fact, the enormous variety of dishes, flavours, aromas is one of the tour's highlights.
- ◆ Wine drinkers alert! Even when it is available in hotels, wine tends to the undistinguished, though has been improving recently, and if imported is over-priced and expensive. Indian beer is excellent. Some evenings we gather in a guest's room or terrace to share the groups duty free kitty to discuss the day's highlights

## INDICATIVE TOUR COSTS in US dollars

### Main Tour Delhi + Jaipur - 29 January - 6 February

On twin share basis: USD 3900 per person

Single supplement: USD 1000

Plus domestic airfare Jaipur/Delhi with 15 kg checked luggage

Domestic Airfare – Economy Class**	
Jaipur / Delhi	US\$ 80 pp
Extra 5 Kg per sector	US\$ 30
Extra 10 Kg per sector	US\$ 60
<b>For international connection within 24 hrs</b>	
Extra 8 Kg per sector	US\$ 20
Extra 15 Kg per sector	US\$ 40
<b>**Dynamic fares:</b> These fares are non-static advance purchase fare which keeps changing on daily basis as they depend upon demand and supply ratio. Any increase will be additional to the above cost	

**UPGRADE COSTS:** There 4 Kanota Suites and 2 Garden Suites in the hotel, Additional supplement cost for room upgrade at Narain Niwas

- Kanota Suite – US\$ 30 per room per night on single / double
- Garden Suite – US\$ 80 per room per night on single / double

## INCLUSIONS

Accommodation on a twin-share basis as per hotels in the itinerary

- Delhi - Trident Gurgaon - Superior Garden View Room – 2 nights
- Jaipur: Narain Niwas – Deluxe Room – 6 nights
- Airport transfers with assistance (individual transfers for arrival in Delhi on Day 1)
- Breakfast at all the hotels
- Dinner on all the days buffet or set menu meals)
- Transportation in Air Conditioned Vehicle as mentioned above
- Private tour of Sanskriti Foundation with lunch on 30 Jan
- Half day city tour in Jaipur on 31 Jan inclusive of a local guide and entrance to the monuments
- A fulltime coordinator in Jaipur
- Hosting and Tour Leader Marieke Brugman
- An evening Salon convened by Sumeet Shetty
- Hotel portorage
- All presently applicable taxes

## EXCLUSIONS

- Domestic airfare (Mentioned separately)
- Lunch most days
- Registration fee for Literature Festival (not published yet, we will update you closer to date)
- Any lecture by writers/commentators
- Any invite to attend private dinner hosted by the prominent literary consultancy
- Telephone calls, faxes and all forms of communication.
- Travel & Health insurance.
- Single room or sole occupancy costs supplements
- Personal service tips and gratuities
- In terms of personal nature such as Alcoholic/ Non Alcoholic drinks, laundry, sundries etc.
- Any optional activities / excursions or extras other than those specified.
- Tips for the Driver

### FOF PASS COSTS:

One day at INR 13,500 per day | Two days at INR 24,500 | Three days at INR 36,000 | Four days at INR 46,000 | Five days at INR 56,000 per person inclusive of taxes  
Approximately USD 165 | USD 300 | USD 440 | USD 560 | USD 685

### POST TOUR ADD-ON COSTS

Additional Artisanal Culture Day in Jaipur 6 February | Departure 7 February  
Inclusive of overnight suite at Dera Mandawa, B L D

On twin share basis: USD 320 per person

On Single basis: USD 420

#### Option Two Jaipur | Mandawa | Delhi 6-9 February

On twin share basis: USD 1250 per person

Single supplement: USD 230

#### Option Three Jaipur | Mandawa | one night Deeppura 6-10 February

On twin share basis: USD 1900 per person

Single supplement: USD 450

#### Option Four Jaipur | Mandawa | two nights Deeppura 6-11 February

On twin share basis: USD 2350 per person

Single supplement: USD 670

### SPECIAL NOTES

- Check-In time of hotel is 1400 hrs & Check-out time is 1200 NOON
- The itinerary calculations are based on present Government Tax and current fuel prices. In future if the Government decides to increase the Government Taxes or there is a high-rise on fuel prices there will be addition surcharges to the prices quoted.
- Dollar Fluctuation: There has been a significant rise & fall of Indian Rupee against the US Dollar for the last one year. In case the Indian Rupee falls below 79 against 01 US\$ we have to re quote.
- Flight schedule is subject to change without notice.

### LIABILITY

Marieke's Art of Living P/L and their Indian Agent., while undertaking tours, transportation, hotel accommodations and other services only acts as an agent on the clear understanding that it shall not be, in any way responsible or liable for any accident, damage loss, delay or inconvenience caused in connection with travel facilities (Hotels, Resorts, Airlines, Transporters, Railways) arranged by the company, its employees or agents. Rates quoted are subject to change without notice due to change in foreign exchange rate, or transport or hotel tariff. All bookings are accepted and executed with utmost care, yet no responsibility is undertaken for any change or deviation on account of factors beyond our control.

### BOOKING Necessities:

To confirm the booking please complete the accompanying booking sheet for all passengers, accompanied by the required deposit or credit card guarantee.

#### Confirmation of Booking:

On confirmation of booking, detailed travel and medical notes will be forwarded, as well as a bibliography.

#### Visa, Medical + Insurance requirements:

Allow at least 6 weeks before departure to seek and implement any medical advice with your own physician.

Also allow at least 2-4 weeks to obtain the Mandatory Indian Visa for which you need a passport with at least 6 months validity remaining from the time of your re-entry to your own country.

Australian citizens and numerous other nationalities are now eligible for Visa on Arrival.

Applications MUST be completed Online @

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

Full instructions for upload-able photos, payment etc can be found @

<https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html>

Please be wary of other websites purporting to provide E-visas at much greater cost.

The above website is the legitimate one for applications.

Travellers must arrive in India with a printed copy of the visa issued. Comprehensive Travel Insurance that covers all eventualities is Mandatory for joining the trip and recommended to be in place at the time you book flights and your position on the tour.

## ACTIVITY LEVEL

Participation in this tour requires you to be moderately fit with plenty of stamina and patience. The Festival can feel busy. Sightseeing requires quite a bit of walking, uneven ground, steps. If you have special needs or mobility issues, please call to discuss, so we can evaluate how to best to accommodate this.

## Accommodation

The accommodation we have selected is replete with authentic Rajasthani aesthetics, traditional rather than luxurious, very comfortable, affordable and in great locations.

## BOOKING REQUIREMENTS:

To confirm the booking please complete the accompanying booking sheet for all passengers, accompanied by the required deposit.

## CONDITIONS

- Departure of this Tour Program is for a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 14 guests (with the current pricing based on 8 participating guests).  
**If numbers fall below 8 participants, we might still offer the tour at an increased cost. If numbers are 10 or more, the cost will slightly decrease.**
- A Final Decision will be taken by late November. In the event the tour needs to be cancelled there will be a refund of deposits less \$500 per person administration fee. However, we do not reimburse nor are responsible for any travel expenses already incurred.
- Evidence of Comprehensive Travel Insurance is a mandatory condition for joining the Tour.
- A Valid Passport with at least 6 months validity from the end of the tour date left is a requirement.
- The Booking Form must be completed. Deposits should be sent as TT interbank transfer per the details below.

## DEPOSIT

**Non-Refundable DEPOSIT: US \$1000 per person, payable NOW**

On receipt of Deposit, we send travel notes, bibliography and medical advice for your Tour preparation. (Please refer also to Credit Guarantee Option below).

## BALANCE OF PAYMENT DUE: 15 November 2023

## PAYMENT

Preferred payment is by Telegraphic Bank Transfer (TT). All major credit cards are accepted but cards attract a commission and are subject to prevailing exchange rates.

**For Tours to be paid in United States Dollars. Please arrange with your bank to provide a direct telegraphic transfer into the following account. Please also ensure that you also cover any additional fees your bank may charge to send or for us to receive, including intermediary bank fees which are often hidden in the documentation or overlooked. Please ensure the bank send the funds in USD without conversion. Please do NOT have your bank issue a foreign currency cheque as these can take up to 8 weeks to clear.**

In recognition that this is a slightly cumbersome process, we are also happy to negotiate a credit card guarantee for the deposit. The credit card is then only activated in accordance with the strict terms and conditions of the policy outlined below, that is, if you cancel within the specified time frames after initially having placed your booking. This would be charged in AUD at the prevailing USD exchange rate at the time. With

this option, clients need only effect one TT at the time full payment is due, thereby attracting only one set of fees.

Many of our clients utilize the reputable international transfer services of [OFX](#) or [Wise](#) etc, that offer more favourable rates than the major banks and small or zero fees.

**USD Payment To:**

Maria Brugman  
6 Marianne Ave Rye 3941  
C/- HSBC  
International Swift#: HKBAAU2SXXX  
BSB #: 342250  
Account #: 306289090

If paying in Australian dollars, the final value will be adjusted against the prevailing USD exchange rate at the time the final monies are due.

**AUD Payment To:**

Marieke's Art of Living Client Trust account  
C/- ANZ Bank  
Forest Hills 3131  
International Swift Code: ANZBAU3M  
BSB#: 013328  
Account # 480470182

By Credit card, in which case approximately 1.5%-4% service fee is added (Depending on choice of card). For security purposes, kindly fax or phone through your credit card details

**CURRENCY FLUCTUATION + Quoted Prices**

The above prices are subject to unavoidable fluctuations. Whilst we do our utmost to honour published prices, you will be notified of any necessary and unavoidable increases caused by fuel prices, Government taxes, or a decrease in the optimum group size.

**DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT**

The deposit is accepted as a first installment of the tour cost and will be refunded – minus a US\$500 administrative fee and any non-recoverable costs if the arrangements cannot be confirmed or the tour is cancelled. A detailed invoice is sent out to all passengers booked on the tour, approximately two weeks prior to due date of the final payment. Final payment for the tour needs to be received at least 65 days prior to tour departure.

■ **FORCED CANCELLATION**

In the event that, due to failure to reach a minimum number of tour participants (excluding the tour leader), we will offer the tour to a lesser number at a revised cost that will be notified. If it is necessary to cancel the tour, you will receive a refund of your deposit less USD 500 per person administrative fee and any non-recoverable costs. However, we accept no liability for any travel expenses already incurred.

**Suspension of a trip**

- We may suspend a trip at any time prior to departure in case of force majeure.
- We consider force majeure when a natural calamity or act of God makes the performance of our obligation impossible; when this extraordinary circumstance and its consequences are beyond reasonable foresight and control; when we are not able to prevent the event from occurring in the first place.
- Where possible, your trip would be postponed to a future date. Monies paid, less an administration fee of US \$500 and non-recoverable costs, would be credited towards the new trip. We would endeavour to keep the new trip at the same price as the suspended trip, but some costs may vary (seasonal accommodation costs, entrance fees). Standard terms and conditions would apply to the new booking. Monies paid would be kept as in-house credit.

- Where a future trip is not possible, Marieke's Art of Living in conjunction with the company's Indian agents will make every effort to refund all monies paid, less an administration fee of US 500 and non-recoverable costs.
- Flight schedule is subject to change without notice
- Reporting time for domestic flight is at least 1.5 hrs prior to departure of the flight. For international flights it is 3 hrs in economy and 2 hours for business class.
- All domestic flights allow 15kg checked in Baggage in economy class except Air India. Air India Allows 25kg. We will make provision for you to be able to prepurchase excess luggage with the final invoice.