STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY


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a program of the stanford alumni association

INDIA

THE DESERT KINGDOM OF RAJASTHAN

FEATURING THE PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR

October 28 to November 13, 2016
In 2015 I visited northern India for the first time. Although I knew India to be a complex country, famous for its monuments, spices, complex religious traditions and unique culture, I underestimated the degree to which the state of Rajasthan has contributed to the art, science and history of the subcontinent. With faculty leader Linda Hess, discover a vibrant folk culture, stately Mughal-era forts, and a fiercely proud and religiously devout populace. If Rajasthan is quintessential northern India, the Pushkar Camel Fair, with its gypsies, musicians, dancers, vendors and camels is quintessential Rajasthan. Join us and explore what is perhaps the most colorful corner of one of the most colorful countries on the planet.

BRETT S. THOMPSON, ’83, DIRECTOR, STANFORD TRAVEL/STUDY

Highlights

EXPLORE the colorful Pushkar Fair either astride a camel or from the relative comfort of a camel cart or on your own two feet!

MARVEL at the dazzling Mirror Palace in Jaipur’s Amber Fort, once the royal residence of the Rajput Maharajas and their families.

ADMIRE the golden sandstone havelis (man-sions) of Jaisalmer, stately carved structures that recall the city’s former strategic importance.

COVER: PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR

JAIN TEMPLE, RANAKPUR

PALACE OF THE WINDS, JAIPUR
LINDA HESS, ’64, a senior lecturer in Stanford’s religious studies department, first traveled to India at the age of 21 and since then has spent a total of about 12 years in the country, researching and writing about poetry, performance, religion and the social contexts in which they exist. She has done extensive fieldwork in Varanasi and rural Madhya Pradesh. A fluent speaker of Hindi, she is a well-known scholar and translator of devotional poetry from the Hindi language region of northern India—particularly that of the 15th-century poet-saint Kabir, who remains a powerful and popular influence in Indian society today. In 2010 she was awarded the prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship for her pioneering study of Kabir’s living oral traditions. Her previous work includes documentation of the Ramlila of Ramnagar (Varanasi), an annual 30-day outdoor traveling performance that dramatizes the Ramayana epic. During our program, she will address Hinduism, women, Partition and the caste system.

— At Stanford: senior lecturer, department of religious studies, since 1996; co-director, Center for South Asia, 2006–2009
— Author of The Bijak of Kabir (translations and essays), Singing Emptiness: Kumar Gandharva Performs the Poetry of Kabir, and numerous articles
— BA, English, 1964, Stanford University
— MA, comparative literature, 1972, and PhD, comparative literature, 1980, UC-Berkeley
FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 & 29
U.S. / DELHI
Depart the U.S. on overnight flights, arriving in Delhi in the afternoon or late evening on Saturday. Transfer to our five-star hotel in the heart of New Delhi, TAJ MAHAL HOTEL, DELHI.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30
DELHI
After a welcome orientation, visit the Mughal Emperor Humayun’s Tomb, the architecture of which was the first of its kind in India, setting a precedent for future Mughal royal mausolea, culminating in the Taj Mahal. Gather this evening for a welcome reception and dinner. TAJ MAHAL HOTEL, DELHI (B,L,D)

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31
DELHI
Embark on a tour of Old Delhi, during which we drive past the Red Fort and stop at Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. Take a thrilling rickshaw ride through the narrow lanes of colorful Chandni Chowk bazaar and visit Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. In New Delhi we view the residence of the British viceroy’s and now the Presidential Palace; the India Gate memorial; and the Qutub Minar, an ancient 240-foot-tall pillar. TAJ MAHAL HOTEL, DELHI (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1
DELHI / UDAIPUR
Fly to Udaipur, check in to our hotel and gather for an evening boat ride on scenic Lake Pichola. TAJ LAKE PALACE (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2
UDAIPUR
Arise this morning in lovely Udaipur, known as the “Venice of the East.” Visit the City Palace, Rajasthan’s largest palace complex; view the folk arts collection at Lok Kala Mandal; and walk beside fountains and marble elephants at Saheliyon-ki-Bari (or Garden of the Maids). TAJ LAKE PALACE (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3
UDAIPUR / RANAKPUR / JODHPUR
Drive to Ranakpur, home to India’s most beautiful Jain temple. Dedicated to the founder of the Jain religion, this 15th-century marble structure is among the five holiest places of the Jain community. We continue north, driving to Jodhpur this afternoon. TAJ HARMAHAL (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4
JODHPUR / JAISALMER
Travel through the dramatic Thar Desert before arriving at the citadel of Jaisalmer this afternoon. Known as the Golden City because of the way the sun reflects off the city’s buildings made of golden sandstone, Jaisalmer is dominated by its 12th-century fort, still inhabited, in fact, by one-quarter of the city’s population. THE GATEWAY HOTEL RAWALKOT JAISALMER (B,L,D)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5
JAISALMER
Visit Jaisalmer Fort, one of the largest fortifications in the world, as well as the setting for director Satyajit Ray’s classic film, The Golden Fortress. Explore the fort’s seven-story royal palace; Laxminath Temple; and ornately carved havelis, mansions built by wealthy Rajasthani merchants, many of which are occupied by the descendants of their original owners. THE GATEWAY HOTEL RAWALKOT JAISALMER (B,L,D)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
JAISALMER
Set out for an adventure through the Thar Desert to its famous sand dunes, stopping en route to visit a village.
Following lunch at a tented camp, continue exploring the desert by camelback or camel-cart. Return to Jaisalmer late this afternoon. THE GATEWAY HOTEL RAWALKOT JAISALMER (B,L,D)

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7 JAISALMER / JODHPUR
Drive back to Jodhpur and check in to our hotel. Known as the Blue City, Jodhpur is famous for its indigo-colored homes and majestic Mehrangarh Fort. Explore the fort’s palaces and temples, admire its priceless collection of jewels and enjoy incredible views of the blue-hued town below. VIVANTA BY TAJ HARIMAHAL (B,L,D)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 JODHPUR / PUSHKAR
Today we drive to Pushkar, where ashrams and temples surround the sacred lake of this major pilgrimage site. Upon arrival, settle in to our comfortable tented accommodations. AC DELUXE TENTED CAMP (B,L,D)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9 PUSHKAR
Rise in the pre-dawn light for an optional tour of Pushkar Fair on camelback. From this unique perspective enjoy views of the surrounding plain and fair-goers awakening for the day’s activities. Spend the remainder of the day touring the fair, where for centuries, desert tribesmen have met to trade livestock. Camel races and cattle traders vie for our attention with musicians, magicians and bazaars. AC DELUXE TENTED CAMP (B,L,D)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10 PUSHKAR / JAIPUR
This morning we drive to Rajasthan’s capital, Jaipur, also known as the Pink City. Tour Jaipur’s vast City Palace complex, which houses several palaces, a museum of rare manuscripts and paintings, and an armory. Visit the nearby Jantar Mantar astronomical observation site, completed in 1738, and view the monumental 90-foot-high sundial at this UNESCO World Heritage site. JAIMAHAL PALACE (B,L,D)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 JAIPUR
Visit Amber Fort, perched on a high plateau overlooking a lake a few miles from Jaipur. Inside the fortifications, amble through the palace and its numerous courtyards. In the afternoon walk through the old city of Jaipur to take in its lively markets. This evening, gather for a festive farewell reception and dinner. JAIMAHAL PALACE (B,L,D)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12 & 13 JAIPUR / DELHI / U.S.
Fly from Jaipur to Delhi and check in to individual day rooms at our airport hotel. Late this evening transfer to the airport for return flights back to the U.S., arriving home on Sunday. RADISSON BLU PLAZA DELHI—DAYROOMS (11/12: B,L,D)

Optional Pre-trip Extension

AGRA FEATURING THE TAJ MAHAL

OCTOBER 25 TO 29 (4 ADDITIONAL DAYS)
Journey to Agra, home of the Taj Mahal, India’s most enduring symbol. Also visit the impressive 16th-century Agra Fort and the fabled deserted Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri. Built by Emperor Akbar as his capital, the complex displays a perfect blend of Hindu and Muslim architectural styles. Details and pricing will be provided to confirmed participants.
Trip Information

**DATES:**
October 28 to November 13, 2016 (17 days)

**SIZE**
32 participants (single accommodations limited—please call for availability)

**COST**
- $10,395 per person, double occupancy
- $13,195 per person, single occupancy
- *Association nonmembers add $300 per person

**INCLUDED**
12 nights of deluxe hotel accommodations, 2 nights of deluxe private tent accommodations in Pushkar and use of individual dayrooms at the Radisson Blu Plaza Delhi on 11/12
- 14 breakfasts, 14 lunches and 14 dinners
- Welcome and farewell cocktail receptions
- Gratuities to guides, drivers and porters for all group activities
- All tours as described in the itinerary
- Transfers and baggage handling between the Delhi airport and our group hotels on arrival and departure days
- Flights from Delhi to Udaipur on 11/1 and from Jaipur to Delhi on 11/12
- Bottled water on all excursions
- Minimal medical, accident and evacuation insurance
- Educational program with lecture series and pre-departure materials, including recommended reading list, a selected book, map and travel information
- Services of our professional tour manager to assist you throughout the program

**NOT INCLUDED**
- International and U.S. domestic airfare
- Passport and visa fees
- Immunization costs
- Meals and beverages other than those specified as included
- Independent and private transfers
- Trip-cancellation/interruption and baggage insurance

**AIR ARRANGEMENTS**
International and U.S. domestic airfare is not included in the program cost. Round-trip, economy-class airfare on Emirates between San Francisco and Delhi is approximately $1,126 as of February 2016, and is subject to change without notice.

**WHAT TO EXPECT**
We consider this to be a moderately strenuous program that is at times physically demanding and busy. Participants should be able to walk unassisted on extended excursions (typically two to three hours) over uneven, unpaved surfaces and up and down narrow staircases during periods of high heat. When visiting archaeological ruins, forts and palaces, you must be able to walk up and down steep, dark staircases without handrails. In several instances, such as temples and palaces, shoes must be removed before entering. Participants must be able to stand for long periods of time. Travel in India can be time-consuming and unpredictable. With the exception of one flight between Delhi and Udaipur and one flight between Jaipur and Delhi, all of our travel between destinations is via motorcoach. Roads in India are often bumpy and unpaved, and most of our coach rides last from four to six hours. Although all of the hotels and motorcoaches included in this program are air-conditioned, other traditional means of conveyance and most of the museums, temples and ruins we visit are not. Participants must be physically fit, active and in good health. We welcome travelers 15 years of age and older on this program.
Deposit & Final Payment
A $1,000-per-person deposit is required to hold your space. An additional $200-per-person deposit is required to hold space for the optional pre-trip extension. Sign up online at alumni.stanford.edu/trip?india2016 or call the Travel/Study office at (650) 725-1093. Final payment is due 120 days prior to departure. As a condition of participation, all confirmed participants are required to sign a Release of Liability.

Cancellations & Refunds
Deposits and any payments for the main program are refundable, less a $500-per-person cancellation fee, until 120 days prior to departure. After that date, refunds can be made only if the program is sold out and your place(s) can be resold, in which case a $1,000-per-person cancellation fee will apply.

Insurance
Stanford Travel/Study provides all travelers who are U.S. or Canadian citizens with minimal medical, accident and evacuation coverage under our group-travel insurance policy. Our group policy is intended to provide minimal levels of protection while you are traveling on this program. You may choose to subscribe to optional trip-cancellation and baggage insurance. Information will be provided to travelers with their welcome materials. The product offered includes special benefits if you purchase your policy within 14 days of written confirmation of your participation on the trip.

Eligibility
We encourage membership in the Alumni Association as the program cost for nonmembers is $300 more than the members’ price. A person traveling as a paid guest of a current member will not be charged the nonmember fee. To purchase a membership, visit alumni.stanford/goto/membership or call (650) 725-0692.

Responsibility
The Stanford Alumni Association, Stanford University and our operators act only as agents for the passenger with respect to transportation and exercise every care possible in doing so. However, we can assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity in connection with the service of any automobile, motorcoach, launch or any other conveyance used in carrying out this program or for the acts or defaults of any company or person engaged in conveying the passenger or in carrying out the arrangements of the program. We cannot accept any responsibility for losses or additional expenses due to delay or changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, quarantine, force majeure or other causes beyond our control. All such losses or expenses will have to be borne by the passenger as tour rates provide arrangements only for the time stated. We reserve the right to make such alterations to this published itinerary as may be deemed necessary. The right is reserved to cancel any program prior to departure in which case the entire payment will be refunded without further obligation on our part. The right is also reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the program. No refund will be made for an unused portion of any tour unless arrangements are made in sufficient time to avoid penalties. Baggage is carried at the owner’s risk entirely. The airlines concerned are not to be held responsible for any act, omission or event during the time that passengers are not onboard their plane or conveyance. Neither the Alumni Association, Stanford University nor our operators accept liability for any carrier’s cancellation penalty incurred by the purchase of a nonrefundable ticket in connection with the tour. Program price is based on rates in effect in February 2016 and is subject to change without notice to reflect fluctuations in exchange rates, tariffs or fuel charges.

Terms & Conditions
“This was a fascinating tour, wonderfully organized and led, that attracted a delightful group of travelers.”

ALAN FORSYTH, NORTHERN INDIA BY RAIL, 2015