

PHOTOGRAPHY TOUR OF MARWARI HORSES WITH PUSHKAR FAIR IN NOV 2019



**About Marwari Horses** – Out of 380 known breeds of horses throughout the world, there are only four ancient known Hot blood. Marwari horse is one of them, bred specially for war in "The Land of Dead" where blades of steel grow better than blades of grass.

The Marwari horse is native to the Marwar region of India. It is difficult to exactly trace the origin of Marwari horse with precision but undoubtedly, it is a breed in itself and has no connections with other breeds. Lot of people has related Marwari Horse to the Arabian horse but even though both are hot blooded, there is no genetic similarity between the two breeds. Conformationally, the Marwari horse is a distinct breed.

The Marwari or Malani is a rare breed of horse from the Marwar (or Jodhpur) region of India. Known for its inward-turning ear tips, it comes in all equine colours, although pinto patterns tend to be the most popular among buyers and breeders. It is known for its hardiness, and is quite similar to the Kathiawari, another Indian breed from the Kathiawar region southwest of Marwar. Many also exhibit a natural ambling gait.

The Rathores, traditional rulers of the Marwar region of western India, were the first to breed the Marwari. Beginning in the 12th century, they espoused strict breeding that promoted purity and hardiness. Used throughout history as a cavalry horse by the people of the Marwar region, the Marwari was noted for its loyalty and bravery in battle. The breed deteriorated in the 1930s, when poor management practices resulted in a reduction of the breeding stock, but today has regained some of its popularity. The Marwari is used for light draught and agricultural work, as well as riding and packing. In 1995, a breed society was formed for the Marwari in India.

**History** - The Marwari is descended from native Indian ponies crossed with Arabian horses. The ponies were small and hardy, but with poor conformation; the influence of the Arabian blood improved the appearance without compromising the hardiness. The Arabians possibly came ashore from a cargo ship wrecked off India's west coast. Legend in India states that the Arabian ship, containing seven Arabian horses of good breeding, was shipwrecked off the shore of the Kachchh District. These horses were then taken to the Marwar district and used as foundation bloodstock for the Marwari. There is also the possibility of some Mongolian influence from the north.



The Rathores, rulers of Marwar and successful Rajput cavalry, were the traditional breeders of the Marwari. The Rathores were forced from their Kingdom of Kanauj in 1193, and withdrew into the Great Indian and Thar Deserts. The Marwari was vital to their survival, and during the 12th century they followed strict selective breeding processes, keeping the finest stallions for the use of their subjects. During this time, the horses were considered divine beings, and at times they were only allowed to be ridden by members of the Rajput families and the Kshatriyas warrior caste. When the Moguls captured northern India in the early 16th century they brought Turkoman horses that were probably used to supplement the breeding of the Marwari. Marwaris were renowned during this period for their bravery and courage in battle, as well as their loyalty to their riders. During the late 16th century, the Rajputs of Marwar, under the leadership of Moghul emperor Akbar, formed a cavalry force over 50,000 strong. The Rathores believed that the Marwari horse could only leave a battlefield under one of three conditions – victory, death, or carrying a wounded master to safety. The horses were trained to be extremely responsive in battlefield conditions, and were practised in complex riding maneuvers. Over 300 years later, during the First World War, Marwar lancers under Sir Pratap Singh assisted the British.

**The History of the Marwari Horses at Rohetgarh** - The family's passion for horses goes back generations. Some of the greatest names in the long and glorious history of Marwar were born to this distinguished family, and the Jagir (fiefdom) of Rohet was granted to the greatest amongst them for his exemplary bravery in numerous military campaigns under the Rathore banner. In the modern era the name of Thakur Dalpat Singh II stands tall as a legendary polo player and horseman. A member of one of the greatest teams of its era, the Jodhpur Polo Team, Dalpat Singhji played a pivotal role in the Jodhpur team's many victories.

Today Rohetgarh has emerged as great patrons of their own horse, the Marwari! The indigenous horse of the Thar desert. Endowed with sublime beauty and an honest 'never say die' spirit, it is a bold and fearless horse, magnificent in confirmation and loyal unto death. It was the brave Rajput warrior's mighty charger, which was capable of tearing fearlessly into the enemy, rearing up on war elephants in order to let its master strike the foe seated upon it, or jumping off fort ramparts, and jumping rivers with a severed hind leg to save its master's life by sacrificing its own! In the annals of Rajput history, these horses are as famous as their masters, and their names have been forever immortalized.

### **Marwari Horses of Shekhawati Region -**

Shekhawati Region is the home to one of the biggest stud farms and the most popular breed of horses “Marwari” in India.

The passion for Marwari horses in the family led to revive the breed, thus a proper breeding stable was established two decades back. The tranquillity and peace offered on the lavish grounds of Mandwa Region fascinates horse lovers from across the world to experience nature in its full form.

These breeding stables have helped researchers on the Marwari breed gain insight on this indigenous breed - from their origin to the complete family tree. Within the stables are some of the best Marwari stallions and mares in India.

### **31 Oct 2019: Arrival Delhi**

Traditional welcome on arrival and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

**Note:** Kindly note the check in time is 14:00 hrs. If your international flight arrives at the midnight or early morning, room on immediate occupation on the previous day might be needed as early check in is not guaranteed

### **01 Nov 2019: Delhi – Mandawa (Drive 250 Kms – 06 Hours)**

After breakfast, drive to Mandawa. On Arrival check in at hotel.

Mandawa is a town in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan in India. It is part of Shekhawati region. Mandawa is situated 190 km off Jaipur in the north. Mandawa is known for its fort and havelis and world famous Marwari horses.



A remote feudal principality in the centre of the Shekhawati region, Mandawa was a trading outpost for the ancient caravan routes that stopped here from China and the Middle East. Thakur Nawal Singh, the Rajput ruler of Nawalgarh and Mandawa, built a fort in 1755 to protect this outpost. The township that grew around the fort soon attracted a large community of traders, who settled here. In the 18th century, prosperous merchant families whose trade activities in the region generated substantial wealth built lavish, palatial mansions (Havelis) as a display of their success. Today, it is these ancient and lavishly constructed Havelis and courtyards that attract visitors and tourist from across the globe. The walls and facades of these Havelis are decorated with a colourful depiction of the region’s folktales, culture, history and social & religious themes. At times, the frescos also find a clear-cut western (European) influence.

Evening trip to Mandawa for photo shoot the next couple of days.

Overnight at hotel.

### **02 Nov 2019: Mandawa**

Early morning photo shoot from between 0600 – 0900 hrs. Breakfast is served at the location which has been schedule for 0730 – 0830 AM. The photo shoot will be done in different haveli in Mandawa with 2 horses. Here you will get different photo opportunity with male rider in traditional uniform.

Lunch has been scheduled from 1300 hrs until 1430 hrs in hotel Castle Mandawa or shoot location. Continue photo shoot in Haveli which includes Hanuman Prasad Goenka Haveli, Jhunjuwala Haveli and Gulab rai ladia Haveli with 2 horses equipped with silver jewelry and traditional attire of the horses has been schedule from 1300 hrs until sun set. Tea and snacks will be served at location.

Dinner at hotel Castle Mandawa which has been schedule from 1900 hrs until 2030 hrs.

**03 Nov 2019: Mandawa**

Early morning photo shoot at Sand Dunes which is approx. half an hour drive from hotel Castle Mandawa which has been schedule from 0600 hrs until 0700 Hrs. Breakfast at the stable. From 0730 hrs until 0830 hrs. Later Photo shoot at the bawari (step well), oasis, and water body with 1-2 foals has been schedule from 0900 hrs until 1230. Lunch at desert Resort from 1300 hrs until 1430 hrs. Later photo shoot at Stable with 12 horses which has been schedule from 1300 hrs until 1430 hrs. Then visit of rural village of Mandawa for local village experience with tea and snacks. Back to hotel at around 1730 hrs. dinner will be served at hotel Castle Mandawa which has been schedule from 1900 hrs until 2030 hrs.



**04 Nov 2019: Mandawa – Jaipur (Drive 170 Kms – 04 Hours)**

After breakfast drive to Jaipur. On arrival check in at hotel. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Jaipur was established by **Maharaja Jai Singh II (1693-1743)** and painted pink by **Maharaja Man Singh II when Prince of Wales**, later Edward VII, visited Jaipur in 1876. The Royal heritage of Jaipur lives in its architecture and culture. The city in pink is symbolic of the hospitality that reigned in the Rajput culture.

Overnight at hotel.

**05 Nov 2019: Jaipur**

After breakfast, visit Amer Fort. Amber Fort - considered one of the best hilltop forts in India which makes it a major tourist spot. This fort is a typical example for Rajput's life style in Rajasthan and it has a unique artistic style which combines both Hindu and Muslim elements. Unique elephant rides (or Jeep ride for alternation) are taken to ascend to the fort. These are full of fun and result in an unbeatable view.

After lunch tour of City Palace & Observatory. The City Palace in the heart of the old city is a blend of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture. The centre of the palace is a seven story building called Chandra Palace, with fine vies over the gardens and the city. The palace lies in the heart of the city and occupies the whole central grid. The fortified wall has seven gates and was built for protection from invading armies and animals that lived in jungles which surrounded the wall that time. Next, we visit the Solar Observatory - an astronomical treasure house, with solar device that give accurate predictions to this day. The Palace of Winds, a five-story structure of pink sandstone has semi-octagonal and delicately honeycombed windows overlooking the main street of the old city.

Later back to hotel for overnight stay

**06 Nov 2019: Jaipur – Pushkar (Drive Kms –Hours)**

After breakfast drive to Pushkar. Upon arrival check in at hotel. After lunch photo tour of Camel fair.

After our hotel checkout we depart for Pushkar, one of the highlights of our itinerary. Pushkar has a magnetism all of its own, and is quite unlike anywhere else in Rajasthan. It is a prominent Hindu pilgrimage town and devout Hindus should visit at least once in their lifetime. The town curls around a holy lake, said to have appeared when Brahma dropped a lotus flower. It also has one of the world's few Brahma temples. With 52 bathing Ghats and 400 milky-blue temples, the town literally hums with regular pujas (prayers) generating a soundtrack of chanting, drums, gongs, and devotional songs. Pushkar is world famous for its spectacular camel fair, which takes place here in the Hindu lunar month of Kartika (October/November). During this period the town is jam-packed with tribal people from all over Rajasthan, pilgrims from all over India, and filmmakers and tourists from all over the world. For the first day in Pushkar, we will relax and wander around at our own pace. This is one of the best places on earth to just absorb the sights, sounds, aromas, and tranquillity. It is the ideal place to relax and to just become acquainted with the wonderful people here.

### **07 Nov 2019                    Pushkar**

Today we will head out to visit the camel fair. An astonishing 50,000+ camels converge on the edge of town for the Annual Pushkar Fair. It's a fascinating and peculiar sight, and a great opportunity to witness an old traditional style Indian festival. The original intention behind the Pushkar Camel Fair was to attract local camel and cattle traders to do business during the holy Kartik Purnima festival, held in Pushkar around the full moon in the Hindu lunar month of Kartika. The camels are dressed up, paraded, shaved, entered into beauty contests, raced, made to dance, and traded. A huge carnival is held, with an array of musicians, magicians, dancers, acrobats, snake charmers, and carousel rides to entertain the crowd. The sand dunes appear covered with camels as far as the eyes can see and the population of Pushkar swells to over 200,000 people, with an inflow of pilgrims and camel traders. During the day, we will also spend time walking through Pushkar's main bazaar, which sells everything from Indian chai to tie-dye. This main street is one we will pass through often, and is set back from the lake. We will also visit some of Pushkar's temples such as Rangnath temple, Varah temple, and Savitri temple, which is set on a hilltop. This site offers spectacular views over the town and lake. At sunset we will enjoy capturing the lake and surrounding architecture. This is a great opportunity for more photographs and will make for a memorable end to the day.

### **08 Nov 2019                    Pushkar**

We will have an early morning walk by the lake with our cameras. Pushkar Lake in the morning is a magical experience when the sun starts rising. Capturing pilgrims at dawn, with the Brahma temple in the background is an awesome site. It's the only temple dedicated to Lord Brahma, the creator of the universe according to Hindu mythology, in all of India. The beautiful marble temple is famous for its four-headed idol of Lord Brahma. It's decorated with silver coins and a silver turtle on its black and white checkered floor. Pilgrims come to this festival to bathe in the holy waters of Pushkar's Lake and be absolved of their sins.

### **09 Nov 2019                    Pushkar – Jodhpur (Drive 320 Kms – 06 Hours)**

After breakfast, drive to Jodhpur enroute stopping for photography opportunity. Upon arrival check in at hotel.

**Jodhpur** - is the second largest city in the Indian state of Rajasthan. Formerly the seat of a princely state of the same name, it was the capital of the kingdom known as Marwar. Jodhpur is a popular tourist destination, featuring many palaces, forts, and temples, set in the stark landscape of the Thar Desert. The city is known as the Sun City for the bright, it enjoys sunny weather all year. It is also referred to as the Blue City due to the indigo tinge of the whitewashed houses around the Mehrangarh Fort. Jodhpur lies near the geographic centre of Rajasthan state, which makes it a convenient base for travel in a region frequented by tourists. The old city of Jodhpur is surrounded by a thick stone wall.

### **10 Nov 2019                    Jodhpur – Rohetgarh (Drive 01 Hours)**

Early morning photo tour of **Blue City - Jodhpur's Old Town** where you can understand why Jodhpur is known as the "Blue City". We will travel past the market places and away from the new town to head into the older quarters of Jodhpur. Here, under the century's old protection of the Meherangarh Fort, whose foundations were laid on the orders of the city's founder, Rao Jodha, in 1459, many of the houses are blue in colour. Later we will go to Chhipawadi, a place inside the Jalori Gate which is famous for the colorful people whose lives start and ends with colour. These people have been in the profession of applying colours to any type of cloth for generations and the place has been named after them accordingly. Chhipa means to print and so the place is now called Chhipawadi. The people, known as Rangraze, are so skilled in their work that it only takes them a few minutes to finish any type of assignment. The process is fascinating to watch. From here we proceed to Sarafa Bazar which is flows with gold and silver ornaments and continue walking down to Tabaco Bazar and Ada Bazar where fragrant local perfumes and scents of all kinds float in the air and cloths of all types are available.

Later at around 10 AM we will go to the Mehrangarh Fort

**Mehrangarh Fort:** The most magnificent fort in Jodhpur is the Mehrangarh Fort. It is situated on a 150m high hill. Rao Jodha, the then chief of Rathore clan, constructed it in 1459. There are a number of attractions within the fort such as several palaces, galleries, a museum, and temples, etc.

**Viewing the Blue City from Meherangarh Fort:** For an overview of Jodhpur and the blue houses of the old town, nothing beats the view from Meherangarh Fort. A winding lane leads up the 125-metre-high hill, upon which the ancient fortress is built. The walls are 36-metre-high in places, providing additional elevation to appreciate just how many of the houses in Jodhpur are blue.

Not all cities deserve their nicknames, but anyone looking out over the flat roofs of Jodhpur, from the perspective of the Meherangarh will realise that the term "Blue City" is indeed apt, whatever the true reason behind the prevalence of that colour.



After Lunch drive to Rohetgarh which is 1-hour drive from Jodhpur city. Upon arrival, check in at hotel Rohetgarh Fort

Evening Photo shoot inside Rohetgarh which has been schedule from 1600 hrs onwards with the horses against the beautiful backdrop of the old fort. Local people can be photographed in traditional costumes with the horses here. Dinner at fort has been schedule from 2000 hrs until 2100 hrs

During the evening we will have a brief meeting with the resident family or the general manager of Rohetgarh to discuss the Marwari breed in detail and gain some insight into the history of the property and resident family followed by dinner which has been schedule from 1900 hrs until 2100 hrs.

**11 Nov 2019**

### **Rohetgarh (Photography of Marwari Horses for 02 to 03 Hours Per season)**

Morning from 0700 until 0830 photo shoot of the Marwari Horses in the riding school. It is a beautiful location in the wilderness and some of the Marwari horses will be under saddle. We return to the hotel afterward. Breakfast at Rohetgarh Fort has been scheduled from 0900 hrs until 1000. Later village safari which has been schedule from 1000 AM onwards. This is Rohetgarh's signature activity and it is an opportunity for the group to gain an insight into what life in rural Rajasthan is like. This includes visits to a Bishnoi village and a brahmin village and includes guaranteed sighting of the beautiful black buck antelope. This is also an opportunity for the group to see possible locations to photograph the horses the next morning.



**Rohetgarh Fort**



**Mihirgarh Fort**

Later back to hotel for overnight stay.

**12 Nov 2019**

### **Rohetgarh – Mihirgarh – Rohetgarh (01 Hour drive)**

Morning around 0600 AM until 0900Am, photo shoot for locations decided upon the previous day - Marwari Horse Photo Shoot in the nearby villages, against the backdrop of rural landscape. Back to hotel for breakfast which has been scheduled from 0900 – 1000 AM. Lunch at Hotel Rohetgarh from 1300 Hrs until 1400 Hrs. Afternoon drive to Mihirgarh at around 1500 hrs. for photography session of horses in the Mihirgarh stables and paddock which has been scheduled from 1600 hrs until sun set. Later back to hotel Rohetgarh. Dinner at Rohetgarh from 1930 hrs onwards

Overnight at hotel

**13 Nov 2019 Rohetgarh –Jodhpur (Drive) – Delhi (Flight)**

After breakfast drive to Jodhpur airport to board the flight for Delhi. Upon arrival at the Delhi airport we will be transferred to a hotel for overnight stay.

**14 Nov 2019 Delhi departure**

In time departure transfer to airport to board your flight home.

**Hotels Details -**

City	Hotel	No of Nights
Delhi	<a href="#">Pride Plaza</a>	01 Night
Mandawa	<a href="#">Castle Mandawa</a>	03 Nights
Jaipur	<a href="#">ITC Rajputana</a>	02 Nights
Pushkar	<a href="#">Hotel Pushkar Palace</a>	03 Nights
Jodhpur	<a href="#">Ajit Bhawan</a>	01 Night
Rohetgarh	<a href="#">Rohetgarh Fort</a>	03 Nights
Delhi	<a href="#">Pride Plaza</a>	01 Night

**PACKAGE PRICE:**

This workshop is limited to a maximum of 10 attendees.

Introductory price is USD \$5,500 per person sharing a double room if booked by June 1, 2019. Price will be USD \$6,500 per person sharing a double room if booked after June 1, 2019. Single Room Supplement is USD \$1,130 per single room. Prices do not include roundtrip airfare from your location or airfare from Jodhpur to Delhi (airfare for that is estimated at USD \$110 per person and may fluctuate).

**PACKAGE PRICE INCLUDES:**

- 1. Entrance fees** of the scenic spots as listed in the itinerary.
- 2. Activities** as listed in the itinerary.
- 3. Accommodations:** Rooms are based on sharing a double bed or queen size bed; single room supplement will apply if participant purchases
- 4. All three meals** i.e. Buffet Breakfast, Lunch and dinner except on Day 1 at Delhi which is on bed and breakfast basis
- 5. A/C Vehicle (Mini Coach- 22-Seater)** will be provided
- 6. Domestic flight** sector Delhi - Varanasi -Delhi – Udaipur sector (See Supplement)  
*Please note for all India domestic flights, free luggage allowance is 15 kg for check in luggage and 7-8 kg for hand carry baggage.*
- 7. Local English-Speaking** guide
- 8. Drinking water:** 2 bottles of mineral water per person per day
- 9. Wet tissues** in the vehicle

**PACKAGE PRICE EXCLUDES:**

- 1. Flight/Accommodation/Sightseeing** not listed in the itinerary, including but not limited to roundtrip airfare from participants location as well as airfare from Jodhpur to Delhi.
- 2. Visa Fee.** - India visa: Visa is required to be obtained before your arrival/entry to India.
- 3. Personal expenses** such as room service, internet charge, laundry, drink, fax, telephone call, and camera fee in monuments, etc.
- 4. Travel insurance.** It is highly recommended that you have your own insurance for the trip
- 5. Optional activities**
- 6. Wi-Fi in the hotel.**
- 7. Excess Baggage Charges**