

Cameltour

The finest way to experience a Rajasthan away from the metropolises and tourist sights is on a camel tour.The Thar Desert is considered one of the most densely populated deserts in the world and is characterised by a rather semi-arid climate. Agriculture and livestock farming are possible here—particularly since the construction of the massive canals bringing water from the Punjab. Many people have settled here, partly in small to large villages, and partly in homesteads known as *dhannis*, close to the fields. Millet grows here, and in autumn a truly delicious melon called *matira*,alongside various fruits and vegetables unknown in Europe. Life proceeds at a leisurely pace in rhythm with the seasons.Despite a well-developed road and path network, the camel and cart remain an important means of transport. And even though electricity and the mobile network have reached the remotest corners, there is no sense of rush here. The appropriate pace for this region is that of the camel or walking pace.

We offer camel tours of any length in any direction around the Bikaner area. It is not quite as picturesque there as in the Jaisalmer area, but much "less touristy". The likelihood of seeing another Western face is low—ideal conditions for enriching encounters with the locals. A guide who also acts as an interpreter facilitates communication and shapes the tour with as many or as few straightforward, flexible encounters as suits you at the time (as one isn't always in the mood for conversation).

<u>How does such a tour work and who is there?</u>
You are looked after by the interpreter-guide, who takes care of you and coordinates everything. Then there are the camels with the camel handlers and the camel cart. You can walk, ride on a camel (led on a lead by a camel handler) or make yourself comfortable on the camel cart. You can also change your mind or switch between options in between.







Alongside the camel handlers, there is the kitchen crew. They prepare breakfast, a warm lunch and dinner, as well as afternoon tea. There are always various dishes, one of which is usually Rajasthani. Naturally, alongside vegetarian/non-vegetarian options, you can discuss your dietary preferences and aversions with us. We move forward in the mornings and afternoons and take an extended rest during the midday heat in a shady spot (often in a dhanni).





You can choose to sleep either in tents or under the star-lit sky. We provide thick mats (relatively firm), blankets, and pillows. However, bringing your own sleeping bag remains very pleasant. From mid-to-late November, nights can also become quite chilly, so those sleeping "under the stars" will particularly appreciate cosy temperatures. Water is scarce, but there should be enough for the occasional hair wash. Additionally, we recommend bringing wet wipes. Luggage is kept on a camel cart and is not subject to any weight or size restrictions. Soft travel bags are the most practical.





Travellers can either purify water themselves using a filter, SteriPen, or Micropur Forte, or alternatively take it from the 10-litre drinking water containers provided.

Even though every day unfolds more or less the same, the landscape visually changes very little, and the camel's gait is leisurely—the diverse encounters and activities make every day special, and every traveller or group will take home entirely different stories.





One more word on souvenirs: even though children's eyes light up happily when they receive a sweet or similar treat, in our opinion it is better to search your memory for simple games, recall various song lyrics, or perhaps even perform a magic trick. You might also learn a few phrases. At least one of you will hear over and over again:

Ram Ram Sa!
(Good Day!)

And another thing that is important to us: we are flexible! We do not have to adhere to fixed daily stages, we can spontaneously stay somewhere longer, we can change the route—thanks to the well-developed path network and mobile phones, (almost) anything is possible.