



SUJÁN

THE SERAI

JAISALMER

EXPERIENCES



THE JAISALMER JAUNT

Jaisalmer Fort in the Indian state of Rajasthan, a living medieval city within the fortifications, is one of the largest in the world. The city spills down the hillside below the ramparts of what is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Built in 1156 AD by the Rajput ruler Rawal Jaisal, from whom it derives its name, Jaisalmer was an important caravanserai, an oasis, on the trade route that connected India with Central Asia, Persia and beyond. Excursions from SUJÁN The Serai to the 10th century desert kingdom of Jaisalmer give you valuable insights into this rich and enchanted land – from those to love architecture, history and textiles, every pore of this region is soaked with symbols of civilizations and exchanges between travellers and merchants in search of the unknown.





THE THAR SUNDOWNER

The Thar Desert covers a staggering 10 per cent of India's land-mass and its shifting sands have always been a gateway into India. There are few better ways to experience and feel the sense of this frontier than to head out on a rural wilderness drive, exchanging your seat on a 4x4 for a more natural ride on a camel. Your guide will interpret the landscape for you as you drive through acres of interesting spots on your way to a dune. Watch the sun go down over the outlying countryside from the vantage of any one of these scattered dunes around, and for a change, do absolutely nothing while serenity sings its songs of setting suns.

ARTISANAL AFTERNOON

For every lover of crafts and arts enjoy a special afternoon at camp engaging with some of the skilled local artisans that we work with here at SUJÁN The Serai. From pottery spinning, to wood-carving and weaving, observe their traditional skills at our sand deck and perhaps have a go yourselves so you can take away memories of lessons learnt from these regional masters.





KATHPUTLI – PUPPET SHOW

The tradition of the Kathputli, or puppeteering is as old as time in these parts, dating back in the historical records to the Second Century BC. Dressed in stunning vestments and handled with a deftness that speaks of a heritage thousands of years old, performances recount fascinating stories of magic, local myths, legends, and folktales. Great for entertaining children, this long tradition of string puppets carved from a single piece of wood shows great artistic ability and drama. Notice is required to convey the puppeteers from their villages to camp, so please let our team know in advance should you wish to arrange a show.

SPA & WELLNESS

The SUJÁN Spa at SUJÁN The Serai, Jaisalmer is one of the main reasons people travel here to this desert wilderness. Ensnared in a walled garden at camp, the space induces a soporific charm and a complete sense of well-being. An eclectic menu of therapies ensures you will experience exactly the mood and feeling that mind and body desires; from rousing reflexology to cleansing scrubs and relaxing massages. Our organic, ayurvedic products are made with natural local ingredients, blended with an array of herbs that leave you feeling truly a soothed and healed. Traditional Indian techniques and methods are used by our therapists. Daily yoga & meditation classes are also available to help guests to disconnect from the bustling outside world and reconnect with nature and themselves.





CYCLING

Jeep drives and walks are not the only way to immerse oneself into this mesmerising desert landscape; SUJÁN The Serai offers guests a variety of options for exploring the Great That Desert. Our cycling adventures through the wilderness are a great way to explore the landscape. Accompanied by one of our naturalists you will stumble across local desert life, from herds of camels, to an array of birdlife and other memorable encounters with our local communities.

THE GAMES DECK

Time to play! Why not indulge in some of our favourite traditional games such as croquet and petanque at the games deck at SUJÁN The Serai. It is a perfect spot to get together for with family and friends and there is fun for all the ages. Be sure to keep your eyes peeled as you are likely to spot migrating birds or a herd of camels passing by as you play!

PATANG - BAAZI (KITE FLYING)

Through India's history, kite flying has always been a favourite even addictive pastime. At SUJÁN The Serai, we offer kite flying as for both adults and children to enjoy.

ARCHERY

Aim, stretch and shoot! This ancient sport, now turned into a competitive recreational activity, was traditionally a sport used for hunting and combat. Here at SUJÁN The Serai, we offer the excitement of your arrow propelling itself towards its target. Not as easy as it looks! This activity requires a keen eye. A fun way to compete against friends and family, however, if you're not feeling too ambitious, this sport also helps de- stress and ease the mind as it requires control, focus and discipline.





STARGAZING

There is no better place for stargazing than under the open skies of Jaisalmer. With no air pollution, noise or lights to distract you, you are situated in the middle of a vast open landscape, secluded and free from life in the city. The desert is the perfect place to lie back and take in the beauty of the glittering scenery of the sky. Our naturalist will happily point out the different planets and stars to you, as well as tell mythological stories about our constellations. After dinner, guests can curl up in a warm blanket, lie back with a well-deserved drink in hand, and be overwhelmed by this glittering dome of the night-sky above.

OUTDOOR CINEMA

Enjoy one of our favourite classics under the stars at SUJÁN The Serai's Outdoor Cinema. Choose from a library of some of our favourite classic and contemporary films to enjoy beneath the starlit desert sky. For guests travelling with children this is a lovely way to enjoy a private dinner knowing they are happily ensconced in front of one of their favourite movies! The team will look after you with drinks, popcorn and delicious home made ice cream!





TWITCHERS TRAIL

The Thar eco-system hosts over 200 species of birds, both migratory as well as resident ones, including some magnificent raptors that winter here. The area around camp is also home to sandgrouse and partridge as well as bee-eaters and shrikes. In early winter, you will likely encounter large flocks of Demoiselle Cranes flying overhead. If you are a birder, or a twitcher and are keen to notch up some new species for your bird-count, this is likely a good chance to do so. And who knows, while sauntering through with your guide what else you might see? Guests have been known to come across the rarely seen desert fox and even the very shy Chinkara, or Indian Gazelle on their ramblings.

FARMYARD SHIFT

India's farmers have green fingers and just like our other properties, SUJÁN The Serai, Jaisalmer boasts its own Organic Farm and Vegetable Garden, a dairy – which breeds one of India's rarest indigenous cattle species– and a poultry. Arrive early to watch the cows being milked, the eggs collected and join our gardeners to hand-pick your own ingredients, fresh from the garden. Chef will create a delicious traditional Indian breakfast which is quite literally, a farm to fork experience, tucked away in a quiet corner of the estate.





COOKING CLASS

The Great Thar desert has a unique culinary tradition. The extraordinary inventiveness of local recipes and the use of ingredients in rural Jaisalmer can sometimes surprise the most imaginative chef. Using home-grown, hand-picked local produce such as the wild khoombi, or desert mushrooms which only sprout for a fleeting period over the monsoon, our chefs introduce you to some of our favourite recipes and the methods used to create them. Join us, over a drink, for an immersive session on learning how to cook one or two of Jaisalmer's rarest recipes and carry a taste of the Thar, back home.

DINING ON THE DUNES: A MAGICAL CULINARY EXPERIENCE

Step into an evening of wonder and enchantment with this unique experience under a starlit desert sky. As you arrive at the softly illuminated dunes, the scene is set with glowing lanterns casting a warm, inviting light over your private dining area. Your journey begins with a feast meticulously prepared by our talented chefs, as the melodic sounds of the desert surround you, enhancing the serenity of the experience. This magical evening is more than a meal—it's an immersion into the beauty and stillness of the desert, combined with the artistry of exceptional cuisine.





PRIVATE DINNER IN THE BUSH

Private Dinner in the Bush : Dine under the desert skies, surrounded by the captivating sounds of nature in the wilderness of The Serai. As you immerse yourself in the magic of the moment, the aroma of traditional desert recipes fill the air as the warm glow of the crackling campfire keeps you warm. At each of our private dining experiences musical & dance performances can be arranged, for more information please enquire with our team.

GER DANCE PERFORMANCE: A UNIQUE AND EXPRESSIVE ART FORM

Ger dance performance is a distinctive and expressive art form that seamlessly blends traditional and contemporary dance styles. It often focuses on storytelling through movement, emphasizing emotional connections and cultural themes. Performers combine intricate choreography, music, and sometimes visual elements to create a captivating experience for the audience. Ger performances showcase a strong technical foundation, with dancers executing precise movements that reflect their training and creativity. The choreography draws inspiration from a variety of cultural influences, weaving a rich tapestry of styles and narratives.





ALGOZA: THE TRADITIONAL DOUBLE FLUTE OF PUNJAB

The algoza is a traditional double flute from the Punjab region of India and Pakistan, consisting of two wooden flutes played simultaneously. The musician creates a rich melodic sound by playing one flute while maintaining a drone with the other. The soft music produced by the algoza evokes a serene atmosphere, enhancing the overall experience. Commonly used in folk music, the algoza showcases both technical skill and improvisation, highlighting the vibrant musical heritage of the region.

KALBELIYA: A TRADITIONAL DANCE OF RAJASTHAN

Kalbeliya is a traditional dance form originating from the Kalbeliya community of Rajasthan, India. Known for its vibrant movements and expressive gestures that mimic snake-like motions, the dance reflects the community's deep connection to the serpent goddess. Dancers wear colourful, flowing skirts and adorn themselves with traditional jewellery, creating a visually captivating spectacle. Accompanying the dancers are the Manganiyars, local musicians renowned for their folk music. They play instruments.





DESERT FOLK MUSICAL CONCERT

The Manganiars are the traditional bards of the western desert, with a history that goes back 13 centuries. Their music has influenced musical forms as far away as Spain where it travelled to with gypsies. These troubadours mesmerise you with their melodies, singing about love, war, passion and devotion, anything encapsulated in a life and its rhythm is potentially a note for them to string a song with. Their heritage has been passed down from father to son, generation after generation and many of them are regular performers in the greatest and grandest musical halls of the world. But at SUJÁN The Serai, they are at home, at ease and sing for you at leisure, their ancestral village barely thirty minutes away. For a private concert with these unique musicians, please give us prior notice of 48 hours.

JAWAND TEMPLE: UNVEILING THE MYSTERIES OF A FORGOTTEN RELIC

In the heart of Jawand Village, a 500-year-old temple stands as a testament to the past, shrouded in legend and folklore. Despite being abandoned, the temple remains a source of fascination for the villagers, who believe it holds secrets of devotion, treasure, and a mysterious energy. The temple's last renovation, led by a Muslim village leader, exemplified unity and harmony among diverse faiths. According to legend, the temple was founded by Baba Rukkhad, a disciple of Lord Ramdevra, who amassed a treasure that was later looted by his greedy disciples. However, they met with untimely deaths, leaving the treasure's location and fate a mystery. Villagers believe an invisible force protects the temple, only allowing entry after dark if a night prayer is held. The temple's mysterious 'chattries' add to its enigmatic aura, making it a revered and fascinating piece of the village's cultural heritage.





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J AISALMER

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