

George Scott Rides



Rajasthan,
india

Marwari Riding Safari

India is the origin of my inspiration for the rides I started here in Spain. As some of you know, in our winters I run a few unique rides in the area I have known since a child and even more so after my season as general manager of Rawla Narlai Hotel. We stay in off the beaten track properties and tented camps on an itinerary I designed together with my great friend Ajeet Singh, who's horses we will be riding over the 7 days.



The Itinerary

Day 1: Rawla Narlai

Arrive in the afternoon at Rawla Narlai, a delightful 17th century Heritage Hotel. This property was once a favourite hunting lodge of the Jodhpur Royal Family. It is still owned by members of the family, some of whom are in residence.

Afternoon: A short 2 hour ride to select and get accustomed to your horse followed by time to bathe and relax before private candlelit camp-fire dinner, a short open Jeep ride from the property.



Day 2: Ride from Rawla Narlai to Rawla Kotri

- After breakfast an early morning 3 to 4 hour ride into the country
- Stop for a picnic lunch under the shade of ancient Banyan tree, with time for a snooze.
- A 2-hour ride to Rawla Kotri: staying at Kotri Raola, this property is a three hundred year old ancestral home of Thakur Saheb Mahendra Singh Ghanerao which has the unique feeling of being in an old Scottish shooting lodge in the middle of Rajasthan. A step back in time.
- Dinner in the ancient courtyard followed by the performance of the rather eccentric local magician Um Patil full of surprises.

Day 3: Ride From Rawla Kotri to tented camp at Danti Vara Lake.

- We will firstly be riding along a dry river bed, which is extremely important during the monsoon as it irrigates the land of this community who depend on there being a good rainfall.
- A picnic lunch under ancient Banyan trees overlooking magnificent scenery and the local waterhole.
- Arrive at Danti Vara Lake where we will be able to see some exotic and beautiful migratory birds
- Settle in at the camp for drinks and dinner under the stars around the fire, where silence surrounds.

Day 4: Ride to Ghanerao

- Now this is something else! Ghanerao Castle is not a hotel, but an ancestral family home dating back to 1606. This magnificent marble and stone edifice is steeped in the glorious history of the victorious Mertiya Rathores.
- We will be riding through some completely unspoilt and very authentic Rajasthani villages and temples, untouched by the hand of time, where you will get an insight to what life is and was like in this part of Rajasthan.





Day 5: Ride to Maharani Bagh

- Once we reach the foot of the Araveli Mountains we will stop for a picnic lunch.

In the afternoon we will visit the famous Jain temples at Ranakpur. An unforgettable experience of a living faith made of intricately carved marble. Feel the cool marble beneath your feet and wonder at the play of light and shade in the seemingly unending arches and pillars.

- Maharani Bagh is an orchard property belonging to the current Maharajah of Jodhpur. The comfortable bungalows are quaintly decorated with local furniture and set in a beautifully lush forest surrounded by mango trees and well watered vegetation. Food is grown on the property and home cooked by a local chef who has worked there since he was a boy.

Day 6: second tented camp

- We ride through the ancient forest with a picnic stop on the way. This sanctuary serves as a natural habitat for various species of animals like the Sloth Bear, Four Horned Antelope, Blue buck, Panther, Wild Boar, Crocodiles, etc. The sanctuary also provides shelter to various native and migratory birds such as Spoonbills, Cormorants, Egrets and Flamingos.
- The tented Camp shall be setup at a different surprise location for this night where we will dine under the stars and end the evening with some unique traditional Indian musical entertainment.

Day 7: Ride back to narlai.

A gentle morning ride back to our starting point for a farewell lunch and time to freshen up before departure. We will arrange for you to be driven to your next destination, please inform us before the beginning of the trip.

Important information



FLIGHTS

Your Destination is Jodhpur where we shall arrange your transfers to Rawla Narlai on the which is a 2 hour drive away.

VISAS

E-visas are available online at <https://indian-visaonline.gov.in/> and shouldn't take more than 6 days, We advise for you to organise this as soon as possible.

Weather

This is the best time of year to visit Rajasthan, with temperatures in the mid 20s, and can be slightly cooler at night.

WHAT TO BRING

We recommend light neutral colours of greens and khakis. In the evenings we encourage dressing up a bit as it's fun. We recommend that you wear a riding helmet and ask you to bring your own if you can. Your luggage will be sent ahead to each of our destinations on the ride and you will be provided with saddle bags where you can bring a few of your belongings such as hat, sun screen, camera, etc..

HORSES

The Marwari horse is related to the dessert horses of Arabia; with lively grace of form and sensitivity of spirit, while being sturdy and sensible

RIDING ABILITY

The minimum riding level must be of an intermediate standard (comfortable at all paces) with the ability to post to the trot for stretches of up to fifteen minutes at a time and also be able to take off and canter.

The guides will assess the capability of each participant and should they feel that any rider is not competent enough (therefore imposing any risk to themselves or others), they will be asked to continue the safari in an over land vehicle rather than on horseback. We are unable to accept beginners. It is important that you are fit and a proficient rider.

SAFETY

Guests full medical insurance is required and policy details must be submitted prior to arrival.



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