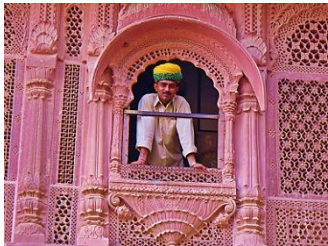




India/Rajasthan

personalised, private guided tour in 2009

During our 10 day private, guided tour in India we have visited the following cities and some of the most recommended sightseeing attractions. We started our tour in **Delhi** but did not spend a lot of time in India's capital. In **Agra**, our next destination, we visited the **Agra Fort**, the amazing **Fatehpur Sikri** and of course the famous **Taj Mahal**. Our local guide in Agra was specialist in science history and gave us a lot of information. Next destination was **Jaipur**. We did an elephant ride to the **Amber Fort**, visited the **Nawab Sahab ki Haveli** and the **Royal Observatory**. Our local guide was a craftsman who was involved in the restoration work at the fort. The city of **Mandawa** which is known for some exquisite **Havelies** of the royal era was our next stop. In **Bikaner** we visited the **Junagarh Fort**. Get glued to the fort as it has a long 986 meter wall with 37 bastions and 2 massive entrance gates. In **Jaisalmer** the **Jain temple**, beautiful Havelies, and the huge Fort fascinated us. A camel ride through the sand dunes of the **Tahr desert** will be unforgettable. **Jodhpur** the blue city was another highlight of our trip. A Hindu priest was our very knowledgeable guide when we visited the town and some interesting temples. We finished our tour in **Udaipur** one of the most beautiful cities we have seen in India. The stay at **Taj Lake Palace Hotel** was final highlight of an unforgettable journey.





India Accommodation Rajasthan 2009

During our first private guided tour in Rajasthan we stayed at the following hotels. We did not use tripadvisor for our reviews in 2009 as we do now. All the information below had been retrieved from the travel notes we made during this trip, the photos we made and from our memories.



The Gateway Hotel, Agra



(out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's property website: Come experience the famed splendour of the Taj Mahal at The Gateway Hotel Agra. Equipped with smart rooms that offer the best amenities alongside hassle-free services and a magnificent view of the iconic monument, this property is spread over six acres of manicured gardens. With a warm staff that's ready to offer impeccable service, The Gateway Hotel Agra clearly blurs the lines between business and pleasure.

Our verdict: The hotel is located on a busy road. So if you are looking for a quiet room ask for the garden/pool view rooms. If you would like to see the Taj Mahal from your room you have to take the noise of a busy Indian road. The room we had (with view, but noisy) was specious, clean and equipped with everything we needed. Food was very good. We loved the variety of the breakfast buffet and the special orders they take. The hotel is part of the Taj Hotel chain.

Price indicator: 90-280 USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 8 room: 8 sleep quality: 6 food: 8 service: 7 cleanliness: 8 value: 9 Total: 7.7

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Mansingh Towers, Jaipur



(out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's own website: The group's new abode of luxury - MANSINGH TOWERS - created especially for the corporate traveller. Designed to mix business with pleasure. Mansingh promises to offer excellent service. A comfortable and prompt sit down check-in offers a choice of 8 lavish suites and 45 luxurious rooms. Personal Jacuzzi in every suite. We provide the sublime blend of luxury, comfort and competent service.

Our verdict: This is a nice City hotel with an interesting architecture. The combination of traditional and modern design makes it very memorable. Excellent, large rooms well maintained, comfortable beds and all the facilities we needed. Food was good and breakfast okay. The staff was always very friendly and helpful.

Price indicator: 90-150 USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 7 room: 8 sleep quality: 7 food: 8 service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 9 Total: 7.9

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



India Accommodation Rajasthan



Castle Mandawa Hotel



(out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's property website: A Heritage Hotel in Rajasthan, Castle Mandawa has won National and State Tourism Awards for the best hotel in the "Heritage Category". Like many historic homes, Castle Mandawa too is a curious mixture of the old and the new. Medieval turreted towers, palanquin-roofed balconies, blend with modern comforts in old-world rooms.

Our verdict: The castle is situated in the centre of Mandawa allowing easy works around the interesting village. Our room was huge furnished in traditional style but needed renovations in the bathroom. Hotel was used by big tour companies and too busy for our taste. Food was

Price indicator: 150-450 USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 8 room: 8 sleep quality: 7 food: 6 service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 7 Total: 7.4

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Lallgarh Palace, Bikaner



(out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's own website: The Lallgarh palace Hotel has 56 well-appointed historical, Superior and Standard rooms equipped with Mini Bar & CCTV. A luxury palace hotel standing tall with its rich heritage, picturesque created to celebrate your stay royally. The lush green sprawling lawns with dancing peacocks and beautiful bougainvilleas adorn the palace.

Our verdict: Lallgarh Palace is a massive heritage building with lovely grounds, large rooms and suits, a huge swimming hall and a nice inner courtyard. We could feel the rich history everywhere. Food was good but staff was not well trained and not much interested in what they are doing. The whole place needs a bit more attention from the owners to keep its standards.

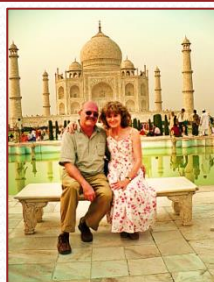
Price indicator: 110-270 USD/night/room - depending on room and season

Location: 9 room: 8 sleep quality: 8 food: 6 service: 6 cleanliness: 7 value: 7 Total: 7.3

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect

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Every tour is private, guided and can be customized to your style, schedule & budget.



India Accommodation Rajasthan



Ajit Bhawan, Jodphur



(out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's property website: A romantic mélange of erstwhile elegance and avant-garde amenities, Ajit Bhawan globally enjoys a prestigious reputation in the heart of the Blue City with being located in close vicinity of Umaid Bhawan, historical Monuments, Shopping destinations and Airport. An imposing blend of crisp luxuries and impressive heritage as a perfect base to taste supreme luxuries of the gorgeous era.

Our verdict: Beautiful property with well maintained gardens and lovely swimming pool. The rooms are located in small buildings around the garden. Our room (superior) was good in size and packed with artefacts of royal Rajasthan. We loved having dinner in style at the garden and enjoyed the beautiful food and music performances. Staff were friendly and helpful.

Price indicator: 200-650 USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 8 room: 8 sleep quality: 8 food: 8 service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 8 Total: 8.0

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Gorbandh Palace, Jaisalmer



(out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's own website: In this luxurious Royal Retreat you can enjoy all modern-day amenities in an authentic Rajasthani ambience. The retreats lush greenery, fountains, state of the art spa and the blue waters of its swimming pool create a tranquil haven from the heat and dust of the desert city. A garden is available for taking a relaxing stroll. Rasoda, the in-house restaurant serves a selection of Rajasthani, Indian and Continental cuisines.

Our verdict: This is not an old heritage hotel like most of the other places we stayed in during our trip. It is more a modern complex build in a traditional style. On arrival we were welcomed with flower garland and welcome drink as per Indian tradition. Our room was not very spacey but equipped with all modern amenities. In the evening we enjoy performances by local folk artists which are quite entertaining. Dinner was very tasty and breakfast buffet had a lot of choices.


Price indicator: 120-170 USD/night/room - depending on room and season

Location: 8 room: 6 sleep quality: 7 food: 8 service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 8 Total: 7.6

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



India Accommodation Rajasthan



3

Eco rating

Taj Lake Palace Hotel, Udaipur ★★★★★ (out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's property website: Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur, is the most romantic hotel in the world. It was built in 1746 as the pleasure palace of Maharana Jagat Singh II. Taj Lake Palace is one of the most recognisable residences in the world, since it has been featured in many films and TV serials. This heritage hotel has 66 luxurious rooms and 17 grand suites. Its location on an island in the midst of a lake affords every room breathtaking views.

Our verdict: This was one of the best hotels we ever stayed in. The location, the architecture, the views and the staff are second to none. Our room was absolutely stunning. Huge in size, quality furniture ...everything perfect. Dinner at the restaurant was expensive but worth it. We did the evening boat tour and enjoyed the music and dance show. Needless to say that the breakfast in the morning was fantastic. We know it is expensive but the only thing we regret now was that we stayed only one night at Lake Palace and had to leave this wonderful place in the afternoon.

Price indicator: 800-14000USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 10 room: 10 sleep quality: 10 food: 10 service: 10 cleanliness: 10 value: 10 Total: 10

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Bedroom Lake Palace



Living room Lake Palace



courtyard Lake Palace



Traditional music and dance Lake Palace



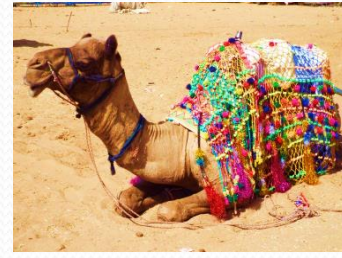
Time to say goodbye



India/Rajasthan

personalised, private guided tour 2017

Our second visit to Rajasthan in **October 2017** was much more relaxed than our first journey in 2009. We stayed at Savista Resort during the whole trip and the owners organized day trips mostly to places we haven't been before. We always had the same English speaking driver who was driving, compared to Indian standards; very carefully. He also did the two transfers between Leela Palace, Delhi and Savista, Jaipur for us. Our sightseeing destinations were the stepwells **Chand Baori** in the village of **Abhaneri**, the **Monkey Temple**, the **Camel Fair in Pushkar** and of course the pink city of **Jaipur** with its magic **Amber Fort**. Apart from the day tours we discovered the local villages around Savista Retreat by camel cart ride an experience not to be missed. So, if you are planning to visit Rajasthan in a more relaxed style, and to stay in a lovely small retreat getting pampered with organic vegetarian food, massages and meet the locals, please contact us: info@sghtravel.com for an itinerary.





India Accommodation Rajasthan



Savista Retreat, Jaipur



(out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's property website: With its location in a village on the edge of the city, this retreat just outside of Jaipur offers an ideal balance of experiencing rural Rajasthan, along with easy access to Jaipur city's historical monuments and bazaars, and visiting off-beat sites around Jaipur. A special feature of Savista is total freedom from the noise and air pollution and frenetic pace of Jaipur city without compromising on access to what the city offers.

Our verdict: This estate is simply charming, delightful and quaint. Savista reflects the philosophy of its lovely owners. They made Savista a retreat for everyone who is interested in experiencing rural Rajasthani life, relaxing, eating healthy pesticide free vegetarian food grown on the premises or in the local villages, enjoying the peace of the beautiful gardens and watching the amazing birdlife. Savista offers very cozy and well equipped rooms, a fresh water swimming pool (without chemicals) using water from its own well, fantastic yoga lessons with the owner, organized sightseeing trips and most importantly the feeling that guests are part of the family and being looked after very well. We loved the cheerful smiles and friendliness of the staff. Savista is definitely the place to be for people who are open minded for this philosophy which makes this secluded hotel so different from the main stream accommodation in India. We highly recommend Savista Retreat for all this reasons.

Price indicator: 149 USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 8, room: 8, sleep quality: 9, food: 8, service: 9, cleanliness: 9, value: 8 Total: 8,4

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Bedroom Savista Retreat



Entrance Savista Retreat



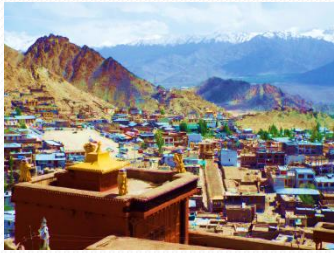
Fresh water pool



India/Ladakh

personalised, private guided tour 2017

Ladakh, the land of scenic beauty, tranquil ambiance, rugged terrain and majestic mountains was for a long time in our bucket list. The remote location and high altitude of Ladakh makes it unsuitable for the mainstream tourism looking for a quick holiday. Visiting Ladakh means: Most visitors will need time to get acclimatized to Ladakh's high altitude. However, the rewards you get are worth the pain of the acclimatizing process that might occur. It took us two days to be fit enough to start our discovery journey. Our trip was very well organized by Saboo Resort which was our "Base Camp" during our stay in Leh, Ladakh. Fortunately our Ladakhi friend Stanzein and her girlfriend Sonam could be with us on our little discovery journey. Our local driver and the very knowledgeable tour guide TseWang helped us to understand the wonderful culture and history of Ladakh. The highlight of the trip was visiting **Nubra Valley** crossing the **Khardung La Pass (5400m)**. This was one of the most scary moments in our travels so far but the sheer beauty of Nubra Valley made us smile again. For more information about this trip please contact us: info@sghtravel.com





India Accommodation Ladakh



Saboo Resort, Leh, Ladakh



(out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's website: Fifteen cozy cottages blend into local landscape, each with its own living room and exclusively private verandah overlooking the Stok Kangri, Stok Range, farm fields and several glacier-melt rivers. Each cottage boasts of two plush, queen sized beds to sink in; unarguably our most favored amenity. Saboo Resorts is just seven kilometers from Leh town, allowing you access to the bustling town and at the same time just a step away from the Ladakh village life.

Our verdict: What a wonderful peaceful place in the heart of Saboo Village! Our usual altitude sickness during the first two days at this altitude was very well looked after with some oxygen sessions. The restaurant was very flexible with our dietary requests and we recovered quickly. The rooms have fantastic views of the snow covered mountains. They are very comfortable and cozy and equipped with everything we needed. Odpal, the owner, organized a memorable sightseeing trip to Nubra Valley for us. Guide and driver were very skilled and real ambassadors for showing us the beauty of Ladakh. After seeing some of the other hotels around the busy town of Leh we knew Saboo Retreat was the right choice for us!

Price indicator: 160 USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 9 **room:** 8 **sleep quality:** 9 **food:** 8 **service:** 8 **cleanliness:** 9 **value:** 8 **Total:** 8,4

scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Restaurant Saboo Resort



bathroom



Bedroom Saboo Resort



India Accommodation Ladakh



4
Eco rating

Lchang Nang Retreat, Nubra Valley ★★★★★ (out of 5)

From the hotel's website:

Guests can enjoy the on-site restaurant. Free private parking is available on site. Some rooms include a seating area where you can relax. Certain rooms feature views of the mountains or garden. The rooms include a private bathroom. For your comfort, you will find bath robes, slippers and free toiletries.

There is a 24-hour front desk, a shared lounge, luggage storage space and gift shop at the property.

Our verdict: Our journey from Leh to Lchang Nang Retreat over the Khardung La Pass (5400m) was quite adventurous. Unfortunately we only stayed two nights at this lovely retreat with some Indian friends. The little cottages are very cozy and well equipped. Breakfast and dinner were excellent. The most amazing thing was that nearly everything they serve is fresh from their own organic kitchen garden. Rooms are designed with the local Ladakhi theme and are maintained well. Staff helpful and very friendly.

Price indicator: 170 - 250USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 8 room: 8 sleep quality: 9 food: 8 service: 8 cleanliness: 8 value: 8 Total: 8,1

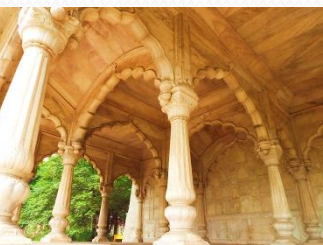
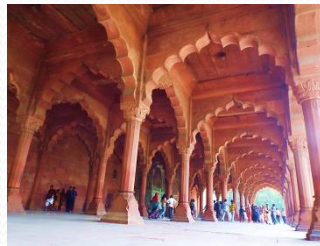
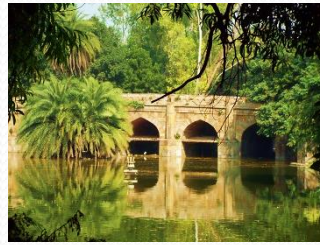
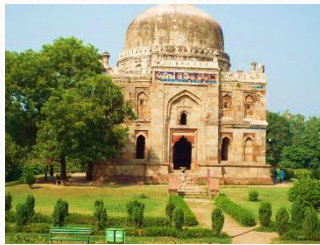
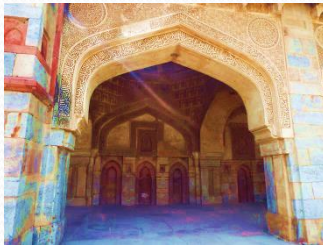
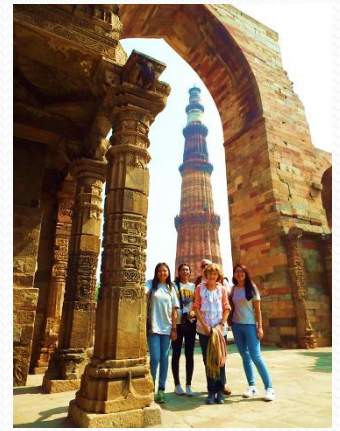
scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect





India Delhi

Delhi, the capital city of India is one of the fastest growing cities in Asia. During our world trip 2017 we have been four times in Delhi but only had time for a little bit of sightseeing. Together with our friends from Ladakh we visited the **Red Fort**, **India Gate**, **Qutub Minar**, **Bada Gumbad** and **Lodhi Gardens**. Delhi has a lot more to offer, but because of the traffic situation you need a lot of time to discover the most interesting places. For more information about sightseeing trips in Delhi please contact us: info@sghtravel.com





India Accommodation Delhi



The Leela Palace Hotel, Delhi ★★★★★ (out of 5 stars)

From the hotel's property website:

Welcome to a place where the age old Indian tradition of "Atithi Devo Bhava", meaning "Guest is God", is a way of life. At The Leela, everyone is committed to taking guest service to reverential heights. The Leela Palace New Delhi represents the magnificent architecture, grace and elegance of Lutyen's Delhi.

"Welcome to a world of grandeur & luxury".

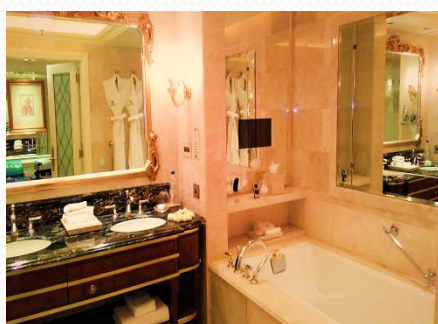
Our verdict: We absolutely loved the ambience and beauty of this luxury city hotel in the quiet diplomatic area of Delhi. The staff were very professional and did everything they could to make our stay memorable. The spacey room and the bathroom were beautifully decorated, very comfortable and equipped with all we needed. Room service very attentive and friendly. We loved the roof top with pool and nice sitting areas, the garden and food in the different restaurants. Breakfast buffet is amazing in quality and choice. After all one of the best 5 star hotels we stayed in India.

Price indicator: 250-940 USD/night/room including breakfast - depending on room and season

Location: 10 room: 10 sleep quality: 10 food: 10 service: 10 cleanliness: 10 value: 10 Total: 10
scale of one to ten: 1 poor <-----> 10 perfect



Bedroom Leela Palace



bathroom



Lobby Leela Palace



Lobby



Team - Lunch at the Qube



Outside sitting area