

## Exploring Rajasthan

### Journey through the Sands of Time

*Far from just a barren landscape, a desert is a magical experience for new and experienced adventurers alike – Rob Bock*

The desert is almost magical. It is more than just countless grains of sand; here, stars are so plentiful and so bright that you can actually read by their light; here, no buildings, no cars crowd the landscape for miles on end. Looking out over the sand, your priorities start to shift; the haste disappears and you begin to slowly lose yourself both physically and philosophically in its majestic solitude and rich history interrupted by the occasional patch of wild grass and a few gnarled acacia trees. The silence is almost absolute, broken only by the strains of music carried by the wind of women singing a traditional Rajasthani folk song as they traverse its enormity, or by a call to prayer for the faithful.

As visitors heed the siren call and come visiting this beautiful western-Indian state, there are always new hotels and resorts being built to provide visitors a chance to experience the Thar Desert's timeless space of beauty. In this newsletter, we invite you to join us as explore three such properties, selected for their uniqueness and style, that are coming up and which we believe will be fascinating when ready.



This stylish little hotel lies at the foot of the mighty Meherangarh Fort, in the center of Jodhpur's Walled City. Because of the narrow roads only small cars and local tuk-tuks can navigate these streets. We recommend you opt for the tuk-tuk ride offered by the hotel, which though bumpy is a lot of fun!

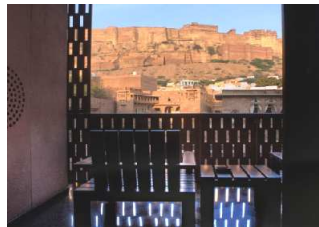
Once in the hotel, you are far removed from the hustle and bustle you just rode through, in a quiet space, and serenely tranquil. The hotel has four beautiful, original old and restored red sandstone



buildings that are offset by the clean lines of modern structures.

With 39 rooms and suites, Raas is the only luxury hotel to be based in the old town and offers stunning views of the fort that looms imposingly above the hill. Almost

all the rooms and suites have fort views, some have balconies and some have terraces.



**MIHIR GARH** - Located 55 kilometers southwest of Jodhpur, "Mihir Garh" or the 'Sun Fortress' is a stunning luxury desert resort. Constructed out of wattle, mud and wood gives it a lovely rustic look from the outside while the tasteful interiors provide a haven of luxurious desert comfort with

colors and fabrics that are in turn soft, earthy and vibrant much like Rajasthan and the desert itself.



Eight (8) air conditioned suites offer more than 1700 square feet of private space, including private terraces to sleep under the stars, plunge pools and private courtyards. The idea behind the camp is to give people a genuine 'desert experience' and how! Mihir Garh also offers fabulous riding, picnics and excursions and camel safaris.



**TREE OF LIFE – Resort & Spa** is perched on the ancient Aravalli hills, 12 kilometers from India's Pink City, Jaipur lies this little getaway with 14 luxury villas set on seven serene acres of land.

Using its name as the guiding concept, this Resort is built by applying responsible tourism and environmental considerations. The structures in this Resort are constructed using lime and sandstone, the local architectural style and design that reflect Rajasthan's rich history. Attention has also been given to re-cycling of water and using solar energy, wherever possible.

Each Villa is named after an Indian tree and villa's interiors are painted in the color of the flower which the tree bears. All villas come with a private lawn, and some with your own private pool that are conveniently heated in winter. There is also a butler on demand. Arriving here is like being taken back through centuries of tradition laced with luxurious modern conveniences.



*Happy journeys!*

*P&L Team*