



# Arts of Rajasthan

An Art and Cultural Immersion  
by Mariya Karagyoza  
and Mystic Art Retreats





# who is Mariya?

Mariya is a devoted spiritual and cultural pilgrim whose long-standing journey through India's most sacred sites—including Mount Kailash, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Varanasi—has profoundly shaped her spiritually, as well as in her roles as a human, writer, and researcher.

With a PhD in Indian Literature and Culture and an M.A. in Philosophy and Culture of the East, Mariya combines academic expertise with practical insight into the spiritual traditions that underpin Indian art. As a scholar-practitioner, her experiences are rooted in a spiritual exploration of Kashmir Shaivism and the concept of *spanda*, the creative pulse of consciousness. She bridges ancient wisdom with contemporary creativity, drawing inspiration from Abhinavagupta's Aesthetic Theory and exploring the dynamic facets of consciousness in art.

During the art immersion, she will guide you through the underlying principles of art creation in India, exploring both its philosophical and practical aspects. We will examine the states and stages of the creative process and uncover the keys to transforming inspiration, motivation, identity, expression, and perception. She will present the aesthetic principles, which serve to explain the transcendental truth to the common people.



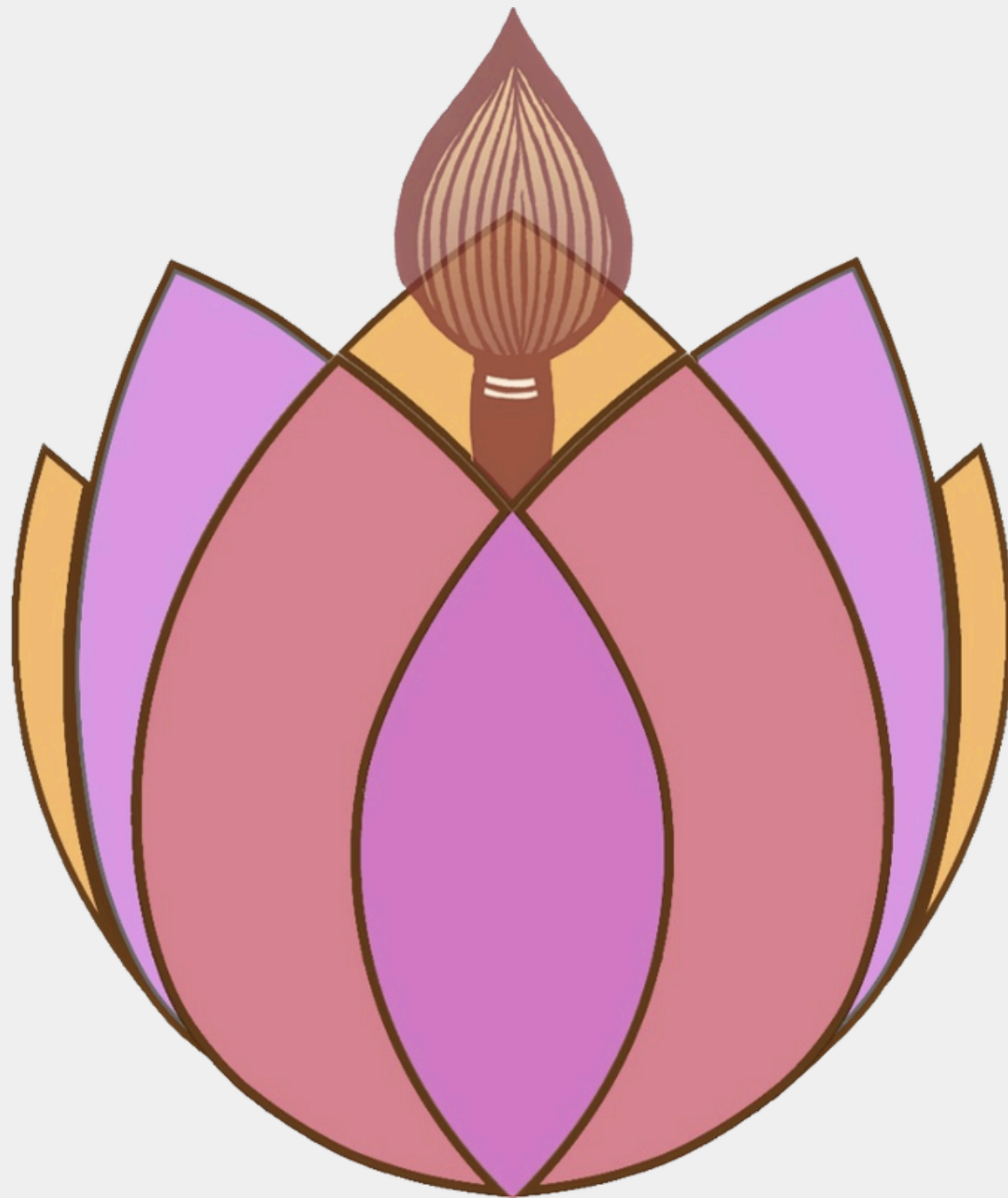
# who are Mystic Art Retreats?

Mystic Art Retreats™ are transformative events held in locations of extraordinary beauty and power that expand consciousness, ignite delight, and elevate human potential.

These retreats typically focus on creative arts and indigenous crafts as a means for encouraging our treasured clients to renew their love of life and return home with an invigorated sense of purpose. Our events are designed to be inspiring and encouraging rather than restrictive or humbling. Beauty, delight, creative expression and spiritual wisdom are key components of every retreat.

The programming includes instruction in sacred art, fine art, and traditional spiritual practices. Immersive cultural experiences, healing connection to natural environments, and visits to locations imbued with spiritual power serve to give these teachings context and ensure our clients remain grounded. We are committed to fostering respectful and mutually-beneficial connection to the cultures we visit.

Transformation and spiritual growth happen naturally when we are encouraged to relax in sacred places; it is more powerful when mind, body, and spirit are marshalled together for the purpose of lasting benefit to oneself and our global community.







# experience

If anyone were to travel through the very heart of any civilization, the right path would be their art. We cannot grasp the immense vastness of Indian philosophy, religion, and culture by only experiencing one aspect of it, because in India, they all form one ultimate experience of beauty, truth, the self, and God.

If we are acquainted with the underlying principle of reality in India—unity in diversity—we can naturally understand that Indian art is an expression of the connection with God and others. Beyond talent, craftsmanship, formal study, and training, the Indian artist is a practitioner, and the expression of their creativity is a worship of the divine. Nothing is there by chance; everything follows the cosmic order *ṛta*. Being in touch with art created according to these principles is an experience of the divine connection—alive, awe-inspiring, joy of creativity. It embodies the ultimate state of being, the absolute beauty, truth, and harmony.



# experience

This trip is an invitation for a shared discovery and experience of the arts of Rajasthan—the hearth of Indian painting. We will not only delight in the beauty of Rajasthan's art and architecture but will also actively participate in its creation through workshops with the families of artists, who have preserved their artistic lineage for generations. We will allow ourselves to experience the beauty in all its forms, and subtle connection to an ancient tradition that holds the profound wisdom of the divine order of the Universe.

We will dive into the unique richness of spiritual and cultural heritage, exploring the sacred sites of Vaishnavism, Shaivism, and Jainism. The exquisite architecture and natural beauty of the region will serve as our inspiration to collect and express. We will listen to traditional Rajasthani music and witness traditional dance performances. The small heritage luxury hotels and delicious local food will delight all our senses.





# Rajasthan

Rajasthan, India's largest state is the land of the Great Indian Desert, of hardy folk, a veritable treasure trove of ancient lore, music, dance, ballads and myths. Also known as the Land of Kings, it is a colourful melange of massive forts, stunning palaces, diverse cultures, delectable cuisines and warm people, set amidst a rugged yet inviting landscape. It has always been acknowledged for its tradition and rich cultural heritage.

The arts and crafts of Rajasthan are an integral part of the state. Each district and city specializes in different art forms. Rajasthan is well known all over the world for its hand-printed textiles, which include, Bandhani, Leheriya, Batik, etc. and Furnitures, Leatherwork, Jewellery - Meenakari, Beaded and Lac Jewellery, Miniature paintings, Blue pottery, Puppetry, Durries, Gesso work and metal craft.

The tantric drawings of Rajasthan were introduced to the world relatively recently, in the 1990s, when the French poet Franck André Jamme began researching them. These drawings are unconventional within the tantric canon, yet they are magnetic and captivating, embodying minimalism, progressiveness, and mystical beauty.





# Jodhpur

Mehrangarh (Mehrangarh Fort) - one of the largest and most impressive forts in India, built in 1459 by Rao Jodha. It also serves as a museum that preserves the rich cultural heritage of the region. The museum contains an extensive collection of artefacts, including Mughal paintings: Showcasing the artistic styles prevalent during the Mughal era, Folk musical instruments: Reflecting the vibrant music culture of Rajasthan, Textiles and costumes: Illustrating traditional attire worn by royalty, Armor and weaponry: Highlighting the martial history of the Rajput warriors.

Mandore gardens, dating back to the 6th century. It houses impressive cenotaphs, also known as chhatris, dedicated to the Marwar rulers from the 17th and 18th centuries. The Hall of Heroes and the temple of 33 crore gods stand as testaments to the region's rich cultural and religious history, adorned with intricate sculptures and carvings.

Late afternoon, we shall visit the ateliers of renowned artists from Jodhpur.







# Jodhpur

Umaid Bhawan Palace Museum, experiencing the opulence of the royal family. Umaid Bhawan Palace, located in Jodhpur, Rajasthan, is an architectural marvel that stands as one of the largest private residences in the world. Commissioned by Maharaja Umaid Singh, the palace was constructed between 1929 and 1943 during a period marked by drought and famine in the region. The Maharaja initiated this grand project to provide employment to the local populace, thereby alleviating their suffering. The palace was designed by the renowned British architect Henry Vaughan Lanchester, who blended Indian architectural elements with Art Deco styles, creating a unique and enduring structure.

As the sun sets, take a leisurely walk through the iconic "Blue City" and witness the mesmerising blue hues. For dinner, we shall head to the rooftop with beautiful views of the Mehrangarh fort and also witness the beautiful Rajasthani dance of Kalbeliya. Overnight at Ranbanka Heritage Hotel.  
<https://www.ranbankahotels.com/>





# Pali

Pali has a rich history that dates back several centuries, influenced by various dynasties that ruled the region. The town has been a significant centre for trade and commerce, particularly known for its textiles and handicrafts. The presence of ancient temples, such as the Navlakha Jain Temple, reflects the town's historical importance and its connection to Jain culture.

Pali is celebrated for its vibrant textile industry, which includes cotton weaving, dyeing, and block printing. The town is particularly famous for producing high-quality fabrics that are used in traditional Rajasthani attire. Artisans employ techniques such as Bandhani (tie-dye) and Sanganeri block printing to create stunning patterns and designs that reflect the cultural richness of Rajasthan. Pali's folk art is an essential component of its cultural identity:

**Mandana Art:** This tribal art form involves creating geometric patterns on walls and floors using rice flour and natural dyes. Mandana art is primarily practised by the Meena tribe in Rajasthan and serves both decorative and auspicious purposes.

**Bhil Art:** The Bhil community contributes significantly to Rajasthan's folk art scene with their vibrant wall paintings that depict scenes from mythology, nature, and daily life. Using earthy colours derived from natural pigments, Bhil artists infuse their work with vitality and spontaneity.



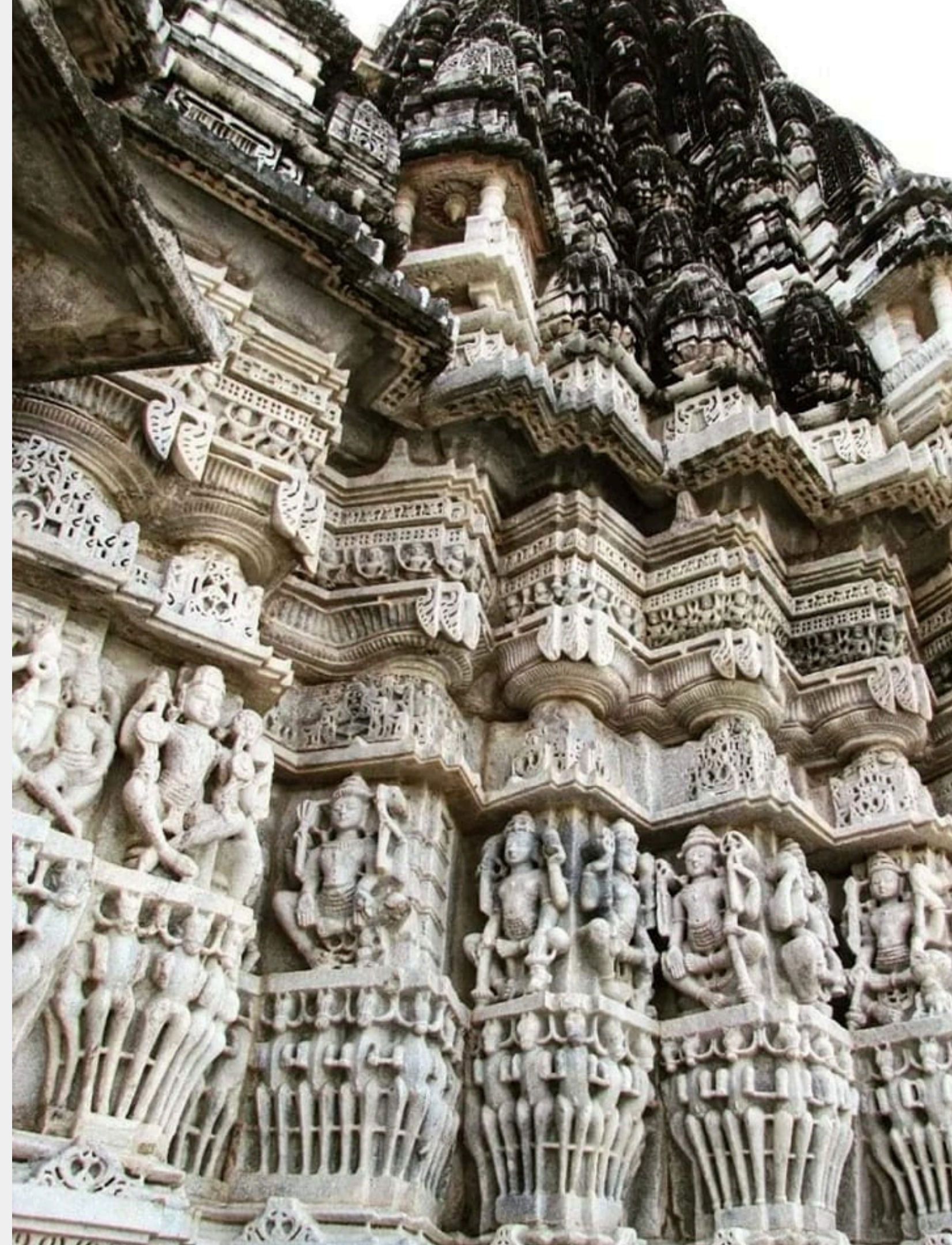
# Pali

Surya Narayan Temple is known for its stunning architecture and intricate carvings. This temple is dedicated to the Sun God and offers a serene atmosphere perfect for morning reflection. Spend about 1.5 hours here soaking in the spiritual vibes before heading to your next destination.

Afternoon: After lunch, visit the famous Ranakpur Jain Temple, a short drive from Pali. This architectural marvel is renowned for its exquisite marble work and intricate sculptures. Allocate around 2 hours to explore this sacred site and learn about Jain traditions. Enjoy a local meal at Rajasthan Heritage Restaurant nearby for an authentic taste of Rajasthani cuisine. We shall then visit the atelier of a Bhil artist and a Mandana artist late afternoon.

Evening: Conclude your day with a cultural tour of Pali's local markets. Stroll through the vibrant bazaars where you can find traditional handicrafts, textiles, and jewellery.

Luxury stay at Fort Chanwa  
<https://www.fortchanwa.com/>







# Molela

Molela is a small village located in the Rajsamand district of Rajasthan, approximately 50 kilometres from Udaipur.

Molela is celebrated primarily for its terracotta plaques and sculptures, which are crafted from locally sourced clay. The artisans of Molela create intricate rectangular plates that often depict various deities, particularly those revered in local tribal and folk traditions. These artworks are characterized by their vibrant colours and detailed designs, reflecting the rich cultural narratives of the communities that inhabit the region. The terracotta art of Molela is not merely decorative; it serves a vital role in the spiritual and social lives of local communities. The plaques are commonly used as offerings in temples and homes, symbolizing devotion and reverence to various gods and goddesses. The terracotta art of Molela is deeply intertwined with the cultural identity of several indigenous communities, including the Bhils and Gujjars. These groups have historically relied on such art forms to express their beliefs, traditions, and social values.

We will visit a renowned artist family and take a class with them on this exquisite art.

Overnight at Jüsta Brij Bhoomi Resort  
Nathdwara <https://www.justahotels.com/justa-brij-bhoomi-nathdwara/>





# Nathdwara

Nathdwara is renowned for its unique style of painting, known as Nathdwara painting. This art form emerged in the 17th century and is a subset of the Mewar school of painting. Nathdwara paintings are characterized by their intricate details, vivid colours, and religious themes, particularly those involving the Hindu god Krishna. Pichwai paintings began more than 300 years ago and have evolved into collector's items.

Shrinathji Temple is one of the most revered temples dedicated to Krishna. After visiting the temple, we head to Chitrakaron Ka Mohalla, the neighbourhood of Pichwai painters. Here, we observe and engage with the artists to learn about their techniques and the significance of their art.

We take a short trip to nearby temples such as Eklingji Temple or Sahasra Bahu Temple, both known for their stunning architecture and serene surroundings. These temples are about 30 minutes from Nathdwara and provide insight into the region's spiritual heritage. We travel further and check into our heritage hotel Fateh Niwas Udaipur <https://www.fatehcollection.com/fateh-niwas-udaipur-resort/>.





# Udaipur

City Palace is a magnificent complex that showcases intricate architecture and houses several museums displaying royal artefacts and paintings. Spend time admiring the miniature paintings depicting the Mewar dynasty's history. We shall then visit the Jagdish Temple, located near the City Palace. This large temple is dedicated to Lord Vishnu and features exquisite carvings and sculptures. Enjoy lunch at a rooftop restaurant overlooking Lake Pichola, where you can savour local cuisine while enjoying stunning views of the lake and surrounding palaces. Spend the afternoon exploring Udaipur's art galleries. Visit places like Janak Arts, where artists create miniature paintings using traditional techniques.

Afterwards, head to Hathi Pol Bazaar, a vibrant market where you can shop for Rajasthani handicrafts, textiles, and more. In the evening, we shall organise a workshop for Jal Sanjhi – a water art form dedicated to Lord Krishna. For dinner, head to Rainbow Restaurant, known for its rooftop setting and delicious food. Enjoy a relaxed meal while taking in views of the illuminated City Palace.

Overnight at Bijay Niwas Palace

<https://www.bijayniwaspalace.com/>



# Bhilwara

Bhilwara, often referred to as the "city of textiles," is not only known for its rich textile industry but also for its vibrant arts scene. Bhilwara is celebrated for its textile production, particularly cotton and synthetic fabrics. The intricate designs and craftsmanship involved in textile creation are considered an art form in themselves. Local artisans employ traditional techniques that have been passed down through generations, contributing to the city's reputation as a hub for textile arts. The arts in Bhilwara are deeply intertwined with its history and culture. The influence of various communities, including the Bhils (tribal people) and Nagar Brahmins, has enriched the artistic expressions found in the region.

We shall visit local markets such as the Bhilwara Textile Market to see a variety of fabrics, including cotton, silk, and polyester blends. We shall then participate in a hands-on workshop to learn the art of block printing, a traditional technique used extensively in Bhilwara. We shall then explore 'Ramdwara of Ramsnehi Sampraday', a significant spiritual site known for its architectural beauty and cultural importance. The temple complex often hosts cultural events that reflect local traditions. Overnight at heritage hotel Shahpura House <https://shahpura.com>.







# Jaipur

Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan, is renowned for its rich cultural heritage that seamlessly blends ancient traditions with modern influences. Founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II, the city's architecture, art, cuisine, and festivals reflect the grandeur of its royal past and the vibrant spirit of its people.

One of the earliest planned cities of India, Jaipur's architecture is a harmonious amalgamation of Rajput, Mughal, and European styles. The iconic Hawa Mahal, with its intricate pink sandstone facade, is perhaps the most recognizable symbol of the city's architectural prowess. Jaipur has a long-standing tradition of arts and crafts, patronized by its royal rulers. The city is famous for its exquisite jewellery, textiles, pottery, and metalwork. Jaipur also has a strong tradition of performing arts, with the Jaipur Gharana being one of the most renowned schools of Kathak, a classical Indian dance form. The city also boasts of a vibrant folk music scene, with instruments like the sarangi and ektara being integral to its musical heritage.





# Jaipur

We shall begin our day at the magnificent City Palace, a perfect amalgamation of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture. Explore the various courtyards, museums, and the Chandra Mahal, which still serves as the residence of the royal family.

Next, visit the Jantar Mantar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site featuring nineteen astronomical instruments built by Sawai Jai Singh II in the 18th century. Marvel at the world's largest sundial and learn about the site's historical significance. We shall then proceed to the Amber Fort, a magnificent hilltop fortress known for its impressive architecture and stunning views. Explore the various palaces, temples, and gardens within the fort complex.

Here are some of the unique art forms that Jaipur is famous for: Bandhani (Tie-Dye): Jaipur is famous for its exquisite Bandhani sarees, lehengas, and fabrics. Block Printing: Jaipur's artisans are skilled in the art of block printing, using hand-carved wooden blocks to print patterns on fabrics; Rajasthani Embroidery: Jaipur's embroidery styles, such as Gota Patti (appliqué work) and Zardozi (metallic embroidery); Blue Pottery: Jaipur is renowned for its unique blue pottery, made from a special type of clay and characterized by its vibrant blue and white colours.; Kundan and Meenakari Jewellery: Jaipur is famous for its intricate Kundan (gold) and Meenakari (enamel) jewellery, which combines precious stones with delicate metalwork; Miniature Paintings; Marble Handicrafts

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# Jaipur

We shall begin our day with a visit to Acharya Vyakul's private museum in Jaipur. Acharya Vyakul, born in 1930 was a prominent artist, poet, and philosopher known for his unique contributions to Tantric iconography. Vyakul's artwork is characterised by a bold and primitive handling of materials. He employed diverse mediums, including coal, to create his pieces. His work prominently features Tantric themes, exploring spiritual and philosophical concepts through visual art. This approach allowed him to merge traditional Indian art forms with contemporary expressions.

We shall then visit the Museum of Meenakari Heritage for a private tour. The Museum of Meenakari Heritage (MOMH) is an exclusive collection devoted to the art of meenakari, tailored for connoisseurs & private collectors in the fine arts and media fields.

This shall be followed by a visit to the atelier of Ram Gopal Meena, who is a world-renowned expert in Jaipur Blue Pottery. We shall have a class on blue pottery following which we shall return to our hotel for a regrouping, followed by our gala dinner at a beautiful palace.



# Schedule

<p>DAY 0 – 1<sup>st</sup> Mar <b>NEW DELHI</b></p> <p>Arrival at New Delhi</p> <p>Accom: Ahuja AIR</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: Hotel</p> <p>D: Hotel</p>	<p>DAY 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar <b>NEW DELHI - JODHPUR</b></p> <p>Fly to Jodhpur</p> <p>Accom: Ranbanka</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 2 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar <b>JODHPUR</b></p> <p>Accom: Ranbanka</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 3 – 4<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>PALI</b></p> <p>Accom: Fort Chanwa</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 4 – 5<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>PALI - MOLELA</b></p> <p>Accom: Jüsta Brij Bhoomi Resort Nathdwara</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 5 – 6<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>MOLELA - UDAIPUR</b></p> <p>Accom: Fateh Niwas</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>
<p>DAY 6 – 7<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>UDAIPUR</b></p> <p>Accom: Fateh Niwas</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 7 – 8<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>UDAIPUR - BHILWARA</b></p> <p>Accom: Bijay Niwas Palace</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 8 – 09<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>BHILWARA - JAIPUR</b></p> <p>Accom: Shahpura House</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 9 – 10<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>JAIPUR</b></p> <p>Accom: Shahpura House</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 10 – 11<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>JAIPUR</b></p> <p>Accom: Shahpura House</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>	<p>DAY 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> Mar <b>JAIPUR – NEW DELHI</b></p> <p>Drive to New Delhi</p> <p>Accom: Checkout</p> <p>B: Hotel</p> <p>L: tba</p> <p>D: tba</p>
<p>Day 11 – 12<sup>th</sup> Mar options</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Onward Connections to home countries</li> <li>❖ Extra night in Delhi with onward connections to home countries</li> <li>❖ Onward travel within India</li> </ul> <p>LEGEND B: Breakfast L: Lunch D: Dinner</p>					



# Payment schedule

Trip price 3000\$

Signing up 1000\$ by December 5th 2024

Second installment 1000\$ by December 20th 2024

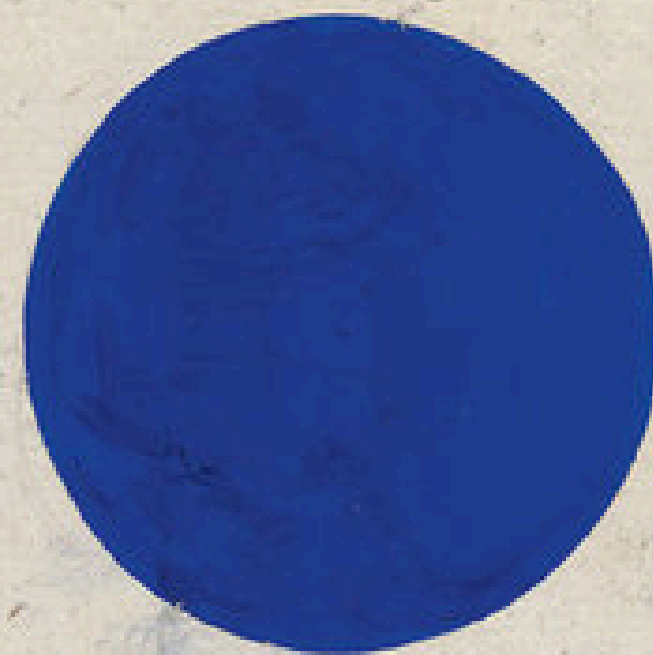
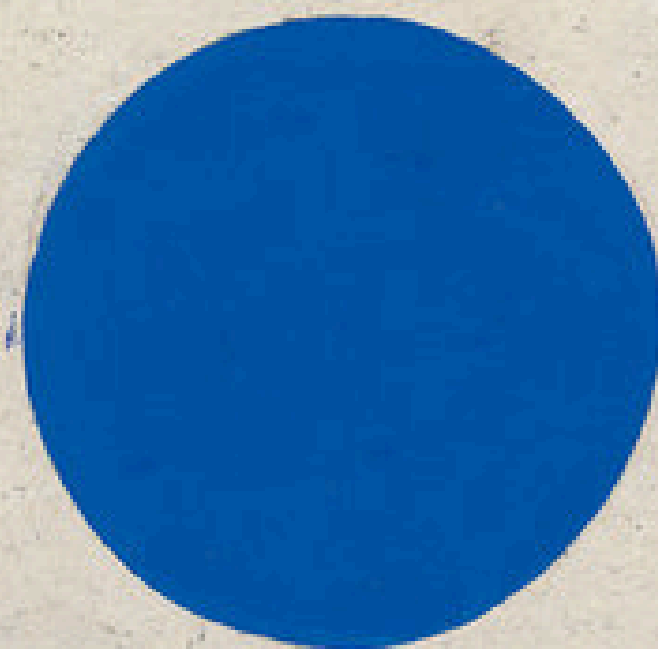
Third installment 1000\$ by January 20th 2025

All Payments to be made via Bank Transfer to:

Name of Bank	HDFC Bank Branch - Sector 14 Gurgaon
Name of Account Holder	Mystic Art Retreats LLP
Account No	50200103588503
IFSC Code	HDFC0000090
SWIFT CODE / BIC	HDFCINBB
SORT CODE / BSB / FW	FED ABA 021000021
IBAN	DE26501108006231602308
NAME	HDFC BANK LTD
Address	SCO-15, SECTOR 14, GURGAON, HARYANA 122001
Country	India

For any questions, please contact Mukul Purohit on [mp@mysticart.org](mailto:mp@mysticart.org) OR, on whatsapp on +919810115366









Join us, whether you are an artist or still  
think you are not, to discover that we are all  
active creators of our reality-and we can  
make it conscious.