

TRAVEL

# INDIA IN LUXURY

## BESPOKE TOUR FROM DESERT TO VILLAGE



The luxurious swimming pool of the Jamba-Dera Sand Dune Retreat.

Picture: ANNABELLE BREakey

**Susanna Freymark**

IAN Norris has travelled to India 10 times. Since his first job as a trainee at Grace Bros travel agency when he was 19, he has been hooked on a career in the travel industry for 40 years.

Two years ago, he decided to branch out on his own and runs bespoke travel tours which offer an intimate view of India.

"India fascinates me. I first went when I was 19," Norris says.

People balk at India because they don't want to see the poverty, Norris says. But India is much more than that, he added.

"The people, the culture and the landscape appeal to me."

His 20-day tour, departing February 2015, takes only 16

guests beyond the iconic Golden Triangle of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur to experience village life, wildlife, dining with nobility – and even a stay in the unique Jamba-Dera Sand Dune Retreat.

"I do everything the customer wants," Norris says. He admits his strength is accuracy and he plans every detail of the trip and uses Indian tour guides who have a wealth of knowledge.

The Jamba-Dera Sand Dune Retreat sits on top of a hundred-foot sand dune in the vast expanse of the Thar desert, far off the beaten tourist track.

The luxury resort is the base for further exploration of India.

"During our two-day stay we will travel out on desert jeep safaris to experience

the living cultures of the Bishnoi tribe. We will also experience a two-night stay in the Dera Village Retreat in Kalakho," Norris says.

Tourism is new to the Bishnoi area of India.

"Guests travel by camel safari to meet and mingle with the Meena tribespeople and learn about the culture of the Meena – who claim descent from the fish incarnation of Lord Vishnu."

"Along with visits to the historical cities of Delhi, with both sunrise and sunset visits to the Taj Mahal and the forts and palaces of Jaipur, we take a deeper journey into the desert and the cultures of its people."

"We meet tribal people of this land and gain unique insight into their way of life, their arts, and centuries-old traditions."



Meet the real people of India on Mr Norris' tour.



Spot the Indian tiger

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**GETTING THERE**

- Places in the Royal Rajasthan with Village Safaris and Wildlife Tou costs from \$8,787 per person twin share, including five-star accommodation with Taj Hotels, daily breakfasts, welcome and farewell gala dinners, and dinner with an Indian noble family in Jaipur
- The tour includes non-stop return economy airfares flying Air India's new Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircraft from Sydney
- Bookings and deposits paid before July 31 save \$900 per couple
- More information 1300 781 975

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**Return Bookings Available Until 11pm Flights**

Prices quoted are for one way only, children under 2 years. Free, (conditions apply). Any additional passenger \$10 extra per booking. Eftpos or credit cards attracts a 5% surcharge.

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