

Memories from India

Udaipur, the lake city, where the narrow streets crossed mostly by tuk-tuk lead around the ancient centre. This city makes one remind of fairytales, ancient novels and romances. While eating from one of the rooftops, It is possible to admire all the charm and enchantment of the city. At night, a beautiful full moon standing above the palace and the houses sets a scene that one may only admire in some theatrical representation or image while reading a novel.

Walking around the small ancient downtown is easy and pleasant. The Indian temple of Jagdish, located in the middle of the old centre gives foreigners an indication of the splendour and originality of the architecture of the ancient period. It is possible to admire the fine workmanship of the temple. Different figures are carved in the white marble with extreme precision.

The palace of Udaipur is a magnificent building, perfectly maintained, whose design and architecture reflect all the splendour of India. The construction is really impressive in every part. Most of the rooms inside give an indication of the fine art, richness and immense culture of the maharaja period. The warm rays of sunshine reflect on the lake and around It and help to make this place an absolute wonder.

The light and colours of this city bring one to fairy world. The atmosphere in the downtown is relaxing. The people one meets by walking through the narrow streets are absorbed in their thoughts.

From the opposite side of the palace, It is possible to admire a beautiful sunset. The main palace and the houses around change colours every time still the sun has gone away. The light of the sunshine slightly reflects on the lake and on the different old constructions of the ancient city, standing beside the palace.

"Have a nice trip!", a driver cried out before entering the bus in the direction of Jodhpur.

Jodhpur is a real post card. The blue city, the city of fantasy, the fairy town, the city of colours. These adjectives and appellatives describe all the features of this city. It seems like the background of stories that are told to children before going to bed or so as to calm them down. People living there, dressed in outfits of different colours contribute to make this ancient town something special. The Mehrangarh Fort, at the top of the old village, dominates the scene. The Entrance is impressive. The high wall seems to fall down on you. The architecture is original and unique in the world. Most of the parts are well preserved. The decoration of the palace inside and outside is original and grand, reflecting the typical eastern art.

The discovery of foreign countries sometimes depends on the approach to well educated local people and their customs. The more one approaches and talks with local people the better understands the mentality and character of the population.

A fast local bus reached Jaisalmer. The journey was fine and the bus arrives on time.

While walking through the old narrow paths, surrounded by the high wall of the ancient city, one feels an old atmosphere, and admires all the beauty of this well preserved stronghold. At both sides of the path hang carpets, long sheets of silk, decorated with splendid images and colours. The yellow/clear brown houses placed at the top are magnificent. From their roofs one can admire the immense landscape of the desert. Local people here are very quiet and kind. While walking around the streets a family invited me to a have look at their house and told me about their customs, life and work.

At 11:30 PM I took a night train from Jaisalmer to Ajmer. Then, with a local public bus I reached Pushkar, a really small place where you can meet people coming from every part of the world for different reasons. Someone remains there for a long time to relax, to meditate. Others are simply tourists, others seem to be there to maybe find inspiration for no idea why! The environment is

quiet. By spending one day and one night, one may see the life, the customs and experience the kindness of persons living there.

I spent the night in a typical Indian house. *“Hi! What a beautiful house!”* An Indian girl with brown hair answered: *“yes, you know It is a pleasure. I and my family live altogether here in this beautiful and quiet place. We like to host people and try to make them as happy as possible”*.

In India the infrastructure system has been well developed in recent years. Railways are good and link different cities.

I reached the city of Jaipur by train *“Look!, we sit down altogether in the same part of the train. We are persons, with different cultures, traditions and religions”*. *“In India we live in peace, respecting each other”*. Said another man, sitting in the same part. India is synonymous of multiculturalism and people are very proud of It. Well educated Indian people are proud to live altogether without troubles.

Jaipur is very different from other cities of Rajasthan. It is bigger, more chaotic, but with its own fashion/glamour. The palace presents immense and original beauties, which are unique in the world. In the middle of the city stands the Hawa Mahal, a palace with a decorated front, representing all the splendour of Indian arts. The view of It leaves you a little astonished due to its singular and original architecture.

The centre of Jaipur is full of shops and markets as in other parts of India. However, here It is more crowded than in other parts, but orderly. It is like a big puzzle where all pieces are fit one in to another.

One may ask, which is the place you like more?

Rajasthan is really impressive. It is a region with an important history, culture and tradition. Palaces, temples, forts as well as all the ancient and famous constructions represent the magnificence of this part of India. There is not a place better than others. All of them have their singular beauty and particularity. All of them leave you different memories.

The train reached in time the city of Agra. From the rooftops of some hotels one may admire the splendour of the Taj Mahal. The best known and most beautiful monument of India. Its sight leaves you astonished. There are different moments for visiting this place. The impression changes on the basis of the time one visits It. In the early morning, one can for sure admire It without anybody around or with few people, but sometimes there is a soft mist which does not allow tourists to have a clear sight of the place. At 11:00 AM, the rays of the sun spread an intense light, which reflects on the marble floor and on the sides of the mausoleum. The contrast between the blue sky, the monuments and the ground is marvellous. The white mausoleum is perfectly maintained. The marbles are well preserved. While observing and admiring the monument closed up, your face remains fixed for a couple of minutes. Your mind remains absorbed by this extraordinary beauty. Inside, the marble stones are decorated with different designs. Though people are mostly enchanted by the outside part, It is really worth to visit the inside part and admire the paintings.