



Eastern Rajasthan

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Why Go?

The cities and sites of eastern Rajasthan are easily accessible from Jaipur and the other axes of the 'Golden Triangle', Agra and Delhi. For immersion in history, see Alwar and Deeg's evocative palaces, and magnificent forts at Bharatpur and Ranthambhore.

Wildlife enthusiasts will relish opportunities at the national parks of Ranthambhore, Sariska Tiger Reserve and Keoladeo Ghana. Tiger-spotting is unsurpassed at Ranthambhore, which has provided the tigers to repopulate Sariska. India's premier bird sanctuary, Keoladeo Ghana, hosts an astonishing population of resident and migratory birds in a picturesque wetland setting.

Travellers of all description are drawn to Pushkar, a pale blue town that hosts an extravagant, internationally renowned camel fair. While Pushkar is a Hindu pilgrimage and a legendary travellers' halt to chill and shop, nearby Ajmer hosts the extraordinary dargah (shrine or place of burial of a Muslim saint) of Khwaja Muin-ud-din Chishti, India's most important Muslim pilgrimage site.

When to Go

Wildlife enthusiasts need to note that Ranthambhore National Park is closed during the monsoon from July through to September. The migration and breeding cycles of Keoladeo Ghana's bird population varies from species to species, but novice birdwatchers will be amazed by the feathery show from September to December. As elsewhere in Rajasthan, temperatures soar during summer, while spring and autumn days are still quite warm, and winter days are very pleasant, even cool. For information on regional festivals, such as the famous Pushkar Camel Fair, see p144. For festivals celebrated statewide and nationwide, see p24.



Eastern Rajasthan Highlights

- 1 Relax in the pastel-hued pilgrimage town of **Pushkar** (p162), with its sacred ghats and enchanting lake
- 2 Mingle with camels, converse with cameleers

and catch the circus at the amazing **Pushkar Camel Fair** (p144)

- 3 Spot a striped feline in the lush jungle and explore a magical cliff-top fortress

at **Ranthambhore National Park** (p171)

- 4 Observe abundant wildlife and explore temples, forts and a ghost city in and around **Sariska Tiger Reserve** (p152)