### DESHNOK
The Karni Mata Temple (aka the Rat Temple) at Deshnok, 30km south of Bikaner, is not for the squeamish. The place is crawling with rodents ... and you have to remove your shoes to enter!

### ALWAR
Busy Alwar doesn’t see a lot of tourist traffic, despite its proximity to Sariska. Take the time to visit one of Rajasthan’s more interesting museums.

### DEEG
The extraordinary buildings and gardens that comprise Suraj Mahi’s Palace are an insight into privilege and an easy detour between Bharatpur and Alwar.

### OSIAN
The desert town of Osian, between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, sees far fewer visitors than those tourist hotspots. Camel safaris to villages and dune campsites are authentic and stress-free.

### PATAN
The tiny town of Patan lies off the main Delhi–Jaipur highway and is about halfway between them. The former palace has been restored into a relaxing rural retreat where you can escape the frenzy.

### NAGAUR
Off the tourist trail, yet with a camel and cattle festival to rival Pushkar’s, Nagaur provides an authentic taste of Rajasthan and the chance to stay in an upmarket hotel in a fort.

### BHANGARH
The intriguing ghost city of Bhangarh was deserted three centuries ago, but is strangely well preserved and infamously haunted.

### JHALAWAR
The immense, forgotten fort at Gagron rests at the confluence of two rivers reached by narrow village roads; and you can stay in royal splendor at Jhalawar’s Prithvi Vilas.

### KARAULI
Offers the chance to stay with former royalty in a comfortable Raj-era bungalow, visit an old city palace, and tour a nature reserve, all far from crowds of tourists.