



**PSA**

Photographic  
Society of  
America  
WORLDWIDE®

**Photo  
Gathering**

**जादेवाले**  
Desert Festival

1st PSA Photo Gathering - India 2023

Jan 31-Feb 07, 2023



**Important/Emergency Contact Numbers**

Fire – 101, 252322

Hospital – 02992-252343

Ambulance – 102, 252313

Police Control Room – 100

Airport Enquiry : + 91-2992-52960 +91-2992-51742

District Transport Officer (DTO) : 02992-22519 (Off)

Chief Medical Officer :

02992-251792 (Off), 02992-252495 (Res)

Superintendent of Police (SP) Jaisalmer :

02992-252233 (Off), 02992-252234 (Res)

District Collector and District Magistrate, Jaisalmer :

02992-252201 (Off), 02992-252202 (Res)



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*Photo  
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# The First PSA Photo Gathering India 2023



*Jaisalmer*  
Desert Festival

**January 31st - February 07th, 2023**



**Message from  
the President of Photographic Society of America Worldwide  
J.R. Schnelzer, FPSA, GMPA, EFIAP, ESFIAP**



Welcome to the first ever PSA Photo Gathering outside of the United States.

As President of PSA, it is my hope that you use this special event to reinvigorate old friendships and form many new ones. Let's celebrate the universal language of photography together and experience all the photo opportunities that the dedicated team has prepared for us.

**Message from the International Relationships Vice President  
Photographic Society of America Worldwide  
Agatha Anne Bunanta, FPSA, GMPA, GPSA, EFIAP/p**

**A Journey**

*"A Journey of a thousand miles begins with  
a single step" - Lao Tzu*



It was in 2018, when the first time I expressed the idea to have the PSA Photo Gathering outside USA/Canada in the Board Meeting. This year, PSA is proud to hold the 84th Annual PSA Photo Festival in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA, a conference/photo festival that consistently held for so many years. Now, it is the time that PSA as a Worldwide Organization has an international event outside USA/Canada. The search for the location started since 2018 and many discussion have been held. Unfortunately the plan has to be delayed due to pandemic. In 2021, India was proposed to be the candidate of PSA-PG and the discussion started with Tirtha Dasgupta. Later I formed the core team, consist of 4 people to prepare the detailed plan and finally in the Fall Board Meeting 2021, it was decided to hold the first ever PSA Photo Gathering in Jaiselmer, India in February 2023.

Doing the first time is always challenging. But with the ethusiasm and hard work, we finally passed the obstacles. We learned from the process that had strengthen us to provide the best for the participants and PSA.

Allow me to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to the core team : Tirtha Dasgupta, Subrata Bysack, Arnab Chakraborty, Clement Carol for their determination and commitment that made the event possible to be realised. In addition, special thanks to the nine dedicated volunteers, Avik Sett, Ajay Kapoor, Rajdeep Biswas, Sudip Roychoudhury, Sanjay Kumar, Suman Bhattacharyya, Achinta Kumar Saha, Suvojit Biswas, Mukesh Bhatia, who share the same vision and passion to make this event successful.

PSA is about people. PSA-PG is a place to find and meet many new friends around the world. PSA-PG is a medium to strengthen and growing our brotherhood and networking. My heartfelt acknowledgement goes to all participants from 13 countries who believe and support us on this 1st Journey. Let's love life to the fullest and embrace our friendship.

## PSA-Photo Gathering

### The Genesis

The PSA Annual Conference later being called the Photo Festival is organized only in the USA. PSA has membership strength of nearly 6000 from over 80 countries. PSA as the Worldwide Organization is keen to have events outside USA and Canada. In 2018, the International Relationships VP initiated the ideas and discussed the possibilities to hold such events. It was agreed in the Board Meeting that the PSA Photo Gathering to be held biannually in different countries every alternate year. The delay of the implementation was due to the pandemic and in 2021, the discussion started with India as one of the alternative to be the location.

A core team of four people headed by the International Relationships Vice-President was created and it was finally decided in Fall Board Meeting 2021 to have the first ever PSA Photo Gathering in India in 2023.



### About PSA-PG 2023

The first PSA-PG 2023 will be held in Jaisalmer, India. In Jaisalmer an annual event is organized by the Tourism Dept. of the Govt. of Rajasthan to attract tourists from all over the world and to uplift the cultural heritage of Rajasthan. It is called the “Maru Mahotsav” or Jaisalmer Desert Festival. The PSA-PG 2023 is being organized in concurrence with this three-day extravaganza of Rajasthani dance, folk music, local handicraft fairs and interesting competitions. The PSA-PG 2023 will be an eight day event including the three days of the Desert Festival. The other days will include Photo Tours to cultural heritage sites and sand dunes.



## History of Jaisalmer

The city of Jaisalmer was founded by a Bhatti Rajput ruler named Raja Rawal Jaisal in 1156 AD atop the Trikuta hill, to shift his capital to avoid infringement of enemies. It is said that Lord Krishna, predicted that a descendant of his family will establish an incredible kingdom on top of the Trikuta Hill. During the 12th Century, Raja Rawal Jaisal visited Jaisalmer to seek the blessings of a sage Eesul. On the sage's advice, Raja Jaisal shifted his capital from Lodhrva, and formed the city of Jaisalmer.

After the Jaisalmer Fort was nestled atop the Trikuta Hill, Raja Jaisal started imposing taxes on the camel caravans that passed through the neighboring route. The trading caravans, loaded with expensive silks and exotic spices, were en route to Sind or Delhi. Jaisalmer's strategic location brought the city immense wealth for years, with the two routes connecting India to Egypt, Africa, Persia and the western nations. Jaisalmer's location also prevented it from invasion of foreign rulers.



Rulers of Jaisalmer, who were attributed to as 'Rawals,' engaged in a nine-year long war with Ala-ud-din Khilji, a Turk Afghan ruler, during the 13th and the 14th Century. Apparently, Ala-ud-din Khilji was annoyed with the Bhatti Rajput rulers as they looted

one of his caravans en- route to Sind carrying royal coffer. The fall of Rajputs came after nine years of siege, which led to the womenfolk of Jaisalmer committing Jauhar (self-immolation), to avoid falling in the hands of enemies.

The son of Raja Jaisimha Duda, fought fervently during the battle but was conquered. Though he died fighting, his descendants continued to rule Jaisalmer under a new agreement with the Mughal rulers of Delhi. They again engulfed in a war with Emperor Humayun and lost, and since then maintained a cordial relationship with the Delhi Sultanate. Later, Shah Jahan awarded Sabala Simha the royal patronage of Jaisalmer owing to his gallant contribution in the Battle of Peshawar.

The city was the last of the Rajputana royal clans to ink the British 'Instrument of Agreement,' which was a precursor to Britain's colonial rule in India. After India's independence in 1947, the Rajput royals signed an agreement to be a part of the freed country.

Even today, local bards sing the history of Jaisalmer in the form of ballads. Nevertheless, the city lost its economic significance after the port city of Mumbai was established, while it also lost the trade routes that passed through Pakistan post India's independence. At present, Jaisalmer is considered a cultural hub of western India as well as a key tourist destination.

#### [Jaisalmer – Demography, Language, Time Zone](#)

The total area of Jaisalmer Town covers 5.1 sq. km. Jaisalmer is also called the "Golden City of India" Yellow sandstone is used throughout the architecture of both the Hill Fort and the town below.

The Jaisalmer Municipality has population of 65,471 of which 36,432 are males while 29,039 are females. Hindus constitutes 74.19% of Jaisalmer population. Muslims are second highest with 25.1%. Among others are Christians 0.13 %, Sikhs 0.26 %, Buddhists 0.01 %, Jain 0.23 % and 0.08% constitute the others. Literacy rate of Jaisalmer city is 78.46 %

[Language Spoken:](#) Rajasthani, Hindi, and English (limited).

[Currency:](#) Indian rupee (₹).

[Time Zone:](#) UTC (Coordinated Universal Time) +5.5 hours, also known as Indian Standard Time. In India there is no daylight saving time.

[Going Around:](#) Most of the places in the city can be reached on foot. Alternatively, auto rickshaws are convenient for short trips. App-based cab services such as Uber don't operate in Jaisalmer.

#### [Culture of Jaisalmer](#)

Jaisalmer has a colorful and vibrant culture that reflects the rich heritage of the bygone era. The desert city's folk music and dance is an integral part of its culture with the amalgamation of past traditions, different social customs and classical music. The culture, language and tradition of Jaisalmer have the influence of the culture of the neighboring area, Sind.

Irrespective of the adverse conditions faced by Jaisalmer in its terrain and climate, the people of this place look happy and satisfied with their lives and are extremely friendly and jovial by nature.

In the outskirts the villagers mostly reside in thatched roofed mud huts locally called the 'Jhopris'. Farming and animal rearing is the sources of income. Generally, men go out for work while the women look after homes.

#### [History of Desert Festival](#)

The Desert festival of the Sand dunes of Rajasthan is organized to attract tourists from all over the world to uplift the cultural heritage of Rajasthan. The festival is truly an extravaganza and attracts millions of tourists to the city of the 'Golden Fort'-Jaisalmer. Factually the foreign tourists love to see the glimpses of the culture of India –especially Rajasthan through various performances and competitions that are organized during this festival. In these three days the tourists collect memoirs of their experience of these performances and the colorful culture of Rajasthan.

As per Hindu Mythology Lord Krishna said to Arjuna that a future rulers of the Yadav clan will build his kingdom on the Trikuta Hills. Raja Jaisal founded the Golden Fort as his kingdom on the hills and named it Jaisalmer. As a remembrance of the foundation of Jaisalmer the villagers, the local people dress in their best costumes and sing folk songs to welcome the festival with open arms and enthusiasm.

#### [Desert Festival Competitions and the Events](#)

The three days of the Desert Festival enhances the beauty of the golden sands of the 'Thar'. The festival begins with a grand procession in the morning starting from the Jaisalmer Fort to the Shahid Poonam Singh Stadium.



### [The Folk Music](#)

Rajasthani folk songs reverberate all around making it a rustic and soothing ambience making you forget rest of the world. The local artists sing and dance on the beats of traditional musical instruments



### [Camel Race](#)

Horse and camel sports are organized. One can see high standing camels decorated with ornaments, bells and flowers. They go for a race and the owner of the winning camel gets huge prize money. There are also arrangements of camel polo.



### [Mr. Desert Competition](#)

This is a competition which is also named as “MaruShri” or as the Man of the Desert and the caliber is measured by the length of the moustaches of the participants. The man with longest moustache is the winner, indeed it is funny but interesting too.



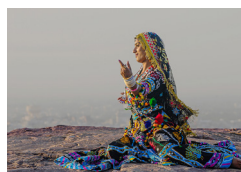
### [Turban Tying Competition](#)

The turbans are considered as the element of prestige and the high tied will be the winner, these events are considered as a healthy competition.



### [Food Festival](#)

Festival in Rajasthan can not be completed without food. Food options can be seen with the local food vendors and in local food marts who sell a wide range of local Rajasthani cuisine. The local food of Rajasthan is predominantly known for its lip smacking cuisines and they are rich in color and spiciness. The very best are Daalbati, Gatte KI Sabzi, Lal Maas, Churma, Ghevar, etc.



### [Other attractions](#)

The festival also include puppet shows, snake charmers, folk dancers, acrobats, local musicians, mehendi artists, art work sellers and many others those who make the festival more colorful and vibrant. The festival also get more lively when the popular fire dancers and Gair dancers take part and they dance with the fire plates on head and also standing on them. These are really enthusiastic and make the tourists go admiring of these acts.



### [PSA-PG 2023 Photo Shoot Locations](#)

This event is in concurrence with the three-day long “Maru Mahotsav” or The Jaisalmer Desert Festival. It will be an extravaganza of Rajasthani dance, folk music, local handicraft fairs and interesting competitions.

It will be a unique experience and full of opportunities for Photography :

- Pictorial • Landscape • Travel • Architectural • Photojournalism • Street
- Portraiture • Cultural Events

#### [Inside Jaisalmer City](#)

- Gadisar Lake
- Salem Singh Haveli
- Patwa Haveli
- Nathmal Ki Haveli
- Vyas Chhatri
- Jaisalmer Golden Fort
- Shaheed Poonam Singh Stadium
- Dedansar Stadium

#### [Outskirts of Jaisalmer City](#)

- Kuldhara Abandoned Village
- Khichan Bird Sanctuary
- Lanela Rann; Sam Desert
- Khuri Sand Dunes
- Chhatrel Village
- Kanoi Village

[Distances from Hanuman Chouraha and Hotel Rang Mahal to the different Photo Shooting Sites](#)

It is important to know the distances between the place where we are located to where we want to go. Hanuman Chouraha is the downtown area of Jaisalmer and Hotel Rang Mahal is the official hotel of PSA-PG. The participants will walk during the visits to the Havelis. Access to the Havelis is through narrow lanes. For the other Photo Shooting sites transport will be arranged.

From	To	Walk- ing Dis- tance	Time	Motor- able Distance	By Car
Hanuman Chouraha	Gadisar Lake	1.8 Km	23 Mins	02 Km	05 Mins
Rangmahal	Gadisar Lake	2.7 Km	33 Mins	2.7 Km	08 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Salem Singh Ki Haveli	1 Km	13 Mins	3.2 Km	40 Mins
Rangmahal	Salem Singh Ki Haveli	3.2 Km	40 Mins	4.3 Km	10 Mins
Salem Singh Ki Haveli	Patwa Ki Haveli	500 m	6 Mins		
Patwa Ki Haveli	Nathmal Ki Haveli	280 m	4 Mins		
Nathmal Ki Haveli	Hanuman Chouraha	500 m	7 Mins		
Hanuman Chouraha	Patwa Ki Haveli	700 m	09 Mins	1.3 Km	05 Mins
Rangmahal	Patwa Ki Haveli	1.6 Km	21 Mins	2.9 Km	12 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Nathmal Ki Haveli	500 m	7 Mins	500 m	03 Mins
Rangmahal	Nathmal Ki Haveli	2.7 Km	34 Mins	2.7 Km	07 Mins

Hanuman Chouraha	Khichan			185 Km	03 Hrs
Hanuman Chouraha	Vyas Chhatri	1 Km	12 Mins	1.5 Km	04 Mins
Rangmahal	Vyas Chhatri	2.8 Km	35 Mins	2.8 Km	06 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Golden Fort	1.3 Km	18 Mins	2.2 Km	10 Mins
Rangmahal	Golden Fort	2.2 Km	30 Mins	2.9 Km	12 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Shaheed Poonam Singh Stadium	400 m	5 Mins	450 m	02 Mins
Rangmahal	Shaheed Poonam Singh Stadium	2.1 Km	26 Mins	2.1 Km	05 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Dedansar Stadium	2.3 Km	30 Mins	2.4 Km	06 Mins
Rangmahal	Dedansar Stadium	4.5 Km	55 Mins	4.7 Km	10 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Lanela Rann			30 Km	40 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Kuldhara Abandoned Village			19 Km	27 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Sam Desert			45 Km	47 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Khuri Sand Dunes			52 Km	1 Hr
Hanuman Chouraha	Chhatrel Village			22 Km	26 Mins
Hanuman Chouraha	Kanoi Village			35 Km	36 Mins

## Places to be visited

### Gadisar Lake

Gadisar Lake was built as a reservoir in around 12th-13th AD by Raja Rawal Jaisal. He was the first king of the state and city of Jaisalmer. The lake was dug up to make up for the aridity of the region. Because of a specific gradient of the land there, the lake was able to gather and retain some rainwater. In time, the lake became the life-saving source of water in Jaisalmer.

The lake was renovated by Maharawal Gadsai Singh in 1400 AD. It is said that the chhatris and a couple of shrines were his addition. This transformed it into a pilgrimage centre. The lake was later named after him as Gadisar Lake. Tilon Ki Pol is a gateway to the Lake. A courtesan dancer Tilon, built the Gateway and the Ghats. It was objected by the royal queens who threatened demolition. They would not pass under the arched gate built by a prostitute, so the prostitute built a Vishnu shrine above it in order to save it from the royal ire.



### Salim Singh Ki Haveli

Salim Singh Ki Haveli was built in 1815 by Salim Singh, the prime minister of the kingdom of Jaisalmer. This mansion did not use cements and mortar- instead the stones are connected with strong iron rods. This mansion has distinctive architecture, it constitutes 38 gracefully carved balconies. The architecture of this mansion is inspired by dancing peacock. The Haveli invited the ruler's envy during its era.



Salim Singh was not a very nice person. He saw his father being killed by royal officials and he grew up hating the royals. He wanted to avenge his father's death by overthrowing the king. In his quest for vengeance, he set out to build the haveli, which looked even grander than the King's

residence. He also ordered two extra stories to be built so that his haveli was taller than that of the king's - which did not go down well at all with the king. So the king ordered the demolition of the top two stories.

### Patwon Ki Haveli

The Patwon ki Haveli is the most important among the havelis in Jaisalmer. It was the first haveli erected in Jaisalmer and it is a cluster of 5 small havelis. The history of the Patwa Haveli dates back to early 18th century. On the advice of a priest, the patwas left Jaisalmer with the intention of never to return. The patwas were immensely successful thereafter. Eventually, patwas were called upon to finance the state deficit. This brought the clan back to their old habitat. The then head of the family, Ghuman Chand Patwa, decided to gift each of his five sons a separate mansion, ignoring

the advice of the priest. Thus came up the five grandiose havelis facing the Jaisalmer Fort.

The lives of the patwas after their return to Jaisalmer started dwindling. Consequently, they left the city again, leaving the havelis with care takers. The care takers became the owners subsequently and decided to sale the havelis. Care taker of the first haveli approached Mr. Jeevanlalji Kothari, a native of Jaisalmer who had left Jaisalmer to explore better opportunities. Mr. Kothari, to remain connected with his native place, decided to buy the first haveli. Hence it was renamed as the Kothari's Patwa Haveli.



### Nathmal Ji Ki Haveli

Nathmalji ki Haveli was constructed by Maharawal Berisal in 1885, as the residence of Diwan Mohata Nathmal, the then Prime Minister of Jaisalmer. The two sides are similar, but not identical. There are two different architectural styles in the outer structure of this haveli. This haveli is famous for its architecture that reflects the fusion of both Rajput and Islamic styles. The building is planned around two courtyards; the one in the front is much smaller than the rear one. The front part of

the building is three storeys high and has the main living quarters. The entrance of the haveli is guarded by two huge elephants carved from yellow stone. The intricately carved jharokha windows and balconies are examples of the Muslim silavats. In fact the stone-carved screen windows are famous for intricately carved jewelry. Even today, a part of Nathmal ki Haveli is occupied by its residents and also there are some shops of Rajasthani gift items and souvenirs.



### The Abandoned Village Of Kuldhara

The abandoned village of Kuldhara is located some 35 km from the city. It is a story of a beautiful damsel of Kuldhara. This young girl belonged to a family of Paliwal Brahmins. Hers was one among the 1,500 Paliwal Brahmin families in this village. This community lived over five centuries peacefully in Kuldhara. The Paliwal Brahmins developed smart irrigation techniques and cultivated in what would otherwise remained barren.



Salim Singh the diwan of Jaisalmer was a cruel man and exerted his powers. His eye fell on this damsel. Salim Singh declared that he wanted to marry her. The thought that such a man wanting to bed their daughter horrified the entire community. Every person revolted but could do little. So, when diwan's men came to collect the girl, the Brahmins requested them to come by the next morning and then promptly

abandoned the village overnight. It is said, the girl became a victim of honor killing and her spirit continues to haunt this village. While leaving Kuldhara, the Paliwal Brahmins cursed it to remain abandoned for eternity.



### Khichan Bird Sanctuary

In the 1970s, Ratanlal Maloo, a native of Khichan did not have a lot of work; his uncle gave him the job of feeding pigeons. Once, a dozen Demoiselle Cranes (called Kurja in Rajasthani) also joined the other birds. During September-February, around 100 cranes came to the feeding place. During the next winter, around 150 cranes visited the place. As the cranes grew in numbers, Ratan Lal asked the village authorities to allot him some land on the outskirts of the village. Some of the villagers joined him in building a chugga ghar (bird feeding home), with a granary and a fence. Several Jain traders supported by supplying grains. What started initially as a few dozen visiting birds has now become a major migration with thousands of cranes visiting the village every year, during August to March, and the number is increasing. This is attributed to the organized and natural feeding done by the village community. In 2008, it was estimated that up to 3,000 kilograms (6,600 lbs.) of bird seed were consumed every day. In 2010, the number of cranes visiting Khichan was estimated at 15,000. The village achieved international recognition when it was featured in Birding World magazine in an article titled, "Khichan - the Demoiselle Crane village".

Support community: Currently, the daily feed of the birds is managed by Pakshi Chugga Ghar of A. B. Khichan Jain Shree Sangh. Donations by locals and tourists support the cause. Previously, monetary donations from local people and visitors were managed by Kurja Samrakshan Vikas Sansthan, a society established in Khichan for crane protection and care. The Marwar Crane Foundation (MCF) also supports the villagers' efforts.



## Vyas Chhatri

The Vyas Chhatri presents exquisitely crafted cenotaphs. This was built in the memory of Sage Ved Vyas the writer of the epic Mahabharata and is a formal cremation ground for the Brahmins of Jaisalmer. These cenotaphs were made as a symbol of respect to the clans of the royal family after their death. The cenotaphs are built of yellow sandstone with intricately designed chhatris placed on top of these pillars. The Chhatri is also popularly known as the sunset point giving a one-shot view of the beautiful city of Jaisalmer. Vyas Chhatri is a photographer's delight for your best shots especially in the evening.



## Jaisalmer Fort

The Jaisalmer Fort also called Sonar Quila (Golden Fort) is made of yellow sandstone and becomes showered with the golden hues of the sand. The fort looks golden in the early morning. The setting sun adds its own magic and shrouds the fort with mystique. The fort is constructed in the classic style of the royals. Unlike other Forts of Rajasthan, the Jaisalmer Fort is one of the few living monuments in the world. Jaisalmer Fort houses museum, shops, restaurants, residential accommodations, hotels, etc.

The fort was built in 1156, and is a proud citadel of the Bhati clan. It was during the reign of Rawal Jaiswal the founder of Jaisalmer city, that this fort was built. It is a 250 foot tall fort, which is protected by 30 feet long walls. The fort constitutes 99 bastions. It displays a fusion of Islamic and Rajput architecture. There are 4 gateways – Ganesh Pol, Akshya Pol, Suraj Pol and Hawa Pol. Jaisalmer Fort is situated on Trikuta Hill. The main attractions inside the fort are: Raj Mahal (Royal palace), Jain temples and the Laxminath temple. The view of the sunset from this fort is a treat to the eyes for all the travellers, and especially photographers.



## Khuri Sand Dunes

The Khuri Sand Dunes are situated at a distance of 40 Km to the southwest of Jaisalmer. It is one of the most acknowledged and pristine beauty in the middle of the vast Thar Desert. Khuri Sand Dunes is a never-ending landscape of rolling dunes spectacularly lit up by a combination of sunlight, moonlight and brightly shining stars. The dunes sit close to the village of Khuri and about a 1-hour drive from Jaisalmer.



## Rajasthani Village

**Chhatrel village:** Chhatrel village is located in Jaisalmer tehsil of Jaisalmer district in Rajasthan. It is situated 20km away from Jaisalmer. The total geographical area of village is 10029.87 hectares. Chhatrel has a total population of 1,991 peoples, out of which male population is 1,087 while female population is 904. Literacy rate of chhatrel village is 47.51% out of which 59.89% males and 32.63% females are literate. There are about 384 houses in chhatrel village.



**Kanoi village:** Kanoi village is located in Jaisalmer tehsil of Jaisalmer district in Rajasthan. It is situated 35km away from Jaisalmer. The total geographical area of village is 9552 hectares. Kanoi has a total population of 2,410 peoples, out of which male population is 1,234 while female population is 1,176. Literacy rate of kanoi village is 48.80% out of which 65.48% males and 31.29% females are literate. There are about 366 houses in kanoi village.

## Planned Itinerary\* and Locations

31st January – 07th February 2023

\*subject to change under unavoidable circumstances

<b>Day One</b>	<b>Date: 31 January 2023</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
04:00 pm	Convention Room (Hotel Rang Mahal)	Reception & Registration
06:30 pm	Convention Room (Hotel Rang Mahal)	Opening Ceremony
08:00 pm	Convention Room (Hotel Rang Mahal)	Dinner
<b>Day Two</b>	<b>Date: 01 February 2023</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
05:30 am	Bus Departure	Travel to Gadisar lake
06:00 am	Gadisar lake	Sunrise Soot
08:00 am	Hotel	Breakfast
09:30 am	Sutharpara	Photo Shoot at Havelis
12:00 noon	Hotel	Lunch (Self Arranged)
02:00 pm	Kuldhara Village	Photo Shoot
07:30 pm	Hotel	Dinner (Self Arranged)
<b>Day Three</b>	<b>Date: 02 February 2023</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
05:00 am	Bus Departure for Khichan	Travel to Khichan Bird Sanctuary
07:30 am	Breakfast	Packed Breakfast on arrival
08:00 am	Khichan Bird Sanctuary	Photo Shoot of Demoiselle Carnes
12:00 noon	Hotel at Phalodi	Lunch
02:00 pm	Bus Departure for Jaisalmer	Travel to Vyas Chhatri, Jaisalmer
05:00 pm	Vyas Chhatri	Photo Shoot of Golden Fort and Sunset
07:30 pm	Back to Hotel	Draw to a Close for the Day
07:30 pm	Hotel	Dinner (Self Arranged)
<b>Jaisalmer Desert Festival Starts</b>		
<b>Day Four</b>	<b>Date: 03 February 2023 (1<sup>st</sup> Day of Jaisalmer Desert Festival)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
07:00 am	Hotel	Breakfast
08:00 am	Bus Departure	For Fort Parking
09:00 am	Golden Fort Entry Gate	Ceremonial Procession & Inauguration of Jaisalmer Desert Festival
12:00 noon	At event site	Packed lunch will be provided
07:00 pm	Shaheed Poonam Singh Stadium	Folk Night – Cultural Performance
08:00 pm	Back to Hotel	Draw to a Close for the Day
08:30 pm	Hotel	Dinner (Self Arranged)

<b>Day Five</b>	<b>Date: 04 February 2023 (2<sup>nd</sup> Day of Jaisalmer Desert Festival)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
07:00	Hotel	Breakfast
08:00 am	Bus Departure	For Dedansar Stadium
09:00 am	Dedansar Stadium	Competitions & Shows
12:00 noon	At event site	Packed lunch will be provided
04:00 pm	Sonar Fort & Gadisar Lake	Heritage Walk, Deepdan, Cultural Performance & Fireworks Display
08:00 pm	Back to Hotel	Draw to a Close for the Day
08:30 pm	Hotel	Dinner (Self Arranged)
<b>Day Six</b>	<b>Date: 05 February 2023 (3<sup>rd</sup> Day of Jaisalmer Desert Festival)</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
07:30 pm	Hotel	Breakfast
09:00 am	Lanela Rann	Horse Race
11:30 am	Kuldhara	Rangoli, Mandana & Wall Painting
12:00 noon	At event site	Packed lunch will be provided
04:00 pm	Sam Sand Dunes	Camel Dance & Camel Race
07:00 pm	Sam Sand Dunes	Sufi Night & Fireworks Display
08:00 pm	Back to Hotel	Draw to a Close for the Day
08:30 pm	Hotel	Dinner (Self Arranged)
<b>Jaisalmer Desert Festival Ends</b>		
<b>Day Seven</b>	<b>Date: 06 February 2023</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
07:30 am	Hotel	Breakfast
08:00 am	Jaisalmer Fort	Photo Shoot at Jaisalmer Fort
12:00 noon	Hotel	Lunch (Self Arranged)
02:00 pm	Khuri	Photo Shoot at Sand Dunes in Thar Desert
07:00 pm	Back to Hotel	Draw to a Close for the Day
08:00 pm	Hotel	Dinner (Self Arranged)
<b>Day Eight</b>	<b>Date: 07 February 2023</b>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Description</b>
07:30 am	Hotel	Breakfast
08:00 am	Rajasthani Village	Photo Shoot of Rajasthani Village Life at Chhatrel Village
10:00 am	Rajasthani Village	Photo Shoot of Rajasthani Village Life at Kanoi Village
12:00 noon	Hotel	Lunch (Self Arranged)

Time	Place	Description
02:00 pm	Market	Shopping
06:30 pm	Convention Room (Hotel Rang Mahal)	Valedictory Function & Banquet
Day Nine	Date: 08 February 2023	
Good Bye, Wish You a Safe Return		



### Participating Countries PSA-PG 2023



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND PARTICIPATION**

**SEE YOU AGAIN IN THE NEXT PSA PHOTO GATHERING**

Email : [psaphotogathering@gmail.com](mailto:psaphotogathering@gmail.com)  
 Facebook PSA-PG : PSA Photo Gathering  
 Instagram PSA-PG : @PSA\_PG

Facebook PSA : Photographic Society of America  
 Facebook PSA : PSA Facebook Image Competition  
 Instagram PSA : @photographicsocietyofamerica

### Useful Information

#### Recommended Photography Gears

Use Two Camera – one with Short Zoom and one with a Long Zoom  
 Keep your kit light as there will be a lot of running around in our event scheduled on all days

#### Cleaning Kit

Air - blower, Chamois Leather, Micro Fiber Cloth, Lens Cleaning Brush. Being around the desert and in the desert very fine sand particles fly around in the atmosphere. Avoid changing lenses would be the general rule.

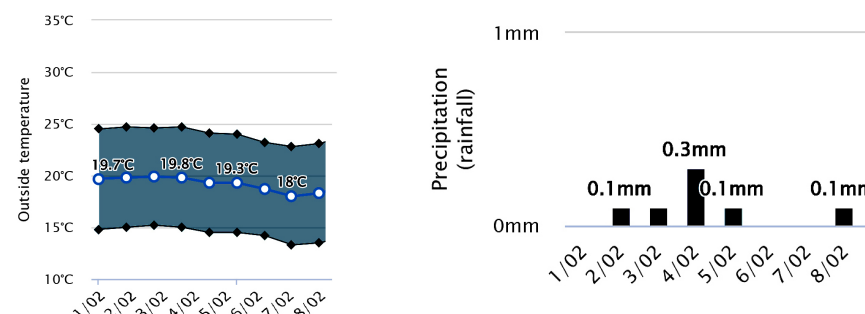
#### Data Backup

Memory card reader - Data cable - External hard disks - Laptop

#### Suggested Attire during Photo Tours

Preferably wear full sleeved clothes, to cover your hands and arms to protect from sunburn. Consider using Sunglasses that block UV rays. A hat with a wide brim can prevent approximately 50% of UV radiation from reaching the eyes. UV radiation is most intense during 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The right pair of shoes is required for the desert visit. Preferably choose sneakers or leather shoes, or shoes with Goretex liner for breathability. Strongly NOT RECOMMENDED are sandals or heels, flip flops are a really bad option. Nights are relatively much cooler so make sure you carry some light woolens.

#### Expected Temperature and Rainfall during PSA-PG 2023



Photos in Jaiselmar courtesy of Tirtha Dasgupta  
 Cover Booklet/Name Tag/Backdrops/Medal designed by Narsiskus Tedy (Indonesia)

## PSA-PG 2023 Photo Competition

25 Photos finalist will be announced and **8 best photos will be selected from the 8 photographers as the winners** (One participant can only receive 1 Award)

### Rules :

1. Anyone, who has officially registered in PSA-PG 2023, can participate in this contest, except judges and volunteers.
2. Images must be taken at the PSA-PG 2023 (from 1st February 2023 to 7th February 2023 01:00PM IST).
3. Participants are requested to upload their images (can be color or monochrome) before 7th February 2023, 01:00PM IST. Images uploaded after this time will not be eligible for judging.
4. One entrant can upload maximum 15 photos.
5. All entries must be the original work of the entrant.
5. Editing Guideline: Techniques that add, relocate, replace or remove any element of the original image, except by cropping, are not permitted. The only allowable adjustments are removal of dust or digital noise, restoration of the appearance of the original scene, and complete conversion to greyscale monochrome. All images must look natural.
6. The Photos has to follow the PSA Ethical Policies stated in PSA website. One of the example : welfare of living creatures is more important than any photograph. The use of aerial photography, drones, helicopters, low flying aircraft, should not cause any interference with other individuals or animals which causes a disturbance in their normal activity or disrupt the way any individuals or animals interact with their environment. Please refer to PSA drone policy for more detail.
7. There are 2 forms of submitting the images. You can choose ONE that is suitable for you :
  - a. For using instagram (**PREFERABLY**), please follow the following:
    - **FOLLOW** our instagram: **psa\_pg** and **photographicsocietyofamerica**
    - Upload the photo, write the titles and hashtags (mandatory) **#psapgphotocontest2023** and **TAG** the photo to : **psa\_pg**
    - Your instagram account should NOT be set as Private account
  - b. For using email attachment : send your images through email to **psapgcontest@gmail.com**. The image should be at least 1024pixel on the longest side. Please write your name and title in the email.

8. If necessary, the organizer can request bigger file for determining the winners. 25 finalists will be contacted for bigger files.
9. You confirm that each person depicted in the photograph has granted permission to be portrayed as shown. Any costumes, props or other materials used must be rented or borrowed with the permission of the owner and all other relevant permissions must have been obtained. The organizer is not responsible for any claim for third party.
10. All submissions has to follow rules as specified otherwise they will not be eligible for judging.
11. By submitting an entry, entrant agree to the terms and conditions and hereby grants permission for the entry to be :
  - Posted on [instagram.com/psa\\_pg](https://www.instagram.com/psa_pg) and [photographicsocietyofamerica](https://www.instagram.com/photographicsocietyofamerica)
  - Posted on PSA websites or PSA social media sites.
  - Published in PSA Journal on the article related to this competition by stating the name of photographer as the copyright owner.
12. Names of the finalist and winners will be announced at the closing ceremony of PSA-PG 2023 on February 7th, 2023 at Jaisalmer, India.
13. Judges decision are final.

Any questions, feel free to send email to [psapgcontest@gmail.com](mailto:psapgcontest@gmail.com) or you may contact directly to Avik Sett (+91 98303 80908)



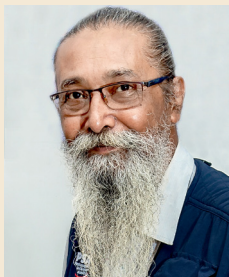
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[www.psa-photo.org](http://www.psa-photo.org)



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