



Incredible India

Photo: Kaylee Wroe



Department of Tourism  
Government of Manipur

# EXOTIC MANIPUR & GRAND JAIPUR

Riding and Polo Tour  
with Team USPA Women

January 16 - 25, 2016

Manipur Statehood Day  
Women's Polo Tournament, Imphal

Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh Cup, Jaipur

Presented in association with Hun-tre! Adventures



Photo: Bale Takhel

## SADDLE UP AND DISCOVER ANCIENT WORLDS OF POLO

Discover India's exciting emerging northeastern frontier with a unique, riding and polo adventure in Manipur, the birthplace of modern polo. Watch the Team USPA Women play with Manipuri women polo players in a tournament organized by the Tourism Department in association with the All Manipuri Polo Association to celebrate Manipur's Statehood Day. Ride on the rare Manipuri Pony in the mornings. Then luxuriate in Jaipur's world of palaces and pageantry, and polo at the Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh Cup.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the Pony Preserve at the shrine to the god of polo
- Learn about the preservation efforts for the endangered Manipuri Pony
- Pony rides in the mornings along scenic trails
- Polo at the Manipur Statehood Day Women's Polo Tournament
- A night out and boating at an island lake resort
- Live rock music at the Polo Lounge
- Ritual Temple concert and meal
- Special: Manipuri Culinary Class
- Polo at the Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh Cup, Jaipur
- Elephant rides at Amber Fort, Jaipur

"I loved how the local people were so genuinely excited about polo! The staff and guides were wonderful, catering to our every need. We were treated like foreign dignitaries!" Peter Blake, Team Member USA Team organized by the USPA, Manipur Polo International 2013

### ITINERARY\*

#### Day 1: Saturday, January 16: Arrival

Fly into Imphal Airport. Transfer to the Hotel. Decompress with live NE rock music at the Polo Lounge. Later have dinner at the hotel.

#### Day 2: Sunday, January 17: Imphal

Go for a pony ride this morning. Visit the shrine of the god of polo. Tournament Opening Ceremony and game in the afternoon followed by leisure time or live NE rock music. Optional special screening: MANIPURI PONY (Aribam Syam Sharma, 2013, 50 min) is award-winning documentary on Manipur's pony culture. Overnight.

#### Day 3: Monday, January 18: Imphal

Sightseeing on pony back followed by walking tour of Imphal. In the afternoon or Go shopping in Imphal's famous women's market. Later, local rock music at the Polo Lounge, with optional preview of RIDERS OF THE MIST (Roopa Barua, 2014, 65 min), international award-winning film on bareback pony racing in Assam. Overnight.

#### Day 4: Tuesday, January 19: Imphal

After pony rides in the morning, take a Manipuri cooking class with a 3-star chef. In the afternoon, watch the US and Manipuri women polo game. Then pack an overnight bag and proceed to Loktak Lake. Dinner at a lakeside restaurant. Overnight on Sendra Island.

#### Day 5: Wednesday, January 20: Loktak Lake

Drive to Loktak Lake, the largest lake in the North East. Explore the colourful lakeside fishing villages by boat. Return to Imphal after lunch at Sendra Island resort in time for the afternoon polo game. Overnight in Imphal.

#### Day 6: Thursday, January 21: Imphal

Lunch today is at an extravagant ritual feast at the Palace Temple with a traditional choir of Sankirtan music. In the afternoon attend the colourful closing ceremony of the tournament and enjoy the final match. Overnight.

#### Day 7: Friday, January 22: Jaipur

This morning after breakfast, checkout and leave Imphal by flight. Arrive Delhi in time and transfer to the flight to Jaipur. Dinner at Raj Palace, a royal heritage hotel. Overnight.

#### Day 8: Saturday, January 23: Jaipur

Sightseeing at City Palace and Jantar Mantar. Regional cuisine lunch at a local restaurant. Back to the hotel. Overnight.

#### Day 9: Sunday, January 24: Jaipur

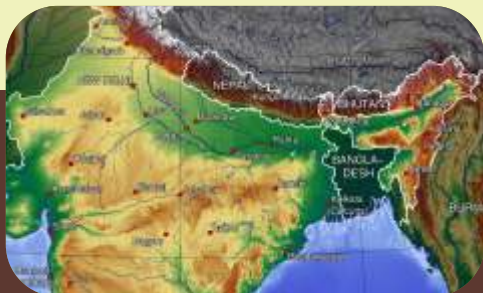
Early morning visit Amber Fort and take an elephant ride. Later, return for lunch and polo at the Maharaja Sawai Bhawani Singh Cup. Overnight.

#### Day 10: Sunday, January 25: Departure

Post breakfast, leave for visit to the local market for shopping. Jaipur is famous for its ethnic clothing and jewelry. Lunch at hotel. Check out. Fly to New Delhi. Catch connecting international flight or stay on in New Delhi (optional; please contact us).

THOMAS COOK INTERNATIONAL will make all arrangements including:

All international and domestic flight and hotel bookings. Coordinated arrivals, departures; transfers and pickups at airports. Travel insurance and extended ticket booking privileges. Daily chauffeured car service and guides to all events and locations. Hotel rooms with private bathroom 24 hour room service; Breakfast included Wi-Fi Internet and Visitors Hub at the Polo Lounge. Invitations to all special meals and special events.



For questions and special requests, please contact:



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