

“The Serai brings a new level of luxury to this part of western Rajasthan its grand decadent tents.”

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THE SERAI, Jaisalmer

The Serai is a camp of 21 tents set in 30 acres of Thar desert, half an hour's drive from Jaisalmer, Asia's oldest inhabited fort city. The harsh quietude of the desert after the hustle and bustle of the city of Jaisalmer is a balm to the soul—the night skies, with stars twinkling like diamonds on velvet, have to be seen to be believed. The Serai brings a new level of luxury to this part of western Rajasthan. Its grand, decadent tents,

decorated with campaign-style furniture, dhurries and throws for chilly nights, all have both a sitting room and a private terrace, and almost hilariously vast bathrooms. There are 14 'Tented Suites', each with their own verandah, drawing room, spacious air-conditioned bedroom and, of course, en-suite bathroom, covering an area of about 1,100sq ft. The camp has a stunning pool, inspired by a traditional Indian step well,

a spa and an exquisite boutique. Meals—either traditional Rajasthani or Western—are taken in a dining tent or served picnic-style, by a fire out in the scrub. The overall effect is like something out of a dream—romantic and magical, especially at night, when your path to bed is lit by hundreds of torches and candles and, having taken delivery of your hot-water bottle, you drift off to sleep to the eerie cries of the desert wildlife.

WHEN TO GO Late autumn, when the days will be gloriously warm, but the nights chilly. Wrap up in one of The Serai's cashmere blankets and enjoy a gin and tonic by the fire.

ROOM TO BOOK One of the six Luxury Tented Suites, each with a private walled garden and sunken hot tub.

011 2374-3194; www.the-serai.com. Tents for two start from ₹25,000