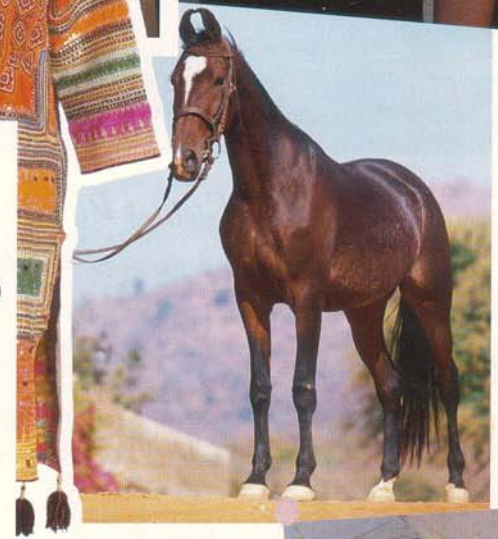
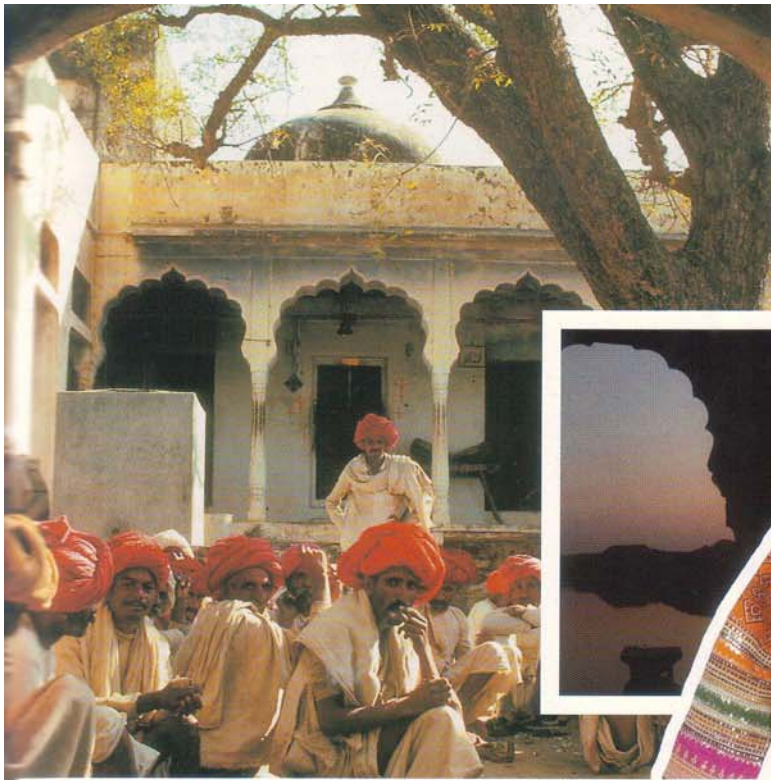


ESCAPE

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: RAJASTHANI MEN IN RED TURBANS, THE BALSAMAND PALACE, JODHPUR. ROBE FROM VJ HOME TEXTILES



Postcard from Jodhpur

ALICE BAMFORD has been living in Jodhpur for five months working as co-producer to Wes Anderson on the film 'The Darjeeling Limited'.

FAVOURITE TIME OF DAY Early morning for yoga and meditation, or sunset, which is pretty special at the Clock Tower Spice Market in Jodhpur – all the dust and spice glistens in the air with an orange glow.
EPIC VIEW The 13th-century lake at the Balsamand Palace in Jodhpur, which has become home. There's always something going on nearby: oxen grazing, goats scrambling over jagged rocks, silhouetted monkeys playing among the ruins...

FAVOURITE SHOPS Maharani, Umaid Bhawan Palace Road, Jodhpur (+91 291 251 0950), for incredible shawls and hysterical demonstrations on how to wear them, and the best tea in town. Lalji Handicrafts on the same road is a treasure-trove with rooms of wonderfully odd and fascinating objects, from pictures of Gandhi to sitars, old-school gramophones, art deco china and enamelled tiffin boxes. Cathy at VJ Home Textiles, 46-48, MIA1st Phase Basni, Jodhpur (+91 291 510 5102; for an appointment, email cathy@vjhome.com), sells Turkmenestani robes and old decorative horse rugs.

FAVOURITE RESTAURANT The Terrace

Restaurant at the Imperial in Delhi – the tandoori rock lobster is sublime.

SEMINAL MOMENT Being welcomed into the Sikh Temple in Delhi among 15,000 people of all faiths, and being part of the daily ritual of morning prayer. I was overwhelmed by the wealth of spirit and harmony.
IF INDIA WERE A COLOUR, it would be indigo. There's also the deep red of the turbans, the pinks of kaleidoscope sunsets and the neon hues of the saris.

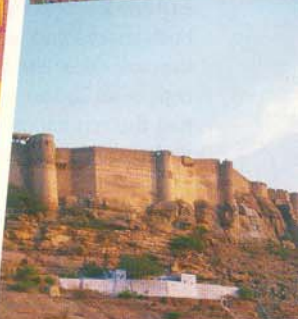
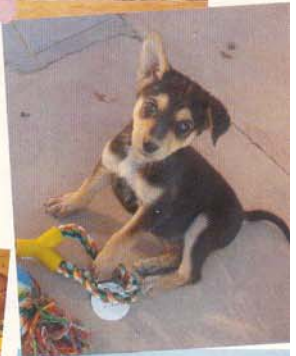
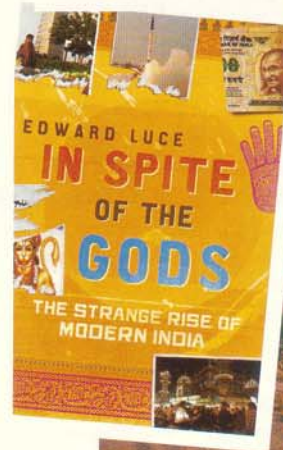
IF IT WERE A SMELL, it would be a sweet, smoky dung fire.

BEDSIDE READING *Garden of Eden* by Ernest Hemingway, *In Spite of the Gods* by Edward Luce and *Delhi: A Novel* and *The Company of Women* by Khushwant Singh – he has such a sharp wit and a filthy mind, even though he's in his nineties!

GETTING AWAY FROM IT ALL The Mehrangahr Fort in Jodhpur to watch the eagles soar over the city. Rohet Garh (+91 293 626 8231/531; www.rohetgarh.com) for peace and restorative desert rides.

WHAT I WILL BRING BACK Animals. I have a couple of Marwaris (Rajasthani horses with curled ears) awaiting their export papers and a puppy called Osian, which I found abandoned at a train station. □

FROM TOP: ALICE BAMFORD. A MARWARI HORSE. ALICE'S PUPPY, OSIAN. THE MEHRANGAHR FORT, JODHPUR



SECRET ADDRESS BOOK

Dr Singh (+91 941 423 9538) keeps wonderful Marwaris and arranges horse safaris all over Rajasthan. Imme Khan (+91 982 915 5771) gives robust healing massages. D Minsin & Co (+91 114 152 3520) supplies riding boots and beautiful copies of leather shoes and boots.