

# Raaga Taala Retreat

8th to 14th January 2024  
Fort Chanwa  
Luni, Jodhpur  
India



Brought to you by



[www.creativekarma.net](http://www.creativekarma.net)

# About Raag Taala Retreat

- A week long retreat focusing on learning **Indian music and dance, yoga, meditation and sight-seeing** in the regal surroundings of Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- This is an **interactive and enjoyable musical retreat** for **instrumentalists, vocalists or dancers** who have **experience in music and dance** and want to develop an understanding of the **composition** and the **processes** behind **improvisation and performance skills in Indian Raaga and Taala** to use in their **own music**.
- A chance to try your hand at **sitar, tabla, singing or dance!**





### Royal Accommodation

7 nights stay in a 4 star heritage hotel in Jodhpur Full board inc. breakfast, lunch and dinner and high tea



### Cultural activities

see local handicrafts and Village life traditional crafts and culture, have a camel ride and desert safari



### heritage tourism

excursions to Jodhpur sights- majestic Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada and the Osian Desert

### yoga and meditation

Daily Yoga sessions, to connect with your inner self and experience the peaceful essence at the core of your soul.

# Raaga Taala RETREAT

### evening concerts

evening concerts of Indian Classical Dance and Music, Folk, Fusion and World collaborations to enjoy

### workshops

mentorship and training in either sitar, vocal, tabla or kathak dance with a renowned guru



# Your Accommodation: Fort Chanwa, Luni



- Your accommodation is 4\* heritage Fort Chanwa, owned and lovingly renovated by Maharaj Dalip Singh, younger brother of former Maharaja of Jodhpur, H.H Umaid Singh.
- Heritage Hotel Fort Chanwa of Luni is an exceptional example of elegance and symmetry in Indian architecture of the last century. The entire fortress is carved out of the famous red sandstone of Jodhpur and with its ornately carved lattice work friezes and intricate “Jharokas”, it exquisitely captures the romance and grace of a bygone age.
- The fort is composed of a lyrical complex of courtyards towers, water, wheels, stables, passages and unexpected stairways to secret pavilions and panoramic roof tops spanning the village below and the Thar horizon beyond.
- The rooms are surrounded by beautiful gardens and spaces in which to practise music, dance and yoga in peace.



# Heritage Tourism and Sightseeing



- **Jodhpur** Sightseeing will include visits to **Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada, Clock Tower** and the **Old City** (also known as The Blue City)
- **Mandore Garden** and historic **Chhatris** (funerary monuments of the Royal Family)
- **Village Safari** in which you will go via jeep to local artisan villages to see local arts and craft and the famous Bishnoi tribe.
- **Osian Desert** – Trip into the famous Rajasthani Desert to see the Golden Sands, Camel Ride and live music around the campfire!



# Evening concerts

- Each evening there will be an opportunity to watch live music or dance performances
- Performers from across India and the World will showcase their talent in Classical, Folk, World and popular styles of dance and music for you to enjoy
- One evening will include the traditional folk music and dance of the region for you to experience, under the stars in the dunes of the Osian Desert
- Participants can collaborate with different artists upon consultation with the Creative Karma team
- A great opportunity to see a variety of acts over a week, making this the best music festival in India!



# Jodhpur, the Blue City

- The city is known as the **Sun City** for the bright, sunny weather it enjoys all year. It is also referred to as the **Blue City** due to the indigo colour of the whitewashed houses. Lending a romantic aura to **Jodhpur**, are its **exquisite handicrafts, folk dances, folk music** and the brightly attired people.
- Jodhpur is a very popular tourist destination. The landscape is scenic and mesmerizing. Jodhpur city has many beautiful palaces and forts such as **Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada, Umaid Bhavan Palace and Rai ka Bag Palace.**



# Meet Our Gurus: Tabla



**Pandit Sanju Sahai**, torchbearer of the Benaras Gharana and acclaimed tabla player will be heading the tabla workshop at Raaga Taala Retreat.

A phenomenal and outstanding Tabla player, he is well known for mesmerising and captivating his audience with his power, virtuosity and complete spontaneity. Sanju regularly collaborates with different genres such as Jazz, Egyptian, Flamenco, Opera, Western Classical, hip hop, folk, blues music and the world of contemporary music and dance. This makes him an imaginative and sensitive musician, having an elegant and poignant style of his own.



He has and continues to collaborate with various international artists from around the globe such as: Manuela Carrasco (Flamenco dance), Michael Nyman (British composer), Patricia Rozario (opera), BBC Philharmonic, Naresh Sohal (composer), Pete Lockett (multi percussionist), Yair Dalal (oud), Jason Carter (guitarist), Matthew Barley and Anup Biswas (cellists), Don Li (clarinet), Harp Quartet, Dominique Vellard (Gregorian chant), Gilles Petit (composer and instrumentalist) and the acclaimed dancer Akram Khan.

The maestro is held in high esteem for his innate artistry, rich repertoire, tonal brilliance and suave musicianship. He is already regarded as an important reference source for today's younger musicians





# Meet Our Gurus: vocal



**Sunanda Sharma:** Carrying forward the legacy of the legendary vocalist of Benaras Gharana, the highly revered Dr. Vidushi **Girija Devi**, a Padma Bhushan awardee and a doyen of Indian classical vocal music, Sunanda is a leading vocalist amongst the young generation.

The beauty of Sunanda's singing lies in her demonstrating and bringing to fore the depth and beauty of her renditions. Though her forte lies in Khayal, Tappa, Thumri, Dadra, Chaiti, Sunanda has expanded her talent and repertoire that includes Punjabi folk, Sufi and other devotional styles.

Alongside her schedule of concerts, lec-dems, workshops and as a visiting teacher at universities in India, Sunanda enjoys the privilege of being a visiting teacher at SOAS, University and Royal Academy of Music in London since 2000.

Sunanda Sharma has been a part of Raaga Taala Retreat editions in 2013, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and we are happy to announce again in 2021!



With students at Raaga Taala Retreat



# Meet Our Gurus: Instrumental



**Imran Khan** is a prolific sitarist and composer in his own right. It could be said that Imran has music in his blood. Literally.

Hailing from the Sikar Gharana he has taken training from the age of 6 from his grandfather, the sarangi player and vocalist late Ustad Gulab Khan, he continued his sitar training with his father, Ustad Niyaz Ahmed Khan and his uncle Padma Bhushan Ustad Sultan Khan.

Imran has been taking his music to concerts and festivals all over India and abroad. He has given performances in countries like Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Coatia, Italy, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia and Laos amongst others, presenting classical music as well as workshops and collaborations with artists of every background.

Imran will be on hand to support you with sitar and compositional/ collaborative skills from his extensive experience working with musicians all over the world.



# Meet our gurus: dance



**Shinjini Kulkarni**, the granddaughter and student of the prolific Kathak exponent Pandit Birju Maharaj, is a rising star in the scene of Classical Dance in India. Her graceful style yet exuberant footwork have gained her accolades like 'Nriya Shiromani' and first class diplomas in dance from Prayag Samiti. Her repertoire of live performances includes traditional solo presentations in prestigious festivals like the International Khajuraho Dance Festival, Sankat Mochan Sangeet Samaroh, Varanasi and the Kalidas Samaroh which showcase her style in the Kalka-Bindadeen Gharana.

**Sunny Singh** has been actively involved in Bollywood Film Industry , for over 14 years, He had worked in over 52 films and with many Bollywood's and Hollywood stars. He has been heralded for his work towards building a cultural bridge between Europe and India through the art of Indian dances. Apart from participating in various TV show and cultural programmes, Sunny Singh has participated in many International Dance Festivals such as in Prague Czech Republic, Saint Petersburg, Russia, Roma and Venice Italy, Venezuela, Mexico and Colombia. Sunny launched his first musical " India: the musical " in 2009 in Madrid Spain in one of the biggest theatres in Spain and second in year 2010 " Bollywood : The Journey" Saint Petersburg, Russia. The musical is on International Tour at the moment in Europe and Latin America with a team of 20 members and more than 500 costumes.



# Meet our Gurus: Yoga

**Rachna Rankawat**, is a Yogini whose experiential learning of yoga allows her to rediscover the finer meaning of the traditional yoga sutras. Her signature yoga style is a blend of modern and traditional approaches on the subject and provides a holistic healing to the body and mind. She is a contributor on the subject to leading publications like Times of India, Dainik Bhaskar and Rajasthan Patrika, and is Yoga guru to the Royal Family of Jodhpur as well as sports academies and National Sportspersons. She runs Aarogyam Yoga Studio in Jodhpur

Focused on easing the stresses of modern life, she will help you practice various exercises that will improve your stamina and flexibility, and make you feel focused and full of concentration. Through our Yoga sessions, you will have the chance to connect with your inner self and experience the peaceful essence at the core of your soul.

- Each day will start with a blissful Yoga session
- Practising Yoga and Meditation is scientifically proven help you concentrate, become recharged and creatively receptive.
- Yoga positions, focus on breathing and movement will increase your sense of creativity and awareness



# Non-Music/Dance package

If you would like to participate in the Retreat **but do not want to focus on music and dance**, we can provide you with other activities that will enhance your stay in Jodhpur

This will include full accommodation, board and local travel and workshops in Folk dance and cookery, sightseeing and camel rides in the desert, meeting local artisans from neighbouring villages to see weaving and pottery work as well shopping trips in Jodhpur city.

**Please enquire about individual non-music package details from us!**



Yoga, all Sightseeing, village safari, weaving demo, camel ride and all concerts included



# Contact us to join Raaga Taala Retreat 2024

**Raaga Taala Retreat 2024 will take place from 8<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
at Fort Chanwa, Luni, Jodhpur, Rajasthan, India.**

**The cost for seven days Raaga Taala Retreat is 1000 Euros/  
860 Pounds/1070 USD for a double sharing room and  
1340 Euros/1160 Pounds/ 1435 USD for a single room which includes  
all meals, transportation, classes, workshops, concerts, entry to  
monuments, jeep safari, camel safari, sightseeing and much more.**

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**Youtube:** [www.youtube.com/CreativeKarma](http://www.youtube.com/CreativeKarma)



**See you in 2024!**

# Rajasthan Golden Triangle Tour – 15<sup>th</sup> to 29th January 2024

After the Retreat we are also organising a Rajasthan Tour which goes to Taj Mahal in  
Agra and ends in Delhi!

Travel to the cultural, historical and colourful state of India, Rajasthan!

Avoid the hustle and bustle India experience with this signature Rajasthan tour, which takes in the region's beautiful highlights. Gain an insight into the culture, desert, history and wildlife of Rajasthan, but also enjoy some serious mellow time in between! No wonder this trip is a real favourite as it is tailor made for the participants of the Raaga Taala Retreat.

Featuring an exciting mix of culture, history, and nature, this comprehensive tour offers a unique overview of India's largest state, Rajasthan. On this trip you'll enjoy the perfect combination of heritage, sightseeing, and relaxation as you explore the best this enchanting corner of India has to offer. Rajasthan's exceptional architecture, epic love stories, ornate temples, delicious food, and vibrant colours are sure to charm you.

For more information, price and details please write us on –  
[imran@creativekarma.net](mailto:imran@creativekarma.net)

Or What's App on - +919819548254



# Contact us to join Rajasthan Golden Triangle Tour 2024!

**Rajasthan Golden Triangle Tour 2024 will take place from  
15<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>TH</sup> January 2024**

**at Ranakpur, Kumbalgarh, Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Bundi, Ranthambore,  
Pushkar, Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Agra and finish in New Delhi, India.**

**The cost for 15 days and 14 Nights Rajasthan Golden Triangle Tour is 1520  
Euros/1300 Pounds/1625 USD for a double sharing room and  
2020 Euros/1736 Pounds/ 2160 USD for a single room with all meals,  
transportation from city to other, guides, entry to monuments, jungle  
safari, cultural show, sightseeing and other activities.**

**Email:** [imran@creativekarma.net](mailto:imran@creativekarma.net)

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**See you in 2024!**