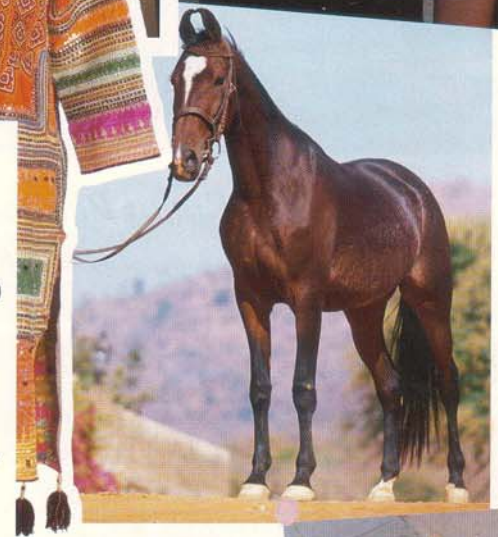
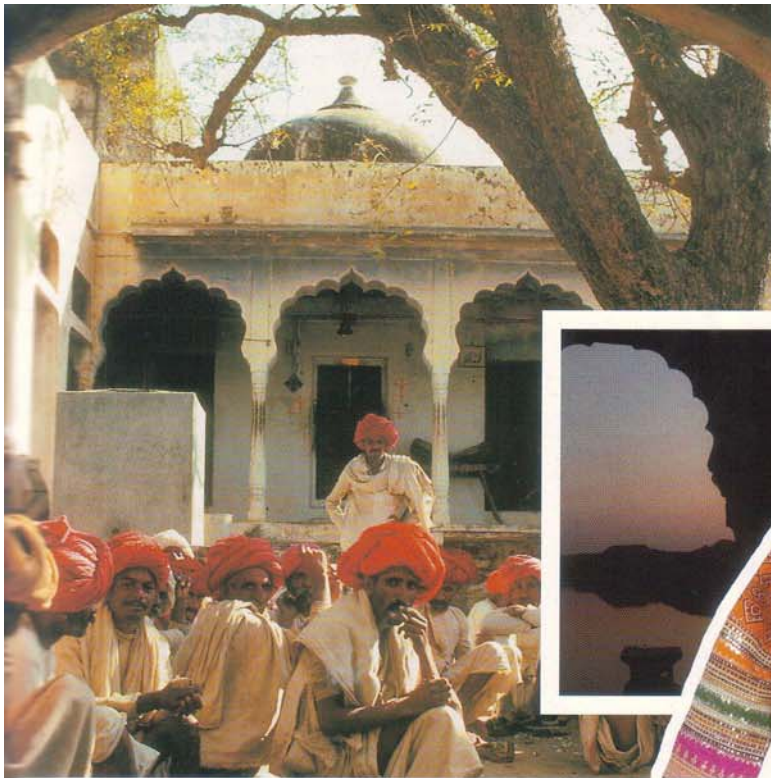


## ESCAPE

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](mailto: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.

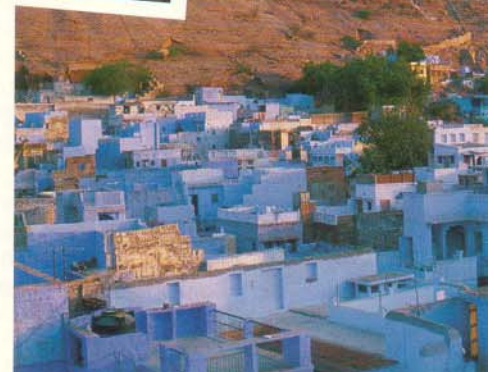
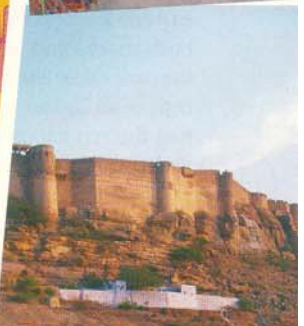
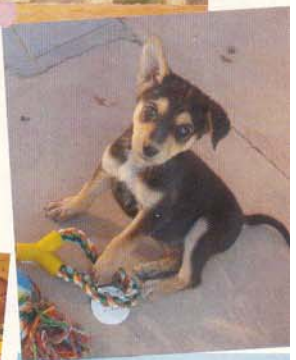
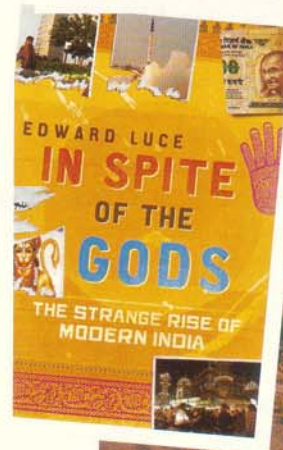
**IF IT WERE A SMELL**, it would be a sweet, smoky dung fire.

**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](http://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.*