

Bundi (11/25/2007 to 12/1/2007)

After leaving Pushkar, with the rest of the crowds at the conclusion of the fair, I spent a half day in Ajmer before heading on to the town of Bundi. Ajmer is a Muslim pilgrimage town, the site of the tomb of an important Sufi saint. For me it was a place to get some much missed meat at the kebab and curry stands that lined streets around the tomb. Leaning more on the carnivore end of the culinary spectrum than the Vegan, and having spent 5 days in the pure Vegetarian (not even eggs) town of Pushkar, I must say, it was very nice to get some chicken curries and mutton kebabs. Despite the good food, the town did not enchant me as much as my next destination of Bundi, a place I had planned on spending a day or two. That day or two quite easily slipped into five, in Bundi's relaxed and friendly atmosphere. A speedy departure was further delayed as I discovered on my arrival that Bundi was about to host its own festival known as the Bundi Ustav, which I shall describe in a later episode.

Even without its friendly people, Bundi is a pleasant place, with a labyrinth of narrow streets and brightly colored houses broken by the occasional temple, old havali, or step well. This old quarter is dominated by the city palace of the former Rajput rulers which sits on a hillside perched above the town and beneath a fort that occupies the crest. But what really made Bundi a pleasure to stay in, was the people who were genuinely friendly something difficult to find in the heavily touristed cities of Rajasthan, where a seemingly friendly hello is almost immediately followed up by a request for money in some form. Only about half the kids suffered from "one-pen-one-rupee-idice." This is opposed to other cities in the state where you would think, and perhaps many of the children do, the English greeting is "Hello-one-pen-ten-rupee."



View of Bundi.



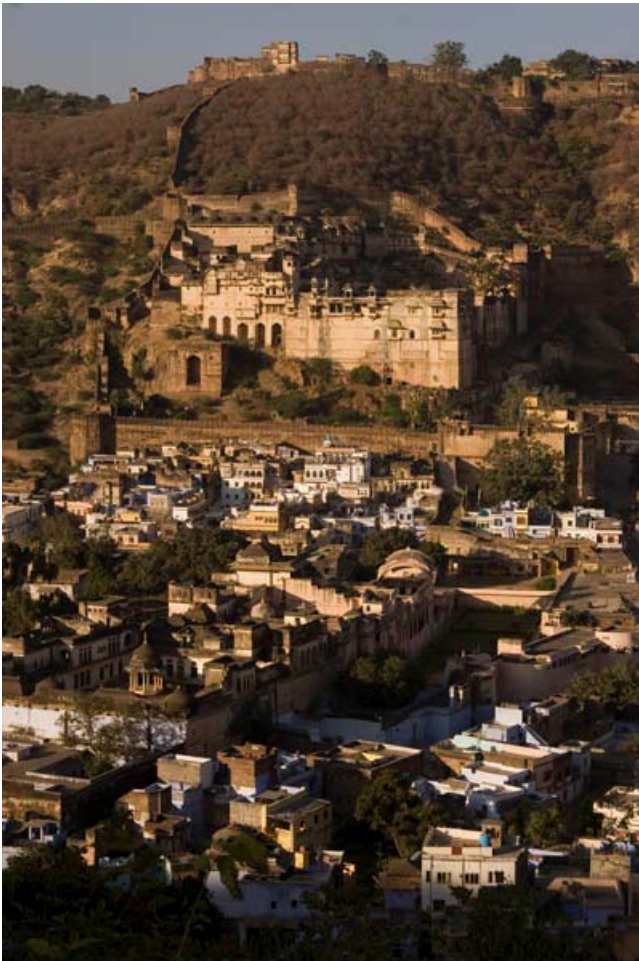
View of city palace from the fort, Bundi.



View of Bundi's palace.



**View of the old quarter
in Bundi.**



View of Bundi.



**Dogs lounging in front of a doorway in
Bundi.**



City palace, Bundi.



**City palace at night,
Bundi.**



Bundi seems to be infested with monkeys they are everywhere and cloths must be guarded when they are hung up to dry. It appears there is even a resident proctologist.



Monkey on the fort wall in Bundi.



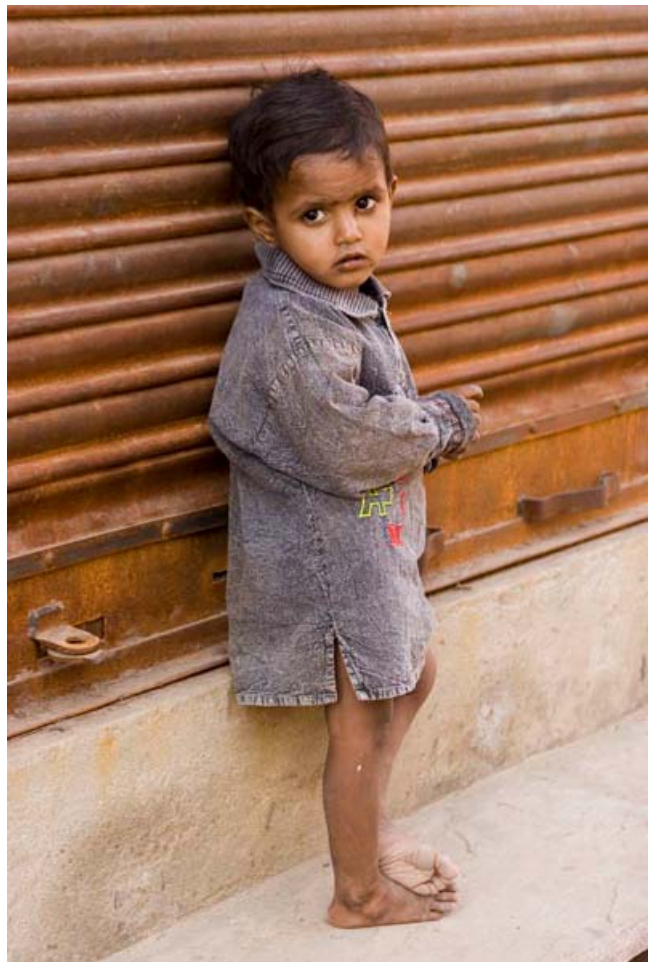
Nursing baby monkey, Bundi.



“One photo please,” I couldn’t say no, Bundi.



Pictures from India no cow yet? Here is one for the bovine fans, on the streets of Bundi



Boy on the streets of Bundi.



Offering at a step well temple in Bundi.



Unknowing “Mickey Mouse ears” Bundi.



Posing with child, Bundi.



I'm a sucker for a good smile, and they're hard to get, as India seems to be stuck in the 19th century stoic portrait phase. It often happens that as soon as I raise my camera a congenial smile turns in to a serial killer mug shot.



Girls posing for the camera, Bundi.



**Cracking a smile,
Bundi.**



Twilight view of Bundi.



Kids in Ajmer.