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SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE

Sometimes the hype around a film becomes so much that expectations are ridiculously high and when you get round to viewing it you are disappointed. Not so with Slumdog Millionaire that deserved its Best Picture Oscar. The plot is set around the Indian version of Who Wants to be a Millionaire? and with the DVD on general release get into the swing this year and travel to some of India's most enchanting cities in the colourful state of Rajasthan. Start in Delhi and travel to where the film is mainly set, exotic Mumbai. Along the way in the walled desert city of Jaisalmer you'll have ample time to explore the traffic free streets (almost unique in India) and take a camel safari into the desert. There's also time to relax in the laid-back oasis town of Pushkar and visit the fantastic Meherangarh Fort in Jodhpur, one of the most impressive in India. Now a prestigious heritage hotel and the setting for many blockbusters a number of rooms were renovated in order to turn the fort into a heritage hotel. The rooms now have modern bathrooms but for the rest they retain an old world charm with classic furniture and colourful local fabrics. There are also white-washed terraces, cool private sit-outs and fabulous views from the upper windows and terraces. The Indian rupee offers competitive value against the sterling this year so head to Bollywood and visit Fort Khejla.

Rajasthan Explorer

Accommodation across this fascinating country includes the Bollywood Fort, a night in a luxury tented camp and a range of more simple hotels. The escorted "Rajasthan Explorer" tour starts from £830 per person including 15 nights accommodation (12 nights simple hotel, two nights heritage hotel, one night tented camp), land transport by coach, train and camel safari, and a local payment of INR 8,000. The price also includes the services of an Imaginative Traveller tour leader and local guides. Flights are available from £399 per person. Call Imaginative Traveller Reservations Line on 08450 778803 or book on line at www.imaginative-traveller.com

-Ends-

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For Further Information Please Contact:

Lynsey Devon, Imaginative Traveller PR Manager

Tel: 020 8939 8708 Mobile: 07930 631493

Email: lynsey.devon@tuitravel.com

Note to Editors: Established in 1991 Imaginative Traveller has grown steadily to become one of the world's leading operators of small group adventure tours. For Imaginative Traveller, travel means getting to the heart of the country whilst offering the most authentic travel experience possible. Imaginative Traveller aims to minimise the impact on the environment and to deliver travel in a courteous, beneficial and respectful manner. Worldwide experiences and activities are available including sailing, balloon rides, wildlife spotting, cycling, snorkelling and elephant riding.