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Word of mouth

GREAT FORTITUDE

The grand walled outposts of Rajasthan are the latest World Heritage Sites. Here's how to tell your Jaisalmer from your Jaipur

JAIPUR

The city's famous Amber Fort, a remarkable blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture, is actually pronounced 'Ah-mer'. Ride up to it on an elephant with painted toenails.

TRAVEL TIP: Dine like royalty at sumptuous 1135 AD restaurant (www.1135ad.com) inside the fort.

SAWAI MADHOPUR

Located in the heart of Ranthambore National Park, this hilltop fortress was the former hunting HQ for Jaipur's maharajahs.

TRAVEL TIP: This is India's best tiger-viewing spot. Book with www.rajasthanwildlife.in.

JAISALMER

The effect of sunset on these sandstone walls, which contain restaurants, temples and houses, has led to the structure being dubbed Sonar Qila (golden fort).

TRAVEL TIP: Camp out in style at The Serai (www.sujanluxury.com/the-serai) in the nearby Thar Desert.

KUMBHAIGARH

The walls of this 15th-century edifice, below, snake around the brown Aravalli hills for 36km.

TRAVEL TIP: Stay at the romantic Taj Lake Palace (www.tajhotels.com) in Udaipur, which is two hours' drive away, and come here on a day trip.

CHITTORGARH

Asia's largest fort was abandoned in 1568 following a series of battles, including the 'death before dishonour' downfall of Queen Padmini in the 14th century.

TRAVEL TIP: Take a rickshaw to the Sadar Bazar and Rana Sanga markets to pick up colourful, embroidered *jutis* (slip-on shoes made of camel leather). CHARUKESI RAMADURAI



DIG IT DADDY-O

Manhattan's all-too-adorable West Village is no stranger to the big screen (see: every rom-com ever made; *Sex and the City*), but there's something different about the Coen brothers setting their sights on the neighbourhood for their next piece of Oscar bait, *Inside Llewyn Davis*. The story of a folk singer living in the village in 1961, the film took Garrett Hedlund, Justin Timberlake and Carey Mulligan back to a more bohemian NYC, when starving artists such as Davis (and Bob Dylan and Allen Ginsberg) struggled to get gigs at hangouts including the Gaslight Café. It says something about today's Manhattan that the once-venerated venue is now a cocktail bar, **116**, serving drinks such as chipotle-infused tequila devised by Balthazar's bartender. But nostalgists can't decry just-opened **The Marlton** (www.marltonhotel.com; doubles from about £175), a 107-room beat generation favourite that has been restyled by the man behind The Bowery Hotel. The original wood floors and marble bathrooms recall a bygone groove and evoke a Parisian *hôtel particulier*. EIMEAR LYNCH
'Inside Llewyn Davis' is released in UK cinemas on 24 January

