

Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan announces

# Camel Yatra 2005



## A Pilgrimage to Rajasthan's Camel Herders

Camels are a symbol of Rajasthan and a traditional lifeline for the people of the Thar Desert. But in the last ten years, their numbers have fallen by half. This has important ecological, social, and economic dimensions, and may have serious consequences for the many poor people who rely directly or indirectly on camels. It may also affect Rajasthan's ability to withstand drought. Lokhit Pashu-Palak Sansthan plans a series of activities to raise awareness about this issue. One of these is a **camel yatra** - a pilgrimage - through Rajasthan's prime camel-breeding areas.

### Why

- Get the facts and understand the background of the declining camel population
- Learn about the traditional knowledge of camel keepers and document the wisdom of elders
- Discuss the issue and possible solutions with the people and communities concerned
- Build consensus and momentum for saving the camel
- Alert the media to the causes and effects of the declining camel population.

**How** On camel back, covering about 20 km per day, and camping out or staying in villages

**When** 15<sup>th</sup> January until about the middle of February, 2005.

**Where** We will start from the LPPS training centre in Sadri (District Pali). We will pass through Godwar (Bali, Rani, Chanod) to Mallani, Jaisalmer, and Bikaner, taking in villages that are (or were) famous for their camel herds.

### Who

- **Camel breeders**, community leaders, and Raika camel herders
- **Hanwant Singh Rathore**, a native of Rajasthan with fond childhood memories of travelling by camel-cart. Hanwant is director of LPPS, and an avid advocate for the Raika pastoralists
- **Ilse Köhler-Rollefson**, veterinarian and camel expert, recognized by Rolex Awards for Enterprise in 2002 for her work to save the camel and Raika heritage
- Nicely decorated riding **camels**

Join us for a day, or for the whole journey. We have space for a limited number of interested people to link up with us for all or part of the yatra. You will need a camel (we can help find one) and you will have to cover your own expenses. Get in touch soon to discuss costs and logistics.

**Background information** [www.pastoralpeoples.org/lpps.htm](http://www.pastoralpeoples.org/lpps.htm)

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