



# JAIPUR

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## Handbook

**welcome. enjoy your stay.**

## **About Jaipur**

Jaipur, also known as the Pink City, is the capital of the state of Rajasthan. It is an ancient city of India located in a semi desert terrain. It is believed that Jaipur was India's first planned city and was planned according to the 'vastushastra' (Vedic planning for the prosperity and comfort of citizens).

## **Information**

- Coordinates: 26.9°N 75.8°E
- State: Rajasthan
- District: Jaipur
- Nickname: Pink City
- Famous for/as: Heritage
- Altitude: 431 M
- Language: Hindi, Rajasthani
- STD code: +91-141
- Pincode: 3020xx
- Weather: Summer 19 To 40°C, Winter 8 To 29°C

## **History of Jaipur**

This city was built by the ruler of Amber, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II on 18 November, 1727. The architect of Jaipur was Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, an architect from Bengal. However, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh himself also contributed to the planning of Jaipur. Jaipur was a walled city, but presently it has expanded much beyond that.

The town is an example of Hindu architecture. It is built in the form of 'pithapada', an eight part mandala. Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II was a patron of astronomy which is quite visible in the city planning. He has used the number 9 or its multiples quite significantly. 9 was symbolic of the 9 planets.

Apart from this, there are 9 rectangular city sectors on either side of the main bazaar or market. In olden times, there was a palace complex where the main palace Hawa Mahal was constructed. This is known to be home of the queens and the King, Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. Numerous gardens were built in the centre of the city.

## **People & Culture of Jaipur**

Jaipur attracts numerous visitors from all over the world due to its historic heritage and rich culture. Besides forts and 'havelis', the city is also known for its festivals and fairs.

The Jaipur Vintage Car Rally, held every year in January, has become an attraction of late. Vintage car lovers can see a collection of cars like Fiat, Mercedes Benz, Austin, etc. some of which date back to the early 1900s.

Teej is a festival dedicated to Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati of Sanatan Dharma. The festival is basically about prayers offered by women for long and happy married lives. During the festival of Holi, elephants are painted beautifully in different floral patterns and a game of elephant polo is hosted here. Other than this, there are the Chaksu Fair and Gangaur Festival which are among the major attractions.

The Elephant Festival of Jaipur is an annual event which is held on the eve of Holi. The daylong festival celebrates the majesty of the royal animal through cultural events and elephant processions. The Gangaur Festival is another attraction. 'Gan' refers to Lord Shiva and 'gaur' refers to his wife, Parvati and the celebrations are symbolic of marital bliss.

The Banganga Fair, an annual event, is held on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Vaisakh. To be held on 6th May 2012, the fair is held in the historical township of Bairath in the Radha-Krishnaji Temple near a stream 11 km away. Bairath is about 85 km from Jaipur and there are regular bus services from Jaipur to Maid, which is a few kilometers away from Bairath.

### **Things to do in Jaipur**

The Pink City of Jaipur is famous among visitors for its numerous attractions like Amber Fort, Sheesh Mahal, Ganesh Pol, Hawa Mahal, Jal Mahal, Nahargarh Fort etc. Adventure activities like paragliding, hot air ballooning, rock climbing; camel riding and others can also be done here.

Excursions can be taken to places like Bairath, Karauli, Ranthambore National Park, Bagru, among others. With so much to see and do in the Pink City, there are different types of Jaipur holiday packages which cater to all types of travellers.

### **Food & Shopping in Jaipur**

Jaipur is famous for its non-vegetarian and vegetarian dishes that are spicy and are mostly prepared using ginger, garlic and onion. The popular regional dishes include dal bati choorma, bari and kebabs. Some of the popular non-vegetarian dishes are murg ko khaato, achari murg and kacher maas. Nehru Bazaar and Johari Bazaar are famous for street food and small eateries selling non-veg delicacies.

The Bani Park region is famous for its vegetarian dishes that are served in traditional Rajasthani way. Snacks and sweets like samosas, pyaz ki kachoris, mirchi bada, mishri mawa, ghevar, mawa kachori, chauguni ke laddu etc. are some of the local delicacies.

There are many local shopping markets in the city that offer a wide range of carpets, metalwork, textile, pottery, jewellery, gem and antiques. The famous MI Road is an ideal place to purchase artefacts, apparel, handicraft and branded readymade garments. Bagru and Sanganeri textile block prints can also be purchased from the

shops located on MI Road.

### **Travelling to Jaipur**

Jaipur is well connected by road, rail and air to major destinations in India. Jaipur International Airport or Sanganer Airport is located at around 13 km from the main city. The airport is served by flights from Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chandigarh and various other cities. Taxis can be availed from this airport to travel to the city centre, which usually cost about INR200.

Direct express trains and passenger trains are also operational between Jaipur Junction Railway Station and other cities to reach Jaipur. These trains are available on daily basis and cost as per the travel class and distance. Taxis, auto rickshaws and cycle rickshaws are available from the station which is about a kilometre away from the city centre.

Rajasthan State Road Transport Corporation (RSRTC) buses operating in the state connect with some of the major locations in the country. Direct RSRTC buses are also available from Delhi to reach the Sindhi Camp Bus Stand in the city.

### **Travelling within Jaipur**

Jaipur is served by AC and non-AC buses operated by Jaipur City Transport Services Limited (JCTSL) that are ideal for sightseeing. Taxis are easily available outside the railway station, Sindhi Camp Bus Stand and the airport and typically run on metres.

The city also has prepaid auto rickshaws operating within, which are available for short trips and can also be booked for the entire day. Cycle rickshaws are available for travelling shorter distances within the city.

Moreover, Jaipur has the presence of two of India's biggest private cab players, Ola and Uber. These cab aggregators have become a way of life for many tourists and locals in Jaipur. One can easily book an Ola or Uber from their Android and iPhone Mobile apps.

### **Travel Tips for Jaipur**

Though taxis run on metres, it is always good to ensure that the metre is on or to negotiate the fare before travel. In the case of tour guides, it is better to opt for government authorised ones for authenticity and safety.

Summers in Jaipur are extremely hot and if visiting during this time, tourists should carry light cotton clothing, sunscreen, hats and umbrellas to protect themselves from the heat. Drinking plenty of fluids to stay hydrated is necessary. In winter, the days are pleasant but the night time temperatures go below zero, so adequate protection is necessary. While shopping in the bazaars around Hawa Mahal and other places,

bargaining is necessary. If there is time, it is also good to explore around a bit before picking up goods.

### **Accommodation options in Jaipur**

Hotel options in Jaipur include budget, medium, luxury and deluxe hotels. Tourists visiting Jaipur can also opt for other accommodation options, ranging from heritage hotels, hostels to 5 star hotels.

Majority of the hotels in Jaipur are spread across the main city and near the Jaipur Junction Railway Station. Youth hostels, guesthouses and homestays are another major accommodation options available in the Pink City.

Some of the famous budget, luxury and medium range hotels are situated near Bani Park, MI Road, JLN Marg, Tonk Road, Vaishali Nagar and other prominent tourist destinations within Jaipur.

### **Jaipur Weather**

Jaipur is situated in the eastern part of Rajasthan at an altitude of 431 meters. Being a part of the desert state of Rajasthan, Jaipur has a hot semi-arid climate. The city remains quite hot and dry during the summers and is pleasant during winters.

The summer season in Jaipur starts around March and continues till around the month of June. During this season, the temperature reaches a maximum of 45°Celsius and drops to a minimum 25.8° Celsius. Due to its dry climate, the daytime temperature soars but nights are pleasant and it cools down substantially.

Jaipur experiences a relatively short monsoon and the monsoons season is from July to September. During the monsoon there are frequent, heavy rains and thunder storms. The city receives an annual rainfall of 556 mm which is not that substantial.

Winter season in Jaipur is from October to March. Weather from the months of November to February is considered mild and pleasant. During this season the minimum temperature is 5° Celsius and the maximum temperature is 22° Celsius. Although weather is pleasant during the day, in the night temperatures can drop really low. The area usually experiences a lot of fog at this time. This is usually a favourable time for visitors.

The best season to visit Jaipur is between the months of October to March. During these months the weather is pleasant and temperatures are not too high, making it ideal for visitors.

### **Medical Services**

Most hotels can arrange a doctor on-site.

Santokba Durlabhji Memorial Hospital Private hospital, with 24-hour emergency department, helpful staff and clear bilingual signage. Santokba Durlabhji Memorial Hospital is a hospital in Jaipur city of Rajasthan state in India. It opened in 1971 and was then the first private hospital of state. Open 24 Hours

Ph.: +91 141 256 6251

Sawai Mansingh Hospital State-run, is the major hospital of Jaipur and Rajasthan state of India. This government hospital is staffed with 255 doctors and 660 nurses with 6000 beds in 43 wards. The construction of the hospital building began in 1934. Open 24 Hours

Ph.: +91 141 256 0291

Fortis Escorts Hospital, Jaipur is a private multi-super speciality hospital at Rajasthan, established on August 2, 2007. Open 24 Hours

Ph.: +91 141 254 7000

## **Top Attractions**

### **City Palace**

The 'City Palace' is one of the most famous tourist attractions in Jaipur, located in the heart of the city. Dating back to the 19th century, the palace was built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh. Showcasing a unique combination of Rajput, Mughal and European styles of architecture with an array of courtyards, gardens and special structures built inside the palace complex, the City Palace gives you a deep insight into the excellent architectural skills of the designers and engineers of the bygone era.

Many parts of the palace complex except the 'Chandra Mahal', have today been transformed into art galleries and museums displaying the antique collection of armours, costumes, carriages and memorabilia belonging to the erstwhile Maharajas and Maharanis; the 'Chandra Mahal' inside the palace complex still serves as the home to the royal family of Jaipur.

One of the major attractions inside the palace complex are the 4 gateways or 'pols' each designed in a unique way symbolizing the four seasons. The beauty of these gates with intricate carvings and floral designs is a visual treat to eyes. A visit to this palace is a must during the Jaipur trip to catch a glimpse at the royal lifestyle of the past kings and queens of this historic city.

### **Hawa Mahal**

One of the most prominent landmarks of the pink city, 'Hawa Mahal' is located very near to the 'City Palace'. Rajput customs used to be very stringent for the royal ladies

in the past. Ladies were bound by a strict 'Purdah System' and were not allowed to go in public and interact with strangers.

In order to enable ladies of the royal family observe the day to day life and carnivals celebrated in the streets of the city, without being seen by the common man, Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, in the year 1799 gave the orders to construct this special monument. Constructed with red and pink sandstone and symbolizing the shape of Lord Krishna's crown, 'Hawa Mahal' is an architectural masterpiece with over 900 intricately carved 'Jharokhas' or small windows. These Jharokhas are designed in such a way that they allow proper ventilation of the air in the palace, keeping it cool and airy even during peak summers.

Brilliant design of this palace makes it one of the 'Must-Visit' tourist attractions in Jaipur. When visiting this monument, make sure to go up to the topmost floor that offers panoramic views of the Jaipur city with 'City Palace' at one end and 'Siredeori Bazaar' at the other end.

### **Jantar Mantar**

'Jantar Mantar' in Jaipur, is another most famous tourist attraction of the city. Hundreds of historians, astronomers and curious travellers visit this place to get a picture of the astronomical skills of an Indian king during an era when these scientific concepts were very new to the Indian society.

Holding the status of UNESCO World Heritage site, the monument was built in 1738 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh, who is believed to have a keen interest in astronomy. The monument houses a unique and impressive collection of astronomical instruments made of stone and brass based on the astronomical design principles of Hindu texts of astrology and modern science; some of the instruments are largest ever built in their particular categories. Through these instruments, which are fixed on the ground, you can observe various astronomical positions with naked eye.

The 'Samrat Yantra' in the observatory is the world's largest sundial and needs a special mention. Boasting of the brilliant architectural, astronomical and cosmological concepts of Sawai Jai Singh, the observatory is indeed an astronomical heritage of the city.

### **Albert Hall Museum**

Acclaimed to be the oldest museum of Rajasthan, the 'Albert Hall Museum' is located inside the 'Ram Niwas Garden' and was opened to public in the year 1887. Foundation stone of the museum was laid in 1876 by the then Prince of Wales, Albert Edward, after whom the museum is named. Beautifully carved arches and domes of the museum constructed with pink sandstone can be noticed from even a far-off distance.

A rare collection of ancient artefacts including paintings, weapons, metal and wood craft items, musical instruments, carpets, and costumes and jewellery belonging to

different tribes of Rajasthan, can be seen in the museum. What interests more to visitors are the sections exhibiting Rajasthan's unique henna artwork and puppet collection. The museum is a 'must-visit' place in Jaipur for explorers, historians and researchers studying art and culture of Rajasthan.

### **Jaipur Zoo**

Located at a walking distance from the 'Albert Hall Museum' in Jaipur, the 'Jaipur Zoo' also known as the 'Zoological Garden', is a famous tourist attraction, especially amongst kids. Spread across a sprawling area of 33 acres, the Zoo was established under the rule of Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh II in 1877.

Home to various species of mammals, birds and reptiles; you can spot tigers, panthers, cheetals, hyenas, spotted deer and a variety of colourful birds including white peacock, parrots, babbling lorry and other migratory birds. The crocodile breeding ground in the Zoo is one of the best in the country and is a huge crowd puller. Another interesting attraction of the Zoological Garden is its museum exhibiting the unique wildlife of Rajasthan. All in all, a great place to spend half a day amidst tranquil environs and natural greenery. Kids, nature lovers and bird watchers will definitely have a memorable time observing the animals and birds here.

### **Jal Mahal**

Also known as the 'Water Palace', 'Jal Mahal' is situated right in the heart of the 'Man Sagar Lake', flanked by the majestic Nahargarh Hills. Unique location and charming beauty of the palace makes it one of the best photographic sites in Jaipur.

Originally, believed to be built by Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh some 300 years back, as a lodge for his duck hunting parties, the palace was renovated by his son later on to beautify its exteriors with courtyards and gardens built in typical Mughal style.

Tourists can book boat rides to visit the palace; only the terrace garden is allowed to be accessed by the visitors. Stunning views of the hills adorned with forts and temples from the terrace of the palace leaves you mesmerized for some time. If you have keen interest in bird watching, the palace gives you ample opportunities to spot flamingos and various other species of migratory birds. In the evenings, when the palace gets illuminated with thousands of flood lights reflecting on the waters of the lake, the sight really captivates your hearts and souls.

### **Amer Fort**

Located in Amer town, at a distance of 11 km. from Jaipur, the 'Amer Fort' is one of the most impressive forts of Rajasthan and is visited by an umpteen number of tourists every year. Overlooking the beautiful Maota Lake, the fort is a masterpiece of the Rajputana architecture.

Built by Raja Man Singh I in 16th century, the fort is a brilliant specimen boasting of a unique blend of Hindu and Rajput elements. Be it the ornamented pillars and delicate mosaic work of the 'Diwaan-e-Khaas', splendid ivory and sandalwood work of the 'Sukh Niwas', elegant frescoes and fascinating latticed work of the 'Ganesh Pol' or a spell binding work of glass in the 'Sheesh Mahal' – Amer Fort is incomparable as far as the artistic skills of the artisans and designers of the Rajput era are concerned. Besides the artistic brilliance, the fort also offers you breath-taking views of the surrounding hills and cities.

Many famous Bollywood movies such as 'Mughal-e-Azam', 'Jodha Akbar' and 'Veer' have been shot at this enchanting fort. A tourist guide is a must to get an in-depth knowledge of the fort's minutest details.

A visit to the 'Amer Fort' is incomplete without an elephant ride that is a unique experience in itself. Make sure to reach the fort early in the morning as the rides are available only in mornings to protect these creatures from harsh sun during the noon time.

### **Jaigarh Fort**

Overlooking the 'Amber Fort' and 'Maota Lake', the 'Jaigarh Fort' stands tall atop the 'Cheel Ka Teela' hill in the Aravali range. Built in the 18th century by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II as a shield to protect Amber Fort and Jaipur city from attack of invaders, the magnificent structure of the fort boasts of the opulence of the Rajput rulers.

Owing to the fact that the fort never witnessed any defeat, it also came to be called as the 'Fort of Victory'. It is interesting to note that the temples, water reservoirs, and residential complexes inside the fort are still intact and well-preserved. Spread across 3 km. in length and 1 km. in width, the fort was connected to the Amber Fort through secret passages and served as the place to store ammunitions and armoury required for the wars.

World's biggest cannon, the 'Jaivana Cannon' is still housed in the fort complex and many tourists flock to the fort to just have a glimpse of it. This fort is also believed to have served as a treasury to the Kachchwaha rulers and many controversies are related to the seizure of a huge treasure buried under the fort by the Rajasthan Government. One of the best sightseeing places in Jaipur, a visit to this grand fort cannot be missed during your family vacation in this historic city.

### **Nahargarh Fort**

Overlooking the city of Jaipur, 'Nahargarh Fort' is another imposing structure of Jaipur. The scenic Aravali hills serve as a perfect backdrop for this impressive fort. The famous 'Masti ki Pathshala' song from the Bollywood movie, 'Rang De Basanti', shot at a baori of this fort, has made this place even more popular amongst tourists.

Built by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II in the 18th century, the Nahargarh Fort along with forts of Amer and Jaigarh, served as a strong defence to the Jaipur city in the past.

Major attraction inside the fort is the 'Madhavendra Bhavan' that speaks volumes of the Rajput taste for exquisite artwork and craftsmanship. The interiors of the bhavan are beautifully decorated with murals and European stucco designs. Interestingly, the bhavan was used by Raja Sawai Madho Singh as a summer retreat for him and his 9 wives.

The temple dedicated to Nahar Singh Bhomia is another interesting site to visit inside the fort complex. Splendid vistas of the Jaipur city and a mystic charm of the sunset from the terrace of the Madhavendra Bhavan; makes this fort all the more an interesting place to visit in Jaipur. The skyline above the fort revels in glory when the fort is floodlit in the night; you have to be there yourself to witness this magical scene with your own eyes.

### **Birla Mandir**

Located at the foot of the 'Moti Dungari' hill in Jaipur, 'Birla Mandir' is a great piece of beauty and splendour. Built by the famous industrialist family of Birlas in 1938, the name of the temple is prefixed with the word 'Birla'. Dedicated to Goddess Laxmi and Lord Vishnu, the temple is also popularly referred to as 'Laxmi Narayan Temple'.

Alluring architecture of this magnificent temple makes it one of the most famous tourist attractions in Jaipur. Made of pure white marble, the temple walls adorn the carvings of the scenes of mythology and quotes from Gita. Main highlight of the temple is the images of Laxmi and Vishnu sculpted out of a single piece of marble.

Unlike other Hindu temples, the outer walls of the Birla Mandir are decorated with images of famous personalities like Socrates, Buddha and Jesus Christ. The serenity of the place provides you with an extreme sense of peace and solace. Many devotees throng the temple throughout the year but, the crowd gets multi-fold on the occasion of Janmashtmi. Breath-taking splendour of the temple when it glows with thousands of lights in the evenings, captivates everyone with its unmatched charm.

### **Chokhi Dhaani**

Located at a distance of 20 km. from Jaipur, 'Chokhi Dhani' is an ethnic village themed resort that was established to preserve the art and ethnicity of vibrant Rajasthan. Visited by thousands of tourists every year, this is a great place to get a glimpse of true Rajasthani culture.

Always beaming with an aura of festivity where you can indulge in camel and elephant rides, watch heart-rendering acrobat performances, dance with Rajasthani folk dancers, enjoy a colourful puppet show, get an insight in your future by a palm reader, try your hand at a dart game, take a romantic boat ride on the 'Tal Talaiya' village lake or relish a sumptuous and authentic Rajasthani meal – Chokhi Dhani will never leave you disappointed. For an incredible shopping experience, head to 'Kalagram' or the 'Artisans Village' inside the complex where you can shop for

Rajsthani handicraft items, ethnic jewellery, traditional tie-n-dye fabric and much more.

The Chokhi Dhani resort also offers its visitors with options to spend a night in village houses made of mud and hay, equipped with all modern amenities. A stay in these huts is a lifetime experience giving you a feel of a pure village life. With a soothing ambience, plethora of entertainment activities and mouth-watering Rajsthani cuisine, a visit to Chokhi Dhani is much recommended for every tourist in Jaipur.

**Other Important Web Links:**

- **Rajasthan Tourism:** <http://tourism.rajasthan.gov.in/jaipur>
- **Wikipedia:** <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaipur>
- **Lonely Planet:** <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/india/rajasthan/jaipur>
- **India:** <http://www.india.com/travel/jaipur/>
- **Rajasthan Police:**  
<http://www.police.rajasthan.gov.in/Rajasthan/pdfs/ForeignersTips.pdf>



**thank you :)**