



Jaisalmer Fort



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Jaisalmer Fort, Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer Fort is a magnificent fort made up of yellow stone. The fort has seen many battles in the past. It was also a trade route between east and west. Other name of this fort is Sonar Qila or Golden fort and it was named so because when sun's rays fall on it, the fort shines like gold.

This tutorial will let you know about the history of the fort along with the structures present inside. You will also get the information about the best time to visit it along with how to reach the fort.

Audience

This tutorial is designed for the people who would like to know about the history of Jaisalmer Fort along with the interiors and design of the fort. This fort is visited by many people from India and abroad.

Prerequisites

This is a brief tutorial designed only for informational purpose. There are no prerequisites as such. All that you should have is a keen interest to explore new places and experience their charm.

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1. Jaisalmer Fort – Overview

Jaisalmer Fort is situated on a hilltop and was built by **Rawal Jaisal** in 1156AD. The fort is located on **Trikuta hill**. In ancient times, the city served as a trade route to many places. The fort is built with yellow stone and have golden colour due to which the fort is also called **Sonar Qila** or the **Golden Fort**. Today the fort is under UNSECO World Heritage Committee.



Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer is a beautiful city that is situated in Indian state Rajasthan. The city was founded in 1156 by Maharaja Jaisal and due to his name the city came to be known as Jaisalmer. The city is situated nearby Thar Desert and the buildings are made up of yellow sandstone. The city has forts, palaces, Jain and Hindu temples and many other structures that the tourists can visit.



Visiting Hours

Jaisalmer fort is opened for public at 9:00am and closed at 5:00pm. It takes around two to four hours to visit the whole fort. The fort is opened on all days of the week including government or public holidays.

Ticket

Tourists have to pay an entry fee to visit the fort. Indians have to pay Rs. 30 while foreigners have to pay Rs. 70 to visit the fort. If the tourists want to carry still and video camera, they have to pay extra charges. Indians have to pay Rs. 50 for carrying either of the cameras whereas foreigners have to pay Rs. 50 for still and Rs. 150 for video camera.

Best Time to Visit

The best time to visit Jaisalmer is from the month of November to March. These months have pleasant climate but December and January are very cold. The period from April to August is very hot and September and October have humid climate. Though there is very little rainfall in Jaisalmer but this causes humidity.

Where to Stay?

There are around 461 hotels in Jaisalmer where tourists can stay. The cost of staying in the hotel ranges from inexpensive cheap hotels to expensive five-star hotels. Besides these, there are luxury hotels and resorts where the tourists can stay. Some of these hotels are as follows:

- **Five-Star Hotels**
 - Hotel Jaisalkot located at Kuldhara Turn Off Sam Road
 - Jaisalmer Marriot Resort and Spa Jaisalmer-Sam-Dhanana Road, Police Line, Police Lines
- **Four-Star Hotels**
 - Chokhi Dhani The Palace located at Chokhi Dhani, Barmer Link
 - Hotel Rang Mahal located at 5, Hotel Complex, Post Box No. 50, Sam Road

- Tao's Lakshmana Desert's Camp located at Lakshmana Desert. near Sam Sand Dunes
- Hotel Rawalkot located at Jaisalmer Jodhpur Highway
- Hotel Priya located at opposite Collector's C.V.S. Colony

- **Three-Star Hotels**

- Hotel Golden Haveli located at Bera Road
- Gaji Hotel located at Sunset Point, Kalakar Colony
- Hotel Moonlight located at Opposite Head Post Office Hanuman Circle
- Hotel Akash Deep located at Hanuman Circle Bus Stand

- **Two-Star Hotels**

- Kalyan Beacon Hotel located at Gandhi Chowk
- Golden City located at opposite SBI Bank
- Hotel Apollo Jaisalmer located at opposite SBI Bank, Madarsah Road
- Hotel Jeet Villa located at C.V.S. Colony near Hanuman Circle

- **One-Star Hotels**

- Hotel Leela Kunj located at Bhatia Bagechi, Hanuman Circle
- Hotel Pusp Mahal located at opposite Railway Station
- Hotel Raj Mandir located at Kotri Para

2. Jaisalmer Fort – History

Jaisalmer under Bhati Rajputs

Bhati Rajput belonged to Sialkot area in Punjab who established themselves in a town called **Annot**, 120km away from Jaisalmer. One of the descendants named **Devaraj** defeated **Nirpabharu** who belonged to **Lodra Rajput** and made Lodruva his capital and called himself **Maharawal**.



Maharawal Jaisal was the descendant of Devaraj and he built the Jaisalmer Fort in 1156AD which is a massive fort. In that year, he dethroned his nephew **Bhojdev** with the help of **Sultan of Gaur**. **King Jetsi** also strengthened the fort in 1276 to protect the fort from Sultan of Delhi. But still the sultan was able to win over the fort by eight years of siege. Bhatias took over the fort again but were not able to repair it. **Dodoo** strengthened the fort in 1306.

Trade during ancient period

Jaisalmer was situated on Silk Road which was the trade route connecting east and west. Through this route trade with Persia, China, Egypt, Africa, and Arabia was possible. As Jaisalmer was the centre of the trade and also provided warehousing services so this fort was built.

Jaisalmer Fort under Alauddin Khilji and Mughals

Alauddin Khilji ruled Jaisalmer for nine years after capturing the fort in 13th century. During the siege, women committed Jauhar. Mughal emperor **Humayun** also attacked the fort in 1541. Due to continuous attacks, the king of Jaisalmer signed a treaty with **Akbar** in 1570. He also offered his daughter in marriage to Akbar. Mughals controlled the fort till 1762.



Jaisalmer Fort under Rajputs and British

Maharawal Mulraj took over the fort from Mughals in 1762. He also signed a treaty with East India Company in 1818. Mulraj died in 1820 and was succeeded by his grandson Gaj Singh. During the British period, the trade route was changed. They started trading from port of Bombay that led to declination of trade from Silk Road and was closed after independence.

3. Jaisalmer Fort – Architecture

The length of the fort is 460m and width is 230m. The fort was built on a hill whose height is 250 feet. Tourists can find many structures inside to visit. Some of them are as follows:

Raj Mahal

Raj Mahal or the royal palace of the fort is opened for the public from 9:00am to 5:00pm. In order to visit the palace, the tourists have to pay a sum of Rs. 250. The palace was built in around 1500AD with seven storeys.



Jain Temples

There are seven Jain temples which were built in around 12th century. In the temples, there are carvings made up of yellow sandstone. The temple is opened for the tourists till 12:00pm. Each temple is dedicated to different Jain Tirthankara whose names are Parsvanath, Sambhavanath, Chandraprabhu, Rishabhadeva, Shitalnath, Shantinath, and Kunthanath. The entrance to the temple complex is a gate called **Toran** that leads to Parsvanath temple. **Gyan Bhandar Library** is also there in the complex where people can read the books related to archaeology.



Laxminath Temple

Laxminath temple was built to worship **Goddess Laxmi** and **Lord Vishnu**. The temple was built during the reign of **Rao Lunkaran** in 1494AD. The temple has a lot of Rajasthani paintings which lets the people know about the culture of Rajasthan in ancient period. In comparison to Jain temple, Laxminath temple does not have any carvings.



Pols

In order to enter the fort, there are four pols or gates which are Ganesh Pol, Akshay Pol, Suraj Pol, and Hawa Pol. There are various carvings to make each gate different from each other. The Suraj Pol or Sun Gate has the carvings of Sun. Hawa Pol or Wind Gate is plain and the courtyards surrounding it get the flow of air.



4. Jaisalmer Fort – How to Reach?

The city of Jaisalmer is situated in the heart of the Thar Desert and is well-connected to various Indian cities by road and railways. Jaisalmer has only military airport and there is no terminal for passengers. Jodhpur is the nearest airport of Jaisalmer. The cities nearby Jaisalmer with their approximate distance are as follows:

- **Jaisalmer to Udaipur**

- By rail – 843km (via Jodhpur, Jaipur as there is no direct train)
- By road – 488km

- **Jaisalmer to Jodhpur**

- By air – 205km
- By rail – 291km
- By road – 235km

- **Jaisalmer to Bikaner**

- By air – 268km
- By rail – 316km
- By road – 331km

- **Jaisalmer to Jaipur**

- By air – 481km
- By rail – 665km
- By road – 568km

- **Jaisalmer to Ahmedabad**

- By air – 463km
- By rail – 743km
- By road – 533km

- **Jaisalmer to Mumbai**

- By air – 893km
- By rail – 1204km
- By road – 1061km

- **Jaisalmer to Ajmer**

- By air – 375km
- By rail – 530km
- By road – 494km

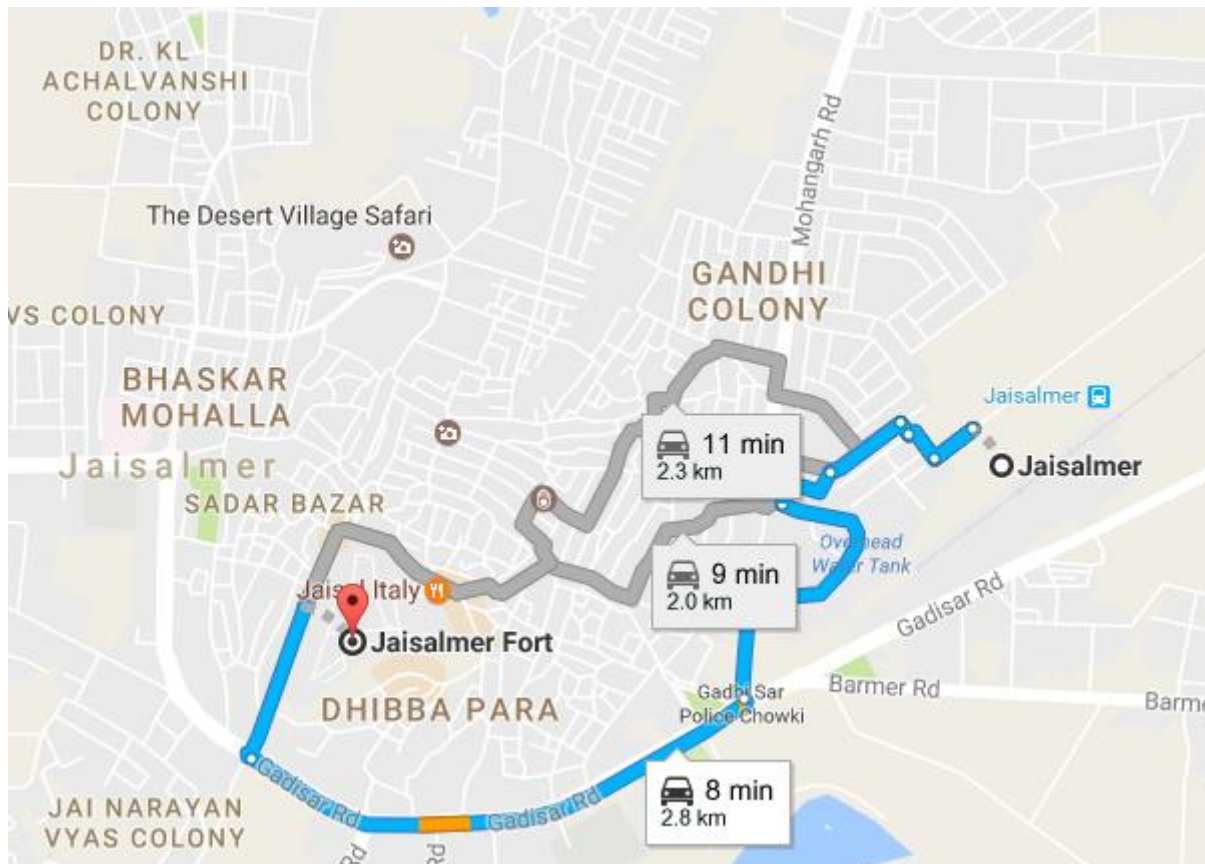


By Air

Jaisalmer has only military airport and only chartered planes are allowed there. The airport nearby Jaisalmer is Jodhpur that is around 331km away if one comes by road. Jodhpur is connected to various cities by air so tourists can come to Jodhpur by air and take a taxi for Jaisalmer.

By Train

Very few trains arrive to and depart from Jaisalmer but they connect the city to other major cities like Jaipur, Jodhpur, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Ajmer, Delhi, etc. Only superfast trains, mails and express train start from and terminate at Jaisalmer. There are no Rajdhani, Shatabdi, or Garibrath from this station.



By Road

Jaisalmer is connected to many nearby cities in Rajasthan and cities like Mumbai and Ahmedabad by bus. Tourists can catch buses or book taxis from Jaisalmer to go to these places. Tourists can get buses from

- Jaisalmer Border Security Force Railway Station
- Main Bus Stand
- Private Bus Stand
- Touring Bus Stand
- Dedanasar Gramin Bus Stand

Local Transport

Tourists can visit Jaisalmer locally through auto-rickshaws and bicycles. Besides these, government and private cabs are also available to visit the city. At some places, roads are very congested so taking an auto or a bicycle will be the right choice.

5. Jaisalmer Fort – Nearby Places

Besides Jaisalmer Fort, tourists can visit other places nearby the fort. These places are as follows:

Patwon ki Haveli

Patwon ki Haveli was built in 19th century due to the increase in trade. Merchants from different parts of the world visited the city very often so the city became a trading center. The monument has beautiful carvings at the inside and outside walls that are painted with golden colour. The haveli was used as a residing centre for the traders and merchants who sold the items made up of gold and silver. The haveli is less than 1km away from the fort.



Tazia Tower

Tazai tower is one of the architecture that tourists must visit. The tower is a five-storey building that shows the brotherhood of the kings of Jaisalmer with other communities. **Maharawal Berisal Singh** constructed this tower in 1886AD that depicts the mausoleums of various imams. The tower was constructed by Muslim craftsmen who constructed each floor with unique designs. The tower is around 550m away from the fort.



Bada Bagh

Bada Bagh is a garden located at 6km away from Jaisalmer. Since Jaisalmer is a desert city so rulers tried to bring some greenery to the city and that's why the garden was made. The garden is watered through an artificial dam that was built by Maharawal Jaisal Singh. At the entrance there is **Goverdhan Stambh** that was constructed for successful construction of the dam. There are tombs of the royal people within the garden that were built on the basis of Hindu architecture.



Gadsisar Lake

Gadsisar lake was constructed by **Maharawal Gadsa Singh** in 1400AD to store rain water for harvesting the crop. The lake is surrounded by many temples and shrines and is also a place for migratory birds during winter season. Tourists especially bird watchers can find birds of different species. The other structures that beautify the lake are cenotaphs and gardens situated around the lake.

