**Visit the fascinating city Jodhpur**

Rajasthan is known for the bravery of its Kings, their love for art and architecture. It is a ‘land of Kings’ housing many animals, birds and plants in the desert. Jodhpur happens to be full of architecturally rich fantabulous palaces, temples, Havelis, etc. A part of the state under the Aravalli range is covered with greenery.

**History of Jodhpur**

It is always a good decision if one wishes to visit Rajasthan so that the tour’s sweet memories will always cherish them. Jodhpur, the second-largest city of Rajasthan, also called ‘The Blue City is one of the places in Rajasthan with many places entertaining and educating the tourist.

The city got its name after Rao Jodha, the chief of the Rathore clan, who built it in place of the ancient capital Mandore of the state of Manwar. Hence, the people here are Marwaris. Almost all the buildings, including the palaces and houses, are built-in vivid shades of blue here.

One would love to have a spectacular view of the fort, with eight gates leading outside that towers this magnificent city. Outside the fort, new Jodhpur city is located.

Another important reason for the city’s fame is a rare breed of horse, Marwari or Malani, found only in Jodhpur.

Many palaces are now converted to museums showcasing the artifacts and weapons used by the Royal family.

**Places of interest in Jodhpur**

**Mehrangarh Fort**

Mehrangarh Fort, located above the hill with 125m height, is packed with great history and legends. The courtesy of the enemies, who wanted to capture, is still remembered in cannonball imprints on the second gate of eight gates. The fort is very sturdy and chiseled, is house to many mahals with exquisitely latticed windows, carved panels, and intricately decorated windows and walls.

**Khejarla Fort**

Khejarla Fort is 400 years old fort at 85km from the central city. The red stone monument turned Hotel with intricate Jharokas, latticework friezes, and picturesque setting are mesmerizing memories for the visitor.

**Takht Vilas**

Takhat Vilas, bedchamber of Maharaja Takhat Singh of 19th century, has magnificent Zehana, cradle gallery for infant princes and Moti Mahal.

**Moti Mahal**

The Pearl Hall where the royal families held their audience is popularly known as Moti Mahal. The glass windows and five nooks enabled the queens to look at the proceedings in the Royal Throne, Srinagar Chowki. The galleries around the throne also display royal palanquins.

**Sheesh Mahal**

The glass palace of Jodhpur, Sheesh Mahal, is another palace in the fort, attracting visitors with mirror work stretching from the ceiling to the floors. This magnificent piece of architecture is superimposed by the mirror work of brightly painted religious figures cast in plaster.

**Phool Mahal**

Phool Mahal, or the Flower Hall, is yet another outrageous palace of all the halls, used to be the pleasure dome for the Maharajas. The 19th-century wall paintings depict 36 moods/ragas, classical music, and royal portraits. The Mahal is engraved with work of concoction of gold (imported from Ahmedabad, Gujarat) leaf, glue and cow’s urine, which took ten years for the artist to complete.

**Umaid Bhawan Palace**

Umaid Bhawan Palace was built in 1929 by Umaid Singh to counter the famine of the period. Umaid Bhawan Palace is named after its founder Maharaja Umaid Singh. This beautiful palace is also known as 'Chittar Palace' due to it is situated on the Chittar hill. It is a perfect example of Indo-colonial architectural style and deco-art. The Deco art architectural style dominates here and it dates back to the 1920s and 1930s. The stones for the palace were drawn from Chittar Hill, so the name Chittar Palace. A British architect designed the palace displays the blend of Indo-Saracenic, Classic Revival and Western art deco styles. The only court of the 20th century has fame as one of the largest spectacular private homes in the world. A part of the palace has been converted into a heritage hotel, while the rest is a museum.

## Jaswant Thada-

Jaswant Thada, built as a tribute to the leader Jaswant Singh, is a white memorial to remember his social welfare and financial improvement activities for the people and state. Managed by the Mehrangarh Museum trust, it displays portraits of the Marwar rulers with informative didactics, helping to understand history better. Starting with morning concerts during music festivals such as Rajasthan International Folk Festival and World Sacred Spirit Festivals, its grounds are busy entertaining the people.

Made entirely of white opal stone, Jaswant Thada is called the Taj Mahal of Rajasthan. The carved turrets and beautiful domes keep gleaming in the sunlight throughout the day. Built on the left side of Mehrangarh Fort, this building was constructed in the memory of Maharaj Jaswant Singh II. This royal mausoleum also houses a collection of impressive paintings and magnificent artifacts belonging to the Rathore dynasty. History lovers must visit this place in Jodhpur city. The winter months i.e. between October and February are the best months to visit Jaswant Thada.

## Ghantaghar:

Ghantaghar in Jodhpur is a magnificent clock tower located in the center of the city, which was built by Maharaja Sardar Singh about 200 years ago. It is believed that this clock tower was bought from the company that built the clock tower in London. After some time this area gradually became one of the most bustling areas of the city. The belfry is a fine example of 19th century stonework. Made entirely of sandstone, the Ghanta Ghar is a five-tiered structure built with sandstone in the background of the Mehrangarh Fort. The first level on the ground consists of a wide square shaped structure with patios and jharokhas. This level is surrounded by an octagonal stone fence.

The Sadar Bazar and Tower located here is the perfect destination for travelers who want to see and experience the culture and people of Jodhpur. The clock tower is surrounded by street markets, the most famous of which is Sardar Market, named after the late king. Shopping and attractions can be enjoyed at this place after sunset.

**Museums & Memorials**

Jodhpur Government Museum, in Umaid Garden, exhibits a rich collection of relics like armory, textiles, local art and craft, miniature paintings, portraits of rulers, manuscripts and images of the Jain Tirthankaras and so on.

Sardar Samand Lake and Palace is the royal family’s retreat housing a vast collection of African trophies and original watercolor paintings. Also, many migratory and local birds make it a spectacular bird watcher’s paradise.

Ranier Padamsar is the name of two adjacent lakes constructed in 1459 AD by two Royal families.

Mandore was the ancient capital of Marwar, with a lot of historical importance. It houses Dewals or Cenotaphs of former rulers of Jodhpur. These are different from usual Cenotaphs in the architecture, built with Hindu temples.

**Temples of Jodhpur**

Chamunda Mataji Temple, dedicated to Goddess Chamunda Mata, also called Isht Devi, has been worshipped from the day the idol was brought here by Maharaja and Royal families.

Mandaleshwar Mahadev, built in the 10th century, is one of the oldest shrines of the city, with beautiful paintings of Lord Shiva and Parvati on the walls.

Mahamandir Temple is a sanctified spot where tranquility reigns supreme with wondrous architecture supported by 84 pillars and detailed design and figures depicting various postures of yoga.

Somnath temple has a historical value and is home to many small temples.

**Activities to Enjoy**

Machiya Safari Park, located on the way to Jaisalmer at 1km from Kailana Lake, is not only home to several animals like deer, desert foxes, monster lizards, blue bulls, hare, wild cats, mongoose, monkeys etc., but also a beautiful place for bird watching giving a spectacular view of the sunset.

One can love boating at Kailana Lake, an ideal picnic spot with a small artificial lake.

On Masuria hills, a garden exists where the devotees worship a centuries-old temple dedicated to the local deity Baba Ramdev. This beautiful garden attracts visitors by giving a panoramic view of the city.

Gida village lodges a vivid range of exotic wildlife and nature; one can observe thousands of migratory birds like Demoiselle Crane frolicking at the lake.

**Jodhpuri Delicacies**

A country with many cultures, festivals according to the regions, different stories will have various cuisines matching the people’s taste. India is one such country with colorful foods and outfits representing multiple cultures.

In Jodhpur also one can get to eat traditional Rajasthani food items like Gatte ki Sabzi, Dal Bati Choorma, Mirchi Bada, Pyaaz Kachori, Laal Maas for non-veg lovers, Shahi Samosa (spicy) along with Jodhpur special delicacies like,

Gulab Jamun Ki Sabzi where balls of Mawa are deep-fried and dipped into delicious spicy gravy rather than in usual sugar syrup,

Mirch Ki sabzi, best enjoyed with roti and rice, this sabzi is made with green chilies with a small amount of besan flour.

Bajre ki Khichdi, made of Bajra and moong dal with loads of ghee, is eaten to keep oneself warm during winters.

Mawa Kachori, as the name suggests, sweet Kachori made out of Mawa, a best-after meal dessert of Jodhpur.

Raab, a delicious hot beverage consumed during winter nights, is made of Bajra or millet flour and milk with a dash of cardamom and ginger to enhance the taste. Called Khatti, Rabdi helps digest food, cure cold symptoms, and boost the immune system.

Rabdi Laddoo, laddoos made with condensed milk, Besan Ki Chakki are sweets just mind-blowing as spicy foods of Jodhpur. Other place-specific sweets are Ghevar, Malpua etc.

Makhaniya Lassi is extraordinary buttermilk with dollops of Makhan topped with grated nuts, fruits and saffron.

The foods from different world regions are also available in tourist-hit Jodhpur.

**Things to buy in Jodhpur**

Nobody can escape from shopping in this heritage city, from lac bangles to chic Mojari, from flashy fabric-ethnic wear to Razais, from Kundan ornaments to leather goods to spices. Everything here is incredibly unique.

Ghanta Ghar, or the clock market in Jodhpur, can look for the most delicate quality spices, especially red chilies from Mathaniya. You can also buy handicrafts, flavored tea, antiques and hand-embroidered fabrics of Rajasthan.

If you are looking for flashy, intricate pattern hand-dyed Bandhej or Bandhani fabric, the Nai Sarak market is there.

Mochi Bazaar is famous for Jodhpuri Juttis (available in myriad colors, patterns and ranges made of leather add a punch to any attire adding royalty), junk jewelry and lac bangles.

Soja Gate Market. Kapra Bazaar is where you can buy flamboyant Rajasthani apparel, Leheriya and Bandhej printed fabrics. Sarafa Bazaar sells charming silver jewelry and accessories with Jodhpuri influence.

The Umaid Bhawan Palace market has a classic splendor taste shop for antiques, metal works, and designer furniture. Pottery, metal and marble work, copper-brassware and paintings, textiles, and puppets are sold here. Handicrafts with beads, sequins, mirror work are also available.

Tripoli Bazaar1406 sells many items in Umaid Bhawan palace Market at reasonable prices and good quality.

**How to reach Jodhpur**

One can visit Jodhpur by domestic flight, with the airport is at 5km from the city, by rail route where the trains from many metro cities are available for traveling. The state and national highways are well connected to this city, making it comfortable to travel through buses, cabs, or cars.