

# Welcome to Mandawa

*Independent exploration for foreign visitors*

- *This guide is designed to help you explore Mandawa independently – without spending on expensive guides.*
- *You'll find must-see places, walking routes, food stops, and practical tips all in one place.*
- *Use this guide to plan your visit, save time, and avoid common mistakes.*
- *Respect local culture: photography, attire, and etiquette are briefly noted where needed.*
- *The guide works offline, so you can download and access it anytime.*

# **Mandawa at a glance**

- *Location: Shekhawati region, Rajasthan, India.*
- *Known for: Fresco-painted havelis and Mandawa fort.*
- *Ideal stay: 3-4 days.*
- *Best time to visit: February to April or September to November.*
- *Town layout: Compact and walkable around the town center.*
- *Atmosphere: Quiet, cultural, slower pace than major cities.*

*Mandawa is a small heritage town where most attractions are located close to each other. Exploring on foot is often the best way to experience the architecture and daily life.*

# **Getting around Mandawa**

## **On foot**

- *The town center and major havelis are walkable.*
- *Streets are narrow; walking allows better viewing of frescoes.*
- *Wear comfortable footwear.*

## **Auto / Local transport**

- *Auto-rickshaws are available near the bazaar and fort area.*
- *Short rides within town are usually affordable.*
- *Agree on the fare before starting the ride.*
- *The major hotel havelis have tourist packages on their respective websites. The most popular is the Fort itself.*

## **Timing tips**

- *Early morning and the late afternoon are best for walking.*
- *Midday hours are quieter; some places may close temporarily like temples.*
- *Evenings are suitable for bazaar walks.*
- *If you are to visit the town in winter, please carry winter clothes, as the temperature here goes below zero.*
- *If you are to visit the town in summer, please carry sunscreens and sunglasses, as it becomes hot during these times. The highest temperature was 45 degrees Celsius.*

## **Safety and comfort**

- *Mandawa is generally calm and safe for visitors.*
- *Keep valuables secure in crowded areas.*
- *Ask permission before photographing people or private homes.*
- *Bring with you comfortable and decent clothes.*

# **Key places to visit in Mandawa**

## **Mandawa Fort**

- *Historic fort overlooking the town.*
- *Known for architecture, murals, and views.*
- *Allow around 1-1.5 hours.*
- *Fees: As per person.*

*Some havelis maybe privately owned.*

*Ask before entering or photographing interiors.*

## **Goenka Havelis**

- *Merchant homes with detailed fresco paintings.*
- *Located within walking distance of the town center.*
- *Best visited during daylight hours.*
- *Fees: As per person.*

## **Podar Haveli**

- *Well-preserved haveli with intricate artwork.*
- *Represents traditional Shekhawati architecture.*
- *Short visit, around 30-40 minutes.*
- *Fees: As per person.*

## **Fresco Streets and Old Town**

- *Residential streets featuring painted walls.*
- *Ideal for slow walks and photography.*
- *Visit in the morning or late afternoon.*

# **Suggested walking routes**

## **Option 1: One-day visit**

*Ideal if you have limited time.*

- **Morning**

*Mandawa Fort.*

*Walk through Old Town fresco streets.*

- **Midday**

*Lunch near Mandawa bazaar.*

*Short rest during quieter hours.*

- **Afternoon**

*Other major havelis.*

- **Evening**

*Bazaar walk*

*Tea or snacks near the market area.*

*Estimated walking distance: Short, mostly within town center.*

## **Option 2: Two-day visit**

*For a relaxed pace*

- **Day 1**

*Mandawa Fort.*

*Old Town and fresco streets.*

*Bazaar walk in the evening.*

- **Day 2**

*Goenka havelis.*

*Podar haveli.*

*Explore quieter residential areas.*

*Local food spots.*

*Other havelis and temples.*

## ***Helpful notes***

- *Routes are walkable and flexible.*
- *Adjust timing based on weather and opening hours.*
- *Early morning and late afternoon are best for photography.*

# ***Food and local stops***

## ***Local food options***

- *Small restaurants and eateries are available near bazaar.*
- *Expect simple, home-style and spicy meals.*
- *Vegetarian food is widely available.*

## ***What to try***

- *Rajasthani thali.*
- *Local breads and lentils.*
- *Tea and light snacks during evening hours.*

*If unsure, choose places with local families or regular foot traffic.*

## ***Budget and timing***

- *Meals are generally affordable.*
- *Lunch hours are quieter.*
- *Evening is a good time for tea and snacks near the bazaar.*

## ***Important notes***

- *Ask about spice levels if sensitive.*
- *Drink bottled or filtered water.*
- *Avoid eating very late at night.*

# **Practical tips for visitors**

## **Cultural etiquette**

- *Dress modestly, especially near religious or residential areas.*
- *Greet people politely; a simple nod or “Ram-Ram” is appreciated.*
- *Avoid entering private properties without permission.*

## **Photography**

- *Always ask before photographing people.*
- *Some havelis are privately owned – permission may be required.*
- *Morning and late afternoon light is best for frescoes.*

## **Money and payments**

- *Carry small cash denominations.*
- *Not all places accept digital payments.*
- *ATMs may be limited – plan ahead.*

*Daily life in Mandawa follows a slower pace. Quieter periods during the day are normal.*

## **Safety and awareness**

- *Mandawa is generally calm and safe.*
- *Keep valuables secure in crowded areas.*
- *Trust your instincts and avoid isolated areas after dark.*

## **Emergency information**

- *Local police station: Bissau chauraha (far from town center, consider taking a ride).*
- *Nearest medical help: Small clinics available in town.*
- *For serious emergencies, larger hospitals are in the nearest city – Jhunjhunu.*

# **Responsible exploration**

## **Closing message**

*Mandawa is a living town with a rich cultural and architectural heritage. Exploring thoroughly helps preserve its character and supports local life.*

## **Responsible travel tips**

- *Respect local customs and daily routines.*
- *Avoid damaging or touching frescoes and painted walls.*
- *Support small local businesses when possible.*
- *Keep the town clean and quiet, especially in residential areas.*

## **Final note**

*This guide is intended to help you explore Mandawa independently, respectfully, and at your own pace.*

*For updated information or additional resources, visit our website.*