

Jaisalmer

The Blue Book

VINAY Everywhere



City Guide Book

Things you need to know for your visit to
Jaisalmer (India)

>> CONTENTS

1. City Introduction

2. Top Things to do

3. Special Events

4. Signature Food

5. Weather

6. Stay

7. Transportation

8. Currency

9. Power Plugs

10. Fun Facts

[Jaisalmer
YouTube
Video Link
\(English\)](#)

[Jaisalmer
YouTube
Video Link
\(Hindi\)](#)

1.1 Jaisalmer (A Piece of History)

In the 12th century, the Maharaj of Lodurva overlooked his elder son Rawal Jaisal and passed on the throne to his younger son. Due to this Rawal Jaisal left the kingdom. Wandering in the desert he reached **Trikuta Hill**, where he met a Sage called Eesul. Eesul told him that once Lord Krishna (who was from the Yaduvanshi clan) visited this place and predicted that someone from the Yaduvanshi clan will one day establish a kingdom and rule here. Eesul also showed him the small rock where Lord Krishna had carved this prophecy.



Maharaja Rawal Jaisal

Rawal Jaisal was a Yaduvanshi and on learning this he decided to build a fort here. He made it his capital and Jaisalmer was named after Maharaj Rawal **Jaisal**. It is believed that even to this day the Rock with Lord Krishna's Carving is still somewhere in the fort.



1.2 Jaisalmer (Currently)

Rajasthan, the land of the kings, is at its exotic and colourful best with its battle-scarred forts, its palaces of breathtaking grandeur and its romantic sense of pride and honour. Popularly called as the "**Golden City**", Jaisalmer is situated in the western most region of Rajasthan. The narrow streets aren't designed for cars or even bikes but Jaisalmer is a great place to just simply walk around.

Yellow sandstone that is the main essence of the city gives it the golden feel as even newly built homes and hotels are given the similar signature look with uniformity in colour and breathtaking carving on the front wall and gates.

You will find plenty of amazing restaurants all around Jaisalmer, offering authentic international cuisines and many photogenic locations for your next Epic Instagram Picture.



2. Top Things to do in Jaisalmer

1. Jaisalmer Fort

2. Patwa Havelis

3. Gadisar Lake

4. Jain Temples

5. Sam Sand Dunes

6. Bada Bagh

7. Kuldhara Village

8. Moti Mahal

9. Tanot Temple

10. Nathmal Haveli

2.1 Jaisalmer Fort



Location:

[Click Here](#)

Built in 1156, Jaisalmer Fort is also known as the "**Sonar Killa**" (The Golden Fort). For most part of its 800-year history, the fort was the entire city of Jaisalmer. Then in the 17th Century the city grew and people started settling outside the fort. The Fort has witnessed many battles and was under Mughal control at one time. Hence you will see shades of Rajasthani and Mughal architecture inside.

The fort features Temples, Museums, Shops, Home, Hotels, and Restaurants. The three main attractions inside the fort are 'the Royal Palace', A '600 Year Old Jain Temple' and the 'Laxminath Ji Temple' which is the most sacred Temple to local residents.

2.2 Patwa Haveli



Location: [Click Here](#)

Near the city centre are the 5 Patwa Havelis, built by 'Guman Chand Ji Patwa' for his 5 Sons. The 5 Havelis built between 1800 and 1860 are the showpiece of Jaipur's legendary architectural wealth. The balconies are so delicately chiselled and would mesmerise anyone.

2 of the 5 Havelis, are now under the Government, 3rd haveli is where descendants of the Patwa family reside. The other 2 are privately owned of which 1, [The Kothari-Patwa Haveli](#) is now turned into a Multi-storied museum and is a must visit if you want to experience the grand lifestyle of the Patwa's in the 1800's.

2.3 Gadisar Lake



Location:

[Click Here](#)

The Gadisar lake was built in 1367 by Maharawal Gadsí Singh, after whom it was named. The grand entrance gates were built by a dancer from the royal court named 'Tíllon'. The gates are called '**Tíllon Kí Pole**' or the Tíllon gateway after her.

The banks of the lake consist of shrines, temples, gardens and beautiful golden sandstone gazebos (like in the picture). One can indulge in boat riding, do bird watching or simply enjoy a leisure walk. The '**Gangaur festival**' is celebrated by The Rajasthani women with full traditional fanfare at the Gadisar lake every year.

2.4 Jain Temples

Amarsagar Jain Temple: Built in 1928 by the Lodra Rajputs, Amar sagar jain temple is located adjacent to the Amar Sagar Lake roughly 7 Km from Jaipur city centre. Beautifully crafted and designed, the temple looks astonishing with its intricate hand carvings and small domes. One of its sections on outside looks unique with its white marble exterior. The temple is a must-visit site for its calm and peaceful feel



Location: [Click Here](#)



Location: [Click Here](#)

Lodurva Jain Temple: This Temple was built in the 9th Century along with the city of Lodurva. Lodurva was attacked and plundered by Mughals many times. This Temple was also destroyed in the Mid 11th Century. The structure stands but you can still see the broken Hindu idols. The temple features an arched gateway, and stone Kalpavriksh (the Divine Tree). The Temple also has a famed snake hole, a snake comes out every evening to drink milk offerings, the sighting of the snake is believed as a divine blessing here.

Fort Jain Temple: King Jaipur had land but not much wealth. On the other hand the Jains almost exclusively controlled the Silk Trade on a busy Silk Route, making them vastly wealthy. They struck a deal with the King. They financed the Fort and in return the King agreed to build grand Jain temples inside the fort. As the other temples were plundered by Mughals, This deal was of great significance for both parties as the fort was very secure and hard to breach, the Jain temples inside them stand as they did hundreds of years ago. They also store one of the largest collections of the Jain literature in the world and thousands of statues as when the silk route shut down, The Jains left Jaipur in search of work and donated their religious belongings here.



Location: [Click Here](#)

The carvings, the ceiling, the art work, the idols in all parts of this ancient temple, the grand front to the artistic backside of this temple show just how wealthy the Jains from those times were. This place is a true historic architectural marvel.

2.5 Sam Sand Dunes



Location:

[Click Here](#)

...in the busy city of Jaipur it's easy to forget that you're in the middle of a desert. The Sam Sand Dunes, roughly 40 Kms from the City reminds you of just where you are and adds a different flavour to your trip. You can also enjoy a Camel Ride and Jeep Safari here. The region around Sam holds a lot of cultural shows. Rajasthani folk dances are performed by professional artists from all over the state.

The ideal time to visit Sam Sand Dunes is from October to February, when the temperatures are soothing. This also becomes the venue of the famous 'Desert Festival' in February every year, showcasing the rich culture and heritage of Rajasthan.

2.6 Bada Bagh



Location:

[Click Here](#)

Bada Bagh literally means Big Garden. Here 'Cenotaphs' (memory monument) and 'Chhatris' (gazebos) are dedicated to Kings and other members of the Royal family. Each Chhatrí has a marble slab with inscriptions about the royal it is dedicated to. The first of these monuments was made in the 18th century for Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh by his son Lunkaran. Later many others cenotaphs were erected for Lunkaran and other Royals.

Bada Bagh is on a hill top making it an ideal place to view the sunset. It is one of the most photographed spot around Jaipur.

2.7 Kuldhara Village



Location:

[Click Here](#)

Kuldhara village is believed to be one of the most haunted place in India. But its just a Myth! There is **nothing paranormal** here. It's just a deserted village.

According to popular belief, Kuldhara was home to 'Paliwal Brahmins'. Then once, despite his old age 'Salim Singh' (Minister of the Royal Court) wanted to marry a minor girl from Kuldhara. He asked the villagers to send the girl to him or face brutal consequences. The villagers decided to flee Kuldhara overnight. While leaving they cursed the village: **No One will be able to settle on the lands they were forced to leave.** The Paliwal's disappeared with no trace but the original ruins of the Kuldhara village still remain even today.

2.8 Moti Mahal



Location: [Click Here](#)

'Salim Singh ki Haveli' or 'Moti Mahal' is a magnificent 300 year old piece of architecture. The historical importance along with its architectural wonder makes it one of the most popular havelis in Jaipur. Locals claim there were originally 2 additional floors to the current 5. The Haveli went higher than the King's palace and thus he ordered to chop off 2 floors.

The architecture of this mansion is inspired by a **dancing peacock**. It constitutes 38 uniquely carved balconies. The Entrance has Elephant statues. In those days only the most influential people or the 'Dewans' (Ministers) were allowed to build Elephant statues at their entrance. Salim Singh's ambition was to be more influential than the King and some believe, he was!



2.9 Tanot Temple



Location:

[Click Here](#)

Built in 847 AD, This Temple is dedicated to 'Awad Mata' also known as 'Tanot Mata'. The Tanot mata mandir is under The Border Security Force of India.

In the war of 1965, Pakistan Airforce dropped around 3000 Bombs around this temple. Miraculously none of those bombs exploded. The shells of the Live Bombs are kept inside the temple even today. Pakistani Brigadier Shanavaz Khan was so amazed by this incident that he visited the temple after the war was over. There is a Victory Pillar at the main entrance and many believe that if you tie a white handkerchief here and wish for something, it comes true!

2.10 Nathmal Haveli



Location:

[Click Here](#)

This Haveli was built by two muslim architect brothers in the 19th century to serve as the residence of Minister Diwan Nathmal Singh. They started construction from opposite ends. Notice, this building has similar placements but *non identical left and right facades*. This choreographed asymmetry is what makes this Haveli unique. This Haveli is perfect fusion of Rajput and Islamic architecture.

The most interesting aspect of this Haveli is the drawings of modern amenities in the interiors such as cars, fans etc. It is believed that the architect brothers dint see these things ever in their life and engraved it with mere help of the descriptions given by people who had seen it.

3. Special Events throughout the Year



The Desert Festival of Jaisalmer

For 3 Days in February every year, Jaisalmer adds every colour known to us to its traditional gold. The Desert festival is vibrant, its energetic, its exotic and its extremely colourful. The event is conducted by Rajasthan State Tourism Corporation.

The main attractions include folk songs performed by famous musicians and dancers from all over Rajasthan. Acrobatics, Camel Parades, Puppet Shows, Competitions like Longest Moustache, Turban Tying, Camel Race, Camel Polo, Camel Decoration and even Camel Dance light up the event.

The Festival takes place at Sam Sand Dunes. Guests are accommodated in Luxury tents, built specifically for this festival. Book your accommodation well in advance as this is a very popular event.

Official Website

Vinay Everywhere

Click Here

4. Signature Food: Dal Pakwan

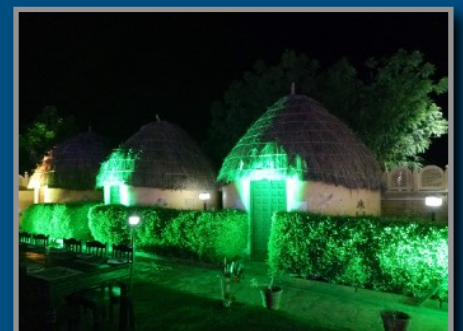


Dal Pakwan is the closest Indian cuisine gets to Pizza. It's actually a Sindhi breakfast Dish. It is very popular and widely available street food all over Jaipur. You will find plenty of stalls at streets just outside the fort walls.

Dal Pakwan is crisp fried maida flatbread, served with chana dal, garnished with chutney and chopped onion. Chilly and spice are added according to taste. This can be as bland or as spicy as you want it to be.

This is the version you're likely to find on streets. Chutney and all ingredients poured on the base. It's as cheap as 30 - 40 INR per dish. But don't be deceived by their humble stalls, The most popular ones boast pictures of famous Bollywood celebrities having visited them. They are almost always crowded.

Apart from Street Food, there are plenty of multi cuisine restaurants that serve local and international delicacies. One such restaurant you must visit for its delicious food and wonderful vibe is... [D Desi Aroma](#). They have open air garden seating, gazebos, private huts and Indian style floor sofas. Located just outside the city near the Bada Bagh.



[D Desi Aroma](#)

Vinay Everywhere

Location:

[Click Here](#)

Thank You for previewing this eBook

You can read the full version of this eBook in different formats:

- HTML (Free /Available to everyone)
- PDF / TXT (Available to V.I.P. members. Free Standard members can access up to 5 PDF/TXT eBooks per month each month)
- Epub & Mobipocket (Exclusive to V.I.P. members)

To download this full book, simply select the format you desire below

