

Rajasthan

“ The largest state in India and home to the mesmerising sand dunes of the Thar Desert, Rajasthan was once the hub of royal families in India. Sharing its borders with Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Pakistan, this vibrant state presents a unique blend of various cultures, including its own authentic and rich history. With popular destinations like Jaipur, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur and Jaisalmer in its fold, Rajasthan welcomes you for a journey through its colourful

heritage and a gradually modernising future.

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Famous For : State / Provinc

Rajasthan, literally translated as the “land of kings”, is the largest state in India. Along the Western border of the country, the state is the epicentre of several art forms, folk cultures and traditional rituals and customs, followed with much enthusiasm till date. This in no way suggests that the state is backward in any way. With a flourishing economy and a large share in the country's agricultural produce, Rajasthan is home to many industries, and as a result, is on a path of constant modernisation. Home to the world's oldest civilisations, the Indus Valley Civilization, Rajasthan enjoys a rich ancient, medieval and modern history of its own. The region was home to the royal Rajput families, some of them who still live in all their splendor, sometimes even as titular heads. The havelis and mahals (palaces) are direct evidences of this history, adding to the sheer architectural glory and magnificence of the state, almost rendering the massive region as an open museum.

Because of this rich heritage, the state of Rajasthan has been known for its vibrant culture and super enthusiastic lifestyle. With popular cities like Jaipur (which is its capital too), Jodhpur, Ajmer, Pushkar and Bikaner, Rajasthan is quite a hot spot on a tourist's map. From one of the world's only Brahma Temple in Pushkar to the city of a 1000 lakes, Udaipur, and further to the jungle paradise of Ranthambore and Sariska, the state literally has a little for every traveller.

their colors from golden to pale blue as light falls on them. The ceilings of this beautiful temple has great geometric patterns and foliate scrollwork. If you are planning a trip to Ranakpur then October to March is the best time to visit this gorgeous place. The architecture of the temple will mesmerise you to the core.

Ranakpur Jain Temple is a must visit place for a peaceful time.

2 Pali



Home to the wealthy clan of Paliwal Brahmins, Pali's various buildings and architecture resonate with its varied and complex history. Several decadent, beautiful baori's still exist, pointing towards the old lifestyle of Pali's Rajput rulers. A trip to the Lakhotia Garden, surrounded by a pond and home to the Mahadev temple, is a significant element of each traveller's itinerary for Pali. The Balleshwar Temple, one of the only 8 Ashtavinayak temples dedicated to Lord Ganesha, is a fine example of the spiritual air in Pali. Most of the ornate havelis have now been converted to heritage hotels, some of which still

What To SEE



5 Sights

<http://www.ixigo.com/places-to-visit-see-in-rajasthan-lp-1273342>

1 Ranakpur Jain Temple



Desuri Tehsil, Near Sadri, Pali, Sadri, Rajasthan 306702.

Supported by four hundred pillars, Ranakpur Jain Temple is one of the best attractions in Ranakpur. The pillars changes

maintain the history through antique furniture and interiors.

3 Sawai Madhopur



Take a journey to Sawai Madhopur in order to experience the thrill of jungle safari in the Ranthombore National Park. Famous for its numerous sightings of tigers, this sanctuary is also home to sloth bears, leopards and many species of deers. Not only exciting for the jungle rides in open jeeps, the tracing of tigers based on bird calls and pug marks has a thrill of its own. The Ranthambore fort, once ruled over by the Chauhan Dynasty of Rajasthan, is now the abode of the wild. It is an escapade back into the 10th century, and

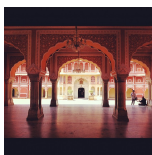
also houses three temples inside itself. The hill-top Khandar Fort, with all the local tales of mystery is an explorer's delight, and worth the uphill trek. The place is also dotted with small temples that are lost, forgotten and hidden in green foliage, but enigmatic nonetheless.

4 Sikar



Sikar is connected to the major cities of Rajasthan like Jaipur and Bikaner through National Highway-11. Experience the historical grandeur of this city by visiting marvellous buildings such as Sikar Fort, Rani Mahal, Radha Damodar Mandir, Diwan Ji Ki Haveli, to name a few. The city has a unique, ancient feel to it and the simple-minded, progressive populace is a delight to interact with. Overall, Sikar is definitely an enriching experience.

5 City Palace



Kanwar Nagar, Pink City, Jaipur,
Rajasthan 302002, India

Located inside the old city, City Palace in Jaipur is a blend of traditional Rajput and Mughal architecture bound to leave you awestruck. A vast palace complex that occupies nearly a seventh of the Pink City, this palace was originally built by Maharaja Jai Singh II in 1932. Today, City Palace is known for housing the Chandra Mahal and the Mubarak Mahal, apart from the series of courtyards, sprawling gardens and buildings that populate the complex.

One step into the City Palace and the magnificent architecture and huge gardens take you to the eras of Rajas and Maharajas. From the richly decorated gateways to the fascination that awaits you at each of the museums, the place makes for an exciting time. At the Mubarak Mahal, you can see the variety of textiles and the lush garments the Maharajas of Jaipur used to wear. From Sanganeri Block Prints to exquisite Kashmiri Pashminas, you can see it all here. The most fascinating amongst these costumes are perhaps the ones of Sawai Madhosingh I, who weighed about 250 kg and still managed to have 108 wives!

The next stop on your adventure in the City Palace will probably be the Chandra Mahal, which can be called the most magnificent structure in the whole building, without a doubt! With seven floors that have their own

unique names, the building houses some of the finest paintings, floral decorations and mirror work art that you would have set your eyes on.

Only the ground floor of the Chandra Mahal is accessible as the descendants of the royal family still reside in the rest of the building. Other notable places inside the complex include the two sterling silver vessels in the Diwan-I-Khas, which are the largest vessels in the world, weaponry display at the Maharani Palace and the Baggi Khana, a museum of the Maharaja's rides.

Where To
Eat

5 Places

<http://www.ixigo.com/foods-in-of-rajasthan-lp-1273342>

1 Lake Palace Restaurant



 The Taj Lake Palace Hotel, Lake Pichola, Udaipur, Rajasthan 313001, India

 +91-294-2428800

Grand chandeliers, imposing paintings, antique furniture and a luxurious atmosphere best describe the Lake Palace Restaurant, which promises a dining experience fit for royalty. With courteous staff and a lake view location complementing the yummy Continental, Asian, Indian, Contemporary Western and Italian cuisines, the Lake Palace Restaurant makes for a mesmerising dining experience.

Be it the lavish buffet spread or the choicest dishes from their a la carte, the Lake Palace Restaurant leaves no opportunity to flatter the foodie in you. Also, if you are keen to experiment, you can take one step further from the Daal Baati and enjoy other Rajasthani delicacies like Laas Maas here!

2 The Laughing Buddha Cafe



 Near Gau Ghat Badi Basti, Pushkar, Rajasthan, 305022, India

Tucked away upstairs from the main bustling bazaar of Pushkar is this friendly paradise that is

The Laughing Buddha Cafe. This cosy cafe is a warm and friendly place to stop for a beautiful hot masala chai or a real coffee. From pancakes to palak paneer, you'll get all here. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner, the very warm host will make you feel right at home. Free wifi and good conversation is just an added bonus. A percentage of the profits go to disadvantaged street kids in the Pushkar area. Ask Sheru about volunteering!

3 Swagat Restaurant



 Surya Royal Hotel, 11, Jhalawar Road

 +91-1124330930

Swagat Restaurant is a popular multi-cuisine restaurant that is ideal to grab a good bite at. From south Indian to north Indian the restaurant offers scrumptious food. The

atmosphere is friendly, the staff is courteous and the service is impeccable. On the whole, this restaurant is a good dining option in Kota.

4 Millets of Mewar



 Near Hanuman Ghat Hotel, Nayi Puliya, Outside Chand Pol, Udaipur, Rajasthan 313001, India

 +91-8769348440

Serving pure organic cuisine for those who are health conscious, this vegan restaurant Millets of Mewar is a favourite among foreign nationals who visit India. The staff here is friendly and welcoming and it is a pleasure to bite into the delicious pizzas, cakes, salads and much more. The steal deal here is knowing that what's going inside you is completely organic and totally healthy.

This restaurant also organises cooking lessons for a group of five people or more. Do try the Millet Aloo Tikki and Dum Aloo.

5 Eatos Restaurant



 12-C, Nursery Scheme, Talwandi, Kota-5, Kota-Rajasthan 324004, India

 +91-93526-00405

Good ambience and great food makes Eatos Restaurant quite famous amongst foodies. Whether it's Mini Thali or paneer butter masala, everything listed on the menu is worth trying. Choose from the best of Chinese, Italian and Indian options available. You just can't leave this place without trying their pineapple cake and death by chocolate dessert. Also, don't miss out on their yummy butterscotch and chocolate donuts.