

## Chapter

# 10

## Important Tourist Places of Rajasthan

---

Tourism has emerged as one of the largest industries in the world today. Rajasthan is a rich State in terms of tourist places, which attract millions of tourists every year. Statistics show that every third tourist visiting India comes to Rajasthan. The Department of Tourism, in Rajasthan was established in 1956 and was given the status of an industry in 1989.

Today every country wants to earn foreign exchange from tourism and therefore is developing and promoting the tourism industry. Rajasthan government is also making efforts in this direction. The division of Rajasthan in ten tourist circles is one such step forward. Here we will study some important tourist places of Rajasthan.

### Ajmer

#### Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra

The building called 'Adhai Din ka Jhonpra' was originally a Sanskrit college built by Vigraharaja IV, but later it was converted into a mosque by Sultan Mohammad Gauri's commander Aibak. This building, a sample of Hindu and Islamic architecture was further embellished by Sultan Iltutmish. The reason behind its name is related to a legend that it took two and a half days to convert this building from a temple to a mosque. Hence its name became 'Adhai din ka jhonpra'. Another legend has it that during the Maratha period, Punjab Shah Baba's Urs of two and a half days was organised here, hence the name, 'Adhai Din ka Jhonpra'.

#### Dargah of Khwaja Saheb

In Ajmer, the greatest number of domestic and foreign tourists come to the Dargah of Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti to make a wish and offer 'chaadar' when the wish is fulfilled. Khwaja Saheb commands great respect among people of all religions. The Dargah has three main Gates. The main gate called 'Nizam Darwaza'

was built by the Nawab of Hyderabad. The 'Shahjahani Darwaza' was built by the Mughal emperor Shahjahan and the 'Buland Darwaza' was built by Sultan Mahmud Khilji. During the Urs, after the ceremony of flag-hoisting at the Dargah, food is cooked in a Badi deg, a huge frying pan (kadhav) of copper in which 4800 kg of food is cooked and the Choti deg in which 2240 kg of food is cooked, which is distributed as prasad among the devotees. Devotees also pay and get the food cooked in these degs after their wishes are fulfilled and distribute it. The most surprising thing is that only vegetarian food is cooked here.

### **Anasagar lake**

It is an artificial lake built by Ajayraj Chauhan, son of King Ajay Pal Chauhan. He was also called Anna ji hence the name Ana Sagar lake. Daulat Bagh near it was built by the Mughal emperor Jahangir and five Baradaris (pavilions) were built by Shah Jahan. Beautiful Baradaris made of marble are surrounded by green trees. Tourists come here to relax and for mental peace.

### **Mayo College**

It used to be a boarding school for the children of Indian royalty. During days of the British Raj, Mayo College was established by Richard Bourke in 1875 AD. The architecture of this building is an incomparable example of Indo-Saracenic (Indian and Arabic) style. This building made of marble is very attractive.

### **Soniji Ki Nasiyan**

This Jain temple built in the 19th century is one of the rich temples of India. Its main hall has been named the Golden City. Its entrance gate is made of red stone and has marble walls built inside, on which wooden images and paintings of Jain Tirthankaras with pure gold foils have been made.

### **Brahma Temple**

The only Brahma temple in the entire world is located in Pushkar. Brahma's four-faced statue is installed in the sanctum sanctorum of the temple made of marble, embedded with silver coins with a red shikhara and the image of a swan (Brahmaji's vehicle). The marble statue of the Sun God stands like sentinel in this temple. The specialty of this idol is that the Sun God is seen wearing shoes.

### **Savitri Temple**

On the high hill behind the Brahma temple is the temple of Savitri, who was the first wife of Brahmaji. There is a staircase to reach the temple. From the top, the lake, the temple and the sand dunes look beautiful. Legend has it that Lord Brahma married Gayatri as his second wife to perform his yajna in Pushkar. Angered by this,

the first wife Savitri cursed him, as a result of which there is only one temple of Lord Brahma in the whole world – in Pushkar. Now the ropeway facility is also available at the Savitri Temple.

### **Pushkar lake**

Pushkar lake, popularly known as Tirtharaj, is called the king of all pilgrimage sites. It is believed that a dip in this lake completes a pilgrimage. In a semi-circular form, about 9 to 10 meters deep, this lake is surrounded by more than 500 temples and 52 ghats.

## **Alwar**

### **Sariska Tiger Reserve**

Sariska was granted the sanctuary status on November 1, 1955. Subsequently, in 1978-1979, it was given the status of a Tiger Reserve. Its forest area is spread in around 1213 sq. kms. Apart from tiger, species of various animals and birds such as nilgai, fox, wild boar, rabbit, leopard, chital, sambar, monkey are also found here. Among the birds, forest babbler, nightingale, quail, crested serpent eagle, red spurfowl, sandgrouse, woodpecker etc. are found here.

### **Bhangarh**

Bhangarh is located 50 kms from the Sariska wildlife sanctuary. It was constructed by Madhav Singh, son of Maharaja Bhagwan Das of Amer, as his first city. After the desertion of Bhangarh over time, many stories came to be spun around the abandoned place. Bhangarh has the distinction of being the most mysterious place in India. Even today, a seven-storeyed palace, well-organized market, shops, Someshwar Mahadev temple, Ganesh temple and a pond can be seen in the ruins of this fort.

### **Cenotaph of Musi Maharani**

The architecture of cenotaph built by Maharaja Vinay Singh in memory of the queen of Maharaja Bakhtawar Singh, Musi Rani is a fusion of Indian and Islamic styles. This cenotaph made of white marble has 12 large and 27 other pillars. The interior part of this has the images of Lord Shri Krishna, Shri Ramchandra, Lakshmiji and Sitamata. Surrounded by the Aravalli hills and built near the City palace, Sagar Lake and the temple, these cenotaphs look stunning. This cenotaph also contains illustrations related to the life of Maharaja Bakhtawar Singh.

### **Bhartrihari Temple**

King Bhartrihari was a recluse rural of Alwar. The last times of his life were spent here. Maharaja Jai Singh gave a new look to the temple of Bhartrihari in 1924

AD. A flame always remains perpetually lit in the temple. The main fair is held here on the Bhadrapada Shukla Ashtami in which a large number of devotees come to worship Baba Bhartrihari. Hanuman temple, Shiva temple and Shri Ram temple are also located nearby.

### **Siliserh Lake**

Amidst the mountains, at the western end of the Aravalis lies the famous Siliserh lake. This lake is 15 kilometres from Alwar on its way to Sariska. It was built by Maharaja Vinay Singh in 1845 as Siliserh dam. The lake was built by stopping a branch of the local river 'Ruparel'. Shining like a pearl, Siliserh Lake Palace can be seen amidst the green valleys on the banks of this lake, which is now a heritage hotel run by the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation. Facilities of boating and bird watching are also available for tourists in the Siliserh lake. In winters, birds of different species, ducks swimming in the water and crocodiles are the tourist attractions.

## **Banswara (City of Golden Islands)**

### **Mahi Dam**

It is the largest dam in the division at a distance of 18 kms from Banswara on the Mahi river, which has 16 gates and the total length of the dam is 3.1 kms. In the rainy season, when it is full, the view generated by opening of all the gates is unique and beautiful. Tourists wait all year to see this. There is an immense potential of water sports here.

### **Tripura Sundari**

Tripura Sundari is an ancient temple situated in Umrai village near Talwara, 19 kms on Banswara-Dungarpur road. There is a Shiva linga in the northern part of the temple, dating back to the time of Emperor Kanishka. It is said that this place has retained its preeminence since Pre-Kanishka period. There is a huge divine statue of Shakti holding the divine Ayudh with eighteen arms riding a lion made from black stone known as Shaktipeeth. The locals call it Tartai Mata, Tripura Mahalakshmi. The inscription near the temple is of 1540 Vikram Samvat. Famous in the country and abroad, Shaktipeeth Maa Tripura Sundari is a major religious tourist place. Thousands of devotees come here during the Navratri in the months of Chaitra and Ashwin.

### **Mangarh Dham**

Mangarh Dham, popularly known as Jallianwala Bagh of Rajasthan, is located on a hill of Rajasthan-Gujarat border near Anandpuri, 85 kms from Banswara. This place is regarded to be the workplace of the great saint Govind Guru, who was the

leader of the freedom movement in the tribal region. According to a historical belief, during a meeting organized under the leadership of Govind Guru on 17th November 1913 on the hill of Mangarh, the British brutally killed 1500 patriotic tribesmen by firing bullets on the people who were demanding freedom from the British rule.

A fair is organized every year on Margashirsha Purnima at Mangarh Dham which attracts thousands of devotees from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. It is currently being developed as a National Martyr Memorial.

### **Abdullah Pir**

This is a popular tomb of Bohra Muslim saint Abdul Rasul. Located in the southern part of the city, this dargah is known as Abdullah Pir. Every year a large number of people, especially from Bohra community come to join the Urs of Dargah.

## **Baran**

### **Sitabari**

This temple, dedicated to Sita Mata and Lakshmana, is 45 kms away from Baran and it is believed that Lord Ram and Sita's two sons Luv and Kush were born here. It also has many ponds (kundas) –Valmiki kund, Sita kund, Laxman kund, Surya kund etc. The famous 'Sitabari fair' is also organized here. It is also famous as a picnic spot.

### **Shergarh fort**

At a distance of about 65 kms from Baran, situated on the banks of the Parvan river is the Shergarh fort which is one of the most popular tourist attractions. This monument was of strategic importance to the rulers. After remaining under the rule of various dynasties for many years Shergarh got its name from Shershah after it was captured by him. Its original name was Koshavardhan.

### **Ramgarh Bhand Devra Temple**

40 kms from the city, this temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is considered to be an ancient temple of the 10th century. Its architectural style resembles the Khajuraho style, that is why it is also called 'Mini Khajuraho' of Rajasthan. Nestling on the banks of a small pond, this temple is unique from other temples. Here, sweets and dry fruits are offered to one deity and meat and alcohol is offered to the other.

## **Barmer**

### **Temples of Kiradu**

Shining like red ruby, these beautiful temples are located about 35 kms away from the town in the Thar desert. These temples are distinguished by the intricately

carved pillars and stone carvings embossed in the Solanki architectural style. These temples have been dedicated to Lord Shiva. It is worth mentioning here that some idols are in place and some lie scattered here and there in the sand dunes. There are five temples here of which 'Someshwar Mahadev' temple is artistically superior.

### **Shree Nakodaji Jain Temple**

This grand Jain temple has endured many attacks. Alam Shah attacked this temple in the 13th century and looted it but luckily could not take the statue of the god with him. The villagers, realizing that the attack would happen, hid this idol in the village. After peace was established, the statue was brought back to the temple and restored in the 15th century. Although this temple, built in the third century, has been rebuilt many times. The largest temple here is that of Parshvanatha.

### **Rani Bhatiyani Temple**

Rani Bhatiyani, popularly known as Bua Sa, is a Hindu goddess who is revered in western Rajasthan and Sindh, Pakistan. The temple of Rani Bhatiyani, located in Jasol village of Barmer is the centre of faith of the Dholi caste. This queen was the princess of Jogidas village in Jaisalmer and was Bhati Rajput. She came to Barmer after marrying the Rathore king, but out of jealousy, the elder queen of Rathore killed her and her son Lal Singh by poisoning them.

## **Bharatpur**

### **Keoladeo Ghana National Park**

Far from noise, with dense trees and ponds, this place is a paradise for birds. It was declared a Protected Bird Sanctuary in 1971 and also a World Heritage Site in 1985. Thousands of rare migratory birds come here every winter season, make their nests, breed and go back to their country at the beginning of summer. Birds of about 230 species can be seen here. Ghana Bird Sanctuary was constructed in the mid-18th century as a small reservoir to the southeast of Bharatpur. Today, it has the distinction of being the most spectacular and attractive bird sanctuary in the world. Birds of different species like Indian cranes, Siberian cranes, water fowls, Chinese hens, herons, painted storks, cormorants, knob-billed ducks, white spoonbills, sandpipers etc. come here.

### **Lohagarh Fort**

True to its name, this fort repulsed many British attacks. Bharatpur remains the only erstwhile State of Rajasthan which had faced the British. The fort was finally captured by the British military officer Lord Combermere in 1826. Its strong gates are made of ashtadhatu and wood. It is surrounded by a deep moat. Some of the

monuments inside the fort are Kothi Khas, Mahal Khas and Kishori Mahal. Out of the eight huge towers of the fort, Jawahar Burj was built as a monument to Maharaja Jawahar Singh's victory over the Mughals (1765) and Fateh Burj was built as a monument to victory over Britishers (1806).

### **Band Baretha**

It is an old wildlife sanctuary of the rulers of Bharatpur where only royal families used to come for hunting. Currently it is under the Forest Department. Maharaja Jaswant Singh started the construction of a dam here in 1866 and it was completed by Maharaja Ram Singh in 1897. The 'Shahi Mahal' near this dam was built by Maharaja Kishan Singh, which is now the personal property of the Bharatpur royal family. Apart from four legged animals in Band Baretha, more than 200 species of birds are also found here.

### **Ganga Mandir**

The popular temple of Bharatpur is a beautiful blend of Rajput, Mughal and Dravidian architectural styles. The construction of this temple was started by Maharaja Balwant Singh in 1845 and the construction work continued for 90 years. Maharaja Brijendra Singh installed the idol of Goddess Ganga in this temple. It is believed that all the employees and rich people of the state donated one month's salary for its construction. The main attractions here are the idols of Lord Krishna, Lakshminarayana and Shiva Parvati. A large number of people visit here on the occasion of Ganga Dussehra on Ganga Saptami.

## **Bhilwara (Textile city)**

### **Menal Waterfalls**

On National Highway 27 on Kota Road, 80 kms from Bhilwara, Menal attracts thousands of tourists due to its supernatural scenic splendour. The waterfall of Menal, surrounded by forests, attracts foreign tourists also. Its water falling into a 150 feet deep valley makes a loud sound leaving the spectators spellbound. There is a very beautiful and magnificent temple of Shiva in Menal.

### **Mandalgarh**

Situated 54 kms from Bhilwara, this place has historical significance as it has witnessed many battles during the medieval period. Before the battle of Haldighati, Mughal General Man Singh had camped here. The fort, about half a mile long, on the crest of the hill, has the protection of strong walls and a ditch. There are two temples in the fort, one of which is dedicated to Lord Shiva and the other is dedicated to Lord Krishna.

## **Shahpura**

Shahpura town is 55 kms from Bhilwara. Surrounded by a four-gate wall, it is a place of pilgrimage established in 1804 for followers of the Ramsnehi sect. Pilgrims from all over the country come here throughout the year. The annual fair known as Phuldol fair is held for five days in Phalgun Shukla (March-April). There is a huge palace complex in the northern part of Shahpura which is beautified by balconies, minarets and chhataris. The scenic view of the lake and the city can be seen from its upper reaches. The famous freedom fighters Kesari Singh, Zorawar Singh and Pratap Singh Barhat belonged to Shahpura. Trimurti Memorial, haveli of Barhatji (which has now been converted into a State museum) and Piwaniya pond are other important attractions here. Shahpura is also known for traditional phad painting.

## **Bundi (City of Pools and Stepwells)**

### **Taragarh Fort**

Built by Raja Bar Singh in 1354 AD, this fort, in Rajput style, is the most attractive place of Bundi. This fort and the palace are built on a high hill and unfortunately are in a dilapidated state. Its beauty can be gauged from the beauty of its temples, pillars, cenotaphs with top mandapas, curved roof decorated in the form of elephant and lotus.

### **Eighty-Four Pillared Cenotaph**

Cenotaph built by Maharaja Aniruddh Singh of Bundi, in memory of his foster-mother's son Deva rests on eighty-four pillars. It is an impressive and beautiful structure that tourists love because of its artistic carvings featuring deer, elephants and nymfs.

### **Chitra Mahal**

The 'Chitra Mahal' in Bundi was once a palace full of magnificent gardens, with various artistic fountains and many pools that housed various species of exotic fish. This palace is named 'Chitra Mahal' because it has all the walls and roofs decorated with very beautiful and attractive paintings. In the olden days, during 18th century, Bundi city was home to artists who made miniature paintings and the kings here used to promote miniature paintings very much. Ranging from gods and goddesses, battle scenes, pictures of elephants and various images of Radha Krishna these paintings depict a special delicacy that is seen only in the art of this region. There is another 'Chitrashala' in the Chitra Mahal which was built on the orders from Maharaja Umaid Singh. This Chitrashala is situated in the innermost part of the palace and therefore, the paintings here have not yet been affected by the sunlight and the moisture and the brightness and colour used by the artists are also intact.



### **Raniji ki Baori**

Queen stepwell, Raniji ki Baori was built in 1699 by the younger queen, Nathavatiji, of the ruler of Bundi, Rao Raja Aniruddh Singh. The main gate of this stepwell catches attention. At the archway of the multi-storey stepwell is the exquisite carving of Gajaraj (elephant king) whose trunk is turned inward, giving the impression that the elephant is drinking water from the stepwell.

## **Chittorgarh**

### **Chittorgarh Fort**

This fort of the Sisodia Rajputs is situated on the banks of river Gambhiri and Bedach. There is a dispute regarding the historical date of its construction. According to a Puranic tale, it was constructed in the Puranic period by Bhima, one of the Pandava brothers of the epic Mahabharata. There are many grand monuments in the fort, some of which are getting dilapidated with time.

### **Vijaya Stambh**

Its construction was started in 1440 AD by Maharana Kumbha to commemorate and perpetuate his victory on the Muslim ruler of Malwa, which was completed in 8 years. A stunning specimen of craft, Vijay Stambh is a 9-storied pillar made of red sandstone and white marble. It has elaborately decorated idols of Hindu deities. It has a narrow staircase leading to the top and panoramic view of the entire city is available from the balconies.

### **Kirti Stambh**

This huge pillar is dedicated to Jain Tirthankara and great educationist Adinathji. It was built in the 13th century by a wealthy Jain merchant, Jeeja Bhagherwala and his son Punya Singh. This 24.5-metre-high pillar, built in Hindu architectural style, is older than the Vijay Stambh. Hundreds of miniature sculptures of Jain Tirthankaras have been carved on this 6-storeyed pillar.

### **Bhainsrodgarh Fort**

On a 200-foot-high flat hilltop, this magnificent fort is surrounded by the rivers Chambal and Bamani. Overwhelmed by the beauty of this fort, British historian James Tod said that if he was offered a Jagir in Rajasthan, he would choose Bhainsrodgarh. Due to lack of accurate information, nothing can be said clearly regarding the construction of this fort. It is although believed that this fort was built in the second century. After remaining under many dynasties, it is believed that Alauddin Khilji also attacked this fort and destroyed all the old temples and buildings here. The fort is currently being operated by the royal family as a

magnificent heritage hotel. Surrounded by rivers on three sides and located amidst the beauty of Aravali mountain range and the dense forests, the beauty of this fort attracts Indian and foreign tourists very much.

## **Dausa**

### **Chand Baori-Abhaneri**

Established by Raja Chandra on Jaipur-Agra road, Chand Baori of Abhaneri is the main attraction of Dausa district. Its real name was 'Abha Nagri', but in common parlance, it became Abhaneri. The 'Abhaneri festival' is organized by the Tourism Department here in September-October every year. It is organised for 2 days and Rajasthani cuisine is offered and folk songs and dances are performed by artists to entertain the tourists.

### **Harshad Mata Temple-Abhaneri**

Located in the Chand Baori campus, 33 kms from Dausa, this temple is dedicated to Harshad Mata. It is believed that Harshad Mata, the goddess of joy always seems cheerful and blesses the devotees to be happy.

## **Dholpur**

### **Van Vihar Sanctuary**

This sanctuary was built in an area of 24 square kms to entertain the rulers of Dholpur. This sanctuary is a centre of attraction for the tourists and especially for nature lovers. It is a repository of various flora and fauna such as sambhar, chital, nilgai, wild boar, bear, hyena and leopard.

### **Machkund**

This ancient and sacred site was named after King Machkund, the 24th ruler of the Suryavanshi dynasty. At a distance of about 4 kms from the city, this site was reigned by King Machkund, nineteen generations before Lord Rama. According to ancient religious literature, King Machkund, was once sleeping when a demon Kalyaman suddenly woke him up. As the demon touched King Machkund, he was burnt to ashes because of a divine blessing to King Machkund. For this reason, it is considered an ancient holy place of pilgrimage.

### **Talab-e-Shahi**

In 1617, this lake famous as Talab-e-Shahi was built as a hunting ground for prince Shahjahan. 27 kms from Dholpur and 5 kms from Bari, this lake is one of the beautiful lakes of Rajasthan. Many types of migratory birds like pintail, red-crested pochard, duck and pigeon come here to build their nests during winter season.

## **Dungarpur**

### **Beneshwar Temple**

After taking a dip in the rivers Som and Mahi, devotees come here to pay obeisance to Lord Shiva in the Beneshwar temple. The most revered Shivalinga of this region is located in the Beneshwar temple. Situated on the banks of Som and Mahi, this five feet self-created Shivalinga is divided into five parts. The Vishnu temple located near Beneshwar temple was built in 1793 by Janakunwari, daughter of Mavji, a highly revered saint who is believed to be an incarnation of Vishnu. The temple is said to have been built at the place where Mavji spent his time praying to god. Aje and Vaje, Mavji's two disciples, built the Lakshmi Narayan temple. Apart from these temples, there is also a temple of Lord Brahma. On Magh Shukla Purnima (February) a huge fair is held here at the confluence of Som and Mahi rivers, where people and tribesmen from far away villages and cities come to take holy bath and worship in the temple.

Galiakot 'Galiakot Dargah' is a sacred place for Dawoodi Bohra community. Galiakot is a village situated on the banks of Mahi River, 58 kms from Dungarpur. This place is known for the tomb of Syed Fakhruddin. He was a famous saint who was buried in the village. The shrine is made from white marble and his teachings have been engraved with gold on the walls. The interior of the dome is decorated with beautiful gold foils, while the teachings of the Holy Quran are engraved in golden foils on the tomb.

### **Gaib Sagar Lake**

Due to the natural environment and being far away from the hullabaloo, a large number of birds live here. The delightful Gaib Sagar lake is a major attraction of Dungarpur. There is a temple complex of Shrinathji on its banks. This temple complex includes many beautiful temples with carvings and 'Vijay Rajrajeshwar' temple.

## **Hanumangarh**

### **Kalibangan**

The Harappan civilization flourished here on the banks of Saraswati river 4500 years ago. An important place for archaeologists, Kalibangan is a famous site for the discovery of the remains of the Harappan civilization. These remains belong to the Harappan and Pre-Harappan period of 2500 years BCE. Excavations at Kalibangan have unearthed Harappan seals, human skeletons, undeciphered script, copper bangles, pearls, coins, and toys made of terracotta and oysters. An Archaeological Museum was established here in 1983 for remains excavated from 1961-1969. There

are three galleries in the museum, one gallery dedicated to the Pre-Harappan period and the remaining two galleries dedicated to the artefacts of Harappan period.

### **Bhatner Fort**

Bhatner is a distortion of Bhatti Nagar and is famous as the guard of northern border. Bhatner fort or Hanumangarh Fort, considered one of the oldest forts in India, is situated on the banks of river Ghaggar. The importance of the district can be gauged from the fact that it is mentioned in Ain-i-Akbari. The fort was built about 1700 years ago by Bhupat, the son of Raja Bhati of Jaisalmer. Several brave rulers, including Timur and Prithviraj Chauhan, tried to capture the fort. No one was able to win this fort for centuries. Finally, in the year 1805, Raja Surat Singh of Bikaner defeated the Bhati kings and captured the fort.

## **Jaipur (Pink city)**

### **Hawa Mahal**

This palace, which looks like the crown of Lord Krishna from outside, is unique. Built in 1799 AD by Maharaja Sawai Pratap Singh, this palace is five storeyed and it was designed by an architect Lal Chand Ustad. Hawa Mahal, a symbol of the pink city, made of sandstone, is a blend of Rajasthani architecture and Mughal style. Its walls are only one and a half feet wide and there are 953 very beautiful small sized vents. The original purpose of making it was that the queens could sit inside this palace to watch the fairs, festivals and processions in the city. Hawa Mahal remains air-conditioned even in the summer season due to these vents.

### **Amer Fort**

Amer, the old capital of Kachhwahas, at a distance of 11 kms from Jaipur, is the main attraction of tourists for its fort and architecture. Amer Fort, situated on a high hill is included in UNESCO World Heritage List. It is a beautiful blend of Hindu and Mughal style. The palace of Amer was built by Raja Man Singh I in 1592 AD to fight and defend from the enemies. The interior of the Amer palace was done with red sandstone and marble. Etching, carving of precious stones, enamelling, mosaic work, large mirrors fitted here and there add to its grandeur.

### **Jantar-Mantar**

It is the largest of the five astronomical observatories built by Jaipur's founder Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. It is known as Jantar Mantar. It has been included in the World Heritage List by UNESCO. The complex machines built in the observatory measure time, movement of the sun and its orbits and give detailed information about the celestial bodies.

### **Jaigarh Fort**

The fort was built in 1726 CE by Maharaja Jai Singh II for protection of Amer. Due to the arsenal manufactured in it, the unique Armoury Museum, the foundry for making cannons and the world's largest cannon Jaibana, the fort is a centre of tourist attraction. For the tourists visiting Rajasthan Jaigarh Fort is a must visit spot. An interesting fact about the cannon Jaibana is that it was fired only once, it created a crater 35 kms away from the city. It is 31 feet 3 inches in length and weighs 50 tons. 100 kgs of gun powder was filled in its 8-meter-long barrel.

### **Nahargarh Fort**

The spectacular, amazing and mesmerizing view of Jaipur city from the Nahargarh Fort under the light of stars in the dark night, is a feast for the eyes. Looking at the light of the city it feels as if the stars have landed on the ground. Built in 1734 AD, during the reign of Maharaja Jai Singh, this fort appears to be the guard of the city. The Madhavendra Bhawan built in this fort was used as the residence of the Maharaja during the summer. With comfortable lobbies for the queens and group of chambers for king, decorated with plush doors, windows and frescoes, Nahargarh stands in pride with memories of the past. Recently a sculpture art gallery has also been built in the palace.

### **Albert Hall (Central Museum)**

The Prince of Wales laid its foundation stone in 1876 AD. It was named after the Albert Museum in London. It was designed by Sir Swinton Jacob and was built in Indo-Saracenic architectural style. The unprecedented and enchanting building of the Albert Hall at the centre of the Ramnivas Garden attracts tourists in all seasons. Apart from other collections, it has a large collection of miniature paintings of Kota, Bundi, Kishangarh and Udaipur style and Jaipur art school.

### **Galtaji**

Galtaji is an ancient pilgrimage centre in Jaipur. This was the place of penance of sage Galav. Taking a bath in the holy tank of Galtaji has a religious significance. Pilgrims come here for holy bath. This place has a temple, pavilion and a holy tank. Visitors coming to Galtaji first come at Ram Gopalji temple premises, which is called the 'monkey temple' by the locals. It got this name because of 'a large group of monkeys' found here. Beautiful scenes of greenery and jumping monkeys add to the pleasant atmosphere of the area. At the top of the hill is a small temple dedicated to the Sun God, which is called the Sun Temple. This temple, built by Diwan Kriparam is a revered by the people of city.

### **Isarlat (Sargasuli)**

Isarlat, a 60-foot-high tower in the middle of the city is also known as 'passage

to heaven' or Sargasuli. Raja Ishwari Singh built this tower in 1749 AD to commemorate a grand victory. Situated near Tripolia Gate, this tower has a staircase inside leading to the top from where a panoramic view of the Jaipur city can be seen.

### **Govind Devji Temple**

The idol of Shri Govind Devji was brought by Sawai Jai Singh from Vrindavan to Jaipur, which was installed here with reverence in Shri Govind Devji temple, located in the walled city. Govind Devji, venerated by the royal family and the local people, has a proper system in place for the darshan through seven tableaux.

## **Jaisalmer (City of Forts and Havelis)**

### **Jaisalmer Fort**

This fort is a World Heritage Site. Standing on the Trikuta hill of the Thar desert, the fort stood witness to many historical battles. When sunlight falls on this fort, it shines like gold because it is made of yellow sandstone. That is why it is called 'Sonar fort' or 'Golden fort'.

### **Desert National Park**

This park is the most important habitat of the diverse wildlife of the Thar desert. There are various species of animals such as black buck, chinkara and desert fox in the Park. Critically endangered great Indian bustard, one of the world's largest flying birds can also be seen here. This national park is located 40 kms from Jaisalmer.

### **Patwon Ki Haveli**

Inside this haveli there are five havelis which were built by Guman Chand Patwa for his five sons in 1805 CE. It took 50 years to complete it. The largest and most beautifully carved haveli in Jaisalmer, this five-story structure stands proudly in a narrow street. Although the haveli has now lost its grandeur, some paintings and glass work can still be seen on the inner walls.

### **Tanot Mata Temple**

Bhati Rajput king Tanu Rao (Tannuji) built this temple and established the idol of Tanot Mata in 828 Vikram Samvat. People from the nearby villages, and the BSF jawans offer prayers here. The Temple is about 120 kms from Jaisalmer. Tanot Mata is worshipped as an incarnation of the Goddess Hinglaj.

### **Ramdevra Temple**

Ramdevra temple is a sacred place of Runicha Baba Ramdev and Ramsa pir. He is worshipped by people of all religions. Ramdevji is a folk deity of Rajasthan. His

image looks like a king riding a horse. He is a symbol of Hindu-Muslim unity. Ramsa Pir is one amongst the five revered pirs of Rajasthan. Ramdevra temple is located on Jodhpur-Jaisalmer Road, 12 kms from Pokaran. Most of the people believe that this temple is dedicated to Lord Rama but in fact it is dedicated to the famous saint Baba Ramdev. This temple is believed to be the final resting place of Baba Ramdev. People of all religions visit the place. A big popular fair called Ramdevra fair is organized here in Bhadrapada which is attended by a large number of devotees who sing devotional songs all night.

### **Bada Bagh**

It is a huge garden that holds the memories of Bhati kings. Bada Bagh is located 6 kms north of Jaisalmer which is also known as 'Barbagh'. This garden houses the royal cenotaphs of former Maharajas of the Jaisalmer state. The location of the garden is such that the tourists get a wonderful view of the sunset. A dam was built here by Maharaja Jai Singh II (1688-1743) of Jaisalmer, which helped a large part of Jaisalmer flourish. After his death, his son Lunkaran built his father's cenotaph here in 1743 AD. After that, cenotaphs of other kings were also built here.

## **Jalore (City of Granite)**

### **Jalore Fort**

There is not much of decoration to be seen in the forts and palaces here. The most powerful ruler here was Kanhadadeva, who defeated Alauddin Khilji, Sultan of Delhi, many times. Khilji tried in many ways to take revenge against Kanhadadeva, but in the end he became an admirer of Kanhadadeva and his son Viramadeva's bravery. The main attraction of the city is the fort of Jalore. It is a great symbol of architecture and is believed to have been constructed between the eighth and the tenth centuries. The fort is situated on a steep hill at an altitude of about 336 metres and offers a panoramic view of the city below. The main features of the fort are its high walls and battlements.

### **Sundha Mata temple**

Sundha mata temple is situated atop the Sundha mountains in the Aravali ranges. This temple is built at an altitude of 1220 metres above sea level and is considered very sacred by the devotees from all over India. There is an idol of Chamunda Devi here. The white marble pillars of the temple remind one of Dilwara temples of Mount Abu. There are quite a few inscriptions of historical importance on the temple.

### **The Mosque of Malik Shah**

Alauddin Khilji, during his rule in Jalore built this mosque in the honour of

Malik Shah, the Sultan of Baghdad. This mosque is famous for its unique architecture. Its structure is strongly influenced by the buildings of Gujarat.

## **Jhalawar**

### **Gagron Fort**

When the ruler of this place, Achaldas Khinchi was defeated by Hoshang Shah, the ruler of Malwa, Rajput women performed 'Jauhar' to protect themselves from the enemies. Gagron fort, an example of hill and water fort, is the pride of Rajasthan, and is one of the six hill forts of UNESCO World Heritage Site list. Surrounded by the rivers Ahu and Kali Sindh, one is forced only to admire the grand beauty of this fort. An annual fair is organized in the month of Moharram at the tomb of 'Sufi saint Mittheshah' outside the fort. Gagron fort was built by Bijaldev in the 12th century. Tourists come here to see the fort and confluence of three rivers.

### **Bhawani Natyashala**

Built in 1921 AD this theatre is a mute witness to many memorable plays and cultural programmes. It is believed that there are only eight such theatres in the whole world. Plays written by Shakespeare were played here. Foreign tourists are very interested in seeing it. This theatre is an excellent example of architecture in theatre and art world. A unique feature of this is an underground passage for the entry of horses and chariots.

### **Sun Temple**

The twin city of Jhalawar is Jhalrapatan, which is also known as the City of Bells. Due to a large number of temples here, the sound of bells is heard all around in the morning and evening. Built in the 10th century, the 17-feet-high Sun temple, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is one of the most beautiful temples in Jhalrapatan. The shikhara of this temple is similar to that of the Konark Sun temple of Orissa, popularly known as Padmanabha or Sun Temple. Tourists are greatly impressed on seeing the life-size idols here.

### **Buddhist Caves and Stupas**

The most famous in Jhalawar are the ancient Buddhist caves of the Kolvi village. The most impressive and majestic is the huge statue of Buddha and a carved Stupa in the caves. Located at a distance of about 90 kms from Jhalawar, they are considered to be the best living specimen of Indian art. Tourists can also visit the caves near Vinayaka and Hatiyagaur villages.



## **Shekhawati (Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Churu)**

### **Tal Chhapar Sanctuary**

In Tal Chhapar, frolicking fawns attract the attention of tourists. This sanctuary of the blackbucks is in Chhapar village of Sujangarh Tehsil, Churu, 210 kms from Jaipur. It is covered with open fields, large trees and vines. Along with deer and desert fox, wild cat can also be seen here. For the bird lovers, there are eagles, ibises, sarus cranes, the birds coming from Southern Europe and Central Asia, cranes, ruddy shelducks, pigeons etc.

### **Mandawa**

In ancient times, Mandawa was a major centre on the trade route between the Middle East and China. Goods were bartered from here. Thakur Nawal Singh who ruled Nawalgarh and Mandawa, built a fort in Mandawa and a city around it. Many traders came and settled here, who laid the foundation of a unique and amazing havelis and made this city a place of tourist attraction. The mural paintings, glass work and attractive arched gate of this fort are graced with pictures of Lord Krishna.

### **Khetri Mahal**

Khetri Mahal of Jhunjhunu is one of the finest pieces of art and architecture. It is also known as Hawa Mahal of Jhunjhunu. This palace was built in 1770 AD. The amazing fact is that there are no balconies or gates in the Khetri Mahal and even then, it is known as Hawa Mahal. The uniqueness of Khetri Mahal lies in the arrangement of the buildings for a free and smooth flow of wind. In almost all the chambers of the palace, well-arranged pillars and arches are interconnected, giving the fort a spectacular and splendid appearance.

### **Shraddhanathji ka Ashram (Lakshamangarh)**

The ashram established by Shri Shraddhanathji, a saint of disciple-tradition of Amritnathji Maharaj, is located near the railway station of Lakshamangarh (Sikar). In this ashram, devotees can see the tableau of the dedicated life of Shraddhanathji. This ashram is a major centre of the Nath sect.

### **Dargah of Hazrat Kamaruddin Shah**

Situated to the west of Khetri Mahal, at the foothills of Nehra mountain is the openly arranged complex of dargah of Kamaruddin Shah. It houses a mosque and a madrasa (ancient murals can still be seen here). In the middle of these is the ornate dargah of Sufi saint Kamaruddin Shah.

### **Nawalgarh**

Nawalgarh, situated between Jhunjhunu and Sikar, is famous for its beautiful

havelis. Many Indian and foreign films have also been shot here. The attractive fort here was built by Thakur Nawal Singh. Located nearby is the Roop Niwas which is adorned with gardens and fountains.

### **Lakshamangarh Fort**

This fort is a model of glorious architecture in Lakshamangarh city. This is a unique example of architecture all over the world. It was made with the pieces of rocks scattered here. From its summit, a panoramic view of Lakshamangarh is visible.

### **Fatehpur**

The city of Fatehpur was founded by Kayamkhani Nawab Fateh Mohammed in 1508 AD. He built the fort of Fatehpur in 1516 AD. The city was also known as the capital of Sikar at one time. Today Fatehpur is popularly known as the cultural capital of Shekhawati. There are many places worth visiting here – among them, Dwarkadhish Temple, Singhania Haveli, Nadine Le Prince Cultural Centre and Fateh Chand's Haveli, are outstanding.

## **Jodhpur**

### **Mehrangarh Fort**

This fort is appreciated all over the world today. Its maintenance, richness, solidity and strength are incomparable. The impregnable Mehrangarh Fort stands on a 125-meter-high upright hill overlooking Jodhpur's skyline. This historic fort is one of the most popular forts in India. It has always remained alive in history and legends. The fort of Mehrangarh still bears testimony to a cannon attack on the second gate by the Jaipur forces. The fort is known for its exquisite arched balconies, carved panels, decorated gates and painted walls of Moti Mahal, Phool Mahal and Sheesh Mahal.

### **Jaswant Thada**

An attractive white marble monument built in the late 19th century is dedicated to Jaswant Singh II. It was built by his successor Sardar Singh. It is also known as the 'Taj Mahal of Rajasthan'.

### **Mandore**

The ancient name of the place was Mandavpur. It used to be the capital of the state of Marwar in olden times. According to a legend, it was the birth place of Ravana's wife Mandodari. Ravana's fair has been held here on the second day of Holi for centuries. Mandore lies north of Jodhpur. It has its own historical significance. The memorials and cenotaphs of former rulers of Jodhpur are erected

here. They are constructed in accordance to the structure of Hindu temples as compared to the traditional cenotaphs which are based on Rajasthan architecture.

### **Kaylana Lake**

The artificial lake Kaylana on Jaisalmer Road is a beautiful picnic spot. Looking like a canvas image, the delightful beauty of this lake is unforgettable. Boating facilities for the lake are also available through RTDC.

### **Machiya Safari Park**

The Machiya Safari Park is located about 1 km from the Kaylana lake on the Jaisalmer Road. It is a bird park. Many animals like deer, desert fox, giant lizard, nilgai, rabbit, wild cat, langur and monkey are also seen here. The park is also famous for its sunset scene.

### **Balsamand Lake**

Balsamand lake is located on Jodhpur Mandore Road, about 5 kms from Jodhpur. It was constructed in 1159 AD as a source of water for Mandore. Later, a summer palace was built on the banks of Balsamand lake. It is surrounded by lush green gardens. Animals and birds such as fox and peacock are also found here. This lake is now a popular picnic spot for tourists and locals alike.

## **Karauli**

### **Kaila Devi Temple**

About 25 kms on the outskirts of Karauli is the famous temple of Kaila devi, which is built on the banks of Kalisil river in the valley of mountain of Trikuta. It is believed that this temple, considered as one of the nine Shakti peethas of the goddess, was established in 1100 AD. Every year a large fair is organized at the Kaila Devi temple in Chaitra (March-April) month of Hindu calendar. There is also a temple of Hanumanji, which people here call by the name, 'Languria'.

### **Shree Mahaveerji Temple**

Built in the 19th century, the temple of Shri Mahaveerji, a Jain pilgrimage site is an unmatched structure of architecture. A fair is organized here every year from Chaitra Shukla Trayodashi to Vaishakh Krishna Pratipada (March-April), which attracts thousands of Jain devotees.

### **Mehandipur Balaji Temple**

Balaji, that is Hanumanji's temple in Mehandipur, a village in Karauli, is widely known. It is believed that most of the mentally challenged and sick people who are brought here get cured by the blessings of Balaji.

## **Kota**

### **Kota Barrage**

Kota Barrage is one of the most important water storage sites built on the Chambal river in the state of Rajasthan. In the rainy season, tourists are eager to see the enchanting view of the fast-flowing water stream through its large gates. Lord Shiva's Kansua Temple near the barrage is a scenic spot where a rare four-headed Shivalinga is installed.

### **Mukundara Hills Tiger Reserve**

This tiger reserve can be seen while travelling on the Rawatbhata road, about 50 kms from Kota via Seljhar, Kolipura, Girdharpura upto village Darra and 50 kms from Kota on Jhalawar road from Darra village to Kolipura, Seljjhar. This sanctuary is a dense forest area. Panthers, bears, deer, wild boars, foxes, jackals and a large number of native and migratory birds can be seen here.

### **Jagmandir Palace**

The artificial reservoir of Kishore Sagar and Jag Mandir were built between 1743-45 AD by the queen of Maharao Durjanshal Singh, and princess of Udaipur, Braj Kanwar. Kishore Sagar is located in the middle of the Kota city. The facility of power motor boat and jet ski for tourists and water sports like water zorbing ball and banana boat for children is available here. In addition, Laser film and sound show is organized here in the evening. This place is the main tourist destination of Kota.

### **Abheda Mahal**

The Abheda Mahal was built in the 18th century. This Mahal was constructed as a rest house at a distance of 8 kms from Kota, in which an artificial water reservoir was constructed by princess Dheerdeh, so that more and more wild animals and birds come to quench their thirst here. During the reign of Maharao Umaid Singh II, various species of crocodiles were reared in this reservoir and Abheda's pond was famous for this.

## **Nagaur**

### **Ladnun**

Cotton sarees made in Ladnun are considered to be of the finest quality across India and are preferred for their bright colours and soft fabric. Ladnun, an important centre of Jainism and a spiritual centre of non-violence and compassion, was established in the 10th century. It has a rich history of its own. Jain Vishwa Bharati University is also a renowned centre of education, symbolizing Jainism, spirituality and power. The world-famous saint Acharya Shri Tulsi belonged to Ladnun.

### **Bade Peer Saheb Dargah**

The dargah of Bade Peer Saheb of Nagaur, a well-known holy place was also opened for viewing as a museum on 17 April 2008. The most famous and popular object here is the 'Quran Sharif' which was written with golden ink by Hazrat Syed Saifuddin Abdul Jilani. Also important are his stick and turban. Here the visitors can see old Indian coins of 1805 AD and American coins with the image of Abraham Lincoln.

### **Jhorda**

Jhorda is a small village located in Nagaur Tehsil. Being the birthplace of famous saint Baba Hariram, it is quite famous. About 1-2 lakh devotees visit each year on Chaturthi and Panchami of the Hindu month Bhadrapada. People from Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh come here. Objects related to the life of saint are also kept here.

## **Pali**

### **Jain Temples of Ranakpur**

Surrounded by valleys amidst natural beauty, this magnificent group of temples is a major pilgrimage site for the Jain community. Shining like diamonds and finely sculpted these temples are unique, amazing and unparalleled. Ranakpur Jain temples, dedicated to Adinath were built in the 15th century, after a Jain merchant had a divine vision. The ruler of the state, Rana Kumbha, encouraged the construction of these temples. It is noteworthy that this is a complex of many temples and not just one temple.

### **Jawai Dam**

The Jawai dam was built on Jawai, a tributary of the Luni river, by Maharaja Umaid Singh of Jodhpur. It is considered to be the largest dam in Western Rajasthan. In addition to being a primary source of water for the city of Jodhpur and surrounding villages, Jawai dam in winter is heaven for migratory birds, leopards and crocodiles.

## **Bikaner**

### **Deshnok – Karni Mata Temple**

This temple, famous for rats the world over, is in Deshnok village, 30 kms from Bikaner. It is popularly known as the 'Temple of Rats' among the tourists. According to a legend, Karni Mata's step-son Lakshman died by drowning in a pond. Karni Mata prayed to Yamaraj to revive him. Yamaraj first refused, but then agreed on the

condition that from that day onwards, all the descendants of Lakshman and Karni Mata would remain alive in the form of rats. Considering thousands of rats as sacred, devotees offer 'laddu' and big bowls of milk which the rats eat and drink. The idol of Karni Mata is installed in the sanctum sanctorum. The entrance to the Karni Mata temple is a beautiful structure made of white marble. Tourists come from far and wide to visit this temple. Newly married bride and groom come here to seek blessings of Karni Mata.

### **Rajasthan State Archive**

There is always a gathering of academicians and researchers here. The ancient administrative records preserved here belong even to the Mughal period, which include decrees in Arabic and Persian and handwritten texts which are preserved and secured in these archives. Records of orders issued and the works done during the reign of almost all the princely states of Rajasthan can also be found here. This archive of Bikaner is extraordinary and very important.

### **Junagarh Fort**

No enemy could ever win this fort. Built by Emperor Akbar's most eminent Subedar, Raja Rai Singh in 1589 AD, this fort has been a centre of attraction for tourists. It consists of magnificent palaces, courtyards, balconies, mandapas and windows made of red sandstone, stone and marble, amazing in their beauty and grandeur.

### **Lalgarh Palace and Museum**

Maharaja Ganga Singh built this magnificent palace in 1902 AD in the memory of his late father Maharaja Lal Singh. Its blueprint and design were prepared by an English architect, Sir Swinton Jacob. This palace has been constructed entirely of red sandstone. It is a fine synthesis of Rajput, Islamic and European architecture. Presently, it has been converted into a heritage hotel. A part of it is for residence of the royal family of Bikaner. In one part of this palace is Sri Sardul Museum.

### **Kolayat**

Important pilgrimage place for the Hindus where devotees from far and wide visit the temple every year. Kolayat is a sacred lake which is about 50 kms from Bikaner. The history of this place describes the details of Kapil muni, founder of the Samkhya School of philosophy, who was so overwhelmed by the peaceful atmosphere of this place that he stopped his journey to the north-west and did penance here to get rid of the cycle of birth and rebirth.

### **Katariasar**

The rural and cultural life of this village on Jaipur road is very rich. In

Katariasar, in the evenings, sand dunes awash in sunlight and create the impression as if gold is scattered all over the earth. Tourists come here in large numbers and get mesmerized by seeing the 'fire dance of the Jasnathjis' on sand dunes. Desert fox, rabbit, chinkara, peacock, and flocks of quail and partridge are seen here. Katariasar is a clean and prosperous village at a distance of 45 kms from Bikaner.

### **National Research Centre on Camels**

The only centre of its kind in Asia, where camels are maintained for research and breeding. Eight kms from the city, it is built on more than 2000 acres of land and is run by the Government of India.

## **Rajsamand**

### **Kumbhalgarh Fort**

Kumbhalgarh fort is the birthplace of the brave, powerful and famous warrior of Mewar, Rana Pratap. Situated about 84 kms north of Udaipur it is the second most important fort in the Mewar region after the fort of Chittorgarh. Kumbhalgarh was built by Rana Kumbha in the 15th century. It is situated in the lap of Aravali hills. It has played an important role in keeping Mewar safe and secure from the enemies. When Vanvir had killed Vikramaditya and captured the Chittorgarh fort, Maharana Udai Singh of Mewar got refuge in this fort during his early life. Being the birthplace of Maharana Pratap, people's feelings are attached to this fort. The fort of Kumbhalgarh offers an excellent panoramic view. The fort walls are so strong and so wide that eight horsemen can move on it side by side. It is spread over an area of about 36 kms. Maharana Fateh Singh renovated the fort in the 19th century.

### **Rajsamand Lake**

Rajsamand Lake was used as a seaplane base by Imperial Airways for nearly six years during World War II. This Lake is the result of one of the oldest relief works initiated in Rajasthan and about 40 lakh rupees were spent at that time to complete the work. The periphery of this lake is 22.5 square kms, the depth is 30 feet and the catchment area is about 524 square kms. Despite having such a wide extent, it tends to dry up during periods of severe drought, like in 2000.

### **Haldighati**

Haldighati, 40 kms from Udaipur is famous for the battle between Maharana Pratap of Mewar and Akbar. The soil of this valley is yellow-coloured like turmeric, therefore, the place got this name. Haldighati is situated in the Aravali hills memorial of the beloved horse of Pratap, Chetak, at Balicha near Haldighati.

## **Sawai Madhopur**

### **Ranthambore Fort**

This fort is inside the Ranthambore National Park area. There is a natural moat of mountains on three sides of the fort which make it strong and invincible. It is believed to have been constructed by the Chauhan king Ranthamanban Dev. Rana Sanga, injured in the Khanwa war, was brought to this fort for treatment. This remarkable fort of Ranthambore was built in the tenth-eleventh century by the Chauhan rulers. Situated at an ideal strategic location, it had been suitable for holding the enemy in the valley. When the fort was under siege by the Muslim invader Alauddin Khilji, this fort became witness to the historical incident of Jauhar by the ladies of the royal family. The temples, reservoirs, huge gates and strong walls are some important features of the fort that attract the tourists.

### **Sirohi**

#### **Guru Shikhar**

Guru Shikhar is the highest peak of the Aravali hills. What makes the visit to Guru Shikhar unique, apart from spiritual reasons, is to have a bird's eye view of Mount Abu from the highest point of Rajasthan, 1722 metres above sea level. Before climbing the Guru Shikhar, temple of Lord Dattatreya is there, for which it is believed that Lord Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh blessed a son Dattatreya, to sage Atri and his wife Anusuya. It is a pilgrimage site for the Vaishnava community.

#### **Dilwara Jain Temple**

Pilgrimage to Jain temples of Mount Abu is considered to be important all over the world. It appears austere from outside, but the temple astonishes tourists with unique architectural craft and very fine and intricate carvings. The fine workmanship of the artists is seen in its interiors. This temple was built from 12th-13th century and tourists are left stunned by remarkable craftsmanship on its ceilings, arches and pillars. The undefined beauty of the temples of Dilwara, green surroundings and the tranquil atmosphere is wonderful.

#### **Nakki Lake**

Nakki lake, located in the middle of Mount Abu, is the first man-made lake in India. Visit to Mount Abu is not considered complete without visiting this lake, which is about 80 feet deep and ¼ mile wide. One of the many legends associated with this lake is that it was dug by the gods with their nails and that is why it was named Nakki (Nakh meaning nails) lake. Some part of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes was immersed in this lake in 1948, after which Gandhi Ghat was constructed here. The



clean blue water, lush green valleys and beauty of the natural surroundings is like a dream for nature lovers and photographers.

## **Tonk**

### **Bisalpur Dam**

The Bisalpur dam, called the lifeline of Jaipur is a gravity dam built on the River Banas. It is near Deoli town of the Tonk district in Rajasthan. The construction of this dam was completed in 1999 AD and since then, this dam has become a very important source for supplying water to many areas of the state.

### **Sunehri Kothi**

The main attraction of Tonk is the 19th century Sunehri Kothi or Golden Mansion near Bada Kuan on Nazar Bagh Road. The building looks simple from its exterior, but the multi-coloured golden royal look is in harmony with its name. Sheesh Mahal or the room decorated with mirror glass in Sunehri Kothi looks stunning with brilliant enamel work on exquisite glass and floral embellishments. On March 7, 1996, Sunehri Kothi was declared an important historical monument by the Government of Rajasthan.

### **Diggi Kalyanji Temple**

Sri Diggi Kalyanji temple is one of the oldest revered Hindu temples. Shri Kalyanji is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. People from all over the country come here for liberation from their sufferings and for the blessings of the deity. Testifying to the craftsmanship of ancient times, this temple is situated at a distance of about 60 kms from Tonk. The grand shikhar (spire) of the temple is based on 16 pillars.

## **Sri Ganganagar**

### **Buddha Johad Gurudwara**

This gurudwara was built in 1954 AD under the supervision of Baba Fateh Singh. A fair is organized here on the new moon day of every month. It is said that under the inspiration of Jathedar Buddha Singh, unrighteous Massa Ranghar was beheaded and his head brought to this gurudwara. For this reason, this gurudwara is called as Buddha Johad.

### **Hindumalkot Border**

The Hindumalkot border in Ganganagar separates India and Pakistan. Named in honour of Diwan Hindumal of Bikaner and located near the border, it is a place of tourist attraction. This border is located 25 kms from Sri Ganganagar and is open to tourists daily between 10:00 am and 5:30 pm.

## Udaipur (City of lakes)

### Pichola Lake

The beauty of lake Pichola shines like gold in the redness of sun at sunset time in the evenings. The lake is named Pichola due to nearby Picholi village. Jag Niwas and Jag Mandir islands are located within this lake. On the eastern shore of the lake is the City palace. A boat ride in the lake at sunset and enchanting view of the lake and City palace attract tourists.

### Fatehsagar Lake

Situated north of Pichola, on the edges of mountains and forest resources, this beautiful lake is an artificial lake connected to Pichola by a canal. On the islands in the middle of lake are located the beautiful Nehru garden and Solar Observatory of Udaipur. It was previously called the Connaught dam because it was inaugurated by the Duke of Connaught.

### Saheliyon ki Bari

Saheliyon ki Bari is a popular tourist destination in Udaipur, which was built as a garden for the ladies by Maharana Sangram Singh II. Along with a small museum it has many attractions such as marble elephants, fountains, pavilions and lotus pool.

### Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal

Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal is a cultural institute of Udaipur dedicated to the culture, festivals, folk art and folk music of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Apart from the promotion of folk culture, it is also a museum which exhibits folk artefacts on various forms of Rajasthani culture.

### Nagada

Integrating a part of the history of sixth century, Nagda is situated at a distance of 22 kms from Udaipur. Nestled in the lap of Aravali hills, Nagda is famous for the intricately carved Sahastra Bahu temple, which is popularly known as the Saas Bahu temple among common people. Built in the ninth-tenth century, this temple has an incomparable architectural craft and amazing archway.

## **Exercise**

### **Multiple Choice Questions**

1. In which year was Mayo College established ?  
(a) 1874 CE                      (b) 1875 CE  
(c) 1876 CE                      (d) 1877 CE
2. Keoladeo Ghana National Park is located in which district ?  
(a) Bharatpur                      (b) Dholpur  
(c) Bundi                          (d) Sawai Madhopur
3. Overwhelmed by the beauty of which fort did British historian James Tod say that if he was offered a Jagir in Rajasthan, he would choose that fort?  
(a) Bhainsrorgarh                (b) Chittorgarh  
(c) Nahargarh                    (d) Taragarh
4. Who constructed Hawa Mahal?  
(a) Pratap Singh                (b) Jaisingh  
(c) Mansingh                      (d) Ishwari Singh
5. Where is the ashram of Shraddhanathji located ?  
(a) Sikar                            (b) Nagaur  
(c) Churu                          (d) Alwar

### **Very Short Answer Type Questions**

1. What is the importance of Mangarh Dham in the freedom struggle of Rajasthan?
2. Write the names of four important tourist places of Jaisalmer.
3. Where is National Camel Research Centre located?
4. What are the major attractions of Tal Chhapar sanctuary?
5. State the significance of Sitabari located in Baran.
6. When and where was Bhavani Natyashala built?

7. Match the following :

<b>Tourist Places</b>	<b>Location</b>
1. Nagda	Bikaner
2. Katariyasar	Jhunjhunu
3. Khetri Mahal	Jalore
4. Sundhamata	Udaipur

### **Short Answer Type Questions**

1. Describe the incident behind the naming of Gurudwara Buddha Johad.
2. Write a brief note on Sonji ki Nasiyan.
3. Describe the fort of Lakshmangarh from a tourist perspective.
4. Write a brief note on Fatehpur city.
5. Explain how Rajasthan State Archives is useful for researchers?
6. Write the religious significance of Jhorda (Nagaur).
7. Give reasons why Mandawa is attracting Indian film industry?

### **Essay Type Questions**

1. Describe in detail the major tourist places of Shekhawati region.
2. Write an article on five religious tourist places of Rajasthan.
3. Describe the characteristics of Jaipur city that make it the most loved city of foreign tourists.

### **Imagine :**

1. You are a resident of Bharatpur, which places in your state will you make your guests visit ?