

City Tour, Jodhpur, Rajasthan INDIA

JASWANT THADA



To the left of the Mehrangarh Fort complex is the Jaswant Thada of Jodhpur, Rajasthan. It is a 19th century royal cenotaph built in commemoration of Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, the 33rd Rathore ruler of Jodhpur. The son of Maharaja Jaswant Singh, Maharaja Sardar Singh, in the memory of his father, built the Jaswant Thada. The cenotaph has two more tombs within it. Near to this are the royal crematorium and three other cenotaphs. Famous Jaswant Thada in Jodhpur, India is an example of architectural brilliance in India. It is a white marble memorial, built out of intricately carved sheets of marble. The carving shows the genius of the sculptors. These stones are extremely thin and polished. As a result, the outside surface of the monument emits a warm glow when the sunrays fall on its surface. There is also beautiful marble jali work on the cenotaph. You can have some nice views from the terrace in front of the cenotaph. The cenotaph of Maharaja Jaswant Singh displays portraits of the rulers and Maharajas of Jodhpur. The main memorial has been built like a temple. To visit the Thada you have to go through the rocky hills. This also lends a mystic aura to the whole visit. Do make sure to visit this architectural delight while on a tour to Jodhpur, Rajasthan.

MEHRANGARH FORT



Mehrangarh Fort is one of the largest forts in India. It is also the most magnificent fort in Jodhpur, infact, in the whole Rajasthan. The fort is amongst the popular tourist places in India. It is situated on a 150 m high hill. It was founded by Rao Jodha in 1459. The Mehrangarh Fort can be reached from the city, 5 kms below, through a circular road. Seven gates have to be crossed to reach the fort. The gates still bear the marks of the various battles fought in the bygone era. Its second gate still stands witness to canon ball hits by attacking armies of Jaipur during wars. One of the gates is Jayapol, meaning victory. It was built by Maharaja Man Singh to commemorate his victories over Jaipur and Bikaner armies. Another gate, Fatehpol, again meaning victory, was built by Maharaja Ajit Singh as a celebration for defeating the Mughals. Other attractions of Mehrangarh Fort, Rajasthan include several palaces inside the fort, with their sprawling and huge courtyards. One of the fort's palaces, The Moti Mahal or the Pearl Palace, has the royal throne of Jodhpur, the Sringar Chowki. The fort also has galleries, temples, etc. To the left of the Mehrangarh Fort is the Chhatri of a soldier, Kirat Singh Soda. It is the spot where he fell while defending the fort against the armies of Amber. The Mehrangarh Fort, with its beauty, is the living proof of the hard work and skill of the Jodhpuri sculptures,

BLUE CITY



Blue city walks offer customized Heritage Walks around the 15th century old, historic town of Jodhpur through the beautiful temples, busy markets and famous blue havelis and houses. You can read history in books but you can only experience it while passing through the walls of the old city which is marked by the colors of history. You could be a curious traveller, an amateur photographer, history lover or culture explorer our walks will satisfy all your needs

Begin your walk on top of the 16th century old city wall of Jodhpur, stroll on the edges of two historic man-made lakes inside the city wall, built around the splendid Mehrangarh fort, pass through the narrow lanes of old blue city and see the havelis, town homes, local bazaar and gorgeous temples.

CLOCK TOWER



Sardar Market lays slap bang in the city centre. It has a beacon to signal its location, the imposing Clock Tower that was built by Maharaja Sardar Singh (1880-1911) from whom the market takes its name. In fact, the tower dominates the entire scenario. The sights and sounds of the market must be experienced, even if you don't intend to buy anything as it is a stupendous cornucopia of a mix of the human species, a spectacle where you can casually look around and see what generally transpires in a busy and noisy Indian market in a city on the run. Locals hawk virtually everything like bangles, imitation jewellery, fruit & veg, spices, pottery, baskets, clothes, etc. It's a 70 mm cinemascope with unknown and faceless humans in the lead roles for many tourists, most of whom are filming it live. It could well end up on YouTube! Sardar Market, Girdikot Narrow alleys suddenly dart into exotic bazaars selling anything from textiles, antiques, silverware to handicrafts. Each bye-lane has its own specialty. Bangles are very popular. The main entrance to Sardar Market is from the opposite side, coming up Nai Sadak, through a gate which named Girdikot (crowded gate). Nai Sadak has always been lined with sari and shoe shops. The range of items seen in this bazaar varies from its specialty, tie & dye textiles and hand embroidered leather shoes, to lacquer ware, genuine and 'just-made' antiques, carpets and rugs, quilts and blankets in winter, puppets dressed in typical Rajasthani styles to exquisite Rajasthani textiles, filigreed miniature beasts of burden, marble inlay work and old-age silver jewellery. It is a vivid example of 19th century town planning gone awry. The planners didn't expect India to cross all limits in birth rate and population! Obviously, the result is either amusing or annoying chaos, with tiny shops full of loud bargaining customers lining both sides of the narrow lanes. To say that the market displays a magnificent blend of modern architectural concepts with Rajput traditions would

be tinkering with facts. But then, it's a war down there and everything is fair in such a setting. A wide range of handicrafts will always be found in shops in markets like these. A variety of spices, vegetables and colourful Indian sweets are invariably available in shops that are very crowded. Rajasthani sweets are overly sweet, generally drenched in a sugary fluid and best avoided. Second-hand defence castaways, old books, old bags and other similar detritus will be spotted somewhere. This is one of oldest markets of Jodhpur. It is noisy, dirty yet colourful and may well have close to 7,000 match-box sized shops. Be prepared to muscle your way through the narrow lanes, with others brushing past you as this market is a shopper's delight. The exquisite bangles and beautiful scarves, lovely handmade bags and Jootis (slip on shoes with a pointed front) are a visual delight. Bargaining is expected, but don't try to hammer down prices as a lot of manual work goes into the making of these intricate items and objects. Remember that the tourist season in Jodhpur is just four months, and shopkeepers do depend on tourists for their living. If you look up, you will see a frightening number of electricity and phone lines in a tangled skein. This is a common sight in ALL Indian markets and nothing to worry about. Forget about them. The cloth market, just off the fruit and vegetable market, is a maze of passageways lined with small open shops stacked from floor to ceiling with brightly coloured cloth. The colours are really bright- reds, pinks and greens that really stand out. There is a reason for these colours, as they can be easily spotted in the desert. Sardar Bazaar is a typical Rajasthani or Gujarati market, with a bursting riot of sights, sounds and smells. Popular souvenirs include Bandhej sarees and fabric, Mojris or Jootis, among many others.

END OF THE TOUR