

# FAIRS & FESTIVALS

## Pushkar Fair

The famous **pushkar Fair** is a great attraction. People from around the globe come to the ancient religious town of Pushkar, which is transformed, into a spectacular fair ground in the month of Kartik. People bathe, worship and delight in the dazzling wares of roadside stalls. Camels are bought, sold, beautified, raced and parade. Most unusual are the small groups of men and women seen busy tattooing their hands and other parts of the body.



The fair is predominantly a rural gathering. Villagers come from different parts of the state and bring their cattle with them. On spectacular sand dunes camel, horse and bullock races are great crowd pullers. All roads lead to the lake, which is flooded with pilgrims. The movement of the crowd is like a tide of colour with currents of crimson, yellow and turquoise.

Evenings at the **pushkar Fair** have their own charm. The silent night is pierced by calls of camels. Actors in passionate tones sing ballads. Folk dramas, skits and folk dance are organized for the entertainment of the tourists

## Desert Festival

The three-day **Desert festival** held annually in **jaisalmer**, Rajasthan, India is a special event that the local people and the tourists look forward to with great excitement and anticipation. The quiet desert Jaisalmer springs to life every year during the month of February as the villagers from in and around Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India come together to celebrate the happening Desert festival.



Luxury Rajasthan Travel offers online travel booking and information on tour packages that take you to this 3-day jamboree that is a juxtaposition of open-air folk dance performances, acrobatics, puppet shows, snake charmers and stalls painted with the vivid colors of joy and gaiety.

The pulsating Fire, Ghair and Ghoomar dances, colorful swirling skirts and tie and dye dupattas with lots of folk music with bedecked camels and desert stalls and tents add to the brilliant charm of the Desert festival of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India.

Besides the customary camel races the special turban tying competition and the Mr. Desert competition that marks the festivities are special highlights of this Desert festival that enlivens the Jaisalmer sands. The festivities are held with the Sam Sand dunes and the Jaisalmer Fort as the idyllic backdrops that bring to the fore the bewitching Jaisalmer charm. The camel polo and camel dance events offer you an opportunity to appreciate the camel and its

sport skills. Folk songs and ballads sung by local bards fill the atmosphere with the spirit of desert romance and create a fabulous ambience that reminds you of the past glory of Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, India.

On the third day of the lively and animated desert festival the Jaisalmer sands are filled with a new spirit with an open-air light and sound show that concludes the Jaisalmer Desert festival with a grand finale.

The **Jaisalmer Desert festival** is sponsored by the Rajasthan State Tourism and is nothing but a marvelous celebration of Rajasthan folk arts and crafts. This festival serves as an excellent platform for showcasing the creative and long standing cultural traditions of golden Rajasthan. Luxury Rajasthan Travel ensures that you get a unique opportunity to be a part of this splendid cultural gala and feel the regal magnificence of Jaisalmer, firsthand.

Among the interesting highlights of the **Jaisalmer Desert Festival** the stalls and tents displaying handcrafted goods, carpets, rugs and clothing are quite interesting.

For further information on online travel booking for travel to the **Jaisalmer Desert Festival** in Rajasthan, India with Luxury Rajasthan Travel.

## Nagaur Fair

Nagaur Fair is one of the largest cattle fair in the country, held annually between late January and early February. Situated half way between **bikaner** and **Jodhpur**, Nagaur awakens with the thronging of cattle, horses and camels accompanied by their colourfully turbaned owners. There are about 25,000 camels on display as well as a large number of horses and cattle.



The fair is renowned for trading in cows, bullocks, camels and horses. People come from hundreds of miles away to buy and sell. There is earnest bargaining between owners and buyers, and plenty of fun and festivity.

The camels are very highly prized and their owners take meticulous care of them. The bullocks of Nagaur are renowned for their fitness and attract a large number of buyers. There are horse and camel races as well as dancing and singing.

Mirchi Bazaar (Red Chilly Market) is the main attraction and wooden items, iron crafts and leather accessories as well as local handicrafts, cloth and jewellery are available for sale during the fair. Various games organised during this four day festival like tug-of-war, camel races, horse races, cock fights, bull- fights etc. provide entertainment to the tourists and visitors. In the evening, there are performances by folk musicians and dancers. The RTDC puts up a Tourist Village to provide accommodation for the tourists visiting Nagaur during the fair.

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## Kite Festival

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Luxury Rajasthan Travel offers you tour packages that tempt you to come and partake of the fun, gaiety and excitement that marks the International Kite festival that is held annually in Jaipur in Rajasthan, India. The International Kite festival is celebrated in Jaipur, Rajasthan, India to welcome the onset of the spring season that is synonymous with colorful blossoms, flowers, frolic and happiness. Paper kites painted in different colors and cut in a variety of sizes and shapes complement the blue skies, with kite flying enthusiasts competing to fly their kites higher and higher.

Luxury travel to **jaipur** in Rajasthan, India during the International Kite flying festival promises to introduce you to a world of cheerful joy, intense excitement and frenzy. Kite flying enthusiasts visit Jaipur in Rajasthan, India from all over the world simply to participate in the kite flying contests that are devised as a part of the International Kite flying festival.

Luxury Rajasthan Travel offers you a wide variety of tour booking options that take you to the International Kite flying festival held in **jaipur** in Rajasthan, India

## Mewar Festival

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The Mewar Festival of Mewar in **Udaipur**, Rajasthan, India is celebrated to welcome the arrival of the Mewar Festival spring. The Mewar Festival of Mewar in Udaipur coincides with the festival of Gangaur in Udaipur, and has a unique appeal about it. The women folk gather to dress the images of Isar and Gangaur, who are the main deities at this festival and then carry them in a ceremonial procession through different parts of the city. The procession winds its way to the Gangaur Ghat at Lake Pichhola. Here, the images are shifted to special boats amidst much singing and festivity.

Once the religious part of the festival is over, the time comes for cultural events where Rajasthani culture is displayed through songs, dances and other programmes. The festival ends with an impressive fireworks display. **Be the Part of the Festival** Mewar Festival is one festival, which is not to be missed. If you have really planned to be a part of this festival then, the most important thing is to know the exact time of the festival. The Festival coincides with the Gangaur festival of Udaipur, Rajasthan. This will allow you to celebrated both the festival at the same time, as both are celebrated at the same place. With the advent of the spring in the month of March & April, Udaipur blooms up with the aura of festive mood. This time of the year in Rajasthan, India is neither so hot nor is so cold. Mewar Festival will surely enthuse you to the fullest. This event will acquaint you with the true culture of Rajasthan, India. The airport of Dabok, near Udaipur connects all the major cities of Rajasthan and India with **Udaipur**. The rail line of Udaipur also connect Udaipur directly with all the major cities of India.

The easiest route to Udaipur, the venue of the festival is from Delhi, the capital city of India. You can either go straight to Udaipur from Delhi or you can also take a longer route, if you are interested in visiting some other parts of Rajasthan, India. Starting from Delhi, you can pick the Delhi - Udaipur route or Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur route. If you want to travel cheaper you can board a train or bus. Udaipur is connected to Delhi by all the means of transport. Just, try to leave for Udaipur well in time, so that you don't even miss a single bit of it. Dress Rajasthani, eat & drink Rajasthani and enjoy the festival with much fun & frolic.

## Gangaur Festival



Gangaur is the most important local festival in Rajasthan. A spring festival unique to Rajasthan, married women evoke the blessings of Gauri and pray for the long life of their husbands, unmarried girls dress up in their finest clothes and wish for good ones. Although it is celebrated throughout the state of Rajasthan with great enthusiasm and fervor, the celebrations in Jaipur, Udaipur and Jaisalmer reaches the highest pitch.

Excellent in Jaisalmer, when the local Raja heads the procession amid an entourage of camels, and in **mount abu**, where effigies of Gauri (Parvati) and Isa (Shiva) - the ideal couple - are carried through the streets along with potted rice and flowers which hark back to the days when this was primarily a harvest festival. Unmarried girls worship the goddess throughout the preceding fortnight. Colorful images of Gauri, beautifully dressed and bejeweled, are taken out in procession with the town band. A boat procession in Pichola Lake adds to the gaiety of celebrations in Udaipur. Thousands of people from all over the state throng here to participate in the procession of the Gangaur image from village to village. The tribal youth have an opportunity of meeting freely and during this time, they select partners and marry by eloping.

# Elephant Festival

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There wouldn't be a better time to travel to Rajasthan than during festival time. The Elephant Festival of Jaipur is a unique event held annually in the capital of the north Indian state of Rajasthan. Held during Holi, the festival of colors, to herald the advent of Spring, the Jaipur Chaugan or polo field is brought alive with elephants, dancers, musicians and onlookers from all the globe. Groomed to perfection, glittering in gold, row upon row of elephants catwalk before an enthralled audience. The elephants move gracefully in procession, run races, play the regal game of polo.

The echoing sound of the bankiya (trumpet) fills the atmosphere. A ceremonial procession is recreated with caparisoned elephants, lancers on horses, chariots, camels, cannons, and palanquins. The large beast is the center of attraction in the many races and beauty pageants.

Strangely, most of the participants are female elephants. The mahouts (elephant keepers) take great care to decorate the elephants - painting their trunks, foreheads and feet with floral motifs and adorning them from tusk to tail with interesting trinkets. The mahouts were employed in the Phil Khana, the department of elephant in the royal administration. They played an important role until the princely state was incorporated into the Union and the department because redundant. They, however, have continued their association with the elephants.

The game of polo forms the highlight of the Elephant Festival of Jaipur. Dressed in saffron and red turbans, the teams try to score goals with long sticks and a plastic football. Finally, the tourists are invited to mount the elephants and play Holi. Participants dance with great vigor-the excitement rising to a crescendo. The Elephant Festival is the specialty of the state of Rajasthan. Like the Desert Festival of Jaisalmer, the Elephant Festival of Jaipur has become a major draw for the tourists during their travel and tour. Given the importance of the elephant in the sociocultural milieu of the state of Rajasthan, tourists can rest assured that they are in for some great Indian festivities and fun in **jaipur** .

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# Camel Festival

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A lively and colorful event, the Camel Festival is organised by the Department of Tourism, Art & Culture, Camel Festival Rajasthan in **Bikaner** every year. January is just the right month for a desert spree, and Bikaner just the right place to see the Ships of the Desert. In the camel country Bikaner, these desert leviathans pull heavy cart loads, transport grain and even work at the wells.

The Camel Festival begins with a colorful procession of bedecked camels against the red sandstone backdrop of the Junagarh Fort, the festivity advances to the open sand-spreads of the grounds, followed by the best breed competition, the tug-of-war contest, camel dance and acrobatics, etc.

The camels display amazing footwork, dancing gracefully to the slightest direction of their trainers. Bridal, bridles, bejewelled necks, jingling anklets and long, lanky camel shadows on dusky sands cast a magical spell. Hundreds of tourists and thousands of locals and dignitaries revel in this man-and-animal affair organised especially for the tourists.

The evenings close with a different tenor and tempo altogether: a traditional rendezvous of renowned artistes of Rajasthan and the local folk performers. The jubilant skirt-swirling dancers, the awe inspiring fire dance, and the dazzling fireworks light up the fortified desert city of Bikaner. **Bikaner** is connected by rail and road with all the major cities. The nearest airport is at **Jodhpur** (243 kms.).

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# Teej Festival



Teej is one of the most important and widely celebrated festivals of Rajasthan. Popularly referred to as Teej Festival the "festival of swings," Teej Festival is basically a festival of the womenfolk of Rajasthan, who celebrate the advent of monsoon showers. The Teej Festival in Rajasthan is dedicated to the Goddess Parvathi- the consort of Lord Shiva, as it's believed that after years of penance, goddess Parvathi was united to her consort on the auspicious occasion of Teej. On the occasion of Teej, young women folk dress in green clothes and sing heart-touching songs, while swinging on well-decorated swings hung on trees.

Teej is celebrated with great enthusiasm and fanfare in Jaipur. On the festive occasion of Teej, young girls and married women dress up in their best and pray for the well being of their husbands and marital bliss. On the festive occasion of Teej, the markets in Jaipur are decorated in beautiful designs and the whole Jaipur becomes colorful and vibrant. The beautifully ornamented idol of Goddess Parvathi is taken out in a grand procession in Jaipur for two consecutive days, which is attended by thousands of locals and tourists, making it a fascinating spectacle to view. The Teej Festival is celebrated on the third day of the bright lunar half of the month of Shravana, which normally falls in the month of July-August.