

UNFOLDING JODHPUR

Culture - Food - Shop - Explore



Estd. 1921

D A S P A N H O U S E

Jodhpur

www.daspanhouse.com



Chand Pol

Section of wall
by Rao Jodha Desert
Rock Park

Padam Sar

Rani Sar

Cheeria
Nathji
Temple

Mehrangarh Fort

JUNI
MANDI

Ram
Rasoda

Stepwell
Café

Toorji
Ka
Thabra
RAAS

Tapi
Baori

Lakhara Bazar Rd

Sardar
Market
& Clock
Tower

Pal Haveli

MOTI
CHOWK

Mahila
Bag Ka
Thabra

Clock Tower Rd

Nai Sarak

Sojati Gate

Maha Mandir



About this collaboration

Jodhpur is the quintessential small town, home to a myriad of microcosms of diverse cultures, history and people within its confines. For me, everything I do, every creative endeavour I undertake, is an ode to Jodhpur - informed by its incredibly rich art, architecture, language, music, and culture.

In Daspan House, I found a place that is just as profoundly influenced by the spirit of Jodhpur. In its aesthetic sensibilities, its quiet charm, its warmth, it manages to be the embodiment of the best of all that Jodhpur has to offer. This shared reverence made it only natural to collaborate, and whip up something that celebrates Jodhpur just as much as we do.

The idea for 'Unfolding Jodhpur' came about while workshopping the ways in which we could introduce Jodhpur to someone utterly unfamiliar with it, curated such that it represents the full range of experiences one can indulge in, without being reductive. We hope this helps you explore, and engage with Jodhpur like a local!

-Mimansha Charan



Round Up The Usual Suspects

Mehrangarh Fort

Mehrangarh Fort, the crown jewel of Jodhpur, needs no introduction. Perched on a rugged hill, the Fort feels like a looming guardian over the skyline of Jodhpur, standing tall since the 15th century. Its mighty walls, towering turrets, and intricate architecture tell tales of battles won and empires forged. The fort houses an incredible museum that unravels the city's royal heritage, showcasing opulent palanquins, lavish regalia, and an impressive collection of weaponry. And the vistas! The panoramic views from the fort's ramparts are nothing short of breathtaking. The blue city of Jodhpur unfolds beneath you like a vivid painting, as if you've been transported into a dream.

Timings - 9 am to 5 pm

Jaswant Thada

Jaswant Thada, a splendid spot in Jodhpur where history meets serenity, and even the cascade of the flocks of Swifts can't resist a little swoop around. This exquisite marble mausoleum, a tribute to Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, is intricately carved, as finely detailed as a royal tapestry, seems to have a conversation with the sun, creating a mesmerising play of light and shadow. As you wander through the peaceful gardens surrounding the monument, it's not just the architecture that captivates you, it's the little moments – perhaps a duck gliding across the nearby lake or the sweet song of birds in the trees. Jaswant Thada is a sanctuary where you can reflect on history, soak in artistic beauty, and feel the gentle embrace of nature.

Timings - 9 am to 5 pm

Clock Tower

Let's turn our attention to the charismatic centrepiece of Jodhpur, the Clock Tower, or as the locals fondly call it, "Ghantaghar" is a regal structure built with red sandstone that seems to capture the warm tones of the desert sun. It's as if time itself has been encapsulated in its architecture, aptly so. Around the Clock Tower, you'll find a bustling market that's like a kaleidoscope of colours, sounds, and flavours. It's a bazaar where tradition and modernity waltz together. So, when you visit the Ghantaghar, you're not just witnessing a clock; you're stepping into the beating heart of Jodhpur, where history, culture, and modernity blend seamlessly.

Trivia: Since 1968, the clock technician and caretaker, Mr. Mohammed Iqbal, and his family have been responsible for maintaining and ensuring the operational status of the clock tower in Jodhpur. Each Thursday, the clock is wound by Mr. Iqbal, a true treat to witness for someone curious to learn about the inner workings of Ghantaghar.

Umaid Bhawan

Now, for Umaid Bhawan Palace, a true icon of the city's grandeur and timeless elegance. This architectural marvel, built during the reign of Maharaja Umaid Singh, is like a fairy tale come to life. The honey-hued sandstone façade stretches into the horizon, a testament to the splendour of a bygone era. You'll find a captivating collection of art, antique clocks, and ornate furniture, each piece a glimpse into the opulent lifestyle of the royals displayed in the museum. The palace is also home to a luxury hotel that offers you a chance to experience the life of a Maharaja. From lavish suites to exquisite dining experiences, every moment spent here is a taste of the royal lifestyle.

Trivia: Umaid Bhawan Palace, often recognised as the world's youngest palace, has a unique origin story. Constructed as a response to a devastating famine, it served as a famine relief project, providing employment to thousands of individuals in regions grappling with drought.

Timings - 9 am to 5 pm



Time Traveler's Handbook: Jodhpur's Culture Capsules & Historical Hacks

Mandore Gardens

At the Mandore Gardens in Jodhpur, you'll find a captivating oasis that blends nature, history, and culture. The gardens not only boast lush green landscapes and striking cenotaphs, but also an ancient fort. The cenotaphs, or dewals, showcase exquisite Rajput architecture, while the Hall of Heroes features 16 warrior figures carved from a single rock, highlighting both martial spirit and local craftsmanship. But be prepared for a charming surprise - the mischievous monkeys! They might just add an unexpected dose of laughter and entertainment to your visit, reminding you that even in the midst of history and beauty, a touch of monkey business can be the most delightful surprise. A delightful light and sound show outlining the history of Jodhpur is put on daily at 8:30 pm (timing tbc) in the garden premises.

Umaid Heritage Art School

Ready to unleash your inner artist? Umaid Heritage Art School is your go-to creative hub. It's not just a gallery or school; it's a haven for art enthusiasts and adventurous travellers. And the best part? They offer art sessions led by some seriously skilled instructors. Ever wanted to try your hand at the mesmerising world of Rajasthani Fine Miniature art? Well, you're in luck!

Vijay Raj, a specialist in all things Rajasthani Miniature Painting, will be your artistic guide. They're all about bringing curious travellers together for an artistic exchange like no other. So, whether you're a seasoned artist or a newbie, grab a brush or pencil and embark on a colourful adventure!

A number handy for booking art sessions

+91 95096 40888

Umaid Udhyan Museum

Tucked away in the Umaid Public Gardens, the Sardar Government Museum is a love letter to Jodhpur's rich cultural heritage. Maharaja Umaid Singh, with a vision as grand as his kingdom, and the brilliant architect, Henry Vaughan Lanchester, teamed up to create this historical magician's hat, filled with over 400 enchanting sculptures, ancient inscriptions (we're talking ancient history!), darling miniature paintings, terracotta wonders, coins that have stories to tell, metallic treasures, weaponry that once echoed with valour. It's like stepping into a treasure chest of Jodhpur's past. And if that's not enough, the military history section will make history buffs weak in the knees. Imagine being surrounded by tools, weapons, memorials, brass and wooden models – each whispering tales of heroism from days gone by. It's a time machine, a storyteller, and a treasure hunt all rolled into one!

Navchowkiya

Navchowkiya epitomises the spirit of life in the old city of Jodhpur, the labyrinthine lanes continue to echo with a way of life that has remained unaltered for nearly six centuries. Never a dull moment, the lanes, the pols, the chowks, all bustle with an endless slew of activity, from dawn till dusk. People fetching water from the revered wells, buying their daily groceries, or huddled under a tree over a spirited card game, it's the perfect window into the close-knit community life that has thrived in Jodhpur, and continues to do so and the hidden charms of the town, a treasure known only to the locals and adventurous souls like us who relish the less-travelled path.

Jodhpur's Water Chronicles

In the dazzling heat of the desert, where water is worth its weight in gold, Jodhpur's ingenious water network encompassing reservoirs like Rani Sar and Padam Sar, Stepwells and Stepped Ponds like Chand Bawari and Toorji Ka Jhalara, and tanks like Gulab Sagar, dotting every street of the old city, bring you a refreshing sanctum of culture and history. Imagine stepping into a world where water bodies are more than just reservoirs – they're cultural hubs. Locals gather at these oases to cool off, socialise, and celebrate. So, when you explore Jodhpur, don't just admire the architecture and landscapes; take a moment to appreciate the liquid threads that weave through the city's rich tapestry. You'll find that water isn't just a resource here; it's a cultural cornerstone, a historical treasure, and a refreshing escape in the heart of the desert.

Arna Jharna Thar Desert Museum

Nestled in Moklawas, a village just a short 15 km journey from the vibrant city of Jodhpur, Arna Jharna isn't your typical museum. It's perched atop a rocky outthrust of an old stone quarry, like a desert gem waiting to be discovered. This unique location isn't just home to captivating artefacts; it's a natural sanctuary, where every step unveils a story of the land, a world where the everyday becomes extraordinary. It's not just a museum; it's a whimsical realm where brooms are more than just cleaning tools; they're storytellers of rituals and beliefs, each bristle revealing a unique tale. In the musical section, you'll discover the melodic secrets of western India, from the enchanting Ravanahatta to the elusive Jogia Sarangi. You'll also encounter a symphony of over 30 different kinds of grass beneath your feet, and when you look up, the skies are graced by migratory birds. As you explore, you might spot deer, rodents, rabbits, and lizards playing their part in this desert ecosystem, making your visit an adventure beyond the walls.

Note: It is approximately a 30 minute drive to get there.

Timings - 8 am to 6 pm

Rajasthani Granthaagar

For the bookworms and ardent readers out there, no adventure's quite right without a literary side quest! Enter Rajasthani Granthagaar – it's not just a bookstore, it's a treasure trove of tales. From history to culture, art to literature, they've got you covered. It's like diving headfirst into a book buffet! And the best part? They're all about that local flair. Rajasthani is their superstar, but don't fret if you're not fluent. They've got plenty of Hindi titles to give you a crash course in the fascinating world of Rajasthan's regional history and culture.



Artisanal Finds in Jodhpur: Shop & Explore

Lakhara Bazar

A bustling street near Tripoliya, Lakhara Bazar is the best place to witness the traditional craftsmanship of producing beautiful lac bangles in Jodhpur. With widely renowned craftspeople who have been immersed in the process for generations, it is a great place for both, curious enthusiasts who want to learn more about the craft, and travellers looking for a quality product.

Nai Sarak

Nai Sarak acts as a conduit between the old city of jodhpur, and the rest of the town. And in doing so, has become a melting pot of the best Jodhpur has to offer. From leather goods, fabric and apparel in Jodhpur's trademark dyeing and printing styles, handicrafts and antiques to spice markets, it has something to offer for every curious traveller.

Sarafa Bazar

This place isn't just a market; it's a jewellery treasure hunt, a silver safari, and a fragrant adventure all rolled into one. As you stroll through Sarafa Bazar, you'll realise it's more than just a shopping spree – it's a sensory experience that'll leave you dazzled and smelling like a desert breeze! First things first, if you're looking for a place to bling up your life, this is the jewellery jackpot. Sarafa Bazar is Jodhpur's very own silversmith's paradise. You name it, they've got it – from statement necklaces that'll make your Instagram followers jealous, to utensils that'll elevate your dining game, to figurines that could double as royal family members (well, almost). But the real gem hidden amidst the glitter and glamour is the attar store, and we're not talking about any ordinary scent shop. This place is run by 5th generation perfumers who've mastered the fine art of bottling the desert's essence. And trust us, the sight of camel skin attar bottles is as rare and fascinating as it gets.

Mochiyon Ki Gali

As you wander down Mochiyon ki gali, you can't help but feel like you've stepped into a living museum. The narrow, winding streets are lined with centuries-old buildings that showcase the intricate Rajasthani architecture. The cobblers and craftsmen in this area have inherited their skills and knowledge from generation to generation.

The shop fronts, often adorned with colourful displays of leather products, showcase the dedication of the local artisans to their traditional methods. The cultural context of Mochiyon ki gali is deeply rooted in the Rajasthani way of life. As you explore the market, you'll encounter not only leather craftsmen but also a vibrant tapestry of Rajasthani culture. Pick up a pair of the iconic Jodhpuri Juti, and with it, a spring in your step.

Fun fact, the Jodhpuri Juti is made without a designated left and right shoe, so when you're donning the traditional footwear, you could say that you literally have two left feet.

Salawas Durry Udhyog

Folks here have been engaged in rug-making for generations, and they take it seriously, passing down yarn-making, natural dyeing, and weaving secrets like they're family heirlooms. And if you're thinking of bringing a piece of this tradition home with you, Salawas is the ultimate shopping haven. You can choose from a fantastic range of handcrafted rugs that have centuries of history woven into every thread. And remember, supporting these artisans is more than just a purchase; it's a direct line to preserving a precious heritage. So, when you unroll that Salawas rug in your home, you're not just adding decor; you're adding a piece of history to your life.

For a visual reference of the stunning Salawas Rugs, glance around your room to spot one adorning the floor.

Lalji Handicrafts, Maharani Handicrafts & Suncity Exports

Welcome, fellow shopaholics and craft enthusiasts, we're about to explore some of Jodhpur's finest handicraft markets, where haggling is more of a sport than a chore! As you're strolling through the colourful maze of treasures of Lalji Handicrafts, surrounded by a kaleidoscope of textiles, jewellery, and pottery. The shopkeepers are like magicians, pulling out one exquisite piece after another from their sleeves. The shopkeepers here have a Ph.D. in the art of convincing you that you absolutely need that majestic, hand-carved elephant statue. Your suitcase might be screaming for mercy, but you're screaming "I must have it!"

Yakub Pottery Udhyog

If you're aching to get your hands a little dirty and experience the enchanting world of Rajasthani pottery, you're in for a treat. You'll witness the dance of clay, as skilled artisans shape it into exquisite vessels, each one carrying the soul of this culturally rich region. With a master potter as your guide, you're not just a spectator; you're about to become a part of the artistic magic. You'll have a chance to roll up your sleeves, get your hands on the potter's wheel, and transform that humble lump of clay into your very own masterpiece. It's a chance to immerse yourself in the world of clay, creativity, and tradition. And guess what? You get to take home a piece of Rajasthan's enduring artistic legacy – your very own tangible connection to this incredible culture.



The Wild, Wild West

Kaylana Lake

Get ready for a winged adventure like no other at Kaylana Lake in Jodhpur. As you arrive, you'll be greeted by serene views, with the expansive lake reflecting the desert sky's vibrant hues. Armed with binoculars and guided by experts, you'll wander along trails through hilly terrain, where you'll meet a diverse array of bird species that call Kaylana Lake home. The real treat is spotting both local and migratory birds. Expert guides aren't just for identification; they'll share bird behaviour, habitats, and the importance of conservation. Whether you're a birding pro or just starting out, Kaylana Lake's bird-watching is your ticket to connect with nature and explore Rajasthan's fantastic birdlife.

Rao Jodha Desert Rock Park

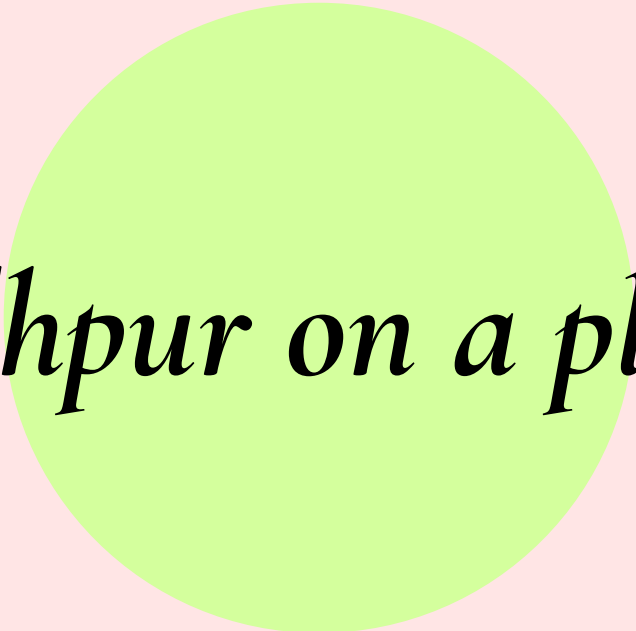
Allow us to introduce you to a nature lover's paradise at Rao Jodha Park! Picture this: You enter the park, and the chirpy symphony of birds and the gentle rustle of desert plants welcome you. The park's very own team of naturalists will be your guides, and they'll lead you through this pristine desert ecosystem, spilling all the juicy details about the unique desert flora and fauna that flourish in the park, and why they're so crucial for the environment. Hosting over 200 species of birds across the year, RJP is an essential for every enthusiast.

But the adventure doesn't stop there. You can take guided walks tailored to your curiosity. Whether it's birds, butterflies, insects, nests, or wildflowers, there's something fascinating waiting to be discovered. So, when you step into Rao Jodha Park, you're not just taking a stroll in the wilderness; you're embarking on an unforgettable journey through the secrets of the desert, the marvels of nature, and the fascinatingly diverse desert ecosystem.

For specialised walks, please reach out to +91 95712 71000

Black Bucks

Immerse yourself in the vibrant rural lifestyle of the Bishnoi community with a thrilling village safari, explore unique customs and ceremonies, discover local art and crafts, and delve into the daily rhythms of this remarkable community, all while uncovering their deep-rooted passion for nature and wildlife. The Bishnoi community, guardians of nature for centuries, has played a pivotal role in preserving species like the magnificent Black Buck antelope. On this safari, you'll have the exciting opportunity to spot these graceful antelopes and perhaps encounter other enchanting wildlife such as the Chinkara, Blue bull, Desert fox, Hares, and Partridges. And if you time your visit between September and March, prepare to be awestruck by the sight of thousands of migratory Demoiselle Cranes near the enchanting Guda Lake.



Jodhpur on a plate

Chandra Vilas

Chandra Vilas is a Jodhpur-based company that started in 1947 as a small, family-run enterprise and has turned into a household name for not just people in Jodhpur, but all over Rajasthan. They have a wide array of options to pick from, like the dal moth, or the ganthiya, the quintessential Jodhpur snacks..

Solanki Sweets

Solanki Sweets in Tripoliya took the most indubitably Jodhpur dish - Pyaaz ki Kachori, and topped it up with an even more patently Jodhpur dish- Panchkuta. And yes, it somehow works perfectly.

Irani Chai

As you walk through the old city, you'll come across small tea shops selling the most refreshing cups of Irani Chai - In the conventional preparation method, khoya or mawa is used to richen the milk and cream. What's unique about the method is that one first prepares the tea and milk components separately, and subsequently, the milk blend is gently poured over the brewed tea.

Choudhary Namkeen

Imagine having a dish that is so emblematic, that it's about the only thing on the menu. In the land of Mirchi Bada, Choudhary Namkeen has carved a niche for itself, where they are the uncontested champions of mastering the art of the mighty Mirchi Bada. A trip to Jodhpur simply isn't complete without enjoying one of these perfectly savoury, piping hot and right out of the frying pan.

Mohanji Sweets

The multi-generational confectioners at Mohanji Sweets have perfected the craft of making the most delectable rabdi ghewar, and boondi ke laddoo in the city. If you're lucky, and your trip coincides with their festive specialities, you might even get to try the sweet that has been historically embedded in the cultural fabric and practices all across Rajasthan - Sattu.

Chaturbhuji Rameshchandra

If you say the words 'Gulab Jamun' to someone in Jodhpur, and they don't immediately think of Chaturbhuji, you have fair grounds to challenge the validity of their citizenship of the town.

The Jodhpur Glossary:

Charko चरको - Spicy

Chokho चोखो - Good, well

Dhoro धोरो - A sand dune found in desert which are formed due to piling up of shifting sand

Do'ro दोरो - Difficult

Fajiti फजीती - Insult

Gailo गैलो - A person of foolish nature

Haalo हालो - Let's go

Hathai हथाई - A public space, chit-chatting

Kain काई - What

Loo लू - A strong, gusty, hot, and dry wind

Manvaar मनवार - A request, a hospitable insistence

Phito फीटो - Stubborn

Safo साफो - Turban

Taavado तावडो - Sunlight