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Excursions around Jaipur

Amber Fort (11 km) Amber (pronounced Amer) was the ancient citadel of the ruling Kachhawa clan of Amber, before the capital was shifted in the plains to present day Jaipur. Amber is the classic and romantic fort- palace with a magnificent aura. The interior wall of the palace depicts expressive painting scenes with carvings, precious stones and mirror settings. In the foreground is the Maota Lake providing a breathtaking look.

Jaigarh Fort (15 km) The Jaigarh fort is the most spectacular of the three-hilltop forts that overlook Jaipur. In Mughal times, the Jaipur region was a major weapon-producing centre for the Mughal and Rajput rulers, several of which are on display in the fort's museum.

Nahargarh Fort (10 km) Nahargarh Fort is located on the sheer rugged ridge of Aravali Hills and it forms an impressive northern backdrop of Jaipur. It looks most classy when floodlit at night. The fort overlooks the city and presents a glittering view of the city lights. It was built in 1734 and extended in 1868. Nahargarh meaning abode of the tigers was built by Jai Singh to bolster the defence of Amber.

Sanganer (16 km) It is known for exquisite Jain temples. Moreover, it is an important centre for crafts and hand-printed textiles that is internationally famous. The most beautiful temple in Sanganer is the ancient Shri Digamber Jain temple.

Tonk (96 km) This is a quiet town which was ruled by tribes of 'Pathans' from Afghanistan. The focal point of Tonk is the Suneri Kothi, the Golden Bungalow. A fairly ordinary monument from outside, it has stunningly rich ornamental interiors.

Bagru (30 km) Located on the Ajmer Road, the place is known for its Bagru prints. This technique simulates a wooden block on which the required design is first carved, and then the carved block is used for transferring the motif in the desired colour on the fabric.

Samod (40 km) The fort is an old fortified residence of the Nathawat family (hailing from chomu) that served as the Prime Ministers of the Jaipur Royal Court.

Abhaneri (95 km) Located on the Jaipur-Agra Road, the place is known for its amazing step wells or 'baoris' and Harshat Mata Temple. According to a legend, the village is so called because the Goddess Harshat Mata who is shown portrayed in a joyous mood is believed to spread brightness or "abha" all around. The village's original name was Abha Nagri, and its name today is Abhaneri.

Kaurali (182 km) It was founded in 1348 and is best known for its Krishna Temples. The Fort, which was constructed over different period, is about 600 years old. The Bhawar Vilas Palace, which is owned by the descendents of the royal family and resembles a large manor, is a hotel now.

Ranthambore National Park (175 km) Ranthambhor National Park, before a princely game conserve is the scene where the celebrated Indian Tiger is best seen. Ranthambhor Tiger Reserve lies on the junction of Aravali and Vindhya just 14 Kms from Sawai Madhopur in Eastern Rajasthan. A significant geological feature within the park is the 'Great Boundary Fault' where the Vindhya plateau meets the Aravali range. The Rivers Chambal in the South and the Banas in the North bound the National Park.

Sariska Tiger reserve (107 km) The lavish bounds of Sariska National park provide natural habitat to a rich variety of flora and fauna. Apart from the elusive tiger, the park boasts leopards, hanuman langur, the Bengal tiger, golden jackal, chital, sambhar, jungle cat, caracal, striped hyena, nilgai, chinkara, four-horned antelope 'chousingha', and plenty of bird species and reptiles.

Sources : Site web www.incredibleindia.org