

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

The City Palace is the former administrative headquarters of the rulers of the Jaipur State. Construction of this grand royal residence started soon after the establishment of the city of Jaipur, and Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II officially moved his court from Amber to Jaipur in 1727. The palace consists of seven interconnected courtyards with the Chandra Mahal (the Maharaja's main living quarters) at its heart. Some of the courtyards are open to the public such as Jaleb Chowk, (from where you may have entered), and others such as the zenana mahal (women's quarters) remain closed to visitors. The courtyards were built to follow the requirements of Vastu Shastra, an ancient Indian theory of spatial planning, and provided privacy and physical protection.

From the beginning, the City Palace has been a centre of patronage of the arts and learning, and with its many temples, a place of ritual and worship. The Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum occupies four of these courtyards. As a premier palace museum in India, it houses heritage buildings and collections of national importance, collected and commissioned over centuries by the Kachhwaha rulers of Amber and Jaipur. The Museum is a space to promote study and research through its collections in the fields of literature, history, science, the arts and architecture, among others, and especially the art and craft of Jaipur. As visitors today, you also have the opportunity to experience and participate in the annual calendar of festivals, as part of the living heritage of the Museum.

1. PRITAM NIWAS CHOWK

This courtyard directly attached to the towering Chandra Mahal has hosted smaller private celebrations for the Royal family for centuries.

Must see: The four magnificently decorated aaraish gates or deories. Although these are popularly believed to be dedicated to the four seasons, the Indian calendar actually has six seasons! Thus, it is more likely that each of the gates is dedicated to the Hindu Gods that sit atop each. Can you identify the 4 deities?

2. SARVATO BHADRA

Known as the Diwan-e-Khas or the Hall of Private Audience, this was intended to be the ceremonial heart of the complex and played host to a plethora of religious and cultural celebrations.

Must see: The gigantic silver Gangajalis that are big enough to fit a grown man inside! Did you know that these accompanied Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh II on his maiden trip to England?

3. SABHA NIWAS

Originally open to the courtyard in front of it, this was the Diwan-e-Aam or the Hall of Public Audience where the Maharaja would hear from his public and greet foreign dignitaries

Must see: The life size paintings by Sahib Ram and chandeliers that were especially brought in from Europe. Also, do not miss the carpet made by the prisoners of Jaipur jail that is tucked into a small alcove!!

4. MUBARAK MAHAL

This Indo-Saracenic building was added to the palace complex in c.1902 as a royal guest house for British visitors. Today, it houses the textile collection.

Must see: The infamous "atamsukh" choga of the Maharaja Sawai Madho Singh I, hand knotted pashmina carpet, and assorted sports memorabilia. Did you know that Maharaja Ram Singh II loved billiards so much that he dedicated 9 rooms in Amber just for this game? Are you curious to learn how the royal women played polo while maintaining strict "purdah"?

5. SILEH-KHANA

Getting its name from the original "Karkhana" (or department) responsible for making and maintaining weapons in the Jaipur court, Sileh-Khana houses an unparalleled display of Mughal and Rajput arms and armour.

Must see: The talwars gifted by Jahangir and Shahjahan, two swords that live in one sheath and a collection of eclectic Katars. Have you ever seen a katar that is also a scissor ? Or one that has a pistol mounted on it? Well, here is your chance so go see them now!

6. PAINTING & PHOTOGRAPHY

A gallery dedicated to paintings, maps and historic photographs, this is the perfect place to see the wealth of patronage and connoisseurship at the Jaipur Court.

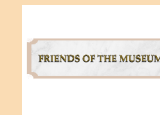
Must see: Unmatched marvel that is the Chuhenama, maps of Jaipur and the collection of glass negative photographs taken by Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh II himself! Also, get a crash course on what it takes to make an Indian Miniature Painting!

7. RATH-KHANA

A special display of some of the most important royal transports spanning three centuries. Intended for ceremonies, some of the objects in this gallery are still part of annual festivals in the city.

Must see: The jaw-dropping elephant armour (only one of its kind that is still fully intact!) and the solid silver palanquin that is still used to carry the idol of Goddess Gauri for the Teej and Gangaur Yatra every year

AFFILIATES



FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM

A space dedicated to preserving and promoting the artisans and craftsmen of Rajasthan. Stop by to see live demonstrations of miniature paintings,



PRINCESS DIYA KUMARI FOUNDATION & STORE

PDKF trains women from the local community and helps them gain financial independence by marketing them to a global audience. The store offers a contemporary adaptation of traditional Rajasthani crafts



THE PALACE ATELIER

A museum shop and design studio that embraces the use of traditional crafts to create museum replicas, souvenirs and other hand crafted products of high aesthetic value but in a style which is reminiscent of the artefacts displayed in the MSMS II Museum.



BARADARI RESTAURANT

A restaurant and all day cafe started by the royal family of Jaipur, Baradari has been renovated and developed into an aesthetic dining space in the heart of Jaipur's City Palace. It offers contemporary as well as traditional Rajasthani food, creative cocktails and delectable desserts.

VISITOR INFORMATION

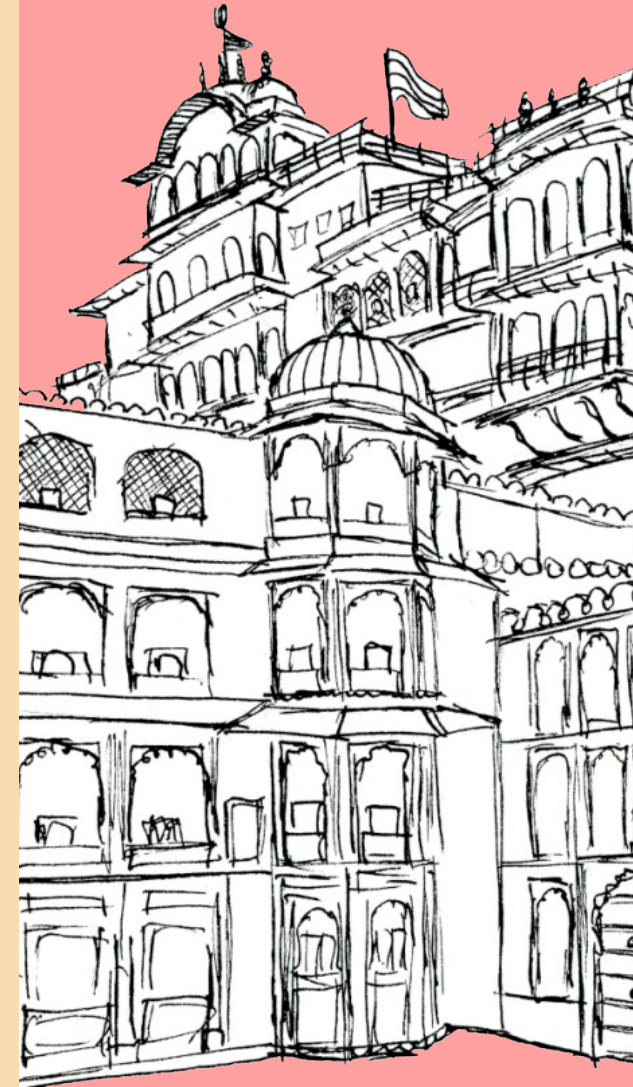
Timings: 9am to 7pm. Open all days except Dhulandi
Website: www.royaljaipur.in
Contact us: information@royaljaipur.in
Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust, The City Palace, Jaipur 302002, Rajasthan, India.
Ph: +91 0141 408 8888



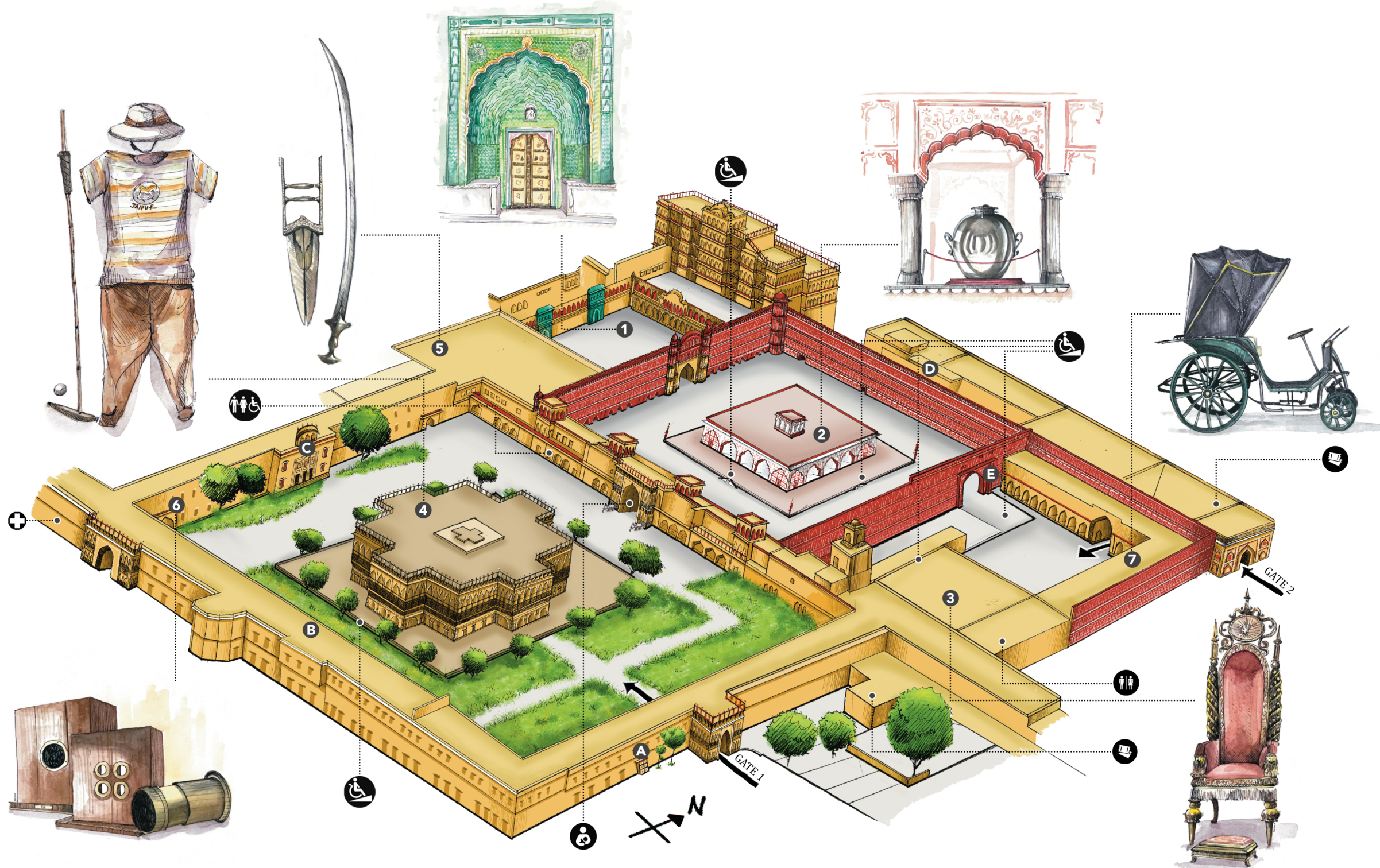
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SAWAI JAIPUR

MAHARAJA SAWAI MAN SINGH II MUSEUM



THE CITY PALACE, JAIPUR



Entry/Exit

GATE 1 - Virendra Pol

GATE 2 - Uday Pol

Galleries/Courtyards

1. PRITAM CHOWK - 4 Seasons Deories
2. SARVATO BHADRA - Hall of Private Audience
3. SABHA NIWAS - Hall of Public Audience
4. MUBARAK MAHAL - Textile Gallery
5. SILHEH-KHANA - Arms & Armour Gallery
6. PAINTING & PHOTOGRAPHY GALLERY
7. RATH-KHANA - Transport Gallery

Shops/Restaurants

- A. PRINCESS DIYA KUMARI FOUNDATION STORE
- B. THE PALACE ATELIER - Museum Shop
- C. FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM
- D. BARADARI RESTAURANT
- E. SNACK BAR - Take Away Only

Services/Accessibility

- TICKETS & INFORMATION
- FACILITIES
- ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES
- RAMP
- CHILDCARE ROOM
- FIRST AID ROOM

*Map designed & illustrated by
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