

# **A Guide to India's Magical City of Lakes, Udaipur: History, Food, Shopping, and How to Get There**

Udaipur, often referred to as the “City of Lakes,” is a stunning and romantic city nestled in the Aravalli hills of Rajasthan, India. Known for its rich history, breathtaking architecture, and serene lakes, Udaipur is a place where beauty meets culture. The city is often considered one of India's most picturesque and has earned a reputation for its majestic palaces, vibrant markets, and exquisite food. Whether you're a history enthusiast, a food lover, or a shopaholic, Udaipur has something for everyone. This comprehensive guide will help you navigate Udaipur's rich heritage, how to reach it, what to eat, where to shop, and most importantly, why it remains one of India's most famous destinations.



## Why Udaipur is So Famous

Udaipur's fame can be attributed to several factors, but the city's serene lakes, grand palaces, rich culture, and incredible natural beauty make it an unparalleled destination. Here are some key reasons why Udaipur is so famous:

1. **The City of Lakes:** Udaipur is home to several lakes, including Lake Pichola, Fateh Sagar Lake, Swaroop Sagar Lake, and Rana Sagar Lake. These lakes not only enhance the beauty of the city but

also serve as a reflection of its royal history. Boating on Lake Pichola is one of the most popular activities for visitors.

2. **Palaces and Royal Architecture:** Udaipur is renowned for its palaces, and the City Palace is one of the largest palace complexes in India. The Lake Palace (Jag Niwas), set amidst Lake Pichola, is one of the most famous landmarks of the city. These architectural marvels represent the grandeur and luxury of the Rajputana rulers.
3. **Cultural Heritage:** Udaipur is also famous for its folk music, dance, and traditional crafts. Festivals like the Mewar Festival celebrate the arrival of spring with vibrant parades, folk dances, and music performances.
4. **Romantic Getaway:** Udaipur is often referred to as the “Venice of the East” due to its beautiful lakes and palaces. Its picturesque landscapes, stunning sunsets, and peaceful ambiance make it a popular destination for couples and honeymooners.



## **History and Architecture of Udaipur**

Udaipur's history dates back to 1559 when Maharana Udai Singh II founded the city. The Maharana was the ruler of the Mewar Kingdom, and the city was established after he decided to shift his capital from Chittorgarh due to the constant threat of invasion from the Mughal Empire.

The city was strategically designed around several lakes, including Lake Pichola, which helped provide a source of water to the palace and the surrounding areas. The architecture of Udaipur blends traditional

Rajput and Mughal styles, with a strong emphasis on intricate stone carvings, detailed frescoes, and decorative arches. The City Palace, the largest royal complex in Rajasthan, was built by Maharana Udai Singh and later expanded by his successors. It is known for its marble and sandstone constructions and is a testament to the opulence of the Mewar rulers.

The Lake Palace, also known as Jag Niwas, was built by Maharana Jagat Singh II in the 18th century. It sits on the pristine Lake Pichola and is often regarded as one of the most beautiful palaces in the world. It was initially a summer retreat for the Mewar rulers and has now been converted into a luxury hotel.

Udaipur continued to be a center of power and culture throughout the Mewar dynasty, and many of its architectural wonders were built by successive kings, who added to the grandeur of the city. Notably, the Fateh Sagar Lake, Saheliyon ki Bari (Garden of the Maidens), and Jagdish Temple were also constructed during the 17th and 18th centuries, further contributing to the city's beauty and historic charm.





## How to Reach Udaipur

Udaipur is well-connected by road, rail, and air, making it easily accessible from most major cities in India. Here's how you can reach Udaipur:

### By Air

The nearest airport to Udaipur is the Maharana Pratap Airport (Dabok Airport), located about 22 km from the city center. The airport is well-connected with major cities such as Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, and

Ahmedabad. Several domestic airlines offer flights to Udaipur, and the airport has modern facilities to cater to tourists.

- **Flight Prices:** The cost of a one-way flight from Delhi to Udaipur typically ranges between INR 2,500 to INR 6,000, depending on the airline and booking time.

### By Train

Udaipur's Udaipur City Railway Station connects the city to several major cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, and Jaipur. There are regular trains, including express and superfast services, that make the journey comfortable.

- **Train Prices:** For a second-class sleeper ticket, prices typically range from INR 300–500, whereas for 3rd AC class, it may cost between INR 1,200–1,500. First AC tickets can go up to INR 2,500.

### By Road

Udaipur is well connected by road to nearby cities, including Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Mount Abu. Buses, taxis, and private cars are available for those traveling by road.

- **Bus Prices:** State-run and private buses connect Udaipur to cities like Jaipur, Ahmedabad, and Delhi. Prices for a sleeper bus from Jaipur to Udaipur range from INR 300 to INR 800, while luxury buses may cost INR 1,200–1,500.

- **Private Car:** Hiring a taxi or private car from nearby cities like Jaipur or Ahmedabad can cost around INR 4,000–8,000 for a one-way trip.

## **Famous Food in Udaipur**

Udaipur offers a variety of delicious Rajasthani cuisine that reflects the rich heritage and royal history of the region. The city's food culture is characterized by bold spices, rich gravies, and innovative sweets. Here are some must-try dishes in Udaipur:

**Dal Baati Churma:** This traditional Rajasthani dish consists of round wheat dumplings (baati) served with a spicy lentil curry (dal) and sweet crushed wheat (churma). It's a quintessential dish of Rajasthan and a must-try.

- Price: INR 150–250 per plate.

**Laal Maas:** A fiery red mutton curry, Laal Maas is packed with spices and heat. This dish is famous for its strong flavors and is a favorite among spice lovers.

- Price: INR 350–500 for a serving.

**Ghevar:** A sweet and crispy dessert, Ghevar is made from flour, sugar syrup, and topped with almonds. It is often enjoyed during festivals but is available year-round.



- Price: INR 50–100 per piece.

**Pyaz Kachori:** A Rajasthani snack made with a crispy exterior and a spicy onion filling, Pyaz Kachori is often served with tamarind chutney.

- Price: INR 30–50 per piece.

**Mawa Kachori:** A rich variation of kachori stuffed with mawa (sweetened condensed milk) and dry fruits, it's a perfect blend of sweetness and crunch.

- Price: INR 60–100 per piece.

**Rajasthani Thali:** A Rajasthani thali offers a variety of dishes like dal, roti, sabzi, rice, and dessert. It provides a taste of the region's most popular foods in one meal.

- Price: INR 300–600 per thali.

## What to Shop in Udaipur

Udaipur is a paradise for shoppers, especially those interested in traditional Rajasthani handicrafts. The city's bustling markets offer a wide variety of items, including textiles, jewelry, paintings, and souvenirs. Here are some of the most popular items to shop for:

**Miniature Paintings:** Udaipur is famous for its exquisite miniature paintings, which often depict royal portraits, folk tales, and scenes from the lives of kings. These delicate works of art are crafted with incredible detail and make for a great souvenir.

- Price: INR 500 to INR 5,000, depending on size and intricacy.

**Rajasthani Jewelry:** The city offers a wide range of traditional jewelry, including kundan and meenakari pieces, which are known for their intricate designs and vibrant colors.

- Price: INR 500 to INR 10,000 or more, depending on the quality and type.

**Pichwai Paintings:** These are traditional paintings that are often large and depict Lord Krishna surrounded by nature. Pichwai art is unique to Udaipur and makes for an excellent decorative piece.

- Price: INR 1,500 to INR 10,000.

**Handwoven Textiles:** Udaipur is famous for its block-printed fabrics and handwoven textiles. You can buy beautiful scarves, dupattas, and bedspreads that showcase Rajasthan's traditional art.

- Price: INR 200 to INR 2,500.

**Camel Leather Goods:** Camel leather products like bags, wallets, and sandals are another popular shopping item in Udaipur. The leather is soft, durable, and often comes in beautiful designs.

- Price: INR 300 to INR 2,500.

**Wooden Crafts:** The city also offers wooden crafts like bajots (low wooden tables), carved boxes, and other intricate wooden carvings, often depicting royal figures and gods.

- Price: INR 1,000 to INR 5,000.

**Stone Carvings:** Udaipur is famous for its stone carvers who create detailed sculptures of deities, animals, and royal figures. These carvings are typically made from marble or sandstone and make for a timeless souvenir.

- Price: INR 500 to INR 10,000.

## **Conclusion**

Udaipur is one of the most magical and culturally rich cities in India, offering a perfect blend of history, beauty, and modernity. Whether you are captivated by the serene lakes, grand palaces, or the bustling markets, the city promises an unforgettable experience. From its rich history and majestic architecture to the delicious food and unique

shopping experiences, Udaipur is a must-visit destination for anyone seeking the charm and magic of [Rajasthan](#).