

राजास

Alwar, Kesroli,
Bhangarh, Neemrana

Tour Details and Map

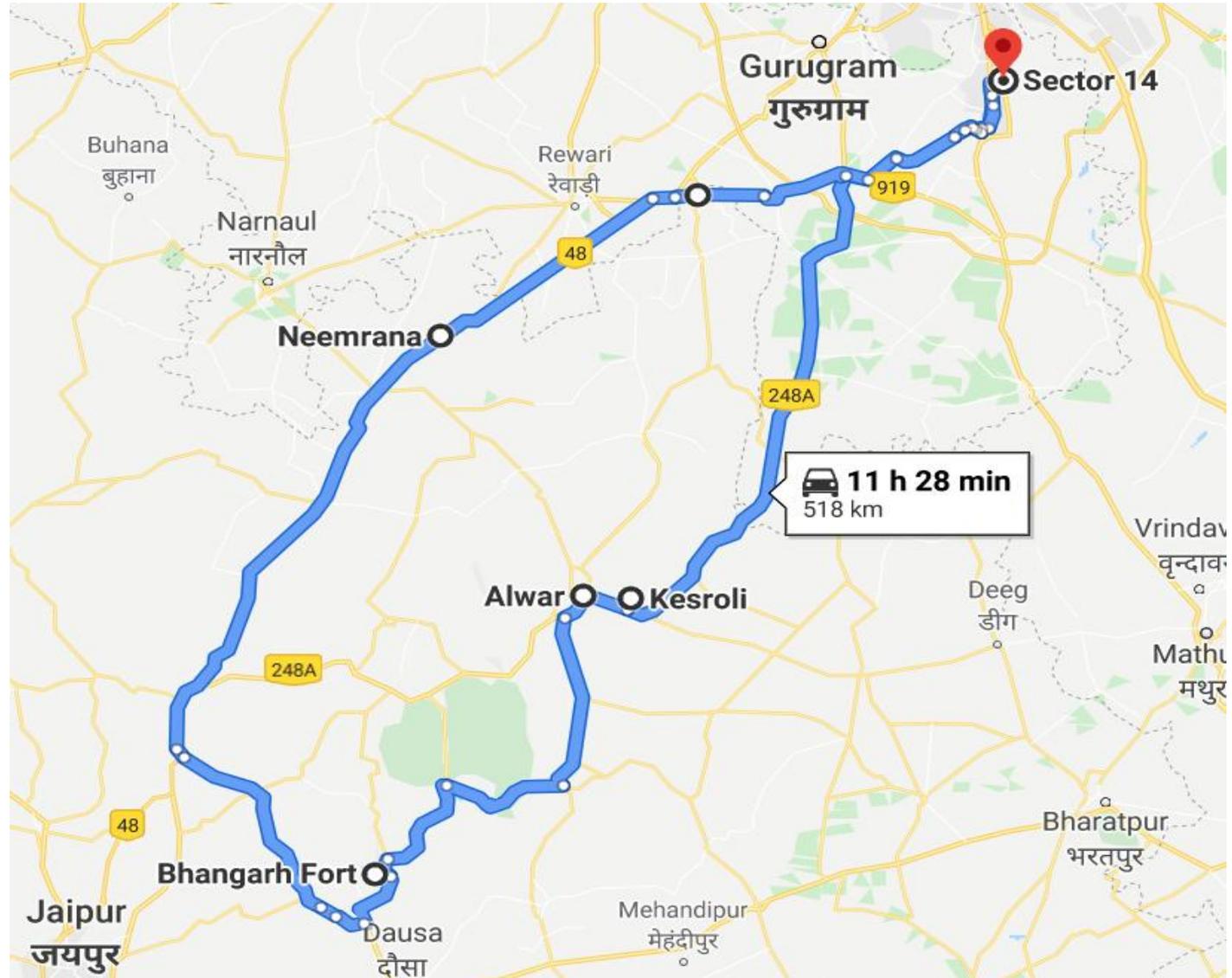
3 Days

16th & 18th February 2016

Alwar - Kesroli
– Bhangarh -
Neemrana



- Sector 14, Faridabad, Haryana
- Kesroli, Rajasthan
- Alwar, Rajasthan
- Bhangarh Fort, Gola ka baas, Rajgarh Te
- Neemrana, Rajasthan
- Sector 14, Faridabad, Haryana



Alwar



The Darbar of Raja Bakhtawar Singh of Alwar in 1810



Alwar is the first major city that comes while travelling from Delhi to Rajasthan. Surrounded by Aravali hills, Alwar known as “Tiger Gate of Rajasthan” is a pretty city of rich culture and heritage. It has been one of the oldest of Rajasthani Kingdoms and one of the first Rajput states to align itself with the British empire. The city comes under the NCR region and forms for a great weekend getaway from New Delhi - as Alwar is a small beautiful and peaceful place with no pollution.

Alwar was a part of the Matsya Kingdom, one of the sixteen ancient Mahājanapadas. The king of Amer (the former seat of Jaipur state) ruled the area in the eleventh century and his territory extended up to the present-day city of Alwar.

The Hindu King Hemchandra Vikramaditya (Hemu), was a Hindu emperor of North India during the 16th century. He defeated Akbar's Mughal forces in the Battle of Delhi in the Tughlakabad area in Delhi, and became the de facto king. He won twenty-two battles in succession and became the last Hindu emperor of India.

According to the "Gazetteer of Ulwar" published by the British raj, Alwar State was subdivided into four regions; Rath, Wai, Murukhand & Mewat.

Alwar is most famous for milkcake ('Alwar ka mawa').

Alwar



Tourist Attractions:

Bala Qila: Alwar Fort, is a fort approximately 300 meters above the city, founded by the 15th-century Khanzada Rajput ruler Hasan Khan Mewati and built on the foundations of a 10th-century mud fort.

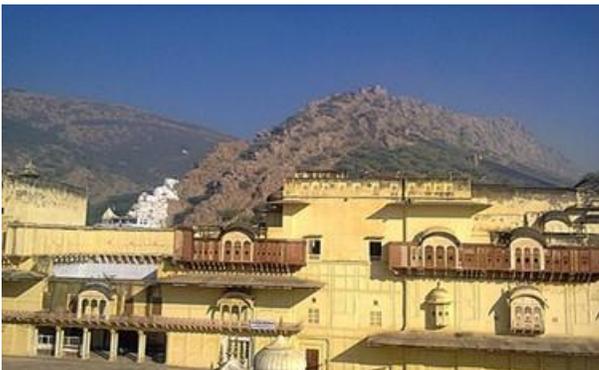
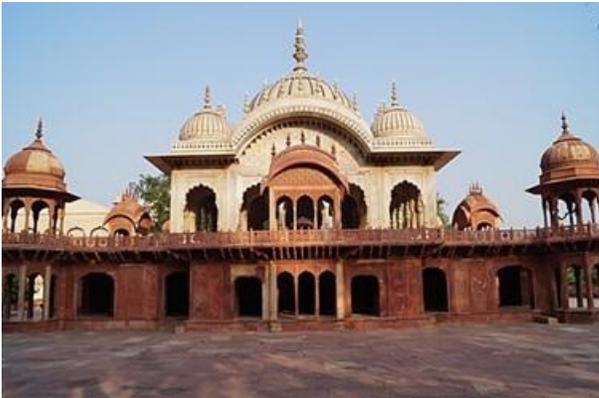
City Palace: Vinay Vilas Mahal, built in 1793 CE by Raja Bakhtawar Singh, blends the Rajputana and Islamic architectural styles and has marble pavilions on lotus-shaped bases in its courtyard.

Moosi Maharani ki Chhatri: This cenotaph was built by Vinay Singh in the memory of King Bakhtawar Singh and his queen, Moosi, in 1815.

Ashoka's Buddhist stupa: An inscription from the Mauryan emperor Ashoka.

Bharthari Temple: Dedicated to the king of Ujjain, who became a saint and is now commonly known as Baba Bharthari.

Fairy Queen: A national treasure (cultural artifact) of India and the world's oldest working locomotive engine (c. 1855 CE), operates as a tourist luxury train between Delhi and Alwar.



Hill Fort Kesroli, Alwar



The Hill Fort of Kesroli is a 14th-century fort located in Alwar, Rajasthan, India. It is now a heritage hotel managed by Neemrana Hotels group. Beautiful fort known for its turrets, ramparts, and arched verandahs and today considered as one of the best heritage hotels in India.

It was built in the 14th century by the Yaduvanshi Rajputs, who are said to be descendants of Lord Krishna. They were then named Khanzadas after having converted to Islam in the middle of the 14th century.

Through the centuries, the seven-turreted fort has changed hands many times. It has been conquered by the Mughals and the Jats and it then finally came into the hands of the Rajputs in 1775, at the time the princely state of Alwar was founded. The fort knew a golden period under Ranawat Thakur Bhawani Singh (1882–1934).

In 2004, the fort was leased to heritage company Neemrana Hotels by Wing Cdr. Mangal Singh. Subsequently, it was restored by co-owners of the group and restorers, Aman Nath and Francis Wacziarg.



Jaisamand Lake, Alwar



The Jaisamand lake is an artificial lake near Alwar in Rajasthan that has been built to store water from the overflow of the Ruparel river and to use the water during the parched summer months. The lake is about six kms from Alwar on the way to Silserh lake and Sariska Tiger Reserve. There is a minor village road leading to this place. The lake was constructed by Maharaja Jai Singh, in the year 1910.

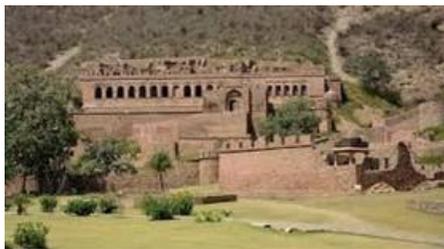


Jaisamand lake embankment has beautiful chatris (cenotaph) made all along its 1.5 km stretch adding immense beauty to the place. The reflection of the chatris on the water is beautiful. The central cenotaph is the largest of them and much more work has been done on this compared to the other chatris.

Though at one time this lake was considered to be amongst the largest artificial lakes in Asia sadly now it is nowhere its original size as the water now is very less and most of the land has been taken over for cultivation. Locals using inflated tubes of truck tyres as dinghies in an innovative way and collecting fish and weeds and some water vegetables.



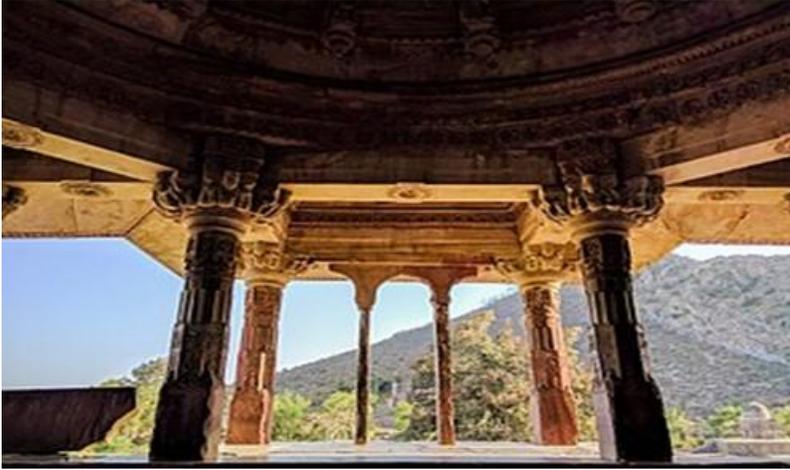
Bhangarh



The Bhangarh Fort is a 17th-century fort built in the Rajasthan state of India. It was built by Bhagwant Das for his younger son Madho Singh I.

The nearest village to the fort is Gola ka Baas. The fort is situated at the foot of the hills on sloping terrain. The ruins of the King's palace are located on the lower slope of the hills; trees surround the pond area and a natural stream falls into the pond within the premises of the palace. The approach to the entrance gate of the fort in the last 2 kilometres (1.2 mi) stretch of the road is an unpaved road. The fort is 20 miles (32 km) from Thana Ghazi. Entering through the main gate of the completely ruined fort city, one can find temples, palaces, and havelis. There are four more points of entry to the fort; the Lahori Gate, Ajmeri Gate, Phulbari Gate, and the Delhi Gate. At the entrance of the main gate are many Hindu temples such as; Hanuman, Gopinath, Someswar, Keshav Rai, Mangla Devi, Ganesh and Navin Temples. The Gopinath Temple is built above a 14 ft raised plinth, and yellow stones are used for the exquisite carvings of the temple. The residence of the priest, called the Purohitji Ki Haveli, is located in the precincts of the temple complex. Next in order is the Nachan Ki Haveli (dancer's palace) and Jauhari Bazar (market place), followed by the Gopinath Temple. The Royal Palace is located at the extreme end of the fort's limits.

Bhangarh

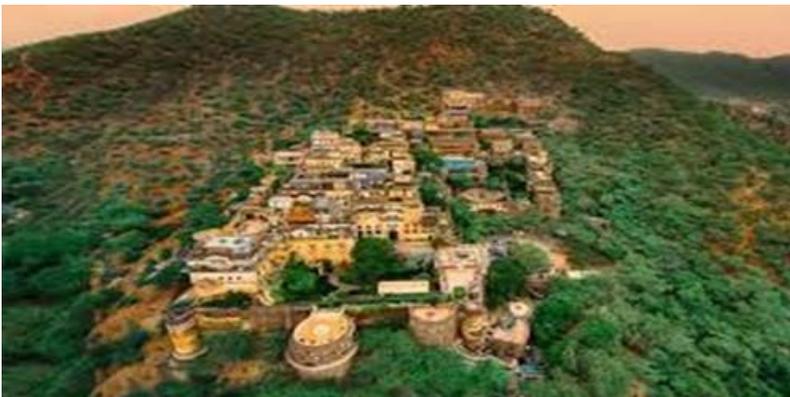
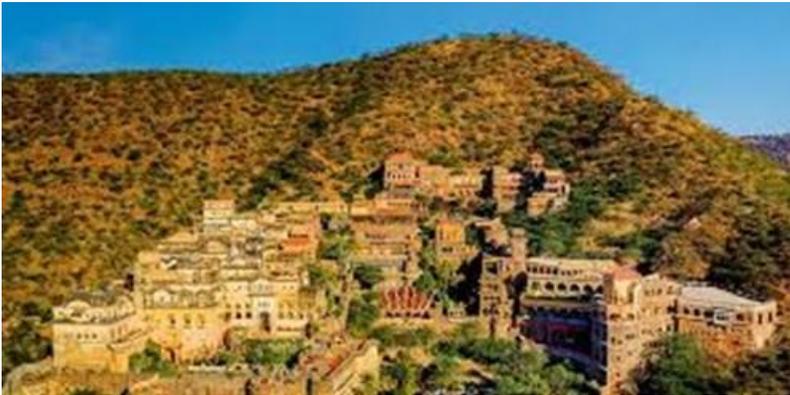


The temples dedicated to Hanuman and Shiv Mahadev are built in the style of cenotaphs rather than temples. A Muslim tomb found outside the gate is reported to be that of one of the sons of King Hari Singh.

The Cursed Ghosts Of Bhangarh Fort – The Most Haunted Place In India. According to legend, a sadhu named Baba Balak Nath lived within the fort area, and it was his injunction that any houses built in the precincts of the fort should not be taller than his house, and if the shadow of any such house fell on his house, it would result in destruction of the fort town. According to another folklore, a wizard adept in black magic named Sinhai fell in love with Ratnavati, a beautiful Bhangarh princess with many suitors. One day, the wizard followed her to the marketplace and offered her a love potion, however she refused it, throwing it onto a large rock that consequently rolled onto the wizard and crushed him to death.

ASI forbids visitors and locals from hanging around the vicinity of the fort once the sun sets. The warnings about legal actions are not merely out of rumors. People claim to have heard Bhangarh ghosts scream, voices of women crying, sounds of bangles in the rooms, and eerie smells after dusk. Ghostly shadows, strange lights, and unusual sounds of music and dance have also been reported. The brave hearts who dared to stay back after dusk have failed to appear alive the next morning.

Neemrana



Neemrana is an ancient historical town in Alwar district of Rajasthan, India, 84 km (52 mi) from Gurgaon; 122 km (76 mi) from Delhi and 150 km (93 mi) from Jaipur on the Delhi-Jaipur highway in Neemrana tehsil. It is between Behror and Shahajahanpur. This area is also known as Ahirwal region in India. It is the site of a 16th-century hill-fort occupied by Chauhans till 1947. The erstwhile ruling family is considered to be of the direct lineage of Prithviraj Chauhan.

The Rajas of Nimrana belong to the Sankat sub-clan and Kharak family of the Chauhan clan. Rao Rajdeo, Rao of Nimrana was the founding Raja of Neerana in 1464. He was the 6th in descent from Rao Madan Pal, founder of Mandawar in 1170.

The rulers included; Raja Tehri Singh, Raja Bhim Singh, Raja Mukand Singh, Raja Janak Singh (1885-1931)

The state of Nimrana from 1885 to 1907 was managed by a political agent during the younger years of Raja Janak Singh and Raja Janak Singh was granted full ruling powers in February 1907. During this period Ladha Singh Bhatia was installed as the Wazir of Neemrana.

After Raja Janak Singh, the rulers are; Rao Saheb Umrao Singh (1932-1945), Shriman Raja Rajendra Singhji Sahib 1946-recent, Raja Keshav Singh (the current title holder)

Neemrana Fort Palace



The 15th century Fort Palace of Neemrana is about 125 km from Delhi, on the road to Jaipur in Rajasthan. Built in 1464, the Fort Palace became the third capital of the descendants of Prithviraj Chauhan III, who had fled Delhi in 1192 after he was vanquished in battle by Muhammad Ghori.

Nowadays, the fort is among India's oldest heritage resort hotels and one of the most unique hotels in the world. The enchanting building, boasts palace wings covering six acres of land over 12 separate levels.



Neemrana's rulers, proud of lineage, continued to assert themselves, even under the British, as their kingdom suffered. In 1947, Raja Rajinder Singh moved down to Vijay Bagh and the Fort Palace crumbled as its ramparts began to give way. For forty years he tried to rid himself of his liability but there were no takers. In 1986 the ruins were acquired for restoration and by 1991 the fort Palace was resplendent and majestic once again. The restoration has not altered any original design feature, not even Windows and doors and beautiful amphitheatre.



The 600-year-old Fort-Palace is alive with life today, taking the guests down the memory lane to showcase how the Rajasthan royals lived once upon a time. History is out of the pages on to the hills of Aravali in Neemrana, one has to reach out to feel it. It is more than interesting.

Baori, Neemrana



Neemrana is known for its fort today, but close to it lies the palatial baori (stepwell) which is one of the best of its kind in India. The subterranean stepwell known as Neemrana Baori is situated a few miles off the Delhi-Jaipur highway. Though it is the largest and deepest stepwell in India, the beholder will fail to resist the magnificence of this structure. Locals describe the construction of the stepwell was carried out by the descendants of Prithviraj Chauhan.

At the level of the ground, about 86 colonnaded openings existed from where everyone had to go down 170 to 200 steps to reach the water stored at the bottom of the stepwell. They say that more than 20 stairs right from the eighth floor were submerged in water.

Today, the place has lost its former glory to the apparent neglect it has faced over the decades by the concerned authorities. What one can see now are broken ledges, filth, cracked steps, scribbling by the visitors, and some unwelcomed occupants such as beehives, bats etc.

Neemrana Baori may surely have been abandoned, but it still retains its erstwhile charm – there is still much scope for it to regain its former charisma by taking charge of its restoration soon.



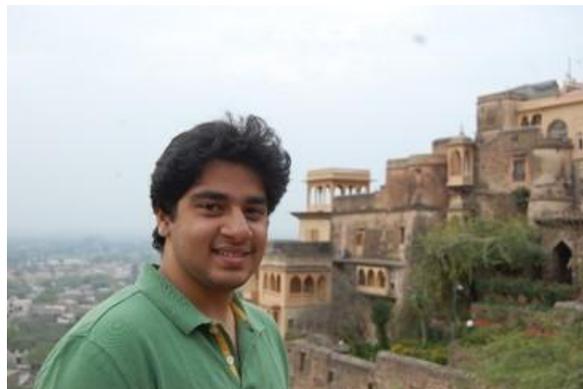
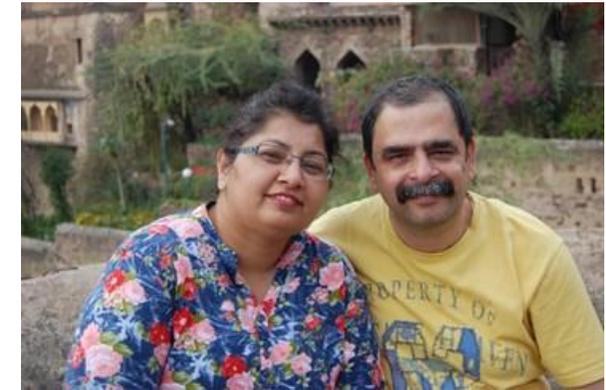
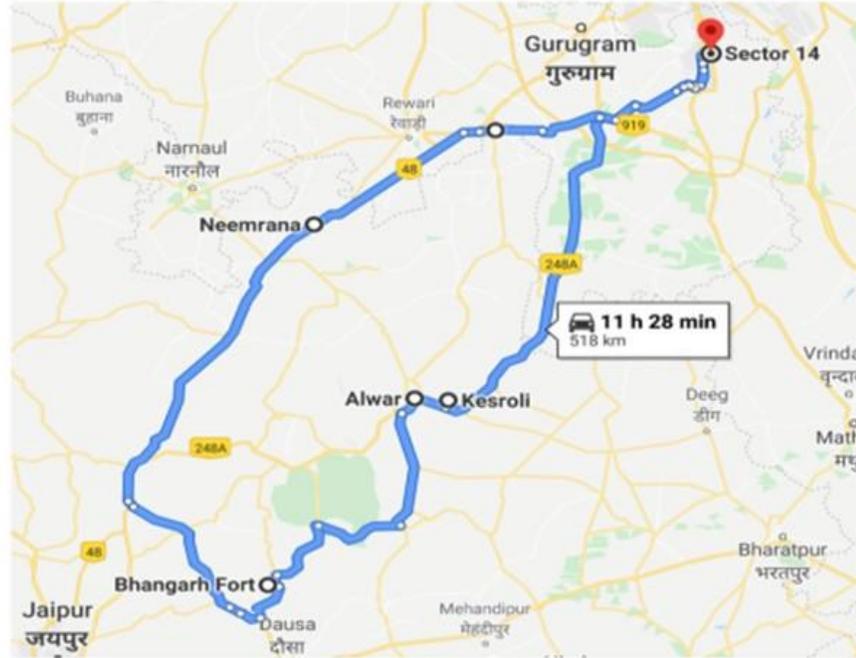
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