

An Overview of Tourist Circuits: A Case of Rajasthan

Qureshi Mo. Sufiyan Mo. IShaq¹, Himanshu Jawahar Padhya²

¹ Post Graduate Student, Town and Country Planning, Sarvajanik College of Engineering and Technology (Surat, Gujarat)

² Associate Professor, Faculty of Civil Engineering, Sarvajanik College of Engineering and Technology (Surat, Gujarat)

ABSTRACT

Tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world and it is considered as a significant factor in the economy of many nations and also in India. Rajasthan state is known as one of the main tourist destination in India. This state is very famous for tourism due to its culture, wonderful legacy, nature, lively folk, heritage, cuisines and bright living traditions. Tourism in this state is divided by regions. Tourism activity in every region is different due to difference in culture, tradition and heritage. Jaipur from Dhundhar circuit; Udaipur from Mewar circuit; Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner from desert circuit are the tourist hubs of Rajasthan. The person who visits Rajasthan for tourism would visit at least one or more of these tourist hubs.

Keywords - Tourism, Tourist Circuit, Rajasthan Tourism, Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Bikaner

I. INTRODUCTION

A definition of tourism given by World Tourism Organization is, “Tourism comprises the activities of persons traveling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes.” As per World Tourism Organization, Tourism is a gathering of activities, services and industries which deliver a travel experience comprising transportation, accommodation, eating and drinking establishments, retail shops, and hospitality services provided for person or groups travelling away from home. The tourism industry is a most attractive human movement which is fit for changing the socio-cultural, environmental and economic face of the World. This is one of the biggest and fastest developing field in the world; it can possibly impact the living example of communities. India is a country where over 1.3 billion people following different culture, dialects, celebrations, religion and so forth. After independence the tourism sector was considered as an important sector. So, government introduced various plans and policies for development of tourism industry.

II. TOURISM IN INDIA

Tourism is a major engine of economic growth and an important source of employment & foreign exchange earnings in many countries including India. It has great capacity to create large scale employment of diverse kind – from the most specialized to the unskilled and hence can play a major role in creation of additional employment opportunities. It can also play an important role in achieving growth with equity and sustainability.

The Ministry of Tourism has the main objective of increasing and facilitating tourism in India. Augmenting tourism infrastructure, easing of visa regime, assurance of quality standards in services of tourism service providers, projecting the country as a 365 days’ tourist destination, promoting tourism in a sustainable manner,

etc. are some of the policy areas which need to be constantly worked upon to increase and facilitate tourism in India.

Ministry of Tourism is according priority for holistic development of tourism destinations into world class destinations using a cluster approach including development of infrastructure, amenities, interpretation centers and skill development by achieving synergy and convergence with other Central Ministries, State Governments and Industry Stakeholders. As a step in this direction, Ministry of Tourism has recently launched the 'Adopt A Heritage' project. Heritage sites are being offered for adoption by the public sector, private sector and individuals to become 'Monument Mitras' for developing amenities and facilities at these sites under this programme.

III. ABOUT RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan "Land of Kings" is a state in northern India. The state covers an area of 342,239 square kilometers and it covers 10.4 percent of the total geographical area of India. It is the largest Indian state by area and the seventh largest by population. Rajasthan is located on the northwestern side of India, where it comprises most of the wide and inhospitable Thar Desert and shares an international border with the Pakistan and it is bordered by five other Indian states: Punjab to the north; Haryana and Uttar Pradesh to the northeast; Madhya Pradesh to the southeast; and Gujarat to the southwest.

IV. TOURISM IN RAJASTHAN

Rajasthan state is emerged as one of the most popular tourist destinations in India for both foreign and domestic tourists. This state is very well known for its diversity in terms of natural resources, cultural heritage, historical and archaeological wonders and wild life sanctuaries. The palaces and fort, heritage hotels, colorful fairs and festivals, local art and handicrafts etc. has been a unique selling proposition for tourists coming to the state. The desert environment in the western parts of the state is also a major attraction for visitors, particularly the foreign tourist.

Tourism activity spread in all over Rajasthan state, but this activity is mostly happening in 6 main cities which are the 'Tourist hub' of Rajasthan. These 'tourist hub' cities are Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, and Mount Abu. Almost every tourist who visits Rajasthan state would visit at least one or more of these 'tourist hub' locations as part of his / her tourist itinerary.

- Jaipur is a part of the popular tourist circuit 'Golden Triangle' (Delhi-Agra-Jaipur) that is very popular with the foreign tourists.
- Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Jodhpur are popular for the 'Desert Circuit' of Rajasthan.
- Udaipur in Mewar region is a big tourist hub of south Rajasthan and popular hub for tourist activity in the Mewar region.
- Mount Abu is one and only hill station of Rajasthan, is largely a big tourist destination for domestic tourists especially from Gujarat.

V. TOURIST CIRCUITS

Department of Tourism, Rajasthan has identified nine tourist circuits based on geography and attractions which are mentioned below.

- **Desert Circuit:** Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Bikaner
- **Mewar Circuit:** Udaipur-Rajsamand-Chittaurgarh-Bhilwara
- **Dhundhar Circuit:** Jaipur-Dausa-Tonk
- **Shekhawati Circuit:** Sikar-Jhunjhunun-Churu
- **Vagad Circuit:** Dungarpur-Banswara
- **Godwar Circuit:** Sirohi-Pali-Jalore
- **Marwar Circuit:** Ajmer-Nagaur
- **Brij-Mewat Circuit:** Alwar-Bharatpur-Karauli-Dholpur-Sawai Madhopur
- **Hadoti Circuit:** Kota-Bundi-Jhalawar

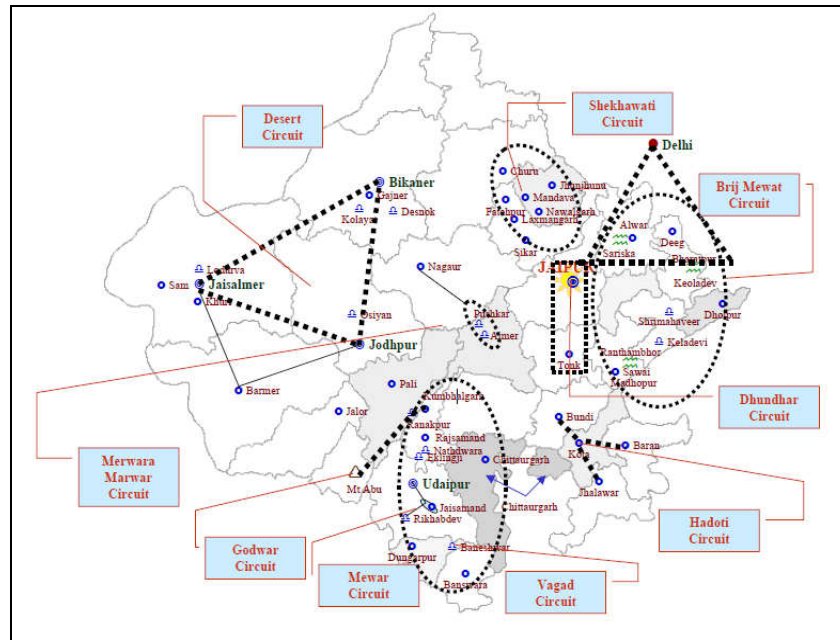


Figure 1: Tourist circuits of Rajasthan

Source: 20 Year perspective plan for sustainable tourism in Rajasthan, Department of Tourism, Government of India

Here Three of these nine tourist circuits namely, Desert Circuit (Jodhpur-Jaisalmer-Bikaner-Barmer), Mewar Circuit (Udaipur-Rajsamand-Chittaurgarh-Bhilwara) and Dhundhar Circuit (Jaipur), which are developed very well and it is discussed below. In other tourist circuits, tourism is limited to cover of only 1-2 destinations rather than the circuit as a whole.

1. Desert circuit

The desert circuit which includes three districts namely Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner in western Rajasthan rising out of the golden sands of the Thar Desert. The circuit is woven around the principal tourist locations in these three districts (commonly referred to as the Desert Triangle) and now increasingly the desert town of Barmer.

The desert circuit includes three districts in western Rajasthan rising out of the golden sands of the Thar Desert. The circuit is woven around the principal tourist locations in these districts, namely, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Bikaner (commonly referred to as the Desert Triangle) and now increasingly the desert town of Barmer.

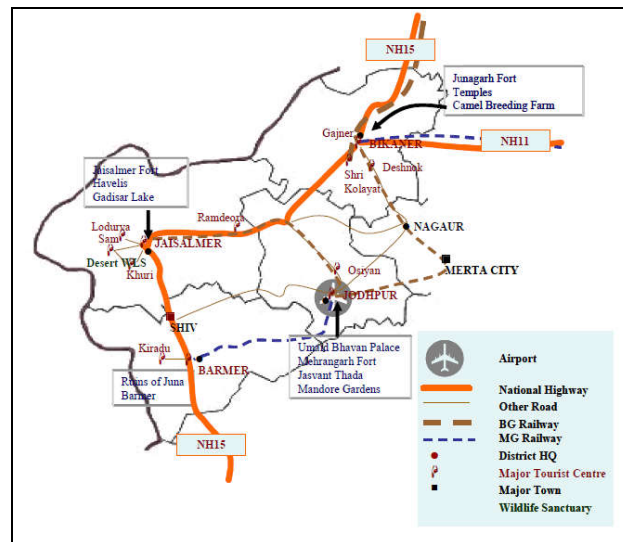


Figure 2: Desert circuit map

Source: 20 Year perspective plan for sustainable tourism in Rajasthan, Department of Tourism, Government of India

Jodhpur: Jodhpur is one of the principal cities in the desert circuit; it has the massive Mehrangarh fort which was built in 15th century. Jodhpur city also has the grand Umaid Bhawan palace which is hotel also; this palace was built in 20th century. Tourist also attracts to see white marble royal cenotaphs of Jasvant Thada and the ancient capital of Marwar, Mandore with its cenotaphs and gardens. The village Osiyan which is around 65 Km from Jodhpur city, it has 15 beautifully sculpted Jain and Brahmanical temples of five different centuries.

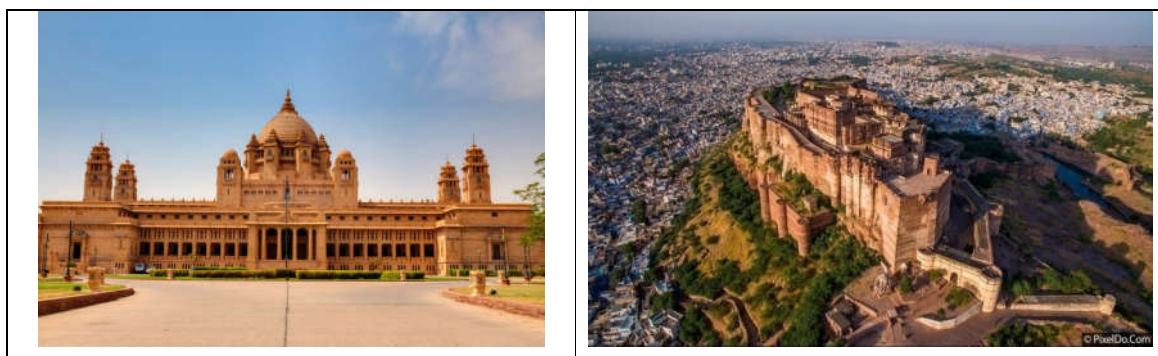


Figure 3: Umaid Bawan Palace (Left) and Mehrangarh fort of Jodhpur (Right)

Source: India Travel Blog and travel for you

Jaisalmer: Jaisalmer is known as the golden city of Rajasthan, the city is favorite destinations for both domestic and foreign tourists. The main attraction in Jaisalmer is the Grand Jaisalmer fort, which has an entire living area within its ramparts and is known for its beautifully carved havelis and its ancient Jain temples. Attractions outside the fort are Patwon ki Haveli and the Salim Singh ki Haveli and the Gadisar Lake. Other famous attraction is Lodurva Jain temples, Sam sand dunes, the Desert National Park and the Khuri village safari. The popular tourism 'products' of the region include the desert village camps, desert safaris and the desert festival.



Figure 4: Jaisalmer fort (Left), Patwon ki haweli (middle) and Sam sand dunes (Right)
Source: Tour my India

Bikaner: Bikaner city is situated in the northern point of the desert circuit, and this city is famous for its palaces, forts and havelis. The Junagarh fort and museum and the Lallgarh palace is attracts to tourist in Bikaner. The Karni Mata temple in Deshnok around 30 km from Bikaner is also a popular tourist destination for for pilgrimage, the Gajner Palace and wildlife sanctuary and Shri Kolayat temples are also a famous tourist destination in and around Bikaner.



Figure 5: Junagarh fort (Left) and Rampuria haweli (Right)
Source: Thrilling travel and Thrillofilla

2. Mewar circuit

The Mewar region of Rajasthan comprises beautiful lakes, hills and deep valleys. This region is particularly popular among domestic tourists because of its religion combination and history. The tourist circuit in Mewar is primarily includes the cities like Udaipur, Chittaurgarh and Nathdwara. Figure 6 shows map of main tourist location in Mewar circuit.

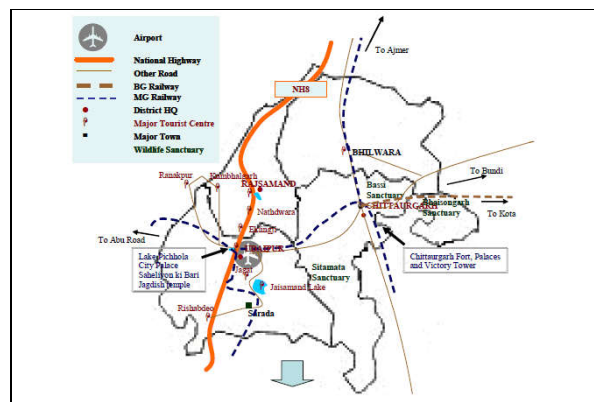


Figure 6: Mewar circuit map

Source: 20 Year perspective plan for sustainable tourism in Rajasthan, Department of Tourism, Government of India

Udaipur: Udaipur is hub of tourist in Mewar Region. This city is having number of lakes and palaces. City Palace, Lake Pichhola, Fateh Sagar Lake, Jagdish Temple, Jag Niwas Palace, Sahelion Ki Bari, Ahar, etc. are the main attraction of this city and this all spots are located within the city. Another attraction is located around 8 kms from the city are Sajjangarh fort and surrounding small wild life sanctuary. On the north of Udaipur lies Nathdwara (famous Krishna temple) Nagda (temple ruins), Eklingji (temple complex), Haldighati (battleground) visited mainly by the domestic tourists for both religious and historical purposes. Further north lies Rajsamand Lake and Kankroli. These both tourist spots are less popular and visited only by a few domestic tourists.



Figure 7: City palace (Left), Lake Pichhola (Middle) and Jagdish Temple (Right)
Source: Tour my India

Chittaurgarh: Chittaurgarh city is around 120 Kms east of Udaipur. This city is very popular as a place of historical interests to domestic tourists. The Chittaurgarh fort is also gaining in popularity with foreign tourists.

Kumbhalgarh: Kumbhalgarh is around 84 Kms west of Udaipur. The Kumbhalgarh fort is particularly popular with domestic tourists and known for its camping sites and horse safaris.



Figure 8: Chittaurgarh fort (Left) and Kumbhalgarh fort (Right)
Source: Tour my India

3. Dhundhar circuit

The Dhundhar circuit constitutes of tourist locations around Jaipur and is known for its blend of culture, history, architecture and religion. It includes tourist locations in Jaipur, Dausa and Tonk districts, mainly the Jaipur City and others like Samode, Abhaneri and Ramgarh. Jaipur the capital city of Rajasthan is the hub for this circuit.

Jaipur: Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan and an important tourist location in Dhundhar circuit, Jaipur city is well connected by air, rail and road to the rest of the country and it is one of the main tourist entry points for Rajasthan. Jaipur and surrounding region (Dhundhar) has a large inventory of attractions, which are diverse as well as unique. Hence the region is popular amongst domestic as well as foreign tourists.

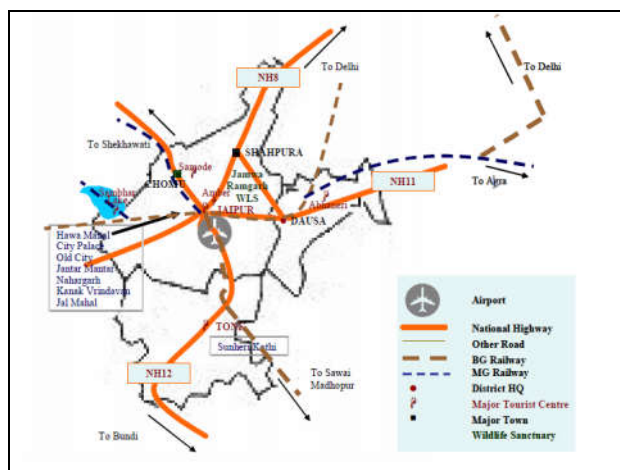


Figure 9: Dhundhar circuit

Source: 20 Year perspective plan for sustainable tourism in Rajasthan, Department of Tourism, Government of India

Major tourist locations in Dhundhar Region especially Jaipur and surrounding are mentioned below.

Table 1: Major tourist location in Dhundhar region

District	Major Attraction	
Jaipur	In Jaipur city	Surrounding Jaipur city
	The City Palace	Maharani ki Chhatri Cenotaphs
	Jantar Mantar Observatory	Jal Mahal Palace
	Hawa Mahal Palace	Kanak Vrindavan Temple Complex
	Govind Devji Temple	Gaitore Cenotaphs
	Galtaji Pilgrim Centre	Ghat ki Guni gardens (Sisodia Rani gardens)
	Moti Doongri, Lakshmi Narayan Temple	Amer fort (Sheesh Mahal and other palaces)
	Statue Circle	Jaigarh fort
	Ram Niwas Gardens with Zoo	Nahargarh fort
	BM Birla Planetarium	Sanganer palaces and temples
	Old City	
Dausa	Aabhaneri	
Tonk	Sunehri Kothi of Tonk	

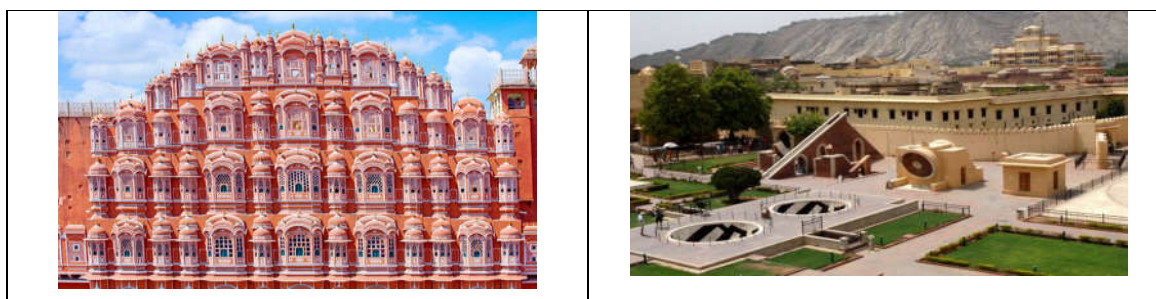


Figure 10: Hawa Mahal (Left) and Jantar Mantar (Right)

Source: Tour my India



Figure 11: City palace (Left) and Amber fort (Right)
Source: Tour my India

VI. CONCLUSION

Rajasthan state is blessed with different culture; tradition and heritage in every region and tourist are attracting with these features. But, every region in Rajasthan is not well developed for tourism except Dhundhar, Mewar and Desert region. Shekhawati Region of Rajasthan is known as largest open art gallery of world due to fresco painted on the walls of havelis, there are more than 5000 havelis are now decayed due to lack of care. Similarly, other regions are facing less development for tourism sector. Those regions should be developed well for tourism.

REFERENCES

- Ministry of Tourism, Art and Culture, Government of India. "20 Year Perspective Plan for Sustainable Tourism in Rajasthan."
- Nupur Panwar, Vasu Sharma. "Assessment of Tourism Potential: A Case study of Alwar District, Rajasthan." *International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET)*, 2017.
- *Rajasthan Tourism*. <http://www.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in/> (accessed December 2018).
- *Rajasthan Tourism development Corporation LTD*. <http://rtdc.tourism.rajasthan.gov.in/> (accessed December 2019).
- *Shekhawati: Heritage at Risk*. Directed by Rajya Sabha TV. Performed by Arvind Kumar Singh.
- Varshney, Supriya Sinha and Madhur. "Cultural tourism in Rajasthan: a strategic planning approach for Mandawa." *International Journal on Emerging Technologies*, 2017.
- Yadav, Dr. Manju. "Rajasthan tourism: Problems and government policies." *International Journal of Advanced Research and Development*.