

WHAT TO EAT

Rajasthan is the birthplace of *kachori*, a power meal of fried pastry stuffed with onions, potatoes or spicy lentils that fueled warriors and tradesmen on long marches. Today, lighter fare balances the penchant for sweet and spice.



Caffé Palladio: sublime saffron setting.



Tapri: hipster-approved tea service.

eating hall with artfully designed spaces. **meraaki kitchen.com**; dinner for two Rs1,500.

Caffé Panchranga At this Italian-inspired spot with lovely garden seating, expect wood-fired pizzas, home-made pastas, fusion sliders and great wines. Veggies come from Sujan Rajmahal hotel's organic gardens. **fb.com/**

Tapri The standard Indian teahouse is moving on up—to this roof lounge serving brews in handsome copper kettles to a broad audience. Rajasthani teahouse fare is on the menu, with portions large enough for two. **tapri.net**; lunch or dinner for two with chai Rs800.

Meraaki Kitchen Fusion vegetarian bites in an industrial chic

caffepanchranga; lunch for two Rs4,000.

Caffé Palladio Your sublime repast in these gardens or saffron-hued pavilion may include lime- and mint-infused couscous or pomegranate tabbouleh. A deli is stocked with fresh bread, sweets and cool ceramics. The Caffé follows on heels of last year's nightlife-revving **Bar Palladio**, with its

Italian frescos and outdoor fire pits. **bar-palladio.com**; lunch for two Rs1,500.

The Kitchen at Jaipur Modern Its updated menu stars farm-to-table quinoa options. Savory quinoa maki rolls and jaggery-sweetened coconut **laddoos** (a local confection) join for seconds. **jaipurmodern.com**; lunch for two Rs1,500–1,800.



Caffé Panchranga: burgers on parade.

DIY

Crafting, eating and riding: three different ways to dive headfirst into Jaipur.

+ Practice block printing and create your own masterpiece in Bagru, a village dedicated to the craft. India Beat's **Block Print Workshop** (indiabeat.co.uk; US\$100 per person) offers half-day excursions with a master craftsman learning woodblock-printing and *dabu*, or mud-printing. + **Chillies Walk The Town** (mita.kapur@gmail.com; Rs8,500 per person) dishes a deep-fried tryst with Rajasthani street food, taking intrepid eaters through the old city haunts, sampling *kachoris* stuffed with lentil and spice, refreshing *neera*, water from the bark of the date tree, and *prasad*, or holy food, presumably blessed by Lord Krishna. + Jaipur's polo heritage is legendary, and Rajput noblemen still pony up competitively for the winter season. **Polo Factory's** (polofactoryonline.com; clinics from Rs8,000 per day, or US\$500 for a week including lodging) day- and week-long clinics will get you riding and playing *chukkas* like a pro.



Learn to ride at Polo Factory.

INSIDERS' TIPS

The power couple behind the city's modern craft revival likes their together-time old-school. "We start off with *dosas* (potato-stuffed crepes) and chai at **Old India Coffee House** (indiancoffeehouse.com; dinner for two Rs300); nibble on fresh *gajak* (sesame flour ghee and raw jaggery baked into crisp sheets) at **Ishwar Ji Gajak Wale** (279 Chaura Rasta; Rs300 per kilogram); chew on paan (digestive herbs and spices wrapped in betel leaf) at **Special Paan Ki Dukkan** (Chaura Rasta opposite Ishwarji; one paan Rs30) and drive up to **Suriya Mandir** to view the city lights. This was our first date, and it never gets old."



DATE NIGHT
GEETANJALI & AYUSH KASLIWAL
Founders of Anantaya & AKFD Studio



SHOPPING FOR SPARKLES
SIDDHARTH KASLIWAL
Co-owner of The Gem Palace

From the glitterati to the imminently wed, the city is a gem bank. Kasliwal pays homage to his famous jeweler father, Munnu, and his clan's prior eight generations of goldsmiths, with coveted handmade pieces at his **atelier** (munnuthegempalace.com; 91-982/901-0858 for private appointment) and these tips for shopping in Jaipur: "Don't buy rubies and sapphires without certificates. Don't let a taxi driver or a guide persuade you to go to a particular shop. And don't get seduced by healers and astrologers suggesting you buy random stones for your safety."

Before the Jaipur Literary Festival consecrated the city as a belletristic hub, Kapur says, Jaipur was already peddling stories and ideas with a vibrant *kavi sammelan*, oral tradition of storytelling—think poetry slam meets stand-up comic. "For those of us who grew up in the 1970s, the dark and crammed **Book Corner** (81 Mizra Ismail Rd., opposite Niros Restaurant) was a royal mess but a godsend. These days, **Rajat Book Corner** (rajatbookcorner.com) and **Bookwise** (110 Mizra Ismail Rd.; 91-141/236-4755) make for a better browsing experience."



BOOK CLUB
MITA KAPUR
Founder of Siyahi Literary Agency

When not fashioning her glamorous line of kaftans and homeware, Kaoukji hits the city's colorful markets in the old city. "I am constantly going to the bazaar in search of inspiration and raw materials. At **Badi Chaupad** (intersection of Tripolia Bazar and Ramganj Bazar Rd, Old City) and **Johari Bazar** (along Johari Bazar Rd, Old City), you can see artisans working on Zardori and Gota embroidery. The **Museum of Indology** (24 Gangal Park, near Albert Hall Museum; entry Rs100) was started by the world's biggest hoarder, I think. A bit distressing, but an incredible library of objects."



MARKET HOPPING
NUR KAOUKJI
Founder & Creative Director at Ecrú



Lessons with a block-printing master.

GREAT GUIDES

INDIA BEAT An agency that fashions bespoke itineraries based on interest and budget. The charming, knowledgeable guides rattle off local lore and crack jokes. Tap them for hard-to-find and appointment-only access to the likes of famous textile designer Brigitte Singh, and private lessons with block-printing masters in Bagru village. indiabeat.co.uk.

THINGS TO DO This online portal curates cool happenings, activities and bespoke experiences, including cycling tours, jeep safaris, arts and craft lessons, golfing, festival hopping, cooking classes and private excursions to hidden spots. Peruse and book their selections directly. thingstodoinjaipur.com.

SANGHMITRA VOYAGES The Welcome Ambassador, a hand-painted vintage Hindustan Ambassador that cruises the sun-streaked countryside, is the city's best-looking ride. Be chauffeured in it to the Aravati Hills for a morning trek followed by serviced breakfast, private yoga in a historic courtyard, or sundowners at Nahargarh Fort. sanghmitra.in; full-day sightseeing Rs4,500.



Jeep safaris.

BURGERS: COURTESY OF CAFFÉ PANCHRANGA. RIDING: COURTESY OF POLO FACTORY

FROM TOP: ANKUSH MARIJA, COURTESY OF SIDDHARTH KASLIWAL; COURTESY OF MITA KAPUR; COURTESY OF NUR KAOUKJI; SIDEBAR FROM TOP: COURTESY OF INDIA BEAT; COURTESY OF THINGS TO DO