



## Amber - Beyond the fort

Amba, consecrated to the Mother Goddess, known as Gatta Rani (Queen of the Pass) was originally occupied by the Meena, a caste who claim their descent from the Matsya Avatar or the fish incarnation of Vishnu. Older than the famous fort and palace complex the now sleepy town of Amber is rarely visited by foreigners.

Dotted with numerous historic temples, havelis and a fascinating step well this two hour walk is a perfect accompaniment and antidote to any visit to the busy Fort and Palace complex.

### Significant highlights include

- ❖ **Jagat Shiromani Temple.** A 16<sup>th</sup> century temple dedicated to lord *Krishna*, this temple is decorated with beautiful frescos featuring characters from Hindu mythology. Jagat Shrimoni Temple was constructed by Shri Kankawatiji, Maharani of Maharaja Man Singh in 1601, in commemoration of her beloved son Maharaja Kumar Jagat Singhji who died two years previously.

Locally available stone and white marble was used to construct this stunning temple, which is built in the south Indian style. The carvings depict trumpeting elephants and horses scenes from Puranas, as well as some scenes depicting everyday life.

- ❖ **Ambikeshwar Temple.** This ancient Shiva temple is believed to be older than Amber and it is said that every year the Shiva linga is sinking deeper into the ground, a fact which cannot be explained by geological reasoning. Meet the 9<sup>th</sup> generation priest "Gopal ji" to hear this mysterious legend recounted.

- ❖ **Parik Haveli.** One of the largest Havelis of the town which is still occupied despite now lying largely in ruins.

- ❖ **Keshavdas Kalyanji Temple,** allegedly over 1000 years old.

- ❖ **Panna Miah Kund.** A beautifully restored step well which was built by one of Jai Singh's eunuchs.

- ❖ **Anokhi Museum of Hand printing** is situated in a beautifully restored mansion from the 16th century. Housing an excellent collection of both traditional and contemporary textiles made using a variety of different techniques. There is a workshop where visitors can watch demonstrations of block printing and even have a go themselves.

- ❖ **Sanghi Juntha Ram Temple.** Originally used by the Jain community this peaceful building is now a Hindu Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.

### Trekking Extension:

For those with a love of the outdoors, beautiful scenery and fresh air, we can combine this walk with some gentle trekking in the surrounding Aravali hills. Visit a ruined fort, hidden shines and meet the local Meena community to learn about their daily lives. (Approx 1.5 hours)

Starting point: Behind Amber Fort (Chand Pol Gate)

Finishing Point: Hathi Pol

Approximately 2.5 hrs in duration

Walk departs: 11:00 A.M.

Minimum number of participants 2: maximum 8

