



RAJASTHAN

JAANE KYA DIKH JAAYE!

TEEJ - A TRADITIONAL TREAT IN RAJASTHAN



The roaring winds, the clap of thunder, the dancing peacocks, the sweet chirping of birds, and the pleasant fragrance of the fresh wet soil marks the advent of monsoons, breaking the long and deep silence of the hot summers.

With the splatter of raindrops, the merry spirits soar high in celebration indicating the beginning of the Teej Festival which is dedicated to Goddess Parvati, commemorating her union with Lord Shiva. This festival is held every year on the third day (Teej) after the new moon in the Hindu month of Shravan.

Primarily Teej being a festival for women it is an occasion for them to deck up in traditional jewellery and colourful attires. Women of all ages can be seen enjoying in vibrant bazaars all over the city. The festivity centres centres on singing and dancing in devotion of Goddess Parvati. All across the state women can be seen enjoying themselves swinging on Jhoolas (Swings) hung from trees, playing games, singing the folksongs and applying mehendi (henna) on their hands.

In Jaipur an idol of Goddess Parvati is taken out in a royal and elaborate procession from the City Palace to the Chaugan Stadium on the festive occasion, which is watched by people in large numbers. This kilometer long procession includes bullock carts, canons, chariots, gaily decorated elephants with silver haodas, horses, camels, brass bands, group of dancers and a spectacular palanquin of Goddess Parvati which is carried by eight men dressed in red attires. People join the procession as it winds its way through the lanes of the old city while others perch on top of buildings, windows, even trees to catch a glimpse of Goddess Parvati. The people strew flowers and coins over the idol of Goddess Parvati to seek her blessings.

The Department of Tourism, Rajasthan extends this event by organizing various exciting contests for the tourists and cultural performances by folk artists. The department also makes arrangements for the tourists to witness and participate in the procession. To add to the colour of the fair, stalls are put up to offer traditional delicacies like dalbaati churma, kair sangari vegetable, the sweet ghewar and other mouth-watering Rajasthani dishes.

The joy and the merriment that Teej brings along are beyond words. The Pink City, Jaipur welcomes you to get a feel of this ecstatic experience on the 4th and the 5th of August this year.