

MAhout



Fact Sheet

Hotel Address

Udai Bilas Palace
Dungarpur 314001
Rajasthan
Tel: +91 2964 230 808
Fax: +91 2964 231 008
Mobile: +91 9314 653967
Website: www.udaibilaspalace.com
Email: contact@udaibilaspalace.com

Location

Udai Bilas Palace has an idyllic, lakeside position on the banks of Gaibsagar Lake in Dungarpur which is just a short way off National Highway no.8, between Udaipur (2 hours) and Ahmedabad (2 ½ hours). It dates back to the mid-19th century and has slowly been added to over the years, with each generation adding a further wing as the family grew. It is a large, rambling building with various different wings and with some stunning architectural edifices in the courtyards. It is surrounded by expansive and peaceful gardens and is a paradise for birdwatchers, painters (the paintings in the old palace are amongst the finest to be found in India), nature lovers, architecture buffs and generally for those looking for peace and tradition.

The owning family were keen and respected hunters and used to travel the world over to hunt, in times gone by. The walls of many parts of the palace are adorned with past hunting trophies and relics of what was then a widely accepted custom. It is therefore not suitable for those who may find such trophies offensive.

Accessibility

By Air: To Ahmedabad or Udaipur, from Delhi, Bombay, Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur followed by a 2 ½ hour or a 2 hour car journey, respectively.

By Train: To Dungarpur from Delhi, Ajmer, Chittorgarh, Udaipur and Ahmedabad, followed by a 10 minute drive.

By Road: An easy drive from Udaipur, Delwara and Ahmedabad. A longer drive from Deogarh, Narlai and Ratlam.

Transfers: The hotel is happy to arrange transfers from either the airport or the railway station to / from the hotel, at extra cost.

Accommodation

Accommodation comprises 23 rooms and suites (15 twin, 4 double and 3 single) scattered all over the sprawling palace. There are 6 Grand Suites which are enormous rooms with a large

sitting room and dressing room and several have wonderful views of the lake. There are 10 Suites which are large rooms and several have lake views. There are then 3 standard rooms and 3 single rooms which are smaller rooms but charming and several have their own balcony.

All the rooms are air-conditioned and have overhead fans. There are rooms with easy access for wheelchairs. Hot water bottles are provided on particularly cold nights. Hair dryers are provided together with tea and coffee making facilities, safe and television. Hot water is plentiful and provided by geyser. One bottle of complimentary mineral water is provided, per person per day. The bathrooms have showers in the bathtubs, rather than separate showers.

The interior decoration of the bedrooms is entirely traditional and authentic and has changed little over the past five decades. It tends to be almost more classical European than typical Rajasthani and has an air of faded grandeur whilst being comfortable at the same time – deep sprung sofas and chairs all over the place! The original furniture, fittings and wall paper remains in most of the rooms and is in excellent condition – this is part of what makes this palace so special. Each room is very different in terms of colour schemes and some are a little more modern than others so there is something to suit everyone. There are no smoking rooms available. Due to the nature of the palace, there are only 1 or two rooms with immediate access for wheelchairs.

Rooms 1, 5, 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23 have views of the lake .There are 3 inter-connecting rooms.

Dining

There is one large dining room which is dominated by a long banquet table with a waterbody in the middle and where everyone eats together in a true, houseparty atmosphere. It is partly open to the skies and partly covered. The open area walls are lined with stones from the river, arranged in a pretty formation. The inner area is cosy and prettily decorated. The hotel offers a buffet service for all meals but some courses and second helpings are served to you. It is also possible to order a la carte snacks by the pool. Limited Continental and Oriental cuisine is served, along with traditional Rajasthani and Indian recipes. The best of Indian wines and spirits are available. Smoking is allowed in the dining room. There is no room service available, apart from tea and snacks if you have an early start.

Meal Times

Breakfast – There is no fixed time and this is eaten in the dining room and is served individually, as and when guests get up. It can also be served by the pool if guests wish. Either Continental or Indian breakfast is served. Lunch – Guests are advised when it is lunch time and some eat lunch together, whilst others eat a light lunch separately, at

another time or in another location, either in the garden or on the 'D' overlooking the lake. Lunch tends to be a light snack, pakora or sandwich but heavier lunches can be provided on request.

Dinner – This tends to be served after everyone has met for drinks in the sitting room, by the pool or by the bonfire in the D garden earlier in the evening (between 8 and 10pm). Everyone tends to eat together at the long table in the dining room, as one would in a traditional English houseparty. Dinner is usually Indian cuisine.

Private dining can be arranged in various areas of the palace, should you not wish to eat with everyone in the dining room or if you have a special occasion you wish to celebrate privately.

Children

The resort accepts children of all ages. Children may be accommodated in their parent's bedroom free of charge. Baby sitting service available upon request.

Dress code

There is no official dress code and it is extremely relaxed and informal during the day. However, many find themselves changing into something a little tidier for dinner.

Check-in / out time

Midday. Extended check-out is subject to negotiation/availability.

Electricity

220 volts. The standard two round pin adaptors work.

Credit cards / currency

The resort accepts Visa and MasterCard. It also accepts US dollars, Sterling pounds and the Euro. It does not accept travellers cheques.

Mobile telephones

All major mobile networks work.

When to go / Climate

Rajasthan has some major climactic fluctuations. During December, January and February, it can be cold in the mornings and evenings and warm clothes are necessary at these times. During the daytime it is lovely and warm and sunny. March and April are getting fairly hot and it begins to get very hot and humid in May and June and temperatures can rise to an intense and uncomfortable heat. The monsoon breaks in June and lasts until September. October and November are still warm but not wet. The best time to visit is from October to early April. It is generally a dry heat with very little humidity.

Opening and closing

The hotel remains open 365 days per year.

Pests

Due to the dry heat of Rajasthan, mosquitoes are not a major problem but they do tend to come out in the evenings and early mornings, throughout the year and particularly in the warmer / humid months. During the cool, winter months there are virtually no mosquitoes. The hotel provides mosquito coils and

repellents in the rooms and mesh on the windows to combat this.

Hotel facilities

Swimming pool (66 x 44 ft, not heated)
Heated outdoor Jacuzzi
Small spa with one treatment room offering relaxation massages (not Ayurvedic and with both male and female masseuses)
Yoga commencing soon
Acres of pretty gardens to stroll around, spend time in
Floodlit, lawn tennis court
Gym
Bicycles
Money changing facility
Shop
Bicycles available for exploring the surrounding area
E-mail facilities for guests' use (charged extra)
Owns three vehicles / jeeps for use on local excursions
A large, pretty drawing room with all the wonderfully comfortable, original furniture, paintings, hunting trophies and wall paper from the past 60 years. It can also serve as a meeting room.
Small, cosy sitting room with a fire for the colder, winter nights
A large hall / lobby / library with a computer for guests' use (internet access is fairly slow here), television and plenty of books to borrow.

Hotel services

Sightseeing excursions and onward travel arrangements can be arranged on site by contacting the hotel reception
Walks around the local town
Walks around nearby village temples, set in lovely countryside
Weddings and parties can be arranged
Binoculars available for watching the superb bird life on the lake (at its best from October to mid-March)
Boats are available for taking excursions out onto the lake
Vintage cars for local excursions – a great hit

Possible excursions

Birdwatching tours in the local area, by jeep and accompanied by your host. Drive from lake to lake with a picnic on a full day trip, ending at the temples for sunset.
Visits to the hilltop above the town for a 360 view of the area and the town.
Visits to the exceptional old palace, Juna Mahal with its dominant position overlooking the town and boasting some of the finest frescoes (both in quality, condition and quantity) in all India.
Visits to the extraordinary temples at Dev Somnath, Beneshwar, Arthuna and Rishabdeo.
Hilltop sundowners

Average length of stay

Two or three nights. There is so much to see and do in the area that it is a good idea to allow enough time to explore the area

and also enough time to switch off and just enjoy being there. There is no minimum stay requirement.

Payment / cancellation Pre-payment is compulsory and non-refundable deposits are required at the time of booking. Cancellation charges apply for cancellations which fall within the 30 days prior to check-in.

Reservations Reservations may be made by telephone to Mr Kalvendra Singh (0091 2964 230 808), by fax (0091 2964 231 008), e-mail (contact@udaibilaspalace.com) or via the internet (www.udiabilaspalace.com).

Seasonal surcharges There are NO supplements for high season / special holiday dates.

Government Taxes Taxes apply on food and drink

Ownership The Royal Family of Dungarpur (who reside here full time)

Management General Manager Mr Kalvendra Singh (Kelly)