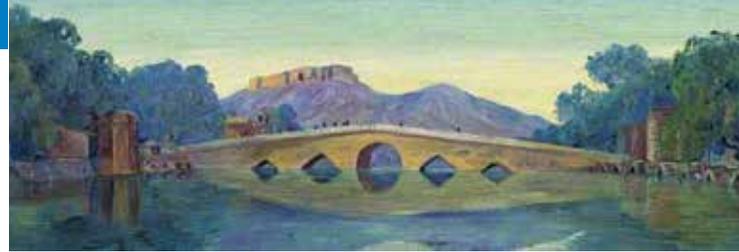


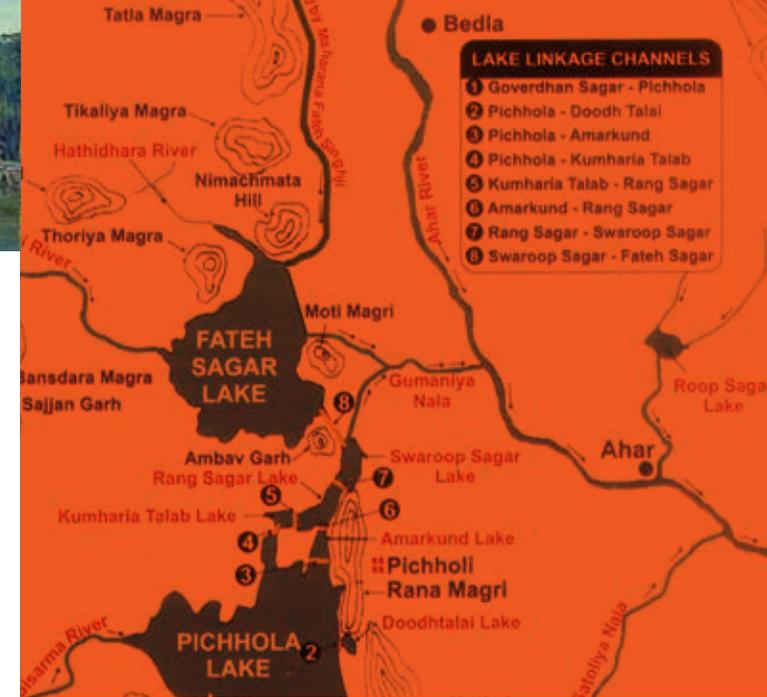
The generic plan of a medieval Rajasthani hill town followed in Udaipur. Source: Udaipur UNESCO paper, Dronah



Painting showing Chand Pol bridge connecting Lake Pichola and Rangasagar with Sajjangarh Fort in the backdrop

The Lake Network

Lake Pichola has been the main source of water supply for the Palace Complex and the city since the 16th century. It is a significant feature governing the micro-environment of the place. The city has a network of lakes created by different Mewar rulers from the 16th to the early 20th century for its sustenance. These man-made lakes are an important source of scientific information for understanding the changing natural environment and landscape.



The City Palace : History

In 1559, Rana Udai Singh II, father of Rana Pratap, laid the foundation of the City Palace after the birth of his grandson Amar Singh I and on the advice of a hermit Goswami Prem Giriji Maharaj. The enormous complex of the old palace standing on a low ridge called Rana Magri (Rana's Hill) overlooking Lake Pichola on the west is a testimony to the constructive genius and architectural taste of the Maharanas of Mewar.

The City Palace built by Rana Udai Singh II has been extended by the successive generations of Maharanas, notably by Rana Karan Singh, and Rana Sangram Singh II. Maharana Sajjan Singh and Maharana Fateh Singh further expanded the palace in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Image Source: All paintings are by Marianne North, who visited India in 1877-79. Her work on Udaipur depicts the life, historical buildings and general environment of the city. Source: www.udaipurblog.com

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सूर्यवंशी न्यास का ये रहिम रथ चलता रहेगा।
पीठियों के रत्न में इसका सुरश पलता रहेगा।।
शक्ति रघुकुल की जिसे शिव से विरासत में मिली हो।
आँसियों में वह दिया जलता रहा जलता रहेगा।।

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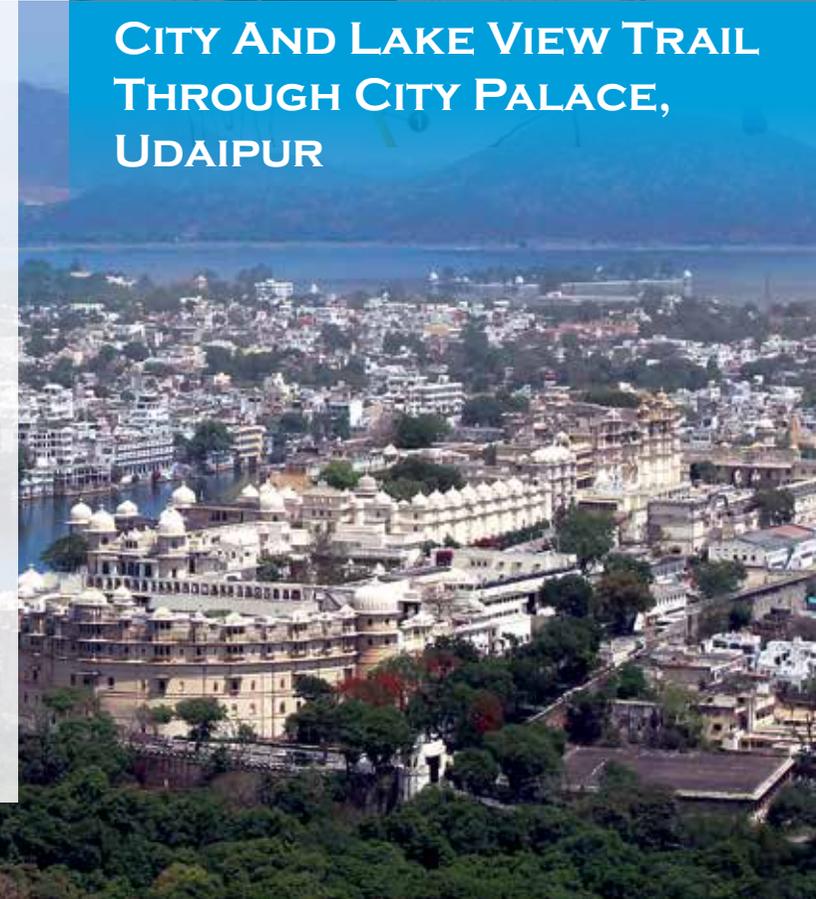


Walk Designed by



Development and Research Organisation for Nature, Arts and Heritage

CITY AND LAKE VIEW TRAIL THROUGH CITY PALACE, UDAIPUR



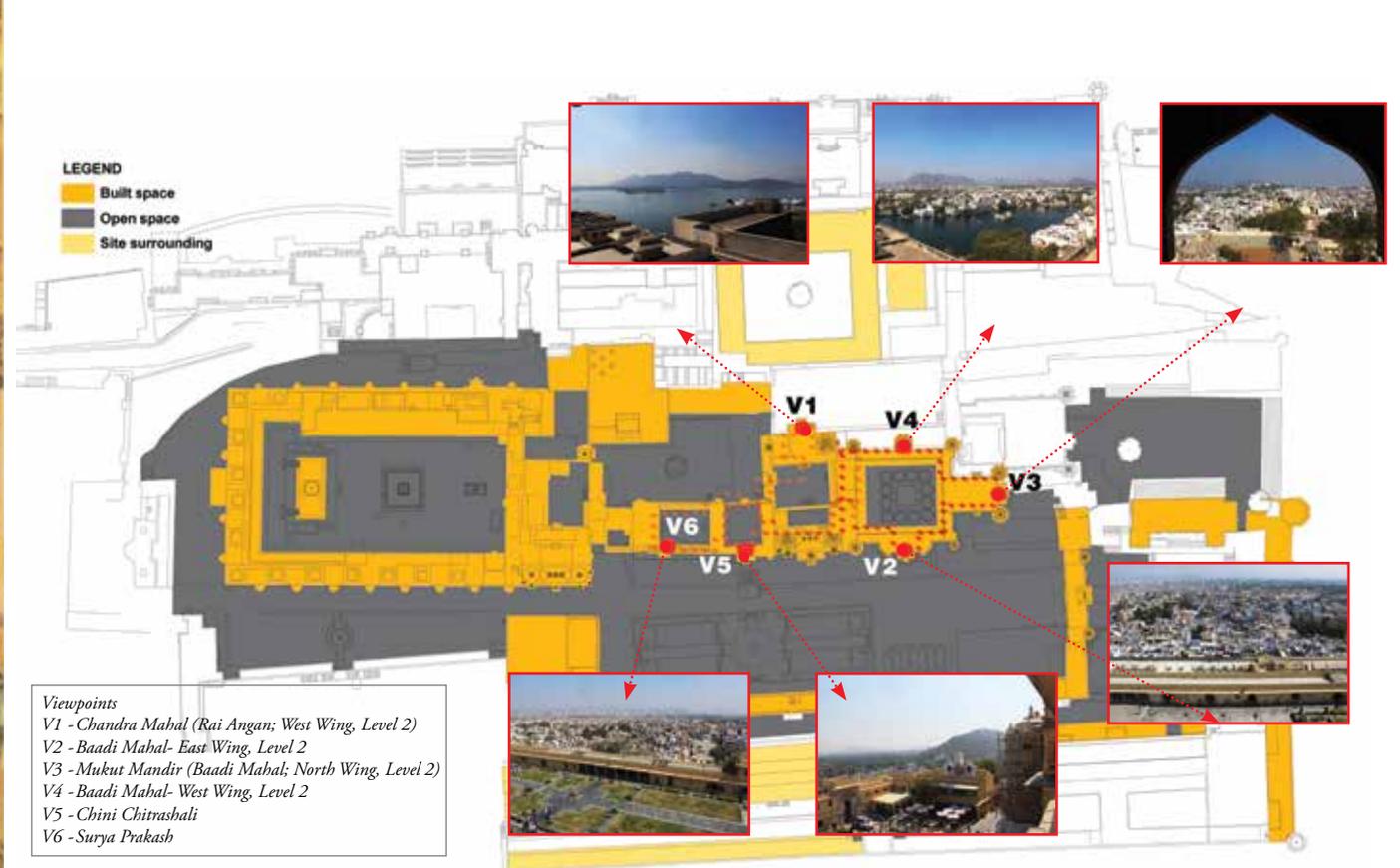


Painting by Marianne North; view from Baadi Mahal terrace, Jagdish Mandir in the backdrop.

About the Trail

The trail includes a series of vantage points within the City Palace, Udaipur offering spectacular views of its cultural landscape. The City Palace is located on the banks of the historic Lake Pichola and the Aravali hills, distinct for its breathtaking views and natural terraces, proximity to reliable source of water (Lake Pichola) and the strategic advantage it offered to the custodians of erstwhile Mewar.

The trail takes one along the palace spaces that visually narrate the interaction between the natural environment and structures built by the various rulers of Mewar from 16th to early 20th century. Each point in the trail is testimony to the interaction between the society and the built structures, and captures both the tangible and intangible values that make up the cultural landscape of Udaipur city.



- Viewpoints**
 V1 - Chandra Mahal (Rai Angan; West Wing, Level 2)
 V2 - Baadi Mahal- East Wing, Level 2
 V3 - Mukut Mandir (Baadi Mahal; North Wing, Level 2)
 V4 - Baadi Mahal- West Wing, Level 2
 V5 - Chini Chitrashali
 V6 - Surya Prakash

V1 Chandra Mahal (early 17th century)

The Jharoka on the western side of Chandra Mahal with its stone screens and stained glass work offers a beautiful view of Lake Pichola. Chandra Mahal also known as Rang Mahal was where the Maharana played Holi in earlier times, in the monolithic pool.

V2 Baadi Mahal- East Wing (early 18th century)

A Rajput Mughal style palatial garden with a central pool on the hilltop. It offers a view and understanding of the hierarchical layers which form the city's historical fabric; starting from the massive palace gates to the narrow street networks with old havelis and temples.

V3 Mukut Mandir (early 18th century)

Through the stone jails and hued glass work enclosing the Mukut Mandir, one can see the 17th century Jagdish temple and the old city change its colour.

V4 Baadi Mahal West Wing (18th century)

It offers a wider view of the cultural landscape of Udaipur with its historic layering of the cultural and natural values. This wider context includes the lake networks, the expanse of the Aravali ranges and the city's built environment.

V5 Chini Chitrashali (18th - 19th century)

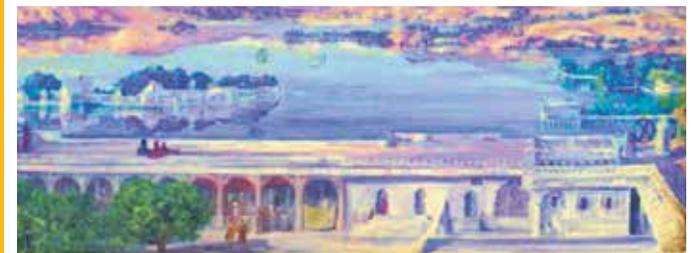
The triple cusped arched projected Chini Jharoka, decorated with China and Delft tiles provides an excellent view of the city, Gulab Bagh (the city garden) and Machla Magra (hill used for the first fortification of the town).

V6 Surya Prakash (late 19th century)

The enclosed gallery with a series of cusped arches overlooks the Suraj Pol which had once been the main entrance to the palace from the eastern side before the construction of Badi Pol towards the north.



Painting by Marianne North; view of City Palace and Lake Pichola from the island of Jag Mandir



Painting by Marianne North; view from western terrace of Zenana Mahal