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Jaipur: A World Heritage Site

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The Pink city, **Jaipur** (Rajasthan), has been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

IN A LEAGUE OF ITS OWN

Pics: Arvind Sharma

Jaipur's Walled City has added a new feather in its royal cap by making it to the exclusive league of UNESCO World Heritage Sites. What makes it different from other historical and cultural sites are its monuments, bazaars and festivals which have evolved over the last 400 years



AMBER FORT AND PALACE

► Nestled in the Aravalli Hills, the fort houses some of the most ornate murals and picturesque sites. The piece de resistance, Sheesh Mahal or Palace of Mirrors, is a must-visit for tourists

ELEPHANT SAFARI IN AMBER FORT

► The Amer Fort in Jaipur consists of an elephant safari which takes tourists on a tour of the famous fort and its surroundings. Post safari, tourists can indulge in colouring, feeding and washing the elephant



GALTAJI OR GALTA MONKEY TEMPLE

► This popular Hindu pilgrimage site, located 10km from Jaipur and surrounded by the Aravalli Hills, was built during the 18th century. To honour god's devotees, this temple was built with seven holy kunds (ponds) and is always surrounded by monkeys, hence its name

BAZAARS OF JAIPUR

► Local markets like Johri Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar give tourists an authentic experience of Pink city. Known for the finest leather goods, the bazaars are enriched with the city's glorious legacy

NAHARGARH FORT

► Get a bird's-eye view of the city from the fort. It is one of the most mesmerising locations Jaipur has to offer. The view of the sparkling city underneath makes it a surreal picnic spot

HAWA MAHAL

► The Palace of the Winds with its five-storey extension in the form of a honeycomb was a favourite among the royals and remains a prime tourist spot. The palace's windows with their intricate lattice work allowed royals to see, but prevented outsiders from catching a glimpse



GOVIND DEV JI TEMPLE

► This Vaishnava temple dedicated to Lord Krishna, located near Jainiwas Gardens, is considered one of the seven major temples of Thakur of Vrindavan. It hosts aartis and bhogs seven times a day for people and hosts mega Janmashthmi celebrations



CITY PALACE

► A fusion of Rajput and Mughal architectures, City Palace is one of the most astounding monuments in Jaipur. Chandra Mahal, Mubarak Mahal, Maharani Palace, and its museums are sure to charm the tourists

- The decision was taken at the 43rd session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC) taking place in the city of Baku, Azerbaijan, from 30th June - 10th July, 2019.

- The city was nominated for its value of being an exemplary development in **town planning and architecture** that demonstrates an amalgamation and important exchange of ideas in the **late medieval period**.

Important Points

- Jaipur has become the **second city** of the country **after Ahmedabad** to get the recognition.
- With Jaipur's inclusion as a cultural site, the number of **heritage sites across India** that are on the UNESCO World Heritage list, has grown to 38, including 30 cultural properties, 7 natural properties and 1 mixed site.
- The walled city of Jaipur in Rajasthan, was **founded in 1727 AD** under the patronage of **Sawai Jai Singh II**. It also serves as the capital city of the state of Rajasthan.
- Unlike other cities in the region located in hilly terrain, Jaipur was established on the plain and built according to a grid plan interpreted in the light of Vedic architecture.
 - Its streets feature rows that intersect in the centre and create large public squares called *chaupars*.
 - The city's urban planning shows an **exchange of ideas** from ancient **Hindu** and modern **Mughal** as well as **Western** cultures.
 - Designed to be a commercial capital, the city has maintained its local commercial, artisanal and cooperative traditions to this day.
- The **iconic monuments** in the city include the Govind Dev temple, City Palace, Jantar Mantar, Hawa Mahal etc.

UNESCO World Heritage Committee (WHC)

- The World Heritage Committee is composed of representatives of **21 States Parties** to the **World Heritage Convention** who meet annually.
 - The Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage is an **international agreement** that was adopted by the General Conference of UNESCO in 1972.
 - It is based on the premise that certain places on Earth are of outstanding universal value and should therefore form part of the common heritage of humankind.
 - It basically **defines the kind of natural or cultural sites** which can be considered for inscription on the **World Heritage List**.
- The **Committee is in charge of implementing the Convention**.
- To date, 1,092 sites in 167 countries have been inscribed on the World Heritage List.