Umaid Lake Palace - An Organic Retreat
Kalakho, District Dausa

OVERVIEW
Umaid Lake Palace is an experiential resort near Dausa spread over 20 acres of land, surrounded by landscaped farms where the hotel practices organic farming. Private and family run, this is just the place for a sublime breather away from the bustle of the tourist circuits yet offering a wonderful array of activities for those seeking to explore this region.

A stay at Umaid Lake Palace is personally supervised by the owners who look into every detail including their fabulous service and superb cuisine. The palace offers spacious beautifully decorated suites & royal deluxe rooms with sit outs overlooking the countryside or the majestic mughal fountains. Guests can explore the rustic countryside and engage in various activities such as Cycle Polo, Camel Cart rides, village walks, organic farming, bird watching trips or sundowners on the nearby Sand Dunes.

Umaid Lake Palace is recommended as a standalone getaway retreat or an ideal base to explore neighbouring forts and attractions namely the 1000 year old Abhaneri Stepwell, The haunted ruins of Bhangarh and natural sanctuaries of Sariska, Bharatpur and Ranthambore.

QUICK FACTS
- Total Room Inventory - 25 (25 Royal Deluxe rooms with sit out & 3 Royal Suites)
- Option of countryside or garden view rooms
- Outdoor Swimming Pool
- Elevators
ACCESSIBILITY BY ROAD

ABHANERI - KALAKHO: 23 km
Route: Abhaneri - Sikandra - KALAKHO

BHANGARH - KALAKHO: 40 km
Route: Bhangarh - Saithal Dam - Dausa - KALAKHO

JAIPUR (airport) – KALAKHO: 76 km
Route: Jaipur - Dausa - KALAKHO

SARISKA – KALAKHO: 65 km
Route: Sariska (Gate no-2) - Tehla - Saithal Dam - Dausa - KALAKHO

BHARATPUR – KALAKHO: 110 km
Route: Bharatpur - Mahuwa - Sikandra - KALAKHO

RANTHAMBORE – KALAKHO: 130 km
Route: Ranthambore - Dausa - KALAKHO

BUNDI – KALAKHO: 235 km
Route: Bundi - Lakheri - Sawai Madhopur - Dausa - KALAKHO

AGRA – KALAKHO: 160 km
Route: Agra - Fatehpur Sikri - Bharatpur - Mahuwa - Sikandra - KALAKHO

DELHI (IGI Airport) – KALAKHO: 230 km
Route: IGI Airport - Manesar - Daruhsed - Tijara - Alwar - Baswa - Sikandra - KALAKHO

ACCESSIBILITY BY AIR
Nearest Airport - Jaipur International Airport (75 Km)

ACCESSIBILITY BY TRAIN
Nearest Railway Station - Dausa (15 Km)

ROOMS & SUITES
Luxuriously designed rooms come with an option of countryside or garden view. Equipped with individually controlled air-conditioners, satellite TV, attached bathrooms & private balconies. The royal suites designed and furnished to display the skill and expertise of Rajasthani artisans, the rooms are traditionally designed. All rooms come complete with in-room amenities such as air-conditioning, living room, satellite television, direct dial telephone & site out area. Each Suite has a separate living area and a bedroom overlooking the countryside or the mughal fountains.

**DINING**

With an option of indoor air-conditioned restaurant & an open air lake view restaurant which serves on of the finest delicacies ranging from traditional Indian / Rajasthani favorites to global & continental dishes. Freshly grown organic vegetables from our farms on site, locally produced poultry products and fish can be ordered from our Ala-carte menu. The restaurant can accommodate up to 300 guests and can entertain more than 1000 guests in the mughal style push garden with fountains and colorful gaiety from a breathtaking landscape and beautiful flowers.

The large tranquil infinity pool at Umaid Lake Palace, Kalakho presents an illusion of being a shimmering lake. The poolside offers the perfect cure for tired limbs after a hectic day of lazy leisure.
ABHANERI STEP WELL (CHAND BAORI) & HARSHAD MATA TEMPLE
(Distance 18 Km - 15 Minute drive)

Chand Baori is a famous stepwell situated in the village of Abhaneri and is one of the deepest and largest step wells in Asia. It was built in 9th century and has 3500 narrow steps and 13 stories and is 100 feet deep. It is a fine example of the architectural excellence prevalent in the past. The huge tank with delicate carvings is certainly delightful to the eyes.

Harshat Mata Temple was built by King Chand of the Chauhan dynasty. Constructed on the double terraced platform, this temple portrays the Mahameru style. The idol of Goddess Harshat Mata is enshrined in the temple. This idol of the goddess is believed to bring brightness all around.

BHANGARH ONE OF THE MOST HAUNTED PLACES IN INDIA
(Distance 40 km - 30 Minute drive)

At the edge of the Sariska forests is the ghost city of Bhangarh, with its ruins of temples and havelis, homes and markets, believed to have been cursed by a tantric sage who lost favour with Rani Roopmati, who ruled Bhangarh. The entire city is said to have been destroyed overnight because of the curse. In its time, Bhangarh must have been a beautiful capital, for the Old City of Jaipur is said to have been designed along the same lines.
Neelkanth, meaning the blue-throated reincarnation of Lord Shiva, is located inside Sariska National Park, 1 hour drive from Umaid Lake Palace. The view is spectacular as one climbs up the last stretch of road to the plateau where it is situated.

Lost in a high valley, encircled on all sides by mountains, this ancient temple town is home to the ruins of more than 80 beautifully carved temples dating back to the 6th century. Its most famous temple, Neelkantheshwar, predates even these. Neelkanth is also the site of the remains of the 7th century Jain temple of Naugaza, where there is the massive 25ft tall pink sandstone statue of Shri Parshavanath-ji – the 23rd Jain Tirthankara. Transfers from Kalakho are organized by jeep or car in the morning or afternoon. Depending on the weather, a picnic lunch can be organized.
A short 30 minute drive from the retreat brings you to village of Bairunda known for its authentic & untouched sand dunes which enjoy a panoramic view of the village. An ideal spot to experience the sunset with a round of sundowners. Smiles guaranteed!!!

Jeep safari is the most conducive way to explore the beautiful natural landscapes and cultural life and heritage of Rajasthan. It can be most useful in exploring the rich flora and fauna in the various countryside of this colourful state. The most important advantage of a Jeep Safari is its ability to negotiate even the rugged landscapes and the rough roads of the countryside region. We offer you to join us to visit the remote villages rich in ethnic and cultural life. Here you get the first hand experience of a typical rural life. The safari will cover visiting various villages, farms, and interaction with the local villagers. You will also witness pottery, carpet weaving and other local handicrafts being made in the village.
SARISKA NATIONAL PARK (Distance 62 KM - 1 Hour drive)
This area was a hunting preserve of the erstwhile Alwar state and it was declared a wildlife reserve in 1955. Sariska Tiger Reserve is well nestled in the Aravali Hills covering 866 sq km area playing host to a variety of wild animals - tiger, leopard, striped Hyena, Golden Jackal, Chital, Sambhar, Blue Bull, Chinkara, Four Horned antelope, Wild Boar and a host of birds and reptiles.

CAMEL POLO (Duration 30 minutes)
"Witness the exceptional adaptation to the age-old game, the ship of the desert', replaces the graceful horse. Camels and the polo players are well dressed in their traditional Rajput attire & turbans. The participants will then form teams to play against one another in a knockout competition. The final chukker will be followed swiftly by an opportunity for the triumphant to celebrate their win with an awards ceremony.

For clients who are traveling in small groups or couples we can organize a camel polo ""stick and ball"" experience at the retreat. The can be organized during the day and floodlit at night."

GET A TASTE OF RURAL INDIA & CAMEL CART RIDES
Mount on decorated camels for a tour of nearby local village, You can choose to ride in a camel-drawn cart if you wish. Often, villagers will stop by to pay us a visit, or farmers will take a break from their work to share a laugh. Especially enchanting are the mustard blooms, which, in season, resemble thousands of buttercups waving in the breeze. Be sure to have your camera readily available to take photos of the rural countryside.
Enroute visit a local school or panchayat, you can also volunteer to listen to children read at the local school or teach English to the students.

Voluntary Activities at the village - Painting the walls of the school, Teaching English to the school children, donate a tree in your name and help build toilets / drinking water plants at the village.
CAMEL RACE & CHAMPAGNE THEME LUNCH UNDER SHAMIANA

This is a spectacular sport and can be one of the most memorable highlights of a visit to Rajasthan. Cheer on the camels as they gallop around a specially made track, and marvel at how these seemingly ungainly creatures can reach such high speeds.

ORGANIC FARMING EXPERIENCE / COOKING DEMONSTRATIONS

Nature walks to our organic farms within our hotel premises where guests are encouraged to engage in the local farming practices in the resort along with live cooking lessons/demonstrations.
LAGAAN STYLE CRICKET MATCH WITH VILLAGE TEAM

Cricket, India's most popular sport is a second religion to many an Indian. Learn the rules, master a few strokes and bowl a few deliveries...before we place you on the field with a local village team for a friendly game. Enjoy once again the banter, the confusion and the sense of boyish excitement of sport that you did back when you were in school.

BURN SOME CALORIES WITH CYCLE POLO
The sport reached its peak of popularity in Great Britain during the 1930s with the introduction of the regional leagues. Cycle polo also flourished in France during this period with the establishment of the French league. Internationals between France and Great Britain were held regularly. The sport is quite popular in though, with league championships held regularly till today.

Traditional cycle polo is played in a rectangular grass field, 150 meters by 100 meters, the ball used approximately 2.5 inches in diameter and the mallet is of length 1 meter.

There are 6 members (7 in France) on a team of which 4 (5 in France) are on field at a time. The other two are used as substitutes. International matches are played for a duration of 30 minutes divided into periods of 7.5 minutes each called as a chukkar. Extra time can be used to determine the winner in case the scores are tied at normal time.

**JUGGAD RIDE - THE INDIAN MERCEDES**

Enjoy ample leg space as you sit, stretch, stand or even lie down in the back of a Jugaad - the Indian Mercedes! Experience the joy of being driven around in the most popular means of mass transport of the locals - the self made open truck!

**GALA DINNER & RAJASTHANI CULTURAL FOLK DANCE**

The entire palace is illuminated in a magical way to make it look like a fairyland. A traditional turban will be tied to the head of the male guests and ladies are dressed in sarees (traditional Indian attire). The guests are greeted by decorated camels on arrival where they join the the hosts for a round of champagne. The caravan is then escorted by torch-bearers & traditional folk musicians to the gala dinner venue.
As the guests approach the mashal lit mughal fountains, rose petals are showered upon them and girls in traditional Rajasthani costumes garland everyone as they enter. Special barbecue dinner is served under the stars around bon fires and marquees with folk musicians and dancers performing along side. After dinner, tea/coffee is served. The evening concludes with a scintillating show of fireworks!

WITNESS THE EVENING AARTI CEREMONY, A POWERFUL AND SPIRITUAL RITUAL, AT GIRRAJ DHARAN TEMPLE, DAUSA

The guests may also take time to visit the Girraj Dharan Temple about 10 minutes drive from the hotel to attend the morning or evening aarti puja of lord krishna which involves playing of drums, nagada and chanting of special prayers by the pandits!!

A perfect way to end long day of excursions & travel.
TRADITIONAL HOLI CELEBRATION FOLLOWED BY RAIN DANCE

Celebrate the start of Spring, a good harvest and saying farewell to winters with the Festival of Colours – Holi. Normally the tourists are not comfortable celebrating the Holi festival. Therefore we are introducing the celebration of Holi festival at Umaid Lake Palace, Kalakho.

The event is organized at our majestic poolside lawns where the guests dressed in traditional Rajasthani turbans & Kurta Pajama's are welcomed by herbal colours, pichkaries and folk dance.

The event is concluded by rain dance which is a highlight for most of the guests.
VISIT TO SIKANDRA STONE CARVING MART (12 KM) & MEHANDIPUR BALAJI TEMPLE (25 KM)

The place has made its mark in the domestic as well as international market for its sandstone carvings. An extraordinary pilgrim site as the deity of this shrine is said to have miraculous powers to heal a person possessed with evil spirit. The temple of Bajrang Bali (Hanuman) god is famous for treatment of mentally disturbed people. With the tremendous growth in medical sciences in the world, still people from all over India come to this place to overcome such diseases.

Optional Excursions:

Day trip to the Pink City - Jaipur (65 km - 1 hour drive)

Day trip to Agra with visit to Fatehpur Sikri (160 km - 3 hours drive)

Day trip to The Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary (110 km - 2 hours drive)

Disclaimer: Please note that we do not guarantee that there will be water in the lake at all times as it's a natural lake and the water level in the lake is subject to the annual rains in the region.