

c. Traditional Dance:

The people of Rajasthan after hard work in the harsh desert sun and the rocky terrain whenever they take time off they let themselves go in gay abandon. There is dancing, singing, drama, devotional music and puppet shows and other community festivities, which transform the hardworking Rajasthani into a fun-loving and carefree individual. Each region has its own folk entertainment, the dance styles differ, as do the songs. Interestingly enough, even the musical instruments are different. Some of the better-known forms of entertainment are:

Ghoomar Dance: This is a community dance for women and performed on auspicious occasions. Derived from the word ghoomna, pirouette, this is a very simple dance where the women move gently, gracefully in circles.³

Gait Ghoomar: This is one of the many dance-forms of the Bhil tribals. Performed during Holi festival, this is among a few performances where both men and women dance together.³



Gait: Another Holi dance but performed only by men. This becomes Dandia Gair in Jodhpur and Geendad in Shekhawati.³

Chari Dance: This is popular in the Kishengarh region and involves dancing with a chari, or pot, on one's head. A lighted lamp is then placed on the pot.³

Kachhi Ghodi: This is a dance performed on dummy horses. Men in elaborate costumes ride the equally well decorated dummy horses. Holding naked swords, these dancers move rhythmically to the beating of drums and fifes. A singer narrates the exploits of the Bavaria bandits of Shekhawati.³

Fire Dance: The Jasnathis of Bikaner and Chum are renowned for their tantric powers and this dance is in keeping with their lifestyle. A large ground is prepared with live wood and charcoal where the Jasnathi men and boys jump on to the fire to the accompaniment of drum beats. The music gradually rises in tempo and reaches a crescendo; the dancers seem to be in a trance like state. Drum Dance: This is a professional dance-form from Jalore. Five

men with huge drums round their necks, some with huge cymbals accompany a dancer who holds a naked sword in his mouth and performs vigorously by twirling three painted sticks.³

Teerah Taali: The Kamad community of Pokhran and Deedwana perform this dance in honour of theft deity, Baba Ramdeo. A rather unusual performance where the men play a four-stringed instrument called a chau-tara and the women sit with dozens of manjeeras, or cymbals, tied on all over their bodies and strike them with the ones they hold in their hands. Sometimes, the women also hold a sword between their teeth or place pots with lighted lamps on their heads.³

Kathputli: skilled puppeteers perform Puppet plays based on popular legends. A woman, usually his wife, who plays the dholak, or drum and sings the ballad, accompanies displaying his skill in making the puppets' act and dance, the puppeteer.³

3. Source: <http://www.rajasthan.gov.in/StateProfile>

Dance in Rajasthan

Ghoomar Dance

Gait Ghoomar

Gait

Chari Dance

Kachhi Ghodi

Fire Dance

Teerah Taali

Kathputli