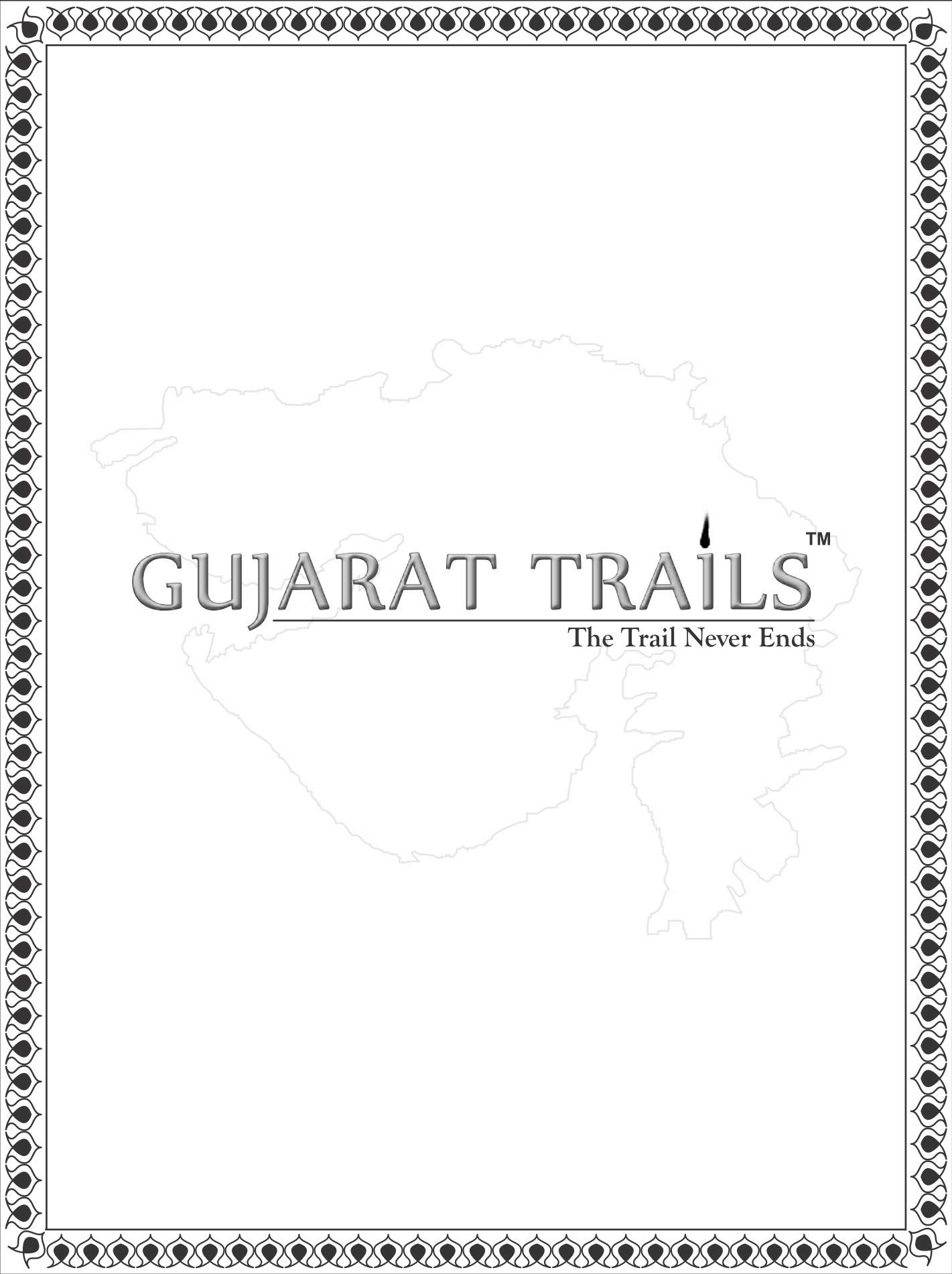




GUJARAT TRAILS™
The Trail Never Ends



SYNOPSIS OF GUJARAT TRAILS

S. No.	ITINERARY TITLE	TOTAL NO OF DAYS	PLACES OF VISITS INCLUDED
1	Grandeur Trails of Gujarat	08 Nights / 09 Days	Rajkot – Dwarka – Porbandar – Somnath – Sasangir – Junagadh – Rajkot
2	Footprints of Mahatma Gandhiji	05 Nights / 06 Days	Rajkot – Porbandar – Bhavnagar – Lothal – Ahmedabad
3	Gujarat Architectural and Archaeological Trails	09 Nights / 10 Days	Vadodara – Lothal – Bhavnagar – Gondal – Junagadh – Dholavira – Little Rann of Kutch – Modhera – Patan – Ahmedabad
4	Palaces & Heritage Homes Trails of Gujarat	09 Nights / 10 Days	Ahmedabad – Patan – Modhera – Balasinor – Santrampur – Champaner – Pavagadh – Jambughoda – Chhota Udepur – Vadodara – Lothal – Dared – Palitana – Gondal – Muli – Ahmedabad
5	Tribal Trails	11 Nights / 12 Days	Ahmedabad – Jambughoda – Chhota Udepur – Poshina – Patan – Modhera – Little Rann of Kutch – Bhuj – Ajrakhpur – Bhujodi – Gondal – Sasangir – Ahmedabad
6	Wildlife Trails	06 Nights / 07 Days	Ahmedabad – Patan – Modhera – Little Rann of Kutch – Sasangir – Velavadar – Lothal – Ahmedabad
7	Trails of Bygone Treasures of Gujarat	03 Nights / 04 Days	Ahmedabad – Balasinor – Lothal – Ahmedabad – Dholavira – Bhuj
8	Textile Trails of Gujarat	06 Nights / 07 Days	Ahmedabad – Pethapur – Patan – Modhera – Little Rann of Kutch – Ajrakhpur – Bhujodi – Bhuj
9	Trails of Incredible Gujarat	12 Nights / 13 Days	Ahmedabad – Pethapur – Patan – Modhera – Little Rann of Kutch – Bhuj – Gondal – Junagadh – Sasangir – Somnath – Diu – Palitana – Ahmedabad



GRANDEUR TRAILS OF GUJARAT

09 DAYS / 08 NIGHTS

DAY 01 : BY AIR / TRAIN – ARRIVE RAJKOT FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 250 KMS / 05 HRS – RAJKOT TO DWARKA

Arrive Rajkot and drive to Dwarka, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

The small coastal town of Dwarka is one of the four most holy Hindu pilgrimage sites in India. It is here that Krishna founded his capital after leaving Mathura. Excavations have revealed 5 earlier cities at the site, all submerged. The present town dates largely to the 19th century and attracts thousands of pilgrims to celebrate the Holi, Diwali and Janmashtami festivals. The multi pillared Sabha Mandapa leads to a 60-pillared sanctum sanctorum that dates back 2500 years as per the scriptures.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 02 : IN DWARKA

After breakfast visit Gomti Ghat – A significant tributary of the river Ganges, the Gomti River is the most revered waterbody in the Hindu faith. The mouth of the Gomti river sites the Gomti Ghat, which requires about 56 stairs to reach from the Dwarkadhish Temple. The serene ghat location is great for some photo ops. Besides, it also makes for a pilgrimage too, as many devotees take a sacred dip in the salty waters of the Gomti river.

Later visit Dwarkadhish Temple – The main draw for tourists coming to Dwarka, the Dwarkadhish Temple (Jagat Mandir), is believed to have been established more than 2500 years ago by Lord Krishna's great grandson, Vajranabh. The ancient temple has been renovated several times, especially leaving imprints of 16th and 19th centuries. The temple stands on a small hill accessed by 50 plus steps, with heavily sculptured walls that cocoon the sanctum with the main Krishna idol. Around the complex lie other smaller shrines. The walls have intricately carved mythical characters and legends. The impressive 43 m high spire is topped with a flag made from 52 yards of cloth that flutters in the soft breeze from the Arabian Sea behind the temple. There are two doors (swarg and moksha) for the entry and exit of the temple. A bridge called Sudama Setu (7am–1pm, 4–7.30pm) at the base of the temple takes one across the Gomti creek towards the beach.



Later visit The Rukmini temple, dating from 12 to 13 Century, was built in honour of Rani Rukmani, princess of Vidharba, which was to be married to Sishupala, but fled with Lord Krishna. This small temple, 1.5 km north of the city, is an architectural masterpiece. The temple walls are decorated with beautiful paintings and sculptures.

Later visit Bet Dwarka: A small island off the coast of Dwarka and accessed via Okha is home to the namesake temple,

and supposedly the residence of Lord Krishna when he arrived here. The establishment of the temple is credited to Guru Vallabh Acharya. Apart from the main temple, others in the complex commemorate Hanuman, Vishnu, Shiva, Lakshmi Narayan, Jambavati, Devi, and others. Bet Dwarka, also known as Shankhodhar, is said to have been the residence of Lord Krishna during his ruling years at Dwarka. It derived its name from the word 'bet' which translates to 'gift' and is believed that Lord Krishna received it from his friend Sudama. In the ancient epic, Mahabharata, Bet Dwarka is known by the name of 'Antardvipa' to which people of the Yadava clan needed to travel by boat.

Nageshwar Temple or Nagnath Temple is located on the route between Gomati Dwarka and the Bait Dwarka Island on the coast of Saurashtra in Gujarat. The Jyotirlinga enshrined in the Temple of Nagnath is known as Nageshwar Mahadev and attracts thousands of pilgrims all-round the year. This powerful Jyotirlinga symbolizes protection from all poisons. It is said that those who pray to the Nageshwar Lingaa become free of poison. The Rudra Samhita shloka refers to Nageshwar with the phrase 'Daarukaavane Naagesham'.

Gopi Talav: This is the place where Lord Krishna used to play with his Gopikas. There is a small pond where it is said that Lord Krishna used to play with the Gopika Strees (Gopika Women).

Bhadkeshwar Mahadev Mandir, dedicated to Lord Shiva, is an ancient temple, some 5000 years old, which was built around a self-manifested Shivaling found in the Arabian Sea. The temple gets submerged in the sea every year during monsoons, which devotees believe to be nature's way of performing the religious process of Abhishekam. For the rest of the year, the temple is visited often for its divine vibe and the scenic beauty of the attraction.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 03 : IN DWARKA

After breakfast visit Sudama Setu Bridge is a stunning suspension bridge built for pedestrians to cross River Gomti. The bridge was named after Sudhama, Lord Krishna's childhood friend. Sudhama Setu connects the ancient Jagat Temple and the sacred Panchkui Teerth on the island which is associated with the legendary Pandava brothers. Besides mythology, the bridge is also famous for a breath-taking view of the river and the Arabian Sea. There are ample seating arrangements here to enjoy the view.

Later visit Shivrajpur Beach, which is Blue Flag beach and is situated 12 kilometres from Dwarka (Gujarat) along the Dwarka-Okha Highway. Shivrajpur Beach, one of Gujarat's most well-known beaches, is the ideal place to spend time with family and children. You might be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of dolphins or other lovely birds. This long, pristine beach stretches near the Shivrajpur village, between a lighthouse and a rocky shoreline. It is ideal for a long walk. Immerse yourself in a variety of adventure activities with friends and family like snorkelling, scuba diving, island tours, sea bathing, or sit by the silent sea and watch the sun bid adieu to the day!

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : BY ROAD – 250 KMS / 05 HRS – DWARKA TO SOMNATH

After breakfast drive to Somnath enroute visit Mul Dwarka, Jambuvan Caves, Krishna & Rukmani Vivaah Place, and Madhavpur Beach.

Mul Dwarka : While going from Mathura to Dwarka Lord Krishna had stopped in Porbandar at village Visavda. In its remembrance in Visavda (Mul Dwarka) Lord Krishna's "paduka" can be seen in this temple.

Jambuvan Cave : Also known as Jambavant Cave or Jambuvan ki Gufa, this cave was the resting place of the warrior Jambuvan, who had his own special role in both the Hindu epics Ramayana and Mahabharata. It is believed that this is the place where Lord Krishna and Jambuvan fought for the Syamantaka jewel for 28days.

Krishna-Rukmini Vivaah : Madhavpur Ghed is a small village where Lord Krishna married Sri Rukmini Ji after kidnapping her from Amravati in Vidarbha. This is a very beautiful village close to Porbandar (60 km) and lies on the seashore. There is an exact spot where Lord Krishna married Rukmini Ji.



Visit Madhavpur – A scenic town, Madhavpur is situated on a sandy coastline and is endowed with coconut trees and fertile agriculture land. It hosts the beautiful Madhavraji Haveli Temple in addition to the Rukmini no choro, which marks the place where celebrated with an annual fair held by the Mer community. Nearby are the ruins of a shiva temple, probably from the 12th c. The beach is not safe for swimming, but perfect for taking in the sea breeze.

Porbandar, the coastal heritage town of Gujarat is located on the Saurashtra peninsula, on the Arabian Sea. This city is described in Skanda Purana as Sudamapuri and Ashmavati and had a flourishing trade with Africa and Arabia. As per the legends, this city was the main link of the great friendship between Lord Krishna and Sudama. Porbandar was established as a capital by Rana Sartanji in 1785 AD. Porbandar was the former capital of the Jethwa Rajput petty princely state. The most impressive feature of Porbandar is the city planning and the stone buildings with ashlar masonry and rich carving, the facades of the houses on either side of the streets, with windows and carved gateways. Porbandar is also associated with Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation as he was born here. Today, fine quality silk and cotton are manufactured here. There are also chemical factories and cement works.

Later visit Kirti Mandir – Kirti Mandir was the house of the Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba, his wife. This place is situated near the place where the Mahatma Gandhi was born. This place is now a small museum and has a Gandhian library and a prayer hall.

Also, visit Sudama Dwarka Temple, this temple is dedicated to Sudama who was the childhood friend of Lord Krishna. Located at the centre of Porbandar, it is one exceptional temple in India which is dedicated to this great devotee of Lord Krishna. Built with white marble this temple has several carved pillars which decorate the temple, open from all sides this temple has a shikhara which is decorated with splendid architecture and carvings. These carvings are also visible above the pillars and the arches which adjoin the pillars. With such architecture, this temple is dedicated to the shrine of Sudama which is built in simple structure.

Later continue to drive to Somnath; arrive Somnath and transfer to your hotel.

Somnath consists of a few streets leading away from its phoenix like temple. The rugged sea below gives it a lonely, wistful charm. The pilgrim trade is constant, but merchants are relaxed, perhaps in deference to the shadows cast by the awe-inspiring temple. Somnath is mainly known for the legendary shore temple of Somnath, which is dedicated to the Lord Shiva.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 05 : IN SOMNATH

Early Morning visit the intricately carved honey-coloured Somnath temple on the western edge of the state is believed to be the place where the first of the twelve holy jyotirlingas emerged in India – a spot where Shiva appeared as a fiery column of light. The temple lies at the meeting of Kapila, Hiran and Sarasvati rivers and the waves of the Arabian Sea ebb and flow touching the shore on which it is constructed. The ancient temple's timeline can be traced from 649 BC but is believed to be older than that. The present form was reconstructed in 1951. Colourful dioramas of the Shiva story line the north side of the temple garden, though it's hard to see them through the hazy glass. A one-hour sound-and-light show in Amitabh Bachchan's baritone highlights the temple. **(Subject to weather conditions)**

It's said that Somraj (the moon god) first built a temple in Somnath, made of gold; this was rebuilt by Ravana in silver, by Krishna in wood and by Bhimdev in stone. The current serene, symmetrical structure was built to traditional designs on the original coastal site: it's painted a creamy colour and boasts a little fine sculpture. The large, black Shiva lingam at its heart is one of the 12 most sacred Shiva shrines, known as jyotirlinga.

Ahilyabai Temple is a Hindu temple located in Somnath. Situated opposite to the famous Somnath Temple, it is one of the old and beautiful temples in Somnath. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, Ahilyabai Temple was built by Maratha queen Ahilyabai Holkar in 17th century. The history of Ahilyabai Temple and Somnath Temple is closely interlinked. It is said that this temple was constructed as a substitute for the main Somnath Temple when it was raided and ravaged by the Muslim rulers. It is also said that the location of the Swayambhu Linga came in Ahilyabai 'S dreams post which she started the construction immediately. Many Hindus believe that Ahilyabai Temple contains the original Jyotirlinga



which was hidden here assuming that the original Somnath Temple is going to be raided.

Laxminarayan Temple – Located on the Somnath shore, the presiding deity, Lord Laxminarayan is an incarnation of Lord Vishnu. Reflects modern architectural design, this temple is famous for the carvings on its 18 pillars which have the sacred message of Krishna in the form of Bhagwadgita.

Triveni Sangam Temple – The confluence of the three rivers Hiran, Kapila and Saraswati this is the point where the rivers meet the mighty Arabian Sea. Triveni Sangam is believed to be a very sacred Moksha Tirtha for Hindus.

~~Bhalka Tirth is a renowned Hindu pilgrim centre which is believed to be the location where Lord Krishna was shot by a hunter's arrow. According to the sacred scripts, Lord Krishna's death marks the end of the Dvapara Yug and the beginning of the Kali Yug. The Tirth has a temple dedicated to Lord Krishna and is called Matraprabhuji's Bethrak.~~

Dehotsarg Teerth is an important pilgrim centre for the Hindus as this is where Lord Krishna breathed his last after he was shot by Jara's arrow. The location is marked by Lord Krishna's footprints and this incident is elaborated in the sacred texts as ??Sri Krishna Neejdham Prasthan Leela?? It is also believed that Krishna's brother, Baldev, also accompanied him in the form of a serpent crawling through the Balramjiki Gufa nearby.

Attend the evening aarti at Somnath temple. After performing the evening Aarti at Somnath temple and after witnessing the Sound & Light Show (**Direct Payment**) then visit the beach of Somnath which is very beautiful & a captivating sight to behold. The fresh blue waters, humming waves and the cool sands give you a feeling of having landed in a paradise. The beach has pleasant sand, great sea views, camel and pony rides, coconut stalls and snack places.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 06 : BY ROAD – 65 KMS / 01 HR – SOMNATH TO SASANGIR

After breakfast drive to Sasangir, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Sasan Gir, popularly known as Gir, the most famous loin sanctuary in India. And the one place in the subcontinent where Asiatic Loins can be found in the wild. This forested, hilly, 1412-sq-km sanctuary about halfway between Veraval and Junagadh is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leopersica*). Taking a safari through the thick, undisturbed forests is a joy – even without the added excitement of spotting lions, other wildlife, and myriad bird species. Access to the sanctuary is by safari permit only, bookable in advance online. <https://girlion.gujarat.gov.in>

If you miss out on a permit, your other option for lion encounters is at the Devalia Safari Park, a fenced-off part of the sanctuary where sightings are guaranteed but more stage-managed. The sanctuary's 37 other mammal species, most of which have also increased in numbers, include dainty chital (spotted deer), sambar (large deer), nilgais (blue bull / large antelopes), Chowsingha (four-horned antelopes), chinkaras (gazelles), crocodiles and rarely seen leopards. The park is a great destination for birders too, with more than 300 bird species, most of the residents.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 07 : IN SASANGIR

Today enjoy morning & afternoon safari into Sasangir wildlife sanctuary.

[Subject to availability and prior to permission and 100% permits will avail by online only. The online window will open 90 days prior to visit date. Can be booked directly from <https://girlion.gujarat.gov.in/>

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 08 : BY ROAD – 60 KMS / 01 HR – SASANGIR TO JUNAGADH

After breakfast drive to Junagadh, arrive and transfer to your hotel. Junagadh literally means ancient fort was once the capital of the Junagadh state, under the Muslim rulers of Babi Nawabs. Junagadh town is located at the foothills of the sacred hill of Girnar and occupies a special place in the history of Gujarat.



Later visit Durbar Hall Museum – Durbar Hall Museum houses a large collection of silver chains, chandeliers, thrones, palanquins, weapons, and armour from the days of the Nawabs. There is also a portrait gallery of the Nawabs. This museum was once the hall where the Nawabs held their Darbars (assemblies).

Ashoka's Rock Edicts belong to 250 BC where around 14 edicts of Ashoka are located on the route to the Mount Girnar Hills. This rock edict is a huge stone and the carving in Brahmi script in Pali language mentions the resistance to greed and animal sacrifice and moralizes the principles of purity of thought, secularism in thinking, kindness, and gratitude. The other major part of Junagadh's Buddhist heritage are the stone edicts of Emperor Ashoka, found on the road towards Mt. Girnar.

Later visit Mount Girnar: Girnar Mountain is about 1100m (3630 ft.) high and is an extinct volcano. It is said that Mount Girnar was once a flying mountain. It is 4km east of Junagadh and is the main tourist attraction in the area. Mount Girnar is one of the hills in Ahmedabad which is most sacred to the Jain community. This hill rises to a height of more than 600 m, a climb marked by 10,000 stone-steps. On this hill various Hindu and five Jain temples are located. There is a group of 16 Jain temples on the hill. This sacred hill is visited by millions of Hindus and Jains. The Amba Mata temple is situated on the top of the hill. One of the largest and the oldest Jain temple, dedicated to the Neminath, the 22nd Jain Tirthankar and the Mallinath, the 19th Jain Tirthankar are situated just below the Amba Mata temple. This temple was built in the 12th century. Besides this the Bhavnath temple dedicated to the Lord Shiva is also on the hill.

Rope way Tickets to Mount Girnar is NOT INCLUDED. Can be booked directly from <https://udankhatola.com/>

Overnight at hotel

DAY 09 : BY ROAD – 100 KMS / 02 HRS – JUNAGADH TO RAJKOT FOLLOWED BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART RAJKOT

After breakfast drive to Rajkot enroute visit Gondal.

Gondal: The Riverside palace at Gondal, a govt. of India classified heritage hotel, and the Orchard Palace in the same town, are two mansion guest houses opened as heritage hotels. The interiors of these properties are appointed with period furniture, antiques, and artifacts reminiscent of the days of the Raj. The highlight of staying at these properties is that guests can see the Royal Garages, housing vintage and classic cars, and the Naulakha Palace, which is a festival of stone carvings and houses royal memorabilia including toys of the late 19th and early 20th century, silver caskets that carried messages and gifts for the Maharajah, elephant howdahs and royal portraits. It has a royal saloon suite, which has its own drawing, dining, bedroom, and bathroom in a converted railway carriage.

Later arrive Rajkot and in time transfer to Rajkot Airport / Railway Station to board a flight / train for your next destination.



FOOTPRINTS OF MAHATMA GANDHIJI

06 DAYS / 05 NIGHTS

DAY 01 : BY AIR / BY TRAIN – ARRIVE RAJKOT

Arrive in Rajkot and transfer to your hotel.

Rajkot was the former capital of the princely state of Saurashtra. Rajkot was once a base for the Western States British government office and rapidly expanded into a prosperous, lively business centre, with an old city. This city is also associated with the Mahatma Gandhi, who lived here for several years. His father was the Dewan (Chief Minister) of Rajkot, once a small princely State.

Later visit – Kaba Gandhi No Delo / Mahatma Gandhi House – The Karba Gandhi No Delo is the house of Mahatma Gandhi where he lived from the age of six. The Mahatma Gandhi House has a good collection of things related to Mahatma Gandhi's life. The Mahatma's Passion for the handloom is preserved in the form of a small weaving school.

Watson Museum – The Watson Museum and Library commemorates the work of Colonel John Watson, political agent from 1886 to 1889. It is a jumbled attic of the collection with the 3rd century inscriptions and a delicate ivory work overseen by a marble statue of Queen Victoria. The Watson Museum has a collection of precious objects of colonial period, human history and culture, and History of Rajkot.

Rajkumar College – The world famous Rajkumar College is in the city. This college dates to the 19th century and is regarded as one of India's best private colleges. It was set up by the British for the education of the princes of the Indian state.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 02 : BY ROAD – 195 KMS / 04 HRS – RAJKOT TO PORBANDAR

After breakfast drive to Porbandar; arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Porbandar, the coastal heritage town of Gujarat is located on the Saurashtra peninsula, on the Arabian Sea. This city is described in Skanda Purana as Sudamapuri and Ashmavati and had a flourishing trade with Africa and Arabia. According to the legends, this city was the main link of the great friendship between Lord Krishna and Sudama. Porbandar was established as a capital by Rana Sertanji in 1785 AD. Porbandar was the former capital of the Jethwa Rajput petty princely state.

The most impressive feature of Porbandar is the city planning and the stone buildings with ashlar masonry and rich carving, the facades of the houses on either side of the streets, with windows and carved gateways. Porbandar is also



associated with Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation as he was born here. Today, fine quality silk and cotton are manufactured here. There are also chemical factories and cement works.

Later visit Kirti Mandir – Kirti Mandir was the house of the Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba, his wife. This place is situated near the place where the Mahatma Gandhi was born. This place is now a small museum and has a Gandhian library and a prayer hall.

Bharat Mandir Hall – Bharat Mandir Hall is situated in a pleasant, irrigated garden. This hall has a large relief map of India on the floor and bas reliefs of heroes from Hindu legends on the pillars.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 03 : BY ROAD – 375 KMS / 07 HRS – PORBANDAR TO BHAVNAGAR

After breakfast drive Bhavnagar and transfer to your hotel.

Bhavnagar was founded by Bhavsinhji Gohil in 1723 AD near the Gulf of Khambhat, on a carefully chosen strategic location having potential of maritime trade. Till independence, Bhavnagar State was ruled by the Gohil Rajput clan. This city is also associated with the Mahatma Gandhi, who went to the Bhavnagar university.

Later visit The Gandhi Smriti and Barton Museum, which is located in the northeast, by the clock tower and has a good collection of Gandhi memorabilia.

Gaurishanker Lake: A beautiful picnic spot near the lake. There is also a well laid out park.

Takhteshwar Temple: Situated on a hill, the site provides a panoramic view.

Lock Gate: The first of its kind in Gujarat. The seawater here is impounded by the lock gates to keep ships afloat during low tide, which could be seen with special permission.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : BY ROAD – 200 KMS / 04 HRS – BHAVNAGAR TO AHMEDABAD

After breakfast drive to Ahmedabad; enroute visit Lothal.

Lothal: A perfect place to get an insight into the Indus Valley civilization. The most dominating site at Lothal is the massive dockyard spanning an area of 37 meters by 22 meters perhaps the greatest work of Maritime Architecture. Lothal was also famous for its arterial streets, microbes of gold, ivory and coppersmiths' workshops, potteries, and underground sanitary drainage. (Closed on Fridays).

Later continue to drive to Ahmedabad; arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Ahmedabad is Located on the banks of the river Sabarmati; the city was founded by Sultan Ahmad Shah in 1411. Today it is one of the fastest growing cities of India and is an immense repository of tradition, history & culture. Its famous walled area is one of the finest examples of community living & the city thrived as the textile capital & was nicknamed "Manchester of the East' in 1888. This multicultural city is home to some of the finest Indo-Saracenic mosques & Jain temples.

The old city of Ahmedabad is dotted with labyrinthine by-lanes called 'polls'. The exquisite carved wooden mansions and havelis are in no manner less than their stone counterparts in Rajasthan. The city also offers a rich architectural legacy that blends Hindu and Muslim schools of architecture, stone and brick with arches, domes and vaults, carved pillars, trefoil designs besides the modern buildings designed by the famous French architect, Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn.

Evening Market at Law Garden displays beautiful textile handicrafts of Gujarat.



Dinner at Vishalla : Vishalla is a restaurant with traditional Gujarati food in village surroundings. It has Veechar Utensil Museum worth visiting. The museum houses a unique collection of utensils. Museum remains closed on Mondays. A walk around the hut-like museum makes one's heart skip a beat, marveling at the inimitable beauty of these utensils of old. These utensils have been handed down through the changing seasons and times, over the years. They speak of the unmatched art and genius of humankind during the days of old when people did not have the modern facilities of our times. The designer could not let our rich heritage pass with these vessels being lost in the fire kilns! He was determined to preserve them, and today, his dream is a reality in the form of Vechar. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

DAY 05 : IN AHMEDABAD

Today we start our day with morning heritage walk of Ahmedabad.

Heritage Walk : The Heritage Walk of Ahmedabad is a guided walk of two and a half hours. Called Mandir se Masjid tak, the two-kilometre walk held everyday with 40 sights originally, begins from the Swami-narayan temple built in 1822 in the Kalupur area, said to be the first temple of the sect, and ends at the Jami Masjid, built in 1424 AD in Teen Darwaza area.

Later we go for city tour of Ahmedabad.

Gandhi Ashram: On a quiet peaceful stretch of the Sabarmati River, Mahatma Gandhi set up a simple retreat in 1915. This was his Satyagrah Ashram and for many years it was the nerve centre of India's freedom movement. It was from here, in 1930, that Mahatma began his famous Dandi March to the sea to protest the Salt Tax imposed by the British. Hridaya Kunj, the simple cottage where he lived, is now a national monument and preserved as it was during the Mahatma's lifetime.

Sidi Sayed Mosque: One part of the wall in the old citadel of the mosque built by Ahmed Shah's slave, Sidi Sayed, is celebrated the world over for its exquisite stone window tracery – a superb & peerless example of delicate carving that transforms stone into filigree.

Hutheesingh Jain Temple: Built outside the Delhi Gate in 1850 by a rich Jain merchant, the Hutheesingh Temple is the best known of Ahmedabad's many ornate Jain temples.

Adalaj Step-well: Adalaj is situated about 17 kms. north of Ahmedabad. The Baoli or step-well at Adalaj Vav is one of the finest steps well in India. Queen Rudabai built this well in 1499 to provide the traveller with a cool and pleasant refuge from the summer heat. It has three entrances leading to a huge platform that rests on 16 pillars, with corners marked by shrines. Ornatly carved pillars and cross beams create open spaces and four storey that are quite striking. The octagonal well is five floors deep. The Baoli is decorated with exquisite stone carvings in varied subjects.

Akshardham: Lord Swaminarayan, born in Chapaya in Uttar Pradesh, took a seven-year pilgrimage in Gujarat to preach his religion. He built six temples, the first being at Kalupur in Ahmedabad. Akshardham, the Swaminarayan temple of Gandhinagar, is a modern complex, built in traditional Indian architectural style from 6,000 metric tons of pink Rajasthan sandstone, carved by expert artisans from Bansipahadpur. The temple is set in a multi-acre garden called Sahajanand Van, with intricate sculptures of Hindu Gods. There is a gold leaf copper sculpture of Lord Swaminarayan . The interiors have beautiful columns in rosewood. Akshardham remains closed on Mondays.

Dandi Kutir : Dandi Kutir is India's Largest & Only Museum built on the life and teachings of One Man, Mahatma Gandhi. It represents Gandhi's powerful idea of people across lines of class, gender, age and community asserting their common right to salt itself: a symbol to inspire a pluralistic society to march towards independence, Purna Swaraj. Closed on Mondays.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 06 – BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART AHMEDABAD

In time transfer to Ahmedabad Airport / Railway Station to board a flight / train for your onward journey to your



GUJARAT ARCHITECTURAL & ARCHEOLOGICAL TRAILS

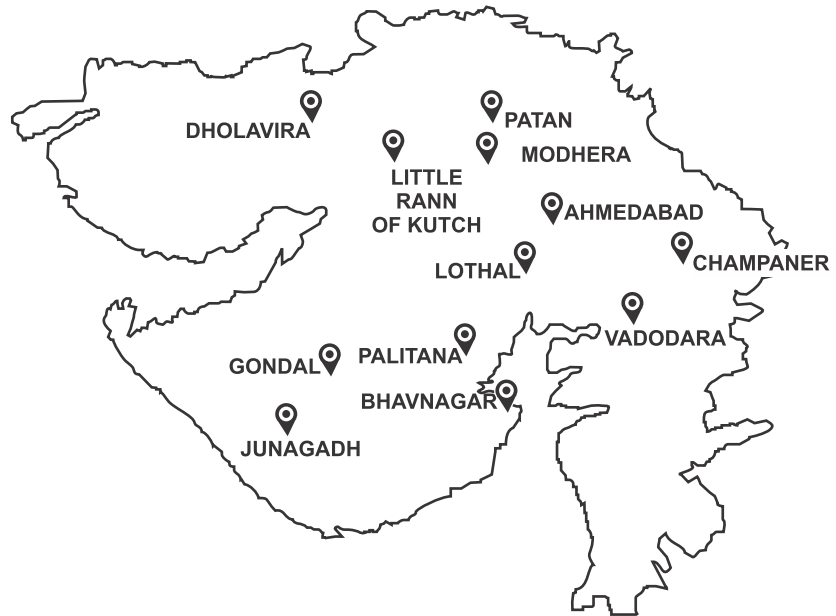
10 DAYS / 09 NIGHTS

DAY 01: BY AIR/ TRAIN - ARRIVE VADODARA

Arrive Vadodara and transfer to your hotel.

Modern Baroda is a great and fitting memorial to its late ruler, Sayaji Rao Gaekwad III (1875-1939 AD). It was the dream of this able administrator to make Baroda an educational, industrial and commercial centre and he ensured that his dream would come true.

Baroda is situated on the banks of the river Vishwamitri (whose name is derived from the great saint Rishi Vishwamitra). The city was once called Chandravati, after its ruler Raja Chandan, then Viravati, the abode of the brave, and then Vadpatra because of the abundance of banyan trees on the banks of the Vishwamitri. From Vadpatra it derived its present name Baroda or Vadodara.



Baroda has a rich historical background. The ardent historian can trace Baroda's history over 2000 years and more. However, the recent threads can be picked up when the Moghul rule over the city came to an end in 1732, when Pilaji brought the Maratha activities in Southern Gujarat to a head and captured it. Except for a short break, Baroda continued to be in the hands of the Gaekwads from 1734 to 1949.

The greatest period in the Maratha rule of Baroda started with the accession of Maharaja Sayajirao III in 1875. It was an era of great progress and constructive achievements in all fields.

Maharaja Sayajirao was one of the foremost administrators and reformers of his times. He initiated a series of bold socio-economic reforms. He attached great importance to economic development and started a number of model industries to encourage initiative, and then handed back the working industries to private enterprise. He started model textile and tile factories. It is as a result of his policy of industrial development that Baroda is today one of the most important centres for textile, chemical and oil industries today. He introduced a number of social reforms. In no department of administration has the far-sighted policy of this wise ruler been more conspicuous than in education, and in none have the results been more real and tangible. He boldly introduced compulsory primary education and a library movement (the first of its kind in India) to augment his adult education scheme.

It was he who visualised a general scheme of development in all branches of knowledge at different stages, with the Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda at the apex. Modern Baroda owes its beauty, its educational institutions and its masterpieces of architecture to the insight and vision of this great ruler. There is a saying that nothing grows under the banyan tree, but this is not true of Baroda. Having witnessed the rise and fall of the empires and kingdoms of the Hindus, Pathans, Moghuls and Marathas, it now occupies a unique position on the educational, cultural and industrial map of India. Yet, it has been fortunate enough to retain the beauty of its rich and varied past. And it is one of the few cities in India which is still influenced by the lost might of its ruling dynasties.

Overnight at hotel.



DAY 02 : IN VADODARA

After breakfast visit Laxmi Vilas Palace & Maharaja Fatehsinh Museum.

Laxmivilas Palace : It was built by Shri Maharaja SayajiRao III. The first stone was laid by P.S. Melvill Esquire, C.S.I. Agent to the Governor General at Baroda, on the 12th Jan-1880 and completed in 1890. It was built in the Indo-saracenic tradition, with an eclectic mix of Indian, Islamic, and European Elements. It's a residence of the royal family. Its, ornate Darbar Hall has an Italian mosaic floor and walls with mosaic decorations. The Palace houses a remarkable collection of old armoury and sculptures in bronze, marble and terracotta.

Visiting Hours : 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, (Lunch time 1 pm to 1.30pm, Don't go during Lunch time)

Closed on : Monday & Public holidays

Note: Photography allowed from the outside of Palace.

Guide : They provide Mp3 Players with headphone to guide you during your visit. There is a guide facility is also available for big groups.

Maharaja Fatehsinh Museum : The museum was established in 1961. The museum is run by a private trust. The museum is noted for its modern display. The collection includes a few copies of Greek, Roman and later European sculpture and some Masterpieces of European oil paintings, sculptures by Felici, French furniture etc. The museum collections fall into many categories. However, it is noted for oil paintings by Ravi Varma, sculptures made of marble, Greco-Roman arts, Chinese and Japanese art etc. The oil paintings representing members of the then Gaekwad princely ruling family are striking.

Visiting Hours : 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Closed : Monday and important public holidays.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 03 : BY ROAD – 265 KMS / 05.5 HRS – VADODARA TO BHAVNAGAR

After breakfast drive to Bhavnagar enroute visit Lothal.

Lothal: A perfect place to get an insight of the Indus Valley civilization. The most dominating site at Lothal is the massive dockyard spanning an area of 37 meters by 22 meters perhaps the greatest work of Maritime Architecture. Lothal was also famous for its arterial streets, microbes of gold, ivory and coppersmiths' workshops, potteries and underground sanitary drainage. It is located at a distance of 78 kms from Ahmedabad. (Closed on Fridays).

Sarkhej Roza: Is about 8 kilometres away from the city, Sarkhej Roza comprises one of the most elegant architectural complexes of Ahmedabad. Grouped around a great stepped tank is the tomb of the saint, Ahmed Khattu Ganj Baksh (1445), the mosque (1451), the tombs of Muhammad Shah Begada and his queen, the palace and pavilions.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : BY ROAD – 200 KMS / 04 HRS – BHAVNAGAR TO GONDAL

Very early this morning you may wish to join the pilgrims and climb Palitana which is situated 50kms from Bhavnagar. The hills of Palitana are known as the 'Abode of the Gods' and are covered with 863 Jain temples spanning a period of over 900 years. Their finely carved spires and towers glisten in the sunlight as pilgrims make the uphill journey on foot. The climb will take about two hours each way so do carry water and a sun hat with you.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 05 : BY ROAD – 65 KMS / 01 HR (ONE WAY) – GONDAL TO JUNAGADH

After breakfast proceed for day excursion to Junagadh.



Today undertake visit to Junagadh which is located 60kms to the south west of Gondal. Junagadh is one of India's most historic cities – ancient artefacts have been found on the hilltop citadel, Emperor Ashoka's edicts were inscribed on rock here during the 3rd century BC and Buddhist caves all serve to ratify the antiquity of the city. Formerly the capital of Gujarat under the Kshattrapa dynasty, the Chudasama Rajputs later ruled from the town from 875 AD onwards.

Once in Junagadh visit the Uparkot Citadel – expanded in 1472, 1683 and 1880 – which is on a small plateau to the east of the town and the Jama Masjid in its centre which was built from the remains of a Hindu palace. Also of interest is the 11th century Adi Chadi Vav step-well, or baoli, with its 172 steps and beautiful spiral staircase. After touring the fort, drive down to see the impressive mausoleum complex of the latter Junagadh rulers – the Maqbara of Baha-uddin Bhar is flamboyant and features intricate carvings.

Gondal State was one of the eight first-class princely states of Kathiawar Agency, Bombay Presidency in British India. Ruled by a Hindu Rajput dynasty of the Jadeja clan, the capital of the state was Gondal town.

Visit Swaminarayan Temple, Naulakha Palace, Royal Garage & Bhubneshwari Ayurveda Pharmacy.

Later drive back to Gondal.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 06 : BY ROAD – 300 KMS / 06 HRS – GONDAL TO DHOLAVIRA

After breakfast drive to Dholavira, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Dholavira: Of all the Harappan sites the site of Dholavira locally known as Kotada, in the Khadir island of Kutch, stands apart. It is remarkable for its magnificent planning and enormity of area and deposit. On the present showing, it is one of the two largest settlements in India and the fourth or fifth largest in the subcontinent. Dholavira presents Harappan city par excellence, measures about 600m on the north-south axis and 775m. on the east-west. Inside the general fortification, there are three distinct complexes-An acropolises, a middle town, and a lower town. In addition, the acropolis and the middle town had been further furnished with their own apartment, defence-work, gateways, built-up areas, street-system, wells, and large open spaces. The city within the general fortification accounts for 48 hectares. Besides, there are extensive structure-bearing areas though outside yet intimately integral to the fortified settlement. If put together, the total area goes well beyond 100 hectares in expanse.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 07 : BY ROAD – 250 KMS / 05 HRS – DHOLAVIRA TO LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH

After breakfast drive to Little Rann of Kutch, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Jeep safari at Little Rann of Kutch Wild ass sanctuary The sanctuary is well known for its group of the stale joke brown Asiatic (Wild ass), which does not live elsewhere in Indian lowlands. We can see with Little Rann of Kutch blackbuck (Indian antelope), nilgai or blue bull (India's largest antelope) and the graceful chinkara (Indian gazelle) are other mammals. The main carnivores of the Little Rann of Kutch are the endangered Indian wolf, desert fox, Indian fox, jackals, desert and jungle cats, and a few hyenas; also we can see during the visits flamingoes, pelicans, ducks, cranes and storks.

Salt Panes One has a chance here to see how salt is prepared out of saline sea water. On the peripherals of the Rann, there are ample salt panes, where salt manufacturers, locally known as 'Agarias' withstand great difficulties of living on the edge of the Rann and prepare salt. This entire area is a major producer of salt in India.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 08 : BY ROAD – 75 KMS / 02 HRS – LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH TO MODHERA FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 40 KMS / 01 HR – MODHERA TO PATAN FOLLOWED BY ROAD 130 KMS /03 HRS – PATAN TO AHMEDABAD



After breakfast visit Modhera. Modhera: The Sun temple of Modhera is one of the finest examples of Indian architecture of its period. Built in 1026 A.D. the temple is dedicated to the Sun-God, Surya and stands high on a plinth overlooking a deep stone-steeped tank. Every inch of the edifice, both inside and outside is magnificently carved with Gods and Goddesses, birds, beasts, and flowers. Sun Temple of Modhera was built by King Bhimdev I (1026-27) and bears some resemblance to the later and far better known, Sun Temple of Konark in the state of Orissa, which it predates by some 200 years. Like that temple, it was designed so that the dawn sun shone on the image of Surya, the sun God, at the time of the equinoxes. The main hall and shrine are reached through a pillared porch and the temple exterior is intricately and delicately carved. As with the temple of Somnath, this fine temple was ruined by Mohamed of Ghazni.

Later visit Patan is famous for its Patola weaving.

Patola Weaving – India has a rich and ancient heritage in fine textiles. (Double Ikkat) Patola from the area of Patan in the North Gujarat region of western India glorifies this heritage. It has unique gem like qualities – gorgeous colours, designs and durability. Its appearance lures the connoisseur of fine textiles. It has no reverse side. Both the sides have equal intensity of color and design. Historically, the art of Double Ikkat Patola weaving dates to centuries. Paintings in Ajanta caves resemble the tie-dye technique of Patola. Legend indicates that sometimes in the 12th century AC, King Kumarpal of Solanki dynasty, invited 700 families of Patola weavers from Jalna (South Maharashtra) to settle down in Patan in North Gujarat. Salvi family is one of them who continues this traditional art and has preserved it even today. This is our heritage art from four generations.

Also visit **Rani ki Vav** – stepwell in Patan – The Rani ki Vav, a step well in Patan is an excellent example of subterranean architecture in Gujarat and has steps that lead down to the water level. The Rani ki Vav was built by Rani Udayamti of the Solanki dynasty. This Vav represents the finest of the Indian sculptures and architecture and forms the link between a kunda and the classical step-well. In addition to the straight staircase, it also has lateral staircases, along with very broad, stepped corridors.

Later drive to Ahmedabad, arrive and transfer to your hotel. Ahmedabad is Located on the banks of the river Sabarmati; the city was founded by Sultan Ahmad Shah in 1411. Today it is one of the fastest growing cities of India and is an immense repository of tradition, history & culture. Its famous walled area is one of the finest examples of community living & the city thrived as the textile capital & was nicknamed "Manchester of the East' in 1888. This multicultural city is home to some of the finest Indo-Sarcenic mosques & Jain temples.

The old city of Ahmedabad is dotted with labyrinthine by lanes called 'pols'. The exquisite carved wooden mansions and havelis are in no manner less than their stone counterparts in Rajasthan. The city also offers a rich architectural legacy that blends Hindu and Muslim schools of architecture, stone and brick with arches, domes and vaults, carved pillars, trefoil designs besides the modern buildings designed by the famous French architect, Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 09: IN AHMEDABAD

Morning visit Swaminarayan Temple: - A religious cult followed by Swami-Narayan followers. It is one of the sects of Hinduism & the devotee's worship Lord Krishna by the name of Swaminarayan. This temple is built by Swaminarayan followers. It stands as a good example of exquisite wood carving.

Followed by a walk through 'Pols' in old city (typical Gujarati adjoining houses colonies). A Pol is a small residential unit consisting of a single street with a group of houses, which is usually protected by a massive gate at the entrance. When the gate is closed, the entire street becomes one big house often inhabited by people of the same trade or even by relatives. A compact housing cluster with dead-end streets forms a distinctive residential pattern within a Pol. In earlier days, the Pols were self-sustaining for a certain period of time since each house had its own underground storage for water, and food grains were stored in the safest part of the house. At times, two different Pols opened for ventilation at the same point and they also had a common service bay for drainage, water supply and garbage collection. These Pols formed a kind of micro-neighborhood, which developed further as population density increased in the city."



Thereafter visit Jumma Masjid - 1423 A.D, the most beautiful mosque in east. Built in yellow sandstone, this Friday Mosque, is a best combination of Muslim & Hindu architectural style. It stands on 260 pillars that support 15 domes at varying elevations.

After this visit Siddi Saiyed Mosque - 1572 A.D. A part of the wall in the old citadel of the mosque, is renowned the world over for its exquisite stone window tracery – a superb & peerless example of delicate carving that transforms stone into filigree.

Later on visit ATMA House (LE CORBUISER): The present office building of ATMA is a modern monument and a landmark in architectural history. The building is, at once, a symbol of the patronage and modernistic aspirations of the Ahmedabad textile community as well as a refined example of the work of its Swiss-French architect - Charles Eduoard Jeanneret (1887-1965), better known as Le Corbusier.

In 1951, Jawaharlal Nehru invited Corbusier to India to plan and design the city of Chandigarh. During this visit, Corbusier was invited to Ahmedabad by Chinubhai Chimanbhai, the erstwhile mayor of Ahmedabad. Surottam Hatheesing, the then president of AMOA, commissioned Corbusier to build the Association's new headquarters. Corbusier was commissioned a total of five buildings in Ahmedabad, two institutions and three residences, of which one was not built.

The Mill Owners' Association Building, as it is known, was the first commission to be completed in 1954. The building is located on Ashram Road, in the western part of the city, overlooking the river Sabarmati. A ceremonial ramp makes for a grand approach into a triple height entrance hall, open to the wind. Arrival is on the first floor, where (as per the original design) the executives' offices and boardroom are located. The ground floor houses the work-spaces of the clerks and a separate, single-story canteen at the rear. On the third floor is a high, top-lit auditorium with a roof canopy and a curved, enclosing wall, in addition to a generous lobby. The east and west facades are in the form of sun breakers or brise-soleil, one of Corbusier's many formal inventions, which, while avoiding harsh sun, permit visual connection and air movement. While the brise-soleil act as free facades made of rough shuttered concrete, the north and south sides, built in rough brickwork, are almost unbroken.

Indian Institute of Management (LOUIS KAHN): In 1962, Indian architect Balkrishna Doshi invited Louis Kahn, one of the most influential architects of 20th century, to design the building for the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) in Ahmedabad. It was to comprise a main building with teaching areas, a library and faculty offices around the main courtyard, separate dormitory units for the students that were to be interconnected with a series of arched passages, and houses for the faculty and staff. Kahn's presence in the 1960s signals a turning point in contemporary architecture in post-independent India. When designing the school, Kahn put into question how and where people learn. Learning was not happening strictly in classrooms, but in the corridors and the spaces in between as well. Through his massive yet austere brick forms, Kahn offered architects a spiritual experience that made them believe they could effectively build the new nation and achieve a balance between modernity and tradition. Built between 1962 and 1964, the IIMA complex now sits on a 60-acre campus.

Sanskar Kendra - Ahmedabad City Museum (LE CORBUISER, 1951-59): The museum is a prism that rises from ground level on Pilotis level of an array of 7 x 7 meters, forming walkers fourteen feet wide spiral circulations generated within the building. It currently has ground floor to four floor levels, a roof (the deck is a concrete slab is covered with a layer of lightweight concrete, then a waterproof layer, then cover it for different layers of earth and gravel to fill all "vessels" with water) and a Hormgió (floors are concrete and the woodwork and doors are steel extrusions and riveted laminated steel).

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 10: BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART AHMEDABAD

In time transfer to Ahmedabad Airport / Railway Station to board flight / train for your next destination.



PALACES AND HERITAGE HOMES OF GUJARAT

10 DAYS / 09 NIGHTS

DAY 01 : BY AIR / TRAIN – ARRIVE AHMEDABAD

Arrive Ahmedabad, check inn at HOUSE OF MG & later we drive to visit Sidi Saiyed Mosque, Hutheesinh Jain Temple, Gandhi Ashram, Adalaj step-well, evening street market of handicrafts at Law Garden.

House Of MG : The House of MG is a premier boutique heritage hotel in Ahmedabad, the UNESCO declared World Heritage City. One of the oldest buildings in the city, it wonderfully represents the architectural colonial heritage architecture of the early 20th century. The hotel has 38 beautifully appointed rooms, offering all modern amenities in a grand but homely ambiance.

Hutheesingh Jain Temple: Built outside the Delhi Gate in 1850 by a rich Jain merchant, the Hutheesingh Temple is the best known of Ahmedabad's many ornate Jain temples.

Gandhi Ashram: On a quiet peaceful stretch of the Sabarmati River, Mahatma Gandhi set up a simple retreat in 1915. This was his Satyagrah Ashram and for many years it was the nerve centre of India's freedom movement. It was from here, in 1930, that Mahatma began his famous Dandi March to the sea to protest the Salt Tax imposed by the British. Hridaya Kunj, the simple cottage where he lived, is now a national monument and preserved as it was during the Mahatma's lifetime. Must pick gifts and souvenirs from the Ashram shop. Spend a little time here by the river watching the parrots and the squirrels. Peace and tranquility prevail here.

Adalaj Step-well: Step wells were built in olden times to serve the man purposes of - holding rainwater for later use, a resting place for the travellers, a watering hole for the travellers who had caravans and animals with them. Best examples of rainwater harvesting! The Adalaj step well is situated 17kms north of Ahmedabad. The step well at the village of Adalaj is another fine example of this magnificent architectural form. Adalaj Vav is richly carved, every pillar and wall surface covered with leaves and flowers, birds and fishes and friezes of ornamental designs.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 02 : BY ROAD – 130 KMS / 03 HRS – AHMEDABAD TO PATAN FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 40 KMS / 01 HR – PATAN TO MODHERA FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 100 KMS / 02 HRS – MODHERA TO AHMEDABAD

After breakfast proceed for day excursion to Patan and Modhera.

Patan : India has the rich & ancient heritage in fine textiles. (Double Ikat) Patola from the area of Patan with its unique gem like qualities , gorgeous colours, designs & durability. Its very appearance lures the connoisseur of fine textiles. It has no reverse side. Both the sides have equal intensity of colour and design.



The peculiar quality has its origins in a very intricate and difficult technique of Tie dyeing or Knot dyeing known as Bandhani Process on the wrap & weft separately before weaving.

The Patola was traditionally woven in a sari length of 5 to 9 yards by 45" to 54" width.

The range now extends to include tablecloth border, scarves, handkerchiefs.

Also visit the Rani ki Vav (Step well). This world heritage site was built by the Queen Udaymati the wife of Bhimdev during 11-12th Century. It is the most magnificent and spectacular step well and the best example of such architecture for water wells. The Vav measuring about 64 mts. The stepwell has long stepped corridor descending down to the underground tank, it is having four pillars. The Pillars which support the roof have square base decorated with Ghat Pallavas. It was one of the largest and the most sumptuous structure of its type.

Modhera Sun Temple, Modhera Sun Temple dates back to early 11th century CE and was built by King Bhimdev I in 1026 CE. The temple at Modhera is the most important of all sun temples built in the whole Gujarat. The temple is dedicated to the Sun God. The temple is magnificent and the finest example of the Hindu architecture in Gujarat. One of the most striking features of the Modhera Sun Temple is that the first ray of the sun falls on the deity at the time of the equinoxes. In front of the temple is a colossal tank, which was once known as Surya Kund or Rama Kund. The tank has a series of the carved steps leading to the bottom.

Dinner at Vishalla.

Vishalla Restaurant : Vishalla is a place where there are no closed rooms or halls, lanterns used instead of heavy lighting, natural air replacing air-conditioned air, folk songs being sung without mikes, muddy lanes, homely food served on a tree leaf, and everything around resembling a typical Indian village. (on direct payment).

Utensils museum : A walk around the hut-like museum makes one's heart skip a beat, marveling at the inimitable beauty of these utensils of old. These utensils have been handed down through the changing seasons and times, over the years. They speak of the unmatched art and genius of humankind during the days of old when people did not have the modern facilities of our times. The designer could not let our rich heritage pass with these vessels being lost in the fire kilns! He was determined to preserve them, and today, his dream is a reality in the form of Vechaar. (on direct payment)

The museum will be closed on Monday.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 03 : BY ROAD – 90 KMS / 02 HRS – AHMEDABAD TO BALASINOR FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 80 KMS / 02 HRS – BALASINOR TO SANTRAMPUR

Today we drive to Santrampur enroute visiting Dinosaur fossil park at Balasinor.

In 1980s Paleontologists accidentally came across the fossil remains and bones in the village of Rayoli in Balasinor. Since then, the place has been flooded with researchers and a number of excavations have taken place in the area the findings of which revealed the fact that there were more than 13 species of dinosaurs that thrived around 65 million years ago. The fossil park here contains life sized statues of those giant creatures and further excavations have found that a squat, thick-legged, heavy-bodied carnivorous dinosaur with a crested horn, Rajasaurus Narmadensis, King of Narmada, (the first half of the name comes from Raja or King due to the crested horn and the second half of the name originates due to its geographical location which was near the river Narmada). This creature belonged to the carnivore family of Tyrannosaurus Rex.

A visit to the fossil park will surely make you dig deep into the history of dinosaurs in Gujarat. And in order to quench your thirst for the same, state government came up with a Dinosaur Museum. The museum is spread in an area of over 25,000 sq. feet with 10 galleries spread in the basement and the ground floor depicting various forms of displays (films and exhibitions). An exclusive 3-D film is prepared on Rajasaurus Narmadensis. Other galleries display details on Dinosaurs of India and Gujarat, Fossil Exhibits and many other features that will bring out the child in you. One can relish this museum through digital, print and static form. The state government has not only catered to those seeking



information on dinosaurs and their fossils, but also a Time Machine, 3-D film, an Interactive and amusing Dino fun for kids area, a vivid display of Mesozoic times, souvenir shop etc. The museum will depict as many as 40 sculptures that will throw on a light on their size, shape, habits and habitat. The atrium features an exact replica of the habitat of these creatures. A step in the atrium will transport you 65 million years back.

REMAINS CLOSED ON MONDAYS.

Later we drive to stay at Shri Joraver Vilas-Santrampur.

Nestled amidst the lush lower reaches of the Aravallis, is a hidden paradise. A palatial villa positioned quite magnificently upon a lake. The vivid mental image this brings to mind creates an ethereal aura around the property even before a real glimpse is caught. Far from social inhabitation and the chaotic humdrum of our hectic urbane lifestyles is Shri Joraver Vilas, an oasis of tranquillity.

Keeping in mind the 1920's aesthetic of the Art Deco era, Shri Joraver Vilas was built with an interior that creates an allure of the old world charm. The villa is a marvel of stunning interior architecture with personal touches that make it all the more enchanting.

Stroll through the small town of Sant to see the majestic Raj Mahal and the Hawa Mahal, as well as ancient Hindu temples dating back from the 11th to the 14th century. Take a walk across the lake or in the neighbouring forest and explore the local flora and fauna. Visit tribal homes and farms to experience the local culture.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : BY ROAD – 120 KMS / 02.5 HRS – SANTARAMPUR TO CHAMPANER & PAVAGADH FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 30 KMS / 45 MINS – CHAMPANER TO JAMBUGHODA

After breakfast drive to Jambughoda enroute visit Champaner & Pavagadh.

Champaner - This city, located at 47 K in the north-east of Vadodara, was conquered in 1484 by Sultan Mahmud, and he renamed Begara Muhammadabad.

Named World Heritage Site by UNESCO, counts 114 monuments of historical and archaeological interest, among them stand the mosque of Jama Masjid, for its impressive interior courtyard, its porches, beautiful arches and slender minarets. Worth a visit also Shahr Masjid, with its row of columns, domes and delicate mihrab (niche facing Mecca) and Nagina Masjid with a charming porch.

Pavagadh : Most of the Hindus in India have faith in goddess Mahakali, particularly from the western region covering the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan & Maharashtra. The famous and the oldest temple of Mahakali is situated at Pavagadh, near Vadodara, one of the main cities of Gujarat. The temple has become the place of the pilgrimage for almost all Hindus in India. This temple is among the three main Shaktipeeths in Gujarat. It has been said in Hindu Shastras that after the famous Tandava dance of Lord Shiva, the various parts of the body of Sati fell at many places. These places are called Shaktipeeths. It is said that the left breast of the Sati had fallen here at Pavagadh. As the name suggests, the temple is located on a mountain, near to the Champaner town.

Today we drive to Jambughoda.

Jambughoda has 40% adivasi (tribal) population which is mainly Rathwas and Naykas. Naykas have adopted the modern way of lifestyle. The more cultured of the two tribes are the Rathwas. They are handsome, colourful, and have their uniqueness. It is very interesting to have a glimpse of their lifestyle, culture, their Haats (tribal fairs) and Pithora paintings.

Family-run heritage home (with 16 rooms) is spread across 12 acres of the Palace premise. Rooms and bathrooms are simple, yet dignified in their décor. A Home for Nature Lovers takes delight in hosting their guests in the wilderness. Home cooked organic food is served as buffets. Dinners are also organized around camp fires for the more adventurous ones. The food is slow cooked on wood to suit both the vegetarian and non-vegetarian palates. The



recipes which have been passed on from one generation to another have been carefully selected for the guests. The family has tried to preserve the age old cooking methods and the flavours, which would have otherwise been lost in time.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 05 : IN JAMBUGHODA

Full day Excursion to Chhota Udepur .

Chhota Udepur is in proximity to various hamlets of Bhils, Rathwas, Bhilalas and other tribes. The tribal folks can be spotted in sporting colorful attires and chunky jewellery. A tour of the tribal village and hamlets offer an insight of traditional architecture, lifestyle & handicrafts of each aboriginal community.

The tribal market called 'hatt' occurs at different villages. Pithora painting, pottery, terracotta figures, Langoti wearing and bamboo basket weaving are main attractions.

Days of Tribal Markets (Haat) at various villages.

Monday - Kawaant

Tuesday - Bakhatgarh

Wednesday – Rangpur, Normal market in Jambughoda

Thursday - Dev Hat

Friday - Jhojh

Saturday - Chhota Udepur

Sunday – Paanvad / Ghoghamba

Later return to Jambhughoda.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 06 : BY ROAD – 75 KMS / 01.5 HRS – JAMBUGHODA TO VADODARA

Today we drive to Vadodara check-inn at Madhavbagh.

Madhav Bagh is a 120yr Heritage mansion built by Madhavrao Gaekwad in the indo-saracenic style, amidst 2acr of dense greenery,large garden, fountain and nature assures solitude and relaxation in the heart of the city.The mansion is meticulously restored with lounges Living cum dining, courtyard and cozy sitouts. The four luxurious rooms with ensuite bathrooms, modern amenities.

Later we visit Laxmivilas Palace & Maharaja Fatehsinh Museum.

Laxmivilas Palace : It was built by Shri Maharaja SayajiRao III. The first stone was laid by P.S. Melvill Esquire, C.S.I. Agent to the Governor General at Baroda, on the 12th Jan-1880 and and completed in 1890. It was built in the Indo-saracenic tradition, with an eclectic mix of of Indian, Islamic, and European Elements. It's a residence of the royal family. Its, ornate Darbar Hall has an Italian mosaic floor and walls with mosaic decorations. The Palace houses a remarkable collection of old armoury and sculptures in bronze, marble and terracotta.

Visiting Hours : 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, (Lunch time 1 pm to 1.30pm, Don't go during Lunch time).

Closed on : Monday & Public holidays

Note: Photography allowed from the outside of Palace.

Guide: They provide Mp3 Players with headphone to guide you during your visit.

Maharaja Fatehsinh Museum : The museum was established in 1961.The museum is run by a private trust. The museum is noted for is modern display. The collection includes a few copies of Greek, Roman and later European sculpture and some Masterpieces of European oil paintings, sculptures by Felici, French furniture etc. The museum collections fall into many categories. However, it is noted for oil paintings by Ravi Varma, sculptures made of marble,



Greco-Roman arts, Chinese and Japanese art etc. The oil paintings representing members of the then Gaekwad princely ruling family are striking.

Visiting Hours : 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

Closed : Monday and important public holidays.

Tambekarwada : It is located Near Raopura Area and it's a 4 storey haveli was the residence of Diwan of Vadodara. This is famous for his wall paintings from the 19th century Maratha tradition depicting scenes from the Mahabharata, Lord Krishna's life and the Anglo-Maratha war.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 07 : BY ROAD – 125 KMS / 01.5 HRS – VADODARA TO LOTHAL FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 105 KMS / 02 HRS – LOTHAL TO DARED

Today we drive to Bhavnagar & stay at Darbargarh Dared enroute visiting Lothal.

Lothal: A perfect place to get an insight of the Indus Valley civilization. The most dominating site at Lothal is the massive dockyard spanning an area of 37 meters by 22 meters perhaps the greatest work of Maritime Architecture. Lothal was also famous for its arterial streets, microbes of gold, ivory and coppersmiths' workshops, potteries and underground sanitary drainage. (Closed on Fridays).

Dared : Dared village is located in Vallabhipur taluka of Bhavnagar district in Gujarat, India. It is situated 22kms away from sub-district headquarter Vallabhipur. A historic destination of 500years history. Beautiful Darbargadh restored to perfection for tourist & still a unexplored destination with lot of diverse activities. A hidden Jewel of Gujarat.

Village tour commences in the evening at 5:30 PM and lasts for an hour. It begins with a short 5-minute walk from our property to witness skilled artisans polishing diamonds at a Diamond Polishing Workshop. This will be an excellent opportunity to see their craftsmanship up close.

After the diamond polishing workshop, we will take a leisurely 5-7 minute stroll to visit the Maldhari houses, where we will get to observe the cow milking process and other cattle care activities. This will provide us with insight into the rural lifestyle of the locals.

We will then proceed to the Mahadev temple, situated on the banks of the picturesque river Ghelo, to offer our prayers and then experience bird watching at the banks of river Ghelo. The stunning views and the serene atmosphere will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression.

Next, we will visit the memorial of the Royal Family of Gohil Clan, an important historical landmark in the village. This visit will provide us with a glimpse into the rich cultural heritage of the region.

We will then take a walk through the local village market, where we will witness the making of local Sanedo (a farm vehicle) and explore the vibrant and colorful market of Dared.

Finally, we will visit the Shreenathji Temple to attend the evening Aarti, a religious ritual that is sure to leave a deep spiritual impact.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 08 : BY ROAD – 70 KMS / 01 HR – DARED TO PALITANA FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 200 KMS / 04 HRS – PALITANA TO GONDAL

Early morning proceed for Palitana to climb Shetrunjaya hills visiting a beautiful cluster of 863 Jain temples & later in the afternoon we drive to Gondal.

Palitana: A 56kms drive from Bhavnagar. Palitana lies at the foot of the Shetrunjaya hill, with the Shetrunjaya River flowing to its south. The sacred hill rises in a crescendo of magnificent temples – 863 in all – that soar in marble splendour to the top of the hill. The temples were built over an impressive span of 900 years with each generation of



pilgrims making its contribution to the shrines of Shetrunjaya. The 600-metre climb to Shetrunjaya is usually made on foot. Dolis or lift-chairs are also available for the ascent.

Later in afternoon we drive to Gondal.

The 11-gun salute princely state of Gondal spanned an area of about 1000 sq miles comprising four towns and more than 175 villages. The state was ruled by a dynasty of the Krishna-vanshi Jadeja Rajput clan from Thakur Shri Kumboji in the 1600s.

It was modernised by His Highness Thakore Shri Sagramji who ruled from 1851 to 1869 and became a first-class princely state in 1887 after His Highness Maharaja Bhagwat Sinhji introduced wide-ranging economic and social reforms. Under HH Bhagwat Sinhji, the state became distinguished for its number of educational and public institutions, and for possessing infrastructure that did not exist even in larger princely states or in areas under direct British rule.

After he passed away in 1944, HH Bhagwat Sinhji's son, HH Bhoirajji succeeded him. The present owner of the heritage hotels of Gondal, JYOTENDRASINHJI VIKRAMSINHJI SAHIB, is the grandson of HH Bhojrajji.

Visit Swaminarayan temple, Naulakha palace, Royal Garages & Bhubneshwari Ayurveda Pharmacy.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 09 : BY ROAD –130 KMS / 03 HRS – GONDAL TO MULI

Today we drive to stay at Ambika Niwas Palace-Muli.

Muli is the beginning of many experiences.. Historical, Artistic, Adventurous, Cultural, Rejuvenating, Festive, Romantic, enjoyed within the intimate yet comfortable ambience of the Ambika Nivas Palace. It is located in the centre of the historically significant Jhalawar region of Kathiawar in Gujarat. Muli is the only erstwhile princely state in Kathiawar belonging to the Parmar Clan who are descendants of the illustrious rulers, Vikramaditya and Raja Bhoj and it's culture is as unique as it's history. Today, the present Thakore Saheb of Muli has restored his ancestral palace, Ambika Nivas Palace, built in the 1930s to offer a boutique heritage experience, combining time-honoured traditions of hospitality with international standards.

Visit 02nd oldest Swaminarayan temple in the world, Mandavrai Sun temple, wooden haveli, step-well & tie & dye in Gautamgadh.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 10 : BY ROAD – 140 KMS / 03 HRS – MULI TO AHMEDABAD FOLLOWED BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART AHMEDABAD

After breakfast drive to Ahmedabad, arrive and in time transfer to Ahmedabad Airport / Railway Station to board a flight / train for your next destination.



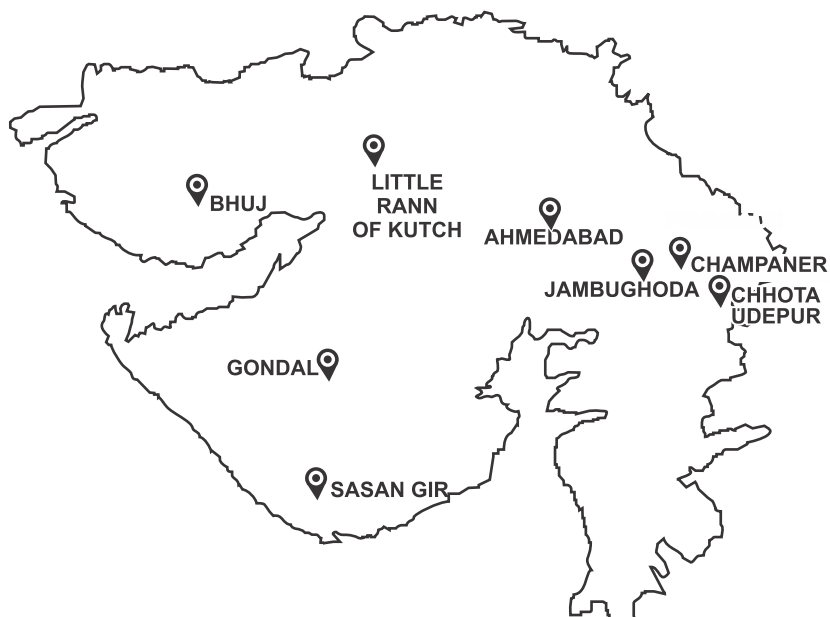
TRIBAL TRAILS

11 DAYS / 10 NIGHTS

DAY 01 : BY AIR / TRAIN – ARRIVE AHMEDABAD FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 180 KMS / 04 HRS – AHMEDABAD TO JAMBHUGHODA

Arrive Ahmedabad and drive to Jambughoda enroute visit Champaner & Pavagadh.

Champaner, stands on an 882 m high in the Girnar Hills. Champaner is a UNESCO World Heritage site, Gujarat's former capital. Champaner was established as the Chauhan Rajput capital in the 8th century. It is an ancient fort located at the foothills of Pavagadh. The walls at the base of the hill were once 6 kms. long and surround military, civic and religious buildings and complex water harvesting systems. The town derives its name from the Champa tree or from Champaraja, founder of the town, a contemporary of King Vanraj Chavda of Anhilwada. The entire landscape is scattered around with remains of fort walls, ruined tombs, gardens, arches, pillars and wells. In the old city, the remains of many fine mosques and palaces show a blend of Islamic and Hindu decoration styles, a unique style encouraged by Champaner's relative isolation.



At Champaner, one can see three fortifications - the base (Champaner), the top (Pavagadh) and the area connecting both (Machi). The major mosques in Champaner are Shehar ki Masjid, Jami Masjid, Kewada Masjid and Nagina Masjid.

Later drive to Pavagadh – At the summit of Pavagadh hill, 800 m above sea level, is the temple to Mother Kali, which is the oldest in the area, dating from the 10th-11th centuries. Hindu pilgrims were coming to visit this temple from long before the development of Champaner as a major city, and they continued for hundreds of years after its decline, right up to the present day. To reach the temple at the summit is about a 5 km walk along a jungle footpath to the top of the hill; otherwise, there is a cable car that will haul you to the summit from about the midway point, which is the last place accessible by road. **Rope way Tickets to Pavagadh, Can be booked directly from <https://udankhatola.com/>.** The temple has large fortifications and an open chowk in front, with two altars for sacrifices, and an array of lights for special occasions. The idol of Kalika Mata in the inner sanctum is only the head, the mukhwato, painted in red. Also, present are full idols of Mahakali and the yantras of Bahuchara. The temple is open from very early to quite late, to accommodate pilgrims arriving at all hours. The Machi Haveli is a rest house available for pilgrims.

Later arrive Jambughoda and transfer to your hotel.

Jambughoda has 40% Adivasi (tribal) population which is mainly Rathwas and Nayaks. Nayaks have adopted the modern way of lifestyle. The more cultured of the two tribes are the Rathwas. They are handsome, colourful, and have

their uniqueness. It is very interesting to have a glimpse of their lifestyle, culture, their Haats (tribal fairs) and Pithora paintings.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 02 : IN JAMBUGHODA

After breakfast drive to Chhota Udepur for full day excursion.

Chhota Udaipur is in proximity to various hamlets of Bhils, Rathwas, Bhilalas and other tribes. The tribal folks can be spotted in sporting colorful attires and chunky jewelry. A tour of the tribal village and hamlets offer an insight of traditional architecture, lifestyle & handicrafts of each aboriginal community.

The tribal market called 'hatt' occurs at different villages. Pithora painting, pottery, terracotta figures, Langoti wearing and bamboo basket weaving are main attractions.

Days of Tribal Markets (Haat) at various villages.

Monday - Kawaant

Tuesday - Bakhatgarh

Wednesday - Rangpur, Normal market in Jambughoda

Thursday - Dev Hat

Friday - Jhojh

Saturday - Chhota Udepur

Sunday - Paanvad / Ghoghamba

Overnight stay at Jambughoda

Later return to Jambughoda.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 03 : BY ROAD – 310 KMS / 06 HRS – JAMBUGHODA TO POSHINA

Today morning proceed to Poshina.

Poshina - The tribal land of Aravalis. Explore the Bhil & Garasia tribal culture of North Gujarat & Southern Rajasthan.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : IN POSHINA

Full day time to visit the Tribal village of Poshina.

Its home to a number of artisans the tribal arrow crafters, silversmiths, potters, blacksmiths and the bazaar is famous for silver tribal jewelry, ORNATE sheathed daggers and terra cotta horses. Around poshina are hamlets of the bhil and garasia tribal communities, know for their colorful attires and artistic ornaments. The Jain temple, the intricately carved Med review shiva temple and the royal 'Chhatteries' (cenotaphs) of the rulers Of poshina are sure to leave you mesmerized.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 05 : BY ROAD – 80 KMS / 02 HRS – POSHINA TO PATAN FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 40 KMS / 01 HR – PATAN TO MODHERA FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 70 KMS / 02 HRS – MODHERA TO LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH

After breakfast drive to Bajana – Little Rann of Kutch enroute visit Patan and Modhera.



Patola Weaving – Patan is famous for its Patola weaving. India has a rich and ancient heritage in fine textiles. (Double Ikkat) Patola from the area of Patan in the North Gujarat region of western India glorifies this heritage. It has unique gem like qualities – gorgeous colours, designs and durability. Its appearance lures the connoisseur of fine textiles. It has no reverse side. Both the sides have equal intensity of color and design. Historically, the art of Double Ikkat Patola weaving dates back centuries.

Paintings in Ajanta caves resemble the tie-dye technique of Patola. Legend indicates that sometimes in the 12th century AC, King Kumarpal of Solanki dynasty, invited 700 families of Patola weavers from Jalna (South Maharashtra) to settle down in Patan in North Gujarat. Salvi family is one of them who continues this traditional art and has preserved it even today. This is our heritage art from four generations.

Also visit **Rani ki Vav** – stepwell in Patan – The Rani ki Vav, a step well in Patan is an excellent example of subterranean architecture in Gujarat and has steps that lead down to the water level. The Rani ki Vav was built by Rani Udayamti of the Solanki dynasty. This Vav represents the finest of the Indian sculptures and architecture and forms the link between a kunda and the classical step-well. In addition to the straight staircase, it also has lateral staircases, along with very broad, stepped corridors.

Later continue to drive to Bajana enroute visiting Modhera. Modhera: The Sun temple of Modhera is one of the finest examples of Indian architecture of its period. Built in 1026 A.D. the temple is dedicated to the Sun-God, Surya and stands high on a plinth overlooking a deep stone-steeped tank. Every inch of the edifice, both inside and outside is magnificently carved with Gods and Goddesses, birds, beasts, and flowers. Sun Temple of Modhera was built by King Bhimdev I (1026-27) and bears some resemblance to the later and far better known, Sun Temple of Konark in the state of Orissa, which it predates by some 200 years. Like that temple, it was designed so that the dawn sun shone on the image of Surya, the sun God, at the time of the equinoxes. The main hall and shrine are reached through a pillared porch and the temple exterior is intricately and delicately carved. As with the temple of Somnath, this fine temple was ruined by Mohamed of Ghazni.

Later continue to drive to Bajana; arrive Bajana and transfer to your hotel. Bajana is located on the edge of little Rann of Kutch, which is an extension of the Rann of Kutch onto Saurashtra. Bajana is a major bird watching destination, it is known for bird watching and only place in India where wild ass can be found. There are several birds watching sites around the area. Lesser Flamingos are found here in winter in large numbers. Besides bird watching tribal heritage of the area, craft villages and rural character is an attraction for guests looking for an authentic rural India experience.

DAY 06 : IN BAJANA

Early morning visits Little Rann of Kutch Sanctuary.

The Little Rann of Kutch: The highlight of this sanctuary is the Asiatic Wild Ass or 'Gudkhur' that is endemic to the region & is one of the most endangered species in the world. Other mammals that could be seen are Nilgai, black buck antelope, Chinkara gazelle, Indian wolf, Indian desert foxes, jackals & lesser cats. Also is a paradise for bird watchers.

The key dryland birds are McQueen's houbara bustard, chestnut bellied & spotted sand grouse, Indian courser, 13 species of larks & sparrow larks, 5 of quails (including buttonquails), thick-knee, desert warbler, desert & variable wheatear, Aquila eagles, short toed snake eagle, six species of falcon & three harriers. Five species of vulture have been recorded. Apart from all these you can hope to see greater & lesser flamingo, three species of pelican, spoonbill, demoiselle & common cranes, and several ducks in flocks of several thousand during winters.

Also visit The Little Rann of Kutch villages to witness their work. The women of the Kharapat Rabari community, a pastoral group, in the village of Dasada do exquisite embroidery using herringbone stitches interspersed with small mirrors, and occasional chain stitches for peacocks and other motifs. At their houses, you can see fine embroidery on dowry sacks, a set of eight wall decorations including toran, chakla, and pardo, horn coverings for their cattle and covers for their bullocks, chaniya-choli-odhani (A set of skirt-blouse-and-veil), and heirloom pieces.

Overnight at hotel.



DAY 07 : LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH – BHUJ (285 KM)

Today we drive to Bhuj. On arrival check-inn at hotel & later we go for sightseeing of Bhuj.

Prag Mahal was constructed by Rao Pragmalji II (1838-76 AD). Rao Pragmalji appointed a famous architect, Colonel Henry Saint Wilkins to design Prag Mahal, who had earlier designed Deccan College, Sassoon Hospital, Ohel David Synagogue. Prag Mahal took about 10 years to get built at the cost of 20 lakh rupees.

Aina Mahal Palace : Aina Mahal Palace was built by Rao Lakhpatji in 1750 AD. Aina Mahal is a part of a large palace complex. It is a two storey building with Darbar Hall, hall of mirrors, and suites for royal family. In the 18th century, the Rao Lakhpatji sent a local craftsman Ramsingh Malam to Europe to perfect his skills in glassmaking, enamelling, tile making and iron founding. After he returned back, he constructed the Aina Mahal with the hall of mirrors of Venetian glass. The Hall of mirror has white marble walls which are covered with mirrors and gilded ornaments and the floor is lined with tiles. The design and decoration of the Aina Mahal was due to the efficiency of Ramsingh Malam. The platform above the floor is surrounded by a series of fountains operated by an elaborated system of pumps below a Venetian chandelier. Aina Mahal is a unique example of an Indian palace built in the mid-eighteenth century with European influence. Aina Mahal remains closed on Thursdays & public holidays. (Remain Closed on Thursday & National Holidays)

The Kutch Museum: Formerly known as the Fergusson Museum, was founded by Maharao Khengarji III in 1877 AD. Its the oldest museum in Gujarat. Constructed in the Italian style, the museum is located in picturesque surroundings on the bank of Hamirsar Lake. The museum has been a center of attraction for scholars due to its large collection of Kshatrpa inscriptions, curious archaeological objects, fine collection of arms & specimens of various crafts of Kutch region. Other places of interest at Bhuj are- Cenotaphs of Kutch rulers, Snake Temple at Bhujiyo Hill Fort, Swaminarayan temple, Vegetable market, Hatkeshwar temple & Alfred High School (Remain Closed on Wednesday & 02ND, 04TH Saturday)

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 08 : IN BHUJ

After breakfast visit the villages of Bhuj. Amidst the Desert land of infinite dimensions, are suspended, quaint little villages. These are the last villages on the India-Pakistan border. Here you will come across master craft people' exposing their traditional art, turning our master pieces every day. Their ornaments, clothes, utensils, everything they use - will make you feel as if you have stepped into lifestyle museum leaving you spellbound.

Visit the villages of Bhirandiyara: Bhirandiyara is a favourite Tea stop for locals and visitors alike on the road to Khavda. The village boasts of a delicious sweet – fresh Maavo. This milk-based sweet is best when eaten hot. Most of the roadside stalls sell Maavo. The local Meghwal Community has exquisite embroideries and skilfully decorated, colourful Mud Bhungas. Mud-Mirror work - Lippan kam is a decorative art done by common people mainly women. Lippan kam is done inside Bhungas / mud huts in villages of Kutch; sometimes you can find it on outer walls too. Generally, women make birds, trees, animals, and peacock, human figures etc in Lippan kam. It is done with a mixture of clay and camel dung. Then gum is used to stick mirrors. Originality of lippan kam lies in adding no colour or only whites. Small round, diamond-shaped or triangle mirror pieces are essential to lippan kam.

Nirona: The village of Nirona is the only place in the world where the tradition of Rogan art is still practiced (a method of producing dyes from natural resources and castor oil and creating intricate and long-lasting designs on silk and cotton). Rogan art is a rare craft that is not well known even in India. Because of its rare qualities, its practiced by only one family in India and they reside in Nirona village in Gujarat.

Nirona also offers the chance to see artisans making copper bells. The Luhars in Nirona have been preserving the craft of making copper bells over seven generations. The art form originally comes from Sindh and some sister villages in Pakistan too make similar bells but with carvings on the surface.

Another family in Nirona is practicing wood lacquering. Raw lacquer in various colours that is passed with great skill



on the wooden object of focus in beautiful waves. The work they do is mainly focused on household items like jewellery boxes and kitchen utensils and has known to last more than 30-35 years. If the lacquer work starts to lose its sheen, just apply some oil on it,

Later visit Kalo Dungar – Black Hill – 25 kms north of Khavda, the top of the Black Hills is the highest point in Kutch, at 462 m. From here, the entire northern horizon vanishes into the Great Rann, the desert and sky often becoming indistinguishable. It is one of the few non-coastal locations where you feel like you are at the edge of the earth, on the brink of incomprehensible vastness that fades off towards infinity. Since this is one of the places where a civilian can get closest to the Pakistan border, there is an Army post at the top; beyond here, only military personnel are allowed. The hill is also the site of a 400-year-old temple to Dattatreya, the three-headed incarnation of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Shiva in the same body.

Khavda (90 Km. Approx.) – a town in the Pachcham Region. One can find a tiny market and a few stalls serving up Kutchi snacks & tea. One can visit Khatrivas to see artisans printing & selling Ajrakh. The town also has skilled Leather Craftsmen and there are some shops retailing local crafts, including Leather Slippers. Off the main road is a clinic run by Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), Federation of Kutchi Women's groups. KMVS has trained local midwives in modern and locally suitable healthcare practices. The KMVS Office in Khavda is run almost entirely by local women and has a small retail outlet selling wonderfully intricate embroideries under the producer group's brand name "QASAB" which means "Craft Skill".

Ludiya: Ludiya Village is comprised of several hamlets belonging to the Meghwal & Samma Communities. The latter community, primarily herdsmen, is more conservative when it comes to tourists. Gandhi nu Gam, populated by the Meghwal community, features beautifully Painted Bhungas. The Kanjari (Blouses) of the women and the Bhunga decoration of this village are especially colourful. To curb exploitation & experiment with community marketing, the hamlet has set up an "Otlo" or a roofed platform next to the Temple, where each household brings out their embroidered goods for selling.

Evening witness Sunset from Greater Rann of Kutch in Village Dhordo.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 09 – BY ROAD – 260 KMS / 05.5 HRS – BHUJ TO GONDAL

After breakfast drive to Gondal, enroute visit Ajrakhpur, and Bhujodi.

Ajrakhpur – Dhamadka has long been a centre for block printing, with the artisans called Khatri's believed to have come here from Sindh in medieval times practicing the art form. Following destruction of the workplaces and residences of Khatri's in Dhamadka by the 2001 Earthquake, an alternative site called Ajrakhpur was developed. These two villages are known for Ajrakh, an intricate art of resist block printing fabrics, using a resist, mordant or both. The artisans go through a lengthy process from treating fabrics to applying handheld wooden blocks with designs in relief to the finishing the artisans of Ajrakhpur specialize in Ajrakh – a Block Printed cotton cloth used traditionally by local herdsmen with natural dyes. Its geometrical and nonfigurative motifs often mirror those appearing in Islamic – influenced Indian architecture.

Later stop at Bhujodi – a village skilled in traditional Bandhani (tie & dye), block printing and weaving. Here you can view live demonstrations and buy anything from shawls to blankets from the artisans directly. Bhujodi is also a centre for Piltoom weaving, Mewada Embroidery & Wood Carving. Nearby is the Hiralakshmi Crafts Park – a nonprofit undertaking by the Ashapura Group of Companies that works with artisans throughout Kutch to show their skills and retail their crafts.

Not far from Bhujodi is Shrujan, a non-profit working to complement rural women's income through the enhancement and marketing of their embroidery products. Shrujan has a store, design centre, manufacturing unit and an impressive collection of embroideries on site. Types of Embroideries: Aahir Embroidery, Soof Embroidery, Chakan Embroidery, Jat Fakira Embroidery, Jat Garasiya Embroidery, Kambiro & Khudi Embroidery, Katri Embroidery, Kharek Embroidery, Mukko Embroidery, Neran Embroidery, Pakko Embroidery, Rabari Embroidery. Later continue to drive to Gondal, arrive and transfer to your hotel.



Gondal: The Riverside palace at Gondal, a govt. of India classified heritage hotel, and the Orchard Palace in the same town, are two mansion guest houses opened as heritage hotels. The interiors of these properties are appointed with period furniture, antiques, and artifacts reminiscent of the days of the Raj. The highlight of staying at these properties is that guests can see the Royal Garages, housing vintage and classic cars, and the Naulakha Palace, which is a festival of stone carvings and houses royal memorabilia including toys of the late 19th and early 20th century, silver caskets that carried messages and gifts for the Maharajah, elephant howdahs and royal portraits. It has a royal saloon suite, which has its own drawing, dining, bedroom, and bathroom in a converted railway carriage.

Visit Swaminarayan temple, Naulakha palace, Royal Garages & Bhubneshwari Ayurveda Pharmacy.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 10 : BY ROAD – 125 KMS / 02.5 HRS – GONDAL TO SASANGIR

After breakfast drive to Sasangir, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Sasan Gir, popularly known as Gir, the most famous lion sanctuary in India. And the one place in the subcontinent where Asiatic Lions can be found in the wild. This forested, hilly, 1412-sq-km sanctuary about halfway between Veraval and Junagadh is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*). Taking a safari through the thick, undisturbed forests is a joy – even without the added excitement of spotting lions, other wildlife, and myriad bird species. Access to the sanctuary is by safari permit only, bookable in advance online. <https://girlion.gujarat.gov.in>

If you miss out on a permit, your other option for lion encounters is at the Devalia Safari Park, a fenced-off part of the sanctuary where sightings are guaranteed but more stage-managed. The sanctuary's 37 other mammal species, most of which have also increased in numbers, include dainty chital (spotted deer), sambar (large deer), nilgais (blue bull / large antelopes), Chowsingha (four-horned antelopes), chinkaras (gazelles), crocodiles and rarely seen leopards. The park is a great destination for birders too, with more than 300 bird species, most of the residents.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 11 : BY ROAD – 375 KMS / 08 HRS – SASANGIR TO AHMEDABAD

Today enjoy morning & afternoon safari into Sasangir wildlife sanctuary.

[Subject to availability and prior to permission and 100% permits will avail by online only. The online window will open 90 days prior to visit date. Can be booked directly from <https://girlion.gujarat.gov.in/>

Later drive to Ahmedabad, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Ahmedabad is Located on the banks of the river Sabarmati; the city was founded by Sultan Ahmad Shah in 1411. Today it is one of the fastest growing cities of India and is an immense repository of tradition, history & culture. Its famous walled area is one of the finest examples of community living & the city thrived as the textile capital & was nicknamed "Manchester of the East" in 1888. This multicultural city is home to some of the finest Indo-Sarcenic mosques & Jain temples.

The old city of Ahmedabad is dotted with labyrinthine by lanes called 'polls'. The exquisite carved wooden mansions and havelis are in no manner less than their stone counterparts in Rajasthan. The city also offers a rich architectural legacy that blends Hindu and Muslim schools of architecture, stone and brick with arches, domes and vaults, carved pillars, trefoil designs besides the modern buildings designed by the famous French architect, Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 12 : BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART AHMEDABAD

In time transfer to Ahmedabad Airport / Railway Station to board flight / train for your next destination.



WILDLIFE TRAILS

07 DAYS / 06 NIGHTS

DAY 01 : BY AIR / TRAIN – ARRIVE AHMEDABAD FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 130 KMS / 03 HRS – AHMEDABAD TO PATAN FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 40 KMS / 01 HR – PATAN TO MODHERA FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 75 KMS / 02 HRS – MODHERA TO LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH

Arrive Ahmedabad and proceed for excursion to Patan and Modhera.

Patan is famous for its Patola weaving.

Patola Weaving – India has a rich and ancient heritage in fine textiles. (Double Ikkat) Patola from the area of Patan in the North Gujarat region of western India glorifies this heritage. It has unique gem like qualities – gorgeous colours, designs and durability. Its appearance lures the connoisseur of fine textiles. It has no reverse side. Both the sides have equal intensity of color and design. Historically, the art of Double Ikkat Patola weaving dates to centuries. Paintings in Ajanta caves resemble the tie-dye technique of Patola. Legend indicates that sometimes in the 12th century AC, King Kumarpal of Solanki dynasty, invited 700 families of Patola weavers from Jalna (South Maharashtra) to settle down in Patan in North Gujarat. Salvi family is one of them who continues this traditional art and has preserved it even today. This is our heritage art from four generations.



Also visit Rani ki Vav – stepwell in Patan – The Rani ki Vav, a step well in Patan is an excellent example of subterranean architecture in Gujarat and has steps that lead down to the water level. The Rani ki Vav was built by Rani Udayamti of the Solanki dynasty. This Vav represents the finest of the Indian sculptures and architecture and forms the link between a kunda and the classical step-well. In addition to the straight staircase, it also has lateral staircases, along with very broad, stepped corridors.

Later drive to Modhera – Modhera: The Sun temple of Modhera is one of the finest examples of Indian architecture of its period. Built in 1026 A.D. the temple is dedicated to the Sun-God, Surya and stands high on a plinth overlooking a deep stone-steeped tank. Every inch of the edifice, both inside and outside is magnificently carved with Gods and Goddesses, birds, beasts, and flowers. Sun Temple of Modhera was built by King Bhimdev I (1026-27) and bears some resemblance to the later and far better known, Sun Temple of Konark in the state of Orissa, which it predates by some 200 years. Like that temple, it was designed so that the dawn sun shone on the image of Surya, the sun God, at the time of the equinoxes. The main hall and shrine are reached through a pillared porch and the temple exterior is intricately and delicately carved. As with the temple of Somnath, this fine temple was ruined by Mohamed of Ghazni.

Later continue to drive to Bajana; arrive Bajana and transfer to your hotel. Bajana is located on the edge of little Rann of Kutch, which is an extension of the Rann of Kutch onto Saurashtra. Bajana is a major bird watching destination, it is known for bird watching and only place in India where wild ass can be found. There are several birds watching sites around the area. Lesser Flamingos are found here in winter in large numbers. Besides bird watching tribal heritage of the area, craft villages and rural character is an attraction for guests looking for an authentic rural India experience.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 02 : IN BAJANA

Early morning visits Little Rann of Kutch Sanctuary.

The Little Rann of Kutch: The highlight of this sanctuary is the Asiatic Wild Ass or 'Gudkhur' that is endemic to the region & is one of the most endangered species in the world. Other mammals that could be seen are Nilgai, black buck antelope, Chinkara gazelle, Indian wolf, Indian desert foxes, jackals & lesser cats. Also is a paradise for bird watchers.

The key dryland birds are McQueen's houbara bustard, chestnut bellied & spotted sand grouse, Indian courser, 13 species of larks & sparrow larks, 5 of quails (including buttonquails), thick-knee, desert warbler, desert & variable wheatear, Aquila eagles, short toed snake eagle, six species of falcon & three harriers. Five species of vulture have been recorded. Apart from all these you can hope to see greater & lesser flamingo, three species of pelican, spoonbill, demoiselle & common cranes, and several ducks in flocks of several thousand during winters.

Also visit The Little Rann of Kutch villages to witness their work. The women of the Kharapat Rabari community, a pastoral group, in the village of Dasada do exquisite embroidery using herringbone stitches interspersed with small mirrors, and occasional chain stitches for peacocks and other motifs. At their houses, you can see fine embroidery on dowry sacks, a set of eight wall decorations including toran, chakla, and pardo, horn coverings for their cattle and covers for their bullocks, chaniya-choli-odhani A set of skirt-blouse-and-veil), and heirloom pieces.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 03 : BY ROAD – 340 KMS / 07 HRS – BAJANA TO SASANGIR

After breakfast drive to Sasangir, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Sasan Gir, popularly known as Gir, the most famous loin sanctuary in India. And the one place in the subcontinent where Asiatic Loins can be found in the wild. This forested, hilly, 1412-sq-km sanctuary about halfway between Veraval and Junagadh is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leopersica*). Taking a safari through the thick, undisturbed forests is a joy – even without the added excitement of spotting lions, other wildlife, and myriad bird species. Access to the sanctuary is by safari permit only, bookable in advance online. <https://girlion.gujarat.gov.in>

If you miss out on a permit, your other option for lion encounters is at the Devalia Safari Park, a fenced-off part of the sanctuary where sightings are guaranteed but more stage-managed. The sanctuary's 37 other mammal species, most of which have also increased in numbers, include dainty chital (spotted deer), sambar (large deer), nilgais (blue bull / large antelopes), Chowsingha (four-horned antelopes), chinkaras (gazelles), crocodiles and rarely seen leopards. The park is a great destination for birders too, with more than 300 bird species, most of the residents.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : IN SASANGIR

Today enjoy morning & afternoon safari into Sasangir wildlife sanctuary.

[Subject to availability and prior to permission and 100% permits will avail by online only. The online window will open 90 days prior to visit date. Can be booked directly from <https://girlion.gujarat.gov.in/>

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 05 : BY ROAD – 260 KMS / 05 HRS – SASANGIR TO VELAVADAR

After breakfast drive to Velavadar, arrive and transfer to your hotel.



Velavadar National Park: The best national park for black buck viewing in India is the 36sq km, which comprises a tapestry of grasslands and scrubby plains reminiscent of the African Savannah. The national park also provides suitable habitat for the endangered Indian wolf, the jackal, the Indian fox, the jungle cat, blue bull antelope and hare to proliferate successfully and attracts a large number of birds.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 06 – IN VELAVADAR

Day is at leisure to enjoy Safari at Velavadar National Park. (Safari Not Included in the quote)

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 07 – BY ROAD – 200 KMS / 04 HRS – VELAVADAR TO AHMEDABAD FOLLOWED BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART AHMEDABAD

After breakfast drive to Ahmedabad enroute visit Lothal.

Lothal: A perfect place to get an insight of the Indus Valley civilization. The most dominating site at Lothal is the massive dockyard spanning an area of 37 meters by 22 meters perhaps the greatest work of Maritime Architecture. Lothal was also famous for its arterial streets, microbes of gold, ivory and coppersmiths' workshops, potteries, and underground sanitary drainage. It is located at a distance of 78 kms from Ahmedabad. **(Closed on Fridays).**

Later drive to Ahmedabad, arrive and in time transfer to Ahmedabad Airport / Railway Station to board flight / train for your next destination.



TRAILS OF BYGONE TREASURES OF GUJARAT

04 DAYS / 03 NIGHTS

DAY 01 : BY AIR / TRAIN – ARRIVE AHMEDABAD FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 90 KMS / 02 HRS – AHMEDABAD TO BALASINOR

Arrive Ahmedabad and drive to Balasinor, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

In 1980s Paleontologists accidentally came across the fossil remains and bones in the village of Rayioli in Balasinor. Since then, the place has been flooded with researchers and a number of excavations have taken place in the area the findings of which revealed the fact that there were more than 13 species of dinosaurs that thrived around 65 million years ago. The fossil park here contains life sized statues of those giant creatures and further excavations have found that a squat, thick-legged, heavy-bodied carnivorous dinosaur with a crested horn, *Rajasaurus Narmandensis*, King of Narmada, (the first half of the name comes from Raja or King due to the crested horn and the second half of the name originates due to its geographical location which was near the river Narmada). This creature belonged to the carnivore family of *Tyrannosaurus Rex*.



A visit to the fossil park will surely make you dig deep into the history of dinosaurs in Gujarat. And in order to quench your thirst for the same, state government came up with a Dinosaur Museum. The museum is spread in an area of over 25,000 sq. feet with 10 galleries spread in the basement and the ground floor depicting various forms of displays (films and exhibitions). An exclusive 3-D film is prepared on *Rajasaurus Narmadensis*. Other galleries display details on Dinosaurs of India and Gujarat, Fossil Exhibits and many other features that will bring out the child in you. One can relish this museum through digital, print and static form. The state government has not only catered to those seeking information on dinosaurs and their fossils, but also a Time Machine, 3-D film, an Interactive and amusing Dino fun for kids area, a vivid display of Mesozoic times, souvenir shop etc. The museum will depict as many as 40 sculptures that will throw on a light on their size, shape, habits and habitat. The atrium features an exact replica of the habitat of these creatures. A step in the atrium will transport you 65 million years back.

REMAINS CLOSED ON MONDAYS.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 02 : BY ROAD – 146 KMS / 03 HRS – BALASINOR TO LOTHAL FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 90 KMS / 02 HRS – LOTHAL TO AHMEDABAD

After breakfast drive to Lothal. Lothal: A perfect place to get an insight of the Indus Valley civilization. The most dominating site at Lothal is the massive dockyard spanning an area of 37 meters by 22 meters perhaps the greatest work of Maritime Architecture. Lothal was also famous for its arterial streets, microbes of gold, ivory and

coppersmiths' workshops, potteries, and underground sanitary drainage. **(Closed on Fridays).**

Overnight at Ahmedabad.

DAY 03 : BY ROAD – 360 KMS / 06.5 HRS – AHMEDABAD TO DHOLAVIRA

After breakfast drive to Dholavira, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Dholavira: Of all the Harappan sites the site of Dholavira locally known as Kotada, in the Khadir island of Kutch, stands apart. It is remarkable for its magnificent planning and enormity of area and deposit. On the present showing, it is one of the two largest settlements in India and the fourth or fifth largest in the subcontinent. Dholavira presents Harappan city par excellence, measures about 600m on the north-south axis and 775m. on the east-west. Inside the general fortification, there are three distinct complexes-An acropolises, a middle town, and a lower town. In addition, the acropolis and the middle town had been further furnished with their own apartment, defence-work, gateways, built-up areas, street-system, wells, and large open spaces. The city within the general fortification accounts for 48 hectares. Besides, there are extensive structure-bearing areas though outside yet intimately integral to the fortified settlement. If put together, the total area goes well beyond 100 hectares in expanse.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : BY ROAD – 175 KMS / 03.5 HRS – DHOLAVIRA TO BHUJ FOLLOWED BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART BHUJ

After breakfast drive to Bhuj and in time transfer to Bhuj Airport / Railway Station to board flight / train for your next destination.



TEXTILE TRAILS OF GUJARAT

04 DAYS / 03 NIGHTS

DAY 01 : BY AIR / TRAIN – ARRIVE AHMEDABAD

Arrive Ahmedabad, check inn at hotel.

Overnight at Ahmedabad.

DAY 02 : IN AHMEDABAD

Today we go for a heritage walk of Ahmedabad in the morning.

Heritage walk

A special feature of Ahmedabad is the plan of the old city, comprising numerous 'Pols', self-contained neighbourhoods, sheltering large numbers of people. Some of these 'Pols' are virtually small villages, traversed by narrow lanes, usually terminating in squares (Chowks) comprising 'Community Well' and 'Chabutro' (for feeding birds). These 'Pols' were protected by gates, cul-de-sacs and secret passages. These historic residential settlements are explained in detail during the walk.

Later we go to witness the Kalamkari work.

Kalamkari (Kalam means pen, Kari means work) is an ancient craft of fabric dyeing and printing. In this age of product homogeneity, each Kalamkari piece is exclusive and a visual delight for a fashion designer. A few connoisseurs of art keep the craft alive in the city. Artist dips his kalam (a pen like instrument, made of bamboo or palm bark, sharpened on one end and tied with a bundle of fine hair that serves as a brush) in vegetable colours and his steady hand covers the cloth with designs; every line is a firm stroke. From over his shoulder you see a perfect piece of art emerge.

The yellow bulb over his head shudders as the warm afternoon breeze wafts in and a weak ripple passes underneath the cloth. The beauty in that space and time completely captures you. The exquisite ancient craft of Kalamkari can do odd things to your senses. This art may be on its last breath in the city but it still exists even though it may not make much economy's sense. In this age of mass production, Kalamkari churns out one-off pieces and offers exclusivity with each craftsman patronizing his own motifs. Techniques of craftsmanship in Kalamkari have been passed down over the years through generations of families.

Apart from Ahmedabad, Kalamkari is also thriving in Andhra Pradesh's Masulipatnam and Srikalahasti villages. These painting are found only in parts of India and Iran.

A lot of labour goes into this craft. The fabric requires extensive treatment before and after painting. The colour on the cloth takes different shades depending on its treatment, or the quality of the mordant. Given the environmental concerns of today, this technique of textile dyeing and printing is very environment friendly. Absolutely no chemicals



are used in Kalamkari. The artists rely only on natural dyes extracted from bark, flower and root to create each one of his exclusive masterpieces.

Shreyas Folk and Art Museum : Shreyas museums were created in 1974 as dynamic mediums of learning. Central vision is to use 'Museums as a classroom' in Montessori style. Here each object has a story to tell; is interconnected to another; is not only part of history and mythology, but is also part of our individual perceptions of life around us.

Visiting Hours (Walk-in): Monday to Saturday: 10:00 am to 02:00 pm
Closed on: Sunday and on public holidays

Later we visit the evening handicraft street market of Law Garden.

Dinner at Vishalla : Vishalla is a restaurant with traditional Gujarati food in village surroundings. It has Vichar Utensil Museum worth visiting. The museum houses a unique collection of utensils. Museum remains closed on Mondays.

A walk around the hut-like museum makes one's heart skip a beat, marveling at the inimitable beauty of these utensils of old. These utensils have been handed down through the changing seasons and times, over the years. They speak of the unmatched art and genius of humankind during the days of old when people did not have the modern facilities of our times. The designer could not let our rich heritage pass with these vessels being lost in the fire kilns! He was determined to preserve them, and today, his dream is a reality in the form of Vechaar.

Overnight at Ahmedabad.

DAY 03 : BY ROAD – 45 KMS / 01 HR – AHMEDABAD TO PETHAPUR FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 110 KMS / 02 HRS PETHAPUR TO PATAN FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 40 KMS / 01 HR – PATAN TO MODHERA FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 65 KMS / 01 HR – MODHERA TO DASADA (LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH)

After breakfast drive to Little Rann of Kutch enroute visiting Patan & Modhera.

Pethapur : Elaborately illustrated floral or geometric motifs, over all or alternate repeats, bold or delicate patterned, block prints mark the epitome of textile design sensibility of Gujarat. Block printing is one of the oldest surfacial textile craft forms in world and Gujarat is renowned for this manifestation. The block though a tool in the printing of a textile is a work of art in itself requires great finesse and dexterity and it is a pleasure to watch a block maker at work. The magical marriage created by the transference of patterns delicately etched on a simple block of wood on to the surface of a fabric has created an especially Indian patina which is one of the highlights of world textile history.

Block making is a delightfully intricate explosion, taking into consideration the requirements of the printer while giving vent to the creative impulse of the carver. Block carving is a specialized craft form; right from the selection of the wood which is either sesame or teak, the block maker's personal touch is evident at every step. The craftsmen work for a variety of clients and therefore his design repertoire is immeasurably vast and evolving & Modhera. On arrival at Little rann of Kutch check inn at hotel & if time permits visit to see Tangalia weaving.

Patan : India has the rich & ancient heritage in fine textiles. (Double Ikat) Patola from the area of Patan with its unique gem like qualities , gorgeous colours, designs & durability. Its very appearance lures the connoisseur of fine textiles. It has no reverse side. Both the sides have equal intensity of colour and design.

The peculiar quality has its origins in a very intricate and difficult technique of Tie dyeing or Knot dyeing known as Bandhani Process on the wrap & weft separately before weaving.

The Patola was traditionally woven in a sari length of 5 to 9 yards by 45" to 54" width. The range now extends to include tablecloth border, scarves, handkerchiefs.

Design Elements : Essentially the design in a Patola are based on traditional motifs called "Bhat", These designs include "narikunj", "pan", "phulwadi", "chowkdi", "raas", "chhabdi", "chokha", "navratna", "panchphool", "sarvariya", "laheriya" etc.

Flowers, animals, birds & human figures form the basic designs. New geometrical designs using vegetable dyes were



developed and displayed at the Festival of India held in Paris, London, Tokyo, Washington and Moscow.

Also visit the Rani-ki-Vav - Patan : On the banks of the Saraswati river, was initially built as a memorial to a king in the 11th century AD. Stepwells are a distinctive form of subterranean water resource and storage systems on the Indian subcontinent, and have been constructed since the 3rd millennium BC. They evolved over time from what was basically a pit in sandy soil towards elaborate multi-storey works of art and architecture. Rani-ki-vav was built at the height of craftsmens'ability in stepwell construction and the Maru-Gurjara architectural style, reflecting mastery of this complex technique and great beauty of detail and proportions. Designed as an inverted temple highlighting the sanctity of water, it is divided into seven levels of stairs with sculptural panels of high artistic quality, more than 500 principle sculptures and over a thousand minor ones combine religious, mythological and secular imagery, often referencing literary works. The fourth level is the deepest and leads into a rectangular tank 9.5m by 9.4m, at a depth of 23m. The well is located at the westernmost end of the property and consists of a shaft 10m in diameter and 30m deep.

Arrive Little Rann Of Kutch, check inn at hotel.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : IN DASADA

Today we go for a jeep safari into Little Rann Of Kutch.

The Sanctuary : The sanctuary is well known for its group of the stale joke brown Asiatic (Wild ass), which does not live elsewhere in Indian lowlands. We can see with Little Rann of Kutch blackbuck (Indian antelope), nilgai or blue bull (India's largest antelope) and the graceful chinkara (Indian gazelle) are other mammals. The main carnivores of the Little Rann of Kutch are the endangered Indian wolf, desert fox, Indian fox, jackals, desert and jungle cats, and a few hyenas; also we can see during the visits flamingoes, pelicans, ducks, cranes and storks.

Little Rann Of Kutch- Salt Pans : The Little Rann of Kutch is very famous for its unique salt-pans where salt is harvested by local tribes. Salt in India was the biggest source of revenue for centuries. The production of sea salt was not a major activity in India earlier as the technique of deriving salt from sea water had not developed in India as the sea water had less density of only 4.5 Be. Rann starts with an initial density of 14 Be in winter and goes up to 18 Be in summer. It was this inland salt that brought in revenue. India was the largest salt producer in the world in the past and Kharagodha was then the very hub of the salt industry in India.

Tangaliya Weaver at Bajana Village : It is 700 years old indigenous craft to make shawls are woven in pit looms at homes and knot a contrast color thread with the warp, which are woven into the textile to create the effect of raised dots, which have become the signature style of the textile. Besides dots, several, geometric patterns are also created.

DAY 05 : BY ROAD – 280 KMS / 05.5 HRS – DASADA TO BHUJ

After breakfast drive to Bhuj enroute visiting Ajrakhpur & Bhujodi.

The artisans of Ajrakhpur specialize in Ajrakh – a Block Printed cotton cloth used traditionally by local herdsmen with natural dyes. Its geometrical and non-figurative motifs often mirror those appearing in Islamic – influenced Indian architecture. The Ajrakh resist printing technique, of Anjar and Dhamadka in Kutch is well known. The printed Ajrakh cloth in blue, red, black and white retains many of the patterns found at Footstar.

Also visit LLDC (THE LIVING AND LEARNING DESIGN CENTRE) is a pioneering effort of Shrujan Trust to preserve, revitalize and promote the glorious craft heritage of Kutch. The sprawling LLDC complex, located in Ajrakhpur, Kutch, houses an international-standard crafts museum that has received wide appreciation from visitors all over the world.

The Living Embroideries of Kutch, an on-going show at the museum, celebrates the rich and diverse embroideries of Kutch. LLDC is, however, much more than a museum. Dedicated to the crafts people of Kutch, it is a multi-dimensional crafts education and resource centre that trains and supports craftspeople in traditional crafts so that they are capable of earning a dignified livelihood.



The museum complex houses 3 galleries, a library, and a crafts studio for artisans practicing various crafts – for example, weaving, block-printing, pottery, and metal work of Kutch. The complex also has a well-equipped conference room and an auditorium.

Bhujodi : Nestled away in Bhujodi is a community of master artisans versed in traditional handloom weaving. You can see live demonstrations and buy hand woven products such as woolen and cotton stoles, shawls, blankets, carpets, bed and table linens directly from the weavers as you walk through the village and explore each household. Famous among the weavers are Vankar Vishram Valji and Vankar Nanji Bhimji, national award winners. The village is also home to a vibrant Nanji Bhimji, national award winners. The village is also home to a vibrant Rabari community that embroiders beautiful motifs and mirror work on the shawls made by the weavers. Their houses display traditional mud work and are well worth a visit. About a kilometre behind Bhujodi is the Hiralaxmi Crafts Park, a non-profit venture by the Ashapura Group of Companies to give artisans across Kachchh an open platform to display their skills and sell their products. The quality of products varies. On weekends, the park also organizes music and dance performances.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 06 : IN BHUJ

After breakfast visit Banni Villages. Amidst the Desert land of infinite dimensions, are suspended, quaint little villages. These are the last villages on the India-Pakistan border. Here you will come across master craft people' exposing their traditional art, turning our master pieces every day. Their ornaments, clothes, utensils, everything they use - will make you feel as if you have stepped into lifestyle museum leaving you spellbound.

Visit the villages of Bhirandiyara: Bhirandiyara is a favourite Tea stop for locals and visitors alike on the road to Khavda. The village boasts of a delicious sweet – fresh Maavo. This milk-based sweet is best when eaten hot. Most of the roadside stalls sell Maavo. The local Meghwal Community has exquisite embroideries and skilfully decorated, colourful Mud Bhungas. Mud-Mirror work - Lippan kam is a decorative art done by common people mainly women. Lippan kam is done inside Bhungas / mud huts in villages of Kutch; sometimes you can find it on outer walls too. Generally, women make birds, trees, animals, and peacock, human figures etc in Lippan kam. It is done with a mixture of clay and camel dung. Then gum is used to stick mirrors. Originality of lippan kam lies in adding no colour or only whites. Small round, diamond-shaped or triangle mirror pieces are essential to lippan kam.

Nirona: The village of Nirona is the only place in the world where the tradition of Rogan art is still practiced (a method of producing dyes from natural resources and castor oil and creating intricate and long-lasting designs on silk and cotton). Rogan art is a rare craft that is not well known even in India. Because of its rare qualities, its practiced by only one family in India and they reside in Nirona village in Gujarat.

Nirona also offers the chance to see artisans making copper bells. The Luhars in Nirona have been preserving the craft of making copper bells over seven generations. The art form originally comes from Sindh and some sister villages in Pakistan too make similar bells but with carvings on the surface.

Another family in Nirona is practicing wood lacquering. Raw lacquer in various colours that is passed with great skill on the wooden object of focus in beautiful waves. The work they do is mainly focused on household items like jewellery boxes and kitchen utensils and has known to last more than 30-35 years. If the lacquer work starts to lose its sheen, just apply some oil on it,

Later visit Kalo Dungar – Black Hill – 25 kms north of Khavda, the top of the Black Hills is the highest point in Kutch, at 462 m. From here, the entire northern horizon vanishes into the Great Rann, the desert and sky often becoming indistinguishable. It is one of the few non-coastal locations where you feel like you are at the edge of the earth, on the brink of incomprehensible vastness that fades off towards infinity. Looking out from the Black Hills, one can understand the tremendous effort that those who undertake the crossing of the Greater Rann. Since this is one of the places where a civilian can get closest to the Pakistan border, there is an Army post at the top; beyond here, only military personnel are allowed. The hill is also the site of a 400-year-old temple to Dattatreya, the three-headed incarnation of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Shiva in the same body.



Khavda (90 Km. Approx.) – a town of Pachcham Region. One can find a tiny market and a few stalls serving up Kutchi snacks & tea. One can visit Khatrivas to see artisans printing & selling Ajrakh. The town also has skilled Leather Craftsmen and there are some shops retailing local crafts, including Leather Slippers. Off the main road is a clinic run by Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), Federation of Kutchi Women's groups. KMVS has trained local midwives in modern and locally suitable healthcare practices. The KMVS Office in Khavda is run almost entirely by local women and has a small retail outlet selling wonderfully intricate embroideries under the producer group's brand name "QASAB" which means "Craft Skill".

Ludiya: Ludiya Village is comprised of several hamlets belonging to the Meghwal & Samma Communities. The latter community, primarily herdsmen, is more conservative when it comes to tourists. Gandhi nu Gam, populated by the Meghwal community, features beautifully Painted Bhungas. The Kanjari (Blouses) of the women and the Bhunga decoration of this village are especially colourful. To curb exploitation & experiment with community marketing, the hamlet has set up an "Otlo" or a roofed platform next to the Temple, where each household brings out their embroidered goods for selling.

Evening witness Sunset from Greater Rann of Kutch in Village Dhordo.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 07 : BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART BHUJ

In time transfer to Bhuj Airport / Railway Station to board flight / train for your next destination.



TRAILS OF INCREDIBLE GUJARAT

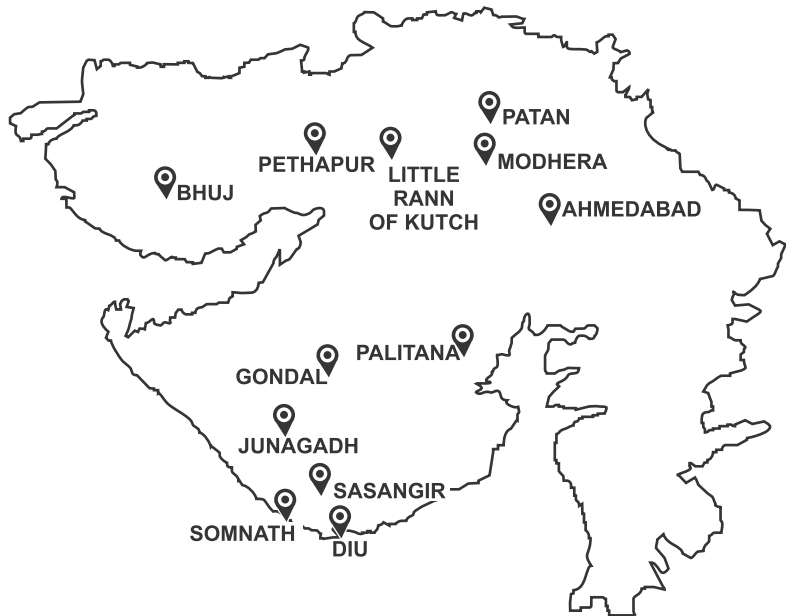
13 DAYS / 12 NIGHTS

DAY 01 : BY AIR / TRAIN – ARRIVE AHMEDABAD

Arrive Ahmedabad check-in at hotel.

Visit Gandhi Ashram, Adalaj step-well & the beautiful evening street market of handicrafts at Law Garden.

Gandhi Ashram: On a quiet peaceful stretch of the Sabarmati River, Mahatma Gandhi set up a simple retreat in 1915. This was his Satyagrah Ashram and for many years it was the nerve centre of India's freedom movement. It was from here, in 1930, that Mahatma began his famous Dandi March to the sea to protest the Salt Tax imposed by the British. Hridaya Kunj, the simple cottage where he lived, is now a national monument and preserved as it was during the Mahatma's lifetime. Must pick gifts and souvenirs from the Ashram shop. Spend a little time here by the river watching the parrots and the squirrels. Peace and tranquillity prevail here.



Adalaj Step-well: Step wells were built in olden times to serve the man purposes of - holding rainwater for later use, a resting place for the travellers, a watering hole for the travellers who had caravans and animals with them. Best examples of rainwater harvesting! The Adalaj step well is situated 17kms north of Ahmedabad. The step well at the village of Adalaj is another fine example of this magnificent architectural form. Adalaj Vav is richly carved, every pillar and wall surface covered with leaves and flowers, birds and fishes and friezes of ornamental designs.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 02 : IN AHMEDABAD

After breakfast proceed for Heritage Walk : The Heritage Walk of Ahmedabad is a guided walk of two and a half hours. Called Mandir se Masjid tak, the two-kilometre walk held every day with 40 sights originally, begins from the Swami-Narayan temple built in 1822 in the Kalapur area, said to be the first temple of the sect, and ends at the Jami Masjid, built in 1424 AD in Teen Darwaza area.

The Calico Museum – Ahmedabad is the major centre of India's textile trade and industry since the 15th century. The museum has a collection of rare textiles includes royal tents, carpets and costumes; religious paintings on cloth; embroideries, brocades, silk weaves and Kashmir shawls. The exhibits, most of which date to the 17th and 18th centuries, are displayed in beautiful Old Haveli.

(Visit to Calico Museum is subject to a prior permission granted by the museum authority for which can be booked online – <https://www.calicomuseum.org/information-for-visitors/tour-booking/>)



Manek Burj : Manek Burj is the oldest bastion of the walled city of Ahmedabad. It lies at the end of Ellis Bridge, now renamed Swami Vivekanand Bridge. When Sultan Ahmed Shah decided to build a new city of Ahmedabad to replace Anhilwada Patan as the capital of Gujarat, he laid the foundation stone for Bhadra Fort together with his spiritual mentor Shaikh Ahmed Khattu Ganj Baksh, Kazi Ahmed and Malik Ahmed. Manek Burj was the foundation bastion of Ahmedabad built on the east bank of the Sabarmati River.

Sarkhej Roza: Is about 8 kilometres away from the city, Sarkhej Roza comprises one of the most elegant architectural complexes of Ahmedabad. Grouped around a great stepped tank is the tomb of the saint, Ahmed Khattu Ganj Baksh (1445), the mosque (1451), the tombs of Muhammad Shah Begada and his queen, the palace and pavilions.

Manek Chowk : Manek Chowk is a prominent city square located in Old Ahmedabad, India. Surrounded by historical structures, it serves as a vegetable market in the morning, a bullion market in the noon, and transforms into a vibrant street food market at night.

Overnight at hotel

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The Patola was traditionally woven in a sari length of 5 to 9 yards by 45" to 54" width. The range now extends to include tablecloth border, scarves, handkerchiefs. Design Elements :

Essentially the design in a Patola are based on traditional motifs called "Bhat", These designs include "narikunj", "pan", "phulwadi", "chowkdi", "Raas", "chhabdi", "chokha", "navratna", "Panch Phool", "sarvariya", "laheriya" etc. Flowers, animals, birds & human figures form the basic designs. New geometrical designs using vegetable dyes were developed and displayed at the Festival of India held in Paris, London, Tokyo, Washington and Moscow.

Also visit the Rani-ki-Vav - Patan : On the banks of the Saraswati River, was initially built as a memorial to a king in the 11th century AD. Stepwells are a distinctive form of subterranean water resource and storage systems on the Indian subcontinent and have been constructed since the 3rd millennium BC. They evolved over time from what was basically a pit in sandy soil towards elaborate multi-storey works of art and architecture. Rani-ki-vav was built at the height of craftsmen's ability in stepwell construction and the Maru-Gurjara architectural style, reflecting mastery of this complex technique and great beauty of detail and proportions. Designed as an inverted temple highlighting the sanctity of water, it is divided into seven levels of stairs with sculptural panels of high artistic quality, more than 500 principal sculptures and over a thousand minor ones combine religious, mythological and secular imagery, often



referencing literary works. The fourth level is the deepest and leads into a rectangular tank 9.5m by 9.4m, at a depth of 23m. The well is located at the westernmost end of the property and consists of a shaft 10m in diameter and 30m deep.

Arrive Little Rann of Kutch, and transfer to your hotel.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 04 : IN DASADA

Today morning enjoy jeep safari into Little Rann of Kutch.

The Sanctuary : The sanctuary is well known for its group of the stale joke brown Asiatic (Wild ass), which does not live elsewhere in Indian lowlands. We can see with Little Rann of Kutch blackbuck (Indian antelope), nilgai or blue bull (India's largest antelope) and the graceful chinkara (Indian gazelle) are other mammals. The main carnivores of the Little Rann of Kutch are the endangered Indian wolf, desert fox, Indian fox, jackals, desert and jungle cats, and a few hyenas; also, one can see during the visit's flamingos, pelicans, ducks, cranes and storks.

Little Rann of Kutch- Salt Pans : The Little Rann of Kutch is very famous for its unique salt pans where salt is harvested by local tribes. Salt in India was the biggest source of revenue for centuries. The production of sea salt was not a major activity in India earlier as the technique of deriving salt from sea water had not developed in India as the sea water had less density of only 4.5 Be. Rann starts with an initial density of 14 Be in winter and goes up to 18 Be in summer. It was this inland salt that brought in revenue. India was the largest salt producer in the world in the past and Kharagodha was then the very hub of the salt industry in India.

Tangaliya Weaver at Bajana Village : It is 700 years old indigenous craft to make shawls are woven in pit looms at homes and knot a contrast colour thread with the warp, which are woven into the textile to create the effect of raised dots, which have become the signature style of the textile. Besides dots, several, geometric patterns are also created.

Later visit some villages near the resort pastoral village of Vadiara, see the goat-herders of Ambala and explore a few villages of Rabari community.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 05 : BY ROAD – 280 KMS / 05.5 HRS – DASADA TO BHUJ

After breakfast drive to Bhuj enroute visiting Ajrakhpur & Bhujodi.

The artisans of Ajrakhpur specialize in Ajrakh – a Block Printed cotton cloth used traditionally by local herdsmen with natural dyes. Its geometrical and non-figurative motifs often mirror those appearing in Islamic – influenced Indian architecture. The Ajrakh resist printing technique, of Anjar and Dhamadka in Kutch is well known. The printed Ajrakh cloth in blue, red, black and white retains many of the patterns found at Footstar.

Also visit LLDC (THE LIVING AND LEARNING DESIGN CENTRE) is a pioneering effort of Shrujan Trust to preserve, revitalize and promote the glorious craft heritage of Kutch.

The sprawling LLDC complex, located in Ajrakhpur, Kutch, houses an international-standard crafts museum that has received wide appreciation from visitors all over the world.

The Living Embroideries of Kutch, an on-going show at the museum, celebrates the rich and diverse embroideries of Kutch.

LLDC is, however, much more than a museum. Dedicated to the crafts people of Kutch, it is a multi-dimensional crafts education and resource centre that trains and supports craftspeople in traditional crafts so that they can earn a dignified livelihood. The museum complex houses 3 galleries, a library, and a crafts studio for artisans practicing various crafts – for example, weaving, block-printing, pottery, and metal work of Kutch. The complex also has a well-equipped conference room and an auditorium.



Bhujodi : Nestled away in Bhujodi is a community of master artisans versed in traditional handloom weaving. You can see live demonstrations and buy hand woven products such as woollen and cotton stoles, shawls, blankets, carpets, bed and table linens directly from the weavers as you walk through the village and explore each household. Famous among the weavers are Vankar Vishram Valji and Vankar Nanji Bhimji, national award winners. The village is also home to a vibrant Nanji Bhimji, national award winners. The village is also home to a vibrant Rabari community that embroiders beautiful motifs and mirror work on the shawls made by the weavers. Their houses display traditional mud work and are well worth a visit. About a kilometre behind Bhujodi is the Hiralaxmi Crafts Park, a non-profit venture by the Ashapura Group of Companies to give artisans across Kachchh an open platform to display their skills and sell their products. The quality of products varies. On weekends, the park also organizes music and dance performances.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 06 : IN BHUJ

After breakfast visit Banni Villages. Amidst the Desert land of infinite dimensions, are suspended, quaint little villages. These are the last villages on the India-Pakistan border. Here you will come across master craft people' exposing their traditional art, turning our master pieces every day. Their ornaments, clothes, utensils, everything they use - will make you feel as if you have stepped into lifestyle museum leaving you spellbound.

Visit the villages of Bhirandiyara: Bhirandiyara is a favourite Tea stop for locals and visitors alike on the road to Khavda. The village boasts of a delicious sweet – fresh Maavo. This milk-based sweet is best when eaten hot. Most of the roadside stalls sell Maavo. The local Meghwal Community has exquisite embroideries and skilfully decorated, colourful Mud Bhungas. Mud-Mirror work - Lippan kam is a decorative art done by common people mainly women. Lippan kam is done inside Bhungas / mud huts in villages of Kutch; sometimes you can find it on outer walls too. Generally, women make birds, trees, animals, and peacock, human figures etc in Lippan kam. It is done with a mixture of clay and camel dung. Then gum is used to stick mirrors. Originality of lippan kam lies in adding no colour or only whites. Small round, diamond-shaped or triangle mirror pieces are essential to lippan kam.

Nirona: The village of Nirona is the only place in the world where the tradition of Rogan art is still practiced (a method of producing dyes from natural resources and castor oil and creating intricate and long-lasting designs on silk and cotton). Rogan art is a rare craft that is not well known even in India. Because of its rare qualities, its practiced by only one family in India and they reside in Nirona village in Gujarat.

Nirona also offers the chance to see artisans making copper bells. The Luhars in Nirona have been preserving the craft of making copper bells over seven generations. The art form originally comes from Sindh and some sister villages in Pakistan too make similar bells but with carvings on the surface.

Another family in Nirona is practicing wood lacquering. Raw lacquer in various colours that is passed with great skill on the wooden object of focus in beautiful waves. The work they do is mainly focused on household items like jewellery boxes and kitchen utensils and has known to last more than 30-35 years. If the lacquer work starts to lose its sheen, just apply some oil on it,

Later visit Kalo Dungar – Black Hill – 25 kms north of Khavda, the top of the Black Hills is the highest point in Kutch, at 462 m. From here, the entire northern horizon vanishes into the Great Rann, the desert and sky often becoming indistinguishable. It is one of the few non-coastal locations where you feel like you are at the edge of the earth, on the brink of incomprehensible vastness that fades off towards infinity. Looking out from the Black Hills, one can understand the tremendous effort that those who undertake the crossing of the Greater Rann. Since this is one of the places where a civilian can get closest to the Pakistan border, there is an Army post at the top; beyond here, only military personnel are allowed. The hill is also the site of a 400-year-old temple to Dattatreya, the three-headed incarnation of Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu, and Lord Shiva in the same body.

Khavda (90 Km. Approx.) – a town of Pachcham Region. One can find a tiny market and a few stalls serving up Kutchi snacks & tea. One can visit Khatrivas to see artisans printing & selling Ajrakh. The town also has skilled Leather Craftsmen and there are some shops retailing local crafts, including Leather Slippers. Off the main road is a clinic run



by Kutch Mahila Vikas Sangathan (KMVS), Federation of Kutchi Women's groups. KMVS has trained local midwives in modern and locally suitable healthcare practices. The KMVS Office in Khavda is run almost entirely by local women and has a small retail outlet selling wonderfully intricate embroideries under the producer group's brand name "QASAB" which means "Craft Skill".

Ludiya: Ludiya Village is comprised of several hamlets belonging to the Meghwal & Samma Communities. The latter community, primarily herdsmen, is more conservative when it comes to tourists. Gandhi nu Gam, populated by the Meghwal community, features beautifully Painted Bhungas. The Kanjari (Blouses) of the women and the Bhunga decoration of this village are especially colourful. To curb exploitation & experiment with community marketing, the hamlet has set up an "Otlo" or a roofed platform next to the Temple, where each household brings out their embroidered goods for selling.

Evening witness Sunset from Greater Rann of Kutch in Village Dhordo.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 07 : BY ROAD – 320 KMS / 06 HRS – BHUJ TO GONDAL

After breakfast drive to Gondal, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Gondal: The Riverside palace at Gondal, a govt. of India classified heritage hotel, and the Orchard Palace in the same town, are two mansion guest houses opened as heritage hotels. The interiors of these properties are appointed with period furniture, antiques, and artifacts reminiscent of the days of the Raj. The highlight of staying at these properties is that guests can see the Royal Garages, housing vintage and classic cars, and the Naulakha Palace, which is a festival of stone carvings and houses royal memorabilia including toys of the late 19th and early 20th century, silver caskets that carried messages and gifts for the Maharajah, elephant howdahs and royal portraits. It has a royal saloon suite, which has its own drawing, dining, bedroom, and bathroom in a converted railway carriage.

Visit Swaminarayan temple, Naulakha palace, Royal Garages & Bhubneshwari Ayurveda Pharmacy.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 08 : BY ROAD – 65 KMS / 01 HR – GONDAL TO JUNAGADH FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 60 KMS / 01 HR – JUNAGADH TO SASANGIR

After breakfast drive to Sasangir enroute visit Junagadh.

Junagadh is one of India's most historic cities – ancient artefacts have been found on the hilltop citadel, Emperor Ashoka's edicts were inscribed on rock here during the 3rd century BC and Buddhist caves all serve to ratify the antiquity of the city. Formerly the capital of Gujarat under the Kshatrapa dynasty, the Chudasama Rajputs later ruled from the town from 875 AD onwards.

Once in Junagadh visit the Uparkot Citadel – expanded in 1472, 1683 and 1880 – which is on a small plateau to the east of the town and the Jama Masjid in its centre which was built from the remains of a Hindu palace. Also of interest is the 11th century Adi Chadi Vav step-well, or Baoli, with its 172 steps and beautiful spiral staircase. After touring the fort, drive down to see the impressive mausoleum complex of the latter Junagadh rulers – the Maqbara of Baha-uddin Bhar is flamboyant and features intricate carvings.

Later we drive to Sasangir, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Sasan Gir, popularly known as Gir, the most famous loin sanctuary in India. And the one place in the subcontinent where Asiatic Loins can be found in the wild. This forested, hilly, 1412-sq-km sanctuary about halfway between Veraval and Junagadh is the last refuge of the Asiatic lion (*Panthera leopercica*). Taking a safari through the thick, undisturbed forests is a joy – even without the added excitement of spotting lions, other wildlife, and myriad bird species. Access to the sanctuary is by safari permit only, bookable in advance online. <https://girlion.gujarat.gov.in>



If you miss out on a permit, your other option for lion encounters is at the Devalia Safari Park, a fenced-off part of the sanctuary where sightings are guaranteed but more stage-managed. The sanctuary's 37 other mammal species, most of which have also increased in numbers, include dainty chital (spotted deer), sambar (large deer), nilgais (blue bull / large antelopes), Chowsingha (four-horned antelopes), chinkaras (gazelles), crocodiles and rarely seen leopards. The park is a great destination for birders too, with more than 300 bird species, most of the residents.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 09 : IN SASANGIR

Today enjoy morning & afternoon safari into Sasangir wildlife sanctuary.

[Subject to availability and prior to permission and 100% permits will avail by online only. The online window will open 90 days prior to visit date. Can be booked directly from <https://girlion.gujarat.gov.in/>

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 10 : BY ROAD – 65 KMS / 01 HR – SASANGIR TO SOMNATH FOLLOWED BY ROAD – 100 KMS / 02 HRS – SOMNATH TO DIU

After breakfast drive to Diu enroute visit Somnath.

Somnath consists of a few streets leading away from its phoenix like temple. The rugged sea below gives it a lonely, wistful charm. The pilgrim trade is constant, but merchants are relaxed, perhaps in deference to the shadows cast by the awe-inspiring temple. Somnath is mainly known for the legendary shore temple of Somnath, which is dedicated to the Lord Shiva.

Later visit the intricately carved honey-coloured Somnath temple on the western edge of the state is believed to be the place where the first of the twelve holy jyotirlingas emerged in India – a spot where Shiva appeared as a fiery column of light. The temple lies at the meeting of Kapila, Hiran and Sarasvati rivers and the waves of the Arabian Sea ebb and flow touching the shore on which it is constructed. The ancient temple's timeline can be traced from 649 BC but is believed to be older than that. The present form was reconstructed in 1951. Colourful dioramas of the Shiva story line the north side of the temple garden, though it's hard to see them through the hazy glass. A one-hour sound-and-light show in Amitabh Bachchan's baritone highlights the temple. **(Subject to weather conditions)**

It's said that Somraj (the moon god) first built a temple in Somnath, made of gold; this was rebuilt by Ravana in silver, by Krishna in wood and by Bhimdev in stone. The current serene, symmetrical structure was built to traditional designs on the original coastal site: it's painted a creamy colour and boasts a little fine sculpture. The large, black Shiva lingam at its heart is one of the 12 most sacred Shiva shrines, known as jyotirlinga.

Later drive to Diu, arrive and transfer to your hotel. Diu is a tiny island in the Arabian Sea which is situated near the port of Veraval in Gujarat and is separated from the southern extremity of the Saurashtra peninsula by a narrow channel running through the swamp. Diu is a sensuous blend of sun, sand and deep blue sea.

Later visit – St.Paul's church: The Church adorned with curiously treated volutes & shell-like motifs and the magnificent wood carving is considered to be the most elaborate of all the Portuguese churches in India.

St.Thomas Church Museum: A huge edifice in gothic architecture was built in 1598 A.D. A part of it has been converted into a museum, an Archaeological treasure house.

Diu Fort: This majestic structure stands on the coast of Diu sentinel. Nagoa beach: The Nagoa beach is exceptionally beautiful & secluded. The horse-shoe (semicircular) shaped, palm-fringed beach is twenty minutes invigorating drive from Diu.

INS Khukri Memorial – The memorial site of an Indian Naval Ship that sank during the Indo-Pak War of 1971. The submarine was destroyed on 9th December 1971 when torpedo shots were fired on it, sinking the ship 40 nautical



miles off the coast of Diu. At the time of sinking, there were 18 officers and 176 sailors on board. A memorial was set up to commemorate the brave martyrs in Diu comprising of a scaled model of INS Khukri enclosed in a glass case.

Gangeshwar Mahadev Temple is an Ancient Hindu Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. This Temple was built by Pandavas in Mahabharata times. The main attraction of this temple is its Five Shivalinga's, located amid the rocks on the seashore, which are often washed by the tidal waves of the sea. When the tide is high, one could only see the tip of these rocks, as the sea water tends to submerge them. These Shivalinga's are believed to have been placed here by the Pandava brothers during their period of exile when they were doing penance for Lord Shiva.

Evening at leisure to enjoy at Nagoa beach. The beach is exceptionally beautiful & quiet and is in the shape of a horse-shoe (semi circular).

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 11 : BY ROAD – 200 KMS / 04 HRS – DIU TO PALITANA

Early morning you will drive for visit Vanakbara fishing village is a fascinating little fishing village and one of the highlights of the island. It's great to wander around the port, packed with colorful fishing boats and bustling activity – best around 06:30am to 8am when the fishing fleet returns and sells off its catch.

Later drive to Palitana, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Palitana: Palitana lies at the foot of the Shetrunjaya hill, with the Shetrunjaya River flowing to its south. The sacred hill rises in a crescendo of magnificent temples – 863 in all – that soar in marble splendor to the top of the hill. The temples were built over an impressive span of 900 years with each generation of pilgrims making its contribution to the shrines of Shetrunjaya. The 600-metre climb to Shetrunjaya is usually done on foot. **(Dolis or lift-chairs are also available for the ascent, On Chargeable basis, any type of photography is not allowed.)**

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 12 : BY ROAD – 235 KMS / 04.5 HRS – PALITANA TO AHMEDABAD

Early morning proceed for Palitana to climb Shetrunjaya hills visiting a beautiful cluster of 863 Jain temples.

Later in afternoon drive to Ahmedabad, arrive and transfer to your hotel.

Dinner at Vishalla – Vishalla Restaurant : Vishalla is a place where there are no closed rooms or halls, lanterns used instead of heavy lighting, natural air replacing air-conditioned air, folk songs being sung without mikes, muddy lanes, homely food served on a tree leaf, and everything around resembling a typical Indian village. **(on direct payment).**

Utensils museum : A walk around the hut-like museum makes one's heart skip a beat, marvelling at the inimitable beauty of these utensils of old. These utensils have been handed down through the changing seasons and times, over the years. They speak of the unmatched art and genius of humankind during the days of old when people did not have the modern facilities of our times. The designer could not let our rich heritage pass with these vessels being lost in the fire kilns! He was determined to preserve them, and today, his dream is a reality in the form of Vechaar. **(on direct payment)** The museum will be closed on Monday.

Overnight at hotel.

DAY 13 : BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART AHMEDABAD

In time transfer to Ahmedabad Airport / Railway Station to board a flight / train for your next destination.



IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE :

- We reserve the right to modify the itinerary/activity fully or partially depending upon circumstances like weather, political disturbance, traffic conditions, riots, force majeure situations, operational or technical difficulties, etc. In such cases, we shall make every effort to provide alternate arrangements wherever possible, failing which a refund for the unutilized part of the itinerary/activity would be offered.
- Please note approximate timing and distance mentioned in the itinerary are for planning and give an idea of the flow of the Itinerary. Timing may vary on the days of the actual tour depending on the weather, traffic condition and time spent at the monuments visited or due to any other unpredictable/unforeseen situation.
- Kindly note that for the safety and security of our guests, we do not allow night driving, hence request guests to adhere to the departure timings on all days during the tour, so that they may reach their next destination by 2000 hrs the same day. All sightseeing and transfers will be provided as per the communication received from your end and confirmed by our team. Normal sightseeing and transfer timings will be 0730 hrs to 1930 hrs on all days of the tour, however in case of emergency the guests can use the vehicle at any time with prior information to our office.
- Most of the monuments and museums open at 0930 hours and close at 1700 hours with and photography is prohibited in some. Guests are advised to check before visiting.
- Entries of Mini & Large Coaches are restricted in Old City and some area in City limits.
- Certain monuments do not allow tourist vehicles inside the complex, in such cases guests can choose to walk the distance or hire a Govt. approved vehicle parked outside the monument on direct payment basis.
- Certain hotels in old city are located inside the labyrinthine mesh of old access roads and our vehicles can not access the entry point of the hotel. In such cases our vehicle will drop the guests to the nearest location. The guests might have to carry their luggage themselves or hire a porter on direct payment basis.
- Please advise guests to not leave any valuables in the vehicles, guests are responsible for their own belongings. Guests must ensure to collect their belongings while leaving the vehicle.
- Tourist vehicles are required to follow a certain set guidelines as prescribed by the Govt authorities, one such being running the vehicle under the given speed limit in the cities as well as highways. The vehicle will not run over the given speed limit and we request that the guests be informed of the same before the commencement of the tour.
- Please request guests to not follow the online maps while on tour, as the drivers being locals know the roads well. Online maps might mislead the guests to believe that the driver probably is not following the correct path. There are road closures due to maintenance or breakdowns, some paths may be safer to drive on than others, and other such local factors, which the drivers would know better.
- We have consciously decided to not have LCD monitors in our transport fleet for the safety of our guests. A slight distraction of the driver can prove to be disastrous.
- Movement of coaches during daytime in Ahmedabad city is restricted, hence we need to get a prior permission from The Commissioner of Police – Traffic for sightseeing of groups.
- Local monument guides are not available in Gujarat; hence we suggest taking accompanying guide.
- A permit is required for tourists traveling to this region. Permit for north side Banni Village is issued from the Bhirandariya Village which is 50 KMS from Bhuj. Whenever guests for full day excursion to Banni area they can obtain the permit from the check post of Bhirandariya village.

- National Park of Gujarat -Gir National Park at Sasan Gir + Blackbuck National Park Velavadar + Vansda National Park at Vansda + Marine National Park at Jamnagar **CLOSED FROM 16 JUNE TO 15 OCT EVERY YEAR.**
- We would like to inform you that Gir Safari Permits are available only online. Guest can book directly it will require their id proof for details to be filled. You are requested to apply online at the earliest.: www.girlion.gujarat.gov.in. Please note only 100% quota will be issued online. No Permits will be issued on the current date / the actual date of safari. Whereas for Devalia Safari Park Permits are still available on Current date / the actual date of safari. Devalia Safari Park remains closed on every Wednesday.
- Tickets for various attractions of Statue of Unity is available only online on their website – www.soutickets.in. Statue of Unity remains closed on every Monday.
- Gujarat important destinations have fairly long distance from one point to the other, hence a thoughtfully planned itinerary can ensure that the guests can derive the maximum from their tour. Request you to instruct your teams to plan the itineraries in a such a manner that the guests do not have to travel for more than 7-8 hours a day to reach their next destination. We are available just a phone call away for any assistance in planning a tour.
- Gujarat where alcohol is prohibited. But this applies only to Indians. If you have a non-Indian passport / green card holder/ PR status, you can get an alcohol permit valid for one month by going to a liquor shop which will in some hotel and purchasing one at their liquor shop. Hotels that have liquor shops include Cama Hotel/Hotel Inder Residency, /Comfort Inn / President Hotel at Ahmedabad open from 12 noon to 8PM Monday to Saturday.
- Hotels in Pilgrim destinations do not serve Non – Vegetarian Food.
- Photography is prohibited at major Temples like – Dwarka, Somnath & Palitana.
- If you are non-resident of Gujarat, then one can get liquor permits issued at liquor shop on showing proof of travel to Ahmedabad like (1) Air/Train/Bus ticket, (2) Any Identity proof by Govt. with Photo, Address & birthdate preferably driving license.
- **CALICO MUSEUM –** The galleries are open on all days of the week, except on Mondays and public holidays. The guided tour starts at 10.30 AM and ends at 1.00 PM. Entry is free, and permitted only between 10.15 AM and 10.30 AM.
- Visitors must pre-register for the tour, via their website (www.calicomuseum.org) or telephone (91-79-22868172/22865995 : booking timing from 10.30 am to 1.45 pm and 2.45 pm to 5.00 pm except on Mondays and public holidays). Visitors must submit the following details at the time of 'Registration'
 - 1) full name
 - 2) phone number
 - 3) email id
 - 4) home address (Not Hotel/college)
 - 5) profession
- The maximum number of visitors per tour is restricted to 20. Because of the large number of booking requests we receive, you are advised to book your place on the tour at least four (4) weeks ahead of time. Children below 10 years of age are not admitted on the museum tour; children between 10-15 years of age will be permitted to visit the museum if accompanied by a parent, guardian or tutor.
- Because of security and other concerns, the Foundation is constrained to adopt the following measures, which will remain in effect until further notice. Any inconvenience caused to the visitors on this account is greatly regretted.
 - The Foundation reserves the right to admission to the premises.
 - No handbags/baggage, cameras or mobile phones are allowed into the premises; it is recommended that visitors leave their belongings in their own vehicles; there is a provision for depositing belonging at the gate,



but the Management will not be responsible for the contents of bags, etc.

- Photography/videography is not permitted on the premises.
- The galleries are built across multiple levels with different floor surfaces and varying passage heights and widths; the Foundation cannot accept any responsibility for physical injury on this account; the Foundation is unable, currently, to offer wheelchair access to the galleries.



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