



# GUJARAT

West India

+91 890 100 4567 | [opulentroutes.com](http://opulentroutes.com)



travel  
hotels  
tours



*A state with an amazingly varied topography ranging from the deep green of the dense forests to stark white at the salt plains. Its 1660 kilometres coastline is home to some of the most unique marine species and geographical locations at the state makes it an ideal matrix, a melting pot of a vast variety of culture, people, places and history due to eons of migratory influences.*

*Along with all the migrations came in various ritual practices, cuisines, style of dresses, fairs and festivals, celebrations all of which were amalgamated and became a part of what this amazingly diverse state has to offer to you. This was possible as a result of trade, commerce and the dexterity of the people of Gujarat to accept and take in and make a part of all who come in here for succour, conquest or trade.*



**Welcome to Gujarat**  
Vibrant Gujarat

## Table of Content

---

The Story	1
Gujarat	2
Luxury Hotels	3 - 14
Gandhinagar - The Capital	15 - 16
Explore	17 - 34
Luxury Trains	35 - 36
Experiences	37 - 50
Statue of Unity	51 - 52
Dwarkadhish Temple	53 - 54
Activities	57 - 76
Fairs & Festivals	77 - 82
General Information	84
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	87 - 88
Daman & Diu Island	89 - 90
Luxury Journeys	
- Gujarat: Undiscovered India	92
- Gujarat & Rajasthan: Heritage & Wildlife	93
- Gujarat's Historic Gems & Wildlife	94
- Gujarat Classical Journey	95
- Temples, Tribes & Textiles of Gujarat	96
- Heritage Journey of Gujarat	97
- Gujarat Forts & Palaces Journey	98
- Grand Tour of Central India	99
- Splendours of Gujarat	100
Wedding & Events	103 - 104

# Sanyog Gupta Voyages

Luxury Destination Management Company

As we have evolved as a company, we have come to realise that our love lies not in booking tour packages, but in showcasing the unique experiences across the nations we serve. We realised that there are many secret corners of our world, rare moments, mysteries and stories.

Our company owned by a family, but run professionally. We have hierarchical systems which are driven by our core family values. We have come to understand we do not want to be the largest company globally. We have never tried to be the richest or the most influential. I say, we just want to be the bestest in what we do.

We are a family tradition for over three decades that have been highlighting this part of the planet. All over Indian sub-continent, we have grown to become a popular, valued and autonomous DMC providing the finest cultural experiences, personal immersions and natural wonders. We are here to build stories for our clients, tales of love, of wonderful excitement. We are proud of our past and its legacy.



Sanyog Gupta  
President - Sales & Marketing

‘We are real voyagers and love varying voyager’s life!’

## THE LUXURY TRAVEL EXPERTS.

YESTERDAY, TODAY, ALWAYS.

Sanyog Gupta Voyages brings to you finest luxury holidays in all over India and Asia. Indulge your passion, arrive in a private jet, travel in a limousine or a yacht, the Opulent Routes Concierge services will weave magic in your holiday experience.

[www.sanyog.travel](http://www.sanyog.travel)

---

THIS IS THE TIME  
THIS IS THE PLACE  
THIS IS GUJARAT

---



# GUJARAT



Straddling the mighty Arabian Sea and the arid desert plains of Rajasthan, Gujarat has a very distinctive culture despite the fact that it is far less travelled than the neighbouring states of Rajasthan and Maharashtra. Its landscape comprises fertile plains, forested hills, tidal marshland and desert plains, not to mention the affable island of Diu.

## IT ALL STARTS WITH KEM CHO

For a luxury holiday to Gujarat, start your journey in the capital city of Ahmedabad, where you can see superb examples of the iconic Indo-Islamic architecture and sample the famous Gujarati cuisine with a tailored street food tour. Ahmedabad was also the residence of Mahatma Gandhi, where he spent twelve years at the Sabarmati Ashram, which is well worth a visit.

Move beyond the chaotic capital and you can find many diverse and fascinating gems. Sacred Jain and Hindu pilgrimage sites scatter the landscapes and hilltops. The stunning, eleventh century Sun Temple in Modhera, is considered to be the finest surviving example of Solanki architecture and The Dwarkadish Temple shrouded in legend, is famed as Krishna's capital. Just outside of Palitana is the holy hill of Shatrunjaya where over nine hundred, intricately carved marble temples stand on the hillside.

In the northwest of the state, stands the intriguing, barren lands of Kutch, sometimes stranded by the vast tracts of flooded marshland. Here village culture still survives and the age old tribal traditions of embroidery, block printing and tie-dye still thrive resulting in the famous exquisite textiles of the region.





## Taj Skyline, Ahmedabad

Located in the neighbourhood of everything that matters - business, pleasure, wellness, dining, networking and celebrations - the Taj Skyline at Ahmedabad is a vantage, 5 star luxury address with 170 rooms (in its first phase, with the second phase adding another 145 rooms soon). With a distinctive sense of place and its legendary hospitality, it sits well in a city known to abide by traditions.

The Taj Skyline, in summary, is central to work and life, in and around Ahmedabad. With modern architecture and with subtle inspirations of local design & culture running through its interiors, the hotel strikes a perfect balance.

## Hyatt Regency, Ahmedabad

Centrally located in the heart of the Gujarat business capital and in the serene backdrop of the Sabarmati Riverfront, Hyatt Regency Ahmedabad makes for an ideal destination for business and leisure travelers. The closest five-star hotel to the international airport, and near the first UNESCO World Heritage City of India, here you can create meaningful connections in the largest pillarless ballroom in the city, or in the modern spaces designed for sharing, socializing, and collaborating.

Set forth on a culinary trail at our award-winning restaurants, recharge with a quick bite or refreshing cup of tea, try a few laps in our outdoor swimming pool, or detox at our on-site spa.



## Crowne Plaza, Ahmedabad

Crowne Plaza Ahmedabad City Centre is the address for Ahmedabad's Business, Leisure and Celebrations. Every stay feels like a stimulating experience. Conveniently located in the central business district of Ahmedabad with a close proximity to the airport, the hotel is easily accessible to business districts of SG Highway and Sanand.

Be it for business or leisure, Crowne Plaza Ahmedabad provides a wide range of services guaranteed to satisfy the needs of the most discerning guests.



## Radisson Blu, Ahmedabad

Whether you're in Ahmedabad for a business meeting or want to dive into the local culture on vacation, the Radisson Blu Hotel Ahmedabad has the perfect room for you.

Book one of our stylish rooms and suites for an excellent home base in the heart of Gujarat's largest city. We provide five-star amenities and incomparable service throughout your stay, from concierge services to a state-of-the-art fitness center. When you're hungry, you can feast on local and international fare at one of our two restaurants or order room service straight to your door.



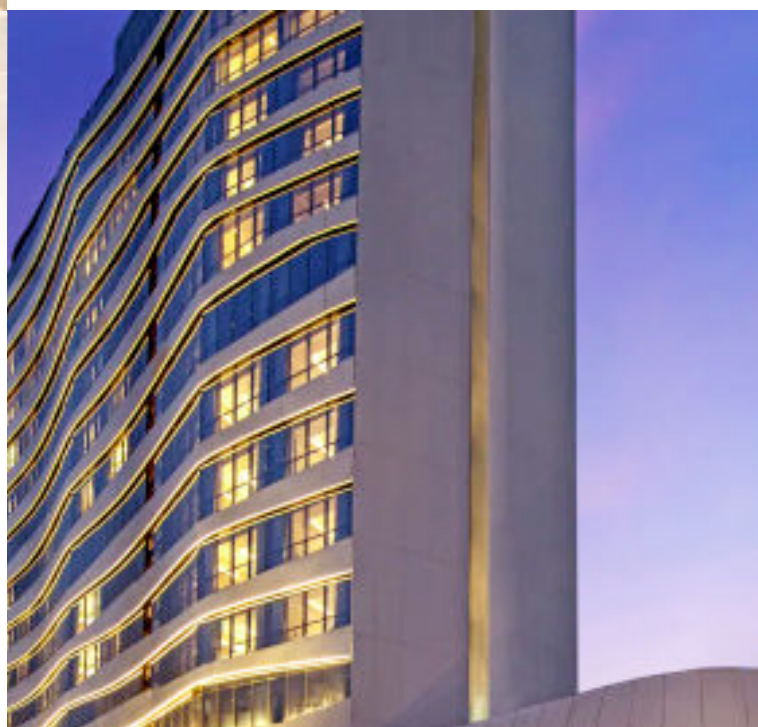
## Welcomhotel by ITC, Ahmedabad

Welcomhotel Ahmedabad offers the best in class accommodation, swimming pool, ample dining options and banquet facilities; it is indeed the perfect stopover for any traveler in the city. Its rooms and suites are equipped with all modern amenities to meet the requirements of modern day traveler.

In an ambience steeped in history, complimented by a richness of culture acquired through centuries, Welcomhotel Ahmedabad is a leading 5-star hotel in the city, which brings you world class luxury with the warmth of Indian hospitality in an experience that is unmistakably grand.

## DoubleTree by Hilton, Ahmedabad

Located in Ahmedabad, 4 km from IIM, DoubleTree by Hilton Ahmedabad provides accommodation with a restaurant, free private parking, a fitness centre and a shared lounge. Featuring family rooms, this property also provides guests with a sun terrace. The accommodation offers a 24-hour front desk, airport transfers, room service and free WiFi throughout the property. All units are equipped with air conditioning, a flat-screen TV with cable channels, a kettle, a shower, a hairdryer and a desk. At the hotel each room includes a wardrobe and a private bathroom.







## Surat Marriott Hotel, Surat

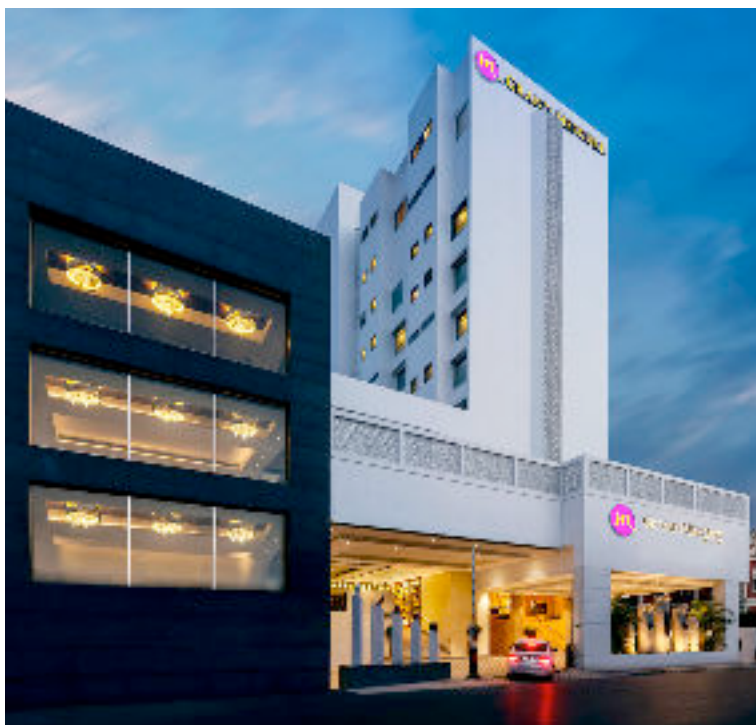
Located on the banks of picturesque Tapti River, Surat Marriott welcomes business and leisure travellers with all the luxury amenities, 5-star accommodation and a strategic location close to the industrial hub and downtown.

Enjoy a seamless mobile check-in before you settle into your well-appointed room/suite which features complimentary WiFi, plush bedding and curated modern amenities for the modern day traveler. Indulge in bespoke experiences with authentic local and world cuisines at our distinctive dining venues, outdoor pool, spa and 24-hour fitness center.

## Vivanta by Taj, Vadodra

Centrally located in a former princely state, Vivanta Vadodara, our 5 star hotel in Vadodara is the first choice of business and leisure travellers to the cultural capital and third largest city in Gujarat.

86 contemporary rooms and suites are designed for a restful stay and impeccable service caters to your needs. While steeped in the culture of Vadodara, our hospitality has kept up with millennial lifestyle trends.



## Grand Mercure, Vadodra

Grand Mercure is Accor's first luxury business hotel in the heart of Vadodara. The hotel boasts of the largest number of rooms and flexible banquet space of up to 19,000sqft totally with multiple breakout halls. The Grand Mercure Surya Palace hotel is ideal for big weddings and corporate events and conferences alike. The hotel is a mere 2 min drive from the railway station and 10 min drive from the airport. The world's tallest statue - Statue of Unity is a 90 min drive. UNESCO site - Champaner is 50km.



## Welcomhotel by ITC, Vadodra

Inspired by the centuries old step wells of Gujarat, Welcomhotel Vadodara is built around its swimming pool, with its rippling waters reflecting the blue sky above.

This hotel is located in the heart of the city's business and entertainment district and is rightfully acknowledged as one the city's leading hotels.

It offers the finest standards of global hospitality, infused by the warmth of an Indian welcome.



## Fortune Park JPS Grand, Rajkot

Rajkot is a city known for its rich heritage and vibrant culture, and has been home to many famous personalities including the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Being the fourth largest city in Gujarat, it has emerged as the industrial hub of the region, apart from being a handicraft and textile centre.

Fortune Park JPS Grand is conveniently located in the prime industrial and urban area of the city with easy access to all major attractions in and around Rajkot. An elegant and contemporary hotel; it offers a wide range of guest facilities with efficient service providing an ideal environment for business as well as leisure for the new-age traveler.



## The Imperial Palace, Rajkot

The Imperial Palace hotel Rajkot is a masterpiece of simplicity, comfort and elegance, offering the ultimate in luxury, with the most spacious rooms among Rajkot hotels. Each one of the hotel's opulent guest rooms is comfortable, stylish and equipped with advanced technology for the convenience of hotel guests - underlined, of course, by the extremely professional and sincere service by the Imperial staff which makes it stand out from other Rajkot hotels.







## Regency Lagoon Resort, Rajkot

Regency Lagoon Resort, an oasis in the city of Rajkot is a rejuvenating retreat promising the most exhilarating experience of a lifetime!

A blissful sojourn in the lap of Mother Nature, the resort is spread over twenty-two acres of lush, picturesque milieu, resplendent with rich tropical garden, cascading waterfalls and a sparkling lagoon, the beauty of which instantly invigorates, entices and enthralls. Strategically nestled close to the airport and the Metoda industrial belt, Regency Lagoon Resort provides a perfect concoction of traditional British architecture, finest indulgences of modern life and momentous hospitality, which is truly Victorian.

## The Gateway Hotel, Gir Forest

The Gateway Hotel Gir Forest is one of the best leisure hotels in Gir, located just opposite the Hiran River at the fringe of the dense Gir Forest.

Whether you're on a honeymoon, family vacation or a business trip, the surrounding Gir Forest lends an atmosphere of calm and serenity to your days.

Spacious rooms equipped with modern amenities and a dedicated staff on stand-by ensure your stay with us is truly comfortable.



## The Fern Gir Forest Resort

India's favourite resort when visiting the famous Asiatic lions at Sasan Gir, The Fern Gir Forest Resort is a 5 star resort that offers 40 well-appointed, air-conditioned villas, suites, cottages and tents, and a very memorable vacation. True to an authentic experience of living in undisturbed nature, we ensure the environment remains protected with The Fern's award-winning, environmentally sensitive programmes. The resort is built in an ethnic style inspired by local design that has evolved the best balance in Gir's hot summer and chilly winters.



## Woods at Sasan, Gir

Experience a unique stay, immersed in nature, within 8 acres of a lush mango orchard on the fringes of the Sasan Gir forest. Woods at Sasan offers luxurious, independent living spaces, each with its own private garden; open skies and surrounded by acres of gently waving grass and thickets of trees.

With excellent dining options, bespoke Ayurveda, Yoga and Wellness programs, exciting local Experiences and a host of on-site Nature activities, Woods at Sasan is an ideal break from city life – a time to relax, unwind and discover joy.



## The Fern Sattva Resort, Dwarka

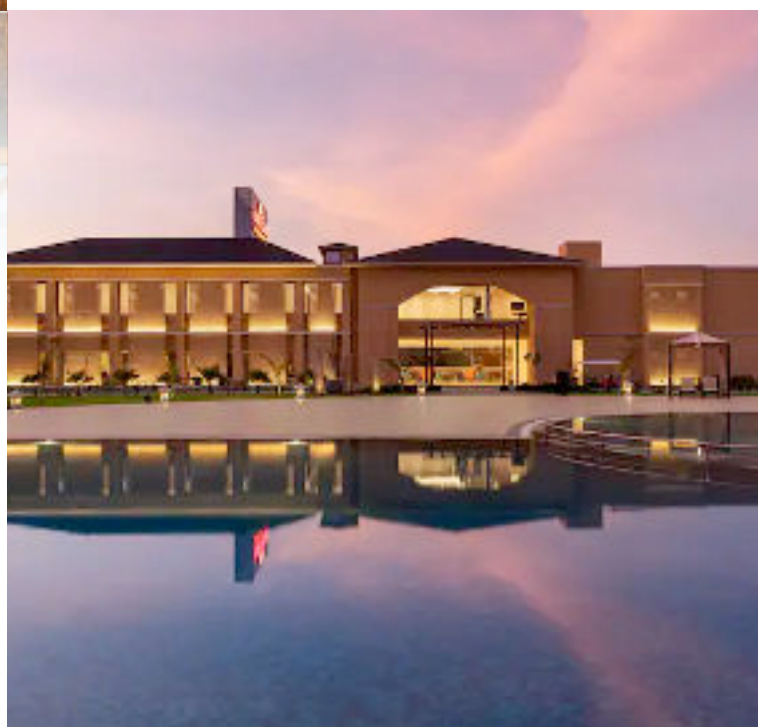
A tranquil getaway, far from the ruckus of the city, where you can have your day in the sun and sea.

Perfectly capturing Dwarka grace and enduring allure with its ambience of warmth and coziness in a contemporary setting, The Fern Dwarka, is located in the quiet and yet close vicinity of temples. Blending contemporary amenities with personalized services, our elegant, as well as attractive 81 rooms and suites including 41 Winter Green Rooms, 37 Fern Club Rooms, 2 Hazel Suite, and 1 Dwarvati Presidential Suite, ensure guests have a truly welcoming and relaxing retreat every time.

## Hawthorn by Wyndham, Dwarka

Located five minutes drive from Dwarkadhish Temple, Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham Dwarka is an Eco-spiritual Resort spread across 15 acres of manicured landscape. Inspired by traditional architecture, the resort comprises of luxury villas with patios and spacious rooms overlooking Gujarat's largest swimming pool.

With a momentous presence in North America, Europe, The Middle East and Asia, the Hawthorn Suites by Wyndham is bringing its renowned services to India for the first time. Stroll through the resort's garden or retire to your villas where hedges unfold walkways leading to your own patio.







## Fortune Palace, Jamnagar

A unique blend of contemporary design and urban style Hotel Fortune Palace creates a striking landmark in the City of Jamnagar. An officially categorised first four star hotel stands tall and proud as the symbol of timeless Indian Hospitality, where innovation, ideas and change are the way to the future.

Our hotel is designed with business & leisure tourism in mind, and it's just minutes from city shopping facilities, key attractions, sumair club, coastal line, besides directly linking to the city airport, bus and railway station in less than 5 kilometres distance.

## The Fern Bhavnagar

The Fern Bhavnagar, is the finest Resort & Spa with 55 well-appointed rooms including 48 Winter Green Rooms, 6 Fern Club Rooms, and 1 Hazel Suite.

The resort offers a vegetarian multi-cuisine restaurant, a coffee shop, state of the art banquet halls, a party lawn offering 50,000 sq. ft. space, and all the latest modern amenities and facilities.

The Fern Bhavnagar, Resort & Spa is a part of the Iscon Club which boasts of the finest facilities for leisure and recreation.



## Radisson Hotel, Kandla

Located in India's first free-trade zone in the village of Galpadar and only 18 kilometers from the Kandla Port Trust, Radisson Hotel Kandla is ideal for both business and leisure travel in the Gandhidham area. Whatever brings you to our hotel, take advantage of our proximity to famous attractions like Gandhi Samadhi and Purneshwar Temple. Each of our 117 rooms and suites features premium furnishings to make your stay memorable. Use free Wi-Fi to complete work assignments and make travel arrangements from the comfort of your room, or kick back in front of the flat-screen TV to watch your favorite show while you savor a meal from room service.





## Ramada by Wyndham, Gandhidham

Nestled in the beautiful city of Gandhidham, Ramada by Wyndham is your go-to destination regardless of the nature of your travel.

Close to some of the prominent destinations like Bhuj, Gandhi Samadhi, Kala Raksha Museum, Bhadreswar Jain Temple, Purneshwar Temple, etc., our hotel symbolises a perfect and complete stay. Enjoy the warmth of our hospitality, the comfort of our accommodation, the innovative and tasty food cooked in our exquisite kitchens, the enjoyment of our facilities and the splendour of the beautiful lush green lawns.



## Bellevue Sarovar Portico, Junagadh

Welcome to Bellevue Sarovar Portico, Junagadh, a contemporary hotel located amidst refreshing greenery in the heart of the city. Seamless hospitality embodies the culture of Bellevue Sarovar Portico, Junagadh.

The rooms and suites, tinged with regal decor and charm, feature plush furniture, modern amenities, and magnificent views. Girnar Sky Lounge, the only vegetarian rooftop restaurant in Junagadh, offers sumptuous delicacies with a view. Flavours 9 is our all-day dining cum cafe in Junagadh that serves fresh beverages and multi-cuisine dishes.



## Grand Mercure, Gandhinagar

Set in Gandhinagar, 15 km from Mahatma Mandir, Grand Mercure Gandhinagar GIFT City - An Accor Hotels Brand offers accommodation with a restaurant, free private parking, an outdoor swimming pool and a fitness centre. With free WiFi, this 5-star hotel offers a shared lounge and a concierge service. The accommodation provides a 24-hour front desk, room service and currency exchange for guests. The units come with air conditioning, a flat-screen TV with satellite channels, a kettle, a bidet, a hairdryer and a desk. At the hotel, every room includes a seating area.







## Belvedere Golf & Country Club, Gandhinagar

Belvedere Golf & Country Club is situated in Adalaj and has a shared lounge and a garden. Among the facilities of this property are a restaurant, a 24-hour front desk and room service, along with free WiFi. There is free private parking and the property features paid airport shuttle service.

The rooms are fitted with air conditioning, a flat-screen TV with cable channels, a fridge, a kettle, a shower, a hairdryer and a wardrobe. At the hotel, rooms are fitted with a private bathroom with free toiletries.



## The Deltin, Daman

The Deltin, Daman is a 176-room five-star hotel and the largest integrated resort spread over 10 acres, with 3,00,000 sq. ft. of developed area. It's the first and only 5-star hotel in Daman.

The hotel is a 2.5- hour drive from Mumbai and Surat making it an ideal location for a weekend getaway as you enjoy the road trip on your way to the hotel! With largest banquet facility in the area, two bars, two specialty restaurants, luxury suites and a meandering pool, this hotel has everything you need.



## Madhubhan Resort & Spa, Anand

A magnificent luxury resort and spa covering 25 acres has been created amidst verdant greenery of Charotar near Anand, Gujarat, India.

Madhubhan Resort & Spa is a paradise on earth with all the modern amenities and the luxurious accommodation and promises its guests with gifts of relaxation, family bonding and rejuvenation. Madhubhan Resort is short drive from Vadodara and Ahmedabad which are connected by short flights from Mumbai or New Delhi.



## Sayaji Hotel, Vadodra

For the connoisseurs of finer things in life, there's the luxurious Sayaji Vadodara. Revered as the top business hotel in Vadodara, Sayaji Vadodara is based in an envious location that's equidistant to the most important landmarks of the city, including the airport and train station. It's the perfect place for jet-setters who love to balance business with leisure.

Though Sayaji Vadodara is a 5-star luxury hotel, our exclusive range of services and amenities go beyond the stars. Every aspect of your stay is designed and curated to exceed expectations and add your experience of a memorable stay. At Sayaji Vadodara, we are waiting to serve you. Book your experience today!



## Divans Bungalow, Ahmedabad

Divan's Bungalow – born in history and still remains soaked in its beauty is one such heritage hotel near Ahmedabad airport which is a small architectural jewel in its own right. A fountain fore court, a hidden garden, and eight rooms that have been lovingly restored – making Divan's Bungalow one of the unique and intimate budget hotels in Ahmedabad.

This hotel near Ahmedabad airport is an ideal choice for travellers in search of a haven from the daily hustle and bustle of crowded Ahmedabad. One stay here will get you started on the discovery of one of the best budget hotels in Ahmedabad for ambience and authenticity!

## Natwar Niwas Palace, Rajpipla

Once the residence of the younger brother of the Maharajah of Rajpipla this grand piece of Indo-European architecture is set in 4 acres of land.

From the palace terrace, you can see hills, ravines and lush greenery.

The interiors are delightful with wall paintings, canvas paintings, Italian marble floors, antique furniture, a grand banquet hall, lavishly appointed sitting rooms and 4 guest suites.







## Orchard Palace, Gondal

The Orchard Palace was built as an annex of the Huzoor Palace, the family residence, in the late-19th century to host personal guests of the Maharajas. Converted into a seven-room heritage hotel, it is appointed with the 1930s and '40s art deco furniture, antiques and handicrafts.

The property gets its name from the lime, chikoo and mango groves it faces to the rear. More than 80 peacocks and peahens inhabit the gardens, and a variety of other birds can be watched while walking around the grounds. One of the highlights of the palace is the Rail Saloon of the royal family of Gondal.

## Khirasara Palace, Rajkot

The majestic monument of Khirasara which has witnessed the rich heritage and culture of the glorious past of Kathiawar, and has borne the brunt of centuries of history, now stands in its fullest splendor and glory, in the resplendent present.

The property is strategically located atop a hill, providing a 360-degree view of the breathtaking ambiance at different times of the day. The Khirasara Palace has a unique and incomparable history of more than 450 years to unveil. Towering 150 feet above the Khirasara village, it stands imposing, majestic and undefeated.



## Balaram Palace, Chitrasani

Constructed in the late 1920s, Balaram Palace was the weekend retreat and hunting resort of the Lohanis who ruled from Jalore in southwestern Rajasthan.

The palace is a gracious work of neo-classical architecture, with 13 acres of private wood-lands and formally landscaped gardens with Mexican lawns, exotic flowerbeds, modern fountains and a well-concealed music system.



## Vijay Vilas Palace, Palitana

The Vijay Vilas Palace was built in 1906 AD by Yuvraj Vijay Sinhji of Palitana, a member of the same Gohil Rajput clan as the Maharajahs of Bhavnagar.

The Vijay Vilas palace once the country retreat, of the Gohil Rajputs offers a splendid view of the Shatrunjaya hill and the historic Palitana temples which are situated at close proximity. It offers a convenient base for visiting the famous temples of Palitana and an excursion of the Palitana township.

Sihor with the historic old palace of the Maharajas of Bhavnagar, featuring gardens, wall paintings and woodcarvings. Ship breaking yard at Alang.



## The Rajmahal Palace, Sundernagar

The Rajmahal Palace located in Wadhwan was constructed in 19th century by H. H. Balsingh Ji. The extensive campus of this mansion covers an area of 14 acres. The sprawling campus of the palace includes tennis courts, cricket pitches, lily ponds, fountains and picturesque gardens.

There is a pillared courtyard at the center of the palace which has gorgeous statues, marble fountains and furniture made of carved marble. The palace boasts of a "Darbar Hall" which displays life-size paintings of ancient rulers as well as the majestic throne. The ceiling of the Darbar Hall is painted splendidly and enthralls the visitors.



## Welcome Heritage Mani Mansion

"Mani Mansion derived from name "Manibhai", who was a legendry social worker and acclaimed businessman had build this House in the year 1923. This Heritage House was once home to the entire Dalal family and it continues to resemble the magnificence of its original Eclectic architecture even today.

Spread in about 2300sq meter, this House had seven huge rooms on the ground floor along with verandah and a porch in this main building.





## Gandhinagar - The Capital

With the tag of the cleanest city in Asia, Gandhinagar is the administrative capital of the Gujarat located on the western bank of Sabarmati river. Named after the father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, Gandhinagar is the second planned city of India, after Chandigarh. The city is divided into thirty organised sectors, each of them is pedestrian friendly and self-contained.

It's more of a people-oriented city, with all the parks, monuments, gardens and grand civic buildings. This spacious city also houses many places to visit for sightseeing like Swaminarayan Temple, Sarita Udyan, Children's Park, Indroda Dinosaur and Fossil Park, Rani Roopmatis Mosque and Capital Complex.

Tourists who visit Gandhinagar never miss a visit to the Akshardham Temple, built of pink stone and beautiful carving around it. For those who are a pilgrim tour to Gandhinagar can visit places like Hanumanji Temple and the Brahmani Temple.

History buffs also loves Gandhinagar due to its strong connection with Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the Nation. The Gandhi Ashram in the city is known as the nerve centre where freedom fighter used to gather and plot various national movements that took place during the colonial era.







# EXPLORE

---





## Kutch Zone

Kutch also spelled as Kachchh, is the largest district in India covering an area of approx 45000 sq. kms. Kutch is one of the most prolific regions in India in the area of textile art. Kutch embroidery is dense with motifs, and a variation with mirrors sewn into the embroidery is one of the signature arts of this region.

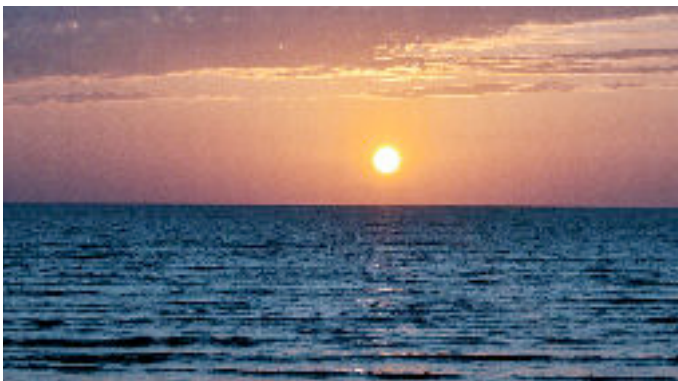


## Central Zone

Central Zone, also known as Central Gujarat (Madhya Gujarat), is a region that is geographically located in center of Gujarat in India. All of its districts share same dialect, culture and heritage.

## North Zone

Patan and Mehsana, replete with architectural excellence, represent the height of North Gujarat's cultural achievements during the Golden Period of Solanki rule.



## South Zone

South Zone, also known as Dakshin Gujarat (Daxin Gujarat), is a region in the Indian state of Gujarat. The region is one of the wettest regions of India. The western part is almost coastal and is known as Kantha Vistar ("coastal expanse" in Gujarati).

## Saurashtra Zone

Saurashtra (region) Saurashtra, and some part of it also known as Sorath or Kathiawar, is a peninsular region of Gujarat, India, located on the Arabian Sea coast. It covers about a third of Gujarat state, notably 11 districts of Gujarat, including Rajkot District.







## Valsad

Valsad is a coastal district and it derived its name from vad-saal that means hampered by banyan trees (vad). This area was full of banyan trees. Valsad is the first place where the Parsis entered before they found the Sanjan Port. Valsad is surrounded by the Arabian Sea, Navsari and Dang districts and the state of Maharashtra.

Tithal Beach, Swaminarayan Temple, Sai Baba Temple, Shantidham Temple, Parnera Fort and Tadkeshwar Mahadev Mandir are some important tourist spots of Valsad. The Tadkeshwar Temple is so named as it has no roof and the sunlight constantly touches the Shivlinga.

The temple is also famous for different kinds of Shivlingas. The Parnera Fort was made by Chatrapati Shivaji. The Parnera Hill is also famous as a fair is organised every October on this hill. Tithal Beach is famous for black sand. Valsad is also famous for Alphonso mango locally known as haafus.

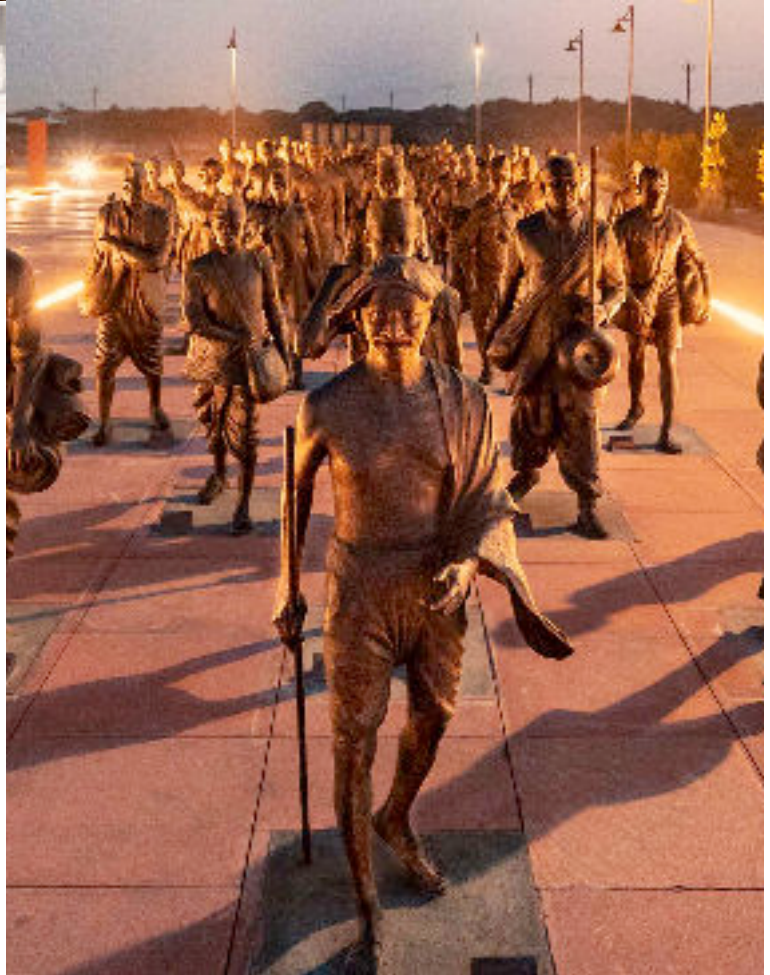
## Navsari

Navsari is located in the south eastern part of Gujarat in the coastal lowland along Purna River.

Navsari abounds in sugarcane fields, chikoo plantations, and mango trees and is known for its floriculture activities and sugar business. Famous historical places, both Dandi and Vansda National Park, are located in Navsari.

The pioneer of the Indian steel industry and the founder of the House of Tatas, Mr. Jamshedji Tata was born in Navsari. The house where he was born is well preserved and recommended for a visit. Unai Hot Springs, Dandi Beach, Somnath Mahadev Temple, Shri Chintamani Parshvanath, Vansda National Park are some of the famous places in the city.

The focus sectors of Navsari are agro and food processing industries, textiles, drugs and pharmaceuticals, mineral related industries and marine based industries.

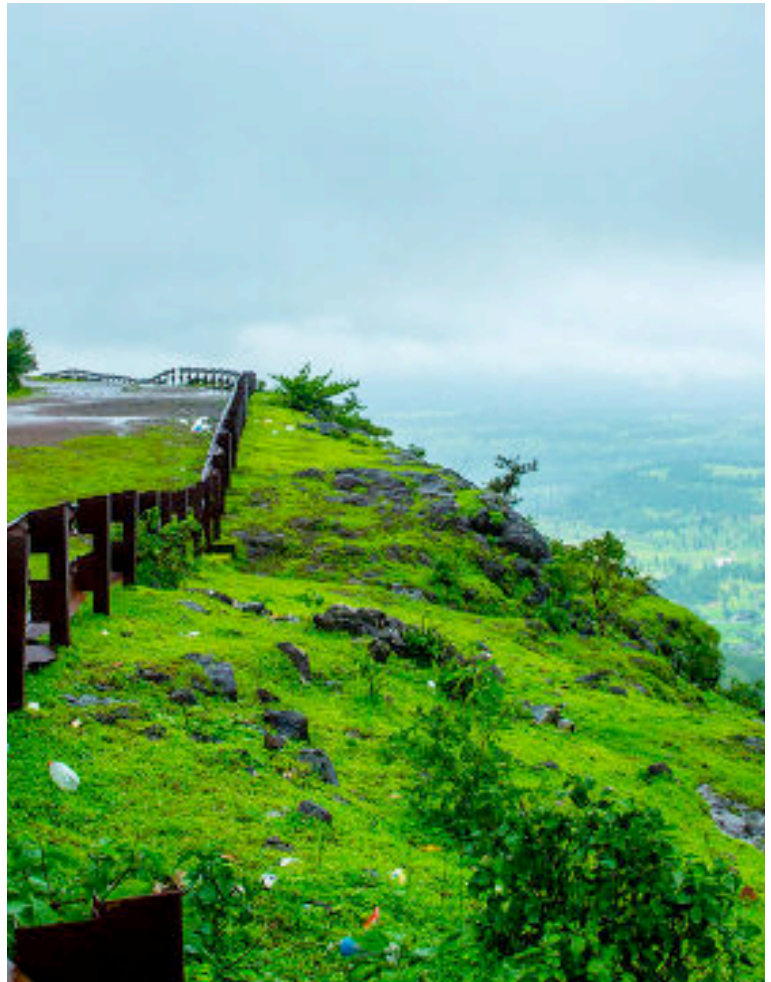




# Dang

Dang is located high in the Saputara hills, adjoining the border of Maharashtra State. Dang is the home of adivasis who have lived in the forest and highlands of the Dang region from time immemorial. Shri Hanumanji is believed to have been born at Anjani Kund here. The region is famous for the pristine and scenic Saputara Hill Station.

Besides, the "Dang Darbar Fair" in Saputara hills is the major tourist attraction. The fair focuses on the interesting lifestyle of the tribal people of the Dang area.



# Tapi

Tapi district is located in the Southern part of Gujarat. On 27/09/2007, revenue district of Surat was bifurcated into two new district viz. Surat district with its headquarter at Surat and Tapi district with its headquarter at Vyara.

The newly constituted Tapi district consists of five taluka viz. Vyara, Songadh, Uchchhal, Nizar and Valod. Vyara and Songadh in Tapi district are known for dense forests with a major production of bamboos. Key tourist destinations are Fort of Songadh, Gaumukh, Dosvada Dam, Hindustan Bridge, Tapi River and Ukai Dam.





## Surat

'Diamond Hub of the World', 'Embroidery capital of India', 'Textile City of India' as it is proudly called; Surat is the fastest growing city in the world and a powerful magnet for fashion moguls, art lovers and diamond dealers. In the mid 15th century, Surat was one of the India's most important port cities. Despite many historical travails and battles, the city retains an intriguing medieval charm.

Historic romanticism, along with the coastal graciousness, is what makes Surat an important tourist destination in Gujarat.

One can see the footprints of the city in the epic novel, Mahabharat, as per which Lord Krishna had a brief stopover in Surat when he was going to Dwarka, from Mathura. In 990 AD, Surat was known as Suryapur, meaning the city of the sun god. By the 12th century, Parsis began to settle in the city and prevailed with dignity in this region of Gujarat.

## Narmada

Narmada district is an administrative district in the state of Gujarat in India. The district headquarters are located at Rajpipla. The district is bounded by Vadodara district in the north, by Maharashtra state in the east, by Tapi district in the south and by Bharuch district in the west.

Counted among the seven holiest rivers in Hindu Religion, Narmada is a major river of Central India. It is believed that taking a plunge into this river helps the people in getting rid of their wrongdoings. There is a prominent mention of Narmada River in Mahabharata, Ramayana and Vedas.

Narmada Parikrama thus, holds an immense significance among the Hindu devotees.

Hordes of pilgrims perform a consecrated circumambulation of this river in order to get drenched in purity and spirituality. Many Sadhus and pilgrims come here on foot to perform this Parikrama.



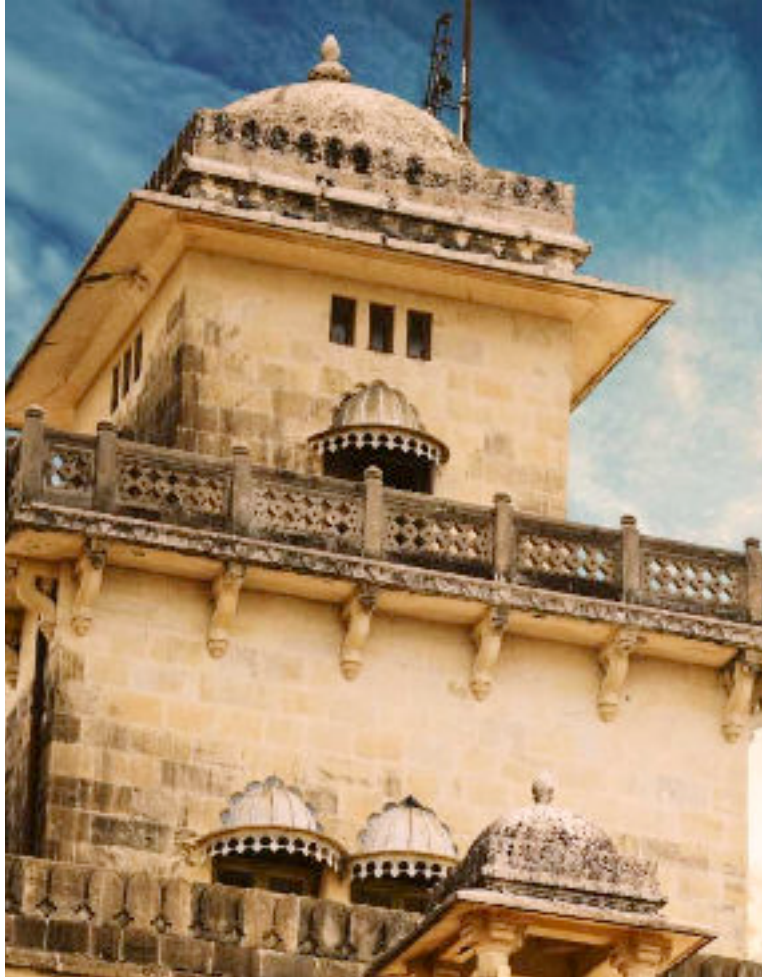


# Bharuch

Bharuch also known as Broach, is located in Gujarat at the mouth of the river Narmada. This city is located amidst Surat and Vadodra and spreads over an area of 6527 sq km. Bharuch is an industrial hub of Gujrat which is famous for its magnificent temples and its strong connection to Hindu Mythology, which is dated back to Saint Bhrigurishi and Bhagwan Parshram who was also said to be the incarnation of Lord Vishnu.

This city is also renowned for its roasted salty peanuts. Bharuch is acknowledged for the Meghraj Festival which is unique to the region and is celebrated in the month of Shravan .

Bharuch is an doing extremely good as a tourist spot of Gujrat as it is an ancient city, and has a rich historical ancestry. It is a wonderful experience to explore the historical delights of Bharuch. Bharuch is brimming with temples spread across the city.



## Chhota Udepur

Nestled in Chhota Udaipur district of Gujarat state of India, Chhota Udaipur is a city offering an ideal weekend getaway option to the residents of Ahmedabad. It shares a history with Devgad Baria and Rajpipla and was amongst the three princely states of eastern Gujarat.

Sits on the edge of a big lake with a series of temples, the small town lies in the heart of a tribal area with rich indigenous culture and history. The place is best to explore many tribal villages, especially in the Rathwa communities.

Also, one can walk along the Tribal Museum and Haat (tribal market) taking place every Sunday.

Take incredible opportunity to explore the simple yet interesting lifestyle of tribal villagers of India along with their rich culture and traditions.





## Vadodra

Vadodara (formerly Baroda) is the third largest city in Gujarat, located on the bank of Vishwamitri River, towards the south-east of Ahmedabad. Gigantic monuments, museums and gardens documenting the Indian history dominate the old quarter of Vadodara.

The tinsel town is the brainchild of Sayajirao III, a farsighted ruler who introduced free primary education and laid foundation for premier institutions like Bank of Baroda, a railway system and Maharaja Sayajirao University.

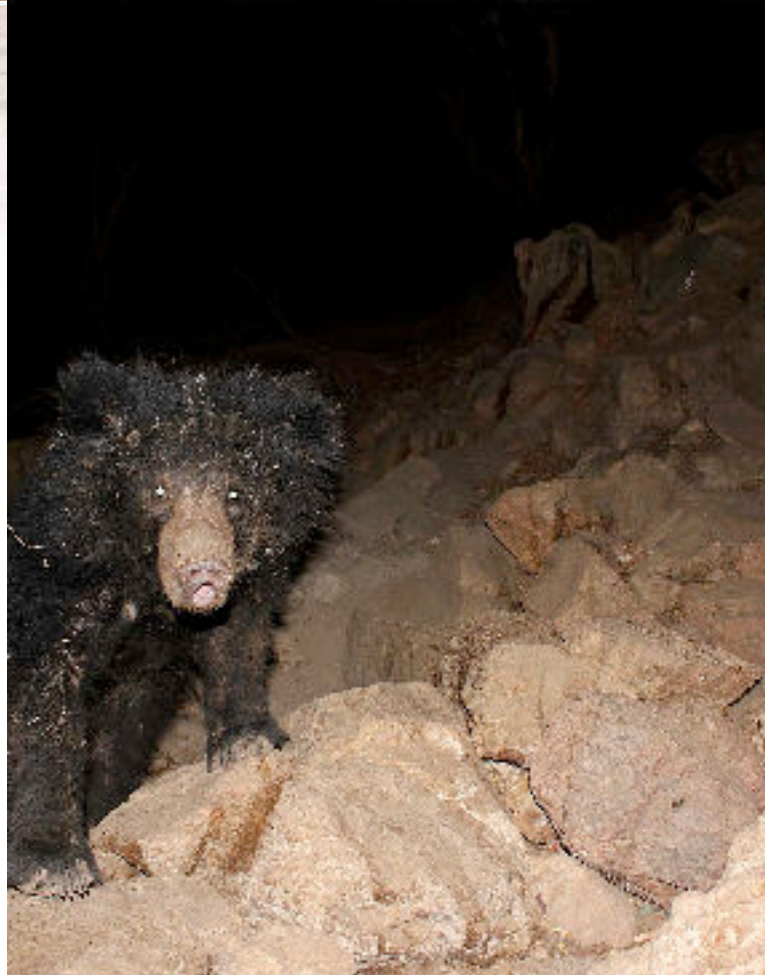
Many tales and fables are associated with the name of the city. As per the history accounts, the city was christened as 'Chandravati' after its ruler Raja Chandan, later it was changed to 'Viravati' meaning the abode of the brave, and then 'Vadpatra' due to the abundance of banyan trees here. From the term 'Vadpatra', the city got its final name - Baroda or Vadodara.

## Dahod

The city of Dahod holds an esteemed position in the Mughal history as the popular Emperor of this dynasty, Aurangzeb was born here. The city with rich overflowing history and tradition is highly admired by the history lovers. Dahod is filled with culture, heritage, historic sites and temples.

Dahod shares its borders with the states of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. The Mughals paid great interest in the all round development of this city. Tantya Tope, the famous freedom fighter is believed to have spent his last days in exile here at the time of freedom struggle.

Aurangzeb fort, the fort of glorious majestcity was constructed to mark the birth of the great Emperor Aurangzeb. The city is adorned with holy mosques and is beautified by the exquisite carvings in the ancient temples. Chhab Talav with sparkling waters enhances the scenic beauty of Dahod.



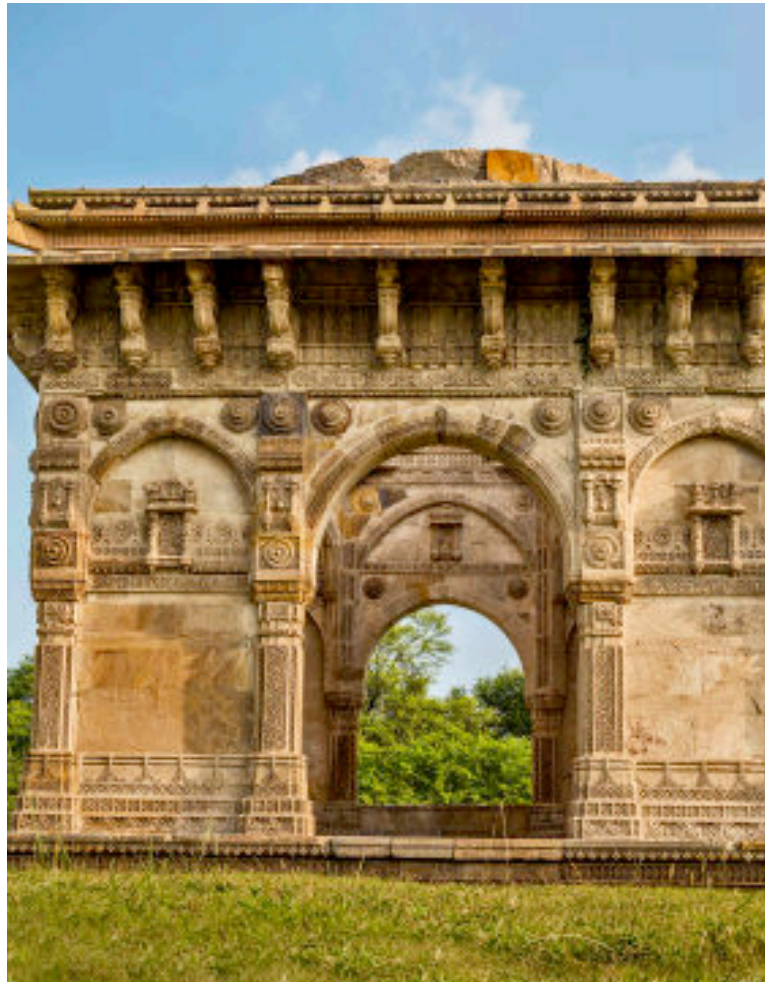


# Panchmahal

Panchmahal, also Panch Mahals, is a district in the eastern portion of Gujarat State western India. The district is located on eastern end of the state. It is bordered by Dahod District to the north-east & east, Vadodara District to the south (southeast and southwest also), Kheda District to the west and Sabarkantha District to the northwest.

The history of Panchmahals district revolves around the city of Champaner. Panch mahal is a Hindi or Gujarati word derived from Panch ("five") and Mahal ("palace").

Godhra is one of the five sub-divisions of Panchmahal district. In the month of July 2004, Champaner-Pavagadh Archeological Park in the Panchmahal district was found in the world Heritage list by UNESCO. Also, this medieval city of Champaner-Pavagarh is popular for its vast numbers of historical monuments of several religious faiths as well as water bodies



## Mahisagar

Mahisagar district – also Mahisagar – is a district in the state of Gujarat in India that came into being on 26 January 2013, becoming the 28th district of the state. The district has been carved out of the Panchmahal district and the Kheda district.

District Name Mahisagar has given from "Mahi River". Lunawada is the district headquarters of Mahisagar. It started its operation in full-fledged from 15 August 2013.

Mahisagar tourist place has many beautiful places to visit to go for sightseeing with family or friends. There are also few popular tourist spots in Mahisagar which you might want to consider visiting and trying out fun with some of the breathtaking outdoor activities in Mahisagar.

The Mahi River which flows from East to West, is a holy river of India, is worshipped by many people due to lots of temples and holy places of worship along its shore. Mahisagar is the name given to it due to its vastness.





## Aravalli

Aravalli district is in the heart of the Aravalli hill range and it is famous for its Forestry and natural beauty. As well as ancient pilgrims and historic monuments, pilgrims like Tirthatham Shamlaji situated on the banks of the river Meshwo are situated.

The Aravalli Range, situated in the north eastern part of India, runs 560 kms from Palanpur in Gujarat which is the southern end, dominates Rajasthan and the northern end, continues into Haryana where there are rocky ridges and isolated hills and ends in Delhi where the last part of the Aravalli range ends.

This is also known as the Delhi Ridge. The Raisana Hill is the last extension of this mountain range.

## Anand

Anand District is an administrative district of Gujarat state in western India and is popularly known as Charotar. It was carved out of the Kheda district in 1997. Anand is the administrative headquarters of the district. It is bounded by Kheda District to the north, Vadodara District to the east, Ahmedabad District to the west, and the Gulf of Khambhat to the south. Major towns are Khambhat, Tarapur, Petlad and Sojitra.

Anand is 101 km from the state capital of Gandhinagar and lies in between Vadodara and Ahmedabad in the Western railway.

Shree Rokadia Hanumaji Temple, The Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and Veer Vithalbhai Patel Memorial, Swami Narayan Temple are some important places to visit in Anand. 43 km north-east of Anand is the Ranchordorai Dokor Temple.

Anand is known as the Milk Capital of India.



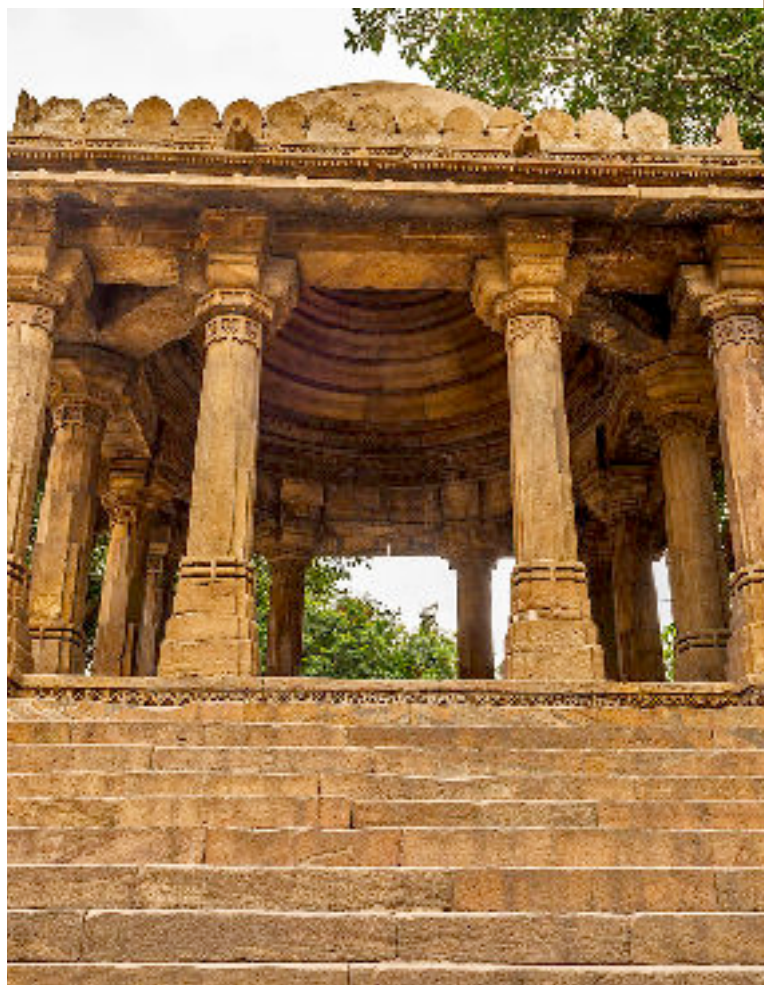


# Kheda

Long ago Kheda was known as “Hidimba Van” because it is believed that Bhimsen of Mahabharata had killed a demon to marry Hidimba at this place. Kheda was initially ruled by the Babi Dynasty but later taken over by the Marathas and successively by the British.

Kheda is historically important as Gandhiji started his Satyagraha from here. Kheda was famine stricken, and the British was not exempting the taxes of the villagers. In such a situation Gandhiji initiated the first Satyagraha which ultimately made the British bow down to the pressure of the villagers and taxes for two consecutive years were suspended and interest amount decreased.

Kheda is also famous for 150 years old traditional murals of Gujarat that can be found on some temple walls and residential houses.



# Ahmedabad

Ahmedabad, the commercial hub of Gujarat, is the seventh largest city in India. This business centre of India has attracted many trendsetters and tycoons from the highly competitive field, which makes the city highly evolving, innovative and investing.

Beyond the Ahmedabad's commercial persona, the city also boasts a vibrant cultural scene featuring the eclectic influences of its Mughal roots, colonial connections and a pool of Gujarati people. Also, Ahmedabad has many tourism places to visit like Kankaria Lake, Sabarmati Ashram, Calico Museum of Textiles, Hathee Singh Temple, Sarkhej Roza, etc.

Legends say that the city owes its foundation to Sultan Ahmed Shah. While hunting Sultan Ahmed Shah encountered a warren of rabbits on the bank of the Sabarmati river. Astonishingly, the rabbits turned fiercely on his hounds and defended their territory. Considering this as an auspicious sign, Sultan Ahmed Shah built this area as his new capital and named it after himself- Ahmedabad.





## Sabarkantha

City sprawling with culture and heritage, Sabarkantha located in northern part of Gujarat experiences extreme climatic conditions. Dairying and agriculture are the prime stomach fillers for the people here.

Sabarkantha also has some important and interesting places to go around. The district headquarters Himmath Nagar is a home to historically important places. Dawlat Vilas palace and Himmat Singh fort flaunt the true flavor of the kingly grandeur. Jalaram temple, Harshidmata temple, Mahakali temple are the main shrines. Food freaks can feast on Doodhpak, Vedhmi, pani puri and dal baati.

Tourism in Sabarkantha district, Gujarat, is famed for being an excellent site for exploring the ancient past. Beautiful temples, palaces and forts stand gracefully in the district showcasing their admirable architecture and artistry. Ruins of several other structures also make the district an interesting excursion site. Many of them narrate the culture and events of the bygone era.

## Mehsana

Mehsana is the glittering jewel of tourism which displays many historical monuments in its arena. Its excavation sites and historical monuments reveal that this is an ancient town of India. In eleventh century, this place flourished with ample artistic places and historical monuments under the rule of Solanki Dynasty. Those rulers were very keen on spreading wonderful architecture along with religious spirituality. Hence they constructed plethora of monuments around this region.

There are many such evidences of chronology standing tall here though many of them are demolished by foreign invaders. After that Rajputs and Jain had great impact on this region whose proof are found in the form of tourist attractions in Mehsana. After independence Mehsana stayed as a part of Bombay province, but in separation of Gujarat, it became the district headquarters in this state. Mehsana tourism has flourished after this separation and now it is one of the leading tourism spots of India.



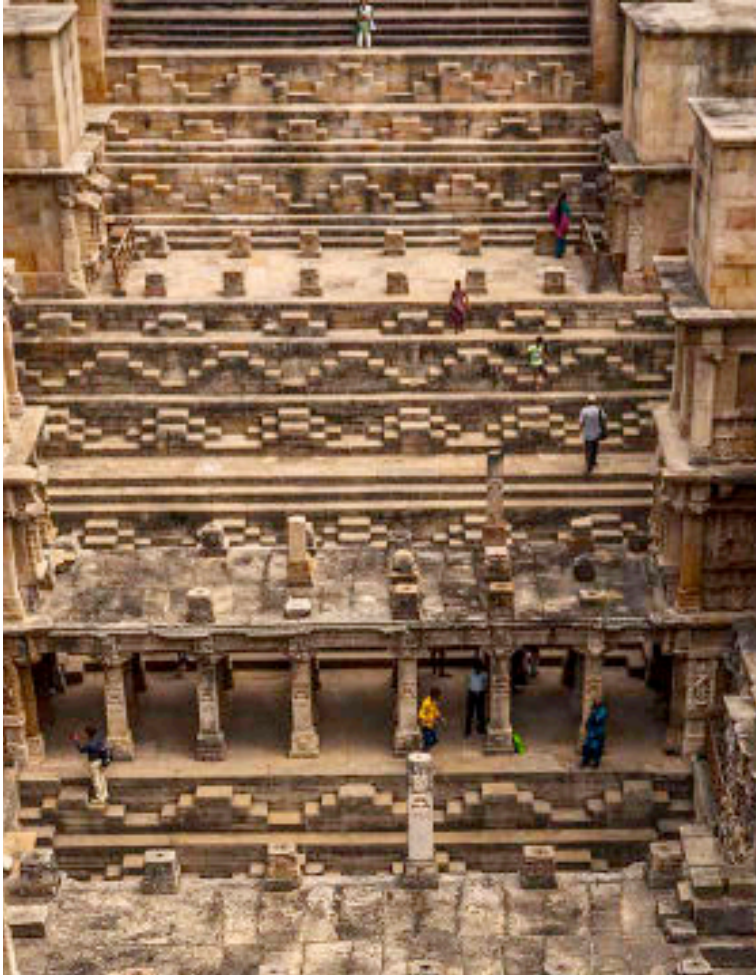
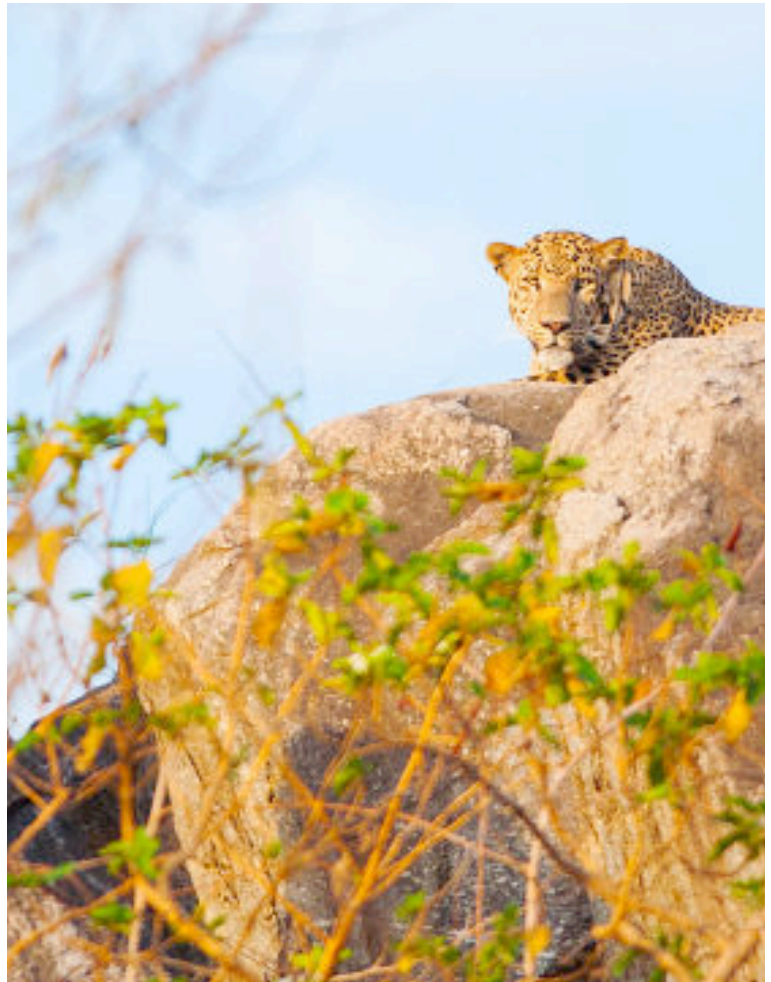


# Banaskantha

Banaskantha is one among the thirty-three districts of the Gujarat state of India. The administrative headquarters of the district is at Palanpur which is also its largest city.

The district is located in the Northeast of Gujarat and is presumably named after the West Banas River which runs through the valley between Mount Abu and Aravalli Range, flowing to the plains of Gujarat in this region and towards the Rann of Kutch. The district is famous for the Ambaji temple which draw many tourists.

Geographically Banaskantha shares its borders with Rajasthan state in the North, Sabarkantha district in East, Kutch district in West and Patan district and Mehsana district in the South. Border of Pakistan touches the desert. Strategically, Banaskantha District is of much importance because of its sensitive borders.



## Patan

Patan, the former capital of Gujarat, is a place famous for Patola sarees, one of the finest hand-made textiles in the world. One can see this exquisite fabric being woven here.

It is situated around 130 km from Ahmedabad in the Indian state of Gujarat. The city extends from the latitude 23°52' in the north to longitude 72°1' in the east. The place is well connected by roads and rail to the other cities in the region.

The Patan Patola is one of the finest hand-woven textiles produced the world over. It combines the art of tying and dyeing of the warp and weft threads and their weaving together, when each warp thread is carefully placed against the corresponding colors of the weft. Also known as the double Ikat, it is woven only in Bali, Indonesia besides Patan.

As the Tropic of Cancer passes through the northern border of Gujarat, the state has an extreme climate.





## Kutch

A land of colour, culture and spectacular topography, Kutch with its rustic beauty is nothing less than a pictorial wonderland. Kutch, the land of the creators, myriad colors, and infinite variety, is the place where time has left its footprints. The literal meaning of term Kutch is something which intermittently becomes wet and dry. The term 'Kutch' is also used for tortoise in Sanskrit.

A large part of the Kutch, commonly known as the Great Rann of Kutch, submerges in water during the rainy season and becomes dry during the winter season. Starting from Indus valley civilization to Rao dynasty, every ruler has gifted Kutch legacy of art and architecture.

Bhuj, Mandvi, Dholavira, Gandhidham, and Anjar are amongst the best places to visit in Kutch region that people hardly know. Narayan Sarovar, one of the five holy lakes mentioned in Shrimad Bhagvad and many other Jain and Hindu pilgrimage sights are also located here. Bhuj, the Kutchi capital of yore, get the maximum attention but there are many other places that one should know.

## Surendranagar

Surendranagar forms one of the most significant part of the entire Saurashtra region of the western most state of Gujarat in India.

Surendranagar was under the control of traditional dynasties which were ruling over other regions of the Gujarat state. After the mobilization of the states the now Surendranagar district was called Jhalawad.

The history of this wonderful little town in Gujarat is that it was utilised by the colonialists as a hill station and a getaway destination from the summer heat of the plains of Gujarat during these extreme months. The dry and clean air here is said to have the capability to cure people from tuberculosis disease.

This unique and hidden underrated place of tourist attraction in Gujarat serves perfectly if you are looking to spend your vacation days away from the bustle of the city crowd.





# Morbi

It's called once as Morvi, There were rivers of Milk and Ghee(Butter). This means Morbi was too prosperous. On that time Morbi was among the Strongest states of India. Morbi Was ruled by many Kingdom. From the Mughal Empire to Rajputs and Britishers. From Qutb-ud-din Aybak to Lakhdhirji Thakor... Sir Waghjee Thakor

After the death of Waghjee Thakor, Prince Lakhdhirji Thakor announced the King of Morbi. He also did a remarkable job in the History of Morbi. In his time Electric powerhouse and Telephone exchange was built. He also built Temples, Technical High School and Engineering college. This college is now known as the name of 'L.E.College'.

This district is surrounded by Kutch district in the north, Surendranagar district on the east, Rajkot district on the south and Jamnagar district in the west.



# Jamnagar

Known to the world as the Jewel of Kathiawar, Jamnagar is an offbeat tourist holiday destination in Gujarat brimming with the ornate building, pristine coastal region and picturesque lakes. Located on the coast of Gulf of Kutch, Jamnagar is the largest city on the western region of India.

In the heart of the city, there is a fort amidst the lake while the coastal area is covered with an oil refinery, which is largest in the world, beaches and spectacular Marine National Park. With exquisite Rajput architecture and pristine coastline, Jamnagar is Gujarat's lesser-known gems.

Jamnagar (former Nawanagar) came into limelight 444 years ago when it was established on the bank of Nagmatti and Rangmattiriver by the Shri Jam Raval, who is deemed as one of the heirs of Lord Krishna. A place of eternal beauty, Jamnagar is also an ornithologist's paradise. Jamnagar has a start of the art ecosystem called Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary.





## Devbhoomi Dwarka

A land of different spiritual beliefs and mores, Dwarka is among the seven pious cities of India where lots of festivals are being relished every year by thousands of devotees thronging from different parts of the world. Moreover, beautiful temples and impressive cultures inspire the folks in the charming city of spiritual enlightenment.

A great religious place with much historical significance, it is tantamount with Lord Krishna and the city has achieved honors as the door to the much treasured liberation. No surprise, the place has its mention in Mahabharata and Skanda Purana. According to devout scriptures, Dwarka is one of the sacred sites that grant salvation since Lord Krishna created his earthly empire here.

Its finest temples exhibits flamboyant architecture and connection with Lord Krishna, so don't forget to pay a visit to these holy shrines offering a wholesome experience to cherish forever.

## Porbandar

Nestled in between the Veraval and Dwarka, Porbandar beach lies towards the southwest coast of the state of Gujarat. It is mostly known across the country for its various tourist attractions. It has an ancient port that enhances its beauty and implication. Porbandar is the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation. Other than this, this place is also believed to be the birth place of Sudama, who was a close friend and devotee of Lord Krishna. Earlier during the British rule in India, this place was a part of the opulent states. The remains of ancient seawalls and ports along the Porbandar brook certify that the city was earlier a center of marine activities.

Porbandar was earlier a flourishing trade center for centuries and merchandized with Arab, Persian and East African countries under the rule of British, Mughals and Marathas. And today there are lots of chemical and cement factories located on the outskirts of the town. The history of this place is linked with many great historical personalities.





# Junagadh

Junagadh, one of the Gujarat's most inspiring and beautiful districts, is a heady mix of marvellous architecture and vibrant street life. The literal meaning of the term "Junagadh" is "old city", the city takes its name from Uparkot, an ancient fort built in the 4th century CE on a plateau at the eastern edge of the town.

Junagadh is also known as "Sorath", the name of the earlier Princely State of Junagadh. In Junagadh, one can see in inscriptions, edicts, caves, temples, forts, stepwells, tanks and canons dating back to 2nd century AD, and not to forget the Girnar Hill.

Amongst the numerous attractions in Junagadh, places like Girnar, Mahabat Maqbara, Uperkot fort, Sakkarbaug Zoological Garden, Damodar Kund and Damodarji Temple, are most favourite of the tourists. Junagadh's main attraction, however, remains the Girnar hill, located towards the east of the city.



## Gir Somnath

Gir somnath district was carved out from junagadh district as one of the new seven district in August 2013. Head quarter of the district is at veraval. Gir somnath district is located in saurastra region of Gujarat and surrounded by the Arabian sea to its south.

The district is divided into six talukas, Veraval, Una, Kodinar, Sutrapada, Talala and newly formed Gir gadhada, Gir somnath is very famous for somnath Temple, first jyotirlinga of lord shiva among the twelve jyotirlinga of India and Gir Sanctuary, only abode to Asiatic lion.

Una is the biggest talukain Gir Sonath district in number of villages. Main tourist attractions are Pauranik Talav (Ancient Lake), Rawal Dam, Ahmedpur Mandvi Beach, Sana Cave An ancient places, Tulsishyam famous for temple of lord Krishna, Banej Temple of Mahadev in middle of Gor forest. Una is one of the "the biggest Limestone supplier" in Gujarat State.





## Amreli

Amreli District is named after the city name Amreli, which is the District head quarter. Amreli District was formerly a part of Princely Vadodra State.

From the holy stone of Shilalekh of Holy Temple Nagnath at Amreli it has come to be known that Amreli was known as Amravaali in historical age.

Amreli is a confluence of vast sea coast having different types of marine biodiversity and gir forest area having the roars of gir lions, which are available nowhere in the world.

Amreli mainly dependent on Agriculture and Animal husbandry is known as part of Kathiavadi culture. Till 1949 Amreli was a prant of Vadodara state.

## Bhavnagar

Bhavnagar is a tiny town that greets everybody with its richness of traditions, enlaced in the modern life. Due to its closeness to the sea, the city has always been an important centre of trade and commerce of cotton goods. Today this large provincial city has some intriguing temples, museums and also serves as a gateway to several parks and reserves including Velavadar Blackbuck National Park.

The city has associations with Mahatma Gandhi, who went to university here, and relics of his life can be seen at Gandhi Smriti in the 1895 AD Barton museum building, which also has a collection of coins, stamps, guns and other arms, sculpture and folk arts.

Founded in the year 1823 as the fortified capital of Bhavsinhji Gohil, Bhavnagar, today, stands as an important industrial hub of India. The Gohils had moved from Marwar and established their center at a village called Vadva which is the present Bhavnagar city.

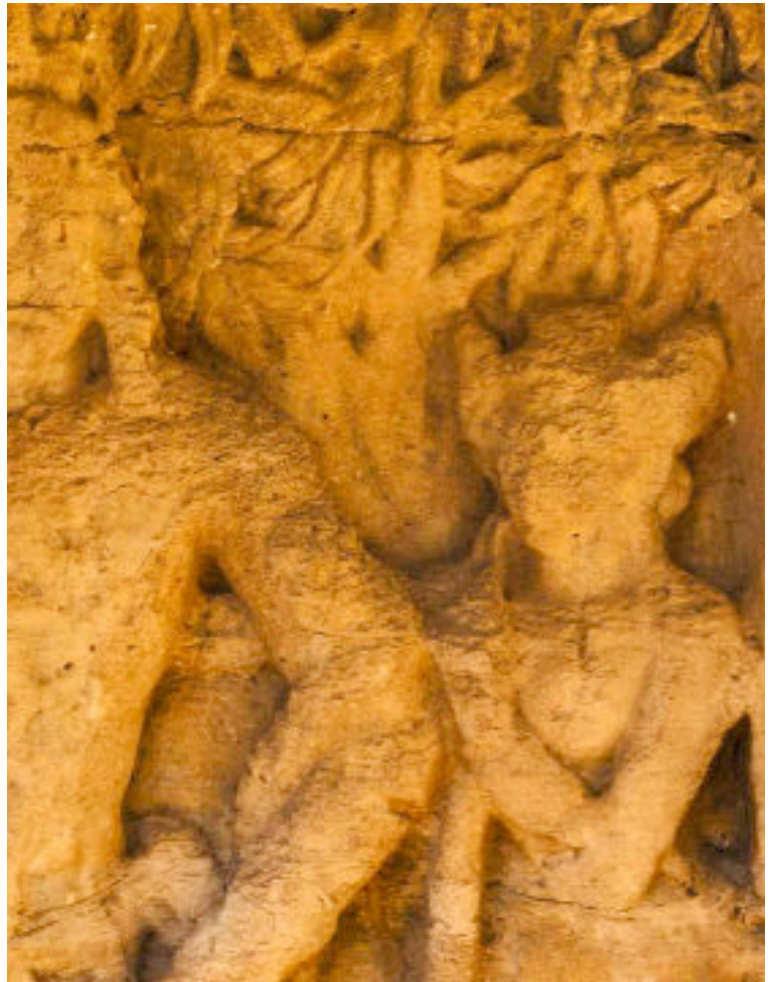




# Rajkot

The former princely capital of Saurashtra region and now an emerging tourism destination and business hub, Rajkot is the fourth largest city in Gujarat, located on the banks of Aji and Nyari Rivers. Founded in the year 1612 as the headquarters of Western India States Agency, Rajkot was earlier the administrative center for some 400 princely states in Saurashtra, Kutch, and northern Gujarat. The city also attracts tourists because of its proximity to the life of Mahatma Gandhi and best sightseeing tours which are worth a visit for every history buffs.

Rajkot is relatively a young kingdom, carved out of territories seeded and captured by Thakore Sahib Vibhoji Ajoji Jadeja, a scion of the Jamnagar Royal Family in 1620 AD. The city got its name in the memory of its co-founder Raju Sandhi. In the 1720 AD, Rajkot was seized by Masum Khan, an official ruler of the Junagadh region.



## Botad

Located at a distance of 136 km from the city of Ahmedabad, Botad is known to be district headquarters of the Botad city. Initially, the city was dependant on agriculture; however, with the establishment of large-scale industries such as the diamond industry, the place is now developing with increased literacy as well.

Until 2011, the city has almost equal ratios of men and women which depicts that just the like the rest of Gujrat, this town also has educated people. Chabutaro, which is a popular bird watching site, has many species of birds. It is indeed an enthralling place to visit.

Kashtabhanjan Hanuman Temple and Baps Sri Swaminarayan Temple are also famous for their structure and are visited by many pilgrims. An interesting place that one can visit in the city is the majestic clock tower. One historical structure that marks the heritage of this place is the Pir Hamir Khan Shrine and Tomb which is visited by travelers whenever they are in the city of Botad.



# LUXURY TRAIN

---

Deccan Odyssey comprises of 21 luxuriously appointed coaches. Out of these 21 coaches, 11 are to accommodate guests and the rest are used for different purposes such as dining, lounge, conference car and health spa. Inspired by the imperial carriages used by the Maharajas of the yore for traveling, each of the coaches of this luxury train is inspired from a different royal eras of Maharashtra ruled by diverse dynasties.

All the cabins of Deccan Odyssey are fully equipped with facilities like air-conditioning, internet connectivity and personalized guest amenities that make sure that your journey would be a comfortable and memorable one. Moreover, the multi-cuisine restaurant, well stocked bar, high-tech conference cart and a spa & massage cabin onboard add on the colors of merriment to your entire jaunt.



## Hidden Treasures of Gujarat itinerary

Duration: 07 Nights / 08 Days

Places: Mumbai - Vadodara - Palitana - Sasan Gir & Somnath -  
Little Rann of Kutch - Modhera & Patan - Nashik – Mumbai

The 8 day Hidden treasures of Gujarat tour is meant to explore the spectacular vistas of this vibrant land in one of India's most luxurious trains, the Deccan Odyssey. On the royal journey, we wish to take you across the spell binding destinations of Gujarat that include the medieval capital of Vadodra, the holy city of Nashik, the wild sojourn of the Little Rann and pilgrim spots of Palitana.



# EXPERIENCES

---





# BEACHES

---

At 1600 km, Gujarat shoreline is the longest of India's nine seaside states. People who are spending more time in exploring the historical landmarks of Gujarat, beaches can be a refreshing break.

Beaches of Gujarat are sprinkled with many temples as well. Somnath temple and Koteswar Temple in Gujarat are located next to the shore. The wind blows through the trees onshore, tapping and clicking the leaves together, while the sound of chanting mantras float from the nearby Hindu temple. Underwater life in Gujarat is as exciting and interesting as its landscapes. The glorious Gujarat houses the first national marine park of India on the Jamnagar coast. Marine Park is home to 53 species of coral including forty-two species of hard coral and ten species of soft coral.

The best time to visit Gujarat beaches is between October to May. The existence of forts and monuments makes beaches of Gujarat exciting places visit in the state. For those want to see the other side of Gujarat that is more relaxing, rejuvenating and thrilling then they should visit the beaches of the state.



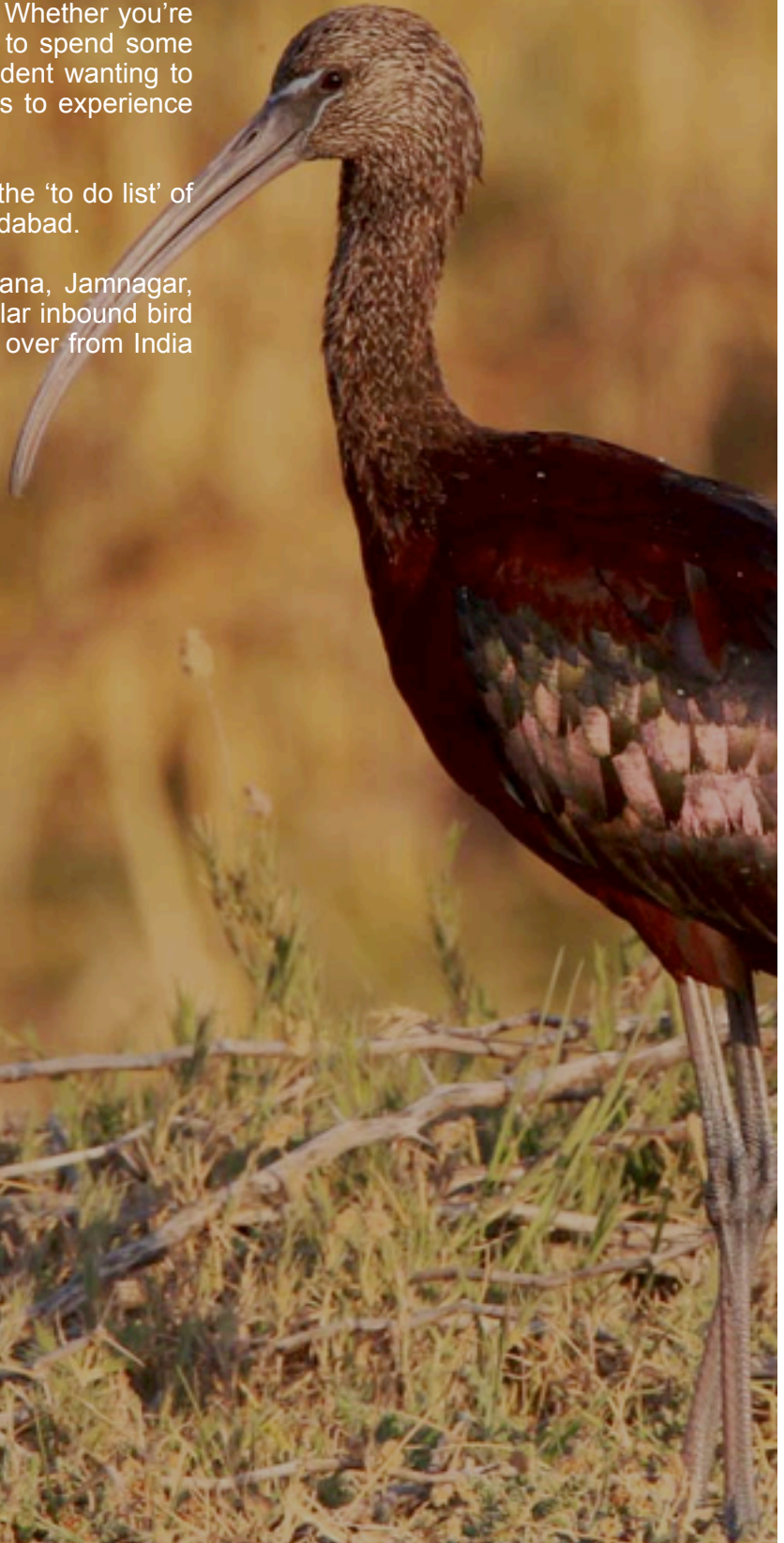
# BIRD WATCHING

---

Gujarat has some of India's most accessible wetlands which are avian territories and hotspots for bird watching. Whether you're a pro bird watching enthusiast, or simply want to spend some time amongst the chirping of birds or are a student wanting to know more about them, Gujarat is full of places to experience bird life.

Bird watching is one of most exciting things on the 'to do list' of all tourists and wildlife enthusiasts visiting Ahmedabad.

Destinations like Little Rann of Kutch, Nakhatrana, Jamnagar, Sasan Gir and Velvadar are now part of a popular inbound bird watching circuit and visited by bird watchers all over from India as bird watching getaways.





The background of the page is a photograph of ancient Indian temples, likely in Gujarat. The temples feature large, rounded domes and intricate carvings. They are surrounded by lush green trees and vegetation, with some vines growing on the temple walls. The sky is visible in the upper part of the image.

# FLORA FAUNA

Gujarat wildlife sanctuaries are known for exotic collections of flora and fauna species which call on a large number of tourists from several parts of the globe. The topographical location gifted Gujarat with 4 National Parks and 21 Wildlife Sanctuaries which are managed by the Forest Department of the Government of Gujarat.

The vast expansion of mountain range is covered with scenic landscapes, dense forests, waterfalls, mountain streams, and rivers that support rich biodiversity of wildlife reserves. It has varied landforms, ranging from dry deciduous forests, majestic grasslands, wetlands, marine ecosystems and rich moist deciduous forests.

The rich biodiversity of this place has as many as 500 varieties of mammals, more than 2000 species of birds, a wide range of insects, fishes, amphibians, reptiles and many more. The Gujarat Forest Department, over the years has spearheaded the conversion of waste land into small tracts of lush green land.



# GANDHI CIRCUIT



Gujarat is proud to be the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of India. Today the state has preserved the Mahatma with museums, statues, ashrams, and more.

Those wishing to know more about Mahatma Gandhi's life should visit Gujarat. This is the place where he was born and started the movements that drove the British out and gave India independence. Gujarat has several Gandhi attractions. Today the state government has developed Gandhi Tourism Circuit that lets tourists follow the life of Mahatma.

- Sabarmati Ashram - Ahmedabad
- Kocharab Ashram - Ahmedabad
- National Salt Satyagrah Memorial - Navsari
- Mahatma Gandhi Museum - Rajkot
- Kirti Mandir - Porbandar
- Dandi Kutir Museum - Gandhinagar
- Gandhi Smriti - Bhavnagar
- Dandi March - Ahmedabad
- Kaba Gandhi No Delo - Rajkot
- Gujarat Vidyapeeth - Ahmedabad





# HERITAGE SITES

Terms like history, heritages and monuments are synonymous to Gujarat. The glorious Gujarat is home to many ancient city ruins, palaces, forts and tomb, which stands proudly bearing testimony to the golden era of dynasties. Since its inception, landscapes of Gujarat are ruled by rulers of many dynasties, invaders and sellers.

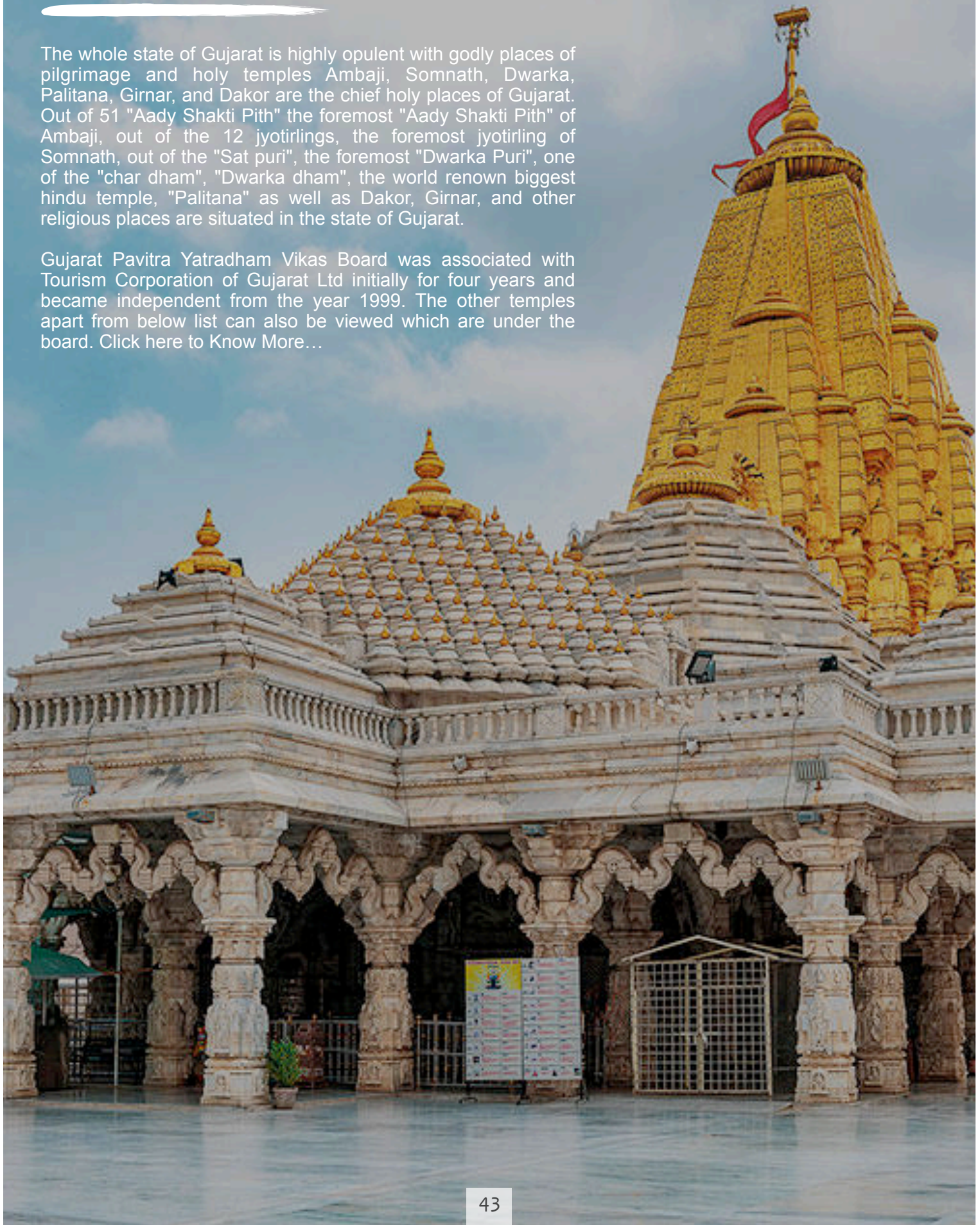
Gujarat's past is a part of its current terrains, evidenced by the ancient and historical ruins scattered across the country. In Gujarat, one can see the massive forts, charming havelis, stunning stepwells and many other historical sites that showcase some of the relics of the land.



# RELIGIOUS SITES

The whole state of Gujarat is highly opulent with godly places of pilgrimage and holy temples. Ambaji, Somnath, Dwarka, Palitana, Girnar, and Dakor are the chief holy places of Gujarat. Out of 51 "Aady Shakti Pith" the foremost "Aady Shakti Pith" of Ambaji, out of the 12 jyotirlings, the foremost jyotirling of Somnath, out of the "Sat puri", the foremost "Dwarka Puri", one of the "char dham", "Dwarka dham", the world renowned biggest hindu temple, "Palitana" as well as Dakor, Girnar, and other religious places are situated in the state of Gujarat.

Gujarat Pavitra Yatra Dham Vikas Board was associated with Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd initially for four years and became independent from the year 1999. The other temples apart from below list can also be viewed which are under the board. [Click here to Know More...](#)







# BUDDHIST CIRCUIT

---

Gujarat, so far known as the pilgrimage center of Hindu and Muslim, plays the role of hosting Buddhist pilgrimages too. One can see the traces of the Saurashtra. There are many caves in Gujarat that are a beautiful combination of history, spirituality, mystery, meditation, and adventure. Starting from Kutch to Saurashtra up to Bharuch, the coastal region of Gujarat is dotted with many Buddhist caves.

These caves were dug out between 2nd century B.C. and 6th century A.D during the Kshatrapa rule. Once upon a time, Junagadh in Gujarat was governed by Emperor Ashoka who adopted Buddhism in his personal life.

During the reign of Ashoka, engraving of his famous edicts on the rock was ordered. The ornate excavations and carvings on pillars, stupas, viharas and range of rock cut caves is evidence of the presence of Buddhism in Gujarat.



# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITES

Gujarat is rich in history: places in the state must see impressive colonial architecture and many UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

- Rani Ki Vav - Patan
- Champaner & Pavagadh Archaeological Park - Panchmahal
- Ahmedabad World Heritage City - Ahmedabad





# CUISINES

“Surat Nu Jaman Ane Kashi Nu Maran” a popular saying in Gujarati which means dining at Surat and dying at Varanasi, is the way to heaven. One of the thrills of traveling to Gujarat is its multi cuisine. Perhaps the best way to know a state is to cut to the heart of the extraordinary culture of Gujarat is by exploring its cuisine.

The people of Gujarat have perfected the art of vegetarian cooking and their cuisine is a delectable and mouth watering. To taste the excellent vegetarian Gujarati cuisine, is to have a Thali Meal – the ultimate delightful vegetarian fare. The traditional Gujarati Thali is one of the best ways to know the Gujarati Cuisine. Saurashtra’s typical seasonings – mustard seed, turmeric, pounded red chillies, cumin and coriander – which flavour Gujarat’s distinctive vegetarian cuisine.

There are also seasonal specialties – Aamraas (Mango Pool) is commonly served in summer while Undhiyu which has roast vegetables and Muthias (veg kebabs) is characteristically had in January.

Besides vegetarian dishes, the Muslim community, the tribal groups like Bohras and Khojas offers special non-vegetarian cuisine. And also Saurashtra’s garlic spice mixture – a combination of garlic, red chillies and salt pounded together, which adds extra peps to lot of Gujarati foods. Many Gujarati dishes are distinctively sweet, salty and spicy at the same time.



# ART & CRAFT



Gujarat has an array of a rich variety of crafts. Its embroidery, bead work, wood crafts, printed and woven clothes, pottery and tribal art are expression of the folklore and festivals. The exclusive range of these works of craftsmen and woven imbued with the social and cultural hue of the region from where they have sprung are original in nature and craftsmanship.

Today far moved from the hut or the village of the craftsman, pieces of handicrafts come to adorn the houses of the elite, the five star hotels both at home and abroad.

Their products have received acclamation not only across the country but in overseas countries too. Our activities have helped in creating sustainable employment opportunities and income generation to the artisans working in the area of Handicrafts & Handloom, which is a non farming sector of our Indian economy.

With a view that ample marketing opportunities are available to these artisans/weavers, the Corporation markets their products through its GARVI-GURJARI chain of emporia across the country and supply to exporters, which has created its market in overseas countries.





# INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION SITES

Gujarat is indeed a paradise for all the history lovers as it's blessed with jaw-dropping feats accomplished by ancient civilizations. Gujarat has more than 200 Indus Valley Civilization sites.

- Dholavira - Kutch
- Lothal - Ahmedabad
- Surkotada Indus Valley Civilisation - Kutch



# GOLF TOURISM



Gujarat today is the most exciting destination in India. With world class facilities, a host of entertainment options, and some spectacular views of the sea, it is as good as it gets.

Here's yet another reason to visit the state- to enjoy golf. With seven golf courses, that has always been a part of the glorious history of golf, Gujarat is now all set to woo golf enthusiasts.

## **Ahmedabad**

- Kensville Golf & Country Club
- Kalhaar Blues & Greens Golf Club
- The Belvedere Golf & Country Club
- Glade One Golf Club
- Gulmohar Greens Golf & Country Club

## **Gandhinagar**

- Aalloa Hills Resort

## **Vadodra**

- The Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club





# WELLNESS TOURISM

Gujarat is slowly and gradually becoming an offbeat ayurvedic center in India. The state has earned many titles and applauds for its outcoming spa and Ayurveda resorts. Gujarat is doing extremely well in Ayurveda based wellness tourism.

There is an advent growth of the number of spa and Ayurveda centres in Gujarat. From relaxing Swedish massage to the rejuvenating Panchkarma, Gujarat's Ayurveda centres have many options to keep mind and body relaxed.

Relax, Rejuvenate and Revive-these three key mantras of Ayurveda can be best experienced in Gujarat. For those who want to relax, revive and rejuvenate should go for a vacation to Gujarat.



# STATUE OF UNITY

**Brief History:** The statue has been built as an ode to the Iron Man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the first home minister of independent India. He was responsible for uniting all 562 princely states of the country to build the Republic of India.

**About Place:** October 31st, 2018, marked the inauguration of the world's tallest statue – the Statue of Unity, against the backdrop of the dramatic Satpura and Vindhya hills in Kevadia, Gujarat. The 182-metre (600 feet approx.) statue is dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the architect of independent India. The colossal monument towers over River Narmada, a tribute to India 'from the people of Gujarat' to the leader who placed people's welfare first.

The Statue of Unity overlooks the vast surrounds and the river basin of the Narmada River and the sprawling Sardar Sarovar dam. It stands on the Sadhu Bet hillock, connected by a 300-metre bridge, which offers access from the mainland to the statue.

As a part of an outreach programme for the project, the state government had asked Indian farmers to donate their used farming equipment to collect iron needed for the statue of Sardar Patel. Eventually, about 5000 tonnes of iron is believed to be collected. Details of the construction and history of the leader can be seen in an in-house museum, inside the statue.



A full-page photograph of the Statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, India, at night. The statue is brightly lit with warm yellow lights, standing tall against a deep blue twilight sky. It is positioned on a large, modern concrete platform. In the foreground, the roof of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial Museum is visible, featuring a series of white, conical spires. The background shows the dark silhouette of hills.

182M

TALLEST IN THE WORLD



# DWARKADHISH TEMPLE

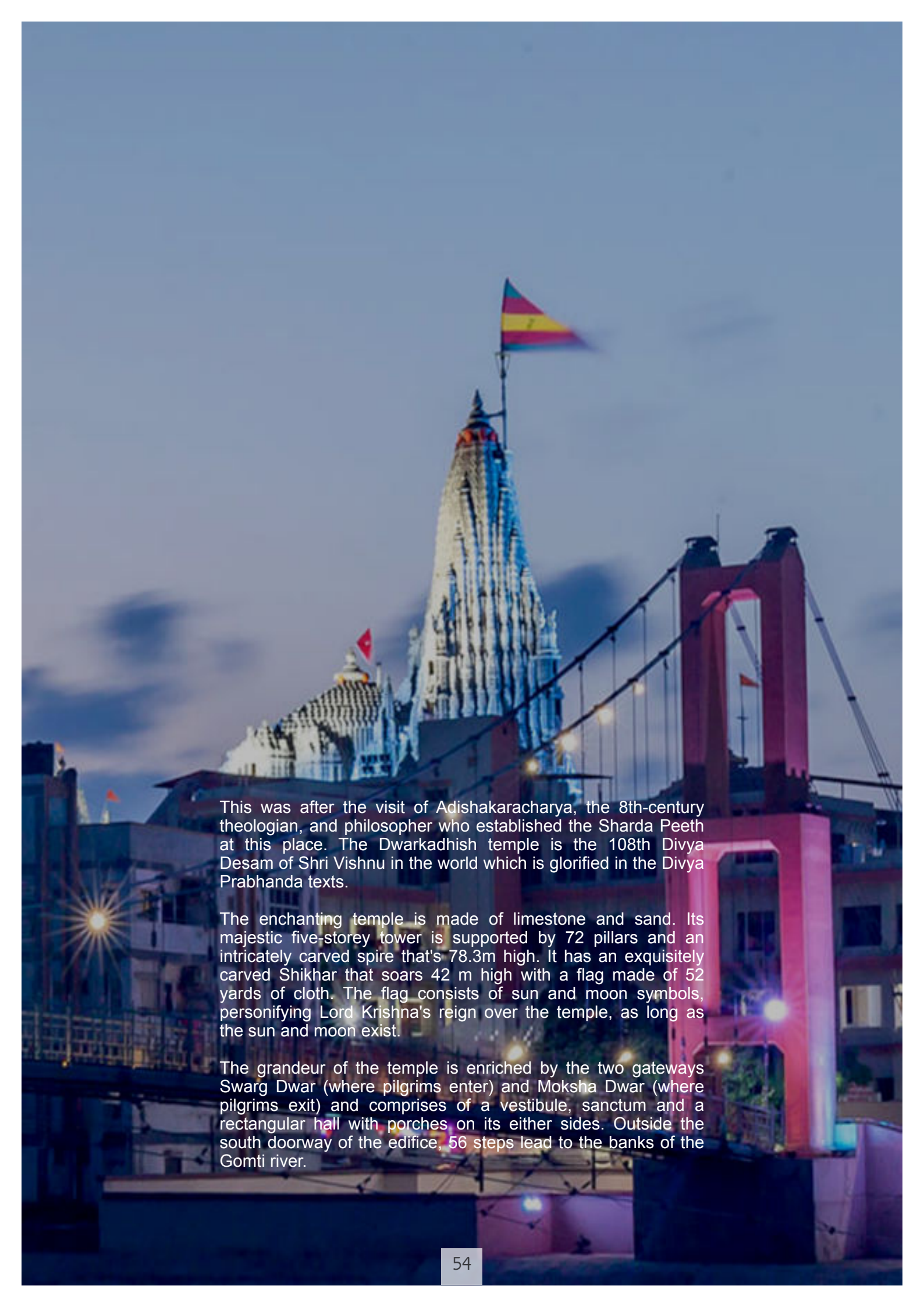
Dwarkadhish Temple also known as the Jagat Mandir, is a Chalukya styled architecture, dedicated to Lord Krishna. The town of Dwarka has its history dated back to the Kingdom of Dwaraka in Mahabharata. The five storied main shrine is grand and marvelous in itself constructed of limestone and sand. The 2200-year-old architecture, is believed to be built by Vajranabha, who constructed it over the land reclaimed from the sea by Lord Krishna.

The temple showcases intricate sculptural detailing done by the ancestral dynasties that ruled the region and the black magnificent idol of Lord Krishna. There are other shrines within the temple which are devoted to Subhadra, Balarama and Revathy, Vasudeva, Rukmini and many others.

The devotees are expected to take a dip in the Gomti river before proceeding into the temple through the Swarg Dwar. The eve of Janmashtmi is the most special occasion in any Krishna temple, the Dwarkadhish temple is adorned by thousands of devotees chanting prayers and rituals. The shrine is a hive of colours, voices and faith transforming itself into inner silence and sanctity.

An exciting story of the temple is in its history. According to the tradition, it is believed to have been built by Vajranabha (Krishna's grandson) over Hari-Griha. Hence, the temple Dwarkadhish refers to Lord Krishna, the Lord of Dwarka. The temple is considered one among the Char Dham sacred pilgrimage sites among Hindus after Rameshwaram, Badrinath and Puri.





This was after the visit of Adishakaracharya, the 8th-century theologian, and philosopher who established the Sharda Peeth at this place. The Dwarkadhish temple is the 108th Divya Desam of Shri Vishnu in the world which is glorified in the Divya Prabhandha texts.

The enchanting temple is made of limestone and sand. Its majestic five-storey tower is supported by 72 pillars and an intricately carved spire that's 78.3m high. It has an exquisitely carved Shikhar that soars 42 m high with a flag made of 52 yards of cloth. The flag consists of sun and moon symbols, personifying Lord Krishna's reign over the temple, as long as the sun and moon exist.

The grandeur of the temple is enriched by the two gateways Swarg Dwar (where pilgrims enter) and Moksha Dwar (where pilgrims exit) and comprises of a vestibule, sanctum and a rectangular hall with porches on its either sides. Outside the south doorway of the edifice, 56 steps lead to the banks of the Gomti river.











# ACTIVITIES





# Great Rann of Kutch

The Great Rann of Kutch, is a large area of salt marshland, is located in the District of Kutch, in the western state of India, Gujarat. The vast expanse is situated in the Thar Desert and is formed of salt marshes. Sunsets at the Great Rann of Kutch are a treat to the eyes after exploring the region.

The region is divided into two parts, the Great Rann of Kutch and Little Rann of Kutch and comprises of massive deposits of salt in the desert. These deposits are known for producing a mirage, and many pilgrims have shared stories about witnessing optical illusion that seem as good as real.

The region has been so famous for its natural beauty that it was featured in numerous films in India, for example - Refugee, Magadheera, Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram Leela, Sarainodu etc. It has also been mentioned in several books including the Booker Prize-Winning Novel, Midnight's Children, written by Salman Rushdie.



## Gir National Park

Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is the only remaining home for the Asiatic Lions. Located in Talala Gir in Gujarat, the Sanctuary is a part of Kathiawar- Gir dry deciduous forests ecoregion. Gir National Park is closed from 16 June to 15 October every year and the best time for wildlife spotting is April and May.

Gir provides you with the unique experience of visiting a place which almost singularly plays a crucial and defining role in the preservation and sustaining of a certain species. The preservation of these lions was initiated by the Nawab of Junagadh when these were just about to enter the phase of extinction due to hunting.

The official count said that there were 411 lions in 2010. Also, there are roughly different 2375 species of fauna here with 38 species of mammals, over 300 species of birds, 37 species of reptiles and over 2000 species of insects. Other important wildlife forms found here are leopard, chausingha, spotted deer, hyena, sambar deer and chinkara.





## Swaminarayan Temple, Ahmedabad

Located in the Kalupur area of Ahmedabad, Shri Swaminarayan Temple is a shrine dedicated to Narayan Dev.

This splendid temple was built in the year 1822 on the instructions of Swaminarayan, who was the founder of the Swaminarayan sect of Hinduism.

Embellished with vivid colours and intricate carvings, Swaminarayan temple is a marvellous example of the architecture of the nineteenth century. Inside the sanctum, the deities are decorated with ostentatious ornamentations and beautiful fabrics. The temple attracts a million people on the day after Diwali for darshan.

The personal artefacts of Swami Narayan are also preserved for safekeeping here. The temple is also quite well known for its morning 'Aarti' or prayer service. The temple complex also has a multi-storey guesthouse and a medical clinic within its compound for the convenience of the visitors.

## Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad

Once the residence of Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba, Sabarmati Ashram is the site where Gandhiji started the famous Dandi March from. Situated in the 5km north of Ahmedabad's centre, it is located on the tranquil and serene stretch of Sabarmati River. Also referred to as the 'Gandhi Ashram', 'Mahatma Gandhi Ashram' and most importantly, 'Satyagraha Ashram', it is believed that Mahatma Gandhi chose this site for it is located between a prison and a cemetery and a Satyagrahi is likely to end up in one of these.

In gratitude of the substantial impact Dandi march had on the Indian independence movement, the Indian government has recognised the Sabarmati Ashram as a national monument. The Mahatma Gandhi Ashram has a number of other establishments within its bounds. The most famous among them is the museum 'Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya' which has some of Gandhi's personal letters and photographs on display.





# Kankaria Lake

Kankaria Lake is the second largest lake of Ahmedabad, formerly known as Hauz-e-Qutub. Located near the Maninagar area, the lakefront is popular for the balloon safari, zoo, toy trains and the amusement park.

The pristine lake is perfect for evening strolls with multi-coloured lights glowing all around its periphery. For adventure buffs, Kankaria Lake lays down a plethora of options like archery, gymnastics and water rides.

The most beguiling festival - Kankaria carnival is celebrated with immense vim and vigour. Kankaria Lake is a place where entertainment, culture, knowledge and talent perfectly blend with each other.



## Rani ki Vav, Patan

Rani Ki Vav or 'Queen's Stepwell' is a distinctive form of water storage system located in the small town of Gujarat called Patan, on the banks of River Saraswati. Believed to be the grandest stepwell in the state of Gujarat, Rani ka Vav epitomises the peak of Maru-Gujarat architectural style. The 900-year-old structure listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site is displayed prominently in the new ₹ 100 currency note issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

In the olden days, the water of the well had medicinal properties which helped ward off diseases like viral diseases and fever. The well was excavated in the 1960s in a well-protected state as it was buried under slit for sanctuaries. In addition to this, Rani Ka Vav was an important centre for socializing among the locals as well as taking refuge from the heat. It's an excellent example of turning something functional into a piece of art.





## Lothal

If you are a history buff and ever so curious to peek into the lives of the older generations, you really need to visit Lothal because this is a place that ties the past and present together. Located at a distance of around 85 kms from the city of Ahmedabad, on the banks of the ancient mythical river Saraswati (which has now dried up), Lothal is a popular Indus Valley Site and a 4500 years old city discovered in 1954.

Even though the place is not as thriving as it once used to be, the magic of the ruins are enough to tell you the colourful tales about the lives of the people who were inhabitants of this place. This place is full of surprises and holds a great deal of historical significance. Lothal was not only amongst one of the early successful civilization but was also a hub of industrialisation adjoining different nations.

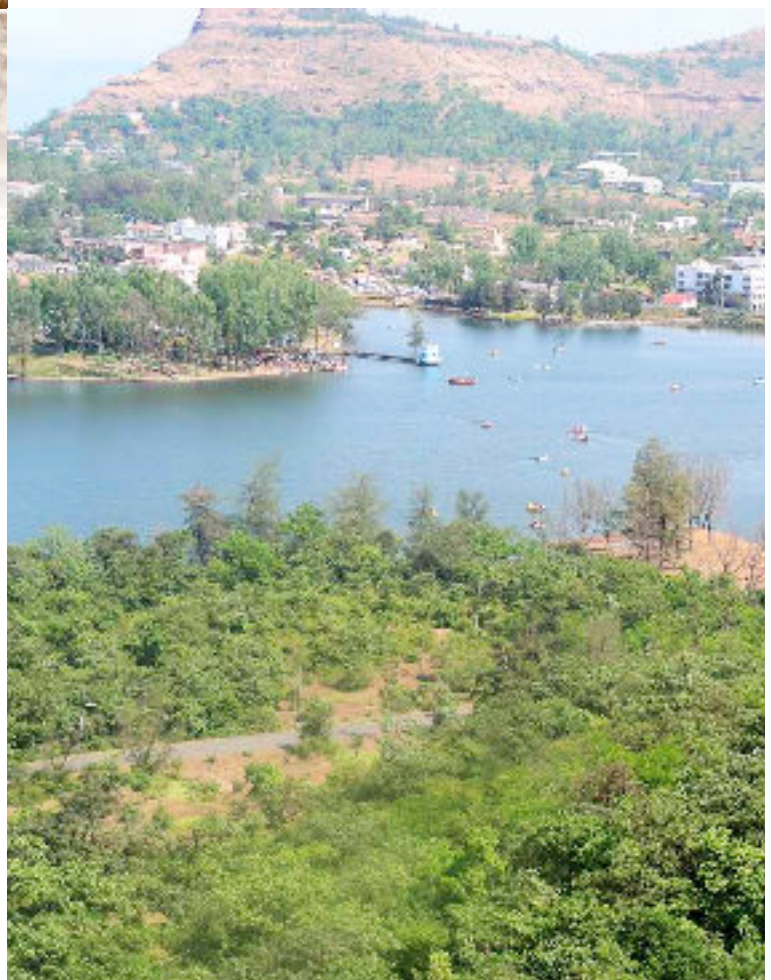
Due to its fascinating excavations and dramatic discovery, Lothal is popular among geologists, historians and archaeologists.



## The Ropeway, Saputara

The Ropeway Cable offers a panoramic view of the entire city from an altitude of about 30 feet.

The cable cars are well suited for the physically challenged as well as the elderly. They start from the Sunset Point, and carry tourists up to the Governor's Hill and Sunrise Point.



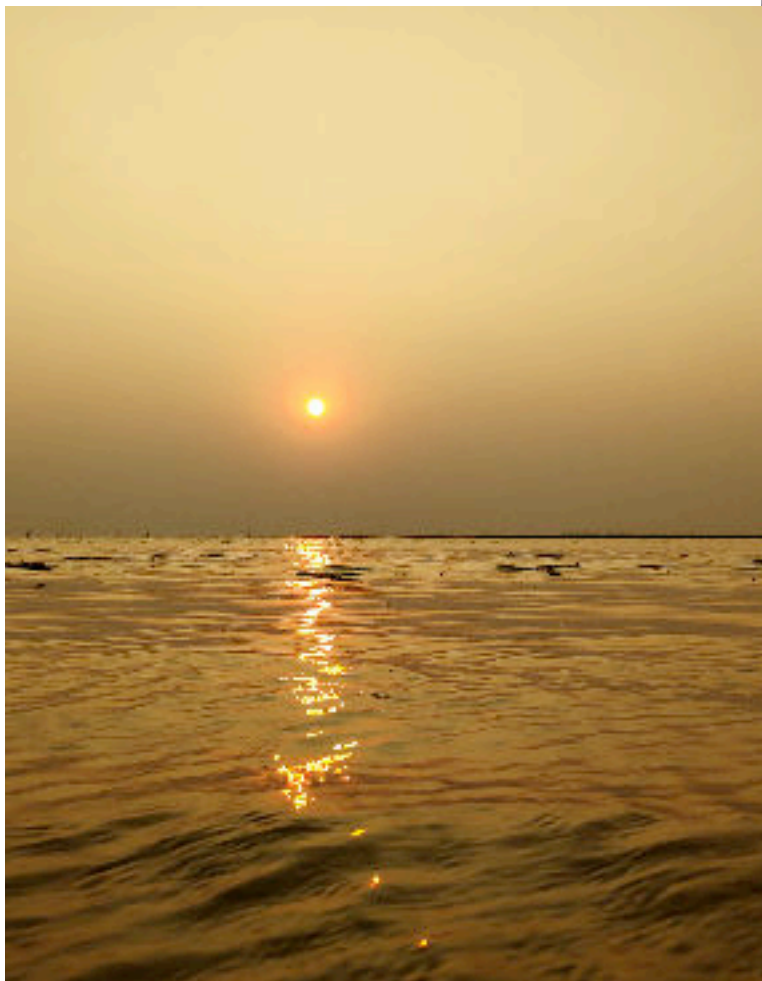


# Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad

Sabarmati Riverfront is a waterfront developed on the banks of river Sabarmati in Ahmedabad.

Started with an objective for sustainable development and environmental improvement, the place has now become a major tourist attraction owing to its lush green promenades, beautiful parks and plazas and an all-around soothing ambience.

Founded by the banks of the Sabarmati River in 1411, the city of Ahmedabad. Although the river was the local lifeline to its inhabitants, the river was prone to frequent pollution that flowed from the city as there was no defined separation between the waterbody and the town. Recurrent city flooding was also a destructive outcome of the city's location at the time.



## Dandi Beach, Surat

Well known for its historical significance, Dandi in Surat is a beautiful beach destination. The scenic beauty combined with its rich history make it a favourite among all tourists visiting this place. The serene and pristine beauty of Dandi is only second to its long and illustrious history.

The sand in this beach is as far as the eyes can see and stands at a beautiful contrast against the sapphire sky.

You can sit back and relax in the lap of nature, or explore the landscape and give your inner historian some food for thought. The Dandi beach is ideal for a quiet weekend getaway, and is a must-visit when in Surat!

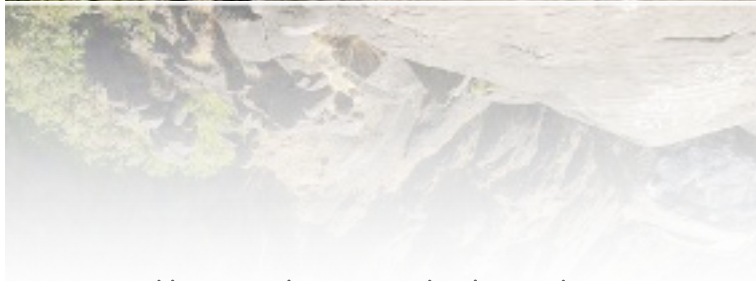




## Girnar

Keeping up the delicate balance between the fine golden-brown sand of Gujarat's richest desert on one hand, and the lush green of the Gir Forest on the other - Girnar - a group of mountains in the Junagadh district of Gujarat are a haven for thrill seekers and religious devotees alike due to their ability to be both - a hub for religious activity and also a retreat for trekkers, because of the hills that lead up to splendid views.

An important pilgrimage site, Girnar hills are flocked daily by many devotees. While the summit of the Datar Peak is held sacred by both Hindus and Muslims, temples like the Neminath temple and the Meravasi temple are sacred to the Jain community. Another major highlight of this place is the Girnar Parikrama Festival and the Bhavnath Fair between the months of January and February every year - when Hindu and Jain devotees, gather here in huge numbers.



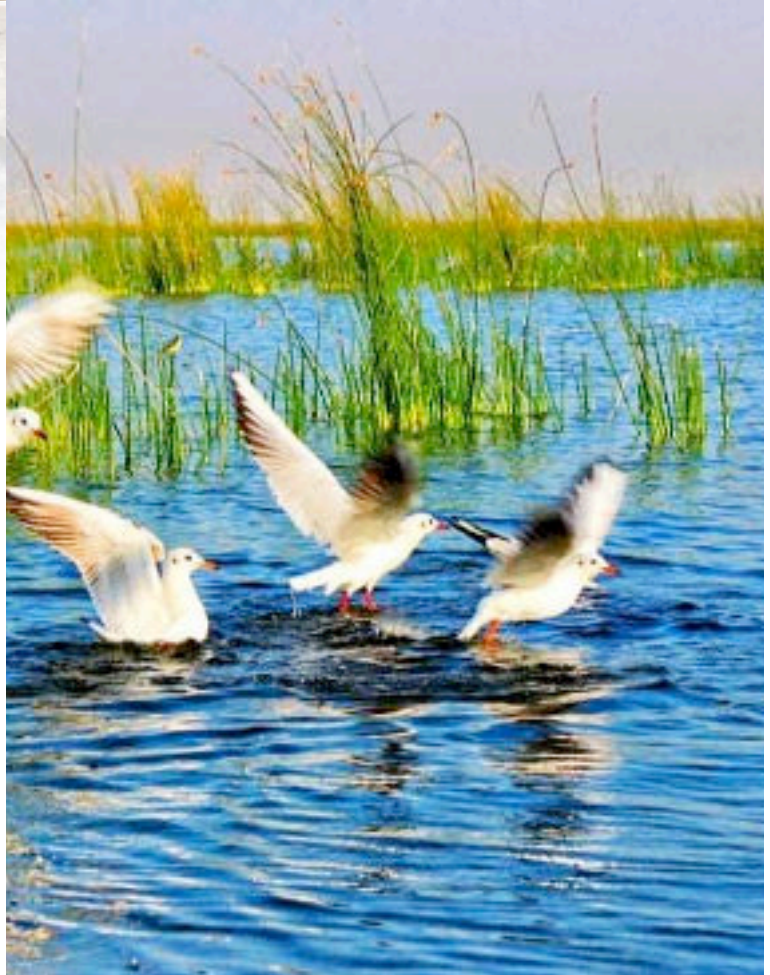
## Vadla, Ahmedabad

Vadla is an up and coming haven for migratory birds making their way to the marshy wetlands of Gujarat, just a short drive away from Ahmedabad.

Vadla still remains relatively unknown and undiscovered in comparison to the Nal Sarovar Bird Sanctuary and is a hidden gem only known to the locals.

The scanty tourist populace and minimal interference in the natural habitat of the birds gives way to direct unfiltered access and exceptional bird watching options.

Vadla serves as a great opportunity for you to witness the natural behavioural aspects of the birds up close without infringing upon their inhabited area.



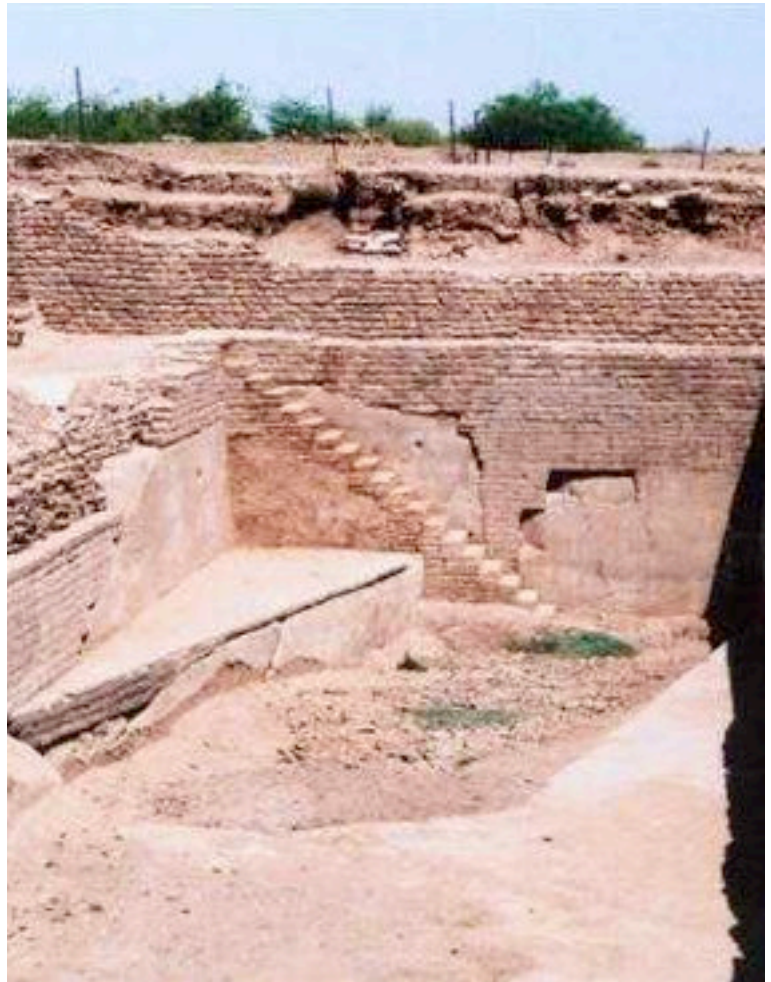


# Dholavira

Known as a remarkable excavation site during the Indus Valley Civilization, Dholavira was one of the most developed cities roughly 4500 years ago. It was a flourishing Harappan site between 2650 and 1450 BCE.

Presently an archaeological site in Khadirbet of Kutch Gujarat, the village is also locally known as Kotada Timba. The location not only holds evident pieces of architecture but also of the Harappan lifestyle. Divided into three main architectural layouts, the town also had a vast open stadium.

Many remains such as earthen pots, beads, jewellery and other materials were excavated as well. The town of Dholavira had an exceptional water conservation system. Two of its most important water channels were the Mansar and the Manhar.



## White Desert of Kutch

Also known as the Great Rann of Kutch, the White Desert is a vast area of pristine white salt desert often explored for its natural beauty and ecological importance. It is also called the world's largest salt desert which stretches from the mouth of River Indus to the Gulf of Kutch.

The contrasting landscape of the White Desert is one of a kind in India and draws tourists in large numbers.

Besides being a filming location for several Bollywood movies, the White Desert of Kutch is strongly scrutinised as it lies on the northern India-Pak border. The White Desert is cited with numerous sanctuaries for wildlife, floral and wetland preservation.





## Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary

Located 100 km away from Bhuj, the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the largest periodical saline wetlands in the world. Colloquially known as the "Flamingo City" this is the largest wildlife sanctuary with a vast expanse of about 7505.22 sq. km.

Situated in proximity to the submerged 5000-year-old Harappan civilisation of Dholavira, the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary also cites various fossils.

Excessive salt deposits here give the sanctuary a pure white surface that attracts all the more uniqueness. However, since the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary lies on the Indo-Pak border, some parts of the sanctuary are restricted to the public. There are some BSF areas as well.

## Beyt Island, Dwarka

Situated around 30 km from the main town of Dwarka, Beyt Island (also called Bet Dwarka or Shankodhar) is a small island which was the main port in the region before the development of Okha.

Located at the mouth of the Gulf of Kutch, the island is enclosed by a few temples, white sand beaches and coral reefs, which is the prime reason for the tourist activity in the region. Among the several activities available at the beach to engage the tourists, the most popular ones include dolphin spotting, marine excursions, beach camping and picnics etc.

Aside from the flourishing tourism industry, the island also holds a significant mythological and religious significance. It is believed to be the home of Lord Krishna when he was the king of Dwarka. It was here where Lord Krishna exchanged the bags of rice with his friend Sudama - as the story goes. Therefore, this place is also visited by several devotees for a pilgrimage as well.





## Law Garden Night Market, Ahmedabad

The Law Garden Night Market, situated at the Law Garden in Maharaja Society is a prominent night market in Ahmedabad. Housing an array of authentic stalls from Kutch and Saurashtra, the top buys here include traditional clothing, wall hangings, bandhej sarees, long colourful skirts (chaniyas) antique jewellery, traditional footwear and home decor items.

The night market is also lined with food trucks serving some delicious local dishes and street food.

It is recommended to visit between 8 and 9 PM as it is convenient to drop by the neighbouring Happy Street thereafter. Navratri is a great time to visit the Law Garden night market.



## Kutch Bustard Sanctuary

Popularly known locally as the Lala Prajan Sanctuary, Kutch Bustard Sanctuary primary aim is to conserve the Great Indian Bustard. It is located in Jakhau village in Naliya Taluka, Gujarat.

Among many other different varieties of wildlife that can be found within the reserve, there are three different kinds of Bustards themselves in the sanctuary.

The sanctuary covers an area of just over 2 sq. km, but still houses some of the excellent species including harriers, common cranes, black partridges, sand grouses, Black and Grey Francolin, Spotted and Indian Sandgrouse, quails, larks, shrikes, coursers, plover, Imperial Eagle, flamingos, herons, egrets, sandpipers, etc.

Some other wild animals which are present here are wolf, caracal, desert cat, jackal, striped hyena, fox, mongoose, blue bull, chinkara, spiny-tailed lizard and various types of snakes.







## Mandvi Beach, Bhuj

Situated in the Kutch region of Gujarat, Mandvi Beach is a pristine and tranquil seashore which is one of the most popular holiday destinations in the region. In addition to being a laidback beach location, Mandvi Beach is popular for its camping and water sports facilities.

Standing near the Vijay Vilas palace estate in Bhuj, Mandvi Beach is a secluded and undiscovered beach destination with clean water and beautiful view. Take a long walk along the shore as you witness the sun setting over the horizon, or go for bird spotting and discover the beauty of Kutch through its fauna.

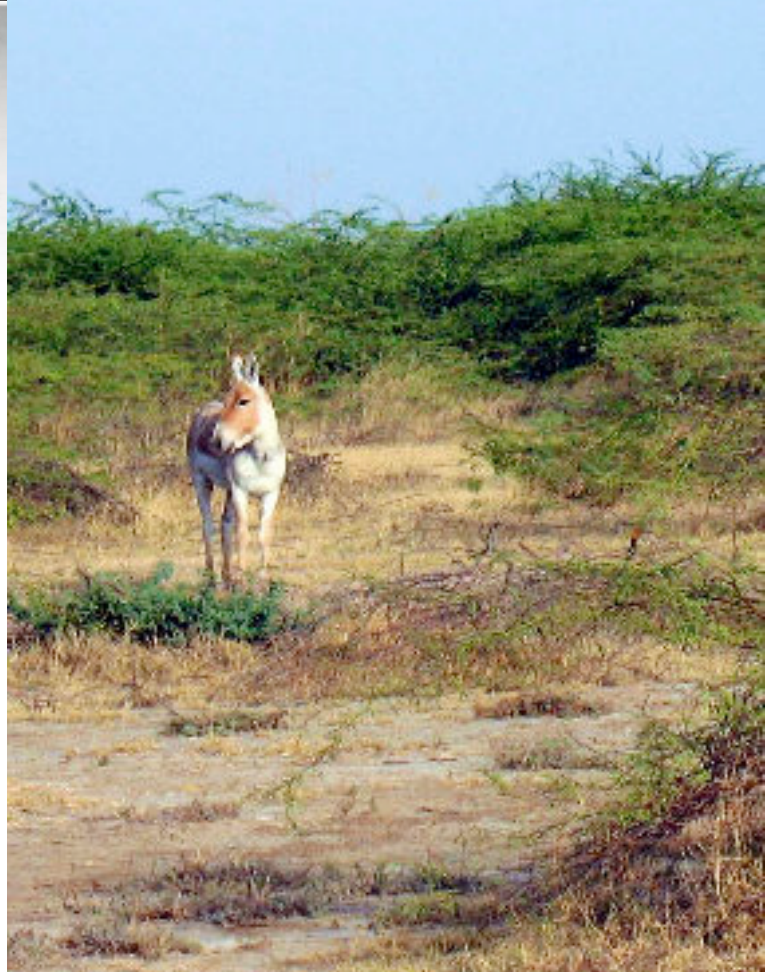
Another activity to pursue here is camel ride, which takes you on a round of the entire property as you bobble up and down on this majestic animal's back, or practice some yoga to the tune of the gentle sea. With its tranquil surroundings being its most alluring quality, Mandvi Beach makes for an enchanting rendezvous with nature and its beauty.

## Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary, Kutch

Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary is located in Little Rann of Kutch, is India's biggest wildlife sanctuary spreading over a massive 4954 square kilometre.

It is home to a wide variety of carnivores, mammals, birds. The sanctuary is best known for the endangered species of the Indian wild ass like Khur as well as the Asiatic wild ass species, Oranger.

Other kinds of mammals, reptiles, amphibians are also found in this area.

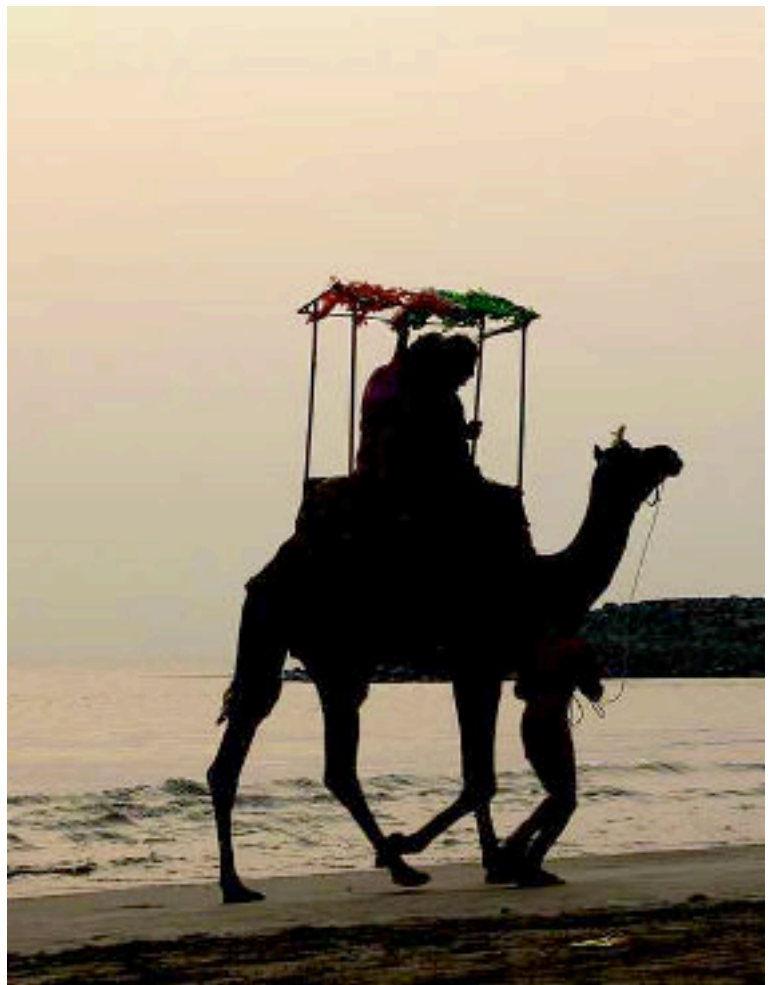




## Somnath Beaches, Somnath

Along with the world-famous Somnath Temple, the Somnath Beach also forms an essential part of the itinerary of a tourist visiting Gujarat.

Travellers can unwind here after a long day of sightseeing, although, swimming is not recommended. One can also find many joggers running along a path in early mornings and evenings. Tourists can rejuvenate themselves with fresh coconut water and corn available here along with the very famous camel rides.



## Porbandar Bird Sanctuary, Porbandar

This 1 kilometer square area is visited annually by migratory birds. Flamingos, Grebes, Pelicans, Ducks and geese, Avocets, Coots, Cormorants, Herons, Egrets, Bittern, Storks, Ibis, Spoonbill, Cranes, Whistling Teals, Gulls, Terns, Jacanas, Ruff, Red shanks, Indian roller and many other varieties of winged, fluffy creatures pay a visit during the winters.

Must Remember- 1.No flash or intrusive photography (for example, don't pluck leaves to 2.clear a better view; reposition the camera instead.) 3.Do not carry any music system or sound making device along with you. 4.Picking plants or insects is prohibited; do not remove anything from the park. 5.No quick or sudden movements to scare off the birds. 6.Do not try going to close to the birds. 7.No pets should accompany you. 8.No littering. Trash is only to be disposed of in proper receptacles. 9.No hunting devices or other weapons should be carried, as well as used.





## Mohabbat Maqbara, Junagadh

Known as Mausoleum of Bahaduddinbhai Hasainbhai, Mahabat Maqbara is a place is a mausoleum and its unique architecture makes it one of the most important attractions of Junagarh. It houses the tombs of Mohabbat khanji and Bahaduddin Hasainbhai in the Bahaduddinhasainbhai Maqabra and it was built in the late 19th century.

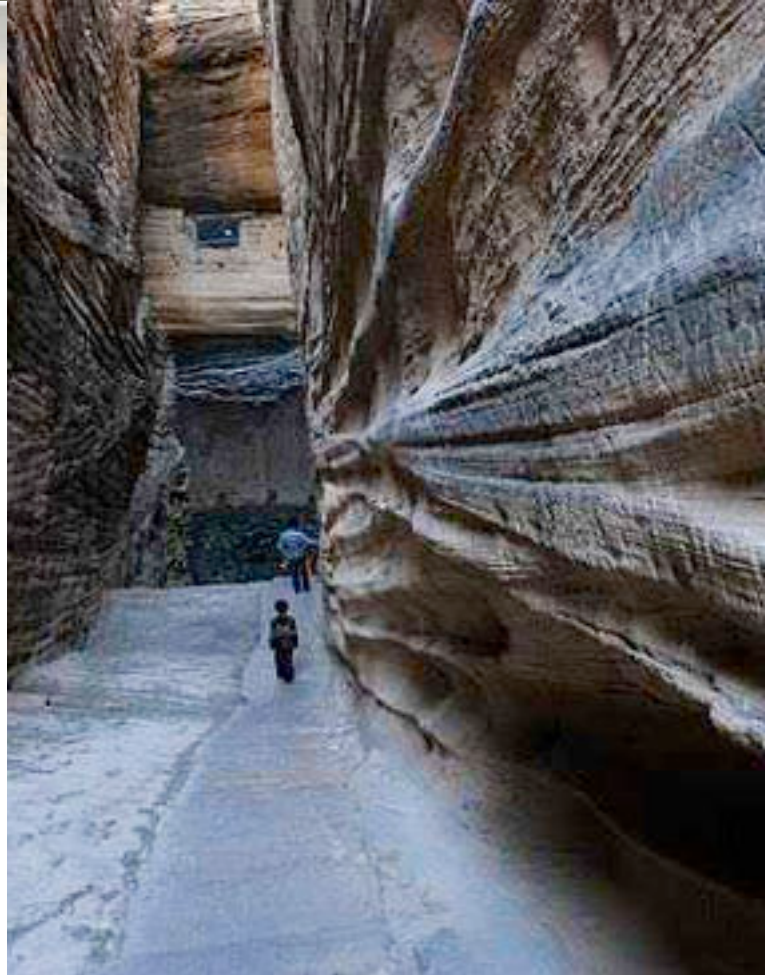
This monument is a unique example of Indo-Islamic and Gothic architecture with finely designed arches, elaborate stone carvings on the walls and windows, silver-decorated portals, the winding staircases encircling its four tall minarets, the old step-well in the grounds and its onion-shaped dome. Jama Masjid is also located nearby.

## Adi-kadi Vav & Navghan Kuwo, Junagadh

The Adi-kadi Vav & Navghan Kuwo are the two famous stepwells located within the Uparkot Fort. While the former was built by two slave girls of the Chudasama kingdom, the latter came into being much before the Adi-kadi Vav.

The Adi-kadi Vav is a 9-layered step well from the 1400s. However, this stepwell is also attached to a tragic story. While the girls were at the task, they were unable to dig out any water. Thus, the local priest pronounced that water would surface only if Adi and Kadi, the two unmarried girls were sacrificed. Thus, this piece of history also has a tragic story.

However, the Navghan Kuwo is a relatively early well that was constructed sometime during the 1060s. One significant feature of this stepwell is its underground spiral stairway that meets the bottom where the water is found. Carved in soft stone, the Navghan Kuwo is a unique stepwell.



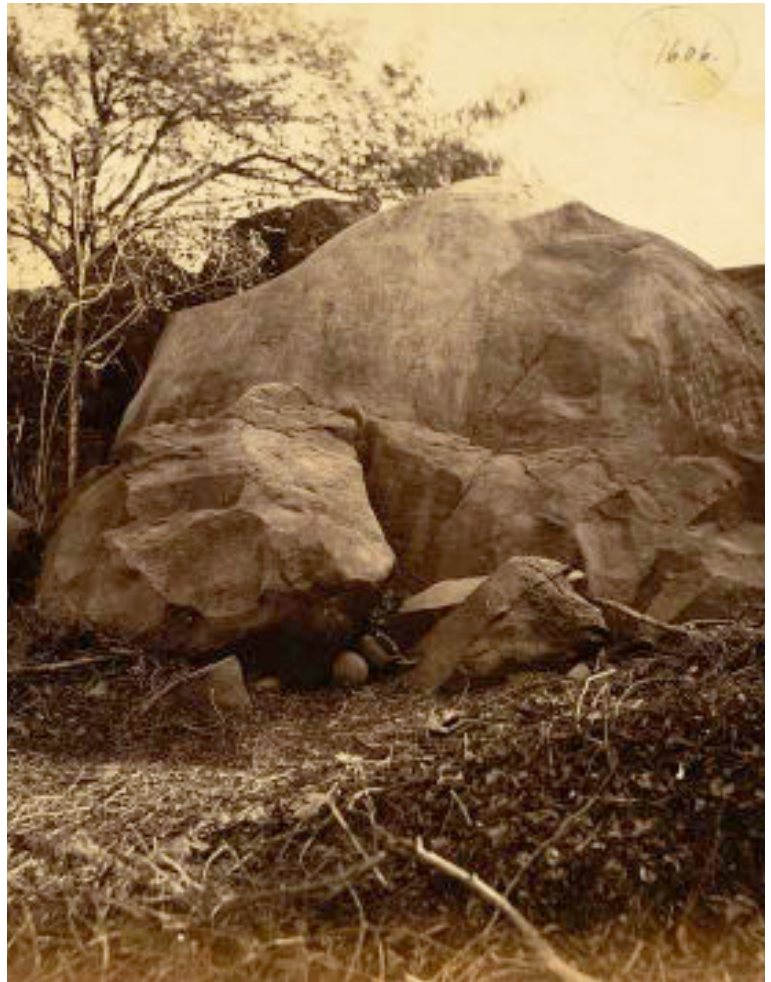


# Edicts of Ashoka, Junagadh

Edict? You may be wondering what an edict is. An edict quite literally means an order or decree issued by an official authority. King Ashoka is one of the most revered figures in Indian history.

After a lifetime of war and violent pursuits, he renounced his throne and took up the virtues of Buddhism in spirit. Mindfulness, meditation, kindness, and gratitude became his new mantra, along with the renunciation of greed and animal sacrifice.

To spread this message of peace, he inscribed edicts across the region, from the coasts of India to Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Afghanistan. One such edict is at the foot of Girnar Hill in Junagadh, Gujarat.



## Buddhist Caves, Junagadh

These aren't exactly caves but rooms carved out of stones and were used as monk's head quarters. The oldest, the Khapara Kodia caves belong to 3rd-4th century AD and are plainest of all cave groups.

They were carved into living rock during the reign of Emperor Ashoka and are considered the earliest monastic settlement in the area.

Another set of caves, Baba Pyara caves lie close to the Modhimath, which has four caves in its northern group.



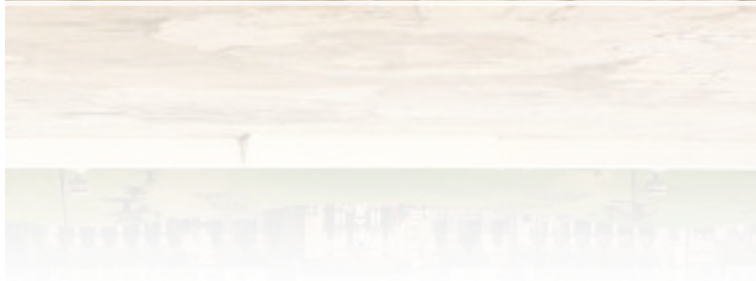


## Laxmi Vilas Palace, Vadodara

Laxmi Vilas Palace is one of the most majestic structures in India and was the private residence of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III. Known to be the largest private dwelling of the size equivalent to four times of the Buckingham Palace, this magnificent palace is a must-visit when in Vadodara.

The striking Laxmi Vilas Palace was constructed in 1890 and took nearly twelve years to complete. Sprawling across an area of about 700 acres, it is still home to the royal family of Vadodara, the Gaekwads. It is built in the Indo-Saracenic style which is a hybrid of the Hindu, Gothic and Mughal architectural forms with the presence of domes, minarets and arches.

The Laxmi Vilas Palace incorporates several other buildings within its complex including the LVP Banquets and Conventions, Moti Baug Palace and the Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum building.



## Craftsmen's Village, Gandhinagar

Set behind the Sabarmati river and popular for its Bandhani Sarees, the Craftsman Village in Gandhinagar is visited by hundreds of tourists and shoppers every day.

Sarees and dresses are hand printed and decorated with wooden printing blocks in vivacious colours. The cloths available here are carefully worked on by skilled craftsman and are quite economical too.





## Artist Village, Saputara

Just a few kilometers away from Satpura lake near Nasik road lies a beautiful village which exhibits spectacular artifacts of Bamboo, clothes and many other things.

The main tribals of the village Bhil, Kunbi and warli are well known for their benevolence.

Apart from buying their beautiful art works, you can also get into workshops to create something different and get to know the artist in you and their culture even better.

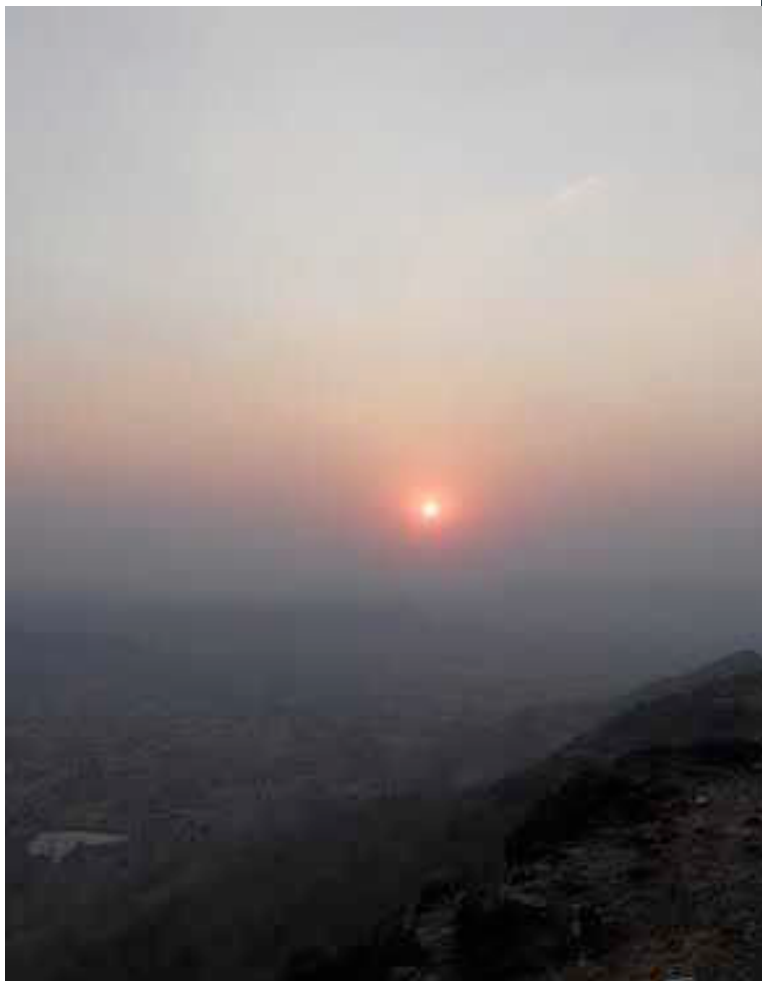


## Sunrise and sunset point, Saputara

Just next to Malegaon there is a spot which is known as a spot to cherish the beauty of Sunrise and is known as the Sunrise point or Valley view point.

You can enjoy the lush greenery around the spot and the cool breeze which retreats your soul and relaxes it. Similarly on the western side, we have Sunset point which gives a great view of Dang forest, filled with enormous greenery and a magnificent view as the Yellow colored sun imperceptibly strewing redness on the skyline.

There is a lot of climbing that is needed to reach to this point though and it is recommended that you carry a water bottle along. However you can also choose to get into The Ropeway, a cable car service which takes 15 minutes to reach the sunset point and gives an exquisite bird's eye view of Satpura.







## Shopping in Bhuj, Bhuj

Being an incredibly beautiful, picturesque and colourful city, shopping in Bhuj offers a great variety of market stuff. It consists of an excellent community of craftsmen. The items on display in bazaars include embroidered quilts, grain containers, wall hangings, glass beadwork, vegetable colour dye printing, beautiful shelves, embroidered garments, cupboards, leather articles, handicrafts, textiles, tie and dye, 'Rogan' art, woollen shawls and the list goes on.

The shopkeepers are dressed in traditional Gujarati clothes. Bhuj is the Seventh Heaven for the people obsessed with shopping. It is drenched in the colors of creativity. Bhuj is famous for embroidered and handicrafts material. From the best apparels to best accessories, you will find everything here in the bazaars of Bhuj. Being the textile hub of India, the cloth rates are 30% lesser than other states.

## Banni Grassland Reseve, Bhuj

Spread across an area of 3,847 square kilometers, Banni Grassland Reseve are currently legally protected under the status as a Protected or Reserve Forest in India. It has been identified as one of the last remaining habitants of Cheetah in India by Wildlife Institute of India.

The grasslands are home to mammals such as the Nilgai (*Boselaphus tragocamelus*), Chinkara (*Gazella bennettii*), [8] Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*), Wild boar (*Sus scrofa*), Golden Jackal (*Canis aureus*), Indian Hare (*Lepus nigricollis*), Indian Wolf (*Canis lupus pallipes*), Caracal (*Caracal caracal*), Asiatic Wildcat (*Felis silvestris ornata*) and Desert Fox (*Vulpes vulpes pusilla*) etc.

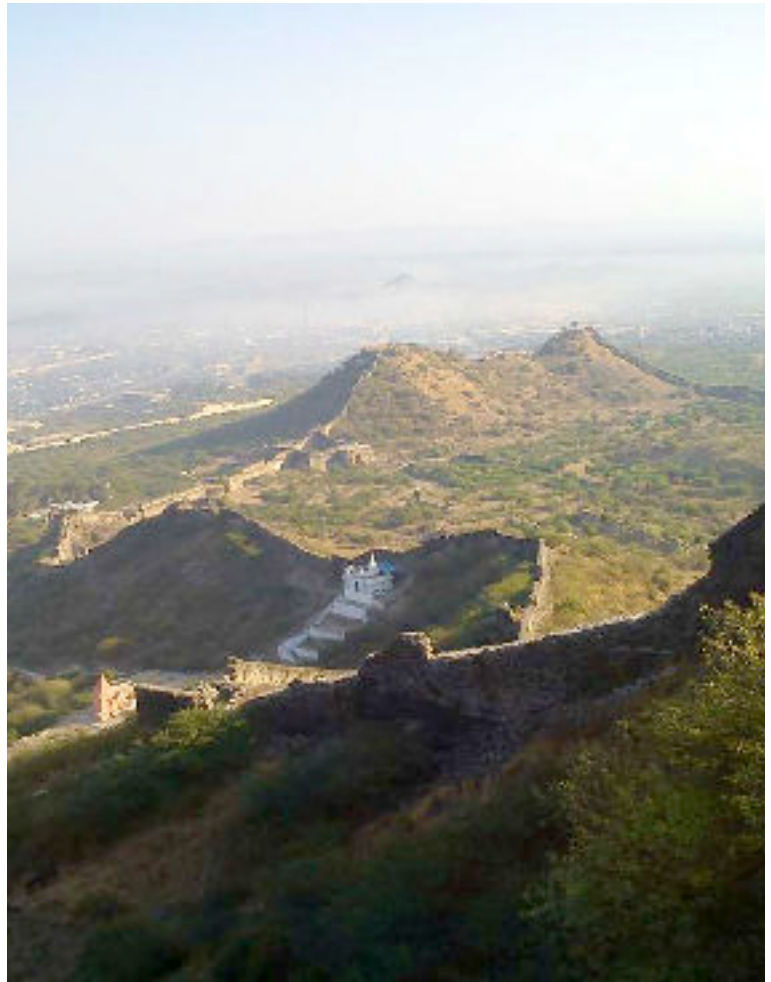




## Bhujia Hill, Bhuj

Overlooking the beautiful town, Bhujia Hill is a prominent natural formation considered to be of immense religious and historical importance. It is often associated with the legendary victory of Bhujanga against Bheria Kumar.

It also served as a perfect location for Bhujia Fort that adds to the aesthetic appeal of the splendid Hill and defended the Jadeja Chiefs. The hill requires at least 200 stairs to reach the top.



## Kutch Fossil Park, Bhuj

The Kutch Fossil Park was established in 2002 by Mohan Singh Sodha, an Army Veteran and a passionate fossil collector. He solely gathered and showcased this unique historic preserve for about half a century now.

Filling about 2 whole rooms now, these fossils range from fruits and animals to gems and even a dinosaur's egg! The park also houses various other relics from the Jurassic time.

However, since it was a former personal project, this desert fossil park may not be as visually informative as other museums and may require the visitor to do their prior homework on these artefacts.

Nonetheless, the Kutch Fossil Park is an intriguing site and one of its kind in the country. The park is also a great viewpoint for the Rann of Kutch river when its full.





## Naida Caves, Diu

Located outside the city wall of the Diu Fort, the Naida Caves are a group of interlinked caves constructed by the Portuguese. The caves are only a short distance away from the Diu town and they feature a big network of tunnels with square hewn steps that remain completely unexplored.

Naida Caves is one of the most underrated tourist attractions of Diu but it is as wholesome for an explorer or a history buff as for a photographer.

Naida Caves got their shape eventually after the Portuguese ruled over Diu and broke down sections of a huge rock formation that they used for construction. Interestingly, these caves were formed due to geological irregularities and natural processes over time.

Naida Caves is slowly being recognized as one of the most magnificent attractions since prehistoric times. The caves also have a natural opening that lets in sunlight, making it photogenic.

## Diu Fort, Diu

Fort Diu, located on the Western coast of Indian was built by Portuguese during their colonial rule and is now under the administration of Indian government. The fort- cum - castle, is known as 'Praça de Diu' in Portuguese, is situated on the southern tip of Gujarat and is at the mouth of the Gulf of Khambhat.

The Fort of Diu is a colossal structure that occupies a prominent place on the tourist's list. The enchanting fort commands a magnificent view of the sea, and a jetty constructed on the northwestern coast is still underused and was once used to trade with Cambay, Broach and Surat in Gujarat. The lighthouse that one can climb leads to the highest point on the island and provides a spectacular view of the surrounding. Cannonballs litter the entire place, and the parapet has a fantastic array of cannons.

Along with the Basilica of Bom Jesus in Old Goa, Diu fort was listed as the seven wonders of Portugal but during their colonial rule.



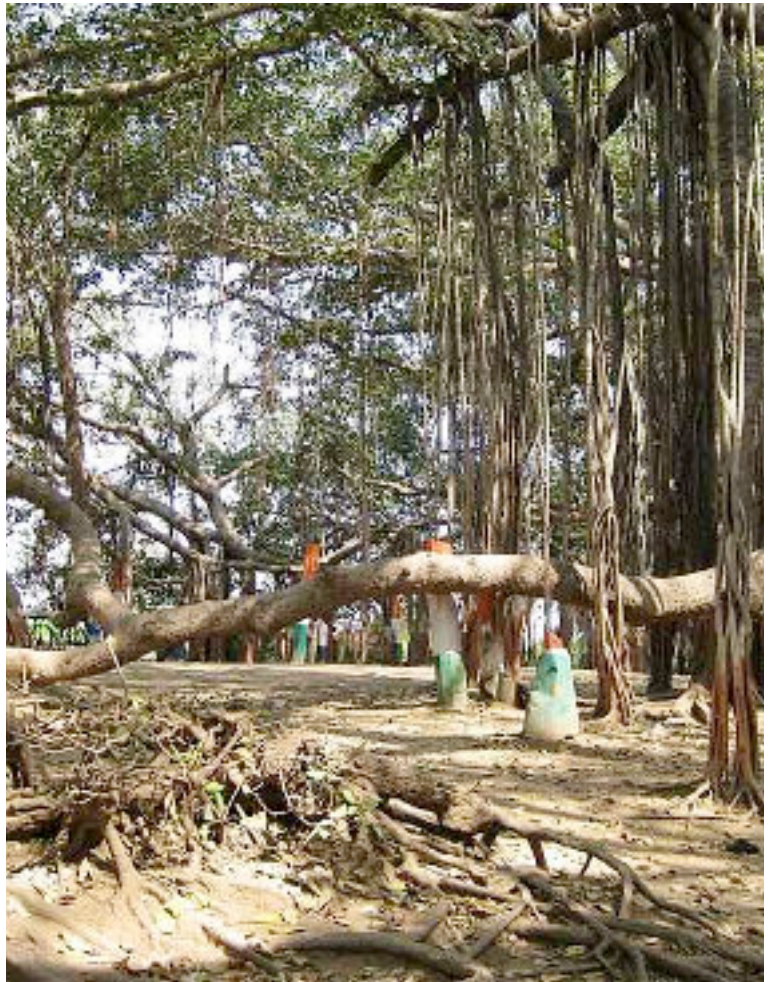


## Kabirvad, Surat

Kabirvad is a small island in the Bharuch district of Gujarat rumoured to be Saint Kabir's residence several hundred years ago. Located along the banks of the river Narmada, the island promises you a calm and serene abode underneath the humongous canopy of Banyan trees that Kabirvad is most prominent for.

What started as a single Banyan tree in Kabirvad has emanated into over 3000 trunks currently, with the mother tree believed to be over 600 years old, interestingly the tree populous has grown manifold to such an extent that it is impossible to distinguish the mother tree from the other trees at present.

The canopy of the Banyan trees envelops a massive area of 17,520 square metres with its perimeter extending up to 641 metres. And while the natural wonder remains the most alluring attribute about Kabirvad, the legend and local folklore around it only add to the island's mystical charm and aura.



## Marine National Park

Marine National Park in the Gulf of Kutch is the first marine conservatory built in India. Crediting to its diverse range of flora and fauna, it accounts for a magnanimous natural site for India's natural resource and beauty.

The park is distributed in 42 scattered islands in an archipelago. The park also houses many endangered aquatic animals granting them protection from poachers.

The park provides with a picturesque sight with exotic birds painting the sky, colourful algae adorning the seabed, and coral ornating the reef.

A walk along the coast truly makes for an experience where one seems to be one with nature. The pleasant weather further aggravates the experience for tourists. It is advised that one should carry headgear, ample water, and sunscreen while exploring the park.



# FAIRS & FESTIVALS

## Rann Utsav

When: November - February

Where: The celebratory festival begins in the Bhuj city and goes around the district with a grand finale again being held at the preliminary destination.

A plethora of varied hues, profusion of design, superfluity of culture, cornucopia of music and dance, all together in the arid lands of Kutch creates a mosaic of exquisiteness which reflects the identity and spirit of the region. Kutch, one of the most ecologically and ethnically diverse district of the state is a celebratory land of art, crafts, music, dance, people and nature.

During the full moon night of the winters amid the awe-inspiring and contrasting landscape each year a three day festive extravaganza brimming with hospitality, vigor and traditional flavor of the area is hosted and known as the Kutch or Rann Utsav.





This three to four day carnival organized at the various locales within Kutch takes one around the natural grandiose while introducing the visitor to the indigenous cultural and ethnical flavor of the people. Semi parched Grasslands of the Banni hosts the most magnificent display of vernacular architecture as the exhibition platform for the varied range of arts and crafts of the region.

While an array of folk music and dance performances organized in the shimmering moonlit landscape provides the most enchanting experience. The colorful fairs held near the beach or the banks of a lake swings one with the spirit of festivity, fervor and flamboyancy while the organized tour around Kutch is an ideal occasion to be part of the region and experience the zeal and uniqueness of the people through a celebration of life!

#### Interesting facts

Kutch or Rann Utsav, a unique manifestation of the varied cultural ethos of the region is known for the ethnic flavor and celebrative zest.

This festival provides an exclusive opportunity to witness the creative ingenuity of the artisans and craftspeople, the assorted array of folk music and performances, mixed representation of culture and communities, along with a vast diversity in ecology. All this and much more describe and define Kutch and the people.



# Navratri Festival


**When:** Navratri is celebrated for nine nights, beginning on the first day of the bright fortnight of the Hindu month Ashwin, roughly corresponding to dates in the Gregorian calendar in September/October. This also usually coincides with the end of the rainy season. Dasara/Vijayadashami, is the tenth day of Ashwin.

**Where:** Garba happens at night in villages and neighborhoods all around Gujarat, so just step outside and follow the booming garba music. Vadodara is considered the cultural capital of Gujarat, and the most sought after location for celebrating Navratri. Try to visit at least one village garba too, for a range of experience.

**Religious pilgrimage** during this festival focuses mainly in the Shakti Peethas: Ambaji, Pavagadh and Bahuchraji near Mehsana. There are also major celebrations in temples such as Ashapura Mata-no-Madh in Kutch, Khodiyar Mandir near Bhavnagar, and Chamunda Mata Mandir at Chotila on the Ahmedabad-Rajkot National Highway.







Navratri, meaning 'nine nights', is one of the most popular and widely celebrated Hindu festivals in many parts of India. Gujarat, however, is the only state that erupts into a nine-night dance festival, perhaps the longest in the world. Each night, all over the state, villages and cities alike, people gather in open spaces to celebrate feminine divinity, referred to as Shakti.

The dance form known as ras garba (also joined sometimes by dandiya, which uses small wooden sticks), comes from Lord Krishna's worship rather than Goddess worship, from the Gop culture of Saurashtra and Kutch. Stories of relationships between Krishna and the Gopis, and their emotions, also often make their way into the ras garba music.

Nevertheless, the focal point of every garba circle is the small Goddess shrine erected by each community to mark the beginning of the festival, on the first day of the Hindu month of Ashwin. The shrine includes a garbo, an earthenware pot, in which a betel nut, coconut, and silver coin are placed.



# International Kite Festival



When: January  
Where: Ahmedabad


## Entry

The entry to the International Kite Festival of Gujarat is free for all the visitors. However, access to the Kite Flying area is limited to participants only.

## Venue

Various cities across Gujarat hold kite flying competitions among its citizens. However, the showstopper contest, the International Kite Event, is held in Ahmedabad. Ahmedabad is also known as the Kite Capital of Gujarat. It is believed that the Sabarmati Riverfront, with a capacity to accommodate over 5 lakh visitors, is the best place to witness and enjoy the festival. A bunch of tourists also prefers the Ahmedabad Police Stadium. People make themselves comfortable and lie down to get a view of the sky that is filled with hundreds of thousands of kites.





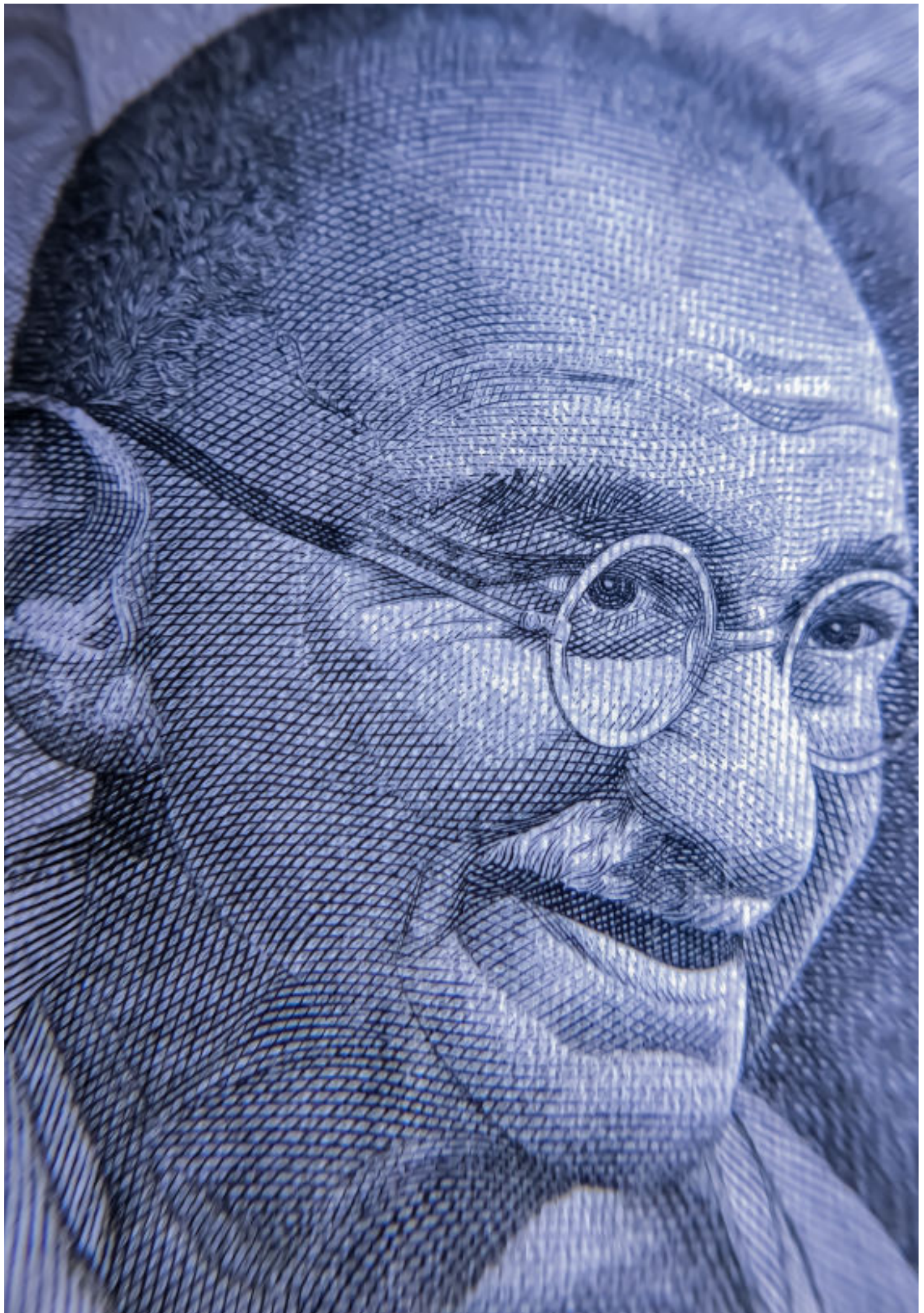
A festival that marks the transition of winter to summer and also the beginning of Harvest season. The International Kite Festival in Ahmedabad is among the most prominent festivals that are celebrated in Gujarat. Ahmedabad, where the main event takes place, becomes an abode for visitors from all over the world.

During the week leading up to the International Kite Festival, the local markets are flooded with numerous kite buyers and kite sellers. The most popular kite market is the Patang Bazaar, which stays open for 24 hours a day during this festival.

Nationals of over 45 countries participate in this one of a kind event. They consider it to be more of a battle and less friendly competition. Kites of all shapes, sizes and designs are flown throughout the day. Participants also have their favourite kite makers who they turn to for strong and resilient kites which they can fly on this special event. The string, also called Manjha in the local language, is specially made by combining glue and glass over its fibre.

The string is prepared to be as sharp as possible so that it is easy to cut rival kites during the competition. The excitement fails to die even after a long day of kite flying. Lanterns are attached to the string or manjha, and the kites are continued to be flown. This makes for a spectacular night view of the festival as well.







# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Welcome to Gujarat

Stretches out into the Arabian Sea, with a hint of the desert and with a coastline of 1600 kms long is Gujarat – the home state of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of Nation. It is renowned for its beaches, temple towns and historic capitals. Wildlife sanctuaries, hill resorts and natural grandeur are gifts of Gujarat. Sculpture, handicrafts, arts, festivals also make the state rich. Gujarat is also among the most technologically advanced, housing the largest petrochemical complex in the country.

## Ports

Major: Kandla Minor: Mandvi, Mundra, Sikka, Okha, Porbandar, Veraval, Bhavnagar, Salaya, Pipavav, Mahuva, Jafrabad, Hazira

## Major Cities

Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot, Bhuj, Junagadh, Jamnagar.

## Climate

Wet in the southern districts and Desertic in the north-west region Winter: November to February (12 - 29 Celsius) Summer: March to May (29 - 41 Celsius) Monsoon: June to October (27 - 35 Celsius).

## Eco System

Ranges from deserts, scrublands, deciduous forests, and wetlands to mangroves, coral reefs, estuaries.

## Transport by Air

International Airport: Ahmedabad Domestic Airport: Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Jamnagar, Porbandar, Surat, Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Bhuj.

## Transport by train

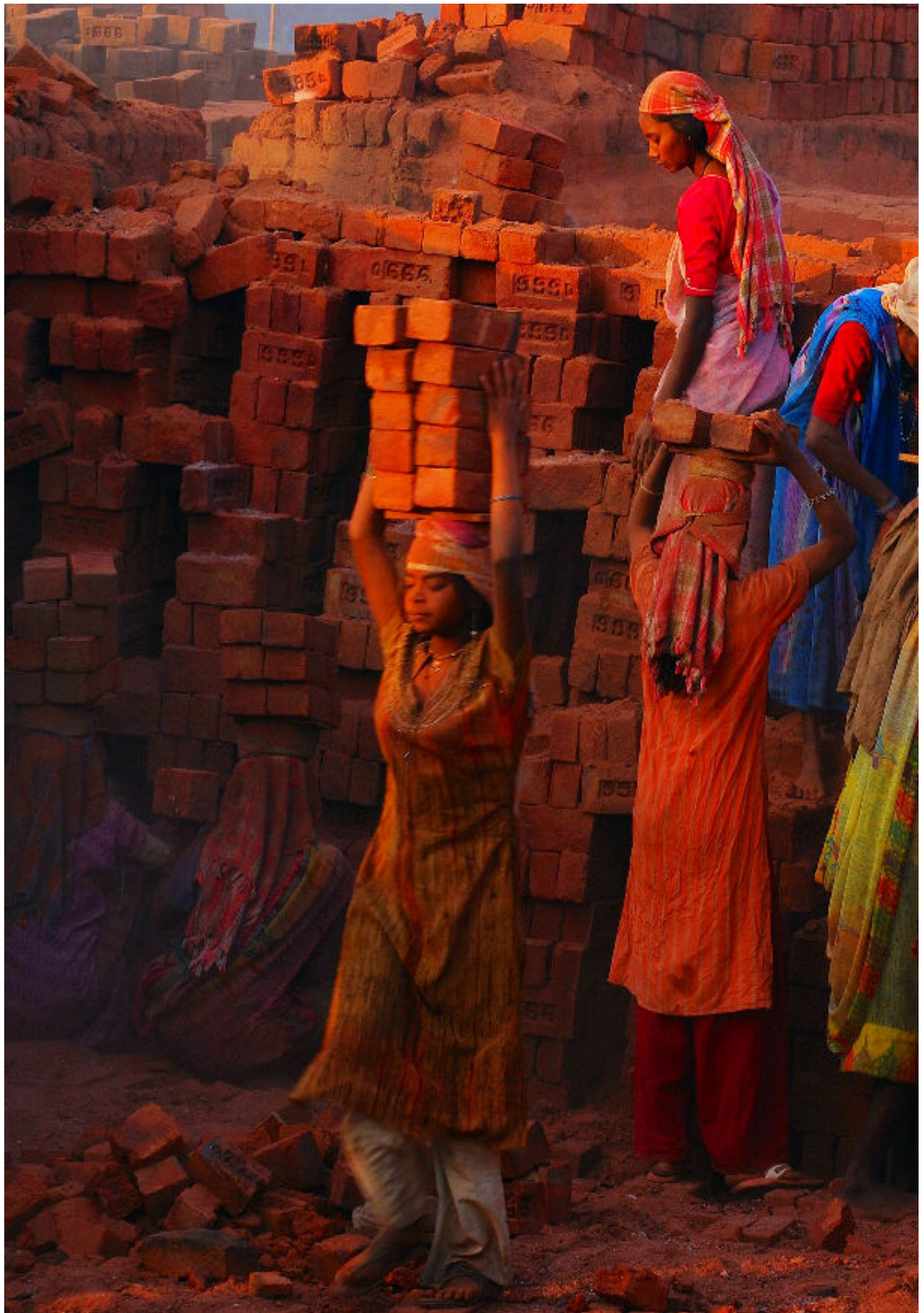
The state of Gujarat falls under the jurisdiction of the Western Railways, which is a division of the Indian Railways. The major railway stations in Gujarat are Ahmedabad Railway Station, Surat Railway Station, Vadodara Railway Station and Rajkot Railway Station. Ahmedabad Junction is an important center of the Western Railways zone of the Indian Railways.

## People

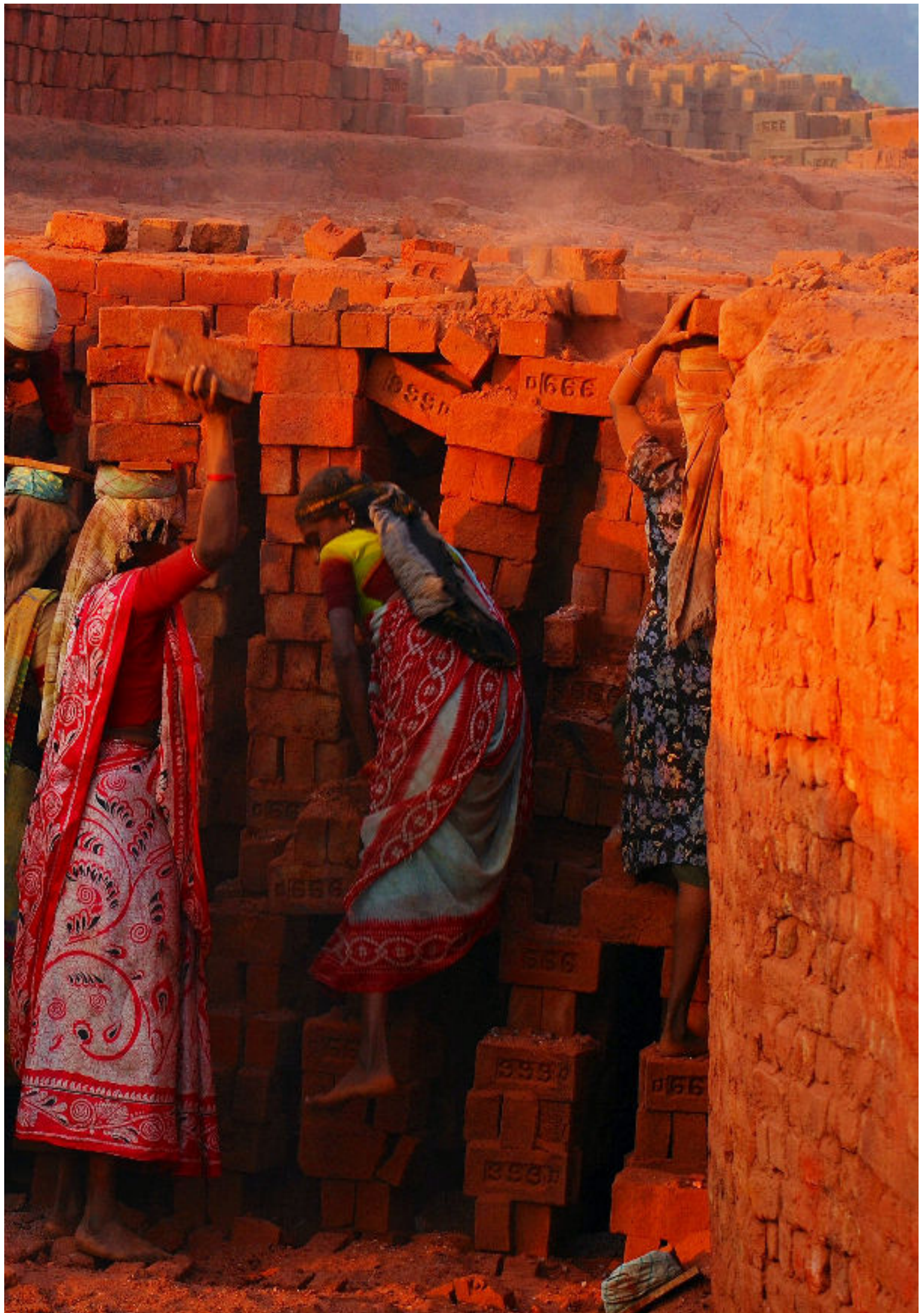
The diverse peoples constituting the Gujarati population may be categorized broadly as either Indic (northern-derived) or Dravidian (southern-derived). The former include the Nagar Brahman, Bhatia, Bhadela, Rabari, and Mina castes.

The Parsis, originally from Persia (Iran), represent a much later northern influx. Among the peoples of southern origin are the Bhangi, Koli, Dubla, Naikda, and Macchi-Kharwa. The rest of the population, including the aboriginal Bhil community, is of mixed heritage.













# DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI

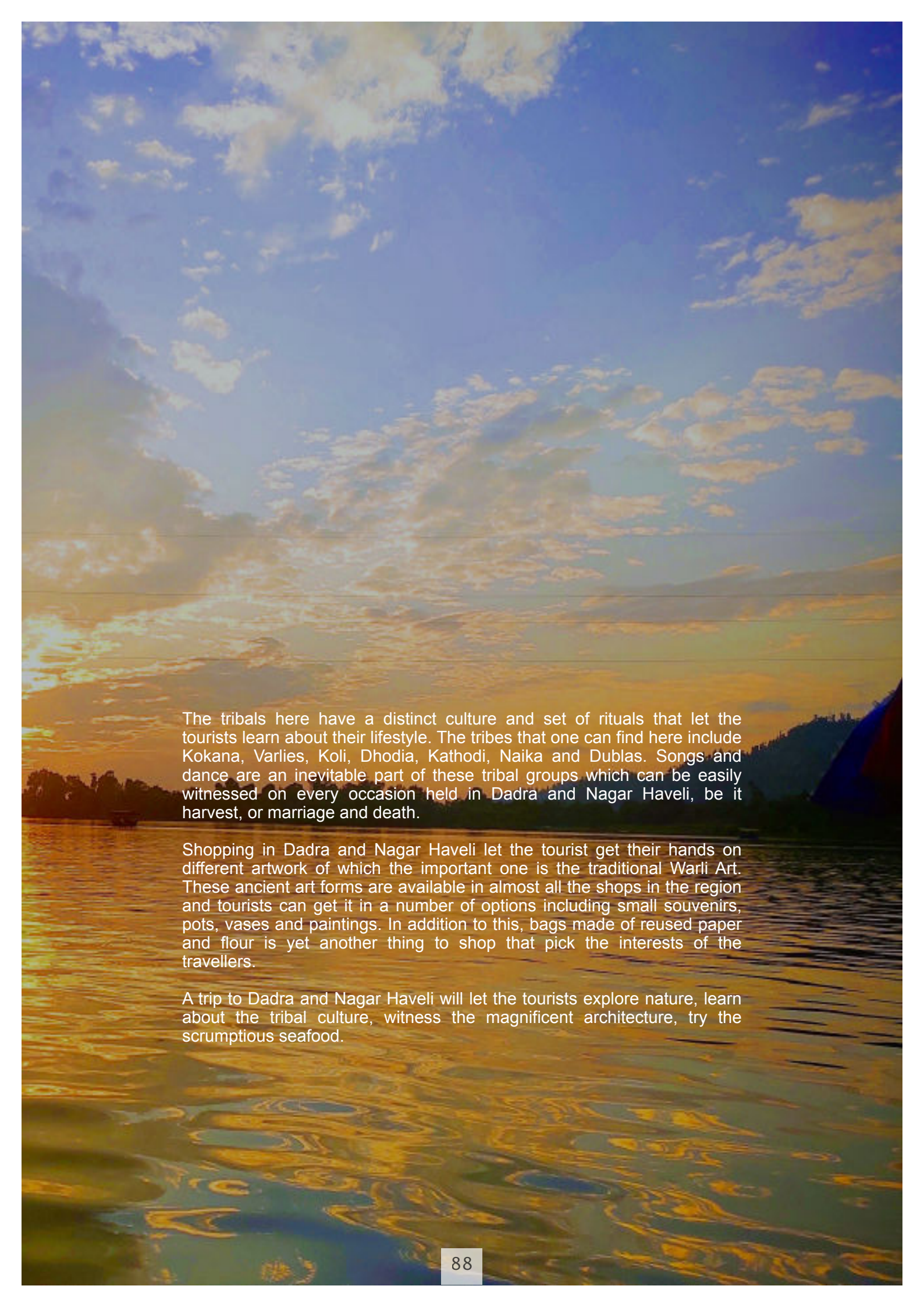
A perfect serene and sylvan land, Dadra and Nagar is a tourist destination to spend a perfect vacation with family and friends. The delightful place let the tourists experience nature at its best with lush green forests, massive waterfronts, meandering rivers, a variety of flora and fauna.

Besides this, tourists will even get the opportunity to experience fine Portuguese architecture and tribal culture of Silvassa- the capital of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Being a perfect place for both native and travellers, Dadra and Nagar Haveli beckons a travel experience unlike any other.

Wedged between the state of Gujarat and Maharashtra, Dadra and Nagar Haveli is a quaint Union Territory blessed with a lovely climate, making it one of the best tourism destination in India. Dotted with gardens, lakes, temples, zoo and more, the place is good for travellers of all genre, especially for those with the love for nature and wildlife.

Coming to the tourist attractions of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, the first and foremost things that grabs the attention of the tourists is the Portuguese architecture all around the region





The tribals here have a distinct culture and set of rituals that let the tourists learn about their lifestyle. The tribes that one can find here include Kokana, Varlies, Koli, Dhodia, Kathodi, Naika and Dublas. Songs and dance are an inevitable part of these tribal groups which can be easily witnessed on every occasion held in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, be it harvest, or marriage and death.

Shopping in Dadra and Nagar Haveli let the tourist get their hands on different artwork of which the important one is the traditional Warli Art. These ancient art forms are available in almost all the shops in the region and tourists can get it in a number of options including small souvenirs, pots, vases and paintings. In addition to this, bags made of reused paper and flour is yet another thing to shop that pick the interests of the travellers.

A trip to Dadra and Nagar Haveli will let the tourists explore nature, learn about the tribal culture, witness the magnificent architecture, try the scrumptious seafood.

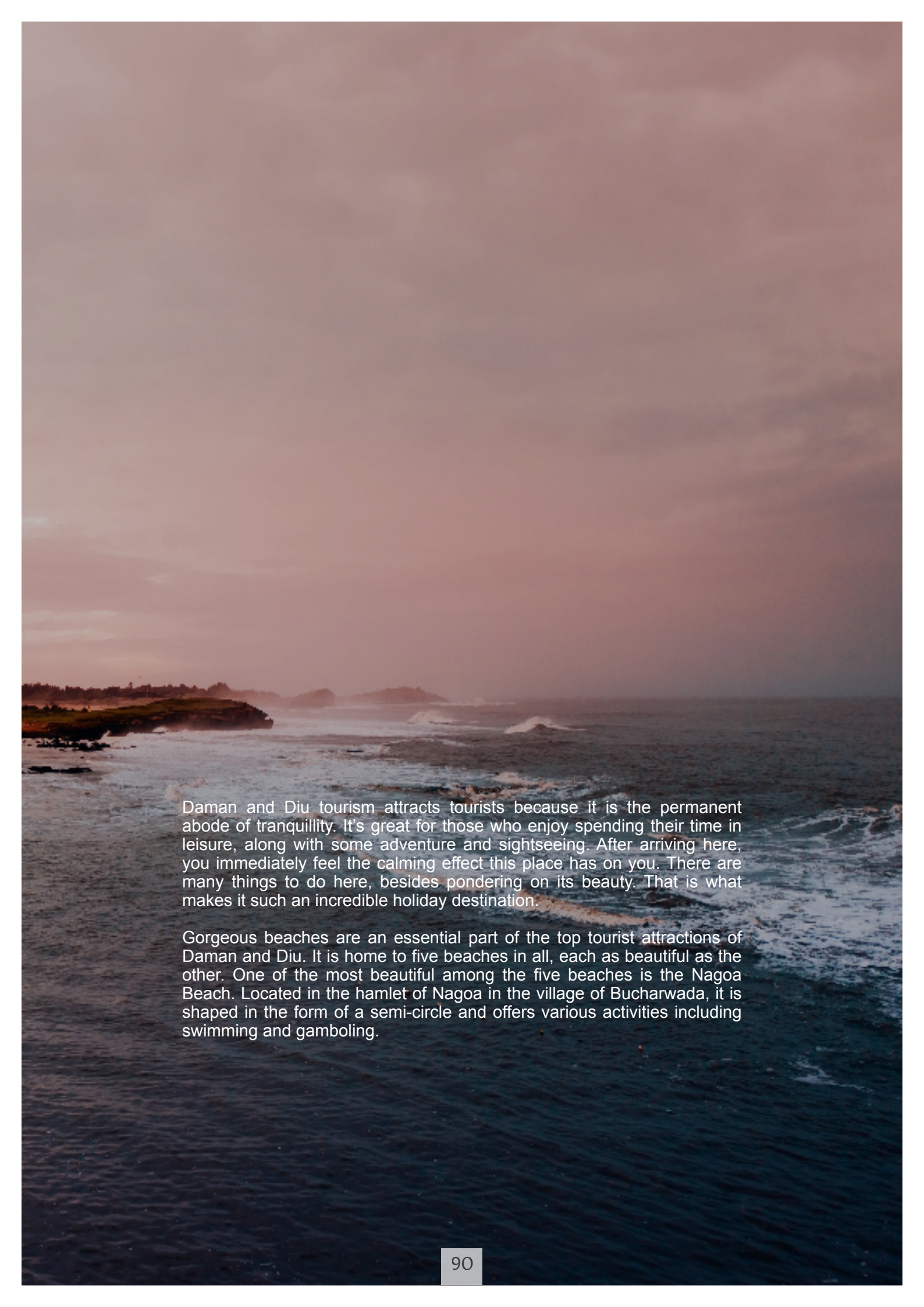


# DAMAN & DIU ISLAND

Daman and Diu is the union territory of India located in the western part of it. These two regions are separated by each other by the Gulf of Khambhat. It offers several opportunities for leisure, along with some adventure thrown in between. Once the colonies of the Portuguese, their legacy lives on in this union territory in the form of churches and forts.

Most tourists who arrive here, are immediately struck by its tranquillity. You can get your fair share of adventure by enjoying water sports or exploring caves. Among the many things to see here, one is visiting its temples, some of which date back to ancient times.





Daman and Diu tourism attracts tourists because it is the permanent abode of tranquillity. It's great for those who enjoy spending their time in leisure, along with some adventure and sightseeing. After arriving here, you immediately feel the calming effect this place has on you. There are many things to do here, besides pondering on its beauty. That is what makes it such an incredible holiday destination.

Gorgeous beaches are an essential part of the top tourist attractions of Daman and Diu. It is home to five beaches in all, each as beautiful as the other. One of the most beautiful among the five beaches is the Nagoa Beach. Located in the hamlet of Nagoa in the village of Bucharwada, it is shaped in the form of a semi-circle and offers various activities including swimming and gambling.



# LUXURY JOURNEYS

---



# Gujarat - Undiscovered India

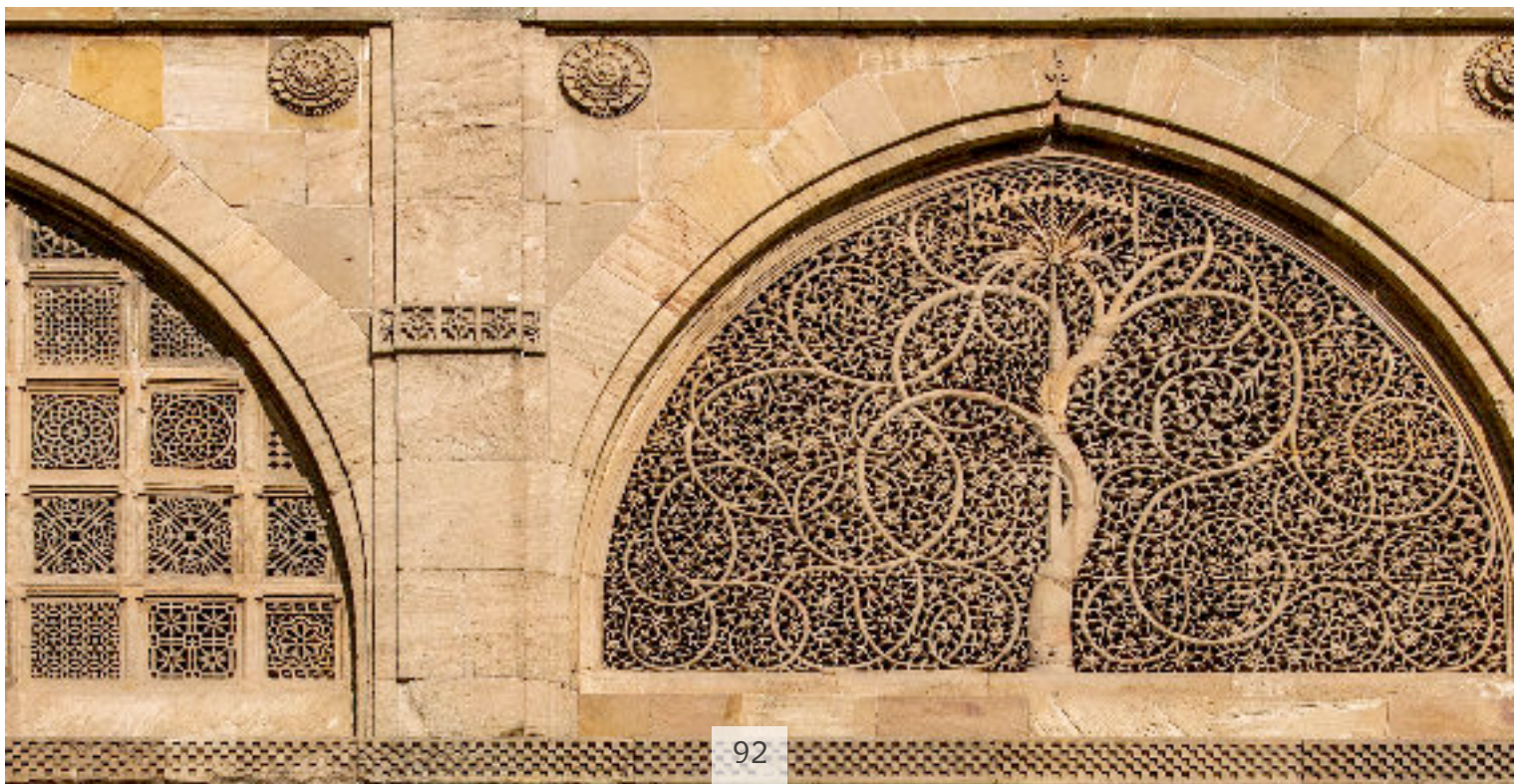
Duration: 13 Nights / 14 Days

Cruises: Mumbai | Ahmedabad | Dasada | Bhuj | Gondal | Sasan Gir | Bhavnagar | Mumbai

**From: US \$ 7500 pp**

Step off the tourist trail and see beyond the bright lights of Mumbai and discover the unique treasures of Gujarat. Often overlooked, this state is well worth a visit being home to some of the most unique heritage and natural history India has to offer. From the superb Indo-Islamic architecture and bustling bazaars of Ahmedabad, to the luna like desert salt pans of the Kutch, home to the rare wild ass and the Sasan Gir Forest the last remaining habitat of the Asiatic Lion. This tour also includes visits to the 11th Century Sun Temple at Modhera and the breathtaking marble shrines high up on Shatrunjaya Hill.

Being a pivot of the trade in the country, Gujarat is also serving as an idyllic tourist destination. From a preferential port for seafarers, the center point of business and industry, a crib for spirituality and culture, the major spot of freedom movement, abode of Mahatma Gandhi, only holder of Asiatic Lion in the country, Gujarat has it all what makes it an intriguing tourist destination in India. A vivacious past has filled its inhabitants with proud and energy that can be experienced in its culture. With its affluent heritage offerings, intact beaches, exotic flora & fauna, beautiful rural handicrafts and varied cultural prosperity, Gujarat is no less than an empyrean for the tourists, needless to say - of all kinds!





# Gujarat & Rajasthan: Heritage & Wildlife

Duration: 19 Nights / 20 Days

Places: Mumbai | Bhavnagar | Gir | Rajkot | Little Rann of Kutch | Ahmedabad | Udaipur | Jaipur | Ranthambore | Agra | Delhi

**From: US \$ 8400 pp**

This customized India vacation introduces you to two vibrant contrasting regions – modern Gujarat and regal Rajasthan! Beginning your tour in the coastal city of Bhavnagar, explore landmarks like the Mahatma Gandhi Museum and intricate Jain temples built over 900 years! Meet the last remaining Asiatic lions in India on exciting safaris in Gir. Next up, explore an extinct volcano with an expert in Junagarh and then move on the shimmering salt pans at Bajana or Little Rann of Kutch, which is also a birdwatcher's haven. Take a guided heritage walk in Ahmedabad, a UNESCO-listed city where you can visit monuments like the beautiful Swaminarayan Temple and the 15th century Jama Masjid.

After Gujarat, discover North India's proud Rajput culture and heritage on a private tour of Udaipur and take a romantic boat ride on the scenic Lake Pichola. Lose yourself in the buzzing bazaars of Jaipur in Rajasthan, exploring myriad market trails, forts, and palaces dating back centuries. Afterward, it's time to come face to face with the Royal Bengal tiger on a safari in Ranthambore. Continuing on, take a tour of Agra and see the stunning Taj Mahal with an expert. End your tour in the capital city of Delhi.





# Gujarat's Historic Gems and Wildlife

Duration: 16 Nights / 17 Days

Places: Mumbai | Vadodra | Bhavnagar | Diu | Gir | Gondal | Bajana (LRK) | Ahmedabad | Mumbai

From: US \$ 7800 pp

Discover the highlights of Gujarat and the west on this customized India vacation. Flying into Mumbai, continue on to cosmopolitan Vadodara, where you have your first introduction to the rich heritage of tribal communities at Chhota Udaipur. In the art-loving city of Bhavnagar, uncover the ruins of the historic Indus Valley civilization with a trained expert! Next up, visit the beautiful beaches of Diu Island and also discover its famous Portuguese colonial heritage and architecture. Back on the mainland, it's time to track the rare Asiatic lion in the forests of Gir where the last few of the species live. Enroute to Gondal, take a personalized tour of the imposing Junagadh that dates back to 319 BC! Not just that, you will also see stellar examples of Buddhist, Islamic, and Hindu architecture come together in this ancient city.

Set out on an exciting jeep safari in the haunting landscapes of the Little Rann of Kutch – a stark land of salt flats inhabited by diverse species such as pink flamingoes and wild asses. Take a personalized tour of Ahmedabad next: often referred to as the 'Manchester of the East', this UNESCO-listed city houses temples and mosques galore! End with customized excursions in the maximum city of Mumbai, gaining insights into its colonial heritage and ultra-modern traditions.





# Gujarat Classical Journey

Duration: 15 Nights / 16 Days

Places: Delhi | Ahmedabad | Poshina | Dasada | Little Rann of Kutch | Dasada | Bhuj | Mandvi | Gondal | Palitana | Bhavnagar | Vadodra | Champaner | Ahmedabad | Delhi

**From: US \$ 7100 pp**

Gujarat is a dazzlingly diverse state that shakes up even the experienced Indophile and reveals treasures hidden from the tourist hordes. With a 1600km coastline and an easily traversable landscape, it is both highly advanced and medievally tribal. The highly visible Jain community are largely responsible for Gujarat's industrious reputation, stunning white marble temples and exquisite, ever-so-slightly sweet vegetarian fare. In the northwest, the seasonal marshlands of Kutch turn into hardened salt plains come summer and, in the Little Rann – habitat of the wild ass and flocks of flamingos – local artisans weave the finest textiles in India.

On this Village India tour, we see the very best of this undiscovered state, from the surreal Rann of Kutch and the ancient town of Bhuj to tribal Poshina, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Champaner and we climb Shatrunjaya, to a mountain-top marvel of Jain architecture. And of course, we spend time in the capital city of Ahmedabad, home to Mahatma Gandhi's ashram and the world's finest textile museum. For anyone with a love of 'off-the-beaten-track' travel, textiles, shopping and rural India, this trip is a must.





# Temples, Tribes & Textiles of Gujarat

Duration: 11 Nights / 12 Days

Places: Delhi | Bhavnagar | Mandvi | Bhuj | Dasada | Ahmedabad | Vadodra | Palitana | Bhavnagar  
| Mumbai

**From: US \$ 6900 pp**

India's western state of Gujarat has a cultural wealth on a par with Rajasthan's yet is still visited by few. It is the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi and home to some of most colourful tribes, exotic textiles and glorious temples in India. Gujarat's dramatic landscape extends from the undulating Aravalli Hills to the immense salt flats of Kutch.

This itinerary samples the best the state has to offer including the huge Jain temple at Palitana, cosmopolitan Ahmedabad with its mix of Sultanate and ground breaking 20th century architecture, intoxicating bazaars and fascinating Calico Museum, the Sun Temple at Modera and the impressive step wells of Patan.

Visit the captivating tribes of Bhuj with their textiles, jewellery and houses all decorated with elaborate mirror work. The tour ends on the huge windswept beaches at Mandvi with their shipyards using techniques Noah would recognise.





# Heritage Journey of Gujarat

Duration: 08 Nights / 09 Days

Places: Delhi | Ahmedabad | Jambughoda | Uthelia | Bhavnagar | Gondal | Wankaner | Ahmedabad | Delhi

**From: US \$ 5700 pp**

Gujarat is a place highly affluent with heritage and culture. Positioned in the western part of India, the state is a vivacious place popular for its immaculate beaches, ancient monuments, mouthwatering cuisines and lively festivals.

The famous monumental edifices found in the state incorporate world heritage sites, palaces, forts, mosques, temples and crumbled remains.

This 08 Nights and 09 Days Gujarat holiday package takes the traveller to the insignias of the rich past of the state. The major destinations covered in this tour are Vadodara, Ahmadabad, Jambughoda, Uthelia, Bhavnagar, Gondal and Wankaner.

The major highlights of this trip are sightseeing journey in Jambugodha, journey to Champaner-Archaeological Park, visiting Harappan relics, shopping in the local markets of Bhavnagar, excursion to Wankhaner- Watson Museum and Rashtriya Shala. The tour takes the traveller to the best of heritage spots in Gujarat replete with monuments symbolizing ancient architectural





# Gujarat Forts & Palaces Journey

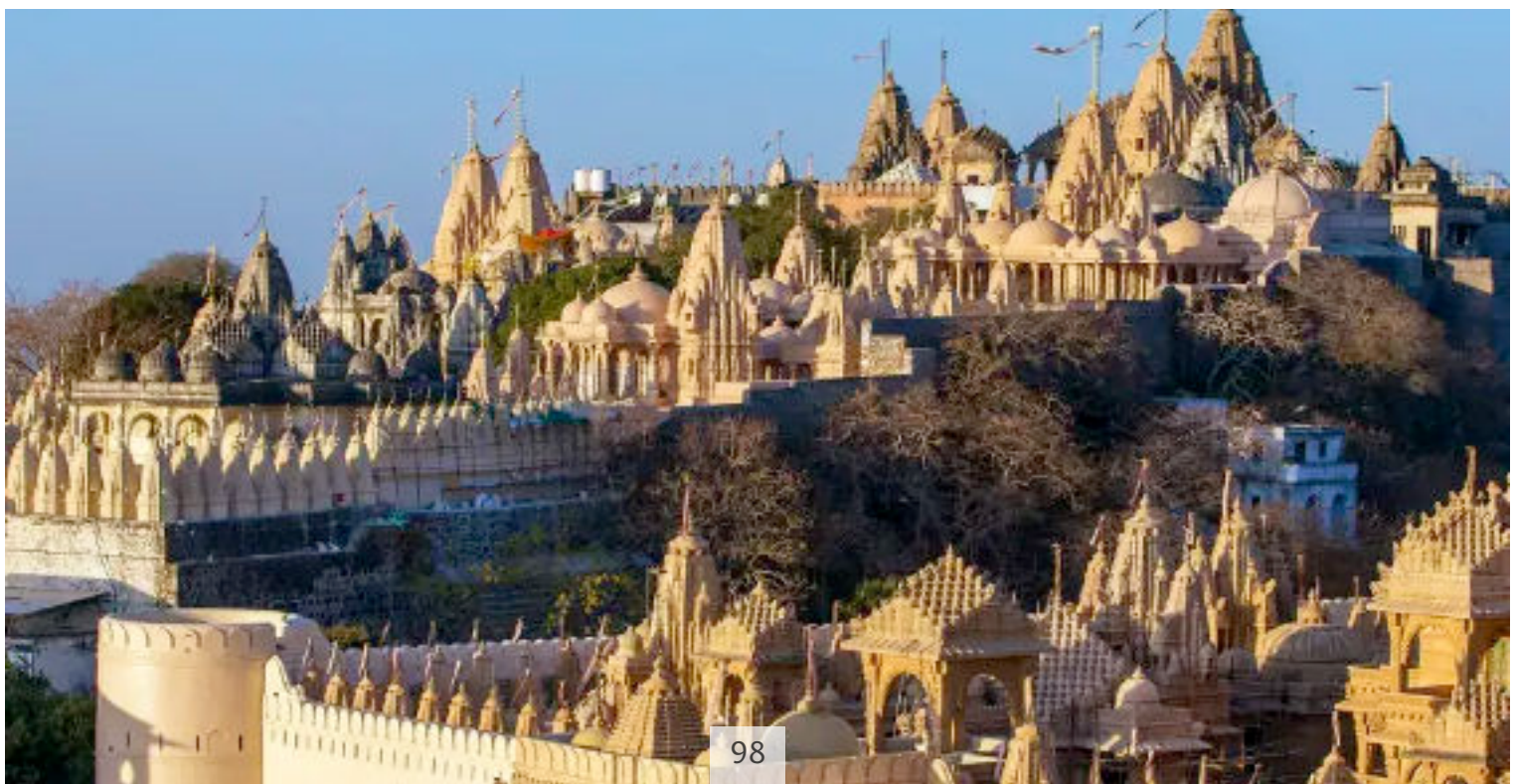
Duration: 11 Nights / 12 Days

Places: Delhi | Ahmedabad | Jambughoda | Chhota Udepur | Uthelia | Bhavnagar | Palitana | Gondal | Wankaner | Ahmedabad | Delhi

**From: US \$ 7000 pp**

11 nights 12 day Gujarat forts & palaces vacation packages where you can tour in some of the most intriguing places in Gujarat. This Gujarat tour package will cover breathtaking destinations filled with history, forts, palaces, culture and more. First stop will be Ahmedabad where you can visit two prominent museums of utensils and a textile museum. Then, you can head toward the Jambughoda National Park to be one with nature. After, a stay amid the wild, you can visit Gujarat's Chhota Udaipur to observe the traditional lifestyle of the local.

Visiting Utelia, en route Champaner will take you to the bygone era witnessing the forts and ancient temples. Later, you can see the 2000 BCE ruins of Harappan Civilization in Lothal. The Gujarat tour does not end here just yet; a visit to one of the Jain religion places where you have to be fully committed to be a vegetarian is Palitana, a unique place in Gujarat. Here you can wander amid the huge complex of beautiful temples. Also, during this tour you can see a huge collection of Royal vintage cars in Naulakha palace, Gondal and a visit one of the largest museums in Gujarat, Watson Museum. If time permits, you can also drive towards the wildlife destination of Gir National Park and indulge in safaris to explore the many animal species this region possesses.





# Grand Tour with Central India

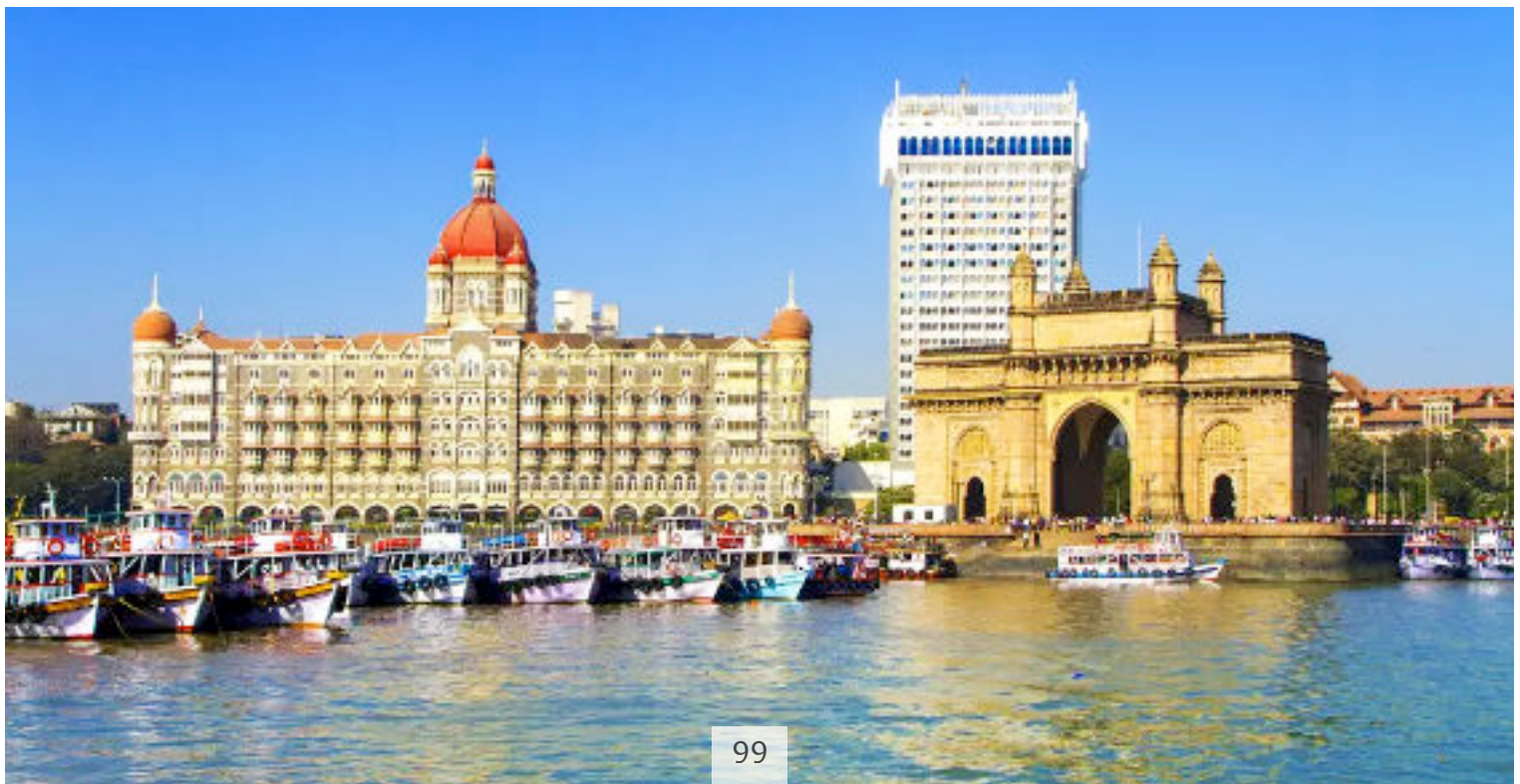
Duration: 14 Nights / 15 Days

Places: Mumbai | Bhavnagar | Ahmedabad | Ujjain | Mandu | Maheshwar | Omkareshwar | Indore | Bhopal | Gwalior | Agra | Delhi

**From: US \$ 7850 pp**

Travelling to this part of India leaves the traveller with the memories that remain etched in their minds all through their life. When this tour to Central India is mixed with travelling to Gujarat, the excitement and pleasure enhance manifolds. Gujarat is the destination no less than an empyrean for the travelers.

This 14 Nights and 15 Days itinerary takes the traveller to a comprehensive and congenial tour of central India and Gujarat. The major destinations covered in this tour package are Mumbai, Bhavnagar, Ahmadabad, Ujjain, Mandu, Indore, Bhopal, Gwalior and Agra. The major highlights of the tour are visiting Dhobhighat and Elephanta Caves in Mumbai, exploring the temple of Shri Adishwara, which the First Jain Apostle in Palitana, visiting the Sidi Bashir's Mosque and Narayan Temple in Ahmadabad, journey to Harsiddhi Temple and Vikram Kirti Mandir in Ujjain, exploring the Baz Bahadur's Palace and Rani Roopmati's Pavilion in Mandu, enjoying day trip to the holy towns of Maheshwar and Omkareshwar, carrying out a trip to Sanchi, which is a world-famous Buddhist site, paying homage at Laxminarayan Temple in Gwalior, visiting the Taj Mahal in Agra and visiting Lotus Temple and Qutub Minar in Delhi. The tour makes the travellers drenched in the unmatched





# Splendours of Gujarat

Duration: 17 Nights / 18 Days

Places: Mumbai | Bhuj | Gondal | Sasangir | Diu | Bhavnagar | Uthelia | Zainabad | Dasada | Vadodra | Ahmedabad | Mumbai

**From: US \$ 10600 pp**

Gujarat is a colourful and vibrant state that calls every traveller to get drenched in the eternal beauty of nature along with exploring cultural and historic prosperity of India. It has unique tropical and geological panorama that makes it an ideal tourist destination that is hoarded by heaps of tourists all round the year.

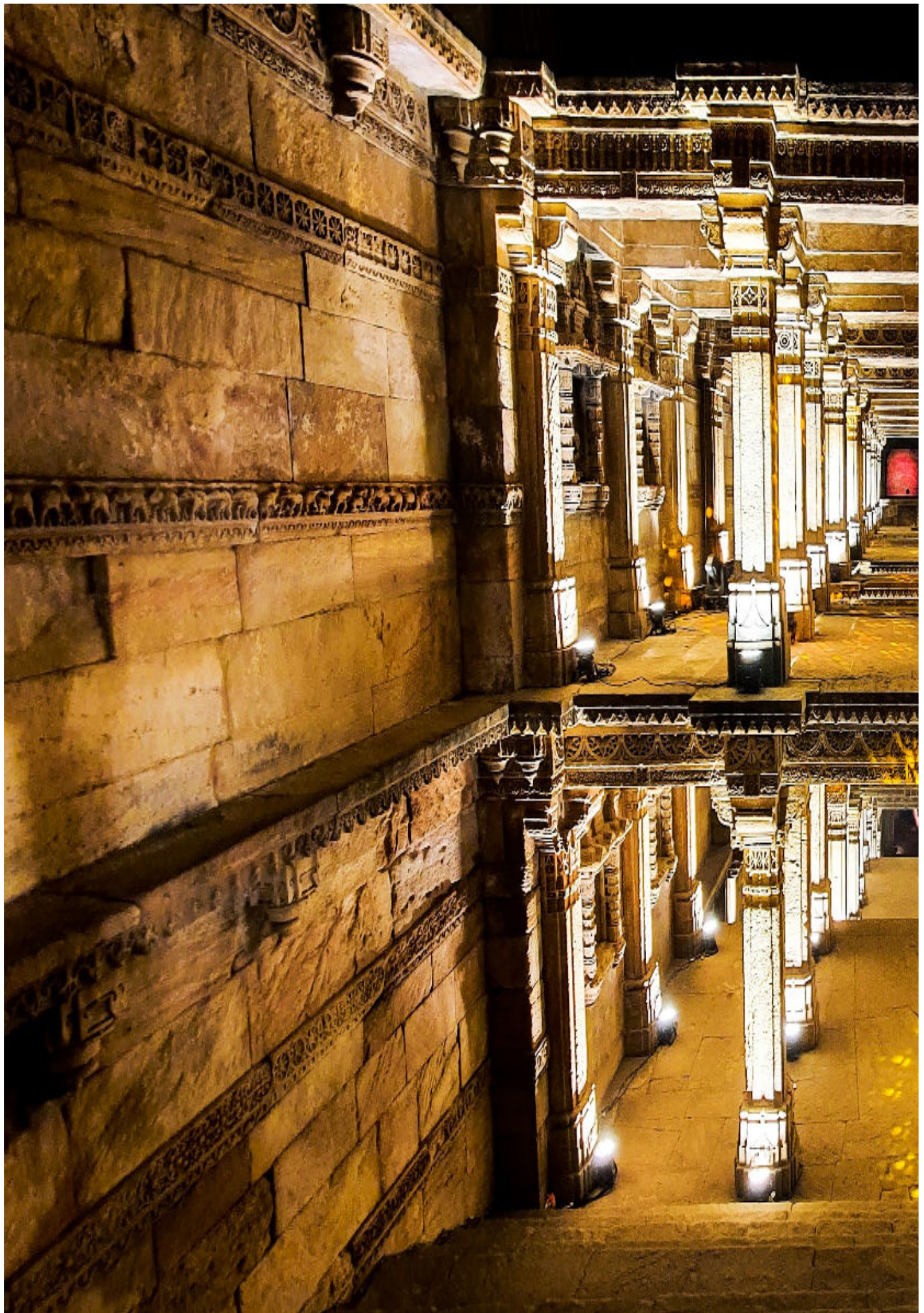
This 17 Nights and 18 Days itinerary allows the visitors to soak into the splendours of Gujarat. The destinations covered in this Gujarat holiday package are Mumbai, Bhuj, Gondal, Diu, Bhavnagar, Uteliya, Dasada, Vadodara and Ahmadabad.

Major highlights of the trip are exploring Elephanta Caves, visiting a hanging garden, marine drive, dhobhi Juhu Beach, Gateway of India along with the magnificent places of Gujarat such as Bhuj, Kakkad Bhit Yaksha, Gir National Park, etc.

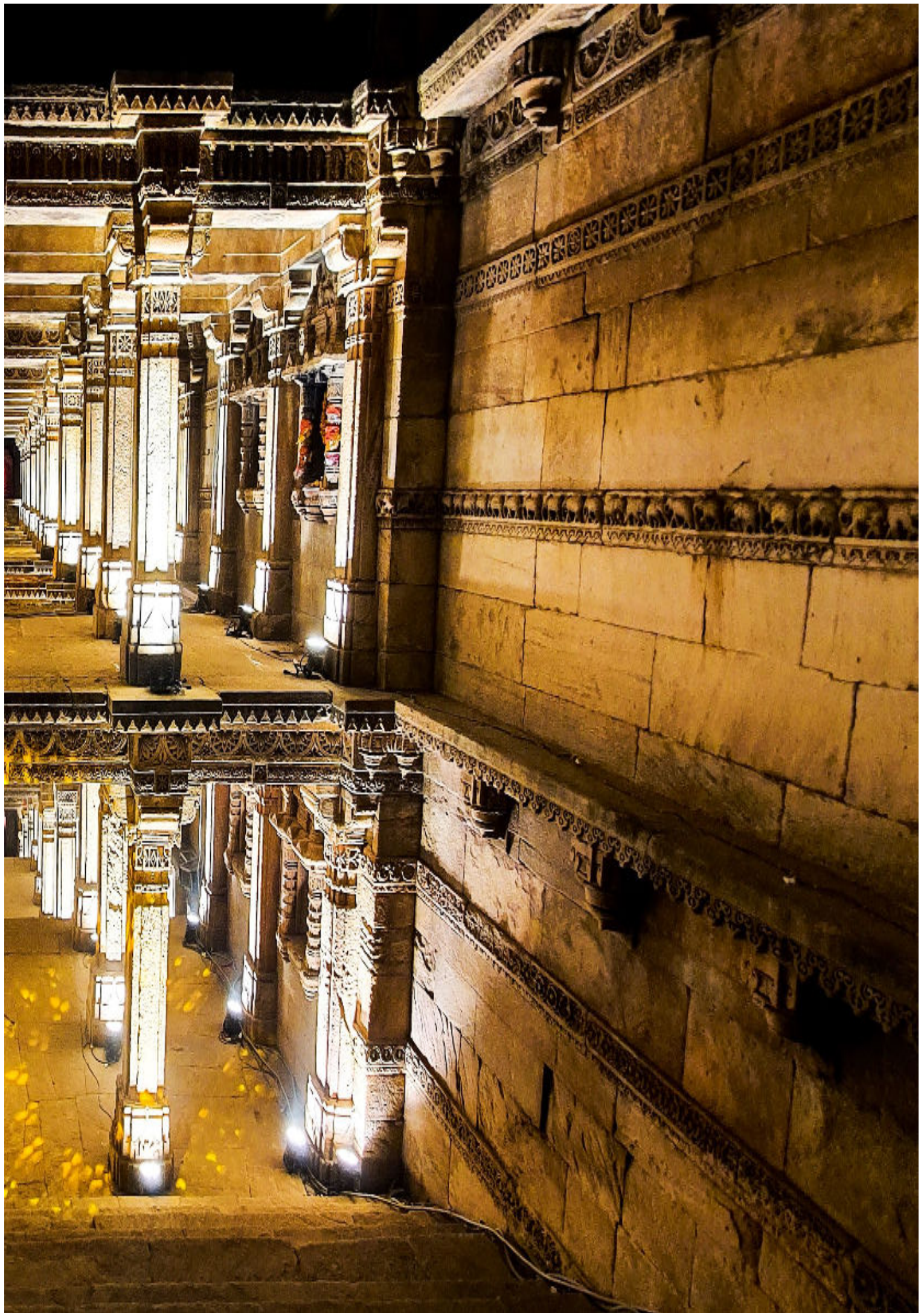
The itinerary is certainly ideal for exploring the heritage and beauty of India in a unique way.













# WEDDING & EVENTS



Gujarat is a vibrant land with a historical and cultural tradition. The state of Gujarat is renowned for its beaches, temple towns and historic capitals with its rich wildlife and hill resorts. With a 1600km long coastline, the state of Gujarat is dotted with some really fine beaches like those of Ahmedpur-Mandvi, Kutch-Mandvi, Chorwad and Gopnath.

The coast with its interesting Portuguese forts, shore temples, princely port cities and beach palaces was a popular historical center. Gujarat has a number of wedding venues from the Mandvi Palace in Kutch, to the cities such as Ahmedabad, Baroda and Rajkot.

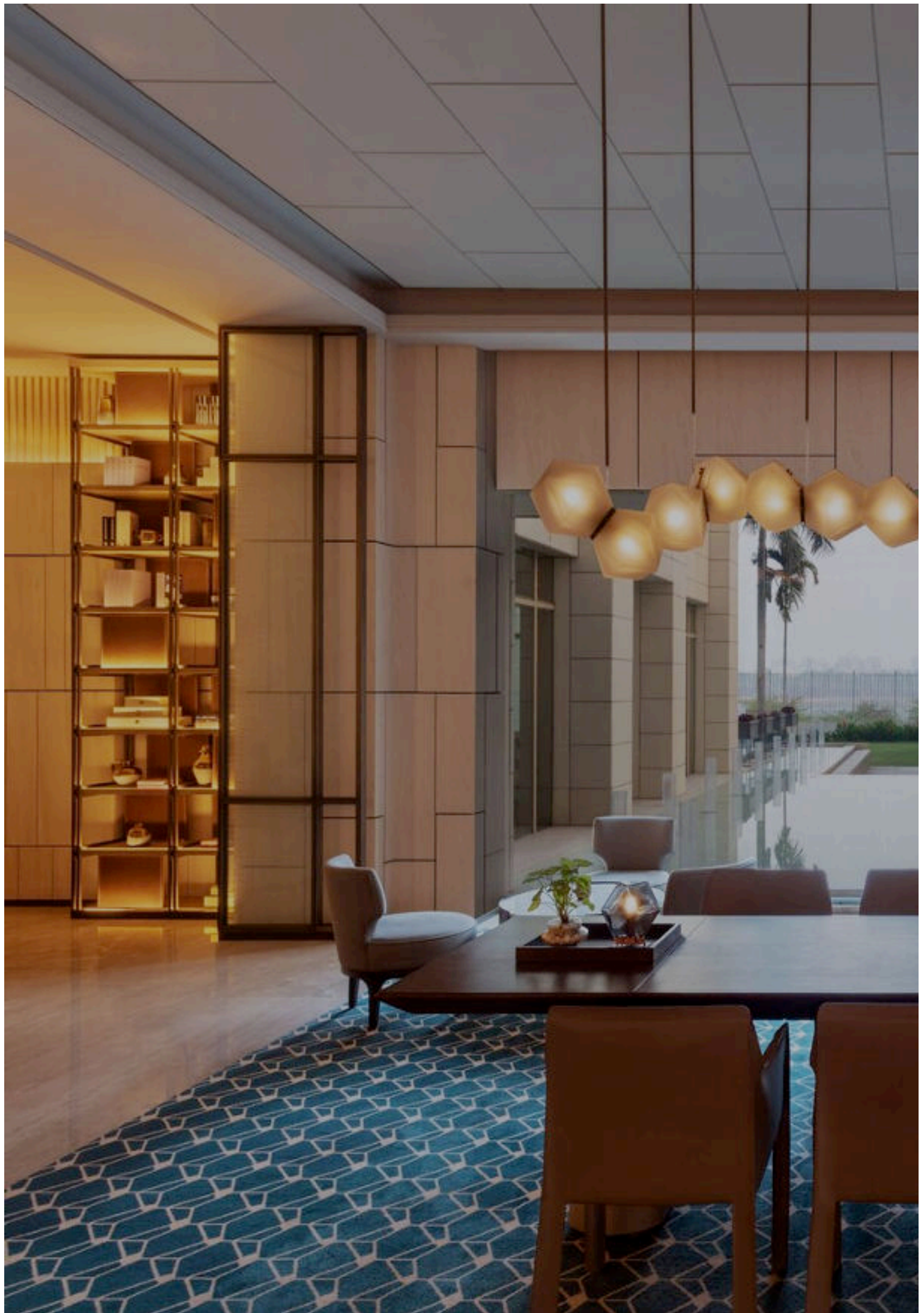
Gujarat is definitely considered to be one of the popular destinations for weddings. However, if you are looking for Gujarat destinations that are not quite popular, but are still perfect for a wedding, this western coastal state has a lot to offer along those lines!



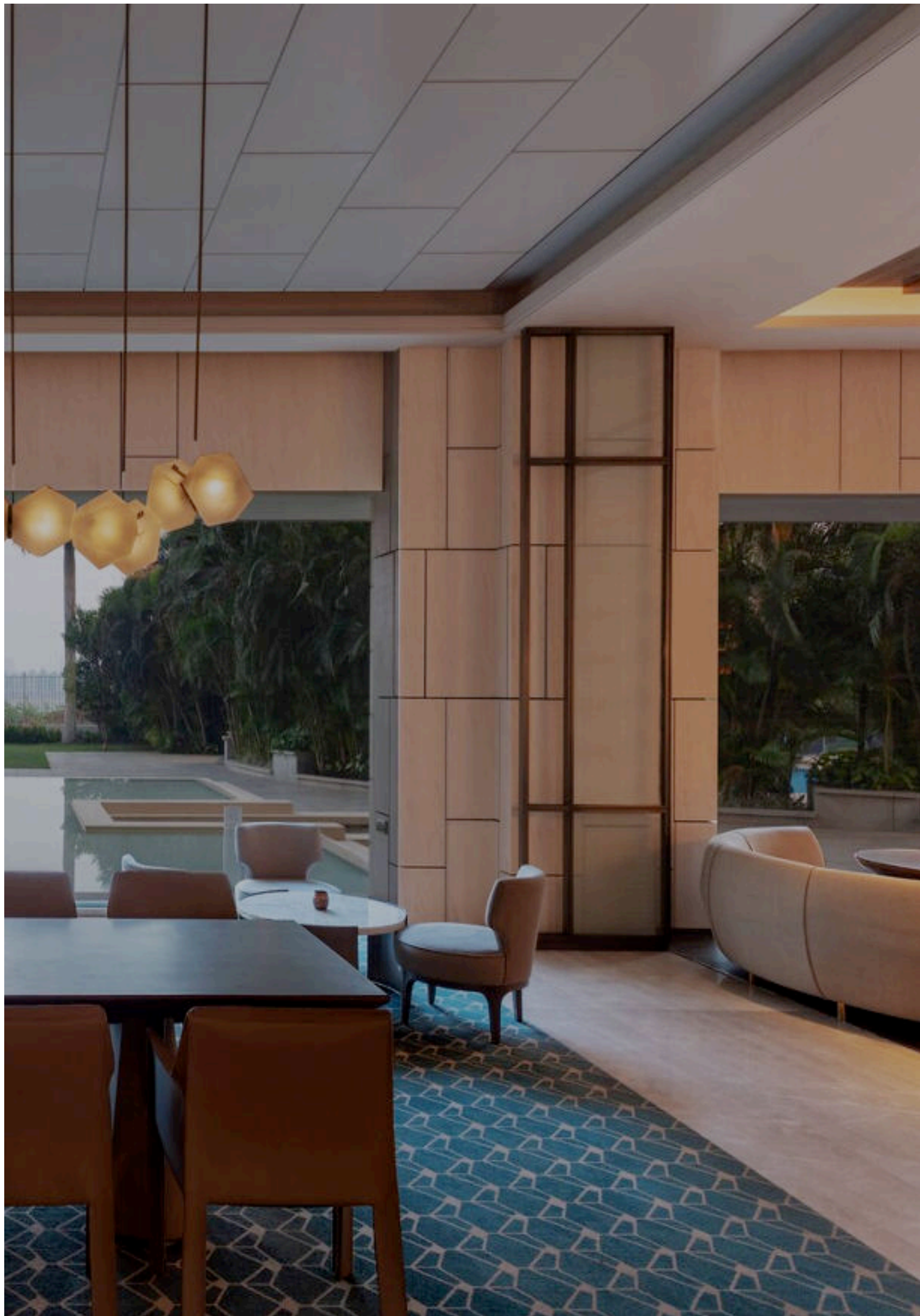


Gujarat has seen a lot of international activity through its ports and this is why the state is filled with different forts and palaces built mainly by Portuguese rulers. Some of them lie abandoned, while some of them have been transformed into luxury resorts or hotels. Apart from that, several resorts and heritage hotels have come up in recent years, equipped with enough facilities to host a grand destination wedding with ease.



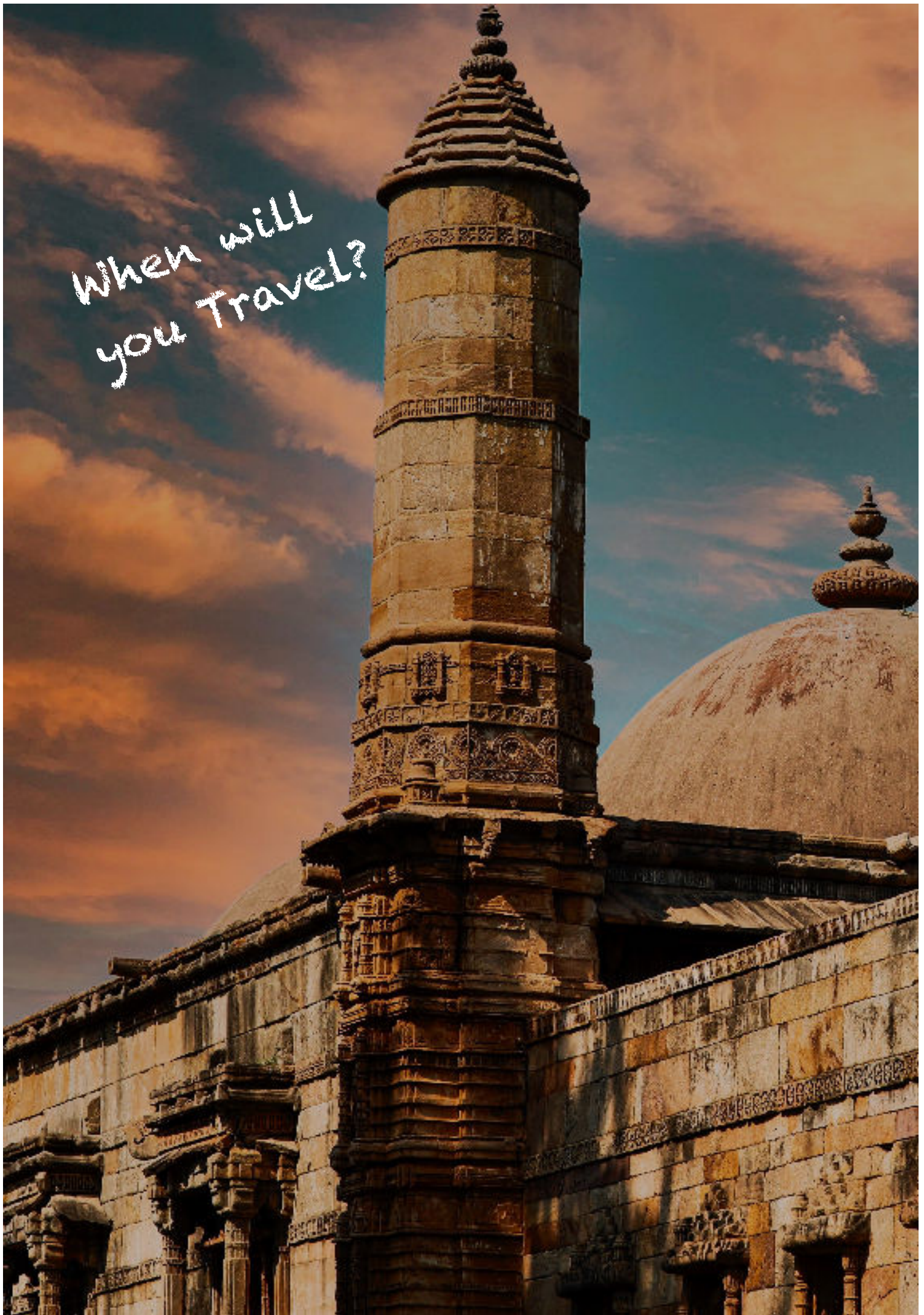




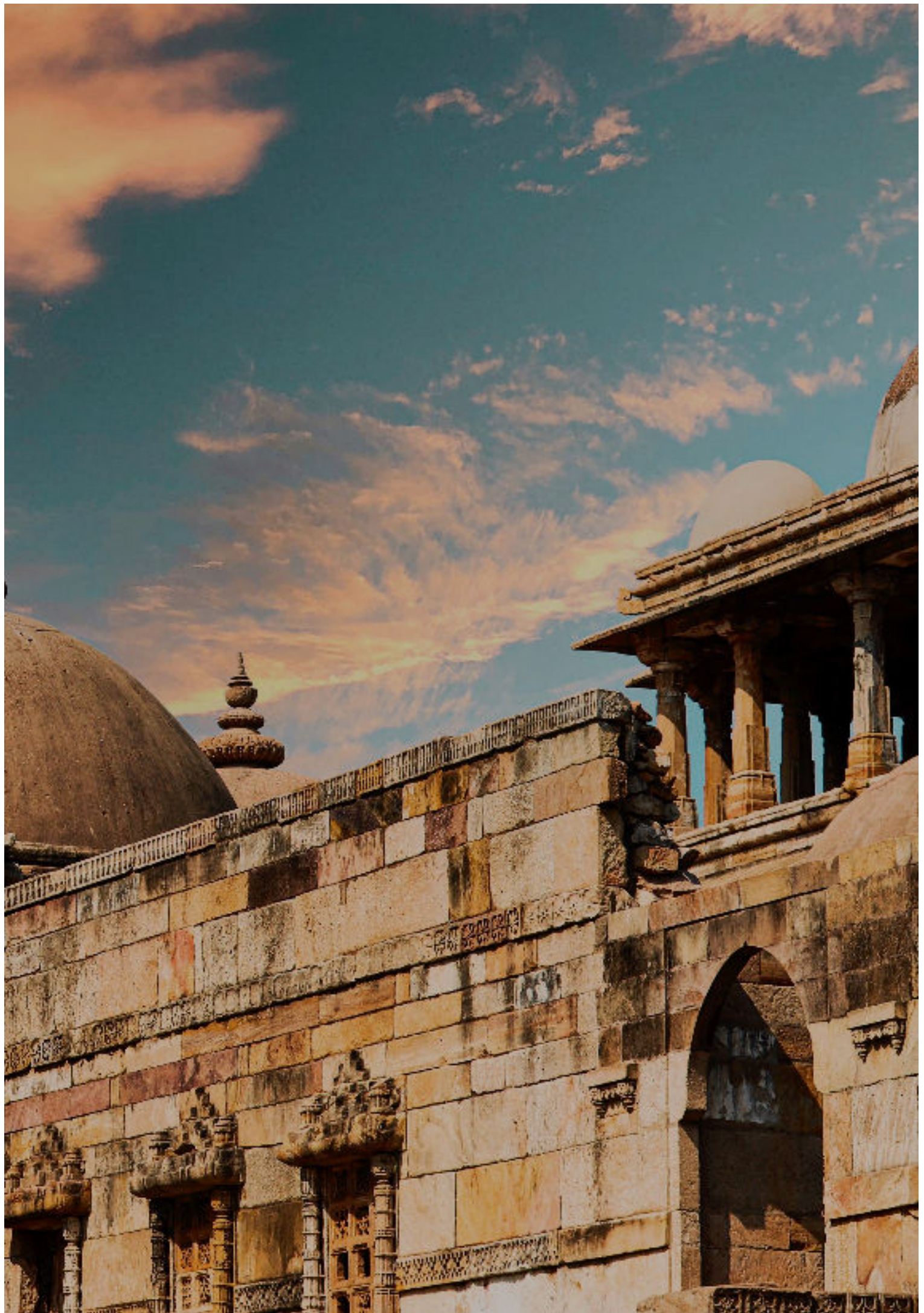




When will  
you Travel?











**SANYOG GUPTA VOYAGES**

Luxury Destination Management Company

Made with ♥ by *Sanyog*

**Opulent Routes**

The Luxury Experiences

[opulentroutes.com](http://opulentroutes.com)

**Adventure  
sense**  
Expedition (I) (P) Ltd.

[adventure-sense.com](http://adventure-sense.com)

**IMEC PLANET**  
Travel India - Travel Asia - Travel Europe - Travel Africa

[imecplanet.com](http://imecplanet.com)

**Charity Tours**  
It's a Challenge

[charity-tours.com](http://charity-tours.com)

Corporate Office: SCO - 83, Sector - 22, Palam Vihar Road, Delhi NCR, Gurgaon - 122002, Haryana, India

B2C Portal  
[www.sanyog.travel](http://www.sanyog.travel)

B2B Portal  
[www.sanyog.online](http://www.sanyog.online)

B2E Portal  
[www.sanyog.tours](http://www.sanyog.tours)

Help line: +91 890 100 4567 || E: [info@sgvoyages.com](mailto:info@sgvoyages.com)

India: New Delhi, Gurgaon, Kolkata, Mumbai, Goa, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Cochin  
International: Sri Lanka, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Thailand, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Greece and Mexico

Recognitions: TAAI :: PATA :: IATO :: IATA :: TAFI :: ADTOI :: ASTA :: ATOAI :: ATTOI :: SITE

---