

# Explore Gujarat



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# HIGHLIGHTS OF GUJARAT

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**Rani Ki Vav :** One of the most magnificent structures in India, Rani Ki Vav, a UNESCO World Heritage Site has been considered as the Queen among the stepwells in India. The Stepwell was constructed by Queen Udayamati in memory of her husband Bhimadev I of the Solanki Dynasty. Constructed primarily for storing water for the locals, the stepwell was submerged with silt and sand due to the floods in the nearby Saraswati River in the 13th Century which was then excavated in 1960s by the ASI when they found more than 500 God sculptors in Pristine Condition. The statues of Dashavatars, Yoginis and various Gods and Goddesses adorn the walls of the Stepwell. It surely will leave the tourists in awe with the kind of workmanship on the stepwell. The length of this historic stepwell is about 64 m, width about 20 m and the depth is about 27 m. It was included in the UNESCO World Heritage site list in 2014 and also has been inscribed on the new Rs. 100 Currency Note in India. Rani ki Vav will certainly impress the visitors not only for its architectural craftsmanship but also for its sculptural decoration that reflects the true artistic mastery of the nation during medieval period. The sculptures and the figurative motifs along with proportion of empty and filled spaces provide genuine aesthetic character of the stepwell.

**Modhera Sun Temple :** Sun Temple of Modhera is a beautiful intricately carved temple constructed by King Bhimadev I in 1026. A perfect example of Solanki Architecture, Sun temple of Modhera lies exactly on the Tropic of Cancer and has been constructed in such a way that the first rays of the Sun on the two equinoxes of the year fall exactly on the crown on the head of the deity's idol in the Garbha Griha. The Crown was stolen and the temple was destroyed considerably during the invasion of Alauddin Khilji in the 12th Century. The temple has 3 Parts: Surya Kund, Sabha Mandapa and the Maha Mandapa. The walls of the temple have beautiful statues of various Hindu Gods and Goddesses primarily Sun God as he is the presiding deity there. There are 52 pillars in the Sabha Mandapa symbolizing 52 weeks of the year each having stories of Ramayana and Mahabharata carved out on it. The temple revives the comparison with that of Konark Sun Temple of Odisha in terms of architectural styles and influence. The place where the temple has come up found its reference in scriptures of Brahma Purana and Skanda Purana. A perfect day excursion from Ahmedabad, the Sun Temple of Modhera has been attracting tourists with the majestic Rani Ki Vav as a compliment.



**Statue of Unity – Kevadia :** The Statue of Unity is the statue of freedom fighter and the first Home Minister of the independent India – Bharat Ratna Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, looking at the majestic Sardar Sarovar Dam. With the 182 metres height, it is the tallest statue in the world. It is 89 metres taller than the Statue of Liberty. The design of the Statue of Unity was created by veteran sculptor Padma Shri Ram Sutar. In the year 2013 – 14, a campaign was launched across India for donating Iron and Soil to be used in the creation of statue. 134.25 metric tonnes of Iron was collected from different states and used in the foundation of the statue. The statue was created in just 46 months of time it was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the 143rd birth anniversary of Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, on 31 October 2018. The statue is a tribute to the 'Iron Man' of India, who was responsible for the unification of 562 different princely states and creation of the United India. And it has become one of the major tourist spots in the country now. The statue offers scenic view of the Satpuda and Vindhya hills, the Sardar Sarovar Dam and Narmada river, from its viewing galleries at the height of 135 Metres.

**White Desert :** The Great Rann of Kutch is a salt marsh in the Thar Desert in the Kutch District of Gujarat, India. It is about 7500 km<sup>2</sup> (2900 sq miles) in area and is reputed to be one of the largest salt deserts in the world. The Great Rann of Kutch, along with the Little Rann of Kutch and the Banni grasslands on its southern edge, is situated in the district of Kutch and comprises some 30,000 square kilometres (10,000 sq mi) between the Gulf of Kutch and the mouth of the Indus River in southern Pakistan. The marsh can be accessed from the village of Kharaghoda in Surendranagar District. The Great Rann of Kutch together with the Little Rann of Kutch is called Rann of Kutch. In India's summer monsoon, the flat desert of salty clay and mudflats, which average 15 meters above sea level, fills with standing water. In very wet years, the wetland extends from the Gulf of Kutch on the west through to the Gulf of Cambay on the east. Every Year, in the vicinity of the White Desert, Gujarat Tourism celebrates the Rannutsav or the White Desert festival highlighting the white Desert and the colourful handicrafts of the district of Kutch which attracts thousands of people in the desert.





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**Jama Masjid:** Jama Masjid of Ahmedabad was the largest Mosque in the Indian Subcontinent during its construction in 1423 by Ahmed Shah I who established the city of Ahmedabad in 1411. The colossal and historic mosque is mainly known for its remarkable architecture – a perfect example of the Indo-Islamic architecture attracting people from all around the world. The mosque comprises of overall 15 domes and 260 Pillars constructed from Yellow Sandstones. The most integral portion of the mosque is its rectangular prayer hall that is being roofed with four vaults. The walkways of the holy mosque have been decorated with the Arabic calligraphy styles. The minarets of the mosque were originally the highest in the city which were destroyed during the violent earthquake of 1819. Still, the Jama mosque of Ahmedabad remains one of the most beautiful mosques in the country with its amazing architecture.

**Siddi Saiyed Mosque:** Siddi Saiyed Mosque is popular for its single stone intricately carved out Jalis or Windows. The mosque was constructed in 1973 by Siddi Saiyed who was the slave of the then Sultan. This mosque represents the perfect fusion of Indo-Islamic culture in every corner of its monumental structure. There are 10 Windows on three sides of the Mosque with 2 of them being the most beautiful one with the entangling design of the Banyan tree and the Palm trees which are considered as holy by the Hindus and the Muslims respectively. One of the window has not been completed which has been covered with stones now as the Mughals had conquered Ahmedabad which resulted in its incompleteness. The Jali is considered to be the unofficial symbol of Ahmedabad. Even the Logo of prestigious Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad resembles the Jali. A visit to this spectacular mosque should be at the topmost priority during the visit to the city.



**Heritage Walk:** Ahmedabad was declared as the First World Heritage City in India in 2017 and one of the most attractive things is the Heritage Walk of Ahmedabad. Heritage Walk was started in 1997 to make aware about the hidden treasures in the old city of Ahmedabad. Heritage walk starts from Hindu Swaminarayan Temple in Kalupur area of Ahmedabad and ends at the Jama Mosque of Ahmedabad with hundreds of Poles and Jain Temples on the way. Therefore, the walk is also called the 'Mandir se Masjid Tak' walk. This 1.5 kms walk takes around 2 and a half hours to complete with passing through many Cul-de-sacs and intricate wooden carved Havelis. The real essence of the first World Heritage city of India lies in its Poles and a guided heritage walk would be the perfect way to understand this amazing city.

**Hutheesingh Jain Temple:** One of the most beautiful Jain temples in Gujarat, Hutheesingh Jain Temple in Ahmedabad was constructed in 1848 by Sheth Hutheesingh and his wife Harkunvarba Shethani. It was constructed at an estimated cost of 1 Million Indian Rupees with Premchand Salat being the chief architect. The Temple has been dedicated to worship Dharamnath who was the 15th Tirthankar as per the Jain Religion. This artistic temple is filled with intricate carvings in each and every corner with perfect attention to details. The entrance of the temple is the most striking feature of the temple with its unbelievable piece of carving on the whole gate. The main temple that lies on the eastern end of the temple comprising of stunningly three carved spires that are been encircled with 52 mini shrines to other renowned Tirthankars of Jainism. The temple has infused modern and traditional elements for creating a divine background.





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**Adalaj Stepwell :** Adalaj Stepwell near Ahmedabad is one of the most beautiful Step-well in India with a perfect mixture of the Hindu and the Islamic architecture. Originally, it was being constructed by Rana Veer Singh but was completed by Sultan Mahmud Begada of Ahmedabad as he had killed the former to expand his kingdom. The stepwell was completed as the Queen of Veer Singh demanded its completion from Mahmud Begada who had proposed to marry her after his husband's demise. This resulted in the fusion of Indo-Islamic architecture in the stepwell. This 5 storey stepwell is constructed in such a way that sunlight cannot penetrate directly inside the stepwell which results in difference of 5 degrees Celsius in temperature from the normal temperature. The intricate carving on the columns and the windows of the stepwell is a treat to watch for any architectural lover.

**Sarkhej Roza :** Sarkhej Roza is one of the unique and elegant architectural monuments which bears the influence of Indo-Saracenic style. This remarkable complex had been built in the memory of Ahmed Khatu Ganj Baksh who was the advisor of Sultan Ahmed Shah who established the city of Ahmedabad. After his demise in 1445, Sultan Ahmed Shah had ordered for the building of a complex in memory of the saint including a mosque which was then completed by 1451 under the supervision of his successor Qutubuddin Ahmed Shah. It was then expanded by Sultan Mahmud Begada with the formation of a private mosque, small pavilions and a small tank. Even his tomb was built inside the complex. Renowned French Architect Le Corbuiser had called the Sarkhej Roza complex as the 'Acropolis of Ahmedabad'.



**Gandhi Ashram :** Mahatma Gandhi, after coming back from South Africa had his retreat built in Ahmedabad's Kochrab area in the year 1915 on 25th May. The ashram was later on shifted to one of the banks of the Sabarmati River on an open tract of land. Gandhiji named the retreat as 'Sabarmati Ashram' as it was located on the bank of the Sabarmati River that passes through Ahmedabad. The date of the shifting is recorded as 17th June 1917. He made this transfer because he had taken a resolve to lead life like a poor, rustic Indian who earned his livelihood through farming and farm-related activities. The ashram served as the nerve-centre for the nation's freedom struggle. It was from this ashram that Mahatma Gandhi launched the Satyagraha movement on 12th March in 1930 and journeyed all the way to Dandi Beach by foot covering a distance of more than 300kms that took about 24 days. Gandhi's office was located in 'Hridaya Kunj' which was actually a cottage that was eventually turned into a museum. Sabarmati Ashram is one of the most important monument in Indian Independence History and today it is the first thing for a tourist visiting Gujarat to visit.

**Sasan Gir National Park :** The Gir National Park is the last natural habitat to sight Asiatic lion in whole of Asia. The Gir National Park was established in 1965 which covers a total area of 1,412 sq. Km. It is a completely protected area and said to be one of the most common travel destinations of India. At the time of Independence of India, there were only 11 Lions left in the Gir National Park but with the conservation efforts of the Last Nawab of Junagadh and thereby the Government of India, the number of the big cats has been increased to 523 as the latest census in 2014. The total forest covers around 22000 sq. Km where the Lions roam freely. Along with the Lions, the Gir National Park also has Leopards, Nilgai, Antelopes, Striped hyena and many other varieties of Flora and fauna. Other attractions in the Gir National Park includes the Kamleshwar Dam situated inside the forest and the Kankai Mataji temple in the forest. Lion is the State Animal of Gujarat and meeting the King of the Jungle will be a great treat for the wildlife lovers visiting the state.





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**Dinosaur Fossil Park - Balasinor :** Situated at Rahioli village near Balasinor town in Mahisagar district, the Dinosaur Fossil Park is known as India's Jurassic Park. Balasinor is well-known in the science community since 1980s when the Dinosaur fossils were discovered for the first time. Since then, numerous excavations and research studies have been conducted here. In the late Cretaceous time, the carnivorous Dinosaurs used to dwell around this area until their extinction 65 million years ago. It is the third largest excavation site for Dinosaur hatchery and nesting grounds in the world. The park is home to fossilized skeletons, eggs, teeth and other remains of the Dinosaurs. As many as 13 different species of Dinosaurs have been found in and around this area. The dominating Dinosaur species unique to this area was *Rajasaurus Narmadensis*, which derives its name from Narmada river and *Rahiolisaurus* which derives its name from this Rahioli village. They belonged to the family of T Rex, with a crested horn. The fossil park is spread across more than 50 Hectares area and still many fossils are found in the area. This area was a part of erstwhile Babi Dynasty that ruled here, and the royal family now promotes the protection and research of the fossils.

**Little Rann of Kutch :** The Little Rann of Kutch covers over 5000 sq. km near the Great Rann of Kutch Desert. The place is near to Ahmadabad, one of the largest cities in the state Gujarat, India. The place has wild ass sanctuary which is probably the biggest wild ass sanctuary in India. One of the travel spots in Gujarat, the little Rann of Kutch can be explored in one day. Luxury resorts are there in and around Little Rann of Kutch where you can stay overnight. The rooms of the resorts are designed like mud-huts, locally known as Bhunga. Also there are tents where you can rejuvenate with your friends and family. Wild Ass Sanctuary is the biggest sanctuary for wild asses in India. It is the only place where asses can walk around freely. The sanctuary also has Chinkara, Jackals, Desert Foxes, Nilgais, Indian wolves and more than 75,000 bird nests. Salt production is another attraction to the visitors. You will find immense numbers of salt makers near the Rann of Kutch. As it is a salt desert the inhabitants take the opportunity to produce pure salts from that wide land. Banjara and Rabari are the two famous tribes in little Rann of Kutch. It is a pleasure to watch their art, colourful dress and jewellery. A perfect example of the Wildlife, desert and the colourful people, Little Rann of Kutch is surely a place to behold.



## Champaner - Pavagadh Archaeological Park :

Champaner – Pavagadh Archaeological Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site near Vadodara on the foothills of the Pavagadh Hill. It is located around the historical city of Champaner, a city which was founded by Vanraj Chavda, the most prominent king of the Chavda Dynasty, in the 8th century. He named it after the name of his friend and general Champa, also known later as Champaraj. In the 15th Century, it was conquered by the Sultan Mahmud Begada and became the Capital of Gujarat for a brief time. The heritage site is studded with forts with bastions starting from the hills of Pavagadh, and extending into the city of Champaner. The park's landscape includes archaeological, historic and living cultural heritage monuments such as Chalcolithic sites, a hill fortress of an early Hindu capital, and remains of the 16th-century capital of the state of Gujarat. There are palaces, entrance gates and arches, mosques, tombs and temples, residential complexes, agricultural structures and water installations such as stepwells and tanks, dating from the 8th to the 14th centuries. It was inscribed as the UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004, a

**Dholavira :** Dholavira is one of the biggest cities of the Indus Valley Civilization Site located in the Kutch District in Gujarat. Also known locally as Kotada timba, the site contains ruins of an ancient Indus Valley Civilization/Harappan city. Dholavira's location is on the Tropic of Cancer. It is also considered as having been the grandest of cities of its time. It is located on Khadir bet island in the Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary in the Great Rann of Kutch. The 47 ha (120 acres) quadrangular city lay between two seasonal streams, the Mansar in the north and Manhar in the south. The site was occupied from c.2650 BCE, declining slowly after about 2100 BCE. It was briefly abandoned then reoccupied until c.1450 BCE. The site was discovered in 1967-68 by J. P. Joshi, of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI), and is the fifth largest of eight major Harappan sites. It has been under excavation since 1990 by the ASI, which has brought to light the urban planning and architecture, and unearthed large numbers of antiquities such as, animal bones, gold, silver, terracotta ornaments, pottery and bronze vessels. Archaeologists believe that Dholavira was an important centre of trade between settlements in south Gujarat, Sindh and Punjab and Western Asia.





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**Lothal :** Lothal is the excavated site of the Indus Valley Civilization about 80 kms from Ahmedabad considered to be the oldest dockyard in the world. One of the most thriving trade centres in the Indus Valley Civilization, Lothal was the lynchpin centre used for the exports to the other contemporary civilizations like the Egyptian and the Mesopotamian Civilizations. The Dockyard at that time was made in a way that during high tides the small boats would enter it via a canal dug up from the sea and the off-loaded and loaded near the city. The Warehouse was also very near the dockyard which we also find the modern day ports. The knowledge of hydrology helped the people at that time to construct the dockyard in the way that could withstand the rigours of the salty water. Even the modern dockyards have the same mechanism as that of Lothal. The city had the Acropolis and the lower town and also a bead factory. There were also public toilets at that time which shows the modernity of the Civilization.

**Laxmi Vilas Palace :** One of the biggest residence palaces of the country, the Laxmi Vilas Palace is the official residence of the Princely Gaikwads of Vadodara. Constructed by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad III in 1890 under the supervision of the chief Architect Major Charles Mant, the Laxmi Vilas Palace is 4 times bigger than the Buckingham Palace of England and a sum of GBP 1,80,000 were spent to build this super-imposing structure. The windows of the palace are inlaid with stained Belgium glass, and the walls have complex mosaic ornamentation. Archived within the palace are priceless collections of bronze sculptures, armory items as well as terracotta and marble artworks designed by Fellici. Emerging out of the Durbar, one steps into a quadrangle that has been made in an Italian fashion with water fountains and channels. Landscaping of the palace grounds was done by William Goldring and appears like a green, velvety carpet. The edifice even at the time of its construction in the late 19th century had facilities like elevators and resembles a European manor or country house. The royal descendants of the Gaekwad dynasty still use the premises as their private residence who's Durbar Hall has a floor built out of Venetian mosaic tiles.



**Mahabhat Khan Maqbara :** Mohabat Maqbara is historic place of attraction in Junagadh, Gujarat and is mainly known for its splendid domes, towering minarets and arches. The construction of this monument had begun in the year of 1878AD under the supervision of Mahabat Khanji which was completed by his descendant Bahadur Khanji in the year of 1892 AD. Every year tourists from India and around the world come here to see this outstanding specimen of architectural craftsmanship of nineteenth century India which forms the major center piece of attraction in the state. The architecture of this monument represents the perfect fusion of Indo-European-Islamic styles whose appeal is still intact before the visitors all over the world. Each and every corner of this monument bears the testimony of the aristocratic taste and lifestyles of the Junagadh rulers. This historic monument comprises of two complexes and its portals had been ornamented with silver which is worth to watch. This monument comprises of overall four minarets with intricately designed spiral staircases. Each minaret comprises of large doors of silver along with exquisite stone carving

**Palitana :** The area of the Palitana Temple is the Bhavnagar District is a religious hub of Jain pilgrim temples. There are a total of 863 shrines and temples of Jain religious backgrounds covering the peak to the grounds of the hills of the Shatrunjaya. The main Adishwarnath Temple can be reached by climbing close to 4000 steps from the base of the hills. The Palitana Temple is a famous Jain pilgrim center in Gujarat that attracts a lot of devotees from far and wide. The Temple has been established many centuries ago while it has been on the building process close to 900 years constructed over two stages. The initial chapter of the temple construction was from the 11th century AD to the 12th century AD. The second phase of the temple was completed towards the end of the 16th century AD. The Jain temple is made from white marble extracted from marble stones. The temple holds great significance with many smaller shrines inside its vicinity. The whole fortress look alike complex has been an important tourist place because of its beautiful temples and amazing views from the top of the Shatrunjaya Hill.





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**Blackbuck National Park :** Right in the heart of the Bhavnagar district in Gujarat, is a sprawling national park that is home to India's largest population of blackbucks. The park with a total land area of 34 sq km is replete with large swathes of pastel-coloured grasslands that lie strewn between two rivers which are in spate during the monsoons. The forested area making up the Velavadar Blackbuck National Park was declared a national reserve in the year 1976. Prior to being accorded a protected status, the park used to be the property of the Maharaja of Bhavnagar. The national reserve that greatly resembles an African veldt or savannah is most renowned for its blackbucks numbering nearly 3,500 which can be easily identified by their striking spiraling horns that often reach a length of 65cms. One also comes across various species of birds, hordes of nilgais-bovine animals-that look like a cross between a cow and horse. The forested area can be explored by a vehicle but the best way to see around the region is to travel by foot. During the daytime, one can spot different species of animals and birds while in the evening you can make out jackals and wolves roaming around under a starlit sky.

**Ashoka Edicts :** The Ashoka Edicts in Junagadh city of Gujarat is mainly an inscription that dates back to the era of the Mauryan ruler Ashoka, the Great. It comprises 14 famous edicts of Ashoka etched on a big boulder centuries ago. The history of the edicts also comprises the religious values of the Dharma of ancient Buddhist books. The tourists can also view the inscriptions of the last Gupta ruler, Skandagupta, from the era of 450 AD. The edict also holds writings on religious peace and harmony from the old eras of the kings and their different dynasties. The edicts are rich in historic value and attract a lot of visitors all round the year. The Ashok Edicts hold immense moral nobility as it is one of the most famous Buddhist spots in India. It is therefore a renowned tourist destination in Gujarat proclaiming its rich diversity in monuments and ancient buildings. King Ashoka had such rock edicts around his Kingdom which are even in Modern Day Afghanistan and Pakistan outside India and in Gujarat, Telangana and Odisha.



**Buddhist Monastery of Vadnagar :** The Vadnagar Monastery was a result of an excavation that made the historic city of Vadnagar in limelight. The ancient Vadnagar Monastery ruins are a famous landmark tourist destination in Gujarat. It is located at the district of Mehsana in the state of Gujarat. Vadnagar is also famous as it is the birthplace of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The place is historic from all the points for its strong connection to the Buddhist community. Ancient ruins of Buddha and his teachings have been sighted in the town marking its importance on the map of India. The Vadnagar Monastery consisted of stupas with an open courtroom where the Buddhist monks used to meet for religious proceedings. The monastery region is marked as a major voyage scene in Gujarat. The Vadnagar Monastery was made closed to the 6th century. Chinese travellers from the past also laid proof to the existence of the monastery which is now a unique tourist hotspot in India. The major attraction of the Vadnagar Monastery is the ancient carved wall ruins and the rare quality of its construction. It is a fine symbol of earliest geometry. The monastery had nine rooms which depicted the restrooms in the old era.

**Kirti Mandir:** The three-storied haveli or mansion having a striking blue color in which Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on 2nd October in the year 1869 was eventually turned into a shrine/memorial. This shrine which was named Kirti Mandir is actually a temple and symbolizes the harmonious integration of the world's six major religions namely Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, and Zoroastrianism. The haveli housing the Kirti Mandir used to be a one-storeyed house that was bought about two centuries back by Shri Harjivan Raidas Gandhi, great grandfather of M.K. Gandhi. The upper floor or stories were constructed later on and it is in this mansion that Gandhiji's grandfather, father, and uncle resided while serving as 'dewans' or prime ministers under the Jethwa Rajput kings. Kirti Mandir was constructed up to a height of 79 feet to correspond with Gandhiji's lifespan. The 'garba griha' or the sanctum sanctorum of the temple houses the Mahatma's and his wife Kasturba Gandhi's full-scale oil paintings. Gandhi practiced 'non-violence' and always spoke 'the truth' throughout his life and the words are etched in front of their feet. Two rooms on the shrine's right, serve as memorials of Mahadev Desai and Maganlal Gandhi while the room on the temple's left is a museum containing exhibits.





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**Dutch Tombs :** The tombs in English, Dutch and Armenian cemeteries at Surat are reckoned among the most important historical monuments in the city. It is reported that there was so much competition between the Dutch and the English in Surat to impress upon the natives their importance and power that they put mausoleums instead of tomb stones. Many of these are so ridiculously large and ornamental resembling Muslim tombs rather than the ordinary tomb stones in Europe. One of the tomb in the Dutch cemetery is quoted as unequalled among the structures of its kind (barring a few) in Europe. A brief description of the distinguished architectural style of the few of the important tombs in the English, Dutch and Armenian cemeteries along with their historical background is presented here. These European Tombs are an example of the flourishing market and trade in the city of Surat in the 17th and the 18th Century. Slowly and gradually with the rise of Bombay as the major trade centre, the city of Surat started to fall which resulted in the negligence of these tombs and its deterioration. The tombs are now supervised by ASI and are now protected monuments.

**Laiyari Rock Formations :** Nearby Laiyari village, there are many sites with mesmerising rock formations, in the dried-up Laiyari river-bed. Laiyari is a monsoon-fed river which flows towards the west to meet the Indian Ocean. The river is located near Laiyari village. Interestingly, this place is located near Naliya, where temperatures reach 0°C during winters. These colourful Mesozoic rocks are believed to be carved by the rivers that used to flow here. Tourists can enjoy the beauty of the rock layers with colors shades ranging from yellow to purple. Also, there are many boulders scattered around, shaped beautifully by the river current, lying in the river bed. The area is really arid and there is scattered vegetation around these sites. These Mesozoic rocks then faced sedimentation and erosion due to the rivers. Laiyari river is believed to be a part of Sarasvati river system which used to exist in the ancient times, as per popular belief. This river system was really massive and its powerful current is believed to be the reason behind the beautiful rock formations across the region. Watching these landscapes with rock formations at sunrise or sunset is an amazing visual treat. It is a must-visit location in Kutch, especially for the bird-watchers, trekkers and photographers.



**Lakhpat :** Lakhpat has been a very important trading post connecting Gujarat to Sindh. The waters of the Sindhu river used to flow into Lakhpat and further on to Desalpar Gunthli. In historic times, Lakhpat had only one very short period of prosperity. Rice used to be cultivated there, which was the source of 800,000 Koris in annual revenue. It is also said that Lakhpat used to generate an income of 100,000 Koris everyday from maritime activities. Fateh Muhammad, about the close of the eighteenth century (1801), enlarged and rebuilt its wall, and for a time it was a center of trade in Sindh. The City was known as the city of Millionaires till it was ruined gradually after the earthquake of 1819 which resulted in the formation of Allah Bund changing the course of the Sindhu river resulting in shortage of water in Lakhpat. The fortified town of Lakhpat still reverberates that vibrancy it had enjoyed with a heritage walk specially designed to relive its golden days. Lakhpat is also an important pilgrimage centre for Sikh religion as their spiritual Guru, Guru Nanakji had spent a night here during his visit to Mecca. Exactly on the Arabian sea, this city is surely an attractive place for explorers.

**Polo Forest:** It is one of the popular places of attractions in Gujarat that draws visitors all over the world to enjoy scenic natural beauty of the region. The polo forest is bestowed with diverse natural resources, river, dam and historical places. It is a general belief that the place where the forest is situated was actually the ancient Polo city that was established during the period of tenth century around the Harnav River which is linked with the Puranas and other Hindu mythological references. This ancient city was under the rule of Parihar kings who belonged to the place of Idar. During the period of fifteenth century, the city was captured by Marwar Rathods who named the city as pol which implies the meaning of gate in Marwari language. The city was ultimately deserted due to lack of adequate sunlight which ultimately is the primary reason for the formation of this forest. Apart from admiring the scenic beauty of the forest and its natural resources, visitors have the scope to set their eyes on other attractive spots like Jain derasar, Surya Mandir, Lakhena temple etc. They have the opportunity to engage in activities like trekking, mountain climbing and so on.





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**Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary :** The Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is one manmade reserve that keeps on drawing travellers throughout the year largely on account of its colourful bird population, & freshwater wetlands. The area under Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary was proclaimed as protected in 1982 on 6th November. The sanctuary has been artificially developed into a unique freshwater and coastal marshland and is situated close to the semi-dry biogeographic sector around Jamnagar district. The creation of the reserve followed the development of twin embankments on the Ruparel River to check the inflow of saline water from Arabian Sea as well as prevent freshwater from flowing into the sea. Consequently, an exclusive freshwater-saltwater hub or ecosystem was formed that was typified by a diversity of habitat kinds. The vibrant and intricate nature of the Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary serves a plethora of economic as well as environmental purposes. This complex ecosystem supports over 250 bird species, many of which are included in IUCN's 'red data' listing as these species of birds are endangered and on the verge of extinction. The wetlands furnish the ideal environment for staging, breeding, roosting, and feeding for the birds all through the year.

**Handicraft Villages:** The district of Kutch is known for the fusion of the White Desert and its colourful handicrafts. Nowhere in India one would find the variety of textile and handicrafts which you find in Kutch. As many migrants started migrating to Kutch, they brought their handicrafts with them. A single most attractive tourism product of Gujarat is the Handicrafts and the people have really strived upon them. Starting from the Embroidery to Rogan Art to Copper Bell Art and the Lacquer Art, the handicrafts in Kutch are made from everything. The whole banni region of Kutch is known for these handicraft villages with the prominent being Nirona, Sumarasar, Bhujodi, Hodka and Khavda with many others. Every village in the district speaks a different story in relating to the handicrafts with account of 32 known ones in the district. The White Desert festival has highlighted these handicrafts and the artisans by providing them a platform for their arts. Various non-profit organizations have been working lately for the locals to promote their textiles and handicrafts. These colourful handicrafts have even compelled the tourists to consider the white desert of the Kutch as the most colourful white desert of the world because of the colourful people and their handicrafts.





# WILDLIFE

## 6NIGHT / 7DAYS



### Day 1: Ahmedabad

Arrival in Ahmedabad – a World Heritage City. Check into the hotel and after freshen up, visit Sabarmati Ashram - established by Mahatma Gandhi and one of the most important places in Indian Independence History. Visit Adalaj Step well – a 5 storeyed intricately carved Step well.  
Overnight in Ahmedabad.

### Day 2: Ahmedabad – Nal Sarovar – Velavadar

Early morning, check out with packed breakfast and proceed towards Nal Sarovar (50kms / 1Hour). Enjoy the boat ride watching the thousands of migratory birds in the First Ramsar Site of India. Thereby proceed towards Velavadar (110 kms/2 ½ Hours) – the home to the Blackbuck National Park. Enjoy the Safari at the national park known for its Blackbucks and the African Savvanah Grasslands. Overnight at the Velavadar National Park.

### Day 3: Velavadar – Gir

Today morning, check out from Hotel and proceed towards Gir National Park – the last abode of the Asiatic Lion in the world. Reach Gir and check in to the resort and relax amidst the Gir forest. Enjoy the Dhamaal Dance of the local Siddi Tribes having roots from Africa.  
Overnight at Gir.

### Day 4: Gir

Early morning, go for Lion Safari (6:00 AM to 9:00 AM) to have a meet with the King with the Jungle in an enthralling Jeep ride within the Gir Forest. Post safari, return back to the resort and relax. Post Noon, visit the Devaliya Interpretation Zone for Bus Ride in the interpretation zone to enjoy the sightings of Lion and Leopards. Return back to Gir and Overnight at Gir National Park.

### Day 5: Gir – Bajana

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Little Rann of Kutch (300 kms / 7 Hours) – home to the Indian Wild Ass or Gudkhar as known locally. Little Rann of Kutch is a Unique landscape that offers unlimited opportunities to enjoy nature and wildlife. Reach the resort, check in and overnight at Bajana

### Day 6: Bajana – Ahmedabad

Early morning, depart for Jeep Safari in the Little Rann of Kutch for seeing some of the peculiar Migratory birds and the Indian Wild Asses. Meet the Agariyas – the salt farmers working hard to produce the salt and make our food tastier. Return back to resort and check out and proceed to Ahmedabad(100kms/2Hours) and overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 7: Drop

Early morning, proceed to Nal Sarovar – the only Ramsar Wetland site in Gujarat for an enthralling boat ride and bird watching. Nal Sarovar has been a prime attraction for bird watchers with an estimated 210 species of birds calling Nal Sarovar their home in winters. Return back to Ahmedabad and check out from hotel. Transfer to Airport and drop as per schedule.

**Suggestive Pricing Package Cost Per Person on DBL/TWIN Sharing:**

**USD : 1310/-**

**EUR : 1190/-**

**GBP : 1000/-**

### Packages Inclusions :

- Accommodation in Heritage/4\*/5\* hotels on DBL Sharing
- AC Transport
- MAP Meal plan
- Workshops and demonstration charges are included
- Entry tickets to all monuments and safari charges as per itinerary
- English Speaking Accompanying Guide
- All Government Taxes
- \* Subject to availability at the time of booking



# TRAVÉNUE

*Experience the unexplored*







**TRAVÉNUÉ**  
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# TEXTILE & HANDICRAFT 9NIGHT / 10DAYS



## Day 1: Ahmedabad

Arrival in Ahmedabad – a World Heritage City. Meeting and assistance upon arrival by the representatives of Compass Tourism. A formal introduction of the trip will be followed by the check in to the hotel. Day for leisure and evening at Manek Chowk – a night food market of Ahmedabad. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

## Day 2 : Ahmedabad

Early morning after breakfast, visit the World Famous Calico Textile Museum – one of the most beautiful textile museums in the world. The museum showcases the versatile collection of several Handicrafts and textile dating centuries back. Visit Sabarmati Ashram – an Ashram established by Mahatma Gandhi and an important monument in Indian Independence history as well as production of Khadi. Visit Adalaj Stepwell – a 5 Storeyed Step well known for its intricate carvings. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

## Day 3: Ahmedabad – Patan – Modhera – Little Rann of Kutch

Early morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Patan (120 kms/2 ½ Hours) – the erstwhile capital of Gujarat founded way back in 745 AD. Visit the Salvi family of Patola Weaving technique – a double Ikat art which is like a sheer poetry of the intermingling warp and weft of silken music. Patan is also known for the Khatri families for their Mashru weaving – an Unique interweaved pattern that has cotton at the base but the upper surface has a rich sheen of Silk. Also visit the Rani Ki Vav – an UNESCO inscribed World Heritage 7 storeyed Step well with more than 500 God Sculptures and a masterpiece in I Step wells which also have some Motifs of Patola designs. Proceed to Modhera and visit 11th Century Sun Temple in Modhera to witness the Grandeur of Solanki era in Gujarat. Proceed to Little Rann of Kutch – home to the Indian Wild Asses. Overnight at Bajana.

## Day 4: Little Rann of Kutch

Early morning after breakfast drive to Little Rann of Kutch Wildlife Sanctuary to observe the birds (Siberian Crane, flamingos). It is a paradise for bird watchers, one can see the flocks of greater flamingos near the water bodies in winter months. See the different animals as highly endangered Asiatic wild Ass & some antelopes like Nilgai (Blue Bull). Asiatic Wild Ass is an endangered species and Little Rann of Kutch is the best place to observe them in wild. Also make the small visit to the Agaria salt workers. In the afternoon, see some of the villages of Vadiara Rabari and Bharwad tribes. Both Rabari and Bharwad are cattle herders and in the evening time, we can see them milking their cows and buffalos. Visit the artisans of Tangaliya Shawl – a 700 year old art used by the shepherd community. Overnight at Little Rann of Kutch.

## Day 5: Little Rann of Kutch – Ajrakhpur – Bhuj

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Bhuj (250 kms /5 Hours). Visit the Ajrakhpur Village on the way – a village established by the Ajrakh Block Printers and also visit LLDC Museum – a living museum providing a detailed research and representation of the colourful handicrafts of Kutch district. Reach Bhuj – a city which rose from the ashes after the 2001 devastating Earthquake. Overnight at Bhuj.

## Day 6: Bhuj – Sumarasar – Nirona – Bhuj

Early morning after breakfast, proceed towards Sumarasar (40 kms/45 mins). Visit the artisans of Ahir Embroidery and visit Meghiben Meriya, a woman known for drawing her life stories on Cloth through Applique Work. Proceed to Nirona – one of the most fascinating village in the district of Kutch. Visit the Khatri Family which is the only family in India practising the Rogan Art. Visit the artisans of Copper Bell Art in the Nirona Village. Return and Dinner and Overnight at Bhuj

## Day 7: Bhuj – Hodka – Khavda – Bhuj

Early morning after breakfast, proceed to Hodka (70 kms/1 ½ Hours) to visit the Marwada Meghwal Community for their intricate embroidery work and the leather work. A interaction with the locals and a delicious lunch is the perfect icing on the cake. Proceed towards Khavda and witness some clay art which is deeply ingrained into the Gujarat's ancient tradition. Return back to Bhuj and overnight at Bhuj.

## Day 8: Bhuj – Mundra – Mandvi

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Mundra (60 kms/1 hour) – a city which houses the largest private port in the country. Visit Batik Block Printing artisans – a wax resist block printing art. Proceed to Mandvi and relax at the private beach of the Vijay Vilas Palace – the summer palace of the Kings of Kutch and overnight at Mandvi.

## Day 9: Mandvi – Ahmedabad

Early morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Ahmedabad (400 kms/8 Hours). Reach Ahmedabad and relax at the hotel. An evening visit to one of the Authentic Gujarati restaurant in Ahmedabad will sum up the tour nicely. Overnight at Ahmedabad. Today morning, check out and transfer to Airport and drop as per schedule.

## Day 10: Drop

Today morning, check out and transfer to Airport and drop as per schedule.



# TEXTILE & HANDICRAFT 9NIGHT / 10DAYS

**TRAVÉNUÉ**  
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**Suggestive Pricing Package Cost Per Person on DBL/TWIN Sharing:**

**USD : 1610/-**

**EUR : 1450/-**

**GBP : 1240/-**

## **Packages Inclusions :**

- Accommodation in Heritage/4\*/5\* hotels on DBL Sharing
- AC Transport
- MAP Meal plan
- Workshops and demonstration charges are included
- Entry tickets to all monuments and safari charges as per itinerary
- English Speaking Accompanying Guide
- All Government Taxes

\* Subject to availability at the time of booking





# TRIBAL

## 9NIGHT / 10DAYS



### Day 1: Ahmedabad

Arrival in Ahmedabad – a World Heritage City. Check into the hotel and after freshen up, visit Sabarmati Ashram – established by Mahatma Gandhi and one of the most important places in Indian Independence History. Visit the Kite Museum – one of the two Kite Museums in the world to know about the history of Kite Flying. Visit Adalaj Step well – a 5 storeyed intricately carved Step well. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 3: Jambughoda

Next morning after refreshment and breakfast, visit to the weekly haats (market) where the tribals from the surrounding areas bring their hand-made products such as jewellery, earthenware, rudimentary farm implements and farm produce, to sell or barter. Apart from these products, there is very active and noisy haggling over goats, fowls and bullocks. Dinner and overnight stay at Jambughoda.

### Day 5: Poshina – Patan – Modhera – Bajana

Today morning, proceed towards Patan (140 kms/ 3 hours). Visit Rani ki Vav – an UNESCO inscribed World Heritage 7 storeyed Step well with more than 500 God Sculptures and a masterpiece in Step wells. Visit 11th Century Sun Temple in Modhera to witness the Grandeur of Solanki era in Gujarat. Proceed to Bajana (70 kms / 1 ½ Hours) and relax at the resort nearby to the Little Rann of Kutch – the home to the Indian Wild Asses.

### Day 7: Bajana – Bhuj

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Bhuj (250 kms/5 Hours). Visit LLDC museum – a living museum showing the arts and handicrafts of Kutch on the way. Also visit the Khatri Community of the Ajrakh Block Printing in Ajrakhpur. Reach Bhuj – a city which rose from the ashes after the 2001 devastating Earthquake. Overnight at Bhuj.

### Day 9: Bhuj – Ahmedabad

Today morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Ahmedabad (350 kms/7 hours) and evening time for leisure. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 2: Jambughoda

Today morning, breakfast and check out and proceed towards Jambughoda (180 kms/ 1 ½ Hours). Visit to the house of Rathwa Tribe and explore their way of living – hunting tools, design of house & utensils, pithora - native painting. Pithora Painting is their major attraction which they paint on the walls of the houses as a token of respect to God. Overnight at Jambughoda.

### Day 4: Jambughoda – Poshina

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Poshina (320 kms/ 6 ½ Hours). Reach Poshina – a picturesque village set amidst the lush green Polo Forest and the Aravalli Ranges with colourful people. Visit to the rural areas here will make you see the Terracotta army of Horses and the Garasiya tribes showing their archery demonstrations. Enjoy the stay at the Darbargadh Palace and overnight at Poshina

### Day 6: Bajana

Today morning, go for a Village Safari in the Patdi village when the market starts crowding with people buying their daily needs. Visit the artisans of Tangaliya Shawl – an art almost 700 years old used mainly by the Shepherd Bharwad Community. Post Noon, a safari in the Little Rann of Kutch awaits us. Hundreds of Migratory birds flock to the Little Rann in winters which becomes a paradise for the Bird watchers and yes, the Wild Asses always remain the most enticing ones. Meet Agariyas – salt farmers working in the desert to produce Salt. Overnight at Bajana

### Day 8: Bhuj – Hodka – Khavda – Bhuj

Today morning after breakfast, visit Hodka village to meet the Marwada Meghwal and Halepotra tribes and have a delicious lunch at their home. Hover through the Banni villages known for their colourful handicrafts and people. Return back to Bhuj and overnight at Bhuj.

### Day 10: Drop

Today morning after breakfast, check out and drop as per schedule



# TRIBAL

## 9NIGHT / 10DAYS

**TRAVÉNUÉ**  
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**Suggestive Pricing Package Cost Per Person on DBL/TWIN Sharing:**

**USD : 1640/-**

**EUR : 1480/-**

**GBP : 1250/-**

### **Packages Inclusions :**

- Accommodation in Heritage/4\*/5\* hotels on DBL Sharing
- AC Transport
- MAP Meal plan
- Workshops and demonstration charges are included
- Entry tickets to all monuments and safari charges as per itinerary
- English Speaking Accompanying Guide
- All Government Taxes

\*Subject to availability at the time of booking





# ARCHITECTURE

## 8 NIGHT / 9 DAYS



### Day 1: Ahmedabad

Arrival in Ahmedabad – a World Heritage City. Check into the hotel and after freshen up, visit Sabarmati Ashram – established by Mahatma Gandhi and one of the most important places in Indian Independence History. Visit Adalaj Step well – a 5 storeyed intricately carved Step well. Overnight in Ahmedabad.

### Day 2: Ahmedabad

Today morning, after breakfast go for a heritage walk which starts from a Swaminarayan temple to Jama Masjid while walking through hundreds of Poles and many Jain temples in the first World Heritage City of India. Visit Sidi Saiyed Mosque – known for its single stone carved windows unofficially regarded as the 'Identity of Ahmedabad'. Visit Hutheesingh Jain Temple – a beautiful temple constructed by Sheth Hutheesingh during the great famine in the mid-19th Century. Overnight at Ahmedabad

### Day 3: Ahmedabad – Patan – Modhera – Ahmedabad

Today morning, proceed towards Patan (140 kms/ 3 hours). Proceed to Patan and visit Rani ki Vav – an UNESCO inscribed World Heritage 7 storeyed Step well with more than 500 God Sculptures and a masterpiece in Step wells. Visit 11th Century Sun Temple in Modhera to witness the Grandeur of Solanki era in Gujarat. Return back to Ahmedabad and overnight in Ahmedabad.

### Day 4: Ahmedabad – Champaner – Vadodara

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Champaner (150 kms/3 Hours). Visit Pavagadh temple dedicated to Goddess Kali, one of the 51 Shaktipeeths on top of the hill and Visit the Champaner – Pavagadh Archaeological Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Site which has several large and prominent mosques, a testament to its time of glory as the erstwhile capital of Gujarat. Proceed to Vadodara and overnight at Vadodara.

### Day 5: Vadodara - Palitana

Today morning, after breakfast, visit the Laxmi Vilas Palace – the official residence of the Princely Gaikwads and considered to be one of the largest private residence in the country built in a perfect mixture of Indian, Islamic and European elements. Visit the Baroda museum and Picture Gallery – one of the best museums in the state. Proceed towards Palitana (250 kms/ 5 Hours) – one of most pilgrimage places as per Jain Religion. Overnight at Palitana

### Day 6: Palitana – Junagadh

Early morning, climb up around 3800-odd steps on the Shatrunjay hill and witness the 863 Temple complex on the top of the hill. Return back to the foothills and proceed towards Junagadh (200 kms/5 Hours). Reach Junagadh – home to one of the oldest forts in Gujarat and one of the two Princely states which intend to go with Pakistan at the time of Independence. Overnight at Junagadh.

### Day 7: Junagadh – Gondal - Sayla

Today morning, after breakfast, check out and visit Ashoka Major Rock Edicts – one of 10 Major Rock Edicts by Emperor Ashok. Visit the Uparkot Fort – one of the oldest forts in India overlooking the Junagadh City and the mighty Girnar Mountain. Visit the 2nd Century Buddhist caves in Uparkot Fort and the destroyed Jama Masjid. Proceed towards Gondal (60 kms/1 Hour) and visit Vintage Car museum and the Naulakha Palace in Gondal. Thereby proceed to Sayla (120 kms/2 ½ Hours) and stay at a heritage hotel amidst the farmlands. Overnight at Sayla.

### Day 8: Gondal – Ahmedabad

Today morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Ahmedabad (120 kms/3 Hours). Visit Lothal – an Indus Valley Civilization harbour considered to be the oldest harbour in the world which connected the other civilizations at the same time. Reach Ahmedabad and visit Sarkhej Roza – the tomb of Ahmed Ganj Baksh which was termed as the 'Acropolis of Ahmedabad' by the renowned French Architect Le Corbuiser. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 9: Drop

Today morning, check out and transfer to Airport and drop as per schedule.



# ARCHITECTURE

## 8 NIGHT / 9 DAYS

**TRAVÉNUUE**  
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**Suggestive Pricing Package Cost Per Person on DBL/TWIN Sharing:**

**USD : 1450/-**

**EUR : 1300/-**

**GBP : 1100/-**

### **Packages Inclusions :**

- Accommodation in Heritage/4\*/5\* hotels on DBL Sharing
- AC Transport
- MAP Meal plan
- Workshops and demonstration charges are included
- Entry tickets to all monuments and safari charges as per itinerary
- English Speaking Accompanying Guide
- All Government Taxes

\*Subject to availability at the time of booking





# NAVRATRI

## 6 NIGHT / 7 DAYS



### Day 1: Ahmedabad

Arrival in Ahmedabad – a World Heritage City. Check into the hotel and go for Garba Practice and get ready for the Longest Dance festival in the world. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 2: Ahmedabad

Early morning, attend the Yoga Session to start the day in a refreshing manner. Post breakfast, an auto rickshaw tour awaits you for the day along with a heritage walk which starts from a Swaminarayan temple to Jama Masjid while walking through hundreds of Pols in the first World Heritage City of India. Visit the Sidi Saiyed Mosque known for its stone carved Jalis – unofficial considered to be the identity of Ahmedabad. Visit Hutheesingh Jain Derasar – a 19th century intricately carved Jain Temple and proceed for Lunch followed by Garba practice. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 3: Ahmedabad

Early morning, attend an energizing Yoga Session followed by breakfast. Visit the 5 Storey Adalaj Step well – a 15th Century intricately carved structure constructed by Mahmud Begada to marry Queen Rudabai. Proceed to Sarkhej Roza – termed as the 'Acropolis of Ahmedabad' by Renowned French Architect Le Corbuiser referring it with the Acropolis of Athens. Post Lunch, go for the last Garba practice before the main festival starts on the following day. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 4: Ahmedabad – Modhera – Patan – Ahmedabad

Early morning, attend a riveting Yoga Session followed by breakfast. Proceed towards Patan (140 kms/ 3 hours). Visit Rani ki Vav – an UNESCO inscribed World Heritage 7 storeyed Step well with more than 500 God Sculptures and a masterpiece in Step wells. Visit 11th Century Sun Temple in Modhera to witness the Grandeur of Solanki era in Gujarat. Return back to Ahmedabad and enjoy the first night of Navratri festival – the most vibrant festival of Gujarat. Dance on the tunes of famed singers with songs dedicated to Goddess – the symbol of Power. Return back to Ahmedabad and Overnight in Ahmedabad.

### Day 5: Ahmedabad – Vadodara

Early morning, Yoga session awaits to shrug off the tiredness of the preceding night of Garba. Post Breakfast, proceed towards Statue of Unity (200 kms/ 4 Hours). Visit Statue of Unity – the tallest statue in the world dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – the Iron Man of India. Return back to Vadodara and port freshen up, visit the United Way in Baroda – one of the best Garba Venues around the world famed for the colourful and the enthusiastic crowd performing some amazing steps. Returning back to hotel and Overnight at Vadodara.

### Day 6: Vadodara

Today morning, visit the Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery and take a stroll in the Magnificent Sayaji Baug. Relax in the day to be fresh enough to dance on the tunes of Garba. Overnight at Vadodara.

### Day 7: Drop

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Ahmedabad(200 kms/ 4 Hours) and drop as per schedule carrying back the vibrancy of the Navratri festival.



# NAVRATRI

## 6 NIGHT / 7 DAYS

**TRAVÉNUUE**  
*Experience the unexplored*

**Suggestive Pricing Package Cost Per Person on DBL/TWIN Sharing:**

**USD : 1070/-**

**EUR : 965/-**

**GBP : 820/-**

### **Inclusions for Navratri Package:**

- Accommodation in 4\* hotels on DBL Sharing Basis
- AC Transport
- All meals
- Entry tickets to all monuments as per itinerary
- English Speaking Accompanying Guide
- Traditional Welcome
- Traditional Attire with Accessories
- Auto Rickshaw charges
- Choreographer Charges
- Yoga Trainer                - Yoga Matts
- Lounge for Yoga Practice
- All Government Taxes

\*Subject to availability at the time of booking

### **Fixed Dates for the Tour:**

· 12 Oct - 18 Oct, 2023

· 30 Sep - 06 Oct, 2024





# KITE FESTIVAL

## 7 NIGHT / 8 DAYS

**TRAVÉNUÉ**  
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### Day 1 : Ahmedabad

Arrival in Ahmedabad – a World Heritage City. Check into the hotel and after freshen up, visit Sabarmati Ashram – established by Mahatma Gandhi and one of the most important places in Indian Independence History. Visit the Kite Museum – one of the two Kite Museums in the world to know about the history of Kite Flying. Visit Adalaj Step well – a 5 storeyed intricately carved Step well. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 2: Ahmedabad

Today morning, go for a heritage walk which starts from a Swaminarayan temple to Jama Masjid while walking through hundreds of Poles in the first World Heritage City of India. Post Walk, visit to the International Kite Festival at the Sabarmati Ashram where you can converse with the hundreds of International Kite Flyers from around the world along with the Colourful kites hovering above you. Have Dinner followed by a visit to the old city of Ahmedabad to see the 'Katal ni Raat' – the night before the festival day when people are busy preparing for the Kite Fight the next day. Overnight at Ahmedabad

### Day 3 : Ahmedabad

Today morning, proceed to the old city of Ahmedabad and climb up the terrace and enjoy one of the most vibrant festivals of Gujarat. Thousands of people on their terraces flying kites with a healthy competition to fall each other's Kites are a treat to watch. Local delicacies on the terrace are a must in the festival which only increases our enthusiasm to enjoy the festival. Return back to Hotel and overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 4: Ahmedabad – Balasinor

Today morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Balasinor (80 kms/1 ½ Hours) – one of the largest Dinosaur Fossil Park in the world. Take a guided tour at the Dinosaur Fossil Park and a visit to the Dinosaur museum to know more about the Dinosaurs. Stay at a heritage hotel at Balasinor



# KITE FESTIVAL

## 7 NIGHT / 8 DAYS



### Day 5: Balasinor – Champaner – Vadodara

Today morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Champaner (72/1 ½ Hours). Visit Pavagadh temple dedicated to Goddess Kali, one of the 51 Shaktipeeths on top of the hill and Visit the Champaner – Pavagadh Archaeological Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Site which has several large and prominent mosques, a testament to its time of glory as the erstwhile capital of Gujarat. Proceed towards Vadodara (50 kms/ 1 Hour) – the cultural capital of Gujarat. Overnight at Vadodara.

### Day 6: Vadodara – LRK

Today morning after breakfast, check out and visit the Laxmi Vilas Palace – the official residence of the Princely Gaikwads and considered to be one of the largest private residence in the country built in a perfect blend of Indian, Islamic and European elements. Visit the Baroda museum and Picture Gallery – one of the best museums in the state. Proceed towards LRK (210 kms/ 4 Hours) – the home to the Indian Wild Asses.

### Day 7: LRK – Patan – Modhera – LRK

Today morning, a safari in the Little Rann of Kutch awaits us. Hundreds of Migratory birds flock to the Little Rann in winters which becomes a paradise for the Bird watchers and yes, the Wild Asses always remain the most enticing ones. Meet Agariyas – salt farmers working in the desert to produce Salt. Post Noon, proceed towards Patan (100 kms/ 2 hours). Visit Rani ki Vav – an UNESCO inscribed World Heritage 7 storeyed Step well with more than 500 God Sculptures and a masterpiece in Step wells. Visit 11 th Century Sun Temple in Modhera to witness the Grandeur of Solanki era in Gujarat. Enjoy the Modhera Dance Festival at the backdrop of Sun temple and proceed and overnight at LRK

### Day 8: Drop

Today morning, proceed to Ahmedabad and drop as per schedule.

### Suggestive Pricing Package Cost Per Person on DBL/TWIN Sharing:

**USD : 1080/-**

**EUR : 970/-**

**GBP : 820/-**

### Inclusions for Kite Festival Package :

- Accommodation in 4\* hotels on DBL Sharing Basis
- AC Transport
- All meals
- Entry tickets to all monuments as per itinerary
- English Speaking Accompanying Guide
- Traditional Welcome
- Kites & Bobbins during kite
- Entry to Kite Festival
- Terrace Charges
- All Government Taxes

\*Subject to availability at the time of booking

### Fixed Dates for the Tour:

• 12 Jan - 19 Jan, 2024

• 12 Jan - 19 Jan, 2025



# ROYAL GUJARAT

## 21 NIGHT / 22 DAYS



### Day 1: Ahmedabad

Arrival in Ahmedabad – a World Heritage City. Check into the hotel and after freshen up, visit Sabarmati Ashram - established by Mahatma Gandhi and one of the most important places in Indian Independence History. Visit Adalaj Step well – a 5 storeyed intricately carved Step well. Overnight in Ahmedabad.

### Day 2: Ahmedabad

Today morning, after breakfast go for a heritage walk which starts from a Swaminarayan temple to Jama Masjid while walking through hundreds of Poles and many Jain temples in the first World Heritage City of India. Visit Sidi Saiyed Mosque – known for its single stone carved windows unofficially regarded as the 'Identity of Ahmedabad'. Visit Hutheesingh Jain Temple – a beautiful temple constructed by Sheth Hutheesingh during the great famine in the mid-19th Century. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

### Day 3: Ahmedabad – Vadodara

Today morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Vadodara (120 kms/2 Hours). Reach Vadodara and visit the Laxmi Vilas Palace – the official residence of the Princely Gaikwads and considered to be one of the largest private residence in the country built in a perfect mixture of Indian, Islamic and European elements. Visit the Baroda museum and Picture Gallery – one of the best museums in the state. Take a stroll at the magnificent Sayaji Baug in the evening. Overnight at Vadodara.

### Day 4: Vadodara – SOU

Today morning, proceed towards SOU (100 kms/2 Hours). Check into the Hotel and Visit Statue of Unity – the tallest statue in the world dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – the Iron Man of India. Visit Sardar Sarovar Dam which is a modern architectural marvel in itself and the Valley of Flowers. Watch the Light and sound Show in the evening and overnight at Statue of Unity.

### Day 5: SOU – Jambughoda

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Jambughoda (80 kms/1 ½ Hours). Reach Jambughoda and check into the hotel and after freshen up, visit the Rathwa Tribes famous for their Pithora Paintings. Visit the Kada Dam – a picturesque place situated amidst the lush green forest of Jambughoda Wildlife sanctuary. Overnight at Jambughoda.

### Day 6: Jambughoda – Balasinor

Today morning after breakfast, check out from Jambughoda and proceed towards Champaner (30 kms/ 35 Mins). Visit Pavagadh temple dedicated to Goddess Kali, one of the 51 Shaktipeeths on top of the hill and Visit the Champaner – Pavagadh Archaeological Park – a UNESCO World Heritage Site which has several large and prominent mosques, a testament to its time of glory as the erstwhile capital of Gujarat. Proceed towards Balasinor (70 kms / 1 ½ Hours) – one of the largest Dinosaur Fossil Park in the world and stay at a Heritage hotel at Balasinor.

### Day 7: Balasinor – Poshina

Today morning after breakfast, take a guided tour at the Dinosaur Fossil Park and a visit to the Dinosaur museum to know more about the Dinosaurs. Thereby proceed towards Poshina (200 kms/ 4 Hours) and stay at a beautiful heritage hotel with the Aravalli Ranges in the hindsight. Overnight at Poshina.

### Day 8: Poshina

Today morning after breakfast, Visit to the rural areas here will make you see the Terracotta army of Horses and the Garasiya tribes showing their archery demonstrations. Enjoy the stay at the Poshina with the calm and beautiful surroundings and overnight at Poshina.



# ROYAL GUJARAT

## 21 NIGHT / 22 DAYS



### Day 9: Poshina – Patan – Modhera – Bajana

Today morning, proceed towards Patan (140 kms/ 3 hours). Visit Rani ki Vav – an UNESCO inscribed World Heritage 7 storeyed Step well with more than 500 God Sculptures and a masterpiece in Step wells. Visit 11 th Century Sun Temple in Modhera to witness the Grandeur of Solanki era in Gujarat. Proceed to Bajana (70 kms / 1 ½ Hours) and relax at the resort nearby to the Little Rann of Kutch – the home to the Indian Wild Asses.

### Day 10: Bajana

Today morning, go for a Village Safari in the Patdi village when the market starts crowding with people buying their daily needs. Visit the artisans of Tangaliya Shawl – an art almost 700 years old used mainly by the Shepherd Bharwad Community. Post Noon, a safari in the Little Rann of Kutch awaits us. Hundreds of Migratory birds flock to the Little Rann in winters which becomes a paradise for the Bird watchers and yes, the Wild Asses always remain the most enticing ones. Meet Agariyas salt farmers working in the desert to produce Salt. Overnight at Bajana.

### Day 11: Bajana – Bhuj

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Bhuj (250 kms/5 Hours). Visit LLDC museum – a living museum showing the arts and handicrafts of Kutch on the way. Reach Bhuj – a city which rose from the ashes after the 2001 devastating Earthquake. Visit Kutch Museum – the first museum in Kutch giving an insight about the district of Kutch. Overnight at Bhuj.

### Day 12: Bhuj – Sumarasar – Nirona – Bhuj

Today morning after breakfast, Visit the Prag Mahal and Aina Mahal, the palaces of the Princely Jadejas of Kutch. Post Noon, proceed towards Sumarasar (30 kms/ 35 Mins). Visit the Kala Raksha Kendra, a NGO working for the upliftment of the locals. Visit the artisans of Ahir Embroidery and visit Meghiben Meriya, a woman known for drawing her life stories on Cloth through Applique Work. Proceed to Nirona and visit the Khatri Family which is the only family in India practising the Rogan Art. Walk around the Nirona village and meet the artisans of Copper Bell Art and Lacquer art in the Nirona Village. Return and Dinner and Overnight at Bhuj.

### Day 13: Bhuj – Dhordo – Hodka – Black Hills – Bhuj

Today morning after breakfast, proceed towards Hodka village (80 kms/ 1 ½ Hours) and visit the Hodka village to meet the Marwada Community well versed in embroidery and Leather work. Have a delicious lunch at their house enjoying their hospitality. Visit the White Desert of Kutch, a crystal clear salty marshy land – a sight to behold and remember rather than listening in words. Proceed to Black Hills – the highest point in the district of Kutch which is probably the only place giving a panoramic view of the White desert. Return back to Bhuj and overnight at Bhuj.

### Day 14: Bhuj – Mundra – Mandvi

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Mandvi. Visit the artisans of Batik Print, a block printing Art in Mundra on the way. Reach Mandvi and visit the Vijay Vilas Palace, the summer palace of the Princely Jadejas. Visit the Mandvi beach in the evening and witness the beautiful sunset in the Gulf of Kutch. Dinner and Overnight at Mandvi.

### Day 15: Mandvi – Gondal

Today morning, check out from Mandvi and proceed towards Gondal (320 kms/ 6 Hours) – one of the Princely states before the Independence of India. Reach Gondal and visit the Vintage car museum and the Naulakha Palace of Gondal. Overnight at Gondal.

### Day 16: Gondal – Junagadh – Gir

Today morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Junagadh (60 kms/ 1 Hour) – home to one of the oldest forts in Gujarat and one of the two Princely states which intend to go with Pakistan at the time of Independence. Visit Ashoka Major Rock Edicts – one of 10 Major Rock Edicts by Emperor Ashok. Visit the Uparkot Fort – one of the oldest forts in India overlooking the Junagadh City and the mighty Girnar Mountain. Visit the 2nd Century Buddhist caves in Uparkot Fort and the destructed Jama Masjid. Thereby proceed towards Gir (60 kms/1 Hour) – the last abode of the Asiatic Lion. Overnight at Gir.



# ROYAL GUJARAT 21 NIGHT / 22 DAYS



## Day 17: Gir – Diu

Early morning, go for Lion Safari to meet the King of the Jungle. Thereby check out and proceed towards Diu – an erstwhile Portuguese Colony. Reach Diu and Visit Naida Caves – natural rock formation which are perfect for the Photographers. Relax at the Nagoa Beach in the evening and Overnight at Diu.

## Day 18: Diu

Today morning after breakfast, visit the St. Paul's Church in Diu – one of the oldest and the most beautiful Portuguese churches in India. Visit the St. Thomas Church now converted into a museum housing artefacts of the Portuguese era in Diu. The destructed Portuguese fort on the shores of Arabian sea sets up the day with picturesque locations in it. Relax at the beach in the evening and overnight at Diu.

## Day 19: Diu – Palitana

Today morning after breakfast, check out and proceed towards Palitana (180 kms/4 ½ Hours) – one of the most important pilgrimage places as per Jain Religion. Relax at the princely heritage palace set amidst the farms and overnight at Palitana.

## Day 20: Palitana – Velavadar

Early morning, climb up around 3800-odd steps on the Shatrunjaya hill and witness the 863 Temple complex on the top of the hill. Proceed to Velavadar (100 kms/ 2 Hours) – the only national park with the Blackbucks in India. Relax at the resort and overnight at Velavadar.

## Day 21: Velavadar – Ahmedabad

Early morning, enjoy the Safari at the national park known for its Blackbucks and the African like Savvanah Grasslands. Check out from Hotel and proceed towards Ahmedabad (150 kms/3 Hours). Visit Lothal – an Indus Valley Civilization Dockyard on the way. Reach Ahmedabad and relax at the hotel. Overnight at Ahmedabad.

## Day 22: Drop

Today morning after breakfast, check out and drop as per schedule.



**Suggestive Pricing Package Cost Per Person on DBL/TWIN Sharing:**

**USD : 3750/-**

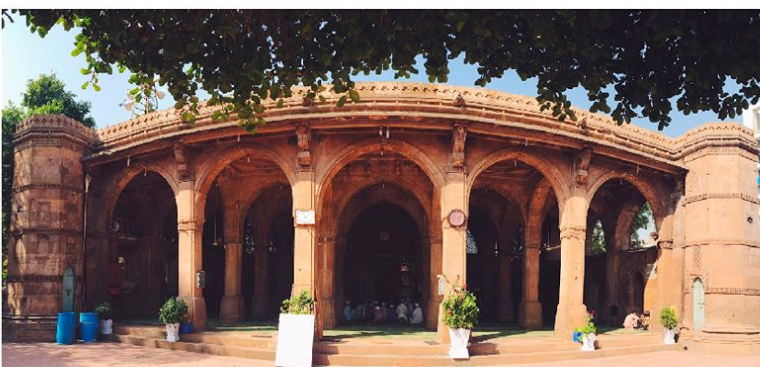
**EUR : 3400/-**

**GBP : 2870/-**

### Packages Inclusions :

- Accommodation in Heritage/4\*/5\* hotels on DBL Sharing
- AC Transport
- MAP Meal plan
- Workshops and demonstration charges are included
- Entry tickets to all monuments and safari charges as per itinerary
- English Speaking Accompanying Guide
- All Government Taxes

\*Subject to availability at the time of booking





# TOURS ON BICYCLE 7 NIGHT / 8 DAYS



## Tour 1: Cultural Kutch on Bicycle

Total Days of Journey – 8 Days

Total number of cycling Days – 6 Days

Total Kms of cycling – 317 Kms

Average cycling per day – 53 Kms

Maximum cycling on Day 6 – 75 Kms

Minimum cycling on Day 1 – 3 Kms

Total Kms by supporting vehicle – 630 Kms

Total Kms by Cycle + Supporting vehicle – 947 Kms

We will be cycling through the old city area and villages to know the culture, history, arts, festivals, Traditions, Deserts, Mountain, Beaches, Wildlife, Bird watching, Forts, Old historic temples and Mosques, old havelis, Palaces, Museums, Fossil Parks etc. We assure you to make your trip memorable and enjoyable through our best services.

### Day 1: Bhuj Arrival

Arrivals in bhuj followed by meeting and assistance upon arrival as our representatives of Compass Tourism welcome you and escort you to your car and will proceed to the Kutch safari Lodge, check in to hotel and after freshen up we will depart for local sightseeing in Kutch by bicycle. We will visit Aina Mahal, Prag Mahal and depart for Resort near Rudramata Dam. Check in to resort and Night Stay at Bhuj.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 15 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 35 Kms

Meal: Dinner

### Day 2: Bhuj – Zura – Nirona – Sumrasar – Bhuj

Early morning after breakfast we will depart for Zura Village by bicycle for metal-bell artisans “The Smith Man community from Sindh, (now in Pakistan) saw the potential for their craft and brought the craft to the land of Kutch. Then we will move to Nirona village for Rogan painting artisans “which is art of painting, an ancient art over three hundred years old.” Return to the resort for lunch and after rest we will depart for Sumrasar village where we will meet Ahir community for embroidery work and then we will visit Meghiben house for appliqué work which is one of kind it in and we will return to resort Night Stay at Bhuj.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 0 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 70 Kms

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 3: Bhuj – Kotay – Bhirandiyara – Misardiyaro – Dhordo

Early morning after breakfast we will depart for Kotay by bicycle one can see the architectural remains of several ruined temples of the tenth century in Kotay. Then we will depart for Bhirandiyara for Kutchi sweets locally known as 'MAVO' (dehydrated or condensed milk) and depart for Misardiyaro where we will meet Wadha community for lacquer work - The word lacquer originates from the Sanskrit word "Laksha" meaning wax, which was used for both the LAC insect and the scarlet resinous secretion it produces that was used as wood finish in ancient India and depart for Dhordo. Here we will start our journey by supporting vehicle to reach to Dhordo. Check into resort, Lunch and leisure time at resort. After Hi-tea at resort we will visit White desert for sunset which is unbelievable creation of God. White desert is salt desert located in northwest corner of Kutch district. It is spread across in 7000 sq kms in size and it is one of the largest salt deserts in the world. Return to Resort and be witness of culture programme which includes local kutchi songs and kutchi garba (dance) performed by local kutchi women. Dinner and Night Stay at Dhordo

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 40 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 75 Kms

Meal: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

### Day 4: Dhordo – Chhari dhandh – Dhordo – Khavda – Black Hills - Nakhatrana

Early morning 4:00 AM we will depart for Chharidhandh by cycle which is located near Fulay village of Nakhatrana Taluka. Chhari dhandh is paradise for bird- watchers and ornithologists as the land has around 370 species of birds, among which water fly waders and larks can be easily spotted. We will back to resort after breakfast and freshen up free time at resort and after lunch we shall depart for Khavda village to visit Abdulbhai's home who is an artisan for Clay art which is ingrained



# TOURS ON BICYCLE 7 NIGHT / 8 DAYS



## Tour 1: Cultural Kutch on Bicycle

deeply into Gujarat's ancient tradition and since then has continued to enchant the world. Then we will proceed for Black hills visit. Black hill is highest point of Kutch district at 465 meters it has a magnetic point on the way to too where you can see a vehicle moving towards hills on its own. Also, it has 400 years old Dattatreya temple over the hill. Depart for Nakhatrana Night Stay at Nakhatrana.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 225 Kms    Journey by Bicycle - 42 Kms    Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 5: Nakhatrana – Lakhpur – Tera – Nakhatrana

Early morning after breakfast depart for Lakhpur by supporting vehicle. Historically Lakhpur was very important trading post by which Gujarat and Sindh were connected. Before 1819's earthquake River Sindhu used to flow in Arabian sea and Lakhpur has lost its important of fort and now city has become a history in itself and today it is populated as a Ghost town and city of ruined buildings. After reaching there we will visit Lakhpur heritage city by cycle, we will start tour from Lakhpur Gurudwara which is ancient with history attached from Guru Nanak on his initial travels from the 16th century. The place was also a popular seat for the Udasi community. The Lakhpur Sahib is a part of the protected monument of the Gujarat state. It holds a deep religious value in the hearts of the Sikhs as it is believed that Guru Nanak used this site as a rest point on his way to Mecca and Medina for Haj somewhere during 1506-1513 AD and 1519-1521 AD. After that we will be visiting Akbani Mahal, Custom House, Pashmawala house, Hatkeshwar temple, Bird feeders, Gulam Mahomed no Kubo, Katha waro Nako, Old Matam, Pani wari Bari, Jageshwar temple, Bhatiya Haveli, Lakhpur Fort and Bhuj Waro Nako. After lakhpur we will depart for Tera which is the

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 190 Kms    Journey by Bicycle - 55 Kms    Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 6: Nakhatrana – Than – Fossil Park – Nakhatrana – Roha – Mandvi

Early morning after breakfast by 7 AM depart for Than-Jagir by bicycle, where we will be able to see a very unique art of KAMANGARI PAINTINGS in THAN JAGIR temple which is a veritable treasure trove of Kamangari wall art. There are cherubic angels riding chariots driven by peacocks. Scenes from the Mahabharata with benevolent sages and divine deities flank secular everyday compositions of lovers in earnest flight being chased by arrows from a slighted admirer. The self-important official dancing maidens, and platters of exotic fruit and flowers, together create a heady chronicle of the people of Kutch 300 years ago, not necessarily of life in Kutch, but rather of life as experienced or imagined by the Kutchhi. Then we will proceed for Fossil park museum at Than by bicycle. This is private fossil museum of Mr Mohansinh Sodha who is hunting for fossils from last 40 years even He has even discovered a new species of Sea-Cow. After that we will move to Infinity resort by bicycle, freshen up & check out. Now will depart for Roha fort which is situated in Roha village which was the leading Jagir of Kutch state and there were more than 50 villages under this Jagir. Roha is called Sumari Roha after the princesses of the Sumara state in Sindh. Fleeing Allaudin Khilji the princesses sought asylum with Abda, who died fighting Allaudin. Consequently the princesses took Samadhi at Roha. After Roha fort we will move to Mandvi by supporting vehicle. Check in to Vijay Vilas Heritage resort. In the evening free time on private beach of Resort. Dinner will be on Beach restaurant. Return to resort Night Stay at Mandvi.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 50 Kms    Journey by Bicycle - 40 Kms    Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 7: Mandvi Local Sightseeing

Early morning after breakfast we shall depart for Mashru weaving family. The meaning of Mashru is "allowed or permissible" in Arabic. The port town of Mandvi is at the centre of Mashru legacy in Kutch, historically creating luxurious bolts of the fabric that Muslims and Hindus enjoyed'. It has a unique interweaved pattern that has cotton at the base but the upper surface has a rich sheen of silk. As the base of cotton gives cooling effect in the hot region of Kutch the usually bright and vibrant colours of silk reflect with visible contrast in the white barrens of Kutch and can be seen from distance. And then depart for Batik Printing – 'Local legends share stories of the Batik practice of block printing being carried to Kutch during the time of the Ramayana by seasoned, master craftsmen. In the evening visit Vijay Vilas Palace in Mandvi and free time on Mandvi Beach. Dinner will be arranged on Beach restaurant and Return to resort Night Stay at Mandvi.



# TOURS ON BICYCLE 7 NIGHT / 8 DAYS

**TRAVÉNUÉ**  
*Experience the unexplored*

## Tour 1: Cultural Kutch on Bicycle

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 50 Kms    Journey by Bicycle - 0 Kms    Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 8: Mandvi – Bhuj Drop / Ahmedabad Drop

early morning after breakfast check out and transfer to Bhuj Airport / Ahmedabad Airport for your next destination.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 60 Kms    Journey by Bicycle - 0 Kms    Meal: Breakfast



## Tour 2. Explore Glorious Gujarat on Bicycle

Total Days of Journey – 8 Days  
Total Kms of cycling – 175 Kms  
Total number of cycling Days – 7 Days  
Average cycling per day – 25 Kms

Maximum cycling on Day 7 – 55 Kms  
Minimum cycling on Day 1 – 3 Kms  
Total Kms by supporting vehicle – 366 Kms  
Total Kms by Cycle + Supporting vehicle – 541 Kms



# TOURS ON BICYCLE 7 NIGHT / 8 DAYS



## Tour 2. Explore Glorious Gujarat on Bicycle

### Day 1: Arrival in Ahmedabad and Local Sightseeing:

Arrival in Ahmedabad followed by meeting and assistance upon arrival as our representatives of Compass Tourism welcome you and escorts you to your car and will proceed to House of MG, a heritage hotel in the old city. The room keys and check in are organized by our executive and would introduce the tour to you and hand over the documents to you. Check into the hotel and refresh. After leisurely lunch we will proceed to visit heritage monuments on Scholl Bike HB 9.1.

We will visit Siddi Saiyed Mosque which is recognised as the Symbol of Ahmedabad and popular for Latticework on Sandstone. It was built in 1572 and dedicated to Bilal Jhajar Khan and will proceed to Bhadra Fort nearby. In the evening we will visit King Ahmed Shah's Tomb, Manek Chawk for Ahmedabad's colourful Night and by 11:00 PM we will be a witness of NAUBATKHANA near Badshah no Haziro (King's Tomb). Return to Hotel and Night Stay at Ahmedabad.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 11 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 3 Kms

Meal: Dinner

### Day 2: Ahmedabad Local

Early morning after breakfast BY 8:00 AM we will visit local Ahmedabad (old city area) on its heritage route on its narrow lanes and pols by bicycle where you will be able to see hidden architecture and heritage monuments. We will start our journey from old Swaminarayan temple which is the first temple of Swaminarayan sect (a sub sect of Hindu Vaishnav community), Bird feeders on way, Jain temple, old mosques and historical Havelis. Return back to the hotel for rest. Later, we will visit Gandhi Ashram established by Mahatma Gandhi on the banks of River Sabarmati. We will also visit some important museums like Sanskar Kendra Museum, NC Mehta Gallery, LD Indology Museum and Ahmedabad ni Gufa.

Take a stroll at the Night market of Law Garden for some shopping. Return to Hotel for dinner and Night Stay at Ahmedabad.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 0 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 21 Kms

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 3: Ahmedabad – Mahemdavad – Vaso – Vadodara

Early Morning after Breakfast and check out, we will be driving to Mahemdavad, established by Mahmud Begda, the son of Ahmed Shah famous for its heritage buildings. We will be cycling in the city seeing heritage places like Roza Rozi which is a Dargah of Mubarak Said with a myth associated with it. The myth says that no one can count the pillars of the building as one get confused due to its architectural design. We will also see the Bhammariyo Kuvo which is seven floors below the ground with different architecture in every floor. Mahemdavad also has a 15th century stepwell famous and the Chanda Suraj Mahal on the banks of River Vatrak. Tomb of Mubarak Saiyyad will make you appreciate the heritage of Mahemdavad more. We will then visit Vaso, a heritage village famous for various heritage buildings with Darbar Gopaldas Haveli the most famous one. Darbar Gopaldas was prince and ruler of Dhasa and Rai-Sankhli and a freedom fighter.

After witnessing the beauty of Vaso we will go to Vadodara and have dinner at the hotel. Night Stay at Vadodara.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 130 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 15 Kms

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 4: Vadodara Local

Early morning after Breakfast, we will be cycling through the Cultural Capital of Gujarat, Vadodara. If one is in Vadodara, then first place to visit is the Laxmi Vilas Palace, the residence of the Princely Gaekwads. Laxmi Vilas Palace was built in 1890 by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III and is reputed to have been the largest private dwelling till date and four times the size of Buckingham Palace. There is also a beautiful 600 year old Navlakhi Stepwell in the palace compound believed to have built at a cost of 900 Thousands (9 Lakh) Gold Coins. We will then visit Vidyadhar Vav, the most beautiful stepwell of Sultan Mahmud Begda's time in 16th Century. This seven storey step well was built to commemorate a spiritual leader Vidyadhar, with minute and intricate carving pleasing to the eye. Another masterpiece building by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad is the Baroda Museum built in 1894 on the lines of the Victoria & Albert Museum and the Science Museum of London. The museum preserves rich collection of artifacts and sculptures with Egyptian Mummy and blue whale skeleton the major attractions. The Picture Gallery in the museum has some masterpieces of famous British Painters Turner and



# TOURS ON BICYCLE 7 NIGHT / 8 DAYS



## Tour 2. Explore Glorious Gujarat on Bicycle

Constable. The beauty of the Sayaji Baug where the Museum and picture gallery is located would just be the perfect ending to a wonderful day. Dinner at the hotel and Night Stay at Vadodara.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 0 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 25 Kms

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 5: Vadodara Local

Early morning after breakfast, we will start the day with a visit to the well known Maharaja Sayajirao University famous for its Indo-Sarcacenic Architecture. It was designed by Robert Fellowes Chisholm in a fusion of Indian and Byzantine arches and domes in brick and polychromed stone. The beautiful building would surely entice anyone to study there. We will then be visiting Kirti Mandir which is the cenotaph of the Gaekwads built by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III in memory of his beloved ancestors in 1936. Kirti Mandir is actually a cluster of temples dedicated to Lord Shiva while the interiors of Kirti Mandir decorated with intricately carved murals. From Kirti Mandir, we will be going to Oriental Institute to see the old manuscripts of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III. The first mention of Vadodara (Baroda) as Vatpatraka is also found in a Tamba-patra, which has been preserved in the Institute. We will be going to see Aurobindo Ashram where Aurobindo Ghosh lived during his stay in Baroda. There are relics of Sri Aurobindo here and all books related to him are available here. We will also see some Muslim Architecture in Vadodara at Hazira Maqbara, which has the tombs of Qutb-ud-din Muhammad Khan who was the tutor of Salim, son and successor of Akbar, and also that of his son Naurang Khan.

Beautiful Jali work and Calligraphy are some attractive features of the tomb. We will also taste some tasty delicacies of Vadodara like Sev Usal and Lilo Chewdo during the day to perfectly enjoy the culture of Vadodara. Dinner at the Hotel and Night Stay at Vadodara.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 0 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 15 Kms

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 6: Vadodara – Jambughoda

Early morning after breakfast and check out, we will be driving to Jambughoda, a tribal village which is a delight for any nature Lover. After check in, we will start cycling in the nature's lap. We will be visiting the Manganese caves with a local villager. These caves are believed to be Viharas which were in use in as early as 1st and 2nd Century AD. The local Rathwa Tribe is famous for its Pithora Paintings which are drawn on three interior walls of their houses. These paintings are more of a ritual than an art performed to thank God or for a wish. We will then also visit the beautiful picturesque Kada Dam sitting in the midst of dense forest. One can hear the sounds of wilderness with panoramic view in the middle of nowhere.

Hathni Mata waterfall is another place which one cannot miss. Situated among the shaded green hills, this rock below the waterfall looks like a baby elephant with a cave housing a temple. Dinner at the Hotel and Night Stay at Jambughoda.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 75 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 40 Kms

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner

### Day 7: Jambughoda – Champaner

Early morning after breakfast and checkout, we will then visit Champaner – Pavagadh Archaeological Park, a world heritage site. Champaner is a historical city built by Sultan Mahmud Begda. The heritage site is surrounded with fortified walls starting from the hills of Pavagadh and extending upto the city of Champaner. The archaeological park consists of mosques, temples, step wells, gates, fortified walls and many more which are sure to mesmerize any heritage lover. The Pavagadh hill has a historical fort where ancient Kalika Mata Temple is situated. The city of Champaner has many mosques of which Nagina Masjid and Jami Masjid are outstanding examples of the Indo- Islamic Architecture. Saat Kaman on the Pavagadh Hill is one of the beautiful attractions among the various gates located on the hill. Cycling around the sleepy town of Champaner and on the hilly roads of Pavagadh Hill will just be the perfect end to the trip. Dinner at Resort and Night Stay at Champaner.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 0 Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 55 Kms

Meal: Breakfast & Dinner



# TOURS ON BICYCLE 7 NIGHT / 8 DAYS

**TRAVÉNUÉ**  
*Experience the unexplored*

## Tour 2. Explore Glorious Gujarat on Bicycle

### Day 8: Drop

Early morning after breakfast, we will check out and end the exciting tour of Gujarat.

Journey by Supporting Vehicle – 150Kms

Journey by Bicycle - 0 Kms







# SPECIAL FESTIVAL TOURS

## Tarnetar Fair:

If you think you are prepared to walk out of your mundane experience and free-fall into a whirlwind of colors, romance and music, then head for the Tarnetar Fair. One of the biggest fair in Gujarat, Tarnetar fair is known for the colourful umbrellas and the dresses of the unmarried men and women. The people of Koli Community regard this fair as a medium to find their better half recognised by the colour of the attire they are wearing. Come down to the fair to help make the Brides and Grooms together.

### Day 1: Ahmedabad - Tarnetar

Arrive in Tent City. Check into the tents. Lunch at the Tent City. Noon Time free for leisure and hereby get ready for local sightseeing like Ansuya Temple, Joona Suraj Deval Farm Visit. Hi Tea at Farm to enjoy the tradition and be a part of it. Evening back to Tent City a er dinner Cultural Program at Tent City. Night at Tent.

### Day 2: Tarnetar

After Breakfast, visit to Tarnetar fair. Enjoy all activities like Triniteshwar Mahadev Mandir's 52 Gaj Long Religious Flag, Hudo Folk Dance, and visiting Ravati's at night, embroidered Umbrella, rural Olympic – horse Race, camel cart race, bull cart race etc. Traditional local colourful male dress and many more activities. Lunch at Tent City. After Dinner, enjoy cultural program at Tent City

### Day 3: Drop

After breakfast, check out from Tent City and start your journey towards home with beautiful memories.

## Mahashivaratri Fair:

On the moonless night, when it is believed Lord Shiva performed his Tandava, the cosmic dance of destruction, a great Mahapuja is performed. This great ritual begins at midnight on Mahashivaratri near the foothills of Girnar Mountain in Junagadh when Naga Bavas, or naked sages, seated on elephants and decked in ornaments, arrive holding flags and blowing conch shells, tungis, and turis, the sounds of which reverberate through the entire space. Leading a large procession to the temple, they thus mark the commencement of an emotive religious ceremony. Come and enjoy the Vibrant fair with Naga Bavas in the month of February or March as per the Hindu Calender.

### Day 1: Junagadh

Arrive in Junagadh. Check in the hotel and visit Mahabbat Khan Maqbara, a mausoleum built in Indo Saracenic Architecture. Night stay in Junagadh.

### Day 2: Junagadh

Today morning, after breakfast, visit the Uparkot Fort in Junagadh to relive the grandeur of Junagadh in the old days. Visit the Ashoka Rock Edicts and Damodar Kund to witness the preparations for the Mahashivaratri Fair starting in the night. Witness the holy bath of the Naga Sadhus in the midnight celebration in their own Unique Style. The night belongs to them and the zeal and enthusiasm is never to be missed here.

### Day 3: Drop

Today morning after breakfast, check out and visit the Bhavnath Temple and drop as per schedule.





# SPECIAL FESTIVAL TOURS

## Kavant Fair

Kavant, the gathering arena for a tribal group since time immemorial. It is a sheer delight to watch the exuberance of Rathva Men and women dressed in their distinctive finery gradually congregating to sing and dance, discuss marriages liaisons, barter goods and services all rising to a grand crescendo of galey and high energy which almost draws one forth into the mesmerising world of Rathva culture. The older generation meanwhile set themselves down with their paraphernalia of snacks and condiments to muse about times gone by and matters of import regarding the future of their tribal ethos. Let us visit the Rathvas to be a part of their celebration in the month of March depending upon the dates as per the Hindu Calender.

### Day 1: Jambughoda

Arrive in Jambughoda. Check into the hotel and go for a nature trail to the picturesque Kada Dam. Night stay in Jambughoda.

### Day 2: Jambughoda – Kavant – Jambughoda

Early morning after breakfast, visit the Kavant village to celebrate the Kavant Fair with the Rathva Tribes. The people from Rathva Tribes gather in numbers to recreate the joy of existence and life. Visit the house of Rathva tribes to witness their Pithora Painting on the walls of their house. Enjoy the dances music of the tribes along with them all day long with their favourite delicacies. Night stay in Jambughoda.

### Day 3: Drop

Early morning after breakfast, check out and drop as per schedule.

## Ahir Wedding Tour:

Ahir Community is known for its colourful embroidery and handicrafts living chiefly in the district of Kutch. They have a very unusual custom of Mass Weddings which is organized only on a single day of the year. So if the person of the community missed that day, he would have to wait till the next year. Understandably, this fair attracts various photographers all around the world due to the colours of the wedding with the folk dances and sumptuous food waiting for the visitors. Visit the colourful day for the community in the month of May or June depending upon the Hindu Calender.

### Day 1: Bhuj

Arrive in Bhuj. Check into the hotel and visit the Gothic Prag Mahal, Aina Mahal and Kutch Museum in Bhuj. Visit the Dandiya Raas in the villages of Ahir in the night and enjoy the local folk dances. Night stay in Bhuj.

### Day 2: Bhuj – Ahir Villages – Bhuj

Early morning after breakfast, check out and visit Ahir Mass wedding ceremonies. Ahir Community have a tradition of mass wedding on a single day of the year. These weddings attracts various photographers all around the world with the colourful attires of the community giving the glimpse of their vibrancy. Enjoy the meals together with the community and return back to Bhuj and night stay at Bhuj.

### Day 3: Drop

Early morning after breakfast, check out and drop as per schedule.





# SPECIAL FESTIVAL TOURS

## Modhera Dance Festival:

Modhera, the temple of the Sun narrating the history and grandeur of its patrons, the Solankis, is an architectural marvel. This peerless temple space acts as a grandiose backdrop for the vibrant expression of dancers and aesthetical ethnicity of the country. Dance troupes and performers from all regions of the nation bring along a panorama of varied dance forms and styles, interlaced with the essence of their origins. The performers blend in the ambience and bring life to the sandstone figurines carved on the edifice of the temple, singing and narrating legends of times bygone. The three day festival of Uttarardh Mahotsavis is organized by the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL), to venerate and celebrate the inherited treasure of performing arts of the country. The Modhera festival is an ideal opportunity to experience living heritage of Indian dance and music while traversing back in time sitting in the lap of golden history.

### Day 1: Ahmedabad

Arrive in Ahmedabad. Visit Sabarmati Ashram, Hutheesingh Jain Derasar and Adalaj Stepwell. Night stay in Ahmedabad.

### Day 2: Ahmedabad – Modhera – Ahmedabad

Today, proceed for Rani Ki Vav, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, 7 storeyed stepwell with more 500 God Sculptures and visit the Patola Museum to meet the artisans of a famous Patola Art. Visit the Modhera Sun Temple, a 11th Century architectural wonder. Enjoy the colourful dances in the Modhera Dance Festival dedicated to the Golden Era of the Solanki rulers in Gujarat. Return back to Ahmedabad and night stay at Ahmedabad.

### Day 3: Drop

Today morning after breakfast, check out and drop as per schedule.







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