GUJARAT

The Grand Tapestry of Gujarat

13 Nights / 14 Days



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A Journey Through Royal Heritage, White Deserts, Living Traditions & Sacred Shores

A grand exploration of Gujarat, where the splendour of royal palaces meets the boundless beauty of the White Rann, ancient civilisations reveal their timeless wisdom, monumental engineering inspires wonder, and sacred coastal towns preserve centuries of devotion.

Beginning in Ahmedabad, the journey travels through the historic port town of Mandvi, the cultural heart of Bhuj, the spectacular salt desert of Kutch and the archaeological landscape of Dholavira. It then returns through the architectural treasures of Patan and Modhera before continuing to Vadodara and the monumental Statue of Unity. The route embraces the tranquil shores of Diu, the wilderness of Gir, the sacred temples of Somnath and Dwarka, before concluding in Ahmedabad.

Day-by-day itinerary

1

Day 1: Ahmedabad: Where Heritage Meets the Spirit of a Modern City

Arrive in Ahmedabad, Gujarat's vibrant urban centre, where centuries-old traditions coexist with contemporary architecture, thriving markets and a rich cultural identity. After arrival, meet the driver and proceed for local sightseeing, depending on your arrival time.

Begin with Sabarmati Ashram, the historic riverside residence of Mahatma Gandhi. Once a centre of India's freedom movement, the ashram reflects Gandhi's philosophy of truth, non-violence and self-reliance. Explore the peaceful grounds and learn about the events and ideals that helped shape India's struggle for independence.

If time permits, visit Adalaj Stepwell, a remarkable example of traditional water architecture located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. Its intricately carved pillars, sculpted walls and multiple levels reveal the craftsmanship of Gujarat's medieval artisans. The stepwell served not only as a water source but also as a communal gathering place.

Later, enjoy a drive along the Sabarmati Riverfront, where landscaped promenades and views of the river offer a pleasant introduction to the city.

After sightseeing, check in to the hotel and relax in preparation for the journey into Kutch.

Overnight Stay: Ahmedabad

2

Day 2: Mandvi: Royal Elegance Along the Arabian Sea

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and depart for Mandvi, the historic coastal town of Kutch. Known for its royal connections, shipbuilding traditions and picturesque shoreline, Mandvi offers a fascinating introduction to the region's distinctive cultural heritage.

Upon arrival, begin sightseeing with Vijay Vilas Palace, the magnificent summer residence of the former rulers of Kutch. Set amid landscaped grounds near the Arabian Sea, the palace is celebrated for its Rajput architectural influences, ornate balconies, domes, intricately carved stonework and elegant pavilions. Its elevated viewpoints offer beautiful views of the surrounding landscape.

Continue to the Shyamji Krishna Verma Memorial, dedicated to the distinguished freedom fighter, scholar and nationalist thinker who was born in Mandvi. The memorial traces his contribution to India's independence movement and honours his efforts to promote revolutionary ideas and national consciousness.

Later, visit Mandvi Beach, where the Arabian Sea meets a broad stretch of sand. Enjoy the coastal atmosphere, observe the fishing boats and take time to appreciate the changing colours of the sea as evening approaches.

Mandvi's historic association with maritime trade and traditional wooden shipbuilding adds another dimension to its character, connecting the town's royal past with its enduring relationship with the sea.

After sightseeing, proceed to Bhuj and check in to the hotel.

Overnight Stay: Bhuj

3

Day 3: Bhuj: Palaces, Craftsmanship & the Resilience of Kutch

After breakfast, explore Bhuj, the cultural heart of Kutch. Known for its royal history, traditional handicrafts, intricate textiles and resilient communities, the city offers a compelling insight into the region's identity.

Begin with Smritivan Earthquake Museum, a memorial dedicated to the victims of the devastating 2001 Gujarat earthquake. Located on Bhujiyo Dungar, the complex combines memorial spaces, landscaped surroundings and immersive exhibits that recount the earthquake's impact, the science behind seismic activity and the extraordinary recovery of the people of Kutch. It is both a place of remembrance and a tribute to human resilience.

Continue to Aina Mahal, an 18th-century palace commissioned during the reign of Maharao Lakhpatji. Its distinctive interiors feature elaborate mirror work, decorative tiles, glasswork and a blend of Indian and European artistic influences. The palace offers a glimpse into the refined tastes and artistic patronage of Kutch's former royal court.

Next, visit Prag Mahal, an imposing palace distinguished by its Italian Gothic architectural style. Built during the 19th century, the structure features a grand façade, Corinthian columns, ornate interiors and a prominent clock tower. Its architecture stands in striking contrast to the traditional styles found elsewhere in the region.

Depending on time, explore local markets known for Kutchi embroidery, bandhani textiles, leatherwork and other handicrafts. These traditional arts reflect generations of skill passed down through local artisan communities.

Return to the hotel after sightseeing.

Overnight Stay: Bhuj

4

Day 4: The White Rann: A Silver Horizon Beneath the Open Sky

After breakfast, check out and begin the journey towards the spectacular landscapes of the Great Rann of Kutch, a vast seasonal salt marsh that transforms into an extraordinary white expanse during the dry season.

En route, visit Kalo Dungar, meaning Black Hill, the highest point in Kutch. From its elevated viewpoint, the landscape opens into a sweeping panorama of the Rann, with the seemingly endless salt plains stretching towards the horizon. The hill is also known for the Dattatreya Temple, which holds spiritual significance for visitors and local communities.

Continue towards Dhordo and the White Rann, one of Gujarat's most iconic natural attractions. The brilliant salt crust creates an almost otherworldly landscape, especially when the sunlight illuminates the white surface. The vast openness, distant horizon and changing light make this an unforgettable experience for nature lovers and photographers.

Spend time walking across the designated areas of the salt desert and appreciating its distinctive natural beauty. If conditions permit, remain until sunset, when the landscape takes on delicate shades of gold, pink and silver.

The Rann Utsav area may also offer opportunities to experience Kutchi folk music, traditional dance, regional cuisine, handicrafts and local cultural performances, depending on the operating schedule and accommodation arrangements.

Overnight Stay: White Rann / Dhordo

5

Day 5: Dholavira: Across the Road to Heaven into an Ancient Civilisation

Wake up to the distinctive surroundings of the White Rann and depart for Dholavira, travelling through one of the most visually striking landscapes of Kutch.

En route, experience the celebrated Road to Heaven, a long causeway passing through the vast salt flats and seasonal wetlands of the region. With open skies, expansive horizons and the road appearing to extend into the distance, the drive offers memorable opportunities to appreciate the scale and solitude of the Kutch landscape.

Continue to Dholavira, one of the most important archaeological sites associated with the Indus Valley Civilisation and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Flourishing thousands of years ago, this ancient settlement demonstrates the sophistication of Harappan urban planning, engineering and civic organisation.

Explore the remains of the fortified settlement, its gateways, residential areas, ceremonial spaces and carefully planned urban divisions. One of Dholavira's most remarkable features is its water-management system, which included reservoirs and channels designed to collect and conserve water in an arid environment.

The site offers a fascinating perspective on how an ancient civilisation adapted to challenging climatic conditions through engineering, resource management and organised urban development.

Visit the Dholavira Museum, subject to its opening schedule, to gain additional insight into the archaeological discoveries, material culture and everyday life of the settlement's inhabitants.

The surrounding landscape, with its sparse vegetation and vast open terrain, provides a fitting backdrop to this encounter with one of India's most significant ancient civilisations.

Overnight Stay: Dholavira

6

Day 6: Patan & Modhera: Where Stone Becomes a Masterpiece

Begin early and depart from Dholavira towards Patan, a historic city renowned for its architectural heritage and traditional textile craftsmanship. Today's journey brings together two remarkable monuments that reflect the artistic sophistication of Gujarat's Solanki period.

Upon arrival in Patan, visit Rani ki Vav, the celebrated Queen's Stepwell and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Constructed in the 11th century, this extraordinary subterranean structure was designed as a memorial to King Bhimdev I. Its seven levels descend into the earth, with intricately carved pillars, sculptural panels and representations of Hindu deities adorning the walls. The monument resembles an inverted temple, celebrating the cultural and spiritual significance of water.

India
+1

Patan is also famous for its Patola silk weaving tradition, a highly specialised double-ikat textile art known for its elaborate geometric patterns, vibrant colours and painstaking craftsmanship. If time permits and the relevant workshop or museum is open, explore this remarkable heritage of traditional weaving.

Continue to Modhera Sun Temple, an architectural masterpiece dedicated to Surya, the Sun God. Built during the 11th century under Solanki patronage, the temple complex is distinguished by its ornate carvings and carefully planned architectural composition.

Explore the magnificent Surya Kund, a geometrically designed stepped tank surrounded by small shrines, followed by the intricately decorated Sabha Mandap, or assembly hall. The sculptural details portray deities, celestial figures, dancers and scenes from mythology and everyday life. Although worship is no longer conducted in the original sanctum, the monument remains an exceptional expression of medieval Indian architecture and astronomical awareness.

gujrattourism
+1

After completing the sightseeing, proceed to Ahmedabad and check in to the hotel.

Overnight Stay: Ahmedabad

Note: This is a long road-transfer and sightseeing day. An early departure from Dholavira is essential, and Patola workshop visits should remain optional if time is limited.

7

Day 7: Vadodara: A City of Royal Refinement & Cultural Grandeur

After breakfast, check out and travel to Vadodara, historically known as Baroda, a city celebrated for its royal legacy, cultural institutions and architectural landmarks.

Upon arrival, begin sightseeing with Laxmi Vilas Palace, the magnificent residence of the Gaekwad royal family. Commissioned by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, the palace is renowned for its imposing scale, Indo-Saracenic architectural influences, decorative interiors, marble finishes, mosaic work and elaborate artworks. Its expansive estate reflects the wealth, artistic patronage and cosmopolitan outlook of the former princely state.

India
+1

If operational hours and access permit, visit the Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum, located within the palace estate. The museum houses an impressive collection of artworks and historical objects associated with the royal family, offering an additional perspective on Vadodara's artistic traditions.

Later, proceed to Sayaji Baug, a prominent public garden established under the patronage of Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III. Its landscaped grounds provide a relaxing setting amid the city and are ideal for a leisurely stroll, subject to available time.

After sightseeing, check in to the hotel and enjoy a relaxed evening in Vadodara.

Overnight Stay: Vadodara

8

Day 8: Statue of Unity: Honouring the Architect of National Integration

After an early breakfast, depart for Ekta Nagar, near the Sardar Sarovar Dam, to visit the magnificent Statue of Unity, dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister.

Standing at a height of 182 metres, the monument honours Patel's pivotal role in integrating India's princely states following independence. Its immense scale, dramatic setting beside the Narmada River and backdrop of the surrounding hills make it one of the country's most recognisable modern landmarks.

Incredible India
+1

Explore the Statue of Unity complex, including the exhibition spaces and museum that recount Patel's life, leadership and contribution to national integration. If booked and available, ascend to the viewing gallery for panoramic views of the Narmada River, surrounding hills and Sardar Sarovar Dam.

Continue exploring the attractions within the complex according to available time and ticket access. These may include the Valley of Flowers, a landscaped stretch along the river, and Ekta Mall, where handicrafts and products representing different Indian states showcase the country's diverse artistic traditions.

If the schedule permits, conclude the day with the laser and light show, subject to its operating schedule and weather conditions.

Return to Vadodara in the evening, or stay in Ekta Nagar if accommodation is arranged there.

Overnight Stay: Vadodara / Ekta Nagar

9

Day 9: Through the Gulf Coast to the Portuguese Shores of Diu

After breakfast, check out and begin the journey towards Diu via Bhavnagar. This is a substantial intercity transfer, taking you from central Gujarat towards the southern coast of Saurashtra and the Arabian Sea.

En route, pass through Bhavnagar, a historic port city associated with maritime trade and the former princely state of Bhavnagar. Depending on departure time and traffic, a brief stop may be made for refreshments or a short exterior view of a suitable landmark. A detailed Bhavnagar sightseeing programme is not recommended on this day, as it would make the onward drive to Diu considerably longer.

Continue towards Diu, a coastal destination distinguished by its Portuguese architectural legacy, tranquil beaches and distinctive blend of Indian and European influences.

Upon arrival, check in to the hotel and relax. If time permits, enjoy an evening visit to Nagoa Beach, a popular crescent-shaped stretch of coastline lined with palm trees. Its calm atmosphere makes it an inviting place to unwind after the long journey.

Overnight Stay: Diu

10

Day 10: Diu to Gir: From Coastal Heritage to the Kingdom of the Asiatic Lion

After breakfast, check out and begin exploring the historic landmarks of Diu before proceeding to Gir.

Visit Diu Fort, an imposing coastal fortification constructed during the Portuguese period. Its massive stone ramparts, bastions, historic structures and views across the Arabian Sea illustrate Diu's strategic importance in maritime trade and colonial history.

Continue to St. Paul's Church, one of the town's finest examples of Portuguese Baroque architecture. Its elaborate façade and ornate decorative details reflect the influence of European ecclesiastical design.

Next, visit Gangeshwar Mahadev Temple, a distinctive seaside shrine where five Shiva lingas are situated among the rocks close to the Arabian Sea. The interaction between the waves, rocky shoreline and sacred setting makes this an unusual and memorable spiritual landmark.

If time permits, make a brief stop at Nagoa Beach before leaving Diu.

Later, depart for Gir, home to the world's last remaining wild population of Asiatic lions. The landscape gradually changes from the coastal environment of Diu to the dry deciduous forests and scrubland of the Saurashtra peninsula.

Arrive at the hotel, check in and relax. Prepare for the following day's wildlife experience.

Overnight Stay: Gir

11

Day 11: Gir & Somnath: Into the Wilderness, Towards the Eternal Shrine

Begin the day with an early-morning Gir Wildlife Safari, subject to advance booking and permit availability. Gir's forest ecosystem is internationally renowned for its Asiatic lions and supports a variety of other wildlife, including leopards, spotted deer, sambar, nilgai, wild boar and numerous bird species.

The safari offers an opportunity to experience the natural landscape of the sanctuary, where dry deciduous woodland, rocky terrain and open scrub create a distinctive habitat. Wildlife sightings are never guaranteed, but the forest itself provides a fascinating introduction to the ecology of Saurashtra.

After the safari, return to the hotel for breakfast and check out. Proceed towards Somnath, one of India's most revered pilgrimage destinations.

Upon arrival, begin sightseeing with Bhalka Tirth, a sacred site traditionally associated with the final earthly episode of Lord Krishna. The shrine holds an important place in the religious traditions surrounding Krishna's life.

Continue to Triveni Sangam, the sacred confluence traditionally associated with the Hiran, Kapila and Saraswati rivers, where they meet before flowing into the Arabian Sea. The site is valued for its spiritual significance and peaceful waterfront setting.

Later, visit the magnificent Somnath Jyotirling Temple, one of the twelve sacred Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. Standing close to the Arabian Sea, the temple is renowned for its spiritual importance and its history of destruction and reconstruction across successive centuries. Its imposing architecture and coastal setting create an atmosphere of deep reverence.

In the evening, attend the Somnath Light and Sound Show, if operating, to learn about the temple's history and enduring place in India's religious heritage.

Overnight Stay: Somnath

Note: Gir safari permits should be secured in advance. The precise Somnath sightseeing sequence may be adjusted according to safari return time and temple schedules.

12

Day 12: Porbandar to Dwarka: Along the Sacred Shores of Krishna

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and travel towards Dwarka, following the coastal and cultural landscape of Saurashtra.

En route, stop in Porbandar, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi. Visit Kirti Mandir, a memorial associated with Gandhi and his family that commemorates his birthplace and early life. The site offers an opportunity to reflect on the values of truth, non-violence and public service that shaped Gandhi's philosophy.

Continue to Sudama Mandir, dedicated to Sudama, the childhood friend and devotee of Lord Krishna. The temple commemorates the enduring story of friendship, humility and devotion that forms an important part of Hindu tradition.

After sightseeing, continue to Dwarka, one of the most significant pilgrimage destinations in western India and a city deeply associated with the life and legends of Lord Krishna.

Upon arrival, visit Dwarkadhish Temple, dedicated to Lord Krishna as the King of Dwarka. Its towering shikhara, intricately carved architecture and centuries-old devotional traditions make it the spiritual centrepiece of the city.

Later, visit Gomti Ghat, located near the temple at the meeting of the Gomti River and the Arabian Sea. The steps leading to the water are an important setting for prayer, ritual bathing and quiet contemplation.

Enjoy the spiritual atmosphere of Dwarka before returning to the hotel.

Overnight Stay: Dwarka

13

Day 13: Following Krishna's Footsteps: Temples, Legends & the Arabian Sea

After breakfast, set out to explore the sacred sites surrounding Dwarka, where mythology, pilgrimage traditions and coastal scenery come together.

Begin with Rukmini Devi Temple, dedicated to Rukmini, the consort of Lord Krishna. The temple is admired for its detailed stone carvings, sculptural ornamentation and distinctive architectural character. Its association with the legends of Krishna and Rukmini makes it an important stop on the Dwarka pilgrimage circuit.

Continue to Bet Dwarka, an island traditionally associated with Lord Krishna and believed in local religious tradition to have been part of his ancient kingdom. Travel to the island via Sudarshan Setu, the bridge connecting the mainland with Bet Dwarka. Upon arrival, visit the principal temple and experience the devotional atmosphere of this revered destination.

Next, visit Gopi Talav, a sacred lake associated with the Gopis and the legends of Lord Krishna. Its religious significance and quiet surroundings make it a distinctive stop on the route.

Proceed to Nageshwar Jyotirling Temple, one of the twelve revered Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. The temple complex, known for its towering Shiva statue, is an important pilgrimage destination near Dwarka.

Conclude the sightseeing with Bhadkeshwar Mahadev Temple, dramatically situated on a rocky outcrop beside the Arabian Sea. Surrounded by coastal waters, the temple is especially atmospheric during sunset, subject to tide and access conditions.

Return to the hotel for the final evening of the year. Spend the evening at leisure, reflecting on the remarkable journey through Gujarat's royal cities, desert landscapes, wildlife habitats and sacred destinations.

Overnight Stay: Dwarka

14

Day 14: Ahmedabad: Carrying Gujarat's Memories into the New Year

After breakfast, check out from the hotel and begin the return journey to Ahmedabad.

The drive brings the expedition to a close, retracing the distance from the sacred shores of Dwarka towards Gujarat's principal urban centre. Along the way, the memories of the journey come together: the royal elegance of Mandvi, the artistic heritage of Bhuj, the shimmering salt plains of Kutch, the ancient engineering of Dholavira, the grandeur of the Statue of Unity, the coastal history of Diu, the wilderness of Gir and the timeless devotion of Somnath and Dwarka.

Upon arrival in Ahmedabad, proceed to the airport or railway station for your onward journey, according to your departure schedule.

If time permits before departure, a brief visit to Sabarmati Ashram may be included, subject to opening hours and the available time window. If the ashram has already been covered on Day 1, this final stop can be omitted.

As the journey concludes, take with you the memories of a state where history is etched into stone, traditions flourish in vibrant communities, nature reveals its remarkable diversity and faith continues to shape everyday life.

Tour Ends with Beautiful Memories of Gujarat.

What's included

Included	Not included
✓ Accommodation in mentioned hotels	✗ Airfare / Train tickets
✓ Meals as mentioned	✗ Personal expenses like tips, porterage, room service, laundry bills, mini bar charges, etc.
✓ Private vehicle for entire trip	✗ Early check-in / Late check-out
✓ Driver allowance, toll tax, parking charges, etc.	✗ Entry tickets to any monuments, museums, parks, etc.
✓ Gir safari permit	✗ Jeep & guide charges for Gir safari
✓ Rann entry permit	✗ Statue of Unity entry tickets
✓ All current tax	✗ Travel Insurance
	✗ Anything specifically not mentioned in the "Inclusions"

Hotel options

City	3-star hotel options
Ahmedabad	Hotel Summit / Similar
Bhuj	La Casa De Rann / Similar
Rann of Kutch	Mahefeel - e - Rann Resort / Similar
Dholavira	Rann Resort / Similar
Vadodara	Hotel Oasis / Similar
Diu	Hotel The Tulip / Similar
Gir	Anantam Resort / Similar
Somnath	The Somnath Gateway / Similar
Dwarka	The Grand Ladhukara / Similar

What we arrange

Transport

- Private AC Vehicle,
- For 1-3 Pax: Sedan
- For 4-5 Pax: Ertiga
- For 6-7 Pax: Crysta
- For 8+ Pax: Tempo Traveler / Urbania

Price on request

Final price depends on your travel dates, number of travellers and the choices you make. Get an instant, itemised quote online:

https://www.travelbee.in/packages/the-grand-tapestry-of-gujarat

Cancellation policy

30+ days - 5% of the total booking amount will be charged
29-15 days - 50% of the total booking amount will be charged
14-0 days - 100% of the total booking amount will be charged

Questions about this trip? WhatsApp us on +91 74054 90317 or email info@travelbee.in — we're happy to tailor this itinerary to you.