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GUIDE TO GOLF IN GUJARAT



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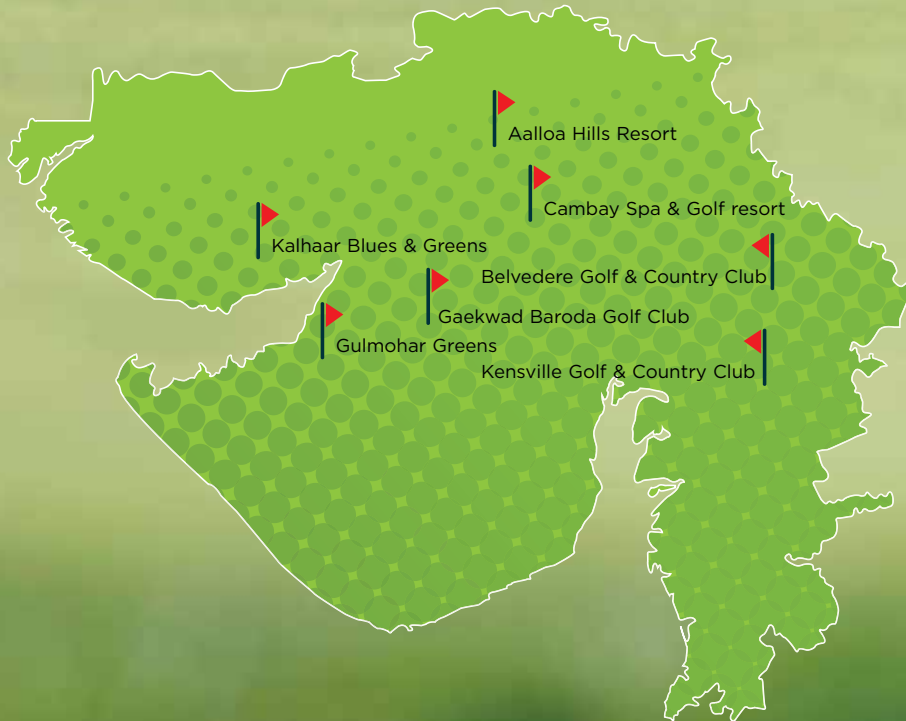
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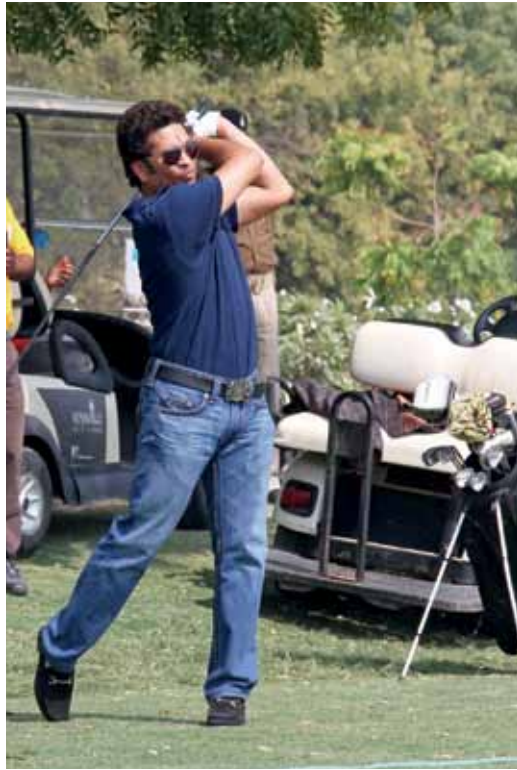


Upcoming Greens In The State

Gujarat has always been a part of the glorious history of golf. And in recent times the state has seen the emergence of a number of world-class golf courses. Gujarat is becoming a popular golf destination and keeping up with the trend many more golf courses are under construction and many more in the pipeline throughout the state. Among the many courses set to open soon is the 18-hole golf course in Smile City near Ahmedabad, and the 18-hole golf course at the new convention centre Surat.

Tee Time in Gujarat

Gujarat, the land of Mahatma Gandhi, the Rann of Kutch, colourful and vibrant festivals and loads of heritage sites is now all set to woo swish golf enthusiasts.



Gujarat is one of the fastest developing and growing states in India. It has for long been known for its vibrancy and an attitude of celebrating life along with its spirit of entrepreneurship. Few people know that countless business deals by local businessmen are now being struck on the golf greens. Probably even fewer know that golf tourism in Gujarat is now coming up in a big way. The state is becoming a verdant haven with golfing options ranging from a royal palace for a backdrop to an adventurous fairway through rugged landscape. The variety of terrain that golf courses in Gujarat offer is astounding. The state is gearing up to offer

the best of modern amenities set against a rich cultural heritage to become a world class golf destination to reckon with.

In recent times, there has been an increasing impetus from both public and private players, local corporates as well as multinationals to promote the sport in the state. Apart from the many operational golf courses, plans are already underway on many more. Golf clubs and academies are sprouting up in the state quickly to get a foothold in the rapidly growing golf industry. Leading players like Jeev Milkha Singh are helping golf clubs in Gujarat join the international circuit. There is a lot of effort in

training and sponsorships and patronage for the sport. All this effort is leading to world class facilities, signature golf courses, luxurious golf clubs, plush resorts and even swanky residential complexes set around golf courses. This development is rapidly altering the face of the state. Not only is the landscape changing but along with it, so is the lifestyle.

The golf calendar for the year is now fast filling up with events, both amateur and pro. In fact, the recently concluded third edition of the Gujarat Kensville Challenge Golf saw the strongest ever field as both the Indian Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) and European Challenge season for

2013 season teed off here. The Kensville Challenge has now become the regular season-opener for both the Tours.

Celebrities are flocking to the state to test their swing. From Amitabh Bachchan, Sachin Tendulkar, Geet Sethi, Jeev Milkha Singh to spiritual guru Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev and innumerable Indian businessmen have been indulging in the sport in Gujarat. From night golf to virtual golfing, the state is gearing to fulfill every need of golf enthusiasts. In fact, soon many golfing enthusiasts will vouch that one of the best ways to experience Gujarat is through its numerous golf courses.



Kalhaar Blues & Greens

Scenic Strike

Located halfway between Ahmedabad and the Tata Nano Plant, Kalhaar Blues & Greens prides itself on being one of the greenest places in Ahmedabad. And justifiably so. Designed by legendary golf icon Jack Nicklaus' company, Nicklaus Design, the 18-hole golf course is a feast for the eyes. Dotted with 14 lakes and white sand bunkers against the lush green, the area is a manmade delight. Care has also been taken to create an environment friendly ambience. Gorgeous flowers and beautiful trees have been planted across the entire stretch. But over and above the praise-worthy scenic area a golfer needs good golfing services. This facility meets the stringent US Golf Association standards. The course is equally suitable for amateurs



and professionals. The holes are positioned in such a way that the player can finish a round and head back to the Clubhouse to freshen up. Well-kept greens, lush scenery and peaceful fairways are any golfer's delight.

The property extends beyond the golf course. It is a Lifestyle Community Project spread over an expanse of 21,520,000 square feet and also features 801 residential villas providing residents with resort-style living. The plush villas live up to the standards set by the lavish surroundings. Overlooking the picturesque golf course, the villas are a dream come true for discerning customers who want nothing but the best. The club also offers all the pleasures of a fully equipped club house, a spa and the hospitality of a hotel. With lakes, swimming pools, health clubs, mini theatre, cafeteria, tennis courts, community centre, hotels, restaurants, coffee shops and every other possible amenity this facility is a dream to live in and a fantastic space to unwind. The fact that it's a mix of residents and visitors tends to give the whole place more of a relaxed and less-touristy vibe.

Contact Details: Kalhaar Blues & Greens Sanand, on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. 91-79/2644-7879; navratna.com.

Timings: 6:45am till dark





Gulmohar Greens Golf & Country Club

Verdant Retreat

Just a 10-minute drive from S. G. Highway, the Gulmohar Greens Golf & Country Club offers a range of activities and sports, along with plush accommodation, a dedicated sports complex with both indoor and outdoor sports, athletic jogging track, party lawns, restaurants, conference and banquet halls. It is spread over a lush area of approximately 75 acres. But what sets this property apart is a nine-hole par 36 golf course with facility for coaching and leisure play. It is also a great facility for beginners and amateur golfers. A five-acre driving range allows members to learn and practise their golfing skills. The driving range has 13 bays as of now and plans are underway to extend it to 25 bays in two tiers. A practice green with bunkers helps to hone players' putting skills. A professional coach is always available to help people with the nuances of the game.

The beautifully-designed golf course is spread



over almost 50 acres of verdant haven. At par with any other international golf facility, the course and its layout, level of difficulty and maintenance has been compared by many national and international golfing stalwarts with some of the finest courses. The golf course has been designed and executed by Late Col.

K.D. Bagga, founder, Baggas Golf Management Group. A course rating of 69.4 and slope rating of 127 makes it a very interesting course to play on. The longest and toughest hole is Hole 7 at 549 yards and Par 5 while the shortest hole is Hole 3 at 192 yards and Par 3.

Architects Nimishbhai Patel and Parulben Zaveri, famous for designing the award-winning Uday Vilas, Udaipur are the principal architects of the Parikh group's Gulmohar Greens Golf & Country Club. That in itself says a lot about the property. They have designed many projects in and outside Gujarat and have earned immense recognition for their work. The aesthetically designed club offers state-of-the-art facilities in well-appointed residential rooms. The club includes a 60,000 square foot complex with air-conditioned squash and badminton courts, tennis courts, TT and billiards rooms, and swimming pool.

The Parikh Group is dedicated to making Gulmohar Greens the best operating club house with golf and other popular sports. A team of professionals have thus been taken on board to consult and advise on various aspects of functioning of the club. Various membership programmes with varying fee structures are available. While one may need to wait a while to get the coveted membership, one thing is for sure,



that it is certainly worth it. The Group is committed to providing the finest facilities and support to ensure members' satisfaction.

Contact Details: Gulmohar Greens Golf & Country Club, Next to "Gokul-Vrindavan", Off Sarkhej-Sanand Highway, Kolat Village, Ahmedabad. 91-79/3061-3100; gulmohargreens.com.

Timings: 6:30am to 5:30pm





Kensville Golf and Country Club

Fit for Tournaments

Kensville Golf & Country Club has seen many a national and international celebrities. Amitabh Bachchan, Sonam Kapoor, Narayana Murthy, Harbhajan Singh, Sachin Tendulkar, and spiritual guru Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev have all been on the course. Most recently, Sachin Tendulkar, also took time out to go around the golf course and interact with the players at the recently concluded third edition of the Gujarat Kensville Challenge. The Gujarat Kensville Challenge 2011, hosted at the club, was the European Challenge's first tour to India, and marked Gujarat's first showing in the international golf circuit. Other popular tournaments held here include the Mercedes Trophy, Audi Quattro Cup and BMW Golf Cup International.

Situated in an idyllic location off Dev Dholera, roughly 40 kms from Ahmedabad, the 18-hole



championship golf course at Kensville Golf & Country Club, co-designed by top Indian golfer Jeev Milkha Singh and Col. (retired) K.D. Bagga, is part of a residential community, which will feature more than 800 villas. Kensville golf courses are open for members and their guests. Cleverly placed bunkers, water bodies and contoured greens promise a compelling challenge to the avid golfer. Manicured gardens, landscaped terrain and a host of other amenities are a delight for everyone who visits.

The group's Kensville Golf Academy in Ahmedabad city, is also gaining popularity. Conveniently located in the heart of the Ahmedabad, just behind the Rajpath Club and off the S.G. Road, the Kensville Golf Academy has been meticulously designed to provide an exquisite golfing experience and training for all. Whether you are learning the basics of golf from scratch or seeking to improve a specific aspect of your game, Kensville Golf Academy will provide you with the very best.

Nestled in the heart of the signature 18-Hole golf course, the club house offers the blend of colonial architecture and design with impeccable class and service. In order to have the greatest golfers' satisfaction, the Kensville Golf & Country Club has a food and beverage facility. Golfers can enjoy gastronomical pleasures that the club house offers.



Contact Details: Kensville Golf & Country Club Dev Dholera Village, Nr. Baldana Village, Bavla-Rajkot Highway, Ahmedabad.

91-79/4000 2900; www.kensville.co.in

Timings: 6am to 6pm





The Belvedere Golf & Country Club

Idyllic Idea

The Belvedere Golf & Country Club holds the promise of becoming one of Ahmedabad's premium clubs. Situated in Gujarat's largest luxury township by the Adani group, Shantigram, this project lives up to the promoter's assurance of offering world class amenities and experience.

Still under development, the nine-hole golf course is designed to extend over a 70-acre expanse of green. A wide array of indoor and outdoor sports facilities is in order for making The Belvedere Golf & Country Club perfect to spend fun and quality family time for affluent residents of the township. The exclusive club area will offer recreational activities to entertain discerning non-golfers. Adjoining the golf course will be a 1.5 km long promenade. You can take your pick from sitting back in the viewing gallery and enjoying a game of golf



or getting your own fitness fix by cycling along the designated track. Also planned is a cricket field with pavilion and seating for 5,000 spread over seven acres.

**Contact Details: Shantigram,
Nr. Vaishnav Devi, S.G. Highway,
Ahmedabad.
1800-233-56767; shantigram.com**



Aalloo Hills Resort

Secluded Sanctuary

Located on the banks of the Sabarmati River, with a vast reserve of forest land beyond, and lush green valley on the other side, the Aalloo Hills Resort is a tranquil escape from the city. Just 15 km from Gandhinagar and 45 km from Ahmedabad, the resort is very comfortably accessible along the Gandhinagar-Mahudi highway.

The most impressive aspect of the property comes from the topography of the area. But the scenic setting can throw a challenging game at golfers in the nine-hole-34 par adventure golf course. An abundance of flora and fauna is something that distinguishes Aalloo Hills from the rest.

Pretty peacocks and nimble nilgai are regulars along the course. Birdwatchers can even treat their eyes to tree pies, sun birds, ioras, kingfishers, small minivets, Indian rollers and many more. But along with natural beauty comes a testy terrain. Thus there is a premium here for playing an accurate game. Concentrate and keep your focus to enjoy your round here. It'll serve you well to remember not to just hit it as far as you can but be sure to pick a precise landing spot. One thing is for sure though, moving from one hole to the next offers ample fun and excitement.

Though golf is the main attraction, the 25-acre resort offers a good mix of adventure and leisure. After a thrilling game of golf you can stretch your legs at the club resort or wind down with an authentic Kerala ayurvedic treatment. There's plenty on offer for non-golfers as well. And coaching facilities for beginners get them hooked to the game. The Aalloo Hills Resort provides fun adventure for the entire family.

**Contact Details: Aalloo Hills Resort,
Village Pinadara, 7 km from Pethapur
X Road, Gandhinagar Mahudi Highway.
91-2764/261-363; aalloohills.in.**

Timings: 7am to 6pm

Cambay Spa & Golf Resort, Gandhinagar

A Lush Retreat

Situated just one km away from Mahatma Mandir at Gandhinagar, the Cambay Spa and Golf Resort is a luxurious haven for golf enthusiasts. Spread over an area of 78,746 square metres, this resort features a nine-hole golf course where professional golf tournaments are held regularly. For amateurs, the 240-metre long and 40-metre wide driving range has 16 driving stations. The highlight though is the virtual golfing segment that features high-tech simulation golfing. Professional training is also imparted to members as well as non-members at the golf training academy. Besides golf, the Cambay Resort features 199 rooms offering state-of-the-art



facilities. Conference rooms, a convention centre, banquet halls and an amphitheatre make it ideal for corporate events. With recreation options like a gaming zone, billiards, gym and an Ayurvedic spa the Cambay Resort is a wonderful refuge from a busy urban life.

**Contact Details:
Plot No. X 22, 23 & 24, GIDC,
Sector 25, Gandhinagar.
91-79/2328-9000; thecambay.com**

Timings: 6:30am to 8:30pm



The Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club, Vadodara

Stately Setting

Established in the early 1990's, the Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club is the only private golf course in and around Vadodara. But more than that, it has earned the reputation of being one of the most prestigious clubs in Gujarat. This premier club was founded by the erstwhile royal family of Baroda. Befittingly, the Lukshmi Villas Palace makes a gorgeous backdrop

for this well maintained golf course. The Luxmi Vilas Palace, an extravagant building, was built by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III in 1890. It remains the residence of the royal family, who continue to be held in high esteem by the residents of Vadodara. In the 1990s Ranjitsinh Pratapsinh Gaekwad's grandson Samarjitsinh, a former Ranji trophy cricket player,

renovated the course and opened it to the public.

Strewn with many wonderful old structures, the course has an inimitable heritage appeal. The lush expansive greens are home to flitting peacocks amidst age-old tamarind and neem trees. It is regarded as one of the most picturesque golf courses in Gujarat. It is also a course that all golfers from novice to experienced will truly enjoy. Designed and developed by Ranjit Nanda, a former Indian amateur golfer and international design consultant, and Associates, the golf course is truly world-class. The undulating greens are immaculately maintained and dotted with natural water bodies. With five teeing ground options on each hole and a perfect layout for shot makers and strategic

players, the GBGC course delivers a challenging and unforgettable experience. The driving range featuring 10 bays is also set in idyllic surroundings. The 300 yard long range is just a short distance from the main course where players can hone their skill.

The historical Motibaug Palace, built as a guesthouse to compliment the Lukshmi Villas, is in fact an older monument than the famed Lukshmi Villas itself. Possibly built initially to house all the British architects and engineers who built Lukshmi Villas, this palace in the 1950-60's was also the residence to Pratapsinhrao Gaekwad. This 15,000 sq. ft. home has now been converted into the main clubhouse of Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club. The open verandah on both the ground and first floor open up onto the golf course. This clubhouse houses a well stocked Pro-shop, a verandah Café lounge, a conference room and a fine dining multi-cuisine restaurant on the upper floor. Located in the heart of Vadodara, this magnificent property is frequented by the who's who of the city and around. And as members and visitors soak in the historical surrounding they are greeted by a warm and friendly staff.

Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club is essentially a golf club and maintains that character even while affording facilities for other sports. The club facilities include tennis, badminton, gym and a large swimming pool for complete family recreation. Memberships are restricted and there is a waiting period for applicants before they can join the prestigious club. But from beginner to pro, Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club offers everything a golf enthusiast could possibly want or need. The club is also keen to serve the interests of all golf enthusiasts and also to inculcate a keen interest in golf in non-golfers. In the serene scenery learning and playing golf can transform into a truly delightful experience. The membership programme thus includes basic coaching to help new members pick up the game and start playing on the course. New members are also guided by pros about the rules and etiquette of the game.

Contact Details: The Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club, The Motibaug Palace, The Lukshmi Villas Palace Estate, Rajmahal Road, Baroda. 91-265/243-3599; barodagolf.com

Timings: 7am to 6pm



Gujarat
Tourism

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