

# \*CLASSIC TOUR OF GUJARAT\*

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## 10 Night – 11 Days Program

### DAY 01: ARRIVAL IN AHMEDABAD

**Mahatma Gandhi Sabarmati Ashram:-** Sabarmati Ashram (also known as Harijan Ashram) was home to Mohandas Gandhi from 1917 until 1930 and served as one of the main centres of the Indian freedom struggle. Originally called the Satyagraha Ashram, reflecting the movement toward passive resistance launched by the Mahatma, the Ashram became home to the ideology that set India free. Sabarmati Ashram named for the river on which it sits River Sabarmati.



**Jumma Masjid:-** The Jama Masjid of Ahmedabad was probably the largest mosque in the Subcontinent built in this period. Designed as part of a major plan desired by the Emperor Sultan Ahmed Shah.

**Mosque of Sidi Saiyyed:-** Sidi Saiyyed Mosque is one of most well-known mosques of Ahmedabad, and its famous ‘Tree of Life Jali’ or latticework done on the semi-circular arch-windows has come to symbolise the city and its grandeur known for its architecture.

### Overnight stay at the hotel

### DAY 02 AHMEDABAD – LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH

(BY SURFACE 250 KMS/6 HRS DRIVE)

Breakfast and Depart for Little Rann of Kutch

**Patan:** Patan was an ancient Hind capital before Mahmud of Ghazni sacked it in 1024. Patan is famous for its beautifully designed patola silk saris, you can visit the Museum of

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National award winner Salvi family to see the weaving of Patola sarees. There is also the renovated Rani-ki-Vav, a step well which boasts of some of Gujarat's finest carvings and is also a World Heritage Site.



**Modhera :** Modhera The beautiful and partially ruined sun temple of Modhera was built by King Bhimdev I (1026-27) and bears some resemblance to the later, far better known, Sun Temple of Konark, Orissa. It was designed so that the dawn sun shone on the image of sun God at the time of the equinoxes.



**Overnight stay at LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH**

**DAY 03 LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH - BHUJ**

**(BY SURFACE 250 KMS 5 1/2 HRS DRIVE)**

**Morning Safari:-** Visit to the Wild Ass Sanctuary at Little Rann of Kutch. The Sanctuary is known for Wild Ass which are found only in the region in India, it is also known for the marshy area where you will see a variety of birds such as flamingo pink, duck, crane, etc.

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After breakfast drive to the Bhuj

***(Wild Ass Sanctuary open from 16 October to 15 June)***

## **POST LUNCH - BHUJ VISIT**

**Aina Mahal:-** Aina Mahal is an 18th century palace that was built during the flamboyant rule of Lakhpatji. The layout, design and decorations of Aina Mahal were highly influenced by a royal dream that had eventually been converted into reality by an extremely deft craftsman Ramsinh Malam. **(Closed on Thursday and Public Hoidays)**

**Prag Mahal:-** Prag Mahal which may at first seem out of place at the far western edge of India looking more appropriate in France. This is a palace commissioned by King Pragmalji in 1860's designed by Colonel Henry Saint Wilkins in the Italian Gothic style and built next to the Aina Mahal

## **Kutch Museum and Local Market Visit**

**Overnight stay at – Bhuj**

## **Day 04: Bhuj –BANNI VILLAGES**

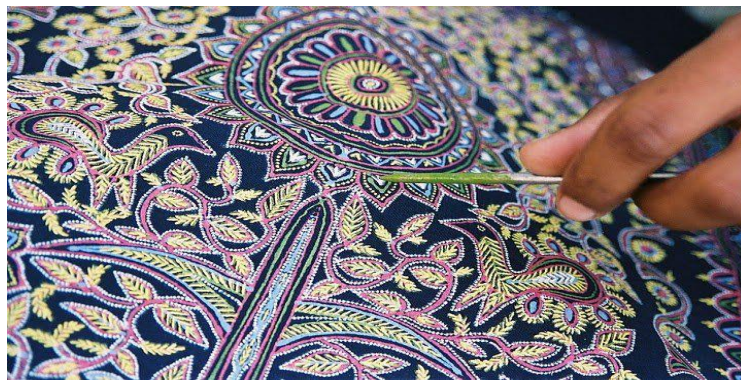
**(FULL DAY EXCURSION to Visit Different Comminities)**

Breakfast at the hotel

A full day excursion to the Banni Villages, which is known for its culture, handicrafts and textiles. In each village one can see a distinct touch of the community that resides in the village like the Rabari, Meghwal, Harijans, Mutwa Community. The different communities are known for different type of craft works like embroidery, Rogan Art, Mirror Work, Wood work etc.

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**Overnight stay at - Bhuj**

**Day 05: Bhuj - BHUJODI -MANDVI - BHUJ**

**Bhujodi Village** to meet National Award winning weavers known for their Shawls and weaving.



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Mandvi is one of the towns that is known for its pristine beaches that are perfect to view the sun setting as it disappears with the view of Arabian Sea.

Mandvi has one of the grandest palace of Gujarat, which was a summer palace for the Maharaja of Kutch. The boat making skills of Mandvi are known across as one can see it up close and personal.



**Overnight stay at - Bhuj**

**Day 06: Bhuj – GONDAL**

**(BY SURFACE 275 KMS 6 HRS DRIVE)**

**Breakfast and check out. Depart for Gondal**

**Ajrakpur** – Visit Ajrakpur to see Ajrak work, Ajrak is a block-printed textile that is resist-dyed using natural dyes including indigo and madder. It is made by Khattris community in Kutch, Gujarat and is distinguished by its colour- blue with red - and its complex geometric & floral patterns.

Lunch at Gondal

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## **Post Lunch**

Visit Gondal Vintage Car Collection and Navlakha Palace. Leisure in evening



## **Overnight at Gondal**

**DAY 07: GONDAL - JUNAGADH - SASAN GIR :**

**(BY SURFACE 130 KMS 3 HRS DRIVE)**

**Junagadh** – Junagadh is famously known for the 2300 year old Uperkot Fort, Edicts of Ashoka which have inscription from the Buddhist era and the famous known architecture called the Mohabat ka Makbara.

*(As of now Uperkot Fort / Buddhist Cave and Mahabat ka Makbara are under renovations)*

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**Gir National Park:-** The only home of the endangered mighty Asiatic Lion, Gir National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary is one of the most popular attractions of Gujarat. The national park houses around 38 species of mammals, 300 avifauna species, 37 species of reptiles and over 2000 insect species.

***(Park open from 16 October to 15 June)***

## **Afternoon Safari at Gir National Park**



## **Overnight at Sasan Gir**

**DAY 08: SASAN GIR – SOMNATH - DIU :**

**(BY SURFACE 130 KMS 3 HRS DRIVE)**

One More Safari at Gir National Park

**Somnath:-** Somnath is one of the highly revered religion site for the Hindu as it is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas of India. It has been attacked by Mahmud Ghazni and destroyed but stands as symbol of belief for all Hindus

Leisure at Diu in evening

## **Overnight at Diu**

**DAY 09: DIU – BHAVNAGAR**

**(BY SURFACE 200 KMS 5 HRS DRIVE)**

**DIU:-** Diu one of the Portugal colonies in India which has left an imprint of its culture in the architecture and streets of Diu. The tiny island is perfect place to take enjoy the history and culture of European influence in India.

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Local Diu Sightseeing till Lunch

**Post Lunch - Depart for Bhavnagar**

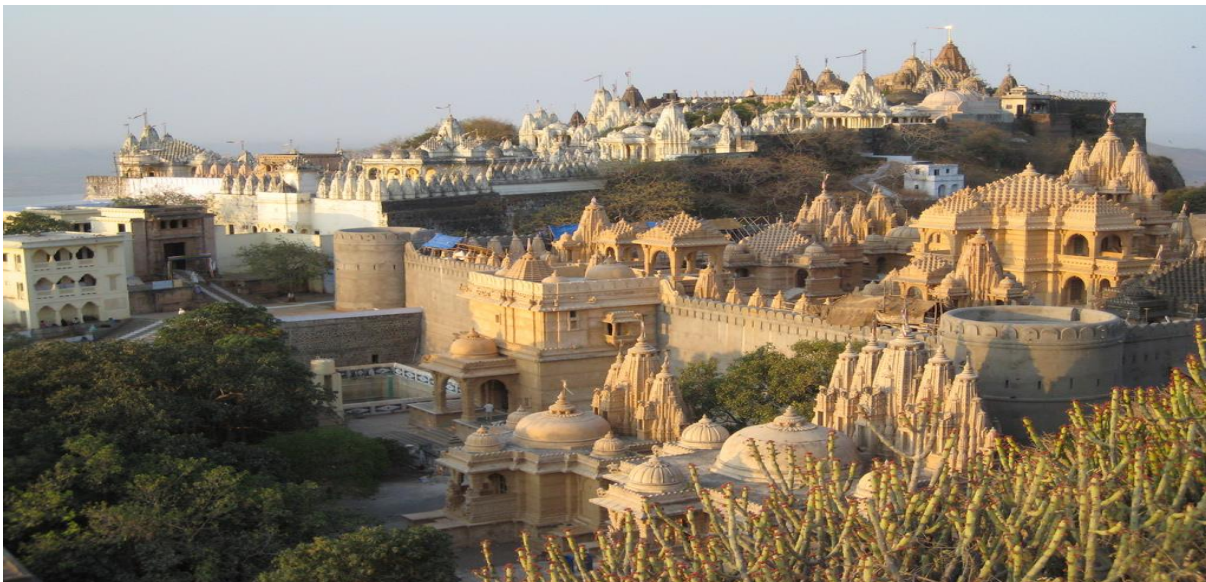
**Overnight at Bhavnagar**

**DAY 10: BHAVNAGAR – PALITANA – VELAVADHAR**

**(BY SURFACE 225 KMS 4 1/2 HRS DRIVE)**

**PALITANA**

Two peaks covered with shrines, one can see the centre of Jain Pilgrimage atop Shatrunjay Hills. It is known for its architecture and the 900 small and big temples on the two summits.



**Lunch at Vijay Vilas Palace – Post Lunch Depart for Velavadhar**



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## Overnight at Velavadhar

### **DAY 11: VELAVADHAR – AHMEDABAD (BY SURFACE 160 KMS 4 HRS DRIVE)**

#### **Morning Safari at Velavadar National Park (Park open from 16 October to 15 June)**

Blackbuck (Velavadar) National Park is a beautiful place, located in the Bhavnagar district of the state of Gujarat. This is a unique National Park with exclusive grassland habitat, shrub lands, saline plains and mud flats. More than 1,000 blackbuck exist on the open grasslands of Velavadar. The park embraces about over 140 species of birds, 14 species of mammals, 95 species of flowering plants, and many reptiles. Other than blackbucks we can also see Nilgai, wolf, wild cat, jackal, Indian fox and rodents in the park.



**Depart for Ahmedabad & Drop at Ahmedabad Airport.**