Nilambag Palace

A unique culmination of regal grandeur and rich heritage
SIHM
STATE INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT
AICTE APPROVED | GTU AFFILIATED

PROMISING CAREER
ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES

BACHELOR OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT & CATERING TECHNOLOGY (BHMCT)

Duration : 04 Years | Eligibility : 12th pass in any stream

100% PLACEMENT
For Internships with certain top National and International Brands across India

FEATURES
- State-of-the-art Infrastructure
- Library Facility
- Teaching Pedagogy
- Research Lab
- Competitions
- Career path Guidance
- Cultural Activities
- Placement Cell
- Hostel Facilities
- SIHM Clubs
- Mentorship
- Industrial visits

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION
- Seychelles Tourism Academy
- Sacred Heart University
- EHL

FOR ADMISSION RELATED INFORMATION

CONTACT : 9825768099 / 9825784099
www.sihm.ac.in | info@sihm.ac.in
From the desk of Editor

Dear Readers,

Covid-19 has cast a pall on all segments of the travel and hospitality industry. Countries around the world have sealed borders and travel has been completely forbidden – it's a situation that has no parallel at this scale.

The World Travel and Tourism Council calculated that tourism generated 9.2% of India's GDP in 2018 and supported more than 40 million jobs. The sector is certainly hit by the pandemic and recovery of this sector seems challenging but here is the silver lining. During these lockdown days when human activities are minimum, nature is undergoing rejuvenation, pollution level is going down and nature will be at its best. Travel lovers will once again would like to visit different places and experience freshness. However, as a responsible citizen we will have to continue the behavioural change like hygiene and social distancing.

Talking about this edition, the cover story talks about Nilambag Palace which stands tall as the epitome of our regal heritage. We have covered Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary and also Dandi Kutir Museum which depicts the life story of Mahatma Gandhi. In the culinary section, the edition covers mango delight. In the news and update section, we have covered various news which became talk of the town.

In the end, I would like to appeal to all the readers to follow the government guidelines and join hands in this fight against corona.

Jenu Devan,
Commissioner of Tourism &
MD, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited
05 Nilambag Palace, 
A Unique Culmination of Regal 
Grandeur and Rich Heritage

15 King of Fruits, 
served the unique way...

09 Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary, 
a chirpy paradise

17 ’Dekho Amdavad’, 
an initiative to promote 
India’s first Heritage City

12 Dandi Kutir - 
A tribute to father 
of the nation

26 Protective Measures against Coronavirus

Khushboo Gujarat Ki Team

Editor: Mr. Jenu Devan | Promoter: Mr. Nirav Munshi | Managing Editor: Ms. Nisha Sharma
Concept, Design & Printing: Sapience Communication
Nilambag Palace

A Unique Culmination of Regal Grandeur and Rich Heritage
Bhavnagar - a city that houses royalty in its air and gives the common man a pair of regal wings. This city has ventured beyond the typical and offered its residents a platform of rich heritage. Known not only for its local cuisine, but also for its traditional dance dialects, Bhavnagar is an artsy home that hasn’t forgotten its roots.

A closer look at this city’s heritage and there are glimpses of history shimmering and brimming with grandeur and regality. Bhavnagar was the Gohil Capital in 1723 and one of the first princely states to join the notion of an Independent India.

A modern definition of such royalty blended with contemporary luxury is the Nilambag Palace Hotel. In 1879, H. H. Takhatssinhji of the Bhavnagar Royal Family, commissioned the German Architect Simms to construct a royal magnificence. The end result was a beautiful Rajula stone structure, with Colonial Architecture.

Boasting of Anglo-Indian style of architecture, Nilambag retains its carvings offering an indulgence in its princely aura. This beautiful structure is intact with its royal design and vintage architecture, yet serving with modern functionality and being easily accessible with the Airport just 6 kms away and the railway station 2.3 kms away.

In its transition of being a home for the royal family to being a stay for people wanting a palatial experience, Nilambag has maintained every bit of its royal heritage. The Maharaja and Maharani Suites are the same ones that the then Maharaja
Krishnakumar Sinhji and Maharani Vijayaba Saheb stayed in. Apart from these, the Palace Hotel also offers Cottage Rooms, a fine blend of ethnic culture and ethos with modern luxury - offering a total of 20 rooms and 7 cottages to choose from. Each room, no matter the variant chosen, speaks of royal tales and regal aura.

Any regal extravaganza is incomplete without a sumptuous feast from the royal kitchens. Enjoy the delicacies at the heritage Darbar dining hall inside the Nilambag palace. On a confirmed reservation, specially curated dishes from the erstwhile royal family menu can be served by the Chefs of Nilambag. There is also an alfresco dining option at Neelam Garden Restaurant.

After settling the taste buds one would definitely like to sweat it out. Nilambag has got you covered on that too. There is a state of the art fitness centre at the palace premises and also a Roman bath style swimming pool. In one corner of the palace, there is an in-house boutique called Mignayani which houses local handicrafts. Don’t forget to take over a souvenir with a memory of lifetime.

Admirable Attractions:
Joining the historical significance of the Palace is the Bhavnagar Heritage Preservation Society, an institution with an aim to initiate local awareness in matters of governance pertaining to preservation of heritage and boosting tourism through it. One of the most remarkable activity is its Heritage Walk, providing a glimpse of the rich sites this city has to offer.
The Darbar Gadh: the place of power that helped structure the development of the city.
The Darbari Kothar: where the State granules were stored.
The Krishnakumarsinhji Town Hall: that speaks of royal architectural importance.
The Ganga Deri: a soothing marble memorial palace with a lakefront setting.

If one chooses to venture beyond this walk, places like the Victoria Park - the oldest manmade forest in India, Blackbuck Sanctuary at Velavadar, the Barton Library - the oldest library in Gujarat, and the Alang Ship-Breaking yard - the largest ship breaking yard in the world — provide a space to explore diverse facets of the city and State. The Ro-Ro Ferry has also started its operations offering ease of travel and minimising commute time.

As an extension of offering the royal lifestyle, there is the Gopnath bungalow, a seaside resort and the summer palace of erstwhile royals, as a weekend getaway for contemporary plans. A visit to any of these properties surrounds one with grace of royalty and grounds one with magnificent display of intricate and thoughtful work by artisans and craftsmen of the time.

All of these regale stories of royalty, reminding us of the heritage residing and blending with the common man - a philosophy deeply rooted in the Bhavnagar roots.

It isn’t uncommon for palaces to display its air of royalty and feature as stays and provide a palatial experience. But the differentiating factor of this conversion is its priority of uniting the city and implementing a democratic ownership by including locals and their rationale in palace affairs.

- Inputs from Yuvraj Jaiveerajsinh Gohil
Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary
A Chirpy Paradise
Gujarat is synonymous to wildlife and migratory birds. With over 23 wildlife sanctuaries and 4 national parks, Gujarat is a paradise for wildlife lovers and photographers from across the world. Every wildlife sanctuary has few peculiar species and some birds like to frequent certain parts of Gujarat every year. Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is one such sanctuary frequented by Black Necked Storks.

Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is located in the western coast of Gujarat near Jamnagar district. The sanctuary is unique as it has various ecosystems formed over the years, which attracts various variety of birds. A check dam was built over river Ruparel in 1950s for storing water just before it entered the sea. Over the years with fresh water on one side and salt water of the sea on the other side, a unique ecosystem has developed here. The sanctuary is also near Narara island, which supports coral reef. There are large creeks on one side of the bund which support mangroves while on the other side there is inland vegetation. With ecosystems such as marine water, fresh water, marshy lands, mangroves, salt pans, mudflats, sandy beaches and farmlands, over 300 species of resident as well as migratory birds have been recorded here.

The importance of Khijadiya and its rich diversity was duly noted by the great ornithologist Dr. Salim Ali when he visited in 1984 and documented over 100 species of birds in a single day. However, Khijadiya being away from the main tourist circuit was not on the radar of visitors till 2010. Thanks to an International Bird Watcher’s Conference held in 2010, it started becoming popular and ever since gets loyal visitors from all over India. It is also popular amongst the locals as it provides a great backdrop for photography. Khijadiya and other Bird sanctuaries of Gujarat have become more popular after the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of wild animals (CMS) held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat in February this year.
Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is divided in two zones. Zone-I is the bigger zone, which offers variety of sightings. Visitors have to walk on foot from the entry gate to the watch tower to get a glance of birds. While Zone-II is smaller and cars are allowed to go inside. Some of the most remarkable birds seen here are Dalmatian Pelican, Painted Stork, Black Necked Stork, Brahminy Kite, Indian Skimmer, Marsh Harrier, Grey Francolin, Indian Spotted Eagle, Imperial Eagle, Eurasian Pigeon, Pheasant-Tailed Jacana, Common Greenshank, Garganey, Common Teal, Comb Duck, Indian Pond Heron, Demoiselle Crane and many others.

How to reach
Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary

**By Air:** Nearest airport is in Jamnagar, which is 20 km from the Bird Sanctuary.

**By Train:** The Bird Sanctuary is 11 km from Jamnagar Old Railway Station. And around 7 km from Hapa Railway Station. Jamnagar is well connected with Ahmedabad.

**By Road:** Nearest Jamnagar Bus Station (GSRTC) is about 15 km.

Best time to Visit

Best time to visit Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary is in the months of October to March as the weather is pleasant and is the perfect time to spot migratory species.

Other places of interest near Khijadia

- Narara Marine National Park is 60 from Jamnagar on the way towards Dwarka. You can witness beautiful corals when the tide ebbs.
- Darbargadh Palace, Jamnagar
- Pirotan Island
- Lakhota Palace & Museum, Jamnagar
Dandi Kutir

A tribute to Father of the Nation

Imagine experiencing a biography of the Father of the Nation - Mahatma Gandhi, through the eyes of sophisticated technology of the world. The Dandi Kutir is designed to portray the biography of Mahatma Gandhi through the use of multimedia technologies including audio guide in synchronization with pictures on the wall, 3D mapping, 3D hologram and 360 degree show techniques. Located in Gandhinagar, the capital of Gujarat, it is India's largest museum built to depict the life of Mahatma Gandhi as well as to showcase his teachings.
Mahatma Gandhi started the ‘Satyagraha Yatra’ to break the salt laws in Dandi, which encouraged millions of people across the nation to join the fight for independence and stand up against the atrocious laws imposed by the British. The civil disobedience movement put the Indian struggle for freedom on the world stage bolstering the efforts and wish for Purna Swarajya i.e complete independence.

With an aim to honor Mahatma Gandhi and his tireless contributions towards the freedom struggle of the country, the Gujarat government conceptualized and built a museum-monument called Dandi Kutir that is a fitting tribute to the extraordinary life of Mahatma Gandhi and the legendary Dandi March.

Dandi Kutir was set up with an aim of showcasing Gandhiji’s powerful idea that people from all sections of the society,
across the lines of gender, age and class, have a common right to salt, referring to his legendary march to Dandi to make salt from sea water, a practice that was prohibited by the British. The Dandi Kutir was opened in January 2015 under the Sports, Youth & Cultural Activities Department, Government of Gujarat.

Visitors are sure to get awed upon entering the museum complex to see the salt-mound shape solely dedicated to commemorate the Dandi Yatra led by Mahatma Gandhi. Once inside, the exhibits are divided into five parts and across a few floors, named The Early Life, Life in London and Back Home, Life in South Africa, Return to India and Satyagraha and Road to Independence!

Visitors can see and learn many facts about Mahatma Gandhi right from his birth on October 2nd, 1869, to his childhood, his marriage to Kasturba and his freedom struggle for India in the later part of his life. Inside the Kutir you can hop on a train to UP or South Africa and be an active part of a meeting, Mahatma attended or just walk from one phase of his life to another where the automatic audio guide will detect your position near the exhibit and give you an explanation and showcase the transformation of an ordinary individual into a Mahatma, who led India to independence.

This 90 minute journey in the museum will leave you spellbound and make you mesmerized with such acute details of Mahatma Gandhi's life story.

Visitors can visit the Dandi Kutir between 10:30 am to 5 pm from Monday to Sunday. The entry fees for Indian nationals is Rs.10 while for foreign nationals is Rs. 200.
There are hardly a handful of things that soothe one's mind, heart, and soul - all at once. For a long time now, food tops that precious list with a huge majority. As this option is segregated further, by taste, season, family recipes, or pure whimsy, one enters into a satiating world of euphoria and food coma.

Despite being in a tricky and terrifying situation of being confined to our homes, our body starts craving the first batch of childhood happiness - mangoes in any form! A good helping of aamras with puri, and it is definite that a good nap awaits after lunch. A simple serving of daal-rice, with any variant of mango pickle, or simply a few rotis with it, sometimes beats the fanciest of meals.

However, with more time to experiment and explore one's mango cravings, there are a few dishes that combine our favourite sour raw mango, and infuse the zing in its purest form. These dishes venture a step ahead from the usual aam panna, chutneys, murhbas and pickles, and guarantee a successful experiment.

One such recipe is Aamras ki kadhi. Combine the taste of soothing kadhi with that of wholesome aamras, and the result is pure bliss. Served with rice, the blend of such a variety of spices ensures a hearty meal. If you still wish to have the usual dal and rice, save any additional hard work, and just add raw mango to your dal!

Taking this kadhi a step further is the Kairi ki Curry. A blend of spices with the sourness of raw mango surprises our taste buds like no other. Paired with the traditional Rajasthani Khoba Roti makes it a good pick for lunch or dinner. Give it the Gujarati nu Swad by simply serving it with thin rotlis or bhaat.

Mango Pachadi, a beloved dish down south, this is a preparation similar to that of a Raita. Usually made with yogurt, chilies, and coconut, this one blends in additional bits of raw mango for a twist. If the mood is to linger around flavors of the south, one of the go-to recipes is rasam and rice. Infuse either with raw mango, and you have the same satisfying meal, made a little better! For leftover cravings of the Gujarati flavor, try blending it with any variety of raita.
Any doubt about adding raw mango to usual dishes is natural. Instead create a side chutney that leaves everyone craving for more! Try the Kashmiri Apple and Raw Mango chutney. Served murrabba style, add spices as per your taste, and create something unique by just modifying the main ingredients. Recall the Gujarati touch by tracing this back to our roots and creating the gokheri pickle, a mix of raw mangoes and jaggery with spices, catering to all our taste buds at once!

If full-out experimenting is your style, look no further and try making the Mango Matcha Green smoothie! Brace yourself, gather the healthiest smoothie ingredients and merge these new flavors. The result would be positively jaw dropping.

Build up your cravings by exploring these dishes further, and make this summer memorable by reinventing the King of fruits. After-all, every King deserves a makeover!
'Dekho Amdavad', an initiative to promote India's first Heritage City

In the form of Dekho Ahmedabad Bus Tour, Gujarat Tourism has taken a great initiative to promote tourist places of India's first Heritage City - Ahmedabad. It is not just another bus service but it is completely a different way of experiencing Ahmedabad's rich culture and heritage. The initiative was flagged off by Hon'ble Minister of State, Tourism, Shri Vasabhai Aahir along with Secretary, Tourism Smt. Mamta Verma and Managing Director, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd., Shri Jenu Devan. They also took a ride in the Dekho Amdavad Bus.

This initiative will surely facilitate tourists coming to Gujarat for visiting destinations of Ahmedabad and Gandhinagar like Gandhi Ashram, Sidi Saiyyed Mosque, Bhadra Fort, Bhadraakali Temple, Teen Darwaza, Jama Masjid, Huthee Sinh Jain Temple, Rani Sipri's Mosque, Shaking Minarets, Adalaj Step Well, Dandi Kutir and Akshardham Temple.
Rann Utsav 2019-20 ended with great festivity

Rann Utsav 2019-20 witnessed a great festivity just like every edition of it. Around 4.38 lakh tourists visited Rann Utsav during last season out of which 4,457 tourists were foreigners and rest of them came from every corner of India. The Rann Utsav was delayed by a month due to heavy rainfall. However, the festival received overwhelming response and witnessed a great celebration of nature and culture.
Destination Development and Community Participation, a conference to harness the potential of tourism

To harness the potential of tourism, a two day conference on Destination Development and Community Participation was organized during the Rann Utsav. The conference was attended by dignitaries from Ministry of Tourism, Government of India along with dignitaries from Government of Gujarat. The conference was presided over by Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Vijaybhai Rupani and Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Tourism and Culture, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel in the august presence of Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, Shri Jawaharbhai Chavda and Hon'ble Minister of State, Tourism, Shri Vasanbhai Ahir.

During these two days, many productive sessions took place and dignitaries got many insights after interacting with local stakeholders. This would be helpful for better planning and implementation in order to take tourism to the next level.
Hon'ble Vice President visited Rann of Kutch

Rann Utsav 2019 edition got the privilege to host Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu. During his visit, he enjoyed amazing sunset at Rann of Kutch and took a joyride on a camel cart along with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijaybhai Rupani, Hon'ble Tourism Minister of Gujarat, Shri Jawaharbhai Chavda and Hon'ble Minister of State, Tourism, Shri Vasanbhai Ahir. Secretary, Tourism, Smt. Mamata Verma and Commissioner of Tourism, Shri Jenu Devan and many other dignitaries accompanied him during his visit to nearby places. He appealed people of India and abroad to visit this mesmerizing place and described his visit as an unforgettable one. “The joy of watching Ranotsav, White Rann and the sunset at White Rann are unforgettable. My experience in Ranotsav was very spectacular. Every countryman must come to see the White Rann of Kutch.” he tweeted.
State Institute of Hotel Management, an initiative of Gujarat tourism has always strived to redefine education standards. As a part of this revolutionary vision, recently SIHM released its Vision Document for the duration of 2020-2025. The event became more special as the Vision Document was unveiled by Hon’ble Vice President of India, Shri Venkaiah Naidu in august presence of Hon’ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijaybhai Rupani, Hon’ble Tourism Minister, Shri Jawaharbhai Chavda and Hon’ble Minister of State, Tourism, Shri Vasanthbhai Ahir. The ceremony took place in the beautiful Rann of Kutch. Through this Vision Document 2020-2025, SIHM has set a strategic framework to guide and direct it's major goals, to be accomplished over next 5 years. Main aim of SIHM is to get recognised as a world class institute in Hospitality, Travel and Tourism sector.
Asia's First Tourism & Hospitality MUN was organized at SIHM

State Institute of Hotel Management, an initiative of Gujarat Tourism, recently organized Asia’s First-ever MUN on the theme of Tourism & Hospitality. What made this event so special was the participation of the brightest students coming from 5 countries and 11 states of India. These students were divided in 6 different committees namely ECOSOC, UNSC, UNHRC, UNWTO, Lok Sabha and International Press. Students represented different countries and debated on global issues just like representatives do in United Nations.
Gujarat Tourism conducted webinar in association with leading Travel Associations

In times of nation-wide lockdown due to Covid-19 spread, with lowest business activity on, Gujarat Tourism has taken up the challenge to pursue normalcy in tourism sector by connecting to stakeholders of hospitality and tourism sector. Gujarat Tourism conducted a webinar to keep stakeholders motivated and help them overcome this tough challenge. This shall help in bringing normalcy in tourism economic activities post lockdown. The webinar was chaired by Hon’ble Tourism Minister, Shri Jawaharbhhai Chavda, Secretary of Tourism, Smt. Mamta Verma and Managing Director of Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited, Shri Jenu Devan also addressed participants as key speakers and welcomed their suggestions. Smt. Mamta Verma appealed stakeholders to join hands in reviving tourism sector. Members of several travel and tourism associations like IATO, ADTOI, TAFI, TAG, TAAT, OTAI, GTTA etc. participated in the webinar.

Gujarat Tourism & SIHM jointly organised an Expert Session of Master Chef Sanjeev Kapoor

For better approach towards academics and building a professional career, State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM) and Gujarat Tourism jointly organised an Expert Session of Master Chef Sanjeev Kapoor for the students of hospitality and tourism industry. The session lasted for around 90 minutes and more than 6000 viewers took benefit of it. In the first half of the session, Master Chef addressed the students on a range of topics from how to utilise current lockdown time productively to developing entrepreneurial skills. The second half of the session comprised of Question and Answers in which the students and the faculty members asked questions to Mr. Sanjeev Kapoor.

One of students, Mr. Adheesh Modi asked what all the skills Mr. Sanjeev Kapoor considers when he recruits chefs in his restaurant and how can the students develop them. In reply to the question, Mr. Sanjeev Kapoor said, the knowledge of the menu is must, one should have skills at their best, one should be willing to learn and lastly person’s attitude towards work should always be positive, calm and he or she should be focused. The students of SIHM asked many questions and got wise answers backed by expertise, knowledge and experience of Master Chef Sanjeev Kapoor.
To help experience the beauty of tourist destinations during lockdown, Ms. Niki Kathiriya, PR Official of Gujarat Tourism, has been making marvellous paintings of many tourists destinations of Gujarat. She has made paintings of The Tomb of Mahabat Khan – Junagadh, Idariyo Gadh – Idar, Polo Forest – Vijaynagar, etc. Besides, Ms. Niki has made sure that the places of Gujarat look equally beautiful on canvas as it is in real. Since we all are at our home, these paintings truly help us to reflect on the memories of our past travels. Here are some of the paintings.
Protective Measures against Coronavirus

- Wash your hands with soap and water regularly
- If soap and water is not available, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol
- Use face masks while going out
- Wash hands before touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your nose and mouth with handkerchief / tissue while sneezing and coughing
- Throw tissues in closed dustbin immediately after use
- Avoid mass gathering and crowded places
CREATING GREAT TOURISM EXPERIENCE WITH PROMINENT LOCATION, AUTHENTIC FOOD AND EXCELLENT SERVICE.
India’s First and World’s Third Largest

Home to many vistas of colourful culture and a wide variety of traditions, spirituality, cuisine and entertainment as well as the world’s tallest statue, the latest and unique addition to Gujarat’s attractions is India’s first Dinosaur Museum and World’s third largest Fossil Park at Raioli village near Balasinor town.

A Pre-historic Location

115 km away from the capital city of Gandhinagar, the Dinosaur Museum is spread across an area of over 25,000 sq. feet with 10 galleries spread across two floors depicting various forms of displays including static and dynamic installations. Raoli is the World’s second largest hatchery and boasts of being fertile breeding ground for many species of dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Fossil remains, bones and eggs have been excavated here since early 1980s.

Fascinating Features

Nearly 50 sculptures of dinosaurs, including a life-size one of Rajasaurus Narmadensis, the indigenous breed that can be called the King of Dinosaurs along with displays that elucidate Evolution of Earth, World Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs of India and Gujarat and the KT Extinction Theory are showcased in the museum. The museum installations include 3D Projection Mapping, 360-degree Virtual Reality, 3D Stereoscopic Projections, Interactive Kiosks, a vivid display of Triassic, Jurassic & Cretaceous times besides gaming consoles and much more. The Dinosaur Museum offers an informative, interactive and amusing experience for children and people of all ages.

Arrive to witness the Era of the Gigantic Reptiles

A visit to the Dinosaur Museum at Raioli deserves to be in your bucket list. It is endlessly amusing and enormously informative, giving your trip to Gujarat a new dimension!

Best time to Visit:

The Museum is open to Tourists for visit everyday from 10:00 am to 06:00 pm. The tickets can be purchased between 10:00 am and 05:00 pm, outside the museum. The museum remains closed on Mondays, so plan your trip accordingly.

How to Get There:

Closest Cities:
Ahmedabad (100 kms), Vadodara (110 kms), Gandhinagar (115 kms)

Closest Airports:
Ahmedabad (104 kms), Vadodara (105 kms)

Closest Railheads:
Nadiad (77 kms), Ahmedabad (97.5 kms), Vadodara (113 kms)