

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF GUJARAT (11 Days)**

### **DAY 01 – BY ROAD – 425 KMS / 08 HRS – AHMEDABAD TO BHUJ**

Arrive Ahmedabad and drive to Bhuj; Arrive Bhuj and transfer to your hotel.

The historic city of Bhuj derives its name from the Bhujiyo Dungar, a hill overlooking present-day Bhuj town. Bhuj is a typical example of a desert town located between two geographical features: Bhujiyo Dungar on the east & Hamirsar Lake on the west. Bhuj, the major town of Kutch, is an old city established in 1510. With its surrounding wall, the atmospheric bazaar area, crenelated gateways, old palaces, and striking temples, the town still retains a medieval character. Every Nov/February, it hosts the annual Rann Utsav festival. The most colourful town in the already-colorful state of Gujarat. Kuchh Din Toh Guzaaro Gujarat Mein!

#### **Overnight at hotel**

### **DAY 02 – IN BHUJ**

Today after breakfast proceed for day excursion to Banni villages. (North Bhuj)

Amidst the desert land of infinite dimensions, there are suspended, quaint little villages. These are the last villages on the India-Pakistan border. Here you will come across master craftspeople's exposing their traditional art, turning our master pieces every day. Their ornaments, clothes, utensils, and everything they use will make you feel as if you have stepped into a lifestyle museum, leaving you spellbound.

Visit the Bhirandiyara, which is a favorite tea stop for locals and visitors alike on the road to Khavda. The village boasts a delicious, sweet, fresh Maavo. This milk-based sweet is best when eaten hot. Most of the roadside stalls sell Maavo. The local Meghwal community has exquisite embroidery and skillfully decorated, colorful Mud Bhungas.

Ludia Village is comprised of several hamlets belonging to the Meghwal & Samma communities. The latter community, primarily herdsmen, is more conservative when it comes to tourists. Gandhi nu Gam, populated by the Meghwal community, features beautifully painted Bhungas. The Kanjari (blouses) of the women and the Bhunga decoration of this village are especially colorful.

Khavda' pottery is an art form of Khavda, North Kutch. While the men do all the throwing in terracotta, the women handle all the surface decoration, which in this northern Kutch village of Ludia is primarily in the form of painting.

The potter gets mud from a specific acre (a lake) area near the village. It is called 'Rann ka mitti'. This soft clay is shaped into a pot on a potter's wheel and left to dry in the shade. Kumbhar women then use red, black, and white clay-based paints to decorate each piece of pottery with distinct community-specific designs. After a while, it is cleaned, put in the sun to dry, and then baked in a furnace powered by simple and locally available fuels like dry wood and cow dung. The vessels are coated with a thin wash of geru

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(red). The pots of Khavda get their red colour from Geru, a type of soil (ocher or umber), and the black and white dots and stripes are also made with natural material. Finished pieces lie aside, ready for drying. The terracotta pots of Khavda are distinct from the ones we may see elsewhere because of their painting and form, which is a result of repeated cleaning at every stage of the process of their making.

White Rann: The spectacular sight of boundless white desert is a stunning creation of nature, unique to this world.

### **Overnight at hotel**

## **DAY 03 – BY ROAD – 340 KMS / 07 HRS – BHUJ TO JAMNAGAR**

After breakfast drive to Jamnagar, Arrive Jamnagar, and transfer to your hotel.

Jamnagar, or the city of Jams, was one of the most important princely states of Saurashtra. Today, the 200-kilometer-long Jamnagar coast is dotted with several industries run by corporate giants in the region. Jamnagar itself is a centre for the brass industry, bandhani fabrics, and zari work. But it's the princely past that attracts visitors—the Pratap Vilas Palace in renaissance style, the 16th-century Darbargarh Palace with a festival of stone sculptures, the impressive Willingdon Crescent, the museum at Lakota Island Palace of Jamsarovar Lake, and statues of famous cricketing prince Ranjit Sinhji. Also worth seeing are the Maqbaras, the colorful sculpture of Sonapuri, and the Jain temples in the city centre. Later Visit Bala Hanuman Temple: Bala Hanuman Temple is a pilgrimage place venerated by the devotees of Lord Rama. It is a world-famous temple known for the continuous chanting of Jai Ram and Shri Ram. The chanting has been going on since 1964 and has found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. People chant the name of the Lord in shifts, 24 hours a day.

### **Overnight at hotel**

## **DAY 04 – BY ROAD – 145 KMS / 03 HRS – JAMNAGAR TO DWARKA**

After breakfast drive to Dwarka, Arrive Dwarka and transfer to your hotel.

The small coastal town of Dwarka is one of the four most holy Hindu pilgrimage sites in India. It is here that Krishna founded his capital after leaving Mathura. Excavations have revealed 5 earlier cities at the site, all submerged. The present town dates largely to the 19th century and attracts thousands of pilgrims to celebrate the Holi, Diwali, and Janmashtami festivals. The must-visit Dwarkadhish Temple is the main crowd draw here. The multi-pillared Sabha Mandapa in this temple leads to a 60-pillared sanctum sanctorum that dates back 2500 years, according to the scriptures.

Later, visit Bet Dwarka, Nageshwar Temple, Rukmani Temple, and Gomati Talav. The visit to Dwarka is not complete without a visit to Bet Dwarka, an island at 30 km. Off the coast of Okha port, at Bet, there are temples of Vishnu (in the form of 'matsya'), Radha, Lakshmi, Satyabhama, Jambuvanti, and Devaki. A ferry ride from Dwarka to the island of Bet near Okha makes for a pleasant outing. Nageshwar temple is

situated towards Okha, dedicated to Lord Shiva, and houses one of the 12 Jyotirlingas in an underground chamber. Then visit Gomati Village, Gomati Talav, and Gomati Mandir.

### **Overnight at hotel**

## **DAY 05 – BY ROAD – 250 KMS / 05 HRS – DWARKA TO SOMNATH**

Early morning visits the Dwarkadhish Temple and witness the Aarti.

After breakfast drive to Somnath visiting Porbandar enroute.

Porbandar, the coastal heritage town of Gujarat, is located on the Saurashtra peninsula, on the Arabian Sea. This city is described in the Skanda Purana as Sudamapuri and Ashmavati and had a flourishing trade with Africa and Arabia. To date, the spice market in Porbandar draws a huge crowd. According to the legends, this city was the main link in the great friendship between Lord Krishna and Sudama. Porbandar was established as a capital by Rana Sartanji in 1785 AD. Porbandar was the former capital of the Jethwa Rajput petty princely state. The most impressive feature of Porbandar is the city planning, the stone buildings with ashlar masonry and rich carving, and the facades of the houses on either side of the streets, with windows and carved gateways. Porbandar is also associated with Mahatma Gandhi, the father of the nation, as he was born here. Today, fine-quality silk and cotton are manufactured here. There are also chemical factories and cement works.

Later, visit Kirti Mandir. Kirti Mandir was the house of Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba, his wife. This place is situated near the place where the Mahatma was born. This place is now a small museum and has a Gandhian library and a prayer hall. Bharat Mandir is another place to visit, which houses a relief map of India and reliefs of great historical personalities who shaped India's future.

Later, continue to drive to Somnath; arrive in Somnath and transfer to your hotel.

Somnath consists of a few streets leading away from its phoenix-like temple. The rugged sea below gives it a lonely, wistful charm. Somnath is mainly known for the legendary shore temple of Somnath, which is dedicated to the Lord Shiva. The temple is an example of grit and determination and how to rise out of downfall, as the temple has been plundered and destroyed many times and re-erected again in all its glory. To be precise, it was destroyed seven times and built eight!

The legendary shore temple of Somnath is one of the twelve most sacred shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. The temple contains the Jyotirlinga of Lord Shiva. According to the legends, the Somnath temple is very old and was originally built in gold by Somraj, the Moon God. Later, it was rebuilt by Ravana in silver, then by Krishna in wood and Bhim Dev in stone. Mahmud of Ghazni, upon hearing the description of the richness of the Somnath temple by Al Biruni, an Arab traveller, visited this temple in 1024 AD. At that time, this temple had about 300 musicians, 500 dancing girls, and 300 barbers to shave off the heads of pilgrims. After a two-day battle, Mahmud destroyed the temple and carried away jewels and gold to his homeland. In all, the Somnath temple was rebuilt and destroyed eight times. This temple was finally rebuilt in 1950 with the support of Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel. The current temple was built as per the traditional designs on the original site by the sea and is a serene, symmetrical, and sinuous structure. Today, this majestic temple is a replica of the earlier temple.

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Later visit Bhalka Tirth: Bhalka Tirth is situated halfway between Veraval and Somnath. At this place, Lord Krishna was mistaken for a deer and wounded by an arrow. It is here that Lord Krishna decided to leave his human form and proceed to the eternal world.

#### **Overnight at hotel**

### **DAY 06 – BY ROAD – 100 KMS / 02 HRS – SOMNATH TO DIU**

After breakfast drive to Diu, Arrive Diu and transfer to your hotel.

A beautiful blend of sun, sand and sea, Diu is a God's gift to those in quest of a blessed land where the weary weight of this unintelligible world can, for a while, be lightened and the waking soul can hear the music of the nature. This tiny island of breeze, beauty and serenity situated off the southern tip of the Saurashtra (Kathiawad) peninsula of Gujarat, lapped by the Arabian Sea, is a picture of calmness with superb beaches and fascinating history.

St. Paul's church: The Church adorned with curiously treated volutes & shell-like motifs and the magnificent wood carving is the most elaborate of all the Portuguese churches in India.

St. Thomas Church Museum: A huge edifice in gothic architecture was built in 1598. A part of it has been converted into a museum an Archaeological treasure house.

Diu Fort: This majestic structure stands on the coast of Diu sentinel. Once inside, you are overwhelmed by the gaunt majesty of the ancient stonework which transports you to a bygone era of gallant soldiers where time stands still.

Nagoa beach: The Nagoa beach is incredibly beautiful & quiet. It is an exceptionally beautiful horseshoe (semi-circular) shaped beach.

#### **Overnight at hotel**

### **DAY 07 – IN DIU**

Day is at leisure.

#### **Overnight at hotel**

## DAY 08 – BY ROAD – 120 KMS / 02 HRS – DIU TO SASANGIR

After breakfast, drive to Sasan Gir, popularly known as Gir, the most famous lion sanctuary in India. And the one place in the subcontinent where Asian Lions can be found in the wild. Sasan Gir is on the south-western border of Saurashtra peninsula in Gujarat and is home to nearly 400 Asiatic lions. The Sanctuary was created in 1913 to provide protection to the largest surviving groups of Asiatic lions and was given the status of sanctuary in 1965. The numbers of lions has been steadily on the rise since 1980. This is the only place in the World outside the African continent where the lion can be seen in its natural habitat. The lion safaris are popular among tourists, & jeeps are freely available for touring the forest. Though the most famous inhabitants of the park are Asiatic lions, it also provides natural habitat to lot of other species like Chital, Chinkara (Gazelle) Four-horned antelope, Leopard, Nilgai, Spotted deer, Wild boar, Wild ass, Monkeys, Parrots, Peacocks, many other birds, etc. Please note Lion safaris are to be booked online only; the site is

**Overnight at hotel**

## DAY 09 – BY ROAD – 375 KMS / 07 HRS – SASANGIR TO AHMEDABAD

After breakfast, drive to Ahmedabad. If interested, visit the Sidi Tribal villages on your way out of the Gir jungle. These tribals came to India from Africa as slaves to the emperors and made India their home. African by looks, Indian by clothes and Gujarati by language—a unique blend—interaction with whom must not be skipped.

Arrive Ahmedabad and transfer to your hotel. Ahmedabad, the world heritage city, Located on the banks of the river Sabarmati, the city was founded by Sultan Ahmad Shah in 1411. Today it is one of the fastest-growing cities of India and an immense repository of tradition, history & culture. Its famous walled area is one of the finest examples of community living, & the city thrived as the textile capital & was nicknamed “Manchester of the East’ in 1888. This multicultural city is home to some of the finest Indo-Saracenic mosques & Jain temples. A heritage walk in the heritage city is highly recommended.

The old city of Ahmedabad is dotted with labyrinthine byways guarded by huge gates called 'polls'. The exquisitely carved wooden mansions and havelis are marvellous. The city also offers a rich architectural legacy that blends Hindu and Muslim schools of architecture, stone and brick with arches, domes and vaults, carved pillars, and trefoil designs, besides the modern buildings designed by the famous French architects Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn.

**Overnight at hotel**

## DAY 10 – IN AHMEDABAD

After breakfast proceed for city tour of Ahmedabad.

**Gandhi Ashram:** On a quiet, peaceful stretch of the Sabarmati River, Mahatma Gandhi set up a simple retreat in 1915. This was his Satyagrah Ashram, and for many years it was the nerve centre of India's freedom movement. It was from here, in 1930, that Mahatma began his famous Dandi March to the sea to protest the salt tax imposed by the British. Hridaya Kunj, the simple cottage where he lived, is now a national monument and preserved as it was during the Mahatma's lifetime. You must pick up gifts and souvenirs from the Ashram shop. Spend a little time here by the river watching the parrots and the squirrels. Peace and tranquility prevail here.

**Sidi Sayed Mosque:** One part of the wall in the old citadel of the mosque built by Ahmed Shah's slave, Sidi Sayed, is celebrated the world over for its exquisite stone window tracery—a superb & peerless example of delicate carving that transforms stone into filigree.

**Hutheesingh Jain Temple:** Built outside the Delhi Gate in 1850 by a rich Jain merchant, the Hutheesingh Temple is the best known of Ahmedabad's many ornate Jain temples.

**Adalaj Step-well:** Step wells were built in ancient times to serve the man's purposes of holding rainwater for later use, providing a resting place for the travellers, and providing a watering hole for the travellers who had caravans and animals with them. The best examples of rainwater harvesting! The Adalaj step well is situated 17 kilometers north of Ahmedabad. The step well at the village of Adalaj is another fine example of this magnificent architectural form. Adalaj Vav is richly carved, with every pillar and wall surface covered with leaves and flowers, birds and fish, and friezes of ornamental designs.

**Akshardham:** Lord Swaminarayan, born in Chapaya in Uttar Pradesh, took a seven-year pilgrimage in Gujarat to preach his religion. He built six temples, the first being at Kalupur in Ahmedabad. Akshardham, the Swaminarayan temple of Gandhinagar, is a modern complex built in traditional Indian architectural style from 6,000 metric tons of pink Rajasthan sandstone, carved by expert artisans from Bansipahadpur. The temple is set in a multi-acre garden called Sahajanand Van, with intricate sculptures of Hindu gods. There is a gold leaf copper sculpture of Lord Swaminarayan that faces similar sculptures of Gunatinand Swami. The interiors have beautiful columns in rosewood that rise to a high dome. Akshardham remains closed on Mondays.

### Overnight at hotel

## DAY 11 – BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART AHMEDABAD

Today in time transfer to Ahmedabad Airport / Railway Station to board flight / train for your onward journey to your next destination.

**\*\*\*\* TOUR ENDS \*\*\*\***

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**QUOTE SHEET**

**COST SHEET FOR ITINERARY – HIGHLIGHTS OF GUJARAT – 11 DAYS**

**VALIDITY TILL 30<sup>TH</sup> SEP 2024 {EXCEPT 25 AUG TO 30 AUG (JANMASHTAMI),**

**STANDARD PACKAGE**

CITY	HOTEL OPTION	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHT	MEAL PLAN
Bhuj	Grand 3D	Standard	02	CP
Jamnagar	Hirisa	Silver	01	CP
Dwarka	The Grand Dwarika	Executive Deluxe	01	CP
Somnath	Marigold	Executive Deluxe	01	CP
Diu	Krishna Beach Resort	Standard	02	CP
Sasangir	Anil Farmhouse	Riverview Deluxe	01	AP
Ahmedabad	Le Grande Residency	Executive	02	CP
<b>TOUR COST BASED</b>			<b>TOUR COST</b>	
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 10 Nights (for 02 pax)			Rs. 38,000/- NETT.	
Extra Bed for Adult / Child			Rs. 12,880/- NETT.	
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)			Rs. 11,443/- NETT.	
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 09 Nights			Rs. 6,314/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Swift Dzire / Etios car</b> as per the program			Rs. 53,000/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Toyota Crysta car</b> as per the program			Rs. 85,000/- NETT.	

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**DELUXE PACKAGE**

CITY	HOTEL OPTION	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHT	MEAL PLAN
Bhuj	Click by Suba	Premium	02	CP
Jamnagar	Fortune Palace	Club	01	CP
Dwarka	Madhuvan Suites	Superior	01	CP
Somnath	Lords Inn	Deluxe	01	CP
Diu	Radhika beach Resort	Deluxe Comfort	02	CP
Sasangir	Gir Vanvaso	Deluxe	01	AP
Ahmedabad	Le Grande Residency	Executive	02	CP
TOUR COST BASED			TOUR COST	
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 10 Nights (for 02 pax)			Rs. 46,173/- NETT.	
Extra Bed for Adult / Child			Rs. 15,525/- NETT.	
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)			Rs. 12,880/- NETT.	
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 09 Nights			Rs. 7,176/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Swift Dzire / Etios car</b> as per the program			Rs. 53,000/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Toyota Crysta car</b> as per the program			Rs. 85,000/- NETT.	

**SUPER DELUXE PACKAGE**

CITY	HOTEL OPTION	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHT	MEAL PLAN
Bhuj	Regenta Resort	Executive	02	CP
Jamnagar	The Fern Residency	Wintergreen	01	CP
Dwarka	VITS Devbhumi	Executive	01	CP
Somnath	Sarovar Portico	Superior	01	CP
Diu	Radhika Beach Resort	Deluxe Comfort	02	CP
Sasangir	Gir Serai	Superior	01	AP
Ahmedabad	Fairfield by Marriott	Superior	02	CP

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TOUR COST BASED	TOUR COST
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 10 Nights (for 02 pax)	Rs. 71,000/- NETT.
Extra Bed for Adult / Child	Rs. 20,355/- NETT.
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)	Rs. 15,536/- NETT.
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 09 Nights	Rs. 8,119/- NETT.
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Swift Dzire / Etios car</b> as per the program	Rs. 53,000/- NETT.
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Toyota Crysta car</b> as per the program	Rs. 85,000/- NETT.

**Note: Rooms will be subject to availability**

**OUR QUOTE INCLUDES:**

- **10 Nights** accommodation at the hotel mentioned above or similar category of alternate hotels.
- Meal Plan – As Mentioned above.
- All currently applicable taxes.
- All transfers, city tours and transport services by air-conditioned All India Tourist permit Vehicle as per the above itinerary.
- Road taxes, parking fee, fuel charges, interstate taxes.

**OUR QUOTE DOES NOT INCLUDE / THE ABOVE PRICE EXCLUDES:**

- Monument Entrance Fee.
- Services of English-Speaking Local Guide.
- Game Drive at Sasangir National Park or any other national park.
- Expense of personal nature like tipping, laundry, telephone / fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera/video camera fee at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure tax etc. Any other services not mentioned in the inclusions.
- International or Domestic airfare / Train Fare.
- Any expenses caused by reasons beyond our control such as roadblocks, accidents & any medical evacuations. Any train delays, or re-scheduling etc. Any Visa fees, insurance fees, etc. Any tips to hotel staff, local guides, drivers etc. Any meals apart from the ones mentioned above. Any expenses apart from the ones above.

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**SPECIAL NOTES:**

- Check-In time is 1400 hrs & Check-out time 1200 NOON at all hotels.
- Sasangir National Park will be closed from 15<sup>th</sup> June to 15<sup>th</sup> October every year.
- 100% bookings for Sasangir safaris are done online through the website [www.girlion.gujarat.gov.in/](http://www.girlion.gujarat.gov.in/) . We would not be able to help if the safari is not booked in advance. Guests' ID proof is required for safari bookings.
- In the event on any amendment in local Government taxes, or any fuel hike, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly.
- Kindly note, the names of hotels mentioned above only indicate that our rates have been based on usage of these hotels. It is not to be construed that accommodation is confirmed at these hotels until and unless we convey the confirmations to you on receipt of your acceptance. However, in the event of any of the above-mentioned hotels not becoming available at the time of initiating the reservations, we shall book alternate accommodation at a similar or next best available hotel and shall pass on the difference of rates (supplement/reduction whatever applicable) to you.
- Also, kindly note – Do not treat quotation mail as confirmation of booking, as we are not holding any booking at the time of quotation, price and services can be changed at the time of confirmation. Confirmation of bookings is only based on written communications.
- **The above rates are not valid during Janmashtami, Diwali, Christmas, New Year and Holi period.**

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