

INCREDIBLE BHUJ – RANN OF KUTCH (05 DAYS)

DAY 01 – BY AIR / BY TRAIN – ARRIVE 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.

Overnight at a hotel.

DAY 02 – IN BHUJ

After breakfast visit the Banni Villages. Visit Ajrakhpur and Bhujodi.

The artisans of Ajrakhpur specialize in Ajrakh, a block-printed cotton cloth used traditionally by local herdsmen with natural dyes. Its geometrical and nonfigurative motifs often mirror those appearing in Islamic-influenced Indian architecture.

Later, stop at Bhujodi, a village skilled in traditional Bandhani (tie & dye), block printing, and weaving. Here, you can view live demonstrations and buy anything from shawls to blankets directly from the artisans. Bhujodi is also a centre for loom weaving, mewada embroidery, & woodcarving. Nearby is the Hiralakshmi Crafts Park, a nonprofit undertaking by the Ashapura Group of Companies that works with artisans throughout Kutch to show their skills and retail their crafts.

Not far from Bhujodi is Shrujan, a non-profit working to complement rural women's income through the enhancement and marketing of their embroidery products. Shrujan has a store, a design centre, a manufacturing unit, and an impressive collection of embroidery on site. One can also tour the campus, which utilizes traditional and environmentally sensitive architecture. Types of Embroideries: Aahir Embroidery, Soof Embroidery, Chakan Embroidery, Jat Fakira Embroidery, Jat Garasiya Embroidery, Kambiro & Khudi Embroidery, Katri Embroidery, Kharek Embroidery, Mukko Embroidery, Neran Embroidery, Pakko Embroidery, Rabari Embroidery.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 03 – 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.

Nirona: The village of multiple talents! The village of Nirona is the only place in the world where the tradition of Rogan art is still practiced (a method of producing dyes from natural resources and castor oil and creating intricate and long-lasting designs on silk and cotton). Rogan art is a rare craft that is not well known, even in India. Because of its rare qualities, it is practiced by only one family in India, and they reside in Nirona village in Gujarat. They would be happy to teach you a trick or two in the intricate Rogan painting.

Nirona also offers the chance to see artisans making copper bells. The Luhars in Nirona have been preserving the craft of making copper bells for seven generations. The art form originally comes from Sindh, and some sister villages in Pakistan too make similar bells but with carvings on the surface.

Another family in Nirona is practicing wood lacquering. Raw lacquer in various colours is passed with great skill onto the wooden object of focus in beautiful waves. The work they do is mainly focused on household items like jewellery boxes and kitchen utensils and is known to last more than 30–35 years. If the lacquer work starts to lose its sheen, just apply some oil to it.

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 (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 a hotel.

DAY 04 – IN BHUJ – BY ROAD – 65 KMS / 01 HR – BHUJ TO MANDVI (ONE WAY)

After breakfast proceed for day excursion to Mandvi.

Mandvi is located on the banks of the Rukmavati River, barely one km from the Arabian Sea at the Gulf of Kutch. The town has a very pleasant climate throughout the year, and it was a summer retreat for the Kutch Maharaos. The centre of attraction at Mandvi is the Vijay Vilas Palace, a royal abode set in the middle of well-laid gardens with water channels and marble fountains. The architect and craftsmen from Jaipur designed and constructed the palace in 1920 AD. The palace has all the elements of Rajput architecture and draws largely on the plans of the palaces of Orchha and Datia. The central high dome on the pillars, the Bengal domes on sides, the windows with colored glass, carved stone Jaalis, domed bastions at the corners, an extended porch, and other exquisitely stone-carved elements make the palace worth visiting. It owns a private beach that is maintained in an eco-friendly manner to preserve its pristine beauty. It is an example of the traditional skills of craftsmen in the early 20th century.

Visit the shipbuilding yard. On the banks of the Rukmavati River, just south of the bridge, you can visit the still-active shipbuilding yard. Craftsmen still assemble ships out of wood for local or international guests, and you can feel free to watch them work. It gives us an opportunity to watch handmade ships being built, which will make one truly appreciate craftsmanship. The process is long and elaborate, and shoddy workmanship means risking sailors' lives.

Office No: 31, 1st Floor, Crystal Plaza, Hiranandani, Sector - 7, Kharghar,
Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra, India - 410210

Later, drive back to Bhuj.

Overnight at hotel

DAY 05 – BY AIR / TRAIN – DEPART BHUJ

After breakfast, visit the Kutch Museum, formerly known as the Fergusson Museum. The Kutch Museum is the oldest museum in Gujarat. This museum is built in the Italian style and located in picturesque surroundings on the banks of Hamirsar Lake. The museum has a large collection of Kshatrpa inscriptions, various archaeological objects, arms, and specimens of various crafts of the Kutch region.

The Cenotaphs Complex, or Chattardi, was built of red stones. These tombs have been ruined by successive earthquakes since 1819.

Prag Mahal was constructed by Rao Pragmalji II, who appointed a famous architect, Colonel Henry Saint Wilkins, to design Prag Mahal, who had earlier designed Deccan College, Sassoon Hospital, and Ohel David Synagogue. Prag Mahal took about 10 years to get built at the cost of 20 lakh rupees.

Aaina Mahal Palace was built by Rao Lakhpatji in 1750 AD. Aaina Mahal is part of a large palace complex. It is a two-story building with Darbar Hall, a hall of mirrors, and suites for the royal family. In the 18th century, Rao Lakhpatji sent a local craftsman, Ramsingh Malam, to Europe to perfect his skills in glassmaking, enamelling, tile making, and iron founding. After he returned, he constructed the Aaina Mahal with a hall of mirrors made of Venetian glass.

Later in the day, transfer to Bhuj Airport / Railway Station to board a flight / train for your onward journey to your next destination.

****** TOUR ENDS ******



QUOTE SHEET

COST SHEET FOR ITINERARY – RANN OF KUTCH - 05 DAYS

VALIDITY TILL 30TH SEP 2024 {EXCEPT 25 AUG TO 30 AUG (JANMASHTAMI),

STANDARD PACKAGE

CITY	HOTEL OPTION	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHT	MEAL PLAN
Bhuj	Grand 3D	Standard	04	CP
TOUR COST BASED			TOUR COST	
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 04 Nights (for 02 pax)			Rs. 14,317/- NETT.	
Extra Bed for Adult / Child			Rs. 5,175/- NETT.	
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)			Rs. 4,255/- NETT.	
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 04 Nights			Rs. 1,610/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on AC Swift Dzire / Etios car as per the program			Rs. 28,000/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on AC Toyota Crysta car as per the program			Rs. 39,000/- NETT.	

DELUXE PACKAGE

CITY	HOTEL OPTION	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHT	MEAL PLAN
Bhuj	Click by Suba	Premium	04	CP
TOUR COST BASED			TOUR COST	
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 04 Nights (for 02 pax)			Rs. 16,100/- NETT.	
Extra Bed for Adult / Child			Rs. 5,175/- NETT.	
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)			Rs. 4,255/- NETT.	
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 04 Nights			Rs. 2,392/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on AC Swift Dzire / Etios car as per the program			Rs. 25,961/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on AC Toyota Crysta car as per the program			Rs. 39,000/- NETT.	

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SUPER DELUXE PACKAGE

CITY	HOTEL OPTION	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHT	MEAL PLAN
Bhuj	Regenta Resort	Executive	04	CP
TOUR COST BASED			TOUR COST	
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 04 Nights (for 02 pax)			Rs. 25,415/- NETT.	
Extra Bed for Adult / Child			Rs. 7,618/- NETT.	
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)			Rs. 4,025/- NETT.	
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 04 Nights			Rs. 3,105/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on AC Swift Dzire / Etios car as per the program			Rs. 25,961/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on AC Toyota Crysta car as per the program			Rs. 39,000/- NETT.	

Note: Rooms will be subject to availability

OUR QUOTE INCLUDES:

- **04 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 remain close from 15th June to 15th October every year.
- 100% bookings for Sasangir safaris are done online through the website www.girlion.gujarat.gov.in . We would not be able to help if the safari was 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.**