

## **TEMPLE TOUR OF GUJARAT - (08 DAYS)**

### **DAY 01 - BY AIR / TRAIN - ARRIVE AHMEDABAD**

Arrive Ahmedabad and transfer to your hotel.

Ahmedabad is 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 is 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.

The old city of Ahmedabad is dotted with labyrinthine by-lanes called 'polls'. The exquisite carved wooden mansions and havelis are marvelous. 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, trefoil designs besides the modern buildings designed by the famous French architect, Le Corbusier and Louis Kahn.

Later 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 center 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. Must pick 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 olden times to serve the man purposes of - holding rainwater for later use, a resting place for the travelers, a watering hole for the travelers who had caravans and animals with them. Best examples of rainwater harvesting! The Adalaj step well is situated 17kms 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, every pillar and wall surface covered with leaves and flowers, birds and fishes 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

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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 up to a high dome. Akshardham remains closed on Mondays.

### **Overnight at hotel**

#### **DAY 02 - BY ROAD - AHMEDABAD - DAKOR - PAVAGADH - AHMEDABAD**

Today after breakfast proceed for a day excursion to Dakor and Pavagadh.

Dakor, in its earlier phases as pilgrimage center in Gujarat, was famous for the Danknath temple, a place of Shiva worship. In the later phases, it developed into a Vaishnavite center with the growing fame of Ranchhodraiji temple, which was built in 1772 A.D. Today this place is known not only as a pilgrimage center but also a trading center where one can get articles related to puja and other rituals.

Pavagadh: Most Hindus in India have faith in goddess Mahakali, particularly those from the western region covering the states of Gujarat, Rajasthan & Maharashtra. The famous and oldest temple of Mahakali is situated at Pavagadh, near Vadodara, one of the main cities of Gujarat. The temple has become the place of pilgrimage for almost all Hindus in India. This temple is among the three main Shaktipeeths in Gujarat. It has been said in Hindu Shastras that after the famous Tandava dance of Lord Shiva, the various parts of the body of Sati fell at many places. These places are called Shaktipeeths. It is said that the left breast of the Sati fell here at Pavagadh. As the name suggests, the temple is located on a mountain, near Champaner town. Later drive back to Ahmedabad.

### **Overnight at hotel**

#### **DAY 03 - BY ROAD - 450 KMS / 09 HRS - AHMEDABAD TO DWARKA**

After breakfast drive to Dwarka, arrive at Dwarka and transfer to your hotel.

Dwarka is an ancient city housing one of the principal pilgrimages—the 'Dwarkadhish temple' of Hindus. According to the legend, Lord Krishna moved to this coastal town to set up a capital. Marine excavations of the Dwarka coast have revealed important evidence of an ancient city, which probably includes the 'Dwarawati' of the 'Krishna Lila'. Today, it is not only a major pilgrimage site but also a pleasant spot for a beach holiday. Another popular place in Dwarka, part of the Dwarkadhish Temple, is Sabha Mandapa. It is a 60-pillared hall that houses almost 2500 years-old scriptures.

The hall has 'Jharokhas', offering a nice view of the nearby flowing Gomati River. Attending the evening Aarti at Dwarkadhish temple.

### **Overnight at hotel**

## DAY 04 - IN DWARKA

After breakfast, visit Bet Dwarka & Nageshwar temples. Bet Dwarka: Bet is situated 30 km from Dwarka and is surrounded by sea from all sides. One can reach Bet from Dwarka through Okha by road. On reaching Okha port jetty, one can reach Bet through a little sea journey by small boat.

Nageshwar Temple, or Nagnath Temple, is located on the route between Gomati Dwarka and the Bet Dwarka Island on the coast of Saurashtra, Gujarat. The Jyotirlinga enshrined in the Temple of Nagnath is known as Nageshwar Mahadev and attracts thousands of pilgrims all around the year. This powerful Jyotirlinga symbolizes protection from all poisons. It is said that those who pray to the Nageshwar Lingaa become free of poison. The Rudra Samhita shloka refers to Nageshwar with the phrase 'Daarukaavane Naagesham'.

The Rukmini temple, dating from 12 to 13 centuries, was built in honor of Rani Rukmani, princess of Vidharba, who was to be married to Sishupala but fled with Lord Krishna. This small temple, 1.5 kilometers north of the city, is an architectural masterpiece. The temple walls are decorated with beautiful paintings and sculptures.

Gopi Talav: This is the place where Lord Krishna used to play with his gopikas. There is a small pond where it is said that Lord Krishna used to play with the Gopika stress (Gopika women).

### 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 at 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 incredibly 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 traveler, 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.

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 – 280 KMS / 06 HRS – SOMNATH TO BHAVNAGAR**

After breakfast drive to Bhavnagar, arrive Bhavnagar and transfer to hotel.

Bhavnagar was founded by Bhavsinhji Gohil in 1723 AD near the Gulf of Khambhat, in a carefully chosen strategic location with potential for maritime trade. Till independence, Bhavnagar State was ruled by the Gohil Rajput clan. Gaurishanker Lake: A beautiful picnic spot near the lake. There is also a well-laid-out park. Takhteshwar Temple: Situated on a hill, the site provides a panoramic view. Lock Gate: The first of its kind in Gujarat. The seawater here is impounded by the lock gates to keep ships afloat during low tide, which could be seen with special permission.

### **Overnight at hotel**

## DAY 07 - IN BHAVNAGAR

Early morning proceeds for an excursion to Palitana.

Palitana is 56 km away from Bhavnagar. Palitana lies at the foot of the Shetrunjaya hill, with the Shetrunjaya River flowing to its south. The sacred hill rises in a crescendo of magnificent temples—863 in all—that soar in marble splendour to the top of the hill. The temples were built over an impressive span of 900 years, with each generation of pilgrims making its contribution to the shrines of Shetrunjaya. The 600-metre climb to Shetrunjaya is usually done on foot. Dolis or lift chairs are also available for the ascent.

### OR

Visit Nishkalank Mahadev Temple in Koliyak near Bhavnagar.

The legend goes like this: Pandavas approached Lord Krishna to show the Marg to sanctify the sins of Kurukshetra War He sent them on Pilgrimage with Black cow and a black flag and instructed to conduct penance when/where the black cow/flag became WHITE. Here the cow/flag turned white, and Lord Shiva appeared before Pandavas in the Linga "Roopam". The sea water recedes only at this temple point for few hours and then returns.

Pilgrims patiently wait for the receding wave and have Darshan return safely before the tide comes back. The waves are very active during Full Moon and New Moon Days.

***(The visit of this temple is bound to occur.) As the temple is in the middle of the Sea, it depends upon the tides; if it is low tide, the temple can be visited, but as the water level rises, visiting the temple is not allowed.***

**Overnight at hotel**

## DAY 08 - BY ROAD - 200 KMS / 04 HRS - BHAVNAGAR TO AHMEDABAD

After breakfast drive back to Ahmedabad. Arrive Ahmedabad and in time transfer to Airport / Railway Station to board your flight / train for onward journey to your next destination.

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



## QUOTE SHEET

### COST SHEET FOR ITINERARY – TEMPLE TOUR OF GUJARAT - 08 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
Ahmedabad	Le Grand Residency	Executive	02	CP
Dwarka	The Grand Dwarika	Executive Deluxe	02	CP
Somnath	Marigold	Executive Deluxe	01	CP
Bhavnagar	Clarks Collection	Deluxe	02	CP
TOUR COST BASED			TOUR COST	
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 07 Nights (for 02 pax)			Rs. 21,000/- NETT.	
Extra Bed for Adult / Child			Rs. 8,625/- NETT.	
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)			Rs. 7,500/- NETT.	
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 07 Nights			Rs. 4,117/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Swift Dzire / Etios car</b> as per the program			Rs. 39,000/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Toyota Crysta car</b> as per the program			Rs. 63,000/- NETT.	

#### DELUXE PACKAGE

CITY	HOTEL OPTION	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHT	MEAL PLAN
Ahmedabad	Le Grand Residency	Executive	02	CP
Dwarka	Madhuvan Suites	Superior	02	CP
Somnath	Lords Inn	Deluxe	01	CP
Bhavnagar	Top3 Lords Resort	Deluxe	02	CP

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TOUR COST BASED	TOUR COST
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 07 Nights (for 02 pax)	Rs. 25,127/- NETT.
Extra Bed for Adult / Child	Rs. 8,832/- NETT.
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)	Rs. 6,912/- NETT.
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 07 Nights	Rs. 4,255/- NETT.
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Swift Dzire / Etios car</b> as per the program	Rs. 39,000/- NETT.
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Toyota Crysta car</b> as per the program	Rs. 63,000/- NETT.

### SUPER DELUXE PACKAGE

CITY	HOTEL OPTION	ROOM CATEGORY	NIGHT	MEAL PLAN
Ahmedabad	Fairfield by Marriott	Superior	02	CP
Dwarka	VITS Devbhumi	Executive	02	CP
Somnath	Sarovar Portico	Superior	01	CP
Bhavnagar	Efcee Sarovar Portico	Deluxe	02	CP
TOUR COST BASED			TOUR COST	
Accommodation cost Per Double Room for 07 Nights (for 02 pax)			Rs. 37,375/- NETT.	
Extra Bed for Adult / Child			Rs. 10,350/- NETT.	
Child Without Bed (COMPLIMENTARY FOR CHILD UPTO 5 YEARS SHARING BED WITH PARENTS)			Rs. 8,280/- NETT.	
Per Person Dinner Supplement for 07 Nights			Rs. 5,000/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Swift Dzire / Etios car</b> as per the program			Rs. 39,000/- NETT.	
Transportation cost based on <b>AC Toyota Crysta car</b> as per the program			Rs. 63,000/- NETT.	

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

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**OUR QUOTE INCLUDES:**

- **07 Night** accommodation basis at the hôtel mentioned above or similar category of alternate hôtels.
- Mael Plan – As Mentioned above.
- All curent applicable taxes inclusion service tax.
- All transferts, city tours and transport services by **AC VEHICLE** All India Tourist permit Vehicle as per the above itinerary.
- Road taxes, parking fée, fuel charges, interstate taxes.

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

- MONUMENTS Entrance Fée.
- Services of English-Speaking Local Guide.
- 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.

**SPECIAL NOTES:**

- Check-In time is 1400 hrs. & Check-out time 1200 NOON at all hotels.
- In the event of 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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