



Truly India

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Best of Gujarat Tour

Duration: 10N/11D

**Key Sights: Ahmedabad – Lothal – Bhavnagar – Palitana – Diu – Gir - Rajkot – Bhuj –
Jamnagar**

Day	Route	Mode	Distance / Time
Day 01	Arrive Ahmedabad	By Flight	
Day 02	Ahmedabad		
Day 03	Ahmedabad – Lothal	By Road	(80 KM / ½ Hours)
	Lothal – Bhavnagar	By Road	(170 KM / 4 Hours)
Day 04	Bhavnagar – Palitana	By Road	(60 KM / 1 ½ Hours)
	Palitana – Diu	By Road	(200 KM / 4 ½ Hours)
Day 05	Diu		
Day 06	Diu – Gir	By Road	(120 KM / 2 Hours)
	Gir – Rajkot	By Road	(160 KM / 3 ½ Hours)
Day 07	Rajkot – Bhuj	By Road	(280 KM / 6 Hours)
Day 08	Bhuj		
Day 09	Bhuj – Jamnagar	By Road	(260 KM / 5 ½ Hours)
Day 10	Jamnagar		
Day 11	Jamnagar – Home	By Flight	

Day 01	Arrive Ahmedabad	By Flight	
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Arrival at Ahmedabad, Met by driver and transfer to your hotel.
On arrival check in at Hotel.
Day at Leisure or avail half day sightseeing on extra cost.
Overnight at hotel

Ahmedabad - was founded by sultan Ahmad shah in the year 1411 a.d with Blessings of his spiritual adviser shaikh Ahmad khattu ganj baksha of Sarkhej at the site of an old town of ashawal and karnavati. Visit- **Ahmad Shah Mosque** dating from 1414, this was one of the earliest mosques in the city and was probably built on the site of a Hindu temple, using Parts of that temple in its construction. **Jami Masjid (Jumma Mosque)** It is built by city founder sultan Ahmad Shah in 1423 near three gates (tran darwaja) the architecture of the Mosque are hindu and muslim. **Hatheesingh Jain Temple** Built outside Delhi gate in 1848 by a rich jain Merchant sheth hatheesingh, it was designed by premchand salat and is Dedicated to dharmanath, the fifteenth tirthankar. **Sabarmathi Ashram** which is 7km from the centre town, on the west bank of the Sabarmati River.

Day 02	Ahmedabad		
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After breakfast, Morning visit to the Heritage Walk Visit, Siddhi Sayad Masjid, Swaminarayan Temple.
Afternoon visit Gandhinagar – Akshardam Temples (30 Kms one-way) on the way back visit Adalaj Stepwell and return to Hotel.
Overnight at hotel.

Sidi Saiyad Mosque is one of the famous mosques of India which is situated at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Slave of **Sultan Ahemad Shah** named **Sidi Saiyad** built this Sidi Saiyad mosque in 1573. Mosque was built during the last year of **Gujarat Sultanate**. Sidi Saiyad mosque became famous for it's **latticework windows** which are also known as Jalis. Construction of this mosque was done in **Indi Saracenic Architecture**. Sidi Saiyad ni jali becomes inspirations for logo of Indian Institute of management Ahmedabad.

Swaminarayan Temple This temple is the first temple of the Swaminarayan sect to have been built. In 1822, the land was given by the British government to do so, and Swaminarayan himself entrusted the responsibility for the construction of the temple to Ananandanand Swami. The temple is carved in Burmese teak, and every arch and bracket is painted with bright colors, a defining characteristic of Swaminarayan temples everywhere. There are several idols installed by Swaminarayan himself, as well as a display of some of his personal items and sculptures. In the adjoining haveli, there are quarters for pilgrims of the sect, a special section for women, and an area where ceremonies and teaching sessions are held for women only.



Akshardham is a unique cultural complex that celebrates the past, addresses the present, and blesses the future. It upholds the universal values of Humanity and symbolizes the glory of Indian Culture. Over 2 million visitors visit annually to see the major attractions.

Adalaj Stepwell Set in the quiet village of Adalaj, this vav has served as a resting place for hundreds of years for many pilgrims and caravans along their trade routes. Built in 1499 by Queen Rudabai, wife of the Vaghela chief, Veersinh, this five-storey stepwell was not just a cultural and utilitarian space, but also a spiritual refuge. It is believed that villagers would come everyday in the morning to fill water, offer prayers to the deities carved into the walls and interact with each other in the cool shade of the vav.

Day 03	Ahmedabad – Lothal	By Road	(80 KM / ½ Hours)
	Lothal – Bhavnagar	By Road	(170 KM / 4 Hours)

After breakfast at 7.30 AM drive Bhavnagar onway Visit to the Lothal.

Afternoon arrival at Bhavnagar.

Evening visit to the Bhavnagar including the market.

Overnight at Hotel.

Lothal began as a small village on the Sabarmati river, inhabited by people using "red ware" micaceous pottery (similar to today's terracotta), during the Chalcolithic era. Sea-faring merchants, and later the potters, masons, smiths, and seal-cutters of the Indus Valley Civilization, established a colony at Lothal circa 2450 BC, bringing with them their tools, technology, crafts, and expanded sea-borne trade. Lothal soon became an industrial center, one of the southernmost outposts of the Indus Valley Civilization, and the most important port of the empire.

Bhavnagar is situated 198 km from the state capital Gandhinagar and to the west of the Gulf of Khambhat. It has always been an important city for trade with many large and small scale industries along with the world's largest ship breaking yard located 50 km away. Palitana Jain temples, which are important holy places for Jains, are situated 56 km away, and Velavadar national park, home to endangered species of wolves, antelopes and blackbucks, is situated 42 km away.

Day 04	Bhavnagar – Palitana	By Road	(60 KM / 1 ½ Hours)
	Palitana – Diu	By Road	(200 KM / 4 ½ Hours)

After Early/Pack breakfast at 6.00 AM drive to Diu onway Visit of Palitana – Shatrunjaya Temple (**doli-lift chairs are available at extra cost**).

Later drive to Diu (200 Kms)

Evening arrival Diu, enjoy the beach activity

Overnight at Hotel.

Palitana – Shatrunjaya Temple The climb up Shatrunjaya is no doubt the primary activity of a Palitana visit, for Jains and non-Jains alike. The hill is 3 kms from Palitana proper, and the 600 m climb over 3000 stairs to the top of the mountain is an unforgettable experience.



Beginning at dawn is recommended, to avoid the mid-day heat. Frequent rest stops to visit temples along the way also help avoid overheating. Many devotees even gather at the highest temples before sunrise, having climbed in the predawn twilight. Be sure to carry enough water and leave a few hours to explore the mountain. Idols are bathed around 9:30am, and pujas tend to be performed around noon. If climbing in the afternoon, be sure to descend with enough time to arrive at the bottom before dark.

The construction of temples of Palitana spanned over a period of 900 years and was structured in two phases. From the 11th to 12th centuries AD as a part of the resurgence of temple building all over India, the first phase of temple architecture was constructed. The second phase followed later, from the 16th century AD onwards. Muslim invaders destroyed some of the earliest temples built in the 11th century AD during the 14th and 15th centuries AD. No one person can be attributed for the construction of these magnificent temples rather it was the effort of the wealthy businessmen who were followers of Jainism.

Day 05 | Diu

Full day enjoy the beach activity and day visit of Diu.
Overnight at Hotel.

Daman and Diu are the two tiny union territories which were the Portuguese enclaves. Geographically, Daman and Diu are the part of the state of Gujarat and connected to the mainland of Gujarat by a causeway. Diu is a tiny island in the Arabian Sea, about 11 kms. long and 3 kms. wide, separated from the coast by a narrow channel running through the swamp and two tiny mainland enclaves. It is very difficult to reach here so one has to travel through the town of UNA.

Day 06	Diu – Gir	By Road	(120 KM / 2 Hours)
	Gir – Rajkot	By Road	(160 KM / 3 ½ Hours)

After breakfast at 5.30 AM drive to Sasangir
Upon arrival at 7.30 game view (Jeep safar/optional-Payable Directly) into the Sasangir Lion Sanctuary
Late drive to Rajkot on way visit of Junagadh.
Evening arrival at Rajkot and check in at Hotel.
Overnight at Hotel.

Sasangir Gir you touch the history of India before humanity itself. Before monuments, temples, mosques and palaces. Or rather, a history as humanity was emerging, when humans coexisted with lions, before the former had overrun the continent (and the world) and pushed the latter to the brink of extinction.

Many come to Gir because, outside of Africa, it is the only place with wild lions. But to truly experience Gir and the lions, you must explore their natural habitat, with everything from tiny wild birds, not easily seen, but heard singing in the forest canopy, to crocodiles floating in the marsh waters.



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The city of Junagadh, along with Mt. Girnar that looks down upon it, appear in stories and hearsay from long ago, beginning with associations with Krishna during his life in Saurashtra. Reportedly, the main center of the city, the fort known as Uparkot, was built by Chandragupta of the Mauryan empire around 320 BC, and archaeological evidence confirms this, showing that Uparkot has been inhabited continuously since the 3rd century BC. Hence the name Junagadh, which means “ancient fort.” Under the Mauryans, Junagadh was a regional capital, and Emperor Ashoka had stone edicts placed there, still visible today.

Day 07	Rajkot – Bhuj	By Road	(280 KM / 6 Hours)
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After breakfast drive to Bhuj, Upon arrival proceed to DSP/Collector office to obtain the permit (Please all foreign clients need to obtain the permit for Banny village visit) ** Note: 2nd & 4th Saturday & Public holidays are closed at DSP/COLLECTOR office hence set the dates accordingly.

Evening visit to the Bhuj city and market.

Overnight at Hotel.

Bhuj connects you to a range of civilizations and important events in South Asian history through prehistoric archaeological finds, remnants of the Indus Valley Civilization (Harappans), places associated with the Mahabharata and Alexander the Great's march into India and tombs, palaces and other buildings from the rule of the Naga chiefs, the Jadeja Rajputs, the Gujarat Sultans and the British Raj. Over the 4000-year inhabitation of Kutch it developed trading and migratory relationships with ancient civilizations as far abroad as Zanzibar, the Middle East and Greece, fostering a unique ethnic mix of peoples and traditions in the region.

Day 08	Bhuj		
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Fullday excursion to the Banny villages to see various typical villages to see the traditional art and culture of Gujarat.

Evening return to Bhuj hotel for overnight.

Overnight at Hotel.

Banny village visit - meet the Great Rann in the Khavda region, north of Bhuj. They are home to numerous pastoral nomadic, semi-nomadic and resident people who keep sheep, goats, camels, buffaloes and other livestock. The 40 or so hamlets here are best known for the minute detail of their embroidery. More recently, these villages have started focusing on selling handicrafts as their main source of income and there are signs of modernization and commercialization. The traditional *bhungas* (circular huts with sloping thatched roofs) are made from mud plastered with cow dung which are often decorated with hand-painted floral patterns and inlaid with mirrors during festivals. Traditional utensils are still used for cooking, eating and storage in the houses. The area is known for its raptors - eagles, vultures and other birds of prey.



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Day 09	Bhuj – Jamnagar	By Road	(260 KM / 5 ½ Hours)
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After breakfast at 5.30 AM drive to Jamnagar.
Afternoon visit to the Jamnagar city including the tie and dye market etc..
Overnight at Hotel.

Jamnagar, The former name of city was NAWANAGAR is a city located on the western coast of India in the state of Gujarat in the Gulf of Kutch. It is the administrative headquarters of the Jamnagar District. **The various tourist attractions** in Jamnagar are the Lakhota Palace, Kotha Bastion, Bala Hanuman Temple, Jain Temples, Marine National Park, Khijadiya Bird Sanctuary and Ayurvedic University.

Day 10	Jamnagar		
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Full day excursions to Dwarka.
Overnight at Hotel.

Dwarka - Worshiped as the 8th incarnation of the Hindu deity Vishnu, Krishna is believed to have been born sometime between 1500 and 700 BC in Mathura, just south of Delhi in the modern state of Uttar Pradesh. There Krishna killed the oppressive king Kansa, angering his father-in-law Jarasandh. Jarasandh attacked Krishna's kingdom 17 times in a lengthy war as he tried to avenge the death of his son-in-law. The people of Mathura, the Yadavs, suffered heavy casualties. Krishna knew that his people would not be able to survive another war with Jarasandh, as the ongoing conflict was not only taking lives but also impacting trade and farming. So as to avert any further casualty, Krishna left the battle grounds and began to be known as Ranchhodji (one who leaves the battle grounds).

Day 11	Jamnagar – Home	By Flight	
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On time departure transfer to airport to connect flight for onward destination.