



Where is Dholavira

Dholavira archaeological site spreads in about 100 hectares of land in the Bhachau Taluka of Kutch District in Gujarat. It forms the north-western part of the Khadir Island surrounded by the barren salt waste of the Great Rann of Kutch. Dholavira is flanked by two storm water channels: Mansar in the north and Manhar in the south.



When to visit

Dholavira is best visited between October and March.

Dholavira Museum Timings : 08.00 am to 06.00 pm, everyday.

Harappan Site Timings : 08.00 am to 07.00 pm in summers and 08.00 am to 06.00 pm in winters.



How to reach

By Road : Dholavira is 250 km from Bhuj and is reached via Bhachau and Rapar. It is also possible to rent a vehicle.

By Air : The nearest airport is Bhuj. Bear in mind that an on-site guest house allows the possibility of a more leisurely experience, rather than a day trip.

By Rail : The nearest railhead is Bhuj.

* Distances mentioned above are approximate



Where to stay

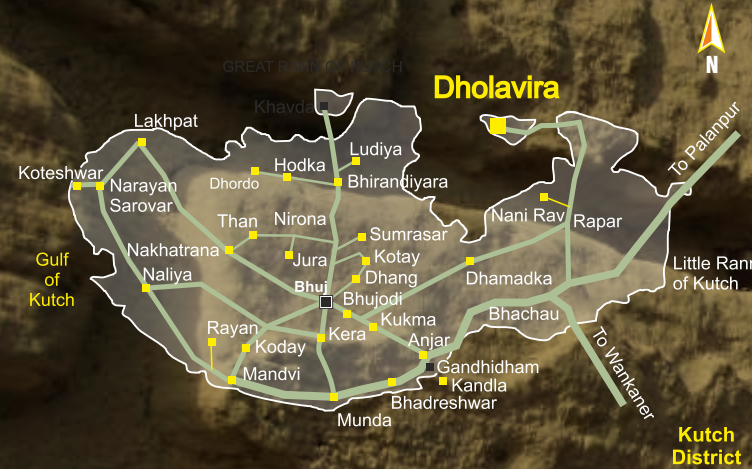
Toran Hotel offers accommodation at Dholavira.

There is a good choice of hotels in Gandhidham (193 kms.) & Bhuj.



Other Attractions Nearby

- Wild Ass Sanctuary - Little Rann
- Great Indian Bustard Sanctuary - Kutch
- Bhuj
- Mandvi - Kutch
- Northwest Kutch



* The map is not to scale and is indicative



Khushboo Gujarat ki

Kuch Din To Guzaaro Gujarat Mein



Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited
Toll Free : 1800 203 1111
Website: www.gujarattourism.com



A peek to the past to foresee future

DHOLAVIRA



Experience pre-historic civilizations

History can be a revealing mirror for our self, our heritage and character. The Indus Valley or Harappan civilization has been the most influential in humanity's evolution. Dholavira is a prime site holding many clues to Harappan life.

A trip to Dholavira, the fifth largest Harappan site in the world, is a journey back in time. Leaving Rapar, the nearest town at 100 km, and driving through the vast saline desert plains of the Great Rann, you will feel the modern age vanishing briskly to slowly reveal the ambience of a bygone time. It is an adventurous drive in which you can spot wildlife such as chinkara gazelle, nilgai, flamingos and other bird life.



4500 Years Ago

Dholavira's location in the Great Rann of Kutch gives it an intense environment. The first settlements of this early example of civilization dates back 4500 years ago. Being here and seeing the amazingly systematic town plan and other fascinating glimpses of daily life make one wonder at the sophistication of Harappan thinking. Dholavira has the world's earliest and best planned water conservation systems and what might be the world's first signboards, written in ancient Indus script.

Excavations in the site have revealed seven significant cultural stages documenting the rise and fall of the Indus civilization. Besides, they have brought to light a major, model city which is remarkable for its exquisite planning, monumental structures, aesthetic architecture, amazing water harvesting system and a variety of funerary architecture.

A visit to the Dholavira site is enjoyable not only to history buffs and excavation enthusiasts, but also to laymen, providing them with fascinating glimpses to how mankind progressed from being cave dwellers to city sleeks.



Touch Civilization's Heart

Dholavira remains show an imposing citadel in the centre, with a middle and lower town, each fortified separately, built with pleasingly smoothed structures of sun-dried brick and stone masonry, and with remarkable town planning. The fortifications of the citadel had elaborate gateways along with entrance chambers having well-chiseled and fine polished pillar members of banded limestone.

The seven stages of Dholavira's existence portray its rise and fall. During stage one around the beginning of the third millennium BC, the first settlers arrived at the site and built a small fortress. It outgrew its original size through stages two and three when the place developed into a large and full-fledged city. Dholavira was at its prime during stage four and a large part of stage five when its civilization reached its peak and most of the admirable findings of today were in place. During the latter part of stage five the deterioration began and the site started to get deserted. After a time gap, during stage six, Dholavira was reoccupied but the decline and shrinkage of the Harappan settlements continued, with more pronounced degeneration and full desertion. The seventh terminal stage is also referred to as post-Harappan.

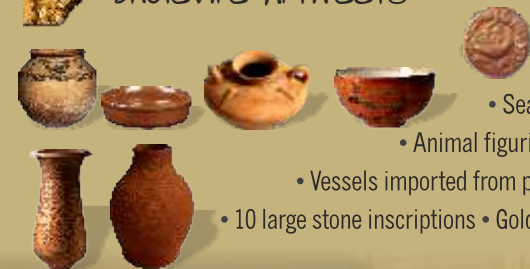


A culture that survived Eons

Dholavira is alive with an abundance of sophisticated Kutchi cultural symbols that survive and even thrive in the modern times. Kutchi embroidery is legendary for its exquisite nature and variety. Hand printing on textiles is another regional specialty. Fine wood carvings as decor and as utensils form one of the best handicrafts of the region. Sophisticated silver work, engraved jewellery, pen knives and nut crackers are also proud souvenirs for tourists when they leave Dholavira.



Dholavira Artifacts



- Urns • Tools
- Seals • Beads • Fish hooks
- Animal figurines • Terracotta pottery
- Vessels imported from places like Mesopotamia
- 10 large stone inscriptions • Gold and copper ornaments

