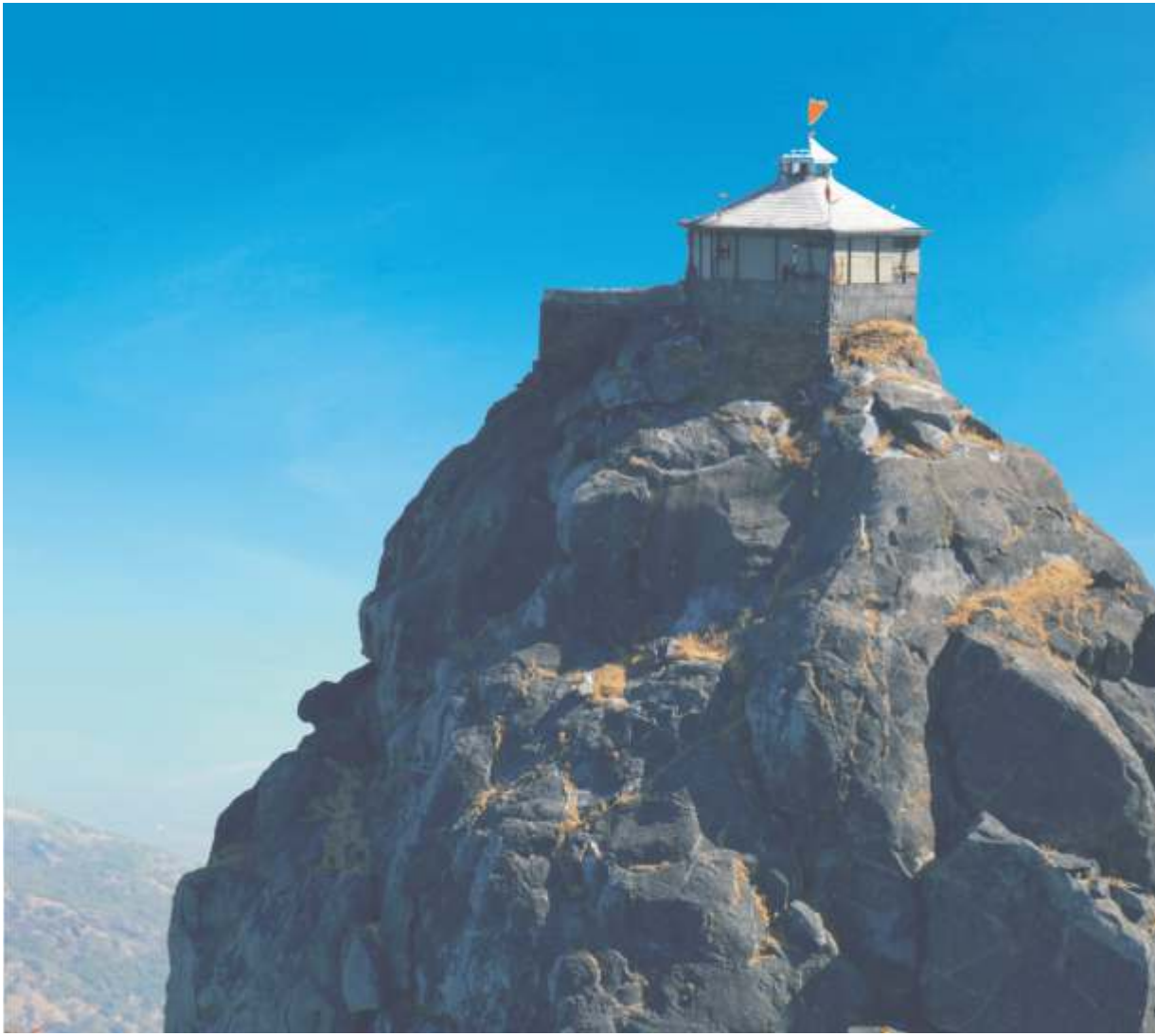




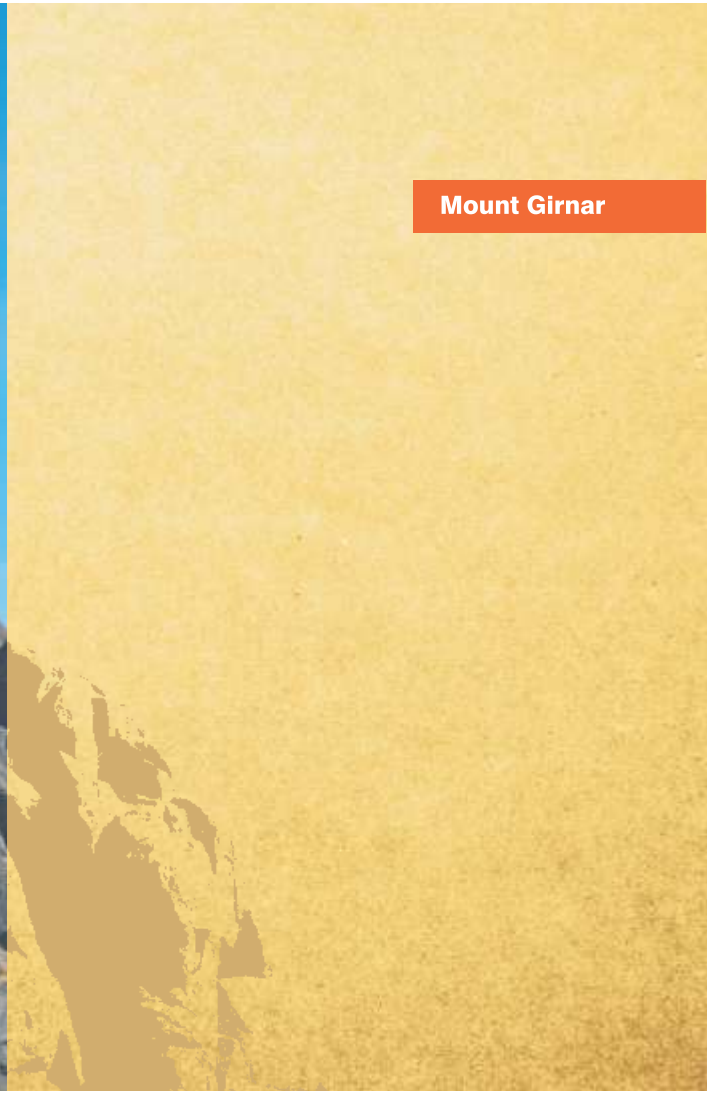
# Jubilant Junagadh & Soulful Somnath

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**Mount Girnar**



## About Junagadh

Junagadh, meaning 'old fort', is an ancient fortified city. It is also known as 'Sorath', the name of the earlier princely state. Junagadh has seen the rule of the Mauryas, the Maitrakas, Solankis of the Chalukyan dynasty, the Chudasamas and the Mughals. Junagadh is considered sacred by the Jains and the Hindus. It is rich in myth and legend and is located at the base of the Girnar hills.

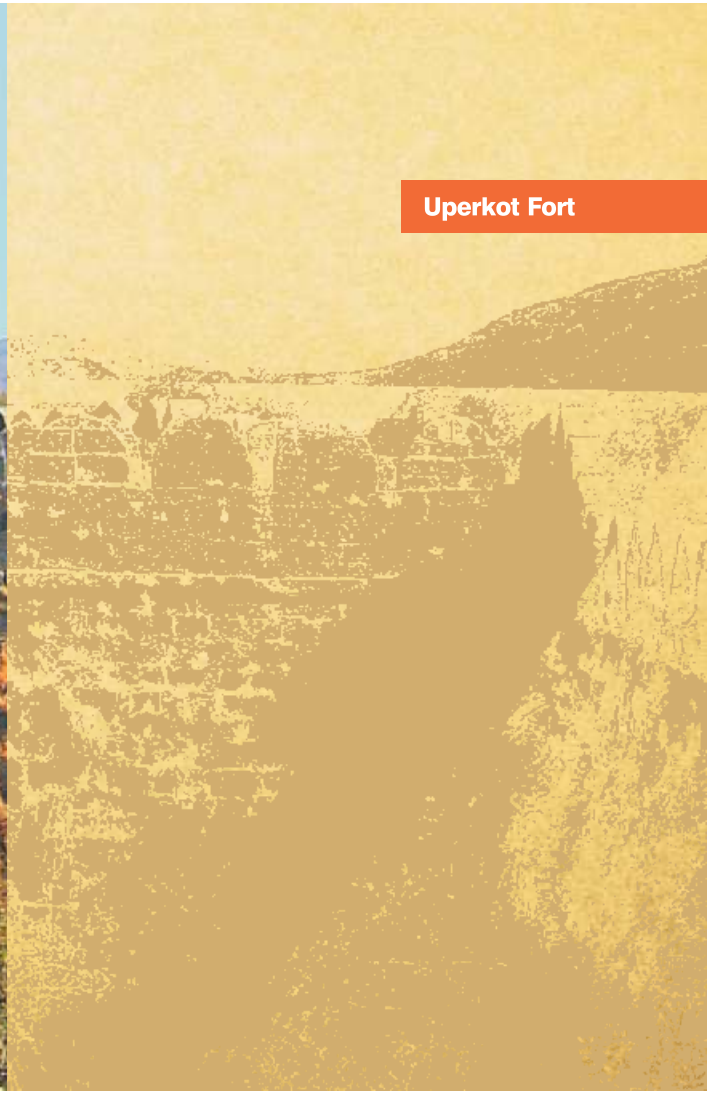
The antiquities of Junagadh date back to the times of Ashoka (250 BC). This land is also associated with the time of Lord Krishna. The fortress and the temples belong to the medieval era.







Uperkot Fort



## Tourist attractions

**Uperkot Fort:** Famous in the bygone era for its virtual inaccessibility, the Uperkot Fort, a historic and majestic fortress has a number of places of interest like a medieval Rajput palace, Adi-chadi vav and Navghan stepwell and Buddhist cave shrines.

The first major attraction is a pair of Canons named Neelam and Manek. They were cast in Cairo and brought by the Turkish flotilla that came in 1538 AD.

The 15th Century Jama Masjid resembles a fort. Some scholars believe that the building was originally a palace that was later converted into a mosque.

Buddhist Caves, almost 2000 years old, are the old monuments of Junagadh carved out of monolithic rock formation. The caves are adorned with decorated pillars and entrances, water cisterns, horseshoe shaped Chaitya windows, assembly hall and cells for meditation.

**Entry fee:** ₹5/- Indians, ₹100/- Foreign nationals.

**Visiting hours:** 07.00 am to 07.00 pm.

**Mount Girnar:** The Girnar Mountain is synonymous with Junagadh. This sacred mountain with its rugged pinnacles and winding flights of steps stand to the east of the city of Junagadh. Almost all religions have a holy centre on these hills; Jain temples, Buddhist cave shrines, Hindu temples and the Durgah of a Muslim saint. The five peaks of the mountain have the temples of:

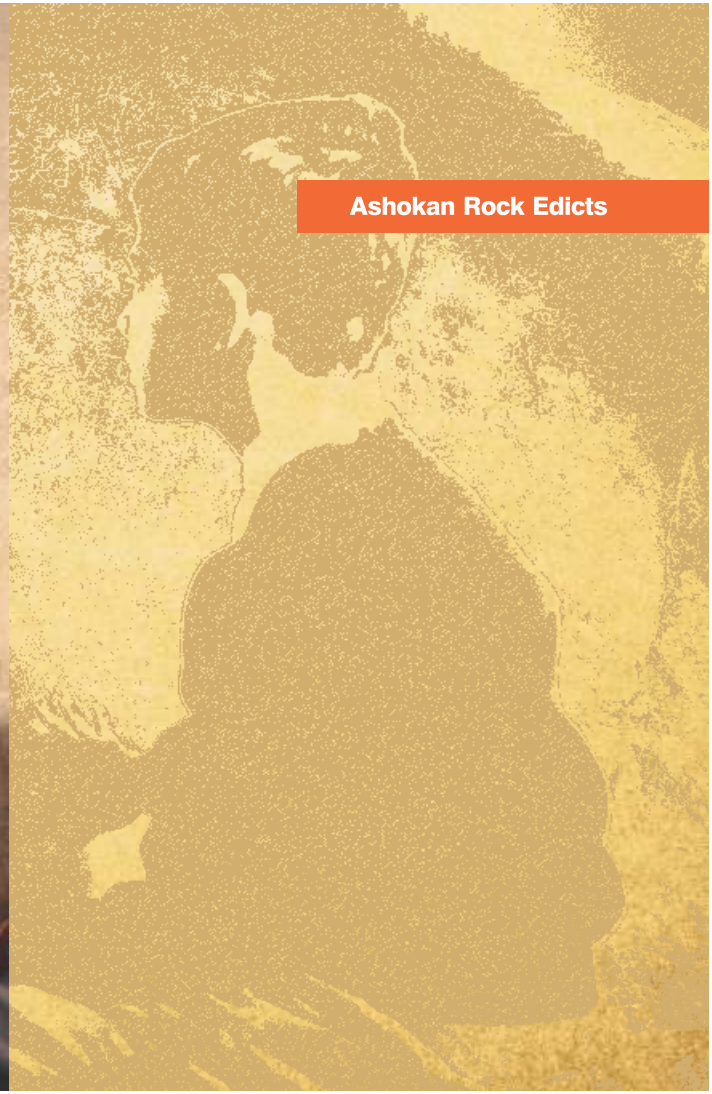
1. **The Amba Mata or the Girnari Goddess**, crowning the first peak, is visited by newlyweds to ensure nuptial bliss.
2. **Guru Gorakhnath** - the highest peak of Girnar at 3065 ft. above sea level.
3. **The Ogadh Shikhar.**
4. **Guru Dattatreya** - on the top of this loftiest crag there are footprints / padukas of Guru Dattatreya, the son of Rishi Atri and Sati Ansuya. It is said that Guru Dattatreya performed a very severe penance for 24 years at this place. Lord Shiva pleased with his devotion blessed him and the Girnar hills as the land of Rishis and Gods.
5. **Kalka's peak** has a shrine dedicated to the Hindu Goddess Kali. It is supposed to be the resort of the Aghoris or the Nath Panthis.

On the way to Ambamata peak after a steep climb of 2000 stone steps are Jain temples; the oldest and the largest temple of 12th Century, being that of the 22nd Tirthankara Neminath.

The triple temple of Mallinath, the 19th Tirthankara (1177 AD) is the goal of Sadhus and ascetics who congregate here at festival times.







**Ashokan Rock Edicts**

**Ashokan Rock Edicts:** On the way to Girnar are the Ashokan Rock Edicts inscribed on a solid boulder. These inscriptions range between a period of more than 700 years and record the contributions of three emperors, Ashoka - 250 BC (the inscriptions are in Pali script), Rudradaman - 150 AD and Skandagupta - 454 AD (the inscriptions are in Brahmi script). This is the largest collection of rock edicts to be found anywhere in the world. The Ashokan Edicts impart moral instructions of Dharma, Harmony, Tolerance and Peace.

**Entry fee:** ₹5/- Indians, ₹100/- Foreign nationals.

**Visiting hours:** 08.00 am to 06.00 pm daily.

**Narsinh Mehta no Choro:** It is here that the saint poet used to hold his religious discourses in the glory of Lord Krishna. He was not only a great poet but a philosopher, scholar and above all a social reformer. He was born in Talaja near Bhavnagar, but spent most of his active life in Junagadh.

**Swaminarayan Temple:** The 19th Century Swaminarayan Temple was constructed in 1828 AD. Under the inspiration of Sahajanandji Maharaj who appointed Gunatitanand Swami as the first Mahant. He served in this role and preached there for over 40 years.

**Damodar Kund:** Damodar Kund is closely attached to the life of Narsinh Mehta, the famous 15th Century Gujarati saint poet and devotee of Lord Krishna. It is here that he has written many of his prabhatiyas (morning prayers).

**The Adi-Chadi Vav:** It was not built but carved out of a virgin rock and Navghan Kuvo partly hewn in rock and partly built is named after Rao Navghan. They were considered so important that there is a saying that the one who has not seen them has lost the greatest opportunity of his life.

*'Adi-chadi vav ane Navghan Kuvo n juve to jivto muvo.'*

**Sakkar Baug Zoo and Museum:** At the foothills of Mt. Girnar it spreads over 198 hectares and has more than 850 wild animals. It is known for its captive breeding and conservation program for the Asiatic lions. The Museum has a collection of coins, silver arts, woodcraft, furniture etc.

**Entry fee:** ₹20/-.

An added attraction is a Safari @ ₹25/-.

**Visiting hours:** 09.00 am to 06.00 pm.

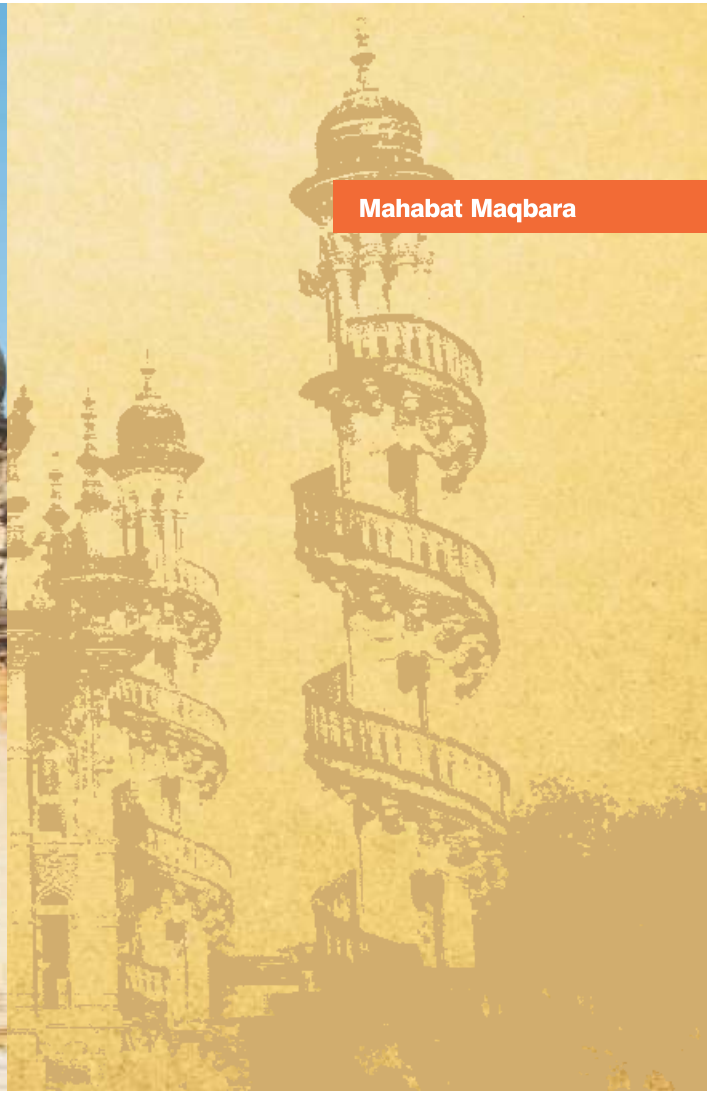
**The Silekhana and Darbar Hall:** It preserves the royal regalia and armour of the later rulers. It is also known as Kacheri Hall as this was the court of Nawabs.

**Entry fee:** ₹5/- Indians, ₹50/- Foreign nationals.

**Visiting hours:** From 09.00 am to 06.00 pm.

Closed on Wednesday and 2nd and 4th Saturdays.





**Mahabat Maqbara**



**Mahabat Maqbara:** The Maqbara of Nawab Mahabat Khan II is probably the best preserved monument. There are influences of Moorish, Hindu and European architecture.

**Wellington Dam and Datar Hills:** Located at the foot of the Datar hills and surrounded by hills on three sides and a garden in front, the Wellington Dam offers an enchanting view. It was named after the then Governor General Lord Wellington. On the top of the Datar Hill is a shrine dedicated to Saint Jaimal Shah Datar, revered by both Hindus and Muslims.

**Bhavnath Mahadev Temple:** Bhavnath Mahadev Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva is the venue of the yearly Bhavnath fair which falls on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the second half of the month of Magh, which is known as Maha Shivratri. The prayers are held at midnight. The fair is held for 5 days and the devotees walk around the Girnar hills and complete the parikrama on the 5th day.

## Places to see around Junagadh:

**Sasan Gir:** 60 km from Junagadh, Sasan Gir sanctuary is the only and the last habitat of the Asiatic lions. It is one of the country's largest wildlife parks with a core area of 258.71 km.

The sanctuary covers an area of 1153 sq km. of dry deciduous forest where lions roam freely. Other wildlife includes Antelope, Hyena, Fox, Nilgai, Chinkara, Chowshinga and other species of the deer family. Presently the Lion population is approximately 411.

**Location:** 60 km from Junagadh.

**Visiting hours:** 07.00 am to 11.00 am and 03.00 pm to 05.30 pm.

Gir Safari Online Permit website [www.girlion.in](http://www.girlion.in)

**For further details:** Forest department no. +91 2877 285541.

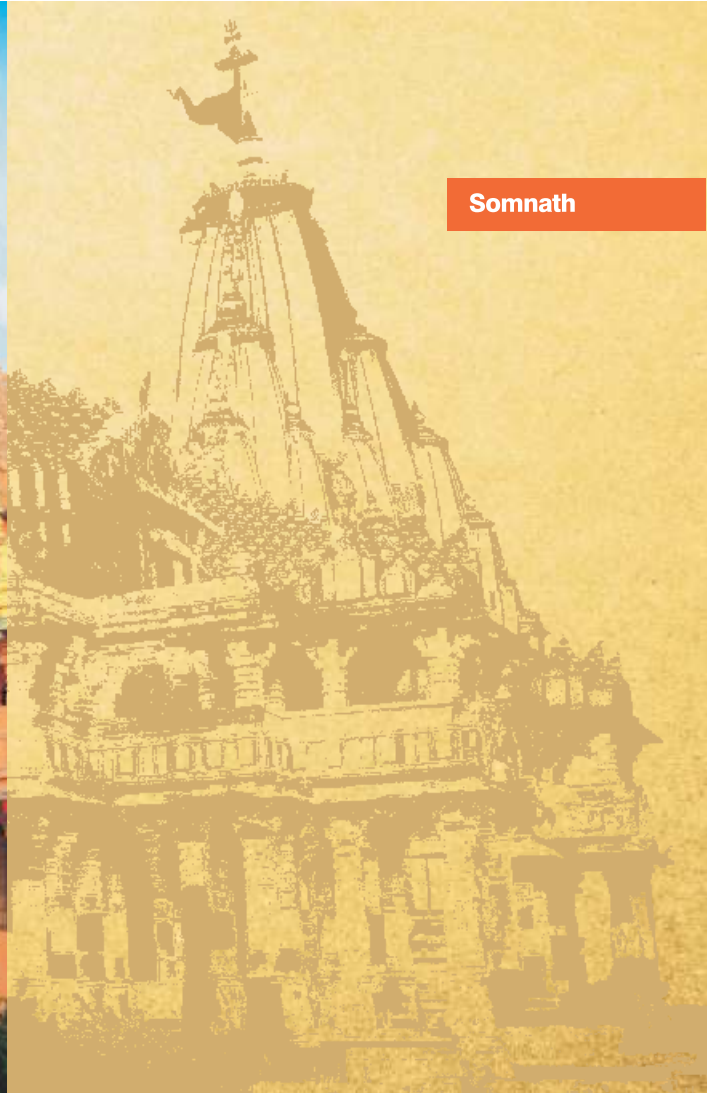
**Devalia Safari Park:** The Forest Department has set up Gir Interpretation Zone at Devalia covering 412 hectares of the forest area 12 km west of Sasan Gir. The Forest Dept. organizes visits to the safari park and have designated 35 to 40 km routes for visitors to follow. To ensure that your trip does not go entirely in vain, 4 to 5 lions are always kept on a sizeable precinct.

Gir is accessible from mid October to mid June, from 06.30 am to 12.30 pm and 15.30 pm to 18.30 pm. For information regarding prevalent charges you may contact Forest Dept. in Sasan Gir at +91 2877 285514.

The KESAR mangoes of Junagadh/Gir are a connoisseurs' choice, comparable or rather superior to the Alphonso mangoes.

**Bhalka Tirth:** It's here that Lord Krishna, while he was relaxing in reclining posture was mistaken for a deer and mortally wounded by an arrow, and left his body. Dehotsarg on the Triveni sangam is where Lord Krishna is said to have been cremated. Pilgrims visit this place with great respect.





Somnath

**Tulsishyam:** In the midst of the Gir forest, Tulsishyam is a holy place with scenic beauty on a hill that is 100 ft. high. It has an ancient temple dedicated to Lord Krishna. It is also famous for its hot water springs. 4 km from Tulsishyam is Bhim Chas where there is a temple dedicated to Bhim and his mother Kunti.

**Ahmedpur Mandvi:** Ahmedpur Mandvi Beach is one of Gujarat's best coastal stretches. It faces the island of Diu across a creek. The beach is excellent for swimming and water sports and has silver sands.

**Somnath-(Prabhas Patan):** 79 km from Junagadh the legendary shore temple of Somnath is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas. According to the legend Somanth is as old as Creation, built by none other than Soma, the Moon God himself. Through the turbulent centuries, Somnath was sacked 7 times and seven times it was rebuilt. Mehmud of Ghazni having heard of its fabulous treasures raided it in 1026, and carried away camel loads of jewels and gold. The present temple known as the Maha Meru Prasad was rebuilt on the exact location of the original shrine in accordance with the ancient plans. A fair is held here at Kartiki Poonima.

A Museum preserves the remains of the old temple.

**Somnath Temple darshan timings:** 06.00 am to 09.30 pm.

**Aarti timings:** 07.00 am, 12.00 noon and 07.00 pm.

**Somnath trust no.:** +91 2876 231200.

**Climate and clothing:** Gujarat experiences a moderate to extreme summer with temperature rising to almost 45°C during summer and winter temperature dropping to 8 to 9°C. So cotton clothes are preferable during summer with loads of moisturizers and lotions and during the winters warm clothes are suitable.

## How to reach:

**By Road:** Junagadh is 327 km from Ahmedabad, 102 km from Rajkot, 65 km from Veraval and 113 km from Porbandar. The Gujarat State Road Transport Corporation connects Junagadh to all major towns and cities of Gujarat by comfortable non A/C, Luxury, and Volvo Express buses.

Private operators also offer sleeper and luxury A/C buses.

**By Air:** The nearest airport is Rajkot, 102 km.

**By Rail:** Junagadh falls on the Ahmedabad-Veraval broad gauge line, and is well connected to Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Pune and other major towns of India.

## Nearest Tourism Office:

Hotel Girnar, Majewadi Darwaja, opp. RTO office,  
Junagadh - 362001. Tel.: +91 285 2621201.







**Junagadh  
District**



**For further information contact:**  
**Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited**  
Phone: 1800 200 5080 (Toll free)  
Website: [www.gujarattourism.com](http://www.gujarattourism.com)  
*Customised Packages Available*