

# Spectacular Surat

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## About Surat

One of the oldest cities of Gujarat, Surat has been a flourishing centre of International trade since the 14th century. Believed to have been founded by a Brahmin named Gopi, who rose to the rank of Prime Minister under the Sultanate of Gujarat, the arch shaped city is strategically situated on the southern bank of river Tapi, about 20 km from the Arabian Sea.

Surat was the chief port of the Mughal Empire and has been renowned for its fine silks, exquisite brocades and its trade in spices. The fame of its spices and textiles attracted traders from across the seas, among them the Portuguese, the Dutch and the English who setup trading ports on the coast, making Surat one of the most prosperous of India's cities in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The varied influences are reflected in the appearance of present day Surat. Elegant mosques, colonial - type houses, carved Jain temples and old wharfs on the river Tapi - all give Surat its own unique character. Today, it is one of the world's leading diamond cutting and polishing centres.



## Tourist attractions:

**The Castle:** This is Surat's most important historical monument built in 1546, for the protection of the city by Muhammad Tughlak as a defense fortification on the Tapi riverbank to protect the city against frequent Portuguese raids.

**Sardar Patel Museum and Planetarium:** Also known as the Sardar Sangralaya, this Museum was established in 1889 for the display of maps and other educational aids. Its collection represents the rich history of Surat and has over 12,000 specimens of arts and crafts now.

**Museum timings:** 09.00 am to 11.30 am and 02.30 pm to 05.00 pm. Closed on Sundays and public holidays.

**Planetarium timings:** 11.15 am to 01.45 pm (Wednesday - Saturday) 02.45 pm to 05.45 pm (Sunday - Tuesday). Closed on Mondays.

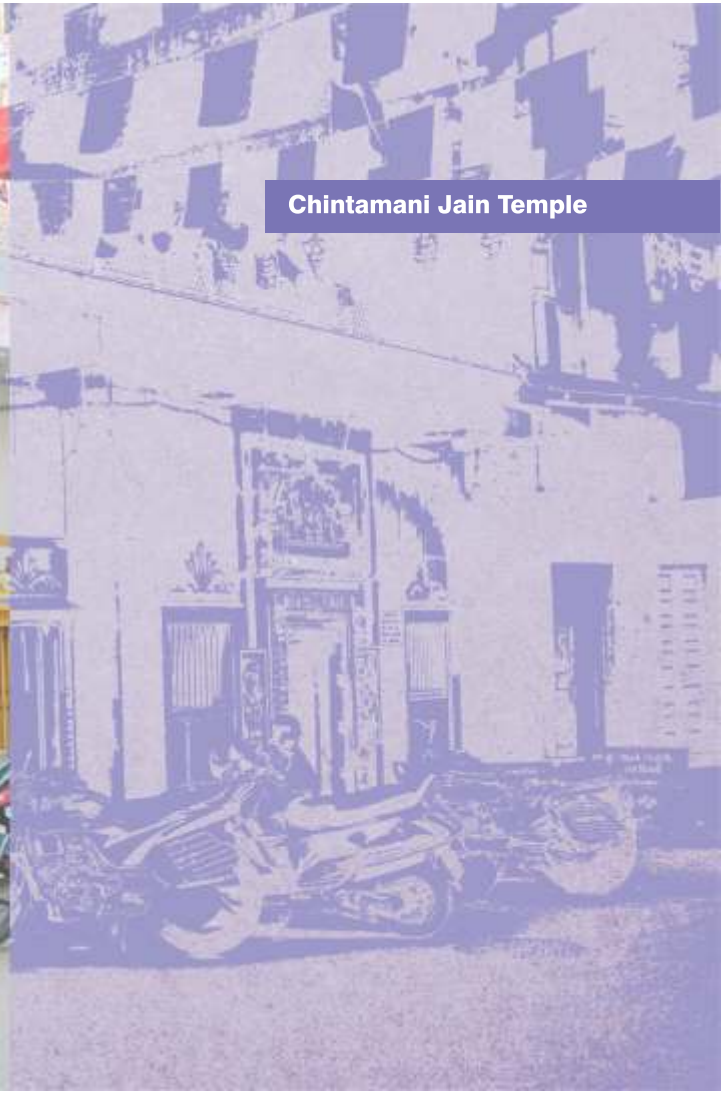
**Marjan Shami Roza:** This tomb was made for Khwaja Safar Sulemanim - the then governor of Surat, by his son in 1540. This special piece of architecture possesses elements of both Persian and Indian architecture.

**Location:** 1 km from Surat station at Main Road, Chowk Bazar.



श्री चिंतामणी पार्श्वनाथ जैन तीर्थ

Chintamani Jain Temple



**Chintamani Jain Temple:** This temple was built during the reign of Emperor Aurangzeb at the end of the 17th century. It has a simple exterior but the interiors are remarkably crafted with fine expertise. The beautiful vegetable dye paintings of Acharya Hemchandra (a Jain preacher) and King Kumarpala cover the wooden pillars that lead up to carved brackets.

**Visiting hours:** Across the day, every day.

**For further details:** +91 261 2437783.

**Gopi Talav & Nav Sa'id Masjid:** It is named in the memory of Gopi, a local Brahmin whose efforts ultimately led to the development of Surat. It is also a place of beauty for lake lovers. Nav Sa'id Masjid is one of the four main mosques, along with Khudawand Masjid, Sayyid Idris Mosque and Khwaja Diwan Sahib.

**Location:** Navsari Bazar, Surat.

**Visiting hours:** Across the day, every day.

**Vir Narmad Saraswati Mandir:** Narmadashankar Lalshankar Dave, popularly known as Vir Narmad (1833-86), was the author of 'Jai Jai Garvi Gujarat'. Now restored as a memorial, it was built in 1866 and inhabited by him. This memorial is now an abode of the works and memorabilia associated with the great poet.

**Visiting hours:** Open from 08.30 am to 01.00 pm and 02.30 pm to 07.00 pm, every day.

**Mughalsarai:** Meaning 'a guesthouse', Mughalsarai was built in the mid 17th century under the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. The fundamental reason of building this sarai was to aid the pilgrims en route to Mecca. This building has beautifully arcaded verandahs and a dome that stands firm till date. Presently the office of the Surat Municipal Corporation is housed in this building.

**Location:** 1 km from Surat station.

**For further details:** +91 261 2423751-6.

## Places to see around Surat:

**Dumas Beach:** This is one of the most famous beaches of Surat and what makes it unique is its singular black sand which leads to the blue salty waters and sky. Being a favorite tourist spot, it harbors a stretch of local food joints that make for a fulfilling outing on a lovely evening.

**Location:** 22 km from Surat.

**Visiting hours:** Across the day, every day.

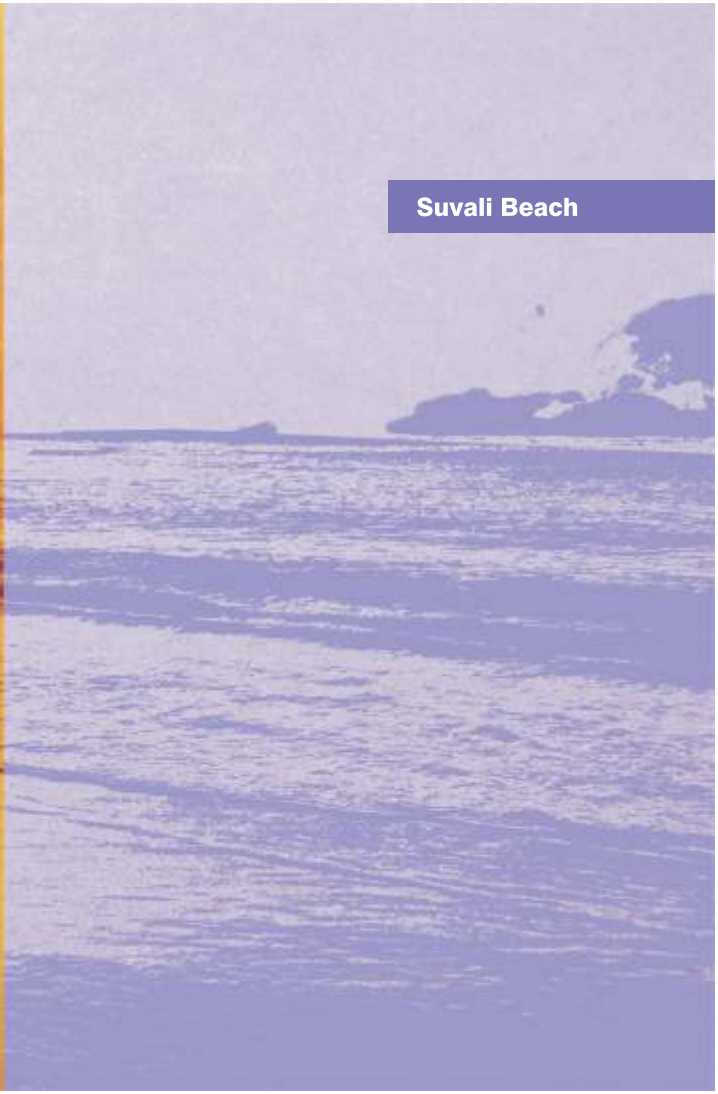
**Hajira Beach:** Hajira is a seaside resort and a popular picnic spot. It is dotted with beautiful and feathery Casuarina trees. The peace and quiet of this place is mesmerizing and apt for relaxing. Also, there is a bird sanctuary in its vicinity which is worth a visit.

**Location:** 28 km from Surat.

**Visiting hours:** Across the day, every day.



શ્રી ચિંતામણી પાર્શ્વનાથ જૈન તીર્થ



**Suvali Beach**

**Suvali Beach:** This beach is famous for its cleanliness, literally. Apart from its water being clean, the beach is free of rocks and trees! This long stretch of sand and sea attracts you to stay longer as you slowly transcend towards peaceful bliss.

**Location:** 29 km from Surat.

**Visiting hours:** Across the day, every day.

**Navsari:** Nestled on the bank of river Purna, this place is dotted with chief attractions like a sanatorium, the fire-temple of Atas Beharam and smaller Agyaris, the Parsvanath Jain temple, the legendary Dargah of Sayed Saadat. It is also the birthplace of Mr. Jamshedji Tata, the pioneer of the Indian steel industry and the founder of the House of Tata's.

**Location:** Around 30 km from Surat.

**Parsi Agyari (Fire Temple):** Surat has been the headquarters for the Parsi community since the earliest days of their settlement in India. Udvada, only 10 km north of Vapi, the station for Daman, has the oldest Parsi sacred fire in India. It is said that the fire was brought from Persia to Diu, on the opposite coast of the Gulf of Cambay in 700 AD. Sanjan, in the extreme south of the state, is the small port where the Parsis first landed; a pillar marks the spot. Only Parsis are allowed here.

**Location:** 39 km south of Surat, Navsari.

**Visiting hours:** Across the day, every day.

**Vansda National Park:** Situated on the banks of River Ambika, Vansda National Park is bordered on its north and west by the Sahyadri ranges of the Western Ghats. A canopy of tall teak trees and bamboo shoots reach for the sky. It is also home to various unique species of flora and fauna that is commonly unknown. The greenery enthalls your body, mind and soul. When at Vansda National Park, ensure that you explore the Sanctuary / Unai Hot Springs / Padamdungari Eco Campsite / Kilad Nature Education Campsite / Waghai Botanical Gardens / Dharampur / Vanil Udyog.

**Location:** Around 116 km from Surat.

**Purna Wildlife Sanctuary:** This is a haven where luxuriant dense forests with thick bamboo trees enchant visitors. You'll be surprised to see such pristine forests in the area, an extension of the Western Ghats. An eco-tourist wishing to indulge in watching birds of the moist deciduous forest, would love to visit this place. Also, this sanctuary is a part of forests in northern part of the Dangs district in South Gujarat. The major attractions here are the Sanctuary / Girmal Falls / Mahal Eco Campsite / Shabari Dham and the Saputara hill station.

**Location:** Around 160 km from Surat.



**Climate & Clothing:** Gujarat experiences a moderate to extreme summer with temperatures shooting up to a maximum of 40°C to 42°C and 13°C during winters. Tourists are advised to carry skin care products as per their requirement and also have proper head gear to protect from heat.

### How to reach here:

**By Road:** Surat lies 234 km from Ahmedabad, 131 km from Vadodara and 297 km from Mumbai. Bus stations, both ST and private, are on the eastern edge of the city.

**By Rail:** It is well connected by trains from Mumbai, Delhi, Ahmedabad and other parts of the country. The railway station is also on the eastern edge of the city.

**By Air:** Various domestic flights connecting metros and other major cities are operational from Surat Airport.

### Nearest Tourism Office:

Athava Lines, Jilla Seva Sadan - 2, Block No. "A" Ground Floor,  
Surat. Tel. No. +91 261 2652266.



**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*