



Khushboo

Gujarat ki



Statue of Unity

Kevadia

A monument as tall as its hero





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Gujarat has been a tourist friendly State since ages. We can find the footsteps of great travellers like Marco Polo and Hu En Tsang on the land of Gujarat. Today, the Government of Gujarat is committed to entertain and welcome the Travellers from all over the country and the world. Being the ideal host is in the genes of Gujarat, for which we are famous for and proud of. Since last One and half decade Tourism in Gujarat has grown manifold. Various iconic sites like "The Statue of Unity" and campaigns like "Kachchh Nahi Dekha to Kuchh Nahi Dekha" has further boosted the tourist flow In Gujarat. The Government has given an industrial recognition to Tourism and also a separate Tourism policy has been drafted to promote the Tourism Sector.

I would like to congratulate the Team of Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited for bringing out this inaugural issue of "Khushboo Gujarat Ki" Magazine. I have utmost confidence that by this magazine, tourist from India and from all over the world will get great deal of information about various beautiful places of Gujarat at their doorstep. This will boost the tourist flow and will ultimately generate employment for the people of Gujarat. I am sure this Magazine will be very useful for the tourist visiting Gujarat.



Shri Vijaybhai Rupani
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat



Addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the 73rd Independence Day, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi urged people to visit at least 15 tourist destinations within India by 2022.

I would like to express that Gujarat offers a variety of tourist destinations. From ecotourism sites to religious sites and from UNESCO world heritage sites to rural tourism, we have so much to offer to tourists coming to Gujarat. I will recommend that people should consider Gujarat as their holiday destination, following the words of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

In continuation with the popular campaign of Khushboo Gujarat Ki, I have learnt that Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. is coming up with a dedicated Magazine named "Khushboo Gujarat Ki". I am confident that this Magazine will help in disseminating authentic information about tourism in Gujarat and contribute towards increasing the tourist footfall in Gujarat.

I extend my best wishes to team of Gujarat Tourism for the inaugural and all future editions of "Khushboo Gujarat Ki".



Shri Nitinbhai Patel
Hon'ble Dy. Chief Minister of Gujarat



Today, Gujarat is being seen as a developed state in India in the field of tourism. I would like to congratulate my team of Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited for bringing out this maiden issue of “Khushboo Gujarat Ki” Magazine. This will not only help the visiting tourists to have first-hand information about various locations of Gujarat but it will also help them understand the culture and traditions of Gujarat.

Many efforts are being put forward to develop Border Tourism, Religious Tourism, Wellness Tourism and Eco Tourism. Very soon the tourists visiting Gujarat will have the opportunity to witness the World’s tallest statue of Sardar Patel named as “Statue of Unity”. This magazine will be a boon for these tourists to get first-hand information about major and developing tourist attractions.

Once again I reiterate my faith in this “Khushboo Gujarat Ki” Magazine and wish the editorial team a Good Luck for future editions.

Shri Jawaharbhair Chavda
Hon'ble Tourism Minister,
Government of Gujarat



“The Statue of Unity”, which has been dedicated by Hon'ble Prime Minister to citizens of India, has been listed as world's greatest places by popular publications. It has helped putting Gujarat on world tourism map. It was a great opportunity for Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. to contribute to this mega project by coming up with accommodation facilities in the form of Narmada Tent City.

I express my great happiness over starting of “Khushboo Gujarat Ki” Magazine of Gujarat Tourism with The Statue of Unity as its launch theme.

I believe this magazine will be helpful to readers from India and outside to gain authentic information on Tourism in Gujarat. “Khushboo Gujarat Ki” Magazine will keep various stakeholders of Tourism stay connected.

I extend my best wishes to “Khushboo Gujarat Ki” Magazine team!!

Shri Vasanbhai Ahir
Hon'ble Minister of State - Tourism,
Government of Gujarat



In the recent times, Gujarat has been adorned with many new iconic tourism sites. The Statue of Unity inaugurated last year and has already witnessed lakhs of footfall. In fact, it has been featured among World's 100 greatest places to visit in 2019 by TIMES. The Balasinor Dinosaur Fossil Park is also an amusing tourist destination.

When Gujarat has so much to offer to tourists, it becomes important that this information reaches to tourists. "Khushboo Gujarat Ki" Magazine by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd. is the correct and much needed initiative in this direction.

I believe "Khushboo Gujarat Ki" will highlight various theme-based circuits like Buddhist Circuit, Dandi Circuit, Rural Tourism, Handicraft Tourism of Gujarat and will be useful to people from all walks of life.

I congratulate and extend best wishes to team of Gujarat Tourism for the initiative of "Khushboo Gujarat Ki" Magazine.

Dr. J.N. Singh
Chief Secretary,
Government of Gujarat



Gujarat is one of the most Vibrant States in India. Its history stretches over long years from the age of old Harappan Civilization to the Modern era. Gujarat's endless journey from Roots to Wings is timeless with historical and cultural traditions glorifying the State.

Tourism in Gujarat has increased manifold due to constant support of the Government and reciprocative enthusiasm of the people. With the new Tourism Policy, we have adopted an integrated approach for the all-round sustainable development and inclusive growth in the State. Through various fairs and festivals such as Navratri, Rann Utsav, International Kite Festival, Statue of Unity and Seema Darshan, we introduce tourists to best of Gujarat's culture and heritage.

With this new initiative in the form of "Khushboo Gujarat Ki" Magazine Gujarat Tourism has tried to recapture all the achievements and specialties which make Gujarat a perfect Destination for Tourism. I congratulate Team Gujarat Tourism and extend my good wishes in its tireless efforts to take tourism to newer heights.

Smt. Mamta Verma
Secretary (Tourism),
Government of Gujarat

From the desk of Editor



Dear Readers,

While Gujarat is reaching soaring heights of progress and is growing as one of the most preferred destinations for tourism, we take the opportunity to bring this Inaugural Edition of “Khushboo Gujarat Ki” Magazine in front of you.

We begin our edition with a Cover story that shines the spotlight on the much celebrated Statue of Unity. The Statue of Unity has been featured as one of the World’ 100 greatest places to visit in 2019 by TIME. The popularity of Statue of Unity has inspired to theme our inaugural issue on it.

The issue has an informative article on the upcoming Rann Utsav celebration in the white sands of Kutch, describing its cultural and economic importance. Another article covers the simple, subtle and satisfying fusion of flavors of Gujarati cuisine. Through this magazine we have tried to popularize lesser explored destinations like Polo Forest and we will cover similar destinations in the future editions. The later section is of News section which covers achievements and updates of Gujarat Tourism.

As Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has urged people to visit at least 15 tourist destinations before 2022, I believe because of “Khushboo Gujarat Ki” magazine, people will come to know about the various tourist locations of the State and more and more number of people will be attracted to visit Gujarat.

Travelling is not just about sightseeing, but experiencing the culture, tradition and cuisine of that place.

Through this inaugural issue we have tried to showcase the diversity of Gujarat and give you a reason to visit Gujarat.

Have a happy reading!!



Mr. Jenu Devan,
Commissioner of Tourism &
MD, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited

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Uniting India: Statue of Unity

The Statue of Unity, popular as one of the few man-made objects visible from space as well as the tallest statue in the world is situated in the middle of the Narmada river guarded by the Satpura and the Vindhya mountain ranges in the state of Gujarat. The Statue of Unity is the Statue of Indian Independence Activist Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, overlooking Sardar Sarovar Dam which is also named after him.

Constructed in a record 33 months, the world's tallest statue stands at 182 metre (597 feet) as a memorial to the contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai in the country's freedom struggle and the stellar role he played in unifying the country into a nation.





Why 182 meters?

While this statue is poised to be the tallest among the others, there is a reason why it stands at 182 metre. 182 represents, 182 constituencies in the Gujarat Legislative Assembly.

Sustainable structure

Did you know the statue is actually made from recycled materials? Since Sardar Patel was from a farmer’s family, the Loha campaign was started which appealed to the farmers of India to donate their used farm tools. The campaign received an overwhelming response as 169,000 lakh iron tools were collected. These tools were melted and used in the formation of the statue. Many NGOs and other social activists came forward to run this campaign which made it even more successful.



An architectural marvel

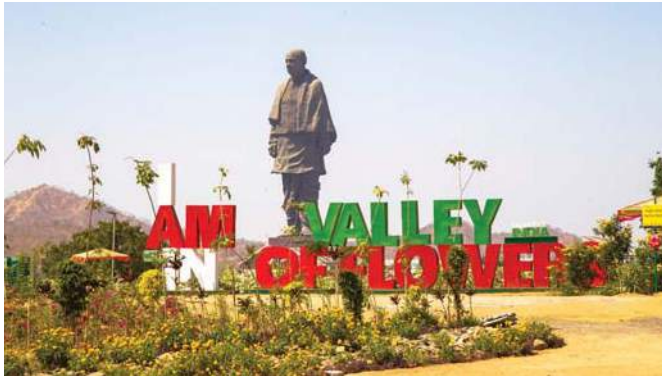
A staggering 6,500 tonnes of structural steel, 18,500 tonnes of reinforced steel, 210,000 tonnes of concrete and 1,700 tonnes of bronze cladding went into the making of the statue by an army of over 4,500 designers, architects, global consultants, engineers and workmen. Wind speed and earthquake history was studied and the statue was engineered with a triple-layered structure capable of withstanding a severe wind velocity of up to 180 kmph and resisting earthquakes measuring up to 6.5 Richter scales. The Statue of Unity stands on a star-shaped base that covers a hill. An escalator takes visitors along the bridge to the base of the statue. The statue has two vertical cores with elevators to reach the viewing gallery. The statue is divided into 5 zones out of which only the first three are accessible for visitors.

Accommodation

Narmada Tent city situated in Kevadia colony near the Statue of Unity, provides comfortable accommodations with luxury air conditioned tents as well as delicious local cuisine.

Tickets

Tickets can be purchased online (<https://soutickets.in/>) or at the ticket window at entry gate. The entry ticket costs Rs. 120 which includes Valley of Flower, memorial, museum, audio visual gallery, the Statue of Unity (SOU) site and Sardar Sarovar Dam, while an additional Rs. 350 is required for the viewing gallery.



Places of interest around the complex

Museum

Museum has a collection of pictures and videos of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's contribution as a freedom fighter.

Light and Sound Show

One hour show depicting the life of Sardar Patel and talks regarding his contribution to our country.

Valley of Flower

Valley of the flower is a treat for the nature lovers and it covers 230 hectares of area in the complex.

Sardar Sarovar Dam View Point

Enjoy a spectacular view of one of the world's largest dams which is 1.2 km long and at a height of 163 ft.

Souvenir Shop

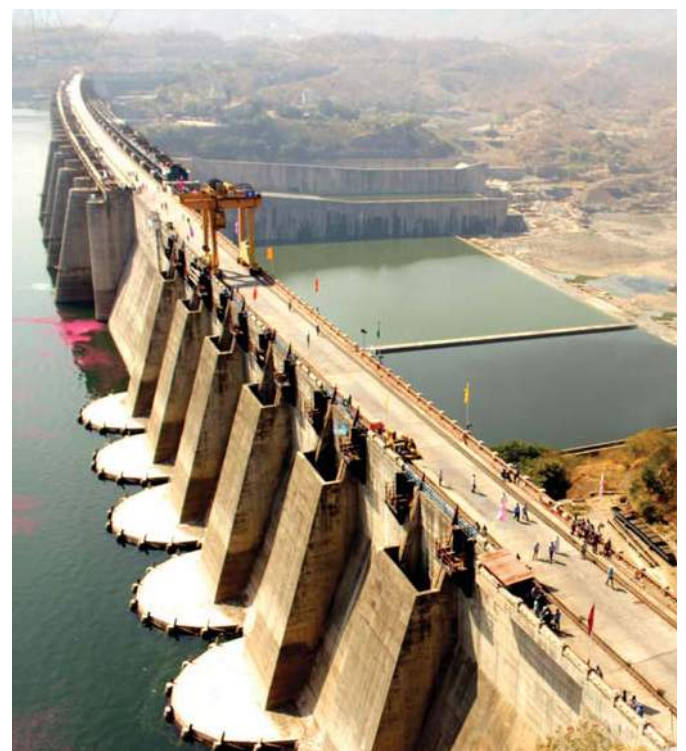
Take a memory of your visit to this iconic place by collecting t-shirts and gifts.

River Rafting

This is the most recent addition under the adventure activities. Visitors can enjoy river rafting over Narmada.

Zarvani Waterfalls

Located only 20 kms away from the statue, Zarvani waterfalls in an added attraction for visitors for a quick and refreshing bath.





Activities and places of interest soon to start at Statue of Unity are

- Butterfly garden
- Cactus garden
- Safari park
- Vishwa Van
- Ekta nursery
- Tribal corner
- Tribal cafeteria



How to reach Statue of Unity



By Air: The closest airports to the statue of unity is Vadodara which is 90 kms away.



By Train: The nearest railway station is Bharuch and Ankleshwar on the western line.



By Road: There are many state run buses from all major cities of Gujarat to Kevadiya colony.



Important information

Statue of Unity is closed every Monday of the week.





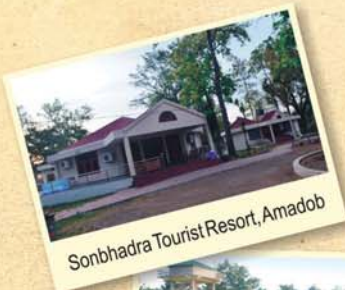
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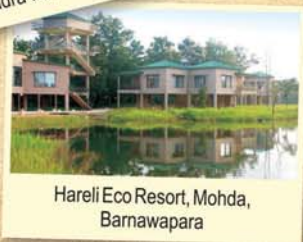


SPOTS AND STRIPES.

TAKE YOUR PICK.



Sonbhadra Tourist Resort, Amadob



Hareli Eco Resort, Mohda,
Barnawapara

The Chhattisgarhi wilderness has so much to offer.
Come, claim your share of the wild!

Tigers, leopards, panthers, sloth bears, wolves, hyenas,
monkeys, bison, parrots, hill mynahs, hoopoes, Indian rollers...
So much to see, so little time. Make the most of it.

Welcome to Chhattisgarh. Welcome to the wild!



Seema Darshan - A gallant affair in Nadabet, Gujarat

The state of Gujarat has been sharing international border with the neighboring country of Pakistan. Fearless jawans of the BSF are guarding our western borders for decades, in the harsh weather of summer and winters. Nadabet is a village located in the Suigam Taluka of Banaskantha district in the northern part of Gujarat state. This is an important border post at Gujarat Frontier.

An Attari-Wagah border kind of experience was envisioned by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat Shri Vijay Bhai Rupani and implemented by Gujarat Tourism under his guidance and with support of BSF, in 2016 for tourists to witness the difficulties and challenges faced by the jawans, standing against all odds to protect Indian borders. The experience, known as Seema Darshan showcases the bravery of our soldiers guarding the border, marching with pride, and hoisting the tricolor flutter-

ing high. Seema Darshan at Nadabet, intends to be a platform, where the tourists/visitors can experience how the jawans perform their duty. It uplifts the spirit of patriotism and reassures the people that they are safe and remain protected by the relentless efforts of the jawans. A peek into the lives of BSF jawans, encourages them and assures them that their service is being appreciated and helps in morale boosting as the crowds salute and cheer them on. Nadabet Seema Darshan aims to receive international recognition by starting this programme.

Unlike Attari-Wagah border which is a border outpost across India-Pakistan and both countries perform a drill retreat, at Nadabet the retreat ceremony is performed only at India's side of the post. Other activities include fusion band performance, camel show and bird watching. Drums beat, and the

BSF jawans parade in a perfect rehearsed unison. It is indeed a moment of pride to see the Indian tricolor fluttering against the salt pans of the Rann with a beautiful evening sky in the background.

Visitors also have the opportunity to visit the border viewing point with the BSF jawans. Here they can interact with the jawans, who share their stories about their armed life on the border. Apart from this, there is a weapon exhibition, a photo gallery and a film show at the border viewing point developed by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL). Visitors also have the opportunity to see the life of villagers living in border villages.

So far, Seema Darshan has attracted over 2.5 lakh visitors in last 2 years. And this year, the BSF expects more visitors in the region.



Important visitor instructions before visiting Nadabet

- Government recognized Photo ID is a must for Border Post visit
- Only 600 visitors are allowed per day
- Visits currently allowed on weekends only
- Timing of retreat ceremony is 5:45 - 6:15 pm
- Entry fees: Nil

Other places of interest near Seema Darshan

Nadeshwari Mata Temple

Nadeshwari mata temple is a historical temple located near Suigam village at Nadabet. It is believed to protect the village as well as the jawans during difficult times.

Adventure activities

In order to instill fun and adventure, visitors can also enjoy activities near T-junction, near Nadabet BOP. They include ziplining, artificial rock climbing, air gun shooting, archery, trampoline, zorbing, high rope cross, etc.

Bird watching at Nadabet

Nadabet is a birder's paradise. Since it lies on the eastern part of Greater Rann of Kutch, it is relatively an unexplored area for birders. Birds which have been spotted here include Peregrine Falcon, Eastern Imperial Eagle, Greater flamingo, Common crane, Black stork and others. The probability of spotting Indian Wild Ass (Ghudkhur) is also good in this area.



How to reach Nadabet



By Air:
Nearest Airport: Ahmedabad



By Train:
Nearest Railway station: Deesa and Palanpur



By Road:
Drive from Ahmedabad to Suigam is 260 km.



Rann Utsav

Celeration of Culture and Nature

With the arrival of winter, the festivities begin in Kutch where every year it shares the age old cultural, traditional and ecological riches it's been bestowed with. The great expanse of the white desert of Kutch, comes alive to beckon guests from across the globe to be part of the opulent and flourishing celebration of The Rann Utsav.



Rann Utsav- Amalgamation of Serenity, Culture and Mysticism

Rann Utsav, which marks the arrival of the cold nights of winter is celebrated till the onset of spring festival, holi. It promises not only tranquil providence, but the inhabitants of Kutch bring forth their talents and stage the most elaborate display of the core Gujarati culture.

The canvas which it represents is filled with myriad colours of art forms, display of handicrafts, exuberance of nature itself with a healthy dollop of the full moon night. During the cold months, when the inherent romance comes forth amongst everyone, it is the perfect time to rendezvous with the sand dunes and an array of visuals which portray the depth of Gujarati culture with its ancient essence still intact. Rann Utsav 2019 will be organized by Gujarat Tourism from November 2019 to February 2020.

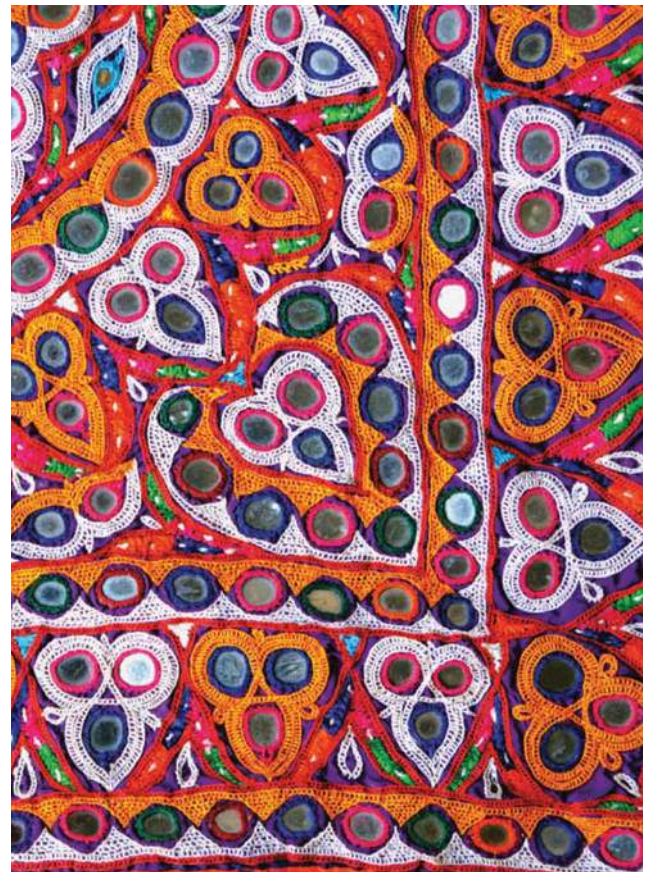
History of Kutch

The Kutch that thrills the world with its treasures, was once at its zenith of devastation, when the earthquake of January 26th, 2001 hit leaving in its wake, death, rubbles and hopelessness. A new dawn arose and with a new zest for living people got together to pile in their knowledge and talents to create a new upliftment model which is reflected in the economically successful area today. Today, apart from being a hub for several industries, Kutch also presents an invitation to partake in its breath-taking beauty which has been made even more colourful by the artisans with their myriad displays.

Serenity of the desert

The expanse of the Utsav is wider and opulent. It embarks from Bhuj, where the entire area is swamped with artisans and every corner is decked up in a colourful palate. From there till the tent city, set up in a small village called Dhordo, the entire spread is devoted to the celebration of this joyous occasion.

When the moon is in full bloom, the white expanse of the desert presents the epitome of beauty where you can witness the austerity of the night sky without the hinderance of the city skylights. It not just invokes the spirit of an adventurer, but it provides a long-lost peace that presents a oneness with nature and its essence. It provides an opportunity to experience Chir Batti or ghost lights – an unexplained dancing light phenomenon that occurs at night.



Cultural Chroma Woven in Multicoloured Aspects

This occasion presents a panorama of cultural fiesta where folk artists from all corners of Gujarat put forth their displays of art. An epitome of heritage display, every performance is soulful and glorifies every proud aspect of the rich heritage of Gujarat. Sitting amidst a bonfire while gazing into the starry night and watching the dances to the tunes of folk music and an experience beyond par.

Musical instruments like Tabla, Murli, Nagara, Ghaghar, Damaru, Bhorrindo are amongst the ones that are majorly features in Kutchi music. Shorrindo and Jodia Pawa are instruments particular to Kutchi culture, which can be heard above the others and their glorious beats can be felt seeping into musical apotheosis. Folk dances also enthrall the audience by putting forth a commendable performance of countless dance forms including Dholi Nritya, Garba, Ghoriya Raas, Adivasi dance, Sword Raas of Gadhvis to name a few.





Deluge of Adrenaline Rush

Along with sightseeing one can indulge in myriad adventure sports and activities like desert safari or camel rides. A hot-air balloon ride awaits anyone who wishes to experience the enchanting panoramic beauty of Kutch overlooking the vibrant hues of the desert to the beautiful display of colours put forth by the residents.

Tranquil Allure of Kutch

For the who crave for Poseidon's touch, one can dip their feet in the clear waters of Mandvi beach which provides a picture-perfect image of serenity and tranquillity. The sunset that one gets to witness here calls out to your very being and one can get transfixed by the ethereal beauty. The Vijay Vilas Palace of Mandvi occupies a huge estate with an unspoiled beach at one end.

One should also experience the whitewashed landscape from the famous Kalo Dungar which translates to black mountain, which is the highest point in Kutch. Other key locations which can be covered include The Prag Mahal Palace, The Aina Mahal, Shyamji Krishna Varma Memorial, the excavations of Dholavira, Siyot Caves, and Lakhpat among others.



glimpsed in all forays of art forms. Some ethereal works which gain prominence include Rogan printing used in textiles, embroidery mastered by several communities each with their individuality, Kharad carpets to name a few. Clay and leather craft, as well as wood carvings also present a niche outlook. Unique hand-blocked printed paintings, Engraved silver jewellery, seashell décor and iron bells are among the major attractions.

Handicraft Heirloom

Villages of Bhirandiyra, Khavda and Gandhi nu Gam display a wide variety of handicraft textile and fabrics and they also run workshops for the same. It presents the perfect opportunity to fill one's bag with rich handicraft items which will add a flourish to one's living space giving it a royal and austere look.

Kutch is known mud architecture, exquisite apparel designs and a wide array of craft traditions which are witnessed at every direction helping it mark charter its own territory as a global favourite. The vibrancy and elegance of all Kutchi creations tends to be a common feature that can be

For all fashion enthusiasts, Rann Utsav provides the perfect pedestal to explore prints and embroidery, that are akin to a lost art. The originality of the designs and the art presented here will instil in you a fresh love for handicrafts dresses. You can witness several techniques of block printing, which are embellished in yards of clothing. Some designs which will be displayed with a flourish include Dabu as well as Khadiprinting, Ajrakh, and Bati. The artisans perform such in detailed work, that even a double-sided print is seamless, identical and flawless.





Wine & Dine, Kutchi Style

To add to your culinary experience, the fool fledged thali that one can feast here is an epitome of satisfaction and variety. An appetizing cuisine that includes Khichdi, which is a staple food of the region, kadhi, and rotla are available for a salubrious offering. 'Dabeli' is a famous local fast food dish which can be savoured along with other prominent dishes like 'kharibhat' and 'Chakrada Pakwan'. Your sweet tooth can be appeased by 'jalebis' or 'dudhpak' to name a few.

Ecological Eminence

The lake of Narayan Sarovar offers a scenic view along with the shore temple of Koteswar. It also attracts one for nurturing wildlife habitat of endangered mammals like wolves and gazelles. The beaches surrounding Kutch are predominantly used by sea turtles for breeding and one can witness this along the shoreline. Tera, the heritage village also boasts an interesting water-harvesting system along with its palaces and forts. For all bird lovers, the Chari Dhand Wetland Conservation Reserve hosts over 370 species of birds and is proclaimed as an eco-tourism destination.

To see a sea of red, visit the Flamingo city, where thousands of migratory birds come in large number. These birds fly in from Central Europe, Central Asia, Siberia, Mongolia, Middle East and Himalayan regions. In Kutch you witness the perfect amalgamation of mountains, beaches, desert, The lake of Narayan Sarovar offers a scenic view along with the shore temple of Koteswar. It also attracts one for wildlife, music, dance and culture.

Gear up for an experience of a lifetime

There is a saying about Kutch which goes like "Kutch nahi dekha to kuch nahi dekha". Kutch is an ethnic diversity in itself. The mosaic of cultural performances and tent stays truly exemplifies the true spirit and uniqueness of the region. Rann Utsav offers the visitors an exceptional manifestation of diverse cultural ethos of Gujarat. The festival is popular for its celebrative fervour and folkloric touch. The festival presents a special opportunity to the tourists to view the creativity of the craftsmen, diverse range of folk dance and music, mélange depiction of communities and culture and an immense range of ecology.





Eco-Tourism

Experience a retreat in the lap of nature at Polo Forest

Polo, the name is derived from the word pol, the Rajasthani word for "gate," signifying it to be a gateway between the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Situated on the foothills of the Aravalli range, Polo is spread across 400 square km area and is home to more than 450 species of medicinal plants, 275 species of birds, 30 species of mammals, and 32 species of reptiles and thus rightfully called Polo Forest.

Polo Forest is one of the ancient historical sites in Gujarat, and is popular for its unique yet picturesque deciduous surroundings. It is a haven for adventure seekers, backpackers and bird watchers who can enjoy all of these activities amidst lush nature. Visitors can rejuvenate by connecting with local cultures like dance, songs, local handicrafts & arts and adventure activities like cycling in forest, trekking, riverside walking, taking a dip in the fresh waterfalls and many others. There are many hiking trails available ranging from 3kms to 14 kms known as the Mango, Kalal, and Bhim treks, respectively. There are also some tribal settlements in some patches of the forest and you may interact with them and get to know about their life.





A trail to Harnav Dam

A nature trail along the Harnav river takes one to the reservoir of the river. Look out for the forest residents like flying squirrel, Indian grey hornbill, sloth bears and many birds as you come across a small check dam. Visitors can explore the dam site which is nicely developed and maintained in Polo forest area.

Jain temple

It is believed that in yesteryears, Polo Forest gave refuge to the then Maharaja, Maharana Pratap during his battle against the Mughals. This place was earlier a pilgrimage for the Jains and Shivadharmi people of the area. However the temples were destroyed by the Mughals and what remains are some spectacular ruins of a fort, now a heritage site. The temples are said to be over 1500 years old. On a closer look at the designs, they are lavishly crafted with incredible details of deities, sculptures and motifs from everyday life. The fact that it has stood for so many centuries is the testament of the amazing engineering and artistry of the bygone era.

Trekking and camping

There are ample trekking opportunities, wherein hikers can climb mountains that are as high as 800 meters. A local guide can take you on a choice of your trek. Visitors can also indulge in riverside camping.

Relax at Polo Forest

If visitors just want to enjoy the raw nature instead of going around to places, they can simply relax at the luxurious and air conditioned tented accommodation and enjoy authentic food looking at the Aravalli range in the middle of a forest. The tents of Polo Tent city are luxurious, eco-friendly and beautifully furnished with natural materials – with an attached bathroom. Visitors can enjoy their evening tea overlooking the sunset from their extended verandah of the tents. Situated on the banks on Harnav river, Polo Tent City's 36 Deluxe & Super Deluxe tents are beautifully furnished.



How to reach Polo Forest



By Air:

Ahmedabad and Udaipur are the nearest airports. Hire a car from there to reach Polo forest.



By Train:

The closest railway station is Himmatnagar if traveling within Gujarat. If traveling from outside Gujarat, hire a car from Ahmedabad.



By Road:

Polo forest is located at a distance of 150 km from Ahmedabad, 70 km from Himmatnagar (Gujarat) and 120 km from Udaipur (Rajasthan). State Transport buses are frequently available to reach Idar.

From Idar to Vijaynagar, jeeps are frequent. Polo forest falls on the way to Vijaynagar and you may get down there.

However it is ideal to travel by own/hired car as the distance between places to watch inside Polo forest is long.



Treasure Winter Foods of Gujarat

Winters are great time of the year. During winters our immunities can be improved at soaring levels making us strong. Nature is ready to nurture us in this beautiful and bountiful season. We have great level of digestion in this season making us crave for more and feel very hungry. And for that reason only it becomes very important that people eat immunity-boosting foods in winter. Now that means having healthy food, and with the conventional notion of healthy food not being very tasty, makes it harder.

But who said it has to be like this. Yummy yet healthy recipes of Gujarati cuisine is the answer to that. Gujarati food has age old variety of recipes that are seasonal in nature and are considered very nourishing besides being lip-smacking. Great traditional recipes that were actually made so that people would get their nutritional values plus the tongue craving taste in winters.

Olo Rotla

One of the very famous Kathiyawadi recipes is Olo rotla. It's basically made from big eggplants served with bajra rotla, kadhi and gud (jaggery). Often being one of the last options in the menu, eggplants are very nutritious and can be tasty if made in the typical kathiyawadi style. Smokey and spicy olo with hot hot bajra rotla are the best way to say bye bye to chilling winters in a savory way. Olo is also known as baingan ka bharta in the northern parts of India with slight changes in the way of cooking them.

Tilna Ladoo

Til or sesame is consumed all over India during this beautiful season of winter. When this superfood is mixed with jiggery or gud and ghee, it becomes a treat to die for. Filled with great nutritional value til na ladoo are very appetizing. Sesame is high on iron and has qualities like improving digestion, reducing the risks of cancer and healthier bones. A bite of til ladoos is what you crave for.

Adadiya Pak

Another traditional kathiawadi recipe which is consumed during winters to beat the blues away. Its main ingredient is Urad dal or lentils. Rich in proteins and vitamins, Adadiya pak is a sweet dish which is a must have in winters. It's mainly eaten because of its high nutritional value. One of the first dishes to actually consume because it's healthy in nature. Generally over bingeing after a meal could leave you feeling lazy, but during winters it only means one thing, energetic and a pleasant aftertaste!

Totha bread

Tuvar sabji also known as tuver na totha in Gujarati is a delicious curry dish made from pigeon pea. The dish can be made from dry pigeon pea (tuvar dal) or even green pigeon pea (lila tuver). It's made with lots of ginger,

garlic and onion so best for chilling winters. It's served with toasted bread. It tastes very distinctive and raw making it very healthy. It's a delicacy consumed in northern parts of Gujarat but due to its delicious mix of flavours, it's now gorged in the majority parts of the state.

Chikki

Talking about winter and Gujarati food, we can't forget the irresistible Chikki. Chikkis are one of the best things to have in any season for that matter. Chikki is made from peanut and jaggery. This natural sweet delicacy is jam packed with immense health and beauty benefits. The traditional Gujarati dessert is famous for its unique taste, crispiness and aroma. Chikkis are of

different types according to the ingredients used to make them like, sing chikki, til chikki, chikki made from puffed rice and so on. With benefits like lowering cholesterol and treating skin ailments, this tummy tucking dish is a body warming winter special.

Winter is a more inward season, when nature is at rest, so you can take advantage of this natural tendency by giving the mind and body some extra nourishment in winter. The cravings you have at short intervals during winters should be filled with not just tasty and comfort foods but nurturing ones as well. Have great fibre enriched and delightful comfort foods in these chilling winters and slay the cold away.



Tarnetar Fair, amalgamation of culture, history and mythology

Based on the legend of Draupadi's swayamvara, Tarnetar Fair is a celebration of ethnic Gujarat's folk-dance, music, costumes and the arts, centered around young tribal men and women seeking marriage partners. But even for those not interested in finding a spouse, the romance and excitement in the air are captivating, and every year the fair seems only to grow in popularity, attracting visitors and tourists from Gujarat, elsewhere in India, and even abroad.

Tarnetar Fair is held for three days every year during the Hindu calendar dates of Bhadarva Sud - 4th, 5th and 6th. It is held 8 km from the town of Thangadh, in Surendranagar District. Tarnetar Fair of 2019 was held during fourth to sixth September. Here are some of the special moments of this year's fair where revelry is apparent.



Culture & Nature at its best in Saputara Monsoon Festival

To celebrate the culture and nature, The Monsoon Festival of 2019 was celebrated in Saputara during 10 August to 9 September. This month-long festival was inaugurated by Minister of Tourism, Shri Jawahar Chavda in presence of honourable guests and dignitaries.

The Monsoon Festival is specially organized each year to celebrate monsoon beauty of Saputara along with its unique culture. Ninth edition of Monsoon Festival featured fascinating inaugural parade exhibiting tableau and a flash-mob, garba-folk dances, brass bands and various other attractions. The festival also included exhibitions, cultural show, adventure activities, food festival, interactive games, competitions, flash mobs and much more. The festival is organised by Gujarat Tourism to promote tourism, to promote Saputara as a hill station and to create awareness about its many natural and cultural tourist attractions.



ADTOI organized its 9th Annual Convention

With a massive turnout of members from all parts of India, the 9th Convention cum Exhibition of the Association of Domestic Tour Operators (ADTOI) took place at Ahmedabad from August 16 – 17, 2019. Insightful speeches by an August panel of dignitaries during the inauguration set the mood for the Convention right and the sessions ahead were also equally uplifting. The Convention on the whole provided the much-needed thrust for domestic tourism in India. ADTOI also unveiled its new logo at the inauguration ceremony.

Mr. PP Khanna, President, ADTOI, welcomed the delegates at the convention and felicitated the dignitaries, which included Shri Pradipsinh Jadeja, Minister of State - Home, Energy, Parliamentary Affairs, Law, Justice (Minister of State), Police Housing, Border Security, Civil Defense, Gram Rakshak Dal, Jail, Prohibition and Excise, Coordination between voluntary organization, Non Resident Gujarati Department, Protocol (all independent charge), Government of Gujarat; Shri Vasantbhai Aahir, Minister of State for Tourism, Government of Gujarat; Ms. Aashima Mehrotra, Director, Ministry of Tourism, Government of India; Mr. S.J. Haider, Principal Secretary, Gujarat Tourism; Mr. Jenu Devan, Managing Director, Gujarat Tourism; and Mr. Ashwani Lohani; CMD, Air India.

The convention cum Exhibition was organized with the theme: Explore India - Experience India. The theme was inspired from Prime Minister's appeal and motivation which says instead of travelling abroad, people of this country must explore rich heritage and culture within the country. This is beneficial for the economy of our country as the revenue generation from tourism will remain within the country.



Gujarat Tourism's Kolkata roadshow offers glimpse into state's rich culture and heritage

Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Ltd (TCGL) organised a road-show as part of the Travel and Tourism Meet in Kolkata on July 13, 2019 to further boost the tourism sector of the state. The objective was to promote the state and its variety of tourism products in the eastern part of India. The dignitaries present during the show included Shri Jawaharbhair Chavda, Minister of Tourism; Shri Vasanthbhai Ahir, Minister of State, Tourism and Mr. Jenu Devan, MD, Gujarat Tourism. Around 300 tour operators from Kolkata and near-by cities in West Bengal along with some Gujarat-based tour operators attended the roadshow.

The road-show also showcased some of TCGL's recent initiatives that have received immense response. Gujarat's other highlights were also showcased which included its famed temples like Dwarka, Somnath, Ambaji and its trails and circuits including Gandhi Circuit and Buddhist Circuit. Other tourist attractions like Gir Forest, Little Rann, etc. were showcased during the roadshow. To highlight the accommodation and infrastructure facility, Heritage Hotels, Homestays and the state-owned Toran Hotels were also exhibited during the roadshow.



SIHM organized Induction Program of its 4th batch

State Institute of Hotel Management (SIHM), sponsored and managed by Gujarat Tourism, has recently organized Induction Program of its fourth batch. The new beginning was very inspiring for the students as it was honoured by the speeches of Hon'ble Minister of State Tourism, Shri Vasanthbhai Ahir, Collector of Patan, DDO and other prominent guests from hospitality industry. On this special occasion, SIHM has also launched its bi-monthly newsletter in the presence of dignitaries.



World's third largest dinosaur fossil park is now in Gujarat

Gujarat is now home of world's third largest Dinosaur fossil park and India's first dedicated dinosaur museum. It has been developed by Gujarat Tourism at Raiyoli village, located near Balasinor town of Mahisagar district.

Honourable Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Vijay Rupani recently inaugurated the museum and mentioned that the Gujarat government will allocate a fund of Rs. 10 crore to promote the museum at an international level. He further mentioned that Gujarat will soon feature on the world tourism map, and that this museum will be the latest addition to it.

A Pre-historic Location

115 km away from the capital city of Gandhinagar, the Dinosaur Museum is spread across an area of over 25,000 sq. feet with 10 galleries spread across two floors depicting various forms of displays including static and dynamic installations. Raioli boasts of being a fertile breeding ground for many species of dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Fossil remains, bones and eggs have been excavated here since early 1980s.

Fascinating Features

Nearly 50 sculptures of dinosaurs, including a life-size one of Rajasaurus narmadensis, the indigenous breed that can be called the King of dinosaurs along with displays that elucidates Evolution of Earth; World Dinosaurs; Dinosaurs of India and Gujarat, KT Extinction Theory etc. is showcased in the museum. The museum installations include 3D Projection Mapping, 360 degree Virtual Reality, 3D Stereoscopic Projections, Interactive Kiosks, a vivid display of Triassic, Jurassic & Cretaceous times besides gaming consoles and much more. The Dinosaur Museum offers an informative, interactive and amusing experience for children and people of all ages.



Calendar of Fair & Festival 2019-20 (Tentative)



Event Name	Tentative Date	Place
Madhavpur Fair	14th - 18th Apr, 2019	Madhavpur
Monsoon Festival	10th Aug - 9th Sep, 2019	Saputara
Kevadia Monsoon Festival	18th Aug - 6th Sep, 2019	SoU, Kevadia
Tarnetar Fair	1st - 4th Sep, 2019	Tarnetar
Navratri Festival	29th Sep - 7th Oct, 2019	Ahmedabad
Sasan Gir Festival	13th Oct - 12th Nov, 2019	Sasan Gir
Beach Festival	20th Oct - 19th Nov, 2019	Tithal, Madhvpur, Madvi
Unity Parade	26th Oct, 2019 or 2nd Nov, 2019	Statue of Unity - Kevadia
Rann Utsav	1st Nov, 2019 - 20th Feb, 2020	Dhordo, Kutch
Water Festival	24th Nov, 2019	Adalaj
Panch Mahotsav	Dec, 2019	Champaner
National Culture Programme at SoU with help of Youth & Culture Dept.	Dec, 2019	SoU, Kevadia
Polo Utsav	1st Dec 2019 - 31st Jan, 2020	Polo
Statue of Unity Festival (Cinematic Seminar)	22nd Dec, 2019	Statue of Unity, Kevadia
IKF 2020	7th - 14th Jan, 2020	Ahmedabad and other location
Tribal Festival	Feb, 2020	Dahod & Narmada
Dang Darbar Festival	Feb, 2020	Dang
Global Bird Watching Conference	Feb, 2020	Various Location of Bird Sanctuary
Vintage Car parade	1st Mar, 2020	SoU, Kevadia
150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi	Throughout the year	Dandi, Rajkot, Sabarmati, Porbandar Bhavnagar, 21 other places where Mahatma Gandhi night stay during Dandi Satyagrah
Seema Darshan - Border Tourism	Throughout the year	Nadabet, Banashkantha

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Time Travel to The Jurassic Era In Gujarat



India's First and World's Third Largest

Home to many vistas of colourful culture and a wide variety of traditions, spirituality, cuisine and entertainment as well as the world's tallest statue, the latest and unique addition to Gujarat's attractions is India's first Dinosaur Museum and World's third largest Fossil Park at Raioli village near Balasinor town.

A Pre-historic Location

115 km away from the capital city of Gandhinagar, the Dinosaur Museum is spread across an area of over 25,000 sq. feet with 10 galleries spread across two floors depicting various forms of displays including static and dynamic installations. Raioli is the World's second largest hatchery and boasts of being fertile breeding ground for many species of dinosaurs 65 million years ago. Fossil remains, bones and eggs have been excavated here since early 1980s.

Fascinating Features

Nearly 50 sculptures of dinosaurs, including a life-size one of Rajasaurus Narmadensis, the indigenous breed that can be called the King of Dinosaurs along with displays that elucidate Evolution of Earth, World Dinosaurs, Dinosaurs of India and Gujarat and the KT Extinction Theory are showcased in the museum. The museum installations include 3D Projection Mapping, 360 degree Virtual Reality, 3D Stereoscopic Projections, Interactive Kiosks, a vivid display of Triassic, Jurassic & Cretaceous times besides gaming consoles and much more. The Dinosaur Museum offers an informative, interactive and amusing experience for children and people of all ages.

Arrive to witness the Era of the Gigantic Reptiles

A visit to the Dinosaur Museum at Raioli deserves to be in your bucket list. It is endlessly amusing and enormously informative, giving your trip to Gujarat a new dimension!

Best time to Visit :

The Museum is open to Tourists for visit everyday from 10:00 am to 06:00 pm. The tickets can be purchased between 10:00 am and 05:00 pm, outside the museum. The museum remains closed on Mondays, so plan your trip accordingly.

How to Get There :

Closest Cities :

Ahmedabad (100 kms), Vadodara (110 kms), Gandhinagar (115 kms)

Closest Airports :

Ahmedabad (104 kms), Vadodara (105 kms)

Closest Railheads :

Nadiad (77 kms), Ahmedabad (97.5 kms), Vadodara (113 kms)

