

Khushboo Gujarat Ki: 07 nights/ 08 days

Cities Visited: Ahmedabad, Lothal, Bhavnagar, Diu, Sasan Gir, Somnath & Dwarka



Gujarat, perhaps the most culturally wealthy state of India, boasts of pristine beaches, the amazing “Rann of Kutch”, Wildlife Sanctuaries, important religious destinations like “Dwarka and Somnath” and even imprints of the pre-historic “Indus Valley Civilisation”.

It is also the dream destination of an explorer with a quest for nature and wildlife. Its varied habitats have a fascinating diversity of wildlife with their own charm in a unique environment. Gujarat has declared most of them as National Parks and Sanctuaries towards the conservation of the species and for the visitors’ entertainment. The Asiatic Lions that are found in the Gir National Park are a major attraction for tourists to Gujarat.

Highlights:

- Visit to Sabarmati Ashram – the home of Mahatma Gandhi for many years.
- Visit to the ruins of the ancient city of Lothal
- Safari in Forest National Park of Gir – home to the Asiatic Lion
- A day on the calm beaches of Diu



Itinerary:

Day 01: Arrive Ahmedabad

On your arrival in Ahmedabad, you will be met by a TDI Representative who will assist you in hotel check in. Relax a while and then proceed for your city tour.

Visit the Siddi Sayyid mosque known for its intricately carved screens. Move onto Sabarmati Ashram across the serene Sabarmati River. The Sabarmati Ashram was the abode of Mahatma Gandhi for a few years and was a main centre for India’s freedom struggle. Spend some time venturing into the museum, library and the cottages located in the ashram. Late evening, visit the Law Garden area where an array of handicrafts from Kutch and Saurashtra are sold.

Day 02: Drive to Bhavnagar via Lothal

This day, after breakfast start your journey to Bhavnagar visiting Lothal, an archaeological site of the Indus Valley Civilisation, en route. It was a vital and thriving port and trade centre in pre-historic times, with its trade in beads, gems and valuable ornaments reaching the far corners of West Asia and Africa. Lothal has a museum which has preserved the artefacts recovered from the excavations.

Later in the afternoon, proceed to Bhavnagar, located at the southern tip of Saurashtra. On arrival you will check into your hotel for overnight stay.

Day 03: Day excursion to Palitana

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by an excursion to Palitana. The Jain Temples here are dedicated to the Svetambara Jains. There are about 1,000 carved marble temples scattered on the Shatrunjaya Hills with the main temple being atop the hill.

Return back to the hotel in the late afternoon.

Day 04: Drive from Bhavnagar to Diu

Today, after breakfast you travel to Diu. An island surrounded by serene and pristine beaches, where time stands still. Visit the grand Diu Fort, a majestic sentinel silently overlooking the Arabian Sea. The fort with its double moat, a splendid array of cannons, small chapels, engraved tombstone fragments and look-out points still shows its Portuguese connection.

Day 05: Drive from Diu to Gir National Park

After a leisurely breakfast at the hotel, satiate your desire to see the Lions' in their natural habitat of the Gir National Park, an abode of the Asiatic lion.

In the afternoon, join the Jungle Safari in search of the Lions (you may be the lucky one to see them). Later, return to the hotel for an overnight stay including dinner.

Day 06: on to Somnath

In case you did not see the lion in your earlier attempt, try again with an early morning game drive. You might now be lucky to see a pride of lions with its cubs. Return to the hotel for a late breakfast and get ready for your spiritual sojourn.

Upon reaching Somnath, visit the Somnath Temple, Mahadev Temple, Panch Pandav Cave, Balka Tirth and Dehotsarg (the place where Lord Krishna is supposed to have succumbed to a mortal wound).

Day 07: on to Dwarka

Breakfast at the hotel is followed by your journey to the land of Lord Krishna – the city of Dwarka.

Ranchhodrai, as Lord Krishna is known in Gujarat, came to Dwarka from Mathura to build his new kingdom. Located at the western tip of the Saurashtra peninsula, this town has remarkable importance for Hindus. It is the only place considered both one of the four principal holy places (char dham), as well as one of the seven ancient towns (sapta puris) to visit.

Excavation have reiterated the myth that immediately after the death of Lord Krishna and the consequent demise of the Yadav dynasty a massive flood swallowed all of Dwarka and submerged the city of gold to the bottom of the ocean.

The current Dwarka city (rebuilt for the seventh time) sits at the estuary of the Gomti River as it enters the Arabian Sea and is renowned for the Jagat Mandir (also known as Dwarkadheesh Temple).

Visit the temples and feel blessed.

Day 08: end the tour

Today, after breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart for Jamnagar or Rajkot for your flight or board a train from Dwarka.