

DESTINATION ITINERARY

Gujarat

7-9 Days From INR 25,000 per person Best: Jan, Feb, Nov, Dec

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FEATURED IN THIS JOURNEY



Statue of Unity (Kevadia)



Rann of Kutch (White Desert)



Gir National Park

DOMESTIC INDIA HOLIDAY PLANNING BRIEF

Destination overview

Gujarat rewards travellers who do not mind covering ground. Most circuits begin at Ahmedabad, Rajkot or another regional gateway, followed by long road sectors across a state that swings from the salt flats of Kutch to the teak forest of Gir and a coastline of ancient pilgrim towns. It is an unusually complete circuit: lions in the wild, the only ones surviving outside Africa; a white desert that appears once the monsoon water dries; step-wells and mosques of extraordinary stone-carving; and the temples of Somnath and Dwarka that draw pilgrims from across the country. Add Gandhi's ashram at Sabarmati and the embroidery and weaving of Kutch, and it suits families, heritage travellers and photographers more than anyone hunting a beach. Most of the state is best seen between October and February.

PACKAGE DURATION

7-9 Days

STARTING PRICE

From INR 25,000 per person

BEST TIME

Peak: Jan, Feb, Nov, Dec | Shoulder: Mar, Sep, Oct |
 Avoid: Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug

TRIP TYPES

heritage, wildlife

8 APPROVED SUBLOCATIONS

Places you'll visit



Statue of Unity (Kevadia)

MONUMENT | HALF DAY

A very tall bronze-clad statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel standing on an island in the Narmada near the Sardar Sarovar dam. A lift carries visitors to a viewing gallery high in the figure, looking over the reservoir and hills, and the surrounding site adds a museum, gardens and river walks.



Rann of Kutch (White Desert)

DESERT | HALF DAY

A vast salt flat that floods each monsoon and dries to a hard white crust through the winter, running flat to the horizon. Visitors walk out onto the salt, ride camel carts and stay for sunset and, near full moon, moonrise. Access is from Dhordo and a permit is checked en route.



Gir National Park

NATIONAL PARK | HALF DAY

The last wild home of the Asiatic lion, a dry deciduous forest that also holds leopard, nilgai, chital and marsh crocodile. Visits are by permitted jeep safari on fixed routes with a guide and forest tracker, in morning and afternoon slots. The park closes through the monsoon months.



Somnath Temple

TEMPLE | 1-2 HOURS

One of the twelve jyotirlinga shrines of Shiva, standing directly on the Arabian Sea coast. The present building is a twentieth-century reconstruction in Chalukyan style on a site destroyed and rebuilt repeatedly through history. Pilgrims take darshan and many stay on for the evening aarti and light programme.



Dwarka

TEMPLE | HALF DAY

A coastal pilgrim town associated with Krishna and one of the four Char Dham sites. The Dwarkadhish temple rises in carved tiers above the Gomti creek and is reached by a long flight of steps. Many visitors continue by road and boat to the island shrine at Bet Dwarka.



Sabarmati Ashram

MUSEUM | 1-2 HOURS

Gandhi's base in Ahmedabad through much of the freedom struggle and the starting point of the Dandi salt march. The riverside compound keeps his living quarters, spinning wheel and correspondence, with a museum of photographs and writings. Quiet, plainly presented and comfortably walked in an hour.



Rani ki Vav (Patan)

HERITAGE SITE | 1-2 HOURS

An eleventh-century step-well built as an inverted temple, descending in tiers to the water table and carved with hundreds of sculpted figures, many of them avatars of Vishnu. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it lay buried under silt for centuries, which is why the carving survives so sharply.



Diu

BEACH | FULL DAY

A small island town off the Saurashtra coast, administratively separate from Gujarat, with Portuguese-era fortifications, a sea-facing fort and quiet beaches such as Nagoa and Ghoghla. Its licensing rules differ from Gujarat's, and the pace is noticeably slower than anywhere else on this circuit.

7 DAYS

Suggested day-by-day plan

01

DAY 1

Statue of Unity (Kevadia) and Diu

Visit Statue of Unity (Kevadia), Diu.

02

DAY 2

Rann of Kutch (White Desert)

Visit Rann of Kutch (White Desert).

03

DAY 3

Gir National Park

Visit Gir National Park.

04

DAY 4

Somnath Temple

Visit Somnath Temple.

05

DAY 5

Dwarka

Visit Dwarka.

06

DAY 6

Sabarmati Ashram

Visit Sabarmati Ashram.

07

DAY 7

Rani ki Vav (Patan)

Visit Rani ki Vav (Patan).

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Travel essentials

CURRENCY

The Indian rupee. ATMs, cards and UPI work well in cities and highway towns, but carry cash for Kutch villages and craft purchases.

LANGUAGE

Gujarati is the everyday language. Hindi is universally understood and English is comfortable in hotels, city restaurants and with trained guides.

TIME DIFFERENCE

India uses one national time zone, so no clock change is required. Daylight hours vary by season and longitude.

WEATHER

Cool and dry from November to February, which is the touring season. Summers are fiercely hot and the monsoon runs from late June into September.

CONNECTIVITY

Strong mobile data across cities and highways. The Rann and the remote Kutch border villages can drop to weak or intermittent signal.

Food and culture

Gujarati food is predominantly vegetarian, from refillable thalis and kadhi to dhokla, khandvi and travel-friendly thepla. Kathiawadi cooking uses more chilli and garlic, while Surat leans richer. Gujarat is officially dry, and its cultural traditions include Kutchi embroidery, bandhani, Patola weaving and Navratri garba.

AIR, RAIL AND ROAD

Getting there from India

AIR

Ahmedabad is the largest gateway; Rajkot, Vadodara, Surat and Bhuj can reduce backtracking for specific circuits. Flight options vary by origin and date.

RAIL

Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat, Rajkot and other major stations receive long-distance trains from across India. Select the railhead around the planned region.

ROAD

Gujarat has strong intercity highways, but Kutch, Saurashtra and central Gujarat involve long sectors. A car with driver is practical for multi-stop circuits.

FROM OUR PLANNERS

Practical notes

- Gujarat is a dry state and liquor is not sold; visitors can apply for a temporary permit, and neighbouring Diu falls under separate rules.
- Gir safaris run on a limited number of permits per slot, and the park shuts for the monsoon from around mid-June to mid-October.
- The white Rann is only white in the dry months - from the monsoon until roughly late October it is under water, and a permit is checked before Dhordo.
- The main sights are widely spread and rail links between them are indirect, so most itineraries here depend on a car and driver rather than public transport.
- Somnath and Dwarka restrict phones, cameras and bags at the entrance, and expect covered shoulders and legs for darshan.
- Kutch and the coast turn genuinely cold at night in December and January despite warm days - carry a jacket even for a desert trip.

**PLAN WITH ORBITZ HOLIDAYS**

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Explore
Experience
Remember

This itinerary is a planning guide based on the approved destination information held by Orbitz Holidays. Final services and inclusions depend on the confirmed booking.