

Wild and Rustic Gujarat...

Mumbai - Ahmedabad – Poshina – Dasada – Bhuj - Gondal – Uthelia – Jambughoda – Vadodara - Mumbai

DAY 1 ARRIVE MUMBAI

Arrive Mumbai & you will be received and taken to the hotel

Once a "Portuguese princess" dowry and later an adornment of Neo Gothic British architecture, Mumbai today, is more than just a metropolis. It is in fact an enigma of mud huts and skyscrapers, age old traditions and high fashions, the industrialist's haven and Indian movie makers' Hollywood. The city is constantly changing whilst also standing still in the past -the city's name was changed in recent times to Mumbai, derived from Mumbadevi, the patron goddess of the Koli fishermen, its oldest inhabitants.

Meals included: None

Overnight:

DAY 2 MUMBAI



This morning you will be taken for an excursion to visit the Elephanta Caves -reached by a one hour boat ride from the Gateway of India. This early 8th-century religious sanctuary is a shrine dedicated to Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction and regeneration. The Portuguese named the island because of large stone elephant sculptures they discovered on the island, and which were

moved to Bombay's Jijamata Udyan (Victoria Gardens).

After visiting Elephanta Caves you will return to Mumbai to explore the city visiting the Gateway of India, The Prince of Wales Museum, the Victoria Terminus and Dhobi ghats. The Gateway of India was built during 1924-1927 to commemorate the visit to India of King George V of England in 1911. It is the most enduring symbol of the city. Next to the Gateway of India is the Prince of Wales Museum built in 1911 -one of the biggest museums in the country. The Victoria Terminus, popularly known as VT is the major railway station and is considered the most beautiful edifice in the city. Dhobi Ghat or washer man's enclave provides a very interesting insight into Bombay's local culture.

Meals included:
Breakfast Overnight:

DAY 3 MUMBAI - AHMEDABAD

Morning you will be transferred to the airport for your flight to Ahmedabad. On arrival transfer to your hotel

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight:

DAY 4 AHMEDABAD

Situated on the banks of Sabarmati River, the city of Ahmedabad has a large number of tourist attractions to lure travellers. From mosques to temples, monuments and museums, there is a lot to explore while on a trip to this walled city. The city has a combination of Hindu, Muslim and Jain places of worship. These places of worship are adorned with magnificent traditional architecture and attract hordes of tourists across the globe. During your sightseeing you will visit



Siddhi Sayad Masjid, Swaminarayan Temple. In the afternoon visit Gandhinagar – Akshardam Temples and Adalaj Stepwell on the way back visit return to your Hotel.

Meals included: Breakfast
Overnight:

DAY 5 AHMEDABAD - POSHINA

After breakfast drive to Poshina (approx 5 hours drive) on way visit to Modhera & Patan, Modhera The beautiful and partially ruined sun temple of Modhera was built by King Bhimdev. Patan was an ancient Hind capital before Mahmud of Ghazni sacked it in 1024.

The tribal land of Aravalis. Explore the Bhil & Garasia tribal culture of North Gujarat & Southern Rajasthan. The village of Poshina is home to a number of artisans the tribal arrow crafters, silver, Potters, blacksmiths and the bazaar is famous for silver tribal jewelry, ornate sheathed daggers and terra cotta horses.



Meals included: All meals
Overnight:

DAY 6 POSHINA

After breakfast, visit tribal villages around Poshina. It is a centre to see Garasia tribals and also Rajasthani rabaris can be seen near Ambaji. Return for lunch at the Darbargadh. In the after noon enjoy second safari to the tribal villages located in the Aravali hills.

Meals included: All meals
Overnight:

DAY 7 POSHINA - DASADA

Morning drive to Dasada (approx 4-5 hours drive)

The Rann of Kutch is a geographically unique landscape that was once an arm of the Arabian Sea. As the land separated from the sea by geological forces, it became a vast, featureless plain encrusted with salt that is inundated with water during the rains. Spread across the saline desert plains of the Little Rann of Kutch it is the only sanctuary for the Asiatic wild ass in India. It is also birding paradise and some of the birds found here are larks, and other dryland birds like sandgrouse, coursers, plovers, chats, warblers, babblers, shrikes. Among the many winter visitors are the houbara bustard and spotted sandgrouse. During winter months the wetlands will attract demmossile and common cranes in incredibly large numbers, flamingos, pelicans, storks, ibises, spoonbill, a variety of ducks and other waterfowl. This places also the hunting ground of raptors like the short-toed eagle, aquila eagles, six species of falcon, buzzards and three species of harrier. It is one of the few places where harriers can be seen roosting on open-ground at night.

The safari across the Little Rann visits the `bets`, islands on the ancient seabed that are now higher grounds covered with grass and scrub. These `bets` support a variety of wildlife including the `Gudkhar` (Asiatic wild ass) that is not found elsewhere. The wild ass is a handsome chestnut brown member of the equus genus (horse family). Capable of reaching high speeds when galloping across the Rann, the wild ass is usually seen in small herds. The elegant blackbuck (Indian antelope), nilgai or blue bull (India's largest antelope) and the graceful chinkara (Indian gazelle) are other mammals seen at the bets. The main carnivores of the Little Rann of Kutch are the endangered Indian wolf, desert fox, Indian fox, jackals, desert and jungle cats, and a few hyenas. Smaller mammals like hares, gerbilles and hedgehogs, and reptiles like spiny tailed lizard, monitor, red and common sand boa, saw-scaled viper, cobra, dhaman (Indian rat snake), etc, could also be seen during the safaris in the Rann.

Afternoon enjoy jeep safari in the park

Meals included: All meals

Overnight:

DAY 8 DASADA - BHUJ



Early morning enjoy another jeep safari in the park. After breakfast drive to Bhuj (approx 5-6 hours drive) where you will check in at your hotel

Time permitting; you will have the opportunity to visit to the local markets.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 9 BHUJ

Enjoy a full day excursion to Bunny tribal villages like Tunda Vandha is a unique Rabari village in this village most of the male population is generally away from the village. You will have the opportunity to see their art and culture (*Special permit are required to visit Bunny villages- Cannot be arranged on Sundays, 2nd and 4th Saturdays and public holidays*)

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 10 BHUJ – GONDAL

After breakfast drive to Gondal (approx 5-6 hours drive), en-route visiting Dhamadka. On arrival check-in at your hotel.

Gondal, the capital of the former princely State of Gondal, was ruled by the Jadeja Rajput clan, till the independence of India. It is a fortified town located on the river Gondali.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:



DAY 11 GONDAL – UTHELIA

After breakfast drive to Uthelia (approx 4-5 hours drive), a small fortified village.

In the evening visit the village to see the traditional houses, Diamond polishing, hot springs and typical ambience an Indian Village.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 12 UTHELIA - JAMBUGHODA

After breakfast drive to Jambughoda (approx 4 hours drive), en-route visit Champaner.

Champaner exhibits some of the finest examples of fusion architecture, sculpted by mellifluous architects from different culture and civilizations. Declared as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO, Champaner is scattered over an area of 6 sq km around the foothills of Pavagadh. The main monument is the Jumma Masjid which was built in 1513 .A satellite mapping of the area has revealed large tracts which are yet to be excavated.



On arrival check in at your hotel

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 13 JAMBUGHODA

Enjoy an excursion to to nearby tribal villages.

There are various hamlets of Bhils, Rathwas, Bhilalas and other tribes in the surrounding area of Chotta Udaipur. A tour of the tribal village and hamlets offer an insight into traditional architecture, lifestyle & handicrafts of each aboriginal community in the tribal market called “haat” occur at different villages. Rathwas who can be seen & sporting colourful attires and chunky jewellery, pithora painting, pottery, terracotta figures, langoti wearing and bamboo basket weaving and important handicrafts.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

DAY 13 JAMBUGHODA – VADODARA – MUMBAI – ONWARDS

After an early breakfast, drive to Vadodara (approx 2 hours drive) to board your late morning flight to Mumbai. You will be met on arrival and taken to a hotel near airport where you have **day use room for wash and change**. Later in the evening, you will be transferred to the International Airport for your onward flight back home

Meals included: Breakfast

*****End of the Arrangements*****