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# **NSANELY SCENIC** JOURNEY



# 14 UNBELIEVABLE PLACES ON EARTH

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## **PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE**

February 2021

## Train of Thought

A s Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "It's not the destination, it's the journey". Don't train journeys feel the same way? You get to meet new people, eat some amazing delicacies and enjoy the scenic landscapes outside with the classic chugging sound to make it more interesting.

There's so much happening, both inside and outside, that you never get bored. More than destination, you remember the journey. And did you know that there are some incredible train journeys that are especially famous for its magical and scenic routes? Here we bring you 7 such insanely scenic train journeys for your next adventure.

If you want to play safe in this pandemic time, we present a list of 5 Bollywood films that inspire you to travel. So just sit back, grab a tub of popcorn and play one of these movies to satisfy your wanderlust at home. Read on!

#### **PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE**

February 2021



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## 7 Insanely Scenic Train Journeys in India

## 66 There isn't a train I wouldn't take, No matter where it's going

-Edna St. Vincent Millay

o journey in India is complete without the train journeys. Spread like a giant spider web, the Indian Railways covers approximately 65,000 km and carries 30 million passengers a day. Joining width and length of the country, the railways is touching the unique element of the nation – its diversity.

So if you're a traveller (and not a tourist) who is craving to sneak into undiscovered cultures, gaze into unexplored landscapes and soak in the refreshing air, relish a 'railish' journey as we bring you some of the most enthralling train routes in India that offer totally scenic landscapes – from wide seas, steep mountain slopes to narrow valleys. Let's go through the list and get a ringside view of India's most gorgeous landscapes.



## | Kangra Valley Railway

Himachal Pradesh is unquestionably a bliss for the travellers. The snowcovered peaks of the Himalayas, dense green forests, enchanting passes and vibrant vistas at Himachal lure adventure, nature and leisure travellers from different corners of the globe.

Kangra Valley is one of the major attractions of Himachal. If you want to feel the thrills of deep gorges, river bridges and amazing flora, Kangra Valley Railway operates between the picturesque valleys of Pathankot and Joginder Nagar. The amazing railway journey covers a trail of 164 km and offers the most charming views of the Himalayas, mesmerizing curves and picturesque valleys of this Himalayan State of India.

## 🛛 Konkan Railway

The railway line runs along the Konkan coast of India from the Village Tokur, a small town in coastal district - Dakshina Kannada in Karnataka state, to the train station, Roha in the state of Maharashtra through Goa, along the west coast of India and the mountain chain called 'Western Ghats'.

Konkan Railway's journey through the Ghats provides stunning views of Arabian Sea beaches, distant mountains, mysterious tunnels, the green horizon merging with the orange skyline during sunset and stormy falls, while traveling from Mumbai to Goa. Do not forget to take out your handicam or camera and capture the highlights of the amazing journey.

### Tamil Nadu - Rameshwaram

Y DM

Ever imagined yourself surrounded by nothing but the expansive water bodies? Train travel from Mandapam in Tamil Nadu to Rameshwaram on Pamban Island will give you all the 'Life of Pi' thrills and adventure apart from calm and serenity.

One of the most beautiful train routes in India intersects the ocean through the second longest bridge of India, the Palk Strait, which is the only route that connects mainland India to Pamban Island. The bridge, the second longest in India, is touted as one of the most thrilling train routes of India.

## 

### Jaipur - Jaisalmer

The royal Rajasthan trip will get an extra bright shade with a train trip from Jaipur to Jaisalmer. If you're opting for the 'Desert Queen', it will take 6 hours to reach the destination.

The journey through the desert offers diversified topography like the various shades of golden, grazing camels in the unending desert expanses, vegetation and scattered settlements of the desert inhabitants. In all, the train trip will present the feel of desert safari before reaching the land of the Golden Fort.

KP EASIMILANS

## 🙀 Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

(New Jalpaiguri-Darjeeling)

Initially built as a tramway to exploit the price-difference of potatoes between Darjeeling and Siliguri, the UNESCO World Heritage Site – fondly known as 'Toy Train' takes its lovers through the scenic hills and mountains on the way at a speed of 12 km/h. The 2ft narrow-gauge blue train curves around tea plantation, rolls alongside breezy forests and takes its passengers amid the swirls of cloud drifting up the hillside. Famed for its loops, reverses and spiral at Agony Point, the little toy train is a hit among the locals and tourists.



## Nilgiri Mountain Railway

If you've not seen this route already, watch Shahrukh Khan's peppy song 'Chhaiyya Chhaiyya' to get the glimpse of the Nilgiri Mountain Railway that runs between Mettupalayam to Ooty. The train, covering 45 km track, takes its passengers at an elevation of over 7000 feet to present the most beautiful perspective of the nature packed with lush green hills, tea gardens and tall girder bridges. The exclusivity of the route is that it passes through 16 tunnels and 250 bridges on the way. This mountain railway is listed as the World Heritage Site in 2005.

#### 👛 The Kerala

## Anubhavam

(Ernakulam-Kollam-Trivandrum)

Nothing is better than taking a train ride from Ernakulam (Cochin) to Trivandrum via Kollam (Quilon) to experience the God's own country – Kerala. The route presents a complete holiday package from the pristine lakes, enchanting backwaters, a glance of the rural life of Kerala and the coconut palms fencing the water channels. 📼

Incredible India

evou a movie-buff or bitten by travel-bug?

## **5 BOLLYWOOD FILMS THAT WILL INSPIRE YOU TO TRAVEL**

'Movies' is a world of imagination. It acts as a parallel planet, where many people get transported to live vision of film-makers through the dynamic characters, captivating sights or interesting plot of story. Stories have always been an alluring element for the humankind. From the very early age, children grow up listening to the stories from their parents/grand-parents (Well, for those who enjoyed childhood during 90s as Cartoon channels have occupied the slot nowadays).

Of course, another essential feature of any film is its set-up. Some films just epitomize locations. It's like you fall in love with the way particular location has been featured in the film. For example, 'Kahaani' – a 2012 Indian mystery thriller film romanced the city of Kolkata with intricate shots of Howrah Bridge, Durga Puja and Victoria Memorial and interestingly handholds the narrative further down to the back alleys of the city. It was featured so beautifully that Kolkata is a known city for you after the film.

While there are few movies that fuel wanderlust in you with every re-watch, not just with gleaming locations, but with the evolution of character led by some kind of expedition. With this idea in mind, we have brought together a list of Bollywood films (post 2000 releases) that will make you want to board the next plane to experience the same journey portrayed in the films.



#### QUEEN (2014)

One of the blockbusters of 2014, Queen is a beautiful film depicting the concept of solotraveling. The journey of a woman (played by Kangana Ranaut), who finds her new self after a solo-journey to Paris and Amsterdam sure to become an inspiration for those who want to go-solo but just couldn't bring themselves to do it. Solo-travelling extends new horizons. Imagine a city totally unfamiliar to you with equallyunknown people and their culture. What do you think your behavior will be like in a strange place all alone without anyone by your side? Do you think you will be the same as you are in your day-to-day life? The answer is - No. New lessons will mold your behavior. Traveling with companion can deepen relationships but going solo teaches you how to love your own company. So give it a try and challenge yourself to discover new perspectives.



#### Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara (2011)

Friends and a road trip sound so crazy and exciting. If you've watched this film, you must have related yourself with one of the four lead characters (played by Hrithik Roshan, Abhay Deol, Farhan Akhtar and Katrina Kaif). The trip of three school-friends turns into fun and entertainment in the beginning, adventure in the middle part and selfliberating towards the end. Bringing a new concept of Bachelor trip, Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara turns the clichéd concept of casino and handover to an epic road journey idea. Taking a break from mechanical routine to go on a road journey to new cities, enjoying neverseen festivals, being part of adventurous sports to encounter your fears and meeting new people can be transformational. The exotic locations of Spain and splashing celebration of 'La Tomatina Festival' added different flavors to the film.



#### Highway (2014)

Yet another woman-centric flick reels vivid emotions of two opposite characters (Alia Bhatt and Randeep Hooda), struggling with their inner self, happened to be together on a road trip and mapping out their own problems is the storyline of the film. As it is rightly said, 'Traveling is all about journey and not the destination', the movie explores the charm of unplanned journeys to unknown destinations and the awareness such journeys can bring. There's a surreal strength in travel; absolute disconnect from routine makes way for carefree spontaneity. The journey on Highway is a blend of fear and excitement. The long stretch of roads brings all the utter emotions in human beings with its surprising elements, especially when you don't know where the road is leading. The film artistically features the paradox that the journey on highway can be safer than home. What follows is a journey through the high roads of Rajasthan, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Harvana and Kashmir.



#### Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani (2013)

A tale of four classmates (Ranbeer Kapoor, Deepika Padukone, Aaditya Roy Kapur, Kalki Koechlin), the adventure tour to *Manali* and their lives. Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani is truly a film for wanderers. The story intricately intertwines evolution of two main characters with the trips. The first trip leads to change the approach of the actress that life is all about living it to the fullest. The gorgeous locations of Manali add required spices to the story. The wonderful dialogue of the film 'Main udna chahta hu... daudna chahta hu.. girna bhi chahta hu bas rukna nahi chahta' was a dialogue of the year for the youth. The captivating picturisation of *Paris* portraying actor's travel ambitions is sure to tickle your nerves to plan the next trip.



#### English Vinglish (2012)

A middle-class housewife (Played by Sridevi) who holds no value in her family struggles to regain self-confidence in the process of learning English after she finds herself lost in language in an *American* restaurant.

Mainly on the significance of English as a language, English Vinglish showcases how important it is to meet people from other cultures. It helps to develop an insight into their lives. It shows how different their beliefs or practices are from yours, and yet, they grow. Going beyond your place, and exploring new traditions, many times, lead to break those psychological fences built by our own self.

## 14 PLACES YOU WON'T BELIEVE EXIST ON EARTH UNTIL YOU SEE THEM YOURSELF



There is no end to how unpredictable nature can be. It goes beyond our imagination. There are mysterious places that have put science in trouble and the most stunning places that make you question the creativity of the maker. But, it all comes down to one thing - they exist and you have got just one lifetime to explore them. Here are a few places in the world that will make you question their existence until you see them in real.

#### PRAVER'S TOURISM ONE



The water is always blue, right? You'd believe so until you see this pink lake that exists in Western Australia. The large saline lake is spread across the area of 37 acres and is separated from the Southern Ocean by a thin shoreline. The exact cause of Lake Hillier's distinctive bubblegum or strawberry milkshake colour is not known for sure. Most scientists do agree it has something to do with the presence of specific species of micro-algae - Dunaliella Salina.





#### PRAVEGS TOURISM ONE

21 C.S.

## 2 The mirror effect at

#### Salar de Uyuni Salar de Uyuni is the largest salt

desert in the world located in Bolivia and it's so crystal clear that it will put your dressing table to the shame. The place calls for some magical photographs. 14 PLACES YOU WON'T BELIEVE EXIST ON EARTH UNTIL YOU SEE THEM YOURSELF



## TOURISM ONE

#### Desert meets the sea, it's hot and cool!

3

Just visualize the golden dunes of desert meeting the blue waters of the sea. Quite a geographical paradox, isn't it? The Namib Desert, which is a home to the world's tallest dunes, meets the Atlantic Ocean in South Africa. Interestingly enough, the colour of the sand changes across the desert; closer to the sea in the west, the sand appears whiter, whereas moving inland, the sand becomes pinker in colour. 14 PLACES YOU WON'T BELIEVE EXIST ON EARTH UNTIL YOU SEE THEM YOURSELF



#### Rainbows aren't just for the sky: Vinicunca Rainbow Mountains

Ever wished to touch the rainbows? Well, if you're so fond of colours, visit Ausangate ranges of the Andes in Peru. Though it requires 6 days of hiking, just remember good things don't come easy. Do they?

#### What's shining there? -The Diamond Beach in Iceland

5

How would you feel if you are surrounded by diamonds? Incredible, right? What if we tell you that this could be a reality? Yes, it is Diamond Beach in Iceland where you can see the crystal shining on the black beach. The diamond-like structures are formed by the presence of ice on the beach. Yes, ice on the beach! Well, you can never have enough of nature.

## TOURISM ONE

### 6 Emeralds treasure at Lake Baikal

You'd forget about owning emeralds if you once see these emerald-like structures at Lake Baikal in Russia. The largest freshwater lake in the world is famous for its spectacular landscape of snow and shimmering stones. It happens because the water is so clear that when it freezes at sub-zero temperatures, they look like gigantic 150ft-tall emerald stones. 14 PLACES YOU WON'T BELIEVE EXIST ON EARTH UNTIL YOU SEE THEM YOURSELF

## 7 The fascinating Mendenhall Ice Caves

Have you ever come across surreal photos of Alaska in which people walk inside a fascinating blue ice cave? Yes, the location is Mendenhall Ice Caves. The gigantic caves are formed by melting glaciers, giving it an effect that the water flows through the walls of the caves. If you are awestruck by it, visit them soon before global warming kills them.

## TOURISM ONE

## Stars under your feet at Glowing Beach in Maldives

8

Do you know there's a beach in Mudhdhoo Island (also known as Vaadhoo Island) of Maldives that glows at night? Yes, you read that right! This glow-in-dark is basically a natural phenomenon called 'Bioluminescence' wherein light is emitted or created by a living organism.



## **9** The effect of **Red Beach**

White, golden or black sand beaches would all look trivial once you set your eyes on the Red Beach in China. The interesting part is, this beach has no sand at all. It is located in the biggest wetland and reed marsh in the world and the colour Red that you see is created by the seaweed called Sueda. The beach turns vividly red in August, and blue and red can never go wrong together. The beach is located in Panjin, Liaoning, China.

## TOURISM ONE

# 10 The blue burning Volcano in Indonesia

The Kawah Ijen Volcano emits blue lava instead of red. The mind-blowing phenomenon gives effect to the lava appearing electric blue. This effect was captured by French photographer Olivier Grunewald and it is amazing. Apparently, it is due to the combustion of sulphuric acid that gives the lava this colour.

### Let the Ruby Falls in the USA

11

44m high underground waterfalls located in Tennessee, USA is the deepest cave in the country. But, that's not even the best part. The underground caves and the cliffs that surround the Ruby Falls are illuminated to make the water appear purplish blue.

#### Painting the sand pink -The Pink Beach

12

Harbour Island is most renowned for its Pink Sand Beach, located along its eastern Atlantic Ocean side, and considered one of the best beaches of the Bahamas. The pink colour of the sand comes from microscopic coral insects, known as Foraminifera, which have a bright pink or red shell full of holes through which it extends a footing, called pseudopodia, that it uses to attach itself and feed.

## TOURISM ONE

## 13 The Avatar landscapes of

## Tianzi Mountain

All I can think about is Avatar movie and imagine the giant birds flying when I see these mountains. The huge mountains that stand vertically and reach until the clouds are located in the Hunan province in the Suoxi valley in China. The beauty of mountains goes beyond the imagination. 14 PLACES YOU WON'T BELIEVE EXIST ON EARTH UNTIL YOU SEE THEM YOURSELF

## 14 The hidden crater beach Playa del Amor

It is located in Puerto Vallarta and takes a boat ride and a swim through the tunnel to reach this hidden beach. This exotic "Hidden Beach" is invisible from the outside since its sandy cavern sits inside uninhabited Marieta Islands. Playa del Amor has become a popular tourist spot for romantic adventurers. 1000



From the desert plains of Kutch in the northwest to the moist forests of the Dangs in the southwest, Gujarat's geographical diversity is reflected in the cuisines of the state.

Suiard

Winter is the best time to enjoy Gujarati food. This is the time of the year when many green vegetables are in season. A signature dish of the January to March period undhiyu is closely associated with Uttarayana or Makar Sankranti. This is a mix of vegetables, muthiyas (a snack named for the way it is made by gripping the chickpea flour in the muthia or wrist) and papdi beans, roasted or fried together.

Gujarat is also famous for farsans (steamed or fried snacks served as breakfast items, tea-time snacks, starters or accompaniments). Some of the popular farsans are - Khandvi or chickpea pasta, dhokla (a savoury cake usually made from a batter blending ground rice and dal) served with chutney or poured over with a rasa (sauce), dal dhokli (wheat dumplings in dal), pandoli (a green gram idli), muthias or chickpea kebabs made with methi (fenugreek) or doodhi (bottle gourd), amiri khamani (split yellow dal cakes), paatra patervelia (colocassia leaf stuffed with a paste comprising chickpea flour, jaggery and chopped coriander), handvo (a spicy baked chickpea and lentils cake with grated pumpkin or bottle gourd), vadas made from bajri and other flours. Fried snacks include - chorafali, farsi puri, ganthia, gujarati chewda, chakri, sev, sakkarpara. Gujaratis also make khichdis from corn or sago as snack items.

A unique aspect of Gujarati food is the variety of 'travel foods' that are made to stay for long, like khakra, dhebra and thepla. Some of the famous sweet and farsan shops have come up with 'export packs' of ganthia and other snacks that stay for very long.

Ahmedabad has a number of restaurants serving Gujarati Thalis. This refers to meals served in thalis (metal trays) with katoris (metal bowls) placed on

Khandvi

them. Typically, a thali meal has one or two



steamed or fried farsans, a tuber or a gourd shaak (shaaks are vegetable curries), a couple of shaaks made from seasonal vegetables, a kathol (braised pulses like beans, chickpea or dry peas), a couple of yogurt dishes like dahi, kadhi (yogurt and pulses soup), raita, rice or khichdi, dal usually toor dal, and sweets like halwas, basundi or shrikhand. Accompaniments include sweet, sour and spicy chutneys, pickles, ghee and a salad of chopped vegetables served raw or may be steamed in spices. If you ask for a Jain thali, the entire food would be free of onions, garlic and



potatoes. Gud (jaggery/molasses) or sugar is a common ingredient in Gujarati cooking. According to some Gujarati cooks, the sweet flavour is an adaptation to neutralise the slightly salty taste of the water in some parts of Gujarat, and most of the farsans and shaaks are made with vaghaar, which is a mixture of spices sterilised in hot oil said to have digestive benefits.

What makes a thali especially exciting is the incredible diversity of its content. The sheer variety of colours, tastes, textures and nutrients make a Gujarati meal platter an amazing culinary experience. The vellow of turmeric, the redness of tomatoes, the green of leafy vegetables and herbs, the whiteness of yogurt, the brown pulses and various fruits, vegetables, spices, relishes and pickles adorn a platter with vivid colours. Food textures like coarse, grainy, granular, smooth, uniform, dry and watery are included in a platter, all eaten together - for example 'nylon' khaman, which as the name suggests has a smooth mouth-feel, is served with coarse chutney. And each dish varies in its sweetness, bitterness, sourness,

spiciness and heat with some of them having a blend of sweet and sour tastes. The breads in a thali include thick and coarse bajra rotla, thin unleavened wheat rotlis, thick and crisp whole wheat flour rotis called bakhris, parathas, savoury griddle bread called the thepla, deep-fried puris, among others. There are many variations like



methi thepla or masala puri within these breads.

While Gujaratis do not follow courses - with everything from the farsan snacks (that would normally be starters) to the sweets (usually be desserts), served in one thali. The rice dishes are usually eaten last with either dal or kadhi. Khichdis, made by soaking and cooking the rice with dal or beans and adding a variety of spices tempered in ghee or oil, and kadhi is a classic combination, while steamed rice is usually eaten with toor dal. Ghee is sometimes added on top of khichdi or rice before eating. These traditions are still followed in many Gujarati homes. Though these days, melamine and crockery are becoming more common than thalis, and wedding repasts are turning to buffet rather than being served in thalis, which probably require a large serving team to keep refilling the kathoris. The thalis are usually made of steel but also of different metal alloys as copper and brass are said to have their own health benefits. Silver thalis signify the status of the host and often also the importance of the occasion or special guest at a dinner. At Vishalla, the iconic village-themed restaurant of Ahmedabad, meals are served on leaf platters. Rajwadu and Vintage Village are other must-visits for tourists wanting to have a Gujarati culinary experience. Agashiye is a restaurant at Ahmedabad's famous heritage hotel, House of Mangaldas Girdhardas, which offers Gujarati thalis with a contemporary tweak. The oldest surviving restaurant in Ahmedabad, Chandra Vilas near

#### PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

Manek Chowk is about 100 years old and is known for Gujarati food.

Manek Chowk is the centre for many renowned places for Gujarati sweets and snacks. At night turns into a street food market, where you can get innovative dishes from cheese dosa to pineapple sandwich. In the 'pols' near Manek Chowk, there are many places selling Jain snacks made without onions, garlic or potatoes like the Kelawada, which has banana replacing potatoes.

The Muslim-dominated Khas Bazaar nearby is known for its non-vegetarian street food. Along the street called Bhatiyar Galli, kebabs, curries and tavafried meats are cooked on 'bhattis'. Kalupur, Jamalpur, Gomtipur and Mirzapur also have many vendors frying meats on griddle pan. In recent years, places serving Arabian fast foods like shawarma and grilled chicken have emerged at Astodia and Juhapura.

Sindhi Market and Revdi Bazaar in this part of Ahmedabad offer Sindhi snacks and meals – pakwan dal and pakoras are favourites. North of these markets, you come to Wadaj, Sardarnagar and Kubernagar, where an extensive variety of Sindhi snacks and dishes are available. Shahibag has many places for Marwari snacks like kachoris.

Maninagar is an area known for its farsan shops. Maninagar- Khokhra Road has a sizable Tamil origin population – one of the first Tamil language schools in northwestern India came up here. As there are many South Indian snack vendors in the area, it is called Idli Char Rasta.

In western Ahmedabad, Law Garden is a very popular zone for street food, kulfis, ice-creams and other eateries. Since this is a very cosmopolitan part of Ahmedabad, restaurants serving multiple cuisines and specialties thrive on CG Road, SG Road, Vastrapur Road, Sindhu Bhawan Road, Prahladnagar Road and other areas of western Ahmedabad.

As you head north from Ahmedabad towards Rajasthan, you will find dhabas serving dal bati and other Rajasthani cuisines.

Guajrati Muslim communities like the Ismaili, Khoja, Dawoodi Bohra, Surti, Memon, Sunni Vohra, Ghanchi and Chhipa are known for their meat dishes. At the Bohravad of Sidhpur, there are families who make Dawoodi Bohra food on prior order. The thal would include kebabs, palidas, which are various dal and rice combinations, kaliya manda, members of the community have nonvegetarian food daily, which is cooked on dum and coal that lend a smoky flavour. The book also talks about the signature hara masala of the Khojas.

Southeast from Ahmedabad, Vadodara or Baroda was once a Maratha-ruled princely state and has a significant Marathi-speaking population. Sev Usal is one of the popular snack foods of Vadodara. 'Jay Mahakali' near Polo Ground is one of the places to get this hot curry. Jainhind is another famous snacking place in Vadodara renowned for its Sabudana Vada,



meat pulao and malai na khajla (creamfilled pastry) or muzzafar (saffronised rice). Sagla bagla is a baklava like sweet made in Surat. According to Khoja Khana, a famous cookbook of the community by Fateema Hooda, Khoja vegetarian food has Gujarati influences but most

Khaman

Sabudana Khichdi, Chakli and Sing Ladoo. Bhakarwadi and Chevdo are fried snacks of Vadodara.

Travel further south from Vadodara to Surat, justly famous for its food. Since Surat and South Gujarat are greener than many other parts of Gujarat, the food here is made with lots of greens, yams like rattalu and herbs. Green garlic is profusely used in Surti cooking. In winter, Surat is famous for its Matla Undhiyu made in an earthen pot. Ponk is another winter specialty of Surat. Farsans are Surat's forte – khaman, locho, coconut patties, kachori and patra are well-known. Rich sweets like ghari are also popular buys from Surat.

A unique culinary heritage of Surat is its Parsee-owned bakeries, some of them over 150 years old. These bakeries date back to the days when the Dutch and British had factories in Surat. After they left, the Parsees started bakeries by modifying the old bakery recipes - thus Farmasu Surti Batasa or Butter Biscuits, Nankhatai and Khari have become must-buys in Surat.

South of Surat, Navsari, Udvada and Sanjan are important places of Parsee pilgrimage. At Udvada, the dharamshala serves traditional Parsee food. Chicken farcha, patra ni machhi, sali murgi,

Undhivu



Surti families, whether Parsee, Hindu, Jain or Muslim, have these biscuits, often dipped in 'malai' with their afternoon cuppa. On Sundays, an interesting market develops at Rander, where Burmese origin foods are available. Zampa Bazaar is famous for its non-vegetarian food, while the Chowk is a vegetarian street food paradise. You will soon understand why Gujaratis say "Surat nu Jaman ane Kashi nu Maran", eating in Surat is as sure a way of getting to heaven as a funeral in sacred Varanasi. shrimp kolmi no patio, saas ni macchi, jaraloo sali boti, tomato ni russ chaval with mutton cutlets and egg dishes are commonly served. Mullet or boi is one of the popular fishes. Dhansak is the mandatory Sunday lunch for Parsee homes. At Navsari or Udvada, you can shop for dhansak masala, biryani masala, vinegar and other ingredients for Parsee food. The coastal areas of South Gujarat are known for their sugarcane fields and mango orchards. In the hills, the tribal population makes interesting dishes using bamboo shoots,

#### THE TASTY TREATS OF GUJARAT

local mushrooms and finger millet called raagi or nagli.

In Saurashtra or the Kathiawad peninsula, which grows high quality chillies and spices but is generally arid with few green vegetables, the food can be fiery and strong on garlic compared to the relatively mild, sweetish flavoured food of mainland Gujarat. In Kutch, which has vast tracts of desert and grassland, as also in Kathiawad, where livestock is plentiful but agriculture marginal, milk products like chaas, lassi, curd, kadhi, shrikhand or basundi, mawa sweets are frequently served as part of a thali.

The signature feature of Kutchi and Kathiawadi food is the bajra rotla eaten with lasan chutney (a green garlic paste usually fiery with chillies), lasaniya bataka (potatoes cooked in a garlic flavoured curry), sev tamatar (tomato curry with slivers of fried dough), seasonal veggies, onions and green chillies. As Kathiawad is a major groundnut producing zone, food is usually cooked in groundnut oil. You can find these dishes and also thalis at many dhabas on the highways as well as in restaurants.

Across Gujarat, families take pride in their hospitality. It would be rude not to eat well, when invited for a meal as the women of the house would take it as an affront to their cooking skills. Families talk knowledgeably about food for different weather conditions, whether it is light-on-the-stomach dishes, cooling foods and increased use of lime, salt, sugar and tomatoes during the summer months, when dehydration can occur in the hot and arid weather or ingredients that keep you warm during the winter months.

#### WHERE TO STAY

#### Hotel Toran Ahmedabad

For booking, visit www.booking.gujarattourism.com

## Top things to do in Ras Al Khaimah

Ras Al Khaimah, the northern-most emirate of the UAE, offers a truly authentic Arabian experience to its visitors; from its golden beaches, lush mangroves and terracotta deserts, to the towering Hajar Mountains bordering Oman. Along with boundless natural attractions and activities, Ras Al Khaimah boasts a number of ancient archaeological sites, giving visitors a fascinating insight into rich culture that still runs through the very heart of the local population. Here is a guide enlisting the top things to explore in Ras Al Khaimah:
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CONTRACTOR AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

TOP THINGS TO DO IN RAS AL KHAIMAH

## The second and the second s

# National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah

Formerly a palace and residence of the Al Qasimi Royal family until 1964, the National Museum of Ras Al Khaimah is now considered the UAE's wealthiest monumental museum and features a diverse collection of historical artifacts, ancient ornaments, priceless manuscripts and traditional weapons, many of which have been donated by the ruling family and residents of the emirate. The museum's rich variety of educational galleries provide a wealth of historical information and depict aspects of traditional life in Ras Al Khaimah and the UAE.

#### PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

#### <sup>2</sup> Dhayah Fort

Originally built as a 16th century fortification to defend against invading forces and now the only hilltop military tower standing in the UAE, Dhayah Fort offers a glimpse into Ras Al Khaimah's riveting past while providing a modern symbol of the emirate's enduring heritage. The site's rich backstory will be an attraction for the military aficionados. Meanwhile, sightseers are sure to enjoy the breathtaking bird's eyeviews of Ras Al Khaimah, framed by the Arabian Gulf and Al Hajar Mountains, thanks to the fort's elevated position atop a rocky outcrop.



An escape from the heat, Iceland Water Park offers thrilling amusement to visitors of all ages. With a wide variety of games, water slides and an extensive food court, Iceland is all about having fun. The park also boasts of arctic penguins, near vertical plunges and world's tallest manmade waterfall, with facilities for guests to actually be in the midst of it!

# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE



Experience Seawings – a seaplane adventure, which takes off from the pristine shores of Ras Al Khaimah for an exciting aerial tour of the city, giving you picturesque views of the Hajar Mountains, the desert and clear blue Arabian Gulf, as well as the rich culture and heritage of the emirate.

AG-SER

# Mountain Activity at Jais Mountain (Hiking, Trekking and more)

At the height of 1934 metres, Jebel Jais is the highest peak in the UAE and is occasionally dusted with snow. Adventure seekers can experience hiking tours and trekking excursions along the artistically eroded cliffs and deep canyons.

#### PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE



# Bedouin Oasis Desert Camp or Bassata Desert Camp

Live the ultimate desert experience with the Bassata Desert Village! Enjoy a wide range of traditional Arabic activities with dune bashing, belly dancer, Arabic Tanoura, camel riding as well as Arabic barbecue. The village also provides facilities to experience an overnight stay.



#### Incredible India



# TRELFIESTAN OF GUJARAT

66

Merely 300 km away from Ahmedabad, the white wonder of Kutch is one of the rare geographical wonders of the world. For the photo junkies, the White Desert will put many international destinations ( to shame with its captivating charm. t is nearly impossible to travel without seeing people posing for camera in a scenic background, requesting other people to take their perfect picture, working on that one special shot and ideal scene. It has now become a tradition to pose for travel selfies (trelfies) whenever you visit any destination.

So if you're also the one who work on those carefree, all-smile, funny, gonatural poses every time you visit new place, here we are suggesting you an exclusive destination located in Gujarat for all your "Click & Post" moments.

Merely 300 km away from Ahmedabad, the white wonder of Kutch is one of the rare geographical wonders of the world. For the photo junkies, the White Desert will put many international destinations to shame with its captivating charm. Forget Instagram filters and photo editing mobile apps, the destination will touch your photographs with all the natural filters, from sparkling background on fullmoon night to many shades of orange during the sunset. The best time to visit this place is during Rann Utsav when the white wonder gets a stunning makeover. The bonfire, tents, rajwadi bhungas, cultural performances, craft bazaar, adventure zone and importantly attractive props placed make it "Trelfiestan of Gujarat".

So, the next time you are in Gujarat and wish to spice up your journey with a unique destination that can act as a perfect background for your trelfies, visit White Rann and make your social media friends and followers go green with envy.





#### When you visit the place, there are some interesting homestays approved by Gujarat Tourism to experience the authentic Gujarati stay:

#### Mr. Gulabi Ismailbhai Pathan

Desert King, At Vadali-Hodka, Po. Dumado Ta. Bhuj, Kutch-370510. Mobile: 9408528545

**Mr. Vikramsinh Mohansinh Sodha** Village Godhiyar, Po. Bhimsar Than, Ta. Nakhatrana, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: 9725339185

#### Mr. Kanaji Devrajbhai Marvada

Rann Bhoomi, Po. Hodka, (Bunny) Ta. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch- 370510 Mobile: 9426969495

#### Mr. Jehan Pestonji Bhujwala

The Bhuj House, Opp. Camp Police Chowki, Camp Area, Po. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: 7567283710

#### Mr. Narendra Veljibhai Dabhi

Plot No. C-161, "Akshar Brahma", PramukhSwami Nagar, Opp. Sheri No.-6, Mundra Relocation Site, Bhuj, Kutch-370001. Mobile: 9374343178

#### Mr. Bharatbhai Ajitbhai Kapadi

Epicenter Homestay, Po. Lodai, Ta. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: 9824503309, 9925313696









**Miss. Gayatri Ramkumar Jat** Jat House, 11 Sanskar Nagar, Bhuj, Kutch. Mobile: 9428294008

**Mr. Sau Ismailbhai Pathan** House No.68, Po. Vadali-Hodka, Ta. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: 9427224914

**Mr. Ramabhai Alabhai Marvada** House No.217, Po. Gorewali, Ta. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: 9427567942

Mr. Suresh Dadubhai Yadav Morden House, Opp. Old KutchMitra press, Camp Area, Bhuj, Kutch-370001. Mobile: 9408725005





#### Mr. Dipakbhai Prabhulal Soni

301-2, Kalyan Complex, Jain Dharmshala Road, Dhawal Nagar-2, Po. Mandvi, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: 9879188904

Mrs. Vimalaben Vrujalal Furiya 67/A, Vruj Villa, Bhanushali Nagar, Nr. Karmabhumi Apt., Mundra Road, Po. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: 9820066210, 9757440222

#### Mr. Govindbhai Bhikhabhai Vaniya

Dhawal Farm, Survey No.751/1, Po.Maay, Ta. Bhachau, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: +91 98255 12122

#### Mr. Amratbhai Rugnathbhai Patel

Plan No.13/A, Sahjanand Nagar, Po. Kukama, Ta. Bhuj, Dist. Kutch-370105. Mobile: +91 99798 59130

#### Mrs. Nishaben Dipakbhai Soni

Dhawal Nagar-2, Plot No.15, Sundarvan, S. T. Road, Po. Mandvi, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: +91 98791 88904

#### Mr. Jugalkishor Tulsirambhai Tiwari

CEDO-Homestay, Survey No.235 P, 13 Umiya Nagar, Po. Moti Virani, Ta. Nakhatrana, Dist. Kutch. Mobile: +91 98252 48135











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