

PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

Published by PRAVEG COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED | www.praveg.com
(Formerly known as PRAVEG COMMUNICATIONS PVT. LTD.)

March 2021

Vol. : 6 | Issue : 7 | Pages : 72 | ₹ 200 RNI Regd. No. GUJ/ENG/2015/70098

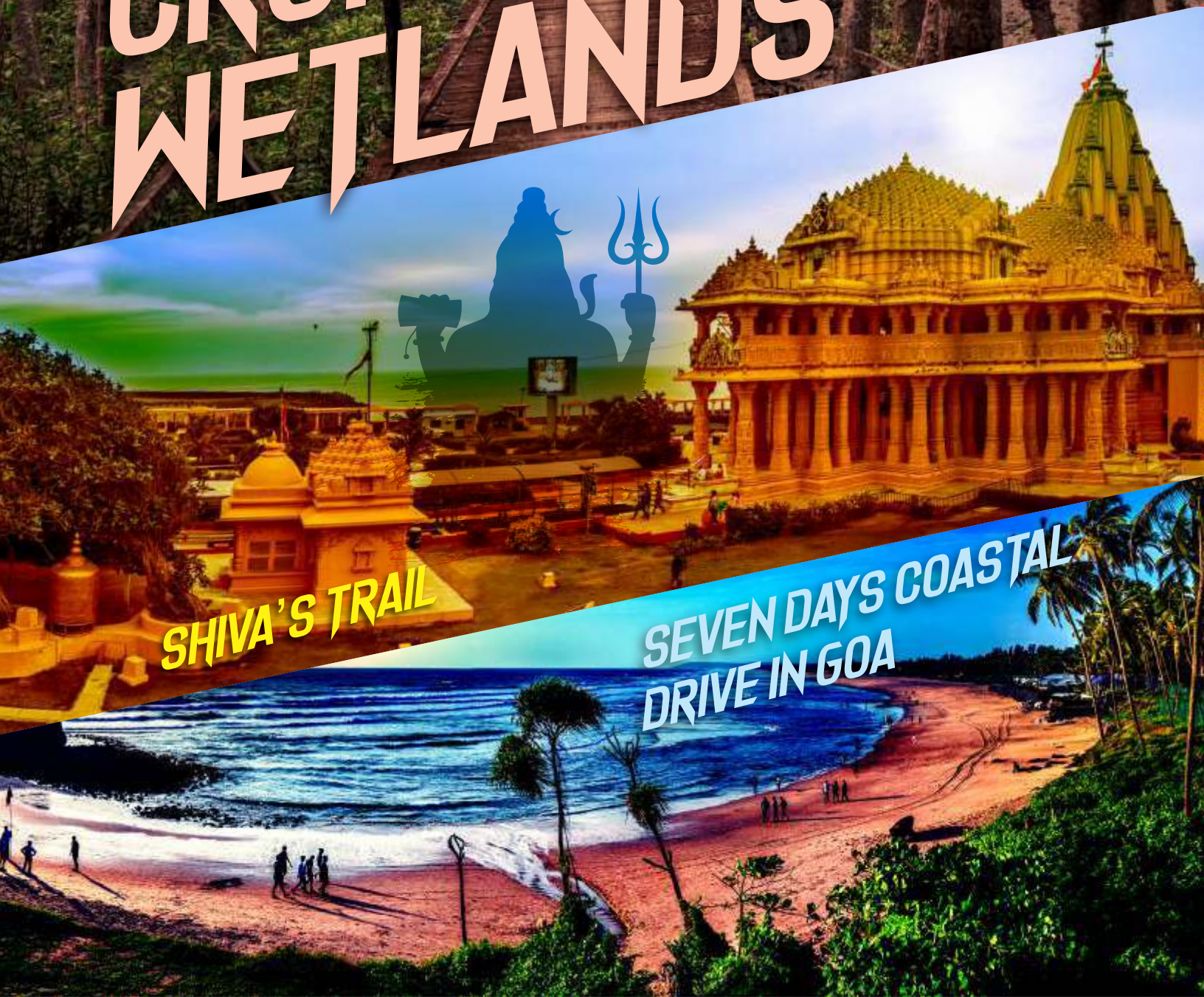
A high-end monthly magazine

CRUISING THE WETLANDS



SHIVA'S TRAIL

SEVEN DAYS COASTAL DRIVE IN GOA



TORAN HOTELS



- MT. ABU
- SAPUTARA
- DWARKA
- JUNAGADH
- PORBANDAR
- VADNAGAR
- VANZ (SURAT)
- MATWAD (NAVSARI)
- NARAYAN SAROVAR
- DHORDO (KUTCH)
- PAVAGADH
- PALITANA

KEY ATTRACTIONS

- Comfortable Stay Options
- Warm Hospitality
- Authentic Gujarati Food
- Reasonable Rates

TORAN GANDHI ASHRAM - AHMEDABAD



YOU'RE SAFE WITH US!

- Cleaning & Sanitization
- Temperature & Wellbeing Check
- Hand Hygiene & Social Distancing
- Masks & Gloves
- Food Safety Protocols

Hospitality with enhanced cleanliness and wellbeing measures



Contact for Booking:

Phone: +91 79 - 2755 9342 Mobile: +91 94281 01742

Email: hoteltorangh@gujarattourism.com

booking.gujarattourism.com 1800 200 5080

FLOWING LIKE A RIVER...

Summer is here and if your only plan to beat the heat is a hill station, maybe it is time to think something different. How about rivers? Vacation alongside river is a soothing experience for those looking for solitude. Meditating on the riverbank with water melodies in the background is a treat for those yearning for tranquility. And the adrenaline junkies can find their thrills in the river water sports activities.

This edition of Praveg's Tourism One takes you through the rivers of Gujarat, the State famous for its astonishing flora, fauna and abundant nature. Blessed with the bountiful supply of rivers, every riverbank in Gujarat has a different charm to offer to the tourists.

Not only rivers, we also guide you through your stay by the sea in our article 'Seven Days Coastal Drive in Goa'. Explore the coastal attractions of the destination with a pleasant road trip and its wide-ranging beach facilities. Read on!

Gujarat Homestays

Home Away from Home



- First-hand experience of Gujarat's culture and traditions
- A wide range of homestays at all tourist destinations across Gujarat
- Curated hygiene & hospitality practices
- Timely scrutiny and inspection to ensure comfort, hygiene and safety

📞 1800 200 5080

✉ info@gujarattourism.com

🌐 www.gujarattourism.com

PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

March 2021



Praveg Communications Limited
(Formerly known as PRAVEG COMMUNICATIONS PVT. LTD.)
102, Shanti Arcade, 132ft Ring Road,
Naranpura, Ahmedabad 380013.
Tel.: +91-79-27496737, 99251 71538
e: tourismone@praveg.com
www.praveg.com

Download an e-copy of Tourism One from
www.praveg.com

Editorial Team
Priyanka Desai

Design Team
Mahesh Patel
Yagnesh Bhavsar
Rakesh Bhavsar

DISCLAIMER: All information in Praveg's TOURISM ONE is derived from sources we consider reliable. It is passed on to our readers without any responsibility on our part. All images are copyrighted by their respective owners unless otherwise stated. Opinions/views expressed by third parties are not necessarily shared by us. Material appearing in the magazine cannot be reproduced, whether in part(s) or in whole, without prior permission.

Be a part of Praveg's Tourism One:

Share with us some enthusiastic inputs like photographs, essays or anything related to tourism.

Have some suggestions for us?

Go ahead and send us your ideas, valuable opinions or topics you would like to see more coverage on.

FOR SUBSCRIPTION QUERIES, CONTACT:
tourismone@praveg.com

Contents	Cruising The Wetlands	4
	Shiva's Trail	14
	Seven Days Coastal Drive In Goa	18
	River Trails In Gujarat	34
	Fly To Statue Of Unity	44
	Intriguing Thiruvananthapuram	46
	Quick Escapes	56

CRUISING THE WETLANDS

On World Wetlands Day, we look at some exciting places to explore the waters.

VEMBANAD, KERALA

A unique aspect of Kerala's geography is its backwaters, a network of rivers, streams, lagoons, lakes, canals and tanks that run along most of its coastline. The backwaters have few outlets to the sea and the lagoons depend on rivers to be fed regularly. In the monsoon, sea waters enter parts of the inland lagoons and canals. The alternating saline and fresh water are essential to the aquatic life on the backwaters including the coveted karimeen fish.

Touring the backwaters is one of the highlights of a visit to Kerala. Waterfront activities like coir-making, rice growing, toddy-tapping and fishing can be along the banks and traditional dug-outs carrying produce are passed on the waterways. The banks are green with coconut palms and groves of mango, papaya, jackfruit and other fruit trees. Tapioca is among the other crops grown along the backwaters. Entire settlements are located on strips of land separating the waterways and the houses have poultry, cattle, pigs and ducks, and even vegetable gardens. Prawns and fish are farmed on the backwaters, sand is dredged for construction and shells are collected for production of lime. The

boats pass canals where coconuts, coir, cashews and food are loaded onto dug-outs.

The signature place for backwaters tourism is the town of Alappuzha or Allepey, a market town clustered along a network of canals. The waterways are still in use and service the coir industry that thrives in Alappuzha from the 19th century. Another important industry is cashew processing. Some of the old factories and warehouses still stand near the waterways. About 30 minutes from Alapuzha, Mararikulam is well-known for its attractive beach. Here you can watch fishing activities and visit an old village. There are many interesting temples and ashrams near Alapuzha. The Sree Krishna Ananda Temple at Ambalapuzha is a good example of Kerala architecture with gabled roofs, carved wooden facades and a sacred tank. Haripad has one of Kerala's most important Subrahmaya Temples with an idol of the four-armed deity that devotees believe was found in the river. Alapuzha has a number of Kerala heritage house hotels in the town and there are many resorts on the outskirts.

GO BIRDING AT BRIJGHAT

Brijghat on the banks of River Ganga is an exciting place for a boat trip on the Upper Ganges. There are many holy places like Vedanti Temple, Ganga Mandir, Hanuman Mandir, Gangaghat and Falahari Mataji's Kutli are other places. From this pilgrimage place, boats take you past Garhmukteshwar and other points. Shallow river stretch of the great Ganges with intermittent small

stretches of deep-water pools and reservoirs upstream from barrages. The river provides habitat for IUCN Red listed Ganges River Dolphin, Gharial, Crocodile, 6 species of turtles, otters, 82 species of fish and more than hundred species of birds. Major plant species, some of which have high medicinal values, include Dalbergia sissoo, Saraca indica, Eucalyptus globulus, Ficus bengalensis, Dendrocalamus strictus, Tectona grandis, Azadirachta indica and aquatic Eichhorina.



Source: Abhishekagni/Shutterstock

Garhmukteshwar

ENJOY CITY VIEWS AT THE BHOPAL LAKES

Bhopal's two lakes, Bhojtal and Lower Lakes, are situated on the west central part of the city with Van Vihar National Park on the south, human settlements on the east and north, and agriculture fields on the west. This is a beautiful part of Bhopal with hills in the backdrop. The lakes are rich in birds like

ducks, storks and herons. The globally-threatened sarus crane is also seen.

As you take a boat ride on the lake, you can enjoy views of the cityscapes and the nearby hills. Just near the lake, the Van Vihar Zoological Park is one of the favourite recreational places for many families visiting Bhopal with their

children. The driving trail round the five sq km woodland of Van Vihar is really pleasant, as most of it runs along the lake. The zoo enclosures are large and naturalistic to give the look of the natural habitat. Most of the crowds gather to see the white tiger. The safari zones with deer and antelope are unique.

Boating, Upper Lake



Boating, Upper Lake



Van Vihar National Park

JUNGLE CRUISE ON THE SUNDARBAN

The Sundarban mangrove forest, the largest such forest in the world covering about 10000 sq km, is part of the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. Much of it falls in India and the other parts are in Bangladesh.

A boat tour at the mouth of the rivers is a delightful way to explore the mangrove forests. Some 78 species of mangroves have been recorded in the area making it one of the richest forests in the world. The mangrove forest is one of the most biologically productive of all forest ecosystems - the Sundarbans supports a wealth of mammals, birds, reptiles, fish and crustaceans. It is home to the world's largest tiger population. Threatened aquatic mammals such as the Irrawaddy and Ganges River dolphins could be seen. Kingfishers can be seen hovering over the water and waders on the mud banks. The estuarine saltwater crocodile, one of the largest of reptiles, is often seen basking on the shores, and you can also see the water monitor lizards. Spotted deer is quite common and, if you are lucky, you could see the fishing cat. Sundarban is an important habitat for river terrapin, and the beaches are nesting grounds for olive riley, green and hawksbill sea turtles.

The boats have kitchens where food is freshly cooked and served during the journey.



Saltwater Crocodile



Sundarbans Mangroves and Tiger Reserve



Lagoon

Mangrove Forest

CROCODILE-SPOTTING AT BHITARNIKA

Bhitarkanika is India's second largest mangrove ecosystem after the Sunderbans. Boats take you through creeks and canals which are inundated with waters from rivers Brahmani, Baitarani, Dhamra and Patasala forming a unique ecosystem.

During your journey you can see the endangered Saltwater Crocodile, the largest reptile. Bhitarkanika is one of the best places to see these estuarine giants. You can also see water monitor lizards, pythons and turtles. A huge number of birds can be seen during the boat trip.

The other unique phenomenon is the Bagagahana or the heronry near Surajpore creek. You can see a large number of nesting birds.



Brahmani River



Bhitarkanika National Park

Shiva's trail

Gujarat makes an interesting pilgrimage for Shiva devotees during Shivratri.



Near the picturesque city of Junagadh, the Bhavnath Mahadev temple is a shrine at the base of Mount Girnar in Bhavnath village. It is believed that when Shiva and Parvati were travelling over the

Girnar Hills, their divine garment fell over the present Mrigi Kund, making this place an auspicious site for Lord Shiva worshipers. The Shiva Linga here is said to have emerged of its own divine intention.

The Bhavnath Fair is one of the most vibrant celebrations of Shivratri. The Naga Bawas do a Parikrama of the Girnar hills before arriving at the temple site. Here, they bathe in the Mrigi Kund. The market comes up here for the sale of

religious items with some of the stalls run by people coming from other states. You can see colourfully painted elephants, Naga sadhus' Hatha yoga and occult practices. The whole place resounds with music and blowing of

auspicious conch shells, tungis, and turis, with the Naga Sadhus on their elephants, holding Hindu religious flags in their hands, preceded by a decorated statue of Lord Dattatreya, in a palanquin for the procession. This fair is also a

good place to see Bhavai theatre and other folk performances. At midnight of Maha Shivaratri, the fair culminates with rituals.

About two hours from Bhavnath, Somnath Temple is believed to have been built in 4 phases, in gold by Lord Soma, the Moon God, to show his gratitude to Lord Shiva who cured him of the effects of poison, in silver by Ravi (believed to be Ravana by some, the Sun god by others), and in wood by lord Krishna and constructed in stone by Bhimadeva. Waves of destruction engulfed Somnath as tales of its riches spread. When Mahmud of Ghazni plundered Somnath, it is said that his entire caravan serai could not take back the wealth of the temple. The temple was destroyed by successive invasions, and each time was reconstructed with a religious passion at the same site.

In 1024, during the reign of Bhima I, the prominent Turkic ruler Mahmud of Ghazni raided Gujarat, plundering the Somnath temple and breaking its jyotirlinga despite pleas by Brahmins not to break it. The Solanki ruler Kumarapala (rebuilt it in "excellent stone and studded it with jewels," according to an inscription in 1169). During its 1299 invasion of Gujarat, Alauddin Khalji's army, led by Ulugh Khan, sacked the Somnath temple.

The temple was rebuilt by Mahipala I, the Chudasama king of Saurashtra in 1308 and the lingam was installed by his son Khengara sometime between 1331 and 1351. As late as the 14th century, Gujarati Muslim pilgrims were noted by Amir Khusrow to stop at that temple to pay their respects before departing for the Hajj pilgrimage.

In 1395, the temple was destroyed for the third time by Zafar Khan, the last Governor of Gujarat under the Delhi Sultanate and later founder of Gujarat Sultanate. In 1451, it was desecrated by Mahmud Begada, the Sultan of Gujarat.

In 1546, the Portuguese, based in Goa, attacked ports and towns in Gujarat including Somnath and destroyed several temples and mosques.

By 1665, the temple, one of many, was ordered to be destroyed by Mughal



Somnath Temple



Bhalka Teerth

emperor Aurangzeb. In 1702, he ordered that if Hindus revived worship there, it should be demolished completely

The final reconstruction activity was in 1950 AD, when Sardar Patel had the temple restored. When Patel, K. M. Munshi and other leaders of the Congress went to Mahatma Gandhi with their proposal to reconstruct the Somnath temple, Gandhi blessed the move, but suggested that the funds for the construction should be collected from the public and the temple should not be funded by the state. He

expressed that he was proud to associate himself to the project of renovation of the temple. However, soon both Gandhi and Sardar Patel died and the task of reconstruction of the temple continued under Munshi, who was the Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, in Jawaharlal Nehru's cabinet.

The ruins were pulled down in October 1950, In May 1951, Rajendra Prasad, the first President of the Republic of India, invited by K M Munshi, performed the installation ceremony for the temple. The President said in his

address, "It is my view that the reconstruction of the Somnath Temple will be complete on that day when not only a magnificent edifice will arise on this foundation, but the mansion of India's prosperity will be really that prosperity of which the ancient temple of Somnath was a symbol.". He added "The Somnath temple signifies that the power of reconstruction is always greater than the power of destruction."

The present temple is built in the Chalukya style of temple architecture, called the "Kailash Mahameru Prasad"

style, and its carvings reflect the skill of the Sompura Salats, hereditary artisans of Gujarat. The temple's śikhara, or main spire, is 15 metres in height, and it has an 8.2-metre tall flag pole at the top. The temple has a portico and hallway leading to the sanctum which houses one of the 12 sacred jyotirlingams.

The Prabhas Patan Museum, a short walk from the temple, has sculpture, columns and architectural fragments of the original temples of Somnath, among other exhibits.

The Somnath Museum near the bus

stand offers an insight into the maritime activity in the region.

The temple built by Ahilya Holkar at Somnath is a fine work of architecture. The Surya Mandir is in the typical Sun temple architectural style of the Chalukyan period. Triveni tirth, where three rivers meet the sea, is a picturesque pilgrim spot. Lord Krishna is commemorated by a chattri at the confluence of the rivers and the sea. There is a cave nearby associated with the Pandavas. Balkha tirth is where Lord Krishna is said to have disappeared. ☐

Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board



Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board works towards promotion of pilgrimage destinations of Gujarat. The Board carries out activities for the development of basic infrastructure and tourist facility at the godly destinations of Gujarat.

SEVEN DAYS COASTAL DRIVE IN

Goa is deservedly famous for its endless stretches of sandy beach. Here you can find wide-ranging beach facilities from luxury resorts to affordable hotels, beachside restaurants and seafood shacks, water sports, spas and massage centres, and entertainment options. Each beach has its distinctive geographical, cultural and infrastructural, characteristics and many of the coastal sites have cultural attractions like forts, churches, architecturally interesting mansions or picturesque villages. A road trip offers an exciting way to explore the coastal attractions.





Source: Alamy/Shutterstock

Baga beach



Tiracol Beach

DAY-1 TIRACOL

Arrive at the at Terekhol, a tiny but strategically located fort. Built by the Bhosle dynasty of Sawantwadi in the 17th century, the fort is protected from the sea and has moats along the landward facing walls.

Several canons line the ramparts that are well preserved and offer superb views from the bastions. The Portuguese captured it in the 18th century and built the St Anthony's Church inside. The church has a decorated reredos and services are still held here.

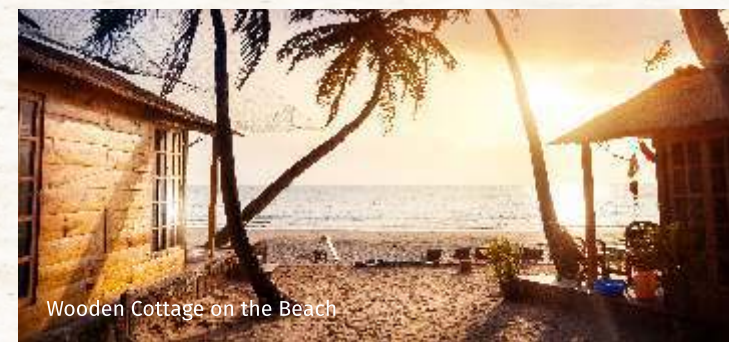


Fort Tiracol



Arambol beach

DAY-2 MORJIM



Wooden Cottage on the Beach



Beach Shack

Take the ferry from the fort to casuarinas-line Keri, which is a relatively little visited beach for much of the year.

The road from Keri goes south through valleys and woods to reach beautiful Arambol, one of the most picturesque beaches with a sweeping stretch of sand and craggy cliffs. Wooden boats abound on the beach and the village is populous. Climb to the Parasurama temple on a hilltop for a superb view of the beach and a glorious sunset. Beachside shacks and stalls sell a variety of food and souvenirs, and at night the candle-lit tables of the shacks make the beach look magical.

Mandrem is a less crowded beach, while Aswem attracts a celeb crowd. Morjim is a dramatic beach and an excellent bird watching site. It is also a nesting area for sea turtles.

Anjuna Beach in North Goa



DAY-3 ANJUNA

Drive south from here to Siolim, with the Church of St Anthony and many impressive mansions, and then to Badem Church near Chapora, which has a good view especially at sunset. The Chapora Fort stands on a rocky headland commanding the Chapora River Estuary. Built in the 16th century by the Sultans, the fort was rebuilt by the Portuguese in the 17th century and again in 1717 to guard against threats of Maratha attacks. The fort fell to the Marathas in the same century and was taken again much later. After the Portuguese conquered the northern taluka of Pernem, the fort was

no longer needed as a line of defense and abandoned in the late - 19th century. The fortifications contain Muslim tombs, ramparts and tunnels. From the ramparts, you can enjoy a good view of the Vagatoor Beach and the sea. This is a pretty beach with views of red laterite cliffs, green hills and woodlands. It is popular with the partying crowd.

Drive from here to Anjuna, which is a lovely sandy beach with a village and cliffs to the north and beach bars and eateries to the south. Once famous as a hub of the hippie scene, it is most popular on Wednesdays when a flea market is held near the beach.

Flea Market



Source: Olga Vasileva/Shutterstock

Aguada Fort



Baga Beach



DAY-4 CANDOLIM

Just south of Anjuna, Goa's signature beaches, Baga, Calangute, Candolim and Sinquerim form a long stretch of sand backed by restaurants, shacks and other tourist facilities. Baga has interesting scenery with a wooded rocky headland, a small river along which you can see colourful fishing boats, and a soft white sand beach which can become a narrow strip in the high tide. This is an area that exemplifies touristic Goa with lovely restaurants, bars, shacks and facilities. The night markets of

Baga-Arpora are lively and appealing. The thickly vegetated hill is good for walks and bird spotting.

South of Baga, Calangute is one of the busiest coastal villages in North Goa. It is crowded with places to stay or eat, and other facilities like water sports, massages and boat trips to watch dolphins. Candolim immediately to the south of Calangute is a long and straight beach with scrubby dunes. Sinquerim to its south was the birthplace of up market tourism in Goa because Taj found this an idyllic spot for a resort built along the fort of Aguada. Fort Aguada itself is one of the best preserved forts of Goa. Set on a headland, it was the ideal location for

landward and seaward defense in 1612, when the Portuguese faced the threats of Dutch invasion. The fort has thick laterite walls and a huge bastion with the most dominating structure being the lighthouse. Walking through the fort, you can see natural springs that would have provided enough water to last a siege. At one point, the fort had 200 canons, two magazines, barracks, prisons and residential quarters and played an important part during the Maratha attacks of the 18th century. Today, the points of interest at the fort for visitors are the thick laterite walls, the bastion on the hilltop and the old lighthouse. The motorable road up the plateau leads to the attractive church of St Lawrence, which is a pleasant viewpoint.



Dona Paula

DAY-5 PANJIM

named Panaji, which is the capital of Goa. Panaji is full of heritage sites like Portuguese colonial period houses, churches and chapels. The

From Fort Aguada, the drive of about 13km to Panjim goes past Reis Magos, a headland where Albuquerque stationed forces when he arrived at Goa. The fort here was built in the mid-16th century by Don Alfonso de Noronha and just below the fortifications is the Reis Magos Church, built in 1555 and restored in the 18th century. Dedicated to the tale of the three Magi, the church interior is very colourful and is dominated by a wooden panel painted with the three gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Infant Jesus. There is a viceroys' cemetery here as well.

Mandovi River Cruise is one of Panaji's prime attractions - you board at Santa Monica Jetty and go along towards the sea, enjoying the views and stage performances.

Panaji's seafront boulevard runs along the estuary of Mandovi River. Miramar beach offers play areas for children. Dona Paula is a small beach lined with palms and casuarinas. There is a superb view from a platform near the Raj Bhawan called Cabo Raj Niwas. Vainguinim Beach to the east of Dona Paula has good resorts like Charles Correa designed Cidade-de-Goa. This is also an area with fruit orchards. A short drive from here, Siridao is a secluded beach, where you can see colourful seashells.

Cross the river to Panjim, now



Miramar Beach



Mandovi River



Portuguese colony



Reis Magos Church

Source: Dilipapala M K/Shutterstock



Colva Beach

Colva Beach

**DAY-6
COLVA**

South of the Mormugao bay lies a row of beautiful beaches with about 25km of uninterrupted sandy beach, which is the longest beach stretch in the state of Goa. Not surprisingly, most of Goa's luxurious resorts are located along this

25km stretch of South Goa. Taj Exotica, Park Hyatt Goa Resort and Spa, Leela Goa, Kenilworth, Majorda, Ramada and Alla Diwa Goa are all located in the Majorda – Mobor stretch.

As you enter South Goa, Bogmalo is a family beach, good for swimming and

water sports like windsurfing. South of Bogmalo, Majorda, Arossim and Utorda are flat, open and wide beaches backed by paddy fields and villages. Many of Goa's luxury resorts are located on this stretch. About 7 km south from Majorda, Colva has one of the most popular

beaches of South Goa because of its lovely sands and the shade provided by coconut palms. Benaulim, Varca, Cavelossim and Mobor are other beautiful beaches.

While staying at these beaches, don't miss out on seeing churches, elaborate Indo-Portuguese mansions and markets.

While in Colva, there are many heritage attractions to be seen like several churches, the mansions of Madgaon, beautiful heritage houses and the Ancestral Goa Museum. You can also look further for prehistoric art and Buddhist caves.

DAY-7
PALOLEM

and fell into neglect. Several canons line the ramparts that are well preserved and offer superb views from the bastions. The church inside is still used.

The southern beaches of Goa, near the Karnataka border, have developed for tourism more recently than Colva or Calangute.

At the far south of Goa, Cabo de Rama is one of the most imposing forts of South Goa. It is named for Rama who is said to have lived on this cape with his wife, Sita and brother, Laxman. The fort existed on the laterite headland for centuries before the Portuguese conquered it in 1763 from the Raja of Sonda. It was practically rebuilt by the Portuguese but saw little action, except during the British occupation of Goa,

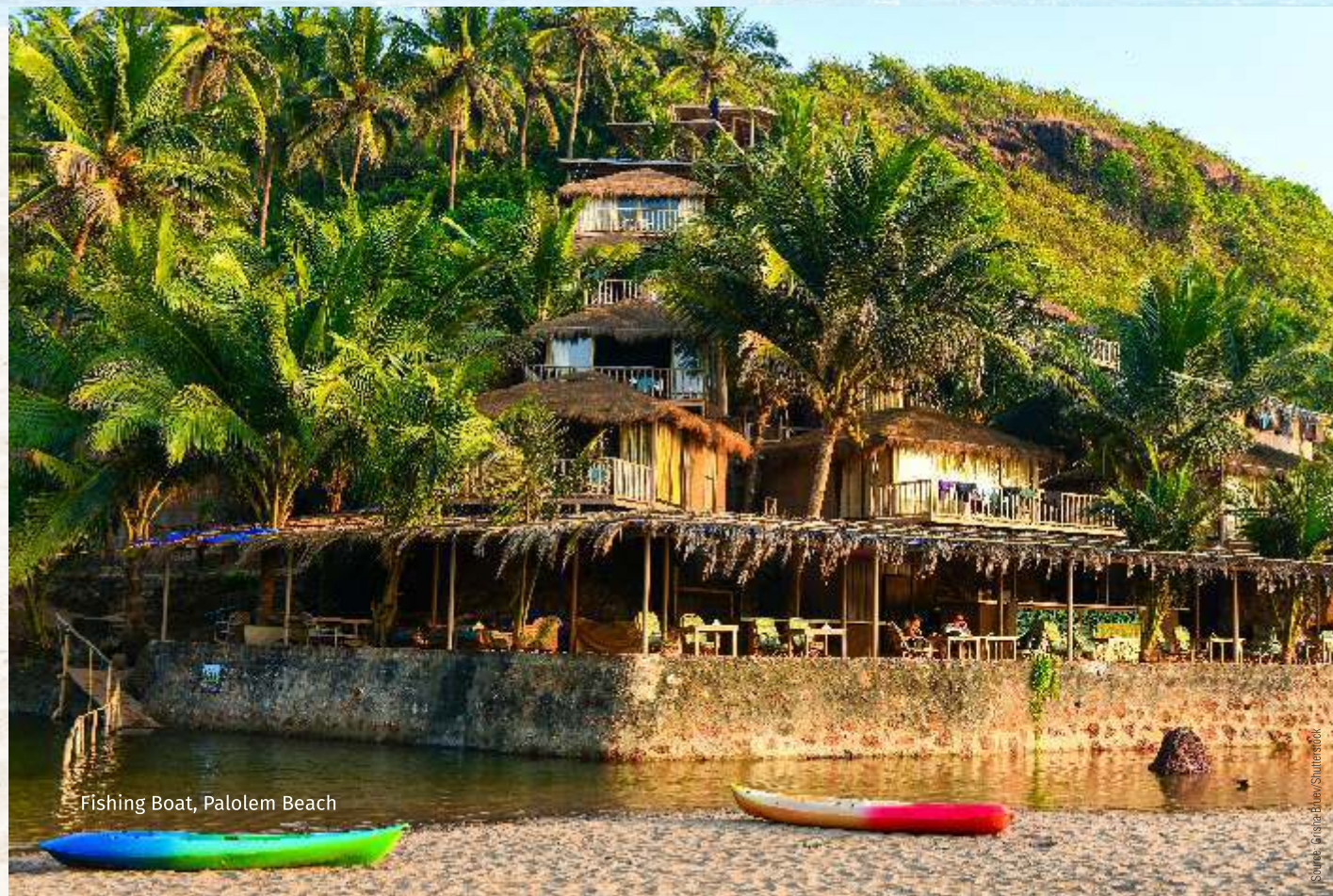
Agonda village near the fort has a nice white beach.

At the southern end of Goa, Palolem is a true paradise beach – a perfect curve of golden sand lined with palms, stretching from forests, rocky outcrops and boulders at one end to Canacona Island at the other.

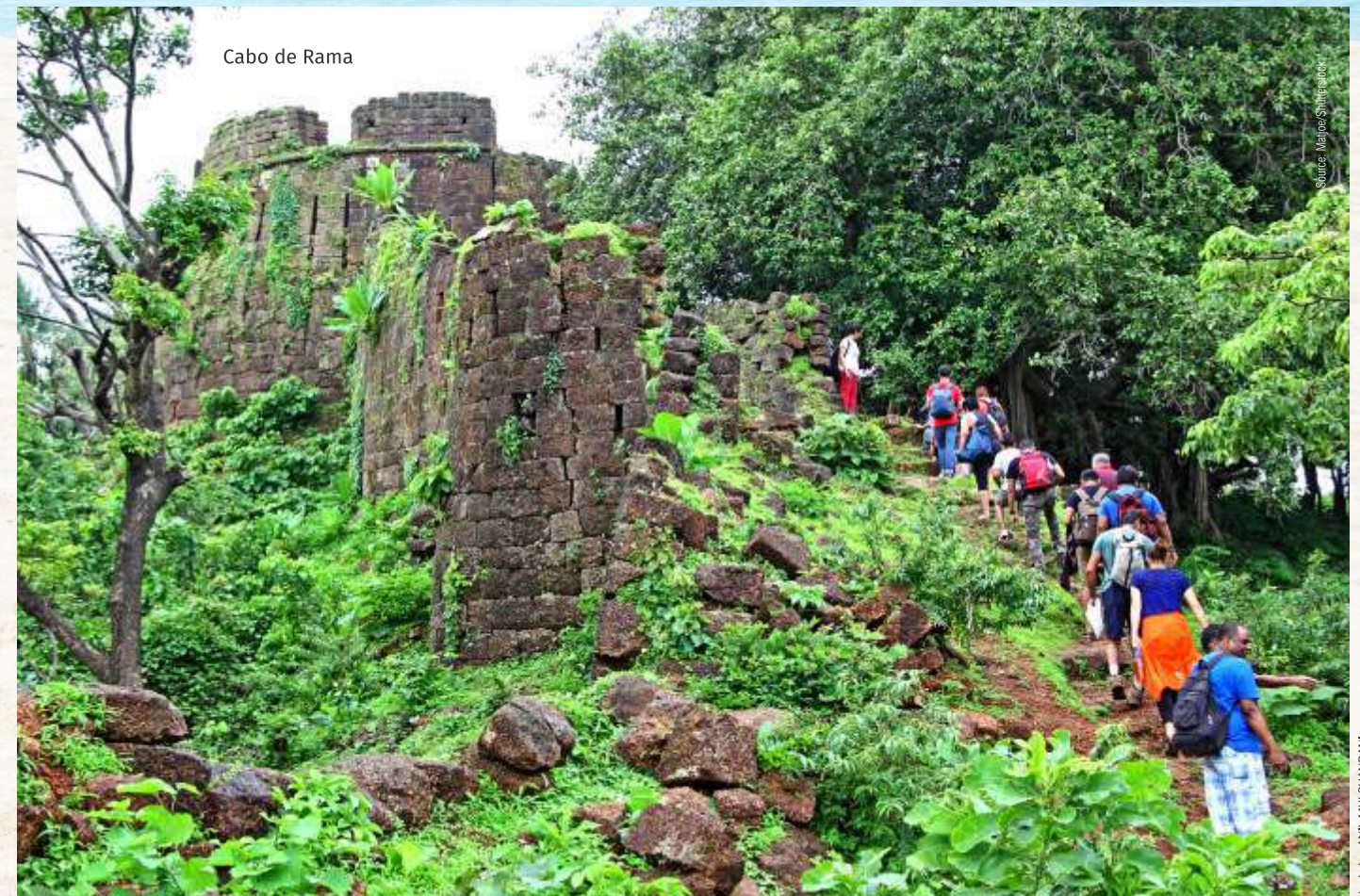
Sea eagles can be seen flying over and dolphin spotting is frequent. It has a cosmopolitan mix of eating places from affordable shacks to stylish restaurants. Walk southward from here to Patnem, which is a less crowded beach. The LaLit Golf & Spa Resort Goa is a plush resort at Canacona. ■



Palolem Beach



Fishing Boat, Palolem Beach



Cabo de Rama



RIVER TRAILS IN GUJARAT

Let's visit some of the
riverside spots of Gujarat

A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY ALONG THE NARMADA

ruled by Parmar Rajputs who brought the Harsidhhi Mataji Idol from Ujjain as their Kuladevi. According to the story, Vikramaditya is said to have visited Koyla Dungar at Miyani, where he was blessed by the Devi. He requested Harsidhhi Mata to come to his kingdom at Ujjain, where he would worship her daily. The idol stands in a temple dedicated to Harsidhhi Mataji, considered one of the aspects of Amba and Kalika. She is also religiously worshiped

about 56km to Nareshwar passing green fields and sprawling trees. Nareshwar is associated with the spiritual leader, Rang Avadhoot, called Puja Bapji by his disciples who after considerable travels across, decided to settle here in the 1920s. From his shrine, there are steps down to the Narmada.

Around 46km from Nareshwar, Bharuch derives its name from the great sage Bhrgu. Though Bharuch today is largely known as the headquarters of a

temples. Bhrgu Rishi Temple is one of the most visited.

16km from Bharuch, Shuklatirth is the base to visit Kabirvad. From Kabirmadhi, boats take you to the river island, where there is a banyan tree associated with 15th century mystic-poet Kabir. It is believed that the banyan tree was sprouted from Datoon (twig used as a toothbrush). The shrine to Kabir here is much visited by Kabirpanthis. Narmada meets the sea at



Ghat on Narmada river Chandod



Way to sangam Chandod

Narmada River Chandod

A drive of about 55km from Vadodara to Chandod leads through fertile areas with sugarcane fields, banana orchards and other cultivation interspersed with patches of wilderness. Chandod lies at the convergence of the Narmada, Orsang, and mythical Saraswati rivers. As a river is holiest at a confluence, this is one of the most visited places for rituals along the Narmada.

From the village, steps lead down to the Narmada. At platforms and halls, priests offer to guide you through

prayers and rituals. There are numerous ghats on the river such as Badrinarayan Ghat, Nanderia Ghat, Marwadi Ghat, Chakratirth Ghat, Kapileshwar Mahadev Ghat, Jivan Nath Ghat, Sangam Ghat, Somnath Ghat, among others.

You can take a boat ride from here to the confluence called Chanod Karnali Triveni Sangam, which is an important place for ritual bathing and the immersion of ashes. Chandod abounds in temples like Kuber Bhandari, Kapileshwar Mahadev, Lakshmi Narayan,

Hateshwar, Swami Narayan, among others. About 10km from Chandod is the Nilkanth Dham with the Swaminarayan Temple of Poicha. Along the Narmada, Nilkanth Dham has an exhibition zone, a park, a play area for children, food court and other facilities for visitors. The temple looks most attractive when lit up in the evening. The milk pudding here is an added attraction for visitors.

From Chandod, it is a drive of about 21km to Rajpipla, the headquarters of Narmada district. Rajpipla was once

by fisher folk and boatmen as protector of vessels on the sea and river.

Around 18km from Rajpipla is the Datta Mandir of Garudheshwar. Garudheshwar is closely associated with Vasudevanand Saraswati, also known as Tembe Swami, a saint who is regarded as an incarnation of Dattatreya. Vasudevanand Saraswati's body was immersed into the Narmada River, where the Samadhi (tomb) has been built on the river bank at Garudheshwar.

From Rajpipla, it is a scenic drive of

heavily industrialized district, this city still retains many places of historical and religious importance, including ghats on the Narmada and numerous

a place called Mithi Talai near Bharuch. There are several islands in the estuary of the Narmada of which Aliabet is the largest Homestays in Narmada district.

HOMESTAY

Mr. Prafulbhai Ochhavlal Bhatt, Narmada

Bhavani Corporation, "Bhatt Sheri" Near Eye Hospital, Opp. Old Post office, Darbar Road, Po. Rajpipla, Dist Narmada
Mobile: 8141748999

Mr. Viral Prafulbhai Bhatt, Narmada

Galaxy Homestay, Galaxy Corporation, "Aastha" B/H Saibaba Mandir, Opp. Mudra Press, Navapara, Rajpipla, Dist.Narmada - 393145.
Mobile: 8141731100, 8141748999

FOOD AND FARMS ALONG THE MAHI RIVER

River Sabarmati on the western side. The southern side is attached to the Gulf of Khambhat. The major area of the district has canal irrigation facility and therefore irrigated farming is practiced. The drive between Kheda and Khambat offers landscapes of irrigated farmlands. Keep your binoculars handy as many birds can be seen at Daloli, Gobrapura, Narda, Machhial, the Periej Lake and many water bodies.

accommodations, including a Heritage Wing. Home-style food is offered to guests and this includes some of the heirloom recipes of the family.

From Misriote Farm, take the road to the Galteshwar Mahadev Temple. This

of Balasinor has its own farms, fruit trees and livestock. The royal family takes pride in its cuisine which has Mughlai influences. Freshly ground spices, buffalo milk cream and agricultural produce goes into the dishes. This heritage hotel has rooms in the histori-



Misroite Farm on Mahisagar River



Misroite Farm on Mahisagar River

The Mahi River flows from Dhar in Madhya Pradesh through Rajasthan before entering Gujarat, where the Mahisagar district has been named for this river. From here, the river goes through Vadodara and Anand districts before heading to its estuary at the Gulf of Khambhat.

From Ahmedabad, take the road to Kheda. Kheda district is located between two major rivers: Mahisagar on the eastern side and Vatrak, a tributary of



The Garden Palace of Balasinor

Mahisagar River Galteshwar Temple

From Kheda, continue along the Vadodara highway to Vasad, a small town on the Mahisagar River. The land of Vasad is full of gorges. Turn off the highway and head to Misriote Farm, which has a homestay run by Gyaneshwari Singh and shooting medalist Ishwar Singh. Visit the organic farm and enjoy views of the river from the farm. The highlight of the farm is the Trap Shooting Range, where the owners arrange shooting lessons. The farm has

12th century temple is unique in its style and of its period because it is built in central Indian Malwa architecture though it is in Gujarat. It has a square shrine and an octagonal mandapa. Walk around the temple to see the splendid carvings on the walls and brackets. Galteshwar is a popular picnic spot on the Mahi River.

From Galteshwar, it is a short drive to the Garden Palace of Balasinor. This sprawling estate of the erstwhile Nawab

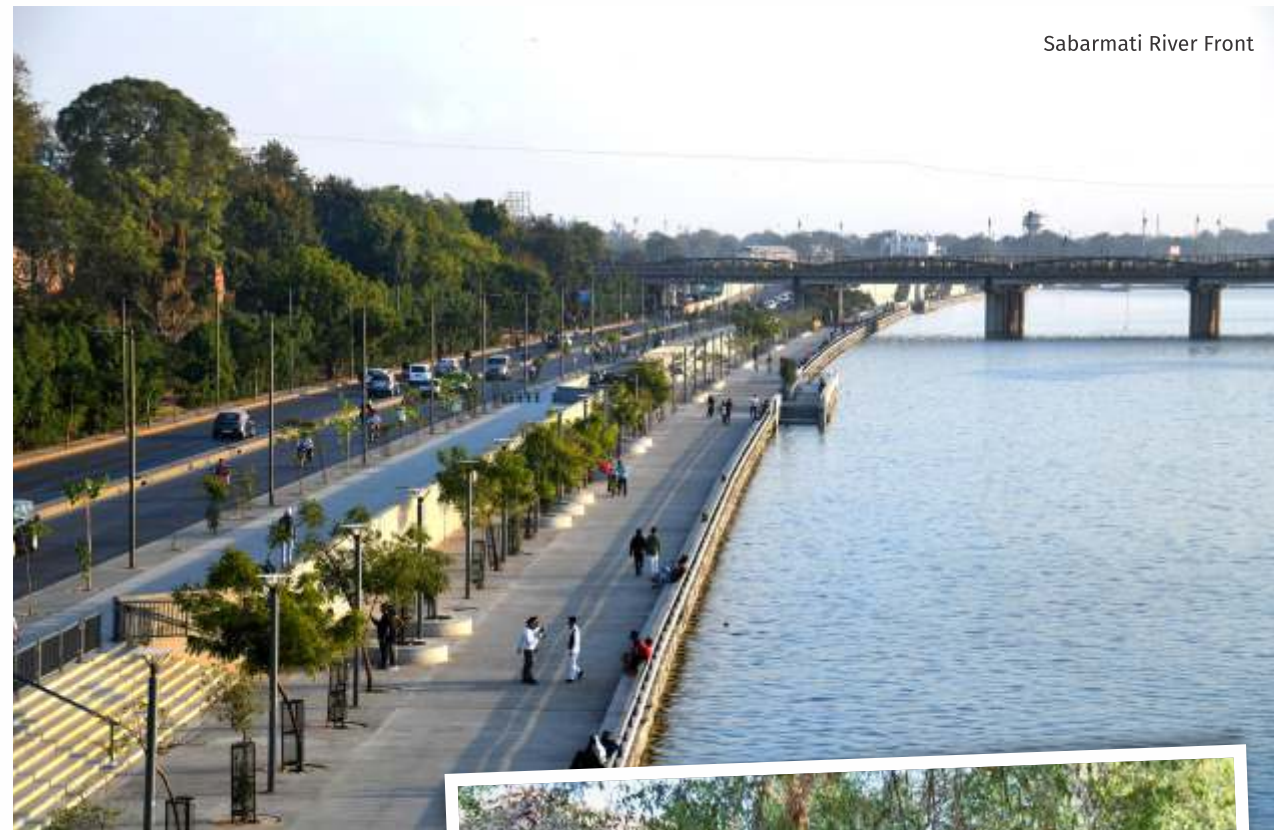
cal mansion and also cottages in the garden. Watch the flocks of parakeets and other birds gathering around the fruiting trees.

HOMESTAY

Mr. Ishwar Singh Shamsher Singh, Parthampura

Misriote Farm, Po. Parthampura, Ta. Savli, Dist. Vadodara-391780. Mobile: 8141314141, 9638566606

MODERN MARVELS ALONG THE SABARMATI



Sabarmati River Front



Gandhi Ashram

The Sabarmati River of Ahmedabad has been integral to its growth since Sultan Ahmed Shah laid the foundations of the walled city on its east bank in 1411AD. During the Mughal period, Shahibag palace was built by Shah Jahan near the river.

By the early-1900s, development began on the west bank of the river. From the Sabarmati Ashram to Sanskar Kendra, there are several buildings of architectural importance along the

Sabarmati.

After the building of Ellis bridge in 1891, the western banks of the Sabarmati River began to develop with new buildings and residential areas over the following decades. The need for a public auditorium was felt by the administration and eminent business families of Ahmedabad. The work of designing the Town Hall was commissioned to Claude Batley during the

chhajjas (eaves) and ornate grills.

Like the nearby Town Hall, the M J Library building is constructed in the Indo-Saracenic or Indo-Gothic architectural style with exposed bricks, painted concrete and eaves with ornate grills. The huge dome makes this building a remarkable landmark.

The museum building was designed by the legendary Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, in his signature modernist

The design, ventilation, air flow and water features have been planned to ensure that the museum is comfortable for visitors at all times of the day.

Continue along the river to the Sanskar Kendra. Sanskar Kendra was part of the vision of Chinubhai Chimanlal Seth, the first Mayor of Ahmedabad from July 1950 to August 1956, and the city's leading personalities from the Lalbhai and other families who



Sabarmati River Front

1930s. Named for prominent textile industrialist Mangaldas, the hall was later restored by Balkrishna Doshi during the 1960s and Kamal Mangaldas in the late-1990s. This building is designed in the Indo-Saracenic or Indo-Gothic architectural style. The octagonal structure stands on a red brick base and rises up to the dome, which is topped by a lantern that lets light flow to the assembly areas inside. The interiors are protected from harsh sunlight by

style of exposed brick and concrete facades. The design follows his principle of Museum of Unlimited Growth in that the free design and spiral layout with a minimum of restraining walls makes it easy to extend the galleries and the sides of the walls.

The building is erected on columns over the ground. The centerpiece of the museum is a courtyard with a sunken pool, from which an open to the sky ramp leads to the exhibition galleries.

felt that Ahmedabad needed a cultural complex. The museum building was designed by the legendary Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, in his signature modernist style of exposed brick and concrete facades.

The building houses two interesting museums. On the ground floor, the Kite Museum has informative displays about the history of kite flying, photographs and a collection of about 100 kites many of them hand-painted by Bhanu Shah, a

city-based artist who was closely associated with the cultural centre. This museum celebrates the kite-flying tradition of Gujarat on the day of Utrayana or Makar Sankranti.

The City Museum exhibits religious, secular, artistic and everyday artefacts related to the various religious groups of Ahmedabad including minorities like the Jews and the Parsis, sections dedicated to the freedom struggle with a

statue of Queen Victoria, and a fuwara (fountain) moved here from Kalupur.

Traveling along Ashram Road to Ahmedabad Textile Mill Owner's Building or ATMA House, the Millowner's Building is one of the finest specimens of the architectural style of Le Corbusier, widely-respected as a pioneer of modern architecture.

For a visitor with an interest in architecture, ATMA House is an impres-

Continue on Ashram Road to the Gandhi Ashram, also called Sabarmati Ashram. or Harijan Ashram. This is a serene place with mature trees and the prayer area facing the Sabarmati River. Here you can see the residence of Mahatma Gandhi exhibiting his simple belongings, the many different work areas of the ashram, and the Charles Correa designed museum that is

museum is a modern interpretation of Gandhi's principles, using simple materials like a concrete superstructure, brick walls, louvered windows, wood panels and stone floors.

This memorial museum has three major galleries – one titled “My life is my message” offers information about Mahatma Gandhi's life and important incidents between 1918 and 1930 at the

ashram, the second has eight life-size paintings of Mahatma Gandhi, and the third has one of the largest archival collections about a single person in the world with 35,000 books, more than 31,000 letters to and from the Mahatma, over 8000 manuscripts including articles written by him, photographs and documents.

Proceed to the Subhash Bridge and

then go down to the Sabarmati Riverfront. This remarkable development of urban planning has converted the two banks of the river in the city of Ahmedabad into a multi-purpose space with parks, gardens, buildings, food zones, recreational facilities, event venues and exhibition spaces. This is a great place to walk along the river. ■



Sanskar Kendra



Sabarmati River Front

special stress on the life of Mahatma Gandhi and the role of the people of Ahmedabad, and a photo-gallery. One of the incense sticks in the museum is among the tallest in the world.

In the public areas of the museum you can see exhibits like the foundation block of Ellis Bridge laid by His Excellency Donald James eleventh Lord Reay C.C.I.E.L.L.D. Governor of Bombay December 19th, 1889, archaeological sculptures, a Fire Engine dating to 1907, a

sive and architecturally-interesting building The building has a ramp sloping gently but dramatically rising to the upper level. Inside the building, you can see a map of the textile mills of Ahmedabad, plans of the building and details of the formation and objectives of the association. You can also read interesting and inspirational quotes by Le Corbusier. Visitors need to apply for permission to visit the building at least 15 days before the scheduled visit.

among the most moving memorials to the Mahatma. Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya (memorial museum), which offers an insight into the life, principles and achievements of Mahatma Gandhi. Charles Correa designed it in keeping with Mahatma Gandhi's principles of simplicity and his vision of a rural country where people lived flourishing self-sustaining communities based on agriculture, cottage industries and animal husbandry. Correa's design of the

HOMESTAY

Mr. Jagadip Arvindkumar Mehta, Ahmedabad

Heritage House in Ahmedabad, 1870/1871 Moto Sutharvado, Nr. Vanita Vishram School, Khadiya, Ahmedabad-01
Mobile: 9825310315

Mrs. Mitaben Dipeshkumar Garg

73, Palak Apartment, Ishwar Bhuvan Road, Opp. Memnagar Fire Station, Navrangpura, Ahmedabad - 380009
Mobile: 9913620593, 8866500666

Mr. Ashokbhai Ratilal Jani, Ahmedabad

Rejoice, E-503, Krishna Residency, Nr. Krishna Hospital, Ghuma, Ta. Daskroi.
Mobile: 9824406089, 9824934483

Mr. Sanjaybhai Jayantilal Shah, Ahmedabad

Aalishan 1, Mona Park Society, Vastrapur Railway Station Road, Vejalpur, Ahmedabad -380051.
Mobile: 9909920700, 9925065079

Mr. Kamleshkumar Jayantilal Desai

Sneh World, B-13, Sentossa Greenland, Nr. Science city Cross Roads, S. P. Ring Road, Bhadaj-382721
Mobile: 9904014440, 9904004441/7, 9227194448

Mr. Manharsinhji Mulrajsinhji

Chudasama, Ahmedabad Vagad Retreat, Darbargadh, Po.Vagad, Ta.Dhandhuka, Dist.Ahmedabad-382245
Mobile: 9712900197, 9879544888, 9727744456, 02713-229180



GUJSAIL
Gateway to Aviation in Gujarat

GUJARAT STATE AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANY LIMITED

FLY TO STATUE OF UNITY

If we say 'seaplane', what comes to your mind? Is it a movie scene from a high-budgeted film or a visual from your visit to the Maldives or Australia? Sailing through the water body and taking off from there to experience the mesmerizing aerial views of the scenic route and the destination is a not-to-be-missed experience.

The best part is you don't need to go to the Maldives or Australia or Canada to experience this once-in-a-lifetime experience. India has got its own seaplane with the launch of

India's first-ever seaplane services in October 2020 from Sabarmati Riverfront to Statue of Unity, Kevadiya.

Towards providing seamless and affordable air connectivity from Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity, Kevadiya, Gujarat Government signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) with the Union Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) and Airports Authority of India (AAI). The ambitious project is managed by the Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited.

ADVANTAGE

Mode of transportation plays an important role in enriching the travel experience of a tourist. Seaplane, as a unique mode of transportation, is generating immense curiosity from across the world. Not to mention its main advantage is less travel time. Journey from Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity, which generally took approximately 3-4 hours, now takes up just 50 minutes. Wonderful bird-eye views of the Narmada Valley and the Statue of Unity is an added advantage.

TOURISM

Seaplane has a potential to boost the country's tourism sector in a big way as they can convert any pond into an airport and can make any river a runway. It can help in connecting the geographies/regions that have challenges owing to its topography and bring the remotest parts of India into the mainstream aviation network without the high cost of building airports and runways. These smaller fixed wing airplanes can land on water bodies like lakes, backwaters and dams, gravel and grass, thus offering easy access to numerous tourist spots as well.

The plane is operated by SpiceJet, with four round-trips, i.e. eight flights between Ahmedabad and Kevadia. The 19-seater plane accommodates 14 passengers at a time. Tickets are available from www.spiceshuttle.com. The cost of ticket starts from Rs.1700. 📌

ABOUT GUJARAT STATE AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANY LIMITED

Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited, the nodal agency for development of aviation and related infrastructure in the state of Gujarat, works towards creating state-of-art civil aviation infrastructure and system, making a key contribution in the success of Gujarat, including growth of trade and tourism.

Intriguing Thiruvananthapuram



Thiruvananthapuram, the home of the fabled Padmanabhaswamy temple, where the Vishnu idol is in the Ananthashayanam or sleeping posture on a three-hooded snake has been in the news for the \$1 trillion wealth that was recently documented. Mentioned in the Sangam literature in 500 BC and in multiple puranas, this temple's wealth revealed over 900 kg of gold coins dating back to 200 BC. Roman coins and gems and treasures from around the world were documented here. A 9th century Tamil poet, Nammalvar, refers to the temple as

having walls of pure gold. It is also considered one of the 108 Divyasthanams, or holy places of Vaishnavism.

In 1731, the temple was reconsecrated and the kingdom of Travancore dedicated to the Padmanabha. The royal family pledged to remain vassals of the lord and the erstwhile royal family members are today the keepers of the temple. It is open to only Hindus and the darshan of the massive Vishnu statue and his consorts and Brahma emanating from his naval is through three massive entrances.



The capital of Kerala state in the southern tip of India has a complex history that probably transcends time. Part of the Travancore kingdom till Indian independence, the Kanyakumari district went to Tamil Nadu during the state reorganization. Kanyakumari is a shrine dedicated to Devi Kanya who was scheduled to marry Lord Shiva. The divine sage Narada, in an effort to release the world from the AsuraBana, tricked Lord Shiva into believing that the marriage Muhurtam had passed and the

groom and his procession returned. The Devi then killed the Asura Bana who had terrorized the Gods and had a boon that a virgin unmarried girl could only kill him. The Devi then remained an unmarried girl and legend has it that even the rice grains on the beach turned to rock. It is still visible on the beach. Her diamond nose pin is believed to have been given by a King Cobra and could be mistaken for a lighthouse.

Situated at the confluence of the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and the



Puttu, Ideyappam / Noolputtu And Appam



Dosa sambar



idiappam with egg curry

Bay of Bengal, the three waters have distinct colors at this point. The rock at Kanyakumari is where the great Swami Vivekananda swam to and meditated for three days before deciding to go to Chicago and preach about Hinduism at the Parliament of World religions in September 1893. This is now commemorated as the Vivekananda Memorial built

in the 1960s.

Legends apart, Thiruvananthapuram has many other charms. The undulating hilly city is home to some of the best Kerala cuisine. Start your mornings with the famed Puttu (Steamed rice cake laced with coconut) with kadala curry (black chickpea curry). Or the soft, spongy-centred appam with stew made with coconut milk and local spices.

The dosha and idly with sambar is another local delicacy. While vegetarians can relish the sheer variety of veggie delicacies, non-vegetarians can take heart too. Noolputtu or noolappam, which is called idiappam in

other parts of the state, is served with either stew or egg curry. The city's egg curry is a special blend of rich spices in ground coconut paste.

Other non-vegetarian delights include the classic beef fry, fried fish, and varieties of fish curry with rice and the special varutha Kozhi or fried chicken that has a unique flavour. Being

located on a seaside the sea foods are a mouth-watering treat here. The prawns and mussels come fried with rich spices in coconut oil. The curried versions vie with the fried delicacies for pride of place in the pecking order.

These delicacies are served in beachside shacks, tiffin rooms, sit-down restaurants or five-star hotels. You can



kadala curry



Beef Foast



Idly Sambar



Varkala beach



Lighthouse, Kovalam



Shankumugham Beach

Source: M S Thakur / Shutterstock



Kovalam Beach

also take quick forays into the many tourist attractions around the city. In the calm waters of Kovalam, you must make the mandatory trip in the catamaran or log boats, which take you deep into the waters that are calm enough for you to see the host of sea treasures at the bottom. It is a magical experience.

Spend some time on the Shankumugham Beach, which was ravaged by the Tsunami, where the sea took away a lot of the land. The beach road is now eaten away. But the sunsets on this beach is worth the watch. Also take time to visit the lighthouse, where you have to wait in a queue to go to the top. But the view from the top of the lighthouse is great. Just spend time strolling around in the garden around the lighthouse. That is magical too.



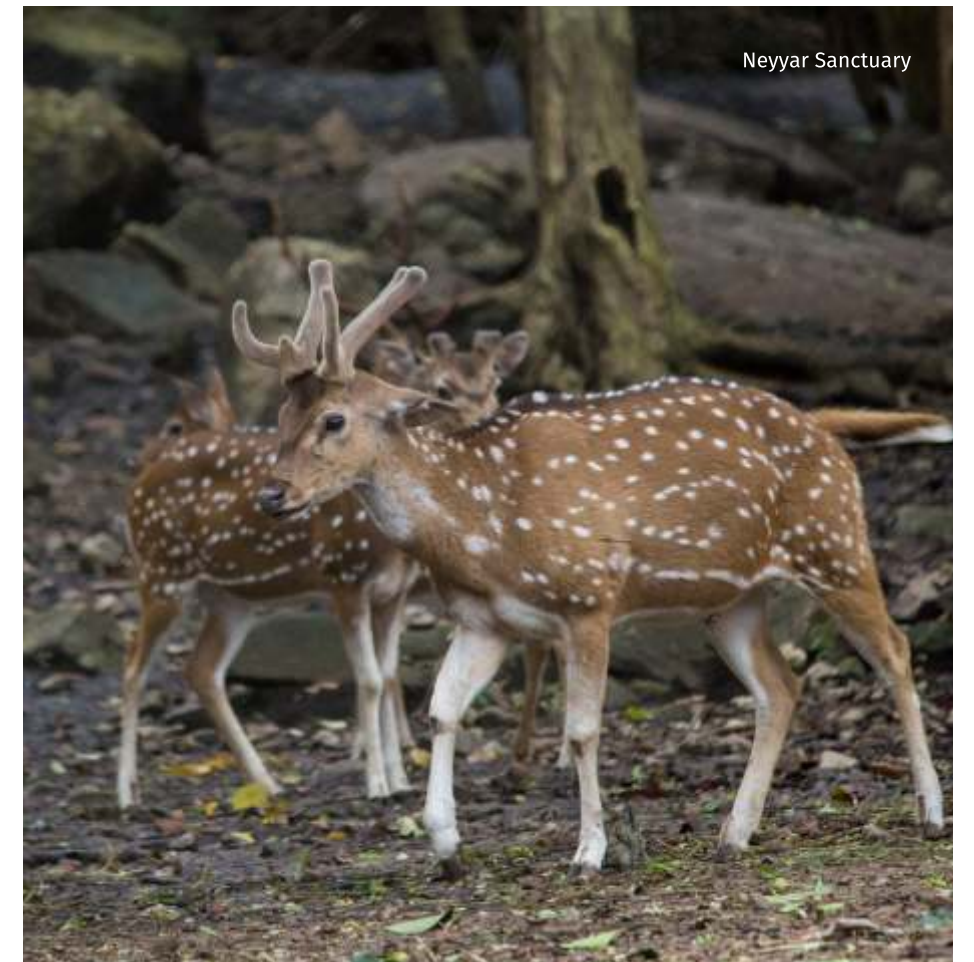
Neyyar Dam



Neyyar Dam



Thenmala Dam



Neyyar Sanctuary

Or take day trips to the many resorts that have sprung up along the coast. These include Varkala, Kappil Beach, Thenmala dam, the Thiruparappa Falls near Kollam, the Neyyar Dam and sanctuary and many more.

Wealth, food, temples, folklore and amazing shopping opportunities for gold, silks and the traditional Kerala handloom at Karalkada all make a visit to this Southern IT hub a delightful trip. 📍

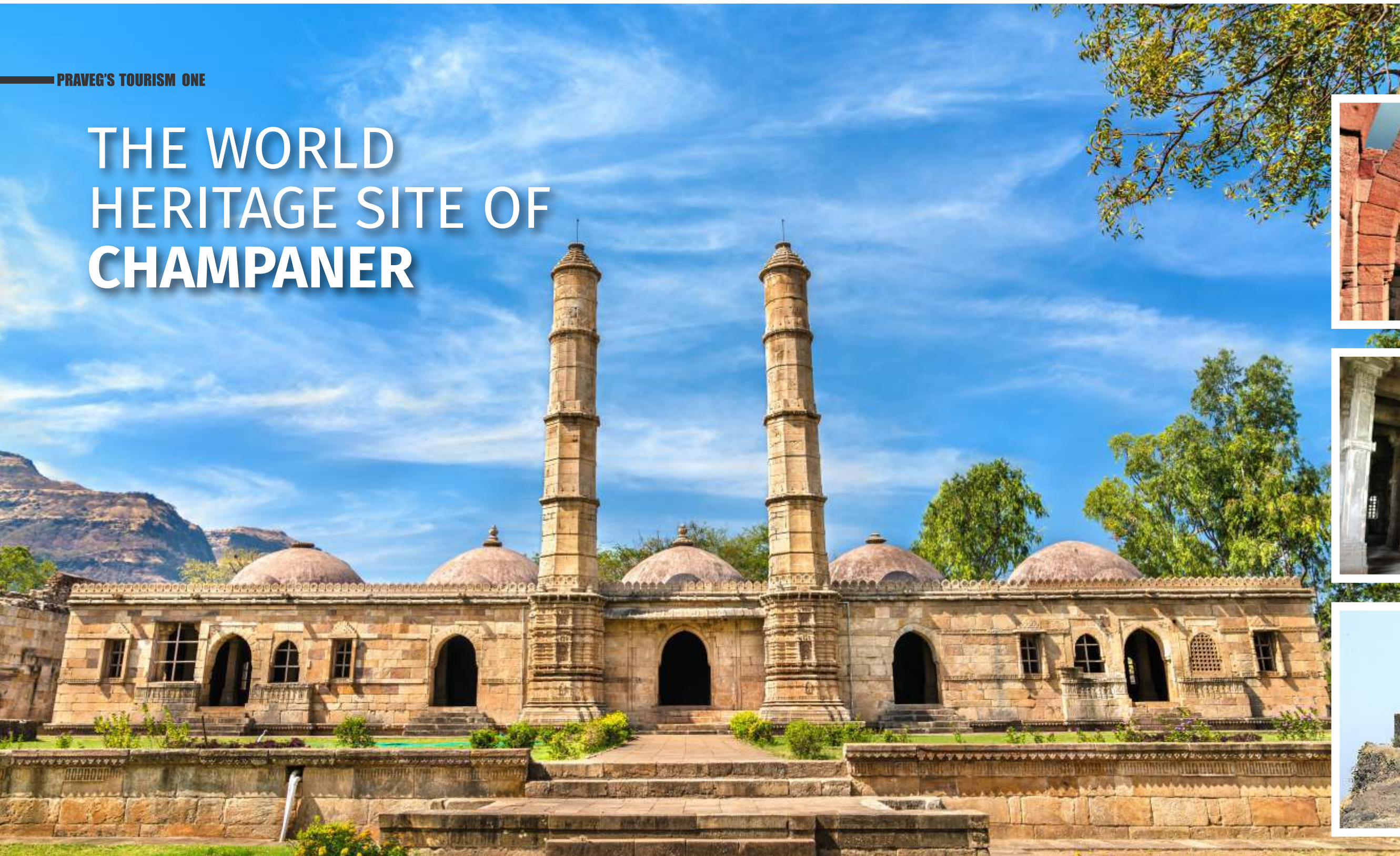
Words by: VIJAY KURUP



QUICK ESCAPES

With self-driving becoming the norm, we look at a few places to visit near the main cities of Gujarat.

THE WORLD HERITAGE SITE OF CHAMPANER



Just one hour drive from Vadodara, the walled citadel of Champaner was built by Sultan Mahmud Bheгада who conquered the fort of Pavagadh on the nearby hill from the Chauhan Rajputs in 1484AD. The Chauhan monuments on the hill and the Islamic monuments in the citadel form the Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological

Park, which is a UNESCO listed World Heritage Site.

The most magnificent mosque, Jami Masjid, was built in 1523AD. This mosque is a large and symmetrical structure. A splendidly carved entrance pavilion leads to the courtyard. The perfectly proportioned dome is three-storeyed with an atrium through which light flows

into the interiors. Other large domes and a pair of 30m high minarets rise from lower levels. The richly ornamented exteriors and the hall with 172 pillars make it one of the most attractive Islamic monuments in India.

The elegant 16th-century Nagina Masjid is another fine mosque with a wide yard facing a tomb. The mosque is

very well designed. The central mihrab is ornamental. The Shahr-ki-Masjid, also called Borah Mosque, is in the citadel's centre with two slender Turkish style minarets rising up vertically from exquisitely engraved bases. Also worth seeing at Champaner are the Helical stepped well, Sakar Khan's Dargah, Custom House, Step well, Kevda Masjid,

Lila Gumbaz ki Masjid, Kabutarkhana Pavilion by Wada Talao lake, Kamani Masjid and Bawaman Mosque.

From Champaner, it is a short drive to the Machi Plateau. From here, the ropeway journey to the top of Pavagadh is spectacular as you enjoy views of the forests and rocky slopes. The Pavagadh hill is topped by a fort, the holy Kalika temple and many

fine medieval temples. On the way up, the hill are the ruins of the Sat Mahal, the seven-storeyed palace of the Chauhan kings, and two domed granaries, the Makai Kothar and the Naulakha Kothar.

Where to Stay

HOTEL TORAN CHAMPANER
Pavagadh

THE JAIN HERITAGE OF PALITANA



Just one hour drive from Bhavnagar, Shatrunjaya Hill, rising up near the town of Palitana, is one of the holiest places for Jains, associated with the Tirthankar Adinatha and his disciple Pundalika. The sacred summit of this hill has a walled complex with about 863 temples.

Get to the base of the stairs early in the morning as the climb can be tiring. The cluster of temples mostly dates to the 16th century though there are older and younger ones too. The temples cover two peaks on the summit and the ridge between them.

The temples are organized into

enclosures called 'tuk'. Each tuk is named after the merchant who sponsored the construction. The tuks have black-and-white checkered marble courtyards, with temples within them including main ones and subsidiary shrines. Though built in different periods, most of the temples are similar

in style with shikharas (spired towers) crowning the sanctuary.

The exterior walls are lavishly carved with exquisite images of saints, birds, mammals, mythical beings, maidens, dancers and musicians. Some of the finest temples are the 17th-century Adinatha Temple whose ceilings, walls

and brackets are covered with fine carvings of saints, dancers, and inside are Adinatha images, in the northern ridge, and the 16th-century Adishvara Temple, with its richly ornamented shikhara and the magnificent gold crowned Rishabh Nath image, in the southern ridge.

On the way back to Bhavnagar, visit Sihore to see the Brahma Kund, the temples and the Darbargadh, which has some interesting murals.

Where to Stay

HOTEL SUMERU
Palitana

THE RICH HISTORY OF JUNAGADH



Two to three hour drive from Rajkot, Junagadh is one of Gujarat's most historical cities. The city has vivid associations with the Mauryan, the Kshtrapa and the Chudasama dynasties, the Gujarat Sultanate, and the Babi Nawabs. A wide range of monuments from the third century BC edicts of Emperor Ashoka to the 19th and 20th century buildings commissioned by the Nawabs stand testimony to Junagadh's illustrious past. The journey from Rajkot offers an

opportunity to visit many historical places. The princely town of Gondal is an interesting place with many 19th century buildings. The Darbargadh at Gondal has been converted into a museum with wide-ranging exhibits that show the heritage of the progressive rulers – furniture, clothing, handicrafts, toys, utensils and more. Continue to Khambalida to see the Buddhist caves that have some fine carvings. Proceed to Junagadh and see the Maqbara. This mausoleum complex was begun by His Highness Mahabat Khanji

in 1878 and completed in 1892 by his successor, HH Bahadur Khanji. Also enshrined here was His Highness Rasul Khanji in 1911 AD. The complex is shared by the mausoleum of Baha-ud-din, Minister of Nawab Rasul Khanji featuring minarets with pirouetting spiral staircases, a facade rich in stone carvings, beautiful silver doors and massive domes. Next to the complex is the Jumma mosque, dated to 1886-97, which has geometric rows of variously coloured pillars leading to a cool marble minbar, and an Islamic religious school.

Nearby is the Baha-ud-din college has a massive façade and a huge central dome. The piece de resistance is the 160 sq ft assembly hall, with intricate wooden ceilings and brackets. Continue to the Durbar hall Museum. Housed in a palace of the Nawabs of Junagadh, this museum has a chandelier-lit hall with silver plated thrones and chairs, richly decorated howdahs and palanquins, valuable silk carpets embellished with gems and gold thread, Nepalese Kukris, armour, turtle shell

shields, swords, daggers, medieval weapons, rifles and handguns, portraits and paintings. Looming up a short distance away, the Uparkot Fort is one of Gujarat's oldest forts. The only major standing structure inside is the palace of Rani Ranak Devi, which Sultan Mahmud Bhegada started to convert into a mosque, with ornate jarokha balconies. The 11th century Adi Charan Vav has a spectacular staircase of 120 steps going down to the bottom. The Navghan kuva

is another spectacular well, dated from 1060 AD, with flights of spiraling steps leading 120 feet to the water source through a 10 ft wide passage. The Nilam canon has bronze inscriptions in Arabic stating "the canon was cast in 1531 AD to fight the Portuguese who are infidel enemies of state and religion" and there is also a smaller Ottoman canon.

Where to Stay
HOTEL GIRNAR
Junagadh

THE HILL STATION OF SAPUTARA



Just three hours from Surat, Saputara is Gujarat's major hill resort.

As you drive from Surat to Saputara, visit Vansda National Park, the Waghai Botanical Gardens and some pretty places along the river. The Saputara Lake is the centre of attention at the hill station. Here, there are facilities for boating and

other water-based activities. Near the lake, Saputara Tribal Museum, established in 1970, has exhibitions of tribal art and culture. There are around 420 exhibits in four main categories of exhibits - tribal musical instruments, tribal costumes, tribal ornaments and prehistoric tools of the Dang area. A stone funerary column, grass ornaments, stuffed

birds, woodcarving, clay ritual objects, body tattoos, and masks used in dance-dramas, and musical instruments are some of the top exhibits.

Drive from Saputara to Ahwa, passing a number of tribal villages. Just after Ahwa, you come to the Mahal Bardipada Forests and the Purna Wildlife Sanctuary; the spectac-

ular Gira Falls can be seen here. The water falls from about 100 ft and creates beautiful ponds among rocks.

For the religious, the Shabri Dham is one of the places associated with the Ramayana in the Dang forests.

Where to Stay

TORAN HILL RESORT



THE HINDU RELIGIOUS HERITAGE OF DWARKA



Just two hour's drive from Jamnagar, Dwarka is revered as the city of Lord Krishna who left Mathura and migrated to the seafloor, where he founded a glittering new city called Dwarka, which it is said is now largely submerged by the Arabian Sea. The townscape is dominated by the towering Dwarkadhish Temple, built in the 16th century. Built of granite and sandstone on a plinth, the seven

storey temple has an impressive height with an impressive five-tier shikhara tower looking up over the surroundings. The temple comprises an ante-chamber and the main sanctum (Garba-Griha), crowned by a dome and the shikhara. The Dwaraka maṭha here is one of the four religious centres established by Adi Shankaracharya.

Even more attractive, the lavishly

carved Rukmini Temple was built in the 12th century. The temple has a layout of a porch, mandapa and sanctum. The walls are carved with elephants, flowers, dancers and aspects of Lord Shiva. Apart from detailed carvings, the shikhara tower is an impressive feature of the temple. At the base of the tower are carved human and elephant figures. This temple is dedicated to Rukmini,

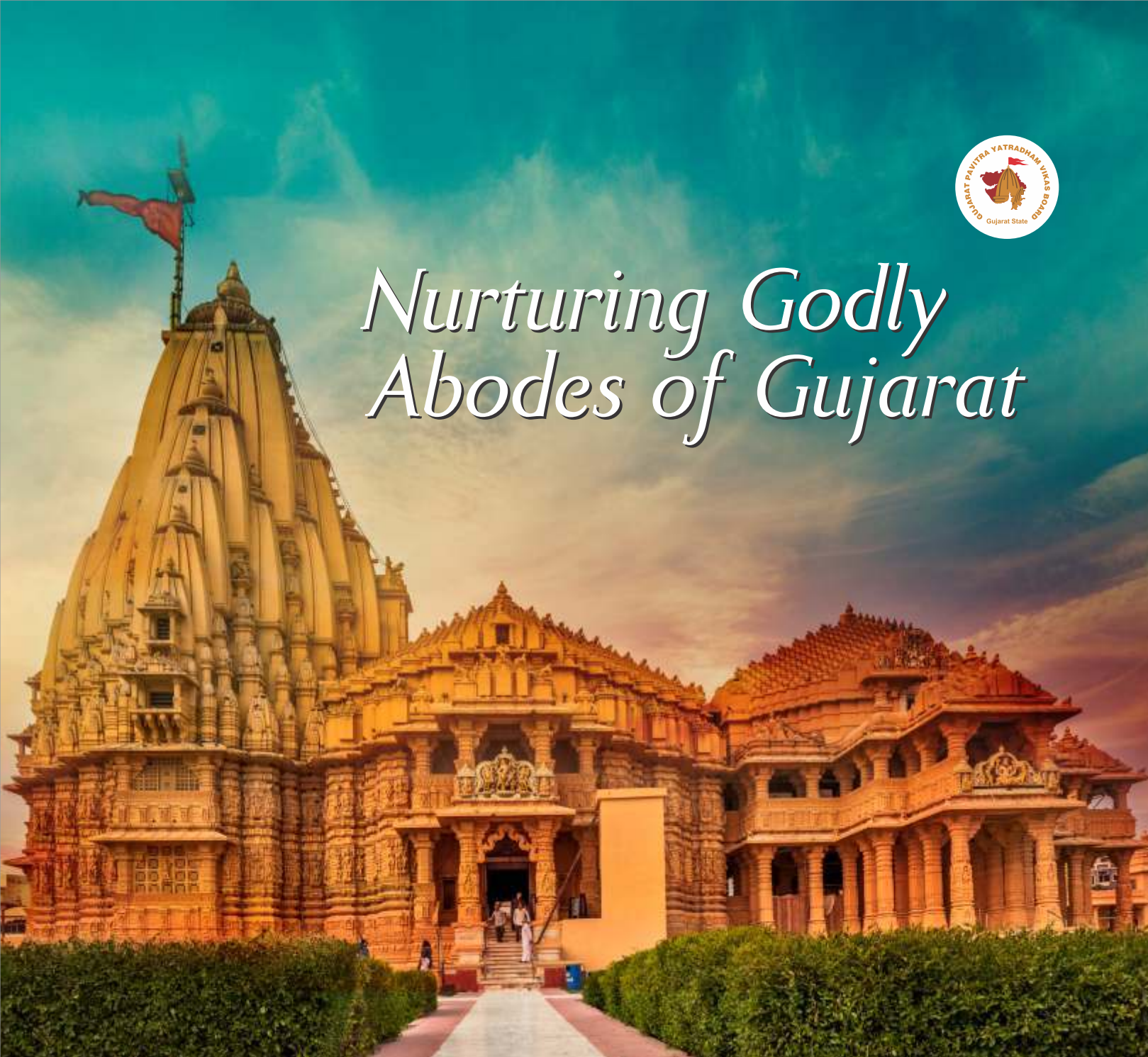
wife of Lord Krishna, and set on the rocky seacoast.

Dwarka today is also becoming a popular beach destination with the Blue Flag Beach of Shivrampur and the Okha Madhi Beach. 📍

Where to Stay

**TORAN TOURIST BUNGALOW
Dwarka**





Nurturing Godly Abodes of Gujarat

Somanth | Ambaji | Dwarka | Dakor | Palitana | Girnar

Enhancing the Aura of Gujarat's Pilgrimage Destinations

Ensuring Clean & Safe Pilgrimage

Accommodating Infrastructure and Facility Development

Enabling Pilgrimage Promotion

GUJARAT PAVITRA YATRADHAM VIKAS BOARD

Block 3 & 2, 1st floor, Dr. Jivraj Mehta Bhavan, Gandhinagar | 79 23252459, 23252468 +91 79 23252458

THE FLIGHT OF PRIDE



For booking, please visit
www.spiceshuttle.com

India's First-ever Seaplane Service

Seamless and Affordable Air Connectivity from Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity, Kevadia



GUJSAIL
Gateway to Aviation in Gujarat

GUJARAT STATE AVIATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMPANY LIMITED

www.gujsail.gujarat.gov.in

Initiatives

- Enabling Helicopter Rides to religious destinations like Ambaji, Dwarka, Somnath and Palitana to boost religious tourism
- Facilitating set-up of aviation training institutes to provide trained manpower for the fast-growing Civil Aviation Sector
- Leasing out unused/semi-used airstrips at Mehsana, Deesa, Amreli and Mandvi to flying clubs to facilitate growth in air traffic
- Air Ambulance Services for faster healthcare services

An Ideal Venue

- Luxurious Stay
- Conference
- Destination Wedding

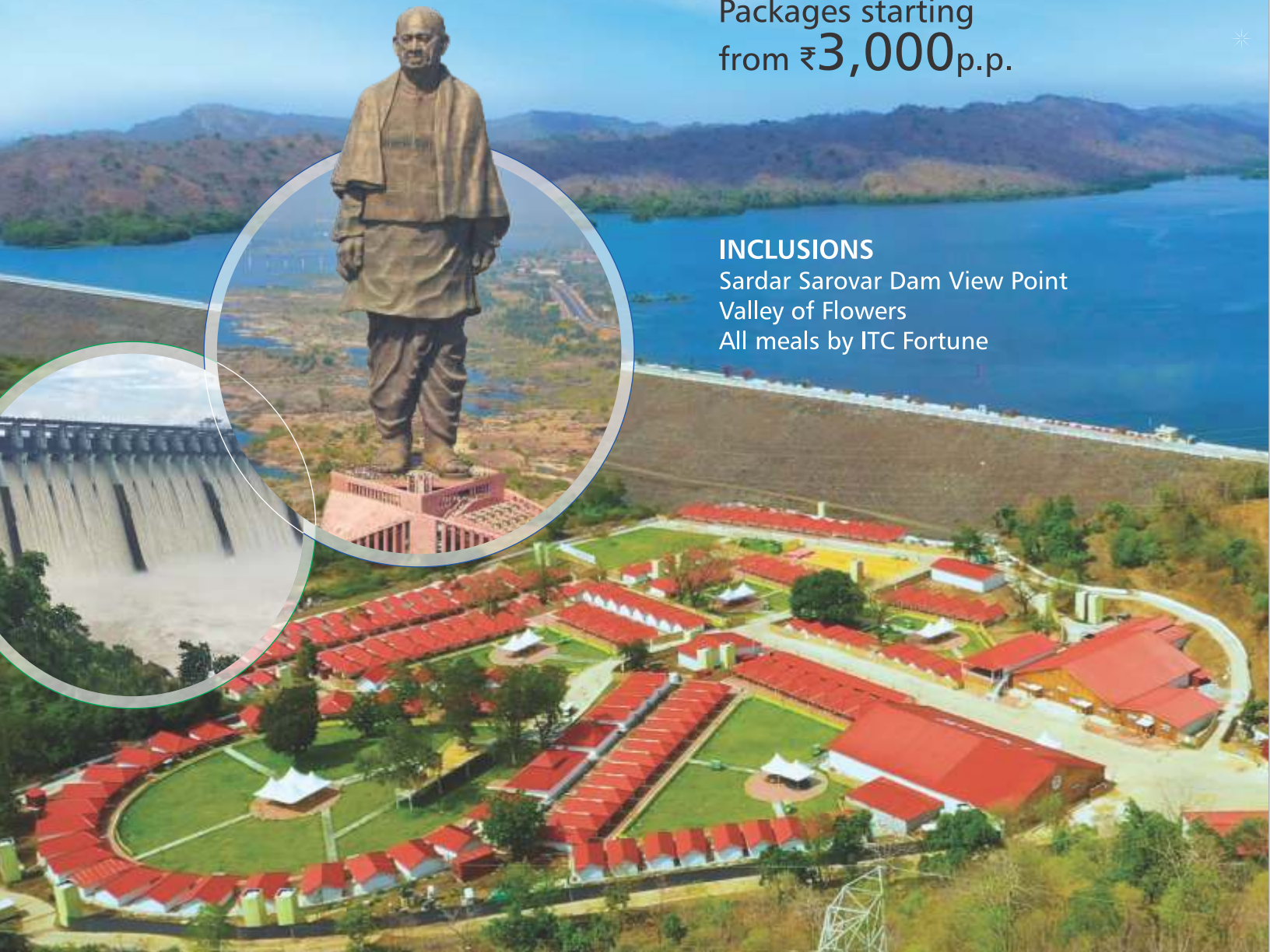
Safe and blissful journey
awaits you...

200
LUXURIOUS TENTS

Packages starting
from ₹3,000 p.p.

INCLUSIONS

Sardar Sarovar Dam View Point
Valley of Flowers
All meals by ITC Fortune



With enhanced hospitality and hygiene standards as per Government Norms



TENT CITY
NARMADA
THE LUXURIOUS NATURE RESORT



For Booking:
72 40 40 40 40
www.tentcitynarmada.com

For Trade Enquiry:
99 09 00 12 57
info@tentcitynarmada.com

RESORT: Dyke 3, Sardar Sarovar Dam Site, Kevadiya - 393151, Dist. Narmada, Gujarat, India

OPERATED BY

