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## PETCATIONS

## Scamsters

### on the prowl

24 HOURS ON THE MAHATMA'S FOOTSTEPS IN AHMEDABAD





ENABLING REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY EXPANDING HORIZONS

GUJSAIL is committed to realising Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN). Regional connectivity is being improved significantly. Under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme, we're facilitating the linkage of various tourist and business destinations. Helping provide faster and economical transportation facilities to the people of Gujarat.



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Eifel Tower, Paris

## Travel 'Fur'ever

amily trips are always fun. But if your family consists of a four-legged member too, it is a different scenario. We know how hard it is to travel with a pet considering the transit hassles. Not to mention, not every hotel or resort provides pet-friendly services. So here we bring you some destinations that offer superb accommodations, which will allow you and your fur buddy to have the time of your lives.

Among many pet-friendly destinations, Ahmedabad has a different angle to it. Travelling for enlightenment is what this place offers with its Gandhi trail. Ahmedabad, where Gandhiji lived and transformed India's freedom struggle, has many monuments associated with his life. Not to mention, it will be a lot easier, now that we have figured out accommodation suiting your requirements.

Read on!

April 2022



#### **Praveg Communications (India) Limited**

214 Athena Avenue, Sarkhej - Gandhinagar Highway, Behind Jaguar Showroom, Gota, Ahmedabad 382481 Contact No.: 97129 84895 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

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### Contents

Petcations	Pg. 04
24 Hours on the Mahatma's Footsteps in Ahmedabad	Pg. 12
Scamsters on the Prowl	Pg. 26
Lessons from Antiquity	Pg. 30
Bloggers relish luxurious stay at Tent City Narmada	Pg. 42
The Divine Shrine of Goddess Amba	Pg. 44

Tomb, Pentapolis

### Incredible India

# PETCATIONS

Pet-friendly hotels are growing in demand as pet owners look for places to take their pets. The pandemic increased the demand for hotels that welcome pets as people were forced to travel with their dogs and cats. Hotels started getting special requests from guests who were either fed up with staying indoors and needed a staycation or were relocating to a new place, and were short of choices to find friendly and safe spaces for their pets.

## **Novotel Ahmedabad**

his hotel has designed its package with the help of a canine behaviourist and an organisation that specialises in pet hospitality. The chefs and housekeeping teams are trained to ensure they do it right each time when it comes to looking after guests with pets. They have dedicated a set of rooms with specially trained housekeepers to sanitise them. They also have a menu of dog-friendly dishes such as puppychino, cheese chunks, musa acuminata called Yummy Licks.



## Four Seasons Bengaluru

his hotel has expansive green spaces that are ideal for guests vacationing with pets.

They allow dogs that weigh less than15 kilograms (33 pounds). Pets have their own beds. They also get a personal bowl for food, milk and water. Additionally, the Garden Suites have adjoining private terraces, which are like private apartments and allow staycationing pets the free space to explore. If a guest requires pet supplies, they can contact the Concierge at least twenty-four hours in advance.

A special a la carte Pet Menu is available for in-room orders for our furry guests. Chefs are happy to cater to dietary requirements, when requested. The In-Room Dining Pet Menu includes:

- Woof Woof Medley Shredded chicken, carrot, zucchini, white rice, green peas, spinach
- Meow Classic Flaked salmon, steamed carrot, white rice
- Surf and Turf Flaked salmon, shredded chicken, white rice
- Veggie Medley White rice, carrot, zucchini, green peas, spinach, pumpkin
- Oats for Coats Water cooked oats, banana, spinach

They encourage pet owners to socialise among themselves and swap tips on looking after their pets.





## Hyatt Andaz, Delhi

yatt Andaz at Delhi welcomes dogs and cats, with three days prior intimation. Basic necessities including a bed, food bowl and food are provided. The pet should weigh less than 22 kg and if there are two pets, the combined weight should not exceed 35 kg.

With a special package costing Rs 2500 per dog or cat, this is a good place to relax with your pet.



### Woods Villa Resort, Jaipur

ocated 5 kilometres away from the city on Agra Road, this homestay-style property owners know a lot about dogs. The cook will make whatever your dog likes to eat. The hotel lawns are ideal for you to run around and play with your dog. Carry the bedding for the dog.







## Four Seasons Mumbai

hough it is located in the busy metropolis, this hotel's spacious lawns and walkway are ideal for early morning walks with your dog. If you book a petfriendly room, it will come with a doggie bed and toys. The hotel designs the menu for dogs and also provides treats.





## Vivanta by Taj Bengaluru

Situated at MG Road, this hotel has rooms, which open to their lawns so you can have some time to play with your pets. They also cater meals for dogs. Carry bedding for the pet and inform in advance if you have a big dog.



### Incredible India



### HOURS ON THE MAHATMA'S FOOTSTEPS IN AHMEDABAD

ohandas Karamchand Gandhi, well-known as Mahatma Gandhi or Gandhiji, began his association with Ahmedabad after he returned to India from South Africa, where he practised as a lawyer and nurtured his policy of peaceful resistance against discrimination. Gopal Krishna Gokhale requested him to return to India, which needed his skills as a community organiser. About his decision to settle in Ahmedabad in 1915, Gandhi wrote that as a Gujarati, he should be able to serve the country best through Gujarati language.

As Ahmedabad was an ancient centre of handloom weaving, it was likely to be the most favourable field for the revival of the cottage industry of handloom weaving. Gandhi also felt that as a major commercial city assistance could be gained from the mill owners and other affluent people of Ahmedabad.

His successful effort to stop harassment of Indian passengers by the customs department in Viramgam, near Ahmedabad, is said to be his first Satyagraha initiative in India. From 1915 to 1930, Ahmedabad became the base for his struggle for freedom, equality of all humankind with the eradication of untouchability, dignity of labour, instilling respect for all religions, creating the spirit of fearlessness and promoting the use of Indian goods. His three pronged strategy launched at Ahmedabad, included the Swadeshi movement, which was aimed at removing the British Empire from power and improving economic conditions in India by promoting the regional products, Satyagraha which was his term for a non-violent civil disobedience movement, and Swaraj or Self-Governance.





Sabarmati Ashram







any monuments associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi can be visited along the stretch of Ashram Road from Sabarmati Ashram to Kochrab Ashram, the two residences and workplaces of Mahatma Gandhi during his oneand-a-half decade stay in Ahmedabad.

In the morning, start your Gandhi Trail at the Sabarmati Ashram, aptly named for its location besides the River Sabarmati. Locally, this complex is well-known as the Gandhi Ashram, and it was also called Satyagraha Ashram and later Harijan Ashram. As you enter from the main road, you are treated to the sight of a serene complex with a profusion of mature trees. The trees and plants trill with bird calls and abound in palm squirrels.

Close to the entrance, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya is a memorial museum designed by Charles Correa and opened to the public on 10 May, 1963 by India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. The low-rise single storey museum building is very much in keeping with the life of Mahatma Gandhi who is considered an example of simple living and high thinking - inexpensive materials like louvered windows, stone and bricks have been used in the constructions, and the aesthetics are achieved not by ostentatious design or ornamentation but with the design of inside and outside areas that create an appealing play of light.







#### 24 HOURS ON THE MAHATMA'S FOOTSTEPS IN AHMEDABAD



alk through the entrance of the museum and along a corridor leading to the entrance of the gallery called 'Gandhiji in Ahmedabad'. This gallery has panels that describe the 15 years that Gandhi stayed in Ahmedabad. Each panel has a question about Gandhi's methods, ideas or events in his life, answered through hand-drawings, illustrations, writing or press clippings. Some of the important events covered in chronological order are his life with Kasturba, his meeting with Gokhale, the Satyagraha of tenant farmers in 1917 at Champaran in Bihar, the Mill-Workers dispute with the Mill owners in 1918 at Ahmedabad, the establishment of the Gujarat Vidyapith, the Swadeshi Movement and the Salt Satyagraha March that began at the Sabarmati Ashram and ended at Dandi, where Mahatma Gandhi hand-made salt by the sea disobeying the law that gave the British a monopoly over salt production.

Another gallery titled 'My life is my message' depicts many important episodes from the life of Gandhi through life size paintings and an exhibition of photographs. The corridors of the museum are lined with quotations and messages by Mahatma Gandhi. Quotes by eminent scientists, leaders and scholars from the world over on Mahatma Gandhi are inscribed on plagues. The museum has an archives room with an impressive collection of more than 34,000 letters to and from Gandhi, manuscripts of Gandhi's published articles, photographs of Gandhi and his associates, films, audio clips, felicitations written on palm leaves, a philatelic collection of Gandhi themed postal stamps from different countries, diaries of Gandhi, writings of his personal secretary Mahadev Desai, books and negatives, paintings depicting Gandhi in various poses during various activities (marching; spinning cloth; meditating etc).

A picture gallery has Gandhi portraits painted in the 1960's by Chandulal Shah and Hiralal Khatri who were textile merchants as well as accomplished artists, and one remarkable portrait of Gandhi created by Shri Rajkishore Kapoor using groundnut shells.



n one side of the memorial museum is Magan Niwas, residence of Maganlal Khushalchand Gandhi, a relative and follower of Mahatma Gandhi who voluntarily managed the ashram campus. He is responsible for some of the neem trees grown in the complex in the 1920s.

From here, stroll to Upasana Mandir, an open-air prayer ground facing the river. Before starting work, Mahatma Gandhi and the inmates of the ashram offered prayers. Besides Bhajans, discourses and readings from holy books, like the Gita, Quran and Bible, occasionally featured in the prayer schedule at this site.

After Prayers, Mahatma Gandhi would discuss individual's questions.

<complex-block>

Upasana Mandir, Sabarmati Ashram

Prarthana

Bhoomi

rents and lattre



#### 24 HOURS ON THE MAHATMA'S FOOTSTEPS IN AHMEDABAD



Hridaya Kunj



Rext to the prayer ground is Hriday Kunj, Gandhiji's personal residence in the Ashram. This cottage-like house of Mahatma Gandhi and his wife, Kasturba, is also keeping with their belief in the aesthetic aspect of simplicity. Within the house, you can see simple processions like a spinning wheel and working table, a Chinese toy of three monkeys, coconut chopper,

wooden spoon, thali, chappals (slippers), stone bowl, a tumbler he used in jail, an urn for water, a shirt made by Gandhi for a Harijan, dhoti, a bedsheet, handspun yarn, yarn spun by Vinoba Bhave, towel, bag, purse and other effects. Near Gandhiji's residence are the residential quarters of Vinoba Bhave, whom Gandhi rated as a true Satyagrahi for his commitment to truth, from 1918 to 1921, and Madeleine Slade, a British Admiral's daughter who left her home in England to live and work under Mahatma Gandhi inspired by his ideology. She devoted her life to human development, the advancement of Gandhi's principles and the freedom struggle in India. Gandhi gave her the name, Mira, and she became like his daughter.

Gujarat Vidyapith

rom here, you can loop back to the entrance passing other structures like the guest house called Nandini just up from the residence, the Udyog Mandir, which encouraged workers to take up handloom weaving and other handwork and the commune for ashram inmates. The ashram schooled people in manual labour, agriculture and literacy, in order to advance his efforts for the nation's selfsufficiency.

Before leaving the ashram, you can visit the museum shop, which sells books, postcards and souvenirs like models of the charkha, postal stamps, key chains and stationery.

Nearby is a handmade paper factory.

From the Gandhi Ashram, drive to the arched entrance of the Gujarat Vidyapith, founded by Mahatma Gandhi on October 18, 1920 to provide an alternative system of education (rather than the one designed by the British to train Indians for their services). The objective was to lead to national reconstruction and 'Hind Swaraj', the self-reliant India of Gandhi's dream. The first vice-chancellor of the institute was Professor Gidwani. After Mahatma Gandhi, freedom fighters like Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad and Morarji Desai were chancellors of the Vidyapith. Acharya Kriplani, a school teacher who joined the freedom struggle and many of Mahatma Gandhi's movements at the Gandhi Ashram, also

contributed by teaching at the Gujarat Vidhyapith. Taught by such eminent leaders, students of the Gujarat Vidyapith were vociferous and active during the freedom struggle specially the Quit India movement of the 1940s. This institute is now a university with many colleges and departments.

Among the various sections of the imposing campus, of special interest to visitors is the Tribal Research Institute Museum, which offers an insight into the life of the tribal people of Gujarat through photographs, artefacts, utensils, implements, costumes and weapons.













Www.alk down from the Vidyapith to the building of the Navajivan Trust, a publishing house founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1919. This became the centre for publishing newspapers and journals to raise awareness about Gandhi's vision of Swaraj and Satyagraha. The renovated building has murals of Mahatma Gandhi, trust offices and a modern printing workshop, as well as a gallery with the old printing press and typewriter from the time when Young India, a Gujarati magazine called Navajivan Ane Satya, and other magazines edited by Gandhi.

ontinue the journey on Ashram Road from the Navjivan Trust building to the Kochrab Ashram. This ashram complex was gifted by Barrister Jivanlal Desai to Mahatma Gandhi, when he came to Ahmedabad with an international reputation as a leading Indian nationalist, Civil rights activist, theorist and community organiser earned during his legal practice in South Africa. The ashram was organised on 25 May, 1915 on the basis of human equality, self-help and simplicity. Gandhi aimed to use this ashram to further his goals of selfsufficiency, India's independence, the upliftment of the poor, women and untouchables, and better public education and sanitation in India.

As the Kochrab area suffered a plague epidemic, Gandhi moved his headquarters north to a riverside site, where he founded the Sabarmati Ashram on June 17, 1917. The Kochrab Ashram is still the centre of activities related to Gandhian principles, especially on occasions like Gandhi Jayanti associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi. **m** 

### HOW TO REACH

By Air

Ahmedabad has domestic and international airports.

By Bus

The city is well-connected by road with major cities of Gujarat and India.

By Train

Ahmedabad is well linked to most parts of the country via an extensive rail network.









25

### For Far Away

# Scamsters

on the prowl

Foreign trips are expensive. You go with a lot of expectations. Your plans are all set and expenses carefully calculated. And then comes a conman who upsets your entire plan, leaving you upset and sometimes practically stranded in a foreign country.





onsider this situation. My cousin landed at Rome - Fiumicino International Airport. It is one of the busiest airports in Europe. He was warned by many of his friends to be careful of pickpockets. Yet as he was walking out of the airport lounge, his purse was stolen. Within minutes, he received a notification on his phone stating that EUR 250 was debited from his account. It was a perfectly synchronised operation.

colleague of mine was in a mall in Madrid. He was carrying a laptop, in a bag slung over his shoulder. His cell phone rang and he removed his laptop from his shoulder, placed it between his legs, to attend the call. When he finished with his call, he found that his laptop bag was missing. The laptop bag contained his passport and his purse. He was effectively stranded and penniless.

f it is not swindling, it can be an outright demand, an audacious attempt to extort money from you. Sometime ago, I was in Kenya and my local friend took me to an open-air market, selling vegetables and handicrafts. The variety of colourful vegetables on sale and the flamboyantly coloured handicrafts on display was an excellent opportunity to make my friends envious on Facebook. I walked around and clicked many pictures. After a while, I felt a tap on my shoulders. A tall African stood before me. The average African, I had observed, was very tall and healthy. He spoke to me in English. "You have come to our market and taken pictures. Now you have to pay for it." His tone was demanding, with no hint of bashfulness. My friend who was fortunately near me, intervened and led me away. It was a close call.





windling has been perfected to a fine art. Sometimes it can be covert and subtle, a method quite common in Barcelona. As you walk along those beautiful boulevards lined with shops, you will find men and women with white painted faces, dressed like clowns, sidling up to you. They would put their arm around your shoulders displaying bonhomie and goodwill. They will, without a murmur, allow you to take their pictures or a selfie with them. After that, they will demand money from you. If you ignore them and walk away, they will come after you badgering you for money, creating a nuisance of themselves and spoiling your day.

his incident happened in France. My friend along with his wife were taking photographs of the scenic seaside town of Marseille, in southern France, when they were approached by two men. They soon fell into a conversation regarding the beauty of the town and they offered my friend to show some beautiful parts of the town. The two men took a side lane and my friend and his wife followed them for about 10 minutes. His wife noticed that the pedestrians on the street had considerably thinned.

The two kept up the light banter and kept telling them that the place was just another 5 minutes away. His wife later told me that her gut feeling warned her to abandon and get the hell out of there. She conveyed her fear to her husband who to her surprise readily agreed. He too had that same feeling of dread.

Both of them in unison turned and hightailed from there. Oftentimes, it is better and safer to heed your gut feelings.



n Indian family who travelled frequently to the US, booked a resort in a remote location in Wyoming. Bookings were made, but when it came to transfer of money, they were told to wire transfer US 2000, by way of an advance. The caller had said it had to be done on an urgent basis, since the rooms were being taken up fast. He

promised to send them a formal receipt. The receipt of course never came and when they investigated further, they discovered that no such resort existed in that state. Two mistakes were committed here. Never transfer money by wire. It can never be traced. When booking for a resort always check the reviews of the resort on Facebook or Instagram or any other social media. In this case, there were no reviews of any kind. Further, if the caller indicates that it is an urgent situation, step away. In all probability a scam is in progress.

And there are of course people pretending to be handicapped, just as in India, begging for money. Don't get taken in and squander your precious forex money. hile travelling in a taxi in New York, make sure that you always pay the taxi driver through your credit card. If you pay cash, chances are that you will not get the balance money back. My wife, on a trip to New York, hailed a taxi. The charge came to USD 4. She gave the driver a USD 10 bill. The driver engaged his gears to drive off, when my wife stopped him and asked for the balance money. After which the conversation proceeded like this.

My wife: May I have my change back? Taxi driver: Sorry ma'am, I thought that was my tip. My wife: How can I tip you 60% of my fare? Taxi driver: Sorry ma'am. He then proceeded to give back only USD 2 more and drove off.

There are a few red lines that you should not cross. Always take a licensed taxi. Avoid very friendly strangers. Never walk while talking on your mobile phone on the streets. Phone snatching is common even in the developed nations of the world.

Some of the countries that are safe for tourists are: Australia, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore, Sweden and Switzerland.

While travelling, being away from your own country places you in a particularly vulnerable position. Spread your valuables as much as possible, between your partners. If you are travelling alone, do not keep all your valuables in one bag. Your passport and some money should be 'on your body' all the time. Guard them with your life. You just cannot afford to let your guard down. One ought to be very circumspect in making friends with 'friendly strangers. One of my friends complained to his American counterpart, "We come



from a poor country and you steal from us!" There is no point in crying over spilt milk. Be hyper alert and just adhere to precautions. **m** 







# LESSONS from antiquity

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18881

M'Zab valley, Algeria

eep in the Sahara Desert of Algeria, in the M'Zab Valley are 5 fortified villages or ksour. The 5 towns of El-Atteuf, Bounoura, Melika, Ghardaïa and Beni-Isguen, collectively called the Pentapolis, were founded between 1012 and 1350 AD. All the 5 villages were situated in the remote inhospitable region of the Sahara Desert. To this day, owing to the remoteness of their location, their livelihood and the structure of their dwellings have remained largely unchanged. The Five ksour of the M'zab Valley were declared World Heritage sites by UNESCO in 1982. Who are these people and why did they come out so far into the harsh and unforgiving environment?

The inhabitants of the M'Zab Valley are the Ibadites, the third sect of the Islamic religion. The Ibadi Islam emerged around 20-60 years after Prophet Muhammad's death in 632 AD. As with most religions, differences surfaced, in interpretation and understanding of the tenets and the teachings of the prophet, which led to schism in the Islamic religion. The first to break away were the radical- minded Khārijite. Ibadis were an offshoot of the Khārijite movement, but unlike its parental body, Ibadis were pacifists and more moderate in their outlook with regard to religion. The Khārijites who were involved in internecine feuds were gradually deracinated. Ibadism survived in certain pockets in the Middle East, one of which was in the M'Zab Valley in Algeria. Ibadis along with Sunni and Shia, eventually became the three sects of Islam.


he Ibadis of Algeria had sequestered themselves in a remote part of Algeria far from the caravan routes, to escape persecution from orthodox Muslims. Here they were free to worship and follow their own beliefs, sans interference. They chose an area where temperatures reached a searing 48 degrees centigrade and where average annual precipitation was less than 100 mm. For comparison, the annual rainfall in Delhi NCR is about 650 mm.

The remoteness of their habitation helped maintain their lifestyle unchanged over centuries, particularly their mode of living and the design and architecture of their dwellings. Even today, each city is surrounded by high walls, which were first built as a protection against invaders.

In the oases of Algeria's M'Zab valley, farming systems are based on the principle of the circularity of water, meaning that wastewater is not wasted, but recycled to be used again. The water is recovered and utilised through a system that combines the use of surface and underground water resources.


he stored water is also used for irrigation. The amount of water that is distributed among the people is based on the number of palm trees that each family possesses. The palm groves are maintained by an underground irrigation system. Any leftover water is then routed to wells, thereby artificially recharging the water table. During the rare seasons of above normal rainfall, water is collected and channelled to recharge the water table. The water stored in the underground

tanks is used for irrigation, during extended periods of dry spells.

The houses are unique due to their simplicity in structure and composition. Each house is cubical in structure, the uniformity and is aimed at creating an egalitarian society. The mosque is built on an elevated platform. The minarets served as lookouts for invaders. The mosque, backed up as a fortress, was the last stronghold in the event of a siege. It also served as an arsenal and as a place to store grains. A series of strong

Traditional architecture in town Ghardaia

walls protected the town. They remained free from invaders, succumbing only towards the end of the 19th century, when they were colonised by the French.

The houses were built using locally sourced materials. The walls of the houses are thick to prevent penetration of the intense heat. They are tightly packed and have built-in concentric circles. The clusters of the houses in the town give an impression of a cohesive and close-knit society.



Sidi Brahim Mosque, El Atteuf





he overall impression of the community is of simplicity which is in perfect harmony with the environment. Of the 5 towns, El-Atteuf is the oldest, having been established in the early 12th century. The towns of the M'Zab Valley have three attributes that define them and give it a unique place in Arab Architecture. They are the ksaur (the village), the cemetery, and the oasis with its palm groves.







The streets are wide streets with a network of narrow alleyways. The houses in the alleyways follow the contour of the land providing shade to the travellers from the harsh Saharan sun.

# PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE





he Design and architecture of these five towns find relevance even today among the modern Arab architecture and townplanners. The brilliant Swiss-French architect, designer, Le Corbusier, who was given a carte blanche by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to build Chandigarh into a modern city, had visited M'Zab Valley to study its architecture and town planning. One of his iconic structures, the Chapelle Notre Dame du Haut, a small chapel in Ronchamp, France, is based on the designs of the structures he saw in the M'Zab Valley.

The M'Zab Valley is an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement. These ancient clusters of buildings give us a peek into the distant past and a glimpse of the Ibadi culture. It tells us how they were able to capture and distribute water; create oases of palm groves, from the basic elements of nature. It also demonstrates the efficiency with which they thrived in a desert environment. They willingly embraced a harsh unforgiving ambience and were not only able to extract maximum benefit from it, but were able to thrive into modern times, unscathed.

lords by VIJAY KURUP

### PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE



# Bloggers relish luxurious stay at Tent City Narmada









uxurious holiday is a dream for many. And sometimes those dreams do turn into reality like for the bloggers who were invited to relish a luxurious stay at Tent City Narmada.

Over 35 bloggers from across India along with 160 travel agents became guests of Tent City Narmada during March 24-25, 2022. The influential guests experienced the luxurious tented accommodation surrounded by nature in proximity to the Statue of Unity, the world's tallest statue. Tent City Narmada is renowned for its unmatched hospitality. The Resort ensured to enlighten the guests about unique features of the resort and surrounding area with a trip and an informative presentation on the tourist attractions in and around Kevadia. The guests couldn't resist but capture the breathtaking views of the nature around and the appealing indoor attractions through their camera and mobile phones.

"As a travel blogger, I have visited many destinations in Gujarat and India. However, the serenity of Kevadia has appealed to me the most. Apart from the fact that the Statue of Unity is the world's tallest statue, the aura of the place is so imposing that you want to keep coming back for more again and again. Adding to it is a luxurious tented stay at Tent City Narmada pampered with modern amenities and top-notch hospitality. Not to mention, the delicious delicacies by a 5-star hotel chain. I am glad I got an opportunity to explore this place", a participating blogger shared.

# The Divine Shrine of GODDESS AMBA

Paravalli hills of Northern Gujarat, Ambaji Temple is a major Shakti Peeth of India where the Goddess Amba is worshipped. The original seat of Ambaji Mata is on the summit of Gabbar hill. According to the Mahapitha-purana, there are 51 sites where the body of Sati fell across the Indian subcontinent, and it is believed that the Heart of Sati Devi has fallen at Ambaji.

Made of white marble with gold cones, the temple was originally built by Nagar Brahmins. The temple is surrounded by an open square called chachar chowk, where ceremonial sacrifices called havans are performed. The inner sanctum of the temple has silver-plated doors. There is a gokh, or niche, in the wall on which is fixed an old-plated marble inscription of the Viso Yantra, a Vedic text on sacred geometry, which is the main focus of worship.



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

part from the Amba Mata Temple, the Gabbar hill is part of the Ambaji pilgrim circuit. About 1,600 feet above sea level, the hill has a shrine reached by about 999 steps.

A large number of devotees visit the temple and the Gabbar summit every year, especially on Purnima (full moon) days. The mela on the day of the full moon night of Bhadarvi Poornima is especially auspicious. Navratri is also hugely celebrated. With places like Gabbar Hills, which is associated with legends of Devi Sati and Kailash Hill sunset in its proximity, Danta Ambaji ensures to give all its visitors a once in a lifetime experience. The place is not only associated with beautiful places of worship with beliefs as old as the origin of mankind but also depicts the beautiful connection between the gods and nature in the most enthralling way possible. **m** 

#### THE DIVINE SHRINE OF GODDESS AMBA



# HOW TO GET THERE

BY AIR Nearest airport is SVP Ahmedabad. BY RAIL

Palanpur, at 65 km, is the nearest railway station.



Ambaji is in Danta Taluka of Banaskantha district, near the Gujarat-Rajasthan border. Direct buses are available from many places, including Mount Abu, 45 km away, Palanpur, 65 km away, Ahmedabad 195 km, and Idar 115 km.

# **TORAN HOTELS**

AHMEDABAD | Mt. ABU | SAPUTARA | DWARKA | NARAYAN SAROVAR



# **TORAN HILL RESORT - SAPUTARA**



# **KEY ATTRACTIONS**

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

# 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:**

# **Gujarat Homestays**

When in Gujarat, be a Gujarati





- Categorization of the establishment as Silver, Gold or Platinum category
- Additional income and enjoyable business activity for home owners
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