

PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

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A high-end monthly magazine

FREEDOM TRAIL IN GUJARAT



**Shiva's Own
Playground**

**Snorkelling with
Manta Rays**



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Festivals and Freedom

We love festivals, for the celebration part and most importantly for the holiday part. Looks like August is the month for us as it will bring a string of holidays with it. Yes, we know about the season but pouring rains have hardly proved a dampener to those bitten by the travel bug.

With Raksha Bandhan on August 11 and Independence Day on August 15, let's make full use of the long weekend and embark upon a mini vacation or staycation to a destination of your choice to loosen up a little.

So where to go this time? How about following a freedom trail in Gujarat? Sounds like a perfect way to rouse the patriot in you? Gujarat is the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel that abounds in places associated with the freedom struggle. From the Kochrab Ashram to Sabarmati Ashram, there are places that will give you glimpses of the inspiring life of Mahatma Gandhi.

Read on!



Sabarmati Ashram

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August 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
Satyam Upadhyay

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tourismone@praveg.com

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Editor: PARASKUMAR M. PATEL.



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Shiva's Own Playground



The Kailash Peak is believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva. The fields at the base of the mountain are known as Shiva's Chaugan or Shiva's playground.



PRAVEG'S TOURISM ONE

Situated at an altitude of 13,000 feet, at the foot of the Kailash peak, is a secluded stretch of frigid waters called the Manimahesh Lake. According to one of the many legends, the lake was created by Lord Shiva, after he married Parvati. It is one of the prime pilgrimage centres in Himachal Pradesh.

The perpetually snow-covered Kailash Peak is the source of Lake

Manimahesh, which lies at the base of this peak. The stream of water that flows out from this lake is called Manimahesh Ganga, which cascades and joins the Budhil River. This is the land of Shiva or Shiv Bhoomi. According to the local beliefs of the Gaddi tribe who inhabits this area, they adopted Shiva as their deity, and the lord in acknowledgment of their fealty, ordained that they would always wear a

special pointed cap so that the people would recognize them as his followers. Their famous pointed Chuhali topi has this legend attached to it.

Thirteen kilometres from Bharmour is a village called Hadsar. The trek starts from Hadsar, which is the last motorable location for the Lake. Hadsar is about 78 km from Chamba district. Sparsely populated, it had a population of about 360 people in the 2011 census. It is

Manimahesh Lake



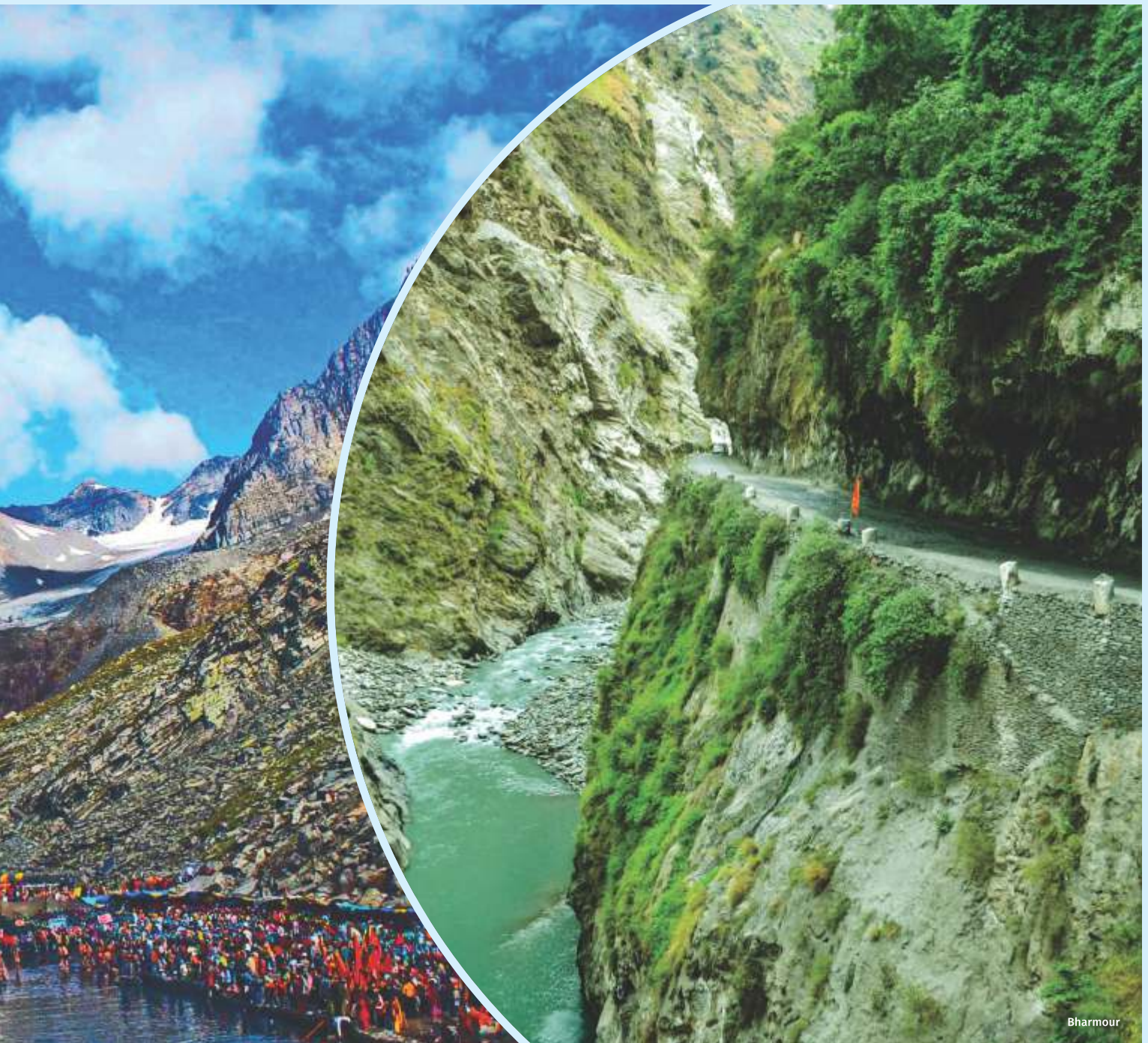
known for its isolation, which enhances its beauty. It has a number of waterfalls along the trekking route. Hadsar is the confluence of the Manimahesh Ganga and the Budhil River.

When the frigid winter season gives way to summer, the ice begins to melt. Small streams of water magically appear all along the route. The trees on the hills are lush again. In the

coming warm months, there will be an all-around blossoming of flora.

The trekking path to the lake runs parallel to the Budhil River as it comes hurtling down from the upper reaches. By the time it reaches Hadsar, it turns into a raging white-fanged fury. You pass through narrow canyons, with towering granite walls of rocks, on either side. Dense white puffs of cloud hang lazily over the river, often

hovering low on the trekking path. You will find yourself walking through, blinding cool and damp mist. The river however has a mind of its own. Sometimes you would find it as seething foam of turbulence. After a while, it is just a white streak of water, far down below in the gorge. When clouds of mist descend into the valley, you could be looking into an abyss of an unknown depth.



Bharmour

Hadsar to Dancho is about 6 km. You pass through several rickety bridges. If you come for trekking during the off-season, chances are that some of them may have been damaged by heavy snow. You would need to find a longer alternate route to cross the river. At Dancho, dhabas and accommodation are available. You should keep in mind that as you ascend, the facilities and the

comforts become correspondingly less. The trekking path after Dancho increases in gradient, slowing your ascent considerably. The vegetation here is dense. Pine trees are everywhere. However, as you continue to ascend, the greenery becomes more and more sparse.

Dancho is about 9500 ft above sea level. For comparison, Shimla is about 8200 ft above sea level. Often the path

narrows to less than a metre. On several occasions, you have to cross glaciers. If a path has not been cut through, it would make the traverse that much more dangerous and difficult. At times, the path itself is just a pile of stones cobbled together. Stray dogs are not uncommon here. If you make the mistake of scratching its head, you may find a furry companion accompanying you into your trek. From



Basecamp at Dancho



Gauri Kund

Dancho, the vegetation begins to thin out. The pine trees give way to short prickly shrubs clinging to the rocks. Occasionally wildflowers are visible - a pleasant contrast to the barren landscape of rocks and boulders. Often you would come across areas ravaged by landslides, a stark reminder that the passage through the mountains can be fraught with danger. Snow avalanches are also common here, which according

to local legend, happen when Lord Shiva unleashes his fury.

Six km from Dancho brings you to Gauri Kund. Gauri Kund is at a fork. One path leads to Kamal Kund, 3 km away and the other to the Lake. Gauri Kund is a big pond. According to legend, Shiva's consort Parvati had a bath here. This pond is therefore strictly meant for the female gender, to have their ablutions. Reportedly the water in the pond is

lukewarm. The trekking path skirts the pond and continues towards Lake.

The short trek to Kamal Kund is more difficult. Often there is no clear path leading to this small pond. Not many people take this detour. After a difficult trek, you reach Kamal Kund. It is a small depression that has collected water from the melting snow. It is desolate and barren terrain.




One kilometre further brings you to the Lake. It is again on barren land, bereft of any vegetation. The Lake is at the base of the hills surrounding it. It is at an altitude of 12960 ft. On a clear day, the imposing Kailash Peak is visible (not to be confused with Kailash Mansarover, which is in Tibet). The craggy mountain rises sharply into the sky. It stands at 18540 ft. In comparison, Everest is 29000 ft in height. It is perpetually covered with ice and snow. It is one of the few mountains in India that has not been climbed as yet, probably in deference to the sentiments of the tribal people. It is held in high veneration by the pilgrims. In the month of August /

September, the Gaddi tribe holds an immensely popular fair on the shores of the lake. The Kailash Peak is believed to be the abode of Lord Shiva. The fields at the base of the mountain are known as Shiva's Chaugan or Shiva's playground.

The Manimahesh Yatra stretches for two weeks from Janmasthmi and generally falls in the months of August/ September. During the yatra, many people cover the entire stretch of 26 km from Bharmour to Manimahesh Lake in a single day, which becomes an extremely arduous and gruelling trek. There are pros and cons of travelling during the Yatra season. The single biggest con is that the crowds in this season are heavy and consequently, the rates of all items

multiply manifold. However, due to the surging crowd, many facilities spring up, which otherwise would disappear during the off-season. Staying and eating joints would be far and few between. For a leisurely trekking adventure, the best season would be from May to August.

Remote isolated lakes & mountains are there aplenty in the Himalayan regions. But what makes the place intriguing for the adventurer and which evokes a sense of piety for the believers are the legends associated with it. It lends an enormous amount of meaning, that makes it special. 

Shiva's Chaugan or Shiva's Playground

Words by VIJAY KURIUP

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SNORKELLING WITH MANTA RAYS





MALDIVES

When you think of Lagoons with Prussian blue waters, glass bottom bungalows, private beaches, your thoughts invariably veer to the archipelagic country of Maldives. Many of the atolls i.e. a coral island consisting of a reef surrounding a lagoon have been leased to multinational corporations who have converted them to exclusive uber luxury resorts. But there are other islands in this sprawling archipelago that you can visit without the anguish of experiencing a hefty reduction in your bank balance.

The beautiful Maldivian coastline has an ancient history. Archaeological evidence indicates that these groups of islands were inhabited as early as 1500 BC. Ruins and other archaeological remains have been found in the atolls and islands. It is believed that permanent settlements were established around 500 BC by Aryan immigrants from the Indian subcontinent. The Maldives islands are located along the ancient east west marine trade route. Islam is the state religion of Maldives. It is believed to have been introduced here by the Arab traders who frequented this trade route. However, before the advent of Islam, the religion was predominantly Buddhist.



Hulhumale Island or Hulumale is about 98 km from Male, the capital of Maldives. It is about 2.4 km in length and a km in width. The distinguishing feature of this land is that it is an artificial island reclaimed from the sea. Most islands in the Maldives are just about a metre above sea level and therefore susceptible to the pernicious effects of global warming. In Hulhumale, millions of cubic metres of sand were dug out from the seabed to raise the new island by more than 2 metres above sea level. It is the first smart city in the Maldives.

Hulhumale is popular with travellers on a budget. The travellers have the options of luxurious and modest accommodations. There are boutique hotels here with ocean views as well as guest houses that are located within walking distance to the beach. Owing to the high population of Muslims, women's bikinis are discouraged. However, the usual smorgasbord of water sport activities is available here, for asking.

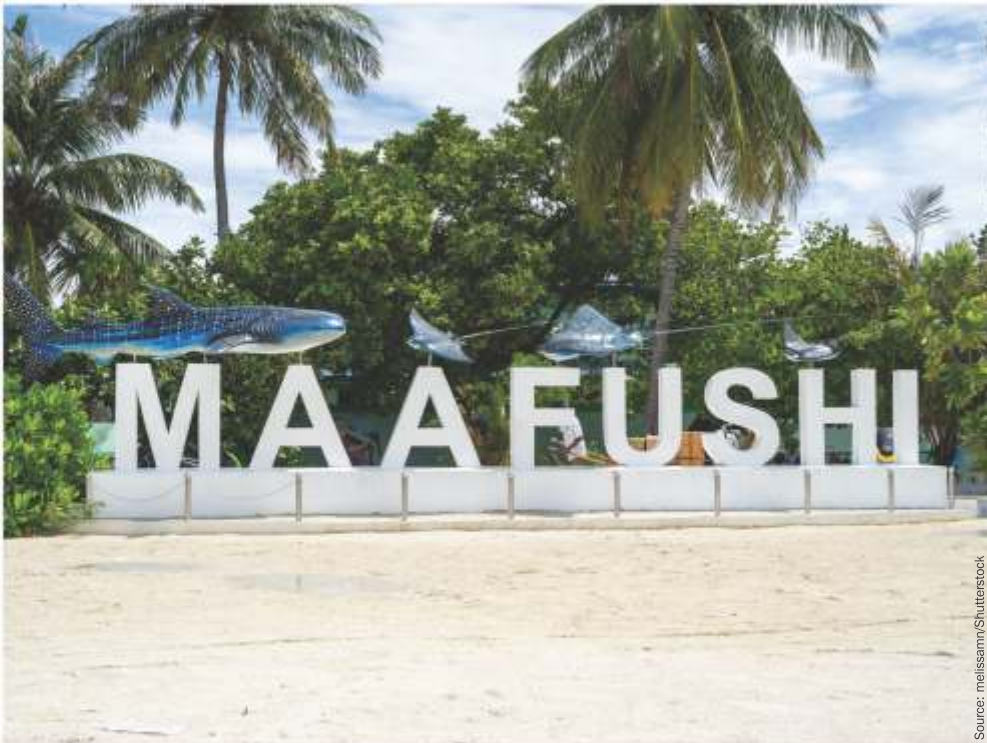




Hulhumale Island



Maafushi Island



Source: melissam/Shutterstock

Bikini Beach



Source: Jorung H/Shutterstock



Looming up from the ocean floor, in the south Male Atoll, is Maafushi Island located 27 km from the airport. The Island is fringed with sparkling sugar white sand. It is one of the bigger islands, almost rectangular in shape, spanning 1.2 km in length and a quarter km in width. One can circumnavigate most of the islands in three to four hours. Many establishments offer a buffet-style meal. European, Sri Lankan and Mediterranean food are available for the visitor's delectation. Like most island resorts here, it has an abundance of dining options.

There was a time when tourism was allowed only in certain islands in Maldives. Tourism started in Maafushi in the year 2012, primarily to establish budget tourism in Maldives. It has a population of about 2700 people. Extending tourism to these islands has allowed people to share the benefits of the country's tourism industry. The rates here are by far easier on the purse in comparison to other islands. There are inexpensive cafes and guest houses.



Thoddoo Island is located 67 kilometres from the Maldivian capital that comes with easy budget. It has a beautiful desert-like beach that stretches for two kilometres. The area of this island is just about 2 sq.km. The mainstay of the people here is agriculture due to which the island has a rich green periphery of fruit plantations and palm trees. The coral reefs surrounding the island is a haven for snorkelling among the underwater creatures.



Thoddoo Island



When in Rome, be a Roman. When in Maldives, go for the Maldivian delicacies. The Maldivian cuisine is a combination of culinary mix from neighbouring countries, such as India and Sri Lanka. The curries are therefore invariably spicy. Traditional Maldivian cuisine is based on three main ingredients, namely coconut, fish, and starches containing grains and vegetables.

A popular Maldivian snack that can be enjoyed with your drinks is the fried Yam. Fried yams are similar to sweet potatoes. It can be enjoyed with different sauces.

When in Maldives, you cannot escape the fish curry. It is naturally the staple food here. The top varieties of fish used are big eye scads, yellow fin tuna, frigate tuna,

mahi-mahi. Fish curry is best consumed with rice.

A typical Maldivian food is the Gulha. They are dumplings that are stuffed with a mixture of tuna, finely chopped onion, grated coconut, and chilli. The dough is either made from wheat or rice. Gulha can be had with evening tea.

Another quintessential Maldivian food is the Mas Huni, which is a shredded smoked Tuna mixed with onions, chillies and coconut. It is best eaten with Roshhi which is very much like a chapati.

While roaming the lanes of Male, why not try some street food. Bajiya is a unique dish with incongruous bedfellows. It is a sweet pastry stuffed with fish, coconut and onions.

Kulhi Boakibaa is a spicy fish cake. Theluli mas is fried fish with chilli and garlic.



Fish Curry with Rice




Mas Huni with Roshhi




Fried Yams

Dharavandhoo Island



Dharavandhoo is an Island which is located in Baa Atoll, 110 km north of Male. It has its own airport and has a population of just 800 people. From May to November, Dharavandhoo is a hub for tourists eager to see massive gatherings of manta rays. Manta rays grow to a length of 7 m. They belong to the family of stingrays. They have well developed brains, and can pass the mirror test - meaning that they possess the ability of visual self-recognition. Just for information, dogs fail this test. A favourite pastime of the visitors is to swim with these creatures. Manta Rays are placid and friendly creatures as they glide peacefully through the water. Swimming with them can be quite an intimidating experience due to their enormous size. They feed on small sea creatures such as shrimps, krill, and planktonic crabs. The island is frequented year-round with divers and snorkelers, in search of octopuses, moray eels and turtles.

An aerial photograph of a tropical island, likely in the Maldives. The island is elongated and features a long, straight runway on its left side. To the right of the runway is a dense forest of palm trees. The island is surrounded by shallow turquoise water with visible coral reefs, transitioning into deeper blue ocean waters. The sky is a clear, deep blue.

Why go for immoderate expenses when less expensive options are available? A visitor to the island succinctly put it. "It is not necessary to spend thousands to dollars to have a good time in Maldives, because the stunning views of sunsets, the calm blue ocean waters and the swaying palm trees can be enjoyed regardless of the bed you sleep in! Wherever you are, you can do a lot of swimming, drink beer and eat plenty of fish!" Does it not check all the parameters of a good laid-back holiday resort? 🍹

Incredible India



FREEDOM TRAIL IN GUJARAT



Gujarat, the land of Mahatma Gandhi and Sardar Patel, abounds in places associated with the freedom struggle.

The Ashram Road Freedom Trail IN AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad is a city closely associated with the life of Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Patel and other nationalists. From the Kochrab Ashram to Sabarmati Ashram, you can see places associated with the life of Gandhiji.

Start your tour at 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 established on 25th May, 1915. Gandhiji aimed to use this ashram to further his goals of self-sufficiency, India's independence, upliftment of the poor, women and untouchables, and better public

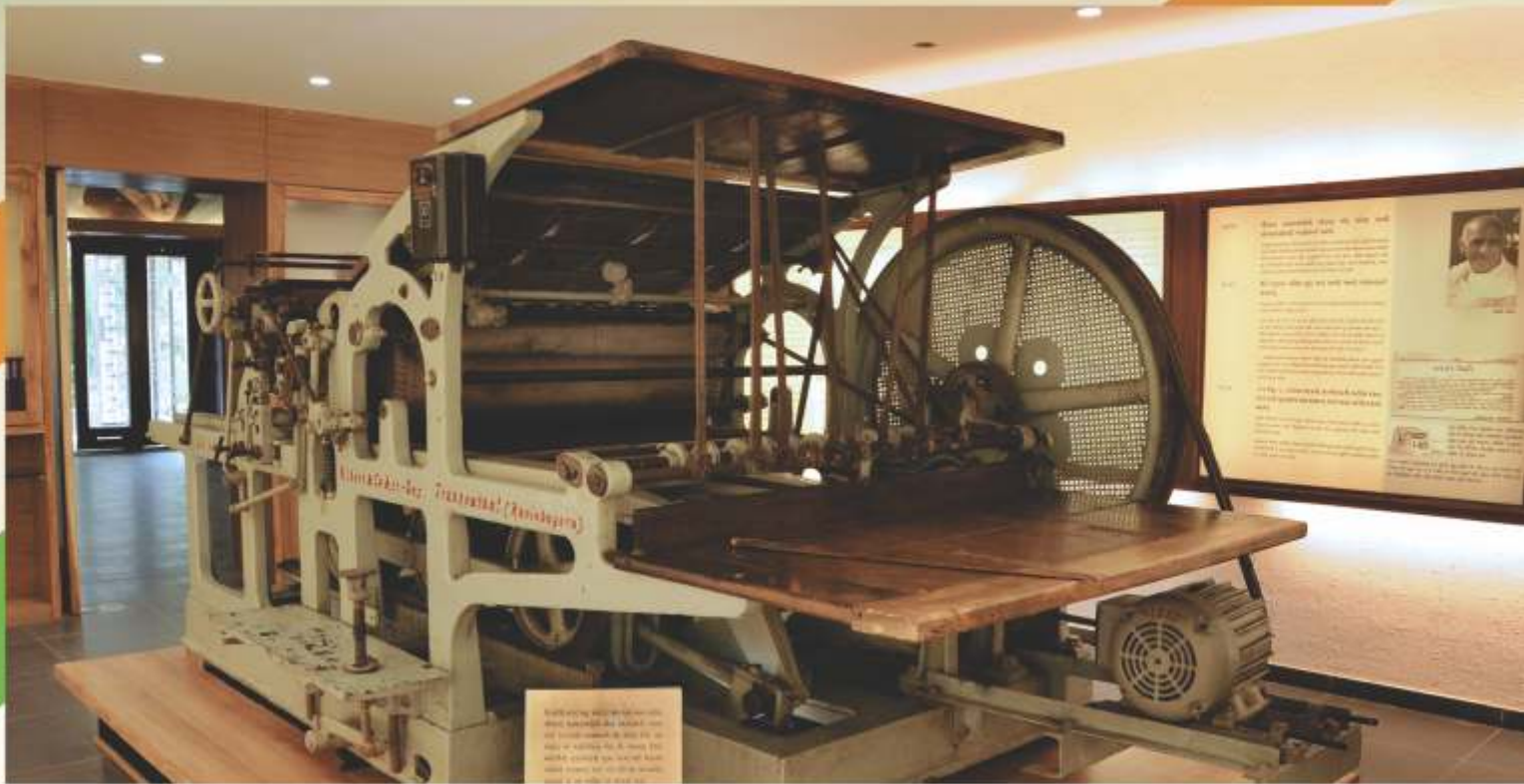
education and sanitation in India.

As the Kochrab area suffered a plague epidemic, Gandhiji 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.



Kochrab Ashram, Ahmedabad





Not very far from here, Gujarat College was a hotbed of the student movement for freedom. Vinod Kinariwala was shot dead by a British officer while waving the Indian flag in front of Gujarat College on 9 August 19, the first day of the Quit India Movement called by Mahatma Gandhi. He refused to drop the flag on the command of the British officer. He was just 18 years old at the time of his death. The Veer Shahid Kinariwala memorial stands here.

From here, 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 Gandhiji'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 Vidyapith. Taught by such eminent leaders, students of the Gujarat Vidyapith were vociferous and active during the freedom struggle, especially 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's museum that offers an insight into the life of the tribal people of Gujarat through photographs, artefacts, utensils,

implements, costumes and weapons.

Walk down from Vidyapith to the building of Navjivan Trust, a publishing house founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1919. This became the centre for publishing newspapers and journals to raise awareness about Gandhiji'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 of Young India, a Gujarati magazine called Navajivan Ane Satya, and other magazines edited by Gandhiji.



Gujarat Vidyapith, Ahmedabad



Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad

Proceed from here to the Sabarmati Ashram, aptly named for its location beside the River Sabarmati. Locally, this complex is well-known as the Gandhi Ashram, and it was also called Satyagraha Ashram and later Harijan Ashram. 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, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. In this complex, you can see the museum, Gandhiji's cottage called Hriday Kunj, and many relics of the Freedom Struggle.

Continue from here to the Moti

Shahi Palace, built by Shah Jehan when he was the Governor of Gujarat, located north of the Sabarmati Ashram on the east bank of the Sabarmati.

This palace was where the civil services officer Satyendranath Tagore stayed with his family members like younger brother Rabindranath Tagore in 1878. The palace inspired Tagore's poems and some of the stories of his book 'Sudat Pashan' (Hungry Stone). The palace is converted to the Sardar Patel National Memorial with a collection of artefacts and pictures related to the life of Sardar Vallabhai Patel.



Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya



Sites of Satyagraha in SOUTH GUJARAT



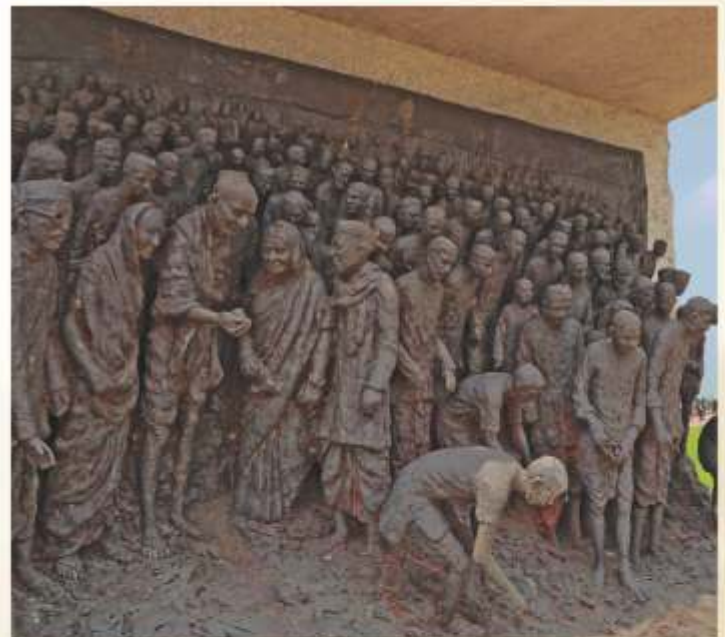
Source: CRS PHOTO/Shutterstock

The Bardoli Satyagraha at Bardoli near Surat was a major movement led by Sardar Patel on 12 June 1928. Though the taluka of Bardoli faced financial troubles in 1925, the British insisted on raising taxes. Activists like Narhari Parikh, Ravi Shankar Vyas and Mohanlal

Pandya approached Sardar Patel who had successfully led the Kheda Satyagraha. The British Government's attempts to crush the resistance failed and were criticised even in their own offices. Finally, the Bombay Government agreed to restore the confiscated lands and properties to

cancel revenue payment for the year and to cancel the 22% raise until after the succeeding year. The momentum from the Bardoli victory aided in the resurrection of the freedom struggle. You can learn more about the Satyagraha at the Sardar Patel Museum of Bardoli.

Dandi Memorial , Dandi



From Bardoli, travel to Dandi. The Dandi Satyagraha was the culmination of the Salt March by Mahatma Gandhi and 78 satyagrahis, among whom were men belonging to almost every region, caste, creed, and religion of India, covering 385 km from their starting

point at Ahmedabad to Dandi. Thousands of people joined the march as it proceeded. The Salt March was called the White Flowing River because of the hordes of people wearing white khadi clothes. Near the beach of Dandi, you can visit the National Salt

Satyagraha Memorial or Dandi Memorial that honours the activists and participants of the Satyagraha. You can see the place, where the British salt monopoly was broken by the activists who produced salt by boiling sea water as a resistance to the unfair Salt Act.

The memorial has a 2,500 kg glass cube representing the salt crystal, illuminated at night. A tall statue of Mahatma Gandhi stands inside the memorial, while to the left a life-size statue of Gandhi and 78 volunteers are the creations of international sculptors. You can see solar trees, solar-energy operated salt pans and old buildings in Dandi.



Dandi Memorial , Dandi



The Gandhi Trail in SAURASHTRA

Kirti Mandir, Porbandar



Start your tour at Porbandar, where Mahatma Gandhi was born on 2nd October, 1869. The Kirti Mandir here has a museum that displays items from the life of Gandhiji, life size paintings of Kasturba and Gandhiji by Shri Yutt along with some old photographs, and houses a library of books either written by Gandhiji or relating to his philosophies.

From the memorial, you can access

the three-storied haveli-like ancestral home of the Gandhi family where Gandhiji was born.

From Porbandar, travel to Rajkot where you can see Kaba Gandhi no Delo where Gandhiji spent his childhood. The old house has a museum with photographs, Gandhiji's marksheets and Gandhian memorabilia. From here, proceed to see the Mahatma Gandhi School. Originally called Rajkot English

School, this school was founded on 17 October, 1853 and became a full-fledged high school. It was named Alfred High School in 1907 with a building constructed by the Nawab of Junagadh. Now it has memorabilia of Mahatma Gandhi on display. Continue to Rashtriya Shala, the model school built in 1920 by Mahatma Gandhi, This campus is working to revive rare weaves. 10



Kaba Gandhi no Delo, Rajkot



Gandhiji's Birth Place, Porbandar



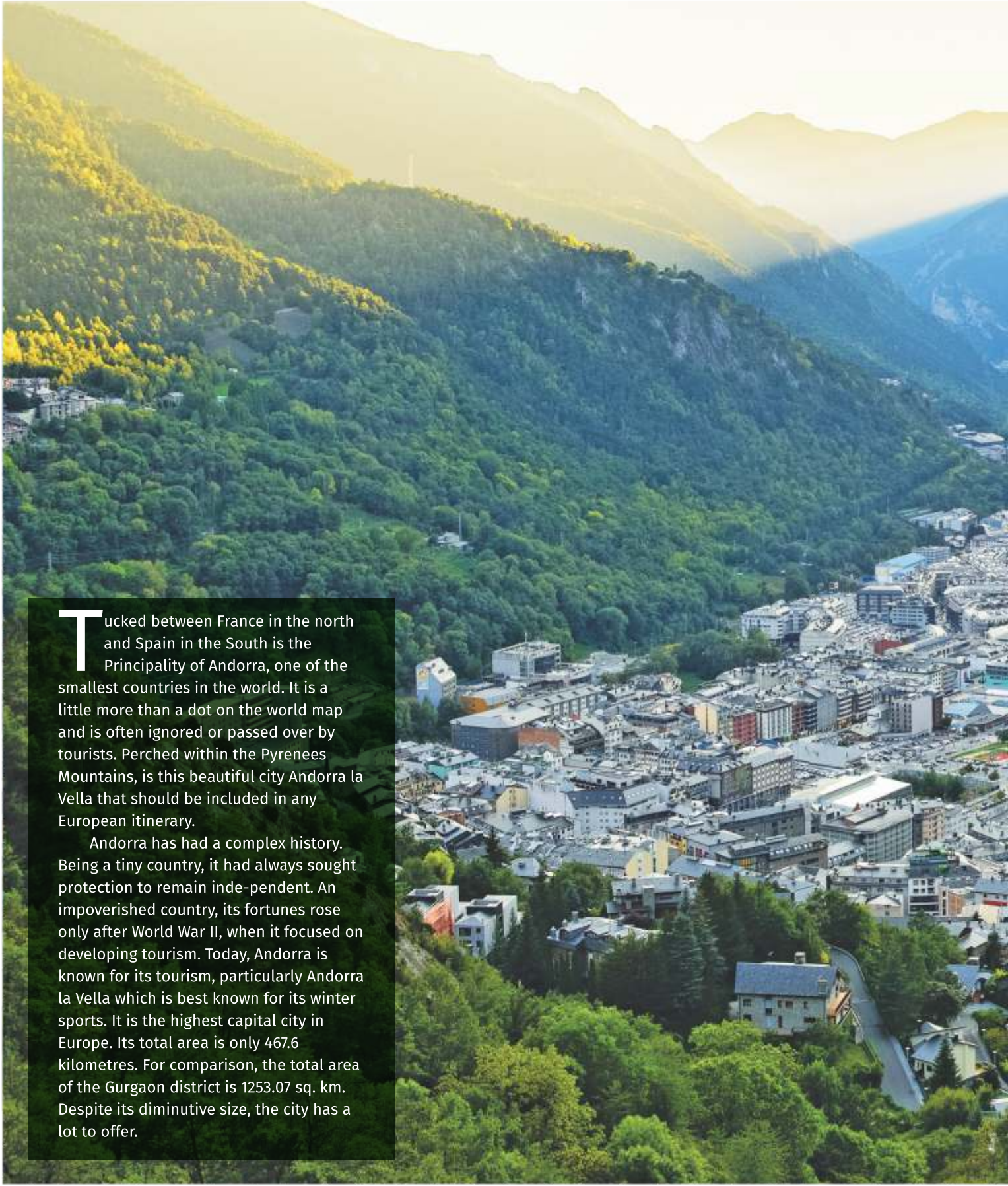
Mohandas Gandhi High School, Rajkot

Far Far Away

A GEM IN THE PYRENEES MOUNTAINS

Ski Resort of Andorra Pyrenees

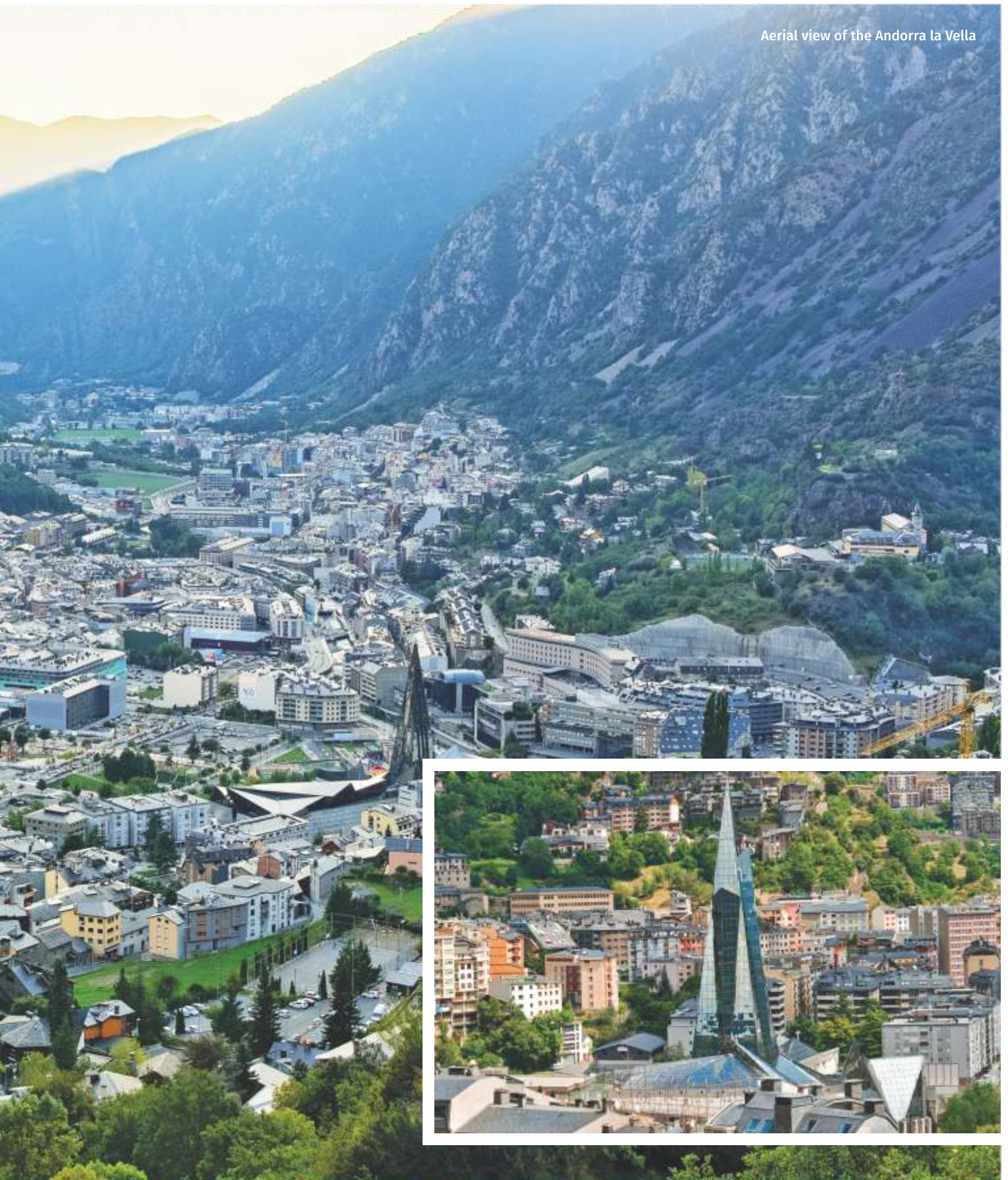




Tucked between France in the north and Spain in the South is the Principality of Andorra, one of the smallest countries in the world. It is a little more than a dot on the world map and is often ignored or passed over by tourists. Perched within the Pyrenees Mountains, is this beautiful city Andorra la Vella that should be included in any European itinerary.

Andorra has had a complex history. Being a tiny country, it had always sought protection to remain independent. An impoverished country, its fortunes rose only after World War II, when it focused on developing tourism. Today, Andorra is known for its tourism, particularly Andorra la Vella which is best known for its winter sports. It is the highest capital city in Europe. Its total area is only 467.6 kilometres. For comparison, the total area of the Gurgaon district is 1253.07 sq. km. Despite its diminutive size, the city has a lot to offer.

Aerial view of the Andorra la Vella



Andorra la Vella, the beautiful city of Andorra means "Andorra the Town", to distinguish it from the Principality of Andorra as a whole. This city has its share of rolling mountains and lush greenery. A good place to start is Town Square. Quaint, but stately buildings, adorn the Town Square. Though being in the centre of the city, the hustle and bustle of a city is mercifully absent. There are numerous statues placed all over the city. What makes them interesting and intriguing, is the wide-ranging subjects of sculptures cover. There are many historical figures; a monk pensively looking out into the green valley; a giant clock that appears to have melted in the hot sun; a man sprawled on a seat with his legs crossed in a thoughtful pose, and children with hands held together in easy camaraderie. And many more.



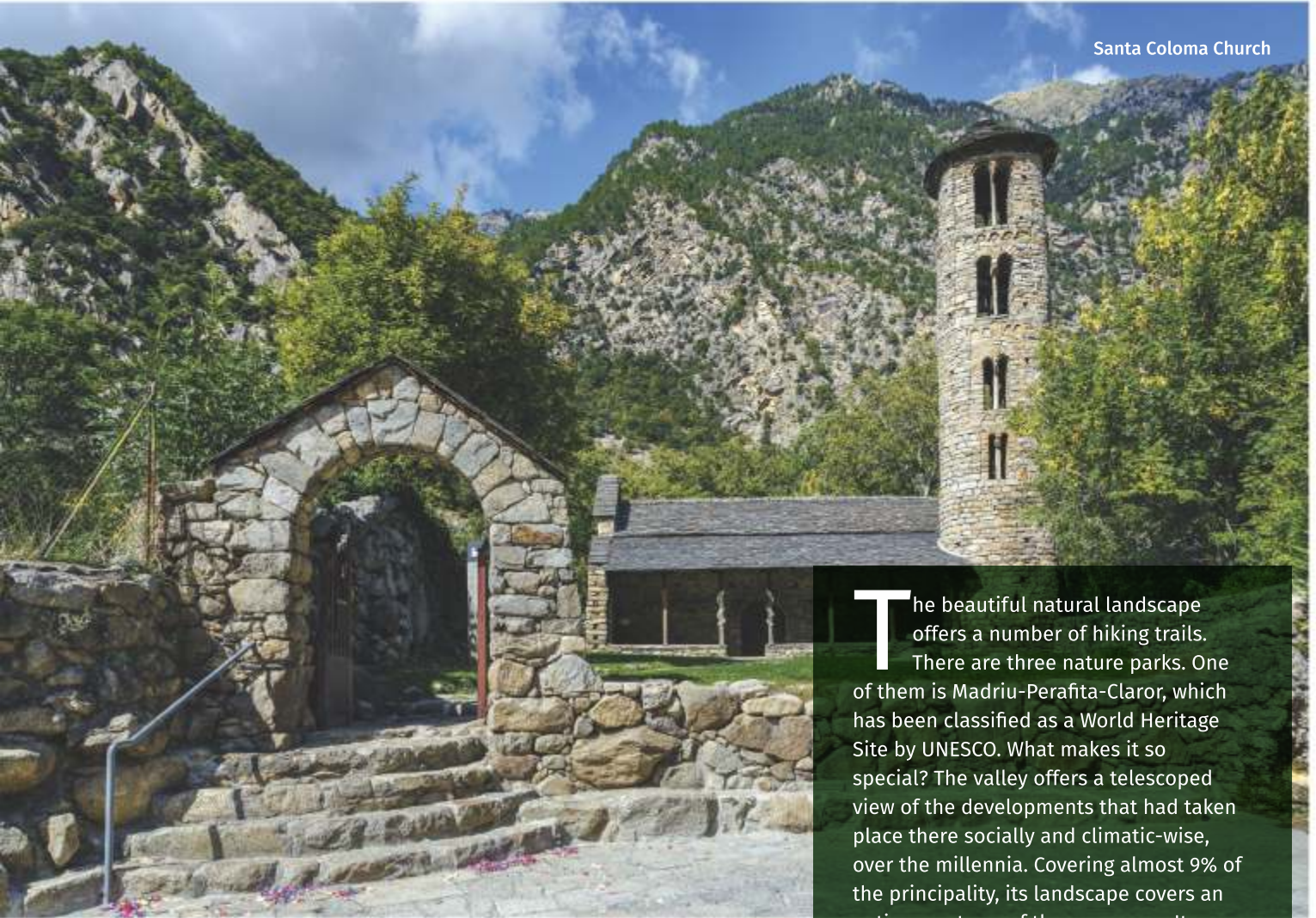
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Source: Xenu/Shutterstock

Noblesse du Temps Sculpture

Santa Coloma Church



The beautiful natural landscape offers a number of hiking trails. There are three nature parks. One of them is Madriu-Perafita-Claror, which has been classified as a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. What makes it so special? The valley offers a telescoped view of the developments that had taken place there socially and climatic-wise, over the millennia. Covering almost 9% of the principality, its landscape covers an entire spectrum of the panorama. It ranges from glacial landscapes of craggy cliffs to open pastures and steep wooded valleys. It reflects the changes in climate and in economic fortunes of the inhabitants. It also gives a glimpse of the communal land-ownership system that goes back to the 13th century. Small huts, stables and cheese dairies, barns for storage of grains, foundries, etc depict a way of life with Romanesque origins.



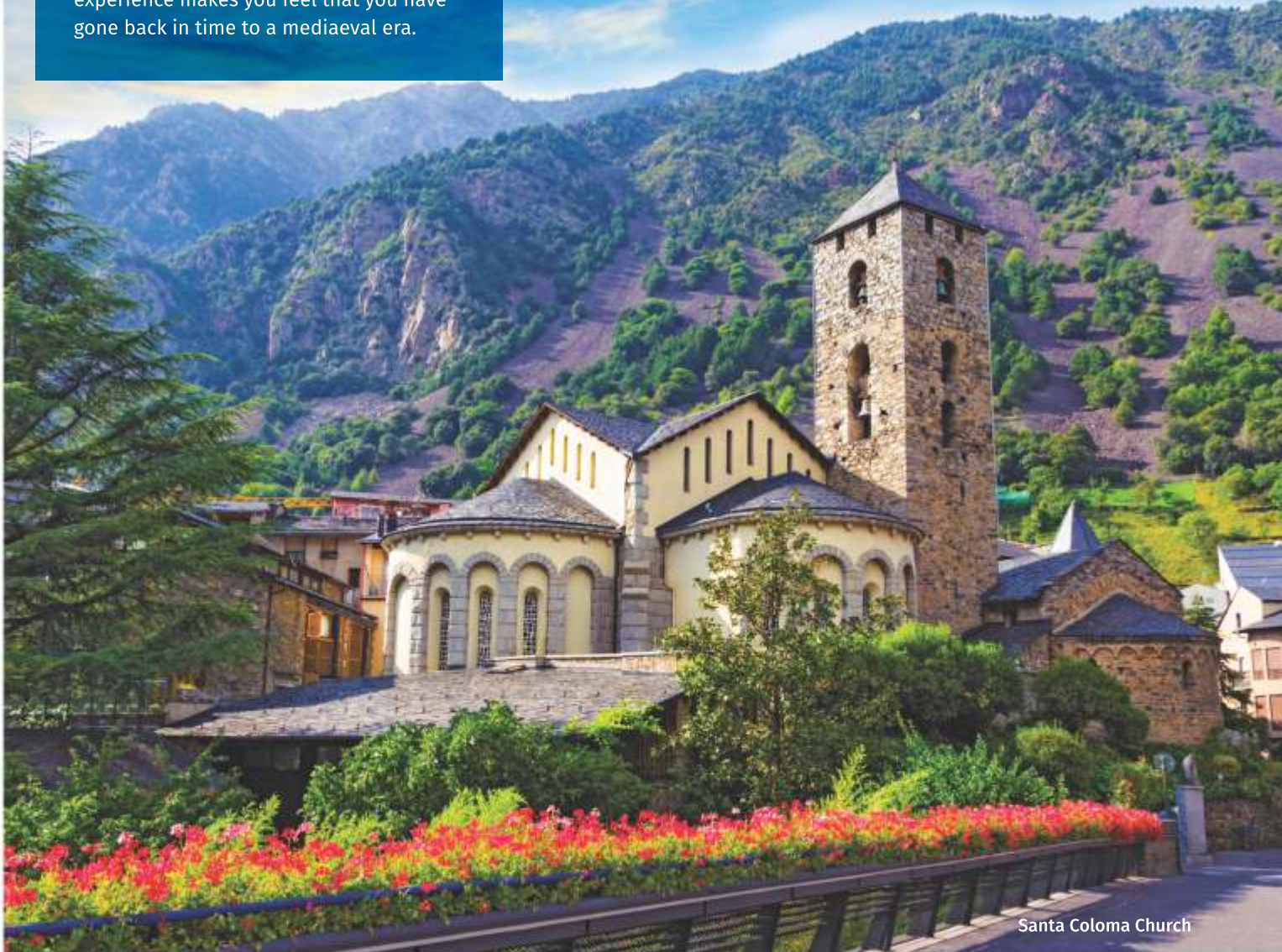
Madriu Perafita Claror Valley

One of the more exciting pastimes to indulge in here is the walking tours across the city. It gives you an insight into the lifestyle of its inhabitants, the architecture, and its history. Beginning at the centre of the town is the Church of Sant Esteve, dating back to the 12th century, but now refurbished. As you walk further into the city, you walk on cobblestone streets that wind through narrow lanes. The streets are so cleverly designed that they inevitably lead to souvenir shops or restaurants that assail you with a delicious odour of food. When you walk on the cobblestone streets, with dun-colored stone buildings on either side, the experience makes you feel that you have gone back in time to a mediaeval era.



Interior of Sant Esteve Church

Source: David K Photography/Shutterstock



Santa Coloma Church



The City Hall was built in the mediaeval ages. Close to it is a dungeon that was used to incarcerate delinquents, guilty of minor misdeeds.

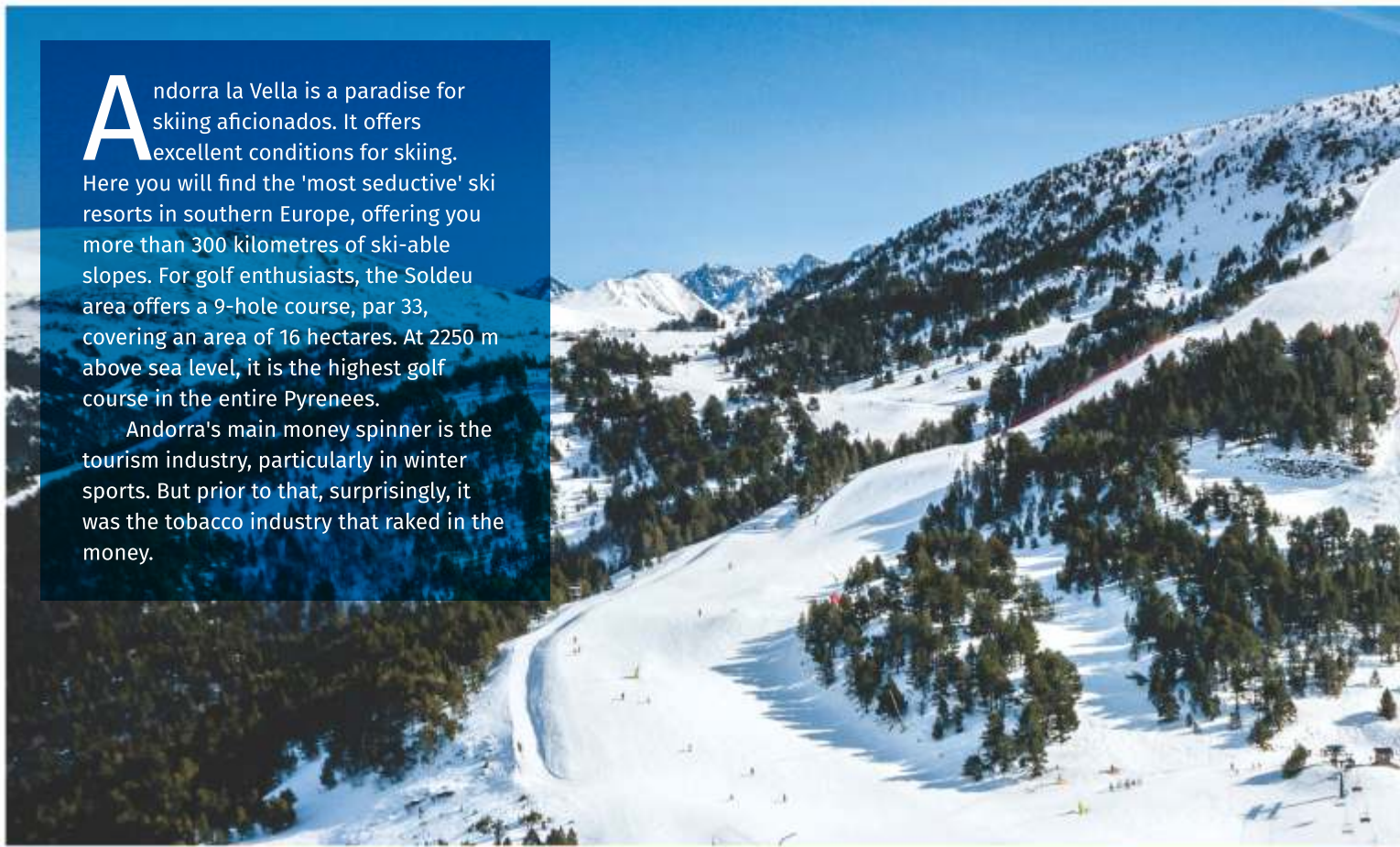
A few metres from the City Hall is the smallest parliament in Europe, Casa de la Vall. This iconic building dates back to the year 1580. It was once a residence of a prominent family of this town that was taken over by the local council, to become their permanent headquarters.



City Hall

Andorra la Vella is a paradise for skiing aficionados. It offers excellent conditions for skiing. Here you will find the 'most seductive' ski resorts in southern Europe, offering you more than 300 kilometres of ski-able slopes. For golf enthusiasts, the Soldeu area offers a 9-hole course, par 33, covering an area of 16 hectares. At 2250 m above sea level, it is the highest golf course in the entire Pyrenees.

Andorra's main money spinner is the tourism industry, particularly in winter sports. But prior to that, surprisingly, it was the tobacco industry that raked in the money.





Source: Wirestock Creators/Shutterstock

A trip to any place cannot be complete without tasting its traditional dishes. Often the culinary dishes are a reflection of the topography of the place. The traditional dishes are naturally based on the abundance of food that is easily available locally. Few of the cuisines are made of mountain game, such as wild boar or hare. Many varieties of wild mushrooms form a major part of the dishes.

Cunillo means rabbit and is used in a variety of ways. It is stewed in tomato sauce with onions and white wine. Wild chicory can be seen growing in the mountains here. It has found its way into the kitchens of Andorra. These are picked and made into a salad along with bacon and nuts.

Many of the restaurants have wide footpaths where tables and chairs are placed for people to dine al fresco. You can spend a lazy afternoon dining and look at the beautiful mountain views.

Andorra la Vella is unique in many ways. It does not have a military of its own. Taxes are very low here. It's a haven for luxury goods. Andorra la Vella may be small, but can easily compete with many of the best tourist countries in the world.





Spicy Rabbit Stew in Tomato Sauce



The national dish of Andorra is Escudella. It is eaten on all festival days. It is a dish with high calorific value, and so is ideal to be eaten on cold winter days. Its Ingredients are chicken, veal, meatballs, pig snout and trotters, and sausage, together with vegetarian items such as potatoes, cabbage, and white beans or chickpeas. 🍴



Surendranagar district is an important handloom cluster where weaves like Tangaliya and Patola (ikat) thrive.

From Ahmedabad, the highway to Rajkot leads past the town of Limbdi. Soon after Limbdi comes the village of Vastadi, which is a centre for Tangaliya

weaving. Tangaliya or Tangalio is a hand-woven, GI-protected textile made by the Dangasia community. This weave is largely native to the Surendranagar district with styles like Ramraj, Charmalia, Dhunslu, and Lobdi being woven in Dedara, Vastadi, Godavari and Vadla in the district. The weavers use

extra threads when weaving the textile in pit looms at homes and knot a contrast colour to create the effect of raised dots when making patterns and geometric figures. Traditionally, shawls and wraparound skirts were made using these techniques for the Bharwad shepherds and their wives.



From here, you can drive to Sayla, which is a centre for Patola weaving. At the Patolawala Street in Sayla, you can meet national award-winning ikat weaver Mukesh. The weavers of Surendranagar usually make single ikat fabrics though a few have also mastered double ikat.

At Sayla, you can also watch weavers who use recycled materials to create fabrics.

Proceed to Rajkot, which is a centre for Patola weaving mainly single ikat. The Rashtriya Shala started in 1920 by Gandhiji is working to promote this weave.



About 39 km from Rajkot at the entrance to Gondal town, Udhyog Bharati's Khadi Plaza is a success story in handloom weaving. Here, women from nearby villages come to work on spinning and handloom equipment to make fabrics. This organisation has launched many innovative products, including khadi denim.



THE TEXTILE HERITAGE OF NORTH GUJARAT

Ahmedabad was once a well-known centre for kinkhab, even when it was known as Karnavati 1000 years ago. The brocade weaving tradition declined in mediaeval times because of a fire, with weavers migrating out of Ahmedabad. A few Patel families kept the tradition alive, weaving a few inches of textile between farming activities. Finally, only one weaver

named Vishnu Patel continued the tradition of weaving the Ashawali fabrics of Ahmedabad. His family's cluster called Royal Brocades is located at Ridrol near Mansa. The fabrics are woven on pit looms using the twill weave, which creates the effect of motifs being raised, with an enamelled look. The family is working to revive age-old motifs.



Ashawali Saree Collection, Ahmedabad

From Ridrol continue to Patan, which is world-famous for the GI-tag protected double ikat Patan nu Patola. Double ikat is the process of resist-dyeing both the warp and the weft according to the desired pattern, and then expertly bringing them together in the weaving process. Only a few weavers continue this intricate work.

Patan is also the centre for Mashru weaving. Mashru is a blend of silk and cotton. Mashru was very popular during Mughal times as by the canons Muslims were restricted from wearing silk next to their skin. Using the satin weave, the weavers ensure that the base of fabric is cotton and silk floats on the surface to give required sheen.



Ikat Patola of Patan



Mashru

WEAVERS VILLAGES IN KUTCH

The traditional weaving of Kutch is said to have arrived from Rajasthan from where Marwadās of the Meghwal community migrated to Bhuj. The weavers had close connections to the pastoral people who provided them with wool and were also patrons of their creations.

About 8 km before Bhuj, Bhujodi is one of the most visited weaving clusters. Traditionally, vertical frame looms called



panja were used but now most of the weaving is done on pitlooms. The Kutch weavers dye the wool and other yarns using mineral and other natural colours. The wool may be strengthened by coating it with a wheat flour paste. The weavers add extra weft thread in the pitlooms, which is then used to make patterns. The resulting motifs are very distinctive and explicit.

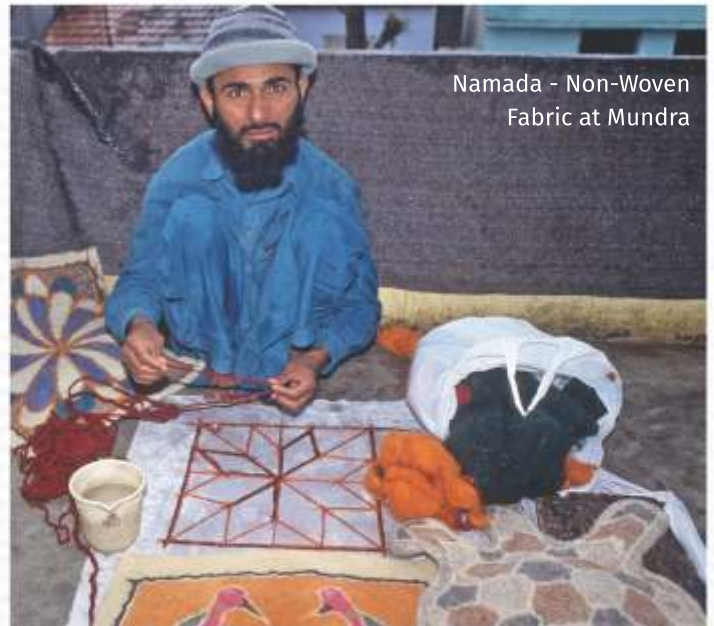
Proceed towards Khavda, an area where Kharad weaving is still practised.

The weavers use coarse yarn made from goat or camel hair to weave durries and blankets.

From the desert areas, travel to the coastal port town of Mundra. This is where one of the last namada artisans of Kutch resides and works. The Namada is a non-woven fabric, the artisan uses felting techniques with friction to connect wool yarn in the process of making a piece of fabric.



Weaver at Bhujodi, Bhuj



Namada - Non-Woven Fabric at Mundra

THE HOME OF QUILTING

Bharuch is the centre for Sujuni, a method of making quilts. You can watch two weavers at different ends of the loom weaving the fabric, inserting spun cotton that is woven into squares on the loom. The process is intricate and laborious, but these quilts are unique as the cotton does not shift the way it does in stitched quilts. ■



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