

GUJARAT – A TIMELINE OF ARCHITECTURAL MARVELS

Gujarat – the western state of India is known for its diverse tourism products ranging from Architectural Monuments, Textile and Handicrafts to the natural landscapes. The Textile Legacy of Gujarat starts from the Indus Valley Civilization and with great trade relations with the whole world, new textile arts developed and has been in place in Gujarat. This Tour will focus on visiting the architectural marvels of Gujarat starting from the Indus Valley Civilization sites of 2500 BC to Statue of Unity of 2018 AD.

Day 1: Ahmedabad

Arrival in Ahmedabad – the largest city in Gujarat and recognized as the first UNESCO World Heritage City in India. Transfer to the hotel and check in and relax for the day.

Day 2: Ahmedabad – Lothal - Muli

Arrival in Ahmedabad – the largest city in Gujarat and recognized as the first UNESCO World Heritage City in India. Proceed to Lothal (80 kms/ 2 Hours), considered to be the first maritime port in the World. Lothal was a vital and thriving trade centre in Indus Valley Civilization with its trades reaching the Civilizations of West Asia and Africa. Proceed to Muli (100 kms/2 Hours) and overnight at Muli.

Day 3: Muli – Dholavira

Today morning, proceed towards Dholavira (300 kms/6 Hours) – one of the largest city in the Indus Valley Civilization. Dholavira, a UNESCO World Heritage Site was meticulously planned metropolis of that era with proper roads and drainage facilities. Fortification of the various parts of the city were done and proper rainwater storage resulted in great irrigation facilities. Reach Dholavira and Overnight at Dholavira.

Day 4: Dholavira

Visit the Dholavira Archaeological Park and understand the great technological and architectural advancements of the Indus Valley Civilization. Also an added road trip through the Road to Heaven passing through the Great Rann of Kutch would be a perfect way to close out the day. Overnight at Dholavira.



Day 5: Dholavira – Patan

Today morning, proceed to Patan (220 kms/4 Hours) – the first capital of Gujarat established in the 8th Century. Patan is home to the UNESCO World Heritage Site – Rani Ki Vav, the 11th century 7 storeyed stepwell considered to be the masterpiece housing more the 500 sculptors of Hindu Gods and

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Goddesses. Also meet the master craftsman of the Patola Art – a double ikat hand weaving technique practiced primarily by a handful of artisans across the globe. Overnight at Patan.

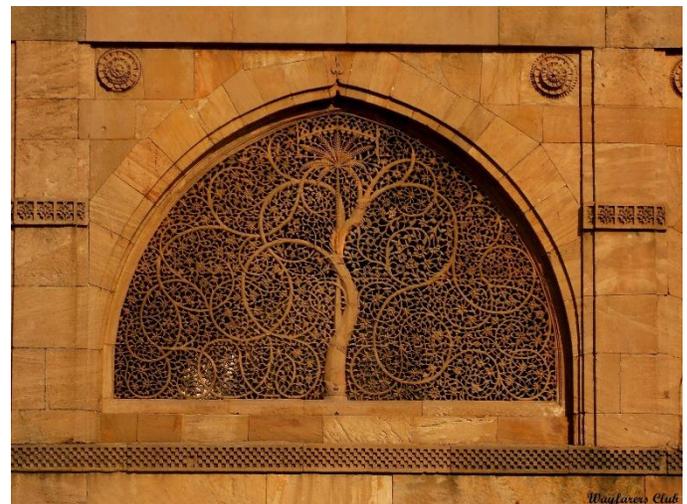
Day 6: Patan – Modhera – Ahmedabad

Today morning, proceed to Modhera (35 kms/40 Mins) to visit the famous Modhera Sun Temple, an 11th century temple dedicated to Sun God. Lying exactly on the Tropic of Cancer, the temple is famous its architecture and intricate carvings on its pillars plus the use of the study of Vastu Shashtra in its construction. Proceed to Ahmedabad(120 kms/2 Hours) and Overnight at Ahmedabad.



Day 7: Ahmedabad

Established in 1411 by Sultan Ahmed Shah, Ahmedabad became the capital of Gujarat and to know it better, an early morning heritage walk of the World Heritage City of Ahmedabad is the perfect way which starts a Hindu Temple to the Muslim Mosque converging through the hundreds of Pols and Jain Temples on the way. Post that, visit the Sidi Saiyed Mosque which houses the Sidi Saiyed Jali – the intricately carved windows out of a single stone and unofficially regarded as the Identity of Ahmedabad. Also visit the Sarkhej Roza of Ahmedabad – called as the Acropolis of Ahmedabad by renowned Architect Le Corbuiser. Overnight at Ahmedabad.



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Day 8: Ahmedabad - Champaner

Today visit the Adalaj ni Vav – a 5 storey stepwell in the outskirts of Ahmedabad showcasing the brilliant combination of the Hindu-Muslim Architecture. It perfectly showcases the difference in architectural styles in stepwells with the advent of time and dynasties. Thereby, proceed to Champaner(160 kms/ 3 Hours) - an erstwhile capital of Gujarat. Visit the famous Kali Mata Temple on the top of Pavagadh Hill through a Ropeway and also the ancient fort remains of Pavagadh. Overnight at Champaner.



Day 9: Champaner - Vadodara

Today, visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park which includes the Nagina Mosque, Jama Masjid, Saat Kaman, Helical Stepwell and many more. Champaner was designated as the capital of Gujarat by Mahmud Begda when he was trying to besiege the Pavagadh Fort. The archaeological park includes monuments from the 8th Century to the 16th century. Thereby, proceed to Vadodara - the cultural capital of Gujarat. Visit the Majestic Laxmi Vilas Palace - one of the largest private residences in the world belonging to the Gaikwad Dynasty and built in 1890. It is a perfect example of the mixture of various architectural styles. Overnight at Vadodara.



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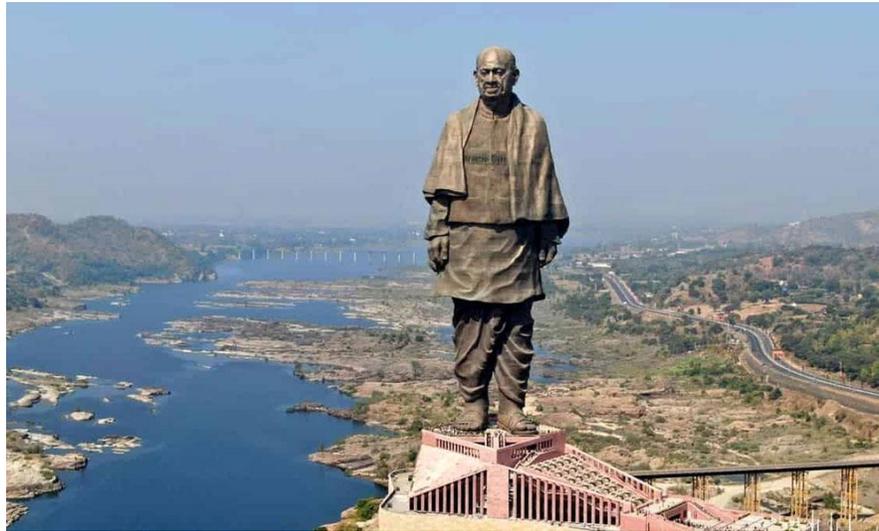
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Day 10: Vadodara - SOU

Today, proceed to the Statue of Unity(100 kms/2 Hours) - the modern wonder in Gujarat and the tallest statue in the World dedicated to Sardar Patel - the Man who united India with a height of 182 Metres. Visit the Statue of Unity museum and the viewing gallery at a height of 135 metres overlooking the imposing Sardar Sarovar Dam and the Narmada River. Also enjoy the electrifying Light and Sound Show in the evening and Overnight at SOU.



Day 11: SOU - Ahmedabad

Today, proceed to Ahmedabad (200 kms/ 4 Hours) and drop as per the schedule at the Airport with memories of the unique architectural timeline of Gujarat right from 2500 BC to 2018 AD.

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