



Gujarat- A Chance Discovery

Overlooked by many travellers, Gujarat is a side step off the tourist trail. The state has a very distinctive and vibrant local culture and offers a myriad of experiences that are sure to leave you wanting more!

Start your journey in the capital city of Ahmedabad; its labyrinthine old city standing alongside modern construction is evidence of its thriving diversity. Sights like the Jama Masjid mosque are captivating architectural gems, while the Calico Museum houses a world-class textile collection. North of the old city, is the Hathee Singh Jain Temple, a phenomenal example of how elegant Jain religious art can really be. Ahmedabad was also home to Mahatma Gandhi. The Sabarmati Ashram where he lived for 12 years is well worth a visit.

Move beyond the chaotic capital and you will find many diverse and fascinating gems. Sacred Jain and Hindu pilgrimage sites scatter the landscapes and hilltops. The stunning, 11th century Sun Temple in Modhera dedicated to the Sun God, is considered to be the finest surviving example of Solanki architecture. Head further to Patan, famous for its *patola* sarees and one of the most exquisite step-wells in India, the Rani-ki-Vav. The Vishnu-avatar themed sculptures and striking geometric patterns will leave you awestruck! It is also worth visiting the Panchasara Parshvanath Jain Derasar, one of the largest of more than a 100 Jain temples in Patan known for its exquisite stone carvings and white marble floor.

In the northwest of the state, lies the intriguing, barren land of Kutch. Explore local villages and learn about the age-old indigenous traditions of embroidery, block printing and tie-dye that thrive in the region. (read more)



Interact with local artisans in their homes and observe them weave their magic on textiles. Participate in embroidery and block- printing workshops conducted by master craftsmen and women. Don't miss the Indian wild ass or the hundreds of Greater Flamingo that nest in the mudflats! You could also catch the Rann Utsav during the winter, where, in luxurious tented accommodation, you will soak up the vibrant culture of the region.

Experience a slice of ancient Indian history at Lothal, one of the most famous sites of the Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilization. The dockyard (Lothal's most distinctive feature) is the world's oldest known artificial dock. Be mesmerized as you take a palanquin atop the holy hill of Shatrunjaya, which is studded with over 800 intricately carved marble temples.

Travel to Gir National Park, once the hunting grounds of the Nawabs of Junagarh, and now the last remaining habitat of the rare Asiatic Lion. The park also houses sloth bear, wild boar, Indian leopard, striped hyena, spotted deer, and *chowsingha* (the world's only four horned antelope).

For those interested in textiles and crafts, visit Gondal, famous for its cottage, jewelry, beadwork and brassware industries and Jetpur, a centre for block printing and dyeing. End your journey at Bhuj, where the major attractions include the Prag Mahal, a palace commissioned by King Pragmalji and designed by Colonel Henry Saint Wilkins in Gothic style in the 1860s and Aina Mahal, one of the finest examples of Indo-Saracenic architecture in India.

Peirce & Leslie takes you on a fascinating journey through the interiors of Gujarat. Be enthralled and captivated by Gujarat's cultural and historical heritage. To know more about this specially crafted, private, bespoke trail through Gujarat, visit our website at <http://www.peirceandleslie.com>.

For further details and to book your tour, email us at marketing@peirceandleslie.com.



TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Guided tour of Ahmedabad's leading attractions like the Juma Masjid, Hathee Singh Jain temple, Calico Museum of Textiles, Shreyas Folk Art Museum, Gandhi Ashram, Utensil Museum, Sanskar Kendra and Manek Chowk
- ◆ Visit the Sun temple at Modhera, a Patola sari weaving centre and Rani-ki-Vav in Patan
- ◆ Explore a local village in Kutch
- ◆ Participate in an embroidery and block printing workshop at a local village
- ◆ Private jeep safari in the Rann of Kutch
- ◆ Visit the archaeological remains of Lothal
- ◆ Excursion to Palitana
- ◆ Take a "Game Drive" inside Gir National Park
- ◆ Excursion to Gondal and Jetpur
- ◆ Visit Prag Mahal and Aina Mahal at Bhuj

Note:- Traditional Gujarati meals are vegetarian and no alcoholic drinks are served.