



Kutch

A Historic Hotspot



A Handicraft Heaven

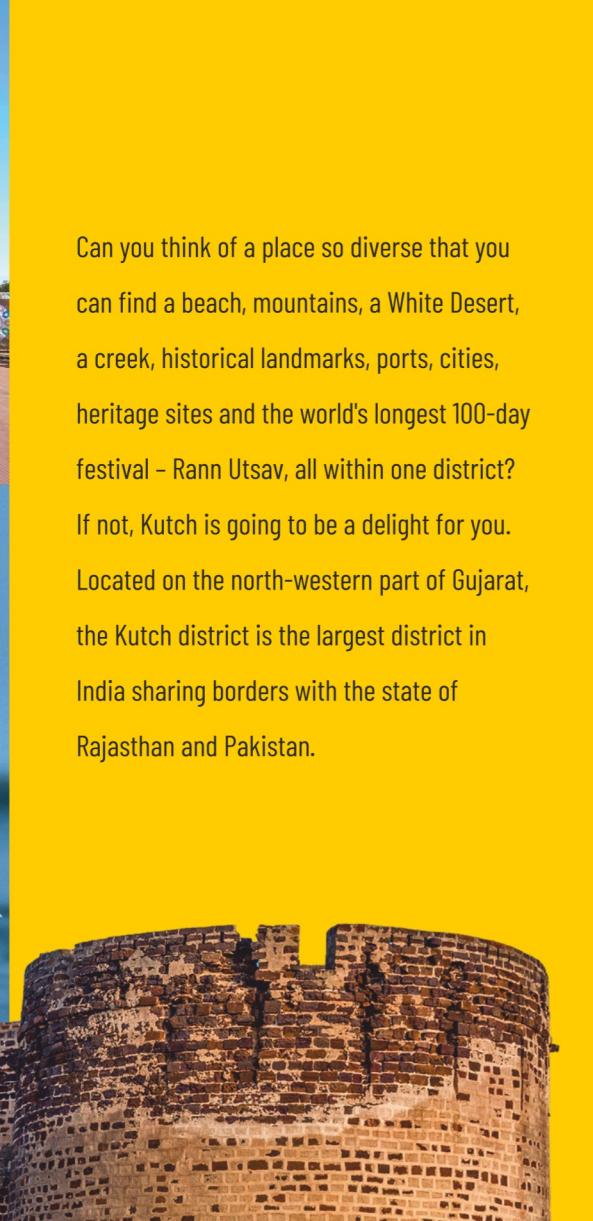


A Diverse Landscape



DHORDO
BEST TOURISM
VILLAGE 2023
BY UNWTO





Can you think of a place so diverse that you can find a beach, mountains, a White Desert, a creek, historical landmarks, ports, cities, heritage sites and the world's longest 100-day festival – Rann Utsav, all within one district? If not, Kutch is going to be a delight for you. Located on the north-western part of Gujarat, the Kutch district is the largest district in India sharing borders with the state of Rajasthan and Pakistan.



The pivotal city of Kutch is Bhuj, which is easily accessible via rail, road and air routes. It is a beautiful city located on the foothills of the Bhujyo Dungar (Hill) which is renowned for its fortified walls and stunning construction. Historic monuments, palaces, art, folk music, dance and Kutchi embroidery is what the culture of Kutch is known for.

Nature

Discover the Diverse Beauty of Kutch

The rugged and rural beauty of Kutch has surprises for you at every turn. The place offers you a taste of a vast desert, a sea and mountains, all rolled into one.

Great Rann of Kutch

The serene and idyllic desert of the Great Rann of Kutch will be one of the most beautiful places you'll ever see in your lifetime. This desert is just 82 kms from the city of Bhuj and is a must-visit for an experience of its diverse charm.

Interesting Facts

- One of the largest salt dessert in the world
- Kutch is the largest flamingo breeding ground in the world.
- Mundra Port is the largest private port in India.
- At Kalo Dungar, you can see Jackals gathering to eat the holy 'Prasad' (offering) offered by the priest of the Dattatreya Temple.



Mandvi Beach

Mandvi Beach, just an hour away from Bhuj, is a tourist hotspot where one can enjoy water sports, horse riding and camel riding and be in awe of the humongous wind turbines. Mandvi was once a summer retreat for the Maharao of Kutch.

Kalo Dungar

Being the highest point in Kutch, you can enjoy a panoramic view of the White Desert from Kalo Dungar. It is the last civilian point of India guarded by the BSF, beyond which lies the border between India and Pakistan. The experience here is almost surreal and will leave you with a sense of awe.



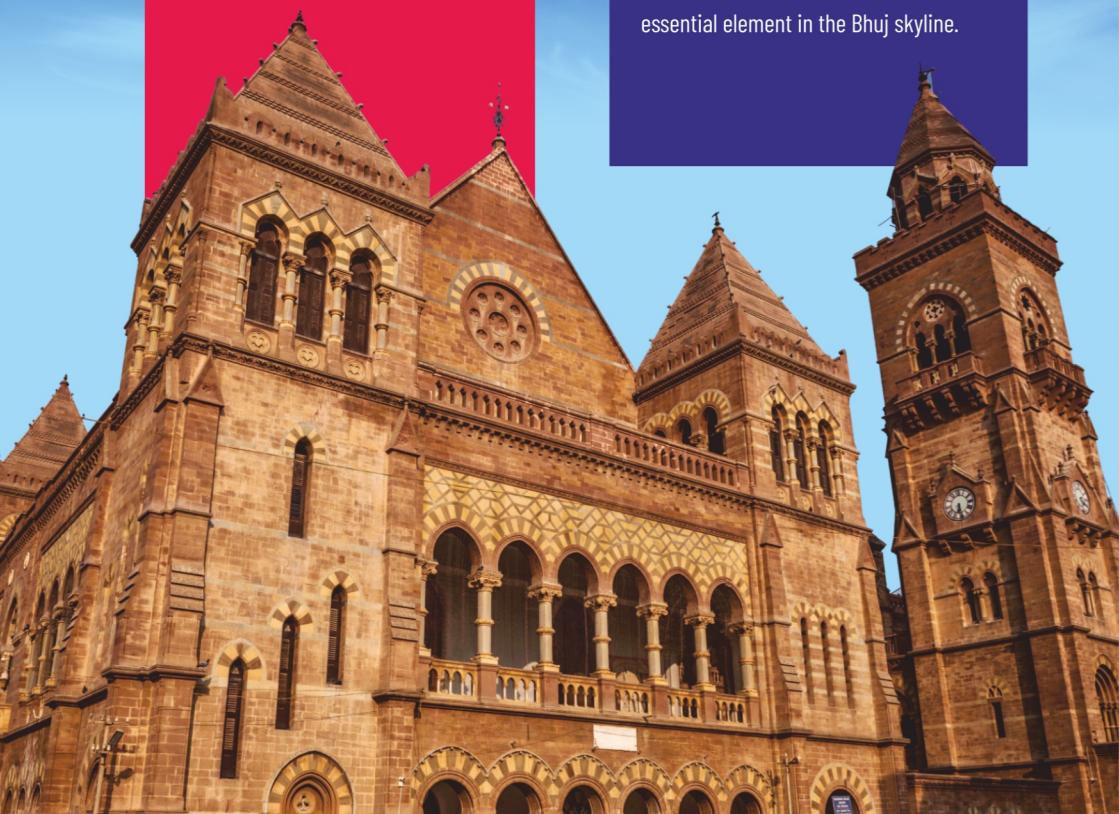
Hamirsar Lake

Hamirsar Lake is right in the centre of Bhuj. It is yet another fascinating place to enjoy the cool desert winds in late evenings. Kutch's famous historical palaces like Prag Mahal and Aina Mahal are built around the lake.

Heritage

Live the Rich History of Kutch

People with an interest in history have a lot to see in Kutch. There are several old architectural delights here.



Prag Mahal

Commissioned by Maharao Pragmalji II in the 19th Century, the Palace combines Italian, Gothic and Indo-Saracenic Revival aesthetic. Its 45 m tall bell tower is an essential element in the Bhuj skyline.

Vijay Vilas Palace

Overlooking the vast Arabian Sea, the Vijay Vilas palace in Mandvi is an architectural and historical marvel. The remarkable Rajput architecture of the palace is reflected in the tall domes and intricate motifs on its walls.

Shyamji Krishna Varma Memorial

The Shyamji Krishna Varma Memorial at Mandvi is a replica of the India House in London which was founded by Shyamji Krishna Varma. This building was a hub for the Indian revolution. This memorial provides a glimpse into the life of this lesser-known nationalist, journalist and lawyer.



Kutch Museum

Kutch Museum is the oldest museum in the state and has a marvellous collection of antiques dating back to 1st Century AD and a vast chronology of Kutch's history.



Aina Mahal

Aina Mahal (Hall of Mirrors) is intricately decorated using glass and mirrors. It was built during the flamboyant rule of Lakhpatji in the middle of the 18th Century.





Wildlife

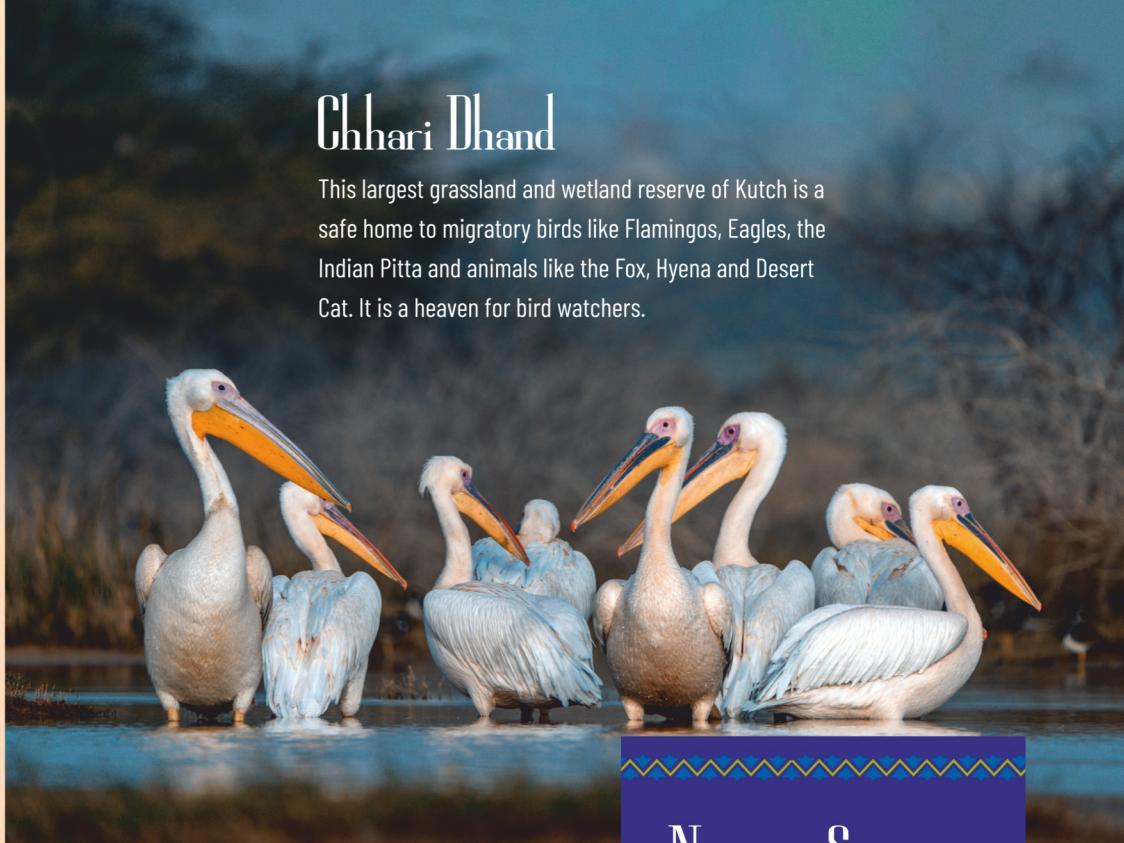
Explore the Wild Side of Kutch

Kutch being a dry land and a wetland at the same time is a wildlife lover's go-to destination. The diverse ecosystem makes it a great destination for wildlife photography.



Chhari Dhand

This largest grassland and wetland reserve of Kutch is a safe home to migratory birds like Flamingos, Eagles, the Indian Pitta and animals like the Fox, Hyena and Desert Cat. It is a heaven for bird watchers.



Narayan Sarovar

Narayan Sarovar Sanctuary is home to the freely roaming Chinkara, Fox, Pelicans and many rare birds.



Bhujodi

Bhujodi, a small village just a few minutes from Bhuj, is globally known for handwoven and embroidered shawls, dresses, jackets and tourists flock here to shop for the same.

Grafts Appreciate the Culture and Craft of Kutch

Kutch is synonymous with its traditional handloom and textile crafts that give this arid land its colour and vibrancy. You can find some of the most diverse weaving, embroidery and block printing methods here.



Dhordo

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Dhordo, which includes White Sands and Banni Grasslands, is also home to the Mutwa community. They are famous for their Mutwa embroidery, which uses small mirrors, leather embroidery and silver jewellery for embellishments. It is 80 kms from Bhuj.

Khavda

The Kumbhar village of Khavda, 70 kms from Bhuj, is known for its pottery and textiles.

Hodka

Hodka is known for its leather work, copper bells, hand weaving, block printing and embroidery. Just 55 kms from Bhuj, this place is inhabited by the Meghwali and Halepotra tribes.



Ajrakhpur

15 kms from Bhuj, the ancient art of block printing is still continued by the Khatrji community of Ajrakhpur. The blocks are hand carved and sustainable pigments and colours are used.



Anjar

Anjar is known for its metal crafts like betel nutcrackers and ornaments. It is also known for bandhani and block printing. It is an hour away from Bhuj.

Nirona

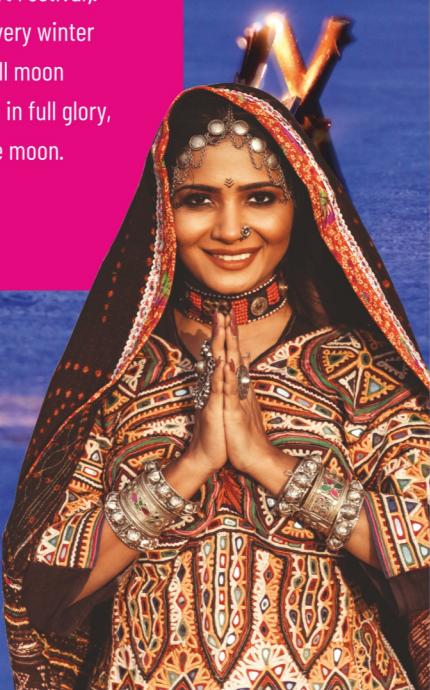
40 kms from Bhuj, it is known for its embroidery, lacquered wood crafts, copper bells, wood carving and the art of Rogan painting.



The Longest Running Festival

Rann Utsav

Kutch has been put on the global tourism map because of the famous Rann Utsav (Desert Festival). It is an annual festival that takes place every winter in the middle of the White Desert. On a full moon night, the salt-bedded white desert glows in full glory, making you feel like you're walking on the moon.



Accommodation

There are a variety of accommodation options here. These include several experiential hotels and resorts. You can also stay in the traditional Bhungas, the real identity of Kutch. These beautiful houses are built with mud and have thatched roofs. They have an eclectic mix of old-world charm along with modern amenities. You can even experience living like the Kings with royal accommodation in a tented resort at the beach site or explore unique homestay options.



did you know?

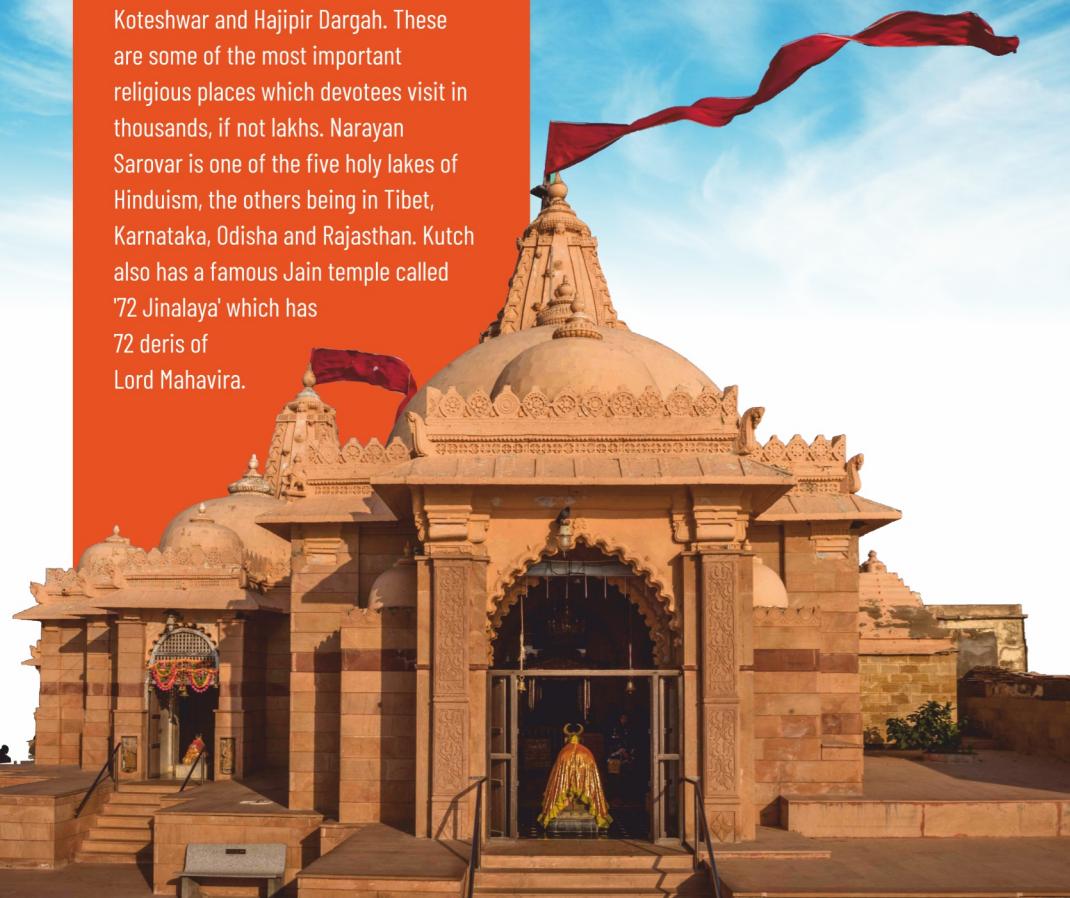


The famous Double Roti or Dabeli that is now admired by foodies around the world, is from Kutch.



Religious Places

Kutch is home to the famous Mata no Madh, Narayan Sarovar, Koteswar and Hajipir Dargah. These are some of the most important religious places which devotees visit in thousands, if not lakhs. Narayan Sarovar is one of the five holy lakes of Hinduism, the others being in Tibet, Karnataka, Odisha and Rajasthan. Kutch also has a famous Jain temple called '72 Jinalaya' which has 72 deris of Lord Mahavira.



Road Through Heaven

Discover India's Newest Scenic Gem - 'Road Through Heaven'. Stretching 30 kilometers between Khavda and Dholavira in Gujarat, this scenic route offers breathtaking views that will leave you spellbound. Motorbike tourists have dubbed this route a "heavenly experience," capturing stunning images along the way that truly showcase its beauty.



How to Reach



The best time to visit is the winter season, from the month of November to February. As opposed to the scorching heat and temperatures up to 45 degrees Celsius in the summer, winters are between 25 to 12 degrees Celsius and make the weather perfect for sightseeing. There are flights to Bhuj from Mumbai and a number of trains between Bhuj and Ahmedabad, Mumbai, Delhi and more. You can also take a flight to Ahmedabad and travel to Bhuj by road, which takes up to 7-8 hours. State transport buses and private buses can also help you get here.



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Disclaimer: The details and pictures contained here are for information and could be indicative.
Some of the activities listed may be unavailable due to seasonal and technical reasons.