

Gujarat

"Welcome to Gujarat — the land of temples, beaches, historic capitals, wildlife sanctuaries, hill resorts, magnificent sculptures, exquisite handicrafts, vibrant arts and festivals, a rich history, and thriving industries."

"Iconic Places"

Gandhinagar, Mehsana & Sabarkantha

Gandhinagar

Welcome to Gandhinagar – Gujarat's capital, where divinity meets modernity. From Akshardham's glory to Gandhi's legacy, walk with wisdom through dinosaurs, domes, and dreamy gardens. Known as India's greenest capital – serene, sustainable, and spiritual – Gandhinagar is a playground for pilgrims and paleontologists alike. Here, breathtaking boulevards lead to peace, parks, and progress. Gandhinagar – quietly grand.

- **Akshardham Temple** Explore the stunning marble-carved complex (opens 9:30 AM, but arrive early to avoid crowds).
 - Don't miss: **Sahaj Anand Water Show** (evenings, if extending your stay).
 - Breakfast at **Govardhan Thali** Authentic Gujarati thali near Akshardham.
 - **Mahatma Mandir** Interactive Gandhi exhibits and serene gardens.
 - Afternoon: Nature & History **Indroda Dinosaur & Fossil Park** Walk among life-sized dinosaur replicas and real fossils.
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Mehsana

Welcome to Mehsana – *Where Sun Temples Shine, Milk Flows, and History Lives. Sacred. Dairy. Timeless.*

- **Modhera Sun Temple** (UNESCO-listed)-Marvel at the 11th-century Solanki architecture
- Must-see: **Surya Kund** (stepwell) & **Guda Mandapa** carvings
- **Becharaji Temple** Seek blessings at this Shakti Peetha (Goddess Bahuchara)
- Observe unique transgender devotees' rituals
- Lunch at Mehsana Try: Dabeli (spicy potato burger) + Sukhdi at Kansagra Dabeli
- Amul Dairy Plant Visit Watch milk processing & cheese packaging (Book in advance)
- Shop for fresh Amul butter & shrikhand
- **Taranga Hill Jain Temple** (1 hr drive) Climb or take ropeway to hilltop temple with 24 gold-plated idols

Sabarkantha

Welcome to Sabarkantha – Where Leopards Prowl and Ruins Whisper, Where Tribal Fires Burn Bright and Rivers Sing. Seek blessings at Shamlaji, find thrills in Polo – Gujarat's best-kept secret.

- Polo Forest Exploration Trek to Ancient Jain Temples (10th-century ruins engulfed by jungle)
 - Spot leopards & sloth bears at Polo Wildlife Sanctuary (Guided safari)
 - Riverside Lunch at Harnav Dam Local meal: *Bamboo-cooked Maize Rotla with Honey* (Bhil specialty)
 - Shamlaji Temple Darshan 1500-year-old Vishnu shrine with unique black stone idol
 - Bhil Village Visit Witness tribal dance (*Ghoomar*), try archery
 - Overnight at Polo Retreat (Jungle cottages) Bonfire with folk tales under starry skies
 - Sunrise at Idar Fort Climb stone steps to Rajput-era citadel for Aravalli views
 - Breakfast at Idar Market Try *Methi Thepla* with *Jalebi*
 - Vijaynagar Waterfall Trek 1.5-hour hike through teak forests
 - Lunch at Eco Camp (Organic farm-to-table)
 - Khedbrahma Terracotta Workshop Craft your own pottery with tribal artisans
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Trip Highlights

- Sloth Bear Safari **at Jessore Sanctuary** (Spot rare bears at dawn)
 - Golden Dunes of Lakhani (**Camel ride + Rabari tribal storytelling**)
 - Amul Dairy Visit **in Palanpur** (**Cheese-tasting session**)
 - Ambaji Temple & Gabbar Hill (**Sunrise *aarti* + cable car ride**)
 - Balaram Mahadev Jungle Trek (**Natural springs + leopard trails**)
 - Khedbrahma Pottery Workshop (**Hands-on terracotta making**)
 - Rani ki Vav (**UNESCO stepwell's sculpted galleries**)
 - Live Patola Weaving Demo (**Watch 6-month saree-making magic**)
 - Sahastralinga Talav (**Romantic ruins of a Solanki-era Lake**)
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- **Best Time to Visit:**  **Winter (Oct – Mar): Pleasant days, cool nights**

