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INDIA | OCTOBER 2020

VOLUME-1

ISSUE-3

INR-150/-

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OF GUJARAT.

TRAVEL RELIGIOUS

TOP 03 GREAT RELIGIOUS
TRAVEL DESTINATIONS
OF GUJARAT.

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THE HERITAGE ISSUE!

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DESK



MR. RUDRA SONI.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - HOSPITALITY CONNAISSEUR.

“

HOW TO USE **GANDHIGIRI** IN HOSPITALITY?

DEAR READER,

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Not just India but the Entire World knows him! Follows his philosophy to be a great human being like him. His rules, indeed are the most influential, practical and profitable. Yet there are the keys we can get from our Mahatma to use in the Hospitality Industry!

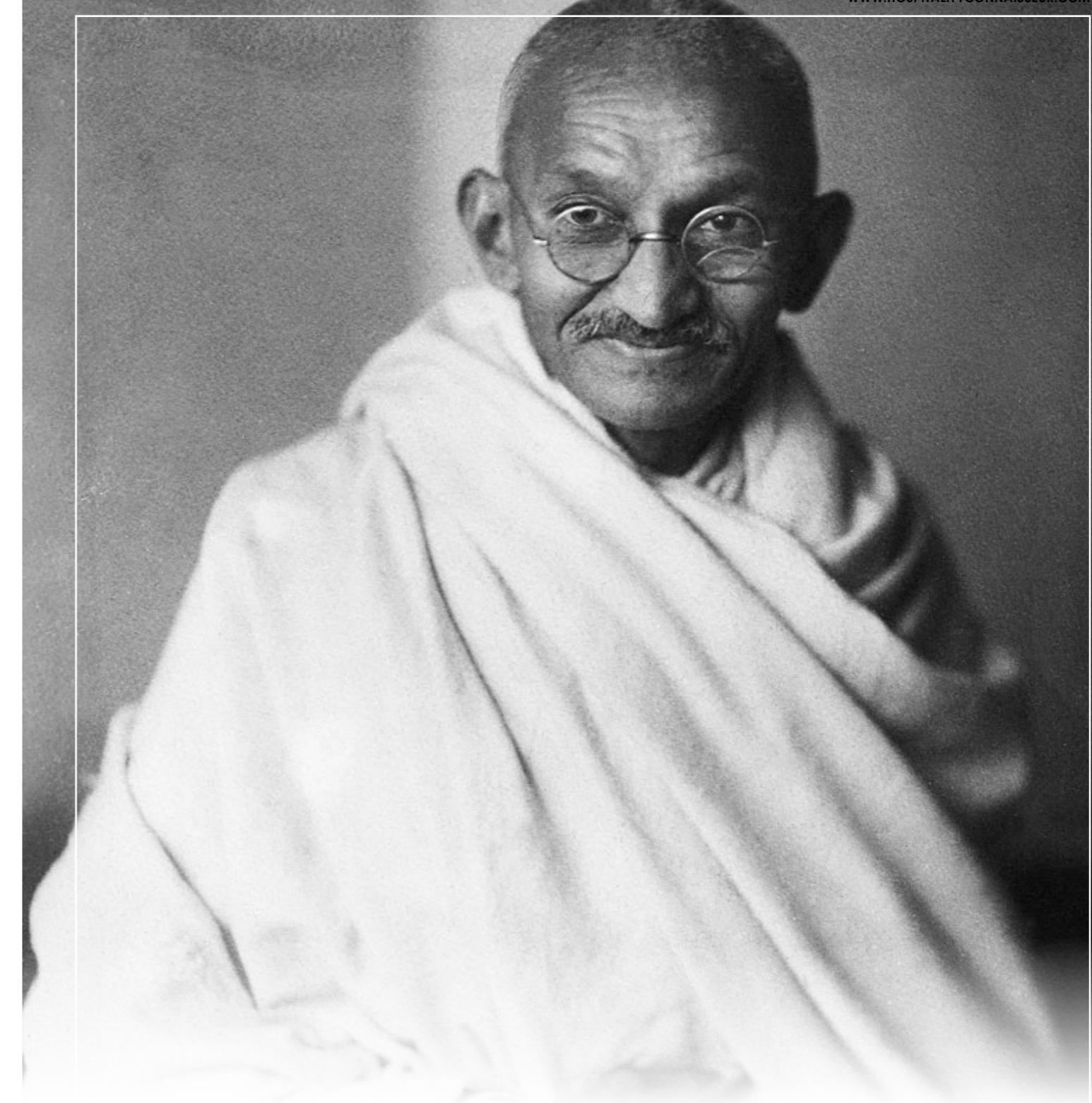
Have you ever tried to use Gandhigiri in Hospitality? Well, His life is filled with Learnings and Effective Execution and to be a better Hotelier we can learn about being 'Calm all the time' ; 'Appreciating the Efforts of others' and 'Taking the Responsibility'. These 03 Important things can be easily found in his life and we can surely use these keys in Hospitality to be a better Professional.

1. Calm All the Time : You wouldn't be able to find Mahatma in any conflicts or loosing his cool, We hoteliers usually face many hectic situations during the day and those are not as hard as fighting for the freedom of a country. So if he's able to keep his cool on this big mission then our excuses or losing cool wouldn't matter anymore.

2. Appreciating the Efforts of Others : Mahatma always given the credit of independence to it's people, He always remained down to earth with his religious philosophy! and that made him the 'Father of the Nation', Simply if you want to be a leader than start Appreciating your people, Inspire them, Support them and Grow with them.

3. Taking the Responsibility : You will never be able to find Mahatma Irresponsible. He's always busy leading the people and busy assisting them. He left his Clothes, Barrister Lifestyle, his home to bring Freedom. If he didn't do so then we wouldn't be free today. The key is 'Take Responsibility', if you want to see Good days. Be Responsible and Aware about your Mission and it will surely help you to be an effective Hotelier.

Period.



02nd October, 2020

India marked...

*'Mahatma Gandhi's 151st birth anniversary'
Still young in People's Heart!*

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(E - Magazine)

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HERITAGE KHIRASARA PALACE

“

'THE MAJESTIC MONUMENT OF KHIRASARA'
 WHICH HAS WITNESSED THE RICH HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF
 THE GLORIOUS PAST OF KATHIAWAR, AND HAS BORNE THE BRUNT OF CENTURIES OF HISTORY,
 NOW STANDS IN ITS FULLEST SPLENDOUR AND GLORY, IN THE RESPLENDENT PRESENT.

"LEGENDS AND MYTHS"

The Khirasara Palace has a unique geography and an incomparable history of more than **450 years** to unveil.

This majestic Palace stands a few miles away on the west of **Rajkot City**. Towering 150 feet above the Khirasara village, it stands **Imposing, Majestic and Undefeated**.

"HISTORY OF KHIRASARA STATE"

The vibrations and magnetism of this mysterious land of **Kathiawar** bestows a unique character and personality, not only to the place but also to its people.

Every tree, stone, ridge, hillock and path, every brick remaining is a store-house of legends and myths.

Though a bit exaggerated – bards have been recorded singing ballads about the stories of courage, kindness, justice and generosity of the kings and princes. They form **the golden chapters of the history** of their princely states.



HOTEL : Heritage Khirasara Palace.
 LOCATION : Rajkot (Gujarat)
 WEBSITE : www.khirasarapalace.in

THE HISTORIANS HAVE RECORDED THREE PHASES OF THE KHIRASARA STATE.



PREDECESSORS:

- 1.** • *Thakore Bhimaji gained Khirasara.*
- 2.** • *Thakore Ranmalji added Khirasara as a glory of Saurashtra.*
- 3.** • *Shree Sursinhji educated the people of Khirasara.*

THAKORE BHIMAJI: The Taluka, a Seventh Class State, is an offshoot of the Dhrol State. The ruler, Shree Kaloji of Dhrol had seven sons of whom Sangoji was the eldest, Bhimaji the second and Junoji the third. On Kaloji's death, Sangoji succeeded the 'Gaadi' (*throne*) of Dhrol, the other brothers (*Bhimaji and Junoji*) being provided with suitable appendages. Sangoji died while fighting from Nawanagar State with a Mohammedan army. The succession accordingly devolved on Bhimaji but he abdicated in favor of his younger brother Junoji, himself remaining content with his adored appendage of the Khirasara Castle and 12 other villages. At that time Khirasara was a small castle.

THAKORE RANMALJI: It is recorded that Khirasara Palace was built by Thakore Ranmalji, an illustrious and mighty descendent of Thakore Bhimaji, during the Ghori Empire. Thakore Ranmalji, who played a major role in redefining the regional history, started restoration of Khirasara Castle with 350 masons.

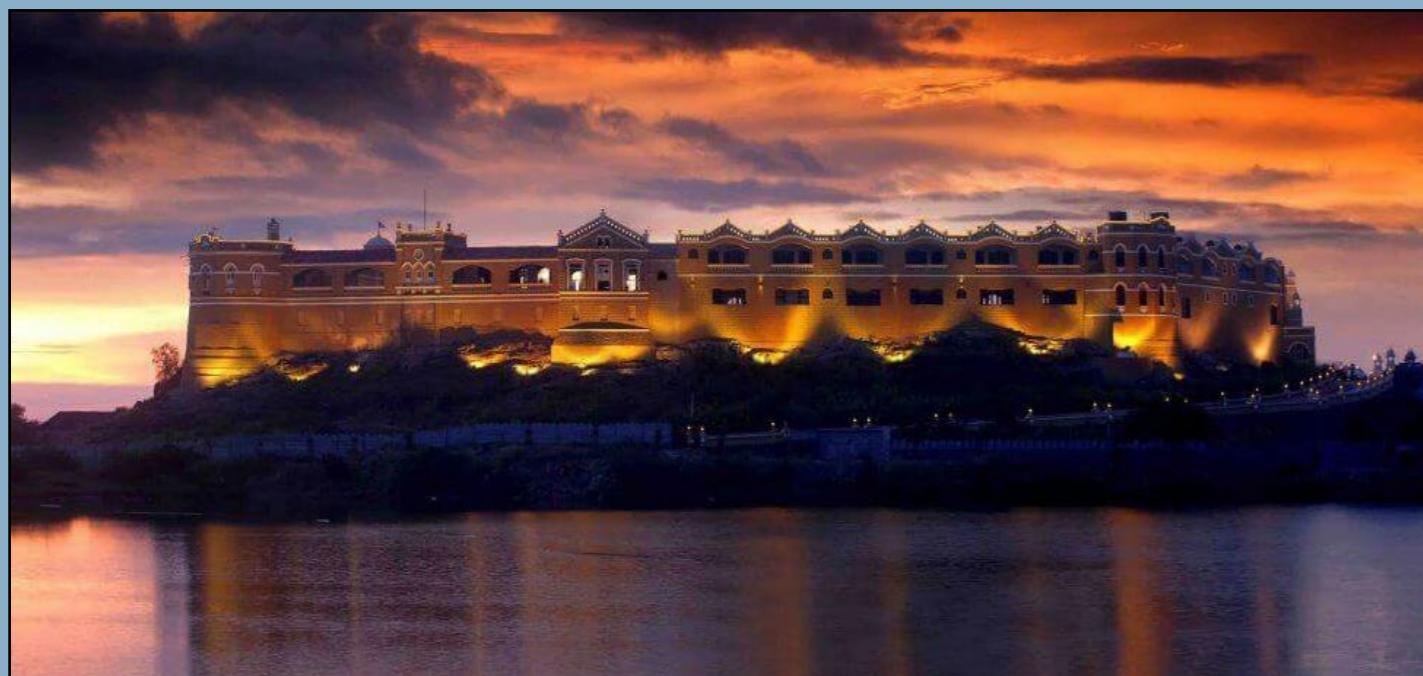
Mysteriously, in spite of the sustained efforts the masonry work used to collapse in the evening. Thakore Ranmalji visited '*Nale-Sat-Pir*', a Sufi fakir from Sindh, dwelling nearby to the north of the castle. When asked about the mysterious happenings at the site, the Pir said, "Son, the world is a forest full of dangers and difficulties, a beguiling place – a maze.

If you want your castle unbeaten, for Allah's sake construct an enchanting place here. Then you will be blessed and your worldly structure will last forever." **Thakore Ranmalji interpreted those esoteric words and constructed a grand structure to the north of the castle, where two to four hundred people could reside.**

The Pir and his retinue stayed in that abode for many years and the castle remained unbeaten. Even today there are tombs of the Pir and his descendants Aaras Mahmad Pir and Hakimbai present in the abode. The restorated Palace was looked with disfavor, distrust and envy by the enemies, especially Mohbatkhan, the Nawab of Junagadh. He attacked the Khirasara Castle twice – but his forces could not stand the strategy and bravery of Thakore Ranmalji.

As memories of those victories, two canons of Junagadh artillery were mounted on the eastern gate of the castle. Once Meraman Khawas of Jamnagar attacked Khirasara but the Castle again remained undefeated. In the government treasury one big Kettledrum of two and half mounds was constructed as a symbol of victory. Thakore Ranmalji and his victories have remained a favourite theme for the writers and the poets. At one point of time in history, the state of Khirasara was so influential that the rulers could have expanded the borders of the state, but Thakore Ranmalji – a loving and kind soul remained friendly with all the neighbouring states. He breathed his last at the Gondal ruled 'Gomta' village.

THAKORE SURSINHJI: The Seventh generation, Thakore Sursinhji made efforts to resurrect and rebuild Khirasara Palace. In great tradition of his fore fathers, he tried to regain the honour and riches of Khirasara by improving the conditions of the farmers, increasing the production, establishing the agencies for the benefits of the common people. He introduced Khirasara to the post-independence development and progress.



“

This Palace of Khirasara is rich in Kathiawar Culture & Traditions. It has witnessed a history of **450 years of Royalty and Luxury**. It has been restored in such a way that it represents the glory and grandeur of its magnificent past yet offering all modern day amenities and services to the guests.

The Khirasara Palace offers 26 Suites in 05 Categories.





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Get to Know...

SOMNATH TEMPLE

#TravelReligious

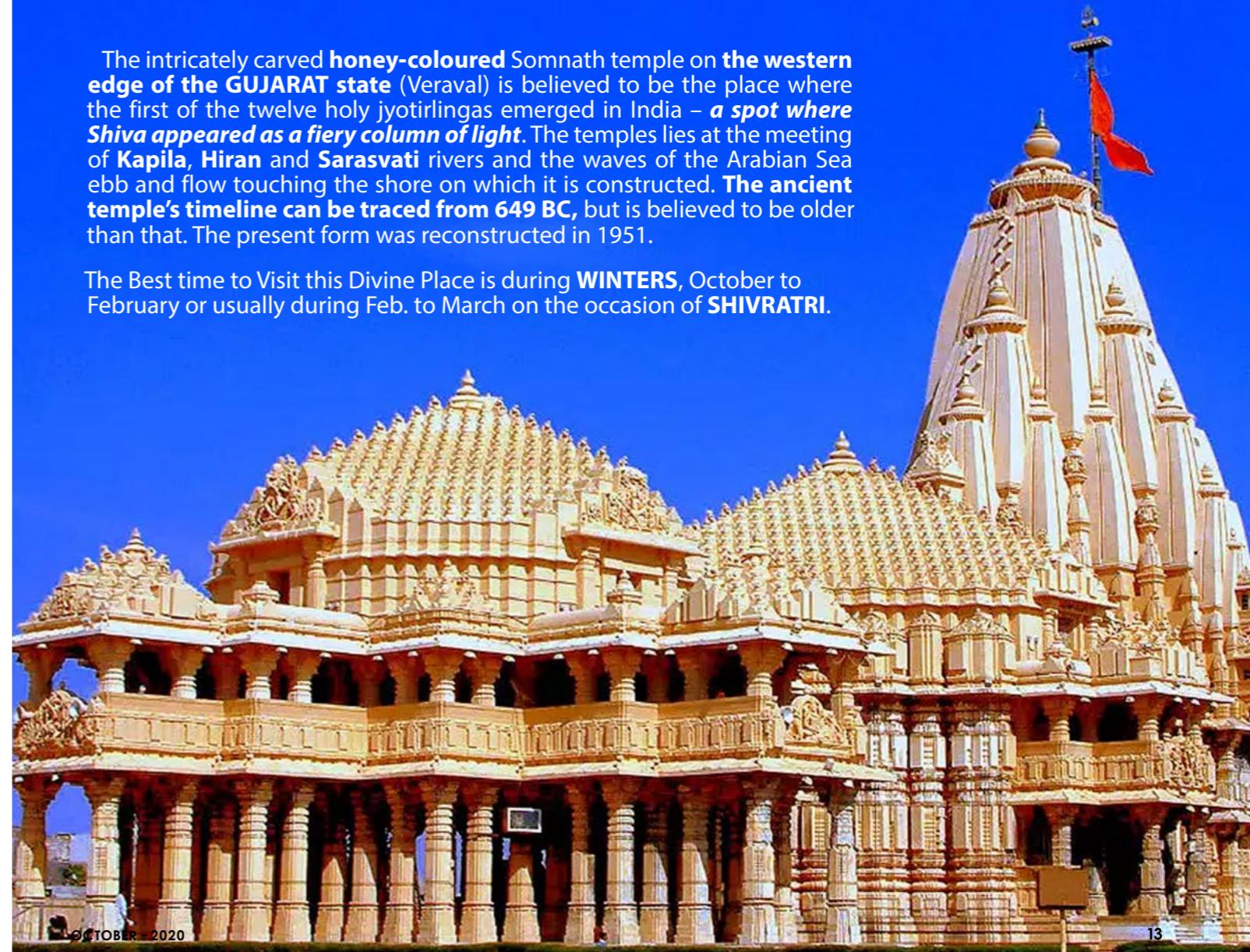
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It's said that, Somraj the moon god first built a temple in Somnath, made of gold; this was rebuilt by Ravana in silver, by Krishna in wood and by Bhimdev in stone!

The current serene, symmetrical structure was built to traditional designs on the original coastal site. It's painted a creamy colour and boasts a little fine sculpture. The large, black Shiva lingam at its heart is one of the 12 most sacred Shiva shrines, known as Jyotirlinga.

The intricately carved **honey-coloured** Somnath temple on **the western edge of the GUJARAT state** (Veraval) is believed to be the place where the first of the twelve holy jyotirlingas emerged in India – **a spot where Shiva appeared as a fiery column of light**. The temple lies at the meeting of **Kapila, Hiran** and **Sarasvati** rivers and the waves of the Arabian Sea ebb and flow touching the shore on which it is constructed. **The ancient temple's timeline can be traced from 649 BC**, but is believed to be older than that. The present form was reconstructed in 1951.

The Best time to Visit this Divine Place is during **WINTERS**, October to February or usually during Feb. to March on the occasion of **SHIVRATRI**.



THE ROYAL OASIS

“

**THE PERFECT DESTINATION TO ESCAPE FROM THE TRAPPINGS OF AN URBAN LIFE AND
EMBRACE THE MAJESTIC SPLENDOUR OF NATURE IN ITS INFINITE GLORY!**



HOTEL : The Royal Oasis.

LOCATION : Wankaner (Gujarat)

WEBSITE : www.wankanerheritagehotels.com

The Royal Oasis situated on the banks of the **Macchu River** was started as **Gujarat's first heritage hotel** in the 1970's by **Maharana Digvijay Singh**. Built in the **1920's** the Royal Oasis has stunning interiors done in the fashionable art deco style with spacious rooms and mirrored bathrooms to match. The art-deco's **indoor swimming pool** which is fully functional and restored is one of its kind. The most unique part of this quaint property is the 3 storied step well or vaav built in the 20th century with exquisite stone carving and a fine marble sculpture fountain. **The Royal Oasis is a treat for bird watchers and nature lovers** who can find a wide variety of birds and wildlife like *blue bulls, porcupine, civet cats* in the vast expanse of the surrounding lemon orchards.

Wankaner was the first Princely former ruling family in Gujarat to open their Palaces to tourists and guests. The Royal Oasis (*MotiVadi*), once a retreat for the royals, from the scorching summer sun stands

barely 2.5kms away from the main palace complex perched atop a hill.

The sprawling **Ranjit Villas Palace** is perched atop the **Gadhio hills** offers a splendid view. It was built by **Maharana Raj Shri Amar Singhji** who was the last ruler of the Wankaner Royal family. The place is built in Indo-Sarsenic or Indo-Gothic style of architecture. Its interiors with Italian marble, stain glass, Burma teak antique furniture, marble fountains, Murano chandeliers and hand woven carpets take you back to the splendors of royal living in the by-gone era.

The Royal Oasis offers Swimming Pool, Wedding Lawn, location for film shoots, Ample parking, Doctor on call and a Hotel-shop where you can buy local handicrafts, pashmina stoles, bandhani and patola scarves. The Hotel also has 24 Hours Laundry facility and a Travel Desk to assist you with all your desired needs.



“

There are still so many things you can do at **Royal Oasis** during your Stay namely You can have a Guided Tour at **Ranjit Vilas Palace**, You can visit **Wankaner Town** for Local Shopping! Enjoy **Traditional music & dance** performances, **Village tours** and interaction with local tribes, Mehendi art by local artists and Surely enjoy **Spa services** on request. You can also Go for Bird watching, Nature trek and Horse riding during your stay at the beautiful Royal Oasis Hotel.

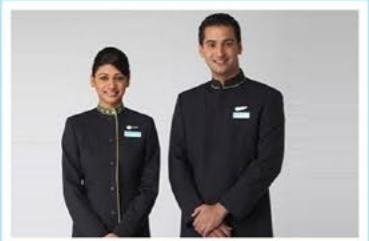




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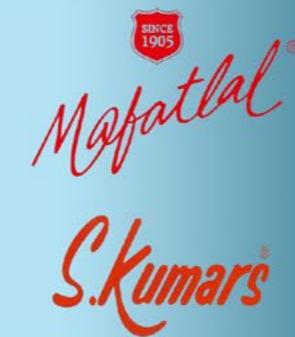
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Get to Know...

DWARKADHISH TEMPLE

#TravelReligious

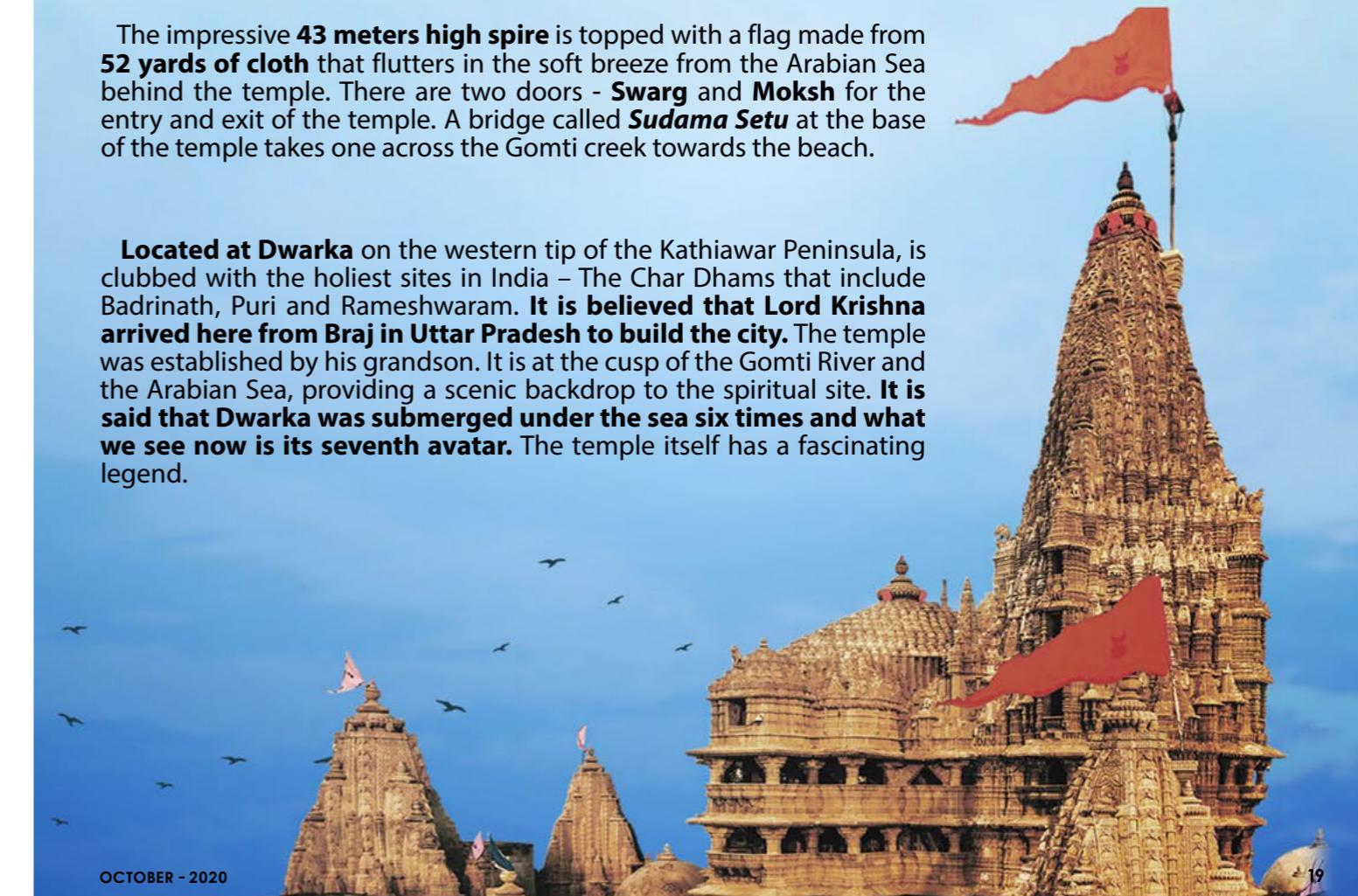
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The Magnificent Dwarkadhish Temple is believed to have been established more than **2500** years ago by Lord Krishna's great grandson, **Vajranabh**. The ancient temple has been renovated several times, especially leaving imprints of **16th** and **19th** centuries!

This Divine Destination, The temple stands on a small hill accessed by 50 plus steps with heavily sculptured walls that cocoon the sanctum with the main Krishna idol. Around the complex lie other smaller shrines. **The walls have intricately carved mythical characters and legends.**

The impressive **43 meters high spire** is topped with a flag made from **52 yards of cloth** that flutters in the soft breeze from the Arabian Sea behind the temple. There are two doors - **Swarg** and **Moksh** for the entry and exit of the temple. A bridge called **Sudama Setu** at the base of the temple takes one across the Gomti creek towards the beach.

Located at Dwarka on the western tip of the Kathiawar Peninsula, is clubbed with the holiest sites in India – The Char Dhams that include Badrinath, Puri and Rameshwaram. **It is believed that Lord Krishna arrived here from Braj in Uttar Pradesh to build the city.** The temple was established by his grandson. It is at the cusp of the Gomti River and the Arabian Sea, providing a scenic backdrop to the spiritual site. **It is said that Dwarka was submerged under the sea six times and what we see now is its seventh avatar.** The temple itself has a fascinating legend.



BALARAM PALACE RESORT

“

ONCE THE HUNTING RETREAT OF THE LOHANI NAWAB OF PALANPUR, IS NOW A HERITAGE CLASSIC HOTEL.



HOTEL : Balaram Palace Resort.
LOCATION : Chitrasani (Gujarat)
WEBSITE : www.balarampalace.com

The Balaram Palace Resort was built between 1922-1936 by the 29th ruler of Palanpur, His Highness Zubd-ul-Mulk Dewan Mahakhan Nawab Sir Talej Muhammad Khan Lohani. It is a graceful manifestation of neo-classical and baroque architectural style. Situated amidst the Aravallis in the 542 sq. kms of Balaram Ambaji Reserve Forest at the tip of North Gujarat it borders Rajasthan. The palace is set in 13 acres of terraced upland rising from a hilly stream and surrounded by lush green gardens and designed flower beds. The palace was visited by several dignitaries during the British Raj, including Lord Mountbatten.

The Balaram Palace Resort, situated in Northern Gujarat, has the advantage of being surrounded by numerous places of tourist interest. *It does not matter if you are a historian or a spiritual person or a nature lover or an art student or just a traveler, the vicinity offers something to appeal to everyone's interests.*

A stay in the palace takes the tourist into the bygone **Nawabi period** to experience the real Nawabi **ambience and architecture** of northern Gujarat. The palatial huge rooms with antiques all around give a sense of royalty. The hunting point existed 3/4th of a century back. Everything around is picturesque and nature is at its best!

Balaram Palace Resort is located 167 kms. from Ahmedabad, 14 kms. from Palanpur station. It is 3 kms. off the Ahmedabad-Mount Abu National Highway-14. It is a very convenient stopover between Ahmedabad and Destination of Rajasthan.

Balaram Palace Resort is a perfect destination to stay for those pilgrims who planning to visit to **Ambaji** and **Kumbhariya Jain Temple** etc. as well as to visit the famous destination places like **Jessore Sanctuary, Rani Ki Vav, Mount-Abu, Siddhpur, Sun Temple – Modhera & Mahudi** are nearer to the Balaram Palace Resort. The Resort is also one of the favorite destinations for the foreign tourist as well as the tours and travels agencies.

Balaram Palaces Resort serves only vegetarian food and also famous for its mouthwatering Indian, Punjabi and Chinese cuisines. *It is also serving special Jain Foods as per the requirement of Jain guests.* It is known as a village touch for its purity and taste in the food quality makes special attraction for the guest.

It is a perfect destination for those who love the nature and jungle adventures. Balaram Palace Resort is a place to take break from the busiest life because



its offer a peace and calm atmosphere surrounded by pollution free air and natural environment. The Palace has 34 Air Conditioned and well equipped Rooms with all the latest amenities including 01 Nawab Suite. Their "Chitrasani" Restaurant offers North Indian, Chinese and Continental cuisines! Talking about other facilities at the Palace, They have a Well maintained Swimming Pool & Health Club, Two banquet halls with a capacity of 75-100, for special gatherings & conferences, Lawns for Marriages, Meetings and Other Special Events, Helipad facility for VIP guests and Indoor + Outdoor Games like Cycling, Badminton, Basket Ball, Cricket, Housie, Toyzee Ring Toss, Table Tennis, Carroms, Playing Cards, Chess etc.

Moreover... You will be surprised to know that some of the famous Films and Web-series has been shot at the Balaram Palace resort, namely Suryavamsam, Web Series on Shri Narendra Modi, Dil Hai Tumara, Vitamin She – Gujarathi Film, and famous serials like Kangan, Jeevan Sathi and Savdhan India.

The Palace also assist their guests with all the basic and needed amenities to make their stay pleasant, comfortable and memorable.





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Get to Know...



AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE

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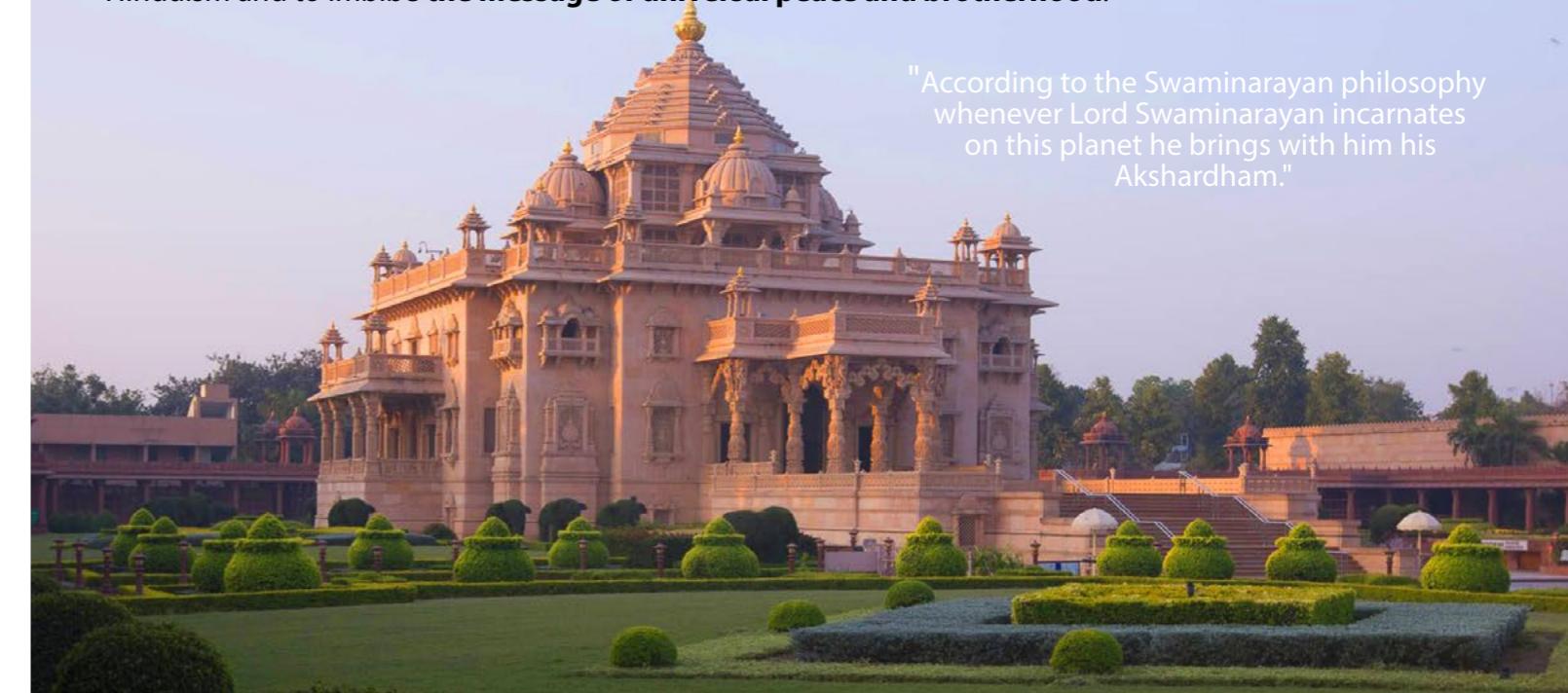
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Akshardham is a majestic, intricately carved stone structure that stands amid sprawling gardens set in a **23-acre plot** at Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It is built in **6000** tonnes of pink sandstone and not a bit of steel has been used in this **Majestic Masterpiece**.

The temple is 108 ft. in height, 240 ft. in length and 131 ft. in width. A point worth noting is that this modern monument to Hinduism was built as per the injunctions of Vastu Shastra. The monument enshrining the seven-foot high, gold-leaved Murti or idol of **Lord Swaminarayan** is the focal point of the complex.

The monument stands on 7 sculpted pillars, 210 single-piece stone beams, 57 window grills, M domes, eight ornate zarokhas, etc. The sanctum sanctorum contains the **1.2 tonne gold-plated idol of Lord Swaminarayan**, the founder of the sect that bears his name, shown in a sitting posture with his right hand raised in abhay mudra. He is flanked by **Swami Gunatitanand** on his right and **Swami Gopalanand** Swami on his left. Both of them were his disciples. Swami Gunatitanand is called Swaminarayan's Akshardham, the eternal abode.

Inspiring episodes and incidents from the glorious history of Sanatan Dharma, are presented in sound and light form for the benefit of the visitors. The show takes visitors through various facets of Hinduism. The wisdom of **the Vedas, the epics, the Puranas** are depicted on a crowded canvas by the exhibition. The visitor comes face to face with personages who have made this land what it is.; So far millions of people have visited the monument since its inception on **November 02, 1992**. They have been able to savour the story of Hinduism and to imbibe the message of universal peace and brotherhood.



"According to the Swaminarayan philosophy whenever Lord Swaminarayan incarnates on this planet he brings with him his Akshardham."

JAMBUGHODA PALACE

'INDEED, A HOME FOR NATURE LOVERS'

TRAVEL BACK MORE THAN A CENTURY, IN 100 ACRES OF SHEER HYPNOTIC GREENERY. THAT IS WHERE THE JAMBUGHODA PALACE, NOW PARTLY CONVERTED INTO A HOME FOR NATURE LOVERS WAS BUILT.

Not too far and just 80 kms east of Vadodara, is a lovely country side known as **Jambughoda**.

The one and a half hours drive is a pleasure by itself. You will be passing through **Champaner**, which is a **world heritage site**. The Juma Masjid monument situated here, has been identified as one of the endangered architectural monuments of the world and is today the **first World Heritage Site in Gujarat**.

As you drive along further, the road goes over rivulets and meanders through a beautiful belt of lush green forests. It was with the help of **Shri Rajiv**

Gandhi, our late prime minister, that these 130 square kilometers of forest area, which once belonged to the royal family of Jambughoda, was notified as the **JAMBUGHODA SANCTUARY**.

Panthers, on the prowl, have been sighted on the estate by the royal family. Other animals and reptiles which reside in the forest are *Four-horned antelopes*, *Blue bulls*, *Hyenas*, *Wild Boar*, *Porcupines*, *Wild hare*, *Pythons*, *Snakes* etc. **Over 150 species of birds** have been spotted by wildlife enthusiasts who have visited the sanctuary in different seasons.



HOTEL : A Home for Nature Lovers.
LOCATION : Jambughoda (Gujarat)
WEBSITE : www.jambughoda.com

Jambughoda has **40% adivasi (tribal) population** which is mainly **Rathwas** and **Naykas**. Naykas have adopted the modern way of lifestyle. The more cultured of the two tribes are the Rathwas. They are handsome, colourful, and have their uniqueness. **It is very interesting to have a glimpse of their lifestyle, culture, their Haats (tribal fairs) and Pithora paintings.**

The Royal family-run heritage home, which has **21 beautiful rooms** is spread across **12 acres** of the Palace premise. Rooms and bathrooms are simple, yet dignified in their décor. **"A Home for Nature Lovers"** takes delight in hosting their guests in the wilderness. Home cooked organic food is served as buffets. Dinners are also organized around camp fires for the more adventurous ones. The food is slow cooked on wood to suit both the **vegetarian** and **non-vegetarian** palates. The recipes which have been passed on from one generation to another have been carefully selected for the guests. **The family has tried to preserve the age old cooking methods and the flavours, which would have otherwise been lost in time.**

The best time to visit this lovely place is from **July to March**. The Royal Family, at "A HOME FOR NATURE LOVERS" take delight in caring for the guests in the wilderness.

As they say... "We have in the past hosted several corporate houses for their offsite trainings, team building programmes, group excursions, school children night outs and picnics, and family outings. Since we are very close to the forest, free from pollution, Schools and corporate houses have found our place suitable for outdoor activities which are an important part of the training and team building these days. We have also hosted the very famous *Maharaja Express* guests in the past, for two years."

The Jambughoda Palace also offers most funloving activities on chargeable basis which includes Trek & Walk around Kada Lake with en-route Sunset, Swimming Pool, Massage Facility, Tractor & Chhakda Rides, Cycling, Pet-Birds feeding. Moreover Nature walk and bird watching can be done by the enthusiasts on their own within the agricultural fields and orchards and the rivulet close-by.

You can also enjoy Visiting a tribal house to see the lifestyle, culture, Pithora paintings of the Rathwas, Playing Badminton or Visiting a 'Haaat' a local tribal market.

As a Speciality, They serve vegetarian and non-vegetarian home cooked meals which are cooked on fire-wood and served as buffets or on the table depending upon the number of guests.



VIJAY VILAS HERITAGE RESORT

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WHETHER YOU WANT A DELIGHTFUL VACATION OR AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENT, VISIT THIS HERITAGE RESORT TO EXPERIENCE LUXURY AND TRANQUILITY WITH PRIME AMENITIES LIKE A PRIVATE BEACH, MAGNIFICENT ROOMS & HIGH-QUALITY SERVICES.

The Vijay Vilas Heritage Resort, where friendly services and the beautiful private beach make the holidays pleasurable! The Resort is situated inside the vast area of 700 Acres of famous Vijay Vilas Palace premises with the most beautiful, serene white sand and among the largest private beaches in India, for those who prefer the invigorating lashing of the waves.

The Palace offers you a holiday of a lifetime – inviting beach benches & umbrellas, Machhan, Snooker table, self-contained comfortable rooms, two restaurants (*adjoining resort & at the private beach*) ; barbecue nights, bonfire, just about everything you could dream of on a holiday!



The Vijay Vilas Heritage Resort provides **The most spacious Heritage Room and Heritage Villas** for the guest's comfort. The Heritage Rooms are around **100 years old** but well decorated by keeping the modern taste in mind. It fulfills the requirement and needs of the guest who stays there for a day or a month. **The beauty of nature and simplicity of the resort will surely make you feel homely.**

The Resort has 6 Heritage Rooms and 14 Heritage Villas with all modern facilities.

HOTEL : Vijay Vilas Heritage Resort.
LOCATION : Mandvi City (Gujarat)
WEBSITE : www.vijayvilasheritageresort.com



Your Stay at this heritage resort doesn't end with **just top-class amenities**, they make sure that they give you one of the best experiences of your life. Enjoy the **uniqueness** of the ancient heritage of Vijay Vilas Palace by Exploring the summer palace located on beach of Mandvi, built in **1927**.

The Resort offers all the basic hotel amenities including Cuisine Specialities, Free Wi-Fi, Pick up & drop and proper safety and security for their Guests.



KHAYAAL

A **SOCIAL ENTERPRISE** WORKING IN THE FIELD OF **HERITAGE** AND IT'S **MANAGEMENT** THROUGH DIFFERENT UNDERTAKINGS REGARDING PRODUCTS, CRAFTS, HERITAGE AWARENESS, EDUCATION AND ON-GROUND RESEARCH.



"In Conversation With"



MS. SHAONI PRAMANICK.

Co-founder & Content Head at KHAYAAL

1. WHAT IS KHAYAAL?

Khayaal is a social enterprise working in the field of heritage and it's management through different undertakings regarding products and crafts, heritage awareness and education and on-ground research. It's an organisation based in **Ahmedabad** but working **Pan-India** to bring about the **necessary education** and **awareness** regarding the various kinds of heritage that exist alongside the popular idea of monumental built heritage.

2. WHAT IS THE INSPIRATION BEHIND STARTING KHAYAAL?

Khayaal was born out of a need to bridge the gap between the theory and practicals of heritage management and perceive the sector with a unique new eye, where heritage wasn't some vague



distant idea of monuments and their maintenance but a **part of everyday life**. Community participation through their awareness first was the key to our inspiration behind Khayaal, where we tried to utilise our theoretical understanding to bring about a change in the work on field. Another very important aspect was to make heritage education fun and understandable for all people, so that the real custodians of the heritage- the everyday people who stay, work and live around it could get an essence of its importance in their own way, through their own personal examples and stories!

3. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT FOUNDERS OF KHAYAAL AND THEIR PHILOSOPHY FOR HERITAGE MANAGEMENT.

Khayaal has 4 co-founders from 4 different educational backgrounds and coming from 4 different regions of India. Their philosophy regarding heritage management is also, thus, very unique to themselves. On one hand I, **Shaoni, from Bengal**, believe in making heritage a thing for everybody to understand with the easiest lingo possible for laymen, **Aayushi from Delhi**, thinks that the field of heritage should be a field of collaboration and not competition, with every other organisation supporting and working together with others to gain maximum result. **Gourav from Madhya Pradesh**, takes his stand in saying that we, as heritage managers are only the facilitators and the real custodians are the ones on ground working with the heritage themselves; that we could only be the bridge to connect them to the world in a proper way, in turn, making them more open to the market and market forces to slowly start functioning on their own.



Shailja from Gujarat, has her own philosophy that the field of heritage should slowly start being open to young people and newer ideas, in ways turning it into a successful business venture as well and not just a social responsibility to be looked on at as a volunteer thing. And I guess as a team, we've tried to incorporate all our philosophies in the ideation of Khayaal and its proper functioning over the years, thus, having these successful results (and very few fights) till date!!

4. WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECTS OR INITIATIVES YOU HAVE DONE DURING THE 02 YEARS SPAN?

The most important projects that we've done in the last 2 and half years would be - one, reaching out to about 30 different craft forms all over India to curate out different products which now come to about 40 in number and two, conducting an event on heritage awareness called Ankahi with about 44 different organisations and institutions in about 28 cities across India. Apart from these, we also pride ourselves in introducing new ways of looking at heritage through different games and events where we include ***the young generation*** in conversations about heritage in an easy and fun way. Also important besides the on ground events and activities are the initiatives we take as a part of our virtual awareness wing '***Pehchaan!***'. Through different initiatives like '***Heritage November***' and '***How do you contribute?***', we keep trying to engage people in a dialogue over heritage so that it slowly becomes a part of the conscience, in turn, building the awareness of heritage and its different types in the minds of people. *What's unique and different in our project approaches is that even when we aren't working on a particular project per say and just travelling for work, our social media feeds have always been informative about the different cultures we come across, the intricacies of daily life worth noticing, and the small details about food, clothing and traditional practices that we miss out in our everyday routine.*

5. TELL US SOMETHING ABOUT HERITAGE OF GUJARAT AND WHAT KHAYAAL IS DOING FOR THAT?

Well, ***Gujarat is a state rooted in its own unique culture and is one of the most culturally rich places in India.*** From the expanses to its natural species in Gir to the craft hub of Kutchh, from the architectural marvels of Ahmedabad to the royalties spread all

across the state, Gujarat has shown us the complete essence of heritage in one. Khayaal is based in Ahmedabad but works pan India but has a specific bonding with the state. From travelling across the lengths of the state, Khayaal has kept its audience up to date with all the hidden treasures that Gujarat has to offer!! **With research and documentation projects in Kutch, our team has tried to create a map of bio-culture of 3 villages as a pilot for other villages to follow for a better governance of the different elements of biodiversity and culture together with promoting craft tourism in the state by catering to clients from all over the world.** Through our extensive travel and work we've also tried to promote the different royal homestays and **hotels, village tourism** and craft hubs of the very interiors of Gujarat, which desperately need a wider reach. Heritage trails and educational tours around the cities in Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Baroda and to archaeological sites in Lothal have also been conducted by our team, in turn, giving a larger audience a glimpse into the richness that Gujarat has to offer.

6. WOULD YOU LIKE TO MENTION OTHER THINGS PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION OR SOME KIND OF VALUES YOU NEED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEM.

Well, As I said, we're from four different regions of the country and we come with different educational as well as cultural backgrounds, it was always a tough thing as well as one of the things that made us stand out. We could contribute our parts to the organisation, put forward our ideas for the same and delve deeper into the cultures of each other to understand heritage in a newer light. Through this initiative we also wanted to change the idea that heritage could only be the subject of interest to the elder generations but also figured out how to make heritage a fun and bankable product for the younger generation to value but also not commodifying it in the process.



TOP 10 TRAITS

PERSONALITY - THE PRIMARY CRITERIA THAT HELP YOU THROUGH YOUR JOURNEY IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY.



MR. PRITHVI ROY

Guest Contributor - Hospitality Connaisseur

(Assistant Professor-Welcomgraduate school of hotel administration.
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The Top 10 Traits required for a great hospitality Professional, So For a great hotelier one should have a few things in common. If you are a hotelier, you would already know the key differences between a successful hotelier and an average bloke at your hotel.

What that factor is required in hotel industry? **How to become the king of hotel industry?** What skills you need to develop to give your career wings?

LET'S BEGIN...

1. COMMITMENT.

Being a hotelier, **one commitment one should have within him or her is guest satisfaction.** Without this commitment, one cannot find success in the hospitality. An enthusiastic hospitality employee means business without any problems or confusion. Working in the Hospitality sector is not everyone's cup of tea. It is challenging and fun, though like we said **Commitment towards your work, towards your guest even your colleagues, will make or break things.** Everything will be absolutely fine, just we as an hotelier stick to this point.

"Be more dedicated to making solid achievements than in running after swift but synthetic happiness."
-A.P. J. Abdul Kalam.

2. LANGUAGE SKILLS.

This is one of the prime qualities needed in a great hospitality professional. Although it is not mandatory, it pays to have excellent language skills. With the advantage of great communication skills, your personality gush out confidence. **You can link with sheer ease with your customers, clients and team members just like a knife on butter.**

3. CROSS CULTURE AWARENESS.

All Hotels and hospitality organisations expect and welcome guests from all parts of the globe. **A high level of cultural awareness is probably the prime hospitality skill.** To succeed as a hotelier, you must have high acceptance from the team and understanding culture that helps you get along well with everyone. We receive different types of guest, their language, their behaviour, their non-verbal communication and to understand them needs experience. I hope you all have heard; "**Slow and steady, wins the race**". Work with hotels, gain experience and you will get to know the art of listening and understanding different languages and their expressions!

"Cultural differences should not separate us from each other, But rather cultural diversity brings a collective strength that can benefit all of humanity."
-Robert Alan

4. JACK OF ALL TRADES.

The main cause why working in the hospitality industry can be challenging is because it is characterised by havoc. **To deal with it all, you must be able to multi-task and adapt to the changes as they occur.** If we take example of *Front office department*- The work ranges from – Check-in, Checkout (Obviously), generating reports, handling guest luggage, booking cabs for the guest. Sometimes serving glass of juice in busy hours can be a challenging work for a front office personnel. In fact, there's a famous saying in the hotel business arena and it goes like this...

"A good professional hotelier is a Democrat, a diplomat, an acrobat, an autocrat, and a doormat, all wrapped in one."

5. EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE.

This is one of the most essential hospitality skills in the current era. The Emotional intelligence is said to be the missing connection between **strong IQ and real achievements.** We see a lot of bright people perform below par while a lot with average intelligence gain extreme success in their professional life. According to many published journals developing skills related to Emotional intelligence can help people overcome stress, to work better in teams and in becoming a better leader. **All of these are associated with extreme success not only in the hospitality industry but almost everywhere.**

6. YOU HAVE TO BE TECH SAVVY.

Yes, you can no more complain that you don't know technology.

Importance of Information Technology in the hospitality sector is huge. It is one of the success factors for the hospitality industry and thus accepting technology is a key, to becoming successful in this industry.

So, no more no, please get yourself trained in technology if you are not already a tech-savvy hotelier. Technology in hospitality industry **holds the key to fame** and **competitive sustained** advantages. Thus, now it's even more important for hoteliers to have a technology inculcate in them!

7. ROUND THE CLOCK JOB.

As an employee in the field of hospitality, **you should be prepared to be flexible at all times.** You can be called on busy times and you should always be prepared to answer the call.

Employees in hospitality sector are also subjected to brutal working schedules so it pays to be flexible. **Workplace Flexibility is key to an organisation's success in the 21st century and thus embracing flexibility is one of the top qualities** of a great hospitality employee.

8. BUILDING PUBLIC RELATIONS.

Public relations hold the key to success in the hospitality sector and are a mixture of top traits all employees and managers must-have in the workplace and there life.

Now, this looks like an obvious one. For this is a must in all CVs. However, we are referring to this key hospitality skill in a different context.

It is important for an hotelier to put this skill into practice at work not only with customers but also with team.

We mentioned it here because it is an expertise that involves effective dealing with a person or multiple people. It is a combination of several winning hospitality skills which include but are not limited to the below mentioned.

- Communication skills
- Problem Solving Skills
- Persuasiveness
- Assertiveness
- Listening Skills
- Team Building Skills
- Networking & social Skills

9. TOLERANCE FOR STRESS.

According to The Telegraph, hospitality sector jobs can be more stressful than professions in medicine, finance, and law enforcement. A high tolerance for stress is a trait associated with conscientiousness and low neuroticism. **Being able to handle stress in the hospitality industry requires excellent focus and calm nerves.** When hundreds of people arrive at a hotel or a restaurant all at the same time, the stress on employees can be extreme. **Staying focused and handling tasks in order of priority can help hospitality workers keep the stress at a manageable level.**

10. ATTENTION TO DETAIL OR EYE FOR DETAIL.

When customers make special requests and ask for personal attention, they expect their requests to be fulfilled without any hassle. Bartenders and waiters must get all the details of an order correct while many other customers compete for their attention. Paying careful attention to detail ensures that customers remain happy and spread positive reviews of their experience to their friends and family.

The hospitality industry is always growing and evolving, and employees with the right qualities for this industry have many opportunities for advancement. The top ten personality traits required for the hospitality industry are essential qualities related to hard work, strong focus and physical stamina.

I urge my all budding hospitality professionals to work on these above traits, due to COVID-19 we have lot of time for our self. Work on yourself, talk to your loved ones, teachers and take appropriate guidance.

All the best!

"If you want the world to know how truly beautiful you are, love everyone."

-Matshona Dhliwayo

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COOK FOOD IN CLAY POTS

A CURATED ARTICLE ON BENEFITS OF COOKING FOOD IN CLAY POTS, EARTHENWARE ARE POROUS WHICH LETS THE FOOD COOK SLOWLY AND MORE EVENLY. IT IS BECAUSE OF ITS POROUS NATURE AND SLOW COOKING THAT THE SPICES PIERCE THROUGH EVERY GRAIN AND INCH OF YOUR FOOD.



MR. MANAN CHAKRABORTY

Guest Contributor - Hospitality Connaisseur

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Well, Earthenware are porous which lets the food cook slowly and more evenly. Is it because of its porous nature and slow cooking that the spices pierce through every grain and inch of your food. Food items cooked in a Clay pot are packed with more flavours. Even tandoors are made of clay, and not metals because when the food is cooked slow, it gets marinated better.

From the nutritional perspective to taste, clay pots are well-suited for all types of cooking. Even Ayurveda suggests cooking in clay pots, as it involves the slow cooking process that improves the quality and taste of food and also balances the nutrients and While cooking food, you need to make sure of two things, firstly, not to increase the flame instantly, as it may cause a crack on the Earthen Clay Pot, start off with low heat, and then gradually increase the flame.

Secondly, do not use extra oil, as Clay Pots are heat resistant, food will retain moisture, so there is no need for that extra quantity of oil to lock in moisture. During summers, one can store water in clay pots, as yet again owing to its heat resistant nature, the water remains cool. During winters, you can store food in these Earthenware to preserve the warmth of the food.

An old-fashioned way of cooking with the unglazed earthenware has made a comeback around the world because certain cookware materials react with heat or particular food which is harmful to health. Without

doubt, the method of cooking food in an unglazed clay pot is an ancient tradition that maintains the nutritional value of food and offers a unique taste.

Get to know Characteristics of cooking food in Clay Pots...

1) FLAVORFUL FOOD

The clay pot is able to retain moisture and heat within the pot itself due to the porous nature. This ensures food is packed with flavors and cooked to perfection with an unmatched aroma.

2) HEAT RESISTANT

You can basically cook anything in a clay pot especially aromatic rice or biryani rice. The slow cooking method gives an earthy flavor to the food.

3) PERFECT FOR MILK PRODUCTS

A fabulous robust of aroma and taste is added when you brew your morning cup of tea or coffee in an earthen pot.

4) HEALTH BENEFITS

The body benefits from calcium, phosphorus, iron, magnesium, sulphur and other compounds by cooking with earthenware. It is also able to alkalize acidic food to a balanced pH level.

5) ADDS BEAUTY

The earthenware is beautiful to look at as it comes in different shapes and sizes. This adds a touch of ethnicity to your dining table.

Clay is a porous material which, when saturated with water and heated on the gas stove, provides slow evaporation of steam from the pores. This creates a moist enclosed environment that results in increased flavour and healthier foods.

Moreover... **It seals all the nutrients inside the pot by locking steam in.** Because of the lid, the steam cannot escape the pot and is directed back into the food which **eliminates the loss of water-soluble nutrients.** Thus, cooking in clay pots requires lesser amounts of liquids. Also, the food cooks with minimum requirement of oils or ghee.

Clay pots is 100% free of toxins and no metal reactions occur, leaving you with the pure taste of your food alone.

Foods that are naturally acidic will acquire some natural sweetness. Acids in foods like tomatoes when cooked in earthen pots give the food a wonderful taste.

Cooking in Clay Pots is a natural way to detoxify. Our blood is alkaline in nature. Acidic food like junk and processed food produces fats and toxins in our body. A detox diet improves the pH balance of the body by making the blood alkaline. Since, Earthen Cookware neutralises pH balance. So, eating food cooked in earthen ware serves as a natural detox.

According to Ayurveda Specialist, "cooking in a clay pot not only has a variety of health benefits but also makes for an easier cooking process and in the end, a more flavorful and nutritious dish. However in the modern times Ayurveda expert advice that , "In modern times, I wouldn't suggest anyone to use clay pots majorly because they are glazed with substances that contain lead, mercury and many others that can be hazardous for health. If you manage to get an unglazed and pure earthen pot, you can start cooking in them after soaking them in water for some time.

Due to its numerous health benefits, Ayurveda suggests cooking in a clay pot. Cooking in a clay pot is much better than cooking in a normal utensil, not just for its various health benefits, but also makes it much simpler to cook and improves the quality of the food at the end. The porosity and natural insulation properties of clay causes heat and moisture to circulate throughout clay pots. This makes cooking in a clay pot a much slower process but has added benefit of preventing amateur cooks from burning their dishes. More importantly, this causes the moisture and nutrient loss while cooking in clay pots to be much lower compared to cooking in metal or enamel lined utensils."

The most compelling reason to start cooking in unglazed earthen pots comes from the one thing it doesn't do—leach harmful metals into your food.

Beyond being good for just you and your food, unglazed earthen pots hold a lot of promise for the environment. **Because they essentially come from soil, they very readily decompose right back into it when you dispose of them, to be completely biodegradable**, unlike teflon pans and steel pots which take up space in Goodwill aisles or fill up landfills.

The health benefits of cooking in a clay pot are vast. Firstly, clay pots add many important nutrients like calcium, phosphorous, iron, magnesium and sulfur to food, which are extremely beneficial to our body. Clay is also alkaline and thus, acts neutralized the acidity in the food, which makes it easier for us to digest. Importantly, oil is not necessary for cooking in a clay pot and thus, it is observed that food cooked in clay pots are much lower in fat than food prepared in any other method."

A clay pot retains significantly more heat than other types of cookware, so food can be kept warm by keeping the lid on the pots without overcooking the food. Due to the intrinsic property of retaining heat and moisture, clay pots cook meats and chicken exceptionally well as the juices are retained.

It stays hot longer than other utensils, as the clay pot cools down slower. So it helps you avoid re-heating the food which in turn helps in preservation of the nutrients in your food. Thus it is highly advisable in this era to use clay as a cooking medium as food is said to **nourish, nurture** and **heal the soul** for upliftment, required for wellbeing of living being.

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