# Gujarat - Rann Utsav (Festival), Asiatic Lions & Modhera Sun Temple

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#### Day 1

#### DAY 01 || ARRIVE MUMABI|| INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT

Welcome to the "city of dreams" Mumbai, India. Upon arrival you will be met and assisted by our company representative at airport. After traditional welcome transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day free at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### Day 2

#### DAY 02 || MUMBAI - AHMEDABAD || FLIGHT

Today proceed for a half day city tour of Mumbai covering Gateway of India, built in 1924 in Mumbai, is an iconic basalt arch overlooking the Arabian Sea. Originally constructed to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary, it now stands as a historic landmark and popular waterfront promenade symbolizing colonial legacy and the city's vibrant cultural spirit. Then proceed to visit an iconic Elephanta caves by ferry, are ancient rock-cut caves located on Elephanta Island near Mumbai, renowned for their impressive sculptures dedicated to Lord Shiva. The highlight is the magnificent three-headed Shiva sculpture, reflecting exceptional artistry and the rich heritage of Indian rock-cut architecture. You will then head towards Victoria terminus, (now Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus) is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known for its stunning Indo-Gothic architecture. Built in 1887, it features intricate stone carvings, grand domes, and stained glass, serving as one of India's busiest and most iconic railway stations. You will also visit Dhobi Ghat world-famous open-air laundry where hundreds of "dhobis" (washer men) manually wash clothes for residents, hotels, and businesses using traditional methods. Located near Mahalaxmi station, the site features rows of concrete wash-basins, each with a flogging stone for scrubbing clothes clean before they are hung to dry. At the end you will visit Mani Bhawan, is a historic residence where Mahatma Gandhi lived and worked during India's freedom movement. Now a museum, it preserves his personal belongings, photographs, books, and exhibits that reflect his life, philosophy, and role in the struggle for independence and lastly you will see Marine Drive, often called the "Queen's Necklace," is a scenic seaside promenade in Mumbai known for its sweeping arc along the Arabian Sea. Lined with Art Deco buildings, it offers stunning sunset views and serves as a popular spot for leisurely walks, relaxation, and soaking in the city's vibrant coastal charm. Post visit transfer to airport to board your flight 6E-683 (18:30/19:40 hrs) to Ahmedabad. Upon arrival in Ahmedabad transfer to your hotel. Evening is free at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### Day 3

## DAY 03 || AHMEDABAD

After breakfast proceed for a city tour of Ahmedabad covering the Jama Masjid, built in 1424 by Sultan Ahmed Shah, is a stunning example of Indo-Islamic architecture. Featuring intricately carved pillars, grand

courtyards, and serene prayer halls, it remains one of the city's most historic and spiritually significant landmarks. Sidi Syed Mosque, is famous for its intricate stone latticework windows, especially the iconic "Tree of Life" jali. This architectural masterpiece reflects exceptional craftsmanship and stands as a symbol of the city's artistic heritage. Then visit Hathisingh Ji temple, built in 1850, is a beautifully carved white marble shrine dedicated to Lord Dharmanath. Known for its detailed craftsmanship and serene courtyard, it stands as one of Ahmedabad's finest Jain architectural landmarks. At the end visit Sabarmati Ashram, once the home of Mahatma Gandhi, is a peaceful riverside retreat that played a key role in India's freedom movement. It now serves as a museum preserving Gandhi's life, philosophy, and legacy of non-violence. Evening enjoy special dinner at Vishalla', a traditionally designed restaurant, named under the book Bhattachintamani of a religious group called 'Swaminarayan'. This book encompasses the life span of the Swaminarayan Guru. There is a small district in the Himalayas, 'Badri Vishalla', which has been widely recognized as a prominent retreat for the 'rishi-munis' since time unknown. Return to the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

#### Day 4

#### DAY 04 || AHMEDABAD - DANTA || 160 KMS/4 HRS

After breakfast check out and drive to Danta, known for its royal heritage, pleasant landscapes, and tribal culture, Danta is home to historical sites like the Danta Fort and Jain temples. Surrounded by forests and scenic countryside, it offers a peaceful escape with a blend of nature, history, and local traditions. Upon arrival check in at the hotel. Later visit the temples in the vicinity. Evening is free at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### Day 5

## DAY 05 || DANTA - PATAN - MODHERA - DASADA || 177 KMS/4 HRS

After breakfast check out and drive to Dasada enroute visit to Rani-Ki-Vav at Patan and Sun Temple at Modhera. Rani-Ki-Vav is assumed to be built in the memory of Bhimdev I in 1050 AD by his widowed queen Udayamati. This magnificent east facing step well measures approximately 64m long, 20m wide & 27m deep. A stepped corridor compartmented at regular intervals with pillared multi-storeyed pavilions is a unique feature. It was one of the largest and the most sumptuous structures of its type. The Sun Temple, Modhera is dedicated to Hindu Sun-God (Surya). It was built in 1025 AD by King Bhimdev. This temple depicts the essence of ancient times. The sculpture and architecture present in this temple are still magnificent after all these years. Post visit continue to Dasada. Upon arrival in Dasada check in at the hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

## Day 6

## DAY 06 || DASADA

Today you will have one morning and one evening wildlife safaris in Little Rann of Kutch to see the wildlife such as Wild Ass, Antelopes, Fox, Wolves and many impressive birds. Evening is free at leisure. Dinner & overnight at hotel.

#### DAY 07 || DASADA - DHORDO (RANN UTSAV) DAY 01 || 315 KMS/6 HRS

After breakfast check out and drive to the Dhordo the tent city where you will witness this beautiful Rann Utsav by indulge in an exciting range of activities at Skyzilla, Club House, Craft Market/Haat, Various Selfie Points, Rejuvenation Center, Art Gallery, Live Demonstration area of Kutch craft & many others. In the evening head to the White Rann to witness a stunning sunset over the salt desert. Return to Rann Utsav and enjoy the cultural programs, live performances, and local handicrafts available at the Rann Utsav tent city. Dinner and Overnight at tented accommodation.

#### Day 8

#### DAY 08 || DHORDO (RANN UTSAV) DAY 02

Early morning enjoy tea and then experience a rejuvenating yoga session at the dedicated area. Visit the Sunrise Point to witness the beauty of the rising sun over the serene White Rann. As the first light touches the vast salt desert, it creates a magical and unforgettable morning experience. Return to respective dining area for the breakfast. Later enjoy some leisure time or you can also engage yourself in the exciting range of activities. Enjoy delicious lunch at the respective dining area. Post lunch proceed for tour to Kala Dungar (Black Hill), the highest point of Kutch. En route, visit the handicraft village "Gandhi Nu Gaam." Tea/coffee and light refreshments will be served during the journey. Return to Rann Utsav and enjoy the cultural programs, live performances, and local handicrafts available at the Rann Utsav tent city. Dinner and Overnight at tented accommodation.

#### Day 9

## DAY 09 || DHORDO (RANN UTSAV) - BHUJ || 81 KM/1 HR 40 MINS

Early morning enjoy tea and then experience a rejuvenating yoga session at the dedicated area. Return to respective dining area for the breakfast. After breakfast, checkout and drive to Bhuj, has an amazing Kachchh handicrafts, and historic buildings such as the Aina Mahal and Prag Mahal possess an eerie beauty. Bhuj is an ideal springboard for visits to the surrounding villages, and textile tourism is attracting visitors from around the world. Upon arrival check in at the hotel. Afternoon proceed for sightseeing of Bhuj. In a walk around Bhuj, you can see the Hall of Mirrors at the Aina Mahal, climb the bell tower of the Prag Mahal and a stroll through the market will introduce you to the Kachchh handicrafts, are renowned for their intricate craftsmanship, vibrant colors, and cultural artistry. From mirror-embroidered textiles and Ajrakh block printing to Rogan art, leatherwork, and exquisite silver jewellery, these crafts reflect the rich heritage and skilled craftsmanship of local artisans, making them globally admired and deeply rooted in tradition. Also visit some villages nearby. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 10**

## **DAY 10 || BHUJ - GONDAL || 275 KMS/6 HRS 30 MINS**

After breakfast check out and drive to Gondal, a small leafy town that sports the string of palaces and a gentle rive. Upon arrival check in at the hotel. Later visit historic 17th century Naulakha Palace, is a royal residence known for its carved balconies, grand durbar hall, and elegant fusion of Mughal and Rajput architectural styles. Famous for its ornate stonework and antique collections, the palace reflects the opulence of Gondal's royal heritage. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 11**

#### DAY 11 || GONDAL - LOTHAL - VELVADAR || 260 KMS/5 HRS

After an early breakfast check out and drive to Velavadar Blackbuck National Park enroute visit to Lothal an Archaeological Remains of Lothal, a significant Indus Valley Civilization site featuring a well-preserved dockyard, a marketplace, and an archaeological museum. Post visit continue drive to Velavadar Blackbuck National Park. Upon arrival check-in at the hotel. After freshen head to the national park entrance for an evening safari. The late afternoon is an excellent time for wildlife sightings as animals are most active during cooler hours. Enjoy the vast grasslands and spot large herds of blackbucks, nilgai, and various bird species. Lucky visitors might also spot an Indian wolf or striped hyena. After an adventurous experience return to your lodge for dinner and overnight stay. Dinner and overnight at the lodge.

#### Day 12

#### DAY 12 || VELVADAR - BHAVNAGAR || 60 KM/1 HR

Early morning proceed for another adventurous safari at the Velavadar National park. The early morning is the "golden time" for spotting wildlife, including predators like wolves and hyenas returning to their dens, and large congregations of harriers and other migratory birds in winter. Return to your accommodation for breakfast and check-out for drive to Bhavnagar, is a coastal city known for its rich history, vibrant culture, and close ties to the diamond and shipping industries. It features heritage landmarks, bustling markets, and serves as a gateway to the famous Velavadar Blackbuck National Park. Upon arrival check in at the hotel. Evening is free at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### Day 13

## DAY 13 || BHAVNAGAR - PALITANA - SASAN GIR || 235 KMS/6 HRS 30 MINS

Today you will check out and drive to Sasan Gir enroute visit to Palitana temples and whole mountain is considered to be the most sacred pilgrimage place by the Jain community. It is the only mountain which has more than 900 temples and there are approx. 3500 steps. Later continue to Sasan Gir, a renowned wildlife sanctuary and the only natural habitat of the Asiatic lion. Known for its rich biodiversity, dry deciduous forests, and exciting jungle safaris, it offers a unique wildlife experience with lions, leopards, deer, and diverse birdlife. Upon arrival in Gir check in to your hotel. Evening is free at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

## **Day 14**

#### DAY 14 || SASAN GIR

Today you will have 2 safaris (one morning & one evening) safaris in Gir National Park. The Gir Forest National Park was established in 1975, it covers the total area of 1412 Km2 with 258 Km2 fully protected area (the core area). Gir is the sole home of the Asiatic Lions and it's considered to be one of the most important protected areas in Asia due to its supported species. The April 2010 census recorded the lion-count in Gir at 411. Evening free at leisure. Dinner and overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 15**

#### **DAY 15 || SASAN GIR - DIU || 98 KMS/2 HRS 30 MINS**

After breakfast check out and drive to Diu, is a tranquil coastal destination known for its beautiful beaches, Portuguese heritage, and relaxed island vibe. With historic forts, charming churches, and scenic seaside promenades, it offers a peaceful escape blending culture, history, and natural beauty. Upon arrival check in to the hotel. Rest of the day is free at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 16**

#### **DAY 16 ||DIU**

After leisurely breakfast, relax at the hotel to unwind at Diu beach. Overnight at the hotel.

#### **Day 17**

#### DAY 17 || DIU – MUMBAI- DEPARTURE || FLIGHT

After breakfast check out and drive to Diu airport to board your flight 9I-624 (Dep: 1625/Arr: 1725 hrs) to Mumbai. Upon arrival in Mumbai take a connecting flight to your onward destination. Note: Suggested flight is the only direct flight operates daily with 02 different timings.