CHAPTER – 3

SERVICES OF TCGL

- **FAIRS OF GUJARAT**
  - Trinetreshwar Mahadev Fair / Tarnetar Mela, Tarnetar
  - Bhadra Purnima, Ambaji
  - Shamlaji Melo (Kartik Purnima Melo / Fair)
  - Chitra – Vichitra Fair, Gunbhaker
  - Bhavnath Mahadev Fair, Junagadh
  - Vautha Mela

- **FESTIVALS OF GUJARAT**
  - International Kite Festival
  - Kutch Mahotsava
  - The Sun Temple of Modhera & the Dance Festival
  - Janmashtami at Dwarka
  - The Dang’s Darbar
  - Navratri

- **WILD – LIFE – A LIVING TREASURE OF NATURE**

- **ROYAL CHARM OF HOTELS & PALACES OF GUJARAT**

- **THE ROYAL ORIENT**

- **PACKAGED TOURS OF TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LIMITED**
WELCOME TO VIBRANT COLOURS OF GUJARAT

The Tourism corporation of Gujarat is brandedly known as Toran group of units. It provides comprehensive travel services to the tourists. These include accommodation, conducts tours and transport with a wide range to meet diverse needs. TCGL has a network of 19 accommodation units. Since TCGL was started after than the development in infrastructure undertaken by the corporation. It is the efforts in promoting infrastructure in keeping with the spirit of the state, its people and its natural. Environment have won the corporation such prestigious awards as the somnath chib memorial award from the pacific asia travel Association for out standing tourism promotion, and the first place in the National Tourism Fair’89.

As we know the colours of Gujarat where the seas meet sparkling sands, blushing sunsets embrace rosey dawns, verdant, lush and green, where lions prowl nd flaming oes prean marbles temples reflect the glory of the days of year. Age-old places browned in the sun and water parks fun. Here tribal life is a celebration of music, dance and multicoloured traditions promises to capture the canvas of tourist imagination.
FAIRS AND FESTIVALS OF GUJARAT A CELEBRATION OF LIFE

[A] FAIRS OF GUJARAT

Gujarat has always been known for its splendid and evocative fairs & festivals. There are various types of such celebrations. Some of the fairs are held around the temples in various regions they are held on days considered auspicious such as the full-moon day of a particular month. Rest are harvest festivals usually called as “Melas”. A mela provides them with the opportunity to meet friends and relatives from other villages and also buy whatever they need for their Houses. In former times, there was no money people use to buy whatever they needed and offered food grains in exchange. Nowadays money is only used.

These festival give villagers, particularly the tribal people, the opportunity to break away from their daily routine and their numerous problems. They ride the giant wheel or merry - go - round and participate in the dances & enjoy.

They return home and ready to face the problems ahead and every one in the family is satisfied. Following are the fairs held in the gujarat and tourism corporation of gujarat provides their services to the tourist for enjoying the fun of the fairs and make the atmosphere colourful.
TRINETRESHWAR MAHADEV FAIR / TARNETAR MELA
TARNETAR

In Gujarat there are many fairs where tribal people gather on special occasions to participate in various activities that take place in the fair. The Trinetreshwar Mahadev fair at Tarnetar, near the Industrial town of Thangadh, Saurashtra, is one such fair. This fair is related with the story of Draupadi's swayamvar. The tribal youths usually visit Tarnetar to find a suitable match. Tarnetar is one of the most important match-making Melas.

At Tarnetar an ancient shiva temple existed, the temple is vanished. The existing temple was built on the banks of a rivulet and has a kund in the traditional manner. The temple was constructed in the 14th century traditional style which is a beautiful sight.

As this is the most important fairs of Gujarat's Saurashtra region it is attended by at least 50,000 people and over 300 stalls are set up on the fair site. There are exhibition of embroidery a cattle show and competitive sports. The famous ras-garba & hodo are features of the fair.

The fair is held for 3 days in September, the trains are available from Thangadh now special buses are also there from Thangadh. After the fair is over Tarnetar again becomes a small village of 1000 persons.
Bhadra Purnima Ambaji is located in the village named Ambaji at the foot hills of Aravalli Mountain range. It is the principal shrine of Goddess Ambaji in Gujarat and its origins are lost in the mists of time. The references to this location are as far as 746 A.D. The deity is represented by a triangular Vishwa Yantra, inscribed with the figures and syllable “Shree” in the center. There is no idol. The Temple of Ambaji is recognized as one of the original shakti pithas where, according to the ancient scriptures written about the goddess, Ambaji fell to the earth when her body was dismembered. It is said that the transcription ceremony of Shri Krishna was performed at Ambaji.

Bhadra Purnima Fair is about the full moon of Bhadra Pad. The most important festival days of the year, mostly the agriculturists go to the temple, in their thousands, along with the temple in their thousands, along with the members of general public. The major attraction of this fair is the evening performances of Bhavai & Garba programmes.

The devotee attend readings of the saptashati, The seven hundred verses in praise of the goddess and visits the temple for an auspicious darshan of Ambaji.

EXCURSIONS

There are other holy palaces around Ambaji which pilgrims usually visit on such a occasion.
• Gabbargadh, a small hill two miles west of Ambaji, here there is a pipal tree at the top, which pilgrims circumulate.

• Kubahariya, it is small village yet is famous because it holds five join temples dedicate to different join tirthankaras.

• Koteshwar it is three miles away from Ambaji. it is famous because the hill near the temple of Koteshwar Mahadev, is the source of Saraswati river. Pilgrims usually bathe in the Kund into which water from the saraswati flows.


Shamlaji is situated on Ahmedabad – Delhi road, It was once a town of great historical significance. It is 80 kms from Ahmedabad and 32 kms from Himatnagar. The Shamlaji temple a renowned Vaishnav Shrine, and diety housed there in is known by various names including gadadhar (bearer of the mace) and shakshi gopal. Archeologically the temple is of much importance and it was built in the 11th century.

The Shamlaji is also called the Kartik purnima fair & it is held in the month of November every year. It lasts for about two weeks. nearly 20,000 people of all communities & castes including the grasias & bhils, visit the fair. The fair is popular with the tribal people of the
area, particularly the Bhils, who revere Shamlaji, the deity they refer to as Kalio Bhavji, the dark divinity.

There is a river named Meshwo after the Darshan of the dirty in the temple a bath in the river is a part of offering prayers visitors generally come in groups, and sing devotional songs, carrying religious banners.

EXCURSIONS

- Keshariaji the jain temple which is about 48 km away from shamlaji.
- Moasa, 29 km, Bhiloda 15 kms, Meghraj 48km and Ahmedabad 160km are the places worth seeing.

[4] CHITRA-VICHITRA FAIR, GUNBHAKER

The Fair of Chitra-vichitra takes place in the village of Gunbhakhari in Sabarkantha district, it is very near to the borders of Rajasthan. It is near to the borders of Rajasthan. It is fortnight after the holi-festival. The name of the fair is holi-festival. The name is derived from chitravarya and Vichitravarya the sons of king Shantanu, who are believed to have lived here & been cured of the diseases which Afflicted them. The fair site is attractive, as the temple which is its focus overlooks the rivers Sabarmati, akul & vyakul. As it is one of the largest purely adivasis fairs of borders region and attracts large number of bhils who come from all the surrounding districts using every imaginable form of transport.
Important feature of chitra-vichita fair is dancing & drumming continuous for hours until every one is exhausted. The garasia and bhil adivasis dress in their customary colourful costumes generally consists of a blue shirt, dhoti and a red or saffron fenta or turban. Women wear ghagharas which a circumference as much 20 yards, and are covered from head to foot with ornate and heavy silver jewellery using liquid kumkum or vermilion to colour their cheeks and lips a brilliant red, white their eyes are outlined with kajal.

There are over hundred stalls hold food & drink, and sweets of various kinds, silver ornaments can be brought and household articals as well for dancing and drumming continues for hours until everyone is exhausted and the gaint wheel and a merry-go-round also goes on with the colours of the fair.

EXCURSIONS

- Khedbrahma is not much for from Gunbhabhar it is only 30km there is one of the few in India, the temple of brahma, the nearest major town is Mehsana,133 km while Ahmedabad too is within easy mortable distance.
• Veraval it is 88kms from Junagadh there is a rebuilt temple of Somnath, stand proudly
• Sasan Gir 60kms from Junagadh former portuguese colony of Diu. San Gir the last habitat of Asiatic lion.

[6] VAUTHA MELA, The grand fair at Vautha

A Magnificent fair is held every year at vautha where two rivers meet. The Sabarmati and the Vatrak. It is one of the largest fairs in Gujarat. The village of Vautha is small and has a population of 2000 in habitants yet when this celebrated fair is on, the number of visitors may intense to an incredible 2,00,000. The legends hold that kartik swami or kartikeya the son of lord Shiva visited the site. This is reason why the fair is held during Kartik Purnima, the full moon night of the month of kartik, this fair generally occurs in November. The site is also known as Saptasangam because as it is at the confluence of seven rivers. Also another actual fact is that the great Saptarishis or seven Rishis stay here for a while, The most important temple is the shiva temple of siddhanath.

The Pilgrims visiting the fair belong to several different communities which include farmers, labour etc. The fair is basically frequented by hindus even Muslims visit the fair in large number. The fair lasts for 2-3 days. The Significance of the fair is that it is a major animal trading fair in Gujarat. Here the animals traded are donkeys about 4000 donkeys are brought every year for sale, usually by vanjara traders.
EXCURSIONS

- Ahmedabad, It is the largest town which is only 50kms away.
- Dholka it is 26kms away from Vautha It is the nearest railway station. To reach vautha one is suppose to travel by state transport.

During the fair the special buses ply between vautha and other towns.
[B] FESTIVALS OF GUJARAT

Fifteen hundred fairs and 2000 festivals every year that is the fantastic diversity Gujarat offers a unique cultural heritage like no other. Out of these festive occasions. Their colourful traditional dresses and jewellery, in itself a revelation of their creative instincts to extract and reflect the best of their surroundings without even straining or being in conflict with their environment make these already beautiful faces even more beautiful to behold. Though rooted in the religion, commemorating mythological events in honour of gods, goddesses or saints, fairs and festivals are in fact truly secular socials in which people of all faith participate.

There are many diversities in Gujarat. Diversity of land forms, wild life, landscapes of utter scenic beauty, monuments, cultural heritage sites, handicrafts, arts, music, food languages, customs, rituals and ceremonies all combine harmoniously to consistently paint a true portrait for all to come and see, as well as revel in for the tourist, this is an invitation to partake in kaleidoscopic view of the social and cultural milieu of this incredible region.

[1] INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL

The International kite festival is always held on Jan 14, to coincide with the festival of Utrayan or Makar sankranti. Kite are flown all over Gujarat special food is eaten usually in the open field or a park, or in the garden of one's home. It is a very joyous day with bright sun, clear skies and breezes strong enough to lift innumerable kites aloft. It
is in fact a celebration to mark the end of winter, when the heat of summer is still to come. The gods who are believed to have slumbered for six long months are now awake and the portals of heaven are thrown open. The temple are thronged with visitors and alms are distributed.

Kite flying starts at dawn and continues without a pause throughout the day. Friends, neighbours, and total strangers battle one another for supremacy and cries of triumph rent the air. When someone cuts the line of a rival, a tremendous variety of bites are seen in the sky. Even the lines with which the kites are flown are specially prepared by the experts before the great day. Special mixtures of glue and ground glass cover the lines which are dried and rolled onto reels known as “FIRKEES”. So sharp are these lines that carelessly used they cut fingers. The excitement does end with a Nightfall, which is the time for Illuminated Box Kites, often in a series String on One line, to be launched into the sky called “TUKKALS”. They add a touch of splendour to the sky.

The Visitors are curious to learn more about kites, and this curiosity can be satisfied at the Museum which presents briefly and colourfully, the History of kites for eg. In 200BC Huan Thang of China flew a Kite at night to aware the Army of Han Dynasty from 100BC to 500 AD. Kites were used for sending signals and to measure the distance of enemy camps. By 930 AD The Japanese mention “Shiroshi” meaning paper bird, for the first Time between 960 AD &1126, Kite flying became popular sport in China. The 9th day of the 9th Month
was a day when kites were flown to Banish evil. In the Indian Literature Kites were Mentioned for First Time in “MADHUMATI” by Manzanand were called “PATANG” which is the word still used today.

EXCURSIONS

- **AHMEDABAD**: From Ahmedabad one can visit Gandhinagar, The new Capital, which is 32 kms away. The Medieval Step-Well of Adalaj is on the way.
- **MODHERA**: It is 115 kms away from Ahmedabad. It is known for its 11th century Temple.
- **SARKHEJ**: It is only 12 kms from the city, it is building a complex Dating back to sultanate.

Apart from this there are numerous places of Interest in Ahmedabad. These include the the Sand Stone Jalis or Latlice work screens which are intricately carved and form a part of Sidi Sayed Mosque. Kakaria Lake is a place where people spend pleasant evenings away from the rush and bustle of the city.

[2] **KUTCH MAHOTSAVA**

Kutch has its own distinctive Character. It is in fact a Peninsula, lying between the Sir river, the Sir Creek and the Rann of Kutch on the north-west and the Gulf of Kutch on the east. The country is some what bare & wild with some cultivated fields near the villages. It has remarkably Heterogeneous Population, who belong to 18 different
tribes, each each with its own language and culture. Yet Kutch, with its colourful people, Historic towns and remarkable handicrafts, has much of interests to offer to visitors.

The Tourism Corporation Of Gujarat LTD organized an unusual tour of Kutch, The Tour was called as Mahotsava, or great festival, because of the great variety of sights and scens that are offered to tourists. The Mahotsava consists of six day Tour of Kutch in which all the requirements of visitors are taken into care of.

BHUJ-HEART OF KUTCH

Bhuj is known as the Heart of Kutch. It is linked by many roads to rest of Peninsula. In Bhuj there is Aina Mahal or Glass Palace which was built in 18th century, The Kutch’s Musuem which is Gujarats oldest and The Bhartya Sanskruti Darshan Complex, which hold some remarkable frescoes depicting the Ram Lila. The Rural bazaars of Bhuj sell their Exquisite Handicrafts. Mata no Madh is an old Temple believed to 1200 years old. It is Dedicated to Mother Godess. The Temple has many unusual features and its treatment of dimensions and of space are unique, Lakhpat was once a flourishing port, and now deserted, reminds one that in ancient times ships sailed to west Asia from Gujarats west coast. Time still stands at lakhpat recalling to mind an era long past, through the manysites in the city, including the sikh Gurudwara, and the 2000 year tomb or dargah of Ghaus Mohammed Kaba.
Harappan civilization once existed in Gujarat, Dholavira was once an important part of harappan civilizations providing that the Harrapan civilization extended to Gujarat. Excavations are still in progress.

Dhrang is another location famous for its rural fair and for handicrafts, traditional objects, hand-printed and embroidered fabrics made and sold there. It is also famous for jewellery available there. Narayan sarovar means the lake of Narayan a name for Vishnu. There are five sacred lakes here. The temple complex is located on one of these, Narayan sarovar is one of the most sacred pilgrimage sites for orthodox Hindus. Koteshwar is another place on the route of Mahotsava. TCGL links the pilgrims to this place. Also Bhadreshwar is considered an important religious site by Jain community but it has also Shrines, Mosques and Temples, as well as a unique and ancient Step – well Anjar near Gandhidham is a famous for samadhi of Jesal-Toral, Ajaypal temple and the Shrine of Pinjora Pir. The Bungalow of James Macmurdo contains remarkable examples of the art of Kutch.

In the southern Part of Kutch Mandvi a renowned holiday center with a beach overlooking the Arabian sea. The Vijay Vilas Palace evokes the Royal Splendour of the Past. Mandvis Hawa Mahal is also imposing, and reminiscent of similar palaces in Rajasthan. Banni and Khavda are villages set like Jewels in an expanse of desert. In these villages like some of the talented craftsmen of Kutch who practices their traditional skills, to produce masterpieces & sale it for a better living.
EXCURSIONS

- The Kutch Mahotsava is usually organized during February and March each year & other places of interest nearby are Rajkot, in Saurashtra which is 160 kms from Bhuj.
- Jamnagar is 189 from Bhuj.
- Junagadh (260 kms from Bhuj)
- Bhuj has an Airport with flights to different destinations, Buses can carry visitors to Ahmedabad or anywhere else, on route.


The Sun Temple of Modhera is the Ruins of 11th in North Gujarat, It is an impressive sight. It Stands on a Knoll in the village of Modhera. It is eighteen miles south of Anhilvad, The Former Hindu capital of Gujarat. Modhera was evidently a site of great importance at one time. The style of Temple was Build bears a strong resemblance to that of jain Temples Mount Abu. The outer walls of the Temples are covered with the Sculptures in which figures of Lord Surya are prominent.

At the Sun Temple of Modhera the Annual Festival of Indian classical dance was held. It was Inspired and the Decision was made by the Department of culture Gujarat, the west zone cultural center whose head Quarter is in Udaipur.
The Idea that inspired the Festival is to present classical dance forms in an atmosphere. Similar to that in which these were originally presented. The Presentation so successful that the decision was taken to make it an annual event. The dance Festival is held during the third week of January every year after the festival of Utrayan.

EXCURSIONS

- The city of Patan, formerly known as Anhilvad when it was the capital of Gujarat, it is 44 kms away.
- Mehsana the head Quarters of the district is 25 kms away from Modhera.
- Modhera is only 102 kms from Ahmedabad by road. From Modhera, one may visit other places of interest like Siddpur and Palanpur.

JANMASHTAMI AT DWARKA

Dwarka, The Abode of Shri Krishna, the city of gold where according to the devotees Shri Kri Krishna settled over 5000 years ago after leaving Mathura for ever, and where he reigned for 100 years for the pilgrims Dwarkas, presiding diety remains Shri Krishna, and they flock there in their thousands from all parts of India and abroad. The Temple, towering over the Surrounding Buildings was built 1400 years ago. It has several floors and is built of sandstone. The interior is simple while the exterior is covered with elaborate carvings.
Janmashtami, The Birthday of Shri Krishna, is celebrated with great Splendour. Rows of lights are lighted everywhere, Kirtans and Bhajans are sung, sermons are delivered and Krishna worshipped in his infant form. Thousands of people go to Dwarka to visit temple and participate in the fair. After visiting the main Temple, devotees go Shankhoddhar Beyt. There are some other important Temples, both old and new. Among these is the Temple of Shank-Narayan, dedicated to Matsyavat, the incarnation of Vishnu as a Fish. This was constructed over 200 years ago.

EXCURSIONS

- Dwarka can be reached by train on the viramgam-Okha broad guage line. It is 132 km from Jamnagar, 234 km from Rajkot, and only 450 km from Ahmedabad, A State highway also links the city with the main part of Saurashtra.

[5] THE DANGS DARBAR

The Dangs Darbar is the name of the annual fair held in Ahwa every year, a few days before Holi. The name “Darbar” dates back to the time of British, when a Darbar of Rajas & Naiks of Neighbouring areas used to assemble there. Today it is called the Jamabandhi Darbar and the District collector officiates at it. Thousands of tribal people flock to Ahwa from all over the district, gaily dressed in lively colours surrounding the shehnai and beating their drums. The Darbar today attracts merchants from as far as Nasik, Surat and west Khandesh. Folk Dances enliven the fair during the few days it lasts.
The Education Department organises folk dances, ras and garbas programmes, songs and dramas.

EXCURSIONS

- Surat is 155 kms a busy industrial city with Historic associations it is easy reach of Ahwa by road.
- Daman is a Port 149 kms away from Dang. It was once a Portuguese colony.
- Sanjan Where the Parsis first Landed in India and Many well known towns of Gujarat. The city of Mumbai can be reached here within a few hours.

[6] NAVRATRI

Navratri, meaning nine nights is an ancient and colourful dance festival. It honours the divine shakti or force which supports the entire universe, and is personified as the mother goddess she protects her worships, destroys evil and grants Boons to her children. The Mother Goddess has seven well known forms, depending upon the special Powers She manifests Throughout Gujarat Navratri is celebrated with joy and religious fervour.

The festival is essentially religious in nature. It is celebrated with true devotion in various temples dedicated to the Mother or Mataji, as she is called Familiarly. Interestingly feature of Navratri is Garba a circular dance performed by women around an earthen pot called “Garbo”, filled with water. A Betel nut and a silver coin are placed
within the, pot called a “Kumbh”, on top of which a coconut has also been placed. As the dancers whirl around the pot. A singer and drummer provide the musical accompaniment. The participants clap in steady rhythm. Nowadays loud speakers are used to enhance the sound which grows to a crescendo. The dance usually starts slowly. It gets faster and faster as the music too gets more rapid. Until the dance abruptly comes to a halt. There is a pause for a while and the dance commences. Once again, the singer leading with a new song.

There is another feature of Navratri is Dandia-Ras or “Stick” dance, in which men & women join the dance circle, holding small polished sticks or dandies. As they Whirl to the intoxicating rhythm of dance, men & women strike the “Dandias” together, adding to the joyous atmosphere. So popular are the garba and the dandia – ras that competitors are held to assess the quality of dancing. Prizes are given to those judged to be the best. The costumes worn for traditional and alive with colour. The dances usually commence late in night and continue until Morning, testifying to their great popularity.

**NAVRATRI IN AHMEDABAD**

The celebration of Navratri are alive and joyous, as they are elsewhere, at Ahmedabad the garba parties are enormous. In large public squares, group of musicians sing the traditional garba songs. A bhajan singer with a harmonium sings into a microphone. In crowded localities, where open space is not available, the garba ceases to be a circular dance but instead becomes a long line of people comprising
both men & women moving in accordance with the turns and bends of street. The scene is truly fantastic.

**NAVRATRI IN VADODRA**

As Baroda is well known center of music and culture and many streets have their own garba mandals or garba groups A bhavai is Ambajis Temple, during navratri. Many other places within Gujarat have their own local customes and celebrate Navratri in their own way.
Gujarat is a Paradise for bird-watchers and wildlife enthusiasts. An array of habitats, ranging from deciduous forests, deserts, plains, grasslands and wetlands to coastal and marine ecosystems have made Gujarat one of the most prolific areas for bird watching in all of Asia. Gujarat is having a west of marine life, deer, antelope and carnivorous are a feature of a wildlife tour in Gujarat and the bird watching opportunities include observing bird species in great nesting colonies, at their major roosting sites or in a spectacular migrating flocks.

In the southern coast of the Gulf of Kutch, offshore there is an Archipelago of 42 islands which was the first island necklace to be declared a marine Sanctuary and National park in the whole of India. There are colourful coral, reefs and Mangrove swamp forests, mudflats and rocky shoals fringe the islands. Octopus, Sea Hare, Shelled mollusks sea slugs, sea cucumber, Star fish, butytle star, feather star and other marine life abound, and scores of coastal birds can be watched feeding on the Mudflats and Rocky shores, nesting Mangrove canopies and wading in shallow coastal waters.

Dolphins and Turtles are seen surfacing for water during cruises to the Islands. The Gulf of Kutch is one of the few places where the Dugong or sea cow has been known to breed in the Arabian sea & species of unsegmented worm, Bonnalia, found here has been recorded else where. Boats can be hired at jetties near Jamnagar for a trip to national park Jamnagar is also a base for visits to Khijadiya.
bird sanctuary and various reservoirs that attract waterfowl. The Lakhota lake in the city center is known to attract 75 species of birds in winter. In the south from Jamnagar the Gir National Park and wildlife sanctuary, the last abode of the Asiatic lion.

The tapestry of deciduous forests, grasslands, acacia scrub and wetlands of Gir and seven rivers that feed the 1412 sq km wildlife reserve, support a thriving population of Panther, Sambhar and spotted deer, Chousingha (the world's only four horned antelope) the niggai antelope, the chinkara gazelle, hyena Jackal, jungle cat black napped hare, langoor and mongoose Tye resty spotted cat has been recorded in the gir. A variety of birds can be watched in the sanctuary and crocodile bask beside the Kamleshwar dam.

The Interpretation centers lion Safari at Devaliya offers a good way to spot lions and experience a crosssection of gir's wildlife & habitats.

Gujarat's another endemic species is the Asiatic wild ass of the little Rann of Kutch sanctuary, its only other habitat in India being the cold desert of Ladakh. The 4850 sq kms sanctuary, one of the largest in India, has a sizable population of chinkara gazelle, Niglai atelope, The endangered Indian wolf, jackal, Desert and Indian Foxes, Lesser wild cats hare desert gebil, and pale and long eared hedgehog, other mammal lion inhabitants of the little Rann of Kutch.

In winter the little Rann of Kutch is a birds paradise attracting species that range from drufland bird like the houbara bustard and spotted sand grouse to flocks of common and demmosile cranes, flamingoes,
pelicious and other magnificently coloured wetland birds. Nine species of lark, desert warbler, desert wheat ear, five, five other species of quils, francolins, Indian courser and other birds abound in the little Rann of Kutch. The geographically unique salt encrusted plains with broken scrub, grasslands & islands called bets, is the hunting ground of raptors like the short Tord eagle.

The best national park for back luck viewing in India is 36 wq km velvadar national park which comprises a tapestry of grasslands and rcirpby plains reminiscent of the ahicar savannar February and March are the ratting season for black buck at velavadar and the flandsome bucks can be seen locking hours in combat for the choicest does the national fookl also provides suitable chabit at for the endangered iundian volley, the jackal the Indian forse, the jungle cat, blue bull antelope and flars to prolix heart successfully and attracts a hargs numbers of brids, specially during the winter moths when migration is at its peak. Evening is the time for velavadaris greatest winter spectache. Harrier, a light bodied chawk, in nuinlevs layond comprehansion, twisting and tuining before setting in the grasslands for their roost. Another place for black buck viewing is botad Dhakania veedi area whose antelope are protected by the local panjara pole of botad. Chinkara and nilgai are also peolific in this region. The tropical those would gungls of hingolgandh is well known for its chinkwa, nilgai and bird flying and has been declared a naturo education sanctuary, the only one of its kind in India set aside for nature orientation camps for students.
Cities of Saurashtra too after some delightful birding opportunities. The coast at creeks of Porbander are among the finest places in India to view flamingoes, felicans, stocks, ibises, duckes and shore birds. Bhavnagar city center park called the pill gardens, where painted stockets nest in winter, a suburban reservoir the 19th century Gaurishankar lake, which is a haven for water fawl and the bird rich scrublands of Victoria park. The salt marshes near the ports of Bhavnagar are known for their large heronries and are one of the world's most important sites for reef heron nestling colonies.

There are number of lakes around Ahmedabad. There number of birds can be seen. Nalsarovar and bhol dake, 64 and 32 km respectively from Ahmedabad's city antrs, have been notified as bird sanctuaries. A multitude of species gathers at there lakes in winter, and an early morning boat ride among a million birds is a beautiful experience during the colder months at the 105 sq km Nalsarovar bird sanctuary. Whole has birds also gather and eastern Gujarat like Dantiwada dam and Jambughoda. Flamingoes and other Majestic birds can be seen in large flocks at the Nalsarovar bird sanctuary. There wooded hills are the home to both bear, panther, four homed and nilgai antelope, and other wildlife birds like the gray hornbill, burbets, oriel and parkeets are easily seen in these hilly suburb and woodland sanctuaries. Jessre and balaram Ambaji in north Gujarat, Jamb ugho da, Ratamahal and Shoolpaneshwar in eastern Gujarat, are the major chill sanctuaries Bansda national park, mahal bardipads, parna sanctuary and other folks of Southern Gujarat after good opportunities to watch
invertiblate like land crabs, spiders and butter flies, brides deing the home of panther, porcupine & other mammals.

The Sancturies and national parks of Gujarat do not miss out on the birds that assemble at marshes and fields near the highway roads that bad from destination to destination Gujarat has the birds in such large numbers, even on city spaces, at suitable high side locations and in towns and villages where lakes can be covered with conflomerations of several thousand birds.
The Maharajas, Nawabs and other rulers of India was ousted day no providence to offer mankind a spectator of offence and power. The Royal families of Gujarat are no exception to this rule. They lived an opulent life style, in grand palaces and imposing fortresses, with flats of the best automobiles form Europe and America, stable of house and elephants private daily saloons, horse carriage jewels and object – de – art, visitors to the Heritage hotels of Gujarat can now experience the hospitality of these historic homes, some of which still retain the transpiring of royalty.

Government of India artifices heritage hotels offering an international standard of facilities, with out compromising on the original architectural features, interior décor and ambient of the heritage building. Government of India has approved their heritage hotels in Gujarat. Nilambag palace hotel Bhavnagar and Balaram Palace resort near Palanpur both as heritage classic hotels 7 the riverside palace at Gondal as a heritage hotel.

NILAMBAG PALACE HOTEL, BHAVNAGAR

In 1859 AD Nilambag place was ousted, it is situated on the thoroughfare into the city from the highway, but the multi acre grounds with their tall – trees act as a façade against the noise of the city and make the place seem isolated from the main road. The farmer architect, Simmer, designed the place.
Bhavnagar Bookings: Vijay Mahal Hotels Pvt. Phone: 0278 24241 / 429323 / 21337, Fax No. 0278 428072.

Status: Dot classified heritor hotel, 24 - rooms, professionally managed.

Heritage: Bhavnagar was founded in 1723 AD by Bhav Singhji, A member of the Gohit Rajput Dan, which can to the Saurashtra coast form Rajasthan in the 12th century. It grew into one of the 15 richest friendly states in India drawing the early - 20th century. The Nilambag palace hotel was built in 1859 AD as the Yuvraj bungalow (residence of the crown France).

The Experience: The Nilambag palace is set in 40,500 sq. ft of lawn and garden. The flared exotica, stepped, stepped arches, pleasant amter courtyard turning marble stain case, the dinning hall furnished with European chandeliers delquian mourners, oil paints and carved burn teak furniture the hobby with its kind sized royal portraits, stuffed panthers and chandeliers and historic library and some highlights of the property.

The property is owned buy the descent arts of H. H. Bhavsighiji and run by professionally qualified staff.

Facilities: 24 double bedrooms, baths attached, blending period furniture with modern amenities like aircon and telephone, fax - tele, travel assistance, money changing & occupation counter.

- Conference and banquet hall for 200 people (public address system on request)
• North Indian, Chinese continental and south Indian meals in the dining hall and garden restaurant.
• Folk dances.
• Beautiful Romanesque swimming pool, with steps and colonnades, tennis, table tennis & Vijay Mahal.
• 24 hours room service
• Shopping arcade with locilique, gift & Handicraft counter
• Complete arrangement for weddings, seminars and garden banquets on the lawn including shamanera of area etc.
  tradition welcome for high people guests with guidance and the lake on request.

Sightseeing:

i) Darbargadh: Old palace of Bhavnagar with arches, woodcarvings and interesting architecture.
ii) Takat Sinhji Hospital: 1979 – 82 AD building by sir William Emerson, the architect of Calcutta’s victor a Memorial and Bombay’s famous Crawford market.
iii) Takteshwar temple: A historic hilltop temple with great views over the cityscape to the gully of cambay seacoast.
iv) Bardon museum & Gandhi Smriti: In 1985 AD Museum with collection of forming tools, bead work, wood cowlings, weapons musical instruments and reminders of Mahatma Gandhi’s period as a student of Bhavnagar University.
v) Victoria park: Former game pressures with interesting birds and some wild life including the duel antelope hyena, jackal
and monitory lizard etc. the marshes and the park attracts many winter dukes. A guest place of a walk from the palace.

vi) Gaurishanker Lake: Good bird watching spend specially for dukes, geese, felicangts ranes and wading birds flowers and teens nest on to istand. The latke share Bhav Vilas place a waned by relaive family, owned by a relative of family – cont?

vii) Lock Gate Dock: A handful old dockyard one of the oldest operational dray docks in India – now used for ship building.

Excursions:

- Palitana (55 kms.): A cluster of 863 temples atop shentrunjay hills, Palitana has some splendid carvings, lefewelled status, intricate architecture and great views especially at sunrise. The town in known and has some museum collections of train art.

- Velavadar National Park (60 kms.): An extensive braks of grasslands, with some of India’s greatest hrds of black buck antelope, some blue bull wolf, fox, packal, one of the worlds greatest carrier roost and typeical grassland birds.

- Alang (55 kms.): One of the largest ship breaking yards in the world.

- Talaja (54 kms.): Another historic cluster of pain temple on a hill.
Services of TCGL

- Sihore (25 kms.): The 17th entique palace of Maharajahs of Bhavnagar, with fine paintings and woodcarvings.

Access: Bhavnagar has its own airport and railway station.

Captions for pix:

1. Exterior view of Nilambag Palace Hotel.
2. Pillared portico of the Nilambag Palace Hotel.

[2] BALARAM PALACE RESORT

Balaram Palace Resort, the first heritage hotel in Gujarat to be given the heritage classic status by Government of India was build by Nawab of Palanpur in the neo classical Baroque style on a country side relaxed in phases peons 1922 AD 1935 AD. The faced of the place has been dreadfully restored and maintained, the garden landscape according to the original Nawabi period design and the quashing fountains add a present touch to the property.

Village Chitrasani, oft Ahmedabad - Mtabo National Highway - 14, Nist Banaskantha bookings.

Jalaram Hotels Pvt. Ltd. Telefax – 079 657842 – north west safaris telefax – 079 06560962,
E-mail: shetal@gnahd.gobalnet.ems.vsnl.net.in
Raag Travels Ph : 079 465545
Status: Operational – 17 rooms professionally managed.
Heritage: Balaram Place was the weekend retreat and heritage resort of the Honani who ruled from Gatore in southwestern Rajasthan and moved to Palanpure. Offer galore was annexed to the kingdom of Jodhpur Marwar. The palace was elected in the 1920 and 30's during the rule of nawab Saheb Sir, taley Muhamanal Khan Lohani, one of the most loved of the Na. The palace has now been taken over by a private entrepreneur, where family has been in the hospitality business for over 17 years.

The Experience: The palace is gracious work of neo - classical architecture, with 13 areas of private woodlands and fully landscaped gardens with Mexican lawns, exotic flowerbeds, modern foundation and well canalled music system. Inside the palace are some beautiful marble galleries, wooden staircases and well - appointed public areas. The terrace has breath - taking views of to havali hills, specially drawing the sunset. The palace has been beautifully restored and renovated.

Facilities:

- 4 Gold rooms
- 12 platinum rooms & 1 Nawabi suits
- All with T.V.
- Telephone, refrigerator, attached batch, juice place and handcrafted furniture
• Some of the rooms have a colonial style with semi circular pillars feeling of out of the wall, very English fireplaces and marble paced stone beds.

• Reception, fax, travel assistance, credit card acceptance and money exchange count.

• Fully facilitate conference hass with slide projector, over head projector, sown, with board air con and cloak room (75 persons in theater format, 30 fawns in U – Type)

• Multi – Custer aircon restaurant serving north Indian continental and Chinese dishes, fitness centers.

• Nawabi period swimming pool feels day natural rock spring with & modern toddler’s corner.

• Indoor games in the basement, riding tridal dances, meals around loftier in the garden, banquets on the terrace, card room, sloping arcade, health resort, student camps, riding horses and video games of around proposed.

• Traditional welcome of important groups / delegations with live bank, garland, tilak, races etc. on request.

• 13 areas of private woodlands for walk and gentle brocks.

• Large gardens for parties and often air seminars.

Sightseeing :

i) **Balaram Ambaji wildlife sanctuary & Jessore HLL sanctuary** : Fine hill forest near the palace are home to sloth bear, panther, blue bull, 4 horned antelope. Packer etc. excellent area for bird watching with trey chain bill, gray
juggle yowl, flycatcher, drogues etc. are among the many brides seen.

ii) **Balaram Temple**: A number of temples salacious importance are located along balarama, river. In important salacious pair takes place at Balaram Annually.

iii) **Palanpur**: Diamond center, havelio palace, built, stanba king goes clubhouse.

**Excursions**: Ambaji (45 kms.) – a popular place of Hindu pilgrimage. Ambaji is allowing well knows for its marble quarries; marble cawing artisans, honey and timber. An important ante for marble tiles.

- **Kumbhariaji** (50 kms.) : Beautiful cluster of five 1034 – 1162 AD Jain temple with intricate marble carvings availing those of Delaware and Rankpur.
- **Dhantiwada** (45 kms.) : Famous resorver on river Banas, agricultural university, good picnic and winter birds wathing spot.
- **Sidhapur** (47 kms.) : 12th century Rudranalya temple with beautiful Torana gates, Havelis, Kartika, Poornima comes for Patan (73 kms.) 11th century step well, Patola silk weaving Jain temples, hawelies.
- **Taranga** (86 kms.) : Exquisite coverall 12th century Jain temples, with spectacular chilly location.
- **Vadnagar** (55 kms.) : 12th century Torana’s beautifully carved Solanki period gates, lake, nagar Biahmin hawelis, 17th century Hatkeshwar temple.
Access: 167 kms. from Ahmedabad, 14 kms. from Palanpur - station, 3 kms. of Ahmedabad – Abu national highway, valley conveniently stops between Ahmedabad and destination of Rajasthan.

Captions for PIX:

- View of Balaram palace resort
- Nawabi period swimming pool at Balaram palace resort.

[3] PALACE OF GONDAL

The palace of Gondal is situated at Riverside with flexes greeters a glimpse into the lavish life styles and glory of the Maharajas. The 1885 AD riverside palce is a mansion build on the shores of the river Gondal in gondal town. The rooms are large and high aligned with four – poster beds, old exist, elegant settles English prints, out paintings rich tapestries and wall-to-wall carpeting. The Indian room is marvelously appointed sitting rearrangement with traditional furniture antique textiles and Indian paintings. The river can be seen from the glass coveter on the terrace. Orchard fallow was the personal quest horse of the Huzoor palace or visiting princes, friends and relatives. Here too the rooms are large and spacers, with high ceilings and appointed with European colonial furniture. The rooms of miniatures upto aim, has miniature paintings, brass artifacts and antiques object de arts. An usual suit in the rail saloon that has now been opened for guests to stay in rooms beautifully finished with wood and antiques.
Both properties own by the royal family of Gondal, take pride in their European advising and traditional kathiawadi thalis, guests can unset the royal garage with its feet of cars including 1910 new engine the 1930 deluge, Daimler, merles and packed, these cedilla cars including a dismissing, 1959 merodes 300 dh figures and other classics, as also horse crown carried.

The heritage hotels of Gondal provides a free town of 1748 naulakh Palace museum. The façade of the palace is a festival of stpme mad pwmate become. The first room has silver, brass and beadwork. The second is dedicate to Maharaja Bhagwat Sinhji who abolished taxes and introduced electricity, improved road, irrigating and communication network within the low sq. mil gondal estate set up and excellent railway systole that inowased the weather of the state transecy despite in being a tax less economies and commissioned schools, hospitals and other infrastructure socially too he revolurionized Rajput society by abolishing the Pardhan system in his family, not awaiting a Zanaza at his Huzoor, palace and awaiting the women of his family to participate in all social functions.

The silver room has caskets that covered message for the Maharaja on his silver and golden jubilee as ruler of Gondal as also his 61st birthday, silver – plated elephant Jhoolas and horse caparisons the toys rooms, has a range of playthings form 1870’s hand painted horse and elephants to 1970’s cars. The management also arranges your town of the Bhavaneshwari Ayurvedic Pharmacy and hospital.

Renovations : Northwest sataries tele : 079 6302019, 6308031
[4] **VIJAY VILAS, ADIPUR, PALITANA**

built in 1906 AD as the country retreat of hate fringe Vijay Singh the Vijay Vilas is now run by his grand daughter’s family in the guest house tradition offering period furnished rooms and delight full home cooked meals which combine Rajasthani, Malva and Gujarati arsine this attractive mansion has a splendid view of the Jain temples of Palitana, crowing nearby Shatrunjay hills, as it delight.

Reservations: [www.ahmedabadcity.com/palitana](http://www.ahmedabadcity.com/palitana)

[5] **DIL BAHAR, BHAVNAGAR**

Dil Bahar the art deco mansion of hate – Rao saheb – Dharanku mar Singh was built in 1930’s. He was well know as birdwatcher, naturalist, falconers and datah coursing, enthusiast, Dil Bahar is decorated with his collection of wild life pictures, photographs, stuffed animal and wild life pictures, photographs, stuffed animals and wildlife library. He also commissioned artisans from Bikaner to decorate his sitting from unstairs with gold – work and murals. The property has a view of Victoria park, which one provided it family with game and is now a nature resolve and large swimming pools.

Reservations: [www.ahmedabadcity.com](http://www.ahmedabadcity.com)

[6] **ROYAL OASIS AND RESIDENCY, WANDANER**

Pratapsinhji, the highness with his son Youvaraj Digvijaysigh, has converted two of their mansion guest house to heritage hotels. The family dewells in the Ranjit Vilas Palace, whose foundation on stone
was laid in 1907 AD, flamboyant work of electric architecture blending Venetian and gothic facades, maghal pavilions, colonial dock towers, Indo Saracen cs, domes and Rajput Jarokhas to make one stupendous building. The interiors of the palace are equally delightful in their profusion of Italian marble stained glass, customer woven carpets, silver art deco furniture, stuffed animals and collection of primary relics guests are accommodated at the art deco Royal Oasis Mansion, next to a marble step well or in the colonial style subsidence wing of the Ranjit Vilas.
Reservation: www.wanknerpalac.com

[7] GOPNATH BUNGLOW

The gopnath bunglows was built in 1942 AD the summer home of Maharaja Krishna Kumar Sinhji of Bhavnagar has now been opened by his grand son as a seven room sea show cottage guest house.
Reservations: sinki@giashn01.vsnk.net.in

[8] GARDEN PALACE, BALASINOR

The garden mansion of the Nawab of Balasinor is now a heritage hotel. The owners take pride in Mughalai – Gujarati fashion meal for the guests. The hotel also offers trips of the dinosaur site, 15 kms. from Balasinor, hot water springs and historic temples.
Reservations: Gopi Group tele no.: 079 6578412

This former palace of the Royal family of Janbugodha is situated at the edge of a wildlife sanctuary. It has been opened as an eco-friendly resort.

Reservations: nwsajaris@hotmail.com

[10] BELL GUEST HOUSE, SAYLA

Bell guesthouse at Sarjla is from the colonial period guesthouse of Satla rulers. It has been converted to a heritage hotel offering an ideal stopover on Ahmedabad – Rajkot highway.

Reservation: By Gopi Group, 079 6758412.


The Rajmahal palace of Wadhwan is embellished with crystal, velvet and gold polish and the property is also being renovated.

Wadhwan was a princely state of the Jhala Rajput Dan, which ruled many important salute states of Saurashtra. The Rajmahal was built in the late 19 century by HH Ball Sinhji and was earlier called Bal Vials palace. The palace is sited deeply located in 13-14 area of park like ground with tennis courts, lily ponds, fountains, and cricket pitches. The afterpiece is a beautiful pillared courtyard with marble. Statues, fountain, and marble sit-outs. There is a marvelously appointed darbahall with painted ceiling, king-side royal portraits, and a drawing room with a gold polished trune and out-crystal lampshades, a drilliard room with an intricate ceiling.
a shish mahal of European mirrors, a revert room, a dining room and galleries facing the golden Automobile enthusiasts will palivate at the sight of the bruit fully restored vintage the classic cars, contemporary sports cores and library of automobile books. The project includes 10 – 12 rooms, garden restaurant and a swimming pool towers of Wadhwan town by cornel cart by house drawn drug are proposed to tale in the Handicrafts – Bandhini (tie – and dyed fabrics) brass utensil measure etc. the old step well and temples interesting exclusion are Nabouru bird sanctuary maser tank at Virago, little Rann of Kutch Sanctuary and the swaminarayan temple at Huli – Wadhwan is around 20 kms. from Viramgam station, 120 kms. from Ahmedabad airport and entrout Ahmedabad to Bhuj (mention the first part).

VIJAY VILAS PALACE HOTEL & RESORTS

The Vijay Vilas Palace was built in 1906 AD by Yuvraj Vijay Sinhji Palitana of the same Ohil Rajput Dan as the manrajas of Bhavnagar. The palace was used as a corny retreat; binge splendidly located in the hills with great views of the Shetrunjaya hill and his solid Palitana temple, yet only 4 kms. from Palitana town. The palace is set in 6 area of ground with 7 cottages, tennis courts, stables and garages, when ready will have around 10 – 12 rooms. The main attraction of staying here is of course the proximity to Palitana, the staging post for the 3.1/2 kms. climb of over 3500 stamp do the famous town temple listen atop Shetrunjay hill the temples date from the 11th to the 19th century with the principal building phase being the 16th century and have exquisite marble carvings, donnas doors and bejeweled idols. The
town has some interesting handicrafts and 2 museums of fine art. The sting Kala Sangrah and Shri Vishal Fain Kalal Santoan. Another interesting exemption from the Vijay Vilas Palace is shisher, with the historic old palace of Maharajas of Bhavnagar, featuring gardens wall painting and wood curving it can also be used as a base to visit Alang ship breaking yard, Bhavnagar the fain temple of Talaja, historic town of Vabhipur and Velavada national Indian gazette and interesting bird life can be seen in surrounding hills.

[13] LAKE PALACE OF SANTRAMPUR

A fine lakeshore palace, with Zardozi work and antique furniture is being renovated.

[14] MANDAVGARH NEAR VISWADAR

The Mandav godh fort was built in 1842 by the Nawab of Junagadh and fitted to the kathi wavier chief fain. Bauhaus wala, with the field on of 6 villages, at the request of the tutish administration. The fort covers 5000 sp. Yard. And is entered by any of arch gates lasqe enough for elephants leading to 3 separate courtyards.

The interiors are decorated with brass utensils, beadwork lexis he conbroideries and other handicrafts of the region. The fort is offered to investors and hoteliers on base with 20 acres of adjoin land if required. Corresponded with sun castle sunrise part, gave in load Ahmedabad. It is 12 kms. from the pijava check – post of Gir national part and wildlife sentury with its population of the last static lions in
the world panther, deer, antelopes peafowl and extensive bird life, 45
minutes drive from historic Junaghadh with its impressive fort
Ashoka’s 250 BC rock edicts, Buddhist radices, museums and palace
and the tempest covered Girnar peak and 10 minutes format pilgrim,
spot of Satadar. It can also be the staying post to visits to other foulest
attraction like Tulsiishyam, Diw and veraval adjoing uisovadar in the
constricting of honourable Keshubhai Patel, the chief minister of
Gujarat.

[15] KOTDA SANGANI NEAR RAJKOT

There are plans to open the heritage property at Kotda Sangani as a
Hotel.

[16] SHIV MAHAL AT VAJODARA

The arpastra home of the Mangaldas family of Ahmedabad now houses
three restaurants, agashiya, Green House and hbm Lounge.

[17] DARBARGADH POSHINA

It is situated in village,Via Khedbrahma.

Heritage : The rulers of pushing are descendants of the Chalukyas
who ruled much of central India and the whole of Gujarat in the 12th
century. They conquered position from the Rathod Rajput in
Medieval.
BHAVANI VILLA, DANTA

The Bhavani Villa of Danta is a colonial period mansion built on an incline offering superb views of the wooded hills. There are two rooms in the mansion and four facing the hills. The owners specialize in adventure tourism taking guests horseback riding in the surrounding countryside, trekking in the hills, cycling on country lanes or on jeep safaris in the forests. The royal family also entertains guests at their 108 acre stud farm, with its stable of Marwari horses, dairy cattle, kennel of pedigreed dogs, neatly manicured garden, water tank (in which guests are welcome to take a swim!) and riding trails along the hills.

Reservations: nwsafaris@hotmail.com

THE PALACE UTELIA

This turn of the century property has a rural location as its highpoint. Standing on the terrace, guests can watch the comings and goings in the village bullock carts carrying people and produce, Bharwad herdsmen taking their sheep and goats out for pasture, women carrying pots of water, children playing on the streets. The owners personally supervise the kitchen, the housekeeping and the management of this heritage hotel, run in the Kathiawadi hospitality tradition. The owners also organize folk performances and trips to Lothal, Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary, Velavadar National Park, etc.

Reservation: utelia@adl.vsnl.net.in
Heritage: The princely state of Gondal was ruled for nearly 300 years by the Jadeja Rajput dynasty descendants of Lord Krishna and the Moon God from. The mid-7th century when Mota Kumbhaji founded the house of Gondal reached its zenith under HH Bhagwat Sinhji, who abolished over 40 taxes and introduced irrigation networks, high quality roads, free compulsory education, railways, underground electricity, sanitary drainage and other reforms to make it a very progressive state in the late 19th and early-20th century.

The experience: Guests are accommodated in the 1875 AD Riversloe Palace, (once the Yuvraj bungalow residence or the Crown prince of Gondal), the late-19th century Orchard palace, wing of the Huzoor palace still occupied by the royal family and the rail saloon carriage with a suite of dining, drawing, bedroom and bathroom etc. both properties are spanned by historic photographs, miniature and oil paintings, prints, beadwork embroidered wall pieces, antique furniture and brassware. The properties are owned by the Great grandson of HH Bhagwat Sinhji and run by his wife and family.

Facilities: 19 double bedrooms, baths attached, most of them spacious and high ceiled, all with attractive period furniture, recently renovated bathrooms and original fans. Swimming, squash,

SIGHTSEEING

1940s NAULAKHA PALACE

Festival of stone carvings, the Naulakha palace has a huge French regency style darbar hall, spiral staircases and silver museum collection with silver caskets that carried messages for HH Bhagwat Sinhji on his 25th anniversary, silver plated elephand howdah, jhools (silver lined caparisons for horses) and other exhibits. The weghing scales on which HH Bhagwat Sinhji was measured against gold on his 50th anniversary stands in a corner of the hall.

- **JUNAGADH** (60 kms) : Historic fort, Nawabi Palace, royal mausoleum complex, Mauryan relics, Buddhist caves, museums and 3660 ft high temple covered Mt. Girnar peak.
- **JETPUR** (30 kms) : Textile town known for hand printed sarees and yarn dyeing.
- **DHORAJI** (49 kms) : Sandstone palace & other monuments.
- **RAJKOT** (40 kms) : Princely architecture, M Gandhi’s Kirti mandir, handicrafts, Watson museum.
- **HUZOOR PALACE** : French furniture, historic library, royal residence, crystal collection (on request only)
Access : 40 kms from Rajkot, airport and railway station.

Caption : Naulakha Palace at Gondal, Darbarhall at Gondal

(21) RAJVANT PALACE RESORT

RAJPIPLA

The Rajwant Palace resort is a part of the 7 acre Vijayraj palce complex erected for Maharajah Vijay Sinhji in 1915. The palace resembles a European mansion, with it’s Romansque dome, classical columns, Greec capitals timber truss roof, Venetian doors, Gothic arches palm groves and river facing location. The interiors are appointed in original period furniture of the palace and old furniture recovered from the saloon, howdahs and shikar tents of the Maharajahs. The rooms blend old furniture with modern facilities like a/c, intercom, TV, refrigerator and western bathroom. The palace has a drawing room which can be rented for conference, 2 banqueting halls for parties and a/c restaurant serving a variety of veg and nonveg cuisines, a swimming pool, indoor games and terrace with views of river Karjan. A few rooms of the palace are set aside for a museum of trophies, stuffed animals, European mirrors, portraits, musical instruments, textiles, glass and ceramics. A tribal museum and cultural center are under construction. The Vadia palace, with it’s grand Indo-Saracenic architecture, Italian marble interiors, 1000 wooden doors and intricate wall painting is the prime attraction of Rajpipla, interesting places for excursionms are the Karjan dam, Sardar Sarovar project, ashrams of Garudeshwar, the bathing ghats on the Narmada at Chandod, the Jain temples of jagadiya, the historic fortress of Dabhoyi,
the monuments of Bharuch, the Malsamot waterfalls, Shoorpaneshwar wildlife sanctuary and princely Baroda.

(22) HINGOLGADH PALACE

VIA JASDAN, DIST. : RAJKOT
The royal castle of Hinglogadh, was built in 1665 AD on the foundations of an older fort, 1000 ft over sea level. The magnificent fort has imposing walls, bastions and canon guarded ramparts. The rooms are appointed in antique 4 poster beds and old furniture. The castle is in the heart of a sanctuary. Chinkara, Nilgai etc. are seen from the windows. Hingoleadh has beautifully tiled galleries and a collection of clocks, brass utensils and antiques. The drawing room has oil paintings and brightly upholstered sofas. Nearby lakes attract thousands of cranes. The beautiful palace of the owner at laden is a fine example of European architecture. The stud farm of the family, the bird rich lake and scrub forest sanctuary are worth a visit.

(23) SARITAMAHAL MANDVI

Hotel Sarita is part of the Mandvi Mahal, a haveli of the Mahida Rajputs dating from the late 19th Century. The Mahidas ruled from Mandvi, Neighboring Surat and came to Mandwa after Surat was taken over by the British. The hayeli is splendidly arhitectured with historic palias outside the main gate. The centre is a spacious courtyard with potted plants and intricate sculpture. There are a/c and non a/c rooms with attached baths. The dining hall has an elegant banqueting table and there is a large library. Photographs of J. Nehru,
Indira Gandhi, Sam Manekshaw and other great leaders of India adorned the interior. The highlight of the property is its proximity to the river Narmada. The bathing ghats and temples of Chandod, Shuklatirth, Nareshwar etc can be easily visited from Chandod. Boating is possible on the river as is trekking in the ravines. Homecooked Indian veg and non-veg food is served. From Chandod, you can make trips to the princely town of Rajpipla, the historic princely city of Baroda, the magnificent 12th century fortress and temples of Dabhoi and numerous places of religious importance, Chandod is 55 kms from Baroda.

(24) NATVAR NIVAS PALACE

RAJPIPLA, DIST BARUCH

Status: Project Planning

The Princely state of Rajpipla was one of the richest after Baroda in south eastern Gujarat. The Natvar Nivas palace was the residence of the younger brother of the Maharajah of Rajpipla, built in 1915 AD and is a grand piece of lodo – European architecture. The palace is set in 4 acres of land, which are to be landscaped in formal gardens, beside river Karjan, which connects to the Narmada some distance away. From the palace terrace, you can see hills, ravines and greenery. The interiors are delightful with wall paintings, canvas paintings, Italian marble floors, antique furniture, a grand banquet hall, lavishly appointed sitting rooms and 4 guest suites. When ready, the hotel will include 14 rooms, swimming pool, putting green and sports facilities. Interesting potential activities here are visits to the Vadia palace, known for its beautiful architecture, jeep safaris : in the
shoolpnaeshwar wildlife Sanctuary, motor boat cruises at Karjan dam and tribal dances. Edcursions can be made from here to the hill fort of Pawagadh, the Islamic monuments of Champaner, the Jain temples of Jagadiya, the old fort and other monuments of Baruch, Sardar Sarovar Project, Bathing Ghats on the Narmada at chandod and Shukalatirth, ashrams and temples of Gurudeshwar, picnic spot of Kabirvad, the waterfalls of Malsamot, the 13th century fort of Dabhoi and the wood craft centre of Sankheda.

The many large industrial areas of Ankleshwar, Baruch, Halol, Baroda, Amletha, Jagadiya etc offer good business potential for the property. Rajpipla is 90 kms from Baroda. Looking for investors.

(25) KUSUM VILAS PLACE

CHOTTA UDAIPUR, Dist. BARODA

Status : Project planning

Chotta Udaipur was a princely state of the Chauhan Rajputs, who ruled much of this tribal belt JOT many years. The golden period came under HH Fatehsmhji, whose reforms and infrastructural additions brought about the progress of Chotta Udaipur in the late- 19th and early 20th century. The kusum Vilas palace was built the early decades of the 20th century and is an imposing building with porticoes, courtyards, 30 acres of open grounds and outhouses. The interiors are beautiful with original french furniture of the Louis XIV style, chandeliers, grand dining and drawing rooms and old billiards room. When ready the heritage hotel will include 10-12 rooms, a restaurant and a swimming pool. Chotta Udaipur has many historic building of
the 18th, 19th and nearly 20th century including palaces, clubs, mansions, schools, hospital etc. Around Chotta Udaipur are a number of very picturesque tribal villages of the bhils and Ratwas, known for their colourful attires, ornaments, dances and pristine cultures. Native handicrafts like Pithora wall painting, pottery, terra cotta figurines and arrow grafting thrive here. Place of interest within 80 kims radius of Chotta Udaipur are Sankheda, known for it’s beautiful lequere dood furniture, the historic fort of Pawagadh the Indo-Saracenic monuments of Champaner and the 13th century fort of Dabhoi. Chotta Udaipur is around 100 ms from Baroda. Likely to be ready in 1998.

(26) GOPNATH BUNGLOW

GOPNATH, Dist. BHAVNAGAR

Status: Project Planning

The gohil Rajputs came to the Saurashtra coast from Rajasthan in the 12th century and set up capital at Goglia port. After changing capitals often decided on Bhavnagar, which they made their seat of power in the 18th century. Gopnath bungalow was the sea shore retreat of the royal family of Bhavnagar. It is build in a european colonial style with cottages and mansions surrounding a country yard, the whole complex facing the sea. The views from here are nothing short of beautiful, specially during the tides which are among the largest in the world. You can see marine life in the rocky shoals, extensive coastal birdlife including oysteractcher and plovers, striped hyaena and jackal in the coastal scrublands, dramatic sea water and wind sculptured rocks lovely white sanded beaches and breathtaking sea views. Gopnath is
known for its temples and fishing villages. This is the place where the Punjabi Muslim falconers appointed by the Maharajahs of Bhavnagar used to capture peregrine falcons that hunted the sea waters and roosted on the Jain temples of Talaja, the ship breaking yard at Alang, the Janjmer fort and the ruins of shiyal (Kankawati). Gopnath is 89 kms from Bhasmagar and can be slotted between Bhavanagar and Diu. It can also be used as base to visit the Jain temples of Palitana and the sights of Bhavanagar, partially operational with four rooms. 6 more rooms 8th renovation of swimming pool planned.

(27) ROYAL OASIS & THE RESIDENCY

THE PALACE, WANKANER, Dist. RAJKOT
Booking: Ranjit Vilas Palace

Heritage: The princely state of Wankaner was founded M 1605 AD by sartanji, a member of the Jhala Rajput clan that came to Patdi in north western Saurashtra from Siadh in the 12th century and shifted capital to Halwad in the 15th century. HH Amar Bane Singh, who introduced wide ranging reforms in Wankaner, founded the Ranjit Vilas palace in 1907 AD, half way up a hill and in the precincts of the 1880s Residency. It was inaugurated by and named for his friend, Jaoi sahib Ranjit Singhji of Nawanagar. Infact, wankaner is one of the few princely capitals, where most of the properties were named for rulers of different princely states.
Experience: The palace is a stupendous work of venetian-gothic architecture in an orientalising vein with arches, balconies, marble biradaris and pillared porticoes. The interiors are equally delightful in their profusion of Italian marble, stained glass windows, European chandeliers, French crystal, Belgian glass, Burma teak furniture, Persian rugs, custom woven Mirzapur carpets, magnificent drawing room and spiral staircases. Accommodations are in the 19th century residency which once housed the British resident of Wankaner and the early-20th century Royal oasis, the former European guest house. The properties are owned and family run by the son and grandson of HH Amar sinh.

Facilities: 12 double bedrooms, baths attached, some with original furniture from the 1930s and 40s art deco style and art deco marble bathrooms to match. 33 acres of riverside fruit orchard around the royal oasis. Beautiful art deco period swimming pool. Cultural entertainment. Meals with royal family in the palace. Tennis, golf, game preserve and wind sailing in Rana of Kutch proposed.

SIGHTSEEING:

* THE PALACE MUSEUM
The Ranjit vilas Palace has a memorable collection of sworbs, shields and daggers, 95 species of stuffed animals, duelling pistols, pigsticking spears, silver, linen chests, silver plated howdahs, thrones, paintings, and portraits. The places has magnificent spiralling marble staircase, stained glass galleries, chandeliers and period furniture. Outside, you can see the garages with vintage care like the 1921 Rolls royce silver
ghost, some imposing American cars and horse drawn carriages. The palace has a stable of Kathiawadi horses. There are large grounds with beautiful Italianette fountains.

* **STEPWELL**
In the royal oasis complex, the 3 storeyed stepwell, has 2 underground floors with cool subterranean marble rooms, fine sculpture and a countain.

* **ROYAL VEEDI**
Rolling grasslands with blue bull, porcupine and birdlife.

* **TOWN**
Wankaner town is known for it's brick makers, potteries, town gates, bazaars old palace, playhouse cinema, memorial of Sartanji and his sati wife, town gates and numerous royal initiatives.

**Excurisons**

MORBI (21 kms) : Picturesque princely town, with fine palaces, gateways and cottage industries like pottery, brickmaking, clockmakjag, ceramics etc.

- HALWAD (apxn 75 Kms) : the medieval seat of power of the Jhala Rajput clan, Halwad has a lakeshore palace and royal cenotaphs (chattries) with fine wood carvings and stone sculpture.
- LITTLE RANN OF KUTCH (90KMS) Wild ass sanctuary, known for it's desert wildlife. Enjal has a desert lodge.
• RAJKOT (apprx 50 kms): Princely city, Wastson museum, M
gandh's Kirit Mandir, silver handicrafts and many colonial period
architectural buildings. The waston museum has a splendid
collection of archaeological finds.
• TARNETAR (apprx 45 kms): Historic temple, site for acolourful
bethoral fair (Aug/sept) which is among the best in Saurashtra.
• MALIYA MIYANA: Beautiful creek with thousands of wading
birds and eagles at entrance to Kutch.

Access: Wahkaner railway station is connected by trains to Bombay.
The palace is a 1 hour distance from Rajkot airport and a popular
stopover mid-way of Ahmedabad & Bhui-Kutch.

Captions: 1. Raajit vilas Palace of Wankaner
2. Interior view of the Palace.

(28) GARDEN PALACE HOTEL

BALASINORE, Dist. KHEDA

Status: Project Planning.
The Nawab dynasty of balasinore came to India from Afghnistan and
wer appointed subehdars of Ahmedabad during Mughal period. The
Garden palace was build in 1883 AD bv Nawab saheb Manover
Khanji Badi and is set in fine gardens, agricultural field and orchards.
It has 4 guest rooms, a grand drawing room and beautiful dining hall.
The property is now being converted into a 10 room heritage hotel
with a conference hall, arrangements for holding wedding receptions
in the lawn and other facilities. The garden palace serves meals in a
typical Nawabi period ambience, made from homegrown vegetables, milk from the palace dairy and chicken from the family's own poultry. Interesting sightseeing spots include the prehistoric faunal site of Railolo where dinosaur skeleton was excavated, the 13th century shiv temple at confluence of Mahi and Sukhi rivers, the Laliy a lavhar fort associated with much folklore, the famous Krishna temple of Dakore, known for it's gilded chariot and turtle filled temple tank, the Shiv temple at Galteshwar, the carved havelis of Kapadvanj, the scenic reservoir of Vanakbori, the tribal areas of Panchamahals and hot sulphuric springs of Lasundra. Balasinore is 86 kms from ahmedabad, and is a possible stopover between ahmedabad and the destinations of malwas such as Mandu, Dhar, Indore and Ujjain, Safaris by Tata Sumo and other Entertainment's can be organized for guests. 4 rooms in good condition and ready to "take house guests, balance likely to be ready by 1998. 

206
(E) **THE ROYAL ORIENT**

It is the true blue experience. An opportunity to recreate the royal era of rail travel, the early - 20th century when Maharajah, Nawabs and Viceroyys travelled in luxuriously appointed rail saloons through the length and breadth of India. Welcome to the Royal Orient Train. A joint venture of gujarat tourism and Indian Railways that promises luxurious travel through the sates of Rajasthan and gujarat, as well as the Union territory of Diu, without the hardship of days of planning, and over 3000 km of rail or road travel, that would normally go into executing such an itinerary! All aboard the Royal orient are treated to the comforts and luxuries one would expect from a cruise, whether it is by ship or by train. Forget the fact that these saloons were made not too long ago at madras, and, therefore are not the orignial carriages use d by royalty or that they do not exactly look like the saloons of the Maharajas which were embellished with inlaid wood and real silver fittings, and enjoy the comfort of central airconditioning, channel audio system which offers piped music and announce - ments, and having your laundry done on board while you travel.

The train comprises 14 saloons, each in turn containing four double bedded cabins each, two bathrooms with English fixtures and hot showers, a pantry with fridge and toaster, and a lounge; ideal for reading, watching TV or gazing out of the window as the world goes by. Not impressed? Then take a load of this. The cabins are professionally designec, so that despite the narrow space of a meter gauge railway coach there are enough number of cupboards, cabinets
and drawers, coat hanger rack, and an extra bunk that can be pushed away or used for baggage if you are not travelling with a third person. The light comes on or goes off to signify whether the bathroom, shared between two cabins, is in use. Little details like sockets for your shaver have been attended to.

Then there is a lounge, with a TV, VCR, PC, cigar and cigarette sale counter, and a well-stocked bar, where you can head for a leisurely evening. Meals are served in elegantly appointed dining cars, with about 40 covers each, and features some superbly cooked dishes including international and regional cuisine. The service is good and there are tour managers to ensure your comforts. It is like a ship cruise where you discover a whole new world without facing the hardships that go with long distance travel.

Flowers and music herald the departure from Delhi when the magnificent steam locomotive, Desert Queen, hauls the Royal Orient Train on the first leg of its journey towards Chittaurgarh. As the train reaches the hills, the steam engine is replaced by a diesel locomotive, and the journey continues through the Aravallis to the historic fort of Chittaurgarh. This majestic fortfield city is believed to be one of the oldest forts in India. Bappa Rawal, head of the Suryavanshi Sisodia clan, made Chittaurgarh the seat of power of his land, Mewar, and since ten it witnessed the valour and chivalry of the Rajput dynasty on more than one occasion. A climbing road lead through a series of gates to the palaces, where Rani Padmini and other women of Chittaurgarth immolated themselves on a funeral pyre when the
defeat of the Mewar armies was inevitable against the powerful forces of the Delhi sultanate. Near one of the gates is a memorial of Jaimal, who led his armies to certain defeat against the larger forces of the Mughal emperor Akbar with the objective of killing as many as they could before finally succumbing. The ruler of Mewar during the siege of Akbar was Rana Udaipur Singh, who as a young prince was saved from the hands of a usurper by Panna, his maid, by replacing him with her own son. Princess Meera, the mystic poetess of Mewar, had a temple dedicated to Lord Krishna erected at Chittaurgarh. Towers of fame and victory dominate the citadel of Chittaurgarh. There are numerous temples of the medieval 1:1 period at Chittaurgarh, and a Gaumukh through which water flows to a reservoir. Watch out for langur monkeys they can be a nuisance at Chittaurgarh.

After Chittaurgarh was lost to the Mughals, Rana Udaipur Singh travelled west and founded a new city, Udaipur, which is next on the plan of the Royal orient itinerary. This city, in remarkable contrast to military Chittaurgarth, seems to have been built entirely for pleasure with its exquisite island palaces, grand buildings and 18th century gardens with fountains. The City Palace, which from distance looks like a fort, is filled with artifacts and embellishments of different periods. The façade itself is a marvel. Despite having been built over a period of 400 years by successive rulers, from the mid-16th century when Rana Udaipur Singh built a shrine at this site, to 1909 AD when Maharana Fateh Singh Invited Lord Minto to inaugurate the Durbarhall of the Fatehprakash place, the architecture of the palace complex has been so well harmonized that the whole faced looks like one single period.
construction. A large part of the City Palace is now a museum housing memorabilia of Maharana Pratap, the 16th century ruler of Mewar who I fought the Mughal armies against all odds and succeeded in winning back many of the ancestral forts lost to the Mughals (except Chittaurgarh which remained his bugbear till the end), 18th and 19th century miniature paintings, custom-made Japanese tiles, sun symbols, glass and mirror inlays, thrones, caskets and a variety of princely relics. The Fatehprakash and Shiv Niwas wings 31 of the City Palace are now heritage hotels.

The Terraces of the City Palace offer inviting views of the Lake Pichola and its two island palaces. One of these, the Lake Palace, is now a Taj group run 5 star deluxe hotel, which is where passengers of the Royal Orient enjoy a meal amid the period ambiance of marble floors, granite pillars, antique furniture and rich tapestries. The feel of the Lake Palace is of a mansion on floating on the lake.

Udaipur is also known for its handicrafts, which can be seen on display at museums and centres like Lok Kala Mandal or purchased at the market near the City Palace.

If Chittaurgarh and Udaipur offer an interesting introduction to Rajasthan, Ahmedabad and its nearby attractions are the best introduction to the magnificent architecture and cultural diversity of Gujarat. The train travels into Gujarat and you are introduced to the magnificence of the architecture of the Solanki Rajput rulers at Modhera Sun temple. This temple, built in 10267, despite being
devastated by Islamic invasions and earthquakes, is an outstanding example of Hindu devotional architecture. The entrance to the temple is by a sacred tank, the Suryakund, 100 sq meter in area, with subsidiary shrines lining the steps leading down the water (it is usually dry except in the rains). Only one of the two pillars on which the original toran archway rested is now extant on the west side of the tank. The entry hall features 52 pillars carved with tales from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, corbelled roof and cups arches which later influenced Mughal architecture in India. This leads to the inner sanctuary which was designed in a manner that allowed the sunlight to illuminate the image of the Sun God until the jewelled idol was stolen by Islamic invaders. The exterior walls are decorated with rich carvings of Gods, Godesses, Birds, Beasts, dancing maidens and ancient erotic preses. The images of the Sun God are dominant as can be expected from a Surya temple.

Further ahead of Modhera is is patan, the capital of the Solanki Rajputs from the 11th to 6 the 13th centuries when they reigned supreme over Gujarat. Among the many monuments built at Patan in this period, the finest is the Rani-ki vav stepwell, which has seven storeys of steps leading down to the water. The staircase is string coursed by extraordinarily beautiful sculpture of the Vishnu avatars, Goddesses, solar discs and voluptuous maidens. A living legacy of the Solanki rajput period is patola silk weaving. Believed to have come to Patan with the Solanki Raja Kumarapal in the 12th Century, two extended families of these weavers continue the tradition of double ikkat weaving. Their product, the Patola silk sari, is
considered one of the richest fabrics in the world. Working on traditional looms, these weavers spend six months or more in making a single sari tie-dyeing the threads according to the pattern of the sari, setting the threads on the loom, and finally weaving them intricately so that weft and warp are intertwined. Each sari costs Rs. 50,000 to one lakh.

The city of Ahmedabad bustles with industry and commerce, education and technology, but retains a number of 15th and 16th century monuments built when it was the seat of power of the Sultans. Ahmedabad once more came into the limelight during the early 20th century when leaders like Ganchi and Patel, and the student led Quit India movement made the city their headquarters for a peaceful resistance to the British empire. The salt march, undertaken by Gandhi, from Ahmedabad to Dandi broke the back of the exploitative British forces in India.

After the crowds of Ahmedabad. The Forests of Gir come as a pleasant interlude in the Royal Orient's rail journey. These forests are the last abode of the Asiatic lion and support a thriving population of panther, spotted deer, sambar deer, wild boar and other wildlife. Birders will find the Gir a delightful place. Next comes Diu, tropical island offshore from the Gujarat coastline. Diu was ruled by the Portuguese from the 16th century, when they took the island from the Gujarat sultans, to 1961 when the Indian naval forces took the Portuguese enclaves for India. The island, with its wide and clean roads, well kept beaches, and laid back charm, feels like a holiday.
destination in the mediterranean. This clam and quite atmosphere belies the fact that Diu was once a fiercely contested port, because of its location clear from the tides that silted the harbours along the gulf of Cambay, and the portugues build a huge battlemented fort to protect their interests at Diu. This fort has moats, imposing gateways, huge walls, chapel and canon guarded ramparts. Fine Portugese churches can be seen at Diu, one of these is now a museum. Diu ha a number of beaches but high tea is back in Gujarat at Ahmedpuri Mandvi where the Magico do Mar, a cottage resort set in a hoka palm grove next to the outpost of Diu Union Territory, offers a view over a strip of sea to the island of Diu.

Travelling north of Delwada, the nearest statio to Diu, the train arrives at palitana, one of the highloights of the Royal Orient Train, a itinerary. Palitana is best known for its Shatrunjaya hill, a peak crowned by a cluster of about 863 temples. This temple covered summit is revered I by jains as the place visited by Lord Adinath. The temples are spread over two ridges of the hill, set within nine enclosers called Tuks, with a splendid view of the river flowing below. The temples have intricate carvings and jewelled idols. As thousands of Jains visit the temple complex on pilgrimage, the aura of devotion generated by ringing bells and holy chanting is awesome.

Descending from the Jain temple complex to Palitana town, passengers once more board the Royal orient and return to Ahmedabad, this time getting off at Sarkhej, a suburb of the city. Sarkhej is the site for a large mausoleum complex of the religious
mentor of the Sultans of Gujarat, Shaik Ahmed, who lived here in the 15th century the mausoleum is decorated with lattice-work and features huge domes. Next to the mausoleum is the Jumma Masjid, a mosque with domes, columns and an open courtyard surrounded by pillared galleries. Sultan Muhammad Bhogada was so impressed by the complex, especially the reservoir it fronts, that he asked to be buried here. His mausoleum faces the saint's and his queen's mausoleum is nearby the reservoir has steps and caved sluice gate. On two sides of the reservoir are the Mardana palace pavilion of the sultan, with arches large enough for an elephant to pass through the sultan to his favourite lake view balcony, and the Zanana palace pavilion reserved for women of the family with larches that were earlier covered by latticed screens.

At Sarkhej, the Vishala complex offers village ambiance, with its shacks and charpoi rope beds, for a cup of tea. The garden complex is pretty and recreates a Gujarati village setting. The owner, Surendra Patel, has exhibited his collection of utensils at Vishala. This extraordinary one-man collection includes betel nut crackers of every shape, size and description, besides utensils used for travel, prayer, storage, milking livestock, meals and dowry, variously shaped locking devises, and terra cotta objects in a pleasantly designed museum gallery enclosing a pleasure pool. Peacocks sometimes enter this courtyard for a drink of water at the pool-front.

Returning to Rajasthan, the Royal Orient passaengers are shown yet another Jain complex, this one at Ranakpur with one of the largest
single Jain temples in India. This temple dates to the 15th Century. The interiors of the temple feature hallways and ornate corralled ceilings embellished with carvings. The columns supporting the ceilings, said to be 1444 in all, are richly decorated with relief carvings. The sanctum has a massive marble idol, with jeweled eyes, surrounded by carvings. The sanctum has a massive marble idol, with jeweled eyes, surrounded by cloistered subsidiary shrines. The temple has a beautiful backdrop of forested hills, part of the kumbalgargh wildlife Sanctuary, and shares the walled complex with parshwanath and Neminath temples. Next to the complex is a medieval Sun temple.

The journey culminates at jaipur, the pink J city of India, with its fabulous City palace, now a museum housing exotically coloured carpets, massive silver vessels, weapons and princely relics, neighboring Jantar Mantar, an observatory with impressive dials and structures to tell time, season and planetary positions, and nearby Hawa Mahal, a pavilion spanned by ornate screened balconies that allowed women of royal descent to watch the world around them without being seen by subjects. Yet another palace, the rambagh, is the venue for high tea. One of the highlights of jaipur is Amber Fort, a few minutes from the city, with its array of palaces, gardens and courtyards. An elephant ride up the steep incline to the palaces offers an array of changing vistas from the serene Maota lake below to the military ramparts of Jaigarh fort at the top of a hill, from the 12th century town in the valley to the pleasure palaces in the fort. The shimmering mirrors of Amber will remain in your mind long after you have returned to Delhi and disembarked from the Royal Orient.
ITINERARY

Day 1 : Wednesday - Departure from Delhi Cantonment Railway Station 15:00 hrs

Day 2 : Thursday. Arrive at Chittaurgarh Railway Station. 05:30 hrs Departure for Udaipur. 09:00 hrs Arrive at Udaipur 12:15 hrs Departure for Mehsana 17:15 hrs.


Day 4 : Saturday - Arrive at sansangir. Lion Safari at Gir. 08:00 hrs Departure for Delwada. Visit Diu 11:15 hrs Arrive at Delwada 14:30 hrs Departure for Palitana 20:00 hrs.


Day 6 : Monday - Arrive at Udaipur. Visit to Ranakpur 07:15 hrs Departure for Jaipur 20:00 hrs.

Day 7 : Tuesday - Arrive at Jaipur 07:50 hrs Departure for Delhi 21:55 hrs

Day 8 : Wednesday - Arrivn at C3/tei cantoment WEEKEND OPTION
WEEKEND OPTION

Friday: Join the tour at Ahmedabad and travel to Sasan.

Saturday: At Diu

Sunday: Palitana. Leave the tour at Ahmedabad on Sunday evening.

TARIFF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>October to</th>
<th>Per day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Occupancy</td>
<td>US$350</td>
<td>US$263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sharing</td>
<td>US$200</td>
<td>US$150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-Berth Cabin Sharing</td>
<td>US$175</td>
<td>US$132</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Children below 5 years of age are permitted free. Those between 5 and 12 years are charged only 50% of rate.
- Valid only if accompanied by parents.

CHARACTER CRUISE

The Royel Orient Train is available for full character. A minimum booking of 50 passengers gets you the whole train for conferences, filming shooting or just a tour. The rates and itinerary are flexible for characters. Some suggested itineraries.
HERITAGE HOLIDAY EXPERIENCE

1. Delhi
2. Chittaurgarh and Udaipur. Meal at a palace hotel.
4. Sasan - Gir.
5. Gondal breakfast at a heritage hotel and palace - and - vintage care viewing), Ahmedbad. Diner at House of Mangaldas, a heritage mansion.
6. Ranakpur. Meal/tea at a heritage hotel
8. Delhi.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOUR

1. Delhi
2. Jaipur
3. Udaipur
4. Ahmedabad.
5. Patan, Modhera and the Indus site at Lothal.
6. Palitana, Diu
7. Sasan gir
8. Ahmedabad/ Delh
TEMPLE TOUR

1. Ahmedabad, Lothal, Bhavnagar
2. Palitana, Diu
3. Gir, Somnath
4. Junagadh, Girnar
5. Patan, Modhera
6. Udaipur, Ranakpur
7. Jaipur
8. Delhi
PACKAGED TOURS OF TOURISM CORPORATION OF GUJARAT LTD.

5 DAYS SAURASHTRA DARSHAN TOUR

Placed covered:

1st Day: Rajkot, Jamnagar City Sight - Seeing, Dwarka, night half at Dwarka. Tourist bungalow.

2nd Day: Bet-Dwarka, Dwarka, Harshad Mata and Porbandar, night half at Toran Tourist bungalow, Porbandar.

3rd Day: Somnath, Sasan Gir, Night half at Hotel Girnar - Junagadh.

4th Day: Junagadh, Virpur, Palitana & Night half at Hostel Sumeru Palitana.

5th Day: Jain Temple atop Shatrunjaya Hills, Lothal and back to Ahmedabad. Tariff rs. 21000/-

* Offseason rate Rs. 1900/- (January to March)

* Inclusive of transportation, accommodation and guide - fees.

- The tour leaves Ahmedabad on every Friday at 6.00 am returns. By 8.30 on the following Tuesday.
5 DAYS NORTH GUJARAT & RAJASTHAN TOUR

Place covered:
1st day: Shamlaji, Kesariaji, Udaipur Sightseeing, Night half at Udaipur.
2nd day: Chittautarh, Night half at Udaipur, Evening free.

3rd day: Haldighati, Nathdwara, Charbhuja, Ranakpur, Mt. Abut, night halt at Mt. Abu.
4th day: Mt. Abut, sight-seeing, Shopping & Night halt
5th day: Ambaji, Kumbhariji, Modhera, Bahucharaji and back to Ahmedabad.

Tariff Rs. 2300/-

- Offseason Rate Rs. 2150/- (January to March)
- Inclusive of Transportation, Accommodation and Guide fees.
- The Tours leaves Ahmedabad on 2nd & 4th Saturdays at 6.00 a.m. returns by 8.00 p.m. on following Wednesday.
5 DAYS KUTCH TOUR

Placed Covered

1st day: Morbi, Bhuj Night Halt at Bhuj
2nd Day: Anjar, bhadreshwar, Mandvi, Kera Night halt at Bhuj
3rd Day: Mata - no- madh, Narayan Sarovar, Koteshwar Night halt at
bhuj.
4th day: Mbirandiyara, Khavda, Hodko, Dhordo Night halt at Bhuj
5th Day: Local sight - seeing at bhuj ( pack lunch ) departure for
Ahmedabad.

TARIFF RS. 2100/- - Every Saturdays.

- Off season Rate Rs. 1900/- (January to March)
- Inclusive of Transpiration, Accommodation and Guide fees.
- The Tours leaves Ahmedabad on 2nd & 4th Saturday at 6.00am
  return by 8.00pm on following Wednesday.