CHAPTER – 2

TOURIST DESTINATIONS OF TCGL

- Tourism circuits by regions
  - Kutch & Saurashtra region
  - North region
  - Central & South – East region
  - South region

- Pilgrim circuits
  - Hindu temples
  - Parsee pilgrimage
  - Swaminarayan trail
  - Jain foot steps

- Vintage & classic cars circuits
  - Music, dance, drama
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- Railway circuits
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- Monuments
Introduction

Gujarat has a wide ensemble of fascinating tourism assets, which include, pristine beaches, pilgrim locations, ecology, history and architecture, which form the bulwark of these assets. The coastline of Gujarat is 1600km long, which is one third of the total coastline of the country. It is dotted with lovely beaches such as Ahmedpur-Mandvi, Kutch Mandvi, Shivrajpur, Ubhara, Tithal Nargol. The Jain Temples of Palitana epitomize splendid architectural beauty. Gujarat also portrays glimpses of ancient civilizations like lothal and Dholavira which are ancient Harrapan cities of Indus Valley Civilizations having a unique archeological significance. Gujarat is a diverse state with a wide variety of natural and cultural attractions.

Gujarat has attracted immigrants from all over the world. Each community brought with them a distinct style of cultures in Gujarat. Gujarat is the state of multiplexes, amusement complexes, water parks and theme parks near Ahmedabad offer an exhilarating experience to the traveler. Gujarat provides the novel ways of Entertainment to tourists.
TOURISM CIRCUITS BY REGIONS

[A] KUTCH & SAURASHTRA REGION

[1] BHAVNAGAR

Bhavnagar was once the Princely state, it was found in 1743 and now it is flourishing port on gulf of Khambhat. It is a convenient base for tourists to visit the town of Palitana and the sacred hill of Shatrunjaya.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

(1) Gaurishankar Lake
Gaurishankar Lake is a beautiful Picnic Sport. There is a well laid out park. It is known as one of the famous place for Tourist Interest in Bhavnagar.

(2) Takhteshwar Temple
This Temple is situated on a Hill, and the site of the Takteshwar Temple provide the Panoramic view.

(3) Lock Gate
The first kind in Gujarat. The name Lock Gate is because the Sea-Water here is impounded by the Lock Gates to keep ships afloat during low tide, It is could be seen only with a special permission. It is very pleasant scenery.
(4) Palitana

Palitana lies in the foot of Shatrunjaya Hill, with the Shatrunjaya River flowing to its south. It is 56 kms away from Bhavnagar. The sacred hill rises in the crescendo of magnificent temples –863 in all– that soar in marble splendour to the top of the hill. The temples were built over an impressive span of 900 years with each generation of pilgrims making its contribution to shrines of Shatrunjaya. The 600-metre climb to Shatrunjaya is usually made on foot. Dolis or lift-chairs are also available for the ascent.

To get there:

Air: various domestic airlines connecting Mumbai – Surat.

Railways: It is situated on the western Railway line. It is 761 kms from Mumbai via Ahmedabad and 788 kms via Viramgam.

Road: There are different State Transport Buses and private luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. It is situated 791 kms from Mumbai Ahmedabad., 200 kms from Ahmedabad via Sihor.

[2] RAJKOT

Rajkot is best known as the town where Mahatma Gandhi spent the early years of life when his father was the Diwan or the Prime
Minister to the King of Saurashtra. Rajkot was once the Capital of the Princely State of Saurashtra.

*Following are the places of tourists interests:*

1. **Kaba Gandhi no Delo**
   Kaba Gandhi no Delo is Gandhiji's ancestral home which now Houses the Gandhi Smriti, which is now a Permanent Exhibition for the tourists.

2. **Watson Museum And Library**
   The Museum is a good introduction to Saurashtra’s cultural heritage. This museum is located in the pleasant Jubilee Garden. It is one of the main attraction for Indian as well as foreign tourists.

3. **Lal Pari Lake Rander**
   It is a picturesque picnic spot 5 kms from Rajkot. This Lake has its own Mystery and is admired by the tourists.

4. **Aji Dam**
   Aji Dam is situated 8 kms away from Rajkot and it supplies water to the town.

5. **The Rajkumar College**
   This college was built for the Princess of the Indian State. It was built in 1870 and the State Had become known for its Rajkumar College. The College is worth seeing by the Students as well as Tourists.

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(6) Rashtriya Shala
This Shala was founded by Mahatma Gandhi as a center of Patola Weaving. And that is the reason it is known as Rashtriya Shala.

(7) Jagat Mandir
This Mandir is made of Red Stones. Jagat Mandir is beautifully carved Temple of Shri Ram Krishna Paramhansa.

(8) Wankaner
Wanker is about 50 kms away from Rajkot on the Way to Kutch is the Palace of Wankaner which is now Converted into a Heritage Hotel. Wanker is Admired by the tourists for its Royal Heritage.

To get there:

AIR : Airlines operating daily services connecting Rajkot with Mumbai.

RAIL : Rajkot is a junction on the western Railway, Viramgam-Okha meter guage line.

ROAD : There are various State Transport buses and Luxury buses. It is located 798 kms From Mumbai via Ahmedabad, 101 kms from Junagadh, 193 kms from Porbander, 216 kms from Ahmedabad.
[3] JUNAGADH

Junagadh lies at the foot of Girnar Hill and it takes its name from the “Old Fort“ which circles the medieval town. It is known as the Ancient Fortified city Rich in Myth and Legend. The Girnar Hills are of more than 600 meters. Its five peaks crowned by 16 carved and sculptured marble shrines that adorn this famous Hilltop temple city.

To get there:

AIR : The nearest airport is Keshod, 40 kms which is connected with Mumbai.

RAIL : Chorwad road Railway station on the Ahmedabad Veraval line.

ROAD : State Transport buses and private Luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. It is situated 393 kms from Ahmedabad, connected by State Transport Buses.

[4] SOMNATH

Somnath is situated 79 kms from Junagadh and 25 kms from Chorwad. The legendary Temple of Somnath is one of the twelve most sacred Shiva Shrines in India. According to the legend, Somnath is as old as creation, built by none other than the Moon God Himself. Somnath was destroyed several times. Mehmud of Gazni having
heard of its fabulous treasure, raided it in 1026 and carried away camel-loads of jewels and gold.

To get there:

AIR : The nearest Airport is Keshod, 47 k.ms.
     Which is connected with Mumbai.

RAIL : Veraval, 5kms is a Railway Station.

ROAD : State Transport buses and Private luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat.

[SASAN GIR FOREST AND SANCTURY]

It is situated 54 kms from Junagadh via Keshod (where there is an airport). Sasan Gir Sanctuary Refuge to that rare species Asaitic Lion. The Sanctuary covers an area of 500 square miles dry, open scrubbed where the lions roam freely. They can be seen on guided Jeep tours through Jungles, other wild life includes bear, antelope, hyena, fox, the nilgai or black buck, chinkara, cousingha and other species of deer family.

**Tulsi shyam Hot Spring**

It is in the Heart of Gir Forest 165kms from Junagadh is the scenic spot of Tulsi Shyam with its Hot Spring.
Tourist destinations of TCGL

To get there:

AIR : The nearest Airport is Keshod (37)

RAIL : Junagadh is the Rail head on Viramgam Veraval section of western Railway and has direct connection to Ahmedabad.

ROAD : State Transport buses and private luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. Junagadh is 327 kms from Ahmedabad. 895 kms from Mumbai, 101 kms from Rajkot, 83 kms, from veraval.

[6] AHMEDPUR MANDVI

Ahmedpur Mandvi is one of the Finest Beaches of the Country. It is close by to the sea, with an option to entertain the tourists with a beach, where they can swim enjoy the water sport facilities.

To get there:

AIR : The nearest Airport is Keshod, 145 kms which in turn is connected to Mumbai.

RAIL : Delwada Railway Station, 9 kms connected to Ahmedabad – Veraval line.
Tourist destinations of TCGL

ROAD : State Transport buses and private luxury coaches various luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. It is situated 298 kms from Ahmedabad.

[J7] JAMNAGAR

Jamnagar was founded in 1540, Jamnagar is the Abode of the Jam the Jadeja Rajput rulers of Nawanagar and the capital of their State, is an interesting city which enjoys a variety of distinctions. It is Renowned for its Pearl Fisheries, a Naval base of some importance, and a certain type of tie-dye fabrics.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

(1) SOLARIUM
Solarium is known as the Ranjit Institute of Poly-Radio Therapy. A slowly revolving tower provides full day long sunlight. It is open to visitors after working hours.

(2) LAKHOTA FORT AND KOTHA BASTON
In the center of old Jamnagar, on an Island in the middle of the lake, are two magnificent old structure: The Lakhota Fort of Kotha Baston. Lakhota fort is Jamnagars Museum and its terraces display a fine collection of sculpture that spans a period from the 9th to 18th century. The Kotha Baston is Jamnagars arsenal. One of the most interesting sights is an old well, the water of which can be drawn by blowing into a small hole in the floor.
(3) ROZI AND BEDI FORTS

These are attractive seaside picnic spots and offer good fishing facilities.

To get there:

AIR : Various Domestic airlines connecting Mumbai.

RAIL : On the Western Railway with Direct connections with Ahmedabad.

ROAD : Transport buses and private luxury coaches various luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. Jamnagar is 308 kms from Ahmedabad via Rajkot and 92 kms from Rajkot.

[8] DWARKA

Dwarka is 145 kms from Jamnagar. Dwarka is one of the sacred town of the legend of lord Krishna. It on the western most tip of Gujarat peninsular, a sentinel over looking the Arabian sea. Archeological excavations show that present day Dwarka is the 6th city on this site, the earlier five having been submerged in the sea. The 5 storey temple is supported on 60 columns and is crowned by soaring elaborately carved spire.
Tourist destinations of TCGL

Following are the places of tourists interests:

(1) OKHA
Okha is a ferry ride from Dwarka to the Island of bet near Okha makes a pleasant outing for the tourists.

(2) NAGESHWAR MAHADEV AND GOPI TALAV TIRTH
These two are other sites of religious significance near Dwarka. Nageshwar is 17 kms and Gopi Talav is 23 kms from Dwarka.

(3) PORBANDER
Porbander is located on the south of Dwarka, on the western coast of Porbander is a picturesque old sea port associated with the birth of Mahatma Gandhi. Commemorating this event is the Kirti Mandir memorial which contains the little room where the Mahatma was born, a library, a spinning hall, a children’s nursery school and a prayer hall. Porbander has a pleasant beach with beach villas. The ancient maritime activities – trade with Arabia, Africa and Persia have given way to a thriving industry of cement and chemical units. To get there:

AIR : Domestic airlines connect Mumbai.

RAIL : On the Western Railway with Direct connections with Ahmedabad.
ROAD : Transport buses and private luxury coaches various luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. Porbander is 145 kms from Rajkot.

[9] KUTCH-BHUJ

KUTCH
Kutch is on the northwest border of peninsular India, with hills 300 metres high, long coastline, the steppe type Banni grasslands, Jurassic sandstone ridges and the 20,700 square kilometer Great Rann of Kutch. Natural wonders of Kutch are the geographically unique little and great Rann of Kutch, both of them wildlife sanctuaries, Fossil sites like Dinodar hill.

The Great Rann of Kutch are the breeding ground of Flamingo, pelican & Avocet and the home of the rare Indian wild Ass which is now a protected species.

BHUJ
The Capital of the District. The best Introduction to Kutch is Bhuj. Bhuj is the base to visit colourful villages to its north, south, east, west, specially Banni plains, and various monuments. The old walled city of Bhuj is the most important town in the Area. The oldest Museum in Gujarat is located in Bhuj.
Following are the places of tourists interests:

(1) Anjal-Wild Ass Sanctuary
Kachchh is well known for its Wild Ass Sanctuary. This Wild Ass is known as Khar Gaddha. It is a sturdy creature which can gallop at a speed of 50 kms per hour.

(2) KERA
Kera well known because of 10th century Shiv Temple. This Temple is in its original form and it must have been extremely beautiful as suggested by what little remains at present. It was damaged in the earthquake of 1819.

(3) MANDVI
Mandvi was founded in 1581 AD. It has fortifications with 25 bastions. The place is the well known center for the production of the country crafts. The Rukmavati Bridge which was built in 1883 is the longest existing one of its kind. Mandvi is well known for its beautiful sea beach and the Vijay Vilas Palace built in 1935.

(4) NARAYAN SAROVAR
Narayan Sarovar is one of the five holy lakes of the Hindu faith. Narayan Sarovar is 210 kms from Bhuj.

(5) KOTESHWAR
Koteshwar is at a short distance from Narayan Sarovar & 215 kms from Bhuj. It is an Ancient Place of Pilgrimage. The Existing temple
is situated on a high plinth over looking the sea. It is an excellent
breathtaking sunset point.

To get there:

AIR : Domestic airlines connecting Mumbai & Ahmedabad.

RAIL : Direct trains between Bhuj Ahmedabad and for Mumbai on the broad Gauge line.

ROAD : State Transport buses and private luxury coaches various luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. Bhuj is connected by State highway upto Bhachau (85 kms) and from Bhachau to Ahmedabad by National Highway no 8 (310 kms).

[10] GANDHIDHAM

Gandhidham was specially built for displaced persons after partition. Kandla is the Major port which is very close. There is different Monument of Mahatma Gandhi, also temples.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

(1) KHAVADA

Khavada is famous for its Handicrafts and cattle rearing in Banni. Flamingo family can be approached from Khavada by road and thereafter on camel back.
(2) **BHADRESHWAR**

It is a famous Jain Pilgrimage center. The architecture of the temple is such that the presiding deity is visible from the Ground floor as well as the first floor. Other local monuments include a step-well, mosque and a palace.

(3) **PURNESHWAR**

Purneshwar is the temple raised on the plinth and has some fine sculpture on display. It is about 35 kms from Bhuj. It is 9th/10th century AD temple.

To get there:

**AIR** : The nearest Airport is Bhuj and Kandla which connects various Domestic Flights to Mumbai.

**RAIL** : Nearest Railway Station is Gandhidham and Bhuj.

**ROAD** : State Transport buses and private luxury coaches various luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. Gandhidham is 60 kms away from Bhuj.
[B] NORTH REGION

Northern Region of Gujarat is comprising districts of Mehsana, Patan, Banaskantha and Sabarkantha, offers a delightful array of attractions. The Arravalli hills provide a breathtaking scenic backdrop for the tribal hamlets and wildlife habitats of the region.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

[1] MODHERA
The sun temple of Modhera is one the finest examples of Indian temple Architecture of its period. It was built in 1026 AD the temple is dedicated to the Sun god, Surya and stands high on a plinth overlooking a deep stone-steeped tank. Every inch of the edifice, both inside and outside is magnificently carved with gods and goddesses, bird's beasts and Flowers.
To get there:

AIR : The nearest Airport is Ahmedabad.

RAIL : Nearest Railway Station is Mehsana.

ROAD : State Transport buses and private luxury coaches various luxury coaches connect various centers of Gujarat. It is situated 119 kms from Ahmedabad via Mehsana.
[2] PALANPUR

Following are the places of tourists interests:

A former princely state ruled by the Nawabs.
Palaces of the Nawab and Hindu Temples.

1. Balaram Mahadev Temple
The sacred temple of Balaram Mahadev is situated about 12 kms. from Palanpur in Banaskantha district.
To get there:

Air: Nearest Air port is Ahmedabad

Rail: Linked with Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Delhi.

Road: State transport buses and private luxury coaches connect various centres of Gujarat.
It is situated 144 Kms. from Ahmedabad.

[3] PATAN

Home of the famous patola silk saris, Patan is a beautiful old town with Jain temples and carved wooden houses. Ranikivav (step-well) and Sahastraling lake are also interesting places to visit in Patan.

(1) Shamlaji
One of the principal Vaishnava shrines of Gujarat, Shamlaji, or the dark one, is one aspect of Krishna, an incarnation of Vishnu. It is situated 126 Kms. from Ahmedabad.
To get there:

Air : Nearest airport is Ahmedabad.

Rail : Linked with Ahmedabad.

Road : State transport buses and private luxury coaches connect various centres of Gujarat. It is situated 130 Kms from Ahmedabad.

[4] SIDDHPUR

It is Situated on the bank of river Saraswati, is famous as a pilgrimage centre of Hindus.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

Rudra Mahalaya, Bindu Sarovar, Kapilashram, Govind Mahadev Temple, Havelli's of Vora Community wherein marvellous carvings & glass paintings could be seen.

To get there:

AIR : Nearest airport is Ahmedabad.

RAIL : Linked with Ahmedabad, Agra.

ROAD : State transport buses and private luxury coaches connect various centres of Gujarat. It is situated 115 Kms from Ahmedabad.
AHMEDABAD

Named after a Sultan who founded it in 1411 and graced it with splendid monuments: Associated with Mahatma Gandhi, the Apostle of peace and non-violence whose simple Ashram on the banks of River Sabarmati is now a site of national pilgrimage; renowned as a great textile & commercial centre and as the 'Manchester of India' Ahmedabad is today the second largest prosperous and thriving city in western India.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

1. The Jumma Masjid
Described by some as one of the most beautiful mosque in India, this Friday or Congregational Mosque, was built by the city's founder Sultan Ahmed Shah in 1423. It stands on 260 pillars supporting 15 domes at varying elevations. The mosque is located in the centre of the old city.

2. Rani Rupmati Masjid
The Queen's Mosque in Mirzapur, built between 1430 and 1440, is more representative of the pattern of mosque building in 15th century Ahmedabad. Three domes stand on twelve pillars each, with the central part so raised as to let in natural light without direct sunlight.
3. **The Shaking Minarets**
The shaking minarets of Sidi Bashir's Mosque are unique in its own way, when one minaret is shaken the other minaret vibrates too.

4. **Bhadra Fort**
The foundation of this old fort was laid in 1411 and it once enclosed the royal palaces and gardens.

Three Gates:
The triple-arched gateway was built by Sultan Ahmed Shah to serve as the royalty entrance to the Maidan Shah or the Royal Square.

5. **Kankaria Lake**
It is a circular lake almost a mile in circumference which was constructed in 1451 by Sultan Qutb-ud-Din. In the centre of the lake is an island-garden with a summer palace known as Nagina Wadi.

6. **Hatheesingh Jain Temple**
Built outside Delhi Gate in 1850 by a rich Jain merchant, the Hatheesingh Temple is the best known of Ahmedabad's many ornate Jain temples. Built of pure white marble and profusely decorated with rich carvings, the Hatheesingh Temple is dedicated to Dharmnath, the 15th Jain Apostle.

7. **Sidi Sayyad Mosque**
One part of the wall in the old citadel of the mosque built by Ahmed Shah's slave, Sidi Sayyad, is celebrated the world over for its exquisite
stone window tracery a superb and peerless example of delicate carving that transforms stone into filigree.

8. Gandhi Ashram
On a quiet, peaceful stretch of the river Sabarmati, 7 Kms. north of the city Mahatma Gandhi set up a simple retreat in 1915. This was this Satyagrah Ashram sod for many years it was the nerve centre of India’s freedom movement. It was from Here, in 1930, that Mahatma began his famous and March to the sea to protest against the Salt Tax imposed by the British. The Gandhi Ashram has a memorial centre, library land a Sound-and-light spectacle to offer to its visitors.

9. Calico Textile Museum
 Appropriately for a city that owes its prosperity to three threads; cotton, silk and gold Ahmedabad, has one of the finest textile at museums the one of the Gujarat’s famous carved-wooden havelis, the museum displays a magnificent collection of rare textiles that date back to the 17th Century. There is also an excellent reference library on textiles.

10. Adalaj Step-well
It is situated 17 kms. north of Ahmedabad. The step well at the village of Adalaj is another fine example of this magnificent architectural form. Adalaj Vav is richly carved, every pillar and wall surface covered with leaves and flowers, birds and fishes and friezes of ornamental 1 designs.
11. **Lothal**
A find of tremendous archaeological significance. This site, 87 Kms. from Ahmedabad was discovered some 20 years ago. Lothal has proved to be a full-fledged settlement of the Harappan era dating as far back as the 2nd millennium B.C.

12. **Nal Sarovar**
The delightful bird sanctuary of Gujarat nestles around the Nal Lake 71 Kms. from Ahmedabad. The lake extends over a vast, low-lying stretch which serves as a catchment area for the monsoon rains and provides a perfect habitat for resident birds as well a huge number of species that migrate here staling from November to February. Winter migrants from the north include the Rosy Pelicans, the Flamingos, the White Storks, Brahminy Ducks and Herons.

**To get there:**

**Air**
International and various domestic airlines connecting Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai, Kolkatta, Bangalore and other major centres of India.

**Rail**
Ahmedabad is linked by rail to Delhi, Mumbai, Jaipur, Udaipur, Kolkatta, Chennai, other major centers of India, and several other tourist centers.
Road: State transport buses and private luxury coaches connect various centres at Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan. It is 555 kms. from Bombay, 1076 Kms. from Delhi via Udaipur and Jaipur.

[2] VADODARA (BARODA)

Once the capital of the princely Gaekwads, Vadodara is a graceful city of palaces, parks, temples and museums.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

1. Nazarbaugh Palace
   Built in the old classical style, the palace was used on ceremonial occasions by the Gaekwads. It now houses the royal family heirlooms.

2. Kirti Mandir
   The family vault of the Gaekwad rulers. It is decorated with murals by the famous Indian artist, Nandial Bose.

3. Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum
   This is the royal collection of art treasures of old masters like Raphael, Titian and Murillo as well as modern western and Indian painting; Graeco-Roman exhibits, Chinese and Japanese art and a large collection of contemporary Indian art.
4. Makarpura Palace
A beautiful palace designed in the Italian style, the Makarpura palace is now used as a training school of the Indian Air Force.

5. Pratap Vilas Palace at Lalbaugh
Built as the residence of the royal family, the Pratap Vilas is an extravagant and flamboyant building in the Indo-Saracenic style. The palace houses a remarkable collection of old armory and sculptures in bronze, marble and terra-cotta.

6. Vadodara Museum and Picture Gallery
Founded by the Gaekwad in 1894, it has impressive collections on Art and Archaeology, Natural History, Geology and Ethnology. The adjoining Art Gallery has a great collection of European old Masters: Veronese, Giordano, Zurbaran some Flemish and Dutch school paintings, Turner and Constable, a collection of Mughal miniatures, and valuable palm-leaj manuscripts of Buddhist and Jain origin.

7. Tambekarwada
It is famous for its wall paintings.

[3] GANDHINAGAR
In 1960, when the old Bombay State was bifurcated into the present States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, Bombay city fell to the share of Maharashtra. It was then decided to build an entirely new capital for Gujarat. Gandhinagar, Gujarat's new capital city; rises on the west bank of the Sabarmati river about 32 Km. north east of Ahmedabad,
the commercial and cultural heart of Gujarat. Gandhinagar presents the spacious, well-organized look of an architecturally integrated city around the state Government complex, stretch 30 sector into which the city has been divided. Each servitor has its own shopping and commuted centre, primary school, health centre, Government and private housing. Apart from which there is a generous provision for wide open green parks, extensive planting and a large recreational area along the river giving the city a lush green garden-city atmosphere.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

1. **Akshardham**

The most famous temple of "Swaminarayan Sect" the richest sect in the world. The temple is built by pink stones with beautiful carvings, It is surrounded by lush green gardens and admirable fountains.

To get there:

- **Air**: Nearest Airport is Ahmedabad.
- **Rail**: Nearest Railway Stations are Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad.
- **Road**: State transport buses connect various centres of Gujarat. It is situated 32 Kms. North east of Ahmedabad.
Since the earliest time ancient port of Surat has been renowned for fine silks and exquisite brades and its trade in spices. Surat has been one of the most prosperous of cities of India’s cities in the 17th and 18th century. The East India company established its first warehouses in Surat in 1612. And it was at Surat that Thomas Roe landed when he came as King James Ambassador to the Court of the Emperor Jehangir. In Mughal times, Surat was the main port from which pilgrims sailed to Mecca.

Following are the places of tourists interests:

1. **Dumas**
   A seaside health resort 16 Kms. from Surat.

2. **Hajira**
   It is situated 28 kms. from Surat. The pleasant Hajira beach is fringed by feathery Icasyrina trees and has a comfortable holiday home for visitors.

3. **Ubharat**
   It is situated 42 Kms. from Surat. Ubharat is known for a fine, sandy beach with a backdrop of shady palm groves.
It is situated 108 Kms. from Surat and 5 Kms. from Valsad on the Bombay-Vadodara Western Railway. A beautiful sandy beach and palm-sheltered cottages is what you would get to see there.

4. Bardoli
It is situated 34 Kms. from Surat. Gandhiji had launched a farmers satyagrah, known as the Bardoli satyagrah in 1921-22 under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Swaraj Ashram at Bardoli has become a place of pilgrimage in India.

Ukai: It is situated 94 Kms from Surat. A major multipurpose irrigation project of Gujarat. The storage of water at the dam site is nearly as large as that of Bhakra Nangal dam Punjab.

5. Valsad
The Vansada National Park is situated in Valsad District. Wild animals such as Leopards, Tigers, Panthers and Wildboars are found here.

To get there:

Air : Various domestic airlines connecting
     Mumbai, Bhavnagar.

Rail : Surat is on the Mumbai-Delhi -Ahmedabad
      broad gauge line.
Tourist destinations of TCGL

Road : State transport buses and private luxury coaches connect various centres of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhyapradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan. Surat 262 Kms. From Mumbai 230 kms. from Ahmedabad.

[2] SAPUTARA HILL RESORT

Gujarat's picturesque hill station is perched on a plateau in the Dang forest area of the Sahyadari Range. At an altitude of about 1000m. It has a cool bracing climate, the highest temperature even in the summer months not exceeding 28 Degree C. Saputara means the Abode of Serpents and a snake image on the banks of the river Sarpagana is worshipped by the Adivasis on festivals like Holi.

Saputara has been developed as a planned hill resort with all the necessary amenities like hotels, parks, swimming pools, boat club, theatres and a museum to ensure an enjoyable holiday in the cool of the hills. Saputara is only 164 Kms. from Surat. Excursions from Saputara can be made to the wild life sanctuary in the Mahal Bardipara forest, 60 Kms. from the resort and the Gira Water falls 52 Kms away.

The thick forest around Saputara is dotted with Adivasi tribal villages and their unique dance is of great interest to visitors.
To get there:

**Air**: Nearest airport is Mumbai

**Rail**: Nearest railway station is Waghai, on the Billimora-Waghai narrow gauge section of the Western Railway. For those coming from Gujarat via Surat or Ahmedabad or even from Mumbai, Billimora is the most convenient rail head as direct service is available.

**Road**: State transport buses and private luxury coaches, connect various centres of Gujarat and Maharashtra. It is situated 409 Kms. from Ahmedabad and 51 Kms. from Waghai.
II PILGRIM TOURISM CIRCUITS

Gujarat a magnet for immigrants, colonial powers and trade, has always been an important center for people of different religions. Over the centuries, Hindu and jain temples, Buddhist caves, churches, mosques and dargahs, Fire temples and other religious monuments emerged all over Gujarat.

The temple of Somnath, Dwarka, Ambaji, Dakore and Narayan Sarovar are among the most visited Hindu temples in the country. For Jains, the sacred summits of palitana and Girnar in Saurashtra are among their five important hill temple pilgrimages, and can be combined with scores of historic jain temples in Gujarat. The sacred fire of Zaorashtra is still ablaze at Udwada, Surat and Navsari.

The Swaminarayan movement saw an upsurge in the 18th century and the temples of the Tejendra Prasad Swamy and Aksharpurshottam Swamy faiths, the oldest being at Kalupur in Ahmedabad founded by Lord Swaminarayan himself, and one of the most modern being the Akshardham at Gandhinagar with state of the art exhibition galleries.

Besides these circuits, there are individual sites associated with different religions. The Dargahs of Muslim pilgrim fairs. Guru Nanak is believed to have left for his pilgrimage from the shores of kutch. Sindhis gather for religious festivities at Gandhidham. Daily pilgrims tread the trail from Bhavnagar to Khodiyar on foot. The Jalaram temple at Virpur on the Gondal-Porbandar highway is another important pilgrimage.
1. Hindu Temples

Gujarat has two of India’s most important Hindu temples—the Shiva temple at Somnath and the Krishna temple at Dwarka—both set on the shores of the Arabian sea.

Dwarka is one of the most important Hindu pilgrimages, together with Ayodhya, Varnasi, Mathura, Gaya, Kanchipuram and Ujjain. A trip to the Dwarkadish temple, also called Jagat mandir, is a yatra on par with dhams like the Badrinath-Kedarnath, Puri Bhuvaneswvar and Rameshwaram pilgrimages.

Krishna is said to have come with the entire Tadava clan from the city of Mathura to build the fortified citadel of Dwarka, the reason for this site being specially auspicious. He eloped with princess Rukmani of Vidharbha and her temple can be seen at Dwarka. There are numerous other temples at Dwarka. South of Dwarka is the Harshidi mata temple, which is set on a hill near the coastal highway. A close associate of Lord Krishna, Sudama has an important temple in his name at Porbandar.

Somnath too has an association with Lord Krishna. The lord is said to have met his end at Bakhai tilth, Somnath, and his cenotaph can be seen at Triveni tirth, the confluence of rivers and the sea. Somnath is one of the 12 jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. Shiva is said to have stated that he was omnipresent but specially at 12 places one of which is Somnath. The temple of Somnath is therefore considerably important for Hindus.
Another shore temple town that has associations with both Shiva and lord Krishna is Gopnath, where the mystic poet Narsingh Mehta is said to have attained enlightenment, seen Lord Shiva and witnessed the Ras leela of Lord Krishna. The temple has a white flag on the dome and saffron flags on both sides.

Narsingh Mehta’s Choro at Junaghad is an important pilgrimage for those who revere this saintly poet. Another important pilgrimage is Damodar kund, on the outskirts of Junaghad, in the Girnar foothills. Mount Girnar has a number of Hindu and Jain temples of religious importance. Virpur, near Gondal, and Khodiar, near Bhavnagar, are other important pilgrim spots of Saurashtra.

For believers in Shakti, important temples are Ambaji in north Gujarat and Pavagadh east of Vadodara. Lord Krishna is worshipped as Ranchod at Dakore in central Gujarat. The Narayan Sarovar lake is one of the holy lake and The River Narmada is one of the holy rivers of India, and ghats at Chandod, Shuklatirth and Garudeswar are important for pilgrims.

**Suggested Itinerary**

Recommended Minimum Duration 15 days, 14 nights

Jamnagar – Dwarka – Porbandar – Veraval (Somnath) - Gondal (Bhuvaneswari Pith, Virpur) – Junagadh – Gopnath – Bhavnagar (Khodiar, Sarangpur Temple) – Ahmedabad (Dakore) - Ambaji and Shamlaji Chandod - Vadodara.
2. PARSEE PILGRIMAGE

Parsees came to India from Iran fleeing the Islamic invasions of west Asia, breaking journey for about a year in the Persian gulf. It is said that their first landfall was Diu island, and after a few years the Parsees crossed the Gulf of Cambay and landed at Sanjan. After Sanjan was captured by Muslims, it is said, the holy fire was moved to hills of Bhairot and Bansada, and then to Valsad and Navsari. Chagan Shah, the collector of Navsari ruled that the priests of Sanjan may tend the fire was moved to Udwada in 1742 AD.

Parsees believe that there is only one God, Ahura Mazda, and Zoroashtra is his prophet, the fire being his symbol of enlightenment. A good man loves the fire, water and animals. The Avesta is their holy book. Just as Mecca is sacred to Muslims, the Vatican City to Christians, Puri to Hindus, Palitana to Jains, Gaya to Buddhists, Udwada is a quintessential Parsee pilgrimage. Other important Parsee temples in south Gujarat are at Navsari and Surat.

3. SWAMINARAYAN TRAIL

Lord Swaminarayan (1781-1830 AD), after travelling through the subcontinent, settled in Gujarat and established six temples, the first being at Kalupur in Ahemdabad. Today the faith, based on vedic principles, has followers the world over. The Akshardham movement, following the teachings of lord Swaminarayan, has founded a temple at Gandhinagar using state-of-the-art technology to introduce visitors to the life and preachings of Lord Swaminarayan.
Suggested Itinerary

Ahmedabad (also base for Gandhinagar, Vadtal) - Bhavnagar (Sarangpur)-Gondal (Gondal, Gadhada, Junagadh)-Bhuj-Wadhwan & Muli-Ahmedabad. These are places with good hotels, other Swaminarayan sites have basic accommodations.

4. JAIN FOOTSTEPS

Gujarat is one of the largest strongholds of Jainism, and over the centuries several Jain temples have been erected in the state. Most of these sites have splendid locations on sacred summits like Shatrunjaya and Girnar in Saurashtra, in valley like Taranga and Kumbhariyaji in north Gujarat, or near the sea cast as at Bhadreshwar and Naliya in Kutch district.

The most auspicious Jain complex is the one crowning Shatrunjaya hill over palitana. The Shatrunjaya complex, comprising more than 800 temples on two sides of a single summit, is specially important as Lord Adinath, one of the 24 tirthankars of Jainism, is said to have personally visited the site and his son to have built the first temple. Of the five sacred mountain summits covered by Jain temples, the most important pilgrimage by most Jains is at Palitana.

Mt Girnar is another sacred mountain summit for Jains, and the 12th century temples on the hill are among the most exquisite of their kind in Gujarat. These temples were built during the Solanki reign. Other Important Jain temples are at Jamnagar in Saurashtra, Badreshwar and Naliya in Kutch, Shankheshwar near the Little Rann
Tourist destinations of TCGL

of Kutch, Mahudi, Patan, Kumbharlaji and Taranga in north Gujarat, and Jagadiya near Rajpipla. Ahmedabad has the Huteesingh Jain temple, built in the 1850s, featuring intricate carvings.

Sri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra, Koba

Sri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra, Koba is situated at Koba village, only 10 kms away from Gandhinagar and 9 kms from Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad. The temple and all activities are dedicated to 24th Tirthankar Sri Mahavirswami.

There is a miracle associated with this gorgeous Mahavir Temple with fine carvings. On the 22 May of each year at 02:07 p.m. (the day when the last rites of Acharya Shri Kailasasagara Shurishwani Maharaji Saheb were performed) the sunrays penetrate from the Shikhar to the forehead of Bhagwan Sri Mahavir and brighten it.

With its unique temple and Acharya Sri Kailasasagara Shri Kailasasagar Gyanmandir, this centre has now been established as leading Tirth as well as one of the International reference research centre for the studies in Jainology. This is a unique association in the field of religious institutions.

Sri Mahavir Jain Aradhana Kendra runs various departments viz.

(1) Jain Museum having a good collection of idols, status, and antiquities in stone, marbles, wood, bronze, and ivory as well as paintings and illustrated manuscripts etc, All these are 200 to 1800
years old. Innumerable ancient artifacts are displayed in a well-designed Art Gallery.

(2) Largest Jain Library with more than 1 Lac books.

(3) Manuscripts Department with more than 2 Lac old and rare manuscripts written by silver and gold as well as herbal inks including 3000 palm leaves manuscripts.

(4) Computer Centre for developing unique information system for developing unique information system for cataloging the reading material. Guides, Food, Lodging facilities are also available.

Suggested Itinerary Minimum Recommended Duration :

14 days, 13 nights Bhaynagar Palitana - Junagadh (Gimar) - Jamnagar - Gandhidham (Badreshwar, Naliya) - Balaram (Kumbhariya, Patan) - Dahta (Taranga) - Dasada (Shankheshwar) - Ahmedabad (Huteesingh Jain complex, Mahudi)- Rajpipla (Jhagadiya) - Vadodara.
III VINTAGE AND CLASSIC CARS

With more princely states than any other part of India, Gujarat is home to some of the finest vintage and classic car collections in south Asia.

Pranlal Bhogilal's outstanding vintage fleet, which has featured in the book of World records, is housed in his mansion at Ahmedabad and a custom made garage on the Ahmedabad Mumbai highway. This collection includes a number of Rolls Royce cars that were coach-built and customised for Maharajahs and Nawabs.

Among the erstwhile ruling families, Gondal has retained a good-sized fleet of vintage and classic cars including pre-World war 2 models of New Engine, Daimler, Delage and Packard. The Gondal royals collected American cars in the 1940s and '50s, took to motor racing in the 1960s, winning major events with sports models like the Mecedes 300 SL and Surtees Formula 5000.

Another palace garage with vintage and classic cars is at Wankaner, housing among others a 1921 Rolls Royce Silver Ghost in original condition. Wadhwan, east of Wankaner, has retained a 1917 Crossley, a 1936 Mercedes, two Buicks and a number of classic cars. Nilambag palace at Bhavnagar has a 1935/6 Mercedes two door convertible coupe in its collection.
Suggested Itinerary

Ahmedabad-Wadhwan-Wankaner-Gondal-Bhavnagai.

* MUSIC, DANCE AND DRAMA

Gujarat is well known for its tradition of Bhavai theatre, various forms of Garba and Rasa dances, and other folk dances. The tribes of the Arravallis, Vindhyas, Satyuras and Dangs have their own dance forms and musical instruments. Kathiawad is well known for its folk songs, Kutch for its Sindhi and Kutchi bhajans. Fairs and festivals like Navratri, Kawant fair near Chotta Udepur, Chitra Vichitra fair near Poshina, Dangs Darbar in south Gujarat, Bhavnath near Junagadh, Tarnetar in Surendranagar district, and the Kutch utsav, offer good opportunities to experience the music, dances and drama of Gujarat. Indian classical dances can be witnessed during the Modhera dance festival with a backdrop of the beautifully illumined Sun temple. It is possible to spend long periods studying music, dance and drama at number of institutes and coaching classes of Gujarat. Itineraries depend on individual interest.

* STEAM ENGINES AND LOCOMOTIVES

Gujarat has one of the world’s oldest surviving narrow gauge rail routes in the world. The 3aroda state line was laid in the 1860s for trains drawn by bullocks and other ‘beasts of burden’, and later used by steam trains. It is possible to take a journey on this historic route by narrow gauge train from Vadodara to Chandod, stopping at Dabhoi.
to see early-20th century steam engines. Further east of Dabhoi is Chhota Udaipur where a narrow gauge rail saloon of the erstwhile rulers is still housed in the Kusum vilas palace.

Another royal family that has retained its saloons is Gondal. One of the two saloons still in their possession has been converted to a suite of the family's Orchard palace heritage hotel. There are some interesting rural train journeys in Saurashtra, specially in Junagadh district, by narrow gauge train.

VADODARA Railway staff training college, train ride to Dabhoi and Chandod Steam engines of dabhoi- CHHOTA UDAIPUR (Railway saloon)-VADODARA-GONDAL (Railway saloon, rural rail rides in Junagadh and Amereli district).

* ADVENTURE TOURS

Suggested Itinerary for Horse Safari

Ahmedabad (riding school) - Danta (Horse tafari in Arravallis) - Dasada (semi-desert riding) Wankaner (Kathiawadi horses)-Gondal (Bhuvanishwari Marwari and Kathiawadi horse ashwapalak, award winning Gir cattle) - Vadodara (ringing club on palace road)

Note: The north western region of the subcontinent produced some of India's finest.
IV RAILWAY CIRCUITS

* STANDARD CIRCULAR JOURNEY TICKETS

At some stage everyone desires a change from the normal routine and is attracted by the idea of making a tour of some part of the country, a pilgrimage or a pleasure trip. As our country abounds in places of great historical, scientific and cultural interest, the Western Railway has prepared as many as Twenty Four Standard circular Journey tickets covering Gujarat. These standard circular journey tickets eliminate the inconvenience of having to buy fresh tickets at every stage of the journey. One can select a tour and buy a ticket straight from the booking office of the stations mentioned below.

CIRCULAR JOURNEY TICKETS

1. To facilitate people who desire to visit places of important pilgrim centres places of historical, religious, industrial, cultural and other interest, circular journey tickets are issued subject to the following provision:

   (a) All journeys other than the normal and reasonable ‘direct’ routes will be deemed to be circular journeys. It is clarified that normal and reasonably direct route between two stations should be taken to be the shortest route or any longer route if the distance does not exceed the distance via shortest route by more than 15 percent.

   (b) Break journey is permitted without distance restriction subject to a maximum of eight break journeys.
(c) Circular journey tickets will be charged for two single journeys the length of each single journey being taken as half of the total distance. Reservation charges for different legs of journey, supplementary charges on superfast trains etc. will be levied extra. If a passenger travels in a higher class or by higher category of train, he will be required to pay the difference of fare for such distance on point to point basis.

2. Non-standard circular journey tickets are also issued at the specific request of the party addressed to the concerned Divisional Railway Manager, Western Railway at least 15 days in advance. These tickets may also be issued in the reverse direction.

The circular journey tickets are issued at important stations without authorization from head quarters or divisional offices. Accordingly the following Station Manager/Station Masters are authorized to issue circular journey tickets.

Mumbai Central Surat, Valsad, Ahmedabad, Viramgam, Mahesana, Bhavnagar Terminus, Rajkot, Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Gandhidham, Palanpur, Abu Road, Udaipur City, Ajmer, Falna, Jaipur, Chittaurgarh, Alwar, Sikar, Agra Fort, Bharatpur, Marwar Jn., Mathura Jn., Ujjain, Mhow, Kota, Ratlam and Indore.

3. The following undertaking is required to be given by the applicant. "I agree to pay any undercharges that may become due to the Railway at a later date".
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Standard Circular Journey Tickets

Standard Circular tickets will be Vijid from and to station of issue. These tickets may also be issued in the reverse direction.

Standard itineraries have been laid down for 75 tours as mentioned below. The tickets which may be directly purchased from the depot station situated on the route. They are the following

1. Mumbai Central, Indore, Chittaurgarh, Udaipur City, Himmatnagar, Ahmedabad, Surendranagar, Palitana, Bhavnagar, Mumbai Central.


MONUMENTS

Adalaj Step-Well

Adalaj is a village 18 km to the north of Ahmedabad. The Vav (stepwell) at Adalaj derives its name from the lady patron, Ruda, wife of the Vaghela chief, Virsinh; who built it in the 15th or 16th century A.D.

The Vav, laid out in the north-south direction, the well in the north and the entrance in the south, have a total length of 75.3 metres. It is the only major monument of its kind, which has three entrance stairs leading to the stepped corridor. These three entrances meet in the first storey, underground, in a huge square platform which has to the top an octagonal opening. The platform rests on 16 pillars, eight on the corners, and two in front of each main side. The four corners of the platform are marked by four built-in shrines, with doors, windows, balconies. The stepped corridor begins from this square platform.

The corridor is entirely surrounded by a one-metre high parapet wall with a rounded topping. It descends with four pavilion towers for five storeys.

The walls of the Vav are veritable show-cases of sculptures and ornamentation. The sculptures range from a king sitting on a stool under a parasol, to erotic scenes; and buttermilk churning to dancing girls. The door frames around the entrances of the spiral staircases to the octagonal shaft are surrounded by a parikrama, which is an
enlarged version of the frames around the niches. String-courses running along the side walls embellish all parts of the structure, sometimes dividing the wall into horizontal sections. They also appear on the walls of the octagonal shaft, depicting floral or leaf patterns, or rows of animals.

To get there:

Adalaj is a village north of Ahmedabad, 18km by road.

**Sarkhej Monuments, Ahmedabad**

The famous saint, Makhdum Shaikh Ahmed Khattu, a disciple of Baba Ishq Maghribi of Khattu, settled and died at Sarkhej, about 10 km south-west of Ahmedabad. Construction on a dargah and mosque were begun in 1446, under Mohammad Shah II, and completed the reign of Sultan Qutb-ud-din Ahmed Shah. The dargah, the largest of its kind in Gujarat, has a plinth area of 31.70 m², and is roofed by a large dome. It also has 13 rows of 13 pillars on each side. The walls are broken up into two storeys, and perforated stone-work of great variety fills up the spaces above and below the dividing stones. The inner central square, too, is partitioned by screen walls, perforated in steel and metal, with a door in similar workmanship. A porch leads from the dargah into the Mosque, which is to the west. The Mosque has a roof of uniform height. Five large domes in a row, and 40 smaller ones, symmetrically disposed, correspond to the pillared squares within. The roof is supported by 120 pillars of the same pattern. The Mosque has an elegant simplicity; the columnar
style adopted here appears to be on purpose, and compares favourably with the arched facade of other mosques in and around Ahmedabad. The ablution tank is situated in an enclosed alley, at half the height of the roof. Access to the roof is through a porch, in the thickness of the wall.

The tomb of Sultan Mohmud Begada is also part of the Sarkhej complex. Stone-work covers the pillars on three sides of the tomb, except for the east. A balcony window projects into the tank.

The tomb has a dome of 6.4 m diameter, carried on 12 inner pillars and containing tombs on raised platforms. This is successively surrounded by a second and third square of 20 and 28 pillars, respectively. The roof has, besides the main dome, 16 outer, smaller domes. Sarkhej has an artificial lake, too.

To get there:

Sarkhej, which lies on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, is easily accessible by road. City bus services are available, as well.

The Sun Temple, Modhera
The Sun Temple at Modhera is one of the two Sun Temples in the world - the other being at Konarak.

Modhera, in north-western Gujarat, 119 km from Ahmedabad, is located on a high mound, on the left bank of the river Pushpawati.

There is no data available about the dating of the Temple. The only reference comes from an upside down, carelessly placed inscription
on one of the walls, which reads ‘Vikram Samvat 1083’ i.e., 1025 or 1026 A.D.

A substantial part of the Temple is still in its original shape and material. The temple site at Modhera consists of three distinct units: the Sun Temple, the Nrityamandapa, and the Suryakunda. Sculptures of noteworthy iconography are found all over the Temple. The almost life-sized figures in the panels belong to three groups of deities, the Adityas, the Lokpalas and the Devis. The twelve Adityas are arranged around the western part of the cellar. They stand in Samabhanga position, upon a pedestal of seven horses, denoting the seven colours that emanate from the sun. Between the boot-tips of the deities is the charioteer Aruha. An interesting figure is an iconograph with three heads, three arms and three legs.

In other niches and corners are figures of Shiva and Vishnu, in various forms. The outer walls of both, the columnar hall and the inner shrine, are exquisitely carved with bands of sculptures; depicting iconographic forms of various deities, celestial beauties, dancing figures, rows of elephants, processions of people in different attitudes, etc. The assembly hall has exquisitely carved pillars.

The Sun Temple of Modhera is an exemplary model of art and architecture of the 11th century - a style that was to influence the development of temple architecture in neighbouring regions.
To get there:

By road from Ahmedabad and Mehsana. The nearest railhead is at Mehsana.

**Rani-Ni-Vav, Patan**

Step-wells, subterranean structures with steps leading down to the water-level, are found in large numbers in the arid regions of Gujarat and Rajasthan. They started as simple structures, and in course of time, evolved to become complex, aesthetically pleasing works of art. The Rani-Ni-Vav, Patan, is one such monument.

The Vav was built during the reign of Rani Udaymati of the Solanki dynasty, probably as a memorial for her husband Bhimdeva I (1022-1063 A.D.). It is about 134 km north-west of Ahmedabad, and about 57 km from Mehsana.

The Rani-ni-Vav forms the link between a kunda and the now classical step-well. This is due to the fact that in addition to the straight staircase, it also has lateral staircases, along with very broad, stepped corridors.

The Vav is laid out in an east-west direction, the entrance in the east and the well in the west. Though it is in a dilapidated condition, the entrance, the side walls of the stepped corridor, some of the mandapas and the back wall of the well are still intact.
Tourist destinations of TCGL

Five lateral, staggered staircases attached to the side walls connect various storeys. Sculptures of deities in recessed and projecting niches cover all sides of the well.

The Vav is very rich in sculptures. Each level is profusely adorned with carved friezes and niched deities. The lower most level has 37 niches with rudimentary images of Ganesha in the centre. The images of Sheshashayi Vishnu in the central niches, on the upper levels, are more elaborate.

Also, on the upper levels, are impressive images of Laxmi-Narayana, Uma-Mahesh, Brahma-Brahmi, and Kubera and Ganesha, with their respective consorts. On the lower levels, are images of Vishnu's incarnations and 24 forms. Interestingly, however, despite the fact that the Vav is a water structure, the Kurma and the Matsya avatars do not find a place.

No other Vav in India is so profusely adorned as the Rani-ni-Vav. More than 800 sculptures form a remarkable backdrop to what was purely a functional structure.

To get there:

130 km from Ahmedabad, which is also the nearest airport. Train services are available, too.

Sahastralinga Talav, Patan

The Sahastralinga Talav (lake) occupies the north-western part of the historical city of Patan. It is on the left bank of river Saraswati.
The Talav is reputed to have been built by Siddharaja Jaisinh, the Chaulukyan ruler of Gujarat. An inscription found in the Shiva temple in Vyala Kua Street of Patan indicates that the lake was part of a much larger work.

At present, the Sahastralinga Talav is dry. All its systems, except for the earthwork, are buried under the sands of the Saraswati, the same river that had once filled it with water. Folklore describes the dryness to the curse of one of the diggers, Jasma Odan.

An excavation in 1936 resulted in the opening of the entry channel, silting chamber, parts of the embankment, and a bridge leading into the Talav.

The lake, pentagonal in shape, is marked by a series of mounds showing its shape. The earthworks circumscribe an area of several kilometers and are about 1 km broad.

The total area of the Talav is about 17 hectares. At its fullest, the it would have contained about 4,206,500 cubic metres of water.

In the centre of the Talav is a large earth heap - the Bakasthana. On a raised platform over it, was built a rauza, an octagonal structure of Lakhori bricks. The most interesting of the relics are the channels, the well, steps and side elevation of the Talav, and a bridge. The Channel, 95 m long and 5 m broad, runs north to south and connected the lake to the source of water, the Saraswati.
On the western side, near the mausoleum of Saiyad Hasan, evidences of the waste weir channel, measuring 18 m in width and 28 m in length, are found.

To get there:

130 km from Ahmedabad, which is also the nearest airport. Train services are available, too.

**Rudra Mahal, Sidhpur**

The Rudra Mahal at Sidhpur was conceived and constructed as a tribute to Mahadev, by the first Solanki king of Gujarat, Mulraj. Twenty years after ascending the throne, Mulraj had put his kingdom into order, and was in a position to turn to more unworldly things.

Mulraj decided on the bank of the river Saraswati, as a fitting site for the Temple. The 150 yard long and 135 yard wide temple also had 11 smaller temples, and three 40 feet high gates.

Approximately ten years after the work on the Temple had started, Mulraj breathed his last. The succeeding four generations did nothing to further the work.

The fifth generation, Siddharaja Jaisinh, restarted the work on the structure. After 14 years of incessant work, the Temple was finally completed.

The main temple in the complex was 150 ft. x 100 ft. The largest temple, then, Somnath, was by comparison much smaller; a mere 130
ft. x 75 ft. The main temple had a three-storey high foyer. It is said that the entire structure rested on 1600 pillars.

Construction on the Rudra Mahal started probably in 983 A.D. It was 175 years later that it was completed.

To get there:

115 km by road from Ahmedabad, the nearest airport. Also connected to Ahmedabad by rail.

The Toran of Vadnagar

The Toran, called the Kirti Stambha (Temple Arch) in other regions, is a semi-religious or civic form that flourished under the Solanki rule in Gujarat.

Two of the finest examples are at Vadnagar. At one time, both must have been connected with a temple, not a trace of which now remains.

Of the two, the one that stood at what was the edifice of Rewah, is a truly imposing structure. Almost complete and a typical example of its kind, it rises to a total height of 40 feet. It consists of two massive and elaborate columns, supporting a wide cornice, above which rises a vaulted pediment, containing figures. The pillars are designed with an upper storey or attic, between which is thrown an ornamental cusped arch, making the effect of an archway more apparent. All the parts forming the Toran are devised on the same principles as those employed in the temple design.
To get there:

115 km by road from Ahmedabad, the nearest airport. Can also be reached by rail.

**Champaner-Pavagadh**

Pavagadh, rising to a height of 800 metres, dominates the plains around it; not because of its height, but due to its light yellow colour, tinged with red. This colour, resembling that of the champaka flower, resulted in the civilisation that evolved round Pavagadh being called Champaner.

Champaner-Pavagadh, usually referred to as just Pavagadh, is an important centre of pilgrimage in Gujarat, and has been so for centuries.

Champaner, whose foundation has been described to various persons including Champa, a minister of Vanaraja, the Chavda ruler of Gujarat and Champa, a Bhil headman, became a part of the British Raj in the 19th century. In between, many Muslim rulers ruled over the area.

The Pavagadh Fort, which must have been a truly imposing edifice at the height of its glory, is one of the few forts in the largely flat lands of Gujarat. Today, the Fort is in a dilapidated state.

The main attractions at Pavagadh are of a religious nature. A visit to Pavagadh is not one to a historical site; it is more of a yatra than a pilgrimage.
The religious monuments at Pavagadh are not limited to any one particular religion. There are Hindu temples, Muslim dargahs, and temples belonging to the Jain Digambar sect. The most famous of the lot is the Kalika temple, situated at the highest point. Parts of this temple have been described in a drama written in the 15th century. To get there:

Champaner can be reached by road from Baroda, a distance of 52km.

**Buddhist Caves, Uparkot (Junagadh)**

The Buddhist Caves form an important rock-cut group of the caves of Junagadh. The caves, scooped in three tiers, are situated on the descent from the Jami Masjid. The central section of the lowest storey has a main hall that is open to the sky. The base, shaft and capital of the carved pillars carry unique designs.

On the ground, the excavations are laid out along three laterally continuous portions, each of which is open to the sky in the main portion. If one enters it from the south, an 11 ft. square pond can be seen. Around the pond, are covered corridors and a verandah, and short steps running down to the base of the pond. Many vertical drains and small cisterns feed the pond. A series of socket holes, for fixing wooden shutters, to control the flow of water to different cisterns, can also be observed. The upper level of the rock roof reveals socket holes in regular alignment, which suggests that there once existed a superstructure, possibly of perishable material.
The pillars in these caves have spiral ridges on their shafts, octagonal plinth bases, and florally ornamented capitals, carrying animal figures. The first chamber has a door in the north-east corner which leads to a second, larger room of about 36 ft. x 28 ft.; with six carved columns to support the ceiling. The ceiling of the smaller apartment, which is to the northeast of this room, is soot - blackened, indicating that it might have been a kitchen.

A rock-cut stairway near the door of this cell leads to the hall on the lower storey. This well-furnished and decorative hall has Buddhist rail decoration on the frieze above the recesses. Chaitya windows with a couple of female figures can also be seen.

The hall has six pillars whose bases and capital mouldings have a marked similarity. The body of the capital has eight divisions; each section carries a group of women, multiple cobra-hoods, and dwarfed attendants. The bases have crouching lions at the corners and centres. The pillars can be dated to the 2nd century A.D., as they resemble Satvahana's pillars.

To get there:

Junagadh is 327 km by road from Ahmedabad, and also be reached by rail. The nearest airport is Keshod, 40 km away.

**Ashoka Rock Edicts, Junagadh**

Ashoka's edicts, issued after his conversion to Buddhism, were designed to bring about large scale acceptance of Buddhism. In pillar...
edict 6, he had mentioned that he stalled issuing these edicts 12 years after his coronation.

Fourteen such edicts have been found near the edge of the Sudarshan lake, about half a mile to the east of Junagadh. The inscriptions on these edicts are in the Prakrit dialect. The script used for these edicts used to vary with the need of the region, but was largely Brahmi or Kharoshthi.

The Junagadh rocks cover all the 14 edicts that Ashoka had issued. They are in a western dialect, with many Magadhi words resembling Pali.

The edicts record the following orders:

1. Human beings shall not be sacrificed. Futile festivities and gatherings to be banned.
2. Setting up of medical facilities for humans and animals.
3. Instructing government servants to perform their duties.
4. Elaboration of edict 3.
5. Dharma Mahamantris to enforce edicts.
6. Unlimited access to the King for all subjects.
7. All religions to live in harmony.
8. No hunting or pleasure tours; tours being only for Dharma.
9. Superstitious rituals being dismissed as trivial and meaningless.
10. Saying no to corruption.
11. Listing of the dharmic acts that produce great results; what one should do for friends, relatives, well-wishers.
12. All sects to be honoured.
13. Dharma is the most important thing in life.
14. An epilogue of the preceding 13 edicts, it surveys their compositional features.

These edicts, preserved in the Girnar hills, bear testimony to the benevolent attitude and activities of the Emperor.

To get there:

Junagadh is 327 km by road from Ahmedabad, and can also be reached by rail. The nearest airport is Keshod, 40 km away.

The Dwarkadhish Temple Complex, Dwarka

Dwarka is the headquarters of the Okhamandal taluka, located in the extreme west of the Saurashtra peninsula, on the Arabian sea. The name Dwarka is derived from the word "Dwar"(door) since, in ancient times, its flourishing port was considered to be the entry to the mainland.

There is no clear separate historical record of Dwarka; its history forms part and parcel of Okhamandal. The first clear, independent reference to Dwarka is in the 6th century A.D., in the Palitana plates of Samanta Simhaditya. The inscription also says that Shri Krishna had lived there.
The next noteworthy reference occurs around 1500 A.D., the time when Mohmud Begada invaded and spoiled the entire area around Okhamandal, including Dwarka itself.

The excavation in Dwarka town, done in 1963, indicates that the earliest occupation was around the 1st century B.C. This Dwarka, however, was probably very different from Krishna's Dwarka, which is likely to have been submerged a millennium earlier.

Fresh excavations undertaken in 1979-80 have brought to light a ninth century temple of Vishnu. The roof of the temple no longer exists, but the receding sea had deposited fine sand which resulted in the preservation of the beautifully carved walls and plinth.

Below the Vishnu temple, remains of two other temples have been discovered too. Further diggings have also yielded debris of prehistorical settlements dating back to the 2nd millennium B.C. - the generally accepted date of the Mahabharata war.

The temple of Dwarkadhish, also known as Jagatmandir, is built on the northern bank of the Gomti creek. The Temple stands on the highest level of the habitation mound on which the town is located. The Temple, located in a huge courtyard which contains several temples, occupies an area of 100 ft. x 40 ft.

The present shrine is not likely to be older than the Mughal period. The inscriptions on the pillars and other places do not appear to be older than the 15th century A.D. There must have been an older shrine
Tourist destinations of TCGL

which was probably destroyed by Mohmud Begada in 1473 A.D. The present temple was probably constructed during the period of the great Mughal Emperor, Akbar.

To get there:

Jamnagar is the nearest airport, 148 km away; can also be approached by rail from Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Porbandar. The distance from Ahmedabad, by road, is 511 km.

Gandhi's House, Porbandar

The Father of the Nation was born in Porbandar, on October 2, 1869. The house where he was born is situated at the back of the Haveli of Shrinathji, near Manek Chowk in Porbandar, the Taluka headquarters of Junagadh district, in Gujarat.

This house was purchased from members of the Gandhi family, who were staying there in 1947, to convert it into a monument - Kirti Mandir. Unrequired structures, along the road leading to the house, were removed.

The foundation stone of Kirti Mandir was laid in 1947. This piece of art was completed within two years. There are some distinguished elements in the architectural and sculptural planning of Kirti Mandir. The Mandir includes, in its structure, the best elements of the constructional art of Hindu, Buddhist and Jain temples, Christian churches, Parsee fire-temples, and Muslim mosques.
The Mahatma was 79 years old when construction of the Mandir began; so the height of the Mandir is 79 feet. Seventy-nine designs of lamp bowls have also been included. Life-sized paintings of the Mahatma and Kasturba are placed under the dome. Two ideals, "Truth" and "Nonviolence," have been inscribed in the stands.

The main incidents in the life of the Mahatma are inscribed in chronological order, near the paintings. Some shiokasand bhajans of the Mahatma's choice, as well as pieces from his speeches have been inscribed on various pillars.

The opening ceremony of this memorial was performed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

To get there:

Porbandar is 188 km by road from Rajkot. There is a direct air connection with Bombay, and a rail connection with Ahmedabad.

**Lothal Excavations**

The Lothal, ruins, which are located 87 km south-west of Ahmedabad, were a small village contemporary to the civilisations of Harappa and Mohenjodaro. A large flood caused the village to be transformed into a massive port-town. The civilisation ceased to exist after a great flood caused its total destruction, in the 20th century B.C.

The excavated ruins stand in mute testimony to the many arts discovered, invented, developed and perfected, nearly 4000 years ago.
The city was planned with an orderly array of streets, crossing each other at right angles, and dividing it into various blocks on a grid pattern. It was protected from floods by a 13 m thick wall of mud bricks, which in turn were reinforced by kiln-burnt bricks. In all, seven blocks of buildings have been traced, consisting of the Acropolis, the lower town with main bazar, shops, and residential buildings.

Also excavated are kilns, used for what ' was even then the highly developed art of bead making. The method developed by the people of Lothal is practised to this day by artisans in Kambhat. This unique type of kiln was developed specially for the purpose of heating pebbles of agate, jasper and possibly, stealite material.

The dockyard at Lothal, measuring about 214 m x 36 m, is the earliest dockyard excavated anywhere. It was connected with the gulf through a riverine channel.

The Lothalites also had a highly developed sense of sanitation; exhibited by their drainage system.

To get there:

80 km from Ahmedabad by road. The nearest rail head is Bhurkhi.

**Dholavira City, Harappan Site**

Situated in the north west corner of the Khadir, a large island surrounded on all sides by the Great Rann of Kachchh, Dholavira is one of the two largest known Indus settlements in India. Though field
work is still in progress, what is clearly brought to light, is a town plan of the mature Harappan civilization, which is unparalleled.

The site of Dholavira was discovered as recently as in 1967. Proper excavation began only in 1990. In its fully developed state, the settlement had three pronounced parts: the Citadel, Middle Town and Lower Town. All three were inter-linked with an elaborate system of fortifications. Ample evidence points to suburban habitation outside the fortification.

The entire complex was enclosed by outer walls. The intact northern and western walls measure 770 m & 616 m in length, respectively. The presently untraceable southern and eastern walls seem to have been destroyed by a streamlet. Gaps indicative of gates have been noticed in the walls. At several places, there is evidence of square or rectangular bastions.

The Citadel, measuring 300 m east to west and 140-160 m north to south, stands high in the south-western corner. Its complex has two fortified parts to its east and west.

The castle has four gates. The ones on the western and southern sides are simple, while the ones on the east and the north have elaborate planning.

The Middle Town had its own fortification on three sides and shared the south wall the fourth one with the Citadel. An area of this densely occupied strata was kept vacant, most probably for state functions.
Several Harappan houses on the southeastern corner of the eastern arm of the Lower Town have been laid bare by the wholesale removal of earth for construction. The removed debris contain profuse Harappan material of the urban phase.

The most interesting discovery at Dholavira is the large inscription, comprising of ten letters in the Indus script. Each letter, engraved on carefully sliced pieces of crystalline material, is 35-37 cms in height. Another interesting finding is a damru-shaped part made from highly polished limestone.

To get there:

About 445 km from Ahmedabad, via Mehsana/ Radhanpur/ Rapar. The nearest airport is Bhuj (280 km), and nearest railway station, Gandhidham (250 km).

Protecting Our Heritage

Our monuments are an integral part of our national heritage. We have a duty towards ensuring that we leave them in as good a shape as we found them, if not better, for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

We can ensure this only if we start thinking of each of our monuments as something that belongs to us; and that each one of us is a trustee for something that is timeless and priceless, and to be proudly passed on to our children.
One needs to treat our millenia-old cultural legacy with the utmost care; besides doing every thing possible to prevent senseless acts of vandalism; like disfiguring, damaging, mutilation, theft, etc.

For though we may have inherited these monuments from our forefathers, we have also borrowed them from our children.