

# INDIA BECKONS

“Life time experiences”

An unit of Dravidian Journeys Pvt Ltd

## Traders and Rulers of India Gujarat/ Mumbai 2018

Day	Place	Program	Hotel
Day 1 11 Feb 2018 Sunday	Mumbai	Arrival in Mumbai Free time for recovering the long haul flight	Hotel Taj Mahal
Day 2 12 Feb 2018 Monday	Mumbai	0830 AM Excursion Elephanta and lunch Break 1400 PM Return to Hotel 1630 PM Free time in Colaba Market 1830 PM Dinner in local restaurant	Hotel Taj Mahal B, D
Day 3 13 Feb 2018 Tuesday	Mumbai	0600 AM Sasoon Fishing docks 0700 AM Breakfast 0900 AM Visit of Dharavi Slums, Mumbai 1130 AM Interaction with the Dhabba Walas (Tiffin carriers ) 1230 PM Lunch followed by City orientation trip with a visit to Mani Bhavan	B, L
Day 4 14 Feb 2018 Wednesday	Aurangabad Mumbai Vadodra (Baroda)	Local train ride to Baroda(Vadodara) Vadodara, Gujarat's third largest city, is considered the state's cultural capital. Pavagadh Hill, graced with a combination of Hindu and Jain shrines, towers over Champaner, the 15th c. pre-Mughal Islamic fort. Together they represent the diversity of religious influences that have pervaded Gujarat. Vadodara is situated on the Vishwamitri River and is the administrative headquarters of Vadodara District. The city is mixture of many eras and its reputation as "Cultural Capital" dates largely from the late 19th c, when it was the capital of the princely state of Baroda.	Hotel B, L, D
Day 5 15 Feb 2018 Thursday	Baroda	Explore Champaner the old ruin palace and Mosque Later also explore the Baroda Palace with old town	Hotel B, L
Day 6 16 Feb 2018 Friday	Baroda Bhavnagar	Drive to Bhavnagar a town with plenty of Business class people. Explore the old town.	Neelam Bagh Palace Hotel B, D
Day 7 17 Feb 2018 Saturday	Bhavnagar Palitana	Palitana located 51 km south west of Bhavnagar is known for being the largest cluster of Jain temples. There are in total 863 temples from base to the peak of the Shatrunjaya hill, where the Palitana temples are located. The path is climbed through 3950 steps	Neelam Bagh Palace Hotel

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TEL +914424798023, +919444903003

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		<p>spanning 3.5 km up the Shatrunjaya Hills. The construction of temples of Palitana spanned over a period of 900 years and was structured in two phases. From the 11th to 12th centuries AD as a part of the resurgence of temple building all over India, the first phase of temple architecture was constructed. The second phase followed later, from the 16th century AD onwards. Muslim invaders destroyed some of the earliest temples built in the 11th century AD, during the 14th and 15th centuries AD. No one person can be attributed for the construction of these magnificent temples rather it was the effort of the wealthy businessmen who were followers of Jainism.</p>	B , D
Day 8 18 Feb 2018 Sunday	Bhav Nagar Sasan Gir	<p>In Gir you touch the history of India before humanity itself. Before monuments, temples, mosques and palaces. Or rather, a history as humanity was emerging, when humans coexisted with lions, before the former had overrun the continent (and the world) and pushed the latter to the brink of extinction.</p> <p>Many come to Gir because, outside of Africa, it is the only place with wild lions. But to truly experience Gir and the lions, you must explore their natural habitat, with everything from tiny wild birds, not easily seen, but heard singing in the forest canopy, to crocodiles floating in the marsh waters.</p> <p>We drive this morning to reach Sasan Gir and check in after on your own Lunch.</p>	Fern Hotel  B, D
Day 9 19 Feb 2018 Monday	Sasan Gir	<p>Morning Excursion to Somnath temple and Veeraval Fishing Harbour. The principal temple of Somnath is believed to have been built in gold by the moon god Soma, in silver by the sun god Ravi, in wood by Krishna and in stone by the Solanki Rajputs in the 11th century. The present temple, built in 1951, is the seventh reconstruction on the original site. Tales of its riches attracted a series of invasions, but each time the temple was invaded, it was restored to its original glory by devout Hindu worshipers.</p> <p>Commanding a breath taking view from the tip of the Saurashtra peninsula, kissed by the waves of the Arabian coast, the temple has been constructed in the Chalukyan style with a tower nearly 50 m tall.</p>	Fern Hotel B, L , D

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		<p>The temple's imposing architecture includes intricate carvings, silver doors, an impressive Nandi idol and the central Shiva lingam (God Shiva). In the vast courtyard stand the massive mandapam (hall), as well as the main shrine, whose gently curved pyramidal forms tower over the whole complex. After noon safari in the Park</p>	
Day 10 20 Feb 2018 Tuesday	Sasan Gir Junagadh Gondal	<p>Early in the morning there is Safari in the National Park and return to our Hotel for Breakfast Stepped in history, culture, spirituality and religion. We check out and drive towards Gondal. Enroute we explore the town, Junagadh, which is the Soul of Saurashtra. Junagadh, nestled at the foot of Mt Girnar, is an amazing amalgam of the old and new. It is a relatively small place, where bustling bazaars and winding narrow streets alternate with monuments that span two millennia and civic spaces that must have been gracious before they suffered crowding and encroachment. After Lunch in a local restaurant, we drive to Gondal and Check in the Royal City</p>	Gondal Palace B, L, D
Day 11 21 Feb 2018 Wednesday	Jetpur Gondal	<p>Gondal, a city ruled by a family of car enthusiasts whose royal passion resulted in a fine collection of automobiles which are now part of a museum in the palace premises. Such was the royal passion that Gondal had the best planned and well-designed road system in pre independent Gujarat. Gondal like its neighbors has some visually exciting palaces and living spaces; some like the Riverside Palace commissioned in 1875 by Bhagwatsinghji is now a Heritage Hotel. The palace grounds form a private forest reserve with frolicking deers and a variety of birds adding to the tranquil beauty of the place. A building worth visiting is the old Darbargadh a seventeenth century structure which reputedly cost Rupees Nine Lakhs thus earning the sobriquet 'Navlakha Palace'. The palace is built on series of arches delicately carved and inscribed in stone with a magnificent spiral staircase leading all the way to the top. The interior of the Darbargadh is open to visitors and for a fee one can experience the opulent living style of the Maharajas. Mandvi Chowk, The central marketplace of Gondal is a typical riot of color, the bustle of street cries and hawkers, vendors</p>	Gondal Palace  B, D

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		and beggars and wafting aromas of food stuffs amidst flowing bales of trade cloths in a variety of exotic prints. To experience Gondal is to take a walk down its winding streets inhaling the soul of the city and its people!	
Day 12 22 Feb 2018 Thursday	Gondal Bhuj	Drive to Bhuj today Afternoon check in and free for the evening Bhuj connects you to a range of civilizations and important events in South Asian history through prehistoric archaeological finds, remnants of the Indus Valley Civilization (Harappans), places associated with the Mahabharata and Alexander the Great's march into India and tombs, palaces and other buildings from the rule of the Naga chiefs, the Jadeja Rajputs, the Gujarat Sultans and the British Raj. Over the 4000-year inhabitation of Kutch it developed trading and migratory relationships with ancient civilizations as far abroad as Zanzibar, the Middle East and Greece, fostering a unique ethnic mix of peoples and traditions in the region.	Regenta Park  B, D
Day 13 23 Feb 2018 Friday	Bhuj	Kutch has had four thousand years of inhabitation to build up a long and complex history, especially of its capital, Bhuj. The word kutch means “island” in classical Sanskrit, referring to the fact that in antiquity, the Ranns (meaning deserts) of Kutch were submerged by the Indus River flowing into the sea, leaving the area isolated by an immense shallow body of water. In 1819 an earthquake changed the topography and the Indus began to flow further westward, leaving the Ranns (now separated into the Great Rann and Little Rann) as a vast desert of saline flats. During heavy rains, the Ranns still flood, leaving islands, known as beyts, such as Khadir.  Some historians and archaeologists posit that the Harappans (also known as the Indus Valley Civilization) crossed the region by land, from the Indus River to the Sabarmati. Others doubt this, saying that the Ranns would have been permanently underwater at that time and crossing the deserts from Sindh would have to have been done further north. Either way, Harappan artefacts have been found in Khadir, making it one of the longest-inhabited regions of India. Bhuj is almost certainly mentioned in writings of two millennia ago; the	Regenta Park  B, L

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		<p>writer Strabo (66 BC-24 AD) writes of Tejarashtra, whose principal city Tej is the modern-day Bhuj in all likelihood.</p> <p>We drive into some of the traditional tribal villages and interact with them</p> <p>Later in the afternoon we have some free time in the Local Market.</p>	
<p>Day 14 24 Feb 2018 Saturday</p>	<p>Bhuj Dasada</p>	<p>The Little Rann of Kutch (LRK) is a difficult place to describe. It's parched and battered yet surreal. It feels cold in texture on the hottest summer evenings and lends an immense amount of calm to the soul. The massive expanse of the Little Rann of Kutch makes any visitor a lonely bard who can stare aimlessly for miles and miles to go...</p> <p>The landscape of LRK can be divided into endless stretches of white sand and the brown thirsty desert. And within the brown desert is carved out the Indian Wild Ass Sanctuary which is India's largest wildlife sanctuary and spans an area of 5000 square kms.</p> <p>Afternoon Game Drive in Jeeps</p>	<p>Rann Riders Camp</p> <p>B, D</p>
<p>Day 15 25 Feb 2018 Sunday</p>	<p>Dasada Patan Ahmadabad</p>	<p>Drive to Patan and explore the Step Well and the Sun Temple</p> <p>Further drive to Ahmedabad and Check in</p>	<p>World Heritage Mani Mansion</p> <p>B, D</p>
<p>Day 16 26 Feb 2018 Monday</p>	<p>Ahmadabad</p>	<p>Ahmedabad District is home to the city of Ahmedabad, which has a character like no other, defined by a spirit of enterprise. Although Ahmedabad is a bustling metropolitan with reputed institutes and a rapidly growing economy, it is also deeply rooted in tradition. The city is known for its association with Mahatma Gandhi and, in addition to a complex maze of neighbourhoods called pols, hosts some of the country's finest medieval Islamic architecture. Sarkhej Roza, just outside the city, is a mesmerizing inheritance of the Gujarat Sultanate and makes for an idyllic retreat. For an excursion into nature, Nal Sarovar, an extensive wetland, attracts thousands of migratory birds during winter. The neighbouring Gandhinagar District is home to Gandhinagar, the state capital, and Adalaj, a classic example of Gujarat's enchanting stepwells.</p> <p>Visit the Gandhi Ashram in the morning</p> <p>Afternoon explore the old town market</p> <p>Home hosted dinner today at the Ahmadabad town</p>	<p>World Heritage Mani Mansion</p> <p>B, D</p>

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Day 17 27 Feb 2018 Tuesday	Ahmadabad	Explore the old town heritage buildings and the mosque. Afternoon free for own activities	World Heritage Mani Mansion  B, L
Day 18 28 Feb 2018 Wednesday	Ahmadabad	Flight Back Home	

### **Inclusions**

1. **Twin Bedded room with Breakfast**
2. **All entrance fees for the monuments**
3. **All the local Guide Fees**
4. **Services of Tour Leader ( Indian English Speaking)**
5. **All Airport transfers**
6. **Air conditioned SUV (Toyota) or mini Bus as per the program**
7. **Jeep safari in the National parks as mentioned in the program**
8. **Internal train tickets in the Air conditioned class**
9. **All breakfast in the hotel and other meals as mentioned in the program**
10. **Bottled drinking water in the Bus, during included meals and in the room.**

### **Not included**

1. **International Airfare**
2. **Visa Fees**
3. **Meals which are not mentioned in the program**
4. **All Gratuities**
5. **Camera Fees in the National park and monuments**
6. **Any other expenses of personal nature**

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