



Modhera Sun Temple

HAND-CRAFTED AROUND YOU

Gujarat: Living Traditions & Wild Landscapes

Stepwells, Kutch artisans, ancient cities and the lions of Gir

16 DAYS / 15 NIGHTS

Recommended travel window

January-February and November-December 2027

Private dates and personalised quotation on request.

A JOURNEY WITH TIME TO ENJOY IT

The experience

Gujarat brings together experiences that are difficult to find on a first journey to India. Step into intricate wells and temple courtyards, meet the weavers and printers of Kutch, and explore the remains of Dholavira, an important city of the Indus civilisation. The landscape changes from the Little Rann's open salt flats to Gir's dry forest, home to Asiatic lions. This sixteen-day route gives crafts, archaeology and wildlife equal attention. Private guiding helps connect the places, while thoughtfully chosen stays provide comfort in the cities and the best suitable accommodation in more remote areas.

What makes this journey special

- Ahmedabad's old city and Adalaj stepwell
- Modhera Sun Temple and Rani ki Vav
- Wildlife in the Little Rann of Kutch
- Village textiles and the White Rann
- The ancient reservoirs and city plan of Dholavira
- Gir safaris, Somnath and Palitana's Jain heritage

Best time to travel. December-February is the strongest all-round window for cooler sightseeing, winter birdlife and the White Rann. November can also work once seasonal access is established.

Designed for. Textile enthusiasts, wildlife lovers, photographers and curious repeat visitors

Pace and activity. Moderate; full travelling days and an optional strenuous temple ascent at Palitana.

Your private start date is chosen within the recommended season. The exact hotel list, room categories and final package are provided in your personal quotation.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

16 days, thoughtfully arranged

DAY	EXPERIENCE	OVERNIGHT
01	Arrive in Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
02	Ahmedabad: heritage and everyday life	Ahmedabad
03	Modhera and Patan	Patan
04	Into the Little Rann of Kutch	Dasada
05	Dasada to Bhuj	Bhuj
06	Bhuj and the makers of Kutch	Bhuj
07	Banni villages and the White Rann	Dhordo / White Rann
08	Dholavira: an ancient city in the salt landscape	Dholavira
09	Dholavira to Gondal	Gondal
10	Gondal and the road to Gir	Sasan Gir
11	Gir: in search of the Asiatic lion	Sasan Gir
12	Somnath and the Arabian Sea	Sasan Gir
13	Gir to the Palitana region	Bhavnagar
14	Palitana: a landscape of pilgrimage	Bhavnagar
15	Return to Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad
16	Depart Ahmedabad	Journey ends

Road distances and travel times in the programme are approximate, excluding major visits. Flight and rail timings are confirmed for your selected dates.



Days 01-02 | Adalaj stepwell, near Ahmedabad

DAY 01

Arrive in Ahmedabad

Meet your representative at Ahmedabad airport and transfer to your hotel. Rest after the journey, with a short local orientation available for an early arrival. Your guide introduces Gujarat's mixture of trading cities, pilgrimage centres, textile traditions and distinctive landscapes. Discuss the craft interests or wildlife priorities that matter most to you so the coming visits can be focused accordingly. Enjoy an included welcome dinner and a comfortable first night in the city.

Travel: Private airport transfer; approximately 30-60 minutes.

Meals: Dinner | **Overnight:** Ahmedabad

DAY 02

Ahmedabad: heritage and everyday life

Explore the old city's pol neighbourhoods, where narrow lanes open onto carved wooden houses and shared courtyards. Visit significant monuments such as the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque, known for its delicate stone screens, and learn how commerce shaped the city. Continue to Sabarmati Ashram for an introduction to Gandhi's life and work. At Adalaj stepwell, descend through a series of carved levels and discover how a practical water structure became a place of remarkable architectural detail.

Travel: Local city touring and walking.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Ahmedabad



Days 03-04 | Sculpture at Rani ki Vav, Patan

DAY 03

Modhera and Patan

Leave Ahmedabad for Modhera Sun Temple, where the stepped tank and carved halls create one of Gujarat's most memorable settings. Continue to Patan to explore Rani ki Vav, whose descending galleries reveal an extraordinary variety of sculpted figures. A meeting with a patola-weaving family, arranged in advance, introduces the demanding double-ikat technique associated with the town. Stay locally to give these visits proper time, rather than combining them with a long onward transfer.

Travel: Approximately 160 km including visits; 4-5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Patan

DAY 04

Into the Little Rann of Kutch

Drive to the edge of the Little Rann and settle into your lodge before an authorised excursion across this unusual landscape. A local naturalist introduces the Indian wild ass and the seasonal birdlife of the salt marsh. The sense of space is a major part of the experience, with habitats and access changing through the year. Return to the lodge to learn more about the communities living around the Rann and enjoy a quiet evening after the outing.

Travel: Approximately 110 km; 2.5-3 hours driving, plus safari.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Dasada



Days 05-06 | Carved facade at Aina Mahal, Bhuj

DAY 05

Dasada to Bhuj

Travel west towards Bhuj, the cultural centre of Kutch. Planned breaks make the journey comfortable, and your guide explains the region's trading links and the diversity of its craft communities. On arrival, enjoy a gentle introduction to the town or rest at your hotel. The following days allow time for both Bhuj's buildings and the village workshops beyond it, so there is no need to rush into a long programme immediately after the drive.

Travel: Approximately 285 km; 5.5-6.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Bhuj

DAY 06

Bhuj and the makers of Kutch

Explore Bhuj's heritage, including the permitted museum areas of Aina Mahal and the setting around Prag Mahal. Later, travel to selected artisan villages for meetings arranged around working schedules. Depending on your interests, watch ajrakh block printing, weaving or embroidery and hear directly from the makers about patterns, materials and changing markets. Visits are designed around conversation and observation rather than a shopping obligation. Return to Bhuj with time to reflect on the skills you have encountered.

Travel: Local touring; approximately 60-100 km between selected villages.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Bhuj



Days 07-08 | The White Rann of Kutch

DAY 07

Banni villages and the White Rann

Continue into the Banni region, visiting one or two communities where local architecture and craft traditions remain closely connected. Reach the White Rann for a sunset visit when seasonal conditions permit access to the salt surface. The broad horizon and changing colours offer a different kind of beauty from the temples and towns seen earlier. Stay in a well-chosen desert resort or established seasonal tented property, with private facilities and the arrangements confirmed before booking.

Travel: Approximately 90-130 km; 2.5-3.5 hours driving, plus village stops.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Dhordo / White Rann

DAY 08

Dholavira: an ancient city in the salt landscape

Travel across the salt-country landscape towards Dholavira, allowing time for photographs at suitable stopping points. Explore the archaeological site with a knowledgeable guide, focusing on its reservoirs, divisions of the city and evidence of sophisticated water management. The visit adds a much earlier chapter to the journey, reaching back to the Indus civilisation. Stay near the site in the best suitable local accommodation, giving you time to appreciate its remote setting without a same-day return to Bhuj.

Travel: Approximately 150 km; 3.5-4.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Dholavira



Days 09-10 | Naulakha Palace, Gondal

DAY 09

Dholavira to Gondal

Leave Kutch for the Saurashtra peninsula. This is a full travelling day, with comfortable breaks and no demanding sightseeing programme on arrival. Reach Gondal, where heritage buildings and collections recall a small princely state with strong connections to the wider world. Settle into your stay and enjoy a gentle introduction to the town if time allows. The route now turns from the salt landscapes and artisan villages towards royal heritage and the forest of Gir.

Travel: Approximately 350-380 km; 7-8 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Gondal

DAY 10

Gondal and the road to Gir

Visit Gondal's Naulakha Palace or an available royal collection before continuing south. The drive leads through Saurashtra's towns and farming country to Sasan Gir. Check into your wildlife lodge and meet the naturalist, who explains the forest's habitats and the role of Gir in conserving the Asiatic lion. The evening is kept relaxed so you are ready for an early start. Safari timings and authorised routes are arranged through the official booking system.

Travel: Approximately 180-210 km; 4-5 hours driving, plus a visit.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Sasan Gir



Days 11-12 | An Asiatic lion in Gir

DAY 11

Gir: in search of the Asiatic lion

Explore Gir with a naturalist and the park's authorised guide, looking for Asiatic lions alongside deer, langurs, birds and other forest life. The two excursions give you time to see different parts of the habitat, with a break at the lodge between drives. Learn how water, vegetation and the animals' movements influence what can be observed on a particular day. This is a wildlife experience in a living forest, where each outing has its own pace and possibilities.

Travel: Two authorised jeep safaris, generally around 3 hours each.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Sasan Gir

DAY 12

Somnath and the Arabian Sea

Visit Somnath on the Arabian Sea coast, learning about the temple's religious importance and the many chapters of history associated with the site. Your guide explains the visitor procedures and arranges time in the areas open to you. Walk along a suitable stretch of the waterfront and enjoy the contrast with Gir's inland forest. Return to your lodge for a restful afternoon, or use the time for birdwatching around the property with a local naturalist.

Travel: Approximately 100-120 km return; 2.5-3 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Sasan Gir



Days 13-14 | Jain temples at Palitana

DAY 13

Gir to the Palitana region

Travel across Saurashtra towards Bhavnagar, the base for tomorrow's introduction to Palitana. Break the journey in comfortable places and arrive with time to settle in. Your guide discusses the options for visiting the Jain pilgrimage landscape: an early ascent for fit walkers, or a gentler programme around the lower town. Choosing the right version in advance makes the experience enjoyable and respectful, while keeping the day suited to the abilities and interests of your travelling party.

Travel: Approximately 250-280 km; 6-7 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Bhavnagar

DAY 14

Palitana: a landscape of pilgrimage

For those choosing the hill visit, leave early for Shatrunjaya and climb the long stairway towards Palitana's remarkable concentration of Jain temples. Allow around five to seven hours for the ascent, visits and descent, with the pace agreed beforehand. Your guide explains the pilgrimage traditions and visitor etiquette. Travellers preferring a gentler day explore accessible Jain heritage in the lower town and return earlier to Bhavnagar. Both versions provide an introduction to the importance of this sacred landscape.

Travel: Approximately 110 km return; 2.5-3 hours driving. Optional 3,500-plus-step ascent.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Bhavnagar



Days 15-16 | Adalaj stepwell, near Ahmedabad

DAY 15

Return to Ahmedabad

Drive back to Ahmedabad for the final night of the journey. The afternoon can be used for a carefully selected textile visit, a return to the old city or simple rest, depending on your interests and arrival time. Over dinner, bring together the different stories of Gujarat: ancient water engineering, village craftsmanship, pilgrimage and wildlife conservation. Staying in the departure city tonight keeps tomorrow's airport arrangements straightforward and avoids combining a long road transfer with an international connection.

Travel: Approximately 175-190 km; 4-5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Ahmedabad

DAY 16

Depart Ahmedabad

Enjoy breakfast before your private airport transfer, timed to the flight you have chosen. Your Midasia representative assists with the final arrangements and confirms any onward plans. If you would like to continue to Rajasthan or another region, the journey can be extended privately from Ahmedabad. The sixteen-day programme ends with a broad introduction to Gujarat's cultural and natural variety, including places that are often missed on more familiar routes through India.

Travel: Private transfer to Ahmedabad airport.

Meals: Breakfast | **Journey concludes today**

PRIVATE TRAVEL WITH MIDASIA ROUTES

The details, taken care of

Your accommodation. 15 nights in individually selected accommodation. Luxury city hotels, heritage stays and suitable resorts or lodges are chosen to match the route. Exact properties and room categories are confirmed in your quotation.

Arrival and transport. Airport meet-and-greet after customs, baggage assistance, private transfers, a suitable air-conditioned touring vehicle and driver, fuel, parking and road tolls. Domestic flights and reserved air-conditioned train journeys described in this programme are included.

Guiding and visits. English-speaking local specialist guides, the scheduled visits, entrance fees and activities described. Your private travelling party is guided at an agreed pace; park excursions and resort activities follow their operating arrangements.

Meals and practical support. All meals shown each day, drinking water and standard tea or coffee. Vegetarian and other dietary preferences are arranged in advance. Standard tourist-visa application support and government fees for eligible travellers, applicable local taxes, and customary local-guide and driver gratuities are included.

Your journey extras. Two Gir jeep safaris and one Little Rann excursion are included, subject to official permits and allocation. Standard access permissions for the Kutch route are arranged for eligible travellers.

Personal coordination. Pre-travel planning, a detailed arrival briefing and Midasia Routes support throughout your journey. Prices are quoted privately for your dates, room requirements and travelling party.

Not included

International flights; travel and medical insurance; personal shopping and laundry; premium or alcoholic drinks; and optional activities, treatments or extra nights outside the agreed programme.

Let us plan your India journey

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A FEW USEFUL DETAILS

Planning your journey

White Rann access and any festival events follow the published season. Dholavira and rural Kutch use the best suitable local accommodation, which differs from city luxury hotels. Palitana's hill ascent is optional and requires substantial stamina.

Visa issue is subject to government approval and traveller eligibility. The programme is personalised when your dates are agreed; no hotel, flight or departure is held by this brochure. Travel windows describe typical seasonal conditions, rather than a weather forecast.

Gujarat Tourism - the Little Rann | Planning checked 9 September 2026.

Photography

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