

## CHAPTER -2

### 2.1 TOURISM IN GUJARAT: A MACRO VIEW

#### 2.1.1 GENESIS

According to the first Declaration of the United Nations Manila Conference on World Tourism, 1981, “Tourism is considered an activity essential to the life of nations because of its direct effect on social, cultural, education and economic sectors of national societies and their international relations.”

In this chapter an attempt is made to evaluate the genesis of Gujarat. The main purpose is to bring out in one place the immense potential of present day Gujarat as a great tourist destination. The study took help of past records to assess the history of present day Gujarat. The study in its stride will briefly review the past history of Gujarat, its historical and cultural heritage of the state, major and minor tourist centers of importance, tourist facilities available and about tourism promoting agencies and their role in the process of tourism development in Gujarat.

**Figure: 2.1**  
**Administrative Map of Gujarat (Districts with their Capitals)**



Source: [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Administrative\\_map\\_of\\_Gujarat.png](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Administrative_map_of_Gujarat.png)

## **2.1.2 HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE OF GUJARAT**

### **HISTORY**

The name Gujarat is derived from Gurjaratra, that is, the land protected or ruled by the Gurjars/Gujjars. The origins of the Gujjars are uncertain. The common belief is that the Gurjars/Gujjars or Gujjar clan appeared in northern India. Over the period the name of the tribe was Sanskritized to “Gurjarat”. The Gurjars or Gujjars believe that they have descended from Suryavanshi Kshatriyas, belonging to “Sun Dynasty”, and historically they were Sun-worshippers<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Ancient History**

Historically, Gujarat has been one of the important centers of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) (also known as Harappan Civilization). It embodies major ancient metropolitan cities from the Indus Valley such as Lothal, Dholavira and Gola Dhoro<sup>2</sup>. It has now scientifically established that the ancient city of Lothal was the place where India’s first port was constructed. Dholavira, another ancient city, is one of the largest and most prominent archeological sites in India, belonging to the Indus Valley Civilization. The most recent archeological site discovered was Gola Dhoro, which lies near Bagasra in modern Amreli District. Altogether, about 50 Indus Valley settlements have been excavated in the State.

The ancient history of Gujarat was enhanced by commercial activities. There is ample historical evidence of trade and commercial ties with Sumer in the Gulf of Persia during 1000 to 750 B.C. There was succession of Hindu – Buddhist states such as the Gupta Empire, Rashtrakuta Empire, Pal Empire and Gurjara – Pratihara Empire<sup>3</sup>.

There were also local dynasties like Maitrakas and then the Solankis. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, Gujarat saw the arrival of Muslims in the political theater of the State. Mahmud of Ghazni (971 – 1030 CE), the first Muslim conqueror, whose conquest and plunder of Somnath resulted in ending the rule of the Solankis.

#### **Period between 1297 – 1614 CE**

Allaudin Khilji, Sultan of Delhi (1296 – 1316 CE), captured Gujarat by defeating Karandev Vaghela – II and incorporated the State under Delhi Sultanate. At the end of

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<sup>1</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

the 14<sup>th</sup> century (1398 CE), Timur's sacking of Delhi weakened Delhi Sultanate, and this led to Gujarat's Muslim Rajput governor Zafar Khan (who was conferred the title of Muzaffar Shah by Delhi's Sultan, Nasir-ud-din Muhammad bin Tughluq) to declare independence<sup>4</sup>. His grandson, Sultan Ahmed Shah I, made Ahmedabad his capital and ruled effectively for 31 years (1411 to 1442 CE). Bharuch, which was Gujarat's most important trade port before Ahmed Shah's period, lost its importance and Cambay (present day Khambhat) became the most important port at the time of Ahmed Shah. The Sultanate of Gujarat was in power till 1576. In 1576, Mughal Emperor Akbar conquered Gujarat and made it a part of his empire. During Mughal rule, Surat replaced Cambay and became the main port not only of Gujarat but also a trade hub of India. Gujarat remained as a province of Mughal empire until it came under Maratha rule in the later part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Marathas conquered eastern and central Gujarat whereas the western Gujarat, Kathiawar and Kutch were segregated and were under numerous local rulers.

#### **Period between 1614 to 1947 CE**

The first European power to arrive in Gujarat was the Portugal. They procured several enclaves along the sea coast, including Daman and Diu and also Dadra and Nagar Haveli. In 1613, Sir Thomas Roe's visit and meeting Mughal Emperor Jehangir yielded permission for British East India Company to set up factory in Surat and gradually trading centers were extended to Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. In 1614, the British East India Company established a factory at Surat, which formed their first base in India<sup>5</sup>. In 1668, the British East India Company acquired Bombay from the Portugal and shifted their base to Bombay from Surat. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, Chhatrapati Shivaji attacked Surat and looted the city three times (between 1664 and 1679). This marked the Maratha entry to Gujarat. By late 18<sup>th</sup> century, as mentioned earlier, Gujarat came under Maratha Empire. Pilaji Gaekwad was the first ruler to establish Maratha rule over Baroda and subsequently a large section of Gujarat. After the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761, Maratha imperialism was checked and the individual Maratha generals proclaimed themselves as autonomous ruler while recognizing nominal authority of Peshwas. After the second Anglo-Maratha war in 1803 – 05, the British East India Company took control of much of Gujarat from the

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<sup>4</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat\\_Sultanate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat_Sultanate)

<sup>5</sup> <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gujarat>

Maratha. The Gaekwads of Baroda (Vadodara) made a separate peace treaty with British and acknowledged British sovereignty in return for local self rule. Except Baroda State, Gujarat was placed under the political authority of the Bombay Presidency. From 1818 to 1947, most of the present day Gujarat were divided into numerous princely states minus several districts in central and southern Gujarat viz., Ahmedabad, Broach (Bharuch), Kaira (Kheda), Panchmahal and Surat were directly under the British rule.

#### **Indian Independence Movement:**

Leaders like Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Vallabhbhai Patel, Morarji Desai, Kanhaiyalal M. Muni, Narhari Parikh, Mahadev Desai, Mohanlal Pandya, Bhulabhai Desai, Ravi Shankar Vyas, to name a few of them, all hailed from Gujarat and took an active part in India's independence movement. Gujarat was the location of some of the most far-famed revolts, including the Satyagrahas in Kheda, Bardoli, Borsad and the Dandi Salt-Satyagraha which took place during Indian Independence movement.

#### **GEOGRAPHY**

At the time of independence and the partition of India in 1947, the new Government of India grouped the former princely states of Gujarat into three large units;

- (i) Saurashtra, which included the former princely states in the Kathiawad peninsula;
- (ii) Kutch; and
- (iii) Bombay State, which included the former British districts of Bombay presidency together with most of Baroda State and the other former princely states of eastern Gujarat. The old Bombay State was enlarged to include Kutch/Kachchh, Saurashtra and parts of Hyderabad State and Madhya Pradesh.

Modern day Gujarat came into existence on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1960 as a result of the Bombay Reorganization Act, 1960<sup>6</sup>. The new Bombay State had mostly Gujarati speaking in the north and Marathi speaking in the south of the State. Agitation by both Gujarati and Marathi speaking population for their own states led to the split of Bombay State on linguistic lines. Thus, Bombay State was bifurcated into two – Gujarat and

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<sup>6</sup> [www.gujarat4u.com/about/historyofgujarat1.htm](http://www.gujarat4u.com/about/historyofgujarat1.htm)

Maharashtra. The first capital of Gujarat was Ahmedabad and then shifted to Gandhinagar in 1970<sup>7</sup>.

The State of Gujarat lies between Latitude 20° 02' N - 24° 39' N and Longitude 68° 10' E - 74° 37' E. The State broadly comprises three geographical regions- (i) The Peninsula, traditionally known as Saurashtra. It is essentially a hilly tract sprinkled with low mountains; (ii) Kutch on the north-east is barren and rocky and contains the famous Rann of Kutch (Kachchh) – including both the big Rann and the little Rann of Kutch; and (iii) The main land extending from the Rann of Kutch and the Aravalli Hills to the river Daman-ganga, is on the whole a level plain of alluvial soil. Gujarat State has an area of about 1,96,030 sq. kms. with a coastline of approximately 1600 kms. The State is bounded on the north by Rajasthan, on the north – west by Pakistan, on the south and south – east by Maharashtra and on the east by Madhya Pradesh.

### **Forest and Wildlife**

Table 2.1 gives an inside view of Forest area and its sub-parts, i.e. National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries for India as well as of Gujarat. From the table, one can say that in 2011-12, India had a forest cover of 21.05 percent of its total geographical area, a well short of the 33 percent as recommended by the National Agriculture Commission of India. There are 103 National Parks covering an area of 40,333 sq. kms., or 1.23 percent of India's total geographical area. In the case of Wildlife Sanctuaries, the land cover is 1,17,231 sq. kms. Or 3.57 percent of the total geographical area of India and consists of 515 Wildlife Sanctuaries scattered all over India. If Gujarat is taken as an individual entity, the table shows that the State has 7.46 percent of its total land mass under forest cover. District-wise, Dangs has the largest forest cover. The state has four National Parks and twenty three sanctuaries. The total area covered by the four National Parks is 480 sq. kms., i.e., 0.24 percent of the total geographical area of the State. Similarly, in the case of Wildlife Sanctuaries, the corresponding figures are 16,618 sq. kms. and 8.48 percent of the geographical area of the State. Outside Africa, Gir Forest National Park in the south – west part of the state, is the only place where one can see the natural habitat of lions. Besides lions, leopard is the other big cat found in the State. Leopards are spread across large parts of Saurashtra and in mountains of south Gujarat. Other important National Parks include Vansda (or

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<sup>7</sup> [www.gloriousindia.com/unleashed/place.php?id=96](http://www.gloriousindia.com/unleashed/place.php?id=96)

Bansda) National Park (Navsari District); Black Buck National Park, Velavadar (Bhavnagar District); and Marine National Park (Jamnagar District). Gulf of Kutch Wildlife Sanctuaries include: Wild Ass Wildlife Sanctuary (Kutch District); Nalsarovar Bird Sanctuary (Ahmedabad District); Porbandar Bird Sanctuary (Porbandar); Kutch Desert Wildlife Sanctuary; Kutch Bustard Sanctuary; Narayan Sarovar (Kutch); and Jessore Sloth Bear Sanctuary (Banaskantha District) are some of the important Wildlife and Bird Sanctuaries. In short, Gujarat is a delightful destination for wildlife enthusiasts.

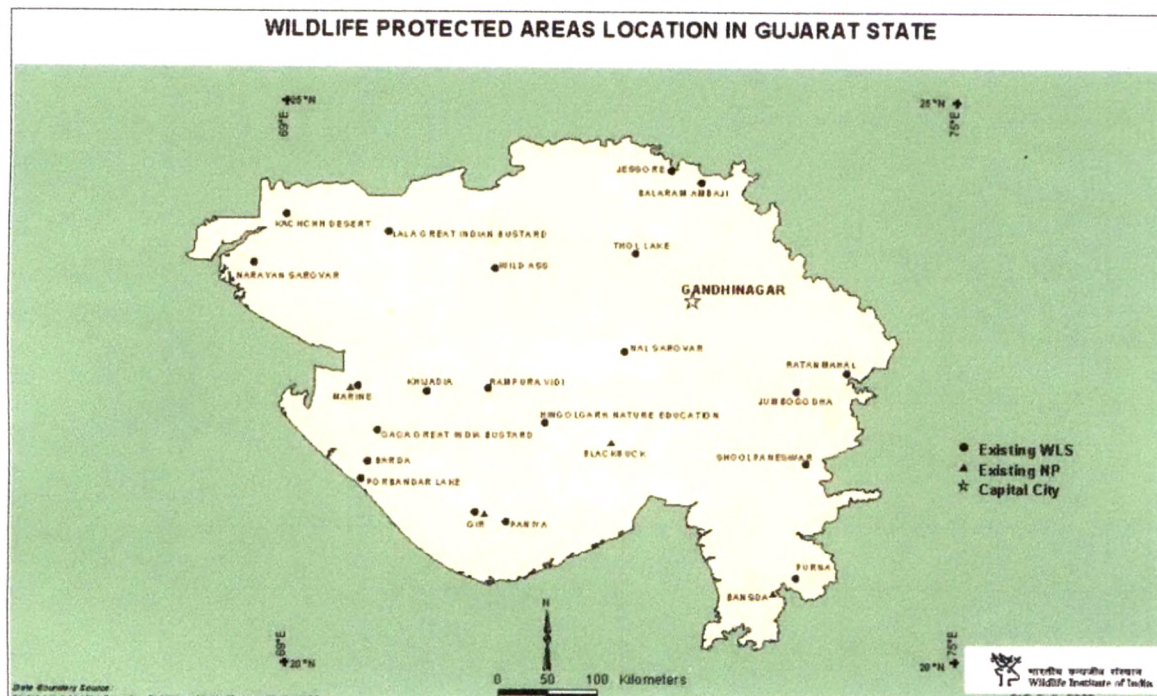
**Table: 2.1**

**Some Important Facts Regarding Forests and Wildlife Sanctuaries/National Parks of India and Gujarat: 2011-12**

	Unit	INDIA		GUJARAT	
		Area	% of Total Geographical Area	Area	% of Total Geographical Area
<b>Total Geographic Area</b>	Sq. kms	3,287,240	-	1,96,022	-
<b>Total Forest Area</b>	Sq. kms	6,92,027	<b>21.05</b>	14,619	<b>7.46</b>
<b>National Parks</b>	Numbers	103	-	4	-
	Sq. kms	40,333	<b>1.23</b>	480	<b>0.24</b>
<b>Wildlife Sanctuaries</b>	Numbers	515	-	23	-
	Sq. kms	1,17,231	<b>3.57</b>	16,618	<b>8.48</b>

Source: Ministry of Environment and Forest

**Figure: 2.2**  
**Wildlife Sanctuaries and National Parks of Gujarat**



Source: <http://wiienviis.nic.in/>

### Major Rivers

Narmada is the biggest river of the State. It is one of holy rivers of India with a length of around 1312 kms. It is one of the three major rivers in peninsular India that runs from east to west- the other two are Tapi (or Tapti) and Mahi. Other rivers flowing through the State are Sabarmati, and smaller rivers like Banas and Daman-ganga.

### Beaches

Gujarat boasts of several beaches as it has got the largest coast-line of all the states of India- about one-third of the total coast-line of India. Porbandar, Chorwad, Beyt (Bet) Dwarka, Somnath, Mandvi (Dist. Kachchh), Ahmedpur-Mandvi, Tithal, Ubhrat, and Umergaon are some of the well known beaches spread across the State.

### ECONOMY

Gujarat is blessed with some of the largest business units in India. The State is the main producer of tobacco, cotton, groundnuts, dates, and sugar cane. Other major food crops produced are rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, tur and grain. Animal husbandry and dairying have played a vital role in the development of rural economy.

The State is the largest producer of milk in India. It will be interesting to highlight at this juncture, Gujarat's contribution to India's economy. Being one of the most prosperous states of India due to its agricultural productivity and industrial output, the State contributes 21% of the country's export and 6.42% of the National GDP at constant prices<sup>8</sup>. The state registered a per capita GDP that is 2.5 times the country's average per capita GDP and also takes leading position in diverse industrial sectors viz., textiles, engineering, chemicals, petrochemicals drugs and pharmaceuticals, cement and ceramics, gems and jewelry and above all dairy and its products.

Gujarat is the only state in India to have State-wide gas grid. 88% of the State's roads are asphalt surfaced. 98.86% of villages are interconnected with all-weather roads, the highest in India. 100% of Gujarat's villages have electricity connection for 24 hours power through Jyotigram Yojana.

The State has the largest Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) network of more than 50,000 km. The State owned Wide Area Network (WAN), connecting 26 districts and 225 talukas through 12000 nodes, is the largest IP based ICT network in Asia Pacific Region and second largest in the world.

### **RELIGION AND CULTURE**

For a place or a region in India in general and Gujarat in particular, religion or spiritual values play a prominent role in tourism of that place. In today's competitive world, many of the tourists come from disturbed industrial (work-place) societies and they want to visit simpler, more rural, serene places with the availability of modern tourist infrastructure.

Gujarat, since pre historic age, is a place where its people were God-fearing and peace-loving. That is why, following the fall of Sassanid Empire of Persia in 651 CE, many Zoroastrians left Persia and came to Gujarat for a safe and peaceful place to save themselves from Arab onslaught. In Gujarat, there have been several great religious figures born and propounded the religious thought that "God is the same, only the path (religion) is different to reach him". In Gujarat, Sant Dadu Dayal (1554 – 1603), a saint poet and a major Bhakti figure of Ahmedabad, treated both Ram and Allah as names of same God and became very popular in Northern India. He wrote, "the illusion of Ram and Allah has been dispelled by my mind, since I see thee in all".

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<sup>8</sup> FICCI Report, Gujarat Tourism-2010



A Marathi poet named Bapusaheb Gaekwad (1779 – 1843) composed several Gujarati religious poems where he wrote, “Ram and Rehman were one, O brothers! That Krishna and Karim were one and the same, that between Vishnu and Allah there was no difference; that Allah and Alakh were one”. In short, Bhakti movement was very popular and still very popular in Gujarat, where devotees of both Hinduism and Islam worshipped and tried to rid any separation based on faith in God.

At this juncture it seems appropriate to make an attempt to project the arrival or birth of different religions or its sects in Gujarat, and about the Religious sites, Historic sites, Fairs and Festivals, Major cities, Education facilities, Literature. Museums and Medical facilities as these factors play an important role in state’s tourism.

## **MAJOR RELIGION AND ITS SUB SECTS**

### **HINDUISM**

India is home to Hinduism since time immemorial. Hinduism does not have a coherent doctrine compulsory for all its followers or a church or central organization. Thus, it is not easy to define Hinduism as in the case of other major world religion<sup>9</sup>. The roots of Hinduism go back to Brahmanism, the ancient Indian religion. Genetically, this connection is manifested for example in the fact that the most revered Hindu Gods are the Brahmanic triad: Brahma- the creator; Vishnu – the preserver; and Siva – the creator, preserver, and destroyer at the same time<sup>10</sup>. Thus, Hinduism is manifested in many specific ways and is in many ways connected with different aspects of India’s life and activities.

In short, Hinduism is not only a religion but it is “a way of life” for most of the Indians. The region Gujarat is no exception. It is home to many Hindu saints of all castes. Sant Dhudhalinath and Sant Girnari Velnathji were Adivasis; Sant Akho and Sant Madhavagar were Sudras; Sant Bhojo Nachabhha and Lala Bhagat were Vaish; Sant Kilha and Jalaram Bapa were Kshatriya; Lakulisa and Chakradhara were Brahmins; to name few of them. Many Hindu religious sects also developed in Gujarat from time to time. Some important sects developed are:

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<sup>9</sup> Swami Vivekananda (1883); at the Parliament of the World’s Religions, Chicago, USA

<sup>10</sup> Frolov, I.(1984); Dictionary of Philosophy (Translated from the Russian); Progress Publishers, Moscow

### **Pasupata Shaivism**

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> century CE, Lord Shiva's Avatar (a popular belief) Lakulisa established the Pasupata Shaivite tradition – one of the six major school of Shaivism. There are strong controversies regarding the birth place of Lakulisa. According to one school of thought, Lakulisa was born in Kayarohana or Kayavatara in Saurashtra while some other thinks that he was born in a village called Karavana of modern day town of Dabhoi Taluka near Vadodara. Another school thinks that it was Ulkapuri i.e., modern Avakhal. Still another school thinks that he was born in Broach or Bharuch. From Gujarat, Pasupata Shaivism spread north-wards to Kashmir, south to Tamil Nadu and north –east to Nepal's famous Pashupatinath Temple which is still an important religious place for the Hindu's of the world.

### **Swaminarayan Sampraday**

It is a modern sect of Hinduism founded by Sahajanand Swami (April 2, 1781 to June 1, 1830). A form of Vaishnavism, Sahajanand Swami had followers not only from Hindu but also from Islam and Zoroastrians. He built six temples in his life-time and appointed 500 Paramhansas to spread his philosophy. In 1826, he wrote "Shikshapatri" a book on social principles which became very popular. He died on June 1, 1830 in Gadhada in Gujarat and was cremated according to Hindu rites. Swaminarayan sect is quite popular amongst Gujarati population the world over. Other than religious functions, the main activities of the Sampradaya are social work like character building, education and health-care amongst the masses. The Sampradaya have built beautiful temples not only in India but also outside India.

### **Bhakti Movement**

Swami Chakradhara was a major figure in popularizing the Bhakti Movement in Gujarat. Born in Gujarat in 1194 and was believed to be an incarnation of Vishnu. Swami Chakradhara was the main architect behind the creation of Manhubhava Vaishnavite sect and it became quite popular in his lifetime. The sect still exists with quite large followers in Gujarat and Maharashtra.

Sant Kilha, a Vaishnavite saint of Gujarat, was a disciple of Krishnadas of Jaipur and became his successor at the seat of Galta in Jaipur. Kilha's fold came to be known as Tapasa. Besides Ram Bhakti, he was also attracted towards yog-sadhana and thus made Acharya of the Galta-Gaddi. He is known to be the founder of Khati sect.

Jalaram or Jalaram Babu, a devotee of Lord Ram is a popular 'Sant' of Gujarat. His birthday is on "Aso Sud Satam" which falls in the month of October – November. Other saints of Gujarat include Narsinh Mehta, Prafulbhai Shukla, Gairibi to name a few of them.

## **JAINISM**

Gujarat is a stronghold of the Jain community. The ethics of Jainism is based on the doctrine of refraining from doing injury to any living being. It was a heterodox system of Indian philosophy and religion. A system of ontological pluralism<sup>11</sup>, it emerged in India in 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C. Mahavira or the great hero, who lived in the 6<sup>th</sup> Century B.C., was the 24<sup>th</sup> Tirthankar in Jain religion, and is considered the founder of Jainism.

The term "Jain" comes from the Sanskrit word "Jina" which means "he who conquers". The Jain philosophy is based upon the philosophy of "Universal Truth" governed by natural laws and declares that each human being has the capacity to achieve to ultimate state of liberation solely by his own deeds.

The two main sects in Jainism are Shwetambar and Digambar. A large section of Jains in Gujarat belongs to Shwetambar sect. Although Jains accounts for just 1.04 percent of the State population (2001 census), it has always exercised a strong influence in the local culture and continues even today. Ahimsa, a central principle in every day Jain's life, was adopted by many Hindus. Unlike Buddhism, Jainism did not spread beyond the subcontinent, but a dominant religion throughout the history of Gujarat. Being mostly a mercantile class, the Jains became a power to reckon within states economic and political arena, that sets Gujarat apart from most Indian states. Mahatma Gandhi also internalized many values of Jainism and implemented them in his life and actions<sup>12</sup>.

There are a large number of beautiful Jain temples, big and small, old and new, scattered all over Gujarat. The Jains have their own pilgrim centers with exquisite architecture and sculpture. The numerous temples at Palitana in modern Bhavnagar district and the Hutheesing Temple in Ahmedabad are fine examples of Jain architecture.

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<sup>11</sup> Matilal, B.K.(1981); The Central Philosophy of the Jains; L.D. Institute of Indology, Ahmedabad

<sup>12</sup> Gandhi, M.K.( 1927); An Autobiography or The Story of My Experiment with Truth; Navajivan Publishing House, Ahmedabad

It is felt that an attempt to bring out a brief history of Palitana, one of the most revered places of worship not only for Jains but for many Hindus will be a befitting exercise at this point.

About 56 kms. from Bhavnagar city, Palitana lies at the foot of Shatrunjaya River flowing to its southern side. The sacred hill rises along with magnificent temples numbering 8631 in all. The temples were built over a span of 900 years with each generation of pilgrims making its contribution to the shrines<sup>13</sup>. The oldest temples date back to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, because the Muslim invaders destroyed most of the early temples in the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> century. Most of the present day temples date from 16<sup>th</sup> century and later<sup>14</sup>.

#### **BUDDHISM:**

It is a world religion which preaches relief from sufferings through the abnegation of desire and the achievement of the state of "supreme enlightenment" known as nirvana. It was founded in India in 525 B.C. and spread far and wide through the subcontinent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B. C. under the efforts of Emperor Ashoka, who commissioned the erection of rock edicts documenting the teaching of Buddha across his empire. Some of the Ashokan edicts still exist at Junagadh. Buddhism in Gujarat was mainly concentrated in Saurashtra and Kachchh, where caves and remains of ancient Buddhist monasteries can still be found. In the subsequent centuries, the faith's popularity declined in western India because of the Hindu revival and the growing influence of Jainism. Today it is widespread in Sri Lanka, Japan, China, Nepal, Burma, Tiber (in the form of Lamaism) and in other countries.

#### **ZOROASTRIANISM**

Parsis/Parsees are the followers of Zarathustra. Zarathustra is said to have been born between 1700 and 1500 B. C. in eastern Persia. Followers of Zarathustra blossomed in Persia until the advent of Islam. Following the fall of the Sassanid Empire in 651 CE, many Zoroastrians migrated to different parts of the world to avoid persecution that raged around them. As the saying goes, a small band of refugees came to the port of Hormuzd, on the Persian Gulf from where they set sail for some unknown destination. It is said that a violent storm overtook them at sea. They prayed fervently and vowed

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<sup>13</sup> Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), July 2003: Tourism in Gujarat-The Way Ahead

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

if they reach land safely, they would built a fire temple at that place<sup>15</sup>. Their prayers were heard. The mighty storm died down slowly and gentle cool breeze guided them to shore. The place was “Diu”, an island on the west coast of modern Gujarat near Somnath. According to Parsi historians, they spent 19 years on the island of Diu, and then set sail and landed in Sanjan, near modern Navsari either in the year 936 or 716 AD (till today the landing year controversy persists). The rest is now a well known history. The descendants of those refugees are today known as the Parsis to denote the region “PARS/FARS” or Persia from where they had come. According to Parsi lore, after the landing at Sanjan, the Hindu ruler of Sanjan- Jadhav Rana, alarmed at the sight of these strangers, forbade any of them to land except four of their wisest. Four priests stepped on to Indian shores and answered in Sanskrit the questions Jadhav Rana put to them – about their home, their religion, and their customs:

“What is it you want from us, strangers from a far land?” the question was asked. “Freedom of worship, a small piece of land that we could cultivate so that we may not be a burden to the people among whom we live”, replied the old priest. After hearing them Rana granted them their wishes but in return asked, “what will you do in return for the country of you adoption?” The old priest asked for a brass bowl to be filled with milk and then stirred a spoonful of sugar in the bowl and holding it up he asked the assembly whether any of them could see sugar in the bowl of milk. All shook their heads. The priest then proclaimed, “Sire, we shall try to be like this insignificant amount of sugar in the milk of your human kindness”. The Rana was pleased with the answer and the Parsis were allowed to settle in India in general and Gujarat in particular<sup>16</sup>.

Parsis are generally more affluent than other Indians and are viewed as the more westernized and Anglicized of the various minority groups. Parsis played prominent role in India’s socio-economic development with several of the best known conglomerates of India are run by Parsis viz., Tata, Godrej and Wadia families to name few of them. For a minuscule community (Table 2.3), it is quite remarkable what the Parsis have achieved. Mahatma Gandhi had once said, “In numbers, Parsis are beneath contempt; but in contribution, beyond compare<sup>17</sup>”.

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<sup>15</sup> Discover India Magazine, March 2002; A Media Transasia Publication, New Delhi

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Taraporevala, Sooni (2004); Parsis- The Zoroastrians of India; Good Books, Mumbai

## **CHRISTIANITY**

It originated in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, in the eastern provinces of the Roman Empire as an expression of hopes and aspiration of the oppressed people who lost all hope to change their lot by themselves. The Christian doctrine was formed around the ideas of the redeeming sacrifice of the “Sun of God” Jesus Christ, who has been crucified by Pontius Pilate, the Governor of Judea, but later he rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. The followers of Christ believe in Christ’s second coming on earth in order to judge the living and the dead, bestow eternal bliss upon the righteous ones, and infernal suffering upon the sinner<sup>18</sup>. Saint Thomas, one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, came to Kerala in 52 CE and sowed the seed of Christianity in Kerala.

It spread to Gujarat and Maharashtra with the arrival of the Portuguese. Though Christians accounts for just 0.56 percent of the total population of the State (2001, Census) it played and is still playing an important role in Gujarat’s socio-economy development process.

## **ISLAM**

Islam arose in the 7<sup>th</sup> century in western Arabia in the period of the Arab people’s transition from the primitive – communal system to a class society and their unification in the feudal-theocratic state of the Arab Caliphate<sup>19</sup>. Gujarat with a shoreline on the Arabian Sea, was supposed to be one of the first region in India where Muslims migrated somewhere in the 7<sup>th</sup> Century itself. King Arjun of Gujarat permitted Muslim traders to build mosque within his realm<sup>20</sup>. Over the period, Sufi saints became very popular in Gujarat. Shaykh/Sheikh Makhu was a Sufi Saint of the Shattari lineage. Gujarat with a long seacoast had direct interaction with the people of Arabia and Persia long before the birth of Islam. Thus, Gujarat was a trading hub between Arab countries and India. Along with trade, as time passed, the Islam religion also spread in Gujarat and became one of the many religions practiced in Gujarat and in turn India as a whole<sup>21</sup>.

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<sup>18</sup> Frolov, I. (1984); Dictionary of Philosophy (Translated from the Russian); Progress Publishers, Moscow

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Majumdar, Ramesh Chandra (1948); An Advanced History of India, Vol. 1; Macmillan

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

Many Gujarati saints and Sufis became famous in India. Among them, names of Sheikh Ganjul Lim/Alim (d.1391 CE), Syed Burhanuddin (d. 1411 CE) and Sheikh Wajihuddin Gujarati (c. 1590 CE) to name few of them, are well known.

The “Khojas”, muslims of the Shia Nizari Ismaili Satpanth tradition are historically rooted in Gujarat since the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, though the first Ismaili muslim community in Gujarat dates back to the missionaries of the Fatimid Empire in 1067<sup>(4)</sup>. Today, Muslims represents little more than 9 percent (2001, Census) of State’s current population (Table 2.3). In the socio-political cultural and economic activities Muslims played and are still playing a very big role in the states’ all around progress.

### **SIKHISM**

The founder of Sikhism was Guru Nanak who was born in 1469 and preached a message of love and understanding. The religion spread under the Ten Gurus who lived between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The last guru, Gobind Singh, institutionalized Sikhism and made it a powerful political force in India. Before Guru Gobind Singh’s death, he designated Guru Granth Sahib, the sacred text containing the words of the ten gurus as the eleventh and the eternal guru. The Sikh population in Gujarat is very small (0.09 percent of the State’s population, 2001 Census) and consists of mostly recent migration to the State. Four historical Gurudwaras can be found in Gujarat. One of the most important Gurudwara is situated at Lakhpat, in Kachchh District. The Gurudwara Lakhpat Sahib or Gurudwara Pehli Patshahi commemorates the visit by revered Guru Nanak Sahib during his second and fourth missionary journeys (Udasis) in 1506-1513 AD and 1519-1521 AD respectively. The Gurudwara Chadar Sahib is situated at Bharuch, where according to Sikh mythology, Guru Nanak Sahib and companion Bhai Mardana crossed the Narmada River on a ‘Chadar’ (a piece of cloth) when denied boat by the erstwhile king. The third mentioned one is Gurudwara Charan Paduka (or Guru Nanak Shahi) at Junagadh in memory of the visit of Guru Nanak. Unfortunately, this Gurudwara was closed down and later the building was sold. The fourth historical Gurudwara is at Vadodara and is known as Gurudwara Nanakwadi Sahib. This place is revered as it was visited by Guru Nanak Sahib and his companion Baba Mardana stopped and spent some time here during 1515-17<sup>22</sup>.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.worldgurudwaras.com/historical-gurudwaras/india/gujarat>

The details regarding the various religions in India and Gujarat are narrated in Table 2.2

**Table: 2.2**  
**Religion-wise Population of India and Gujarat**

(in '000)

<b>Population</b>	<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>India</b>	<b>% Share of State</b>
<b>Hindus</b>	<b>45143</b>	<b>827579</b>	<b>5.45</b>
% of Total Population	89.09	80.46	--
<b>Muslims</b>	<b>4593</b>	<b>138188</b>	<b>3.32</b>
% of Total Population	9.06	13.43	--
<b>Christians</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>24080</b>	<b>1.18</b>
% of Total Population	0.56	2.34	--
<b>Sikhs</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>19216</b>	<b>0.24</b>
% of Total Population	0.09	1.87	--
<b>Buddhists</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7955</b>	<b>0.23</b>
% of Total Population	0.04	0.77	--
<b>Jains</b>	<b>525</b>	<b>4225</b>	<b>12.43</b>
% of Total Population	1.04	0.41	--
<b>Others</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>6640</b>	<b>0.44</b>
% of Total Population	0.06	0.65	--
<b>Religion not stated</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>4.68</b>
% of Total Population	0.07	0.07	--

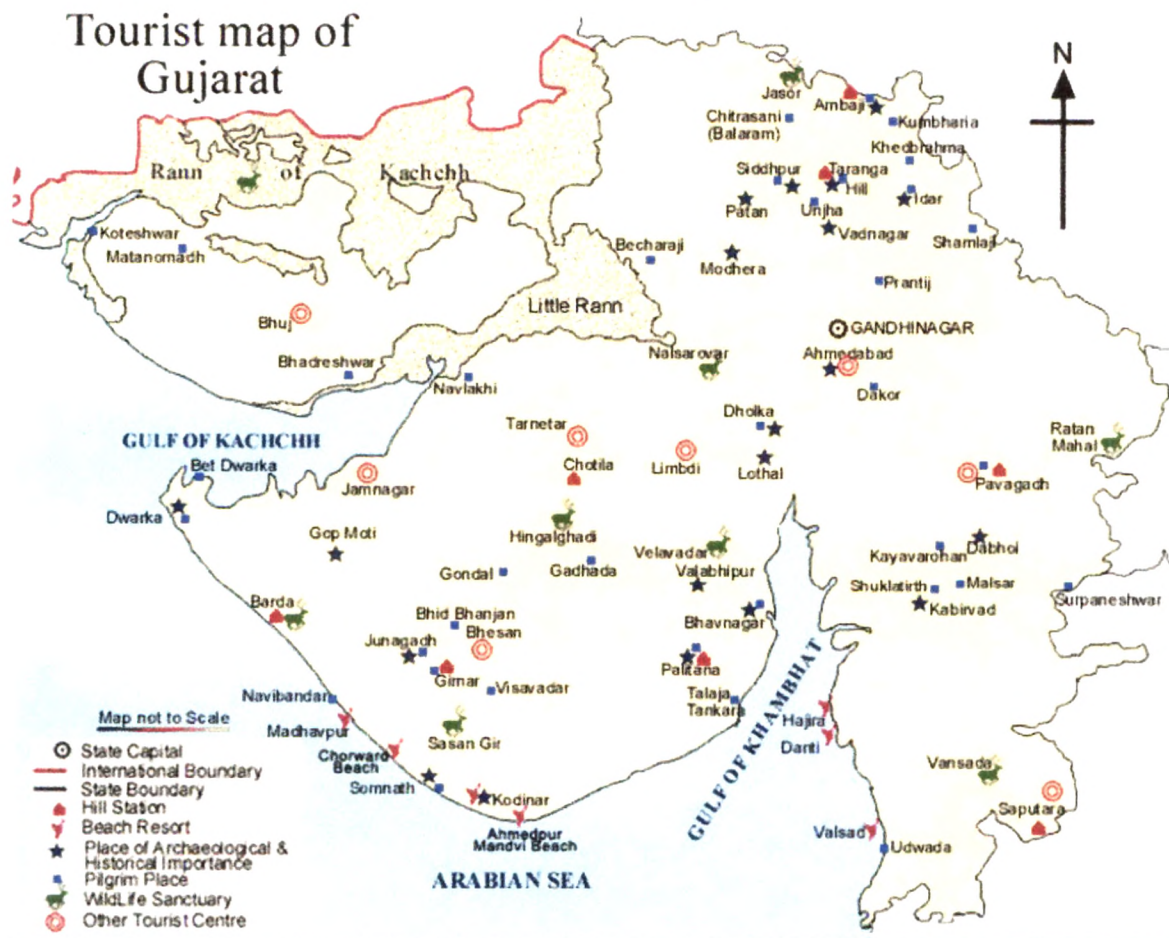
**Note:** Census data for Religion-2011, not available  
**Source:** Census of India, 2001



### 2.1.3 MAJOR AND MINOR TOURIST CENTRES OF IMPORTANCE

Figure: 2.3

Tourist Map of Gujarat



Source: <http://www.touristplacesinindia.com/gujarat/gujarat-maps.html>

### RELIGIOUS SITES

#### **Somnath Temple**

Situated 79 kms. from Junagadh and 25 kms. from Chorwad on the Western coast of Gujarat is the legendary temple of Somnath. It is one of the twelve most sacred Shiva Shrines in India. Somnath means “The Protector of Moon God”. The Somnath Temple is known as the “Shrine Eternal” as the temple has been destroyed by Mahmud of Ghazni six times since 1024 CE but was rebuilt on every occasion. In 1706 CE it was again demolished by Aurangzeb. It was rebuilt the seventh time in 1950 CE with the support of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

### **Dwarkadheesh Temple, Dwarka**

The temple is one of the most holy Hindu pilgrimage sites in India. It is dedicated to Lord Krishna. Situated on the tip of the Arabian Sea, the temple city Dwarka in Jamnagar district is related to the Krishna legend. It was here that Lord Krishna set up his capital after leaving Mathura. Archeological evidence suggests that Dwarka was built about 3500 years ago. In ancient texts, Dwarka is described as a planned city with a fort wall with 64 gates. The city was surrounded completely by water, relying on bridges to connect it to the mainland. It was a thriving port and a prosperous city in its era.

### **Ambaji**

Ambaji is one of the important sacred places of pilgrimage in Gujarat. It is situated on the "Arasur" hill near Mount Abu. The famous temple of goddess Ambaji is also known as Amba Bhavani or Arasuri Amba. The important fact is that this temple does not have an idol indicative of its antiquity<sup>23</sup>. Ambaji temple is recognized as one of the "Shakti Pithas" where, according to the ancient scriptures, the heart of the Goddess Ambaji fell at this spot when her body was dismembered. The actual origin of the temple is still unknown.

As there is no idol in the temple, the deity is represented by a triangular Vishwa Yantra, inscribed with figures and the syllable "SHREE" in the centre. Every year, during the month of Bhadrapad, a large fair is organized on the full moon days.

### **Shamlaji**

Shamlaji, an important temple town, is about 127 kms. from Ahmedabad airport and approximately 47 kms. from Himmatnagar railway station. This temple is situated in Sabarkantha district on National Highway No. 8. The Shamlaji Fair is held in October – November, the night of Kartika Poornima being the most auspicious. The fair attracts pilgrims, especially tribal groups like Bhil and Garasia of Sabarkantha and Banaskantha district and even from neighboring Rajasthan in large numbers. Pilgrims carry different multi-coloured flags and sing devotional songs as they approach the temple. The tank at the temple is the site for ritualistic bathing during the fair<sup>24</sup>.

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<sup>23</sup> Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), July 2003: Tourism in Gujarat-The Way Ahead

<sup>24</sup> Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL); Destination Gujarat Booklet

### **Dakor**

This temple town is situated about 50 kms. from Anand – the “Milk City of India” and about 90 kms. from Ahmedabad. Dakor town comes under Kheda/Kaira district and is at the north of Anand district border. The temple is dedicated to Lord Ranchhodrai. The idol is of Lord Krishna which is believed to have been brought from Dwarka by a devotee named Bodana. Dakor holds a large fair on Sharad Purnima, the full moon night in October – November. Thousands of pilgrims visit Dakor during the fair and the temple courtyard resounds with bhajans.

### **Modhera Sun Temple**

The Sun was of the original mythological God in all cultures because it brought light and heat and sustained life on earth. Sun worship has its pursuer in ancient Gujarat as has been revealed by research undertaken by several institutes and researchers<sup>25</sup>. The famous Modhera Sun temple is situated at Modhera, a town in Mehsana district and is about 102 kms. from Ahmedabad. The Modhera temple exhibits one of the finest examples of Hindu temple architecture in Gujarat. This 11<sup>th</sup> Century temple has a huge tank in front of the temple and surrounding it stands 108 temples for each of the Sun God’s names. The main temple has a 52-columned portico with intricate carvings, including depictions of scenes from the epics. The sanctum was designed to allow the sunlight to illuminate the main statue (no longer in the temple).

The quality of carving along its walls portraying deities and other figures are exceptional<sup>26</sup>. But Modhera is not the only place in Gujarat which has Sun temples. Gop, Kotay, Khambhat, Patan, Delmal, Panar and Than are some of the other places in the State where Sun worship existed<sup>27</sup>.

### **Gop**

The 6<sup>th</sup> Century temple in Gop (Jamnagar district) is now in ruins. According to experts, it is one of the oldest Sun temple situated in the Barda mountain range. At present the temple does not have any idol but archaeologists have found Vishnu and Kartikeya idols in its sanctum.

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<sup>25</sup> The Times of India, Ahmedabad; August 06, 2013- Monday; “Not just Modhera, Gujarat has 100 Sun Temples”

<sup>26</sup> Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL Tourism); Destination Gujarat Booklet

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

### **Kotay**

The Sun temple at Kotay, in Kutch district, fell victim to the ravage of time and vanished. The temple is mentioned in the book "Report on the Antiquities of Kathiawar and Kutch" written by James Burgess, a British historian working with Archaeological Survey of Western India, in 1874-75.

### **Nagra**

Nagra village is situated at a distance of 5 kms. from Khambhat city. There were a number of ancient Sun idols that have mostly now disappeared. Not too long ago, the villagers of Nagra used to worship the Sun God as Jayaditya who was always shown with his wife, Ranna De. Today the Ranchhodraiji temple has a Sun idol along with that of Brahma and Brahmani.

### **Rani-Ki Vav**

The majestic Rani-ki Vav situated in Patan has several statues along with major Hindu Gods. Artisans of the Solanki era illustrated Sun God as "Dikpal" with sanal kamal (lotus with stems) and armour. According to folklore, Harihar Mahadev temple near Patan houses one of the original idols that were safely shifted from Modhera when Muslim invasion reduced the place to ruins.

### **Delmal**

A unique Trimurti Aditya, a Sun idol having the attributes of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiv, complete with weapons and attire have been found in the village Delmal near Chanasma in the Mehsana district. It is believed to be of 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **Panar**

A village near Viramgam, Panar has a unique idol of Revanta, the son of Sun. Revanta is shown mounted on a horse and is believed to be of 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **Than**

Situated in the Surendranagar district, Than is a traditionally religious centre for the Kathi Darbar community and the temple here is called "Suraj Deval". Historians believe that the first temple in Than was built somewhere in the 9<sup>th</sup> century. Over the period of time, the temple was reduced to ruins. The present temple was rebuilt again at a much latter day.

### **Sun Idols in Kachchh Museum**

The Kachchh/Kutch museum is in possession of three Sun idols. During the excavation at Dolatpara (Junagadh district), head of a stone Sun idol was found and it is believed that belonged to 5<sup>th</sup> century. The second idol with a unique headgear was found from a well in Rayan village. The third idol is made of marble and was found in Bhadodar village in Mehsana<sup>28</sup>.

### **Chotila**

The place is in Surendranagar district where the famous temple of Goddess Chamunda is situated. It lies of the National Highway 8 A (NH 8A).

### **Pavagadh**

The temple of Goddess Kalika is located on Pavagadh hill which is about 49 kms. north-east of Vadodara city. The hill rises from Champaner in three stages- the ruined fortification at the foothill; the middle part with fort and palace; and the upper part with Hindu and Jain temples.

The place is also known as the birth place of Gujarat's famous musician Baiju, who preceded Tansen. The Navaratri festival (September – October) is celebrated here with dance and songs. During the bright half of the month of Chaitra (March – April), the Pavagadh fair is held in honour of the Goddess Mahakali<sup>29</sup>.

### **Temple of Jalaram Bapa**

This famous temple is situated at Virpur in Rajkot district and is about 68 kms. from Rajkot city on Rajkot – Veraval/Somnath Rail route. Followers and even non-followers visit this place round the year in large numbers.

### **Akshardham**

One of the largest temples in the State, it is situated in Gandhinagar (the capital of Gujarat) and built by the religious organization- Bochasanwasi Shri Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS). It was inaugurated on November 2, 1992. The complex is very popular among tourist visiting Gujarat. The temple enshrines gold-leafed idol/Murti of Lord Swaminarayan and is the focal point of the complex. Other than Akshardham other important Swaminarayan temples of the State

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<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Govt. of Gujarat, Building and Communication Department; Guide Map of Gujarat

are; Vadtal (near Anand), Bhavnagar, Dholera, Gondal, Bochasan, Kalupur, Gadhada, Junagadh, Bhuj, Wadhwan, Sarangpur and Muli.

### **Palitana**

Situated at the foot of the Shatrunjaya hill, this place is about 56 kms. from Bhavnagar city. Palitana is a very sacred place for the Jains. The sacred hill rises along with magnificent temples numbering 863. The temples were built over a period of 900 years. It takes about two hours to climb the 3950 steps covering 4 km. The temple dedicated to Shri Adishwara, the first Jain Apostle, is the most sacred. The Chaumukh, or Four Faced Temple, enshrines a quadruple image of Adinath which looks out in four directions. Other important temples are dedicated to Kumar Pal, Vimal Shah and Sampriti Raj. The superbly carved marble spires sparkle like the ivory towers of a fairy-tale city when Sun's ray falls on them. The craftsmanship and beauty of the sculpture can be compared with the finest anywhere in the world<sup>30</sup>.

Only the Gods live in this holy hilltop city for, after sunset, none stay at the hill top, not even the priests.

Other important Jain pilgrim places are situated at Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Jamnagar, Bhadrashwar, Naliya, Kumbhariya, Patan, Danta, Taranga, Sankheshwar, Mahudi, Ahmedabad, Jhagadiya and Vadodara.

### **Girnar**

The place displays a magnificent show of communal harmony and amicable relationship among Jains and Hindus. The high rising hill houses shrines of both Hindu and Jains side-by-side- One temple is dedicated to Guru Dattatreya, a Hindu deity; and the other to Tirthankara Neminath the 22<sup>nd</sup> Jain Tirthankar who lived in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and is believed to have attained Nirvana at this place. The Amba Mata Temple which crowns the peak, was named after the mother Goddess, is believed to be auspicious for newly-weds who come in large numbers to worship at Her shrine.

### **Sanjan and Udwada**

At the extreme south of Gujarat, Sanjan is a small port town where in the 8<sup>th</sup> century the Parsis landed. A pillar commemorating the safe landing marks the spot. Udwada, a little to the north of Sanjan, is now the headquarters of the Parsi community of India.

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<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

The “Agiari” or Fire temple houses the holy “eternal flame” which the Parsis brought with them all the way from Persia many centuries ago<sup>31</sup>. The Fire temple of Udwada is the holies place of Parsis in India. It is known as Iranshaw temple which was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century.

### **The Juma Masjid**

Situated at Ahmedabad and described by some as the most beautiful mosque in the east, was built by the city’s founder Sultan Ahmed Shah in 1423-24 AD. Built of yellow sandstone, the mosque combines the best of Muslim and Hindu traditions of architectural beauty. The mosque is outstanding for its grand scale, superb proportions and exquisite workmanship. The mosque consists of 260 pillars which support 15 domes at varying elevations. In 1818, earthquake destroyed its celebrated shaking minarets of the mosque<sup>32</sup>.

### **Sidi Saiyad Mosque**

The mosque is situated at Ahmedabad and was built in the year 1573 AD by Sultan Ahmed Shah’s slave, Sidi Saiyad. The mosque is known world over for its exquisite stone windows with “Jali” (lattice) work, a superb and peerless example of delicate carving that transforms stone into filigree.

### **Rani Rupmati Masjid**

Rani Rupmati was the Hindu wife of Sultan Mehmud Begada. Built between 1430 and 1440, the mosque is located at Mirzapur – Ahmedabad, has three domes supported by pillars with the central dome slightly elevated so as to let in natural light without direct sunlight. The mosque is famous for its richly carved minarets, balcony windows, and “Jali” work.

### **Kutbi Mazar**

A colossal monument built in the memory of Qutubddin Shaheed, the high priest of the Dawoodi Bohra community. It is located at Saraspur, Ahmedabad. It is also known as “Choti Karbala” of India. For the people of this community, a pilgrim journey is not complete without a visit to this monument along with Karbala (Baghdad, Iraq).

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

### **Shah Alam/ Shah-e-Alam Roza**

It is a mosque-cum-tomb of saint Sayyid Sirajuddin Muhammad, the son and successor of Burhanuddin Qutub-e-Alam, came to be called by the title of Shah Alam-king of the world. It was built in the year 1483 AD and it situated at Ahmedabad. Here, the brass doors are set in carved marble frames. Black and white marbles are used to tile the floor. Its minars and dome shows brilliant architectural work of the Sultanate era. It is believed to have been built by the brother of the Empress Noorjehan.

### **Sarkhej Roza**

About 8 kms. from Ahmedabad city, Sarkhej comprises one of the most elegant architectural complexes of Ahmedabad. A great stepped water tank is surrounded by the tomb of the Saint Ahmed Khattu Ganj Baksh (1445); the mosque – the perfection of elegant simplicity (1451); the tombs of Mehmud Shah Begada and his queen Rajabai (1460); and the palace and pavilions. The buildings are without any arches and in its place pierced stone trellises were used throughout. In purity of design and elegance of detail, Sarkhej is unsurpassed<sup>33</sup>.

### **Lakhpat Gurudwara**

Guru Nanak Sahib, the founder of Sikh religion, is believed to have started his Haj journey from the place where Lakhpat Gurudwara is now situated. Lakhpat lies in the extreme north – west point of Kachchh district and is about 122 kms. from Bhuj. It is one of most sacred Gurudwara of Sikhs and visited throughout the year by people of all faith. The Gurudwara houses relics such as decoratively carved wooden candle stand, wooden sandals that are believed to be of Guru Nanak Dev and old manuscripts<sup>34</sup>.

### **ANCIENT SITES**

A brief view of the important ancient sites of Gujarat are described in the following paragraphs:

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<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Pandya, Kaushik (2007); A Journey to the Glorious Gujarat; Akshara Prakashan, Ahmedabad



### **Lothal**

A place about 70 kms. from Ahmedabad is the site of the ancient ruins of the first Indian port of the several Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)/Harappan sites in India. Lothal is the most exhaustively excavated. It is believed that between the periods of 2900 to 2400 B.C.,<sup>35</sup> Lothal was a flourishing sea port as well a trade center. On the eastern periphery are the remains of a dock yard, believed to be the first of its kind in the world. At the site a small but informative museum displays the artifacts found through excavation of the place. The artifacts such as seals, terracotta, beads and excellent set of weights and measures show the level of civilization of that period. The bath houses and the drainage system though in ruins, suggest a concern with hygiene and sanitation that was far ahead of the time.

### **Dholavira**

Part of the Indus Valley Civilization (IVC)/Harappan Civilization Dholavira dates back to about 3000 B.C. The site was unearthed by the Archeological Survey of India in 1967. Locally known as Kotada Timba, is located on the Khadir Bet or island of Khadir, in the Great Rann in the Kachchh district. According to archeologists, the residents of this formidable city were prosperous and known to trade by sea with places as far as Mesopotamia. The ruins are spread over an area of 100 hectares. The site is remarkable for its sophisticated town planning and drainage systems, a system of channels and reservoirs that is among the world's earliest water conservation systems ever excavated.

A number of artifacts were excavated which includes terracotta pottery, ornaments of gold and copper, colorful beads, seals, animal figurine, tools and urns. Some vessels seem to be of Western Asia origin were also unearthed from the site. This indicates that Dholavira had trade links with distant lands. The find at the excavations include a signboard with an ancient script, but has yet to be deciphered<sup>i</sup>.

### **Gola Dhoro**

Recently discovered site, the archeologists believe, dates back to 2500 – 2000 BC. Shell bangles, copper items and beads were found at the site. The place is near the village Bagasra in Amreli district.

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<sup>35</sup> Desai, Anjali (2007); India Guide: Gujarat; India Guide Publications

## **Junagadh**

It is an ancient fortified city with full of myth and legends. Junagadh lies at the foot of Girnar Hill and takes its name from the “Old Fort” which circles the medieval town. Junagadh has the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century B.C. rock inscriptions (edicts) of Emperor Ashoka. Fourteen edicts can be seen cut into a great rock outside the city

## **FAIRS AND FESTIVALS**

Round the year about 1000 fairs and festivals are celebrated in the State. The State is thus known as the land of fairs and festivals. The State government now-a-days takes keen interest in the celebration of many fairs and festivals. Efforts are made to attract tourists from all over India and especially, the foreign tourists to Gujarat. Some of the popular fairs and festivals are as follows:

### **Makar Sankranti and Kite Flying Festival**

Uttarayan or Makar Sankranti falls on January 14, every year and it is one of the most vibrant and participatory festivals in Gujarat. People of all cast, creed, religion and even foreigners throng terraces or open field to fly kites. The day marks the time when Sun’s direct rays reach the tropic of Capricorn after the winter solstice. Traditionally, it is a celebration for the end of winter when the Sun starts moving northwards or northern – hemisphere and the beginning of spring. In early days, the villagers and farmers used to celebrate Uttarayan by flying kites. Today this household festival of Gujarat is known internationally. During the period of Uttarayan, Gujarat Tourism organizes an International Kite Festival (IKF) attended by kite flying clubs and individual kite flyers from many countries in the world<sup>36</sup>. The kites flown during Uttarayan is internationally called “Indian fighter” and are usually made of bamboo and tissue paper. On this day, one can see designer kites, decorated kites, stunt kites and other kites of different countries flown by experts or enthusiasts from the land of other origin<sup>37</sup>. The day is marked with the traditional food such as Undhiya / Undhiyu, Jalebi, Til-ladoo, Chikki and local sweets for the guests.

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<sup>36</sup> Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL Tourism); Destination Gujarat Booklet

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

### **Uttarardh – The Modhera Dance Festival**

The Modhera Dance Festival is held annually at the Sun temple of Modhera in the month of January for three days. The annual event is organized by Department of Culture and Department of Tourism of Gujarat. The incredible beautiful 11<sup>th</sup> century Sun temple acts as the backdrop for the classical dances held there. During the event, the Sun temple is beautifully illuminated during night with high quality sound systems and excellent lighting all round the temple site. Some of the best dance troupes in the country participate in this attractive event<sup>38</sup>.

### **Bhavnath Fair**

Bhavnath Mahadev is a very ancient temple located in the foot hills of Girnar in Junagadh district. The fair is held at the Bhavnath temple during Shivratri in February – March every year. The fair is attended by local people in large numbers and a large congregation of “Naga Bawas”. Before attending the fair, the pilgrims go around the holy hills of Girnar following a trekking route called the “Parikrama”. Bhavai theater and folk dances are performed at the site during the festive period.

### **Dangs Darbar**

It is the name of the annual fair held every year in Ahwa, the most important town in district of Dangs as well as Saputara- the one and the only hill station of Gujarat. The village heads of different tribes used to gather for a Darbar in the British rule and was held few days before Holi. That tradition is continued in the same pattern even today. The difference is, today it is called Jamabandi Darbar, and the district Collector officiates the proceedings. The visitors to the Darbar are tribal and merchants from nearby places like Nasik, Surat as well as west Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh along with the local Bhils, Kanbis etc. Folk dances, drum-beats and songs enliven the air during the festival.

### **Kavant Fair**

Kavant is a small village near the border of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh and near Chhota Udepur in Vadodara district and is about 100 kms. from Vadodara city. This fair is held 3 days after the festival of Holi. This is purely a traditional fair with pure and rhythmic tribal music of flute and cymbals. Men with painted bodies, turbans

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<sup>38</sup> Pandya, Kaushik (2007); A Journey to the Glorious Gujarat; Akshara Prakashan

decorated with peacock feathers and masks can be seen dancing, playing musical instruments and forming human pyramids.

### **Chitra Vichitra Fair**

The fair is held at Gunbhakhari, a village in Sabarkantha district on the banks of Sabarmati River. About a fortnight after Holi, on the Amawas night, thousands of tribal people gather to celebrate the Chitra Vichitra fair. The name of the fair is linked to Chitravirya and Vichitravirya, sons of king Shantanu of Mahabharata fame, believed to have repented for sins at the Shiva temple around which the fair is centered. The music, dresses dance and rituals of the tribal people are the main attractions. Folk songs and dances along with drum-beats are absolute breath-taking.

### **Ravechi Fair**

Ravechi temple is situated at a small village Rav near the town of Rapar, about 93 kms. from Gandhidham railway station and approximately 99 kms. from Bhuj airport. Ravechi Fair of Gujarat takes place at the end of Bhadra, which coincides with the month of September. On the days of the fair, the temple and its presiding deity (Ravechi Mata) are beautifully decorated, thus creating a joyous and festive ambience. In this fair thousands of devotees and visitors visit the place and participate in the fair. The fair's attraction lies in the multi-colored stalls, which are the best places to buy and spot the local handicrafts. The home-made clothes, hand-made fabrics, mirror works, embroidery and lace works are fine specimens of local handiworks of the womenfolk of Gujarat.

The Ravechi fair of Gujarat is the perfect place for people from different cultures to unite. People from the communities like Ahir, Rabri and Charan take active part in the fair.

### **Janmashtami Festival**

Dwarka is known world-wide as the abode of Lord Krishna. According to legend this is where Lord Krishna set up his kingdom after leaving Mathura and Brindavan/Vrindavan. Dwarka is still Lord Krishna's abode and every year on his birthday, around August / September, is celebrated as Janmashtami with great pomp and devotion.

Shamlaji is another place where Janmashtami is celebrated and thousands of devotees throng the temple site. As the priests go for Janmashtami rituals inside the sanctum, the fasting devotees sing bhajans whole night outside.

### **Tarnetar Fair**

The best known fair of Gujarat is held at the historic shrine of Lord Shiva, known as Trinetreshwar or three eyed one, at Tarnetar village in Surendranagar district. The fair is held for three days on the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of the bright half of the month of Bhadrapad (August/September). The fair is to celebrate the victory of Arjuna at the contest held for Princess Draupadi of Mahabharat fame. A dip in the temple tank on this day is considered as auspicious as a dip in holy river Ganges. During the fair, the temple believed to be of 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century is the focal point of activity<sup>39</sup>. Ras, Garba and Hudo- a specialty dance, are performed in the fair. The youths are dressed in very colourful manner, keeping an embroidered umbrella in hand. These umbrellas are hand-made and used as a protection against Sun but now has become the emblem of the Tarnetar fair.

### **Ambaji Fair**

Ambaji is a popular pilgrim center dedicated to the mother Goddess “Amba”. Ambaji is situated near Abu Road (Rajasthan) in Banaskantha district of Gujarat. The fair is held on the 15<sup>th</sup> day, of the bright half of ‘Bhadrapada’ (August – September), i.e., on Bhadra Purnima. On this occasion a large fair is held and in the evening, Bhavai- the folk drama of the State is held and Garba programmes are organized. The readings of Saptashati- the seven hundred verses in praise of the Goddess and visiting the temple for a darshan of Ambaji are the main attraction.

### **Navratri Festival**

Navratri in September – October is probably the world’s longest dance festival. Come Ashwin – Sud, the first night of the month of Ashwin, and one can see costumed men, women and children, young and old dancing on the street corners, residential localities or on stage at theatres. The whole Gujarat vibrates as the atmosphere is one of friendly revelry and celebration for the nine nights leading to the eve of Dusserra when Durga is said to have defeated the demon, Mahishasura and Ram defeated and killed Ravana. The best know part of the festival is the Garba of the women and Garbi

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<sup>39</sup> Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL Tourism); Destination Gujarat Booklet

of the men performed in a circle with the dancers clapping hands or striking small sticks to the taal or beat<sup>40</sup>.

### **Shamlaji Fair**

One of the important Vaishnava shrines in Gujarat, Shamlaji - an incarnation of Vishnu, attracts large number of devotees round the year. Shamlaji is about 45 kms. from Himmatnagar in Sabarkantha district and lies on the National Highway No. 8 (NH 8). The temple is of archaeological as well as religious interests. In the month of October – November, on the Kartiki Purnima day, a colourful fair is held every year. The fair lasts for more than four days, Kartiki Purnima day being the most auspicious. Tribal groups like the Bhil and Garasis of Sabarkantha and Banaskantha districts and even from neighbouring Rajasthan come in large numbers carrying flags and singing devotional songs as they approach the temple. The water tank at Shamlaji is the site for ritualistic bathing during the fair<sup>41</sup>.

### **Somnath Fair**

Held on Kartik Purnima, November – December, lasts for 2 days at Somnath. There are performance of folk theater and dances during the fair<sup>42</sup>.

### **Vautha Fair**

Vautha is situated 50 kms. south of Ahmedabad in Ahmedabad district. The Kartika Purnima day is celebrated at Vautha with a large live-stock fair. Thousands of donkeys, cattles and herds of camels are brought to the fairground which is at the confluence of seven tributaries of the river Sabarmati for trade. The fair offers tourists to experience the culture of pastoral congregation like the Jath and to watch trading of live stock like selection and auction<sup>43</sup>.

### **Champaner Festival**

Champaner lies about 55 kms. east of Vadodara city. It is on the main Railway line between Vadodara – Delhi. The UNESCO approved 'World Heritage Site' (WHS) of Champaner at the foot of Pavagadh hill is one of the most remarkable archaeological site. City of Champaner was captured by Sultan Mehmud Begada in 1484 and

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL Tourism); Destination Gujarat Booklet

<sup>42</sup> Government of Gujarat, Building and Communication Department; Guide Map of Gujarat

<sup>43</sup> Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL Tourism); Destination Gujarat Booklet

converted into his new capital. He built a citadel and outer city walls and a magnificent Jama Masjid. In Champaner, the principles of Islamic architecture were successfully combined with local Jain architecture to create a style of unmatched purity and beauty<sup>44</sup>. Every year Gujarat Tourism conducts a fair in the month of 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend of December.

### **Rann Utsav**

Also known as “Kutch Utsav”, “Sharad Utsav” and now “Rann Utsav”, it is held on the full moon night of Sharad Poornima at Dhordo village near Bhuj. It was initially a festival of 3 days and organized by Tourism Corporation of Gujarat (TCGL). But looking to the immense popularity, the “Rann Utsav” is now being held for as long as two months Dec. 15, 2013 to Feb. 15, 2014). Basically a peninsula, Kachchh is one of the largest districts of India. It lies between Sir Creek and the Gulf of Kachchh. At the day time, the tourists are offered tours to different parts of the regions to explore its colourful people, historic towns, remarkable handicrafts, archeological ruins as well as tribes of Kachchh. The evening is enlivened by handicraft markets, concerts and performances<sup>45</sup>. All day long rural sports are held amongst the tribes.

### **Saputara Monsoon Festival**

During the arrival of monsoon, Gujarat Tourism organized almost a month-long festival at Saputara. Saputara is about 126 kms. from Navsari and is in the district Dangs. The festival gives tourists and opportunity to appreciate folk culture, local sports and cuisine. Saputara is the most important or rather only developed hill resort of the State.

### **Other Festivals**

Other important festivals of the state are, Bhadar Poornima fair at Khedbrahma with colourful flag processions; the tribal fair of Pavagadh; the Madhavpur fair of the Mers near Porbandar; the Jagannath Rath – Yatra at Ahmedabad; the Muharram procession at Ahmedabad; the religious fair at the mausoleum of Sarkhej at Ahmedabad; the Mira Datar fair at Unava; the Tana Riri music festival at Vadnagar; and many festivals of Jains, Parsees and Christians at different places of Gujarat.

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<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

## **FORTS OF GUJARAT**

Forts are always built as a defense measure against external enemy attack and also serve as a power center of the kingdom. Many pitched battles were fought over these forts. Before independence, Gujarat had more than two hundred princely states scattered all over Gujarat. Over the period of time, the rulers of these states built forts of different dimension depending upon the requirements of the state<sup>46</sup>. Though, primarily built for defense purpose, most of forts have beautiful carvings and paintings. Gujarat has array of forts built from the ancient times of Harrapan civilization to Rajput rulers of Gujarat to Sultans of Gujarat and even few forts built by European businessmen turned invaders<sup>47</sup>.

An attempt is made here to give a very brief resume of some of the important forts of the state.

### **Lakhpat**

Once a great flourishing town, Lakhpat is located in the remote location of Kachchh district near India – Pakistan border. High walls with many gates and bastions are the distinctive feature of Lakhpat fort. The town lost its importance after 1851 AD when river Sindhu (Indus) changed its course. Lakhpat is about 150 kms. from Bhuj town.

### **Mandvi**

Mandvi is located right on the confluence of Rukmavati River and the Arabian Sea at the Gulf of Kachchh. The place was summer retreat of the rulers of Kachchh and it was established by the first Jadeja ruler Rao Khengarji in 1581. Mandvi was a fortified city with fort walls measuring about 8 meters in height and 1.2 meters in width. The city had several gateways and 25 bastions. The south-west bastion facing the sea is the tallest and biggest and at present is serving as a lighthouse. However, most of the fort walls have disappeared due to ravages of nature. The city had a very rare combination of being a junction of two famous trade routes – the maritime spice trade route and the camel caravan route. The ships with specific style, which used to sail across the Arabian Sea, for trade used to be built by the local artisan at the ship-building centre which now date backs to almost 500 years. Even today, same style but of smaller size boats are being built by the local artisan used mostly for deep sea

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<sup>46</sup> Pandya, Kaushik (2007); A Journey to the Glorious Gujarat; Akshara Prakashan

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.



fishing<sup>48</sup>. The site gives a nostalgic remembrance of the glory of the bygone days. Mandvi is about 50 kms. from Bhuj by road.

### **Junagadh (Uparkot)**

Junagadh means an “old fort”. The walled fort witnessed many changes in its life from monastic Buddhism, Aryan Hinduism, devoted Jainism, Islamic invasions, British colonization and finally the victory of democracy which forced the Nawab of Junagadh to vacate his throne after he was out voted in the election<sup>49</sup>.

The fort city was built on the defenses of rocky hills. It was an important city during Mauryan rule and becoming the capital of the Kshtrapas after the fall of the Mauryan Empire in the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD period. It came under the Chudasama Rajputs in the 9<sup>th</sup> century and then finally fell to Sultan Mehmud Begada. The fort city was located on the foot-hills of mountain Girnar, was surrounded by fort walls and Uparkot, basically a citadel is located on one of the highest points of the town. Inside Uparkot, there are beautiful archeological sites viz., Nav-ghan Kuvo, Adi Chadi Vav, Buddhist Caves, Baba Pyara caves of 2<sup>nd</sup> century period, and Jami Masjid built by Mehmud Begada in 1470 AD.

### **Patan**

Patan lies 120 kms. north of Ahmedabad in the district of Patan. The city was capital of Gujarat for almost 600 years, ruled by Chavdas, Solankis and Vaghelas. During Solanki rule, Patan was at its most glorious days being the trading center of the region. Home of the famous Patola silk saris, Patan is a beautiful old town with many Jain temples and carved wooden houses. The old fort in ruined condition is still standing to remind the visitors of its glorious past.

### **Wadhwan Fort**

Just 5 kms. from Surendranagar city by road, Wadhwan fort is alive with many of its gates are intact even today. As the city was ruled by the Jhala Rajputs, in early days the place was known as Jhalawad. City Wadhwan is also known as Vardhamanpuri and is an important Jain center because of the foot-prints of Mahavir Swami.

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<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Dalal Mott MacDonald (2003); 20 Years Perspective Plan for the Development of Sustainable Tourism in Gujarat

### **Idar**

The town is located at 107 kms. from Ahmedabad and about 20 kms. from Himmatnagar in Sabarkantha. The Idar fort dates back to very old days and even in Mahabharata its name was been mentioned. The fort is located on the edge of the Aravalli hills and gives an example, how a strategically built fort can be naturally protected. This small town was once surrounded by fort-walls which are now in ruins. Other than the fort, other structures worth visiting are Ranamal/Ranmal Chowki; Rootheli Rani no Mahal; Shiva temple; Vishnu Temples; the temple where Raja Harishchandra got married, called as Harishchandra Ki Chouri; and many Jain temples scattered around the city.

### **Champaner Fort**

Champaner fort was built by Vanraj Chavda in the 8<sup>th</sup> Century and was named after his friend Champaraj. The ancient fort is located at the foot-hills of Pavagadh, is now one of the important tourist destinations. The remains of the fort walls, ruined tombs, gardens, arches, pillars and wells are worth seeing places. Recently in 2004, UNESCO has declared Champaner as the “World Heritage Site”, the only one of the State till date.

### **Dabhoi Fort**

Dabhoi fort has a long and chequered history. It reflects one of the finest examples of Hindu military architecture. Situated about 29 kms. south – east of Vadodara, the 13<sup>th</sup> century fort is still in a fairly good state of maintenance. The fort was built by Siddhraj Jaisinh during 1093 – 1143 AD; and later was occupied by the Muslims, the Marathas and the British. The fort still retains its characteristic of round corner bastions, the rectangular bastions along with high walls, and its four gateways of which the Hira gate which has the most exquisitely decorated carvings with typical style. The Malika Mata temple in the fort has beautiful carvings all round<sup>50</sup>.

### **Surat Fort**

It was built by Muhammad Tughlaq in the 14<sup>th</sup> century as a defense fortification against the Bhils<sup>51</sup>. The city of Surat has a long history. The city dates back to the

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<sup>50</sup> Government of Gujarat, Building and Communication Department; Guide Map of Gujarat

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

years of Mahabharat, i.e., about 3000 B.C.<sup>52</sup> The saying goes that here Lord Krishna with his followers and cows halted for sometime on his transition from Mathura to Dwarka city. The images of the cow's footprints are still apparent to the devotees at a place called "Gai Pagli" (Cow's foot-steps). Another story regarding the naming of the town was that the place being a major part from where Muslim pilgrimage used to set sail for Mecca. In Farsi/Persian language they used to call the place "Bunder-e-Khubsurat" meaning beautiful port and thus the name "Surat" was derived from the popular phraseology.

### **HANDICRAFTS OF GUJARAT**

Handicrafts are basically items made by artisans and used mainly in day-to-day use. Gujarat has a living tradition of handicrafts that flourished in its villages, towns and even in cities. The most sought-after handicrafts are those made by nomadic and semi-nomadic people, men and women folk, for over the centuries. Gujarat's best known handicrafts are related to its mythical and colourful textiles like handloom weaving, tie-and-dye, printing and embroidery as well as handicrafts made from wood, stone, metal and brass, terracotta etc. This section will focus on the destinations, the people and the work of art at those places.

#### **Weaving**

Patola saree/sari, produced in Patan, is supposed to be a prized possession of any Indian lady. Patola are one of the best forms of hand-woven fabric in this world and is called queen of textiles. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, during the region of Solanki's, Salvi silk weavers from Maharashtra and Karnataka came to Gujarat and established this form of weaving<sup>53</sup>. Preparations of every saris take longtime, four to six months depending on the designs, thus making it very costly. Today only few weavers can be found who can practice this form of art. Patan is also one of the center for Mushroo, fabrics woven as a combination of silk and cotton with the latter forming the backdrop.

#### **Bandhani**

A type of dyeing practiced mostly in the states of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Bandhani derives its name from the word "Bandhan", which means tying-up. The main colours

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<sup>52</sup> Dalal Mott MacDonald (2003); 20 Years Perspective Plan for the Development of Sustainable Tourism in Gujarat

<sup>53</sup> Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL Tourism); Destination Gujarat Booklet

used are red, yellow, green and black. Jamnagar is one of the best known centers for bandhani and in fact even today bandhani is printed by using the ancient block-printing techniques. The other places where “Bandhani” are printed are Surendranagar and some parts of Kachchh.

### **Block-Printing**

Kachchh is also famous for block-printing which includes the fabulous “Ajrakh” printing. This special type of block-printing is practiced mostly in villages like Dhamadka and Ajrakhpur near Bhuj by the Khatri community. Natural dyes are used for Ajrakh printing obtained from vegetables, herbs, alum, molasses, rusted iron and other materials.

Jetpur, a town near Junagadh, is another centre of block-printing. One can see the best form of block textile printing in Jetpur.

### **Embroidery**

Embroidery is one of the cottage industries of Kachchh. It is mostly done by housewives for local consumptions as well as for business. With simple needle and coloured threads and a piece of cloth, the artisans come out with extra-ordinary output. The embroidery techniques vary with the region as also among communities. There are many varieties of embroidery like Bavalia embroidery in bright yellow; red Banni embroidery of Banni villages; embroidery done by Rabari women folk fitted with triangular, square and almond shaped mirror; the floral and geometric motifs with circular mirrors of the Ahir community; the chain stitches and tiny mirrors used by the Jats; the symmetrical with delicate patterns with tiny triangles of the Sodha Rajputs of Lakhpat and its surrounding places; the tiny broken mirrors embroidered into fabrics by the Mutwa tribes; and the exquisite Mukka embroidery of the Hali Putras, Node and Rasipota tribes.

Surat is well known for a unique kind of embroidery known as zari work. Fine threads of gold and silver are embroidered a cloth, bags and shoes known as Mojries / Mojdis<sup>54</sup>.

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<sup>54</sup> Pandya, Kaushik (2007); A Journey to the Glorious Gujarat; Akshara Prakashan

### **Beadwork**

Beads are small perforated balls of different colours. They are strung with others to make a rosary; beadwork hangings known as “Torans”; and decoration of drawing room or living room. It is believed that Gujarat became famous in 19<sup>th</sup> century, as artisans specially Kathi Darbar community based in Saurashtra expertly created with different coloured beads, a range of articles like panels and decorative pieces offer without any fabric base. Saurashtra beadwork is done to adorn horses, camels and bullock carts for weddings and other special occasions<sup>55</sup>.

### **Terra-Cotta**

Terra-Cotta is an ancient art where potters work on making utensils, prayer objects, decorative items and flower pots on their wheels with baked earth or clay.

In Kachchh, terracotta work extends to sculpting mud walls of their huts with motifs that are further decorated with mirrors and murals commonly known as “Lipan”. Banaskantha, Sabarkantha, Vadodara and other districts produce “Votive” terracottas, generally describing horses and other animal figures. These items are usually given by tribal people as offerings to Gods. Gujarat is also known for its ceramic works. Ceramic work has become a cottage industry in places like Rajkot, Morbi/Morvi and villages of Surendranagar district<sup>56</sup>.

### **Wood Crafts**

Gujarat has a tradition of wood carving since ages. Visiting any old city site, one will come across havelis with beautiful sculpted balconies with perfectly proportioned pavilions, carved doors and haveli gates. As now, the most famous wood-craft is lacquered furniture manufactured in Sankheda, a place about 47 kms. from Vadodara city; and also in Mahuva near Bhavnagar. Minakari furniture, a unique style of lacquered furniture is made in Rajkot. The artisans paint motifs like peacocks and geometrical figures using brushes dipped in dyes, lac/lacquer, resin, mineral colours and other materials to give a beautiful glossy finish. This lacquered finish items are exported throughout the world and has a heavy demand throughout the year<sup>57</sup>.

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<sup>55</sup> Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited (TCGL Tourism); Destination Gujarat Booklet

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

### **Silverware**

Gujarat is known for its silver-smiths who produce attractive jewellery, utensils and fancy items. Rajkot, Gondal, Wadhwan are the main places of Saurashtra known for silver-work. Kachchh is equally known for making beautiful silver ornaments. The tribals of Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts produce excellent variety of jewellery for the tribal and pastoral population.

### **Metal Work**

Metals like brass, copper and alloys of various metals are used to make beautiful articles in places like Anjar in Kachchh district, Wadhwan in Surendranagar district and Sihore near Bhavnagar. These places are famous for metal articles for ages.

### **Stone Work**

Khambhat or Cambay is famous for stone articles and jewellery made from semi precious stones for ages. Artisans chip semi precious stones to create agate beads for ornaments, decorative items etc. Khambhat is about 50 kms from Anand- the Milk City of India. Gujarat's stone sculpture can be seen at a number of temples, forts, palaces and havelis in the State.

### **MUSEUMS**

Gujarat has some unique and well known museums, which are being visited by visitors from all over the world.

#### **Calico Museum of Textile, Ahmedabad**

Gujarat is fortunate to have one of the best textile museums of India. It is a specialized museum catering to textile only. The museum was established in 1948 and since then it has become a tourist attraction. The museum building is a haveli built by Sarabhai family, converted to present day museum. The exhibits include varieties of embroidered shamanas, wall hangings, saris/sarees and costumes, embroideries like Phulkari, Patola, Kalamkari, gold stitched brocades, varieties of silk, Mashroo (silk and cotton stuff with variegated stripes) and Bandhani items. The museum also displays some very special items from outside Gujarat, like Chamba of Himachal Pradesh and Pashmina shawls of Kashmir.

One portion of museum is set for religious textile items mostly used by Vaishnava sect known as "Pichwais". These Pichwas as used as back-drops in a Krishna temple, displaying various moods of Lord Krishna.

#### **Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Ahmedabad**

Established in 1951, the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya is run by a public trust. The present premise of the museum was built in the year 1963 and is located at Gandhi Ashram, Sabarmati, Ahmedabad. The museum houses items related to Mahatma Gandhi's life and work viz., books, manuscripts and photocopies of his correspondence and photographs with prominent people worldwide.

#### **Shreyas Folk Museum, Ahmedabad**

Located at Shreyas Foundation, Ambavadi, Ahmedabad, the museum displays specifically the folk arts of Gujarat. The exhibits consist of handicrafts like embroidery, beadwork, famous umbrellas from Tarnetar, utensils etc. There is a toy section especially for the children. In the section, there is a good collection of masks, puppets and costumes of different regions of Gujarat.

#### **Veechar Utensils Museum – Ahmedabad**

The museum is located at Vechaar- Vishala Environmental Centre near Vasna Toll Naka, Ahmedabad. It is a museum – cum restaurant displaying various kinds and sizes of utensils of bygone days viz., utensils of everyday use like storage of water, grains, oil, money, jewellery, travelling kits as well as articles for performing rituals. The tourists visiting the museum can enjoy viewing the articles and can have completely traditional food with an overview of a typical village of Gujarat.

#### **Indology Museum – Ahmedabad**

The museum is situated at L. D. Institute of Indology near Gujarat University, Ahmedabad. The museum displays Indology (study of Indian history, culture, literature etc.) along with archeological articles and rare Jain collections. Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Institute of Indology was the creation of Shri Punyavijayji and Shri Kasturbhai Lalbhai in the year 1956. The museum has priceless collection of books, manuscripts and reference materials from ancient times. The museum collection consists of about 45000 printed books, about 75000 manuscripts of which nearly 500 are illustrated ones. The documents cover a wide range of subjects like Vedas, tantras,

Buddhism, Jain darshan, Indian philosophy, etc. In the same complex adjacent to L. D. Institute of Indology there is another museum, N. C. Mehta museum, displaying miniature paintings of past era.

#### **City Museum – Ahmedabad**

Known as Sanskar Kendra, the City museum is situated at Paldi in Ahmedabad. Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation undertaking, the museum reflects the history of Ahmedabad city from the past to the present day. By the side of the City museum there is another small museum displaying sculptures and tribal and modern arts of different parts of Gujarat.

#### **Barton Museum – Bhavnagar**

The museum is located at Gandhi Smriti Bhavan, Bhavnagar. The museum building was built in the year 1895 and was named after Colonel Barton, a British army officer. The museum has some majestic wood-work, bead-work, utensils, stamps, coins as well as arms and armours of olden days. The museum also displays photographs and paintings on the life style of Mahatma Gandhi.

#### **Watson Museum – Rajkot**

Situated at Jubilee Garden, Rajkot, the museum has a good collection of embroidery, wood carvings, silver-wares and beautifully engraved beetle boxes. The museum also exhibits life size paintings of various communities of Saurashtra plus sculptures and paintings of British era.

#### **Darbar-Hall Museum – Junagadh**

Darbar-hall Museum is situated at Diwan Chowk, Junagadh. In the olden days the hall was used by erstwhile Nawabs of Junagadh to hold Darbars or court. The museum has Royal furniture, silver throne used by Junagadh Nawabs, silver chairs, carpets, different varieties of glass chandeliers, palanquins, arms, mirrors, miniature paintings, photographs and gold ornaments.

#### **City Museum – Vadodara**

The museum is located at “Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery”, Sayaji Baug/Park, Vadodara. The museum comprises of archaeology, geology, rare paintings of Indian and European masters, ethnology, crafts of Gujarat, silverware from different parts of South India, miniature paintings both Indian and of Europe and rare manuscripts from



Mughal period. The museum has also dedicated a special section on anthropology of Gujarat. Maharaja Sayaji Rao Gaekwad was the creator of this museum.

### **Kachchh Museum – Bhuj**

One of the oldest museums in India, the Kachchh museum was founded in 1877. Located at Mahadev Gate, the museum exhibits anthropological as well as archaeological objects, minor arts and crafts, sections on numismatics including state's own currency "Kori" used in 1617, shipping and textiles, a gallery on gold and silver items, arms and weapons, rare paintings, musical instruments and also houses a wooden celestial elephant of Hindu mythology named "Airawat".

### **Lothal Museum**

As mentioned earlier (in Ancient site section) Lothal is situated at a place about 70 kms. south of Ahmedabad. At the site there is a small but informative museum displaying the artifacts found through excavation of the place. The artifacts consists of seals, terracotta, beads and an excellent set of weights and measures showing the level of civilization reached at that period.

### **BEACH TOURISM – COASTAL TOURISM**

Gujarat has approximately 1600 kms. of coastal length with numerous beautiful beaches, scenic rocky coastlines, and beach places. Yet, beach tourism is not a favoured spot for domestic or foreign tourist in particular. The main cause is that TCGL or Government of Gujarat for that matter has not given the level of attention required to develop the beach tourism. It is only recently that Gujarat has woken up to the fact that beach tourism can be a great foreign exchange earner. Some of the beach destination, which if properly developed, can be a great attraction for the tourists' especially foreign tourists<sup>58</sup>.

### **Kalai**

Situated near Daman and is about 20 kms. from the National Highway (NH 8) and is 25 kms. from the industrial town of Vapi. This is one of the few picturesque beaches in South Gujarat with good tourism potential<sup>59</sup>.

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<sup>58</sup> Dalal Mott MacDonald (2003); 20 Years Perspective Plan for the Development of Sustainable Tourism in Gujarat

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

### **Dandi**

Dandi is famous for civil disobedience of Mahatma Gandhi in 1930. At present a picnic spot for nearby towns, it has a long stretch of shallow beach with a historical setting and a calm and rustic atmosphere which will attract tourists provided the place is developed to the tourist expectations.

### **Dumas**

Situated at the outskirts of Surat, Dumas is an urban beach along the Arabian Sea. It is a very popular beach of South Gujarat.

### **Somnath**

Though not recommended for swimming, it a wonderful escape into the roaring silence of nature. It also offers some more active patches where you can enjoy a camel ride and light snacks.

### **Porbandar**

Porbandar is a historic coastal city convenient for visits to numerous nearby beaches like Madhavpur, Kuchdi, Chorwad etc. The beach of Porbandar is a popular destination for the locals. The Chowpaty is a place to take strolls, the promenade is nice and one can walk or sit at many places available with adequate benches for seating; the creeks of Porbandar are fantastic birding places having flamingoes, rosy pelicans and other magnificent birds.

### **Miyani**

About 36 km from Porbandar City towards Dwarka, along the Coastal NH 8E, Miyani is a coastal village with a beautiful beach, five temples and a dargah of Kokanshah Pir of archaeological interest, with some of them dating back to the 8th century. Both, the Harsiddhi Temple across Meda Creek and Bramha Temple in Miyani have great religious importance. A dam on Meda Creek has led to the development of a freshwater reservoir leading to a greener catchment that attracts a large variety of local as well as migratory birds.

### **Okhamadi**

It is a small village very near to Dwarka, the temple town. The village lies on coastal highway 6 and is famous for wind mill farms. Once properly developed, the location has charm to attract different category of tourists;

### **Dwarka**

It is another place having all the essential ingredients of a good tourist destination like excellent beach stretch, historical temples and serene surroundings minus quality tourist infrastructure;

### **Ahmedpur Mandvi**

Ahmedpur- Mandvi beach is located near the southern-most tip of Junagadh district. The beach site is one of the best in Gujarat. Calm water of light blue colour, a thinly scattered forest bordering the landside of the beach which is home to many beautiful birds gives enchanting scenery of the place. Like other sea beaches, this beach also requires tourism related infrastructure development in both class and quantity.

### **Kachchh Mandvi**

Kachchh Mandvi beach is in Kachchh district. It is a long beach and is very safe for swimming. At present the beach requires proper infrastructure to attract tourists both domestic and foreign. One can enjoy swimming, beach games, occasional boating, nature walks etc. The Govt. is trying to promote this beautiful beach into a water-sports destination which will be having facilities for para-sailing, water-skiing and surfing.

### **Mundra**

Mundra beach at the southern-most tip of Kachchh district touching Gulf of Kachchh is one of the oldest ports of Gujarat and was established in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, it was a commercial hub that connected Gulf countries and India. Though a beautiful beach, the lack of good quality tourism related infrastructure act as a deterrent for the tourists to visit the place in large number or to stay for a longer time;

In short, though Gujarat has been blessed with numerous world class beaches, yet due to lack of proper development it never attracted tourists to its full potential. Very recently, TCGL has realized the importance of "Beach Tourism" and in the process many development projects had been sanctioned. It is hoped that in near future beach

tourism will become a great favourite amongst world tourists in particular and domestic tourist in general.

### **ADVENTURE TOURISM**

Adventure tourism means tourists engaging themselves in physically challenging and dangerous sport activities. These include, safaris, trekking in unknown areas, hiking, mountain climbing, river or sea rafting, water surfing, aero sport and paragliding at beach sites and hilly areas. Gujarat offers enormous opportunities and options to the tourists in Adventure Tourism – may it be safaris, mountain climbing, water sports or aero sports. Gujarat Tourism Corporation has taken up “Adventure Tourism” concept in a very big way and hopes that in a short period of time, Adventure Tourism will become a firm favourite amongst tourist visiting Gujarat.

### **ECO-TOURISM**

Eco-Tourism is relatively a new phenomenon. In 1991, The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) defined “Ecotourism” as “Ecotourism is responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and sustains the well being of local people” or “Ecologically sustainable tourism with a primary focus on experiencing natural areas that fosters environmental and cultural understanding, appreciation and conservation”. Gujarat with wide range of deciduous forests, grasslands, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystem, mountains and vast desert plains, is an ideal place for eco-tourist. According to ornithologists, Gujarat is a paradise for bird watchers. Gir Sanctuary, famous for lions, is equally popular as one can enjoy the complete forest eco-system in one place. The “Marine Sanctuary” near Jamnagar is India’s first Marine Sanctuary. Trekking, boating, gliding through shallow river and forest areas and watching flora and fauna can be a life time experience for the tourists. For the development of ecotourism in the State, the TCGL has come out with tourism circuits, identifying and linking the potential areas for the purpose. Nature based projects have been taken into account and concerned stakeholders are taken into confidence for its success.

### **MEDICAL TOURISM**

Medical tourism” is a newly coined concept in tourism industry and started evolving around the year 2003. A fusion of two distinct service types, “Health care” and

“Tourism”, “Medical Tourism caters to the needs of well being of the physical body through medical services and mind through tourism services.

Gujarat being the home of a large number of NRIs (Non Resident Indians) gets a large inbound tourist flow.

These tourists come to Gujarat for different purpose and health care is one of them. As part of its Navaratri celebrations “Vibrant Gujarat”, Government of Gujarat has been projecting its world class medical facilities and medical expertise amongst its visitors to make Gujarat a Global Health Destination<sup>60</sup>.

## **HIGHWAYS**

The State enjoys one of the best roads in India having about 72,165 kms. of roads and it is well connected to other states.

### **2.1.4 TOURIST FACILITIES**

Hospitality, the foundation on which tourism development is built, is an inbuilt quality of Gujarati population, Gujarat offers diverse experience to its tourists, starting from forests and deserts, hills and plains, sea and rivers, temples and forts, ancient sites to modern cities, fairs and festivals and health care facilities to pull the tourists from all over the world. But from all accounts it seems that Gujarat failed to reap the fruits the nature has bestowed on it<sup>61</sup>. Except metropolitan cities and few tourist sports, rest of the places are having the following main draw backs.

1. Poor accessibility to most of the tourist destinations.
2. Lack of infrastructure and basic amenities at most of the tourist destinations.

Till very recent time, lack of proper information about tourist destination was the biggest drawback in attracting tourists. It is only after 2006 that TCGL along with State Government has come out with different mode to promote tourist influx<sup>62</sup>.

Though, State government and TCGL in particular have been making efforts to improve tourism in the state. Yet, a Times of India news article saying, “Delay puts State on the Back foot”<sup>63</sup> shows that State Government is still little lethargic as far as

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<sup>60</sup> FICCI; Gujarat Tourism with special Emphasis on Health & Wellness Tourism

<sup>61</sup> Dalal Mott MacDonald (2003); 20 Years Perspective Plan for the Development of Sustainable Tourism in Gujarat

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Times of India; April 25, 2015, Ahmedabad; “Delay puts State on the Back foot”

the development of eco-tourism in the State is concern. The report says “The Centre has now decided to have an Eco-Sensitive Zone (ECZ) of 10 kms. radius around the 15 Sanctuaries (Note: there are 23 Wildlife Sanctuaries in the State of Gujarat) for which no such protective belts have been announced by the State Government”.

Over-all it can be said that except in few places, TCGL in particular is trying to address the above mentioned draw-backs in right earnest since 2012 through infrastructural development, and projection of Gujarat as a tourist spot through electronic media, printed matters etc. of the following themes:

1. Khusbhoo Gujarat Ki
  2. The Gujarat Pavitra Yatradham Vikas Board
  3. Kite Festival
  4. Rann Utsav, Kachchh etc.
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