

Navratri festival in Gujarat

A special India Program



Date:

27.09. – 12.10.2019

choretaki.com

Das «Tanzplätzchen» im Internet



Services:

- Accommodation in double room for a total of 15 or 16 nights (depending on arrival)
- good middle class hotels
- Half board at all places
- sightseeing and excursions with air-conditioned transport
- Accompanying tour guide Mr. Ajay Singh (was requested)
- All entrance fees as described in the program
- 1 Jeep Safari in Bajana Wild Ass Sanctuary
- All applicable taxes
- **Not included services:**
- flight connection to Ahmedabad and back
- personal tasks
- All services in Vadodara (with the exception of the stay in the basic room with breakfast, guide and bus)
- visa

Package price

Per person in a double room

€ **1.495,-**

Additional payments:

Flight share incl. taxes 800 EUR
Single room supplement: 535 EUR
booking of a ½ double room is possible!

Visa India - we will gladly send you the info
Minimum attendance: 10 persons

Booking Code: GLIN9NAV

Information & Travel guides : Ulli Bixa MSc info@choretaki.com, Tel.: +43 676 9201585

Bookings: Raiffeisen Reisen, Modecenterstrasse 16 / 1030 Wien

Tel.: 01/313 75 – 82; E-Mail: buze@raiffeisen-reisen.at

Es gelten die Allgemeinen Reisebedingungen (ARB 1992) in der letztgültigen Fassung. Veranstalter: Raiffeisen Reisebüro Gesellschaft m.b.H., Modecenterstraße 16, 1030 Wien, Eintragsnummer 1998/0329 im Veranstalterverzeichnis des Bundesministeriums für Wirtschaft, Familie und Jugend. Gemäß der Reisebüroversicherungsverordnung (RSV) sind Kundengelder bei Pauschalreisen des Veranstalters Raiffeisen Reisebüro Gesellschaft m.b.H. unter folgenden Voraussetzungen abgesichert: Die Anzahlung erfolgt frühestens elf Monate vor dem vereinbarten Ende der Reise und beträgt 20 % des Reisepreises. Die Restzahlung erfolgt frühestens zwei Wochen vor Reiseantritt Zug um Zug gegen Aushändigung der Reiseunterlagen an den Reisenden. Darüber hinausgehende oder vorzeitig geleistete Anzahlungen bzw. Restzahlungen dürfen nicht gefordert werden und sind auch nicht abgesichert. Garant ist die Raiffeisenlandesbank NÖ-Wien AG, Friedrich-Wilhelm-Raiffeisen Platz 1, 1020 Wien, Bankgarantienummer 1177/06. Die Anmeldung sämtlicher Ansprüche ist bei sonstigem Anspruchsverlust binnen 8 Wochen ab Eintritt der Insolvenz des Reiseveranstalters (d.h. binnen 8 Wochen ab Eröffnung des

TRAVEL PROGRAM:

26. Sep. 2019 flight to Ahmedabad

The transfer to your hotel depends on your arrival time and a room is already reserved in the hotel.

27. Sep. 2019 Arrival in Ahmedabad

Welcome to Ahmedabad, one of the largest cities in the state of Gujarat and one of the largest conurbations in India with a population of about 5.2 million. The city is located on the banks of the Sabarmati River and is the administrative center of the Ahmedabad district.

In the afternoon you will visit the Gandhi Ashram:

Sabarmati Ashram also known as Gandhi Ashram. Gandhi lived and taught here for several years. The former living rooms are now a museum with everyday objects.

In the evening you can take a walk along the Sabarmati River.

Overnight stay in a hotel in Ahmedabad.

28. Sep. 2019: Day trip Modhera - Patan (approx. 180 miles/ 7 hours)

After breakfast you will drive to Modhera & Patan. Modhera Temple of the Sun: The Temple of the Sun of Modhera is one of the most beautiful examples of Indian temple architecture around 1026 A.D. The first view of the Temple of the Sun is breathtaking, with the portico of Sabhamandap reflected in the massive temple pond. Patan Rani Ki Vav: Patan has over 100 beautifully carved Jain temples and many attractive traditional carved wooden houses. Rani Ki Vav is the oldest and greatest stepped well in the state of Gujarat.

Return to Ahmedabad, overnight stay in a hotel in Ahmedabad.

29. Sep. 2019: Ahmedabad-Vadodara (ca. 77 miles / 3,5 hours)

After breakfast we will drive to Vadodara which was formerly called Baroda.

Vadodara: the history can be traced back to more than 2000 years.

On arrival transfer to the hotel.

In the afternoon you will visit the Laxmi Vilas Palace in the Indo-Saracen style. It is considered one of the most magnificent palaces in India. In the adjacent art museum - one of the best in India - you can experience the diverse art collection of the royal family of Baroda.

In the evening you have the first opportunity to participate in the Navratri Festival.

Overnight stay in a hotel in Vadodara.

Navratri Festival and Garba Dance

Navratri means "nine nights" and is a nine day Hindu festival celebrated in almost all villages and towns of Gujarat. The main dance is "Garba", a religious vocal dance. The dance is based on rhythmic singing and clapping while dancing around a shrine of the mother goddess Shakti. The rhythm is set by a drummer in the middle of the group. After the day's work the people gather in the squares and at the temple and celebrate a "puja" in honour of the various expressions of the mother goddess, after which the dance begins. In addition to the traditional form of dance, which consists of simple steps, there are also various more complicated and modern variations. Sometimes the dancers also use wooden sticks as rhythm instruments. On

this special trip, you will have the opportunity to join the Navratri Festival every evening and join in the celebration and dancing.



30. Sep. 2019 -: Vadodara and Navratri Dance Festival

Today and the next 3 days are dedicated to the Garba lessons, which are lead/organized by Prof. Dr. Parul Shah, University of Baroda. Evening visit of the Navratri cultural heritage in the Navlakhi district.

Overnight stay in a hotel in Vadodara.

„Garba curriculum“: 30. September - 3. Oct.

- 10 am to noon Garba lessons.
 - 13.00 to 14.00 o'clock singing
 - 14.00 to 15.00 o'clock Lunch break
 - 15.00 to 18.00 o'clock Lectures, meetings, visits, shopping
- Dinner and preparation for the night for the Garba dance.
From 21.00 until midnight: Garba at different places in the city

1. October 2019: Vadodara and Navratri Dance Festival

Breakfast at the hotel. Workshop - Dance school for the Garba dance
Evening visit to the United Way of Baroda. The Navratri Festival on the United Way of Baroda is unlike anything you've ever seen.
Overnight stay in a hotel in Vadodara.

2. October 2019: Vadodara and Navratri Dance Festival

Breakfast and workshop. Then time for Vadodara. The city offers above all traditional, ethnic clothing. From tiny stands to trendy street vendors to huge shopping malls - the right thing for every expectation. Evening visit to the Mehsananagar district.
Overnight stay in a hotel in Vadodara.

3. Oktober 2019 - Vadodara and Navratri Dance Festival

Early morning drive to Champaner, an old fortified town with a rich historical culture. It was an important trading centre for fine silk, woven and dyed textiles and sword making. The decline began after the attacks of the Great Mogul Humayun in 1535. After the return workshop. In the evening visit of the Samta district to a Garba event.
Overnight stay in a hotel in Vadodara.

4. October 2019: -: Vadodara - Bajana (209km / approx. 5 hours)

After breakfast drive to Bajana. Enjoy the safaris at Little Rann of Kutch.
The Little Rann of Kutch Wild Donkey Sanctuary, which covers almost 5000 square kilometres of Little Rann, is the only place on earth where the endangered Indian wild donkey lives. Also visit the Navratri Festival in a temple near Bajana.
Overnight stay in a hotel in Dasada.

5. Oct. 2019: Bajana - Wankaner - Gondal (134 miles / 5 hours)

Today we go to the Wankan Palace, which is still inhabited by the royal family. Parts of the building have been converted into a museum with a large collection of weapons, prepared animals, portraits and paintings, royal silverware and exotic furniture. Later you go to Gondal.
Overnight stay in a hotel in Gondal.

6. Oct. 2019: Gondal

After breakfast you will visit the former guest house of the Maharajah; the Maharajah family still lives nearby. The building was transformed into an atmospheric Heritage Hotel. All rooms differ from each other and have furniture and decor from different eras. You can see the traces of time, but in our opinion this is what gives it its special charm. You can make

yourself comfortable on the veranda or in the garden or admire the large collection of vintage cars. If you still need an airy cotton shirt for the warm temperatures, ask your driver to take you to Khadi Plaza. Here you can see how women and men spin and weave and in the attached shop you can buy shirts and the like at fair prices.

Overnight stay in a hotel in Gondal.

7. Oct. 2019: Gondal - Diu via Junagadh (ca. 145 miles / 6 hours)

After breakfast drive to Junagadh: Uparkot Fort in Uparkot, an old citadel on a hill of the city, was a stronghold of the Moors and the Gupta Empire. It is said to have survived 16 sieges in the last 1000 years due to its strategic location and difficult access. The Buddhist caves are a beautiful example of the architecture of the rocks with ornaments, carved entrances, water cisterns, Chaitya Hall, monastery cells for meditation and Chaitya windows.

Later you drive to Diu; upon arrival check in at the hotel.

Overnight stay in a hotel in Diu.

8. October 2019: Diu

After breakfast visit the Portuguese fortress, built around 1400 A.D. on the ruins of another fortress of the Arab governor Malekhyaz, which in turn was built over an even earlier fortress from 700 A.D. St. Francis Church, founded in 1593 AD, has an impressive structure overlooking the beautiful Arabian Sea. St. Paul's Church is considered the only church in Diu where worship services are held. This 400 year old church is very similar to the Bom Jesus church in Goa. The Diu Museum used to be an old Thomas Church, which was later converted into a museum to house several artefacts and antique pieces. Evening: Free time on the beach.

Overnight stay in a hotel in Diu.

9. Oct. 2019: Diu - Bhavnagar (ca. 124 miles / 6 hours)

After breakfast you drive to Bhavnagar, check in at the hotel. In the evening visit of the Takhtehwar - temple. This temple, built over a small hill overlooking the city, was consecrated to Lord Shiva. And the Barton Library is one of the oldest libraries in Gujarat. This library is one of the oldest monuments in Bhavnagar and is popular with people of all ages.

Overnight stay in a hotel in Bhavnagar.

10. Oct. 2019: Bhavnagar- Ahmedabad via Palitana and Lothal (approx. 180 miles / 7 hours)

In the early morning you drive to Palitana. Upon arrival, you will begin your ascent to the Palitana Temples on the Shatrunjaya Hills, crowned with 863 temples that measure themselves against each other in beauty and splendour. This is one of the most impressive sights for fans and visitors alike. Later we continue to Lothal: one of the famous cities of the old Indus culture. The origin and history of Lothal can be dated to 2400 BC. Lothal in Gujarat is one of the most important places of archaeology.

Overnight stay in hotel in Ahmedabad.

11. Oct. 2019: Ahmedabad – Full day sightseeing

After breakfast the "Heritage Walk" through the old town begins at 07.30 hrs. Later: Visit of the very famous Huthee-Sing Jain Temple: built in 1850 AD. It was named after its founder Seth Hathee Singh, a wealthy Jain merchant. Adalaj Step Fountain: The well was built in 1499 by Queen Rudabai. The stepped fountain or Vav, as it is called in Gujarati, is artfully carved and several storeys deep. The designs on its walls and columns include leaves,

flowers, birds, fish and other stunning ornamental designs. Overnight stay in hotel in Ahmedabad.

12. Oct. 2019: We leave Ahmedabad

During the day transfer to the airport of Ahmedabad.

End of the journey

Planned hotels:

Town	Hotels	Duration of stay in Nights
Ahmedabad	Starottel www.starottel.com	2 - 3
Vadodara	Hotel Gen X	5
Dasada	Royal Safari Camp	1
Gondal	The River side Palace	2
Diu	Radhika Beach Resort	2
Bhavnagar	The Fern Residency	1
Ahmedabad	Starottel	2