



# Gujarat

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## Best Places to Eat

- Vishalla (p696)
- Nilmbag Palace Restaurant (p706)
- Peshawri (p703)
- Gopi Dining Hall (p696)
- Bhatiyar Gali (p695)

## Best Places to Sleep

- House of MG (p695)
- Deewanji Ni Haveli (p695)
- Bhuj House (p727)
- São Tome Retiro (p710)
- Rann Riders (p733)

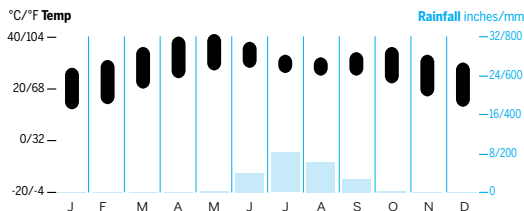
## Why Go?

Unfairly overlooked by many travellers scurrying between Mumbai (Bombay) and Rajasthan, Gujarat is an easy side-step off the well-beaten tourist trail. While the capital, Ahmedabad, can draw you in with its remarkable architecture and excellent dining scene, the countryside holds most of this state's many treasures. Traditional artisans in tribal villages weave, embroider, dye and print some of India's finest textiles, and pristine parks harbour unique wildlife, including wild asses and the last remaining prides of Asiatic lions. For the spiritually inclined, sacred Jain and Hindu pilgrimage sites sit atop mountains that rise dramatically from vast flatlands. And colourful festivals burst with a cornucopia of culture.

Gujarat also claims a special relationship to the life and work of Mahatma Gandhi: he was born here, he ignited the satyagraha movement from here, he made his Salt March here – and his legacy remains a vibrant part of public discourse and private lives.

## When to Go

### Ahmedabad



### Sep & Oct

Navratri festival brings music and dancing to every town and village.

### Nov–Dec

Mango milkshake time in Junagadh.

### Nov–Mar

Best for Gujarat's national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.



## Gujarat Highlights

- 1 Kachchh** (p724)  
Exploring tribal villages to admire and acquire some of India's best textiles.
- 2 Gir National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary** (p713)  
Taking a forest safari in search of Asia's only wild lions.
- 3 Ahmedabad** (p688)  
Tackling a thali, exploring the old-city mosques, and paying homage to Mahatma Gandhi.
- 4 Champaner & Pavagadh** (p703)  
Exploring an abandoned capital city and following pilgrims at two adjacent World Heritage Sites.
- 5 Wild Ass Sanctuary** (p732)  
Looking for Indian wild ass, wolves, hyenas and nilgai antelope amid the flat salt plains of the Little Rann.
- 6 Diu** (p708)  
Letting loose in this former Portuguese enclave and scooting around its near-empty roads.
- 7 Shatrunjaya** (p707)  
Undertaking a challenging dawn pilgrimage to the hilltop Jain temple near Palitana.