



PROGRAM -08

12 days / 11 Nights Footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi

Day 01 - Arrive MUMBAI

Upon arrival at International Airport in **Mumbai** ex Flight (to be advised) in the morning you will be met and assisted at the airport and transferred to your hotel for check-in.

Formerly known as Bombay, Mumbai is India's dream city and often related to New York of India. Mumbai has lots to offer to the modern traveller, from its renowned Bollywood film industry, a fashion epicenter, colonial-era architecture, Gateway of India by waterfront, a home to Asia's largest slums to the world's most expensive home. Mumbai, with its Colonial and Art Deco buildings, tall skyscrapers, wild traffic and frenetic pace of life, is one of India's most intriguing cities.

Early afternoon we pick you from your hotel and take you to visit the famous **Mani Bhawan** that was the political activity headquarters for father of India 'Mahatma Gandhi'. Next we visit UNESCO world heritage site **Victoria Terminus Train Station** built in 1888 & **Mumbai Harbor** waterfront located bold arch **Gateway of India** that was built to welcome 'King George V' and 'Queen Mary' into India.

Later explore around the **Juhu Chowpati Area** or return back to your hotel to relax.

Overnight at Hotel in Mumbai



Day 02 – Mumbai / Porbandar **“Breakfast”**

Early morning we transfer to Mumbai Airport to connect Flight to **Porbandar**.

Depart Mumbai by Spice Jet Flight SG 2873 (Etd 0925 Hrs)

Arrive Porbandar “Economy Class (Eta 1045 Hrs)

Check in Baggage 15 Kg per Ticket.

On arrival at Porbandar, you will be met by our representative & transfer to hotel (*Subject to hotel's standard check in time*). *Porbandar was the last capital of the Jethwa Rajputs, who ruled this area for about 1200 years. Porbandar was a prosperous town due to the maritime trade and was a thriving port in the Mughal period. Porbandar is associated with the Mahatma Gandhi as at this place Mahatma Gandhi was born in 1869 AD.*

After fresh-up visit **Kirti Mandir** is a memorial temple built in the memory of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi in the city of Porbandar, Gujarat, which was also his birthplace. The foundation stone of the striking Kirti Mandir was laid in 1947 but the building was completed in 1950, by which time Gandhiji was no more.

The original three storied house is built like a haveli with walls and pillars adorned with intricate designs. Kirti Mandir is an 'E' shaped building that consists of domes, terraces, a number of balconies and a central shikhara. The 'shikhara' of Kirti Mandir of Porbandar is 33 meters high and constructed in the Hindu style. The height of the temple was purposefully kept to be 79 feet symbolizing the 79 years Gandhiji had blessed this earth. Later return to hotel & relax.

Overnight at Hotel in Porbandar



Day 03 – PORBANDAR TO RAJKOT [185 KMS / 5 HRS APPROX] “Breakfast”

Morning after breakfast we drive for Rajkot, upon arrival transfer to hotel.

After fresh-up visit **Kaba Gandhi No Delo**, which literally means "Kaba Gandhi's house", is the place where the Indian leader Mahatma Gandhi stayed during his stay in Rajkot in the early years of his life. It is situated on Ghee Kanta Road at Rajkot in Gujarat. The house was built in 1880-81 A.D. This is the place where Mahatma Gandhi's father, Karamchand Uttanchand Gandhi (Kaba Gandhi) resided at Rajkot, serving at the post of Diwan to the King. Mahatma Gandhi. Next we visit other places of interest as below

Watson Museum (Closed on Wednesday, 02nd & 04th Saturday and public holidays)

The Watson Museum and Library commemorates the work of Colonel John Watson, political agent from 1886 to 1889. It is a jumbled attic of the collection with the 3rd century inscriptions and a delicate ivory work overseen by a marble statue of Queen Victoria.

Swaminarayan Temple - The Swaminarayan Temple was established by Shastriji Maharaj of Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha, in 1907. The temple has been built out of hand carved stones. Within its premises is the figure of Lord Swaminarayan, clad in royal cloth. Later return to hotel & relax.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Rajkot.



Day 04 : RAJKOT – BHAVNAGAR [190 KMS / 5 HRS APPROX] “Breakfast”

Morning after breakfast drive for Bhavnagar and transfer to hotel.

Later we visit prominent sightseeing of Bhavnagar related to Father of the Nation :

Barton Museum & Gandhi Smriti (Closed on Sunday & Public Holidays)

Gandhi Smriti and Barton museum belongs to the 1895 AD. This museum has a fine collection of farming tools, beadwork, wood carvings, religious carvings, weapons, musical instruments, betel nut cutters, coins, stamps, sculpture, skeletons and various folk arts objects which represent the culture of the Saurashtra region. This memorial also houses photographs and some of the items related to Mahatma Gandhi which reminds of the Mahatma Gandhi as a student of Bhavnagar university. This museum also has a library that consists of the books and photographs of Mahatma Gandhi.

Thereafter visit **Takhteshwar Mahadev Temple** –an old Hindu Temple with few steps to climb.

Later return to hotel & relax.

Overnight at Hotel in Bhavnagar





Day 05 – BHAVNAGAR – PALITANA – LOTHAL – AHMEDABAD [285 KMS / 6 HRS Apx]

Morning after breakfast drive for visit Palitana **The Shatrunjaya Hill** is located at a height of 591 metres. The Shatrunjaya Temple is the most sacred temple of the Jains and one of the largest of its kind in India. One has to climb up the hill for about 4 kms (600 meters) on a stepped path to Shatrunjaya (place of victory over worldliness). You can reach this place either in Doli or lift chairs or by walking.

After lunch (Own arrangement) drive for Ahmedabad en-route visit **Lothal (Closed on Friday & Public holidays)** is important archaeological site was discovered in 1954. The city that stood here 4500 years ago is clearly related to the Indus Valley cities of Mohenjodaro and Harappa, both in Pakistan. It has the same neat street pattern, carefully assembled, neat brickwork and scientific drainage system. Lothal means mound of the dead in Gujarati. Lothal is located between the Sabarmati river and the Bhogavo river and is now 10 kms. up from the Gulf of Khambhat (Cambay).

Continued drive for Ahmedabad was originally the **Karnavati** that was founded on the left banks of the Sabarmati river by Karna Solanki between 1063 and 1093 AD. It was re-established by the Ahmed Shah I in 1411 AD on the banks of the Sabarmati river. Arrive and check in at Hotel.

Evening relax at Hotel or Explore law Garden market (Traditional Textile market), try your hand out for bargaining.

Overnight at Hotel in Ahmedabad



Day 06 – AHMEDABAD “Breakfast”

After early breakfast enjoy Heritage walk of Ahmedabad City (Time 0730 Hrs to 1000 Hrs)

The Heritage Walk of Ahmedabad is a guided walk of two and a half hours. This daily affair by the AMC is extremely well designed in guidance and co-operation with CRUTA and **Swaminarayan Trust**, being operationalized by a group of young volunteers. There is also a half hour special slide show running through pages of the city's history unfolding back its birth from a 10th century AD ancient site known as Ashaval to the present walled city re-founded during the period of Ahmed Shah and onwards.

The walk begins from the picturesque **Swaminarayan Mandir** in Kalupur and ends in the most glorious architectural legacies the Jumma Masjid, covering in between the numerous pols, havelis, ornamental facades, workplaces of artisans and number of magnificent Hindu and Jain temples. Our walk effectively anchored by our volunteer Rajesh Gajjar, proceeded from **Kavi Dalpatram Chowk** - which housed the great 19th century Gujarati poet - in Lambeshwar ni Pole, to the classic reminiscences of the city's textile era - the Calico Dome to the century old Kala Ramji Mandir in the **Haja Patel ni Pole** with a unique idol of Lord Rama in dark colour and in a sitting posture.

A special feature of Ahmedabad is the plan of the old city, comprising numerous pols, self contained neighbourhoods, sheltering large numbers of people, traversed by narrow streets, usually terminating in squares with community wells and chabutaras for feeding birds.

The walk moving through **Doshiwada ni Pol**, **Zaveri Vad** to **Chaumukhji ni Pol** saw ornate temples with their fascinating wooden carvings hidden under plain exteriors camouflaged beneath the aura of Mughal rule, and lanes punctuated with intriguing chabutras (bird feeders) to a three foot wide alley leading into the 110-year old Harkunvar Shethani ni Haveli.

Moving through the historical Fernandez Bridge brought us to Manek Chowk where amidst the deafening traffic and full of parked vehicles Rajesh told us the legend of Manek Baba after whom the chowk was named and the Manek Baba Mandir at the site where he shrank and entered a bottle to show his magical powers to Ahmed Shah, the founder of the City.

Next we visit the famous **Gandhi Ashram**, also known as the Sabarmati ashram is located on the banks of the Sabarmati River, about 7 kms north of Ahmedabad. This ashram is one of the important tourist attraction and the beautiful ashram complex of Ahmedabad. This Ashram was set up by the Mahatma Gandhi in 1915 and one of the most moving memorial. This ashram was the Mahatma Gandhi's headquarters during the struggle for India's independence. His ashram still makes handicraft, handmade paper and spinning wheels. His living quarter is still preserved as a small museum and there is a library and a memorial center.

Next we visit **Hathee Singh Jain Temple** is located just outside the Delhi Gate in the north of the old city. This Jain temple was built in 1850 by a rich Jain merchant and is one of the Ahmedabad's best ornated Jain temple. This temple is dedicated to Dharamanath, the 15th Jain Tirthankar. This temple is built of pure white marble and profusely decorated with rich carvings.

We also visit **Dada Hari Vav** was built in 1499 by a woman of Sultan Begara's harem. This vav has steps to lower platforms, terminating at a small, octagonal well. The depths are cool, even on a hottest day. Neglected and often borne dry, it is a fascinating place. The best time to visit and photograph the well is between 10 to 11 AM (earlier in the summers followed by visit to **Dandi Kutir** (Closed on Monday and National Holidays) is India's Largest & Only Museum built on the life and teachings of One Man, Mahatma Gandhi. It represents Gandhi's powerful idea of people across lines of class, gender, age and community asserting their common right to salt itself: a symbol to inspire a pluralistic society to march towards independence, Purna Swaraj.

Overnight at Hotel in Ahmedabad





Day 07 – AHMEDABAD TO VADODARA [120 KMS / 2 ½ HRS APPROX] “Breakfast”

Morning after breakfast drive for Vadodara and do sightseeing of Vadodara as follows

Laxmi Vilas Palace (Closed on Monday & Public Holidays)

The Laxmi Vilas Palace was built by R.H. Chisholm. This palace was built in full throttle 19th century Indo-Saracenic style for Rs.6 million. The after early designs by the military engineer Mant, the facade of this extraordinary building is 150 m wide. The palace is faced in red Agra sandstone with dressings of blue trapstone from Pune and Rajasthani marble. The approach to the palace is very pleasant and the interior is spectacular. The Durbar Hall has walls and floor in Venetian mosaic and marble is used extensively throughout, as is stained glass from London.

Sayaji Bagh

Within this shady, pleasant park is the Baroda Museum, which houses some good Asian statues and carvings, mangy zoology exhibits and an Egyptian room. The gallery has lovely Mughal miniatures and a motley crew of European masters.

Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum (Closed on Monday & Public Holidays)

The Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum contains some fine European painting.

Overnight stay at Hotel in Vadodara.



Day 08 : VADODARA – STATUE OF UNITY (Closed on Monday) – SURAT [250 KMS / 5 HRS APPROX]

Today we will visit **Statue of Unity**. The World's Tallest Statue is Located close to the holy river of Narmada, Statue of Unity is an iconic representation of unity along with being the tallest statue in the world. Dedicated to the iron man of India and the man who is to be credited with the unification India, **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, a visit to this statue will evoke a sense of deep patriotism and fascination within you.

Later continue drive for Surat is associated with the name **Saurashtra**, 'The Good Land', the regions covering the peninsula of Gujarat. It is situated on the banks of the Tapti river and owes its development to its early and sustained importance as a trading center. It was large in 1600 and even after a decline in its fortunes the population in 1796 was estimated to be as much as 800,000. Surat is a busy commercial center for textiles and diamonds. Rest of the day relax or do your own activities

Overnight at Hotel in Surat

Day 09 – SURAT

Morning after breakfast drive for Excursion of **Dandhi** In early 1930 Gandhi decided to mount a highly visible demonstration against the increasingly repressive salt tax by marching through what is now the western Indian state of Gujarat from his ashram (religious retreat) at Sabermati (near Ahmadabad) to the town of Dandi (near Surat) on the Arabian Sea coast. He set out on foot on March 12, accompanied by several dozen followers. After each day's march the group stopped in a different village along the route, where increasingly larger crowds would gather to hear Gandhi rail against the unfairness of the tax on poor people. On the morning of April 6, Gandhi and his followers picked up handfuls of salt along the shore, thus technically “producing” salt and breaking the law. Later return back and relax.

Overnight at Hotel in Surat



Day 10 – SURAT DELHI

After breakfast, enjoy a relaxed morning

Later drive to **Surat Airport** connect flight to Delhi.

Depart Surat by Indigo Airlines Flight 6E 2065 (Etd 1340 Hrs)

Arrive Delhi “Economy Class (Eta 1525 Hrs)

Check in Baggage 15 Kg per Ticket.

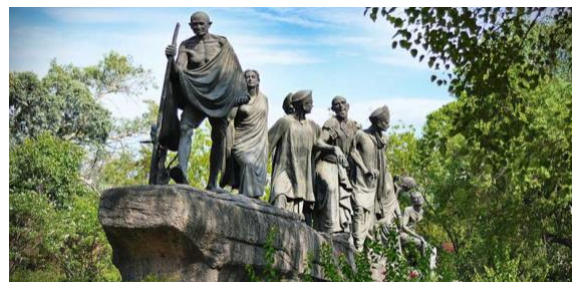
On arrival in Delhi you will be met and transferred to your hotel, rest of the day free to relax.

Overnight : at Hotel in Delhi



Day 11 –DELHI “Breakfast”

Morning we start tour of Delhi visiting prominent places related to Mahatma Gandhi including visits to **National Gandhi Museum** where many great memories of Gandhi are on display followed by visit to **Gandhi Smriti**, the place where Gandhi died, and also the, next visit **Raj Ghat**, where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated. The eternal flame at the site was mounted in his memory. Following the visit we head to **Kasturba Kutir** we also have a look at Gandhi Darshan to read more about his life as a person, as a leader, and also as a papa of the Indian country. Next we visit **Valmiki Temple** and know more about Gandhi how he was more popular in between the most common peoples we also visit **11 statues** (Gyarah Murti) illustrating Gandhi’s Dandi March, an activity he executed to damage the country’s salt law and end our tour at **Charkha Museum** a latest addition to above where different type of Indian Charka are kept “including the enormous design of India Charka”. After the tour return back to your hotel & relax.



Overnight : at Hotel in Delhi



Day 12 –DEPART DELHI “Breakfast”

Etd : as per your Flight details, we transfer you to Delhi International Airport for flight back home.

**** End of Tour****