

Tour Code no.12 NI B

## DWARKA PILGRIMAGE PACKAGE (2011)

AHMEDABAD – SOMNATH – PORBANDAR – DWARKA – BET DWARKA

Tour duration (No. of days)	Starting dates	Tour cost with food, In Rs.
<b>07</b>	Feb 20, March 13, 27, 30 Apr 3, 10, 24. May 1, 15, 29; June 12; July 10, Aug. 14, 28 Sep.4,11,18,25, Oct.1, 23, Nov.13; Dec. 25	<b>10,800/=</b>

### Detailed Programme

DAY – 1	Pick up from Railway Station/Airport and transfer to Hotel ; freshening up and after breakfast start for sightseeing in Ahmedabad: Akshardham, Swami Narayan Temple, Kankaria Lake, Vaishno Devi Temple, Gita Mandir, Sardar Vallabhbai Patel Memorial Musuem, Vinobaji Ashram and return. Nigh rest at Ahmedabad Hotel.
DAY - 2	Leave Ahmedabad in the fore-noon by Road for Somnath, Gir Forest etc. After sightseeing at Somnath return to the hotel at Somnath for Night Rest.
DAY –3	In Somnath, visit the world famous <b>Somnath Temple</b> (which is the first Jyotirlinga temple) <b>Old Jyotirlinga Temple Museum</b> built by the Indore Rani Ahalyabai, <b>Triveni Snanam</b> (the confluence of Riivers Hiran, Kapila and Saraswathi) {Devotees take bath here for salvation from the past sins}; <b>Prabhasa Theertham</b> ( believed to be the place where the Gopikas took bath after the Dehaviyoga of Lord Krishna), <b>Gita Mandir</b> (the place of Lord Krishna’s Dehviyoga ), <b>Sun Temple</b> , <b>Caves</b> used by Pandavas for residence, <b>Balkathirtham</b> where Lord Krishna received the Arrow . Night rest at Somnath Hotel.
DAY – 4	Leave for Porbandar in the morning. Sight seeing at Porbandar : Mahatma Gandhi’s residence <b>Kirtimandir</b> , Home of Kasturba Gandhi; <b>Sudhamapuri</b> – home of Bhakta Kuchela,. Thereafter leave for Dwarka reaching there in the night. Night Rest at Dwarka.
DAY – 5	Sight seeing at Dwarka : <b>Dwarkadeesh Temple</b> , one of the famous Chaturdhams (four Monasteries) in India; <b>Gayatri Mandir</b> , <b>Gita Mandir</b> , <b>Panchkuva</b> (residence of Pandavas); <b>Sunset</b> . Return to Hotel. Night rest at Dwarka.

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DAY – 6	In the morning leave for Bet Dwarka( place where Lord Krishna met Bhaktakuchela with his offerings for Lord) and visit Rukmini Tepmle, Nageshwara Jyotirlinga Temple ( One of the 12 Nageshwara Jyotirlingas of India), Gopeetha Lab ( the place where Arjuna had problem while traveling with Gopis) and return to Dwarka. Night rest at Dwarka Hotel.
DAY – 7	Drop at Raiiway Station/Airport.

**FOOD DETAILS**

Day	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
B.F										
Lunch										
Dinner										

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

## 1. The cost of the Package

- a) **Food** : Vegetarian food cost is included in the total tour
- b) **Accommodation**: Accommodation will be provided at medium standard Hotels on Twin sharing basis (two tourists in one double bedded room). The rooms will be spacious with clean bathrooms and toilets.
- c) **Transportation**: Up and down cost of non a/c transportation from and to Ahmedabad will be provided by the Company, for which suitable Vehicles will be used depending upon the number of Passengers.
- d) **Inclusion and exclusions**
  - i) **Inclusions**: Cost of Food, accommodation, transportation. Fees of Tour Manager.
  - ii) **Exclusions**: Entry tickets wherever necessary, any other personal expenses and whatever is not mentioned in the *inclusions*.

## 2. Booking and Payment

**Booking** could be done, before 90 days of the starting date of the tour, at the Calicut Head Office, any of the branch office of the Company or any of its accredited Booking agencies by submitting the required Application Form (available at any of the aforesaid offices) along with an advance of Rs 2,000/= in **cash** or a **Demand Draft** drawn in the name of **Vivekananda Travels (P) Ltd.** payable at Calicut. The balance amount could also be paid in the same manner on or before 10 days of the starting date of the tour.

Payment of the advance as well as the balance amount could also be done by depositing the required amount in any of our following Bank accounts:

Name of the Bank	: Axis Bank Ltd., Calicut
Account No.	: 910020036088153
Code	: UTIB0000136

### 3, **Cancellation and refund etc.:**

The Company will consider cancellation and refund if such a request in the prescribed form (available with the Company's Head Office and its branches at various locations as also with its Booking agencies) is received before 15 days from the starting date of the tour. If the company is satisfied with the genuineness of the reason for cancellation it will consider making a refund after deducting 15% of the sum received by it towards administrative charges incurred.

### 4. **General :**

a) Since the tour involves considerable length of travel by train, it is expected that the tourists will carry only materials permitted by the railway authorities in such journeys. *The company wishes to clarify here that under no circumstances the tourists should be found with any items of explosives or such related materials with them.*

b) Senior Citizens who are availing of concessions in rail tickets should carry the necessary Age Proof . The company will not be responsible for the consequences arising from the absence of such proof.

5. A Tour Manager (Guide) will accompany the tour for properly guiding the guests. The Company expects the tourists to adhere to his instructions for a peaceful and comfortable tour.

If any one desires to have clarification or further information about the package, please contact the company at the following contact details:

Vivekananda Travels (P) Ltd.  
Srikanteswara Complex,  
S. K. Temple Road, Calicut – 4

Phones; 0495-272 7100; 272 7800

E-mail: [info@vivekanandatravelspltd.com](mailto:info@vivekanandatravelspltd.com);

[dwarak@vivekanandatravelspltd.com](mailto:dwarak@vivekanandatravelspltd.com)

Web [www.vivekanandatravelspltd.com](http://www.vivekanandatravelspltd.com)

## AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad is the largest city in Gujarat State. It is the seventh largest city and eighth largest metropolitan area. Ahmedabad is the fastest growing city of India, and ranked third as the fastest growing city worldwide. It is located on the banks of the River Sabarmati 32 km from the state capital Gandhinagar.. In colloquial Gujarati, the city is commonly called Amdavad.

Ahmedabad was founded in 1411 by Sultan Ahmed Shah to serve as the capital of the Gujarat Sultanate and was named after him. With the creation of Gujarat State in 1960, Ahmedabad gained prominence as commercial capital of the state. The city is witnessing a major construction boom and population increase. A rising centre of education, information technology and scientific industries, Ahmedabad remains the cultural and commercial heart of Gujarat and much of Western India.

The Indian independence movement developed strong roots in the city when Mahatma Gandhi established two ashrams—the Kochrab Ashram near Paldi in 1915 and the Satyagraha Ashram (now Sabarmati Ashram) on the banks of the Sabarmati in 1917. These became centers of intense nationalist activities, such as mass protests against the Rowlatt Act in 1919, and the British attempt to extend wartime regulations after the First World War, strike of textile workers and teachers demanding civil rights and better pay and working conditions. In 1930, Gandhi initiated the Salt Satyagraha from Ahmedabad by embarking from his ashram on the famous Dandi Salt March. Following independence and the partition of India in 1947, the city was scarred by intense communal violence that broke out between Hindus and Muslims.

In recent years, the effects of liberalization of the Indian economy has energized the city's economy towards activities like commerce, communications, construction etc.. The city has witnessed the establishment of scientific and service industries, the expansion of the information technology sector, and significant improvements in transportation and communications. As a result Ahmedabad's population is growing,

Ahmedabad is divided by the Sabarmati into two physically distinct eastern and western regions. The eastern bank of the river houses the old city, which includes the central town of Bhadra. This part of Ahmedabad is

characterised by packed bazaars, the clustered and barricaded system of close clustered buildings, and numerous places of worship. It houses the

main railway station, the General Post Office and few buildings of the Muzaffarid and British eras. The colonial period saw the expansion of the city to the western side of Sabarmati, facilitated by the construction of Ellis Bridge in 1875 and later with the modern Nehru Bridge. This part of the city houses educational institutions, modern buildings, well-planned residential areas, shopping malls, multiplexes and new business districts centred around roads Such as Ashram Road, C. G. Road and Sarkhej Gandhinagar Highway areas.

## **Architecture**

The architectural history of Ahmedabad stretches across the last millennium. The Sultanate fused Hindu craftsmanship with Islamic architecture. Many mosques in the city are built in this fashion. After independence modern buildings came up in Ahmedabad when renowned architects were given commissions in the city like :Louis Kahn who designed the Indian Institute of Management; Le Corbusier who designed the Shodhan and Sarabhai Villas, the Sanskar Kendra and the Mill Owner's Association; and Bucminister Fuller who designed the Calico Dome. B. B. V. Doshi came to the city from Paris to supervise :Le Corbussier's works and later set up the School of Architecture. His local masterpieces include Sangath, the Doshi-Hussain Gufa and the School of Architecture. Charles Correa, who became a partner of Doshi's, designed the Gandhi Ashram and Achut Kanvinde the Indian Textile Industries Research Association. Cjrostop[jer Cjarles Bennkinger's first work, the Alliance Francaise, is located in the Ellis Bridge area. Hasmukh C. Patel, and his son Dr. Bimal Patel, are renowned architects of the city having designed the St. Xavoer's HOgh School, Loyola Hall, Gujarat High Court and the Ahmedabad Management Association. Anant Raje recently designed a major addition to Louis Kahn's campus, the Indian Institute of Management.

## **Gardens and parks**

There is a wide spectrum of gardens in Ahmedabad that enhance the appeal of the city. The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation owns and maintains 76 parks and gardens and 96 traffic islands. There are 9 gardens that are more than 5 acres (20,000 m<sup>2</sup>) in area. Ahmedabad has already been honoured internationally by 'Green City Commendation Award' as a result of devoted service provided by the Government officials to ensure proper maintenance of the gardens in Ahmedabad.

The 3 most popular and most visited gardens in the city are Victoria Garden, Bal Vatika and Law Garden. Located at the southern verge of the Bhadra Fort, Victoria Garden is one of the most popular places in the city. The Victoria Garden has a statue of Queen Victoria which is a masterpiece in itself. Bal Vatika is a children's park situated on the grounds of Kankaria Lake. Its close proximity to Kankaria lakefront makes it a wonderful spot to observe nature's splendour. The Kankaria lake got new look in 2008. Bal Vatika also houses an Amusement Park and a Water Park for kids. Law Garden got its name from the College of Law that is situated very close to it. Other main gardens in the city are Parimal Garden, Prahlad nagar Garden, Lal Darwaja Garden etc.

## **SOMNATH**

The temple city of SOMNATH, otherwise known as Prabhas Patan, is located on the West coast of Gujarat State of the Indian Union. It is said that the original temple of Somnath was built by the Moon God and was made of gold. After it was razed to the ground, it was rebuilt with silver by Ravana. When the silver temple was knocked down, it was reconstructed in wood by Lord Krishna. And when this was pulled down, an edifice of stone was erected by Bhimdev.

The Temple is first among the 12 Jyotirlingas. Since ancient times, Prabhas Patan has been a pilgrimage center, being the confluence of the mythological Saraswati, Hiranya and Kapila. Legend has it that Lord Shiva's Kalbhairav Linga is situated at Prabhas. It is also associated with the moon as the Moon God is also said to have worshipped this Shivling. This is also the reason why this temple is popularly known as Somnath, the one named after the moon.

Remains found from the region and descriptions in the writings of Indians and foreigners suggest that the place was a colony of the Aryans in the ancient times. This temple of religious and historical significance is believed to have been built around AD 4.

In AD 1027, Mohmund Ghazni first looted the temple and then came Afzal Khan, the commander of Ala-ud-din Khilji and later Aurangzeb. It is said that the temple was looted and destroyed as many as seventeen times. The Iron man of India, Sardar Vallabhbhai Paatel was instrumental in the construction of the present temple, an edifice reminding visitors of the

splendour of the original Somnath temple. The renowned temple architect

Prabhaschandar designed it and the first President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, installed the Jyotiling in the new temple on May 11, 1951. The present temple, Kailash Mahameru Prasad is built in the Chalukya style of temple architecture and reflects the inheritance skill of Gujarati masons.

## **Places of tourist Attraction**

The museum at Somnath houses the remains of the earlier temples but in the form a clutter of old carved stones kept in the courtyard. It also houses pottery shards, a seashell collection, a glass case of water bottles containing samples from the rivers Danube, Nile, St. Lawrence, Tigris, Murray and seawater from Tasmania and New Zealand.

The Bhalka Tirth is the place where Lord Krishna was mistaken for a deer and wounded by an arrow while sleeping in a deerskin. The place is situated on the confluence of three rivers. There is a Sun Temple (Suraj Mandir) nearby that was also knocked down by Mohamed Ghazni. The Junagadh Gate is a very ancient triple gate that Mohmud Ghazni broke through to take the town.

The Mai Puri was once a Sun Temple but was later converted into a mosque during Mohd. Gazni's time.

The Ahilyabai Temple was built as a substitute for the original Somnath Temple. Just behind the temple is the Somnath beach with pleasant sands, great sea view, camel and pony rides, coconut stalls and snack shops.

Other places of interest are Jama Masjid, Bhidiyo Pagoda and several smaller temples.

## **Places around Somnath**

The Gir National Park is the last home of the Asiatic Lion and is situated around 43 km from Somnath.

Chorwad is a new beach resort developed by the Tourism Corporation of Gujarat and is 26kms from Somnath.

Veraval is a major fishing port and a base point for the visit to Somnath.

## **Fairs and Festivals**

Somnath celebrates a large fair on the day of the full moon of Kartik Purnima in November/December. Maha Shivratri in the month of March is also a major festival here.

## **PORBANDAR**

**Porbandar** is situated along the **Arabian Sea** in the western Indian state of Gujarat. Famous as the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi, the city is well connected to the other parts of the country by rail, road, and air.

Porbandar was a historic port of the **Jetwa Rajputs**, a dynasty that ruled vast areas of the Kathiawad peninsula for approximately 2000 years. After facing defeat at the hands of the Jadeja Rajputs in the late 16th and early 17th centuries, the Jetwas came back to power in the 1630s.

They shifted their capital from Ranpur to Chaya during that time and by the 18th century, the Jetwas finally settled in Porbandar.

The Gandhi family were the hereditary Diwans of Porbandar. On October 2, 1869, Karamchand Gandhi had a son, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi or **Mahatma Gandhi** as he later came to be known the world over. But Mahatma Gandhi was not the only mahatma associated with Porbandar. Swami Vivekanand had done much of his research in Porbandar, and Rabindranath Tagore visited the city for a considerable period in 1923

### ***Places of Tourist attractions:***

The Huzoor Palace is a massive structure like a European mansion, sprawling with a large garden at the edge of the sea. The Palace has various wings in a zigzag formation, which created space for numerous forecourts and rear courtyards, which were used for gardens and fountains. The structure has a very modern style, crowned by trussed timber roofs and balustrade terraces offering a fabulous view of the beach and the sea. A short walk from the Huzoor Palace leads to Daria Rajmahal, Porbandar's sea facing city palace, built in a style that blends Arabic, Indian and Gothic,

and Renaissance architecture. The entrance is through a Gothic style archway, crowned by a tall tower that offers a marvelous view of the palace courtyards, the beach beyond, and the sea. Nothing remains of the Darbar hall now, and the palace has now been turned into a college.

The mid 19th century Haveli of the Gandhi family has three stories around a courtyard with a kitchen, 17 rooms and a wooden shrine. Next to the Haveli is the Kirti Mandir, built in 1950 by Nanaji Bhai Kalidas as a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. This monument has paintings of the Mahatma and his wife Kasturba. There is a moving photographic and pictorial display of the life of the Mahatma and his part in the struggle for India's freedom, a library of books related to the Mahatma's life and philosophies.

Walking down from Kirti Mandir one comes to Darbargadh Palace, built in 1784 by Maharana Sartanji in the typical wood and stone carved style of Gujarat. A greater example of the architecture of this period is the Grishmabhuvan, a pleasure pavilion with impressive domes, exquisite pillars and delicate arches, set in a pleasant garden. This pavilion, called Sartanji Choro because of its four part representing different seasons, was Sartanji's refuge from the crowds of Porbandar.

Porbandar is a paradise for bird watchers. Great flocks of flamigoes can be seen at a remarkably close range around the coastal marshes.

There are a number of lakes around Porbandar. Two of them, **Jolinkong** and **Anchherital** are situated at a height of 4,634 meters and 3,658 meters, respectively. Some beautiful old temples are also scattered around the district. A visit to the shrine at **Purnagiri**, 20 kilometers from Tanakpur, is believed to lead to fulfillment of one's desires. There is also a Sikh shrine near Lohaghat called **Ritha Sahib**, associated with the visit of Guru Nanak. It is believed that the bitter ritha turned sweet after the touch of the Guru.

The white **Manu temple** is also an oft visited site. In it, is enshrined a powerful goddess known to bring rain to these mountains if properly invoked. There is also a large swing erected on the field at the base of a flight of steps leading to the temple. Here the goddess and her sister from a distant temple swing playfully when the other goddess comes visiting. No one can see them, but the swing moves !

### **Places around Porbandar**

Kuchdi is a 20-minute drive away from the city center. The place has a bird sanctuary and is quite popular with the bird lovers and photographers.

Ghumli was the capital of the Jetwas long before they moved to Porbandar. The place is famous for its Naulakha temple, considered to be the oldest sun temple in India built around the 8th century, and the 12th century Vikia vav (step well), with numerous flights of steps and stringcoursed carvings.

Gope, 50 km northeast of Porbandar has a 6th century temple with a sanctuary on a platform and the usual pyramidal shikhara roof. The temple is in a terribly dilapidated condition but is important, as it is one of the first to have a roof of this design. A 30-minute drive from Porbandar takes one to Barda Hills covered with forests where one can find the Khambala Dam with its intricate, decorated kiosks.

## Fairs & Festivals

Along the coast at Madhavpur near Porbandar, the Madhavrai Fair is held in the month of Chaitra (March/April) to celebrate Lord Krishna's elopement with Rukmini

## Dwarka

The legendary City of Dwaraka was the dwelling place of Lord Krishna. It is believed that due to damage and destruction by the sea, Dwaraka has submerged six times and modern day Dwarka is therefore the seventh such City to be built in the area. Dwarka is located in the Jamnagar District of Gujarat State of the Indian Union.

Dwarka is one of seven most holy places for Hindus in India, where Varanasi is considered as the holiest of the seven holy cities.

### The Dwarakadhish Temple

The present temple was built in 16th century CE, while the original temple was believed to have been built by Krishna's grandson, Vajranabha. The 5-storied temple is made of limestone and sand. A flag hoisted in the temple tower five times each day. There are two gateways - *Swarga Dwar*, where pilgrims enter, and *Moksha Dwar*, where pilgrims exit. From the temple one can view the Sangam (confluence) of River Gomati flowing towards the sea. In Dwaraka, there are also shrines for Vasudeva, Devaki, Balarama and Revati, Subhadra, Rukmani Devi, Jambavati Devi and Satyabhama Devi.

There is a special temple for Rukmini Devi on the way to Bet Dwarka temple, which can be reached by boat. A similar deity of Lord Dwarakanath is also kept in Bet Dwaraka. The temple has many Shrines for Lakshmi [Narayana](#), Trivikrama, Jambavati Devi, Satyabhama Devi and Rukmini Devi.

### Holy City

The city derives its name from word *dvar* meaning door and gate in the Sanskrit language. Dwarka is considered to be one of the holiest cities in Hinduism and one of the four "dhams" along with Badrinath, Puri, Rameswaram. The city is especially respected by Vaishnavas..

The Jagatmandir temple which houses the **Dwarkadhish**, a form of Krishna is also located in Dwaraka.

***Nageshwar Jyotirling***, one of the 12 holy shrines of Lord Shiva, is located near Dwaraka. Dwaraka is also the site of Dwarka Pith ( also known as Sharada Pith) one of the four carinal Maths established by Sri Adi Sahnkara, the others being those at Sringeri, Puri and Jyotimath.

Adi Sankara had visited Dwarakdish Shrine and had established the Dwarka peeth. The Lord here is dressed in Kalyana Kolam where he appears to be a Royal Wedding costume.

## **Bet Dwarka**

Bet Dwarka is famous for its temples dedicated to Lord Krishna and is of great importance in the ancient Hindu tradition. It and other coastal sites have ample antiquities, suggesting maritime trade and commerce with the Mediterranean countries around the Christian era. This flourishing harbour and religious capital is believed to have submerged under the sea after Lord Krishna left Dwarka for vaikunth.

A team of archeologists have carried out onshore and inter-tidal zone explorations and a few trial trenches were laid to trace a proper cultural sequence. The most potential sites, where a large number of antiquities were recovered are the sectors, Bet Dwarka-I, II, VI, and IX.

The findings of Bet Dwarka may be divided into two broad periods: Pre-historic period which includes a small seal of conch shell engraved with a three-headed animal motif two inscriptions, a copper fishhook and late Harappan pottery (circa 1700-1400 BC) and the Historical period consisting of coins and pottery. Onshore and inter-tidal zone explorations have indicated some kind of shoreline shifting around the Bet Dwarka island as a few sites get submerged during high tide.

Offshore explorations near present Bet Dwarka brought to light a number of stone anchors of different types that include triangular, grapnel and ring stones. They are made out of locally available rocks and their period may also be similar to those found at Dwarka and other places. Recently, Roman antiquities including shreds of amphorae and a lead ingot and lead anchors were found. There is also an indication of a shipwreck of Roman period in Bet Dwarka waters.

The archaeological explorations at Bet Dwarka Island have brought to light a large number of data on India's external overseas trade and commerce with western countries. Recent findings at the Bet Dwarka have shown evidence of Indo-Roman trade. India had an active maritime trade with Rome from the fourth century BCE to 4th century CE. These

findings would concentrate on the time period from the first century BCE to the 2nd century CE. The discovery of the amphoras in Bet Dwarka is significant in view of the maritime history of India in concerned. There are remains of seven amphoras from which a black encrustation can be seen. This ware was mainly used for exporting wine and olive oil from the Roman Empire; it is most likely that these were wine amphoras. The discovery of a large quantity of amphora sherds suggests that Bet Dwarka had international trade contact during the early centuries of the Christian era. The findings present the possibility of a shipwreck in this area associated with Roman trade, though it is unlikely that the remains of the hull of the wreck survive. Thus the presence of Roman amphoras show that Roman ships reached Bet Dwarka waters earlier than has been previously noted. These same archaeological findings along with anchors have indicated the existence of several ports, jetties and anchoring points along the west coast of Indian. Though there are no remains of an ancient jetty at Bet Dwarka, the presence of stone anchors in the intertidal one indicates that the high tide was effectively used for anchoring the boats. The presence of a large number and variety of stone anchors in Bet Dwarka suggests that this was one of important ports in ancient times. The location of Bet Dwarka was favorable for safe anchorage in the past since it was protected from high waves and storms.

The proposal for the Dwarka museum, submitted by the MAU, involves laying a submarine acrylic tube through which visitors can view through glass windows the ruins of the city. The State Government of Gujarat and the Travel & Tourism Department of Gujarat are working on this proposal (for over two decades). When completed, it will be the first museum to be built under the sea.