

2N/3D Package of Somnath - Sasan Gir

Day 1: Ahmedabad - Somnath

Arrival in Ahmedabad – a World Heritage City. Proceed towards Somnath (430 kms/9 Hours). Reach Somnath and visit:

Somnath Mahadev Temple:

The historic Somnath Temple is an epitome of religious devotion of Lord Shiva in Veraval, Saurashtra. The temple is worshipped widely as it is considered as one of the first of the Shiva Jyotirlingas as mentioned in the Puranas. The Shiva temple here is considered very pious due to its rich religious history. Somnath refers to the name given to Lord Shiva or the Almighty of the Soma. The temple has been built and renovated many times from the time of its inception due to wars between Hindu and Muslim kings. The temple is known as the Shrine of the Eternal for the Shiva Jyotirlingas. Every day, three pujas are done in the temple which attracts major tourist in huge numbers. The temple is built in proper Hindu architecture with pillars and a flag on the roof of the highest point. The legends about the temple revolve around the Moon God Soma who was believed to have taken a bath at this point of the river confluence. The Moon God was losing his shine owning to a curse and redeemed it back after the dip according to the Hindu mythology. The pilgrim spot of the Somnath Temple is at the mouth of the three mythological rivers of Saraswati, Hiran and Kapilla. The first stone of the temple is said to be built centuries ago. The Seuna kings that time had built another establishment of it at the same spot during the period of 649CE. The temple has been attacked many times by the Arabs in the past but was erected every time by the following Hindu dynasties. The Somnath Temple is also believed to be first built from wooden structures but was raided soon after by foreign invaders. Solanki king Mularaja is said to have built the first temple at this changing the old outlook of it.

Feel the divinity in the evening arti and watch the Light and Sound Show to feel the grandeur of the Somnath Temple.

Overnight at Somnath.

Day 2 : Somnath – Gir

Today morning, after breakfast, check out and visit:

BhalkaTirth:

The Bhalka Tirth is a historic religious place is located in the town of Veraval in the city of Saurashtra. It is famous for the mythological stories of Lord Krishna, who was struck with an arrow in this spot by Jara, who was a hunter in the Hindu Puranas. Lord Krishna is worshipped widely among the Hindu followers and the Bhalka Tirth is a famous mark on the epitome of his greatness. It is a popular place that is quite close to Somnath. As per stories and tales it is believed that Shri Krishna was resting at this place when a huntsman by the name of Jara shot an arrow. This arrow went on to pierce Shri Krishna. This temple is also known as Mahaprabhuji's Bethak which has a popular Peepal tree that signifies the place where Lord had succumbed to the injuries. A statue of Lord Krishna which is made from blue marble is located under the tree. It is also known as the PrabhasKshetra.

Triveni Sangam:

Triveni Sangam is the confluence of three rivers: Hiran, Kapila and Saraswati. It is situated very near to the Somnath Mahadev temple. It is believed that the sages named Hiran and Kapila had done a penance at this very place and so Goddess Saraswati came to this place. As per Hindu tradition, Triveni Sangam is very holy and many puja related to the forefathers are done on its confluence.

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Proceed to Gir (50 kms/1 Hour) – the last abode of the Asiatic Lion. **Gir National Park:**

The Gir National Park in Gujarat is the home to the Asiatic Lion with the King of the Jungle only found in Gir all around the Asian Continent. The Gir National Park was established in 1965 which covers a total area of 1,412 sq. Km. It is a completely protected area and said to be one of the most common travel destinations of India. At the

time of Independence of India, there were only 11 Lions left in the Gir National Park but with the conservation efforts of the Last Nawab of Junagadh and thereby the Government of India, the number of the big cats has been increased to 523 as the latest census in 2014. The total forest covers around 22000 sq. Km where the Lions roam freely. Along with the Lions, the Gir National Park also has Leopards, Nilgai, Antelopes, Striped hyena and many other varieties of Flora and fauna. Other attractions in the Gir National Park includes the Kamleshwar Dam situated inside the forest and the Kankai Mataji temple in the forest. Lion is the State Animal of Gujarat and meeting the King of the Jungle will be a great treat for the wildlife lovers visiting the state.

Relax at the resort amidst the forest. Overnight at Gir.

Day 3: Drop

Today morning, check out and proceed towards Ahmedabad (400Kms/8 Hours) and drop as per schedule.