



## **2N/3D Package of Somnath – Diu**

### **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 owing 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 – Diu**

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 towards Diu(85 kms/2 Hours) – an erstwhile Portuguese Colony. Check in to Hotel and then explore the town of Diu on your own. This place is a perfect amalgamation of the sea, sun and land. It features some really mesmerizing tourist spots, which are rich in flora, fauna, heritage and culture. Diu has a long historic background as it was ruled by many rulers from different dynasties. Forts and seashore altogether give it spectacular scenic beauty and a quaint charm like nowhere else. It has emerged as a major tourist spot, comprising beautiful beaches, revered temples and colonial edifices.

Visit:

**Naida Caves:**

Naida caves are natural rock formation which are perfect for the Photographers. A legend says that when the Portuguese were building the fortified walls of their colony, they had quarried the rocks on the side of the walls and with the passage of time and natural factors, these rocks have turned into a natural cave like formation. A visit to these caves is a perfect way to see the beauty of the erstwhile Portuguese colony.

**Diu Fort:**

Diu Fort, which is a huge stone structure built in the year 1535 and renovated several times later. The fort commands a spectacular view of the adjoining sea, which surrounds it from three sides. Within the fort, there are three main churches, Venetian bungalows and stone mansions, which speak of various architectural advancements. Another major seaside citadel is the Fortress of Panikota, which lies right at the mouth of the creek. The lighthouse and chapel inside the fort are quite famous amongst travellers coming here for sightseeing.

**Diu Museum:**

If you want to know more about this town, this is the best place to visit. This museum was once a part of the beautiful old St. Thomas Church, which was built using the Gothic architectural style in 1598. This museum houses important antiquities related to the town, such as stone inscriptions, wood carvings and idols.

Overnight at Diu.

**Day 3: Drop**

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