

# A Brief Guide to the Incredibly Rich Gujarati Culture and Heritage

Gujarati culture and heritage is among the most amazing and richest ones in the country. Unique and diverse, the cultural heritage of Gujarat is an incredibly fascinating one. Also, there are several awesome places to visit in Gujarat. Scores of people regularly visit Gandhinagar, the state's capital. The largest city of Gujarat, Ahmedabad, is also among the most-frequented cities in the state. Rann of Kutch, the great Indian white salt desert, is among the must-see attractions in Gujarat. For those who wish to know more about this fascinating state, here's our guide to Gujarat culture and heritage.

## Arts and Culture of Gujarat:

An amalgamation of various traditions and cultural beliefs, multiculturalism runs in the very veins of Gujarat culture and heritage. Handicrafts of Gujarat are famous not just in India but across the world as well. Popular items to buy include Gujarati jewelry, furniture, embroidered items, patola saris, mirror work, metal work, leather work, and baked clay articles among other things.

Dance, music, and other art forms are a huge part of Gujarat culture and heritage. Sugam Sangeet is the folk music form of Gujarat while the four major dance forms comprise Garba, Dandiya Raas, Garbi, and Padhar. Even if you happen to be visiting on last minute flights for a work trip, make sure to catch some of these lively folk performances.

## Languages of Gujarat:

Gujarati language is spoken by the natives of Gujarat. Derived from Sanskrit, it is an Indo-Aryan language spoken widely across the world and not just in Gujarat. The other regional dialects spoken here include Kutchi, Charotari, Kathiawal, and Surti. However, apart from Gujarati language dialects, there are several other languages spoken in Gujarat by a section of the natives of its neighboring states. Some of these languages spoken are Marathi, Hindi, Marwari, Sindhi, and a bit of Urdu. Thereby, the countless Gujarati languages form a huge part of the fascinating Gujarat culture and heritage.

## Customs and Religions of Gujarat:

Several religions peacefully coexist in the state and have a significant impact on Gujarat culture and heritage. Owing to this, the customs and traditions of Gujarat are incredibly diverse with a majority of Gujaratis believing in a number of gods and goddesses. You will find a spirited mix of Hinduism, Jainism, Islam, and Buddhism demonstrated by the Gujarati people. Thereby, the natives embody a balanced lifestyle along with an enrichment of artistic traits and a mix of varied religious practices. Birth, marriage, and thread ceremony are the majorly celebrated

observances. Highly ranked Brahmins are the only ones who can perform the rituals associated with these ceremonies.

#### Gujarati Cultural Dress:

Also popularly referred to as Queen of silks, Patola silk forms a major part of the traditional dress of Gujarat. An irreplaceable part of Gujarat culture and heritage, the traditional wear of Gujarat often embody block prints and tie-dye designs. Gujarati brides deck themselves in zari and silk-woven saris of Panetar and Gharchola. The women of Kutch wear Abhas, a distinct traditional wear. For the ultra-festive season of Navratri Mahotsav, women choose to wear Chaniya cholis while the men wear a dress known as Kedia. Also, the silver Pachchikam jewelry that traces its roots to Kutch is a prominent fashion trend in Gujarat.

#### Gujarati Cultural Food:

Gujarat dress and food form a vital part of Gujarat culture and heritage with a vast majority of Gujaratis being pure vegetarians. You will find that the flavors of Gujarati dishes are a mouthwatering blend of spicy, sweet, and sour tastes. The most popular Gujarat culture food items are dhokla, khandvi, fafda, undhiyon, dal wada, handvo, thepla, khakhra, gathiya, and dal dhokli. Whenever you visit the state, be it on economy or business class flights, do try the traditional Gujarati thali. Typically, it consists of dal, rice, roti, vegetables, salad, farsan, and chaas to be followed by a lip-smacking dessert. For Gujaratis, a typical dinner consists of khichdi-kadhi or bhakri-shak.

#### Gujarati Work Culture:

Work is a significant aspect of Gujarat culture and heritage. While most of the Gujaratis are businessmen, the commercial capital of Ahmedabad is a leading textile city. It has helped Gujarat rank among the topmost industrial cities in India. Gujarat is also home to a large number of airports with its most significant one being the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport (AMD) at Ahmedabad. The airport is well-connected to other major Indian cities via cheap domestic flights. Several international travelers, especially in flights from USA, arrive here as well.

#### Gujarat Festivals and Fairs

The actual vibrancy and colors of Gujarat's diversity can be witnessed via its spectacular festivals and fairs. Scores of people book cheap flights for a visit to this remarkable state during popular festivals such as Navratri Mahotsav, Rath Yatra, Deepavali, and kite festival. Popular fairs depicting Gujarat culture and heritage include Mahadev fair, Bhadra Purnima Fair, and Shamlaji Melo. The annual Rann Utsav fair held at the Rann of Kutch is an absolute must-have experience! The vibrant festival is an extravagant carnival of Gujarati music, dance, and stunning natural beauty.