You Mean APJ Abdul Kalam? The Scientist?

Foreigners might be incognisant about the Indian superstars, Rajnikanth, Shahrukh Khan, Aishwarya Rai or the likes of Ratan Tata, Dhirubhai Ambani but they do know Abdul Kalam.

I was in Mumbai for a short sightseeing tour. On one exquisite morning I attained the famous Dhobi Ghat, Mahalaxmi. There, I happened to have a splendid conversation with a Brazilian couple that included themes of all matters. In the niche of Indian politics and corruption, I asked them casually, "Then you must be knowing Narendra Modi?"

No.

Quite surprised I was then, decided to extend the spree.

" Okay, what about Shahrukh Khan or Rajnikanth? "

And I further asked few more names of famous personalities of India. Receiving thumbs down in every attempt, I then cut the cord.

" Do you know about any celebrated Indian? "

Umm, yeah. We heard the name, Klam.

" You meanAPJ Abdul Kalam? The scientist? "

You got it!

I stood there silently, spellbound.

P.S.

Yes, I did ask about Sachin Tendulkar, they were unaware but they knew Maria Sharapova.

Read next: Remember To Put The Glass Down!

Lothal, Gujarat - A Journey To The Ancient Harappan Civilization

Lothal wasa manufacturing hub and a major export port of the ancient Indus Valley civilization. The

present day Lothal in Gujarat hosts archaeological remains of adockyard, warehouse, acropolis,

lower town and well. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has set up an excellent museum to present

high living standards and prosperity of Lothal residents.

In my school time, I have always loved the subject, Social Science (S.S.). In one of the chapters, the

writers have mentioned Lothal town as a footnote and that day I added the tourism place to my 'To

Explore' list way back. Recently, I and Bhavya made up plan to hunt the place --and the plan was

tremendously fruitful.

This article will stand up as a comprehensive tourist guide to Lothal, will offer a visual walk through

to the ancient town and will teach you the history by stunning photos of Lothal.

Let's start the journey...

UPDATE: Accomodation in Lothal

Planning tour to Lothal and want to stay there overnight? Great! There's one excellent

homestayoption, just 5 minutes from Lothal. Local delicious food can also be availed. :)

Call +91 94295 64808 for bookings.

The Creation of Travel Plan

We both study Computer Engineering in DDIT, Nadiad. Distance between Lothal and Nadiad is km (From Ahmedabad - km). None of us own private vehicle.

"How to reach Lothal by public transportation?" was a pain in our head.

I tried to contact past visitors from TripAdvisor. Their tone was either like "We don't actually know"or"We went there by our own vehicle/cab"or"No chances of public transportation". We were about to dismiss the trip when we were handed information, "Reach the town Bagodara. Lothal is just 20 km from there."

After having a successful internal exam the day before, we were on a high spiritual level."Let's do it!"-my voice said.

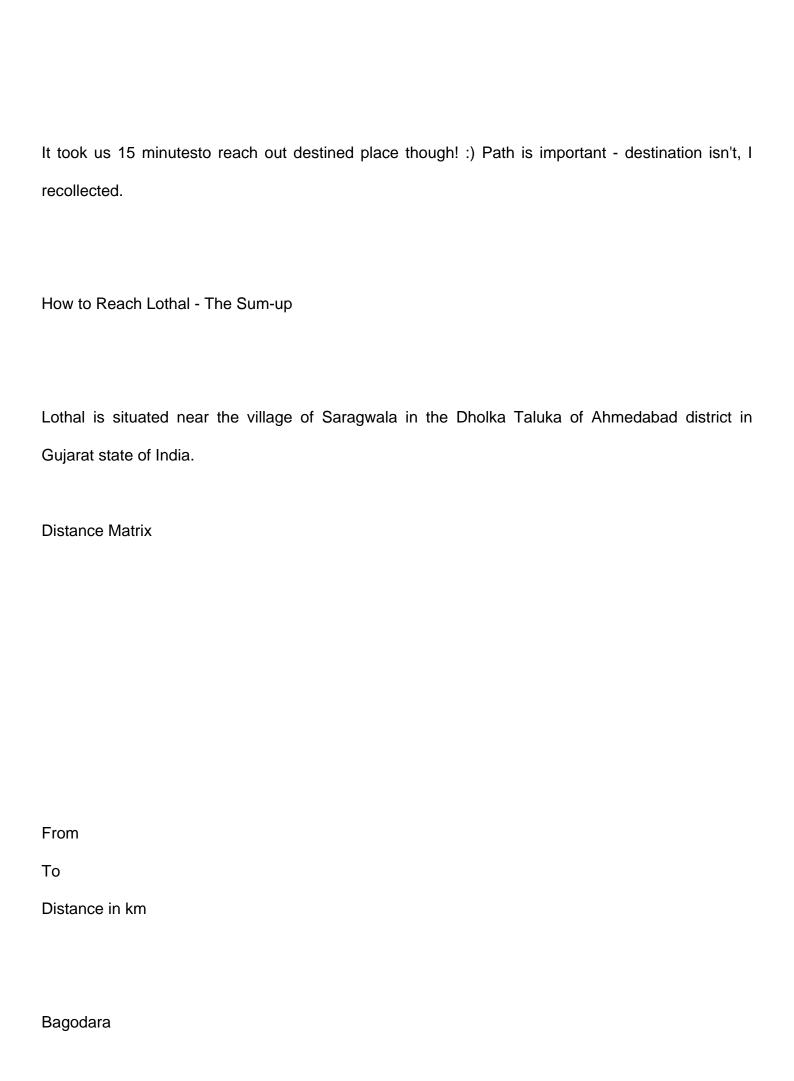
Landing to Lothal - A Vibrant Flight

Most of the Gujarat state transport buses destined to Saurashtra, stop at Bagodara. Thus reaching to Bagodara from Nadiad was a swift process. Saurashtra bound buses are frequent throughout the day.

Now in Bagodara, I asked a local shopkeeper the same question with changedvariable values, "How to reach Lothal from Bagodara?" .He informed us to go to Bhurkhi Railway Fatak and pointed out to a nearby truck, which would pass by Bhurkhi.

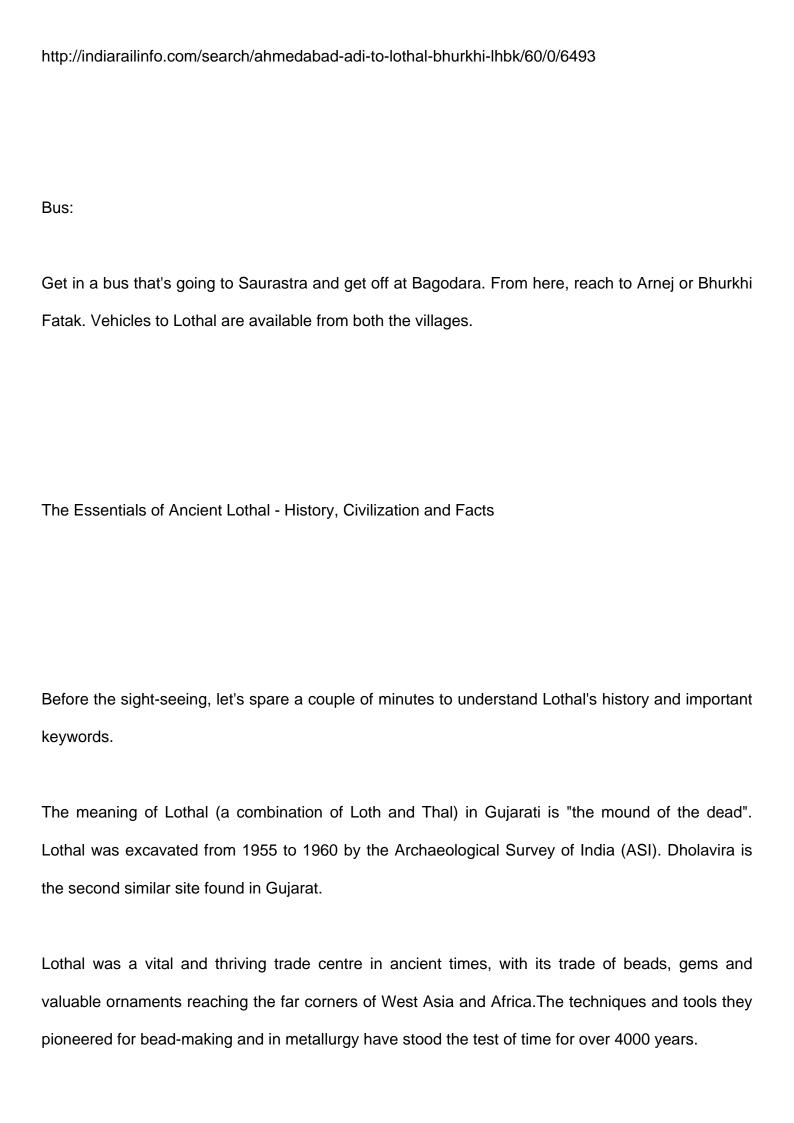
"But wait, in a truck?"Yes! Why not try a different stuff! The truck part was ajubilant go through.

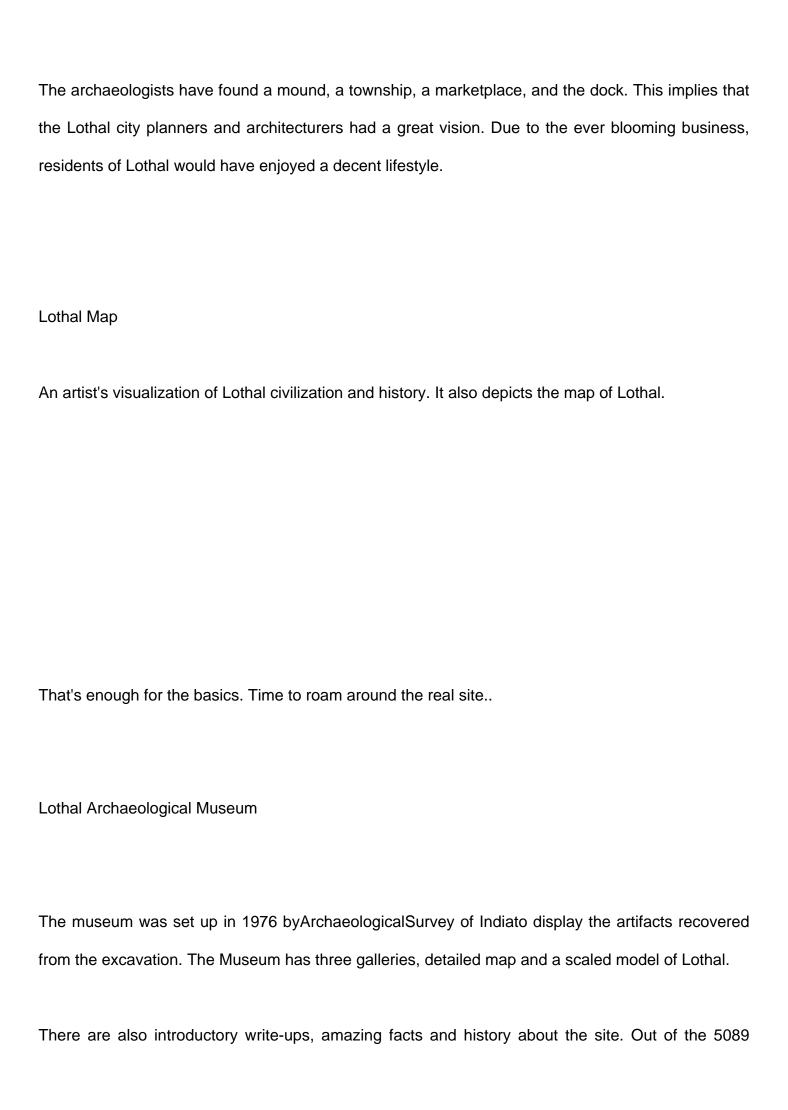
Arriving at Bhurkhi my mind was again pondered in thoughts as to "How to reach Lothal from here?"
We approached to a Chhakdawala destined a fewfeetfrom us.
"You want to go Lothal?"He asked.
"Yes"I said.
"Alright. Come on board then."
"So, you will drop us to Lothal?"I sought confirmation.
30, you will drop us to Lothar: I sought committation.
"In 10 minutes"
Wow. That was quite unexpected. Time to experience Chhakda too!



Lothal
20 km
Dholka
Lothal
41 km
Ahmedabad
Lothal
91 km
Nadiad
Lothal
86 km
Vadodara
Lothal
117 km
Anand
Lothal
86 km

Private Vehicle:
When it comes toexcursionfrom Ahmedabad, Lothal is a best destination. The excavation site is very
well-connected by road network. Like other Gujarat roads, roads to Lothal are classy all the way up
to the tourism site. Google Maps is all you need to navigate your way through.
Train:
Board Bhavnagar bound train and drop off at Bhurkhi station. You can find a Chhakda from there.
Here's a list of available trains from Ahmedabad to Bhurkhi:





objects unearthed during the excavation, 800 objects are on display in the museum.

The museum has a small reference library and a publication counter for selling publications of the

Archaeological Monuments. Alas, they don't actually sell.

The place is maintained keenly and offers all you want to know about the context. Photography is

strictly prohibited so I tried to draw some of the items in my small diary. The museum also has a

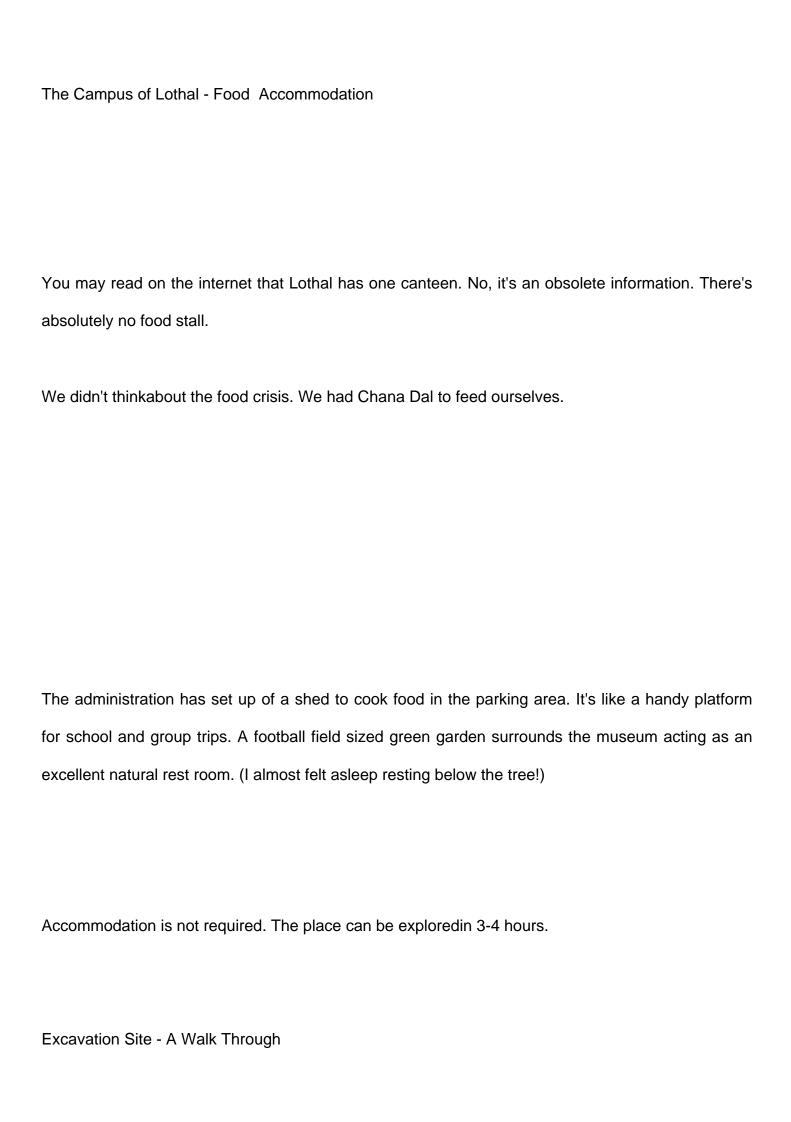
large display to show a documentary of civilization, history, tourism of Lothal.

Timings of Lothal Museum

Opening Hours: 10.00 am to 5.00 pm (FRIDAY CLOSED)

Entrance Fee: Rs. 5/- per head.

They also give brochure upon request.



Tourists visit Lothal to see this - the remains of now-ruined Lothal town. Without a guide, you'd be		
seeing the stones only and have no idea about the implication of the bricked structure.		
Nevertheless, we did a thorough search about the site and had no problems figuring out the		
significance of the structure.		
4400 years old well		
The well is built of radial bricks, 2.4 metres in diameter and 6.7 metres deep. It had an immaculate		
network of underground drains, silting chambers and cesspools, and inspection chambers for solid		
waste.		

Dockyard

The dockyard was located away from the main current to avoid deposition of silt. The dock, with a canal opening to allow water to flow into the river, thereby maintaining a stable water level. Dockyard and warehouse were one of the bestarchitectural constructs of the Indus valley civilization era.

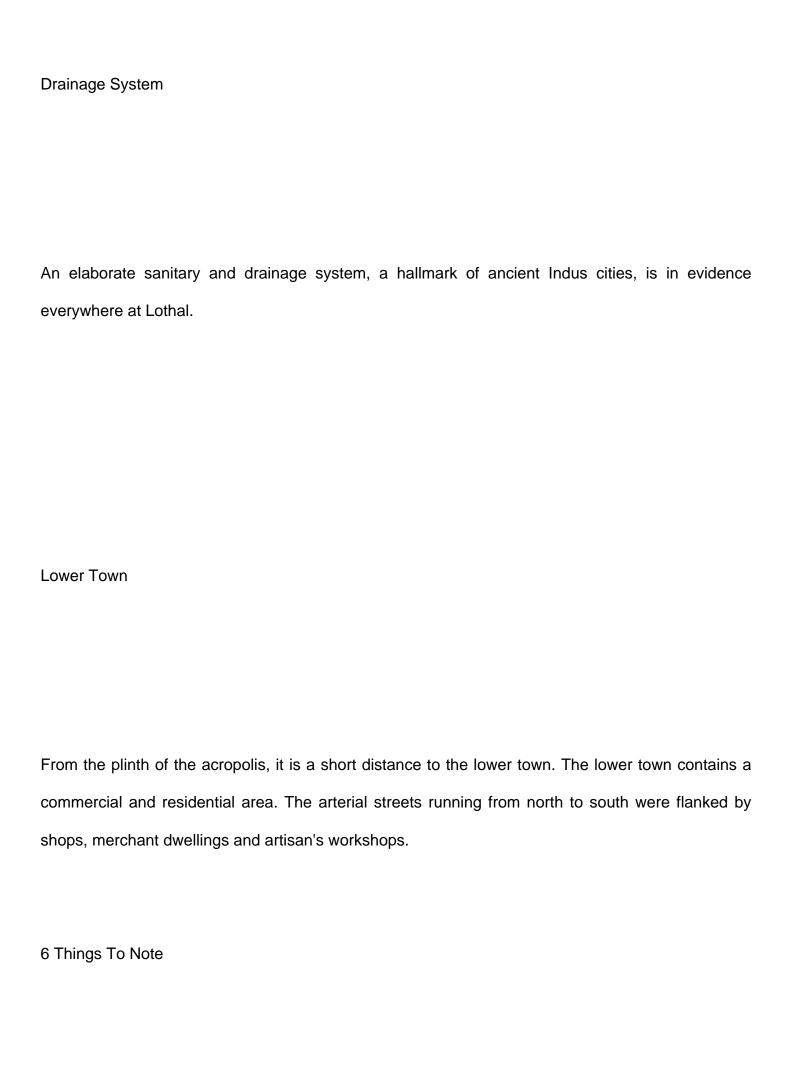
Speculation suggests that owing to the comparatively small dimensions of the main city, Lothal was not a large settlement at all, and its "dockyard" was perhaps an irrigation tank. ASI asserts the opposite. Dockyard is maintained poorly. Water stinks.

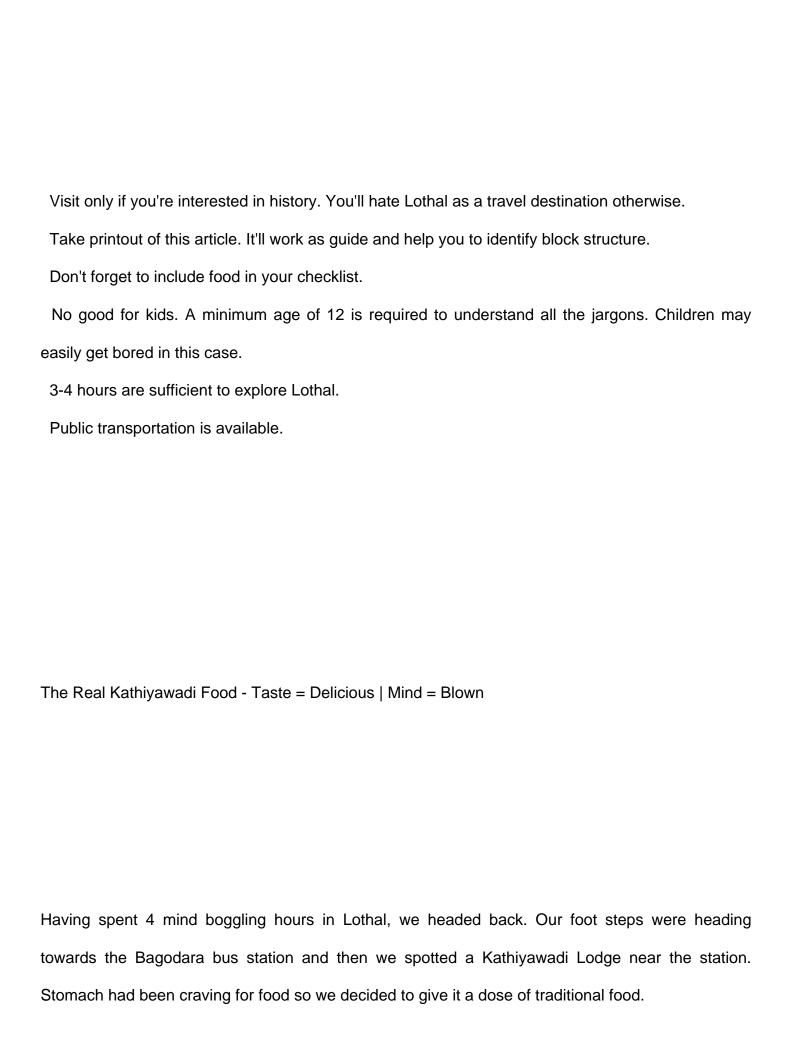
The Warehouse

Lothal engineers accorded high priority to the creation of a dockyard and a warehouse to serve the purposes of naval trade. The warehouse was built close to the acropolis on a 3.5-metre-high podium of mud bricks. The rulers could thus supervise the activity on the dock and warehouse simultaneously.

Kitchen Area	
Kitchen of upper town with pot furnace.	
Cooking Plooks	
Cooking Blocks	
The rooms of the upper town were obviously built for the upper classes. They have baths and a remarkable network of drains and cesspools.	ad private brick
battis and a remarkable network of drains and eesspools.	

Bead Maker's Kiln	
The bead factory had ten living rooms and a large workplace courdemand.	tyard. Lothal's beads had huge
The Acropolis	
Near the warehouse, also on a high plinth, is the upper town or a	cropolis which spans 128 by 61
meters and has extensive drainage systems.	





The hotel system was surprisingly different than a mediocre hotel.
For instance, instead of distributing buttermilk in a glass, they smashed a pot full of it on the table (2 liter) and told us to consume it at our will! Then, there were 10 differentsupplementaryitems like onions, fried chilies, masala carrots and what not. Add a true form of self service to the top. That is, everything would be on your table, sabji, roti, rice, dal - eveything. Eat as much as you want!
Food and the concept, both made my day. A perfect way to conclude the trip!
Thanks for reading! Share this post to light upour great Indian civilization. Contribute your thoughts in the comments.
Good day!

Keep on..

Copyright in 2 minutes

Polo Monument and Vijayanagar Forests, Idar

Best of 2015 : Travel

Wilson Hills Dharampur

Photography Tour of Dang Forests

TTW: Travel To Write

A method I've been following for over a year. The results are mesmerizing, journeys are much more joyful now. Continue reading further toenhance your travel experience..

TL; DR: Visit the destination with a plan to write a detailed travelogue about the place later on.

The wayis simple and is easy to follow.

Phase 1:

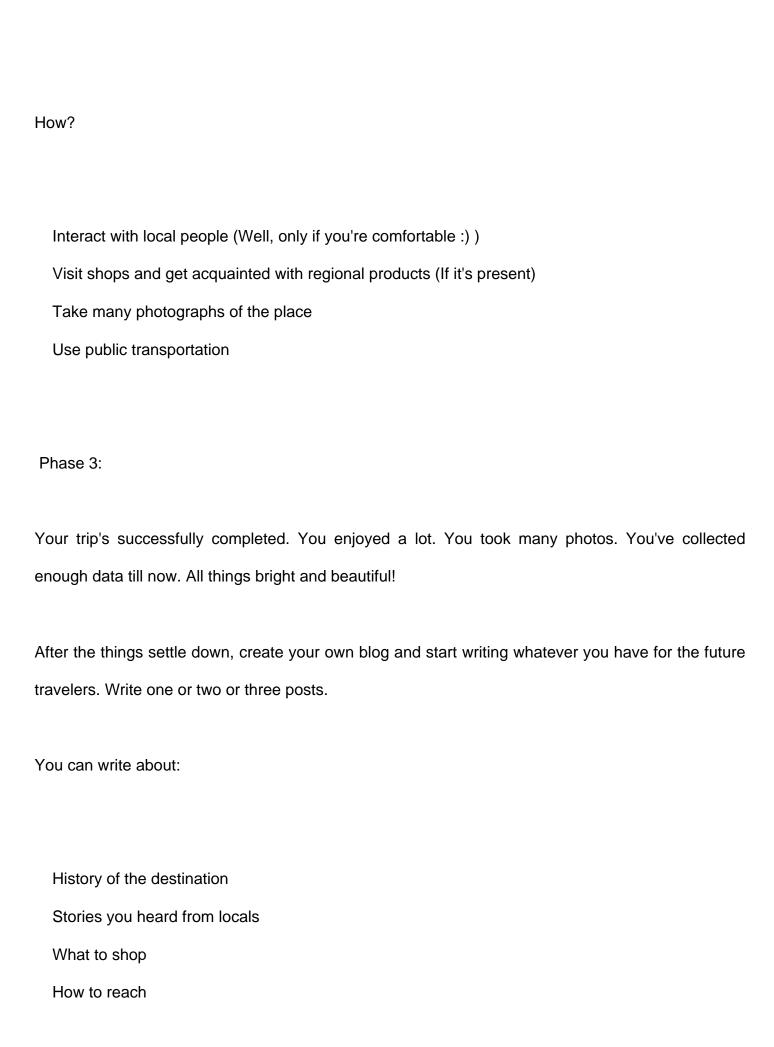
Say, you're planning a trip to a destination you haven't visited before. What you'd do in the first place? Google!

So, Google the place extensively. Don't limit your browsing to hotels, restaurants and shopping places. Read Wiki pages, travel blogs, tourist guides. The goal is, to know as much information as you can beforehand.

Phase 2:

Now you know many things about the scene. Time to reach the address and experience the placein real.

But remember, you've to write the article! You have abstract idea about the place by Google searches. Set yourself to gather more raw details.





More on this note..

Mobile Analytics Data 2016

Book Summary: Be Sherlock

Silhouette Store

Remember to Put Glass Down

Enhance Chrome Bookmarks Bar

The List of Hill Stations In, Near Gujarat

All hill stations are located in Dangs District, near Saputara

It's May and Summer is on the top! Yeah, and vacations too! In the old times, the Britisher officers in India weren't able to face the heat of our ablaze sun, so they were used to take a leave of two months, April, May and go out for a vacation on one of the hill stations of India. The reason many of India's hill stations are influenced by the British colonial.

I live in Vansda, Gujarat. Gujarat has total 3 hill stations in the Sahyadri mountainrange. Fortunately for me, they all are located within 2 hours' journey from my home. :) Due tothe close proximity, I normally visit the tourist places once in a year.

What is a hill station by the way?

Technically, ahill station is a town at a higher elevation than the nearby plain or valley having cooler temperature and pleasant atmosphere. Aplace of refuge from the summer heat.

Well, all talk and folklores aside, let's make the list!

List 1 - Hill Stations in Gujarat

Click on hill station name for short intro, rating, photo and accommodation information.

Saputara, aka abode of serpents, is Gujarat's best known hill station. At the height of ~1000 meters,

Saputara offers a pleasant climate and panoramic view of lush green Dang forest. Perched on a

plateau in the Dangs forest area in the Sahyadri range of mountains, it offersbreathtaking views of

the sunrise and sunset.

Saputarais the most developed and most promoted tourist destination by the Gujarat tourism

department. It has all the amenities like hotels, parks, swimming pools, para gliding, restaurants,

boat club, theaters, ropeways, museum, you name it for a great weekend trip.

You can go to Saputara any time during the year, the place won't disappoint you. Though

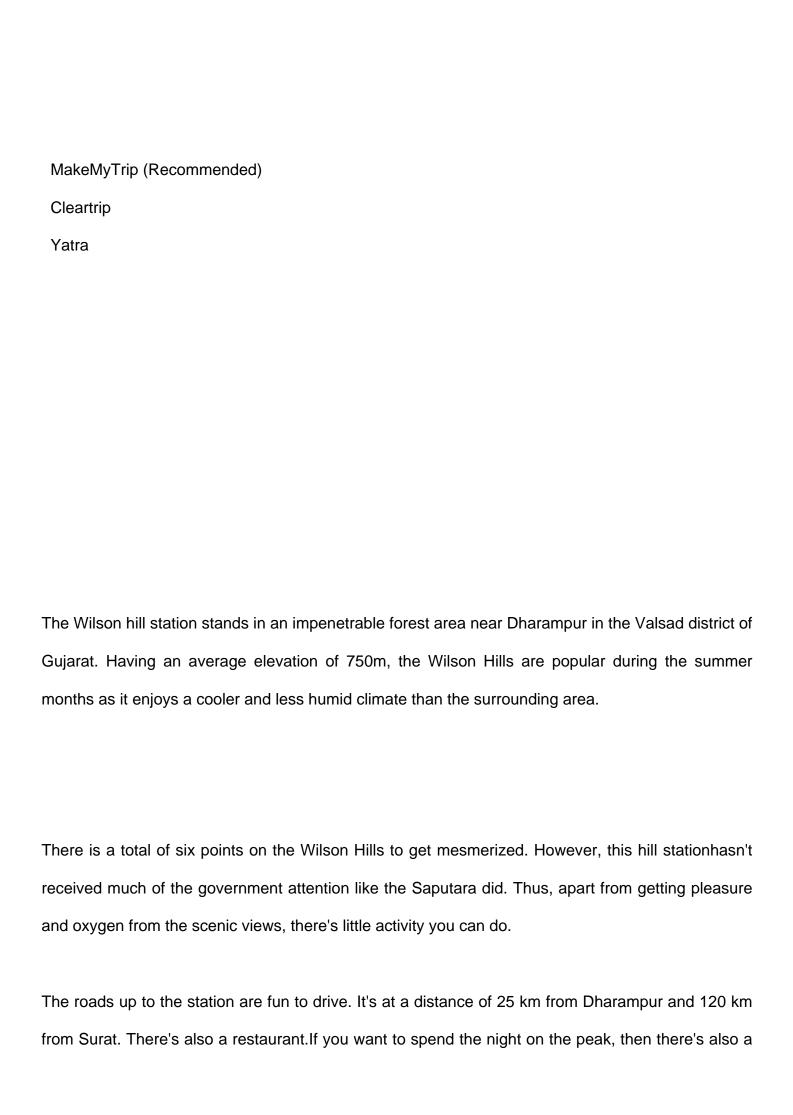
monsoonseason is the best to enjoy the beauty of this place. Saputarais 170 km from Surat and 280

from Mumbai. State transport buses are also available from Bilimora.

More info: Saputara

My rating: 4.5 / 5

Hotels in Saputara:



tent resort for you.

Accommodation/Food/Homestay at Wilson Hills: +91 94295 64808.Prior booking is required.

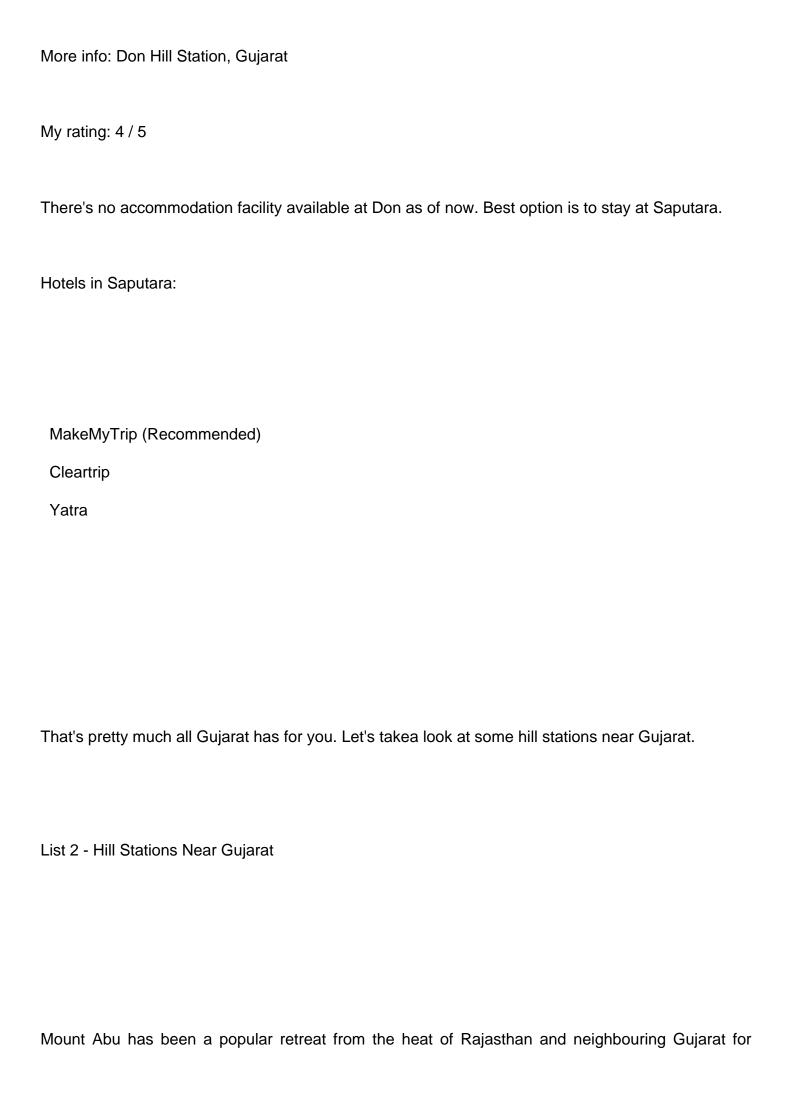
More info: Wilson Hill Station Dharampur

My rating: 3.5 / 5

A new comer to the list. The Don hill station is a scenic village located near Saputara, on the border of Gujarat - Maharashtra. Not many people know about this place.

Surrounded with lush green mountains, at the height of 1100 meters, Don hill station offers a heavenly experience. Fortunately for Don, the Dang district administration is actively involved in the tourism development projects. The best time to visit is the monsoon. I visited the place during August and the trip was a five-star experience.

Don is 50 km from Saputara and 175 km from Surat. Such are the lovely roads and the environment there that you'd remember the quote, "The path is important, destination isn't." while driving.



centuries. It is referred to as 'an oasis in the desert' as its heights are home to rivers, lakes,

waterfalls and evergreen forests.

The mountain forms a distinct rocky plateau 22 km long by 9 km wide. The highest peak on the

mountain is Guru Shikhar at 1,722 m above sea level.

More info:Mount Abu

My rating: 4.5 / 5

Matheran is a hill station in Karjat Tahsil and is also the smallest hill station in India. It is situated on

the Western Ghats range at an elevation of around 800 m. Located around 90 km from Mumbai, and

120 km from Pune, Matheran's proximity to many metropolitan cities makes it a popular weekend

getaway for urban residents.

Matheran is an eco-sensitive region. It is Asia's only automobile-free hill station.

Matheran is all about points. There are around 38 designated lookout points in Matheran, including

the Panorama Point that provides a 360 degree view of the surrounding area and the Neral town.

From this point, the view of sunset and sunrise is dramatic. To stay there, there are plenty of hotels

and villas are available.

More info: Matheran

My rating: 5 / 5

Lonavla is in Pune district in the Maharashtra. Known for its production of the hard candy Chikki, it is

also a major stop on the railway line connecting Mumbai and Pune. Both the Mumbai-Pune

Expressway as well as the Mumbai-Chennai highway pass through Lonavla.

Lonavla and the adjacent Khandala are twin hill stations 622 meters above sea level, in the

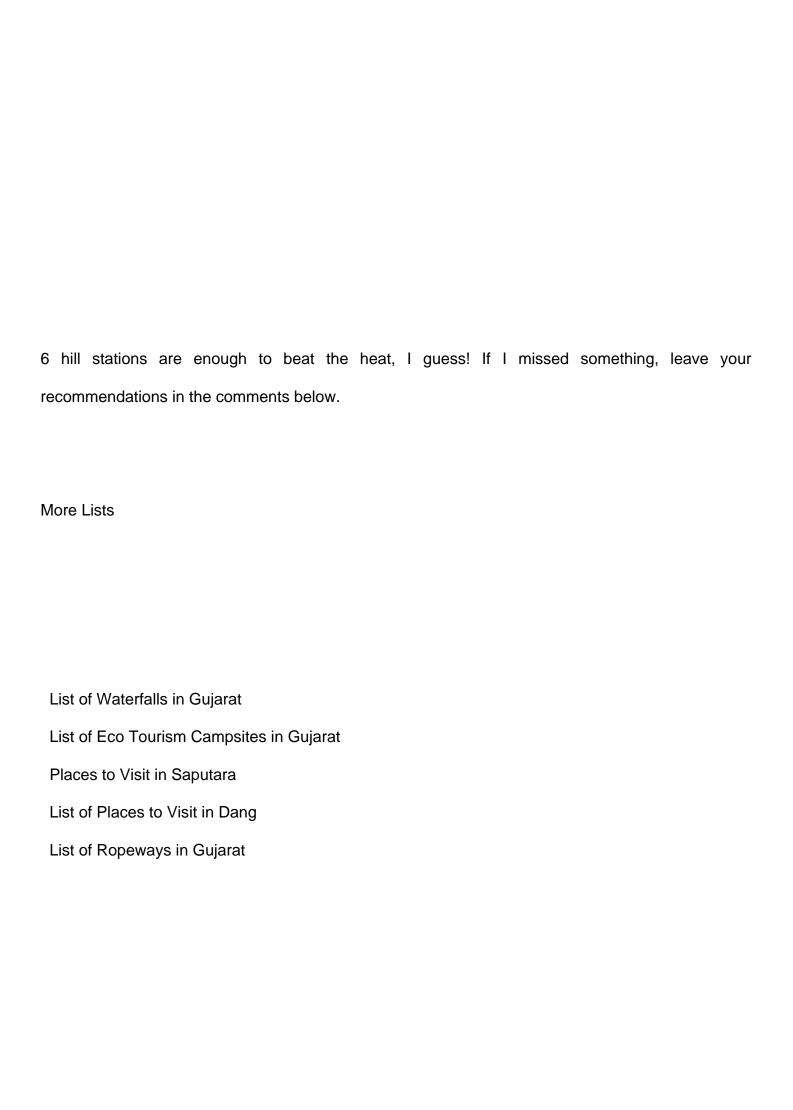
Sahyadri ranges. Tourism peaks during the monsoon season.

Sightseeing tour of this hill station offers the breathtaking views of forts, caves, lakes, hills and

severalview points.

More info: Lonavla

My rating: 4 / 5



Interesting Articles:

How to be Remarkable

Best of 2015 : Travel

Earth 0.0

How to Look Good in Photos?

Milestone: 1000 Visits A Day

Galteshwar Mahadev Temple : A Scenic 3-Hour-Trip Destination Near Dakor

Galteshwar, situated on the confluence of the rivers Mahi and Galti hosts a Shiva temple from the Solanki era. About 16 km from the temple town of Dakor, the place is declared as ancient and cultural heritage site by the ASI. Thus, elevating Galteshwar as a picnic cum pilgrimage destination nearAnand, Nadiad or Vadodara.

We set out for Galteshwar on one scorching afternoon after finishing one of the many internal exams of DDU. Those 3 hours of the mini trip were full-of-fun. Want to know why? Go ahead.:)

The Mahadev Temple

The eight sided temple is an excellent model of red stone carving. Built in the Solanki era (10 to 13th century), the foundation as well as the adroitly carved figures are still intact.

Zooming in the retina would reveal the carved figures of gods, humans, chariots, horse riders, elephants and various events of human life. The carvings are much more detailed inside of the unique eight-sided hall.

Looking at the way pilgrims rub their hands on sculptures and then touch forehead, without even observing the carvings, I had a silly thought that the carvings are decayed more due to the fingers than the time.

The Roof and the Two Stories

One thing anyone could easily notice is the unorthodox shape of the temple roof. Actually, the temple doesn't have a roof. There are two theories explaining the cause:

This theory says that Lord Shiva constructed the temple all by himself. However, he didn't want anyone to identify him. Solution? Work in the night and leave the place before the sunrise. Unfortunately, Shiva couldn't accomplish the mission and left the temple as it is.

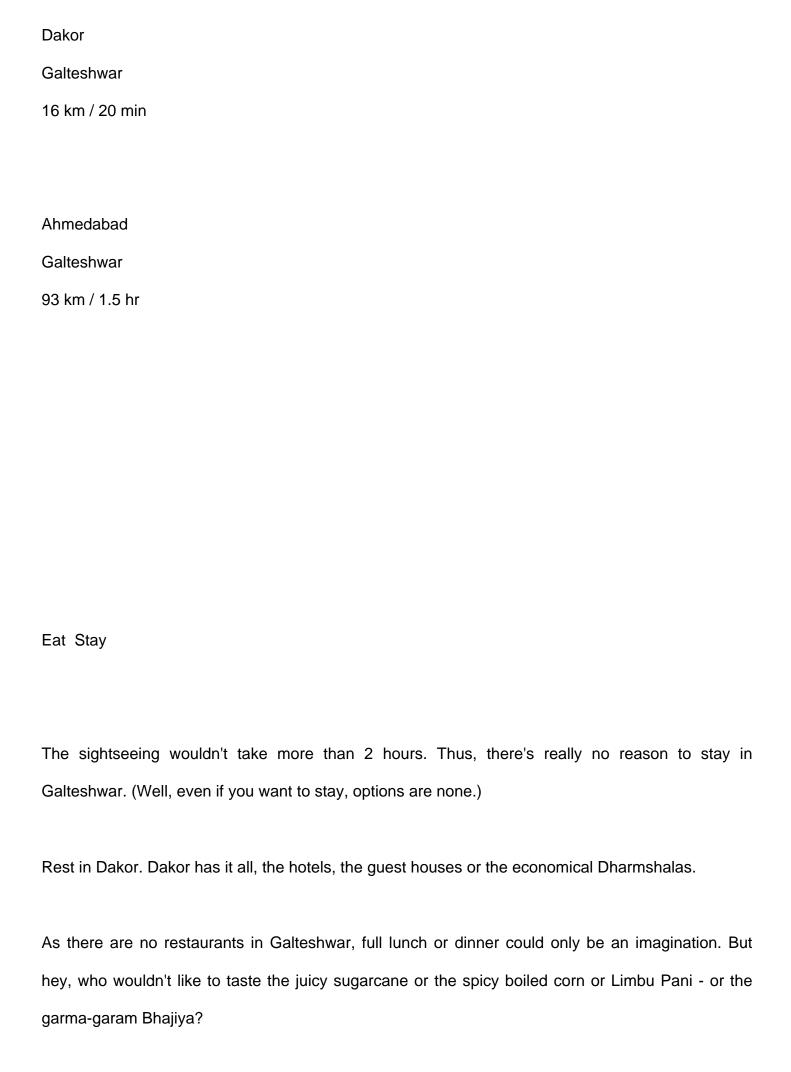
As per this story, after looting the rich temples of Somnath, when Mahmud Ghazni saw Galteshwar, he destroyed the roof.

As a science student, the second theory soundspromising to me. What do you think?

The Two Rivers

Built on the confluence of two rivers, Galteshwar also hosts various religious ceremonies. As the
Mahi river flows here, the water is pretty clean, clean enough to consider the stream as a natural
water park and have fun taking a bath.
-
The temple building is designed so peculiarly that the Galti river flows underneath and (believed to)
constantly sprinkles water on the Shiva-Ling.
Consequently, our ancestors were no less skillful than the Egyptians or the Romans.
How to Reach
If you're like me, totally dependent on the public transportation, take state transport bus to Dakor.
They are frequently available from Nadiad and Anand. Get off and find a rickshaw leading to
Galteshwar. It's a 20 minute journey.
If you own a vehicle then no one could offer you better route than the Google Maps.

Distance Matrix:
From
То
Distance in km / Approx. Time
Nadiad
Galteshwar
52 km / 1 hr
Anand
Galteshwar
51 km / 1 hr
Vadodara
Galteshwar
86 km / 1.5 hr



Photographer's Paradise
In the Golden Hours (The hours just after sunrise and just before sunset, when the light is lower,
softer, more colorful.) the place offers beautiful landscapes for photography.
The stage consists of: ancient temple, serene river, grainy sand, immortal rocks, wide bridge and
immaculate water. What else is needed?
Photo Credits:
Tanmay Rajani, Rushit Dave, Janki Patel, Riddhi Toliya
Discover More:

9diad: Decoding 9 Lakes, 9 Exits, 9 Stepwells of Nadiad!

Best of 2015 : Travel

Earth 0.0

How To Be Remarkable?

List of Hill Stations in Gujarat

Saptashrungi Devi Temple Vani - A Photo Tour, History & Story

Saptashrungi Gadh is a Hindu pilgrimage site near Vani, Nashik, Maharashtra. The name 'Sapta' stands for 'Seven' and 'Shrunga' for 'Peaks'. Thus, the temple is surrounded by seven hills. Saptashrungitemple is one of the 51 Shakti Peethas in India. A large number of devotees visit Vani Devi temple every day.

I published this post last year (May 2015) as a photo gallery. I casually posted photos of Saptashrungi temple I took during trip toVani. Eventually, the post started getting topranking on Google, and by today (February 2016) it has more than 7000 views.

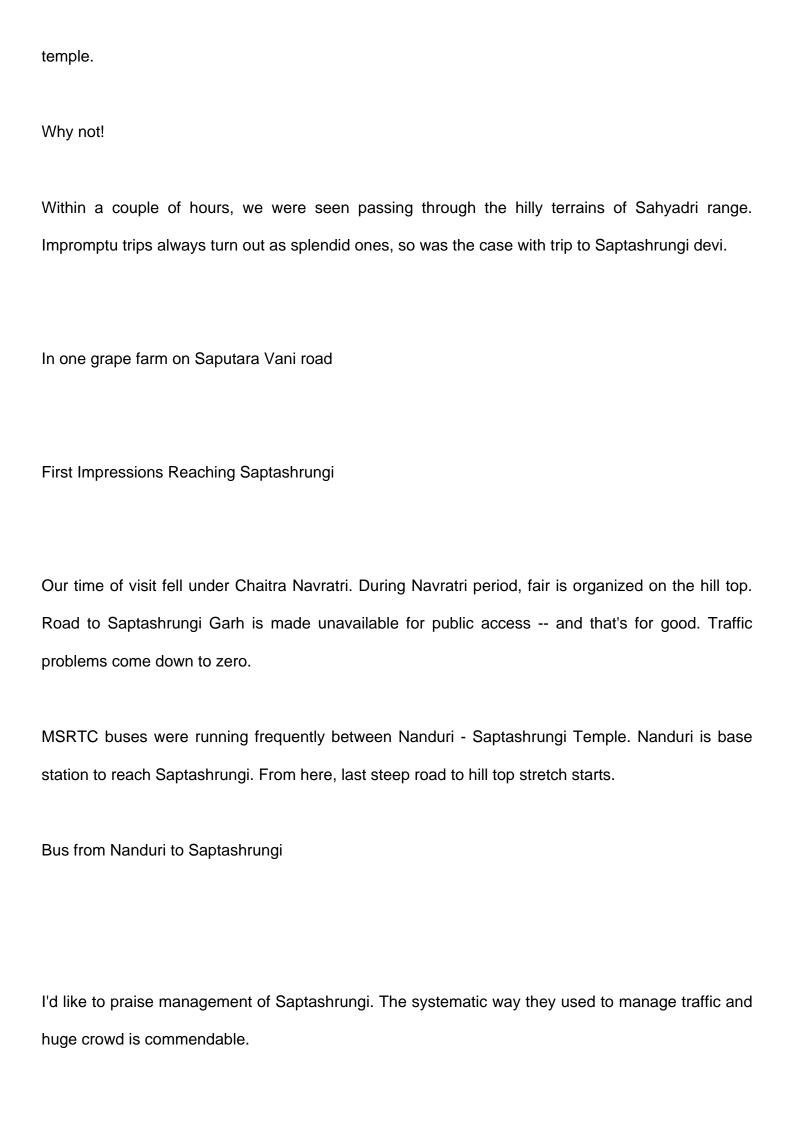
I'm updating original article, "Saptashrungi Devi Temple Vani - A Photo Tour, History Story", with intention to make it most useful to readers. Like other travel posts, photos will be the essence.

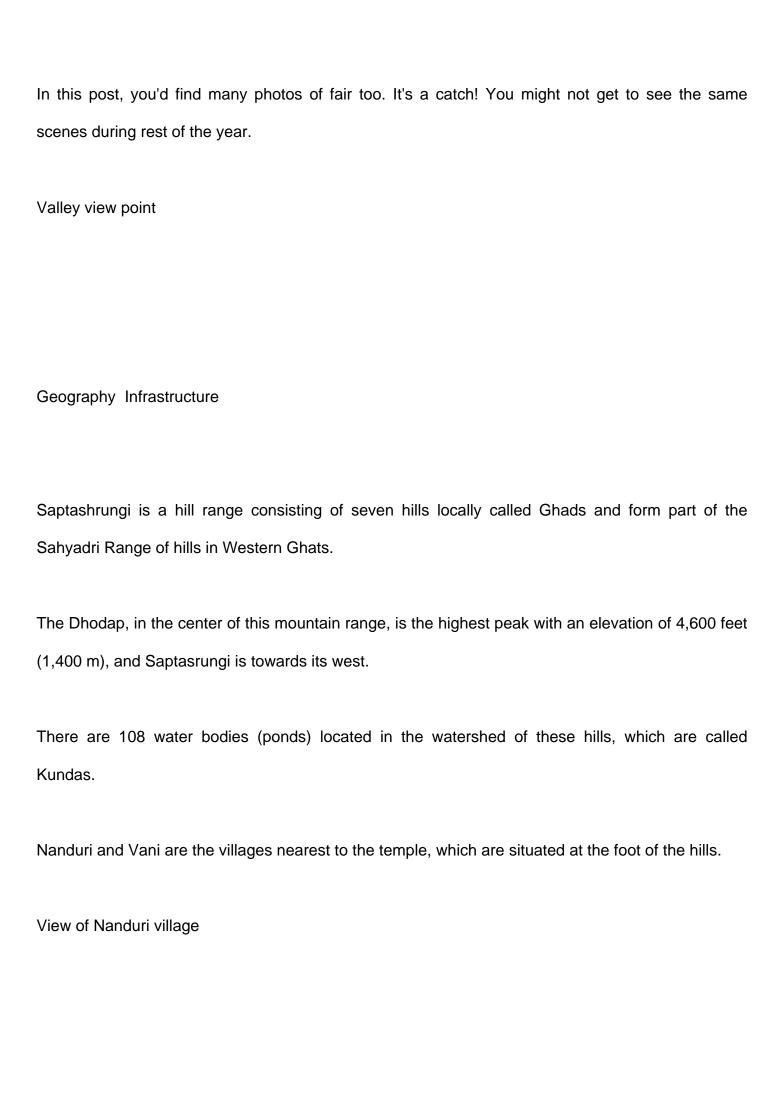
Let's hit the road!

Plan of Saptashrungi Devi Vani

I had a week off in college so I packed bags and set off for home.

On one bright Sunday morning, mom pinned a one-day-trip plan to Saputara and Saptashrungi devi





Saptashrungi Temple is two storied shrine with the Devi enshrined in the top floor. The Saptashrungi

Devi image is carved in a cave at the base of a sheer scarp rock face. The Saptashrungi Devi is said

to be swayambhu (self-manifested) on a rock on the sheer face of a mountain.

Saptashrungi is quite developed pilgrimage and tourism place. Tourism infrastructure is well created

and maintained by Shree Saptashrungi Nivasini Devi Trust.

Courtesy: Wikipedia

Kid selling Dupattas

Tale of Saptashrungi Devi Temple Story

As with the case with many Indian temples and Goddess, Saptashrungi too has guite a few of them.

Let's go over them one by one with help of Wikipedia.

Saptashrungi Devi temple is also one among the 51 Shakti Peethas located on the Indian

subcontinent and is a location where one of Sati's (first wife of Lord Shiva) limbs, her right arm is

reported to have fallen.

When I was taking photos of hills around Saptashrungi, mom pointed me out to a hill, that has a

door-like hole. She said, Devi entered to Saptashrungi through that mountain door.

The Goddess had taken the form of Durga (the Mahalakshmi of Devi Mahatmaya) and slew the

buffalo-demon Mahishasura, who troubled the universe. After that the Goddess is believed to be

settled here. As the Goddess took form here and resided at Saptashrungi, it is considered the

original location of the Goddess.

In the epic Ramayana war, when Lakshmana was lying unconscious in the war field, Hanuman

came to Saptashrungi hills in search of medicinal herbs to restore his life.

Sage Markandeya, while living in a cave near Saptashrungi is believed to have recited puranas

(Hindu scriptures) to entertain the Devi.

A local myth says that a tiger resides in the garbagriaha (sanctum sanctorum) every night and a

keeps a watch on the temple but goes away before sunrise.

Another myth is that when a person was trying to destroy a beehive, the Devi appeared before

him to prevent the act.

There's one more story of Saptashrungi Mata, linked to Shirdi Sai Baba and his devotees.

A Comment By Dr. Damodar Mandore

EDIT: 12-05-2016

Yesterday, I've received an detailed and insightful comment on this article by Dr. Damodar Mandore.

Adding it here:

I too am a fan of Vani and had been visiting here since my childhood during the Chaitrotsava.(This

year too I was there).

I would be glad, if at all you could add a bit more about the story of Parsaram Bala, who is said to be

the younger brother of Saptashrungi Devi and his temple is located exactly behind that of Devi.

Local story/belief is that, Devi hid him behind her during some emergency situation and thus his

statue is behind her and so is the temple. For visiting this temple you have to take the parikrama

marg and reach exactly half way, and directionally opposite side of the hill. I had visited there

around a decade back or so.

The chaitrotsava was very exciting, thrilling and joyful, in the past days (Though facilities were less,

but joy was good in a different perception), where you could see many poor beggars sleeping on

beds of thorn in full noon time, under naked sun, some hand emerging out of ground and chanting

string of bead and many such adventurous and rare activities. In fact the adventure used to begin

right the way while climbing up the hill via the narrow road and two way traffic with some

indisciplined and speedy drivers used to take your breath away. But, yes, as mentioned by you, the

new facilities have definitely made the trip a safe and smooth ride these days and many new

technologies are being roped in for further betterment.

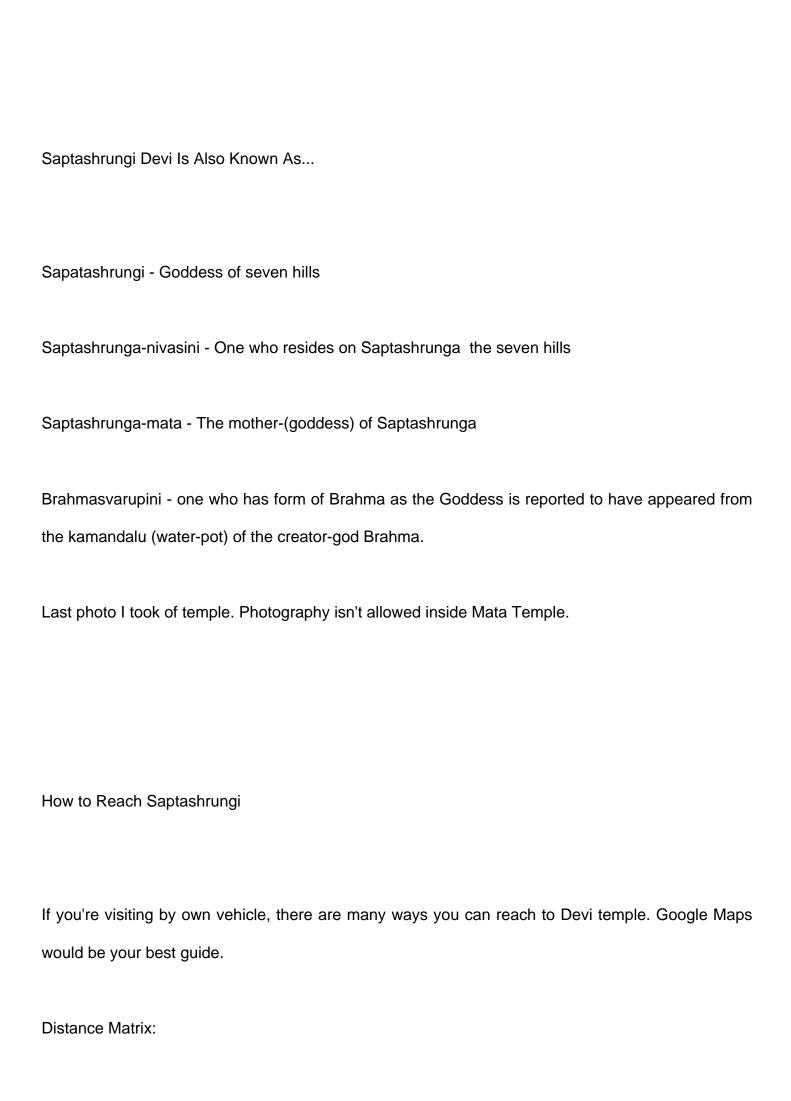
One more thing that I wish to add is a story/belief that during the end of Pournima, a person from a

particular family, carries the flag of the temple and after hoisting it secretly in the night time, when he

emerges out, all his white clothes are torn. Nobody knows about the whereabouts of this path and

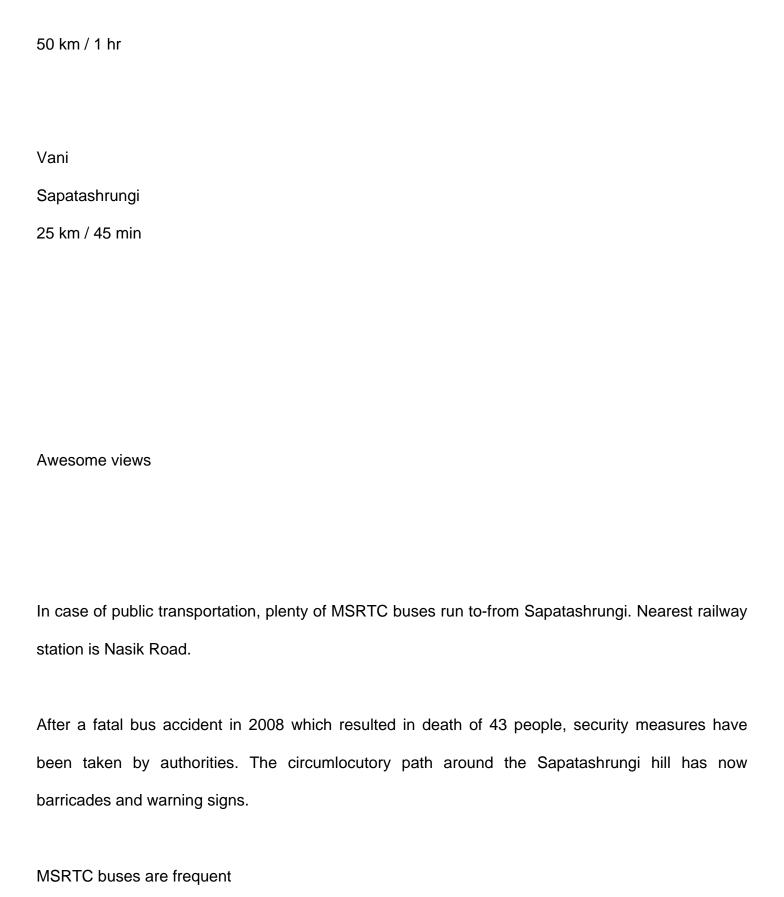
the guy.

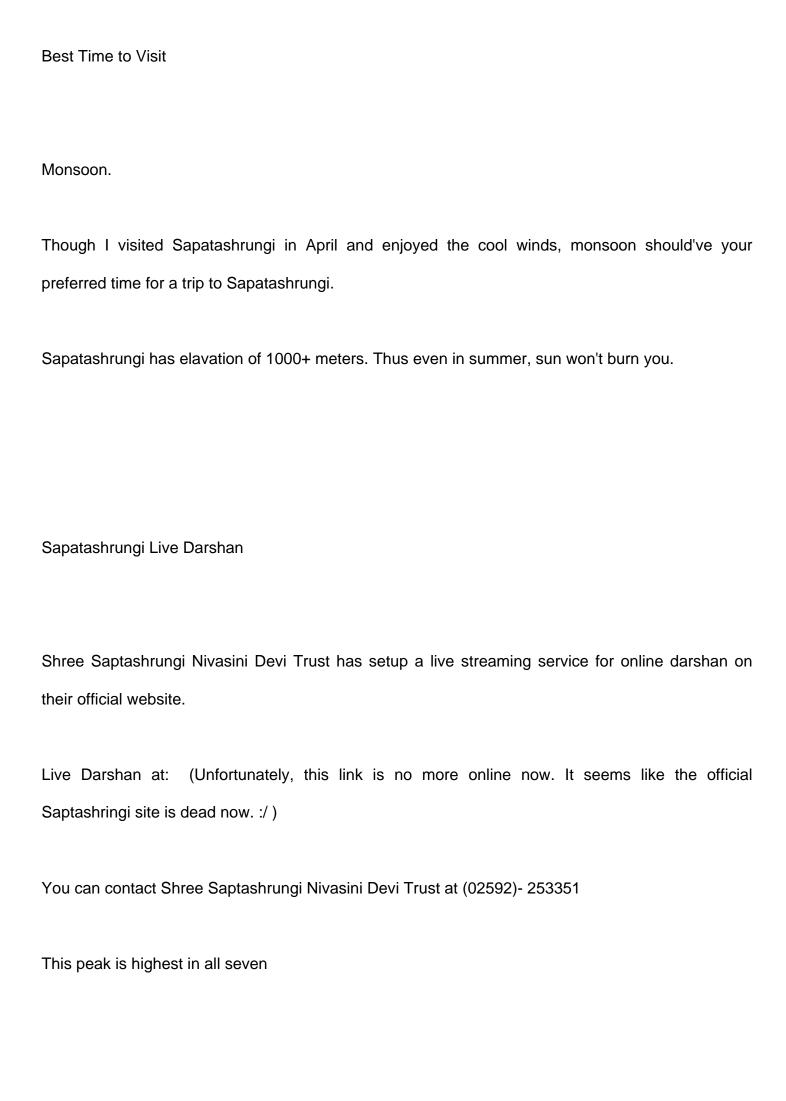
"



То		
Distance in km / Time		
Surat		
Sapatashrungi		
200 km / 5 hrs		
Nasik		
Sapatashringi		
70 km / 1.5 hrs		
Mumbai		
Sapatashrungi		
250 km / 5 hrs		
Saputara		
Sapatashrungi		

From





Devi Pooja Timetable
Morning: 06.00 AM
Noon: 12.00 PM
Evening: 07.30 PM
Devotees taking holy dip in water body near Mahadev Temple
Yearly Festivals / Fixtures
Navratri Festival - Usually in September
Chaitrosav - Usually in April
Purnima - Every Month
During festival time

Food, Accommodation and Facilities At Sapatashrungi
While I was wandering in streets of Sapatashrungi, I had seen many restaurants. Food options are in abundance.
For lodging, trust has built Dharmshala with capacity of 190 rooms.
Dharmshala office is open 24 hours. No reservations. Rooms are offered for a day.
As far as I can remember, there's a school, bank, ATM and hospital too was present in Sapatashrungi.
View of downtown from top. As easilynoticeable, lack of free space has stopped development of Saptashrungi.
Heading Back
After Darshan of Sapatashrungi Devi, we started our return journey to home via Saputara.
If you're going towards Gujarat, from Nanduri, take route

Nanduri - Abhona - Kanashi - Hatgad - Saputara.
The landscapes are exqusite! I had total fun capturing photos
Returning
A minimal streetlight photo while waiting for bus
Somewhere near Hatgad. I told you, the landscapes are breathtaking!
Golden farms!

Sooraj Sa Chamkein Hum, School Chalein Hum!
This is one of my favorite photos!
Cheers!
All photos are from April 2015. Taken by Kunj Dodiya and me. From Redmi 1S.
Related Posts:

You Don't Need a DSLR

How to be remarkable!

Best of 2015 : Travel

Paragliding in Saputara

Safari English Magazine is Dead!

Saputara Paragliding Festival : Adventure Sports In Saputara Hill Station

Saputarais the most popular hill station in Gujarat. To promote Saputara as a tourism hub, Gujarat Tourism department often organizes various festivals throughout the year. The SaputaraParagliding Festival isone of the carnivals. The paragliding activities in Saputara are managed byDang Jilla Paragliding Adventure Association and are supported by the tourism department.

Update May 2019:

So in May 2019, during my visit to India, I experienced paragliding at Saputara with my brother and friends.

It was a fun experience! Above is the video of the paragliding at sunset

UPDATE: Saputara Paragliding Festival 2016

Gujarat tourism department has inaugurated this year's, Saputara Paragliding Festival 2016, on 1st November.

The paragliding festival 2016 will be celebrated between 1st November 2015 to 31st January 2016.

To quote the Adventure Club's description:

Gujarat has been blessed with a huge mountain range. Many of these areas are still virgin and unexplored.

Pavagadh and Saputara being tourist destinations were discovered and explored earlier. Saputara has already become popular for tandem joyrides.

We have recently explored Dang, the green belt of Gujarat and discovered excellent sites for paragliding, hang gliding and other adventure sports. The site is suitable for training, advance flying and cross country flying. In the next two years this site will be one of the most preferred paragliding destination in India. Being on Maharashtra - Gujarat border this location is close from Nasik and Mumbai for paragliding.

Gujarat Tourism Department is very proactive in supporting new initiatives and has been extending full support in our venture. There are plans to develop and promote this location as a new tourist destination and we are proud to be part of it.

Time

The paraglidingadventure is (mostly) available during in the months of November, December,
January every year.
It starts in the morning at around 10 and lasts as long as there is enough sunlight in the evening,
generally 5.30 PM.
Venue
Paragliding
Sunset Point Road, Near Jain Temple, Saputara.
As you enter in Saputara from Gujarat, take first left. Continue straight for a minute you'd find the
site.
Par Sailing
Helipad ground, Saputara.
Paragliding
Don Hill Station, Ahwa
(Though, I'm not sure about the source, but paraglidingis also said to be offered at Don Hill Station

Charges They fluctuate time to time, depending on tourist rush and season. On an average, Paragliding would cost you between Rs. 1800 - Rs. 2500 Parasailingwould between Rs. 500 - Rs. 1000 Contact For Training: 9011733396 For Joyrides: 9427189696, 9998088001 Email:pgahwa@gmail.com	ring tourism festivals.)
They fluctuate time to time, depending on tourist rush and season. On an average, Paragliding would cost you between Rs. 1800 - Rs. 2500 Parasailingwould between Rs. 500 - Rs. 1000 Contact For Training: 9011733396 For Joyrides: 9427189696, 9998088001	
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A Walk Through: Amul Dairy Anand

Amul, The Taste of India! Based at Anand in Gujarat, Amul is the largest food brand in India. It was Amul that spurred India's White Revolution, which made the country the world's largest producer of milk and milk products.

As Anand is just 20 minutes from where I study, DDIT, Nadiad, a visit to the dairy is no surprisal. :)

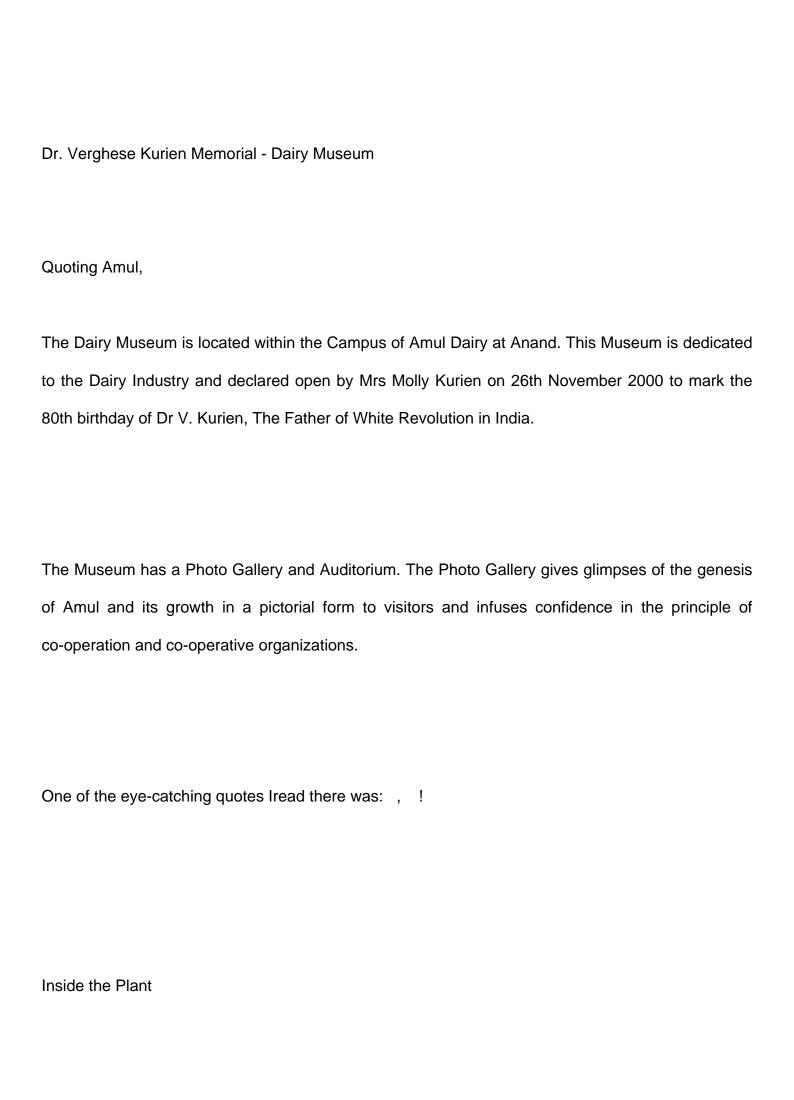
The neat campus of the dairy, informative museum, cutting edge technology and sophisticated machineries left our eyes wide open. Dive in to have a look of the vista:

Wait! How To Dive In?

We found contact number of the officials from the internet and called them asking for a permission to visit the dairy. We were told to visit the dairy campus with a college identity card. That's it!

They performed a security check at the entrance, assigned gate pass forthe group.

No entry fee whatsoever.



As we shiftedon the walkways, a guide greeted us and asked if we wanted to visit the plant.
It was a pleasant surprise! I never expected that a dairy employee would offer such tourwithout asking for. (Later on, I learned that there are ~3 trained guides to show and explain the plant to the visitors and students.)
Photography was restricted inside the plant. No photos from in.
Amul has set up a cafeteria nearby the plant. Intuitively, I thought that I'd bumper discounts on milk products. Because hey, I was just 100 meter away from the plant where the products were manufactured. :)
Alas, the so thought discount was none. :(

The Amul Girl
Amul girl refers to the advertising mascot used by Amul. The advertising often been described as one of the best Indian Advertising concepts because of their witty humour. The Amul girl dressed in a polka dotted frock with blue hair and a half pony tied up has always been my favorite cartoon character.
Departing the Dairy
The walk through took approx. 2 hours. We left the premises one by one
The Oval Fountain
Clean Roads and Manicured Gardens
Bye Bye!

This post is a part of the Vacation Publishing Spree. All the photos by self. Not for reproduction.
That was all from me. Your turn now. Visit the comment section below!
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Devinamal Campsite - Eco Tourism Center in Dang, Gujarat

Video of Padamdungari - a campsite an hour away from Devinamal

Devinamal Campsite is an Eco-tourism site located 5 km off from the Dang district headquarter,

Ahwa. Placed amidst the dense jungles of the Dangs, Devinamal has emerged as fresh Eco-tourism

center after Kilad and Mahal. Nature enthusiasts can stay in the tent like domes built by the forest

department. The department also conducts educational sessions camps for students after monsoon

season.

Our visit to Devinamal was unplanned. It so happened that we (brother, mom, dad) saw a sign board

of the campsite while driving on the Ahwa-Saputara state highway. We were headed for Anjani

Kund, but wandering a new place could never be less exciting. Turned the steering clockwise and

there we were...

Read this: List of Campsites in Gujarat

Also: List of Tourist Places in Dang

Wrong Time!

It was my 4th visit in the Dangs in the last 9 months. From the experience, I can say confidently that the best time to explore the area is monsoon.

Monsoon. Between July to November, with August being my personal favorite. I love the green shade of earth and light rain showers of August.

I checked-in in the middle of May. Surely a wrong time. Due to the scorching heat of summer, there was no one at the campsite. Yep, not a single person by chance. (Implicitly telling us that we could do anything of our choice! :))

Hence, the preferred time to visit the Devinamal campsite is after the monsoon season ends. Between October to January. You may question, why not monsoon? Because of the roads. No matter its XUV500 or the powerful CB200, the odds that the vehicle will tangle in muds are high.

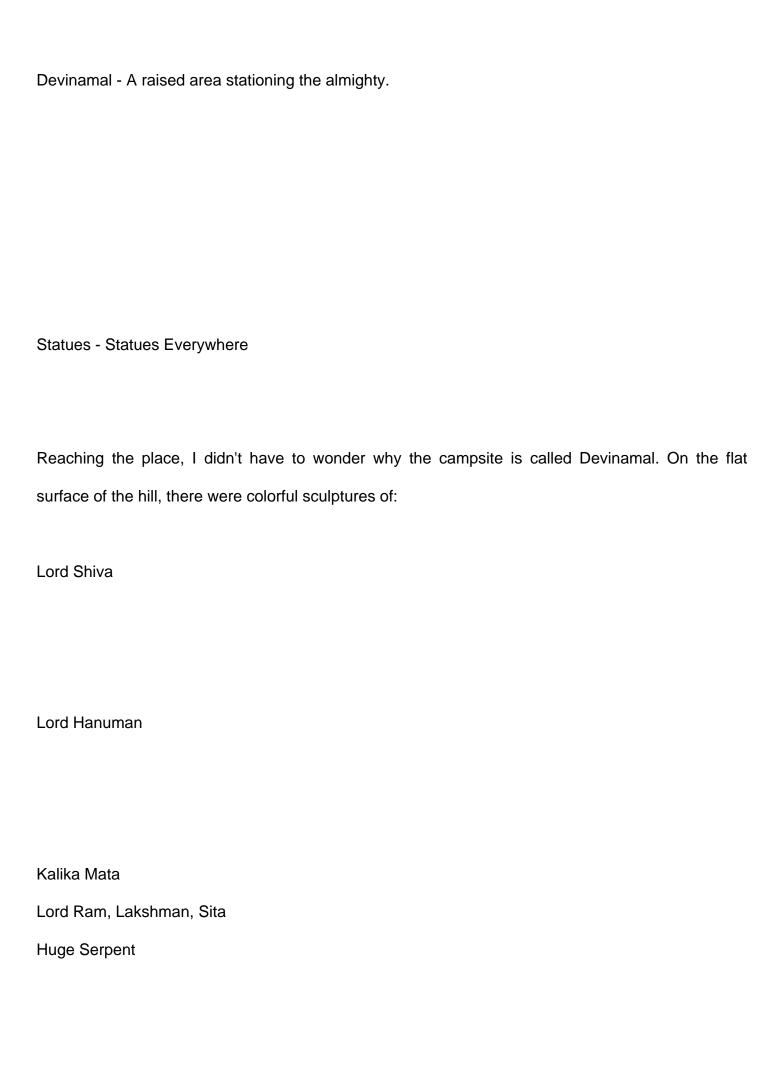
Devinamal - Anatomy of the Name

As aforementioned, I didn't meet anyone so this analysis of the name is certainly my self-made theory. Feel free to correct me in the comments.

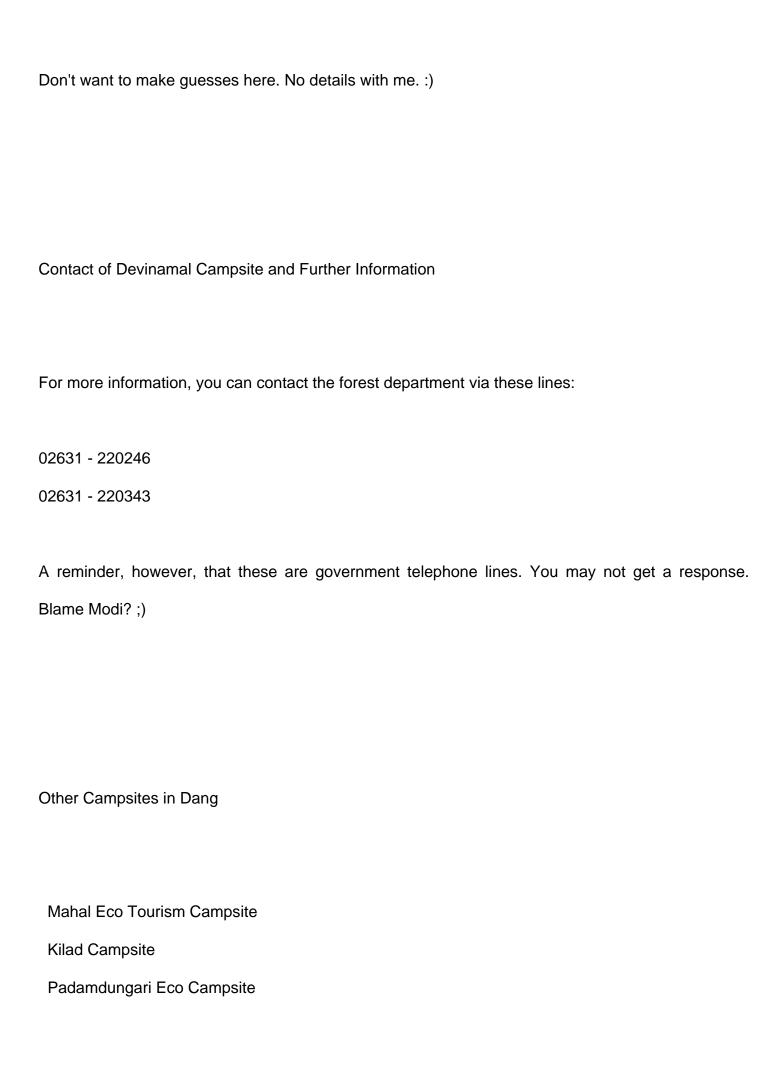
Devinamal = Devi + Na + Mal

Devi - Goddess (or God) of the ethnic groups.

Mal - A place at higher altitude than its surroundings.



I still marvel serpents? We					Is it	connected	to	Saputara,	the	abode	of
The Campsit	е										
There are 4 r	notable stru	uctures:									
A. Podium											
B. Domes for	rovernight	visitors (In m	ny POV)								
C. Common	hall for foo	d, study sess	sion and I	meetings							
D. Canteen											
Food Accom	nmodation										



List of Campsites in Gujarat
This post is a part of the Vacation Publishing Spree.
Why do I write?
Fun Time!
All images by self and Kunj.
Now, it's your turn to spread the words. Share -or- comment -or- give asmile and off. Your wish!

Read On..

List of Campsites In Gujarat

Mahal Eco Tourism Campsite

The Smiling Buddha

Sunset Sunrise Photography

Where to Stay in Dang?

Shabari Dham Temple, Subir, Ahwa - The Story of Lord Rama, Ber & Shabari

Video of Shabari Dham

Shabari Dham is a popular mythological destination on a hill, Chamak Dungar, near Subir village on Ahwa - Navapur road in the Dang district. Surrounded by Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Shabaridham temple is the spot where Lord Rama met a Bhil woman, Shabari. Lord Rama, his brother Lakshman ate the berries offered by Shabari mata at here. The stones on which they are assumed to sat are still worshiped.

The first reaction I had when I saw Shabari Dham was: How could it, a place in remote Dangs, be so developed? Given the right atmosphere, the breezing winds could take you to heaven. I certainly didn't expect Shabaridham to be infrastructurally sound. Come and uncover further...

The Berry Story

From Ramayana, we well know that Devi Sita was forcibly taken away by Ravana. Lord Rama had sprung off a search mission to find his consort. During this mission, Lord Rama and Lakshman arrived at the hilltop, on which Shabari was said to be waiting for them for years.

The seekers took rest over there. Meanwhile, they were offered a fruit called 'Ber' by Shabari.

Here's an intriguing point about the berries, the fruits were served with Lord Rama only after tasting each of them (Shabari tasted them), to ensure that they all are sweet. How sweet!
The Developed Temple
The present temple hosting the statues of Ram, Lakshman and Shabari was built in 2004. The Ramayana story is painted on the walls around the temple.
In the last few years, the temple surroundings have been adroitly developed. Surroundings like, Parking space Concrete road to the top
Neat pavements
Fountains Lavish gardens
Drinking water coolers
A big thumbs up for it!

Eat Stay
Unlike other places of the Dang, Shabari Dham has a couple of hotels and accommodation options
just below the temple.
Two Kathiyawadi hotels serve pretty good food.
Accommodation has two choices.
Forest Rest House
It lies on Subir-Navapur Road.
Contact number for booking: +91 9898111639
Maa Shabari Farm House and Resorts
It lies behind the Shabarimaa temple.
Contact number for booking: +91 9426164526

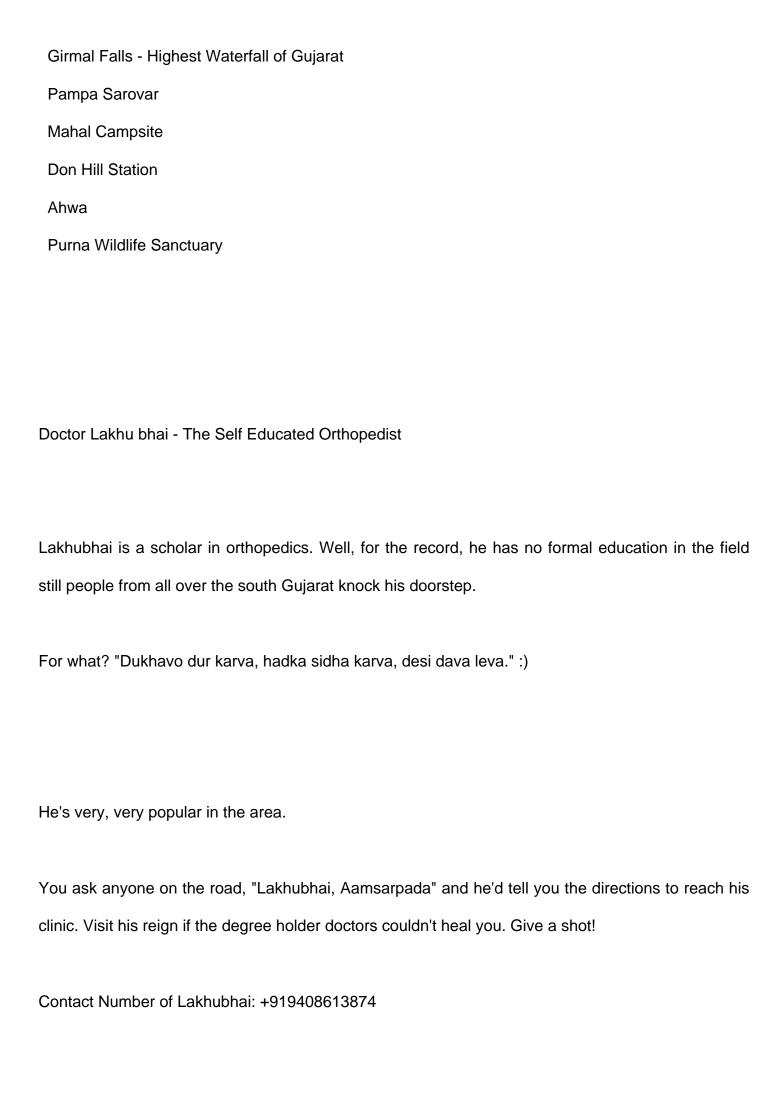
How to Reach

Shabari Dham is half an hour distance from Dang district headquarters, Ahwa.
Via jeeps you can reach to Subir from Ahwa.
Distance Matrix
From
То
Distance in km / Time in hr
Ahwa
Subir - Shabaridham
30 km / 45 mins
Saputara
Subir - Shabridham
70 km / 90 mins
Surat

Subir - Shabaridham

Valsad
Subir - Shabridham
125 km / 3 hr
However, a lot of tourists take another route.
Ahwa - Pampa Sarovar - Shabari Dham.
I too recommend this way. Sign boards to reach Pampa Sarovar are well placed on the road.
Nearby Attractions
Nearby Attractions

130 km / 3 hr



There's also another personality, Jatru baba of Lambasonda. However, I didn't meet him personally so I will stay mum. Harun Bhai from Vansda town, sell and send parcels of Desi medicines to various metro cities. I recommend you contact him first before visiting any of the aforementioned people. Contact Number of Harun Bhai: +91 9426573822 Shabari Kumbh Mela The first Shabari Kumbh Mela was organized in 2006 by Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) leader, Swami Aseemanand. The Shabari Kumbh Mela had sparked a few controversies at that time. Adivasis demanded a ban on the Mela, stating that it had no sanction in any religious text. Next Shabari Kumbh Mela is planned in January 2016. (Rumors) This article is part of the Vacation Publishing Spree. Why do I write about places?

Time To Go!
Now, it's your turn. Share, spread and comment! All is yours. :)
More from this site:
Mahal Eco Tourism Campsite
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How to be remarkable?

Best of 2015

Anjan Kund: The Parvat Where Hanumanji Was Born

Anjani Kund (or Anjani Parvat) is a village near Ahwarelated to various mythological stories. The villagers of Dang district believe that Lord Hanumanji was born in a cave of the Anjani mountain. Dang area was known as 'Dandkaranya - ' in the Ramayana period. Shabari Dham proves this claim.

The Kund

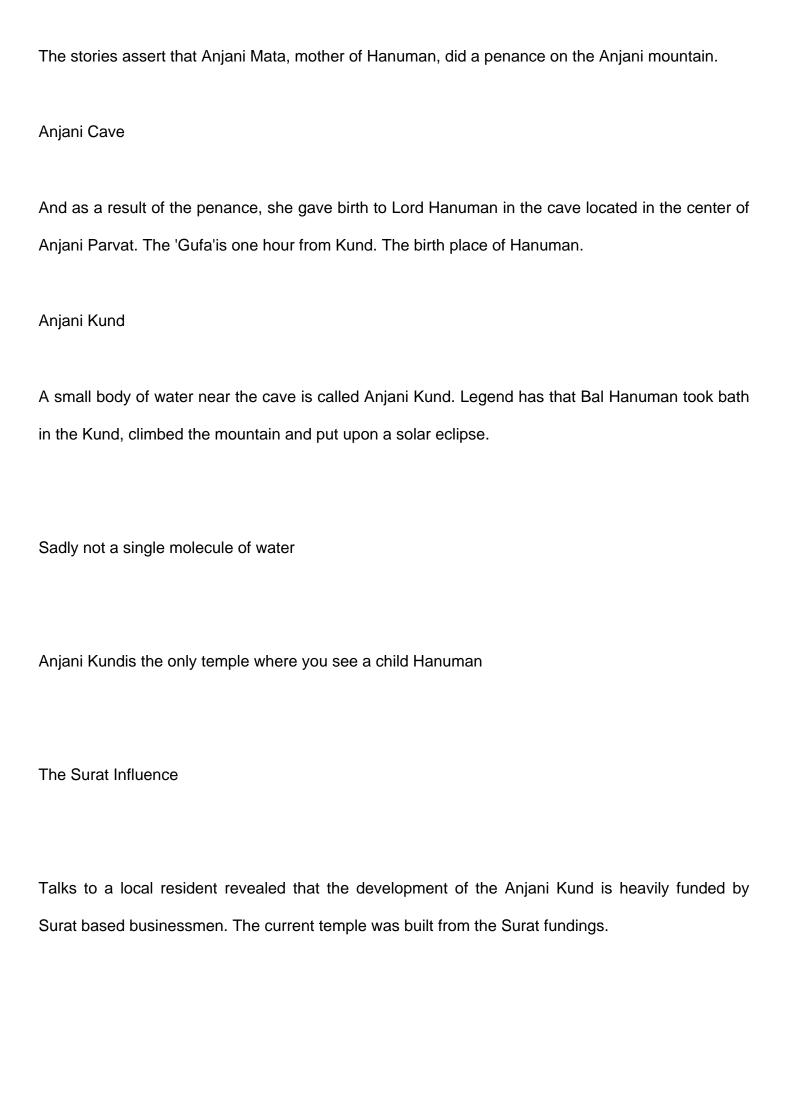
I paid a quick visit to the place in this summer. Reached there in the middle of noon, so there were no visitors. No water in the river or in the kund. Took a few photos, talked with one resident of the Anjani village and left the place.

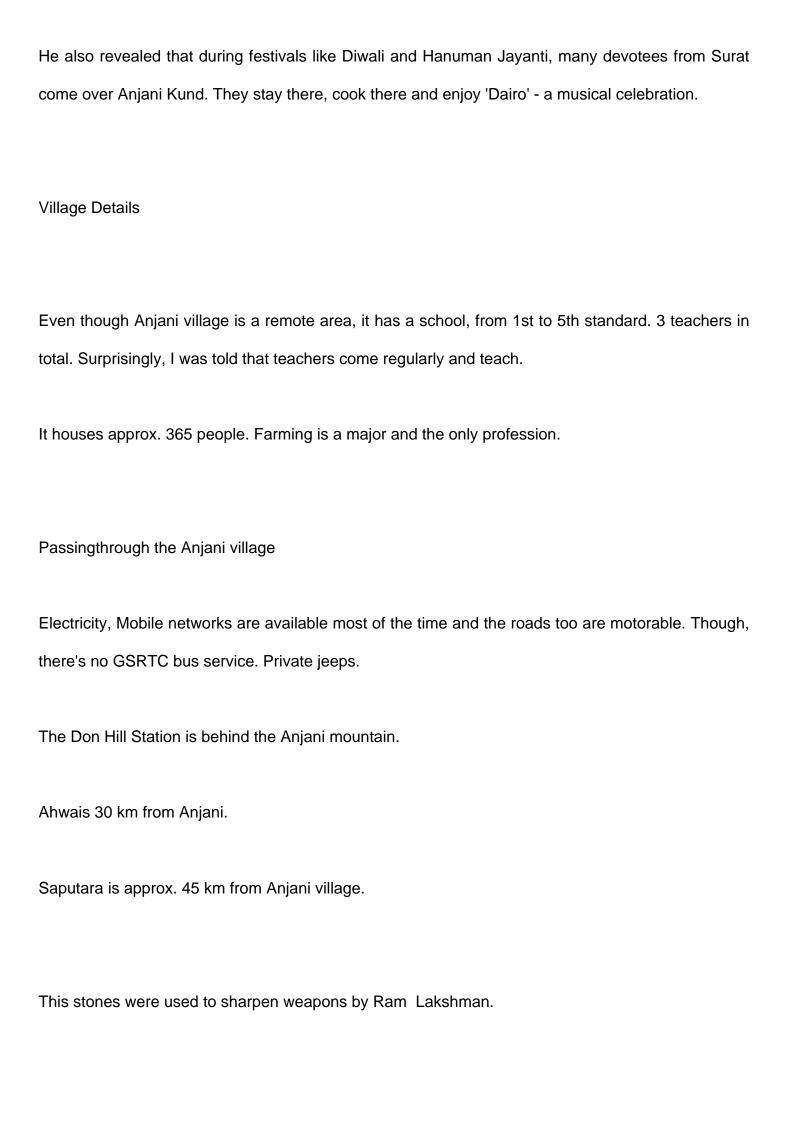
Local Resident

Anjani Kund - Anjani Parvat - Anjani Cave

These 3 names hold unique importance.

Anjani Parvat





Corrupt Tourism Development
I was informed that the government had allocated3 croregrant to boost tourism infrastructure.
Needless to say, themoney did not reach the land. All they built was pavement block, a small rest dome and an entrance gate. These 3 structures IN 3 CRORES.
So this gate is worth of 1 crore
And there lies the answer of development issues in India.
Nearby Attractions
Don Hill Station
Shabari Dham, Subir
Ahwa Dang Mahal Farasta Dang
Mahal Forests Dang Saputara Hill Station

This post is a part of the Vacation Publishing Spree.

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Hill Stations in Gujarat

Pampa Sarovar, Shabaridham: Maha Kumbh Hosting Lake

Pampa Sarovar is few minutes from Shabari Dham

Pampa Sarovar (Lake) is located on the banks of river Poorna, 6 km from Shabari Dham. Matang Rishi, the Guru of Shabari Mata had established his Ashram near the Pampa Sarovar. The place hosted Shabari Mata's Maha Kumbh in 2006. Pampa lake is mentioned in Ramayana also as Pushtharini.

Pampa Sarovar is popular thanks to its mythological importance and is frequented by visitors from Maharashtra, Gujarat (Valsad, Navsari and Surat).

Shabari Maha Kumbh

Quoting from the Dang district website,

In order to collect the funds for the Shabari Matas temple, Morari Bapus Ram Katha was organized here in 2002. Morari Bapu inspired to organize a great religious fair for Maha Kumbh in this place.

The organisers happily accepted Morari Bapus proposal regarding the Maha Kumbh. Since ancient times, four Kumbh fairs are organised in India wherein crores of people have gained spiritual fortune

and happiness till date. The Shabari Matas Maha Kumbh was the fifth largest Maha Kumbh in the Indian tradition after the four Maha Kumbhs organised at Haridwar, Prayag, Ujjain and Nashik.

This Maha Kumbh was organised at the Pampa Sarovar (lake), about 6 km from Shabaridham, Gujarat located on the banks of river Poorna. The Pampa lake has also been mentioned in the Ramayana.

It is believed that Matang Rishi, who was the guru of Shabari Mata, had established his ashram on the banks of the Pampa lake. Ramayan mentions that Pampa lake is situated on river Pushtharini. The followers strongly believe that Poorna is the same river that was known as Pushtharini in the ancient times.

The next Kumbh Mela is rumored to be organized in January 2016.

Current Scene

Currently, the place seems worn out. Though, many tourists visit Pampa Lake, the location is overlooked by thetourism department.

The kids there are trained beggars. As soon as you'd step out of your car, they'd come running to
you and non hesitantly ask for money. Due to extreme poverty? Maybe.
Fishing activities by villagers
For food, as now, except from small shops, no restaurants or hotels are available in the area. No
accommodation options too. However, two Kathiyawadi hotels and a couple of guest houses are
present in Shabari Dham.
How To Reach
Pampa Sarovar can easily be reached via Ahwa, the Dang district headquarter. Its 30 km from
Ahwa, Gujarat. Sign boards are well placed on the state highway for direction.
Public transportation is not available.
Distance Matrix

Ahwa	
Pampa Lake	
30 km	
Shabari Dham	
Pampa Sarovar	
7 km	
Surat	
Pampa Sarovar	
165 km	
Saputara	
Pampa Sarovar	
75 km	

From

Distance in km

То

This travelogue is a part of the Vacation Article Spree.
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The Branch Store
Breaking Down PNR Number

Jagdishchandra Bose Aquarium, Surat: Multidisciplinary Underwater

Aquarium

Located at Jagdishchandra Bose Udyan at Adajan, Surat Aquarium is an excellent attraction of the

city. More than 100 species are displayed in 52 specially designed eco-tanks. Jagdish Chandra Bose

Aquarium, Surat is the first multidisciplinary underwater aquarium of its kind in the country.

Covering a space of 25,722 square meters, the aquarium was built in 20 crores. A jellyfish pool and

shark tank will be the key attractions. A Chennai based firm is responsible for the maintenance of

the Surat aquarium.

The whole place can be covered in 2 hours. Kids, adults, senior citizens - all would enjoy the vivid

creatures. All necessary travel amenities like drinking water, information booth, canteen, lavatory

handy.

Entry Fees (16-06-2015)

Type

Fees

Child			
20			
Educational Institutes			
20			
Foreigners			
200			
Timings			

Adult

50

All Days of the Week

Month
Time
March to October
10 AM to 06:30 PM
November to February
10 AM to 05.45 PM
Childrens Summer Camp (15th April to 15th June): 9:00 AM to 2:00PM Everyday

The parking and canteen		
Way to ticket booth		
Near ticket booth		
The ticket		

Let's go on the tour now!

Here comes the building	
Here it is	
Ve're in	
.et's go deeper	
Ve're in. I will stay silent now.	

The tour's over! Liked it? Share yourviews in the comments. A huge thanks to Akash Ghaware for
hosting this trip.
More from this blog:
How to look good in photos?
Hill Station Near Surat

Wilson Hill Station

Web Hosting For Grandma!

Earth 0.0

Ajmal Gadh, Vansda: A Maratha & Parsi Heritage Hill Top

Ajmal Gadh is a heritage hill-topin the Sahyadri mountain ranges nearby Vansda town of Navsari district. Ajmalgadh was used ascantonmentby Shivaji and as a protection center by Parsees. Surrounded by lush greenlandscapes, Ajmal Gadh makes a pleasantdestination from Navsari, Valsad or Surat.

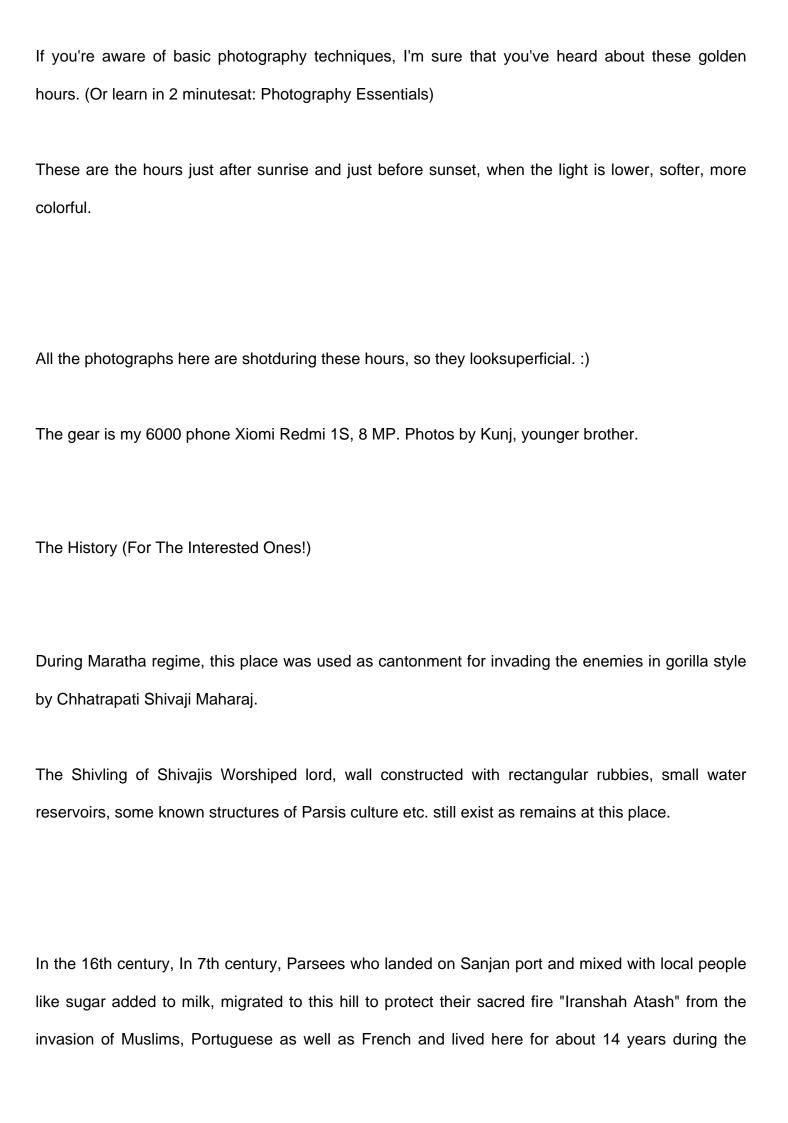
For me, it's like a heritage home. Just 10 minutes from where I live, Umarkui. A visit to the top is almost always certain in every vacation.

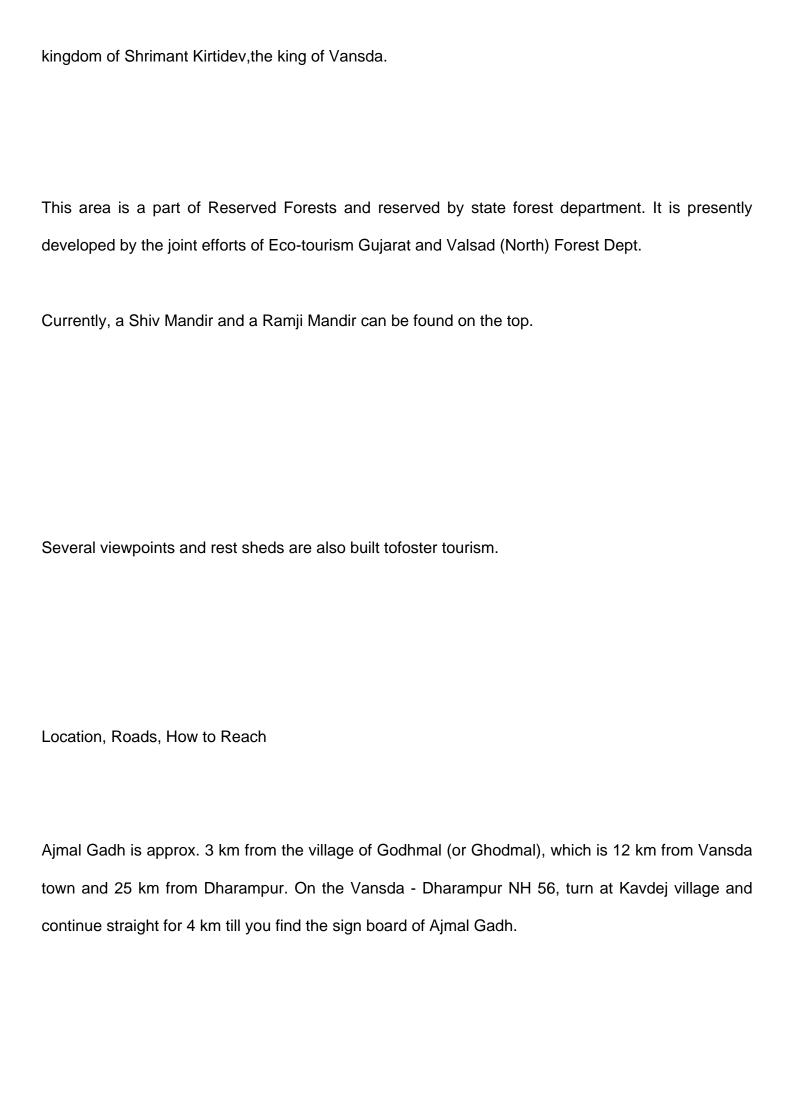
Immaculate Drone Footage of Ajmal Gadh

A slick video by my younger brother at Ajmal Gadh. A quick and mesmerising video lauding the beauty of the place.

Shot by Kunj Dodiya

The Golden Hours of Photography





Distance from Surat: ~ 120 km (2.5 hrs.)
Distance from Navsari: ~ 80km (2 hrs.)
Distance from Valsad: ~ 60km (1.5 hrs.)
Roads are smoothtill you reach the last 3 km stretch! Honestly speaking, with torn tyres of our Alto
800, I've had nightmares reaching to the top.
Well, somehow, Ipushed the 796 cc engine and landed on the top but the now-cracked concrete
road is something to be careful of. Unless you own powerful cars like XUV or Scorpio, I recommend
you not to risk the vehicle to the top in monsoon.
Keliya Dam
Koliva Dam is an irrigation project. 7 km from Aimal Gadh. In fact, the scenic landscapes soon from
Keliya Dam is an irrigation project, 7 km from Ajmal Gadh. In fact, the scenic landscapes seen from the hill top are due to Keliya Dam.
the fill top are due to Kellya Dam.
Visit the Dam site if you've an extra hour.
Food Accommodation
None.

Butbuthere's what I think can bedone. Make food on your own. Carryall the necessarytools like
container, water, match sticks, raw food (, ! :)) in the trunk and be a chef!
And there's another excellent option:
Hotel Nahri, Gangpur.
Tiotor Harmi, Garigpan
The restaurant is managed by Mahile Crays and some unlimited 'Desi' delicious food in 90. Nahri
The restaurant is managed by Mahila Group and serves unlimited 'Desi' delicious food in 80. Nahri
falls on the same Vansda - Dharampur road in Gangpur village. Give it a shot!
Sit in peace here.
Trekking
Jo aap Jawaan ho tohInstead of taking your vehicle to the top, go for trekking. The government
has built some 100 initial steps for a warm-up, then the hill is under your feet. Win it!
Related Content:

Trip to North Gujarat Forests

Photo Scribblings At Valsad Station

Put that glass down!

Kalibel Fort, Dang

Don Hill Station

Heavenly Dang In Frames : Dang Photo Tour

The Dangs. It's simply an awesome place. It has everything a photographer and naturedevotee
need.
Streams and rivers? Checked.
Hills and mountains? Checked.
Jungles and forests? Checked.
Awe-people and culture? Checked.
Trees and greeneries? Checked.
Vibrant sunrise and sunset? Checked.
Then why not portray its awesomeness? That's what I plan to do via this post.
Heavenly Dang in Frames is a collaboration oface photographers' photos. Current contributors (All
linked to their Facebook profile) include:
Rinkesh Chaudhari
Kunj Dodiya
Darpan Dodiya

You're very welcome to share your best clicks! I'd love to put them up here! You can send me either

via email (darpandodiya@gmail.com) or WhatsApp (+91 9974643476).
Let's experience the heaven! Keep scrolling down!
On your mark, get set, go!
Run via this track
Or this track
Or even this track

Bored of roads? Try this railway tracks!	
Let's take rest in the lap of nature - From top	
Ground view is refreshing too!	
I mentioned waterfalls, right?	

Dang in Tri-color
So for we've travelled much. Sun is notting
So far we've travelled much. Sun is setting
About to rest
And let it go.
Dang tribals work hard, like really!

Rivers and check dams are playground for kids!
One more to end the story!
Image copyrights to respective owners. Please take permission before use.
More on this line:
Saptashrungi Photo Tour
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Best of 2015: Travel
Earth 0.0

Book: How to Win Friends

Hatgad Fort, Maharashtra Near Saputara

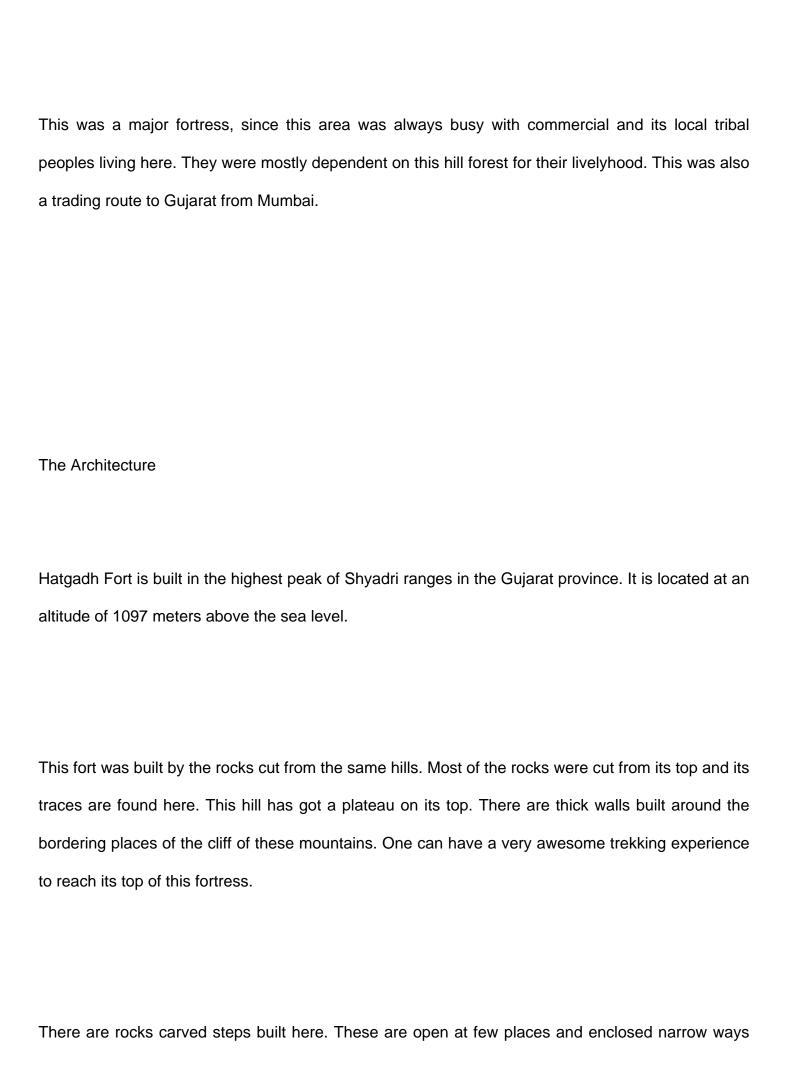
Hatgadh fort is a major trekking destination near Saputara on Gujarat - Maharashtra border. The ancient fort is stationed in Mulher village, Nasik district, Maharashtra. As Hatgad is 3 km from Saputara, Gujarat's most popular and beautiful hill station, many tourists visit this fort as a short excursion.

Hatgad Fort is part of: Places to Visit in Saputara

Standing on the edge of Sahyadri mountains range, Hatgadh stands tall at 3600 feet (1000 m approx.). It's flatten hill-top is around 200 m from ground. Sky touching height and breezing atmosphere makes Hatgad an all season trekking place as well as local weekend trip destination. Though, Hatgadh fort looks best in monsoon season.

Story Time

Hatgadh Fort was built by the great Maratha King Chatrapathi Shivaji in the 17th century AD. Shivaji is known to build many structures in his reign. He always captures a fort or builds a fort to safe guard his newly conquered territory. This fort is also built here as the watch tower towards the Nasik area and the inner valleys of the Gujarat.



with rocks ranging a height of 5-10 meters in height in between the steps. This makes it amazing by rock caves on its sidings. These caves are seen throughout its way as a rest place. In the monsoon these are looking like cistern. There is also few worship places found here to get the blessing from the hill goddess. There are 2 large water tanks dig here on monolith rocks.

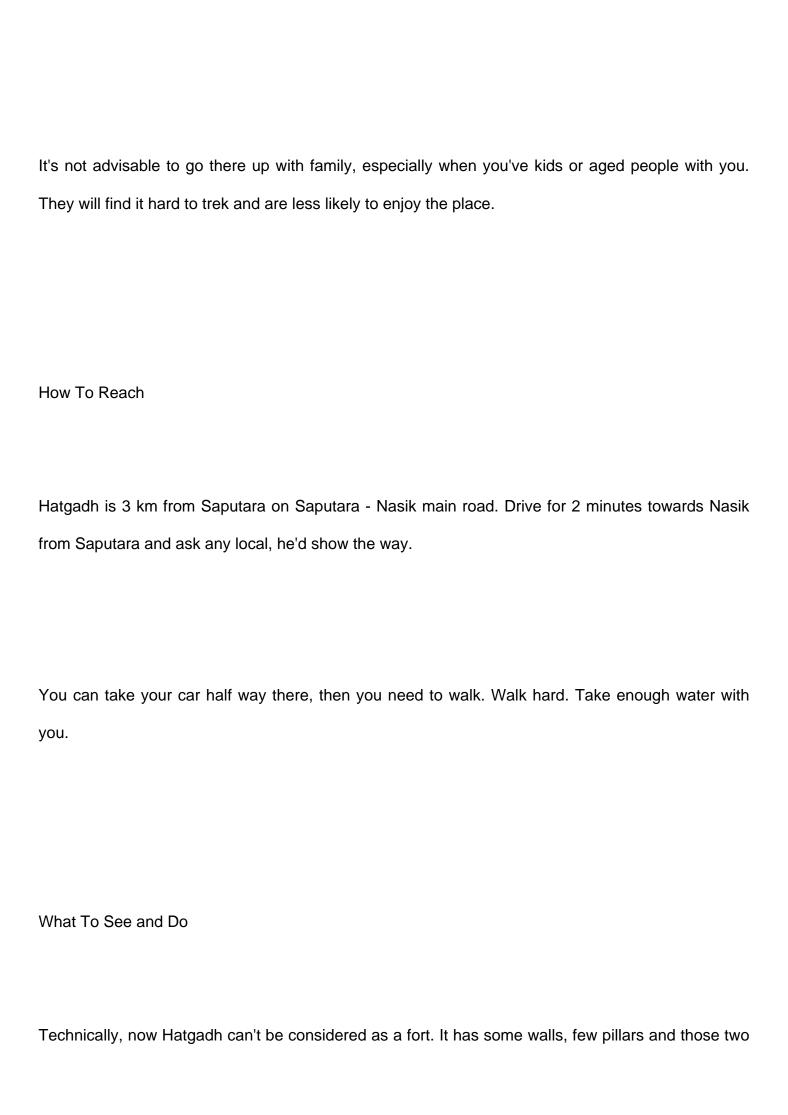
Jamuna and Ganga

Unique feature of Hatgadh is two reservoirs, named Jamuna and Ganga. They were built to store water, to be used after monsoon. Though, don't expect to dive in and bath in these reservoirs! If you still do, be ready for a meeting withdoctor!

Maintenance

The structure is officially managed and maintained by Archeological Department of India. But well, just officially!Due to excessive ruins, some people don't call Hatgadh as a fort.

Practically if you see, the fort is almost ruined. Hatgad fails to deliverbasic amenities to travelers. But once you'll see awesome views of downhills and majestic valleys towards Nasik, you'd stop complaining!



water bodies.
Enjoy downhill and valley views
Trekking!
Photography - You can have picture worth setting as your wallpaper
Experience breezing air
If it's monsoon, touch clouds!
Credits
All photos by Ashwin Bardoliwala. Huge thanks!
History part from: http://www.astrolika.com/monuments/hatgadh-fort.html

Continue With

Saptashrungi Devi Photo Tour

Online for a year!

Tyrion Lannister of DDU

How to look good?

Web Hosting for Grandma!

Where To Stay In Dang - Accommodation Options in Dangs Region

The Dangs area

Dang is tourism hub of Gujarat. However, being socio-economically backward area, Dang hasn't been developed much as compared to rest of Gujarat. As an effect of that backlog, despite having many many awesome tourist places, like Saputara, Don Hill Station, Waghai, Ahwa, Mahal, Shabri Dham, Dang doesn't have many accommodation options.

I have written many articles on travelin Dangs, the most frequent question I amasked is, Where to stay in Dang? What are the accommodation options available?

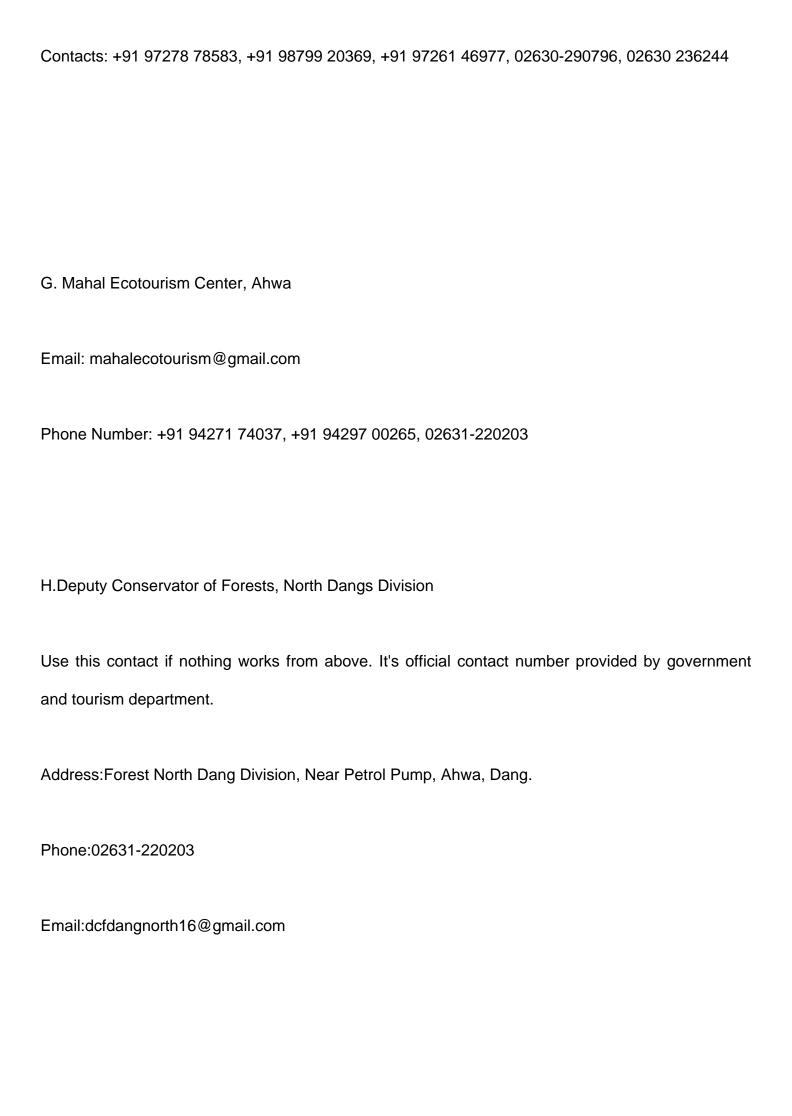
Via this post, I will attempt to answer the question.

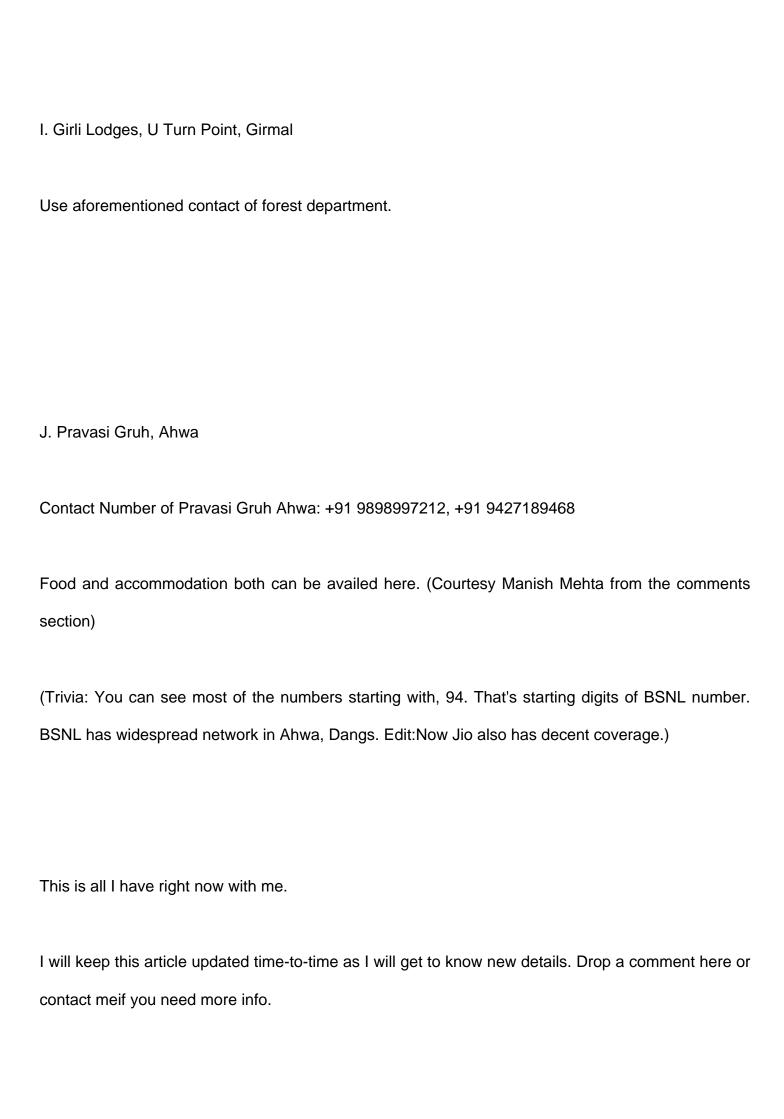
Request: If you've contact details of any accommodation center, please share. It'll be extremely helpful to fellow tourists.

Disclaimer: Information given here is correct, latest and is best to my knowledge. If you find any discrepancy, do let me know. I'm not associated anyhow with any of the properties mentioned below.

A. Saputara Hill Station
Saputara is the most popular hill station of Gujarat. It has many guesthouses, hotels, resorts. You'll
definitely enjoy your stay in Saputara!
You can find list and book hotels in Saputara via:
MakeMyTrip (Recommended)
Cleartrip
Yatra
B. Ahwa
There are a couple of guest houses in Ahwa. Unfortunately, I don't have any more information.
Government Circuit / Rest House
Contact: +912631-220378
C. Shabari Dham, Subir, Near Ahwa







Contact details have been provided by: Ketur Patel, Surat. Huge thanks! Thank a lot!
More on this blog:
Wilson Hills, Dharampur Campsites in Gujarat
Travel to Write
Put that glass down!
Online for a year - Blogging Journey

Chimer (Chichkund) Waterfall, Dang, Gujarat - Photo Gallery &

Information

Chimer falls, also known as Chichkund waterfalls are located deep in the hilly areas of the Dangs.

Chimer waterfalls are considered as highest waterfalls in Gujarat, though the fact is unofficial.

As I haven't visited the place personally, I won't go in much details. I've found some good photos of

the destination, so sharing them here.

Facts and Figures : Chimer Waterfall

Location: 40 km from Songadh, 50 km from Ahwa

Water Flow: June December (Unconfirmed)

Accessibility: Hard

Tourist Rush: Low

Food: None

Reaching to Bottom: Possible (From the opposite route)

As mentioned above, accessibility to Chichkund falls requires a bit of walking from main road. One
needs to go through several farms to reach to the place. Falls are very well known in the nearby
area, so ask any local and he will show you the way.
Chimer falls are unknown to most of the tourists. Thus, even in travel season, flow of tourists is
moderate.
There are actually total 4 falls at the same place, two small and two large. So Chimer is, Buy 1, Get
4 package!
Photos:

All images by Ashwin Bardoliwala. Thanks a ton!
Keep on reading:
Gira Waterfalls, Waghai Saputara
List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

Shabari Dham, Subir

How to take good photos?

Earth 0.0

9diad: Decoding 9 Lakes, 9 Exits, 9 Stepwells of Nadiad!

Nadiad! The city of nine!

Quoting Wikipedia: "There are 9 villages or towns located to all the 9 roads that exit from Nadiad; 9 step wells around the city; and 9 lakes in the city."

Having been in the city for 4 years, one day during lectures I wondered, Why not decode the number 9? Why not go and see all those lakes, wells and roads? And the seeds were planted. And soon, the thought turned into reality.

As Paulo Coelho said, Don't be someone who searches, finds and then runs away. I won't run away. Unveiling ouract of exploration...The 9diad!

-- UPDATE --

Pradeep Panja, a class 10th Student from Nadiad has reached out to me to inform me about an excellent initiative.

He and his friends have formed a committee and have set a goal to clean great historical stepwells of Nadiad city.

If you're reading this and want to help Pradeep in someway, or just want to encourage him, you may contact him on Facebook or on WhatsApp on 9426560628.

I applaud his intent wholeheartedly and will do everything I can to assist him.

TL;DR Version

For those who don't like to read long long stories. :)

I wandered Nadiad with a good old friend Rahul Thakor, a good old pen-notepad, a good old CBZ, a good old Galaxy S4 and a good old Redmi 1S. We roamed citystreets for two days, September 25, 26, when Infosys placement drive was up in college!

Our goal was simple, to visit all the 9 lakes, wells and roads. Capture them in lenses and collect information and trivias. I handled the task of navigation and information collection while Rahul did the photography.

We discovered that there are,

Infact, 9 lakes in the city. (We found 10 in total!)

Infact, 9 road exits from the city.

Stepwells? Well, we couldn't find a single good one. They're all deteriorated.

Lakes: There's not a single good lake where one can hang out. Most are polluted or don't have adequate water.

Roads: One road exit, to Dakor, where it crosses NE1, is a good resort. Other 8 are mediocre.

(If you want to experience essence of Nadiad, then enter from this gate and roam on the narrow

streets for half an hour.)

For us, the 2 day hunt was total fun! We were through all of Nadiad, including the outskirts. Nadiad

is diverse. We had experienced many times that we drove for just a kilometer and the surroundings

were changed drastically.

Stories aside. Let me show you our actions: Jump over to this. The Google Map details all the

places we visited with to-the-point related information. Keep it open till you finish reading this post.

Keep scrolling down to experience our trip. It is full of intriguing photos, dramatic moments and well,

what not!

Day 1: 4 Lakes

Before we (I and Rahul) wentout, we had divided our work. I was supposed to take care of

navigation, to deal with people and to make notes. Rahul handled photography. We had also

decided to photograph every place by 3 ways.

a. Normal photos (Redmi 1S 8MP and Samsung Galaxy S4 13MP)

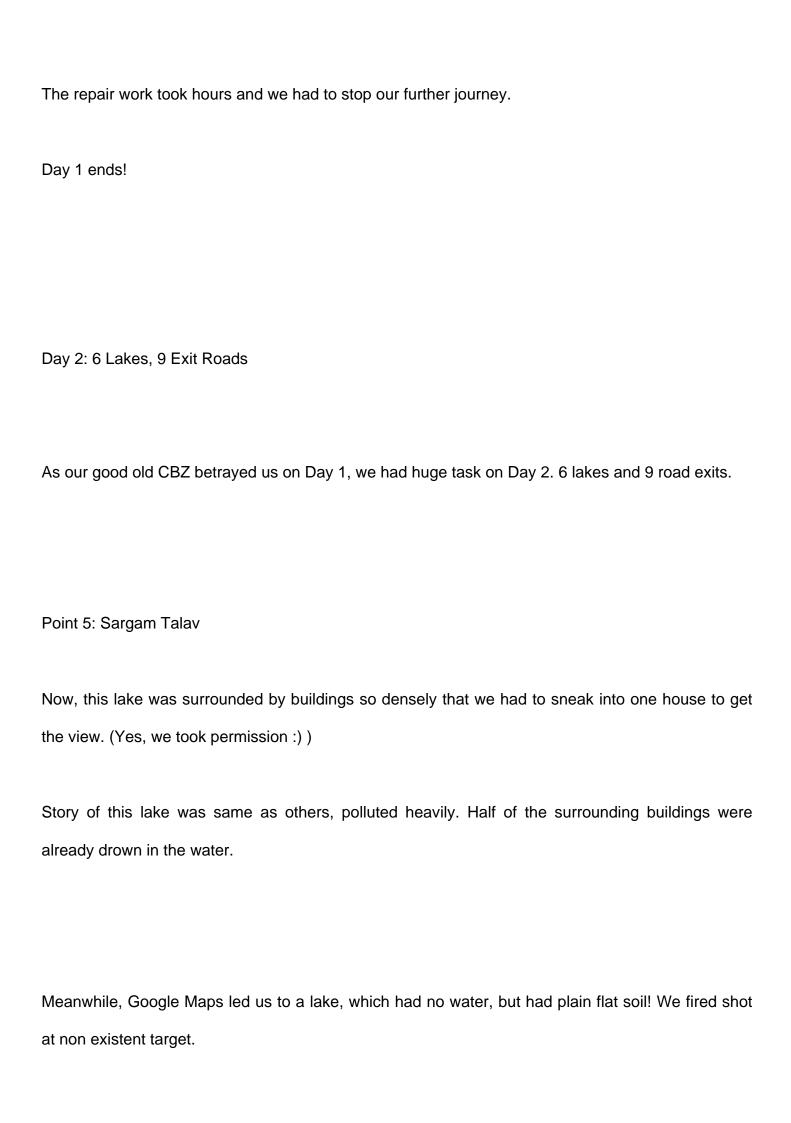
b. High resolution panoramas

c. Video (1080p)

I post processed the photos using, Adobe Photoshop, Snapseed, VSCO, PixIr, PicsArt and Facetune. All set. We were off! Refer this map to see location of all places. Point 1: Mokhat Talavdi This lake is closest from where I live, Vaniyavad. So I chose it as a starting point. Two minute drive, assisted by Google Maps and we didNOT reach to the lake! Yes, that's what happened. We were halted by a dead end. There was no way ahead of us. ! Locals helped us out to find our wayto the lake. Lake was in outskirts, free from city so it wasn't polluted. In fact, this lake was the cleanest and offered finest views compared to other lakes. Rahul started photographing the place, and well, he was soon interrupted by a group of locals! The villagers thought that we were there for some unethical work. They threatened us to leave the place within seconds. I explained them our motive of being there and they were convinced. Good start!



Lake was ordinary, surrounded by concrete structures. But photography can turn any ordinary thing into an interesting one! Have a look:
You absolutely don't want to see the reality.
Point 4: Sherkand Talav
Roads of this region deserve special mention. I am sure, I must have lost some gramof fat, driving on the messy roads!
Now, this lake, is the most polluted. Let go the blue color of water, it wasn't even green, it was almost black. We quickly moved out of the place.
Do you remember the line, when I wrote, a good old CBZ? Forget the good part for now, but bike was certainly old.
Do you remember the line, when I wrote, the messy roads?
Now, Old bike + Messy roads = Crippled bike!



Point 6: Malay Lake
Lake with building in! There used to be a nice lake, with water but now it has new building roped in.
Though,we were quizzed heavily before we could get to the lake. Story: The lake isbehind district fire and emergency center, which is very sensitive center. As soon as we entered the premises, a
security guard saw and took both of us to his superior. Questions were then fired one by one,
Who are you? Where do you live?
Why are you here?
What do you want to do?
Show your camera
Show your ID
Show your notepad
Needless to say, we were there for nothing unethical. He allowed us to proceed happily.

Point 7: Sher Talavadi

Wikipedia says that Nadiad has 9 stepwells as well. Since the beginning, we asked many people but none was able to show us any well. Except at this point!

One local pointed out to a region in the lake and said, 'There used to be a stepwell.' Used to be. Not anymore! See the circles tree below. There used to be a functioning and accessible stepwell.

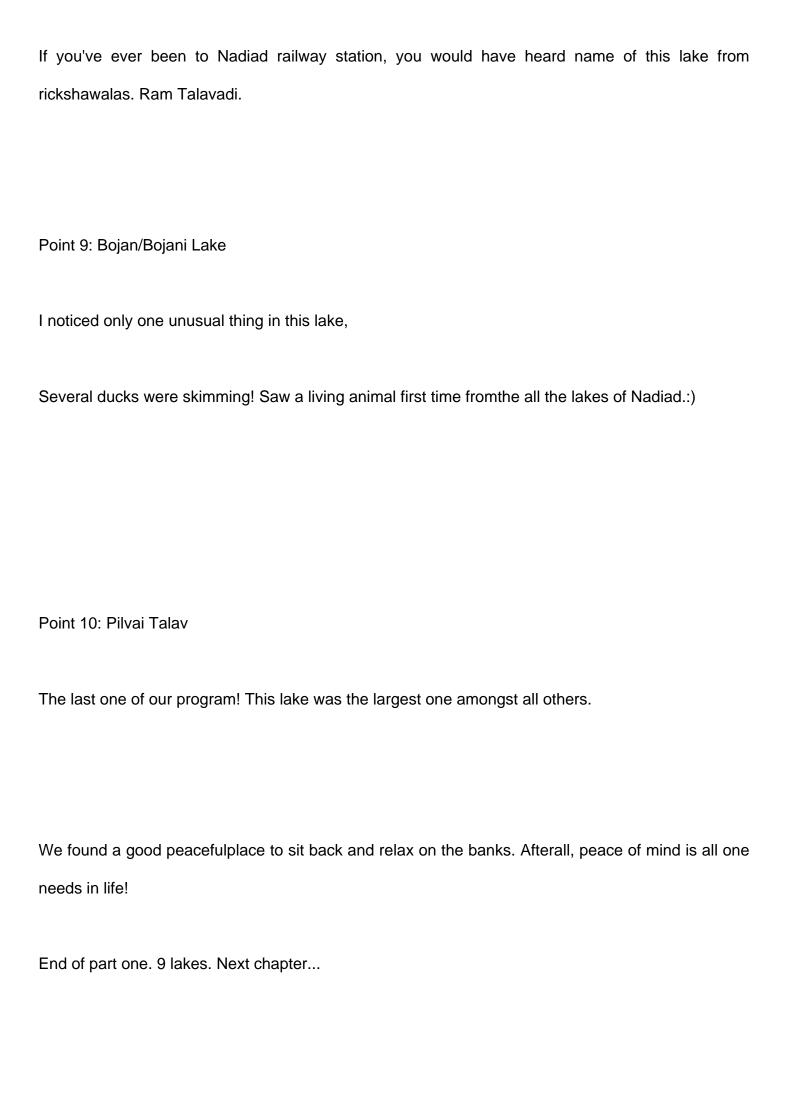
Unlike most other lakes, Sher lake wasn't surrounded by any structures. (Plot twist: Not surrounded by concrete structures because it has roads on the sides. Who will build buildings on roads? :P)

(Once upon a time, we all were like these kids. Always readyto run away from school!)

Point 8: Ram Talavadi

From what I know, Talavadi = Small scaled version of Talav.

Ram Talavadi fits perfectly in that definition. It has span of less than a hockeyfield. (Trivia: I found number ofdogs more than number of humans in the area. :D)



9 Exits From Nadiad
Nadiad has actually 9 different exits to different areas. Fortunately for us, visiting all of them was an easy drive.
See map here. Notice the green dots.
We started from Dakor exit which crosses A'bad - Baroda NE1. Out of all 9 exits, this is the only one where one can hang out. The bridge offers good views in night.
Moving forward, we crossed exits one by one. They are typical cross roads, need no extra information unlike lakes.
Some exits that you might have heard of:
Dabhan Chokdi (Known for Kismat Kathiyawadi)
Pij Chokdi (Boulevard 9)
Uttarsanda - Anand Exit
Piplaj Chokdi (Hub hotels, Galaxy, Rajasthan, Kismat)
(Exits are more or less same. They have nothing in unique.)

When I started from Dakor exit, I didn't expect to find all 9 exits. I thought that 9 roads exitswas just atheoretical concept to match the number 9. Hands up! Etymology wins here! Signing Off By the time sun would cross horizon, we had finished all the lakes and all the 9 exits of Nadiad. Then, the time was for a quiet breathing session on the banks of Canal, time for recalling vibrant incidents we experienced. It's the experience that matters the most in the end, isn't it? 2 days would be cherished by us forever. We wandered almost all areas of Nadiad. We met with diverse humans, some trashed us straightaway, some welcomed us wholeheartedly. In all, we took 2341 photos and 112 minutes of videos. It was the first time in 4 years when I felt that Nadiad is not as boring as most peopleconceive! So...that was our event: 9diad! Continue With How to be Remarkable?

The Tyrion Lannister of DDU

Earth 0.0

A Journey to Forests: Polo Forest Idar

Safari Magazine is Dead!

Barda Waterfalls, Chankhal, Ahwa

More at: List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

Location: 10 km from Ahwa, on Ahwa Mahal Road
Water Flow: June November End
Accessibility:Medium
Tourist Rush:Low
Food: None
Reaching to Bottom: Possible, but dangerous
Driving Directions:
A right turn from the Ahwa-Mahal road just before village Chankhal and a 30 minutes trek leads to
this beautiful fall.
Barda is a twelve-step falls near village Chankhal. Its more known as trekking destination in the
Dangs.It doesnt have refreshment facilities either at the spot or along the route. Therefore one has
to carry oneself essentials like snacks, water etc. from the nearest town Ahwa.

Gira Waterfalls, Wanarchod, Waghai

Saputara Sightseeing

Lothal - Journey to Harappan Civilization

Will it rain today?

Safari Magazine is Dead!

Mahal Eco Tourism Campsite Dangs, Gujarat

The Dangs // Mahal Campsite

Mahal Eco Tourism campsite is one of the four eco-tourism centers in the Dangs, Gujarat. Located

on the banks of Purna river, Mahal campsite offers excellent trekking and walking options.

Surrounded by rich Purna Wildlife Sanctuary forests (touted as thickest bamboo forest in Gujarat),

and no modern technological facilities (no mobile networks), this is the place if you want to rest from

noisy-hasty city life.

Mahal eco tourism center, Ahwa is part of North Dang forest division of Gujarat. North Dang forest

division also handles Girli lodges, near Girmal falls. The campsite falls in the boundary of Mahal

village, which is on Ahwa - Songadh road, about 40 minutes drive from Ahwa.

Mahal campsite was one of last 3 places in Dang I hadn't visited. We finally planned a trip there on

14th November, 2015 (which was my 21st birthday!).

Currently I'm putting up only basic information and photos in this article as I've exams and tight

schedule for some time being. I will update and detail this post as soon as I'll get some free

moments. Contact meor drop a comment down the page for any queries, I'll reply soon.

Photos by: Kunj Dodiya

Location
Mahal campsite is located on Ahwa-Songadh road, 30 km from Ahwa.
40 minutes breezing drive amongst dense jungles of North Dang and Purna Wildlife Sanctuary. Just drive straight, no need to take any turns.
Accommodation Food
Mahal Campsite has 4 cottages and 10 tents. You need to book them via forest department.
Prices are around Rs. 500 per night. (Not sure about this figure, but it's far reasonable than hotel rates for sure.)
No, food is not available inside the campsite. No commercial activity is allowed by forest department inside the campus so you won't find anything to eat or drink. Not even a tea.
You'll need to either make food on your own or go out to Mahal Village and eat. (Food quality is mediocre though.)
Booking Information and Contact Details

Mahal Eco Tourism Campsite Contact Number Details
(Contacts are latest and are best to my knowledge. I, however, do not offer any surety.)
Phone:No working number. If you get to know about any, please comment below.
Email:mahalecotourism@gmail.com
If it doesn't work out, try this:
Deputy Conservator Of Forests, North Dangs Division
Phone:02631-220203
Email:dcfdangnorth16@gmail.com
Address:Forest Office North Dang Division, Near Petrol Pump, Ahwa, Dang.
If you've correct contact details with you, please share here with me. It will greatly help fellow travellers.
Signing Off

As I mentioned earlier, I wouldn't be able to able to write a complete detailed blog post as I d	О
ormally. I will update this as soon as I can.	
All photos by young brother, Kunj Dodiya. Many thanks to him!	
fill then, enjoy the photos!	
in then, enjoy the photos:	
Mahal Campsite in Photos	



Vansda National Park

Kilad Eco Tourism Campsite

Big List Of Campsites in Gujarat

9diad : The city of nine!

Girmal Waterfalls, Dangs & U Point: Highest Waterfall in Gujarat

Don't confuse Girmal falls with Gira falls

Crashing from height of more than 100 feet, Girmal Falls (Doodh) is the highest fall in Gujarat.

Hidden inside dense forests of Dangs, Girmal falls has picturesque beauty in monsoon season. The

water fluently crashes from great height, forming clouds of fog, through which one can often

experience rainbows.

North Dang Forest department has built spectacular view points and pathways in Girmal area.

Safety railing is roped in to prevent accidents. Steps are carved as well to reach near falls to get a

close view.

Related: List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

On my 21st birthday, (14th November, 2015), we had planned trip to Mahal Campsite, Purna

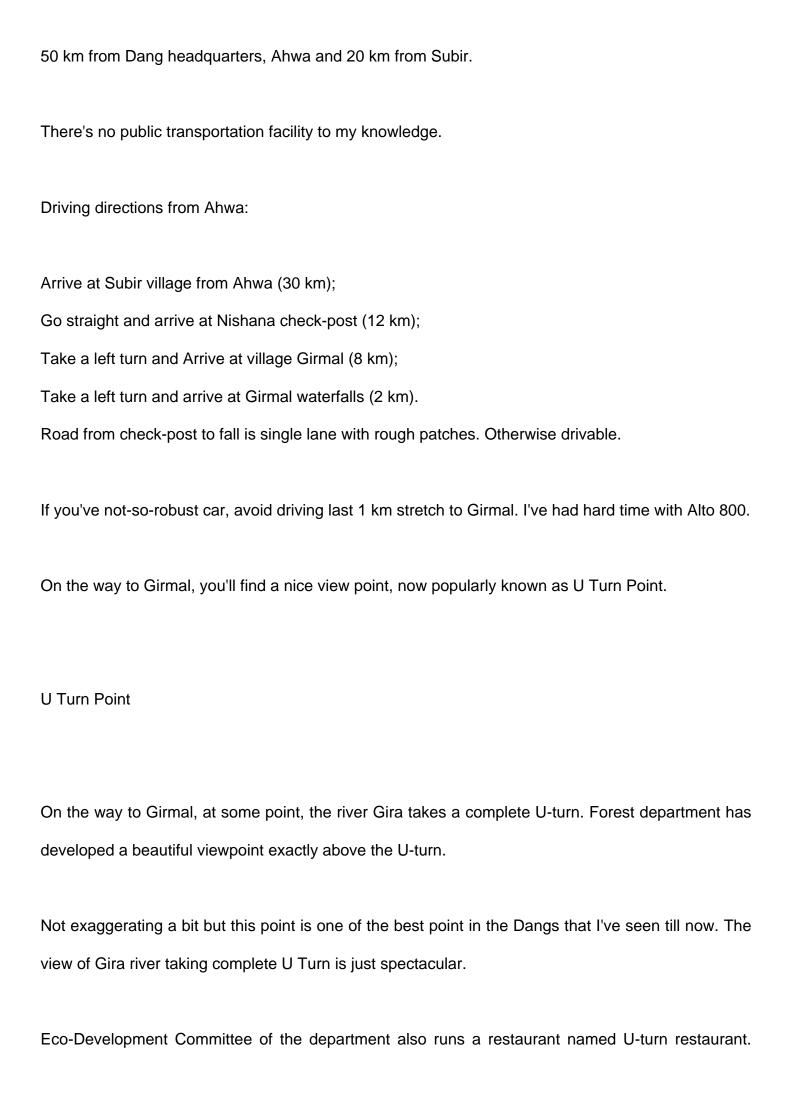
Sanctuary and Girmal Waterfalls. Following the same format as last two articles (Mahal and

Padamdungari), I won't be writing this post in detail. Reason being the same, college schedule. I will

try to expand this article whenever I will get time. You can always contact me or leave comment

below for more information.

Location and How to Reach



Tasty food, do try it. But it'll remain open mostly during peak season, that is in monsoon. They'll serve only tea coffee in rest of the days. Food and Accommodation There's one small locals run shack near Girmal falls. They operate and serve in monsoon and when tourist rush is high. Another option is U Turn restaurant. They serve full thali as well during monsoon. Accommodation can be availed at U Turn point. Eco Development Committee has developed, Girli Lodges. With four Girli Lodges with attached bathrooms, the place is a nice spot. Charges for one night per room: Rs. 500 Contact forest department: Address: Forest North Dang Division, Near Petrol Pump, Ahwa, Dang. Phone: 02631-220203 Email: dcfdangnorth16@gmail.com For other accommodation options, check out this article: Stay In Dang: Hotels, Campsites, Eco Tourism, Contact Details

Some Points
The best time to visit is Monsoon. The rainbows and scenic beauty is only seen during rainy
season.
If you're not in group, leave the area before dusk. The area is safe in terms of security, but in case
of vehicle breakdown or any other critical issues, you'd be left alone.
Nearby places: Shabri Dham, Pampa Sarovar, Mahal Campsite
Local kids will beg for money. If possible, give them food or clothes or any other belongings than
money.
Do not confuse Girmal falls with Gira falls Waghai. Both are different. This one is in Girmal, Subir
and Gira falls are in Waghai.
Time for photo tour of the place now!
All photos by younger brother, Kunj Dodiya.
All photos by younger brother, Rung bodiya.

Roads are well off.
Check post at U Turn point.
Girli Lodges for accommodation.
Here comes the U Turn restaurant.
Closed as of now. :)
U Turn viewpoint.
U Turn.

Off to Girmal waterfalls.

Last stretch to reach falls.		
Local shack for tea coffee.		
The End! :)		
Continue With:		
Mahal Eco Tourism Campsite		
Book: How to be Sherlock?		

9diad: Exploring City of 9!

Photo Scribblings at Valsad Station

Padamdungari Eco Tourism Campsite, Gujarat

Padamdungri is campsite located on the banks of Ambika river, 10 km from Unai and 30 km from

Vyara town. Developed and maintained by Eco Tourism Development Committee (EDC), Padam

Dungari stands amongst forests of Sahyadri mountain range. Padamdungari is one of the 4 eco

tourism sites in this area.

Also see: List of Campsites in Gujarat

The campsite is well developed and is well maintained. It has orientation center, in campus canteen,

AC/Non AC cottages, tented accommodation, amphitheatre, green walkways and campfire area.

Padamdungari eco campsite forest is undoubtedly an excellent weekend getawaydestination from

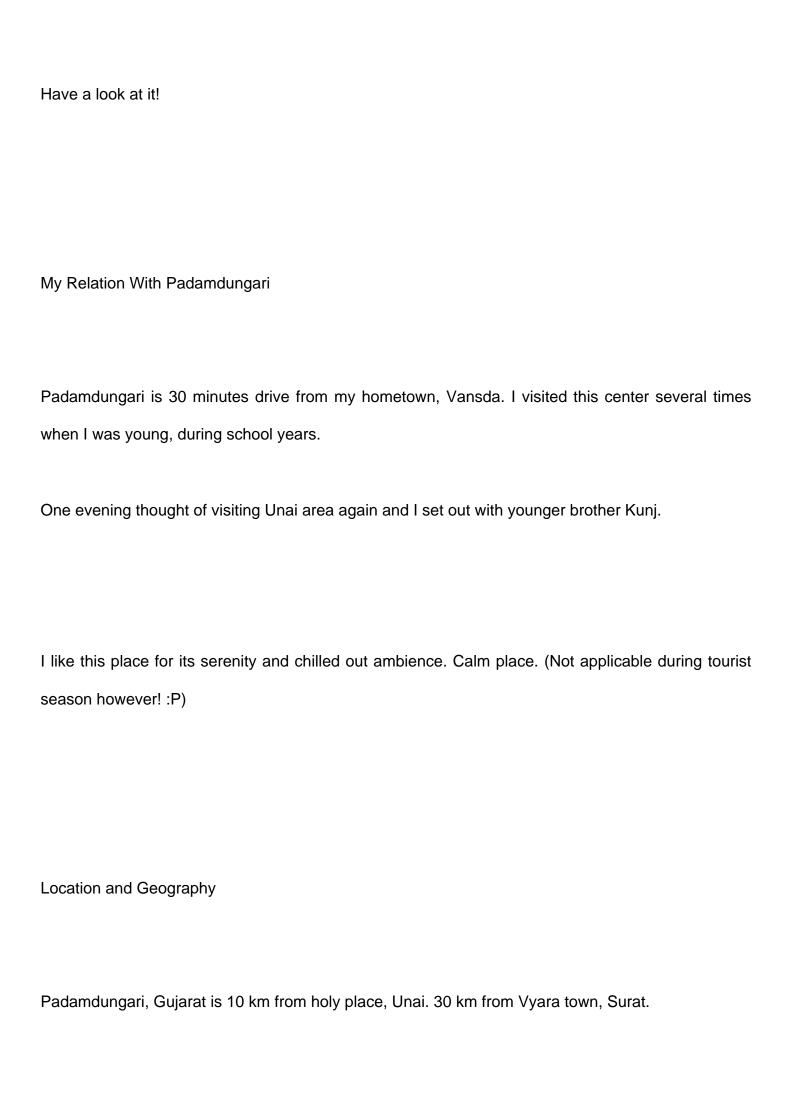
Surat/Vadodara. Excellent choice for camping too.

Entrance

Drone Video of Padamdungari Eco Tourism

My younger brother, Kunj Dodiya has shot a superb video covering Padamdungari Campsite from all

angles.

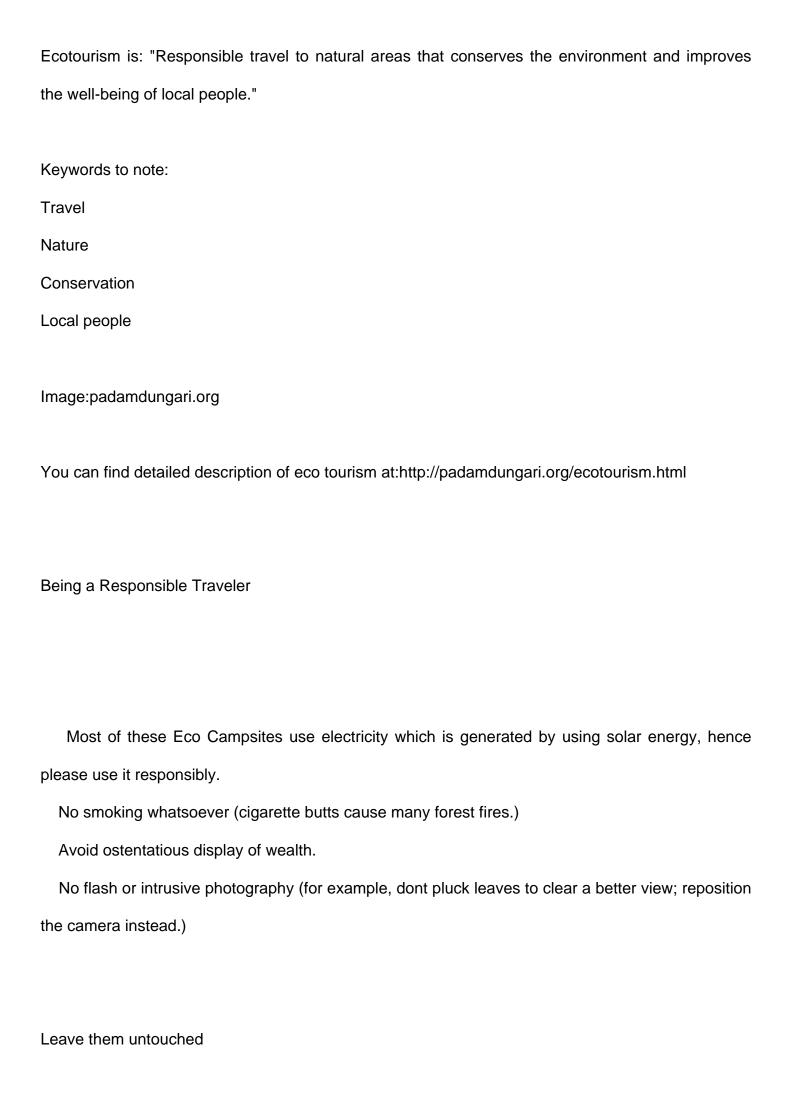


Map of eco campsite
It is situated amongst the Sahyadri ranges, by the river Ambica. The scenic site has deep, dense,
multi-storied forests, genetic diversity, rocky, undulating, enriched landscapes.
As you can see in the Map, the campsite is surrounded by trees all over.
How to Reach Padamdungri
If you're coming from Surat, take Vyara-Unai road, and take left turn at Pathakwadi, visible sign
boards are there for direction at every turning point.
If you're coming from Vansda, Unai, take right turn at Pathakwadi.
Distance Matrix
From
То
Distance in km / Approx. time in hr

Surat
Padamdungari Campsite
90 km / 2 hrs
Vadodara
Padamdungri Campsite
215 km / 4 hrs
Mumbai
Padamdungari Campsite
270 km / 4.30 hrs
Valsad
Valsad Padamdungri Campsite
Padamdungri Campsite
Padamdungri Campsite
Padamdungri Campsite
Padamdungri Campsite 75 km / 1.30 hrs
Padamdungri Campsite 75 km / 1.30 hrs Saputara
Padamdungri Campsite 75 km / 1.30 hrs Saputara Padamdungari Campsite
Padamdungri Campsite 75 km / 1.30 hrs Saputara Padamdungari Campsite

Padamdungri Campsite

25 km / 40 min
Own private vehicle is preferred way of transportation, it's actually the only way to reach.
Forget about public transportation. You can reach upto Unai easily using public transportation.
Reaching from Unai to Padamdungari may give you ache.
Roads all the way to campsite are in good condition. Nothing to worry about in any season.
Nearest railway station is Unai on Bilimora Waghai Narrow Gauge line. However, I wouldn't
recommend travelling via train.
A Moment to Understand Eco Tourism
7 Momon to Ondorotana 200 Fodnom
Till now, in this post you must have come across this word "Eco Tourism" or "Eco Campsite" many
times. Let's see what it stands for:



Do not carry any music system or sound making device along with you and remember to keep them switched off if you are driving around.

Picking plants or insects is prohibited in any area; do not remove anything from the parks or sanctuaries.

Respect local traditions and etiquette.

Do not indulge in any quick or sudden movements to scare off wildlife.

Do not try going too close to the animals.

No pets should accompany you.

No littering. Trash is only to be disposed of in proper receptacles.

No hunting devices or other weapons should be carried, as well as used.

Be considerate of other visitors.

Minimize campfire impacts.

Be flexible in your expectations. No expectation is the best expectation.

Reference

What's In Padam Dungari : Facilities
Padamdungari is an attempt to fulfil the requirements of a eco tourism site. It has following
amenities:
Orientation Centre
2 AC 8 Non AC Cottages
2 Dormitory
Tented Accommodations with separate bathing toilet facilities
Separate Kitchen Dining places
Cafeteria
Beautifully, Well-Designed Amphitheatre
Separate area for Campfire
Machaans for landscape wildlife viewing

A small rescue centre for injured wildlife animals

Zip line

ATV Ride

No jokes.

Except from Orientation Centre, all of other amenities are present in campsite. You actually get to see all of the aforementioned places. Orientation center is present too, but it's closed most of the

times. It's generally made open for educational eco tourism tours.

Accommodation at Padamdungari

If you book well before, you'll easily get accommodation at Padamdungari for overnight stay. Booking is must. Charges are affordable.

1. AC Room

Charges: Rs. 1500 per couple / Rs. 300 for extra

Count: 2 Rooms

2. Non AC Room Charges: Rs. 800per couple / Rs. 250for extra Count: 8 Room 3. Dormitory Charges: Rs. 250per person / Max. 10 person Count: 2 Dormitories 4. Tent Charges: Rs. 100 per person Count: 10+ Note: Tents may/may not be offered. Please contact campsite prior to planning. Scroll down for contact number and booking details of campsite.

Booking Contact Number Details of Padamdungari Campsite

You can book accommodation by phone. Below are contact details:
Mobile:
Mr. Parimal Chaudhari - +91 97278 78583 (Always try this for booking)
Mr. Mahendra Chaudhari - +9198799 20369 (Manager)
Padamdungari Contact Number:02630-290796
Range Forest Unai Office: 02630-236244
Food at Campsite
A small but decent canteen is present in campsite premises. They don't have a lot on Menu,
whatever they offer, it's enough to calm downyour appetite of food.
Lunch - Typical Gujarati - Rs. 50 / dish
Dinner - Hygienic dish - Rs. 70 / dish
Tea/Coffee/Milk - Rs. 10/15/20
Crunching hot and spicy Bhajiyassitting on river view table could be one of the best moments!

	Janki Van
	Unai Temple
	Vansda National Park
	Ajmal Gadh
	Girafalls Wanarchod
	Waghai Botanical Garden
O	ther Campsites Nearby
	Kilad Nature Education Center Vansda
	Mahal Eco Campsite, Dang
	Kevdi Eco Campsite, Mandvi, Surat
	Devinamal Campsite, Ahwa

Nearby Attractions

Some Points

Padamdungari is very good place to stay off from noisy fast city life. Be careful in water, there have been tragedies in past. Ambica river is dangerous during monsoon. During peak tourist season, book accommodation well before. During normals days, walk-in booking will work too. If you're not planning to stay there, do keep in mind that entry is not allowed after 6 PM. You can't carry your equipments and cook inside campus. (In Mahal Campsite, this is very common.) However, outside campsite campus, it's your own wish. Canteen there doesn't serve exotic food items but you won't be left starving for sure. If you've come so far then don't miss Unai HotSprings and Janki Van. It's an exquisite place for photography! Tata! I've written whatever I know about Padamdungari! All details are latest and best to my knowledge.

Liked this article? Leave your comment down!

Discover more places:
Saputara Sightseeing
Vansda National Park
Polo Forest, Idar
Don Hill Station
Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
Photos by: Kunj Dodiya. Not for reproduction.

Vansda National Park, Surat, Gujarat: Timing, Fee, Booking, Contact, Information

Vansda National Park is a conserved wildlife area in Vansda region of Gujarat. Geographically,

Vansda National Park is more closer to Waghai town, which is the entry point to Dang jungles.

I live in Vansda town, which is few minutes from Vansda National Park. There are many articles on

web regarding this wildlife park, unfortunately, none of them has real useful information of the place.

Most of them have copy-pasted Wikipedia content, so the motive to publish this article is, to offer

something that's actually useful to travelers and photographers interested in visiting Vansda

National Park.

Let's go in then!

Sign board at Navtad Village office

What Exactly is Vansda National Park for Travelers

It's an open park. You can take entry from Kilad village. Only vehicles with enclosed body are

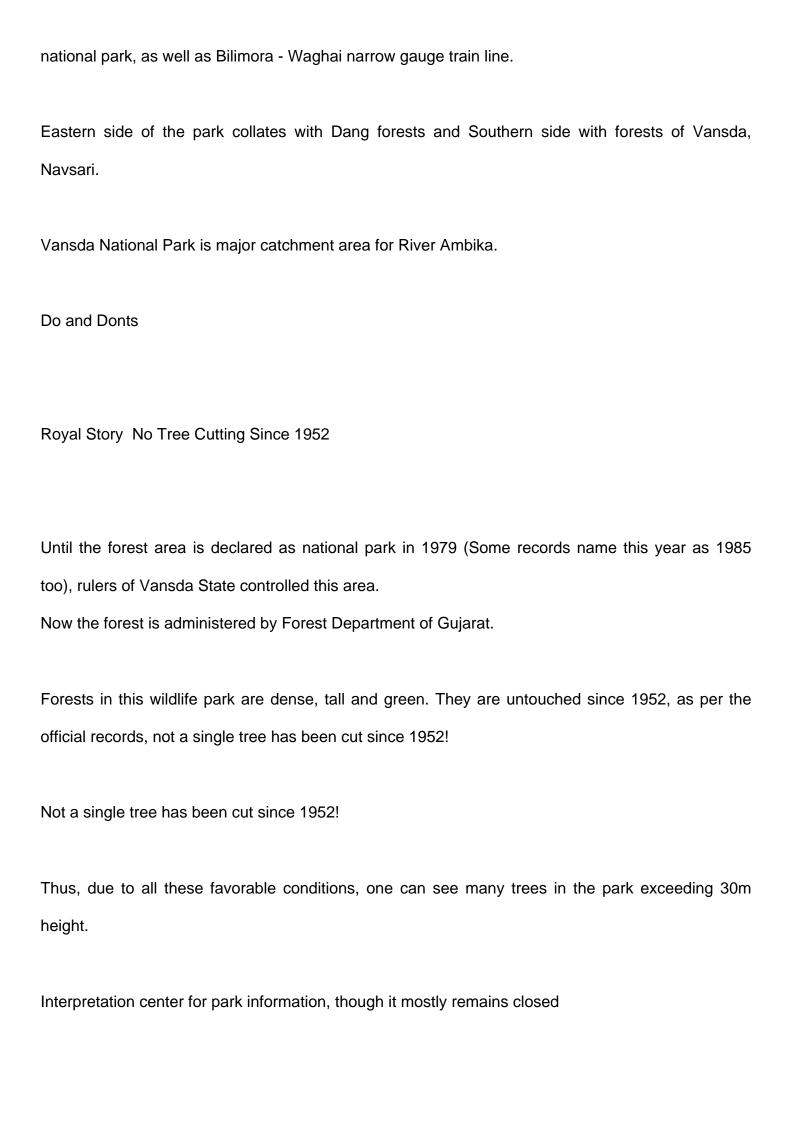
permitted. (No bikes)

You'll be taken into forests for 4 km, out of 4km, 1 km is an open village. So, practically, for you, it's

just 3 km. Though, the forest gets denser as you go deeper, yes, like the ones you see on Discovery

:)

Leopard welcoming you at Navtad office on Vansda Waghai road
Please note this: You'll get to see any animal only if you're extremely lucky!
Yes, that's right. Otherwise, just Hi-Hello any return back. You won't see any animals, which you normally expect from a national park.
This place is for photographers.
Scroll down this article to get details of
entry fees,
timings,
permission and
accommodation.
Entrance at Kilad village
Geography and Location of National Park
Total Area: 24 sq. km, which is less compared to other national parks, though the forest is dense.
Vansda National Park falls in Vansda Taluka of Navsari district. It's a 10 minute drive from Vansda
town and shares boundary with Dang district. Vansda - Waghai state highway passes through the



Animals, Trees, Plants and Bird Types in Park As per the official record, Animals: Leopard, rhesus macaque, common palm civet, Hanuman langur, small Indian civet, four-horned antelope, wild boar, Indian porcupine, barking deer, hyena, jungle cat, Indian porcupine, flying squirrel, python,pangolin, rusty spotted cat, great Indian squirrel. Snakes: Russell's viper, cobras, kraits. Birds: 155 Species: Common grey hornbill, pompadour green pigeon, yellow backed sunbird, Malabar trogon, jungle babbler, forest spotted owlet, shama, great Indian black woodpecker. Spiders: 121 Species: Including the largest species in Gujarat the giant wood spider.

Plants: 443 Species:



How to Reach - Directions:
From Vansda, head on to Waghai.
After 15 minutes, you'll see entry gate of Vansda National Park on your right.
That's it, take gatepass from there and enter into park.
Distance Matrix:
From
То
Distance in km / Approx. Time in hr
Surat
Vansda National Park
130 km / 2.30 hrs
Ahmedabad

Vansda National Park

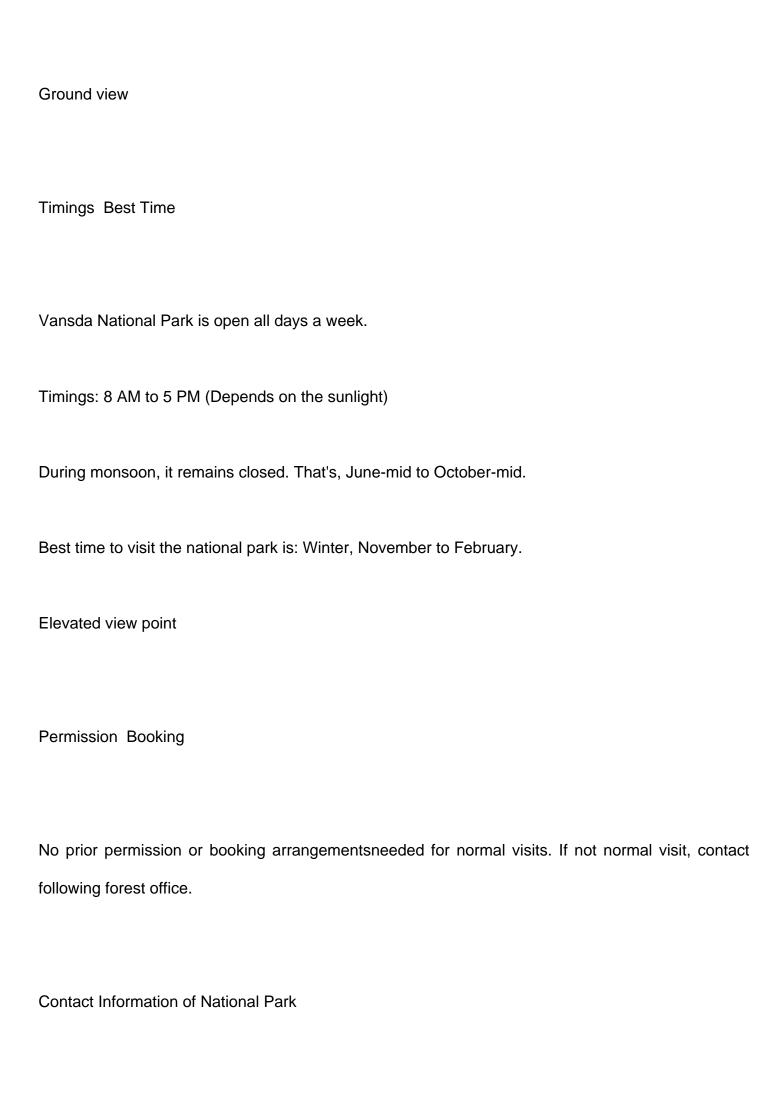
Vadodara
Vansda National Park
310 km / 5 hrs
Mumbai
Vansda National Park
280 km, 4.30 hrs
Information boards of animals and birds
Mode of transportation:
I'd very strongly suggest you for private vehicle. Public transportation must be avoided in case of
Dang area. (Except for Saputara.) Forget train and plane. :P
Drive way

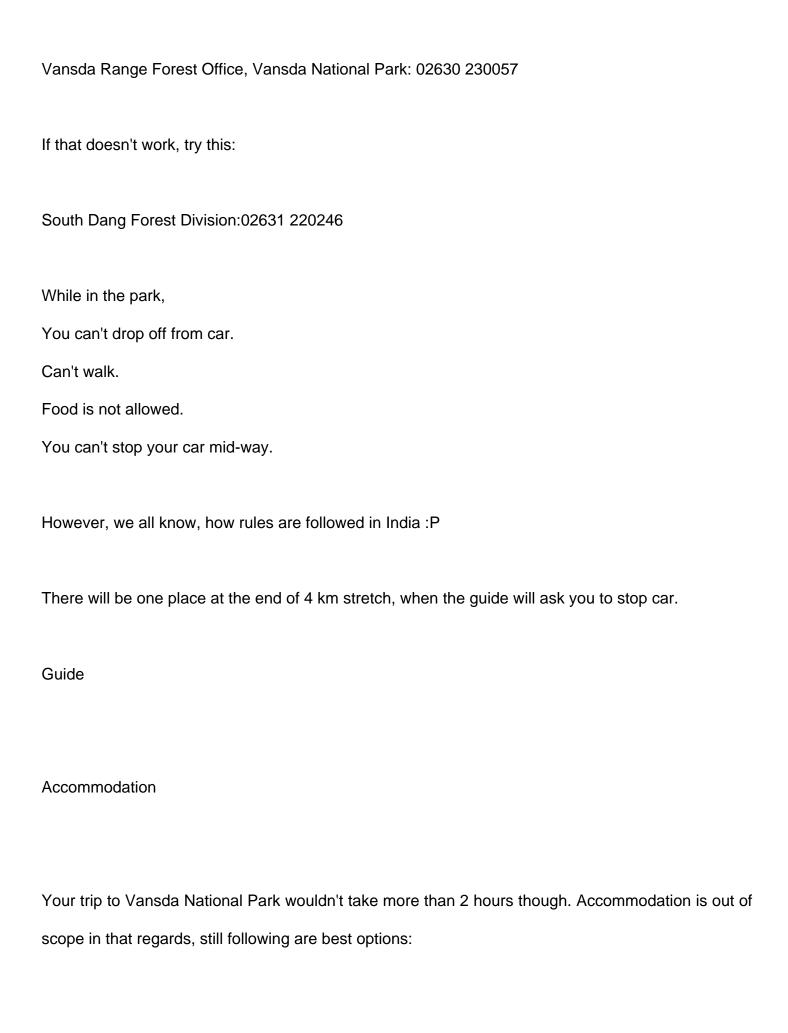
400 km / 6.30 hrs

Nearby Attractions

Waghai Botanical Garden Janki Van Vansda, Bhinar Girafalls Wanarchod Waghai Kilad Nature Education Center and Eco Campsite Entry Fees of Vansda National Park Entry fees are astronomical here! Car / SUV / Jeep: 400 Mini Bus / Bus / Heavy Vehicle: 2000 (Unverified) Guide (Compulsory, so that you don't get lost in jungle! :)): 100 for one hour, 50 for every extra hour DSLRCamera: 200 Videography: 5000 - 10, 000 Professional Feature Film: 25000 - 50, 000

So in all, entry fee would be: 500 (Vehicle + Guide) for normal cases.





Kilad Campsite (Best option)
Vansda Hotels and Guesthouses (They are many, affordable and well maintained)
Saputara Hotels
Any other campsite in Dang, Padamdungari, Mahal or Devinamal
Check this article: Where to Stay in Dang for more options
Camping isn't allowed inside the park campus.
Animals come here to drink water every morning
Section for Photography and Photographers
As I mentioned earlier, this place is for photographers. Many photographers visit Vansda Nationa Park early in the morning, when there are no tourists around.
During early morning hours, due to zero noise, there's high chance of encountering animals and birds.
Needless to say, zoom lens are must.
Vansda National Park - Place for Artists

I'll rest my words here! This, "Vansda National Park, Surat, Gujarat : Timing, Fee, Booking, Contact
Information" is one of the most informative travel articles I've written till this date!
If you've come this far reading, do drop a comment below :)
if you've come this fair reading, do drop a comment below .)
Questions or queries are welcome and I will try to reply within hours.
All Dhotos Dv. Kuni Dodiva Comerce Mi 4i 42 MDs
All Photos By: Kunj Dodiya. Camera: Mi 4i 13 MPs.
Discover more scenic destinations:
Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
Saptashrungi Gadh Vani
Janki Van Vansda
List of Eco Tourism Campsites in Gujarat
Best of 2015

Kilad Campsite Vansda : Nature Education Eco Center Near Saputara, Gujarat

Kilad eco campsite is nature education center cum ecotourism site contained in Vansda National Park. The campsite is 2 km off Vansda - Waghai state highway, on the banks of Ambika river.

Along with the tag of campsite, Kilad also holds tag of nature education center. When I was in primary school, educational tour to Kilad were very frequent. I still remember fun moments we had in tents of Kiladduring night! ;)

Kilad campsite is few km from where I live, Vansda town.

Entrance to Kilad

Location Geography of Kilad Campsite

Kilad is a small village, located on the edge of Vansda taluka. 4 km from Waghai town and 15 km from Vansda town, on Vansda Waghai road. Kilad is on the banks river Ambika. From the opposite side of banks, Dang district starts.

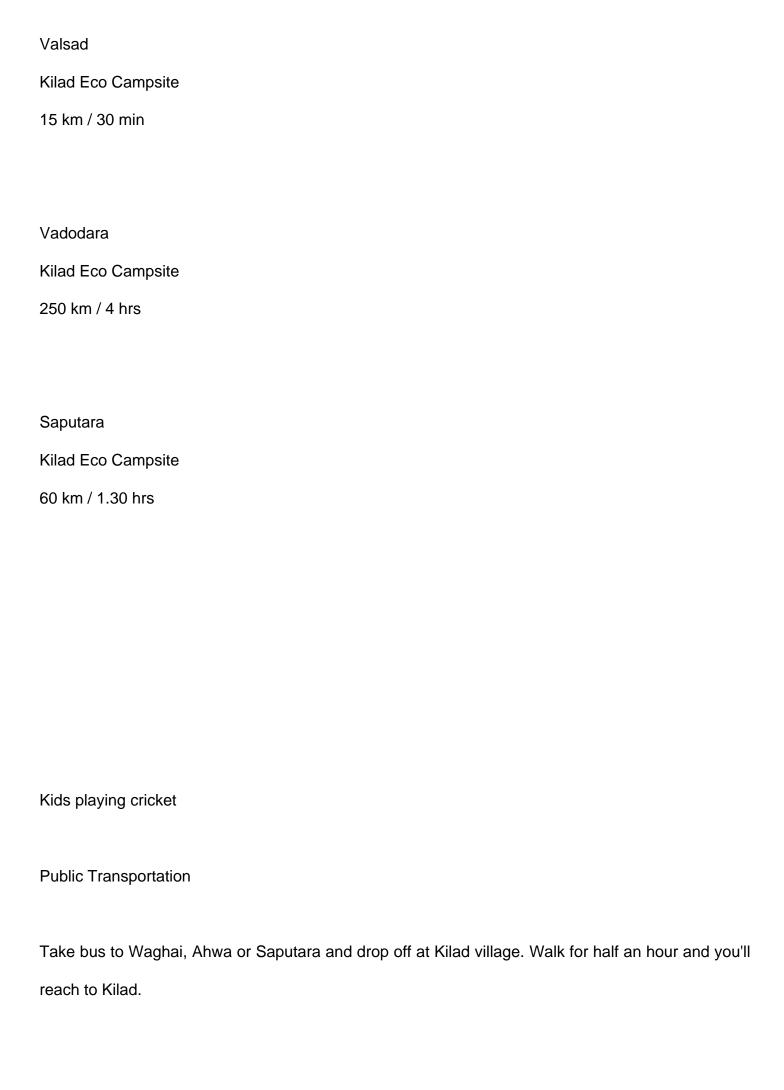
Ambika River

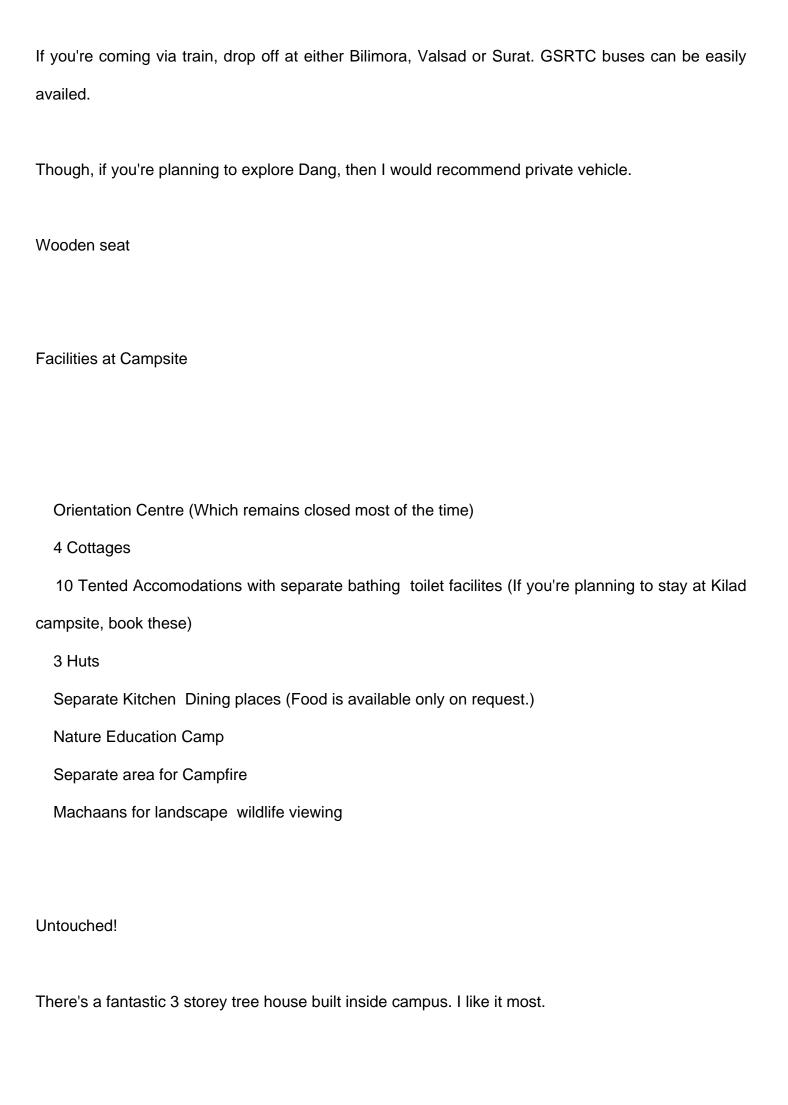
Kilad forms a part of Vansda National Park. Walk for 2 minutes and you'll get feeling of real jungle.

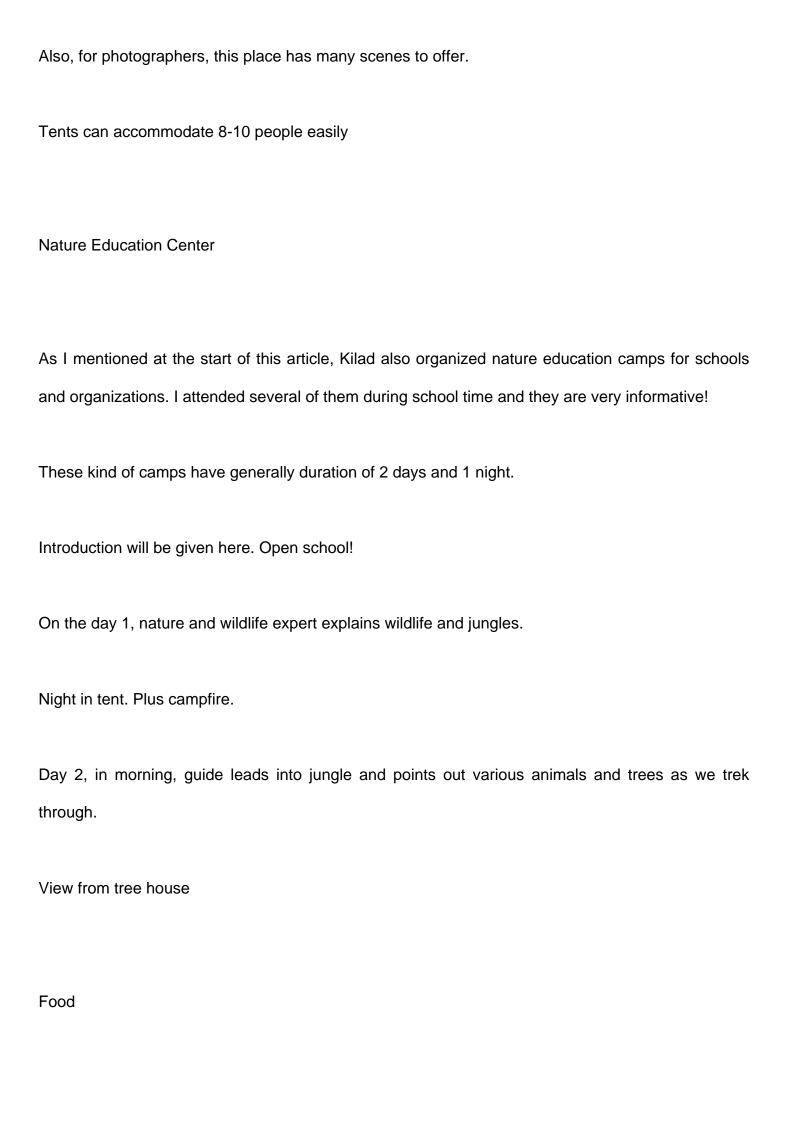
Many tourists who plan to go to Saputarachoose to stay here as the campsite is located enroute to

Even in summer, the atmosphere in Kilad Nature Centeris pleasant.
Moreover, the place is not very much crowded. Makes it excellent destination to relax from city life.
No entry fee.
Relax
How to Reach Kilad
Coming from Saputara:
After crossing Waghai town, you'll pass from a bridge on Ambika river. Crossing the bridge, take left and continue. You'll be at Kilad campsite in 5 minutes.
Water harvesting towers
Coming from Vansda:
After passing through the Vansda national park, you'll see a board, 'Welcome to Dang district.' Take right and continue.
Sign boards are there to help navigate.

Distance Matrix:
From
То
Distance in km / Approx time in hr
Mumbai
Kilad Eco Campsite
280 km / 5 hrs
Ahmedabad
Kilad EcoCampsite
350 km / 6 hrs
Surat
Kilad Eco Campsite
110 km / 2 hrs







In normal cases, food is not available at the campsite for individuals, for groups, you can order.
Nearby town Waghai has good options for food.
Cottages
Food is organic and fair enough. Simple and best.
It's always a good idea to call before you check-in to Kilad.
Guide and Morning Trek to Girafalls
Guide is available at Kilad center for Rs. 50. Request him to arrange an early morning trek to to Gira falls.
Sure, it will break your legs but the experience will be worth! :)
Girafall
Booking Accommodation atKilad Campsite

During season, Kilad is mostly full.
You need to book via phone.
Contact Number of Kilad Campsite
I've several contacts of Kilad. Numbers in the bold are to be tried first for booking.
Mr Harishbhai: +91 8758650555
Mr Madhubhai: +91 94277782712
Range Forest Office Vansda: 02630 230057
Forest Officer Mr. Garasia: +91 9428022415
Forest Ranger Mr. Joshi: +91 9426855593

Nearby Places to Visit
Vansda National Park
Girafalls, Wanarchond, Waghai
Waghai Botanical Garden
Saputara Hill Station
Caputara i illi Ctation
More places at: Tourism Places in Dang
Other Committee in Dana Area
Other Campsites in Dang Area
Mahal Campsite
Devinamal Campsite

Padamdungari Campsite	
More campsites at: List of campsites in Gujarat	
Come this far? Nice to see you!	
Say few words about the article in the comments down	
More from this blog:	
How to be Remarkable?	
Photography Corner: Branch Trees	
Photography Corner: Black White	
Earth 0.0	
Be nice to that delivery guy.	

Waghai Botanical Garden, Dang: Largest Garden In Gujarat

Waghai Botanical Garden, Dang, spread over 24 hectares is the largest garden in Gujarat. Waghai Botanical Garden is on the Waghai - Saputara road, 2 km from Waghai town.

Nearly one lac tourists visitWaghai Botanical Garden every year. Though, a point to be considered is, most of the visitors visitWaghai Botanical Garden as their 'rest point'for tour to/from Saputara.

Related: Places to Visit on Saputara Trip

Personally, I like these gardens. Being a Mathematics student, biology isn't much of interest. Though, not for the sake of biology but for peace, serenity and nature, I love this place.

Front garden. Image:Sangram M

Facts and Figures of Waghai Botanical Garden

Established in 1966, it's been maintained decently

It has 1400 plant species and 1077 genera representing 100 families

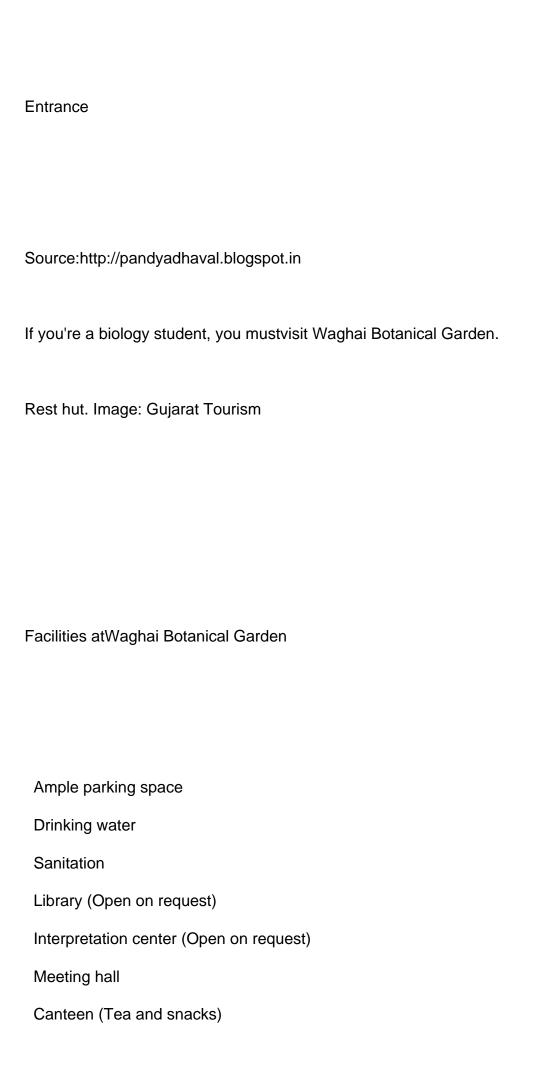
8000 Herbarium sheets of 1000 species

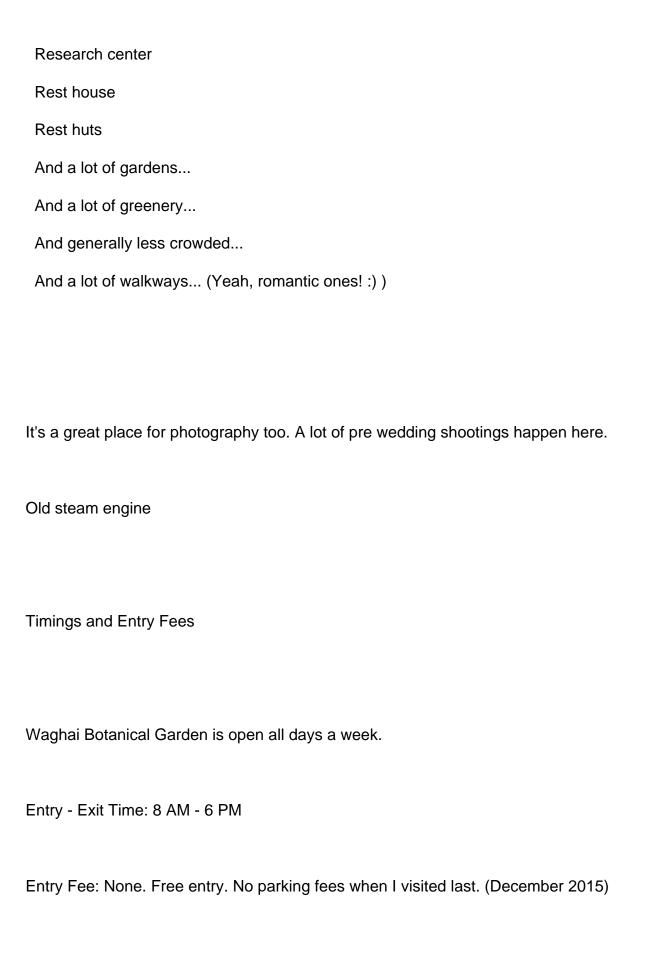
It has varieties of bamboos. Some of them have interesting names too,

Beer Bottle Bamboo

Golden Bamboo

Chinese Bamboo
It has a vintage coal steam engine. The engine is placed nearby entrance to the garden.
All the plants are equipped with detailed descriptor plate. The details include, normal name,
scientific name and additional data describing the specimen.
Image: KhatriRocks
Canvas of Waghai Botanical Garden
Waghai Cardon is divided by reads and united by evenues ()
Waghai Garden is divided by roads and united by avenues :)
Avenues are named after the plants present in there. e.g. Ashok Road, Neem Road
The Garden is divided into several plots representing different forest types such as evergreen,
moist deciduous, dry deciduous, scrub and thorn, arid zone
It has separate plots like taxonomy plot, medicinal plot, bamboo plot, palm plot, Dangs plot, orchid
plot and rose plot





How to Reach
Waghai Botanical Garden is accessible via public transportation. Most of the tourist places in Dangsdoesn't have public transportation facility.
Catch a bus to Saputara and drop down atWaghai Botanical Garden. GSRTC buses are frequent and even local jeeps are frequent.
One more mode of travel you can try out is: Bilimora Waghai Narrow Gauge train. The train is like a toy train, with 4 coaches and top speed of 40 kmph! See photo.
The train departs from Bilimora at 10 AM and reaches Waghai around 1.30 PM. Slow but fun!
Distance Matrix
From To

Distance in km / Time in hr

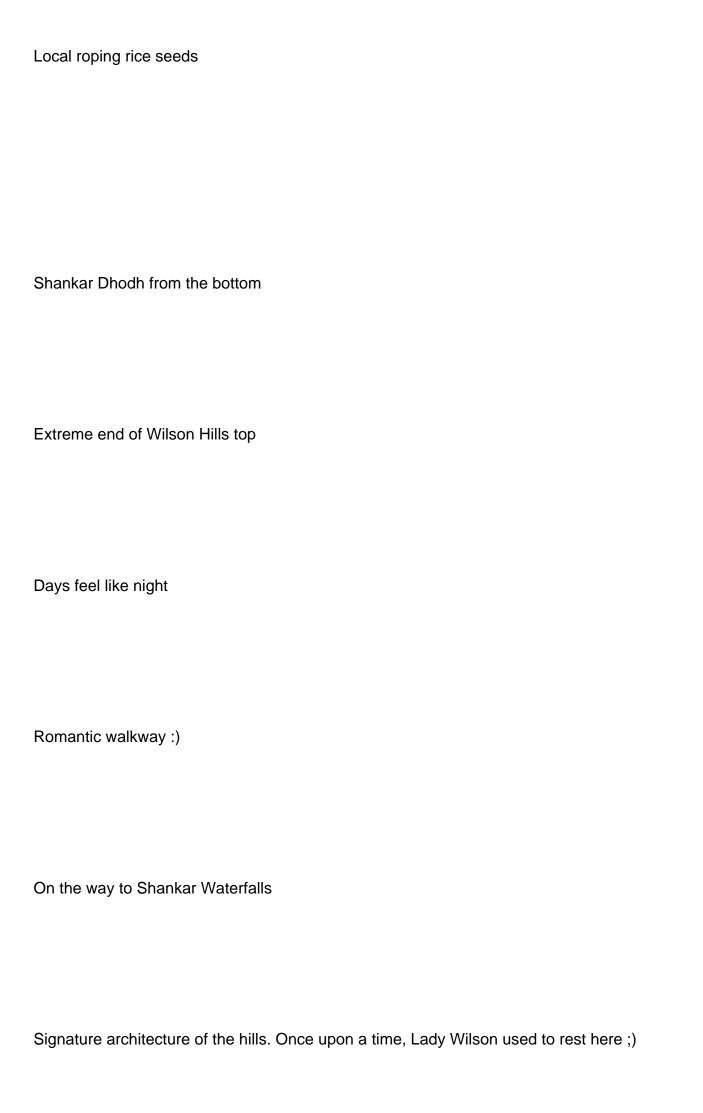
Waghai Botanical Garden
110 km / 2 hr
Ahmedabad
Waghai Botanical Garden
350 km / 6 hr
Mumbai
Waghai Botanical Garden
300 km / 5 hr
Saputara
Waghai Botanical Garden
50 km / 1 hr
Nasik
Nasik Waghai Botanical Garden
Waghai Botanical Garden
Waghai Botanical Garden

Surat

Nearby Places
Waghai Botanical Garden as exclusive one day tour destination is a bit of odd combination. It's best
enjoyable when clubbed with other places in Dang or Vansda.
Girafalls, Wanarchod, Waghai- Saputara Road
Vansda National Park
Kilad Eco Campsite, Vansda
Saputara Hill Station
Planning Dang tour? Check out: List of Tourism Spots in Dang

Wilson Hills Dharampur and Shankar Dhodh Waterfalls in Monsoon

This photo gallery is complimentary to year old article, Wilson Hills Dharampur and Shankar Dhodh Waterfalls. Visit it to find detailed travel guide there.
Scroll down to see how Wilson Hills look in monsoon days
On the way to Wilson Hills
View of river
On the top of Wilson Hills
Raise up hand and finger willtouch the dark clouds



As I iterated earlier, this post has just photos. For detailed information about the place, hit this link:
Wilson Hills Shankar Waterfalls Dharmapur.
Found the photos amazing? Share this post or comment down!
More exotic places:
Saputara Hill Station
Don Hill Station
Monsoon Trip to Bildha
Polo Forest Idar
Shabari Dham, Subit, Dang

Harnav Dam Vanaj - Dam Near Vijaynagar Polo Forest Rest House, Idar Gujarat

Harnav Dam, aka Vanaj Dam, is a gated dam built on upstream of Harnav river. Few meters from the Dam site, forest depart has built Vanaj Forest Rest house. Harnav Dam and Vanaj Forest Rest House serve as an excellent a-la-carte package to your trip to Polo Forest, Vijaynagar.

I visited Harnav Dam last year, in April. Laziness surmounted me that time and I didn't publish post of Vanaj Dam all this time.

Well, better late than never! So here I am!

Story of Two Names - Information of Dam and Surrounding Area

Dam is known by two names,

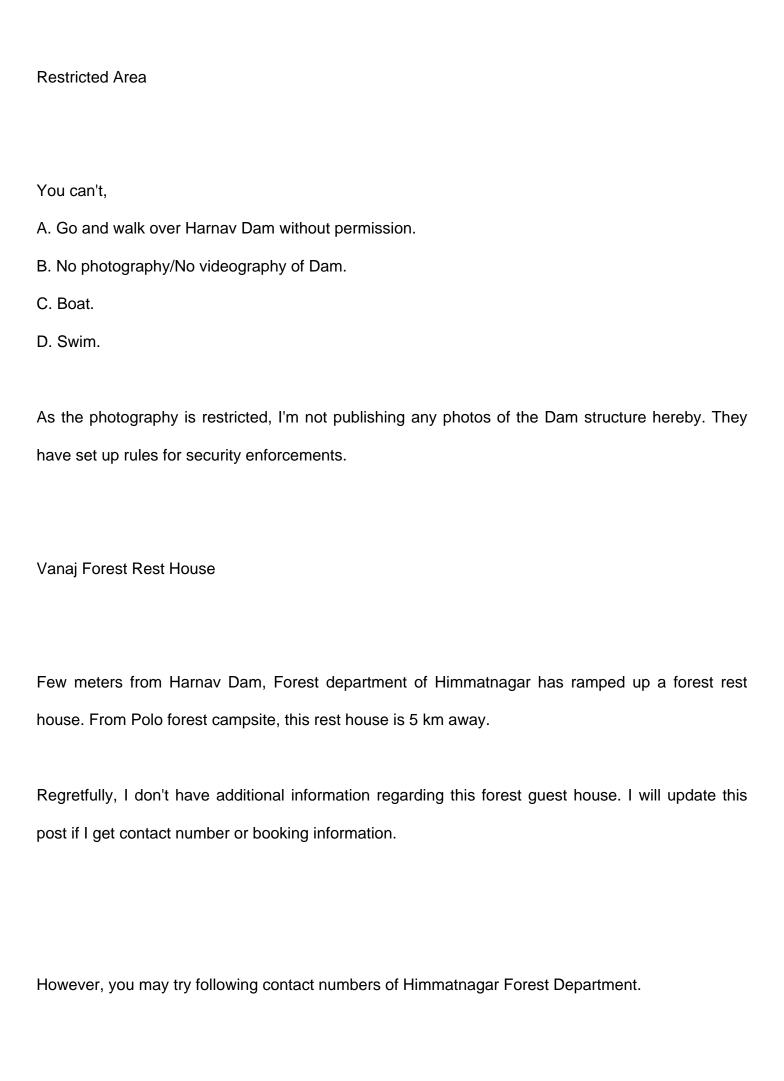
A. Harnav Dam

B. Vanaj Dam

Harnav Dam as it's built to harness power of Harnav river.

Vanaj Dam as the place where it's built is known as Vanaj village.
Located near Vanaj village, in Vijaynagar taluka, Sabarkantha district and Harnav Dam has dual purpose of irrigation and flood control. I approximate the height of the structure between 40-50 m.
I heard stories of previous occupants, the adivasis, who were unfortunately relocated for this project. The project completed in 1990 and has catchment area of 116 sq km.
Don't Go In Summer - Which Is Best Time To Visit
If you've read intro of this post, I stated that I went Polo Forest and Vanaj Forest Rest House in April, in summer!Summer is undoubtedly the worst time to visit this place. Period.
What's the best time then?







Continue With:

Polo Forest Idar

Copyright in 2 Minutes

You Don't Need a DSLR

Mobile Analytics Data: 2016

How to Look Good in Photos?

Parnera Hill Valsad - Historical Fort From Shivaji Time In Gujarat

Parnera Hill is a historical hill near Valsad city of South Gujarat. Deriving its name from Par river, Parnera Dungar is a good trekking destination for trekkers and a good spiritual destination for pilgrims.

Parnera is a diverse place: The hill has estimated height of 300m. It has fort. It has temple Hindu Gods and Goddesses. It has dargah of Chand Pir Bawa. It has vaav. It has mind-boggling history. It has scenic views, diverse indeed!

Let's explore them one by one!

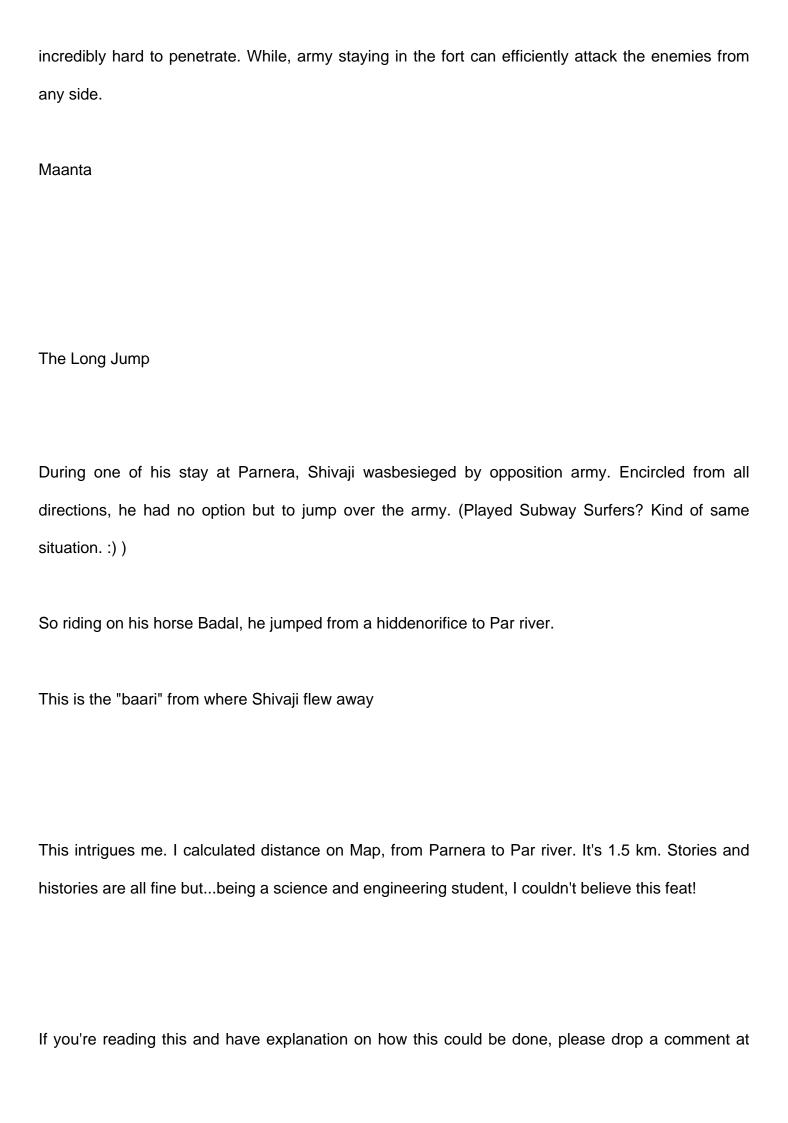
Road from Atul side

You're Just A Tourist!

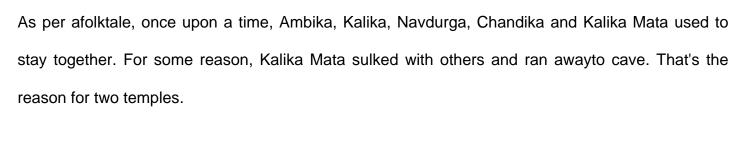
I agree! You're a traveler and want to visit Parnera. You don't give a damn to the history and folktales. Well, welcome then. I got you covered. Ignore the initialsections and keep scrolling down!

Height of Parnera is approx 300 m, climb via steps

Shivaji, Fort and His Loooong Jump
Parnera fort has history that dates many centuries back. The original fort was built by a Hindu Raja. Even after hundreds of years, when we see ruins of the fort, we could guess level engineering skills those were used at that time.
Time stands still for this fort
While returning from Surat, Shivaji fought fierce battle here. When Shivaji was used to fight byguerilla technique against Moguls, he used to stay at Parnera.
Remains
Fort has not been maintained well. So now, its ruined mostly.
Bhaag Milkha Bhaag!
The fort had 150 cannons at the time of independence. Now, only 3 of them can be found on Parnera Dungar. Like every other fort, this fort wasbuilt in such a way that for opposition, it's



the end of this article. :)
Series of Temples
Along with fort, Parnera Dungar has series of temples too.
There are 3 main temples:
Mahadev Shiva Temple
Maha Kali Mata Temple
Ambika, Chandika and Navdurga Mata
Ambika Mata Temple



Kalika Mata Temple

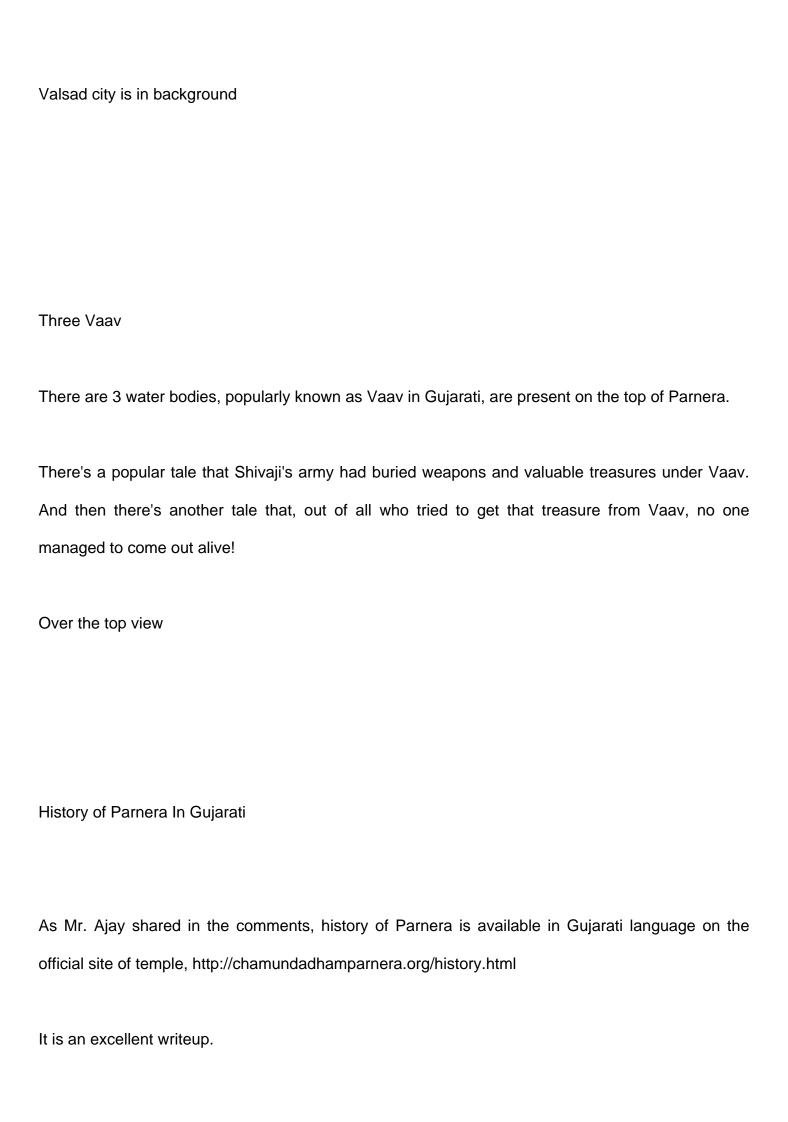
Navratri Fair

It's said that, during Navratri, On Saatham - Aatham, Kalika Mata comes out of his cave. During this time, massive fair is organized on Parnera Hill. People from all over Valsad crowd the place.

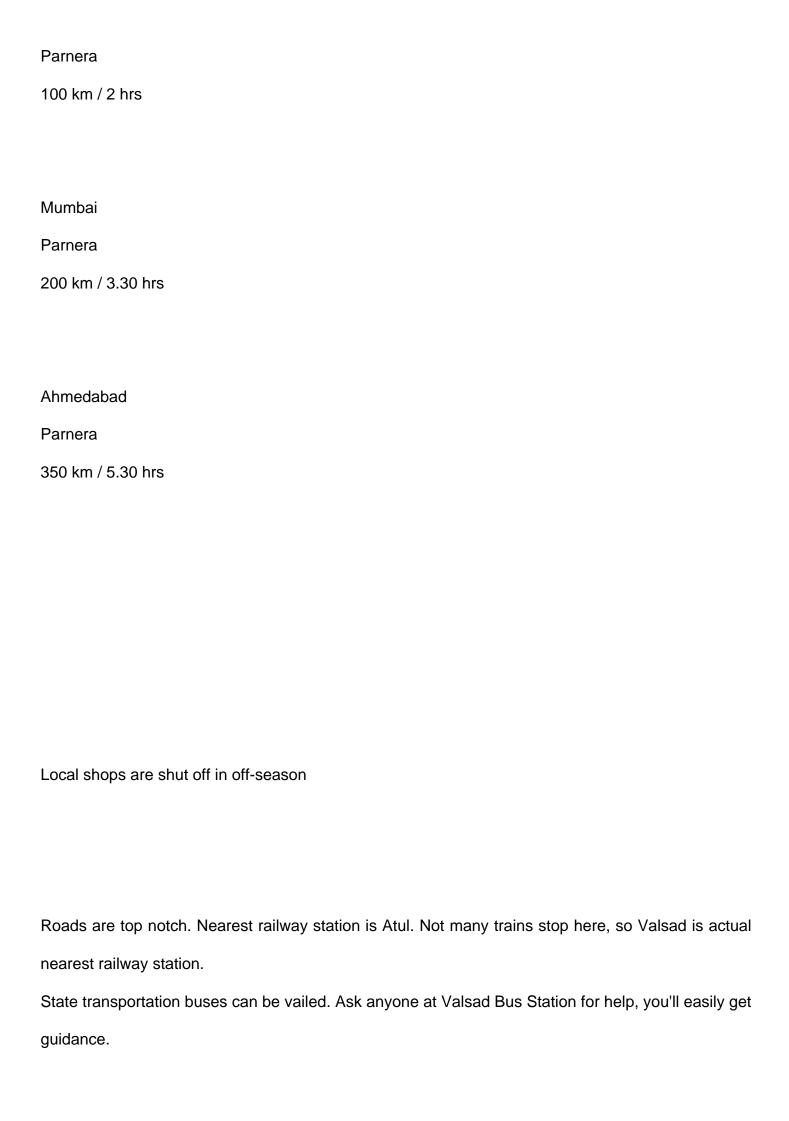
Chand Pir Bawa

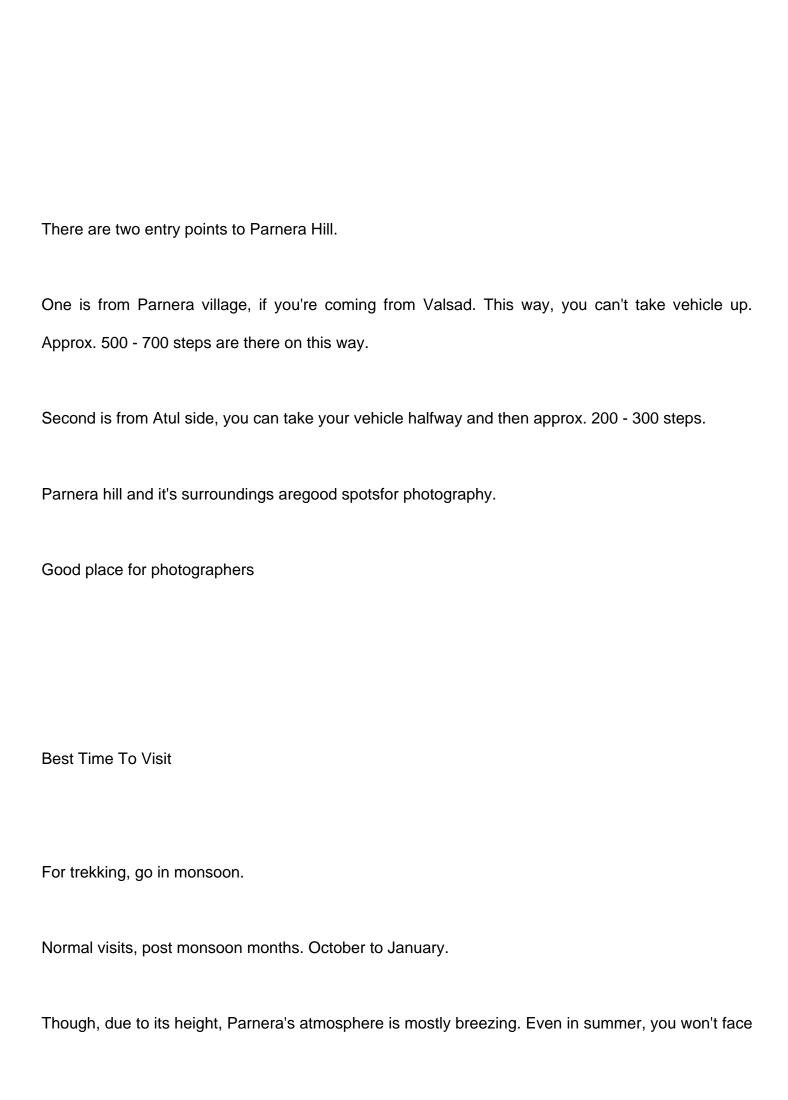
I mentioned before, Parnera fort has vibrant stories associated with it. As per records, Chand Pir Bawa, fighting battle of Satya and Ahimsa, passed away asmartyr. His head fallen off in Parnera and chest in Bilimora.

To remember hismartyrdom, dargah had been constructed in Bilimora and Parnera.



Location, How to Reach Geography
Parnera Hill is 7 km from Valsad city. Approximate height is 300 meter.
One one side, you'll get views of Atul. Another side, of Valsad city. And one another side, NH 8.
NH8
Distance Matrix:
From
То
Distance in km / Approx. time in hr
Surat





heat.
I wonder what does this stone buildings signify
Food Accommodation
No luck in this part. No hotels nearby. In off-season, that's in summer, you may not get anything to eat.
Otherwise, you'll find local sellers selling fruits, biscuits and wafers on sideways.
Valsad has many accommodation options.
Like a boss!
Contact Details

Mandir Trust, Parnera, Valsad, Gujarat. Pin Code: 396020
Email:chamundadhamparnera@gmail.com
Phone:+91 9825574585,+91 9737173174
Sit in peace here :)
Abstracts
Valsad has scarcity of tourist places to visit nearby.
Tithal is one and the most popular. Parnera is second. Wilson Hills in third. Apart from these, not
many places are there to visit nearby Valsad. That makes Parnera a popular weekend destination
around Valsad.
Happy Journey!
Photos By: Smit Patel

Did you like this article? Was it helpful? Your comments are most welcome!

More from this blog:

Wilson Hills Dharampur Valsad

Photo Essay: Valsad Railway Station

Book: Be Like Sherlock

Safari English Magazine is Dead!

Copyright in 2 Minutes

Devinamal Eco Tourism Campsite Dang, Gujarat in Monsoon

This is photo gallery of Devinamal Campsiteduring monsoon season.
Visit this Devinamal Eco Tourism Campsite In Dang article to read full details of the campsite.
Other campsites in/nearby Dang:
Kilad Nature Campsite
Devinamal Eco Campsite
Mahal Campsite
Padamdungari Eco Tourism Campsite

Devghat Waterfalls Near Umarpada, Gujarat

Information of Devghat Waterfalls, Umarpada, Gujarat is being updated. Check back after some time to get updated content. Till then, enjoy the photos!

More from this blog:

Put That Glass Down!

Copyright in 2 Mins

Photo Scribblings at Valsad Station

List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

You Don't Need a DLSR

Haranbari Dam, Satana, Nasik, Maharashtra Dam: A Place For Photography

Information of Haranbari Dam, Satana, Nasik, Maharashtra Damis being updated. Check back after some time to get updated content. Till then, enjoy the photos!

Related: Learn Photography

Continue With: You Don't Need A DSLR! Photo Essay at Valsad Railway Station Hill Stations Near Surat Web Hosting For Your Grandma!

Breaking Down PNR

Hari Om Ashram Nadiad

The post is being updated. I'll update with rich content shortly.

Scroll down and have a look at photos till then!

Related Articles:

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9diad - Exploring city of 9!

Santram Deri

Branch Store: Photographing Trees

Will it rain today?

Kutch Museum, Bhuj: One of The Oldest Museums of Gujarat

Virtualtourof: Kutch Museum, Bhuj: One of The Oldest Museums of Gujarat

Photo Credits:Pramod Mali.

Related Posts:

Vijay Vilas Palace Kutch

Photo Essay: Valsad Railway Station

Will It Rain Today?

Breaking Down PNR Number

Note: Smiling Buddha

Mahabat Maqbara Mausoleum Architecture : Makbara Palace In Junagadh, Gujarat

Mahabat Maqbara Mausoleum Architecture : Makbara Palace In Junagadh, Gujarat, this post's content is being updated. Stay tuned for more details!

Pandava Gufa (Pandav Caves), Pandava Village, Dang

Information regardingPandava Gufa (Pandav Caves), Pandava Village, Dang. Pandava Gufas is remote trekking location deep inside the Dangs, Gujarat.

Pandava Caves are near Don Hill Station.

The trek to Pandava Caves starts from Anjani Kund. Place is best enjoyed in monsoon.

Continue Reading:

Don Hill Station

List of Campsites in Gujarat

How to Look Good in Photos?

Safari Magazine is Dead!

Book: Be Like Sherlock

Roopgadh (Roopgarh) Fort in Kalibel Dang: Fort in Ahwa, Dang, Saputara

Roopgadh Fort in Kalibel Dang: The Only Fort in Ahwa, Dang, Saputara. Have a look at photos of this place!

Continue With:

Don Hill Station

Wilson Hill Station

Saputara Hill Station

Logging Life Using Smartphone

Photographing Sky Colors

Sarthana Nature Park Zoo Surat

The post is being updated. I'll update with rich content shortly.

Scroll down and have a look at photos till then!

More from this blog:

Hill Station near Surat

Polo Forest Idar

Kevdi Eco Tourism Campsite

Will it Rain Today?

You Don't Need a DSLR.

Uparkot Fort, Adi Kadi Vav & Navghan Kuvo, Junagadh

Uparkot Fort,	

Adi Kadi Vav

Navghan Kuvo are must watch attractions in Junagadh. Glance through some photos!

Vijay Vilas Palace Mandvi: Royal Heritage Hotel in Kutch

Photo gallery: Vijay Vilas Palace Mandvi: Royal Heritage Hotel in Kutch.

Photos credits:Pramod Mali.

Photos and content by: Pramod

More from this blog:

Koteshwar Kutch

Polo Forest Idar

Hill Stations in Gujarat

9diad - Exploring City of 9!

You Don't Need a DSLR

Wilson Hill Station Dharampur & Shankar Waterfall, Gujarat

Wilson Hill Station and Shankar Waterfall standin an impenetrable forest area near Dharampur in the Valsad district of Gujarat.

Shankar Fall is close to the famous Wilson Hills, a hill station situated in the Pangarbari Wildlife Sanctuary. I had achance to plan an excursion to Wilson Hills lately. You are missing a goodday in your life if you haven't been at places like Shankar Waterfall and Wilson Hills.

Let me plan a breath to share experience to Wilson Hill Station.

Drone Video

Enjoy a cinematic drone video of Wilson Hills shot by Kunj Dodiya.

Accommodation:

Looking for accommodation at Wilson Hills? A homestay option is available now at Wilson Hill Station. Call/message on+91 94295 64808.

Click here for more details.

Major Reform :
I've published this article back in September 2014. At that time, I was a beginner, stepping into blogging world.
Since then, a lot has been changed. From my writing to content presentation skills.
I'm reformatting and updating this article to match up with latest information and good presentation. Cheers!
Wilson Hills at Dusk
Location of Wilson Hills Dharampur
Wilson Hill Station is locatedin the forest locality of the Sahyadri mountain range in a village called Vaghval.
Shankar waterfall is just 6 km away from the famous hill station.
Wilson hill stationis 32 kilometers away from Dharampur and about 62 km away from Valsad, the district headquarter.

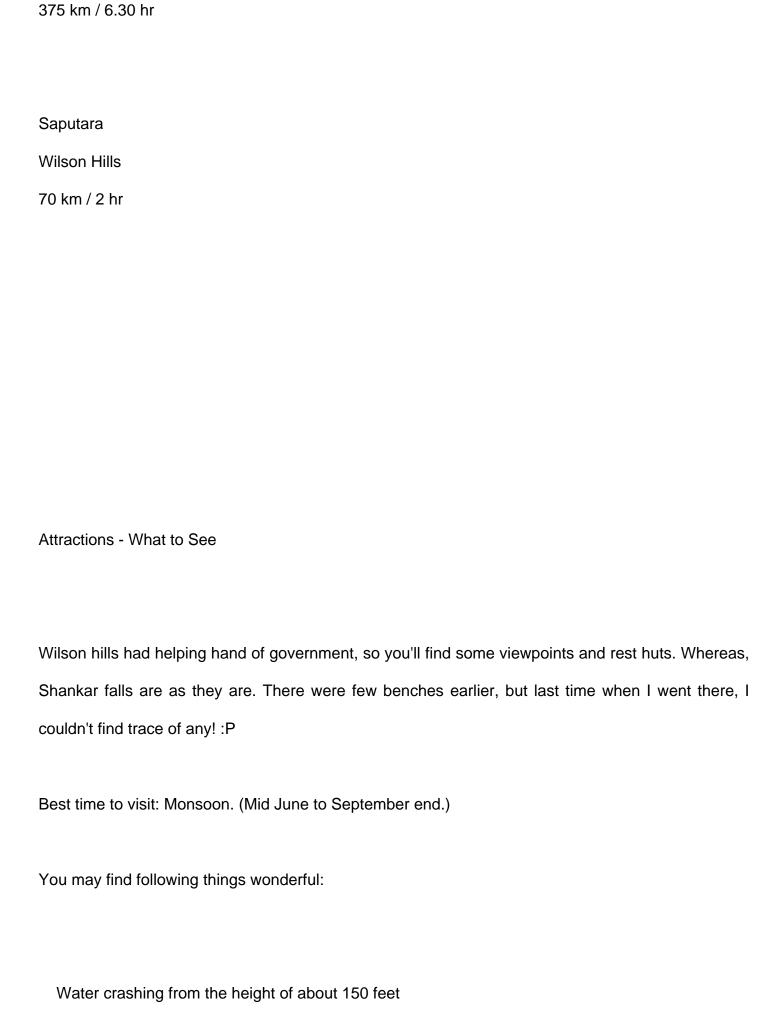
Dharampur
Dharampuris a well-known town for its rich Adivasi (Tribal) culture. It is said that, years ago King
Mohanrai built his fort in Dharampur and announced Dharampur as a State. One of the most potent
reasons why King Mohanrai chose Dharampur is the evergreen hilly area and absolute natural
beauty of Dharampur.
Dharampurregion has host of tourist places like,
Wilson Hills,
Barumal Temple (13th Jyotirlinga of Lord Shiva),
Mohangadh Fort,
Sahyadri Mountain Range,
Kaparada,
Shankar Fall,
Shirmad Rajchandra Ashram.
Entry gate to Dharampur town
How to Reach

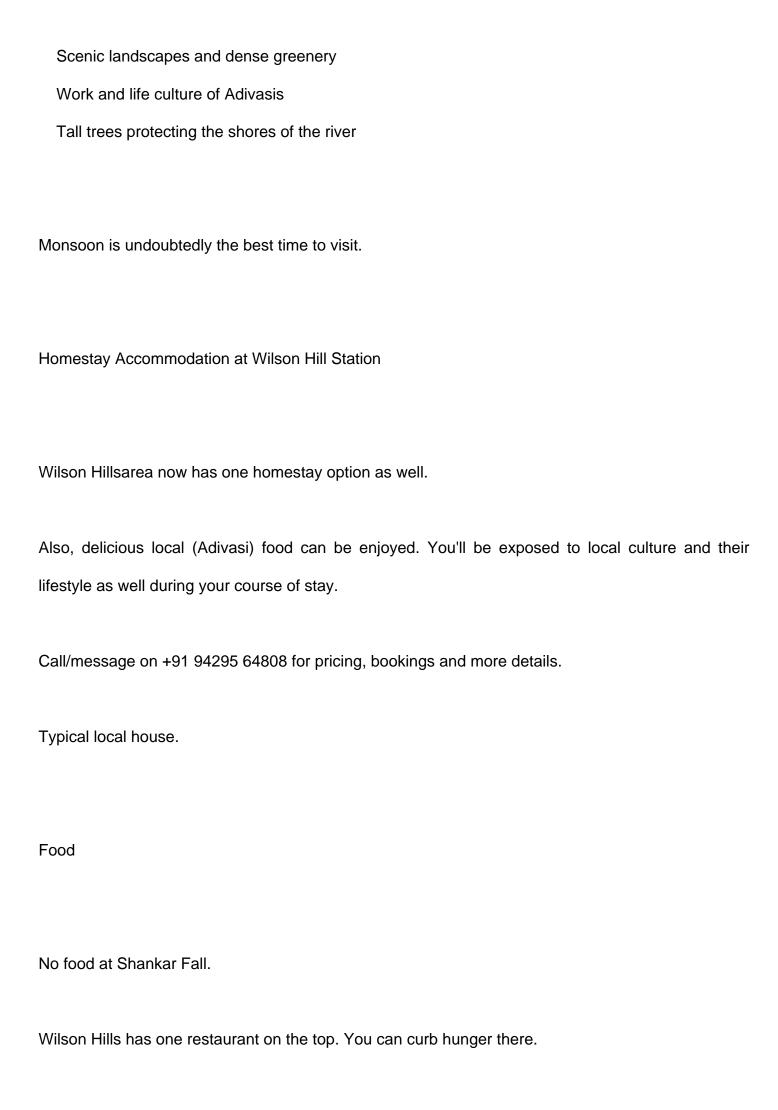
Wilson hill stationhas arrangement of smooth tar roads till the end.

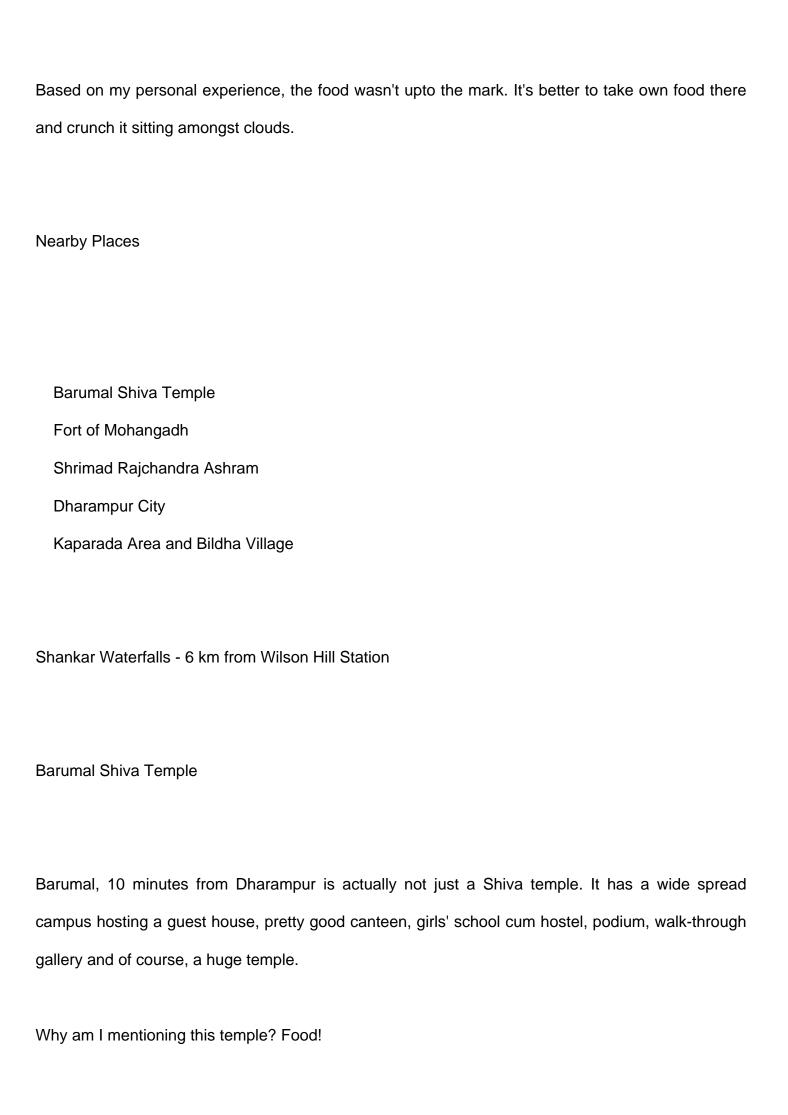
If you're considering public transport, state run GSRTC bus goes straight up to Wilson Hills also.
In my opinion, use of own vehicle is the best way to explore the Dharampur area.
The nearest Railway station is Valsad. State transport buses are frequent between Dharampur and Valsad.
You will find yourself driving 30-40 minutes to get to Wilson Hills from Dharampur town.
CNG pump is present at Dharampur, Vansda and Valsad.
Roads are decent. You'll have fun driving on zig-zag stretch of 5 km.
Distance Matrix
From
To Distance in km / Time in hr

Wilson Hills
125 km / 2.30 hr
Valsad
Wilson Hills
60 km / 1.30 hr
Dharampur
Wilson Hills
30 km / 45 min
Mumbai
Wilson Hills
Vadodara
Wilson Hills
250 km / 5 hr
Ahmedabad
Wilson Hills

Surat







Signing Off
My last travel guide of Don Village, Ahwa has received tremendous response from passionate adventurers of South Gujarat. And that has inspired me to write more. Will continue this initiative
I thank Rahul Thakor for his inputs on this article.
Hill Stations In Gujarat
Saputara Hill Station Don Hill Station
Read this article, List of Hill Stations In/Near Gujarat for more information.
Explore vibrant Gujarat!
The List of Hill Stations In, Near Gujarat

Don Hill Station, Ahwa, Dang

Big List of Campsites in Gujarat

Best of 2015 : Travel

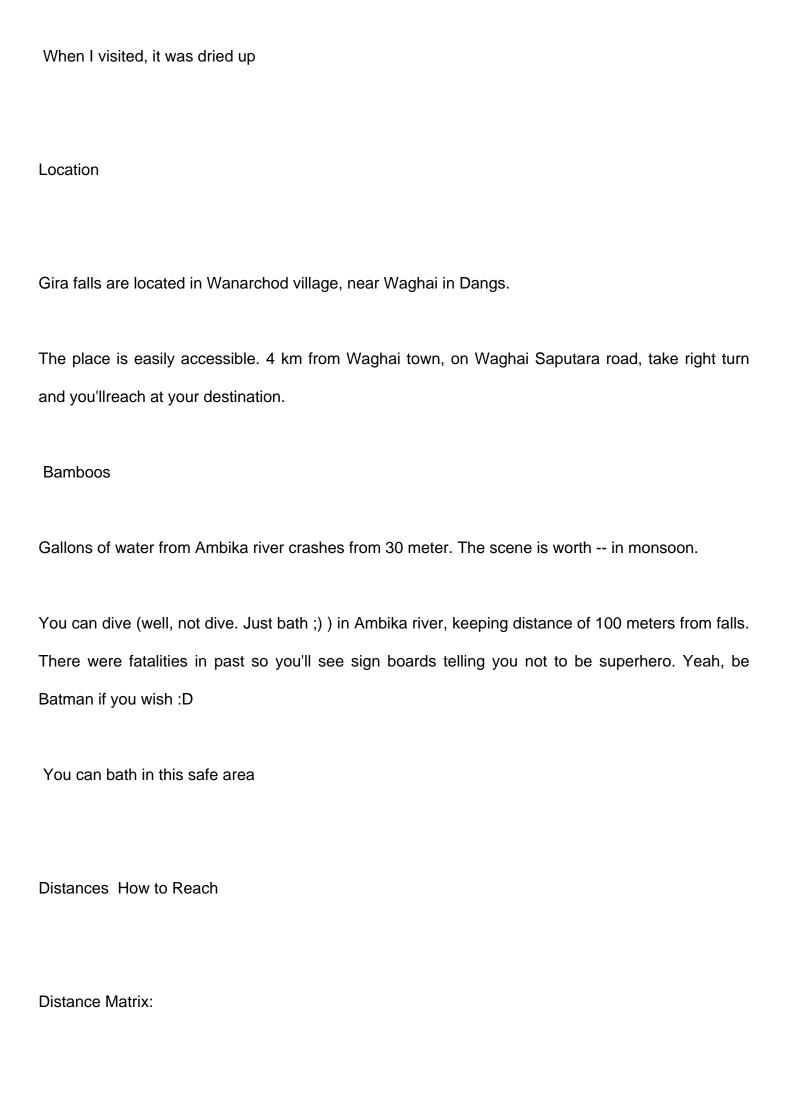
Parnera Hill Valsad

Girafall Waghai : Gujarat's Most Popular Waterfalls

Gira Waterfall Waghai - you will always hear this name if you hear conversation regarding waterfalls
in Dang, Gujarat area. Gira Dhodh, located in Wanarchod village near Waghai is one of the best
places to visit in Gujarat during monsoon season.
Related: List of Waterfalls in Gujarat
Drone Video
Here's a cinematic drone video of Gira Dhodh.
Girafalls are often misunderstood with Girmal falls. Both are in Dang but located far away from each other.
'Gira' falls are near Waghai, on Waghai Saputara state highway.
'Girmal' waterfall is in Girmal village, near Ahwa.
An excellentplace for relaxing from busy city life.

Sign board at Wanarchod on Waghai Saputara road

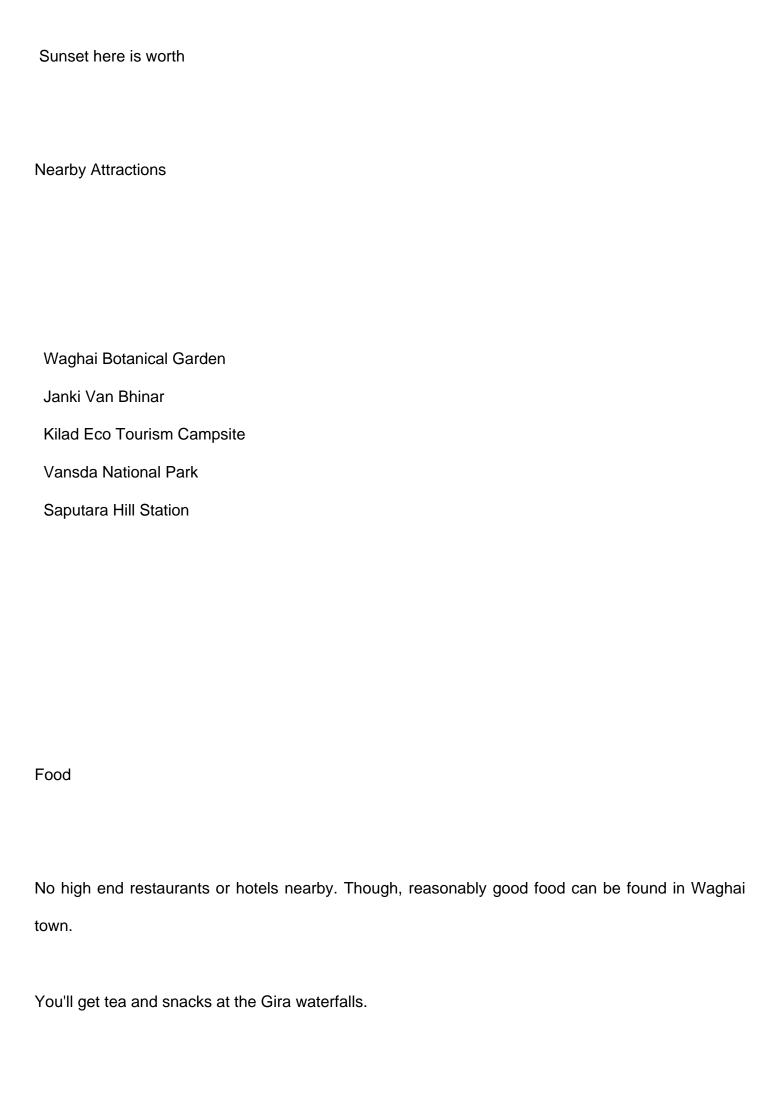
Most Popular
Gira Falls are undoubtedly the most popular waterfalls in Gujarat. The reason being, it's on the way to Saputara hill station.
Saputara attracts lacs of tourists every year. Thus, most of the visitors visiting Saputara get down at Girafalls.
Saputara attracts lacs of tourists every year.
Monsoon Is The Best
It goes without saying that waterfalls are best enjoyed during monsoon season.
July - October is the best time to visit.
Gira falls in monsoon. Image: Pandya Dhaval
The photos in this post are of December end. The fall was almost dried up when we visited.
Though, this could be good in other way. If you're the kind of tourist who love to visit places which areless crowded then non-monsoon season is best for you.

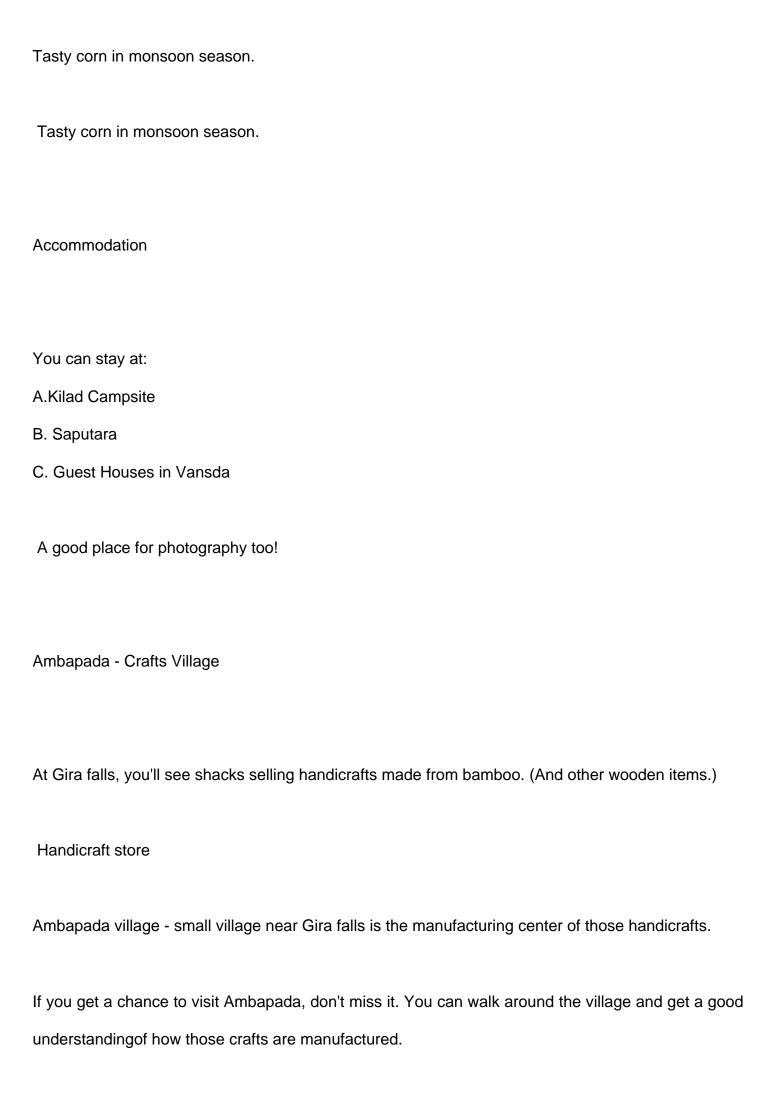


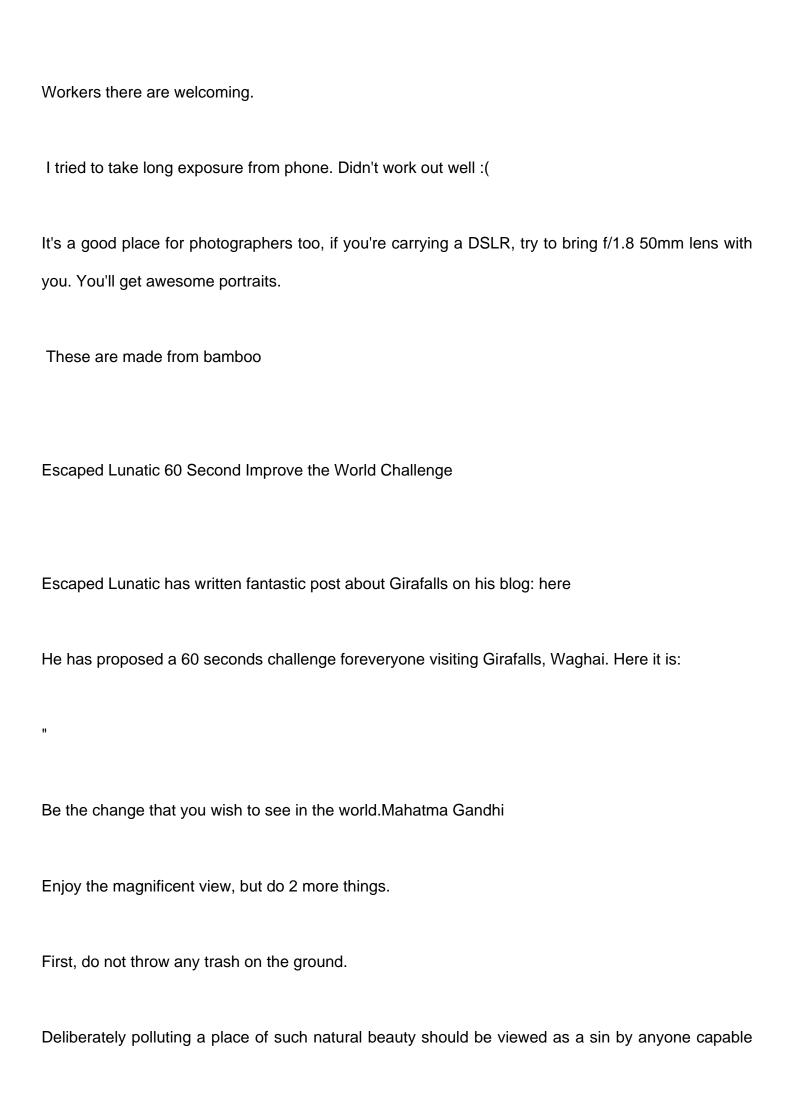
From City
То
Distance in km / Approx. Time in hr
Surat
Gira Waterfalls
120 km / 2 hr
Ahmedabad
Gira Waterfalls
350 km / 6 hr
Mumbai
Gira Waterfalls
280 km / 5 hr
0
Saputara

Gira Waterfalls

50 km / 1.30 hr
Vadodara
Gira Waterfalls
260 km / 5 hr
Shacks are closed in off season
Bus:
State transportation buses are available. Board any bus going to Saputara and drop off at
Wanarchod village after crossing Waghai town.
Train:
Get off at Bilimora (or Valsad or Surat) and take bus to Saputara.
Air:
I wonder who would come via air to see Gira Dhodh! :)







of appreciating nature. Second, grab a bag from the ground on your way out. Then spend up to 60 seconds picking up some of the trash and restoring the park to what it looked like before some unfortunate people forgot what trashcans were for. If anyone asks what you are doing, explain that you are taking one whole minute to help keep the park beautiful. If you dont do it, how muchgarbage will continue to accumulate? How long untilGiradhodh eventually becomes nothing more than a large garbage dump, visited not to view the magnificent waterfalls, but only to dump more garbage? The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the worlds problems. Yes, Mahatma Gandhi again. Please do it and help preserve the place! Signing Off

It takes half an hour to reach to Gira falls from my home. So I could take dinner in sight of Gira falls

at every nightif I wish -- Theoretically! :)

Continue With:

You Don't Need s DSLR

Milestone Reached: 1000 Visits a Day!

Don Hill Station

Where to Stay in Dang?

Janki Van, Bhinar, Vansda

Ajwa Nimeta Garden, Vadodara - Spend Weekend Evening With Musical Fountains

Ajwa Nimeta garden is an excellent destination to spend leisure weekend near Vadodara. Ajwa Nimeta's USP is a row of musical fountains which makes an evening vibrant and colorful as ever.

My trip to Ajwa Nimeta musical fountainsmaterialised in very last semester of B.Tech in Computer Engineering.

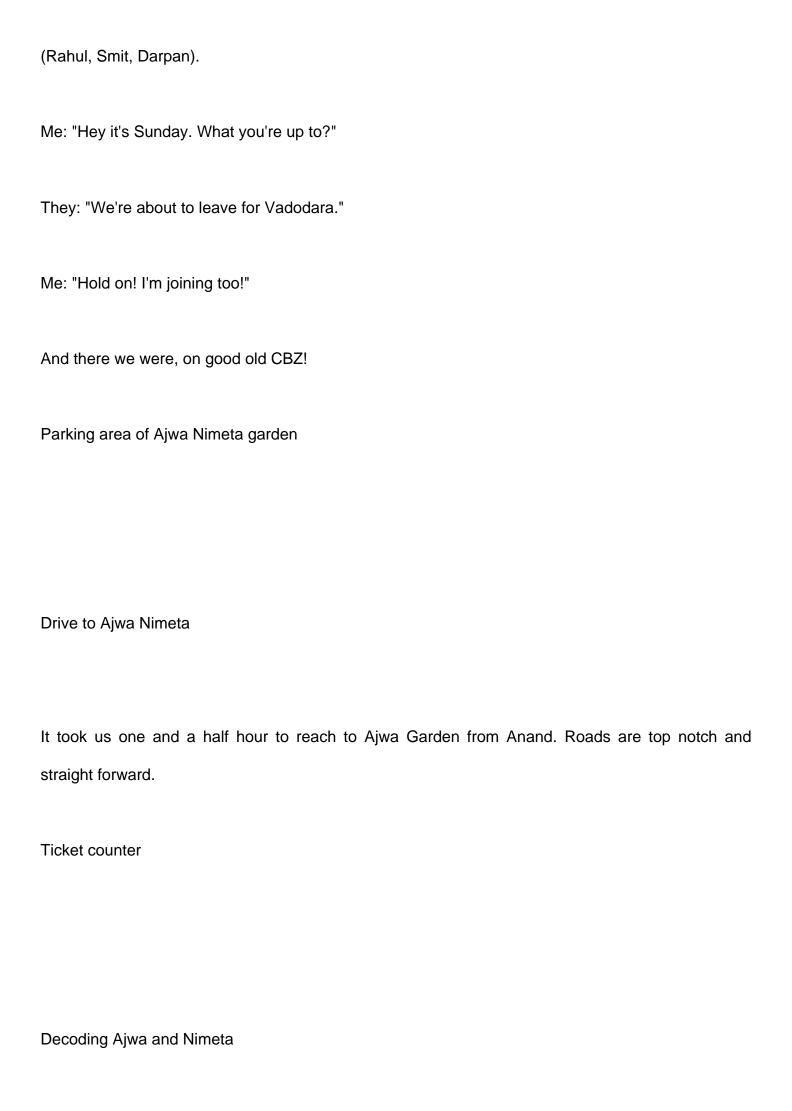
Though, during school trips too, Ajwa Nimeta had always been a stop. Ajwa gardenis for people of all ages. Kids can play cheerfully and oldies can soothe themselveswatching their grandchildren have fun. :)

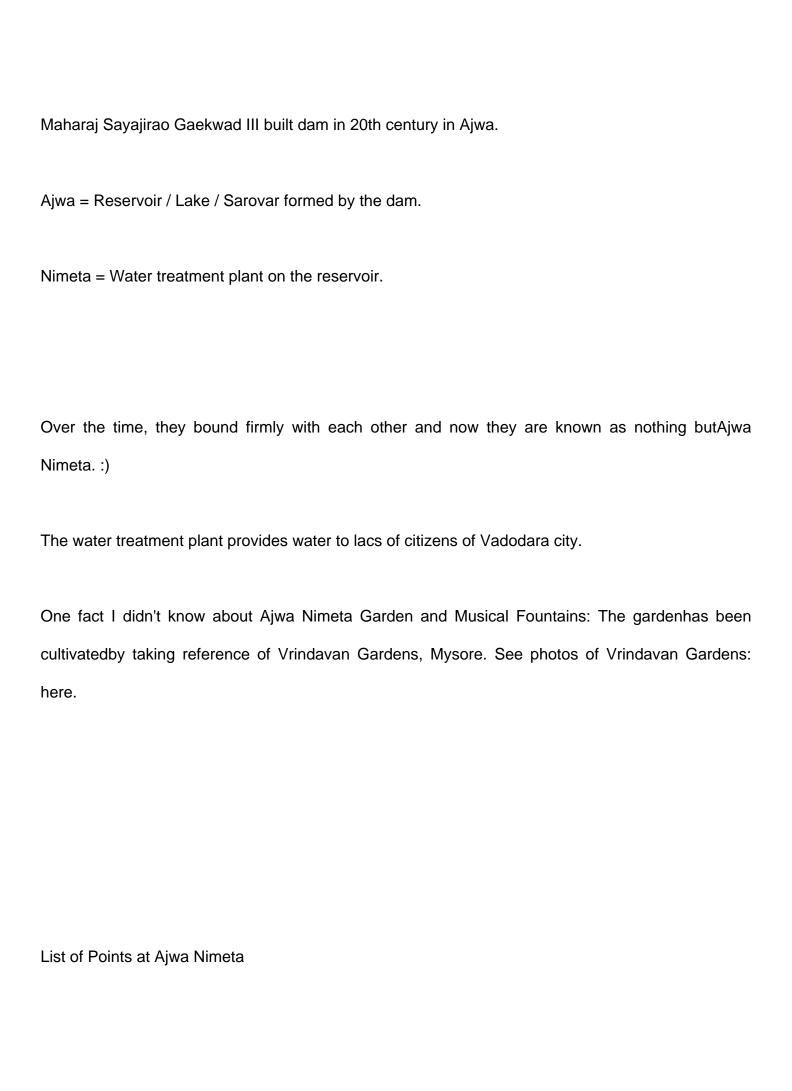
Sharing experiences of my trip to Ajwa Nimeta Gardens...

Hello? What's up?

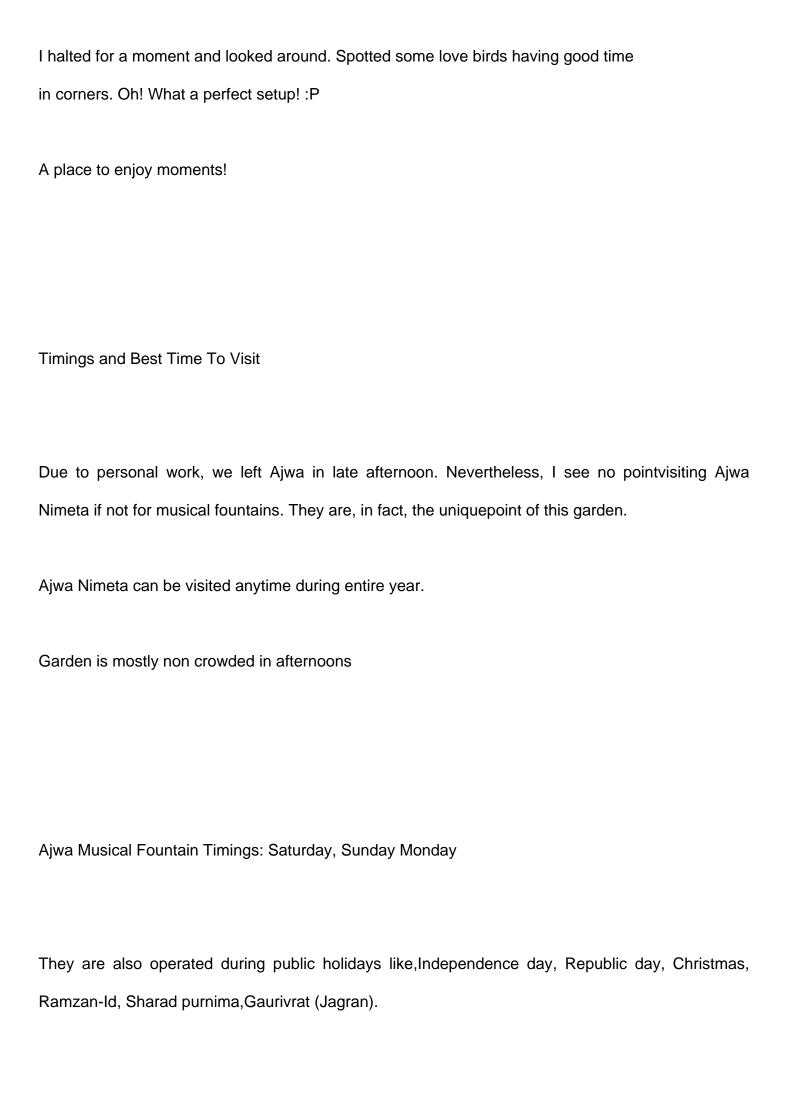
So it started like this. I was in last academic semester of engineering and was already placed. Dark clouds of future weren't hovering over the head.

It was Sunday. I called Rahul Smit, the other two members of our RSD squad. ;)





1. Ajwa Nimeta Garden
2. Ajwa Nimeta Musical Fountain
3. Ajwa Fun World Water Amusement Park
4. Ajwa Dam Reservoir
5. Nimeta Water Treatment Plant
As far as I know, entry to Ajwa Dam and Nimeta Plant is restricted due to someaccidents happened
in past. You need to take prior permission before visiting them.
Nice quote!
Bheegey Hont Tere!
As soon as we entered into garden, we found ourselves listening to an exotic Bollywood song!
Bheegey Hont TerePyaasa Dil Mera



Timings:
Month
Regular Fountain
Musical Fountain
November to February
6 PM to 8 PM
6.30 PM, 7.15 PM, 8.00 PM
March to October
7 PM to 9 PM
7.30 PM, 8.15 PM, 9.00 PM

Photo:scrapboktravelblog.blogspot.com

Photo: scrapboktravelblog.blogspot.com

Entry Fees

Above 12 yr: 20

5 - 12 yr: 15

Below 5: Free

Food

Visitors are allowed to take food inside garden. (This was true when I last visited, August 2015).
Many stalls and hotels are presenton the nose of garden. Though, do carry your some if possible. I
personally felt like the bottled water there was risky.
Food setups
Beware of water
Going off
Ajwa Nimeta garden and musical fountains isa complete weekend package for all.
A place to chillax from rushy hushy city life!
Chillax! Left - Me, Right - Smit
Discover More:

9diad: Decoding 9 Lakes, 9 Exits, 9 Stepwells of Nadiad!

Galteshwar: Destination Near Dakor

Meet The Tyrion Lannister Of DDU Hardik Gol!

Polo Forest Vijaynagar, Idar : An Unplanned Trip To North Gujarat Forests

Make Smart Use of your Smartphone

The List of Eco Tourism Campsites in Gujarat

A comprehensive	listof all eco	tourism	campsites	of Gujarat.	Previously in	n this	series,	I've p	repared
list of									

List of Hill Stations in Gujarat

List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

List of Ropeways in Gujarat

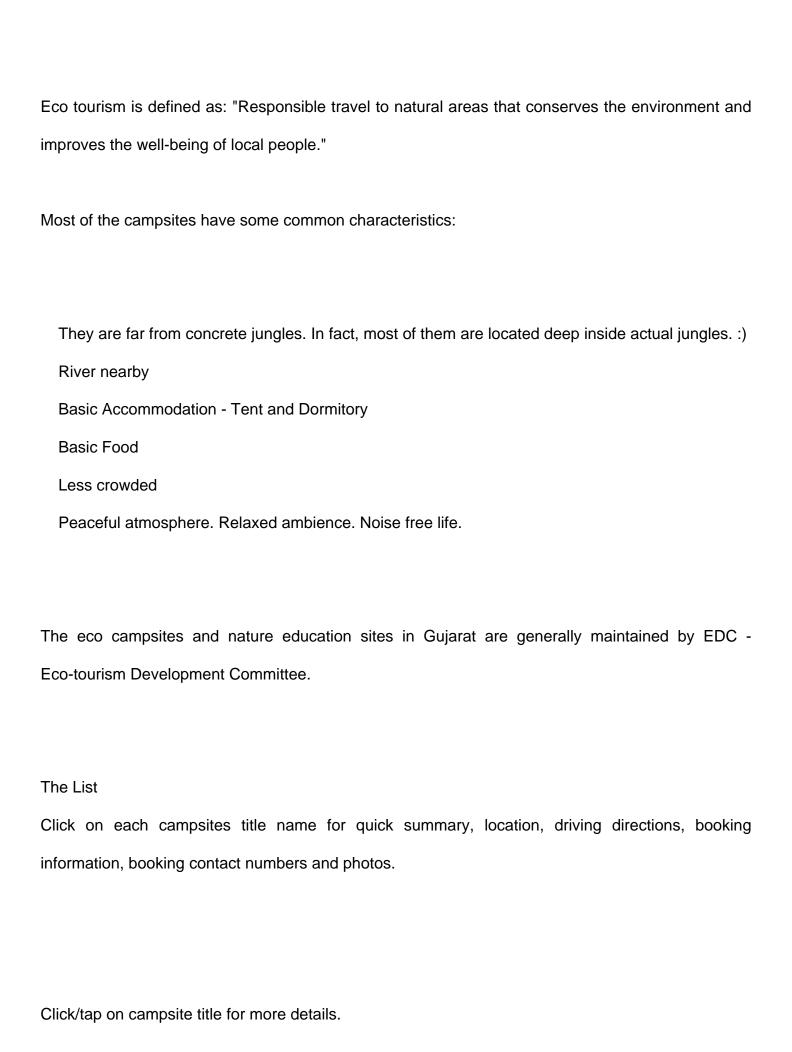
Continuing the series, I will list all eco campsites of Gujarat in this article, with photos and adequate information.

Padamdungari Campsite //Campsite near the Dangs

Note: I've not been to all the campsites personally. I tried best to gather and provide details as accurately as possible. If you find something wrong here, contact me or drop a comment down.

Update (23-02-2016):Yesterday, I received an email from Deepak I Mehta, Vadodara. Mr. Mehta has visited most of thecampsites listed down. He has provided missing details of many campsites. Updating this article to add them. A huge thank you:)

What Is Eco Tourism Campsites



I've created a custom map of all the listed campsites. View It. Surrounded by Purna Wild Life Sanctuary, Mahal Campsite has excellent walking and trekking options. Recently, (February 2016), an event named Dang Bird Festival has been organized at this campsite. Location: Mahal Village, Purna Wild Life Sanctuary, Ahwa, Dang Booking Information / Contact Details: +91 94271 74037, +91 94297 00265 mahalecotourism@gmail.com 02631-220203 dcfdangnorth16@gmail.com More Info Photos: Mahal Campsite

Padamdungri is campsite located on the banks of Ambika river, 10 km from Unai and 30 km from

Vyara town. Developed and maintained by Eco Tourism Development Committee (EDC), Padam Dungari stands amongst forests of Sahyadri mountain range. Padamdungari is one of the 4 eco

tourism sites in the Dangarea.

Location: Near Unai, Vyara, Surat

Booking Contact:

Padamdungari Contact Number: 02630-290796

Mobiles: 97278 78583 (Always try this)

Range Forest Unai Office: 02630-236244

More Info Photos: Padamgunri Eco Tourism

Clarification needed for Kevdi.

There are two campsites in Gujarat having same name, 'Kevdi'. One is in near Vadodara and another is near Surat. Refer to this map for more clarification. Information below is for Kevdi Eco

Campsite near Vadodara.

Image: Gujarat Tourism

Location: Road connectingJambughoda Sanctuary and Ratanmahal Sanctuary, SH62, in Vadodara
Route: Vadodara Dabhoi Bodeli Tejgadh Zoz Kevdi back (Approx.distance from Vadodara 132 kms)
Booking Contact:
Deputy Conservator of Forest
Chhota Udepur Division
Chhota Udepur
Phone (02669) 232032 / 232303
Email: dcfchhotaudepur@gmail.com
Contact Person at the Campsite: Mr.Jethabhai Parmar 09879393733
More Info Photos:Kevdi Campsite Eco Tourism Vadodara
Located among dense jungle and ancient temples, Polo Forest Campsite is a good destination to
chill out from Ahmedabad. The site is located on the banks of Vanaj river, near Harnav dam site.
Location: Polo Forest, Vijayanagar, Idar

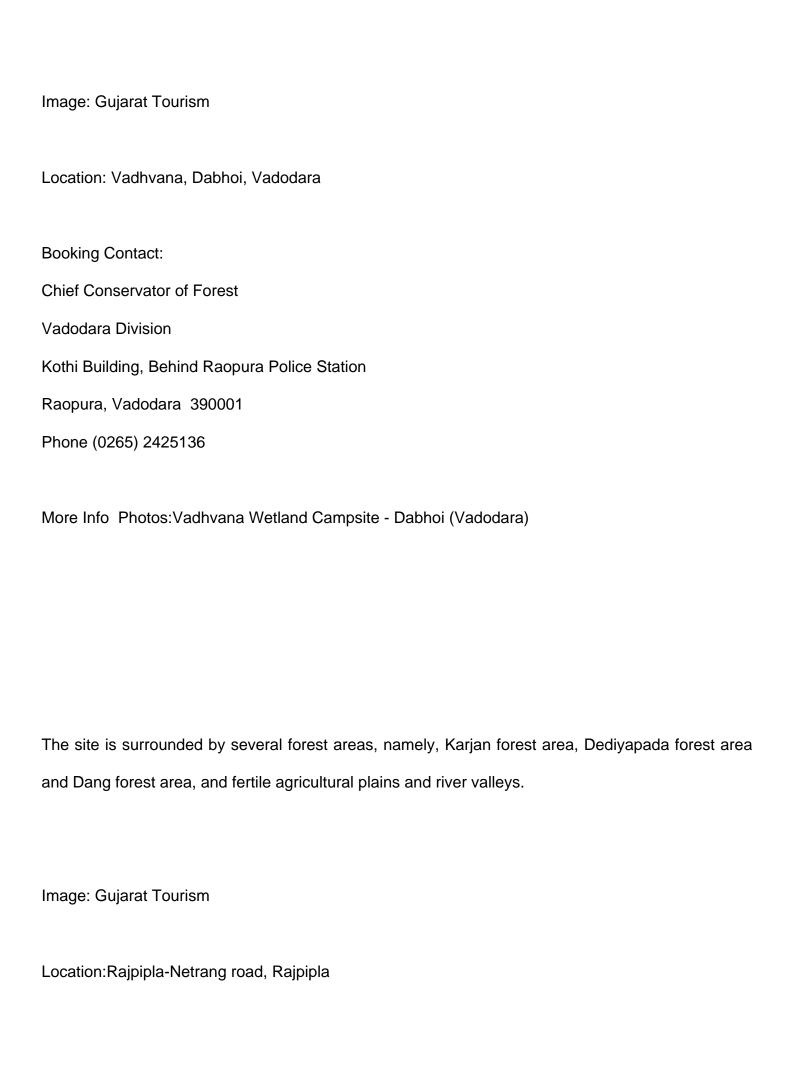
Booking Contact:
Himmatnagar Forest Department
Contact Number 1: 02772243090
Contact Number 2: 02772247279
More Info Photos: Polo Forest Idar
Zarvani Campsite is situated inside the Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary which is home to a
gamut of flora fauna. It's near Narmada campsite. Other sightseeing areas nearby include the
Zarwani waterfalls, the Shoolpaneshwar Temple, the Gheer Khadi.
Image: Gujarat Tourism
Location:Thawadia checkpost, Narmada dam site, Rajpipla
Doute Vadadara Dahkai Daininla Villara Cara Zamvani (Dietanas annrev 110 kms)
Route:Vadodara Dabhoi Rajpipla Village Gora Zarwani (Distance approx.110 kms)
Booking Contact:
Deputy Conservator of Forest
Narmada Forest Division
Near Vadia Jakat Naka,

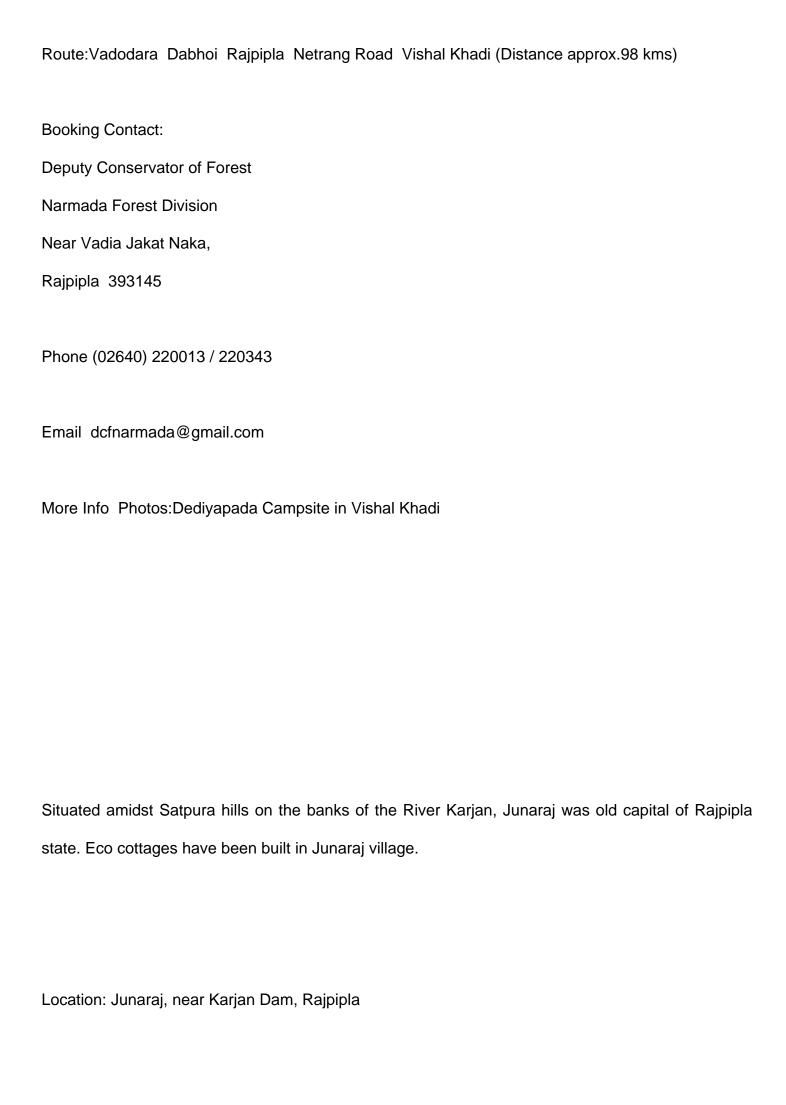
Rajpipla 393145
Phone (02640) 220013 / 220343
Email dcfnarmada@gmail.com
More Info Photos:Zarvani Campsite in Shoolpaneshar Rajpipla
Kilad eco campsite is nature education center cum ecotourism site contained in Vansda Nationa
Park. The campsite is 2 km off Vansda Waghai state highway, on the banks of Ambika river.
Along with the tag of campsite, Kilad also holds tag of nature education center.
Location: Kilad, On Way to Saputara, Vansda Waghai Road, Near Waghai, Navsari
Booking Contact:
Range Forest Office Vansda: 02630 230057
Forest Officer Mr. Garasia: +91 9428022415
Forest Ranger Mr. Joshi: +91 9426855593
Mr Harishbhai: +91 8758650555

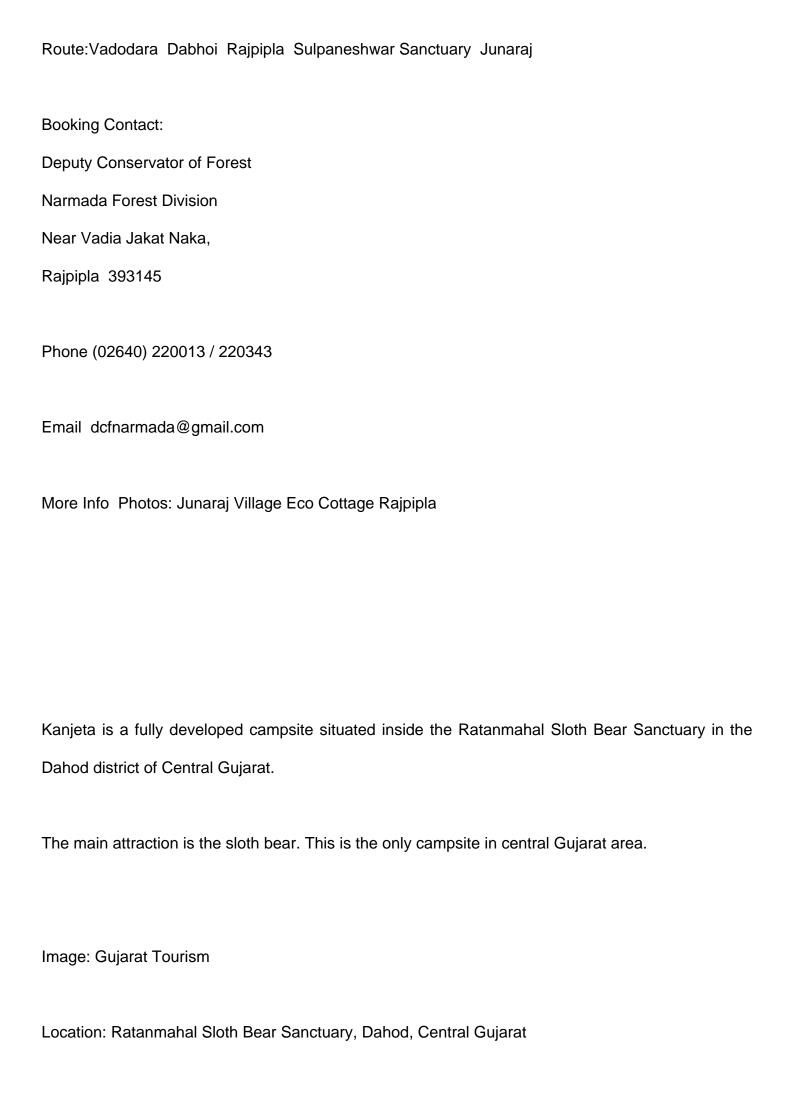
Mr Madhubhai: +91 94277782712

More Info Photos: Kilad Nature Education Campsite
Devinamal Campsite is an Eco-tourism site located 5 km off from the Dang district headquarter, Ahwa. Placed amidst the dense jungles of the Dangs, Devinamal has emerged as fresh Eco-tourism center after Kilad and Mahal.
Location: Devinamal, Near Ahwa, Dang
Booking Contact: 02631 220246 02631 220343
More Info Photos: Devinamal Campsite, Ahwa
This campsite is situated at the foot of the hills Malsamot. Located insideDediapada Wildlife Sanctuary, Rajpipla.

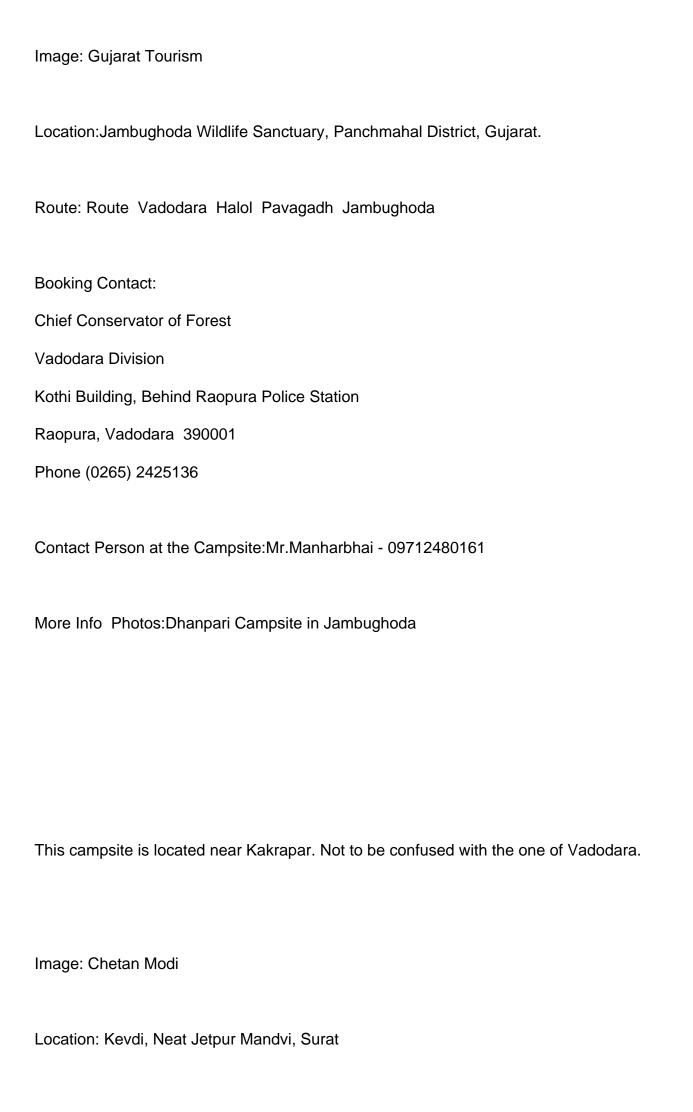
Image: Gujarat Tourism
Location: Malsamot, Dediapada Sanctuary, Rajpipla
Route:Vadodara Dabhoi Rajpipla Dediapada Juna Mosda Sagai Malsamot (Distance approx.152 kms)
Booking Contact:
Deputy Conservator of Forest
Narmada Forest Division
Near Vadia Jakat Naka,
Rajpipla 393145
Phone (02640) 220013 / 220343
Email dcfnarmada@gmail.com
More Info Photos:Sagai Malsamot Hill Campsite in Rajpipla
This irrigation reservoir and wetland located 10 kms from Dabhoi 20 kms from the Jambughoda
village, is the water source for 25 nearby villages, and a popular birdwatching site.

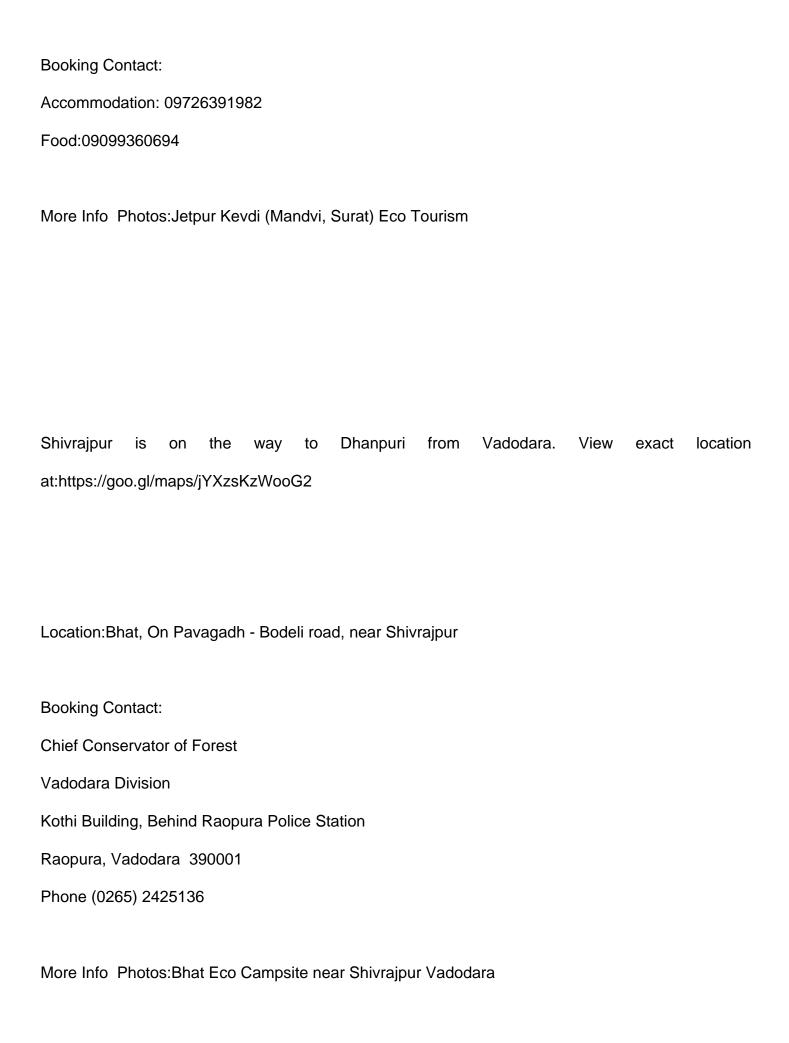






Route:
Vadodara Halol Pavagadh Devgadh Baria Village Dhanpur - Kanjeta
Booking Contact:
Chief Conservator of Forest
Vadodara Division
Kothi Building, Behind Raopura Police Station
Raopura, Vadodara 390001
Phone (0265) 2425136
Contact Person at the Campsite:Mr.Bharatbhai Puar 09099130360 / 09712445812
More Info Photos:Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary Campsite
There's another campsite near Kanjeta.Udal Mahuda No information available but very near to
Kanjeta (maximum for about 6 to 7 kms).
Source: Ketan I Mehta
The campsite is near the Kada Dam and its a beautiful site to visit with a picturesque location and it
also has a forest rest house. The campsite is surrounded by this magnificent forest.





Contact Person at the Campsite:Mr.Mahendra Baria 09979761250
More Info Photos:Targol Eco Campsite in Jambughoda Gujarat
Source: Ketan I Mehta
Whoo!
This is the most comprehensive list I have prepared till the date! It took a lot of efforts to put all campsites together.
Liked? Disliked? Want some more information? Want to suggest? Do drop a comment down. :)
More From This Blog:
How to be Remarkable?
Safari Magazine is Dead!
Photo Essay: Valsad Railway Station
Trip to Polo Forest Idar

Online For a Year!

Jetpur Kevdi Eco Tourism Campsite, Mandvi, Surat

Jetpur Kevdi is a eco tourism campsite situated near Mandvi, Surat. Normally I don't start any post
with clarification but Kevdi campsite needs it.
There are two campsites in Gujarat: Having same name as Kevdi.
That's the confusion. You'll search on Google, "Kevdi Campsite" and find a link of Gujarat Tourism
on top. That's Kevdi located in Vadodara district on GJ SH 62! Not in Surat.
Thus, make sure you're looking at this:Kevdi Eco Tourism Site, Kevdi, Gujaraton Google Maps,
otherwise you'd reach to Vadodara in search of Kevdi!
Let's go in
Personally, I haven't been to this place.
I had prepared two lists:
List of Hill Stations in Gujarat
List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

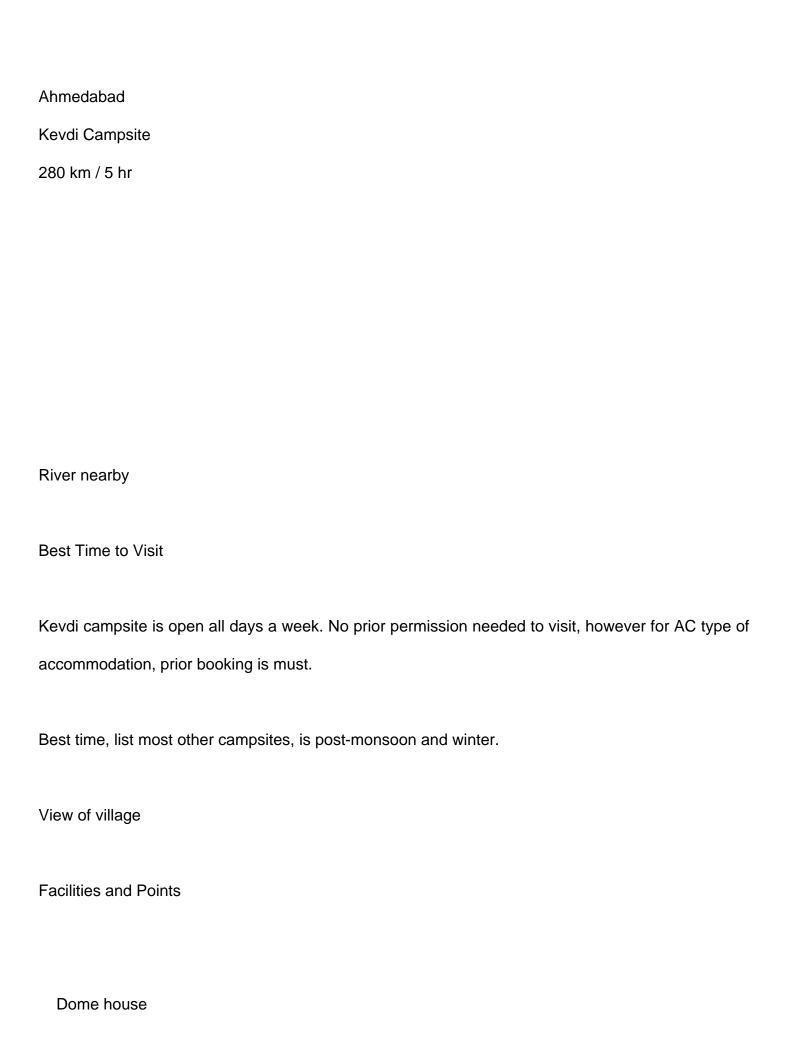
Many people found them very useful. Then, I started preparing a list of campsites in Gujarat. At that

time, I remembered Kevdi, Madvi as Tanmay Naiksuggested me the campsite once. All photos are
by Tanmay.
Kevdi is surrounded by greenery
Another source of information is, Map Less Journey blog by Nitin Kanani. Contact details and
accommodation details have been sourced from his blog. It's an awesome blog about travel to
unknown places.
Photo: Nitin Kanani
How to Reach Kevdi Campsite
Kevdi is 20 km from Mandvi.
After reaching Mandvi, take Mandvi Zankvav road.
At Fedariya Cross Roads, take right, continue for 8 km.
At Dadhwada, take right to reach campsite.
Into the campsite
Or you can simply follow Google Maps. :)
Distances:

Distance in km / Approx time in hr
Surat
Kevdi Campsite
80 km / 2 hr
Vadodara
Kevdi Campsite
180 km / 3.5 hr
Valsad
Kevdi Campsite
140 km / 2.5 hr
Saputara
Kevdi Campsite
150 km / 3 hr

From

То



Tent house
Reception center
Trekking trails
Restaurant
Relaxation time
Bird watching point
Sunset point
Traditional and hygienic food
Campfire
Nature education center
Cycle available for rent
Igloo HousePhoto:Devdatt Joshi
Accommodation Food
Rates are per day.

Туре
Rate
Total Count
Tent
200
6 Tent
VIP Tent
700
Unknown
Dome
1000
3 Dorms
AC Room
1500
4 Rooms
Tree House
2000

1 Tree House
Tree house. Prashant Desai
Rooms are maintained well.
Booking Contact Number of Kevdi Campsite
I do not know latest or correct booking information for the campsite.
If you get to know of latest working contact number of the campsite, please drop a comment below.
It would help others.
Little garden
That's it!

Dang Bird Festival at Mahal Eco Campsite, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

Dangs bird festival has been organized by Purna WLS in collaboration withAhwa (North) Division

Forest Department. Scheduled to fly off during 5th February to 7th February, 2016, this bird festival

in Dang will promote Purna Wildlife Sanctuary as bird sanctuary.

I was reading Sandesh newspaper today and came to know about this Dang bird festival.

As a frequent visitor of Dang, this bird festival event seems very exciting to me! I would've attended

it for sure if I hadn't been in Hyderabad.

Important Information

Event: Dang Bird Festival

Dates: 5th to 7th Feb, 2016

Location: Mahal Campsite, Dang

Schedule: Click Here

Registration: As per the event site, registrations have been closed now.

Official Site:http://purnawls.com
Contact Details:Nikunj Jambu (9427081711), Kaushal Patel (9408191289)
Email:dangsbirdfestival@purnawls.com
Highlights of Bird Festival:
Birding Competition
Wildlife Quiz Competition
Documentary Screening
Dangi Traditional Dance
Campfire
Cover photo by:https://michealdebarra.com/2014/11/11/weekly-photo-challenge-minimalist/
More from this blog:

Saputara Monsoon Festival

Polo Utsav, Polo Forest, Idar

Why do we live on earth?

Photo Store: Sunrise Sunset

Remember to Put that Glass Down

List of Tourism Spots in Dang District : My Journey Of Dang Forests

Dang district of Gujarat is full of green forests and amid the forests, Dang has number of tourism places. Most of the tourism spots are, however, unknown to majority of tourists.

I started exploration of Dang in August 2014. The first spotI chose was Don Hill Station. In fact, I started this blog from writing article on Don. The post has received ultra response and then it all started.

By December 2015, I've been to almost every place in Dang forests. And I still wouldn't miss any opportunity. :)

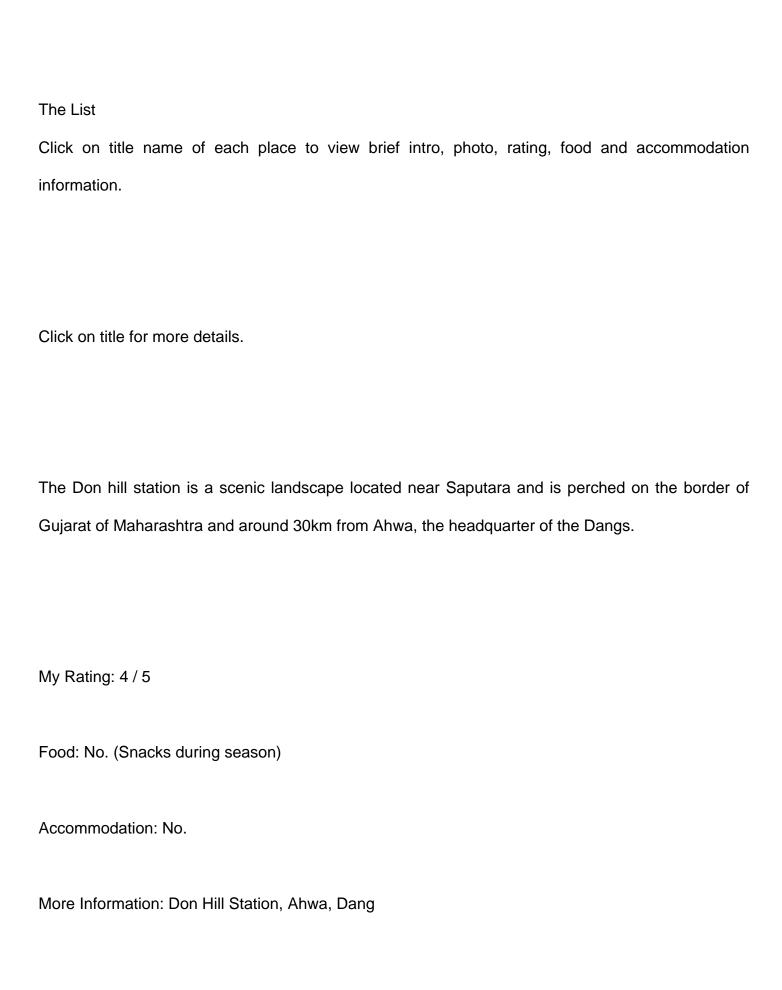
This article is a collection of all the places that I've visited in Dangs till now.

Wondering where to stay in Dang? Read: Places to Stay in Ahwa, Dang, Saputara

Before reading the list, please note:

Season = Monsoon.

All the places I've listed are accessible by road. Most of the roads are decent. Use of private vehicle is recommended.



Everyone knows about Saputara. No words needed for this place. :)
My Rating: 5 / 5
Food: Yes
Accommodation: Yes
More Information: List of Hill Station in Gujarat
Devinamal Campsite is an Eco-tourism site located 5 km off from the Dang district headquarter, Ahwa. Placed amidst the dense jungles of the Dangs, Devinamal has been emerged as fresh Eco-tourism center after Kilad and Mahal.
My Rating: 3.5 / 5

Food:No (Need to pre-order)

Accommodation: Yes

More Information: Devinamal Eco Tourism Campsite in Gujarat

Shabari Dham is a popular mythological destination on a hill, Chamak Dungar, near Subir village on

Ahwa Navapur road in the Dang district. Surrounded by Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Shabaridham

temple is the spot where Lord Rama met a Bhil woman, Shabari. Lord Rama, his brother Lakshman

ate the berries offered by Shabari mata at here.

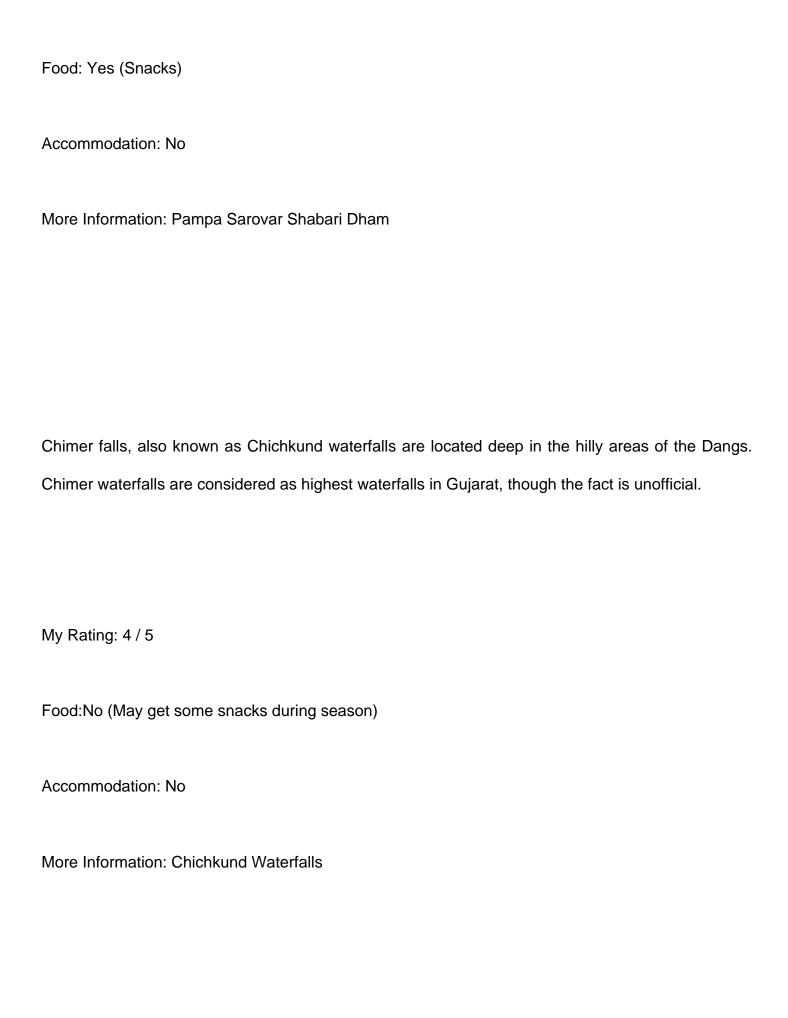
My Rating: 4.5 / 5

Food:Yes

Accommodation: Yes

More Information: Shabari Dham

Anjani Kund (or Anjani Parvat) is a village near Ahwa related to various mythological stories. The
villagers of Dang district believe that Lord Hanumanji was born in a cave of the Anjani mountain.
My Rating: 3 / 5
Food:No
A sa a mana a da Cara Nia
Accommodation:No
More Information:Anjani Cave
Pampa Sarovar (Lake) is located on the banks of river Poorna, 6 km from Shabari Dham. Matang
Rishi, the Guru of Shabari Mata had established his Ashram near the Pampa Sarovar.
Shabari Dham and Pampa Sarovar are visited together.
My Rating: 3.5 / 5



Mahal Eco Tourism campsite is one of the four eco-tourism centers in the Dangs, Gujarat. Located

on the banks of Purna river, inside Purna Wildlife Sanctuary.

My Rating: 4.5 / 5

Food: No (Not inside campsite. Need to go out in village)

Accommodation: Yes

More Information: Mahal Campsite, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

Crashing from height of more than 100 feet, Girmal Falls (Doodh) is the highest fall in Gujarat.

Hidden inside dense forests of Dangs, Girmal falls has picturesque beauty in monsoon season. The

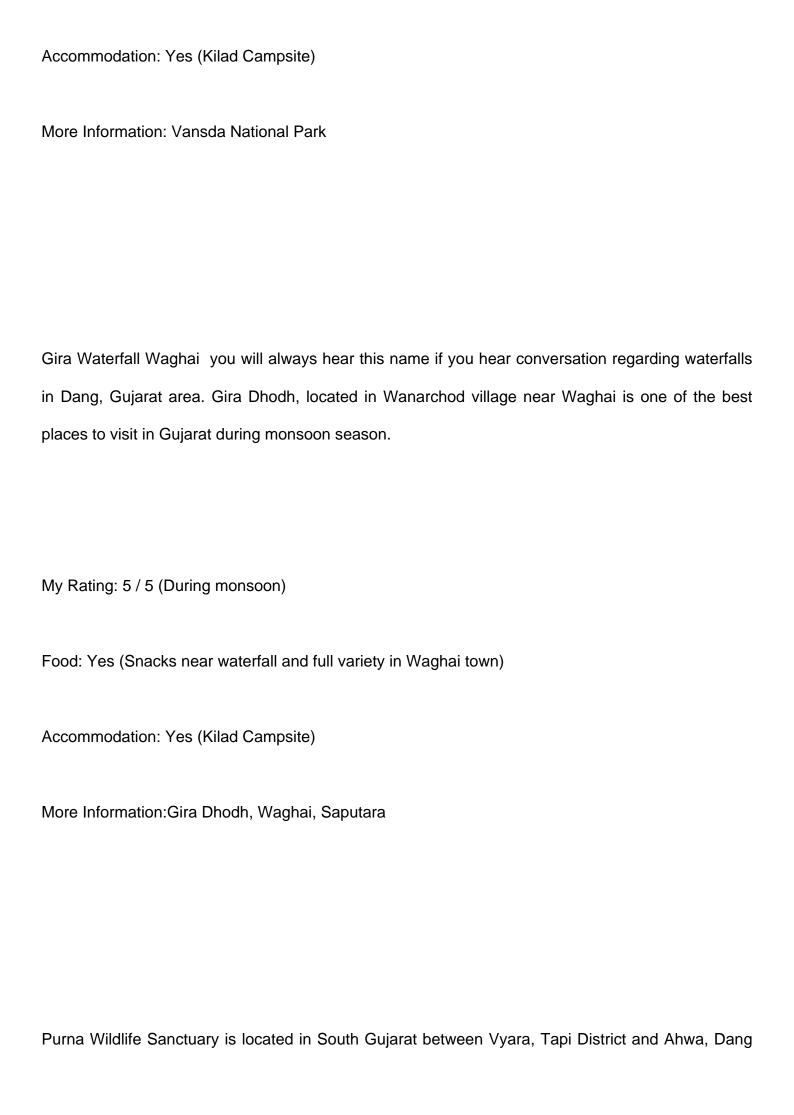
water fluently crashes from great height, forming clouds of fog, through which one can often

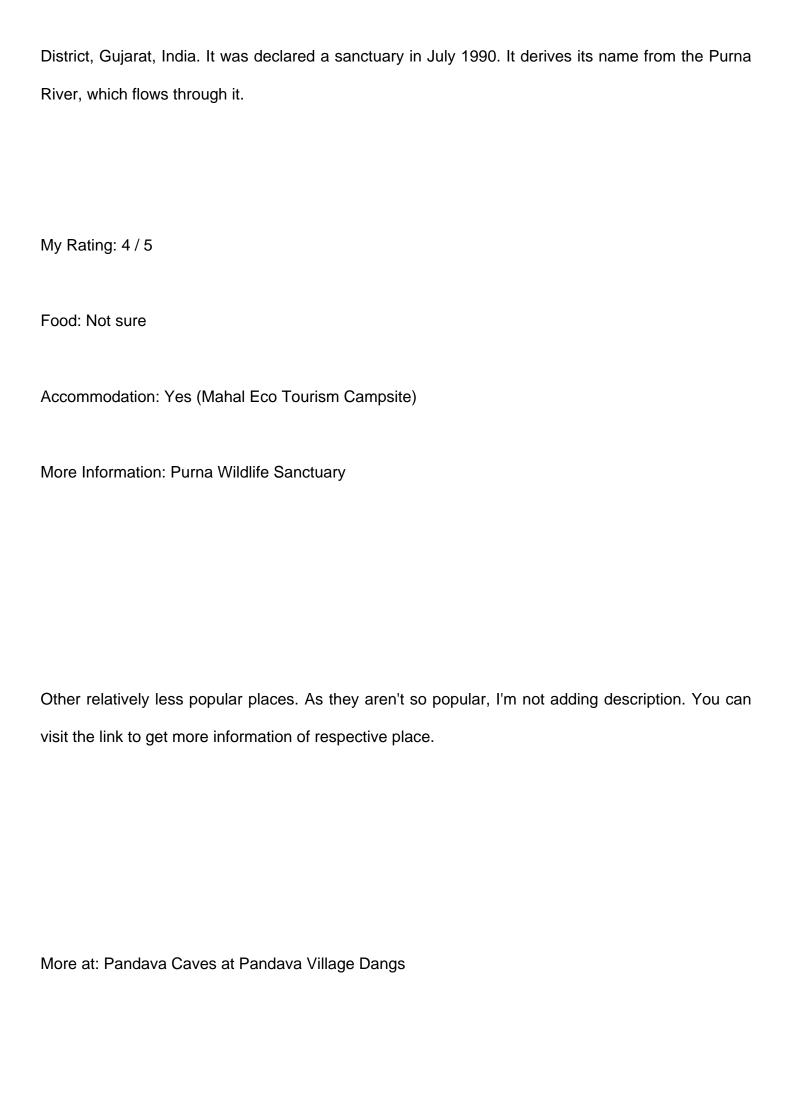
experience rainbows.

My Rating: 4.5 / 5

Food:Yes (At U Turn point restaurant) Accommodation: Yes (Girli Lodges) More Information: Girmal Falls Dangs, Girmal Village Waghai Botanical Gardens are located on Waghai Saputara road, 3 km off Waghai town. The gardens are spread over large area and has diverse plants and trees. Must visit place for biology students. My Rating: 4/5 Food: Yes (In Waghai town) Accommodation: Yes (Kilad Campsite) More Information: Botanical Garden Waghai

Kilad eco campsite is nature education center cum ecotourism site contained in Vansda National Park. The campsite is 2 km off Vansda Waghai state highway, on the banks of Ambika river.
My Rating: 4.5 / 5
Food: Yes (In campsite on demand / In Waghai town)
Accommodation: Yes
More Information: Kilad Eco Campsite Saputara
Vansda National Park is a conserved wildlife area in Vansda region of Gujarat. Geographically,
Vansda National Park is more closer to Waghai town, which is the entry point to Dang jungles.
My Rating: 3.5 / 5
Food: Yes (In Waghai town or Vansda town)





More at: Hatgad Fort Saputara

More at: Barda Waterfalls Ahwa

More at: Roopgad Fort, Dang

Following places are not exactly in Dang district	. They are	nearby	Dang,	you can	add th	nem in	your
travelitinerary.							
More info: Janki Van Vansda Gujarat							
More at: Padamdungari Campsite, Unai, Surat							
Mara info: Aimal Cadh							
More info: Ajmal Gadh							

Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, Dang, Gujarat

Purna is part of the Dangs district

Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is dense forest in North Dang forest range. Also known as PWS, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is spread between Vyara, Tapi and Ahwa, Dang district. Purna Sanctuary is second protected area in South Gujarat after Vansda National Park.

Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is also popular among bird watchers. To promote Purna sanctuary as a bird watching site, recently Dang Bird Festival was organized at MahalCampsite, in Purna Wildlife Sanctuary.

Sign board at Ahwa, on Ahwa - Mahal road

What Exactly Is Purna Wildlife Sanctuary For A Traveler

So you're a traveller and want to visit Purna Wildlife Sanctuary in Dang. Great!

First and foremost, let me tell you what the wildlife sanctuary is for a regular traveler.

More often than not, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is used for Mahal Eco Tourism Campsite. The reason is, Mahal is the largest village in Purna Sanctuary. Forest department has set up Mahal Campsite

and Nature Education Centerin Mahal village.
Thus, if you're visiting Mahal Campsite, technically, you're visiting Purna Wildlife Sanctuary. And vice versa. :)
Purna river
In a nutshell, for traveler, Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is more or less equal to Mahal Campsite and its nearby area.
About Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
The wildlife sanctuary derives its name from river Purna. Purna river flows through the sanctuary. The river flows by Mahal Campsite too.
The area, spreader over 160 sq km was declared as protected sanctuary in 1990. In South Gujarat, PWS is second to be declared as protected area after Vansda National Park.
The sanctuary has thick forest cover of teak and bamboo. Mahal forest, Dangs is undoubtedly one of best forests in Gujarat area.
Woods trail that leads to thick forests near Mahal Campsite
Flora Fauna

There are about 700 species of plants and trees in Purna Wildlife Sanctuary.

Some of the wild animals found here are leopard, rhesus macaque, bonnet macaque, common

mongoose, Indian civet cat, Indian porcupine, four-horned antelope, barking deer, sambar, chital,

hyena, and jungle cat.

Although we didn't get to see birds nearby, there were plenty ofhelicopter damselflies nearby. BTW,

they are calledPseudostigmatidae technically!

Between 1999 and 2003, 139 bird species were recorded here. Some of the birds found here are

common grey hornbills, grey jungle fowl, barbets, woodpeckers, shrikes, leafbirds, bee-eaters,

flycatchers, and raptors.

As recorded in 2000-2001 the sanctuary is home for 116 species of spiders.

Source: Wikipedia

Tents for accommodation in Mahal Campsite

Best Time to Visit

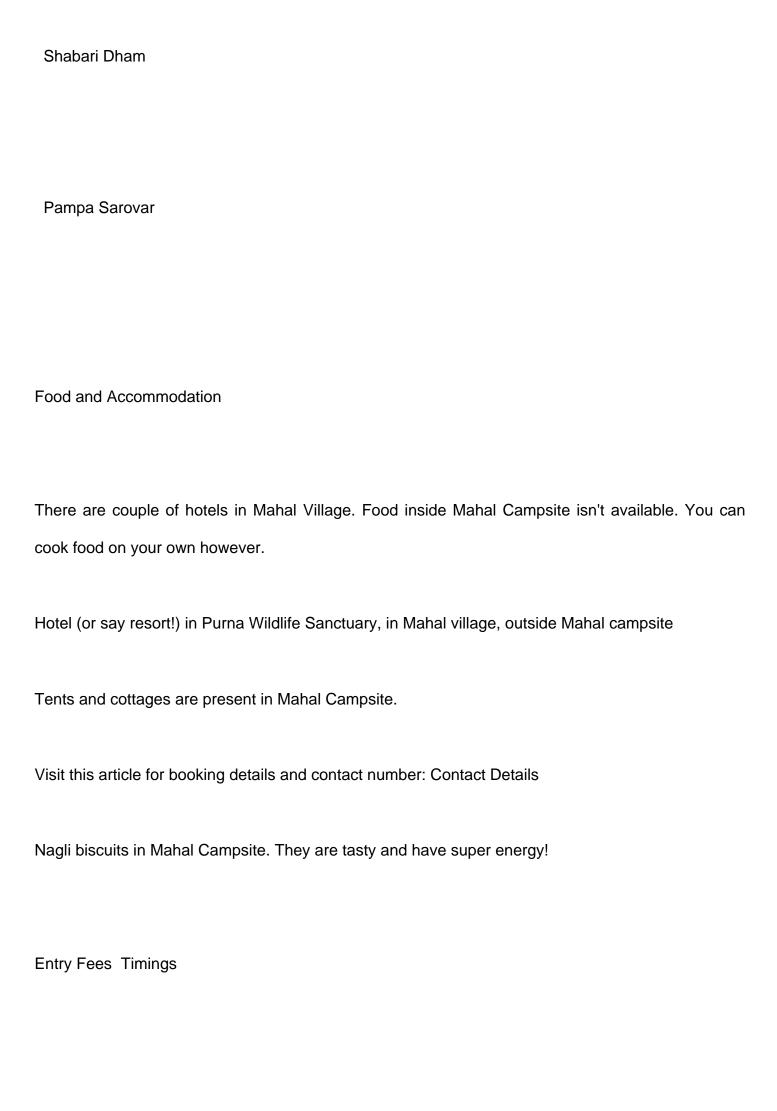
Post monsoon season (October to February) is the best to visitPurna Wildlife Sanctuary.

A good thing aboutPurna Wildlife Sanctuary is that, it is mostly less crowded. Oftentimes while
driving toPurna Wildlife Sanctuary, you'd not see any vehicle for kilometers.
That makesPurna Wildlife Sanctuary an excellent place for relaxation from busy and noisy city life.
(Surat!)
Local tribe - known also as Aadivasi
How to Reach
Google Maps is your best guide. Search for Mahal, Dang and you shall find your way.
Bridge over Purna river at Mahal village
Distances
From
То
Distance in km / Approx Time in hr

Surat(via Vyara)
Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
120 km / 2 hr
Surat(via Ahwa)
Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
150 km / 3 hr
Ahmedabad
Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
360 km / 6 hr
Mumbai
Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
250 km / 4.5 hr
Valsad
Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
120 km / 2.5 hr

Vansda
Purna Wildlife Sanctuary
60 km / 1.5 hr
Road from Ahwa to Mahal, which disunite Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is picturesque
I would not recommend transportation via Bus or Train. They are not at all feasible.
I don't find any reason why would anyone visit Dang forests via Air. :D
Nearby Attractions
Mahal Eco Campsite
Girmal Falls

Chimer Falls



Mahal Campsite Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is open days a week.
Timings are dependent on Sunlight condition, normally, 9 PM to 6 PM.
Entry Fees - For One Day
Туре
Fees
Per Individual
20
Car / Jeep (Up to 6 Person)
200
Mid-size Vehicles:
500
Bus

Non Professional Photography / Video

Still Camera

50

Professional Feature Film
500 (Deposit: 5000)
Professional Documentary
200 (Deposit: 15000)
Entry and photography fees
Contact Number
All the contact details can be found at: Mahal Campsite Contact Number
Bbye! :)

Did you find the article useful? Do leave your opinion. :)

More from this blog:

Mahal Eco Campsite

Where to Stay in Dang?

Best of 2015: Travel

Online for a year! - Journey of Blog

Photo Essay: Valsad Railway Station

A Monsoon Trip to Bildha, Valsad

I bet you've never heard of the place Bildha! Have you?

My hometown is in South Gujarat. In South Gujarat, Dangs and Dharampur area has many places for nature fans. Some of them are popular and frequented by many travellers. For instance, Saputara, Wilson Hills or Don Hill Station.

Some of them are untouched. Bildha is one such place.

Weather was awesome

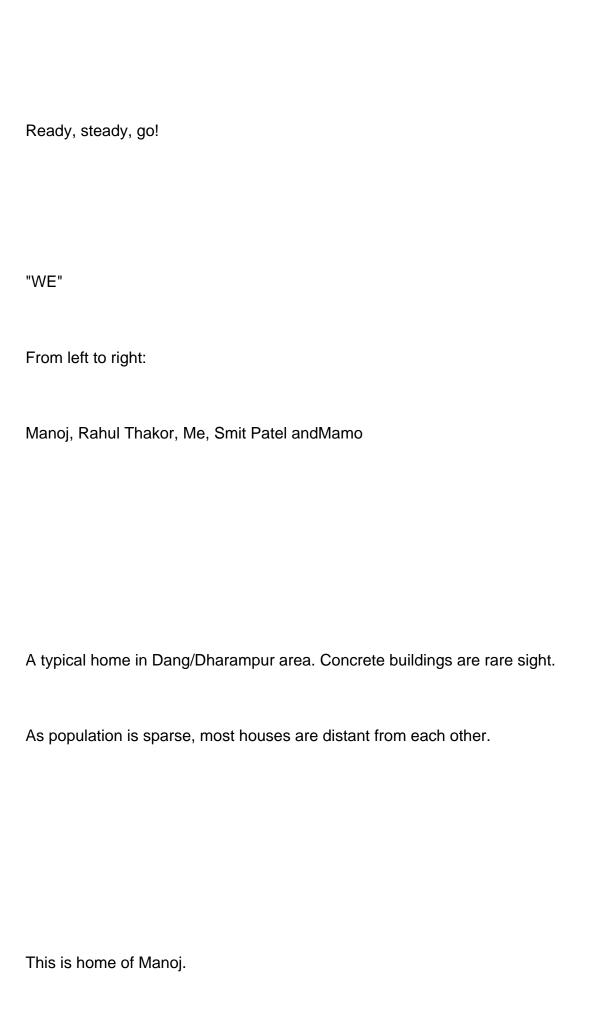
Few Words About Bildha

Bildha is a remote village in Valsad district. It is located on the border of Maharashtra and Gujarat.

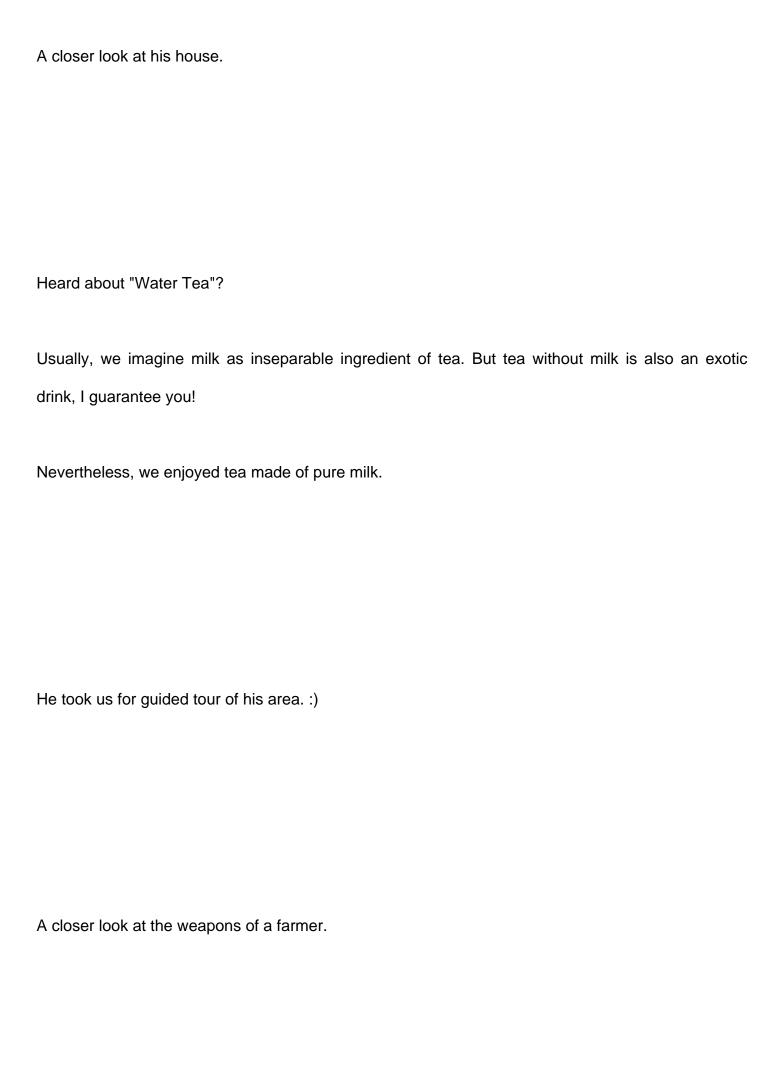
A good friend of mine, Manoj Mahla is from Bildha.

In last monsoon (June 2015) I was in search of some offbeat place to travel by, the ones which aren't on Google Maps.

I knew that Manoj lives in a village surroundedby hills. Made a call confirming his availability and we were on for Bildha!







A newly build check dam. As monsoon had just started, water was all dirty. Manoj told us that
government keeps building check dams here and there. A red flag is their construction quality. They
don't last for long time.
This is waterpark for kids living here!
This is waterpark for kids living here!
One noticeable entity is quality of air. Being absolutely zero polluted, this area resonates refreshing
vibes.
After delicious lunch, we mapped our way towards Wilson Hills.

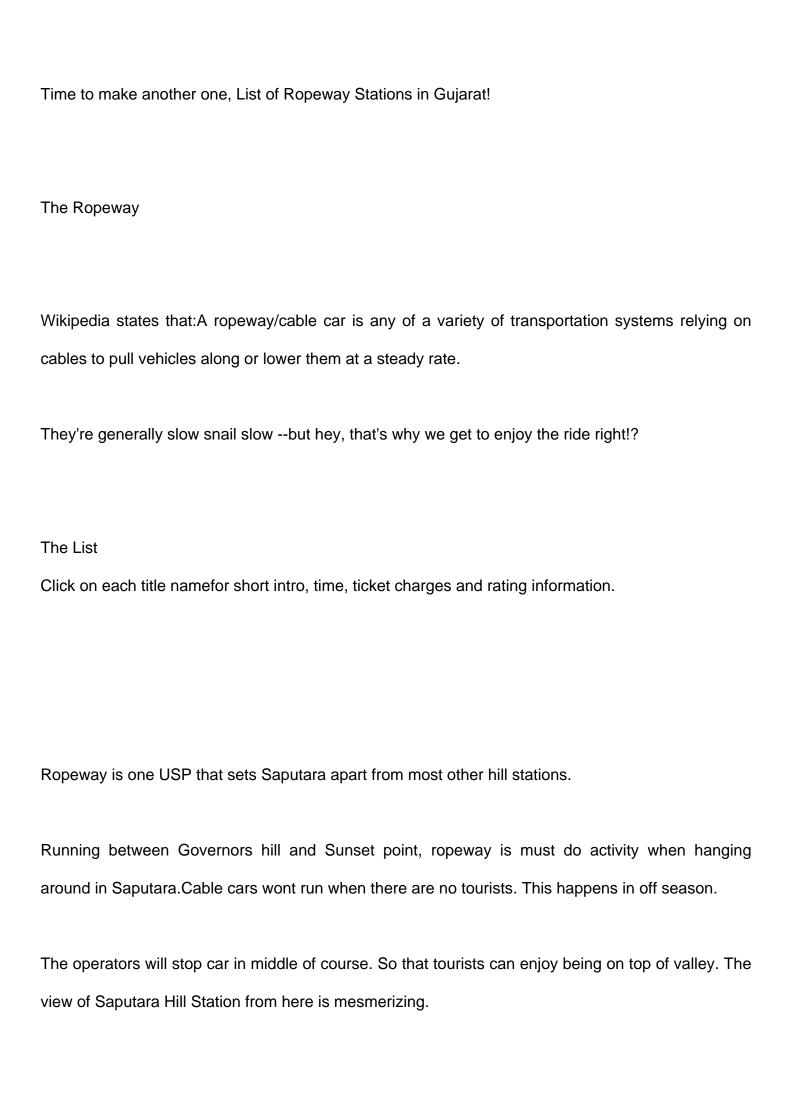
Oftentimes it felt like clouds were just few feets above us	
Hault for photography. All photos I posted here and non edited. No extra colors or vibrance.	
and with that I'll end our exploration!	
Did you like it? Drop a comment down!	
More trips from this blog:	
Journey to North Gujarat Forests	
Lothal Gujarat: Into Ancient Civilization	
Photo Gallery: Sun, Sky Colors	

You Don't Need a DSLR

Meet Tyrion Lannister

List of Ropeways in Gujarat

Ropeway, aka Cable car is one the finest way to getbird's-eye view of a place. Gujarat has 3 places
where ropeway system is set up and now in use.
Saputara Hill Station
Pavagadh
Gabbar Hill (Ambaji)
I've been to all the places and experienced ropeway rides at each one of them.
One of my recent days hobby is to create list of places falling into unique characteristic. :)
Some of the lists I've prepared till now:
List of Duadwetinity, American Andreid
List of Hill Stations in Cuiarat
List of Waterfalls in Cuiarat
List of Compaitos in Cuiarat
List of Campsites in Gujarat
the list will go on and on!



Operation Time: 10.00 AM to 07.00 PM (Runs all day, all season)

Ticket Charges: Rs. 50

Travel Time: 10 minutes (Tabletop point to Sunset point)

Tourist Rush: Average waiting time during is 15-20 minutes. During peak tourist season, it might

take 1 hour as well.

My Rating: 5/5

More information/tips and photos: Saputara Ropeway

Unlike Saputara where ropeway had been setup to promote tourism sector, Pavagadh ropeway has

agenda of facilitating devotees to reach to temple comfortably.

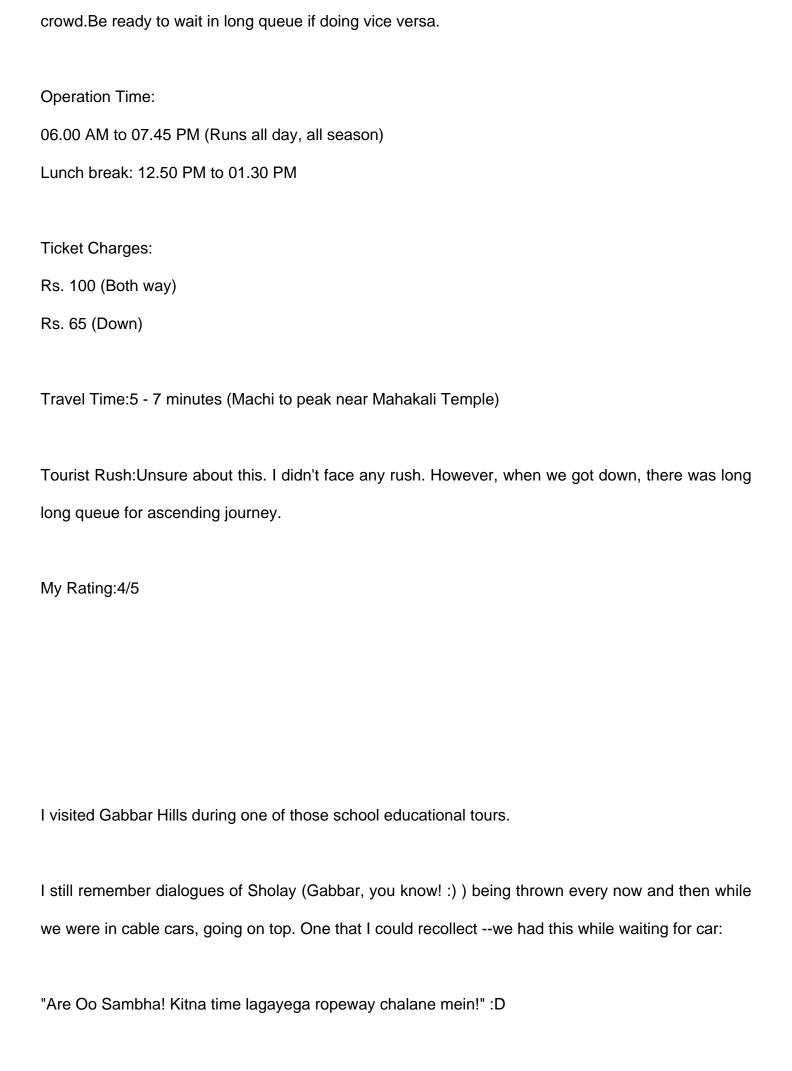
Locally branded as, Maa Mahakali Ka Udankhatola, the ropeway starts from base station Machi and

drops off at peak. Though, even after you reach to peak via ropeway, you still need to climb around

250 steps.

We climbed up to Mahakali Temple hiking and returned back to Machi via ropeway.

If you climb Pavagadh in early morning and plan to return down by ropeway, you won't face any



Quoting temple website,

...Trust has recently in 1998 installed and inaugurated Shri Amba Devi Udan Khatola Facilities, that

is to say, a Rope Way on the mountain of Gabbar, with the help of Usha Breco Co. of Calcutta on a

lease basis, so that more and more pilgrims can visit and enjoy the beauty and holiness of Gabbar

with so ease and joy, just by reaching in time, without any trouble.

So far I remember, Usha Co. also run services Pavagadh.

Operation Time:

06.00 AM to 08.00 PM (Runs all day, all season)

Lunch break: 12.45 PM to 01.30 PM

Ticket Charges:

Normal Ticket Rs 80 (To Fro)

One way ticket Rs 50 (For Downward journey)

Concession Ticket Rs 50 (For physically handicapped war widows)

Note Children less than 110 cm height are free.

Travel Time:3 - 5 minutes (Base to Gabbar Hills)

Tourist Rush:Unsure about this. Iwas too young to notice such details during school time.

My Rating: 3.5 /5

In Talks
These 3 aforementioned sites have active ropeways. I've also read news of:
A news article that I found about Girnar Ropewat dates back to 2010.
http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-gujarat-s-girnar-ropeway-project-to-start-next-year-1361157
No idea about the current project status. Girnar has pretty long stretch to be covered by ropeway.
Plus, environmental as well as geographic issues might be holding back the ambitious project.
Also a two year old news.

http://www.vishvagujarat.com/chotlia-the-government-will-ropeway/
Government of Gujarat has filed an affidavit in 2014 proposing construction of ropeway at Chotila.
Chotila is pretty straight hill and less distance to cover as compared to Saputara or Pavagadh.
If everything goes well, I believe the construction might be over in 2 years from now. (If at all the
project is still on!)
Bbye!
How did you find the list?
Drop your suggestions in comments. :)
Discover More Content:
Best of 2015
How to Win Friends and Influence People

Don Hill Station

Hardik Gol - Tyrion Lannister of DDU

Be nice to that delivery guy.

Places to Visit in Saputara Hill Station - Saputara Sightseeing

Saputara is a town in the Dangs district of Gujarat

If you live in Gujarat and if you love traveling, you must have come across Saputara Hill Station. It's THE most famous hill station in Gujarat. If you're in Saputara, this post will help you find places to visit during your sightseeing tour.

I've been to Saputara multiple of times. It's 2 hour drive from my hometown. Without doubt, Saputara is really a good vacation or weekend trip destination from Surat/Mumbai/Ahmedabad.

I never get bored of Saputara.

And I also never get bored of making lists! :P

Some of my recent lists:

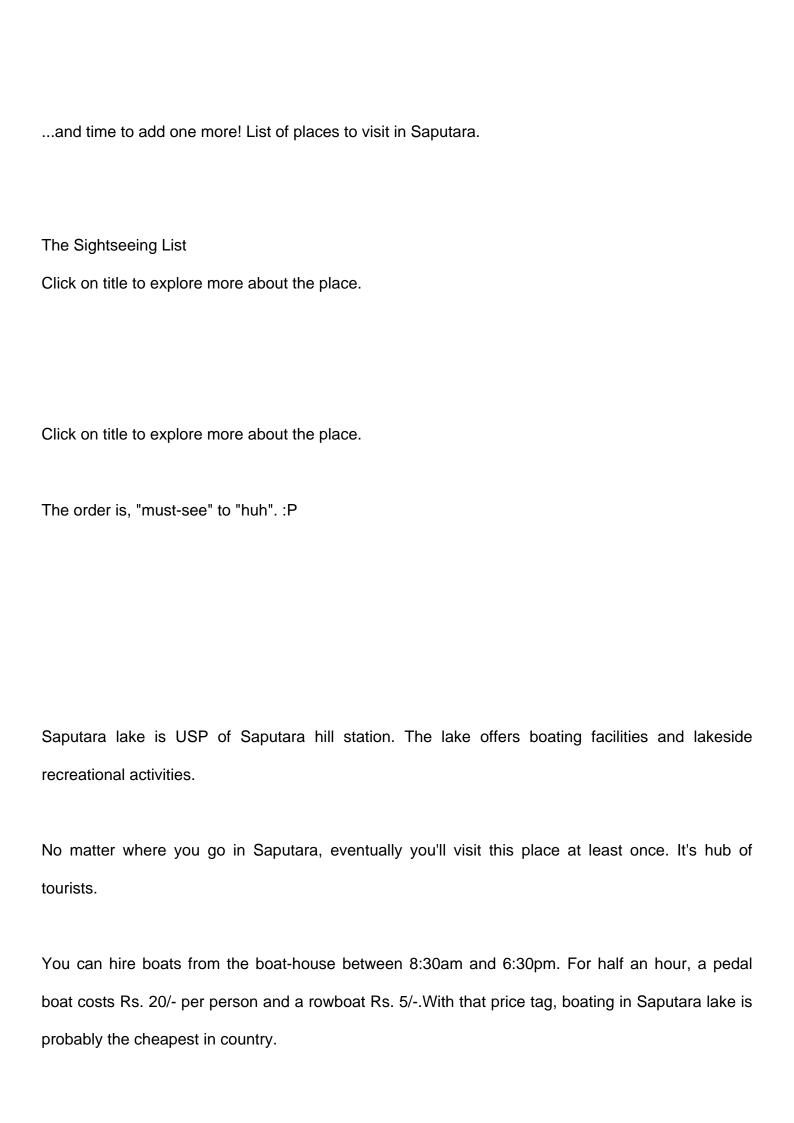
Ropeways in Gujarat

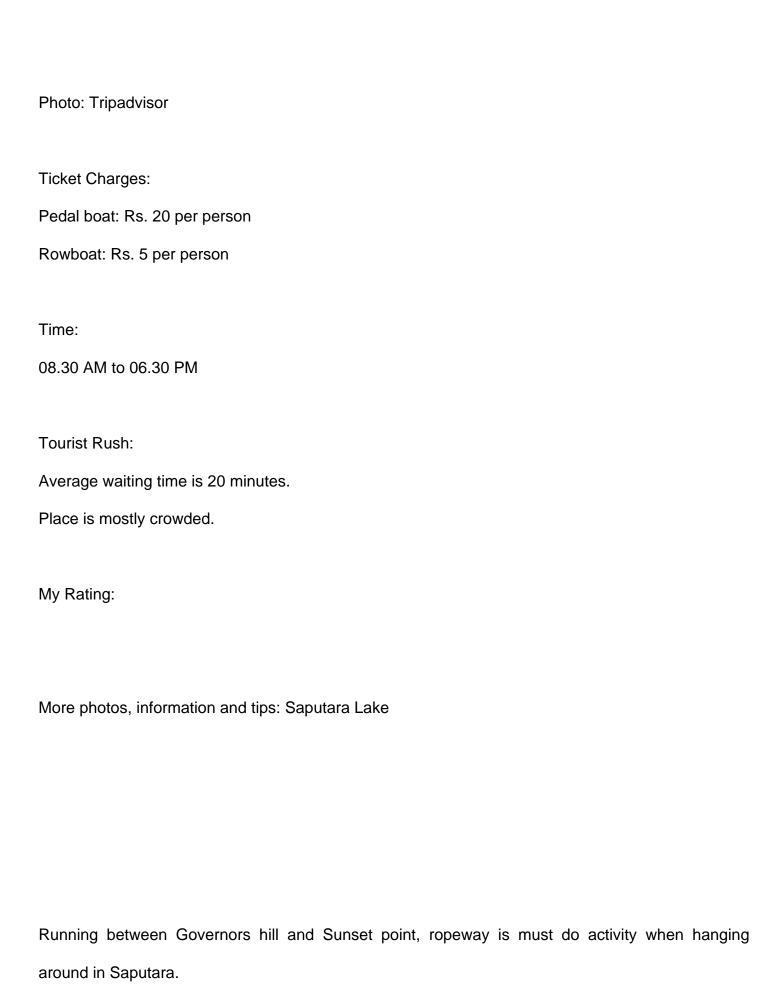
Hill Stations in Gujarat

Campsites in Gujarat

Waterfalls in Gujarat

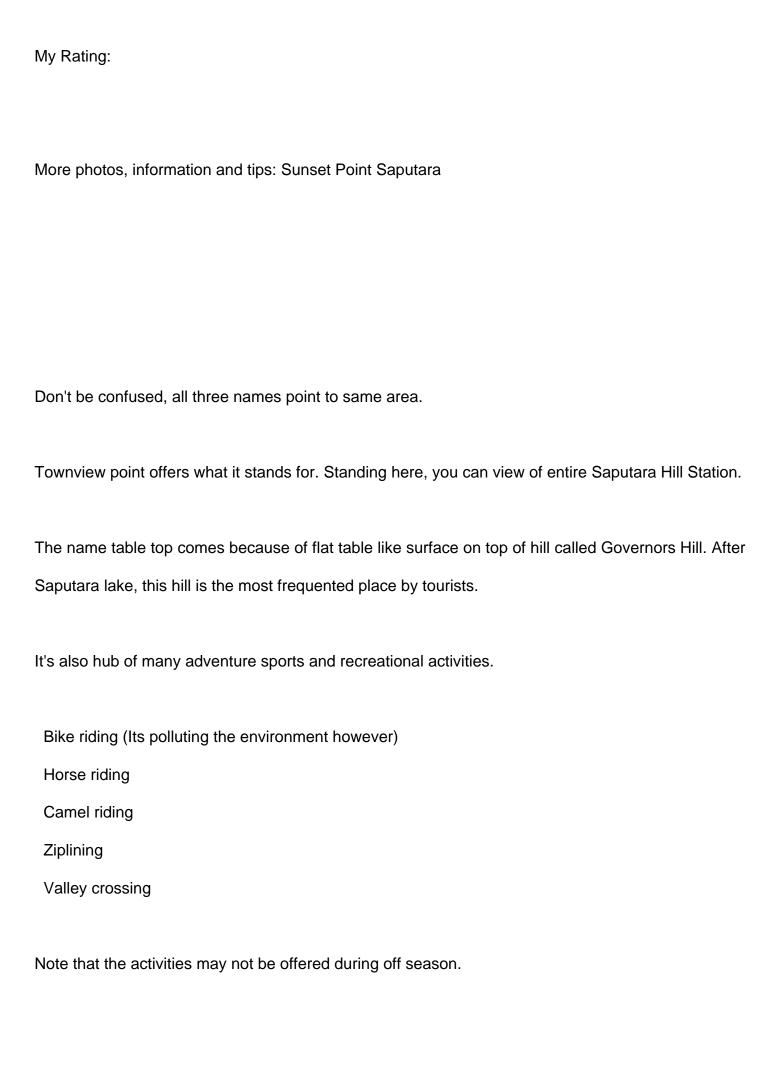
Productivity Apps for Android

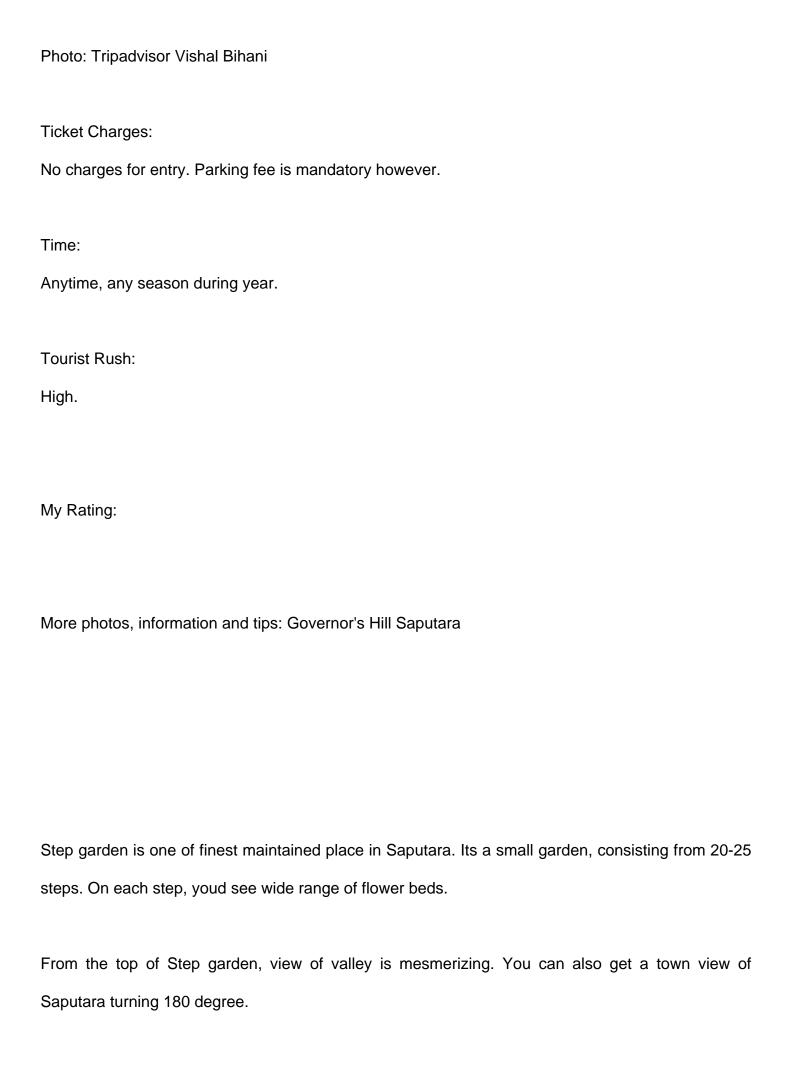




As far as I know, Saputara is one the few places in Gujarat where ropeway service is present.
Others are,
Pavagadh
Ambaji (Gabbar Hills)
Saputara Ropeway
The view of valley that you get from such height is mind boggling.
Photo:Gujarat Tourism
Ticket Charges:
Rs. 50 per person
T
Time:
Starts in morning when there are enough people for ferry.
Last car departs at 07.00 PM from Sunset point.
Last car departs at 07.00 FW Hom Sunset point.
Tourist Rush:
Usual waiting time during weekend is 20-30 minutes.
Normal days, no waiting.
My Rating:

More photos, information and tips: Saputara Ropeway
If youre planning to stay back till evening in Saputara, you shouldnt miss view of Sunset point.
This place can be best enjoyed when theres no crowd around, so better to go off season time. Avoid
weekends, holidays and festivals and you shall find this place serene.
You can't take your car all the way to top. You either need to walk for a kilometer -or- you can take
ropeway ride from Table Top point and reach here.
Photo: Tripadvisor Jenish Parmar
Ticket Charges:
No charges.
Time:
Anytime. Of course, evening time is the best.
Tourist Rush:
Average.





For photography, this place is heaven.
Photo: Tripadvisor lamSangram
Ticket Charges:
Free.
Time:
Morning 10 to evening 6
Tourist Rush:
Moderate.
My Rating:
More photos, information and tips: Step Garden Saputara
A place for early birds!
This point matches with Sunset pointof Saputara hill station. You need to park your car around 1 km
from the peak point and then trek to the point. For aged ones, this trek in the morning might be

difficult.
This place is underdeveloped so you won't find any tourism activity here. Carry water/food with you.
Photo: Tripadvisor wayne2709
Ticket Charges:
None.
Time:
Sunrise time. Morning 05.30 - 06.30 AM.
Tourist Rush:
Low.
My Rating:
More photos, information and tips: Sunrise Point Saputara
Tribal museum displays Adivasi (People of Dang area) history of the Dang region. Itgives an idea
about culture of local people and their lifestyle.

Saputara museum craves renovation and maintenance.
The entire museum can be completed within an hour. Most of the artifacts displayed are self explanatory and dont need any extra knowledge.
Needless to say, this place is only for the interested ones. If you had struggled in Social Science subject in school days, museum is not for you! :P
Photo: Tripadvisor Shashikant2014
Ticket Charges:
Rs. 5
Time:
Morning 10 AM to Evening 5 PM
Tourist Rush:
Moderate.
My Rating:
More photos, information and tips: Saputara Tribal Museum

Lake garden is located exactly next to Saputara lake.
Garden is lush green and maintained pretty well. It has nice benches to seat/relax and walking trails.
Evening would be best time to spend time here with family.
Also a good place for photography.
Photo: Tripadvisor KhatriRocks
Ticket Charges:
Free.
Time:
Morning 10.00 AM to Evening 06.00 PM
Tourist Rush:
High during weekends. Average otherwise.
My Rating:
More photos, information and tips: Saputara Lake Garden

A place for the trekker inside you!
The ancient fort is stationed in Mulher village, Nasik district, Maharashtra. As Hatgad is 3 km from Saputara, many tourists visit this fort as a short excursion.
Its flatten hill-top is around 200 m from ground. Sky touching height and breezing atmosphere makes Hatgad an all season trekking place as well as local weekend trip destination. Though, Hatgadh fort looks best in monsoon season.
Photo: Ashwin Bardoliwala
Ticket Charges:
None.
Time:
Monsoon is the best season.
Tourist Rush:
Low.
My Rating:

More photos, information and tips: Hatgadh For Salher
Rose Garden, as the name depicts, should have lots of roses right?
Partially, it has roses but nothing that makes you say "Wow!"
Notified Area of Saputara used an innovative approach for this rose garden. They started a scheme named, Smriti Gulab in which visitors can plant a rose in garden with their name.
Ticket Charges:
Free entry.
Time:
Morning 10 AM to Evening 6 PM.
Tourist Rush:
Low.
My Rating:

More photos, information and tips: Rose Garden Saputara
The center is small and gives information about how honey is harvested.
This place is near to Saputara lake. Its opposite of parking of notified area. As far as I can remember, theres no entry fee whatsoever.
Along with the education tour, they also see honey commercially.
Ticket Charges:
None.
Time:
Place is open during day time. However, you might find no one in the center sometimes.
Tourist Rush:
Low.
My Rating:

More photos, information and tips: Honey Bees Center
Nageshwar Mahadev Temple is a calm, peaceful and clean place. Overlooking Saputara lake, this place is a good spiritual place.
The temple is small, it has no entry fees and even though it is old, it is maintained very well.
Surroundings are clean too.
Saputara Lake garden is just besides temple.
Photo: Tripadvisor KhatriRocks
Ticket Charges:
None.
Time:
Morning 8.00 AM to Evening 06.30 PM
Tourist Rush:
Low.

My Rating:
More photos, information and tips:Nageshwar Mahadev Temple
Echo point offers one the best views of valley. Its a natural amphitheatre, geographical location of two hills resonates your audio waves.
To reach here, one need to trek for one and a half kilometer, so not many people visit this point.
If you like peace and want to stay away from crowd, go to Echo Point. (Couples! :D)
A track runs up to Sunrise Point, and then the same road twirls up to the Echo Point.
Photo: nivalink.com
Ticket Charges:
None.
Time:
Anytime.

Tourist Rush:
None.
My Rating:
More photos, information and tips: Echo Point Saputara
Artist village, also known as Gandharva Pure artist is an artistic place to see and buy tribal artifacts.
People who live in Dang area are known as Dangi. They have their own language and own vibrant
culture. One skill these Dangi culture inherently teaches to its people is painting and crafting.
Photo: Gujarat Tourism
Ticket Charges:
None.
Time:
Morning to evening. (No fixed timings, depends on tourist rush.)
Tourist Rush:

Less.
My Rating:
More photos, information and tips: Artist Village Saputara
Happy Stay!
Go ahead and enjoy Saputara to the fullest!
Of arread and enjoy daputara to the fullest:
I assure you, you'll have one of the best holidays of your life.
You can find list and book hotels in Saputara via:
MakeMyTrip (Recommended)
Cleartrip
Yatra

Was the article helpful?
This list is intact and is best to my knowledge. If I have missed something or anything is incorrect, do
point it out via comment below.
Nearby Places
Don Hill Station
Mahal Campsite
Girafalls, Wanarchod, Waghai
Waghai Botanical Garden
Janki Van Vansda

Janki Van, Bhinar, Unai, Gujarat - Forest Garden In Surat, Navsari Based On Ramayana

Janki Van is a planned forest developed by the Gujarat Social Forestry Department. Spreadover 10 acres, Janki Van is all set to become the next-big-thing in the Gujarat tourism circuit. Located in the village of Bhinar near Vansda, the forest has been designed on the Ramayana theme.

Janki Van has 50,000 trees of different species, thus claiming the title of 'tree library' amongst the Surat visitors.

UPDATE (26th Novemeber, 2015):

Janki Van has now become popular attraction in this area. Many many visitors are coming down here.

Video of Janki Van, Bhinar

Here's one travel video capturing essence of Janki Van in 2 minute footage. Have a walkthrough!

Shot by Kunj Dodiya

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uftXeYwNT8Y

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What to eat?

A. Forest department doesn't allow any commercial activity inside garden campus. There's a good restaurant exactly opposite Janki Van. Or else, the best choice would be to go to Vansda town. Vansda is 5 minutes from Janki Van and has many good food options.

Q. How to reach?

A. If you ever been to Saputara? Take route to Saputara.

If you're coming via Chikhli - Vansda road, take a left turn at Khadkala Chokdi and drive for a minute.

If you're coming via Bardoli - Unai - Vansda road then no need to take any turn. It'll be on right side after you drive 10 minutes from Unai.

Q. Where to stay?

A. As I mentioned, no commercial activities in Janki Van. You can't stay there. Many decent guest houses are available in Vansda, you can stay there. If you're planning to stay in Dang, Saputara, Ahwa, Campsites or Don Hill Station, check this article.

Q. What are the timings?
A. Janki Van remains closed on Monday formaintenance. In normal days, 10 AM to 6 PM, depending
on the sunlight.
Q. For whom the place is for?
A. For everyone, kids, adults, oldies. It has something for every age group.
Q. What are nearby destinations?
A. Scroll down this article and you'll find it.
Q. How to contact me?
A. Please note than I'm not a travel agent or official contact person. I live nearby Janki Van and thus
posted photos and information here, to help tourists like you. I'm not affiliated with anyone or any
agency.Contact details
Q. Where to find basic amenities like CNG?
A. Head over to Vansda. Vansda has everything you'll be needing.
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

I live in Vansda, which is just 10 minutes from the forest garden. Though, I haven't been fortunate to visit the Janki Van, my parents and younger brother visited the destination on the inauguration ceremony, held in August in the presence of Gujarat CM Anandiben Patel.

In this article, I will share photos and interesting information about the Janki Van. The place has enormous potential to become a major tourist attraction for visitors of Saputara Hill Station or Don in Dang.

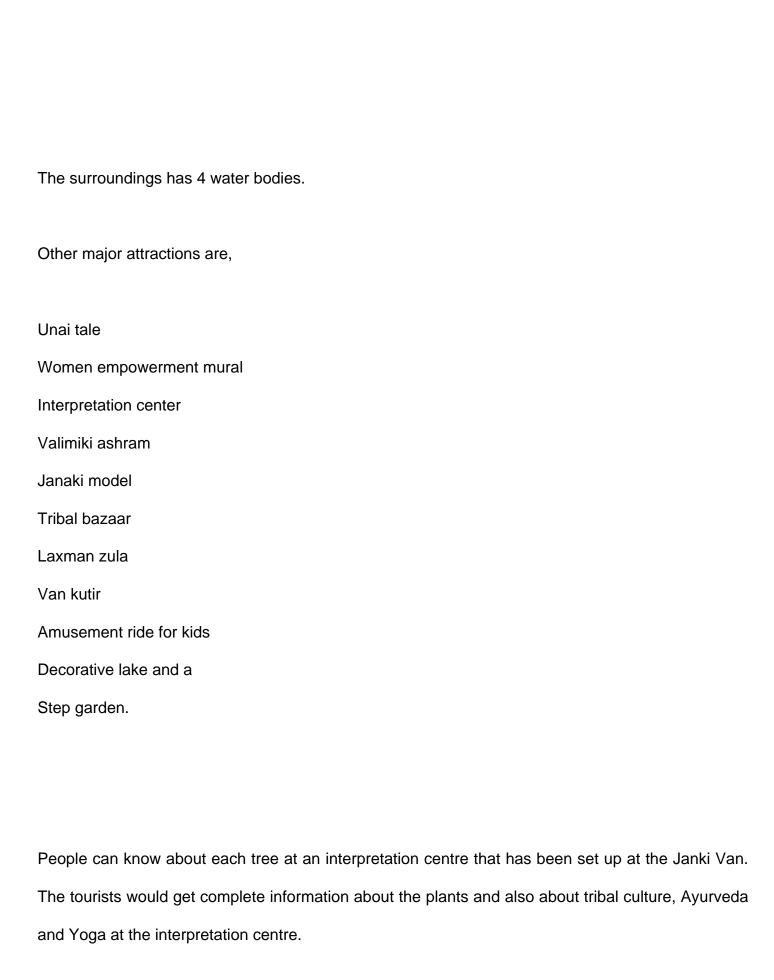
Janki Van - Etymology

Janaki is related with Sita Mata from Ramayana.

Janaki van has been developed in nine hectare area on Ramayana theme. It is because this particular pocket of south Gujarat has age-old connection to Ram and Sita.

Dang district located next to Vansda was originally known as Dandakaranya area of Ramayana period. Dang is believed birth place of Lord Hanuman and there's Mandir also situated in a village which is believed Hanumanji's birth place.

There's one village called Subir which has been named after Shabri.
Popular pilgrim destination Unai is believed the place where Shri Ram hit the land with his arrow to arrange hot water so that Sitaji could take bath.
Janki Van - What's In There?
The forest garden has,
Sindur van Chandan van
Dashmularisht van
Ashok vatika
Aamra van
Bilwa van
Panchvati van
Rashi-kshetra van
Naagraha van areas.



A real tree library, isn't it?

Food Accomodation @ Janki Van

Food

Food is the one area in which the forest falls short. Apart from local vendors, there's nothing like a cafeteria or canteen inside campus. One good restaurant is situated exactly in front of Janki Van.

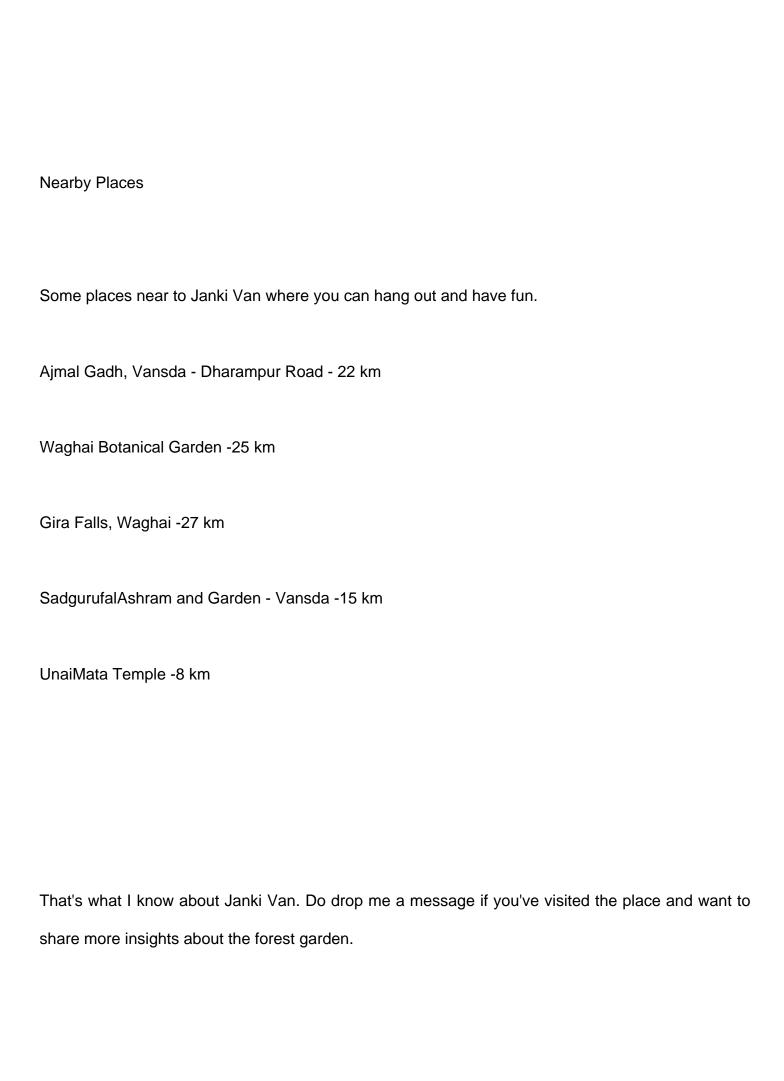
But, but, it's totally fine!

Reason is, the town Vansda. Vansdahas a dozen of good hotels and restaurants. They serve decent quality food. Vansdais 10 minutes drive from Janki Van.

Moreover, if you're heading towards Saputara, Dang (Gujarat), Nasik, Shirdi (Maharastra) then this is the last major town where you can get almost all the facilities. Towns after Vansda are still undeveloped. A CNG pump is also there in Vansda, it's the last one if you're headed towards Dang.

Accomodation

It's not actually required. Because Janki Van is not a standalone tourist destination. It's a stop-and-rejuvenate tree library where you stop for a couple of hours to relieve from excessive journey hours.



Enjoy some more photos!

Personal Notes
Take your kids to Janki Van. They will love it!
As Janki Van is inaugurated in August 2015, it's still relatively unknown to most tourists.
I hope that forest department maintains it well, otherwise an awesome potential destination would
be shattered.
All photos and information from younger brother, Kunj Dodiya. Huge thanks!

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Vansda National Park

Padamdungari Campsite

Ajmal Gadh

List of Campsites in Gujarat

9diad: Decoding 9 Lakes, 9 Exits, 9 Stepwells of Nadiad!

Kapileshwar Mahadev Temple Pij

Photos of Kapileshwar Mahadev Temple I took in one of trips...

Related to Nadiad: 9diad - Exploring City of 9! Santram Deri **Canal Collection** Mai Mandir Nadiad Hari Om Ashram Nadiad

Lions Garden At Chikhli, Gujarat

Some pass time photos of Lions Garden Chikhli.

If you're reading this line, then I'm sure you randomly ended up on this page! Well, warm welcome to my blog in that case!

One day, I went to Chikhli for shopping. Mom entered in Aashirwad store. If you're familiar with Chikhli, you must very well know Aashirwad. For those who don't know, its a famous apparel store in Chikhli town.

I had an hour of free time to wander around. I decided to rest my body on the benches of Lions Garden. Lions Garden is exactly in front of Aashirwad. Chikhli Gram Panchayat and Chikhli Police Station is also one minute distance from Lions Garden.

Lions Garden is being managed by Chikhli Gram Panchayat, though if you look at the current condition of park, it's all torn out.

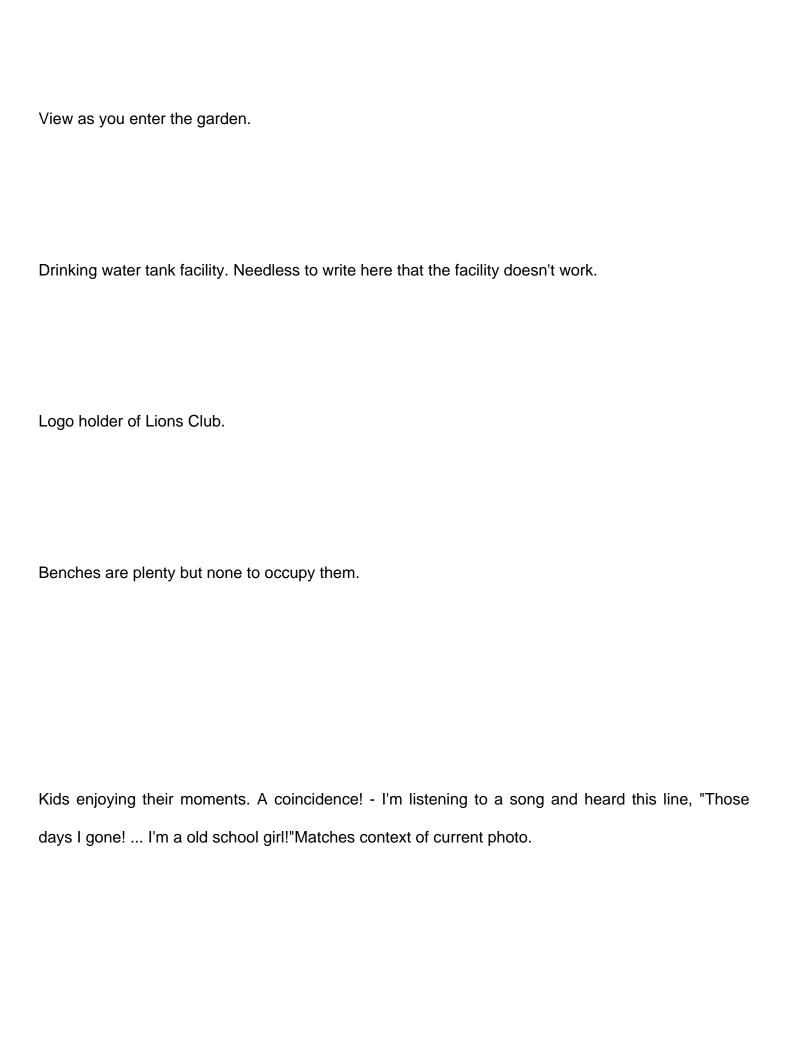
PerhapsChikhli Panchayat is not sparing money for maintenance because not many people are visiting the garden.

Perhapspeople are not visiting the garden due to poor maintenance by Chikhli Panchayat.

Anyway, that's a deadlock!:)

Inaugurated in 1986 for public, the current Lions Garden has a dozenful of benches to seat. Some

playing setups so kids can enjoy their evenings. Almost entire garden is covered by green lawn. But
again, maintenance is an issue. Lawn does sound sexy but actually the floor is green - yellow
mixture! :P
Nevertheless, development of public space isn't the concern of these days' government. Vote bank
politics and blank hyperficial talks is all they have in their bucket.
Chaoral
Cheers!
Darpan
Let's have a look at some photos of Lions Garden Chikhli
Let's have a look at some photos of Lions Garden Official
The front entry gate
It's made open to public in 1985. Celebrating it's 30 year anniversary this year!
Garden timing is evening 5 to 9.



Tata!
Related Articles:
Photo Essay: Valsad Railway Station
Soldhara Eco Point
Kukeri: A Village of Teachers

How to Use Your Smartphone Smartly?

Logging Life

Mai Mandir Nadiad

Photos of Mai Mandir Nadiad I took in one of trips.

Mai Mandir is a must visit place to visit if you're in Nadiad. Elegantly crafted structure, huge statue of Mahadev and best view of Nadiad city -- all is present at Mai Mandir temple.

More from Nadiad: 9diad - Exploring City of 9! Santram Deri Nadiad

Galteshwar Mahadev Dakor

Photo Essay: Valsad Railway Station

Epic Story: Earth 0.0

Santram Deri Nadiad: Serene Places to Visit in Nadiad

Photo showcase: Santram Deri Nadiad: Serene Places to Visit in Nadiad.

Photos by:Pramod Mali.

Related Articles on Nadiad:

9diad - Exploring City of 9!

DDU on Quora

Mai Mandir Nadiad

Best of 2015

Best of 2015: Travel

Soldhara Village, Chikhli, Gujarat: Eco Point Photos

Soldhara is a nifty village 10 km from Chikhli town of Gujarat. My visit to Soldhara village was totally accidental.

My younger brother had his 11th Science exam center in a high school near Solahara. (My bad memory! I couldn't recollect name of the highschool/village where he went to taking exams) I dropped him at school and then had 3 hours to spare.

What to do - What to do! I opened Google Maps and looked at area around. I saw a text marker saying, Soldhara Eco Point. I was a bit amazed to see that marker, Eco Point in here?

Alright! Let's head on to Soldhara and that was the time I discovered Soldhara.

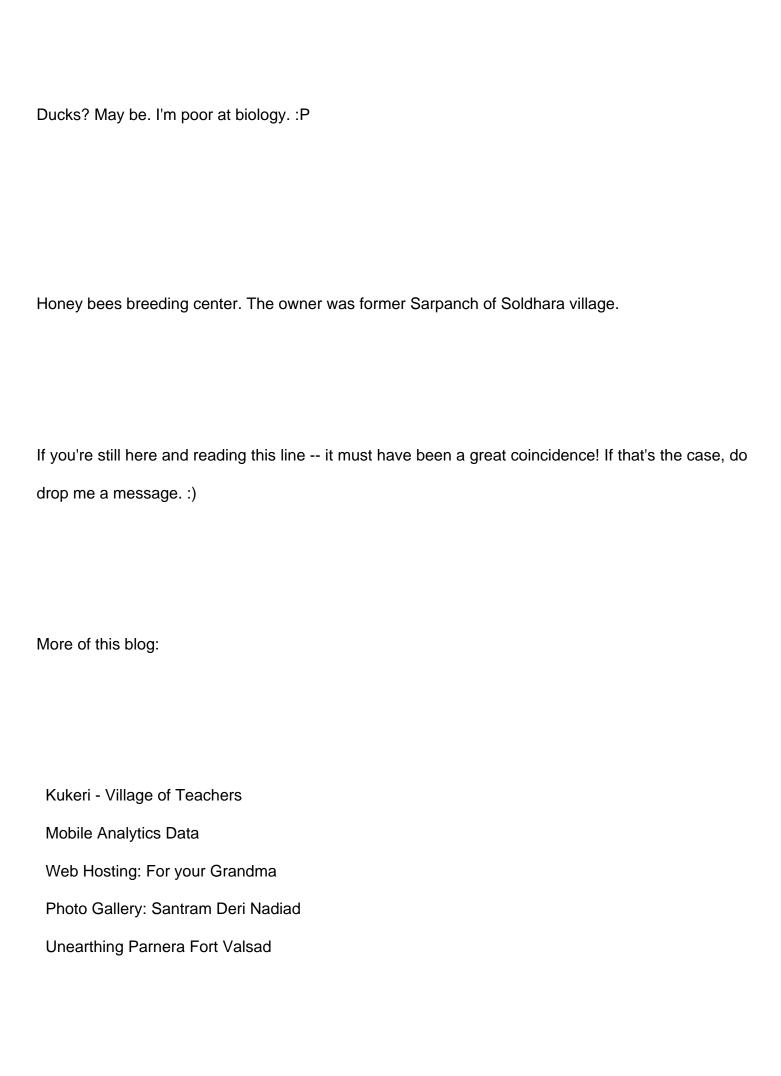
Three cheers to Soldhara Gram Panchayat who had taken such a noble initiative of developing eco point. As I said, it's rare to see such kind of developments in villages.

Eco point is developed on edge of lake. There's one boat in the lake too for boating. The boat has unorthodox style of moving forward and backward though!

Lake has good walk way all the way round on its sides. Entire round about trip of lake takes around 15 minutes.

Along with walkway, a nice sitsto relax and chill out too. I saw few school kids coming near Eco Point and playing games. (Ambli - Pimpli? Yeah, that's what we used to call it in childhood days.)

Enough writing, have some photos!
Couple of cute rabbits are there as well
The unorthodox boating I talked about at Soldhara Eco Point
Walkway around Soldhara lake
The lake as seen from the opposite side
The last als seen from the appeared order



Vahanvati Sikotar Mata Khambhat - Photo Tour, Story and History

Vahanvati Sikotar Mata temple is located 7 km from Khambhat town in Ralej village. Built few meter from seashore, Sikotar Mata temple is a scenic holy place. I'll talk about history of the place, Sikotar Mata story and will take you to a photo tour.

How We Ended Up At Sikotar Mata

We visited Sikotar Mata without any prior planning.

In 7th semester of B. Tech in Computer Engineering from DDIT, Nadiad, I hadn't spent any weekend sitting in room watching movies! :)

It was one bright Sunday morning. So I thought of going somewhere..

I had visited all places nearby Nadiad and Anand. All of a sudden, I had a thought of Khambhat. I called Smit Patel, asked him if he's ready. He is always ready!

Within an hour, we were seen biking on Anand - Khambhat road. I liked the road.On the both sides of road, you'd find row of trees. Breezing air coming over from fields is an add on.

Oh! I still haven't told you how we ended up visiting Sikotar Mata!

So, we were in Khambhat city. Now what?! We asked a shopkeeper, what are some places to visit

in Khambhat city.
He told us to visit Vahanvati Sikotar Mata Temple, saying that sea is nearby temple and we'd enjoy
the views. That's it! All weneeded was one hint and we set off for Vahanvati Mata.
Entrance at Sikotar Maa
Location of Sikotar Maa Temple and How to Reach
Vahanvati Maa temple is situated near Arabian seashore in Ralej village, which is 10 minutes drive
from Khambhat. As I mentioned above, the location is quite scenic.
, I
Distance Matrix:
_
From
То
Distance in km / Time in hr
Khambhat
Sikotar Maa

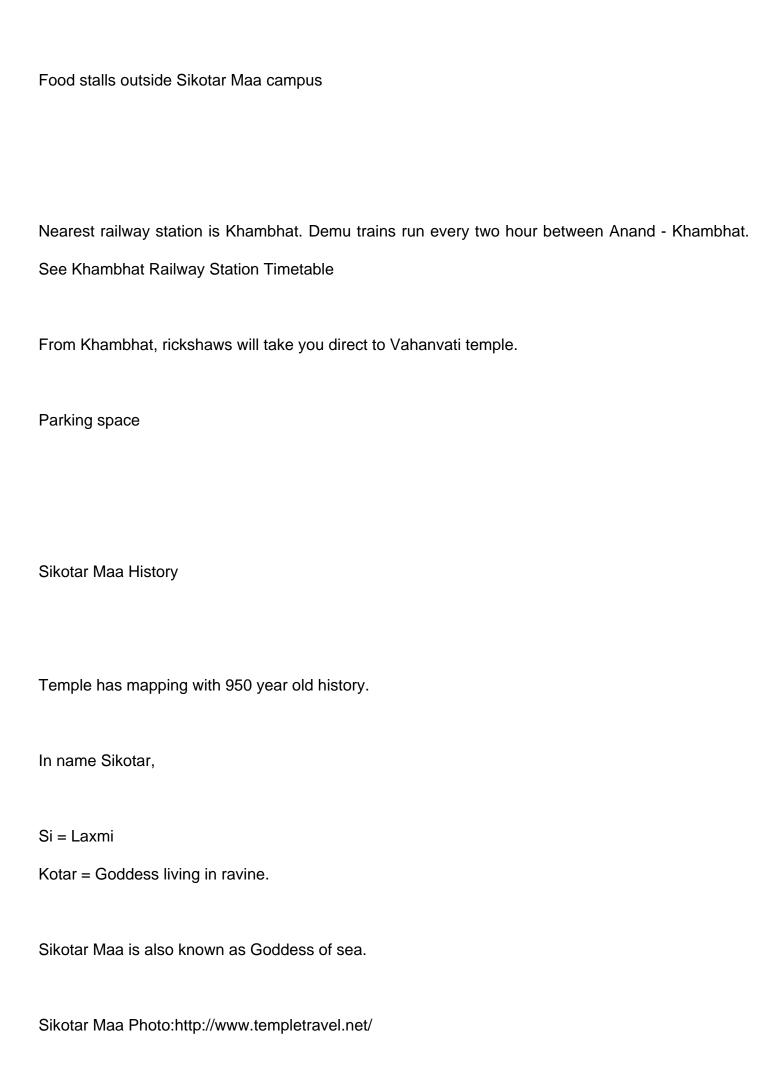
60 km / 1.5 hour	
Nadiad	
Sikotar Maa	
60 km / 1.5 hour	
Vadodara	
Sikotar Maa	
70 km / 1.5 hour	
Ahmedabad	
Sikotar Mata	
100 km / 2.5 hour	

Plenty of GSRTC buses run to-from Khambhat.

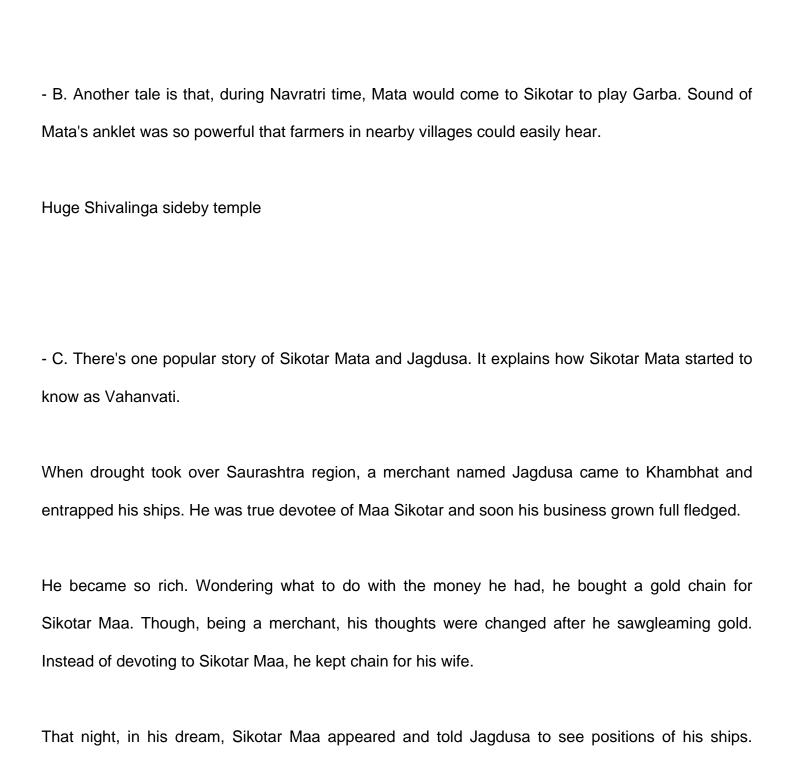
10 km / 20 minutes

Anand

Sikotar Mata



Years ago when Khambhat was known as Trambavati nagari, Vahanvati Maa is believed to be inhabiting in Khambhat.
Maa Sikotara Vahanvati is Kulvardhini of Rabari Samaj.
Story time now!
Vahanvati Sikotar Mata Story
Sikotar maa has many stories. Let's listeach story one by one:
- A. On the back side of Vahanvati temple, there's a copper pillar.
Legend says that back in time when ships would lost from their way, they would pray for Vahanvati
Mata. Soon after, a lamp will be lightened up on the copper pillar and taking directions, ships would
their destination safely.



He realized the grave mistake he made and immediately apologised Sikotar Maa. Kind Maa

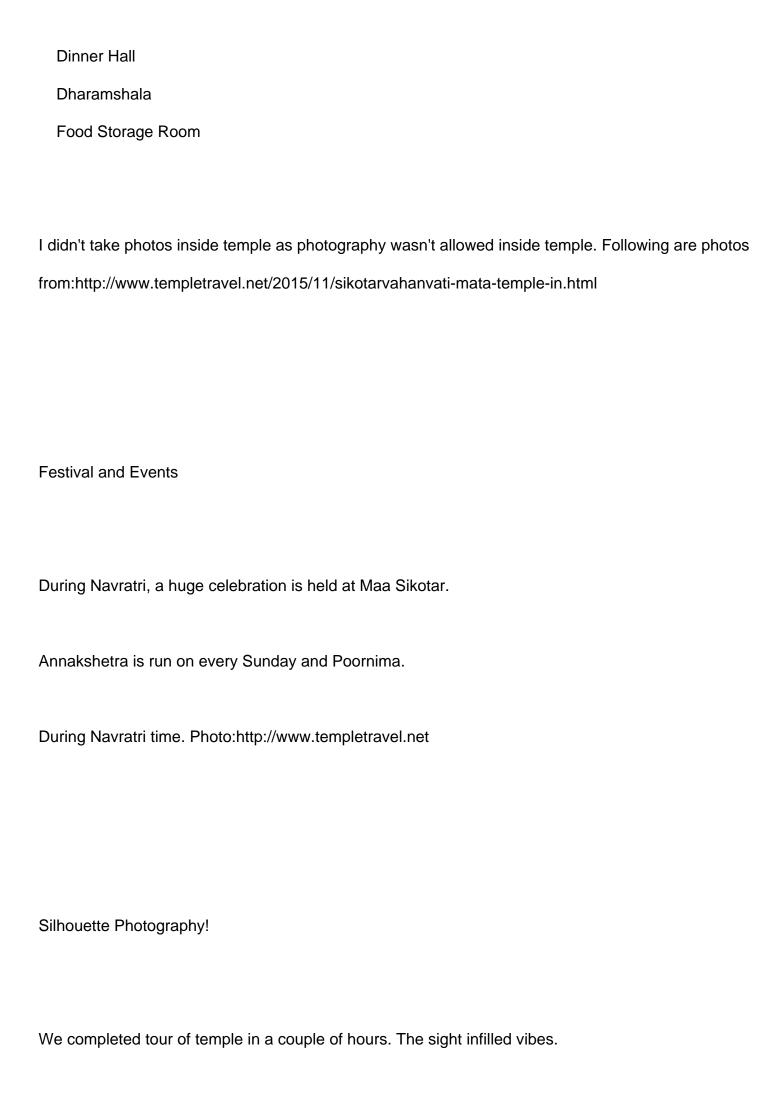
Hastily, Jagdusa came out only to see his ships sinking in sea.

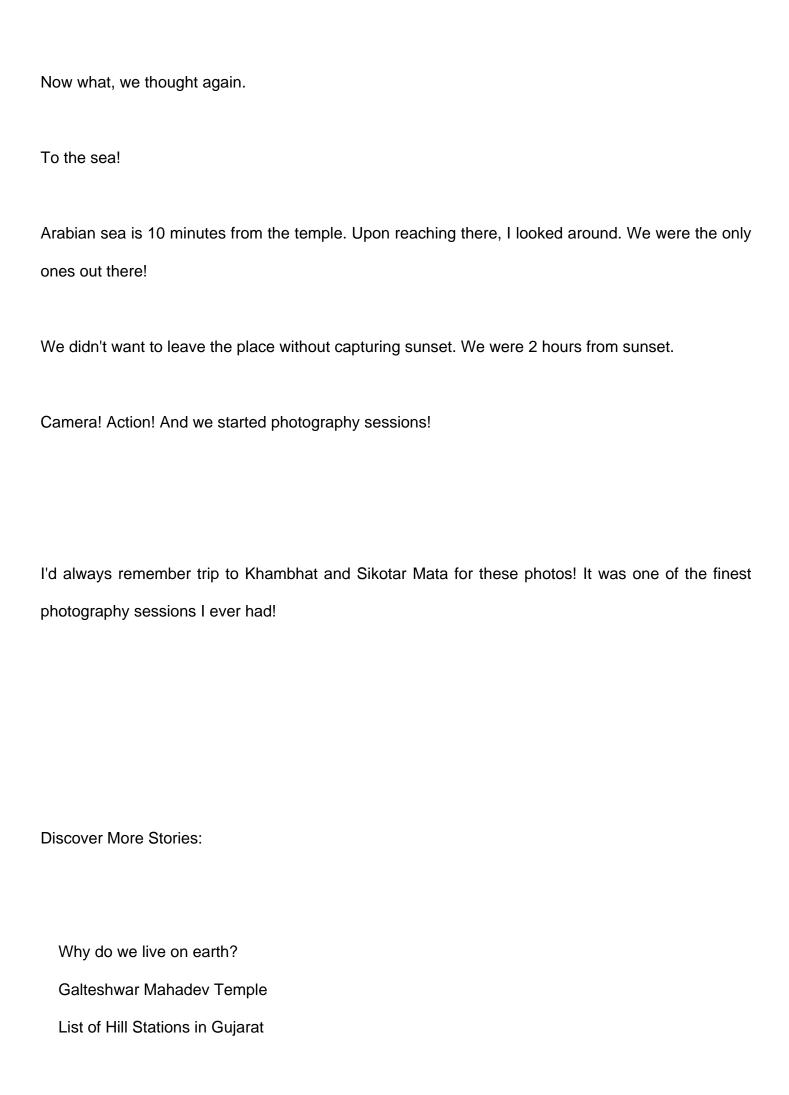
accepted his apologies and saved his ships from sinking.

From this incident, Goddess is regarded as Vahanvati.

- D. Vahanvati Maa is also known to solve infertility issues of devotees. There have been many examples of devotees pledging to Maa and Sikotar Maa helping to come over their situations.
Courtesy:http://panchalshailesh.blogspot.in/2011/11/ralej-ni-sikotar-mataji-ane-jagdusa.html
View of Arabian sea from temple platform
Photos of Vahanvati Temple Campus
The grand campus has,
Chachar Chok
Garba Mandap
Cultural Hall Bench for Rest

Garden for Kids





Best of 2015

Junaraj Eco Cottage

Zarwani Waterfalls Rajpipla, Gujarat

Image Credits: Nischal Sharma

Zarvani waterfalls are located near Shoolpaneshwar Sanctury Narmada in Map. Addressed also as
Zarwani, the waterfalls is a must visit place in Rajpipla Gujarat.
Content for Zarvani waterfalls is being updated.
I will update this post with photos and travel information of the place soon.
Stay tuned!

Shiv Ghat Waterfalls, Ahwa Dangs (Small Fall)

Shiva Ghat is 10 minutes from Ahwa, Dang district headquarters. No extra driving efforts are needed

to visitthis fall as it falls directly on the Ahwa Waghai road. The name Shiva comes from the temple

nearby the fall.

Now, Shiv Ghat place exactly a waterfall. It's just a small water stream falling. As the place is

located on the main road, tourists stop their vehicles at this place.

More Waterfalls at: List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

Location: 10 km from Ahwa

Water Flow: June January

Accessibility: Easy

Tourist Rush: Average

Food: None and Not Required

Reaching to Bottom: Possible

The Big List of Places to Visit In/Near Nadiad

I pursued my B. Tech in Computer Engineering from DDIT, Nadiad. That allowed me to spend good 4 years in Nadiad.

I'm an explorer, I like roaming around looking for sights. It goes without saying that I explored Nadiad city to its fullest. Below is a big list of places to visit while you're in Nadiad.

Canal Road in Winter Mornings

NE1 Over-bridge in night

Santram Deri

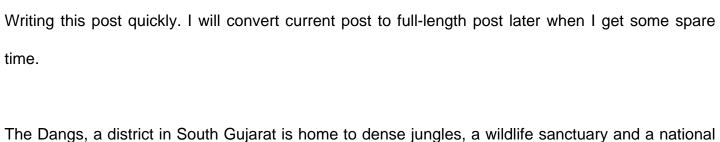
Santram Mandir(Yes, Mandir and Deri both are different)

Pij Lake Swaminarayan Temple

Mai Mandir

This post in not a full length. I will add more content in photos in upcoming days.

The List of Campsites in Dang



The Dangs, a district in South Gujarat is home to dense jungles, a wildlife sanctuary and a national park. Along with all this nature beauty, it is also home to 3 eco-tourism campsites. Listing them below. Click on the campsite title to get all information about the place:

1. KiladNature Education Center, Waghai

2. Mahal Eco Campsite, Purna

3. Devinamal Eco Campsite, Ahwa

Jodiya Waterfalls, Bilpudi, Dharampur

When I was preparing list of waterfalls in Gujarat, I came to know about Jodiya waterfalls, Bilpudi, Dharampur. At that time, Bilpudi waterfalls were unknown to most people. Little did I know they would turn out as major attraction in monsoon 2016.

Bilpudi waterfalls are origin of Swargvahini River, which passes through Dharampur town.

Updating this article with good photos and more details to help out travelers.

Sunset View

Quick Facts of Bilpudi Waterfalls

Location: 12 km from Dharampur, on BarumalRoad, 2 km from main road

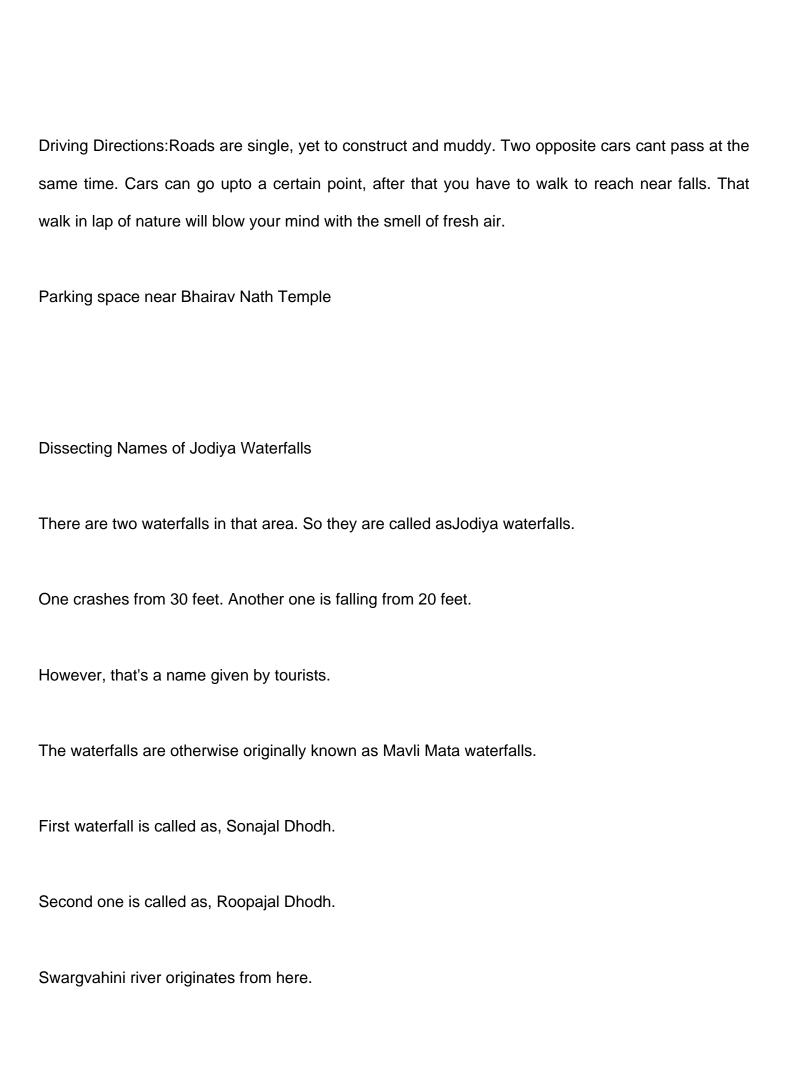
Water Flow: June NovemberMid

Accessibility: Medium

Tourist Rush: High on Weekends, Less otherwise

Food: None

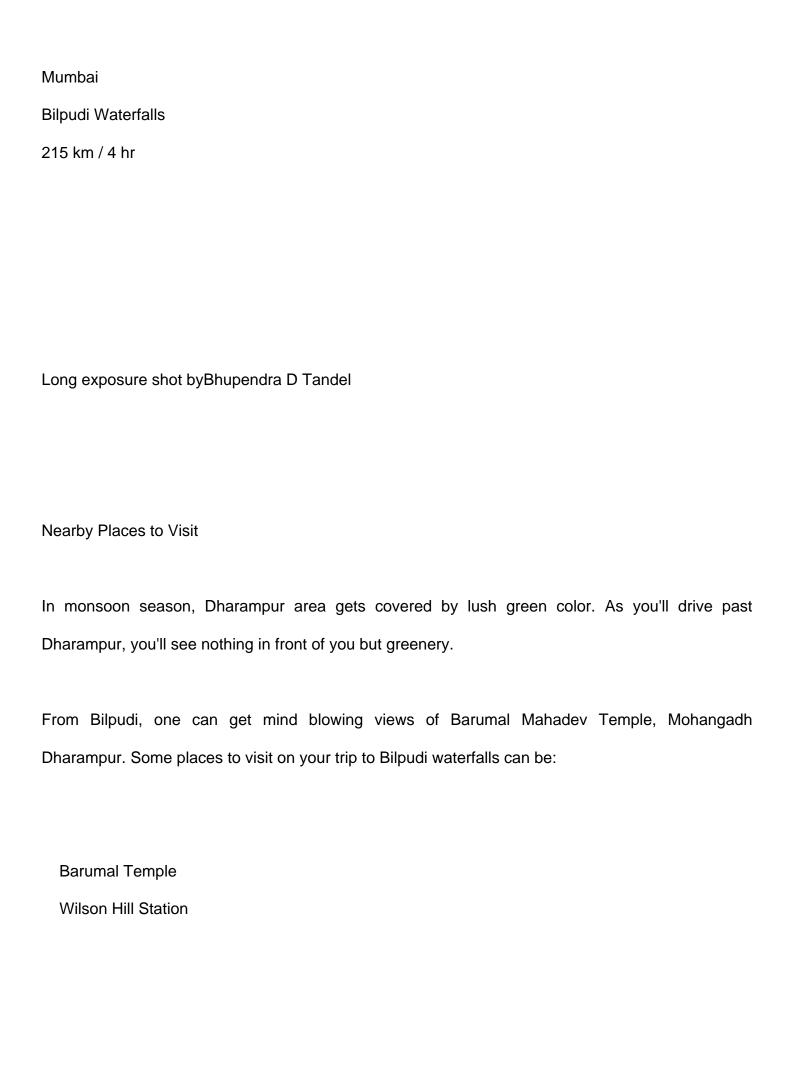
Reaching to Bottom: Possible



Location and How to Reach
Mavli Mata waterfalls come under boundry of Bilpudi village.
Bilpudi is a small village, around 10 km from Dharampur town.
To reach Bilpudi, take route towards Wilson Hills (Barumal Temple). Drive for a km and then ask any local for route.
Sona Roopa waterfalls are 2 km from main road. Do note that the road leading to Jodiya Waterfalls from main road is in pathetic condition.
Unless you've 4 wheel drive vehicle, it will be a good decision to keep your vehicle behind and walk for 2 km.
Tourists showering under Jodiya falls
Distance Matrix:
From
То

Dharampur Bilpudi Waterfalls 10 km / 15 min Valsad Bilpudi Waterfalls 40 km / 1 hr Navsari Bilpudi Waterfalls 70 km / 1 hr 30 min Wilson Hills Bilpudi Waterfalls 25 km / 45 min Surat Bilpudi Waterfalls 100 km / 2 hr 15 min

Approx distance in km/Time in hr



Mohan Gadh	
Parnera Hills	
Also checkout this travelogue: Monsoon Trip to Bildha Village	
View of Dharampur town and Mohan Gadh	
This article is part of:List of Waterfalls in Gujarat	
Photos	taken
from:https://www.facebook.com/Bilpudi-Mavli-Mata-Waterfalls-Hills-1028258153864439/	
from:https://www.facebook.com/Bilpudi-Mavli-Mata-Waterfalls-Hills-1028258153864439/	
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from:https://www.facebook.com/Bilpudi-Mavli-Mata-Waterfalls-Hills-1028258153864439/ Related Articles:	
Related Articles:	
Related Articles: Gira Waterfalls	



Kevdi Eco Tourism Campsite - Kevdi, Chhota Udepur, Vadodara

Clarification needed for Kevdi.

There are two campsites in Gujarat having same name, Kevdi. One is in near Vadodara and another is near Surat. Refer to this map for more clarification. Information below is for Kevdi Eco Campsite near Vadodara.

Location: Road connecting Jambughoda Sanctuary and Ratanmahal Sanctuary, SH62, in Vadodara

Route: Vadodara Dabhoi Bodeli Tejgadh Zoz Kevdi back (Approx.distance from Vadodara 132 kms)

Booking Contact:

Deputy Conservator of Forest

Chhota Udepur Division

Chhota Udepur

Phone (02669) 232032 / 232303

Email: dcfchhotaudepur@gmail.com

Contact Person at the Campsite: Mr.Jethabhai Parmar 09879393733

Vadhvana Wetland & Eco Campsite Near Dabhoi, Vadodara

This irrigation reservoir and wetland located 10 kms from Dabhoi 20 kms from the Jambughoda village, is the water source for 25 nearby villages, and a popular birdwatching site.

Location: Vadhvana, Dabhoi, Vadodara

Booking Contact:

Chief Conservator of Forest

Vadodara Division

Kothi Building, Behind Raopura Police Station

Raopura, Vadodara 390001

Phone (0265) 2425136

Kanjeta Eco Campsite Near Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary

Kanjeta is a fully developed campsite situated inside the Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary in the Dahod district of Central Gujarat.

The main attraction is the sloth bear. This is the only campsite in central Gujarat area.

Location: Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary, Dahod, Central Gujarat

Route:

Vadodara Halol Pavagadh Devgadh Baria Village Dhanpur Kanjeta

Booking Contact:

Chief Conservator of Forest

Vadodara Division

Kothi Building, Behind Raopura Police Station

Raopura, Vadodara 390001

Phone (0265) 2425136

Contact Person at the Campsite:Mr.Bharatbhai Puar 09099130360 / 09712445812

More Info Photos:Ratanmahal Sloth Bear Sanctuary Campsite

Theres another campsite near Kanjeta. Udal Mahuda No information available but very near to Kanjeta (maximum for about 6 to 7 kms).

Source: Ketan I Mehta

Dhanpari Jambughoda - Eco Campsite and Wildlife Sanctuary

The campsite is near the Kada Dam and its a beautiful site to visit with a picturesque location and it also has a forest rest house. The campsite is surrounded by this magnificent forest.

Location: Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary, Panchmahal District, Gujarat.

Route: Route Vadodara Halol Pavagadh Jambughoda

Booking Contact:

Chief Conservator of Forest

Vadodara Division

Kothi Building, Behind Raopura Police Station

Raopura, Vadodara 390001

Phone (0265) 2425136

Contact Person at the Campsite:Mr.Manharbhai 09712480161

Bhat Eco Tourism Center, Shivrajpur, Jambughoda

Shivrajpur is on the way to Dhanpuri from Vadodara. View exact location at:https://goo.gl/maps/jYXzsKzWooG2

Location:Bhat, On Pavagadh Bodeli road, near Shivrajpur

Booking Contact:

Chief Conservator of Forest

Vadodara Division

Kothi Building, Behind Raopura Police Station

Raopura, Vadodara 390001

Phone (0265) 2425136

Source: Ketan I Mehta

Photos ofBhat Eco Tourism Center, Shivrajpur, Jambughoda

Image Credits 1: Rupsing Rana

Image Credits 2: Haseeb Shaikh

Targol Eco Campsite Center in Jambughoda

Targol campsite is clubbed into Jambughoda Wildlife Sanctuary. View exact location at:https://goo.gl/maps/sVqjNEEGfXK2

Location: Targol, In Jambughoda Sanctuary, Vadodara

Route:

Route1 Vadodara Halol Pavagadh Jambughoda.

On the way, just 5 kms away before you reach Zand Hanuman (Jambughoda), there is a diversion for Targol Eco Campsite for another 09 kms from this diversion.

Route-2 Vadodara Waghodia Totarmana Ratanpur Sagadra Acchali back.

Booking Contact:

Chief Conservator of Forest

Vadodara Division

Kothi Building, Behind Raopura Police Station

Raopura, Vadodara 390001

Phone (0265) 2425136

Contact Person at the Campsite:Mr.Mahendra Baria 09979761250

Source: Ketan I Mehta

Photos of Targol Eco Tourism Education Center Campsite

Image Credits: Hiten Trivedi

Mangadh Hill, Dahod



Mangad	lh Hill Sta	ation Dahod G	ujarat 2						
More in	formation	n about Manç	gadh hill ca	an be f	ound at Da	hod dis	trict adminis	stration's of	ificial
website:	https://da	hoddp.gujarat	.gov.in/daho	od/englis	sh/jillavishe/h	istorical-	·places/man	gadh-hill.htr	n
Also	an	excellent	article	is	written	by	Pravin	Shah	in
		w.readgujarat				•	TTAVIII	Onan	""
Cover of	noto cred	its:Jitendra Su	thar						
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Ninai Falls - Waterfall in Dediapada, Gujarat

Ninai is a waterfall in Dediapada taluka of Narmada district in the Indian state of Gujarat.

Ninai is located off State Highway 163 (Gujarat). It is approximately 35 km from Dediapada and approximately 143 km from Surat. Nearest railway station is Bharuch which is around 125 km away and nearest airport is Surat.

Height

The height of Ninai falls is more than 30 feet.

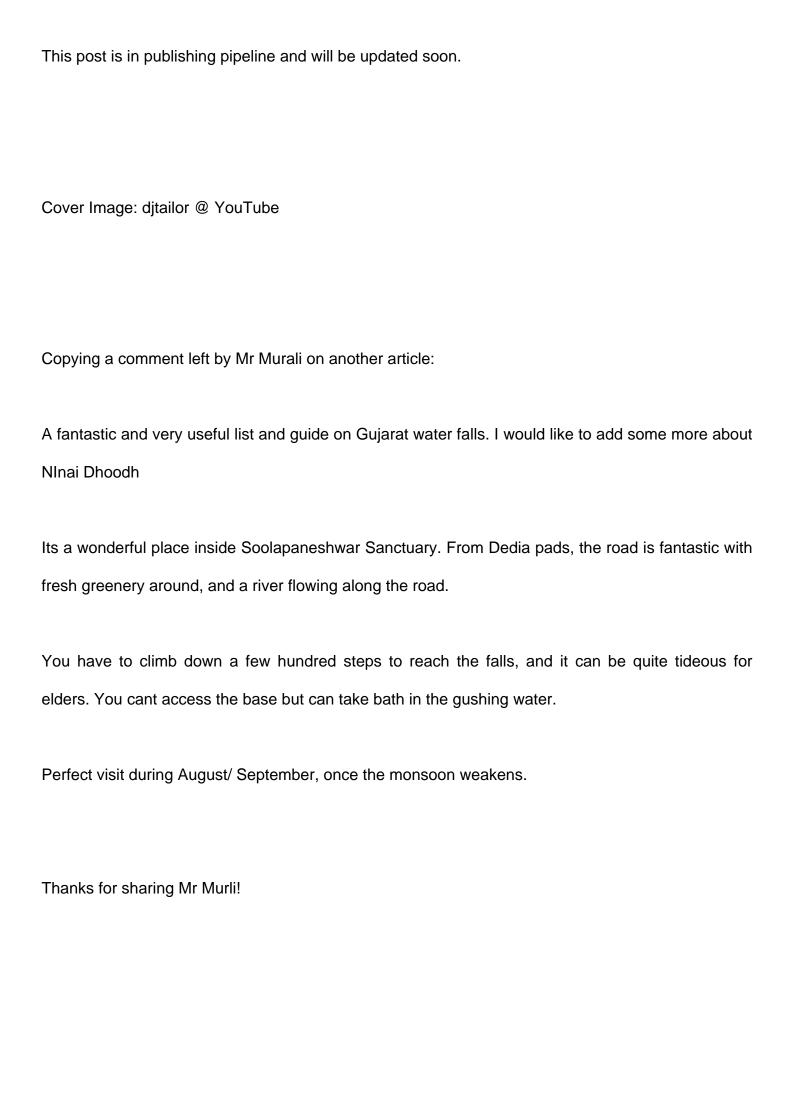
Ninai Falls has tremendous beauty around it. It is situated in Dediapada's beautiful forest ranges besides Shoolpaneshwar wildlife sanctuary.

The Narmada district collectorate is promoting the Sardar Sarovar dam and its surrounding tribal region as possible eco-tourism hotspots. The plan includes the Ninaighat waterfalls also.

Reference: Wikipedia

There's one page on Facebook, named as Discover Dediapada which promotes tourism in Dediapada area. Check it out at:https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverDediapada

Blog by Urvish has also excellent info:https://urvsh.wordpress.com/tag/ninai-waterfall/



Khuniya Mahadev Falls Near Pavagadh, Vadodara

Khuniya Mahadev Waterfall is situated near Pavagadh behind a temple of Mahadev temple. The

place is not so popular and very few people visit it.

If you're on the trip to Pavagadh then after your descend from the top, you may visit this place.

I found a note from Mehul Bhadani on this place on his Flickr Album. Quoting him:

Khuniya Waterfalls is a must visit during monsoon / the Hindu month 'Shravan'. Do not take the

usual path from where most of the visitors are going to the temple and the waterfall. Instead walk all

the way from the water stream and you will enjoy every moment.

Going in group, having an extra pair of sandals or footwear will be helpful. Carry food, water for

drinking, extra pair of clothes, towels, separate plastic bags for garbage and putting your valuables

in case if it rains, umbrella etc. is advisable.

We saw empty packets of chips, food, water bottles etc. It is so sad that people are littering such a

heavenly place. It is my humble request to please carry garbage bags and at least put your empty

food packets and other waste items in there and throw it in dust bin when you go back on the main

road or some food highway restaurants. Do not litter and spoil this place.

Cover Image: Mehul Bhadani

Photos of Khuniya Falls

Mehul is an excellent photographer as well. Posting some of his photos of theKhaniya Mahadev Falls here. Credits and copyright is owned by him.

Video ofKhuniya Mahadev Waterfalls - Pavagadh

Gandharvapur Artist Village Saputara

Artist village, also known as Gandharvapur artist is an artistic place to see and buy tribal artifacts.

People who live in Dang area are known as "Dangi". They have their own language and own vibrant culture. One skill these Dangi culture inherently teaches to its people is painting and crafting.

When this place is open, you can also get a hands on experience on arts and crafts. Artist village Saputara is popular amongst arts schools. When I was there last time, there were three - four groups of architecture students learning crafting skills from adept local workers.

Artist village also provides super cheap accommodation in Saputara. If you're not so cheesy about extra facilities or high end services, stay at this place. In all, it won't cost you more than Rs. 500.

Artist village is located opposite to Saputara lake side.

Echo Point Saputara

Be prepared to break your legs if you're planning to visit echo point. It's a long walk and upon reaching there, forget that you'll get some food or water.

Notified area authorities have forgotten this place and it's not at all maintained. I recommend visiting this place only if you have lots of time to kill and nothing to do.

Photo: nivalink.com

Echo point has a couple of positive points too.

The view of valley you get from here is awesome.

As I said, you need to take a long route. Thus, even when Saputara is full of crowds, people tend not to visit this point. You can enjoy your moments alone in that case.

A track runs up to Sunrise Point, and then the same road twirls up to the Echo Point. It's a natural amphitheatre, geographical location of two hills resonates your audio waves.

Forest Log Hut Saputara

Forest Log Hut is a old-school architecture made entirely from wooden building blocks. Seeing this Log Hut, you will wish to have a house like this. It gives feeling of British Era.

Forest Log Hut has 5 rooms in total.3 rooms are on ground floor and 2 are on first floor.

Forest Log Hut is located on a hill, in front of Saputara Lake. This placing gives an awesome view of entire Saputara hill station.

I visited Forest Log Hut way back in 2009. Rooms were very clear and neatly maintained that time. Service is prompt.

Forest department of Gujarat manages and maintains this Log Hut. A point worth noting is: This is NOT a commercial place. You need to have recommendation from forest department to get a stay in here.

Stay is cheap as hell. Rs. 355/-. But again, if you're 'Aam Aadmi', you aren't in luck to stay in here.

Photos: tripadvisor.in

Governor's Hill Saputara

I wouldn't be wrong to declare Governor's hill as the hotspot of Saputara hill station.
After Saputara lake, this hill is the most frequented place by tourists. Governor's hill is known as Table Point as well as Townview Point.
Photo Credits: Vishal Bahani @ TripAdvisor
Some of the recreational activities this point offers:
Bike riding (Its polluting the environment however)
Horse riding
Camel riding
Ziplining
Valley crossing
Governor's hill is highly commercialized area of Saputara.

If you want to find serenity and stay away from crowd/hawkers skip this point from your itinerary of Saputara.

An unorthodox solution I'd like to offer is: Go to Sunrise point during evening hours. Sunrise point is yet to be commercialized.

Honey Bees Centre Saputara Ever wondered how honeys can make bee? :P Just checking if you're dreaming so much about Saputara or not. So, ever wondered how bees make honey? Photos Credits: KhatriRocks chetansachania @tripadvisor.in The center is small and gives information about how honey is harvested. One thing to note about

Sometimes, you'll get someone explaining you how honey is harvested, if he's a good guy, he'll

this Honey Bees Center: The places is kinda random.

open one of the square boxes and show you behind the scenes.

And sometimesyou won't find anyone there! All you would see is board of "Madhmakhi Uccher
Kendra" and few honeybees wandering here and there.
This place is near to Saputara lake. It's opposite of parking of notified area. As far as I can
remember, there's no entry fee whatsoever.
Along with, they also see honey commercially. I am not sure whether they actually sell pure honey
Along with, they also see honey commercially. I am not sure whether they actually sell pure honey or mixture of sugar and oil as we never bought it from there. Give it a shot if you want!

Nageshwar Mahadev Temple Saputara

Nageshwar Mahadev Temple is a calm, peaceful and clean place. Overlooking Saputara lake, this place is a good spiritual place.

The temple is small, it has no entry fees and even though it is old, it is maintained very well. Surroundings are clean too.

Photos Credits: desh_in KhatriRocks at tripadvisor.in

Lake garden is adjacent to Nageshwar temple. An early morning visit to this temple could surely initiates good vibes.

Elder people would love to visit this temple. If you go on Monday, you may find this place overcrowded.

Tribal (Adivasi) Museum Saputara Dangs

Tribal museum displays Ad	livasi (People of	Dang area)	history of the	Dang region	n. Museum	gives an
idea about culture of local p	people and their l	lifestyle.				

Photos Credits: Shashikant2014 nilesh051824 @ tripadvisor.in

When I visited this place 3 years back, the place was in good condition and maintained well. Not sure about it's condition these days.

Unlike other museums with a lot of stuff on display, tribal museum has limited showcase. Though, from the outer side, the building looks huge, while inside, there are half a dozen rooms to see.

The entire museum can be completed within an hour. Most of the artifacts displayed are self explanatory and don't need any extra knowledge.

Tribal museum has some serious lighting issues. Most of the rooms are dark as lights weren't functioning at all.

Timing of museum is morning 10 AM to evening 5 PM. Though, they may differ depending on tourist rush. Entry fee is minimal, Rs.5.

Saputara Ropeway - Travel Guide and Tips

Ropeway is one USP that sets Saputara apart from most other hill stations.

Running between Governors' hill and Sunset point, ropeway is must do activity when hanging around in Saputara. Ticket costs are minimal, around Rs. 50 per person.

Image Credits: Gujarat Tourism

Cable cars won't run when there are no tourists. This happens in off season.

The best way to plan ropeway is to reach tabletop point, also known as townview point by 4 or 4.30 PM. Usual waiting time during weekend is 20-30 minutes. Last ropeway car from departs at 05.15 PM (Though, it depends on Sunlight and atmospheric conditions).

The journey will be take around 5-7 minutes and they will stop car in middle of way. So that tourists can enjoy being on top of valley. The view from here is mesmerizing.

As I mentioned, the other end point is Sunset point. Take photos, have fun and enjoy beautiful

sunset view. In the meantime, youd hear guard whistling, asking you to return back.
Be sure to return back from Sunset point before 06.45 PM. Last car departs at 07.00 PM. Youd have
hard time if you miss that.
As for as I lossos. Considers is one the formulasses in Orient where managers consider is necessari.
As far as I know, Saputara is one the few places in Gujarat where ropeway service is present.
Others are,
Pavagadh
Ambaji (Gabbar Hills)
Saputara Ropeway
Don't miss this activity if you're in Saputara.

Don Hill Station, Gujarat

The Don hill station is a scenic landscape located near Saputara and is perched on the border of Gujarat of Maharashtra and around 30km from Ahwa, the headquarter of the Dangs.

I experienced its natural beauty few days back. (16th August, 2014). It's still hidden from most of the tourists' focus, mouth publicity is the only thing helping it to attract avid travelers. (Don is now gaining fair attention of tourists.)

Cinematic Video of Don Hill Station

A while back, I went to Don Hill Station with my brother Kunj to try out new camera and drone. Here's a cinematic video of Don Hill Station of that day.

Accommodation:

There's no overnight stay facility at Don. Alternative is to stay at Ahwa / SaputaraHotels. Have a look at this article for list of all the places to stay in Dang:Where To Stay In Dang - Accommodation Options in Dang, Ahwa, Saputara

Road from Ahwa town to Don village

Don Mahotsav - A fortnight long tourism festival - From February 7, 2015

With a view to popularize Don hill station, Gujarat government and tourismadministrationplans to

organize a fortnight long 'Don Mahotsav' from February 7. The two week festival will feature the

pristine beauty of the hill station. Professional paragliders and other adventure sports' organizers are

invited for the Don Mahotsav.

Tourists will experience the tribal cuisine, theirtraditional songs and dance. Not to forget the

adventure sports.

3 Claps for the Dang district administration for such an active interest. Truly, Vibrant Gujarat!

Updated on: 11th January, 2015

Green fields enroute to Don Hill Station

More Updates:

Dang to spend 16.6 croreto boost tourism infrastructure -Article in Times of India

"Major thrust has been given on beautification and infrastructural development at Gujarat's only hill

station, Saputara and Don hill station bordering Maharashtra." The reportsays. A welcoming move

by the government! Sensing their enthusiasm, we'll shortly see activities like trekking, campfire, rock

climbing etc. at Don and Saputara hills.

11th January, 2015

Last stretch of road to reach to top

Don hill station is announced as Gujarat's highest point

The department of Roads and Building (R B) of the Dang district administration has carried out a survey and officially declared Don village as the peak point of Gujarat state. The measuredheight is: ~1000 meter. I tend to agree with them as in my trip, I also measured the height by a GPS application on my phone and the result wasapprox. 3210 ft. (978 m).

This came out just after the Don Mahotsav, a fort-night long festival was announced by the administration to leverage Don as a great tourism destination. Previously the place was occupied by the Saputara hill station, which is stationed at 900 m above the sea level.

05th February, 2015

Geography Etymology of Don Hill Station

Don is situated on a plateau in the forest vicinity of the Sahyadri mountain range in the Dangs district at an altitude of about 1070 meters. Hill station's altitude is round about 100m higher than the Saputara, the planned hill resort by Government of Gujarat. The Maharashtra state border is only 3 km away from Don.

Interaction with locals revealed that Don hill has a hillock named after Mahabharata character

Dronacharya. Also, there's a village named Pandav which has old caves blessed with water falls.

View of village from the top hill

People of Dangs Don Village

Don has a population of around 1200 tribals. They are popularly termed as 'Adivasi'. The word

'Adivasi' has developed a connotation of past autonomy, which was disrupted during the British

colonial period in India and has not been restored. The tribe is rich in its bio-diversity and natural

relics and has a rich 'Dangi' heritage.

Recently, after some farmers offered their farm lands for the construction of 8km long road on the

hilly terrain. If you visit this hill station in monsoon, you'll get to see these farmers in action.

Most locals possess a shy nature. Nevertheless, if you approach them they'll talk pleasantly. They

also show some resistance while capturing them in smartphones, they usually turn their heads

away. Again, this may not be always the case. On weekends you would find school kids waving

hands to you frequently.

A local carrying fire woods near forest department crossing

What to See?

Unlike Saputara, the government has not put enough efforts to develop Don Village. However, lately the government has sanctioned 39 Cr. to promote it as Gujarat's second hill station. The point is, you won't find any planned infrastructure like Saputara. But who cares? We could find ultra-modern infra in any major city. So come here and enjoy the world of greenery..

Nature. Hills. Greenery.

Saler Fort, Maharashtra. (Ask locals to find your way.)

Farmers sowing 'Nagli'. (Popular grain used as an alternative to rice in south Gujarat.)

Brooks originating from the hill top. (Try to find its source. It'll be fun!)

Beginning

Best Time

Monsoon season. Mid June to September end.

Do not dare visit the place after the mid January to mid June

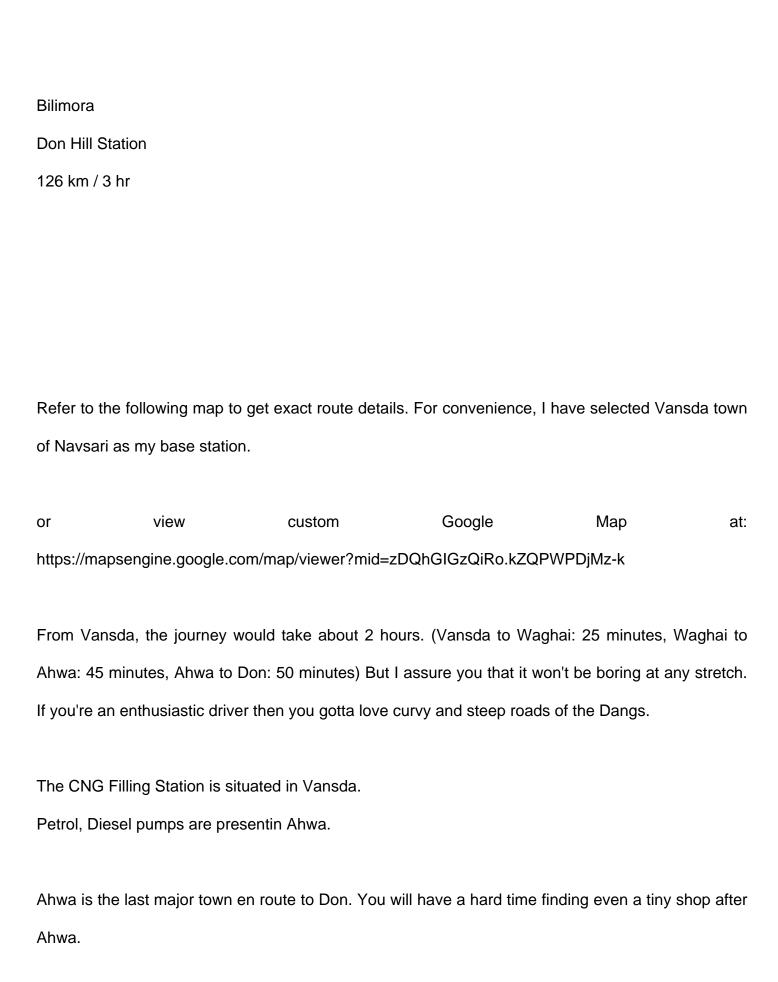
However, Don has a climate that is consistently pleasant, leaning towards chilly, fresh throughout the year. At a decent altitude of 1100 meters, you could literally touch the dark clouds with your

fingertips. It hints that this place has potential to become the next hill station in Gujarat.
What to Do?
Proothe tonic evygen ()
Breathe tonic oxygen. :)
Meet and interact with Adivasis. Their stories about 'Dangi' heritage are fascinating.
Take photographs. A lot of them. I bet you, each of them can serve as your desktop wallpaper if
taken artistically.
Climb to the peak of one of the hills. Sit on top and do experience the feel of being at peak of
something.
Carry food along with you. Enjoy the ingredients of your ever tasty food.
Buy a dozen of chocolates and distribute them to kids on the way. Their honest smile will make up
your day.
Watery stones
How to Reach?

The first thing I would like to tell you is, forget Air and Rail (plus public transportation) mode of
transportation. Plan your trip if and only if you have your own vehicle.
Distance from nearby cities:
From
То
Distance / Time
Ahwa
Don Hill Station
33 km / 45 mins
Saputara
Don Hill Station
50 km / 1.5 hr

Ahmedabad
Don Hill Station
405 km / 7 hr
Vansda
Don Hill Station
82 km / 2 hr
Surat
Don Hill Station
173 km / 4 hr
Mumbai
Don Hill Station
275 km / 5 hr
Navsari
Don Hill Station
140 km / 3.5 hr
Valsad
Don Hill Station

1	50	km /	3.5	hr



Accommodation
As I mentioned in 2nd paragraph of this post, there's no overnight facility present at Don hill station. Next best option is Saputara.
You can find list and book hotels in Saputara via:
MakeMyTrip (Recommended)
Cleartrip
Yatra
Food
Sadly, no luck in food section.
There's no hotels or chances of food after Ahwa. Even a small food stall ain't available in Don
village.
Nearby Attractions

Saler Fort, Maharashtra

Ahwa, District Headquarter

Barda waterfalls

Saputara, Gujarat's own hill station

Shabaridham and Pampa Sarovar

Mahal eco-tourism campsite

Kilad eco-tourism campsite

Gira waterfalls, Waghai

Botanical garden, Waghai

Artist village

Vansda national park

Money Can Buy Happiness Part

I was heading to Ahwa after being overwhelmed by Don. I saw 3 students walking side the road and decided to interact with them. I soon sensed that they are returning to their home from school (which is 3 km away from their place). It was showering, then and one of them was trying to cover his head by a leaf.

Incidentally though, I had bought one umbrella that morning.

Without thinking for a moment, I handed over umbrella to him. Seemed he was both stunned and

ever happy at the same time. I was also enthralled to see his broad, intuitive smile. And that was the moment, when I learnt one more life lesson. Money can buy happiness. If you know how and when to use. School kid saving him from rain Gujarat Model of Development Are you one of those classes, which believes that Gujarat model is overhyped? That Gujarat hasn't been developed? Then visit this place once. It will prove you wrong. In my opinion, Don Village is an excellent example of Gujarat transformation. Even though Don is hidden in a remote area, on the border of Gujarat - Maharashtra all roads are magnificent. (I was in Mumbai couple of weeks before and compared to Mumbai roads, these are just fabulous.) You would find tiny dams built at every 500 meters to harness the water of Purna river. Water is not a problem at all.

Electricity is available for flat 24 hours! This had blown my mind. People will mention the name

'Modi' if you start a conversation about above mentioned facilities! So, Gujarat model is effective. #HenceProved.
A Humble Request
Please, please do not litter at any hill station or any other tourist place. Carry an extra bag and keep
empty wrappers of food articles and other garbage in it. Empty it in garbage bins available en-route.
- By Anil Sharma (Comments)
Join the Conversation
If you're getting into, express your views about Don below. Also, don't hesitate to ask if you have
any query about travel or place. Not for reproduction.
Have a good day!
Last updated: 24th May, 2017
Continue with

The List of Hill Stations In, Near Gujarat

How to be Remarkable

Best of 2015

Earth 0.0 - A Story

Safari English Magazine is Dead!

List of Waterfalls in Gujarat - 16 Awesome Waterfalls

Koshmal Waterfall, Dangs

My second list! Duringthe last summer vacation, I prepared a list of hill stations in Gujarat. The article has since garnered a warm response from visitors and from Google too, it holds the top spot for the term 'hill stations of Gujarat'. Taking cue from it, here's my list of waterfalls in South Gujarat.

Why waterfalls?

Because waterfalls are gorgeous, powerful and mesmerizing, aren't they?:)

Why South Gujarat?

As I have sparseknowledge about otherareas of Gujarat. South Gujarat is home ground for me because my hometown is Vansda.

I have updated this post to include ALL waterfalls of Gujarat - not just South Gujarat. Below list of waterfalls in Gujarat is the ultimate list you need to plan your monsoon trips in Gujarat area.

I've tried to cover all waterfalls known to me. If I have missed any destination, please contact me or leave a comment down.

Happy Waterfalls Exploring! :)

The Ultimate List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

Click onwaterfallstitle name for its location map, water flow, accessibility, tourist rush, foodavailability, driving directions and trekking options.

Location: 5km from Waghai, on Waghai - Saputara Road

Water Flow: June -January

Accessibility: Easy

Tourist Rush: High

Food: Yes - Snacks, Tea, Wafers, Boiled Corn (Worth trying) - All Seasons

Reaching to the Bottom:Possible (Very dangerous in the monsoon)

Located about 5 km from Waghai town, the Gira waterfall is a 30 m natural drop in the Ambica River.

It is open to public and accessibleduring the year.

Tribal artists sell aesthetic handicrafts here. GiraFalls arethe most popular falls in Gujarat. Also

known as Gira Dhodh, the place attainsmassive visitors as it falls on the Saputara road. One can

visit the nearby Waghai Botanical Garden as well.

Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information: Girafalls Wanarchod, Waghai Saputara

Before going further, let me clear out a commonconfusion of many tourists. The puzzle of Gira

vsGirmal.

Both are different.

GiraFalls or Gira Dhodh is the one near Waghai. Girmalor Girimala is the one near Subir, Ahwa. The

former one, Gira can be easily reached while Girmal is located guite deeper.

Back to Girmal:

Location: 50 km from Ahwa, 20 km from Subir

Water Flow: July - December

Accessibility: Hard

Tourist Rush: Low
Food: Tea, Snacks -During Season
Reaching to the Bottom:Possible (Very dangerous in the monsoon)
Driving Directions
Driving Directions:
From Ahwa
Arrive at Subir village from Ahwa (30 km);
Go straight and arrive at Nishana check-post (12 km);
Take a left turn and Arrive at village Girmal (8 km);
Take a left turn and arrive at Girmal waterfalls (2 km).
Road from check-post to fall is single lane with rough patches. Otherwise drivable.
Touted as the tallest waterfall of Gujarat, deep inside the wild forests of Dang, Girmal stands tal
spawning tiny water particles infinitely. Silver fog and 7 coloredrainbows are often seen through
Forest department has built spectacular view points and pathways. Safety railingis roped to preven
accidents. Steps are carved as well to reach near Girmal.

On the way to Girmal, at some point, the river Gira takes a complete U-turn. Forest department has developed a beautiful viewpoint exactly above the U-turn.

Eco-Development Committee of the department also runs are staurant named U-turn restaurant.

Tasty food, do try it.

A full day is needed for this destination. You will cherish the memories of this adventure forever, assure you.
assure you.
Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information: Girmal Waterfall - Highest Falls of Gujarat
Location: 40 km from Dharampur, 6 km from Wilson Hills
Water Flow: July End - December
Accessibility: Medium
Tourist Rush: Low
Food: One or two locals else nothing. Visit Wilson Hills for food.
Reaching to the Bottom: Possible
Driving Directions:
When you are going toWilson Hills,
There will be a right turn just before the main gate (Near the village)
From where Shankar fall is just 6 km.
You can ask any villager about the exact route.

I

Shankar waterfall has recently gained eyeballs of tourists. It was unknown to most people a couple

of years back. Unlike Gira or Girmal, this fall doesn't unleash gallons of waters to the bottom,

instead a thin stream of water showers the earth.

Fortunately, that's why one can trek to the bottom and take a shower!

I've already written a comprehensive article here: Wilson Hill Station Dharampur Shankar Waterfall

Hidden Gems Of South Gujarat

Location: 40 km from Songadh, 50 km from Ahwa

Water Flow: June - December (Unconfirmed)

Accessibility: Hard

Tourist Rush: Low

Food: None

Reaching to Bottom:Possible (From the opposite route)

Reaching to Chimer Fall needs a bit of walking, passing through some farms. Mostly unknown to tourists. The uniqueness factors being, A. There are actually fourfalls. So Chimer is, Buy 1 Get 4 package! B. Highest waterfall in Gujarat (Unconfirmed) Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information: Chimer Waterfall Location: 10 km from Ahwa Water Flow: June - January Accessibility:Easy Tourist Rush: Average Food: None and Not Required

Reaching to Bottom: Possible

Shiva Ghat is 10 minutes from Ahwa, Dang district headquarters. No extra driving efforts are needed
to visitthis fall as it falls directly on the Ahwa - Waghai road. The name Shiva comes from the temple
nearby the fall.
Location: 10 km from Ahwa, on Ahwa - Mahal Road
Water Flow: June - November End
valer Flow. Julie - November Elia
Accessibility:Medium
Tourist Rush:Low
Food: None
Reaching to Bottom: Possible, but dangerous
Driving Directions:
A right turn from the Ahwa-Mahal road just before village Chankhal and a 30 minutes trek leads to
this beautiful fall.

Barda is a twelve-step falls near village Chankhal. It's more known as trekking destination in the

Dangs.It doesn't have refreshment facilities either at the spot or along the route. Therefore one has

to carry oneself essentials like snacks, water etc. from the nearest town Ahwa.

Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information: Barda Waterfalls, Dangs, Gujarat

Location: 12 km from Dharampur, on BarumalRoad, 2 km from main road

Water Flow: June - NovemberMid

Accessibility: Medium

Tourist Rush: High on Weekends, Less otherwise

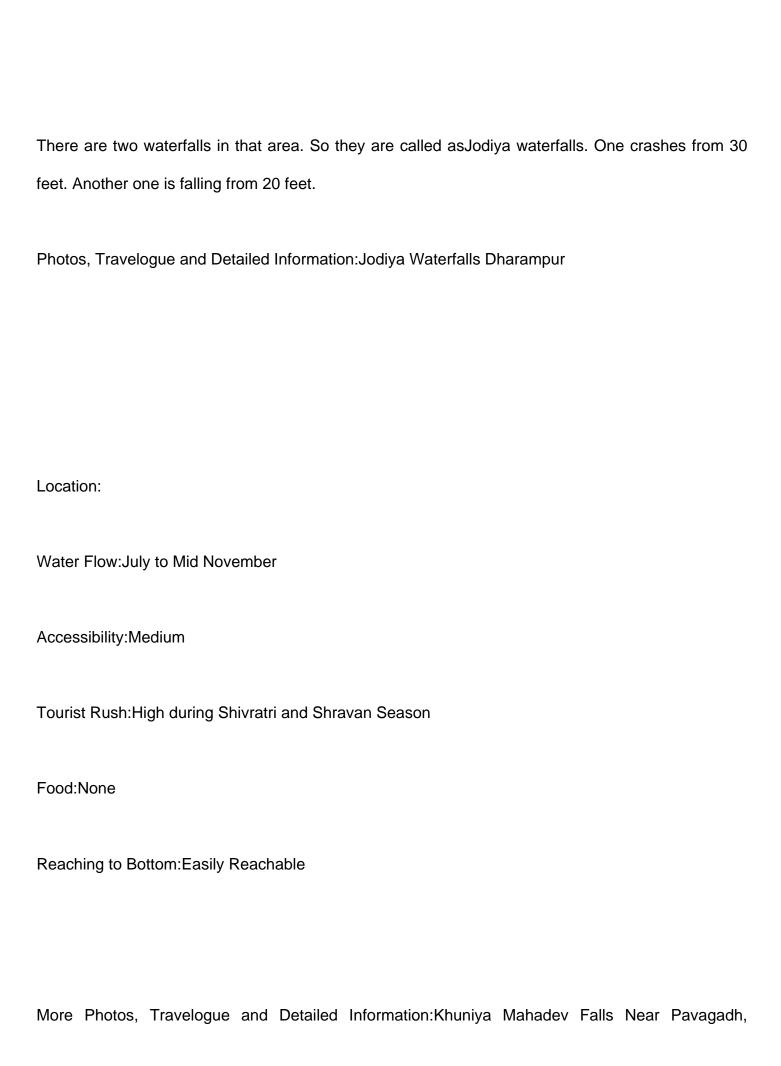
Food: None

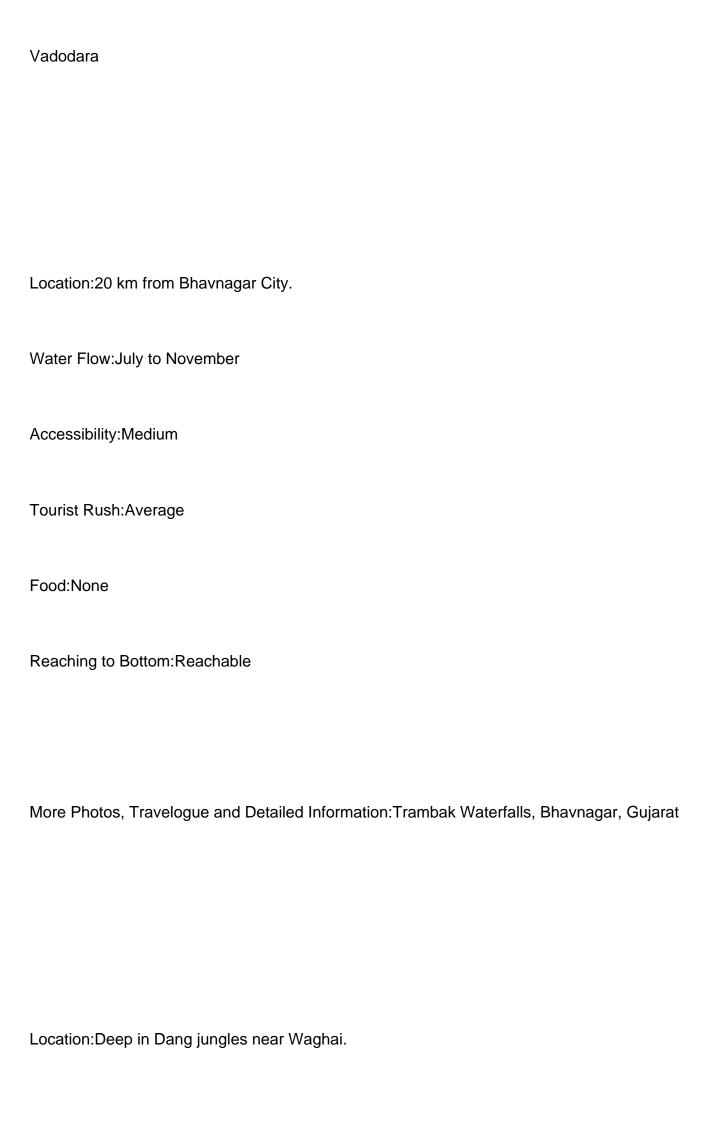
Reaching to Bottom: Possible, but dangerous

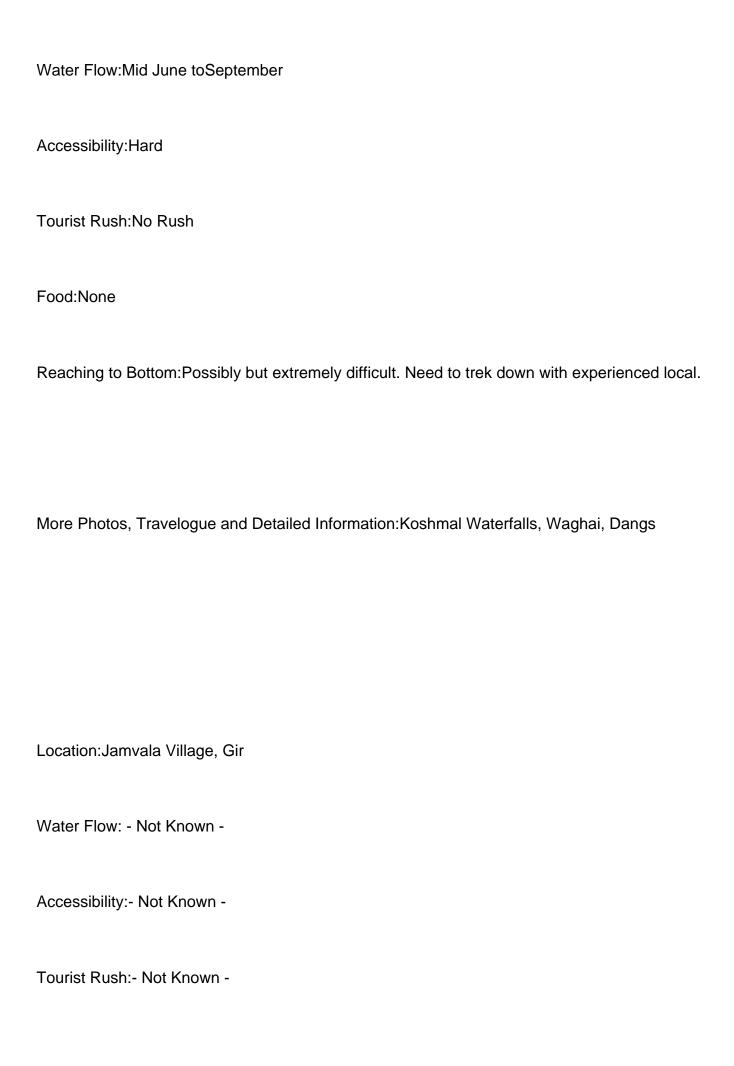
Driving Directions:Roads are single, yet to construct and muddy. Two opposite cars can't pass at the

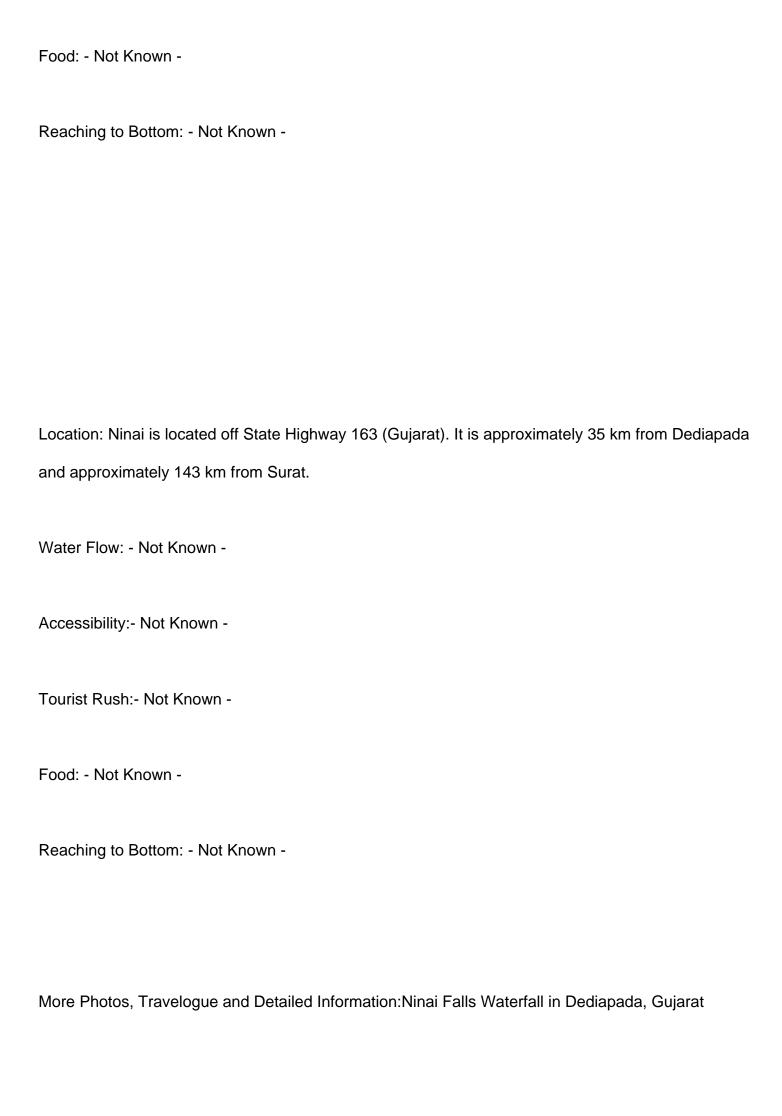
same time. Cars can go upto a certain point, after that you have to walk to reach near falls. That

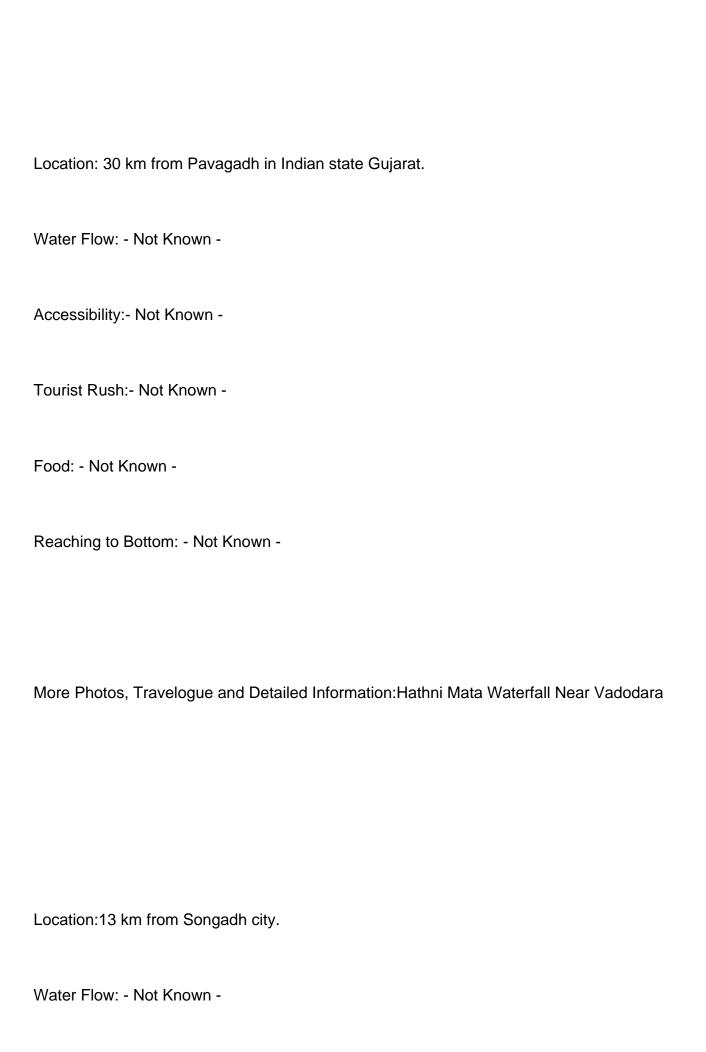
walk in lap of nature will blow your mind with the smell of fresh air.











Accessibility:- Not Known -
Tourist Rush:- Not Known -
Food:None
Reaching to Bottom:Easily Accessible
Location:Dehgam
Water Flow:June to November
Accessibility:Easy
Tourist Rush:Medium
Food:Tea Packaged Snacks in Season
Reaching to Bottom:Possible

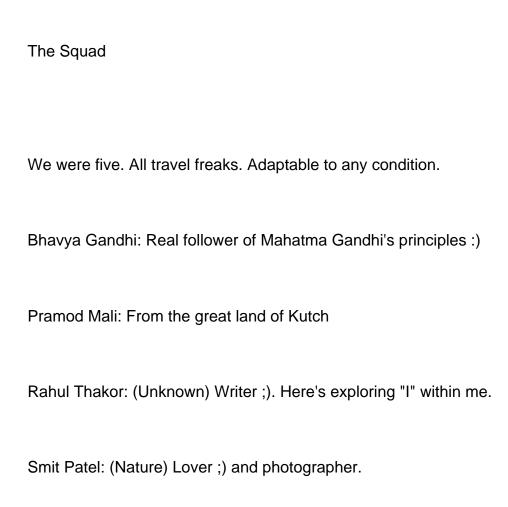
More Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information:Zanzari Waterfall on Vatrak River at Dehgam
Location: Shoolpaneshwar Sanctury Narmada
Location. Onoolpaneshwar Canciury Narmada
Water Flow:June to November
Accessibility:Easy
Tourist Rush:Medium
Food:Tea Packaged Snacks in Season
Reaching to Bottom:Possible
More Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information:Zarwani Waterfalls Rajpipla, Gujarat

This post could have never been written without inputs from Mr. Ketur Patel, a wonderful travel enthusiast from Surat. He has an encyclopedic knowledge about tourist destinations in Gujarat. Thanks a ton!

I'm always looking forward to improve quality of this post. If you've been to a place which is not listed above, please share its detail. I'd add it here so that it can be helpful to all future travelers.

Polo Forest Ahmedabad - A Trip To North Gujarat Forests

Polo Monument and Vijaynagar forests is ascenic weekend destination from Ahmedabad. The lush
green forests, ancient structures and quiet ambience all adds up for a relaxing trip.
Polo Forest, Abhapur was part of our 2 day trip to Idar.
Throughout6th semester of B. Tech, Computer Engineering, DDIT, Nadiad, Inever missed a chance
to go ontrip. Most of the trips were, however, of 1 day. Departin morning and return by night.
After end of 3rd internal exam, I had a window of 2 days. Why not Polo Forest Idar then? And there
we were
Update:
As this article is so loooong, listing down links to navigate quickly:
Food
Food
How to reach location
Photography @ Polo

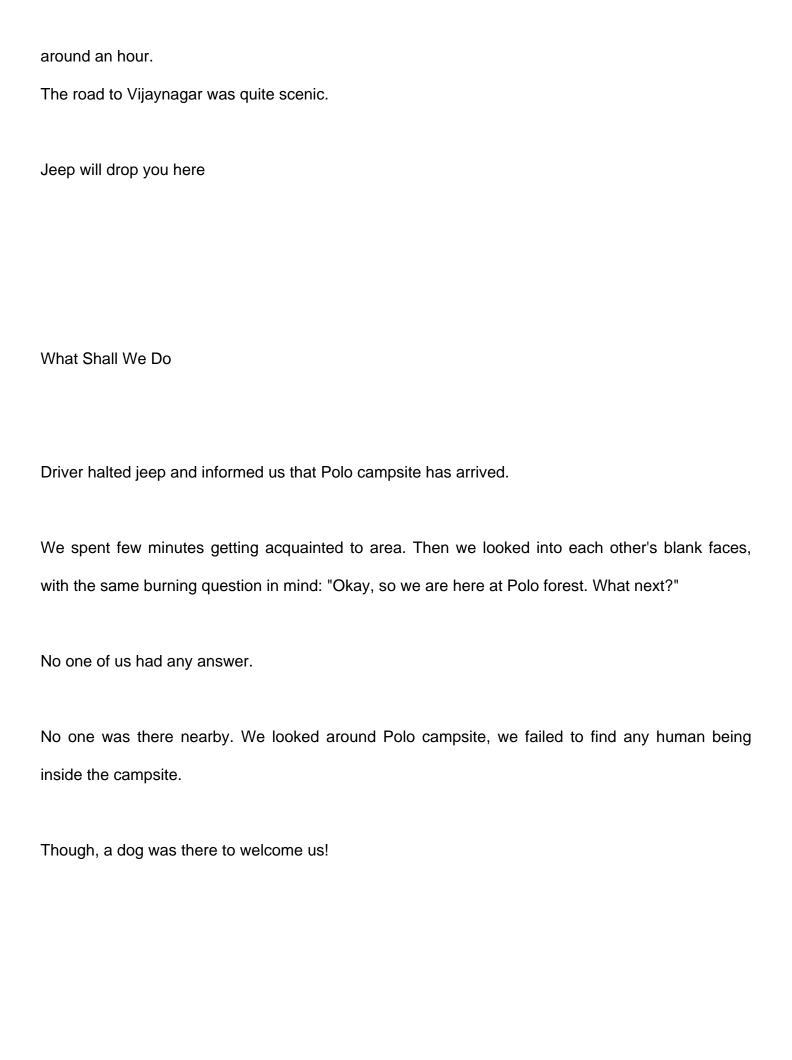


The Plan

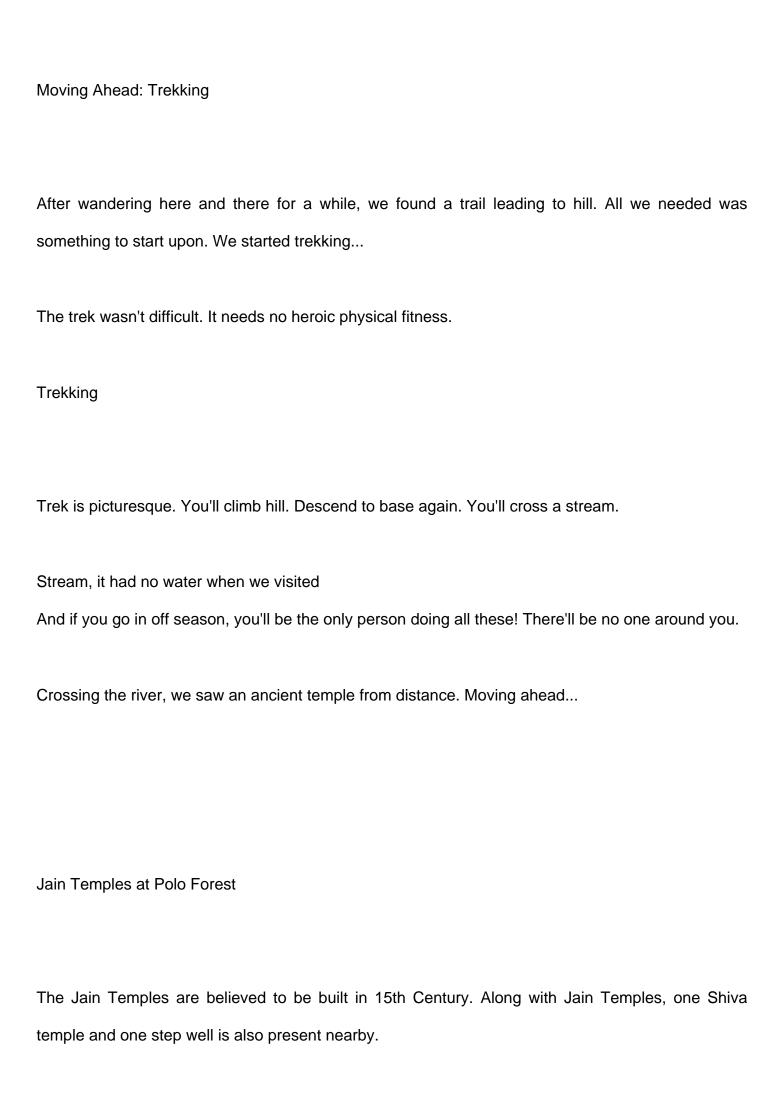
Me:I'd tag myself as Batman.;)

Pramod - Rahul - Darpan - Smit - Bhavya





Avoid Summer Take Guide
We visited Polo forest and Idar in April. When Sun gets in full mood to burn everything on earth.
However, surprisingly, compared to Idar area, temperature of Polo forest area was bearable. Around 28-30 degree
Celsius. The atmosphere was pleasant too.
Personally, I suggest you to visit these forests in monsoon or post monsoon season.
See how the place changes between seasons.
During monsoon. Photo - Gujarat Tourism
Doctors recommend eating carrot to improve eye sight. I recommend observing greenery of Polo forest during monsoon to improve the same! :)
Talking about guide, it's always a good idea to take one along with you. I heard good words about guide known as, Dalsukh. Catch him!
During summer it's all yellowish brown



The monument is said to be protected by government, though, personally I feel that government should put more efforts for maintenance.
Jain temple
One thing that freaks me when I see such historical places is, names carved on monument by visitors. You know, the typical, Sanjay Loves Lila, kind of writings.
If you're reading this, please don't do it at any historical site! If we, the visitors show respect to the
place, then we could certainly blame government for its negligence.
Shiva temple
Photography
Polo forest has many scenes to offer for photography. Along with forest and hills, it also has Harnav
river in its offerings. Not to forget ancient temples and Harnav Dam site.
Scenes

I mean, everything a photographer needs!
We called it a day with more than 3000 photos in our gallery! (No DSLRs :D , just phones)
The power pose
To Harnav Dam Site
We spent a couple of hours at temple. Next stop we chose was Harnav dam site.
One can walk for an hour and reach to Harnav site from the Jain monuments.
You can follow: Our journey of Harnav here
About Polo Monument and Vijaynagar Forest

Sounds fascinating till now? I'd list down details that can help you if you'replanning to visit Polo Forest, Idar / Vijaynagar area. Polo, was once a gateway to Rajasthan. It was a hiding place for rulers, concealed from enemies, citizens and angry wives. The name, Polo, is derived from pol, the Marwari word for "gate," signifying its status as a gateway between Gujarat and Rajasthan. View of surroundings from Jain monument Officially, there are more than 450 species of medicinal plants, around 275 of birds, 30 of mammals, and 32 of reptiles. During winter, all manner of migratory birds occupy the forest; during the rainy season there are wetland birds. Good site for bird watching! Harnav river

Polo Forest Campsite

Forest department has set up a nature education camp site in the forests.
The Polo Camp site is located in Vijayanagar taluka of Sabarkantha districts and is near to Vanaj Forest area, Harnav River and Damsite.
A point to note, as it's government entity, you may face hard time arranging accommodation and food.
Polo eco campsite
Food
Apart from the places I mentioned above, there's no hotel or restaurant in the Polo forest area. And
that's good in my opinion. Any tourist place is best enjoyable as long as it remains free from commercialization.
Polo campsite serves food, if you tell them in advance.
If I talk about us, we had this. We thought that we would get something to eat at Polobut life isn't fair always!
Amul to save us again

Leasting How to Decok
Location How to Reach
If you're coming from private vehicle, then there's nothing better than Google Maps.
Distance Matrix
From
То
Distance in km / Approx. time in hr
Ahmedabad
Polo Forest
150 km / 3 hr
Idar
Polo Forest
35 km / 45 min

Pol	nmatnagar lo Forest km / 1 hr 30 mins			
60				
	km / 1 hr 30 mins			
V/a/				
\/2				
\/24				
val	dodara			
Pol	lo Forest			
250	0 km / 4 hr 30 mins			
Raj	jkot			
Pol	lo Forest			
370	0 km / 6 hr 30 mins			
Sui	rat			
Pol	lo Forest			
400	0 km / 7 hr			
Mu	mbai			
Pol	lo Forest			
670	0 km / 11 hr			

Public Transportation:
Reach to Idar via bus. State transport has many buses.
From Idar to Vijaynagar, jeeps are frequent. Polo forest falls on the way to Vijaynagar.
Be sure to leave Polo forest before late evening, as you might not get any jeeps.
Via Train:
Not at all viable option.
Via Air:
Great option! I heard rumors that Mukesh Ambani's son (Yes! The big one that we often see during
IPL) once visited Polo forest in helicopter. You might want to try it out! :D :D
A view from window inside Jain temple
Extra Events

I recently came across these event on Internet.
The Impossible Race at Polo Forest: 17th - 20th March, 2016
Polo Forest MTB
Polo Forest Road Biking
Very exciting!
Website:http://www.theimpossiblerace.com
The End
For us, unplanned trip to Polo forest turned out toan awesome adventure!
Special mention to last part of our journey, return to Idar from Polo, during which we sat on top of
jeep! I still remember those mesmerising winds!
On the top
Mayo of Vibrant Cuinnet
More of Vibrant Gujarat:

Lothal, A Journey to Harrapan Civilazation

Dang Forests Photography Tour

Saputara Monsoon Festival

9diad: The city of nine!

Best of 2015 : Travel

Saputara Monsoon Festival

Saputara Monsoon Festival is a month-long event, organized and promoted by tourism department.

The monsoon festival begins in August month every year.

The festival features plentiful events, activities and cultural programs in 30 days. Local Dangi food

items and spectacular cultural shows portraying lifestyle of Adivasis are most exciting events of the

festival. From 10-year-old kids to 90-year-old grandma, the festival guarantees good time for

everyone.

Tourism department also holdsspecial tour packages during monsoon festival.

Normally if you visit Saputara, you'll find it calm, quiet and pleasant. However, if you visit during this

monsoon festival, be ready to see crowds. No surprise, many people come to enjoy the monsoon

festival.

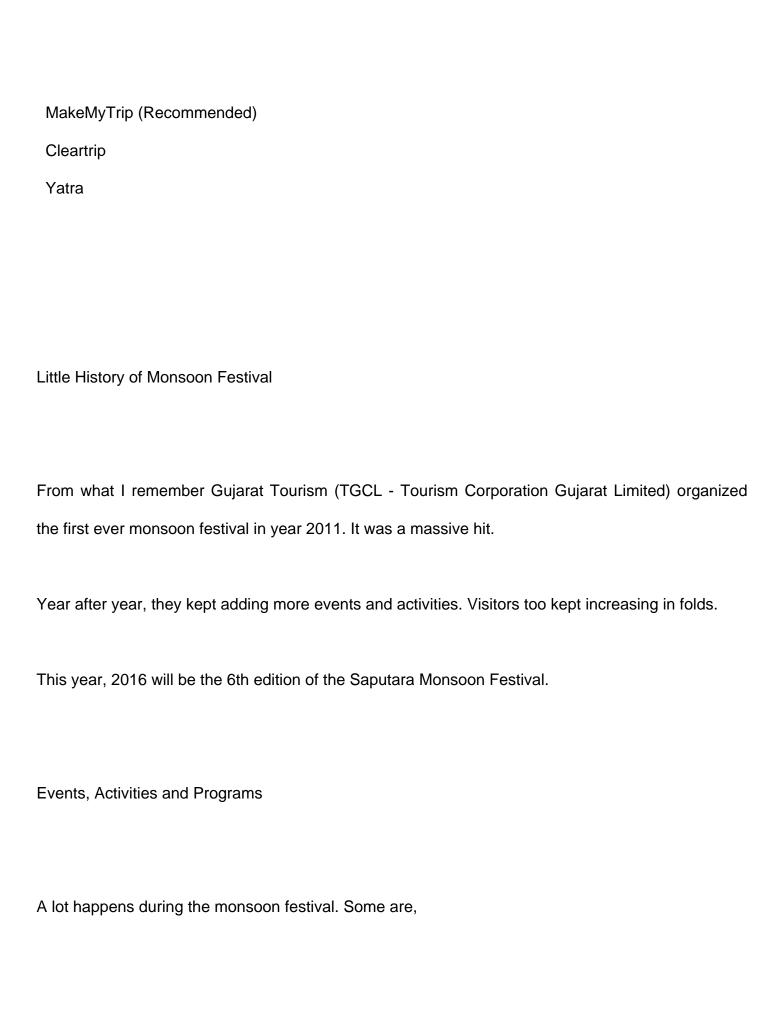
Photo: narendramodi.in

Where to Stay - Accommodation

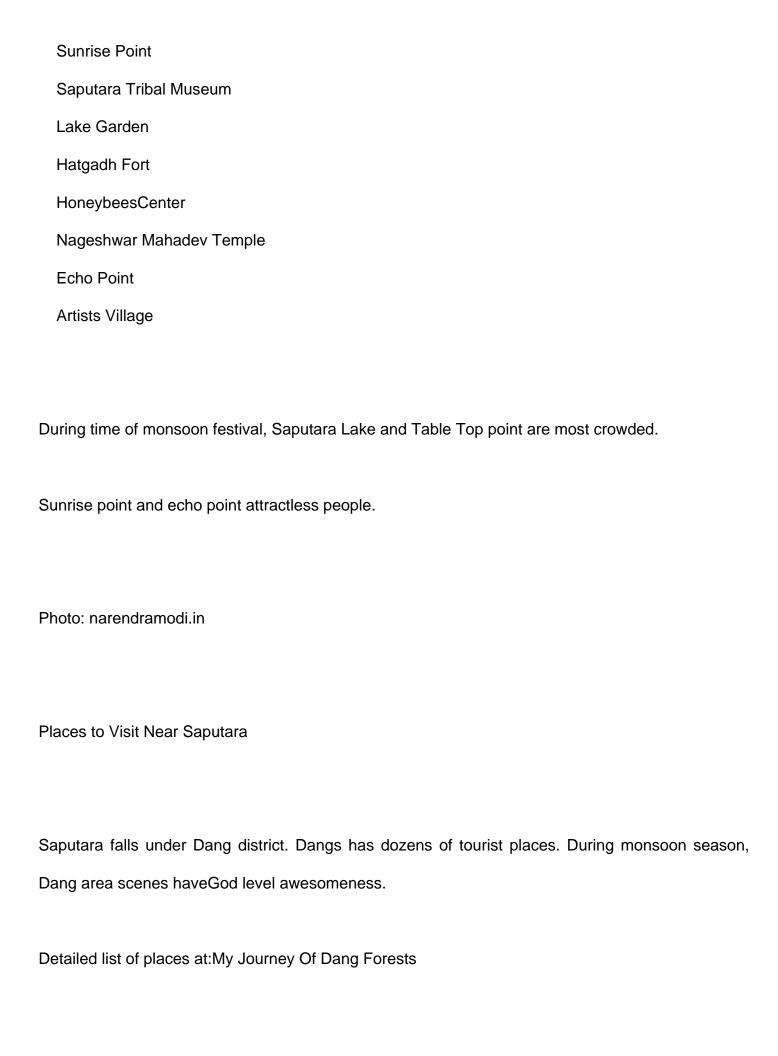
Saputara has many hotels. Though, prices will be skyrocketed during monsoon festival and you

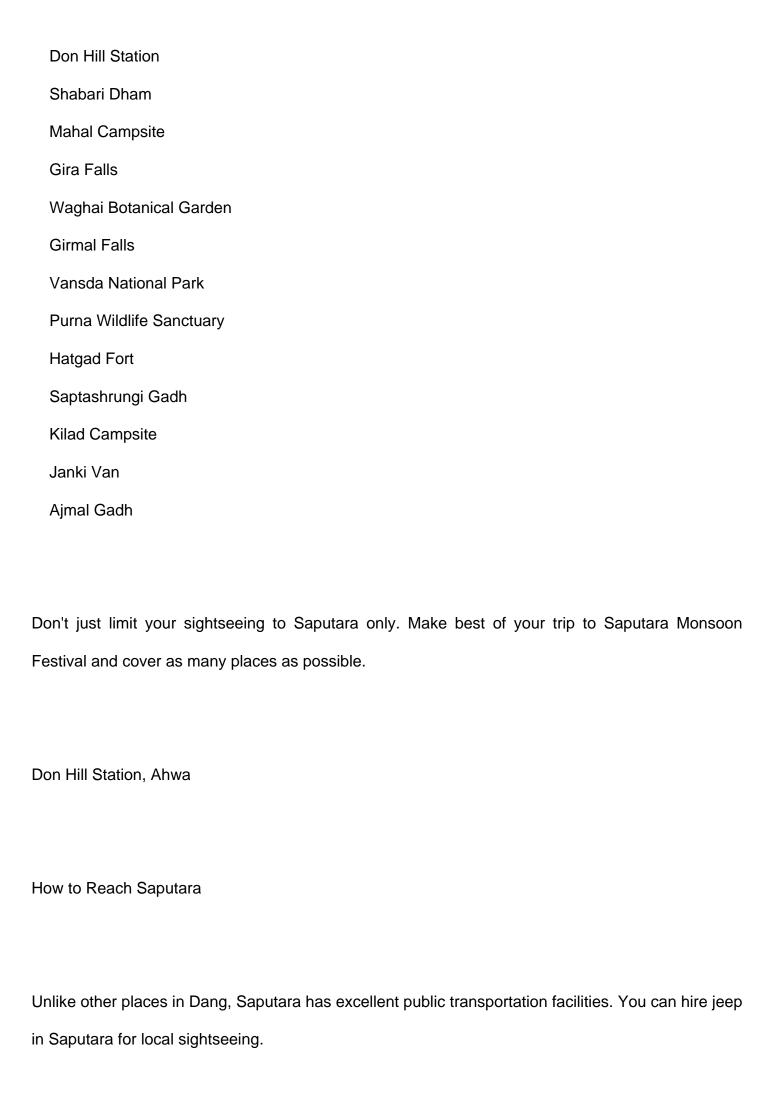
mayhave hard time getting overnight stay.

You can find list and book hotels in Saputara via:



Cultural Programmes in Evening
Boat Race
Varli Drawing Competition
Photography Exhibition
Handicrafts Exhibition
Archery Practice
Adventure Sports
Paper Craft Workshops
Zipline Aerial Adventure
Rock Climbing
Food Park
Craft Village
Varli Arts Display
Places to Visit In Saputara
For a list of places with rich information, visit:Saputara Sightseeing List
Saputara Lake
Ropeway
Sunset Point
Table Top/Governor's Hill/Townview Point
Step Garden





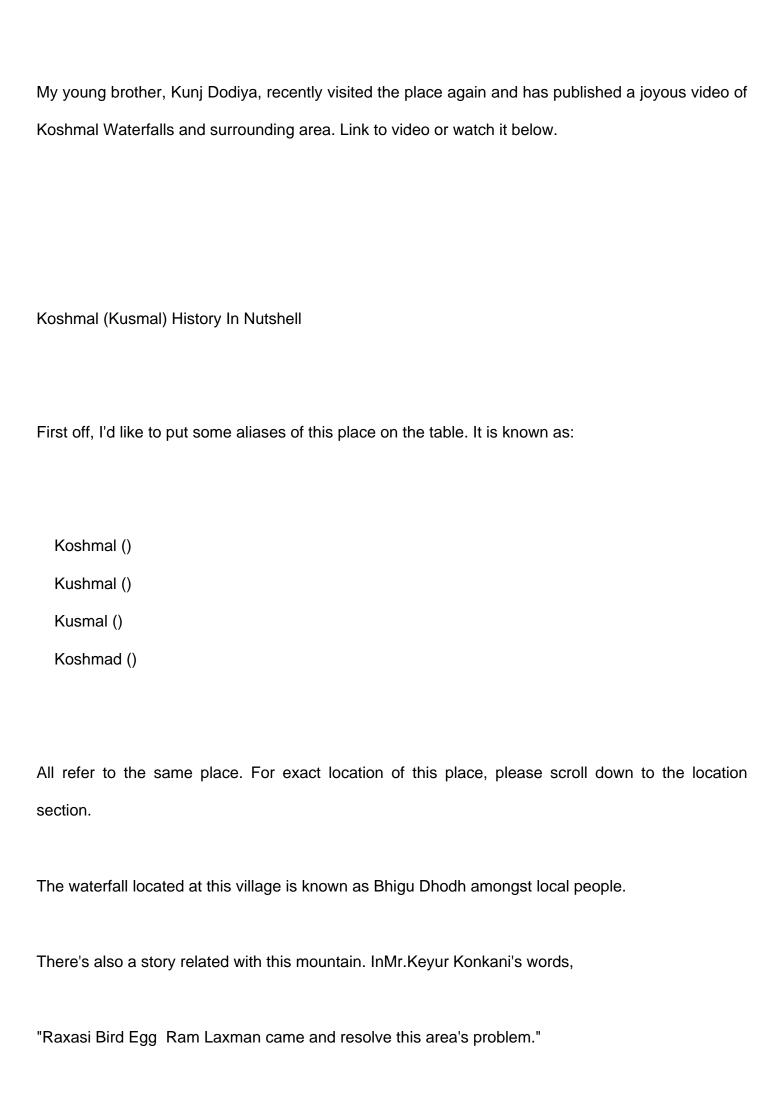
State run buses are frequently available from Surat, Valsad and Bilimora bus station.
Nearest railway station is Bilimora.
Distance Matrix:
From
То
Distance in km / Time in hr
Surat
Saputara
160 km / 3.30 hr
Mumbai
Saputara
300 km / 6 hr

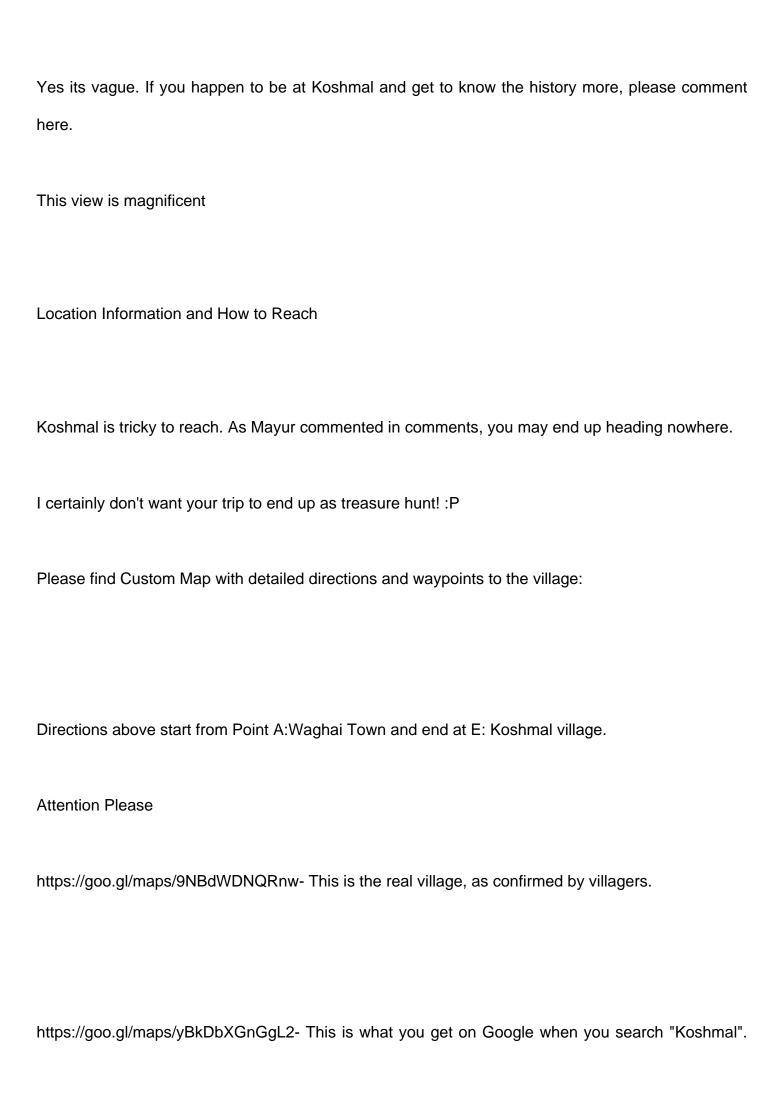
Ahmedabad

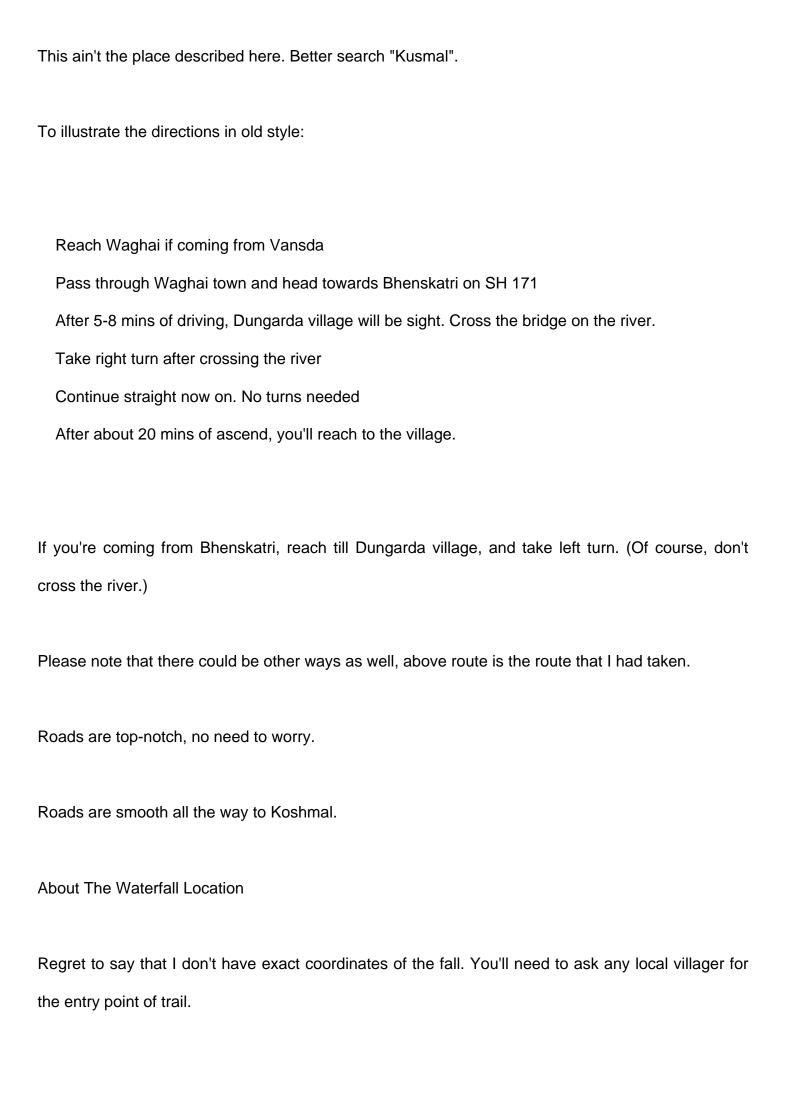
Saputara	
400 km / 7 hr	
Vadodara	
Saputara	
300 km / 5.30 hr	
Valsad	
Saputara	
130 km / 3 hr	
Nasik	
Saputara	
80 km / 2 hr	
Official Announcement	
Gujarat Tourism department has prepared a 2 page brochure about this monsoon festival. Pl	ease

find its link below:
Saputara Monsoon Festival 2017 - Download Brochure PDF
Last Note
Monsoon is the best time to visit Saputara and Dangs area. Nevertheless, if you're the kind of person who likes placidness don't visit Saputara during monsoon festival.
Posts you might like:
Don Hill Station Dang Safari Magazine Is Dead Journey to Polo Forest, Idar Paragliding in Saputara Milestone: 1000 Visits A Day
Featured photo credits:youngama.in

Koshmal Waterfalls - Hidden Treasure in Dangs The Koshmal Village Story. One day, we were out in Dangs. We were wandering lavishly on the roads with no place in mind. My brother, Kunj then suggested that we go to a village, Koshmal. It was a remote village in Dangs. And supposedly, it was known to have the highest waterfall of Gujarat. Why not? So we set out to reach there... On the way to Koshmal (Also known as Kushmal.) Met this little puppy on the road, cute piece right? Story to be continued. Due to lack of time, I'm pausing the post here. Will update soon whenever I get free time. So I've finally updated this post after reading comments. Enjoy! (11th August, 2017) Koshmal from Bird's Eye View

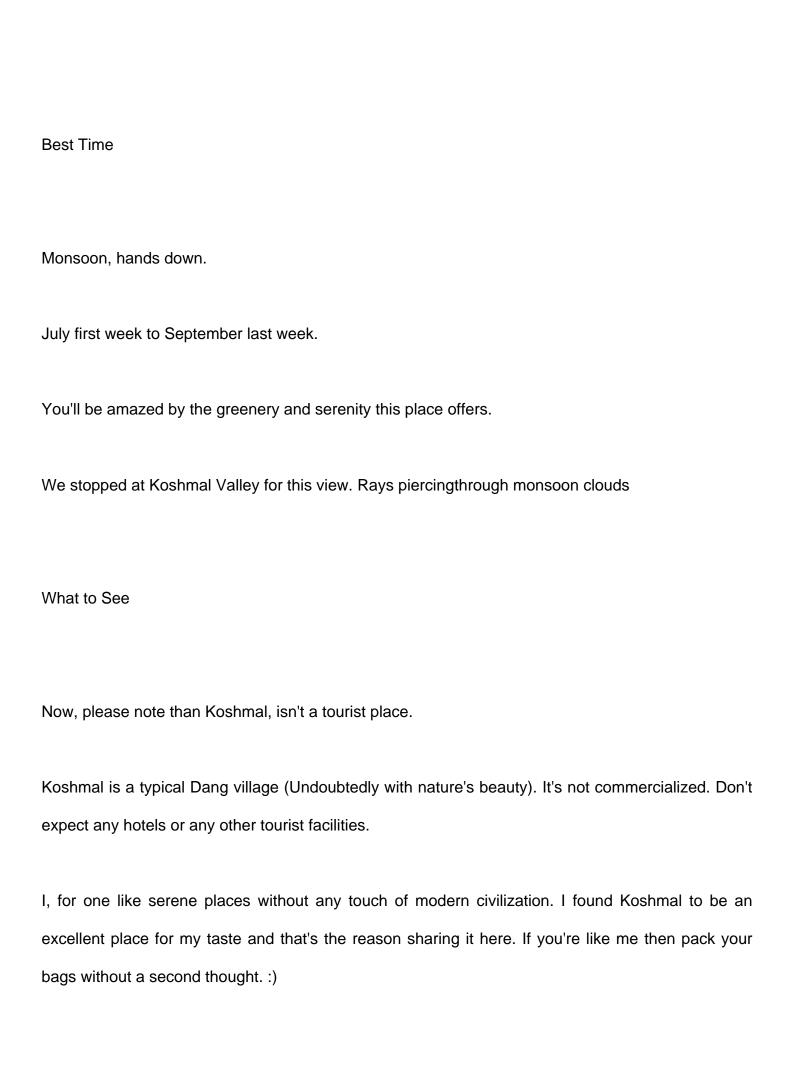








Waghai
Koshmal
20 km / 45 mins
Surat
Koshmal
120 km / 2 hours 30 mins
Valsad
Kushmal
100 km / 2 hours
Vansda
Koshmal
35 km / 1 hour
Saputara
Koshmal
71 km // 2 hours

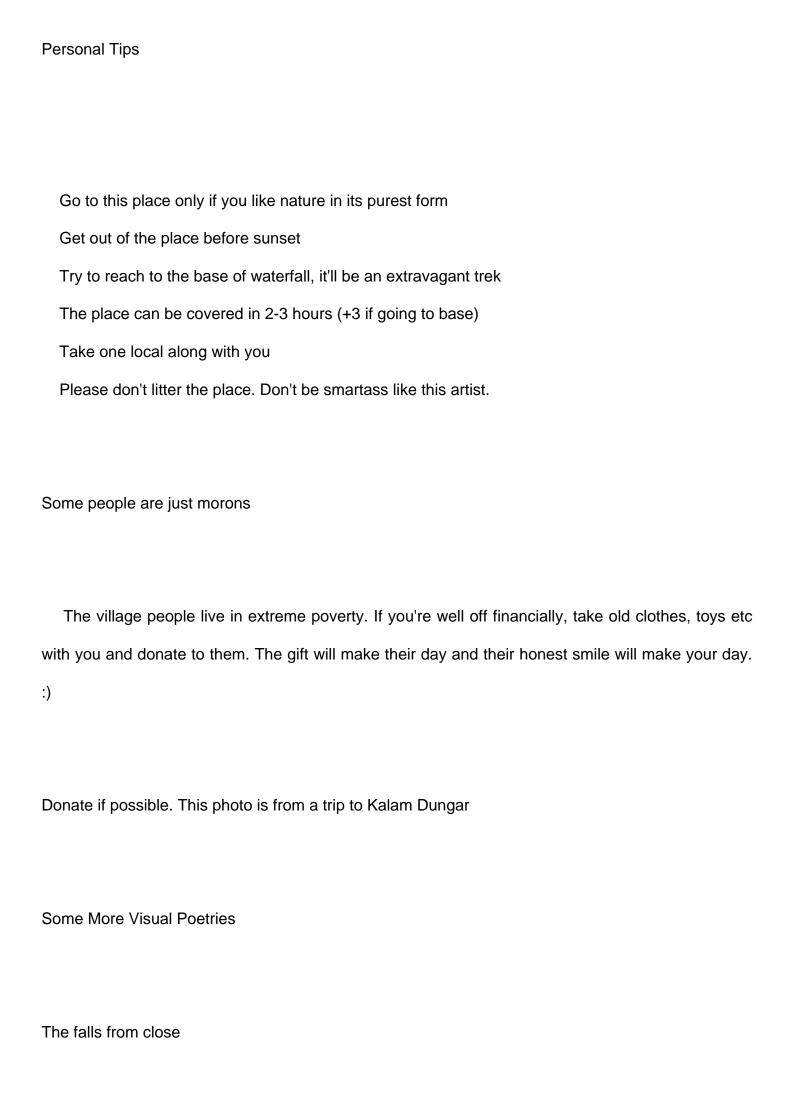


The village, from here trail to waterfall starts
Coming back on what to see part:
Vast mountain range Lush green landscapes
Surreal sunset (If the sky is clear)
Shiv Temple (On the way to Koshmal)
By Keyur Konkani
Ram Mandir (Also on the way to Koshmal)
Rice fields

Adivasi lifestyle And of course, the waterfall **Nearby Places** Mayadevi Temple Bhenskatri (A small town) Girafalls (The most popular waterfall of Gujarat) Waghai Botanical Garden Kilad Campsite Janki Van

Vansda National Park

Take food with you. As I mentioned earlier, this place is just a village and has no tourist setup.
Same goes for the accommodation.
You can stay at Padamdungari Campsite or Kilad Campsite.
An exhaustive list: Places to stay in Dang
A view point setup by North Dang Forest Department
About the Waterfall Trekking
The waterfall, to me, indeed appeared to be the highest waterfall I have ever seen in Gujarat.
Janu Dada, my (psuedo) guide that day told me that reaching to base of waterfall is possible. (My
brother, Kunj Dodiya had been to there. His experience was breathtaking.)
As the sun was about to set when we were there, we didn't attempt it. But looking at the geography
of the place, I thought that to be one hell of a trekking experience.
Check Dam built near waterfall.



A few feet before water crashes
Protection railing put by forest department
Getting lost somewhere
No fence needed. This is to mark boundaries.
Kunj. Many of the photos are taken by him
Signing Off
I hope I've covered everything that you need to know to plan a trip to Koshmal.
If you liked this post, please share it with your circles or drop a comment down. I will be happy to hear your feedback.
Photos by either me or Kunj Dodiya. Taken on OnePlus X Nikon D5300.

Saputara Lake - Photos & Information

Saputara lake is USP of Saputara hill station. The lakeoffers boating facilities and lakeside recreational activities.

You can hire boats from the boat-house between 8:30am and 6:30pm. For half an hour, a pedal boat costs Rs. 20/- per person and a rowboat Rs. 5/-.

Photo: gujarattourism.com

With that price tag, boating in Saputara lake is probably the cheapest in country. Never a once, I did boating for an hour in less than Rs.50

Photo:indiatravelblog.com

Lake is the best place on entire Saputara hill station. It's a small, calm and beautiful place. Evening sunset time would be the best time to hang around this place. Place is maintained wellby the authorities.

Photo:tripadvisor.com

Lake has paddle boats as well as rowing boats. Outside of lake, food points and gaming points are present.

Honey Bees center is 2 minute walk from lake.

Ample parking space is available too.
Photo:gujarattourism.com
Try to avoid holidays and festive season as the place might be crowded.

Saputara Lake Garden

Lake garden is located exactly next to Saputara lake. Garden has no entry fees and is maintained

very well.

Entire garden is covered by lush green lawn. It has nice benches to seat/relax and walking trails.

Evening would be best time to spend time here with family.

Photos Credits: KhatriRocks on Trip Advisor

Lake garden has good food options. As soon as you enter garden, a lot of photographers will

surround you for instant photos. My advice, get one. These days, we use all photos in smartphone.

A photo printed on glossy paper would make a great offline memory for you.

Temple nearby garden

One of the best memories attached with Lake garden is one night dinner we had in garden. We went

to Saptashrungiin Maharashtra and when returning back to Gujarat, we chose this garden as dinner

place.

Lake garden has no light nights (or they weren't on when we entered). So it was a kinda 'flash light'

dinner. I still feel the cool breezing air of that night.

View of Saputara lake from Lake garden

Step Garden Saputara

Step garden is one of finest maintained place in Saputara. It's a small garden, consisting from 20-25 steps. On each step, you'd see wide range of flower beds.

Photo Credits: IamSangram, Navi Mumbai from Trip Advisor

As soon as you enter to Saputara from Gujarat side, take right turn and you'll arrive at Step Garden.

Paragliders in background

Garden hasn't huge span, it can be covered within an hour. Good place for family -- take some snacks and rest here.

From the top of Step garden, view of valley is mesmerizing. You can also get a town view of Saputara turning 180 degree.

For photography this place is like heaven. (Or in that matter, entire Saputara is full of scenic places!). On the top of Step garden, you'd see a hut like setup. Keep eye at this place if you're in need of changing your Facebook profile picture!

Sunrise Point Saputara

Sunset Point Saputara is not for the lazy ones who can't get up early!
Planning a trip to Saputara? Start your day from Sunrise point.
Photo Credits: wayne2704, Surat @ www.tripadvisor.in.
This point matches with Sunset pointof Saputara hill station. You need to park your car around 1 km
from the peak point and then trek to the point. For aged ones, this trek in the morning might be difficult.
The sight of sun rising from hills fills energy and kick off your day with positive vibes.
Suprise point has long been ignered by outborities. Not anymore, they have started developments to
Sunrise point has long been ignored by authorities. Not anymore, they have started developments to
leverage this point. View of Saputara from Sunrise point.

Do carry some water and food with you while climbing to this point. As unlike tabletop point or sunset point, no stalls are present.

While trekking to sunrise point.

Best time to visit this point is monsoon. When you go in morning, the breezing air, mushroom clouds and sun rising from hills - will blow your mind.

Sunset Point Saputara

If you're planning to stay back till evening in Saputara, you shouldn't miss view of Sunset point.

This place can be best enjoyed when there's no crowd around, so better to go off season time.

Avoid weekends, holidays and festivals and you shall find this place serene.

Image Credits: Jenish Parmar at tripadvisor.in

A drawback of this sunset point is you can't take your vehicle to top. You need to park your car middleway and then walk for 1.5 km. Walk will take 30 minutes and climb is steep. Oldies won't be able to make to the top.

Instead what you can do is, take your vehicle to tabletop. Park there and take ropeway to Sunset point. This path includes no walking at all plus you'd have experienced ropeway of Saputara.

Speaking from my experience, ropeway is one of the best activities in Saputara. THE best, I would say.

Don't forget to take lot of photos, you might not see such a beautiful sight ever again.					

Table Top / Town View Point Saputara

Table Top Point is also known as Townview point. The name table top comes because of flat table
like surface on top of hill called Governor's Hill.
Photo Credits: vishalbihani @ www.tripadvisor.in
Table top point has many recreational activities. In fact, it's hub of most of the adventure activities in
Saputara.During tourist festivals like monsoon festival, this place has different aura.
This point is known by multiple names. Townview point and governors hill are other names those
identify this place.
Some of the recreational activities this point offers:
Dike riding (Ite polluting the equirenment bewever)
Bike riding (Its polluting the environment however)
Horse riding Correct riding
Camel riding
Ziplining
Valley crossing

However a point to keep in mind about these activities is, they might not available when tourist rush is little to none.

Saputara ropewayhas one of its end on tabletop point. If possible, do take ride of ropeway, I guarantee you, it'll be your best memory of Saputara.

Rose Garden Saputara

Rose Garden, as the name depicts, has lots of varieties of roses. Though, when I visited the place, I
wasn't so amazed by roses. There are variety of roses but nothing extravagant.
Rose Garden has free entry. Not many people visit this garden however. Notified Area of Saputara
used an innovative approach for this rose garden. They started a scheme named, "Smriti Gulab" in
which visitors can plant a rose in garden with their name. Memory, you know!
Rose Garden is one of three gardens of Saputara:
A. Step Garden
B. Lake Garden
C. Rose Garden

Waghai Botanical Garden is also there but it's 50 km from Saputara.
Rose Garden is good place for photography though. It has many decent locations and elements
those can produce a beautiful image composition.

Mangi Tungi - Trekking Ratangadh : Mangi Tungi Area In Photos

Mangi-Tungi is a prominent twin-pinnacled peak with plateau in between, located near Tahrabad about 125 km from Nasik, Maharashtra, India.

Mangi, 4,343 ft (1,324 m) high above sea level, is the western pinnacle and Tungi, 4,366 ft (1,331 m) high, the eastern.

Mangi-Tungi is only 100 km away from Dhule, a well known city and district place in North Maharashtra (Khandesh).

Reference: Mangi - Tungi Wikipedia

Photos Credits: Ashvin Bardoliwala

Trekking

Mangi - Tungi hills are popular trekking destinations among Maharashtrian trekkers. Difficulty of trek is easy. Entire trek to the top is scenic.

It is best enjoyed in monsoon when temperature is down to 25 and earth takes cover of greenery.

Jainism Jain Tirths

There are numerous temples and is considered sacred in Jainism. It enshrines images of

Tirthankaras in several postures including Padmasana and kayotsarga. Sometimes, it is described

as Siddha Kshetra, meaning a gateway to the state of enlightenment.

108 feet Rishabdev Bhagwan at Mangi Tungi

Around 3,500 (7,000 Up Down) steps lead to the foot of the peak, which is enriched with several

monuments of historical and religious prominence. Besides, there are numerous caves named after

great Tirthankaras such as Mahavira, Rishabhanatha, Shantinatha and Parshvanatha. A grand fair

is held here annually during Kartik (SeptemberOctober) where people visit in large numbers to

witness festival.

There are many inscriptions on idols, most of them are not clear due to deterioration with time. Many

idol installed in 595 CE(V.S. 651) are here. Many inscriptions on rocks of the Adinatha and

Shantinatha caves here are in Sanskrit Language.

In February 2016, The Statue of Ahimsa, an 108 ft idol carved in monolithic stone was consecrated

here. It is recorded in the Guinness Book of World Records as the tallest Jain idol in the world.

Reference: Mangi - Tungi Wikipedia

Photos of Trekking Trip to Mangi Tungi Hills

Dandakvan Ashram Vansda - Maharshi Sadafaldeo Ashram

Dandakvan Ashram Vansda is a temple campus and an excellent landscaped garden. Dandakvan is the idea of Yogiraj Maharshi Sadguru Sadafal Deo Ji Maharaj, who revived the knowledge of Brahmavidya after hundreds of years, and established Vihangam Yoga.

Since my hometown is Vansda, I frequently visit this place. I'd like to give 10/10 points to the organization for maintaining garden. Even after years, the place feels like it was just opened.

Their temple is magnificent too. Made of bright white marble, it looks marvellous.

Dandakvan is severely underrated place in my opinion. Worth a visit on a Dang circuit tour.

About Ashram

"This Dandakvan Ashram is the Sadguru's abode. Its importance is immeasurable. Those men and women who pine for God, when they come here, in this Dandakvan, when they behold this ultimate holy place or stay here, they will be entitled to Bhakti (devotion) and Mukti (liberation)."

Accommodation facility is perfect with furnished rooms. The ambiance is adorned with natural beauty, wonderful Park and a gigantic water fountain. Food is vegetarian and satvic yet pretty tasty. People at the ashram are very simple, reliable, helpful and knowledgeable.

If you want to know something or attend a Satsang, you need not worry. Vedic Yajnas are conducted here and one can attend them. It's a great place to meditate and learn for sure. Modes of

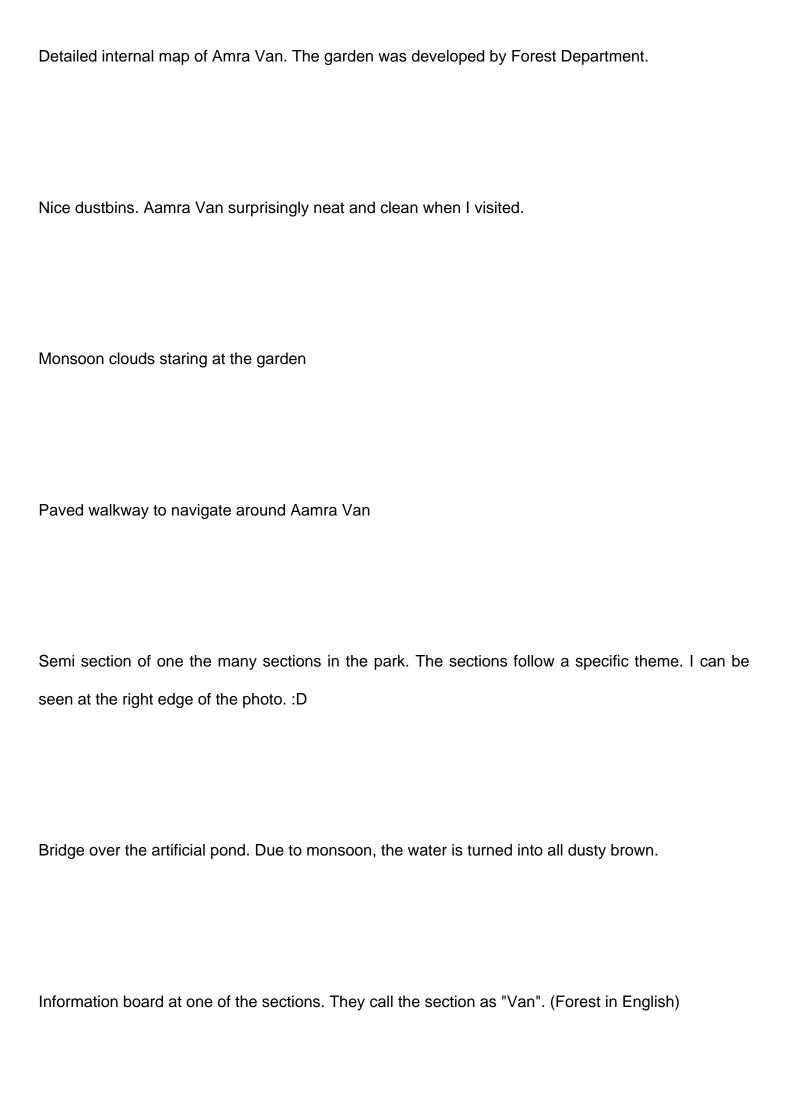
communication are phone, mobile, internet (no Wi-Fi), whereas conveyance is not an issue since
town is nearby. Basically, it's a place well-connected but still an ashram where you can experience
and learn a lot, a sort of place that can help you evolve as a person and realize your goal.
Reference:http://www.vihangamyoga.org/dandakvanAshram.html
Photos of Dandakvan Ashram Vansda
Fountain in front of temple
Artificial waterfall
Temple Entrance
Temple at sunset
Garden lightings at night

One more shot of garden

Garden in the day light

More greenery

Aamra Van at Dharampur, Valsad, Gujarat



The park is well secured with 360 degree fencing. Will be interesting to see for how many years (or months?) forest department is able to maintain the fencing
Some ants
And the leaf said, "I Quit" :)
Most photos by my brother, Kunj Dodiya.

Maa Shabari Farmhouse And Resort, Subir, Dang

I was getting quite a few request about information of Maa Shabari Farmhouse And Resort, located in a village near Subir, Dang.
It is well maintained and good quality food is available.
For booking and inquiries: +91 2631 290442, +91 94261 64526, +91 93776 59082
Photos ofMaa Shabari Farmhouse And Resort taken in June 2016. It was peak summer time so there's not much greenery and no guests around.
View from the entrance
Parking space and compound
Their rulebook and other important information

New villa type rooms being constructed	
Sideview	
Gallery view	
Inside room	

Kadam Dungar, Waghai, Dangs

Publishing photos of one more totally unknown place of the Dangs.

Kadam Dungar (also known as Kalamdungar Kadamdungar) is a hill located ~20km from Waghai town on Ahwa - Waghai road. The hill is important religious place for the native tribals, known as Adivasis.

The hill has an altitude of more than 800 meters, marking it as one of the highest points of Dang region. Locals say that when the weather is clear and there's high visibility (which is rare), one can see both Ahwa and Waghai towns from the hilltop.

When I visited the place, I had a chat with a local about history and religious importance of the place. I had noted it somewhere on phone but seem to have lost track of it. Quoting some tidbits found from Dhaval Pandya's Blog:

"As per their religious belief, the small caves, situated on the large plateau atop the hill, are believed to host seven maavlis (a vernacular term for mother goddess) including Tandalasavar, Kamjasavar, Dudhasavar, Ghunghasavar, Fulasavar, Vaghasavar and Makhwalasavar.

A large mela, organized every year from the eve of New Year to Bhai Bij, attracts a host of tribal population. They revere the seven maavlis and dance on the tunes of paavri through the night."

The villager I met also praised the annual fair that is held on New Year. These kind of events interest me a lot and I'll look forward to attend it this year.

Ps. This place can be an awesome destination for trekking in the monsoon.

Ps2. This place can be an awesome destination for photography as well!
Posting down photos of my short trip to the Kalam Dungar. Photos are taken by Kunj Dodiya and me in November 2016:
A few kms after Waghai town. Villagers carrying cropped rice.
Kalam Dungar from distance
Sign board on the Waghai - Ahwa road
Simple road to happiness
Road all the way to top is well built

BSNL tower on the top. The network covers a lot of villages nearby
A lone tree and hills in the background. The visibility was poor.
Taking dose of Sun rays
Temple at the top
Having a fun chat with a local there. He was surprised to see us
Having a fun chat with a local there. He was surprised to see us.
Attempting some silhouette photography

Due to high altitude, the temperature here rarely goes above 30 degree celsius
Plateau where they organize annual mela. Our car in the middle.
Descending down. In frame - Kunj Dodiya
Fully loaded Bolero. Mahindra Bolero is the most popular vehicle in the Dang region.
Goodbye time!

Adalaj Stepwell (Adalaj Ni Vav) - Ahmedabad, Gujarat

Adalaj Stepwell (In Gujarati Adalaj Ni Vav -) is a stepwell located in the village of Adalaj, close to Ahmedabad city and in Gandhinagar district in the Indian state of Gujarat. It was built in 1498. It is an example of Indian architecture work.

The step well or 'Vav', as it is called in Gujarati, is intricately carved and is five stories deep. Such step wells were once integral to the semi-arid regions of Gujarat, as they provided water for drinking, washing and bathing. These wells were also venues for colourful festivals and sacred rituals.

Source: Wikipedia

I visited Adalaj Stepwell back in the hot summer of April 2016. I wished to write a detailed account of the place. Alas, other priorities wouldn't let me.

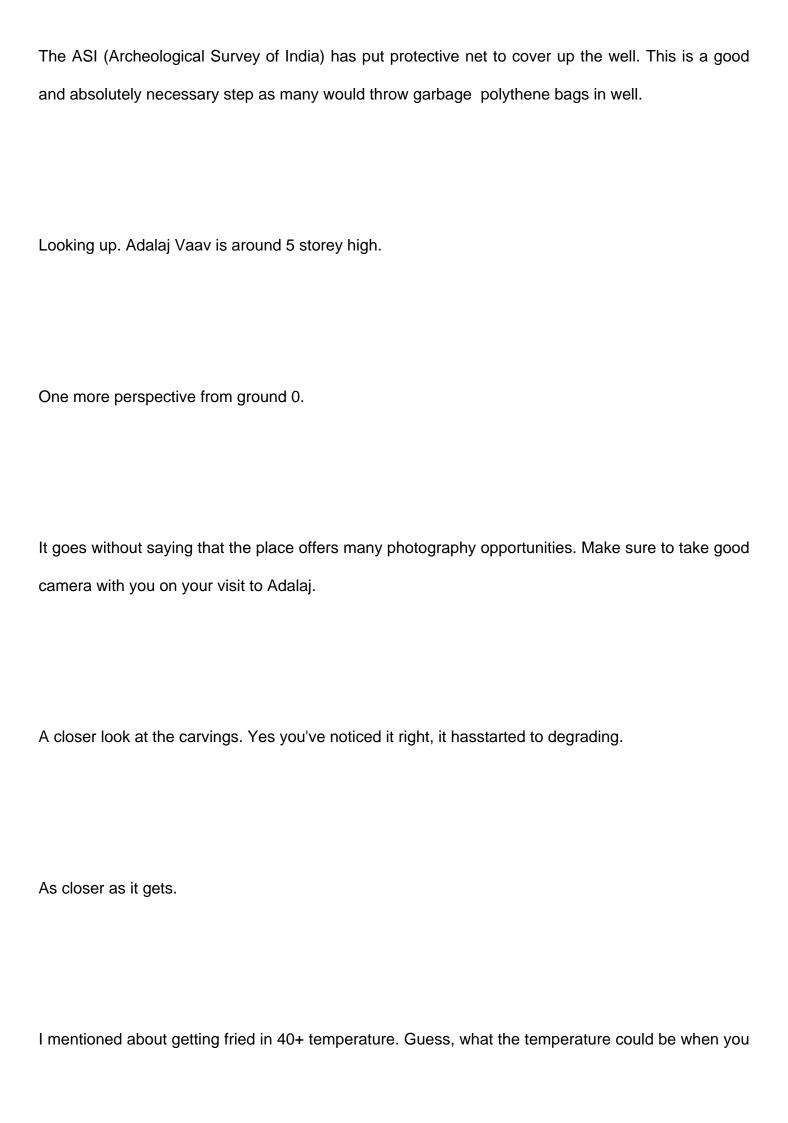
Posting photos of the place here. I will update this post sometime in future. Witness the beauty of Adalaj!

Photos:

Photos from April 2016. Taken on OnePlus X.

Starting journey from BRTS

When I reached there at 2 PM, temperature was above 40 degree celcius. Do not ever visit in summer. The place will be hot and dry.
Adalaj Vav structure is surrounded by two well maintained parks. Even in summer, they were green. Good place to take some rest.
The history of step-well of Adalaj. Click on image to view it in full size.
Entering in. Even in summer, the place was little crowded.
Mesmerizing structure.



Yes, the Vav is architectured in such a way that as you go deeper, temperature will steadily go down to an extent.
to an extent.
With that, I'm hitting the publish button. Hope you enjoyed the photos. Feel free to drop a comment
down, would love to hear your thoughts. Keep calm and travel on. :)

Trimandir, Adalaj - Non-Sectarian Temple by Dada Bhagwan

Trimandir is the innovative concept of a non-sectarian temple by Dada Bhagwan. It aims to bring the gods of Jainism, Shaivism, and Vaishnavism on one stage.

Trimandir Adalaj is a temple built oncontemporary thoughts.

Here's what the definition of non-sectarian says:

"not involving or relating to different religious sects or political groups."

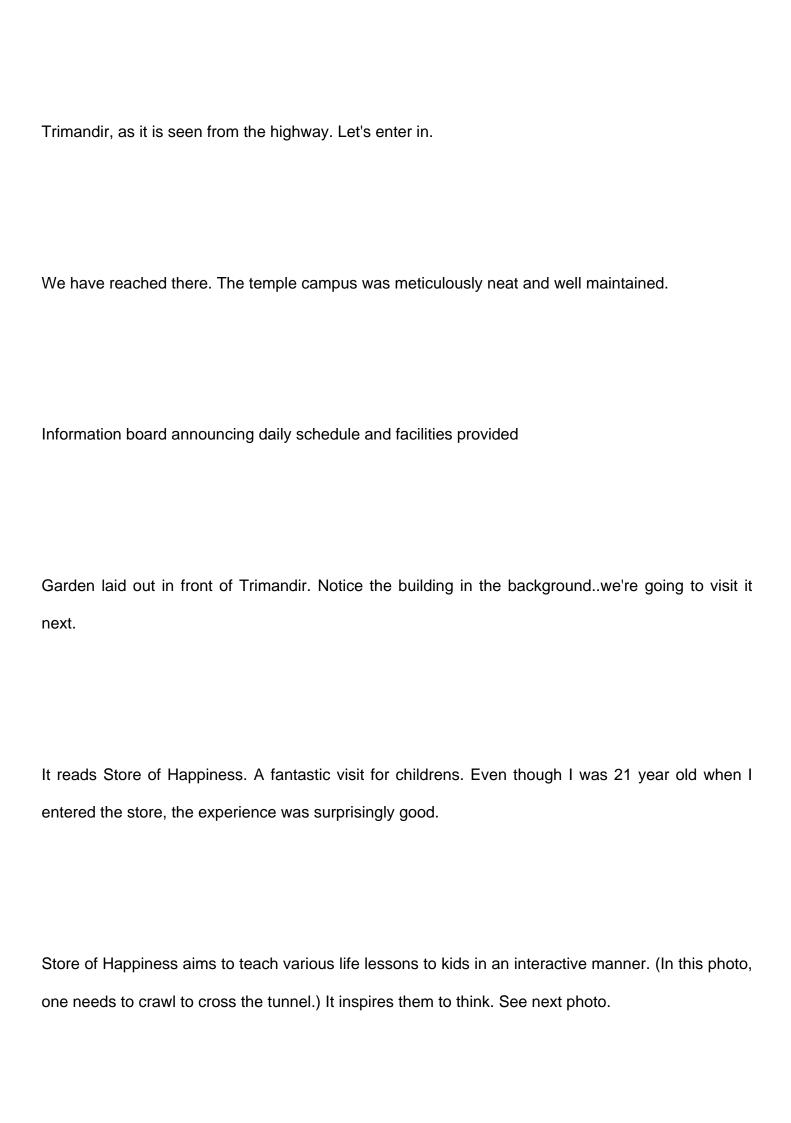
When I visited the place last year, I was amazed by this unique concept. Visit Dada Bhagwan Foundation's official website for more info.

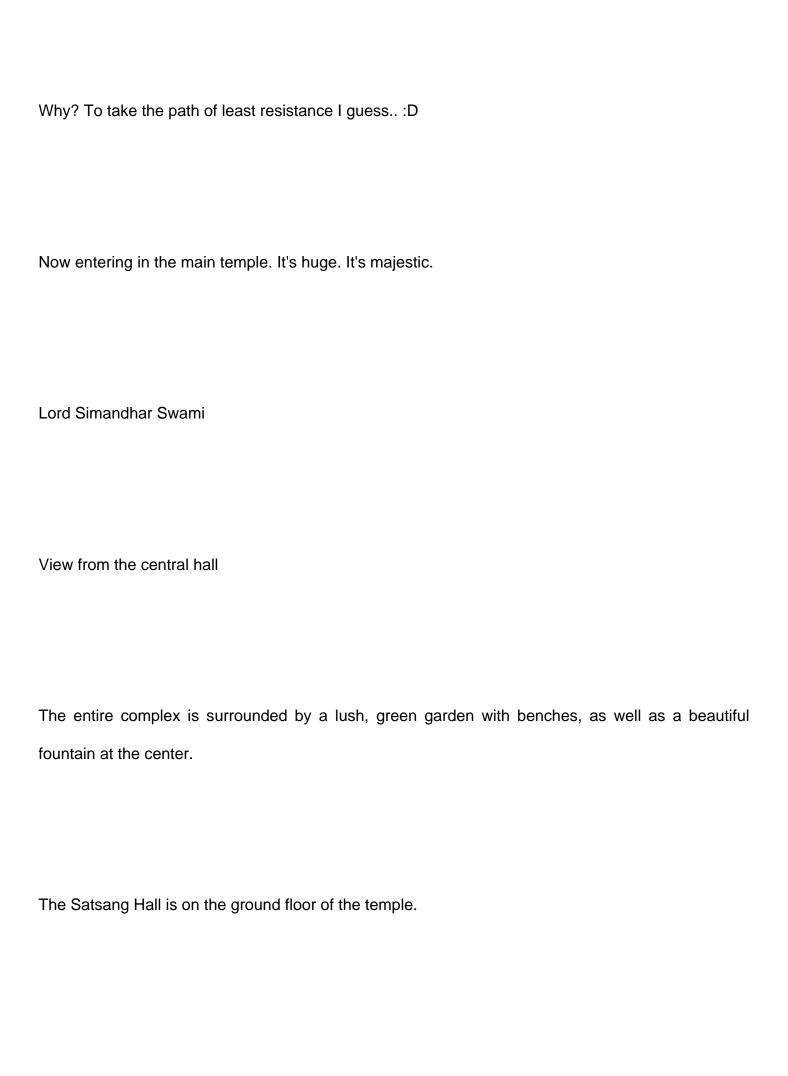
The Adalaj Trimandir is located 20 km away from the city of Ahmedabad (Gujarat), near the village of Adalaj, on the Ahmedabad-Kalol Highway. It's just 5 minutes from Adalaj Ni Vav (Adalaj Stepwell). Don't ever miss this place if you're around Adalaj area.

I will add more details of my visit in sometime. Enjoy imagery of the Temple meanwhile.

Photos were captured on OnePlus X. Taken in the month of April 2016. Photos might look little washed out as they were shot on very bright afternoon.

A stretch on Ahmedabad-Kalol Highway



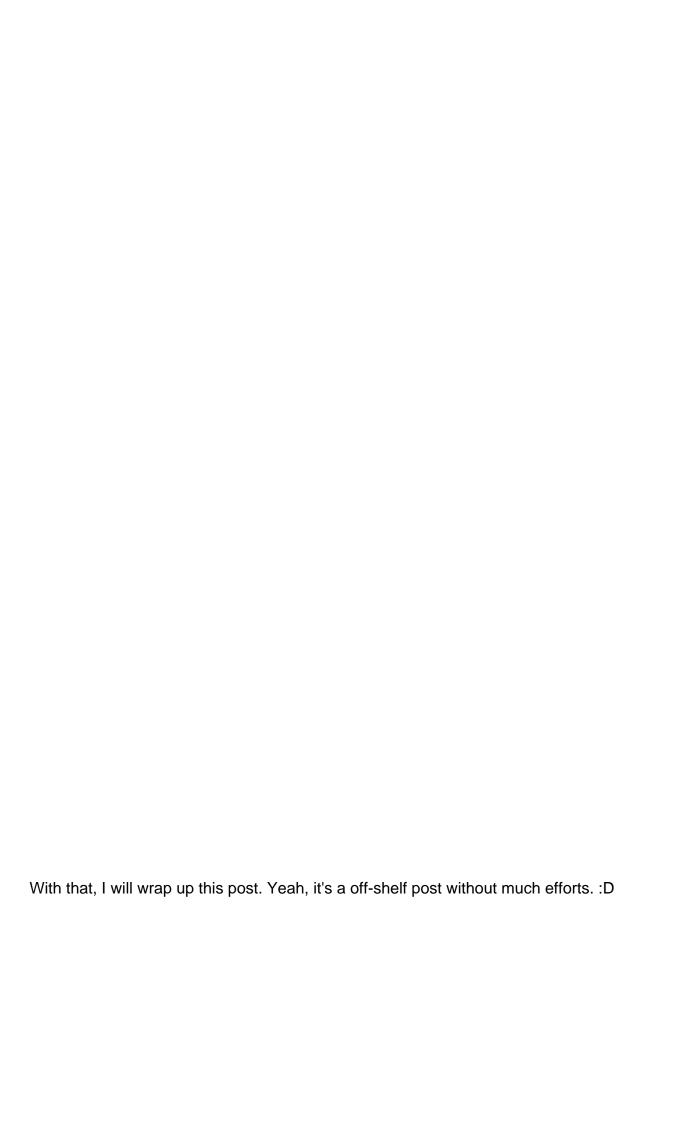


With Mr Baldesinh Chauhan.

A very kind volunteer at the Trimandir. He gave me detailed tour of the campus and explained about nuances of the concepts on which the Dada Bhagwan Foundation is built. A mind refreshing experience indeed.

Adalaj Stepwell - Rudabai Vaav, Ahmedabad

I had been stagnant for a little long and haven't published any new post lately. Now pushing out
many pending ready-to-publish photos I have on my hard drive. Starting from the Adalaj Stepwell of
Ahmedabad.
Location: Adalaj, the outskirts of Ahmedabad city, near to Gandhinagar
Date of visit: 17th April, 2016.
Camera: OnePlus X
Photos
Starting journey with BRTS.
It was super hot at Adalaj in April. This felt like an elixir.



Breaking	Down	The	PNR	Number	of	Indian	Railways:	What,	How,
Why?									

Ever wondered how the 10 digit PNR number you get from IRCTC - Indian Railways ticket is generated? Or what do the digits indicate? What is PNR? or What is PNR's meaning? Or basically why do we even need PNR?

I had the same set of questions. I Googled extensively and tried to find the answers. Learnt many new things about the railway reservation system. Read along to boost your knowledge too...

PNR FAQs

What is PNR? What is PNR full form? What is PNR in railways?PNR: Passenger Name Record

What is meaning of PNR? Why it is used?PNR simply means an entry in the database of your airline/railway/travel agency to store travel information of a passenger or group of passengers.

PNR is used to keep track of travel itinerary in computer records.

What is PNR Number?It is a unique identifier to point to the PNR record in the database.

How do I check PNR status?It depends on your travel agency.A Google search is the fastest way to

get PNR status of your ticket. A simple search such as "Indian Railways PNR status" or "Emirates

PNR status" would do.

What is booking reference and is it same as PNR?Booking reference is prominently used in air

travel and in most cases, yes, it serves the same role as PNR.

What is PNR in train/Indian railways?Please go through rest of the article below. It should give you

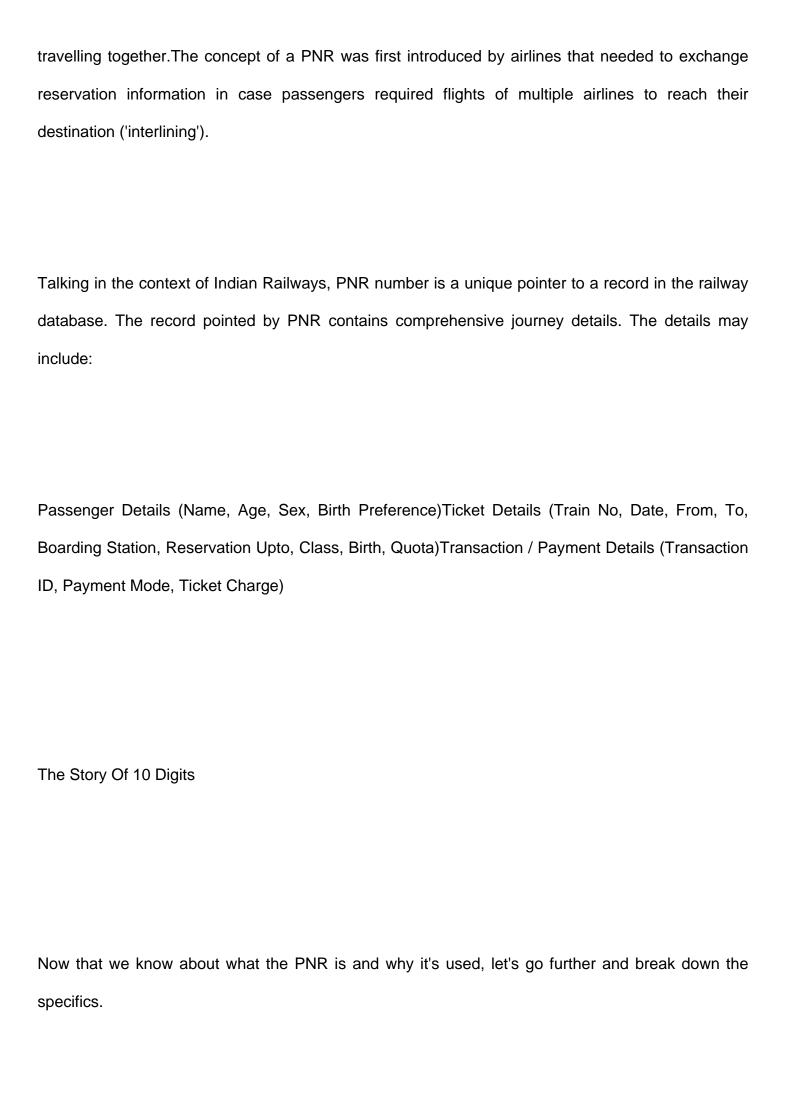
an idea.

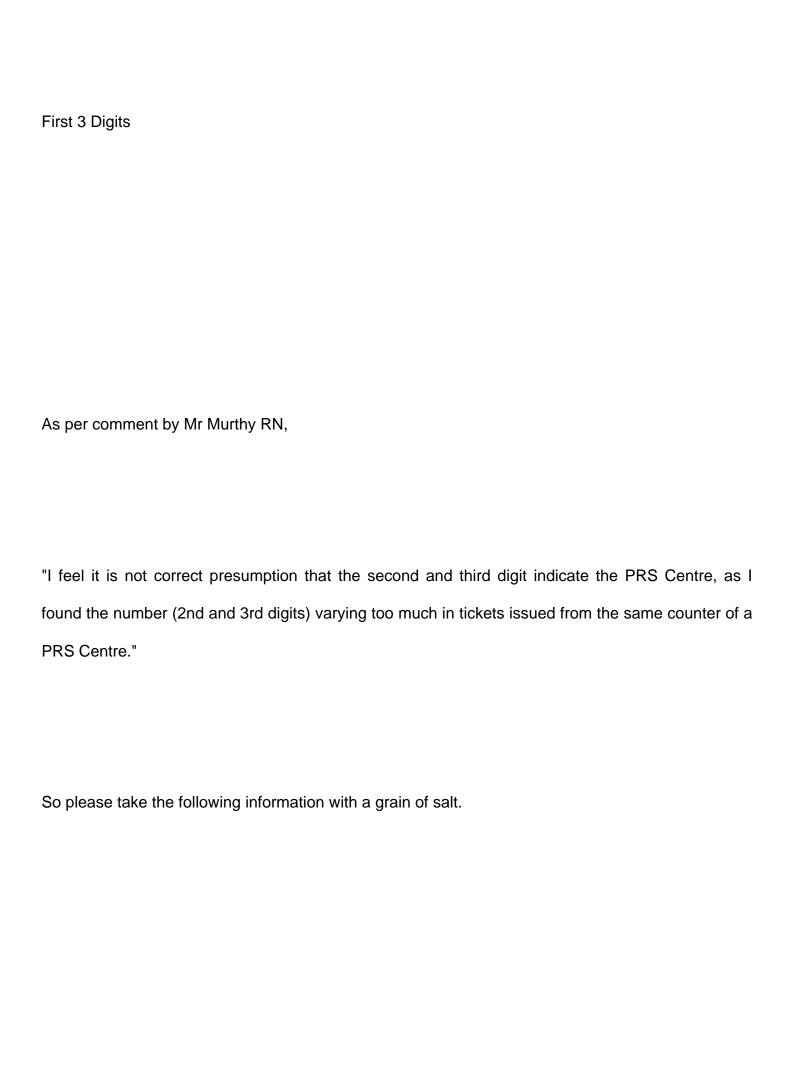
PNR History? Although PNRs were originally introduced for air travel airlines systems, they can also

be used for bookings of hotels, car rental, airport transfers, and train trips.

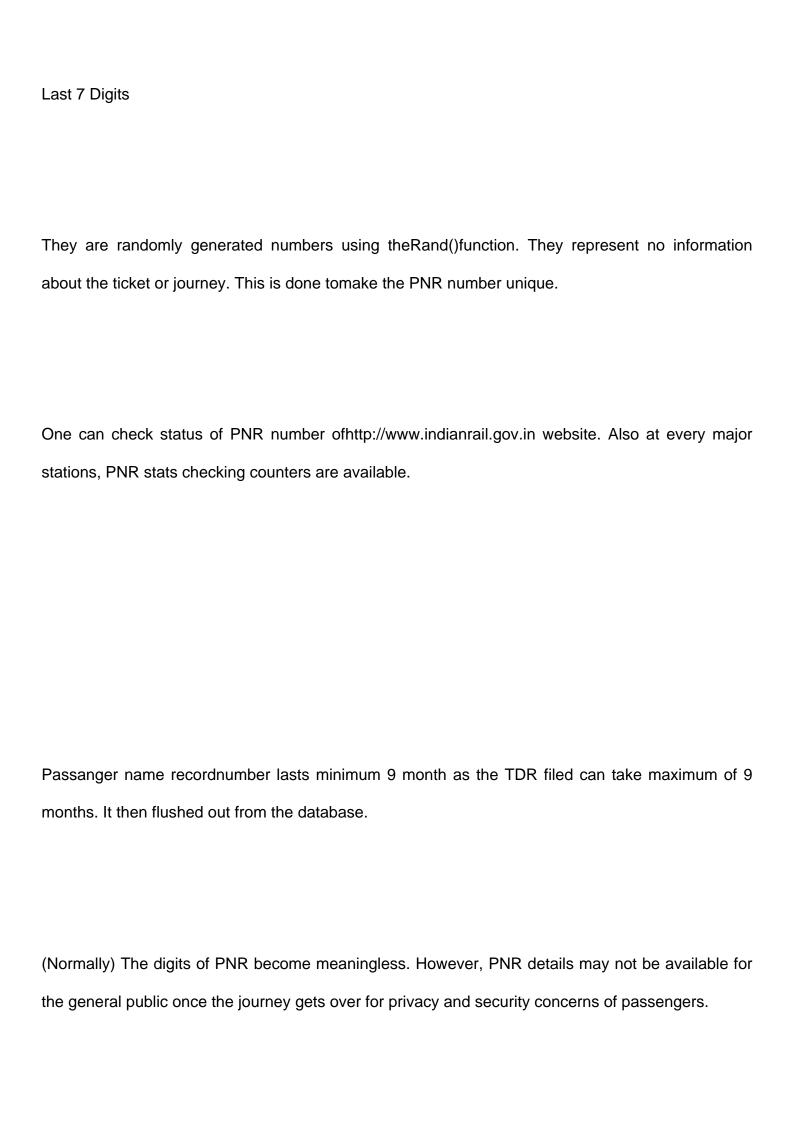
The PNR -Passenger Name Record: It's Meaning and Status In Journey

In the airline and travel industries, a passenger name record (PNR) is a record in the database of a computer reservation system (CRS) that has the itinerary for a passenger, or a group of passengers





They tell us from which PRS the ticket has been booked.(PRS:Passenger Reservation System. Developed by CRIS, PRSis a total networking solution to Indian Railways Passenger Reservation System.)
The PNR numbers' starting digit does not depend on the PRS from which it has been booked.
Following block is based on comment made by Aloke, thanks!
https://darpan.blog/travel/breaking-down-the-pnr-number-of-indian-railways-what-how-why/#comme nt-19301
The first digit of the PNR is simply based on the PRS node that handles the train i.e. the PRS node that the originating station of the train falls under.
There are only four digits that a train PNR starts with:2 for trains handled by the northern PRS node (Delhi)4 for trains handled by the southern PRS node (Chennai)6 for trains handled by the eastern PRS node (Kolkata)8 for trains handled by the western PRS node (Mumbai)



How to Check Status of PNR Number
Indian Railways maintains PNR as the single point of transaction. IRCTC updates PNR status as and when required. For instance, when your ticket gets confirmed. You can also check PNR status.
So, next time when you book a ticket, have a glance at the first digit. And yes, you're a pro Indian Railways traveler now! :)
Enjoyed reading? Have more information? Share your thoughts in the comments. Spreadthis post to illuminate others

Sources:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passenger_name_recordhttp://www.indianrail.gov.inhttp://indiar
ailinfo.com/faq/post/regional-prs-centre-with-zone-and-pnr-starting-digit/1145http://indiarailinfo.com/f
aq/post/1787

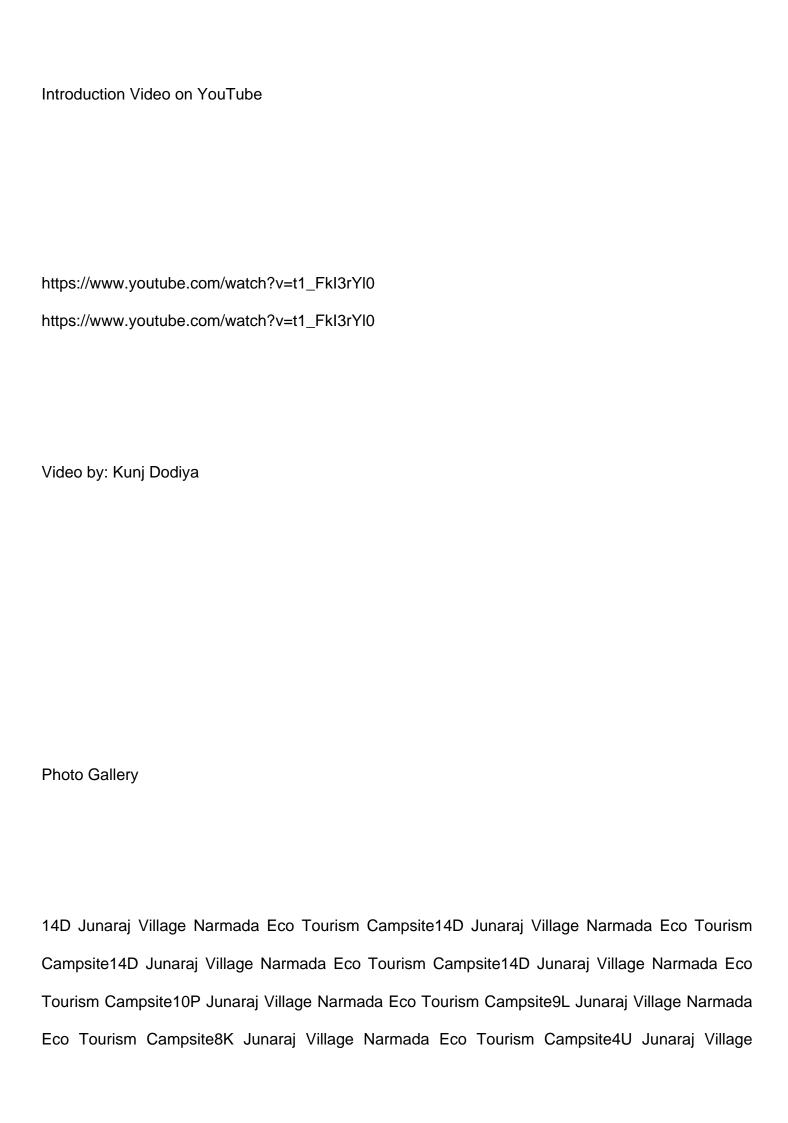
Junaraj Eco Tourism Campsite, Narmada, Gujarat

A travel information guide of Junaraj Eco Tourism Campsite. Junaraj is a village in Narmada district of Gujarat.

A few months back, I was contacted by Narmada Forest Department to improve digital presence of Rajpipla eco tourism campsites. I, along with help of my younger brother Kunj Dodiya, set out to document every campsite in Narmada district by photos, videos and web pages.

Following is the account of Junaraj Eco Tourism Campsite:

Please note that we photographed the campsite in the month of February 2018, which isn't the best time to capture beauty of Narmada region. Expect the campsite to be a lot more vibrant and green in the monsoon and post monsoon months upto December.



Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite7A Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite3R Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite5l Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite2A Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite1A Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite1S Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite1 Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite1 Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite

Photos by:Kunj Dodiya

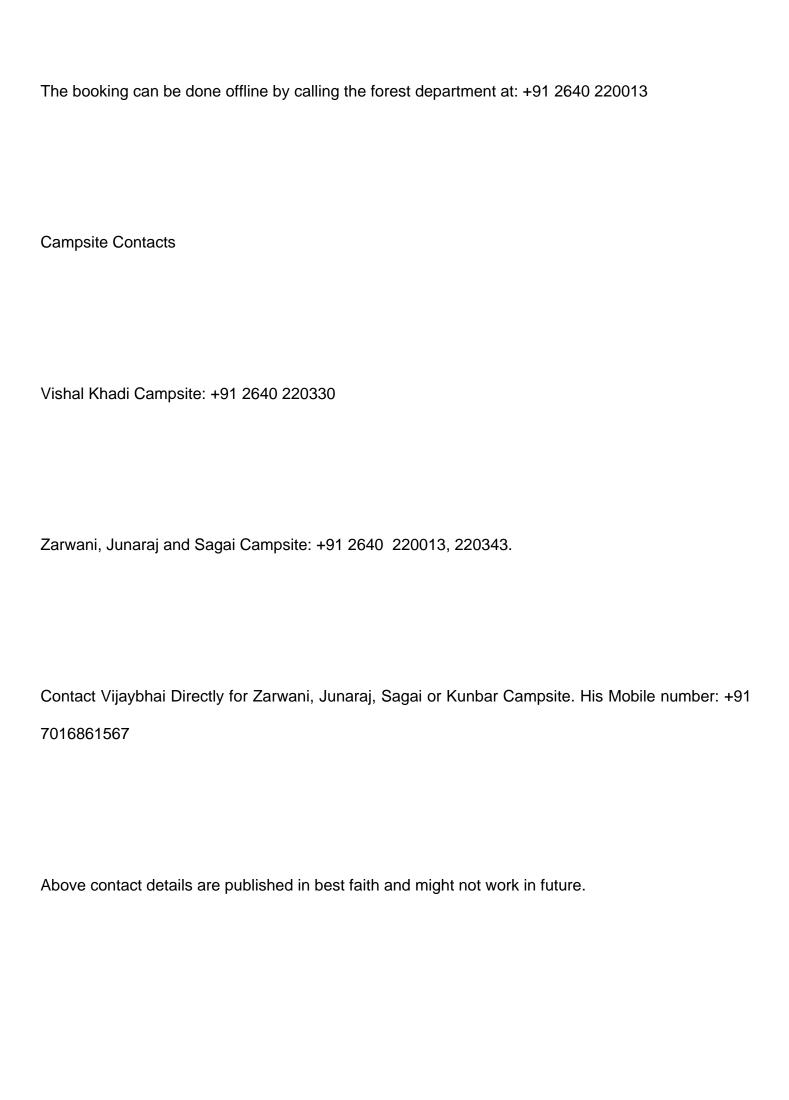
Location

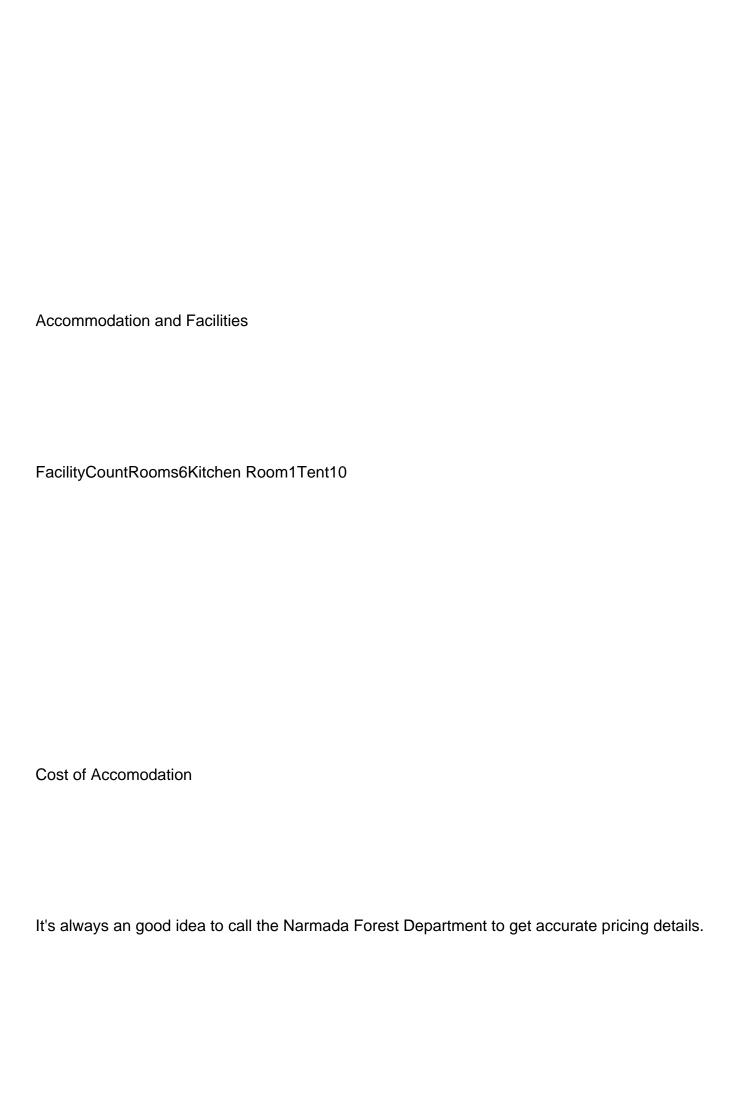
Junaraj Campsite is situated 16 km from the Narmada district headquarter, Rajpipla.

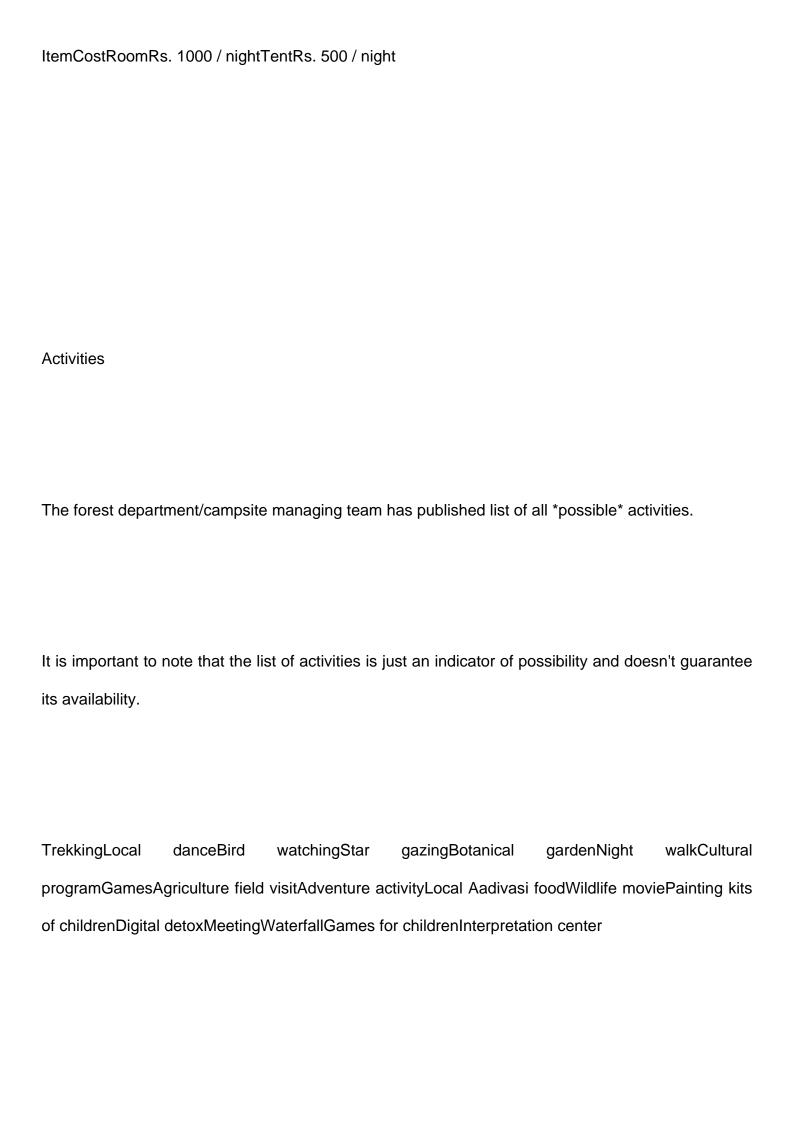
Comment on Route
I posted a comment on road to reach Junaraj in comments section. Copying it here for reference:
Youll need to reach to Rajpipla from Surat. Take either the highway or Mandvi route.
At Rajpipla, you need to make a turn at this point: Dropped pin near Unnamed Road, Gujarat 393155 https://goo.gl/maps/vN8zjQhYGn72
After you make the turn, best bet is to ask locals with route to Junaraj.

Its merely 15 km but takes an hour.
Yes, youve read right, the road isnt there at all. Its not a tar road.
So in the monsoon months, it is highly recommended not to take risk.
Post monsoon however, I dont see any problem.
We drove there in Algo 800 multiple times and havent faced any issue.

Distance Matrix		
From PlaceTo PlaceDistance in kms/Time in hrRajpiplaJunaraj minSuratJunaraj Ecotourism20 km / 1 hrAhmedabadJunaraj minMumbaiJunaraj Campsite400 km / 8 hrVadodaraJunaraj Campsi	Campsite220 km / 4 hr	
Booking Details		
I have implemented online booking functionality, however due tenabled for production.	to circumstances it couldn'	t be







Closing Note
My visit to Junaraj was an impressive experience. I would rate Junaraj the highest among all other
campsites of Narmada. Secluded location, the temple in middle of reservoir, ruins of old capital and
the peaceful surroundings attribute to the high rating.
I hope this post has been helpful to plan your visit.
If you have any additional information or feedback, please drop a comment down the post. Happy journey!

Other Narmada Campsites

Dev Mogra Eco Tourism CampsiteJunaraj Eco Tourism CampsiteKunbar Eco Tourism CampsiteSagai Eco Tourism CampsiteVishal Khadi Eco Tourism CampsiteZarvani Eco Tourism Campsite

Zarwani Eco Tourism Campsite Narmada, Gujarat

This post is an updated information guide of Zarwani Eco Tourism Campsite. The place is also spelled as Zarvani. Now with the introduction of statue of unity, Zarvani campsite has an immense potential to become top accommodation hub for tourists.

A few months back, I was contacted by Narmada Forest Department to improve digital presence of Narmada eco tourism campsites. I, along with help of my younger brother Kunj Dodiya, set out to document every campsite in Narmada district by photos, videos and web pages.

Following is the account of Zarwani Eco Tourism Campsite:

Please note that we photographed Zarwani in the month of February 2018, which isn't the best time to capture beauty of Narmada region. Expect the campsite to be a lot more vibrant and green in the monsoon and post monsoon months up-to December.



Photo Gallery

The images below are 24 megapixels ultra high quality images and will take some time to load. I

should've scaled and optimized them for web. Too late now, my bad.

Zarvani Narmada Ecotourism CampsiteZarvani Narmada Ecotourism CampsiteZarvani Narmada

Ecotourism CampsiteZarvani Narmada Ecotourism CampsiteZarvani Narmada Ecotourism

Campsite9O Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite8I Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism

Campsite7U Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite6D Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism

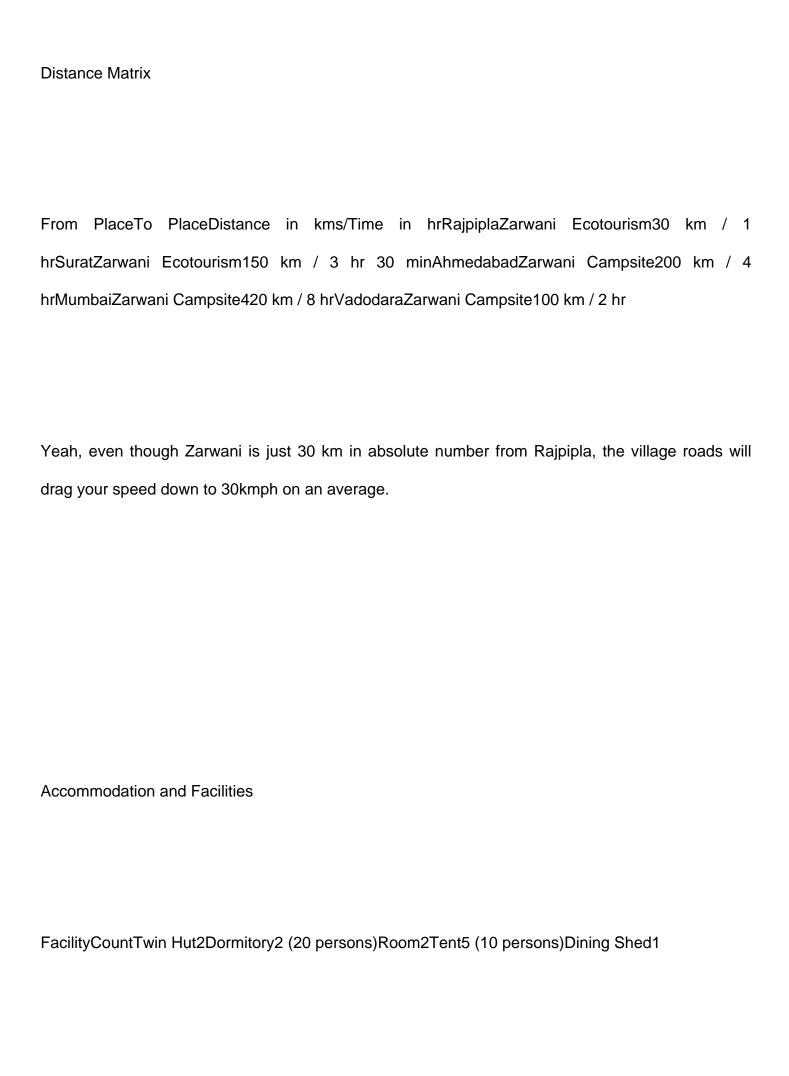
Campsite5C Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite4B Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism

Campsite3A Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite2A Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism

Campsite1A Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite1A Zarvani Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite

Photos by:Kunj Dodiya

Location
Zarvani eco tourism is situated in the Narmada District. It is 28 kms from Rajpipla towards Kevadia
Colony at the Narmada Dam site. Zarwani is 7 kms from the Thawadia Checkpost. It is situated
inside the Shoolpaneshwar Wildlife Sanctuary which is home to a gamut of flora fauna.
The campsite is placed on the side of cliff of the hills. Landscape views from the site are pleasure
to eyes in monsoon. Below is the linked exact Google Maps location:





The forest department/campsite managing team has published list of all *possible* activities. If
you're school or an organization, you may be able to organize custom activities with the help of
campsite management.
It is important to note that the list of activities is just an indicator of possibility and doesn't guarantee
its availability.
BoatingChauta WaterfallTentVan KutirCamping HutSolar LanternHome LightFencingEco Trekking
TrailBird WatchingNight WalkDigital DetoxCultural ProgramAgriculture VisitStar GazingTribal
FoodGeneral Meeting
Clasing Nata
Closing Note
Zarwani is my brother's favorite campsite. He loves the hills surrounding campsite and the cliff
edged location.

The campsite managing committee can also offer breakfast, lunch and dinner at reasonable rates.
Usually they will require certain number of minimum head count for food preparation. As it is remote
place, internet connectivity or any kind of connectivity for that instance is rare.
The staff is kind and will try to accommodate requests.
I hope this post has been helpful to plan your visit.
If you have any additional information or feedback, please drop a comment down the post. Happy
journey!
Other Narmada Campsites

Dev	Mogra	Eco	Tourism	CampsiteJunaraj	Eco	Tourism	CampsiteKunbar	Eco	Tourism
Cam	psiteSag	ai Mal	samot Eco	Tourism Campsit	eVisha	al Khadi E	co Tourism Camps	siteZar	vani Eco
Touri	sm Cam	psite							
Did y	ou know	that a	II campsite	es of Narmada are	manaç	ged by a co	ommittee consisting	of loc	cals? The
local	village o	commi	ttee is res	sponsible for maint	enanc	e of the o	campsite. As far I	know,	revenue
comi	ng from t	ourist :	accommod	dation bookings also	o goes	into their	account.		

Sagai-Malsamot Eco Campsite, Narmada, Gujarat

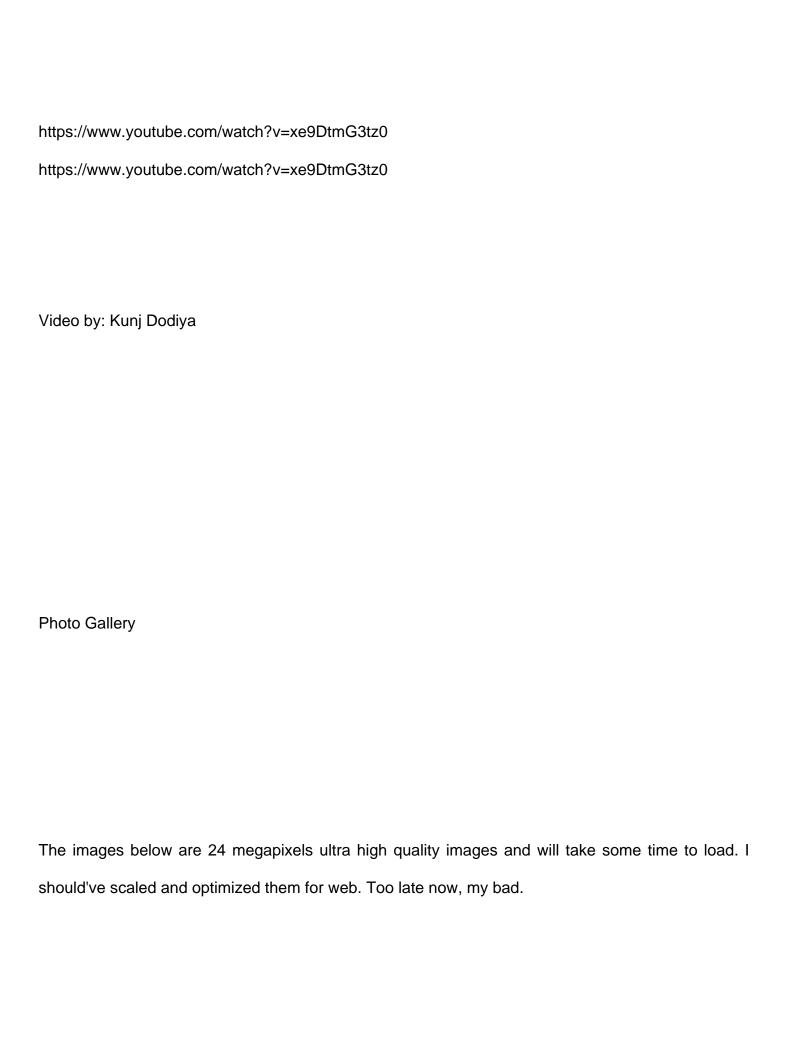
This post is an updated information guide of Sagai Malsamot Eco Tourism Campsite. Sagai is located on the foothills of Malsamot hill station. It is a 2-hour drive around a winding road from Rajpipla located in the Dediapada Wildlife Sanctuary.

A few months back, I was contacted by Narmada Forest Department to improve digital presence of Narmada eco tourism campsites. I, along with help of my younger brother Kunj Dodiya, set out to document every campsite in Narmada district by photos, videos and web pages.

Following is the account of Sagai Malsamot Eco Tourism Campsite:

Please note that we photographed the campsite in the month of February 2018, which isn't the best time to capture beauty of Narmada region. Expect the campsite to be a lot more vibrant and green in the monsoon and post monsoon months up-to December.

Introduction Video



14M Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite13M Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism

Campsite12L Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite11K Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco

Tourism Campsite10J A Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite9l Sagai Malsamot

Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite3C Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite4D Sagai

Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite5E Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite6F

Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite7G Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism

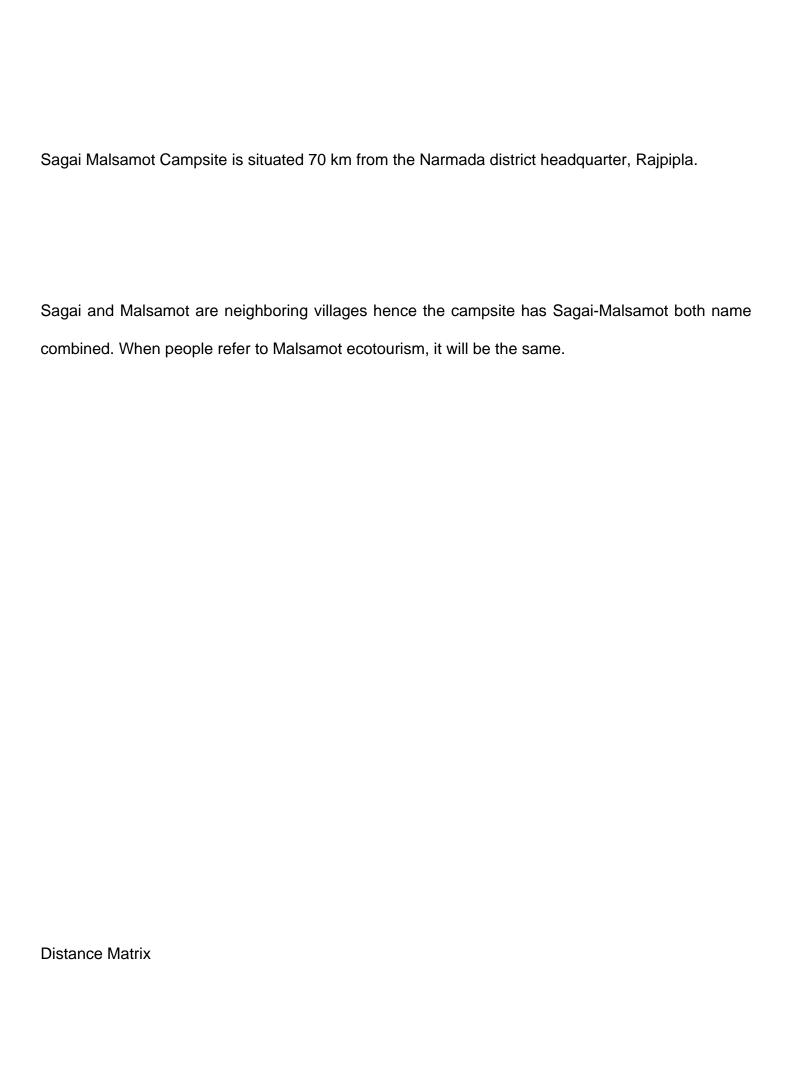
Campsite8H Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite2B Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco

Tourism Campsite1A Sagai Malsamot Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15M Sagai Malsamot

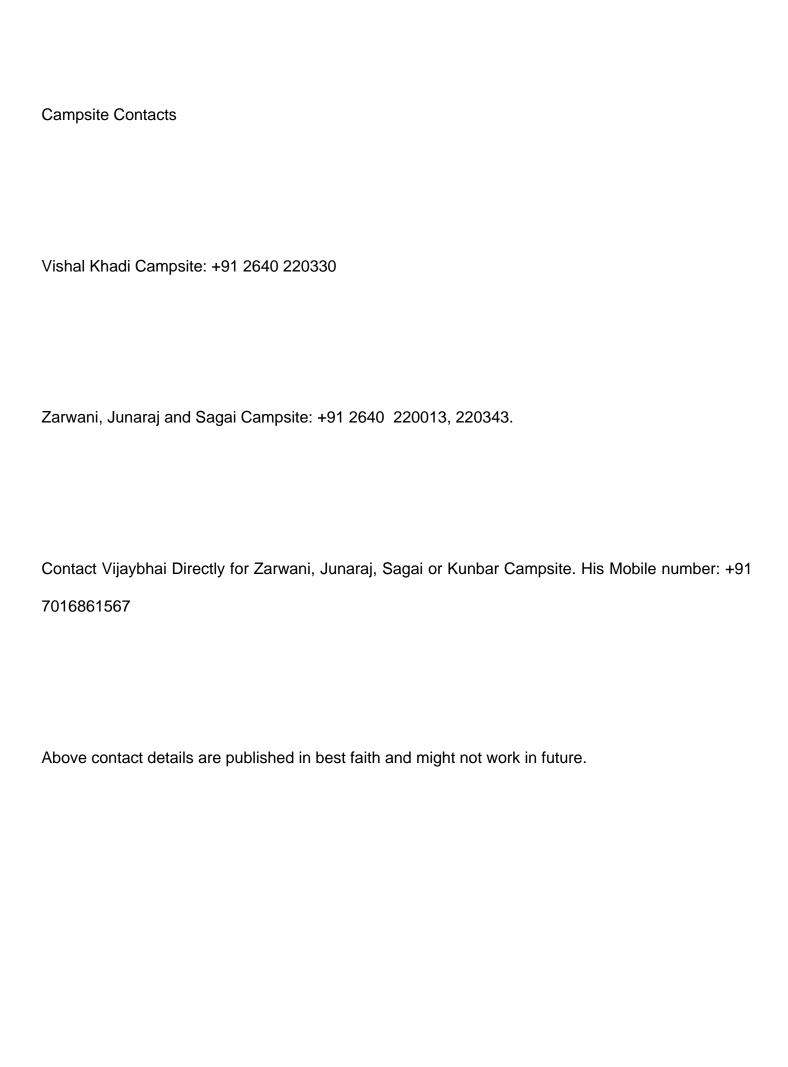
Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite

Photos by:Kunj Dodiya

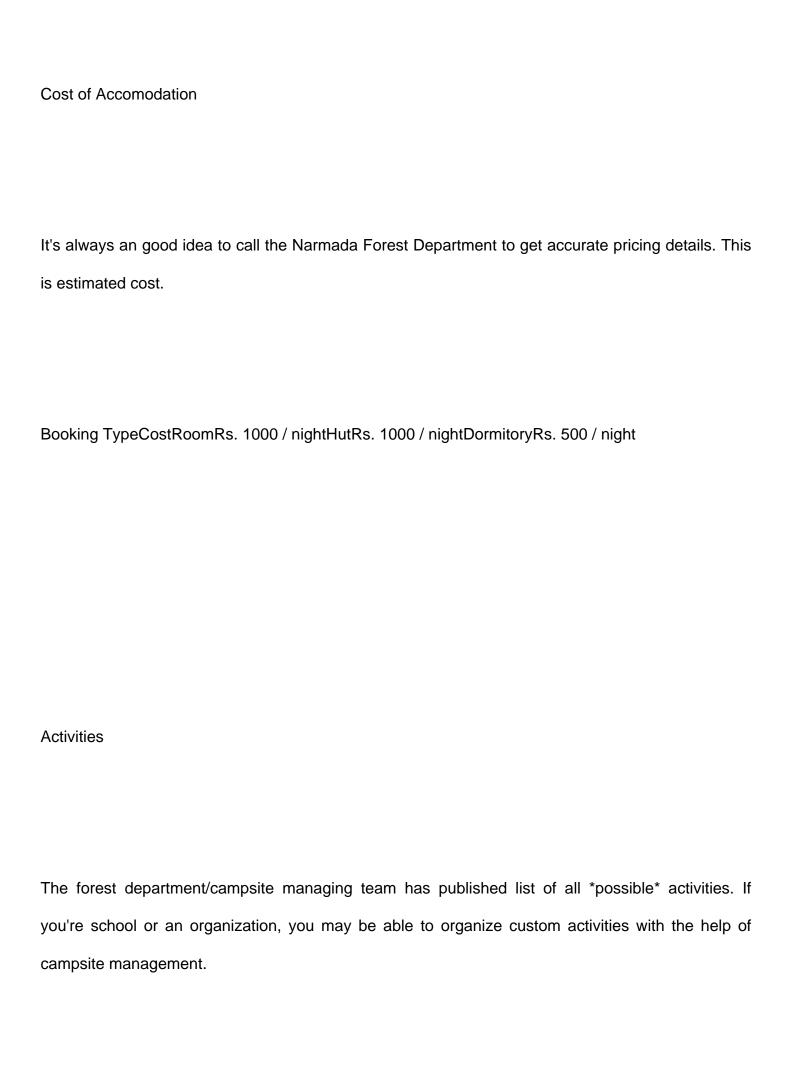
Location



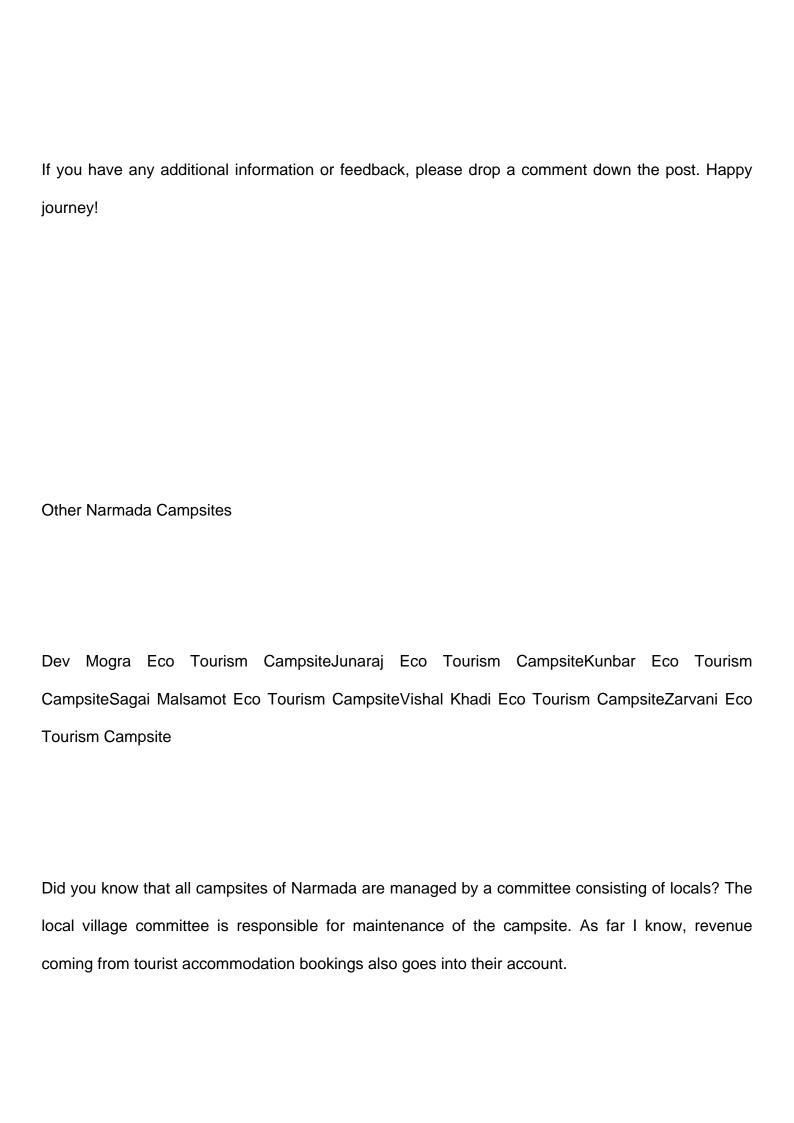
From PlaceTo PlaceDistance in kms/Time in hrRajpiplaSagai Malsamot Ecotourism70 km / 1 hr 30
minSuratSagai Malsamot Ecotourism150 km / 3 hrAhmedabadSagai-Malsamot Campsite250 km /
5 hrMumbaiSagai-Malsamot Campsite400 km / 7 hrVadodaraSagai-Malsamot Campsite140 km / 3
hr
Booking Details
I had implemented online healing functionality on the forest department website, however due to
I had implemented online booking functionality on the forest department website, however due to
circumstances it couldn't be enabled for production.
The booking can be done offline by calling the forest department at: +91 2640 220013



Accommodation and Facilities
At Sagai
FacilityCountTwin Hut6Dining Hall1Kitchen Hut1Dormitory Room2Interpretation Center1
At Samot
FacilityCountRest House Room2Room6Bamboo Hut2



It is important to note that the list of activities is just an indicator of possibility and doesn't guarantee its availability.
TrekkingLocal danceBird watchingStar gazingBotanical gardenMedicinal gardenNight walkCultural programGamesAgriculture field visitAdventure activityLocal Adivasi cusineWildlife moviePainting kits for childrenDigital detoxMeetingWaterfallPlaying arena for kidsInterpretation center
Closing Note
Sagai campsite took me by a surprise that it is placed right next to the state highway. Which is quite uncommon to see for campsites. Other campsites of Narmada are usually tucked away far in the tribal areas. They feel secluded. Whereas, Sagai doesn't feel so secluded and serene.
I hope this post has been helpful to plan your visit.



Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism, Narmada, Gujarat

This post is an updated information guide of Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism Campsite. The site is more prominently known as Visal Khadi among locals. Due to its close proximity to Rajpipla town and high accessibility due to the state highway, Vishal Khadi is the most popular ecotourism campsite of Narmada district.

A few months back, I was contacted by Narmada Forest Department to improve digital presence of Narmada eco tourism campsites. I, along with help of my younger brother Kunj Dodiya, set out to document every campsite in Narmada district by photos, videos and web pages.

Following is the account of Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism Campsite:

Please note that we photographed Visalkhadi in the month of February 2018, which isn't the best time to capture beauty of Narmada region. Expect the campsite to be a lot more vibrant and green in the monsoon and post monsoon months up-to December.

Introduction Video https://youtu.be/08BfwIZ8AFU https://youtu.be/08BfwIZ8AFU Video by: Kunj Dodiya

Photo Gallery

The images below are 24 megapixels ultra high quality images and will take some time to load. I

should've scaled and optimized them for web. Too late now, my bad.

15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism

Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco

Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada

Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi

Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal

Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N

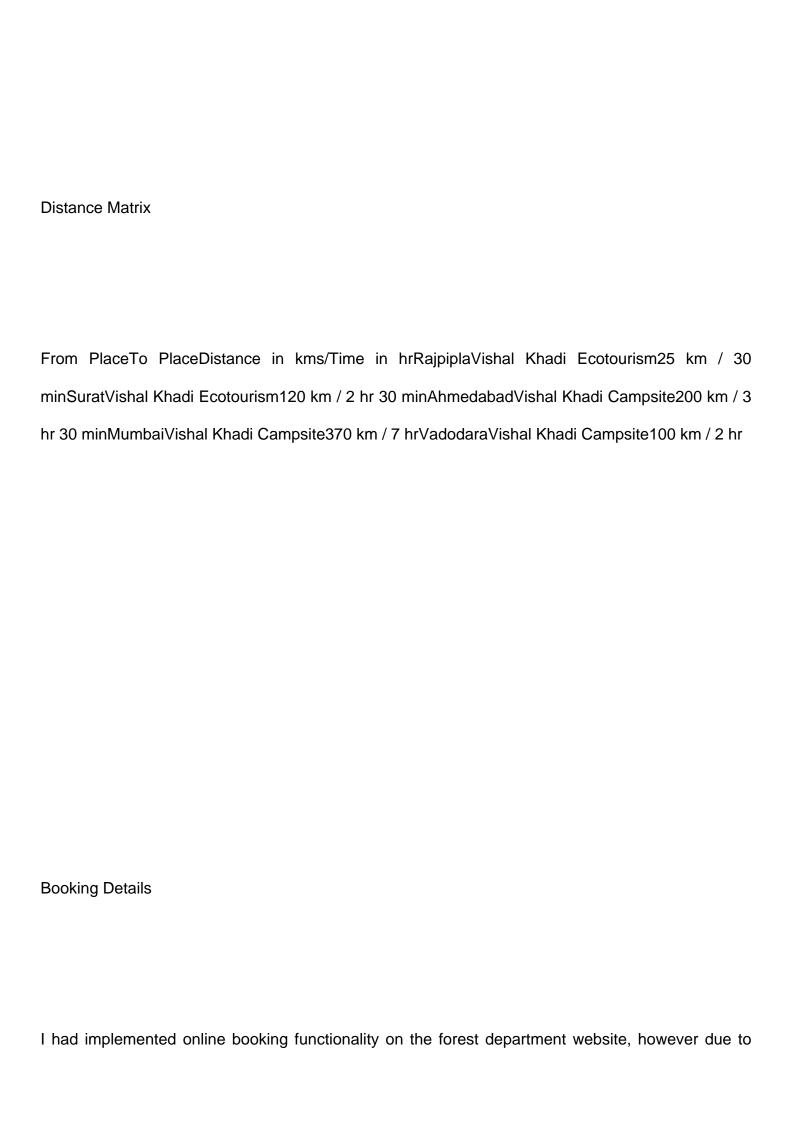
Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism

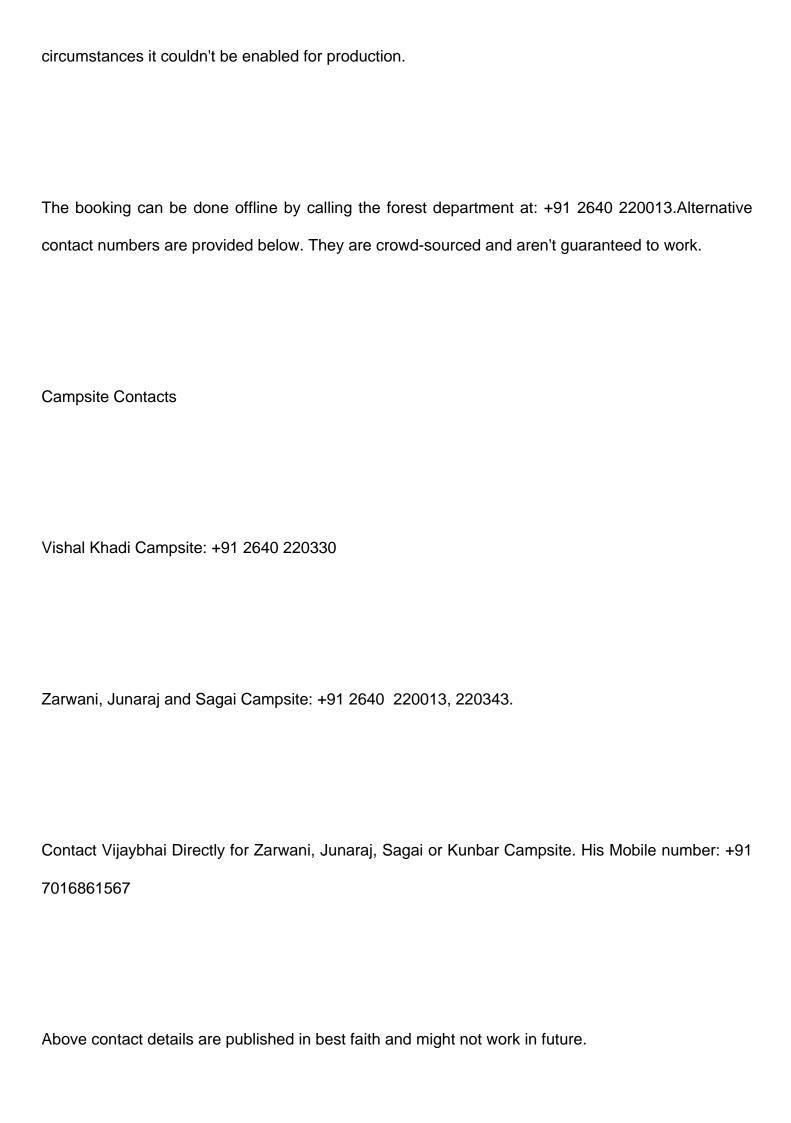
Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco

Tourism Campsite 160 Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite

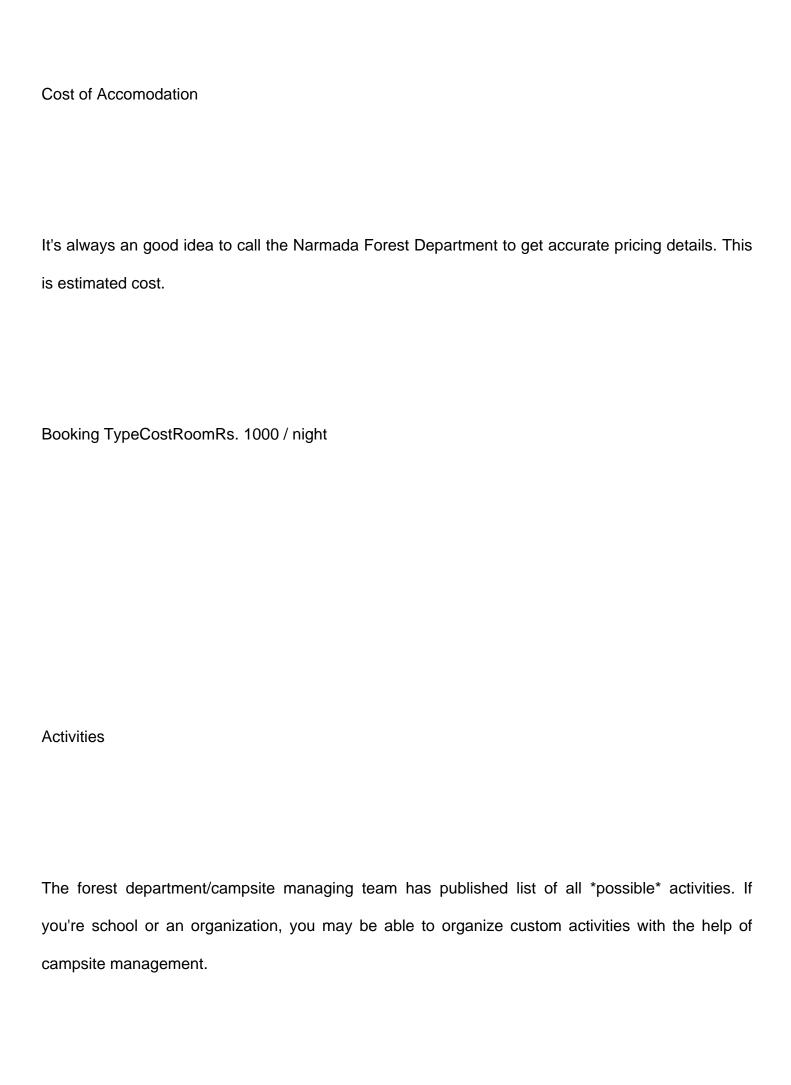
Photos by: Kunj Dodiya

Location
Vishal Khadi Campsite is situated 25 km from the Narmada district headquarter, Rajpipla. It is very well connected by Gujarat State Highway GJ SH 160 and NH953.
Be careful about getting off from NH953 to Vishal Khadi. There is a board but as the slope is
downward and roads are windy, it is easy enough to miss the turn. At least, I did a couple of times. :)
Below is the linked exact Google Maps location:









It is important to note that the list of activities is just an indicator of possibility and doesn't guarantee its availability.
BoatingTrekkingLocal danceBird watchingStar gazingMedicinal gardenNight walkCultural programGamesAgriculture field visitAdventure activityLocal adivasi foodWildlife moviePainting kits for childrenDigital detoxMeetingLocal tribal danceFilm show
Closing Note
I loved the location of Vishal Khadi campsite.
It is highly accessible yet gives secluded and "into-the-nature" feeling. A left turn from the highway and 1000 meters forward gets you to the parking lot of the campsite. In my visit to the campsites of Rajpipla, I found only this campsite to be bulging with tourists. GSRTC - State Transport buses can

be leveraged to reach to this campsite. Any local bus going from Rajpipla to Netrang would work.
Visalkhadi is surrounded by hills, scenic jungle and backwaters of Karjan Reservoir. It is due to the
backwaters that the campsite inherited it's name of "khadi". In Gujarati, one would call a relatively small stream of water as "khadi".
I hope this post has been helpful to plan your visit.
If you have any additional information or feedback, please drop a comment down the post. Happy journey!
Other Narmada Campsites

Dev	Mogra	Eco	Tourism	CampsiteJunaraj	Eco	Tourism	CampsiteKunbar	Eco	Tourism
Cam	psiteSag	ai Mal	samot Eco	Tourism Campsi	teVish	al Khadi E	co Tourism Camp	siteZar	vani Eco
Touri	sm Cam	psite							
Did y	ou know	that a	II campsite	es of Narmada are	mana	ged by a co	ommittee consisting	g of loc	cals? The
local	village (commi	ttee is res	sponsible for main	tenand	e of the o	ampsite. As far I	know,	revenue
comi	ng from t	ourist	accommod	dation bookings als	o goes	s into their a	account.		

A Dinner at Ahmedabad Law Garden

In February 2016, I was in Ahmedabad for a couple of days. Ahmedabad, or I would say, Gujarat is well known for its food. We went out to Law Garden area to try out the street food.

This time I had DSLR around so shot some moments while we were at it.

Location: Law Garden, Ahmedabad

Camera: Nikon D5300

Photos

Ambapada Village Handicrafts, Gujarat

Ambapada is a small village near Waghai, Dangs, Gujarat. It is known for handicraft items made from bamboos.

I'm a regular visitor of Ambapada, primarily to purchase gift items. During one such visit, we carried a white project paper to do some preliminary product photography for the handicraft artists. Here're some photos of the trip.

Ps. We edited these photos nicely and printed them out for free for the local artists. They now use them as their portfolio. :)

Location: Ambapada Village, near Gira Falls, Waghai, Dangs, Gujarat.

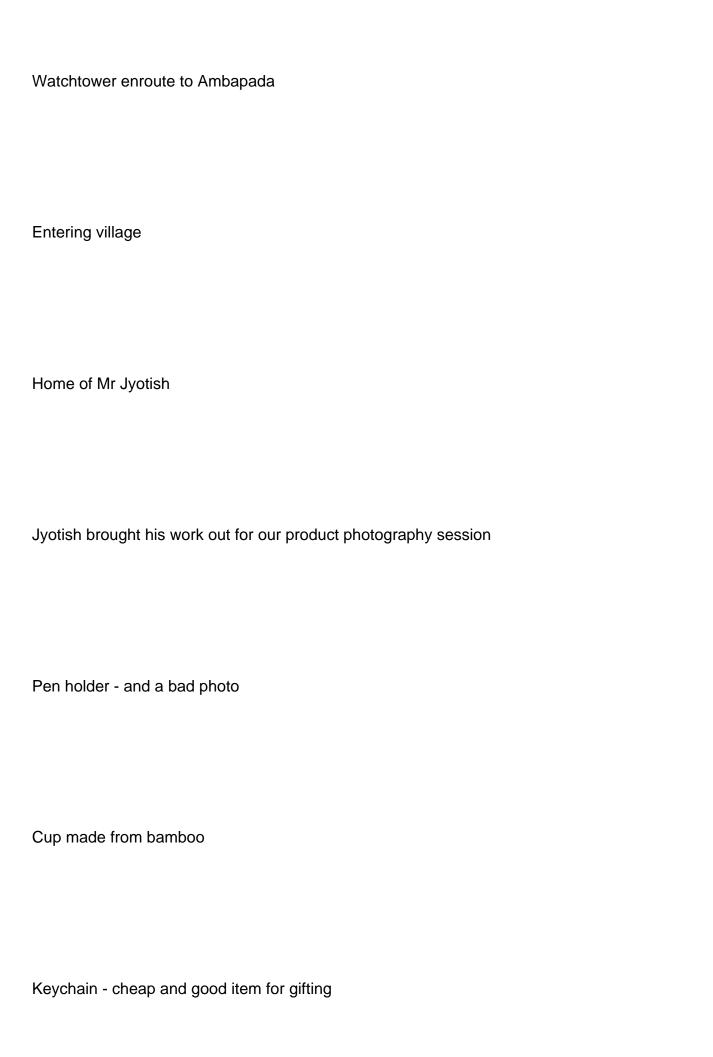
Camera: OnePlus X - an okaish smartphone camera. Not much to praise about.

Just incase if you're interested, here's contact number of one excellent artists and one of my friends.

Jotishbhai - +91 78747 76032

Photos

Sunny summer afternoon



Flowerpot
Flowerpot closeup - intricate bamboo craftsmanship
Wall decor Ganesha
Closeup to illustrate the fine details
This art requires decent amount of patience
Your usual ballpen
Cute, aren't they?

Trimandir Adalaj, Ahmedabad

Photos from my visit to Tri Mandir Adalaj, Ahmedabad.
The Trimandirs, as the non-sectarian temples, are a part of Dada Bhagwan Foundation (DBF) and its associated charitable trusts.
The temple is not your usual temple, I found it pretty interesting. The non-sectarian idea is a one-off I'd like to write about the uniqueness of the Dada Bhagwan Foundation and the Trimandir - hopefully I'll be able to pull out some time soon. Till then, I will let the photos do the justice.
The photos:
Sarkhej Gandhinagar Highway
View from the distant side of highway
Front view of the temple

Lush green garden even in summer
Timings and facilities
Store of happiness building
Passage leading to caves
Thought provoking questions for kids
Quiet main passage of the temple
Jain temple

Massive entrance to the main hall
View of temple campus
With Mr Beldevsinh Chauhan. He guided me throughout the visit. Many thanks!
And that's a wrap!

A Nightout At Hadala Village, Rajkot

This post isn't about a place or attraction - it instead focuses on a night spent at a village near

Rajkot, Hadala.

I was there to attend marriage of my college friend. After finishing dinner, we figured out we had

plenty of time left in night, so decided to take a spin in the Hadala village. Pramod Mali also joined

me for the walk.

At that time, my night photography skills were below par - I wouldn't even rate it basic. So the photos

are pretty mundane, but yeah, you learn step by step.

Photos on: Nikon D5300

Taken in: February 2017

Location: Hadala, Rajkot

Empty streets

The chok system

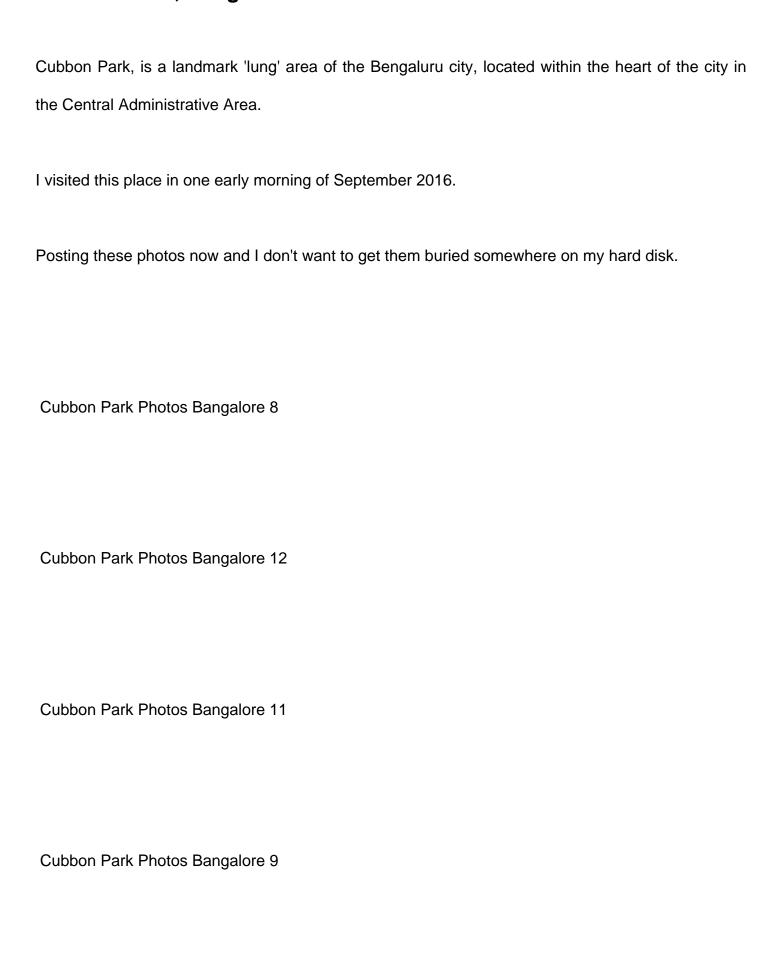
Tinkering with manual mode
Resting after the dinner
Closed temple
The excitement of shooting on DSLR
Temple lights
The village youth joined us
Don't remember story behind this photo now

Welding technician	
Welding workshop	
Sad doggy	
Gam Charcha	
Posing for photo	
This guy was hyperactive	

Now deteriorated fort of old times

Enjoying free moments after household work	
Tractor	
Pramod and I. I look fat. :(

Cubbon Park, Bangalore



Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 7	
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 6	
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 5	
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 4	
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 3	
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 2	

Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 10

Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 1		
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 19		
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 18		
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 17		
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 16		
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 15		
Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 14		

Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 13

HAL Heritage Center & Aerospace Museum, Bangalore

HAL Aerospace Museum is India's first aerospace museum located at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited premises, in Bangalore. Established in 2001, the Museum is part of the HAL Heritage Centre and Aero Space Museum, and showcases the growth of the Indian aviation industry and HAL for six decades.

I visited this museum on my trip to Bangalore in September 2016.

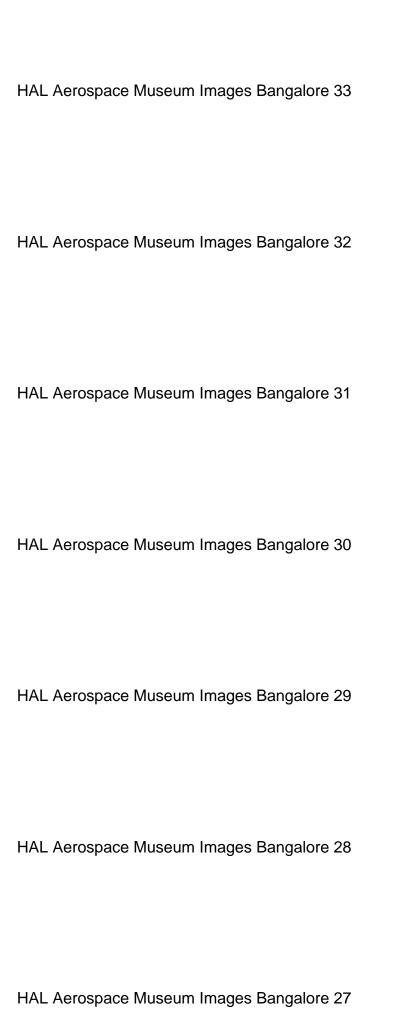
It was my first trip with newly bought Nikon D5300 DSLR and also newly bought Tamron 18-200 mm travel lens. HAL museum was the second place I visited in Bangalore after Iskon Temple. Its the reason why this post will have tons of photos..

48 photos in total for this post, my average per post is about 15. This is 3 times more!

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 36

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 35

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 34







HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 13	
HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 12	
HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 11	
HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 10	
HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 9	
HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 8	
HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 7	





HAL Aerospace N	Museum	Images	Bangalore 39	
HAL Aerospace N	Museum	Images	Bangalore 38	
HAL Aerospace N	Museum	Images	Bangalore 37	
HAL Aerospace N	Museum	Images	Bangalore 40	

Diu Museum - St Thomas Church

The St. Thomas Church lies on an elevated platform within the Diu Fort. It was created by the Portuguese in 1598, reflecting a Gothic style architecture. After the conversion of the building to the museum, the church does not organise prayer services anymore.

To be honest, this place is waste of time and isn't recommended at all for sightseeing. The museum itself is small and ill maintained.

The photos are from out trip to Diu in April 2016. There are only 4 photos because..well the place has nothing much to offer.

Diu Museum - St Thomas Church Diu 2

Diu Museum - St Thomas Church Diu 1

Diu Museum - St Thomas Church Diu 4

Diu Museum - St Thomas Church Diu 3

Fort Diu - Gujarat

Fort Diu, is located on the west coast of India in Diu, a Union Territory, administered by the Government of India. The fort was built by the Portuguese during their colonial rule of the Diu Island.

Due to easy accessibility and popularity due to movie Kai Po Che, Fort Diu has gained momentum in attracting tourists.

The fort is spread in quite a large area. It took us good 4 hours to cover entire fort - and even after we left some stones unturned.

Morning and evening time in recommended, afternoons to be avoided.

Fort Diu Gujarat 15

Fort Diu Gujarat 13

Fort Diu Gujarat 16			
Fort Diu Gujarat 18			
Fort Diu Gujarat 19			
Fort Diu Gujarat 24			
Fort Diu Gujarat 23			
Fort Diu Gujarat 22			

Fort Diu Gujarat 21			
Fort Diu Gujarat 20			
Fort Diu Gujarat 25			
Fort Diu Gujarat 26			
Fort Diu Gujarat 27			
Fort Diu Gujarat 1			
Fort Diu Gujarat 2			

Fort Diu Gujarat 7 Fort Diu Gujarat 6 Fort Diu Gujarat 5 Fort Diu Gujarat 4 Fort Diu Gujarat 3 Fort Diu Gujarat 12

Fort Diu Gujarat 10

Fort Diu Gujarat 9

St Pauls Church Diu - Daman & Diu

The St. Pauls Church, is situated on Diu Island, on the west coast of India, a Union Territory of India. Diu came under the control of Portuguese colonists in early 16th century.

The St. Pauls Church, named after St. Paul, the Apostle of Jesus also known as the Apostle to the Gentiles, is still a functioning church and one of the three churches in Diu built by the Portuguese. It is considered one of the best examples of baroque architecture (artistic style) in India.

St Pauls Church is the one place I highly recommend adding in sightseeing list for Diu. We visited it in early morning hours - the serenity was baffling. I loved spending an hour sitting there in pin drop silence. Thought about life. And travel. And friends and what not.

I visited this place during our trip to Diu in April 2016. It was summer. Not the best time to visit Diu, I'd say.

St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 2

St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 1

St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 5

St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 6 St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 4 St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 9 St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 8 St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 3 St Pauls Church Diu - Daman And Diu 7

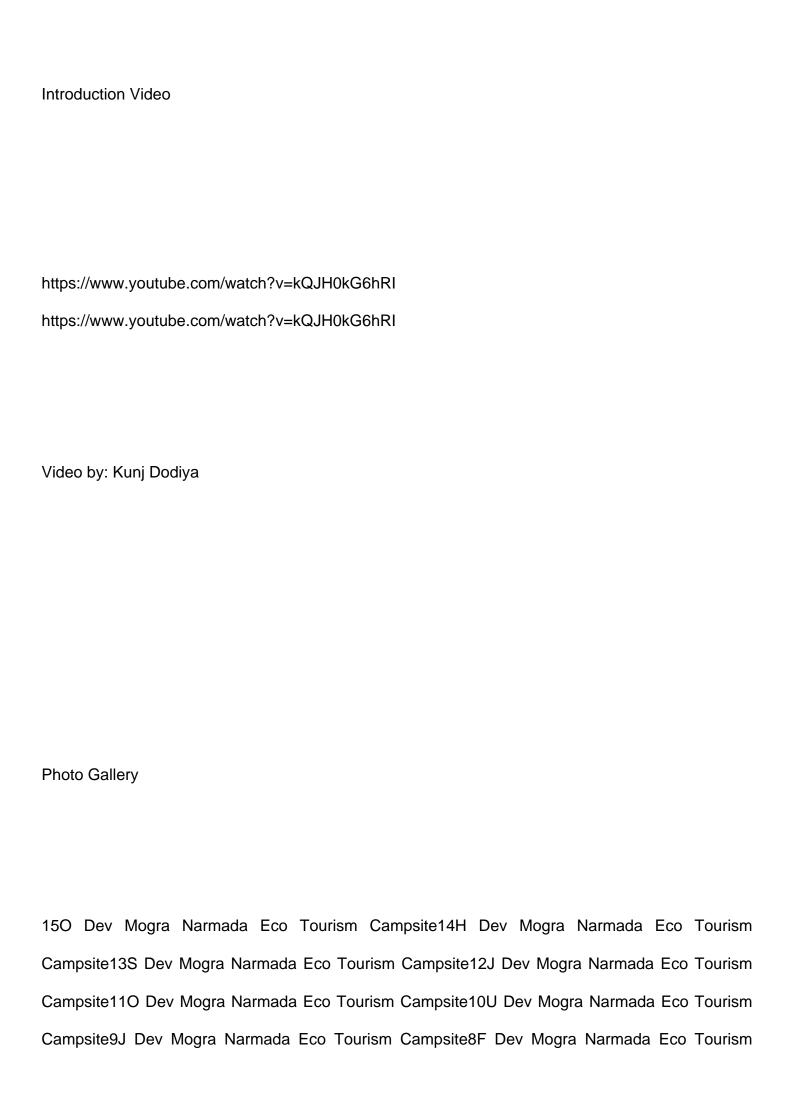
Devmogra Eco Tourism Campsite, Narmada, Gujarat

A travel information guide of Devmogra Eco Tourism Campsite. Devmogra is a village in Narmada district of Gujarat.

A few months back, I was contacted by Narmada Forest Department to improve digital presence of Rajpipla eco tourism campsites. I, along with help of my younger brother Kunj Dodiya, set out to document every campsite in Narmada district by photos, videos and web pages.

Following is the account of Dev Mogra Eco Tourism Campsite:

Please note that we photographed the campsite in the month of February 2018, which isn't the best time to capture beauty of Narmada region. Expect the campsite to be a lot more vibrant and green in the monsoon and post monsoon months upto December.



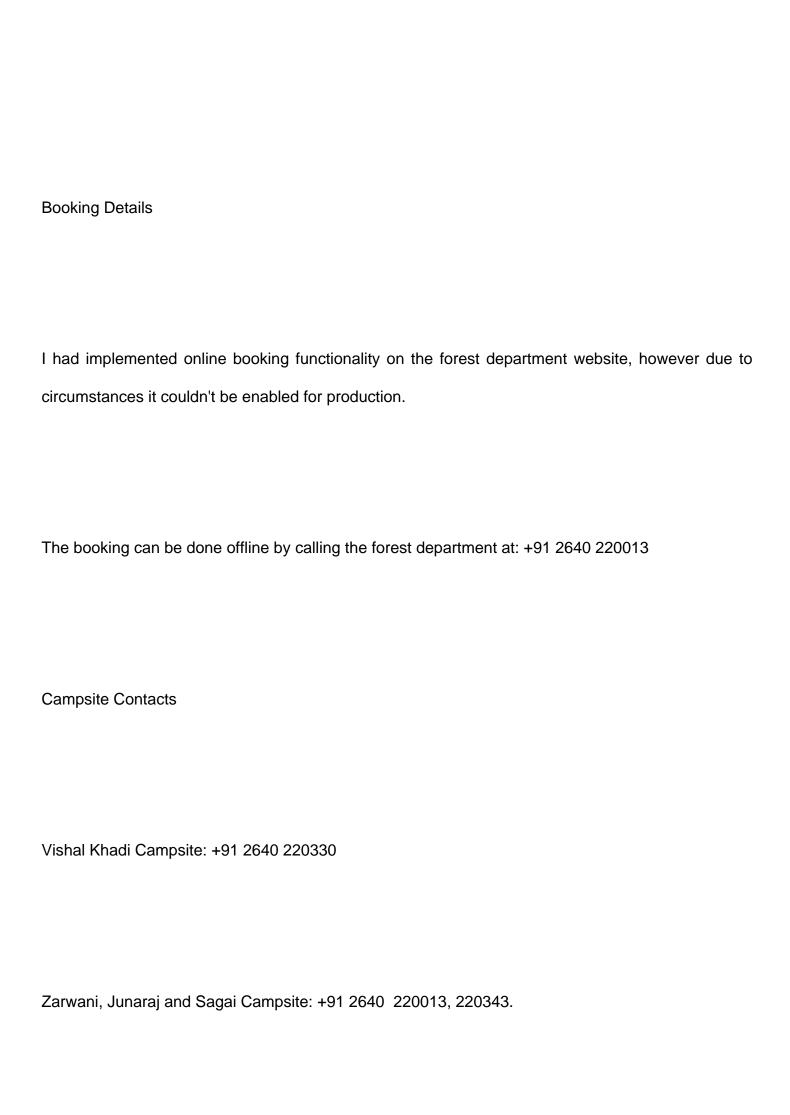
Campsite7B Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite6A Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite5C Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite4D Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite3C Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite2B Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite1A Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite16E Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite

Photos by:Kunj Dodiya

Location

Devmogra Campsite is situated 68 km from the Narmada district headquarter, Rajpipla.





Contact Vijaybhai Directly for Zarwani, Junaraj, Sagai or Kunbar Campsite. His Mobile number: +9 7016861567
Above contact details are published in best faith and might not work in future.
Accommodation and Facilities
FacilityCountTree House2Cottage3Tent House12

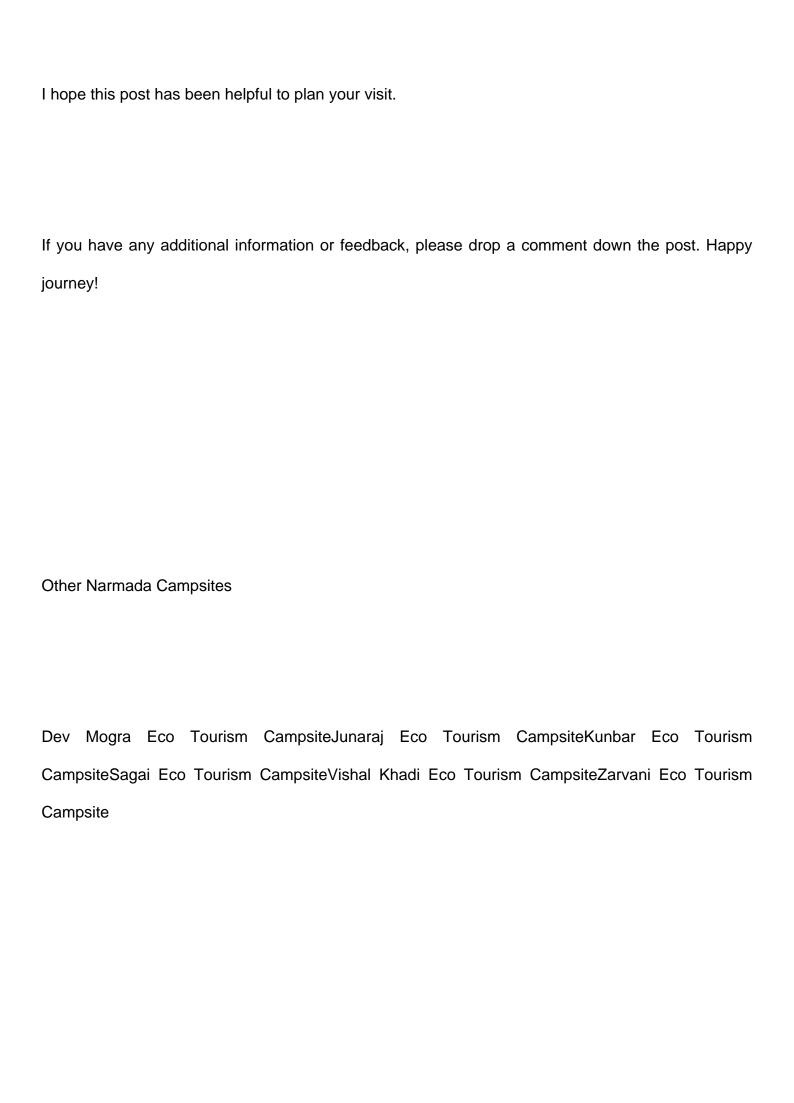
Cost of Accomodation
It's always an good idea to call the Narmada Forest Department to get accurate pricing details. This
is estimated cost.
Booking TypeCostTree HouseRs. 2000 / nightCottageRs. 1000 / nightTent HouseRs. 500 / night
Activities
The forest department/campsite managing team has published list of all *possible* activities.

It is important to note that the list of activities is just an indicator of possibility and doesn't guarantee its availability.

TrekkingLocal danceBird watchingStar gazingBotanical walkNight walkCultural programGamesAgriculture field visitAdventure activityLocal adivasi fruitWildlife moviePainting kits for childrenDigital detoxMeetingCultural activity

Closing Note

Devmogra had me experience the true "adivasi" culture. The village is more so known for the Devmogra Mata temple. Although I wasn't fortunate enough to attend the famous fair, I have heard vibrant stories of the fair. People from all neighboring states of Gujarat - Maharashtra, MP and Rajasthan attend the fair.



Kunbar Eco Campsite, Narmada, Gujarat

This post is an updated information guide of Kunbar Eco Tourism Campsite. Kunbar is a scenic village surrounded by hills all around. The campsite is 1 hr drive from Rajpipla city and a few minutes drive through rustic roads from Dediapada town. On the Google Maps, it can be found as Kunbar Eco Resort. The forest department has also landscaped a herbal/botanical garden a few hundred meters from the campsite.

A few months back, I was contacted by Narmada Forest Department to improve digital presence of Narmada eco tourism campsites. I, along with help of my younger brother Kunj Dodiya, set out to document every campsite in Narmada district by photos, videos and web pages.

Following is the account of Kunbar Eco Tourism Campsite:

Please note that we photographed Kunbar in the month of February 2018, which isn't the best time to capture beauty of Narmada region. Expect the campsite to be a lot more vibrant and green in the

monsoon and post monsoon months up-to December.	
ntroduction Video	
ottpo://woutu.bo/b2Trtvow6TA	
nttps://youtu.be/b2Trtxow6TA	
√ideo by: Kunj Dodiya	

The images below are 24 megapixels ultra high quality images and will take some time to load. I

should've scaled and optimized them for web. Too late now, my bad.

7N Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite12K Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism

Campsite15Q Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite2K Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco

Tourism Campsite7N Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite14H Kunbar Rajpipla

Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite13W Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite12K Kunbar

Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite12K Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite12K

Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite12K Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism

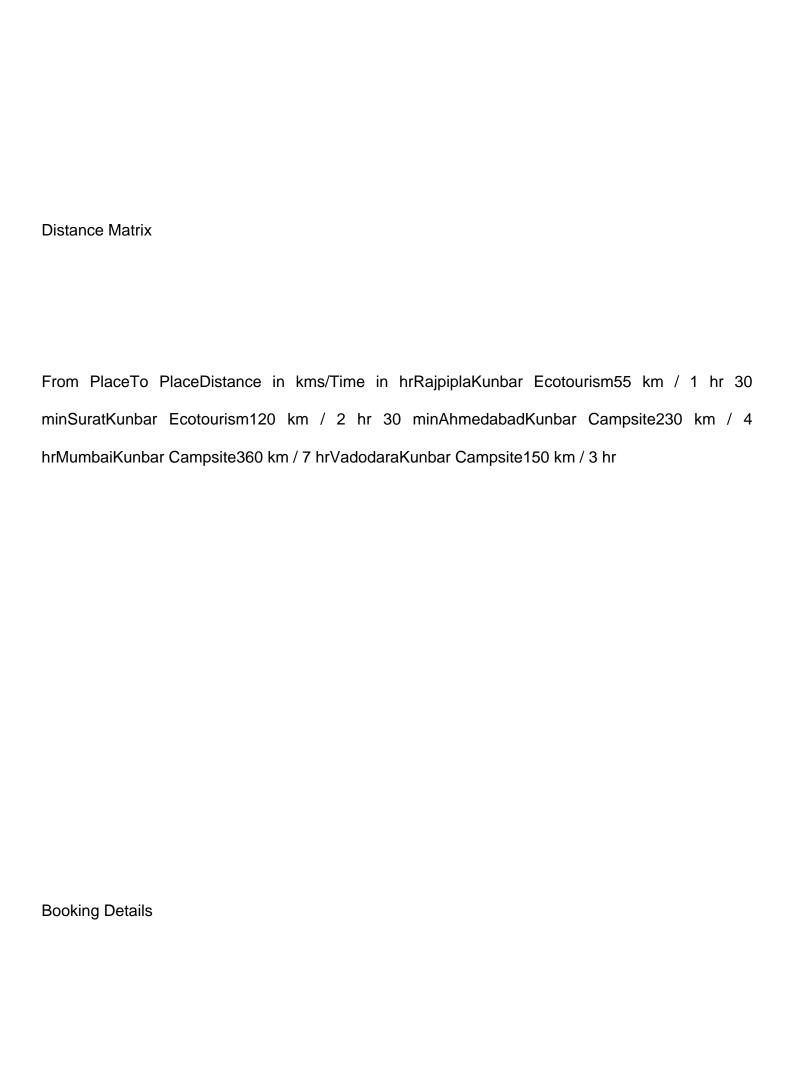
Campsite3O Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite4A Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco

Tourism Campsite7N Kunbar Rajpipla Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite1A Kunbar Rajpipla

Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite

Photos by: Kunj Dodiya

Location
Kunbar Campsite is situated 50 km from the Narmada district headquarter, Rajpipla. I recommend
getting to this place in own vehicle, public transportation is rare and would only be a hassle.
Dediapada is the closest town to Kunbar. The navigation isn't as complicated as Junaraj
Campsiteand can be easily reached by Google Maps. Below is the linked exact Google Maps
Campsiteand can be easily reached by Google Maps. Below is the linked exact Google Maps location:



I had implemented online booking functionality on the forest department website, however due to
circumstances it couldn't be enabled for production.
The booking can be done offline by calling the forest department at: +91 2640 220013.Alternative
contact numbers are provided below. They are crowd-sourced and aren't guaranteed to work.
Campsite Contacts
Vishal Khadi Campsite: +91 2640 220330
Zarwani, Junaraj and Sagai Campsite: +91 2640 220013, 220343.
Contact Vijaybhai Directly for Zarwani, Junaraj, Sagai or Kunbar Campsite. His Mobile number: +91 7016861567

Above contact details are published in best faith and might not work in future.
Accommodation and Facilities
Accommodation and racinities
Casility OsymptOstta na 4Taret Haves 71 Jall4
FacilityCountCottage4Tent House7Hall1
Cost of Accomodation



TrekkingLocal danceBird watchingStar gazingMedicinal gardenNight walkCultural programGamesAgriculture field visitAdventure activityLocal adivasi foodWildlife moviePainting kits for childrenDigital detoxMeeting

Closing Note

Kunbar has the perk of being at one of the best locations in Narmada. The area is serene and quiet. However, the lack of publicity kill the advantage of prominent location. While it is true that posts like this one try to promote the campsite, other models of offline publicity are also as much needed as digital publicity. Most people know of the popular campsites such as Vishal Khadi, Zarvani and Junaraj - but only a handful know of Kunbar.

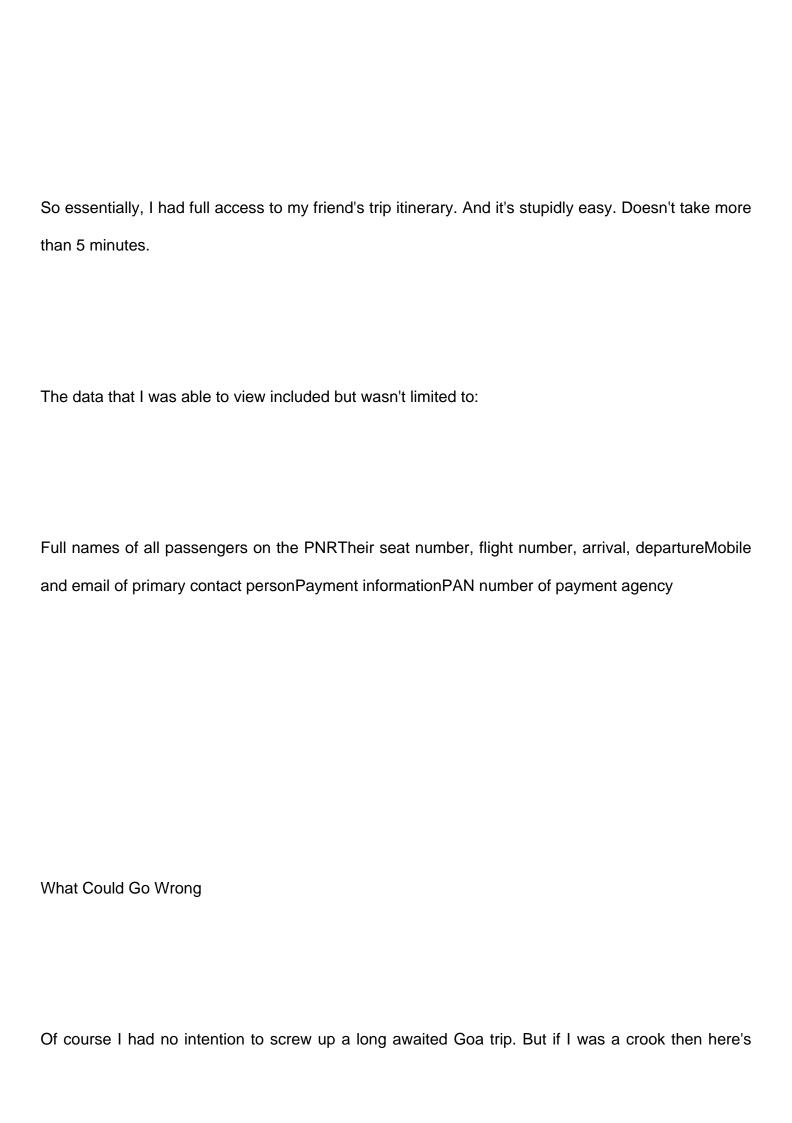
I hope this post has been helpful to plan your visit.



Le me, swiping Instagram stories in morning. Le see a photo of airline boarding pass on a friend's story. As you're reading this, you might have shared boarding pass photo on social media at some point. So what's the drama about?

The Boarding Pass Nightmare

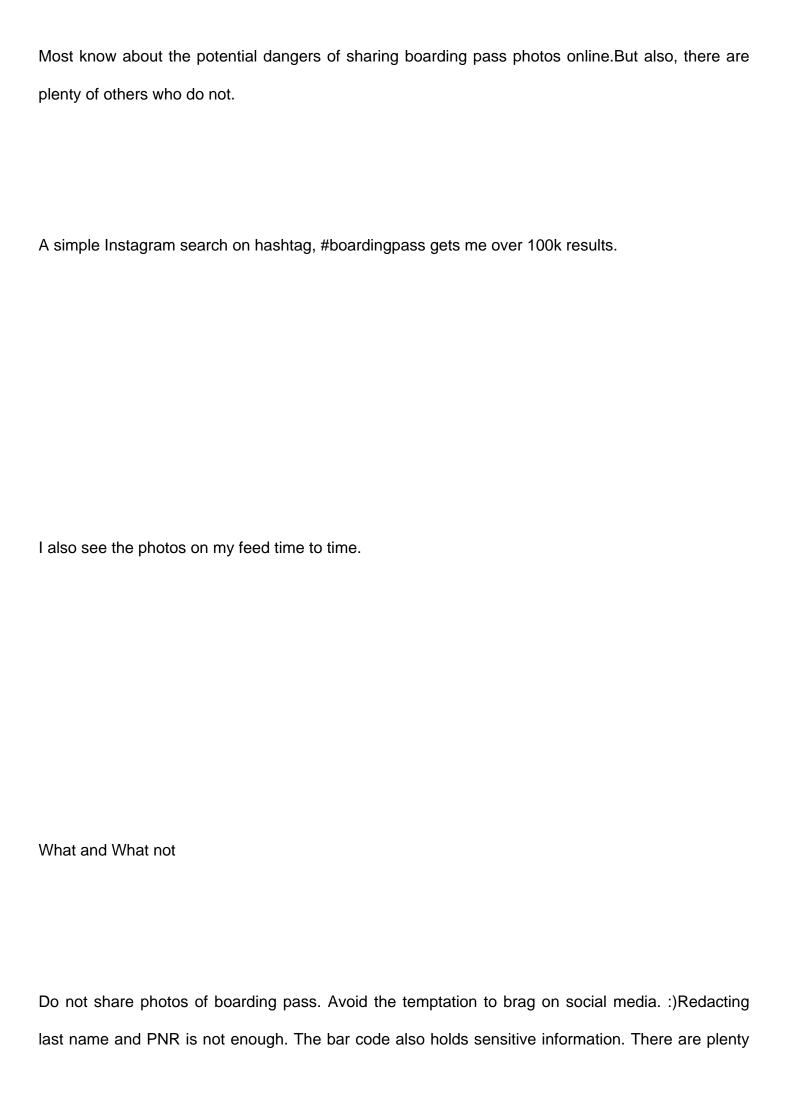




what I could've done:

Login to Manage Booking using the PNR/Last Name and cancel ticket. Destroying trips couldn't get any simpler. (Most airlines allow flight cancellations up until 2 hours of departure time) If it's not possible to cancel online, call airline and ask them to cancel. When I called Emirates to modify my ticket, I was asked email address, phone number, full name and PNR number to verify my identity. I would have all required authentication info already with me from the boarding pass, thus no problems here. Access frequent flyer account and monitor/change all past/future trips. Reference. From the previous point, obtain payment information and make monies. Potential identity theft... and many more attacks.

Prevalent





Why I Travel Solo?

I was on a hike yesterday who	n I wondered	, why do I like	to travel s	solo these	days.	At that time	, the
short conclusion that "because	that's what I	enjoy!"					

As I reached home I thought it would be fun to write down my thoughts as of September 2021 to why I travel solo. Few years down the line, maybe when I have a companion, it would be intriguing to come back to this post and compare.

Then vs now

When I was in India, I used to travel alone and enjoy my own company. Those trips were usually 1 day outings without overnight stay.

Now in USA, the trips often go as long as 10 days. And they are frequent at the rate of 2-3 times a month.

I do like traveling with friends

Just wanted to emphasize that I do like hanging out with friends too. It's a separate fun experience altogether which I often go for. This post is specifically about the why solo part.

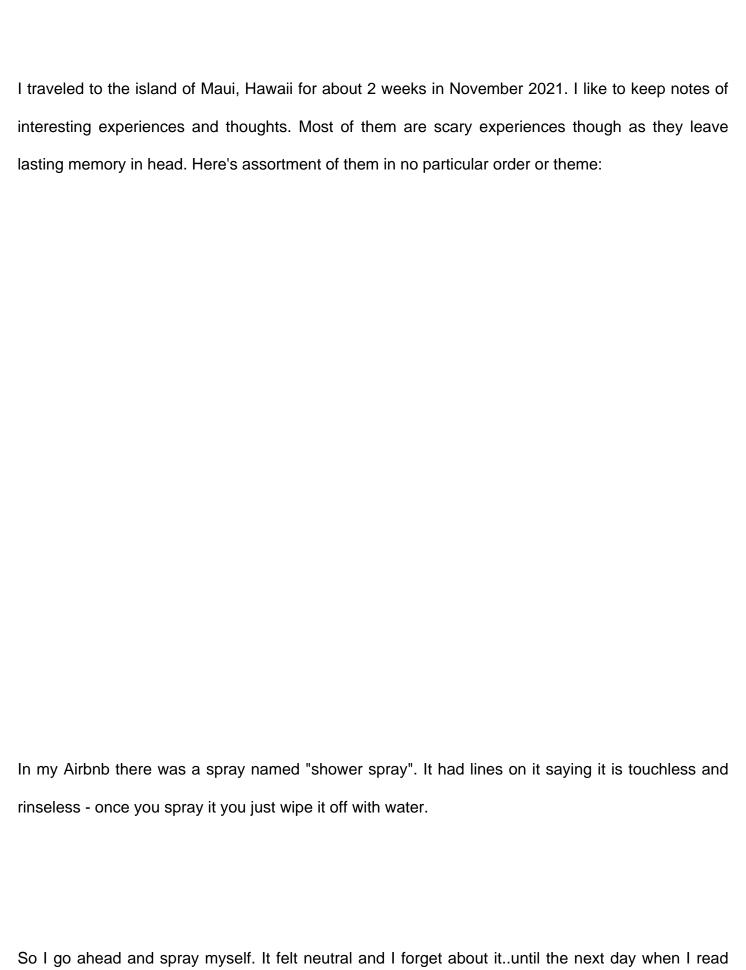
Why

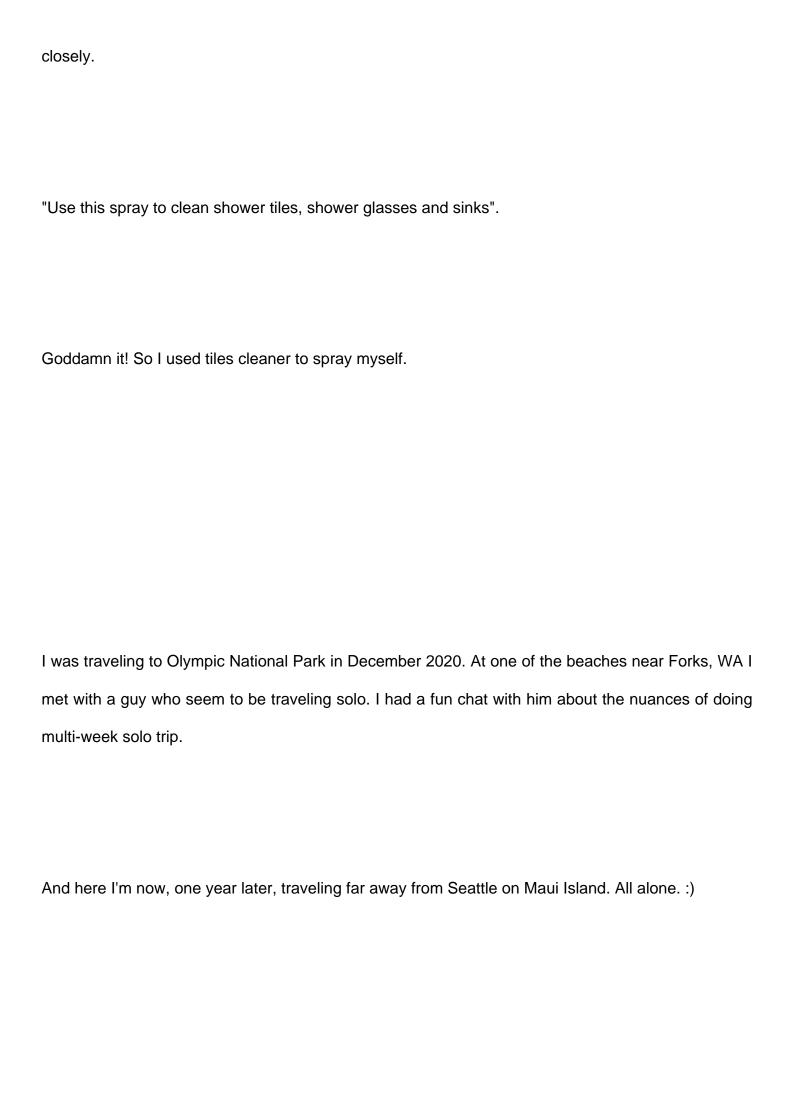
Because that's what I like and enjoy!This happiness is unexplained, it comes from within. FreedomFreedom to eat anything I want. I eat out quite rare and when I'm out - I seek to try different food cuisines. Typical Subway, Starbucks, McDonalds' or Indian Restaurants don't make the cut for me.Freedom to wake up at 2 AM in the morning to see sunrise. Well, is there anything special in sunrise? Does it offer some supernatural energy? Yes and Yes. Freedom to go to any spot I want. I like to visit ghost towns. I like to stop at roadside fruits / vegetables shops. I like to stop at random places to fly drone. Freedom to sleep in motel or in hotel. Those luxuries not available? Setup tent and sleep. Too bored to setup tent? I'd just park the car on side and sleep in car. ConfidenceAfter making several solo trips in USA, my confidence level has boosted dramatically. Eating alone at an upscale lakeside restaurant? No probs. Doing to a random bar in a random town in middle of Montana? No probs. Heading to a national park with no advance accommodation reservation? No probs. Better use of drive timel listen to either audiobooks or podcasts on my long drives. I listened to the book about Disney CEO, "The Ride of a Lifetime", during my 10 days solo trip. I grasped

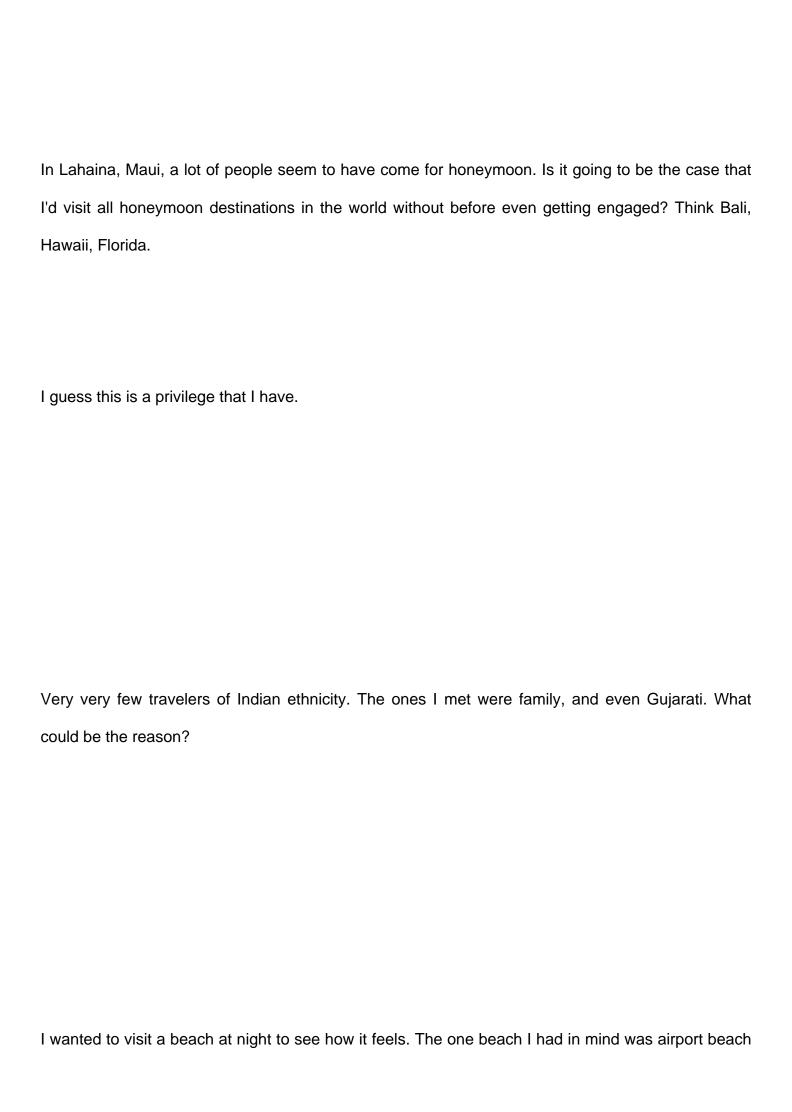
immense knowledge about media and film industry from it. Same goes for my favorite podcast, "How I Built This"Silence and solitudeOften when I'm in nature, I do not want to talk. Just sit there and listen to ambient sounds. This solitude recharges my drained out mind and body. Little thingsLike playing music of my taste and playing same track 10 times in row. Like stopping for coffee 5 times a day. Like walking 2 extra miles to get perfect photo under perfect lighting. Like killing 3 hours to get 30 seconds timelapse.

Many of the things I listed here may not any sense to others. Maybe they won't make any sense to me in a few years. Until then.

Hawaii Solo Trip Thoughts/Notes

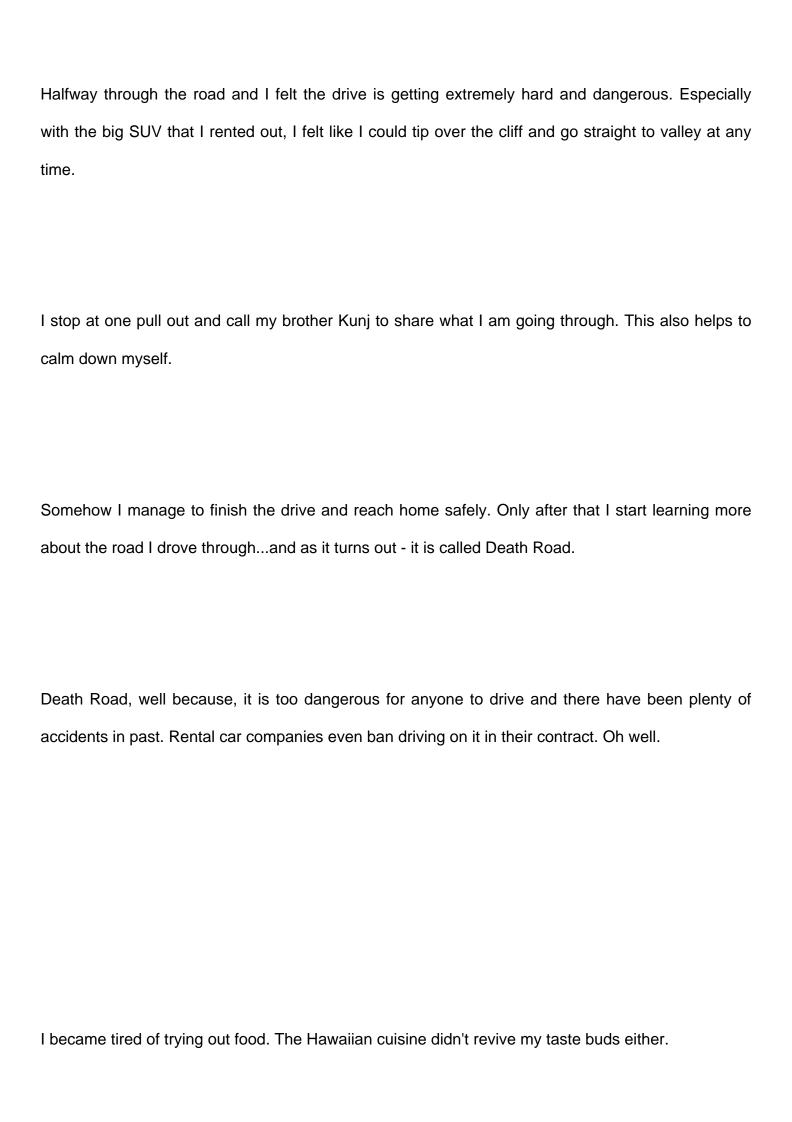


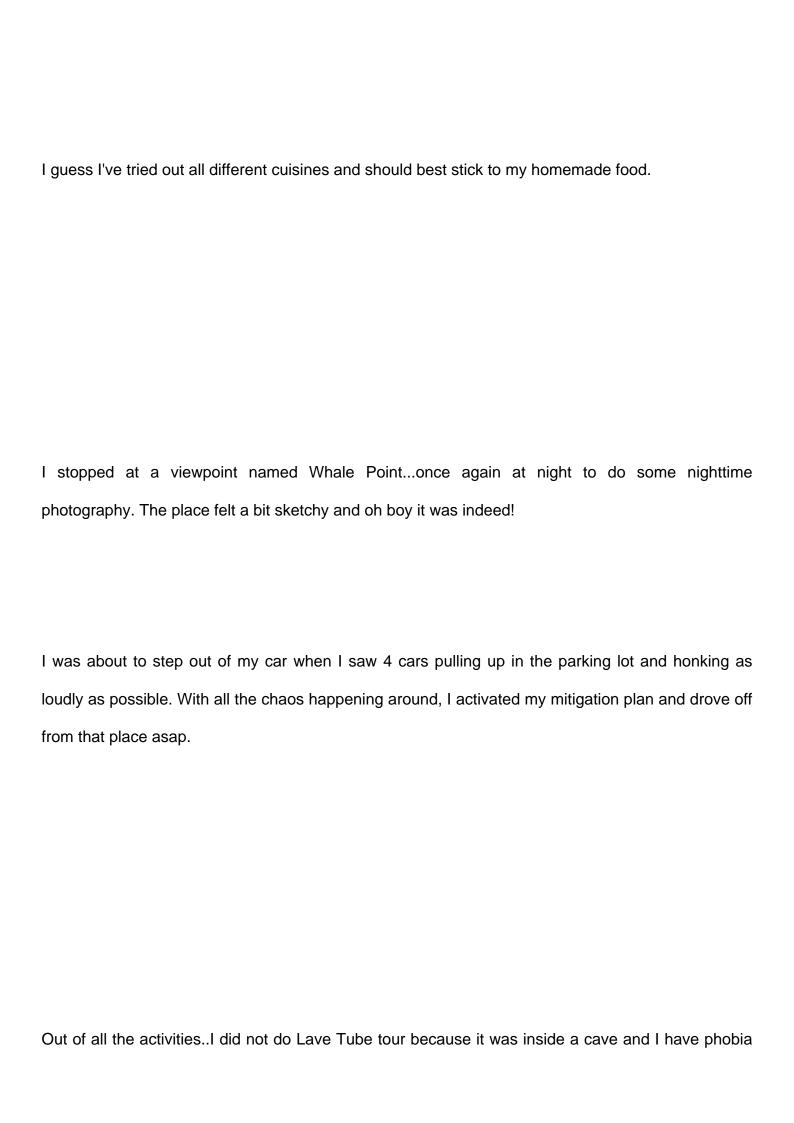




in Lahaina. I reached to the parking lot area but then as I start walking towards the beach, darkness and unfamiliar place had my risk sensors activated.
I quickly sensed that I'd be putting myself in risky position if I walk farther ahead so I backed out and returned back to my car. These kind of scary situations is the reason I should travel with someone else.
Went to Little beach to chill out in the evening and see sunset. I waited on the beach for some time to take timelapse of the evening sky and it became dark.
I was the last person in the vicinity. I packed up my stuff and started walking towards the parking lot. It was quite dark so all my risk sensors are at extreme alert.
As I approach parking lot, I hear some footsteps in the bushes around me. I slow down, scan my surroundings and the sounds of leaves getting crushed in the bushes only gets stronger.

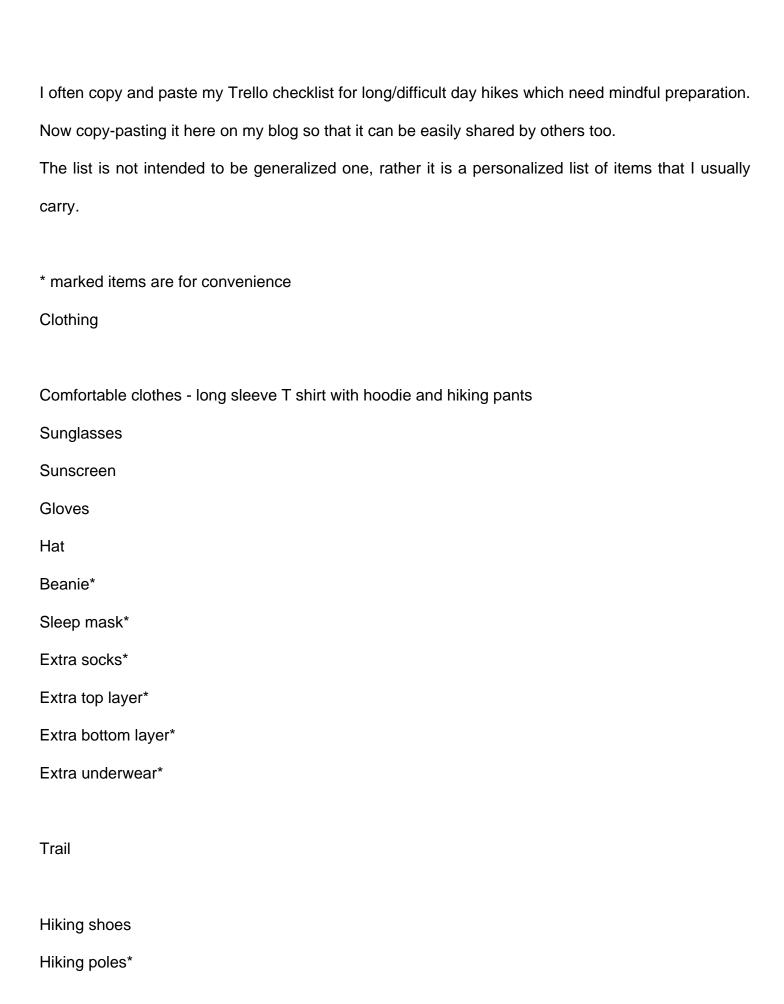
I start to think of risk aversion and self defense plan and do one more scan. Low and behold! I see
50 pair of eyes in the bushes. I skip heartbeats for 30 seconds.
There were at least 50 animals in the bushes, staring me. Maybe cats? Maybe deers? I do not
know. I haven't seen any animals in Hawaii till that point and when I went to the beach during
daytime, there were none too.
The above did not attack as and based it to the modifical by The asset states following of asset
Thank God they did not attack me and I made it to the parking lot. The most stressful 2 mins of my entire trip.
entire trip.
On the 2nd day of my trip I was driving a road named Kahikeli highway. It was just my second day in
On the 2nd day of my trip I was driving a road named Kahikeli highway. It was just my second day in Maui so I wasn't much familiar with the area and geography around.





of caves. I guess it is called Claustrophobia.	

Hike Checklist



Spikes*
Food and drinks
2 ltr water with electrolytes
Trail mix
Energy bar
Fruits*
Chewing gum*
Electronics
Phone
Headlamp
USB cable*
Earbuds*
Sony A7C camera*
Tripod*
Powerbank*
Offline Spotify playlists*
Emergency and survival
Water filter
Emergency blanket
Fire lighter
Swiss knife

Navigation
Offline Ceerle Mane
Offline Google Maps
Offline AllTrails Map
Medical aid
Painkiller medicine
Compact first aid kit
Altitude sickness medicine*
Fever medicine*
Stomach pain medicine*
Useful link for products https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/ten-essentials.html
Oserui iirik ioi products https://www.rei.com/leari/expert-advice/teri-essentials.html