

## 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 mean APJ 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 was a manufacturing hub and a major export port of the ancient Indus Valley civilization. The present day Lothal in Gujarat hosts archaeological remains of a dockyard, 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: Accommodation in Lothal

Planning tour to Lothal and want to stay there overnight? Great! There's one excellent homestay option, 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 changed variable 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 a jubilant 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 few feet from 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.

"In 10 minutes"

Wow. That was quite unexpected. Time to experience Chhakda too!

It took us 15 minutes to reach our destined place though! :) Path is important - destination isn't, I recollected.

## How to Reach Lothal - The Sum-up

Lothal is situated near the village of Saragwala in the Dholka Taluka of Ahmedabad district in Gujarat state of India.

## Distance Matrix

From

To

Distance in km

Bagodara

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 to excursion from 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:



<http://indiarailinfo.com/search/ahmedabad-adi-to-lothal-bhurkhi-lhbk/60/0/6493>

Bus:

Get in a bus that's going to Saurashtra and get off at Bagodara. From here, reach to Arnej or Bhurkhi Fatak. Vehicles to Lothal are available from both the villages.

The Essentials of Ancient Lothal - History, Civilization and Facts

Before the sight-seeing, let's spare a couple of minutes to understand Lothal's history and important keywords.

The meaning of Lothal (a combination of Loth and Thal) in Gujarati is "the mound of the dead". Lothal was excavated from 1955 to 1960 by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Dholavira is the second similar site found in Gujarat.

Lothal was a vital and thriving trade centre in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems and valuable ornaments reaching the far corners of West Asia and Africa. The techniques and tools they pioneered for bead-making and in metallurgy have stood the test of time for over 4000 years.

The archaeologists have found a mound, a township, a marketplace, and the dock. This implies that the Lothal city planners and architects had a great vision. Due to the ever blooming business, residents of Lothal would have enjoyed a decent lifestyle.

## Lothal Map

An artist's visualization of Lothal civilization and history. It also depicts the map of Lothal.

That's enough for the basics. Time to roam around the real site..

## Lothal Archaeological Museum

The museum was set up in 1976 by Archaeological Survey of India to display the artifacts recovered from the excavation. The Museum has three galleries, detailed map and a scaled model of Lothal.

There are also introductory write-ups, amazing facts and history about the site. Out of the 5089

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.

## The Campus of Lothal - Food Accommodation

You may read on the internet that Lothal has one canteen. No, it's an obsolete information. There's absolutely no food stall.

We didn't think about the food crisis. We had Chana Dal to feed ourselves.

The administration has set up of a shed to cook food in the parking area. It's like a handy platform for school and group trips. A football field sized green garden surrounds the museum acting as an excellent natural rest room. (I almost felt asleep resting below the tree!)

Accommodation is not required. The place can be explored in 3-4 hours.

## Excavation Site - A Walk Through

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 best architectural 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 Blocks

The rooms of the upper town were obviously built for the upper classes. They had private brick baths and a remarkable network of drains and cesspools.

## Bead Maker's Kiln

The bead factory had ten living rooms and a large workplace courtyard. Lothal's beads had huge demand.

## The Acropolis

Near the warehouse, also on a high plinth, is the upper town or acropolis which spans 128 by 61 meters and has extensive drainage systems.



## Drainage System

An elaborate sanitary and drainage system, a hallmark of ancient Indus cities, is in evidence everywhere at Lothal.

## Lower Town

From the plinth of the acropolis, it is a short distance to the lower town. The lower town contains a commercial and residential area. The arterial streets running from north to south were flanked by shops, merchant dwellings and artisan's workshops.

## 6 Things To Note

Visit only if you're interested in history. You'll hate Lothal as a travel destination otherwise.

Take printout of this article. It'll work as guide and help you to identify block structure.

Don't forget to include food in your checklist.

No good for kids. A minimum age of 12 is required to understand all the jargons. Children may easily get bored in this case.

3-4 hours are sufficient to explore Lothal.

Public transportation is available.

The Real Kathiyawadi Food - Taste = Delicious | Mind = Blown

Having spent 4 mind boggling hours in Lothal, we headed back. Our foot steps were heading towards the Bagodara bus station and then we spotted a Kathiyawadi Lodge near the station. Stomach had been craving for food so we decided to give it a dose of traditional food.

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 different supplementary items like onions, fried chillies, 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 - everything. 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 up our 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 to enhance your travel experience..

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

The way is 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 place in 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.

How?

Interact with local people (Well, only if you're comfortable :) )

Visit shops and get acquainted with regional products (If it's present)

Take many photographs of the place

Use public transportation

Phase 3:

Your trip's successfully completed. You enjoyed a lot. You took many photos. You've collected enough data till now. All things bright and beautiful!

After the things settle down, create your own blog and start writing whatever you have for the future travelers. Write one or two or three posts.

You can write about:

History of the destination

Stories you heard from locals

What to shop

How to reach

What to see

Where to stay

Your mind glowing/blowing experiences

That's it! TTW is over. Let's talk about the rewards:

By the end of your trip, you'd know more things about the place than Wikipedia

You'd have taken some really nice photographs

You are now aware about the culture of the place

If the information you shared is good, travelers will thank you a lot

..And few more

As I said, I've been trying this out for over a year. I write about the places I visit here: Travel. Though, I've written only a few posts there. Many of the logs are still in draft as the last editing takes hours and I work like a sloth most of the time! :P

Still, I'm just 20, have miles to wander and learn before I sleep!

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 to the close proximity, I normally visit the tourist places once in a year.

What is a hill station by the way?

Technically, a hill station is a town at a higher elevation than the nearby plain or valley having cooler temperature and pleasant atmosphere. A place 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 offers breathtaking views of the sunrise and sunset.

Saputara is 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 monsoon season is the best to enjoy the beauty of this place. Saputara is 170 km from Surat and 280 km from Mumbai. State transport buses are also available from Bilimora.

More info: Saputara

My rating: 4.5 / 5

Hotels in Saputara:

MakeMyTrip (Recommended)

Cleartrip

Yatra

The Wilson hill station stands in an impenetrable forest area near Dharampur in the Valsad district of Gujarat. Having an average elevation of 750m, the Wilson Hills are popular during the summer months as it enjoys a cooler and less humid climate than the surrounding area.

There is a total of six points on the Wilson Hills to get mesmerized. However, this hill station hasn't received much of the government attention like the Saputara did. Thus, apart from getting pleasure and oxygen from the scenic views, there's little activity you can do.

The roads up to the station are fun to drive. It's at a distance of 25 km from Dharampur and 120 km from Surat. There's also a restaurant. If you want to spend the night on the peak, then there's also a

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.

More info: Don Hill Station, Gujarat

My rating: 4 / 5

There's no accommodation facility available at Don as of now. Best option is to stay at Saputara.

Hotels in Saputara:

MakeMyTrip (Recommended)

Cleartrip

Yatra

That's pretty much all Gujarat has for you. Let's take a look at some hill stations near Gujarat.

List 2 - Hill Stations Near Gujarat

Mount Abu has been a popular retreat from the heat of Rajasthan and neighbouring Gujarat for

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 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 several view points.

More info: Lonavla

My rating: 4 / 5

6 hill stations are enough to beat the heat, I guess! If I missed something, leave your recommendations in the comments below.

## More Lists

[List of Waterfalls in Gujarat](#)

[List of Eco Tourism Campsites in Gujarat](#)

[Places to Visit in Saputara](#)

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# **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 near Anand, 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 sounds promising 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

To

Distance in km / Approx. Time

Nadiad

Galteshwar

52 km / 1 hr

Anand

Galteshwar

51 km / 1 hr

Vadodara

Galteshwar

86 km / 1.5 hr

Dakor

Galteshwar

16 km / 20 min

Ahmedabad

Galteshwar

93 km / 1.5 hr

Eat Stay

The sightseeing wouldn't take more than 2 hours. Thus, there's really no reason to stay in Galteshwar. (Well, even if you want to stay, options are none.)

Rest in Dakor. Dakor has it all, the hotels, the guest houses or the economical Dharmshalas.

As there are no restaurants in Galteshwar, full lunch or dinner could only be an imagination. But hey, who wouldn't like to taste the juicy sugarcane or the spicy boiled corn or Limbu Pani - or the garma-garam Bhajiya?

## 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



# Saptashrunji Devi Temple Vani - A Photo Tour, History & Story

Saptashrunji Gadh is a Hindu pilgrimage site near Vani, Nashik, Maharashtra. The name 'Sapta' stands for 'Seven' and 'Shrunja' for 'Peaks'. Thus, the temple is surrounded by seven hills. Saptashrunjitemple 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 Saptashrunji 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, "Saptashrunji 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 Saptashrunji 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 Saptashrunji devi

temple.

Why not!

Within a couple of hours, we were seen passing through the hilly terrains of Sahyadri range. Impromptu trips always turn out as splendid ones, so was the case with trip to Saptashrunji devi.

In one grape farm on Saputara Vani road

First Impressions Reaching Saptashrunji

Our time of visit fell under Chaitra Navratri. During Navratri period, fair is organized on the hill top. Road to Saptashrunji Garh is made unavailable for public access -- and that's for good. Traffic problems come down to zero.

MSRTC buses were running frequently between Nanduri - Saptashrunji Temple. Nanduri is base station to reach Saptashrunji. From here, last steep road to hill top stretch starts.

Bus from Nanduri to Saptashrunji

I'd like to praise management of Saptashrunji. The systematic way they used to manage traffic and huge crowd is commendable.

In this post, you'd find many photos of fair too. It's a catch! You might not get to see the same scenes during rest of the year.

Valley view point

Geography Infrastructure

Saptashrungi is a hill range consisting of seven hills locally called Ghads and form part of the Sahyadri Range of hills in Western Ghats.

The Dhodap, in the center of this mountain range, is the highest peak with an elevation of 4,600 feet (1,400 m), and Saptasrungi is towards its west.

There are 108 water bodies (ponds) located in the watershed of these hills, which are called Kundas.

Nanduri and Vani are the villages nearest to the temple, which are situated at the foot of the hills.

View of Nanduri village

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 quite 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 Saptashrunji 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.

"

Saptashrunji Temple from ground

Saptashrunji Devi Is Also Known As...

Sapatashrunji - Goddess of seven hills

Saptashrunja-nivasini - One who resides on Saptashrunja the seven hills

Saptashrunja-mata - The mother-(goddess) of Saptashrunja

Brahmasvarupini - one who has form of Brahma as the Goddess is reported to have appeared from the kamandalu (water-pot) of the creator-god Brahma.

Last photo I took of temple. Photography isn't allowed inside Mata Temple.

How to Reach Saptashrunji

If you're visiting by own vehicle, there are many ways you can reach to Devi temple. Google Maps would be your best guide.

Distance Matrix:

From

To

Distance in km / Time

Surat

Sapatashrunji

200 km / 5 hrs

Nasik

Sapatashringi

70 km / 1.5 hrs

Mumbai

Sapatashrunji

250 km / 5 hrs

Saputara

Sapatashrunji



50 km / 1 hr

Vani

Sapatashrunji

25 km / 45 min

Awesome views

In case of public transportation, plenty of MSRTC buses run to-from Sapatashrunji. Nearest railway station is Nasik Road.

After a fatal bus accident in 2008 which resulted in death of 43 people, security measures have been taken by authorities. The circumlocutory path around the Sapatashrunji hill has now barricades and warning signs.

MSRTC buses are frequent

## Best Time to Visit

Monsoon.

Though I visited Sapatashrungi in April and enjoyed the cool winds, monsoon should've your preferred time for a trip to Sapatashrungi.

Sapatashrungi has elavation of 1000+ meters. Thus even in summer, sun won't burn you.

## Sapatashrungi Live Darshan

Shree Saptashrungi Nivasini Devi Trust has setup a live streaming service for online darshan on their official website.

Live Darshan at: (Unfortunately, this link is no more online now. It seems like the official Saptashringi site is dead now. :/ )

You can contact Shree Saptashrungi Nivasini Devi Trust at (02592)- 253351

This peak is highest in all seven

## 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 Sapatashrunji

While I was wandering in streets of Sapatashrunji, 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 Sapatashrunji.

View of downtown from top. As easily noticeable, lack of free space has stopped development of Sapatashrunji.

## Heading Back

After Darshan of Sapatashrunji 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 exquisite! 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

Saputara is 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 Saputara Paragliding Festival is one of the carnivals. The paragliding activities in Saputara are managed by Dang 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 paragliding adventure 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 paragliding is also said to be offered at Don Hill Station

during tourism festivals.)

## Charges

They fluctuate time to time, depending on tourist rush and season.

On an average,

Paragliding would cost you between Rs. 1800 - Rs. 2500

Parasailing would be between Rs. 500 - Rs. 1000

## Contact

For Training: 9011733396

For Joyrides: 9427189696, 9998088001

Email: [pgahwa@gmail.com](mailto:pgahwa@gmail.com)

[Click Here For Joyride Booking](#)

[Click Here For Training Course](#)

This article is a part of the Vacation Publishing Spree. :)

Related Posts

Discover More:

[Don Hill Station](#)

[Will It Rain Today?](#)

[List of Hill Stations in Gujarat](#)

## **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.

## Dr. Verghese Kurien Memorial - Dairy Museum

Quoting Amul,

The Dairy Museum is located within the Campus of Amul Dairy at Anand. This Museum is dedicated to the Dairy Industry and declared open by Mrs Molly Kurien on 26th November 2000 to mark the 80th birthday of Dr V. Kurien, The Father of White Revolution in India.

The Museum has a Photo Gallery and Auditorium. The Photo Gallery gives glimpses of the genesis of Amul and its growth in a pictorial form to visitors and infuses confidence in the principle of co-operation and co-operative organizations.

One of the eye-catching quotes I read there was: , !

Inside the Plant

As we shifted on 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 a tour without 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 get bumper discounts on milk products. Because hey, I was just 100 meters 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!

Related Posts:

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[9diad - Exploring City of 9](#)

[How to Look Good in Photos?](#)

[Earth 0.0](#)

[Most Popular Mobile Phones/OS/Browsers](#)

# 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.

Devinamal - A raised area stationing the almighty.

Statues - Statues Everywhere

Reaching the place, I didn't have to wonder why the campsite is called Devinamal. On the flat surface of the hill, there were colorful sculptures of:

Lord Shiva

Lord Hanuman

Kalika Mata

Lord Ram, Lakshman, Sita

Huge Serpent

I still marvel in the thoughts-land, why the serpent? Is it connected to Saputara, the abode of serpents? Well, who knows. Can you make a guess?

## The Campsite

There are 4 notable structures:

A. Podium

B. Domes for overnight visitors (In my POV)

C. Common hall for food, study session and meetings

D. Canteen

Food Accommodation

Don't want to make guesses here. No details with me. :)

## Contact of Devinamal Campsite and Further Information

For more information, you can contact the forest department via these lines:

02631 - 220246

02631 - 220343

A reminder, however, that these are government telephone lines. You may not get a response.

Blame Modi? ;)

## Other Campsites in Dang

Mahal Eco Tourism Campsite

Kilad Campsite

Padamdungari Eco Campsite

## 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

To

Distance in km / Time in hr

Ahwa

Subir - Shabaridham

30 km / 45 mins

Saputara

Subir - Shabridham

70 km / 90 mins

Surat

Subir - Shabaridham

130 km / 3 hr

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

Girmal Falls - Highest Waterfall of Gujarat

Pampa Sarovar

Mahal Campsite

Don Hill Station

Ahwa

Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

Doctor Lakhu bhai - The Self Educated Orthopedist

Lakhubhai is a scholar in orthopedics. Well, for the record, he has no formal education in the field still people from all over the south Gujarat knock his doorstep.

For what? "Dukhavo dur karva, hadka sidha karva, desi dava leva." :)

He's very, very popular in the area.

You ask anyone on the road, "Lakhubhai, Aamsarpada" and he'd tell you the directions to reach his clinic. Visit his reign if the degree holder doctors couldn't heal you. Give a shot!

Contact Number of Lakhubhai: +919408613874

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](#)

[Big List of Tourism Places in Dang](#)

[Don Hill Station](#)



How to be remarkable?

Best of 2015

## **Anjan Kund: The Parvat Where Hanumanji Was Born**

Anjani Kund (or Anjani Parvat) is a village near Ahwared related 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

The stories assert that Anjani Mata, mother of Hanuman, did a penance on the Anjani mountain.

### Anjani Cave

And as a result of the penance, she gave birth to Lord Hanuman in the cave located in the center of Anjani Parvat. The 'Gufa' is one hour from Kund. The birth place of Hanuman.

### Anjani Kund

A small body of water near the cave is called Anjani Kund. Legend has that Bal Hanuman took bath in the Kund, climbed the mountain and put upon a solar eclipse.

Sadly not a single molecule of water

Anjani Kund is the only temple where you see a child Hanuman

### The Surat Influence

Talks to a local resident revealed that the development of the Anjani Kund is heavily funded by Surat based businessmen. The current temple was built from the Surat fundings.

He also revealed that during festivals like Diwali and Hanuman Jayanti, many devotees from Surat come over Anjani Kund. They stay there, cook there and enjoy 'Dairo' - a musical celebration.

## Village Details

Even though Anjani village is a remote area, it has a school, from 1st to 5th standard. 3 teachers in total. Surprisingly, I was told that teachers come regularly and teach.

It houses approx. 365 people. Farming is a major and the only profession.

## Passing through the Anjani village

Electricity, Mobile networks are available most of the time and the roads too are motorable. Though, there's no GSRTC bus service. Private jeeps.

The Don Hill Station is behind the Anjani mountain.

Ahwais 30 km from Anjani.

Saputara is approx. 45 km from Anjani village.

This stones were used to sharpen weapons by Ram Lakshman.

## Corrupt Tourism Development

I was informed that the government had allocated 3 crore grant to boost tourism infrastructure.

Needless to say, the money 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 Forests Dang

Saputara Hill Station

This post is a part of the Vacation Publishing Spree.

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# **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 the tourism 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

From

To

Distance in km

Ahwa

Pampa Lake

30 km

Shabari Dham

Pampa Sarovar

7 km

Surat

Pampa Sarovar

165 km

Saputara

Pampa Sarovar

75 km

Then there's always the Google Map!

When To Visit, Nearby Locations

Visit in monsoon and post-monsoon.

Nearby Attractions

Shabari Dham

Don Hill Station

Mahal Forests

Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

Girmal Waterfalls

The village

This travelogue is a part of the Vacation Article Spree.

Why this travelogue?

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[AndroidViewClient Python](#)

[Safari Magazine is Gone!](#)

[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 deco-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

Adult

50

Child

20

Educational Institutes

20

Foreigners

200

Timings

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

Let's go on the tour now!

The parking and canteen

Way to ticket booth

Near ticket booth

The ticket



Here comes the building

Here it is

We're in

Let's go deeper

We're in. I will stay silent now.



The tour's over! Liked it? Share your views 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-top in the Sahyadri mountain ranges nearby Vansda town of Navsari district. Ajmalgadh was used as a cantonment by Shivaji and as a protection center by Parsees. Surrounded by lush green landscapes, Ajmal Gadh makes a pleasant destination 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

If you're aware of basic photography techniques, I'm sure that you've heard about these golden hours. (Or learn in 2 minutes at: [Photography Essentials](#))

These are the hours just after sunrise and just before sunset, when the light is lower, softer, more colorful.

All the photographs here are shot during these hours, so they look superficial. :)

The gear is my 6000 phone Xiaomi Redmi 1S, 8 MP. Photos by Kunj, younger brother.

The History (For The Interested Ones!)

During Maratha regime, this place was used as cantonment for invading the enemies in gorilla style by Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.

The Shivling of Shivaji's worshiped lord, wall constructed with rectangular rubbies, small water reservoirs, some known structures of Parsis culture etc. still exist as remains at this place.

In the 16th century, In 7th century, Parsees who landed on Sanjan port and mixed with local people like sugar added to milk, migrated to this hill to protect their sacred fire "Iranshah Atash" from the invasion of Muslims, Portuguese as well as French and lived here for about 14 years during the

kingdom of Shrimant Kirtidev, the king of Vansda.

This area is a part of Reserved Forests and reserved by state forest department. It is presently developed by the joint efforts of Eco-tourism Gujarat and Valsad (North) Forest Dept.

Currently, a Shiv Mandir and a Ramji Mandir can be found on the top.

Several viewpoints and rest sheds are also built to foster tourism.

Location, Roads, How to Reach

Ajmal Gadh is approx. 3 km from the village of Godhmal (or Ghodmal), which is 12 km from Vansda town and 25 km from Dharampur. On the Vansda - Dharampur NH 56, turn at Kavdej village and continue straight for 4 km till you find the sign board of Ajmal Gadh.

Distance from Surat: ~ 120 km (2.5 hrs.)

Distance from Navsari: ~ 80km (2 hrs.)

Distance from Valsad: ~ 60km (1.5 hrs.)

Roads are smooth...till 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, I pushed 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

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.

Visit the Dam site if you've an extra hour.

Food Accommodation

None.



But...but...here's what I think can be done. Make food on your own. Carry all the necessary tools like container, water, match sticks, raw food (, ! :)) in the trunk and be a chef!

And there's another excellent option:

Hotel Nahri, Gangpur.

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 toh...Instead 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 nature devotee 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 of face 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 ([darpanodiya@gmail.com](mailto:darpanodiya@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 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

Shades of Colors at Ajmal Gadh

Best of 2015: Travel

Earth 0.0

Book: How to Win Friends



## Hatgad Fort, Maharashtra Near Saputara

Hatgad 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, Hatgad stands tall at 3600 feet (1000 m approx.). 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, Hatgad fort looks best in monsoon season.

### Story Time

Hatgad 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.

This was a major fortress, since this area was always busy with commercial and its local tribal peoples living here. They were mostly dependent on this hill forest for their livelihood. This was also a trading route to Gujarat from Mumbai.

## The Architecture

Hatgadh Fort is built in the highest peak of Shyadri ranges in the Gujarat province. It is located at an altitude of 1097 meters above the sea level.

This fort was built by the rocks cut from the same hills. Most of the rocks were cut from its top and its traces are found here. This hill has got a plateau on its top. There are thick walls built around the bordering places of the cliff of these mountains. One can have a very awesome trekking experience to reach its top of this fortress.

There are rocks carved steps built here. These are open at few places and enclosed narrow ways

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 with doctor!

## 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 deliver basic amenities to travelers. But once you'll see awesome views of downhills and majestic valleys towards Nasik, you'd stop complaining!

It's not advisable to go there up with family, especially when you've kids or aged people with you. They will find it hard to trek and are less likely to enjoy the place.

### How To Reach

Hatgadh is 3 km from Saputara on Saputara - Nasik main road. Drive for 2 minutes towards Nasik from Saputara and ask any local, he'd show the way.

You can take your car half way there, then you need to walk. Walk hard. Take enough water with you.

### What To See and Do

Technically, now Hatgadh can't be considered as a fort. It has some walls, few pillars and those two

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



Maa Shabari Farm House and Resort, Food and Accommodation Both.

Phone Number: +91 93776 59082, +91 94261 64526,02631-290442

D. Devinamal Campsite, Near Ahwa

Forest department ecotourism campsite.

Contact Details: 02631-220246, 02631-220343

E. Kilad Ecotourism Site, Near Waghai

Forest department run ecocamp site.

Contact Information: +94280 22415, 02630-230057, +91 94268 55593, 02631-220246

F. Padam Dungari Ecotourism Site, Near Unai

This site is far from Dang, in Surat district, near Unai.

Contacts: +91 97278 78583, +91 98799 20369, +91 97261 46977, 02630-290796, 02630 236244

G. Mahal Ecotourism Center, Ahwa

Email: mahalecotourism@gmail.com

Phone Number: +91 94271 74037, +91 94297 00265, 02631-220203

H. Deputy Conservator of Forests, North Dang Division

Use this contact if nothing works from above. It's official contact number provided by government and tourism department.

Address: Forest North Dang Division, Near Petrol Pump, Ahwa, Dang.

Phone: 02631-220203

Email: dcf dang north 16@gmail.com

I. Girli Lodges, U Turn Point, Girmal

Use aforementioned contact of forest department.

J. Pravasi Gruh, Ahwa

Contact Number of Pravasi Gruh Ahwa: +91 9898997212, +91 9427189468

Food and accommodation both can be availed here. (Courtesy Manish Mehta from the comments section)

(Trivia: You can see most of the numbers starting with, 94. That's starting digits of BSNL number. BSNL has widespread network in Ahwa, Dangs. Edit:Now Jio also has decent coverage.)

This is all I have right now with me.

I will keep this article updated time-to-time as I will get to know new details. Drop a comment here or contact me if you need more info.

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 our act 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 some way, 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 city streets 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,

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

In fact, 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) went out, 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, Pixlr, 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 way to 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!

(Local kids too gathered around us!)

### Point 2: Kheta Talav

If you live in Nadiad, then it's almost impossible that you haven't seen this water body. It's in front of Woodlands restaurant, near Maha Gujarat hospital.

Similar with the case of other lakes, this too was polluted. Water was green.

This lake, if developed well, has the potential to be a good chillout place.

### Point 3: Muleshwar Talav

Fun fact, we spent 5 minutes to find entrance - a handful of open space from where we could stand, observe the place and can get some photos.

Coming from Vaniyavad-College road area to this area, I felt like I travelled 10 years back! The vicinity was largely undeveloped.

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 gram of 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!

The repair work took hours and we had to stop our further journey.

Day 1 ends!

Day 2: 6 Lakes, 9 Exit Roads

As our good old CBZ betrayed us on Day 1, we had huge task on Day 2. 6 lakes and 9 road exits.

Point 5: Sargam Talav

Now, this lake was surrounded by buildings so densely that we had to sneak into one house to get the view. (Yes, we took permission :) )

Story of this lake was same as others, polluted heavily. Half of the surrounding buildings were already drown in the water.

Meanwhile, Google Maps led us to a lake, which had no water, but had plain flat soil! We fired shot at non existent target.

## 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 is behind 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 ready to 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 of dogs more than number of humans in the area. :D)

If you've ever been to Nadiad railway station, you would have heard name of this lake from rickshawalas. Ram Talavadi.

Point 9: Bojan/Bojani Lake

I noticed only one unusual thing in this lake,

Several ducks were skimming! Saw a living animal first time from the all the lakes of Nadiad.:)

Point 10: Pilvai Talav

The last one of our program! This lake was the largest one amongst all others.

We found a good peaceful place to sit back and relax on the banks. After all, peace of mind is all one needs in life!

End of part one. 9 lakes. Next chapter...

## 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 exits was just a theoretical 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 people conceive!

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**

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.

More at: [List of Waterfalls in Gujarat](#)

## Related Articles:

[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 me or 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 Dang 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 do normally. I will update this as soon as I can.

All photos by young brother, Kunj Dodiya. Many thanks to him!

Till then, enjoy the photos!

Mahal Campsite in Photos

Explore more:

How to be Remarkable?

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

50 km from Dang headquarters, Ahwa and 20 km from Subir.

There's no public transportation facility to my knowledge.

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.

If you've not-so-robust car, avoid driving last 1 km stretch to Girmal. I've had hard time with Alto 800.

On the way to Girmal, you'll find a nice view point, now popularly known as U Turn Point.

### U Turn Point

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.

Not exaggerating a bit but this point is one of the best point in the Dangs that I've seen till now. The view of Gira river taking complete U Turn is just spectacular.

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

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: dcf dangnorth16@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.

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

Padamdungari is a campsite located on the banks of the Ambika river, 10 km from Unai and 30 km from Vyara town. Developed and maintained by the Eco Tourism Development Committee (EDC), Padamdungari stands amidst the forests of the 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 an orientation center, a canteen, AC/Non AC cottages, tented accommodation, an amphitheatre, green walkways and a campfire area.

Padamdungari eco campsite forest is undoubtedly an excellent weekend getaway destination 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.

Have a look at it!

## My Relation With Padamdungari

Padamdungari is 30 minutes drive from my hometown, Vansda. I visited this center several times when I was young, during school years.

One evening thought of visiting Unai area again and I set out with younger brother Kunj.

I like this place for its serenity and chilled out ambience. Calm place. (Not applicable during tourist season however! :P)

## Location and Geography

Padamdungari, Gujarat is 10 km from holy place, Unai. 30 km from Vyara town, Surat.

## 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

To

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

Padamdungri Campsite

75 km / 1.30 hrs

Saputara

Padamdungari Campsite

80 km / 2 hrs

Vansda

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

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:

Ecotourism is: "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people."

Keywords to note:

Travel

Nature

Conservation

Local people

Image:padamdungari.org

You can find detailed description of eco tourism at:<http://padamdungari.org/ecotourism.html>

Being a Responsible Traveler

Most of these Eco Campsites use electricity which is generated by using solar energy, hence please use it responsibly.

No smoking whatsoever (cigarette butts cause many forest fires.)

Avoid ostentatious display of wealth.

No flash or intrusive photography (for example, dont pluck leaves to clear a better view; reposition the camera instead.)

Leave them untouched

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 down your 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 Bhajiyas sitting on river view table could be one of the best moments!

## Nearby Attractions

Janki Van

Unai Temple

Vansda National Park

Ajmal Gadh

Girafalls Wanarchod

Waghai Botanical Garden

## Other Campsites Nearby

Kilad Nature Education Center Vansda

Mahal Eco Campsite, Dang

Kevdi Eco Campsite, Mandvi, Surat

Devinamal Campsite, Ahwa

## 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

national park, as well as Bilimora - Waghai narrow gauge train line.

Eastern side of the park collates with Dang forests and Southern side with forests of Vansda, Navsari.

Vansda National Park is major catchment area for River Ambika.

Do and Donts

Royal Story No Tree Cutting Since 1952

Until the forest area is declared as national park in 1979 (Some records name this year as 1985 too), rulers of Vansda State controlled this area.

Now the forest is administered by Forest Department of Gujarat.

Forests in this wildlife park are dense, tall and green. They are untouched since 1952, as per the official records, not a single tree has been cut since 1952!

Not a single tree has been cut since 1952!

Thus, due to all these favorable conditions, one can see many trees in the park exceeding 30m height.

Interpretation center for park information, though it mostly remains closed

## 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:

Teak, sadad, khakhro, kadad, humb, timru, kalam, bamboo, dudhkod, mahudo, behda, umaro, kusum, tanach, asan, shimlo, ambla, sisam, chopadi bondaro.

As you get in there...

It's Getting Boring!

Haan! I caught you.

You must have been prompted by now to tell me this: "I don't need any Wikipedia kind of stuff Darpan, give me some actual insights!!"

For sure, go on reading for national park's timings, accommodation details, contact number, location, how to reach, transportation questions, booking number or any other information for that matter!

The place is unaffected by modern concrete revolution

Location and How to Reach

Vansda National Park earlier had two entrances, one at Navtad Village and another at Kilad Village.

Now, only the Kilad Village entrance is open. It's 10 km from Vansda and 3 km from Waghai.

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

To

Distance in km / Approx. Time in hr

Surat

Vansda National Park

130 km / 2.30 hrs

Ahmedabad

Vansda National Park



400 km / 6.30 hrs

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

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.

Ground view

Timings Best Time

Vansda National Park is open all days a week.

Timings: 8 AM to 5 PM (Depends on the sunlight)

During monsoon, it remains closed. That's, June-mid to October-mid.

Best time to visit the national park is: Winter, November to February.

Elevated view point

Permission Booking

No prior permission or booking arrangements needed for normal visits. If not normal visit, contact following forest office.

Contact Information of National Park

Vansda Range Forest Office, Vansda National Park: 02630 230057

If that doesn't work, try this:

South Dang Forest Division:02631 220246

While in the park,

You can't drop off from car.

Can't walk.

Food is not allowed.

You can't stop your car mid-way.

However, we all know, how rules are followed in India :P

There will be one place at the end of 4 km stretch, when the guide will ask you to stop car.

Guide

Accommodation

Your trip to Vansda National Park wouldn't take more than 2 hours though. Accommodation is out of scope in that regards, still following are best options:

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 National 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 :)

Questions or queries are welcome and I will try to reply within hours.

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 Kilad during 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 Saputara choose to stay here as the campsite is located enroute to

Saputara hill station.

In fact, Waghai is entry point to the Dangs, so one can go to any place in Dangs or Maharashtra from Kilad without backtracking.

### Administration

Kilad campsite is administered by ETDC - Eco Tourism Development Committee. Most of the works at campsites are locals, who are mostly friendly. (Given that you remain friendly with them :))

Kilad campsite is maintained very well. (December 2015)

No prior permission is needed to visit the site. Though, for accommodation, prior booking via phone is must.

### Row of plants

### Best Time To Visit

After monsoon, October to February.



Even in summer, the atmosphere in Kilad Nature Center is pleasant.

Moreover, the place is not very much crowded. Makes it an 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

To

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

Valsad

Kilad Eco Campsite

15 km / 30 min

Vadodara

Kilad Eco Campsite

250 km / 4 hrs

Saputara

Kilad Eco Campsite

60 km / 1.30 hrs

Kids playing cricket

Public Transportation

Take bus to Waghai, Ahwa or Saputara and drop off at Kilad village. Walk for half an hour and you'll reach to Kilad.

If you're coming via train, drop off at either Bilimora, Valsad or Surat. GSRTC buses can be easily availed.

Though, if you're planning to explore Dang, then I would recommend private vehicle.

Wooden seat

Facilities at Campsite

Orientation Centre (Which remains closed most of the time)

4 Cottages

10 Tented Accomodations with separate bathing toilet facilites (If you're planning to stay at Kilad campsite, book these)

3 Huts

Separate Kitchen Dining places (Food is available only on request.)

Nature Education Camp

Separate area for Campfire

Machaans for landscape wildlife viewing

Untouched!

There's a fantastic 3 storey tree house built inside campus. I like it most.

Also, for photographers, this place has many scenes to offer.

Tents can accommodate 8-10 people easily

Nature Education Center

As I mentioned at the start of this article, Kilad also organized nature education camps for schools and organizations. I attended several of them during school time and they are very informative!

These kind of camps have generally duration of 2 days and 1 night.

Introduction will be given here. Open school!

On the day 1, nature and wildlife expert explains wildlife and jungles.

Night in tent. Plus campfire.

Day 2, in morning, guide leads into jungle and points out various animals and trees as we trek through.

View from tree house

Food

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 Girafalls.

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

More places at: [Tourism Places in Dang](#)

## 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 visit Waghai Botanical Garden every year. Though, a point to be considered is, most of the visitors visit Waghai 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 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

Entrance

Source:<http://pandyadhaval.blogspot.in>

If you're a biology student, you must visit Waghai Botanical Garden.

Rest hut. Image: Gujarat Tourism

Facilities at Waghai Botanical Garden

Ample parking space

Drinking water

Sanitation

Library (Open on request)

Interpretation center (Open on request)

Meeting hall

Canteen (Tea and snacks)

Research center

Rest house

Rest huts

And a lot of gardens...

And a lot of greenery...

And generally less crowded...

And a lot of walkways... (Yeah, romantic ones! :) )

It's a great place for photography too. A lot of pre wedding shootings happen here.

Old steam engine

Timings and Entry Fees

Waghai Botanical Garden is open all days a week.

Entry - Exit Time: 8 AM - 6 PM

Entry Fee: None. Free entry. No parking fees when I visited last. (December 2015)

## How to Reach

Waghai Botanical Garden is accessible via public transportation. Most of the tourist places in Dangs doesn't have public transportation facility.

Catch a bus to Saputara and drop down at Waghai 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

Surat

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

Waghai Botanical Garden

130 km / 3 hr



## 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 will touch the dark clouds

Local roping rice seeds

Shankar Dhodh from the bottom

Extreme end of Wilson Hills top

Days feel like night

Romantic walkway :)

On the way to Shankar Waterfalls

Signature architecture of the hills. Once upon a time, Lady Wilson used to rest here ;)

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?

Monsoon / Winter.

Monsoon, as the place will be covered by lush green jungles.

Winter because of the breezing atmosphere of the Polo forest area.

I read somewhere that 34 species of bird can be found during winter, elevating Harnav dam as bird watching site too.

Food - Dingo!

No food nearby Vanaj Dam or the Forest Rest House : Now, I may be horribly wrong in assuming that there's zero chance of food nearby. Wrong, as I visited the place in off season, during summer.

In case of monsoon and winter, you may see shacks by locals selling biscuits and snacks. But why take risk? I suggest you to make food arrangements prior to visiting Polo Monument and Vijayanagar Forest area.

If you don't, you might end up eating biscuits like we did!

## Restricted Area

You can't,

- A. Go and walk over Harnav Dam without permission.
- B. No photography/No videography of Dam.
- C. Boat.
- D. Swim.

As the photography is restricted, I'm not publishing any photos of the Dam structure hereby. They have set up rules for security enforcements.

## Vanaj Forest Rest House

Few meters from Harnav Dam, Forest department of Himmatnagar has ramped up a forest rest house. From Polo forest campsite, this rest house is 5 km away.

Regretfully, I don't have additional information regarding this forest guest house. I will update this post if I get contact number or booking information.

However, you may try following contact numbers of Himmatnagar Forest Department.



Contact Number 1:02772243090

Contact Number 2:02772247279

Our Gang

We were 5. 20 year old kids. :)

In 6th semester of my B. Tech, it had become regular schedule to plan an excursion on every long weekend (Or after exams.) Polo Forest and Idar trips were one of the excursions.

From left to right: Pramod, Bhavya, Darpan, Rahul, Smit

Share Your Thoughts

If you've any queries, want to know anything more or just want to say Hi, drop a comment down below before you leave. :)

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 initial sections and keep scrolling down!

Height of Parnera is approx 300 m, climb via steps

## Shivaji, Fort and His Looong 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 by guerilla 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 was built in such a way that for opposition, it's

incredibly hard to penetrate. While, army staying in the fort can efficiently attack the enemies from any side.

Maanta

The Long Jump

During one of his stay at Parnera, Shivaji was besieged by opposition army. Encircled from all directions, he had no option but to jump over the army. (Played Subway Surfers? Kind of same situation. : )

So riding on his horse Badal, he jumped from a hidden orifice to Par river.

This is the "baari" from where Shivaji flew away

This intrigues me. I calculated distance on Map, from Parnera to Par river. It's 1.5 km. Stories and histories are all fine but...being a science and engineering student, I couldn't believe this feat!

If you're reading this and have explanation on how this could be done, please drop a comment at

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 Folktale

As per a folktale, once upon a time, Ambika, Kalika, Navdurga, Chandika and Kalika Mata used to stay together. For some reason, Kalika Mata sulked with others and ran away to a cave. That's the reason for two temples.

### Kalika Mata Temple

### Navratri Fair

It's said that, during Navratri, On Saatham - Aatham, Kalika Mata comes out of her cave. During this time, a 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 a battle of Satya and Ahimsa, passed away as a martyr. His head fallen off in Parnera and chest in Bilimora.

To remember his martyrdom, a dargah had been constructed in Bilimora and Parnera.

Valsad city is in background

Three Vaav

There are 3 water bodies, popularly known as Vaav in Gujarati, are present on the top of Parnera.

There's a popular tale that Shivaji's army had buried weapons and valuable treasures under Vaav. And then there's another tale that, out of all who tried to get that treasure from Vaav, no one managed to come out alive!

Over the top view

History of Parnera In Gujarati

As Mr. Ajay shared in the comments, history of Parnera is available in Gujarati language on the official site of temple, <http://chamundadhamparnera.org/history.html>

It is an excellent writeup.



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

To

Distance in km / Approx. time in hr

Surat

Parnera

100 km / 2 hrs

Mumbai

Parnera

200 km / 3.30 hrs

Ahmedabad

Parnera

350 km / 5.30 hrs

Local shops are shut off in off-season

Roads are top notch. Nearest railway station is Atul. Not many trains stop here, so Valsad is actual nearest railway station.

State transportation buses can be vailed. Ask anyone at Valsad Bus Station for help, you'll easily get guidance.

There are two entry points to Parnera Hill.

One is from Parnera village, if you're coming from Valsad. This way, you can't take vehicle up. Approx. 500 - 700 steps are there on this way.

Second is from Atul side, you can take your vehicle halfway and then approx. 200 - 300 steps.

Parnera hill and its surroundings are good spots for photography.

Good place for photographers

Best Time To Visit

For trekking, go in monsoon.

Normal visits, post monsoon months. October to January.

Though, due to its height, Parnera's atmosphere is mostly breezing. Even in summer, you won't face

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 Campsite during 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 Dam is 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:

[Mai Mandir Nadiad](#)

[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**

Virtualtour of: 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 regarding Pandava Gufa (Pandav Caves), Pandava Village, Dang. Pandava Gufas is remote trekking location deep inside the Dang, 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 stand in 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 a chance to plan an excursion to Wilson Hills lately. You are missing a good day 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 located in 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 station is 32 kilometers away from Dharampur and about 62 km away from Valsad, the district headquarter.

## Dharampur

Dharampur is 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.

Dharampur region 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 station has 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

Surat

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

375 km / 6.30 hr

Saputara

Wilson Hills

70 km / 2 hr

#### Attractions - What to See

Wilson hills had helping hand of government, so you'll find some viewpoints and rest huts. Whereas, Shankar falls are as they are. There were few benches earlier, but last time when I went there, I couldn't find trace of any! :P

Best time to visit: Monsoon. (Mid June to September end.)

You may find following things wonderful:

Water crashing from the height of about 150 feet

Scenic landscapes and dense greenery

Work and life culture of Adivasis

Tall trees protecting the shores of the river

Monsoon is undoubtedly the best time to visit.

Homestay Accommodation at Wilson Hill Station

Wilson Hills area now has one homestay option as well.

Also, delicious local (Adivasi) food can be enjoyed. You'll be exposed to local culture and their lifestyle as well during your course of stay.

Call/message on +91 94295 64808 for pricing, bookings and more details.

Typical local house.

Food

No food at Shankar Fall.

Wilson Hills has one restaurant on the top. You can curb hunger there.

Based on my personal experience, the food wasn't upto the mark. It's better to take own food there and crunch it sitting amongst clouds.

## Nearby Places

Barumal Shiva Temple

Fort of Mohangadh

Shrimad Rajchandra Ashram

Dharampur City

Kaparada Area and Bildha Village

Shankar Waterfalls - 6 km from Wilson Hill Station

## Barumal Shiva Temple

Barumal, 10 minutes from Dharampur is actually not just a Shiva temple. It has a wide spread campus hosting a guest house, pretty good canteen, girls' school cum hostel, podium, walk-through gallery and of course, a huge temple.

Why am I mentioning this temple? Food!



If you fail to find any food in either Wilson Hills or Shankar Falls, Barumal temple can be fill up your empty stomach. It has a canteen.

Barumal temple falls on the Wilson Hill - Dharampur road, 5 km from Dharampur.

Gentle Gesture

Stop your vehicle for a moment to capture the smiles of cute children en-route to Fall.

Dharampur area is tribal, undeveloped area. People in this area are financially not well-off.

I urge you to donate those kids Old clothes, books, toys, whatever you were thinking to dump in your bin.

More Photos

Visit this dedicated post to see more photos: [Wilson Hills Dharampur And Shankar Dhodh Waterfalls In Monsoon](#)

## 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 excellent place 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 are less crowded then non-monsoon season is best for you.

When I visited, it was dried up

## Location

Gira falls are located in Wanarchod village, near Waghai in Dangs.

The place is easily accessible. 4 km from Waghai town, on Waghai Saputara road, take right turn and you'll reach at your destination.

## Bamboos

Gallons of water from Ambika river crashes from 30 meter. The scene is worth -- in monsoon.

You can dive (well, not dive. Just bath ;) ) in Ambika river, keeping distance of 100 meters from falls.

There were fatalities in past so you'll see sign boards telling you not to be superhero. Yeah, be Batman if you wish :D

You can bath in this safe area

Distances How to Reach

Distance Matrix:

From City

To

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

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! :)



Sunset here is worth

## Nearby Attractions

Waghai Botanical Garden

Janki Van Bhinar

Kilad Eco Tourism Campsite

Vansda National Park

Saputara Hill Station

## Food

No high end restaurants or hotels nearby. Though, reasonably good food can be found in Waghai town.

You'll get tea and snacks at the Gira waterfalls.

Tasty corn in monsoon season.

Tasty corn in monsoon season.

Accommodation

You can stay at:

A. Kilad Campsite

B. Saputara

C. Guest Houses in Vansda

A good place for photography too!

Ambapada - Crafts Village

At Gira falls, you'll see shacks selling handicrafts made from bamboo. (And other wooden items.)

Handicraft store

Ambapada village - small village near Gira falls is the manufacturing center of those handicrafts.

If you get a chance to visit Ambapada, don't miss it. You can walk around the village and get a good understanding of how those crafts are manufactured.

Workers there are welcoming.

I tried to take long exposure from phone. Didn't work out well :(

It's a good place for photographers too, if you're carrying a DSLR, try to bring f/1.8 50mm lens with you. You'll get awesome portraits.

These are made from bamboo

Escaped Lunatic 60 Second Improve the World Challenge

Escaped Lunatic has written fantastic post about Girafalls on his blog: [here](#)

He has proposed a 60 seconds challenge foreveryone visiting Girafalls, Waghai. Here it is:

"

Be the change that you wish to see in the world.Mahatma Gandhi

Enjoy the magnificent view, but do 2 more things.

First, do not throw any trash on the ground.

Deliberately polluting a place of such natural beauty should be viewed as a sin by anyone capable

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 don't do it, how much garbage will continue to accumulate? How long until Girardhodh 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 world's 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 night if 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 fountains materialised in very last semester of B.Tech in Computer Engineering.

Though, during school trips too, Ajwa Nimeta had always been a stop. Ajwa garden is for people of all ages. Kids can play cheerfully and oldies can soothe themselves watching 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. ;)

(Rahul, Smit, Darpan).

Me: "Hey it's Sunday. What you're up to?"

They: "We're about to leave for Vadodara."

Me: "Hold on! I'm joining too!"

And there we were, on good old CBZ!

Parking area of Ajwa Nimeta garden

Drive to Ajwa Nimeta

It took us one and a half hour to reach to Ajwa Garden from Anand. Roads are top notch and straight forward.

Ticket counter

Decoding Ajwa and Nimeta

Maharaj Sayajirao Gaekwad III built dam in 20th century in Ajwa.

Ajwa = Reservoir / Lake / Sarovar formed by the dam.

Nimeta = Water treatment plant on the reservoir.

Over the time, they bound firmly with each other and now they are known as nothing but Ajwa Nimeta. :)

The water treatment plant provides water to lacs of citizens of Vadodara city.

One fact I didn't know about Ajwa Nimeta Garden and Musical Fountains: The garden has been cultivated by taking reference of Vrindavan Gardens, Mysore. See photos of Vrindavan Gardens: [here](#).

List of Points at Ajwa Nimeta



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 some accidents 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 Tere...Pyasa Dil Mera...

I halted for a moment and looked around. Spotted some love birds having good time in corners. Oh! What a perfect setup! :P

A place to enjoy moments!

Timings and Best Time To Visit

Due to personal work, we left Ajwa in late afternoon. Nevertheless, I see no point visiting Ajwa Nimeta if not for musical fountains. They are, in fact, the unique point of this garden.

Ajwa Nimeta can be visited anytime during entire year.

Garden is mostly non crowded in afternoons

Ajwa Musical Fountain Timings: Saturday, Sunday Monday

They are also operated during public holidays like, Independence day, Republic day, Christmas, Ramzan-Id, Sharad purnima, Gaurivrat (Jagran).

Photo:scrapboktravelblog.blogspot.com

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](http://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 present on 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 is a 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 list of all eco tourism campsites of Gujarat. Previously in this series, I've prepared 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 the campsites 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

Eco tourism is defined as: "Responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people."

Most of the campsites have some common characteristics:

They are far from concrete jungles. In fact, most of them are located deep inside actual jungles. :)

River nearby

Basic Accommodation - Tent and Dormitory

Basic Food

Less crowded

Peaceful atmosphere. Relaxed ambience. Noise free life.

The eco campsites and nature education sites in Gujarat are generally maintained by EDC - Eco-tourism Development Committee.

The List

Click on each campsites title name for quick summary, location, driving directions, booking information, booking contact numbers and photos.

Click/tap on campsite title for more details.



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](mailto:mahalecotourism@gmail.com)

02631-220203

[dcfdangnorth16@gmail.com](mailto: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 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

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 Zarvani waterfalls, the Shoolpaneshwar Temple, the Gheer Khadi.

Image: Gujarat Tourism

Location: Thawadia checkpoint, Narmada dam site, Rajpipla

Route: Vadodara Dabhoi Rajpipla Village Gora Zarvani (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 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.

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 inside Dediapada 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](mailto: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.

Image: Gujarat Tourism

Location: Vadhvana, Dabhoi, Vadodara

Booking Contact:

Chief Conservator of Forest

Vadodara Division

Kothi Building, Behind Raopura Police Station

Raopura, Vadodara 390001

Phone (0265) 2425136

More Info Photos: [Vadhvana Wetland Campsite - Dabhoi \(Vadodara\)](#)

The site is surrounded by several forest areas, namely, Karjan forest area, Dediypada forest area and Dang forest area, and fertile agricultural plains and river valleys.

Image: Gujarat Tourism

Location: Rajpipla-Netrang road, Rajpipla



Route:Vadodara Dabhoi Rajpipla Netrang Road Vishal Khadi (Distance approx.98 kms)

Booking Contact:

Deputy Conservator of Forest

Narmada Forest Division

Near Vadia Jakat Naka,

Rajpipla 393145

Phone (02640) 220013 / 220343

Email [dcfnarmada@gmail.com](mailto:dcfnarmada@gmail.com)

More Info Photos:[Dediyapada Campsite in Vishal Khadi](#)

Situated amidst Satpura hills on the banks of the River Karjan, Junaraj was old capital of Rajpipla state. Eco cottages have been built in Junaraj village.

Location: Junaraj, near Karjan Dam, Rajpipla

Route:Vadodara Dabhoi Rajpipla Sulpaneshwar Sanctuary Junaraj

Booking Contact:

Deputy Conservator of Forest

Narmada Forest Division

Near Vadia Jakat Naka,

Rajpipla 393145

Phone (02640) 220013 / 220343

Email [dcfnarmada@gmail.com](mailto:dcfnarmada@gmail.com)

More Info Photos: Junaraj Village Eco Cottage Rajpipla

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.

Image: Gujarat Tourism

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

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.

Image: Gujarat Tourism

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

More Info Photos: Dhanpari Campsite in Jambughoda

This campsite is located near Kakrapar. Not to be confused with the one of Vadodara.

Image: Chetan Modi

Location: Kevdi, Neat Jetpur Mandvi, Surat

Booking Contact:

Accommodation: 09726391982

Food:09099360694

More Info Photos:Jetpur Kevdi (Mandvi, Surat) Eco Tourism

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

More Info Photos:Bhat Eco Campsite near Shivrajpur Vadodara

Source: Ketan I Mehta

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

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 Naik suggested 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:

From

To

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

Ahmedabad

Kevdi Campsite

280 km / 5 hr

River nearby

Best Time to Visit

Kevdi campsite is open all days a week. No prior permission needed to visit, however for AC type of accommodation, prior booking is must.

Best time, list most other campsites, is post-monsoon and winter.

View of village

Facilities and Points

Dome house

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 House Photo: Devdatt Joshi

Accommodation Food

Rates are per day.

Type

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**

Dang's bird festival has been organized by Purna WLS in collaboration with Ahwa (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](mailto: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 spot I 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.

## The List

Click on title name of each place to view brief intro, photo, rating, food and accommodation information.

Click on title for more details.

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.

My Rating: 4 / 5

Food: No. (Snacks during season)

Accommodation: No.

More Information: Don Hill Station, Ahwa, Dang

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

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

Food: Yes (Snacks)

Accommodation: No

More Information: Pampa Sarovar Shabari Dham

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.

My Rating: 4 / 5

Food:No (May get some snacks during season)

Accommodation: No

More Information: Chichkund Waterfalls



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)

Accommodation: Yes (Kilad Campsite)

More Information: Vansda National Park

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.

My Rating: 5 / 5 (During monsoon)

Food: Yes (Snacks near waterfall and full variety in Waghai town)

Accommodation: Yes (Kilad Campsite)

More Information:Gira Dhodh, Waghai, Saputara

Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is located in South Gujarat between Vyara, Tapi District and Ahwa, Dang

District, Gujarat, India. It was declared a sanctuary in July 1990. It derives its name from the Purna River, which flows through it.

My Rating: 4 / 5

Food: Not sure

Accommodation: Yes (Mahal Eco Tourism Campsite)

More Information: [Purna Wildlife Sanctuary](#)

Other relatively less popular places. As they aren't so popular, I'm not adding description. You can visit the link to get more information of respective place.

More at: [Pandava Caves at Pandava Village Dangs](#)

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 them in your travelitinerary.

More info: Janki Van Vansda Gujarat

More at: Padamdungari Campsite, Unai, Surat

More info: Ajmal Gadh

And with Ajmal Gadh, I will end my list!

How was the article? Please leave your feedback in comments down. :)

Related Posts:

[Mahal Forests Campsite](#)

[Places to Stay in Dang](#)

[Be nice to that delivery guy.](#)

[Copyright in 2 Minutes](#)

[Mobile Analytics Data: 2016](#)



# 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 Mahal Campsite, 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 Center in 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 of helicopter damselflies nearby. BTW, they are called Pseudostigmatidae 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 visit Purna Wildlife Sanctuary.

A good thing about Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is that, it is mostly less crowded. Oftentimes while driving to Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, you'd not see any vehicle for kilometers.

That makes Purna Wildlife Sanctuary an excellent place for relaxation from busy and noisy city life.

(Surat!)

Local tribe - known also as Adivasi

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

To

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

Shabari Dham

Pampa Sarovar

Food and Accommodation

There are couple of hotels in Mahal Village. Food inside Mahal Campsite isn't available. You can cook food on your own however.

Hotel (or say resort!) in Purna Wildlife Sanctuary, in Mahal village, outside Mahal campsite

Tents and cottages are present in Mahal Campsite.

Visit this article for booking details and contact number: [Contact Details](#)

Nagli biscuits in Mahal Campsite. They are tasty and have super energy!

Entry Fees Timings

Mahal Campsite Purna Wildlife Sanctuary is open days a week.

Timings are dependent on Sunlight condition, normally, 9 AM to 6 PM.

Entry Fees - For One Day

Type

Fees

Per Individual

20

Car / Jeep (Up to 6 Person)

200

Mid-size Vehicles:

500

Bus



1750

Guide

300

Film Photography Fees - For One Day

Type

Charge

Still Camera

50

Non Professional Photography / Video

500

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 surrounded by hills. Made a call confirming his availability and we were on for Bildha!

Ready, steady, go!

"WE"

From left to right:

Manoj, Rahul Thakor, Me, Smit Patel and Mamo

A typical home in Dang/Dharampur area. Concrete buildings are rare sight.

As population is sparse, most houses are distant from each other.

This is home of Manoj.

I mentioned Gujarat - Maharashtra border. See the tall tree? Maharashtra starts from there.

As this is very remote village, electricity is a major issue. Mobile network is surprisingly good however. (Hail Vodafone!)

Seeds have been for monsoon season. They may look green in color but in the eyes of a farmer, they're gold.

This is fruit. (Called Champa? Not sure. :P ) It's so strongly rooted with main trunk that even after I was hanging over it, I wasn't been able to separate it apart.

A closer look at his house.

Heard about "Water Tea"?

Usually, we imagine milk as inseparable ingredient of tea. But tea without milk is also an exotic drink, I guarantee you!

Nevertheless, we enjoyed tea made of pure milk.

He took us for guided tour of his area. :)

A closer look at the weapons of a farmer.

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!

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 feet above us..

Halt 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 Productivity Apps on Android

List of Hill Stations in Gujarat

List of Waterfalls in Gujarat

List of Campsites in Gujarat

...the list will go on and on!

Time to make another one, List of Ropeway Stations in Gujarat!

## The Ropeway

Wikipedia states that:A ropeway/cable car is any of a variety of transportation systems relying on cables to pull vehicles along or lower them at a steady rate.

They're generally slow snail slow --but hey, that's why we get to enjoy the ride right!?

## The List

Click on each title name for short intro, time, ticket charges and rating information.

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.Cable cars wont run when there are no tourists. This happens in off season.

The operators will stop car in middle of course. So that tourists can enjoy being on top of valley. The view of Saputara Hill Station from here is mesmerizing.

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

crowd.Be ready to wait in long queue if doing vice versa.

Operation Time:

06.00 AM to 07.45 PM (Runs all day, all season)

Lunch break: 12.50 PM to 01.30 PM

Ticket Charges:

Rs. 100 (Both way)

Rs. 65 (Down)

Travel Time:5 - 7 minutes (Machi to peak near Mahakali Temple)

Tourist Rush:Unsure about this. I didn't face any rush. However, when we got down, there was long long queue for ascending journey.

My Rating:4/5

I visited Gabbar Hills during one of those school educational tours.

I still remember dialogues of Sholay (Gabbar, you know! :) ) being thrown every now and then while we were in cable cars, going on top. One that I could recollect --we had this while waiting for car:

"Are Oo Sambha! Kitna time lagayega ropeway chalane mein!" :D

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. I was 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

...and time to add one more! List of places to visit in Saputara.

### The Sightseeing List

Click on title to explore more about the place.

Click on title to explore more about the place.

The order is, "must-see" to "huh". :P

Saputara lake is USP of Saputara hill station. The lake offers boating facilities and lakeside recreational activities.

No matter where you go in Saputara, eventually you'll visit this place at least once. It's hub of tourists.

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/-.With that price tag, boating in Saputara lake is probably the cheapest in country.

Photo: Tripadvisor

Ticket Charges:

Pedal boat: Rs. 20 per person

Rowboat: Rs. 5 per person

Time:

08.30 AM to 06.30 PM

Tourist Rush:

Average waiting time is 20 minutes.

Place is mostly crowded.

My Rating:

More photos, information and tips: [Saputara Lake](#)

Running between Governors hill and Sunset point, ropeway is must do activity when hanging around in Saputara.

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

Time:

Starts in morning when there are enough people for ferry.

Last car departs at 07.00 PM from 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 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.

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.

My Rating:

More photos, information and tips: [Sunset Point Saputara](#)

Don't be confused, all three names point to same area.

Townview point offers what it stands for. Standing here, you can view of entire Saputara Hill Station.

The name table top comes because of flat table like surface on top of hill called Governors Hill. After Saputara lake, this hill is the most frequented place by tourists.

It's also hub of many adventure sports and recreational activities.

Bike riding (Its polluting the environment however)

Horse riding

Camel riding

Ziplining

Valley crossing

Note that the activities may not be offered during off season.



Photo: Tripadvisor Vishal Bihani

Ticket Charges:

No charges for entry. Parking fee is mandatory however.

Time:

Anytime, any season during year.

Tourist Rush:

High.

My Rating:

More photos, information and tips: [Governor's Hill Saputara](#)

Step garden is one of finest maintained place in Saputara. Its a small garden, consisting from 20-25 steps. On each step, youd see wide range of flower beds.

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 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 point of 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. It gives 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, there's 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!

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, thusclaiming 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 for maintenance. 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 that 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.

The surroundings has 4 water bodies.

Other major attractions are,

Unai tale

Women empowerment mural

Interpretation center

Valimiki ashram

Janaki model

Tribal bazaar

Laxman zula

Van kutir

Amusement ride for kids

Decorative lake and a

Step garden.

People can know about each tree at an interpretation centre that has been set up at the Janki Van.

The tourists would get complete information about the plants and also about tribal culture, Ayurveda and Yoga at the interpretation centre.

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 (Maharashtra) 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.

## Nearby Places

Some places near to Janki Van where you can hang out and have fun.

Ajmal Gadh, Vansda - Dharampur Road - 22 km

Waghai Botanical Garden -25 km

Gira Falls, Waghai -27 km

SadgurufalAshram and Garden - Vansda -15 km

UnaiMata Temple -8 km

That's what I know about Janki Van. Do drop me a message if you've visited the place and want to share more insights about the forest garden.

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!

Discover more:

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.

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

Perhaps people 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.

Cheers!

Darpan

Let's have a look at some photos of Lions Garden Chikhli..

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.

View as you enter the garden.

Drinking water tank facility. Needless to write here that the facility doesn't work.

Logo holder of Lions Club.

Benches are plenty but none to occupy them.

Kids enjoying their moments. A coincidence! - I'm listening to a song and heard this line, "Those days I gone! ... I'm a old school girl!" Matches context of current photo.

Tata!

Related Articles:

[Photo Essay: Valsad Railway Station](#)

[Soldhara Eco Point](#)

[Kukeri: A Village of Teachers](#)

[Logging Life](#)

[How to Use Your Smartphone Smartly?](#)

## **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

Ducks? May be. I'm poor at biology. :P

Honey bees breeding center. The owner was former Sarpanch of Soldhara village.

If you're still here and reading this line -- it must have been a great coincidence! If that's the case, do drop me a message. :)

More of this blog:

[Kukeri - Village of Teachers](#)

[Mobile Analytics Data](#)

[Web Hosting: For your Grandma](#)

[Photo Gallery: Santram Deri Nadiad](#)

[Unearthing Parnera Fort Valsad](#)

# 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 we needed 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.

Distance Matrix:

From

To

Distance in km / Time in hr

Khambhat

Sikotar Maa

10 km / 20 minutes

Anand

Sikotar Mata

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.

Food stalls outside Sikotar Maa campus

Nearest railway station is Khambhat. Demu trains run every two hour between Anand - Khambhat.

See Khambhat Railway Station Timetable

From Khambhat, rickshaws will take you direct to Vahanvati temple.

Parking space

Sikotar Maa History

Temple has mapping with 950 year old history.

In name Sikotar,

Si = Laxmi

Kotar = Goddess living in ravine.

Sikotar Maa is also known as Goddess of sea.

Sikotar Maa Photo:<http://www.templetravel.net/>

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 list each 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 get 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 reach their destination safely.

- B. Another tale is that, during Navratri time, Mata would come to Sikotar to play Garba. Sound of Mata's anklet was so powerful that farmers in nearby villages could easily hear.

Huge Shivalinga sideby temple

- C. There's one popular story of Sikotar Mata and Jagdusa. It explains how Sikotar Mata started to know as Vahanvati.

When drought took over Saurashtra region, a merchant named Jagdusa came to Khambhat and entrapped his ships. He was true devotee of Maa Sikotar and soon his business grown full fledged.

He became so rich. Wondering what to do with the money he had, he bought a gold chain for Sikotar Maa. Though, being a merchant, his thoughts were changed after he sawgleaming gold. Instead of devoting to Sikotar Maa, he kept chain for his wife.

That night, in his dream, Sikotar Maa appeared and told Jagdusa to see positions of his ships. Hastily, Jagdusa came out only to see his ships sinking in sea.

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

Dinner Hall

Dharamshala

Food Storage Room

I didn't take photos inside temple as photography wasn't allowed inside temple. Following are photos from:<http://www.templetravel.net/2015/11/sikotarvahanvati-mata-temple-in.html>

Festival and Events

During Navratri, a huge celebration is held at Maa Sikotar.

Annakshetra is run on every Sunday and Poornima.

During Navratri time. Photo:<http://www.templetravel.net>

Silhouette Photography!

We completed tour of temple in a couple of hours. The sight infilled vibes.

Now what, we thought again.

To the sea!

Arabian sea is 10 minutes from the temple. Upon reaching there, I looked around. We were the only ones out there!

We didn't want to leave the place without capturing sunset. We were 2 hours from sunset.

Camera! Action! And we started photography sessions!

I'd always remember trip to Khambhat and Sikotar Mata for these photos! It was one of the finest photography sessions I ever had!

Discover More Stories:

[Why do we live on earth?](#)

[Galteshwar Mahadev Temple](#)

[List of Hill Stations in Gujarat](#)

Best of 2015

Junaraj Eco Cottage

## Zarvani Waterfalls Rajpipla, Gujarat

Zarvani waterfalls are located near Shoolpaneshwar Sanctuary Narmada in Map. Addressed also as Zarvani, 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!

Image Credits: Nischal Sharma

## Shiv Ghat Waterfalls, Ahwa Dangs (Small Fall)

Shiva Ghat is 10 minutes from Ahwa, Dang district headquarters. No extra driving efforts are needed to visit this 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 is not a full length. I will add more content in photos in upcoming days.

# The List of Campsites in Dang

Writing this post quickly. I will convert current post to full-length post later when I get some spare time.

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

Driving Directions: Roads are single, yet to construct and muddy. Two opposite cars cant 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.

Parking space near Bhairav Nath Temple

Dissecting Names of Jodiya Waterfalls

There are two waterfalls in that area. So they are called as Jodiya waterfalls.

One crashes from 30 feet. Another one is falling from 20 feet.

However, that's a name given by tourists.

The waterfalls are otherwise originally known as Mavli Mata waterfalls.

First waterfall is called as, Sonajal Dhodh.

Second one is called as, Roopajal Dhodh.

Swargvahini river originates from here.

## 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

To

Approx distance in km/Time in hr

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

Mumbai

Bilpudi Waterfalls

215 km / 4 hr

Long exposure shot by Bhupendra D Tandel

Nearby Places to Visit

In monsoon season, Dharampur area gets covered by lush green color. As you'll drive past Dharampur, you'll see nothing in front of you but greenery.

From Bilpudi, one can get mind blowing views of Barumal Mahadev Temple, Mohangadh Dharampur. Some places to visit on your trip to Bilpudi waterfalls can be:

Barumal Temple

Wilson Hill Station

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/>

Related Articles:

Gira Waterfalls

Girmal Waterfalls

Why do we live on earth?

How to look on photos?

Online for a year!

# **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](mailto: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 of Bhat 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**

Mangadh Hilla pious place of faith for tribals of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhyapradesh for Guru Govindsinh.

The entire area is gifted with beautiful hills surrounded by scattered forests. Backwaters of Kadana dam are very near to this area.

Mangadh is located on the Gujarat/Rajasthan border.

Photos of Mangadh Hill Station

Puvar Gauravsinh has reached out to me and share few photos of Mangadh with me. You can find his work at his Instagram:[https://www.instagram.com/puvar\\_gauravsinh\\_5/](https://www.instagram.com/puvar_gauravsinh_5/)

Mangadh Hill Station Dahod Gujarat 1

Mangadh Hill Station Dahod Gujarat 3

Mangadh Hill Station Dahod Gujarat 5

Mangadh Hill Station Dahod Gujarat 2

More information about Mangadh hill can be found at Dahod district administration's official website:<https://dahoddp.gujarat.gov.in/dahod/english/jillavishe/historical-places/mangadh-hill.htm>

Also an excellent article is written by Pravin Shah in Gujarati:<http://www.readgujarati.com/2013/11/27/maangadh-hill/>

Cover photo credits:Jitendra Suthar

## **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/>

This post is in publishing pipeline and will be updated soon.

Cover Image: djtailor @ YouTube

Copying a comment left by Mr Murali on another article:

A fantastic and very useful list and guide on Gujarat water falls. I would like to add some more about Nlnai Dhoodh

Its a wonderful place inside Soolapaneshwar Sanctuary. From Dedia pads, the road is fantastic with fresh greenery around, and a river flowing along the road.

You have to climb down a few hundred steps to reach the falls, and it can be quite tideous for elders. You cant access the base but can take bath in the gushing water.

Perfect visit during August/ September, once the monsoon weakens.

Thanks for sharing Mr Murli!

## 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.

"

## Photos of Khuniya Falls

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



Video of Khuniya 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](http://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](https://www.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 this Honey Bees Center: The places is kinda random.

Sometimes, you'll get someone explaining you how honey is harvested, if he's a good guy, he'll open one of the square boxes and show you behind the scenes.

And sometimes...you 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 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\_jn KhatriRocks at [tripadvisor.in](https://www.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 Dang

Tribal museum displays Adivasi (People of Dang area) history of the Dang region. Museum gives an idea about culture of local people and their 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 its 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, you'd 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. You'd have hard time if you miss that.

As far as I know, Saputara is one of 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 tourism administration plans 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, their traditional 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 crore to 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 report says. 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 measured height 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 was approx. 3210 ft. (978 m).

This came out just after the Don Mahotsav, a fortnight 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 Dang 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?

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

To

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

150 km / 3.5 hr

Bilimora

Don Hill Station

126 km / 3 hr

Refer to the following map to get exact route details. For convenience, I have selected Vansda town of Navsari as my base station.

or [view custom Google Map](https://mapsengine.google.com/map/viewer?mid=zDQhGIGzQiRo.kZQPWPDjMz-k) at:  
<https://mapsengine.google.com/map/viewer?mid=zDQhGIGzQiRo.kZQPWPDjMz-k>

From Vansda, the journey would take about 2 hours. (Vansda to Waghai: 25 minutes, Waghai to Ahwa: 45 minutes, Ahwa to Don: 50 minutes) But I assure you that it won't be boring at any stretch. If you're an enthusiastic driver then you gotta love curvy and steep roads of the Dangs.

The CNG Filling Station is situated in Vansda.

Petrol, Diesel pumps are present in Ahwa.

Ahwa is the last major town en route to Don. You will have a hard time finding even a tiny shop after Ahwa.

## 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! During the 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 sparse knowledge about other areas of Gujarat. South Gujarat is home ground for me because my hometown is Vandsa.

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 on waterfall title name for its location map, water flow, accessibility, tourist rush, food availability, 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 accessible during the year.

Tribal artists sell aesthetic handicrafts here. Gira Falls are the most popular falls in Gujarat. Also known as Gira Dhodh, the place attracts massive 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 common confusion of many tourists. The puzzle of Gira vs Girmal.

Both are different.

Gira Falls or Gira Dhodh is the one near Waghai. Girmal or Girimala is the one near Subir, Ahwa. The former one, Gira can be easily reached while Girmal is located quite 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:

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 tall 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 prevent 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 arestaurant namedU-turn restaurant.

Tasty food, do try it.

A full day is needed for this destination. You will cherish the memories of this adventure forever, I 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 to Wilson 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.



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 visit this 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

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 Barumal Road, 2 km from main road

Water Flow: June - November Mid

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.

There are two waterfalls in that area. So they are called as Jodiya waterfalls. One crashes from 30 feet. Another one is falling from 20 feet.

Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information: [Jodiya Waterfalls Dharampur](#)

Location:

Water Flow: July to Mid November

Accessibility: Medium

Tourist Rush: High during Shivratri and Shravan Season

Food: None

Reaching to Bottom: Easily Reachable

More Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information: [Khuniya Mahadev Falls Near Pavagadh,](#)

Vadodara

Location:20 km from Bhavnagar City.

Water Flow:July to November

Accessibility:Medium

Tourist Rush:Average

Food:None

Reaching to Bottom:Reachable

More Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information:[Trambak Waterfalls, Bhavnagar, Gujarat](#)

Location:Deep in Dang jungles near Waghai.

Water Flow:Mid June toSeptember

Accessibility:Hard

Tourist Rush:No Rush

Food:None

Reaching to Bottom:Possibly but extremely difficult. Need to trek down with experienced local.

More Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information:[Koshmal Waterfalls, Waghai, Dangs](#)

Location:Jamvala Village, Gir

Water Flow: - Not Known -

Accessibility:- Not Known -

Tourist Rush:- Not Known -

Food: - Not Known -

Reaching to Bottom: - Not Known -

Location: Ninai is located off State Highway 163 (Gujarat). It is approximately 35 km from Dediapada and approximately 143 km from Surat.

Water Flow: - Not Known -

Accessibility:- Not Known -

Tourist Rush:- Not Known -

Food: - Not Known -

Reaching to Bottom: - Not Known -

More Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information:[Ninai Falls Waterfall in Dediapada, Gujarat](#)



Location: 30 km from Pavagadh in Indian state Gujarat.

Water Flow: - Not Known -

Accessibility:- Not Known -

Tourist Rush:- Not Known -

Food: - Not Known -

Reaching to Bottom: - Not Known -

More Photos, Travelogue and Detailed Information:[Hathni Mata Waterfall Near Vadodara](#)

Location:13 km from Songadh city.

Water Flow: - Not Known -

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 Sanctuary 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.

Throughout 6th semester of B. Tech, Computer Engineering, DDIT, Nadiad, I never missed a chance to go on trip. Most of the trips were, however, of 1 day. Depart in 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](#)

[How to reach location](#)

[Photography @ Polo](#)

## The Squad

We were five. All travel freaks. Adaptable to any condition.

Bhavya Gandhi: Real follower of Mahatma Gandhi's principles :)

Pramod Mali: From the great land of Kutch

Rahul Thakor: (Unknown) Writer ;). Here's exploring "I" within me.

Smit Patel: (Nature) Lover ;) and photographer.

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

Pramod - Rahul - Darpan - Smit - Bhavya

## The Plan

There was no plan as such!

As I mentioned earlier, We didn't plan for anything.

"Chalo, Polo Forest baaju farta aviye! Raat pade e pahela paccha avta rahisu.."

Starting Off

We stayed night at Idar and decided to leave for Polo forests in morning. Upon asking locals, we were informed that jeeps are available from Idar to Vijaynagar.

Polo campsite is few km before Vijaynagar.

As we didn't make any plans, this is what we had as breakfast.

Yeah, Amul Ice cream as breakfast. We had no choice. It was tasty though. :)

We jumped into one of those jeeps leading to Vijaynagar. Journey from Idar to Polo forest takes

around an hour.

The road to Vijaynagar was quite scenic.

Jeep will drop you here

What Shall We Do

Driver halted jeep and informed us that Polo campsite has arrived.

We spent few minutes getting acquainted to area. Then we looked into each other's blank faces, with the same burning question in mind: "Okay, so we are here at Polo forest. What next?"

No one of us had any answer.

No one was there nearby. We looked around Polo campsite, we failed to find any human being inside the campsite.

Though, a dog was there to welcome us!



## 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

## Moving Ahead: Trekking

After wandering here and there for a while, we found a trail leading to hill. All we needed was something to start upon. We started trekking...

The trek wasn't difficult. It needs no heroic physical fitness.

## Trekking

Trek is picturesque. You'll climb hill. Descend to base again. You'll cross a stream.

Stream, it had no water when we visited

And if you go in off season, you'll be the only person doing all these! There'll be no one around you.

Crossing the river, we saw an ancient temple from distance. Moving ahead...

## Jain Temples at Polo Forest

The Jain Temples are believed to be built in 15th Century. Along with Jain Temples, one Shiva temple and one step well is also present nearby.

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're planning 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 Polo...but life isn't fair always!

Amul to save us again..

## Location How to Reach

If you're coming from private vehicle, then there's nothing better than Google Maps.

## Distance Matrix

From

To

Distance in km / Approx. time in hr

Ahmedabad

Polo Forest

150 km / 3 hr

Idar

Polo Forest

35 km / 45 min

Himmatnagar

Polo Forest

60 km / 1 hr 30 mins

Vadodara

Polo Forest

250 km / 4 hr 30 mins

Rajkot

Polo Forest

370 km / 6 hr 30 mins

Surat

Polo Forest

400 km / 7 hr

Mumbai

Polo Forest

670 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 to an 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

More of Vibrant Gujarat:

Lothal, A Journey to Harrapan Civilization

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 hold special 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](http://narendramodi.in)

## Where to Stay - Accommodation

Saputara has many hotels. Though, prices will be skyrocketed during monsoon festival and you may have hard time getting overnight stay.

You can find list and book hotels in Saputara via:

MakeMyTrip (Recommended)

Cleartrip

Yatra

## Little History of Monsoon Festival

From what I remember Gujarat Tourism (TGCL - Tourism Corporation Gujarat Limited) organized the first ever monsoon festival in year 2011. It was a massive hit.

Year after year, they kept adding more events and activities. Visitors too kept increasing in folds.

This year, 2016 will be the 6th edition of the Saputara Monsoon Festival.

## Events, Activities and Programs

A lot happens during the monsoon festival. Some are,

## 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

Sunrise Point

Saputara Tribal Museum

Lake Garden

Hatgadh Fort

HoneybeesCenter

Nageshwar Mahadev Temple

Echo Point

Artists Village

During time of monsoon festival, Saputara Lake and Table Top point are most crowded.

Sunrise point and echo point attractless people.

Photo: [narendramodi.in](http://narendramodi.in)

Places to Visit Near Saputara

Saputara falls under Dang district. Dangs has dozens of tourist places. During monsoon season, Dang area scenes have God level awesomeness.

Detailed list of places at: [My Journey Of Dang Forests](#)

Don Hill Station

Shabari Dham

Mahal Campsite

Gira Falls

Waghai Botanical Garden

Girmal Falls

Vansda National Park

Purna Wildlife Sanctuary

Hatgad Fort

Saptashrunji Gadh

Kilad Campsite

Janki Van

Ajmal Gadh

Don't just limit your sightseeing to Saputara only. Make best of your trip to Saputara Monsoon Festival and cover as many places as possible.

Don Hill Station, Ahwa

How to Reach Saputara

Unlike other places in Dang, Saputara has excellent public transportation facilities. You can hire jeep in Saputara for local sightseeing.



State run buses are frequently available from Surat, Valsad and Bilimora bus station.

Nearest railway station is Bilimora.

Distance Matrix:

From

To

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. Please

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

My young brother, Kunj Dodiya, recently visited the place again and has published a joyous video of Koshmal Waterfalls and surrounding area. Link to video or watch it below.

## Koshmal (Kusmal) History In Nutshell

First off, I'd like to put some aliases of this place on the table. It is known as:

Koshmal ()

Kushmal ()

Kusmal ()

Koshmad ()

All refer to the same place. For exact location of this place, please scroll down to the location section.

The waterfall located at this village is known as Bhigu Dhodh amongst local people.

There's also a story related with this mountain. In Mr. Keyur Konkani's words,

"Raxasi Bird Egg Ram Laxman came and resolve this area's problem."

Yes its vague. If you happen to be at Koshmal and get to know the history more, please comment here.

This view is magnificent

Location Information and How to Reach

Koshmal is tricky to reach. As Mayur commented in comments, you may end up heading nowhere.

I certainly don't want your trip to end up as treasure hunt! :P

Please find Custom Map with detailed directions and waypoints to the village:

Directions above start from Point A:Waghai Town and end at E: Koshmal village.

Attention Please

<https://goo.gl/maps/9NBdWDNQRnw>- This is the real village, as confirmed by villagers.

<https://goo.gl/maps/yBkDbXGnGgL2>- This is what you get on Google when you search "Koshmal".

This ain't the place described here. Better search "Kusmal".

To illustrate the directions in old style:

Reach Waghai if coming from Vansda

Pass through Waghai town and head towards Bhenskatri on SH 171

After 5-8 mins of driving, Dungarda village will be sight. Cross the bridge on the river.

Take right turn after crossing the river

Continue straight now on. No turns needed

After about 20 mins of ascend, you'll reach to the village.

If you're coming from Bhenskatri, reach till Dungarda village, and take left turn. (Of course, don't cross the river.)

Please note that there could be other ways as well, above route is the route that I had taken.

Roads are top-notch, no need to worry.

Roads are smooth all the way to Koshmal.

About The Waterfall Location

Regret to say that I don't have exact coordinates of the fall. You'll need to ask any local villager for the entry point of trail.

It's a 30 minutes walk from main road to the waterfall.

### Take Help of Locals

When I reached to the village, I met with Janu Dada. He was en route to his rice fields and I asked him if he could lead us to the waterfall.

### Our on-the-spot guide

He happily agreed to.

My recommendation is take any local with you. Even though there's clear trail to the waterfalls, it is highly possible that you won't be able to make it to the falls alone.

Offer them some amount to guide you. The locals are very poor and this can be helpful income for them.

### Distance Matrix

From

To

Distance in km / Approx. time in hr



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

## Best Time

Monsoon, hands down.

July first week to September last week.

You'll be amazed by the greenery and serenity this place offers.

We stopped at Koshmal Valley for this view. Rays piercing through monsoon clouds

## What to See

Now, please note that Koshmal, isn't a tourist place.

Koshmal is a typical Dang village (Undoubtedly with nature's beauty). It's not commercialized. Don't expect any hotels or any other tourist facilities.

I, for one like serene places without any touch of modern civilization. I found Koshmal to be an excellent place for my taste and that's the reason sharing it here. If you're like me then pack your bags without a second thought. :)

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

## Food Accommodation

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.

## Personal Tips

Go to this place only if you like nature in its purest form

Get out of the place before sunset

Try to reach to the base of waterfall, it'll be an extravagant trek

The place can be covered in 2-3 hours (+3 if going to base)

Take one local along with you

Please don't litter the place. Don't be smartass like this artist.

## Some people are just morons

The village people live in extreme poverty. If you're well off financially, take old clothes, toys etc with you and donate to them. The gift will make their day and their honest smile will make your day.  
:)

Donate if possible. This photo is from a trip to Kalam Dungar

## Some More Visual Poetries

The falls from close

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 lake offers 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](http://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](http://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 well by the authorities.

Photo: [tripadvisor.com](http://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](http://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 Saptashrunjiin 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](http://www.tripadvisor.in).

This point matches with Sunset point of 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.

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](https://www.tripadvisor.in)

A drawback of this sunset point is you can't take your vehicle to top. You need to park your car midway 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](http://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:

Bike riding (Its polluting the environment however)

Horse 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 ropeway has 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.

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**

Photo walk of newly opened Aamra Van in Nana Pondha (Balchondhi) town of Dharampur, Valsad.

Aamra Van is developed by Forest Department of Valsad, Gujarat.

Due to hectic schedule, I don't know if or when I will get time to write a detailed post of the Aamra Van. Enjoy some scenic photos of the place below. If you've any question about this place, please leave a comment.

Main Entrance Gate

The garden was made open to public on 30-07-2016 by then Gujarat CM, Anandi ben Patel.

View after entrance

Even though the bamboos are made of concrete, they look a lot like real bamboos.

Detailed internal map of Amra Van. The garden was developed by Forest Department.

Nice dustbins. Aamra Van surprisingly neat and clean when I visited.

Monsoon clouds staring at the garden

Paved walkway to navigate around Aamra Van

Semi section of one the many sections in the park. The sections follow a specific theme. I can be seen at the right edge of the photo. :D

Bridge over the artificial pond. Due to monsoon, the water is turned into all dusty brown.

Information board at one of the sections. They call the section as "Van". (Forest in English)

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 of Maa 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.

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.

The ASI (Archeological Survey of India) has put protective net to cover up the well. This is a good and absolutely necessary step as many would throw garbage polythene bags in well.

Looking up. Adalaj Vaav is around 5 storey high.

One more perspective from ground 0.

It goes without saying that the place offers many photography opportunities. Make sure to take good camera with you on your visit to Adalaj.

A closer look at the carvings. Yes you've noticed it right, it has started to degrading.

As closer as it gets.

I mentioned about getting fried in 40+ temperature. Guess, what the temperature could be when you

enter inside the well? Not more than 25 degree!

Yes, the Vav is architected in such a way that as you go deeper, temperature will steadily go down 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 on contemporary 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

Trimandir, as it is seen from the highway. Let's enter in.

We have reached there. The temple campus was meticulously neat and well maintained.

Information board announcing daily schedule and facilities provided

Garden laid out in front of Trimandir. Notice the building in the background..we're going to visit it next.

It reads Store of Happiness. A fantastic visit for childrens. Even though I was 21 year old when I entered the store, the experience was surprisingly good.

Store of Happiness aims to teach various life lessons to kids in an interactive manner. (In this photo, one needs to crawl to cross the tunnel.) It inspires them to think. See next photo.

Why? To take the path of least resistance I guess.. :D

Now entering in the main temple. It's huge. It's majestic.

Lord Simandhar Swami

View from the central hall

The entire complex is surrounded by a lush, green garden with benches, as well as a beautiful fountain at the center.

The Satsang Hall is on the ground floor of the temple.

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.



With that, I will wrap up this post. Yeah, it's a off-shelf post without much efforts. :D

# 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

travelling together. The concept of a PNR was first introduced by airlines that needed to exchange reservation information in case passengers required flights of multiple airlines to reach their destination ('interlining').

Talking in the context of Indian Railways, PNR number is a unique pointer to a record in the railway database. The record pointed by PNR contains comprehensive journey details. The details may include:

Passenger Details (Name, Age, Sex, Birth Preference) Ticket Details (Train No, Date, From, To, Boarding Station, Reservation Upto, Class, Birth, Quota) Transaction / Payment Details (Transaction ID, Payment Mode, Ticket Charge)

## The Story Of 10 Digits

Now that we know about what the PNR is and why it's used, let's go further and break down the specifics.

First 3 Digits

As per comment by Mr Murthy RN,

"I feel it is not correct presumption that the second and third digit indicate the PRS Centre, as I found the number (2nd and 3rd digits) varying too much in tickets issued from the same counter of a PRS Centre."

So please take the following information with a grain of salt.

They tell us from which PRS the ticket has been booked.(PRS:Passenger Reservation System. Developed by CRIS, PRS is 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 Alope, thanks!  
<https://darpan.blog/travel/breaking-down-the-pnr-number-of-indian-railways-what-how-why/#comment-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)

## Last 7 Digits

They are randomly generated numbers using the `Rand()` function. They represent no information about the ticket or journey. This is done to make the PNR number unique.

One can check status of PNR number on <http://www.indianrail.gov.in> website. Also at every major stations, PNR status checking counters are available.

Passenger name record number lasts minimum 9 months as the TDR filed can take maximum of 9 months. It is then flushed out from the database.

(Normally) The digits of PNR become meaningless. However, PNR details may not be available for the general public once the journey gets over for privacy and security concerns of passengers.

## 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. Spread this post to illuminate others..

Sources:[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passenger\\_name\\_record](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passenger_name_record)<http://www.indianrail.gov.in><http://indiarailinfo.com/faq/post/regional-prs-centre-with-zone-and-pnr-starting-digit/1145><http://indiarailinfo.com/faq/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.



## Introduction Video on YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1\\_FkI3rYI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1_FkI3rYI0)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1\\_FkI3rYI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t1_FkI3rYI0)

Video by: Kunj Dodiya

## Photo Gallery

14D Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite14D Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism  
Campsite14D Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite14D Junaraj Village Narmada Eco  
Tourism Campsite10P Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite9L Junaraj Village Narmada  
Eco Tourism Campsite8K Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite4U Junaraj Village

Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite7A Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite3R Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite7A Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite5I Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite2A Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite1A Junaraj Village Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15S 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:

You'll 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 Place	To Place	Distance in kms	Time in hr
Rajpipla	Junaraj Ecotourism	145 km	3 hr 30 min
Surat	Junaraj Ecotourism	20 km	1 hr
Ahmedabad	Junaraj Campsite	220 km	4 hr 30 min
Mumbai	Junaraj Campsite	400 km	8 hr
Vadodara	Junaraj Campsite	120 km	3 hr

## Booking Details

I have implemented online booking functionality, 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

## 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

FacilityCountRooms6Kitchen Room1Tent10

## Cost of Accomodation

It's always an good idea to call the Narmada Forest Department to get accurate pricing details.

ItemCostRoomRs. 1000 / nightTentRs. 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 gardenNight walkCultural programGamesAgriculture field visitAdventure activityLocal Adivasi foodWildlife moviePainting kits of childrenDigital detoxMeetingWaterfallGames for childrenInterpretation center



## 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 Campsite  
Junaraj Eco Tourism Campsite  
Kunbar Eco Tourism Campsite  
Sagai Eco Tourism Campsite  
Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism Campsite  
Zarvani 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.

Introduction Video

<https://youtu.be/a7ibW4oUsbo>

<https://youtu.be/a7ibW4oUsbo>

Video by: Kunj Dodiya

Photo Gallery



## Location

Zarvani eco tourism is situated in the Narmada District. It is 28 kms from Rajpipla towards Kevadia Colony at the Narmada Dam site. Zarvani 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 of the hills. Landscape views from the site are pleasure to eyes in monsoon. Below is the linked exact Google Maps location:

## Distance Matrix

From Place	To Place	Distance in kms	Time in hr
Rajpipla	Zarwani Ecotourism	30 km	1 hr
Surat	Zarwani Ecotourism	150 km	3 hr 30 min
Ahmedabad	Zarwani Campsite	200 km	4 hr
Mumbai	Zarwani Campsite	420 km	8 hr
Vadodara	Zarwani Campsite	100 km	2 hr

Yeah, even though Zarwani is just 30 km in absolute number from Rajpipla, the village roads will drag your speed down to 30kmph on an average.

## Accommodation and Facilities

Facility	Count
Twin Hut	2
Dormitory	2 (20 persons)
Room	2
Tent	5 (10 persons)
Dining Shed	1

## 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 Type	Cost
Twin Hut	Rs. 1000 / night
Dormitory	Rs. 200 / night
Room	Rs. 1000 / night
Tent	Rs. 500 / night

## Activities



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.

Boating Chauta Waterfall Tent Van Kutir Camping Hut Solar Lantern Home Light Fencing Eco Trekking  
Trail Bird Watching Night Walk Digital Detox Cultural Program Agriculture Visit Star Gazing Tribal  
Food General Meeting

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 Campsite  
Junaraj Eco Tourism Campsite  
Kunbar Eco Tourism Campsite  
Sagai Malsamot Eco Tourism Campsite  
Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism Campsite  
Zarvani Eco Tourism Campsite

Did you know that all campsites of Narmada are managed by a committee consisting of locals? The local village committee is responsible for maintenance of the campsite. As far I know, revenue coming from tourist accommodation bookings also 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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xe9DtmG3tz0>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xe9DtmG3tz0>

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.

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 Campsite9I 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

Sagai Malsamot Campsite is situated 70 km from the Narmada district headquarter, Rajpipla.

Sagai and Malsamot are neighboring villages hence the campsite has Sagai-Malsamot both name combined. When people refer to Malsamot ecotourism, it will be the same.

Distance Matrix

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 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



## 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

### At Sagai

FacilityCountTwin Hut6Dining Hall1Kitchen Hut1Dormitory Room2Interpretation Center1

### At Samot

FacilityCountRest House Room2Room6Bamboo Hut2

## 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 Type	Cost	Room	Rs. 1000 / night	Hut	Rs. 1000 / night	Dormitory	Rs. 500 / night
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## Activities

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.

Trekking Local dance Bird watching Star gazing Botanical garden Medicinal garden Night walk Cultural program Games Agriculture field visit Adventure activity Local Adivasi cuisine Wildlife movie Painting kits for children Digital detox Meeting Waterfall Playing arena for kids Interpretation 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.

If you have any additional information or feedback, please drop a comment down the post. Happy journey!

#### Other Narmada Campsites

Dev Mogra Eco Tourism Campsite  
Junaraj Eco Tourism Campsite  
Kunbar Eco Tourism Campsite  
Sagai Malsamot Eco Tourism Campsite  
Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism Campsite  
Zarvani Eco Tourism Campsite

Did you know that all campsites of Narmada are managed by a committee consisting of locals? The local village committee is responsible for maintenance of the campsite. As far I know, revenue coming from tourist accommodation bookings also goes into their account.

## **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/08BfwlZ8AFU>

<https://youtu.be/08BfwlZ8AFU>

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  
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Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism  
Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite15N Vishal Khadi Narmada Eco  
Tourism Campsite16O 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:

## Distance Matrix

From Place	To Place	Distance in kms	Time in hr
Rajpipla	Vishal Khadi Ecotourism	25 km	30 min
Surat	Vishal Khadi Ecotourism	120 km	2 hr 30 min
Ahmedabad	Vishal Khadi Campsite	200 km	3 hr 30 min
Mumbai	Vishal Khadi Campsite	370 km	7 hr
Vadodara	Vishal Khadi Campsite	100 km	2 hr

## Booking Details

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

FacilityCountRooms4Kitchen1Dining Shed1

Boating is also available on request. The Karjan reservoir remains full during most time of the year so boating can be availed throughout the year.

## 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 TypeCostRoomRs. 1000 / night

## Activities

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.

Boating Trekking Local dance Bird watching Star gazing Medicinal garden Night walk Cultural program Games Agriculture field visit Adventure activity Local adivasi food Wildlife movie Painting kits for children Digital detox Meeting Local tribal dance Film 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  
CampsiteSagai Malsamot Eco Tourism CampsiteVishal Khadi Eco Tourism CampsiteZarvani Eco  
Tourism Campsite

Did you know that all campsites of Narmada are managed by a committee consisting of locals? The local village committee is responsible for maintenance of the campsite. As far I know, revenue coming from tourist accommodation bookings also goes into their 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

Watchtower enroute to Ambapada

Entering village

Home of Mr Jyotish

Jyotish brought his work out for our product photography session

Pen holder - and a bad photo

Cup made from bamboo

Keychain - cheap and good item for gifting

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?

Finishing the session

Heading back to home, Vansda

Sunset on the way back to home

## **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, is a landmark 'lung' area of the Bengaluru city, located within the heart of the city in the Central Administrative Area.

I visited this place in one early morning of September 2016.

Posting these photos now and I don't want to get them buried somewhere on my hard disk.

Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 8

Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 12

Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 11

Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 9

Cubbon Park Photos Bangalore 10

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 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 33

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 32

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 31

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 30

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HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 2

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 1

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HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 46

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 45

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HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 42

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 41

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 39

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 38

HAL Aerospace Museum Images Bangalore 37

HAL Aerospace 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 our 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 is recommended, afternoons to be avoided.

Fort Diu Gujarat 15

Fort Diu Gujarat 13

Fort Diu Gujarat 14

Fort Diu Gujarat 17

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 11

Fort Diu Gujarat 10

Fort Diu Gujarat 9

Fort Diu Gujarat 8



## **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.

## Introduction Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQJH0kG6hRI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQJH0kG6hRI>

Video by: Kunj Dodiya

## Photo Gallery

15O Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite14H Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism  
Campsite13S Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite12J Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism  
Campsite11O Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite10U Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism  
Campsite9J Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism Campsite8F Dev Mogra Narmada Eco Tourism

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.

## Distance Matrix

From Place To Place Distance in kms/Time in hr

Rajpipla	Dev Mogra Ecotourism	68 km / 1 hr 30 min
Surat	Dev Mogra Ecotourism	141 km / 3 hr
Ahmedabad	Devmogra Campsite	250 km / 5 hr
Mumbai	Devmogra Campsite	387 km / 7 hr
Vadodara	Devmogra Campsite	140 km / 3 hr

## Booking Details

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

## 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

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 Type	Cost
Tree House	Rs. 2000 / night
Cottage	Rs. 1000 / night
Tent House	Rs. 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.

Trekking Local dance Bird watching Star gazing Botanical walk Night walk Cultural program Games Agriculture field visit Adventure activity Local adivasi fruit Wildlife movie Painting kits for children Digital detox Meeting Cultural 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.

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 Campsite  
Junaraj Eco Tourism Campsite  
Kunbar Eco Tourism Campsite  
Sagai Eco Tourism Campsite  
Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism Campsite  
Zarvani Eco Tourism Campsite

## **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.

Introduction Video

<https://youtu.be/b2Trtxow6TA>

<https://youtu.be/b2Trtxow6TA>

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.

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 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 Campsite and can be easily reached by Google Maps. Below is the linked exact Google Maps location:

## Distance Matrix

From Place	To Place	Distance in kms	Time in hr
Rajpipla	Kunbar Ecotourism	55 km	1 hr 30 min
Surat	Kunbar Ecotourism	120 km	2 hr 30 min
Ahmedabad	Kunbar Campsite	230 km	4 hr
Mumbai	Kunbar Campsite	360 km	7 hr
Vadodara	Kunbar Campsite	150 km	3 hr

## Booking Details



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

FacilityCountCottage4Tent House7Hall1

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 Type	Cost
Cottage	Rs. 1000 / night
Tent House	Rs. 1000 / night
Hall	Rs. 3000 / night

## Activities

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.

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.

If you have any additional information or feedback, please drop a comment down the post. Happy journey!

### Other Narmada Campsites

Dev Mogra Eco Tourism Campsite  
Junaraj Eco Tourism Campsite  
Kunbar Eco Tourism Campsite  
Sagai Malsamot Eco Tourism Campsite  
Vishal Khadi Eco Tourism Campsite  
Zarvani Eco Tourism Campsite

Did you know that all campsites of Narmada are managed by a committee consisting of locals? The local village committee is responsible for maintenance of the campsite. As far I know, revenue coming from tourist accommodation bookings also goes into their account.

# The Boarding Pass Nightmare

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?

## Exploit from the Insta Story

In order to see what I could exploit from the boarding pass, I took a screenshot of my friend's story.

I knew that I just needed to glean 6 character PNR number and last name. (Which I was aware of anyway). The PNR number wasn't clearly legible but after several trial and errors, I was able to get it right. Soon after,

Let me go to: Manage Booking portal of Go Air airline  
Let me enter PNR and last name  
Let me be able to access entire trip itinerary. Let me not surprised.

Here's PDF version of the itinerary:

So essentially, I had full access to my friend's trip itinerary. And it's stupidly easy. Doesn't take more than 5 minutes.

The data that I was able to view included but wasn't limited to:

Full names of all passengers on the PNR  
Their seat number, flight number, arrival, departure  
Mobile and email of primary contact person  
Payment information  
PAN number of payment agency

What Could Go Wrong

Of course I had no intention to screw up a long awaited Goa trip. But if I was a crook then here's



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

Most know about the potential dangers of sharing boarding pass photos online. But also, there are plenty of others who do not.

A simple Instagram search on hashtag, #boardingpass gets me over 100k results.

I also see the photos on my feed time to time.

What and What not

Do not share photos of boarding pass. Avoid the temptation to brag on social media. :) Redacting last name and PNR is not enough. The bar code also holds sensitive information. There are plenty

of websites that let you read bar codes easily. Use mobile boarding pass if possible. Avoid leaving extra copies of boarding passes in trash, at least until your departure.

## Further Reading

Posting a Photo of Your Airline Boarding Pass Can Get You Hacked  
Whats in a Boarding Pass Barcode? A Lot  
Why Its Still A Bad Idea to Post or Trash Your Airline Boarding Pass  
Whats contained in a boarding pass barcode?  
How Hackers Use Hidden Data on Airline Boarding Passes to Hack Flights

Cover

photo:<https://uxplanet.org/while-i-was-redesigning-a-boarding-pass-paper-got-old-eda92055dd29>

## Why I Travel Solo?

I was on a hike yesterday when I wondered, why do I like to travel 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. Freedom Freedom 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. Confidence After 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 time 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 solitude Often 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 things Like 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

I traveled to the island of Maui, Hawaii for about 2 weeks in November 2021. I like to keep notes of interesting experiences and thoughts. Most of them are scary experiences though as they leave lasting memory in head. Here's assortment of them in no particular order or theme:

In my Airbnb there was a spray named "shower spray". It had lines on it saying it is touchless and rinseless - once you spray it you just wipe it off with water.

So I go ahead and spray myself. It felt neutral and I forget about it..until the next day when I read

closely.

"Use this spray to clean shower tiles, shower glasses and sinks".

Goddamn it! So I used tiles cleaner to spray myself.

I was traveling to Olympic National Park in December 2020. At one of the beaches near Forks, WA I met with a guy who seem to be traveling solo. I had a fun chat with him about the nuances of doing multi-week solo trip.

And here I'm now, one year later, traveling far away from Seattle on Maui Island. All alone. :)



In Lahaina, Maui, a lot of people seem to have come for honeymoon. Is it going to be the case that I'd visit all honeymoon destinations in the world without before even getting engaged? Think Bali, Hawaii, Florida.

I guess this is a privilege that I have.

Very very few travelers of Indian ethnicity. The ones I met were family, and even Gujarati. What could be the reason?

I wanted to visit a beach at night to see how it feels. The one beach I had in mind was airport beach

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.

Thank God they did not attack me and I made it to the parking lot. The most stressful 2 mins of my entire trip.

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.

Halfway through the road and I felt the drive is getting extremely hard and dangerous. Especially with the big SUV that I rented out, I felt like I could tip over the cliff and go straight to valley at any time.

I stop at one pull out and call my brother Kunj to share what I am going through. This also helps to calm down myself.

Somehow I manage to finish the drive and reach home safely. Only after that I start learning more about the road I drove through...and as it turns out - it is called Death Road.

Death Road, well because, it is too dangerous for anyone to drive and there have been plenty of accidents in past. Rental car companies even ban driving on it in their contract. Oh well.

I became tired of trying out food. The Hawaiian cuisine didn't revive my taste buds either.

I guess I've tried out all different cuisines and should best stick to my homemade food.

I stopped at a viewpoint named Whale Point...once again at night to do some nighttime photography. The place felt a bit sketchy and oh boy it was indeed!

I was about to step out of my car when I saw 4 cars pulling up in the parking lot and honking as loudly as possible. With all the chaos happening around, I activated my mitigation plan and drove off from that place asap.

Out of all the activities..I did not do Lave Tube tour because it was inside a cave and I have phobia

of caves. I guess it is called Claustrophobia.

# Hike Checklist

I often copy and paste my Trello checklist for long/difficult day hikes which need mindful preparation.

Now copy-pasting it here on my blog so that it can be easily shared by others too.

The list is not intended to be generalized one, rather it is a personalized list of items that I usually carry.

\* marked items are for convenience

## Clothing

Comfortable clothes - long sleeve T shirt with hoodie and hiking pants

Sunglasses

Sunscreen

Gloves

Hat

Beanie\*

Sleep mask\*

Extra socks\*

Extra top layer\*

Extra bottom layer\*

Extra underwear\*

## Trail

Hiking shoes

Hiking poles\*

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 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>