Gujarat & the Rann of Kutch
Village India

Gujarat is a dazzlingly diverse state that shakes up even the experienced Indophile and reveals treasures hidden from the tourist hordes. With a 1600km coastline and an easily traversable landscape, it is both highly advanced and medievally tribal. The highly visible Jain community are largely responsible for Gujarat’s industrious reputation, stunning white marble temples and exquisite, ever-so-slightly sweet vegetarian fare. In the northwest, the seasonal marshlands of Kutch turn into hardened salt plains come summer and, in the Little Rann - habitat of the wild ass and flocks of flamingos - local artisans weave the finest textiles in India. On this Village India tour, we see the very best of this undiscovered state, from the surreal Rann of Kutch and the ancient town of Bhuj to tribal Poshina, the UNESCO World Heritage site of Champaner and we climb Shatrunjaya, a mountain-top marvel of Jain architecture. And of course we spend time in the capital city of Ahmedabad, home to Mahatma Gandhi’s ashram and the world’s finest textile museum. For anyone with a love of ‘off-the-beaten-track’ travel, textiles, shopping and rural India, this trip is a must.

“The Gujarat trip was fabulous, brilliantly led, giving us access to the smallest of villages and local family workshops which we could otherwise never have encountered.”

Ruth Bundey

Duration: 15 Days
Start: Sat 18 Feb 2017

Average group size: 5 - 12
Finish: Sat 04 Mar 2017

Looking for alternative dates? Check the website or give us a call
TOUR DETAILS

TOUR CODE: GUJ/B

HIGHLIGHTS
- The unique marshlands of the Rann of Kutch
- UNESCO World Heritage site at Champaner
- Tribal Indian life
- Some of the greatest textiles on earth
- The climb up to the Jain temples in Palitana

Accommodation: As an overall ethos, wherever possible we aim to use characterful accommodation that enhances the overall travel experience, not just offers a bed for the night. This can obviously vary dramatically from country to country and from trip to trip. On this particular trip will be in good city hotels, luxury tents, heritage palaces and guesthouses. Gujarat, as a region, has very few tourists in comparison to neighbouring Rajasthan and therefore although the properties are heritage homes the standard and service should be not compared to Rajasthan. That said, the accommodation is a highlight on this trip. Please note that the accommodation mentioned in the itinerary is intended as a guide only and is always subject to availability.

Transport: On this tour we will use minibuses and jeeps. There are some days where there will be some long drives, which are needed to see the best that Gujarat can offer.

Climate: Gujarat weather shows two distinctive traits. In the northern region, Gujarat weather is marked by a dry and arid climate; whereas in the south, one can find a moist weather owing to the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Cambay. Winters in Gujarat (November - February) are mild, pleasant and dry. The day temperature in winter is around 30°C and at night is 15°C. Summers (March - May) are extremely hot, with the day time temperature being in the region of 45°C, and the night temperature being 30°C. In Gujarat, monsoon is generally hot and utterly humid with daytime temperatures reaching 35°C at this time. Sometimes severe flood also occurs in some parts of the region during monsoon.

Is this trip for me? It may sound obvious but Wild Frontiers tours are not always for everyone and it is important to us that the tour you choose is the most suitable. Please therefore take time to read the dossier carefully. All our tours are graded to give an overall picture of the trip but these are only guidelines and you should check the daily itinerary. Should you have any concerns about your ability to partake in any aspect of the tour then please contact the office.

Adventure Rating ★★★★★★★★★★
Comfort Grade ★★★★★★★★★★
Fitness Level ★★★★★★★★★★
Cultural Interest ★★★★★★★★★★

Additional Comments:
Please be advised that on this trip that most, if not all, meals will be vegetarian.

Anyone in a reasonable state of health, with an open mind and a sense of adventure should be perfectly able to cope with this tour, as many of the activities are optional.

Gandhi Ashram Museum - If you would like to visit the Calico Museum in Ahmedabad we will need to know in advance of the tour in order that we can reserve a place for you. In order to secure you place we will need your passport details. Please note that viewings are restricted to 10 places and therefore it is very much on a first come first served basis.

Gujarat is a dry state and it is very hard to buy alcohol and therefore if you would like to have a drink in the evening we would suggest that you buy your preferred tipple in duty free.
Day 1: Ahmedabad: Meeting at our hotel this afternoon, there will be time to freshen up before we head out for an early evening walk around town before dinner. *Cama Hotel or similar (D)*

Day 2: Ahmedabad: After breakfast, we will do our best, for those that want to, visit the textile museum, Gandhi Ashram, with its Calico collection. Please note that places are limited, and therefore we will apply for tickets well in advance on request* (please see further information in the additional comments section). In the afternoon we will have time to explore the city at our own leisure before an early dinner. After dinner we take a guided night walk of the historic old city taking us through some of the most ancient parts of the city. *Cama Hotel or similar (B, L, D)*

Day 3: Ahmedabad - Poshina: After breakfast we leave Ahmedabad behind us and head to the north of the state and the tribal region of Poshina: it is about 180km and will take about 4 hours. Once there we check into the palace home of the former ruling royal family where we will be staying for the next 2 nights. It’s from here that we can visit the nearby villages of the Garacia, Adivacyi & Bharad tribes. *Darbargarh Heritage Home or similar (B, L, D)*

Day 4: Poshina: We have a full day out in jeeps to the surrounding area visiting the Bhil and Garasia tribes as well as visiting the nearby Kumbhariya Jain Temples built in the 11th century. We take a picnic lunch, which we will eat in a suitably idyllic place - probably by the lake and return to the palace for dinner. Staying in the wonderful family-run heritage home we are able to eat delicious home-cooked food. *Darbargarh Heritage Home or similar (B, L, D)*

Day 5: Poshina - Dasada: Today we drive west taking in the staggering step-well at Patan followed by a demonstration of Ikat textile weaving and visit the ancient temple at Modhera. Situated on the banks of the Pushpavati River, Modhera is famous for its millennium-old Sun temple. This temple, built in 1026 AD by Bhimadeva of the Solanki Rajput clan, is dedicated to Lord Surya, the sun god. It was destroyed by Muhammad Ghaznavi and rebuilt later. The temple was designed so that at the time of the equinoxes, the first rays of the sun fell on the image of Surya. The temple is partially in ruins now but, despite the passage of time, it is still considered an architectural wonder. After lunch we drive on to Dasada where we stay for the next two nights. *Rann Riders Eco-Resort or similar (B, L, D)*

Day 6: Little Rann of Kutch: Today we take a full day excursion into the Little Rann of Kutch. An extraordinary and
unique landscape, this vast desiccated, unbroken surface of dark silt, encrusted with salt, transforms into a spectacular coastal wetland after it rains. Here we witness the indigenous wild ass and other wild animals, as well as watching the women of the Mihir, Rabari and Bajania tribes creating some of the most remarkable textiles in the country.

*Rann Riders Eco-resort or similar (B, L, D)*

**Day 7: Dasada - Bhuj:** Today we leave early to head to the capital of the Kutch region, Bhuj. Here we have lunch and get our permits to visit the villages of the Great Rann. Having done this we head north to where we will be staying and from where we will access the tribal villages.

*Kutch Safari Lodge or similar (B, L, D)*

**Day 8: Rann of Kutch:** After breakfast we spend all day visiting the northern villages of this remote area. Though the Rann of Kutch is famed for its wildlife, there is much more to experience in this dry arid place. We will visit a Jat community that are again famed for their handiwork and embroidery. We head further north towards the edge of the Great Rann to see the mirage of the salt flats on the horizon which is known as “White Sands”.

*Kutch Safari Lodge or similar (B, L, D)*

**Day 9: Rann of Kutch - Bhuj - Mandvi:** Today we leave early to head back to the capital of the Kutch region, Bhuj. Sadly much of Bhuj was destroyed during the earthquake of 2001, but the Aina Mahal is still well worth visiting as is the amazing Kachchh Museum, with is exceptional collection of embroideries and the local textiles; having done this we head on to the coast and the Arabian Sea. Arriving early afternoon we check into our luxury tents and spend the rest of the day enjoying this relaxing setting. As it’s a private beach, owned by the Maharaja of Kutch whose surreal palace sits rather forlornly next door, there is often no one else around giving us the run of the place. We can visit the palace, and the town where there are more handicraft shops. Evening on the beach!

*The Beach A/C Tents or similar (B, L, D)*

**Day 10: Mandvi - Gondal:** After breakfast there will be chance to visit the and the incredible wooden dhow building industry before driving on to Gondal. The drive today will be long, about 8 hours dependant on the road conditions and the number of stops along the way. Gondal is a testimony to the great visionary ruler Sir Bhagwatsinhji, who introduced social reforms, planned the development of Gondal town and created a model state of Saurashtra in late 19th and early 20th century. Gondal, the capital of the former princely State of Gondal, was ruled by the Jadeja Rajput clan, until the independence of India. It is a fortified town located on the river Gondali and is home to three fabulous palaces - one of which we stay in - and the Maharaja’s classic car collection. Here we see many of the amazing forts and palaces and the rather lovely old town: quiet and pretty, it puts one in mind of Bundi or Udaipur 20 years ago.

*River Side Palace Heritage hotel or similar (B, L, D)*

**Day 11: Gondal:** After breakfast we visit the famous city palace, with its owner’s classic & vintage car collection. We can also see some spinning and weaving of khadi cloth. In the late afternoon will visit the local market and famous temple to participate in the evening aarti.

*River Side Palace Heritage hotel or similar (B, L, D)*

**Day 12: Gondal - Palitana:** Today we head on to another heritage property and home to the royal family of Palitana. Arriving in the late afternoon we have a leisurely evening and dinner.

*Vijay Vilas Heritage Hotel or similar (B, L, D)*

**Day 13: Palitana - Bhavnagar:** Early wake-up today to visit the amazing Jain temples: 3500 steps up Mount Shertunjaya. This extraordinary temple city is one of the highlights of any trip to India. After lunch we drive on to Bhavnagar, where we’ll have the afternoon to relax and recover from our morning’s exertions.

*Nilambag Palace Heritage Hotel or similar (B, L, D)*

**Day 14: Bhavnagar - Baroda:** This morning we will drive to Baroda. Along with Kashmir, Hyderabad, Gwalior and Mysore, in British time Baroda was a ‘21 gun salute’ state. As such, it is fabulously wealthy with an exquisite palace. We arrive into Baroda late morning and after a late lunch...
we visit the totally over the top Laxmi Vilas Palace and the Fatehsingh Museum.

The Gateway Hotel or similar (B, L, D)

Day 15: Baroda - Champaner - Baroda:
Today we visit the UNESCO World Heritage site at Champaner. Champaner is an ancient fort located at the foothills of Pavagadh. Muhammad Begada decided to establish the new capital of Gujarat at this place in 1484 AD and changed the name of the town to Muhammadabad. It took 23 years to build the town and it had a meteoric rise to fame, attaining glory as a great town of western India. Many edifices were constructed during these years: bazaars, town squares, Royal Gardens and water structures, as well as mosques. It also became a major trading centre producing fine silk, woven and dyed textiles and sword manufacturing. The entire landscape for miles around is scattered with remains of fort walls, ruined tombs, gardens, arches, pillars and wells and reminds one of other such great deserted towns of India: Mandu, Hampi, Orchha and Fatehpur Sikri. We will return to Baroda for a late lunch, after which the tour will end.

(B, L)

Extensions: If you have more time available, why not arrive early to adjust to a new time zone or just to get a feel for the country before your tour starts? Or alternatively you might choose to allow a few extra days after the tour to relax or to undertake some further exploration.

The choice is completely yours and we can usually arrange anything from simply additional accommodation and transfers to full tailor-made itineraries.

Here is just a small sample of what you could do:

- Spend time in Rajasthan before the trip and then take the train to Ahmedabad to meet the group
- Head down to Kochin for a few days on the beach at the end of the tour
- Spend an extra few nights in Mumbai and visit Elephanta Island
- Take a trip up into the Himalayas; Visit Shimla, Dharamsala or Kashmir.

Please contact the office for more details and to discuss your individual requirements.

PRICING

Tour price: All our tours are priced on a land-only basis, giving you maximum flexibility when deciding how to get to and from your tour. For the latest prices, please refer to our website or contact the office.

Travelling Solo & Single Supplements: As a company approximately 70% of our clients are solo travellers, so it’s very unlikely you’ll be alone!

Our prices are typically based on twin-share accommodation but single supplements are not compulsory for any Wild Frontiers tour. If you prefer not to pay a single supplement we’ll pair you with someone else of the same sex for you to share with throughout the trip.

On this trip, if you do opt to pay for a single supplement then please note that it will cover you for all nights of the tour except at Palitana.

Flights: If you would like us to send you a quote for the suggested tour flight (see GETTING THERE) or on any alternative flight that may suit you better, please let us know although it should be noted that in most cases we are only able to quote on flights originating in the UK.

Please remember that all Wild Frontiers tour prices mean NO hidden extras, NO local payments and NO compulsory single supplements.

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Full services of a Wild Frontiers Tour Leader with local guides and drivers
- Meal plan as detailed in the itinerary (B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner) with drinking water as required with the majority of meals being taken in local restaurants where viable
- All transport as outlined in the itinerary.
- All accommodation
- All entrance fees, as per itinerary
• A carbon-offsetting contribution to Carbon Clear (if booking international flights through WF office)

**WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED**

• Visas (if applicable)
• Local airport taxes
• Tips (always optional, but some guidance will be given in the pre-departure information pack you’ll receive after booking)
• Beverages other than drinking water & any costs of a personal nature
• International flights to/from the start/finish of the trip
• Airport transfers (unless booking suggested flights through WF office)

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**GETTING THERE**

For this trip our suggested flights from the UK (subject to change) are:

17FEB 9W121 LHR-DEL 20:50/10:50+1
18FEB 9W647 DEL-AMD 13:25/14:50
04MAR 9W7344 BDQ-BOM 20:50/21:55
05MAR 9W120 BOM-LHR 02:25/07:00+1

Key:
LHR - London Heathrow
DEL - Delhi
AMD - Ahmedabad
BDQ - Baroda
9W - Jet Airways

**NB** If you wish to arrange your own flights you are completely free to do so and in this case we can arrange any transfers or supplementary accommodation that you may require.

Please note that if you are planning on making your own flight arrangements, we recommend that you first check with us to see if the trip is guaranteed. We then suggest that you purchase flights that are flexible and ideally refundable as due to the nature of adventure travel, itineraries and destination accessibility can change at any time. For more information, please refer to our booking conditions.

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**Insurance:** Insurance that provides cover for emergency repatriation in case of a medical emergency is compulsory for all tours. You should be aware that due to some of the geographical areas visited and some of the activities included on certain of our trips some standard insurance policies may not always provide adequate cover. As such we strongly recommend that you purchase a policy that adequately covers your trip.

Travel & General offer a tailor-made policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers trips. Under this policy there are two different levels of cover available - Standard and Elite.

**Cover explained:**

**Standard policy:** a comprehensive travel insurance policy that provides cover for all Wild Frontiers activities, including trekking up to 6,000m. This policy does not provide cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel except where it has been previously agreed.

**Elite policy:** provides the same comprehensive level of cover as the standard policy. In addition the Elite policy also provides cover for travel to areas where the FCO is advising against all or all but essential travel. Except in the case of terrorism, the policy will not provide cover for any claims arising from or relating to the reasons why the FCO is advising against travel.

For this trip the minimum requirement would be the **Standard policy.**

These policies are only available to those travelling on a Wild Frontiers holiday and can be purchased on a trip-specific basis or annual cover. For more information please refer to the details on our website [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/insurance](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/insurance) or by calling Travel & General direct on +44 (0) 20 3794 2954. This insurance is available to EEA residents (i.e. EU countries as well as Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) up to the age of 78. It covers horse riding, mountain walking, trekking, white-water rafting and all other activities we offer as part of our tours.

If you are over 78 then you may still be able to get your insurance arranged by Travel & General Insurance Services Limited. Please contact us for assistance with this.
If you do decide to purchase alternative insurance, then you must ensure that it covers you for **every aspect** of this trip.

Wild Frontiers Limited is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Travel & General Insurance Service Ltd, details of which can be found at the website of the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) [www.fca.org.uk](http://www.fca.org.uk)

Please note that no insurance policy will cover every eventuality and terms and conditions will apply in the event of any claim.

**Visas:** Visas are necessary for many of the destinations we travel to and while we aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information, requirements frequently change and as such for the latest advice we advise that you check with the relevant embassies or contact our recommended visa agency for this trip, details of which are below:-

**Travcour**  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 8543 1846  
[www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com)

For this tour, UK passport holders currently require a visa for India.

Non-UK passport holders or non-UK residents should contact the relevant embassies for individual requirements.

Further details will be sent out to you on booking, however ensuring that correct and valid visas are obtained remains the sole responsibility of the client.

**Responsible Travel:** Responsible travel and sustainable tourism are fundamental ideas that Wild Frontiers has been committed to since our birth. It is our strong belief that these words should not be simply ‘tagged on’ to dossiers and websites but should be at the very core of each trip, and our adventures are therefore designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. We believe that a successful trip not only delivers a unique and unsurpassable journey for our clients, but that it also benefits the peoples whose lands we are privileged to visit.

In 2012 we were delighted to be awarded the Guardian Observer Best Ethical Travel Award.
Frontiers clients will have the opportunity to visit our projects whilst on tour.

Visit www.wildfrontiersfoundation.org to see details of all our projects, along with ways you can get involved by taking on the challenge of a charity trek, attending our fundraising events or simply giving what you can. Other ongoing fundraising schemes include:-

**Go Paperless:** For UK-based clients who are happy for all their final travel documents to be sent by email rather than through the post, Wild Frontiers will donate £5 from each booking to the Foundation.

**Kit Out for Kids:** Nomad Travel Stores generously donates 5% of purchases by Wild Frontiers’ clients to the Foundation. Quote WF1000 either online or in store when purchasing clothing and kit and Nomad will give you 20% off full priced clothing and kit, plus the charitable donation. Visit www.nomadtravel.co.uk

**Wild Frontiers Foundation**

**The Environment:** Trying to do our bit for the environment, in 2005 we were among the first UK-based travel companies to automatically offset every client’s international flight (if booked with us) with a payment to Carbon Clear to help promote sustainable energy. To read more about the work of Carbon Clear, please follow this link: www.carbon-clear.com

**AITO Membership:** Wild Frontiers is a member of AITO, the Association of Independent Tour Operators. AITO’s charter states that its exclusive members strive to create overseas holidays with high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

**British Foreign & Commonwealth Office:** The travel advice of the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) highlights potential hazards people might experience when travelling abroad and as an advocate of their “Know Before You Go” campaign we strongly suggest that you refer to it before booking and contact us if you have any queries or concerns. Details can be found on the website below.

Non-UK citizens should consult the travel advice of their respective governments.

**Wild Frontiers Community**

If you’re still not sure if this trip is right or just want to see get some different perspectives, then why not have a look at the wide variety of resources we have on our website?

- **Clients’ Views:** See what other travellers have said about our trips - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/views
- **Blogs:** See what our tour-leaders, staff and clients have posted from the road - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/blog
- **Videos:** They may not find their way on the list for Oscars nominations but we have an extensive (and growing) collection of short videos giving you an insight in many of our destinations -

WILD FRONTIERS Adventure Travel Ltd Tel: +44 (0) 20 7736 3968 Fax: +44 (0) 20 8741 3610
Email: info@wildfrontierstravel.com Website: www.wildfrontierstravel.com
Photos: Our popular “Photo of the month” competition has added to the vast gallery of photos we already have from around the world. See them here - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/photos

Events: From time to time we hold informal presentations, photo exhibitions and dinner evenings mainly in the London area. To find out more see here - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/events

Wild Miles Club: Everyone that has booked a trip directly with us will become an automatic member of the Wild Miles Club gaining instant access to a range of exclusive discounts from a variety of travel partners from bookshops to outdoor clothing shops. In addition, regular direct bookers will earn “Wild Miles” which can earn you up to 10% in discounts off of all tours. For more information visit this page - www.wildfrontierstravel.com/wild-miles

Facebook: Keep up to date with the latest news and special offers by liking our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/wildfrontiers

GUJARAT - THE FACTS

General Information: Gujarat is one of the most diverse states in India. Gujarat derives its name from the word ‘Gujaratta’, meaning the land of gurjars. The gurjars were a sub-tribe of the Huns who ruled the area during the 8th and 9th centuries AD. They passed through Punjab and settled in some parts of western India, which came to be known as Gujarat. Gujarat is bounded by the Arabian Sea in the west, by Rajasthan in the north and northeast, by Madhya Pradesh in the east and by Maharashtra in the south and southeast. The state has an international border and has a common frontier with Pakistan at the north western fringe. It is situated on the north end of the west coast of India and covers an area of 196,024 square km. Gandhinagar, located near Ahmedabad is the state capital of Gujarat. At present, Gujarat comprises 25 districts.

History of Gujarat: Historically the present-day state of Gujarat has been one of the main centres of the Indus Valley Civilization. The ancient history of Gujarat was enriched by their commercial activities. There is a clear historical evidence of trade and commerce ties with Sumer in the Persian Gulf during the time period of 1000 to 750 BC. Later, Gujarat was settled by the Aryans. Then there was a succession of Hindu kingdoms including the era of the Gupta dynasty and culminating in the reign of the Solankis. The 9th century history of Gujarat saw the emergence of the Muslims in the political arena of the state. The first Muslim conqueror was Mahmud of Ghazna whose conquest of Somnath effectively ended the rule of the Solankis.

According to the legends, the Somnath shore temple was built by Soma, the moon god himself, to mark the creation of the Universe.

It is believed that The Lord Krishna’s kingdom was also built at Dwarka in Gujarat. During the British Raj, Gujarat was part of the larger Bombay Presidency and was ruled from Mumbai, and became a separate state in 1960 when the Indian States were divided on the basis of language.

Geography of Gujarat: Geographically, the state of Gujarat is divided into three areas. The mainland region includes the major cities of Ahmedabad, Surat and Vadodara (Baroda). The Gulf of Mumbai divides the mainland from the flat and barren plains of the Kathiawar Peninsula also known as Saurashtra. Before independence, the Saurashtra region was ruled by about 200 rulers. They continued to rule it once they had made peace with the British. After independence, these tiny states were merged in the larger state of Bombay Presidency and later merged in the new state of Gujarat. The Gulf of Kutch separates the Saurashtra from Kutch. Kutch is virtually an island cut off from the rest of Gujarat that is wedged
between Pakistan in the east and the low-lying Rann of Kutch in the north.

Economy of Gujarat: Agriculture in Gujarat forms a vital sector of the state's economy. It provides the required food grains for the state's population and raw materials for most of the agro-based industries. There has been a development of industries like chemicals, petrochemicals, fertilizers, engineering, electronics etc. With the largest petrochemical complex in the country, Gujarat is a major producer of chemicals soda-ash and caustic soda, as well as chemical fertilizers. The most remarkable feature of Gujarat's recent industrial development has been the growth of the dairy industry, with much of it being conducted on a cooperative basis.

People of Gujarat: One of the most well known Gujaratis is Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation, who worked for the independence of India through non-violence. The Gujarati community is a melting pot; Parsis landed at a place called Sajjan in 745 AD and Jains are a very important community in Gujarat. These families generally own textile and chemical mills and spend lavishly on building new temples and on charities, like schools and religious trusts.

The people of Gujarat or the Gujaratis are known as a successful business community. One of the biggest billionaires of the world, Dhirubhai Ambani was also a Gujarati, who built his empire in three decades.

Languages in Gujarat: The three important languages of Gujarat are Gujarati, Urdu and Sindhi. There are eleven dialects of Gujarati. The majority of people speak Gujarati, which belongs to the Indo-Aryan family. This language is derived from Sanskrit and other ancient languages. It was also highly influenced by Apabrahmsa, which was widely spoken in northwest India from the 10th to 14th centuries. Kachchi as a mother tongue was spoken in Kutch.

Handicrafts of Gujarat: The handicrafts of the Gujarat are also unique like the Gujarati cuisine. Gujarat has a rich tradition of high quality weaving; unique Kutch embroidery; and hand-block printing, the most common are the tie-and-dye fabrics. Apart from these fabrics, the hand-painted cloth is also available in traditional black, red, maroon and ochre colours. The Patola silk sarees are another famous item of Gujarat, made by master craftsmen at Patan. Surat is known for silk sarees and zari or gold thread embroidery. Jamnagar is known for its woollen shawls, blankets, rugs, wooden chest and furniture.

Cuisine of Gujarat: The Gujarati food is mostly vegetarian. The dishes of Gujarat do not have the same intensity of spice or sweet as those of neighbouring states. The diet of the Gujaratis consists of rice, chapatis, a wide variety of beans and pulses, coconut, pickles and sweetened yoghurt.

Music and Dances of Gujarat: Gujarat has a long history of folk music in passed on by the Charans and Gadhavis, a community whose hereditary profession is folk music and folk arts. It has remained an integral part of their culture, even using their own
unique instruments. Every tribe has their own forms of this folk-music and dances.

Wildlife Sanctuaries in Gujarat: Gujarat is a paradise for bird-watchers and wildlife enthusiasts. Deciduous forests, desert plains, grasslands, wetlands and coastal and marine locations have made Gujarat one of the most pleasant places for bird watching and wildlife viewing. There are about 4 national parks and 21 wildlife sanctuaries in Gujarat. Some of these are: The Marine National Park, Gir National Park, Indian Wild Ass Wildlife sanctuary, Velavadar National Park, Nalsarover, Khijadia Bird Sanctuary and the Porbandar Bird Sanctuary.
How to book:

In order to confirm your booking we need to have a completed signed booking form for each client together with a £400 deposit per person. You can either return your booking form to us by post or by booking online at www.wildfrontierstravel.com

You can contact the office by email to info@wildfrontierstravel.com or we are very happy to take your call on + 44 (0) 20 7736 3968.

Protection for you money:

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for Wild Frontiers, and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:
1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK;
2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; and
3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK, which are sold to customers outside of the UK.

1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Wild Frontiers.

If you choose to book your international flights with us then you will also be ATOL protected as we hold an Air Travel Organiser’s Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). Our ATOL number is 5975. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will arrange to refund any monies to you that you have paid for an advance booking and ensure that you are not stranded abroad. For further information visit www.atol.org.uk

We recommend that you take out adequate travel insurance at the time of booking in the event that you are no longer able to travel as all deposits are non-refundable - full booking conditions can be found on the booking form and online at our website.

As I’m sure you can appreciate, Wild Frontiers trips can be quite complex affairs to arrange and certain elements (such as permits, visa authorisations, trains and flights) may need to be requested several months in advance. As such, wherever possible, we would encourage you to plan ahead and book early to avoid disappointment. Moreover, by booking early you are always guaranteed to get the best price with us as we will automatically offer you a retrospective discount if we happen to reduce the price of the tour later on. For further details, please refer to www.wildfrontierstravel.com/price-guarantee

Further information:
When you make a confirmed booking with Wild Frontiers we will send you a pre-departure information pack giving you details on visas, health and vaccinations, packing lists, suggested reading on the region, photography and other useful tips to make your trip more enjoyable.
Why Wild Frontiers?

Wild Frontiers is proud to have been regularly voted one of the top ten tour operators by readers of Wanderlust Travel Magazine over the last ten years. A number of our innovative itineraries have been included in National Geographic Traveller Magazine's “Trips of a Lifetime”, and our acclaimed Tour Leaders regularly feature in the Wanderlust World Guide Awards, with Mark Steadman winning gold in 2015. Responsible travel has always been incredibly important to us, so we were delighted to be awarded Best Ethical Tour Operator by The Guardian/Observer in 2012.

We are frequently asked what makes Wild Frontiers different from other tour operators. Below are a few of the factors that we believe set us apart from our competitors and form the reasons as to why our clients travel with us again and again...

**Personal Service & Expertise:** Our London office is manned by experienced expedition leaders and most trips we run stem from our first-hand knowledge - in short, we run the kind of holidays that as passionate travellers, we like to do ourselves. When you ring our office, you can be guaranteed to chat to someone who knows the region and the terrain and is able to offer sound and practical advice.

**Authentic, Cutting-Edge Experiences:** Our unique, original itineraries allow you to take journeys that venture beneath the surface of the region. We rarely run any group tour more than a couple of times a year and they are typically on routes we have discovered for ourselves, meaning we are able to give a truly authentic, off-the-beaten-track experience.

**Be the First:** Our style of travel is all about exploration, and nothing excites us more than opening up new routes to genuine travellers, even if that makes our job harder at times! We keep abreast of new destinations and are often the first to return to places that have vanished from the tourist map. We were the first back into Pakistan after 9/11, the first to return to Kashmir after a decade of tourist isolation, and amongst the first to run a commercial travel trip to Afghanistan for almost 30 years. Since then we have helped bring Colombia, Iran, Georgia and Bangladesh back into the tourist fold, specialising in ground-breaking reconnaissance trips and imaginative expeditions.

**Small Group Size:** On our escorted tours, we believe it is imperative to keep the group sizes small. Most trips are limited to an average maximum of 12 travellers, thus giving you more access to fragile cultures, better opportunities to interact with local people, and the knowledge you are making less of an impact while there. “Having been a bit apprehensive about joining a group as a single traveller, I found myself surrounded by interesting, friendly, helpful people who I hope to catch up with again on future trips.” Angela Chick, Kashmir Group Tour

**Cost of Group Tours:** We believe in an honest, upfront pricing structure so you know exactly what the tour will cost before you book. On our group tours we avoid local payments, ‘optional extras’ or forcing our clients to go through the annoying procedure of splitting every meal bill. Our tours are provided on a predominantly full board basis, with drinking water, government permits, entrance fees and transport all included.

**Our clients:** Your companions can make or break a trip, and it’s lucky therefore that our clients are often our greatest asset. Travelling to remote regions is not for everyone, and as such we tend to attract open-minded travellers looking for genuine experiences, and a desire to reach those hard to get to places.

**Responsible Travel:** Awarded 5 star status by AITO (Association of Independent Tour operators), responsible tourism (RT) has always been an integral part of our company ethos and our adventures are designed with the local people, culture and eco-system in mind. In 2012 we were awarded the Guardian Observer Best Ethical Travel Award. For further details please refer to the RT section of our website - [www.wildfrontierstravel.com/rt](http://www.wildfrontierstravel.com/rt)