



# ***Explore*** ***Kutch***

**Navigate through its must-visit**

**landmarks, discover some of the**

**oldest Harappan civilisation sites,**

**experience vibrant handicrafts and**

**cultural villages, discover rich**

**biodiversity in the desert, visit**

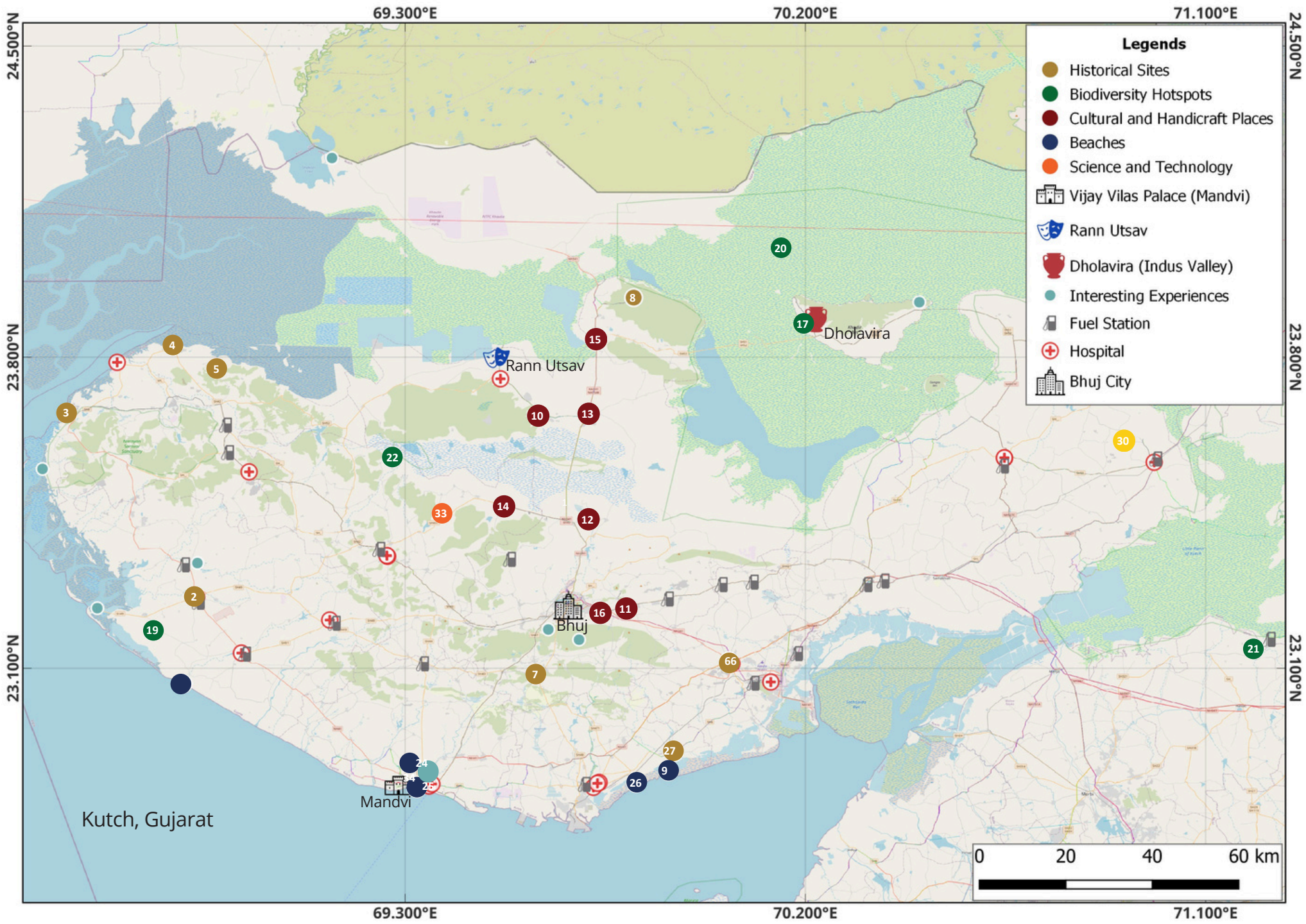
**unique museums, and enjoy**

**countless unforgettable experiences.**

**Come, explore the vibrancy of Kutch**

**with *Evoked* Dholavira.**





Must Visit Places

Explore Kutch!

Smriti Van

A visit to Smriti Van in Bhuj is a moving and serene experience. Built in memory of the victims of the 2001 Gujarat earthquake, the memorial blends nature, architecture, and emotion through its tree plantations, interactive museum, and panoramic hill views. As you walk through its thoughtfully designed pathways, you feel both the weight of loss and the resilience of life.

Take a 2 day Trip!

Dholavira

A 2-day visit to this **UNESCO World Heritage Site** offers a unique glimpse into the ancient Indus Valley Civilisation.



On the way, you will pass what locals call the “road through heaven,” with surreal views of the white Rann stretching endlessly on both sides.

**World Heritage Site** offers Crowned the Best Tourism



Vijay Vilas Palace

Perched along Mandvi’s coastline, Vijay Vilas Palace is a dreamy blend of Rajput and colonial architecture.



Time req: approx 4 hrs

Experience Kutch!

Rann Utsav

Crowned the Best Tourism Village of 2023 by UNWTO, Rann Utsav, held at the village of Dhordo, offers a front-row seat to the art, traditions, and soul of the Kutch. From white landscapes to handcrafted treasures and folk music under open skies, every moment here feels magical.



Visitors stay in luxurious tent accommodations and wake up to golden sunrises over the white desert, with evenings filled with cultural performances under the stars. It is an unforgettable cultural escape into the heart of Kutch.



Best time to visit: Nov-Feb (2-3 days)

Bhuj



Legends:

- 1 Smriti Van
- 11 Prag Mahal
- 16 Ajrakhpur
- 28 Bhujodi
- 29 Living and Learning Design Centre
- 29 Kutch Musuem
- 31 Hunarshala
- 32 Regional Science Centre (Bhuj)
- Bhuj Airport
- Bhuj Railway Station
- Best time to visit - Winter
- In and around Bhuj
- Near to Dholavira

Must try culinary delicacies

- Street Food:
- Dabeli
  - Pakwan
  - Khaman
  - Kutchi Samosa

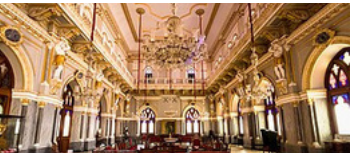
Interesting places to visit in Bhuj

- Trimandir Temple– A unique blend of Jain, Shaiva, and Vaishnava traditions.
- Sharad Baug Palace – Former royal residence with lush gardens.
- Bhartiya Sanskruti Darshan Museum & Ram Kund – A peek into folk art, traditions, and stepwell architecture.
- Bhoomi Handicrafts – Curated handicraft store for authentic souvenirs.
- Swaminarayan Temple – Stunning marble temple known for intricate carvings.
- Chattardi – Ornate royal cenotaphs in a serene setting, perfect for history and photography lovers.
- Vande Mataram Memorial – Immersive experience of India’s freedom struggle in a 4D setting.
- Handicraft Memorial Park – A vibrant space honouring local artisans.
- Khari River Grand Canyon – Rugged natural beauty, especially at sunrise or sunset.
- Bhujiyo Fort – Scenic drive/walk with panoramic city views.

Historical Places

1 Prag Mahal

A 19th-century palace known for its stunning fusion of Italian Gothic architecture and Indian craftsmanship. It was built under the rule of Rao Pragmalji II, the palace features grand Durbar Halls, intricate jali work, and a soaring clock tower that offers panoramic views of



2 Naliya – Temples

This is a significant Jain pilgrimage centre in Kutch, known for the historic Shri Chandraprabh Bhagwan temple, its notable architectural heritage, and its place within Abdasa’s Panch-Tirthi.

3 Narayan Sarovar

This place is an important pilgrimage site and one of Hinduism’s five sacred lakes, collectively known as the Panch-Sarovar. Seven stone temples stand within a paved courtyard. The surrounding area is also designated as a wildlife sanctuary.

4 Lakhpat Fort

Once a thriving port town, it now stands as a silent sentinel near the Pakistan border. Its massive walls enclose crumbling mosques, gurudwaras, and havelis, telling tales of the maritime trade.



5 Siyot Caves

These 1st-century CE rock-cut caves near the Pakistan border are believed to be ancient Buddhist meditation sites. Featuring weathered carvings and inscriptions, they offer a rare glimpse into early Buddhist heritage in Kutch.



6 Anjar

This town is considered to be the oldest town in the Kutch, founded around 650 CE. It is renowned for its rich cultural diversity and archaeological sites. It hosts numerous temples and shrines, like Jesal- Toral Samadhi, Madhavrai Temple, Ajaypal Temple, and Swaminarayan Temple.

7 Kera Shivji Temple Ruins

Theruins ofthis 10th-century Shiva temple showcase exquisite stone carvings and Nagara-style architecture. Though partially destroyed, its intricate pillars and sanctum speak volumes about craftsmanship.



8 Kalo Dungar

Perched on Kutch’s highest point (Black Hill), this temple honours Lord Dattatreya. The real magic of the place is 360-degree views of the Great Rann, especially surreal at sunset.

9 Bhadreswar Jain Temple

This temple presumably dates back to 516 BCE. The main shrine is surrounded by 52 smaller shrines which reputedly holds the original Parshavanath idol from 500 BCE.



RANN UTSAV



RANN UTSAV



## Cultural and Handicraft Places

### 10 Hodka Village ●

Hodka derives its name from the Gujarati word *hodi* (boat). In this village, Hindu Meghwals and Muslim Halepotras women practice embroidery styles like *chitki* (appliqué), *pakko*, *mokka*, *neran*, *chopad*, *mutwa*, and the *geometric kambhira* etc while Meghwal men are noted leather artisans, crafting objects that blend utility with beauty.



### 11 Ajrakhpur ●

This village is home to the Ajrakh block printing, a 3,000-year-old craft that uses natural dyes made of indigo, henna, turmeric, pomegranate, and mud to create fabric, practised by the Muslim Khatri

communitynear Bhuj.

### 12 Kala Raksha Museum ●

A sanctuary for vanishing crafts, this award-winning museum in Tunda Vandh village is a must-visit. With over 1,200 pieces of embroidery, patchwork, and tribal jewellery, each tagged with its story.

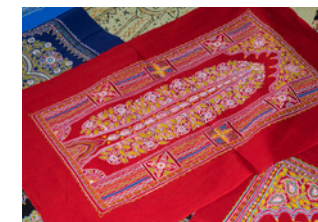
### 13 Gandhi nu Gaam ●

A village where every home is an artisan's studio. Primarily inhabited by the Meghwal community, you can watch artisans create exquisite embroidered textiles and intricate “*lippan kaam*” mud-relief wall art, savour traditional treats like caramelized maavo sweets and clay-pot cooked meals.



### 14 Nirona

This village is home to the rare 400-year-old Rogan art, where intricate designs are painted with castor oil and natural pigments, once reserved for royalty. You can also find copper bells hand-shaped and tuned without welding, and vibrant lacquer work decorating wooden utensils and toys.



### 15 Khavda ●

A timeless village of Khavda is where ancient pottery traditions come alive. Here you can watch master craftsmen mold terracotta wonders using centuries-old techniques.



### 16 Bhujodi ●

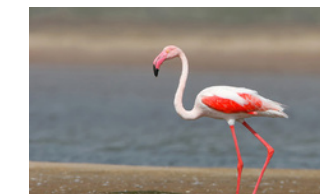
This textile village is a paradise for handloom enthusiasts. It is home to the skilled Vankar community—renowned for their weaving, tie-dye (*bandhani*), and block printing—the village buzzes with creativity year-round. Visitors can explore vibrant handicrafts fairs featuring various textile pieces such as “*Kutchi*” shawls, traditional blankets and stoles ranging in colours like indigo, red, green etc.



## Biodiversity Hotspots

### 17 Flamingo Point – Dholavira ●●

In the Rann ofKutch, the sight of flamingos set against the stark white salt desert creates a striking visual contrast. Each winter, thousands of migratory flamingos gather here, making it an important seasonal habitat for the various bird species, ideal for bird observation.



### 18 Hamirsar Lake ●●

Constructed around 450 years ago, it was named after Rao Hamir, who founded both the city of Bhuj of the Jadeja dynasty in Kutch. It was built to serve as a water source for Bhuj, incorporating a detailed network of canals and tunnels that brought water from three rivers and is spread over an area of 28 acres.



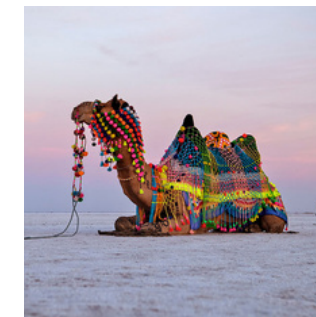
### 19 Kutch Bustard Sanctuary ●

This grassland sanctuary near Naliya is a critical conservation area for the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard, with less than 150 left worldwide. Watch these majestic, ostrich-like birds strut across the arid plains, their last remaining habitat.



### 20 Great Rann of Kutch ●●●

One ofthe world's largest salt deserts, roughly 7500 sq. km in size, it is a seasonal marsh during the monsoon months. In the winter, the ethereal white salt desert emerges out of the water to provide a stunning background to the Rann Utsav.



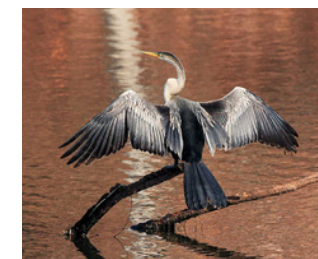
### 21 Little Rann of Kutch – Wild Ass

The planet'slast home of the endangered Indian Wild Ass (*Khur*), this 5,000 sq km sanctuary protects about 2,000 of these swift, sandy-coloured equines.



### 22 Chhari-Dhand Wetland Reserve

Located between the Banni grasslands and the Rann of Kutch, it is a seasonal desert wetland and conservation forest.



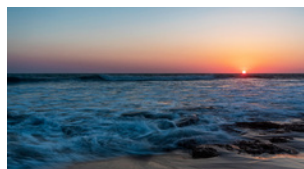
This 227 sq. km reserve becomes a migratory bird metropolis during monsoon (July–September) and throughout winter (November–March). Visitors can spot rare species of birds like the Dalmatian Pelican and Black-necked Stork, as well as mammals such as chinkara (Indian gazelle), wolves, and thousands of flamingos.



## Beaches & Coasts

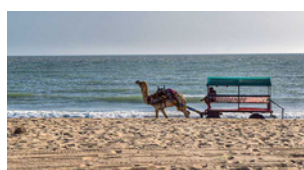
### 23 Pingleshwar Beach

This secluded gem is famous for its dramatic sunrises and sunsets where golden sands meet the tranquil Arabian Sea. The beach is also recognized as a wetland, welcoming a plethora of migratory birds during the season, making it a prime spot for bird watching alongside the ancient Pingleshwar Temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.



### 24 Mandvi Beach ●●

Bask in the golden-brown sands of Mandvi Beach, one of Gujarat's most pristine and tranquil coastlines. Nestled along the Arabian Sea, this scenic beach offers calm waters, gentle waves, and breathtaking sunsets—perfect for relaxation and photography. A historic port town, Mandvi still retains its old-world charm with remnants of ancient fortifications.



### 25 Luni Beach ●●

Described as an aquatic paradise, visitors can stroll along the beach, relax on its soft sand, and be surroundedby tranquility.

### 26 Kashi Vishwanath Beach ●●

It is a quiet andless developed shoreline known for its clean waters and calm surroundings. Named after a nearby temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, it offers a setting where the natural and spiritual coexist.



### 27 Bhadreshwar Beach ●●

This place is notable for its ancient Jain temple complex—the Vasai Jain Temple, reputed to have been founded around 516 BCE. The village also features historic Hindu temples, two 12th century mosques, and the Chokhanda Mahadev temple near the sea.



## Museums

### 28 Living and Learning Design ●

The Living and Learning Design Centre (LLDC) near Bhuj, is an 8-acre museum dedicated to preserving, revitalizing, and promoting the craft heritage. Explore world-class galleries showcasing Kutch's famed embroidery, weaving, and textile artistry and live studios where local artisans practice traditional techniques like block-printing, pottery, and more.



### 29 Kutch Museum ●

Established in 1877 by Maharao Khengarji III. Originally part of the School of Arts and known as the Fergusson Museum after Sir James Fergusson, the Governor of Bombay., it was created to showcase a collection of rare objects gathered during the Maharao's wedding.



## Unique places across Kutch

### Ancient Harrapan sites

#### 30 Surkotada

A lesser-known Harappan site in Kutch, offers a glimpse into a 5000-year-old fortified settlement of the Indus Valley Civilisation was discovered in 1964. Archaeologists have also found evidence of horse bones here, along with beads, pottery, and other artefacts that tell stories of ancient trade and daily life.

Other lesser prominent sites of the Harappan civilisation in Kutch are: **Desalpur:** Contains remains of Harappan settlements and artefacts consistent with the Indus Valley Civilisation.

### Arts and Culture

#### 31 Hunarshala

Founded after the 2001 Kutch earthquake to aid reconstruction and has since developed into a hub for research, practical knowledge sharing, and culturally rooted construction methods with inclusive urban planning and promoting artisan-led enterprises.



### Science & Tech.

#### 32 Regional Science Centre (Bhuj) ●

TheScience Centre in Bhuj offers interactive exhibits focused on geology, space, and general science education. It serves as an educational hub for students and visitors, providing hands-on learning experiences about earth sciences, astronomy, and technological advancements.



#### 33 Kutch Fossil Park

Located in the Haripar village near Dhinodhar hills, one can journey 150 million years back at this unique open-air museum showcasing dinosaur eggs, marine fossils, and petrified wood. The Sodha family's passion project displays finds from the region, including a newly discovered sea cow species. Interactive exhibits explain how Kutch was once underwater and more.



### Adventures

#### 34 Mandvi's Shipbuilding Yard

Situated near Rukmavathi River and the Arabian Sea, the ship building yard of Mandvi is about 400 years old and is testament to the town's maritime past. The tradition still continues on a smaller scale as expert craftsmen from the Kharva community carve out large wooden ships entirely by hand.



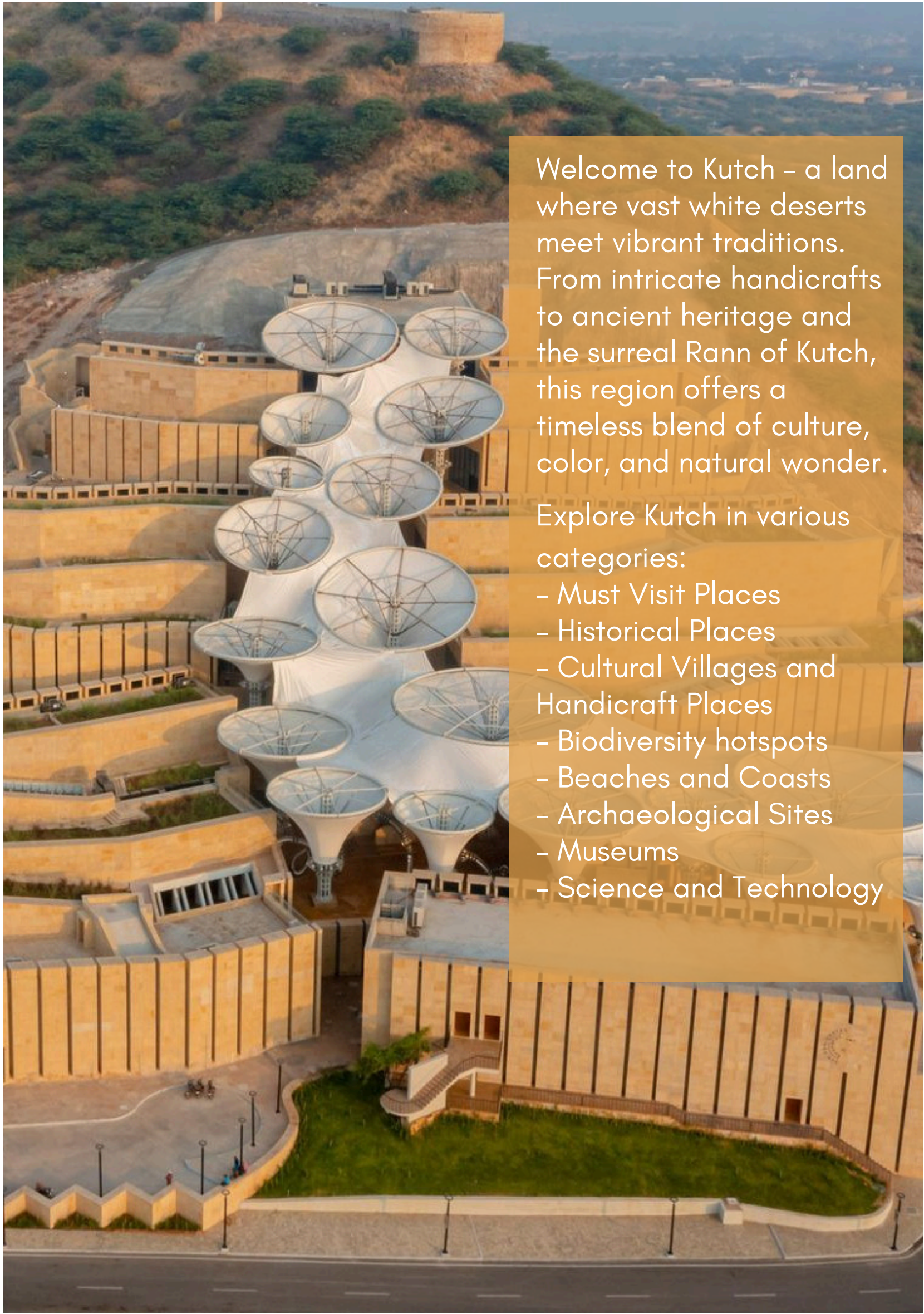
### Other Interesting experiences

- Trekking and camping at Jadura Hills
- Visit Tambu Hill station
- Mitti dam - Wetlands near Naliya
- Jakhau port
- Western most point of India - Lakinara stretch
- Chippar point
- Vighakot Fort

### Famous Kutchi dishes

- Kutchi Dabeli
- Bajra na Rotla with Ghee & Garlic Chutney
- Khichdi with Kadhi
- Odho
- Gundar Pak / Moong Dal Halwa / Lapsi
- Kadak

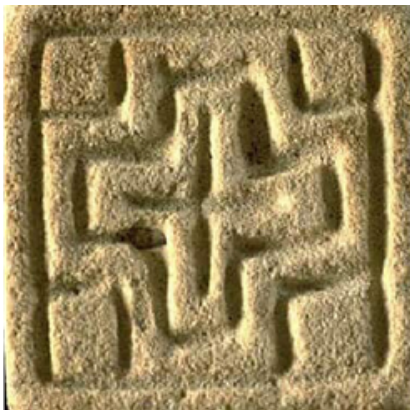




Welcome to Kutch – a land where vast white deserts meet vibrant traditions. From intricate handicrafts to ancient heritage and the surreal Rann of Kutch, this region offers a timeless blend of culture, color, and natural wonder.

Explore Kutch in various categories:

- Must Visit Places
- Historical Places
- Cultural Villages and Handicraft Places
- Biodiversity hotspots
- Beaches and Coasts
- Archaeological Sites
- Museums
- Science and Technology






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Khushtar Heritage Collective (KHC)

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Madhu Jagdish - Prag Mahal  
Nizil Shah - Bhadreswar Jain Temple  
Prashant Kharote - Kera Shivji Temple  
Amitangshu Acharya - Hamirsar Lake  
LLDC, Kutch Fossil Park - Flickr  
Mandvi Ship Building - Mandvi.weebly.com  
Shachi Sheth, KHC - Khavda, Nirona

Useful Information  
Emergency Contacts  
☎ Police:100  
☎ Ambulance:108  
☎ Fire Brigade: 101

Tourist Information Bureau:  
Office of District Information Centre, First Floor,  
Exhibition Hall, Opp: Bahumali Bhavan, Bhuj – 370001  
Phone: 02832 224910  
Mobile: +91 9727723943

Local Police Station: Bhuj- A Division (02832-253050)  
Bhuj – Women's Division (02832-226366)  
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Website: [www.evokedholavira.com](http://www.evokedholavira.com)

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Responsible Tourism Message

- Donot litter; help preserve the fragile desert ecosystem
- Avoid plastic; carry reusable bottles and bags
- Support local artisans by buying directly from them
- Be respectful when photographing people and places

We wish you a safe and enriching journey through the land of cultural and topographic diversity – Kutch.



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All information is correct at the time of the print - 2025.