

## Wildlife of Gujarat

*Mumbai–Gir National Park–Velavadar–Marine National Park–Mumbai*

### DAY 1 ARRIVE MUMBAI

Arrive Mumbai. Meeting at the airport and assisted transfer to the hotel for stay tonight.

Meals included: None

Overnight:

### DAY 2 MUMBAI – DIU – GIR NATIONAL PARK

Morning transfer to the domestic airport to connect your Jet Airlines flight for Diu

Meeting at the airport and assisted transfer to hotel at Sasangir National Park (*128 kilometers / about 3 hours*)

Stay at your resort for three nights.

Afternoon enjoy game drive (*time permitting*)

Meals included: All Meals

Overnight:

### DAYS & 03 & 04 GIR NATIONAL PARK

Morning and afternoon enjoy game drives.



Gir is the only home in Indian of the Lion of which there are nearly 300 in the park. The sanctuary lies in the Gujarat peninsula in SW India. The terrain is rugged with low hills and the vegetation is mixed deciduous, with stands of Teak, Acacia, Jamun, Tendu and Dhak trees, interspersed with large patches of grasslands. On the hills of the trees are sparse and stunted. Within the sanctuary, there are numerous human settlements of cattle herders called Maldharis with an estimated 20,000 head of livestock (which, incidentally, forms a significant part of the Lion's diet). There are also places of Hindu worship and pilgrimage and sulphur springs at Tulsi Shyam and Kankai Mata. At the edge of the park there are good populations of Indian Gazelle, protected by the religious sentiment of the local people. The Kamleshwar Lake has some Marsh Crocodile. Birds in the park include the Paradise Flycatcher, Bonelli's Eagle and Painted Sand Grouse. Three unusual

reserves, the Nalsarover Lake and Sanctuary, where large numbers of water-birds can be seen; the bare saline flats of the Rann of Kutch, incredibly the home of the Indian wild ass and the spectacular Flamingo island where nesting colonies of flamingoes are to be seen, make Gujarat an exciting place for wildlife enthusiasts

Meals included: All Meals

Overnight:

### DAY 5 GIR NATIONAL PARK - BHAVNAGAR

Morning game drive to the national park.

Drive to Bhavnagar (125 km / 03 hours)

On arrival check-in at hotel for stay for two nights

Meals included: All Meals

Overnight:

### DAY 6 VELAVADAR NATIONAL PARK

Morning and afternoon game drives to Velavadar Sanctuary.

Velavadar National Park is located only 64 Kms from Bhavnagar and 80 Kms from Utelia.



Perhaps, the only tropical grassland in India to be given the status of a national park, Velavadar national park is a 36 km patch of Savannah type grasslands and thorn scrub. The park is set between two rivers, a few miles from the Gulf of Cambay sea coast. The rich soil is believed to have origins in the sea. The principal attraction of the park is the massive population of blackbuck, the

handsome Indian antelope, seen here in numbers running into thousands. The blackbuck is endemic to India and is rated among the most elegant antelopes and the fastest animals over a long distance. During the rule of the Maharajahs of Bhavnagar, Velavadar was harvested for grass to feed the royal cattle herds and the antelope were protected except for an occasional hunting camp. This is where His highness Krishna Kumar Sinhji coursed blackbucks using cheetahs and flew falcons. The wolf is the prime predator of Velavadar national park. Studies by WII research scientists have shown that Velavadar is one of the few places in the world where the wolf population is proliferating. Other mammals seen in Velavadar are fox, jackal, jungle cat, wild pig, hare and rodents. The birdlife is extensive. Sand grouse, larks and other grasslands are seen in fair numbers.

Meals included: All Meals

Overnight:

## DAY 7 BHAVNAGAR – LITTLE RANN OF KUTCHH

Morning game drive to the national park.

Drive to Dasada (03 hours 30 minutes)

Arrive Dasada and check in at your resort for stay for 3 nights

Meals included: All Meals

Overnight:

## DAYS 8 & 9 LITTLE RANN OF KUTCHH

Morning and afternoon game drives at Little Rann of Kutch.



Established as wildlife sanctuary in 1972, the little Rann of Kutch is the last refuge of the endangered Wild Indian Ass (Ghud Khar) and also home to the blue-bull (Neel Gai), Chinkara, Hedgehog, Wolf, Jackal, fox and Desert cats. Nearly 300 species of migratory birds are attracted to this region, mainly during monsoons and winter. Flamingo have built virtual Flamingo cities here. Cranes, Pelicans, Houbara, Bustard,

Falcons, Larks and other desert birds are also spotted here. Among reptiles, you will find snakes, tortoises, lizards and chameleons.

The little Rann is located in Saurashtra, which literally means- a hundred kingdoms. Local tribes and ethnic groups like the Rabari, Koli, Bajania and many others have evolved here. The Rabaris are essentially shepherds, Kolis being fisher folk, Bajanias known for their song and dance. Besides these, one can also find smaller but more exotic groups like the Negroid Mir Tribes, thought to be originally from Africa and Migrated at an early time. Though each of these groups offer their own exclusive traits, they share such exquisite skills like Intricate Cloth Embroidery and Murals, Mirror work on cloth dyed in vegetable tannins, selectively dyed decorative cloth (Bandhni), chunky jewellery and silver-ware, etc. They also share a common form of song and dance, called the Garba or Dandiya Raas.

Meals included: All Meals

Overnight:

## DAY 10 LITTLE RANN OF KUTCHH - JAMNAGAR

Morning game drive to the national park.

Drive to Jamnagar (02 hours 30 minutes)

Arrive and check in at your hotel for stay for 3 nights

Meals included: All Meals

Overnight:

## DAYS 11 & 12 MARINE NATIONAL PARK

Full day Boat rides at the Marine National Park.

### MARINE NATIONAL PARK

Gujarat has the distinction of creating the country's first Marine National Park spread over an area of nearly 458 sq kms in the Gulf of Kutch, 30 kms. from Jamnagar. Here corals create fantasies in stone and are the master builders of the Park. Their limestone fortresses - each one the work of a colony of countless tiny animals - come in an amazing variety of shapes and sizes, from the convoluted brain coral to corals that look like horns. Turtles, shrimp, sponge, eels, sea urchin lurk among the corals and huge schools of fish create a brilliance of colours that are unknown, unseen and unimaginable. Here you can see dolphins and octopuses. Dugong, a marine mammal, which resembles a seal and the rare Boralia species are found in these protected areas. The park has dense mangrove growth, which provides scores of birds with nesting and roosting sites.

Meals included: All Meals

Overnight:

## DAY 13 JAMNAGAR - MUMBAI

Morning at leisure. Later transfer to airport for flight to Mumbai

Arrive Mumbai. Meeting at the airport and assisted transfer to the hotel for stay tonight.

Meals included: Breakfast

Overnight:

## DAY 14 MUMBAI – ONWARD DESTINATION

After Breakfast transfer to Airport for flight back home.