

|| Shree Ganeshay Namah ||
|| Aum Shree Mahalaxmi Matay namah ||

GUJARAT

The Exclusive Travel Media of Gujarat

Travel Times

Issue 01 | 02 OCT, 2025

**FIRST
EDITION**

Latest updates about the new

GST POLICY

Tourism for Inclusive Growth –

National Tourism Day special

Festival Tourism

GUJARAT'S CULTURAL HERITAGE – GARBA

A Quick peek into the festival of Navratri in Gujarat



Rajasthan

Travel Trade Fair
UDAIPUR

9 10 11

JANUARY, 2026

FOUNDER'S VISION



Mr. Kamal Shah

Over the past five years, our journey in the travel industry has been both dynamic and deeply rewarding. We have had the privilege of organising B2B events that brought together over 1,000 exhibitors, including DMCs, hoteliers, and globally renowned tourism boards, while engaging with more than 10,000 travel professionals and visitors.

These milestones have not only strengthened our presence in the industry but have also reinforced our belief in the power of fellowship, collaboration, and shared growth.

This magazine is a natural extension of that vision, crafted to be the bridge between the travel and trade industry. It is designed to create meaningful connectivity, highlight opportunities for business development, and open new pathways for global networking. By curating travel programs, publishing thought leadership insights, and sharing success stories from around the world, we aim to inspire professionals, encourage innovation, and build stronger industry ties.

We see this magazine as more than just a publication, it is a platform where business growth meets cultural discovery, and where knowledge fuels connectivity. Our commitment is to ensure that every reader finds value, whether in the form of new opportunities, fresh perspectives, or a deeper connection to the vibrant world of travel and tourism.

As we look to the future, our next major event in January 2026 at Udaipur will once again unite the global travel community. It will be a celebration of innovation, partnerships, and possibilities, reaffirming our mission to drive the industry forward and create a shared space where business and travel grow hand in hand..

The Exclusive Travel
Media of Gujarat

GUJARAT

Travel Times

NEWS
UPDATES
INFORMATIONS
REVIEWS
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OUR VENTURES



Rajasthan

Travel Trade Fair

UDAIPUR



Mr. Hitank Shah TAFI - National Gen. Secretary

India's tourism industry is booming, driven by rising domestic travel, significant contributions to the GDP, and an increasing number of international visitors, leading to robust job creation and a projected rise in market value to over \$38 billion by 2033. The sector benefits from India's vast cultural and natural resources, supported by government initiatives like the "50 tourist destinations" plan and a growing ecosystem of startups. While domestic tourism is a key growth engine, international travel is also rebounding, placing India among the world's top tourism economies. The sector provides millions of jobs, with a projected increase of over 2 million jobs by 2034 and substantial growth by 2035. The market is expanding rapidly, with projections for it to reach \$38.12 billion by 2033 from \$22.47 billion in 2024. India is now ranked as the eighth-largest tourism economy globally in 2025. India boasts a wide variety of tourist attractions, including numerous UNESCO World Heritage sites, diverse natural resources, and opportunities for cultural, wildlife, and eco-tourism. Efforts are underway to enhance skill development within the tourism sector to improve service quality.



Mr. Dilip Masrani TAFI - Gujarat Chapter Chairman

With regular updates on international tourism trends, policy shifts, and emerging destinations, the platform equips industry professionals to make informed decisions. This knowledge sharing approach enhances efficiency and opens doors to new business possibilities. The focus is on building longterm partnerships that go beyond transactions strengthening trust, boosting visibility, and ensuring sustainable growth. It's a space where every participant contributes to and benefits from collective progress.



Mr. Ronak Shah TAFI - National Committee Member

This initiative serves as a catalyst for innovation in the travel sector, providing a common ground where ideas, strategies, and solutions can be exchanged. It empowers stakeholders to adapt to market changes quickly and leverage global opportunities. By bringing together travel agents, hoteliers, and service providers, the platform creates a seamless ecosystem of collaboration. Members gain access to valuable resources, timely updates, and insights that help them stay competitive in a fast-evolving industry.

OUR SUPPORTING ASSOCIATIONS:





Mr. Ashish Sehgal
ADTOI -
National Vice President

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my best wishes on the launch of Gujarat Travel Times. This initiative comes at a very significant time for India's tourism sector, as we collectively work towards creating new opportunities, showcasing unique destinations, and driving sustainable growth. Platforms like Gujarat Travel Times play an important role in connecting stakeholders, sharing knowledge, and inspiring innovation. I am confident that this magazine will highlight Gujarat's rich tourism potential while also contributing to India's larger travel story. On behalf of ADTOI and myself, I wish the team great success in this new journey.



Mr. Pinkal Shah
ADTOI - Gujarat
Chapter Chairman

This platform highlights the power of connectivity in the travel industry, linking operators with global programs and trade partners. It fosters collaboration, encourages business growth, and allows sharing of best practices. For tour operators, it's an excellent opportunity to explore new markets and strengthen professional networks.



Mr. U. B. Srivastava
UHU - President

An engaging bridge between the travel trade and international opportunities, this initiative promotes fellowship, collaboration, and business growth. It exposes professionals to global travel programs and insights, helping them innovate and expand their services. The platform truly celebrates connection and progress within the industry.

United Hoteliers of
Udaipur

OUR SUPPORTERS:





Mr. Manish Shah
VTAA - President

This initiative is a wonderful platform for travel professionals, bringing together industry peers to share experiences and insights. It strengthens connections across regions and creates opportunities for business growth. By highlighting global travel programs, it inspires agents to explore new markets and expand their reach.

Vadodara Travel Agents Association, Vadodara



Mr. Vinesh Shah
TAAPI - President

It gives me immense pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations on the launch of this Travel Magazine. As President of the Travel Agents Association of Pan India, I see this as not just a publication, but a powerful platform to showcase India's diverse travel experiences, inspire exploration, and empower our travel fraternity with knowledge and insights. May this magazine become a beacon for promoting tourism, connecting professionals, and shaping the future of our vibrant industry. Wishing the entire team great success in this new journey.

Travel Agents Association Pan India, Surat



Mr. Jayesh Keshariya
TAAS - President

Serving as a bridge between the travel trade and global opportunities, this project fosters meaningful fellowship among industry members. It helps travel professionals grow their networks, gain exposure to international programs, and discover new avenues for business development. It's an inspiring space for collaboration and learning.

Travel Agents Association of Saurashtra, Rajkot

OUR SUPPORTERS:





Mr. Jignesh Aghara
MTAA - President

May this initiative will be an invaluable resource for travel agents. With its insights on destinations, industry trends, and travel experiences, it will empower agents to better serve their clients, design innovative packages, and stay updated with the evolving world of tourism. Wishing you success, creativity, and endless opportunities as you embark on this exciting venture.

Morbi Travel Agents Association



Mr. Dharmesh Makwana
TAAB - President

I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the launch of Gujarat Travel Times, a much-needed platform to celebrate and elevate our rich travel and tourism heritage. Tourism is a powerful bridge—it connects cultures, drives economies, and preserves legacies. As President of TAAB, I envision Bhavnagar emerging as a premier destination, where history, heritage, spirituality, and nature converge.

Your magazine will play a vital role in showcasing such gems and inspiring travelers to explore the soul of Gujarat and India. I am pleased to support your vision and look forward to seeing Gujarat Travel Times become a beacon for tourism innovation and cultural pride. Wishing you great success in this journey.

Travel Agents Association of Bhavnagar



Mr. Darshit Vassa
TAAJ - President

In today's fast-paced world, travel is no longer just a leisure activity but the important medium for Experiencing the life I Hope This Magazine will be your True Companion with your journey & Beauty of travel surely will reflect in this magazine.

Travel Agents/ Tour OP. Asso. of Jamnagar



Mr. Hitesh Morbiya
TOAK - President

This initiative brilliantly connects travel professionals across the country and abroad, creating a platform for knowledge exchange and networking. It supports business growth while encouraging participation in curated travel programs worldwide. For agents looking to expand their footprint, it's a hub of opportunity and inspiration.

Tour Operators Association of Kutch

OUR SUPPORTERS:



The Allure of CULTURE

FESTIVE VIBES

NAVRATRI IN GUJARAT

Gujarat comes alive during Navratri, the nine-night festival that celebrates Goddess Durga with unmatched grandeur. For travelers, this is the perfect time to witness the state's cultural heartbeat, as cities and towns transform into vibrant stages of devotion and dance. From Ahmedabad's iconic GMDC ground to Vadodara's United Way Garba, one of the largest Garba gatherings in the world the festival draws lakhs of visitors, including international tourists eager to experience the rhythm of



Dressed in colorful chaniya cholis and kedis, devotees dance the night away to traditional beats of Garba and Dandiya, making the atmosphere truly electric. Tourism authorities actively promote Navratri as a cultural tourism highlight, offering curated packages that combine festive nights with daytime explorations of Gujarat's heritage sites, handicrafts, and culinary trails. For travelers, it's more than just a festival, it's a journey into Gujarat's traditions, hospitality, and spiritual fervor.





DUSSEHRA IN GUJARAT

As the nine vibrant nights of Navratri come to a close, Gujarat seamlessly transitions into the celebration of Dussehra. Marking the triumph of good over evil, the festival is observed with grand processions, temple rituals, and cultural gatherings across the state. Cities like Ahmedabad, Vadodara, and Rajkot become centers of devotion, offering travelers a chance to experience Gujarat's spiritual richness.

And of course, no Dussehra in Gujarat is complete without the traditional breakfast of crispy fafda paired with sweet jalebi, a ritual enjoyed in every household and eagerly awaited by visitors. For travelers, it's not just a festive treat but a true taste of Gujarat's cultural essence.

From rhythmic garbas to the joyful bite of fafda-jalebi, the festive season here is a journey of colors, culture, and flavors..



The Allure of CULTURE





TAFI Gujarat Welcomes the New National Managing Committee

We, the TAFI Gujarat team, extend our heartiest congratulations and a warm welcome to the newly elected National Managing Committee.



Mr. Abbas Moiz
President
Shoiz LLP- Mumbai



Mr. Anil Kalsi
Vice President
Ambe World Travels- Delhi



Mr. Hitank Shah
National General Secretary
Alka Airlink- Ahmedbad



Mr. Rai Achal Krishna
National Treasurer
Travel Assistance Bureau - Delhi



Mr. Jitul Mehta
Joint Secretary
VPTRAVELS (MUMBAI) LLP
Mumbai



Mr. Sunil Uttam
Joint Treasurer
Kass Travels Pvt Ltd
Pune



Mr. Khushvinder Sarna
Managing Committee
The Federal Travels & Tours
Delhi



Mr. Paulose Mathew
Managing Committee
Coraz Travels & Trade Links
Pvt Ltd, Cochin



Mr. Bright Manohar
Managing Committee
Ceeben World Travel Pvt Ltd
Chennai



Mr. Ronak Shah
Managing Committee
World Travels Ltd,
Ahmedabad



Mr. Shailendra Khare
Managing Committee
Network Tours and Travels,
Indore.



Mr. Shamim Shah
Managing Committee
Shah Travels Pvt. Ltd,
Srinagar



Ms. Sumita Kashyap
Managing Committee
Sigma Travel & Cargo Pvt. Ltd,
Chennai



Mr. Ajay Prakash
Immediate Past President
Nomad Travels,
Mumbai



We wish you a successful tenure and look forward to working together for the progress and unity of our travel fraternity.

TRAVEL THE WORLD



WORLD TOURISM DAY 2025: Tourism & Sustainable Transformation

World Tourism Day was celebrated on 27 September 2025 with the theme Tourism and Sustainable Transformation. Spearheaded by UNWTO, the day highlighted tourism's power to drive cultural exchange, peace, and eco-friendly growth, while fostering inclusivity and community empowerment.

Across India, states embraced the theme with diverse initiatives. Uttar Pradesh hosted heritage walks and eco-tourism exhibitions, Goa launched immersive cultural and culinary experiences, and Himachal Pradesh Central University organized a week-long programme inspired by global sustainable practices. These efforts reflect how India is aligning its tourism vision with global calls for responsible travel, celebrating heritage while ensuring a sustainable future for communities and destinations.

Good News for Travelers: GST Cuts

The travel and tourism industry has received a welcome boost with the GST Council's 56th meeting, held on 3rd September 2025, announcing significant tax revisions for hotels and air travel. The changes will be implemented from 22nd September 2025, perfectly timed with the onset of India's festive and peak travel season.



**GST Revisions Set to Make
Travel More Affordable from
September 22**

Under the new framework, budget-conscious travelers stand to benefit the most. Hotel stays priced below ₹7,500 per night will now be taxed at just 5% GST, down from the earlier 12%. Likewise, economy-class flight tickets will also carry a 5% GST, making air travel more affordable for both domestic flyers and international visitors opting for economy travel.



For travelers, these revisions translate into more affordable journeys and wider choices. As the festive season begins, this change is expected to open new opportunities for families, professionals, and leisure seekers to plan getaways with greater ease. Start planning your next trip today and make the most of the savings!



OUR SUPPORTERS:



MANALI TOURISM INFLUENCER MEET-UP 2025

This October

This October, Manali welcomes creators, storytellers, and travelers for its first-ever influencer meet-up! After the recent floods and natural calamities, Himachal Pradesh needs us more than ever. It's time to rebuild traveler confidence, support local communities, and remind the world that Manali is open, safe, and waiting for you.

2nd Week of October 2025



OBJECTIVES

- Promote responsible travel
- Showcase resilience
- Support locals
- Inspire confidence
- Manali has given us so much
- It's our turn to give back

#ManaliMeetUp2025 #TravelWithPurpose
#ResponsibleTourism #HimachalStrong

For more information please contact us

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SUCCESSFUL EVENT GLIMPSES of GTF 2025



Kolkata Flies High: Etihad's A321LR Debuts in India

Etihad Airways has introduced its next-generation Airbus A321LR on the Abu Dhabi-Kolkata route, making Kolkata the first Indian city to receive this premium narrow-body aircraft. Starting 26 September 2025, all flights on the sector will be served by the A321LR, offering passengers a wide-body cabin feel with enhanced comfort



Kolkata Becomes First Indian City for Etihad's A321LR Service

The inaugural flight, EY222, touched down in Kolkata on 24 September to a warm welcome. The move reflects Etihad's strong commitment to the Indian market and forms part of its broader fleet renewal strategy, aimed at delivering a superior travel experience on medium-haul routes.

For Indian travellers, the upgrade means seamless, comfortable connectivity from Kolkata not just to Abu Dhabi but also to Europe and the Middle East through Etihad's global network opening new horizons for both leisure and business travel. Book your journey now and be among the first to experience Etihad's new A321LR service from Kolkata.



OUR SUPPORTERS:



ANDAMAN & NICOBAR



NIRMALA TOURS AND HOLIDAYS



S.K.D. Resort & Club ★★★★★



VINTAGE
INDIA JOURNEYS
We Craft Memories...

RS HOTEL.IN HOLIDAYS.IN



RAJASTHAN'S PREMIUM HOTELS & TRAVEL EXPO

9 10 11

JANUARY , 2026

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The Incredible State of India !



Rajasthan

Travel Trade Fair

UDAIPUR

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Exhibitor's Profile

- Hotels/Resorts/Chain Hotels
- Time Share
- Heritage Palaces
- Tour & Coach Operators
- Travel Agents (b2b)
- Medical Tourism
- B2B/DMC
- Destination Wedding Planner
- Airlines/Cruise lines
- Car Rentals
- Water Park /Amusement Park
- Travel Publication/ Guides
- Adventure Tourism
- All Type Of Travel Services



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