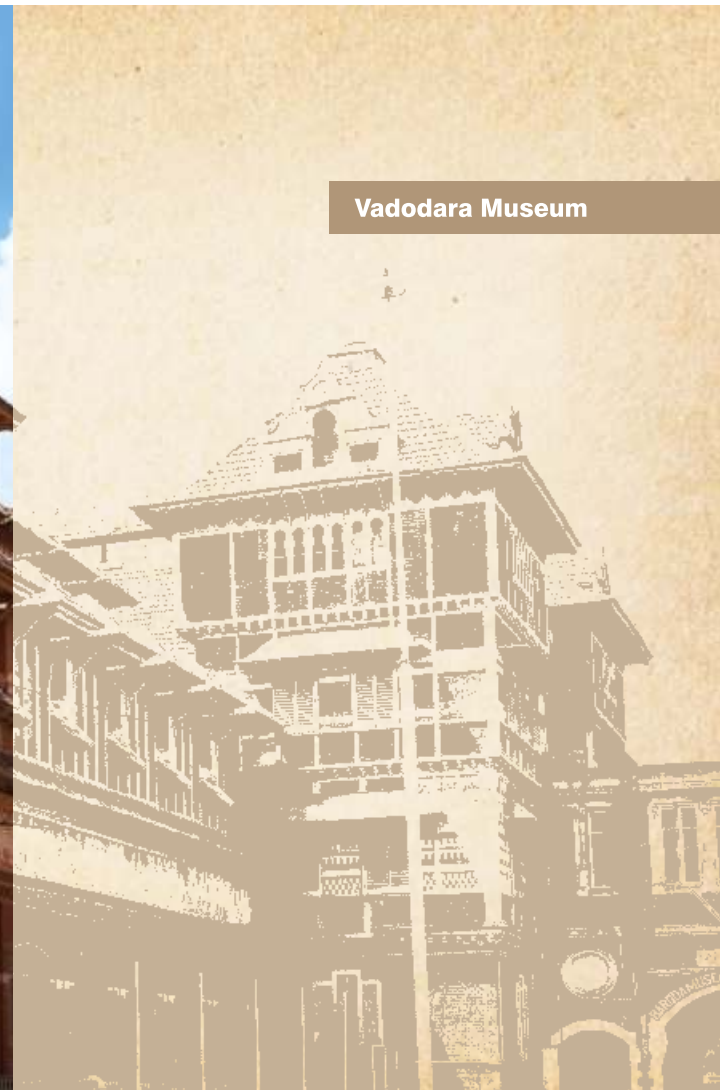




Versatile Vadodara



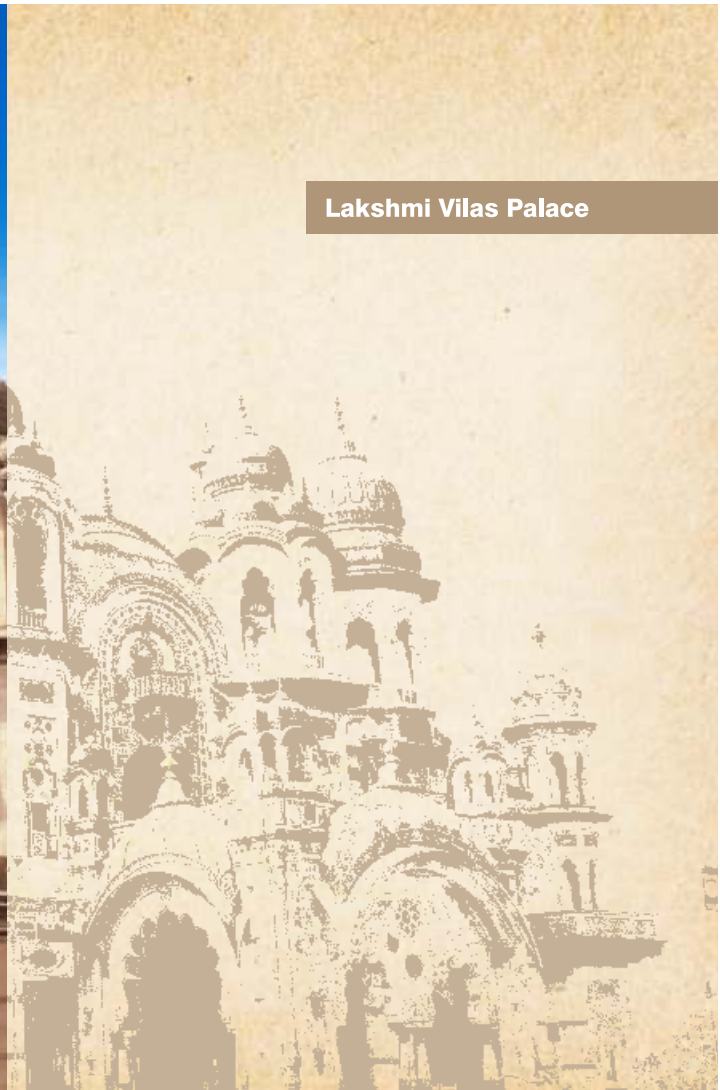


About Vadodara

Vadodara was originally known as Vadapradaka, which means a village amidst the Banyan trees. Archaeological findings have proved that there was human habitation here from prehistoric times. Vadodara passed through the hands of the Imperial Guptas, Chalukyas, Rashtrakutas, Solankis, Sultans of Delhi, the Mughals and finally the Marathas.

Present day Vadodara owes its grandeur to Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, a great ruler, a socio economic reformer, a patron of arts, architecture and music. It was he who visualized the development of Vadodara. Today, Vadodara is a city of palaces, gardens and industrial giants. It has earned the epithet 'Cultural Capital of Gujarat' or the 'Sanskar Nagari'.





Lakshmi Vilas Palace

Tourist attractions:

The Lakshmi Vilas Palace: Designed in Indo Sarcenic style of architecture, the palace built by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III in 1890 is the residence of the Royal family. Its ornate Darbar Hall has an Italian mosaic floor and walls with mosaic decorations. The palace houses a remarkable collection of old armoury and sculptures in bronze, marble and terracotta. Within the palace compound is a stepwell called the Navlakhi Vav, dating back to 1405 AD. A part of the palace can be seen with special permission.

Gaekwad Baroda Golf Club has been developed within the palace premises. It is a 10-hole golf course and a venue for international golf tournaments.

Entry fee ₹150/-. Closed on Monday.

For more details: +91 265 2411022.

Pratap Vilas Palace: It is designed in Renaissance style of architecture and presently houses the Railway Staff College. The college has a working model which shows complicated rail operations.

Location: Pratapnagar.

For more details: +91 265 2653477.

Makarpura Palace: Built by Maharaja Khanderao in 1870, it was renovated and extended by Maharaja Sayajirao III. This Palace is now an Airforce Station.

Location: Makarpura. Entry Restricted.

Sayaji Garden: Spread over a sprawling 113 acres of land, this garden, also popularly known as Kamati Baug, was conceptualized by Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III in 1879. The garden has an excellent zoo, a planetarium, health museum, a toy train, fountains, an amphitheatre and a Bandstand. A visit to the Garden can be a 'one day excursion'.

For more details: Zoo - +91 265 2784079.

Planetarium - +91 265 2794152.

Vaodara Museum and Picture Gallery: Founded in 1894 by Maharaja Sayajirao III, it is one of the finest museums in Asia modeled on the lines of the Victoria and Albert Museums of London. The museum has an impressive collection of art, archaeology, natural history, geology and ethnology. The art gallery has a collection of old European masters like Veronese, Giordano, Zurbaran, Flemish and Dutch paintings.

A collection of palm leaf manuscripts of Buddhist and Jain origins, Mughal miniatures, an Egyptian Mummy and the Akota Bronzes, besides many other artifacts make the Museum worth exploring.

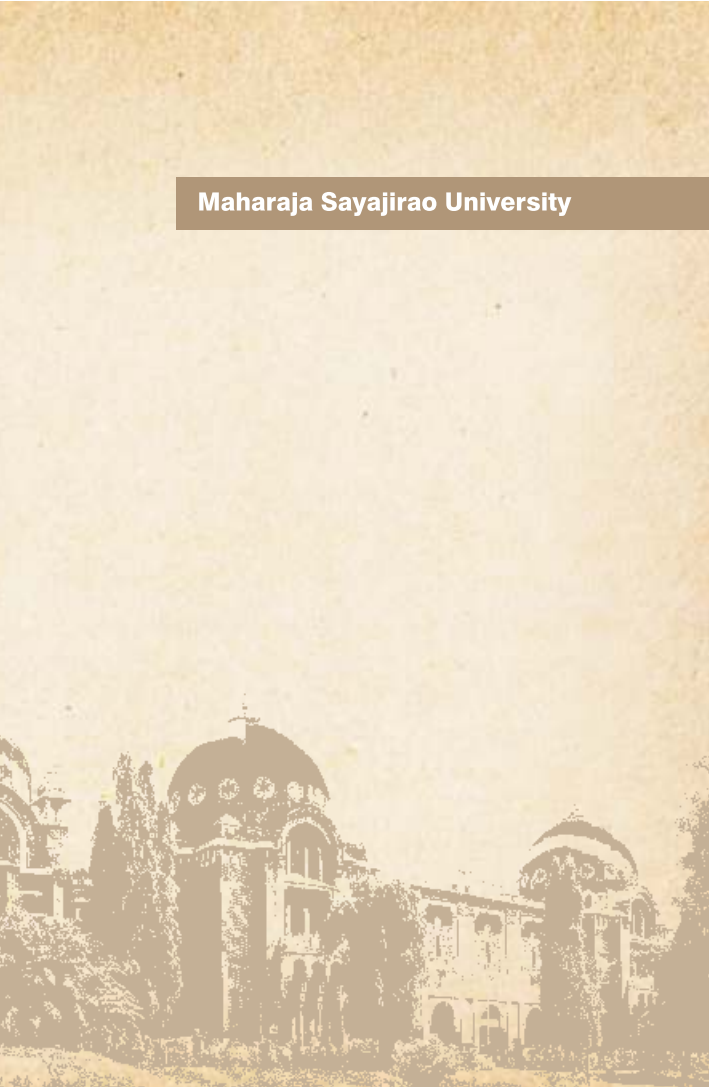
Location: Sayajigunj.

For more details: +91 265 2793801.





Maharaja Sayajirao University



Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda: Originally known as Baroda College, Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda became a University in 1949. It is one of the oldest centres of learning in western India. A campus spread over 275 acres of land; the university has various faculties and departments, having rich diversity of courses. Notable amongst those are Faculty of Fine arts, Faculty of Performing Arts, Faculty of Human Development and Family Studies (Home Science) and the Polytechnic.

The Central dome of the faculty of arts built in 1880 is 144 ft. high and is the second largest masonry dome in India.

EME Temple: The EME temple, constructed by the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering school of the army is dedicated to Dakshinamoorti, a form of Lord Shiva. A beautiful garden had been developed around the temple and the idols of Gods and Goddesses recovered during the excavations have been displayed.

Location: Mandir Marg.

For more details: +91 265 2481773 / 2481415.

Among other imposing buildings of Vadodara, are Kothi Kacheri-collector office, Khanderao Market-Vadodara Municipal Corporation Headquarters, Nyay Manir- District court, Lehripura gate - the gate of the medieval fortified town, Mandvi, Qutubuddin Maqbara, Sursagar lake, Tambekar Wada, old Havelis in the fortified town etc. that are worth a visit.

Kirti Mandir: A memorial to Gaekwad rulers, Kirti Mandir means the hall of fame. Built by Maharaja Sayajirao III, it is designed in a Hindu style. It is an E-shaped large magnificent stone building with domes, terraces, balconies and the central shikhara. The interior of this elegant structure is marble finished and has murals by the famous artist Nandlal Bose.

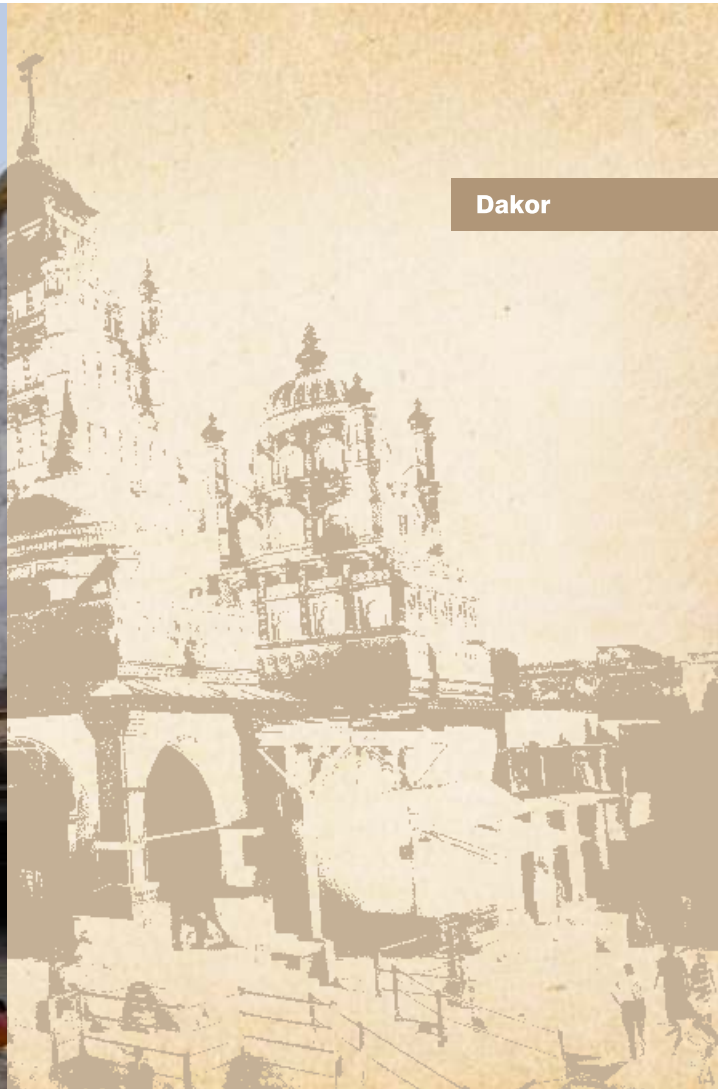
Location: Near Kalaghoda. Entry with permission from Devasthan Trust.

Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum: Situated within the precincts of the Lakshmi Vilas Palace, the museum has a grand collection of Raja Ravi Verma paintings who was specially commissioned by the Maharaja. The collection includes portraits of the Royal family, as well as paintings based on Hindu mythology. Also on display are works of art which the Maharaja had collected during his numerous visits abroad. The oriental gallery houses Japanese and Chinese sculptures. Entry fees ₹ 50/-.

Location: Rajmahal road, within the palace premises.

For more details: +91 265 2426372.





Dakor

Department of Archaeology Museum: In the arts faculty of M. S. University, Vadodara, there's a display of artifacts found during various excavations by the University. The most important being the casket found during the excavations at Dev-ni-Mori. The casket contains relics of the Buddha.

Location: M. S. University, Sayajigunj.

For more details: +91 265 2792436.

Shri Aurobindo Nivas: Also known as Aurobindo Ashram, it was the residence of Sri Aurobindo Ghose, a yogi, philosopher, a social and political reformer. He was the personal secretary to the Maharaja and also the Vice Principal of Baroda College. It was during his 13-year stay in Baroda, that he had the realization of God. The holy relics of Sri Aurobindo are enshrined in the premises of the Aurobindo Nivas. It is open to all for meditation.

Location: Opposite Shantadevi nursing home, Dandia Bazar.

For more details: +91 265 2412685.

Places to see around Vadodara:

Dakor: A temple town, Dakor is sacred for the devotees of Lord Krishna. His image is said to be the original from Dwarka. It is said that Lord Krishna was so pleased by the devotion of his disciple, Bodana, who used to walk all the way from Dakor to Dwarka, that He opted to come along to Dakor. Thus the diety was installed in Dakor.

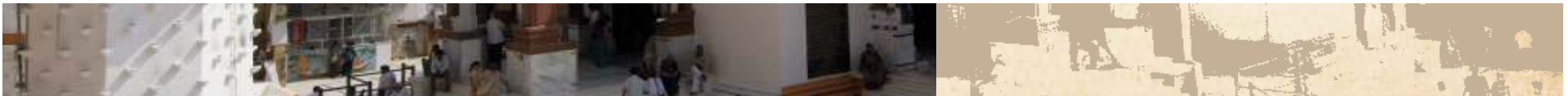
Location: Around 50 km from Vadodara.

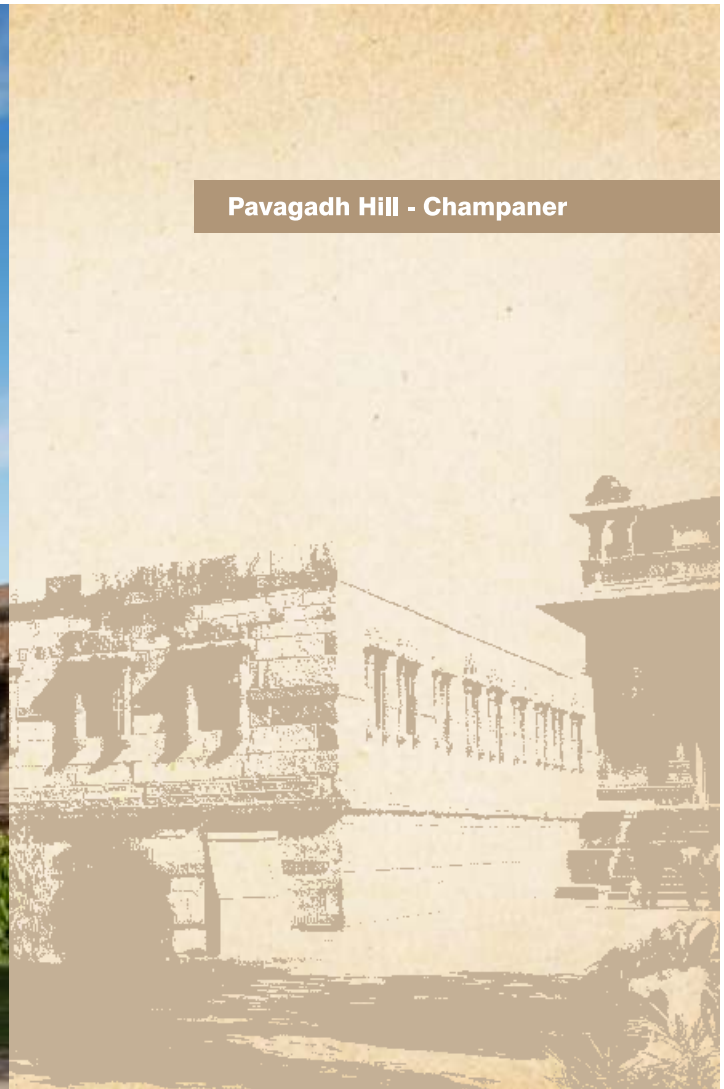
Ajwa Brindavan Pattern Garden: Ajwa is an ideal place for a weekend picnic. The place lights up with illuminated fountains every Saturday, Sunday, Monday and public holidays. A separate musical fountain is a major attraction for visitors as the entire garden turns into a fairy land. There are three shows of Musical Dancing Fountains also held at the Ajwa Garden from Saturday to Monday.

Location: 23 km from Vadodara.

Chandod: This city of temples is at the confluence of the Narmada, Orsang and Saraswati rivers, hence considered highly sacred. In the Puranas it is referred to as Dakshin Prayag Tirth. A dip in the holy confluence is said to purify you! You can easily reach there by hiring a cab.

Location: Around 58 km from Vadodara.





Pavagadh Hill - Champaner: At the summit of the Hill is a beautiful Temple of Goddess Kali. It is one of the 51 shakti peethas. It takes a 5 km walk to reach there, along a jungle trail all the way to the top. Also, there is a cable car that will take you to the summit from about the midway point. Pavagadh Hill is accessible by bus or private vehicles.

Champaner: At the foot of Pavagadh, Champaner is believed to have been founded in the 8th Century by King Vanaraj, who ruled Gujarat from Patan, and is named after his governor, Champa. Here, one can visit the mosques: Shehari, Nagina, Kevda and Jama Masjid. On the outskirts are the helical stepwell and the Amir Manzil mansion.

Location: Around 45 km from Vadodara.

Sardar Sarovar Dam: The most ambitious project of Gujarat, the Dam on the Narmada River is the lifeline of Gujarat, providing irrigation and drinking water to remote areas. On the way to the Dam site is the holy Garudeshwar temple dedicated to Lord Dattatreya on the banks of the River.

Also in proximity is Rajpipla, a former princely state. The palace here has been converted into a Heritage hotel - Rajwant Niwas.

Location: 100 km from Vadodara.

Sankheda: Famous for its Kharadi community, Sankheda lies in Chhota Udepur district. This community specializes in lacquered (lattice work) woodwork technique. The finely applied lattice work makes these wooden handicrafts a major attraction. Take a bus/train or hire a cab to reach the town. You can watch the artists at work and buy their craft.

Location: Around 55 km from Vadodara.

Kadia Dungar Caves: There are seven rock-cut caves and monolithic lion pillars present at Kadia Dungar, near Bharuch. These caves were in use during the 1st and 2nd century AD. This place can easily be reached by hiring a cab. Train and bus services are also available to Bharuch.

Location: Around 100 km from Vadodara.

Climate & Clothing: Gujarat experiences a moderate to extreme summer with temperatures around 44.5°C maximum and in winters it drops around 9°C minimum. Tourists are advised to carry skin care products as per their requirement and also have proper head gear to protect from heat.





How to reach Vadodara:

By Road: Vadodara is located on National Highway 8, 112 km from Ahmedabad and 420 km from Mumbai. There are various State Transport (ST) buses and private luxury coaches that ply to Vadodara from all over Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Rajasthan. Ahmedabad-Vadodara inter-city buses take 2 hours and run every 15 minutes.

By Rail: Vadodara, a major railway junction, is located on the Western Railway with frequent connections to Mumbai, Delhi and Ahmedabad.

By Air: Vadodara is connected by various domestic airlines to Ahmedabad, Delhi, Mumbai and more destinations are being added.

Nearest Tourism Office

Narmada Bhavan, C- block, Indira Avenue,
Vadodara - 390 001. Tel: +91 265 2427489 / 2431297.



For further information contact:
Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited
Phone: 1800 200 5080 (Toll free)
Website: www.gujarattourism.com
Customised Packages Available

