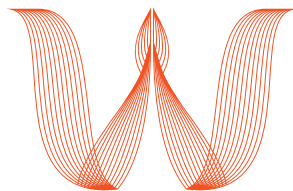


# SERVICE DIRECTORY

About Ahmedabad



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ASHRAM ROAD AHMEDABAD

# ABOUT AHMEDABAD

Location: Latitude : 23.03°N  
Longitude : 72.58°E  
Altitude : 53 Meters

Ahmedabad is the largest city and former capital of Gujarat State. It is the administrative headquarters of the Ahmedabad district and the seat of the Gujarat High Court. It is also considered to be the 9th largest city in India with an area of 464 Square Kilometers. Ahmedabad is located on the banks of the Sabarmati River, 23 km from the state capital Gandhinagar, which is its twin city.

Ahmedabad has emerged as an important economic and industrial hub in India. It is the second-largest producer of cotton in India. In July 2017, the Historic City of Ahmedabad or Old Ahmedabad, was declared as India's first UNESCO World Heritage City. Gandhi Ashram, Kankaria Lake, Adalaj Stepwell, Sabarmati Riverfront, Hathee Singh Temple and Calico Museum are few of the places available in the city that amply define the history, art and culture of Ahmedabad.

## Sabarmati Gandhi Ashram

Gandhi Ashram was established in 1917 by Mahatma Gandhi on the banks of Sabarmati River. During the lifetime of Mahatma Gandhi it was known known as Satyagraha Ashram and was center for India's freedom movement. It was from here in 1930, that the Mahatma began his famous "Dandi March" to the sea to protest against the salt tax imposed by the British.

The ashram now has a museum, the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya. This had originally been located in Hridaya Kunj, Gandhi's own cottage in the ashram. Then in 1963, having been designed by the architect Charles Correa, the museum was built. The ashram now has Gandhi Memorial Cennter, a Library and offers a sound and light show, displaying Mahatma's life and work.

## Kankaria Lake

The historical Kankaria Lake having a periphery of about 2.5 Km has been the symbol of Ahmadabad's identity since almost 500 years. Built in 1491 by Sultan Qutubub-Din, the historic

lake around an island garden called Naginawadi has been an evergreen outing place for the people of Ahmedabad. Along with the adjoining Zoo, Balvatika, Aquarium and surrounding hill gardens, it offered a complete entertainment centre. A popular mini train is also available for joyride. Festivals, small gatherings, educational tours, jogging, informal meetings, picnics etc. have become new face of Kankaria to attract younger generation in a meaningful way. Kankaria Lake, formerly known as Hauj-e-Qutb, is the second largest lake in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, India

## Adalaj Stepwell

Set in the quiet village of Adalaj, this vav has served as a resting place for hundreds of years for many pilgrims and caravans along their trade routes. Built in 1499 by Queen Rudabai, wife of the Vaghela chief, Veersinh, this five-storey stepwell was not just a cultural and utilitarian space, but also a spiritual refuge. There is a belief that the small frieze of navagraha (nine-planets) towards the edge of the well protects the monument from evil spirits. A beautifully chiseled step well, Adalaj Vav is counted amongst the finest architectural structures of Gujarat. The unique feature of Adalaj Vav is that apart from conserving water for drinking purposes, it also serves as a cooling chamber in the hot summer months. The steps of the well were used by the travelers and caravans passing from the area, on the due course of their trade routes.

## River Front Sabarmati

The key feature of this project is a two-level, continuous promenade at the water's edge along each bank of the river. The lower-level promenade is built just above the water level to serve pedestrians and cyclists, and to provide access to the water. The upper level promenade shall host a variety of public features at the city level. Together these provide Ahmedabad with an uninterrupted, pedestrian walkway, nearly 11.5km in length, in the heart of the city.

## Hutheesing Temple

This remarkably elegant temple created out of white marble has been sacred to many Jain families, generation after generation. It was built in 1848 A.D. at an estimated cost of 10 lakh rupees by a rich merchant Sheth Hutheesing as a dedication to the 15th Jain tirthankar, Shri Dharmanatha. Traditional artisans working in stone belonged to the Sonpura & Salat communities. The Salat community constructed masterpieces of architecture ranging from forts, palaces to temples.

## Calico Textiles Museum

The Calico Museum of Textiles, under the aegis of the Sarabhai Foundation, is India's premier textile museum. It was inaugurated in the year 1949 by the then Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. The museum houses one of the rare collections of textiles, dating back to the 17th century. Its collection of Indian textiles is considered by many to be the finest and most comprehensive in the world. The textiles, along with the Sarabhai Foundation's outstanding collection of South Indian bronzes, Vaishnava picchavais, Jain art, and miniature paintings, are housed in The Retreat which is located in the Shahibaug area of Ahmedabad. The Foundation conducts a daily museum tour of the collections and offers an extensive range of textile and other publications. Ahmedabad has been a major textile trade center since the 15th century, and is popularly known as the Manchester of the East.

## The Law Garden

Law Garden is a lush green garden in the middle of a bustling city. This well-maintained oasis is frequently visited by locals for recreational purposes. The garden is famous for its market where tourists and locals indulge in shopping and find great deals. This market offers traditional colourful clothes and handicrafts sold by the local artisans . It also offers good local food options.