

Field Visit Highlights for the Winter Immersion January 2025

The Winter Immersion programme at Ahmedabad University will combine in-class sessions with educational and culturally rich field visits to iconic locations in and around Ahmedabad. The visits can be divided into cultural, industrial and gastronomical visits, along with learning Gujarat's traditional folk dance form, Garba.

Students will visit UNESCO World Heritage sites located in the city, which will expose the students to the rich cultural and intellectual traditions of India. For more details, please refer to the information provided below.

Cultural Field Visits



Location: [Sabarmati Ashram](#)

Information: Sabarmati Ashram in Gujarat, north of Ahmedabad, was the residence of Mahatma Gandhi and his wife Kasturba. Mahatma Gandhi was a global peace advocate and the iconic leader of India's freedom struggle against the British.

Located by the Sabarmati River, it was the starting point of Gandhi's Dandi March. Gandhi chose the

site between a prison and a cemetery, symbolising the fate of a Satyagrahi. The ashram, now a historical site, includes a museum displaying Gandhi's letters and photos. Other structures include Upasana Mandir, Magan Niwas, Vinoba, Nandini, and Kutir. The ashram offers insight into India's independence movement and ancient history.

History: The original ashram was founded in May 1915 at Jivanlal Desai's Kochrab Bungalow, who was (a barrister associate of Gandhi) Satyagraha Ashram.



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Location: [Sarkhej Roza](#)

Information: Sarkhej Roza is a mosque, tomb and palace complex dedicated to the memory of Ahmed Shah I's spiritual advisor, Ahmed Khattu Ganj Baksh. The elegant, though dilapidated, buildings cluster around a great tank, constructed by Sultan Mahmud Begada (Shah's grandson) in the mid-15th century. It's an atmospheric place that was used as a retreat by several of Ahmedabad's

rulers. The mausoleums of Mahmud Begada (by the entrance, with geometric jalis casting patterns of light on the floor) and Ganj Baksh (the largest in Gujarat) are both here. The place has a cheery communal feel with locals picnicking in its large courtyard.

History: Shaikh Ahmed Khattu Ganj Bakhsh was a friend and adviser of Ahmad Shah I, the ruler of the Gujarat Sultanate from 1411 until he died in 1442. Bakhsh retired to Sarkhej in the last few years of his life and died here in 1445. Muhammad Shah II, the successor of Ahmed Shah I, commissioned a tomb for Sheikh Bakhsh, completed in 1451. The next sultan, Mahmud Begada expanded the complex by building the Sarkhej Lake around the tomb. He ordered to build a mausoleum for himself and his family right opposite Ganj Baksh's tomb. His son Muzaffar Shah II and his queen Rajbai are buried here.



Location: [LD Arts Museum](#)

Information: Lalbhai Dalpatbhai Museum (L.D. Museum) in Ahmedabad features a notable collection of sculptures, manuscripts, paintings, and coins, with an impressive Jain art collection. Initially proposed by Jain monk Shri Punyavijayji, it was established by Kasturbhai Lalbhai and designed by architect Balkrishna Doshi. Opened in 1984, it includes the Madhuri

Desai Gallery for sculptures and woodwork and the Muni Punyavijayaj Gallery for Jain art. In 1993, the N.C. Mehta Museum of Miniature Paintings joined the L.D. Museum. The collection



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spans Indian dynasties and religions, highlighting Jain manuscripts and Mughal miniature paintings, including a unique scroll by Ustad Salivahana from 1610 AD.

Industrial Visits



Location: [GIFT City](#) (International Financial Services Authority)

Information: With a vision of becoming a leading global financial & technology hub, the evolution of GIFT City is an opportunity to drive reforms towards providing a thriving financial ecosystem critical to support and expand businesses. GIFT City is inclined to provide the conducive business eco-system at par or above with leading global financial hubs. An uncompromising adherence to sustainability and a commitment to revolutionise and

redefine the global financial ecosystem laid the foundation of GIFT City. The Board of Directors consists highly experienced bureaucrats, industry experts from infrastructure, financial and technological domain. GIFT City offers a revolutionary launchpad for legacy and modern businesses rooted in cutting-edge technology. The perpetually growing trust of renowned organisations and institutions is inspiring proof of a new financial and technological era.

Gastronomical Visits



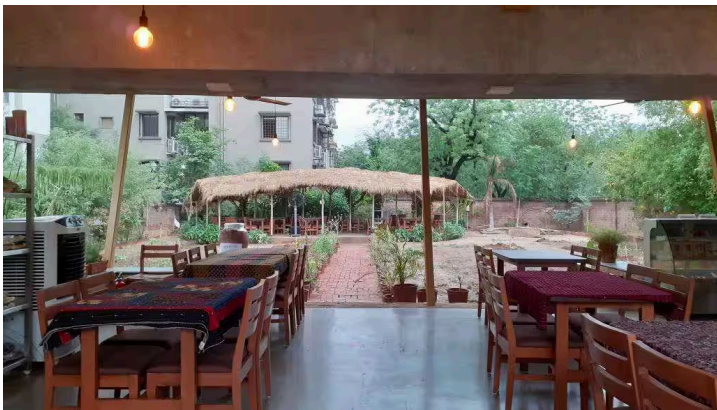
Location: [House of MG](#)

Information: The House of MG is a premier boutique heritage hotel in Ahmedabad, the UNESCO declared World Heritage City. One of the oldest buildings in the city, it wonderfully represents the architectural colonial heritage architecture of the early 20th century. This building is designed and built by craftsmen. It's restoration over the last two decades (and ongoing), is



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handcrafted. Every item of furniture and textile are hand made primarily from repurposed material. The restaurants serve slow-cooked and fresh food. They use seasonal ingredients. The majority of their staff is from surrounding villages. House of MG's gift shop proudly sells artisanal products—their hospitality mirrors how they treat guests in the Mangaldas family home. Hence, when you go to The House of MG, it feels like coming home.



Location: Kamal Cafe

Information: An initiative of SEWA (Self-Employed Women's Association), Kamla Cafe is a large al fresco (sort of) cafe that serves traditional Gujarati food cooked by women managed by women. The place consists of several large thatch-roofed, pillared huts containing basic tables and chairs, with plenty of trees and flowering shrubs. They sell packaged snacks

and baked goods, but most people come here for fresh-cooked food. The food is a basic thali meal at lunch or dinner time, though snacks (and some South Indian 'tiffin' items) are available in between.

Workshops



Name: [Avishkar Academy of Performing Arts](#)

Information: Aavishkar, an academy of performing arts, was established in June 1986 with the clear objective of preserving the wonderful legacy of performing folk and tribal art forms in Gujarat. They run regular classes to disseminate the knowledge of India's rich cultural heritage to the young generation. The students of these classes travel far and wide to remote areas of Gujarat and mingle with

various tribes to get a feel for their lives. They also participate in the workshops to learn about their forms. AAVISHKAR organises cultural exchange workshops with the artists of other regions either during their visit to Gujarat or while they visit other States. The Reparatory of AAVISHKAR gives performances at National and International levels.