



# Ahmedabad

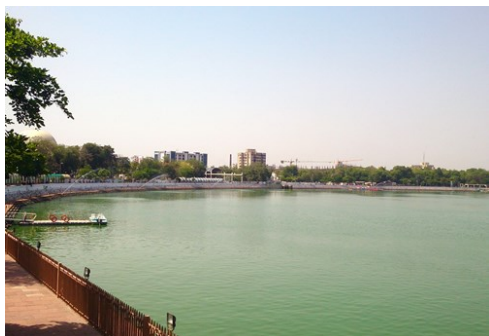
Photo: Kunal Mehta/Shutterstock.com



tantrik71/Shutterstock.com

The beating heart of the Indian state of Gujarat, Ahmedabad has managed to preserve its cultural integrity through the centuries, remaining relatively unaffected by the British colonial rule. Little-developed by the tourism industry, the city remains a true hidden gem inhabited by remarkably hospitable Gurajatis, teeming with exquisite historic temples, renowned universities, and world-class vegetarian eateries able to convert diners of the most carnivorous persuasion.

*NOTE: This Guide has been limited to 20 points of interest per section. For the full guide, please visit [ArrivalGuides.com](http://ArrivalGuides.com)*



ddasedEn



Kunal Mehta/Shutterstock.com

**QUIZ**  
*What Type of Traveller  
Are You Based on  
Your Travel IQ?*

**TAKE THE QUIZ**

## Top 5



**Sabarmati Ashram**  
The Sabarmati Ashram, also known as Mahatma Gandhi's home, is where the grea...



**Akshardham Temple**  
The Akshardham Temple is an entire cultural complex and a magnificent, 10-st...



**Jama Masjid**  
One if India's most beautiful, the Jama Masjid mosque is an imposing example...



**Sabarmati Riverfront**  
Sabarmati Riverfront is an on-going urban development project unlike any oth...



**Kankaria Lake**  
Kankaria Lake is one of the favorite local weekend getaway spots. Apart from...



## THE CITY



Sira Anamwong/Shutterstock.com

Modern Ahmedabad is an industrial and financial hub packed with historical buildings and temples, monuments and attractions. The city prides itself in being the starting point of Mahatma Gandhi's non-violent resistance movement and is home to Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram, now transformed into a museum and open to visitors.

Ahmedabad managed to remain relatively culturally unaffected by British colonial rule, but even with Gujarati being the local language, most inhabitants understand and speak English well. The Gujarati enjoy a reputation of being very friendly and hospitable, so travelers should not hesitate to ask for help or directions, if necessary.

The best time of year to visit Ahmedabad is during the autumn (or early winter) months, when the summer heat subsides and the temperatures are pleasantly cool.

## DO & SEE



methi lai/Shutterstock.com

Ahmedabad boasts an incredible number of historic religious temples, and is home to Mahatma Gandhi's famous Sabarmati Ashram. Among the city's many museums one that stands out the most is the Calico Museum of Textiles, which holds an incredible collection of rare fabrics and is an absolute must-visit. Ahmedabad and the surrounding area offer a few nature getaways, with Kankaria Lake topping the list.

### Sabarmati Ashram



The Sabarmati Ashram, also known as Mahatma Gandhi's home, is where the great Father of the Nation spent the years from 1917 to 1930. It is from here that he and 78 followers embarked on the historic Salt March to the Gulf of Cambay, promising not to return until India gained independence. The Ashram today is a tranquil place housing a museum dedicated to Gandhi with adjacent gardens forming a peaceful oasis right by the Sabarmati river.

Photo: Harshit Trivedi/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sangrahalaya, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 2755 7277

Internet: [www.gandhiashramsabarmati.org](http://www.gandhiashramsabarmati.org)

### Akshardham Temple



The Akshardham Temple is an entire cultural complex and a magnificent, 10-story high monument. The intricate architectural detail, regular light- and water-shows after sundown, the multiple exhibits and children's entertainment area make it a perfect fusion of education and entertainment for the whole family.

Photo: imagedb.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: J Road, Sector 20, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 23260001

Internet: [www.akshardham.com](http://www.akshardham.com)

### Jama Masjid



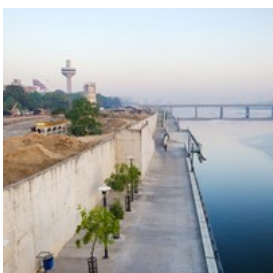
One of India's most beautiful, the Jama Masjid mosque is an imposing example of Indo-Islamic architecture. Built in the early 16th century by the city's founder Sultan Ahmed Shah I, it remains an important religious monument still frequented by visitors today.

Photo: Waj/Shutterstock.com

Address: Mahatma Gandhi Road, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 2550 6264

### Sabarmati Riverfront



Sabarmati Riverfront is an on-going urban development project unlike any other. It provides a walkway over 10km in length, with access to a variety of recreation areas, attractions and sports facilities, the number of which is expected to grow in the coming years.

Photo: Sira Anamwong/Shutterstock.com

Address: Sabarmati River, Ahmedabad

### Kankaria Lake



Kankaria Lake is one of the favorite local weekend getaway spots. Apart from the beautiful natural surroundings, the lake area offers quite a few activities for the whole family - there is a zoo, an amusement park with fun rides, and even a coin museum. At night, the lake gets beautifully lit up.

Photo: ddasedEn (image cropped)

Address: Himmatnagar Village, Maninagar Area, Ahmedabad

### Adalaj Stepwell



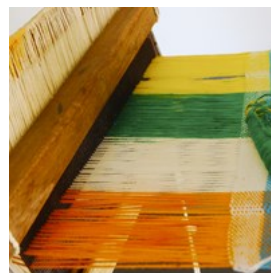
The Adalaj Stepwell is a beautiful example of Indo-Islamic architecture located just under 20km away from Ahmedabad's central train station. Over the centuries, the five-story well has served as a place of physical and spiritual refuge to traveling pilgrims and locals, who used the space to offer prayers and socialize.

Photo: Rafal Cichawa/Shutterstock.com

Address: Adalaj, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad

Opening hours: 6am-6pm

### Calico Museum of Textiles



The Calico Museum of Textiles houses a marvelous and certainly unique collection of exquisite Indian textiles, some as old as 5 centuries. Most of the pieces astound with the

amount of time and craftsmanship required for their production. The museum offers guided tours (booking in advance necessary).

Photo: dani3315/Shutterstock.com

Address: Shahibag, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 2286 8172

Internet: [www.calicomuseum.org](http://www.calicomuseum.org)

More Info: The Retreat, Opposite Underbridge

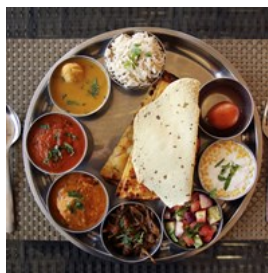
## DINING



*grey color/Shutterstock.com*

A meal not to miss when in Ahmedabad is the Gujarati "thali". A "thali" usually consists of several medium-sized servings of various dishes - appetisers, breads, salads, curries and (sometimes) non-savoury treats. Cuisine in the state of Gujarat is primarily vegetarian, so expect to only find meat-free dishes in most traditional dining halls and authentic local restaurants. However, with more and more Western-style eateries popping up all around, it will hardly be difficult to find nearly any type of food in the busy city (SG Road in the western part of town, for example, is lined with cafés and restaurants fit for any taste).

## Vishala



Dining at Vishala is truly an experience - a lantern-lit walkway leads guests to the reception area of the village and further into the magical outdoor seating area. Dinner meals are usually accompanied by cultural shows and dance performances. Food served centers around local Gujarati flavors, with various thalis being a very popular menu item.

Photo: Sergii Rudiuk/Shutterstock.com

Address: Vasna Rd, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 2660 2422

Internet: [www.vishalla.com](http://www.vishalla.com)

More Info: Opposite Vasna Tol Naka

## Agashiye



Located at a historic luxury hotel dating back to the beginning of the last century, Agashiye boasts a charming ambiance that takes diners back in time, and offers authentic floor seating as well as open-terrace dining. Serves Gujarati cuisine and traditional thalis, vegetarian only.

Photo: JD Photo/Shutterstock.com

Address: Lal Darwaja, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 99099 70113

More Info: The House of MG, Opposite Sidi Saiyad Jali

## Tomato's



Tomato's boasts a unique American sixties ambiance forged by Rock 'n' Roll memorabilia, Hollywood movie-themed artifacts, a juke box,

bubble gum machines, Paul McCartney's very own guitar and more. Serves international (Mexican, Chinese, Thai, etc.) vegetarian and meat-based dishes.

Photo: Tatiana Volgutova/Shutterstock.com

Address: Chimanlal Girdharlal Road Navrangpura, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 26466129

Internet: [www.tomatos.co.in](http://www.tomatos.co.in)

More Info: 1-3, Ground Floor, Mardia Plaza (Near HSBC Bank)

### Mirch Masala



Mirch Masala became Ahmedabad's first themed restaurant, opting for the Bollywood theme in its interior. Food served is Indian, both vegetarian

and meat-based (important to know when selecting a dining venue in Ahmedabad). Desserts are not to be missed.

Photo: hlphoto/Shutterstock.com

Address: 7-10, Chandan Complex (basement), Chimanlal Girdharlal Road Navrangpura, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 2397 2452

Internet: [www.mirchmasala.co.in](http://www.mirchmasala.co.in)

More Info: Opposite Femina Town, near Swastik Char Rasta

## CAFÉS



Africa Studio/Shutterstock.com

To break up the string of restaurant meals, try some of Ahmedabad's cosy cafés and explore the variety of options on offer. From local, traditional eateries to Western-style cafés and coffee houses - the city has it all.

### Gopi Dining Hall



This laid-back eatery serves Gujarati cuisine, and is known for its legendary "thali" - a meal made up of various dishes all served in separate

bowls on one large platter, accompanied with naan bread and/or rice. The place is known for its hospitality and above average service.

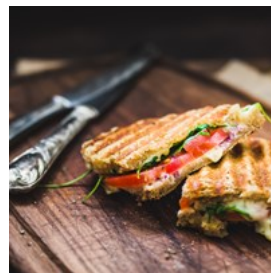
Photo: india click/Shutterstock.com

Address: Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 2657 6388

More Info: Opposite Town Hall

### New FreezeLand



This classy fast food joint specializes on sandwiches, and is a darling favorite of both local and visiting sandwich-lovers. The

place also serves a selection of dishes like panini and pizza, along with excellent shakes - all items

are vegetarian only.

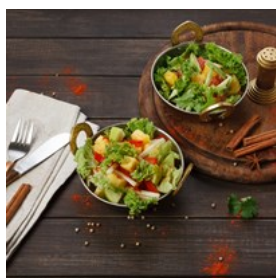
Photo: locrifa/Shutterstock.com

Address: Chimanlal Girdharlal Road, Law Garden Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 26404044

More Info: A/G 1, Silicon Tower (Opposite Samartheshwar Mahadev Temple)

### The Green House



Located at the The House Of MG hotel, this informal restaurant offers, of course, a variety of savory vegetarian dishes, but desserts are the true star of the show here - a large variety is on offer, including ice cream made in-house. Guests are free to observe the chefs at work in the open kitchen.

Photo: Prostock-studio/Shutterstock.com

Address: The House Of MG Hotel Lal Darwaja, Ahmedabad

Opening hours: 7am-11pm

Phone: +91 79 25506946

### Zen Café



Located on the University campus right next to an underground art gallery (Amdavad ni Gufa), the café is often frequented by students and artsy

types enjoying a snack and/or coffee in the green outside seating area. The concise menu packs a smart selection items.

Photo: Rawpixel.com/Shutterstock.com

Address: Campus of the Center for Environment Planning and Technology, University Road, Ahmedabad

Phone: +91 79 6545 9298

More Info: Opposite Gujarat University

## BARS & NIGHTLIFE



India Picture/Shutterstock.com

After sundown, head to the "Eatery Street" (Khaui Galli) of Ahmedabad in the Law Garden area or the Khan Pan Bazaar in Manekchowk. Both are usually teeming with stalls selling all manner of snack foods until late in the night. Manek Chowk in Old Ahmedabad is another bustling nightlife spot, with plenty of food and shopping opportunities in the area.

Gurajat is a "dry" state, which means one won't find much in the way of bars, pubs or nightclubs in the city. Alcohol is not served at cafés or restaurants, but a few licensed liquor shops do operate around town. Tourists (both non-Indian and Indian citizens traveling from other Indian states) are able to obtain an "alcohol permit" upon arrival at the airport or at one of the licensed liquor shops directly.

## SHOPPING



Sudhamshu Hebbar (image cropped)

Ahmedabad is the city of vibrant street life, which includes an abundance of day- and nighttime markets. Some of the most popular shopping areas to be after sundown are, of course, the Manek Chowk square in Old Ahmedabad and the Law Garden area. Vendors sell a huge variety of items, ranging from traditional clothing to handicrafts to foods. Haggling is welcome at markets, but fixed-price craft stores (many government-run) provide a great alternative for those looking for a more relaxed experience. Plenty of air-conditioned malls with international brand boutiques operate in Ahmedabad along with a large variety of small shops scattered throughout the city.

### Manek Chowk



Manek Chowk is a busy market square in Old Ahmedabad. In the mornings, vegetable vendors gather here only to give way to jewelry stands in the afternoon and food stalls at night. The square and the surrounding area contains a large variety of shops, and is often packed with people.

Photo: Uwais (image cropped)  
Address: Old City, Ahmedabad

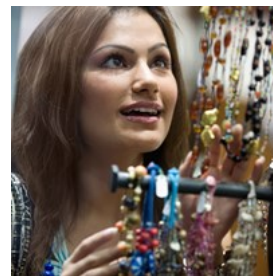
### Law Garden Night Market



The Law Garden Night Market is a shopping paradise for female travelers in particular - endless stalls selling traditional garments, dresses, shawls, jewelry, bags (and more) are concentrated in the area. Business here usually starts after 7pm, and haggling is well-expected.

Photo: Mikadun/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Law Garden, Ahmedabad  
Opening hours: Dusk - 11pm

### Alpha One Mall



Alpha One Mall is a great alternative to Ahmedabad's many busy markets - it is, perhaps, the one that provides the best selection of international brand shops and boutiques in the city. There is a food court with a decent selection of eateries, as well as a family entertainment center and cinema inside the shopping center.

Photo: India Picture/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Sarkari Vasahat Road, Vastrapur, Ahmedabad  
Internet: [www.alphaoneahmedabad.com](http://www.alphaoneahmedabad.com)

### Garvi Gurjari



Garvi Gurjari is a government-run facility that sells traditional Gujarat handicrafts, clothing, jewelry and the like. Those who take time to browse around may be duly rewarded by some truly exceptional finds. Do not miss the Sankheda wooden furniture on display here.

Photo: OlegDoroshin/Shutterstock.com  
Address: Ashram Road, Ahmedabad  
Internet: [www.gurjari.co.in](http://www.gurjari.co.in)

## TOURIST INFORMATION



*Sira Anamwong/Shutterstock.com*

### Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport



Located just over 10km from Ahmedabad, the airport serves regular local and international flights. Travelers can reach the city by auto

rickshaw or taxi (pre-paid service available at the counter), as well as public transport. AMTS buses stopping at "Airport Circle" or "Sardarnagar Approach" run to the city at regular intervals; reaching these stops will, however, require a several hundred meters walk towards Airport Road.

Photo: Juan Garces  
Address: Ahmedabad, Gujarat  
Phone: +91 79 2286 9211  
Internet: [www.ahmedabadairport.com](http://www.ahmedabadairport.com)

### Public Transport



Ahmedabad Municipal Transport Service (AMTS) provides public bus services around the city. AMTS buses tend to get overcrowded, and stops are often not announced - inquire with the driver as to the destination and request to be notified of arrival.

BRTS buses are a newer alternative to the AMTS bus system and are a much faster, more efficient way of getting around the city. These buses run in central parts of roads and feature modern bus stops where tickets may be purchased. Note that ticketing in the two bus systems is not integrated, and passengers are required to pay separate fares for the two.

Photo: Pierre-Luc Auclair  
Internet: [www.amts.co.in](http://www.amts.co.in)

### Taxi



Official taxis may be per-ordered by phone. Some taxi providers include: Ahmedabad Taxi +91 85112 34444  
YATAYAT Taxi

Service  
+91 1800 233 7799

Yellow and green three-wheeled auto rickshaws are a cheaper alternative to cabs and can be hailed down anywhere in the city. Agree on the price to destination prior to departure.

Photo: ArrivalGuides



## Post Office



Post offices are available throughout the city.  
General Post Office +91 79 25500977 Salapas Road, Ahmedabad (Behind Relief Cinema)

Photo: Andy Fuchs

Internet: [www.indiapost.gov.in](http://www.indiapost.gov.in)

## Pharmacy



Pharmacies are widely available throughout the city. Some locations open 24/7: Manglam Medicine S No 12, Parijat Shopping Ctr, Swainarayan Temple

Road, Kalupur  
+91 79 22133158

New Medical Stores  
Near Dhanasuthars, Kalupur  
+91 79 22135004

Dariapur Medical Stores  
650, Vadigam Naka,  
Nr Vadigam, Dariapur Chakla  
+91 79 22162402

Photo: Gemma Garner

## Telephone



Country code for India  
+91 Ahmedabad are code  
79 (for landline online)

Photo: Jardson Almeida

## Electricity



220 volts, 2 and 3 round pin plugs

Photo: Stirling Tschan

## Population

6.3 million

## Currency

Indian rupee

## Opening hours

Most businesses open between 9am and 10.30am, working till around 6pm. Stores, restaurants and other commercial establishments often have longer working hours. Night markets start set up at dusk (around 7pm) and operate till around midnight.

## Newspapers

The Times Of India  
Indian Express  
Ahmedabad Mirror

## Emergency numbers

Police 100  
Fire Station 101  
Ambulance 108102

## Tourist information

Tourism Corporation Of Gujarat Ltd.

H. K. House (Opposite Bata Showroom)  
Ashram Road, Ahmedabad  
+91 79 26578044  
[tibahd@gujarattourism.com](mailto:tibahd@gujarattourism.com)