

HANDBOOK FOR THE KHOJA HERITAGE TOUR

india experience



**KHOJA
HERITAGE
PROJECT**



THE WORLD
FEDERATION
OF KSIMC





KHOJA
HERITAGE
PROJECT

Introduction

In the name of Allah, the All-Beneficent, the Ever-Merciful

Welcome to The Khoja Heritage Tour

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the first ever Khoja Heritage Tour, which is itself 'history in the making'. Our team is truly gratified to acknowledge the overwhelming response in many more community members wanting to join this tour than we could physically accommodate. Inshallah, this will be first of the many to come. This exciting 16-days 12-city Tour, can give you but a glimpse of the genesis of the Khoja Community, which dates to the late fourteenth century in the desert of Sind, and our conversion by a missionary named Pir Sadruddin, who arrived to live among them. Participants will be able to get a distant view of this vast expanse of land from where our ancestors originated, during the visit to the Kalo Dungar in Kutch.

To fit into the neatly organised Gujarati Society based on trade or vocations, our ancestors needed to have a new identity. They could no longer be called *Thakkars*. Pir Sadruddin obliged and gave them the title of *Khawaja*, which morphed into the term Khoja. Over a period, several Pirs came after Sadruddin such as Pir Gulamali Shah and Pir Dadu, whose shrines you will visit in Kera and Bhuj respectively. Gradually, the beliefs of the pluralistic *Satpanthi* faith crystallised into Ismaili, Ithna Asheri and Sunni strands. You will be able to see the three historic buildings representing the three Khoja strands in Palagali area of Mumbai and its immediate vicinity.

In the wake of the turmoil of the late 19th century as the Khoja Community tried to define its beliefs, the likes of Nur Muhammad Meghji, Hasham Dosa and Dewji Jamal visited Ayatullah Zayn al-Abideen Mazandarani in Karbala through

the guidance of an Indian student in Karbala by the name of Mulla Qadar Husayn, soon to join Dewji Jamal in India to promulgate the teachings of Ithna Asheri faith amongst Khojas of Mumbai. Thus, began this journey of the nascent Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Community, as it contained its faith in the crucible of Khoja culture. As a testament of that beginning, visitors will be able to sit in the very first madrasa called the Madrasa of Mulla Qadar Husayn in Mumbai.

The Khoja Heritage tour will also highlight the contribution of many key personalities who helped shape us as a community. During the course of the tour, you will pay tribute to Lalji Sajan and Hirji Alarakhia, two innocent souls who gave their lives for what they believed, in Mumbai. You will also pay homage to the most revered religious scholar of the community in early 20th century, Allama Haji Naji in Bhavnagar and the prolific author of the Khoja History, Edalji Dhanji Kaba in Amreli.

You joined this tour because you appreciate that history plays a vital role for a community. History serves as a model of who we are and what we are to be, as well as to know what to strive for and what to avoid. The Khoja Heritage Project team passionately believes that a concerted effort to preserve our heritage is a critical link to our faith and cultural legacy. It must never be forgotten that the Community is what it is today, largely because of an integrative locus of Khoja heritage and Islamic faith as per the teachings of Ahlulbayt (as). The two are far from being mutually exclusive.

We thank you for joining the tour and hope that you will enjoy it as much as we have in putting it together.

Hasnain Walji - Chair - Khoja Heritage Project

Kumail Rajani - Deputy-Chair - Khoja Heritage Project

Facts of the Tour



60

PASSIONATE
GUESTS



5

COMMITTED
ADMINISTRATORS



16

EXCITING
DAYS



12

HISTORIC
INDIAN PLACES

INDIAN CITIES | TOWNS | VILLAGES

MUMBAI: The harbour city which not only allowed the early Khojas to progress in trade but also in faith

BHUJ: The 15th century city is the second house for any foreign Kutchhi-speaking Khoja

MUNDRA: The largest sea port of Asia and house of Kutchhi Bandhani

KERA: The land preserving the traces of the early *Satpanthi* saints

MANDVI: The shore and the memories of Dhow

NAGALPUR: The 18th century village that often boasts its rich culture and agriculture

JAMNAGAR: This fifth largest city of Gujarat is remembered as a home to many of our elders

LALPUR: The village on the banks of Dhandhar river preserves the memories of many of the community members

AMRELI: The resting place of the prolific author of Khoja History, Edalji Dhanji Kaba

MAHUVA: The Kashmir of Saurashtra is the home of Masitya Khojas (Khojas who opted for Masjid for their prayers)

BHAVNAGAR: The burial place of Allama Haji Naji Saheb

AHMEDABAD: The shoppers' paradise

Tour Outline

DATE	DAY	CITY	CITY/MODE OF TRANSPORT
14-01-18	Sunday	Mumbai	Arrivals (check-in 12:00)
15-01-18	Monday	Mumbai	
16-01-18	Tuesday	Mumbai	
17-01-18	Wednesday	Bhuj	Mumbai-Bhuj (flight)
18-01-18	Thursday	Bhuj	Mandvi-Mundra-Kera
19-01-18	Friday	Bhuj	Dhordo
20-01-18	Saturday	Jamnagar	Bhuj-Jamnagar (coach) 256 kms
21-01-18	Sunday	Jamnagar	Lalpur
22-01-18	Monday	Mahuva	Jamnagar-Amreli-Mahuva (coach) 308 kms
23-01-18	Tuesday	Mahuva	
24-01-18	Wednesday	Bhavnagar	Mahuva-Bhavnagar (coach) 92.2 kms
25-01-18	Thursday	Bhavnagar	
26-01-18	Friday	Bhavnagar	
27-01-18	Saturday	Ahmedabad	Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad (coach) 170 kms
28-01-18	Sunday	Ahmedabad	
29-01-18	Monday	Ahmedabad	Departure (check-out 11:30)

Khoja Heritage Tour

Managing Committee



KUMAIL RAJANI

I have the honour of serving the organisation in the capacity of the Deputy Chair of the Khoja Heritage Project of The World Federation of KSIMC. It is a great privilege to be part of the team who intends to walk on the lands of *Satpanthis* (those seeking truth).

ASAD VIRANI

It has been a privilege for me to serve The World Federation of KSIMC as the manager of the India Office since the past 6 years. It will be an honour to be a part of the Khoja Heritage Tour as I will get the opportunity to spend time with our seniors and appreciate the struggle and adventures of our forefathers.

ZAHRA MERCHANT

I have been involved with The World Federation of KSIMC since a couple of months and that gives me a sense of satisfaction in serving the community. I am delighted to be a part of this group so that I can learn from the group as all of them are coming with years of experience.

SHABNAM MERCHANT

I reside in Mumbai, India and I am currently pursuing a degree in Business Management. I feel this initiative taken by The World Federation of KSIMC is really praiseworthy and I'm anxiously looking forward to meeting new people and visiting new places.

MUSTAFA BHURANI

I have been honoured to be a part of the management team and this is a unique opportunity for me to learn from the elders of our community.

Tour Planning Team

Hasnain Walji
Kumail Rajani
Asad Virani
Fauzia Kara

Regional Team Leads

Dr. Mohsin Dhalla
Jamila Devji
Ashakhusen Mohamedali Rashid
Sherbanu Ashiqhusein Rashid
Mohammed Nathoo
Sakina Mohamed Nathoo

Medical Team

Dr. Mohsin Dhalla
Zinat Datoo

Emergency Contact

+91 989 213 0572

Asad Virani

Daily Updates

Daily updates will be shared via a dedicated Khoja Heritage Tour Facebook page.

Daily updates will also be shared via a WhatsApp group which will be set up on 14th of January, 2018

Tour Policies and Guidelines

You are kindly requested to adhere to the policies and guidelines below.

SMOKING

Please remember that smoking in public spaces when on the tour is strictly not permissible.

MEDICATION

Consult your doctor about your travel plans to get advice for any pre-existing medical conditions, vaccination, prescribed medication, etc.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Ensure that you have obtained travel insurance with health cover well in advance that covers you for the entire duration of the trip.

TIME MANAGEMENT

We recommend to make maximum usage of nights for sleep so that you are well rested during the day time and are more productive. There will be enough time for socialising during the day time.

PUNCTUALITY

We will only be able to visit places of interest by adhering to the tour schedule. This can only be achieved by EVERY participant being punctual throughout the tour.

LARGE EXTENDED FAMILY

We are traveling as one large extended family. Acknowledging diversity in attitudes and behaviours, And demonstrating tolerance should be the hallmark of our tour.

DIETARY REQUIREMENTS

It is your responsibility to check and observe dietary requirements (including those imposed due to medical conditions).

ADEQUATE CLOTHES

Everyone is advised to check the climate and plan for their clothing accordingly. For instance, Rann of Kutch tends to be cooler in January.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

Domestic flight is 15kgs of checked luggage and 7kgs of hand baggage. There is no facility for excess baggage so please pack light.

HIJAB

The tour will follow the conventional hijab guidelines recommended by the WF.

SIM CARDS

The tour will not be able to facilitate the distribution or purchase of SIM cards. One is advised to make proper arrangements before they travel or at the airports.

MEDIA CONSENT

During the trip we will take photographs and videos. We may use these images and video footage on our website and social media to promote the trip and keep your families informed. The photographs taken by the organizers may also be shared with regional partners.



Day 1 | Sunday - 14 January 2018

ARRIVAL

12:00

CHECK IN HOTEL

Comfort Inn Heritage

ADDRESS

Sant Savta Marg, Opp. Gloria Church,
Byculla, Mumbai – 400027,
Maharashtra, India.

WEBSITE

<http://www.comfortinnheritage.com>

18:30 Salaat

19:30 Dinner



Day 2 | Monday - 15 January 2018

- 09:00 Breakfast
- 10:30 Leaving for Palagali
- 11:30 Opening ceremony at Mulla Qadar Mehfil
- 12:00 Introduction to the ardent muballigh Mulla Qadar Saheb of the late 19th century
- 13:00 Visiting Khoja Masjid
- 13:30 Welcoming by India Federation and Mumbai Jamat
- 14:30 Lunch
- 15:30 Palagali walk
- 16:00 Visiting Ismaili Kabrastan
- 16:30 Visiting Musafirkhanas
- 17:00 Visiting Mughal Masjid
- 17:30 Introduction to critical role of Mughal Masjid in the Khoja awakening in the late 19th century
- 18:00 Free time
- 18:30 Salat at Mughal Masjid
- 19:30 Dinner
- 21:00 Return to hotel



Mughal Masjid

Day 3 | Tuesday - 16 January 2018

- 08:30 Breakfast at hotel
- 09:30 Drive towards Aarambaug (Khoja Kabrastan)
- 10:00 Aarambaug history and the significant role of the community martyrs in the late 19th century
- 12:00 Lunch at Aarambaug
- 13:45 Sightseeing - Gateway of India
- 16:30 Drive to Kurla
- 17:30 Visit Haji Nazarali Imambargah
- 18:30 Dinner at Imambargah
- 20:30 Drive back to hotel



Haji Nazarali Imambargah

Day 4 | Wednesday - 17 January 2018

- 09:00 Breakfast
- 10:30 Checkout and leaving for the domestic airport
- 13:00 Salat at the airport (meal provided in the flight)
- 14:20 Departure
- 15:45 Landing in Bhuj
- 17:00 Check-in the Hotel Prince
- 18:15 Leaving for the Jamat center
- 18:30 Salat
- 19:00 Welcoming by India Federation,
Kutch Federation and Bhuj Jamat
- 20:00 Dinner at Jamat center
- 21:00 Return to the hotel



Hotel Prince
Station Road, Bhuj-Kutch 370 001
www.hotelprinceonline.com

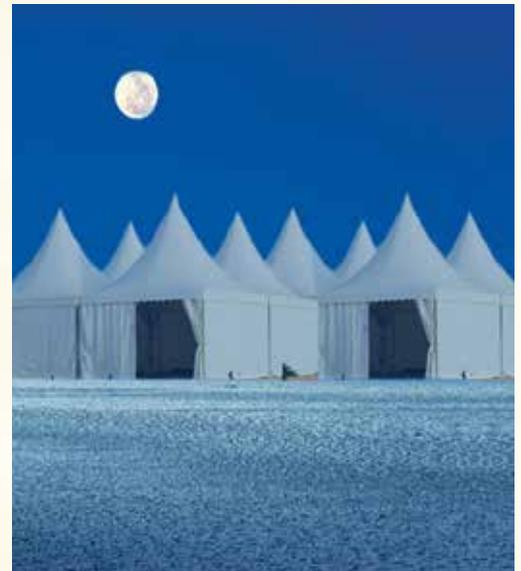


Day 5 | Thursday - 18 January 2018

08:00	Breakfast	13:00	Salat in Mandvi
09:00	Drive to Kera (21 kms)	13:30	Lunch
09:45	Visiting Jamat centers	14:30	Sightseeing: Mandvi beach
10:00	Introduction to the Peers of Sindh and Kutch of 15th century	16:30	Drive to Mundra (49.2 KMS)
10:30	Visiting the shrine of Peer Gulam Ali Shah	18:00	Visiting Jamat center
11:00	Drive to Mandvi (43.5 kms)	18:30	Salat & Dua e Kumail
12:00	Visiting Old Ship Building Industry and Vijay Vilas Palace	19:30	Dinner
		20:30	Return to Bhuj (52.9 kms)
		22:00	Arrive at hotel

Day 6 | Friday - 19 January 2018

- 09:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Drive to Dhordo (80.5 kms)
- 11:30 Visit Rann of Kutch (White Sands) and Kalo Dungar
- 13:00 Salat
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Free time in Rann of Kutch
- 17:30 Reflection on the trip
- 18:30 Salat
- 19:00 Return to Bhuj (80.5 kms)
- 20:30 Dinner
- 21:30 Back to hotel



Rann of Kutch



Day 7 | Saturday - 20 January 2018

- 08:00 Breakfast at hotel
- 10:00 CHECKOUT FROM THE HOTEL
- 10:30 Visiting Kutch Museum, Aina Mahal, Prag Mahal
- 12:00 Drive to NAGALPUR (43.7 kms)
- 13:00 Salat at Jamat Center
- 14:30 Drive to Jamnagar (223 kms)
- 19:30 Check in Hotel Vishal International
- 20:00 Salat and Dinner



Vishal International
Airport Road, Near Mehul
Cinemax, Jamnagar 361006
www.hotelvishal.com



Day 8 | Sunday - 21 January 2018

- 09:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Drive to Lalpur (37.6 kms)
- 11:00 Visiting Kabrastan
- 12:00 Seminar: Khoja History and Importance of Heritage
- 13:00 Salat
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Drive back to Jamnagar (37.6 kms)
- 15:30 Visiting Kabrastan
- 16:30 Seminar: Khoja Ancestry
- 17:30 Jamat Program
- 18:30 Salat
- 19:00 Dinner
- 20:00 Return to hotel

Day 9 | Monday - 22 January 2018

- 08:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 CHECKOUT
- 10:00 Drive to Amreli (216 kms)
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Salat
- 15:00 Visiting the Kabrastan:
Remembering Edalji Dhanji Kaba
- 16:30 Drive to Mahuva (93 kms)
- 18:30 Check in Hotel Blue Diamond
- 19:30 Salat
- 20:30 Dinner
- 21:30 Return to hotel



Blue Diamond
 Bagicha Chowk, Behind Police
 Station, Mahuva – 364290
www.hotelbluediamond.co.in



Day 10 | Tuesday - 23 January 2018

- 09:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Visiting Ja'fari and Fatima School
- 11:30 Visiting Masjid e Panjetani
- 13:00 Salat at Masjid e Panjetani
- 13:45 Lunch
- 16:00 Visiting Morari Bapu
- 17:30 Visiting Masjid e Vali Asr
- 18:30 Salat at Masjid e Vali Asr
- 19:00 Jamat program
- 20:00 Dinner at Husayni Hall (Mimber)
- 21:00 Return to Hotel



Ja'fari and Fatima School

Day 11 | Wednesday - 24 January 2018

- 08:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 Visiting Kabrastan
- 10:00 Talk on Mahuva Commission report of late 19th and early 20th century
- 10:30 Drive to Bhavnagar (92 kms)
- 13:00 Check-in Hotel Virgo Sameru
- 13:30 Salat and Lunch
- 16:30 Visiting Kabrastan (Grave of Allama Haji Naji Saheb)
- 17:00 Seminar:
Life and Contributions of Allama Haji Naji Saheb
- 18:30 Salat at Kabrastan
- 19:00 Reflection
- 20:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Return to Hotel



Hotel Virgo Sameru
Waghawadi Road, Vidhyanagar,
Bhavnagar 364002

Day 12 | Thursday - 25 January 2018

- 09:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Visiting Umme Kulsum Centres
- 13:00 Salat
- 14:00 Lunch
- 15:00 Rest at hotel
- 16:30 Visiting Community Industrial Project (VIP)
- 17:30 Visiting Dilharbaug Society
- 18:30 Salat
- 19:00 Seminar: Khoja Community of Gujarat
- 20:00 Dua e Kumail at Dilharbaug Society (in Gujarati)
- 20:30 Dinner at Dilharbaug Society
- 21:00 Return to hotel



Mahdi School



Day 13 | Friday - 26 January 2018

08:00	Breakfast	14:00	Visiting Zaynabiyya Hall
09:00	Republic Day Program at Mahdi School	14:30	Lunch at Zaynabiyya Hall
10:30	Introduction to Al-Mahdi School, College and University	16:00	Drive to a Farm House
12:00	Leaving for Salat	18:30	Salat
12:30	Juma Salat	19:00	Dinner



Day 14 | Saturday - 27 January 2018

- 08:00 Breakfast
- 09:00 Checkout
- 10:00 Drive to Ahmedabad (192 kms)
- 13:00 Check-in Holiday Inn Express
- 13:30 Salat and Lunch
- 14:00 Rest
- 16:30 Visiting Sarkhej Jamat
- 18:30 Salat
- 19:30 Dinner
- 20:30 Return to hotel



Holiday Inn Express
Ashram Road, Ahmedabad
380013
www.ihg.com/holidayinnexpress

Day 15 | Sunday - 28 January 2018

- 09:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Drive to Pirana Imam Shah Dargah (optional)
- 13:00 Return to hotel for Salat and Lunch
- 14:00 Free time/Shopping
- 18:30 Salat
- 19:00 Closing ceremony
- 20:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Return to hotel
- 22:00 Packing up



Pirana Imam Shah Dargah

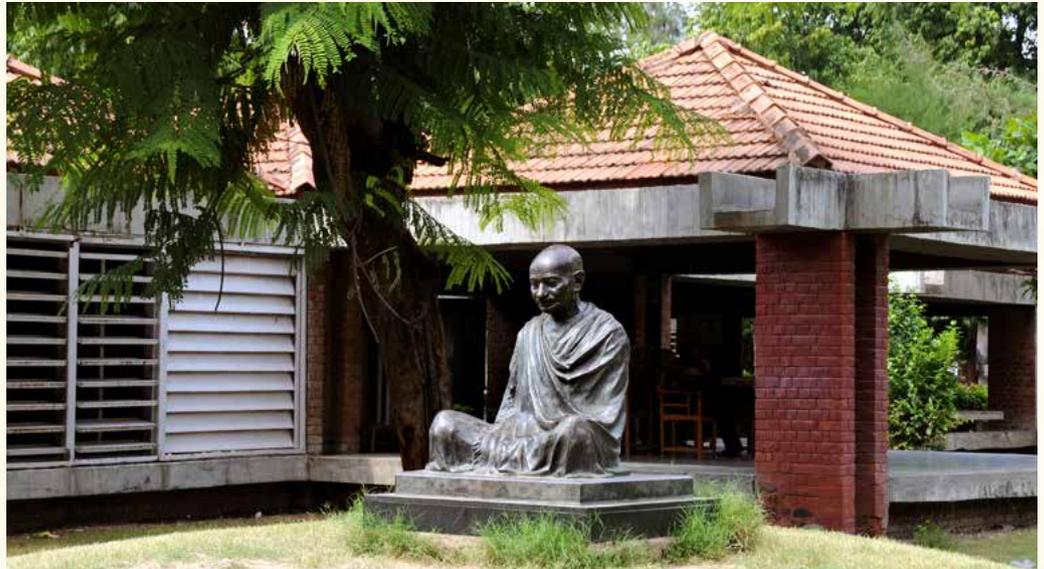


Day 16 | Monday - 29 January 2018

09:00
Breakfast

12:00
Checkout

END OF THE
TOUR



Gandhi Ashram

The Khoja Heritage Project

The aim of the KHP is to promote and preserve the legacy and heritage of the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Community. KHP endeavours to create a sense of appreciation of the incredible legacy of the founding members of our community.

The appreciation of the value of this journey of faith demands a reflection on the actions of our ancestors, and what has been at stake on this arduous journey to the true path culminating in the faith we have today. Our main activities are as follows:

- Digitising and academic cataloguing of some rare collections of the Khoja History. This project is conducted in collaboration with the Mulla Asgher Memorial Resource Centre (MARC).
- An online wiki-style encyclopedia pertaining to the Khoja History, khojapedia.com.
- Interviews with the seniors to capture oral history.
- Organising academic conferences with aim of engaging with scholars working on Khoja Studies.



EGYPTEN

YEMEN

ARABIA FELIX

AFRICA

MAGADONA

INDIA

ARABIA

MOZAMBIQUE

INDIA

SOPFALA



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www.world-federation.org