

Sabarmati River, the city's rich past is several centuries old. The Hutheesing Temple is a marble Jain temple dedicated to the 15th Jain Trithankara Dharmanatha. The Ahmed Shah Mosque built in the early 15th century and named after the founder of the city of Ahmedabad, Sultan Ahmed Shah, is one of the oldest and most beautiful mosques in the city. The city is known for its step wells and must see are the 500 year old Dada Hari Ni Vav and Adalaj Stepwell located in the village of Adalaj built in 1499 by Queen Rudabai. Calico Museum of Textiles, Auto World Vintage Car Museum, Vechar Utensils Museum, Sanskar Kendra City Museum and Shreyas Folk Museum are also some other interesting sights in the city.

DEHRADUN

While the capital of Uttarakhand is often looked at as a gateway to Mussoorie, Rishikesh and Haridwar, it has many sights that make it a destination in itself. It is home to the renowned Forest Research Institute. Inside you will see a Pathology Museum, Timbra Museum, Non-Wood Forest Products Museum, Social Forestry Museum, Silviculture Museum and Entomology Museum. Also see the Mindrolling Monastery in Clement Town built in 1965 by Khochen Rinpoche, one of the six major monasteries of the Nyingma school of Buddhism.

The city has a distinct Buddhist vibe that is unmissable. The Tibetan Buddhist temple with wall paintings that depict the life of Lord Buddha with a 130 feet tall statue of Buddha is another attraction here. At Robber's Cave you can see a unique natural occurrence of a stream of water that appears, disappears underground and reappears a few yards away. Do pay obeisance at the Tapkeshwar Temple a cave temple dedicated to Lord Shiva.

PATNA

The capital city of Bihar, Patna has an

ancient history dating back to 3000 years and was Patlipura in the Magadha kingdom. The Gol Ghar granary in stupa architecture style not just offers a panoramic view of the city but has a history that dates back to 1786. The view of the Ganges from here is a compellingly beautiful sight. A visit to the Agam Kuan the oldest and most important archaeological site in Patna that has several ancient and medieval sculptures and a Shitala Devi temple is also recommended. Do stop at Patna Museum – it has a collection of paintings, coins, art and textiles and is housed in a Mughal style Rajput architecture building. Five kilometres away is Kumrahar, where you can see the city's Pataliputra historical connection as it has the archaeological remains of the Mauryan Palace as well as excavations of old items.

For a spiritual fix, head to Maa Patneshwari Devi Temple, the oldest and most revered temples that is one of the 51 Siddha Shakti Pithas in India. The Mahavir Mandir dedicated to Lord Hanuman is another popular temple in Patna. At Gandhi Maidan you can see the world's tallest statue of Mahatma Gandhi. Take a stroll in the Buddha Smriti Park that was inaugurated by His Holiness, the 14th Dalai Lama and is home to a stupa, museum and meditation centre.

UDAIPUR

At the heart of the royal city of Udaipur with its pristine lakes and stunning palaces is the famed City Palace complex, part of which is home of the reigning royal family of Udaipur headed by the 76th custodian of the House of Mewar, Arvind Singh Mewar. Located on the banks of Lake Pichola, the City Palace has a museum that displays arms, sculptures, antiques, inscriptions, textiles and many items belonging to the royal family. When you are here, hop on to a boat on Lake Pichola and admire the stunning Lake

Palace and Jag Mandir, another beautiful palace. A stop at the Jagdish Temple built in the mid 17th century has an intricate design that is another attraction here.

Also stop at the nearby Jagat Shiromani temple that has some stunning pillars with mythological figures. For a stroll in the park, well quite literally, Saheliyon Ki Bari is the place to head to which is a garden designed for the women of the royal family. To know more of the rich art and cultural aspects of Udaipur, head to Shilpgram, an expansive open air rural arts and crafts complex where you can also buy local handicrafts, Rajasthani artefacts and jewellery.

JAIPUR

The capital of Rajasthan has a rich cultural, historical and regal background that blends into the modern city making it a tourist favourite. The City Palace Complex is a good place to start exploring the Pink City as it houses the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum that displays royal costumes, Pashmina shawls, Benaras silk saris, an art gallery and the royal family residence at the adjoining Chandra Mahal. Another mandatory stop must be at the most photographed and iconic monument – the Hawa Mahal built in 1799 by Sawai Pratap Singh. Said to be a place for the women of the royal family to see the outside world, this five storied façade has small latticed windows that ensure fresh air is always circulated inside which also gives its name.

The Amber Palace dates back to the 7th

