



Gujarat-Kutch Textiles and Stepwells

October 6 – 21, 2024

Optional: Block print in Jaipur
October 21 - 25, 2024

"There are some parts of the world that, once visited, get into your heart and won't let go. India is such a place....I had been seeing the world in black & white and, when brought face-to-face with India, experienced everything re-rendered in brilliant technicolour." - Keith Bellows, National Geographic Society



Photo: © Victoria Lautmann,
Vanishing Stepwells

One tour, two spectacular hits

Textiles, Arts & Crafts

Handmade textiles are the warp and weft of India's historical, social, and economic fabric as is its culture of vibrant arts and crafts.

Immerse yourself in the 5000-year-old crucible of textile, arts, and crafts culture of rural Gujarat-Kutch. On this sensitively conceived tour, visit artisanal villages, meet award-winning artisans, and engage in celebrated weaving, embroidery, dyeing, and printing techniques that have distinguished India over millennia. Enjoy renowned textile museums with curators. Explore centuries-old arts and crafts. Traverse a hidden India from desert to buzzing cities.

Optional: Block printing workshops in and around Jaipur

Stepwells

Fascinating, yet largely unknown, subterranean stepwells once supplied communities with water, and served as refuges, gathering places, and sacred sites. Strung along ancient Silk Road stops, stepwells were at the confluence of fresh ideas, trends, and trade. As magnificent as any of India's palaces – except underground up to nine storeys deep, lovingly ornamented with sculptures and carvings. Many stepwells feature patterns seen today on handwoven textiles. Trace the history and architecture of stepwells, beginning with the oldest 2000 BCE and culminating in the grandest 11th CE UNESCO designated Rani ki Vav. **NEW:** Dholavira – an ancient Harappan city!



Meghwal tribeswoman



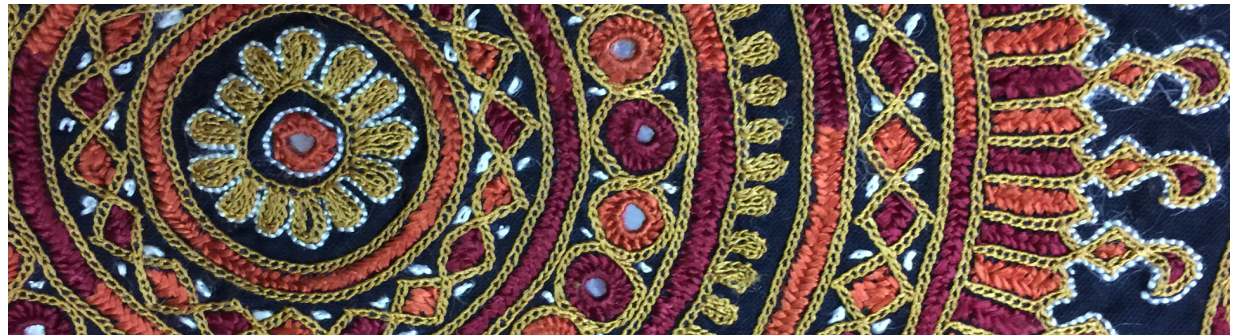
Madha Vav. Photo: © Victoria Lautmann, *Vanishing Stepwells*



Learning the lexicon of embroidery stitches

Why go? Why with us?

- Relatively unexplored part of India
- Stunning diversity of artisanal skills
- Stepwells are only just registering on tourist radars. Go before the crowds
- Rural communities living as they have done for centuries
- Conceptualised by Shila Desai, Canadian-based with Gujarati ancestry
- Led by beloved (by eyho travellers!) textile and stepwell expert, Niravbhai
- Deep knowledge and passion for this region . . . we will decipher inside stories and societal context as only people who have grown up in this culture can share!



Past Travellers speak . . .

*Thank you again for the trip of a lifetime. I can't even imagine the hours you spent to make such an incredible journey possible. **The window that you opened to India for us was not the stuff of the usual tourist circuit.** – Webb Naas, Washington.*

*Very well organized with a good balance of non-textile visits, which gave a fascinating insight to an amazing country plus the extra add-ons like the film in Jaipur, brilliant! **There are so many fabulous memories it would take too long to list but just want to say thank you for an amazing introduction to India.***

– Anne Alldread, Derbyshire, U.K.

*One of the **top events of my life**, exceeding my fondest expectations. — Marylou S. Washington D.C.*

*This was **a trip of a lifetime**, and **I am moved beyond words** that I got to experience all we did through your eyes. To so clearly see and have you share your love for India. – Susan Oher, New York City*

*The sights I have seen, the experiences I was honoured to have undertaken will **stay with me forever.***

– Jodie Watkins, Western Australia





Gujarat – Kutch

16 Days (15 nights) + Optional 5 days Rajasthan

- 3 nights Bhuj – bandhni, Ajrakh, LLDC Museum, Bhujodi weaving
- 1 night Hodko, Salt Desert – Banni villages, tribal embroidery
- 1 night Dholavira – oldest stepwell 2000 BCE in recently opened ancient Harrapan city
- 3 nights Gondal – Navlakra Palace, villages, stepwells of Dhank
- 2 nights Muli – Tangalia weaving and Wadhvan stepwells
- 5 nights Ahmedabad – Gandhi Ashram, Calico Museum, UNESCO Old City; 2 stepwells, Mata ni Pachedi, UNESCO stepwell, Patan double-ikat weaving, Modhera Sun Temple
- Optional: 5 days blockprint experience in enchanting Jaipur and environs. Please enquire

While we make every effort to stay within the itinerary, occasionally we may substitute according to local conditions and desires of the group



“What I love about this itinerary

Combines the seminal features of this unique land: textiles, arts and crafts, AND stepwells. Since cotton was domesticated here 5000 years ago, and one of the first looms tied, an incredibly rich culture has sprung up around the region’s exquisite textiles, arts, and crafts. To sustain the population and promote the rich Silk Road trade, spectacular engineering feats gave rise to monumental water architecture. Even as interest is rising, stepwells are vanishing before our very eyes. This tour affords an unparalleled opportunity to explore a spectacular but fast-disappearing India.

~ Shila Desai conceptualizer



5 days in enchanting Jaipur Oct 21-25, 2022

- Hands-on workshops in natural dye, resist and Sangneri block print
- Museum of block print, stepwells
- Sightseeing: Amer Fort, City Palace, Observatory.
- Time to shop boutiques and markets, and dine in this magical “pink” city
- Accommodation in 4* boutique heritage hotel
- Possible to visit the Taj Mahal and transfer to Delhi for international flight.
Please [enquire](#).

While every effort will be made to stay within the itinerary, we may substitute according to local conditions and desires of the group

Minimum 6 pax. Maximum 10 pax.

Inclusions – Rajasthan Optional

- Flight Ahmedabad-Jaipur
- All road transfers by private a/c vehicle
- Accompanying arts, textiles, and cultural tour leader
- 2 full-day workshops with instructions and materials
- Excellent English-speaking destination guide
- All entrance fees and excursions
- Accommodation with daily breakfast in 4* boutique heritage hotel

Not included: tips, meals not indicated, alcoholic beverages. Please add USD 80 for tipping.

Costs

Gujarat Main Tour (min 8 pax) pp double occ	<u>8-9 pax</u> \$4920	<u>10-11 pax</u> \$4780	<u>12+ pax</u> \$4460	\$1300 single supplement
Jaipur Add-on (min 4 pax) pp double occ	<u>4-5 pax</u> \$2545	<u>6-8 pax</u> \$2450	<u>10+ pax</u> \$ 2310	\$850 single supplement Note: limited single occ. rooms (2)

Please note:

- you are responsible for personal travel health and cancellation insurance. Under the laws of Ontario and T.I.C.O., E.Y.H.O. is mandated to carry business liability insurance.
- Costs vary with group size as detailed above. Costs in registration form are based on average group size.
- Jaipur: limited single occ. rooms, reserved on a first come basis.

Accommodations

Sample accommodations - heritage boutique/ community-run

"I was so fortunate to have selected E.Y.H.O. Tours"

-Tina Crabtree, Healdsburg, CA

Hodko | [Sham E Sharhad](#)



Muli | [Ambika Niwas Palace](#)



Ahmedabad | [House of MG](#)





Enquire
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www.eyhotours.com

TICO (Travel Industry Council of Ontario)
Accredited

[Terms and Conditions](#)

INCLUDES – main tour Gujarat-Kutch

- # Led by textile expert of native Gujarati descent, fluent in English and Gujarati
- # Superb English-speaking guides
- # All group transfers, tours, and excursions in private air-conditioned transportation
- # Accommodation on twin sharing basis or single as applicable
- # All breakfasts
- # Lunch or dinner daily
- # Hands on workshops in tie-dye bandhni, blockprinting, and embroidery including materials and instruction. Many demos
- # All monument entrance fees
- # Internal flight Ahmedabad-Jaipur for optional extension

EXCLUDES

- # Travel insurance
- # International flights/ all internal flights other than mentioned above
- # Gratuities - \$ 180 pp Gujarat and \$80 pp Rajasthan tipping kitty for guides, drivers, hotel staff etc.