



**KHOJA  
HERITAGE  
PROJECT**



**TOUR  
HANDBOOK**

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# India

THE PLACE TO BE THIS DECEMBER



KHOJA  
HERITAGE  
PROJECT

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# Khoja Timeline

762

Ismail, the son of Imam Sadiq (as), passes away

765

Imam Sadiq (as), is martyred

c.1270

Pir Sadrudin, a Sufi missionary, arrives in Sindh

1862

Habib Ibrahim is outcasted from the jamaat

Mulla Qadar arrives in Mumbai to teach Qur'an

1861

Aga Khan issues a decree to formalise the Khoja faith.

1860

Moghul Masjid is built  
Haji Dewji Jamal settles in Zanzibar

1852

Majanmiya (Sayyid) is employed by the jamaat of Mahuva for religious activities

1863 | 66

Around this year, Sayyid Abdul Husayn arrived in Mahuva from Madras

Jalal Shah Miskin Shah is teaching Qur'an in Mahuva

The Aga Khan Case is carried out

1873

Mulla Qadar arrives in Bombay from Karbala on the recommendations of Ayatullah Zaynul Abedin Mazandarani

1876 | 78

Edalji Dhanji Kaba is born in Amreli

Killu Khataw is sentenced to death

1879

The land for Khoja Kabrastan is purchased in Ahmedabad

1881

Aga Khan passes away  
The first Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri mosque and imambara are built in Kiponda area of Zanzibar



**DAY 2 -**  
A visit to Mughal Masjid in Mumbai

**DAY 8 -** A visit to the grave of Haji Naji in Bhavnagar

c. 1350

The emergence of *Satpanthi da'wa*

1827

Habib Ibrahim refuses to pay religious dues to the jamaat

1829

Aga Khan, Hasan Ali Shah, sends Mirza Abul Qasim from Iran to overcome the opposition.

1830

The dissenting voices are summoned to Jamatkhana and outcasted from the jamaat



1850

Around this year, Sunni Khojas built their mosque and graveyard

1848 | 50

Aga Khan returns to Bombay from Calcutta

Mahim jamatkhana's fight results in the death of four individuals

1845 | 47

Aga Khan arrives in Bombay

Sajan Mehr Ali Case concerning the issue of the rights of female inheritance is carried out

1840

Zanzibar became the capital for Omani Sultan Sayyid Sa'id

1835

Barbhai are re-admitted, conditionally, to the Jamatkhana

**DAY 7 - A discussion on the life and contributions of Edalji Dhanji Kaba in Amreli**

1885

The second Aga Khan, Aga Ali Shah, passes away

Sayyid Ghulam Husayn (from Hyderabad) serves the jamaat in Mahuva

1888

Ithna Asheri separates from Aga Khanis in Mahuva and starts to pray in the masjid of Sadaat

1890

Shaykh Abul Qasim Najafi arrives in Mumbai

1901

Lalji Sajan is assassinated

Hirjibhai Alarakhiya is assassinated

Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri Jamaat is formed in Bombay



1944

Haji Naji passes away

1931

Shaykh Abul Qasim Najafi passes away

1925

Around this year, Edalji Dhanji Kaba passes away

1902

Mulla Qadar Husayn passes away

# Welcome

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

## Welcome to The Khoja Heritage Tour

It gives us immense pleasure in welcoming you all for the second Khoja Heritage Tour. Following on the incredible success of the first trip, KHP is more determined to conduct such tours annually which aims nothing more than giving a glimpse of the genesis of the Khoja Community as we walk through the Khoja Mohalla of Mumbai, beach of Mandvi and shrines of Allama Haji Naji and Edlaji Dhanji Kaba. Participants also get a distant view of the 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 soon after their conversion from Hinduism to the new faith. They could no longer be called Thakkars. Pir Sadruddin, a Muslim missionary, obliged and gave them the title of Khwaja, 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, during the tour. Gradually, the beliefs of the pluralistic Satpanthi faith crystallised into Ismaili, Ithna Asheri and Sunni strands. Visitors will be able to see the three historic buildings representing the three Khoja strands in Palagali area of Mumbai and its immediate vicinity.

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 shall 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

# Khoja Heritage Tour

## The Team



**KUMAIL RAJANI**  
Deputy-Chair  
Khoja Heritage Project  
Historian

Having the honour of serving community in the capacity of Deputy-Chair of the Khoja Heritage Project of the World Federation, I feel blessed by the opportunity of facilitating the journey of those who wish to experience faith through the prism of culture.



**ASAD VIRANI**  
Head - India Office  
Managing Committee

I am thankful to the World Federation that in my 7 years of service in capacity of India Office manager; I have been part of many projects that have helped utilize my potential to its fullest. I wish to learn, make new connections & thoroughly enjoy this tour.



**SHABNAM MERCHANT**  
Volunteer  
Managing Committee

My association with the World Federation has been brief yet overwhelming. I am a student and wish to be one my entire life. From this tour, I want to learn as much as I can about heritage, religion, people and places. Looking to an amazing chapter being unfolded.

# 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 by law.

## 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.



# Tour Outline

DATE	DAY	CITY	CITY/MODE OF TRANSPORT
20-Dec-18	Thursday	Mumbai	Arrival in Mumbai, CHECK IN 12 NOON
21-Dec-18	Friday	Mumbai	Opening Ceremony
22-Dec-18	Saturday	Mumbai	
23-Dec-18	Sunday	Bhuj	Mumbai-Bhuj (flight)
24-Dec-18	Monday	Bhuj/Kera	Bhuj/Kera/Mandvi
25-Dec-18	Tuesday	Bhuj	Sightseeing: Rann of Kutch
26-Dec-18	Wednesday	Bhavnagar/ Amreli	Bhuj-Amreli (coach - 345 kms) Amreli-Bhavnagar (coach- 125 kms)
27-Dec-18	Thursday	Bhavnagar	
28-Dec-18	Friday	Ahmedabad	Bhavnagar - Ahmedabad (171 kms)
29-Dec-18	Saturday	Ahmedabad	Closing Ceremony
30-Dec-18	Sunday	Ahmedabad	CHECK OUT 10 AM



## Day 1 | 20th December 2018, Thursday (Mumbai)

### 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>

12:36	Salat
13:00	Lunch (Food Packs)
13:00 - 18:00	Rest
18:20	Salat
20:00	Welcome dinner
22:00	Rest



## Day 2 | 21st December 2018, Friday (Mumbai)

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Leave from hotel to Mulla Qadar Mehfil
- 10:00 Opening ceremony at Mulla Qadar Mehfil
- 11:30 A walk in the historic Khoja Mohalla and Palagali
- 12:36 Juma Salat
- 14:30 Lunch
- 16:00 Visiting Khoja Musafirkhana, Sunni Khoja Kabrastan, Ismaili Kabrastan etc. enroute to Mughal Masjid visit
- 17:00 Visiting Mughal Masjid  
(Discussion: The History of the Khojas of Mumbai)
- 18:20 Salat at Mughal Masjid
- 20:00 Dinner
- 22:00 Rest



Mughal Masjid

## Day 3 | 22nd December 2018, Saturday (Mumbai)

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:30 Leave from hotel to Kabrastan (Aarambaug)
- 10:30 Visiting Kabrastan  
(Discussion: The Contribution of Early Khojas of Late Nineteenth Century)
- 12:00 Lunch at Kabrastan
- 13:00 Salat
- 13:45 Leave for the 'Gateway of India'
- 15:00 Boat ride and sightseeing
- 17:00 Leaving for hotel
- 18:20 Salat
- 19:00 Reflection
- 21:00 Dinner



Aarambaug Kabrastan



## Day 4 | 23rd December 2018, Sunday (Mumbai/Bhuj)

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 10:30 Leave from hotel to the airport
- 12:00 Check in for the flight
- 13:00 Salaat
- 14:30 Mumbai - Bhuj (flight)
- 16:00 Arrival in Bhuj
- 18:00 Check in the Regenta Resort
- 19:30 Leave for mosque, Imambargah and visiting community members of Bhuj Jamat and Kutch Federation
- 20:00 Salat and Jamat program
- 22:00 Dinner
- 23:00 Leave for the hotel



**Regenta Resort**  
GMDC House, Bhuj - Mirjapur  
Highway, Kutch, Bhuj, Gujarat  
370001, India  
[www.royalorchidhotels.com/regenta-resort-bhuj/overview](http://www.royalorchidhotels.com/regenta-resort-bhuj/overview)



## Day 5 | 24th December 2018, Monday (Bhuj/Kera/Mandvi)

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:30 Leave for Kutch Museum
- 10:00 Visiting Kutch Museum
- 11:00 Towards Kera
- 12:00 Visiting Peer Ghulam Ali Shah Dargah and discussing the legacy of early Peers of the Satpanth tradition
- 13:00 Visiting Kera Jamat
- 13:00 Salat
- 13:45 Lunch
- 16:00 Visiting Mandvi (Ship building yard)
- 17:30 Towards Bhuj
- 18:30 Salat
- 20:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Rest



Ship Building Yard



Rann of Kutch

## Day 6 | 25th December 2018, Tuesday (Bhuj/Dhordo)

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:30 A journey to 'Rann of Kutch'
- 11:00 Discussing Khoja History in the desert of Kutch
- 13:00 Salat
- 13:30 Lunch
- 14:30 Continuing the journey towards 'Runn of Kutch'
- 18:30 Leave for Bhuj
- 20:00 Dinner
- 21:00 Rest



Rann of Kutch

Aina Mahal



## Day 7 | 26th December 2018, Wednesday (Bhuj/Amreli/Bhavnagar)

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 9:00 Check out
- 10:00 Leave for Amreli & Bhavnagar  
(Bhuj - Amreli: 345 kms)
- 16:00 Salat, Lunch and visiting Amreli Kabrastan  
(Discussion: The life and contribution of  
Edalji Dhanji Kaba)
- 18:10 Salat in Amreli
- 18:30 Leave for Bhavnagar  
(Amreli-Bhavnagar: 125 kms)
- 21:30 Dinner & Check in Hotel Virgo Sumeru



Efcee Sarovar Portico  
Opp, Victoria Park Rd,  
Vidhyanagar, Bhavnagar  
[www.sarovarhotels.com/efcee-sarovar-portico-bhavnagar/](http://www.sarovarhotels.com/efcee-sarovar-portico-bhavnagar/)



## Day 8 | 27th December 2018, Thursday (Bhavnagar)

- 9:00 Breakfast
- 10:30 Kabrastan (Discussing the legacy of Allama Haji Naji Saheb)
- 12:00 Exploring ambiance of an Indian countryside, Vartej
- 13:00 Salat and Lunch
- 15:30 Rest in the hotel/Free time
- 17:30 Visit to Mahdi School
- 18:20 Salat + Dua Kumayl (in Gujarati)
- 19:30 Program with the youth of Bhavnagar
- 21:00 Dinner



Mahdi School

## Sabarmati River Front, Ahmedabad



## Day 9: 28th December 2018, Friday (Bhavnagar/Ahmedabad)

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 8:00  | Breakfast   |
| 9:00  | Checkout from the hotel   |
| 10:00 | Visiting Umme Kulsum centers  |
| 12:30 | Juma Salat  |
| 14:30 | Leaving for Ahmedabad<br>(Bhavnagar-Ahmedabad: 171 kms)<br>(Packed Lunch) |
| 18:00 | Check in to Hotel Regenta Inn   |
| 20:30 | Jamaat Programme and Dinner   |



Hotel Regenta Inn  
Bandhu Nagar, Vijay Nagar, Ranip,  
Ahmedabad  
<https://hotel-regenta-inn-ranip-ahmedabad.business.site/>

ધી ઇમામશાહનાવા સંસ્થા ટ્રસ્ટ

Peer Imam Shah's  
mausoleum, Pirana

## Day 10: 29th December 2018, Saturday (Ahmedabad/Pirana)

- 8:00 Breakfast
- 10:00 Leaving for Pirana
- 11:00 Exploring Satpanth Tradition in Pirana Imam Shah Dargah
- 12:30 Leaving for Ahmedabad
- 13:30 Salat and Lunch
- 14:30 Rest/Free time
- 18:20 Salat
- 20:00 Closing ceremony
- 22:00 Dinner



Pirana Imam Shah Dargah



## Day 11 | 30th December 2018, Sunday (Ahmedabad)

8:00 Breakfast

10:00 Checkout

END OF 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 an incredible legacy of the founding members of this 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 sojourn to the true path culminating in the faith we have today.

Our main activities are as follows:

- Cataloguing and digitising rare collections of the Khoja History. This project is conducted in collaboration with the Mulla Asgher Memorial Resource Centre (MARC).
- Editing, translating some key titles on the history of the community
- An online Wiki-style encyclopedia of the Khoja History, [khojapedia.com](http://khojapedia.com)
- Interviews with the seniors to capture the oral history
- Academic conferences with aim of engaging with scholars working on Khoja Studies [www.khojastudies.org](http://www.khojastudies.org)





# KHOJA HERITAGE PROJECT

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Promote and Preserve the Legacy and  
Heritage of the Khoja Shia Ithna Asheri  
Community.



THE WORLD  
FEDERATION  
OF KSIIMC

[www.world-federation.org](http://www.world-federation.org)