









In Portuguese they call it Jlha De Calma.

The well-travelled know it as Diu.

In case you were wondering, it is pronounced Eel-ya-ji-kaal-ma. It is Portuguese for the Isle of Calm. There couldn't be a better description for Diu. Those who have travelled to this beautiful and laid-back island will quietly nod in admiration.

Diu is a paradise in its own right. Situated off the southern-most tip of the Saurashtra peninsula of Gujarat, it is surrounded by the blue waters of the Arabian Sea. It has beaches trampled upon only by the native seagulls and the occasional travellers.

Great historical monuments seeped in the rich Portuguese past. And natural wonders that you won't find anywhere but here. Feel a sense of peace overwhelm your soul as you breathe in the cool sea breeze and watch the unique hoka trees sway to it.

There are many more interesting sights and things to do in Diu. But we wish, you take your time and let them reveal themselves to you. Who knows, you might find your own Island of Calm. Or like they say in Portuguese, Ilha de Calma.



Diu is a small island, just 38.8 km in area, but it has some of the most breath-taking natural and man-made wonders packed within minutes of each other.



Diu has a number of small but beautiful beaches lapped by the waters of the Arabian Sea. Each one carries a different charm and makes for an unforgettable experience. We'd suggest you don't miss any of them.



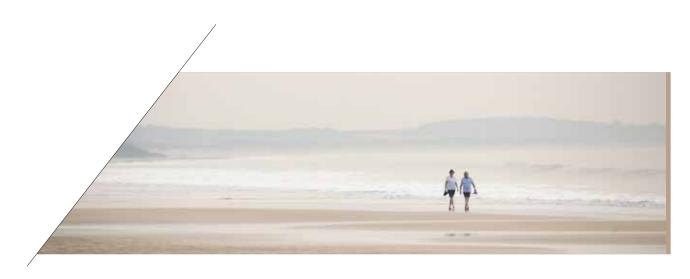


This two and a half kilometre horseshoe shaped beach is lined with a thick border of hoka trees - the unique branching palms brought to India by Portuguese merchant ships. They add to the sense of tranquillity around this beach. But just in case you are in the mood to shake things up a bit, Nagoa offers many sea-side adventures. Go parasailing and watch the periphery of the island from above, along with the unique hoka trees lining the beach below. Or go wind surfing and water skiing if you like. There is also the all-time favourite, banana boat ride.





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The Ghoghla beach welcomes you just as you enter Diu by road from Gujarat. It is the largest beach in this place. Its golden sands basking in the shimmering sun make it a picturesque location. This beach offers splendid views of the adjoining fishing villages, cathedrals and the forts of Diu. The gentle waves and easy currents are perfect for swimming or surfing.



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You can't miss this one. Surrounded by hills and landscaped gardens, Chakratirth is one of the most popular beaches of Diu. It offers the most splendid sunset views you've ever seen. The sound of bells from the nearby temple of Lord Shiva creates a blissful aura of peace and tranquillity. A central location, an amphitheatre over-looking the sea and adjoining changing rooms make this beach more tourist-friendly.

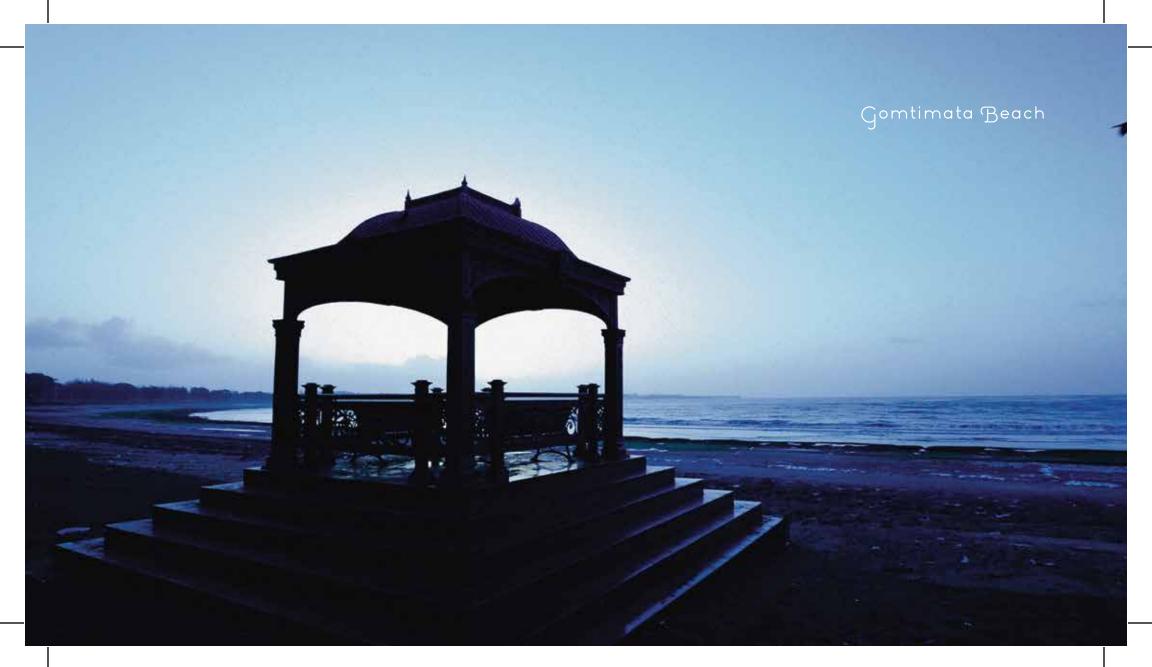




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Situated barely a kilometre away from Diu town, Jallandhar beach is uncrowded and perfect for a peaceful swim or sunbath. The roar of waves crashing into rocks contrasted by the softly murmuring breeze, stirs your soul into an inner awakening. On a nearby hillock, you will find a stone carved structure of the mythological demon king Jallandhar, who is believed to have been killed here by Lord Vishnu with his Sudarshan Chakra. Well, you can certainly sense the calm now.





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For those who find peace in prayer, Diu has some of the most unique temples and magnificent churches dating back over 400 years. Their style and architecture is greatly influenced by the Portuguese arts and culture. St. Paul's Church

Dedicated to "Our Lady of Immaculate Conception", the 400 year-old St. Paul's Church, is considered one of the best examples of Baroque architecture in India. As you walk in through the main entrance adorned with volutes and shell-like motifs, have a seat on the bench inside the church hall. Take your time to marvel at the intricate wood carvings and the skilled craftsmanship of the bygone era. The Saint Paul's Church is the largest in Diu and remains functional to this day, catering to the small Christian community living on the island.





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St. Thomas Church

This church was built by the Portuguese in 1598. It makes an imposing presence dressed in pure white with its Gothic style architecture. A part of the church has been converted into a museum and houses various stone inscriptions, wooden carvings and antique idols. Brilliant illumination and surrounding water fountains create a charming view of the church in the evening.

Gangerhwar Temple

Just 2 kilometres from Diu fort, tucked in a little cave by the sea in the village of Fudam, you will come across the distinctive Gangeshwar temple. It has five lingams, believed to have been instituted by the Pandavas during their exile. The Shivlingams are washed by the waves during high tide. The blend of natural and spiritual forces exudes a powerful aura around the place.







he monuments of Diu

As you walk among the many significant monuments in Diu you realize the immense history surrounding this little island. The Mauryas, Chalukyas, Rajputs and Mughals have all shaped and affected the history of the place. But it is the distinct Portuguese impact of over four centuries, lasting right up to the liberation of Diu in 1961, which is evident even today.



It is amazing that a place so quiet would have witnessed a fierce past. The Diu Fort stands as a grand testimony to the strategic importance the island held for its rulers. When attacked by the Mughal Emperor Humayun, Bahadur Shah entered into a treaty with the Portuguese effectively handing over the control of the island. The Portuguese Governor Nuno da Cunha began the construction of the fort around 1535. Witness to fiercely fought battles long back in history, today this majestic fort stands engulfed in peace and silence.

Just like its history, the construction and engineering of the fort is simply breath-taking. Several canons and bastions are still well-preserved. A lighthouse proudly stands atop the highest point on the fort. You can get a splendid 360 degree view of the town of Diu and the vast expanse of the sea from the top of the lighthouse.





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The Fortress of Pani Kotha is a magnificent stone structure built in the middle of the sea between the island and the mainland. It was built to protect Diu and Gujarat from possible Mughal invasions, much before the Portuguese arrived. Legend suggests that Pani Kotha was once connected to the Diu Fort through a secret tunnel right under the sea. You though should have little trouble getting to Pani Kotha. Take a boat from Diu jetty and you'll be there.

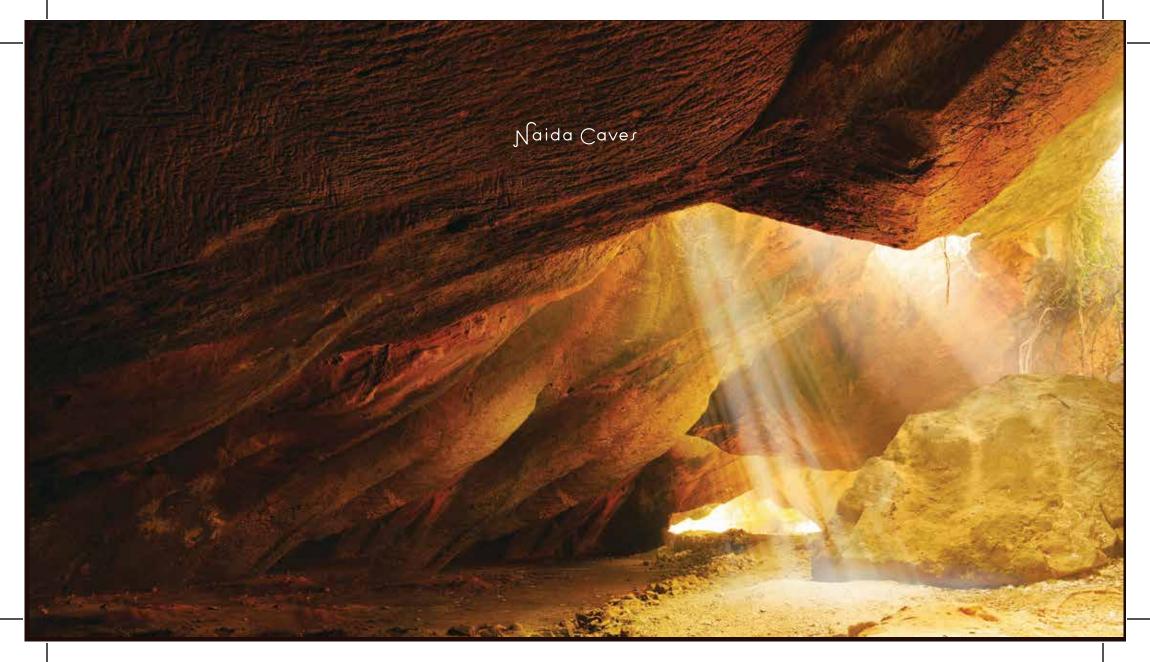




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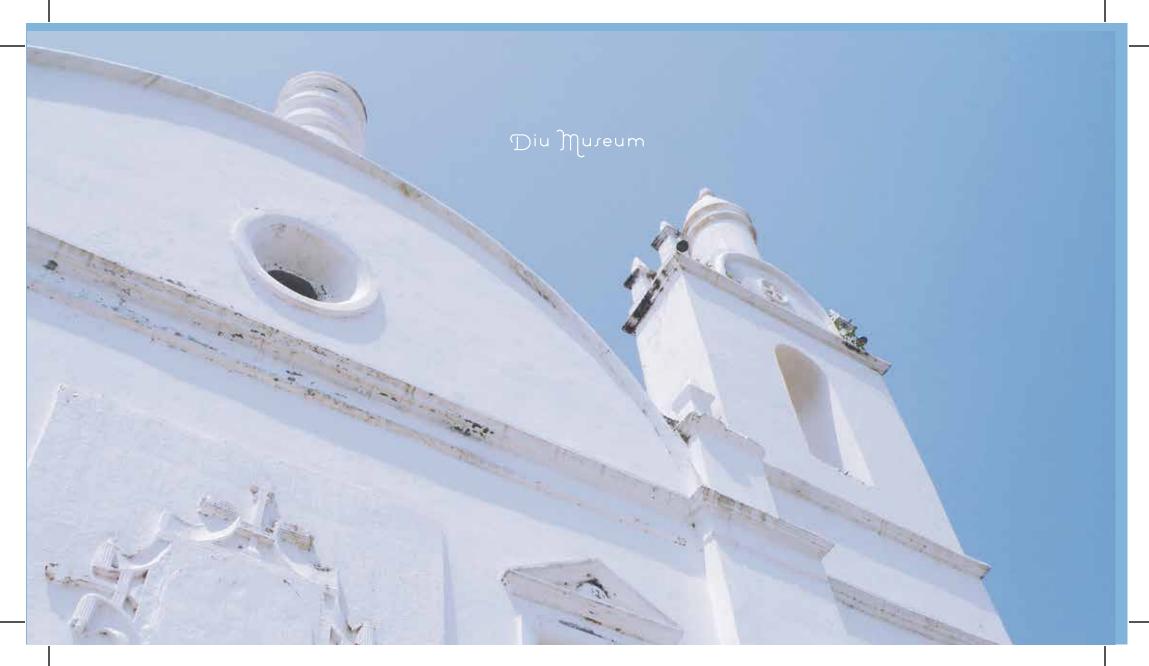


During the 1971 Indo-Pak War, the Indian Naval ship INS Khukri fell to three torpedoes fired by a Pakistani Submarine. The ship sank in the ocean 40 nautical miles off the coast of Diu taking along with it a crew of 18 officers and 176 sailors. Captain Mulla and his crew willingly chose to go down with the ship. A memorial with a scale model of the downed vessel stands proudly close to the hill by the Chakratirth beach.





Located outside the city walls, the Naida caves are one of the most peaceful and beautiful attractions of Diu. These caves have a natural opening in the ground and you have to descend into the intriguing network of hollows and steps. You can't but be amazed at the wonder in the caves as light plays hide and seek through the openings in the ceiling. Formed as a result of several geological processes, this place holds special interest for geologists, archaeologists and casual hikers alike. It is also believed that the Portuguese used the stone from these caves to build the Diu Fort.





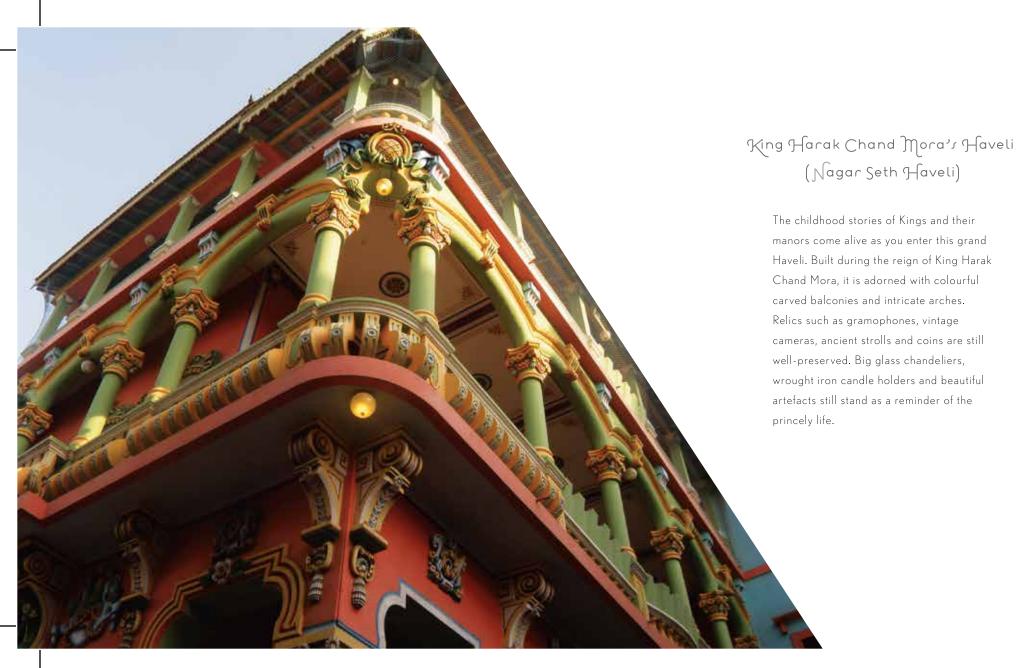
A part of the St. Thomas Church has been converted into a museum and houses various stone inscriptions, wooden carvings, antique idols and stone sculptures of the Christ and Virgin Mary. If you wish to delve into the glorious past of Diu, a visit to the Museum is a must.

Shell Museum

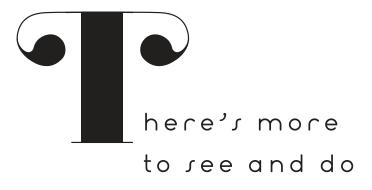
Here's a collection that gives the hobby of picking shells from the beach a whole new meaning.

Visit the private Shell Museum of Captain Fulbari. It has an impressive collection of over 2000 shells of different colours, shapes and sizes. Some are so tiny that you need a magnifying glass to appreciate them.





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Many travellers come to Diu to do absolutely nothing. But if you are the kind with kids or a restless soul, Diu offers many expected as well as off-beat adventures. Indulge yourself in one, or all.

Cycle Around the Island

Calm, peaceful and slow - that's how you might describe the place and experience of cycling around the island. Diu is the first destination in India with a dedicated cycling track that covers almost the whole island. Hire a cycle from your hotel or bring your own. It is undoubtedly the best way to take in the sights and sounds of this little place.



Water Sports

Amidst the serenity, the island of Diu offers an amazing opportunity to experience thrill. Feel the blood gushing into your veins with adventure activities like para-sailing, water-skiing and surfing on Nagoa and Ghoghla beaches.



Bird Spotting at Fudam Bird Sanctuary It takes a keen eye to spot the several bird species that flock the marshy land of the Fudam Bird Sanctuary in Diu. Many migratory species such as flamingos, storks, the Great Indian Bustard and different types of egrets, plovers, larks, minivets and skimmers use the island as a welcome stopover. Bring your binoculars along and treat your eyes to some feathered wonders.



Dolphin Spotting

On a good day, you can find some unexpected visitors along the shores of Diu. Keep an eye out on the sea along the Diu Fort and you can spot dolphins chasing schools of fish. Better still; make friends with the local fishermen who might tell you the best time and place to spot these amicable but elusive sea creatures.





Hug the mighty Rukhada tree Native to Africa, this unique tree was brought to India by Portuguese traders. The Rukhada tree has a wide girth. And we mean really wide. You might need a group of friends to complete the circle around its trunk. Wander into the Nagoa village and ask the locals about its location, they will happily take you to their sacred tree. If you happen to visit during the monsoons, you might even be able to taste the fruit which resembles a gourd.



Eat the Hoka Fruit

The Hoka trees are unique to Diu and are a species of branching palm. Native to the Nile valley in Egypt and Sudan, these trees were brought to Diu by Portuguese traders. You can taste the fruit of their adventure. The Hoka fruit is a deep red, ripe edible fruit. The sweet and sour fruit with its hard fibrous flesh is popular among the locals. Try one from the local vendors and find out if you love it too.

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Join the Festivities

December is a great time to be in Diu. On 19th December the whole Island with its fifty thousand residents celebrates Liberation Day. It was on this day in 1961 when it won freedom from Portuguese rule. Numerous cultural festivities and grand celebrations are held to mark the occasion.

Navratri is yet another eagerly anticipated festival. Celebrated around the month of October the island comes alive with colour, lights and dance.

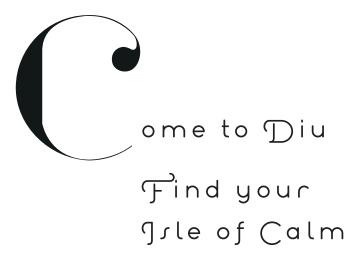
Look out for the detailed calendar of events on our website, www.visitdiu.in.



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t's always the right time to be here Diu is pleasant, cool and dry for most part of the year. The winter months from November to February are perhaps the best. The climate is cool and temperatures hover around a comfortable 12 degree Celsius. For those who love the rains, the months between June to October offer a unique experience. You might not be able to venture out into the sea but the lush green beauty on the island more than makes up for it. The summer months from March to April are warm. But ask the ardent sun-bathers and they will tell you, the sun and the sand are made for each other.



By Rail

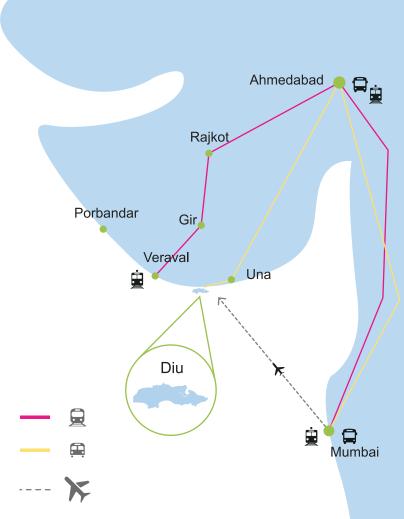
Diu does not have a railway station. The nearest railway junction is Veraval, which is 90 kms from Diu. Veraval is directly connected to Rajkot, Ahmedabad and other major cities by train. The nearest railway station from Diu is Delwada, which is 8 kms from Diu. It is on a meter-gauge line where only two trains come daily from Junagadh and Veraval. Passing through various villages and towns, travelling to Diu by train has its own charm.

By Air

A daily flight by Jet Airways connects Diu and Mumbai, except on Saturdays. All it takes is an hour to break away from the rest of the world.

By Road

You can always take that great road trip you always wanted to be on. Although the journey by road is a long and hectic, the excitement of a road trip makes it a memorable one. Various National Highways are connected to Diu via well-maintained roads. If you choose to take the bus, state buses as well as private buses serve Diu from Ahmedabad at both regular and night time hours. The duration of this trip is approximately 10 hours. Buses for Diu are usually limited. In such cases, it is preferable to take a bus till the nearest town Una. From Una, it is easy to find private autos or buses to Diu.

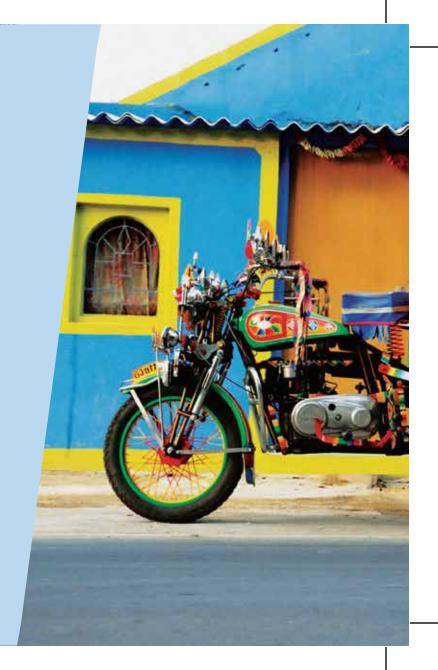




Situated off the southern-most tip of the western Indian state of Gujarat, Diu is surrounded by the blue waters of the Arabian Sea.

Somnath Temple and Gir Lion Sanctuary in Gujarat are the other popular tourist destinations around Diu.

Map not to scale. For representation only.



Diu-A Destination for the Discerning Traveller

The pristine island of Diu, though small, has big plans for the future. The recent national branding campaign has engaged the attention of the Indian traveller, who is constantly seeking to explore, and venture into newer destinations. It has also enthused investors to look at Diu as a premium and profitable destination.

The Finest Host

People are discovering the many charms of Diu. It is becoming the most attractive holiday destination for the young Indian and International tourists as well. Those who are willing to spend more time and money visiting the island. In turn, promising newer opportunities for hospitality and allied industries.

The Perfect Location

Diu has a rich cultural heritage and profound natural beauty. It is clean and uncrowded. The locals are hospitable, warm and more than eager to help. Making it the perfect location for the next blockbuster production. Parts of Bollywood movies like Kai Po Che and Agneepath were shot in Diu. And we hope, many more find this beautiful island equally alluring. It is an ideal retreat destination- for authors, artists, thinkers, filmmakers, corporates and nature enthusiasts.

The Greenest Island

Diu was the first destination in India to have a dedicated cycling track around the island. It encourages its residents and tourists to maintain a healthy balance between nature and development. Very soon, it will be the first city in India to run totally on green energy. In addition to this, various other green projects and initiatives have been planned to ensure that Diu remains a sustainable tourist destination. Any new ideas are always welcome.

So come, be a part of our vision.





Diu Quick Facts

Area

38,8 sq km

Altitude

29 m from sea level

Languages

Hindi, Gujarati, English & Portuguese

Population

Around 50,000

STD Code

02875

Postal Code

362520

Distances

Una (14 km)

Veraval (90 km)

Sasan Gir (120 km)

Rajkot (295 km)

Ahmedabad (495 km)

Daman (675 km)

Mumbai (980 km)



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