

Forthcoming GLOCALL 2014 @ AHMEDABAD, INDIA

GLOCALL 2014 is here again! As usual, the typical fanfare associated with our annual conference will be there – engaging plenaries, action-packed parallel and poster sessions, and symposiums. BUT if you love history, culture and traditions, then GLOCALL 2014 @ India should not be missed!

This year, Bhavan's Sheth R.A. College of Arts and Commerce is hosting GLOCALL 2014. This college was established to provide further education for the people of Gujarat and other parts of India. The college was founded in order to develop a new educational society.



This college is situated in Ahmedabad, India – known as a “World Heritage city” – a 600 year-old marvel. Ahmedabad is a multi-cultural and pluralistic city and is home to over 5.5 million people. It is a unique city as it blends harmoniously on ancient heritage and vibrant present. Also popularly known as the “walled-city”,



Walled-city

Ahmedabad is the soul of the city and is a living museum of human habitation. Beyond these walls, are various architectural ornaments from medieval Gujarat such as pol houses, chabutras (bird feeders), Hindu and Jain temples.

Interesting Things To Do

Heritage Walk

Ahmedabad is a very old city. It is about 600 years old. The old city was constructed by Ahmad Shah with all its gates and Hindus, Jains and Muslim population stayed within its precincts ever since. The flavour of the inter co-existence and culture can be sampled if you partake in the Heritage Walk. The heritage walks takes one through a journey looking at archaic and beautiful havelis, temples and mosques, winding through narrow lanes and souks. The walk starts at the Swaminarayan temple daily at about 8 o'clock in the morning and ends at Juma Masjid. The total extent is 1.5 km only. The fee charged is a nominal Rs. 30 per person for tourists. There are volunteers who act as guides. They are youngsters having a good command of the English language.

First of all, a small presentation is shown as of what all we would cover in our walk. This presentation is given in the room in the Swaminarayan temple complex.



Swaminarayan temple

Then we proceed for the walk. It takes you through narrow passages of old Ahmedabad.



Narrow passage-ways of old Ahmedabad

Then there are bird feeders, pols (means entrances/doors to a place). At that time each sect of people had houses in vicinity and that locality could be entered through a pol which had a guard room over it to regulate the entry of the people.



Bird-feeders

Then there are secret passages in case of invasions or emergencies and to my surprise it had arrows showing the direction of underground sewage system (very advanced and scientific in context of the era in which it was made). This walk includes entry to personal temples of the people living there. So one has to maintain the time frame because we have to go to people's home during permitted time only. Then there comes a place where there are parrot holes made in houses so that parrots could live there (no need to make nest). On the floor a large number of squirrels could be seen feeding.

This walk shows a lot of diversity in architecture of ancient India as one could see Mughal, Persian, Maratha, Chinese and English architecture through the streets. The walk ends at The Juma Masjid, a very big and beautiful mosque.



Diversity in architecture styles

Juma Masjid

The Juma Masjid is huge and awe inspiring. It is located right in the middle of the busiest part of town yet inside is serene and peaceful. The architecture is of the time of the Mugal kings and truly breath taking. Juma Masjid is quite large, impressive, and beautiful. Sitting in the middle of the old city and noisy crowded bazaars, it's a remarkably quiet and peaceful place.



The mosque is an incredibly attractive building that blends Islamic principles with Hindi design and carving. If you walk on to a crowded old city street, you will never imagine a large, hidden, beautiful place of peace like the Juma Masjid. One of the largest mosques in India it is so well hidden that we almost missed it. Six steps up and you're away from the maddening market on all sides. The carvings are gorgeous and the pillars make it one of the most unique mosques in India.

Akshardham Temple @ Gandhinagar



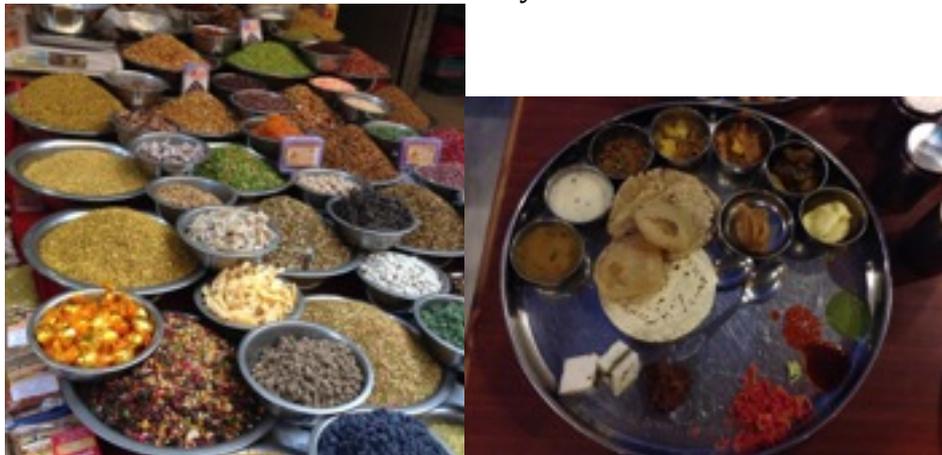
A must visit for people who would like to see some of India's Cultural, Spiritual, Architectural and Mythological Heritage, all at one place. This is a temple complex of Bhagwan Swami Narayan. The complete complex is a wonderful piece of architecture. This place has some really cool amusement rides in side the temple garden. The temple itself is so scenic and beautiful. The entire ambiance is that of heaven. Over and above all this is the fabulous laser and water show. It is one of the best shows i have seen and rank on an international standard. The sound the water works the laser and most important the story it all tells is brilliant and a must watch.



The 45-minute Sat-Chit-Anand Water Show reveals India's ancient secret of inner light through an Upanishadic story of Nachiketa, a nine year old boy, who bravely confronts Yamraaj, the God of Death, and receives from him the knowledge that has made India, a land of enlightenment.

Indian Spices and Gorgeous Gujarat Thali

Ahmedabad is situated in the district of Gujarat. As The traditional Gujarati food is primarily vegetarian and has a high nutritional value. The typical Gujarati thali consists of varied kinds of lip smacking dishes. Gujarati cuisine has so much to offer and each dish has an absolutely different cooking style. Some of the dishes are stir fry, while others are boiled. Gujarati food is more often served on a silver platter. Gujaratis use a combination of different spices and flavors to cook their meals and this is what makes their food truly exotic.



For all these and more, join us in
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