



FACT FILE

BY KAAFILA

Little Rann Of Kutch, Gujarat



Rann Riders by Kaafila is an enchanting, eco-friendly boutique resort which imaginatively combines ethnic architecture with modern facilities. Set in a serene rural landscape near Dasada Village, the resort is a lush oasis at the edge of the Little Rann of Kutch. With its primary focus on nature and wildlife, Rann Riders serves as an ideal base to explore the Little Rann with its rich and unique community of birds and animals - including the highly endangered Asiatic Wild Ass - and a wealth of cultural offerings.

A destination resort, Rann Riders has its heart in the wilderness of the Little Rann but caters to a wide variety of traveller interests - from the leisure traveller to the seeker of a wellness retreat to hard core birders, photographers, wildlife enthusiasts, cyclists, off-road motorcyclists and driving buffs. Nature walks, wildlife safaris and village visits are on offer for a stimulating range of programmes designed to engage the interest of all ages.



QUICK LOOK

- 25 cottages in 3 categories
- 14 Rann (Standard) Cottages
- 6 Safari (Deluxe) Cottages
- 5-Room Dasada (Premium) Wing. An exclusive annexe with separate swimming pool, kitchen and dining
- Separate Swimming Pool for Rann & Safari Cottages
- Spa & Wellness Centre
- Multi Cuisine Restaurant with live station at breakfast
- BBQ and a'la carte options (supplement charge)
- Private dining venues (supplement charge)



ACTIVITIES



- Jeep Safaris into the Rann
- Bird watching and photography trips to wetlands
- Nature walks along the edge of the Rann and the countryside around
- Library of reference books and fiction
- Bush Dinner
- Bush Breakfast
- Village Visit
- Trap & Skeet Shooting Range by special arrangement
- Horse safaris - by special arrangement

ROOM AMENITIES



Air-conditioning



Complimentary
Wi-Fi



Complimentary
bottled filtered water



Mini-Fridge



TV



Tea/Coffee maker



In-room safe



Intercom



Hair dryer

Open for 12 months of the year.

Check-in / check-out : 1pm / 11 am

Gujarat is a dry state. We do not offer alcohol on the property.

Permits can be arranged by your local agent





ACCOMODATION

25 rooms divided into 3 separate categories. This allows guests to choose accommodation that is most suitable to their requirements. Every Category is fully equipped with modern facilities and stylish bathrooms and furnished with lovely local fabrics, high quality furnishings and bed linens.

14 Rann (Standard) Cottages

The completely renovated cottages, whose design harks back to the Kooba houses of the Bajania and the bhunga structures of the Rabari shepherds - neighbouring communities of ours - have now been comprehensively upgraded both structurally and aesthetically.

6 Safari (Deluxe) Cottages

These are large, airy beautiful cottages with spacious verandahs leading into a lovely sitting area and bedroom. The furnishings and décor are stylishly rustic.



5 Room Dasada Premium Wing

This is a set of 5 spacious rooms arranged in two blocks. One with views over a lake and the other over tranquil croplands. The premium wing is an exclusive annexe enjoying separate services and facilities with its own 'Desjoyaux' swimming pool, kitchen and choice of dining venues, including private dining. This is perfect for family holidays or a group of friends vacationing together. Rooms can also be booked individually.



Food and Flamingos



The Flamingo Restaurant, named for the state bird of Gujarat, serves a sparklingly new and redesigned menu that caters to discerning palettes. Offerings range from robust local fare to light and nutritious but tasty and healthy dishes. The restaurant is mainly focused on a buffet set-up with a live station for breakfast and an imaginative a la carte menu - from vegetarian specialities to superb sea-food sourced from our carefully selected vendors. There is a lively BBQ and tandoor set up by the pool for a fun al fresco dinner experience. The a la carte and BBQ menus attract a nominal supplement over the standard meal plan.

The Premium block is served by its own exclusive kitchen and dining set-up.

Swimming Pools



There are two modern 'Desjoyaux' swimming pools which use minimal chlorine and other chemicals and are extremely energy efficient due to their state of the art single skin shell. One pool is within the Dasada Premium Wing and reserved for Dasada Wing guests only.

The other pool is located close to the restaurant and is reserved for in-house guests. The pool side has a BBQ station for al fresco dining and a service area for non-alcoholic beverages.

The Shooting Range



With their feudal lineage, the Jagirdars of Dasada were great hunters and marksmen. This facet of their heritage finds expression at Rann Riders with a state of the art Skeet and Trap shooting range. Backing onto farmland, the range is beautifully located and has the calm classy ambience of a clubhouse. While shooting is not offered as a part of the regular Resort activities, many shooting competitions are held here and enthusiasts can participate either individually or through clubs/associations. And of course book your accommodation at the resort to enjoy all its offerings.

Wellness Centre



The Wellness Centre offers our inhouse guests various spa and holistic treatment packages.

The Reservoir



Rann Riders has been carefully designed to harvest rain water and contains two large water bodies within its grounds. One of these is just beyond the shooting range and is a great venue for private parties and dining. This venue has to be reserved in advance.



THE WILDLIFE

The Gudkhur and other mammals

The 'Little Rann' was declared as a protected area to conserve the 'Gudkhur' or the Asiatic wild ass. The sight of these Gudkhurs galloping across the salt flats silhouetted by the setting sun is one of the iconic sights of the 'Little' Rann.

Hyenas, foxes, jungle and desert cats seek refuge in burrows hidden among the shrubs. Wolves, once common, can still, on occasion, be seen roaming the vast flatlands in search of prey. Nilgai or blue bull - the largest south Asian antelope, along with the smaller elegant blackbuck and chinkara gazelle occupy the edges of the Rann.



BIRDS OF THE RANN

There is nothing so exhilarating and uplifting than the sight of literally thousands of wild creatures packed densely on the ground or filling the air in giant flocks. The 'Little' Rann plays host to over 250 species of resident and migratory birds. The habitat diversity, location on a major migratory corridor and the proximity to the waters of the Gulf of Kutch have all contributed to making the Rann a veritable paradise for birds.

Most of these migrants congregate in the saline and freshwater marshes that dot the salt flats. Vast flocks of both lesser and greater flamingos dredge shallow saline waters for algae, shrimps and larvae looking from a distance like a shimmering pink haze blurring the horizon.

Sandgrouse, sociable lapwings, houbara or macqueen's bustard, various wheatears and larks are attracted by the grasslands. This high concentration of birds in the marshes naturally attracts a full complement of raptors - hunters of the skies. Star species like the peregrine falcon, imperial eagle, Marsh, Montague's and Pallid Harriers - quartering the grasslands and marshes on elegant, upswept wings - Eurasian hobbys, kestrels, pallid scops owls and the low-flying short-eared owls.

An estimated 70,000-75,000 birds nest here, a highlight being the nesting of large colonies of flamingos among the salt flats

ACTIVITIES

Exploring the Rann is all about knowing where and how to go into this roadless, limitless expanse. We speak about the salt flats, the beautiful sunsets, the wild ass and the birds, but for us at Rann Riders by Kaafila this is just one part of the story of the Rann. To truly appreciate the full richness of this unique desert, we have curated a carefully selected mix of experiences

1 | Rann Jeep Safaris

Morning & Evening Safaris 3/4 hrs.

The drives across the Rann are a safari experience like no other. In this flat, salt-laden landscape of grasslands, prosopis scrub and bird rich wetlands, your trackers, alive to every small alteration in the landscape, lead you direct to an imperial eagle or a peregrine falcon sitting on its kill. Amongst the rippled air of a heat shimmer they can spot a herd of wild ass or nilgai.

For birders, the winter months are fantastic for getting up close to a variety of species including huge flocks of Common and Demoiselle Cranes. The onset of summer shifts the focus to the denning foxes and hyenas. During the monsoon, the safaris are focussed more on specific nesting colonies of flamingos.

Half-Day Safari – 6/7 hrs. (Advance booking required)

This safari includes the volcanic hillock at Murdak or the temple at Wachraj Bet. Walking the barren hillock at Murdak can give one an idea of the geological history of the place, especially when one encounters a cluster of marine fossils in the middle of the barren desert.

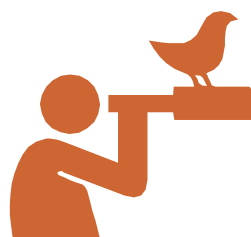
2 | Walking Safaris

Rann Riders Nature Walk

The forested grounds of Rann Riders with its species of native trees, the wetlands within, the fields around the property, irrigation canals and the lakes dotting the fields make for great walking country. These walks are curated to highlight the smaller bird life, agricultural practices of the local community, simple living styles of the farmers and of course, looking at smaller lifeforms like butterflies and dragonflies.

Walking the "Rann ki Kaanti" or the edge of the Rann on one of the scrub islands, is also a possibility that can be organised by our team.

Night walks within the property are also organised for those keen on walking under the stars in search of owls, civets, bats, porcupines and small carnivores like foxes and jungle cats.



3 | Village Safaris

Village safaris by Rann Riders are designed to give you an opportunity to engage with the communities, observe their unique weaving practices and explore their handicrafts. One of the highlights is listening to the stories of Sarfaraz Malik. A member of the old Jagirdars of Dasada and an expert falconer, he is a fascinating repository of knowledge about every aspect of the Rann - from history to natural history with a special interest in the raptors of the region.

Rabaris : The weaves of the Kharapat Rabari women using herringbone stitches interspersed with small mirrors and occasional chain stitches for peacocks and other motifs.

Mirs : The Mirs of Dasada work with beads to create braids, tassels, and necklaces. Mir women have begun to make beaded bangles commercially.

Tangalio : A unique weave of this region is the Tangalio. Weavers are adept at adding extra knots on the weft which create motifs and figures in a dotted pattern woven as shawls, stoles & garments.

4 | Dinning Experience



Dining in the great outdoors is one of Rann Rider's highlight experiences. Breakfast and dinners can be organised in a variety of lovely locations. Dinners under the stars or in moonlight or breakfasts basking in the morning sun at the edge of the Rann, always coupled with a guided walk, safari or a night safari, can truly transform the meaning of outdoor dining.

5 | Day trips to nearby sites

ACTIVITIES ON SPECIAL REQUEST



Nalsarover Bird Sanctuary

Rann Riders is 44 km from Nalsarover Bird Sanctuary. At 120 sq km, it is the largest wetland bird sanctuary in India and the only Ramsar Site in Gujarat.



Archifectural sites around Dasada

Modera Sun temple, the historic town of Ahilwada Patan - the 8th-14th century capital of the region, Munsar tank with its intricately carved temples and the 12th century Jain temple at Sankeshwar.



Dholavira

The Harrappan site at Dholavira located on the largest island in the Rann, Khadir Bet, can be coupled with a cross country drive across the Rann the overall experience all the more exciting.



6

Customised

ACTIVITIES ON SPECIAL REQUEST



Horse and Cycling Safaris

Rann Riders has several indigenous breeds of horses including prize winning Kathiawadi and Marwari mares. The main attraction of our non-motor safaris is the joy of riding well-trained horses or cycling through open country, rich in wildlife and cultural attractions. A choice of riding routes can be planned - quietly walking and trotting through the countryside, galloping across open desert plains, watching birds and wildlife from horseback in the Little Rann.

Non-riders and non-cyclists who are traveling with the group can travel in safari vehicles, joining the riders for meals or at their resting spots.



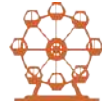
Camel Safaris

Safaris on camel carts can be organised both for village visits and among the salt flats.



Off-roading Experiences

For off roading enthusiasts, the vastness of the Rann, the surrounding ravines and rocks make for fantastic rally country. Off roading trips can be organised from Rann Riders going well into the Rann and beyond.



Local festivals

There are many festivals and fairs that occur seasonally in the vicinity of Rann Riders.

Tarnetra Fair :

The best known of Gujarat's fairs is held at the historic shrine of Tarnetar (Trineteshwar), a holy site locally believed to have been the original course of river Ganga.

Ravechi Mela :

One of the most important fairs for the Rabari community of Kutch, the fair takes place at the Ravechi Mata temple.

Modhera Dance Festival :

The 11th century Sun Temple at Modhera is the backdrop for a classical dance festival in winter. The temple is beautifully illuminated and leading performers and troupes from different parts of India are invited to perform.





GETTING TO RANN RIDERS

BY ROAD



Ahmedabad
100 kms
(2.5 hrs)

Bhuj
277 kms
(5.5 hrs)

Vadodra
204 kms
(4 hrs)

Rajkot
183 kms
(4 hrs)

Junagadh
285 kms
(6 hrs)

Udaipur
346 kms
(6 hrs)



NEAREST AIRPORTS AROUND

**Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
International Airport,**
Ahmedabad (AMD) - 101 kms (2.5 hrs)



NEAREST RAILWAY STATIONS

**Viramgam (VG)
Railway Station**
34 kms (40 mins)

**Ahmedabad (ADI)
Junction**
102 kms (2.5 hrs)

Weather URL : <https://www.accuweather.com/en/in/dasada/893521/weather-forecast/893521>



LOCATION

Rann Riders by Kaafila
Village Dasada, District Surendra Nagar
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