



Jamnagar, historically called Nawanagar or the new city, was one of the most important princely states of saurashtra.[citation needed] The Jamnagar district, originally constituted as Halar district, is not only recent in its origin but also in its modern set up. But the region comprised therein is of great antiquity and dates back to ancient periods of Jamnagar. According to Pauranik literature, Lord Krishna established his kingdom at Dwarka, now in Jamnagar district, after his migration from Mathura and it is to this great Yadava race that the Jams of Nawanagar trace their descent.

The founder of the princely state of Jamnagar was the Jam Rawal, who descended on the northern coast of Kathiawar in 1535 A.D. Jam Rawal's father Jam Lakhaji ruled in Terabanu in Kutch.

According to bardic chronicles, Jam Lakhaji had two cousins Tamachi Deda and Hamirji Jadeja, they envied his reputation for valor. Their envy was heightened by the fame of Jam Lakhaji at the siege of Pawagadh. So largely did he contribute to its capture by Bahadurshah, the Emperor of Gujarat, that he was bestowed 12 villages by him. As Jam Lakaji was going to take possession of his new fief, he was treacherously killed by his cousins Tamachi Deda and Hamirji Jadeja. Jam Lakhajis son Jam Rawal escaped and on growing up, took vengeance of his father's murder in the same manner by killing Hamirji Jadeja.

Hamirjis two sons Khengarji and Sahibji fled to Delhi and after twelve months of waiting to meet the moghul Emperor Humayun, they got the chance to join the crowd going along with the Emperor for lion hunting.

During the lion hunt, they got the chance to kill the lion just when it was going to attack the Emperor. As a reward, an army of 1,00,000 was sent with them to regain back their kingdom.

When Jam Rawal heard of the two princes coming back to the Kutch with the imperial army, he started getting ready for the battle. On one night, Goddess Ashapura came in his dream and told him that as he had broken the oath taken on her name about not killing Hamirji, even though, he was the person responsible for the death of his father. She should have punished him, but as he had at all other times honored her. So he should no longer dwell in Kutch but cross the sea and take Kathiawar as a dwelling place.

Upon awakening he called his counselors and discussed the dream, they agreed that he must leave Kutch and found for himself a Kingdom across the Gulf. So Jam Rawal along with his soldiers and many traders marched out. On the way he killed and conquered the territory of King Tamachi the other conspirator in the killing of his father, and he also conquered the town of Dhrol and its dependencies and gave them to his brother Hardholji, who was later killed in battle during that period, and the State of Dhrol was given to his eldest son, Jasoji.

Thus Jam Rawal made himself master of a great territory and the need for a capital arose.

The story goes like this, that once on a hunting trip on the land of present day Jamnagar, a hare was found to be brave enough to turn on the hunting dogs and putting them to flight. Deeply impressed by this, Jam Rawal thought that if this land can breed such hares, if his capital was built on this land, the men born here would be superior than other men.

He consulted his astrologers and wise men, and the day chosen for laying the foundation stone was the 7th day of the bright half of the month of srawan, VS 1956. (August 1540 AD) on the banks of two rivers Rangmati and Nagmati and named it Nawanager meaning new town.

Nawanager eventually came to be known as Jamnagar meaning the town of the Jams. A famous statement for people of JAMNAGAR is "java dhyo ne" means "let go".



# Let us visit Jamnagar

Jamnagar the Jewel of Kathiawar, is on the coast of Gulf of Kutch in the state of Gujarat, India.



It has unspoilt Islands & Beaches, Hills, Temples, Palaces, Forest, Fantastic Bird life in the Bird Sanctuary & Marine Sanctuaries and Fascinating Corals and Marine Life in the Marine National Park.



One can visit the:

- City Lake full of 75 varieties of Birds...
- Islands full of sea shells, corals, birds, octopus,...
- Unspoilt Beaches, both white and golden sands...
- Hills with temples on top...
- Forest with leopards, jackals, wolves, jungle cat, blue bulls, hyena, snakes ..
- Temples ranging from the ancient to the new, also includes a Guinness World Record holder...
- Bird Sanctuaries with 250 varieties of birds...
- Marine Sanctuaries with dolphins, octopus, turtles, dugong, fish ...
- Marine National Park...



Highly venerated among the devotees of Lord Rama, an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the Bala Hanuman Temple is famous the world over for the continuous chanting of the mantra "Jai Ram, Jai Ram, Jai Jai Ram". Starting since 1st August, 1964, the chant is still continuing and has earned the temple a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.



This place has taken the invention of industrial methods and given it a divine thrust. For it is here that you will find efficient, non-stop devotion where people have been chanting 'Shri Ram, Jai Ram, Jai Jai Ram,' in shifts 24 hours a day.



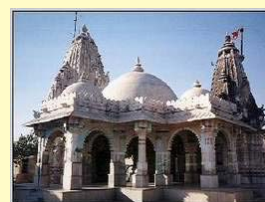
Early evening is particularly good time to visit as it's fairly animated then. In fact this whole area on the south-eastern edge of the lake becomes very lively around sunset, when people come to promenade.



This Ancient Bhid Bhanjan Temple built by the Jams is worth visiting even if you are not a believer.



The Shiv Temples within the city are so many. Temples like Badri kedar Nath and Nilkanth Mahadev Temple around the Town Hall and the Kashi Vishwanath Temple on the K.V. Road are worth visiting.



The Sidhnath Mahadev Temple just outside the city holds great prestige among believers

The two towers of Mandvi & Pancheshwar and the Khambhalia, & Grain Market Gate, are the only signs remaining along with some parts of the great walls around the city which were built in the 17th Century by the Wazir Meraman Khawas also known as Meru Khawas, he was said to be very powerful Jamnagar turned into a walled city by Meraman Khawas, also called Meru khawas. He was a dictator ruling over Jamnagar between 1744 to 1800 AD.



Jam Lakhaji when still a child married Dipabai, a Jhala princess of Halwad or Dhrangadhra, in her train came to Jamnagar along with his brothers Nandji and Bhawan. And as Jam quite young, Meru Khawas took all the powers and ruled over Jamnagar, after the death of Jam Lakhaji, Meru Khawas installed on the throne Jam Jasoji, eldest son of Jam Lakhaji, but he kept, as before all powers in his own hands.

Lakhaji was Jamnagar, throne Jam powers in his



His rule was vigorous and he made many additions to the state. He had fortified Jamnagar, by building around it, walls of white stone with 5 gates, 23 towers and 8 postern gates.

## Bohra Hajira

The Bohra Hajira is also worth a visit, on entering Jamnagar city by road on the Rajkot Highway, one can see this Magnificent Structure on the banks of the river. Permission has to be taken before visiting the place.

Many years back boats used to sail in this Rangmati & Nagmati rivers, but presently the water level is very less and many a times this rivers dry up and the river bed is used for hosting the Shravan Month Fairs

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## Willingdon Crescent



Across the road from the darbargadh, is one of Jam Saheb Ranjit Sinhji's attempts to replace the choked slums of Nawanager with a new citadel inspired by his European journeys. The crescent comprised arcades of cusped arches, larger on the ground floor and smaller on the upper storey, pilasters on the curving walls, and balusters on the parapet. Statue of the Jam saheb stand in the centre. The royal emblem of the Jam saheb crowns the crescent.

Presently one can go shopping in this area.

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In the centre of Jamnagar, and in the middle of the lake, is the magnificent old structure: which now houses a mini museum. A holy saint's Dargah is also there where people go to offer their respects.

Even walking on the causeway for reaching the museum is a soothing to the senses.

Here we can find 10th century excavated artifacts like copper plates, statues, etc

This museum collection was refurbished during the grand celebration of the Republic day of 26 January 200



Here in the 1st photo below one can see the system where if one blows into one hole water comes out of another hole in the floor. Just above it one can see the beautiful wood carvings





Jamnagar has the Country's first Marine National Park, since 1982



This is one of the rare places in the world where one can look at corals without having to dive down into the water. One just has to walk in the water, when the tide ebbs, in about 1 to 2 feet of water and watch this fascinating underwater world of corals.