



## Somnath Temple – First of the Jyotirlingas

The very first amongst all the Jyotirlingas, Somnath is located on the coast of Gujarat in Junagadh district of Gujarat. Somnath means Lord of the Moon and this temple was initially built by the moon lord after Lord Shiva heeded to his prayers. It is said that once The Moon Lord was so infatuated with one of his wives Rohini that he ignored his other 26 wives who were the daughters of Daksha. They used to complain to their father who then cursed the Moon to wane. Following this, the Moon descended on earth and chose this place to pray to lord Shiva. Now, after many thousands of years of penance, the curse seems to have been lifted partially. This has caused the periodic waning and waxing of the moon between the full moon and new moon. As a thank you, the moon lord built a grand temple of gold in the honour of Lord Shiva. This is why it is believed that this temple was destroyed seven times and was reconstructed every time. Ravana made this temple out of silver, while lord Krishna made it out of sandalwood. This temple was looted by Muhammad Ghazni in the 16th century, after which it was rebuilt for the seventh time in Nov 1947 under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhai Patel, who had visited Junagadh to supervise the merger of the State of Junagadh with India. This temple was then known for the famous [Somnath darshan](#) and one of the most important pujas of this sacred place is the [rudrabhishek puja](#).

### How to Reach

Somnath temple is sited on the coast of Gujarat in Junagadh District and is one of the two most famous temples of Lord Shiva located right on the coast. An important Hindu pilgrimage, Somnath is 4 km from Veraval and is considered sacred in a number of ways. Did you know? Lord Krishna also ascended to heaven from this spot. If you want to reach this spot, there are regular trains from Junagadh. Also, Veraval is about 400 km from Ahmadabad and can be connected through trains. Rajkot is the nearest airport for Somnath temple.

### Other Attraction

Better known as the Prabhas Kshetra in the olden times, the Somnath temple is an important Hindu pilgrimage. Why? Because this is where Lord Krishna is believed to have ascended to heaven. Along the coast of Somnath, there five Shiva lingams and the three of these are located in proximity to the Somnath temple. During high tide, these Shiva Lingams tend to emerge in the sea and only their top portion is visible to the eyes. There are many other attractions nearby – the Gir Lion Sanctuary, which is the last bastion of the Asiatic Lion, is also located nearby about 50 km from Veraval.

If you're setting out for a [Char Dham Yatra from Haridwar](#), make sure you don't miss out on the beautiful Somnath temple that holds ample religious significance. Know more about the Hindu

religious beliefs online.