

WHV – Vadnagar Chronicles: Unveiling the Layers of a Historic Town

Vadnagar – A multi-layered Historic town, Gujarat, India

Cultural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2022)

PROJECT DATES

01 - 10 September 2025

THE SITE - Vadnagar was strategically situated at the crossroads of two major ancient trade routes – one which led from central India to Sindh and to further northwest, and the other from the port towns on the Gujarat coast to Rajasthan and north India. The historic town of Vadnagar primarily follows the historic footprint of built fabric and at the same time, demonstrates the sustainability of land use planning. It makes the best use of its natural setting and also takes local climate into consideration while planning.

OBJECTIVES - Implemented for the first time by recurring partner Khushtar Heritage Collective, the program aims to raise awareness about Vadnagar's rich historical and cultural heritage, encouraging community appreciation and involvement. It seeks to engage and empower young volunteers to take active roles in heritage preservation, fostering future advocates for cultural conservation. Additionally, it introduces participants to museum studies, covering fundamentals like curation and exhibition design, to deepen their understanding of how museums contribute to preserving and interpreting heritage.

ACTIVITIES - Volunteers and the local community will collaborate on thematic heritage walks through key sites such as the Buddhist stupa, Hatkeshwar Temple, stepwells, and fortifications, enriched by storytelling sessions that share historical and cultural narratives. Participants will also engage in creating exhibitions using digital documentation, artifacts, and photos from the campaign. Guided museum tours will highlight the connection between heritage conservation and sustainable tourism. The activity will further include a revival of the traditional Bhavai art form, fostering cultural exchange and deeper connections between local and international participants through shared artistic experiences. Volunteers will gain hands-on experience in museology, developing skills in collection management, exhibition design, and engaging visitors, while deepening their understanding of museums as centers of learning and cultural preservation. They will also contribute to high-quality architectural documentation of selected heritage structures in Vadnagar, using both traditional techniques like hand measurements and sketches, and modern tools such as photogrammetry and LiDAR. The resulting materials will form a valuable resource for future conservation, research, and tourism development.

PARTNERS - APT South Asia Chapter.

Khushtar Heritage Collective

Ms. Khushi Shah

khushtarheritagecollective@gmail.com



<https://whc.unesco.org/en/whvolunteers>