A Date with Daman

With sun kissed beaches, exquisite seafood, and colorful nightlife, Daman, a town reminiscence of the bygone Portuguese enclave, offers you with everything a tourist looks for. A drive through National Highway 8, the first thing you notice about this town is its sheer beauty. With the Portuguese island of Diu to its north and Goa to its south, Daman gives you the Mediterranean charms of Goa, sans the hordes of tourists. A perfect weekend getaway, this town offers something for everyone. The easygoing land of Daman is adorned with sun-kissed beaches. Spend a Saturday afternoon at the Devka Beach, 5 kms to the north of Daman, where you can have a blast with your friends with the beachside amusement park. If you enjoy swimming then the Jampore beach located 4 kms from the city, is the perfect getaway. The scenic beauty of the horizon over the sea adds a perfect touch to your holiday. Besides, it is a great place to work on your tan, but this sandy beach is unsafe for swimming.

You can soak up the spirit of the Portuguese era by taking a stroll down the main streets of Daman which are adorned with imposing gateways carrying the old colonial charm. The churches of Daman are said to be the best example of Portuguese architecture. Visit the Cathedral of Bom Jesus, which, with its golden altar, is a perfect blend of beauty with architecture. Further ahead lays the Dominican Monasteries. Walk a little farther to reach the lighthouse on the north-west end of the fort, offering the finest view of the shimmering sea. Though Daman has no distinctive cuisine, the exquisite seafood titillates the palate. The accommodation here is easy on the pocket. A perfect blend of scenic beauty with a Portuguese charm, this place is perfect to relax with your friends and enjoy your date with nature.

By Road 193 km from Mumbai connected by NH-8
By Rail 160 kms from Mumbai. Get down at Vapi or Valsad
Best Time to Visit October and May

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This weekend get together with friends and drive your way to a picturesque Daman

From Harry Potter to Othello, from Da Vinci code to Bride and Prejudice, the list of films based on novels is endless. Will such films do justice to the original work? We take a quick on films which turned out well and what the audience have to say

A NOVEL IDEA

Novels are frequently adapted to make films. It’s a common scenario in Hollywood but now we have seen this idea being crafted into the Indian film industry too. Masoom and Omkara two of the critically acclaimed films were based on the work of Shakespeare’s Macbeth and Othello. And the upcoming film by director Atul Agnihotri Hello is based on Chetan Bhagat’s “one night at the call center”.

For the most part; these adaptations attempt either to appeal to an existing commercial audience or to tap into the innovation and novelty of a less well known author.

Movie buff Aroop Asthana comments on the film Omkara “Omkara defines what adaptation of a classic means. I went into the movie hall, fully aware that the movie is based on Shakespeare play Othello and came out completely awestruck at how Vishal Bhardwaj has managed to make the story completely his own by his creativity.”

It’s often understood that such adaptation makes the work easier. The book provides the whole story, it also defines the character. But to apply your own creativity into the work of someone else and getting the final product which should be different and yet resembles the original is not easy. Kuldeep Kaushik an Assistance Director says “film adaptation depends upon the creativity and vision of the film maker, how the original idea is executed is what mattered the most, which is why we have seen some of the worst movies based on brilliant novels, as the execution is bad”. So turning a thousand page novels into a 120 minute flick requires a lot of effort and it’s similar to make a film out of a fresh idea.

We have seen films based on popular novels turning into blockbusters but sometimes it does the other way round, where the film itself become the brand ambassador of the novel on which it is based, resulting in making the novel popular. “This happens when the execution is good” emphasises Kuldeep. And many opt for reading the novel after seeing the movie, “I am quite interested to read a novel which has been subsequently released to films” says Khyati Kapoor a student.