

## Discovery of India along the Ganges (Indian Subcontinent)



### **The Ganges: Mythological Image, Divine Origin and Mother of Millions**

The Ganga, especially, is the river of India, beloved of her people, round which are intertwined her memories, her hopes and fears, her songs of triumph, her victories and her defeats. She has been a symbol of India's age-long culture and civilization, ever changing, ever flowing, and yet ever the same Ganga." By Jawaharlal **Nehru, First Prime Minister of India, born in Allahabad (A city located on the banks of the Ganges).**

**Tour Description:** This trip introduces you to importance of the Ganges and Himalayas for people. It also touches few of the major cultural and architectural attractions of North India. By are large it offers a glimpse into Indian cultural, religious and spiritual ethos of India. Apart from all the activities of the trip 'The Ganges' as a silent observer in background with all her generosity, remains single spell bounding charm. Influence of the Ganges on artifacts, architecture is visible even in the cities located far from the Ganges.



**Map Indicating major towns along the Ganges**

**Type of Trip:** Spiritual, Non luxury, Eco friendly, people oriented, educational and to spread message of Ganges conservation in particular and about human environment in general.

**Inclusions:** Transport, Sightseeing, meals (preferably vegetarian), Guide, monument entrances, tea/coffee breaks and all the activities mentioned in the programme. Although the programme is structured to give an overview of places to be visited in this tour, but it may be subjected to weather conditions, Suitable logistics in different sectors of the trips. You are requested to write us in detail about your own preferences like Attractions to be visited, type of Accommodation preferred to make this journey more convenient and rewarding.

Extra Stay in Haridwar, Varanasi or any town mentioned in itinerary can be arranged in similar hotels for 50 USD per person/day during or after completion of the trip in Budget class Hotels or Ashrams. We advise all participants to avail for carbon offsetting options during all possible parts of journey.

### **01 Day: Arrival in Rishikesh / Haridwar / Delhi**



**Haridwar**



**Rishikesh**

### **02 Day: Haridwar**

Morning visit to the banks of the Ganges to feel the atmosphere of a holy town located along the Ganges. The town literary means the 'Gateway to God'. It is perfect place to understand importance of the Ganges for Indian as well as foreign tourists. Here every traveler transforms into a pilgrim.

### **03 Day: Rishikesh**

Explore the town for enjoying charm of Himalayas and the Ganges at the same time. This town is a place to understand settings offered by Himalayas for a spiritual break in life. Here mightiness of Himalayas and purity of the Ganges can be seen in all aspects of human life. Here we stay in an Ashram for understanding spiritual life of Indians.

### **04 Day: Rishikesh to Uttarkashi**

Morning drive to Uttarkashi (altitude 1,158 m).  
Overnight in camp.

**05 Day: Uttarkashi to Gangotri**

Drive to the village of Gangotri (altitude 3,048 m). Visit Gangotri temples and ashrams  
Overnight Camp.

**06 Day: Gangotri to Gaumukh Glaciers**

Trek 15 km to the Gaumukh glacier (altitude 2,892 m), the true source of the Ganges, and regarded as the most beautiful glaciers in the Himalaya.  
Overnight in camp.

**07 Day: Return trek to Gangotri.**

Overnight in camp.

**08 Day: Gangotri to Uttarkashi**

Drive to Uttarkashi.  
Overnight in camp.

**09 Day: Uttarkashi to Rishikesh**

Drive to Rishikesh.  
Overnight in Hotel in Rishikesh or Haridwar

**10 Day: Haridwar– Jaipur (Over Night Train)**



**Gate, city wall of pink city and Hawa Mahal, Jaipur**

Early morning arrival in Jaipur. After Check-in into Hotel visit Govinddevji Temple [www.govinddevji.org](http://www.govinddevji.org) ,dedicated to GovindDevji (Local name of lord Krishna).Dedication of locals for Krishna here can be seen at its best. Devotees from around the world can be seen dancing and singing in ecstasy of devotion. Songs are accompanied here by tradition musical instruments and create a unique atmosphere, inexpressible by words or pictures. Optional visit to City Palace Museum and astronomical Observatory located next to Govind Devji Temple. After lunch explore city by walk and Cycle Rickshaws.In the evening, explore the busy markets of Jaipur. Overnight stay at the Hotel

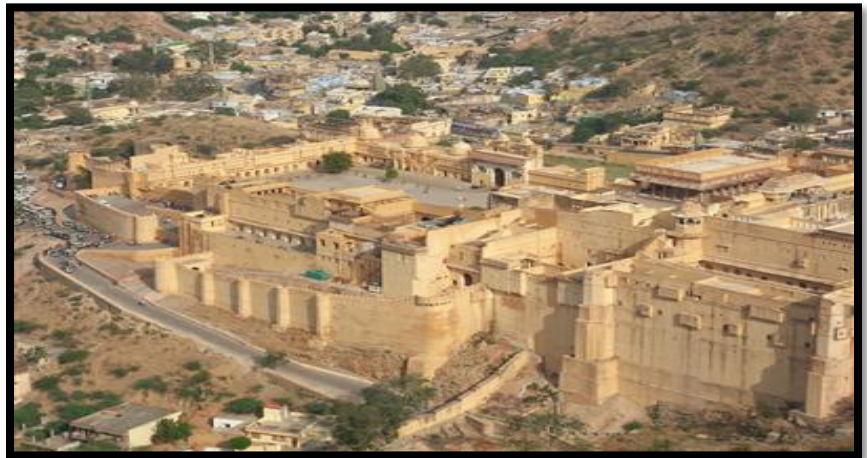


**Entrance of Jagat Shiromani Temple, Amber and Govind Dev Ji Temple, Jaipur**

Most of the temples in India we find Radha as companion of Krishna, but this temple is an exception to this rule. This Temple is also a perfect example of Indo –Aryan style of Temples built in sixteenth century. The Temple is looked after by same priest family living within temple for many generations. Temple also is home to few of the most vivid carvings ever done on marble and other sandstones. At Amber fort enjoy Elephant ride to reach main courtyard of Amber fort.

### **11 Day: Jaipur**

Later visit ancient capital of Amber and Jagatshiromani Temple, which is the oldest temple in old capital of Amber and is the only temple dedicated to Meera Bai (A legendary princess born in Rajasthan, who worshiped lord Krishna as her lover or husband) and Krishna. You can also ride Elephants at Amber fort from Foothills to main courtyard of the Amber Palace.



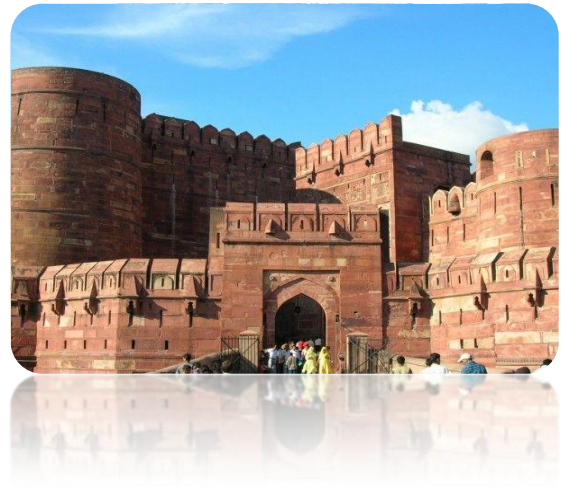
**Amber fort and ancient Town, Jaipur**

### **12 Day: Jaipur - Bharatpur – Fatehpur Sikri- Agra by road**

In morning proceed to Bharatpur and visit Keoladev National Park. This park is home to many birds migrating from Siberia, Europe to escape winters. The park is declared as a World Heritage by UNESCO. Here you will explore the park on Cycle Rickshaws with a local Naturalist.



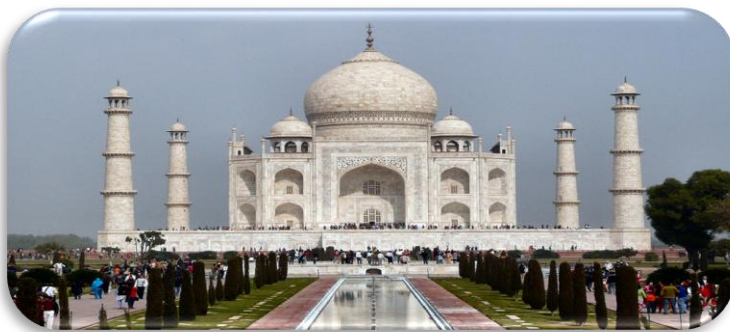
**Keoladev National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan (Heaven for Migratory Birds)**



***Mughal Heritage: Fatehpur Sikri, Red Fort, Agra***

In morning proceed to Bharatpur Sikri also known as ‘Abandoned city’ or ‘Ghost city’. Explore splendid forts and palaces of the town dating back to sixteenth century. Later on proceed to Agra to see Taj- Mahal and Agra fort.

**13 Day: Agra**



**Taj – Mahal (A wonder in Marble)**

#### 14 Day: Agra - Allahabad by Train



#### Sangam (Confluence of three Sacred rivers of India), Allahabad

Allahabad is one of the most sacred cities located at the confluence of three sacred rivers of India namely, The Ganges, Yamuna and Saraswati. It has a great significance in Indian culture and often is mentioned in ancient as well as medieval Indian texts as a pilgrimage centre.

Overnight in Camp / Hotel in Allahabad or Train.

#### 15 & 16 Day: Allahabad – Varanasi by a boat cruise on the Ganges.

Evening trip to the Ganges to visit important Ghats (Banks of river) to understand the spiritual, religious, economic as well as environmental importance of the Ganges for different sections of people



A saloon and Monks living along the Ganges, Varanasi

It is a sight to witness countless number of human activities going around with Ganges as a common base. We will arrange meetings with some distinguished residents of Varanasi, who are dedicated to different humanitarian causes including the conservation of the Ganges.

Overnight in Camp / Hotel along the Ganges

### **17 Day: Varanasi**



**Varanasi – Located on the Ganges is the abode of Lord Shiva**

Excursion to different Ghats (Banks) of the Ganges and nearby town of Sarnath, one of the important pilgrimage centres for Buddhists as Buddha after enlightenment delivered his first sermon in this town to five monks.

### **18 Day: Varanasi to Destinations of your Choice**

From Varanasi you can continue to Nepal also and return back to Delhi by flight from Kathmandu. (Varanasi – Kathmandu – Delhi) Varanasi is well connected to major Indian cities as well to Kathmandu (Nepal). From here you can proceed to any destination further to east (Calcutta) and also it an ideal place to explore most of the Buddhist Pilgrimage sites.

### **Some of the Possible Extensions from Varanasi**

**Calcutta (Kolkata):** After traveling along India's most sacred river from her origin to Varanasi, you can we continue trip to Kolkata by overnight train. Next day visit Victoria Memorial, St Paul's Cathedral, the Writers Building, the Flower Market and the Howrah Bridge.

**Nepal:** from Varanasi you may proceed to Nepal (Saunoli border is about 8 hrs drive from Varanasi and the birth Place of Buddha (Lumbani) is located very close to Indo–Nepal border. You can stay in this town and start exploring Nepal from here.

**Foot Steps of Buddha:** From Varanasi you can explore most of the places associated with life of Lord Buddha very conveniently. It takes about 8-10 days to cover these spiritual places, which are Major Buddhist pilgrimage centre.