



VARANASI SHORTSTAY

Extension | 4 Days | Physical Level 1

Delhi – Varanasi (2N) – Delhi (1N)

Journey to the holy city of Varanasi for a spiritual experience including a cruise along the River Ganges and the chance to witness a sacred puja ceremony to Ganga Aarti.

TOUR INCLUSIONS:

- Accommodation
- Meals as stated
- Daily tours and entrance fees
- Economy class flights Delhi to Varanasi return
- Transportation and transfers as stated
- English speaking guide

ITINERARY

Day 1: Delhi to Varanasi

Meals: None

This morning you will be met and transferred by private car to Delhi airport for your flight to Varanasi. On arrival you will be met in Varanasi and transferred by private car to your hotel.

This evening take a rickshaw down to the atmospheric ghats on the River Ganges to witness a puja ceremony.

**Destination Information**

Varanasi - The religious capital of Hinduism, Varanasi is the oldest living city in India as well as one of the world's most ancient cities. Colourful and chaotic, Varanasi is a fascinating city to discover. Located along the western banks of the Ganges, devotees travel to the city to pray and wash away their sins in the holy river.

Puja Ceremony of Ganga Aarti - An evening ceremony conducted on the banks of the river Ganges. Aarti means divine light, and this ceremony is filled with song, prayer and ritual.

Day 2: Varanasi

Meals: B, L

Early this morning, take a boat ride along the River Ganges to see the morning activity on the ghats. The devotees perform their ablutions in the river or offer prayers to the rising sun. As you cruise along the river you will have an ideal vantage point to view these activities.

Please note: It is inappropriate to take photos of any burning Ghats, as this is a funeral ceremony.

Return to your hotel for breakfast and to freshen up and then afterwards, embark on a brief city tour of Varanasi. Start by visiting some of the important temples like the unique Bharat Mata Mandir and the Durga Temple dedicated to the consort of Lord Shiva.

This afternoon, head to Sarnath, an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where is believed that Buddha delivered his first sermon.

**Destination Information**

Ghats of Varanasi - The ghats are the long stretch of steps leading down to the water on the western banks of the River Ganges. Most are used for bathing, but there are some 'burning ghats' where public cremations are held.

Bharat Mata Mandir - A unique temple dedicated to Bharat Mata (Mother India) which houses a relief map of India, carved out of marble.

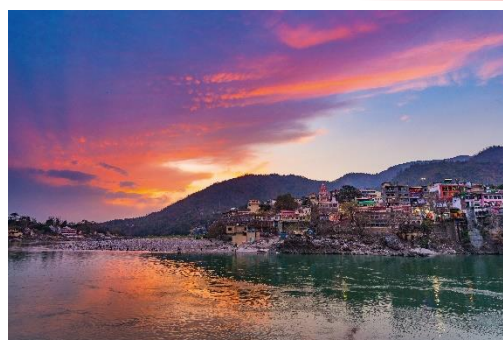
Durga Temple - Also known as the monkey temple due to the large number of monkeys that have made the temple their home, the Durga Temple is one of the most important temples in Varanasi. Dedicated to the Goddess Durga, the temple was built in the 18th century and is stained red with ochre.

Sarnath - Sarnath is the fabled place where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon to his disciples expounding the principles of Buddhism. The ruins here date back as far as the 3rd century BC.

Day 3: Varanasi to Delhi

Meals: B

After check-out this morning, you will be transferred by private car to Varanasi airport for your flight back to Delhi. Upon arrival you will be transferred by private car to your hotel.

**Destination Information**

Delhi - As the capital of India, Delhi is the third largest city with a population of approximately 18million people. Its strategic location along the north-south, east-west route has given it a focal position in Indian history and many great empires have been ruled from here. The monuments and ruins of these are scattered throughout the city, often side by side with modern structures and high-rise towers.

Day 4: Depart Delhi

Meals: B

After breakfast you will be transferred by private car to Delhi airport in time for your onward flight.



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