
Incredible India
Uttar Pradesh
UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM
U.P. nahi dekha, toh India nahi dekha.
Varanasi
• CULTURE • RELIGION • SPIRITUALITY • TRADITIONS



Varanasi or Banaras, referred to in the Scriptures as 'Kashi' derived its name from the word 'Kash' meaning Brightness- 'The city of Light'. It has been propogating Indian Culture, Philosophy and traditions among masses from the times immemorial.

Varanasi is the most famous and the oldest inhabited city of the world and boasts of being among the seven sacred cities (Sapta Puries) of the ancient India. The trinity of birth, life and even death carry equal importance here. It is situated on the bank of river Ganges which has two tributaries: Varuna and Assi; so is the name Varanasi.

Perhaps this is the only city which is endowed with a rare combination of holy river Ganges, abode of Supreme God Shiva and the oldest living city itself. It remains vibrant throughout the year. Its temple-ghats bear testimony to its glorious past, bright present and prosperous future. Its religion, culture and traditions are so beautifully mingled that it gives the city a unique ambience.

Varanasi

The precious compliment by the famous American Writer Mark Twain about this heritage city is worth mentioning: 'Banaras is older than history, older than traditions, even older than legend and looks twice as old as all of them put together'.

The city is the centre of a variety of cultural and religious activities including learning, literature and art. Famous Bhakti movement poets and the doyens of Indian literature, prominent philosophers, writers and musicians are associated with this multi- dimensional and multi-faceted city. It is an important seat of learning and houses one of the most venerable educational institutions- Banaras Hindu University, one of the largest residential universities in Asia. It has the proud privilege of having Sarnath in the vicinity where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon after getting Enlightened.

It is the hub of various cottage industries mainly in weaving and hand- loom sector. Banarasi muslin, ultra fine silk, carpet, perfumes, ivory works, pearls & beads and sculptures are world famous for their luster and beauty.

Undoubtedly, no other city in the world can be a parallel to this magnificient city.



Kashi Vishwanath Temple

The Temple Dedicated to Lord Shiva, The Presiding Deity of The City, Is Also Known as Golden Temple.

The Jyotirlinga Installed in The Temple is The Major Devotional Focus of Varanasi. The 'aarties', Performed Here at Different Times and by Different Names in a Grand Manner Are Worth Seeing.

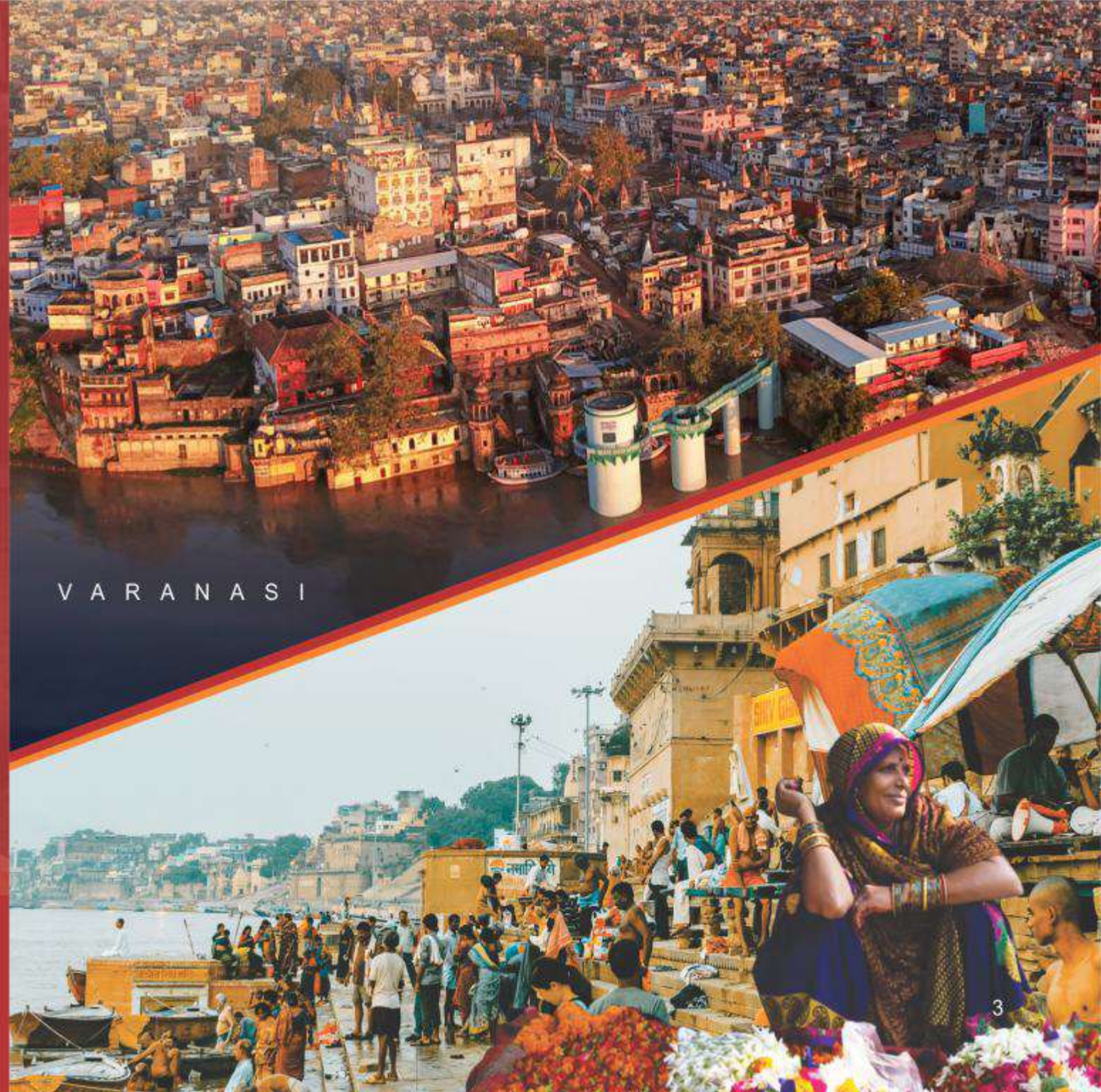
The Timings of The Aarties: Mangala Aarti at 3.00 A.M.. Kashi Vishwanath Temple Bhog Aarti at 11.15 A.M., Saptarshi Aarti at 7.00 P.M., Shringar Aarti at 9.00 P.M., and The Shayan Aarti at 10.30 P.M.

Online Web Portal is also Available for Sugam Darshan, Aarti & Others Facilities of Sri Kashi Vishwanath.
https://shrikashivishwanath.org/

Nearby are Goddess Vishalakshi Temple Counted Among 51 Shakti Peethas, Kashi Karvat Temple, Mother Gangaji Temple etc.

Goddess Annapurna Temple

Near The Kashi Vishwanath Temple Stands This Important Temple of Goddess Annapurna. The Temples of Lord Kuber & Surya Are Also Situated Within Its Premises. It Was Built in 1725 by Peshwa Baji Rao I, The Maratha Chieftain. The Temple is Famous for its Dhanteras and Annakoot Festivals. Annakoot Festival is Held Here After Deepavali. Nearby is The Famous Dhundhiraj Ganesh Temple.



VARANASI



A panoramic View of Ganga & Ghats

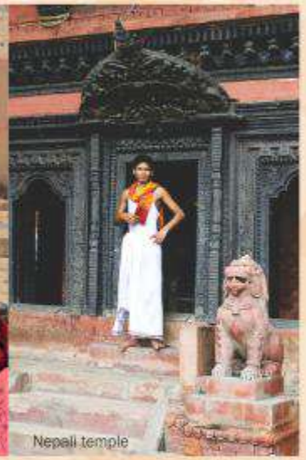
River Front (Ghats)

Varanasi is the city of Temples, Ghats, Kunds and Galies (narrow lanes). The spectacular long sweep of ghats on the holy Ganga is unique and creates a fascinating sight. Life, in almost panoramic detail, unfolds here from dawn to dusk as a steady stream of devotees, swelling to thousands on auspicious days, perform rituals. The Ghats are best approached by Dashashwamedha Ghat. Here boats are available on hire. It is now in Unesco Heritage Site list (Temporary) Evening Ganga Aarti is an added attraction here.

The other prominent Ghats are: Assi Ghat (attractions: Lord Jagannath Temple, Saint Tulsidas Temple), Tulsi Ghat (Saint Tulsidasji wrote here the parts of the immortal epic Shri Ram Charitmanas-his house-old manuscripts, Lord Hanuman Temple, Birth place of Rani Laxmi Bai and Lolark Kund), Chet Singh Ghat (Chet Singh Fort), Hanuman Ghat (Lord Hanuman Temple,



Sadhus on the ghat



Nepali temple



People enjoying Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedha Ghat

Mahaprabhuji Temple, Rudra Bhairav Temple, Ram-Parivar Temple), Harish Chandra Ghat (Associated with mythological king Harish Chandra, cremation site, Kashi Kamkotishwar Temple), Kedar Ghat (Kedareshwar Temple, Kumar Swamy Math), Sheetla Ghat (Goddess Sheetla Temple, Ganga-Dattatreya-Vitthal Temples), Dashashwamedha Ghat (Ganga Aarti and Budhwa Mangal festival site, Ganga Temple, boats can be hired here), Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ghat (Navratri Mahotsav and other cultural fairs site), Man Mandir Ghat (Observatory & Virtual Experiential Museum), Lalita Ghat (Nepali Temple), Manikarnika Ghat (famous cremation site, Haveli of Dom Raja), Sindhia Ghat (Goddess Sankatha Temple, Vaikuntha Madhav Temple, Dattatreya Temple), Panch Ganga Ghat (Ramananda Math, Shri Sansthan Math, Satyabhama Math, Tailang Swamy Math, Baithak of Vallabhacharyaji, Bindu Madhav Temple, Ganga Mahotsav at Raj Ghat Ram Panchayatan Temple, Alamgir Masjid, Kangan Haveli, Deepmalika Stand)



Special fire lamp of Ganga Aarti



Ghai Ghat (Nepal Palace, Lakshmi-Narayan Temple, Gauri Temple), PRAHLAD GHAT (Nrishingh Temple, Jagannath Temple, Prahaladeshwer Temple, Sheetla Temple), Badri Naryan Ghat (Lord Badri Narayan Temple), Raj Ghat (Maqbara of Lal Khan. Shri Satsang Parivar Vyayamshala, Saint Ravidas Temple, Bhainsasur Temple), Adi Keshava Ghat (Adi Keshav Temple, Gyankeshava Temple, Sangameshwar Temple, Vinayak Temple, Panchdevata Temple, Durga Temple & Kund).

Lord Shani Dev Temple
This prominent temple of Lord Shani Dev is situated near the Kashi Vishwanath and Goddess Annapurna Temples.

Excavated Site Rajghat
This is the place where people can see the evidences old Kashi. This area was capital of Kashi, Evidence of Kushan dynasty period has been found here. This area is the vivid proof of the antiquity of Kashi.

Lal Khan Ka Rauja
In Rajghat area of Varanasi this tomb was built in 1773 who was minister in the court of King of Kashi Maharaja Balwant Singh. This site is under Archaeological Survey of India, Sarnath circle.

Varanasi transcends time, bustling with stories and life along its iconic Ganga ghats.



The Kal Bhairav temple

Lord Kal Bhairav Temple (One form of Lord Bhairav)

This famous temple is dedicated to Lord Kal Bhairav, considered to be the protector (Kotwal) of the city. It is situated in the Bhairavnath-Vishweshwarganj locality. Nearby are Nagari Pracharini Sabha, the old and famous institution, Mahamritunjai Temple, Tilbhandeshwar Temple.

Lord Batuk Bhairav Temple

Situated in Kamchha locality having two small temples with attractive idols in same premises. Lord Batuk Bhairav is one form of Lord Bhairav.



Batuk Bhairav temple



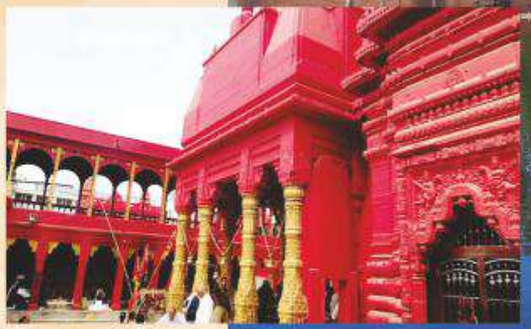
Sankata Devi temple

Goddess Durga Temple
It is one of the prominent temples of the city dedicated to Goddess Durga in Nav Durga of Varanasi, in Bhelupur-Durga Kund locality. The temple was built in the 18th Century. Kushmandadevi temple and Durga Kund are other attractions.

Sankat Mochan Temple
It is one of the oldest temples of the city in the Sankatmochan- Lanka locality. The temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman. It is said that Goswami Tulsidasji wrote parts of his epic Shri Ramcharitmanas here. The annual Sankat Mochan Music Festival, held here since 1923 as part of Hanuman Jayanti celebrations is a major attraction.

Kunds
Varanasi is also known for its kunds, important among them are Pishachmochan Kund, Karna Ghanta Kund, Pitar Kund, Lolark Kund, Lakshmi Kund, Kurushetra Kund, Pushkar Kund, Durga Kund, Krim Kund, Lanka Kund.


Sankatmochan temple


Durga temple & kund

Goddess Durga Temple

Saint Ravidas Temple
This grand temple is built at Seergoverdhan area, near the B.H.U. which is the birth place of Saint Ravidasji.

Gurudwaras
The magnificent Gurubagh Gurudwara marks the place where Guru Nanakdevji had stayed in 1506. Gurudwara Neechibagh, in the Aas Bhairav locality, is the place where Guru Teg Bahadurji meditated in 1666.

Jain Temples
Varanasi is also regarded as one of the most sacred pilgrim centres of the Jains. It is believed that four Tirthankars-Suparshavanath, Chandra Prabhu, Shreyanshnath and Parshvanath-were born in and around Varanasi. Many Shvetambar and Digambar Jain temples, columns and idols are located in Bhadaini and Bhelupura localities.

Tulsi Manas Temple
This marble temple, near the Goddess Durga Temple, is dedicated to Lord Rama. It is situated at the place where Goswami Tulsidasji lived and wrote the famous epic Shri Ramcharitmanas. Verses from Shri Ramcharitmanas are inscribed on its walls. There is a museum in the premises which has a rare collection of manuscripts of the Ramayan and other artefacts.

Tridev Temple
Near the Tulsi Manas Temple, is Tridev Temple, a new attraction of the city having the idols of Shri Radha-Krishna, Salasar Balaji Hanuman, Rani Sati and Khatu Shyam.


Tridev temple


Tulsi Manas temple


Jain temple, Bhelupur


Sant Ravidas temple


Gurubagh Gurudwara

Manmandir Observatory & Virtual Experiential Museum

This observatory was built by Raja Man Singh of Jaipur at Manmandir Ghat near Dashashwamedh Ghat.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Sri Narendra Modi inaugurated newly established Virtual Experiential Museum (VEM) on 19th February, 2019 in Centrally Protected Monument under Archeological Survey of India, Man-Mahal.

Virtual Experiential Museum showcases the glimpse of various aspects, tangible and intangible, of Varanasi through modern and sophisticated scientific equipments.

Visiting of VEM will be a unique experience for a visitor where they will experience to holy ghat, classical music, weaving of sari, writer/author, Ram Leela, 3D view of monuments, narrow lanes and betel shop etc. of Varanasi in very interesting way by using curved T.V. screen, paintings, touch screens and projectors. The story of descending of Ganga on the earth is also shown to the visitors made in a very interesting way.

Timing: 10.00a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Closed on Friday. Entry fee: Foreign Tourist Rs. 300.00 Domestic Tourist Rs. 25.00

Bharat Mata Temple

A unique temple at Sigra locality-close to M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth. is dedicated to Mother India, which instead of the customary gods and goddesses, houses one of the most perfect relief maps of India carved on marble. It was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1936.

Kabir Math

Situated in the Kabir Chaura locality, it is the main Kabir Gaddi. The paintings related with the life-events of Saint Kabirdasji are worth seeing

Radha Swami Temple

The temple having an attractive gate and building, situated on the Kabir Chaura road at Lohatia, is associated with the Radha Swami Sect.

Galis (Narrow Lanes)

The serpentine narrow lanes of this city mirror the typical lifestyle
of the inhabitants. Some of the famous Galis are Vishwanath Gali, Kachauri Gali, Thatheri Bazar Gali, Khoa Gali etc.

Alamgir Mosque

This mosque, an amalgamation of Hindu-Muslim religious sentiments, is also known as "Beni Madhav -ka-Dharehara'. The entire lower portion of the mosque is retained as a Hindu temple.

Lahartara Sarovar

Lahartara Sarovar, 3 km from Cantt. Railway Station on Varanasi-Allahabad route, is the Udbhav Sthal of great Nirgun Saint Kabirdasji. The old temple built in between the sarovar (pond) is worth visiting
The other attractions are: Sakshi Vinayak Temple. Nepali Temple, Goddess Sankatha Temple, Lord Baijnath Temple, Lord Batuk Bhairav Temple, Bindumadhav Temple, Chitraghanta Temple, Bara Ganesh Temple, Kalratri Temple, Mukh Nirmalika Temple, Shailputri Devi Temple, Garhwa Ghat, Shool Tankeshwar Temple, Markandey Mahadev Temple, Kaithi.

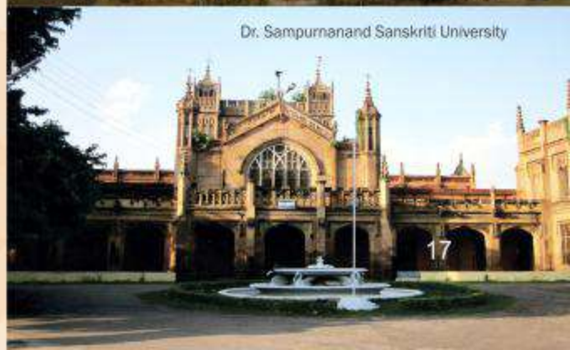
Organisations

- Yoga Institute, B.H.U.
- Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth
- Dr. Sampurnanand Sanskrit University
- Krishna Murti Foundation, Rajghat
- R.K. Mission, Luxa Road
- Gandhi Institute, Rajghat
- Nagari Pracharini Sabha, Maidagin
- Gyan Pravah, Nagwa
- Garhwa Ghat Ashram
- Theosophical Society
- Maha Bodhi Society of India,
- Sarnath
- Tibetan Institute, Samath
- Kayakalpam Ayurvedic Health Spa, 49-Patel Nagar.


The Sant Kabir Math


Bharat Mata temple


Nagari pracharini sabha


Dr. Sampurnanand Sanskriti University

Manikaranika Ghat

Manikarnika is considered to be the most sacred cremation ghat of Varanasi. It is believed that consigning the mortal remains to fire at the ghat provides eternal peace to the soul. It is said that the fire of the funeral pyres have not gone out over centuries.

Puja offerings to mother Ganges

Annapurna Temple

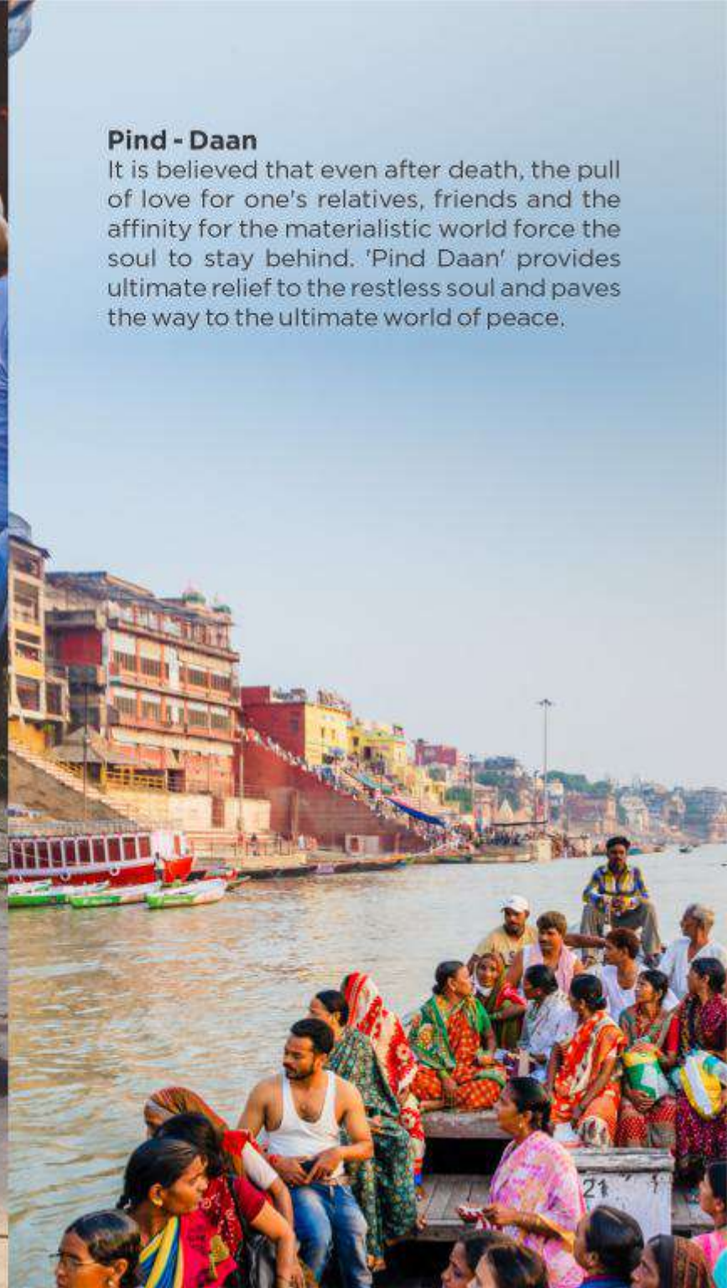
Annapurna Temple was built in 1725 by the Maratha chieftain, Peshwa Baji Rao I. It is believed that whoever worships goddess Annapurna never goes hungry.During the annual Annakuta festival, just after Diwali, mountains of fruits, sweets and cereals are laid out before the goddess and then distributed to the poor.



Pind daan rituals at the ghat

Pind - Daan

It is believed that even after death, the pull of love for one's relatives, friends and the affinity for the materialistic world force the soul to stay behind. 'Pind Daan' provides ultimate relief to the restless soul and paves the way to the ultimate world of peace.

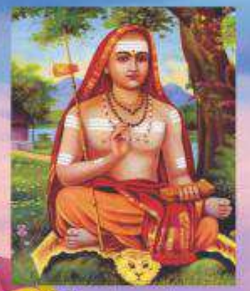


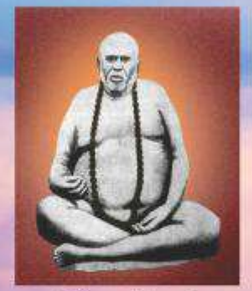
Namo Ghat, also known as Khidkiyan Ghat has been revamped with the efforts of PM Narendra Modi. It is known for its three large sculptures with folded hand gestures of **'Namaste'**. It hosts increased tourist facilities, while immersing in the divinity of the Holy Ganga.



A few holy saints who lived here


Gautam Buddha

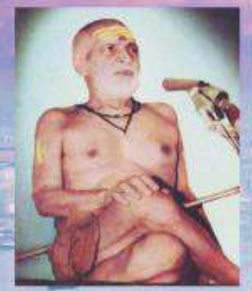

Adi Shankaracharya


Tailang-Swami


Baba Keenaram

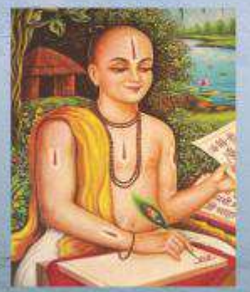

Gambhir Nath Ji

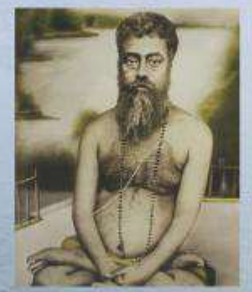

Guru Nanak

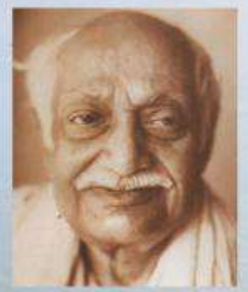

Karpatriji


Sant Ravidas


Sant Kabir Das


Sant Tulsidas


Vishuddhananda Paramahansa


Gopinath Kaviraj Ji

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY (B.H.U.)
At a short distance from the Sankatmochan Temple is the Banaras Hindu University, one of the prestigious educational centres of India. It was founded by Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. The University is among the few institutions which provides education on variety of subjects including the Ayurveda, Astrology, Yoga, Tantra, Music etc.

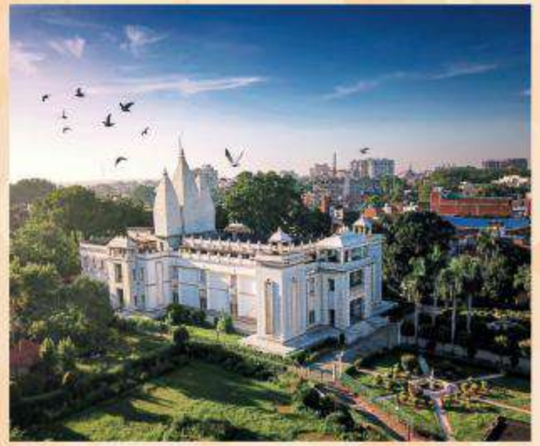
NEW LORD VISHWANATH TEMPLE
Situated in the premises of Banaras Hindu University, this modern place of worship was planned by Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and built by the Birlas, on the pattern of the original Lord Vishwanath Temple. Verses from old scriptures are inscribed on its walls.

TULSI MANAS MANDIR, VARANASI
Tulsi Manas Mandir is one of the most famous temples in the holy city of Varanasi. This temple has great historical and cultural importance in Hinduism since the ancient Hindu epic Ramcharitmanas was originally written at this place by Hindu poet-saint, reformer and philosopher Goswami Tulsidas in the 16th century.

BHARAT KALA BHAVAN
This museum, within the BHU campus; houses the finest collection of Mughal miniature paintings and brocade textiles.
Timing: 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (except university holldays), Closed on Sunday,


Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U. Main Gate)


New Lord Vishwanath temple


Tulsi Manas Mandir, Varanasi


Bharat Kala Bhavan


Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Smriti Sthal

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Smriti Sthal
Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Smriti Sthal is located in the Padao area of Varanasi. Here a 63 feet high status of Pandit Deendayal ji made of Panchdhatu is installed. A large park has been also built at the memorial site, which is the centre of tourist attraction.
Pandit Upadhyay was a popular central leader of Indian Political History whe contributed significantly to nation building. The dead body of Pandit Upadhyay ji was found in this area. This site has been built in the memory of Pandit Upadhyay ji.

Ramnagar Fort and Museum

14 km. Ramnagar, across the Ganga river, is the home of the Maharaja of Banaras, who is revered as the representative of Lord Shiva in the city. The massive 17th century fort here houses a museum displaying the royal collection which includes Vintage Cars, Royal Palanquins, an armoury of swords and old guns, ivory work and antique clocks. The Goddess Durga Temple and Chhinnamastika Devi Temple here are also worth visiting. Ramnagar is also famous for its unique month long RAM LEELA. One can go to Ramnagar by road or boat.

Museum Timings

Summer:
8:30a.m. to 12:00 noon,
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
Winter:
10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



The Museum

The rear view of Ramnagar fort

Sarnath, Located about 10 km from the mythical city of Kashi, is also famous by the name Rishipatan and Mrigadava since ancient times. This region is also famous for being the workplace of great mystics like Mahatma Buddha and jain Tirthankar Shreyans Nath. In time, various historical dynasties like Maurya dynasty, Gupta dynasty, etc., contained various forms of major political, cultural, religious activities, such as Stupas, Viharas, Ashoka pillars, etc., even today, is still fascinating the tourists with aesthetic demands.

In view of this popularity of Sarnath, a sound and light programme is being conducted/organized on the Dhamekh Stupa built by Mauryan ruler Ashoka (about 265 B.C.E. - 249 B.C.E.). According to Buddhists texts and various historical accounts, after attaining enlightenment in Bodh Gaya, Mahatma Buddha gave the first sermon at Sarnath to his five disciples Mahanam, Vappa, Bhaddiya, Ashwajit, Kaudinya.

This historical glorious saga, which begins from Mahatma Buddha's childhood and ends at the first sermon delivered by him is presented to the tourists through projection mapping. The purpose of the programme is to make the tourists acquainted with the life and personality of Sarnath, especially Mahatma Buddha, so that more and more number of tourists can be attracted towards the Sarnath tourism.



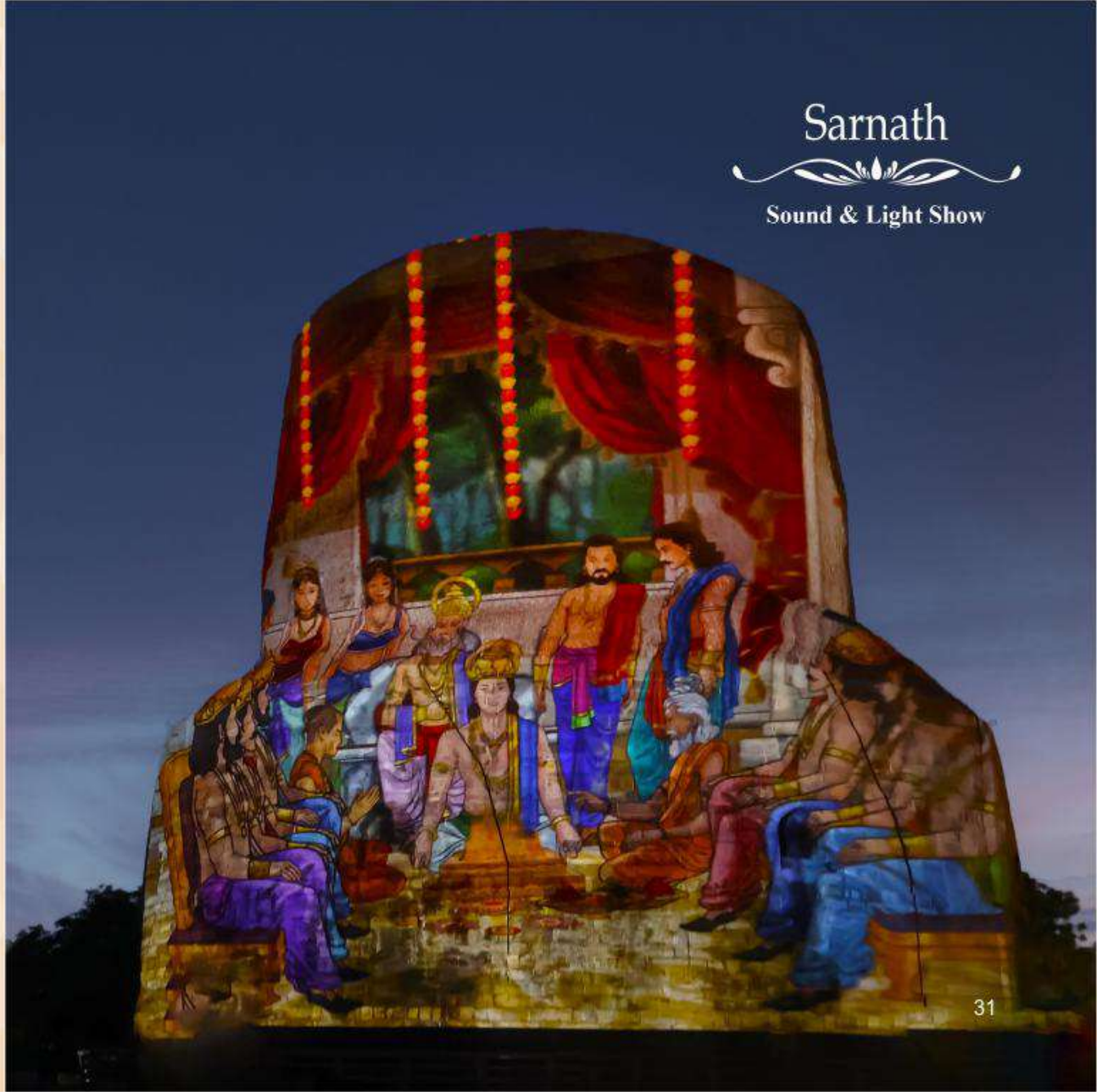
Lord Buddha's statue

Apart from this, tourists are also introduced to various tourist places of Kashi, Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Manohari Ghat of Kashi, the world famous Ganga Aarti of Kashi, Ashoka Stambha at Sarnath (National Emblem of India) etc.

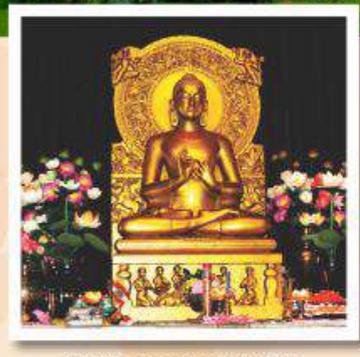
Timing-Sunset time.
Place-Dhamekh Stupa, Sarnath

Sarnath

Sound & Light Show



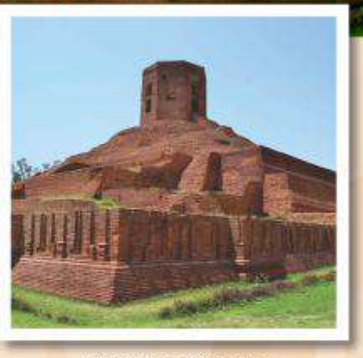




Statue of golden Buddha



Lion's Capital at Sarnath Museum



Chaukhandi Stupa

Ruins at Archaeological Site
The major attractions here are: Dharmarajika Stupa, Mulgandhkuti Vihar. The carved shells and concave moldings, small pillars and beautiful artistic cuts made on this temple make it certain that it was built in Gupta dynasty period but some scholars believe it to be of earth 8th century on he basis of rough carved stone.
Ashokan Pillar Broken in few pieces and preserved under a canopy.

Dhamek Stupa
It was built to commemorate the preaching of the first sermon by Lord Bhuddha. This huge and magnificent Stupa is 28 mtrs. in diameter at the base and 43.6 mtrs. in height, built partly in stone. and partly in brick. The stone facing the lower part is adorned with delicate floral carvings of Gupta origin.

Sound & Light Show
An event organized by UP Tourism & Archaeological Survey of India. The purpose of programme is to make the tourists acquainted with the life and personality of Buddha and about glorious past of Sarnath. Timing: 7:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Jain Temple
The Jain Temple is dedicated to the 11th Tirthankar Lord Shreyansnathji.

Mahabodhi Temple - Mulgandha Kuti
Here, Lord Buddha's golden statue in the first sermon preaching posture is worshiped, which is situated on a platform, under which the relics of Lord Buddha are kept in casket. It is taken out once in a year on the day of Buddha Poornima. The inner walls of the temple have excellent frescoes by Japanese artist Kosetsu Nosu showing the life of Lord Buddha. The carved shells and concave moldings, small pillers and beautiful artistic cuts made on the temple make it certain that it was built in Gupta dynasty period but the paved floor made of clay lime around it used in the outer part the wall some scholars believed it to be around 8 century on the basis of rough carved stone. There is a Bodhi Tree also. Under the Bodhi Tree, Lord Buddha is shown preaching his first sermon to his first five disciples. There is a rich collection of Buddhist literature too.
Timing: Sunrise to 7.30 p.m.

Deer Park
In ancient time, this place was inhabited by lot of deer and was called Mrigdav. To commemorate that a Deer Park is developed here.
There are other monasteries also, such as Sikkim, Thailand, China, Myanmar, Japan, Tibet and Korea.

Sarangnath Temple
It is an old and famous temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. The major attraction of the temple is two Shivlings in one Argha.
A month-long fair is held here during the Shravan month (July-August). Near by is the large Sarangnath Kund also.

Festivals

Festivals, fairs and umpteen rituals give Varanasi a colourful and diverse look. It is said that in 365 days 400 festivals are celebrated here.

Dev Deepawali

The most picturesque festival, Dev Deepawali is celebrated every year fifteen days after the traditional Deepawali by the banks of river Ganga. The ghats come alive with lights, chants & prayers. The mighty Ganga is lit up with endless floating lamps. It's an infinitely divine experience.



Dev Deepawali

People and Gods together celebrate Deepawali, the stream of Ganga looks like the holy pathway connecting from heavens to land. The high spirits of the festival and the waves of joy around the city, create an inimitable scene to be experienced.
This is the only reason, why millions of people from the entire country and all over the world gather in the holy grounds of Varanasi and celebrate the jubilant carnival of Gods and humans. Illuminating diyas are decorated on the steps of Ghats and the Ganga can be seen under shimmering lamps floating along with the lights from hundreds of boats.








Ganga Mahotsav- The five-day festival, with all its rituals and customs, traditional music and dance shows portrays the cultural heritage of Varanasi.



Nakkataiya- The Nakktaiya Mela takes place on the night of Kartik Krishna Chaturthi, one week after Vijayadashami. The events of Ramcharit Manas are displayed in this fair such as; Lakshmana cuts the nose of Surpnakha, Ravana's sister. The main attraction of this fair is the performance of Surpnakha's war along with her brothers with Lord Ram.



Bharat Milap - Bharat Milap is the most important part of the Ramlila festival and is celebrated to commemorate the arrival of Lord Rama to his kingdom, Ayodhya and embrace his younger brother Bharat who had been waiting for him for 14 years. People from all over the world visits Varanasi to witness this emotional reunion at Nati Imli. The history of this fair date back to approximately 450 years. It is celebrated between the month of October and November.

Budhwa Mangal- Budhwa Mangal Utsav is dedicated to the old age form of Hanuman ji. The festival is held on the last Tuesday of the month of Bhadrapada / Bhadoon, which is also known as Budhe Mangal in popular language. This festival is celebrated with great pomp in the approximately 300 years old Hanuman Bari complex in Nagla Khushali.





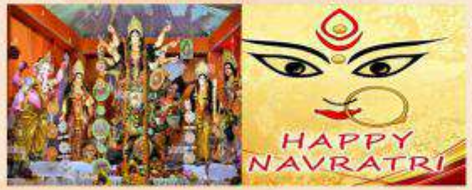
Nag Nathaiya- Nag Nathaiya festival is a part of the Krishna Leela ceremony, a mythological tradition involving depiction of Lord Krishna's conquest of the serpent Kaliya. The Nag Nathaiya festival of Varanasi is held at the Tulsi Ghat in the month of Nov-Dec.



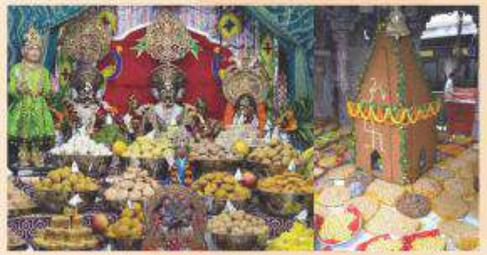
Govardhan Puja/Annakoot- Annakoot is celebrated to acknowledge the episode of Lord Krishna's win over Indra by lifting Govardhan hill and thus protected the cowherd clan of Vrindavan. People celebrate this puja by making food of cereals such as wheat, rice, curry of gram flour and leafy vegetables in order to offer to Lord Krishna.



Lolark Chhath- Lolark Kund is made in such a way that on the 'Bhadrapad Shukla Shashti' (Aug-Sept) the rays of the sun become immensely impactful and effective and that's why on this day famous festival called 'Lolark Chatt' is celebrated here, where people from all over the world visit to take a dip in the holy kund.



Mahashivratri Mahotsav Varanasi a 06 days long event was held at the Raj Ghat of Varanasi from 11th March to 16th March 2021 on the blessed occasion of Mahashivratri. Various cultural and spiritual performances and shows were incorporated in this event.



Dhrupad Mela- Dhrupad mela is a great event which is celebrated every year in Varanasi. It is a five days long festival of music organized in the month of Febraury and March at the Tulsi Ghat. Legendary music artists from all over India come to take part and show their performances. This festival has become one of the major key points for tourism in Varanasi.



Navratri Mahotsav A circuit of 09 temples dedicated to the 09 forms of Goddess Maa Durga is located in Varanasi; a 09 days long event of Sharadeeya Navratri was held covering these temples and cultural evenings at Rajendra Prasad Ghat in Varanasi. Artists from all across the country performed their best evenings to make this event a great success.



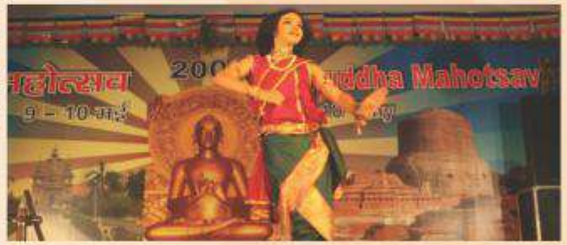
Ramleela at Ramnagar- The world famous Ramlila is organized every year in the month of September-October in the Ramnagar region located about 10 km from Varanasi, in which the epic Ramayana story is staged by various artists at about 20 different places in the district. In this, Bharat Milap of Nati Imli region is very famous and interesting. The program begins in the evening, in which modern lighting equipment is not used even today, which is considered to be the biggest feature of this event. The program was started in the year 18th century by Kashi Naresh Udit Narayan Singh. This Ramlila of Ramnagar is held sequentially for about 31 days.

The most striking feature of Rama Leela at Ramanagar is that characters playing Lord Rama, Hanumana etc. wear unique masks. The whole Ramanagar city serves as a set to represent the various scenes for Ashok Vatika, Panchavati, Janakpuri, Lanka etc. It is famous for its fulsome sets, conversations and illustrious display.

Mahashivratri- Built by Lord Shiva of mythological beliefs, Kashi is his very favorite abode. Therefore, in the city of Lord Shiva, there is a lot of festivals related to them, whether it is Shravan month or Shivaratri. Tourists/ pilgrims from all over the world come to pay obeisance to Shri Kashi Vishwanath.



Buddha Mahotsav- Lord Buddha was born on the Full Moon Day in the month of Vaisakh, years ago in 563 BC. Buddha Mahotsav is held every year at Sarnath in Varanasi to celebrate the birthday of Lord Buddha.









CUISINE

Malaiyo

Just before the sunrise in winter when mist covers the city, the master sweet makers of Varanasi churn the milk and extract the flavoured foam in a manner that it does not get melted easily! After garnishing with hints of pistachio and green cardamom, Malaiyo is ready to give you the sweetest bluff of your life.

Banarasi Paan

Banarasi Paan is very popular all over India because of its awesome taste. Processing of betel leaf is the specialty of Banaras which makes it so unique.

Puri or Kachori Sabzi

Most favorite breakfast of Banaras, called Kachori, is actually very famous all over India. These deep fried flat breads are stuffed with spicy lentil puree and often



served with hot curry and Chutney. Across Varanasi many small and big shops are offering it but for the best you have to visit Kachori Gali.

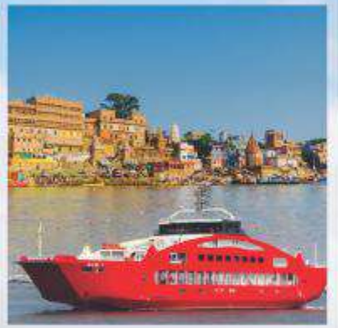
Jalebi

Jalebi is tangled sweet with a crispy twist and also love of life for many! A good breakfast in Varanasi is incomplete without it.









Cruise Boat

Varanasi: Hub Of Adventure And Water sports (Assi Ghat)

Varanasi is not only the city of temples and Ghats but the city also attracts adventure and water sports lovers. These activities like; Speed Boat, Para Motor, Bummpy Ride, Desert Bike, Jetski, Para Sailing, Banana Ride and many more have thumped the banks of the holy river Ganga. (Assi Ghat).

Banaras Darshan: With Cruise Boat:

If you come to Varanasi and do not take boat ride, then Varanasi Darshan remain incomplete. With the common boats one can take boat ride with Cruise Boats also.

Varanasi Has 02 Cruise Boat & 02 Ro-Ro Boats

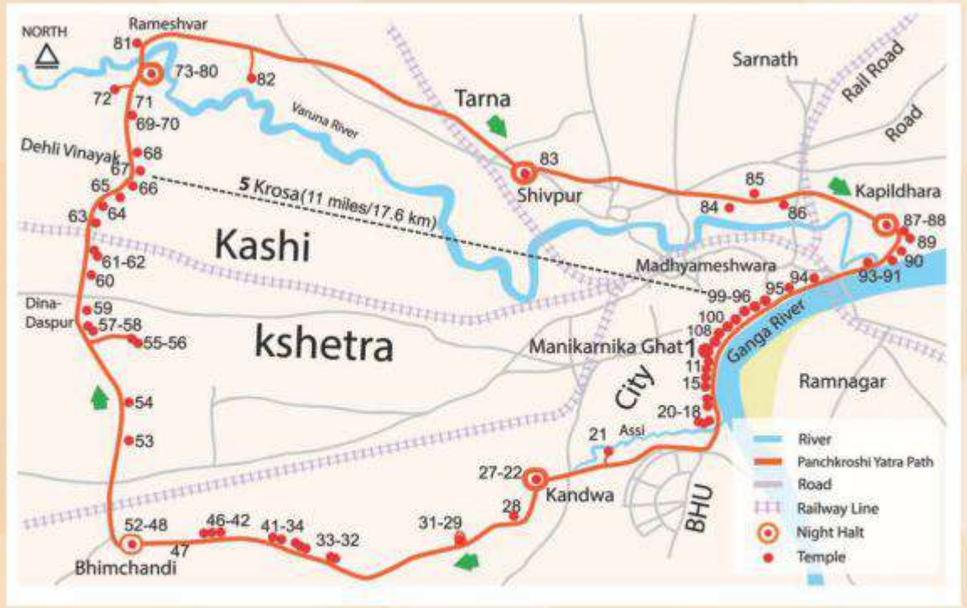
Panchkoshi Parikrama

The importance of Panchkroshi Yatra is rooted in centuries of faith. it is said that Treta Yug for the very first time Lord Rama started this pilgrimage with his wife Sita and brothers who to make his father from the curse of the parents of Shravan Kumar. It is also mentioned that in Dwapar Yug, Pandavas did this yatra along with Draupadi. Later, Adi Shankaracharya steepened this yatra and propogated amongst his followers, Panch Kroshi Yatra is well defined in the Kashi Khand of Skand Purana.

On this 85 Km long circular walk, there are 108 sacred places in Panchkroshi Yatra in which 56 Shivlingam, 2 Bhairav, 11 Vinayaka, 4 Vishnu, 10 Goddess Temple including other sacred ponds (Kunda), Kupa and other sacred areas.

This Yatra is done by devotees in every month of year, but yatra have more religious importance in Sravan month (July and August), Purushotam month of Hindi Calendar and Shivratri.

Devotees cover this whole route by walking.













1st Halt- Kandawa:

Devotees start "Panch Kroshi Yatra" from Manikarnika Ghat and reach Kandawa through Assi Ghat, while attending and worshipping at various temples on the way. Here situated the temple of Kardmeshwara Mahadeva. Close to the temple, there is a huge ancient holy pond called Kund, where all the devotees take bath and perform early rituals.

2nd Halt- Bhimchandi:

Second day, devotees start their walk towards Bhimchandi. They worship at every temple which comes in a way during the walk in between Kandawa and Bhimchandi, the famous Unmetta Bhairav Temple can be found. Next to the temple of Goddess Bhimchandi and Lord Shiva, there is a spacious Talaab (pond).

3rd Halt- Rameshwaram:

Third day, devotees start moving towards Rameshwaram. Close to it, there is Delhi Vinayak Temple, which is a temple of Lord Ganesha. Rameshwaram is an ancient temple of Lord Shiva which has the same importance as of the great Rameshwaram temple of Tamil Nadu. In the premises of Rameshwaram temple; there are other temple of Lord Rama, Lakshman, Bharat and Shatrughana.

4th Halt- Shivpur:

Fourth stoppage of Panch Kroshi Yatra is in Shivpur which is located in the Varanasi city. A large Talaab (pond) can be found here too, on the way to Shivpur, there are the temples of Lord Shiva, Goddess Durga, Pandavas and Lord Hanuman.

5th Halt- Kapildhara:

The Panch Kroshi Yatra ends at Kapileshwar Mahadev Temple which is situated at Kapildhara where huge numbers of devotees come to worship. There is a great importance of giving memorial ceremony to ancestors at this temple.

In the close proximity of Kapildhara and near confluence of river Varuna and Ganga, there is a 'Jav- Kharv' Vinayaka temple situated where devotees offer barley to Lord Ganesha. From here, devotees walk through the bank of river Ganga or take boats, as per convenience and head towards Manikarnika Ghat. After completing their resolution (Sankalp) the pilgrims visit Shri Kashi Vishwanath Temple, Annapurna Temple, Ganesh and Kaal Bhairav Temple to worship and conclude their Panchkroshi Yatra.

BANARASI SAREE

Banarasi Sarees are elegant brocaded silk sarees. These are known to be the finest sarees of the country and has been popular for its golden and silver zari work. Because of the metal zari work, these sarees look very gorgeous and are comparatively heavier.

Since ancient times, Banarasi Sarees are highly expensive and was only worn by the elites from all over the world but now it is the most preferred bridal attire for every Indian woman.

The weavers can be seen in hundreds of small workshops in Peelikothi area where they are working day and night, creating wonderful crafts with threads, zari work and passion in looms.











Kunj Gali:

It is not Krishna's Vrindavan. It is Shiva's beloved Kashi's Kunj Gali. This 100-200 year old Banarasi Sarees market, also known as 'Satti' in the local language, is the oldest and most prominent center of sale of Banarasi Sarees in Banaras. This Gali in its present form is adorned with nearly thousands of shops, a stock of Banarasi silk textiles where Banarasi Sarees have been made available to customers/ tourists for generations.

The weaving of Banarasi silk craft of Kunj Gali shops is made by hand weaving by the traditional artisans of Banaras. Artisans from rural areas of Varanasi like Cholapur, Choubepur as well as cities such as Lohta, Lallapura etc. are famous for the weaving of Banarasi Sarees for sale here. The world famous Kunj Gali is a great tourist attraction for the Banarasi silk textiles full of variations, where tourists and foreigners fond of Banarasi silk fabrics, come to buy clothes made with various Banarasi artifacts.

The Route: Kunj Gali is located about 4 kilometres from Varanasi Cantt Railway station and 15 kilometres from Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Babatpur. Kunj Gali is located opposite the Chowk police station on the Chown road from Godouli. It is located about 1 kilometre from Godoulia crossroad and about 500 meters from the world famous Kashi Vishwanath temple. The distance from here to Ganga Ghat is about 2 kilometres.



CRAFT

Undercut Stone Carving of Ramnagar
On the other side of the Ganges resides — Ramnagar. Meanwhile, in Ramnagar lives one beautiful art that is a perfect mixture of simplicity and prodigality. The locals of 'Bhang Wali Gali' — are traditionally been involved in the work of elegant carving works for generations. Ivory, Bone and Sandalwood was used for the artwork in older days, which are replaced by marble rock tablets now.

The outcomes of the work are not just very beautiful but also stupefying as the precise design involves net like carvings above the model and inside the model there is a replication of the same model. The models are fine and hollow from Inside. The beautiful decorative pieces are result of minute arts of excellent calibre

Zardozi Badge Making
The works of Zardozi Badge Making craft has been residing in the city since the Colonial era. The work of Zardozi is not concentrated in a singular field specific art, different forms of the art are also prominently performed in Lucknow and Allahabad, but the Badge making craft is essentially done here at Shivala Varanasi. The making of rank badges for the defence and police forces are used not only India, but many other countries around the world. Zardozi involves embroidery work with Zari, Which formerly used 'Khalabatun', which we silver threads coated in gold.













Wooden Lacquerware & Toys
The Varanasi Lacquerware is the producer of eccentric toys that are crafted in detail and coloured in fluorescent and bright colours. All the toys are being manufactured with eucalyptus, Goolar and Coraiya woods and are carved and coloured with hands The colouring is done with lac by processing, heating, mixing and cooling.

The intricate designs were loved even before the discovery of the silk route. One of the main products produced here is the Wooden Sindoora, which is a beautiful, conical leaded pot of Sindoor, it is one of the most essential part of Hindu marriage and marital life of a Hindu woman. These toys are exported to foreign market in bulk.

In the areas like Kashmiriganj and Khojawan, you will find big families are living making craft together for generations.

Metal repose
While roaming around the lanes of Kashipura, the sonorous sound of hammers can be noticed. The sound is nothing else but the unveiling of the beautiful craft of Metal repose. Diverse items are created in this field of metal craft. The malleable precious sheet of metals like Gold, Brass, Silver, or copper is moulded into required shapes and then they are covered with a layer of liquid Lac on the reverse side. When the Lac is settled, the metal sheets are hammered and chiselled over the Lac, which bulges the design on the forefront. Platters, jugs, betel boxes and many other such articles decorated with these endemic fretworks leave everybody spellbound.



Gulabi Meenakari

An art form of its kind Gulabi Meenakari stands for the "Artwork of silver". Meena means Silver and Kari means artwork. Beautiful ornamental designs by moulding the metal and very intricately hand-painted floral patterns with lustrous colours make this artwork into eye-catching pieces of art. The colours used are extractions of precious metals, stones and minerals. The process of extraction involves indigenous artistic and scientific treatments. For example, the pink (GULABI) colour is created from the gold, using an old and unique oriental technique of mixing it with precious stones.

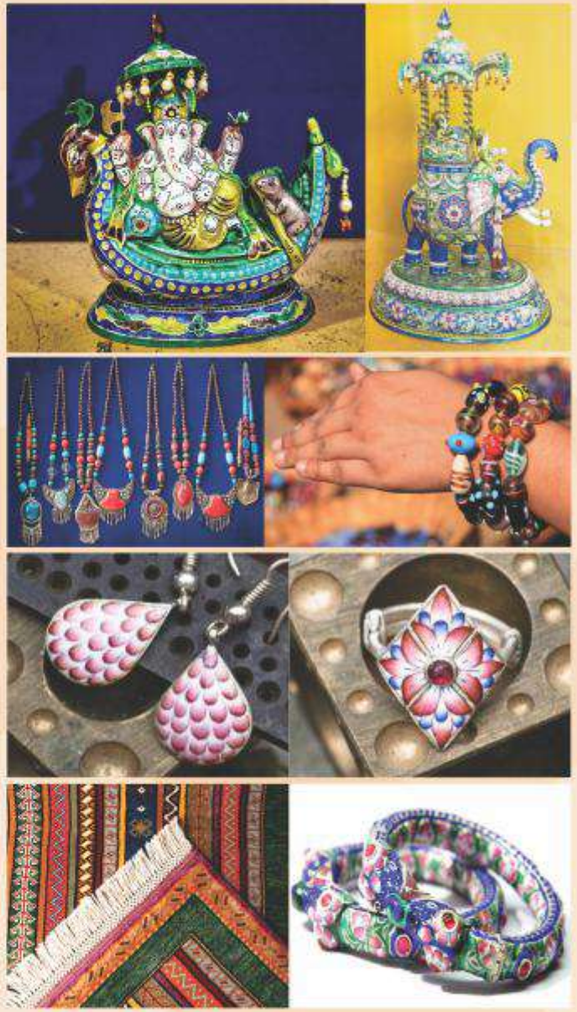
Vising artisans and their homes based studios situated in the Gaighat area is a fantastic experience.

Carpets of Bhadohi

Renamed as 'Sant Ravidas Nagar', Bhadohi has been called the 'Carpet City' for a long time. The hand knitted carpets of Bhadohi are majorly exported to the foreign countries and give a great deal of competition to the neighbouring countries.

The hand woven carpets are solely made of wool and are woven with minute details. Each rug has been taken into special attention by the artisans. These are made with adequate technology and fine skills and the new technology and creation has updated itself with time. The gorgeous carpets look splendid when they are finished and ready to be sold.







Bamboo Baskets

Everybody who has been around Asia Pacific, must have noticed the street side hawkers and traders selling things on bamboo baskets. These baskets are also made around Varanasi by people living in suburb makeshift slums. Made only using scraps of bamboo and a sharp knife, these baskets are fully biodegradable and light in weight. The sticks of bamboo are woven and painted entirely by hands.
Bouquet baskets, shoe racks, flower baskets are some other products made out same bamboo sticks.

Bell Metal Works

Around the alleys of Kashipura, the thriving works of art can be spotted while in process. But the display of the art is everywhere, from the bells of the temples to the fascinating daily use vessels made with distinct bell metal or mix metal in Varanasi.

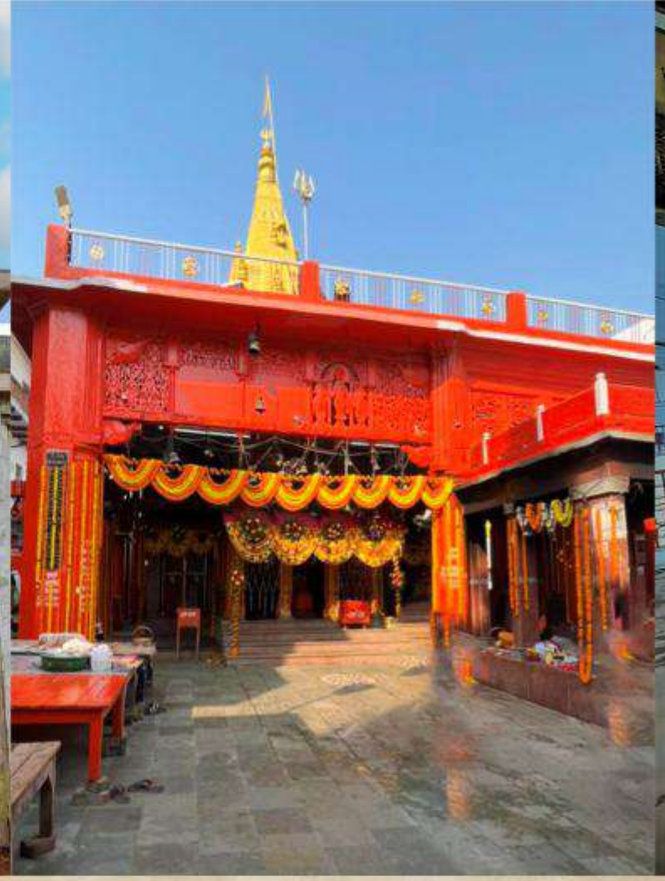
By using ancient technique of sand casting; craftsmen are making these gorgeous household items by using old scrap metal and melting them in their home made oven. Ever household of India has at least on piece of bell metal vessel and there is no temple in India without a bell.

Black Pottery

The Black pottery is an array of unusual pots and vessels created with tremendous technique. Made near Nizamabad of Azamgarh district, this craft is made with the local soil of the local land. The pots are made into different shapes and designs; they are then baked with rice husk that gives them their unique black colour. The pots are sometimes decorated with silver coloured engravings and they are reheated several times to get the adequate quality. It has been appreciated for centuries for its unusual technique of creation and splendid design.







Markandey Mahadev Temple
This Mahadev Temple in Varanasi is dedicated to Markandey Rishi, who is believed to be the incarnation of Lord Shiva.
He is accredited with the composition of the Maha Mrityunjaya Mantra, which is chanted by devotees to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva.



Pind Daan Tarpan is a Hindu religious ritual performed for the peace of the ancestors' souls. This ritual is usually performed on the banks of river Ganga, but it can also be performed at other holy rivers or places.
This ritual is especially important in Varanasi, as it is considered most sacred here. Pinds are prepared in small balls mainly by mixing flour and water together for the ceremony.
The priest recites mantras and prayers while offering these pinds to the ancestors. Following the completion of the Pind Daan Tarpan ceremony, devotees provide food and water as offerings to their ancestors, accompanied by prayers for their peace and liberation.

Trade Facilitation Center and Craft Museum

In the crowd of mass produced machine products, the genuine art is often left unheard. In order to amplify the esteem of these charismatic art works, a massive Trade Facilitation Center was established in the, Bada Lalpur area of Varanasi on 22nd _ of September 2017 by the hon'ble Prime Minister of India himself. The center is an art museum, where the artists can display their art works in distinct art galleries, like textile gallery, handlooms and weaves gallery, carpet gallery and many such galleries where the pieces of art are found to be appreciated and explored. The facilitation center is a massive step taken by the Government of India and is one of its kind museums found in all over the country.



INFORMATION

Area	:	73.89 sq. km.
Population (Distt.)	:	36,82,194 (2011 Census)
Height	:	200 mtrs. above sea level
Altitude	:	80.71 mtrs. above sea level
Best Season	:	October-March
Temperature	:	Max. 43° Celsius to Min. 5° Celsius
Language	:	Hindi, English
Local Transport	:	Bus/Cycle Rickshaw/Auto Rickshaw

AIR

The nearest Airport is Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport at Babatpur, 22 km from Varanasi and 30 km from Sarnath. Varanasi is connected with Delhi, Agra, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Bhuvaneshwar, Kathmandu.

RAIL

Varanasi Cantt. (Varanasi Junction), Banaras Railway Station, Formerly known as Manduadih Railway Station and Pandit din Dayal Upadhyaya Junction Formerly known as (Mughal Sarai) -16 km (one of the main railway stations of Varanasi) are the important rail junctions that link Varanasi with all major cities of India. - Varanasi Railway Station Tel.: 131, 139-Mughal Sarai Railway Station Tel.: 05412-255703

ROAD

Varanasi, on NH2 from Kolkata to Delhi, NH7 to Kanya Kumari and NH29 to Gorakhpur, is well connected with the rest of the country by good motorable roads. Some of the major road distances are: Sarnath-10 km, :Sarnath-10 km, Chunar-35 km, Jaunpur-60 km, Vindhyachal-70 km, Allahabad-125 km, Ayodhya-140 km, Bodhgaya-240 km, Patna-246 km, Lucknow-286 km, Khajuraho-405 km, Agra-565 km.

SHOPPING

Varanasi, the apex religious centre, is also an exciting shopping hub. The city is famous for superior quality handicraft products. The exotic embroidery on Banarsi silk, royal carpets, fantastic wooden work, attractive bead & pearls jewellery, tempting sweetmeat all fascinating enough to win heart over.



UP TOURISM ACCOMMODATION

UPSTDC Tourist Bungalow, Parade Kothi, Opp. Cantt. Railway Station
Tel. : 0542-2208413, 2208545
E-mail : rahitbvaranasi@up-tourism.com

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

UP Govt. Tourist Office
Sanskratic Sankul, Urban Haat, Chauka Ghat, Varanasi
E-mail: varanasi@up-tourism.com
Tel.: 0542-2505033

UP Govt. Tourist Information Counter, Cantt. Railway Station, (near Enquiry Office, Main Hall) Modern Reception Centre Opp. Sarnath Museum, Sarnath
Tel.: 0542-2506670

Govt. of India Tourist Office — Tel.: 2501784

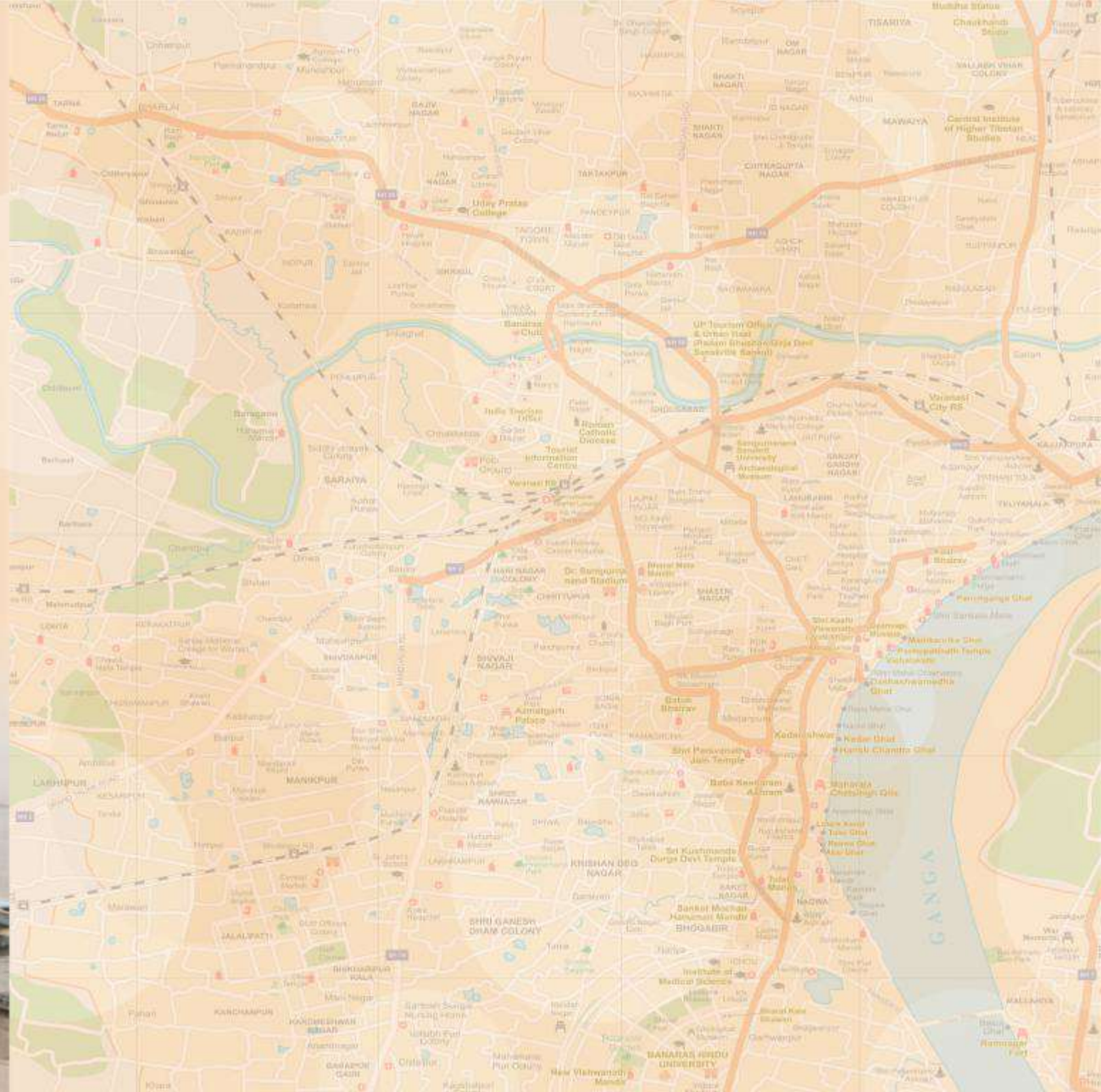
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Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport, Varanasi
Tel.: 0542-2505033

Photographs : **U.P. Tourism, Ashish Ramesh Pandey**
Photo Editing & Design : **U.P. Tourism**
Printed by : **R.K. Vivek Enterprises**

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Kashi

Varanasi or Banaras, referred to in the Scriptures as 'Kashi' derived its name from the word 'Kash' meaning Brightness- *'The city of Light'*. It has been propogating Indian Culture, Philosophy and traditions among masses from the times immemorial.

Varanasi is the most famous and the oldest inhabited city of the world and boasts of being among the seven sacred cities *(Sapta Puries)* of the ancient India. The trinity of birth, life and even death carry equal importance here. It is situated on the bank of river Ganges which has two tributaries: Varuna and Assi; so is the name Varanasi.

Perhaps this is the only city which is endowed with a rare combination of holy river Ganges, abode of Supreme God Shiva and the oldest living city itself. It remains vibrant throughout the year. Its temple-ghats bear testimony to its glorious past, bright present and prosperous future. Its religion, culture and traditions are so beautifully mingled that it gives the city a unique ambience.

The precious compliment by the famous American Writer Mark Twain about this heritage city is worth mentioning: *'Banaras is older than history, older than traditions, even older than legend and looks twice as old as all of them put together'*.

The city is the centre of a variety of cultural and religious activities including learning, literature and art. Famous Bhakti movement poets and the doyens of Indian literature, prominent philosophers, writers and musicians are associated with this multi-dimensional and multi-faceted city. It is an important seat of learning and houses one of the most venerable educational institutions-Banaras Hindu University, one of the largest residential universities in Asia. It has the proud privilege of having Sarnath in the vicinity where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon after getting Enlightened.

It is the hub of various cottage industries mainly in weaving and hand-loom sector. Banarasi muslin, ultra fine silk, carpet, perfumes, ivory works, pearls & beads and sculptures are world famous for their luster and beauty.

Undoubtedly, no other city in the world can be a parallel to this magnificient city.



Varanasi & around : • Ramnagar • Sarnath • Chunar • Vindhyachal-Mirzapur • Sonbhadra • Jaunpur • Chandauli

VARANASI



Kashi Vishwanath temple

Kashi Vishwanath Temple

The temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of the city, is also known as Golden Temple.

The Jyotirlinga installed in the temple is the major devotional focus of Varanasi. Open only to Hindus. The 'Aarties', performed here at different times and by different names in a grand manner are worth seeing. The timings of the Aarties : Mangala Aarti at 3.00 a.m., Kashi Vishwanath Temple Bhog Aarti at 11.15 a.m., Saptarshi Aarti at 7.00 p.m., Shringar Aarti at 9.00 p.m., and the Shayan Aarti at 10.30 p.m. Nearby are Goddess Vishalakshi Temple counted among 51 Shakti Peethas, Kashi Karvat Temple, mother Gangaji Temple etc.

Goddess Annapurna Temple

Near the Kashi Vishwanath Temple stands this important temple of Goddess Annapurna. The temples of Lord Kuber & Surya are also situated within its premises. It was built in 1725 by Peshwa Baji Rao I, the Maratha chieftain. The temple is famous for its Dhanteras and Annakoot festivals. Annakoot festival is held here after Deepavali. Nearby is the famous Dhundhiraj Ganesh Temple.



The Jyotirlinga at Vishwanath temple



Vishalakshi temple

Enchanting way of life











VARANASI





A panoramic View of Ganga & Ghats

River Front (Ghats)

Varanasi is the city of Temples, *Ghats, Kunds* and *Galies* (narrow lanes). The spectacular long sweep of ghats on the holy Ganga is unique and creates a fascinating sight. Life, in almost panoramic detail, unfolds here from dawn to dusk as a steady stream of devotees, swelling to thousands on auspicious days, perform rituals. The Ghats are best approached by DASHASHWAMEDHA GHAT. Here boats are available on hire. Evening *Ganga Aarti* is an added attraction here.

The other prominent Ghats are : ASSI GHAT (attractions: Lord Jagannath Temple, Saint Tulsidas Temple), TULSI GHAT (Saint Tulsidasji wrote here the immortal epic Shri Ram Charitmanas-his house-old manuscripts, Lord Hanuman Temple, Birth place of Rani Laxmi Bai and Lolark Kund), CHET SINGH GHAT (Chet Singh Fort), HANUMAN GHAT (Lord Hanuman Temple,





Nepali temple



Fascinating View of Ganga Ghats

VARANASI





People enjoying Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedha Ghat

Mahaprabhuji Temple, Rudra Bhairav Temple, Ram-Parivar Temple), HARISH CHANDRA GHAT (Associated with mythological king Harish Chandra, cremation site, Kashi Kamkotishwar Temple), KEDAR GHAT (Kedareshwar Temple, Kumar Swamy Math), SHEETLA GHAT (Goddess Sheetla Temple, Ganga-Dattatreya-Vitthal Temples), DASHASHWAMEDHA GHAT (Ganga Aarti and Budhwa Mangal festival site, Ganga Temple, boats can be hired here), DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD GHAT (Ganga Mahotsav and other cultural fairs site), MAN MANDIR GHAT (observatory), LALITA GHAT (Nepali Temple), MANIKARNIKA GHAT (famous cremation site, Haveli of Dom Raja), SINDHIA GHAT (Goddess Sankatha Temple, Vaikuntha Madhav Temple, Dattatreya Temple), PANCH GANGA GHAT (Ramananda Math, Shri Sansthan Math, Satyabhama Math, Tailang Swamy Math, Baithak of Vallabhacharyaji, Bindu Madhav Temple, Ram Panchayatan Temple, Alamgir Masjid, Kangan Haveli, Deepmalika stand),



Special fire lamp of Ganga Aarti



Fragrance lamp of Ganga Aarti

VARANASI





Ganga Aarti on Buddh Poornima, Varanasi

GHAI GHAT (Nepal Palace, Lakshmi-Narayan Temple, Gauri Temple), PRAHLAD GHAT (Narsingh Temple, Jagannath Temple, Prahaladeshwer Temple, Sheetla Temple), BADRI NARAYAN GHAT (Lord Badri Narayan Temple), RAJ GHAT (Maqbara of Lal Khan, Shri Satsang Parivar Vyayamshala, Saint Ravidas Temple, Bhainsasur Temple), ADI KESHAVA GHAT (Adi Keshav Temple, Gyankeshava Temple, Sangameshwar Temple, Vinayak Temple, Panchdevata Temple, Durga Temple & Kund).

Lord Shani Dev Temple

This prominent temple of Lord Shani Dev is situated near the Kashi Vishwanath and Goddess Annapurna Temples.

Gyanvapi Mosque

The Gyanvapi Mosque was built by Aurangzeb near the present Kashi Vishwanath Temple.



Pujaris in traditional costumes performing Ganga Aarti.



Traditional Earthen Lamps decoration at the banks of holy Ganga on Kartik Poornima

VARANASI





The Kal Bhairav temple

Lord Kal Bhairav Temple

This famous temple is dedicated to Lord Kal Bhairav, considered to be the protector (Kotwal) of the city. It is situated in the Bhairavnath-Vishweshwarganj locality. Nearby are Nagari Pracharini Sabha, the old and famous institution, Mahamrityunjay Temple, Tilbhandeshwar Temple.

Lord Batuk Bhairav Temple

Situated in Kamchha locality having two small temples with attractive idols in same premises.



Batuk Bhairav temple



Kal Bhairav temple



Sankata Devi temple

VARANASI





Goddess Durga temple

Goddess Durga Temple

It is one of the prominent temples of the city dedicated to Goddess Durga, in Bhelupur-Durga Kund locality. The temple was built in the 18th Century. Open only to Hindus. Kushmandadevi temple and Durga Kund are other attractions.

Sankat Mochan Temple

It is one of the oldest temples of the city in the Sankatmochan-Lanka locality. The temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman. It is said that Goswami Tulsidasji wrote most parts of his epic Shri Ramcharitmanas here. The annual Sankat Mochan Music Festival, held here since 1923 as part of Hanuman Jayanti celebrations is a major attraction.

Kunds

Varanasi is also known for its kunds, important among them are Pishachmochan Kund, Karna Ghanta Kund, Pitar Kund, Lolark Kund, Lakshmi Kund, Kurukshetra Kund, Pushkar Kund, Durga Kund, Krim Kund, Lanka Kund.



Durga temple & kund



Sankatmochan temple

VARANASI



Jain temple, Bhelupur



Sant Ravidas temple





Gurubagh Gurudwara

Saint Ravidas Temple

This grand temple is built at Seergoverdhan area, near the B.H.U., which is the birth place of Saint Ravidasji.

Gurudwaras

The magnificent Gurubagh Gurudwara marks the place where Guru Nanakdevji had stayed in 1506. Gurudwara Neechibagh, in the Aas Bhairav locality, is the place where Guru Teg Bahadurji meditated in 1666.

JAIN TEMPLES

Varanasi is also regarded as one of the most sacred pilgrim centres of the Jains. It is believed that four Tirthankars–Suparshavanath, Chandra Prabhu, Shreyanshnath and Parshvanath- were born in and around Varanasi. Many Shvetambar and Digambar Jain temples, columns and idols are located in Bhadaini and Bhelupura localities.

Tulsi Manas Temple

This marble temple, near the Goddess Durga Temple, is dedicated to Lord Rama. It is situated at the place where Goswami Tulsidasji lived and wrote the famous epic Shri Ramcharitmanas. Verses from Shri Ramcharitmanas are inscribed on its walls. There is a museum in the premises which has a rare collection of manuscripts of the Ramayan and other artefacts.

Tridev Temple

Near the Tulsi Manas Temple, is Tridev Temple, a new attraction of the city having the idols of Shri Radha-Krishna, Salasar Balaji Hanuman, Rani Sati and Khatu Shyam.



Tridev temple



Tulsi Manas temple



The Sant Kabir Math



Bharat Mata temple

Manmandir Observatory

This observatory was built by Raja Man Singh of Jaipur at Manmandir Ghat near Dashashwamedh Ghat-Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ghat. Timing : 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Entry fee :
Foreign Tourist Rs. 200.00
Domestic Tourist Rs. 15.00

Bharat Mata Temple

A unique temple at Sigra locality-close to M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth, is dedicated to Mother India, which instead of the customary gods and goddesses, houses one of the most perfect relief maps of India carved on marble. It was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1936.

Kabir Math

Situated in the Kabir Chaura locality, it is the main Kabir Gaddi. The paintings related with the life-events of Saint Kabirdasji are worth seeing.

Radha Swami Temple

The temple having an attractive gate and building, situated on the Kabir Chaura road at Lohatia, is associated with the Radha Swami Sect.

Galis (narrow Lanes)

The serpentine narrow lanes of this city mirror the typical lifestyle of the inhabitants. Some of the famous Galis are Vishwanath Gali, Kachauri Gali, Thatheri Bazar Gali, Khoa Gali etc.

Alamgir Mosque

This mosque, an amalgamation of Hindu-Muslim religious sentiments, is also known as "Beni Madhav-ka-Dharehara". The entire lower portion of the mosque is retained as a Hindu temple.



Gali (Narrow Lane)



Deepmalika Stambh

Lahartara Sarovar

Lahartara Sarovar, 3 km from Cantt. Railway Station on Varanasi-Allahabad route, is the Udbhav Sthal of great saint Kabirdasji. The old temple built in between the sarovar (pond) is worth visiting.

The other attractions are : Sakshi Vinayak Temple, Nepali Temple, Goddess Sankatha Temple, Lord Baijnath Temple, Lord Batuk Bhairav Temple, Bindumadhav Temple, Chitraghanta Temple, Bara Ganesh Temple, Kalratri Temple, Mukh Nirmalika Temple, Shailputri Devi Temple, Garhwa Ghat, Shool Tankeshwar Temple etc.

Organisations

• Yoga Institute, B.H.U. • Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth • Dr. Sampurnanand Sanskrit University • Krishna Murti Foundation, Rajghat
• R.K. Mission, Luxa Road • Gandhi Institute, Rajghat • Nagari Pracharini Sabha, Maidagin
• Gyan Pravah, Nagwa • Garhwa Ghat Ashram
• Theosophical Society • Maha Bodhi Society of India, Sarnath • Tibetan Institute, Sarnath
• Kayakalpam Ayurvedic Health Spa, 49-Patel Nagar.



Dr. Sampurnanand Sanskrit University



Nagari Pracharini Sabha

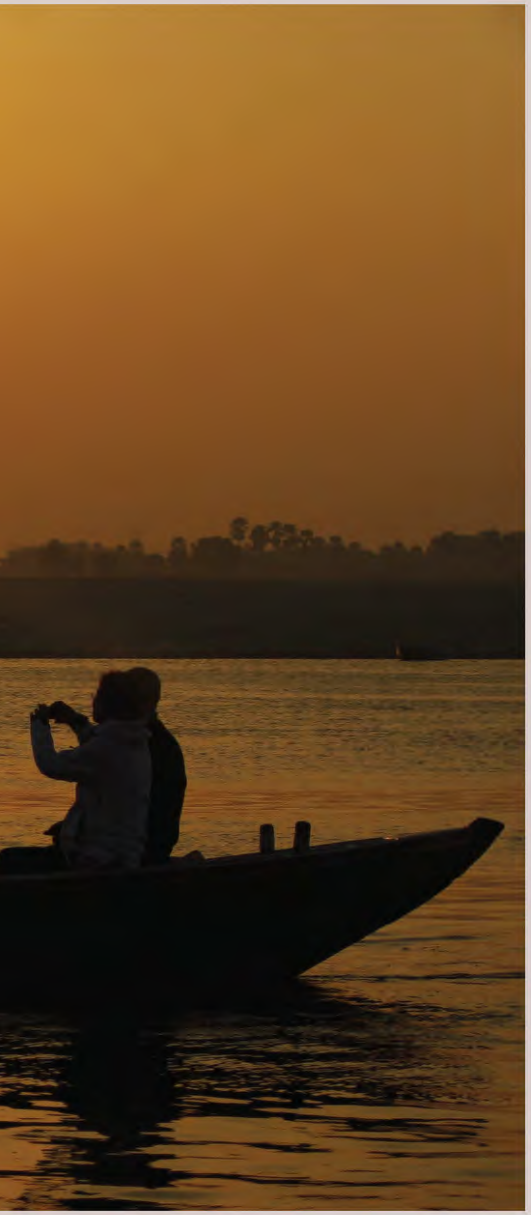


Saint Kabir Temple

VARANASI



Subah-E-Banaras (Morning of Varanasi)







Puja offerings to mother Ganges

Manikaranika Ghat

Manikarnika is considered to be the most sacred cremation ghat of Varanasi. It is believed that consigning the mortal remains to fire at the ghat provides eternal peace to the soul. It is said that the fire of the funeral pyres have not gone out over centuries.

Subah-e-Banaras

Everyday morning is commemorated with the essence of Subah-e-Banaras at the famous Assi Ghat. A spiritual blend of nature's splendor and human existence. Rising Sun - yellow Ganga and illuminated river fronts motivate man to enchant, sing and invoke (Yoga). (Timing : sunrise)



VARANASI





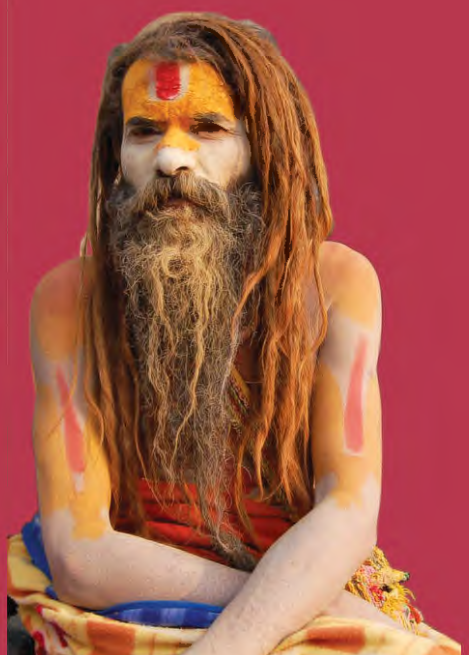
Pind daan rituals at the ghat





Pind - Daan

It is believed that even after death, the pull of love for one's relatives, friends and the affinity for the materialistic world force the soul to stay behind. 'Pind Daan' provides ultimate relief to the restless soul and paves the way to the ultimate world of peace.



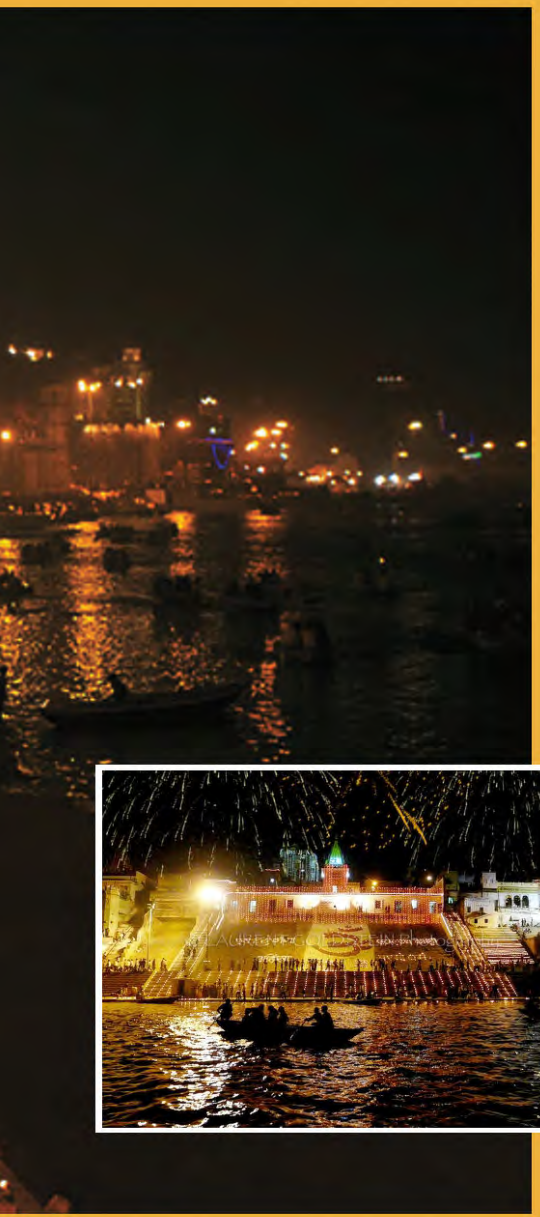
FESTIVITY



Dev Deepawali

Festivals, fairs and umpteen rituals give Varanasi a colourful and diverse look. It is said that in 365 days 400 festivals are celebrated here.

The most picturesque festival, Dev Deepawali is celebrated every year fifteen days after the traditional Deepawali on the banks of river Ganga.
The ghats come alive with lights, chants & prayers.
The mighty Ganga is lit up with endless floating lamps.
It's an infinitely divine experience.



Awesome view of Dev Deepawali



Devotees decorating Ghats by earthen lamps

FESTIVITY



Ramnagar - Ram Lila



Dushera Celebration



Royal presence during festivity at Ganges



Annual festival at Sarnath



Nag Nathaiya at Tulsi ghat

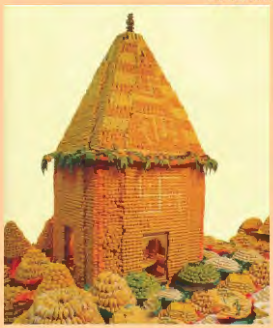
Some of the important events are :-
Ganga Mahotsav and Dev Deepawali (Oct.-Nov.), Dushera (Sept.-Oct.), Nakkataiya (Chetganj, Oct.), Bharat Milap (Nati Imli, Oct.-Nov.), Budhwa Mangal (first Tuesday after Holi festival at Dashashwamedha Ghat), Nag Nathaiya (Tulsi Ghat), Annakoot (Annapurna Temple, Oct.-Nov.), Hanumat Jayanti (Sankat Mochan Temple), Panch Koshi Parikrama (in every Purushottam Month), Dhrupad Mela (Tulsi Ghat, Feb.-March), Lolark Chhath (July), Buddha Mahotsav (Sarnath), Unique Ramleela at Ramnagar (Sept.-Oct.).

The biggest annual festival at Sarnath is held on Buddha Purnima - the full moon day in May-to mark the birth and death anniversaries of Lord Buddha. A big fair springs up on the occasion and the relics of Lord Buddha are taken out on well-decorated elephants for public display.


Lolark Chat Puja


Chhath Festival


Budhwa mangal


Annakoot festival


Malkhambh


Mahashivratri celebrations

VARANASI









BANARASI WOVEN WONDERS

Out of sight from the ghats and the traffic on the Ganga, deep within the alleyways of the city, the rivers flow from the looms of weavers. These cascades of silk, shot with reputation for quality and artistry travels all the way back to ancient times.

The virtuosity of the city's weavers or tantuvidyas reached its pinnacle in the Mughal period when the Persian influence, particularly in floral motifs, came in.

In the early 19th century, colonial travellers like George Viscount Valentia also observed Varanasi's thriving exports to Europe. Indeed it was predominantly textiles on which the fortunes of the city were built. According to the Banaras District Gazetteer of 1922, around 23,000 people in and around the city were engaged in the local textile industry. A conservative count estimates 100, 000 weavers in Varanasi today.

The dazzling Banarasi saree continues to be a byword for luxury. No Indian bride worth her trousseau would consider leaving home without a Banarasi saree.

The flowering of Banaras's Zari and Brocade traditions.

Zan and Brocade are to Varanasi what Chikankari is to Lucknow, workmanship that becomes synonymous with a city. The filigreed brocade of Varanasi is called kimkhab, which aptly captures the ephemerality of the work in gold and silver threads.

Varanasi's traditions in brocade and zari reached their zenith in the Mughal period, particularly during the reign of emperor Akbar.

There was an influx of Persian motifs due to the influence and importance of Persian masters in the court of emperor Akbar; Ghias Naqshaband being the greatest Persian master among them to the royal atelier of Akbar. Zari even accented the turbans.

Later, in the 19th century, textile designs started resembling the patterns on Victorian wallpaper and even geometrical layouts. Today's trends revive traditional patterns and mix them with modern color schemes and styles. Intricate floral and foliate, kalga, bel, and jhallar decorate the borders of modern Banarasis.

The two oldest and most active weaving localities in Varanasi are Alaipura and Madanpura, each with its own unique composition and weaving techniques that are easily distinguishable.

Madanpura weavers are known for fine and delicate traditional kimkhab, whereas Alaipura weavers are renowned for experimenting with new techniques and designs.

Apart from these hubs, other weaving centres in and around Varanasi include Nati Imli, Lallapura, Chittanpura, Ramnagar, Dulhipur, Pilikothi, Cholapur and Dharsauna.



VARANASI







Varanasi Music Tradition

Music in Varanasi is a tradition linked to the ancient times of the Puranic legends. Lord Shiva is credited with developing music & dance of Varanasi. Legends also attribute it to Renu, son of Sage Vishvamitra & Mahagobind, who were the precursors of music tradition in Kashi, where nymphs (Apsaras), Gandharvas and Kinnaras were the traditional practitioners of this art form, and saint Chaitanya and Vallabhacharya were the pioneers in spreading this music tradition in Varanasi.

Banaras has been long renowned for its music, both instrumental and vocal. Dhrupad, Kheyal, Thumri, Dadra and famous vocal musical traditions are associated of Varanasi. In Banaras Gharana, here are ten main forms of music compositions-Dhrupad, Dhamar, Kheyal, Tappa, Thumri, Hori, Chaturang, Ragasagar, Tarana, Sargam. Among folk music kajri & chaiti are the important parts of vocal music. Dhrupad is the oldest form of classical Hindustani music. Kheyal is the emotional singing of Indian classical music. Thumri & Tappa are the ways to express the feelings of love and emotions.

Pandit Ram Sahai founded the Banaras gharana style of playing tabla in kabir chaura 200 years ago, and his legacy has been carried forward by other tabla virtuosos, such as Pandit Shardasahai (his great-great-grand son), Pandit Samta Prasad, and Pandit Kishan Maharaj. Shehnai mastro Ustad Bismillah Khan, kathak wizard Birjoo Maharaj, tabla mastro Kishan Maharaj, legendry Baba Allandin Khan & his disciple Shri Ravi Shankar, singers Girija Devi, Begum Akhtar and many more lived and practiced here.

Classical music echoes everywhere in Varanasi, it may be weekly music concerts in temple, in music played on ghats and rooftops, annual festivals, all form part of musical heritage of Varanasi, which have helped Varanasi been named the 'City of music' by UNESCO.











VARANASI



Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.)

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY (B.H.U.)

At a short distance from the Sankatmochan Temple is the Banaras Hindu University, one of the prestigious educational centres of India. It was founded by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. The University is among the few institutions which provides education on variety of subjects including the Ayurveda, Astrology, Yoga, Tantra, Music etc.



New Lord Vishwanath temple

NEW LORD VISHWANATH TEMPLE

Situated in the premises of Banaras Hindu University, this modern place of worship was planned by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and built by the Birlas, on the pattern of the original Lord Vishwanath Temple. Verses from old scriptures are inscribed on its walls.

BHARAT KALA BHAVAN

This museum, within the BHU campus, houses the finest collection of Mughal miniature paintings and brocade textiles.

Timing : 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (except university holidays). Closed on Sunday.

Entry Fee :

Foreign Tourist - Rs. 150.00

Domestic Tourist - Rs. 10.00

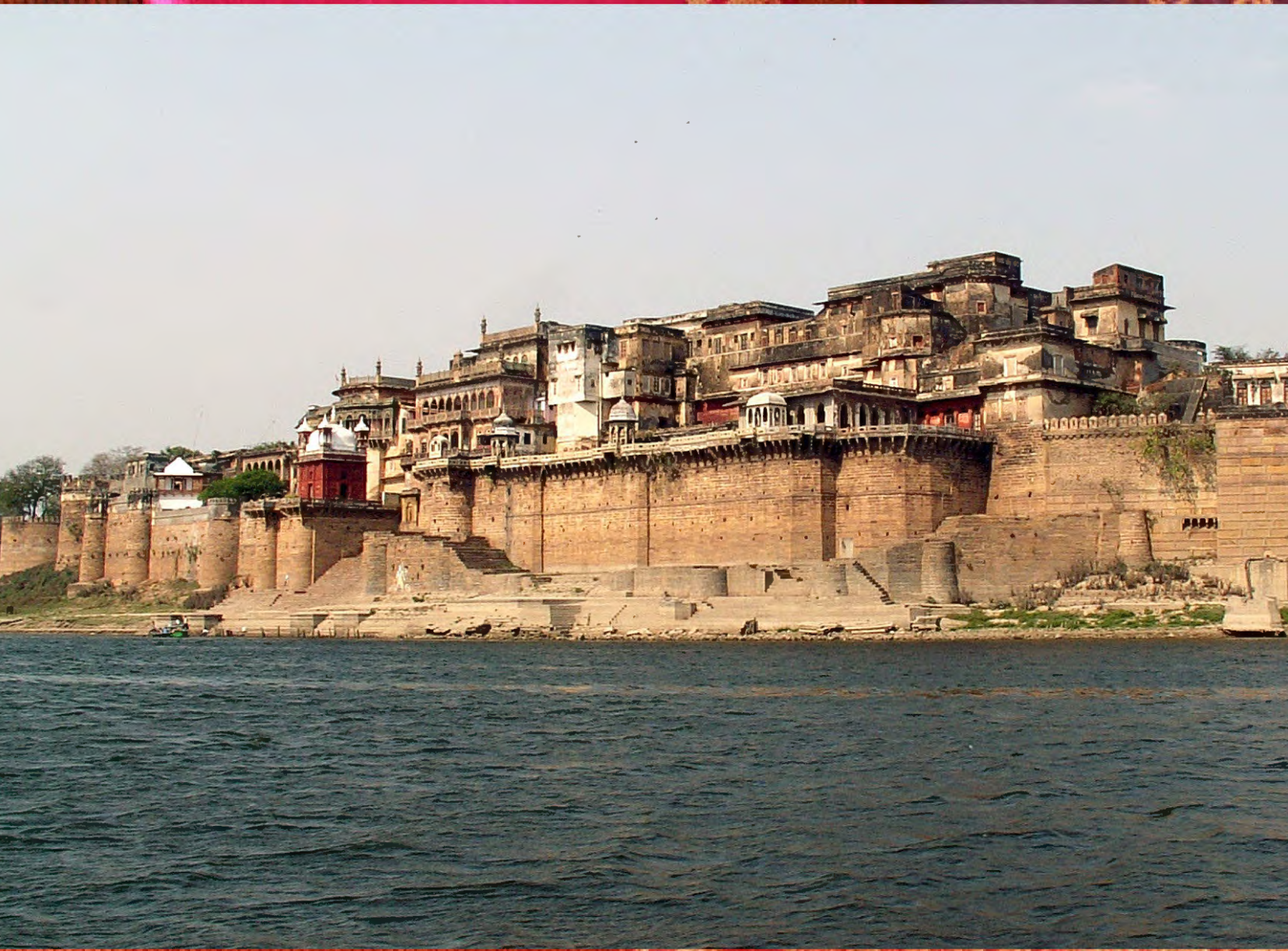


Bharat Kala Bhavan



Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.)

RAMNAGAR



The rear view of Ramnagar fort



The ornamental architecture of Ramnagar fort

RAMNAGAR FORT AND MUSEUM

14 km. Ramnagar, across the Ganga river, is the home of the Maharaja of Banaras, who is revered as the representative of Lord Shiva in the city. The massive 17th century fort here houses a museum displaying the royal collection which includes Vintage Cars, Royal Palanquins, an armoury of swords and old guns, ivory work and antique clocks. The Goddess Durga Temple and Chhinnamastika Devi Temple here are also worth visiting. Ramnagar is also famous for its unique month long RAM LEELA. One can go to Ramnagar by road or boat.

MUSEUM TIMINGS

Summer :
8:30 a.m. to 12.00 noon, 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.,

Winter :
10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Entry Fee :
Foreign Tourist - Rs. 150.00
Domestic Tourist - Rs. 20.00
Children - Rs. 10.00



The Museum



Goddess Durga temple

SARNATH





Archaeological site at Sarnath

10 km. from Varanasi, Sarnath is one of the most revered Buddhist pilgrim centres. After attaining the enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, it was here that Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, sanctified as Maha Dharma Chakra Parivartan (Set in Motion the Wheel of DHARMA). During the time of Lord Buddha, Sarnath was called Rishipattana or Issipattana and Mrigdav because, it was an ideal place for sages and was a dense forest inhabited by deer. Emperor Ashoka visited Sarnath around 234 B.C. and erected a Stupa here. Today, Sarnath treasures the most expansive ruins amongst places on the Buddhist trail.

Chaukhandi Stupa

The Stupa has great significance as Lord Buddha during his first visit to Sarnath after attaining the enlightenment, met his first five disciples here who had abandoned him earlier.

Museum

The museum has a rich collection of Buddhist sculptures, such as Lord Budhha's Statue in the first sermon posture and rare Lion's Capital, the National Emblem of India was found in the excavation at Sarnath.

Timing:
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.



Lord Buddha's statue



Mulgandh Kuti Vihar



Dhamek Stupa

SARNATH



Ruins at Archaeological Site

The major attractions here are : DHARMARAJIKA STUPA - the place where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, MULGANDHKUTI VIHAR - where Lord Buddha stayed, ASHOKAN PILLAR - broken in few pieces and preserved under a canopy.

Entry Fee : Foreign tourist Rs. 200.00,
Domestic tourist : Rs. 15.00

Dhamek Stupa

It was built to commemorate the preaching of the first sermon by Lord Bhuddha. This huge and magnificent Stupa is 28 mtrs. in diameter at the base and 43.6 mtrs. in height, built partly in stone and partly in brick. The stone facing the lower part is adorned with delicate floral carvings of Gupta origin.

Jain Temple

The Jain Temple is dedicated to the 11th Tirthankar Lord Shreyansnathji.

Mahabodhi Temple - Mulgandha Kuti

Here, Lord Buddha's golden statue in the first sermon preaching posture is worshiped, which is situated on a platform, under which the relics of Lord Buddha are kept in casket. It is taken out once in a year on the day of Buddha Poornima. The inner walls of the temple have excellent frescoes by Japanese artist Kosetsu Nosu showing the life of Lord Buddha. There is a Bodhi Tree also. Under the Bodhi Tree, Lord Buddha is shown preaching his first sermon to his first five disciples. There is a rich collection of Buddhist literature too. Timing : Sunrise to 7.30 p.m.

Deer Park

When Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, at that time this place was inhabited by lot of deer and was called Mrigdav. To commemorate that a Deer Park is developed here.
There are other monasteries also, such as Sikkim, Thailand, China, Myanmar, Japan, Tibet and Korea.

Sarangnath Temple

It is an old and famous temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. The major attraction of the temple is two Shivlings in one Argha.
A month-long fair is held here during the Shravan month (July-August). Near by is the large Sarangnath Kund also.



Statue of golden Buddha



Lion's Capital at Samath Museum



Chaukhandi Stupa

CHUNAR



Chunar Fort

40 km. from Varanasi and Mirzapur, Chunar is the place where religion, history and nature intermingle with each other. Situated in the Vindhya range on the bank of the holy river Ganga, its scenic and calm atmosphere enchants visitors.

Fort

The massive fort was established by King Vikramaditya of Ujjain in honour of the stay of his brother, the well known philosopher King Bhartrihariji. Spread over an area of 3400 sq. yards, the fort houses, about 800-1000 years old monolithic stone temples, Samadhi of Bhartrihariji, an ancient well, Sonva Mandap, Bavan Khambha, Bungalow of Warren Hastings and a Sun Dial. About 1500 years old rock-cut images of Lord Vishnu and other deities.

Gangeshwar Nath Temple

It is a very old temple related with the mythological stories and dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Goddess Durga Cave Temple

2 km. away, this Cave Temple, believed to be of the 3rd century A.D. Near the temple there is the Samadhi of Gosain Kamal Giri.

Durga Khoh : This famous temple was explored in 1883-84 by Major General A. Cunningham. The Durga Khoh rock shelter has several rare figures and inscriptions.

Dargah Sharief : One km. away, on the bank of the Ganga, is the Dargah of Sufi Saint Baba Quasim Suleman, built in Mughal style of architecture.

Baragaon

About 2 km. to the south-east of the Chunar Railway Station is this 2300 years old stone-quarry site. The stone-blocks lying here bear ancient inscription to 3rd century BC downwards. Chunar is also famous for its special pottery ware.

Excursions

Jargo Reservoir Dam (20 Km.), Siddhanath-ki-dari (20 Km.), Ashokan Period Inscription (25 Km.), Lakhania Dari (30 Km.), Chunadari (40 Km.), Varanasi (40 Km.), Vindhyachal/Mirzapur (48 Km.), Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (60 Km.), Salkhan Fossils (100 Km.), Allahabad (130 Km.).



Siddhnath dari



Samadhi of Bhartrihariji



Goddess Durga cave temple

VINDHYACHAL



Goddess Vindhyavasini

Vindhyachal, 8 km. from Mirzapur, on the bank of the holy river Ganga, is one of the most revered places of India. The temple city is famous for three Shaktipeethas— Goddess Vindhyavasini-Ashtabhuja-Kalikhoh, which constitute the sacred Trikona Parikrama (circumambulation), popular ritual among the pilgrims. Navratra (March-April & September-October) and Kajali (June-July) festivals draw a large number of devotees here.



Goddess Kali, Kalikhoh



Goddess Ashtabhuja

PLACES OF INTEREST

Goddess Vindhyavasini Temple, Ashtabhuja Temple, Kali Khoh Temple, Lord Rameshwar Mahadev Temple, Goddess Tara Temple, Budhenath Temple, Tarkeshwarnath Temple, Lal Bhairava Temple, Batuk Bhairava Temple, Bhairava Kund, Vindhyeshwar Temple, Kamakhya Devi Temple, Chhetrapal, Shiv Khoh, Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple, Narad Ghat, Geruwa Talab, Sita Kund, Kantit Sharief, Nag Kund, Vamdev Temple, Devarha Baba Ashram etc.

EXCURSIONS

Mirzapur (8 km.), Tanda waterfall (10 km.), Kankal Kali Temple at Akodhi (14 km.), Wyndham waterfall (15 km.), Chunar (40 km.), Sirsi Dam (45 km.), Varanasi (70 km.), Sonbhadra (85 km.), Allahabad (95 km.), Devdari waterfall (120 km.).



Kantit Sharief, Vindhyachal



Bank of the holy river Ganga, Mirzapur
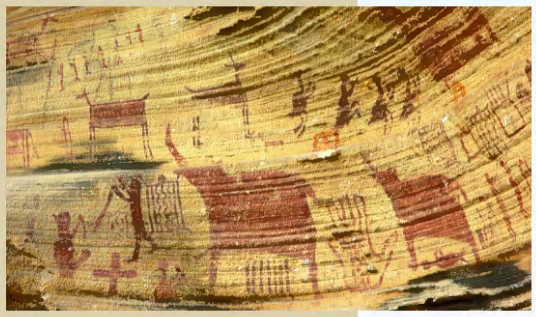
SONBHADRA

89 km. An enchanting region, spread over a large area, having the various places of archaeological, historical, religious and natural attractions. Ancient Fossils at Salkhan, Shivdwar (famous for rare Uma-Maheswar idol), Barela (known for Ekmukhi Shivlinga), Punchmukhi (Punchmukhi Shivlinga), Markundi-Loric stone pillar, Mau (Buddhist idols-inscriptions, Sahastra Shivlinga), Vijaigarh Fort-Hazrat Meeran Shah Mazar - Ram Sagar Talab, Mukha Falls, Rock Paintings, Kaimoor Wild Life Sanctuary etc. are worth visiting places of Sonbhadra.





Ancient Fossils at Salkhan



Rock Painting



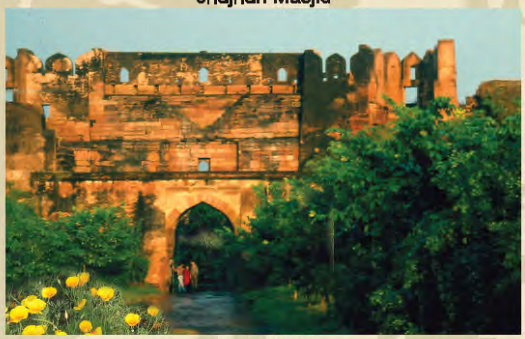
Loric Stone Pillar

Immense antiquity

JAUNPUR



Jhajhari Masjid



Shahi Quila



Historical Mosque

58 Km. from Varanasi, Jaunpur was founded in the 14th century by Feroz Shah Tughlaq. Later, around 1394 A.D., it became the centre of the independent Sharquie kingdom of Jaunpur, founded by Malik Sarvar. The Sharquie rulers were great patrons of art and architecture and constructed many fine tombs, mosques and madarsas here. It was also an important centre of Islamic studies. The city is known today for its jasmine oil, tobacco leaves, radish and Imarti- a sweetmeat.

Located on the Lucknow-Varanasi-Mughalsarai section of Northern Railway, Jaunpur is connected with all major cities.

PLACES OF INTEREST

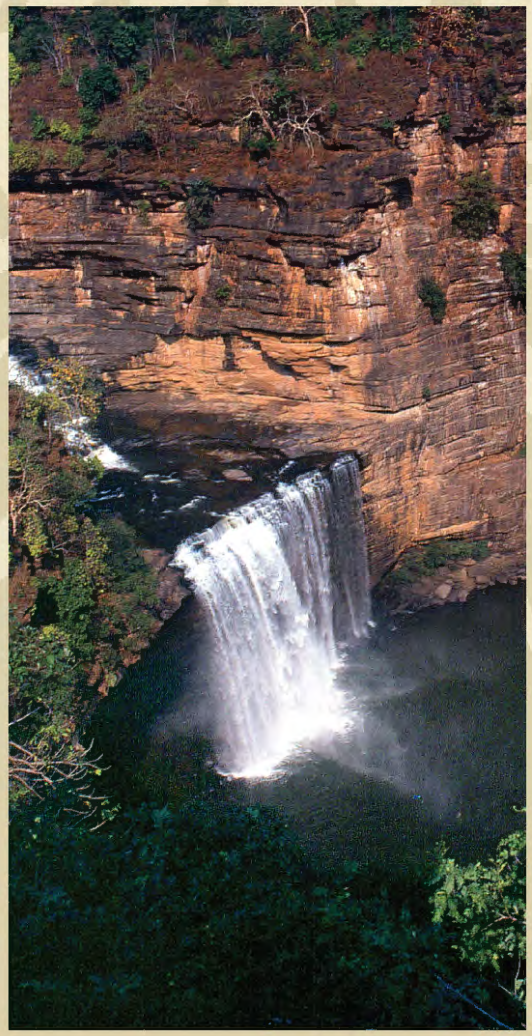
Atala Masjid (1377-1408), Jama Masjid (1458-78), Lal Darwaja Masjid (1450), Shahi Bridge (1568), Maa Shitla Choukiya Dham, Shahi Quila, Khwabgah, Dargah Chishti, Panj-e-Sharief, Khalis Mukhlis Masjid, Jhajhari Masjid, Akbari Bridge, the tombs of the Sharquie Sultans, Archaeological Museum (T.D. College), the meditation place of Guru Teg Bahadurji at Chachakpur and Jamadagni Ashram.

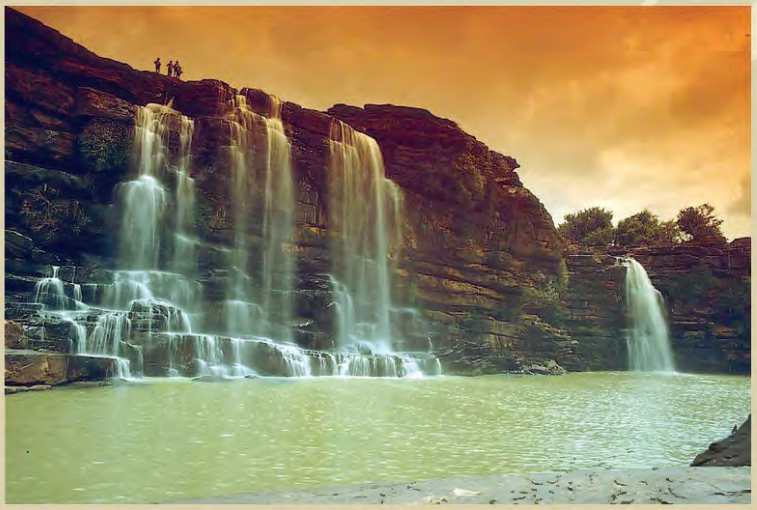


Shahi Bridge

CHANDAULI

70 km. from Varanasi, Chandauli is an ideal tourist destination having worth visiting natural sites. The Chandraprabha Wild Life Sanctuary, a beautiful picnic spot on Varanasi-Chandauli road, is major attraction here. The presence of Rajdari and Devdari waterfalls within the sanctuary makes it even more special.





Devdari Fall


Ganga River

VARANASI

GUIDE MAP



INFORMATION

Area	:	73.89 sq. km.
Population (Distt.)	:	36,82,194 (2011 Census)
Height	:	200 mtrs. above sea level
Altitude	:	80.71 mtrs. above sea level
Best Season	:	October-March
Temperature	:	Max. 43° Celsius to Min. 5° Celsius
Language	:	Hindi, English
Local Transport	:	Bus/Cycle Rickshaw/Auto Rickshaw

AIR

The nearest Airport is Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport at Babatpur, 22 km from Varanasi and 30 km from Sarnath. Varanasi is connected with Delhi, Agra, Khajuraho, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Bhuvaneshwar, Kathmandu.

- Air India Tel.: 2502547 - Indian Air Lines Tel.: 2502527 - Jet Airways Tel.: 2622026, 27 - Spice Jet Tel.: 2623081, 82 - King Fisher Tel.: 2623076, 77

RAIL

Varanasi Cantt. and Mughal Sarai-16 km (one of the main railway stations of Varanasi) are the important rail junctions that link Varanasi with all major cities of India.

- Varanasi Railway Station Tel.: 131, 139 - Mughal Sarai Railway Station Tel.: 05412-255703

ROAD

Varanasi, on NH2 from Kolkata to Delhi, NH7 to Kanya Kumari and NH29 to Gorakhpur, is well connected with the rest of the country by good motorable roads. Some of the major road distances are: Sarnath-10 km, Chunar-35 km, Jaunpur-60 km, Vindhyachal-70 km, Allahabad-125 km, Ayodhya-140 km, Bodhgaya-240 km, Patna-246 km, Lucknow-286 km, Khajuraho-405 km, Agra-565 km.

SHOPPING

Varanasi, the apex religious centre, is also an exciting shopping hub. The city is famous for superior quality handicraft products. The exotic embroidery on Banarsi silk, royal carpets, fantastic wooden work, attractive bead & pearls jewellery, tempting sweetmeat - all fascinating enough to win heart over.



UP TOURISM ACCOMMODATION

UPSTDC Tourist Bungalow, Parade Kothi, Opp. Cantt. Railway Station
Tel. : 0542-2208413, 2208545
E-mail : rahitbvaranasi@up-tourism.com

STAR HOTELS

The Gateway the Ganges	Tel. : 6660001
Hotel Clarks Varanasi ,the Mall	Tel.: 2501011-20
Ramada Plaza, the Mall	Tel.: 2510000-11
Hotel Radision, the Mall	Tel.: 2501515-20
Hotel Hindustan International, Maldaihiya	Tel.: 2411484-9
Maradian Grand, Patel Nagar	Tel.: 2509953

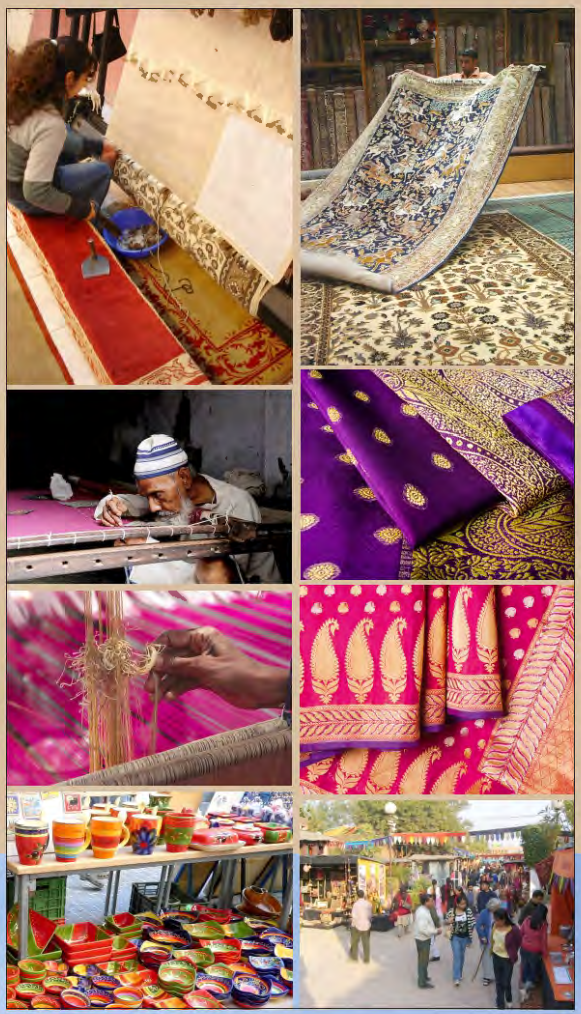
TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

UP Govt. Tourist Office
Sanskratic Sankul, Urban Haat,
Chauka Ghat, Varanasi
E-mail: varanasi@up-tourism.com
Tel.: 0542-2505033

UP Govt. Tourist Information Counter,
Cantt. Railway Station,
(near Enquiry Office, Main Hall)
Modern Reception Centre Opp. Sarnath Museum, Sarnath
Tel.: 0542-2506670

Govt. of India Tourist Office, The Mall — Tel.: 2501784

Tourist Office, Bihar Govt. Cantt. — Tel.: 2223821







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