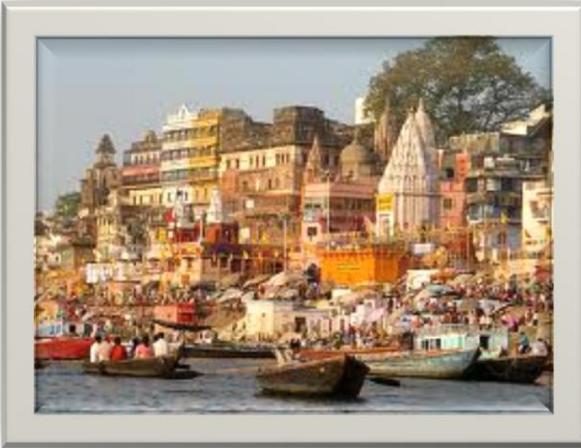


VARANASI AND KHAJURAHO

Day 1 : Arrive Varanasi

Arrive into Varanasi and you will be booked to stay in this ancient city for 2 nights.



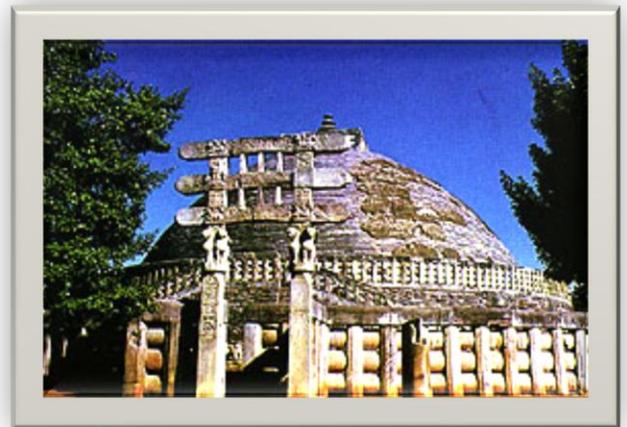
Varanasi - Benares - Kaasi is considered to be the holiest of all pilgrimage sites in India. It is considered home to Shiva - Visweswara. Benares is also known as Kaasi because it is believed that Supreme brilliance shines there, and lights the way to salvation (Kas - to shine). Varanasi is located between two rivers **Varana** and **Asi**, and hence the name Varanasi.

Hyuen Tsang, the Chinese traveller visited Varanasi in the 7th century. His travel accounts speak of the grandeur of the city and of its temples. This writer describes a hundred feet high statue of Shiva

Maheshwara made of brass that adorned the city.

In the afternoon, visit the Sarnath Temple:

The great Buddha enhanced the sanctity of Varanasi by choosing the environs of the city to preach his first sermon at Sarnath, (only 10 kms away) after attaining enlightenment. Later, Ashoka, the great Mauryan Emperor erected magnificent stupas and other buildings along with his mighty stone pillar, Dharmarajika Stupa. The 110 ft. tall Damekh Stupa marks the place where Buddha preached first sermon. Sarnath has been a premier centre for Buddhism. It is a rich collection of ancient Buddhist relics and antiques comprising numerous Buddha and Bodhisatva images on display at the Archaeological Museum (1000 hrs to 1700 hrs. Open all days except Friday)



Day 2 : Sightseeing in Varanasi

Life in the city of Varanasi revolves around its over one hundred Ghats (river landings). The River Ganga flows from north to south, and the city forms a circular shape from the Asi ghat in the south up to the confluence of the Varuna river with the Ganga. Thousands of pilgrims come to bathe and worship in the river at the first light of dawn. Boat rides down the river in the morning are a very popular excursion.

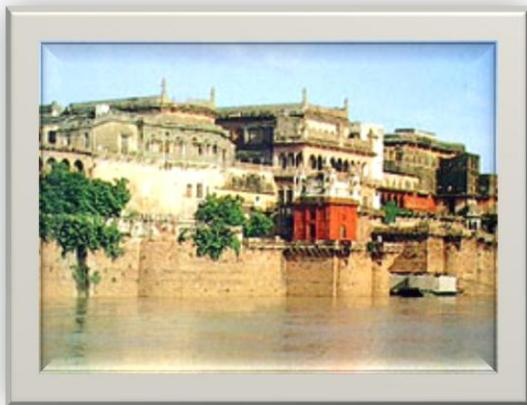
Experience the boat ride at sunrise.



Return to the hotel for breakfast and later set out for a sightseeing trip around the city.

First visit the Vishwanath temple, one of India's most important Shaivite shrines. The original temple is said to have been over 1000 years old. The Gyan Vapi tank enclosed in a hall is said to contain the original shivalingam. Pilgrims offer prayers here before embarking on the Panchatirtha.

Later visit the The Bharat Kala Bhavan museum inside the Benares Hindu University campus is open from Monday till Saturday. It has a valuable collection of miniature paintings, sculptures and bronzes. A special gallery has a 19th century map of the Raj Ghat excavations and old etchings of the city. Besides Hindu, Islamic and Buddhist artefacts, the works of contemporary artists like Jamini Roy, Nicholas Roerich and Alice Boner are displayed here.



After lunch, visit the Ramnagar, the fort palace of the Kashi Naresh (king of Kashi) is on the eastern bank of the Ganga, south of Asi Ghat. The palace has a museum with memorabilia such as horse-drawn carriages, motorcars, silver *howdahs* (elephant seats), palanquins, silk and brocade costumes, and various artifacts and trophies.

Late evening will be free for own activities such as shopping or walking around the busy streets of the city.

Day 3 : Fly to Khajuraho

Today you will fly to Khajuraho reaching at about lunchtime. Check into your hotel for 1 night.

In the afternoon, take a sightseeing trip of the city.

Khajuraho is known for its magnificent temples which are among the most creative examples of the Indian architecture. Built between 950 and 1050 A.D., only 22 temples out of 85 now survive, Khajuraho sculpture is sublime and sensuous, the centre of new imagery in art. The popular theme is woman: Reflective, Playful Amorous.



Visit the temples of Khajuraho which are world famous not only for their symmetry and design, but also for intricate and erotic carvings on their walls. The main temples are Kandariya Mahadeo, Chitragupta, Parsvanth and the Ghantai.

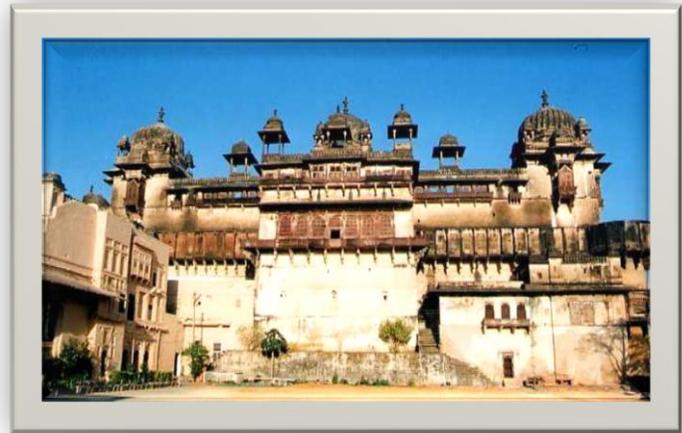
Overnight at the hotel.

Day 4 : Drive to Jhansi via Orchha and onwards to New Delhi

Depart after breakfast towards the city of Jhansi from where you will take the train back to New Delhi at 1800 Hrs. (Khajuraho to Jhansi – without stopping is 5 hours drive)

Enroute visit the spectacular city of Orchha. The grandeur of Orchha has been captured in stone, frozen in time, a rich legacy to the ages. In this medieval city, the hand of time has rested lightly and the palaces and temples built by its Bundela rulers in the 16th and 17th centuries retain much of their pristine perfection.

Visit some of the sights here such as the Jehangir Mahal. It was built by Raja Bir Singh Ju Deo in the 17th century to commemorate the visit of Emperor Jehangir to Orchha. Its strong lines are counterbalanced by delicate chhatris and trellis work, the whole conveying an effect of extraordinary richness.



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Later drive on to Jhansi to board your train back to New Delhi. You will reach New Delhi at 23.00 Hrs.

End of services

The cost of the above trip is:

	Standard	Deluxe
Double Occupancy -	INR 18000 per person	INR21500 per person
Single Occupancy -	INR 33500	INR 39500

Hotel Envisaged

City	Standard	Deluxe
Varanasi	Hindustan Int'l or similar	Ramada or Radisson or similar
Khajuraho	Usha Bundela or similar	Ramada/Holiday Inn or similar

Above cost includes:

- Accommodation on sharing basis for 03 Nights / 04 Days
- Daily breakfast
- Boat ride in Varanasi
- Air-conditioned car for all transfers and sightseeing
- Train fare from Jhansi-Delhi in Air-conditioned chair car
- English speaking guide for sightseeing

Cost does not include:

- Expenses of personal nature like telephone calls, laundry etc.
- Entrance fees to the monuments
- Any air fare (Delhi to Varanasi and Varanasi to Khajuraho)