ARCHITECTURE & GANGES TOUR

(04 Days/03 Nights)

PRAYER IN HOLY GANGES - VARANASI

NORTH INDIA

KHAJURAHO – VARANASI

DAY 01: DELHI – JHANSI (Train) – KHAJURAHO

Morning, transfer to the railway station to connect train **Bhopal Shatabadi - 0615 / 1048 Hrs** to Jhansi.

On arrival, drive to Khajuraho.

On the way visit **Orchha**.

The Orchha is a highly picturesque, set on an island on a bend in the Betwa River. You see the beautiful old fort palace raised on a rocky promontory above the wooded countryside. Orchha was founded in the early 16th century by Rajput chieftain, Radra Pratap and remained the capital of powerful Rajput Kingdom from 1583 till 1783.

Orchha golden age was during the first half of the 17th century when Jehangir visited the city in 1606, a special palace, the Jehangir Mahal, was specially built for him. Later both Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb raided the city.

TEMPLES - ORCHHA

Visit the **Raj Mahal** with its Hall of Private Audience and Public Audience and royal chambers with beautiful painted murals on the walls and ceilings of religious and secular themes. The Rai Parveen Mahal named after the musician courtesan (1592-1604).

The Jahangir Mahal (7th century) palace built to commemorate the Emperor's visit.

JAHANGIR MAHAL - ORCHHA

Later continue your drive to Khajuraho.

Temple town of Khajuraho is much different from any other temple city of India. It is not about religion and worshipping and deities. The temples of Khajuraho are instead famous for the eroticism etched on its walls in the form of sculptures. An amalgamation of science and art of architecture, these 10th-11th century temples have a very interesting legend behind them that connects them to the origin of Chandela dynasty.

On arrival at Khajuraho, transfer to the hotel and check in.

Overnight stay at the Hotel.

DAY 02: KHAJURAHO – VARANASI (FLIGHT)

After breakfast visit **Eastern Group** of temples mainly dedicated to the Jain teachers - tirthankaras - The **Parsvanatha Temple**, the **Adinatha Temple** and the **Santinatha Temple**. The temples are ornately carved on the outside with beautiful figures of Hindu gods, goddesses.

Also visit the **Western Group** of temples, which consist of a group of artistic temples built in sandstone. The sculptures of Hindu deities, dancers and musicians appear to be so natural as if they would come alive any time.

TEMPLE - KHAJURAHO

Later transfer to the airport to board the flight to Varanasi.

Varanasi, or Benaras, (also known as Kashi) is one of the oldest living cities in the world. Varanasi`s Prominence in Hindu mythology is virtually unrevealed. Mark Twain, the English author and literature, who was enthralled by the legend and sanctity of Benaras, once wrote: "Benaras is older than history, older than tradition, older even than legend and looks twice as old as all of them put together".

According to the 'Vamana Purana', the Varuna and the Assi rivers originated from the body of the primordial Person at the beginning of time itself. The tract of land lying between them is believed to be 'Varanasi', the holiest of all pilgrimages.

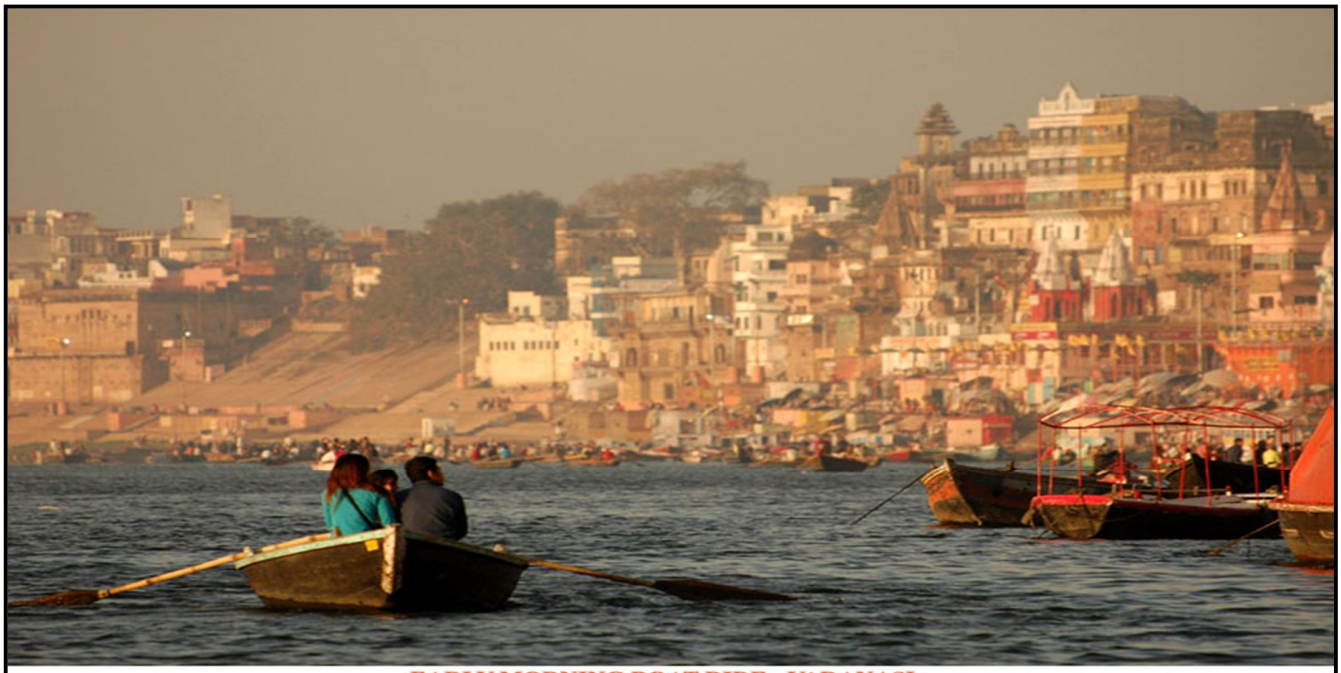
On arrival at Varanasi, drive for the **excursion to Sarnath**, one of Buddhism's major centers in India. It was here that Buddha gave his first Sermon after attaining Nirvana. In the complex is the Dhamekh Stupa (5th-6th AD) or Dharma Chakra, the most imposing monument at Sarnath built to commemorate the place where Buddha delivered his first sermon to the five disciples.

Later transfer to the hotel and check in.

Overnight in the Hotel.

DAY 03: VARANASI

Early morning enjoy boat ride on the river Ganges and see the sunrise. The boat ride passes along some of the 100 ghats, with numerous palaces built by Hindu kings. Experience the early morning rituals of the Hindus being performed on the ghats. Thousands of people take a bath believing they will be free from the circle of rebirth. It is interesting to see the pilgrims offering sweets, flowers and holy water to the Sun God.



EARLY MORNING BOAT RIDE - VARANASI

After breakfast, enjoy the city tour of Varanasi which includes the visit to the following:

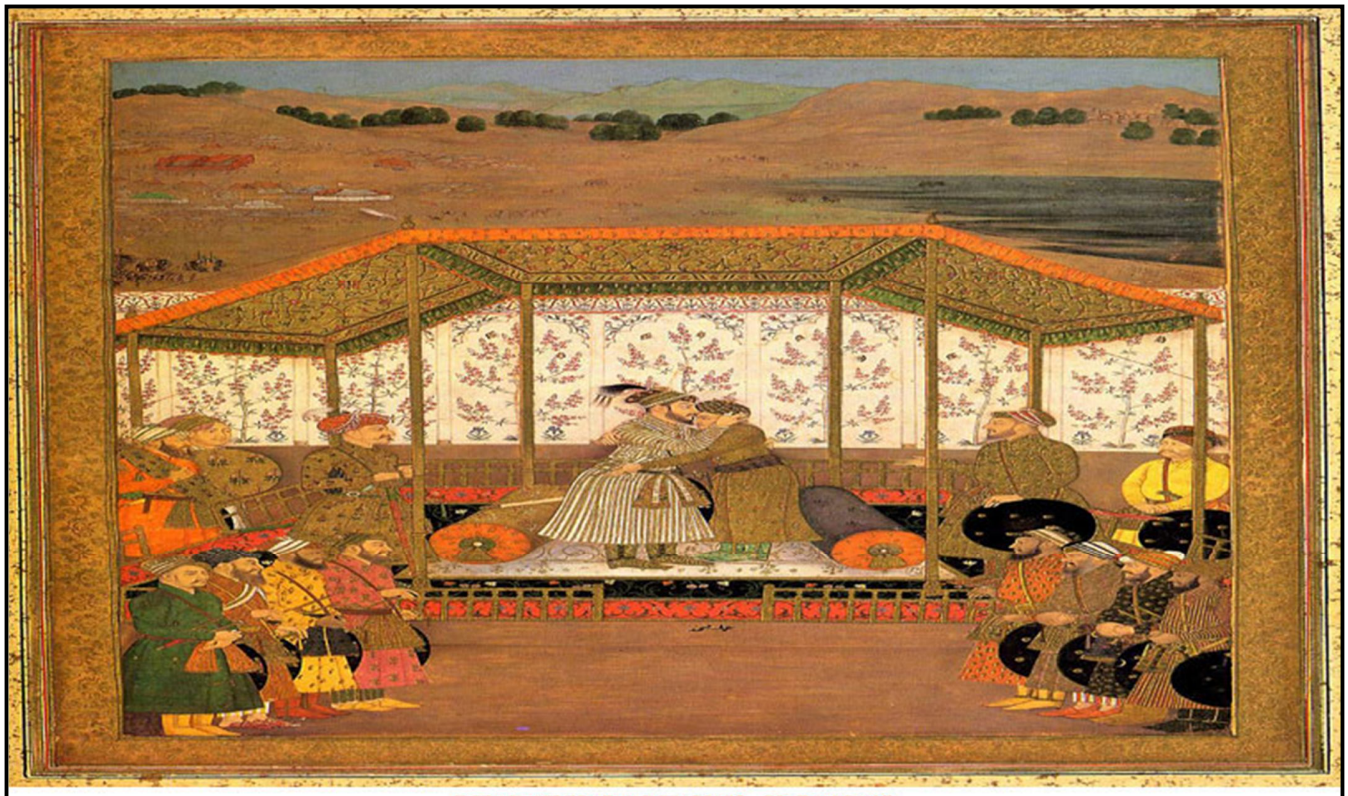
KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE - The temple is located in the premises of the Banaras Hindu University and is about thirty minutes walk from the gates of the university. The temple, built by the Birlas, was planned by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya. Unlike many other temples in Varanasi, this temple is open to all irrespective of caste or creed.

DURGA TEMPLE - Located 2 kilometres south of the old city, this eighteenth century Durga Temple is also known as the Monkey Temple due to many aggressive monkeys that reside here. The temple was built in a common north Indian style with an ornate shikhara, consisting of five segments symbolizing the elements and supported by finely carved columns. Here Durga is represented as the embodiment of shakti or female power, clad in red and riding a tiger and fully armed with Shiva's trident, Vishnu's discus and a sword. A forked stake in the courtyard was used during festivals in the earlier times to behead sacrificial goats. The ritual of sacrifice has now been replaced by a symbolic mark in vermilion. Non-Hindus are admitted to the courtyard but not the inner sanctum.

BHARAT MATA TEMPLE - This temple of Bharat Mata (Mother India), inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi, lies about 3 kilometres west of Godaulia, outside the old city. Here, instead of gods and goddesses, one finds a huge relief map in marble of the whole of Indian subcontinent and Tibetan plateau. The map is said to be perfectly to scale both vertically and horizontally with mountains, rivers and the holy tirthas (pilgrimage centres) all clearly visible.

TULSI MANAS TEMPLE - Built in 1964, the Tulsi Manas Temple stands about 150 m south of Durga Temple. The temple, dedicated to Lord Rama is situated at the place where Tulsidas, the great medieval seer, is believed to have lived and written the great epic "Shri Ramcharitmanas". The two tier walls of the temple are engraved with the verses and scenes from this great epic.

BENARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY - One of the oldest educational centres in India, the Banaras Hindu University was built in 1917. The university was founded by Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya as a centre for the study of Indian art, culture, music and Sanskrit. The university campus is spread over five square kilometres and houses the Bharat Kala Bhavan. The Bhavan has a fine collection of miniature paintings, sculptures from first to fifteenth centuries, old photographs of Varanasi and brocade textiles.



BHARAT KALA BHAVAN - VARANASI

In the evening if the time permits enjoy the Aarti Ceremony at river Ganges.

Overnight stay in the Hotel.

DAY 04: VARANASI – DELHI DEPARTURE

After breakfast the day is free at the hotel.

(Check out time is 1200 hrs). Later transfer to the Airport to board the flight to Delhi.

On arrival in Delhi, transfer to the international Airport to board the flight for onwards journey.

COSTING

Please find below the prices with hotel list.

Hotel list:

Place	Hotels	Number of nights
Khajuraho	Radisson Jass – Deluxe room	01 Night
Varanasi	Radisson Hotel – Superior room	02 Nights

Prices: **(Valid for above mentioned dates only)**

Slab	Prices
01 Pax	**USD$ 880** Per Single room
02 Pax	**USD$ 580** Per Person sharing a double room
Airfare Supplement for HJR/VNS/DEL Sector	**USD$ 260 Per person. This is the present Airfare in economy class & is subject to change.**

Cost includes:

- Single/Double room on sharing basis.
- Daily breakfast.
- Boat ride in Varanasi
- Train fare from Delhi - Jhansi
- All transfers and sightseeing by 01 Indigo for 01 Pax and 01 Innova for 02 Pax
- Local English speaking Guides
- Tax on Accommodation
- Service Tax on complete package

Cost does not include:

- Any airfares.
- Any new tax imposed by the Government.
- Any expenditure of personal nature such as tips, drinks, telephone charges, laundry etc.