



SPIRITUAL NORTH INDIA

14nights 15days

HIGHLIGHTS

- **DAY1**- Arrive Delhi
- **DAY2** – Delhi Religious institutes – Akshardham Temple + lotus temple + Jama Masjid + Gurudwara Bangla Shahib
- **DAY3** – Transfer to Dharmasal by flight
- **DAY4** – Dharmasala sightseeings – Namgyal Monastery, Norbulinka institute, Koral walk, Kangra museum
- **DAY5** – Transfer to Amritsar + Evening ceremony at the Golden temple.
- **DAY6** – Jallianwala Bagh massacre site + Wagah border trip
- **DAY7** – Transfer to Haridwar + Evening ganga arti ceremony
- **DAY8** – Morning sightseeings of Chani Devi Temple, Mansa Temple + Transfer to Rishikesh
- **DAY9** – Spiritual Rishikesh tour – Beatles Ashram, Ram Jhula, Vaisitha cave, Parmath Ashrama
- **DAY10** – Day at your own leisure in Rishikesh
- **DAY11** – Transfer to Varanasi + Evening Ganga Arti Ceremony
- **DAY12** – Ganges boat ride + Sarnath buddist complex
- **DAY13** – Transfer to Agra
- **DAY14** – Taj Mahal + Red Fort + Transfer to delhi
- **DAY15** – Return flight from Delhi

ITINERARY

DAY1 – FLIGHT to DELHI – Meet and greet at Delhi airport + Transfer to hotel

Meet your Tour Manager at the Indira Gandhi International Airport after your arrival at Delhi. Later get transported to your hotel and rest for the day.



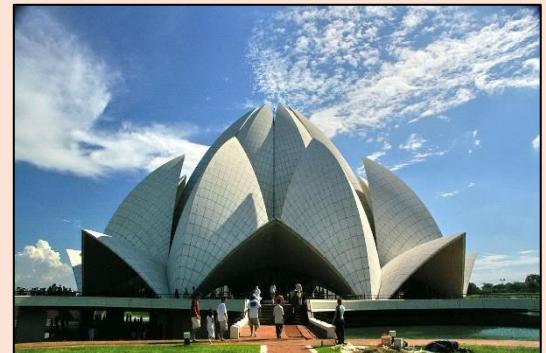
DAY2 – DELHI – Full day Religious institutes of Delhi tour

Religion is integral to daily life in Delhi – a city as diverse as its people, their beliefs, cuisine, culture, and quirks. The fabric of the city is interwoven through the tremendous variety of temples that make up some of Delhi's most interesting sites. After breakfast start with a visit to



Swaminarayan Akshardham complex, a 21st-century temple dedicated to the city's Hindu majority. The complex offers a glimpse into India's lengthy history as well as traditional Hindu life and is home to excellent modern exhibitions on Indian culture, spirituality, and architecture. After that we will visit the Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque designed by Shah Jahan.

Break for lunch (not included), then continue driving to the Lotus Temple, a Bahai house of worship designed in the shape of a lotus flower. Built in 1986, the stunning white marble 'flower' sits within 26 acres (10.5 hectares) of landscaped gardens, pools and red sandstone walkways. End with a visit to Gurudwara



Bangla Sahib, a prominent Sikh Temple near Connaught Place. The Sikh faith combines elements of Hinduism and Islam into its own unique identity. The bustling temple houses a community kitchen staffed by volunteers that serve at least 8,000 people daily. If you are interested, it is possible to volunteer at the temple during the meal service or join in a simple traditional langar vegetarian lunch at the temple with the community. At the end of the day, return to your hotel by private vehicle.



DAY3 – DELHI - DHARMASALA –Transfer to Dharamsala by flight

Today after breakfast get ready to be transferred to airport for your flight to Dharamshala.

Dharmshala a blissful Himalayan sojourn amidst the superb vistas of Dhauladhar Hills, high above the rugged Kangra Valley of North India offers a delicious taste of Tibet! In fact, the town has been given the illustrious title of the Little Lhasa in India. Housing several generations of exiled Tibetans and His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, there is a peaceful energy to the small but flourishing and determined Buddhist community. Set within the foothills of the Himalayas in the Dhauladhar Range, the location is an ideal backdrop for this spiritual haven, with its magnificent snowy peaks, deodar and pine forests, and rolling tea gardens. Dharamsala is an ideal retreat if you wish to soothe your soul in the grandeur of natural beauty.



Visit the Tibetan Children's Village School, which is an NGO

supporting refugee and destitute children and where monetary donations are welcome.

The Men-Tsee-Khang

(Tibetan Medical and Astro Institute) offers an insight into traditional alternative healing.

You can also go watching performances in Tibetan Institute of performing arts



DAY4 – DHARMASALA –Full day spiritual tour of Dharmasala

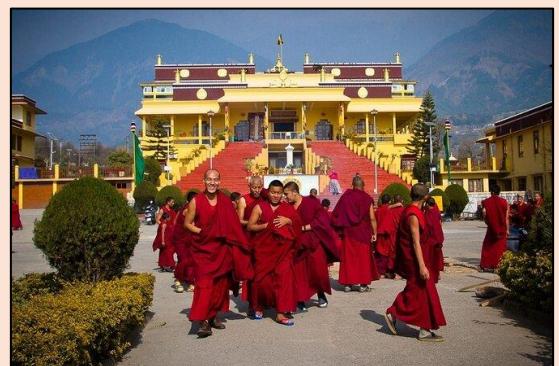
After breakfast, visit the Dalai Lama's Monastery, Namgyal Monastery in upper Dharamshala. Decorated with colorful prayer flags, it is an ideal spot for early morning meditation with chanting monks. The pleasant walking trail surrounding the complex also offers excellent views, and it is not unusual to see pilgrims and worshipers make a clockwise circuit as you make your way around it.



Join the monk for a Kora walk encircling the Dalai Lama's monastery in Mcleod Ganj, where many devotees can be found

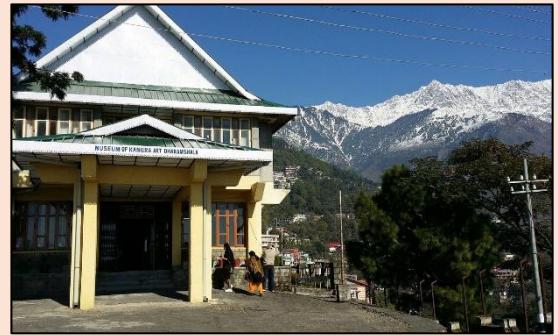
performing similar holy walks, bearing offerings and chanting prayers. The monk will join you on part of the Kora walk, and offer fascinating insights into Buddhism and Tibetan spirituality.

Engage in a lively discussion on various aspects touching Tibetan Buddhism. The



Kora walk is also referred to as Pradkshina in the local regional language.

Visit the **Kangra Art Museum** at Kotwali Bazar and admire its gallery of Kangra's famous miniature paintings and a representative collection of artifacts from the area, including sculptures, pottery and anthropological items. Head to the War Memorial, nestled in a pine grove and featuring a series of narrow paths and landscaped lawns. Continue to McLeod Ganj, the town's suburb often referred to as 'Little Lahasa' and home to His Holiness Dalai Lama. Spend some time exploring and taking in the spiritual ambiance of this unique settlement. Finish your day off with a tour of the **Norbulingka Institute**. Forget about the hustle and bustle outside the moment you walk through the traditional Tibetan gate. Walk through the winding stone paths and surrender to the hum of activity around you with thangka painters, metal workers, wood carvers all engrossed in their work. Your tour concludes with a private transfer back to your hotel.



DAY5 – DHARMASALA –AMRITSAR Transfer to Amritsar by bus + Evening ceremony at Golden Temple

Today after breakfast, board your bus to be transferred to Amritsar. **Amritsar is the spiritual home for Sikhs across the world**. Amritsar has a bustling energy within its maze of narrow streets, yet located within the city's cradle, stands the glorious and tranquil Golden Temple, which is the Sikh's most important religious sanctuary.



The Harmandir Sahib (or Hari Mandir) in Amritsar, commonly called the Golden Temple, is Sikhism's holiest shrine. Observe the life, vigor and vitality of this temple's religious fervor and sacredness, where thousands of pilgrims converge from India and abroad. It is best visited early morning or at night..when it is beautifully lit up. **Witness the nightly ceremony - 'Palki Sahib'**, when the 'Guru Granth Sahib' is carried in procession from the main shrine to its night abode..the Akal Takht, where it rests for a few hours until the opening ceremony next morning. Male pilgrims shoulder the heavy palanquin for a few seconds each before passing it along, forming a human 'conveyer belt' allowing everyone to participate and rest.



DAY6- AMRITSAR- Evening Wagah Border ceremony

Today after breakfast, you will have free time to explore on your own. (Optional :*The other important site of the city is the Jallianwala Bagh which is within a few minutes' walk from the temple and commemorates the 2,000 Indians who were killed or wounded at this site, shot indiscriminately by the Colonial British forces in 1919*)

Today afternoon , With your private guide and driver, head towards the Attari (Indian side) – Wagah (Pakistan side) border for the daily ceremonial lowering of the flags at sunset to observe the knightly military drill between the Indian Border Security Force and Pakistan Rangers is a colorful ceremony of



elaborate intimidating kicks and rapid dance-like maneuvers and symbolizes the simultaneous rivalry between the two countries as well as the brotherhood and cooperation between the two.

At the end of the ceremony, return to your hotel in Amritsar by private vehicle. Along the way, visit Sarai Amanat Khan, a resting place set up by the legendary calligrapher of the Taj Mahal, Amanat Khan, for weary travelers. It is the only place aside from the Taj Mahal where it is possible to see Amanat Khan's calligraphy work.

DAY7 – AMRITSAR – HARIDWAR Transfer to Haridwar by train + Evening ganga aarti ceremony

Today after breakfast get ready to be transferred to the train station

Board the Train ASR HW Jan Shatabdi No.12054 departing Amritsar at 06:50 hrs arriving in Haridwar at 13:50 hrs. Transfer from the train station to your hotel.

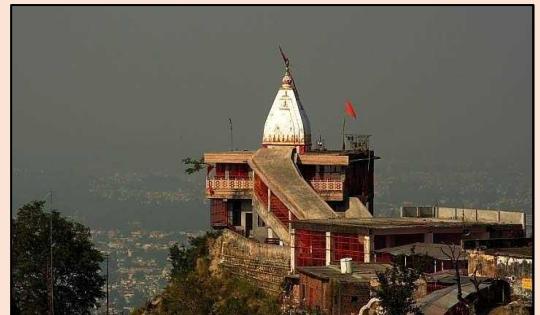
Haridwar is a significant pilgrimage destination and is considered by Hindu worshippers as the Gateway of the Gods. The spiritual city is located on the banks of India's famous holy River Ganges, after the waters have just exited the Himalayas. An ancient city that is centuries old, Haridwar was first mentioned in the ancient scriptures and Indian epics under its former names, Mayapuri, Gangadwar and Mokshadwar. Every twelve years, the city invites in thousands of Hindu pilgrims for its famous Haridwar Kumbh Mela.

Explore the famous Har Ki Pauri ghat on the banks of the river, which reputedly houses a large footprint made by the Hindu God Vishnu. Experience the mystical evening Aarti (prayer ceremony) performed by priests at the ghat, and watch thousands of lamps float downriver, accompanied by rhythmic chanting.



DAY8 – HARIDWAR –RISHIKESH- Morning spiritual tour of Haridwar + transfer to Rishikesh

Today, after breakfast get ready to Discover spirituality at the Himalayas! Begin your tour of Haridwar with an exciting ropeway ride to the top of the majestic mountain, Neel Parvat, to visit the revered Chandi Devi Temple perched atop. Experience the hustle and bustle of a local market. Catch your breath at a viewpoint that overlooks the city before moving onto the revered Mansa Devi Temple on the neighboring mountain, Bilwa Parvat.



Drive from Rishikesh to Haridwar (30km , 1 hr)

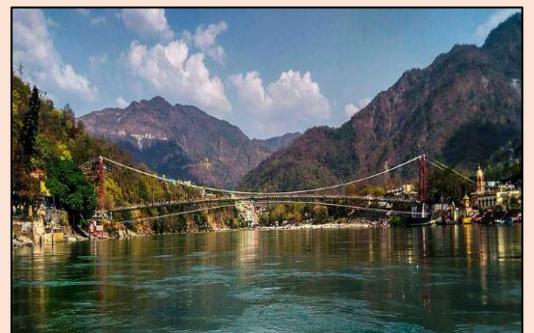
Rishikesh is the ultimate destination for harmony of your mind, body and soul. Located in northern Uttarakhand at the foothills of the Himalayas, Rishikesh is surrounded by hills on three sides and provides a sense of being on top of the world. The area is a spiritual pilgrimage destination given that the great River Ganges, considered sacred to the Hindu religion, flows through the town's hamlets and settlements. Venture to Rishikesh for a healthy and mystical experience, as it is considered the yoga capital of the world.



DAY 9 - RISHIKESH –Full day spiritual tour of Rishikesh

Discover the highlights of the temple town of Rishikesh during this private tour.

Start with a visit to the iconic Ram Jhula, a suspension bridge over the fast-flowing Ganges River. Accompanied by your guide, stroll on the bridge for a little over a



mile to reach the other side, where you'll visit **Parmarth Ashram, a renowned center for yoga and religious learning.**

Next up is **Chaurasi Kutia, better known as the Beatles Ashram.** See the spiritual center, where the Beatles learned transcendental meditation and composed some of their hit songs.

Afterwards, take a break to buy yourself lunch at a local eatery. Then, you will drive out to **Vashishta Cave, located on the sandy shores of the river where the Hindu sage** Vashishta is believed to have meditated thousands of years ago. Nearby, you also have Arundhati Cave, named after the sage's wife.



As the sun goes down, make your way to **Triveni Ghat for the famous Ganga aarti or river worship.** Watch as hundreds of lamps light up the night sky while priests conduct the ceremony to the accompaniment of chants and devotional songs. (Duration: full day; Private activity & transfers; Fitness level: easy; Please note that ashram visit may not be possible on some special occasions or during ceremonies; Best time to travel: Oct-Apr)



DAY 10 - RISHIKESH – Day at your own leisure

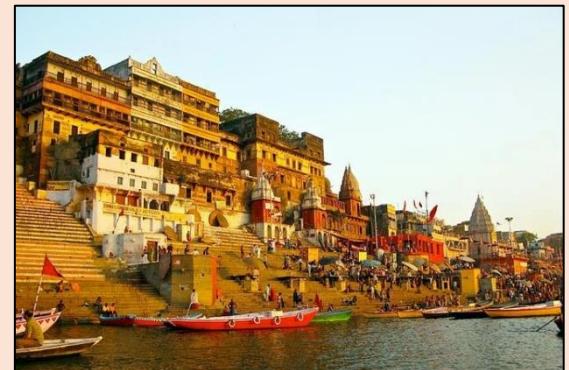
Today, the day is free to explore Rishikesh on your own.

DAY 11 – RISHIKESH – VARANASI- Flight to Varanasi + Evening Aarti ceremony and boat ride on the Ganges

Drive from Rishikesh to Dehradun (45 km, 1.5 hrs)

Flight from Dehradun to Varanasi via Delhi. Transfer from the airport to your hotel

The Aarti Ceremony is a devotional Hindu ritual performed at dusk on the banks of the Ganges, using fire as an offering to, the affectionately referenced, Maa Ganga, goddess of the holiest river in India. Usually, a small oil lamp made of clay adorned with a candle and flowers is lit and floated down the river. It's a beautiful sight that takes place every sunset at the holy Dasaswamedh Ghat. Young Hindu priests, all draped in saffron-colored robes, perform the highly choreographed ritual on an elevated stage facing the river. Clouds of incense fill the air, while priests chant and wave incense sticks in elaborate patterns or circle large flaming lamps that create a magnificent spectacle of colors against the darkened sky.



The ritual lasts a little less than an hour, after which your private guide takes you to a **waiting boat and boatman to experience Varanasi's night views as observed from the river**. The most important and, a potentially unsettling one, is to see the burning funeral pyres you encounter on the way. You can witness cremations as your boat floats gently past, revealing a ritual that is memorable in its rawness, simplicity, and completeness. It is helpful to hear your guide explain the Hindu belief that if a deceased's ashes are laid to rest in the Ganges at Varanasi, it allows their soul to be transported to heaven and thus escape the cycle of rebirth. A tour with an intriguing close-up view of a quintessential Varanasi experience.

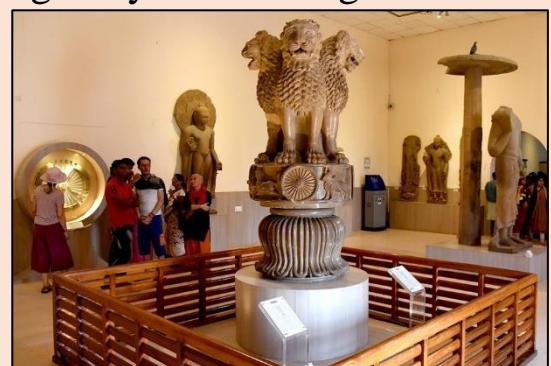
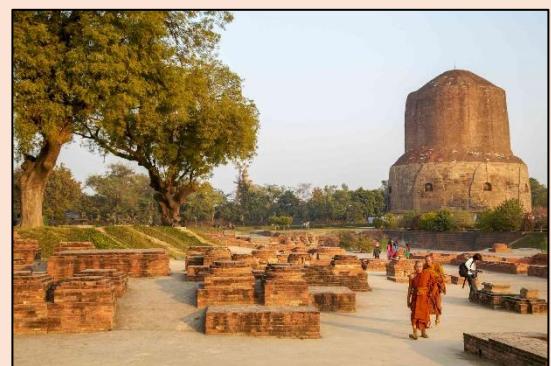


DAY 12 -VARANASI – Sarnath excursion tour + Sarnath tour

Early this morning, accompanied by your private guide, discover India's spirituality from another perspective — by taking an unforgettable **sunrise boat ride on the Ganges, floating past ghats as worshippers begin to appear on the banks.** Varanasi's unique culture is associated with the river Ganges, where life and death intermingle. The living flock the ghats to pray with the belief that bathing in the waters of the sacred river would result in the remission of their sins, while the ashes of the dead are scattered in the water to break the cycle of reincarnation and let the soul rise to enlightenment.



After breakfast at hotel proceed for an excursion to **Sarnath, one of the main Buddhist centers in India.** It is believed that Lord Buddha delivered his first speech after gaining Nirvana, or enlightenment here. Most of Sarnath's ruins are found in a, relatively, small and very well maintained area with the **Dhamek Stupa - one of the most famous of all Buddhist stupas** – dominating the site. It can be seen from, virtually, anywhere you walk in Sarnath. Originally built during the reign of King Ashoka of the Maurya Dynasty (around 249 BCE), it has undergone a series of expansions and additions. Its solid, cylindrically-shaped edifice marks the spot where Lord Buddha preached the first sermon to his five disciples after attaining enlightenment in Bodh Gaya. Today, Buddhist pilgrims from around the world visit Sarnath to



circumambulate the holy Stupa, chanting the mantra or sitting on the grass in solemn prayer

Explore the **Sarnath Museum**. The museum, which is part of the site, boasts a great collection of archeological artifacts .One of the most famous exhibit is the "lion capital of Asoka": this statue of four lions guarding the four cardinal directions has become the emblem of modern India

Lunch at local Vegetarian restaurant.

Dinner at hotel.

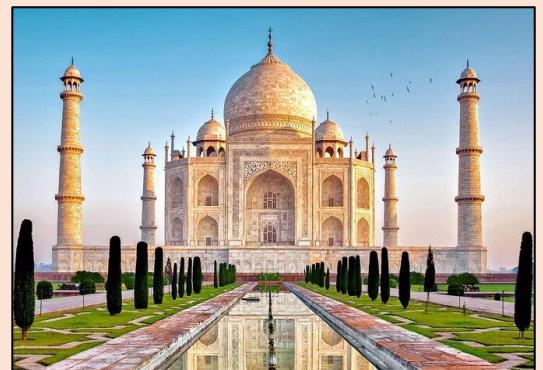


DAY 13 – VARANASI –AGRA - *Transfer to Agra via Delhi*

Today after breakfast get ready to be transferred to Delhi by flight. Upon arrival board your bus to be transferred to Agra. Check into the hotel and rest for the day.

DAY 14 – AGRA- *Taj Mahal+ Agra fort + Transfer to Delhi*

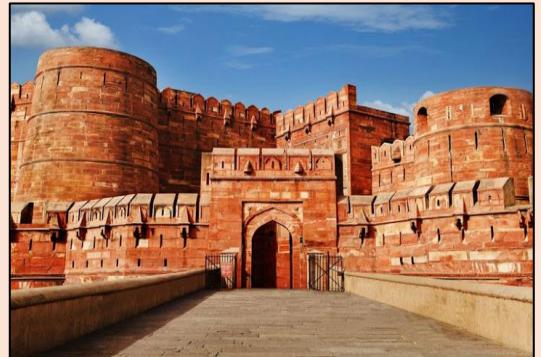
Today after breakfast well make our way to one of the seven wonders of the modern world, the Taj Mahal. The marble-domed building is perhaps one of the world's greatest symbols of eternal love, having been created by Shah Jahan as a funerary monument to his beloved wife, Mumtaz. Over 300 years have elapsed since its construction, but it still stands unscarred by age. It took over 22 years to build (1630-52) and an army of builders, artisans, and craftsmen to create the architectural masterpiece of marble and sandstone, which is said to change its colour depending on



the time of day. We will aim to visit at sunset, when the surface of the Taj takes on a soft golden hue.

Post lunch, we'll visit Agra Fort. Built by Akbar the Great, entirely from red sandstone, it blends Persian, Islamic and Hindu architecture. The story goes that after losing his grip on power and being imprisoned by his son, Emperor Shah Jahan was confined here to a high tower, where he spent his dying days gazing longingly downriver at his beloved Taj Mahal.

We'll also explore the gardens of Mehtab Bagh and the tomb of Itmad Ud Daulah, more commonly known as Baby Taj due to it being regarded as the first attempt at a Taj-like structure by the Mughals.



DAY 15 - DEPART- *Return flight from Delhi*

Have breakfast and then get ready to board your return flight from Delhi international Airport with happy memories of your trip.

We look forward to your next journey with us.



----- END OF JOURNEY -----

INCLUSIONS

Hotels – 4star/5star

Meals – Breakfast , lunch, dinner

Transfer – private AC luxury vehicle

All entry tickets of the tour programmes

All sightseeings mentioned in the programme