

Pilgrimage Organized by:



**Hindu Centre**  
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Travel Managed by:



Tour code: E9N –HINDU PILGRIMAGE

# North India HINDU PILGRIMAGE

## DELHI–AYODHYA–PRAYAGRAJ–VARANASI–BODHGAYA–DEOGHAR–PATNA

**Odyssey Manager™:** Incredible Odyssey tours are managed by our in-house Indian Odyssey Managers, trained to serve foreign guests based on the guests' preference, assisted by the monument guides at certain monuments. From receiving the guests from airport till their departure, Odyssey Manager™ accompanies our guests around 8-12 hours daily, to make sure all the services are provided as per itinerary and to solve the contingencies that might arise along the journey. Odyssey Manager can assist changes in itinerary or add-on visits along the way if feasible.

**Hindu Pilgrimage:** In Hinduism, the yatra (pilgrimage) to the tirthas (sacred places) has special significance for earning the punya (spiritual merit) needed to attain the moksha (salvation) by performing the darshana (viewing of deity), the parikrama (circumambulation), the yajna (sacrificial fire offering), the Dhyana (spiritual contemplation), the puja (worship), the prarthana (prayer, which could be in the form of mantra - sacred chants, bhajan - prayer singing, or kirtan - collective musical prayer performance), the dakshina (alms and donation for worthy cause), the seva (selfless service towards community, devotees or temple), the bhandara (running volunteer community kitchen for pilgrims), etc. These sacred places are usually located on the banks of sacred waters, such as sacred rivers or their tributaries (among the Rigvedic rivers of sapta sindhu the trio ganges-yamuna-saraswati are considered most sacred), the kundas (pond or lake, among these the Lake Manasarovar is considered most sacred), the ghats (water bodies with stairs such as Ghats in Varanasi), or the stepwells (among these the rani ki vav in the form of inverted temple is considered most spectacular), or the temple tanks. In order of importance, in India there are 7 Sapta Puri holy cities, 4 Dhams (Char Dham) and 12 Jyotirlingas devoted to the Lord Shiva, 51 Shakti Pithas devoted to the feminine manifestation of the god, and the important Lord Rama circuit (Ayodhya, Chitrakoot, Hampi and Rameswaram) and Lord Krishna circuit (Braj, Kurukshetra and Dwarka).

### Religious Places Visited

- Sri Ram Janambhumi Temple
- Lodheshwar Mahadev Temple
- Triveni Ghat Prayagraj
- Kaal Bhairav Temple
- Annapurna Temple
- Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga
- Shri Vishalakshmi Shaktipeeth
- Dhaashasweth Ghat
- Sarnath
- Vishnupad Temple Gaya
- Mahabodhi Temple Bodhgaya
- Rajgir
- Nalanda Ruins
- Baba Vaidyanath Jyotirlinga
- Patna Sahib Sikh Temple

### ITINERARY

**15 Mar: SINGAPORE - DELHI** Singapore Airlines SQ 406 – SIN 1650 – DEL 2210 **NO MEALS**

Arrive Indira Gandhi International airport, on arrival meet & greet, transfer to the hotel for overnight stay in Delhi.

**16 Mar: DELHI – AYODHYA** Indigo Air 6E 2128 DEL1155-AYJ 1315 Hour Domestic Flight **BD**

After enjoying your breakfast at the hotel, transfer to the airport to board your scheduled flight to the newest airport just inaugurated in Ayodhya. On arrival check in to the hotel for overnight stay at Ayodhya. Afternoon visit of Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra, and spend most of the afternoon in the temple complex. The newly consecrated temple complex is being built in over 70 acres. PM Narendra Modi is scheduled to inaugurate the Ayodhya Ram Mandir. Ayodhya Ram Mandir Opening Date has been set as 22 January 2024, preparations of the inauguration and pooja will start from 14 January 2024. Return to Hotel for dinner & overnight stay.

**17 Mar: AYODHYA – LODHESHWAR MAHADEV – LUCKNOW** 175 km, around 4.5 hours drive **BD**

After breakfast at transfer once again to Shri Ram Mandir for morning prayer at the temple. The original temple where there was dispute was 2.77 acres but now Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra is spanning 70-acre area. Upon completion, Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra will boast 70% green space, with only 30% dedicated to buildings and temples. On completion transfer for lunch.

**After early lunch, drive 115 Km, around 3 hours to Lodheshwar Mahadev Temple.**

The ancient Shiva temple is situated at village Mahadeva in tehsil Ram Nagar of district Barabanki on the banks of Ghaghra. Lodheshwar Mahadev has ancient history to its credit. The Shivling in this temple being one of the exotic and rarest of the 52 shivlings on the surface of

earth. It is said that, prior to the Mahabharat period, Lord Shiva wished to reappear on the earth once again. Pandit Lodheram Awasthi was a learned Brahmin, simple, kind and good natured villager, after his name Lodheswar got its name. There are several instances in Mahabharat where this ancient temple is referred to. Pandavas after the Mahabharat had performed the Mahayagya at this place, a well exists even today by the name Pandav-Kup. It is said that the water of the well is having spiritual qualities and those who drink this water get cured of a number of ailments.

### **Drive 60 Km, around an hour or so to reach Lucknow.**

On arrival check in to your hotel for a comfortable overnight stay.

## **18 Mar: LUCKNOW – PRAYAGRAJ – VARANASI**

**325 Km, around 7-8 hours drive**

**BD**

### **After an early breakfast drive 201 Km, around 4 hours to Allahabad.**

As the drive proceeds try not to sleep, as the journey is going to be full of excitement and thrills. You will get a glimpse of Indian life while being on road. A sudden break on highway to negotiate a passing by cow or goat, ladies engrossed in day to day life to make their livelihood etc. The city of Allahabad is among the largest cities of Uttar Pradesh and situated at the confluence of three rivers- Gana, Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati. The meeting point is known as Triveni and is especially sacred to Hindus. The earlier settlements of the Aryans were established in this city, then known as Prayag” Prayagasya Praveshshu Papam Nashwati Tatkshanam. All sins are cleaned with entry in Prayag (the ancient name of modern time Allahabad) PRAYAG is one of the historic & mythological cities of India with glorious past and present. It continues to enjoy the distinction of being a place of haunting and lasting memories. It is a city of mixed culture of Hindu, Muslims, Jains and Christians. Allahabad is the birth place of first Prime Minister of India, Jawahar Lal Nehru and famous bollywood legend Amitabh Bachan.

### **Afternoon to pay your homage at Triveni Ghat.**

Prayag in modern-day Prayagraj is believed to be the most important pilgrimage center for Hindus. Traditionally river confluences are regarded as auspicious places, but in Sangam, the significance of the confluence is most pious because here, the holy Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati meet to become one. This is the point where the brown water of the Ganga meets the green water of the Yamuna, along with the mythical Saraswati, which remains unseen but believed to run underground.

### **On completion drive 121 Km, around 3 hours to reach 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". Varanasi is the oldest living city in the world and has been a significant centre of civilisation for over 3000 years now.

## **19 Mar: VARANASI**

**EXCURSION/VISITS/EVENING AARTI**

**BD**

### **Rise early at 04:00 AM to visit Kaal Bhairav Mandir.**

Early morning to visit the famous Temple of Bhaironath. It is one of the oldest Shiva temples in Varanasi, India. Situated in Bhaironath, Vishweshwarganj (Varanasi), this temple has great historical and cultural importance in Hinduism; especially amongst the locals. The temple is dedicated to Bhairava (Kaal Bhairav), a fierce form of Shiva and wears a garland of skulls and carries a club of peacock feathers. The word "Kaal" means both "death" and "time". Kaal Bhairav also means the one who removes the fear of both death and time. It is believed that even death is afraid of Kaal Bhairav.

### **Followed by visit of Annapurna Temple.**

Annapurna temple is dedicated to the Annapurna or Annapoorna Mata, the Goddess of Food or the Goddess of Nourishment (Anna means food and Purna means complete or full), Mata Parvati. There was a golden idol of the Annapurna Mata in the Annapurna temple. Annapurna temple has a huge crowd of pilgrims at the occasion of Annacoot. Annacoot festival is celebrated in India every year after Diwali. On the occasion of Annacoot coins are distributed to all the devotees. It is considered that whoever will worship this coin, he will be blessed by the Annapurna Mata for his successful and prosperous life. Annapurna Mata is the Goddess of the Varanasi city Who always protects the Kashi and fulfill His devotees with the food.

### **Next is to Kashi Vishwanath Temple.**

Situated on the western bank of holy river Ganga in Varanasi, Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas or temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. The main deity of Kashi Vishwanath Temple is Lord Shiva, also known as Vishwanatha or Vishweshwarar meaning 'the ruler of the universe'. The city of Varanasi, the cultural capital of India, is thus known as the city of Lord Shiva. The temple has 800 kg of gold plating on its tower.

### **Shri Vishalakshi Mata Shaktipeeth Temple.**

Vishalakshi Temple or Vishalakshi Gauri Temple is one of the famous temples of the Hindus. This temple is dedicated to Goddess Vishalakshi. Vishalakshi is a Sanskrit language word which means that she who has large eyes. The Vishalakshi Temple is located at Miraghat (Manikarnika Ghat) on the banks of River Ganges, at a few distance from Kashi Vishwanath temple in Varanasi.

### **Evening Aarti by Dhashashwamedh Ghat.**

Spend unforgettable hours in one of India's most ancient cities during this evening Aarti in Varanasi. Experience the beauty of this Hindu ritual where light is offered up to deities. Hear religious songs sung out into the night and watch as lamps are offered to the gods. Learn why locals say this city liberates the soul from the human body during this once in a lifetime cultural experience.

## **20 Mar: VARANASI – SARNATH - BODHGAYA**

**255 Km, around 7 hours drive**

**BD**

### **Sunrise by the River Ganges.**

Get up early for the sunrise trip on Ganges, showcasing the day to day life of the Ghats. No trip to Banaras is complete without a sunrise or sunset boat ride of the Ganga or an exploration of its historic winding alleys. This is perfect for witnessing the majestic sunrise and the rituals

performs every morning along the ghats.

### After Breakfast drive 12 Km to Sarnath.

Get back to the hotel for breakfast and after check out start with your visit of Sarnath. Sarnath 12 Km Northeast of Varanasi. Where Buddha preached first time, gave his first sermon after he achieved enlightenment. In 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. Ashoka the great built stupas and monasteries and an engraved Ashoka pillar here. Muslim invaders destroyed the city and it was rediscovered by archaeologist in 18<sup>th</sup> century. Buddhist temples from half dozen nations has built there temples here. Visit Deer Park, Mhammarajika, Dhamekh Stupa, Mulaghandi Kuti Vihara & after lunch visit Sarnath Museum. All of the places of interest are at one temple complex. On completion drive 12 Kms to reach Varanasi and evening to explore the possibilities of shopping, the Banaras Saris are the best saris to be bought. Take your time to explore Varanasi and back to the hotel for a comfortable overnight stay.

### On completion start with your land journey of 6-7 hours to Bodhgaya.

On completion start with your road journey to Bodhgaya, Bodh Gaya is a village in the northeast Indian state of Bihar. Considered one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites, it's dominated by the ancient brick Mahabodhi Temple Complex, built to mark the site where the Buddha attained enlightenment beneath a sacred Bodhi Tree. A direct descendant of the tree sits within the complex today, along with six other sacred sites, including a lotus pond. On arrival check in to the hotel for a comfortable stay. Overnight stay at Bodhgaya.

## 21 Mar: BODHGAYA – GAYA – BODHGAYA

## EXPLORATION & VISITS

BD

### Rise early to pay your visit to Mahabodhi Temple for morning prayers.

The Mahabodhi Temple Complex is one of the four holy sites related to the life of the Lord Buddha, and particularly to the attainment of Enlightenment. The first temple was built by Emperor Asoka in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C., and the present temple dates from the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is one of the earliest Buddhist temples built entirely in brick, still standing in India, from the late Gupta period.

### After breakfast visit Vishnupad Temple of Gaya.

Gaya Temple on the way after half an hour drive. Take your time to pay your homage at Vishnupad Temple ('temple of Vishnu's feet') is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu located on the banks of Phalgu River. The temple is believed to be built upon the site where Vishnu had purportedly killed the demon Gayasura or pinned him underground. The temple features a 40-cm footprint purported to be of Lord Vishnu incised into a block of basalt, known as Dharmasila which was retained when the deity stepped on Gayasura's chest before pinning him underground. Atop the structure is a 50-kilo gold flag, donated by a devotee, Gayapal Panda Bal Govind Sen. The Vishnupad temple is the center for Shradha rites in Gaya.

### Afternoon to explore Bodhgaya.

Get back to the hotel for breakfast and after breakfast visit Sujata Kuti in Sujata village on the other side of River Falgu, also known as Niranjana River. Later proceed to witness the Holy Niranjana River, earlier known as Falgu river. Buddha took first bath in the River Niranjana also known as Lilajan in Pali, is the most striking event in his process of becoming Buddha. A river mentioned in Ramayana as Phalgu and latter classical Sanskrit literature has been often stated to be the same as Niranjana. Further cross over to visit Sujata Stupa, is a Buddhist stupa located in the village of Senanigrama. It was initially built in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE as confirmed by finds of Dark Grey polished wares and a punch-marked coin in the monastery nearby. The stupa was dedicated to the milkmaid Sujata, from the village of Bakraur, who is said to have fed Gautama Buddha milk and rice at this spot as he was sitting under a Banyan tree, thereby ending his seven years of fasting and ascetism, and allowing him to attain illumination through the Middle Way. Overnight stay at Bodhgaya.

## 22 Mar: BODHGAYA – RAJGIR – NALANDA – DEOGHAR

296 Km, around 7-8 hours drive

BD

### After breakfast drive 72 Km, around 2 hours to Rajgir.

Start with your land journey to reach Rajgir. The picturesque Rajgir, or Rajagriha as it was known in the past (literally, the abode of kings) is surrounded by the meandering river Banganga and 5 hills. During the lifetime of the Buddha this was the capital of the powerful Magadhan kingdom, ruled by the virtuous King Bimbisara. The hills and caves surrounding Rajagriha were home to spiritual teachers, ranging from the materialism of the early Charavaka school to the metaphysics of Upanishadic philosophers. Like many others in search of truth, Prince Siddhartha, after he renounced his royal heritage came to this city to seek the path of ovation and also delivered many of his sermons. Drive to reach the Vulture's Peak named as Gidhakutta by taking up the small cable car, the Japanese Stupa perched on the hill provides the necessary ambience and the panoramic view of the planes.

### Afternoon drive 12 Km, 30 minutes to Nalanda.

Founded in 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Nalanda was the most renowned university in ancient India. It derived its name from Na-alam-da, meaning Insatiable in Giving, one of the names by which the Lord Buddha was known. Pay your visit to witness the Museum opposite to it.

### On completion drive 212 Km, around 5.5 hours to Deogarh.

Deoghar (pronounced Devaghar) is a major city in Jharkhand state of India. It is a holy sacred place of Hinduism. It is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas sites of Hinduism (Baidyanath Temple). The sacred temples of the city make this a place for pilgrimage and tourists.

## 23 Mar: DEOGHAR – PATNA

260 Km, around 7 hours drive

BD

### Visit Baba Vaidyanath Dham (One of the 12 Jyotirlinga Temple).

The Vaidyanatha temple, also called Baba Vaidyanath dham or Vaidyanath dham, is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the most revered places where Shiva lives. It is a temple complex consisting of the main temple of Baba Baidyanath, where the Jyotirlinga is installed, and 21 other temples. According to Hindu beliefs, the demon king Ravana worshipped Shiva at this place to obtain boons he later used to wreak havoc on the world. Ravana offered his ten heads, one after another, to Shiva as a sacrifice. Pleased with this, Shiva descended to cure Ravana, who was injured. As he acted as a doctor, he is referred to as Vaidya ("doctor"). The temple derives its name from this aspect of Shiva.

### Afternoon drive around 7 hours to Patna.

Rise early to start your long day on road today. After an early breakfast start with your land journey to the next destination of Patna. Patna

historically known as Pataliputra, is the capital and largest city of the state of Bihar in India. Patna is an ancient city that sprawls along the south bank of the Ganges River in Bihar, northeast India. The state capital, it's home to Bihar Museum, a contemporary landmark exhibiting bronze sculptures and old coins from the region. Nearby, Indo-Saracenic-style Patna Museum displays a casket believed to contain the Buddha's ashes. Close to the river, the Golghar is a domed colonial granary overlooking the city. On completion transfer to the hotel for overnight stay.

### Visit Patna Sahib.

Takht Sri Patna Sahib also known as Harmandir Sahib, is a Gurdwara in the neighbourhood of Patna Sahib, India. It was to commemorate the birthplace of Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Guru of the Sikhs on December 1666. It was built by Maharaja Ranjit Singh (1780-1839), the first Maharaja of the Sikh Empire, who also built many other Gurdwaras in the Indian subcontinent. The current shrine of Patna Sahib or Takht Sri Harmandirji Sahib was built in the 1950s. Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, was born in Patna, Bihar, on 22 December 1666.

**24 Mar: PATNA – DELHI – FLY HOME Indigo Air PAT 1200 – DEL 1350 + Singapore Airlines SQ 403 – DEL 2155 – SIN 0610+1 BD Fly to Delhi / CCU Connecting flight to Singapore.**

After a nice breakfast transfer to the airport to board your scheduled flight to Delhi. On arrival at Delhi, coach is provided to go for some last minutes shopping and return back to airport to fly to Singapore. If you have time you can extend your holidays to visit other places.

Hotel Envisaged						
Delhi	Ayodhya	Lucknow	Varanasi	Bodhgaya	Deoghar	Patna
Muse Sarovar Portico	The Ramayana Hotel	Golden Tulip Lucknow	Amaaya Hotel	Hotel Anand International	Hotel Imperial Hotel	Hotel Patliputra Exotica

## Land Tour Cost based on 15 Pax & above: S\$ 1520 Per Pax

Single Room Supplement, if Single Room is Needed: S\$ 475 Per Pax Exgra

## Estimated International Airfare including 25 kg check in baggage

Present Airfare as on 29 Nov, 2023 S\$ 424.30

The same can go as high as S\$ 1000

## Domestic Airfare included 15 kg check in baggage: S\$ 190 to S\$ 350

Land Tour Cost Includes	Tour Cost Excludes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airport transfers at Delhi, Ayodhya and Patna.</li> <li>Chartered air conditioned coach from Gorakhpur to Patna airport and full day transfer at Delhi on last day.</li> <li>Hotels as indicated in the itinerary with breakfast and dinner provided in hotels, restaurants.</li> <li>1000 ml of bottled water per person per day.</li> <li>All entrance charges and all other entrance charges as per the itinerary.</li> <li><b>Odysey Manager*</b> from Delhi to Delhi airport.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All expenses of personal nature like drinks, tips telephone calls etc.</li> <li>Lunch during your travel and dinner on last night.</li> <li>Travel, medical &amp; evacuation travel insurance or any expenses associated with medical and evacuation expenses if any.</li> </ol>

## Travel Insurance:

To protect customers STB stipulate every agent to advice guests to buy travel insurance covering Travel Agent Insolvency before transferring any payment to us. We suggest you to buy your own travel insurance. Here are the links to travel insurance with estimated cost:

### NTUC Income cost between S\$ 55 – S\$ 218

<https://www.income.com.sg/buy/travel-insurance>

### DBS Chubb cost between S\$ 72 – S\$ 96 or more

<https://dbs.chubbdigital.com/sg/dbs/pweb/travellersshieldplus/plan>

## How to Book:

- Send us your name as on passport or scan copy of information page of your passport.
- Transfer S\$ 520 deposit to book land tour only in our DBS Bank Account no: 0039494505 or UEN: 201327786N.
- Air ticket cost advised at the time of booking
- Full amount of cost of flight of your selected flight to be paid once the airfare is advised.
- Balance S\$ 1000 to be made 30 days prior to departure date.

# Route Map of your North India Hindu Pilgrimage:

