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## **Kashmir and Rajasthan with Ganges**

**Duration: 17N/18D**

**Key Sights:** Delhi - Amritsar - Srinagar - Gulmarg - Delhi - Udaipur - Jodhpur - Jaipur – Agra - Orchha - Khajuraho - Varanasi

| Day    | Program                    | Mode       |
|--------|----------------------------|------------|
| Day 1  | Arrived Delhi              | By Flight  |
| Day 2  | Delhi – Amritsar           | By Train   |
| Day 3  | Amritsar                   |            |
| Day 4  | Amritsar – Srinagar        | By Flight  |
| Day 5  | Srinagar                   |            |
| Day 6  | Srinagar – Gulmarg         | By Surface |
| Day 7  | Gulmarg                    |            |
| Day 8  | Gulmarg – Pahalgam         | By Surface |
| Day 9  | Pahalgam – Srinagar        | By Surface |
|        | Srinagar – Delhi – Udaipur | By Flight  |
| Day 10 | Udaipur                    |            |
| Day 11 | Udaipur – Jodhpur          | By Surface |
| Day 12 | Jodhpur – Jaipur           | By Surface |
| Day 13 | Jaipur                     |            |
| Day 14 | Jaipur – Agra              | By Surface |
| Day 15 | Agra – Jhansi              | By Train   |
|        | Jhansi – Orcha – Khajuraho | By Surface |
| Day 16 | Khajuraho – Varanasi       | By Flight  |
| Day 17 | Varanasi                   |            |
| Day 18 | Varanasi – Delhi           | By Flight  |
|        | Departure Delhi            | By Flight  |



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**Day 1**

**Arrived Delhi**

**By Flight**

Arrival in India (New Delhi), traditional welcome by our representative at airport, transfer assistance to hotel. Check-in at hotel, before you proceed to your room/s, our representative will hand-over the travel documents and brief you about the tour programme. Overnight stay at Hotel.

**Day 2**

**Delhi – Amritsar**

**By Train**

Check-out from hotel in the morning and transfer to New Delhi railway station to board train for Amritsar. Upon arrival in Amritsar, you will be met by our representative, transfer assistance from railway station to your hotel. Late in the afternoon, take the short excursion to the border at Wagah located 29 Kms away from the city, where both Indian and Pakistani troops take part in flag lowering ceremony at dusk. The march-past is followed by the singing of national anthem. It is a martial custom that the security forces of India (Border Security Force) and Pakistan (Pakistan Rangers) perform daily. Return to Amritsar for overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 3**

**Amritsar**

Breakfast at hotel. This morning you will visit the spectacular Golden Temple - the most sacred site in the Sikh religion. On the way visit Jallianwala bagh, the memorial to commemorate the 2000 Indians who were killed and wounded, shot indiscriminately by the British under the command of Gen Michael O'Dyer on April 13, 1919 while participating in a peaceful public meeting. Sri Harmandir Sahib, also known as Sri Darbar Sahib or Golden Temple, (on account of its scenic beauty and golden coating), is named after Hari (God) the temple of God. The Sikhs all over the world, daily wish to pay visit to Amritsar and to pay obeisance at Sri Harmandir Sahib in their Ardas. The Harmandir Sahib was envisioned by Guru Arjan Dev. It was conceived by him to reflect the resoluteness, clarity and simplicity of the Sikh religion. Akal Takht faces the Golden Temple was built by the 6th Guru Hargobind (1606-44) in 1609. All commandments affecting the community as a whole were and are issued from here. A number of weapons used by Guru Hargobind, Guru Gobind Singh and other Sikh heroes are preserved at Akal Takht. You can also visit the Guru-ka-Langar, a dining hall where around 35,000 people a day are fed for free by temple volunteers. Return to hotel, remaining day at leisure. Overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 4**

**Amritsar – Srinagar**

**By Flight**

Breakfast and check-out from hotel. In-time transfer to airport to board flight for Srinagar. Upon arrival transfer assistance from airport to hotel / Deluxe Houseboats. Enjoy your Lunch in houseboat. Late afternoon Shikara ride on Dal Lake visiting floating Flower and Vegetable markets etc. Also witness Walnut woodcarving and Papier Machie making demonstration. Return to your houseboat and relax, enjoy the views of lake and surrounding peaks. Overnight stay at houseboat.



**Day 5**

**Srinagar**

Breakfast at houseboat. This morning proceed for the full day sightseeing and visit important sights of Srinagar City. Visit Shankaracharya Temple - This Temple, known to be built by Jaluka, the son of Emperor Ashoka around 200 BC, is an ancient shrine located on the Takht-e-Suleiman hill. This sacred site, situated at a height of about 1100 ft on the south-east of the city, offers splendid views of the valley and the snow clad mountains of the Pir Panjal range. Local folks tell a story that saint Shankaracharya spent some of his time at this site during his visit to Kashmir to revitalize Sanatan Dharma. It is constructed on an elevated octagonal plane, can be reached through a flight of steps bounded by side-walls. The inner sanctum adorns a modern ceiling & several Persian inscriptions. Visit Hazratbal Mosque - Also known as Dargah Sharif, Assar-e-Sharif and Madinat-Us-Sani, this Mosque on the western banks of the majestic Dal Lake is considered to be one of the most important shrines for Muslims. With the impressive Nishat Bagh in the vicinity, this enchanting white marble mosque offers great views of the Lake in the back drop of the majestic Himalayas. The Mosque is a combination of Kashmiri and Mughal styles of architecture, with historical significance dating back to the 17th century. The distinctiveness of the Hazratbal Mosque is that it enshrines the 'Moi-e-Muqaddas' (the sacred hair) of the prophet Mohammed, which is shown to public only on special occasions. Visit Khanqah of Shah Hamadan, also known as Khanqah Mosque, Shah Hamadan Masjid, Khanqah-e-Moula and so on, is one of the oldest Muslim Shrines in Kashmir. It is ideally situated on right bank of the River Jhelum. This mosque was built in 1395 by Shah Sikandar in the memory of Mir Sayyid Ali Hamdani, a preacher from City of Hamdan in Persia. The shrine bears aesthetically designed wooden structure with surprising carved roofs, rich interiors carved with ancient religious sermons and historical inscriptions, with antique chandelier and carved hanging bells. This shrine was gutted in a devastating fire twice in year 1480 and in 1731 and was reconstructed by ruler Sultan Hassan Shah and by Abul Barkat Khan respectively. Later visit the famous Mughal gardens - Nishat Bagh (Garden of Pleasure) - The largest Mughal garden situated on the banks of world famous Dal-Lake in the backdrop of Zabarwan hills encircles the Dal Lake. Empress Noor Jahan's brother Asif Khan laid the Garden in 1633 AD. Nishat has seven terraces with a beautiful central water course flowing right in the middle. These terraces rise dramatically off the mountains from the eastern part of the lake. Shalimar Bagh - It was planted by Mughal Emperor Jehangir for Empress Noor Jahan in 1619 and later extended in 1727 by Shah Jahan. Shaded by magnificent Chinar trees, the Shalimar is a series of stone pavilions and flowing water with paint box bright flower beds. The Garden blooms with innumerable varieties of flowers in spring and autumn. Chashme Shahi Garden, founded in 1632, is a small beautiful garden, the smallest among the famous Mughal gardens it is also known as Royal Spring, by road. The garden is established in three sections with an aqueduct with fountains and waterfalls located along the middle. Different varieties of beautiful fragrant flowers and manicured lawns are the main attractions in this garden. It is believed that the fresh water spring in the garden has medicinal value. Overnight stay at houseboat.



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|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Day 6</b> | <b>Srinagar – Gulmarg</b> | <b>By Surface</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|

Breakfast and check-out from hotel, afterwards drive to Gulmarg, upon arrival proceed to hotel for check-in. Later during the day, proceed for the sightseeing in Gulmarg. Enjoy a ride on Gondola Lift, a cable car system, popular among tourists for the aerial breathtaking view it offers. Gulmarg boasts Asia's highest and longest cable car project, situated at the height of 13500 ft above sea level, this lift covers a distance of 5 km in 2 stretches from Gulmarg to Kungdoori and from Kungdoori to Apparwath. The second stage of the gondola ride is exhilarating. Visit Khilanmarg, It remains carpeted with beautiful flowers in the Spring season and offers a spectacular view of the Great Himalayan range and the Kashmir Valley. Overnight stay at hotel.

|              |                |  |
|--------------|----------------|--|
| <b>Day 7</b> | <b>Gulmarg</b> |  |
|--------------|----------------|--|

Breakfast at hotel. Visit Baba Reshi Shrine (Ziarat) built and dedicated to the famous Muslim Scholar and Sage - Baba Reshi who breathed his last in Gulmarg in 1480. He was a prominent member of the court of Zain-ul-Abidin - a Kashmiri King of the early 15th century. This shrine was built amidst a luxuriant garden and is a major tourist attraction apart from the visits from its devotees. Remaining day at leisure for independent activities. Overnight stay at hotel.

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|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Day 8</b> | <b>Gulmarg – Pahalgam</b> | <b>By Surface</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|-------------------|

After early breakfast check-out from hotel. This morning drive to Pahalgam (Valley of Shepherds). Arrive and check-in at hotel. Afterwards proceed for the sightseeing and visit following places in and around:- Baisaran is situated at an altitude of 2438 m above sea level, at a distance of a mere 5 km from Pahalgam. Magnificent snow covered mountains, dense pine forests, and sprawling unspoilt meadows attract tourists from far-flung places. The top of the hill allows for a mesmerizing view of the Lidder River Valley and Pahalgam Valley. The place is considered similar to European resorts and serves as a picnic and camp site for tourists. Visit, Aru Valley which is a small yet self-sufficient scenic village located 15 km from Pahalgam. The drive up to the village is alluring too. The location of the village among the grasslands, make this place a tourist delight. It is reachable by walking along a mountain path. The village also serves as the start point for trekking to Kolahoi glacier. Later visit Hajan valley also known as Betaab valley, because of its scenic location few movies have been shot here. Overnight stay at hotel.

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|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Day 9</b> | <b>Pahalgam – Srinagar<br/>Srinagar – Delhi – Udaipur</b> | <b>By Surface<br/>By Flight</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

After early breakfast, check-out from hotel. Early in the morning drive from Pahalgam to Srinagar en-route visit at Saffron fields of Pampora, see the beautiful countryside, lots of rice fields and Awantipura ruins on the way, Awantipura Ruins (1100 years Old Temple) - Built in 09th century AD by King Avantivarman and dedicated to Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva,



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the temple ruins at Awantipura represent some of the finest examples of architecture of this region.

Later continue your drive through the pine forest, the confluence of the streams flowing from the river Lidder & Sheshnag Lake which are famous for their scenic beauty.

Reach Srinagar city, in-time transfer to airport to take flight for Delhi.

Upon arrival in Delhi take a connecting flight for Udaipur city from the same terminal of airport.

Upon arrival in Udaipur transfer assistance from airport to hotel. Remaining time of the evening at leisure. Overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 10**

**Udaipur**

Breakfast at hotel. This morning set out to explore the romantic city of Lakes - Udaipur, with the palaces built around Lake Pichola and the Aravalli Hills forming the backdrop.

The highlight will be the City Palace, the former home of the Maharanas of Udaipur, the museum is entered through the Ganesh Deori meaning the door of Lord Ganesh, this leads to the Rajya Angan, the royal courtyard. The rooms of the palace are superbly decorated with mirror tiles and paintings. The Ruby Palace has a lovely collection of glass and mirror work while Krishna Vilas display a rich collection of miniature paintings. Pearl palace has beautiful mirror work and the Chini Mahal has ornamental tiles all over. The Surya Chopal depicts a huge ornamental Sun symbolising the Sun dynasty to which the Mewar dynasty belongs. The Bai Mahal is a central garden with view of the city. This Palace being a majestic architectural marvel, within the four walls are mosaics of Peacocks, exquisite mirror work and exotic paintings. It is a conglomeration of courtyards, pavilions, terraces, corridors, rooms and hanging gardens.

Also visit Crystal Gallery, which has been hailed as probably the single largest private collection of crystal anywhere in the world. The collection includes a bewildering number of objects d'art, dinner sets, perfume bottles, decanters, glasses, washing bowls and even furniture. The Crystal Gallery also houses the only crystal bed in the world.

From here you will drive to the Palace Garage to see private collection of Vintage & Classic cars of House of Mewar. The grand limousines and cars showcased here are Rolls-Royce, 1939 Cadillac open convertibles, rare Mercedes models, 1936 Vauxhall and 1937 Opel models.

Visit Sahelion ki Bari, a spot once reserved for the royal ladies who strolled here, this well-planned garden is blessed with extensive and shady lawns on the banks of the Fateh Sagar Lake. The garden's lotus pools and fountains show ancient science since they've been placed at a lower level than the Lake, thus being gravity-driven. The main fountain lies in the center on a white marble deck with black marble marking its four corners. On the western face are pavilions, delicately sculptured of black stone that are embraced by more fountains on all sides.

Late Afternoon - Take a boat ride of Lake Pichola and visit the beautiful 17th century Jagmandir Island Palace and Jagat Niwas (Lake Palace : a luxury hotel) set amidst the lake. In the evening visit the Jagdish Temple, an Indo-Aryan temple, this temple with Lord Vishnu as the main deity was built by Maharana Jagat Singh in 1651. The temple is constructed by perfectly following the Shipa Shastra, an art and science of construction theories for temples and other buildings. Excellent Carvings showing musicians playing musical



instruments, dancing and singing of beautiful lady folks adorn the large hall in the temple. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

**Day 11**

**Udaipur – Jodhpur**

**By Surface**

Check out from your hotel after breakfast and drive to Jodhpur, en-route stop at Ranakpur for a temple tour. Acclaimed world-wide for their intricate and superb architectural style, one of the five major pilgrimages of the Jains. These temples lies at a distance of 95 kms in the north of Udaipur city. Built in the 15th century by Seth Dharna Sah (a Jain businessman) with the aid of Rana Kumbha, who ruled Mewar in the 15th century. This complex is positioned in an isolated valley on the western side of the Aravalli Range. This temple is wholly constructed in light colored marble and comprises a basement covering an area of 48000 sq feet. There are more than 1400 exquisitely carved pillars that support the temple. In the complex, there are several temples including Chaumukha temple, Parsavanath temple, Amba Mata Temple and Surya Temple. Amongst all of them, Chaumukha Temple is the most important and as the term Chaumukha suggests, this temple is four-faced. Chaumukha temple is dedicated to Lord Adinath, who is the first 'Tirthankara' of the Jains. The Temple structure is highly compound having four different doorways to get into the chambers. These chambers ultimately take you to the main hall where the image of Adinath is positioned.

The four faced image also symbolizes the Tirthankara's quest for the four directions and ultimately the cosmos. The image is surrounded by many small shrines and domes. One more range of cells with separate roofs encircles these shrines and domes all over again. The five spires elevate above the walls and around 20 cupolas rise from roof of the pillared hall. Each spire houses a shrine and the largest shrine is the important one that addresses the central altar. The temple is a masterpiece of architecture and boasts of not less than four additional shrines. It has 24 pillared halls with 80 domes that are supported by 400 columns. The upper and lower parts of the domes are linked by brackets that have deities' sculptures. Above all, you would be amazed to see at a height of 45 ft engraved nymphs playing the flute in various dance postures. Each column is intricately carved and it is surprising to know that no two columns have the similar design. In the Mandap (prayer hall), the two big bells of 108 kg each produce a harmonious sound on the movement. Chaumukha temple is formed like a Nalinigulm Vimana (heavenly aircraft) and provides this whole structure a celestial appearance. Conceivably, it is due to the intricacy of the structure that the temple took approximately 65 years to complete.

The Temple of Parsavanath is renowned for its engraved windows embellished with Jain figures. Also known as Patriyon Ka Mandir, in close proximity to this temple, you can trace two other temples dedicated to Neminath (22nd saint) and Surya Narayan (Sun God) respectively. Here, Surya Narayan Temple has innumerable wall projections with circular structure. The sight of Lord Surya driven in his chariot of seven horses is truly pleasing. After the tour, continue your drive to Jodhpur, Arrive in the evening and check in to your hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.



**Day 12**

**Jodhpur – Jaipur**

**By Surface**

Breakfast and check out from hotel. Proceed for the city tour of Jodhpur, Visit the aptly named majestic Meherangarh Fort, which dominates the skyline. Entered through gates, which bear the evocative handprints of the "Sati" queens women of the royal harem, who took their own lives when their men were defeated in battle. The fort has a series of spectacular palaces and museum, each decorated with exquisite engravings, lattice and mirror work. Of particular note is the museum that exhibits a magnificent collection of royal memorabilia; we stop to admire the graceful cenotaph at Jaswant Thada, A prime attraction of the city is clock tower and the colorful sadar Market near to it. Narrow alleys lead to quaint bazaars selling vivid tie and dye fabric, textiles, antiques, glass bangles, silverware and handicrafts. These colorful markets with tiny shops are situated in the heart of city. During the day time drive to Jaipur, known as Pink city the capital of enchanting state of Rajasthan. Arrive Jaipur in the evening and check in to your hotel. Overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 13**

**Jaipur**

Breakfast at hotel, in the morning take an excursion to Amber Fort the former royal capital, situated outside the walled city, is perhaps the most beautiful example of Rajput forts. You can have the unique experience of riding on a decorated elephant to the top of the hill on which the fort is situated. This fort is an architectural masterpiece with its mirror-studded alcoves, dazzling and mosaics. Amer originally, was the capital of the state before Jaipur, built in 1592 by Raja Man Singh. Though the fort is quite old and may even look so from the outside, it is beautiful on the inside and boasts of various buildings of prominence like the 'Diwan-I-Aam', and the 'Sheesh Mahal'. It has influences of both Hindu and Muslim architecture. It also has the 'Shila Devi' Temple and the 'Ganesh Pol' which is a gate that leads to the private palaces of the Kings.

Return to the city, for the city tour and visit the City Palace, located in the heart of Jaipur known for its blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture. This sprawling complex, with its gorgeous buildings and marvelous collection of art and artifacts. A major part of the 'City Palace' now consists of the 'Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum'. It is also the residence of the Jaipur Royal Family. This complex which houses the rare and rich collection of Ornaments, Arms, Royal costumes, Carpets and Decorative art objects of traditional Rajasthani Art and Architecture. Another monument near the City Palace is Jantar Mantar, the largest of the five astronomical observatories built by Sawai Jai Singh-I, the founder ruler of Jaipur. It is an astronomical treasure house, with solar device that give accurate predictions till date, it is classified as a UNESCO World heritage site. Photo-stop at Hawa Mahal or the Palace of Winds, a four storied facade of pink sandstone and one of the most picturesque landmarks with semi-octagonal and delicately honeycombed windows overlooking the main street of the old city. It was built in 1799 so that veiled royal women could see the royal processions through its 593 stone screens without being seen by the outsiders. Overnight stay at hotel.



**Day 14**

**Jaipur – Agra**

**By Surface**

Breakfast at hotel and later check-out. In the morning drive to Agra en-route visit Fatehpur Sikri. Fatehpur Sikri - Built in 1571, it is a synthesis of the flourishing styles of the Persian courts and the prevailing Hindu Islamic trends. It was planned as a great town by Emperor Akbar with great care and planning, but it had to be abandoned after fifteen years due to scarcity of water in the town. Constructed mainly as a tribute to the great Sufi Saint Shaikh Salim Chisti who had blessed Akbar with a son. His son was named after the Saint as Salim and he succeeded the Emperor Akbar and was known as Emperor Jehangir. The town was originally named Sikri after the village, where it was founded but its twin city Fatehpur (Victory Town) was erected to celebrate Akbar's conquest of Gujarat. However, ruins of the temple dating back to 12th century suggest the reign of Rajputs in the area long before Mughals took over the area. The two mosques in the village of Sikri have inscriptions, which announce their conception in 1314 under Mohd. Khilji. There have been records that Babur renamed the village 'Sikri' as 'Shukri', meaning 'thanks to the god'. It was also the famous dwelling place and Khanqah of Shiekh Salim Chishti, the famous Sufi saint whom Akbar revered for blessing him with child. Built in Red Sandstone, an example of robust stability combined with originality each important edifice here represents a type by itself. Notable among them is the Buland Darwaza, Tomb of Shaikh Salim Chisti, Jama Masjid, Diwan-e-Aam, Diwan-e-Khas, Panch Mahal, Palace of Jodha Bai, Birbal Bhawan, Miriam's Palace, Karawan Serai and Hiran Minar. Afterwards continue your drive to Agra, arrive and check-in at hotel, relax for sometime in your room/s. In the evening visit the Taj Mahal - One of the Seven Wonders of the World, a pristine monument of undying love, built by Emperor Shah Jahan to enshrine the body of his beloved wife Arjumand Banu Begum (Mumtaz Mahal) after she died in 1631 at Burhanpur. The Taj has continued to be a mark of love since ever. This monument took 22 years to be completed and was designed, and planned by Persian architect Ustad Isa. The construction started in 1632 and was completed in 1653. The workforce of some 20,000 and 1,000 elephants, included Masons, Stonecutters, Inlayers, Carvers, Calligraphers, Dome-builders and other artisans were requisitioned from the empire and also from Italy, Central Asia and Persia. In accordance with Islamic tradition, verses from the Quran were inscribed in calligraphy on the arched entrances to the mausoleum, in addition to numerous other sections of the complex. Apart from its stunning design balance and perfect symmetry, the Taj is also noted particularly for its elegant domes, intricately carved screens and some of the best inlay work ever seen. Witness the White marble reflect the nuances of the changing light from the Sun. Taj Mahal symbolize the richness of art and architecture of the Mughal period. Overnight stay at Hotel.

**Day 15**

**Agra – Jhansi  
Jhansi – Orcha – Khajuraho**

**By Train  
By Surface**

Check-out from hotel in the morning, in-time transfer to railway station to board train for Jhansi. Arrival assistance at railway station at Jhansi and you shall be driven to Orchha (12 Kms). Orchha was founded by former Bundela chief Rudra Pratap Singh in 16th century. It is renowned for its graceful monuments, which exhibit unique and exclusive architectural magnificence. Visit Jehangir Mahal - built by Raja Bir Singh Ju Deo in the 17th century to



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honor the visit of Mughal Emperor Jehangir to Orchha. Raj Mahal - located to the right of the courtyard was built in the 17th century by Madhukar Shah. The simple exteriors, crowned by Chhatris, give way to the interior of Mahal with wonderful murals, strongly colorful on a range of religious themes. Ram Raja Temple - an extraordinary temple, it is well known for its elevated spires and lavish architecture. Built upon a huge stone platform and reached by a steep flight of steps. Also visit Chaturbhuj Temple, Laxmi Narayan Temple, Shiva Mandir and other cenotaphs "Chhatries" on the bank of river Betwa. Lunch will be at Orchha Raja Temple. After lunch drive to Khajuraho, arrive and check-in at hotel. Overnight stay at Hotel.

**Day 16**

**Khajuraho – Varanasi**

**By Flight**

Early breakfast at hotel and check-out. In the morning visit the Eastern & Western Group of Temples. Western Group: These groups of temples are completely Hindu, and represent some of the finest examples of Chandela art at its peak. Kandariya Mahadeo Temple, Chaunsath Yogini - the earliest temple was built in 900 AD. It is made of granite & dedicated to Goddess Kali. The Chitragupta Temple is dedicated to the Sun God, the Lakshmana Temple is superbly decorated, while the Devi Jagdambi Temple is dedicated to Goddess Kali. Other temples in the Western Group include the Varaha Temple with a 9 ft high boarâ€“incarnation of Lord Vishnu, the Matangeshwara Temple with 8 ft high Lingam. In the South part of the temple it has an open air Archaeological Museum, which has a gorgeous displayed compilation of statues and frieze's collected from the remains of long vanished temples. Eastern Group: Situated near the village of Khajuraho, the Eastern Group of temples consists of the wellâ€“known temples like Brahma, Vamana and Javari. The group further includes Ghantai, Adinath and Parsvanath (Jain pilgrims) that are located near the Khajuraho Sagar. Adinatha Temple: This temple is richly ornamented with delicate and pretty sculptures including those of yakshis. It is dedicated to the first Jain tirthankara (saint), Adinath and the Parsvanath Temple, the largest Jain temple, of the Eastern group. Parsvanath temple is devoted to Lord Parsavanath, the temple is ornamented with picturesque sculptures & has intricate stone carvings. Ghantai Temple - Jain temple famous for its astonishing frieze. This frieze depicts the 16 dreams of Lord Mahavira mother in conjunction with a multiâ€“armed Jain goddess mounted on a Garuda. Hindu Temples - Amongst the Hindu temples, the Brahma temple, the Vamana temple and the Javari temple are the renowned shrines in the eastern group. After your sightseeing, you will be transferred to airport to board flight for Varanasi. Upon arrival in Varanasi transfer assistance from airport to hotel. In the evening witness the Aarti at the river Ganges Ghats (evening prayer ceremony). Overnight stay at hotel.

**Day 17**

**Varanasi**

Early in the morning, proceed to River Ghat and take a boat ride on the sacred river Ganges to see and witness the living traditions of one of the world's oldest and most important religions. Proceed to the middle of the river, where at sunrise the sight unfolds before you. Thousands of faithful come daily to the banks to bathe and pray while in the background, temples and palaces rise in tiers from the water's edge. Return for a walk through the



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cobblestone streets along the banks of "Ganga". As shops are opening, the place now becomes a beehive of activity as the faithful are coming and going. Return to hotel for breakfast. Proceed for a day tour of Varanasi including the Bharat Mata Temple, which features a big relief map of Mother India, engraved in marble. Visit the 18th century Durga Temple. Proceed to the Tulsi Manas Temple, crafted from white marble which features the entire Ramayana inscribed on its walls. Also visit the Benaras Hindu University, considered as the biggest residential university in Asia and visit the new Vishwanath temple located in the campus itself. PM - Excursion to Sarnath - one of the holiest Buddhist sites in the world, where Buddha preached his first Sermon in 590 BC. Witness the ruins of a once flourishing Buddhist monastery, There are many Buddhist monuments and structures in Sarnath. Some of the significant Buddhist monuments at Sarnath are the Dhamekha stupa, the Chaukhandi stupa and monasteries and temples. There is also an enormous stretch of ancient ruins at Sarnath. Numerous Buddhist structures were raised here between the 3rd century BC and the 11th century AD, and today it presents the most expansive ruins amongst places on the Buddhist trail. The Ashoka Pillar is the National emblem of India. Also visit Museum - Numerous sculptures, arts, and other artworks on Lord Buddha are stored in the Museum of Sarnath. Return to hotel for overnight stay.

|               |                                             |                                |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Day 18</b> | <b>Varanasi – Delhi<br/>Departure Delhi</b> | <b>By Flight<br/>By Flight</b> |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|

Breakfast and later check-out from hotel. (check-out time at noon 1200 hrs) In-time transfer to airport to board flight for Delhi. Arrival and departure transfer assistance at Delhi airport. Board your return journey flight. \* Departure early in the morning (next day) by an international flight.