

Incredible India

the eternal 



Varanasi

A CITY AS OLD AS TIME



Uttar Pradesh
Amazing Heritage Grand Experiences

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E-mail : upstdc@up-tourism.com
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Kashi

Varanasi or Banaras, referred to in the Scriptures as 'Kashi' derived its name from the word 'Kash' meaning Brightness- *'The city of Light'*. It has been propagating Indian Culture, Philosophy and traditions among masses from the times immemorial.

Varanasi is the most famous and the oldest inhabited city of the world and boasts of being among the seven sacred cities (*Sapta Puries*) of the ancient India. The trinity of birth, life and even death carry equal importance here. It is situated on the bank of river Ganges which has two tributaries: Varuna and Assi; so is the name Varanasi.

Perhaps this is the only city which is endowed with a rare combination of holy river Ganges, abode of Supreme God Shiva and the oldest living city itself. It remains vibrant throughout the year. Its temple-ghats bear testimony to its glorious past, bright present and prosperous future. Its religion, culture and traditions are so beautifully mingled that it gives the city a unique ambience.

The precious compliment by the famous American Writer Mark Twain about this heritage city is worth mentioning: *'Banaras is older than history, older than traditions, even older than legend and looks twice as old as all of them put together'*.

The city is the centre of a variety of cultural and religious activities including learning, literature and art. Famous Bhakti movement poets and the doyens of Indian literature, prominent philosophers, writers and musicians are associated with this multi-dimensional and multi-faceted city. It is an important seat of learning and houses one of the most venerable educational institutions-Banaras Hindu University, one of the largest residential universities in Asia. It has the proud privilege of having Sarnath in the vicinity where Lord Buddha delivered his first sermon after getting Enlightened.

It is the hub of various cottage industries mainly in weaving and hand-loom sector. Banarasi muslin, ultra fine silk, carpet, perfumes, ivory works, pearls & beads and sculptures are world famous for their luster and beauty.

Undoubtedly, no other city in the world can be a parallel to this magnificent city.

Varanasi & around : • Ramnagar • Sarnath • Chunar • Vindhyachal-Mirzapur • Sonbhadra • Jaunpur • Chandauli

VARANASI



Kashi Vishwanath temple

Kashi Vishwanath Temple

The temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of the city, is also known as Golden Temple.

The Jyotirlinga installed in the temple is the major devotional focus of Varanasi. Open only to Hindus. The 'Aarties', performed here at different times and by different names in a grand manner are worth seeing. The timings of the Aarties : Mangala Aarti at 3.00 a.m., Kashi Vishwanath Temple Bhog Aarti at 11.15 a.m., Saptarshi Aarti at 7.00 p.m., Shringar Aarti at 9.00 p.m., and the Shayan Aarti at 10.30 p.m. Nearby are Goddess Vishalakshi Temple counted among 51 Shakti Peethas, Kashi Karvat Temple, mother Gangaji Temple etc.

Goddess Annapurna Temple

Near the Kashi Vishwanath Temple stands this important temple of Goddess Annapurna. The temples of Lord Kuber & Surya are also situated within its premises. It was built in 1725 by Peshwa Baji Rao I, the Maratha chieftain. The temple is famous for its Dhanteras and Annakoot festivals. Annakoot festival is held here after Deepavali. Nearby is the famous Dhundhiraj Ganesh Temple.



The Jyotirlinga at Vishwanath temple



Vishalakshi temple

Enchanting way of life





VARANASI



A panoramic View of Ganga & Ghats

River Front (Ghats)

Varanasi is the city of Temples, *Ghats*, *Kunds* and *Gallies* (narrow lanes). The spectacular long sweep of ghats on the holy Ganga is unique and creates a fascinating sight. Life, in almost panoramic detail, unfolds here from dawn to dusk as a steady stream of devotees, swelling to thousands on auspicious days, perform rituals. The Ghats are best approached by DASHASHWAMEDHA GHAT. Here boats are available on hire. Evening *Ganga Aarti* is an added attraction here.

The other prominent Ghats are : ASSI GHAT (attractions: Lord Jagannath Temple, Saint Tulsidas Temple), TULSI GHAT (Saint Tulsidasji wrote here the immortal epic Shri Ram Charitmanas-his house-old manuscripts, Lord Hanuman Temple, Birth place of Rani Laxmi Bai and Lolark Kund), CHET SINGH GHAT (Chet Singh Fort), HANUMAN GHAT (Lord Hanuman Temple,



Nepall temple



Fascinating View of Ganga Ghats

VARANASI





People enjoying Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedha Ghat

Mahaprabhuji Temple, Rudra Bhairav Temple, Ram-Parivar Temple), HARISH CHANDRA GHAT (Associated with mythological king Harish Chandra, cremation site, Kashi Kamkotishwar Temple), KEDAR GHAT (Kedareshwar Temple, Kumar Swamy Math), SHEETLA GHAT (Goddess Sheetla Temple, Ganga-Dattatreya-Vitthal Temples), DASHASHWAMEDHA GHAT (Ganga Aarti and Budhwa Mangal festival site, Ganga Temple, boats can be hired here), DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD GHAT (Ganga Mahotsav and other cultural fairs site), MAN MANDIR GHAT (observatory), LALITA GHAT (Nepali Temple), MANIKARNIKA GHAT (famous cremation site, Haveli of Dom Raja), SINDHIA GHAT (Goddess Sankatha Temple, Vaikuntha Madhav Temple, Dattatreya Temple), PANCH GANGA GHAT (Ramananda Math, Shri Sansthan Math, Satyabhama Math, Tailang Swamy Math, Baithak of Vallabhacharyaji, Bindu Madhav Temple, Ram Panchayatan Temple, Alamgir Masjid, Kangan Haveli, Deepmalika stand),



Special fire lamp of Ganga Aarti



Fragrance lamp of Ganga Aarti

VARANASI





Ganga Aarti on Buddh Poonnima, Varanasi

GHAI GHAT (Nepal Palace, Lakshmi-Narayan Temple, Gauri Temple), PRAHLAD GHAT (Narsingh Temple, Jagannath Temple, Prahaladeshwer Temple, Sheetla Temple), BADRI NARAYAN GHAT (Lord Badri Narayan Temple), RAJ GHAT (Maqbara of Lal Khan, Shri Satsang Parivar Vyayamshala, Saint Ravidas Temple, Bhainsasur Temple), ADI KESHAVA GHAT (Adi Keshav Temple, Gyankeshava Temple, Sangameshwar Temple, Vinayak Temple, Panchdevata Temple, Durga Temple & Kund).

Lord Shani Dev Temple

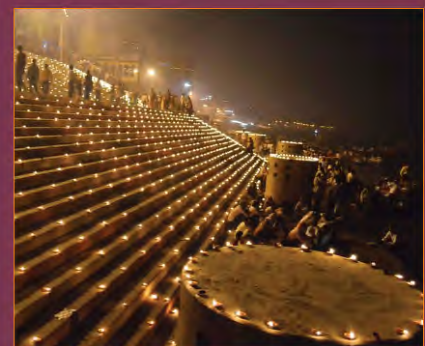
This prominent temple of Lord Shani Dev is situated near the Kashi Vishwanath and Goddess Annapurna Temples.

Gyanvapi Mosque

The Gyanvapi Mosque was built by Aurangzeb near the present Kashi Vishwanath Temple.



Pujaris in traditional costumes performing Ganga Aarti.



Traditional Earthen Lamps decoration at the banks of holy Ganga on Kartik Poonnima

VARANASI

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The Kal Bhairav temple

Lord Kal Bhairav Temple

This famous temple is dedicated to Lord Kal Bhairav, considered to be the protector (Kotwal) of the city. It is situated in the Bhairavnath-Vishweshwarganj locality. Nearby are Nagari Pracharini Sabha, the old and famous institution, Mahamrityunjay Temple, Tilbhandeshwar Temple.

Lord Batuk Bhairav Temple

Situated in Kamchha locality having two small temples with attractive idols in same premises.



Batuk Bhairav temple



Kal Bhairav temple



Sankata Devi temple

VARANASI





Goddess Durga temple

Goddess Durga Temple

It is one of the prominent temples of the city dedicated to Goddess Durga, in Bhelupur-Durga Kund locality. The temple was built in the 18th Century. Open only to Hindus. Kushmandadevi temple and Durga Kund are other attractions.

Sankat Mochan Temple

It is one of the oldest temples of the city in the Sankatmochan-Lanka locality. The temple is dedicated to Lord Hanuman. It is said that Goswami Tulsidasji wrote most parts of his epic Shri Ramcharitmanas here. The annual Sankat Mochan Music Festival, held here since 1923 as part of Hanuman Jayanti celebrations is a major attraction.

Kunds

Varanasi is also known for its kunds, important among them are Pishachmochan Kund, Karna Ghanta Kund, Pitar Kund, Lolark Kund, Lakshmi Kund, Kurukshetra Kund, Pushkar Kund, Durga Kund, Krim Kund, Lanka Kund.



Durga temple & kund



Sankatmochan temple

VARANASI



Jain temple, Bhelupur



Sant Ravidas temple





Gurubagh Gurudwara

Saint Ravidas Temple

This grand temple is built at Seergoverdhan area, near the B.H.U., which is the birth place of Saint Ravidasji.

Gurudwaras

The magnificent Gurubagh Gurudwara marks the place where Guru Nanakdevji had stayed in 1506. Gurudwara Neechibagh, in the Aas Bhairav locality, is the place where Guru Teg Bahadurji meditated in 1666.

JAIN TEMPLES

Varanasi is also regarded as one of the most sacred pilgrim centres of the Jains. It is believed that four Tirthankars–Suparshavanath, Chandra Prabhu, Shreyanshnath and Parshvanath- were born in and around Varanasi. Many Shvetambar and Digambar Jain temples, columns and idols are located in Bhadaini and Bhelupura localities.

Tulsi Manas Temple

This marble temple, near the Goddess Durga Temple, is dedicated to Lord Rama. It is situated at the place where Goswami Tulsidasji lived and wrote the famous epic Shri Ramcharitmanas. Verses from Shri Ramcharitmanas are inscribed on its walls. There is a museum in the premises which has a rare collection of manuscripts of the Ramayan and other artefacts.

Tridev Temple

Near the Tulsi Manas Temple, is Tridev Temple, a new attraction of the city having the idols of Shri Radha-Krishna, Salasar Balaji Hanuman, Rani Sati and Khatu Shyam.



Tridev temple



Tulsi Manas temple



The Sant Kabir Math



Bharat Mata temple

Manmandir Observatory

This observatory was built by Raja Man Singh of Jaipur at Manmandir Ghat near Dashashwamedh Ghat-Dr. Rajendra Prasad Ghat. Timing : 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Entry fee :

Foreign Tourist Rs. 200.00

Domestic Tourist Rs. 15.00

Bharat Mata Temple

A unique temple at Siga locality-close to M.G. Kashi Vidyapeeth, is dedicated to Mother India, which instead of the customary gods and goddesses, houses one of the most perfect relief maps of India carved on marble. It was inaugurated by Mahatma Gandhi in 1936.

Kabir Math

Situated in the Kabir Chaura locality, it is the main Kabir Gaddi. The paintings related with the life-events of Saint Kabirdasji are worth seeing.

Radha Swami Temple

The temple having an attractive gate and building, situated on the Kabir Chaura road at Lohatia, is associated with the Radha Swami Sect.

Galis (narrow Lanes)

The serpentine narrow lanes of this city mirror the typical lifestyle of the inhabitants. Some of the famous Galis are Vishwanath Gali, Kachauri Gali, Thatheri Bazar Gali, Khoa Gali etc.

Alamgir Mosque

This mosque, an amalgamation of Hindu-Muslim religious sentiments, is also known as "Beni Madhav-ka-Dharehara". The entire lower portion of the mosque is retained as a Hindu temple.



Gali (Narrow Lane)



Deepmalika Stambh

Lahartara Sarovar

Lahartara Sarovar, 3 km from Cantt. Railway Station on Varanasi-Allahabad route, is the Udbhav Sthal of great saint Kabirdasji. The old temple built in between the sarovar (pond) is worth visiting.

The other attractions are : Sakshi Vinayak Temple, Nepali Temple, Goddess Sankatha Temple, Lord Baijnath Temple, Lord Batuk Bhairav Temple, Bindumadhav Temple, Chitraghanta Temple, Bara Ganesh Temple, Kalratri Temple, Mukh Nirmalika Temple, Shailputri Devi Temple, Garhwa Ghat, Shool Tankeshwar Temple etc.

Organisations

- Yoga Institute, B.H.U. • Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth • Dr. Sampurnanand Sanskrit University • Krishna Murti Foundation, Rajghat
- R.K. Mission, Luxa Road • Gandhi Institute, Rajghat • Nagari Pracharini Sabha, Maidagin
- Gyan Pravah, Nagwa • Garhwa Ghat Ashram
- Theosophical Society • Maha Bodhi Society of India, Sarnath • Tibetan Institute, Sarnath
- Kayakalpam Ayurvedic Health Spa, 49-Patel Nagar.



Dr. Sampurnanand Sanskrit University



Nagari Pracharini Sabha



Saint Kabir Temple

VARANASI



Subah-E-Banaras (Morning of Varanasi)



Puja offerings to mother Ganges

Manikaranika Ghat

Manikarnika is considered to be the most sacred cremation ghat of Varanasi. It is believed that consigning the mortal remains to fire at the ghat provides eternal peace to the soul. It is said that the fire of the funeral pyres have not gone out over centuries.

Subah-e-Banaras

Everyday morning is commemorated with the essence of Subah-e-Banaras at the famous Assi Ghat. A spiritual blend of nature's splendor and human existence. Rising Sun - yellow Ganga and illuminated river fronts motivate man to enchant, sing and invoke (Yoga). (Timing: sunrise)



VARANASI



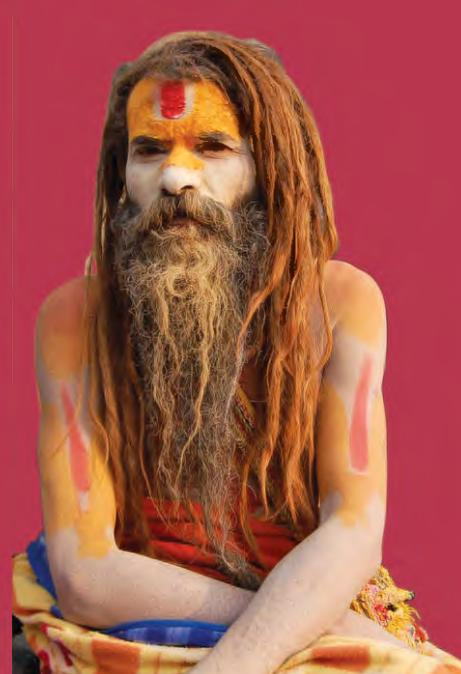


Pind daan rituals at the ghat



Pind - Daan

It is believed that even after death, the pull of love for one's relatives, friends and the affinity for the materialistic world force the soul to stay behind. 'Pind Daan' provides ultimate relief to the restless soul and paves the way to the ultimate world of peace.



FESTIVITY





Dev Deepawali

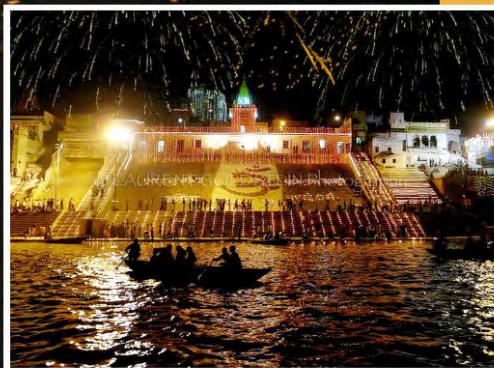
Festivals, fairs and umpteen rituals give Varanasi a colourful and diverse look. It is said that in 365 days 400 festivals are celebrated here.

The most picturesque festival, Dev Deepawali is celebrated every year fifteen days after the traditional Deepawali on the banks of river Ganga.

The ghats come alive with lights, chants & prayers.

The mighty Ganga is lit up with endless floating lamps.

It's an infinitely divine experience.



Devotees decorating Ghats by earthen lamps

FESTIVITY



Ramnagar - Ram Lila



Annual festival at Samath



Dushera Celebration



Royal presence during festivity at Ganges



Nag Nathaiya at Tulsi ghat

Some of the important events are :-

Ganga Mahotsav and Dev Deepawali (Oct.-Nov.), Dushera (Sept.-Oct.), Nakkataiya (Chetganj, Oct.), Bharat Milap (Nati Imli, Oct.-Nov.), Budhwa Mangal (first Tuesday after Holi festival at Dashashwamedha Ghat), Nag Nathaiya (Tulsi Ghat), Annakoot (Annapurna Temple, Oct.-Nov.), Hanumat Jayanti (Sankat Mochan Temple), Panch Koshi Parikrama (in every Purushottam Month), Dhrupad Mela (Tulsi Ghat, Feb.-March), Lolark Chhath (July), Buddha Mahotsav (Sarnath), Unique Ramleela at Ramnagar (Sept.-Oct.).

The biggest annual festival at Sarnath is held on Buddha Purnima - the full moon day in May-to mark the birth and death anniversaries of Lord Buddha. A big fair springs up on the occasion and the relics of Lord Buddha are taken out on well-decorated elephants for public display.



Lolark Chat Puja



Chhath Festival



Budhwa mangal



Annakoot festival



Malkhambh



Mahashivratri celebrations

VARANASI



BANARASI WOVEN WONDERS

Out of sight from the ghats and the traffic on the Ganga, deep within the alleyways of the city, the rivers flow from the looms of weavers. These cascades of silk, shot with reputation for quality and artistry travels all the way back to ancient times.

The virtuosity of the city's weavers or tantuvidyas reached its pinnacle in the Mughal period when the Persian influence, particularly in floral motifs, came in.

In the early 19th century, colonial travellers like George Viscount Valentia also observed Varanasi's thriving exports to Europe. Indeed it was predominantly textiles on which the fortunes of the city were built. According to the Banaras District Gazetteer of 1922, around 23,000 people in and around the city were engaged in the local textile industry. A conservative count estimates 100, 000 weavers in Varanasi today.

The dazzling Banarasi saree continues to be a byword for luxury. No Indian bride worth her trousseau would consider leaving home without a Banarasi saree.

The flowering of Banaras's Zari and Brocade traditions.

Zan and Brocade are to Varanasi what Chikankari is to Lucknow, workmanship that becomes synonymous with a city. The filigreed brocade of Varanasi is called kimkhab, which aptly captures the ephemerality of the work in gold and silver threads.

Varanasi's traditions in brocade and zari reached their zenith in the Mughal period, particularly during the reign of emperor Akbar.

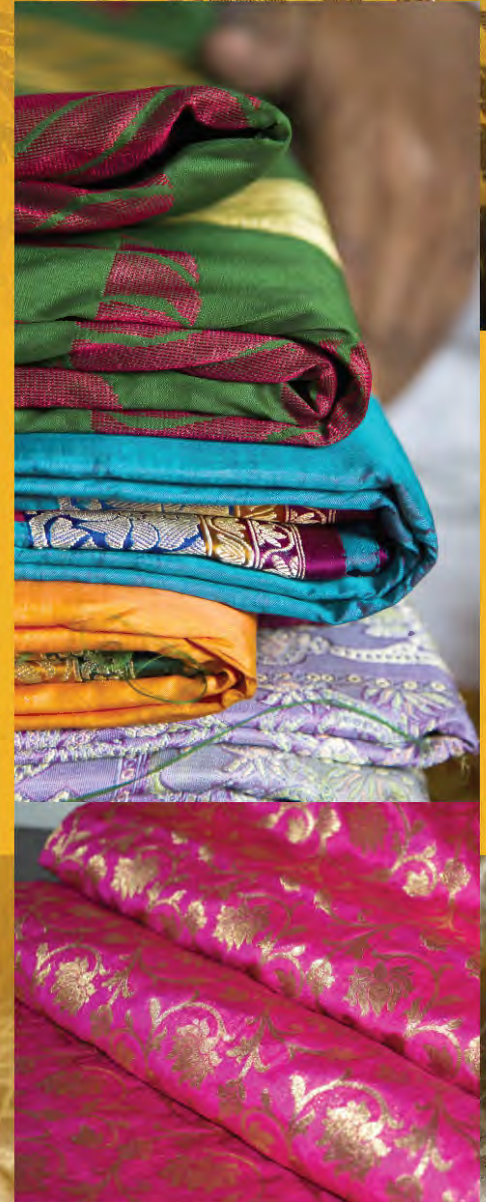
There was an influx of Persian motifs due to the influence and importance of Persian masters in the court of emperor Akbar; Ghias Naqshaband being the greatest Persian master among them to the royal atelier of Akbar. Zari even accented the turbans.

Later, in the 19th century, textile designs started resembling the patterns on Victorian wallpaper and even geometrical layouts. Today's trends revive traditional patterns and mix them with modern color schemes and styles. Intricate floral and foliate, kalga, bel, and jhallar decorate the borders of modern Banarasis.

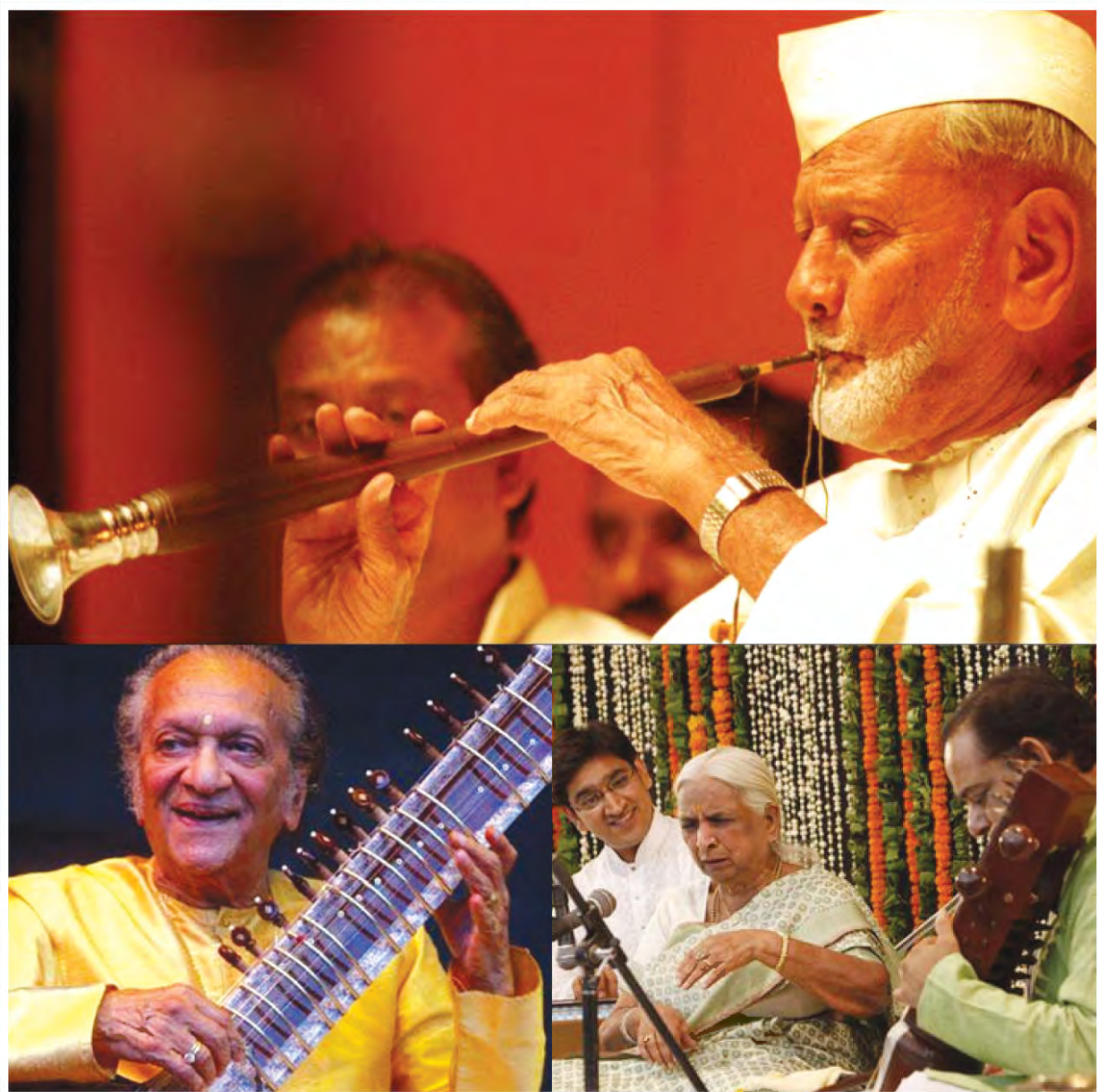
The two oldest and most active weaving localities in Varanasi are Alaipura and Madanpura, each with its own unique composition and weaving techniques that are easily distinguishable.

Madanpura weavers are known for fine and delicate traditional kimkhab, whereas Alaipura weavers are renowned for experimenting with new techniques and designs.

Apart from these hubs, other weaving centres in and around Varanasi include Nati Imli, Lallapura, Chittanpura, Ramnagar, Dulhipur, Pilikothi, Cholarpur and Dharsauna.



VARANASI



Varanasi Music Tradition

Music in Varanasi is a tradition linked to the ancient times of the Puranic legends. Lord Shiva is credited with developing music & dance of Varanasi. Legends also attribute it to Renu, son of Sage Vishvamitra & Mahagobind, who were the precursors of music tradition in Kashi, where nymphs (Apsaras), Gandharvas and Kinnaras were the traditional practitioners of this art form, and saint Chaitanya and Vallabhacharya were the pioneers in spreading this music tradition in Varanasi.

Banaras has been long renowned for its music, both instrumental and vocal. Dhrupad, Kheyal, Thumri, Dadra and famous vocal musical traditions are associated of Varanasi. In Banaras Gharana, here are ten main forms of music compositions-Dhrupad, Dhamar, Kheyal, Tappa, Thumri, Hori, Chaturang, Ragasagar, Tarana, Sargam. Among folk music kajri & chaiti are the important parts of vocal music. Dhrupad is the oldest form of classical Hindustani music. Kheyal is the emotional singing of Indian classical music. Thumri & Tappa are the ways to express the feelings of love and emotions.

Pandit Ram Sahai founded the Banaras gharana style of playing tabla in kabir chaura 200 years ago, and his legacy has been carried

forward by other tabla virtuosos, such as Pandit Shardasahai (his great-great-grand son), Pandit Samta Prasad, and Pandit Kishan Maharaj. Shehnai mastro Ustad Bismillah Khan, kathak wizard Birjoo Maharaj, tabla mastro Kishan Maharaj, legendry Baba Allandin Khan & his disciple Shri Ravi Shankar, singers Girija Devi, Begum Akhtar and many more lived and practiced here.

Classical music echoes everywhere in Varanasi, it may be weekly music concerts in temple, in music played on ghats and rooftops, annual festivals, all form part of musical heritage of Varanasi, which have helped Varanasi been named the 'City of music' by UNESCO.



VARANASI



Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.)

BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY (B.H.U.)

At a short distance from the Sankatmochan Temple is the Banaras Hindu University, one of the prestigious educational centres of India. It was founded by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. The University is among the few institutions which provides education on variety of subjects including the Ayurveda, Astrology, Yoga, Tantra, Music etc.

NEW LORD VISHWANATH TEMPLE

Situated in the premises of Banaras Hindu University, this modern place of worship was planned by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya and built by the Birlas, on the pattern of the original Lord Vishwanath Temple. Verses from old scriptures are inscribed on its walls.

BHARAT KALA BHAVAN

This museum, within the BHU campus, houses the finest collection of Mughal miniature paintings and brocade textiles.

Timing : 10.00 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. (except university holidays). Closed on Sunday.

Entry Fee :

Foreign Tourist - Rs. 150.00

Domestic Tourist - Rs. 10.00



New Lord Vishwanath temple



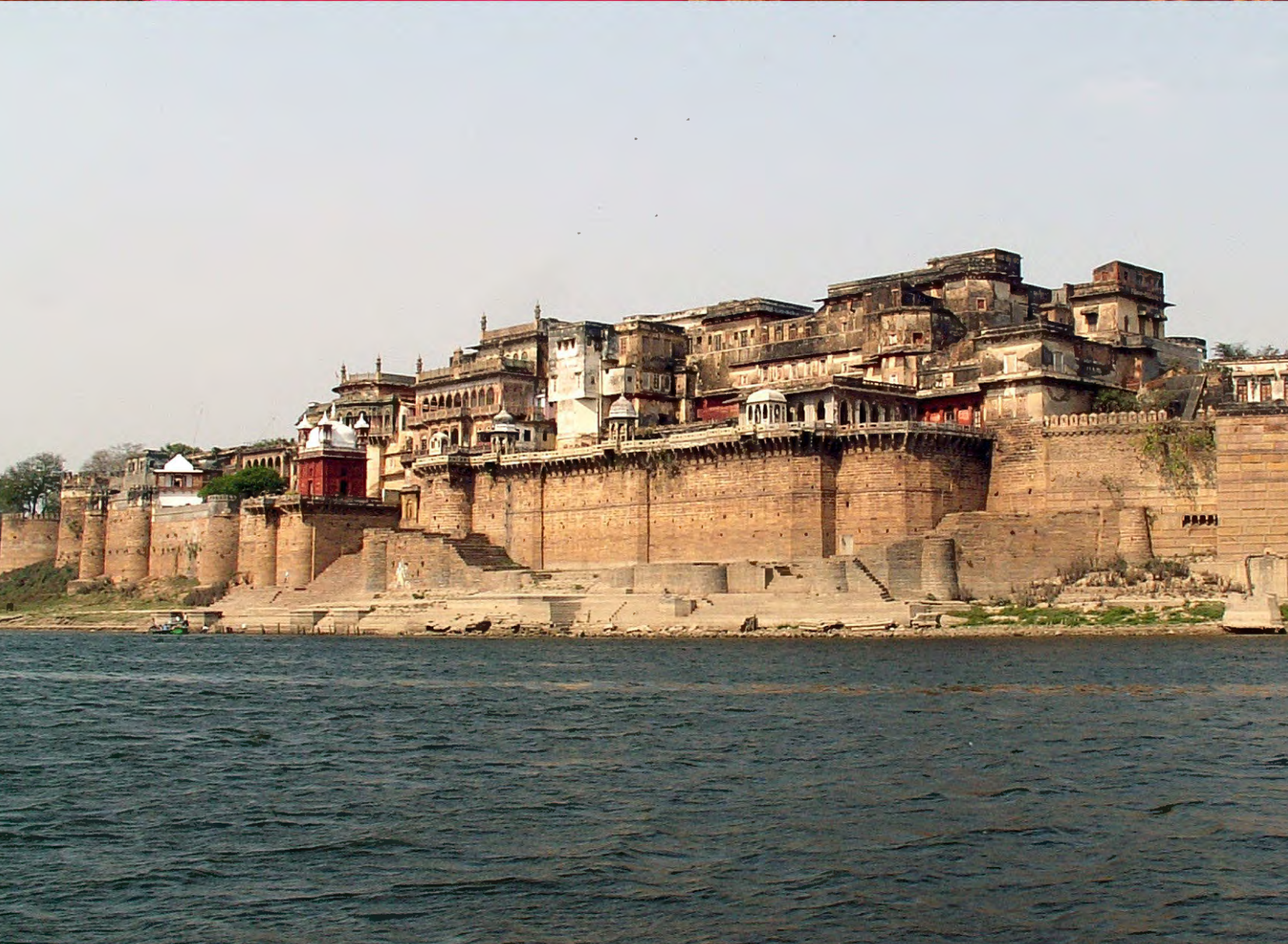
Bharat Kala Bhavan



Banaras Hindu University (B.H.U.)

work is worship

RAMNAGAR



The rear view of Ramnagar fort



The ornamental architecture of Ramnagar fort

RAMNAGAR FORT AND MUSEUM

14 km. Ramnagar, across the Ganga river, is the home of the Maharaja of Banaras, who is revered as the representative of Lord Shiva in the city. The massive 17th century fort here houses a museum displaying the royal collection which includes Vintage Cars, Royal Palanquins, an armoury of swords and old guns, ivory work and antique clocks. The Goddess Durga Temple and Chhinnamastika Devi Temple here are also worth visiting. Ramnagar is also famous for its unique month long RAM LEELA. One can go to Ramnagar by road or boat.

MUSEUM TIMINGS

Summer :

8:30 a.m. to 12.00 noon, 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.,

Winter :

10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.

Entry Fee :

Foreign Tourist - Rs. 150.00

Domestic Tourist - Rs. 20.00

Children - Rs. 10.00



The Museum



Goddess Durga temple



SARNATH





Archaeological site at Sarnath

10 km. from Varanasi, Sarnath is one of the most revered Buddhist pilgrim centres. After attaining the enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, it was here that Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, sanctified as Maha Dharma Chakra Parivartan (Set in Motion the Wheel of DHARMA). During the time of Lord Buddha, Sarnath was called Rishipattana or Issipattana and Mrigdal because, it was an ideal place for sages and was a dense forest inhabited by deer. Emperor Ashoka visited Sarnath around 234 B.C. and erected a Stupa here. Today, Sarnath treasures the most expansive ruins amongst places on the Buddhist trail.

Chaukhandi Stupa

The Stupa has great significance as Lord Buddha during his first visit to Sarnath after attaining the enlightenment, met his first five disciples here who had abandoned him earlier.

Museum

The museum has a rich collection of Buddhist sculptures, such as Lord Buddha's Statue in the first sermon posture and rare Lion's Capital, the National Emblem of India was found in the excavation at Sarnath.

Timing:

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.



Lord Buddha's statue



Mulgandh Kuti Vihar



Dhamek Stupa

SARNATH



Ruins at Archaeological Site

The major attractions here are : DHARMARAJIKA STUPA - the place where Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, MULGANDHKUTI VIHAR - where Lord Buddha stayed, ASHOKAN PILLAR - broken in few pieces and preserved under a canopy.

Entry Fee : Foreign tourist Rs. 200.00,
Domestic tourist : Rs. 15.00

Dhamek Stupa

It was built to commemorate the preaching of the first sermon by Lord Bhuddha. This huge and magnificent Stupa is 28 mtrs. in diameter at the base and 43.6 mtrs. in height, built partly in stone and partly in brick. The stone facing the lower part is adorned with delicate floral carvings of Gupta origin.

Jain Temple

The Jain Temple is dedicated to the 11th Tirthankar Lord Shreyansnathji.

Mahabodhi Temple - Mulgandha Kuti

Here, Lord Buddha's golden statue in the first sermon preaching posture is worshiped, which is situated on a platform, under which the relics of Lord Buddha are kept in casket. It is taken out once in a year on the day of Buddha

Poornima. The inner walls of the temple have excellent frescoes by Japanese artist Kosetsu Nosu showing the life of Lord Buddha. There is a Bodhi Tree also. Under the Bodhi Tree, Lord Buddha is shown preaching his first sermon to his first five disciples. There is a rich collection of Buddhist literature too. Timing : Sunrise to 7.30 p.m.

Deer Park

When Lord Buddha preached his first sermon, at that time this place was inhabited by lot of deer and was called Mrigdav. To commemorate that a Deer Park is developed here.

There are other monasteries also, such as Sikkim, Thailand, China, Myanmar, Japan, Tibet and Korea.

Sarangnath Temple

It is an old and famous temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. The major attraction of the temple is two Shivalings in one Argha.

A month-long fair is held here during the Shravan month (July-August). Near by is the large Sarangnath Kund also.



Statue of golden Buddha



Lion's Capital at Sarnath Museum



Chaukhandi Stupa

CHUNAR



40 km. from Varanasi and Mirzapur, Chunar is the place where religion, history and nature intermingle with each other. Situated in the Vindhya range on the bank of the holy river Ganga, its scenic and calm atmosphere enchants visitors.

Fort

The massive fort was established by King Vikramaditya of Ujjain in honour of the stay of his brother, the well known philosopher King Bhartrihariji. Spread over an area of 3400 sq. yards, the fort houses, about 800-1000 years old monolithic stone temples, Samadhi of Bhartrihariji, an ancient well, Sonva Mandap, Bavan Khambha, Bungalow of Warren Hastings and a Sun Dial. About 1500 years old rock-cut images of Lord Vishnu and other deities.

Gangeshwar Nath Temple

It is a very old temple related with the mythological stories and dedicated to Lord Shiva.

Goddess Durga Cave Temple

2 km. away, this Cave Temple, believed to be of the 3rd century A.D. Near the temple there is the Samadhi of Gosain Kamal Giri.

Durga Khoh : This famous temple was explored in 1883-84 by Major General A. Cunningham. The Durga Khoh rock shelter has several rare figures and inscriptions.

Dargah Sharief : One km. away, on the bank of the Ganga, is the Dargah of Sufi Saint Baba Quasim Suleman, built in Mughal style of architecture.

Baragaon

About 2 km. to the south-east of the Chunar Railway Station is this 2300 years old stone-quarry site. The stone-blocks lying here bear ancient inscription to 3rd century BC downwards. Chunar is also famous for its special pottery ware.

Excursions

Jargo Reservoir Dam (20 Km.), Siddhanath-ki-dari (20 Km.), Ashokan Period Inscription (25 Km.), Lakhania Dari (30 Km.), Chunadari (40 Km.), Varanasi (40 Km.), Vindhyachal/Mirzapur (48 Km.), Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary (60 Km.), Salkhan Fossils (100 Km.), Allahabad (130 Km.).



Siddhnath dari



Samadhi of Bhartrihariji



Goddess Durga cave temple

VINDHYACHAL



Goddess Vindhyavasini

Vindhyachal, 8 km. from Mirzapur, on the bank of the holy river Ganga, is one of the most revered places of India. The temple city is famous for three Shaktipeethas— Goddess Vindhyavasini-Ashtabhuj-Kalikhoh, which constitute the sacred Trikona Parikrama (circumambulation), popular ritual among the pilgrims. Navratra (March-April & September-October) and Kajali (June-July) festivals draw a large number of devotees here.



Goddess Kali, Kalikhoh



Goddess Ashtabhuj

PLACES OF INTEREST

Goddess Vindhyavasini Temple, Ashtabhuja Temple, Kali Khoh Temple, Lord Rameshwar Mahadev Temple, Goddess Tara Temple, Budhenath Temple, Tarkeshwarnath Temple, Lal Bhairava Temple, Batuk Bhairava Temple, Bhairava Kund, Vindhyeshwar Temple, Kamakhya Devi Temple, Chhetrapal, Shiv Khoh, Sankat Mochan Hanuman Temple, Narad Ghat, Geruwa Talab, Sita Kund, Kantit Sharief, Nag Kund, Vamdev Temple, Devarha Baba Ashram etc.

EXCURSIONS

Mirzapur (8 km.), Tanda waterfall (10 km.), Kankal Kali Temple at Akodhi (14 km.), Wyndham waterfall (15 km.), Chunar (40 km.), Sirsi Dam (45 km.), Varanasi (70 km.), Sonbhadra (85 km.), Allahabad (95 km.), Devdari waterfall (120 km.).



Kantit Sharief, Vindhyachal



Bank of the holy river Ganga, Mirzapur

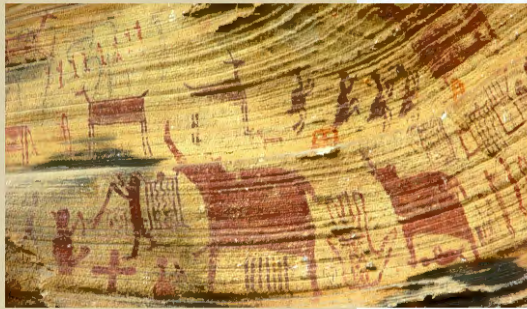
SONBHADRA



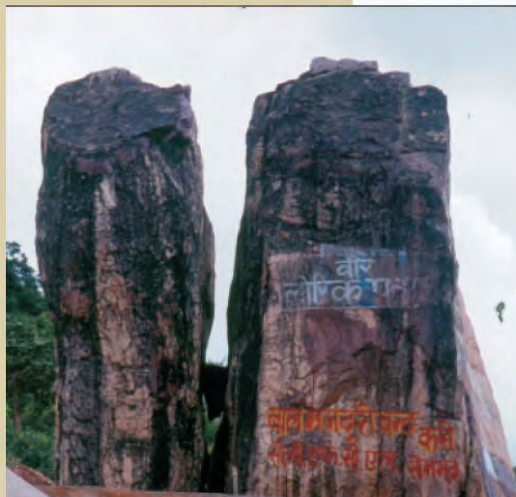
89 km. An enchanting region, spread over a large area, having the various places of archaeological, historical, religious and natural attractions. Ancient Fossils at Salkhan, Shirdwar (famous for rare Uma-Maheswar idol), Barela (known for Ekmukhi Shivlinga), Punchmukhi (Punchmukhi Shivlinga), Markundi-Loric stone pillar, Mau (Buddhist idols-inscriptions, Sahastra Shivlinga), Vijaigarh Fort-Hazrat Meeran Shah Mazar - Ram Sagar Talab, Mukha Falls, Rock Paintings, Kaimoor Wild Life Sanctuary etc. are worth visiting places of Sonbhadra.



Ancient Fossils at Salkhan



Rock Painting



Loric Stone Pillar



Immense antiquity

JAUNPUR



Jhajhari Masjid



Shahi Quila



Historical Mosque

58 Km. from Varanasi, Jaunpur was founded in the 14th century by Feroz Shah Tughlaq. Later, around 1394 A.D., it became the centre of the independent Sharqi kingdom of Jaunpur, founded by Malik Sarvar. The Sharqi rulers were great patrons of art and architecture and constructed many fine tombs, mosques and madarsas here. It was also an important centre of Islamic studies. The city is known today for its jasmine oil, tobacco leaves, radish and Imarti-a sweetmeat.

Located on the Lucknow-Varanasi-Mughalsarai section of Northern Railway, Jaunpur is connected with all major cities.

PLACES OF INTEREST

Atala Masjid (1377-1408), Jama Masjid (1458-78), Lal Darwaja Masjid (1450), Shahi Bridge (1568), Maa Shitla Choukiya Dham, Shahi Quila, Khwabgah, Dargah Chishti, Panj-e-Sharief, Khalis Mukhlis Masjid, Jhajhari Masjid, Akbari Bridge, the tombs of the Sharqi Sultans, Archaeological Museum (T.D. College), the meditation place of Guru Teg Bahadurji at Chachakpur and Jamadagni Ashram.



Shahi Bridge

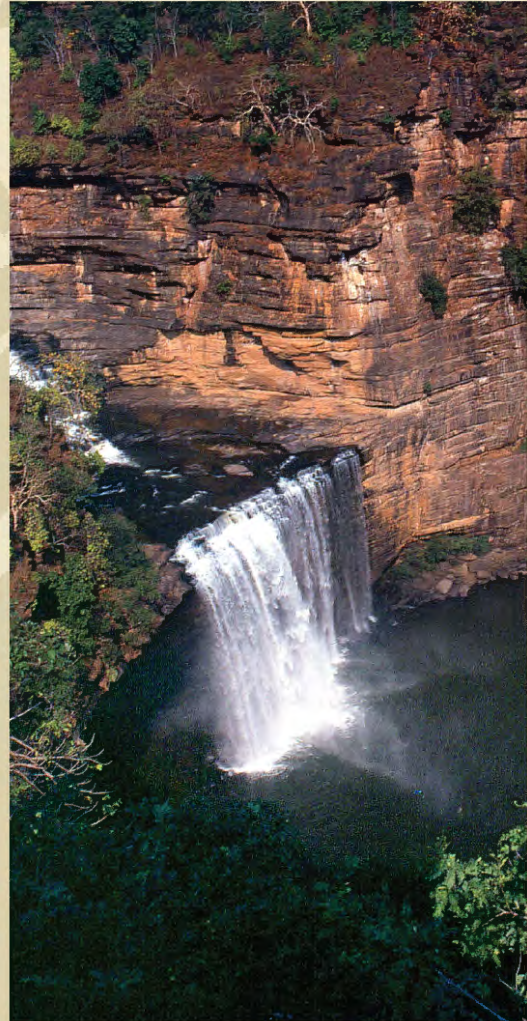
CHANDAULI



70 km. from Varanasi, Chandauli is an ideal tourist destination having worth visiting natural sites. The Chandraprabha Wild Life Sanctuary, a beautiful picnic spot on Varanasi-Chandauli road, is major attraction here. The presence of Rajdari and Devdari waterfalls within the sanctuary makes it even more special.



Devdari Fall





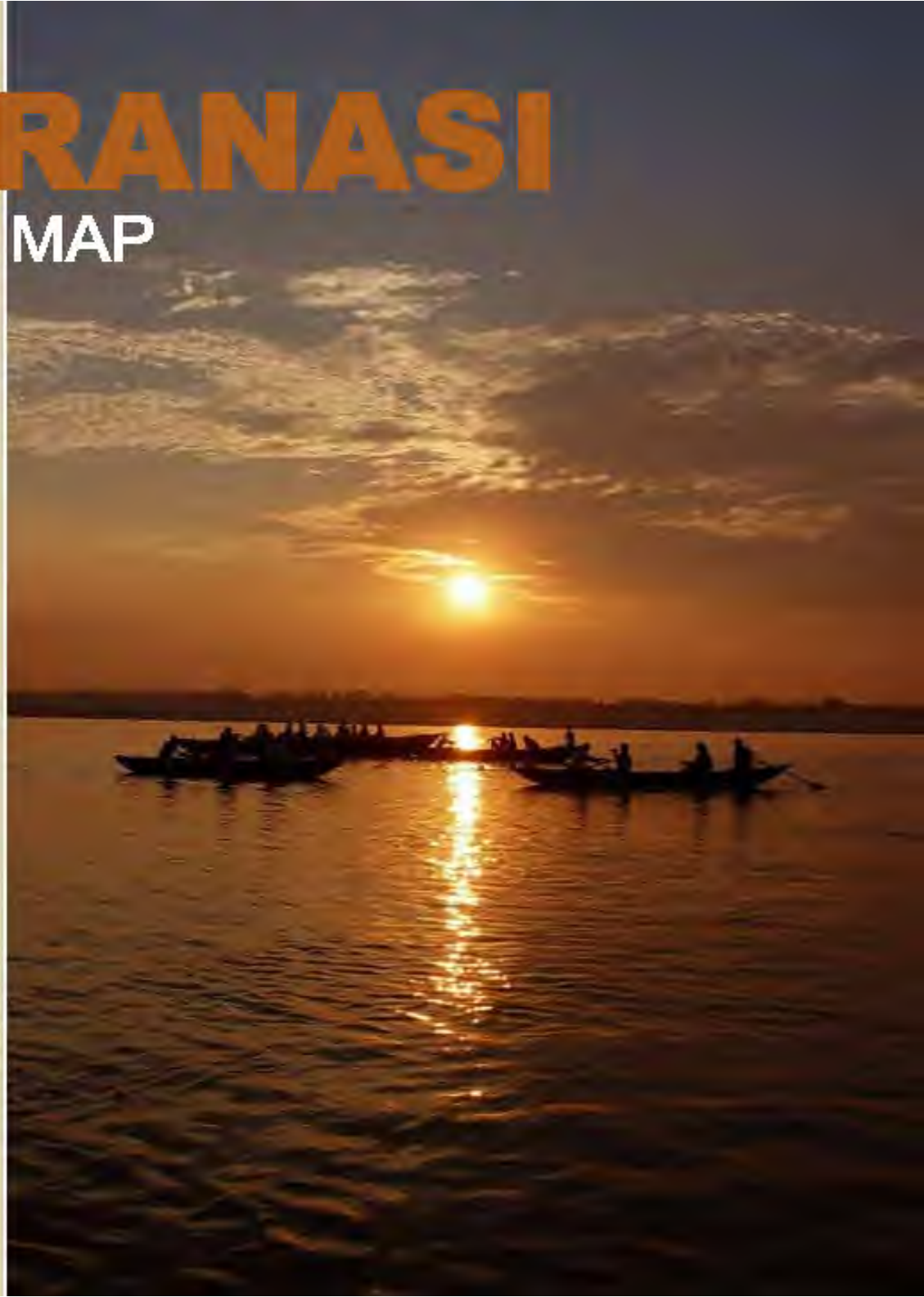
VARANASI

GUIDE MAP

- 1 Belah Churis Museum
- 2 Belah Varanasi Ashram (BVAC)
- 3 St. Mary Protestant Church
- 4 BSE Foreign Exchange
- 5 Belah Taj Ganges
- 6 P & T Office
- 7 Belah Island Tapu
- 8 West. of India Tourist Office
- 9 Belah Ha Fort
- 10 Belah Varanasi Bazar
- 11 Belah Hindu Temple
- 12 Belah Hindustani International
- 13 Hindustani Institute of Culture World Foundation
- 14 East Ford Tea House
- 15 Central Police Station
- 16 Central Post Office
- 17 Belah Fort
- 18 Kashi Mahadev Temple
- 19 Durgam Bazar
- 20 Kashi Hindu City House
- 21 Annapurna Temple
- 22 Banarasi Charvacharya
- 23 Banarasi Kumbh
- 24 Banarasi Nightclub Office
- 25 East Ford Tea House
- 26 West. of B.P. Tourist Office
- 27 Tourist Information Board at Railway Station

LEGEND

-  Places of Tourist Interest
-  Other Places
-  Hindu
-  Places of Worship
-  Hospitals
-  Railway Station
-  Roads
-  Railways
-  River



INFORMATION



Area	:	73.89 sq. km.
Population (Distt.)	:	36,82,194 (2011 Census)
Height	:	200 mtrs. above sea level
Altitude	:	80.71 mtrs. above sea level
Best Season	:	October-March
Temperature	:	Max. 43° Celsius to Min. 5° Celsius
Language	:	Hindi, English
Local Transport	:	Bus/Cycle Rickshaw/Auto Rickshaw

AIR

The nearest Airport is Lal Bahadur Shastri Airport at Babatpur, 22 km from Varanasi and 30 km from Sarnath. Varanasi is connected with Delhi, Agra, Khajuraho, Kolkata, Mumbai, Lucknow, Bhuvaneshwar, Kathmandu.

- Air India Tel.: 2502547 - Indian Air Lines Tel.: 2502527 - Jet Airways Tel.: 2622026, 27 - Spice Jet Tel.: 2623081, 82 - King Fisher Tel.: 2623076, 77

RAIL

Varanasi Cantt. and Mughal Sarai-16 km (one of the main railway stations of Varanasi) are the important rail junctions that link Varanasi with all major cities of India.

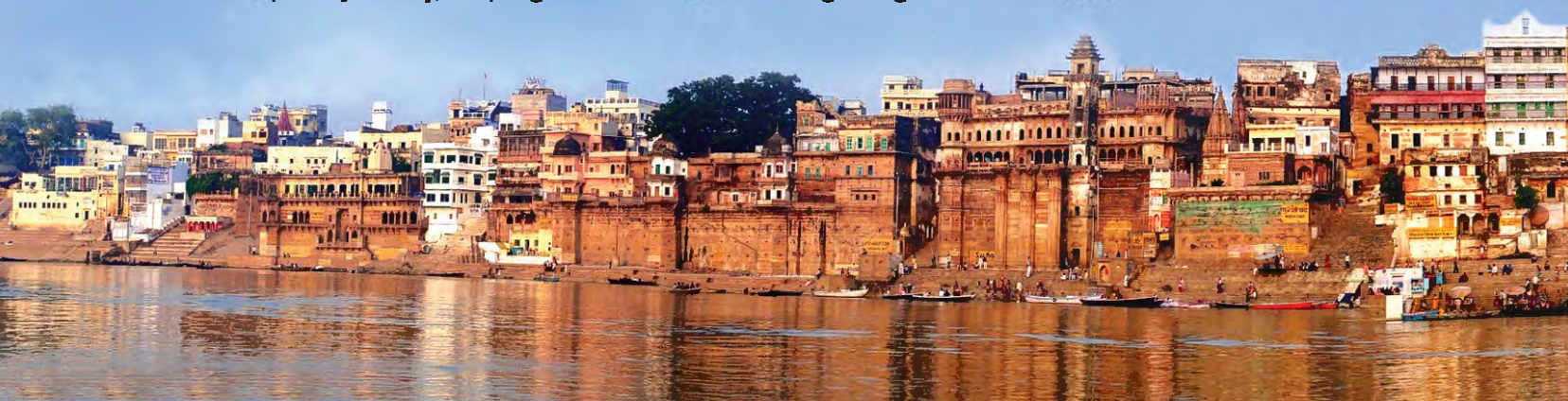
- Varanasi Railway Station Tel.: 131, 139 - Mughal Sarai Railway Station Tel.: 05412-255703

ROAD

Varanasi, on NH2 from Kolkata to Delhi, NH7 to Kanya Kumari and NH29 to Gorakhpur, is well connected with the rest of the country by good motorable roads. Some of the major road distances are: Sarnath-10 km, Chunar-35 km, Jaunpur-60 km, Vindhyachal-70 km, Allahabad-125 km, Ayodhya-140 km, Bodhgaya-240 km, Patna-246 km, Lucknow-286 km, Khajuraho-405 km, Agra-565 km.

SHOPPING

Varanasi, the apex religious centre, is also an exciting shopping hub. The city is famous for superior quality handicraft products. The exotic embroidery on Banarsi silk, royal carpets, fantastic wooden work, attractive bead & pearls jewellery, tempting sweetmeat - all fascinating enough to win heart over.



UP TOURISM ACCOMMODATION

UPSTDC Tourist Bungalow,
Parade Kothi, Opp. Cantt. Railway Station
E-mail: rahitbvaranasi@up-tourism.com

Tel.: 0542-2208413,
2208545

STAR HOTELS

The Gateway the Ganges
Hotel Clarks Varanasi ,the Mall
Ramada Plaza, the Mall
Hotel Radision, the Mall
Hotel Hindustan International, Maldaihiya
Maradian Grand, Patel Nagar

Tel.: 6660001
Tel.: 2501011-20
Tel.: 2510000-11
Tel.: 2501515-20
Tel.: 2411484-9
Tel.: 2509953

TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES

UP Govt. Tourist Office
Sanskritic Sankul, Urban Haat,
Chauka Ghat, Varanasi
E-mail: varanasi@up-tourism.com

Tel.: 0542-2505033

UP Govt. Tourist Information Counter,
Cantt. Railway Station,
(near Enquiry Office, Main Hall)
Modern Reception Centre Opp. Samath
Museum, Samath

Tel.: 0542-2506670

Govt. of India Tourist Office, The Mall
Tourist Office, Bihar Govt. Cantt.

Tel.: 2501784
Tel.: 2223821





Uttar Pradesh
Amazing Heritage Grand Experiences

UTTAR PRADESH TOURISM

Directorate of Tourism, UTTAR PRADESH
Paryatan Bhawan, C-13, Vipin Khand, Gomti Nagar,
Lucknow- 226010, Uttar Pradesh (INDIA)
EPABX : 91-2307037, 2307028,
Fax : 91-522-2308937 Helpline: 18601801364
E-mail : upstdc@up-tourism.com
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