

A PILGRIMAGE SOJOURN OF CENTRAL INDIA

India speaks History. India is a place where every other thing is referred to Gods and Goddesses. A visit to India is never over until one visits its ancient pilgrim cities. This tour takes to you some of most holy cities in India for Hinduism and Buddhism and also to one of the grandest universities of all time. Visit India as a pilgrim and feel its divinity.

Day 1: Arrival in Delhi – The Gateway to India

Arrive in Delhi, the vibrant capital city where ancient heritage and modern energy coexist beautifully. Upon arrival in New Delhi, you will be warmly welcomed and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure to relax after your journey, allowing you to absorb the first impressions of India. Overnight stay in Delhi.

Day 2: Delhi – Mathura – Land of Lord Krishna

After breakfast, drive to Mathura (approx. 180 km / 3 hours), the sacred birthplace of Lord Krishna. Visit the revered Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple, believed to be the exact site where Krishna was born in a prison cell over 5,000 years ago. Continue onward to Vrindavan, where Krishna spent his enchanting childhood. Visit the spiritually vibrant Banke Bihari Temple, filled with devotional chants and divine energy. Later, explore Govardhan Hill, associated with the legendary tale of Krishna lifting the hill to protect villagers from torrential rains. Overnight stay in Mathura.



Day 3: Mathura – Orchha – The Royal Temple Town

Today, proceed to **Orchha** (approx. 250 km / 5 hours), a hidden gem of Bundelkhand frozen in medieval grandeur. Visit the unique **Ram Raja Temple**, the only temple in India where Lord Ram is worshipped as a king rather than a deity. Explore the majestic **Jahangir Mahal**, built to commemorate Emperor Jahangir's visit, and admire the architectural brilliance of the **Chaturbhuj Temple**. End the day at the serene **Orchha Chhatris**, royal cenotaphs reflecting beautifully along the Betwa River at sunset. Overnight at Orchha.

Day 4: Orchha – Khajuraho – Poetry in Stone

After breakfast, drive to **Khajuraho** (approx. 175 km / 4 hours), world-renowned for its exquisite temple art. Visit the UNESCO-listed **Khajuraho Group of Monuments**, celebrated for their intricate carvings depicting divine life, celestial beings, and human emotions in remarkable detail. The temples stand as a testament to the artistic excellence of the Chandela dynasty. Stroll through the complex as your guide brings alive stories of symbolism, spirituality, and ancient Indian philosophy carved in stone. Overnight stay in Khajuraho.

LES CLÉS DE L'INDE

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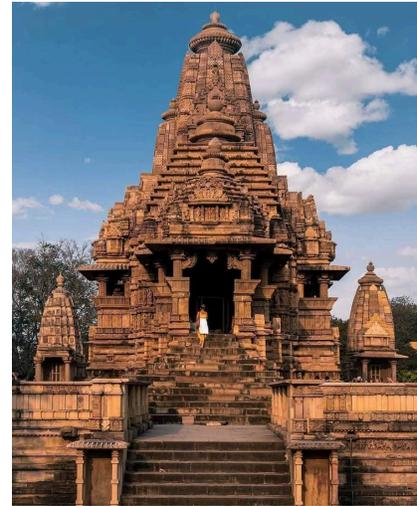
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Day 5: Khajuraho – Chitrakoot – Footsteps of Lord Ram

Drive to **Chitrakoot** (approx. 300 km / 5–6 hours), a sacred town closely associated with Lord Ram's exile. Visit the mystical **Gupt Godavari Caves**, believed to have sheltered Lord Ram and Lakshman.

Explore **Kamtanath Temple** and experience the divine atmosphere at **Ram Ghat** along the Mandakini River. Witness the evening Aarti ceremony, where flickering lamps reflect upon the river waters in a deeply spiritual ambiance. Overnight at Chitrakoot.



Day 6: Chitrakoot – Prayagraj – Confluence of Faith

Drive to **Prayagraj** (approx. 3 hours), formerly known as Allahabad. Visit the sacred **Triveni Sangam**, the confluence of the holy rivers Ganga, Yamuna, and the mystical Saraswati. This is also the grand site of the Kumbh Mela, the world's largest spiritual gathering. Visit the reclining Hanuman idol at **Bade Hanuman Temple**, and spend quiet moments by the riverbanks absorbing the spiritual aura. Overnight at Prayagraj.



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Day 7: Prayagraj – Ayodhya – The Sacred Birthplace of Ram

Proceed to **Ayodhya** (approx. 160 km / 3 hours), the revered birthplace of Lord Ram. Situated along the serene Saryu River, Ayodhya holds immense mythological and historical importance. Visit the magnificent newly built **Ram Janmabhoomi Temple** and seek blessings. In the evening, witness the enchanting Saryu Aarti at the river ghats, a deeply moving spiritual experience. Overnight at Ayodhya.

Day 8: Ayodhya – Varanasi – The Eternal City

Drive to **Varanasi** (approx. 4 hours), one of the world's oldest living cities. Visit the sacred **Kashi Vishwanath Temple**, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas of Lord Shiva. Enjoy a serene boat ride on the River Ganga, witnessing centuries-old ghats bustling with life and rituals. As dusk falls, experience the electrifying Ganga Aarti ceremony at Dashashwamedh Ghat. Overnight at Varanasi.



Day 9: Varanasi – Sarnath – Varanasi

Visit **Sarnath**, where Gautam Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. Explore the Dhamek Stupa and the archaeological site where the national emblem of India, the Ashokan Lion Capital, was discovered. Return to Varanasi to explore its vibrant lanes, silk markets, and hidden temples. Overnight at Varanasi.

Day 10: Varanasi – Bodhgaya – The Enlightenment Site

Drive to **Bodhgaya** (approx. 6 hours), the place where Prince Siddhartha attained enlightenment to become the Buddha. Visit the sacred **Mahabodhi Temple**, built beside the Bodhi Tree under which enlightenment was achieved. The temple complex radiates peace and attracts pilgrims from across the world. Overnight at Bodhgaya.

Day 11: Bodhgaya – Nalanda – Patna – Ancient Wisdom

Visit the sacred **Vishnupad Temple**, an important Hindu pilgrimage site on the banks of the Falgu River. Proceed to **Nalanda University Ruins**, the remains of one of the world's oldest residential universities and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ruins echo the intellectual brilliance of ancient India. Continue onward to Patna for overnight stay.

Day 12: Departure from Patna

After breakfast, transfer to the airport as your spiritually enriching and culturally immersive journey across Northern India comes to an end, carrying memories of devotion, history, and timeless traditions.

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