

SAILING DOWN THE GANGES (7 DAYS/ 6 NIGHTS)



The Ganga River, which flows through India and Bangladesh, is often referred to as the lifeline of India. The river originates in the western Himalayas in Uttarakhand, and flows south and east through the Gangetic plains of North India into Bangladesh, where it empties into the Bay of Bengal.

For devout Hindus, the river is revered as a goddess or a mother, which provides sustenance to millions living along its banks. The Ganga River is an integral part of lives of millions of Hindus who bathe in its waters to cleanse themselves of their sins. A tour down this fascinating river introduces you to the age-old traditional beliefs of Hinduism, to the cultural diversity en route, to temples, to the friendly people and also to the wildlife & avifauna found around the river.

The 2525- km journey of the Ganga River starts from Devprayag, passes through five Indian states and ends at Calcutta, where it flows into the Bay of Bengal. The main towns and settlements en route include Rishikesh, Haridwar, Brijghat (Garhmukteshwar), Anupshahar, Nagaura, Fatehgarh, Kanpur, Dalmau, Allahabad, Mizapur, Benaras, Ghazipur, Buxar, Patna, Mokameh, Monghir, Sultanganj, Khejuria (Farakka), Jiaganj, Murshidabad, Behrampore, Katwa, Nabapdwip, Kalna, Calcutta.

It is a different type of experience to see the part of India by sailing like a boating, camping at the bank of river Ganges, boating through Ghats etc. This sailing tour starts from the holy city of Allahabad and finishing at eternal city of Varanasi using improvised country boat. It is a leisurely paced tour which runs parallel to life in un-hurried manner, passing through culturally and religiously rich cities. Chunar Fort of Medieval India and Ramnagar Fort are historical architects on this tour. It's a perfect way to soak into meditating pace and some quality relaxing time. Camping on the sandy island under the starlit sky is a life time experience. Places covered on this tour are Allahabad, Lakhiya, Usmanpur, Murdaghat, Mirzapur, Varanasi.

DAY 1 **DELHI - ALLAHABAD** *(By Morning train, Dep. 06:00 hrs/ Arr. 12:10 hrs)*
ALLAHABAD – LAKHIYA *(Drive & Sail 25 km/ 6 hrs)*

Early morning at about 05:30 hrs, report at New Delhi railway station to board **VANDE BHARAT EXPRESS TRAIN (22436)** to Allahabad at 06:00 hrs. Breakfast will be served on board.

Upon arrival in Allahabad at 12:10 hrs, meet with Snow Leopard Adventures local representative and drive down to Lakhiya Ghat to commence sailing on the Ganges eastward to Varanasi. Lunch will be served on board. After sailing for about 25 kms/ 6 hours, we reach Lakhiya and set up camp on the bank / island in the river for overnight stay.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 2 **LAKHIYA – USMANPUR** *(Sail 25 km/ 8 hrs)*

Today after breakfast, we set sail to reach Usmanpur by covering approx. 25 km in 8 hours by river. This adds thrill to the sailing. We reach Usmanpur in the evening. Overnight stay in camp set up by the riverbank / island.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 3 **USMANPUR – MURDAGHAT** *(Sail 20 km/ 8 hrs)*

Today after breakfast, we set sail to reach Murdaghat covering approx. 20 km in 8 hrs by river. We shall reach our camping site by dusk. Overnight stay in camp set up by the riverbank.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 4 **MURDAGHAT – MIRZAPUR** *(Sail 45 – 50 km/8 hrs)*

Today after breakfast, we sail to Mirzapur. After about 4 hours, we stop en route to visit Vindhyachal Temple. The temple is dedicated to the Goddess of the Vindhyachal mountain ranges. After the visit, we have lunch on an Island nearby and sail further for another 4 hrs to reach the campsite for the day. Upon arrival, we set our camp by the riverbank.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 5 MIRZAPUR – VARANASI

(Sail 25- 30 km/ 5- 6 hrs)

Today after breakfast, we proceed for last leg of sailing to Varanasi. En-route, we visit Chunar Fort of Medieval India and Ramnagar Fort which is a 17th century fort with an interesting museum. We conclude sailing at 'Lanka Ghat'. Here, we shall meet with our waiting vehicle that will drive us to our hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel in Varanasi.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 6 IN VARANASI

(Day to explore)

Wake up early morning for a boat ride on the Ganges. The most important facet of this holy city is the river and the Ghats (steps along the river) lining its southern bank. From dawn to dusk the Ghats are thronged by thousands of devotees, who perform their holy rituals in the hope of attaining eternal salvation, the 'Nirvana'. As you pass through, you get a wonderful opportunity to see the living traditions of one of world's oldest religions.

Return to hotel for breakfast. Post breakfast, we visit some important religious shrines and temples like Kashi Vishwanath dedicated to Lord Shiva; Bharat Mata Mandir dedicated to Mother India; Durga Temple dedicated to the Goddess Durga; Alamgir Mosque- originally a temple dedicated to Vishnu but now an odd mixture of Hindu and Muslim architectural styles etc.

After an early lunch, we proceed for an excursion to Sarnath where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon. Later in the evening we drive back to the hotel in Varanasi for overnight stay.

***Sarnath** is famous as the place where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment. Archeological Museum of Sarnath contains a large collection of sculptures that stand testimony to the fervent artistic and religious activity of more than a thousand years.*

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

DAY 7 VARANASI - DELHI

(By Afternoon train, Dep. 15:00 hrs/ Arr. 23:00 hrs)

Morning is at leisure for individual activities. Afternoon, transfer to Varanasi railway station to board **VANDE BHARAT EXP TRAIN (22435)** to Delhi.

Meals: Breakfast

*****ADVENTURE ENDS*****