



THE RELIGIOUS TRIANGLE

DAY 01 **Tue 19th Sept'17** **Flight from GOA (via Delhi) & ARRIVE VARANASI**

On arrival at Varanasi, you will be met by our Guest Relations Executive & transfer to your hotel. Varanasi is a city that is five centuries older than Christ. According to Hindu belief, Benaras or Varanasi as it is known, is the cosmic center of the Universe. Swathed in an aura of history, religion, and tradition, Varanasi preserved the rituals and traditions of Hindu philosophy. Spend the day at leisure. Vehicle at disposal for use within the city limits.
Overnight in Varanasi (Dinner)

DAY 02 **Wed 20th Sept'17** **VARANASI**
Breakfast at the hotel



Early morning (sunrise) enjoy a sublime boat ride on the Ganges river and witness the activities on the ghats.

After breakfast, enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of Varanasi. Visit the **Benaras Hindu University**, the largest residential university in Asia, a center of Sanskrit, Indian art, culture, and music. Visit the **Kashi Vishwanath** temple, on the western bank of the Ganges. It is the center of faith for millions of Hindus. The Jyotirlinga of Shiva, Vishweshwara or Vishwanatha, is enshrined here.

Visit the **Durga Temple**, dedicated to Goddess Durga. The Durga temple was built in the eighteenth century by a Bengali Maharani. It is stained red with ochre and has a multi-tiered shikhara. The Durga temple is also called Monkey temple because of the presence of large number of monkeys.

Later enjoy an excursion to **Sarnath**, which is located eight km from Varanasi, and is famous as the place where the Buddha first preached his message after attaining nirvana. Visit the **Dhamek Stupa**... believed to have been built in 500 AD, this stupa is the largest in the region, and marks the spot where the Buddha proclaimed his faith in front of his first five followers. Visit the **Sarnath Archaeological Museum**, where the original piece is displayed. Enjoy the evening **Gnaga Aarti** (prayer ceremony on the banks of the Ganga)

Overnight in Varanasi (Breakfast & Dinner)

DAY 03 **Thu 21st Sept'17** **VARANASI - BODHGAYA (BY SURFACE)**

Breakfast at the hotel

Drive to Bodhgaya, approx. 255 kms / 5-6 hrs drive. Arrive Bodhgaya & check-in at hotel.

Spend the rest of the day at leisure. Bodhgaya is a religious site and place of pilgrimage associated with the Mahabodhi Temple Complex in Gaya district in the Indian state of Bihar. It is famous as it is the place where Gautama Buddha is said to have obtained Enlightenment under what became known as the Bodhi Tree. Vehicle at disposal. **Overnight in Bodhgaya (Breakfast & Dinner)**

DAY 04 Fri 22nd Sept' 17 BODHGAYA

Breakfast at the hotel



Enjoy a city tour of Bodhgaya (without guide) visiting **Mahabodhi Temple** - depicting the various phases of Buddha's journey towards enlightenment, showing different aspects of his life. **Bodhgaya Archaeological Museum** - houses a small collection of Buddhist sculpture from the 1st century B.C, to the 11th century A.D; **Jagannath Temple** close by has a four armed statue of Shiva in black stone. Rest of the day at leisure. No vehicle at disposal. Overnight in Bodhgaya.

Overnight in Bodhgaya (Breakfast & Dinner)

DAY 05 Sat 23rd Sept' 17 BODHGAYA - PATNA (DRIVE) - DELHI (BY FLIGHT)

Breakfast at the hotel

Drive back to Patna airport (approx. 110 kms / 2-3 hrs) to board the flight to Delhi. On arrival, you will be met, assisted by our Guest Relations Executive and transfer to the hotel. Spend the rest of the day at leisure. Vehicle at disposal for use within city limits. **Overnight in Delhi (Breakfast & Dinner)**

A possible afternoon visit may be the Akshardham Temple complex with the vehicle and driver at the group's disposal.

DAY 06 Sun 24th Sept' 17 DELHI

Breakfast at the hotel



Today, you will proceed for a **full-day tour of Old and New Delhi**. This fascinating city has been in existence since the 6th century BC and has seen ups and downs from the rule of the Pandavas right up to the British Raj. Visit **Jama Masjid**, which is the largest mosque in India, commissioned by Emperor Shah Jahan. The courtyard of the mosque can hold about 25,000 worshippers. Enjoy a **rickshaw ride in Chandni Chowk**, the busiest market in Old Delhi...noisy, chaotic and uniquely Indian. You will then visit the **Red Fort**, which was constructed during the rule of Emperor Shah Jahan and served as the

residence for the Mughal royal family. It continues to be significant even today, as every Independence Day, the Prime Minister makes a speech from its ramparts as the Indian flag is hoisted. Later, Drive past President House, India Gate and several other government buildings in Edwin Lutyen's Delhi before you head to **Rajghat**, the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. This simple memorial marks the spot where Mahatma Gandhi was cremated in 1948. Thereafter, visit **Humayun's Tomb**, commissioned by Humayun's wife Hamida Banu Begum in 1562. It was the first garden tomb built in the Indian sub-continent where the Persian architect used red sandstone on a large scale. Later in the evening visit the **Qutab**

Minar, which is the tallest brick minaret in the world; it was commissioned by Qutbuddin Aibak, the first Muslim ruler of Delhi.

Rest of the day at leisure. Vehicle will be at disposal for local use. **Overnight in Delhi (Breakfast & Dinner)**

DAY 07 Mon 25th Sept'17 DELHI - ONWARDS (BY FLIGHT)

Transfer to the airport for your onwards flight..

TOUR CONCLUDES

HOTELS ENVISAGED OR SIMILAR

City	4* DLX HOTELS	No. Of Nights
Varanasi	Radisson https://www.radisson.com/varanasi-hotel-up-221002/indvaran	02
Bodhgaya	Lotus Nikko - 3* (best available option) http://www.lotusnikkohotels.com/	02
Delhi	The Royal Plaza www.hoteltheroyalplaza.com	02
Total no of Nights		06

PACKAGE COSTS

	minimum 6 PAX
Single Occupancy	US\$ 870
Per Person On Twin Sharing	US\$ 655
Supplementary cost for accommodation in Delhi for additional night @ US\$ 50 per person in double/twin per night including breakfast and dinner	

FLIGHT DETAILS: (ECONOMY CLASS)

DATES	SECTOR	FLIGHT NO	TIMINGS
19 Sep'17	Goa - Varanasi	6E 332 / 6E 632 (Layover in Delhi)	1355 / 1945
23 Sep'17	Patna - Delhi	6E 367	1100 / 1240

Airfare included is at the time of this quotation and fare/seat is subject to change/ availability at the time of initiating the reservation. We require full advance payment to book the air seats. Once the ticket is issued, in case of any cancellation/ amendment, it will be subject cancellation policy of an airline.

NOTE FOR AIRFARES:

- Most domestic airlines are low cost carriers (LCC). Hence meals/ snacks if required have to be purchased on board flight. Also, checked baggage allowance for LCC is only 15 kgs/ person and cabin baggage is 7 kgs/ per person. Excess baggage at the check-in counter @ Rs. 250/ kg.
- The above airfares quoted to you are the Best Available Fares as of now. Rates increase as seats get sold.
- The rates are subject to change at the time of initiating the booking.

- Travelers' names are required as they appear on their passports. Name changes would not be possible after tickets are issued. In case that would be necessary it may result in cancellation of the ticket with no-refund and re-purchasing a new ticket at the available rate on the date of re-issue.

INCLUDES

TOUR PRICING IS BASED ON MINIMUM 6 PARTICIPANTS

- Accommodation in well-appointed base category rooms.
- Daily buffet breakfast & dinner at the coffee shop of the hotel.
- All transfers, tours and excursions using **09-seater AC Tempo Traveller (for 6-8 pax), 15-seater Tempo Traveler (09-12 pax) & 18-seater AC Mini Coach (for 13-16 pax)** with driver at all destinations, as per itinerary. **Only One transfer included** on the last day of the tour for your international departure flight. (Day 7) (and all the airport transfers based on one group transfer)
- Domestic flights Goa to Varanasi and Patna to Delhi
- Driver's allowance, fuel charges, parking, toll, tax etc.
- Local English speaking guide for sightseeing only on the tour days as per itinerary.** Where there is no guide the driver will be with the group who will have a basic understanding and speaking ability of English.
- Cycle rickshaw ride at Chandni Chowk in Delhi**
- Entrance fees (one time visit) at monuments as per the itinerary**
- Bottles of mineral water per person throughout the tour of India
- Personalized Assistance by our Guest Relations Executives during transfers and check-ins.
- All applicable taxes.

EXCLUDES

- International airfares and airport departure tax.
- Meals other than specified.**
- The above cost does not include camera fees at the places of visit and the same will be paid by guest directly.**
- Items of personal nature viz. telephone calls, drinks, laundry bills, etc.**
- Anything which is not mentioned under "INCLUDES" header.

NOTES

- Hotel bookings are subject to availability.
- Vehicle will be for Arrival / Departure transfers and sightseeing mentioned in itinerary only.
- Standard Check in time is 1400 hrs. & standard Check out time is 12 noon.
- Red Fort in Delhi remains closed on Monday**

VALIDITY: AS PER THE DATES MENTIONED ABOVE

We have not yet booked any room at the hotels. In case of any change in the date of travel, amendment/ re-routing of itinerary or change in hotels/room types, the cost will vary accordingly. Due to validity in rate, even minor changes in date of travel can increase the costs drastically. Please keep your guests informed of the same.

CANCELLATION AFTER BOOKING: There will be applicable fees of the airlines for domestic flight tickets (most often non-refundable) For land services there is no cancellation fee up until 30 days prior to travel and should be handled directly with the tour operator. For cancellations 30 days before travel and later charges will apply.

EARTH ASSOCIATION DISCLAIMER:

EARTH Association acts only as intermediary between the WCRT6 participants and the Tour Operator in order to facilitate optional post-congress tours that members and participants might wish to take together as small groups. Participants are free to make their own independent arrangements.

EARTH bears no responsibility regarding the services provided by independent companies, and has no affiliation with any local or international business owners involved in the provided services.