



The Harsil valley

HAND-CRAFTED AROUND YOU

Sacred India: Krishna & the Himalayan Rivers

Vrindavan, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Yamunotri and Gangotri

20 DAYS / 19 NIGHTS

Recommended travel window

Late May-early June or late September-early October 2027

Private dates and personalised quotation on request.

A JOURNEY WITH TIME TO ENJOY IT

The experience

Follow two strands of sacred India in one carefully paced journey: the stories of Krishna in Braj and the river traditions of the Garhwal Himalaya. Spend time in Mathura, Vrindavan and Govardhan before travelling to Haridwar and Rishikesh. The mountain section visits Yamunotri and Gangotri, with nights staged along the route and two full days around Harsil. Your guide explains Hindu beliefs in clear, accessible language, while leaving room for personal reflection. This is a twenty-day cultural pilgrimage with a significant walking day, designed for travellers who want to understand the places as well as reach them.

What makes this journey special

- Mathura and Vrindavan's Krishna traditions
- Gokul and the sacred landscape of Govardhan
- The Ganga aarti in Haridwar
- Yoga philosophy and river walks in Rishikesh
- A guided pilgrimage walk to Yamunotri
- Gangotri Temple and time in the Harsil valley

Best time to travel. Late September to early October is the preferred balance for the plains and mountain section, while the shrines remain open. Late May to early June is an alternative, with warmer days in Delhi and Braj.

Designed for. Spiritually curious travellers, Hindu pilgrims and experienced walkers

Pace and activity. Active pilgrimage; a 12 km return Yamunotri walk, mountain roads and elevations above 3,000 m.

Your private start date is chosen within the recommended season. The exact hotel list, room categories and final package are provided in your personal quotation.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

20 days, thoughtfully arranged

DAY	EXPERIENCE	OVERNIGHT
01	Arrive in Delhi	Delhi
02	An introduction to India's living faiths	Delhi
03	Delhi to Mathura and Vrindavan	Vrindavan
04	Vrindavan: devotion in daily life	Vrindavan
05	Gokul, Govardhan and the landscape of Braj	Vrindavan
06	Return to Delhi	Delhi
07	By train to Haridwar	Haridwar
08	Haridwar to Rishikesh	Rishikesh
09	Rishikesh: a day to slow down	Rishikesh
10	Into the mountains: Rishikesh to Barkot	Barkot
11	Barkot to the Yamunotri trailhead	Kharsali / Janki Chatti
12	The pilgrimage walk to Yamunotri	Kharsali / Janki Chatti
13	The road to Uttarkashi	Uttarkashi
14	Uttarkashi to Harsil	Harsil
15	Gangotri and the Bhagirathi	Harsil
16	A full day in the Harsil valley	Harsil
17	Return to Uttarkashi	Uttarkashi
18	Uttarkashi to Rishikesh	Rishikesh
19	Return to Delhi	Delhi
20	Depart Delhi	Journey ends

Road distances and travel times in the programme are approximate, excluding major visits. Flight and rail timings are confirmed for your selected dates.



Days 01-02 | Jama Masjid, Old Delhi

DAY 01

Arrive in Delhi

Meet your Midasia representative and transfer to your hotel for a restful start. Your guide introduces the journey as an exploration of living traditions, with time for both learning and personal reflection. Discuss your interests, walking experience and dietary preferences before the programme begins. Vegetarian meals are arranged throughout this itinerary. The first evening is deliberately quiet, allowing you to recover from the flight before the cultural visits in Delhi and Braj.

Travel: Private airport transfer; 45-90 minutes.

Meals: Dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 02

An introduction to India's living faiths

Begin with a guided introduction to Hindu ideas and the many ways they are expressed in daily life. Visit an appropriate Hindu temple and Bangla Sahib, using the contrast to understand distinct traditions without treating them as interchangeable. Explore Humayun's Tomb for a further perspective on India's religious and architectural history. Your guide explains the etiquette of shoes, clothing and photography before each visit. The day provides context for the more focused spiritual experiences that follow.

Travel: Local touring with short walks.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi



Days 03-04 | Prem Mandir, Vrindavan

DAY 03

Delhi to Mathura and Vrindavan

Travel to Braj, the region closely associated with Krishna's childhood and youth in Hindu tradition. In Mathura, visit the permitted areas of the Krishna Janmabhoomi complex and hear the stories that give the town its importance. Continue to the riverfront around Vishram Ghat for a quieter introduction to the Yamuna. Reach Vrindavan and settle into your hotel. A gentle evening visit can be arranged according to opening hours and the pace you prefer.

Travel: Approximately 180 km; 3.5-4.5 hours driving, plus local visits.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Vrindavan

DAY 04

Vrindavan: devotion in daily life

Explore Vrindavan with a guide who can explain the different traditions of Krishna devotion. Visit selected temples, such as the ISKCON Krishna-Balaram complex and the permitted visitor areas of older shrines, allowing time to listen rather than move quickly between ceremonies. Walk through the surrounding lanes and pause beside the Yamuna where access is suitable. Later, visit Prem Mandir when it is open, appreciating the carved scenes as an introduction to the stories at the heart of the town.

Travel: Guided temple and lane walks; rickshaw assistance where useful.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Vrindavan



Days 05-06 | Kusum Sarovar, Govardhan

DAY 05

Gokul, Govardhan and the landscape of Braj

Visit Gokul to hear the traditions associated with Krishna's early childhood, then continue towards Govardhan. At Kusum Sarovar and selected points near the hill, your guide explains the meaning of pilgrimage and parikrama. The programme uses short walks and vehicle transfers rather than requiring the full circuit on foot. The day is designed to connect stories with their landscape, giving you time to ask questions and observe local devotion respectfully. Return to Vrindavan for the night.

Travel: Approximately 90-120 km of local driving; short walks.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Vrindavan

DAY 06

Return to Delhi

Enjoy a final quiet visit or reflective walk in Vrindavan before returning to Delhi. This overnight breaks the journey between Braj and the Himalayan foothills, avoiding a single very long transfer. The afternoon is free to rest, prepare a smaller bag for the mountain section or discuss the next part of the route with your guide. The programme deliberately includes this practical pause so the journey remains comfortable as its landscape and pace begin to change.

Travel: Approximately 180 km; 3.5-4.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi



Days 07-08 | Ganga aarti at Har Ki Pauri, Haridwar

DAY 07

By train to Haridwar

Travel by reserved daytime train to Haridwar, with assistance at both stations. After settling in, walk through selected streets near the river and learn why this city is one of the great gateways of Hindu pilgrimage. Later, observe the Ganga aarti at Har Ki Pauri from an appropriate viewing area. Your guide explains the lamps, chants and offerings in clear terms, allowing you to appreciate the ceremony whether you approach it as a pilgrim or a cultural traveller.

Travel: Reserved air-conditioned daytime train; approximately 4.5-5.5 hours, plus transfers.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Haridwar

DAY 08

Haridwar to Rishikesh

Take time for a final riverside walk in Haridwar before the short drive to Rishikesh. Settle beside the foothills and explore the accessible riverfront with your guide. A visit to an ashram or a conversation with a knowledgeable teacher introduces the ideas behind yoga, rather than presenting it only as physical exercise. The remainder of the day is gentle, with time to enjoy the river setting and reflect on the different forms of devotion encountered so far.

Travel: Approximately 25-35 km; 1-1.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Rishikesh



Days 09-10 | The Ganges at Rishikesh

DAY 09

Rishikesh: a day to slow down

Begin with a gentle yoga or breathing session led by a qualified instructor, adapted to your experience and comfort. Later, explore a selected ashram or cultural site and discuss the relationship between practice, discipline and everyday life. There is ample time for a river walk, reading or quiet rest. Your guide reviews the mountain journey, including walking demands and the items you will need on the Yamunotri day. The emphasis is on preparation as much as sightseeing.

Travel: Gentle local walking; an introductory yoga session if suitable.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Rishikesh

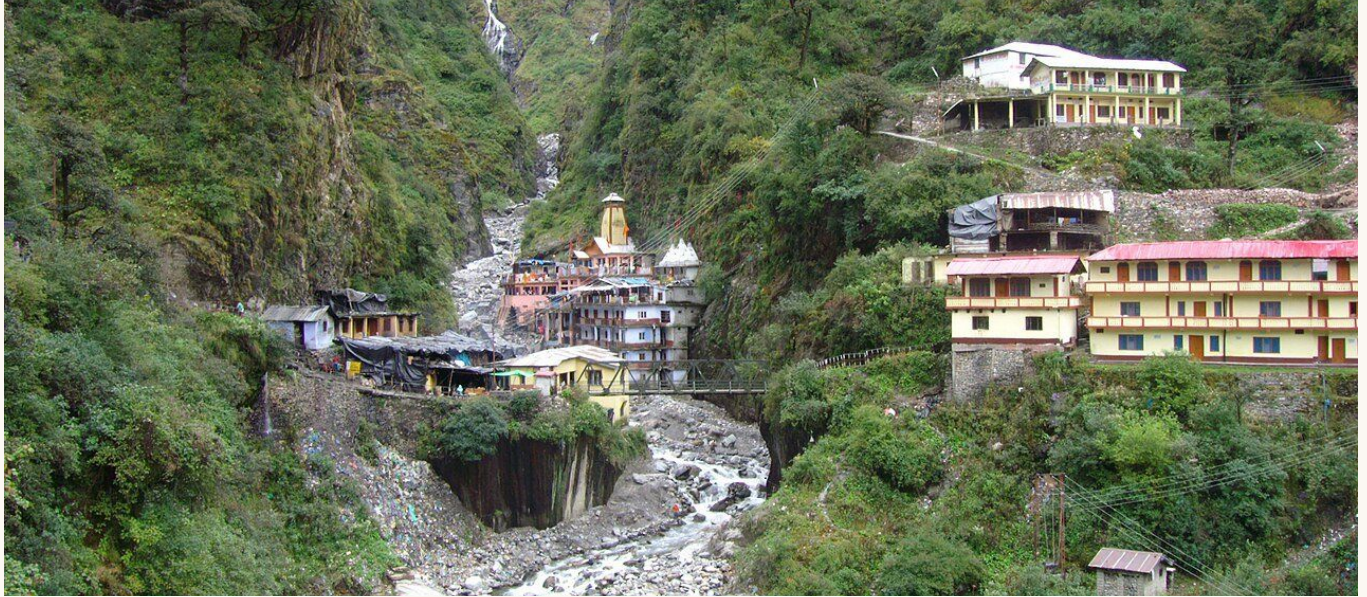
DAY 10

Into the mountains: Rishikesh to Barkot

Leave the foothills and travel towards Barkot, taking the mountain road at a comfortable pace with regular breaks. The journey introduces a landscape of valleys, hillside settlements and cultivated terraces. Arrive in time to settle into your mountain accommodation and enjoy a short local walk if you wish. The overnight is part of the staged approach to Yamunotri, allowing you to adjust gradually to the changing environment rather than travelling directly from the plains to the shrine.

Travel: Approximately 170-190 km; 6-7 hours on mountain roads.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Barkot



Days 11-12 | Yamunotri shrine and its mountain setting

DAY 11

Barkot to the Yamunotri trailhead

Continue towards Kharsali and Janki Chatti, staying close to the start of the Yamunotri trail. The shorter transfer leaves time for a gentle village walk, equipment checks and a full briefing with your walking guide. Confirm your pace, rest stops and the arrangements for tomorrow's ascent. The accommodation here is selected for its practical location and the best available local comfort. Enjoy an early, quiet evening so you are ready to begin the walk without a long pre-dawn road transfer.

Travel: Approximately 45-55 km; 2-3 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Kharsali / Janki Chatti

DAY 12

The pilgrimage walk to Yamunotri

Walk from Janki Chatti towards Yamunotri with your local guide, following the established pilgrimage path and taking regular breaks. The shrine stands at about 3,293 metres, so this is the most demanding day of the journey and the pace remains deliberately steady. At the temple, visit the areas open to you and learn about the Yamuna's significance in Hindu tradition. Return along the same route to your nearby accommodation. The itinerary visits the shrine, not the remote glacier that is the river's geographical source.

Travel: Approximately 6 km each way; allow 6-8 hours walking and additional temple time.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Kharsali / Janki Chatti



Days 13-14 | Uttarkashi beside the Bhagirathi

DAY 13

The road to Uttarkashi

Leave the Yamunotri valley for Uttarkashi, travelling through mountain settlements and stopping in comfortable places along the way. On arrival, enjoy a gentle introduction to the town and the Bhagirathi riverfront. Visit the permitted areas of Kashi Vishwanath Temple if time and your energy allow. After yesterday's substantial walk, the evening is kept restful. This overnight also breaks the approach to Gangotri into manageable stages and introduces another important town on the pilgrimage route.

Travel: Approximately 130-150 km; 5-6 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Uttarkashi

DAY 14

Uttarkashi to Harsil

Follow the Bhagirathi upstream towards Harsil, watching the valley narrow and the landscape become more alpine. Arrive with time to settle into your mountain stay and take a short, easy walk among the village lanes and river scenery. Your guide explains the local setting and the relationship between the valley's communities and the pilgrimage road. The rest of the day remains quiet, allowing you to enjoy the surroundings before tomorrow's visit to Gangotri.

Travel: Approximately 75-90 km; 3-4 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Harsil



Days 15-16 | Gangotri Temple

DAY 15

Gangotri and the Bhagirathi

Drive to Gangotri and visit the temple in the areas open to visitors, learning about the traditions associated with the descent of the Ganges. Spend time beside the Bhagirathi at designated viewpoints and walk through the small settlement with your guide. The day centres on the shrine and its setting; it does not include the multi-day walk towards Gaumukh. Return to Harsil with time to rest, enjoy the mountain air and discuss the stories that connect the river to places visited earlier.

Travel: Approximately 50-60 km return; 2-3 hours driving, plus short walks.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Harsil

DAY 16

A full day in the Harsil valley

Enjoy a day without changing accommodation. Choose a gentle guided walk through village lanes and nearby landscapes, with distance and elevation agreed in advance. Seasonal orchards, river views and the texture of mountain life provide plenty to observe without a strenuous trek. There is also time for reading, photography or a quiet conversation about the journey's spiritual themes. Keeping a full day here gives Harsil its own place in the itinerary rather than using it only as a staging post.

Travel: Optional easy guided walks of 1-3 hours.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Harsil



Days 17-18 | The Ganges at Rishikesh

DAY 17

Return to Uttarkashi

Begin the return down the Bhagirathi valley at an unhurried pace. Stop at suitable viewpoints and arrive in Uttarkashi with time for a short local visit or rest. Breaking the descent over two days keeps the journey more comfortable than a single long drive from Harsil to Rishikesh. The afternoon can be used to revisit a riverside setting, browse everyday market streets or simply enjoy a quieter evening after several nights higher in the mountains.

Travel: Approximately 75-90 km; 3-4 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Uttarkashi

DAY 18

Uttarkashi to Rishikesh

Travel back to Rishikesh with planned breaks along the mountain route. The return to the foothills brings a change in temperature, vegetation and pace. Settle into your hotel and enjoy an easy evening beside the river. If you wish, observe a local aarti or keep the time entirely free. This final night in Rishikesh offers an opportunity to reflect on the journey from Krishna's Braj to the Himalayan shrines before returning to the capital.

Travel: Approximately 160-180 km; 5.5-6.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Rishikesh



Days 19-20 | Jama Masjid, Old Delhi

DAY 19

Return to Delhi

Drive to Delhi, leaving the mountain roads behind and travelling through the plains. Arrive for a comfortable final night before your international flight. The remainder of the day is free for rest, with an included farewell dinner arranged around your preferences. Share the moments that stayed with you: a conversation in Vrindavan, a river ceremony, the Yamunotri walk or quiet time in Harsil. Your Midasia team confirms the airport arrangements for tomorrow.

Travel: Approximately 240-260 km; 5.5-6.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 20

Depart Delhi

Enjoy breakfast and a relaxed departure according to your flight time. Your representative assists with checkout and the private airport transfer. The journey concludes after twenty days exploring sacred stories, active traditions and Himalayan river landscapes. Travellers wishing to deepen one part of the experience can arrange a future stay focused on Braj, yoga study or a different pilgrimage circuit, with its own suitable season and pace.

Travel: Private transfer to Delhi airport.

Meals: Breakfast | **Journey concludes today**

PRIVATE TRAVEL WITH MIDASIA ROUTES

The details, taken care of

Your accommodation. 19 nights in individually selected accommodation. Luxury city hotels, heritage stays and suitable resorts or lodges are chosen to match the route. Exact properties and room categories are confirmed in your quotation.

Arrival and transport. Airport meet-and-greet after customs, baggage assistance, private transfers, a suitable air-conditioned touring vehicle and driver, fuel, parking and road tolls. Domestic flights and reserved air-conditioned train journeys described in this programme are included.

Guiding and visits. English-speaking local specialist guides, the scheduled visits, entrance fees and activities described. Your private travelling party is guided at an agreed pace; park excursions and resort activities follow their operating arrangements.

Meals and practical support. All meals shown each day, drinking water and standard tea or coffee. Vegetarian and other dietary preferences are arranged in advance. Standard tourist-visa application support and government fees for eligible travellers, applicable local taxes, and customary local-guide and driver gratuities are included.

Your journey extras. Vegetarian meals, a qualified local walking guide for Yamunotri, scheduled introductory yoga sessions and standard pilgrimage-registration assistance are included. No Gaumukh expedition or higher-altitude trek is included.

Personal coordination. Pre-travel planning, a detailed arrival briefing and Midasia Routes support throughout your journey. Prices are quoted privately for your dates, room requirements and travelling party.

Not included

International flights; travel and medical insurance; personal shopping and laundry; premium or alcoholic drinks; and optional activities, treatments or extra nights outside the agreed programme.

Let us plan your India journey

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A FEW USEFUL DETAILS

Planning your journey

The 2027 shrine opening dates and registration arrangements must be officially announced before dates are fixed. Temple access follows each shrine's rules. The Yamunotri walk is strenuous and reaches 3,293 m; discuss high-altitude travel and fitness with your own clinician before committing. Mountain stays use the best available local hotels or lodges.

Visa issue is subject to government approval and traveller eligibility. The programme is personalised when your dates are agreed; no hotel, flight or departure is held by this brochure. Travel windows describe typical seasonal conditions, rather than a weather forecast.

Official pilgrimage registration | Planning checked 9 September 2026.

Photography

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