



The Ganges at Varanasi

HAND-CRAFTED AROUND YOU

Sacred Cities & Buddhist India

Lucknow, Ayodhya, Varanasi, Bodh Gaya and Nalanda

14 DAYS / 13 NIGHTS

Recommended travel window

January-February and November-December 2027

Private dates and personalised quotation on request.

A JOURNEY WITH TIME TO ENJOY IT

The experience

Explore places where faith is still part of everyday life, guided by people who can explain what you are seeing. This route connects Lucknow's refined architecture, Ayodhya's devotional traditions and Varanasi's riverfront with the Buddhist landscapes of Bodh Gaya, Rajgir and Nalanda. The experience is open to travellers of different beliefs: you may observe, ask questions and take time for reflection without being expected to participate in rituals. Fourteen days allow these important places to be visited with context and comfortable breaks, creating a meaningful journey through northern India's living and historical traditions.

What makes this journey special

- Lucknow's imambaras and traditional craftsmanship
- Ayodhya and the banks of the Saryu
- Varanasi from the Ganges at first light
- Sarnath and the beginnings of Buddhist teaching
- The Mahabodhi Temple landscape in Bodh Gaya
- Rajgir and the remains of Nalanda's great university

Best time to travel. November-February offers the most comfortable conditions for the cities and archaeological sites. Late October and early March are useful alternatives with earlier sightseeing starts.

Designed for. History lovers, spiritual travellers and culturally curious couples or friends

Pace and activity. Moderate; urban walking, temple steps and one longer overland transfer.

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

14 days, thoughtfully arranged

DAY	EXPERIENCE	OVERNIGHT
01	Arrive in Delhi	Delhi
02	Fly to Lucknow	Lucknow
03	Lucknow: architecture and living crafts	Lucknow
04	Lucknow to Ayodhya	Ayodhya
05	Ayodhya: the city and its traditions	Ayodhya
06	Ayodhya to Varanasi	Varanasi
07	Varanasi at first light	Varanasi
08	Sarnath and time in Varanasi	Varanasi
09	Varanasi to Bodh Gaya	Bodh Gaya
10	Bodh Gaya: a place of awakening	Bodh Gaya
11	Bodh Gaya to Rajgir	Rajgir
12	Nalanda and the road to Patna	Patna
13	Fly from Patna to Delhi	Delhi
14	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 privately to the hotel. Rest after the flight before an introductory conversation with your guide over dinner. The journey brings together several traditions, so this is a useful moment to discuss your interests and how you would like to approach active religious places. Visits are observational and respectful, with opportunities for reflection throughout. Tomorrow's domestic flight begins the route across the northern plains.

Travel: Private airport transfer; 45-90 minutes.

Meals: Dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 02

Fly to Lucknow

Fly to Lucknow and settle into your hotel before an easy orientation. Explore part of the historic city, where gateways, courtyards and market streets recall the culture of Awadh. Your local guide introduces the stories behind the architecture and the city's reputation for refinement in language, clothing and the arts. Keep the afternoon flexible according to the flight schedule, leaving the principal monuments for a full visit tomorrow.

Travel: Domestic flight around 1-1.5 hours, plus airport transfers.

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



Days 03-04 | Bara Imambara, Lucknow

DAY 03

Lucknow: architecture and living crafts

Visit Bara Imambara and the area around Rumi Darwaza, then continue to selected historic buildings that help explain Lucknow's layered past. A visit to the Residency provides a different historical perspective, discussed with care and context. Later, meet a practitioner of chikankari embroidery or explore a neighbourhood known for traditional craft. The balance of architecture and personal encounters helps reveal a city that rewards attention beyond its most photographed gateways.

Travel: Private city touring and guided market walks.

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

DAY 04

Lucknow to Ayodhya

Travel to Ayodhya and begin with an introduction to the city's place in the Ramayana and contemporary Hindu devotion. Walk with your guide through suitable heritage and pilgrimage areas, observing the flow of visitors and the everyday life around the shrines. In the evening, spend time near the Saryu riverfront when access permits. The visit focuses on understanding the setting and its traditions, with the following day reserved for the principal temple arrangements.

Travel: Approximately 135-150 km; 3-4 hours driving.

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



Days 05-06 | Ram ki Paidi, Ayodhya

DAY 05

Ayodhya: the city and its traditions

Visit the Ram Mandir complex in the areas open to you, following the current entry and security procedures. Continue to selected sites associated with the city's devotional history, such as the areas around Hanuman Garhi and Kanak Bhawan. Your guide explains the stories and different forms of worship without rushing between ceremonies. Leave time for a quiet riverfront walk or a conversation about how Ayodhya's traditions are expressed in everyday life.

Travel: Local touring; temple security procedures and walking.

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

DAY 06

Ayodhya to Varanasi

Drive to Varanasi, one of India's most important sacred cities. Settle in before a gentle introduction to the riverfront, where steps, temples and residential buildings meet the Ganges. Your guide explains the practical etiquette of walking through the ghats and observing ceremonies. If your arrival time allows, watch an evening aarti from a suitable location. Tomorrow's early boat outing offers a quieter perspective and time to understand the rhythm of the river.

Travel: Approximately 220-240 km; 5-6 hours driving.

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



Days 07-08 | The Ganges at Varanasi

DAY 07

Varanasi at first light

Take a boat along an operating stretch of the Ganges as the city begins its day. Observe the ghats and everyday rituals respectfully, with your guide explaining their meaning. Later, walk through selected lanes of the old city and visit permitted temple areas according to your interests and eligibility. A meeting with a silk-weaving workshop introduces another important tradition of Varanasi. The middle of the day is kept comfortable, with time to rest between outings.

Travel: Licensed riverboat outing and guided old-city walks.

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

DAY 08

Sarnath and time in Varanasi

Travel to Sarnath, where Buddhist tradition places the Buddha's first teaching after enlightenment. Explore the archaeological landscape around Dhamek Stupa and visit the museum when open, using its sculpture to understand the site's significance. Return to Varanasi for a flexible afternoon. You may choose a further craft encounter, a quiet riverside view or simply time at your hotel. The contrast between Sarnath and the busy ghats is an important part of the experience.

Travel: Approximately 25-35 km return; local touring and walking.

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



Days 09-10 | Details at the Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya

DAY 09

Varanasi to Bodh Gaya

Travel east towards Bodh Gaya with regular comfort stops. Your guide introduces the next chapter of the journey, centred on the life and teaching of the Buddha. On arrival, settle in and take a gentle orientation around the town if time permits. The principal Mahabodhi Temple visit is reserved for tomorrow, allowing you to approach it with a clear understanding of its significance and enough time to enjoy the atmosphere without rushing after the drive.

Travel: Approximately 250-270 km; 6-7 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Bodh Gaya

DAY 10

Bodh Gaya: a place of awakening

Spend time in the Mahabodhi Temple complex, learning about the Bodhi tree and the places associated with the Buddha's enlightenment. Your guide explains the site's history while leaving space to sit quietly and observe visitors from different Buddhist traditions. Continue to selected international monasteries and the Great Buddha statue, choosing a manageable number rather than attempting every building. The day balances historical understanding with an appreciation of Bodh Gaya as an active place of pilgrimage.

Travel: Temple grounds and short local walks.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Bodh Gaya



Days 11-12 | Vishwa Shanti Stupa, Rajgir

DAY 11

Bodh Gaya to Rajgir

Drive to Rajgir, set among low hills with strong associations to early Buddhist and Jain traditions. Visit Venuvan and, where the operating arrangements suit your party, take the ropeway towards the Vishwa Shanti Stupa. A guided walk near one of the important hillside settings can be included at a pace agreed beforehand. Staying in Rajgir gives the landscape its own time in the journey instead of treating it as a brief stop between larger places.

Travel: Approximately 80-90 km; 2.5-3 hours driving.

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

DAY 12

Nalanda and the road to Patna

Explore the remains of Nalanda, walking through the brick foundations of monasteries, temples and teaching spaces. Your guide explains how the institution drew scholars from across Asia and what the surviving archaeology reveals about daily life here. Visit the museum when open, then continue to Patna. An introductory city visit can be arranged if time allows, but the main focus remains Nalanda and a comfortable arrival in the departure city.

Travel: Approximately 110-130 km including Nalanda; 3-4 hours driving.

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



Days 13-14 | Humayun's Tomb, Delhi

DAY 13

Fly from Patna to Delhi

Fly to Delhi and transfer to your hotel for the last night of the journey. The afternoon is free for rest or a short private outing tailored to your interests. Over an included farewell dinner, reflect on the different places encountered: Lucknow's artistic heritage, the devotional cities of the rivers, and the Buddhist sites that connect India with much of Asia. Your Midasia team confirms the airport arrangements for the following day.

Travel: Domestic flight around 1.5-2 hours, plus transfers.

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

DAY 14

Depart Delhi

Enjoy breakfast and checkout according to your flight schedule. Your representative assists with the final arrangements and your private vehicle takes you to Delhi airport. The journey concludes after fourteen days of carefully guided visits and time for personal reflection. An extension to Rajasthan, the Himalayan foothills or another part of India can be arranged separately if you would like to continue exploring.

Travel: Private airport transfer.

Meals: Breakfast | **Journey concludes today**

PRIVATE TRAVEL WITH MIDASIA ROUTES

The details, taken care of

Your accommodation. 13 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. The Delhi-Lucknow and Patna-Delhi domestic flights, a licensed Varanasi boat outing and the scheduled cultural visits are included. Vegetarian meals can be arranged throughout on request.

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

Temple visits follow current entry rules, visitor eligibility and security procedures. Museum closure days are accommodated when dates are fixed. Riverboat outings use licensed operators and follow local operating conditions.

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.

Bihar Tourism - the Buddhist circuit | Planning checked 9 September 2026.

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