

# OMNICHAKRA



*"May You Align & Shine"*



## **2 RETREATS IN INDIA**

Rishikesh October 3 ~ 17, 2024 (14 Days)

Varanasi October 22 ~ November 2, 2024 (11 Days)

I am thrilled to extend an invitation to join me on a spiritually enriching journey to Rishikesh and Varanasi, India. These 2 retreats have been carefully designed to provide you with an immersive experience, delving into the profound portal areas of India. You will be surrounded by breathtaking landscapes, captivating architecture, intricate artwork, and a rich cultural tapestry. Immerse yourself in the mystical energies of some of the world's most potent healing sites and receive teachings from spiritual practitioners who have devoted their lives to mastering ancient practices. Join me for an unforgettable journey of exploration, transformation, and spiritual growth.

Both India retreats will represent the Transformation of Darkness into Light symbolizing the ending of the Kali Yuga (the current timeline of Earth) and the beginning of the Satya Yuga. Each retreat will serve as an opportunity to ease the vibrational transition of our planet as we enter into a new, higher vibrational timeline.

Both retreats in India will auspiciously coincide with important spiritual timelines and ancient sacred ceremonies of Navaratri, Dussehra and Diwali. Our Rishikesh retreat will commence on the first day of Navaratri, October 3rd, 2024, and thus we will enter into the 9 holy days of the year dedicated to Goddess Durga, each day representing a different form of the Goddess arising. While in Rishikesh, we will also experience the sacred Hindu festival of Dussehra, on the tenth day of Navaratri which commemorates the triumph of Lord Rama over the demon king Ravana, symbolizing the victory of good over evil and light over darkness.

**Attendees have the option of joining just one retreats or both! If you sign on for both retreats the accommodations and travel expenses during the days between will be covered.**

**Here is a peak at what we have in store for you:**



# RISHIKESH, INDIA

**October 3 ~ October 17, 2024**

**(This is a tentative outline, some details may change as we get closer to the retreat dates.)**

RISHIKESH, considered the yoga capital of the world is situated on the banks of the holy Ganges river, surrounded by the Himalayas. While in Rishikesh, we will be experiencing the fullness of ashram life by staying in the famous Parmarth Niketan Ashram and have the opportunity to experience daily sacred ceremonies including daily Ganga Aarti rituals. We will learn transformative techniques and practices from experienced yogis, listen to devotional bhajans, get a personal reading from a famous past life reader, experience the snake charming ceremony and meditate in a cave where Sri M. personally encountered the King of the mystical Naga beings. We will also have the opportunity to experience the healing properties of authentic Ayurveda therapy and feel the cleansing power of the pristine Ganga river that flows directly from the surrounding Himalayas.

Rishikesh is its own divine portal as it is seeped with the energies of sages, yogis and rishis who have meditated and performed sacred practices on the same holy land for thousands of years in order to reach higher states of consciousness. For this reason, the vibrational frequency in Rishikesh is exceptionally elevated and highly conducive to inner transformation and the deepening of one's own spiritual practice.

## **RISHIKESH RETREAT**

October 3 (check in + evening welcome) - October 16 (evening goodbye + Oct. 17 check out) - 14 days

### **ABOUT**

- situated on the banks of the holy Ganges river (Ganga), surrounded by the Himalayas
- considered as “the yoga capital of the world”
- filled with divine energies of the saints, sages and rishis who have been performing sacred rituals and spiritual practices for thousands of years here and who have reached some of the highest spiritual states
- it is believed that taking a dip in the Ganges river washes away one’s sins and the water is considered to have healing properties

Rishikesh is absolutely magical and is a place of great spiritual significance. We can catch an early morning sunrise at Kunjapuri Temple - a very holy Durga temple; meditate where Rishi Vashishta meditated at Vashishta cave; experience the magic of Arundhati cave, where Sri M. encountered a real life physical manifestation of the king of the Nagas; experience the tranquility of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi Ashram where Beatles wrote some of their famous songs, and when the day is over, light a fire lamp at the sacred Ganga Aarti fire ceremony in the evening.



We will be staying at the famous Parmarth Niketan Ashram located right on the Ganges river, surrounded with tropical gardens and wild monkeys jumping everywhere and in the morning is engulfed in a dreamlike foggy mist of the Ganga.

## **ACCOMODATIONS**

~ Parmarth Niketan Ashram - AC private rooms with western & Indian toilets (pictures: [https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel\\_Review-g580106-d754231-Reviews-Parmarth\\_Niketan\\_Ashram-Rishikesh\\_Dehradun\\_District\\_Uttarakhand.html#/media/754231/107536919:p/?albumid=106&type=0&category=106](https://www.tripadvisor.com/Hotel_Review-g580106-d754231-Reviews-Parmarth_Niketan_Ashram-Rishikesh_Dehradun_District_Uttarakhand.html#/media/754231/107536919:p/?albumid=106&type=0&category=106))

## **WHAT IS INCLUDED:**

~ Ashram accomodations. Private room with private bathroom. Double and single occupancy available.

~ 3 nutritious meals per day. (Vegetarian / Vegan / Gluten Free)

~ Personal reading by a famous past life psychic reader and astrologer.

- ~ Private group Puja
- ~ Several visits to temples and sacred sites
- ~ Snake Charmer experience
- ~ Private group sound healing ceremony
- ~ Private group Kirtan Bhajan
- ~ Lessons with esoteric knowledge and practice.
- ~ Special energy purification class with local sage
- ~ Yoga & meditation classes
- ~ Local Ayurvedic treatment. (Several different to choose from)
- ~ All group excursions and activities (including entry fees)
- ~ Private group transportation
- ~ Unlimited mineral water and snacks
- ~ Customized lesson books specific to our retreat.

## **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:**

- ~ Air fare to Delhi and taxi to Rishikesh

~ Travel Insurance

~ Airport pick up and drop off (but we can help organize it)

~ Visa fee

~ Extracurricular activities (on your free time)

~ Any meals outside of the ashram. (Meals are very affordable all over India.)

## **THINGS WE WILL (LIKELY) SEE:**

As planning is still being confirmed, here is a list of the places we will be trying to include in the trip.

- Ganga Aarti ceremony at Parmarth Niketan Ashram (our place of accommodation) - an ancient sacred fire ceremony with puja - every night (in Rishikesh)
- Ganga Aarti in Haridwar: <https://www.holidify.com/places/haridwar/ganga-aarti-sightseeing-8008.html> (helpful tips: <https://wildhawk.in/all-you-need-to-know-about-ganga-aarti-in-haridwar/>)
- Anandamai Ma's ashram in Kankhal (near Rishikesh) - ashram of the "blissful" female mystic Anandamai Ma containing her samadhi
- Maharishi Mahesh Yogi ashram - "The Beatles Ashram" - with meditation chambers



- Vashistha Cave (gufa/guha) and Arundhati Cave - the cave where Sri M had his encounter with the King of the Nagas + it is also said that Jesus Christ performed spiritual practices here: <https://yogianand.wordpress.com/2017/09/02/vashistha-guha-cave-arundhati-guha-rishikesh-uttarakhand-india/>
- Kunjapuri Temple - a very holy Durga temple - a peaceful mountaintop temple (over 1600m) near Rishikesh, recommended to experience during sunrise - while the sun is rising over Himalayan foothills
- Kali Mandir in Haridwar (Kali temple):
  - one of the oldest temples in Haridwar
  - it is said that if one visits the temple and makes a wish there, their wishes will be granted by mother Kali
  - “a must visit temple while travelling to Haridwar” in order to feel the grace of goddess Kali in the form of blessings
- Dakshin Kali Temple in Haridwar:
  - considered the “center of worship for a happy and prosperous life”
  - the Dakshin Kali temple is said to have powers "that can even turn death”



- those who pray to Goddess Dakshin Kali of this temple “will have good fortune and a successful life, free from diseases, illness and injuries”
  - the temple is located above a Kund (a well of water, usually associated with Naga beings), which is said to possess special powers
- Trayambakeshwar Temple - a 13-storied famous holy shrine constructed as an abode to Lord Shiva

## **Cost to attend the Rishikesh Retreat: \$3333**

### **PAYMENT OPTION # 1**

Pay in full \$3333

### **PAYMENT OPTION # 2**

\$500 deposit immediately after acceptance to attend.

Payment Plan

5 Payments of \$580 Due:

May 25, June 25, July 25, August 25, September 25

Totaling \$3400 (Includes financing fee)

If you sign up later in the year and want the payment plan, you will need to catch up to the payment schedule.

(There is a non-refundable \$500 deposit implemented. Please read the cancellation policy carefully at sign up.)

**\*\*\*It is highly advisable to secure retreat travel insurance. Do your own research and find what works best for you. Some will cover the cost of all your expenses in case of an unexpected cancellation for a reasonable**

**price. Most companies require you to secure the insurance within a timeframe of booking your retreat. I will provide whatever proof of purchase that you require.**

**\*\*\*If you choose to sign up for both retreats, your accommodations, meals, and travel to Varanasi from Rishikesh will be included as a bonus. (October 17 - October 22)**



## **VARANASI, INDIA**

**October 22 ~ November 2, 2024**

**(This is a tentative outline, some details may change as we get closer to the retreat dates.)**

We will continue our journey of inner transformation in VARANASI - the spiritual capital of the world and the most ancient city in the world, said to have been created by the very Lord Shiva himself. Energetically speaking, Varanasi is believed to reside in another, higher dimension of existence, somewhere between Heaven and Earth, which only adds to the otherworldly atmosphere of this mysterious place. People from all over the world come to Varanasi to receive moksha and liberate their soul from the countless cycles of reincarnation.

While in Varanasi, we will be learning powerful practices from experienced yogis, meditate on the banks of the holy Ganga river, take part in ancient sacred rituals, listen to devotional bhajans and receive blessings through vibrational upgrades of sacred ancient portals. While experiencing an ashram life, we will learn ancient knowledge from the local Aghori babas, have the opportunity to experience the healing powers of the Varanasi steep wells associated with the spiritual initiation of the Naga beings and have the chance to feel the power of the sacred ceremonial fire from the Ganga Aarti while floating on a private gondola in the middle of the Ganges river. Auspiciously, we will conclude our retreat on the day of Diwali, the sacred Festival of Lights, representing the celebration of our inner light and the triumph of light over darkness. power of the pristine Ganga river that flows directly from the surrounding Himalayas.

## **VARANASI RETREAT:**

October 22 (check in + evening welcome) - October 1 (evening goodbye + November 2 check out) - 11 days

## **ABOUT:**

- also known as “Kashi” or “Benares” is the spiritual capital of India and many consider it the spiritual capital of the world
- the most ancient city in the world, shrouded in mystery and surrounded by otherworldly legends and miracles

- energetically speaking, Varanasi is said to reside in another dimension of existence - somewhere between Heaven & Earth
- the city itself is built in a form of a yantra, a geometrical perfection coinciding with the cosmology of the human body —> this sacred geometry creates its own portal of energy that helps elevate our consciousness and accelerate the spiritual evolution of humanity
- it is believed that Shiva himself has created Varanasi, so that if the entire world would cease to exist, Varanasi would still remain untouched
- Kashi is Bhairav's favourite place. Bhairav is the wrathful form of Lord Shiva. (Just like Kali is the wrathful form of Durga.) it is said that each day at noon, Bhairav, also known as Kala Bhairava (a.k.a. Kaal Bhairav or Rudra), comes to take a holy dip in Ganga at the famous Manikarnika Ghat
- Varanasi is the place of moksha (liberation) for all mortals —> pilgrims cover themselves with the ash left behind of the burned bodies and bathe in Ganga in order to gain moksha and become cleansed of all sins by the Ganga bath
- There is a famous line by a Telugu poet, where He says, he “would have great gratitude towards God, if God created him even as a blade of grass in the holy land of Kashi”
- Varanasi is considered to have been built into existence by Lord Shiva & continues to be one of the holiest places in India
- “Kashi” literally means “a tower of light”
- Varanasi hosts among the most beautiful Ganga Aarti ceremonies performed daily—> It includes burning oil lamps, chants, and a captivating image of thousands of people paying their respects. Earthen lamps (or diyas) are lit and floated into the river on a small leaf with flowers —> “From the hypnotic clang of the cymbals to the mesmerizing glow of the flickering flames of the diyas and the soul-stirring echoes of the chants by the devotees, the Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat is a symphony of the senses that will leave an indelible mark on your soul.”
- also known as ‘The City of Temples’.



## **ACCOMODATIONS:**

- Shri Dharam Sangh Shiksha Mandal Ashram - AC private luxury rooms with western toilets ([pictures: http://dharmsangh.org.in/](http://dharmsangh.org.in/))

## **WHATS INCLUDED:**

~ Ashram accommodations. Private room with private bathroom. Double and single occupancy available.

~ 3 nutritious meals per day. (Vegetarian / Vegan / Gluten Free)

- ~ Private group Puja
- ~ Snake Charmer experience
- ~ Private group sound healing ceremony
- ~ Private group Kirtan Bhajan
- ~ Several visits to temples and sacred sites
- ~ Lessons with esoteric knowledge and practice.
- ~ Special energy purification class with local sage
- ~ Yoga & meditation classes
- ~ All group excursions and activities (including entry fees)
- ~ Private group transportation
- ~ Unlimited mineral water and snacks
- ~ Customized lesson books specific to our retreat.

## **WHAT IS NOT INCLUDED:**

- ~ Air fare to Varanasi
- ~ Travel Insurance

~ Airport pick up and drop off (but we can help organize it)

~ Visa fee

~ Extracurricular activities (on your free time)

~ Any meals outside of the ashram. (Meals are very affordable all over India.)

## **WHAT WE WILL (LIKELY) SEE**

As planning is still being confirmed, here is a list of the places we will be trying to include in the trip.

- LOLARK KUND (LOLARK SASTHI) - it is believed that the water source of this sacred ancient well comes from the very mysterious underground world of Patal Lok (Patala Loka): <https://kevinstandagephotography.wordpress.com/2020/04/29/lolark-kund-varanasi-banaras-kashi/>
- THE WELL OF SHESHNA - (a portal into the mythical underworld of Patala) - In India, there is still a strong belief in the reality of Nagas - a race of "serpent people" who live in the underground city of Patala, which is also believed to have an entrance in the Well of Sheshna in Varanasi. This entrance is believed to be very real, having 40 descending steps which terminate at a closed stone door covered in sculptured cobras.. ("Patala is believed by millions of Hindus to this day to have an entrance in the Well of Sheshna in Varanasi (Benares). According to herpetologist and author Sherman A. Minton in his book *Venomous Reptiles*, this entrance is very real, having 40 steps which descend into a circular depression and then terminate at a closed stone door covered in bas-relief cobras. In Tibet there is a major mystical shrine, also called Patala, which is said by the people there to sit atop an ancient cavern and tunnel system which reaches throughout the Asian continent and possibly beyond. It is said that 30

feet down at the bottom, is a door that leads to another world, the world of the Naga, the reptile-like semi-divine beings who live below the earth. "The book "VENOMOUS REPTILES" states that "Sheshna's well", an alleged opening into the underground reptilian realm of "Patala", may be seen today in Benares, (Varnasi) India, and according to Minton, it's author: "It has forty steps leading down into a circular depression to a stone door covered with cobras. This is said to lead to PATALA, the reptile netherworld". Every three years, they empty the water and have a very incredible celebration.") In this video, they discuss about the well of Sheshna being the portal into Patala (at 13 minutes 30 seconds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKcKjzRKMBM>

- KRIM KUND - another sacred well - it is believed that bathing in this pool and leaving behind the clothes you bathed in, will remove obstacles from your life - people who come here receive the gift of ashes from the sacred fire (Dhuni)
- DHANWANTARI KOOP - it is believed that the water of this koop (well) contains medicinal herbs and cures diseases
- CHANDRA KOOP ("A Mirror of Life") - located in Sidhieshwari Mata Mandir (temple), it is a mysterious tunnel connecting Mahasahamshan and Ganga. It is believed that if you can see your silhouette in the waters of this well, it means that you will have a long life. If you cannot find your shadow, then it means that your death is near (within 6 months), drinking water from this Koop gives one mental peace and clarity
- SRI LOLARKESHWAR MAHADEV TEMPLE: <https://kevinstandagephotography.wordpress.com/2021/12/06/sri-lolarkeshwar-mahadev-temple-lolark-kund-varanasi-banaras-kashi/>
- KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE - believed to have been built by Lord Shiva himself in his divine plan to bring enlightenment to humanity - It is said that the



one who breathes his last breath in this temple attains freedom from the cycle of reincarnation - The temple is famous for the gold dome and spire, and it is said that if you make a wish after seeing the dome, Lord Shiva fulfils it. - <https://www.krazybutterfly.com/kashi-vishwanath-temple-varanasi/>

- MANIKARNIKA GHAT - one of the most important cremation sites - It is one of the most famous, sacred and oldest ghat in the Varanasi, Manikarnika is the main burning ghat and one of most auspicious places that a Hindu can be cremated.
  - Manikarnika Kund: This is a hidden kund (pond) located near the famous Manikarnika Ghat. It is believed to be a sacred place where Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati took a dip to purify themselves. It is a peaceful place where you can sit and meditate away from the crowds.
  - PANCHGANGA GHAT: This ghat is located at the confluence of five rivers and is considered a sacred place by Hindus. It is believed that a dip in the holy waters of Panchganga Ghat can wash away all sins
- SARNATH - Chaukhandi Stupa + Dhamekh Stupa: these stupas were built by ancient civilizations: <https://traveltriangle.com/blog/things-to-do-in-sarnath/>

#### OTHER MYSTERIOUS PLACES TO VISIT IN VARANASI:

- THE SECRET UNDERGROUND TEMPLE OF VARAHI DEVI (the wrathful goddess):
  - it is said that the wrathful goddess Varahi protects the city from “evil spirits and devilish obstacles”
  - Varahi is a powerful deity associated with Shakti - the primordial cosmic energy
  - she is often regarded as a fierce & protective goddess, symbolizing strength, courage and fearlessness
  - she is believed to have been created by Lord Shiva to assist him in his “cosmic duties”

- KASHI RAJ KALI - Secret Kali Temple - “Hidden Treasure of Varanasi”:
  - <https://www.newsbharati.com/Encyc/2022/3/28/Kashiraj-Kali-Mandir-the-secret-hidden-temple-of-Varanasi.html>
  - <https://www.varanasiguru.com/secret-temple-of-varanasi/>
  - according to the locals, the visible temple is beautifully intricate but “fake” & hiding the real one beside it with many legends about it. It is said that whenever people tried to add a floor or a dome to the original temple, “the wall sunk into the ground”. They tried to add a dome many times but failed so they decided to leave it as it is and instead build another one right in front of it. —> the temple holds a very sacred Shiva lingam (“Shivling”) that is assumed to be highly energetically significant - hence why the temple needed to stay in its original state.
  - Another theory says that the king wanted to hide the real temple from the invaders to secure the Shivling. So, he decided to keep the real Shivling in a small room, and built an extensive piece of art right in front of it. —> Anyone who visits the vicinity, hardly every pays any attention to the other temple, as they get preoccupied with checking the aesthetics of the other one.
  - described as “an oasis of peace in the heart of chaos”
  - this was king’s private temple & served as a private temple for the royal family
  - this intricate temple was built by the king in order to hide the secret Gautameshwar Mahadev Mandir, a small secret temple located just behind it, which contains the sacred Shivling
- MRITYUNJAY MAHADEV TEMPLE - dedicated to Lord Shiva - “A Kashi Temples’ Treasure”:
  - <https://staybanaras.co.in/kashi-temples>
  - Mrityunajay is one of the many names given to Lord Shiva - meaning - “one, who triumphs death” - “The God of Death”

- in existence since times immemorable - ancient marvel of Varanasi
- many anecdotes weave around the miracles of Lord Mrityunjay → it is believed that those who visit the temple get long life free from unnatural or untimely death → people who are afraid of supernatural powers often come here to pray for their safety → people from remote parts of the country come here to perform certain rituals to ward off all supernatural happenings that they do not have control over
- visiting Mrityunjay temple is considered a privilege for the natives
- The temple also boasts of an ancient 'Koop', a magical well whose water is said to have curative powers → There is an ancient well which has much religious importance and it is believed that its water is curable to several diseases and existence of well is huge attraction of devotees as everyone wants to get free of diseases. → It is believed Lord Dhanvantari, god of medicines came here and poured all his medicinal herbs into the well before departing from the mortal world, giving them magical healing properties. Hence the water of the well is believed to have therapeutic properties. Devotees come and take some water believing its sanctity. Dhanvantari is mentioned in many mythical and legendary stories of Indian Culture. He is believed to be the greatest exponent of Ayurveda. He is also believed to be one of 24 incarnations of Lord Vishnu, who appeared on Earth in order to rid the world from illnesses. → There is also a scientific explanation to the therapeutic properties of the well → which is that the well water has several underground streams flowing into it and the chemicals present in the water streams lend it healing properties.

#### KASHI KARVAT TEMPLE - "The Leaning Temple of Varanasi":

- <https://staybanaras.co.in/kashi-temples>
- shrouded in mystery
- the Shiv lingam within the shrine, known as Bhima Shankar, is situated an astounding 25 feet below the ground

- mentioned in the ancient Puranas (scriptures) as “A Site of Mukti” (a site of liberation)
- this shrine holds a special place in Indian mythology —> people from all over the country offer themselves here as a sacrifice to attain salvation / liberation
- located at the banks of the majestic Ganga and built at such a low level that the garbhgriha, or sanctum sanctorum, remains underwater for most of the year
- although the true origins of the temple remain shrouded in mystery, history suggests that it was built 500 years ago for Ratna Bai, the mother of Raja Man Singh, by an unknown servant.

#### KASHI VISHWANATH TEMPLE:

- <https://staybanaras.co.in/varanasi-tourist-places>
- it is said that “one who breathes his last breath in this temple attains freedom from the cycle of reincarnation.”
- the temple is famous for its gold dome and spire, and it is said that if you make a wish after seeing the dome, Lord Vishwanath fulfils it
- Varanasi is renowned as the city of Lord Shiva
- the Kashi Vishwanath Temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas, or temples devoted to Lord Shiva (also known as Vishwanatha or Vishweshwarar, the king of the cosmos - Shiva is the principal deity of the Kashi Vishwanath Temple) —> Jyotirlingas are the most sacred Shivalingas, representing Lord Shiva. Jyoti signifies “light” and linga signifies “mark” —> Jyotirlinga implies the “radiant mark” or “emblem of Lord Shiva”
- the temple's tower boasts an enormous 800 kilograms of gold plating
- The temple had multiple previous iterations. The current edifice, known as the Golden Temple because of the gold plating on its spires and domes, is said to have been established in the 18th century by Ahalya Bai of the Holkar dynasty.
- There are numerous smaller lingams (stylized phallic symbols representing the Lord Shiva) clustered around the main object of worship — the smooth black stone lingam that stands 2 feet (0.6 m) high, 3 feet (0.9 m) in circumference, and sits proudly on a silver pedestal - within the temple compound, which is hidden

behind a wall —> in the courtyard are several smaller shrines with additional lingams and goddess statues

- to the north, an open colonnade houses the Jnana Vapi, or Wisdom Well, whose water is often considered a liquid manifestation of enlightenment
- sacred places in Varanasi such as the Kashi Vishwanath Temple and the Ganges River hold immense spiritual significance for Hindus seeking moksha, and hence devotees from across the world seek to visit Kashi at least once in their lifetime

#### RAMNAGAR FORT

- <https://staybanaras.co.in/varanasi-tourist-places>
- made of red sandstone
- the fort houses two stunning temples and a museum inside its premises —> one temple is devoted to Lord Vishnu, the other to Ved Vyasa, who wrote the epic Mahabharata, approx. 5,000 years ago (one of the longest poems in the world)
- Anant Narayan Singh, known as the Maharaja of Varanasi, currently resides here

#### DHAMEKH STUPA

- <https://staybanaras.co.in/varanasi-tourist-places>
- in Sarnath
- Dhamekh Stupa is of major spiritual significance as this is where Buddha gave his first sermon and revealed the eightfold path to nirvana
- the cylindrical stupa is a remarkable 43 m high and 28 m in diameter —> some of its arched niches might have once contained statues of the Buddha.
- it is believed to have been built in the 6th century BC & expanded under Emperor Ashoka's reign in the 3rd century BC
- there is a small museum upon entrance
- “As you walk around it, a sense of calm & reverence wash over you.” —> this monument is a fascinating place for those seeking spirituality & a glimpse into ancient Indian architecture

#### KANAKA DURGA MANDIR (TEMPLE) - WITH SELF-ARISEN DURGA STATUE:

- <https://www.veenaworld.com/blog/spiritual-places-to-visit-in-varanasi>

- one of the most holy places in Varanasi —> it is believed that the idol of Maa Durga that the temple houses is not a man-made statue but appeared on its own in the campus of the temple
- the temple is the perfect example of the Nagara style architecture, with many multi-tiered spires
- also known as the “Monkey Temple”
- constructed in the 18th Century
- legend says that the temple was built by a Maharani (Queen) from Bengal

#### MAN MANDIR GHAT & OBSERVATORY - “with a majestic view from a stone balcony”

- <https://www.veenaworld.com/blog/spiritual-places-to-visit-in-varanasi>
- constructed in the early 17th Century by Maharaja Mann Singh
- one can view the majestic beauty of the Ganga River from a stone balcony, which is located on the northern side of the ghat
- the ghat also houses an observatory that was built by Sawai Jaisingh II (the founder of Jaipur city) somewhere in 1710 – 1737

#### CHOUSATTI GHAT - with Kali temple:

- <https://www.veenaworld.com/blog/spiritual-places-to-visit-in-varanasi>
- the ghat also comprises of a temple that is devoted to Goddess Kali
- the Chousatti Ghat is famous for being the abode of Madhusudan Sarasvati – the famous Sanskrit scholar
- The ghat is said to be one of its kind also because of the palace that is built near the ghat by King Digbatiya of Champaran from Bihar

#### SHIVALA GHAT - dedicated to Lord Shiva:

- <https://www.veenaworld.com/blog/spiritual-places-to-visit-in-varanasi>
- built by King Balwant Singh and is dedicated to Lord Shiva
- surrounded by mythology and Indian folklore
- offers a magnificent view of the Ganga River and is one of the most perfect photography spots
- a great place to experience the serenity that the city offers while taking an early morning boat ride

- OTHER POTENTIAL PLACES TO VISIT & THINGS TO DO IN VARANASI:
  - concert at “International Music Centre Ashram”
  - or tabla concert at “Music Paradise Hall”

### **EXTRA SERVICE FOR BOTH RETREATS:**

FOR AN EXTRA FEE, IT IS POSSIBLE TO ORDER A PERSONALIZED HAND-MADE BIRTH CHART - “KUNDLI” - DONE BY A TRADITIONAL ASTROLOGER - this chart will say in detail everything about one’s life including past, present and future - very powerful to have in hand - i.e. provides recommendations & warnings for a successful life in all aspects of life - relationships issues, business problems - what is good and bad for you, auspicious times in your life for great opportunities; which personalities to acquaint with and which to avoid, what are your strengths and weaknesses, which is a business for you and which you should avoid; which planet is your primary which is your secondary, which planet is creating problems and how to resolve that; Kundli finds all the problems and gives solutions.

## **Cost to attend the Varanasi Retreat: \$3333**

### **PAYMENT OPTION # 1**

Pay in full \$3333

### **PAYMENT OPTION # 2**

\$500 deposit immediately after acceptance to attend.

Payment Plan

5 Payments of \$580 Due:

May 25, June 25, July 25, August 25, September 25

Totaling \$3400 (Includes financing fee)

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(There is a non-refundable \$500 deposit implemented. Please read the cancellation policy carefully at sign up.)

**\*\*\*It is highly advisable to secure retreat travel insurance. Do your own research and find what works best for you. Some will cover the cost of all your expenses in case of an unexpected cancellation for a reasonable price. Most companies require you to secure the insurance within a timeframe of booking your retreat. I will provide whatever proof of purchase that you require.**

**\*\*\*If you choose to sign up for both retreats, your accommodations, meals, and travel to Varanasi from Rishikesh will be included as a bonus. (October 17 - October 22)**