

Day 1: Arrival & Ghats

Varanasi, India

8:00am

Arrival & settle in

Check into your hotel or guesthouse in the old city near the ghats to be within walking distance of Kashi Vishwanath and Dashashwamedh Ghat; leave luggage and freshen up before heading out. This location reduces walking between attractions and saves time on tuk-tuk transfers.

INR0, 0h30m

9:00am

Breakfast: Brown Bread Bakery or local kachori shop

Start with Brown Bread Bakery for continental options and good coffee, or try a local kachori-bedai cart (popular in old city) for an authentic Banarasi breakfast. Kachori shops open early from ~6:00-9:00am; Brown Bread opens around 8:00am.

INR100, 0h45m

10:00am

Kashi Vishwanath Temple (old city)

Visit the Kashi Vishwanath Temple complex and newly developed corridor area — a central spiritual site of Varanasi; expect crowds and security checks. Typical darshan windows: early morning and evening; mid-day access may be limited so plan for darshan queue times and check current temple timings.

INR0, 1h0m

11:30am

Heritage lanes & shops

Walk the narrow lanes around Vishwanath Gali to see Banarasi silk weaving shops, paan stalls and small temples — great for photos and shopping for sarees and paan souvenirs. Shops generally open by 10:00am.

INR0, 1h30m

1:00pm

Lunch: Deena Chaat Bhandar / Kashi Chaat Bhandar

Enjoy the legendary chaat and street snacks at Deena Chaat Bhandar (or another popular chaat counter); order kachori, tamatar chaat and dahi-vada to sample local flavours. Many chaat stalls open late morning through evening.

INR200, 0h45m

2:00pm

Relax and short siesta / riverfront stroll

Return to the hotel to rest or take a gentle walk along the ghats to absorb the riverside atmosphere before late afternoon activities; gentle pace helps adjust to crowds and heat.

INR0, 1h30m

4:00pm

Boat ride and sunset on the Ganges

Take a boat from Dashashwamedh Ghat for a riverside cruise at sunset to watch life on the ghats and get a water-level view of the temples and cremation ghats. Early evening boat rides typically run from ~5:00pm; sunset rides around 4:30-6:30pm depending on season.

INR600, 1h0m

6:00pm **[Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat](#)**
Attend the spectacular Ganga Aarti ceremony at Dashashwamedh Ghat — arrive 30–45 minutes early to secure a good vantage point; the aarti normally starts at sunset (~6:00–7:00pm) and lasts about 30 minutes but times vary by season.
INR0, 0h45m

8:00pm **[Dinner: Rooftop restaurant near the ghats](#)**
Choose a rooftop restaurant overlooking the river for dinner (try local thali, dal, paneer and river fish if you eat fish); calm riverside views are perfect after the aarti. Most rooftop restaurants are open from early evening until ~10:00–11:00pm.
INR600, 1h0m

Night **[Find The Perfect Hotel in Varanasi, India](#)**
Back to your room for a good rest

Day 2: Sarnath & Museum

Sarnath / Varanasi, India

6:00am **[Sunrise boat \(optional second trip\) or riverside walk](#)**
If you want a quieter sunrise, take an early boat again or a riverside walk near Assi/Dasaswamedh; mornings show daily rituals and fishermen at work. Boats begin as early as 5:00am in peak season.
INR400, 1h0m

8:00am **[Breakfast: local lassi & malaiyo \(seasonal\)](#)**
Try a thick Banarasi lassi at Blue Lassi Shop near Assi Ghat and, in winter months (Nov–Feb), look for malaiyo (a frothy sweet served in the mornings). Most lassi shops open by 7:00–8:00am.
INR150, 0h30m

9:30am **[Day trip to Sarnath — Dhamek Stupa & ruins](#)**
Drive ~10–20 minutes to Sarnath to visit Dhamek Stupa, Chaukhandi Stupa and the archaeological site — a core Buddhist pilgrimage with calm parkland. Sarnath is open in daylight hours; aim to arrive when the site opens (~6:00–7:00am onward).
INR50, 2h0m

11:30am **[Sarnath Museum \(Archaeological Museum\)](#)**
See exquisite Gupta and Mauryan sculptures, Ashoka pillar fragments and the famous Lion Capital; the museum typically opens ~10:00am to 5:00pm (check seasonal hours).
INR200, 1h0m

1:00pm **[Lunch: Local vegetarian restaurant in Sarnath](#)**
Have a relaxed vegetarian thali or simple North Indian lunch at a cafe near Sarnath; options serve travellers and monks visiting the stupa. Cafes near the archaeological park stay open through afternoon hours.
INR300, 0h45m

2:30pm [Tibetan temple & deer park stroll](#)

Visit the Tibetan Buddhist temple complex and stroll the adjacent Deer Park where Buddha first taught; the tranquil grounds are ideal for reflection and photos. Grounds open during daylight hours.

INR0, 1h0m

4:30pm [Return to Varanasi & Bharat Kala Bhavan \(BHU\) if time allows](#)

If energy permits, head to Banaras Hindu University to visit Bharat Kala Bhavan museum for a superb collection of paintings, textiles and sculptures; museum hours are typically 10:00-5:00pm (check for closures).

INR50, 1h0m

7:00pm [Dinner: Try litti chokha / local thali](#)

Sample litti chokha — an authentic Bhojpuri dish — at a recommended local eatery or order a well-prepared thali to experience regional flavours. Many traditional restaurants serve dinner from ~7:00-10:00pm.

INR300, 1h0m

Night [Find The Perfect Hotel in Sarnath / Varanasi, India](#)

Back to your room for a good rest

Day 3: Ramnagar & BHU

Varanasi, India

8:00am [Breakfast: Brown Bread Bakery / hotel](#)

Fuel up with a relaxed breakfast at Brown Bread Bakery or your hotel before heading out — good for travellers who prefer continental or lighter morning fare.

INR200, 0h45m

9:30am [Ramnagar Fort & Museum](#)

Drive to Ramnagar Fort on the eastern riverbank to explore the palace museum (armoury, vintage cars, traditional costumes) and climb the ramparts for river views; the fort museum generally opens around 10:00am and closes by 5:00pm.

INR100, 2h0m

12:00pm [Walk markets & lunch near Chowk](#)

Return to the old city, wander Chowk markets and choose a local restaurant for a relaxed lunch; explore shops selling Banarasi paan, sweets and brassware. Markets are open most of the day; pick a quiet mid-day time to avoid crowds.

INR300, 1h30m

2:30pm [Bharat Kala Bhavan \(if skipped earlier\) & BHU campus walk](#)

Explore the BHU campus and visit Bharat Kala Bhavan's collection of Indian art, textiles and rare manuscripts; perfect for museum lovers — opening hours usually 10:00-5:00pm (confirm and note any closures).

INR50, 1h30m

- 4:30pm** [Heritage walking tour or bicycle rickshaw tour](#)
Take a guided heritage walk through narrow lanes, ghats and lesser-known temples or hire a cycle-rickshaw for a short guided tour; many operators run tours in the late afternoon for cooler temperatures.
INR400, 1h30m
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- 7:00pm** [Classical music or tabla performance \(subject to schedule\)](#)
Attend a local classical music recital or a tabla/sitar performance at a cultural centre or a hotel — Varanasi is a living classical-music city, but shows vary by festival season, so check schedules in advance.
INR500, 1h30m
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- 9:00pm** [Dinner: Rooftop or heritage restaurant](#)
Relax over dinner at a heritage restaurant or rooftop with local specialities (dal-puri, paneer dishes, kebabs); many good places stay open until 10:30-11:00pm.
INR700, 1h30m
-
- Night** [Find The Perfect Hotel in Varanasi, India](#)
Back to your room for a good rest

Day 4: Old City Immersion

Varanasi, India

- 6:00am** [Sunrise: Boat ride to Manikarnika/Harishchandra area \(observational\)](#)
Take an early boat to observe life on the ghats and respectfully view the cremation ghats from the river — be discreet and adhere to local customs; the ghats operate 24/7, so mornings are active but respectful behaviour is essential.
INR400, 1h0m
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- 8:00am** [Breakfast: street-style bedai & jalebi](#)
Try bedai with spicy potato curry and jalebi at a popular street stall near the ghats for a true local breakfast experience; most stalls open early morning.
INR80, 0h30m
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- 9:30am** [Guided food & lane walk: Old city](#)
Join a guided food tour that navigates the alleys, introducing sweets, paan, chaat, silk workshops and temples — a hands-on way to taste the best local bites and learn history. Tours usually run mid-morning and last 2-3 hours.
INR800, 2h30m
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- 12:30pm** [Lunch: Thali at a recommended vegetarian restaurant](#)
Enjoy a varied thali to sample many local dishes (dal, sabzi, rice, breads and dessert) at a reputable vegetarian spot in the old city. Restaurants typically serve lunch 12:00-3:00pm.
INR350, 0h45m

2:00pm

[Silk weaving workshop visit & shopping](#)

Visit a Banarasi saree workshop to see weaving techniques and shop for handloom silk — excellent for buying quality souvenirs and learning the craft; workshops usually operate during business hours (10:00-18:00).

INR0, 1h30m

4:00pm

[Free time / optional spa or ayurvedic massage](#)

Take free time to rest or book a short ayurvedic massage to recover from walking; reputable parlours operate in the afternoon and evening — confirm appointments ahead.

INR1000, 1h0m

6:30pm

[Evening: Assi Ghat & small aarti](#)

Head to Assi Ghat for a calmer evening aarti experience and to mingle with locals and students from BHU; Assi aarti usually takes place around sunset and is less crowded than Dashashwamedh.

INR0, 0h45m

8:30pm

[Dinner: Try river-side café or famous lassi/dessert stands](#)

Finish with a relaxed dinner at a riverside café or sample local sweetmeats and a final lassi from a renowned stall; many cafés open until late evening.

INR500, 1h0m

Night

[Find The Perfect Hotel in Varanasi, India](#)

Back to your room for a good rest

Day 5: Final Sunrise & Day Trips

Varanasi, India

5:30am

[Final sunrise boat or optional kayak adventure](#)

Book a final sunrise boat or an organised kayak session on the Ganges for a more active experience; operators start early (from ~5:00-6:00am) and runs last 60-90 minutes. Kayaking availability varies—reserve in advance.

INR800, 1h0m

8:00am

[Breakfast: Blue Lassi Shop or hotel](#)

Enjoy one last indulgent lassi and some light snacks before packing up and checking out; lassi shops open early and are perfect for a quick, flavourful start.

INR150, 0h30m

9:30am

[Optional day trip: Chunar Fort or Vindhyachal \(adventure & history\)](#)

If you're keen on a concluding adventure outside the city, take a half-day trip to Chunar Fort (35-45 km) for rugged fort walls and river views, or Vindhyachal (approx 70 km) for a pilgrimage and hillside vistas; both require a hired car and half to full day. Check opening times for Chunar Fort (usually day time hours).

INR2000, 4h0m

2:00pm [Last-minute shopping and packing](#)

Return to the city for last-minute shopping (silk, paan, brassware) and to pack — pick up any souvenirs you've eyed earlier along Vishwanath Gali or Chowk. Shops are open through afternoon hours.

INR0, 1h30m

4:00pm [Late lunch / early dinner: favourite repeat or rooftop farewell](#)

Have one final meal at a favourite place you discovered (repeat a must-try) or choose a rooftop with a Ganges view for a leisurely farewell dinner; many restaurants remain open until 9:30-11:00pm.

INR600, 1h0m

6:00pm [Depart Varanasi](#)

Head to the station or airport for onward travel; leave with time buffers for traffic and local transit. Book transfers ahead if you have an evening departure.

INR0, 0h30m

Night [Find The Perfect Hotel in Varanasi, India](#)

Back to your room for a good rest
