



GANGA VILAS

Varanasi

Special Cruise

2 NIGHTS / 3 DAYS

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Varanasi

Special Cruise



CRUISE DATES

OCTOBER 2023 — OCT 23 | OCT 25 | OCT 30

NOVEMBER 2023 — NOV 1 | NOV 6 | NOV 8

NOV 13 | NOV 15 | NOV 20 | NOV 22

DURATION: **2 NIGHTS / 3 DAYS**

Varanasi, known variously as *Banaras* and *Kashi*, is considered the holiest city in Hinduism and Jainism. It also played an important role in the development of Buddhism. Hindus believe that death in this city will bring salvation, making it a major centre for pilgrimage.

The city is known worldwide for its many Ghats, which are embankments made in steps of stone slabs along the river bank where pilgrims perform ritual ablutions.

This 4-days program gives an insight into the cultural heritage of Varanasi.



DAY 1

Arrive Varanasi — Embarkation (L/D)

EMBARKATION TIME — 12:30 HRS

Arrival in Varanasi and transfer to the **Ravidas Ghat** for embarkation. Welcome onboard and enjoy lunch, followed by Safety Briefing.

In the evening ride the country boat to the **Dashashwamedh Ghat** to see the *Ganga Aarti* ritual, performed by a group of priests lined up on the riverbank chanting mantras and performing the prayer ritual with lamps, incense, bells and traditional Hindu instruments to honor the river. Thousands of devotees throng the riverbank to participate in the ceremony every evening.

Welcome Dinner.

Overnight onboard Ganga Vilas.

DAY 2

Varanasi — Ghats, Temples & Sarnath (B/L/D)

After breakfast visit the ghats and temples along the river. Stroll in the **Vishwanath Gali** (street), and experience the hustle and bustle of devotees and roadside vendors.



Visit the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** for offering prayers to Lord Shiva, the presiding deity of the city.

Return to the ship for lunch. Thereafter, disembark and drive to visit **Sarnath** the seat where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment in Bodhgaya. The Archaeological Museum here contains a large collection of sculptures that stand testimony to the fervent artistic and religious activity for more than a thousand years. Visit the local bazaar for shopping the famous *banarasi* silk, muslin, perfumes, and other handicrafts that Varanasi is famous for.

Overnight onboard Ganga Vilas.

DAY 3

Varanasi — Disembarkation (B)

DISEMBARKATION TIME — 09:00 HRS

Disembark the ship after breakfast and transfer for your onward journey.





IMPORTANT NOTE

The itinerary may be readjusted due to local conditions and days of the week, in order to avoid closure of monuments/museums. Last minute sailing adjustments may also occur. The schedule may shift due to the weather or to take advantage of unexpected opportunities. The exact time for each activity will be announced or posted by the onboard tour staff.

The letters in parentheses denote the meals provided that day.

B = Breakfast

L = Lunch

D = Dinner

Due to the location on the Ghats and proximity to the holy Ganges, non-vegetarian food and alcoholic beverages are not served onboard.

As per government regulations satellite phones and drone cameras are not allowed in Varanasi. Please ensure these regulations are followed.



INDIRA BANERJEE

indira@antaracruises.com

+91 85277 36321

www.antaracruises.com