

Ganga: Dramatic and Divine

3 Days / 2 Nights

Delhi 00 – Rishikesh 02 - Delhi 00

26 Sept 2019 (Thursday) Day 1: Arrive at Rishikesh |

05.40am: Today morning after early breakfast & checkout from your hotel and transfer to New Delhi railway station by air-conditioned car to catch the train for **Haridwar**.

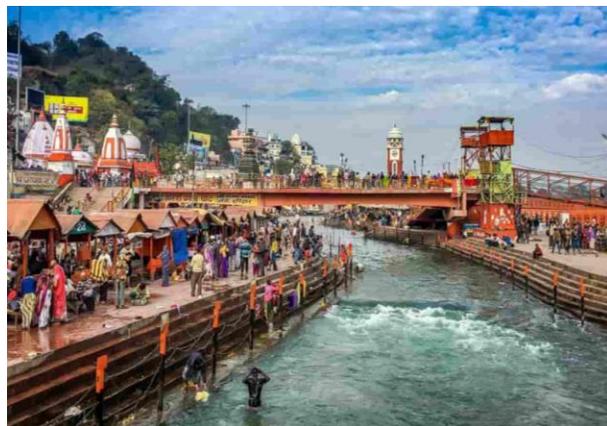
06.45am Depart NEW DELHI on Train 12017 Dehradun Shatabdi Express (or similar)

11.30.am Arrive HARIDWAR

Meet / Greet on arrival & then you will be picked up from Haridwar railway for transfer to Bull's Retreat. Wash and change followed by lunch at Bull's Bistro, at their multi-cuisine restaurant. Relax for the afternoon and later in the evening, head out for a walk to the Himalayan beach where you can try your hands at some kayaking with evening tea by the Ganga. Return in time for munchies and then a buffet dinner. Turn in for the night to rest as early – tomorrow will be a 'divinely' long day!



Overnight: In Rishikesh



27 Sept 2019 (Friday) Day 2: Morning Walk | Full Day at Haridwar and Rishikesh

An early morning walk is the perfect way to start Day 2 of this amazing experience. The short **20 min walk** takes you up to a viewpoint from where you can see mother Ganga in all her glory! Have your morning tea here while you gaze at the river and the mountains beyond and then make your way back for a quick shower. After breakfast, you'll visit the holy cities of **Rishikesh and Haridwar**. Head to Haridwar, just 43 KM from Bull's Retreat. It should take you

around 1 Hr:30 Min to get there. Regarded as one of the seven holiest places to Hindus, it is here that the sacred Ganga first enters the Indo Gangetic Plain after it descends from Gaumukh at the edge of the Gangotri glacier. Every sect of Hinduism has an **ashram** in Haridwar. Aside from many **temples and ashrams**, Haridwar is a renowned centre for yoga, meditation, ayurvedic, and astrology. It is also the town where many Hindu families come to register births, deaths, and

marriages in ancient genealogical registers which span the centuries! Explore the busy town that's a melee of sights and sounds – all your sensory organs will come into play here! It's a good place to have lunch at one of the local eating joints that this ancient town is known for. (Warning: Haridwar is a vegetarian town). Rishikesh is 25 KM drive from Haridwar and since it is in the foothills of the Himalayas in northern India it is often known as the *Gateway to the Garhwal Himalayas*. It is also often referred to as the "Yoga capital of the world". Rishikesh town is an amazing combination of fresh mountain air, a torrential river and all the signs and symbols of a sacred India town. Temple bells ring incessantly, incense wafts in the breeze and yogis are everywhere to be seen. Your guide will take you around this ancient town, across the **Lakshman Jhula** (a pedestrian bridge that crosses the Ganga) and into its busy by-lanes where cafes on both sides face the river – a beautiful spot to sit and just take in the kaleidoscope of colours around you! After some hot *chai*, tour around Rishikesh, which became famous in the west in 1968 when the Beatles visited the Maharishi Mahesh ashram – now widely known as the Beatles ashram. Although it is no longer in use, it's still widely visited. A walk through the ashram, gazing at its graffiti-filled walls, down forest paths is quite a surreal experience. Rishikesh is home to many active ashrams and temples, and every evening the Ganga aarti is attended by the faithful and the curious. Just a 5 min drive from the Beatles Ashram, the aarti begins around dusk with singing, prayers, and a purifying ritual around a fire. Offerings are made to the fire God, then the lamps are lit and placed with flowers in a small vessel (diya), and floated down the river, giving blessings to Mother Ganga. It's the perfect way to end an evening that combines ancient history, rich cultural traditions, and pop culture. After the aarti, drive back to Bull's Retreat. Hot cups of tea and dinner await as rewards of a day well spent !



Overnight: In Rishikesh



28 Sept 2019 (Saturday) Day 3: Morning Yoga | Ganga Zipline | - Haridwar Railway Station

Departure Start the day with a **Yoga session**. Our Yoga guru comes especially from Rishikesh and he will take you through a series of Yoga forms and stretches in the gardens of Bull's Retreat – greet the sun, welcome the day, and be energized! After breakfast, it's time to head to the **Ganga Zipline with Flying Fox**. This is where you fly across the Ganga – yes, right across the river Ganga! Two

sensational zip lines up to 400m long catapult you across the river with unbelievable views of the Himalayan foothills, the mighty Ganga, and the rafts floating 75 metres below! You will soar 250 ft high above the river - a phenomenal experience! Come back to Bull's Retreat for lunch and then it's time to bid farewell to the Ganges and head to Haridwar Railway Station with Departure transfer for your return Train to Delhi

18.10.pm Depart **HARIDWAR** on Train **12018 Dehradun Shatabdi Express (or similar)**
22.50.pm Arrive **NEW DELHI**

Upon arrival in New Delhi railway station you will be met and transferred to Delhi international airport for your onward journey. *-bon voyage-*