



**Chananda,  
chief of the Indian  
council of the Great  
White Brotherhood**

## **INDIA PILGRIMAGE ITINERARY**

October 14-24, 2008 Pilgrimage with Harvest Conference  
October 24-29 Meditation Retreat Extension

**Tuesday, Oct. 14 DEPART FOR INDIA!**

**DAY 01 Oct. 15 ARRIVE NEW DELHI**

Most of us will be arriving in the evening in New Delhi. We'll be met at the airport and driven to our hotel (breakfast & dinner are provided at this hotel). Within minutes of our hotel is one of the most glamorous shopping areas in the heart of the city, Connaught Place



**DAY 02 Oct. 16 DELHI**



Swaminarayan Akshardham complex was built in only five years through the colossal devotional efforts of 11,000 artisans and volunteers. The complex was inaugurated in November, 2005.

Akshardham means the eternal, divine abode of the supreme God, the abode of eternal values and virtues of Akshar as defined in the Vedas and Upanishads where divine bhakti, purity and peace forever pervades.

After a late breakfast, we will begin our Harvest Conference in the hotel meeting room. After lunch on our own, we will board our deluxe coach and drive for about 1 - 1 ½ hours to reach Akshardham Mandir.

This complex epitomizes 10,000 years of Indian culture in all its breathtaking grandeur, beauty, wisdom and bliss. It brilliantly showcases the essence of India's ancient architecture, traditions and timeless spiritual messages. The Akshardham experience is an enlightening journey through India's glorious art, values and contributions for the progress, happiness and harmony of mankind. The grand, ancient-styled



After we visit Akshardham we will visit India Gate and the Presidential Palace on the way back to our hotel for dinner and time for shopping for Indian attire.



**DAY 03 Oct. 17 DELHI - AGRA by bus (5 hour drive)**

Morning—Harvest conference in the meeting room. After an early lunch, we depart for Agra. While enroute to Agra we visit the ISKCON Temple and enjoy tea/coffee or a light snack at Govinda's Restaurant within the ISKCON Temple. Thereafter, we attend the evening *arati*, which starts around 5:15 p.m. After dinner at a nearby restaurant, we continue our journey to Agra and check into our five star hotel (all meals included).



**DAY 04 Oct. 18 IN AGRA**



The Harvest Conference continues in the meeting room. After an early lunch, we proceed to *Fatehpur Sikri* (the abandoned city of the Moghul Emperor Akbar). Enroute to *Fatehpur Sikri*, we visit *Sikandra* (Tomb of Emperor Akbar ). We return to our hotel for dinner.



*Akbar the Great (1542-1605) was an embodiment of El Morya. He was a leader of the Moghul empire in India and the greatest of its rulers. He ended discrimination of Hindus during his reign and accepted them into government on an equal basis with the Muslims. The policies he initiated were considered the most enlightened of his time.*



**DAY 05 Oct. 19 AGRA – DELHI by bus (5:00 hours) – VARANASI (Benares) by overnight train)**

We have an early morning wake up to see the world famous Taj Mahal at sunrise! The Taj Mahal looks its best at sunrise. Thereafter we visit the magnificent Agra Fort, returning to our hotel for breakfast. We then check out of our hotel and proceed to Delhi. Lunch will be enroute. As time permits, the plan is to visit *Humayun's Tomb* or a Sikh Temple en-route to New Delhi Railway Station. There we connect to our overnight train to Varanasi; traveling in 2 Tier AC Sleeper Class. A packed meal or fruits will be carried on board the train for our dinner.





*The Taj Mahal was constructed by the Mogul emperor Shah Jahan (1592-1666), an embodiment of Kuthumi. Shah Jahan overthrew the corrupt government of his father and restored in part the noble ethics of his grandfather Akbar the Great. It is said that during his enlightened reign, the grandeur of the Moghul court reached its highest point bringing India into a golden age of art and architecture. Shah Jahan lavished the imperial treasury on the arts, including music, paintings and the construction of the most incredible monuments, mosques, public buildings and thrones*

*throughout the nation. Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal as a tomb for his wife who ruled by his side almost as an equal and died giving birth to their fourteenth child. As a symbol of the Mother principle, the Taj Mahal celebrates Shah Jahan's eternal love for his wife.*

## **DAY 06 Oct. 20 ARRIVE VARANASI**

We arrive in Varanasi around 7:30 a.m. and transfer to and check into our five-star hotel (all meals included). After breakfast, we continue the Harvest conference in the hotel meeting room. After lunch, we visit Sarnath, where Gautama Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment at Bodhgaya. We then tour the ancient ruins of a massive monastery, which existed there and was destroyed by the Islamic invader *Bakhtiyar Khilji*. From there we visit the *Dhammek Stupa*, museum and the Sri Lankan Temple. We return to our hotel for dinner.



*In his first sermon Gautama revealed the key discoveries of his quest: the Four Noble Truths, the Eightfold path and the Middle Way. For forty-five years Gautama walked the dusty roads of this part of India preaching the Dharma. This led to the foundation of Buddhism.*



**DAY 07 Oct. 21 IN VARANASI**



We have another early morning wake up—this time to experience sunrise on the Ganges by boat. On our way back to the hotel for breakfast we visit the *Manikarnika Ghat* and *Kashi Vishwanath Temple* (Golden Temple). After breakfast, we continue with the Harvest Conference in the hotel’s meeting room. After lunch, we’re off to visit various temples in Varanasi; such as *Sankat Mochan*, *Durga Temple*, *Bharat Mata Temple* and *B.H.U. Vishwanath Temple*. In the evening we again visit the Ganges to witness the evening *aarti* by boat.

**DAY 08 Oct. 22 IN VARANASI**

The Harvest Conference continues in the morning. After lunch, we enjoy a Lane Tour through the oldest parts of the eternal city of Varanasi. It’s very interesting. We may even have time to visit a Silk Factory to buy the famous Varanasi silks. After dinner we enjoy an Indian classical music concert arranged specially for our group.



**DAY 09 Oct. 23 FLY VARANASI – NEW DELHI**

It’s a morning session in the hotel meeting room with our hotel check out around noon. We then proceed to the Varanasi Airport to board our flight to Delhi. On our arrival in Delhi, it’s a farewell dinner at a special restaurant and finally a transfer to the international airport for those heading home.

***HARIDWAR – RISHIKESH EXTENSION***  
**Meditation Retreat with Lord Himalaya**

**DAY 09 Oct. 23 FLY VARANASI – DELHI**

On arrival in Delhi we transfer to our hotel (TBD— participation in the farewell dinner). After dinner at the hotel there will be time for shopping or leisure. Shopping in Delhi is always absolute fun as nothing seems to be unavailable in the bustling streets of Delhi markets.





**DAY 10 Oct. 24 NEW DELHI – HARIDWAR**

**by train (2 hours 20 minutes)  
Bus to RESHIKESH (45 minutes)**



We will have an early morning wake up and transfer at 5:30 a.m. to New Delhi Railway Station to connect with the express train to Haridwar. Breakfast will be served on board the train. On arrival in Haridwar, we will transfer to our bus for the drive to our beautiful Rishikesh hotel (all meals included) overlooking the Ganges. After lunch we will have a sightseeing tour of Ram Jhoola, where we will visit various temples and ashrams; and, in the evening we will witness the choreographed aarti (worship) of the Holy Mother Ganges at Parmarth Niketan. We will have time for sacred shopping and then return to our hotel for dinner.

**DAY 11 Oct. 25 IN RISHIKESH**

We will have an early morning wake up and proceed with a “packed breakfast” for a 1 ½ hour uphill drive to the hill top temple of Kunja Puri Devi. Yogis come here to chant and imbibe the power which emanates from this Shakti Peetha. One can experience immense silence here and enjoy views of the snow clad peaks of the mighty Himalayas on the horizon from this hill top. After visiting this temple, we will have our breakfast as we enjoy the incredible views of the mighty Himalayas, the immense quiet of our surroundings and the opportunity to commune with the masters.

Thereafter, we proceed for a visit to Rishi Vasishtha’s Cave. About a one hour drive from our hotel and hidden from the eyes of most, there exists a small ashram in a forested gorge with the clear waters of the Holy Ganges flowing nearby. It is here that the great Sage Guru Vasishtha meditated for countless years approximately 10,000 years ago. He was only known to a select few among the yogis till Swami Vishuddhananda started receiving selected disciples for initiation in this cave. It has been said that One can experience immense bliss and inner quietude when one sits down for meditation in this ancient, yet very clean cave. Outside is a small ashram where a swami lives with a few other disciples. A short walk on the sands and one can reach the Holy Ganges in all its splendor.



Quite close to the Cave is located a very beautiful resort hotel called the Glasshouse on The Ganges. We will proceed to this resort for lunch and enjoy the beautiful gardens with the Ganges flowing nearby. Thereafter, we proceed back to our hotel for dinner and our meditation retreat.

**DAY 12 Oct. 26 IN RISHIKESH**



After breakfast, we will proceed to the River Rafting Point, which is about a 45 minutes drive. Around 9:30 a.m. we will begin start an exhilarating experience of white water rafting on the Ganges! This rafting session will last about 2 ½ - 3 Hours. We will then return to our hotel for lunch and the meditation retreat. After dinner there may be time to enjoy some sacred shopping.

**DAY 13 Oct. 27 RISHIKESH – HARIDWAR by bus (45 minute drive)**

After meditation and breakfast, we will check out of our hotel and proceed to Haridwar. On arrival, we will visit an incredible ashram which reflects what India used to be like in the Vedic times. This ashram has amazingly beautiful temples dedicated mainly to Lord Rama and Lord Hanuman, though there are also temples to the other forms of the lord too. The place is extremely clean, relying on voluntary caretakers. This ashram does not employ anyone, except for the guard manning the gate. All workers here are volunteers. The ashram has a Go-Shala (Cow Shed), where hundreds of homeless, sick and destitute cows are brought and nursed to health. Their milk is not sold but given free of cost as Prasad (consecrated food) to anyone who comes to the ashram. It's truly an island of peace in the otherwise tacky and somewhat commercial spirituality around it. It has been said that an enlightened master presides over the ashram who generally does not meet with visitors to the ashram.







Haridwar, Uttaranchal  
Photography by Seth Lazar

Thereafter, we will proceed to and check into our hotel (all meals included). Our meditation Retreat continues after lunch. In the late afternoon proceed to Har Ki Pauri, which is a holy spot on the Ganges, where from time immemorial the evening aarti (worship) of Mother Ganga takes place everyday just before sunset. The bells and the fire lamps make this a very touching, uplifting and an enchanting ceremony. We will have time to browse around the marketplace before the beginning of the evening aarti. We then return to your hotel for dinner, the meditation retreat and some leisure time.

#### **DAY 14 Oct. 28 HARIDWAR –NEW DELHI (by train 3:00 hours)**

We have an early morning hotel check out (5:00 a.m.). At 5:30 a.m. we will proceed to Haridwar Train Station to be on time to board the train leaving for New Delhi. We will travel by air-conditioned chair car class. A packed breakfast from the hotel will be carried for the journey. On arrival in New Delhi, we transfer to our hotel, where rooms will be ready for us. As this is a short daytime use of the hotel rooms, three persons will be accommodated in each room. We will be able to retain the rooms until check out. After a special farewell dinner, we will transfer to the International airport for our flight home.

