

VAISHNO DEVI PACKAGE TOUR-2011

JAMMU – KATRA – AMRITSAR – WAGAH BORDER – KURUKSHETRA – DELHI.

Tour Code No.	Duration	Starting Date	Charge per head
14 NI B	6 Days	Feb 11, Mar 19, Apr 6,13 May 11,18 Jun 8,22 Aug 10,24 Sep 7,21 Oct 5,19 Nov.2	Rs.9500/- <i>Including Food</i>

- Day 01 :** Pick up from Delhi Airport/ Railway Station , freshen up and Journey to Katra by road
- Day 02 :** Arrival in Katra ; fresh up and journey for Vaishno Devi Darsan . N/R KATRA Hotel.(14 Km trekking or travel by pony / Helicopter)
- Day 03 :** Journey to Jammu , Jammu local sightseeing .N/R in JAMMU
- Day 04 :** 6:00 am journey to Amritsar. Wagah Border. , Golden temple Jallianwala Bagh. N/R in AMRITSAR.
- Day 05 :** Journey to Kurukshetra. N/R in DELHI.
- Day 06 :** Drop at Railway Station

*NR – Night Rest

Terms& Condition

1. 50% Reduction in the charge for Children between the age of 5 and 11yrs
2. Cost of Entry Tickets wherever required for sight seeing do not come under the total tour charge
3. Cost of Vegetarian Delicious food is included in the tour charge
4. Accommodation charge in Good Double Rooms on twin sharing basis at all places of stay is included in the Tour Charge.

5. Cost of Road Transportation in good condition vehicle (depending upon the number of passengers) is included in the Tour Charge.
6. Guide Services is included in the Tours Charges
7. Company's representative as Tour Manager will accompany the journey from beginning to end .
8. Booking: - Advance of Rs.2,000/- to be remitted 60 days prior to the date of journey and balance amount is to be remitted 5 days before the Tour starting date. Remittance may be made through the company's Bank account (details below)
9. Cancellation : - 50 % of the advance amount will be lost against cancellation not received before 30 days of the tour starting dates. Cancellations received thereafter will not be eligible for refund.
10. If the journey is blocked /diverted/ cancelled for reasons beyond our control such as Road Bandh, Train Delay Strike, Natural Calamities, (Earth Quake, Flood, Cyclone, Tsunami etc) the Company will not allow any refund.

**Name of the Bank : Axis Bank Ltd., Calicut,
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Jammu

Jammu, also known as **Duggar**, is one of the three administrative divisions within [Jammu and Kashmir](#), the northernmost [state](#) in [India](#). [Jammu city](#) is the largest city in Jammu and the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir. Jammu City is also known as "City of Temples" as it has many temples and [shrines](#), with glittering *shikhars* soaring into the sky creating the ambiance of a holy and peaceful Hindu city.

Home to some of the most popular [Hindu](#) shrines, such as [Vaishno Devi](#), Jammu is a [pilgrimage](#) destination in India.



Raghunath Temple

Jammu region is adjacent to Kashmir valley (Bordered in brown).

During the partition of India the ruler was Maharaja Hari Singh and he along with all the other princes was given the choice according to the instruments of partition of India in 1947, to freely accede to either India or Pakistan, or to remain independent. The princes were however advised to accede to the contiguous dominion, taking into consideration the geographical and ethnic issues.

Ethnically, Jammu is largely Dogra, which group constitutes approximately 67% of the population. There is also a sizable population of [Punjabi](#) descent, most of them being [Hindus](#) and [Sikhs](#).

Jammu is the only region in the state of Jammu and Kashmir that has a [Hindu](#) majority population - 65% of Jammu's population practice [Hinduism](#), 30% practice [Islam](#) and most of the remainder are [Sikhs](#).

Places of interest

Jammu is known for its landscape, ancient temples, [Hindu](#) shrines, [Amar Mahal Palace](#) (a castle type) now a Museum, [gardens](#) and [forts](#). [Hindu](#) holy shrines of [Amarnath](#) and Vaishno Devi attracts tens of thousands of Hindu devotees every year. Jammu's beautiful natural landscape has made it one of the most favoured destinations for adventure tourism ^{[4][4]} in [South Asia](#). Jammu's historic monuments feature a unique blend of Islamic and [Hindu](#) architecture styles.

Purmandal

Purmandal, also known as *Chhota Kashi*, is located 35 km from Jammu city. An ancient holy place, it has several temples of [Shiva](#) and other deities. On [Shivratri](#), the town wears a festive look and for three days as people celebrate the marriage of Lord Shiva to Goddess [Parvati](#).

Vaishno Devi shrine



The [Vaishno Devi shrine](#) attracts millions of Hindu devotees every year

The town of [Katra](#), which is close to Jammu, contains the [Vaishno Devi](#) shrine. Nestling on top of the [Triukuta Hills](#) at a height of 1700 m is the sacred cave shrine of Vaishno Devi, the mother [goddess](#). At a distance of 48 km from Jammu, the cave is 30 m long and just 1.5 m high. At the end of the cave are shrines dedicated to the three forms of the mother goddess—[Mahakali](#), [Mahalakshmi](#) and [Mahasarasvati](#). [Pilgrims](#) start trekking to the cave temple, which is 13 km from Katra, enter in small groups through a narrow opening and walk through ice-cold waters to reach the shrines. According to legend, the mother goddess hid in the cave while escaping a demon whom she ultimately killed.

DELHI

Delhi is the largest metropolis by area and second largest city in India by population. It is also the capital of the Indian Union. The greater Capital Region also includes Noida, Greater Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurgaon and Faridabad. Located on the bank of River Yamuna, Delhi has been known to be continuously inhabited since at least the 6th century B.C. Delhi is also widely believed to have been site of INDRAPARASTHA, the legendary capital of Pandavas. Delhi had many ancient and medieval monuments, archaeological sites and remains. Under the British Raj, a new City called New Delhi was built to the south of old City during the 1920s and that became the capital for British rulers. After independence New Delhi was declared as Free India's capital and the seat of the government.

Owing to the migration of people from across the country, Delhi has grown to be a multicultural, cosmopolitan metropolis and the city became a major cultural, political and commercial centre of India.

The following sites are worth visiting in Delhi.

Qutub Minar

Towering over southern Delhi, the Qutub Minar—a triumphal minaret that marks both the coming of Islam to India and the arrival of Delhi sultans—is one of the world's tallest brick minarets, standing at a height of 73 meters. Construction of the five-tiered tower (adorned with intricate carvings and verses from the Qur'an) is said to have begun in 1193.

Red Fort

Lal Qila, also known as the Red Fort, was built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in the mid-17th century in the heart of Old Delhi (Shahjahanabad) to commemorate his shift in the capital from Agra to Delhi. Today, the Red Fort is UNESCO Heritage site, a symbol of India's sovereignty and the world's largest non-functional fort.

Jama Masjid

Yet another magnificent structure built by emperor

Shan Jahan, the Masjid-i-Jahan Numa, also known as the Jama Masjid is India's largest and best known mosque. With three main domes, a couple of minarets (over 40 meters in height) and a courtyard that can hold 25,000 worshippers; is it any wonder that it holds mass appeal?

Rashtrapati Bhavan

Once the viceroy's residence and now home to the Indian President, the marvellous Rashtrapati Bhavan is Sir Edwin Lutyen's masterpiece, simply because it uniquely fuses both Indian and European design aesthetics.

Parliament House

The mammoth Sansad Bhavan, as it is more commonly known, is a distinctively regal, circular building that was meant to serve as the Legislative Assembly but is now the seat of the Indian Parliament (for both the Lok Sabha; House on the People, and the Rajya Sabha; Council of States).

Rajpath

Rajpath runs east to west, right through the heart of Delhi, from Rashtrapati Bhavan to the National Stadium, this is truly one of India's grandest boulevards. Must-see: India Gate, a 42 meter high memorial arch bearing the names of 80,000 (plus) Indian soldiers who died in World War I and the Afghan Wars.

Kurukshetra

Kurukshetra is a land of historical importance. Historically the land belonged to Punjab However now it is now in the State of [Haryana](#) of the Indian Union. It is a holy place and is also known as **Dharmakshetra** ("Holy City"). According to the Puranas, Kurukshetra is named after King Kuru, the ancestor of Kauravas and Pandavas, as depicted in the epic [Mahabharata](#). The importance of the place is attributed to the fact that the [Kurukshetra War](#) of the [Mahabharata](#) was fought on this land and the [Bhagavad Gita](#) was preached on this land during the war when Lord Krishna found Arjuna in a terrible dilemma.

Thaneswar or [Sthaneswar](#) is a historical town located adjacent to what is now the newly created Kurukshetra city. Thanesar derives its name from the word "Sthaneshwar", which means "Place of God". The Sthaneshwar Mahadev Temple, whose presiding deity is Lord Shiva, is believed to be the oldest temple in the vicinity. Local hearsay identifies the legendary "Kurukshetra" with a nearby place known as [Thanesar](#). A few kilometers from Kurukshetra is the village known as [Amin](#), where there are remnants of a fort which is believed to be [Abhimanyu](#)'s fort.

In some ancient Hindu texts, the boundaries of Kurukshetra correspond roughly to the state of Haryana. Thus according to the [Taittiriya Aranyaka](#) the Kurukshetra region is south of Turghna (Srughna/Sugh in [Sirhind](#), Punjab), north of Khandava (Delhi and [Mewat](#) region), east of Maru (desert) and west of Parin.^[3]

The [Vamana Purana](#) tells how King Kuru came to settle on this land. He chose this land at the banks of [Sarasvati River](#) for embedding spirituality with 8 virtues: austerity ([tapas](#)), truth ([satya](#)), forgiveness (kshama), kindness ([daya](#)), purity ([sucha](#)), charity ([dana](#)), [yagya](#) and [brahmacharya](#). Lord [Vishnu](#) was impressed with the act of King Kuru and blessed him. God gave him two boons, one that this land forever will be known as a Holy Land after his name as Kurukshetra (the land of Kuru) and the other that anyone dying on this land will be going to heaven. The land of Kurukshetra was situated between two rivers — the Sarasvati and the Drishadvati.

This land has been known as Uttravedi, Brahmavedi, Dharamkshetra and Kurukshetra at different periods. When King Kuru came on this land it was called Uttarvedi. Over the period this land has been ruled by many empires. The Bharata Dynasty came and settled on this land.

Later the Battle of [Mahabharata](#) was fought on this land, during which Lord [Krishna](#) preached [Bhagavad Gita](#) to [Arjuna](#).

It reached the zenith of its progress during the reign of King [Harsha](#), during which [Chinese](#) scholar [Hieun Tsang](#) visited this land at [Thanesar](#). By the archaeological grounds it has been proved that [Ashoka](#) the Great made Kurukshetra a centre of learning for people from all over the world.

Places of interest

- [Brahma Sarovar](#): Every year [lakhs](#) of people come to take a holy bath at Brahma Sarovar on the occasion of "Somavati Amavasya" (Sacred No-Moon Day that happens on a Monday) and on Sun-eclipse believed that bath in holy sarovar free from all sins and cycle of birth-death.
- [Sannihit Sarovar](#): This Sarovar is believed to be the meeting point of seven sacred Saraswatis. The sarovar, according to popular belief, contains sacred water. Bathing in the waters of the tank on the day of Amavasya (night of complete darkness) or on the day of an eclipse bestows blessings equivalent to performing the ashvamedh yajna.

Bhishma Kund

- [Jyotisar](#): The famous site where [Bhagavad Gita](#) was delivered to Arjuna
- Krishna Museum: Has some historical artifacts and paintings depicting the Mahabharata war.
- Kurukshetra Panorama and Science centre: A world-class panorama depicting the Mahabharata war with scientific explanations justifying every episode in the war. There are also several scientific exhibits designed to kindle a curiosity for science.
- Kalpana Chawla Planetarium
- [Kessel Mall](#): A must visit Shopping Mall cum Multiplex at Sector-17 Kurukshetra for Food, Shopping and Entertainment.
- Light and Sound Show : A newly built tourist attraction which highlights some aspects of Geeta Saar through lights and sound.
- Dharohar: A must visit to know the tradition and culture of Haryana; located in [Kurukshetra University](#).
- Bhishma Kund at Naraktari: The place where Arjuna shot an arrow towards the earth to quench Bhisma Pitamah's thirst.
- Saraswati Forest Reserve: It is a large reserved forest area with rich flora and fauna in Kurukshetra district.
- Sheikh Chehli ka makbara (tomb): This monument is maintained by the [Archeological Survey of India](#). It was built during the [Mughal era](#) in remembrance of Sufi Saint Sheikh Chehli, believed to be the spiritual teacher of Mughal Prince [Dara Shikoh](#). However, this is an erroneous belief, since the Prince's main 'Murshid' or 'Sheikh' (Spritual Guide) is historically known to have been Hazrat Sheikh [Mian Mir](#) Sahib, of [Lahore](#) ^[4]; although Sheikh Chehli might have been an additional/minor guide, There is another theory that possibly, the site of the supposed 'makbara' or tomb was in fact one of the meditative 'Chillas' or sites of Hazrat Mian Mir Sahib, who might have visited the area during his wanderings ^[5]. It is possible that a later caretaker, some disciple of the Hazrat/Sheikh lies buried here, at the place sanctified by his 'Chilla'.
- [Sthaneshwar Mahadev](#)

- Kamal Nabhi
- Valmiki Ashram
- Birla Mandir
- Gurdwara Raj Ghat Patshahi Dasvin
- Gurdwara Chhevin Patshahi
- Gurdwara Siddh Bati Patshahi Pahili vil;lage Dayalpur
- Bhadrakali Mandir - a temple that is one of the 52 [Shakti Peethas](#). As per the story in Hindu mythology, the goddess Sati killed herself by entering the Yagna of Raja Daksha as a protest against the insult of Lord Shiva. Remorseful Lord Shiva wandered across the whole universe with the corpse of his beloved Sati on his shoulder. To bring him back to the original mood, it was necessary to destroy the corpse of Sati. Lord Vishnu hence cut the corpse in 52 pieces with his [Sudarshana Chakra](#). The different parts fell at different places where the temples of the goddess were later built by the devotees. Collectively, these are known as the 52 Shakti Peethas. One of them is in Kurukshetra, where the ankle of the goddess fell.

Jhansa

[Jhansa](#) is a village in the Kurukshetra district. It is known for its river and canals, and the Markanda temple, built on the banks of the Markanda River.

There is a beautiful scenic view in the village where SYL Bhakhra Canal and Markanda River intersects. In the summer you can have a chilling bath in Gulla Canal and Bhakhra Canal.



[Amritsar](#) is one of Punjab's principal cities, dating back in history over 400 years. It is known more for the world famous [Golden Temple](#), the seat of Sikh religion. Situated on the north-western border of India, the city is also gateway for the travelers on the overland route through Pakistan. The Wagah border, which is the check-post is about 29 kms away. Amritsar literally means "the pool of nectar", the name derived from a pool constructed at the sacred site in the 16th century, gifted by the Mughal Emperor Akbar to Guru Ramdas, the fourth preceptor of the Sikh faith.

Under instructions from Guru Amar Das Sahib, this city was founded by Guru Ram Das Sahib in 1574, on the land bought by him for an amount of rupees 700 from the owners of the village Tung. (Earlier Guru Ram Das Sahib had begun building Santokhsar Sarovar, near erstwhile village of Sultanwind in 1564 {according to one source in 1570}. It could not be completed before 1588). In 1574, Guru Ram Das Sahib built his residence and moved to this place. At that time, it was known as Guru-Da-Chakk. (Later, it came to be known as Chakk Ram Das). Guru Ram Das Sahib began excavation of the Amritsar Sarovar (tank) in 1577. It was ready by 1581. This tank was renovated by Guru Arjun Sahib in 1586. Since then this city is known as Amritsar (after the name of the Sarovar). The foundation of the Darbar Sahib had been laid by Guru Arjan Sahib on January 3, 1588. (Later, it was propagated that the foundation stone of Darbar Sahib was laid by Sain Mian Mir, a Muslim holy man. Sain Mian Mir was very friendly with Guru Sahib but the foundation of Darbar Sahib was laid by Guru Sahib himself). In 1590, Guru Arjan Sahib moved to village Wadali where Guru Hargobind Sahib was born on June 19, 1590. By 1601, the Darbar Sahib was fully ready. In 1603-04, the first volume of Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh scriptures, was prepared in this city and was installed at Darbar Sahib on August 16, 1604.

It is here that Akal Takht Sahib (Throne of the Almighty) was revealed by Guru Hargobind Sahib in 1609. Two flags representing temporal and spiritual authority (Sikh sovereignty) have been set up in front of Akal Takht Sahib. Here Guru Hargobind Sahib wore two swords of Miri and Piri (temporal and transcendental authority). The building of Akal Takht Sahib was twice demolished by Afghan armies and was very badly damaged by the Indian regime (in June 1984). The Indian government repaired it in September 1984. The Sikhs began demolishing it on January 26, 1986. The present structure has been constructed by five service-groups headed by Baba Thakar Singh of Bhindran-Mehta Jatha.



On April 13, 1634, the Mogul army attacked Guru Hargobind Sahib here. From 1635 to 1698, Amritsar remained in the control of the Mina family (descendants of Pirthi Chand). During this period, on November 23, 1664, Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib visited the town. In April 1698, Bhai Mani Singh was appointed as the caretaker of the shrines of Amritsar.

The Mogul chief of Patti tried to occupy Amritsar several times. One such attempt was made in April 1709. The Sikhs, under the command of Bhai Mani Singh and Bhai Tara Singh of Dall-Wan, repelled this attack. When Baba Banda Singh Bahadur occupied several areas in the Punjab, Bhai Mani Singh chose to leave Amritsar in order to avoid the Mogul attacks.

On December 30, 1711, the Mogul emperor, Bahadur Shah, granted Ajit Singh Palit the charge of Amritsar in order to use him against Baba Banda Singh Bahadur. After the death of Bahadur Shah, Ajit Singh Palit returned to Delhi. In 1721, Bhai Mani Singh returned to Amritsar and re-started regular worship. His first act was to solve a dispute between so-called Tat Khalsa and so-called Bandai Khalsa for the right to the management of the shrines at Amritsar.



On March 29, 1733, a major gathering of the Sikhs was held here in front of Akal Takht Sahib. During the same time a Sarbat Khalsa gathering was also held. It discussed the Mogul offer of Nawab-hood. In April 1734, Bhai Mani Singh was arrested and was martyred at Lahore on June 24, 1734.



In 1740, Massa Ranghar, a debauched official, desecrated Darbar Sahib. He was punished by Bhai Sukkha Singh and Bhai Mahtab Singh, on August 11, 1740. In 1757 Afghan army demolished Darbar Sahib and Akal Takht Sahib. Baba Dip Singh led several thousand Sikhs against the Afghan. A major battle was fought on November 11, 1757. Baba Dip Singh and several thousand Sikhs embraced martyrdom. Again, in 1762, the Darbar Sahib complex was demolished by Afghan army. On December 1, 1764, the Afghan army made another attack. 30 Sikhs, led by Jathedar Gurbakhsh Singh, fought against mammoth Afghan army and

embraced martyrdom. In 1765, the Sikhs began re-construction of the shrines. The central part was ready by 1776. Around 1830, Ranjit Singh gold-plated some part of the inner section of the Darbar Sahib. (It harmed this Sikh institution as some ignorant people began unjustly calling it Golden Temple).

In 1846, the British established themselves in the Lahore Darbar, with a Resident in the Court; and, Amritsar became a place of frequent visits by the British. In order to keep sanctity of the city, H. M. Lawrence, the British Resident, issued an order, dated March 24, 1847, asking the English people to follow the Sikh protocol while visiting the Sikh centres. In 1858, a Municipal Committee was set up here. In 1862, train services between Lahore and Amritsar were started. Khalsa College, the first Sikh college was established here in 1892. [In 1969 Guru Nanak University was established here]. In 1913, the city was electrified. In September 1915, the British declared Amritsar a "Holy City". (This order was undeclaredly annulled after August 15, 1947 by the Indian regime). On April 13, 1919, General Dyer opened fire on the gathering, at Jallianwala Bagh, near Darbar Sahib, killed 379 people and wounded another 1200. The the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (S.G.P.C.) and the Shiromani Akali Dal were established here in 1920.

Wagah boader

About 28 kms from Amritsar, the Wagah Border is an army outpost on India and Pakistan border between the cities of Amritsar and Lahore. A prominent tourist attraction in Amritsar is not a monument but a daily event. A little away from Amritsar at the India shares international frontier with Pakistan. Every evening, the change of guard among either national security forces, a handshaking distance apart, is a fantastic spectacle.



KATRA

Katra or **Katra Vaishno Devi** as it is popularly called is a small town in the hilly northern

state of [Jammu and Kashmir](#). It is 2,473 ft above the sea level and is 50 Km away from [Jammu](#). The town serves as the base camp for visiting the famous **Ma Vaishno Devi Shrine**, which is 13 Km uphill from Katra. Situated in the foothills of Trikuta Mountains, Katra is visited by more than 6.2 million devotees each year. The town has a number of souvenir shops and the local market is filled with stalls selling dry fruits, *prashad* and other items offered to Maa Vaishno Devi. There is a **state handicraft emporium** close to the bus stand where you can check out shawls and other woollen items. A number of vegetarian restaurants and food outlets have mushroomed in the close vicinity.

Activities:

A trip to the cave shrine is by far the most important activity in Katra. Majority of the devotees prefer to trek up the 13 Km route to the shrine. But there are other options available as well. You can hire a *palki* or take a pony ride. The state government also offers helicopter service from Katra and Jammu up to the shrine.

VAISHNO DEVI

Indian spiritual tradition has propounded four Purusharth (objectives) of a human life. These being Dharm (Righteousness), Arth (Material Pursuits), Kaam (Contentment) and Moksh (Enlightenment). Shri Mata Vaishno Devi is believed to grant all the four boons to those who visit Her Holy Shrine. She is considered to fulfill anything and everything that a person wishes for in life, in a righteous way. It is an experience of all, that no one goes empty handed from Her Great Pilgrimage.

The journey to the **Holy Shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi** is thus an enchanting journey of the places where Mata Vaishnavi had spent some time while observing various spiritual disciplines and penances. The culmination of this journey is at the Holy Cave where She merged Her Human form with the astral form of Her creators, the three Supreme Energies