



The heart of
Incredible India

CHITRAKOOT

Abode of the Gods



Chitrakoot, 'the hill of many wonders,' nestles peacefully in the northern spurs of the Vindhyas, a place of tranquil forest glades and quiet rivers and streams where calm and repose are all-pervading. This loveliest of Nature's gifts is also hallowed ground, blessed by the gods and sanctified by the faith of pilgrims. For Chitrakoot's spiritual legacy stretches back to legendary ages: it was in these deep forests that Rama and Sita spent eleven of their fourteen years of exile; here, that the great sage Atri and Sati Anusuya meditated; and here where the principal trinity of the Hindu pantheon, Brahma, Vishnu and Mahesh took their incarnations. Sufferers and seekers, poets and visionaries, princes and noblemen have, through the ages, sought and found solace in Chitrakoot, drawn inspiration from its sublime natural beauty, gained spiritual strength from its serene temples and, in turn, become part of the hallowed legend that is Chitrakoot.

What to See

Ramghat : The ghats that line the banks of the river Mandakini reveal a constantly moving and changing kaleidoscope of religious activity. Here, amidst the chanting of hymns and the sweet fragrance of incense, holy men in saffron robes sit in silent meditation or offer the solace of their wisdom to



the faith of pilgrims

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the countless pilgrims who converge here. With the very first rays of dawn that gleam upon the river, Ramghat stirs into life as the

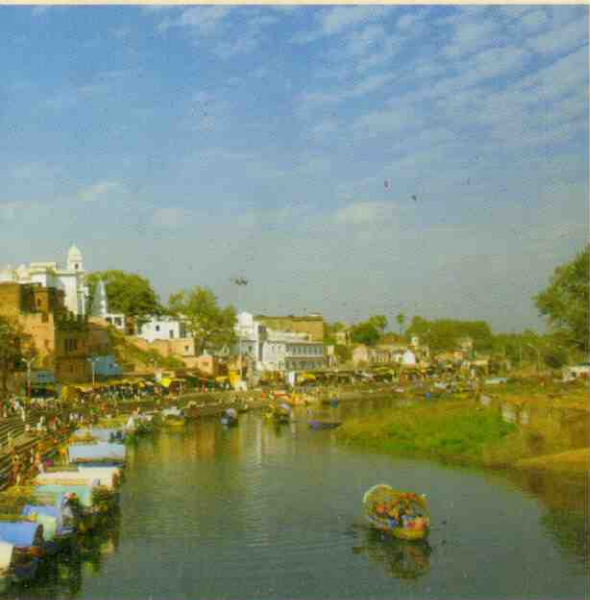
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are said to have meditated. The Mandakini is believed to have been created by Anusuya through her meditation. Sati Anusuya lies about 16 km. from the town and can be reached by road - an undulating, curving drive through densely wooded areas.

Sphatik Shila: A few kilometers beyond Janaki Kund is again a densely forested area on the banks of the Mandakini. One can climb up to the boulder which bears the impression of Rama's footprint and where Sita was pecked at, by Jayant in the form of a crow. There are large fish in the river here, easily visible in the pellucid water and a few temples.

Gupt - Godavari : 18 km from the town by road is a natural wonder located some distance up the side of a hill. The wonder here is a pair of caves, one high and wide with an entrance



Calm and repose are all pervading at Chitrakoot



A profusion of colour : Chitrakoot's charming market place

through which one can barely pass, and the other, long and narrow with a stream of water running along its base. It is believed that Rama and his brother Lakshman held court in the latter cave, which has two natural, throne-like rocks.

Hanuman Dhara : Located on a rock-face several hundred feet up a steep hillside is a spring, said to have been created by Rama to assuage Hanuman when the latter returned after setting Lanka afire. A couple of temples commemorate this spot which offers a panoramic view of Chitrakoot. There is an open, paved area here in the shade of a massive peepul tree, a lovely halting place after the long climb up.

Bharat Koop : Bharat Koop is where Bharat stored holy water collected from all the places of pilgrimage in India. It is a small, isolated spot a few kilometres from town.

How to Reach

By Air: The nearest airport is at Khajuraho (175km).

By Rail : The nearest railhead is at Chitrakootdham (Karwi) (11 km) on the Jhansi - Manikpur main line.

By Road : Regular bus services connect Chitrakoot with Jhansi, Mahoba, Chitrakootdham, Harpalpur, Satna and Chhatarpur.

Best Season : October to March

Your Host: Tourist Bungalow (MPT).



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