



# Lucknow Division - Conglomeration of Cultures , Religion and Historical legacy

## 1.GORAKHPUR –

Headquarters of North Eastern Railway, Gorakhpur is famous for the Smadhi and temple of Baba Gorakhnath, a great Hindu Saint and Guru of Kanphata Yogis . The city is linked with the almost all major towns of the country on B.G. route and is a major junction , providing train link to Nautanwa, gateway to Nepal. Gorakhpur is one of the most important religious and cultural centers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The city has a long history that connects it with Hinduism and Buddhism. The city rose to prominence in 12th century when it became the center of famous Hindu Tantrik and Ascetic, Baba Gorakhnath. Gorakhnath has influence generations of Hindus that follow his Nath sect. His samadhi in the old part of the city is visited by scores of pilgrims every day. Gorakhnath Temple is one of the most famous temples in the state and is frequented by hundreds of pilgrims every year.

The world famous printing institution , Geeta Press, about 4 kms. From Gorakhpur Railway station, attracts a considerable number of visitors throughout the year.It is a charitable institution fully committed for publication and popularizing religious literature. The Geeta Bhawan situated within its premises has teachings of Geeta inscribed on the walls in marble.



Gorakhnath Temple, Gorakhpur



Geeta Press, Gorakhpur



Soorajkunddham, Gorakhpur

## 2.MAGHAR-

Maghar, celebrated for tomb of great Saint Kabir, is situated on Lucknow-Gorakhpur B.G. Railway line. The Railway station Maghar is between Basti and Gorakhpur. The place is revered equally by Hindus and Muslims both.



Saint Kabir's Tomb



Statue of Saint Kabir

## 3.BALRAMPUR-

The capital of ancient Koshal state, 'Sravasti' is situated at a distance of about 29 kms. From Balrampur. Lord Buddha spent 24 rainy seasons of his life at Sravasti. Once an active centre for popularizing Buddhism Sravasti is known as Sahet-Mahet and is frequented by tourists and Buddhist pilgrims.



Shri Jharkhandi Mandir, Balrampur





#### 4.SRAVASTI

Sravasti is an important historical and religious attraction in Uttar Pradesh. The place has for long been attached to Lord Buddha and his times. It is said that Lord Buddha spent 25 years living in the monastery of Jetavana that is situated in Sravasti. The city also has the pride of being the place where many of Vinaya rules, Jatakas and Sutras were first discussed.

It is at Sravasti only where Lord Buddha is supposed to have astonished rival teachers by performing miracles. It is in Sravasti that Buddha transformed Angulimal from a dacoit into a Buddhist monk. He also delivered many important sermons here. The two 21 meters high pillars erected by Emperor Ashoka mark these sites. They are on either side of the eastern gateway of the Jetavana monastery. Sravasti was a flourishing center of learning during the Gupta period too. When the famed Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang visited this site, he found several damaged Stupas and ruins of monasteries at this place.

Saheth is one of the most visited clusters of shrines in the Buddhist tourism circuit of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Saheth covers an area of around 35 square Kilometers and is located in the very heart of Sravasti. The site falls on your right when you move nearly a kilometer Southwest from Maheth. The place rose to prominence when excavation works revealed that Saheth was the original site of once magnanimous Jetavana monastery. The place saw sudden spurt in tourism after that discovery.

Maheth is another important cluster of shrines in Sravasti. Though not as famous as Saheth, Maheth also has a cluster of shrines that are very popular among the tourists visiting Sravasti. In fact, Maheth was the actual site of the erstwhile Sravasti city. Spread across the area of near about 400 acres, Maheth was the site of numerous shrines and Stupas. In fact, Maheth has been identified with the remains of the city proper. Nevertheless, the site for long had remained abandoned and ignored. It was only in the early decades of 20th century when the excavation works were initiated that the site raised to prominence.



Saheth-Maheth , Sravasti

## 5.NAUGARH-

Prince Sidhartha (Gautam) was born under the Sal trees in Lumbani situated at a distance of about 35 kms. from Naugarh Railway station. Naugarh is Rail head for the capital of Shakya dynasty, Kapilvastu(Piprahwa)also. In 249 B.C. emperor Ashok visited Lumbini and erected 36 feet high pillar with an inscription about Buddha's birth here.



Ashok Stambh, Lumbini

## 6.AYODHYA-

Birth place of Lord Rama on the banks of Saryu. Famous for number of Temples . Katra B.G. Rail head, a terminal station on Mankapur-Katra branch line of Lucknow-Gorakhpur B.G. Railway is about 7 kms. From Ayodhya and is linked with it by frequent road services.



On the Banks of "Saryu"



Ramghat, Ayodhya

## 7.KANPUR-

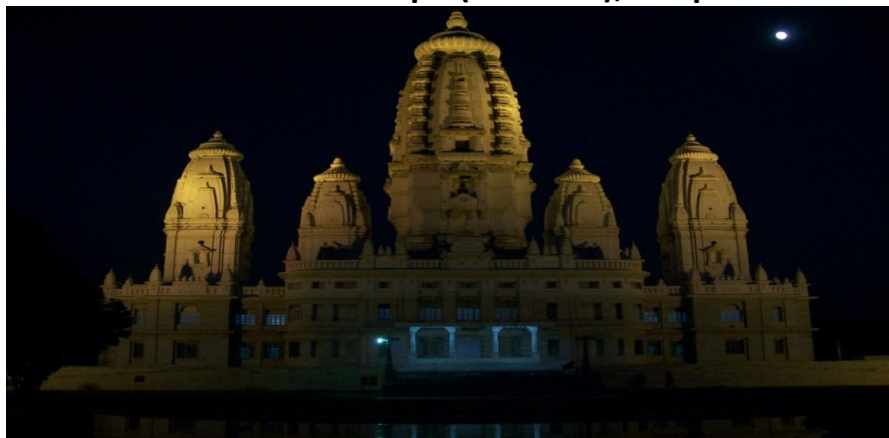
Major Industrial town and megacity of U.P. 19 kms. North of Kanpur is situated Brahmavarta Ghat on the banks of Ganga where according to pauranic literature Brahma performed Ashwamedha Yajna for creation of the world and it is also said that Maharishi Valmiki composed "Ramayana" here. Kanpur Anwarganj station of N.E. Railway, provides link for Mathura-Vrindavan also. Among the city's most coveted sightseeing destinations, Shri Radhakrishna Temple, popularly known, as J.K. Temple is an exquisite amalgam of traditional and contemporary architecture styles. Besides this, Anandeshwar temple dedicated to Lord Shiva, situated on the banks of river Ganga is a renowned temple.



**JK Temple, Kanpur**



**Anandeshwar Temple(Parmath), Kanpur**



**Night view of JK Temple, Kanpur**

## 8. LUCKNOW-

Lucknow, the city of Nawabs, has never ever lost its relevance in the Indian history and culture. The city inspires manner in a way that people who have not experienced in, yearn for it. Lucknow has always ruled as one of the most important centers of Muslim cultural influence in South Asia along with Delhi, Lahore and Hyderabad. Courtly manners, Charbagh, Qauwwali, Chikankari embroidery, Kabobs and the contributions of poets patronized by Lucknow Nawabs are well known.

The history of the city is as vivid as itself. It is believed that the city has been named after Lakshman, the younger brother of Lord Rama. The city was earlier called Lakshman Pore that later turned in to Lucknow. The city rose to the prominence during the reigns of Nawabs who built numerous Palaces, Haveli, Mosques and other Monuments. The most illustrious and equally mocked upon Nawab of Lucknow is undoubtedly Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. The city later passed to East India Company after Nawabs lost the battle of Buxar in the year 1764. The city remained the capital of Awadh or Oudh province of the British and went on to become the capital Central Province and in turn Uttar Pradesh.

Capital of U.P. on the bank of river Gomti, Lucknow is the city of art, culture and nawabs. Chattar Manjil, Chota Imambara, Bara Imambara, Roomi Darwaza, Clock tower, Machchi Bhawan, Shah Najaf and Jama Masjid etc. are the marvellous pieces of architecture . Famous Residency of Lucknow is associated with freedom struggle of India. The Charbagh Railway station of both Northern and North Eastern Railway standing side by side are also excellent piece of Oudh architecture.

The city offers a range of monuments for the visitors to see and appreciate. The most important among these are Imambara. There are lots of Imambara in Lucknow but the most famous ones are Chota Imambara, Bada Imambara and Shah Najaf Imambara. These are the sites of annual 'Azadari' or mourning sessions that occur in the Islamic Month of Mohharum and called 'Asura'. The Tazia processions and Marsia sessions of the old city are trademarks of Lucknow and so are its foods.





Chota Imambara, Lucknow



Bada Imambara, Lucknow



Residency, Lucknow



Roomi Darwaza, Lucknow

## 9. BARABANKI-

Dewa Sharif is a pilgrimage town that is situated just 40 odd Kilometers from Lucknow and 12 kilometers from the district headquarter of Barabanki. This pilgrimage site has a special place in the history of Awadh because of its efforts towards secularism in an otherwise communally volatile province. The place is renowned as the birthplace of Hajji Waris Ali Shah who was to influence the lives of many generations of people with his message of universal love for humanity.



Dewa Sharif, Barabanki

## 10.DUDHWA NATIONAL PARK-

Located in Lakhimpur Khiri District, almost 250 kilometers from Lucknow Dudhwa National Park is stretched in an area across 810 square kilometers. The core area of the park itself is spanned around 650 square Kilometers. Although Dudhwa National Park has a range of animal as well as avian population, the park is famous as a perfect habitat for Swamp deer and Tigers. Dudhwa National Park was declared a national park in the year 1958. In the due course, keeping in mind its importance, it was first converted to a wildlife sanctuary in the year 1977 and was later declared a Project Tiger reserve in the year 1988.



Dudhwa National Park, Lakhimpur Khiri

## 11.SITAPUR-

In Sitapur District, almost 50 kilometers from Lucknow, It is said that Naimisaranya was the place where Bhagavatam was spoken. It is also said that a pilgrimage to Badrinath and Kedarnath is incomplete without a visit to Naimisaranya. In the Mahabharata it is said, "Anyone who fasts, prays, and attains perfection at Naimisaranya finds happiness in the entire world."

Lord Balarama, Dadhici Muni, the Pandavas, Prabhu Nityananda, and Ramanujacharya all came here. The Pandavas are said to have come here when they were in exile. This is the place where the demigods came to ask Dadhici for his body, to be able to create a weapon that would be able to kill the demon Vritrasura. Lord Rama is said to have performed a sacrifice here for killing Ravana.

It is said that if you bathe in Chakra-tirtha Kund and make an offering to the presiding deity, Lalita, on a full moon day that falls on a Monday, you will wash away all the sins committed in a lifetime.



Chakra –Teerth Namisharanya,Sitapur

## 12. BAHRAICH

Bahraich is very famous because of the Dargah of Ghazi Saiyyad Salar Masud, a famous eleventh century Islamic saint and soldier. His Dargah is a place for reverence for Muslims and Hindus alike. It was built by Firoz Shah Tughlaq. It is believed that people taking bath in the water of this Dargah become free of all skin diseases. The annual festival (Urs) at the Dargah is attended by thousands of people coming from far-off places of the country.

Bahraich is a small town in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India. Located on the Saryu River, a tributary of river Ghaghra, Bahraich is 125 km north-east of Lucknow, the state capital. The towns of Barabanki, Gonda, Lakheempur and Sitapur share local boundaries with Bahraich. A factor which makes this town important is the international border shared with the neighboring country, Nepal.



**Dargah of Hazrat Syed Salar Masood Ghazi (RA) of Bahraich.**

## 13. SWAMI NARAYAN MANDIR CHAPIA-

Swami Narayan Mandir situated in the Gonda district is 2 kms far from Chapia station at Lucknow –Gorakhpur route. Famous for its rich architecture it is a famous religious centre and is visited by tourists and pilgrims throught the year.

