

Explore the soul of India: Uttar Pradesh's timeless charm

Uttar Pradesh is a mosaic of multicultural experiences. With a rich heritage, distinct geographical identity and myriad attractions, the state is among the most popular tourist destinations in the world. Read on...

Kaveri Mishra

India's most populous state, Uttar Pradesh is a cultural and historical powerhouse. As a melting pot of languages, traditions, and religions, it embodies the very essence of India's rich heritage. From the majestic Taj Mahal to the holy city of Varanasi, the state has become a must-visit destination for any tourist seeking to delve into the heart of the country.

TRAVEL TALE

Uttar Pradesh embodies the spirit of India. It is home to holy rivers, important religious sites, ancient cities full of wonder and wisdom. Jessica Hunt, a tourist from the US, who is a frequent visitor to the state, says, "UP tells us of an India that is rooted in ancient tales, an India whose history is rich and anointed with numerous glories. It speaks of Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, and everything mystical. Two of India's holiest rivers flow through this state. The iconic Taj Mahal by the Yamuna, and is certainly one of the most beautiful places to visit. Visiting the Taj is a dream-come-true. It is an incredible marble structure, a symbol of love."

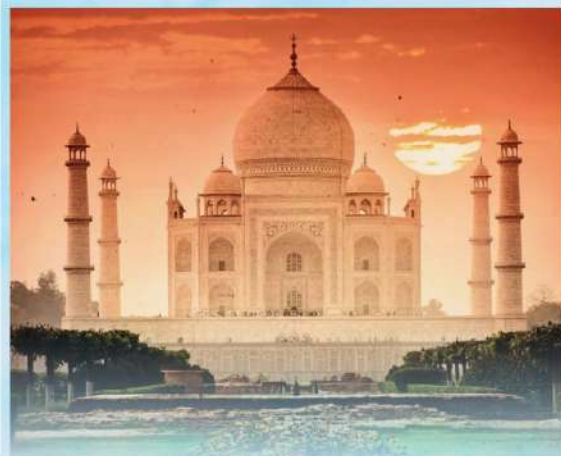
She continues, "I have visited Varanasi three times. The city is home to many old temples and its main attraction is the River Ganga, upon which one can sail, and also offer prayers. Gorakhnath temple, Kushi forest and Gita Vatika in Gorkhpur are major

tourist attractions."

The capital of Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow, is also a major hub of culture and history, and visitors find plenty of things to do here. Ashish Goel, a travel vlogger, says, "There are numerous beautiful old buildings that are a

Uttar Pradesh offers numerous spiritual experiences, from attending the Ganga Aarti in Varanasi to taking a holy dip at the Sangam in Prayagraj. The state has been a beacon for spiritual seekers, pilgrims, and travellers from across the globe, offering a unique blend of ancient traditions, mystical rivers, and revered pilgrimage sites

testament to the Mughal and colonial times. A tourist in the city ought to visit the Bara Imambara, a site that dates back to the



18th century. It houses the Asafi Mosque, an exceptional example of Mughal architecture. Lucknow's British Residency is an enduring reminder of British colonial presence in India and a must-visit attraction in the city."

SPIRITUAL GATEWAY

Uttar Pradesh is known for its many ancient temples, including those in Ayodhya, Mathura, and Vrindavan, which are mentioned in Hindu epics like the Ramayana, the Mahabharata, and the Bhagavad Gita. Jitendra Singh, historian, says, "Kashi Vishwanath Temple, located in Varanasi, is one of the world's most famous Hindu sanctuaries. Mathura,

Lord Krishna's birthplace, holds great spiritual significance for devotees. Shri Krishna Janmabhoomi Temple marks the precise location where Lord Krishna is claimed to have been born. Ayodhya, Lord Ram's birthplace, has long served as a symbol of faith and devotion to millions of Hindus. Today, Ayodhya remains an important spiritual site for Hindus, attracting around one lakh devotees every day to pay their respects to Lord Ram and seek his blessings.

Vrindavan is home to Banke Bihari Temple. This temple is devoted to Lord Krishna as the 'Divine Lover'. Sarnath, in Varanasi, is where Lord Buddha gave his first sermon after achieving enlightenment. Dhamek Stupa, an ancient Buddhist monument, represents the profound teachings of Buddhism."

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