THE FULL VARANASI WEEK · TUESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2026

5-Day Dev Diwali Itinerary, Varanasi

23 to 27 Nov. Families, photographers and anyone who wants Varanasi slowly. Arrive a day before, see Dev Diwali from the ghats or a boat, and enjoy Varanasi as the crowd leaves.

5 days	24 Nov	Assi to Raj Ghat	Arrive 23 Nov
23 to 27 Nov	Dev Diwali (Kartik Purnima)	lit with lakhs of diyas	before the crowds

DAY BY DAY

DAY 1 · MON 23 NOV

Arrive and settle

Check in near the ghats, then take a slow walk from Assi towards Dashashwamedh in the late afternoon light. Evening: the Ganga Aarti at Dashashwamedh Ghat; arrive about 45 minutes early as the steps fill up (Aarti is at 6:00 PM, Oct to Mar). For a reserved seat close to the priests, we offer a **VIP Ganga Aarti seat**. Dinner in the old lanes: kachori-sabzi, tamatar chaat, lassi.

DAY 2 · TUE 24 NOV

Dev Diwali

Early morning: Ganga snan if you wish, or a quiet sunrise on the ghats. Rest through the day and keep 2:00 to 4:00 PM free to reach your ghat or boat. Evening: Dev Diwali, on the ghats (arrive by mid-afternoon) or from a boat (our boats report at Gaay Ghat at 4:00 PM, **details here**). Let the first rush clear before you walk out.

DAY 3 · WED 25 NOV

See Varanasi properly

Sunrise at Assi Ghat for the morning aarti and music, or a sunrise boat ride (a guided option is our **Subah-e-Banaras walk**). Breakfast: kachori-sabzi and jalebi. Afternoon: Sarnath (about 10 km), where the Buddha gave his first sermon: Dhamek Stupa, ruins and museum.

DAY 4 · THU 26 NOV

Temples, lanes and food

Kashi Vishwanath Temple in the morning (shorter queues after the festival; bags and phones generally not allowed inside, use the lockers). Wander the old lanes and shop for Banarasi silk: compare prices and ask for a silk mark certificate. Evening street-food crawl: tamatar chaat, malaiyyo, thandai, Banarasi paan (guided option: **Secret Spice Trail**).

DAY 5 · FRI 27 NOV

A slower day or a day trip

Option 1: day trip to Ayodhya or Prayagraj (a long day, start early). Option 2: stay local: Ramnagar Fort across the river, the Banaras Hindu University campus, or an evening of classical music. Note: the Sarnath museum is normally closed on Fridays.

GHATS OR BOAT?

- **Ghats:** free and atmospheric, but very crowded. Pick your ghat by mid-afternoon.
- **Boat:** a seat and a view of the whole ghat line. Book well ahead, confirm boarding ghat, seat count and return time in writing.

WHERE TO STAY

- Walking distance of the ghats: Dashashwamedh, Godowlia or Assi
- Vehicles are restricted near the river on the 24th
- Book early; rates peak on the 23rd and 24th and generally ease from the 25th

PRACTICAL TIPS

- Carry cash and UPI, and a power bank
- Slip-resistant shoes: ghat steps are uneven and damp
- Carry a shawl: the river is cold at night
- Keep valuables close; agree a meeting point

BE RESPECTFUL

- Do not photograph cremation pyres or grieving families at Manikarnika and Harishchandra ghats
- Float your diya gently; leave no plastic behind

GOOD TO KNOW

Want help with a day trip? Ask us and we will point you the right way. Keep 2:00 to 4:00 PM on the 24th free for resting and reaching the ghat.

SHARE YOUR DEV DIWALI

Tag us on Instagram

Posting stories, reels or photos from your trip? Tag **@varanasiguru**. We would love to see Varanasi through your eyes.

@VARANASIGURU

Scan for Instagram

IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO HANDLE PART OF THE TRIP

- **VIP Ganga Aarti seat and Poojan** (About 1.5 hrs, ₹2,100 for 2 adults, ₹1,800 per extra person)
- **Dev Diwali boat from Gaay Ghat** (4:00 to 9:00 PM, see boat page)
- **Subah-e-Banaras morning walk** (2.5 hrs, ₹2,299 per person)
- **Secret Spice Trail food walk** (3 hrs, ₹2,999 per person)

Questions? **WhatsApp +91 85952 56696** · hello@varanasiguru.com