

Char Dham Yatra with Puja Swami Brahmaparananda Saraswati

A wonderful spiritual Journey in the lap of Great Himalayas

With the Blessings and guidance of Swami Brahmparananda Sarawatiji, Arsha Vidya Tirtha, Jaipur under took a “Char Dham Yatra” from June 18-28, 2012. Thirty one disciples had the ahobhagyam to be part of this Divine Yatra with Swamiji. We started our yatra from Rishikesh. The



disciples were of varied age groups. The Yatra was undertaken by a mini bus. Before starting journey to all of the destinations, we made sure to chant Sankata Nashana Ganesha Stotram of Narada Purana and before taking lunch and dinner, the 15th adhyaya of Srimad Bhagawad Gita, as is the practice in the ashrams. Every evening we had Satsang with Swamiji wherein besides reciting and bhajans, we were provided food for thoughts on different Shlokas of Gita!

The first stoppage of journey was at Gupta Kashi from where the Yatra for Kedarnath Dham, the spiritual nucleus of India was

taken up by helicopter in groups. Surrounded by snow-covered sky-rising peaks, it made us feel that we were in heavenly abode. Next day early morning a truly mesmerising experience was the Rudrabhishekam in the main temple premises with all of us reciting Sri Rudram with Swamiji and the sun shining upon the snowy peaks made the sight further delightful.

Then, we proceeded to Badrinath Dham via Pipalkoti. It holds a lot of historic importance. We went to Mana, a small place near Badrinath, where Vyasa Muni wrote all the scriptures. We were very

fortunate to chant an adhyayam of Bhagwad Gita in the 'Vyasa Gufa' with Swamiji. 'Bheema pul', the origin and the hiding place of river Ma Saraswati was another scenic milestone. Strong flow of Ma Saraswati and a beautiful rainbow left us all gaping. Finally after reaching Badrinath Temple, all of us had snanam in Tapta Kundam and then recited "Vishnu Sahastranamam Stotram".

Next morning after performing pooja in the temple, we proceeded to Uttar Kashi via Srinagar where we first visited Tapasyalayam which is being managed by Swamini Pramanandaji. We all got the opportunity to have satsang with Swamini Pramanandaji and Swami Girijanandji.

From Uttar Kashi, we started for Gangotri Dham. Heavenly flow of Bhagirathi (Ganga) and chanting Ganga stotram with the melody of flow was truly enriching.

Finally, we proceeded to Yamunotri Dham via Uttar Kashi and Hanuman Chetti. It was a 6 km long, steep way to the temple. Although some of us felt very tired in the beginning, but after having 'Yamuna snanam' and performing pooja in the premises, all our tiredness vanished as a puff of dust. People boiled rice in the 'hot

water kundam' and took it in the form of prasadam.

Next day, Swamiji took us to Rishikesh Ashram as it was important to conclude the Divine Yatra from where we started! After reaching Rishikesh ashrama, we performed Ganga Pooja and also completed parayanam of Srimad Bhagawad Gita, as we had started reciting from day one of our yatra. On the 28th of June, the last day of our yatra, after performing Rudrabhishekam we organized Bhandara for Sadhu's to seek blessings.

On the whole, the experience was spiritually inspiring. Apart from the scenic beauty, bringing peace to our eyes, the vibrations brought peace to our souls. Throughout our Yatra, we were fortunate to have satsangs, bhajans and chanting with Swamiji. It was a very enriching and nourishing experience. Indeed, an "unforgettable life-long spiritual gift" was all possible because of the company of Pujya Swamiji; otherwise, this yatra would have remained a mediocre one.

The message would not be complete without conveying our deepest heartfelt condolences to Shri M.S. Bhati, whose wife Acchan Kanwar left for heavenly abode in the Kedarnath Dham while in the yatra with us.

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