



# Places to visit at Chitrakoot Chitrakoot – heaven on Earth where SriRam & Sita started their Vanavaas



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### Agastya Ashram

Agastya ashrams are in 3 places – here in Chitrakoot, near Manmaad hill in Maharashtra and in Nasik Panchavati.
About 108 sages were supposed to have performed penance here.

\* Maharishi Agastya gave Vishnu

Danush, a divine weapon and many other divine weapons to Sri Rama here.

\* Here, you can see a unique sculpture of SriRam in vanavasa attire, jadamudi, in a posture ready to shoot an arrow; this type of posture / sculpture is not found anywhere else.

\* Sage Agastya, knowing SriRama's motive, guided Him to go to Panchvati to spend the rest of the vanavas.

#### Suteekshna Ashram

\* When Sri Rama came here he wished to stay here for his entire vanavas; this place has such natural beauty and tranquil atmosphere.
\* Sudheekshnar was Maharishi Agasthiyar's disciple.

\* Sudheekshnar showed Sri Rama the way to many of the rishi's ashramas and with his advice only, Sri Rama moved around in Dandakaranyam for about 10 years visiting various rishis' ashrams.

Here, one can see moorthies of Sri
 Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and
 Sutheekshanar.



### Agastya Ashram



# Suteekshna Ashram

#### Sarabhanga Ashram

**\*** Sarabanga Ashram is located at about 55 kms from Chitrakoot on the banks of Sharabanga River, a tributary of Mandakini River. **\*** Here the main deity is Sriman Narayana with conch and chakra and locals worship him as Sharabangar. **\*** The answer to this lies in the Ramayana sloka, which says that Sri Sharabanga took the divine form of Sriman Narayana and attained mukthi in front of Sri Rama.

\* A few mahants and sanyasis are still living there and they live a life that is very much oriented with the divine nature; cooking, eating and living with whatever is available naturally in the surroundings. Athri-Anasuya Ashram *The Anasuya Ashram is huge with a river flowing nearby.* 

*\*Here Ram received divine armour from Maharishi Atri, one of the Saptharishis and one of the foremost Dasa (10) Brahaspathis.* 

\*Sita received the code of conduct of a pativrata from Anasuya, wife of Athri Maharishi, an icon for Pathivratham and an embodiment of a soul with no jealousy.

\*She enquired about Sita's marriage and gifted her with a saree made of natural elements like wood, shrubs and herbs; it could also be worn for several months without washing. \*And it was this saree that Sita Devi wore during the 10 months period at Asokavana without taking bath!



### Sarabhanga Ashram



### Atri-Anasuya Ashram

#### Mandaakini – Ram Ghat

\*Ram ghat is the main sacred spot / bathing ghat of Chithrakoot on the banks of Mandakini River.

\*Sri Rama and Ma Sita used to take bath and do their daily rituals here.

**\***Sri Rama came to know of His

father, King Dasaratha's death only at Chithrakoot through Bharathan and He did the tharpanam and Pinda prathan at this ghat.

**\****There are decorated boats to take people from one bank to the other.* 



### **River Mandaakini**



# Ram Ghat Mandaakini River

### Gupt Godavari



**\***Actually Godavari originates only in Nasik but she came here to worship & see the beauty of Sri Rama. **\***Since this is the place of Mandakini River, the Guptha Godavari is hiding and flowing underground here. Guptha means hiding or secret. **\*** 'Dhanush Kund' is where Rama shot with his arrow for water, and Godavari emerged from ground here. **\*** 'Sita Kund' is where Sita used to wash her clothes and bathe.

### Sphatika Shila



\*This is a big rock located at around 4 kms South of Chitrakoot on the banks of Mandakini River.

\*Here is where Kakasuran (asura in the form of a crow) kept pricking at Sita Devi continuously and then got chased by a Dharba grass enchanted by Sri Rama (after having woken up) to all the worlds.

\*Finally, with Sita Ma's guidance, Kakasuran surrendered unto Lord Rama's feet and was forgiven.
\*Imprints of Sri Rama and Sita are found here.

### Kamadagiri



**\***Kam – Desire, dha – giving; thus this hillock will give whatever we desire. **\****Rama is said to have done parikrama* of this hill daily and so doing Parikrama of this hill is very sacred. **\****There are 4 temples in the 4* directions so that you can start and end the parikrama from any temple. **\*Shri Kamta Nath Giri Mandir, Ma** Sita Kund, Bharat Milap and Guru Vasishta Ashram are in the parikrama path.

### **Bharat Milap**



\*This is the temple for Bharatha on the bank of Mandakini river and the place where Bharatha came and stayed to meet Sri Rama. \*The sculpture depicting Rama's handing over of His padukas to Bharatha; moorthies of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana and Bharatha; foot prints of Rama Sita and Lakshmana are all there.

\*There is a huge tree under which Rama is said to have sat down.

### Hanuman dhara

\*One has to walk about 2 kms and then climb about 250 steps to reach this Hanuman temple located on a small hillock.

\*After burning down Lanka, Hanumar's tail was still burning; here he thought of Sri Rama and water from some unknown source falls on his head and flows through his whole body and falls down as Patha theertha.

\*Hanuman is present as 'Virat swaroopa' with 5 faces – Varaha, Garuda, Narasimha, Hayagreeva and Vir Anjaneya.



### Hanuman dhara



#### Hanuman in virat swaroop

# J&I H&NUM&N !!! J&I SIT& R&M !!!