

# Home

Welcome to Ganges Nirvana, your soft landing and friendly homestay in the spiritual and ancient city of Varanasi. When you stay with us you have not just booked a room, you are welcomed into our home and our family.

## A Welcome Homestay

The owner of Ganges Nirvana, has worked across India in five star hotels and has now decided to open the door of his home to host people from all over the world. Our family's extensive knowledge of Varanasi will allow you to see the city through the eyes of a local. Providing a truly authentic introduction to Varanasi.

The two lower floors of the property are made up of beautifully finished rooms, displaying artwork commissioned from travelling artists. The whole property has been built by travellers, for travellers, from our own experience we have learnt what our guests need to feel at home.

## A Conscious Creative Community

The top floor is where our family lives and our community is based. This is where you can choose to meet new friends, learn new skills, cook and eat together.

Our community is made up of artists, musicians, travellers, adventures, cyclists and dancers. All happy to share their gifts with each other.

## Varanasi As You've Never Seen It

Experience Varanasi through the eyes of a local. With our family's unbeatable knowledge of the city you will find the hidden treasures no one else can.

Let us take you to the best street food Varanasi has to offer and be your guide into the often misunderstood practice of drinking bhaang thandai (not bhaag lassi).

Are you missing the creature comforts of home? We can direct you to some great coffee shops and even show you where to pick up a jar of tahini. Need something to read by the river? We know the best book shops.

## A Peaceful Hideaway

Ganges Nirvana is located away from the often chaotic and busy streets of Varanasi in a peaceful neighbourhood. We can provide you with a quiet oasis to return to after a day by the river and always a restful, safe nights sleep. Here you will find time to breathe and a place to go deeper into yourself.

You can easily reach the Ganges and other tourist attractions easily by public transport We have safe street parking in a nice residential neighbourhood with wide roads.

Manduadih train station is only 300 metres away where you can find trains to Delhi, Pune, Chennai and other major cities.

# Accommodation In Varanasi

## Rooms and Facilities

We offer both private and dorm rooms at very competitive rates. They have been beautifully finished and are kept immaculately clean. Each room exhibits a custom piece of artwork, commissioned by travelling artists. Our rooms are large with high ceilings giving you ample space for your morning yoga practise.

Our bathrooms, with western toilets, are fully tiled and kept spotlessly clean. They also include 24-hour hot water for those colder days.

We have a number of common spaces which can be used for yoga, meditation, jamming, reading, working or just to chill with your fellow travellers.

The property has full wifi access for your stay and is super fast optical fibre Internet for digital nomads.

Our 24 hour guest kitchen is vegan and comes with everything you need to prepare delicious meals, just like mamma used to make.

## Private Rooms

Our private rooms have been beautifully finished and are kept spotlessly clean. Each room includes unique artwork commissioned by travelling artists.

We have options for both private and shared bathrooms which include 24-hour hot water and are kept immaculately clean.

## Dorm Beds

Our dorm rooms are spacious with no more than four beds to a room with a shared bathroom.

## Group Bookings and Retreats

We can offer groups a range of accommodation options including double rooms, twin beds and dorm beds. You can book the whole property or just one floor to create your own private space. We also have a hall available for booking which is perfect for yoga, talks and other group events.

You can find out more on our Retreats section.

## Artists Living Space

We offer a fantastic value artists and musicians residency package to those guests wishing to stay long term in Varanasi. We take care of all your day to day needs, including accommodation, food, cleaning and internet access. You can find out more in our Artist Residency section.

## Conscious Travellers Community

We offer a budget accommodation option for Rs.250/night including two home cooked meals, you can find out more on our Community page.

## Karma Community Member

Ganges Nirvana believes strongly in supporting travellers and providing a community for creativity and freedom of expression. If your skills can be used in some of our current projects we'd be happy to cover your accommodation and food costs. If you would like to contribute to our community you can find out more in our Volunteer section.

## Couch Surfing

We are able to provide space on our rooftop to pitch a tent and very simple facilities such as a shower/bathroom to travellers who are in genuine need of cheap space. You will be able to contribute on a donation basis.

You must contact us first by email to discuss your situation with our team to check for availability. **Please do not show up without talking to us first.**

Please read our [new guest information](#) before arrival.

# Our Story

## Where It All Started

Shashwat started by working in five star hotels across India but after a trip to Auroville he was inspired to create a home for like minded travellers in his home city of Varanasi.

In 2017 work began to create what has now become Ganges Nirvana.

## One Man's Dream

Ganges Nirvana was created to be a free hostel for travellers who live together in a conscious community. It is a place where you can just be yourself. A place where artists, musicians, adventures and free spirits can share their lives.

It is created by travellers, for travellers. Every person that passes through the doors leaves their own mark and help us to realise our dream.

## **We've Come So Far**

What was first just a building with three floors full of rubble has now been transformed. With the work of many volunteers, starting with the first Couchsurfer in February 2017, we have created so much.

There are now two floors filled with beautifully finished rooms, decorated with artwork commissioned from talented travelling artists. There are 25 beds throughout the house and seven bathrooms. We have created three fully functional kitchens and have a super fast optical fibre internet connection. The garden at the front of the property has been landscaped and we have completely remodelled the rooftop to create a beautiful chill out space.

The lower two floors have been used to generate income via online bookings which brings us one step closer to our dream of complete sustainability.

We have generated jobs within our local community and now have two full time employees. None of this would have been possible without the hard work and generosity of the people that make up our community. Our family now reaches across the world and we see them returning again and again to keep us growing.

## **Where Are We Going Next?**

We are committed to developing a sustainable conscious community. We want to develop our space to be a mecca for creativity, a space where artists, musicians, writers, dancers and performers can come to share their gifts and be inspired by those around them.

We believe in providing a place to create freely, to learn every day and share openly.

Ganges Nirvana provides the place where magic can happen.

## **We Need Your Help**

Here are some of the projects we have planned for the future. Our dreams are big, but we know everything is possible when we work together.

### **Music Recording Studio**

A creative space for musicians to jam and create. We will need soundproofing, speakers, computer and sound recording software and microphones.

### **Therapy Room**

A multi-purpose therapy room for massage, Reiki, sound therapy, acupuncture, meditation, hypnosis and much more. We will need a multi-purpose massage table, cushions, towels, candles, a good quality sound system and some beautiful decorations.

## **Rooftop Garden Cafe**

For the launch of our rooftop cafe we are planning to start small with just a simple kitchen but even simple kitchens need a lot of work. We need to build work surfaces, storage areas and serving hatches. We will need fridges, stove tops and all the pots, pans, cutlery and all the crockery you would expect.

## **Creative Corner**

We want to be sure we have everything we need for people to nurture that creative passion. We want to supply paints, general art materials such as pencils and pens, good quality paper, yarn and wool, knitting needles and crochet needles and plenty of beautiful things to use.

## **Exchange Boutique Store**

A simple shop for travellers to buy and sell, turning someones trash into someone else's treasure. We need to construct a room, put in some shelves, clothes rails and storage.

## **Climbing Frame and Slide for the Rooftop**

No joke! We have two rooftops so a climbing frame to get up and and slide to come down is the perfect solution. Shashwat gets to go first.

## **Gym**

We believe in a healthy body as well as a healthy mind. We want to build a basic gym with a crossfit, tyres, ropes, monkey bars and weights.

## **Yoga Studio**

We want to create a peaceful and clean space dedicated to yoga. We will have a high quality wooden floor, provide matts, cushions and straps. The room will be decorated to a high standard with some carefully selected artwork.

# **Donation**

As you can see, we have some big dreams, just like when we started not so long ago with a building full of rubble, and look how far we have come since then. With your help we know we can realise our dream and create a truly magical place for travellers and free spirits to call home in Varanasi.

If you want to help us realise our dream you can send donations to Ganges Nirvana using TransferWise, just follow the instructions on <http://gangesnirvana.org/payment/>.