The Ganges

Welcome to the journey across the Ganges, the holiest river of the Hindus.

You start in Kolkata, formerly Calcutta, and first cross the over 300 kilometer long Ganges delta. Then you follow the lower Meghna and the Padma, as the Ganges is called in Bangladesh.

Through the Ganges plain you follow the course of the river to Prayagraj. There you will take a detour across the Yamuna to Dehli to the Himalayas and the headwaters, as well as the five sacred river mouths, the Panch Prayag.

If you tune COM2 to 123,000 MHz, you will get a lot of information about the river and its religious significance. If you don't understand the spoken English language very well, turn on the subtitles in the general options and download the flight manual in your desired language. There, all language versions are translated. Unfortunately, the simulator currently only supports English as the language output.

You are piloting a DA40NG on this trip and have to manage the fuel on your own.

Have fun on this journey and always happy landings.

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LEGS

LEG 1: VECC - VGNA

Departure: Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport (VECC)

Destination: Nalchiti Airport (VGNA)

Distance: 208,6 nm

POI1-Kolkata

Distance:	6,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	6,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	201,9 nm
True Course:	233°
Magnetic Course:	233°

The first leg of your journey is also the longest. There are only a few airports in the Ganges Delta.

After starting in the east of the Kolkata metropolitan region, you turn southwest and see the Hugli River on the horizon. Southeast of Kolkata's trademark Haora Bridge is the city center of Kolkata. Kolkata is a starting point of the Grand Trunk Road.

Kolkata, or Calcutta until 2001, is the capital of the state of West Bengal in India, where you are right now. Kolkata is India's seventh largest city, and its metropolitan region is the country's third largest metropolitan area. Like the 1990s renaming of Bombay to Mumbai and Madras to Chennai, Kolkata's name change reflects anti-colonial and regionalist sentiment in Indian politics.

Air pollution in Kolkata has reached enormous proportions. The high level of particulate matter is the biggest problem. The causes lie in factories, small-scale industry, power plants and traffic, as well as in private households. Carbon dioxide emissions are increasing rapidly as a result of ongoing industrialization and a steady rise in traffic volumes and energy consumption. Particular problems

arise from the often close proximity of poorer residential areas and industry. Air pollution and urban sprawl in historically important areas are destroying many of Kolkata's cultural monuments.

Kolkata is the center of Indian intellectuals and the artistic avant-garde. Mother Teresa worked here, probably the city's most famous citizen in the Western world. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her work.

POI2-Rupnarayan River

Distance:	27,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	34,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	174,2 nm
True Course:	216°
Magnetic Course:	216°

Follow the river Hugli in southern directions. At Gadiara, which lies on the western bank, the Rupnarayan flows.

The river Hugli is the westernmost estuary of the Ganges and is formed by the confluence of the Bhagirathi, Jalangi and Matabhanga, all also offshoots of the Ganges. The Hugli is navigable as far as Kolkata. At its mouth in the Bay of Bengal are the deep-sea ports of Haldia and Diamond Harbour.

POI3-Haldia

Distance:	9,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	43,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	164,8 nm
True Course:	169°
Magnetic Course:	169°

If you continue to follow the Hugli, you will see Diamond Harbour on the left bank and a little later, on the right bank, the town of Haldia. The Hugli widens into a vast expanse of water and flows into the Gulf of Begalen.

The Hugli has a rapid tidal range and is a remarkable example of the river phenomenon. This is the wave of the rising tide that is dammed at the point where the river mouth suddenly narrows, often reaching a height of more than 2 meters. It can be felt as far as Naihati, 35 kilometers upstream from Kolkatta, and often destroys small boats.

POI4-Sagar Island

Distance:	25,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	69,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	139,5 nm
True Course:	182°
Magnetic Course:	182°

Continue flying south across Nayarchar Island to Sagar Island on the open sea.

Sagar Island is a place of Hindu pilgrimage. Every year on January 15, the day of Makar Sankranti, hundreds of thousands of Hindus gather to take a holy bath at the confluence of the Ganges and the Bay of Bengal and to pray at the Kapil Muni temple.

POI5-Lothian Island

Distance:	14,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	83,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	125,4 nm
True Course:	91°
Magnetic Course:	91°

At the end of Sagar Island, turn east. First you fly over a peninsula until you reach Lothian Island in the wide delta. The island consists almost entirely of the Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctuary.

Wildlife in this sanctuary, the Lothian Island Wildlife Sanctuary, includes estuarine crocodiles, olive bastard tortoises, spotted deer, jungle cats and rhesus monkeys.

The tropical wet forest consists of mangrove vegetation that provides a dense cover to protect the species and their habitat.

POI6-Sundarban National Park

Distance:	29,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	113,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	95,7 nm
True Course:	75°
Magnetic Course:	76°

Further east, you will fly over the estuary of the Malta and Bidyadhari rivers. Behind the Bidyadhari River, up to the border with Bangladesh, is the Sundarban National Park.

Sundarbans National Park is part of a tiger conservation area and a biosphere reserve. The park is located in the Sundarbans in the Ganges Delta and borders the Sundarbans Reserve Forest in Bangladesh. The Sundarbans are the largest mangrove forests on earth.

It is one of the largest habitats of the Royal Bengal Tiger, home to many different species of birds, reptiles such as the saltwater crocodile, and invertebrate species.

In 1987, UNESCO recognized the National Park as a World Heritage Site. It is an excellent example of ecological and biological processes and significant natural habitats for species conservation. The Sundarbans mangroves are one of the most biologically productive ecosystems in the world.

POI7-Balaswar River

Distance:	58,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	171,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	37,1 nm
True Course:	81°
Magnetic Course:	81°

In Bangladesh, this is followed by the Sundarbans Reserved Forest, which was the first wetland of international importance to be designated by Bangladesh. This extends from the Indian border eastward to the Baleshwar River. Three rivers flow into it, from west to east: Balshwar, Kirtankhola and Payra.

The partition of India on August 14 and 15, 1947, led to the creation of two independent territories: Pakistan and India. Pakistan consisted of two parts until 1971: West Pakistan, today's Pakistan, and East Pakistan, today's Bangladesh.

The partition of the former British India into two states marked the end of British colonial rule on the Indian subcontinent. In the course of the partition process, civil war-like clashes occurred that led to the deaths of several hundred thousand people. About 20 million people were deported, displaced or resettled in the course of the partition of British India.

In the course of partition, the hitherto self-governing so-called princely states were free to decide which of the two new territories, India or Pakistan, they wanted to declare allegiance to, or whether they preferred to continue to exist as independent principalities. The decisions of the principalities of Jammu and Kashmir resulting from this question led to the Indo-Pakistani War of 1947, which was later followed by further territorial disputes between India and Pakistan.

VGNA-Nalchiti Airport

Distance:	37,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	208,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	41°
Magnetic Course:	42°
Elevation:	11 feet
Fuel:	yes

You follow the river northeast at the third mouth, the Payra. After about 35 nautical miles, you will see the Laukhati on the right bank, a cross connection between the Payra and the Galachipa River. Follow this to the Patuakhali Bridge. Half a nautical mile north is the airport just off the road.

LEG 2: VGNA - VGTJ

Departure: Nalchiti Airport (VGNA)
Destination: Tejgaon (VGTJ)
Distance: 112,2 nm

POI8-Tetulia River

Distance:	18,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	18,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	93,8 nm
True Course:	90°
Magnetic Course:	90°

After taking off, fly back to the Patuakhali Bridge and follow the river east for a short distance. South of the confluence with the Galachipa you will see a road leading east. Follow it and at the end you will already see the Tetulia River.

POI9-Meghna River

Distance:	16,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	34,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	77,8 nm
True Course:	42°
Magnetic Course:	42°

Turn to the northeast. On the horizon you can already see the lower Meghna, the most powerful river in Asia. It is up to 20 kilometers wide there.

POI10-Confluence Meghna - Padma

Distance:	41,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	76,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	36,0 nm
True Course:	344°
Magnetic Course:	344°

Follow the lower Meghna upstream to the north. On the left side of the river in the direction of flight, numerous river branches can be seen, for which the Ganges delta is known.

At Chandpur, the upper Meghna and the Padma join to form the lower Meghna.

Meghna is the common name of two successive river sections in the system of great rivers of Bengal, which also includes Brahmaputra and Ganges, which you will encounter later.

Both sections of the river are often treated as two separate rivers. The Lower Meghna is the most powerful river in Asia and the third largest in the world. It is formed by the confluence of the Upper Meghna with the almost 8 times larger Padma, which in turn is formed a good 100 kilometers upstream from the confluence of the main branches of the Ganges and Jamuna, the lower Brahmaputra.

The sections of the river known as the Meghna lie within the borders of Bangladesh, but the system also drains large parts of northeast India. The area around Cherrapunji, which is one of the rainiest regions in the world, also drains into the Meghna.

POI11-Dhaleshvari River

Distance:	19,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	95,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	16,3 nm
True Course:	350°
Magnetic Course:	350°

Continue following the Meghna to the north. On the left side you will see a branch of the Padma, which meets the Meghna and a little further on the right bank a branch of the Meghna flows back into the main stream.

Keep to the left bank. At the town of Narayanganj the Dhaleshvari flows into the river.

VGTJ-Tejgaon

Distance:	16,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	112,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	321°
Magnetic Course:	321°
Elevation:	24 feet
Fuel:	yes

Fly over the town of Narayanganj in a northwesterly direction and follow the Dhaleshvari. First the left and later at another confluence, the right arm. To the west of Dhaka is the smaller of the two airports.

Dhaka is the capital of Bangladesh and the largest city in the country. It is also the capital of the administrative unit of the same name. Dhaka is located in the heart of the world's largest jute-growing area. The surrounding countryside is densely populated and subject to strong monsoon floods. Although over 160 kilometers from the sea, the city is only about six meters above sea level.

With the partition of India in 1947, Dhaka became the capital of East Bengal, which was part of Pakistan. In 1970, the city was hit by a severe cyclone. With a death toll of 300,000 to 500,000, it was the most severe cyclone ever recorded and one of the most consequential natural disasters in recent history.

In the immediate aftermath, the escalation of political tensions existing in East Pakistan led to the Bangladesh War in March 1971 and the emergence of the independent state of Bangladesh in the territory of East Pakistan in December of the same year.

LEG 3: VGTJ - VGRJ

Departure: Tejgaon (VGTJ)
Destination: Shah Mokhdum (VGRJ)
Distance: 133,3 nm

POI12-Padma Bridge

Distance:	20,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	20,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	113,1 nm
True Course:	199°
Magnetic Course:	199°

The third stage takes you to the border region between Bangladesh and India.

After taking off, you turn south-southwest and cross the two arms of the Dhaleshvari River. There you can already see the national road N8, which will lead you back to Padma.

POI13-Jamuna (Brahmaputra)

Distance:	33,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	53,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	79,6 nm
True Course:	307°
Magnetic Course:	307°

Turn right and follow the Padma upstream until you reach the confluence of the Jamuna, now the main stream of the Brahmaputra. On the way to the confluence you will fly over some larger islands in the river, which change their size and shape depending on the season and thus the flow of the Padma.

The Brahmaputra, "son of Brahma", is the main stream of the most water-rich river in Asia, which flows into the Indian Ocean as the Meghna. Its headwaters in Tibet are considered the highest river in the world, with an average altitude of 4,000 meters. Brahma is the name of one of the main gods of Hinduism. Other main gods are Vishnu and Shiva.

As one of the longest rivers on earth, it flows through the states of China, India and Bangladesh over a length of around 3,100 kilometers until it flows into the Ganges. Its course, which is sometimes variable and sometimes difficult to access, crosses several cultural areas, which has led to a variety of different names for the individual sections.

Shortly after the Brahmaputra leaves the Indian state of Assam for Bangladesh, it is given the name Jamuna. After 245 kilometers in a riverbed up to 14 kilometers wide, winding and crisscrossed by shifting sandbanks, it joins the main stream of the Ganges and from then on bears the name Padma.

At two points, at the beginning of the Jamuna and about 50 kilometers downstream, smaller rivers branch off to the left and join to form the Old Brahmaputra. The Old Brahmaputra follows its former riverbeds, flows through the town of Mymensingh and, divided into two branches, flows into the upper reaches of the Meghna on the one hand and into another tributary of the Jamuna, the Dhaleshwari, which also touches the capital of Bangladesh, Dhaka, on the other.

This former situation is still reflected today in the naming of the waters, even if the main rivers today run quite differently. This explains the similarity of names of various river sections, such as Brahmaputra, Padma or Meghna, but also the name changes in the course of the main river.

POI14-Madhumati

Distance:	37,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	91,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	42,2 nm
True Course:	284°
Magnetic Course:	284°

Continue to follow the Padma in a westerly direction. You will cross the Nazirganj Dolphin Sanctuary, a sanctuary for the freshwater dolphins of the Ganges.

Before you meet the branch of the Madhumati from the Padma at the town of Kushtia, you will pass Shilaidaha, which lies on the southern bank.

The Nazirganj Dolphin Sanctuary is one of three protected areas at the confluence of the Padma and Jamuna rivers. It is home to the endangered freshwater dolphins of the Ganges and was officially declared a nature reserve by the government of Bangladesh in 2013.

Down there is Shilaidaha. In Shilaidaha lived for a time Rabindranath Thakur, also known as Rabindranath Tagore. He was a Bengali philosopher, poet, painter, composer, musician and Brahmo Samaj devotee in India. Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913, making him the first Asian Nobel laureate.

With works such as "Ghare baire" (translated: "The House and the World"), Tagore revolutionized Bengali literature in an era known as the "Bengal Renaissance" and enriched Bengali art with a wealth of poems, short stories, letters, essays and paintings. He was a dedicated cultural and social reformer and polymath. He modernized the art of his homeland by deliberately attacking its strict structure and classical formal language. Two of his songs are today the national anthems of Bangladesh and India: Amar Shonar Bangla and Jana Gana Mana.

POI15-Rajshahi

Distance:	37,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	128,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	4,6 nm
True Course:	312°
Magnetic Course:	313°

The river changes its direction several times between north-south and west-east. At Ruppur, you cross a road and rail bridge. About 30 nautical miles further is the town of Rajshahi on the north bank of the Padma. Parts of the south and west bank, on the way to Rajshahi, already belong to India.

On the right bank, the Ruppur nuclear power plant under construction can be seen. It will be the first nuclear power plant in Bangladesh with a net capacity of 2.16 GW. Construction began on November 30, 2017, and the first of two reactor units is scheduled to go online in 2024, with the second a year later. Construction is being carried out by Russia's Rosatom Atomic Energy Agency. In 2015, Transparency International Bangladesh expressed considerable doubts about the safety of the planned power plant, as even renowned Russian nuclear scientists classify Russian nuclear reactors as unsafe.

VGRJ-Shah Mokhdum

Distance:	4,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	133,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	9°
Magnetic Course:	9°
Elevation:	55 feet
Fuel:	yes

Turn away from the Padma and fly over the city to the north. In the northern outskirts is the regional airport of Rajshahi.

LEG 4: VGRJ - Z12Q

Departure: Shah Mokhdum (VGRJ)
Destination: Bhagalpur (Z12Q)
Distance: 122,9 nm

POI16-Mahananda River

Distance:	18,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	18,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	104,9 nm
True Course:	283°
Magnetic Course:	283°

This stage on your way to the source of the Ganges leads you along the Ganges plain from Bangladesh to India. After the start, return to the Padma via the southern town of Rajshahi and follow the river in a northwesterly direction. In a wide arc, the historic river Mahananda flows in from the north.

The Mahananda flows in its lower course as the Fulahar and joins the Ganges at Manikchak. The historic course of the Mahananda, over which today only a small part of the river water flows, passes through the town of Malda and crosses the border into Bangladesh. The mouth into the Ganges lies above Godagari.

Near Godagari was discovered Deopara Prashasti, an important stone inscription in Sanskrit describing the Sena dynasty, a Hindu dynasty of the early Middle Ages.

POI17-Border Bangladesh-India

Distance:	16,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	34,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	88,4 nm
True Course:	301°
Magnetic Course:	301°

The border between the two states Bangladesh and India does not run through the middle of the river. In parts, the northern banks already belong to India, while in other places the villages and towns south of the river still belong to Bangladesh.

About 16 nautical miles upstream, however, you finally cross the border into India just before the Padma splits into a small tributary. In the further course in India the river is called Ganges.

POI18-Farakka Dam

Distance:	11,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	45,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	77,2 nm
True Course:	330°
Magnetic Course:	330°

A few minutes later, you reach the Farraka Dam. Since 1975, the Farakka barrage has been draining an increased portion of the Ganges, thus straining the relationship between India and Bangladesh.

(In the simulator, the mighty dam is shown only as a bridge).

The Farakka Dam diverts about half of the Ganges water into the Hugli River system via a 38-kilometer feeder canal. The canal begins above the Farakka Dam and connects with the Bhagirathi River to form the Hugli River, which you already met in Kolkata.

The feeder canal was built on the watercourse of the small rivers Gumani, Trimohini and Kanloi. The outflows of Trimohini and Kanloi are designed to flow into the feeder canal. The outflow of the Masna should flow through a culvert through the feeder canal into the Ganges. If the outflow into the Ganges is blocked, the flood runoff will spill into the Pagla and Bansloi catchments and inundate the areas there.

POI19-Fulahar River

Distance:	17,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	63,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	59,4 nm
True Course:	344°
Magnetic Course:	344°

About 18 nautical miles above the Farakka Dam, the Fulahar River flows into the Ganges. The Fulahar River is the much wider lower course of the Mahananda, the mouth of which you have already flown over in Bangladesh.

POI20-Sahibganj

Distance:	14,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	77,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	45,0 nm
True Course:	312°
Magnetic Course:	312°

The next town upstream is on the south bank and is called Sahibganj. Sahibganj is located on the historic Grand Trunk Road.

The Grand Trunk Road is a long-distance trade route that, with an age of at least 2500 years, is one of the oldest and most important transport links in Asia. The road, which is about 2400 kilometers long, follows the Ganges and Yamuna plains in large parts and has been a busy traffic route between the present-day states of Pakistan, India and Bangladesh for centuries. It is still in use today.

During the partition of India and Pakistan at the end of colonial rule in 1947, the Grand Trunk Road was the scene of the worst refugee disaster in modern history, as Hindus fled the newly formed Pakistan for what is now India, and many Muslims fled in the opposite direction.

POI21-Kosi River

Distance:	23,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	101,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	21,3 nm
True Course:	295°
Magnetic Course:	295°

Continue flying upstream the Ganges and you will come to a large island in the river. Follow the northern arm of the Ganges until the Kosi River flows in from the west. Just before the confluence with the Ganges, there is a railroad bridge and a road bridge over the Kosi.

The Kosi drainage area begins in Tibet, still north of the Mount Everest region, which is part of the catchment area, as is the eastern third of Nepal. Parts of Tibet and Bihar are also drained by the Kosi.

The river course is unstable because the water transports a lot of sediment during the summer monsoon season. Soil erosion and frequent landslides in the catchment area mean that the Kosi transports one of the largest quantities of sediment of any river in the world.

The tributaries of the Kosi in the Himalayas have a steep gradient of several meters per kilometer and flow through narrow gorges, resulting in high flow velocities. As it enters the Ganges plain, the Kosi widens and fans out. Just before it joins the Ganges, the gradient is only a few centimeters per kilometer. As a result, the flow velocity of the Kosi slows down considerably, so that the sediments it carries are deposited in large quantities. Together with the regular monsoon floods, this causes shifts in the riverbed and flooding.

The effects of the flood are extreme. Over the past 200 years, the river has changed course in an area that stretches 133 kilometers from east to west. The Indian state of Bihar is affected, which has earned the Kosi the nickname "sorrow of Bihar.

POI22-Vikramashila

Distance:	5,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	107,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	15,5 nm
True Course:	158°
Magnetic Course:	158°

South of the confluence of the Kosi River with the Ganges lie the ruins of Vikramashila on the western bank. Vikramashila University was an important Buddhist monastic university.

The foundation of Vikramashila goes back to the Bengali ruler Dharmapala and took place as a reaction to a supposed decline of the teachings at the then leading Buddhist monastic university of Nalanda. As a center for training and sending missionaries, Vikramashila had a lasting impact on the spread of the Tantric teachings in Tibet and in East and Southeast Asia.

Like other Buddhist centers, the fortified monastic university fell victim around 1203 to the Muslim invaders who were advancing against the Sena dynasty, which now ruled Bengal but was rather weak overall.

Z12Q-Bhagalpur

Distance:	15,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	122,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	253°
Magnetic Course:	253°
Elevation:	161 feet
Fuel:	yes

After another 15 nautical miles you come to the town of Bhagalpur. It is located on the south bank of the river. If you follow the road south over a bridge, you can't miss the airport.

Bhagalpur is known as the silk city in Bihar. The river around the city is home to the Gangetic dolphin. Bhagalpur hosts the largest Manasa Puja and one of the largest processions in Kali Puja, an intangible cultural heritage of the region.

LEG 5: Z12Q - VEPT

Departure: Bhagalpur (Z12Q)

Destination: Patna (VEPT)

Distance: 108,8 nm

POI23-Sultanganj

Distance:	15,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	15,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	93,7 nm
True Course:	271°
Magnetic Course:	271°

This stage will take you further through the Ganges plain to Patna, the capital of the Indian state of Bihar.

After the start you will return to the Ganges, which is located north of the city. A little further west, on the south bank, is the city of Sultanganj.

Shravani Mela is a month-long festival celebrated every year from July to August by the devotees of Shiva. Devotees from all over the world come to Sultanganj and begin their over 100 kilometer journey south to the shrine of Deoghar.

In Sultanganj, the devotees collect water in their kanwars and carry the holy Ganges water on their shoulders. They walk to the Baba Baidyanath temple in Babadham, reciting Bol Bam on the way. Once in Babadham, the devotees first take a bath in the Shivaganga to purify themselves and then enter the Baba Baidyanath temple where the Ganges water is offered to the Jyotirlingam. This pilgrimage lasts 30 days, one of the longest religious festivals in the world.

POI24-Munger

Distance:	16,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	31,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	77,5 nm
True Course:	298°
Magnetic Course:	298°

Fly further upstream along the Ganges. Behind a bend in the river lies the town of Munger on the left bank. Before that, you will fly over a railroad bridge that leads to Munger. On a rocky hill lies the Munger Fort.

Munger Fort is located on the south bank of the Ganges River. Its history is not fully dated, but it is believed to have been built during the early reign of the Indian Mamluk Dynasty. The fort has two prominent mounds called Karnachaura or Karanchaura, and the other is a built-up rectangular mound inferred to be the site of a citadel of the fort with historical connections. The fort became a place of considerable importance for the British in Bengal until 1947, Indian independence.

The fort houses a number of religious and historical monuments as well as the Kashtaharini Ghat on the Ganges River and an 18th century British cemetery. In India, ghat refers to fortified embankments that slope down toward rivers, lakes or ponds and are usually constructed as steps.

POI25-Rajendra Bridge

Distance:	25,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	56,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	51,9 nm
True Course:	270°
Magnetic Course:	270°

Further along the Ganges you will come to Rajendra Bridge, also known as Simaria Bridge.

However, due to lack of maintenance and heavy works, the bridge is now completely damaged. Only small vehicles such as 2-wheelers, 3-wheelers and some small 4-wheelers are allowed to use the bridge. A new, six-lane bridge is under construction and should be completed by 2023. However, nothing can be seen of the new construction in the simulator.

POI26-Raghopur Island

Distance:	28,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	85,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	23,1 nm
True Course:	288°
Magnetic Course:	288°

About 25 nautical miles to the west is the river island of Raghopur in the Ganges. At the western end of the island are the two largest villages: Rampur and Rustampur. In northern Rampur, the Kachchi Dargah Bridge crosses the river.

The formation and history of Raghopur Island are much older than previously thought, as Harappan bricks have recently been discovered. Surrounded on all sides by the Ganges, Raghopur consists mainly of alluvial land. Every year this area is inundated by water due to flooding from the Ganges. This has been helpful to Raghopur in that floods also bring a new layer of soil that makes the area fertile.

POI27-Mahatma Gandhi Bridge

Distance:	16,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	102,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	6,6 nm
True Course:	292°
Magnetic Course:	292°

North of Patna, the city on the south bank, the Mahatma Gandhi Bridge crosses the Ganges. With a length of over 5.5 kilometers, it is the second longest bridge in India.

Behind the bridge, the Kali Gandaki flows into the Ganges. The Black Gandaki, as it is called because of its dark sediment, rises on the northern edge of the Himalayas in Nepal on the border with Tibet. Between Kalopani and Larjung, where the valley cuts through the main Himalayan ridge, lies the deepest valley floor in the world at about 2,540 meters. The difference in altitude between the valley floor and the 8167-meter peak of Dhaulagiri, which lies 12 kilometers to the west, is more than 5600 meters there. East of the valley rises the Annapurna with its 8091 meter high peak.

VEPT-Patna

Distance:	6,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	108,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	254°
Magnetic Course:	254°
Elevation:	175 feet
Fuel:	yes

Turn left and fly to the city of Patna. There you will see a wide crossroad, which you follow to the train station. On the horizon you can already see the city's airport.

Patna, historically known as Pataliputra, is the capital of the state of Bihar with a population of about 2.5 million. Other older names of the city are Kusumpura, Pushpapura as well as Azimabad. It is the seat of a Roman Catholic archbishopric. Patna is one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world and was founded in 490 BC by the king of Magadha. The city is only about 50 meters above sea level, although it is over 700 kilometers from the mouth of the sea.

The Buddhist, Hindu and Jain pilgrimage centers of Vaishali, Rajgir, Nalanda, Bodh Gaya and Pawapuri are nearby. The city of Patna is a holy city for Sikhs, as the tenth Sikh Guru Gobind Singh was born here.

LEG 6: VEPT - VAGH

Departure: Patna (VEPT)

Destination: Ghazipur Airport (VAGH)

Distance: 91,9 nm

POI28-Son River

Distance:	14,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	14,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	77,7 nm
True Course:	298°
Magnetic Course:	298°

After takeoff, fly back to the Ganges River, located north of the city of Patna. Follow the river upstream to the west.

From the south flows the Son River, the largest southern tributary of the Ganges.

POI29-Ghaghara

Distance:	12,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	26,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	65,6 nm
True Course:	284°
Magnetic Course:	284°

After crossing the Arrah-Chhapra bridge, further upstream to the north of the Ganges lies the town of Chapra. Shortly after that you will meet the confluence of the Ghaghara and the Ganges. The Ghaghara flows in from the north.

The Ghaghara, "Marbles of Water," is the longest river in Nepal and one of the most water-rich tributaries of the Ganges. The river is mainly used for power generation in Nepal and for irrigation in India. The Ghaghara is the upper range of the Ganges River dolphin, the largest freshwater mammal on the Indian subcontinent, of which only about 1000 remain. Efforts are also being made to stabilize the very small and widely dispersed populations of the Ganges gavial, a species of crocodile.

POI30-Nainjor

Distance:	16,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	42,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	49,4 nm
True Course:	262°
Magnetic Course:	261°

Beyond a northern bend of the river, you will come to the town of Nainjor on the southeastern bank of the Ganges.

POI31-Ballia

Distance:	10,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	53,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	38,7 nm
True Course:	280°
Magnetic Course:	280°

About 10 nautical miles to the west is the town of Ballia on the border of the Indian states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar north of the Ganges River.

Local tradition derives the name of the city of Ballia from the poet Valmiki, the mythical author of the Ramayana epic. A derivation from the Hindi word for sand, bālū, is also considered possible. Originally, Ballia was located directly on the banks of the Ganges, but in the late 19th century, erosion of the riverbank destroyed almost the entire city. Therefore, in 1900, Ballia was moved about two kilometers to the north.

The Ramayana epic is the second Indian national epic after the Mahabharata. Unlike the Mahabharata, however, it is an art poem. The author of the oldest and best known version is Valmiki. The exact time of origin is unclear. It lies between the 4th century BC and the 2nd century AD. The Ramayana probably received its currently known form with seven books in the second century after Christ.

POI32-Buxar Ganga Bridge

Distance:	12,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	66,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	25,8 nm
True Course:	224°
Magnetic Course:	224°

Follow the Ganges in southwestern directions, fly over the three river islands and you will come to the Buxar Ganga Bridge, a high road bridge over the Ganges.

Buxar is considered the place where God Rama overcame the demoness Thadaka despite his reservations and also the place of the sage Vishvamaitra's ashram.

In June 1739, about 15 kilometers north of Buxar, the Battle of Chausa took place between the troops of the Great Mogul Humayun and those of the Afghan usurper Sher Shah Suri, which ended in favor of the latter. Only 25 years later, the Battle of Buxar took place between the British Empire and the Mughal Empire. The victory of the British represented a significant milestone towards the later British dominance on the Indian subcontinent.

POI33-Karamnasa River

Distance:	7,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	73,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	18,2 nm
True Course:	233°
Magnetic Course:	233°

Shortly after, the river Karamnasa flows in from the south. The name of the river means "destroyer of religious value".

According to legend, the sage Vishvamitra, through penance and meditation, gained the power to create a completely new universe. When he set out to create a new universe, this caused

consternation to the deity Indra. However, he continued and after creating a copy of our universe, he began to create human beings. The first was Trishanku, whom he wanted to send as the ruler of his new universe. Indra stopped his descent. Thus, Trishanku ended up hanging upside down in the air. The karmanasa was formed from the saliva that dripped from his mouth.

POI34-Ghazipur

Distance:	15,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	88,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	3,1 nm
True Course:	286°
Magnetic Course:	286°

The next bridge is located before the city of Ghazipur, the Veer Abdul Hameed Bridge.

Ghazipur was founded around 1330 by a Muslim army commander named Masud, who had previously defeated the local Raja. Sultan Muhammad bin Tughluq gave him the land of the defeated Raja and bestowed upon him the honorary title of Ghazi, which gave the newly founded city its name. The local Hindu tradition, on the other hand, derives the name from Gadhi, the father of the mythical sage Vishvamitra.

VAGH-Ghazipur Airport

Distance:	3,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	91,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	304°
Magnetic Course:	304°
Elevation:	230 feet
Fuel:	yes

The road over the bridge runs northwest around the town of Ghazipur. It joins an arterial road to the north that leads directly to the airport.

LEG 7: VAGH - VAAL

Departure: Ghazipur Airport (VAGH)

Destination: Allahabad Airport (VAAL)

Distance: 125,7 nm

POI35-Zamania

Distance:	11,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	11,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	113,8 nm
True Course:	181°
Magnetic Course:	181°

On this stage you will visit other Hindu holy places. The stage destination Prayagraj is one of the most important pilgrimage sites.

But before that you will go to Zamania. To do this, fly back to the Ganges and follow it south. Before the river resumes its main flow direction, Zamania is located on the east bank of the Ganges. There, a bridge also crosses the river.

According to Hindu mythology, Zamania was the place where Rishi Jamadagni, the father of Lord Parashurama, the sixth incarnation of Vishnu, had his ashram. The Jamadagni Ashram was located on the banks of the Ganges, a few kilometers from the town of Zamania, where a tributary of the Ganges flows into the river.

POI36-Saidpur

Distance:	19,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	31,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	94,2 nm
True Course:	291°
Magnetic Course:	291°

The nearest bridge over the Ganges is at the town of Saidpur, located on the north bank. In the western neighboring town of Aunrihar is the temple of Varah-Bhagwan.

In Hinduism, Varaha is the third incarnation of the god Vishnu in the form of a boar. The idea of the boar, which brings forth the earth by burrowing in the mud, is already archaeologically documented in pre-Hindu times on the Andaman Islands.

POI37-Gomti River

Distance:	3,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	34,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	91,2 nm
True Course:	239°
Magnetic Course:	239°

Only a few minutes later you will arrive at the mouth of the Gomti River.

The 805 kilometer long river rises in the north of the state of Uttar Pradesh, where you are right now. The Gomti flows in a southeasterly direction through the Ganges plain and joins the Ganges south of Saidpur. The Gomti is heavily polluted by large industries and tanneries in the river's catchment area. On the banks of the Gomti are the towns of Lakhnau and Jaunpur. The latter is best known for its important buildings of Indo-Islamic architecture from the 15th century.

POI38-Baluwa

Distance:	5,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	40,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	85,8 nm
True Course:	173°
Magnetic Course:	172°

Another bridge over the Ganges is at Baluwa, about 5 nautical miles south of the mouth of the Gomti.

POI39-Varuna River

Distance:	9,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	49,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	76,7 nm
True Course:	234°
Magnetic Course:	234°

Before you reach the city of Varanasi, the river Varuna flows into the Ganges from your right.

Although the Varuna is of little importance as a river, it has a certain importance through its connection with the city of Varanasi, which is sacred to Hindus. Under the name of Varuna or Varana, it is already mentioned in the Puranas, one of the most important sacred scriptures of Hinduism. According to traditional belief, the Varuna, together with the Ganges and the small river Assi in the south, marks the boundaries of Varanasi as a sacred space. Accordingly, the name Varanasi is derived from the river names Varuna and Assi. However, it is more likely that the river Varuna alone, also known as Varanasi in older literature, gave the city its name.

POI40-Varanasi

Distance:	2,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	52,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	73,8 nm
True Course:	253°
Magnetic Course:	253°

West of the mouth of the Varuna River is the city of Varanasi. Varanasi is one of the oldest cities in India and is considered the holiest city of Hinduism. Varansi is also located on the ancient Grand Trunk Road.

Varanasi is considered the city of the god Shiva Vishwanath and one of the holiest sites of Hinduism. For more than 2500 years, believers have made pilgrimages to the city, which is also a center of traditional Hindu culture and science.

For devout Hindus, bathing in the Ganges, dying and being burned in Varanasi is considered particularly desirable. Along the river stretch kilometers of stepped bank fortifications, the ghats, where on one side the faithful bathe in the water of the river, which is sacred to them, in order to be cleansed of their sins. Downstream, a few hundred meters away, the bodies of the deceased are burned and the ashes scattered in the water. According to Hindu mythology, to die and be burned in Varanasi is to break out of the eternal cycle of rebirth.

Ten kilometers north of Varanasi is Sarnath, the place where Buddha is said to have given his first sermon after his enlightenment in Bodhgaya. This sermon is also known as the speech with which Buddha set the wheel of teaching in motion. It was delivered in the gazelle grove at Sarnath. Buddha Shakyamuni is believed by some Hindus to be the incarnation of Vishnu.

Because of its religious significance, Varanasi has always attracted Hindus from other parts of South Asia, many of whom have settled in the city. Thus, Varanasi has large communities of Bengalis, Tamils, Nepalese and other ethnic groups who live in their own neighborhoods and have built temples in the style of their regions of origin.

POI41-Assi

Distance:	2,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	54,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	71,6 nm
True Course:	155°
Magnetic Course:	155°

The Small River Assi is the southern boundary of the sacred space of Varanasi.

POI42-Vishwa Sundari Bridge

Distance:	1,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	56,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	69,7 nm
True Course:	149°
Magnetic Course:	149°

Further south you fly over two bridges of the Ganges at Bhagawanpur. On the eastern bank after the first bridge is the Ramnagar Fort, before you come to the Vishwa Sundari Bridge.

In the fortress, during the Autumn Festival, the Ramilia is performed, a dramatic folk representation of the life of Rama based on the ancient Hindu epic Ramayana. Rama is the seventh incarnation of the Hindu god Vishnu.

POI43-Chunar

Distance:	11,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	67,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	58,6 nm
True Course:	228°
Magnetic Course:	228°

Near the town of Chunar is the next bridge over the Ganges. Behind the bridge on the left side is the Fort Chunar.

There are many legends that associate the fort with divine aspects. One of them is the story of King Vikramāditya of Ujjain. His brother Bharthari, who chose the life of a hermit, began to live near the rock face of Chunar. Realizing his brother's situation, Vikramadiathya visited Chunar and built a house for him. The black stone where Saint Bhatinath lived and prayed is still revered today, as it is believed that Bhatinath sits in invisible form in the fortress complex.

POI44-Bhatauli Ganga Bridge

Distance:	11,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	78,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	47,4 nm
True Course:	290°
Magnetic Course:	290°

The Bhatauli Ganga Bridge is located 11 nautical miles upstream the Ganges River.

POI45-Mirzapur

Distance:	7,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	86,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	39,5 nm
True Course:	251°
Magnetic Course:	251°

The next crossing of the Ganges is at the town of Mirazpur, which is surrounded by several hills of the Maikal range.

Mirzapur is known for its carpet and brassware industry and the folk tradition of Kajri and Birha music. The village of Vindhyachal, located about five kilometers to the west, is an important pilgrimage destination, thanks to the temple of the goddess Vindhyavasini.

POI46-Tons River

Distance:	25,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	112,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	13,8 nm
True Course:	286°
Magnetic Course:	286°

The river makes a few turns in this flat area. Of course you can shorten the way a bit, but watch out for the mouth of the Tons River.

About 26 kilometers upstream from the confluence of the Tons River with the Ganges is the Ichari Dam. Below this, only a small amount of water flows in the riverbed, since at the dam the water is diverted to the Chibro and then to the Khodri hydroelectric power plant on the banks of the Yamuna.

VAAL-Allahabad Airport

Distance:	13,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	125,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	283°
Magnetic Course:	283°
Elevation:	305 feet
Fuel:	yes

Now stay south of the Ganges. There you will see a wide road, the NH35, and parallel to it a railroad line, which you follow for a short distance. The Ganges makes a turn to the north and then you fly west to the airport of Allahabad / Prayagraj. Behind the airport you can already see the river Yamuna, about which you will learn more in one of the next stages.

LEG 8: VAAL - VI75

Departure: Allahabad Airport (VAAL)

Destination: Kalyanpur (VI75)

Distance: 121,4 nm

POI47-Prayagraj

Distance:	7,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	7,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	114,3 nm
True Course:	19°
Magnetic Course:	18°

You are already in Prayagraj or Allahabad, as the city was called until 2018. Prayagraj is one of the most important Hindu pilgrimage sites and every twelve years hosts the Kumbh Mela, which is considered the largest religious festival in the world.

After starting, you follow either the Yamuna River or the Ganges River north, depending on whether you start west or east, to the confluence of the two rivers. Prayagraj is also located on the historic Grand Trunk Road.

At Prayagraj, the Ganges and its most important tributary, the Yamuna, join. According to a Hindu myth, a third, invisible river joins them: the Sarasvati. Therefore, the city is often called Triveni Sangam, union of the three rivers.

The official name Prayagraj since 2018 is derived from the ancient Sanskrit name Prayag or Prayaga, meaning "place of sacrifice." The name Prayag is used today by Hindus primarily in a religious context. The suffix -raj, king, indicates Prayag's status as the proverbial "king of pilgrimage sites."

The confluence of the Ganges and Yamuna rivers has been considered a sacred place since ancient times. Under its ancient name Prayag, Prayagraj is already mentioned in works of ancient Indian

literature such as the Mahabharata epic or the legal text Manusmriti. The oldest structure in Prayagraj is an Ashoka pillar from the 3rd century BC, which today stands in Allahabad Fort. An inscription of the Gupta ruler Samudra Gupta is preserved from the 4th century AD.

Prayagraj hosts the Kumbh Mela every twelve years. The Kumbh Mela, the festival of the jar, is considered the largest religious festival in Hinduism and the world.

The name "Festival of the Pitcher" has its origin in the legend of the "churning of the ocean of milk". The ocean of milk was whisked by the devas, the gods, and the asuras, the demons, with the help of the serpent Vasuki as a rope and the mountain of the gods Meru, in order to obtain the nectar of immortality. This was carried by Dhanvantari, the physician of the gods and origin of all healing arts, in a round jug from the ocean of milk. In a fierce dispute between gods and demons, four drops of the immortality nectar fell from the jug to the earth. Today, the cities of Prayagraj, Haridwar, Ujjain and Nashik are located in these four places, where the Kumbh Mela takes place respectively.

In 2013, an estimated 90 to 100 million people visited the city over a 55-day period. On the main festival day alone, 35 million people gathered to bathe in the Ganges.

POI48-Dheemi

Distance:	20,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	27,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	93,8 nm
True Course:	296°
Magnetic Course:	296°

After visiting the city of Prayagraj and especially the area around the confluence of the Ganges and the Yamuna with the fort of Allahabad, you continue up the Ganges.

North you cross a bridge before you come to another bridge at Dheemi.

POI49-Mankipur

Distance:	13,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	41,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	80,3 nm
True Course:	324°
Magnetic Course:	324°

A little further north of the Ganges is Lake Benti and, on the other side of the river, another natural floodplain. Once notorious for its crocodiles, the lake is now a bird sanctuary.

A few minutes further upstream is Mankipur on the north bank.

POI50-Dalmau

Distance:	26,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	67,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	54,1 nm
True Course:	311°
Magnetic Course:	310°

The next larger town on the Ganges is Dalmau. It is located on the north bank behind a bridge on a steep rocky hill that protects the city from flooding.

The river is only about 100 meters above sea level and Dalmau is already over 1100 kilometers from the mouth. By comparison, the Danube needs about 850 kilometers for the last 100 meters of elevation to reach its mouth, the Yukon 500 and the Rhine only 450 kilometers.

King Sagara, the great-grandfather of Bhagiratha, once performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice, a horse sacrifice, but the sacrificial horse was stolen by God Indra. Indra had the animal confined in Patala, where sage Kapila performed penance. Sagara then sent his 60,000 sons in search of the horse. They found it and disturbed Kapila in his deep meditation with their hoarse noises.

Angry at being disturbed, Kapila burned them with his wrathful look, turned them into ashes and chased them into the underworld. Thereupon Anshuman, a grandson of Sagara, came and asked the sage to free and redeem the souls of the deceased. Kapila replied that only the goddess Ganga or the river Ganga, when they descended from heaven, could do this.

King Bhagiratha, the great-grandson of Sagara, who wanted to liberate his ancestors, then underwent a thousand years of asceticism until Ganga finally promised to descend to earth - but with the warning that no one would be able to tame the power of her waters and that she would therefore destroy everything.

Bhagiratha persuaded Shiva, one of the chief gods, the auspicious one, at his residence on Mount Kailash, to take up the Ganges in the coils of his tangled hair and break its fall.

Ganga descends, is subdued by the curls of Shiva and reaches the Himalayas. Then she is led down to the plains of Haridwar by Bhagiratha, who waits for her, and crosses them to the confluence with the Yamuna at Prayag. After Varanasi and finally at Ganges Sagar, where it meets the ocean, she sinks into the underworld to save the sons of Sagara.

To honor Bhagirath's central role in the Avatarana, the river where the Ganges rises in the Himalayas was named Bhagirathi.

POI51-NH335

Distance:	6,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	73,8 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	47,5 nm
True Course:	270°
Magnetic Course:	270°

Another bridge over the Ganges is located about 6 nautical miles to the west.

POI52-Baksar

Distance:	14,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	88,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	33,3 nm
True Course:	290°
Magnetic Course:	290°

At Baksar you fly over another bridge. According to legend, the Ganges flows here a short distance to the north and therefore Baksar is considered particularly sacred.

POI53-Kanpur

Distance:	22,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	110,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	10,8 nm
True Course:	323°
Magnetic Course:	322°

A little more than 20 nautical miles further upstream, you come to the city of Kanpur. The industrial city of Kanpur has more than three million inhabitants. On the outskirts of the city is the military airport, which is intended for civilian use and is currently being converted.

Kanpur is known for its rich cultural heritage, lively markets, vibrant nightlife, beautiful parks and gardens, delicious cuisine and much more.

During the Indian Rebellion of 1857, Kanpur was one of the centers of conflict between the Indians and the British. The siege of the British garrison in Kanpur holds a special place in British historiography because of the massacres. The British defended the garrison for weeks against the insurgent troops, but then had to accept the surrender offer, which promised the British garrison free departure by ship to Allahabad.

As the retreating garrison boarded boats on the banks of the Ganges, Indian troops opened fire. In the ensuing battle, all but four of the British men who managed to swim to safety were killed. The 125 surviving women and children were taken back to Kanpur and imprisoned. Shortly before British troops recaptured the town, they were murdered and the bodies thrown into a well.

VI75-Kalyanpur

Distance:	10,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	121,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	298°
Magnetic Course:	298°
Elevation:	433 feet
Fuel:	yes

West of the first bridge is the old airport of Kanpur. However, you fly along the bank of the Ganges and turn west after the fourth bridge. Kalyanpur airport is then right in front of you.

LEG 9: VI75 - VIAG

Departure: Kalyanpur (VI75)

Destination: Agra AB (VIAG)

Distance: 149,0 nm

POI54-Agra-Lucknow-Expressway

Distance:	26,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	26,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	122,7 nm
True Course:	338°
Magnetic Course:	337°

On this leg you leave the Ganges and fly to the river Yamuna, whose mouth you have already seen in Prayagraj.

After takeoff, fly in a northeasterly direction back to the Ganges. Follow the river upstream. The second bridge over the Ganges is the Agra-Lucknow Expressway, about 25 nautical miles from the airport.

The Agra-Lucknow Expressway is 302 kilometers long and was built as a 6-lane expressway, expandable to 8 lanes, to relieve already congested roads and reduce pollution. The Expressway shortens the distance between the cities of Agra and Lucknow and is currently one of India's longest operating expressways.

Completed in 2017, the construction project was completed in a record 22 months and is considered the flagship development in the state, being the first of its kind to be completed in the shortest amount of time.

POI55-Etawah

Distance:	47,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	74,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	75,1 nm
True Course:	269°
Magnetic Course:	269°

Now you follow the expressway and leave the Ganges for the time being. In a later stage you will come back to it. Overbuilt intersections with national highways and other expressways are in the first half at Birthi Haveli on the Ganges, Faguha Batta and Kudrail.

At Baralokpur, the NH234 / SH29, which connects the towns of Farrukhabad on the Ganges with Etawah on the Yamuna, crosses the expressway.

Unfortunately, one of the biggest roads of India is not, or only partially, visible in the flight simulator. Therefore, fly west for about 48 nautical miles (20-25 minutes) and pay attention to your GPS. Shortly before the crossing before Etawah, the expressway is visible again.

POI56-Yamuna

Distance:	13,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	87,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	61,4 nm
True Course:	222°
Magnetic Course:	221°

Now follow the HN234 in southwestern direction to Etawah. Behind the city flows already the Yamuna, clearly recognizable by a river loop.

Etawah is home to the safari park of the same name. The special feature of this park is that instead of keeping the animals in cages and allowing visitors to roam freely in the environment, Etawah Safari Park keeps people in cages while the lions and other animals roam freely in the jungle. The lion safari, developed primarily to provide an alternative home for Asiatic lions, also includes a nursery for this endangered species.

Etawah is also the start of the Agra-Etawah Cycle Highway, Asia's first long-distance cycle route. The 207-kilometer route between Etawah and Agra is a unique project and was opened in 2016. On the way to Agra are tourist destinations such as Naugava ka Quila, Raja Bhoj ki Haveli and the Bateshwarnath Temple. It ends at the east gate of the Taj Mahal in Agra.

POI57-Luhari Fatehabad

Distance:	34,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	122,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	27,0 nm
True Course:	301°
Magnetic Course:	300°

Now follow the Yamuna in northwestern directions upstream. Near Fatehabad, the Agra-Lucknow Expressway crosses the holy river.

Yamuna means "twin" in Sanskrit and refers to the river course parallel to the Ganges. The name appears in many places in the Rigveda from the Vedic period.

The religious veneration of the Yamuna is in no way inferior to that of the Ganges. The eponymous river goddess Yami is the sister of the death god Yama and daughter of the sun god Surya.

Similar to the parallel running Ganges, the natural water flow of the Yamuna is strongly reduced by large irrigation canals. In the dry season, the river can dry up completely in places due to the numerous diversion structures. The area between the Yamuna and the Ganges is considered one of the most intensively irrigated and agriculturally used areas in India.

The uncontrolled discharge of industrial and private wastewater has led to the Yamuna in Delhi being considered a dead river. Gradually, however, the capital's population is becoming aware of the problem. Several initiatives are working to clean up and protect the Yamuna. The pollution sometimes leads to extreme foaming on the water surface. Above all, traditional Hindu festivals, which also take place in the waters of the Yamuna, are hindered by the foam.

POI58-Taj Mahal

Distance:	22,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	144,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	4,5 nm
True Course:	292°
Magnetic Course:	291°

The Yamuna takes you further to the city of Agra. On the southern bank lies the Taj Mahal. The "Crown of the Palace", as the Taj Majal is also called, is a mausoleum that was completed in 1648 and stands on a 96 by 96 meter platform.

The Muslim Great Mogul Shah Jahan had the Taj Mahal built in memory of his great love Mumtaz Mahal, who died in 1631. Contrary to what is often claimed, the core of the building, as well as the dome and the minarets, is not made entirely of marble, but of bricks fired on site and covered with white marble slabs on the outside and inside.

The exterior facades and also the tombs inside are decorated with reliefs and especially with multicolored marble inlays of great delicacy. There are colorful floral motifs such as lilies, roses and

other flowers, but also inscriptions with passages from the Koran in black marble on a white background.

Shah's tomb is decorated only with floral motifs, while Mumtaz Mahal's tomb also bears Koranic inscriptions, because in Islam a woman who dies while giving life is considered a martyr. On the sides of her sarcophagus are the 99 names of God.

A widespread legend says that a similar black marble structure was originally planned as a mausoleum for Shah Jahan on the other side of the Yamuna River, but was not realized. On the other side of the white Taj Mahal was a park with a large water basin. The white Taj Mahal was reflected in this water basin and appeared black in the water.

The Taj Mahal was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1983. Today it is considered one of the most beautiful and significant examples of the Mughal style because of its harmonious proportions.

VIAG-Agra AB

Distance:	4,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	149,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	258°
Magnetic Course:	257°
Elevation:	550 feet
Fuel:	yes

You fly to the airport in a westerly direction over the city. It is about 4.5 nautical miles from the Taj Mahal. The Grand Trunk Road also runs through Agra.

Less well known than the Taj Mahal is the Itimad-ud-Daula Mausoleum on the east side of the Yamuna. It is the first structure of the Mughal period to be completely clad in marble, heralding a change in style in the architecture of the time.

About 8 kilometers north, in the Dayalbagh district, is the temple-mausoleum for Shiv Dayal Singh, the founder of the Radhasoami Satsangi religion, begun in the early 20th century but still under construction.

About 10 kilometers to the northwest, in the district of Sikandra, lies the domeless mausoleum of Akbar, surrounded by a large garden that is also home to deer, monkeys and peacocks. Not far from it is the tomb of one of his consorts.

LEG 10: VIAG - VIDD

Departure: Agra AB (VIAG)

Destination: Safdarjung (VIDD)

Distance: 101,1 nm

POI59-Mathura

Distance:	25,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	25,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	75,9 nm
True Course:	323°
Magnetic Course:	322°

This stage will take you to the capital of India, New Delhi, which is also located on the Yamuna River. Therefore, after starting, turn north and return to the river. Then follow it to the city of Mathura. In connection with the worship of Krishna, Mathura is an important Hindu pilgrimage site. The Grand Trunk Road also runs through Mathura.

Mathura and its sister city Vrindavan are home to numerous Hindu temples and shrines. Mentioned by Krishna in the Bhagavatapurana to his father-in-law, Braj Bhoomi, the "land of shepherds," existed only in the collective consciousness of devout Hindus until it was rediscovered by scholars in and around Mathura in the 16th century. For many, it is synonymous with earthly paradise.

Mathura and its surroundings, including Vrindavan, are referred to in early Hindu texts as the place where Krishna was born and spent his youth. Today, the city is one of the most important centers of Hinduism. The numerous temples are the destination of many pilgrims who come here especially in the months of August and September for the Krishna birth festival Janmashtami.

The Vishram Ghat on the banks of the Yamuna is a sacred and popular place for Hindus, where small oil lights are handed over to the river every evening.

In the immediate vicinity, the Shri Krishna Janambhoomi Temple rises above the birthplace of the Hindu god Krishna and is considered one of the most important shrines of Hinduism. The step well-like Potra Kund located in the immediate vicinity is a Hindu temple pond, as can be found elsewhere, for example in Khajuraho, Modhera or Sravanabelgola.

POI60-Vrindavan

Distance:	5,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	30,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	70,6 nm
True Course:	8°
Magnetic Course:	7°

North of Mathura is the sister city of Vrindavan, considered the birthplace of the Hindu god Krishna.

According to tradition, the city of Vrindavan is the site of the former forest of Vrindavana, near which the Hindu god Krishna is said to have grown up in Gokul, a village of cowherds. According to the Bhagavatapurana and the Gita of Govinda, Krishna herded cows in the forest of Vrindavan. There he also met the shepherd girls, the gopis, and here it is especially his relationship with Radha that is told in many stories that are very popular throughout India. The play of Radha and Krishna has a deep symbolic meaning in Hinduism as the divine play of the soul with its Lord.

Today, there is little to remind us of the historic forest. Instead, Vrindavan has dozens of historic and modern Hindu temples dedicated to Krishna, but all no more than 500 years old. In almost every house there is an altar for the worship of Radha and Krishna, which is why Vrindavan is often called the "City of 5000 Temples".

POI61-Haryana

Distance:	22,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	53,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	48,1 nm
True Course:	338°
Magnetic Course:	337°

Now follow the Yamuna north for about 45 nautical miles. After about half the distance, the Indian state of Haryana begins to the west of the river. Uttar Pradesh follows to the east. The border is located at a small island in the river after the confluence of an irrigation canal with the Yamuna.

POI62-Eastern Peripheral Expressway

Distance:	23,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	76,4 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	24,8 nm
True Course:	352°
Magnetic Course:	351°

Upstream, east of the city of Faridabad, which is already part of the Delhi metropolitan region, the Eastern Peripheral Expressway (NE2) crosses the Yamuna River. Together with the Western Peripheral Expressway (NE1), it forms a ring road of about 230 kilometers around the metropolitan region.

POI63-Hindon River

Distance:	6,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	82,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	18,5 nm
True Course:	14°
Magnetic Course:	13°

Just a few miles further upstream you will come to the mouth of the Hindon River.

Delhi is one of the world's megacities. The metropolitan region, which also includes the major cities of Gurugram, Ghaziabad, Noida and Faridabad located in neighboring states, is the third largest in the world with a population of over 32 million.

Delhi is traditionally associated with the city of Indraprastha mentioned in the Indian epic Mahabharata, which is specifically located in the Purana Qila area.

Delhi's largest structure is Lal Qila, meaning Red Fort, located in the northeast corner of old Shahjahanabad. The thick, red sandstone walls with towers and battlements, particularly impressive at Lahore Gate, are surrounded by a wide, dried-up moat. The monumental structure, built from 1639 to 1648, is modeled on the Red Fort in Agra. It also stood for the center of power of the Mughals: Halls for private and public receptions, marble palaces, luxurious private rooms, a mosque and ornate gardens.

POI64-Kalindi Kunj Barrage

Distance:	12,5 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	95,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	6,0 nm
True Course:	311°
Magnetic Course:	310°

Follow the Yamuna further in northwestern directions. Between the city of Noida on the eastern side of the river and the Jasola Vihar district of Delhi is the Kalindi Kunj Barrage, where you also begin the Union Territory of Delhi, which is directly under the central government of India.

The Kalindi Kunj Dam or Okhla Dam with weir and bridge is about 800 meters long. The dam and the Agra Canal were built by the British in 1874 for irrigation and navigation from Delhi to Agra, but navigation ceased in 1904. The dammed lake and its banks on the east side now also serve as a bird sanctuary.

VIDD-Safdarjung

Distance:	6,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	101,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	291°
Magnetic Course:	290°
Elevation:	701 feet
Fuel:	yes

Next to the more famous Indira Ghandi International Airport, south of the city center is your stopover, the smaller Safdarjung Airport. The Grand Trunk Road also runs through Delhi.

LEG 11: VIDD - VIDN

Departure: Safdarjung (VIDD)

Destination: Dehradun (VIDN)

Distance: 151,7 nm

POI65-Raj Ghat

Distance:	4,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	4,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	147,5 nm
True Course:	34°
Magnetic Course:	32°

This stage takes you to the Himalayas and back to the Ganges.

Take a leisurely look at the metropolis of Delhi before flying back to the Yamuna River. On the west bank is Raj Ghat, a monument to Mahatma Gandhi. There are other monuments in the park, including the monument to Indira Ghandi.

Mahatma Gandhi is commemorated today at the Raj Ghat. After his assassination, Gandhi was cremated and his ashes were scattered in the Ganges. A monument was later erected at the site where his remains burned in 1948, the Samadhi at Raj Ghat. A plain black marble slab, on which an eternal flame burns, honors the peace teacher and spiritual father of India.

Raj Ghat loosely translates as "royal steps" (where "royal" refers to the meaning of the place and "steps" to the bank of the Yamuna River). Near Raj Ghat are other cremation sites of famous rulers.

The memorial to Jawaharlal Nehru's Samadhi, resistance fighter and India's first prime minister, is north of the Raj Ghat and is known as Shantivan, meaning "Garden of Peace." In between is Shakti Steel, the memorial to Indira Gandhi, who was shot by her bodyguards in October 1984. She was India's first and to this day only female prime minister.

The Raj Ghat area has a park adorned with trees planted by dignitaries and heads of state.

POI66-Baghpat

Distance:	17,9 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	22,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	129,6 nm
True Course:	353°
Magnetic Course:	352°

You fly over some more bridges in Delhi and leave the city to the north. After passing the ring road, on the east bank of the Yamuna lies the city of Baghpat.

The original name of the town was Vyaghraprastha, tiger town, because of the large number of tigers in the area. Vyaghraprastha is also mentioned in the Indian epic Mahabharata as one of the five villages that Krishna claimed on behalf of the Pandavas of Hastinapur to avert a war. It was renamed Baghpat during the Mughal period in reference to the city's gardens.

POI67-Karnal

Distance:	40,0 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	62,1 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	89,6 nm
True Course:	352°
Magnetic Course:	351°

The Yamuna in turn forms the border between the states of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. However, the border does not run in the middle of the river, but always slightly west or east of the Yamuna.

Southeast of Karnal, the SH82 / NH709A crosses the river.

The history of the city of Karnal is said to date back to Raja Karna, a character from the Mahabharata. Thousands of years later, the Battle of Karnal took place in February 1739 at Karnal between the ultimately victorious forces of Nader Shah and those of the Great Mogul Muhammad Shah. The second half of the 18th century was marked by warlike conflicts between Maraths and Sikhs, which were only ended by the intervention of the British.

POI68-Saharanpur

Distance:	31,1 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	93,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	58,5 nm
True Course:	24°
Magnetic Course:	23°

Further along the Yamuna, the NH344 crosses the river. It connects the towns of Jagadhri and Yamunanagar in the northwest with Saharanpur in the east.

The city of Saharanpur was founded during the reign of the Sultan of Delhi, Muhammad bin Tughluq, who named it after the Islamic saint Shah Haran Chishti, whose shrine is still venerated in the city. The city is home to the Company Garden, one of the oldest botanical gardens in India.

POI69-Paonta Sahib

Distance:	27,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	120,9 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	30,8 nm
True Course:	36°
Magnetic Course:	35°

Slowly but surely the terrain becomes more mountainous and you reach the Siwalik foothills of the Himalayas. At the town of Paonta Sahib, several rivers flow into the Yamuna. Still before the town, at the end of the short valley, the Bata Nadi flows in from the north.

Behind the city is the confluence of the Giri River, which also comes from the north, and the Asan River, which comes from the east and joins the Yamuna River at a barrage.

The Asan Dam is 287.5 meters long and is fed by the Asan River and the Yamuna drainage channel. The dam impounds the Asan reservoir, also called Dhalipur Lake. The bird sanctuary located there attracts a large number of migratory birds, including endangered species on the IUCN Red List.

VIDN-Dehradun

Distance:	30,8 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	151,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	119°
Magnetic Course:	118°
Elevation:	1803 feet
Fuel:	yes

Follow the Asan River in a southeasterly direction. Stay on the southern bank. Before you reach the city of Dehradun, the Asan flows out of the mountains from the north as Tons Nadi. However, you fly south past the city and follow the small valley to the southeast. As soon as you see the Song River, you turn to the east and behind the village of Bhaniyawaia lies the airport.

LEG 12: VIDN - VARD

Departure: Dehradun (VIDN)

Destination: Rudraprayag Airport (VARD)

Distance: 148,7 nm

POI70-Siwalik-Range

Distance:	13,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	13,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	135,0 nm
True Course:	274°
Magnetic Course:	273°

The last part of the journey along the Ganges leads into the Himalayas to the two headwaters, the longer Bhagirathi and the larger Alaknanda, as well as to the five sacred river mouths that line up as pilgrimage sites along the Alaknanda.

After starting, head west across the Song River, pass Mount Nauka on the left, and cross the Sooswa River. Shortly after that you will come to a road that leads south over the Siwalik Mountains. You follow this road until you cross the ridge.

POI71-Haridwar

Distance:	20,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	34,0 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	114,7 nm
True Course:	141°
Magnetic Course:	140°

Now turn left and keep south of the ridge in a southeasterly direction to the city of Haridwar on the Ganges.

The pilgrimage site of Haridwar is one of the seven holy cities of Hinduism. The main destination of the pilgrims is the Hari-ki-Pauri. At the Brahmakund, Hindus believe, the heavenly waters flow into the Ganges. A temple is said to contain the footprint of Vishnu.

Every twelve years, the Kumbh Mela takes place in Haridwar on the banks of the holy river Ganges. The last Kumbh Mela in Haridwar was attended by more than 40 million people, 10 million of whom bathed in the Ganges on the main day alone.

Above Haridwar rises Siwalik Hill with the temple of Manasa Devi, to which a cable car leads. On the hill Leel Parbat, on the other side of the river, is the temple of Chandi Devi. According to a legend, the goddess Ganga descended in Haridwar when Shiva released the mighty river from the locks of his hair.

POI72-Rishikesh

Distance:	12,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	46,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	102,4 nm
True Course:	38°
Magnetic Course:	36°

About 20 kilometers upstream from Haridwar is the pilgrimage town of Rishikesh, famous for its ashrams and temples. It became famous when the Beatles meditated with Maharishi Mahesh Yogi in the 1960s.

The Ganges flows through the pilgrimage town of Rishikesh at the foot of the Himalayas. Here, the Ganges captivates not only with its mythological significance as a holy river, but also with its clear water and scenic beauty. The city is known as the "Gateway to the Garhwal Himalaya".

Rishikesh is home to a variety of historic and newer temples and ashrams. The city attracts thousands of pilgrims and tourists every year, both from India and Western countries. It hosts numerous yoga centers, some of which have a long tradition. Rishikesh therefore has the reputation of being the "yoga capital" of the world. Hindus believe that meditation in Rishikesh, like bathing in the holy river Ganges, leads closer to salvation, moksha, the breaking out of the cycle of constant rebirths. Rishikesh is a vegetarian and alcohol-free city.

POI73-Devprayag

Distance:	15,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	61,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	87,2 nm
True Course:	81°
Magnetic Course:	79°

Northeast of Rishikesh, the Ganges flows out of the Himalayan mountains. Continue flying upstream the Ganges until you reach the confluence of Bhagirathi and Alaknanda at Devprayag. You will see the NH7 in the valleys on your left wing.

Panch Prayag is a term from Hindu religious doctrine that refers specifically to the five sacred confluences of rivers in the Garhwal Himalayas. The five Prayags are Vishnuprayag, Nandaprayag, Karnaprayag, Rudraprayag and Devprayag. Prayag means "place of confluence of rivers" in Sanskrit.

The Prayags begin with the Vishnu Prayag on the Alaknanda River, one of the two headwaters of the Ganges. The other rivers are the Dhauliganga, Nandakini, Pindar, Mandakini and the Bhagirathi, the other source river of the Ganges.

Dev Prayag is the confluence of the two holy rivers, the Bhagirathi, the main stream of the Ganges, and the Alaknanda. It is the first Prayag on the way to Badrinath. The sanctity of this place is equated with the famous confluence of the Triveni Sangam at Prayagraj, where the rivers Ganges, Yamuna and the invisible Saraswati converge.

The confluence received the name "Dev" from a poor Brahmin named Deva Sharma, who performed rigorous religious exercises here and was blessed by Rama, the incarnation of Vishnu. On the banks of the rivers are two kunds or ponds: the Vasistha Kund on the Bhagirathi and the Brahma Kund on the banks of the Alakananda. According to legend, this is the navel of Vishnu and Brahma meditated here.

POI74-Rudraprayag

Distance:	21,6 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	83,2 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	65,6 nm
True Course:	66°
Magnetic Course:	65°

Turn east and follow the Alaknanda. The road on your left is NH7, which follows you until Rudraprayag. At Kirti Nagar the road crosses the Alaknanda and you enter the city of Srinagar. Srinagar is approximately halfway between Rudraprayag and Devprayag.

You have reached Rudraprayag when you see the Mandakini flowing into the Aleknanda. Here are temples dedicated to Rudranath (Shiva) and the goddess Chamunda.

According to a popular legend, Shiva performed the Tandava here, a powerful dance that is the source of the cycle of creation, preservation and dissolution. Shiva also played his favorite instrument,

the Rudra Veena, here. By playing the veena, he lured the god Vishnu into his presence and transformed him into water.

Another legend says that the sage Narada was conceited by his abilities in the Veena game. The gods asked Krishna to set things right. Krishna told Narada that Shiva and his wife Parvati were impressed by his musical talent. Narada was pleased with the praise and immediately set out to meet Shiva in the Himalayas. On the way, he met several beautiful maidens called Raginis in Rudra Prayag who were disfigured. The reason for this disfigurement was clearly attributed to Narada's playing on his veena. Hearing this, Narada felt humiliated, submitted to Shiva, and decided to devote himself to learning music as a disciple of Shiva.

According to another legend, Shiva's consort, Sati, was reborn as Parvati, the daughter of Himalaya, after she burned herself to death in protest against Shiva's insult. Despite Himalaya's protests, Parvati underwent rigorous penances to receive the blessing of becoming Shiva's consort in her new birth as well.

POI75-Karnaprayag

Distance:	12,4 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	95,6 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	53,2 nm
True Course:	97°
Magnetic Course:	96°

Keep to the right and follow the Aleknanda. You will pass Rudraprayag Airport before reaching Karnaprayag at the mouth of the Pindar River. The confluence is named after the god Shiva.

The epic legend of the Mahabharata tells that Karna did penance here and received from his father, the sun god, the protective equipment Kavacha and Kundala, which gave him invincible powers. The name of the confluence is therefore derived from the name of Karna.

The stone seat where Karna meditated can also be seen here. In a newer temple built in memory of Karna is the deity Uma Devi, a daughter of Himalaya. In the sanctuary, in addition to Karna's effigy, are representations of the goddess Parvati, her consort Shiva, and her elephant-headed son Ganesha. From the temple, a steep staircase leads along a spur to the confluence. On this staircase are small shrines to Shiva and the Binayak Shila, which is said to protect against danger.

POI76-Nandaprayag

Distance:	6,7 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	102,3 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	46,4 nm
True Course:	51°
Magnetic Course:	50°

Only about 7 nautical miles northeast is the nearest prayag at the mouth of the Nandakini River, Nandaprayag. Here is a temple to Gopal, another name for Krishna.

According to legend, the noble king Nanda performed a yagnya, a fire sacrifice, and asked for God's blessing. Therefore, the confluence was named after him.

The other version of the legend says that the confluence received its name from King Yadava Nanda, the foster father of God Krishna. According to the legend, Vishnu granted Nanda and his wife Yashoda the blessing to bear a son and also granted the same blessing to Devaki, the wife of Vasudeva. Since both were his disciples, he ensured that Krishna, an incarnation of Vishnu, was born to Devaki and Vasudeva but raised by Yashoda and Nanda.

POI77-Vishnuprayag

Distance:	19,3 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	121,5 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	27,2 nm
True Course:	44°
Magnetic Course:	43°

The Alaknanda River, which rises at the Satopanth Glacier, joins the Dhauliganga River near Joshimath. This first prayag is about 20 nautical miles northeast of the Nandaprayag.

The Alaknanda flows in front of the Badrinath Temple, one of the most revered Hindu shrines. This section of the Alaknanda is also called Vishnu Ganga.

According to legend, the sage Narada worshipped the god Vishnu at this confluence. An octagonal temple near the confluence dates from 1889 and is attributed to the Maharani of Indore. It houses an image of Vishnu. From this temple, a staircase leads to the Vishnu Kund at the confluence.

VARD-Rudraprayag Airport

Distance:	27,2 nm
Dist. from Dept.:	148,7 nm
Dist. to Dest.:	0,0 nm
True Course:	232°
Magnetic Course:	231°
Elevation:	2669 feet
Fuel:	yes

You have already flown over the destination of your trip, Rudraprayag Airport, near Karnaprayag. So find a suitable place to turn around and fly back.

We at Nordheim Missions wish you a good stay in Rudraprayag and would be happy to accompany you on another mission soon.

Thank you very much!