**Visting the pilgrim town of Amarkantak**

Since Amarkantak is a town known for its holy sites, most places to visit will be religious sites, but it would be a fulfilling journey as you will find inner peace as you travel through this amazing place.

**Places to visit in Amarkantak**

*Narmada Kund & nearby temples*

It is the place where the river Narmada originated. The place surrounds the Narmada Kund is dedicated to various temples (16). With its serene view of temples in every corner, you feel immensely blessing as you begin your temple-hopping spree in Amarkantak. You will not have done something like this before and perhaps may never do, because Amarkantak is one of a kind place. It is a place where you will find several temples of various gods and goddesses in the same vicinity, like those near Narmada Kund. There is the Narmada temple, the Shiva temple, Radha Krishana Temple and several others.

*Temples of Kalachuri Period*

These are some of the ancient temples of Madhya Pradesh dated way back to the 11th century. They are quite close to the NarmadaKund, so visitors will not find it hard to visit this must-visit religious site. The temple’s unique architecture is a big draw where you find the intricacy in the craftsmanship on every wall and ceiling of the temple. You can also check out the Pateleshwar Mahadev temple, which can be found in this region only. Ther is also Macchendranath temple. These temples have been named after the dynasty that took an interest in building them. The Kalachuri Maharaja Karnadeva was the man behind this venture.

*Dudh Dhara Falls*

These falls come crashing down with such force that the water looks white like milk; hence they are named Dudh Dhara. They are magnificent to watch and admire. It’s a great spot to admire nature in its glory with the waterfalls and rocky structures alongside it. There is vegetation around the place, allowing you to check out the colorful birds and insects of the region.

*Shri Yantar Mandir*

The unique temple is made with an interlocking triangle hence the name yantra mandir. The interface also consists of snake hoods pointing in different directions, making it a stunningpiece of architecture that you wouldn’t find elsewhere. Visitors find this place fascinating and spend hours viewing it and trying to understand the craftsman’s intricacies into such a level of detail. The temple represents the primal force of nature controlled by Goddess Maha Shakti, for whom this temple has been dedicated to. You will find worshippers and enthusiasts from across the globe to come and visit this marvel.

*Kapil Dhara Falls*

This is an amazing waterfall you shouldn’t miss going to as it is one of the major attractions of Amarkantak. It’s a great view when you reach the Narmada river, which is considered the holy river for the local people. There is a plunge of height wherein you can experience this beautiful waterfall. It is named after the famous sage Kapila muni, who resided in this place to perform penance and prepare austerities to commission God.

*Mrityunjay Ashram*

Visting an ashram will help you connect with your inner self because of the serenity of the place. You will find solace in this beautiful tranquil place wherein you and your thoughts can be alone, far from the hustle and bustle of life and other distractions. It is a place you can actually rejuvenate your soul. There is a beautiful garden on the premises, which is a refreshing change, and it is filled with greenery, enabling you to spend more time in the company of nature.

*Bhrigu Kamandal*

The name itself is intriguing so is the jungle you will enter into. You will have to trek as bit as you will have to reach a cave. It is a great way to look out at the different the locals considered it holy as it is believed that the sage Bhrigu resided in this cave. There is also a rock that holds water and is considered the water tumbler of the sage.

*Kabir Kothi*

It is where you will find the great saint Kabir had resided in this place; hence, the locals have enshrined this place. Saint Kabir had meditated in the most beautiful greenery. The serene environment is a great place for visitors to check out.

**The famous dishes in Amarkantak**

*Butta ka kees*

It is one of the most known dishes of the place made from corn which is known as Butta. It is a dish made from grated corn and mildly spicey with the addition of Indian spices. Butta ka Kees is simmered in milk, giving it a slightly sweet taste, and you need to add chilies and mustard seeds.

*Daal bafla*

This dish is inspired by Rajasthan’s delicacy daal bati. The wheat dough gets shaped into balls and then fried in clarified ghee. These are called bafla and they are then dipped in spicy dal along with coriander chutney as accompaniments. You could also do it with pickle as well. It is a great option for lunch or snack as it contains all the vital nutrients of vitamins, proteins, carbohydrates and essential fats

*Palak puri*

Palak puries are common breakfast options in this region. The wheat dough used to make flatbreads is kneaded with pureed spinach and rested before being rolled out in small puries. They can be eaten with potato sabzi, raita and pickles as well.

*Chakki ki shaak*

This dish is also inspired by the Rajasthani dish that is made from steaming dough in a spicy curry. It is a popular dish that is served on special occasions. You can eat the dish with a bowl of curd, and it is a common dish eaten by most people of the region.

*Malpua*

It is a pancake that is deep-fried in clarified butter. This pancake is dipped in sugar syrup later garnished with dry fruits and saffron. You can eat the dish with another sweet dish, rabdi. It is a rich and fragrant dish served on special occasions.

**Best places to shop in Amarkantak**

Amarkantak is a place for religious piety and not much of a shopping place. But if you are looking for religious photographs and souvenirs, it’s an easy find. All temples will have such shops nearby and you will get a good bargain. Several other stores sell herbal medicines and beauty products. You can also buy rare plant saplings from Amarkantak to take home.

**Things to do when visiting Amarkantak**

When you have finished visiting all the religious places to experience the serenity and calmness of the place, you can check out the wilderness at the Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary. The beauty of the luscious forests is the main draw for the visitors to enjoy nature’s glory. You can find beautiful picnic spots near waterfalls and enjoy the blissful peace you find in the landscapes of Amarkantak.

**The unique, celebrated festivals in Amarkantak**

A unique festival mostly celebrated in Madhya Pradesh is the Narmada Jayanti, celebrated in January almost the same time around Makar Sankranti, another popular festival that celebrates the beginning of spring and new harvest. There is a special complex wherein people come together aptly named Narmada Complex, decorated with lights and flowers, giving it a festive appearance from afar. A grand aarti is done in the evening at the banks of the river Narmada with the chanting of hymns and singing praises of the river mother as the river is often referred to by the people of the region.

**Places to stay in Amarkantak**

There are many places you may wish to stay, and even some religious sites have places of accommodation at very cheap rates. If you aren’t looking for something modest, you can check out the various guest houses, dormitories, cottages, and local hotels of the region.

Amarkantak is where people should visit and check out the temples and other religious places to experience spiritual wellness. The calm and serenity of the place are spellbinding and you will come back rejuvenated.