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Haridwar and Rishikesh by Ashu Kumar

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The ghats of Haridwar offer a very colorful picture of a hand, taking a bath to purify themselves by bathing in the Ganges from your sins, on the other hand, their relatives in colorful robes. In between official and unofficial dubious fund-raiser with "real" identity card and receipt book. In between, as always, one way or another cow ...

Also, many disabled people begging here, which is expected in this holy place probably better donations. Among them are predominantly leper, whose sight is particularly frightening for us.

We go through the Railway Road, find the local main road until we the office of Mohan's Adventure Tours. According to "Lonely Planet" book you can only here out of season, a jeep safari through Jim Corbett National Park. We choose a complete package including jeep safari in the afternoon, elephant safari in the early morning and night with three meals. We are paying immediately, which is not later than proving very favorable.

As we have already seen on our trip very many temples, we visit in Haridwar only one, the Mansa Devi temple. Which is very nice and high above the city and is reached by a funicular. In the temple there was unpleasant confinement and crowding. Constantly wants to bless one person to be able to charge for it. Compensated for the view from the vantage point of the eye can wander by the green mountains in the foreground to the clouds and the mist dimly sighted the first high mountains of the Himalayas in the background. Between them flows the Ganges, which flows from the mountains, which appear here in the left hand plane.

As the hotel was not very good and the hotel situation in Haridwar generally not very abundant, we go further into the 25-km away in Rishikesh, the world capital of yoga, how to call this immodest.

The hotel search is checked off quickly so we can focus on the walk to the local ghats going to attend the evening ceremony at the Parmarth Niketan.

Apparently this is now but a bigger event than usual. When we arrived at the ghats on the steps is enough room to sit. Previously, we have given to the responsible monk shoes in our custody.

liberally fills the area, a microswitch is built, a fan installed, some instruments are grouped ... Many young monks walking around with yellow robes. Some of them are recognizable excited, others are very relaxed. Finally, the music starts, first instrumental. Then comes from behind the Guru Pujya Swamiji, who looks like a guru. Beard, long hair ...

He apparently acted as lead singer in the monotonous singsong. Among the monks also a striking blonde in a white robe Westerner has mixed - which is probably somehow. She looks incredibly melancholic all the time, the head, which is half covered with a hood, holds a slight angle. I think she looks like an actress playing the Virgin Mary.

The music meanders monotone then, at least some structure is evident from verse and chorus. Meanwhile, the guru, a brass rocking thing, the burning and smoldering material. Another device that looks like a cross between soup ladle and oil lamps, the smoke also is passed around the auditorium. Every believer wants to touch it. Once we have certainly felt sitting an hour on the ghats, we join other visitors who are also gone on. As we are just at the shoe issue, the ceremony is apparent to an end, the guru is passed out. The music continues even as we move away from the temple complex.

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