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## Vraj Yatra

### Introduction:

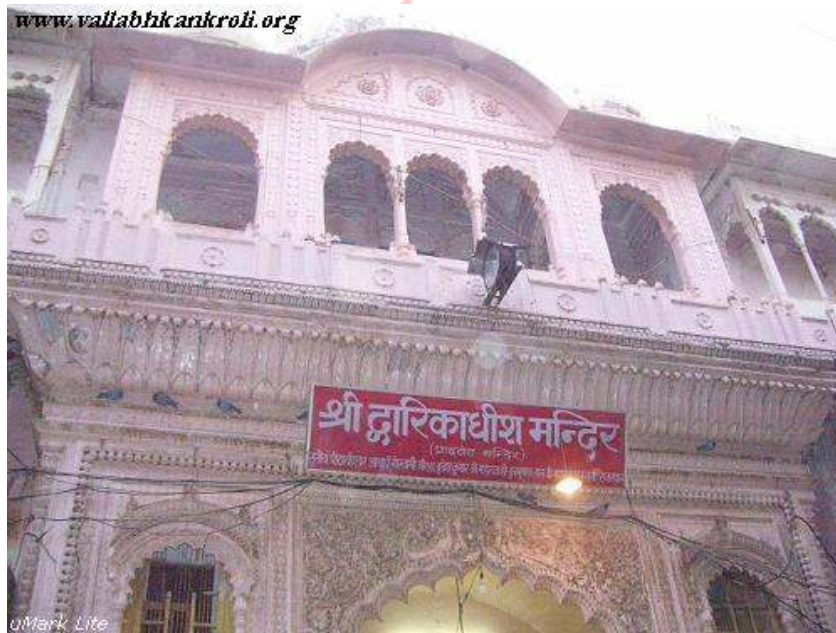
The main objective of this guide is to provide a short description and importance of places of divine sports of Lord Shree Krishna in Vraj. Generally, when we say only 'Vraj', Mathura does not come under the area of ancient Vraj. But nowadays the word "Vraj" is being used to in a way mean Mathura and entire Vraj. Thus it is appropriate to use the word 'Vraj Mandal' to include Mathura as well. The basic objective of this short guide is to include the rare pictures of 'Vraj Mandal' with basic explanation and importance of the place in question.

### Pushtimargiya Temples in Mathura

1. **Shree Dwarkadhish Mandir:** This is the Pushtimargiya Mandir of Shree Dwarkadhish Prabhu that is under the administration of Trutiya Gruhadhish PPG 108 Shree Vrajeshkumar Maharajshri – Kankroli. This temple was firstly built by Seth Gokaldas Parekh(Seth Laxmichandji) of Gwalior on V.S. 1870. Here the seva of Shree Dwarkadhish Prabhu is done. The Swaroop of Shree Dwarkadhish Prabhu self appeared. In this temple, Sanskrit paathshala and Ayurveda Pharmacy are also being run.



Shree Dwarkadhish Mandir - Mathura



Shree Dwarkadhish Mandir – Mathura

In the inner sanctum of the temple, we find beautiful artistic paintings of Shree Krishna leelas, Shree Mahaprabhuji and seven Balaks and Trutiya Gruh Goswami balaks doing seva of Shree Dwarkadhish Prabhu. Shree Dwarkadhishji with Shree Swaminiji is blissfully enjoying the seva at this mandir.

## 2. Shree Dauji-Madanmohanji Mandir

This is the haveli of Shree Gopalalji Maharajshri who is renowned for apshri's Vraj yatra. This Mandir is at Bangali Ghaat in Mathura. Here seva of four nidhi swaroops is done.

1. Shree Madanmohanji with Shree Swaminiji: These Swaroops were found by Shree Gusaiji when apshri once upon a time went to Gau Ghaat for Yamuna Snan. These Swaroops were found from Shree Yamunaji. Shree Madanmohanji is wearing sacred thread (Yagyopavita), Kanthi, Chowki and Dhoti on Shree-ang. These swaroopas was given to Rishikeshji (sevak of Shree Gusaiji).
2. Shree Dauji: Once Shree Purushottamji (Khyalware) reached Ading from Bahulavan during Braj Yatra. At that time, Shree Dauji's Swaroop was found. Shree Purushottamji took Shree Dauji to Mathura and started doing seva of apshri in this mandir.
3. Shree Ashtabhujaji: Once when Shree Mahaprabhuji was doing snan at Triveni Sangam, at that time, this thakurji was found. At that time, Padma Raval was standing besides Shree Mahaprabhuji and with the request of Padma Raval, Shree Mahaprabhuji gave this swaroop to him.
4. Shree Adbhut-Raiji: During the childhood, once Shree Gusaiji made a very beautiful swaroop of Shree Govardhannathji from the Prasadi Chandan of Shreenathiji. After making this swaroop, Shree Gusaiji uttered that "What a beautiful and wonderful swaroop is this!". Due to these statements the swaroop was known as Shree Adbhut-Raiji. After Shree Gusaiji, Shree Gokulnathji did seva of this swaroop.
5. There is also one more swaroop known as Shree Madhusudanji (Chaturbhuj) in this haveli.

This mandir is under the administration of Shree Yadunathji (Son of Shree Vitthalnathji – Kankroli)

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## Shree Dauji – Bade Madanmohanji Haveli

### 3. Shree Chote-Madanmohanji Mandir

This haveli is also located at Bangali Ghat-Mathura. There are 3 nidhi swaroops in this haveli.

1. Shree Madanmohanji with Shree Swaminiji: The Sevyā swaroop of Kanojiya Brahmin Vaishnav from Agra and sevak of Shree Gusaiji. Shree Gusaiji created the swaroop of Shree Madanmohanji from Shree Shaligramji and Shree Swaminiji from the statue of a Devi.
  2. Shree Dwarkadhishji: This swaroop is the sevyā swaroop of Haridasji (Medtavalā)
  3. Shree Mathuranathji: This is a sevyā swaroop of Shree Gokulbhatt (Ujjain).
- This mandir is administered and owned by Shree VrajRamanlalji Maharajshri.



Shree Chote Madanmohanji Haveli

#### 4. Satghara-Shreenathji's Charan Chowki:



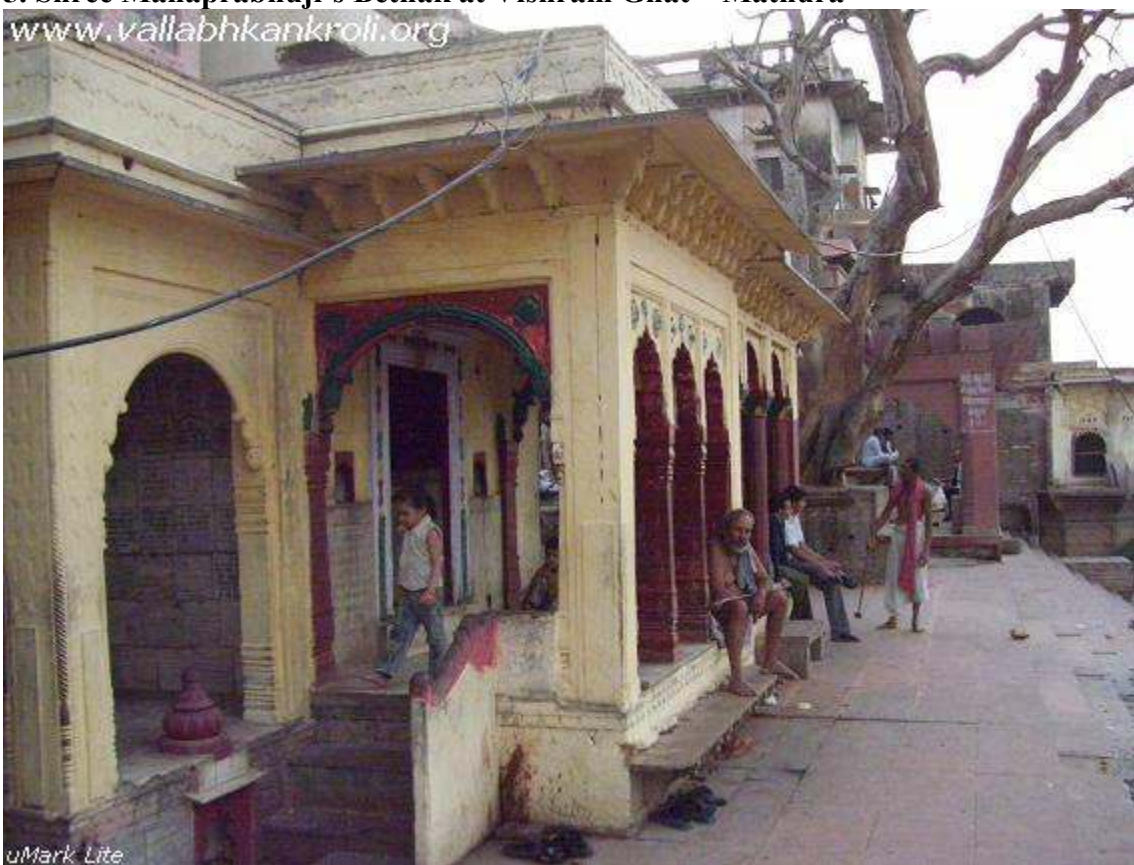
Satghara – Manek Chowk - Mathura

This is the most historical place of Pushtimarg. This is the original place where Shreenathji came to Shree Gusaiji's house i.e. Satghara during the days of Khel. This fort was built by Queen Durgavati of Gadha for Shree Gusaiji's family. This is the place where the eldest son of Shree Gusaiji i.e. Shree Giridharji did the sarvasamarpan before Shreenathji when Shreenathji came here on V.S. 1623 on Maha Vad 7 in the days of Khel. Thus, entire pushtimarg celebrates this day as the patotsav of Shreenathji. Today only a new Samagri named 'Kharmanda' was offered to Prabhu. Shreenathji returned back to ShreeGirirajji on the day of Narsimh Chaturdashi. This place was the residence of all sons of Shree Gusaiji and thus it is named after seven sons i.e. Seven Gruhs and it began to be known as 'Satghara'. Here the Charan-chowki of Shreenathji is there.



### 5. Shree Mahaprabhuji's Bethak at Vishram Ghat – Mathura

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Way to Shree Mahaprabhuji's Bethak – VishramGhat – Mathura

When Shree Mahaprabhuji arrived at Mathura, at that time this place was a deserted place. No one knew about the significance of this place. Shree mahaprabhuji told Krishnadas Meghan to sprinkle the water from apshri's kamandal and further ordered that wherever he will sprinkle this water on that places the land would not no longer be deserted. Krishnadas sprinkled the water from Apsarakund to SuryaKund. On this place, Shree Mahaprabhuji did the parayan of Shreemad Bhagwat Mahapuran. This bethakji is managed by Goswami Shree Vrajramanlalji Maharajshri.



Shree Vitthal Dwar – Shree Vishram Ghat

#### Other Temples and Places

1. **Shree Yamunaji Mandir:** This temple is located at Vishram Ghat. The mukhiya of this temple does the aarti of Shree Yamunaji on early morning and sandhya.

Shree Yamunaji – Mukhya Mandir (Vishram Ghat)





Shree Yamunaji





Shree Vishram Ghat – Mathura



Shree Yamunaji – Vishram Ghat



Shree Vishram Ghat – Mathura





Shree Vishram Ghat – Mathura





Preparing for Aarti – Vishram Ghat – Mathura



Shree Thakurji with Shree Swaminiji – Vishram Ghat-Mathura





Shree Yamunaji Aarti – Vishram Ghat – Mathura

2. **Shree Gatshram Narayan mandir:** This temple belongs to Shree Ramanuj Sampraday located near Vishram ghat. Here the Chaturbhuj Shyam (Four Armed dark) swaroop of Shree Narayan is there. This temple was built in V.S. 1856, by Pranath Shastri. Behind this temple, there is a old gatshram mandir. This Mandir has a very rich library of religious books.



Shree GatShram Narayan Mandir – Mathura

3. **Shree SwetVarah Mandir:** The swaroop of Swet (White) colored Shree Varah Narayanji is birajmaan in this mandir. This swaroop if white colored four armed.

This swaroop is very ancient and is believed to have been appeared in the beginning of SwetVarah Kalp (The current Kalp).

4. **Shree Varahji Mandir:** Here there is dark colored Shree Varahji. This swaroop is similar of Swet Varahji but the difference is color. This swaroop is also four armed. This swaroop is more ancient then Swet Varahji. This swaroop is believed to have been appeared in Varah Kalp.



Shree Shyam Varahji – Mathura

5. **Shree Dauji Maharaj Mandir(Manek Chowk):** This mandir is of Shree Dauji Maharaj. This mandir is located in Manek Chowk – Mathura.





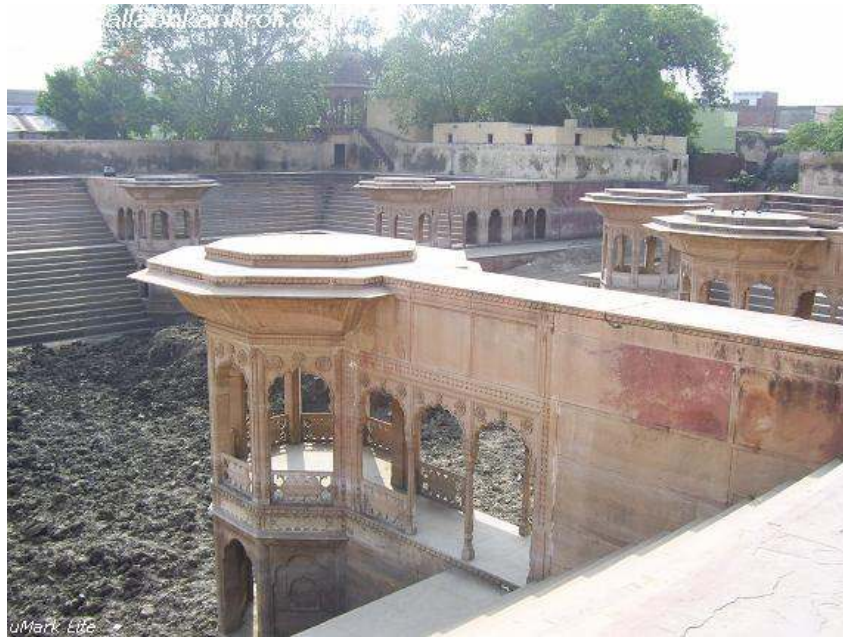
Shree Dauji Maharaj

6. **Shree VijayGovind Mandir:** This mandir is located in Satghara Maholla in Mathura.



Shree Vijay Govind Mandir – Manekchowk

7. **Potara Kund:** This kund is nearby Krishna janmas sthan mandir – Keshavraiji Mandir. It is said that in this kund, the clothes of Shree Balkrishnalalji were washed. And thus from this, the name 'Potara Kund' was given to this kund.
8. **Shivtaal:** On the way to Madhuvan from Mathura, there is a beautiful Pond named Shiva Taal or Shivaalaya. This kund is octagonal and is very artistic.



Shivtaal



Shiv Taal

9. **Pippaleshwar Mahadev:** Mathura is surrounded from four sides by Mahadevji.

1. Pippaleshwar Mahadev(East)
2. Gokarneshwar Mahadev (North)
3. Rangeswar Mahadev (In South)
4. Bhuteswar Mahadev(West)

This temple is very ancient temple of Shree Mahadevji. It is believed that it was installed by famous Ved Bhasyakaar ancient saint Piplad.





Shree Pippleshwar Mahadevji

10. **Keshavdevji Mandir (Krishna Janma Sthan):** In this Mandir, Shree Krishna appeared before Devkiji and Vasudevji. This mandir was firstly built by Shree Krishna's great grand son Shree Vajranaabhji. He installed the swaroop of Shree Keshavdevji in this mandir. Today this mandir is adjoining with a Masjid. The place where Shree Krishna appeared is still preserved and that place is called as 'Katara Keshavdev'.

#### 11. Fort of Kansa

12. Other places to visit: Shree Bihariji Mandir, Shree RadheShyamji Mandir, Shree Govinddevji Mandir, Shree Mathuranathji Mandir, Shree RadhaKrishna Mandir, Dempire Park Museum, Shreenathji Mandir (Manek chowk), Shree Govardhannathji Mandir, Satiburj, Mathuradevi etc.