

MYSTIC ART RETREATS

presents

Seats of Power II Kamakhya



Kamakhya कामाख्या

TOVA OLSSON EKABHUMI ELLIK

16 Nov - 25 Nov 2025

Illustrated by Ekabhumi Ellik



” क्लीं क्लीं कामाख्या क्लीं क्लीं नमः “

SEATS OF POWER II



Photo Credits: Our teacher Tova Olsson at Seats of Power I, Chamunda Devi temple, India

Listen, O Devī, I will speak concisely of the essence of yoga. The body resembles a tree, with the root above and the branches below. In the macrocosm there are tīrthas (bathing places) which also exist in the body. The macrocosm is like the microcosm. – Toḍala Tantra, II

“Śakti” is a general term for goddesses, but is also used to describe power as an abstract principle. Śakti is both manifest power and the power within all experiences. As the dynamic quality of creation, it is associated with divine feminine creative power and the beauty of appearances.

While the word Śakti may be used as a name for the great goddess herself, it carries with it the implication of her innumerable transformations and manifestations. Many Indian myths are about the feminine force of realisation personified in the form of a Śakti. In a certain sense, all the physical universe is the body of the great goddess herself, and every sentient being are her incarnations.

It is not possible to understand goddess worship in the Hindu traditions without taking into account how these goddesses relate to the land itself. Virtually every major geographic feature of India has an associated deity, and many of these goddesses form regional groups. The most famous of goddess temples of the Indian subcontinent are collectively known as the Śakti Pīthas, said to be where pieces of the great goddess Sati fell to Earth. Each temple or shrine is related to a specific anatomical part or ornament of the great Goddess, with the presiding deity being the specific body part or ornament. While each have their own rituals and prayers (puja), this is enfolded in the larger narrative of the worship of Śakti in the form of Devi. The purpose of puja is to appease, soothe and mollify the powerful goddess and embrace the divine energy expressed as life force. Text Ref: (Śakti, Pandey, 2020) & (Life as a Sacred Manual, Ekabhumi, 2017)

Darshan is a two-way concept where the devotee sees divinity and in turn, the divinity sees the devotee. The very act of darshan or view is the key that creates the iconic moment where the devotee and the divine are in complete sync. This is the reason why ‘Shaktas’ make arduous journeys to the Śakti Peethas. The idea is to take the energy of the Supreme Goddess while receiving her blessings. Text Ref: (Śakti, Pandey, 2020) & (Life as a Sacred Manual, Ekabhumi, 2017)

Kāmākhyā and the Daśa Mahāvidyās

Tova Olsson writes: The Śakti Pīṭhas (seats of power) are geographical locations where the energy (śakti) of the Goddess is said to be especially tangible. For centuries, devotees of the Mother have travelled to these sites to worship her and receive her blessings. Blessings that are believed to consist of worldly prosperity as well as spiritual liberation, depending on the desire of the devotee. The Goddess, after all, is said to be icchā śakti (the power of will, desire or longing) itself.

Nowhere is this more true than in the most famous (and perhaps powerful) śakti pīṭhas of them all; Kāmākhyā, where the Goddess resides in the form of desire (kāma). In the famous story that gives the mythological background to the śakti pīṭhas, where Goddess Satī's body is dispersed over the Indian continent, her yoni (womb, vulva or source) is said to have fallen to the ground in the place where the Kāmākhyā temple stands today. Worshipped in the form of a stone that is believed to menstruate for a few days every year, the Goddess' yoni is understood as the source of all creation.



The Kāmākhyā temple grounds (established around the 7th century CE) hold, not only the the Goddess of desire but representations of all the ten wisdom goddesses, known as the Daśa Mahāvidyās. The Mahāvidyās are not only understood as cosmic powers and forms of the divine Mother, but as aspects of kuṇḍalinī that allows practitioners of yoga and tantra to understand their own spiritual development.

In this once in a lifetime journey to the abode of the Goddess who fulfills all desires, we will study and practice with Kāmākhyā (also known as Lalitā Tripura Sundarī) and all the Mahāvidyās. We promise a complete immersion into the sacred stream of śakti provided not only by the location itself, but the powerful teachings that will be provided by our world-renowned instructors. Ekabhumi shall give his scholarly insights into temple architecture, the dynamics of the deity along with their practices, and interpret the iconography of the goddesses and other temple deities. We shall also be making the Yantra of Goddess Tripurasundari. Tova will offer lectures on Kāmākhyā and the Mahāvidyās, along with yoga classes and meditation sessions.

We shall stay in 5* accommodations at Guwahati and visit local sights of artistic interest. The food wherever possible shall be gourmet and prepared with the highest quality ingredients and safety. On a free day we shall also visit museums and indulge in other cultural experiences.

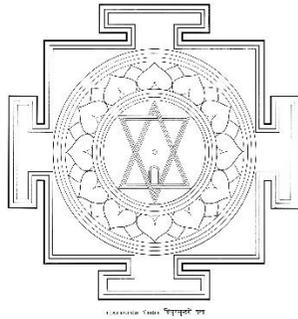
Photo Credits: Seats of Power 1 by Mystic Art Retreats



Photo Credits: Seats of Power 1

ITINERARY CALENDAR – Locations & highlights

10 days / 09 nights – 16th November – 25th November 2025

<p>DAY 1 – 16th Nov</p> <p><u>NEW DELHI</u></p> <p>Arrival at New Delhi</p> <p>Accom: 4*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>	<p>DAY 2 – 17st Nov</p> <p><u>NEW DELHI – GUWAHATI</u></p> <p>Homa</p> <p>Devi Stutis & Bhajan</p> <p>Accom: 5*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Formal Meeting</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>	<p>DAY 3 – 18th Nov</p> <p><u>GUWAHATI</u></p> <p>Story & Lecture</p> <p>Yantra Theory</p> <p>Accom: 5*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>		<p>DAY 4 – 19th Nov</p> <p><u>GUWAHATI</u></p> <p>Yantra & Culture</p> <p>Accom: 5*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>	
<p>DAY 5 – 20th Nov</p> <p><u>GUWAHATI</u></p> <p>Yantra & Culture</p> <p>Accom: 5*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>		<p>DAY 6 – 21st Nov</p> <p><u>GUWAHATI</u></p> <p>Yantra & Darshan</p> <p>Accom: 5*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>		<p>DAY 7 – 22nd Nov</p> <p><u>GUWAHATI</u></p> <p>Yantra & Darshan</p> <p>Accom: 5*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>	

<p>DAY 8 - 23rd Nov</p> <p><u>GUWAHATI</u></p> <p>Yantra& Darshan</p> <p>Accom: 5*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>		<p>DAY 9 - 24th Nov</p> <p><u>GUWAHATI</u></p> <p>Kamakhya</p> <p>Accom: 5*</p> <p>Lunch: Hotel</p> <p>Dinner: Hotel</p>		<p>DAY 10 - 25th Nov</p> <p><u>GUWAHATI -</u></p> <p><u>NEW DELHI</u></p> <p>Depart for New Delhi</p> <p>Breakfast: Hotel</p>	<p>Onwards Connections to home countries or to other countries or destinations in India</p>
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When you are on a Mystic Art Retreats tour, every detail is taken care for you so you can relax and truly experience each moment. Airfare to India is not included in the price of your trip. Please contact your local travel agency or the airlines directly to make any arrangements for your international travel to India.

Inclusions

Be led by world-renowned artists Ekabhumi Ellik and Tova Olsson who shall expertly offer you a spiritually immersive yatra / pilgrimage

Your trip includes 11 nights of accommodation in 4* hotels in Delhi and 5* in Guwahati

Morning Yoga sessions and Guided Meditation

All meals including Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner are included with the exception of Breakfast on arrival day and lunch/dinner on departure day

All fees to temple sites along with Puja material

Homa, Cultural experiences such as local dances, bhajans and museum visits are covered

Internal domestic flights New Delhi -Guwahati - New Delhi

All applicable Transfer & Sightseeing including Innova Vehicles

Be guided by our Manager North-East India Sagarika Das Mehdi who will masterfully orchestrate our trip and details

Signed copies of Books by Ekabhumi & Tova Olsson

Exclusions

International flight to/from New Delhi

Travel insurance / India Visa

Use of bar and beverages in hotel, laundry, telephone calls or internet and personal shopping

Tips to your guide and driver

Trip Leadership

Ekabhumi Charles Ellik is an award-winning poet, author, illustrator, yoga instructor and arts educator with 20 years of international teaching experience. Through a ritualized and meditative creative method, he makes artworks for ceremonial and educational use. Traditional sacred art helps people deepen their spiritual practice, recognize the divinity of common experiences, and find meaning in the beauty of our world. His artworks may be found in yoga studios, private homes, and on altars around the world. He is currently part of the core faculty of Living Sanskrit and co-founder of Mystic Art Retreats.



Ekabhumi's spiritual name was given by his first guru during a formal initiation ceremony into a tantric yoga lineage in 2005. Since that time, he has studied with many spiritual teachers and traditional artists both in India and the States. His art teachers include eminent western figurative painters like Domenic Cretara, as well as Newar artist Dinesh Charan Shrestha, Bikaner-style miniature painter Mahaveer Swami, Thangka painter Andy Weber, and yantra painter Mavis Gewant.

Ekabhumi's writing and artwork has been published widely, appearing in anthologies and journals like Tarka Magazine, The Poetry of Yoga, Berkeley Fiction Review, and Pearl, as well as books like Shiva's Trident by Swami Khecharanatha, Tantra Illuminated by Christopher Hareesh Wallis and Awakening Śakti by Sally Kempton. His instructional Śakti Coloring Book and the uplifting Bhakti Coloring Book are now available world-wide from Sounds True Press.

Though his first love is the arts, he has a wide range of interests that are reflected in his many past occupations: event producer, stock options broker, handyman, journalist, ski boot fitter, competitive surfer and champion sailor. He toured internationally as a performance poet, and the poets he coached won numerous regional and national titles. He facilitated writer's groups, hosted poetry readings, and organized spoken-word festivals for nearly 20 years, culminating in the acclaimed 2009 Individual World Poetry Slam.

Ekabhumi wearing paint-splattered overalls. He is outside in his garden and laughing. Ekabhumi is an inspiring, playful yet methodical teacher who helps students cultivate deeper intuitive states. For nearly two decades, he variously taught yoga, painting, public speaking, and creative writing to students ranging from kindergarten to post-graduate level. Much of his time is now spent creating educational material about interpreting, making, and utilizing sacred art of the dharma traditions. On weekends, he can be found in his garden practicing silence and learning directly from Nature.

Trip Leadership (cont.)

Tova Olsson is a scholar of religion, author and yoga teacher with over 20 years of experience in education. She is appreciated for her deep knowledge, her ability to explain esoteric ideas and philosophical concepts in an accessible way, for her skillful storytelling and humorous approach.



As a 'Scholar-Practitioner', she strives to combine an academic, critical understanding with the experience of a long-term practitioner, offering courses that provide liberating knowledge - on many different levels. She holds a MA in Religious Studies from Gothenburg University and is currently working on her PhD at Umeå University, Sweden, researching the construction of gender in contemporary tantra in Europe.

She is the author of *Yoga and Tantra: history, philosophy and mythology*, published by Motilal Banarsidass and runs the online school Saraswati-Studies. Tova has taught at two of Mystic Art Retreats programmes and shall be leading a third yatra with 'Seats of Power II'

For More Info & Registration Details

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