

 **Wendy Wu Tours**

 **RiverCruising.co.uk**
THE RIVER CRUISE EXPERTS

2017
2018

INDIA

SRI LANKA | NEPAL | BHUTAN



WELCOME TO OUR INDIA & BEYOND

"I started taking people to this beautiful part of Asia in 1998, I want you to share my passion for the region..."

Wendy has been inspiring travellers ever since, nobody more than her own team. At Wendy Wu Tours we are all avid adventurers, constantly seeking out the best ways for you to experience, and share our passion for India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. That's why we are Asia experts, and the UK's leading Asia tour operator – our customer reviews (through independent customer review platform feefo) and numerous awards say it all.

Our brand new India brochure is all about showcasing both the Indian Subcontinent's top sights and its magnificent hidden gems; about the plethora of different types of authentic and exciting experiences that we can offer you; and about giving you the very best holiday, whether it's your first visit to Asia or your 10th.

Wendy and the team look forward to welcoming you to this exciting region soon!



Wendy Wu

Wendy Wu – Owner, Wendy Wu Tours

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Award Winning Expertise

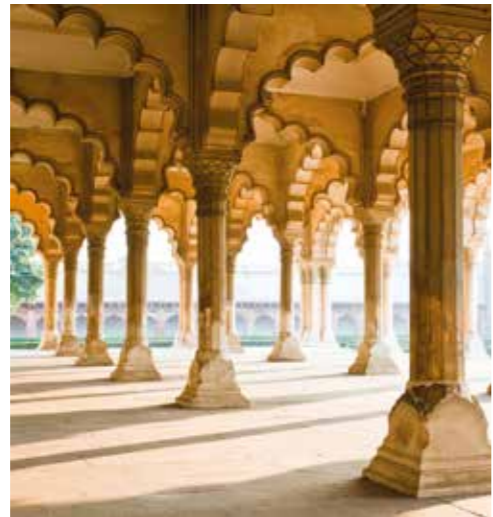


THE WENDY WU TOURS DIFFERENCE

10 reasons why you should choose Wendy Wu Tours.

1 No one knows Asia like we do

All our staff have travelled throughout Asia and can provide you with detailed information about our itineraries and touring styles, and will help personalise your holiday. We are proud to be known as the UK's specialist operator to Asia, and have been building our global reputation since 1998, one satisfied customer at a time.



3 Industry-Leading National Escorts

All of our group tours are accompanied from beginning to end by a dedicated, knowledgeable National Escort and local guides with particular expertise in each location. Our experienced teams in Asia ensure that Wendy Wu Tours has a reliable presence on which you can always depend. We regularly receive letters that sing the praises of our team over in Asia, their knowledge, warmth, supportive nature, passion and gentle humour is something we are genuinely very proud of.



4 We Love Solo Travellers

Our group tours are a great opportunity to share your experiences with like-minded people. We welcome plenty of solo travellers on our tours, and receive great feedback from them about the friendly and sociable atmosphere of our groups. Even better, if you are a single traveller and are willing to share a room, you won't have to pay a single supplement.



2 Authentic Experiences

Our extensive experience and local expertise means we can take you to places rarely visited and those you have always dreamed of exploring. We have been blazing trails into this ever-developing region for 19 years, and pride ourselves in delivering authentically Asian experiences. On our tours, you will have the opportunity to experience and try your hand at ancient crafts and traditions; and there will be endless opportunities to meet local people and see a lifestyle so different to your own.

We continue to redefine travel to Asia, and are proud to offer the widest variety of tours on the market.



5 Hand-Picked Hotels

Over 19 years of taking people to Asia means we know exactly where to stay. We have superb relationships with our hotel partners in the region, meaning our groups are always prioritised and well looked after. We inspect our hotels regularly to ensure that they reach our high standards of cleanliness, safety and comfort. We

pick the right hotel for the specific destination, meaning your accommodation can range from a smart business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town. Where ever you are staying you will have a peaceful and comfortable night's sleep in preparation for the next day's adventures. See page 74.

6 Unrivalled Airline Choice

Unlike other operators, we have access to airfares from all the leading airlines, giving you a huge choice of flights which are convenient for where you live, offering stopovers where you want and the upgrades you require. See page 82.



8 Tipping Made Easy

We handle the tipping so you don't have to. We have a simple tipping system whereby all Group Tour passengers contribute to a kitty, paid to the National Escort, who then distributes it throughout the trip. Tipping is not included on any of our Private Tours, Stopovers or Extensions, but we will suggest appropriate amounts. See page 78.



7 Travel in Comfort

The transport selected as part of your tour is intended to combine convenience and comfort with an enjoyably authentic travel experience. You will benefit from our seat-and-a-half policy on our coaches, allowing you to watch incredible scenery in comfort. Our Group Tours are predominantly conducted using air conditioned coaches, internal flights, trains and various types of boat. See page 77.



9 Regional Flavour

Meals included in our tours are planned to give you a genuine taste of the regions we visit. We make sure that the food on our tours is safe, fresh, features minimal spice and includes plenty of vegetables. Breakfast is a combination of local and western food, usually served buffet style at the hotel you are staying in. Lunches and dinners consist of traditional cuisine and are served at reputable local restaurants. Highlights may include a variety of flavourful curries, tasty dal dishes, freshly-baked roti and fragrant tandoori.



10 Our Great Value Fully Inclusive Tours

- ✓ Return international economy flights, taxes and current fuel surcharges
- ✓ All accommodation
- ✓ All or most meals
- ✓ All transportation and transfers
- ✓ All sightseeing and entrance fees
- ✓ English speaking National Escort and Local Guides
- ✓ Visa fees for UK and EU passport holders
- ✓ Specialist advice from our experienced travel consultants
- ✓ Comprehensive tour dossiers and travel guides
- ✓ Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL and IATA

The only things you may have to pay for are personal expenditure e.g. drinks, optional excursions or shows, insurance of any kind, tipping and early check-in or late check-out (this cannot be guaranteed). Meals on our Discovery Tours and Exclusive Collection are indicated on the tour pages.

DISCOVER INDIA & BEYOND WITH WENDY WU TOURS

Reaching from the cloud-piercing peaks of the Himalayas to the jewel-bright blue of the Indian Ocean, the Indian Subcontinent encompasses myriad landscapes, cultures and nature. Over 19 years we have established an incredibly broad knowledge of it all.

WENDY'S TOP 8 INDIA & BEYOND SIGHTS

1 TAJ MAHAL

There have been many words used to describe it, yet few do it justice. We suggest you go and see the Taj Mahal for yourself, that's why it is featured on most India tours.



2 CULTURAL TRIANGLE, SRI LANKA

The heartland of ancient civilisations, the cultural triangle encompasses the treasures of Kandy, Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. Explore on all of our Sri Lanka tours.




3 KERALA'S BACKWATERS

A network of lagoons, canals and rivers encased in verdant greenery, Kerala's backwaters are best explored by boat – do this on 'Kerala and the Southern Highlights' (page 18).




4 VARANASI

A sacred city and one of the world's oldest, Varanasi's ghats, lapped by the River Ganges, showcase humanity laid bare. See it on several tours, including 'Enticing India' (page 26).




5 JODHPUR

The Blue City, Jodhpur boasts one of Rajasthan's most awe-inspiring hill forts – explore it and the rest of Rajasthan on 'Rajasthan Panorama' (page 24), amongst others.




6 DELHI

India's rambunctious capital is a city of two halves, a showcase of India's history and colonial grandeur. Delhi is featured on the majority of our India itineraries.



7 THIMPHU, BHUTAN

The capital of one of the world's most mysterious countries, Thimphu is an intriguing city with a rich and perfectly preserved heritage. Explore it on 'Himalayan Kingdoms' (page 44).



8 KATHMANDU, NEPAL

A vibrant capital city, Kathmandu is the hub of Nepal's cultural and artistic heritage and a monument to the medieval era – see it for yourself on 'Himalayan Adventure' (page 40).




TRAVEL YOUR WAY

We know that every traveller is different, so we have developed four touring styles. See the highlights of the region on our Classic Tours, get under the skin of the Subcontinent on our Discovery Tours, experience the country in luxury with our Exclusive Collection or build your own personal itinerary with our dedicated tailormade team.

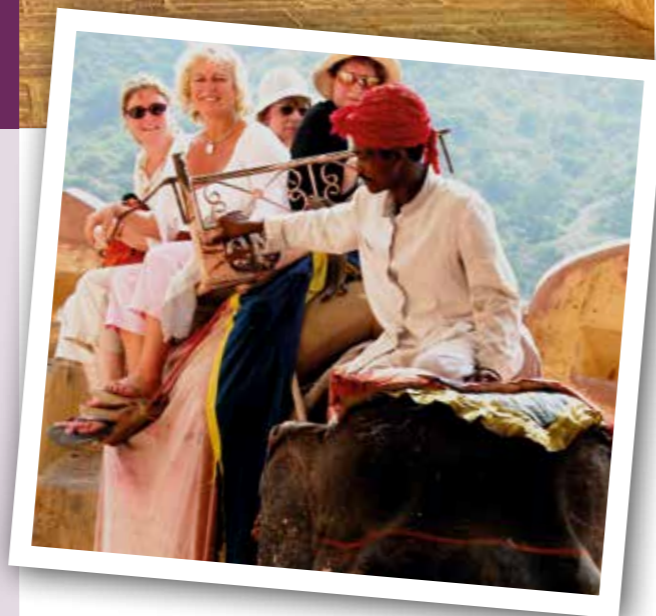


CLASSIC GROUP TOURS PAGES 14-33

A thoughtfully designed series of journeys for those who wish to see the iconic sights and magnificent treasures that India and Sri Lanka have to offer on a fully-inclusive, excellent-value group tour.

IS A CLASSIC GROUP TOUR THE ONE FOR YOU?

- You get to tick off India's big, awe-inspiring sights, whether that's the classic Delhi, Agra, Jaipur combination, or a tour that's a little more comprehensive.
- You can travel with the assurance that all of your arrangements are taken care of – flights, visas, accommodation and all touring.
- All of your meals are included – whilst breakfasts are a mixture of both local and 'Western' style, at lunch and dinner we'll help you go on a culinary adventure!
- You get to travel with like-minded people – our customers often form lifetime friendships on tour.
- You are accompanied by our industry-leading National Escorts, whose unparalleled knowledge and talent help your holiday become an even more unforgettable experience.



DISCOVERY TOURS PAGES 34-47

Designed for those who wish to be further immersed in the authentic charm of Asia; see the Indian Subcontinent differently on our Discovery Tours by taking part in unique, cultural and active experiences.

IS A DISCOVERY TOUR THE ONE FOR YOU?

- You get to see and experience travelling through remote and untouched parts of India, whilst also taking in the classic sights.
- You are able to get closer to the local people and their traditions.
- You get a range of active experiences – exploring Rajasthan by bullock cart, receiving a blessing from a lama in Nepal or taking a tour of Colombo in a vintage jeep.
- You travel in groups of 18 or less on most of these adventures.
- You get more freedom – these tours are not fully inclusive, meaning we've left you some free time to go out and explore local restaurants and culinary traditions for yourself.
- You are accompanied by our industry-leading National Escorts.



PRIVATE TOURS & TAILORMADE PAGES 58-67

We know that sometimes our customers need flexibility and freedom. That's why we offer you all of our tours on a private basis, or the chance to create your itinerary from scratch.

IS A PRIVATE OR TAILORMADE TOUR THE ONE FOR YOU?

- Every one of our tours can be organised on a private basis, with sometimes only a small increase on the group tour price, so you travel when you want, with who you want.
- With a tailormade tour, you can create your very own, unique itinerary giving you the opportunity to create that holiday to Asia that you've always dreamed of.



EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION PAGES 48-57

Meticulously designed with the more discerning traveller in mind, our deluxe journeys through India and Sri Lanka feature distinctive and exclusive experiences which bring the region to life.

IS AN EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION TOUR FOR YOU?

- You travel in intimate groups of 18 or less.
- You get to take part in a series of unique and exclusive experiences such as exploring Jodhpur's Mehrangarh Fort with the curator, enjoying lunch with a Sri Lankan family and a rickshaw tour of Agra.
- You stay in handpicked luxury hotels in the best possible locations.
- You can enjoy sumptuous dining experiences.
- You have a little more freedom – these tours are not fully inclusive so you can enjoy some evenings to yourself.
- You get those little added extras that make the tour special, such as chauffeured airport transfers in the UK, portage, a mid-tour laundry service and daily bottled water.
- You are accompanied by our industry-leading National Escorts.

THE KEY TO OUR TOURS

Our tours are graded as comfortable, moderate or active to reflect the level of fitness required. Just look for the icons on the page.

Comfortable

➤ Accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. Tours may involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats.

Moderate

➤➤ Tours require a higher level of fitness and may include standard activities and longer periods of sightseeing. Easy walking, high altitude and overnight train journeys may feature.

Active

➤➤➤ Tours require a good level of fitness, as they are physically more demanding. They may involve hiking, and travel to remote or high altitude areas where tourist facilities are less developed.



Altitude

The mountain icon on the map will tell you the altitude reached on any given tour where applicable.

Please see our tour dossiers on the website or contact us if you require any advice.

YOUR TOUR GUIDES

Your guide is often the difference between a good holiday and a truly remarkable holiday. On all of our group tours you will be escorted by a dedicated National Escort for the entire duration of your trip. Their unrivalled knowledge, passion, experience and expertise will astonish you.

Award-Winning Local Expertise

Our guides are utterly committed to Wendy Wu Tours and the vast majority have been with us for many years. We ensure that the individual tasked with the responsibility to keep you safe, happy, entertained and inspired is someone whom you should have absolute trust in; and that they intimately understand the eccentricities of the Asian way of doing things.

Most of the countries included on our itineraries have recent, poignant histories of which your guide may have had first-hand experience. You will get a greater understanding of the past, and you'll learn about the local heritage, culture and way of life.

Most importantly all of our National Escorts speak fluent English, go through rigorous training programmes, have a wonderful sense of humour and understand how to convey their knowledge, meaning that you will always have the most refreshing and rewarding experience on our India tours.

All our National Escorts

- Have a minimum of five years experience in guiding
- Are fluent in English
- Are born and raised in India making them unparalleled experts
- Go through rigorous and ongoing training programmes
- Are at your service 24 hours a day



Mr. Devendra Singh Sandhu

"India is not just a destination but an experience. As a tour escort I love to show my clients the India that doesn't exist in travel brochures. Loud, noisy but full of gusto and energy. Each monument reflects the various facets of India's journey. If one is the ultimate tribute to love then another is a reflection of bravery and valor. If one tells the story of humbling devotion then another is a story of pomp and sheer grandeur of the existing dynasty."



Sam, Sri Lanka



"The most interesting place I like to take travellers is Sigiriya because of the 4th century pre-historical area and it's frescoes. The Jaffna Peninsula is also fascinating because of it's unexplored beaches along with the pre-colonial buildings from the Dutch Era."



Mr. Jasvir Saurana

"I enjoy taking my tour groups to Jaipur because of its historical colour, its architecture and people who still believe in keeping the past eras alive through their colourful turbans, traditional jewellery and royal moustaches. Dressed in pink, this royal city of Rajasthan, Jaipur is the apt blend of heritage, palaces, culture and art and the flamboyance of this place can be experienced only by visiting it."



Mr. Vishal Srivastava

"India is incredible with contrast, colours, sounds, noises and tastes which will make your senses come alive. The magical lands and palaces of Maharajas in Jaipur, Udaipur, Jodhpur and the power of nature and tigers of Ranthambore National Park are a highlight. I like Varanasi the most because this city gives me peace and lifts me spiritually."



"Being a cultural ambassador for my country, it gives me a sense of pride and honour to share the knowledge of our ancient heritage with my travellers. I have deep knowledge of our historic places, monuments, arts and culture. My goal is delivering memorable, inclusive travel experiences and enjoying life with new people and new cultures."



Mr. Saurabh Tiwari

TRAVELLERS' TALES

We love to hear your travel stories and holiday highlights – knowing that you love India just as much as we do drives us to achieve even higher standards!

Here are some of our favourites:



97% | customer service rating
(rated as good or excellent)

98% | tour experience rating
(rated as good or excellent)

Based on over 1,000 feefo customer reviews.

“ Our tour was excellent. To date, all three of our tours with Wendy Wu have been very good – China, Burma and now India. ”

Mr and Mrs Dean, Feb 2015, Kerala and the Southern Highlights

“ The whole panorama of India was breathtaking. We were blown away by the Ganga Aarti ceremony in Varanasi. ”

Mr and Mrs Slater, Feb 2015, Grand Tour of India



“ Perfect! Could not be better. Went to all the places I wanted to visit and more and saw a tiger in the national park, a lifelong wish! ”

Ms Taylor, Feb 2016, Rajasthan Panorama



“ I have always dreamt of visiting the beautiful city of Kathmandu. Wendy Wu Tours made this possible and I had the best experience. I wouldn't hesitate to recommend them to anyone. ”

Mrs Kimmel, Nov 2015, Himalayan Adventure

“ The history was breathtaking and Wendy Wu enabled us to visit all the right places. Well done! ”

Mr and Mrs Bolton, Feb 2016, The Golden Triangle

“ Our tour was a really enjoyable and informative experience. The Tiger's Nest Monastery in Bhutan was the highlight of the tour. ”

Mr and Mrs McAdam, Apr 2015, Himalayan Kingdoms



“ Wonderful blend of historical, geographical and social information from an excellent, knowledgeable guide. The experience of sights, sounds and aromas will stay with us for a long time. ”

Ms Brown, Feb 2016, Highlights of India & Nepal



“ Jam-packed and exhilarating, we sampled so many aspects of Indian life – it was well worth the money. ”

Mr and Mrs Hogg, Feb 2016, Highlights of India

feefo
The Global Feedback Engine

We are keen to receive as much feedback as we can. We have partnered with independent online review site, feefo, to give you the chance to tell us what you think. You will receive an email from feefo after booking and once again after you have travelled so you can rate our service and tour experience.



CLASSIC TOURS

Our Fully Inclusive Classic Tours encompass India and Sri Lanka's most iconic sights.

Our Classic Tours include:

- Comprehensive touring
 - Award-winning National Escorts
 - Knowledgeable local guides
 - International flights & taxes
 - All accommodation & meals
 - All transportation on tour
 - Visa application & fees
 - Specialist advice from our travel consultants
-

GOLDEN TRIANGLE

The fabled Golden Triangle is the classic introduction to this vast and beautiful country. Bustling streets, havens of tranquillity and architectural wonders await as you dive head first into the vibrant sights, sounds and experiences of Northern India.

9 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £1,790

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

COMFORTABLE



▲ TAJ MAHAL, AGRA

Price includes:

All meals (7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 7 dinners)

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

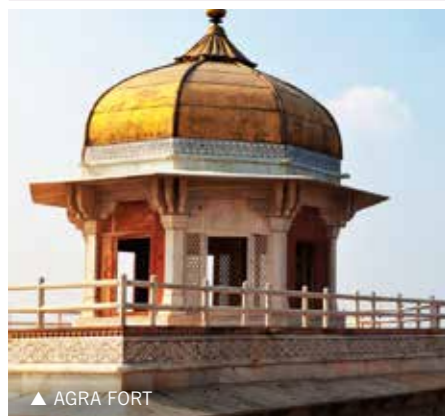
Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £1,290 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £290
- Tipping paid locally US\$50

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

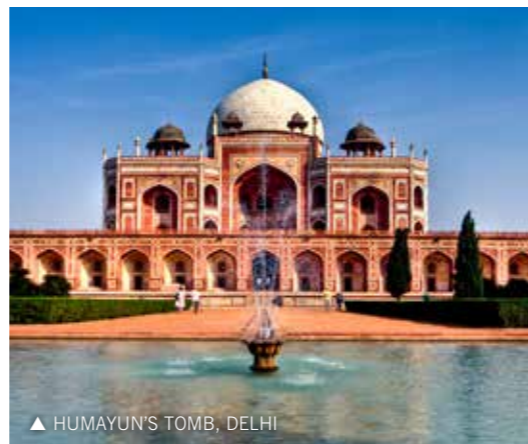
Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ AGRA FORT



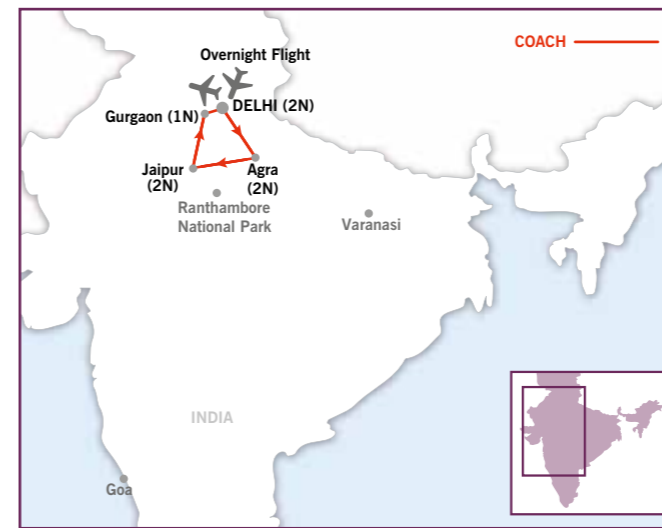
▲ TRADITIONAL SPICES



▲ HUMAYUN'S TOMB, DELHI



▲ AMBER FORT, JAIPUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Feel the buzz of Delhi
- See the colossal Red Fort
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Explore the 'Pink City'
- Admire the Amber Fort
- Enjoy a Bollywood show

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi
Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 3: Discover Delhi
A city of equal chaos and charm, Delhi grabs you and doesn't let go. Spend a full day exploring the sights of Old Delhi: stroll past the colossal Red Fort, browse the bustling bazaar of Chandni Chowk, visit India's largest mosque, Jama Masjid, and view the 1930s Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple. Make a brief stop at India Gate and visit Humayun's Tomb.

Day 4: Agra
Drive to Agra with an en route stop at Sikandra to see the marble and red sandstone tomb of third Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great.

Day 5: Taj Mahal
Rise early to see the sun rise over India's most iconic sight. At dawn, when the crowds are at their thinnest, the Taj Mahal is swathed in mist and tinged pink by the rising sun – a magical experience. This afternoon visit Agra Fort, a hulking mass of red sandstone sat on the banks of the Yamuna River. The

Fort was established in the 16th century but has been much added to over time, making it an eclectic mix of architectural styles.

Day 6: Fatehpur Sikri
Head to the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri, a spectacular array of Mughal palaces and temples. Continue to Chand Baori stepwell, a fascinating and exquisitely carved water storage structure built over a thousand years ago. Arrive in Jaipur.

Day 7: Hawa Mahal and Amber Fort
Begin the day with a brief stop at the Hawa Mahal, the 'Palace of the Winds', before travelling out of the city to admire the majestic Amber Fort. Built in 1592, this red sandstone and marble fort effortlessly blends Hindu and Muslim architecture. This afternoon, back in Jaipur, explore the Maharaja's City Palace, as well as the Jantar Mantar Observatory and the local bazaar at Choti Choper.

Day 8: Kingdom of Dreams
Travel to Gurgaon near Delhi, where tonight you will visit the Kingdom of Dreams to watch a magical Bollywood performance.

Day 9: Fly Delhi to UK
Fly to the UK, arriving home later the same or following day.



▲ HAWA MAHAL

VARANASI EXTENSION

3 NIGHTS FROM PER PERSON £580

- Day 9: Gurgaon to Varanasi**
Fly to Varanasi. Take a rickshaw to the ghats on the river Ganges to witness the evening Puja ceremony of Ganga Aarti. (B)
- Day 10: Varanasi**
Rise early for a boat ride on the river Ganges and a brief city tour. Visit Banaras Hindu University and Samath. (B,L)
- Day 11: Varanasi to Delhi**
Fly to Delhi and transfer to your hotel. (B)
- Day 12: Delhi to UK**
Transfer to the airport for your flight to UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

RANTHAMBORE EXTENSION

3 NIGHTS FROM PER PERSON £360

- Day 9: Gurgaon to Ranthambore**
Train to Sawai Madhopur and transfer to Ranthambore National Park. (B,L,D)
- Days 10-11: Ranthambore to Delhi**
Enjoy two canter safaris around the park. (B,L,D) Tomorrow, enjoy another early morning canter safari. Return to Delhi by train for a day at leisure. (B)
- Day 12: Delhi to UK**
Transfer to the airport and fly home to the UK, arriving the same or following day. (B)

GOA EXTENSION

4 NIGHTS FROM PER PERSON £630

- Day 9: Explore Goa**
Fly to Goa. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)
- Day 10: Explore Goa**
Spend the day exploring two ornate Hindu temples, followed by a visit to a spice plantation. Later, discover the history of Old Goa, including the Basilica of Bom Jesus, before finishing the day at Goa's capital Panaji. (B,L)
- Days 11-12: Goa**
Enjoy days at leisure. (B)
- Day 13: Fly to UK**
Fly home to the UK, arriving the same or following day.

DEPARTURES – Departing Saturday returning Sunday

2017 DATES		2018 DATES	
07 Jan - 15 Jan	£1,990	06 Jan - 14 Jan	£2,090
21 Jan - 29 Jan	£1,990	20 Jan - 28 Jan	£2,090
04 Feb - 12 Feb	£1,990	03 Feb - 11 Feb	£2,090
25 Feb - 05 Mar	£1,990	24 Feb - 04 Mar	£2,090
11 Mar - 19 Mar	£1,890	10 Mar - 18 Mar	£1,990
18 Mar - 26 Mar	£1,890	17 Mar - 25 Mar	£1,990
25 Mar - 02 Apr	£1,890	24 Mar - 01 Apr	£1,990
01 Apr - 09 Apr	£1,790	31 Mar - 08 Apr	£1,890
08 Apr - 16 Apr	£1,790	07 Apr - 15 Apr	£1,890
16 Sep - 24 Sep	£1,790	15 Sep - 23 Sep	£1,890
07 Oct - 15 Oct	£1,890	06 Oct - 14 Oct	£1,990
21 Oct - 29 Oct	£1,890	20 Oct - 28 Oct	£1,990
04 Nov - 12 Nov	£1,990	03 Nov - 11 Nov	£2,090
18 Nov - 26 Nov	£1,990	17 Nov - 25 Nov	£2,090
09 Dec - 17 Dec	£1,990	08 Dec - 16 Dec	£2,090

KERALA & THE SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS

Southern India offers an intensely tropical and laidback experience compared to the north. The state of Kerala particularly boasts a rich heritage and the unique, mystical backwaters, which you can explore aboard a rustic kettuvallam.

17 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £2,590

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

MODERATE



▲ TEA PLANTATIONS, MUNNAR

Price includes:

- All meals (15 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 15 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
 - Land only from £2,090 (Chennai - Kochi)
 - Single room from £690
 - Tipping paid locally US\$90

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ BULL TEMPLE



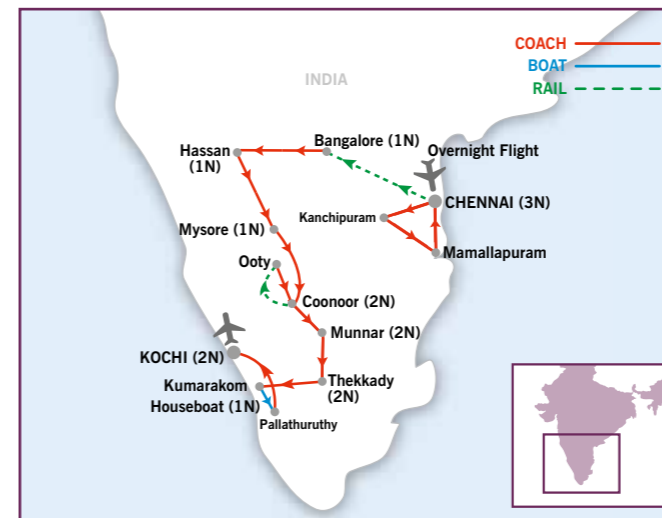
▲ KANCHIPURAM



▲ INDIAN CUISINE



▲ KERALAN HOUSEBOAT



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Relax in Chennai
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Ride Ooty's toy train
- Cool off in Coonoor
- Cruise Kerala's backwaters
- Admire sacred sights

ITINERARY

- **Days 1-2: Fly to Chennai**
Fly overnight to the city of Chennai, the gateway to southern India. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.
- **Day 3: Explore Chennai**
Chennai, once Madras, was developed as a British trading post and so is home to a number of colonial sights. A city tour begins at the 13 kilometre Marina Beach before a stop at Fort St. George, established by the East India Company, and the British built St. Mary's Church. The final stop is the colourful Shiva Kapaleeswarar Temple.
- **Day 4: Kanchipuram and Mamallapuram**
Journey to Kanchipuram, one of the seven sacred cities of India, to visit Srinivasa Silk House. Continue on to the coastal town of Mamallapuram to view the fascinating 7th and 8th-century rock carvings. Return to Chennai.
- **Day 5: Train to Bangalore**
Rise early to catch the Shatabdi Express to the garden city of Bangalore. Take an afternoon city tour to see the Bull Temple, Tipu Sultan's Palace and Vidhana Soudha.
- **Day 6: Explore Hassan**
Travel to Hassan and visit Shravanabelagola, one of the most revered Jain pilgrimage sites in India and home to the world's tallest free-standing statue. You'll also visit the 12th-century temples of Belur and Halebidu, a part of the Karnataka region's rich cultural heritage.
- **Day 7: Mysore**
Head to Mysore, stopping at Srirangapatna Fort en route. Visit the magnificent Maharaja's Palace and drive up to Chamundi Hill to admire the 12th-century Sri Chamundeshwari Temple and Nandi Bull. Tonight, enjoy a traditional cooking demonstration hosted by a local family.
- **Day 8: Coonoor Hill Station**
Journey up into the cool climes of the Western Ghats to the beautiful hill station of Coonoor. Relax and appreciate the peace and natural splendour of this quaint town.
- **Day 9: Ooty Narrow Gauge Railway**
All aboard the miniature, narrow gauge 'Toy Train' to Ooty, nicknamed the 'Queen of Hill Stations'. Upon arrival you'll visit the botanical gardens and walk up to a small village where you'll be able to gain insights into the lives of the local people, as well as getting incredible views back over Ooty.
- **Day 10: Travel to Munnar**
Drive through the Western Ghats, descending from the highlands – there are a plethora of spectacular panoramas to admire as you go. Reach Munnar, a hill station enveloped by lush tea plantations.
- **Day 11: Around Munnar**
Travel to Mattupetty Dam and take an easy walk around the lakeside areas. Continue to Eravikulam National Park where you will have the opportunity to spot the local wildlife (closed Feb-Apr, alternative touring will be available). In the afternoon visit a tea plantation and the Tata Tea Museum.
- **Day 12: Thekkady**
Drive to Thekkady, home of Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. This afternoon visit a local spice village and browse a local market in Thekkady.
- **Day 13: Periyar Wildlife Reserve**
Though designated a Tiger Reserve in 1978, the Periyar Wildlife Reserve is best known for its elephants. Take a walk through the reserve, keeping an eye out for its resident elephant population, as well as wild dogs, barking deer, mouse deer and the elusive Bengal Tiger. Enjoy a traditional Kalaripayattu (martial art) show this evening.
- **Day 14: Backwaters Cruise**
Travel to Kumarakom where you'll board your houseboat, a converted rice barge, known as a kettuvallam. Sit back and watch life on the water and the surrounding, untouched wilderness as you cruise unhurriedly along the canals. A delicious dinner of traditional cuisine will be served on board and you'll spend a comfortable night on the water.
- **Day 15: Coastal Kochi**
Take breakfast on your boat before disembarking at Pallathurthy and heading for Kochi. Stop en route at the local market and a coir factory. Later, stop by Kumbalangi, a village created to highlight the lifestyle of fisher-folk in the area.
- **Day 16: Explore Kochi**
Take a full day tour of Kochi. Start at St Francis Church, the first European church built in India, before a visit to Santa Cruz Basilica, where you can get excellent views of more Chinese fishing nets. Finish by admiring the synagogue in the heart of the Jewish Quarter and a stroll around the nearby markets. This evening enjoy an exuberant Kathakali dance performance.
- **Day 17: Fly Kochi to UK**
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



▲ MAHARAJA'S PALACE, MYSORE

DEPARTURES – Departing Wednesday returning Friday

2017 DATES							
01 Feb - 17 Feb	£2,690	15 Feb - 03 Mar	£2,690	01 Mar - 17 Mar	£2,590	04 Oct - 20 Oct	£2,590
2018 DATES							
31 Jan - 16 Feb	£2,890	14 Feb - 02 Mar	£2,890	28 Feb - 16 Mar	£2,790	03 Oct - 19 Oct	£2,790
						31 Oct - 16 Nov	£2,890

HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA

From the desert forts of Rajasthan through national parks that shelter the majestic Bengal Tiger, past the Taj Mahal and on to holy Varanasi – this tour covers many of India's most magnificent sights.

18 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £3,490

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

MODERATE



▲ LAKE PICHOLA, UDAIPUR

Price includes:

- All meals (16 breakfasts, 15 lunches & 16 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
 - Land only from £2,990 (Delhi - Delhi)
 - Single room from £610
 - Tipping paid locally US\$100

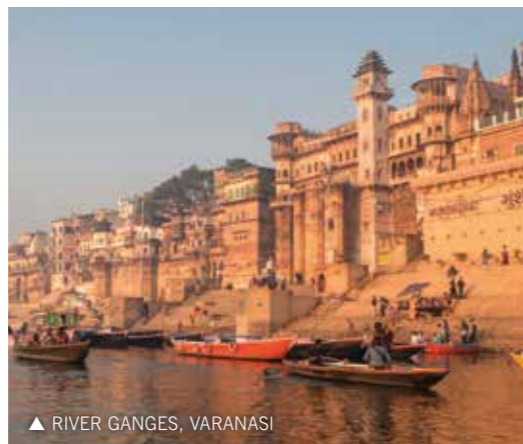
ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
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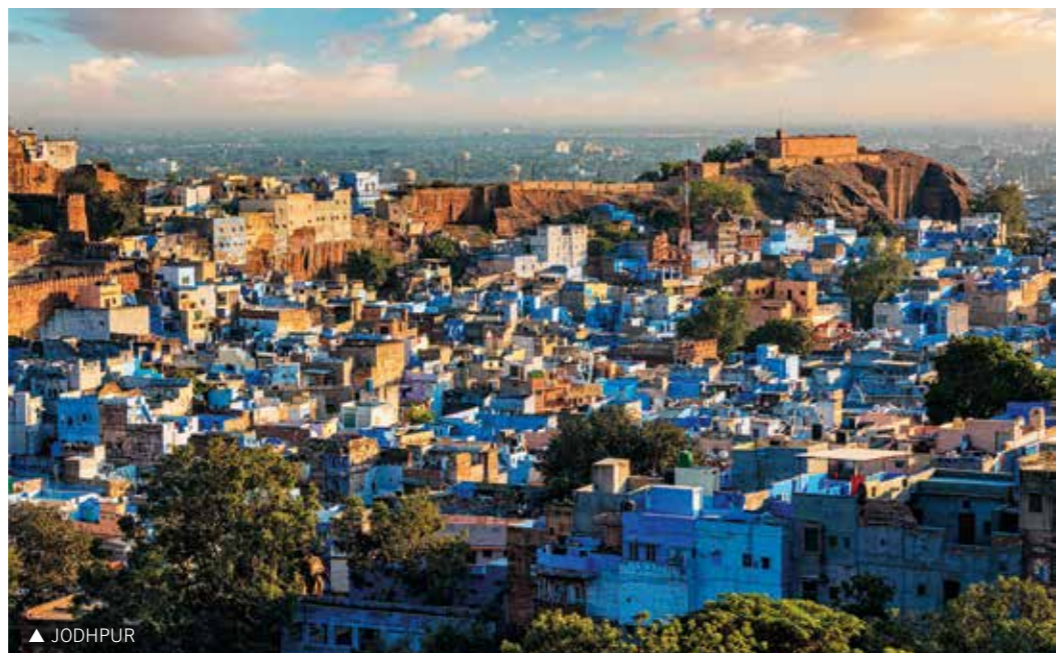
▲ RED FORT DELHI



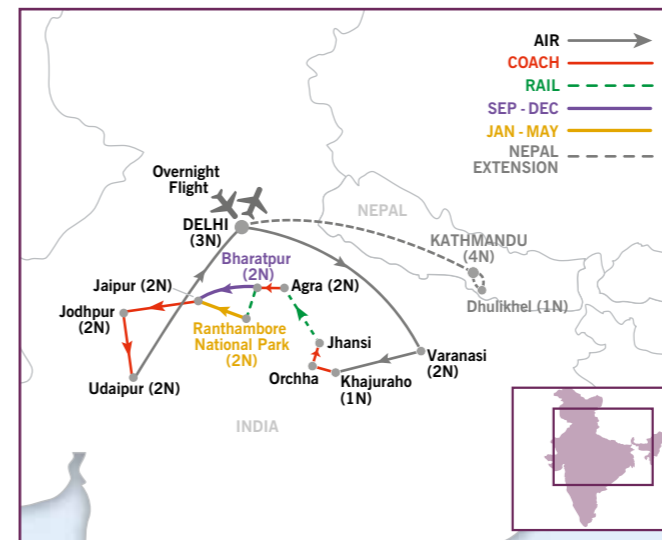
▲ RIVER GANGES, VARANASI



▲ HAWA MAHAL, JAIPUR



▲ JODHPUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Feel the buzz of Delhi
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Soak up Udaipur's romance
- Explore ancient Varanasi
- Safari through National Parks
- Admire the Amber Fort

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi

Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 3: Delhi

Explore Old Delhi; drive past the Red Fort, walk through Chandni Chowk Bazaar to Jama Masjid (India's largest mosque) and visit the Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple. After lunch, view India Gate before visiting Gandhi Smriti and Qutub Minar, the 12th-century, handcarved, 73m-tall iron pillar.

Day 4: Varanasi

Fly to Varanasi. This evening take a rickshaw to the ghats of the River Ganges to witness the Puja ceremony of Ganga Aarti.

Day 5: River Ganges

Take an early morning boat ride along the River Ganges, followed by a brief city tour of Varanasi. Later this afternoon visit the Buddhist sites at Sarnath.

Day 6: Khajuraho

Fly to Khajuraho. Tour the Western groups of Temples. This evening enjoy a cultural dance performance.

Day 7: Agra

Depart for Jhansi, stopping in Orchha en route. In Jhansi board the Shatabdi Express train to Agra.

Day 8: Historical Agra

Visit Agra Fort, a hulking mass of red sandstone sat on the banks of the Yamuna River. The Fort was established in the 16th-century but has been much added to over time, making it an eclectic mix of architectural styles. Later wander through the bustling Sadar Bazaar.

Days 9-11: Agra to Ranthambore/Bharatpur

Rise early to see the sun rise over India's most iconic sight. At dawn, when the crowds are at their thinnest, the Taj Mahal is swathed in mist and tinged pink by the rising sun – a magical experience. You will also stop at a marble inlay workshop to admire this skillful craft.

January to May – via Ranthambore

Drive to Ranthambore National Park visiting the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri en route. Tomorrow you will have a morning and afternoon canter safari. The following day, enjoy a canter safari before driving to Jaipur. This afternoon, shop at the local bazaar in Choti Choper, located inside the walled city.

September to December – via Bharatpur

Drive to Bharatpur for a two night stay, visiting the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri enroute. Tomorrow visit Keoladeo National Park for a morning rickshaw safari, and visit a nearby village. The following day, drive to Jaipur. This afternoon, shop at the local bazaar in Choti Choper, located inside the walled city.

Day 12: Jaipur

Start with a photo stop this morning at Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) before visiting Amber Fort. Later this afternoon visit the City Palace, a handicraft centre and Jantar Mantar. Watch a traditional dance performance while enjoying dinner this evening.

Day 13: Jodhpur

Drive to Jodhpur. Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to relax.

Day 14: Explore Jodhpur

This morning visit Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada and the museum located in the Umaid Bhawan Palace. Take an auto rickshaw to a local restaurant for lunch followed by a walking tour through Subzi Mandi, the local vegetable and spice market.

Day 15: Ranakpur Temples

Drive to Udaipur, a city of lakes, palaces and temples. Stop to visit the Jain temple complex of Ranakpur en route. The City Palace of Udaipur is still home to Maharana Udai Singh's descendants who remain rulers of this independent state.

Day 16: Udaipur

Visit Sahelion Ki Bari Gardens, the Folk Museum and Mewar Art Gallery. This afternoon explore the magnificent City Palace and wander through the local shops. This afternoon relax on a cruise along Lake Pichola.

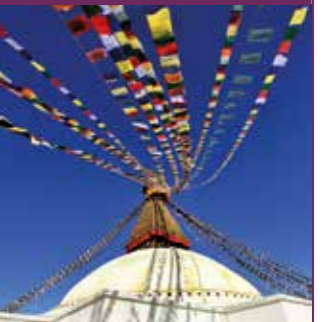
Day 17: Delhi

Fly from Udaipur to Delhi where the rest of the day will be at leisure.

Day 18: Fly Delhi to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

KEEP EXPLORING



NEPAL 4 NIGHTS EXTRA FROM £590PP

Day 17: Journey to Nepal
Transfer to Udaipur airport to board your flight to Kathmandu via Delhi. Upon arrival transfer to your hotel to settle in – the rest of the day is free to help you acclimatise to the higher altitude.

Day 18: Kathmandu – Patan
Visit the Dakshina Kali Temple. Later tour Patan, including the UNESCO World Heritage listed former Royal Palace and the lively Durbar Square.

Day 19: Kathmandu
Visit Kathmandu's Durbar Square and the Kumari Temple. Explore the Swayambhunath Stupa, Bodhnath Stupa and Pashupatinath Temple. Wander through Thamel Market.

Day 20: Kathmandu to Dhulikhel
This morning drive to Dhulikhel, stopping at the UNESCO World Heritage-listed temple of Changu Narayan en route. In Dhulikhel you will visit traditional Newari houses and browse the local market.

Days 21: Dhulikhel to Kathmandu
Leave Dhulikhel and return to Kathmandu. Visit the 9th-century town of Bhaktapur en route, including the Golden Gate at the Palace of 55 Windows. Enjoy a traditional Nepalese dance performance this evening.

Days 22: Kathmandu to UK
Transfer to Kathmandu airport for your flight to the UK.

DEPARTURES – Departing Friday returning Monday

2017 DATES							
20 Jan - 06 Feb	£3,590	10 Feb - 27 Feb	£3,590	03 Mar - 20 Mar	£3,490	15 Sep - 02 Oct	£3,490
03 Feb - 20 Feb	£3,590	24 Feb - 13 Mar	£3,590	10 Mar - 27 Mar	£3,490	13 Oct - 30 Oct	£3,490
03 Nov - 20 Nov	£3,590						
2018 DATES							
19 Jan - 05 Feb	£3,990	09 Feb - 26 Feb	£3,990	09 Mar - 26 Mar	£3,890	12 Oct - 29 Oct	£3,890
02 Feb - 19 Feb	£3,990	23 Feb - 12 Mar	£3,990	14 Sep - 01 Oct	£3,890	26 Oct - 12 Nov	£3,990

NEW

HIMALAYAN HERITAGE TRAIL

Traverse the foothills of the mighty Himalayas. Destinations en route are not only full of diverse culture and religious architecture but also boast spectacular views and abundant nature that exhibit a whole other side of India.

19 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON **£3,390**

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

ACTIVE



▲ GOLDEN TEMPLE, AMRITSAR

Price includes:

- All meals (17 breakfasts, 16 lunches & 17 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

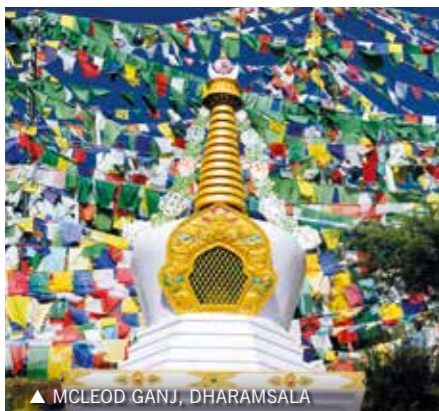
Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,890 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £990
- Tipping paid locally US\$145

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
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Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ MCLEOD GANJ, DHARAMSALA



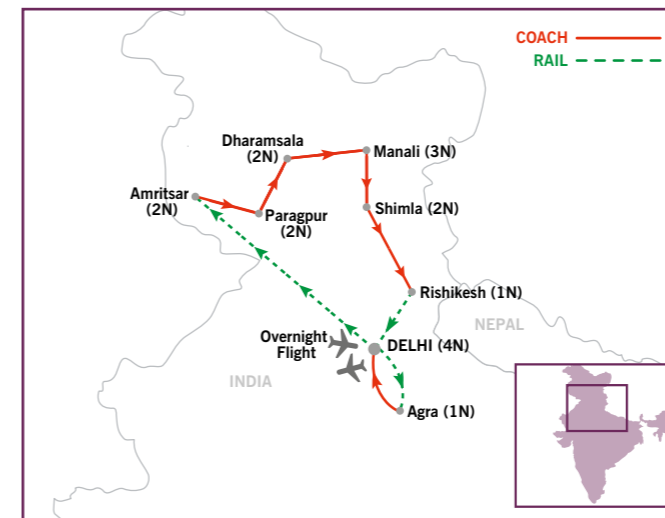
▲ AMBER FORT



▲ PARVATI VALLEY



▲ SHIMLA



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Admire the Golden Temple
- Feel Tibet in McLeod Ganj
- Soak up the mountain views
- Explore colonial Shimla
- See the Ganges at Rishikesh

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi

Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 3: Taj Mahal

Travel to Agra by train and tour the city, visiting the 17th-century Itmad-Ud-Daulah, nicknamed the 'Baby Taj' and the colossal Agra Fort. The day concludes before the magnificent Taj Mahal, which you will get to see as evening sets in. Watching the colours of the sunset playing across the mausoleum's white marble is an enchanting experience.

Day 4: Gurudwara Bangla Sahib

Return to Delhi by road and continue to tour the city. Today you will explore the Purana Qila, one of Delhi's oldest forts, and the beautiful white marble and golden-roofed Gurudwara Bangla Sahib, one of India's most prominent gurdwara, a Sikh house of worship.

Day 5: Train to Amritsar

Transfer to Delhi station and hop on a train to Amritsar. On arrival, wend your way through the streets of the old town to the Golden Temple, Harmandir Sahib – the spiritual heart of the Sikh faith. Built in the 16th-century, its dome is richly gilded in shimmering gold. The temple floats on the

sacred waters of Amrit Sarovar; all Sikhs try to make the pilgrimage to bathe in the purifying waters.

Day 6: Explore Amritsar

Enjoy a heritage walk of the city, taking in local markets and temples, including Durgiana and Jallianwala Bagh, a memorial dedicated to the people killed and wounded when British troops opened fire on unarmed protestors in 1919. Head to the India-Pakistan border to watch the elaborate border closing ceremony with its fantastically over-the-top showmanship.

Day 7: Paragpur Heritage Walk

Travel to Paragpur, India's first heritage village. Full of traditional character and charm, explore Paragpur's cobbled streets and visit some of the traditional craftsmen who practice here, including weavers, silversmiths and printers.

Day 8: Around Paragpur

Today you'll explore deeper into the area of Himachal Pradesh. Visit Chintpurni, a Shakti Temple said to grant wishes. Also visit the village of Dharamsala-Mahanta, Haripur, with its massive fort, and Guler – the home of the Kangra School of Painting.

Day 9: Dharamsala

Head up into the mountains to Dharamsala, a former British hill station that has become the home of the Tibetan Government

in exile. Enjoy a demonstration on how to cook local dishes. The rest of the day is free for you to explore the markets.

Day 10: Explore Dharamsala

Start the day with a yoga and meditation session. After breakfast visit McLeod Ganj, a town with a distinctly Tibetan feel. Explore the town, visiting Buddhist temples and local markets before spending the afternoon in the Norbulingka Institute. A major centre for Buddhist learning, it also works to preserve Tibet's cultural heritage. Other sights you'll see include Kangra State Museum, the Dalai Lama Temple and the Tibetan Museum. Later, take a short, easy hike around Dharamkot, a community of Gaddi people, to Naddi village, where there are spectacular views of the Dhauladhar mountain range.

Day 11: Manali

Travel to the town of Manali, stopping at the Kullu Valley, a rural idyll of apple orchards and wooden temples.

Day 12: Around Manali

Spend the morning discovering the beauty of the Parvati Valley – the views of the mountains here are incredible. This afternoon, take an excursion to Naggar, where you'll find an old castle and temples and the Roerich Art Gallery. Set up a hill, the views are as impressive as the paintings.

Day 13: Explore Manali

Discover more about the town of Manali with a city tour. You'll visit Hadimba Temple, Vashisht hot water springs and old Manali village. The afternoon is at leisure.

Day 14: Shimla

Head to Shimla by road. The capital of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla was once India's largest hill station, sprawling across a ridge deep in the Himalayan foothills.

Day 15: Explore Shimla

The summer capital of British India, and nicknamed the 'Queen of Hill Stations', Shimla has a spectacular location. Start the day with a hike to Jakhoo Temple, which sits at the highest point of the city, offering amazing views. Continue to the

Himachal State Museum and admire the renaissance grandeur of the Vice Regal Lodge. Spend some time in the heart of town, soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the views.

Day 16: Rishikesh

Travel by road to Rishikesh, a city on the River Ganges that is best known for its ashrams. This evening visit the ghats to witness an aarti ceremony on the edge of the river.

Day 17: Explore Rishikesh

See the sights of Rishikesh on a city tour, spending time at Laxman Jhoola, Omkaranand Ashram and Sivanand Ashram. Transfer to Haridwar station for your evening train journey to Delhi. You will enjoy dinner onboard.

Day 18: Delhi City Tour

Spend a full day exploring the sights of Delhi: stroll around the outside of the colossal Red Fort; visit Jama Masjid, India's largest and most impressive mosque, and see Raj Ghat – a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi. Visit Humayun's Tomb before making a stop at India Gate. Finish in the heart of New Delhi at the grandiose Connaught Place.

Day 19: Fly Delhi to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home later the same or following day.

EXTEND YOUR STAY



GOA 4 NIGHTS FROM £340PP

A little slice of paradise on the Arabian Sea, Goa has gorgeous beaches and a rich Portuguese heritage to explore.

See page 70.
Additional flight costs may apply.

DEPARTURES – Departing Friday returning Tuesday

2017 DATES		2018 DATES	
02 Jun - 20 Jun	£3,390	15 Sep - 03 Oct	£3,490
08 Jun - 26 Jun	£3,790	14 Sep - 02 Oct	£3,890

RAJASTHAN PANORAMA

A land of extravagant forts and palaces, exceptional wildlife and indescribable colour, Rajasthan is India at its most exotic. This journey through vibrant cities, stark desert and traditional rurality gives you the perfect picture of the 'Land of Kings'.

22 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £2,890

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

MODERATE

Price includes:

- All meals (20 breakfasts, 19 lunches & 20 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,390 (Delhi- Delhi)
- Single room from £790
- Tipping paid locally US\$115

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Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ JODHPUR



▲ PUSHKAR



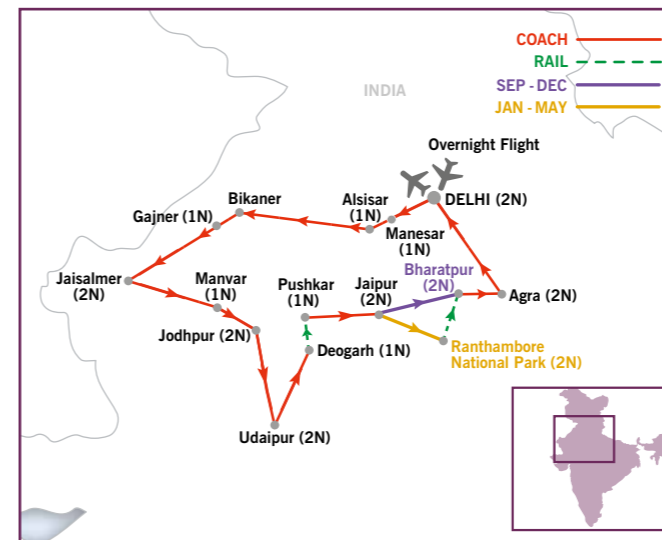
▲ HAWA MAHAL, JAIPUR



▲ SADHU, JAISALMER



▲ LAKE PICHOLA, UDAIPUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore magnificent hill forts
- Take a desert safari
- Wander the 'Blue City'
- Feel romantic in Udaipur
- See sacred Pushkar
- Safari through National Parks

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi & transfer to Manesar
Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city, and transfer to Manesar for an overnight stay. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 3: Alsisar Heritage Town
Cross into Rajasthan and travel to the town of Alsisar. This small town is full of traditional havelis, replete with frescoes, mansions and cenotaphs and even has a castle. Stay overnight in a beautifully restored Haveli.

Day 4: Explore Bikaner
Travel to the vibrant town of Bikaner, dominated by its magnificent fort. Explore the fort and take a rickshaw ride through the atmospheric old streets to the bustling city bazaar. Continue on to Gajner. Now a wildlife sanctuary, the area was once the hunting ground of the Maharajah of Bikaner, and makes up part of the estate of the Gajner Palace Hotel, where you will spend the night.

Day 5: Discover Jaisalmer
Rising like a mirage from the sandy plains of the Thar Desert, Jaisalmer is known as the 'Golden City'. Nicknamed for its honey-

coloured sandstone walls, the city was once a trading hub – the riches brought in from Afghanistan and Central Asia used to build extravagant palaces and havelis. This evening, browse the local markets and visit Sunset Point.

Day 6: Jaisalmer Fort
Spend the morning amongst the magnificence of Jaisalmer's 12th-century fort, one of the largest forts in the world. Dominating the city from Trikuta Hill, it is still populated by thousands of people and is full of palaces, temples and mansions. Later, travel to the Sam Sand Dunes where you can ride a camel through the desert and view the sunset.

Day 7: Thar Desert Safari
Venture on through the Thar Desert to Manvar. Here enjoy a camel and jeep safari to visit the local Bishnoi villages where you will be able to meet the local people. Tonight stay in a tented desert camp (mid-Oct to mid-Apr) or the Manvar Resort (rest of the year).

Day 8: Jodhpur
Drive to Jodhpur. Dominated by the commanding Mehrangarh Fort, which seems to grow out of the top of its 125-metre hill, much of Jodhpur's old town is a vivid blue, earning it the moniker the 'Blue City'.

Day 9: Explore Jodhpur
Take a tour around the city, visiting Jaswant Thada, the royal cremation grounds, and explore the magnificent and splendour of Mehrangarh Fort. Head to the little museum housed in the imposing Umaid Bhawan Palace then hop on a rickshaw to a local restaurant for lunch. Browse through Subzi Mandi, the local vegetable and spice market, before the rest of day at leisure.

Day 10: Udaipur
Travel to Udaipur via the Jain temple complex of Ranakpur. India's most romantic city, Udaipur is perched on Lake Pichola and surrounded by wooded hills; a maze of palaces, temples and colourful alleyways. This afternoon take a cruise on the lake, passing the magical Lake Palace.

Day 11: Discover Udaipur
Today you will explore the city, starting with a drive around Fateh Sagar Lake and stops at the Folk Museum, Mewar Art Gallery and Sahelion Ki Bari Garden. Later visit the ornate City Palace and take a stroll through the local shops.

Day 12: Rajasthan Countryside
Drive to Deogarh, stopping en route to visit the Eklinji and Nathdwara Temples. This evening wander through the bustling streets amongst the colourfully-clad locals and take in the sights and sounds of rural Rajasthan.

Day 13: Explore Pushkar
This morning, all aboard a 1930s-era train for a short ride through the hills to Phulad. Disembark and continue by road to Pushkar. Sat on the banks of one of India's most sacred lakes, there are 52 ghats used for worship by Hindu pilgrims. Take a walking tour of the market and admire the Brahma Temple.

Day 14: Jaipur
Travel to Jaipur, the 'Pink City' and Rajasthan's capital. On arrival, visit two of the city's top sights, the Maharaja's City Palace and Jantar Mantar Observatory, a fascinating collection of wonderfully astrological instruments.

Day 15: Hawa Mahal & Amber Fort
Begin the day with a brief stop at Hawa Mahal, the 'Palace of the Winds', before travelling out of the city to admire the majestic Amber Fort. Back in Jaipur, give block painting and carpet weaving a go before browsing the local bazaar at Choti Choper. This evening enjoy a traditional dinner and a dance performance.

Days 16-17: Ranthambore or Bharatpur
Jan to May itinerary
Travel by train to Ranthambore National Park and take a safari this afternoon. The next day, enjoy both a morning and afternoon safari.
Sep to Dec itinerary
Drive to Bharatpur. The next day visit Keoladeo National Park for a morning rickshaw safari before an afternoon visit to a nearby village.

Day 18: Travel to Agra
Jan to May
Travel by train to Bharatpur and transfer by road to Agra, stopping en route at the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri.

Sep to Dec
Enjoy a day at leisure before a short drive to Agra with time to explore the city.

Day 19: The Taj Mahal
Rise early to see the sun rise over one of the world's most perfect buildings. At dawn the Taj Mahal is swathed in mist and tinged pink by the rising sun – a magical experience. Stop at a traditional marble workshop. This afternoon visit the hulking mass of Agra Fort, established in the 16th century.

Day 20: Delhi
Travel by road back to Delhi and visit Qutub Minar, Lotus Temple and Connaught Place Markets for a spot of shopping.

Day 21: Red Fort & India Gate
A city of equal chaos and charm, Delhi grabs you and doesn't let go. Pass the colossal Red Fort, browse the bustling bazaar of Chandni Chow and visit Jama Masjid, India's largest and most impressive mosque. Make a brief stop at India Gate and Parliament House.

Day 22: Fly Delhi to UK
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

DEPARTURES – Departing Wednesday returning Wednesday

2017 DATES							
01 Feb - 22 Feb	£3,090	15 Mar - 05 Apr	£2,990	20 Sep - 11 Oct	£2,890	08 Nov - 29 Nov	£3,090
15 Feb - 08 Mar	£3,090	22 Mar - 12 Apr	£2,990	18 Oct - 08 Nov	£2,990	22 Nov - 13 Dec	£3,090
2018 DATES							
31 Jan - 21 Feb	£3,390	14 Mar - 04 Apr	£3,290	19 Sep - 10 Oct	£3,190	07 Nov - 28 Nov	£3,390
14 Feb - 07 Mar	£3,390	21 Mar - 11 Apr	£3,290	17 Oct - 07 Nov	£3,290	21 Nov - 12 Dec	£3,390

NEW

ENTICING INDIA

Embark on an unforgettable adventure across northern India. From the beauty of the Taj Mahal, through ancient Varanasi, to the colourful characters and hillforts of Rajasthan, witnessing time-honoured tradition and ritual as you go.

22 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £2,990

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

MODERATE



▲ TAJ MAHAL

Price includes:

- All meals (20 breakfasts, 19 lunches & 20 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,490 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £740
- Tipping paid locally US\$120

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ MEHRANGARH FORT



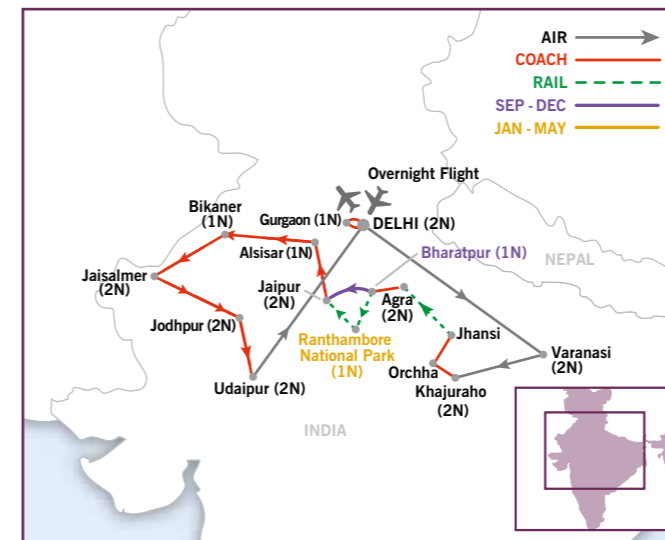
▲ BENGAL TIGER



▲ COLOURFUL TRADITIONAL DRESS



▲ KHAJURAHOS TEMPLES



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Float down the holy Ganges
- Admire Khajuraho's temples
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Discover the 'Pink City'
- See Rajasthan's forts
- Spot Bengal Tigers

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi

Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 3: Explore Delhi

Explore Old Delhi; drive past the Red Fort and walk through Chandni Chowk Bazaar to Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. After lunch, view India Gate before exploring Gandhi Smriti and Qutub Minar.

Day 4: Varanasi

Fly to Varanasi this morning. Said to be one of the world's oldest cities, Varanasi is spread along the banks of the River Ganges and is a sacred place for Hindus. Thousand of pilgrims flock to the ghats every day to worship and bathe. Visit the Buddhist sites at Sarnath, where Buddha is said to have delivered his first sermon – the ruins here date back as far as the 3rd century BC.

Day 5: River Ganges

Rise early and take to the waters of the holy Ganges to see the ghats come to life with the rising sun. Explore the city before enjoying some time at leisure.

Later this evening hop on a rickshaw down the river ghats to witness the puja ceremony of Ganga Aarti.

Day 6: Khajuraho

Transfer to the airport to fly to Khajuraho, stopping en route at Banaras Hindu University. This evening enjoy a cultural dance display.

Day 7: Explore Khajuraho's Temples

Tour both the western and eastern groups of the Khajuraho temples, known for their intricately carved, erotic imagery and celestial beauties.

Day 8: Train to Agra

Travel to the 16th-century city of Orchha and then on to Jhansi where you'll board a Shatabdi Express train to Agra.

Day 9: Taj Mahal

Rise early to see the sun rise over one of the world's most perfect buildings. At dawn the Taj Mahal is swathed in mist and tinged pink by the rising sun – a magical experience. Stop at a traditional marble workshop. This afternoon visit the hulking mass of Agra Fort, established in the 16th-century.

Day 10: Ranthambore or Bharatpur

Depending on the season, today operates different, itineraries as follows:

Jan to May

Drive to Bharatpur, then travel by train to Ranthambore National Park for a safari. Ranthambore is home to many animals such as leopards, hyena, bears and most importantly, tigers.

Sept to Dec

Drive to Bharatpur, then continue to the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri and visit the Keoladeo National Park, home to many species of birdlife. Later return to Bharatpur.

Day 11: Jaipur

Journey to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur. Those in Ranthambore will have another safari before departure.

Day 12: Hawa Mahal & Amber Fort

Begin the day with a brief stop at the Hawa Mahal, the 'Palace of the Winds', before travelling out of the city to admire the majestic Amber Fort. Back in Jaipur give block painting and carpet weaving a go before browsing the local bazaar at Choti Choper. This evening enjoy a traditional dinner and a dance performance.

Day 13: Alsisar

Depart Jaipur and travel to the town of Alsisar. This small town is full of traditional havelis, replete with frescoes, mansions and cenotaphs and even has a castle.

Day 14: Bikaner

The next day travel to the vibrant town of Bikaner, dominated by its magnificent fort, and explore by rickshaw. Visit the Prachina cultural centre and museum.

Days 15-16: Discover Jaisalmer

Travel to Jaisalmer. Rising like a mirage from the sandy plains of the Thar Desert, Jaisalmer is known as the 'Golden City'. Head to Sunset Point to enjoy the views. The next day spend some time amongst the magnificence of Jaisalmer's 12th-century fort, one of the largest forts in the world. Later, travel to the Sam Sand

Dunes where you can ride a camel through the desert and view the sunset.

Day 17: Explore Jodhpur

Drive to Jodhpur. Take a tour of the city, exploring the magnificence and splendour of Mehrangarh Fort, visiting the museum of Umaid Bhawan Palace and browsing through Subzi Mandi, the local vegetable and spice market.

Day 18: Jeep Safari

The next day jump into a jeep and drive through the desert to Rohetgarh to meet the people of the Bishnoi Tribe and observe their rich cultural life.

Days 19-20: Romantic Udaipur

Drive to Udaipur via the Jain temple complex of Ranakpur. Arrive in Udaipur and take a cruise on the shimmering waters of Lake Pichola, passing the magical Lake Palace. The next day, you will explore the city, starting with a drive around Fateh Sagar Lake with stops at the Folk Museum, Mewar Art Gallery and Sahelion Ki Bari Garden. Later visit the ornate City Palace and take a stroll through the local market.

Day 21: Gurgaon

Fly to Delhi and travel to Gurgaon. This evening experience the 'Kingdom of Dreams', a live entertainment venue where you will watch a magical Bollywood performance.

Day 22: Fly Delhi to UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home later the same of the following day.

EXTEND YOUR STAY



GOA
4 NIGHTS FROM £340PP

A little slice of paradise on the Arabian Sea, Goa has gorgeous beaches and a rich Portuguese heritage to explore.

See page 70.
Additional flight costs may apply.

DEPARTURES – Departing Wednesday returning Wednesday

2017 DATES							
01 Feb - 22 Feb	£3,090	01 Mar - 22 Mar	£2,990	04 Oct - 25 Oct	£3,090	11 Oct - 01 Nov	£3,090
						01 Nov - 22 Nov	£3,190
2018 DATES							
31 Jan - 21 Feb	£3,490	28 Feb - 21 Mar	£3,390	03 Oct - 24 Oct	£3,390	10 Oct - 31 Oct	£3,390
						31 Oct - 21 Nov	£3,490

GRAND TOUR OF INDIA

Traverse India's cultural and natural landscapes on a tour that encompasses both its incredible diversity and treasure trove of sights; from vibrant Delhi in the north to laidback Kerala in the south.

29 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £5,190

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

MODERATE

Price includes:

- All meals (27 breakfasts, 26 lunches & 27 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,690 (Delhi - Trivandrum)
- Single room from £1,090
- Tipping paid locally US\$150

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

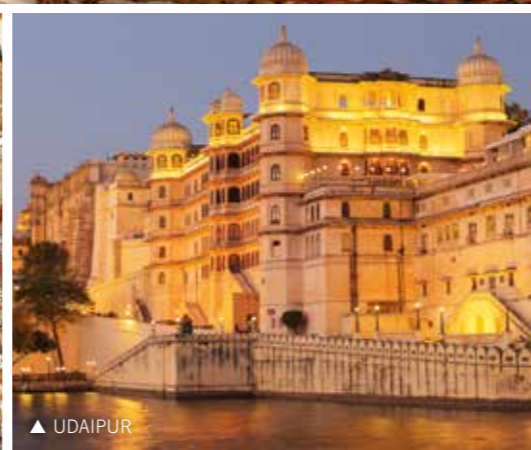
Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ RIVER GANGES, VARANASI



▲ AMBER FORT

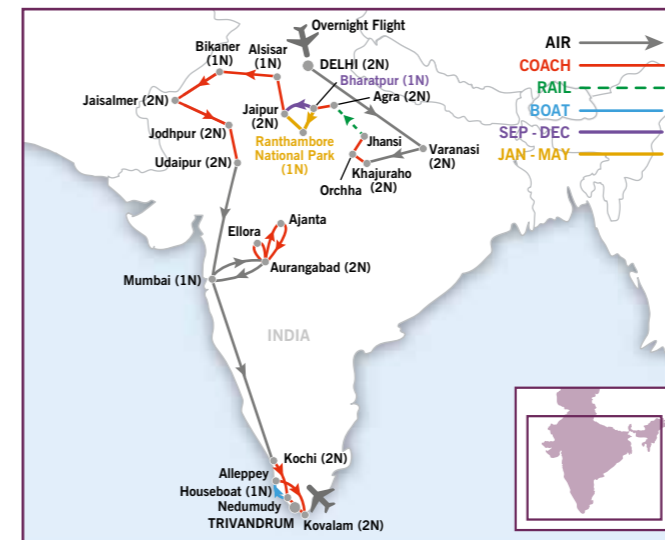


▲ UDAIPUR



▲ BACKWATERS OF KERALA

▲ SAM SAND DUNES



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Feel the buzz of Delhi
- Explore ancient Varanasi
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- See Rajasthan's hill forts
- Admire Ajanta & Ellora Caves
- Cruise Kerala's backwaters

ITINERARY

- Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi**
Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.
- Day 3: Explore Delhi**
Explore Old Delhi; drive past the Red Fort and walk through Chandni Chowk Bazaar to Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. After lunch, view India Gate and Parliament House before exploring Gandhi Smriti and Qutab Minar.
- Days 4-5: Discover Varanasi**
Transfer to the airport and fly to the ancient city of Varanasi. Head just out of town to the fascinating Buddhist site of Sarnath, where Buddha is said to have delivered his first sermon. The next day, rise early to cruise on the Ganges and watch the ghats come to life as the sun rises. Explore the city and take some time at leisure. Later this evening hop on a rickshaw to the ghats and witness the puja ceremony of Ganga Aarti.
- Day 6: Khajuraho**
This morning fly to Khajuraho. This evening soak up the colourful sight and sounds at a cultural dance performance.
- Day 7: Explore Khajuraho's temples**
Tour both the western and eastern groups of the Khajuraho temples, known for their intricately carved, erotic imagery and celestial beauties.
- Day 8: Agra**
Travel to the 16th-century city of Orchha and then on to Jhansi where you'll board a Shatabdi Express train to Agra.
- Day 9: Taj Mahal**
Rise early to see the sun rise over one of the world's most perfect buildings. At dawn the Taj Mahal is swathed in mist and tinged pink by the ascending sun – a magical experience. Stop at a traditional marble workshop. This afternoon visit the hulking mass of Agra Fort, established in the 16th century.
- Day 10: Ranthambore or Bharatpur**
Depending on the season, today operates different itineraries as follows:
Jan to May
Drive to Bharatpur, then travel by train to Ranthambore National Park for a safari. Ranthambore is home to many animals such as leopards, hyena, bears and most importantly, tigers.
Sept to Dec
Drive to Bharatpur, then continue to the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri and
- Day 11: Jaipur**
Journey to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur. On arrival, explore the Maharaja's City Palace and the fascinating Jantar Mantar Observatory.
- Day 12: Hawa Mahal & Amber Fort**
Begin the day with a brief stop at the Hawa Mahal, the 'Palace of the Winds', before travelling out of the city to admire the majestic Amber Fort. Back in Jaipur give block painting and carpet weaving a go before browsing the local bazaar at Choti Choper. This evening enjoy a traditional dinner and a dance performance.
- Days 13-14: Alsisar & Bikaner**
Depart Jaipur and travel to the town of Alsisar. This small town is full of traditional havelis, replete with frescoes, mansions and cenotaphs and even has a castle. The next day travel to the vibrant town of Bikaner, dominated by its magnificent fort.
- Days 15-16: Discover Jaisalmer**
Rising like a mirage from the sandy plains of the Thar Desert, Jaisalmer is known as the 'Golden City'. Head to Sunset Point to enjoy the views. The next day spend some time amongst the magnificence of Jaisalmer's 12th-century fort, one of the largest forts in the world. Later, travel to the Sam Sand Dunes where you can ride a camel through the desert and view the sunset.
- Days 17-18: Jodhpur & Around**
Drive to Jodhpur. Take a tour of the city, exploring the magnificence and splendour of Mehrangarh Fort, visiting the museum of Umaid Bhawan Palace and browsing through the local vegetable and spice market. The next day jump into a jeep and drive through the desert to Rohetgarh to meet the people of the Bishnoi Tribe.
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- Day 21: Aurangabad**
Board a morning flight to Mumbai connecting on to a flight to Aurangabad.
- Days 22-23: Ajanta & Ellora Caves**
Visit the incredible UNESCO World Heritage-listed Ajanta Caves and explore some of the 30 caves full of beautiful murals of Buddha's life. The next day visit the UNESCO Ellora Caves, where you'll find even more exquisite carvings of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain imagery. Fly to Mumbai.
- Day 24: Discover Mumbai**
Take a tour of cosmopolitan Mumbai, India's economic powerhouse. View the Gateway to India, dawdle along Marine Drive and visit Chowpatty Beach, Mani Bhavan, Dhobi Ghat, Crawford Market and Flora Fountain. Fly to the relaxed Kerala city of Kochi.
- Day 25: Explore Kochi**
Kochi is strung across the islands and peninsulas of the Malabar coast and is a fascinating city. Visit the Dutch Palace and Fort Kochi before seeing the famous Chinese fishing nets and strolling through the colourful markets. This evening enjoy an exuberant Kathakali dance performance.
- Day 26: Kerala's backwaters**
Pay a visit to Kochi's synagogue, before heading out of the city to Nedumudy to board your houseboat. On this converted rice barge or 'kettuvallam' you can drift along the lush canals, streams and lakes that make up Kerala's backwaters. Lunch and dinner are served onboard and you will overnight on the boat too.
- Day 27: Travel to Kovalam**
Enjoy breakfast as you cruise into Alleppey and disembark. Travel to the famous Kerala beach resort of Kovalam.
- Day 28: Visit Trivandrum**
Spend the day exploring Kerala's capital Trivandrum, with visits to Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple, the Zoological Gardens, Sri Chitra Art Gallery, the Observatory and Kanakakunnu Palace. Return to Kovalam to stay overnight.
- Day 29: Fly Trivandrum to UK**
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

visit the Keoladeo National Park, home to many species of birdlife. Later return to Bharatpur.

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Day 29: Fly Trivandrum to UK
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

DEPARTURES – Departing Wednesday returning Thursday

2017 DATES							
01 Feb - 01 Mar	£5,290	01 Mar - 29 Mar	£5,290	04 Oct - 01 Nov	£5,190	11 Oct - 08 Nov	£5,190
01 Nov - 29 Nov	£5,290						
2018 DATES							
31 Jan - 28 Feb	£5,890	28 Feb - 28 Mar	£5,890	03 Oct - 31 Oct	£5,790	10 Oct - 07 Nov	£5,790
31 Oct - 28 Nov	£5,890						

HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA

From spectacular scenery to amazing architecture, Sri Lanka is a tropical island paradise. Travel from the rich heritage of the Cultural Triangle through the wilds of Yala National Park to the beachside beauty of Galle.

15 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £2,990

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

COMFORTABLE



▲ SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS

Price includes:

- All meals (13 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 13 dinners)**
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures**
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,390 (Colombo - Colombo)
- Single room from £740
- Tipping paid locally US\$75

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

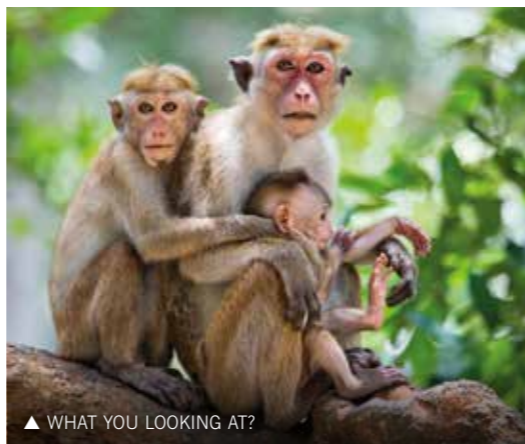
Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ FISHERMEN, GALLE



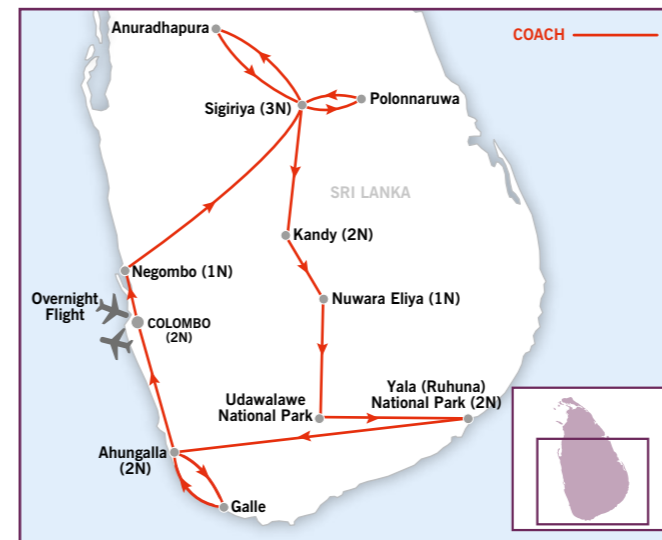
▲ THUPARAMAYA DAGOBA, ANURADHAPURA



▲ WHAT YOU LOOKING AT?



▲ COLOMBO



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Visit Kandy's sacred temple
- Explore ancient Sinhalese ruins
- Safari with elephants
- Admire Dambulla's cave art
- See Galle's historic fort

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Colombo
Fly overnight to Colombo. On arrival you will be met by your expert tour guide and transferred to your hotel in the coastal town of Negombo, a short drive from Colombo. The rest of the day is yours to explore.

Day 3: Explore Sigiriya
This morning travel to Sigiriya, home to the 5th-century UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rock Fortress, also known as 'Lion Rock'. The rock fortress was built by King Kassappa as the centre of his short-lived kingdom between 477 and 495AD. Pass through a pair of colossal lion's paws as you climb to the top for panoramic views of the area. You can also explore the surrounding gardens as well as admiring the world-renowned Heavenly Maiden's frescoes.

Day 4: Discover Polonnaruwa
Visit the ancient kingdom of Polonnaruwa, a UNESCO World Heritage listed site. Polonnaruwa was the capital of Sri Lanka from the 11th to the 12th century and is a well preserved city of stupas, frescoes and statues. While here, explore the Gal Viharaya, a magnificent group of rock temples and the Vatadage, an ancient structure with

elaborate stone carvings that were commonly placed at the entrances to monastic buildings of ancient Sri Lanka. Return to Sigiriya.

Day 5: Anuradhapura
Drive to Anuradhapura, the most celebrated of Sri Lanka's ancient ruined cities. The city's greatest treasures are its dagobas; domes enshrining sacred relics. The most notable is the Ruvanveliseya Dagoba, dating back to the 2nd century BC, which you will visit today along with the Thuparamaya, said to contain the collarbone of Buddha. Discover the city's most renowned relic, the sacred Bo Tree. Emperor Asoka's daughter brought to Anuradhapura a branch of this tree under which Buddha is said to have gained enlightenment. Planted over 2,250 years ago, it is the oldest surviving historic tree in the world.

Day 6: Dambulla Rock Temple
After breakfast, travel to Dambulla where you will tour the Dambulla Rock Temple. Dating back to the 1st century BC, the temple is made up of five cave sanctuaries where you'll find some of Sri Lanka's most important Buddha images, in the form of murals and statues. Visit a spice garden

in Matale en route to Kandy where you can see cinnamon, cardamom, pepper creepers and other spice trees growing. Learn about the use of spices in Sri Lankan cuisine and watch a cooking demonstration. Continue to the city of Kandy, Sri Lanka's cultural hub.

Day 7: Cultural Kandy
This morning, visit the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens. Later, visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, one of the most revered Buddhist sites in the world. The temple houses an important Buddhist Relic, a tooth of the Buddha. Stolen at his funeral, the tooth was smuggled into Sri Lanka hidden in the hair of a princess who fled from India. Explore the remains of the Royal Palace, now a museum. This evening you will watch a colourful cultural dance performance.

Day 8: Nuwara Eliya
Drive to Nuwara Eliya, the 'Little England' of Sri Lanka. Situated at 2,000m above sea level, Nuwara Eliya is the main hill station of Sri Lanka and is known for its excellent tea production due to the cool climate which creates tea with a unique flavour. Visit a tea plantation and tea factory en route.

Day 9: Udawalawe
Travel to the Elephant Transit Home located in Udawalawe National Park, where abandoned baby elephants are cared for before they are released into Udawalawe National Park. Continue to Yala National Park, Sri Lanka's premiere national park.

Day 10: Yala National Park
Enjoy morning and afternoon jeep safaris around the park, home to elephants, deer and the elusive leopards. One of the world's largest populations of leopards can be found here.

Day 11: Stilt Fishermen
Drive to the Hummanaya Blow Hole, the second largest of its kind in the world. After lunch, continue to Dikwella Wewurukannala Temple dominated by an image of a seated Buddha that is over 48m high. Continue the drive along

the coastline towards Ahungalla. Stop along the way at Weligama to see the unique stilt fishermen, an old tradition practiced by around 500 fishing families in the region.

Day 12: Old Galle
Travel south to explore the city of Galle, Sri Lanka's greatest colonial treasure, and once the greatest port in Ceylon. See the lighthouse and the Old Town and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Dutch Fort, before wandering narrow streets dotted with Dutch colonial villas, museums and antique shops.

Day 13: Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery
Travel to Colombo, stopping at Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery en route. The hatchery is home to Sri Lanka's pioneering sea turtle conservation project, established in 1981 to protect Sri Lanka's turtles.

Day 14: Explore Colombo
Embark on a city tour of Colombo this morning. Explore Fort district, the historic centre of the city. Wander through Pettah Market. Visit the Dutch Church of Wolvendaal, dating back to 1749, Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, a major pilgrimage site for Buddhist devotees, and the Colombo and Natural History museums.

Day 15: Fly Colombo to UK
Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK arriving home the same or following day.

STOPOVER IN...



DUBAI
2 NIGHTS FROM £190PP

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city. See pages 72-73. Additional flight costs may apply.

DEPARTURES – Departing Friday returning Friday

2017 DATES							
10 Mar - 24 Mar	£3,090	24 Mar - 07 Apr	£3,090	31 Jul - 14 Aug*	£3,290	27 Oct - 10 Nov	£2,990
2018 DATES							
09 Mar - 23 Mar	£3,390	23 Mar - 06 Apr	£3,390	10 Jul - 24 Aug	£3,590	26 Oct - 09 Nov	£3,290

*Days of the week different to those stated

PEARL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN

Embark on an exciting discovery of Sri Lanka, including beautiful beaches, ruins lost in the jungle, unique wildlife, tea plantations and stunning waterfalls. One of the highlights of this land is its gracious people and a rich abundance of surprises on offer.

16 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £3,190

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

COMFORTABLE



▲ GALLE

Price includes:

- All meals (14 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 14 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

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- Based on London Heathrow departures
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Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ UDAWALAWE NATIONAL PARK



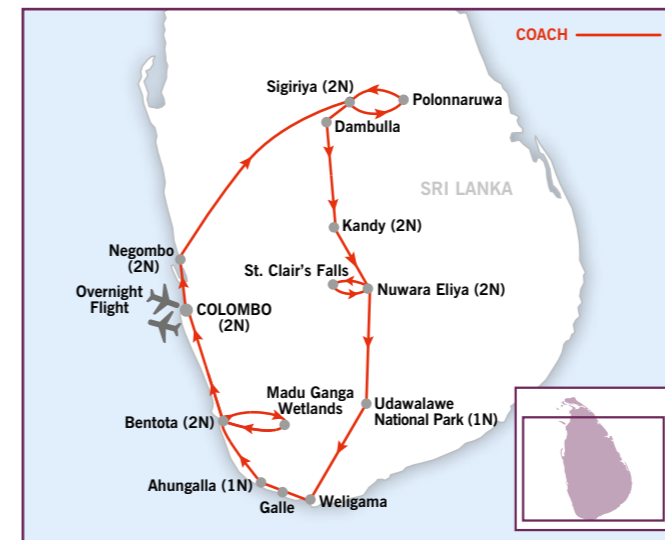
▲ POLONNARUWA



▲ BENTOTA BEACH



▲ ST. CLAIR'S FALLS



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- See Ritigala Jungle Monastery
- Sip freshly plucked tea
- Gaze on St Clair's Falls
- Meet rehabilitated elephants
- Watch the stilt fishermen
- Explore vast wetlands

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Colombo

Fly overnight to Colombo. On arrival you will be met by your expert tour guide and transferred to your hotel in the coastal town of Negombo, a short drive from Colombo. The rest of the day is yours to explore.

Day 3: Negombo

Embark on a tour of Negombo, beginning with a visit to the fish auctions down by the beach. Continue to the Dutch Fort and a local Catholic church. Later, take a boat trip through the river delta and tour a farm where you can taste the local brandy.

Day 4: Ancient Sigiriya

Rise early and drive to Ritigala Jungle Monastery, where you will explore the ancient ruins. Continue to Sigiriya. This afternoon is at your leisure to relax or explore.

Day 5: Explore Polonnaruwa

Explore the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Sigiriya Rock Fortress, the heart of King Kassappa's kingdom between 477 and 495AD. Climb to the top of the fortress for spectacular views. Visit the Heavenly Maiden's frescoes before driving to the ancient kingdom of Polonnaruwa, also a UNESCO World Heritage-listed site. Tour the ruins of the Royal Palace and

Gal Vihara, a 12th-century rock temple.

Day 6: Dambulla Rock Temple

Travel to Dambulla and tour the Dambulla Rock Temple, dating back to the 1st century BC, the temple is made up of five cave sanctuaries, containing around 150 Buddha statues and colourful frescoes. Continue to Kandy, a sacred Buddhist city, visiting a spice garden in Matale en route.

Day 7: Discover Kandy

This morning explore the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens, which were created as leisure gardens for a Sinhala king. Later visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, one of the most sacred Buddhist sites in the world. Afterwards, visit the National Museum then wander a local market, a gem museum and an arts and crafts centre. This evening you will watch a cultural dance performance before dinner.

Day 8: Nuwara Eliya

Leave Kandy this morning and travel by train to the lush hillside town of Nuwara Eliya, known as the 'Little England' of Sri Lanka. Visit a tea plantation and tea factory en route.

Day 9: St. Clair's Falls

This morning visit St. Clair's Falls, one of the most unique



▲ TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH RELIC

waterfalls in Sri Lanka. You can view the waterfalls from the road above or walk 500 metres along a trail that winds through tea plantations to take a closer look. Afterwards, tour a local tea plantation.

Day 10: Udawalawe National Park

Drive to Udawalawe National Park, famous for its elephant population. While here you will be taken on safari in an open top four-wheel drive.

Day 11: Elephant Transit Home

Rise early to participate in the early morning feeding of the elephants at the Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home, which provides care and rehabilitation to orphaned or displaced elephants. Continue on to Ahungalla, stopping along the way at Weligama to see the unique stilt fishermen, an old tradition practiced by around 500 fishing families in the region.

Day 12: Sri Lankan Cuisine

Tour the colonial port town of Galle including the fort, lighthouse, Dutch Museum and Dutch Reformed Church. Learn the secrets of Sri Lankan cuisine during a cooking class, with the chance to enjoy a street food walking tour before sampling some popular Sri Lankan dishes. Travel to Bentota, Sri Lanka's most popular beach destination. En route visit the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery, home to Sri Lanka's pioneering sea turtle conservation project.

Day 13: Madu Ganga Wetlands

Journey by boat through the Madu Ganga Wetlands which

consists of 23 islands including two main islands which are home to more than 200 families. Sail past traditional fishermen, local farms and small cottages and visit a cinnamon farm before returning to Bentota.

Day 14: Travel to Colombo

Drive to Colombo and tour the Fort District and the surrounding merchant streets before enjoying some shopping at the Pettah Market.

Day 15: Explore Colombo

This morning explore Colombo further, visiting Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, a major pilgrimage site for Buddhists, a Hindu temple, the historic Dutch Wolvendael Church, Natural History museum and the Dewatagaha Mosque.

Day 16: Fly Colombo to UK

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.

STOPOVER IN...



DUBAI
2 NIGHTS FROM £190pp

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city.

See pages 72-73.
Additional flight costs may apply.

DEPARTURES – Departing Friday returning Saturday

2017 DATES				2018 DATES			
17 Mar - 01 Apr	£3,190	20 Oct - 04 Nov	£3,190	16 Mar - 31 Mar	£3,490	19 Oct - 03 Nov	£3,490

DISCOVERY TOURS

Free your adventurous side on our immersive Discovery Tours; get active, get closer to local culture, and see India and beyond from a different perspective.

Our Discovery Tours include:

- Cycling & hiking through classic sites
- Award winning National Escorts
- Knowledgeable local guides
- International flights & taxes
- Fascinating cultural experiences
- All accommodation & most meals
- All transportation on tour
- Visa application & fees
- Specialist advice from our travel consultants
- Small group sizes

EXPERIENCE THE REAL INDIA & BEYOND

Designed with the more inquisitive traveller in mind, all of our Discovery Tours feature authentic cultural and active experiences, bringing you closer to the region's extraordinary sights, the local people and their way of life.

BE ENERGISED



Cycle Udaipur

Sat on the banks of Lake Pichola, hop on your bike to wheel amongst the intricate palaces, temples and back streets of this atmospheric city. Finish by the water and take a spectacular sunset cruise on the lake.

Rickshaw tour of Agra

Ride a rickshaw through the streets of Agra, passing by old bazaars, traditional eating joints and places of worship. You'll get a real feel for this melting pot of a city, with its multi-cultural influences.



Jeep Tour of Colombo

Explore Sri Lanka's cosmopolitan capital in a fantastic vintage World War II Jeep. Cruise the city streets in style, the sea breeze playing in your hair, stopping to admire and absorb the big sights.

Rajasthan by Bullock Cart

Explore the pastoral landscapes around Bijaynagar in true rural style – by bullock cart! Pass through villages where you can interact with the locals and catch a glimpse of daily life in rural Rajasthan.

GET SPIRITUAL



Lama Blessing

Boudhanath dominates Kathmandu's skyline – it is Nepal's most sacred stupa. Admire it and explore its monastery where you will be honoured with a Buddhist blessing by one of the resident lamas.

Hike to Tiger's Nest Monastery

Perched precariously above Bhutan's Paro Valley, the Tiger's Nest Monastery can only be reached on foot. Walk with pilgrims through tranquil woodland, passing spinning prayer wheels and admiring views as you go.



EMBRACE NATURE



Trek the Ella Gap

Ella is one of the most beautiful parts of Sri Lanka's highlands. Follow trails through tea plantations, rice paddies and forest, reaching a vantage point that will give you breathtaking views over the Ella Gap.

Mahaweli Cruise

Cast off into the dawn mists of the Mahaweli River, joined by a naturalist. An area of great biodiversity – spot birds, amphibians and water creatures as you float through the peaceful morning.

VIBRANT INDIA

Explore the colourful and lively Rajasthan state; from the big cities to the small, remote villages. Your imagination will be captured with the sights and sounds and engage with the people that make this such a magical region of India.

16 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £2,890

INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

ACTIVE

Price includes:

Most meals (14 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 10 dinners)

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,390 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £590
- Tipping paid locally US\$85

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

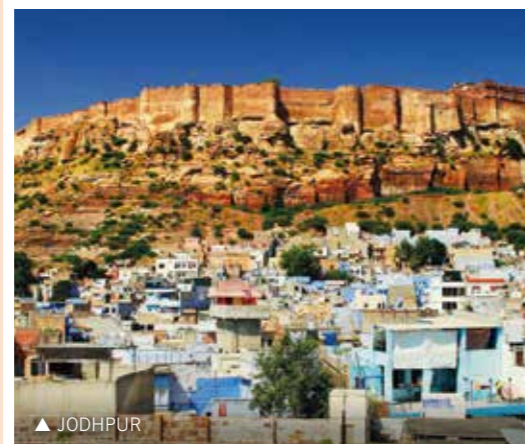
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▲ COLOURFUL SARIS



▲ RAJASTHAN



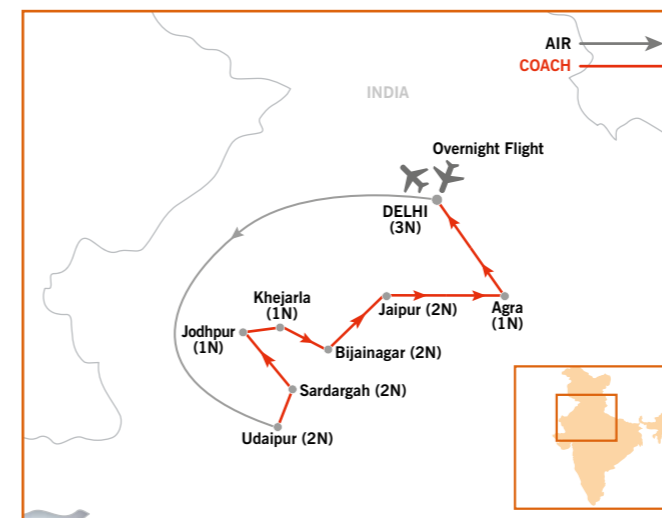
▲ JODHPUR



▲ TAJ MAHAL, AGRA



▲ CITY PALACE, UDAIPUR



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Cycle through Udaipur
- Tour villages by jeep
- Explore by bullock cart
- Stroll colourful bazaars
- Discover Agra on an auto-rickshaw

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi

Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

Day 3: Cycling in Udaipur

Fly to Udaipur, considered India's most romantic city thanks to its grand palaces and lakeside setting. This afternoon climb on to your bicycle and take a leisurely ride through the backstreets of the old city. Pass through Jagdish Chowk, followed by Jagdish Temple and end through Bada Bazaar. Finally, peddle along the banks of Lake Pichola to finish at the Tripolia Gate of the City Palace, where you will board a boat for a sunset cruise which includes a stop at the 17th-century Lake Garden Palace. (B,D)

Day 4: Explore the City Palace

Delve deeper into the cultural wonders of Udaipur starting at the spectacular City Palace. Started in 1599, over the years many a maharani has added his bit, making this Rajasthan's largest palace. Within you'll find the Dilkhush Mahal, the Sheesh Mahal, the Moti Mahal and the Palace of Lord Krishna, each boasting exquisite and ornate decoration. Drive around Fateh Sagar Lake then, later, journey to Shilpgram to visit a rural arts and

crafts village – here you can learn about the tribal people of India's western regions and see their traditional architecture, crafts and rural lifestyle. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Temples of Ranakpur

Travel from Udaipur to Sardargarh, stopping at the magnificent Jain temples of Ranakpur en route. Built in the 15th century, these marble temples feature some of India's most beautiful carvings and are a major pilgrimage for followers of the Jain religion. Sardargarh sits in the shadow of its majestic hill fort which will also be your home for the next two nights. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Jeep Safari around Sardargarh

Take a short cycling tour of the city to orientate yourself before exploring further into the fort with a guide. This afternoon climb aboard a jeep to travel out to the remote villages around Sardargarh. Meet with the local villagers and a hermit (sahdu), see life in a rural Rajasthani village and visit a local weaver and a marble cutter. Enjoy the sunset by the lake. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Jodhpur

Drive from Sardargarh to Jodhpur, on arrival the rest of the day will be yours to spend as you wish. (B,L)

Day 8: Mehrangarh Fort

Sit high above the city on a sandstone plinth, the

Mehrangarh Fort is one of Rajasthan's most impressive sights – spend the morning strolling through its palaces, temples and gardens and examining the displays of its museum. Afterwards visit Jaswant Thada. Later, drive out to 400-year-old Khejarla Fort, a striking red sandstone building that is a magnificent example of Rajput architecture, where you will spend the night amongst its blend of art and architecture. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Desert Jeep Safari

Today's jeep safari will introduce you to the customs and culture of the rural villages of Rajasthan, as well as the villagers themselves, particularly the wonderfully hospitable Marwari people. Visit a fabric workshop and see the craftsmen at work. Drive to Bijainagar and check into the Bijay Niwas Palace, a heritage hotel packed with original features, art and antiques. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Rural Rajasthan by Bullock Cart

After breakfast climb aboard a bullock cart for a leisurely guided tour of the rural villages around Bijainagar. Take the opportunity to interact with the friendly villagers and catch them going about their daily lives, as well as seeing their homes, a school and a temple. Take a peaceful nature walk before cycling to the dam to witness the sunset over the lake as you take High Tea on the lake shore. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Jaipur

Journey from Bijainagar to Jaipur before enjoying a free afternoon. (B,L)

Day 12: Amber Fort by Jeep

Head just out of the city by jeep to the colossal Amber Fort, stopping en route to admire the exquisite façade of Hawa Mahal, or 'Palace of the Winds'. The Amber Fort is built of yellow and pink sandstone and white marble, its opulent courtyards, halls and apartments are full of intricate carvings and stained glass. This afternoon explore the City Palace, part of which is still home to Jaipur's royal family. Visit a gem cutting and polishing workshop, something for which Jaipur is famous. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Agra Rickshaw Tour

Travel from Jaipur to Agra, stopping en route at Fatehpur Sikri. Built in the 16th century as the Mughal capital of Emperor Akbar, the city is a fusion of Muslim and Hindu styles, and one of India's best preserved examples of Mughal architecture. Arrive in Agra and take to the streets in an auto rickshaw that will introduce you to the sights and sounds of the city. (B,L,D)

Day 14: The Taj Mahal

Tour the city coming first to India's most iconic sight, the Taj Mahal. A monument to love built for Mumtaz Mahal, the favourite wife of Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal is built entirely of white marble. From a distance the effect is ethereal but get up close and you can admire the intricate pietra dura (stone inlay) work. Come next to the mammoth Agra Fort, the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. Within there are palaces, audience halls and mosques to discover. Return to Delhi. (B,L)

Day 15: Rickshaw Ride through Old Delhi

Take a full day to explore Delhi. Starting in Old Delhi, embark on a rickshaw ride through the atmospheric streets, visiting Jama Masjid, a Jain Temple and the Red Fort ending with lunch at Chor Bazaar. Cross into New Delhi to view the colonial grandeur of the Rajpath, including the Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate, finishing the day at Humayun's Tomb. (B,L,D)

Day 16: Fly Delhi to UK

The day is at leisure before boarding the overnight to the UK. (B)

STOPOVER IN...



DUBAI
2 NIGHTS FROM £190pp

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city.

See pages 72-73.
Additional flight costs may apply.

DEPARTURES – Departing Friday returning Saturday

2017 DATES				2018 DATES			
17 Mar - 01 Apr	£2,990	22 Sep - 07 Oct	£2,890	13 Oct - 28 Oct	£2,990	16 Mar - 31 Mar	£3,290
						21 Sep - 06 Oct	£3,190
						12 Oct - 27 Oct	£3,290

HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE

Embark on a journey of extremes, striking across the starkly beautiful landscapes of Tibet, on the roof of the world. Then discover the verdant and chaotic valleys of Nepal under the ever watchful gaze of the mighty Himalayas.

21 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £4,190

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

ACTIVE

Price includes:

- All meals (19 breakfasts, 18 lunches & 19 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Tibet permit conditions are subject to change

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,690 (Chengdu - Kathmandu)
- Single room from £690
- Tipping paid locally US\$80 (China) & US\$127 (Nepal)

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



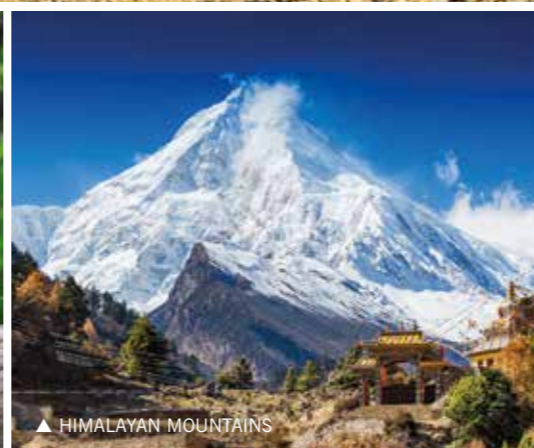
▲ PRAYER FLAGS



▲ BHUDDIST MONK



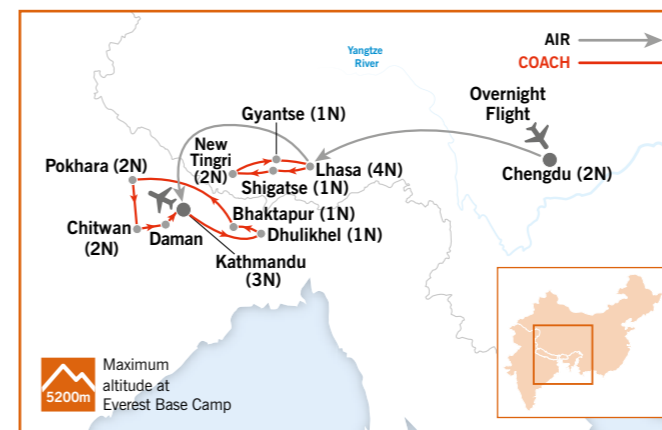
▲ GIANT PANDA



▲ HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS



▲ POTALA PALACE, TIBET



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Meet Chengdu's pandas
- Explore mystical Lhasa
- Watch monks debate
- Gaze on Mt Everest
- Spot rhinos in Chitwan
- Conquer Kathmandu

ITINERARY

- Days 1-2: Fly to Chengdu**
Fly overnight to Chengdu. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)
- Day 3: Giant Pandas**
A visit to Chengdu's famous Panda Conservation Centre allows you to see China's celebrated bears up close in surroundings that mirror their natural habitat. Stroll through People's Park and see Matchmaker's Corner, and visit a traditional tea house. (B,L,D)
- Day 4: Lhasa**
Fly to Lhasa and acclimatise. (B,L,D)
- Day 5: Debating Monks**
Lhasa is a modern city but among the old streets at its core you'll feel a million miles from the modern world. Venture inside Jokhang Temple where queues of people worship in the flickering light of yak butter candles. Wander around the Barkhor with traditionally dressed locals and prostrating pilgrims. There will also be a visit to Sera Monastery to witness the debating monks. This evening, try yak burgers for dinner. (B,L,D)
- Day 6: The Potala Palace**
The Potala Palace is an architectural wonder towering over the city. The former winter palace of the Dalai Lama, it houses thousands of rooms filled with old treasures. This evening enjoy a traditional Tibetan dance performance. (B,L,D)
- Day 7: Shigatse**
Travel across Tibet's stark plains to Shigatse, Tibet's second city and the traditional home of the Panchen Lama. Take a stroll through the local market and browse the wares on sale. (B,L,D)
- Day 8: Tashilhunpo Monastery**
Visit Tashilhunpo Monastery, the hilltop complex that is the monastic seat of the Panchen Lama. From here drive to New Tingri admiring awe-inspiring Himalayan views. (B,L,D)
- Day 9: Everest Base Camp**
Rise early to make the final assault across the Gue La to Pasum and Rongbuk, a monastic village festooned in colourful prayer flags. Visit the world's highest post office, then continue to Everest Base Camp, situated under the gaze of Everest's north face, from where the views of the world's highest peak are unsurpassed (weather permitting). (B,L,D)
- Day 10: Gyantse Kumbum**
Drive to the pleasant town of Gyantse and visit the famous kumbum. This fascinating monastery is home to the largest chörten in Tibet – climb it for a secession of colourful mural-



▲ GYANTSE

- filled chapels and wonderful views. Stay overnight in the town. (B,L,D)
- Day 11: Yamdrok Lake**
Drive back to Lhasa, making a stop to admire the colossal Karuola Glacier, stretching down the side of Mount Simila towards the road; and a stop to admire the breathtaking blue of the sacred Yamdrok Lake, backed by the snowy peaks of the Himalayas. Overnight in Lhasa. (B,L,D)
- Day 12: Into Nepal**
Fly to Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal. Meet your Nepalese guide and transfer to Dhulikhel to see the traditional Nuwari houses and browse the local market. (B,L,D)
- Day 13: Bhaktapur**
Take a visit to Changu Narayan Temple before taking a hike to Telkot through the forest landscapes, admiring the stunning Himalayan scenery. Drive to Bhaktapur and visit the Old Houses before enjoying a traditional Nepalese lunch. This afternoon wander Bhaktapur's cobblestone streets where you'll stumble across many old courtyards, temples and artisans busy at their craft. Visit the Golden Gate and the Palace of 55 Windows on Durbar Square. (B,L,D)
- Days 14-15: Pokhara**
Travel to Pokhara. The town sits on the verdant banks of Phewa Lake with virtually uninterrupted views of the majestic Annapurna and Manaslu ranges. Take a walking tour, admiring the views. The next day explore the Mountain Museum. (B,L,D)
- Days 16-17: Chitwan National Park**
Admire the sunrise before departing for Chitwan National Park. A jungle safari delivers you to the Terai, or plains region. Tomorrow, take an early morning nature walk, and visit the elephant stables. Later, enjoy a serene trip down the Rapti River to view the animals on the river banks. Observe an elephant bath and this evening enjoy a traditional Tharu Stick dance performed by local farmers. (B,L,D)
- Day 18: Daman**
Drive to Daman which has one of the most spectacular outlooks over the Himalayan range of anywhere in Nepal. Continue on to Kathmandu (B,L,D)
- Day 19: Lama Blessing**
Essentially a suburb of Kathmandu, Patan was once the capital of an independent kingdom, something that is noticeable in its distinctiveness. See the UNESCO World Heritage Royal Palace and the sights of Patan's Durbar Square. Returning to Kathmandu, visit the Bodhnath Stupa and Monastery for a very special Lama blessing. Continue to Pashupatinath Temple. (B,L,D)
- Day 20: Swayambhunath**
Kathmandu is a city of many layers – a modern day assault on the senses, a hub of cultural and artistic heritage and a monument to the medieval era. Today's visits include Swayambhunath Temple, Durbar Square, the Kumari Temple and Thamel Market. (B,L,D)
- Day 21: Fly Kathmandu to UK**
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

DEPARTURES

2017 DATES – Departing Tuesday returning Monday					
18 Apr - 08 May	£4,190	09 May - 29 May	£4,190	05 Sep - 25 Sep	£4,290
03 Oct - 23 Oct	£4,290				
2018 DATES – Departing Wednesday returning Tuesday					
18 Apr - 08 May	£4,490	09 May - 29 May	£4,490	05 Sep - 25 Sep	£4,590
03 Oct - 23 Oct	£4,590				

NEW

TRANS HIMALAYAN JOURNEY

Travel through the Himalayas to the state of Ladakh, where the altitude is not the only thing that will take your breath away! Discover the mountains and monasteries of this former-Buddhist kingdom in the ultimate Himalayan adventure.

23 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON **£3,790**

INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

ACTIVE



▲ HIMALAYAN LANDSCAPE

Price includes:

- Most meals (21 breakfasts, 14 lunches & 14 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,290 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £1,390
- Tipping paid locally US\$170

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
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▲ HEMIS FESTIVAL



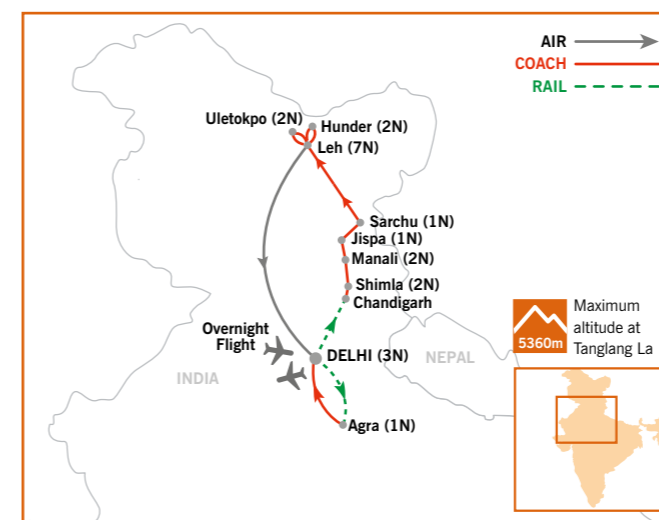
▲ LIKIR MONASTERY



▲ RED FORT, DELHI



▲ NUBRA VALLEY



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Explore colonial Shimla
- Cross mountain passes
- Fall in love with Leh
- Experience Hemis festival
- Take a camel safari

ITINERARY

- Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi**
Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.
- Day 3: Agra**
Transfer to the station and take an express train to Agra. On arrival visit the 17th-century Itmad-Ud-Daulah, nicknamed the 'Baby Taj' and the colossal Agra Fort. (B,L)
- Day 4: Taj Mahal**
Rise early for an enchanting sun rise at the magnificent Taj Mahal. Drive back to Delhi and tour New Delhi, visiting India Gate, passing the grandiose Parliament buildings and finishing in the heart of the city, the vibrant Connaught Place. (B,L)
- Day 5: Travel to Shimla**
Transfer to the station and take a train to Chandigarh, before continuing by road to Shimla. The rest of the day is free. (B,D)
- Day 6: Explore Shimla**
The summer capital of British India, and nicknamed the 'Queen of Hill Stations', Shimla has a spectacular location. Start the day with a visit to Jakhoo Temple, which sits at the highest point of the city, offering amazing views. Continue exploring with visits to the Himachal State Museum, Chadwick Falls, Prospect Hill and Sankat Mochan. Spend some time in the heart of town, soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the views. (B,L)
- Day 7: Travel to Manali**
Drive to the picturesque town of Manali, passing through some breathtaking scenery. (B,L)
- Day 8: Around Manali**
Take an excursion to Naggar, where you'll find an old castle and temples, and the Roerich Art Gallery. Set up a hill, the views are as impressive as the paintings. This afternoon, discover more about the town of Manali with a city tour. You'll visit Hadimba Temple, Vashisht hot water springs and old Manali village. (B,L)
- Day 9: Jispa**
Drive to the small village of Jispa, going over the Rohtang pass (3,980 metres) en route. Visit Keylong village to browse the local market and explore the 12th-century Khardong monastery. (B,L,D)
- Day 10: Baralacha Pass**
Travel on to Sarchu, making photo stops regularly along this spectacular route as it heads up into the mountains and over the Baralacha pass (4,800 metres). This afternoon is at leisure, where you can spend some time exploring your home for the night – a beautifully located tented camp. (B,L,D)
- Day 11: Travel to Leh**
Drive on to the captivating mountain-enveloped town of Leh, crossing two more spectacular mountain passes, La Chung La (5,065 metres) and Tanglang La (5,360 metres). This evening is at leisure to acclimatise to the altitude. (B,L,D)
- Day 12: Around Leh**
Surrounded by stark mountain peaks, wherever you go in Leh brings more and more spectacular views. Today your explorations will include 11th-century Spituk Gompa, the Tibetan-Buddhist Sankar Gonpa and the hilltop Phyang Monastery. (B,D)
- Day 13: Hemis Monastery Festival**
Spend a day at one of the largest and well-known monasteries of the Ladakh region, Hemis. The Hemis festival is a colourful affair, with masked lamas performing dances and making sacrificial offerings to the divinities of the Buddhist Drukpa order. (B,D)
- Day 14: Ladakh's Monasteries**
Visit Thiksey Monastery, an excellent example of Ladakhi architecture, before exploring Shey Palace, built by the first king of Ladakh. (B,D)
- Day 15: Uletokpo Camp**
Drive to Uletokpo, stopping at Likir Monastery en route. Arrive at the Sham valley, where you will be spending the night in a tranquil eco resort. Take a pleasant walk through the woods to Ridzong Monastery. (B,L,D)
- Day 16: Lamayuru**
Explore the centre of the Ladakh region, an area that has a high concentration of Buddhist monasteries and visit the ruins of Lamayuru Monastery. (B,L,D)
- Day 17: Return to Leh**
Hit the road back to Leh, stopping en route at Alchi Monastery, which boasts particularly beautiful sculptures and wood carvings. (B,L)
- Day 18: Nubra Valley**
Travel to the Nubra Valley via the route that is said to be the highest drivable road in the world. Crossing the Khardung Pass (5,260 metres) you'll find incredible views down over the Indus Valley. Tonight's tented camp is close to the beautiful village of Hunder, an oasis in the cold desert of the Nubra Valley. (B,L,D)
- Day 19: Camel Safari**
This morning, visit the famous sand dunes of this high altitude desert and take a camel safari. This afternoon explore Diskit Monastery, which is full of tangkas and statues to admire. (B,L,D)
- Day 20: Return to Leh**
Travel back to Leh, where the rest of the day will be at leisure. (B,L,D)
- Day 21: Day in Leh**
Spend the morning at leisure before an afternoon walking tour that takes you through the historic bazaar and the narrow backstreets. (B,D)
- Day 22: Fly to Delhi**
Fly to Delhi. Take the afternoon to explore the sights of Old Delhi; drive past colossal Red Fort, browse the bustling bazaar of Chandni Chowk, and visit Jama Masjid, India's largest and most impressive mosque. Visit an Indian family home for dinner this evening. (B,D)
- Day 23: Fly Delhi to UK**
Fly to the UK, arriving home later the same or following day. (B)

DEPARTURES

2017 DATE – Departing Thursday returning Friday		2018 DATE – Departing Tuesday returning Wednesday	
22 Jun - 14 Jul	£3,790	12 Jun - 04 Jul	£4,190

STOPOVER IN...



DUBAI
2 NIGHTS FROM £190PP

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city.

See pages 72-73.
Additional flight costs may apply.

HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS

High amongst lofty mountains, embark on an incredible journey through the breathtaking Indian state of Sikkim and the magical kingdom of Bhutan, a lesser known but truly spectacular section of the Himalayas.

24 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £4,990

FULLY INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

MODERATE

Price includes:

- All meals (22 breakfasts, 21 lunches & 22 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,390 (Kolkata - Kolkata)
- Single room from £1,190
- Tipping paid locally
India – US\$95
Bhutan – US\$60

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

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Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ PUNAKHA DZONG



▲ PRAYER WHEELS



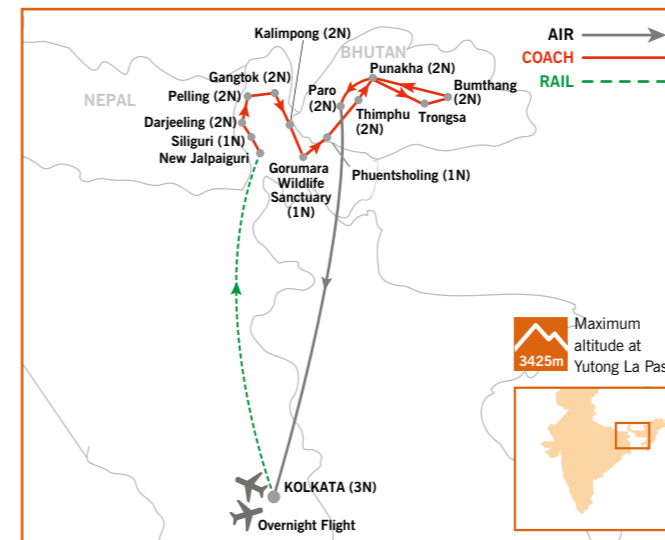
▲ TEA PLANTATION, DARJEELING



▲ TIGER'S NEST MONASTERY



▲ FLOWER MARKET, KOLKATA



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover Kolkata
- Feel small before colossal Mt Kanchenjunga
- Spot rhinos and elephants
- Soak up Bhutan's culture
- Walk to Tiger's Nest Monastery

ITINERARY

- Days 1-2: Fly to Kolkata**
Fly overnight to Kolkata. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)
- Day 3: Explore Kolkata**
Enjoy a relaxed morning before venturing out for an afternoon tour with visits to the magnificent Victoria Memorial and Kalighat Temple – you'll also see Fort William. (B,L,D)
- Day 4: Train to New Jalpaiguri**
Get up early to visit a fragrant flower market and view the cantilever Howrah Bridge. Stop by Kumhartuli, the artisan colony and see a Jain temple. Later board a train to New Jalpaiguri before driving to Siliguri to spend the night. (B,L,D)
- Day 5: Drive to Darjeeling**
Head out of Siliguri through endless tea plantations to the famous hill station of Darjeeling, which is located at a cool 2,134 metres. (B,L,D)
- Day 6: Explore Darjeeling**
Rise before the sun to catch it rising over Mt Kanchenjunga from Tiger Hill, which you'll reach by jeep. On the way back to Darjeeling visit Yiga Choling Monastery. Later, all
- Day 7: Into Sikkim**
Drive north to Pelling, crossing into the state of Sikkim. Pop into Pemayangtse Monastery, one of Sikkim's oldest, where you can find tranquillity along with amazing views. (B,L,D)
- Day 8: Khecheopalri Lake**
Visit the spectacular Khecheopalri Lake, considered sacred by both Buddhists and Hindus, and the magnificent Kanchenjunga Falls. (B,L,D)
- Days 9-10: Discover Gangtok**
Drive through more spectacular scenery to Sikkim's vibrant capital Gangtok, stopping at 18th-century Tashiding Monastery en route. There is nowhere better to enjoy exotic flowers and mountain panoramas. The next day visit the Enchey Monastery, the Sikkim Research Institute of Technology and Do Drul Chorten. (B,L,D)
- Day 11: Rumtek Monastery**
Begin the day at Dharma Chakra Centre and old Rumtek Monastery, before hitting the road to the bustling bazaar town of Kalimpong. (B,L,D)
- Day 12: Kalimpong at Leisure**
Take a day to catch your breath and do some leisurely explorations of Kalimpong – there are plenty of spots to enjoy Himalayan panoramas and also flower nurseries full of local orchids. (B,L,D)
- Day 13: Gorumara Wildlife Sanctuary**
Take a jeep safari into the depths of Gorumara Wildlife Sanctuary, where you might be lucky enough to spot a one-horned rhino, elephants, leopards and bison. (B,L,D)
- Day 14: Into Bhutan**
Cross into Bhutan and continue to Phuentsholing. Later visit the Zangtho Pelri Lhakhang Temple in the centre of the town. (B,L,D)
- Days 15-16: Discover Thimphu**
Hit the national highway to Bhutan's capital Thimphu, stopping en route at Kharbandi Gumpa, a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. The next day, explore the city with time at the National Library, Institute for Zorig Chusum, the Handicrafts Emporium and Folk Heritage Museum, Textile Museum and Trashi Chhoe Dzong. (B,L,D)
- Day 17: Travel to Punakha**
Browse the local markets and begin the journey to Punakha. Pass over Dochu La mountain pass with a quick stop to admire the views. This afternoon see magnificent Punakha Dzong and the new Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. (B,L,D)
- Day 18: Trongsa Dzong & Bumthang**
Leave Punakha for Trongsa via the Pele-La pass. Visit Trongsa Dzong, built in 1648, and Ta Dzong Museum, before departing for Bumthang crossing the Yutong-La pass and down into the Chhume Valley. (B,L,D)
- Day 19: Explore Bumthang**
Spend the day surrounded by Bumthang's rural beauty, stopping at Kurje Lhakhang, and Bhutan's oldest monastery, the 7th-century Jambey Lhakhang Temple. Later visit Tamshing Lhakhang Monastery and Jakar Dzong. (B,L,D)
- Day 20: Scenic Drive to Punakha**
Return to Punakha, enjoying the incredible scenery on the route all over again. (B,L,D)
- Day 21: Punakha & Paro Temples**
Take a morning hike to Chimi Lhakhang, 'Temple of Fertility', then head to Paro. Set in a beautiful valley, Paro is surrounded by some of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries. Visit Ta Dzong and Rinpung Dzong. (B,L,D)
- Day 22: Tiger's Nest Monastery**
Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) is Bhutan's most famous monastery, perched on the side of a cliff 900 metres above the Paro Valley. It can only be reached by a moderately challenging hike along a woodland trail – the views along the way are the perfect distraction! Returning to Paro, visit Kyichu Lhakhang. (B,L,D)
- Day 23: Fly to Kolkata**
Rise early to fly back to Kolkata, where you'll have the afternoon at leisure. (B,L,D)
- Day 24: Fly Kolkata to UK**
Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

aboard the famous 'Toy Train' which winds its way through the lush green hills and plantations before enjoying the Himalaya Mountaineering Institute. (B,L,D)

STOPOVER IN...



DUBAI
2 NIGHTS FROM £190PP

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination full of futuristic architecture and cosmopolitan nightlife fronted by beautiful beaches. Dig a little deeper and you'll find a rich culture centred on the labyrinthine old city.

See pages 72-73.
Additional flight costs may apply.

DEPARTURES – Departing Friday returning Sunday

2017 DATES				2018 DATES			
14 Apr - 07 May	£5,190	13 Oct - 05 Nov	£4,990	03 Nov - 26 Nov	£4,990	13 Apr - 06 May	£5,690
						12 Oct - 04 Nov	£5,490
						02 Nov - 25 Nov	£5,490

NEW

SPRIT OF SRI LANKA

A land ripe with incredible adventure, journey through Sri Lanka's extensive history, culture and nature, discovering the ruins of ancient civilisations, spotting exotic wildlife and hiking the hill country as you go.

15 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £3,190

INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

ACTIVE



▲ TRAIN TO NUWARA ELIYA

Price includes:

Most meals (13 breakfasts, 10 lunches & 9 dinners)

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,590 (Colombo - Colombo)
- Single room from £990
- Tipping paid locally US\$80

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ SAMBAR DEER, HORTON PLAINS



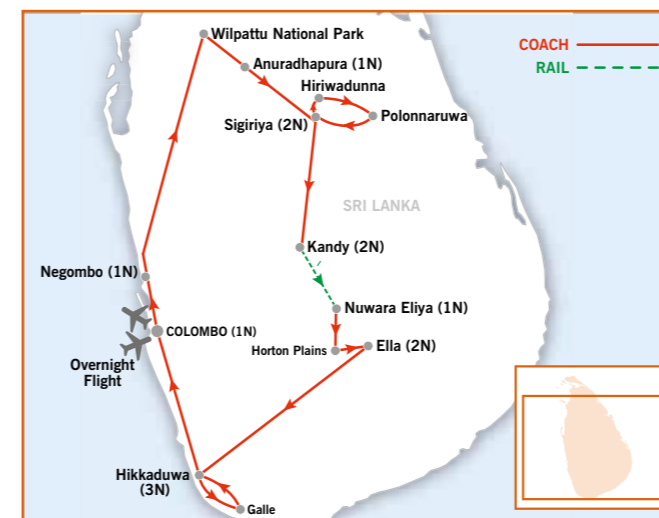
▲ TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH, KANDY



▲ COLOMBO



▲ ELLA GAP



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Look out for leopards
- Ascend Lion Rock
- Trek through Hiriwadunna
- Paddle the Mahaweli
- Gaze over World's End
- Explore Colombo by jeep

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Colombo

Fly overnight to Colombo. On arrival you will be met by your expert tour guide and transferred to your hotel in the beach resort of Negombo, north of Colombo. The rest of the day is yours to explore.

Day 3: Wilpattu National Park

Journey to Anuradhapura, which sits at the heart of Sri Lanka's cultural triangle. En route stop at the Wilpattu National Park for a safari. Whilst exploring amongst the 'willus', natural sand basins that fill with rainwater, keep an eye out for elephants, sloth bears and leopards, for which the park is world-renowned. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Sigiriya

The UNESCO World Heritage-listed Sigiriya, or Lion Rock, rises a sheer 180 metres out of Sri Lanka's central plains. Marvel at it from below, before passing through two giant lion paws and climbing a series of galleries and staircases, many lined with magnificent frescoes. At the top you'll find the remains to King Kassappa's palace and incredible views. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Hiriwadunna Trek

Head to the village of Hiriwadunna where you'll get a glimpse at rural life. Starting on a path along an ancient reservoir, observe the rich bird life and the day-to-day activities of the

local people as you walk. Paddle across a river to visit a family on their farm before continuing through the bush-terrain, home to monkeys and even the occasional elephant. This afternoon, continue to the 11th-century city of Polonnaruwa, also a UNESCO site. Wander amongst the well-preserved ruins and gaze on the Heavenly Maidens frescoes. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Journey to Kandy

Travel to Kandy, a city set tranquilly among forests and plantations at Sri Lanka's heart. Another World Heritage site thanks to its rich heritage and cultural treasures, tour the city visiting the Temple of the Sacred Tooth, Sri Lanka's most sacred temple, an arts and crafts centre, a gem museum and the market. This evening, join the locals in the quadrangle of the Temple of the Sacred Tooth to witness the evening puja. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Mahaweli River Expedition

Venture out into the early morning mists of the Mahaweli River. Paddle through the city and out into the wilderness where the naturalist who will accompany you will point out the exotic birds and amphibians that make up just some of the area's biodiversity. Later, travel to see a brass maker who will show you his home, his workshop and his craft - you can even help him



▲ GALLE

with his work. This evening tap your feet to the beat of traditional music and dancing at an optional cultural show. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Travel to Nuwara Eliya

This morning is free in Kandy before heading for the station to catch the train to Nanu Oya - the scenery that you pass through is some of the best in Sri Lanka. Proceed to Nuwara Eliya, a 19th century British hill station, a place of cool climes enveloped in tea plantations. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Horton Plains Safari

Set on a high altitude plateau, Horton Plains encompasses an eco-system so unique and fascinating that it is a part of the UNESCO World Heritage site that covers the whole of Sri Lanka's Central Highlands. Discover the wide variety of flora and fauna and gaze over World's End, pass through herds of sambar deer and keep an eye out for fishing cats, otters and leopards. Visit a tea plantation to learn about the process, from bush to brew, and proceed to the spectacularly-set hill village Ella. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Ella Trekking

After breakfast, set out on a full day trek through the incredible countryside that surrounds Ella. Follow a trail through tea plantations, paddy fields and dense forest. For those feeling extra adventurous you can climb the steep route up Ella Rock, from the top of which are views over the breathtaking Ella Gap. Pass through rural villages, giving a glimpse of the routine of village life in Sri Lanka's highlands. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Ella to Hikkaduwa

Leave Ella soaking up the final glimpses of lush highlands as you go and journey down to the golden sands and swishing palms of Hikkaduwa. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

Day 12: Explore Galle

Sri Lanka's greatest colonial treasure, Galle was once the great port of Ceylon, a tropical city surrounding a Dutch fort. Your local guide will take you on a tour that encapsulates its history, culture, food and legends, giving you the perfect overview of Galle and the people who call it home. Return to Hikkaduwa. (B,L)

Day 13: At Leisure in Hikkaduwa

Take a day to relax or to make your own explorations. (B)

Day 14: Explore Colombo

Depart Hikkaduwa and travel to Sri Lanka's vibrant capital city, Colombo. On arrival, transfer to World War II-era jeeps for a unique and adventurous city tour. Roaring around the city in these open-top antique vehicles, you'll see the Dutch Hospital, Old Parliament, Colombo harbour, Slave Island and much more. This evening, sit down to a Sri Lankan-themed farewell dinner, full of delicious local flavours, in a traditional-style but carbon neutral venue set around a 200-year-old Banyan Tree. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Depart Colombo

Transfer to Colombo airport to board your flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

Please note: The maximum group size on this tour is 22.

DEPARTURES - Departing Thursday returning Thursday

2017 DATES		2018 DATES	
12 Oct - 26 Oct	£3,190	23 Nov - 07 Dec	£3,290
19 Jul - 02 Aug	£3,790	11 Oct - 25 Oct	£3,590
		22 Nov - 06 Dec	£3,690

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the Taj Mahal in Agra, India, captured during the golden hour of sunset. The white marble structure is silhouetted against a warm, orange and yellow sky. The central dome is the most prominent feature, flanked by two minarets. The reflecting pool in the foreground is dark, mirroring the building's form.

THE EXCLUSIVE COLLECTION

Designed for the most discerning traveller, with the Exclusive Collection you can explore India and Sri Lanka in luxury and style.

The Exclusive Collection includes:

- Exclusive touring & dining
- Award-winning National Escorts
- Sightseeing with the experts
- International flights & taxes
- 5★ hotels
- Small group sizes
- Cultural delicacies
- UK chauffeur transfers
- Visa applications and fees
- Mid-tour laundry service

EXCLUSIVE EXPERIENCES

All of our Exclusive Collection tours include a range of unique experiences, designed to immerse you in some of the world's most iconic locations and to give you a greater insight into local culture and history.



Mohabbat the Taj

Set in 16th-century India, this epic stage production tells the story of the emperor Shah Jahan and his beloved during the reign of the Mughal Empire. Capturing perfectly the grandeur and lavish lifestyle of the elite, 'Mohabbat the Taj' is a mesmerising show of colours, dance and music, back dropped with a stunning replica of the Taj Mahal; the most iconic symbol of India.



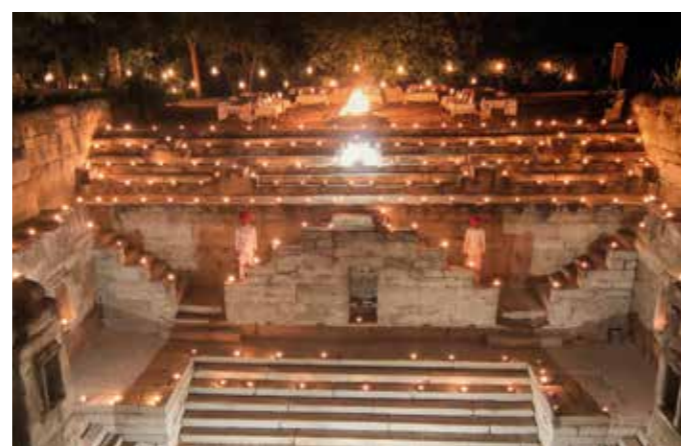
Private, Curatorial Tour of Mehrangarh Fort

One of the most impressive and formidable structures in Rajasthan, Mehrangarh comprises magnificent palaces, meticulously carved panels and latticed windows known as Jharokas. On arrival, enjoy a walk around the Fort with a curator who will tell you stories of splendour and glamour in a bygone era. Finish with an exclusive dinner in part of the fort which is not open to the general public.



Sri Lankan Family Feast

Be welcomed into the home of a Sri Lankan family to enjoy a feast of authentic local home cooking. Sipping a local beer or fresh juice, watch as the food is prepared (keeping an ear out for any culinary secrets) before sharing a lunch with your fellow travellers and the family. Traditional dishes such as curry, green mangoes, mallung, paripu and red rice will be served before a local Ceylon tea or local coffee.



Rawla Narlai Village

For an authentic taste of rural, traditional Rajasthan, a wander through Rawla Narlai is unsurpassed. You'll be welcomed into the house of a local shepherd, who over a cup of tea will tell you more about living in this colourful village. Take a very exclusive, candle-lit dinner in the nearby stepwell – a truly one-off and unforgettable experience.

LUXURY HOTELS

The hotels we use on our Exclusive Collection tours have been hand-picked to compliment the high quality of experiences and touring, meaning you will be staying in five star luxury throughout in the best locations.



The Lalit, New Delhi

Located at the very heart of the action in the grand colonial Connaught Place, the five-star Lalit New Delhi is surrounded by buzzing cafes, bazaars, and shops. Spacious rooms have elegant Indian touches as well as all the modern conveniences. There are seven restaurants to choose from and a spa for ultimate relaxation.



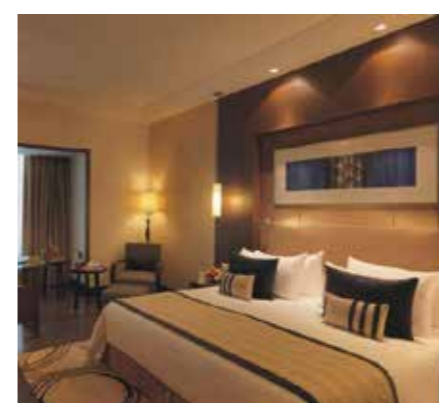
Jaipur Marriott, Jaipur

The layout of the Jaipur Marriott is designed to reflect the opulent and historical character of the 'pink city' with its marble interior, spacious bedrooms and exotic style outdoor pool. Equipped with high-speed internet, in-room entertainment and complimentary fruit plate, the Jaipur Marriott goes to lengths to make your stay all the more pleasant.



Heritage Tea Factory, Nuwara Eliya

A five-star boutique hotel housed in a converted tea factory, the Heritage offers the ultimate Sri Lanka Experience. The hotel building was built during the colonial era, with the rooms reflecting this theme, each with views overlooking the surrounding plantation.



Radisson Blu, Agra

Located within minutes of the fabled Taj Mahal and the Mughal Agra Fort, the Radisson Blu is nestled in the centre of this exciting city. With calming colours, upscale amenities and comfortable beds, Radisson Blu is a tranquil relaxation spot to unwind in luxury after a day of sightseeing. Don't forget to check out the extensive range of bars and restaurants, both inside and out.



RAAS Hotel, Jodhpur

With unrivalled views of the majestic Mehrangarh Fort, the RAAS Hotel takes you right to the historical and cultural core of the 'blue city'. As Jodhpur's first boutique hotel, the RAAS is designed to mirror the stone-coloured look of neighbouring Mehrangarh and offers stunning vistas over Jodhpur.



Galle Face Hotel, Colombo

Housed in a magnificent 1864, colonial-style edifice, facing off with the vast Indian Ocean, the Galle Face Hotel is centrally located in Colombo. Rooms offer a lovely, wood-finished, colonial nostalgia. After a day's touring is done, relax beside the saltwater pool, or in the spa, work out in the gym, or simply lounge with a refreshing beverage whilst gazing out at the ocean.

GLIMPSE OF INDIA

This tour is a classic introduction to India, perfectly showcasing the sprawling and fascinating cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. On this journey you will discover colourful bazaars and historic monuments whilst staying in unforgettable locations.

9 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £2,390

INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

COMFORTABLE



▲ JAIPUR

Price includes:

- Most meals (7 breakfasts, 6 lunches & 6 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- UK airport chauffeur transfers
- Domestic transportation
- 5★ Accommodation
- Laundry service and all portage
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

Based on London Heathrow departures

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £1,890 (Delhi - Delhi)
- Single room from £440
- Tipping paid locally US\$85

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR

Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



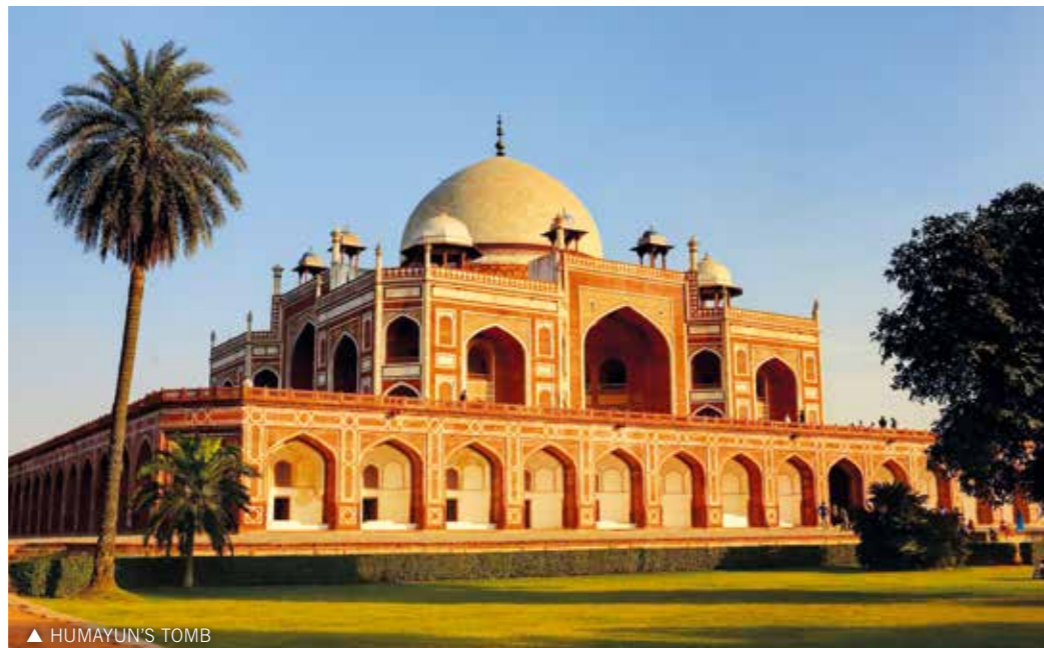
▲ AKBAR'S TOMB, SIKANDRA



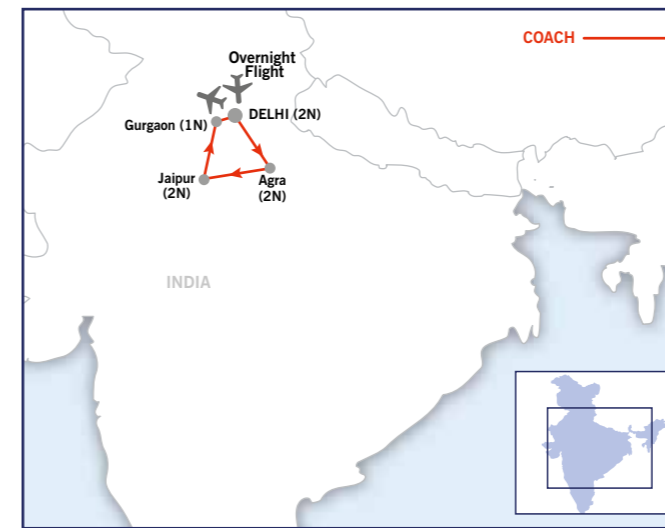
▲ TAJ MAHAL



▲ HAWA MAHAL



▲ HUMAYUN'S TOMB



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover dynamic Delhi
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal at sunrise
- Dine in the Amber Fort
- Watch a colourful Bollywood performance

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi

Arrive at the airport by chauffeured transfer and fly overnight to India's capital Delhi. On arrival you will be accompanied by one of our experienced escorts to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to explore. (D)

Day 3: Discover Delhi

Delhi is a whirlwind of sensory experiences. Full of heritage and charmingly rough-around-the-edges, the city offers the perfect introduction to India. Starting at the Red Fort, a peaceful complex of marble palaces, pavilions and landscaped gardens, you'll stroll along the bustling Chandni Chowk, the main thoroughfare of Old Delhi, before heading into the maze of atmospheric old alleyways to admire India's largest mosque, the magnificent Jama Masjid. Cross into New Delhi, created by the British in 1929 to serve as capital to visit the Lakshmi Narayan Hindu Temple and Humayun's Tomb, finishing up at Connaught Markets for some late afternoon shopping. This evening, dine at the Olive Bar & Kitchen, housed in a beautiful old Mughal mansion. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Sikandra & Agra

Leave Delhi and travel to Agra. Stopping off in the suburb of Sikandra, visit the Tomb of Akbar the Great to admire the

magnificent structure of red sandstone intricately inlaid with geometric patterns in white marble, all designed by Akbar himself. Savour the tranquillity of the surrounding parklands before continuing into the centre of Agra where you will be staying. Take a tour of Agra's bustling streets by auto rickshaw. (B,L)

Day 5: The Taj Mahal

Rise early this morning to view India's most iconic sight and one of the world's most enchanting structures, the Taj Mahal. A building as beautiful as the stories say, witness the shifting colours of the white marble as the sun rises and discover the story of Shah Jahan and his third wife Mumtaz Mahal, for whom the Taj Mahal was built. Visit a Marble Inlay workshop before heading along the river to UNESCO-listed Agra Fort, a Mughal monument built in the 16th century. Within its huge two-kilometre-long walls you'll find the imperial city of the Mughal rulers, with intricate palaces and spacious audience halls to explore. This evening dine at the Radisson Blu's Dawat-e-Nawab restaurant. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Fatehpur Sikri and Chand Baori Stepwell

Travel to Jaipur, stopping at the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri en route. Built as a capital city but quickly abandoned, Fatehpur Sikri is an exquisite fusion of Muslim and Hindu styles - you'll



▲ RED FORT, DELHI

find yourself amongst some of India's best preserved Mughal architecture. The next stop is Abhaneri Village, where you can marvel at the ancient Chand Baori Stepwell. Over 1,000 years old and holding great social and religious significance, this eerily beautiful stepwell was originally dedicated to Harshat Mata, the Goddess of Joy and Happiness. Continue on to Jaipur, where this evening you can visit the formidable Amber Fort for an exclusive night tour. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Jaipur

Rajasthan's colourful capital, Jaipur is a city of extravagant architecture and frenetic street life. A visit from the Prince of Wales in 1876 earned Jaipur the nickname the 'Pink City', as all the buildings were painted the colour of hospitality, pink, to welcome him. Your day of sightseeing will include the Hawa Mahal the 'Palace of the Winds', named as such because of the latticed windows covering the façade, letting the breeze flow through the palace. Continue to the Maharaja's Palace and Jantar Mantar Observatory, a collection of nineteen astronomical instruments including the world's largest sundial. You'll then take a short trip outside the city to the spectacular Amber Fort, draped over a hillside above the town of Amer. Amber Fort is UNESCO-listed as one of the five great hill forts of Rajasthan, and its beautifully designed doors and windows are finely painted in traditional Rajasthani style. This evening enjoy a cooking demonstration followed

by dinner on the rooftop of the beautiful, traditionally decorated and family-owned Ikaki Niwas. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Kingdom of Dreams

Journey back towards Delhi stopping for the night in the emerging city of Gurgaon, just 30 kilometres from the capital. Tonight you will experience the Kingdom of Dreams, a live entertainment destination that showcases Indian culture, including folk dancing performances, crafts and souvenirs, palm readings and tea tastings. Enjoy dinner and sit back for a magical Bollywood performance complete with all the music, elaborate costumes and dancing that you would expect. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Fly Delhi to UK

Transfer to Delhi and fly back to the UK, arriving the same or following day. On arrival you will be transported home by chauffeured transfer. (B)

EXTEND YOUR STAY



GOA 4 NIGHTS FROM £340PP

A little slice of paradise on the Arabian Sea, Goa has gorgeous beaches and a rich Portuguese heritage to explore.

See page 70. Additional flight costs may apply.

DEPARTURES – Departing Saturday returning Sunday

2017 DATES				2018 DATES			
28 Jan - 05 Feb	£2,590	09 Sep - 17 Sep	£2,390	14 Oct - 22 Oct	£2,590	03 Mar - 11 Mar	£2,790
						08 Sep - 16 Sep	£2,590
						13 Oct - 21 Oct	£2,790

ESSENCE OF INDIA

Travel through history, discovering ancient sites and learning about royal traditions. Travel through Rajasthan, filled with magnificent forts and palaces. Discover the beauty of the unique temples and have a spiritual experience in Varanasi.

19 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £5,190

INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

COMFORTABLE



▲ JODHPUR

Price includes:

- Most meals (17 breakfasts, 15 lunches & 11 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- UK airport chauffeur transfers
- Domestic transportation
- 5★ Accommodation
- Laundry service and all portage
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
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- Single room from £1,290
- Tipping paid locally US\$125

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

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Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK



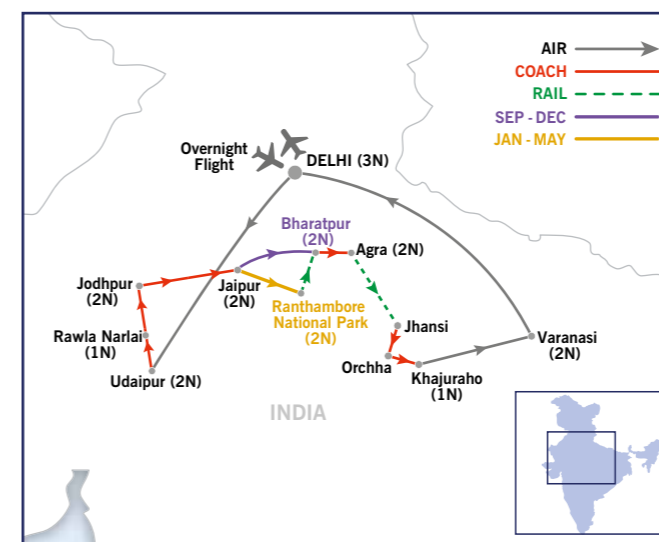
▲ LAKE PICHOLA



▲ ORCHHA



▲ VARANASI



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Dine in the beautiful Mehrangarh Fort
- Marvel at Khajuraho's intricate carvings
- Witness a Ganges puja ceremony on the River Ganges
- Feel the romance of Udaipur

ITINERARY

- Days 1-2: Fly to Delhi**
Arrive at the airport by chauffeured transfer and fly overnight to India's capital Delhi. On arrival you will be accompanied by one of our experienced escorts to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to explore. (D)
- Day 3: Discover Delhi**
Delhi is a whirlwind of sensory experiences. Starting at the Red Fort, a complex of palaces, pavilions and gardens, stroll along Chandni Chowk, Old Delhi's main thoroughfare, before heading into the maze of old alleyways to admire the magnificent Jama Masjid followed by Lakshmi Narayan Temple. Cross into New Delhi and take the Rajpath past India Gate to see Rashtrapati Bhavan and Qutub Minar. This evening, dine at the Olive Bar & Kitchen, housed in a beautiful Mughal mansion. (B,L,D)
- Day 4: Romantic Udaipur**
Transfer to the airport to fly to Udaipur. The city is set on the shores of Lake Pichola and is considered India's most romantic – gazing over the many intricate palaces and temples, it's easy to see why. (B,L)
- Day 5: Explore Udaipur**
Drive around Fateh Sagar Lake before visiting the Folk Museum, Mewar Art Gallery and taking a stroll around Sahelion Ki Bari garden. Explore the City Palace on the lakeside, then take a cruise on Lake Pichola to admire the opulent Lake Palace. Dine at the 1559 AD Bistro. (B,L,D)
- Day 6: Rawla Narlai**
Transfer by road to Rawla Narlai. A small settlement off the regular tourist trail, walk through the village with a guide from the local shepherd community to visit houses and drink tea with the villagers. A beautiful candlelit dinner will be served by the village stepwell. (B,L,D)
- Day 7: Mehrangarh Fort**
Transfer to Jodhpur. The city is dominated by the mighty Mehrangarh Fort, which perches on a sandstone plinth in the centre of the old town. This evening you will visit the Fort for a private walking tour with the curator. Enjoy a champagne dinner in a venue within the Fort that is not usually open to the public. (B,L,D)
- Day 8: Jodhpur**
The day begins at Jaswant Thasa, a cluster of cenotaphs built in 1899, before heading up in to the hills to Umaid Bhawan
- Day 9: The Pink City**
Transfer by road from Jodhpur to Jaipur. Rajasthan's colourful capital, Jaipur, the 'Pink City' is a place of extravagant architecture and frenetic street life. On arrival, head into the old town to do some shopping for crafts and produce before enjoying a cooking demonstration and dinner at Ikaki Niwas. (B,L,D)
- Day 10: Jaipur**
Your day of sightseeing will include Hawa Mahal – the Palace of the Winds, the Maharaja's Palace and Jantar Mantar Observatory as well as the formidable Amber Fort, draped over a hillside above the nearby town of Amer. You will return to the fort this evening for a specially arranged night tour before dining at the 1135 AD restaurant, exclusively located inside the fort's highest ramparts. (B,L,D)
- Days 11-12: Ranthambore or Bharatpur**
Depending on the season, the next three days operate different itineraries:
Jan to May: Travel by train to Ranthambore National Park and enjoy a canter safari in the park. The next day, take a morning and an afternoon canter safari.
Sep to Dec: Drive to Bharatpur. The next day visit Keoladeo National Park for a morning rickshaw safari before visiting a nearby village. (B,L,D)
- Day 13: Fatehpur Sikri**
Depart Ranthambore or Bharatpur to transfer to Agra via the ghost city Fatehpur Sikri. Built as a capital city but quickly abandoned, Fatehpur Sikri is an exquisite fusion of Muslim and Hindu styles. Continue to Agra and enjoy dinner and the show 'Mohabbat the Taj' this evening. (B,L,D)
- Day 14: The Taj Mahal**
Rise early to view India's most iconic sight, the Taj Mahal. Witness the shifting colours of the white marble as the sun
- Day 15: Medieval Orchha**
Rise early to board the Shatabdi Express train to Jhansi. Continue to Khajuraho with a stop in Orchha, a medieval city, famous for its palaces and temples built by the Bundela rulers of the 16th century. Continue to Khajuraho and view a cultural dance performance. (B,L)
- Day 16: Khajuraho Temples**
The intricately and erotically carved temples of Khajuraho were built between the 10th and 12th centuries and display some of the finest temple art you will find anywhere in the world. Fly to Varanasi. This sacred city sits on the banks of the holy River Ganges – take an atmospheric evening rickshaw ride through the narrow streets to the ghats and witness a Puja ceremony on the river bank. (B,L)
- Day 17: Varanasi**
An early morning cruise on the Ganges reveals the buzz of activity on the ghats at sunrise. Visit the Buddhist sights of Sarnath, the site of Buddha's first ever sermon after he found enlightenment, Sarnath has a series of magnificent stupas, temples and ruins to explore, some of which date back to the 3rd century BC. Return to Varanasi and discover some of the city's many temples. (B,L)
- Day 18: Travel to Delhi**
This morning is at leisure before travelling to the airport to fly back to Delhi. (B)
- Day 19: Fly Delhi to UK**
Transfer to Delhi airport and fly back to the UK, arriving the same or following day. On arrival you will be transported home by chauffeured transfer. (B)

Palace to visit the museum. Back in the city take a rickshaw ride then wander amongst the stalls of a local vegetable and spice market. Take dinner in Hanwant Mahal, a former royal residence. (B,L,D)

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DEPARTURES – Departing Friday returning Tuesday

2017 DATES			2018 DATES		
27 Jan - 14 Feb	£5,390	17 Mar - 04 Apr	£5,290	20 Oct - 07 Nov	£5,190
				16 Mar - 03 Apr	£5,990
				19 Oct - 06 Nov	£5,890

NEW

CHARMS OF SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka is an enchanting land of beauty, diversity and unique culture that has long enthralled travellers. Venture amongst its timeless ruins, delicious gastronomy and incredible natural beauty to capture its essence for yourself.

11 DAYS FROM

PER PERSON £3,590

INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

COMFORTABLE



▲ TEA PLANTATION

Price includes:

- Most meals (9 breakfasts, 2 lunches & 7 dinners)
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- Accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK & EU passport holders

Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,990 (Colombo - Colombo)
- Single room from £640
- Tipping paid locally US\$75

ENJOY AS A PRIVATE TOUR
Choose to design your own bespoke itinerary

Looking for a different date? Would you like something a little more personal or to rearrange the touring to suit your needs?

Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



▲ POLONNARUWA



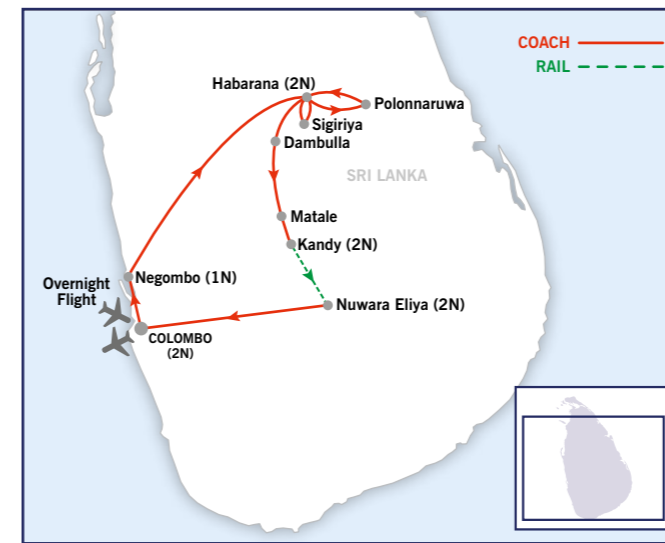
▲ DAMBULLA GOLDEN BUDDHA



▲ TEMPLE OF THE SACRED TOOTH



▲ MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the ruins of ancient civilisations
- Sip tea at a plantation
- Enjoy unique culinary experiences
- Explore Colombo by jeep

ITINERARY

Days 1-2: Fly to Colombo
Fly overnight to Colombo. On arrival you will be met by your expert tour guide and transferred to your hotel in the coastal town of Negombo, a short drive from Colombo. The rest of the day is yours to explore. (D)

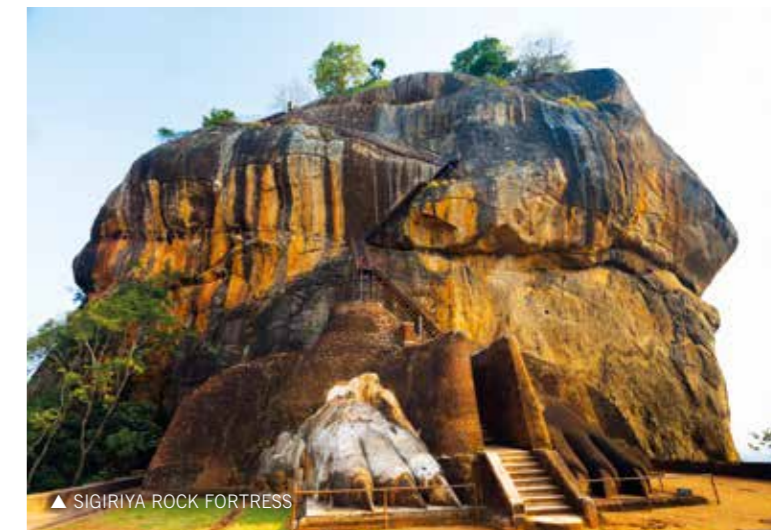
Day 3: Sigiriya Rock Fortress
Journey from Negombo to Habarana, a village that sits at the heart of Sri Lanka's cultural triangle, the heartland of ancient Sinhalese civilisations and traditionally known as 'The King's Land'. Later, visit Sigiriya Rock Fortress, or Lion Rock, the site chosen by King Kassappa for his 5th-century palace. Wander through the water gardens and climb to the summit, passing colourful frescoes and a pair of huge lion's paws for breathtaking views over the central plains. This evening, enjoy a unique dining experience at the Paddy Museum – local cuisine is prepared in a traditional village kitchen and eaten in a rustic and simple ambience looking over paddy fields and fruit trees. (B,D)

Day 4: Polonnaruwa and Minneriya National Park
A city that reached its age of magnificence in the 12th century, Polonnaruwa was soon after abandoned to the jungle. Explore these wonderfully well-preserved

ruins and learn more about this old civilisation. Continue to Minneriya National Park, where you will head out on safari. Built around an ancient reservoir, wildlife in the area includes elephants, spotted and sambar deer and dozens of bird species. Dine tonight on gourmet delights in a truly unique setting – a cave. Eat by the light of flaming torches and lanterns watching your food arrive over a little bridge shadowed by an enormous banyan tree. (B,D)

Day 5: Dambulla Cave Temple
Set out for cultural capital Kandy. En route stop at Dambulla Cave Temple, a Buddhist place of worship for an incredible 22 centuries. Within the five cave sanctuaries you'll find Sri Lanka's most sacred Buddha images in the form of beautifully rendered murals and statues. Continue to Matale, where you will visit a spice garden to take a cup of herbal tea and learn about the therapeutic values of various herbs and spices. After a delicious lunch eaten among lush rice fronds in a paddy field, arrive in Kandy. (B,L)

Day 6: Culinary Experience
Today, you will be welcomed into the colonial-style home of a Sri Lankan family to taste the fantastic flavours of real-home cooking. Starting with a fresh fruit juice or local beer, sit around the dining table and share a lunch of traditional foods such as green



▲ SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS

mango and red rice. Round off the meal with a local Ceylon tea or coffee brewed from beans grown of the family's own plantation. Later in the afternoon enjoy a city tour of Kandy. Sri Lanka's cultural heart and a sacred Buddhist city, visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, which houses an object of much devotion – Buddha's tooth. Also visit Kandy Temple and see a cultural show. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Nuwara Eliya
Transfer to Peradeniya where you will board an old steam train to puff your way to Nanu Oya. Seated in a scenic carriage you will have unparalleled views over the passing hill country. Disembark the train and continue to Nuwara Eliya where you will take high tea at your hotel. (B)

Day 8: Tea Plantations
Journey higher into the mist-laced hills, to an area blanketed in lush, green tea bushes. Visit a plantation where you will have access to the factory to watch the process that goes into making the perfect cup of Ceylon tea. End the day in style with an expertly blended cup. This evening, dine in the Railway Carriage Restaurant. Once a carriage of a former narrow-gauge engine that transported tea down from the highlands, you will be served with top quality food from around the world in surroundings finished in teak and brass. (B,D)

Day 9: Colombo
Travel down through the highlands, lingering over those final glimpses of the lush, emerald-hued hills to Sri Lanka's vibrant capital city Colombo. On arrival, there will be time at leisure before dinner at the

Gallery Café, an internationally-acclaimed gallery and restaurant housed in the offices of the world-famous local architect Geoffrey Bawa. (B,D)

Day 10: Colombo by Jeep
Climb aboard a World War II jeep for a unique and exciting tour of the city. Feel the sea breeze as you cruise around in an open-top vintage vehicle stopping to visit the Dutch Hospital, the old lighthouse, the Grand Oriental Hotel, Gangarama Seema Malakaya and much more. This evening, dinner will be served at the Ministry of Crab, a restaurant that is a celebration of Sri Lanka's seafood. (B,D)

Day 11: Depart Colombo
Today is a free day until you are transferred to Colombo airport to board your flight to the UK, arriving home the same or following day. (B)

EXTEND YOUR STAY



BENTOTA
3 NIGHTS FROM **£320PP**

Within easy reach of Colombo, Bentota is dedicated to all things sea and sand. Whether you just want to relax or take part in a water sport, this is the place for some pre-or-post tour beach time.

See page 71.
Additional flight costs may apply.

DEPARTURES – Departing Thursday returning Sunday

2017 DATES				2018 DATES			
26 Oct - 05 Nov	£3,590	09 Nov - 19 Nov	£3,690	02 Aug - 12 Aug	£4,090	25 Oct - 04 Nov	£3,890
						08 Nov - 18 Nov	£3,990

TAILORMADE TRAVEL

Our group tours give you the chance to tick off all of the sights and to travel in the company of likeminded people, but what if you want to create your own adventure? Whatever your interests, whoever you want to travel with, whatever you'd like to experience, we can offer you the flexibility and freedom to create your own Asia.

CREATE YOUR OWN ASIA

Travelling with your family? Keen to get off-the-beaten-track? Want to spot exotic wildlife? Then you've come to the right place.

The following pages showcase just some of the myriad sights, activities and experiences that we can include on your dream itinerary – it's completely flexible, excellent value and designed especially for you.

WHY TAILORMADE?

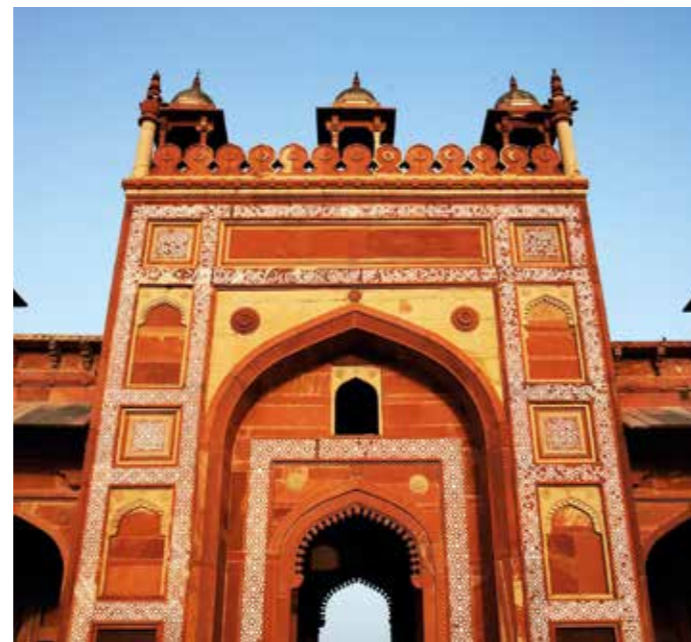
With a tailor-made itinerary you can travel where, when and at the pace you want, for as long as you want. You can pick your accommodation and add all the extras you like, from meals to guides to excursions. You can indulge your interests, whether it's tigers or meditation, and miss anything that doesn't hold much appeal. You have complete control.

WHAT WE DO:

Our team of dedicated tailor-made Asia experts will help to design your perfect, unique itinerary, or to tweak one of our group tours, so you can have a holiday that fits all of your wants and needs. On the following pages you will find a number of example itineraries that will show you exactly the sort of things you can do, themed around family travel, nature-lovers, foodies and so on.

1 PERSONAL SERVICE

The creation of your perfect itinerary is a combination of your ideas and desires, and our expertise. Your dedicated tailor-made consultant will listen to what you are looking for, make recommendations and work with you to create a holiday that fulfils all your wants and needs. They are ready on the end of the line from enquiry to departure, so any questions you have, tweaks you want to make, things you want to talk through, just call.



2 INDIVIDUAL TRANSPORT

You can travel around your destination any way you like, be it by train, plane or car, but we will always provide you with your own vehicle and driver to make sure that you get the most out of your time exploring. This way you can stop where and when you like, linger by that favourite sight a little longer and have complete control over your holiday time.



3 LOCAL FLAVOURS

Asia is home to a wealth of different people and cultures, each offering their own characteristic and delicious cuisines. Tasting the local food is a way of getting to the heart of a culture, so we include regional specialities to our itineraries, curry and dal for example, but also leave you plenty of space to get out and discover the most flavourful offerings for yourself.



4 ACCOMMODATION CHOICES

Accommodation across India ranges from desert camps to grand old palaces. The choice of hotel style and standard is completely up to you. You can just give us the number of stars that you are comfortable with for us to recommend ones that suit your needs and requirements, or you can peruse through the wide range of hotel options that we have online and pick the ones that appeal to you most.



5 DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT

Learning, seeing and experiencing are all part of travel – immersing yourself in a new culture and different way of life are one of its greatest perks. By tailormaking your trip you can take this a step farther and do something a bit different – a camel safari in the desert, a cooking class in Jodhpur, a meditation class in Thimphu or living like a maharaja in Rajasthan are just a few of your many options.



6 PRIVATE GUIDING

There is no better way to really experience your destination than with your very own local expert. Not only will you learn more about the sights and culture but will get the inside knowledge on local life. And we only use the best guides, the ones who are both passionate and knowledgeable about their country and have a desire to share it.

FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Just because you are a family, it doesn't mean it is just beach holidays and camping on your horizon; there is a whole world of experiences out there for you all to share. India is the perfect place to encounter together – whether your kids are 5 or 15, it is easy to have a seriously fun adventure.

These are just a few of the many fun experiences that Wendy Wu Tours can offer the whole family:



RICKSHAW RIDE, DELHI

The streets of Old Delhi are a bustling maze of temples, homes, bazaars and chai shops – an exciting, sensory overload! Delve right in to their vibrant chaos on an exciting rickshaw ride that gives the whole family the chance to see the local people going about their days. You'll really feel the atmosphere of Delhi's oldest streets, in a fun and interactive way.



RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

Ranthambore is one of India's most popular and best known national parks, and for good reason. There are about 40 Bengal Tigers that call the park's untouched jungle home, and as the park is quite small and the tigers easy-going, you have a good chance of spotting one as you pass through on safari. Other wildlife here includes leopards, jackals, sloth bears and a lot of birds.



CAMEL SAFARI

Pushkar may be known for its huge annual Camel Fair, held in November, but you can meet these desert beasts here at any time, and ride them through the surrounding desert! Jog amongst the towering sand dunes and admire the starkly beautiful landscapes of the Thar Desert, where you'll also get to see life in the desert as you pass remote desert communities.



DESERT CAMPS

The camps that dot the vast stretches of Rajasthan's desert offers some serious excitement for the whole family. With many camps within easy reach of the major cities, sleeping out in a tent, listening to the sounds of the desert, dining around the camp fire and joining in desert activities is a must – especially when the tents have all the modern conveniences too!

Why not enjoy these experiences on the following itinerary:

- Days 1-2: Depart UK and arrive in Delhi
- Days 3-4: Delhi: Rickshaw ride, Lodi Gardens, Jama Masjid, Red Fort
- Days 5-6: Agra: Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri
- Days 7-8: Ranthambore National Park: tiger safari
- Days 9-11: Pushkar: Desert Camp, camel safari

- Days 12-13: Jaipur: Amber Fort, Hawa Mahal, Jantar Mantar
- Day 14: Depart Delhi for UK

Guide price: £12,800 per family
(based on a family of four in two twin share rooms)

FOR THE FOODIE

Food is a gateway into the culture of a nation, and India, where every state has its own style of cooking, spicing and ingredients, this is particular poignant. For the adventurous eater who'll nosh on anything there are more than enough exciting delicacies to keep you taste buds tingling for days.

These are just a few of the many tasty experiences that Wendy Wu Tours can offer the foodie:



SAMPLE WAZWAN, DELHI

Wazwan, a huge, multi-course meal, is a tradition of Kashmiri cuisine, but Delhi also does it well. In Kashmiri culture, the preparation of each dish is considered an art – you'll sit down to a spread of delicious, often spicy dishes, all crying out for you to nibble on. Dishes include many exotic spices, including aniseed, turmeric and asafoetida. Prepare for a taste sensation.



COOKING CLASS, JAIPUR

The perfect curry; something that every self-respecting foodie strives to achieve. Taking a cooking class in Jaipur, you'll learn the tips and secrets needed to do just that. You can choose to specialise in the flavours of any region of India from Rajasthan to Kerala, working under the guidance of a chef who will help you to prepare a range of delicious treats. Then you get to eat the results. Yum.



FOOD TOUR, JODHPUR

A food tour not only gives you the opportunity to try out the food venues that your fellow travellers wouldn't usual find - the ones that the locals frequent – but it also gives you a more authentic view of the city. Wrap your taste buds around a wide range of street food – you'll find the Rajasthani's have a penchant for sweets and their savoury dishes are typically sweet and spicy.



PREPARE THALI, UDAIPUR

Thali is the traditional Rajasthani dish that just keeps giving. Served up on a big platter, the multiple dishes offer a range of different flavours, textures and colours. Learn to create this masterpiece of eating in a cooking class. Primarily vegetarian, you'll pick up tips on how to combine sweets, ghee and spices. Dishes may include pilau, bhindi curry, chapatti and matar paneer.

Why not enjoy these experiences on the following itinerary:

- Days 1-2: Depart UK and arrive in Delhi
- Days 3-4: Delhi: Lodi Gardens, Jama Masjid, Red Fort, wazwan
- Days 5-6: Agra: Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri
- Days 7-8: Jaipur: Amber Fort, Hawa Mahal, cooking class
- Days 9-10: Jodhpur: Mehrangarh Fort, food tour

- Days 11-12: Udaipur: Lake Pichola, palaces, thali class
- Day 13: Depart Udaipur for UK

Guide price: £2,900 per person
(based on two sharing a twin room)

FOR THE EXPLORER

Bhutan's epic landscapes offer nothing but excitement and they remain, thanks to tight restrictions, relatively undiscovered. Bearing this in mind, Bhutan is just calling out to be explored by someone who is willing to experience all sides of this fascinating country, from authentic activities to downright luxury.

These are just a few of the many experiences that Wendy Wu Tours can offer the explorer:



MEDITATION CLASS, THIMPHU

Bhutan's untouched culture is very much rooted in the teachings of Mahayana Buddhism - about 75% of the country's population practices it. Meditation has long been a central pillar of the Buddhist religion, so if you feel that it is about time to introduce a little more zen into your life, there is no better place to learn the basics than in Bhutan's capital city.



UMA BY COMO, PUNAKHA

A lodge situated in the lush Punakha Valley, the Uma mixes classical elegance with Bhutanese design to create wonderfully decadent accommodation. Set in a Bhutanese rural idyll amongst rice paddies and orchards - every room has sweeping views of these incredible surroundings - there is even a retreat offering massages and therapies nestled in a nearby woodland glade.



RAFTING, PARO

Bhutan boasts six crystal clear rivers formed by glacial melt water high up in the mountains - they offer both a thrilling white-water ride and the opportunity to get out and explore Bhutan's untouched wilderness. Each river has a variety of white-water levels, so whether you are a complete beginner or a rafting pro, there will be somewhere that you can take to the water.



HIKE TO TIGER'S NEST, PARO

Bhutan's best known and most impressive monastery, Tiger's Nest can only be reached on foot. Hiking up through the Paro Valley, passing fragrant forest, viewpoints (perfect to catch your breath!) and lines of colourful prayer wheels, you'll spot the monastery long before you reach it, perched precariously on a ledge halfway up a cliff face, a sight that will stay with you always.

- Days 1-2: Depart UK and arrive in Paro
- Days 3-4: Thimphu: meditation, Tashi Chhose Dzong
- Days 5-7: Punakha: dzong, Chimi Lhakhang, Uma by COMO
- Days 8-9: Paro: Tiger's Nest hike, dzong, National Museum
- Day 10: Depart Paro for UK

Guide price: £4,400 per person
(based on two sharing a twin room)

FOR THE WILDLIFE LOVER

India has a vast network of national parks filled with unique wildlife that are more than enough to inspire the average wildlife lover. From Bengal Tigers and Asiatic Lions, to a wealth of bird species, this is the place to find nature with the wow-factor. Go on safari through some of India's very best, and lesser known parks.

These are just a few of the many experiences that Wendy Wu Tours can offer the wildlife lover:



KEOLADEO NATIONAL PARK

This manmade wetlands, established 250 years ago, has become one of the world's richest bird areas. Also a World Heritage Site, the vast mix of habitats, including grasslands and woodland swamps, attracts thousands of bird species, especially during the migration when they drop by to breed and spend the winter, but there are 350 species that are residents year round.



GIR FOREST NATIONAL PARK

The sole home of the endangered Asiatic lions, Gir Forest National Park is one of the most important protected areas in the whole of Asia. Once a hunting ground, where the lions were hunted to the verge of extinction, it was declared protected in 1900 by the Maharaja - there are now around 523 lions living here, alongside leopards, hyenas, honey badgers and 300 species of birds.



PENCH NATIONAL PARK

Located in an area where it is said that Rudyard Kipling's 'The Jungle Book' was set, Pench National Park has been a tiger reserve since 1992. There are around 40 Bengal Tigers in the park but it is also rich in other wildlife including sloth bears, leopards, antelope and barking deer. All live together in habitats consisting of moist sheltered valleys and dry forest, amongst much endangered flora.



TADOBA NATIONAL PARK

One of India's 'Project Tiger' parks, Tadoba has about 80 resident big cats and is still relatively off-the-beaten-track, with much lower visitor numbers than reserves such as Ranthambore. The tigers roam through a habitat of cliffs, marshes and lakes and it is said that you have a reasonably high chance of seeing at least one as you safari your way through.

Why not enjoy these experiences on the following itinerary:

- Days 1-2: Depart UK and arrive in Delhi
- Days 3-4: Delhi: Lodi Gardens, Jama Masjid, Red Fort
- Days 5-6: Agra: Taj Mahal, Agra Fort
- Days 7-9: Keoladeo National Park
- Days 10-12: Gir Forest National Park
- Days 13-15: Pench National Park

- Days 16-18: Tadoba National Park
- Days 19-20: Mumbai: Marine Drive, Fort area, museums
- Day 21: Depart Mumbai for UK

Guide price: £5,200 per person
(based on two sharing a twin room)

FOR THE ASPIRING RAJA

We've all dreamt of living in a palace, but it all crashes down when the reality of all the cleaning hits. In Rajasthan they have plenty of palaces; many of them are now world-class hotels. Problem solved! Whether you just splash out for one night or go palaces all the way, you will get the full Rajasthani Raja experience.

These are just a few of the many heritage hotels that Wendy Wu Tours can offer:



UMAID BHAWAN PALACE, JODHPUR

One of the world's largest private residences, the Umaid Bhawan Palace is split into three sections. Part luxury hotel, part royal abode and part museum, the palace was built by Henry Lanchester in 1928. Sat on a hill above Jodhpur, the 64 Art Deco-inspired rooms are opulent, there are two swimming pools and the service is incredibly attentive.



SAMODE PALACE, SAMODE

A wonderland of a hotel, once you've entered the mirror-tiled hallways of the Samode Palace, you won't want to leave. Indo-Saracenic in style, this 475-year-old palace does contemporary luxury with ease, whilst the excellent service is straight out of the golden age of the Raj. Make the most of the many desert-based activities on offer.



TAJ LAKE PALACE, UDAIPUR

A heritage hotel housed in the former pleasure palace of Maharaja Jagat Singh II, the Taj Lake Palace floats majestically on the waters of Lake Pichola. Built in 1743 from white marble, rooms are furnished with finely-carved wood furniture and sumptuous silks whilst a private butler is on hand 24 hours a day to see to your every whim.



RAMBAGH PALACE, JAIPUR

First a royal guesthouse, then a maharaja's residence and now a luxury heritage hotel, the Rambagh Palace oozes opulence. Elegant rooms are draped in rich fabrics and decorated with wall motifs whilst the perfectly symmetrical ornamental gardens are ideal for a post-dinner stroll. Sit back and enjoy the hospitality of the Rajput.

■ Days 13-14: Agra: Taj Mahal, Agra Fort

■ Day 15: Depart Delhi for UK

Guide price: £6,500 per person
(based on two sharing a twin room)

FOR THE CULTURIST

Sri Lanka's culture combines many influences – together they make a unique and fascinating heritage that just cries out to be explored. For the full-on culture vulture, hop from ancient civilisations to pilgrimage sites to the bustling districts of Colombo, each offering a new and exciting experience.

These are just a few of the many cultural experiences that Wendy Wu Tours can offer:



PUJA CEREMONY, KANDY

The Temple of the Tooth is Sri Lanka's most sacred place of worship. Built to house, you guessed it, a tooth – Buddha's own. Three times daily the tooth is taken from its chamber in its golden case and brought before devotees and tourists alike to worship. The rhythmic drumming and incense really bring the ritual and tradition home.



BUDURUWAGALA, ELLA

Passing through some beautiful nature, reaching Buduruwagala is a breathtaking experience. Centred around a standing Buddha – at 15 metres, it is Sri Lanka's tallest. There are seven 1,000-year-old statues here – all based on the Mahayana school of thought. You can even see the bright colours that the sculptures used to be.



ADAM'S PEAK

A spectacular peak and place of pilgrimage, for over 1,000 years this 2,243 metre mountain has been ascended by those seeking out the depression at its summit, believed to be the footprint of Buddha by Buddhists, of Adam by Muslims and of Shiva by Hindus. Mostly a Buddhist place of worship, join the pilgrims in climbing the peak and ringing the bell at the top.



PETTAH WALKING TOUR, COLOMBO

Colombo's most vibrant district, Pettah perfectly showcases the city's blend of people, cultures and religions. This bazaar district feels more strongly Tamil Muslim than the rest of the city, but alongside are Hindu temples and colonial churches. Still in a traditional bazaar layout, wander the streets of overflowing shops and stalls and soak up the atmosphere.

Why not enjoy these experiences on the following itinerary:

■ Days 1-2: Depart UK and arrive in Colombo

■ Days 3-6: Cultural Triangle: Sigiriya, Polonnaruwa, Anurandhapura, Dambulla

■ Days 7-8: Kandy: Puja ceremony, Temple of the Sacred Tooth

■ Days 9-10: Nuwara Eliya: Adam's Peak, tea plantations

■ Days 11-12: Ella: Buduruwagala

■ Days 13-14: Galle: Fort, beaches

■ Days 15-16: Colombo: Pettah, Fort district, museums

■ Day 17: Depart Colombo for UK

Guide price: £3,200 per person
(based on two sharing a twin room)

Why not enjoy these experiences on the following itinerary:

■ Days 1-2: Depart UK and arrive in Delhi

■ Days 3-4: Delhi: Red Fort, Old Delhi, New Delhi

■ Days 5-6: Udaipur: Taj Lake Palace, Lake Pichola, City Palace

■ Days 7-8: Jodhpur: Umaid Bhawan Palace, Mehrangarh Fort

■ Days 9-10: Samode: Samode Palace

■ Days 11-12: Jaipur: Rambagh Palace, Amber Fort, Jantar Mantar

EXTENSIONS & STOPOVERS

The trip of a lifetime can become even more memorable by adding on an extension or stopover, to make that holiday feeling last that little bit longer. Most airlines allow you to stopover in their hub city for no additional cost to the airfare, and India and Sri Lanka have so many fantastic beaches on offer, it would be a shame to miss them!

Extensions & Stopovers include:

- Accommodation in 3★, 4★ or 5★ hotels
 - Touring and sightseeing
 - Airport transfers
 - Daily breakfast
-

GOA

4 NIGHTS FROM PER PERSON £340

A little slice of paradise on the Arabian Sea, Goa has gorgeous beaches and a rich Portuguese heritage. Discover it all on this five-day extension, the perfect way to round off your India adventure.

Your hotel

The **O Resort and Spa**, sits right on Candolim Beach. Overlooking the Arabian Sea, the lush tropical gardens that surround the hotel give it a wonderfully secluded feel. There is a spa, an infinity pool and two restaurants, whilst bedrooms are light and airy with sea panoramas.

Upgrade your experience

Invoking the atmosphere of 15th-century Portugal, the **Lemon Tree Amarante** is perfectly located for a number of northern Goa's best beaches. Rooms are cool and spacious. Hang out at the vibrant café and bar, relax by the pool or on the nearby beach.

On Goa's south coast, marooned amongst lush paddy fields and the Arabian Sea, the **Alilia Diwa** is a resort that exudes peace and tranquillity. Each room is a sanctuary of contemporary elegance, a space of Goan design, with a private terrace or balcony and free-standing bathtub.

Adding this on

There are many direct flights into Goa from all over India. Flying time is approximately 2 hours 30 mins from Delhi and just over an hour from Mumbai. All of our airline partners will get you home from Goa with Qatar Airways routing via Doha instead of connecting again through India.



Prices per person from		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
3★ O Resort and Spa	£340	£320
4★ Lemon Tree Amarante	£360	£350
5★ Alilia Diwa	£490	£450

Flight supplements may apply

Price includes:

- 4 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Airport transfers
- One day tour of Goa with lunch

KOVALAM

4 NIGHTS FROM PER PERSON £250

Kovalam is home to three spectacular crescent beaches. Kerala's idyllic coastal surroundings are the ideal place to relax and unwind, especially thanks to the area's abundance of Ayurveda spas.

Your hotel

Located close to the beauty of the palm-fringed Light House Beach, the **Soma Palmshore** is set on its own private beach. Full of local tradition and culture, you'll find an Ayurveda spa and outdoor pool, as well as opportunities to practice yoga on the beach. Each room has a balcony with a sea view.

Upgrade your experience

Just 15 metres from the sea on Kovalam Beach, the **Uday Samudra Beach Hotel** is surrounded by spacious lawns and coconut groves.

Set on top of a rocky promontory, overlooking a private sandy bay, the **Leela Kovalam** is one of Kerala's

most decadent properties.

Rooms have garden or beach views and are resplendent in traditional Kerala décor – all is set on its own private beach. The best spot for sunset is sitting in the rooftop bar.

Adding this on

Kovalam is a 30 minute drive from Trivandrum, which is accessed via numerous direct flights from all over India. This is the ideal extension if you are on our 'Grand Tour of India' tour which finishes in Trivandrum. All of our airline partners will get you home from Trivandrum, with Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad routing via the Middle East instead of connecting again through India.



Prices per person from		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
3★ Soma Palmshore	£250	£230
4★ Uday Samudra Beach Hotel	£390	£340
5★ Leela Kovalam	£740	£710

Flight supplements may apply

Price includes:

- 4 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Airport transfers
- One day city tour of Trivandrum

MARARI

3 NIGHTS FROM PER PERSON £280

On a stretch of the exotic Malabar coast, Marari beach is one of India's hidden gems. The area has a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere and is close to Alleppy and Kerala's famous backwaters.

Your hotel

Overlooking Marari Beach, the **Abad Turtle Beach** has a sun deck and infinity pool. Spacious beach cottages, spread through gardens that stretch to 13 acres, decked out with white-and-wood with tile floors, provide light and airy accommodation, with a private patio.

Upgrade your experience

A small boutique hotel, with cottages right on the sand, **A Beach Symphony** perfectly combines contemporary design with a traditional Kerala feel. The resort has an outdoor swimming pool, and dinner is freshly prepared and served on your private veranda.

With a focus on relaxation, the **Marari Beach Resort** is set right on the beach. This is eco-friendly luxury with plenty of activities on offer, from yoga to volleyball should you fancy giving up that beach hammock.

Adding this on

Marari is approximately a two hour drive from Cochin, which is accessed via numerous direct flights from all over India. This is the ideal extension if you are on our 'Kerala & The Southern Highlights' tour which finishes in Cochin. All of our airline partners will get you home from Cochin, with Emirates, Qatar Airways and Etihad routing via the Middle East instead of connecting again through India.



Prices per person from		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
3★ Abad Turtle Beach	£280	£260
4★ A Beach Symphony	£410	£390
5★ Marari Beach Resort	£520	£460

Flight supplements may apply

Price includes:

- 3 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Airport transfers

BENTOTA

3 NIGHTS FROM PER PERSON £320

Within easy reach of Colombo, Bentota is dedicated to all things sea and sand. Whether you just want to relax or take part in a water sport, this is the place for some pre-or-post tour beach time.

Your hotel

Designed to look like a Dutch seaside village, by renowned local architect Geoffrey Bawa, the **Avani Bentota** exudes a tropical, laidback vibe. Rooms feature cool and contemporary décor with a private balcony that gives views over the beach and Indian Ocean. Find relaxation in the spa, make use of the excellent facilities and dine in two excellent restaurants in a wonderfully quiet spot on Bentota beach.

Upgrade your experience

Housed in a concept building designed by Geoffrey Bawa, the **Bentota Beach** sits on the bank of the Bentota River, located just 10 minutes' drive

from the Sea Turtle Hatchery. Accommodation offers a private balcony with scenic views and the hotel has plenty of recreational activities. For utmost indulgence, try the **Vivanti by Taj – Bentota**, which sits in luxuriant tropical gardens right beside the beach. From your private designer bathroom in the light and airy bedrooms, to the cuisine served at the four restaurants, this vibrant, relaxing resorts exudes contemporary luxury.

Adding this on

Located just 65 kilometres from Colombo, it is incredibly easy to add this Bentota beach extension onto any of our Sri Lanka tours.



Prices per person from		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
3★ Avani Bentota	£320	£220
4★ Bentota Beach	£340	£260
5★ Vivanti by Taj	£440	£290

Flight supplements may apply

Price includes:

- 3 nights accommodation
- Breakfast daily
- Airport transfers
- Boat trip on Madu Ganga

DUBAI STOPOVER

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination – a city full of cutting edge architecture, epic shopping malls, the finest of the world’s luxury hotels and a cosmopolitan nightlife, all topped off with excellent beaches. As modern and extravagant as Dubai might be there is still plenty of rich and traditional culture to be found, particularly amongst the labyrinthine alleys of the old city.



▲ DUBAI MARINA

DUBAI HOTELS



MARCO POLO HOTEL
★★★★

Close to the airport and in easy reach of shopping malls and public transport, the Marco Polo is also located for those who want to explore the more historical side of the city. There is a pool to relax around and award-winning restaurants to dine at.



JA OCEAN VIEW HOTEL
★★★★

Across the road from Jumeirah Beach on lively ‘The Walk’, the JA Ocean View is comfortable and modern. All rooms have sea views from their spacious balconies, and there are seven restaurants, and beautiful infinity pool.



MÖVENPICK HOTEL JUMEIRAH BEACH
★★★★★

Located on The Walk, the Mövenpick is well situated for shopping and entertainment. A chic and modern property, contemporary rooms have balconies with partial or full views of the Gulf, and there is an outdoor pool and wellness centre.



HILTON DUBAI, THE WALK
★★★★

On The Walk and close to the new ‘The Beach’ mall, this Hilton offer modern and tasteful décor. With easy access to the sand, many rooms have views of the beachfront and facilities including kitchenette and seating area.



AMWAJ ROTANA, JUMEIRAH BEACH
★★★★+

The Amwaj Rotana boasts the largest guest rooms of the Jumeirah Beach Residence, each tastefully furnished and with a spacious balcony. This is the hotel for those looking for fun-filled entertainment in the evenings.



SHERATON JUMEIRAH BEACH RESORT
★★★★★

Sat on a private beach in Dubai Marina, the Sheraton has excellent facilities, including a spa and water sports. The combination of the contemporary hotel and its expansive landscape gardens creates a modern paradise.

ESSENTIAL DUBAI

2 NIGHTS FROM **PER PERSON** £190

See a whole other side of Dubai on a stopover that includes a half day city tour that provides an insight into Dubai’s rich history. Admire the incredible architecture – ultra-modern and deeply traditional, and browse through the wares of Dubai’s old souks, as atmospheric today as they have been for centuries.

Day 1: Arrive Dubai
On arrival into Dubai Airport, be met by your driver and get taken by car to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 2: Explore Dubai
Enjoy a half day tour of the city, which takes in both traditional and modern Dubai. Make a stop for photos at the Burj Al Arab and Jumeirah Mosque, pass the Zabeel Palace and explore the Al Fahidi Cultural Neighbourhood and art district and the Dubai

Museum. It’s then time to take a step back in time, and cross Dubai Creek by traditional abra, or water taxi, to wander through the vibrant Spice and Gold souks in the old part of the city – the wares here have been the same for centuries. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

Day 3: Depart Dubai
After checkout, transfer back to the airport for your onward flight to the UK. (B)



Prices per person from		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
4★ The Marco Polo	£190	£120
4+★ Amwaj Rotana	£260	£130
5★ The Sheraton Jumeirah Beach Resort	£320	£220

Flight supplements may apply

Price includes:

- 2 nights accommodation
- Airport transfers
- Touring as specified
- Local English speak guide
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast daily

DUBAI & THE DESERT

3 NIGHTS FROM **PER PERSON** £320

Dubai sits within the Arabian Desert, and with this stopover you can experience it on an adventurous and magical evening tour. Explore the sand dunes and dine on delicious Arabian fare under the stars. You’ll also experience the city itself on a half day city tour.

Day 1: Arrive Dubai
On arrival into Dubai Airport, be met by your driver and be taken by car to your hotel. The rest of the day is at leisure.

Day 2: Explore Dubai
Enjoy a half day tour of the city, which takes in both traditional and modern Dubai. Stop for photos at the Burj Al Arab and Jumeirah Mosque, and explore the Al Fahidi Cultural Neighbourhood and art district and the Dubai Museum. Cross Dubai Creek by traditional abra and wander through the vibrant Spice and Gold souks. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

Day 3: Desert adventure
The day is at leisure before you head out into the desert for a magical evening. View falcons at an amphitheatre before an exciting drive into the sand dunes, with a stop in the perfect spot for sunset. Stop at a Bedouin-style camp for a delicious Arabic-style buffet within unlimited selected beverages. You can also try your hand at camel riding and sandboarding, included in the price, whilst here.

Day 4: Depart Dubai
After checkout, transfer back to the airport for your onward flight to the UK. (B)



Prices per person from		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SINGLE SUPPLEMENT
4★ The Marco Polo	£320	£160
4★ Hilton Dubai The Walk	£380	£240
5★ Movenpick Hotel Jumeirah Beach	£470	£330

Flight supplements may apply

Price includes:

- 3 nights accommodation
- Airport transfers
- Touring as specified
- Local English speak guide
- Entrance fees
- Breakfast daily

HOTELS

Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character and can range from a business hotel in one city to a family run guesthouse in a smaller town.

INDIA, SRI LANKA & NEPAL HOTELS



▲ A WARM WELCOME



▲ HOTEL THE ROYAL PLAZA, DELHI



▲ PARK PLAZA, JODHPUR



▲ HOTEL HILLTOP PALACE, UDAIPUR



▲ THE PUGMARK, RANTHAMBORE



▲ MANVAR DESERT CAMP



▲ FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON, JAIPUR

INDIA

Delhi

The Park New Delhi
15, Sansad Marg,
Connaught Place, New Delhi
110001

The Royal Plaza
19 Askoka Road, Janpath Lane
Connaught Place, New Delhi
110001

Agra

Clark Shiraz
54, Taj Road, Agra Cantt
Idgah Colony, Agra
282001

Mansingh Palace
Fatehabad Road,
Tajganj, Agra
282001

Jaypee palace
Fatehabad Road, Agra, 28200

Jodhpur

Park Plaza
Airport Road, Air Force Area
Jodhpur
352011

Jaipur

Four Points by Sheraton
City Square, Vasundhara Colony
Tonk Road, Jaipur
302018

Mansingh Palace
Bhawani Singh Rd, Rambagh, Jaipur

Varanasi

Hotel Ideal Tower
The Mall Cantt, Varanasi
221002

Khajuraho

Clarks Khajuraho
Bameetha Road, Near Khajuraho Airport,
Khajuraho, 471606

Bharatpur

Kadamb Kunj Resort
NH 11, Fatehpur Sikri Road
Bharatpur
321001

Udaipur

Hotel Hilltop Palace
5, Ambavgarh
Fatehsagar, Udaipur
313001

Ranthambore National Park

The Pugmark
Village Khilchipur Ranthambore,
Sawai Madhopur
322001

Manvar

Manvar Desert Camp
Milestone 110 from Jodhpur to Jaisalmer,
National Highway 114, Khiyansariya
342025

SRI LANKA

Sigiriya

Kassapa Lions Rock
Digampathaha, Kimbissa
Sigiriya 21120

Hotel Sigiriya
Sigiriya

Nuwara Eliya

Grand Hotel
Grand Hotel Road,
Nuwara Eliya

Kandy

Amaya Hills
16 Heerassagala Peradeniya
Kandy

Negombo

Jetwing Sea Hotel
Ethukale, Negombo

Yala National Park

Jetwing Yala
Jetwing Yala Road
Palatupana

NEPAL

Kathmandu

Radisson Hotel Kathmandu
Kathmandu 44600

Dhulikhel

Mirabel Resort
Araniko Highway,
Dhulikhel 45200

Dhulikhel Mountain Resort
Khawa, Dhulikhel

Bhaktapur

Hotel Heritage
Bhaktapur Road,
Bhaktapur 21164

Pokhara

Mount Kailash Resort
Ammot Lakeside-6
Pokhara

Chitwan

Tiger Land Safari Resort
Jagatpur, 25751

Hotels on our group tours are generally rated as local three to four star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between the UK and India.

Our Exclusive Collection hotels can be found on page 51.

Hotels are subject to change and will be confirmed with your final documents

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

A selection of our most frequently asked questions.

BEFORE YOU TRAVEL

Q. How soon after making our booking will we receive confirmation?

A. Once we have received your deposit we will send your confirmation documents.

Q. Do you send us information about the destinations we will visit?

A. We will send you a detailed Tour Dossier, which provides a straightforward description of the physical activities involved on each day of your itinerary. If there are any particular challenges such as the length of time spent on your feet, journey times or accommodation standards, they will be explained in these concise trip notes. It is essential that you read the relevant Tour Dossier before booking, which you can find on wendywutours.co.uk, or we can arrange for one to be sent to you.

You will also receive a Travel Guide and Phrasebook as well as a suggested Packing List with your final documents.

Q. Will I know which hotels I will be staying in before I go?

A. Hotel details will be sent with your final documents. Note that these may be subject to change. Hotels generally range from 3-4 stars. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. See pages 74-75 for examples of hotels we usually use. If you require an early check-in or late check-out for your arrival and departure days, please contact us.

Q. How do I get my visa?

A. The cost of your visa for India is included in the price of your tour (UK & EU passports only). Simply send by post a clear colour photocopy of your passport page which shows your photo and passport information along with a passport sized photo and the completed Wendy Wu tours Indian Visa information form. Please send this information five weeks prior to your departure. Once your visa has been approved we will send you a copy of the completed visa by email for you to print out and take with you when you travel to India.

Please note that Visa regulations for India can change at any time.

For Sri Lanka the cost of your visa is included in the price of your tour (UK & EU passports only). Simply send by post a clear colour photocopy of your passport page which shows your photo and passport information, along with the completed Sri Lanka visa form. Please send this information eight weeks prior to your departure. Once your visa has been approved we will send you a copy of the completed visa by email for you to print out and take with you when you travel to Sri Lanka. Please note that Visa regulations for Sri Lanka can change at any time.

For other destinations featured in this brochure please contact us for visa application information.

Q. Do I need Travel insurance?

A. Your protection and safety are our main priority. That's why having adequate Travel Insurance is a condition of booking with us for all the destinations you plan to travel to. Contact us for details of our recommended policies.

Q. What vaccinations do I need?

A. We recommend you see your doctor at least six weeks prior to travel for advice and to allow time for any necessary vaccinations. Please remember to take your itinerary with you.

	Recommended
India	Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Poliomyelitis & Tetanus. Malaria tablets in some regions.
Bhutan	Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Malaria tablets in some regions.
Nepal	Hepatitis A, Typhoid, Diphtheria, Poliomyelitis & Tetanus. Malaria tablets in some regions.
Sri Lanka	Hepatitis A, Typhoid & Tetanus. Malaria tablets in some regions.

This information is given as a guide only and no responsibility can be taken for any errors or omissions. Source: www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk. Always seek your doctor's advice.



Q. How fit do I need to be?

A. Our Group Tours are graded on each page to reflect the level of fitness required. The specific reasons for a particular grading for each tour are clearly described in the Tour Dossiers which you can find on our website. Please contact us if you require any advice.

Our range of Private Tours is more flexible and may better cater for individual needs. Ask us for more details.

➤ Comfortable
Accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. They may involve sightseeing on foot, some climbing of stairs and getting on and off boats.

➤ Moderate
Not strenuous, but do require higher levels of fitness. A typical tour may include activities stated above as well as longer periods of sightseeing on foot/driving. Easy walking, areas of high altitude and overnight train journeys may also feature.

➤ Active
Requiring a good level of fitness, these tours are physically more demanding. They may involve activities stated above as well as some hiking; travel to remote areas where tourist facilities are less developed, long days of driving and high altitude travel. Please contact us if you require any advice.

Please contact us if you require any advice.

Q. What size are your tour groups?

A. The maximum group size varies depending on the tour, but is usually between 8 and 29 passengers. You may meet other tour groups travelling concurrently. Where available, on our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in comfort. On our Discovery Tours (with the exception of 'Spirit of Sri Lanka') and Exclusive Collection the maximum group size is 18 passengers.

Q. Do you run Guaranteed Departures?

A. Our Group Tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum of 8 passengers, and a National Escort will accompany each group of 10 or more.

Q. As a single Traveller, will I have to pay a single supplement?

A. No. On Group Tours we offer the option to share with a tour member of the same gender so there are no additional charges for travelling alone. You will be introduced to your share partner on arrival. Note that on overnight rail journeys and cruises this may not be with a Wendy Wu Tours passenger. To arrange a guaranteed private room, our Single Room Option is available for an extra cost (you may still be required to share on overnight rail journeys).



Q. What does Escorted Touring mean?

A. Every Group Tour which has 10 or more passengers travelling will be accompanied by a National Escort from when you land at the airport to when you depart. On multi-country tours different National Escorts are used in each country. Our optional extensions are not accompanied by a National Escort; however you will have the benefit of our knowledgeable Local Guides. Transfers and flights to and from optional extension destinations are not escorted. Private Tours are not accompanied by a National Escort, but will be accompanied by knowledgeable Local Guides in each location.

Q. What is the maximum luggage allowance on your tours?

A. Your main suitcase or backpack must not exceed 15kg and your hand luggage must not exceed 5kg as this is the maximum allowance on internal flights.

Q. What currency should I take?

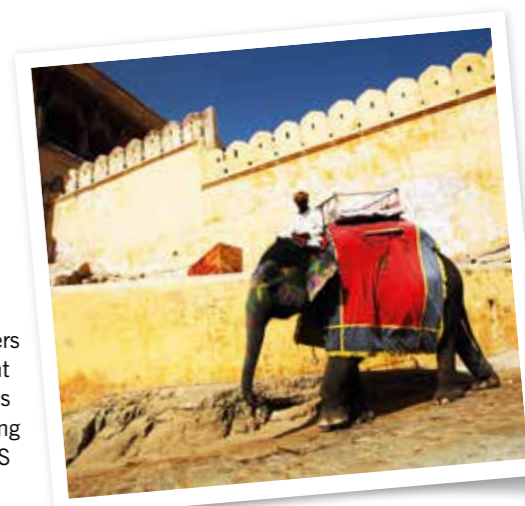
A. We recommend you take US Dollars as well as the local currency and a credit/debit card. We do not recommend travellers cheques. Please ensure you have sufficient funds to pay for personal expenses such as drinks, snacks, souvenirs, additional tipping and optional extras. Tipping must be in US dollars. See page 78.

Q. Can you arrange Airport Lounges, Parking & Hotels?

A. Yes – we are always looking for ways to make your holiday that little bit more comfortable and convenient for you. See page 83 for details.

Q. When is the best time to visit India and Sri Lanka?

A. India and Sri Lanka are year-round destinations. While October - March are the most popular months to visit, many people enjoy tours at other times of the year when there are fewer tourists. See page 79.



Q. When are Indian and Sri Lankan public holidays?

A. There are too many public holidays in India and Sri Lanka to list and most are only observed on a regional basis. Major holidays include the Holi Festival (13 March 2017 and 6 March 2018) and Independence Day (15 August). If your tour coincides with a major holiday some businesses and attractions may be closed, you may encounter crowds, and the availability of certain food and drink may be restricted.

WHILE ON TOUR

Q. What sort of vehicles do you use on your Group Tours?

Road: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our Group Tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. On our Private Tours we use air-conditioned vehicles suitable for the size of the party.

Air: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Water: Ships or boats are used on tours which have a cruising element. To undertake these excursions, you will need to be capable of boarding and disembarking from these boats, sometimes without assistance and/or handrails.

Rail: Trains are used on some tours. Where there is an overnight journey we use the best available soft sleeper trains. Each compartment is shared by four people (not necessarily Wendy Wu Tours passengers). There is a western-style



toilet at one end of the carriage and an Asian-style toilet at the other end. The beds and cabins are basic with clean linen provided and there are neither showers nor a dining car. The trains are generally clean; however you cannot expect western standards.

Q. Is there a dress code on your tours?

A. Our dress code is very relaxed; however, please note that clothing covering the arms and legs is more appropriate when visiting religious buildings.



WHILE ON TOUR

Q. Are meals included?

A. All meals (excluding beverages) are included in our Group Tours except where stated. Please note that in remote areas, meals may be basic or repetitive. Meals included in Private Tours are stated in the itinerary and include several free evenings, offering flexibility for those who wish to explore local restaurants. Meals on our Group Tours start with dinner on the normal day of arrival and finish with breakfast on the normal day of departure. Any additional meals will be at your own expense and no refund will be made for any meals missed. You will sample a range of local cuisine with occasional western meals, and meals are usually taken at local restaurants.

Q. Is portorage included?

A. Portorage is included on our Classic and Discovery Group Tours to India (from the coach to the lobby of each hotel).

For Exclusive Collection tours portorage is included from the coach to your hotel room.

Q. Is Tipping Compulsory?

A. Tipping is a necessary part of the tourism industry worldwide. For your convenience, total compulsory tipping amounts are stated on each Group Tour page (subject to change), to be paid in USD to your National Escort on arrival. Portorage is included on our Group Tours to the Indian Subcontinent (from the coach to the lobby of each hotel). For tours with fewer than 10 passengers, tipping will be slightly higher than stated on the Group Tour pages. On Private Tours and Extensions, tipping is discretionary and we will advise recommended amounts.



Q. Is tap water safe to drink?

A. We strongly recommend that you drink bottled water only.

Q. Can special requests be arranged?

A. If you have any special requests such as dietary requirements, or if you wish to celebrate an event, please notify us at the time of booking and we will do everything possible to ensure your requests are met. Please note that special requests cannot be guaranteed.

Q. What is the flying time to India and Sri Lanka?

A. Approx. 8 hours (if flying direct).

Q. Do you allow children on your tours?

A. We allow children 12 years and over on our Group Tours. We recommend families with children of any age to consider our Private Tours offering greater flexibility whilst on tour and suitable for any age group.

Q. Will I be travelling with passengers from other countries?

A. Our passengers generally enjoy the mixture of British and Australian clients on tour. Occasionally we are joined by English speaking passengers from other countries.

Q. What is the average age on your group tours?

A. The average age range is 40-65. Younger and older passengers travel with us too.

Q. What hours of the day do your tours operate?

A. They generally start about 8am and end shortly after your evening meal. Occasionally earlier starts are required to meet flight departures.

WeCare – Health & Safety

Your health, safety and well-being on holiday are of paramount importance to us. Wendy Wu Tours is a fully insured and bonded tour operator with comprehensive public liability cover.

Working closely with an independent health and safety organisation, the Wendy Wu Tours team carries out health and safety checks on accommodation, transport and excursions; and works with our destination partners and suppliers towards improving health and safety standards throughout the regions in which we operate. All travellers should be aware that safety standards vary across the different regions we visit and may not match the standards we enjoy in the UK. In the unlikely event of a problem or emergency on tour, Wendy Wu Tours has a Crisis Management process in place to support all of our customers. We also have a dedicated 24 hour emergency support number.



INDIA & BEYOND FOR ALL SEASONS

Our tours cover the length and breadth of the Indian Subcontinent. Depending on the time of year and where you are travelling, you may experience two or more seasons as you go.

DELHI			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	7	18	23
Feb	11	23	18
Mar	15	28	13
Apr	22	36	8
May	26	39	13
Jun	27	37	74
Jul	27	34	180
Aug	26	33	173
Sep	24	33	117
Oct	19	31	10
Nov	13	27	3
Dec	8	21	10

JAIPUR			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	7	22	6
Feb	10	25	10
Mar	15	31	5
Apr	21	37	4
May	25	40	18
Jun	27	39	51
Jul	25	34	213
Aug	24	32	227
Sep	23	33	80
Oct	19	34	12
Nov	13	29	8
Dec	8	24	3

KOCHI			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	22	32	20
Feb	24	31	20
Mar	25	32	40
Apr	26	33	110
May	25	32	180
Jun	22	29	690
Jul	23	29	460
Aug	22	28	330
Sep	22	29	340
Oct	23	30	280
Nov	23	30	140
Dec	23	31	30

MUMBAI			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	18	30	10
Feb	18	31	10
Mar	21	32	10
Apr	24	33	10
May	27	33	10
Jun	26	32	560
Jul	25	30	640
Aug	25	30	520
Sep	25	31	320
Oct	24	33	90
Nov	22	33	20
Dec	19	32	10

KOLKATA			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	13	27	10
Feb	15	29	31
Mar	21	34	36
Apr	24	36	43
May	25	36	140
Jun	26	33	297
Jul	26	32	325
Aug	26	32	328
Sep	26	32	252
Oct	24	32	114
Nov	18	29	20
Dec	13	26	5

DARJEELING			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	3	10	17
Feb	5	12	15
Mar	8	16	41
Apr	11	19	86
May	13	19	166
Jun	15	20	468
Jul	16	20	710
Aug	16	20	529
Sep	15	20	375
Oct	12	13	121
Nov	8	16	15
Dec	5	12	4

COLOMBO			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	22	31	62
Feb	23	31	69
Mar	24	32	130
Apr	25	32	253
May	26	31	382
Jun	26	30	186
Jul	25	30	125
Aug	25	30	114
Sep	25	30	236
Oct	24	30	369
Nov	23	30	310
Dec	23	30	168

KATHMANDU			
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	2	17	13
Feb	4	19	14
Mar	8	24	10
Apr	12	28	29
May	15	29	70
Jun	17	29	129
Jul	18	27	325
Aug	18	27	239
Sep	17	27	175
Oct	14	25	67
Nov	9	22	7
Dec	4	18	8

Delhi

Delhi's location allows a clash of climate types, meaning that it has distinct summer and winter seasons. May is the peak of the summer where temperatures reach the high 30s until the break of the monsoon at the end of June.

Jaipur

In the desert state of Rajasthan, Jaipur has mild pleasant winters from November to February, whilst summer (April to June) temperatures hover at around 30 degrees. The monsoon hits from June to September.

Kochi

Down in the very south of India in the state of Kerala, Kochi enjoys a tropical monsoon climate. Due to being close to the equator and on the coast, there is little variation in temperature throughout the year.

Mumbai

Although the monsoon sweeps through Mumbai between June and late September, generally the city has fairly stable weather, located as it is on the coast and close to the equator. The coolest month in Mumbai is January.

Kolkata

On the Bay of Bengal, Kolkata has a tropical wet and dry climate. The summers here are hot and humid; the temperatures in May and June can exceed 40 degrees! The monsoon batters the city from June to September.

Darjeeling

A former hillstation, Darjeeling has a temperate climate, with wet summers caused by the monsoon, whilst the spring (March and April) and autumn (September to November) offer cool and clear weather.

Colombo

Sri Lanka's capital tends to be temperate all year round with temperatures hovering between 26 and 30 degrees. The monsoon brings rain to the city between May and August and also between October and January.

Kathmandu

Located in the Kathmandu Valley, Kathmandu's climate is somewhat complex, changing slightly here and there due to elevation. In general, though, the summers are hot with temperatures of 28-30 degrees, whilst winter is cool, with temperatures around 10 degrees.

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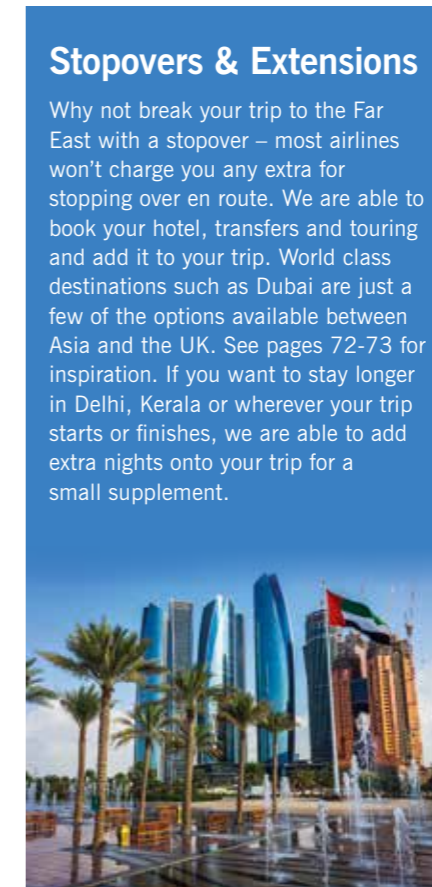
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