

FIRST CLASS
HOLIDAYS

INDIA & INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT





Jaipur

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The image on the front cover has been created by Joe Galindo for First Class Holidays.

Well known for quirky, unique, and colourful wildlife paintings, Galindo mixes unusual techniques with an experimental approach. His work has become a favourite among fine art galleries across the United Kingdom. Cover image copyright: First Class Holidays

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THE FIRST CLASS DIFFERENCE

Making your holiday dreams a reality starts with understanding what really matters to you. Whether you're a beach lover or adventurer, a lover of history and culture or the great outdoors, at one with nature or the big city; prefer luxury or authentic, being independent or part of a group. Our travel specialists will get to know what you desire and then create a holiday to match. You will experience superb service all along the way and we will use our wealth of experience to create your holiday as if we were creating our own. And you can be sure that before you go, whilst you are away and even when you come home, we will be with you every step of the way.

AWARD WINNING SERVICE

We were founded in 1996 with a desire to provide outstanding levels of service and customer satisfaction and this is still the case today. With thousands of satisfied customers and a raft of awards for exceptional service, your holiday is in the best possible hands. We are very proud that our personal, friendly service and attention to detail has led to us becoming an industry leader in providing personalised holidays. We have been recognised through the years by winning a number of prestigious awards from within and outside of the travel industry. Some of our awards include Best Long-Haul Operator, Outstanding Service Award and Best Specialist Destination Operator.

EXPERT ADVICE

With a team of over 50 people all sharing a great passion for travelling we have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Many of us have taken the holidays showcased throughout this brochure, and we know that there is nothing more important than firsthand knowledge when planning your dream adventure. We understand that no two people are the same, and that everyone's dream holiday is different, that's why we curate individual holidays to individual requirements with the emphasis on what you want to see and do. We can create itineraries for all budgets, applying the same first-class level of service to all.

TRULY PERSONAL

Our itineraries are meant to inspire you and we have crafted a fantastic range of holidays but if you find that none include everything you want to do, then our personalised travel service is just for you. We have been involved in the planning and preparation of detailed holidays for many years and would be delighted to share our knowledge to help you plan your perfect holiday. Simply visit your local travel agent, call us on **0161 888 5620** or email **enquiries@fcholidays.com** and one of our expert and friendly team will plan your ideal holiday from start to finish.

OUR PRICES

Hotel and transport prices change frequently, and we are in constant contact with our suppliers to ensure that we offer the very best prices that are available. We do not show prices in this brochure as rates do vary and fluctuate considerably due to demand and the frequent introduction of seasonal special offers. When creating your ideal holiday, our team will choose the best rate for the services you have selected and apply any seasonal offers that may be available.

PRICE MATCH PROMISE

We work very hard in sourcing competitive prices and have great relationships with our airlines and suppliers to ensure you get the best value for money. We regularly check prices against our competitors, however if you find a better price elsewhere sold with the same service conditions, we will happily lower our price to match. Please see terms and conditions on our website www.fcholidays.com for more details on our policy.

PEACE OF MIND

We are here whenever you need us, before you go, whilst you're away and when you come home. We are fully bonded with the Civil Aviation Authority ATOL scheme (Licence Number 5421) and with the Association of British Travel Agents (Licence Number W3550). You can book your travel arrangements with the peace of mind that your money is safe.

OUR FRIENDLY TEAM

Our team of India experts are passionate about India and the Indian Sub-continent and there is nothing more important than speaking to someone who has been there, and we have! We are able to provide first-hand knowledge on everything, from flights and hotels to sightseeing and excursions. We are also happy to share those smaller elements that help create your perfect holiday from finding the best coffee spots to that hidden gem in your favourite city; we want to share our experiences with you.

HOLIDAYS YOU CAN TRUST

We are committed to making your holiday as incredible as possible, but don't take our word for it. We have thousands upon thousands of satisfied customers who would highly recommend our services to make your dream holiday become a reality. Why not have a look at the customer reviews on our website **www.fcholidays.com** and check out our FEEFO rating.



Sustainable Travel

We believe that the pursuit of extraordinary holidays should not compromise the well-being of our planet. Our sustainable programme is a testament to our dedication to creating unforgettable experiences while respecting and preserving the environment. We meticulously choose eco-friendly hotels and services that share the same goals, offer carbon offset options, and promote ethical tourism, ensuring every adventure leaves a positive impact.

Our carefully curated India holidays are designed with sustainability and authenticity at their core. We work closely with trusted local partners who share our commitment to protecting the country's natural beauty and cultural heritage for future generations. Explore bustling cities and tranquil landscapes through eco-friendly experiences like walking tours, e-rickshaw rides, and tuk-tuk journeys. In Jaipur, we proudly support the Pink City Rickshaw Company, a unique, women-led initiative that empowers local women from low-income communities whilst also providing a charming and sustainable way to travel around the city. We prioritise working with local guides and family-run businesses, ensuring your travel directly supports the people who call India home. For those seeking unforgettable wildlife encounters, our tours place animal welfare and conservation at the forefront, working with organisations such as Wildlife SOS to ensure that we are offering captivating experiences that are both meaningful and responsible.

KEY PILLARS OF FIRST CLASS HOLIDAYS' SUSTAINABLE PROGRAMME

Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond a tangible and impactful program that transforms the way we travel. Experience the epitome of sustainable travel with First Class Holidays.

CARBON OFFSET OFFERING

Our clients can neutralise their carbon footprint by contributing to verified carbon reduction projects. We offer the chance to plant new trees across the globe through reforestation and to simultaneously invest into clean renewable energy projects. That means a traveller's climate contribution will remove CO₂e emissions now and invest in the planet for the future. Trees are one of the most powerful absorbers of carbon emissions - by growing trees in developing countries as our clients travel, we can help to restore eco-systems, biodiversity, and support local communities.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH ECO-FRIENDLY SUPPLIERS

We are dedicated to forging relationships with hotels and services that share our unwavering commitment to sustainability. Our selection process involves stringent criteria, assessing factors such as energy efficiency, waste management practices, and sustainable sourcing. By aligning with like-minded partners, we ensure that every aspect of our travellers' experience reflects our shared ethos of environmental responsibility. Through these partnerships, we aim to create a network of destinations that serve as exemplars of eco-conscious hospitality.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

Our commitment to sustainability extends beyond travel experiences—it encompasses a dedication to educating and empowering our staff and travellers. Through our Educational Initiatives, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of sustainable practices and the environmental impact of their choices; to inspire a sense of responsibility amongst them. These initiatives are seamlessly integrated into our travel packages, offering information on local ecosystems, wildlife conservation, and responsible behaviour while travelling.

SUPPORT LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIES

Our dedication to sustainability extends beyond environmental conservation to embrace a holistic approach that actively supports local communities and economies. Recognising that responsible travel involves more than minimising environmental impact, we place a strong emphasis on fostering positive social and economic contributions to India:

- We recognise the intrinsic value of preserving cultural heritage. We actively engage with communities to understand their traditions, ensuring that our activities are respectful and promote cultural exchange without compromising the integrity of local practices, allowing us to create authentic travel experiences.

- We prioritise collaborations with local businesses. By sourcing goods and services locally, we minimise transportation-related emissions and support regional economies. This approach not only strengthens community ties but also promotes the use of sustainable and locally produced materials.



Map of India & Indian Sub-Continent designed by Holly Francesca for First Class Holidays.

Holly Francesca is a British artist living in Portugal. For over 10 years she has created a collection of colourful maps and travel prints inspired by the best architecture, gardens and hidden gems from the most fascinating places within the UK and beyond.

See the full collection of prints: www.hollyfrancesca.co.uk
Follow the journey on Instagram @HollyFrancescaUK



Ways to Explore

India and the Indian Sub-Continent is incredibly diverse, vibrant and can feel overwhelming so choosing the right way to explore is important. Rich culture and heritage, wildlife, bustling cities, dramatic scenery and tropical beaches all have a part to play. Overnight stays might include traditional homestays, elegant and characterful havelis, wildlife camps or ultra-luxurious hotels, timeless riverboat journeys or luxury trains. We understand that your holiday is unique to you, which is why we offer countless ways to explore.

Escorted tours enable you to absorb the sights and sounds of a country under the guidance of an experienced guide who will bring the destination to life. Some of these are small group experiences if you prefer to travel with fewer people. Private, guided touring is a wonderful way to explore with your own private vehicle and driver that brings a new, very personal dimension to your travels. We feature a number of itineraries throughout the brochure however these can also be tailor-made and curated to your own specific plans and ideas.

Hawa Mahal, Jaipur



Escorted Tours

Escorted tours allow you to experience India's vast and varied landscapes with ease. With carefully curated itineraries and expert guides, our selection of escorted tours allow access to India's highlights in a structured and stress-free way. Enjoy a sociable experience with like-minded travellers, sharing memorable moments as you explore iconic sights. With all of the logistics taken care of, you can focus on enjoying the journey.



Private Guided

With ultimate flexibility and personalised exploration, private guided tours allow you to explore at your own pace with the undivided attention of a knowledgeable guide. These tailor-made journeys can be customised to suit your interests and are perfect for travellers seeking a more intimate connection with the destination. Enjoy seamless travel and insider access, with every detail shaped around you.



Rail

One of the most genuine and scenic ways to explore this fascinating country, rail travel provides a slower, more reflective pace, ideal for those wishing to soak in the diverse scenery of India. With luxury trains or more local, authentic rail experiences to choose from, each train ride provides a unique window into Indian life. Watch landscapes shift from bustling cities to quiet villages, deserts, mountains, and lush countryside—all from the comfort of your seat.



River Cruises

River cruises are a relaxed and scenic way to explore the country's rich cultural and historical landscapes. Typically following the Ganges or Brahmaputra rivers, these journeys take you through rural villages and lesser-known towns, offering a deeper connection to local life. Revel in the comfort of a boutique floating hotel with the convenience of exploring multiple destinations without repacking, whilst experiencing remote areas not easily accessible by road.



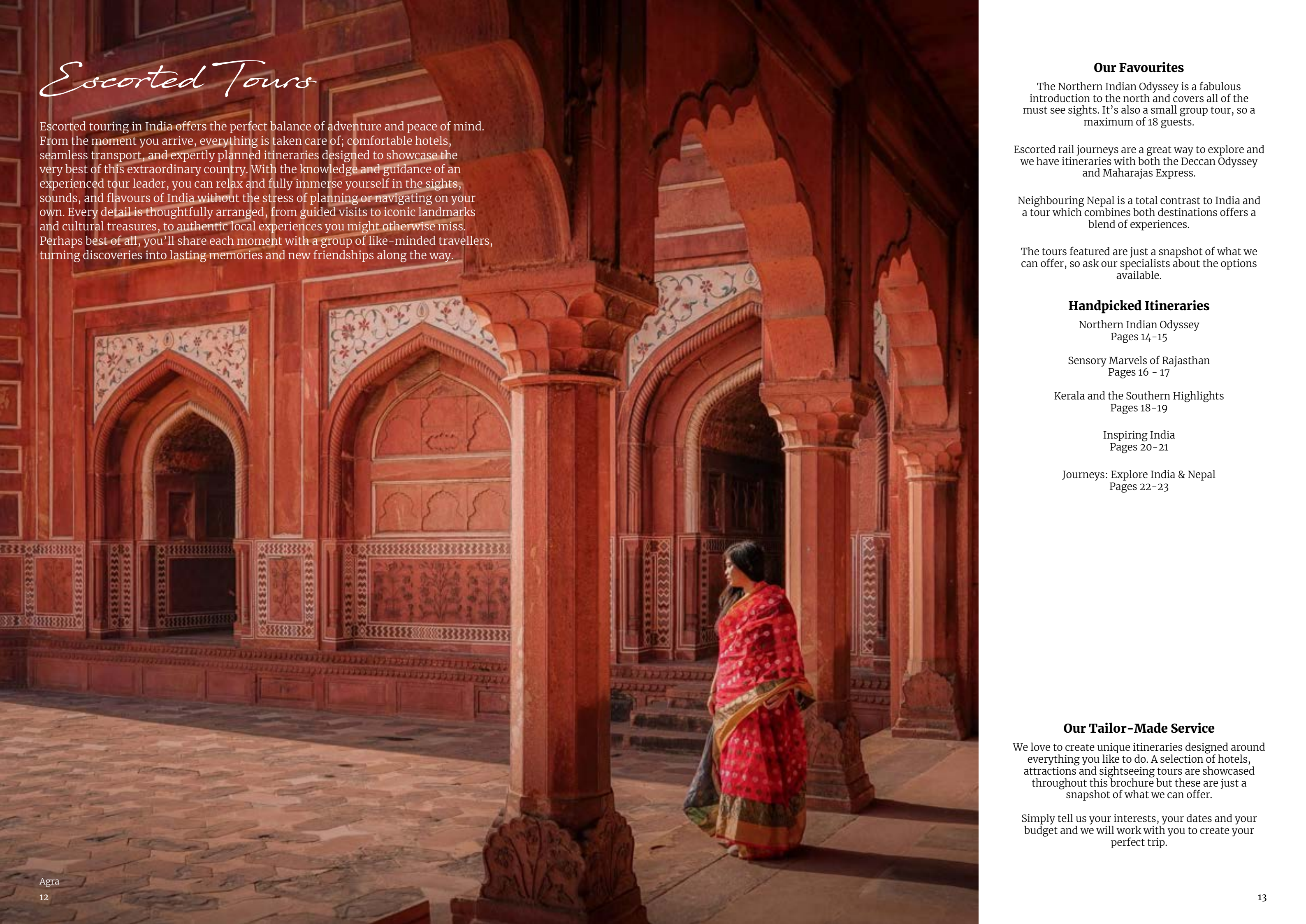
Wildlife Experiences

India is a dream for nature and wildlife lovers. From the majestic Bengal tiger to elephants, leopards, and countless bird species, the country's natural parks and reserves are teeming with wildlife. Popular reserves include Bandhavgarh, Ranthambore, Kaziranga, and Gir National Park, each offering unique ecosystems and animal sightings. Taking part in a safari, often in an open jeep and accompanied by an expert naturalist, offers the chance to see these fascinating creatures in their natural habitat. In Sri Lanka visit Yala and Udawalawe National Parks for memorable wildlife encounters.



Luxury/Opulent

India offers a world-class luxury travel experience that blends regal heritage, exquisite service, and immersive culture. Luxury here goes beyond comfort; it is access to the extraordinary. From five-star palace hotels and heritage stays to luxury trains and boat rides, every detail is thoughtfully curated. Enjoy gourmet dining, private guided tours, and behind-the-scenes access to cultural treasures. Whether you are relaxing in a Himalayan spa or witnessing sunrise over the Taj Mahal, every moment is designed to be exceptional.



Escorted Tours

Escorted touring in India offers the perfect balance of adventure and peace of mind. From the moment you arrive, everything is taken care of; comfortable hotels, seamless transport, and expertly planned itineraries designed to showcase the very best of this extraordinary country. With the knowledge and guidance of an experienced tour leader, you can relax and fully immerse yourself in the sights, sounds, and flavours of India without the stress of planning or navigating on your own. Every detail is thoughtfully arranged, from guided visits to iconic landmarks and cultural treasures, to authentic local experiences you might otherwise miss. Perhaps best of all, you'll share each moment with a group of like-minded travellers, turning discoveries into lasting memories and new friendships along the way.

Our Favourites

The Northern Indian Odyssey is a fabulous introduction to the north and covers all of the must see sights. It's also a small group tour, so a maximum of 18 guests.

Escorted rail journeys are a great way to explore and we have itineraries with both the Deccan Odyssey and Maharajas Express.

Neighbouring Nepal is a total contrast to India and a tour which combines both destinations offers a blend of experiences.

The tours featured are just a snapshot of what we can offer, so ask our specialists about the options available.

Handpicked Itineraries

Northern Indian Odyssey
Pages 14 - 15

Sensory Marvels of Rajasthan
Pages 16 - 17

Kerala and the Southern Highlights
Pages 18 - 19

Inspiring India
Pages 20 - 21

Journeys: Explore India & Nepal
Pages 22 - 23

Our Tailor-Made Service

We love to create unique itineraries designed around everything you like to do. A selection of hotels, attractions and sightseeing tours are showcased throughout this brochure but these are just a snapshot of what we can offer.

Simply tell us your interests, your dates and your budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip.

Northern Indian Odyssey

15 days

Discover the vibrant heart of India on this escorted small group tour. Journey through iconic cities and sacred sites – Delhi’s bustling streets, Amritsar’s Golden Temple, Varanasi’s spiritual ghats, and the cultural charm of Lucknow. Marvel at the Taj Mahal in Agra, track tigers in Ranthambore National Park, and soak up Jaipur’s royal splendour. Each destination reveals a unique chapter of India’s rich heritage, offering an unforgettable blend of history, spirituality, and natural beauty.

Highlights

Delhi – Amritsar – Varanasi – Lucknow
Ranthambore National Park – Taj Mahal
Jaipur

Tour Includes

- 14 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 4 lunches & 6 dinners
- Transfers, portorage and tipping
- Small group tour – maximum of 18 guests
- Services of a travel director and local guides

Tour is operated by Travelmarvel.

Departure Dates

March–April, September

Day 1: Delhi

On arrival in Delhi, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. This evening meet your fellow travellers at a welcome dinner. (D)

Hotel: Shangri La Eros New Delhi – 2 nights

Day 2: Delhi

This morning, awaken your senses on a fascinating Five Senses Tour of Delhi. Discover centuries of culture and Mughal splendour as you ride a rickshaw through bustling Chandni Chowk. Visit a historic perfumery to craft your own signature scent, savour local flavours and visit a community project. Lunch is included today. (B,L)

Day 3: Amritsar

Located in the northern Indian state of Punjab, Amritsar is a city rich in spiritual significance, history, and cultural heritage. This evening visit the Golden Temple for the moving Palki Sahib night ceremony. (B)

Hotel: Taj Swarna – 2 nights

Day 4: Amritsar

Begin your day with a visit to the serene Golden Temple. Step inside the community kitchen, where thousands are fed daily in a powerful act of unity. Continue to Jallianwala Bagh, a poignant memorial to India’s freedom struggle. This evening, travel to the Wagah Border and witness the stirring sunset flag-lowering ceremony. (B)

Day 5: Varanasi

This morning, fly via Delhi to Varanasi, India’s spiritual heart and home to over a thousand temples. Set on the sacred Ganges, this ancient city hums with devotion and tradition. As evening falls, witness the captivating Aarti ceremony. (B)

Hotel: Taj Ganges

Day 6: Varanasi

At dawn, enjoy a serene boat ride along the Ganges, watching the sun rise as devotees gather for prayer. Later, explore Varanasi’s ancient laneways and countless temples before returning to the hotel for breakfast. This afternoon, visit nearby Sarnath, where Buddha delivered his first sermon. The rest of the day is yours to relax or choose from a selection of optional Enhance Your Journey experiences to further explore this remarkable city. (B)

Day 7: Lucknow

Begin the day with a drive to Lucknow, arrive in Lucknow and marvel at the city's diverse Mughal and Persian influences. The city showcases a cultural variety of music, arts, cuisine and craftsmanship. Lunch and dinner are included today. (B,L,D)

Hotel: Taj Mahal Lucknow – 2 nights

Day 8: Lucknow

Discover Lucknow’s regal past with a visit to La Martiniere, a striking blend of European and Indian design steeped in military history. Continue to the Dilkusha Palace and Gardens, before brief stops at Chattr Manzil and the poignant Lucknow Residency. This afternoon, marvel at the majestic Asaf Imambara, built during a famine to aid the city, and explore the Husainabad Complex. (B)

Day 9: Agra

This morning, travel to Agra. Your exploration begins with a guided visit to the impressive Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage site. Later, experience the breathtaking beauty of the Taj Mahal as the sun sets behind its gleaming white domes.

Hotel: ITC Mughal (B)

Day 10: Ranthambore National Park

Rise early to witness the Taj Mahal bathed in the soft pink glow of dawn. After breakfast, depart for Ranthambore National Park, stopping en route at the deserted red sandstone city of Fatehpur Sikri, a striking UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy lunch in Bharatpur before continuing to Ranthambore. Lunch and dinner are included today. (B,L,D)

Hotel: Juna Mahal Jungle Resort – 2 nights

Day 11: Ranthambore National Park

Begin your day with an exhilarating jeep safari seeking the majestic Bengal tiger amid its natural surroundings. The park teems with wildlife, including elusive leopards, hyenas, deer, and a vibrant array of birds. The afternoon is at your leisure. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Jaipur

This morning, journey to Jaipur, the enchanting Pink City, where historic forts, lush gardens, and stunning palaces paint a vibrant tapestry of Rajasthan’s past and present. Your unique Insider Experience today is a 45-minute e-tuk tuk ride led by a women’s cooperative. Explore iconic landmarks including City Palace, Jantar Mantar, and Hawa Mahal. (B)

Hotel: Royal Heritage Haveli – 2 nights

Day 13: Jaipur

Today, explore the magnificent Amber Fort, a stunning example of Mughal-inspired architecture. Then, explore Rajasthan’s heritage at the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing, discovering the art of block printing. Spend the afternoon at leisure or join a guided tour of Jaipur’s vibrant markets. Tonight, enjoy a unique Insider Experience: a cultural evening in a local family’s home, with cooking, henna art, turban tying, and traditional hospitality under the moonlit Jaipur sky. (B,D)

Day 14: Delhi

Spend the morning at leisure before departing for Delhi this afternoon. Share your travel tales over a farewell dinner this evening. (B, D)

Hotel: Shangri La Ero New Delhi

Day 15: Departure

Transfer to the airport for your flight. (B)



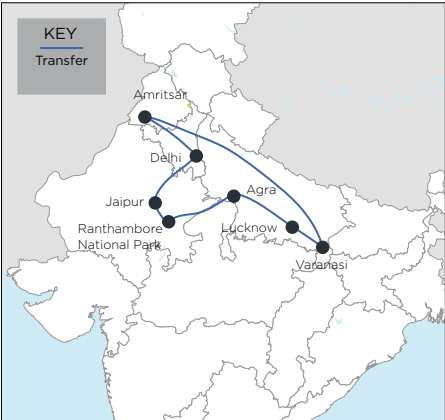
Agra



Ranthambore National Park



New Delhi



Ganges

Sensory Marvels of Rajasthan

13 days

Discover the vibrant soul of India on this memorable, small group journey through Delhi, Agra, Ranthambore, Jaipur, Pali, and Udaipur. From Delhi’s rich Mughal heritage to the timeless beauty of the Taj Mahal in Agra, each stop reveals a new chapter of culture and history. Spot majestic tigers in Ranthambore, marvel at Jaipur’s regal splendour, unwind in the rural charm of Pali, and end in the romantic lakeside serenity of Udaipur – India at its most captivating.

Highlights

Delhi – Agra Fort – Taj Mahal
Ranthambore National Park – Jaipur – Pali
Udaipur

Tour Includes

- 12 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 6 lunches & 7 dinners
- Transfers, portorage and tipping
- Small group tour – maximum of 18 guests
- Services of a travel director and local guides

Tour is operated by Travelmarvel.

Departure Dates

January – May, October & November

Day 1: Delhi

On arrival in Delhi you will be met and transferred to your hotel. This evening enjoy a welcome dinner with your fellow travellers.

Hotel: Shangri La Eros New Delhi – 2 nights (D)

Day 2: Delhi

Delve into the vibrant soul of Delhi as you explore its rich history, captivating culture, and unforgettable flavours. Wander through ancient lanes, admire grand Mughal architecture, and uncover the legacy of Empress Nur Jahan’s influence on perfumery with a personalised fragrance experience. Ride a rickshaw through bustling Chandni Chowk, savour authentic local cuisine, and witness the soulful beauty of Sikh prayer at Delhi’s largest gurdwara—all before a scenic drive past the city’s imperial landmarks. (B,L)

Day 3: Agra

Depart for Agra this morning. On arrival check in to your hotel before heading out for a tour of the spectacular Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and one of the most historically impressive buildings in India. You’ll also catch your first glimpse of the Taj Mahal.

Hotel: ITC Taj Mahal (B)

Day 4: Ranthambore National Park

Begin your day with the serene beauty of the Taj Mahal at dawn, as soft morning light bathes this iconic monument in delicate pink tones. After breakfast, depart Agra for Ranthambore, stopping at the remarkable red sandstone city of Fatehpur Sikri—an architectural gem and UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy lunch in Bharatpur before arriving amidst the natural wilderness of Ranthambore National Park.

Hotel: Juna Mahal Jungle Resort – 2 nights (B,L,D)

Day 5: Ranthambore National Park

Rise early this morning for a jeep safari into the Ranthambore National Park for a chance to spot tigers, leopards and other wildlife in their natural habitat. The park is also rich in birdlife. This afternoon relax at your hotel or join an afternoon game drive. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Jaipur

Continue your journey to Jaipur, the enchanting Pink City where timeless grandeur meets vibrant modern life. Discover towering forts, tranquil gardens, and ornate palaces that tell tales of royal heritage. Later, enjoy an exclusive Insider Experience: an eco-friendly e-tuk tuk ride led by a women-run organisation supporting local communities.

Take in Jaipur’s iconic landmarks including the City Palace, Jantar Mantar Observatory, and the striking Hawa Mahal, pausing for a memorable photo stop.

Hotel: Royal Heritage Haveli – 2 nights (B)

Day 7: Jaipur

This morning, visit the magnificent Amber Fort, a striking blend of Rajput and Mughal architecture. Continue to the Anokhi Museum of Hand Printing to discover the intricate art of traditional Rajasthani block printing. Enjoy free time at your hotel or explore Jaipur’s bustling markets with a local guide. This evening’s Insider Experience offers a warm welcome into a local home—join a cooking demonstration, enjoy regional dishes, and experience the traditions of henna and turban tying. (B,D)

Day 8: Pali

Journey from Jaipur to the serene landscapes of Pali and settle into your charming cottage at Brij Lakshman Sagar, a former hunting lodge turned boutique retreat. Surrounded by 32 acres of rustic beauty, this peaceful oasis offers panoramic views, private plunge pools, and a true taste of rural Rajasthan. As part of your Insider Experience, enjoy a guided nature walk, sundowners on the terrace, and a traditional dinner accompanied by cultural music under the stars.

Hotel: Brij Lakshman Sagar – 2 nights (B,L,D)

Day 9: Pali

Awake to sweeping views of the water and begin your day with a thrilling jeep safari through the forest, led by an expert guide in search of elusive leopards and vibrant birdlife. Pause for hot chai amidst the wilderness. Later, choose to unwind or enhance your stay with curated, optional experiences—from birdwatching by the dam, a cooking class using garden-fresh ingredients, or a village tour by open-top jeep. This evening, enjoy a delicious dinner crafted from local produce. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Udaipur

Depart Pali after breakfast for the romantic city of Udaipur. Travel via the impressive 15th century temple complex of Ranakpur. The rest of your day is at leisure.

Hotel: Trident – 2 nights (B,L)

Day 11: Udaipur

Embrace a day of discovery in Udaipur, exploring its elegant architecture and rich cultural heritage. Begin at the majestic City Palace, overlooking Lake Pichola, where a treasure trove of artefacts and exquisite mirror work awaits. Visit the intricately carved Jagdish Temple, stroll through the serene Saheliyon ki Bari gardens, and admire the Maharana’s Vintage Car Collection. As evening falls, unwind with a peaceful boat cruise on Lake Pichola, soaking in the romantic charm of this royal city. (B)

Day 12: Delhi

Enjoy a relaxing morning before transferring to the airport for your flight to Delhi this afternoon. On arrival transfer to your hotel and then this evening enjoy a wonderful farewell dinner with your fellow travellers. (B,D)

Day 13: Departure

This morning enjoy a private transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)



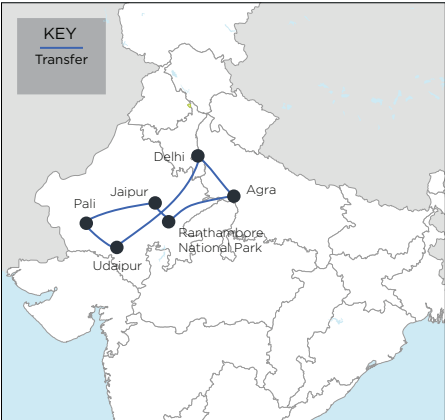
Rajasthan Street Food



Jaipur



Agra



Hindu Temple

Kerala and the Southern Highlights

17 days

Southern India offers an intensely tropical and laidback experience compared to the north. From bustling cities and colonial landmarks to serene hill stations and tranquil backwaters, this journey offers a perfect blend of culture, nature, and heritage. Discover the rich diversity of Southern India as you embrace its warmth and charm.

Highlights

Chennai – Mamallapuram – Bangalore
Mysore – Ooty – Coimbatore – Munnar
Thekkady – Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary
Kochi – Trivandrum – Kovalam

Tour Includes

- Daily breakfasts, 15 lunches, 16 dinners
- 16 nights’ accommodation
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- English speaking guide

Tour is operated by Wendy Wu.

Departure Dates

January–March, September–November

Day 1: Chennai

After arriving in the city of Chennai, you will be transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture. (D)

Day 2: Mamallapuram

After breakfast and a tour introduction, travel to Mamallapuram. On arrival you will explore this coastal temple town, seeing the fascinating 7th and 8th-century rock carvings including the magnificent Shore Temple and the impressive Varaha Cave. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Chennai City

Today return to Chennai, formerly known as Madras, the city 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. (B,L,D)

Day 4: 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. (B,L,D)

Day 5: 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. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Ooty

Journey up into the cool climes of the Western Ghats to the beautiful hill station of Ooty. Relax and appreciate the peace and natural splendour of this quaint town. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Narrow Gauge Railway

All aboard the miniature, narrow gauge ‘Toy Train’ to the 2nd hill station of Coonoor. Upon arrival you will tour the tea plantation and enjoy the stunning mountain views. Return to Ooty by coach, to visit the botanical gardens and walk to a small village to meet the locals, gaining insight into their lives. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Coimbatore

This morning depart for Coimbatore, driving through the hilly roads for 3 and half hours. Enjoy an afternoon city tour, visiting Sri Svetambra Vimalanathar Jain Temple and Athar Jamid Mosque. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Munnar

Travel to Munnar, a hill station enveloped by lush tea plantations. This afternoon, visit a tea plantation and the Tata Tea Museum. This day is at altitude. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Thekkady

Today explore Eravikulam National Park where you will have the opportunity to spot the local wildlife (closed February–April, an alternative light trek will be available). Continue your journey to Thekkady, home of Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary. This day is at altitude. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

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. Visit a spice village and browse a local market before enjoying a traditional Kalaripayattu (martial art) show this evening. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Kochi

Travel to the coastal town of Kochi. This evening enjoy an exuberant Kathakali dance performance. (B,L,D)

Day 13: 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 the Chinese fishing nets. Finish by admiring the synagogue in the heart of the Jewish Quarter and a stroll around the nearby markets. Tonight, enjoy a traditional cooking demonstration hosted by a local family. (B,L,D)

Day 14: Backwaters Cruising

Travel to Alleppey where you’ll board your houseboat, stopping en route at Kumbalangi, a village created to highlight the lifestyle of fisher-folk in the area. Later 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. (B,L,D)

Day 15: Trivandrum

Take breakfast on your boat before disembarking and heading for the beach town of Kovalam. Stop on the way in Kerala’s capital Trivandrum to discover the Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple, the Observatory and Sri Chitra Art Gallery. (B,L,D)

Day 16: Kovalam

This morning take a walking tour of the town and visit the lighthouse. The rest of the day is yours to relax, or head to the beach, until a farewell dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Day 17: Depart Kovalam

Your escorted tour concludes. (B)



Inspiring India

13 days

This engaging tour is the ideal introduction to India. From the hubbub of Delhi, to the delights of the Jaipur, glowing pink in the setting sun. The lakeside city of Udaipur, where boat cruises on Lake Pichola are the order of the day to tiger spotting in Ranthambore and watching the sun cast its morning glow over the Taj Mahal. This tour covers some of India’s most iconic and inspiring sites.

Highlights

Delhi – Jaipur – Amber Fort – Pushkar
Udaipur – Bundi – Ranthambore National Park – Taj Mahal

Tour Includes

- 13 nights’ accommodation
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- Daily breakfast, 11 lunches & 12 dinners
- English speaking guide
- All transportation

Tour is operated by Wendy Wu.

Departure Dates

September to April

Day 1: Delhi

On arrival you’ll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. Meet fellow travellers at a welcome meeting this evening. (D)

Day 2: Delhi

Spend a full day exploring the vibrant city of Delhi. Taking in both old and new Delhi you’ll see how the city has transformed. Visit Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India, take a rickshaw ride and see India Gate, Humayun’s Tomb and the impressive Qutab Minar. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Jaipur

Depart for Jaipur, lunch is included en route. This afternoon explore the Maharaja’s City Palace, which is still the residence of the royal family and the Jantar Mantar Observatory. This extraordinary collection of instruments still read the stars and solar system accurately today. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Jaipur

Today starts with a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal, or ‘Palace of the Winds’, the unique honeycomb building that graces many photos. Continue on to the Amber Fort, one of India’s most striking hilltop forts, explore the dazzling red sandstone and marble palace complex, and soak up the sweeping views. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Pushkar

This morning transfer to Pushkar, a drive of around 3 ½ hours. Pushkar lies on the edge of the Thar Desert, and Pushkar Lake, one of the most sacred lakes in India, is at its heart. Immerse yourself in the vibrant markets and explore the Brahma Temple, an important pilgrimage centre for the Hindu religion. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Udaipur

The destination today is Udaipur. Often called the “City of Lakes”, Udaipur in Rajasthan is famed for its romantic setting and regal heritage. Nestled amid the Aravalli Hills, the city is dotted with shimmering lakes, including the spectacular Lake Pichola, which reflects the palaces and temples along its shores. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Udaipur

Explore the treasures of Udaipur, beginning with a scenic drive around Fateh Sagar Lake. Immerse yourself in the rich culture and history at the Folk Museum and Mewar Art Gallery followed by a visit to the City Palace. The day comes to an end with a scenic cruise on the calm waters of Lake Pichola, fringed with lavender-hued hills, palaces, havelis and ghats. It’s a peaceful way to end the day. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Bundi

Continue north to Bundi. En route stop for a tour of Chitta Fort, one of the largest forts in India. This magnificent fortress stands on a hilltop overlooking the town of Chittorgarh. From here continue on to Bundi. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Bundi and Ranthambore National Park

Discover the charm of Bundi and the intriguing stepwells which bring a new level of understanding to the importance of water in this desert state. Explore the Taragarh Fort before the 3 hour drive to Ranthambore National Park. On arrival check in to your hotel, the remainder of the day is free to relax. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Ranthambore National Park

Once the private hunting grounds of the Maharajas of Jaipur, Ranthambore is a prime example of Project Tiger’s conservation efforts in Rajasthan. The park is renowned for its tiger population, however you may also spot sloth bears, wild boar, sambar, hyenas and a myriad of birdlife. A morning and afternoon canter safari offer thrilling opportunities to spot the wildlife. Please note the roads are rough and unpaved and you’ll be travelling for 2–3 hours on each safari. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Agra

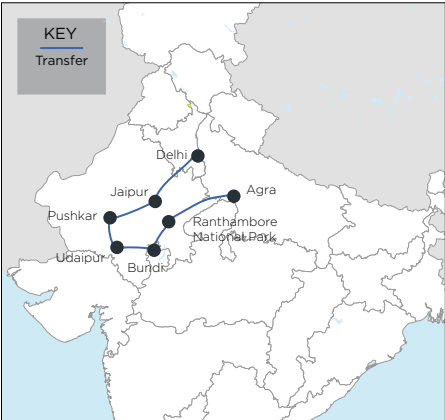
Most of today will be spent travelling to Agra, a lunch stop will be made en route. This evening enjoy a live musical drama. Mohabbat the Taj depicts the love story between Emperor Shahjahan and his much-loved wife Mumtaz Mahal, a true Bollywood experience. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Agra

Rise early for one of the most memorable moments on the tour as you prepare to visit the Taj Mahal. Electric golf carts will take you to the entrance, with around 2 hours to explore there is plenty of time for photos. Admission to the main mausoleum area requires shoe covers, which are provided on site. Following your visit to the Taj Mahal, continue on to the impressive Agra Fort, which sits on the west bank of the Yamuna River. Leave Agra behind as you depart for Delhi, there is a farewell dinner this evening. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Departure

Transfer to the airport for your onward departure. (B)



Journeys: Explore India & Nepal

17 days

Discover the rich heritage and diverse landscapes of India and Nepal on this 17-day National Geographic Journey with G Adventures. From the bustling streets of Delhi and the timeless beauty of the Taj Mahal to Jaipur’s palaces and rural life in Pachewar, then onward to Kathmandu’s sacred sites and Nepal’s wildlife. This itinerary blends heritage, nature, and immersive experiences for an unforgettable South Asian adventure.

Highlights

Delhi – Agra – Jaipur – Pachewar
Kathmandu – Pharping – Kurintar
Royal Chitwan National Park – Pokhara

Tour Includes

- 16 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 5 lunches, 5 dinners
- Arrival transfers
- Small Group Tour – max 15 guests
- Chief Experience Officer Tour Guide
- Range of activities as stated
- Private transfers throughout

Tour is operated by National Geographic Journeys with G Adventures.

Departure Dates

Sept – Nov & Jan – Mar

Day 1: Delhi

Upon arrival in Delhi transfer to your hotel. This evening, a welcome meeting will allow you to meet your fellow travellers.

Hotel: Bloom Hotel GK2 or similar

Day 2: Agra

Today you will uncover the fascinating duality of Delhi as you explore both the old and new areas of the city. Begin in New Delhi’s lively Paharganj district on a walking tour, led by a youth guide from the City Walk project, an inspiring initiative that gives opportunities to disadvantaged street youth. Continue your cultural journey with a visit to the Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib. Drive to Agra this afternoon. (B)

Hotel: Hotel Clarks Shiraz or similar – 2 nights

Day 3: Agra

Spend today exploring the historic city of Agra. Marvel at the breathtaking Taj Mahal—one of the New Seven Wonders of the World and a masterpiece of Mughal architecture. Next, explore the exquisite tomb of Mumtaz Mahal’s grandfather, affectionately known as the “Baby Taj”, a delicate precursor to its grander counterpart. Continue your journey to the majestic Agra Fort. (B)

Day 4: Jaipur

Today travel to Jaipur, Rajasthan’s vibrant capital, en route explore Fatehpur Sikri, a masterpiece of red sandstone. In Abhaneri, see the stunning Chand Baori, a thousand-year-old stepwell showcasing ancient water conservation techniques. Before reaching your hotel, visit the inspiring Anoothi Project, a women-led block printing collective. Enjoy a hands-on experience and learn how this initiative is empowering women through creativity. (B)

Hotel: Khandela Haveli or similar – 2 nights

Day 5: Jaipur

Discover the charm of the “Pink City” of Jaipur today with a visit to the grand Amber Fort and the iconic Hawa Mahal, or “Palace of the Winds”. Meet a local historian for insights into India’s complex social fabric, customs, and architecture. (B)

Day 6: Pachewar

Journey to the rural village of Pachewar and stay in a charming heritage home. Meet locals, watch potters, silversmiths, and cobblers at work, and stroll among old temples and mud homes. Enjoy a cooking demonstration in a local household and witness how modernisation is blending with centuries-old customs in this culturally rich village. (B,D)

Hotel: Pachewar Garh Fort or similar

Day 7: Delhi

Drive back to Delhi. This evening, opt to join the group for a farewell dinner. (B)

Hotel: Bloom Hotel GK2 or similar

Day 8: Kathmandu

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Kathmandu, Nepal’s capital. Upon arrival, join a welcome meeting before unwinding with a soothing sound bath wellness demonstration. This evening, savour a delicious 6-course dinner showcasing organic Nepali cuisine. (B,D)

Hotel: The Malla Hotel or similar – 2 nights

Day 9: Kathmandu

Spend the day discovering the colourful heart of this Himalayan nation. Visit the sacred Bodhnath Stupa, a major Tibetan Buddhist site, then head to Bhaktapur to wander through its medieval streets lined with wood-carved temples, pagodas, and palaces. (B,L)

Day 10: Pharping

Venture to the ancient hilltop temple of Swayambhunath, adorned with vibrant prayer flags and home to troops of rhesus monkeys. Travel to Pharping for a stay at a tranquil monastery guesthouse. End the day with a Nepalese momo-making class and enjoy your freshly prepared dumplings. (B,L)

Hotel: Neydo Monastery Hotel or similar

Day 11: Kurintar

Rise at dawn to the peaceful sound of chanting monks and take in the breathtaking sunrise. Travel to the riverside village of Kurintar, where a scenic hike will lead you to a secluded lodge nestled in forested hills above the Trishuli River. (B,D)

Hotel: Summit River Lodge or similar

Day 12: Royal Chitwan National Park

Today, journey to Chitwan National Park, Nepal’s oldest wildlife reserve and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Rich in wildlife, it is home to 68 species of mammals and a remarkable variety of birds. After lunch, board a traditional flat-bottomed boat for a river safari, keeping watch for the variety of wildlife that thrive along the riverbanks. (B,L,D)

Hotel: Barahi Jungle Lodge (or similar) – 2 nights

Day 13: Royal Chitwan National Park

Spend the day exploring Chitwan National Park on a variety of excursions (activities differ depending on the season). Embark on a thrilling jeep safari through lush forests and grasslands in search of rhinos, leopards, elephants, monkeys, and the elusive Bengal tiger. Meet with a “tiger technician” from the Nepal Tiger Trust. This evening experience cultural Tharu dancing at your lodge. (B,L,D)

Day 14: Pokhara

Journey to Pokhara today, a picturesque town set on the shores of the serene Phewa Lake and framed by the snowcapped Himalayas. Explore the city on a guided walk and this evening, you have the option to dine at a popular local restaurant. (B)

Hotel: Temple Tree Resort & Spa or similar – 2 nights

Day 15: Pokhara

Begin your day with a sunrise hike to Sarangkot lookout for stunning views of the Annapurna Himalaya. In Pokhara, trek through forest trails to the Peace Pagoda, then go on to visit a Tibetan refugee settlement where you can learn about its history and enjoy a traditional Tibetan lunch. (B,L)

Day 16: Kathmandu

Fly back to Kathmandu and enjoy free time to explore. Visit the sacred Pashupatinath Temple or Swayambhunath, the Monkey Temple. Shop in the bustling Thamel district, or wander the city’s vibrant streets. (B)

Hotel: The Malla Hotel or similar

Day 17: Kathmandu

You’re free to depart at your leisure today, hotel check-out is by 12:00pm. (B)



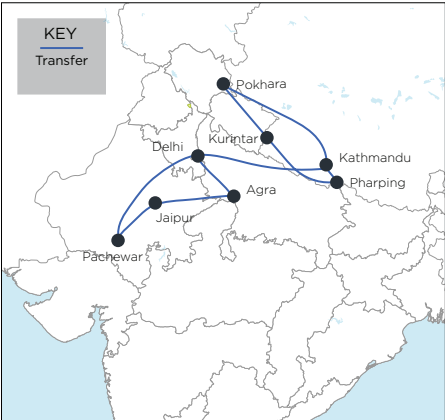
Taj Mahal



Kathmandu Bodnath Stupa



Jaipur



Himalayan Mountains

Private Guided Independent Touring

Private guided touring in India offers the ultimate way to explore this captivating country in comfort and style. With every detail carefully arranged, you can travel at your own pace, free from the stress of planning or navigating. Your expert local guide brings India to life, sharing insider knowledge, cultural insights, and personal stories that add depth to every experience. From bustling cities to tranquil countryside, you'll enjoy seamless journeys, comfortable hotels, and the flexibility to tailor each day to your interests. Whether it's pausing longer at a colourful market, uncovering hidden temples, or tasting regional delicacies, the experience is uniquely yours.

Our Favourites

For the first time visitor to India, it's hard to look past Temples & Tigers. It's all the big hitters ticked off and includes the Ranthambore National Park, famed for its tiger population. At 10 days it's also perfect for adding on a beach extension or a hill country experience in Shimla or Darjeeling.

Wildlife lovers should consider the Wildlife of Central India, an extraordinary itinerary that takes you deep into the heart of India and includes Kanha and Pench National Parks, both said to have inspired Rudyard Kipling's classic novel, *The Jungle Book*.

For a mix of local life, tranquillity and beautiful landscapes the Keralan Backwaters and Beyond tour is a wonderful journey through Tamil Nadu and Kerala and includes time on a houseboat in the backwaters.

The teardrop island of Sri Lanka is also perfect for private touring and our Sri Lanka Discovery tour includes the highlights of the Cultural Triangle, the train from Kandy into the tea plantations of hill country, and Yala National Park, known for its flourishing leopard population.

Our Tailor-Made Service

We love to create unique itineraries designed around everything you like to do. A selection of hotels, attractions and sightseeing tours are showcased throughout this brochure but these are just a snapshot of what we can offer.

Simply tell us your interests, your dates and your budget and we will work with you to create your perfect trip.

Temples and Tigers

9 days

Embark on an unforgettable journey through India’s Golden Triangle, where ancient wonders, royal heritage, and wild adventures await. From the bustling streets of Delhi to Agra’s timeless Taj Mahal, the untamed beauty and wildlife of Ranthambore, and Jaipur’s regal charm. This is the perfect introduction to India. Let the colours, flavours, and stories enchant you.

Highlights

Delhi – Taj Mahal – Agra Fort
Ranthambore National Park – Jaipur

Tour Includes

- 9 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast and full board in Ranthambore National Park
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- Shared jeep safari tours in Ranthambore
- Gatimaan Express train in A/C Chair class between Delhi and Agra
- English speaking guide
- Private air-conditioned transport and driver throughout

Departure Dates

Daily

Day 1: Delhi

On arrival in Delhi, a private transfer will take you to your hotel.

Day 2: Delhi

This morning your local guide will meet you at your hotel for the start of your exploration of Delhi. Rich in culture and history, this tour encompasses both the ancient walled city of Old Delhi and the more modern edifices of the new city. Delve into the tangle of narrow lanes, see the vivid colours of Chandni Chowk by eco-rickshaw and taste the tantalising street food. Highlights include Jama Masjid, the largest mosque of its kind in India. Built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan, who also constructed the Red Fort and the Taj Mahal in the 17th century, this impressive building is a vision of globe-shaped minarets, red sandstone and marble and features a vast courtyard that can accommodate up to 25,000 people. You’ll also visit the majestic Qutub Minar, a towering entity, which is spectacular as dusk falls. (B)

Day 3: Agra

After an early breakfast transfer to the railway station for your journey aboard the Gatimaan Express train to Agra. Your guide in Delhi will escort you onto the train, and upon arrival in Agra you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Your

Agra adventure starts with a Colonial Walk tour. Displaying a range of colonial architecture, this is a fascinating insight into the history of the city, beyond the Taj Mahal. From here move on to the simply spectacular Agra Fort, seat and stronghold of the Mughal Empire for successive generations and well deserving of its UNESCO World Heritage status. The last stop of the day is Mehtab Bagh Gardens, set along the Yamuna River, this garden complex perfectly aligns with the Taj Mahal lying on the opposite bank and your sunset visit is timed for wonderful photography opportunities. (B)

Day 4: Taj Mahal and Ranthambore National Park

The early start this morning is well worth it. Seeing the Taj Mahal for the first time in the gentle light of dawn is truly memorable. Your guide will expertly lead you through the complex, regarded as one of the most romantic sites in the world. Following your sunrise visit, return to your hotel for breakfast. Your private driver will then collect you for the drive to Ranthambore National Park, which takes around 5 ½ hours. En route there will be a short stop at Fatehpur Sikri, a world heritage site which is deemed to house one of the best-preserved collections of Mughal architecture in India. Continue to your Ranthambore hotel. (B,D)

Day 5: Ranthambore National Park

Embark on the first of 2 thrilling safari drives early this morning, as you head out in search of Ranthambore's most famous resident. Alongside tigers, the park is home to leopards, sambar deer, striped hyenas and more than 250 species of birds. After the first drive return to your hotel for breakfast and to relax before the afternoon safari drive. Expect each safari drive to last around 3 hours. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Jaipur

Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan and famed for its abundance of terracotta hued buildings giving rise to its name the Pink City. After breakfast in Ranthambore enjoy a visit to the Dastakar, an NGO that was established to support traditional Indian craftspeople, many of whom are women. Following an early lunch your private driver will transfer you to Jaipur, a drive of around 4 hours. This evening join your local guide for a twilight tour of the city by rickshaw and get a hands-on experience with a block printing workshop and lacquer bangle making experience. (B,L)

Day 7: Jaipur

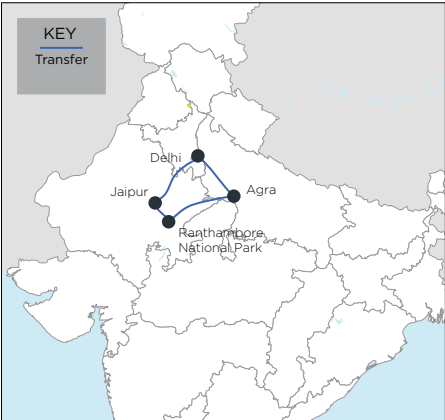
Today is a chance to discover the ancient capital of Amber and visit the UNESCO World Heritage listed Amber Fort. Wander past the high ramparts, many gates and cobbled paths as your guide unlocks the secrets of the fort. From here return to the city for an eco-rickshaw tour with the Pink Rickshaw Company. This unique not-for-profit organisation gives women from low-income households in the city work opportunities. There is then time to explore the City Palace, and the 18th century Jantar Matar, one of the most remarkable sites in the city. This observatory features 14 devices to measure time, track the stars and planets and remains accurate today. This evening is spent in a beautiful Indian home, it starts with a cooking demonstration before sitting down to enjoy dinner with the family. (B, D)

Day 8: Delhi

This morning after a leisurely breakfast your driver will transfer you back to Delhi for one final night in the city. On arrival your time is free to relax, or we can organise a further experience. (B)

Day 9: Depart

Your driver will transport you to the airport for your onward flight. (B)
Why not extend your stay with time in Shimla, hill country or a tranquil experience in Kerala or on the beaches of Goa?



Majestic Rajasthan

12 days

Discover the magic of India on a journey through its most iconic cities and majestic forts. Begin in Delhi’s vibrant streets, stand in awe before the Taj Mahal, and explore the royal grandeur of Jaipur and the Amber Fort. Wander through the blue lanes of Jodhpur beneath the mighty Mehrangarh Fort, then unwind by the tranquil lakes of Udaipur. This unforgettable adventure blends history, culture, and architectural wonder – perfect for travellers seeking India’s timeless beauty and regal spirit.

Highlights

Delhi – Taj Mahal – Jaipur – Amber Fort
Jodhpur – Mehrangarh Fort – Udaipur

Tour Includes

- 11 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- English speaking guide
- Private air-conditioned transport and driver throughout

Departure Dates

Daily

Day 1: Delhi

On arrival in Delhi, your private driver will transfer you to your hotel.

Day 2: Delhi Touring

Your local guide will take you on a tour which encompasses both Old and New Delhi. Travelling through the Old Quarter visit the Jama Masjid and pass the Red Fort, this UNESCO World Heritage Site was the residence of Mughal emperors for more than 200 years. Highlights include an eco-rickshaw tour through the narrow streets of Old Delhi, street food delicacies, India Gate and Qutub Minar. (B)

Day 3: Agra

After breakfast, this morning your driver will transfer you to Agra, a drive of around 4 hours. On arrival discover the remarkable Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, with a tour before checking into your hotel. This evening get your first glimpse of the Taj Mahal at sunset from the Mehtab Bagh. (B)

Day 4: Taj Mahal and Jaipur

Today is an early start but it is well worth it to miss the crowds and discover the magnificent Taj Mahal at sunrise. Built in the 17th century by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan for his beloved wife, it took 20 years and 20,000 men to complete and is a true wonder of the world.

Return to your hotel for breakfast before departing for Jaipur. The drive is around 5 hours and includes a visit to Abhaneri to see Chand Baori, a beautifully preserved ornate stepwell from the 8th and 9th century. (B)

Day 5: Jaipur

Discover the charms of the ‘Pink City’ with a guided tour of the fabulous Amber Fort, overlooking Maota Lake. This beautiful building is a fine example of Rajput architecture. From here embark on a city tour which takes in the City Palace—a complex of palaces, gardens, courtyards, and extravagantly carved doorways. Adjacent is Jantar Mantar, an astronomical observatory built by Sawai Jai Singh in the late 18th century, its predictions are accurate to this day. This evening is a true highlight with an immersive cooking demonstration of Indian and Rajasthani cuisine at Ikaki Niwas, a beautiful house, followed by dinner with the family. (B)

Day 6: Jaipur

Today is free for you to explore. Relax at your hotel or head out and discover this colourful city at your leisure. Early evening your local guide will take you on a twilight tour of the city as the sun sets.

This immersive tour introduces you to the sculpture makers, artisans, and Manihara (lacquer bangle makers) that Jaipur is famed for. Try your hand at making your own bangles and get hands-on with a block printing workshop. (B)

Day 7: Jodhpur

After an early breakfast in Jaipur your driver will transfer you to Jodhpur. Known as the Blue City, it is famed for its exquisite handicrafts, folk dancing, music and the Mehrangarh Fort, which is one of the best-preserved forts in India. On arrival the remainder of your day is free to explore. (B)

Day 8: Jodhpur

Your local guide today will reveal all the hidden secrets of the city. Slip through crowded markets and embrace the rhythms and routines of Jodhpur. Brahmins, age old residents of the city, are said to have painted their houses the vivid blue to stand out and have intriguing stories and secrets to share. These indigo-hued lanes are a sight to behold and offer a window into the city from another perspective. After your walking tour visit the Mehrangarh Fort, a memorable experience. From here head to Jaswant Thada, a white marble memorial of a Rajput clan, which glows in the sunlight. (B)

Day 9: Udaipur

The next stop on your tour of Rajasthan is Udaipur, also known as the Venice of the East. Built around 3 lakes and encircled by the hills of the Aravalli Mountain range, this is a place of temples and palaces and is regarded as one of the most romantic cities in Udaipur. En route to Udaipur discover Ranakpur Jain Temple, which sits on the banks of the River Maghai. (B)

Day 10: Udaipur

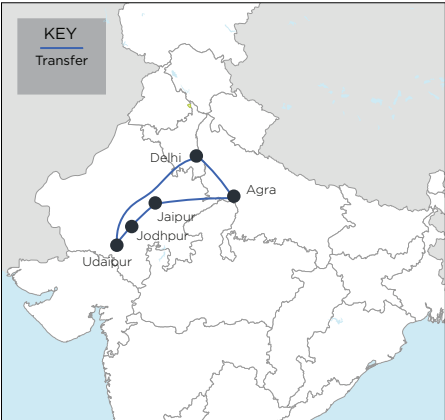
After breakfast, your exploration begins with a visit to the City Palace Museum, a vision of granite, marble and mosaics which are displayed on intricately carved filigree balconies and windows. From here move on to the Sahelion Ki Bari, a spectacular garden which reveals the unique lifestyle of the royal ladies who once lived in the royal palaces. There is also a visit to the Jagdish Temple, built in 1651. This evening enjoy a scenic boat trip on Lake Pichola. (B)

Day 11: Delhi

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Delhi for 1 final night. (B)

Day 12: Depart Delhi

Your driver will transfer you to the airport for your onward flight. (B)



Wildlife of Central India

16 days

Venture deep into the heart of India on an extraordinary journey that blends vibrant cities with wild, untamed landscapes. Begin in the historic capital of Delhi, then track majestic tigers through the legendary jungles of Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Pench, and Tadoba. Each park offers a unique window into India’s incredible biodiversity. Conclude your adventure in Mumbai, a city of contrasts where colonial grandeur meets modern glamour.

Highlights

Delhi – Bandhavgarh National Park
Kanha National Park – Pench National Park
Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve – Mumbai

Tour Includes

- 15 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast and full board in the national parks
- All sightseeing and entrances fees
- Private jeep safaris in the national parks
- English speaking guides
- Private air-conditioned transfers and a driver throughout
- Economy class flights between Delhi and Jabalpur and Nagpur and Mumbai

Departure Dates

Daily, January–June and
mid-October –December

**All Central India parks are closed on
Wednesday afternoon*

Day 1: Delhi

On arrival in Delhi, your private driver will transfer you to your hotel.

Day 2: Kings Lodge Bandhavgarh, Bandhavgarh National Park

Your morning transfer will take you to the airport for your flight to Jabalpur. On arrival your driver will meet you for the drive (5 hours) to Bandhavgarh National Park. Renowned for its high density of tigers, the park is also home to an array of wildlife including sloth beers, deer, leopards, wild dogs, wolves and jackals. It’s also a bird-lovers' paradise. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Bandhavgarh National Park

This morning rise early for the first of your jeep safaris into the park with a naturalist guide. Return to the lodge to relax before heading out again for an afternoon safari. This national park takes its name from the Bandhavgarh Fort, which sits atop the highest hill in the region. Bandhavgarh is widely regarded amongst wildlife enthusiasts as one of the best places in India to see tigers. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Bandhavgarh National Park

Another day to enjoy 2 private safaris into the park, with time to relax and enjoy the surrounds of Kings Lodge too. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Kanha Earth Lodge, Kanha National Park

After your final morning safari drive in Bandhavgarh, your driver will transfer you to Kanha Earth Lodge, a drive of around 5 hours.

Also known as the Kanha Tiger Reserve, this national park is said to be the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling’s classic tale, *The Jungle Book*. Set in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, this expanse of wilderness provides habitat for tigers, leopards, sloth bears, pythons, gaur monkeys, mongoose, jackals and countless bird species. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Kanha Earth Lodge, Kanha National Park

Today includes a morning and afternoon safari drive to spot wildlife. Return to your lodge between drives to relax and enjoy the facilities. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Kanha Earth Lodge, Kanha National Park

A further full day with 2 safari drives to spot the wildlife. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Pench Tree Lodge, Pench National Park

Following the morning safari drive, your driver will transfer you to Pench, a drive of 4 ½ hours. Pench lies in the lower southern reaches of the Satpuda Hills and is renowned for having a high concentration of prey, making it the ideal habitat for predatory cats such as leopard and tiger.

On arrival at Pench Tree Lodge the remainder of the day is free. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Pench Tree Lodge, Pench National Park

As the sun rises over the national park, embark on the first of your 2 safari drives today. Return to Pench Tree Lodge to relax before the afternoon drive. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Waghoba Eco Lodge, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve

After breakfast this morning depart for Tadoba, a drive of around 5 hours. The rest of the day is free. (B,L,D)

Day 11: Waghoba Eco Lodge, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve

It’s not uncommon to hear Tadoba referred to as the ‘Land of Tigers’ and your 2 safari drives will give you the opportunity to try and spot the abundance of wildlife that resides here. Alongside tigers there are regular sightings of sloth bears, sambar deer, wild pigs, flying squirrels, wild boar and crocodiles. (B,L,D)

Day 12: Waghoba Eco Lodge, Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve

Embark on 2 exceptional safari drives, returning to the lodge late morning to relax before the afternoon experience. (B,L,D)

Day 13: Mumbai

A change of pace today as you leave the tiger reserves behind and make your way to Mumbai. After a final early morning safari to spot the wildlife, your driver will take you to the airport for your included flight to Mumbai. On arrival in the city, your driver will escort you to your hotel. The rest of the day is free. (B)

Day 14: Mumbai

Your local guide will meet you at your hotel this morning for a tailored tour to explore the charms and secrets of India’s largest city. The Five Senses Tour of Mumbai, as the name suggests, evokes all the senses. The architectural marvels, the sounds of street life, flavours and aromas of street food, and the vivid colours of flower markets and silk emporiums. (B)

Day 15: Mumbai

Join your guide early this morning to discover the early morning life of the city. This ‘city of dreams’ on the Arabian Sea has been a magnet for dreamers and entrepreneurs, seekers of work and peddlers of cons and icons. Explore the mercurial character of this city at dawn, as it stirs itself for the new day. The rest of the day is free or perhaps join a bespoke food tour to embrace the rich culinary scene, or allow a local guide to walk you through the Art Deco heritage of the city. (B)

Day 16: Mumbai

Your private driver will take you to the airport for your onward flight. (B)



Keralan Backwaters and Beyond

12 days

Discover the rich tapestry of South India on this unforgettable journey through Kerala and Tamil Nadu. From the colonial charm of Kochi to the misty hills of Munnar, the sacred temples of Madurai to the wildlife-rich forests of Thekkady, and finally the tranquil backwaters of Kerala. This itinerary offers a mix of local life, history, nature, beautiful landscapes, and time to relax.

Highlights

Kochi – Munnar – Madurai – Thekkady
Backwaters – Kumarakom

Tour Includes

- 11 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast and full board on the houseboat
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- English speaking guides
- Private air –conditioned transfers and a driver throughout

Departure Dates

Daily

Day 1: Kochi

On arrival in Kochi, transfer to your hotel. In the late afternoon, enjoy a performance of Kathakali, Kerala’s centuries-old pantomimic dance-drama.

Day 2: Kochi

Nestled along Kerala’s lush Malabar Coast, Kochi is a captivating blend of colonial charm and vibrant Indian culture. Wander through the historic Fort Kochi with its Portuguese churches, Chinese fishing nets, and spice-scented streets. This is an unforgettable gateway to South India. Highlights today including a walking tour following the spice trail of Fort Kochi, a tour of the city which will take you back to the 14th century, and a cooking demonstration with an Indian family. (B)

Day 3: Munnar

This beautiful hill station sits in the mountainous Western Ghats and was a popular retreat for the British Raj seeking respite from the brutal summer heat. The drive takes around 3 ½ hours, on arrival the rest of your day is free to relax. (B)

Day 4: Munnar

Discover the Lockhart Tea Estate, 1600 acres of tea plantations weaving across the slopes of the Chokarmudy Hills. Dating from 1857, this is one of the oldest establishments still following traditional

methods of tea processing. Depending on the day and areas visited you may get to meet the ladies who still pick the tea by hand. (B)

Day 5: Madurai

After breakfast today transfer to Madurai, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Famed as a temple town, this evening’s tour is to the Meenakshi Temple complex for an atmospheric ceremony filled with musicians, temple singers and priests. (B)

Day 6: Madurai

Today’s ‘Once upon a time in Madurai’ tour unravels the mysteries of this ancient market city. This tour takes you behind the stories and into the heart of a city known across India for its iconic flower, the jasmine. Later, embark on a cycle rickshaw tour of Tirumalai Nayak Palace. (B)

Day 7: Thekkady

Home to the Periyar National Park, Thekkady is known for its savannah grasslands, lush forests and the abundance of natural spices that are so evocative of India. The drive from Madurai is around 3 ½ hours. This evening there is the opportunity to enjoy a display of Kerala’s martial art, Kalaripayattu or Kalari, it is often referred to as the ‘mother of all martial arts’ and dates back more than 3000 years. (B)

Day 8: Thekkady

Sitting within the aromatic Cardamom Hills, today explore Thekkady on a guided nature walk, where there is the chance to spot a myriad of birds, butterflies and wildlife. This is followed by a tour of the spice plantation, where the terraces are filled with peppers, cloves, turmeric, vanilla, and cinnamon. Lastly, take to the waters of Periyar Lake for a boat ride, during March to May other water reserves dry up and you may spot wildlife such as elephants coming to the lake to drink. (B)

Day 9: Kerala Backwaters

From Thekkady it is a 4 –hour drive to Alleppey and the backwaters. En route a stop is made at a rubber planation where a guided walk will unlock the intricate process of tapping rubber. On arrival in Alleppey board your houseboat for a memorable overnight experience. These beautifully designed boats are traditionally crafted from jackfruit tree wood, coconut fibre and bamboo yet have all the creature comforts including air conditioning. Each houseboat has 3 members of crew, a chef, driver, and cabin assistant to ensure your stay is as welcoming and comfortable as possible. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Kumarakom

After breakfast today transfer from your overwater abode for the drive to Kumarakom. One of Kerala’s most enchanting backwaters, this is a hub of biodiversity filled with rice paddies, coconut palms and mangrove forests. It is a place of peace and tranquillity.

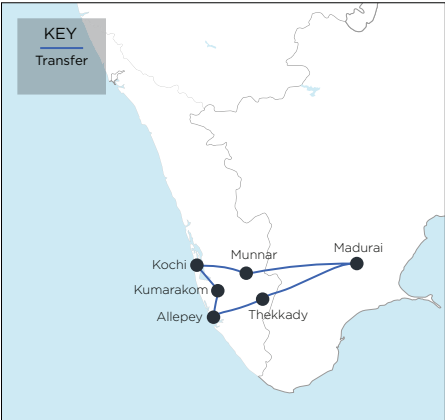
En route to Kumarakom spend time with a local family where there is an opportunity to try on local dress, followed by lunch. (B,L)

Day 11: Kumarakom

Today is completely free to relax and enjoy Kumarakom. Known for its yoga, Ayurvedic massage and meditation this is the perfect way to end your time in beautiful Kerala. (B)

Day 12: Depart

Your driver will collect you today for the drive to Kochi airport for your onward flight. (B)



Marvels of Southern India

17 days

Uncover the rich heritage and natural beauty of Southern India on a journey crafted for comfort, flexibility and depth of experience. Begin in lively Bangalore, before continuing to elegant Mysore, renowned for its palaces and bustling markets. Pause amid the coffee estates of Coorg and Chikmagalur, where rolling hills provide a tranquil escape. Explore the remarkable ruins of Hampi, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, before ending in historic Hyderabad, with its fine Islamic architecture and distinctive cuisine. This is Southern India at its most evocative, authentic and rewarding.

Highlights

Bangalore – Mysore – Coorg Hill Station
Chikmagalur – Hampi – Hyderabad

Tour Includes

- 16 nights' accommodation
- Daily breakfast and half board in Coorg and Hampi
- All sightseeing as shown and entrance fees
- English speaking guides
- Private air-conditioned transfers and a driver throughout

Departure Dates

Daily

Day 1: Bangalore

On arrival your driver will meet you and transfer you to your hotel. Late afternoon join a local expert guide for a walk that traces Bangalore’s colonial connections. Learn about the history of the British Raj and see the traceable remains of this way of life.

Day 2: Mysore

Depart for Mysore, a rich and cultural city known for its beautiful Hindu palaces. En route explore Tipu’s Trail, where you’ll get an insight into the Anglo-Mysorean conflict in the region and discover the connections to the American War of Independence, French Revolution and even the Battle of Waterloo. (B)

Day 3: Mysore

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before departing on a guided walking tour. See important historical sites, the Mysore Palace, and get a glimpse into the opulent lives of the Mysore Maharajas. Mysore is a paradise for food lovers, with traditional and tempting flavours on every street corner. (B)

Day 4: Mysore

Delve deeper into this charming city. Start with a visit to Chamundi Hill, where Nandi, a huge monolithic image of Shiva’s Bull, is always garlanded in flowers left by devoted Hindus, then explore the Chamundeeswari Temple. This afternoon spend time at the Folklore and Mankind Museum and the Maharaja Palace. Today’s tour concludes with a visit to Jayachmarajendra Art Gallery. (B)

Day 5: Mysore

Your final day in Mysore is a fabulous one as you immerse yourself in the world of silk with a local expert. Sarees are synonymous with Indian women and Mysore silk is one of the most popular in India. This evening hone your bargaining skills at the market as you pick up the ingredients for a south Indian meal. Your host will guide you through the creative cooking process in their kitchen before enjoying a meal together. (B)

Day 6: Coorg

Depart this morning for Coorg, en route enjoy a guided tour of a Tibetan monastery, golden temple, village and flea market. Nestled in the lush Western Ghats of south-western Karnataka, Coorg—also known as Kodagu—is often referred to as the "Scotland of India", and is a picturesque destination of rolling hills, cascading waterfalls, misty valleys, and sprawling spice plantations. (B,D)

Day 7: Coorg

Bird lovers have the opportunity to join a bird watching tour of the estate, more than 300 species can be spotted here. Following breakfast enjoy a guided visit to the Kandrathanda Ainemane. An Ainemane is the traditional home of a Kodava clan or family. Your family guide will explain the history and culture followed by a traditional lunch. This evening set sail aboard a coracle for a gentle river float. (B,D)

Day 8: Chikmagalur

Your destination today is the hill station of Chikmagalur, set amidst a breathtaking natural landscape of vivid green hills, mountain peaks and waterfalls. The drive from Coorg is around 4 ½ hours, en route there is time to visit Belur and Halebid, 2 impressive temples that give a fascinating glimpse into India’s past. (B)

Day 9: Chikmagalur

Enjoy time exploring Chikmagalur today. There may also be the opportunity to head out into the coffee fields with the estate staff to pick the coffee cherries, a first hand experience of a deep-rooted custom. (B)

Day 10: Hampi

Depart for Hampi, an ancient city which is a heady blend of history and modernity that makes for a laid-back and relaxed pace of life. (B,D)

Day 11: Hampi

Sightseeing is the focus today with a guided tour that takes in Kadelekula Ganesha, Virupashka Temple, the Hampi Bazaar, and includes a coracle float on the Tunggabhadra River. (B,D)

Day 12: Hampi

Today set out to visit the remaining sites of the Vittal Temple, Stone Chariot, Talarigatta Gate, Queens Bath, Lotus Palace, the Elephant Table and much more. (B,D)

Day 13: Hampi

Set out for the Raya Trail, which will whisk you back 500 years and give you a privileged insight into the lives and culture of the Rayas of Vijyanagara. You’ll learn about their lifestyle, magnificent abodes and the unique political structure. (B,D)

Day 14: Hyderabad

Transfer to the airport for your flight to Hyderabad. On arrival transfer to your hotel, the rest of the day is free to relax. (B)

Day 15: Hyderabad

Today is a tale of two tours. The Qutubshahi Detour, which focuses on the original founders of the city, their unique culture, the monuments built by them and the forgotten buildings that pay testament to them.

And, the Nizami Detour, which allows you to experience the splendour of a ruling family that made their mark on the world, their eccentricities and the legacies they left behind. (B)

Day 16: Hyderabad

Your local guide will take you through the unique weaving legacy that is found in the Deccan region. From the style of Pochampally, that has a village dedicated to its craftspeople, to the handful of artisans that still practice Himroo, Mushroo and Paithani. From weaving traditions to culinary delights, embark on the Biryani Trail, which explores the many regional influences. Taste your way through Hyderabad’s many biryani hubs and learn the secret combinations of spices that grace each dish. End the day with a traditional biryani meal. (B)

Day 17: Depart Hyderabad

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)



Mysore Palace



Bangalore



Hyderabad



Hampi

Best of Tamil Nadu and Kerala

16 days

Journey through the soul of South India, where ancient temples, colonial charm, lush hills, and serene backwaters await. Begin in vibrant Chennai, then explore the French-inspired streets of Puducherry and the Chola legacy in Thanjavur. Witness spiritual splendour in Madurai, tea-covered hills in Munnar, and wildlife encounters in Thekkady. Drift through Kerala's peaceful backwaters before ending in the coastal charm of Kochi.

Highlights

Chennai - Puducherry - Thanjavur
Madurai - Munnar - Thekaddy
Kerala Backwaters - Kochi

Tour Includes

- 15 nights' accommodation
- Daily breakfast and all inclusive on the houseboat
- All sightseeing as shown and entrance fees
- English speaking guides
- Private air-conditioned transfers and a driver throughout

Departure Dates

January-May and September-December

Day 1: Chennai

On arrival in Chennai, your driver will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel.

Day 2: Chennai

Chennai, formerly known as Madras, is the cultural heart of South India, and a lively coastal city where centuries-old traditions meet contemporary life. Home to grand temples, colonial landmarks, and a thriving arts scene, it offers a warm introduction to Tamil culture. From the rhythms of classical music and dance to the flavours of authentic South Indian cuisine, Chennai is a city that celebrates its heritage with pride—an ideal starting point for exploring the rich history and landscapes of the south. After a leisurely morning, your afternoon is spent exploring Chennai with your guide. Visit Fort St. George, currently used by the Tamil Nadu government but also home to a museum that holds many pieces from the East India Company. Visit Mylapore, enclave of the Portuguese during the 16th Century, San Thomas Church and Kapleshwar Temple, the largest temple in Chennai. (B)

Day 3: Mahabalipuram

Depart this morning for Mahabalipuram, a drive of around 3 hours. Travel via Kanchipuram, one of the seven most sacred cities in Hinduism.

Dating from the 2nd Century BC, successive dynasties built hundreds of temples, giving rise to the name 'Golden City of 1000 Temples'. The city is also famed for its silk weavers and you can see artisans at work in their homes. (B)

Day 4: Mahabalipuram

Today, visit the Mahabalipuram temple complex. Carved from living rock and shaped by the imagination of master artisans under the Pallava rulers, this open-air museum along the coast is a breathtaking tribute to Tamil artistry. Scattered across the landscape are remarkable 7th-century wonders—cave temples, a vast bas-relief bringing the Mahabharata to life, and a stunning cluster of chariot-shaped shrines. At the heart of it all stands the Shore Temple, rising above the sea—a UNESCO World Heritage Site and an enduring symbol of ancient brilliance. (B)

Day 5: Puducherry

The destination today is Puducherry. Once a French trading post, its influence is still vividly felt in the elegant architecture of the French Quarter, with pastel-hued villas, shaded boulevards, and charming cafés that line the promenade overlooking the Bay of Bengal. But Puducherry is more than its colonial past. It pulses with the rhythm of Tamil culture—colourful markets, ancient temples,

and traditional festivals sit alongside European influences, creating a truly unique atmosphere. Visit Auroville City, a visionary community dedicated to unity and conscious living, and Sri Aurobindo Ashram. (B)

Day 6: Puducherry

Today visit Gangaikondacholapuram Temple, an architectural wonder. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was built in 1035BC and is dedicated to Shiva. It's regarded as one of the 3 great monuments of Chola civilisation. (B)

Day 7: Thanjavur

Lying between Trichy and the coast of Tamil Nadu, Thanjavur is a place to discover South Indian art, religion and architecture. Visit Rockfort, built on a rock said to be more than a billion years old, before reaching Amma Mandapam, the holy banks of the River Cauvery and the Sri Ranganathaswamy Temple. (B)

Day 8: Madurai

Madurai is one of the oldest cities in India, a thriving metropolis that once traded with ancient Rome. Explore the Thirumalai Nayaka Palace, before an evening experience to witness the 'going to bed' ceremony, where an icon of Sundareswarar (Shiva) is carried from to Meenakshi's shrine for the night. (B)

Day 9: Madurai

Start your day at the flower market before moving onto the magnificent Meenakshi Temple, a profound structure that is regarded as one of India's greatest temples. You'll also explore the Ghandi Memorial Museum, an impressive and moving account of Ghandi's life and India's struggle for independence. (B)

Day 10: Munnar

This beautiful hill station sits in the mountainous Western Ghats and was a popular retreat for the British Raj seeking respite from the brutal summer heat. Discover the Lockhart Tea Estate, 1600 acres of tea plantations weaving across the slopes of the Chokarmudy Hills. Dating from 1857, this is one of the oldest establishments still following traditional methods of tea processing. (B)

Day 11: Munnar

Embark on the Letchmi Hills trek. One of the easier treks in the Munnar hills, this walk offers a wonderful opportunity to discover the natural beauty of the Southern Western Ghats. (B)

Day 12: Thekkady

Home to the Periyar National Park, Thekkady is known for its savannah grasslands, lush forests and its abundance of natural spices that are so evocative of India.

This evening take to the waters of Periyar Lake for a boat ride, during March to May other water reserves dry up and you may spot wildlife such as elephants coming to the lake to drink. (B)

Day 13: Kerala Backwaters

On arrival in Alleppey, board your houseboat for a memorable overnight experience. These beautifully designed boats are traditionally crafted from jackfruit tree wood, coconut fibre and bamboo yet have all the creature comforts including air conditioning. Each houseboat has 3 members of crew, a chef, driver, and cabin assistant to ensure your stay is as welcoming and comfortable as possible. (AI)

Day 14: Kochi

From Alleppey move on to Kochi. In the late afternoon, enjoy a performance of Kathakali, Kerala's centuries-old pantomimic dance-drama. (B)

Day 15: Kochi

Today, travel to a traditional Keralan village. Reflecting daily life in the village, the tour ebbs and flows to keep the best interests of guests and locals to the forefront. Afterwards enjoy a guided tour of the Fort Kochi area. (B)

Day 16: Depart

Your driver will take you to the airport for your onward flight.



Kerala



Kochi



Mahabalipuram



Chennai Central

Highlights of Nepal and Bhutan

13 days

Experience the enchanting spirit of the Himalayas on this unforgettable journey through Nepal and Bhutan. Discover the timeless charm of Thimphu and the serene beauty of Phobjikha and Gangtey. Marvel at Punakha’s riverside splendour, explore the hidden Haa Valley, and uncover Paro’s sacred treasures. In Nepal, wander the medieval streets of Bhaktapur, soak in the tranquillity of Namobuddha, and embrace the vibrant culture of Kathmandu. This is a journey of stunning landscapes, deep spirituality, and rich traditions.

Highlights

Thimpu – Phobjikha – Gangtey
Punakha Valley – Haa Valley – Paro
Bhaktapur – Kathmandu

Tour Includes

- 12 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast
- 9 lunches and 9 dinners
- All sightseeing and entrance fees
- English speaking guide
- Private air-conditioned transport and driver throughout

Departure Dates

Daily

Day 1: Thimphu

Upon arrival in Paro, a private transfer will take you to the capital, Thimphu. Surrounded by terraced fields and forested hills, Thimphu is a charming blend of old-world culture and modern life. After settling in, enjoy a serene introduction to the spirit of Bhutan with a private talk on Buddhism, offering insight into the country’s deeply rooted spiritual traditions.

Day 2: Discover Thimphu

Begin your day with a guided exploration of Thimphu’s most treasured sites. Visit the iconic Memorial Chorten, built in memory of Bhutan’s revered third king, and the massive golden Buddha Dordenma, offering panoramic views over the valley. A scenic hike from Buddha Point to Changangkha Lhakhang takes you through whispering pine forests and offers a deeper connection to the natural beauty of the region. Continue your cultural journey at the Institute for Zorig Chusum, where students master Bhutan’s thirteen traditional arts, and the Textile Museum, a tribute to the country’s rich weaving heritage. Conclude the day with a visit to the majestic Trashichhoedzong, Bhutan’s seat of religion and governance. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Over the Mountain Pass to Phobjikha

After an early breakfast, travel east toward the beautiful Phobjikha Valley. En route, stop at the stunning Dochula Pass (3,140m), where 108 chortens commemorate Bhutanese soldiers lost in battle, and enjoy sweeping views of the eastern Himalayas. Crossing through changing landscapes, you’ll reach the tranquil glacial valley of Phobjikha—winter home of the rare black-necked crane. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Gangtey

This morning, visit the Gangtey Monastery, the spiritual heart of the valley and centrepiece of the annual Black-Necked Crane Festival. Afterwards, embark on the scenic Gangtey Nature Trail, a gentle hike through pine forests and charming villages, with spectacular valley views. In the afternoon, learn about the region’s conservation efforts at the Black-Necked Crane Information Centre. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Punakha

Depart for Punakha, stopping en route for a short hike to the renowned Chimi Lhakhang, the fertility temple dedicated to the eccentric 15th-century saint, Drukpa Kuenley. On arrival in Punakha, visit the breathtaking Punakha Dzong, an architectural masterpiece at the confluence of two rivers. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Punakha Valley

Today, immerse yourself in Bhutanese culture at the vibrant Punakha Festival, held at the magnificent Punakha Dzong. Later, enjoy a short countryside walk to Khamsum Yuelley Namgyel Chorten, a stunning hilltop monument offering breathtaking views over the Mo Chhu river and distant Himalayan peaks. In the afternoon, visit a local farmhouse to learn Bhutanese crafts, butter and cheese making, and enjoy a home-cooked dinner featuring local delicacies like Ema Datshi. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Haa Valley via Lhakhang Karpo & Nagpo

Travel through scenic valleys to the quiet and mystical Haa region. Stop to explore Lhakhang Karpo (White Temple) and Lhakhang Nagpo (Black Temple), two ancient monasteries dating back to the 7th century. Arrive in Haa and enjoy the tranquillity of this hidden valley, set against a backdrop of dramatic mountains and alpine forests. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Haa Panorama Trail & Chele La Pass to Paro

Embark on the Haa Panorama Trail, a revitalised ancient route that winds past pine forests, remote monasteries, and panoramic viewpoints across the Haa Valley. After lunch, journey to Paro via the spectacular Chele La Pass, Bhutan’s highest road point.

There is the option to take a short hike to Kila Nunnery, perched dramatically on the cliffs below the pass. Arrive in Paro late afternoon and unwind in this beautiful Himalayan town. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Paro – Taktsang Monastery (Tiger’s Nest)

This morning, embark on an unforgettable hike through fragrant pine forests and colourful prayer flags to the iconic Taktsang Monastery, known as Tiger’s Nest. Perched dramatically on a cliffside, this sacred site offers breathtaking valley views and deep spiritual resonance. According to legend, Guru Rinpoche flew here on a tigress to meditate. After the hike, enjoy the rest of the day at leisure, perhaps soaking in the serene natural surroundings of Paro. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Bhaktapur

Fly to Nepal and head straight into the cultural heart of the Kathmandu Valley—Bhaktapur. Stroll cobbled lanes and bustling squares, where artisans shape clay, carve wood, and weave cloth just as they have for centuries. Visit medieval marvels like Nyatapola Temple and the Golden Gate. Try your hand at traditional pottery, explore a handmade paper workshop, and end the day with a taste of Bhaktapur’s legendary sweet curd, Juju Dhau. (B)

Day 11: Namobuddha & Panauti

Today, journey into the serene hills of Namobuddha, one of Nepal’s most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites. Soak up the peaceful atmosphere and sweeping Himalayan views. Later, visit the charming heritage town of Panauti—rich in medieval architecture and spiritual tradition. Wander cobbled streets, visit ancient temples, and experience local life in one of the best-preserved towns in the Kathmandu Valley. (B)

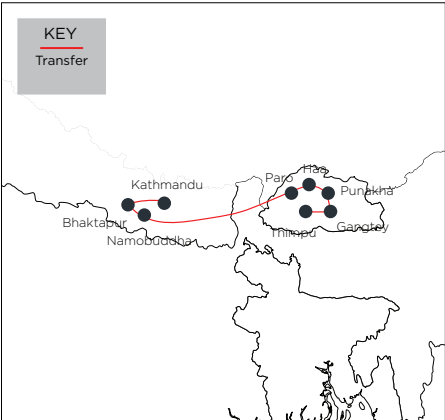
Day 12: Kathmandu

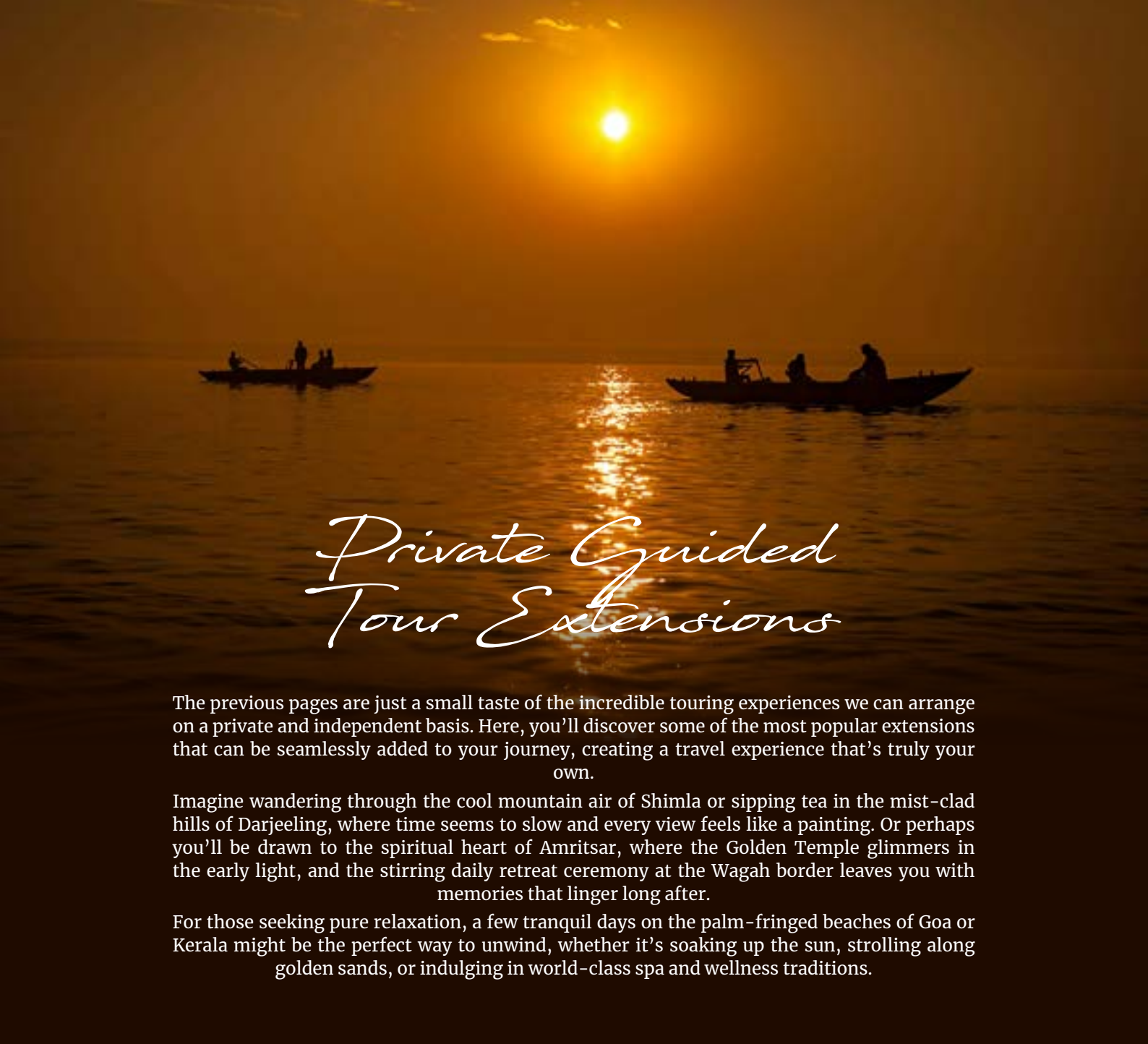
Today is a journey into Kathmandu’s vibrant spiritual and cultural heart. Begin at the ancient Kathmandu Durbar Square, once home to Nepal’s royalty and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site brimming with palaces, temples, and courtyards. Visit the sacred Pashupatinath Temple, where the faithful gather beside the Bagmati River. Later, walk in serene prayer alongside monks at the majestic Boudhanath Stupa, one of the world’s largest, before enjoying a traditional dinner with local music and dance. (B)

Day 13: Departure

Enjoy a relaxed breakfast before transferring to Kathmandu Airport for your onward journey. Take with you the peace, colour, and spirit of Nepal’s unforgettable cultural tapestry. (B)

Individual tours of Nepal and Bhutan are also available. Please see pages 84 & 85 for details.





Private Guided Tour Extensions

The previous pages are just a small taste of the incredible touring experiences we can arrange on a private and independent basis. Here, you'll discover some of the most popular extensions that can be seamlessly added to your journey, creating a travel experience that's truly your own.

Imagine wandering through the cool mountain air of Shimla or sipping tea in the mist-clad hills of Darjeeling, where time seems to slow and every view feels like a painting. Or perhaps you'll be drawn to the spiritual heart of Amritsar, where the Golden Temple glimmers in the early light, and the stirring daily retreat ceremony at the Wagah border leaves you with memories that linger long after.

For those seeking pure relaxation, a few tranquil days on the palm-fringed beaches of Goa or Kerala might be the perfect way to unwind, whether it's soaking up the sun, strolling along golden sands, or indulging in world-class spa and wellness traditions.



Shimla, 5 days

Day 1: Shimla

On arrival at Chandigarh airport your driver will meet you for the 3 ½ hour drive to Shimla. The rest of your day is free to explore.

Day 2: Shimla

After breakfast depart for a ride aboard the iconic narrow-gauge Himalayan Queen toy train from Shimla to Tara Devi. Today also includes a tour of Shimla covering the Vice Regal Lodge, once the seat of power here, Scandal Point, for it's scenic views and Mall Road, the heart of Shimla. (B)

Day 3: Shimla

Today is free for you to explore at your own pace, or we can assist with additional touring experiences. (B)

Day 4: Delhi

This morning transfer to the railway station in Chandigarh for the Vande Bharat train to Delhi. (B)

Day 5: Departure

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)



Darjeeling, 5 days

Day 1: Darjeeling

On arrival at Bagdogra airport you will be met and transferred to your hotel for the next 3 nights, the Glenburn Tea Estate. (D)

Day 2: Darjeeling

Embark on a day of sightseeing which includes a toy train ride to Ghoom Monastery and the Tibetan Refugee Centre. Afterwards return to your hotel. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Darjeeling

Today is free for you to relax and enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Glenburn Tea Estate. The hotel offers tea experiences, hiking trails and cooking classes, or perhaps just opt for a massage treatment in the mini spa. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Delhi

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Delhi. (B)

Day 5: Departure

A transfer will be provided to the airport for your onward flight. (B).

Varanasi, 4 days

Day 1: Varanasi

On arrival in Varanasi your driver will meet you and transfer you to your hotel. This evening witness the nightly Ganga Aarti, an unforgettable evening ritual, where priests perform ceremonies with flaming lamps, incense, and sacred chants on the banks of the holy Ganges.

Day 2: Varanasi

See river life at dawn as you head out on a morning boat trip on the Ganges. Return to your hotel for breakfast before a tour to Sarnath, one of the most important Buddhist pilgrimage sites in India. (B)

Day 3: Delhi

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Delhi. (B)

Day 4: Departure

A transfer will be provided to the airport for your onward flight. (B).



Goa, 4 days

Day 1: Varca

On arrival in Goa you will be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2 & 3: Varca

Tucked away on Goa's sun-kissed west coast, the village of Varca offers a peaceful alternative to the state's better-known party hotspots. Here, life moves at a gentler pace, with golden sands, swaying palms, and the charm of a traditional fishing community setting the scene. Varca Beach stretches for an impressive 27 kilometres and remains blissfully quiet, making it ideal for travellers in search of solitude and relaxation.

Away from the shoreline, you'll find leafy countryside trails perfect for walks and picnics, while the nearby villages of Benaulim and Cavelossim add a dash of variety with their inviting shops, markets, and dining options. Easily accessible from Goa's Dabolim airport, Varca offers just a handful of carefully maintained hotels, ensuring a stay that feels both exclusive and unhurried, perfect for those who wish to experience Goa at its most serene. (B)

Day 4: Departure

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)

Rail

HISTORY, LANDSCAPES AND EVERYDAY LIFE FLOWING PAST THE WINDOW

India boasts one of the most extensive railway networks in the world, covering more than 41,000 miles. Whilst the thought of travelling by rail might be daunting, it's an immersive way to explore and the fast, express trains are a convenient and easy way to travel between cities.



Premium Express Services

Offering a swift and efficient way to travel between key cities, these semi-high speed trains are a good option. The most popular are:

Gatimaan Express – Delhi to Agra – approximately 2 hours. Travel with a pre-booked seat in an air conditioned carriage.

Our guides will escort you onto the train and meet you at the other end. It's also possible to arrange a luggage transfer to your onward destination so that you only travel with hand luggage.

Vande Bharat Express – Delhi to Varanasi – approximately 8 hours

Tejas Express – Mumbai to Goa – approximately 11 hours

The metro systems in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata are an efficient means of city travel, although rush hour is best avoided.



Toy Trains

The hill railways or 'toy trains' offer a nostalgic way of travel on the narrow-gauge railways of the mountains.

Darjeeling – Himalayan Railway – A UNESCO World Heritage Site, where the narrow-gauge railway winds through the Himalayan foothills and tea gardens.

Nilgiri Mountain Railway – A scenic ride from Mettupalayam to Ooty, through verdant forest and curving hairpin bends.

Kalka-Shimla Railway – Renowned for its engineering feat, numerous tunnels, bridges and breathtaking Himalayan views. The whole journey takes around 5 hours.

Luxury Trains

Travelling by luxury train takes the strain out of travelling. Settle back as the Indian landscapes pass by your window. Enjoy superb dining, excellent service, comfortable cabins and expertly guided experiences at each stop en route.



Deccan Odyssey

The Deccan Odyssey travels through the heart of western and central India, connecting some of the country's most fascinating destinations. Typical itineraries include Mumbai, the Ajanta and Ellora caves, the grand forts of Rajasthan, Udaipur, and Pune. Onboard, passengers enjoy comfortable air-conditioned cabins, panoramic windows, and freshly prepared meals, while each stop features guided excursions, giving a relaxed and immersive way to experience India's rich culture, heritage, and landscapes.



Maharajas' Express

The Maharajas' Express is one of India's most celebrated luxury trains, offering journeys through Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh. Typical itineraries include Jaipur, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Agra, and Delhi, with stops at palaces, forts, and the Taj Mahal. Onboard, passengers travel in elegantly appointed cabins, enjoy fine dining, and take in the passing landscapes through large panoramic windows. The train combines comfort and elegance with carefully planned visits to India's most iconic landmarks.

A Cultural Odyssey

11 days

Step aboard the luxurious Deccan Odyssey and journey through the heart of India in style. This elegant train offers a unique way to explore the country’s rich heritage, vibrant cities, and sacred sites. From tiger-spotting in Ranthambore to the royal splendour of Jaipur, the timeless beauty of the Taj Mahal in Agra, and the spiritual allure of Varanasi, Khajuraho and Orchha, each destination reveals a new chapter in India’s captivating story. End with 2 nights in magical Amritsar.

Highlights
Deccan Odyssey – Ranthambore National Park – Jaipur – Taj Mahal – Varanasi
Khajuraho – Orchha – Amritsar

- Tour Includes**
- 1 night accommodation in Delhi
 - 2 nights' accommodation in Amritsar
 - 7 nights onboard the Deccan Odyssey Train with all meals and soft drinks included
 - Private arrival and departure transfers in Delhi and Amritsar
 - All guided off train experiences and game drives as stated

Departure Dates
March-April and November-December

Day 1: Delhi
On arrival in Delhi you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 2: Deccan Odyssey
Depart this evening aboard the Deccan Odyssey, for the overnight journey to the Ranthambore National Park.

Day 3: Ranthambore National Park
Discover the wild beauty of Ranthambore National Park. This renowned reserve offers a chance to spot majestic Bengal tigers amidst lush forests and ancient ruins.

Day 4: Jaipur
Explore Jaipur’s rich heritage with guided tours of the magnificent Amber Fort and the grand City Palace. Marvel at the stunning architecture, intricate frescoes, and royal courtyards that showcase Rajasthan’s regal past. This immersive experience offers a fascinating glimpse into the lives of the maharajas in the Pink City.

Day 5: Agra
Experience the timeless beauty of Agra with visits to the iconic Taj Mahal, a masterpiece of love in white marble, and the impressive Agra Fort.

Day 6: Varanasi
Regarded as the ‘cradle of mankind’, Varanasi is the oldest living city on earth. Explore with a guided tour this morning, and an evening boat trip on the Ganges.

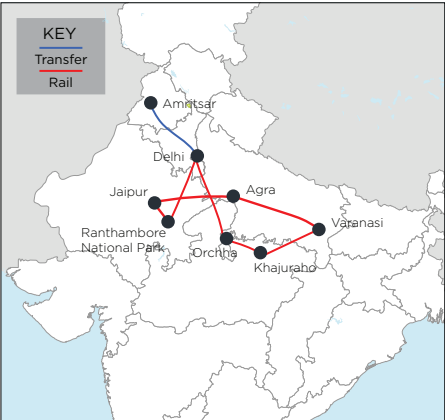
Day 7: Khajuraho
Discover the UNESCO World Heritage-listed temples of Khajuraho, renowned for their exquisite carvings and intricate detail. The temples offer a captivating glimpse into India’s architectural brilliance from a bygone era.

Day 8: Orchha
Step back in time with a visit to Orchha, a hidden gem steeped in history. Explore the majestic Orchha Fort and enjoy a charming tuk tuk ride through the village.

Day 9: Delhi – Amritsar
Arrive in Delhi this morning, a private transfer will take you to the airport for your flight to Amritsar. The remainder of your day is free.

Day 10: Amritsar
Embark on a guided walk of the city which will introduce you to its history, heritage and culture whilst wandering the colourful alleyways and markets.

Day 11: Departure
Return to the airport for your onward flight.



Indian Splendours

11 days

Step aboard the Maharajas’ Express for an unforgettable journey from Delhi to Mumbai. Experience India in regal style as you explore the majestic Taj Mahal in Agra, spot tigers in Ranthambore, and wander Jaipur’s royal palaces. Discover the desert charm of Bikaner, the grandeur of Jodhpur, and the lakeside beauty of Udaipur. With impeccable service and immersive experiences throughout, this is a memorable journey through India’s rich heritage and vibrant culture.

Highlights
Delhi – Maharajas Express – Agra
Taj Mahal – Ranthambore National Park
Jaipur – Bikaner – Jodhpur – Udaipur
Mumbai

- Tour Includes**
- 2 nights' accommodation in Delhi
 - 2 nights' accommodation in Mumbai
 - 6 nights aboard the Maharajas' Express with all meals, soft drinks, selected alcoholic beverages and butler service
 - Private transfers in Delhi and Mumbai
 - Private guided tours in Delhi and Mumbai as stated
 - All sightseeing and touring on the Maharajas’ Express as stated

Departure Dates
Weekly on Sunday from October to March

Day 1 & 2: Delhi
On arrival in Delhi transfer to your hotel for a 2 night stay. On day 2 embark on a fascinating tour of Delhi. Travel by eco-rickshaw, soak in the colours of Chandni Chowk, and sample local street food. Highlights include Jama Masjid, and the striking Qutub Minar.

Day 3: Agra
Transfer to the station for departure to Agra. On arrival enjoy a guided tour of the Taj Mahal, regarded as one of the 7 wonders of the world.

Day 4: Ranthambore National Park
Explore Agra Fort before departing for Ranthambore National Park. An afternoon game safari will seek out the legendary tigers, and incredible array of birdlife and other wildlife.

Day 5: Jaipur
Today, explore the Amber Fort, one of Jaipur’s most iconic landmarks. Built in the 16th century, the fort blends Rajput and Mughal architecture.

Day 6: Bikaner
Enjoy optional activities this morning before an afternoon tour of the Junagarh Fort. Afterwards enjoy sundowners in the sand dunes with a barbeque dinner and traditional folk dancing.

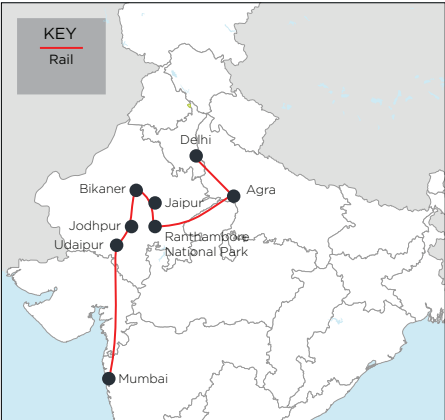
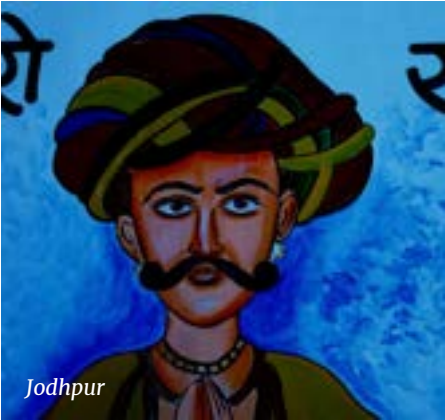
Day 7: Jodhpur
After lunch discover the Mehrangarh Fort, enjoy a tuk tuk ride and a walking tour of the Old Clock Tower Market.

Day 8: Udaipur
Depart for a tranquil cruise on Lake Pichola, followed by a guided tour of the City Palace and Crystal Gallery.

Day 9: Mumbai
The Maharajas’ Express arrives into Mumbai late afternoon. On arrival transfer to your hotel.

Day 10: Mumbai
Your local guide will meet you this morning for a tour to explore the charms and secrets of India’s largest city. The Five Senses Tour of Mumbai, as the name suggests, evokes all the senses.

Day 11: Departure
A private transfer will take you to the airport for your onward flight.



River Cruises

LIVING WATERWAYS, TIMELESS LANDSCAPES, WHERE
RURAL LIFE EBBS AND FLOWS WITH THE TIDE

Step aboard and follow the waters that have shaped India for centuries. On the Ganges, witness life as it has flowed for millennia, pilgrims at dawn, ancient temples rising from the riverbanks, and bustling towns alive with colour and ritual. Every bend tells a story, every ghatside moment a glimpse into a life lived simply. Further east, the mighty Brahmaputra winds through lush landscapes and remote villages, where misty mornings and vast wetlands reveal a wilder, untouched India.

Assam Bengal Navigation

Assam Bengal Navigation offers a unique way to explore the waterways of India, combining comfort, style, and cultural immersion. Established with a focus on river travel, the company operates a fleet of boutique vessels designed to navigate the tranquil rivers of the Brahmaputra and the Ganges. Each ship is crafted to balance modern amenities with classic elegance, featuring spacious cabins, open decks, and panoramic lounges that allow uninterrupted views of the passing landscape. Days on board are leisurely, with opportunities to watch traditional riverside life, spot abundant wildlife, or enjoy guided excursions to local villages and historic sites. Mealtimes highlight regional cuisine, while the relaxed pace of river cruising offers a rare perspective on India's vibrant culture and lush landscapes.



Brahmaputra River Cruises

Named after the Assam Dispatch Service, the mail and passenger service that used to travel from Kolkata to Dibrugarh, the cruises along the Brahmaputra take guests to many places almost inaccessible otherwise. Choose from 3, 4, 7 and 10 night cruises that operate between October and April.



Ganges River Cruises

Sailing on the Ganges and the Lower Ganges (the Hooghly) gives you the chance to see life lived as it has been for generations on the riverbanks. This is a little known and culturally fascinating part of India. Ganges River cruises range from 3 – 11 nights between August and April. Lower Ganges cruises operate all year round.



ABN Charaidew I

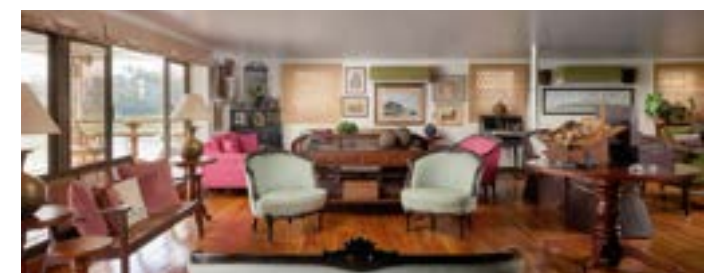
This heritage vessel from the 1970s has been completely renovated to offer tasteful riverside living. 12 ensuite cabins are found on the upper deck along with the bar and salon. The dining room with full length opening glass doors on either side is on the lower deck. A large top sun deck has comfy seating in shade or sun.



ABN Sukapha

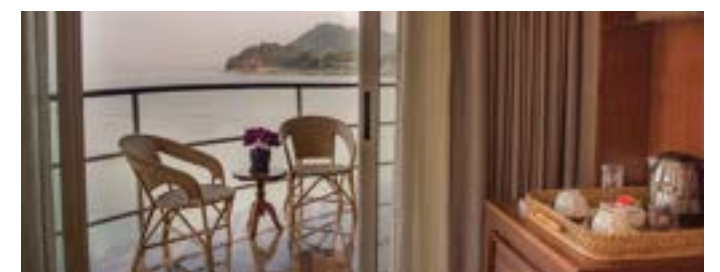
Designed to navigate the mighty waters of the Brahmaputra, the 12 ensuite cabins on this vessel are all on the upper deck, they also feature large sliding windows for superb panoramic views. The dining room is on the main deck, there's also a saloon, library and spa.

All vessels are air-conditioned.



ABN Rajmahal

The extra shallow draught of this vessel allows her to sail further upstream than most. 22 ensuite cabins are stylish and modern with Indian inspired design and hand blocked printed fabrics. There's a comfortable saloon and bar, dining room and huge sundeck. ABND Rajmahal also has a small spa.



ABN Charaidew II

The ABN Charaidew II is the newest vessel in the fleet and features 18 ensuite cabins, including 2 deluxe cabins with private balconies. There's a comfortable saloon, bar and dining room along with a library, open sundeck, gym and a small spa.

Rhinos & More

11 days

Explore the lesser-known wonders of Northeast India with a cruise along the mighty Brahmaputra River, travelling from Guwahati to Silghat. Discover a land of rich culture, ancient temples, breathtaking natural beauty, and the chance to spot rhinos, all from the comfort of your river vessel. Along the way, explore remote villages, wildlife-rich shores and timeless landscapes unique to Assam. This cruise is aboard the ABN Charaidew II or the ABN Sukapha.

Highlights

Kolkata - Brahmaputra River Cruise

Tour Includes

- 3 nights’ accommodation in Kolkata
- Private transfers, driver and guide in Kolkata
- 7 night river cruise with daily breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Shared sightseeing from the ship as stated

Departure Dates

November–April

Day 1: Kolkata

On arrival in Kolkata, transfer to your hotel for a 2 night stay.

Day 2: Kolkata

Your private guide will take you on a tour today which follows in the footsteps of the Raj, and is the perfect introduction to what was once the capital of the British Empire in India.

Day 3: Brahmaputra River Cruise

Transfer to Kolkata airport for your flight to Guwahati. On arrival, board your cruise vessel and sail to Sualkuchi. Explore weaving workshops showcasing the silk-making process.

Day 4: Brahmaputra River Cruise

This morning, travel up Nilachal Hill to visit the revered Kamakhya Temple. Later, visit the moving Commonwealth War Graves cemetery.

Day 5: Brahmaputra River Cruise

Spend the day relaxing and watching rural life unfold along the riverbanks. Later, enjoy an Indian cooking demonstration onboard.

Day 6: Brahmaputra River Cruise

This morning, cruise towards the town of Tezpur. After lunch, visit the remarkable 6th-century ruins of Da Parbatia and enjoy a cycle rickshaw tour.

Day 7: Brahmaputra River Cruise

Travel to Nameri National Park for a peaceful float trip down the Jia-Bhoreli River, with excellent birdwatching and a chance to spot wild elephants.

Day 8: Brahmaputra River Cruise

Embark on a thrilling morning jeep safari through Kaziranga’s Central Range, renowned for its rich wildlife. After lunch, set out for the lesser-explored Burapahar Range.

Day 9: Brahmaputra River Cruise

Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is famed for its Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros. The marshes and grasslands also shelter elephants, bison, swamp deer, and rare primates.

Day 10: Brahmaputra River Cruise

Visit a local tea garden followed by the bustling weekly market of Uloni. This afternoon, head to Kaziranga’s Western (Bagori) Range for a jeep safari.

Day 11: Kolkata

Disembark and transfer for your onward flight to Kolkata. On arrival transfer to your hotel.

Day 11: Kolkata

Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.



Kamakhya Temple



Kaziranga



Kolkata



Sualkuchi

The Historic Hooghly

16 days

Discover the timeless beauty and rich heritage of eastern India on a river cruise along the Lower Ganges, from vibrant Kolkata to historic Farakka. Sail through a landscape dotted with ancient temples, colonial towns, and riverside villages steeped in tradition and soak in the serene rhythms of rural life along the Ganges. End with time in the spectacular Darjeeling hill country.

Highlights

Kolkata - Barrackpore - Chandernagore
Kalna - Mayapur - Matuari - Khushbagh
Baranagar - Gaur

Tour Includes

- 3 nights’ accommodation in Kolkata
- 4 nights’ accommodation at Glenburn Tea Estate with breakfast
- Private transfers, driver, and guide in Kolkata and Darjeeling
- 7-night river cruise with daily breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- Shared sightseeing from the ship as stated
- Sightseeing in Darjeeling at stated
- Domestic flights between Kolkata and Bagdroga

Departure Dates

November–April
Cruises are available up and downstream.

Day 1: Kolkata

On arrival in Kolkata transfer to your hotel for a 2-night stay.

Day 2: Kolkata

A private tour allows you to follow in the footsteps of the Raj, in what was once the capital of the British Empire in India.

Day 3: ABN Rajmahal

Transfer to the dock for embarkation. Cruise past the historic Danish colony of Serampore to Barrackpore, and Chandernagore.

Day 4: ABN Rajmahal

Visit an 18th-century church and Dupleix Palace, and explore Hooghly’s majestic Imambara.

Day 5: ABN Rajmahal

Explore Kalna by rickshaw, and discover traditional muslin weaving before a visit to the global headquarters of the Hare Krishna movement.

Day 6: ABN Rajmahal

This morning visit the charming riverside village of Matuari and the battlefield of Plassey.

Day 7: ABN Rajmahal

Explore Khushbagh, a serene Mughal-style garden, the grand Hazarduari Palace, and Katgola Palace.

Day 8: ABN Rajmahal

This morning discover the delightfully sleepy village of Baranagar. This is rural India at its most idyllic.

Day 9: ABN Rajmahal

Discover Gaur, a quiet, deserted place that was once one of India’s great cities.

Day 10: Kolkata

Disembark this morning and transfer for the train journey to Kolkata (approx. 4 hours). On arrival transfer to your hotel.

Day 11: Darjeeling

Depart for Bagdroga, from here you’ll be transferred to the Glenburn Tea Estate, a beautiful estate with old-fashioned elegance.

Day 12: Darjeeling

Enjoy a sightseeing tour which includes a toy train ride to Ghoom Monastery and the Tibetan Refugee Self Help Centre.

Day 13 & 14: Darjeeling

The next 2 days are free to enjoy Glenburn Tea Estate. Optional activities include hiking, tea plantation experiences and cookery classes.

Day 15: Kolkata

Return to Kolkata, on arrival transfer to your hotel.

Day 16: Departure

A private transfer will take you the airport for your departure flight.



Kalna



Gaur



Kolkata



Hooghly

Tiger Reserves

A LIVING JUNGLE BOOK, TIGERS ROAM FREELY AND
EVERY TRACK TELLS A STORY

India is home to some of the world's most spectacular tiger reserves, where dense forests, winding rivers, waterholes and sun-dappled grasslands shelter the elusive "big cat" in all its power and grace. From the famous Ranthambore to Bandhavgarh, Pench and Kanha in the heart of India, each reserve offers a glimpse into a wild world that few experience firsthand.



Ranthambore National Park



Ranthambore National Park

Ranthambore National Park, located in Rajasthan, spans over 1,300 square kilometres and is one of the country's most renowned tiger reserves. Originally established as the Sawai Madhopur Game Sanctuary in 1955, it was declared a national park in 1980 and later became part of Project Tiger, a major conservation effort launched to protect the Bengal tiger. The park also holds historical significance with the Ranthambore Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, situated within its boundaries. Rich in biodiversity, Ranthambore is home to tigers, leopards, sloth bears, striped hyenas, marsh crocodiles, and over 300 species of birds. Its dry deciduous forests and lakes support a wide range of flora and fauna. Conservation initiatives continue to focus on protecting endangered species and balancing tourism with wildlife preservation.



Kanha National Park

Madhya Pradesh is blessed with tiger parks and the Kanha National Park is one of the largest and most well-managed parks in India. Established in 1955 and brought under Project Tiger in 1973, it has played a key role in the revival of the barasingha, or swamp deer, which is now the state animal of Madhya Pradesh. The park's terrain consists of meadows, dense Sal and bamboo forests, and river valleys, providing habitat for Bengal tigers, leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, gaur, and over 300 bird species. Conservation strategies here emphasise grassland management, anti-poaching patrols, and community engagement, making it a critical area for protecting central India's wildlife and ecological balance.



Bandhavgarh National Park

Bandhavgarh National Park in Madhya Pradesh is widely recognised for having one of the highest densities of Bengal tigers in India. Spread across roughly 450 square kilometres, it became a national park in 1968 and was incorporated into Project Tiger in 1993. The landscape is a mix of grasslands, Sal forests, and bamboo groves, supporting leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, jackals, and more than 250 bird species. Historically, Bandhavgarh served as the hunting grounds of the Rewa rulers, and the ancient Bandhavgarh Fort which dates back over 2,000 years adds an archaeological dimension to the reserve. Today, conservation measures focus on habitat protection, anti-poaching initiatives, and minimising conflict between wildlife and surrounding communities, making the park a significant stronghold for tiger conservation and broader biodiversity in central India.



Pench National Park

Pench is the third park in the trio of Madhya Pradesh's tiger reserves and sees fewer tourists than the others. Unlike the other reserves Pench is primarily teak wood forests so has a different feel to Kanha and Bandhavgarh. The park takes its name from the Pench River that flows through the forests and sustains its rich eco systems. First protected as a sanctuary in 1965, it was declared a national park in 1975 and later included in the national network of tiger reserves in 1992 under Project Tiger. This diverse terrain supports Bengal tigers, leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, jackals, hyenas, and large herbivores such as gaur, sambar, chital, and nilgai. Pench is also closely linked to literature, as it said to have inspired Rudyard Kipling's depiction of the jungle in *The Jungle Book*.

What to Expect

Morning safaris begin before dawn, with a hot drink at your hotel before boarding your jeep. We usually recommend a private jeep which are open top and seat 2-4 guests plus your driver and naturalist. If you're on safari as part of an escorted group tour you may be in a 'canter' larger open safari vehicle which seats between 12 and 20 people. Drives last around 3 hours and your guide will use their knowledge to seek out the wildlife. You'll then return to your lodge or hotel where breakfast is waiting. The day is yours to enjoy before heading out on a late afternoon drive, as the temperature drops. *Central India National Parks are closed between July-15 October and Wednesday afternoons October-June and Ranthambore National Park is closed between July-September.*

Northern India

HIMALAYAN PEAKS AND DARJEELING TEA

Northern India is a land of breathtaking contrasts, where snow-capped Himalayan peaks give way to sprawling plains, and bustling cities sit alongside centuries-old forts and temples. From the regal palaces of Jaipur and Udaipur to the spiritual heart of Varanasi, Delhi's vibrant streets to the serenity of Rishikesh and Dharamshala. Capture the essence of unique wildlife in Ranthambore, every destination offers a glimpse into India's rich tapestry of history, culture, and natural beauty.



Amber Fort, Jaipur



Delhi

Delhi is a city that beats to its own unique rhythm. Hugely historic and a place where old and new collide, its charms are myriad. From the Jama Masjid, the Red Fort and Qutab Minar to Old Delhi's mind-bending tangle of laneways where monkeys swing overhead, rickshaws navigate the narrow streets and tiny shopfronts sell spices, silks and jewels in every colour of the rainbow.



Jaipur

Gateway to Rajasthan, Jaipur is a kaleidoscope of colour and life. Terracotta buildings that glow pink in the sun, laneways named for the crafts they specialise in and traffic that weaves around camels, cows and the occasional elephant. Must-see sights include the City Place, Jantar Mantar – the royal observatory, the intricate honeycomb Hawa Mahal and, on a hilltop outside the city, the Amber Fort.



Ranthambore

Regarded as the best place in Rajasthan to spot the tigers, the Ranthambore National Park is a place of wild jungle scrubland, rocky outcrops and watering holes. Beyond tigers, it's home to leopards, sloth bears, hyenas and marsh crocodiles and is a bird-lovers' paradise. Cloistered high on a hilltop, the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Ranthambore Fort dates from the 10th century and offers timeless views.



Agra

Agra is home to the iconic Taj Mahal, a timeless symbol of love and one of the world's most beautiful landmarks. But the city's charm doesn't end there. Once the heart of the Mughal Empire, Agra is rich in history, with stunning architecture and cultural treasures which include the magnificent Agra Fort, an often-overlooked gem, regarded as one of the finest forts in India, that's not to be missed.



Udaipur

Often called the City of Lakes, this captivating destination is set against the backdrop of serene waters and the rugged Aravalli Hills. Its graceful palaces, intricate temples, and historic havelis speak to a rich and layered past. Wander through lively, colourful bazaars, explore a thriving arts scene, and discover heritage buildings that bring the city's unique character to life.



Shimla & Darjeeling

Shimla was once the summer capital of the British Raj and a popular haunt for those escaping the summer heat of the cities. Strung along a scenic ridge offering sweeping views of the Himalayan peaks, explore colonial architecture and enjoy scenic hikes in the cool mountain air. Darjeeling, in the eastern Himalayas, is famed for its mist-clad hills, tea plantations and the UNESCO World Heritage-Listed Toy Train.

Delhi



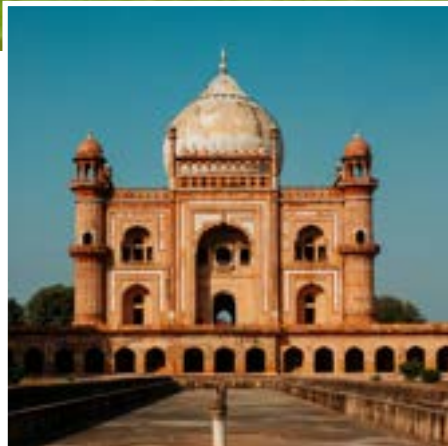
Flavours of Delhi

Delhi's street food is everywhere, especially in Old Delhi's Chandni Chowk's legendary paratha stalls, chaat counters and jalebi shops. Follow the crowds, stick to busy vendors where food is cooked freshly and sells fast, and temper spicy food with sweet or salty lassi.



Bazaar Treasures

Old Delhi's bazaars are a colourful and chaotic maze of sights, sounds and smells. Chandni Chowk is the most famous, with lanes dedicated to jewellery, textiles and spices. Kinari Bazaar dazzles with wedding trimmings, while Dariba Kalan is perfect for silverware and antiques. Carry cash, and be ready to haggle.



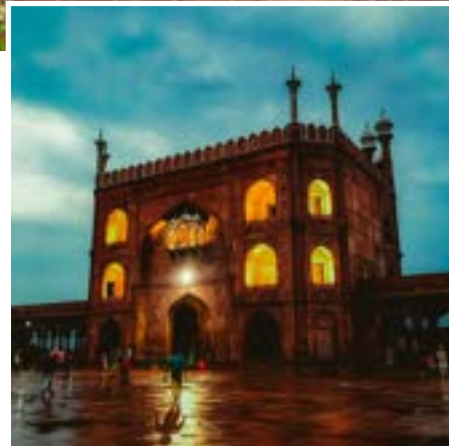
Echoes of Empires

Delhi's imperial history is written in its monuments. The imposing Red Fort still stands as Shah Jahan's majestic palace. Nearby, Jama Masjid towers over the old city with grand Mughal architecture. Humayun's Tomb inspired the Taj Mahal, while Qutub Minar recalls Delhi's earliest dynasties.



Tuk-Tuks and Traffic

Getting around Delhi is an adventure in itself. Tuk-tuks, cycle rickshaws, buses, cars, mopeds and occasional livestock weave through crowded streets, while the Metro offers a fast, air-conditioned escape. Traffic can be chaotic, so plan extra time, keep small change ready, and embrace the lively chaos of the city's roads.



Sacred Spaces

Old Delhi is home to some of the city's most iconic sacred spaces. Jama Masjid, one of India's largest mosques, welcomes visitors for prayers and panoramic rooftop views. Nearby Fatehpuri Masjid offers a quieter, historic experience whilst Gurdwara Bangla Sahib is tranquil, yet full of life.



Modern Pulse

Modern Delhi contrasts sharply with Old Delhi's narrow lanes. Wide boulevards, glass-fronted malls, trendy cafés, and art districts like Hauz Khas Village showcase the city's contemporary side. The Metro connects neighbourhoods efficiently, while cultural hubs, theatres, and modern restaurants offer a taste of urban India and Delhi's forward thinking future.

Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

Old Delhi Night Food Walk

Discover Delhi's rich culinary heritage on a sensory journey through history and flavour. Begin in Shahjahanabad, where the Mughal emperor Shahjehan, builder of the Taj Mahal, once lived. Visit a Sikh gurdwara to learn the role of the community kitchen before heading into Chandni Chowk, the heart of Old Delhi. Taste the iconic aloo tikki, a spiced potato patty with mint and tamarind, and paranthas, stuffed Indian flatbreads. Stroll past glittering jewellery lanes, then savour crispy samosas and syrupy jalebis. Explore the bustling spice and flower markets before sampling melt-in-the-mouth kebabs and rich butter chicken near Jama Masjid. Finally, cool down with creamy kulfi from a century-old shop. A feast for the senses, this walk offers the perfect introduction to Delhi's vibrant street food culture. Come hungry!

Departs: On demand
Duration: 2 hours

Old Delhi by Rickshaw

Experience Old Delhi by rickshaw, at a slower pace with an experienced and knowledgeable guide who will navigate through the colourful and chaotic bazaars, tiny lanes and past 17th century havelis which tell tales of the past. Discover bustling shop fronts packed with glittering jewellery and brightly coloured Indian fabrics. Visit a Sikh temple and Jama Masjid, the country's largest mosque, explore the explosion of colour and aromas at Khari Baoli, one of Asia's largest spice markets and sample delicious Delhi street food from some of the most popular street vendors in Old Delhi. This private experience has been curated by two Delhi-based women who are passionate about their city and the tour can be customised to your own interests.

Departs: On demand
Duration: 3 hours

Delhi Five Senses

Whilst Delhi has many treasures to behold, this tour focuses on the Old Quarter, the walled city of Shahjahanabad and some of the city's architectural marvels including the UNESCO World Heritage listed Humayun's Tomb. In between enjoy visits to a heritage craft workshop run by an all-women NGO, take a rickshaw ride that allows you to sit back, soak in the sights and sounds of Chandni Chowk and learn how to mix your own scent in a 200-year old ittar shop at a perfume making workshop. You'll then visit the Jama Masjid before heading out to the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara. Lunch is served in a contemporary Indian restaurant before returning to your hotel via some of Delhi's colonial highlights.

Departs: On demand
Duration: 6-7 hours

The Great Indian Wedding Tour

Discover the splendour of Indian weddings, where tradition, craftsmanship and celebration blend into one of the world's most colourful rituals. This immersive tour takes you through vibrant wedding markets, a melting pot of cultures where ancient customs meet modern trends. Visit design studios famed for their opulent bridal wear and learn about the symbolic colours, intricate weaves and the stories behind these unforgettable outfits. Experience the artistry of Indian textiles in a hands-on stitch and weave workshop, explore the deeper cultural significance of jewellery, shoes and other essentials. A Vedic astrologer awaits to reveal insights into your future, while lively conversations uncover the quirky rituals and customs of Indian weddings. End your journey wandering the lively bazaars, observing families preparing for their own joyous celebrations.

Departs: Monday – Saturday 10:30 and 15:00
Duration: 3½ hours



Colonel’s Retreat Homestay

Nestled in a verdant residential enclave of Defence Colony, Delhi, Colonel’s Retreat is a charming family-run homestay that combines a warm welcome with a central location. With just 16 individually styled bedrooms spread over 4 floors, it retains a true home-away-from-home ambience. Each level features a cosy lounge stocked with books, guidebooks and local photographs, while the roof terrace, with its city views, is perfect for relaxing over breakfast or afternoon tea with homemade banana bread. Mornings bring freshly baked multigrain breads, homemade jams and Indian-style breakfast canapés, with masala chai and coffee. Dinner and thalis can be arranged on request, often served al fresco under the stars. This friendly guest house is located within walking distance of Defence Colony Market and the closest metro is a 5 minute walk.

Location: New Delhi

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Claridges

Set in the leafy heart of New Delhi’s diplomatic enclave, The Claridges blends classic charm with warm Indian hospitality. Open since 1955, this popular hotel offers spacious, thoughtfully furnished rooms and suites that open onto gardens, courtyards or the inviting outdoor pool. Interiors reflect understated colonial elegance, with calm, uncluttered spaces, polished rosewood furnishings and a welcoming atmosphere. Dining is a highlight with 7 options to choose from. Enjoy traditional Indian cuisine at Dhaba, tapas under the stars at Sevilla, or all-day dining at the popular Pickwicks café. The breakfast buffet at Lutyens Deli is impressive. There’s also a patisserie, bar and well-equipped fitness centre. The Claridges offers a peaceful yet well-located base giving easy access to both Old and New Delhi, and the airport.

Location: New Delhi

Our rating: ★★★★★



Maidens Hotel

Nestled in the tranquil Civil Lines district, The Maidens Hotel is a stately heritage property that offers a graceful step back in time. Originally opened in 1903 to host dignitaries during the Delhi Durbar, it retains much of its colonial charm with wide verandas, lofty ceilings, vintage photographs and a serene garden setting. The 55 spacious rooms and suites feature classic furnishings, tall windows, and a blend of traditional design with modern comforts including air-conditioning. Dining options include the Curzon Room, known for its Indian cuisine and dishes favoured during the time of the British Raj, and The Garden Terrace, where you can dine under the shade of an ancient banyan tree. With an outdoor pool, fitness centre and peaceful atmosphere, The Maidens offers character, calm, and a touch of Old Delhi elegance.

Location: New Delhi

Our rating: ★★★★★



Le Méridien Gurgaon

This elegant and modern hotel is located in the dynamic business district of Gurgaon, on the leafy edge of Delhi with easy access to the international airport. Le Méridien Gurgaon offers a peaceful and stylish base for exploring the capital and beyond. Its 265 spacious rooms and suites feature contemporary design, warm tones, and large windows that frame city or forest views. Thoughtful details include super comfortable beds, spacious bathrooms, and complimentary Wi-Fi all ensuring a restful stay. There is a wide choice of dining with international favourites at Latest Recipe, indulge in Italian classics at Bella Cucina, and Indian dishes at QISSA. Or, unwind with cocktails at the chic Longitude bar. After a day of sightseeing, guests can relax by the outdoor pool, rejuvenate at the tranquil spa, or enjoy a workout in the 24-hour fitness centre.

Location: Gurgaon, New Delhi

Our rating: ★★★★★



Haveli Dharampura

Tucked away in the heart of Old Delhi, Haveli Dharampura is a beautiful heritage retreat that offers a blend of Mughal-era grandeur and quiet refinement. This meticulously restored 200-year-old mansion is a jewel in the chaos, where carved wooden balconies, hand-painted ceilings and serene courtyards echo the opulence of a bygone era. Stepping inside feels like entering another world. Located just moments from the bustling lanes of Chandni Chowk, the Haveli provides a calm counterpoint to the energy outside. Dine on modern Indian cuisine in Lakhori, fly kites from the rooftop with views of the Jama Masjid or unwind in richly decorated suites that tell stories of Old Delhi’s regal past. Whilst this may not be a hotel with a vast array of facilities, the sense of place is tangible.

Location: Old Delhi

Our rating: ★★★★★

Sheraton New Delhi

Located in the stylish Saket district, almost next door to one of the largest shopping malls in the city, the Sheraton New Delhi is perfectly placed for exploring India’s capital. With easy access to leafy parks, shopping malls and heritage sites including Qutub Minar, the hotel is a comfortable base for discovering the city. Inside, the atmosphere is calm and contemporary, with elegant rooms and suites offering warm tones, plush bedding and views over the city skyline. Dining options are plentiful with the Delhi Pavillion offering a range of multi-national cuisines, authentic Indian flavours at Daksin and the highly regarded Yi Jing, offering Chinese dishes. There is also a very popular chocolate shop. The outdoor pool offers a welcome retreat after a day of sightseeing, while the wellness centre provides indulgent relaxation.

Location: New Delhi

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Oberoi, New Delhi

Surrounded by lush greenery and overlooking the Delhi Golf Course it would be easy to forget you’re in the heart of Delhi. Originally opened in 1965, this hotel is a Delhi institution and to this day remains one of the most loved in the city. Flanked also by the UNESCO World Heritage listed Humayun’s Tomb, which some rooms overlook, the setting is quite remarkable. The array of rooms and suites boast a sleek design, huge picture windows and all have walk-in showers and a standalone bath. The superb dining options include 2 restaurants under the guidance of Michelin-starred chefs, and a rooftop bar with views over the city. After a day exploring the city, relaxation offerings include heated indoor and outdoor swimming pools, a fitness centre, and The Oberoi Spa, blending eastern, western and aromatherapy treatments.

Location: New Delhi

Our rating: ★★★★★



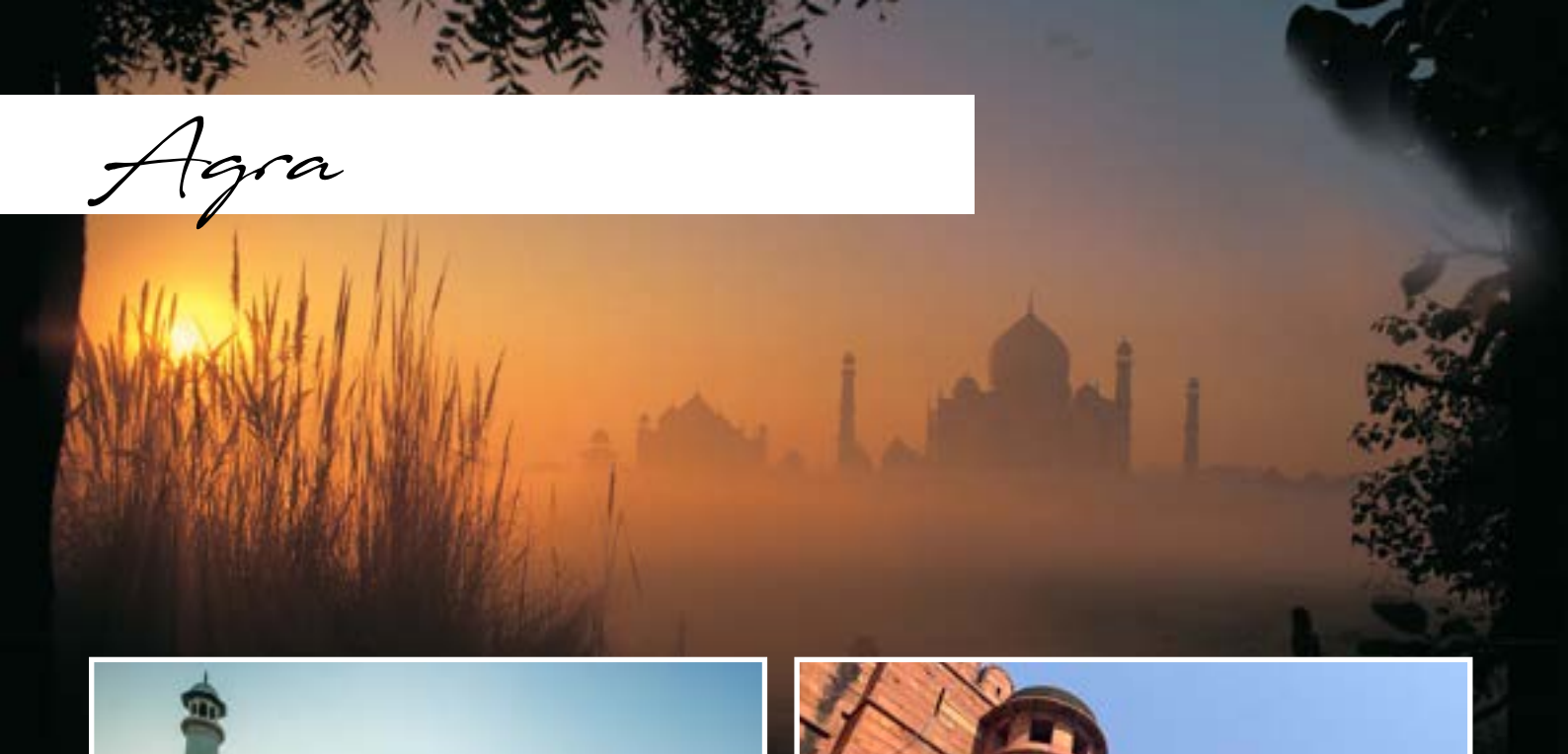
The Leela Palace New Delhi

Situated in the prestigious Diplomatic Enclave, The Leela Palace New Delhi is a striking blend of Lutyens-inspired architecture and Indian opulence. The hotel’s impressive exterior gives way to interiors rich in marble, crystal chandeliers, and intricate Indian artworks. Guest rooms are generously sized and feature state-of-the-art technology, walk-in wardrobes, and spacious marble bathrooms with soaking tubs. The hotel boasts an impressive rooftop infinity pool with panoramic city views, a renowned spa offering ESPA treatments, and a 24-hour fitness centre. Dining is exceptional, with multiple award-winning restaurants, including the Japanese fusion restaurant Megu and modern Indian fine dining at Jamavar.

Location: New Delhi

Our rating: ★★★★★





Sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal

Experience one of the world’s most iconic monuments at its most magical on a sunrise tour of the Taj Mahal. As dawn breaks, watch the marble mausoleum shift through shades of pink, gold, and ivory, a breathtaking spectacle that captures the romance of Shah Jahan’s timeless tribute to Mumtaz Mahal. Your expert guide will share the history, legends, and architectural brilliance that make this UNESCO World Heritage Site a wonder of the world. Wander through the tranquil gardens, reflecting pools, and intricate marble inlay work as the early morning light enhances every detail. Return to your hotel for breakfast.

Departs: Before dawn
Duration: 3 hours



Colonial Agra, Agra Fort & Mehtab Bagh

Begin with a colonial tour through Agra’s lesser-known heritage, where British-era churches, bungalows, and markets reveal stories of the Raj and its influence on this Mughal city. Continue to the magnificent Agra Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. After exploring the fort’s fascinating chambers, cross the river to the tranquil Mehtab Bagh Gardens. Perfectly aligned with the Taj Mahal, this 17th-century garden offers breathtaking views of the monument across the Yamuna, especially at sunset and offers a memorable first glimpse of this most romantic of buildings.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 5-6 hours



Artisan Trails of Agra

This immersive tour reveals the artistry behind some of the world’s greatest monuments and the living traditions that continue to thrive today. From the stone carvings of Agra Fort to the delicate gemstone inlay on the Taj Mahal and the intricate beauty of the “Baby Taj”, craftsmanship is woven into the city’s heritage. Step into the hidden lanes of Agra where rustic workshops hum with creativity. Watch masters of Pacchikari carefully set semi-precious stones into marble, admire the shimmering finesse of Zardozi embroidery as intricate designs take shape, and marvel at the age-old magic of carpet weaving.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 3-4 hours



Agra by Bicycle

Step beyond Agra’s monuments and discover the charm of rural life with a gentle cycling tour through the countryside. Pedal past fields where farmers tend their crops, and pause to visit a village school to glimpse the daily routines of local children. Along the way, experience traditional crafts, folk art, music, and dance that are still part of community life. Sample simple yet delicious regional dishes, lovingly prepared, and enjoy warm village hospitality. The route winds through the countryside east of the Taj Mahal, offering rare and unforgettable rural views of the iconic monument.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2-3 hours



Coral Tree Homestay

Nestled just a 6-minute walk from the Taj Mahal, Coral Tree Homestay is a charming, family-owned hideaway surrounded by lush gardens home to over 100 bird species, including peacocks. The 4 spacious guest rooms are individually decorated and a vision of vibrant Indian colour artwork, and some open onto a private veranda overlooking leafy surroundings. Each room features an en-suite bathroom, complimentary Wi-Fi and tea/coffee facilities, whilst the shared interior spaces include a well-stocked library on India and a relaxed lounge and living area. Whilst not offering the array of traditional hotel facilities there is character and charm in abundance and the owner’s love for design and colour adds to the appeal. Its location also offers easy access to Agra Fort and local dining or shopping within walking distance.

Location: Agra

Our rating: ★★☆☆



Trident Agra

This modern, low-rise hotel is just a 5-minute drive from the entrance to the Taj Mahal and offers a peaceful base for exploring Agra. There are 135 rooms and suites with large windows overlooking the gardens, pool, or central courtyard, offering air-conditioning, tea & coffee making facilities and Wi-Fi. After a day exploring Agra’s impressive monuments relax by the swimming pool or treat yourself to a treatment in the spa, which features eastern and western inspired treatments and therapies. Enjoy evening drinks in the lobby bar, and a choice of dining in the restaurant which covers a multitude of cuisines including authentic Mughal dishes, Italian specialities, and dishes from across Europe and Asia. It’s also not uncommon to see a range of activities for guests including pottery, puppet shows and fortune telling.

Location: Agra

Our rating: ★★★★★



ITC Mughal

Set in 23 acres of lush gardens a short distance from the Taj Mahal, this elegant hotel pays homage to Mughal grandeur and is inspired by the design legacy of Agra’s great dynasties. As you step inside, you’ll find sandstone walkways, water channels, and tranquil courtyards. Its 233 rooms and suites are elegantly styled with Mughal motifs, polished stone floors, and handcrafted details, some also offering private plunge pools or garden views. Dining options are extensive and cover both authentic Indian cuisines along with an array of international flavours. The Kaya Kalp – The Royal Spa is a highlight, and is one of the largest in India, offering traditional therapies in a setting of fountains, pavilions, and cool marble. There is also an expansive outdoor pool and a well-equipped fitness centre.

Location: Agra

Our rating: ★★★★★



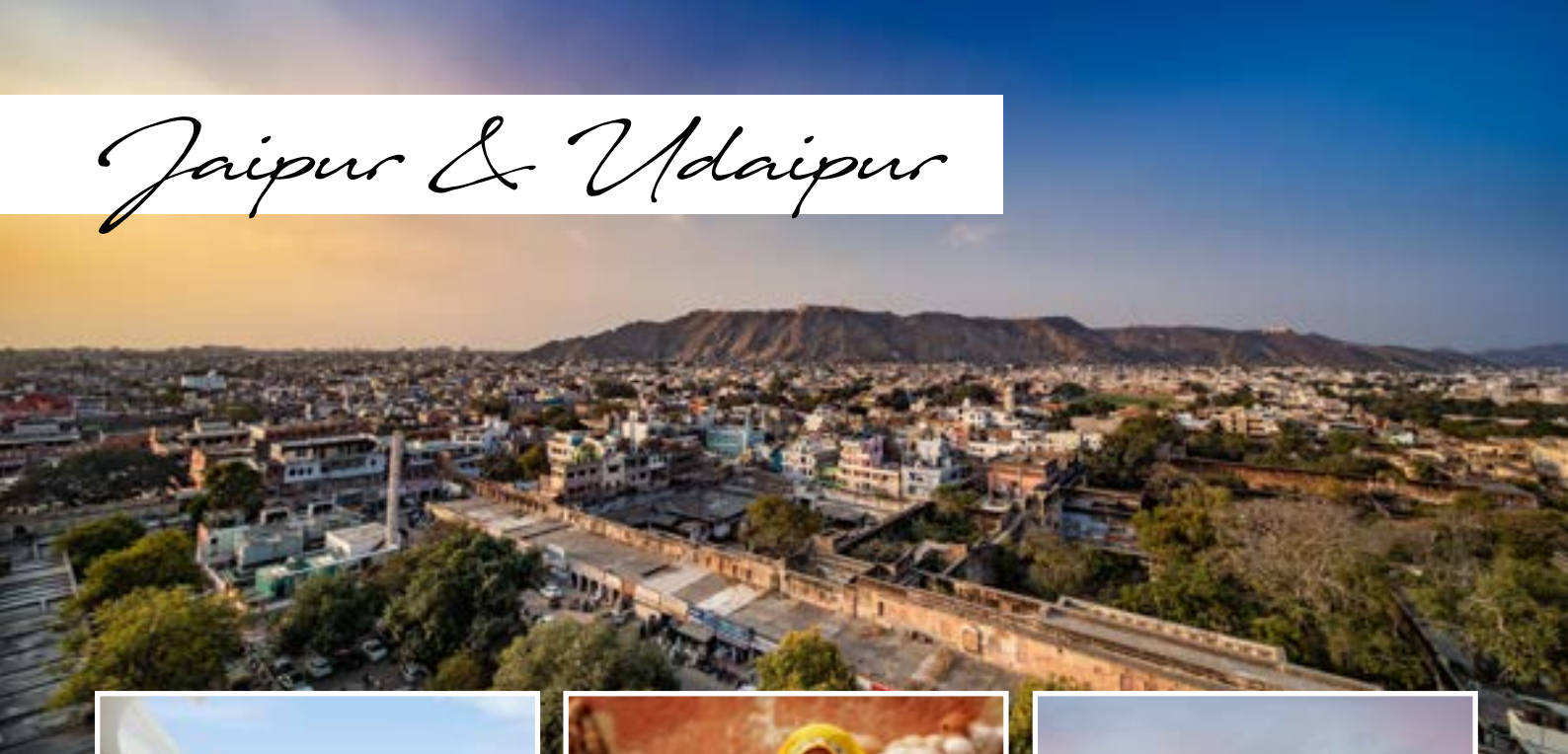
Oberoi Amarvilas

With every room boasting uninterrupted, cinematic views of the Taj Mahal, the location of the Oberoi Amarvilas is everything. Just 600m from the East Gate entrance, the hotel transports guests in private golf buggies to one of the most romantic buildings in the world. Terraced gardens, reflection pools and torchlit pavilions take their inspiration from the regal Mughal palaces, and inside is no less impressive with sumptuous fabrics, venetian chandeliers, latticework screens and marble floors. The rooms and suites are elegant and refined, a number with balconies for that all important view. Dining choices include Bellevue, an all-day dining space and Esphahan, featuring specialist Tandoor dishes. Spend lazy afternoons by the expansive pool, set in a Moorish courtyard, or indulge in a treatment at the Oberoi Spa.

Location: Agra

Our rating: ★★★★★

Jaipur & Udaipur



The Pink and White Cities

Discover the vivid contrasts that define these very different Rajasthani cities. Jaipur with its iconic terracotta hue vibrates with a dynamic energy, showcasing a vibrant culture of artisans and merchants. In sharp contrast Udaipur's white palaces and quiet lakes offer a sense of calm, although there is also a thriving and lively arts scene.



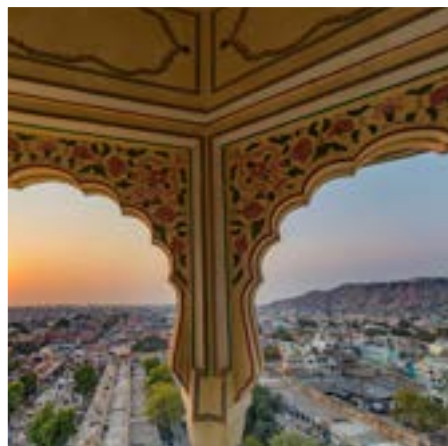
Bazaars & Baubles

Lose yourself in the lively bazaars of Jaipur where the streets are named for the crafts they sell. Famed for lacquer bangles, block printing, gemstones and sculptures, there is much to discover. Udaipur reveals artisans skilled in miniature paintings, silverwork and wood carvings.



Flavours of Rajasthan

Rajasthani cuisine is to be savoured in both Jaipur and Udaipur. Sample dal baati churma, kachoris, gatte ki sabzi, and sweets like ghewar. Street stalls, lakeside cafés, and palace eateries offer dishes unique to each city. Carry cash, try local specialties, and don't forget to visit the oldest Lassiwalla in Jaipur.



Citadels and Fairytales

From Jaipur's Amber Fort, City Palace and Hawa Mahal to Udaipur's City Palace, Jag Mandir, and Sajjan Garh, Rajasthan's royal architecture impresses. Explore courtyards, museums, and terraces, soak in panoramic views, and uncover centuries of dynasties, battles, and legends that shaped the region's history and culture.



Buses or Boats

Auto-rickshaws, e-rickshaws, taxis, and the Jaipur Metro make navigating Jaipur easy, though traffic can be heavy. Tuk-tuks offer fun, close-up city views. In Udaipur, boats on Lake Pichola and Fateh Sagar provide scenic travel, while rickshaws and bicycles handle short distances efficiently. Allow extra time during peak hours or festivals.



Rajasthan Landscapes

Jaipur's arid surroundings feature rugged hills, sandstone forts, and desert vistas, giving the city a dramatic, earthy backdrop. Udaipur's landscape is lush and watery, dotted with lakes, gardens, and gentle hills, creating a serene, reflective atmosphere.

Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

Elephant Poo Paper Making

Join a fascinating eco-experience in Jaipur where sustainability meets creativity. Learn how elephant poo is transformed into eco-friendly paper through a natural, chemical-free process. From pulping to pressing, see how waste is given new life by skilled artisans. This innovative craft supports conservation, reduces deforestation, and offers a meaningful souvenir rooted in responsible travel.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2 hours

Jaipur at Dawn

Explore Jaipur through the eyes of its women with the unique Pink Rickshaw tours. Driven by local women trained as guides, these vibrant rides support social empowerment while offering a fresh perspective on the city's heritage. Explore in the tranquil early morning before the crowds converge and the lady drivers go back to their busy lives.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2-3 hours

Udaipur Heritage Walk

Get an up close and personal view of Udaipur's most engaging streets as you wander hidden alleyways, and meet the local artists as they craft pottery and jewellery. See the famous Ghats and temples on Lake Pichola, whilst a visit to the stepwell reminds you how precious water is to Rajasthan.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2-3 hours

Ikaki Cooking Class

Immerse yourself in Jaipur's culinary traditions with an Ikaki cooking class hosted by a local family. Learn age-old recipes passed down through generations, discover the cultural importance of spices in Rajasthani cuisine, and share stories around the dining table. This intimate experience offers a deeper connection to local life and the heritage of Indian home cooking.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 3-4 hours

Highlights of Jaipur

Discover the magic of the 'Pink City' as you embark on a tour that takes you from the impressive hilltop Amber Fort, to the City Palace and Jantar Mantar, where 14 extraordinary astronomical instruments still measure time, predict eclipses and track the solar system.

Departs: Daily
Duration: ½ Day

Udaipur Jeep Safari

Discover a different side of Udaipur with an unforgettable jeep safari into the tribal heartlands surrounding the city. Escape the bustle and venture into the scenic hills, where untouched beauty and hidden treasures await. Journey through winding tracks to remote Bhil villages and experience the warmth of their traditions, colourful lifestyles, and ancient customs. Along the way, explore centuries-old temples and sacred shrines, each steeped in history and folklore. Pause at breathtaking viewpoints, where sweeping panoramas of the Aravalli hills provide the perfect setting to enjoy light refreshments. This immersive adventure combines culture, nature, and exploration, offering a rare glimpse into the lives of Udaipur's tribal communities while revealing some of the most picturesque landscapes in Rajasthan.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2-3 hours



Ikaki Niwas Homestay

A stay at Ikaki Niwas feels like joining an extended family. Your hosts live on site and the homestay is part of their home, an oasis of warmth in leafy Jawahar Nagar, close to a park where you can join the owner for a morning run or yoga session if you choose, yet easily connected to Jaipur's highlights. Guests are welcomed by name, offered tea with freshly prepared snacks, and invited to dine with the family on the rooftop terrace. The homestay has just 14 individually decorated rooms, each uniquely styled with local art, modern amenities, and complimentary Wi-Fi. Shared spaces include a quiet library, shady terrace with a small pool, and cosy lounges. Ikaki Niwas is quietly elegant, rooted in authenticity and offers a real sense of place in the 'Pink City'.

Location: Jaipur

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



Shahpura House

Shahpura House, once home to the Shekhawat royal family, is a beautifully restored 19th-century palace on a quiet lane in leafy Bani Park. Its facade displays graceful domes and vivid frescoes, while inside, marble floors, carved pillars and shimmering mirror-work ceilings evoke regal grandeur. The central Durbar Hall, once reserved for royal audiences, now dazzles with golden hues and delicate latticework. Every corner reflects traditional Rajput and Mughal styling, and there is something to catch the eye everywhere you look. There are just 38 individual rooms and suites, ensuring an intimate heritage retreat. Each is filled with antique furniture, stained-glass marble inlay and private bathrooms. Some offer verandas overlooking tranquil courtyards or the swimming pool.

Location: Jaipur

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



Samode Haveli

The Samode Haveli lies within the terracotta walls of the 'Pink City' and is an oasis of calm just moments from the bustle of the old town. The original elephant ramp heralds your entrance into this once noble residence. Glittering mosaics, hidden courtyards and the tinkle of fountains create a refined and elegant atmosphere, and each of the rooms and suites offer a blend of traditional Rajasthani design and creature comforts. As night falls hundreds of flickering lanterns guide guests from the comfortable terraces to dine by candlelight. The spacious pool area is one of the prettiest in Jaipur, and the perfect spot when you need a respite from forts, temples and markets. There's also a well equipped gym, spa and a restaurant that serves exceptional Rajasthani dishes.

Location: Jaipur

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



ITC Rajputana

Experience the charm of Jaipur with a stay at ITC Rajputana, an elegant hotel located in the heart of the Pink City. Just minutes from Jaipur's historic landmarks, colourful bazaars, and grand palaces, the hotel offers the perfect base to explore Rajasthan's cultural treasures. Inspired by traditional havelis, ITC Rajputana blends regal architecture with modern comforts, creating a welcoming retreat after a day of sightseeing. Guests can relax by the outdoor pool, indulge in rejuvenating treatments at the spa, or simply unwind in beautifully designed rooms that reflect the city's rich heritage. A choice of renowned restaurants showcases authentic Rajasthani flavours alongside international cuisine, ensuring a wide choice of dining is available.

Location: Jaipur

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Amet Haveli

Set on the quiet banks of Lake Pichola, Amet Haveli is a charming 350-year-old heritage hotel with some of the finest views in Udaipur. Overlooking the City Palace and Jag Mandir, this beautifully preserved haveli offers a peaceful base from which to explore the city's winding lanes and glittering lakes. The simple rooms are full of character, with carved arches, antique furniture, and traditional Rajasthani touches throughout. Mornings begin with breakfast on the terrace as the lake comes to life; evenings are best spent dining by candlelight at the highly-regarded Ambrai restaurant, where the views are as memorable as the food. For those seeking a smaller, more personal stay with real sense of place, Amet Haveli is a rare gem, it's relaxed and full of old-world charm.

Location: Udaipur

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



Trident Udaipur

The Trident Udaipur offers a peaceful retreat in landscaped gardens on the edge of Lake Pichola and combines all the comforts of a modern hotel with the charm of traditional Rajasthani hospitality. Just 10 minutes from the city centre, it's ideally placed for exploring Udaipur's palaces, bazaars and lakes, while providing a calm escape at the end of the day. Rooms are bright and comfortable, with polished wood, Mughal-inspired details, and views across the gardens or pool. The service is warm and attentive without being overbearing, and the hotel restaurant serves a mix of Indian and international dishes. With its peaceful setting, excellent facilities and easy access to the city's main sights, Trident Udaipur is a perfect choice for those wanting comfort and style without losing the sense of place.

Location: Udaipur

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★



The Leela Palace

The Leela Palace offers a luxurious blend of traditional grandeur and modern luxury. Overlooking Lake Pichola, the hotel features spacious rooms with lake or garden views, many with a private balcony, each beautifully designed with rich silks, ornate detailing, and marble bathrooms with large soaking tubs, perfect after a long day of exploring. The serene ESPA spa offers Ayurvedic therapies and personalised wellness treatments, while the outdoor pool provides a perfect spot to relax beneath the Rajasthani sun. Guests can enjoy fine dining at Sheesh Mahal, with candlelit lakefront dinners and dreamy views of the City Palace, or global dishes at The Dining Room. There's also a fitness centre, curated cultural performances, and as it's on the lake you can travel by boat to and from the city.

Location: Udaipur

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



The Oberoi Udaivilas

Arguably one of India's most glorious hotels, The Oberoi Udaivilas lies on the far side of Lake Pichola with superb views of the City Palace. Set within 50 acres of landscaped gardens, it evokes the grandeur of royal India with onion domed pavilions, filigree walkways, and reflecting pools. Arrive by car or cross the lake by private boat for a spectacular introduction. Inside, scalloped arches, marble floors and hand-painted frescoes create an atmosphere of regal elegance. Rooms are spacious and refined, with silks, fine textiles and handcrafted furniture, all with lake views. Udaimahal offers exquisite Indian cuisine beneath domed ceilings by candlelight, while Suryamahar serves international and Asian dishes in a sunlit courtyard. There's also an expansive pool, tranquil spa, and the option for romantic lakeside dining under the stars.

Location: Udaipur

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Ranthambore National Park

WHERE TIGERS ROAM, ANCIENT RUINS WHISPER AND
THE WILDERNESS RUNS RIOT

Ranthambore National Park is where history and wilderness blend seamlessly. Once the private hunting grounds of Rajasthan's maharajas, the park now protects thriving populations of Bengal tigers, leopards, and countless other species. Ancient forts, crumbling temples, and lakes dot the rugged landscape, creating a backdrop unlike any other safari destination. At dawn and dusk, the park comes alive with calls of birds, rustling deer, and the possibility of a tiger emerging from the forest.



Ranthambore Kothi

This lovely hotel has a rustic charm which is totally in keeping with its location, on the northwestern edge of the Ranthambore National Park, a 15 minute drive from the main gate. There are just 44 extremely comfortable rooms, the premium and regal rooms have private balconies and open sky rain showers and views of the garden, pool or national park. The dining room offers an extensive buffet and an a la carte menu and there's a peaceful lounge and bar. The safaris into the park are the main draw for guests staying here and the hotel has a team of naturalists on hand to explain the wildlife and geology of the park. After a morning game drive the outdoor pool is a lovely spot to while away a few hours.

Location: Sawai Madhopur

Our rating: ★★★★★



Ranthambore Regency

Offering a comfortable stay around a 10 minute drive from the Ranthambore National Park, the Regency Ranthambore is a family run resort in the town of Sawai Madhopur, and a great base for your time here. The collection of rooms are comfortable and well-appointed and some have outside terrace areas with recliner chairs where you can relax with a cool drink. The lovely pool area is surrounded by shady coconut palms and there's a spa and wellness facility for some well deserved pampering. Ingredients is the hotel restaurant serving an impressive buffet of Indian, Chinese and western dishes, the Rajasthani options are particularly good. For a refreshing drink and light meals, head to the Fushia Bar, which is open throughout the day.

Location: Sawai Madhopur

Our rating: ★★★★★



Khem Villas

Tucked away on the edge of Ranthambore National Park, Khem Villas is a peaceful, eco-conscious retreat. This thoughtfully crafted camp blends seamlessly into its surroundings, offering a tranquil escape from the everyday. Choose from charming cottages, luxury safari tents, or peaceful rooms in the main lodge, all styled with natural materials, local touches, and a focus on unfussy simplicity and calm. The atmosphere is quiet and unhurried, ideal for unwinding after a thrilling day of wildlife spotting. Explore the resort's private grounds, home to native birds and wildlife including desert foxes, crocodiles, jackals, and jungle cats. Enjoy organic, vegetarian meals made with fresh produce grown on-site. Environmental and social responsibility is central to everything done here, and the property supports two NGOs set up by the owner.

Location: Khilchipur, Sawai Madhopur

Our rating: ★★★★★



SUJÁN Sher Bagh

This sublime jungle camp evokes the elegance of the 1920s with hand stitched safari tents, complete with air conditioning, ensuite bathrooms with standalone bath tubs, stone showers, and private verandas. The distant call of the peacock and the rustle of the surrounding bush is your wake up call. Vintage jeeps await to take safari-goers into the depths of the national park in search of the elusive Bengal tiger and when you return to camp the scent of wood smoke and fresh coffee leads to breakfast. Whilst the day begins with safari drives, it ends with fireside sundowners beneath star strewn skies. Gourmet meals are the order of the day, and under the shade of an ancient peepal tree the SUJÁN Spa offers up a menu of treatments and therapies amidst a chorus of birdsong. There's even a small pool and yoga classes for the ultimate relaxation.

Location: Sherpur, Khiljipur, Sawai Madhopur

Our rating: ★★★★★



Himalayan Hill Country

Known for its vibrant local cultures and spanning several nations, the Himalayan hill country is brimming with natural beauty and diverse ecosystems. Towering peaks, forested slopes, and peaceful valleys come together to create one of India’s most stunning regions where every view is unforgettable. Home to ethnic groups such as the Gorkhas, Bhutias, and Paharis, the area is a rich melting pot of Hindu, Buddhist, and indigenous cultures.

Cup to Cheer, Darjeeling

Discover the story of the great British Tea Heist. A unique dialogue with the tea planter’s community where you’ll walk through the lush green undulating velvets of tea bushes. Experience the behind-the-scenes of the drink that shaped an empire and learn the history of the English and Scottish tea planters and their legends. Taste the uniqueness of the champagne of teas from the makers of it.

Departs: Darjeeling – on demand
Duration: 2 hours



Shimla Heritage Walk

Discover Shimla on the Shimla Heritage Walk, a guided tour through the town’s historic heart. The walk takes place in the Shimla Heritage Zone, a carefully preserved area showcasing the town’s colonial past. Stroll past many of Shimla’s most imposing buildings, including grand government offices, charming churches, and elegant residences built during the British Raj. Your local guide will bring history to life, sharing stories about the architecture, lifestyle, and summer pursuits of the Raj in the Himalayas. From leisurely walks and cricket matches to social gatherings and official functions. Along the route, learn about the evolution of Shimla from a sleepy hill station to the summer capital of British India, while admiring its unique blend of Victorian and Himalayan architecture.

Departs: Shimla – on demand
Duration: 3–4 hours



Accommodation **Himalayan Hill Country**
Radisson Jass Shimla

Located close to Shimla’s main sights, including the Mall Road and Christ Church, Radisson Jass Shimla offers sweeping views over the forested valleys of the Himalayas. The hotel’s spacious rooms and suites are elegantly decorated, featuring climate control, flat-screen televisions, complimentary Wi-Fi, and tea and coffee facilities. Guests can unwind with a treatment in the spa, take a swim in the tiered outdoor pool, or simply enjoy the peaceful terraces that overlook the hills. Dining options range from relaxed lounge areas to open-air spaces, all serving a variety of cuisines. With its combination of comfort, attentive service and a convenient yet tranquil location, Radisson Jass Shimla makes an excellent choice for a stay in this charming hill station.

Location: Shimla

Our rating: ★★★★★



WelcomHeritage Elysium Resort & Spa
Set in a peaceful hillside location yet only a short drive from Shimla’s Mall Road, WelcomHeritage Elysium Resort combines modern comfort with hints of colonial charm. The rooms and suites are bright and stylish, with natural light and well-chosen furnishings, alongside amenities such as complimentary Wi-Fi, tea and coffee facilities, and climate control. Guests can relax in the spa, enjoy a swim in the pool, or work out in the well-equipped fitness centre. The rooftop restaurant offers panoramic views over the surrounding hills, while the indoor dining areas provide a cosy setting for regional and international dishes. With attentive service and a tranquil setting, it’s a welcoming base from which to explore Shimla and its scenic surroundings.

Location: Shimla

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Elgin

Nestled 6,000 feet above sea level in the heart of Darjeeling, The Elgin is a charming heritage hotel, formerly the summer residence of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, now restored to its Victorian splendour. Stroll through the wooden-panelled interiors adorned with Burma-teak furniture, oak floorboards, lithographs and crackling fireplaces, each detail preserving its colonial charm. Rooms and suites are gracious, many offering valley and garden views. All feature free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee facilities, and hot water bottles in winter. Some also have fireplaces. Linger in the library or games room, sip Darjeeling tea in the gazebo garden, or melt away tensions at the spa. The Elgin is a wonderful base for an exploration of Darjeeling’s pine woods, ancient monasteries and famed tea trails.

Location: Darjeeling

Our rating: ★★★★★



Glenburn Tea Estate

Set on a hillside above the River Rungeet, Glenburn Tea Estate is a charming colonial-era retreat surrounded by rolling Darjeeling tea gardens, with striking views of Kanchenjunga on clear days. The property is made up of 2 elegant bungalows, each with spacious, individually decorated suites and private verandas or garden access. Days here follow the gentle rhythm of the estate. Guests can stroll along tea-lined trails, visit the working tea factory, enjoy a riverside picnic or take part in a tea-tasting session. The cuisine combines local specialities with home-style cooking, much of it using produce from the garden. With its tranquil setting and warm, attentive service, Glenburn offers a restful place for exploring Darjeeling’s hills and valleys.

Location: Darjeeling

Our rating: ★★★★★

Central & Southern India

TEMPLES AND BACKWATERS, BEACHES AND BAZAARS

Central and Southern India captivate with their rich traditions, diverse landscapes, and vibrant cities. In Mumbai, India's creative and commercial heartbeat pulses with energy. Tamil Nadu enchants with soaring temples and centuries of classical heritage, while Kerala's backwaters, beaches, and spice-scented hills invite slow, soulful journeys. Goa completes the picture with golden sands, colonial charm, and a relaxed spirit enjoyed to a backdrop of the sun setting over the Arabian Sea. These destinations reveal the warmth, colour, and cultural depth that define India's southern soul.



Gateway Of India, Mumbai.



Mumbai

Historic charm meets modern ambition in Mumbai, India's largest city and financial capital. Here, the glamour of Bollywood and fine dining coexist with chaotic bazaars and remnants of the city's colonial past. Iconic landmarks such as the Gateway of India and Marine Drive reflect the city's rich past and dynamic present. Mumbai's thrilling blend of tradition and modernity is sure to captivate any traveller.



Kerala

Kerala offers the perfect blend of relaxation, culture and adventure. Lounge on palm-lined beaches, cruise through peaceful backwaters, or experience the vibrant local traditions. Adventurers may want to trek through the misty hill stations or try their hand at water sports along the coast. Rich in natural beauty and steeped in history, Kerala also delights with its unique cuisine, Ayurvedic wellness and fascinating local customs.



Goa

India's beachside gem, Goa is blessed with sun-drenched shores and a laid-back atmosphere. Wander through bustling markets, discover spice plantations, or unwind with a beachside sunset. Once the sun sets, the energy shifts and the city comes alive with music from beach shacks and lively bars. With colonial charm, vibrant nightlife, and stunning beaches, Goa is the ultimate coastal escape.



Tamil Nadu

A visit to Tamil Nadu is a peek into South India's spiritual soul. Explore ancient cities like Madurai and Thanjavur, where you can witness vibrant festivals rooted in centuries-old customs. The majestic temples are awe-inspiring, and classical dance performances will transport you to an ancient world of mesmerising artistry. A stay in Tamil Nadu is a journey through timeless culture where every experience reflects a beautiful blend of past and present.



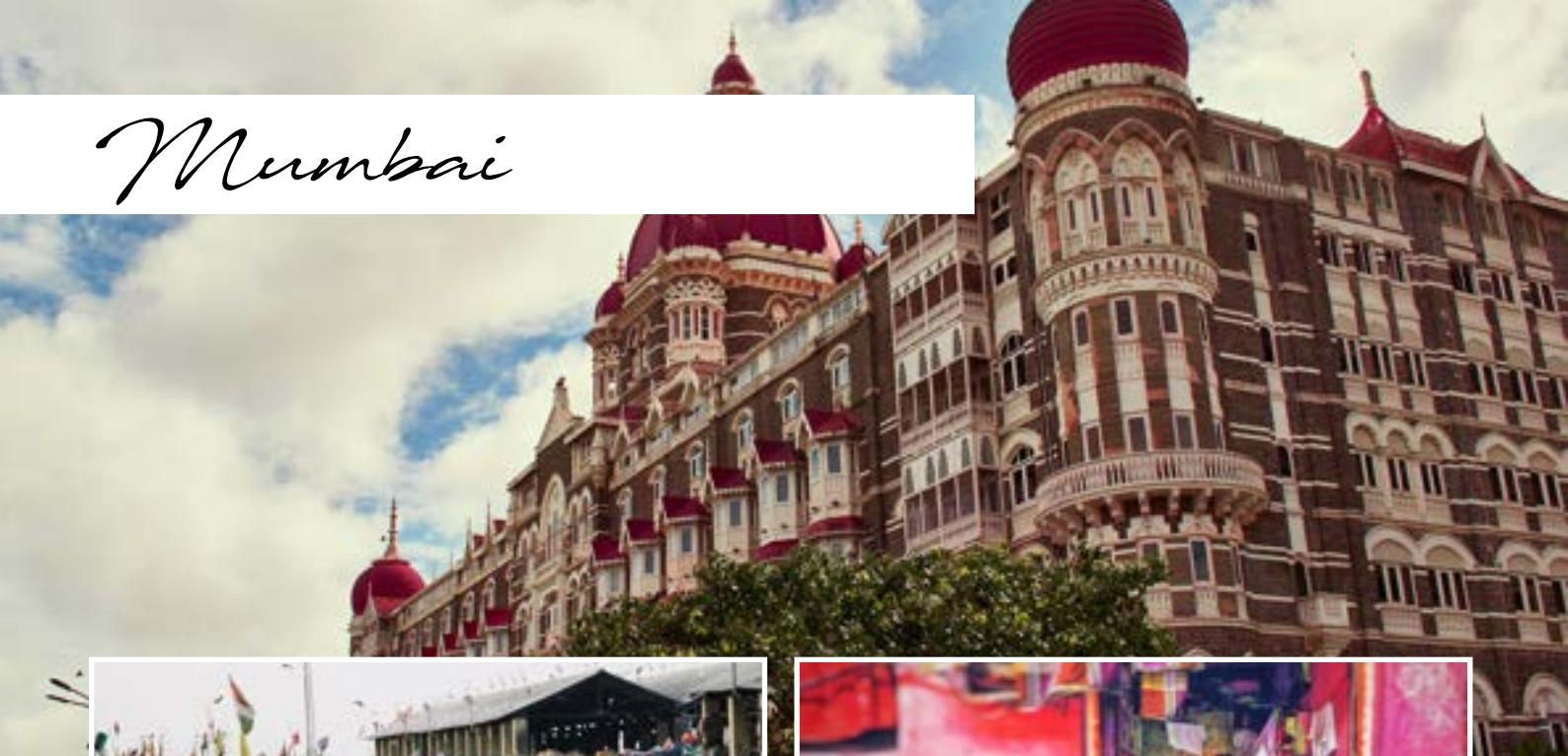
Backwaters

This magical stretch of canals, lakes, and rivers are framed by palm trees and lush greenery. Watch local life along the banks as you glide through the tranquil waters and enjoy this peaceful escape from the bustle of city life. Traditional houseboats, called Kettuvallams, drift lazily past rice paddies and coconut groves, creating a postcard-perfect scene.



Andaman Islands

The Andaman Islands' turquoise waters and rich marine life make it a haven for divers, snorkellers and nature lovers. The islands boast stunning coral reefs and lush rainforests, as well as untouched beaches and historic landmarks. Far from the bustle of the mainland, the Andaman Islands offer a serene escape where you can slow down and savour every moment.



Mumbai



Mumbai by Dawn

Known as the “City of Dreams”, this extraordinary metropolis thrives on the energy, ambition, and creativity of its people. At dawn, the city reveals its true heartbeat; fishermen returning with fresh catches, street vendors preparing aromatic spices and warm chai, and artisans opening workshops that have been passed down through generations. The streets hum with life, from the chatter of commuters to the rhythm of rickshaws weaving through narrow lanes. Experience Mumbai’s spirit in a way few visitors ever do.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2 hours



Parsi Home Cooking Workshop

Step into the warmth of a Parsi household and discover a culinary tradition steeped in history and heritage. Guided by a welcoming family, you’ll explore time-honoured recipes passed down through generations, learning the secrets behind signature dishes that have shaped Parsi cuisine. As you cook alongside your hosts, you’ll hear stories that link each recipe to the vibrant history of the Parsi community – from their migration to India to their enduring cultural identity. This is a hands on, interactive experience: chop, stir, and taste as you create authentic Parsi delights, all in a home environment filled with laughter, aromas, and tradition.

Departs: On request
Duration: 3 hours



Dharavi Tour

Step into Dharavi, one of Asia’s largest slums and one of Mumbai’s most compelling stories. Far beyond its modest surroundings lies a thriving community brimming with creativity, resilience and entrepreneurial spirit. Wander through narrow lanes where workshops and small-scale industries hum with activity, and discover how this unique neighbourhood generates an astonishing billion US dollars each year. Dharavi challenges expectations: behind its humble façade are countless success stories, from artisans to business owners who have transformed lives and built multi-million-dollar enterprises.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 1½ hours



Colonial Walk

Step back in time and explore Mumbai’s colonial heritage on this captivating walking tour. Begin at the iconic Gateway of India, a striking symbol of the city’s imperial past, then stroll along the waterfront to the elegant Royal Mumbai Yacht Club. Discover artistic treasures at the National Gallery of Modern Art and the City Museum, where history and creativity converge. Wander through the charming streets of Kala Ghoda, Mumbai’s cultural hub, where colonial architecture meets contemporary art. Along the way, witness the extraordinary efficiency of the city’s legendary Dabbawallas, delivering thousands of lunches with precision and dedication.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2 hours



The Oberoi Mumbai

The Oberoi Mumbai exudes refined elegance; the hotel’s spacious rooms and suites are flooded with natural light from wall-to-wall windows and boast Arabian Sea or city skyline vistas. Nestled on Marine Drive’s iconic curve, known as the “Queen’s Necklace” for its dazzling skyline, the property is in the heart of South Mumbai’s business and shopping district. Guests can take a dip in the ocean-facing pool, exercise in the state-of-the-art fitness centre, or enjoy a relaxing treatment at the luxury spa. With 3 exceptional restaurants, a stylish lounge, and an elegant bar, guests can choose to indulge in innovative Indian cuisine, authentic Italian delicacies, or refined high tea in a sophisticated setting.

Location: Nariman Point

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower

One of India’s most iconic hotels, The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower commands a regal view of the Gateway of India and the Arabian Sea. With a legacy of over 120 years, illustrious guests, including royalty and dignitaries, have been hosted here since its opening in 1903. The property has two distinct wings: the historic Palace Wing with old-world charm and elegant décor, and the Tower Wing which offers contemporary design and a modern setting. The hotel’s diverse dining options include award-winning restaurants serving Indian, European, Middle Eastern and Asian cuisines. The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower allows for ultimate relaxation; the luxurious J Wellness Circle Spa offers ancient Indian healing rituals, or guests can lounge by the property’s serene pool. Steeped in heritage and sophistication, the Taj Mahal Palace & Tower promises an unforgettable stay.

Location: Colaba

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Leela Mumbai

This luxurious property is located just minutes from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport and is set amidst lush gardens and cascading waterfalls, making for both a serene and convenient escape. Elegantly furnished rooms and suites blend traditional Indian designs with top-tier modern amenities. Guests can enjoy exceptional dining with a choice of international and Indian cuisines at award-winning establishments, as well as chic lounges. For relaxation, guests can unwind at the serene spa, lounge by the pool, or stroll through the surrounding peaceful gardens. This renowned hotel is more than just a stay, it is an embodiment of Mumbai’s rich culture, energy, and hospitality.

Location: Andheri East, Mumbai

Our rating: ★★★★★



Trident Nariman Point

In the heart of Mumbai’s business district, Trident Nariman Point features stylish, contemporary rooms and suites, many with stunning views of the Arabian Sea. The hotel’s prime location in South Mumbai makes it easy to explore Mumbai’s top attractions, including the Gateway of India and Colaba Causeway. Sleek rooms feature thoughtful amenities and stunning ocean or city views. A variety of global and Indian cuisines are on offer at the hotel’s acclaimed restaurants and the tranquil spa and well-equipped fitness centre provide a complete wellness experience. This sophisticated retreat in one of Mumbai’s most iconic neighbourhoods provides an ideal base for both relaxation and exploration.

Location: Nariman Point

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Chennai Spice Trail

Step into the vibrant heart of Chennai on the Spice Trail Experience. Begin in Mylapore, the city’s oldest district, once the bustling port where exotic spices flowed to Rome. Wander through the aromatic spice markets, inhaling the scent of cardamom, cloves, and black pepper, and let your senses be your guide. Explore the colourful flower markets, where garlands of jasmine and marigold shimmer like jewels. Then, immerse yourself in the soul of Chennai cuisine with a hands-on cooking session in a local kitchen. Under the guidance of a skilled chef, learn to blend spices, stir, and simmer to create a delicious traditional dish that captures the essence of Tamil Nadu.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2-3 hours



Once Upon a Time in Madurai

Discover Madurai like never before on the Storytrails walk. This ancient city, a thriving market town since the 2nd century BC and seat of dynasties, is alive with stories at every turn. Wander streets named after men who reshaped its history, uncover how a king’s ambitions were altered by a sniffle, or how a tiny toad changed the course of grand plans. Experience the whimsical, the extraordinary, and the divine as history and myth intertwine. Meet the mortals and gods who built, blessed, and sometimes upended Madurai. This immersive walk offers a rare glimpse behind the city’s monumental façades into the heart of a city that has inspired, endured, and fascinated for centuries.

Departs: Morning or Afternoon
Duration: 3 hours



Colonial Chennai

This tour is a journey through Chennai’s remarkable architectural heritage. Discover the grand buildings left behind by the British, windows into Chennai’s rich past. Marvel at temples where Hindu gods sit beneath Muslim domes, stained glass that reflects Kerala artistry, and Greek columns juxtaposed with sleek Art Deco façades. Explore the fascinating links between the railways and India’s struggle for independence, uncovering stories of innovation and resistance.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2-3 hours



Pondy Cycle Tour

Experience the gentle charm of Puducherry on a leisurely vintage bike tour, the perfect way to embrace slow travel. Early morning, brightly painted bicycles await as sea breezes drift along quiet lanes and pretty pathways. Follow an expert guide through the traditional fishermen’s village, the bustling Indian part of town and the serene French Quarter, where colonial façades, bougainvillea-draped streets, and chic cafés transport you to a bygone era. Glide past vibrant Tamil streets, hidden courtyards, and sun-dappled squares, soaking up the rhythm of local life. At the end of your ride, pause to savour a delightful breakfast, choose between French patisserie or traditional Tamil fare.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2-3 hours



Taj Connemara

The Taj Chennai, set in the heart of Tamil Nadu’s vibrant capital, blends timeless elegance with modern comfort. Inspired by the city’s rich colonial heritage, this charming hotel reflects the grandeur of a bygone era, yet offers every contemporary indulgence. Just minutes from Chennai’s famed Marina Beach, it’s perfectly placed for exploring historic temples, bustling markets, and the city’s celebrated arts scene. The beautifully appointed rooms feature elegant Art Deco design and views of the coastline or city skyline. Take time to relax by the lovely outdoor pool, rejuvenate at the world-class spa, and enjoy a taste of Southern Tamil Nadu in Raintree, there is also globally-inspired dining in The Verandah and a bar where you can savour afternoon tea or a heritage cocktail.

Location: Chennai

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Leela Palace Chennai

Gracefully poised on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, The Leela Palace Chennai combines South India’s regal heritage with a serene coastal setting. Inspired by the grandeur of Chettinad mansions and Dravidian artistry, its architecture reflects the region’s rich cultural legacy. Situated in the refined MRC Nagar district, the hotel offers sweeping sea views while being within easy reach of Marina Beach and San Thome Basilica. Interiors are adorned with hand-crafted Indian furnishings, while elegant restaurants serve exceptional cuisine from around the world. A tranquil spa, landscaped gardens, and an infinity pool overlooking the ocean provide space to relax in style.

Location: Chennai

Our rating: ★★★★★



Heritage Madurai

Set amidst 17 acres of lush gardens, Heritage Madurai is a tranquil retreat that was originally built in the 1920s as a colonial club. The property was later redesigned by renowned architect Geoffrey Bawa, blending graceful modernism with traditional Madurai influences. Located just minutes from the famed Meenakshi Amman Temple, it offers a perfect base for exploring the city’s vibrant culture and history. Accommodation includes beautifully restored villas and contemporary rooms, some with private plunge pools. Guests can enjoy authentic Chettinad and regional cuisine, relax by the stunning temple tank-inspired swimming pool, or wander through leafy courtyards scented with jasmine.

Location: Madurai

Our rating: ★★★★★



Palais de Mahe

In the heart of Puducherry’s atmospheric French Quarter, Palais de Mahe evokes the elegance of the colonial era. Its mustard-yellow walls, colonnaded verandas and lofty ceilings reflect classic French architecture, subtly interwoven with Tamil influences. Just a short walk from the seafront promenade, the hotel is perfectly placed for exploring quiet streets lined with cafés, galleries and heritage buildings. The airy rooms are furnished with period pieces and light fabrics that complement the coastal setting. Guests can savour fine Franco-Tamil cuisine, relax beside the shaded courtyard pool, or enjoy traditional Ayurvedic treatments in the calm of the spa.

Location: Puducherry

Our rating: ★★★★★

Kerala

WATERWAYS AND WILDLIFE GO HAND IN HAND WITH HISTORY AND TRADITION

Experience the unique charm of Kerala, a state celebrated for its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and traditional way of life. Cruise along the famous backwaters, a network of calm canals, rivers, and lakes, and stay aboard a houseboat as you glide past palm-fringed banks, paddy fields, and quaint villages. Visit Munnar, with its misty hills and rolling tea plantations, perfect for gentle walks and trekking. Explore Thekkady, home to the renowned Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, where elephants, tigers, and exotic birds can be spotted amidst lush forests. Discover the historic city of Kochi, with its colonial architecture and lively markets, and immerse yourself in Kerala's rich cultural traditions. With its harmonious blend of landscapes, wildlife, waterways, cuisine, and heritage, Kerala offers an unforgettable journey through Southern India.

Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

Kochi by Cycle

Discover the vibrant soul of Kochi on an early morning cycle tour, the perfect way to see the city awaken. Begin with a steaming cup of hot tea alongside locals before setting off from Vasco House, the 500-year-old former home of explorer Vasco da Gama. Ride towards the iconic Chinese fishing nets and witness the lively morning fish auction at Fort Kochi, a spectacle of energy and tradition. Pedal through narrow alleyways, past colourful homes and markets, and weave through the historic communities of Fort Kochi and Mattancherry, where cultures have mingled for centuries. During the ride enjoy breakfast at a local café.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2-3 hours

A Day with the Tea Pickers

Step into the rolling green hills of Munnar and discover the art of tea, guided by the women who know it best. On this immersive experience, follow the tea trail to the fields where skilled pluckers carefully harvest tender leaves every 5-10 days, a delicate task done entirely by women. Watch in admiration as an experienced picker gathers up to 30kg of leaves in a single day, her swift hands keeping alive a centuries-old tradition. Spend time with the ladies among the emerald plantations, learning about their daily lives and the rhythms of the tea gardens. Conclude this special journey with a steaming cup of tea shared in the warm hospitality of a picker's home, before returning to your hotel.

Departs: Daily apart from Sundays
Duration: 3-4 hours

Kadamakudy Backwaters Experience

Discover the tranquil beauty of Kadamakudy, a cluster of 14 islands set on the calm waters of Vembanad Lake. Step aboard a silent, eco-friendly electric boat and glide through narrow canals and open waters, framed by swaying coconut palms, lush paddy fields, and rich birdlife. With your local guide, uncover the islands' fascinating stories, how they got their name, the traditions people still follow, and what life is like in this peaceful corner of Kerala. This is more than a scenic cruise: it's a rare chance to experience the quiet rhythm of backwater life and connect with both nature and community in a way that is gentle, immersive, and deeply authentic.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 3-4 hours

Munnar History Walk

Explore the beauty and heritage of Munnar on a captivating 3-hour history walk through this charming hill station in Idukki. With its crisp mountain air, friendly locals, and breathtaking landscapes, Munnar is best discovered on foot. Led by an expert storyteller, trace the fascinating narratives of history and heritage that have shaped the town. Visit iconic landmarks such as the Headworks Dam, the historic Church of South India, and the poignant World War II Memorial, each revealing a unique chapter in Munnar's past. Along the way, gain an insider's perspective into present-day life in this thriving community, where history and modernity meet in perfect harmony.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 3 Hours



Fort Kochi

Set along a quiet, historic street in Fort Kochi, this is a boutique hotel that reflects the area’s rich and varied past. Housed in a carefully restored 19th-century building, its architecture bears the influence of the Portuguese, Dutch and British, all woven together with Kerala’s own distinct style. The hotel is within easy walking distance of the Chinese fishing nets, St Francis Church and the spice markets. Each room is individually decorated with antique furniture, hand-crafted details and fine local fabrics. At its heart lies a shaded courtyard with a turquoise pool, offering a peaceful pause from the town’s lively rhythm. The restaurant serves freshly prepared Keralan specialities alongside a range of international dishes, there is also a retreat for Ayurvedic healing, an ancient practice to heal mind, body and soul.

Location: Kochi

Our rating: ★★★★★



Old Harbour Hotel

Tucked away in the heart of Fort Kochi, the Old Harbour Hotel offers colonial charm and modern-day comfort. Housed in a beautifully restored 300-year-old building, once part of the Dutch settlement, it offers a unique glimpse into Kerala’s colourful history. Inside, airy rooms and garden cottages feature antique furniture and local artwork, while the peaceful courtyard pool invites relaxation after a day’s sightseeing. Guests can enjoy traditional Ayurvedic treatments at the spa or dine al fresco beneath frangipani trees, where fresh seafood and Kerala specialities are served. Its location is perfect for leisurely exploration: stroll along the harbour to see the famous Chinese fishing nets and browse colourful spice markets and shops selling pashminas, jewellery and colourful Indian fabrics.

Location: Kochi

Our rating: ★★★★★



Brunton Boatyard Hotel

The Brunton Boatyard Hotel lies directly on Kochi’s harbour, on the site of a 19th-century shipyard. Reflecting the city’s colonial past, when pepper from Kerala was as precious as gold, the hotel offers a strong sense of history along with all the modern creature comforts. Its location on the busy waterfront gives guests a front-row seat to everyday harbour life, from traditional fishing boats to ocean-going ships. Rooms are spacious and airy, many with views across the water, and furnished with high ceilings, teak wood furniture and art that tells the story of Kochi’s heritage. A courtyard swimming pool provides a peaceful spot to relax, while History is the restaurant that serves a diverse array of dishes inspired by the many cultures that have shaped Kochi’s cuisine.

Location: Kochi

Our rating: ★★★★★



Tall Trees Munnar

Spread across 66 acres of lush cardamom plantations, Tall Trees offers a serene escape in the cool hills of Munnar. As the name suggests, individual cottages are set among towering trees, connected by winding paths that invite quiet walks and moments of reflection. The atmosphere is peaceful and secluded, yet the resort is well placed for visiting Munnar’s famous tea gardens, waterfalls and wildlife sanctuaries. Rooms are spacious and designed to make the most of the forest setting, with private verandas to enjoy the fresh mountain air and views of the forest. Guests can explore nature trails, spot colourful birdlife, and enjoy meals in the Hill Spice restaurant which serves dishes from across India and beyond, or the rooftop Café Elaichi.

Location: Munnar

Our rating: ★★★★★



Spice Tree Munnar

Perched high in the Western Ghats, Spice Tree Munnar offers a serene escape surrounded by rolling tea estates, fragrant spice gardens and sweeping mountain views. This boutique retreat combines rustic charm with understated luxury, creating the perfect haven for relaxation and discovery. The choice of accommodation includes cottages with a private jacuzzi and pool villas with private infinity pools and copper bath tubs, all have wonderful valley views. Facilities include an infinity pool with a tranquil Ayurvedic spa, and a cosy library lounge ideal for peaceful moments. Dining is focused on family experiences with a main dining hall serving traditional Indian and Keralan dishes. Guided nature walks, spice plantation tours and cooking classes bring you closer to the rich culture and landscape.

Location: Munnar

Our rating: ★★★★★



Cardamom Country by Xandari

Cardamom County by Xandari lies on the edge of the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, and is a tranquil base from which to explore Kerala’s spice-growing region. Designed to sit gently within its hillside setting, the collection of cottages lie surrounded by gardens and views of the forested slopes. Immersive activities include guided walks in the sanctuary, boat trips on Periyar Lake, bamboo rafting and tours of nearby plantations to see how cardamom and other spices are grown. Within the resort, there’s time to slow down, take a swim in the pool overlooking the hills, practise yoga, or enjoy traditional Ayurvedic therapies. Meals showcase fresh, local flavours, and private terraces provide space to unwind. The focus here is on responsible tourism with nature, wellbeing and a quieter pace of life at the heart of all they do.

Location: Thekkady

Our rating: ★★★★★



Spice Routes – Kerala Houseboats

Gliding through the tranquil backwaters of Alleppey, Spice Routes Houseboats offer a memorable way to experience the beauty and traditions of Kerala. Converted from traditional rice barges, these elegant boats provide all the comforts of a boutique stay while keeping close to the rhythms of village life along the waterways. From the shaded deck or your private lounge, watch daily scenes unfold, fishermen casting nets, children waving from the banks, and lush paddy fields stretching into the distance. On board, attentive staff prepare freshly cooked Kerala specialities, with menus often featuring local fish and spices. Spacious bedrooms and en-suite facilities ensure a restful night as the boat moors under starlit skies. Houseboats are available with 1-5 bedrooms.

Location: Alleppey

Our rating: ★★★★★

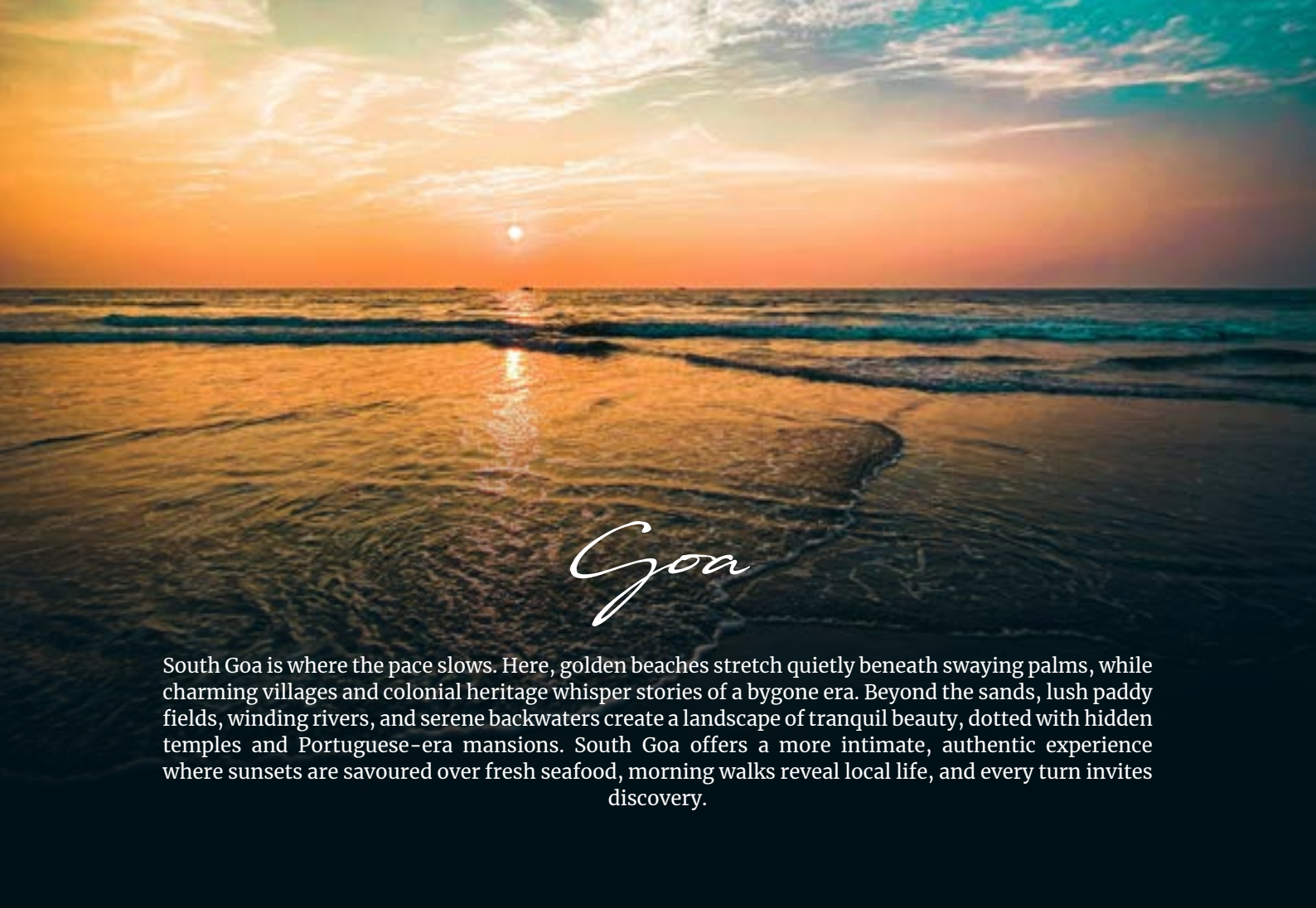


Xandari Escapes – Kerala Houseboats

Cruising with Xandari Houseboats is a peaceful way to experience life on Kerala’s backwaters. Built in the style of traditional kettuvallams, these boats are designed with comfort and simplicity in mind, using natural materials that reflect the region’s heritage. As you drift along palm-fringed canals and wide lagoons, the scenery shifts gently between quiet villages, coconut groves and open stretches of water. Life on board is unhurried: enjoy freshly prepared meals made with local produce, relax on the open deck with a book, or simply watch the changing light over the water. Each cabin is well-appointed with modern amenities, ensuring a comfortable stay without losing the charm of the journey. A night on a Xandari Houseboat offers stillness, authenticity and a close connection with Kerala’s backwaters.

Location: Alleppey

Our rating: ★★★★★



South Goa is where the pace slows. Here, golden beaches stretch quietly beneath swaying palms, while charming villages and colonial heritage whisper stories of a bygone era. Beyond the sands, lush paddy fields, winding rivers, and serene backwaters create a landscape of tranquil beauty, dotted with hidden temples and Portuguese-era mansions. South Goa offers a more intimate, authentic experience where sunsets are savoured over fresh seafood, morning walks reveal local life, and every turn invites discovery.

Old City of Chandor

Explore the old capital of Goa on this short bike tour through Chandor Village, beginning at the historic Nossa Senhora de Belém Church. This charming church, set among lush greenery, reflects the early Christian and Portuguese influences that shaped the region. From here, cycle past the Menezes Braganza Pereira Mansion, a grand heritage home showcasing colonial architecture, antique furnishings, and the stories of Goa’s aristocratic past. Along the way, enjoy glimpses of traditional Goan village life, including quaint homes, courtyards, and narrow lanes lined with Portuguese-style façades. The ride offers a gentle, immersive experience of Goa’s heritage houses and architectural legacy, giving participants a unique perspective on the fusion of Indian and Portuguese culture.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2 hours



Villages of Cavelossim

Enjoy a leisurely bike tour through the scenic surroundings of Cavelossim, combining history, heritage, and the natural beauty of rural Goa. Pedal along quiet village lanes, past traditional homes, and soak in the rhythms of everyday Goan village life. The tour includes a visit to historic oyster houses, still standing and hinting at the region’s maritime past, before cycling through the lush paddy fields of Dhiro. Pause to try your hand at shucking fresh oysters, a hands-on glimpse into local culinary traditions. Along the way, admire the serene backwaters, mangroves, and waterways that thread the landscape, and enjoy the flavours of fresh seafood.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 2 hours



Heritage Village Resort & Spa

Set beside the golden sands of Arossim Beach, Heritage Village Resort & Spa is a charming retreat that captures the laid-back spirit of Goa. Just a short walk from the shore, the resort is perfectly placed for long beach days, gentle swims, and stunning sunsets. Bright, comfortable low-rise rooms overlook lush gardens or the pool, the deluxe rooms and grande club rooms offer more space along with private balconies or terraces. Guests can indulge in authentic Goan flavours, pan Asian and modern European dishes at the resort’s restaurants, there’s also a lively bar for cocktails and a swim up pool bar. Aruna is the spa and wellness space and for those seeking more activity, yoga sessions, water sports, and cycling excursions offer ways to explore the surrounding area.

Location: Arossim Beach, South Goa

Our rating: ★★★★★



St. Regis Goa Resort

Set within 49 acres of lush gardens, coconut palms and shimmering lagoons, The St. Regis Goa Resort enjoys a wonderful setting on Mobor Beach, one of South Goa’s most tranquil stretches of coastline. The resort is bordered by the Sal River on one side and the Arabian Sea on the other, creating a peaceful natural backdrop with abundant birdlife and serene water views. Spacious rooms and suites overlook either the gardens, golf course or lagoons, blending Goan-inspired style with local textiles and artwork. Facilities include a large swimming pool, a 9-hole golf course, and the Iridium Spa. Dining ranges from fresh seafood and Goan specialities to international cuisine across a choice of restaurants.

Location: Mobor Beach, South Goa

Our rating: ★★★★★



Alila Diwa Goa

Alila Diwa Goa is set amid lush paddy fields, just a short walk or complimentary shuttle from the golden sands of Gonsua Beach. The resort’s design blends contemporary style with Goan influences, and is a calm and tranquil retreat surrounded by nature. Spacious rooms and suites open to private balconies with views of gardens, courtyards or rice fields. Facilities include an infinity pool overlooking the paddy fields, a spa offering holistic therapies, a private cinema, and multiple dining options serving Goan, Indian and international cuisine. Sustainability is central to the resort’s ethos, with initiatives such as solar energy use, water recycling, and a strong commitment to supporting the local community.

Location: Majorda

Our rating: ★★★★★



Taj Exotica Resort & Spa

Taj Exotica Resort & Spa is set in 56 acres of landscaped gardens on Benaulim Beach, one of South Goa’s most peaceful stretches of coastline. The resort is designed in a Mediterranean style, with elegant rooms, suites and villas overlooking the gardens, pool or Arabian Sea. Facilities include a large outdoor pool, 9-hole golf course, tennis courts, Jiva Spa and a variety of dining options showcasing Goan, Indian and international cuisine. Families are well catered for with a children’s activity centre and plenty of space to explore. Sustainability plays an important role, with eco-friendly practices such as water conservation, waste management and community initiatives. Its beachfront setting, wide range of activities and focus on responsible hospitality make it a relaxing and comfortable Goan retreat.

Location: Benaulim Beach

Our rating: ★★★★★

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

FAR-FLUNG ISLANDS, PAINTBOX BRIGHT MARINE LIFE
AND GLORIOUS, DESERTED BEACHES

The far-flung Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie in the Bay of Bengal, closer to Indonesia than India and of the 572 islands only a handful are inhabited. The Nicobar Islands remain largely off-limits to protect their indigenous tribal communities who have had little or no contact with the outside world. The time invested in getting here is well worth the effort, for those who do are rewarded with crystal clear water, powder soft sand and fantastic marine life. History is also central to the islands, with the Cellular Jail in Port Blair serving as a powerful reminder of India's struggle for independence. Beyond the coast, dense tropical forests, rare wildlife, and the traditions of indigenous communities add to the islands' appeal.



Tilar Siro Andamans

On arrival in Port Blair, a 2-hour ferry journey brings you to Havelock Island and Tilar Siro, a treasure set between rainforest and sea. This eco-sensitive retreat weaves around existing trees and plants, preserving natural shade and biodiversity, while marine biologists safeguard the reefs and guide guests on responsible marine tourism. Spacious stilted rooms with thatched roofs, private balconies and floor-to-ceiling windows blend comfort with nature; pool villas add private decks and pools. Dining celebrates fresh regional produce in breezy open spaces framed by palms and rainforest. A diver's paradise, the resort partners with a leading dive school to offer PADI-certified courses for all levels, alongside superb snorkelling. Guests can also enjoy kayaking, island cruises, sunset sailing and guided intertidal walks.

Location: Havelock Island, Andamans

Our rating: ★★★★★



Taj Exotica Resort & Spa, Andamans

This extensive resort is set on 46 acres of lush forest and gardens, spilling on to the soft white sands of Radhanagar Beach on Havelock Island. Designed with sustainability at its core, the resort's spacious villas use locally sourced materials and sit peacefully among swaying palms. Facilities are extensive, including a large infinity pool with ocean views, a spa and wellness centre offering traditional Indian therapies, a fitness centre, tennis courts, and a children's activity zone. Dining is a highlight, with restaurants serving freshly caught seafood, regional Andaman dishes and international cuisine. Alongside the excellent snorkelling and scuba diving there are guided nature walks, treks and kayak tours.

Location: Havelock Island, Andamans

Our rating: ★★★★★



Havelock Island Beach Resort

Havelock Island Beach Resort enjoys a prime position on the soft sands of Govind Nagar Beach, just a short drive from the ferry terminal. Surrounded by swaying palms and clear turquoise waters, it offers a relaxed base for exploring Havelock. The accommodation options range from comfortable rooms to spacious suites and cottages, all are simple but comfortably furnished and many have sea views. Facilities include a large outdoor swimming pool, a beachside bar and restaurant serving seafood and Indian favourites, and options for private dining by the water. The resort also offers a range of activities including scuba diving, snorkelling, fishing trips and island excursions, making it ideal for both adventure and relaxation.

Location: Havelock Island, Andamans

Our rating: ★★★★★



Welcomhotel by ITC Port Blair

Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels, Bay Island – Port Blair is set on a hilltop overlooking the Bay of Bengal, surrounded by lush tropical gardens and sea views. Built in a low-rise style with open verandas and local influences, the hotel blends naturally with its island setting. Rooms and suites are airy and comfortable, many offering lovely views of the ocean or gardens. Facilities include an outdoor swimming pool, a multi-cuisine restaurant specialising in seafood and Andaman flavours, and a bar with a terrace perfect for sunset. Guests can enjoy nature walks, cultural evenings, and easy access to Port Blair's main attractions such as Cellular Jail and Ross Island.

Location: Port Blair, Havelock Island

Our rating: ★★★★★

Nepal & Bhutan

HIMALAYAN PEAKS AND PRAYER FLAGS, TIMELESS SERENITY AND SPIRITUAL CALM

Embark on a journey through the Himalayan kingdoms of Nepal and Bhutan, where every valley and mountain tells a story. In Nepal, wander the bustling streets of Kathmandu, where centuries-old temples and artisan workshops bring the past to life, and step into the serene squares of Patan, rich with history and culture. See firsthand the towering peaks of Everest and the Annapurna range, where terraced fields and traditional villages unfold like living postcards. Wildlife encounters in Chitwan and Bardia National Parks reveal rhinos, tigers, and exotic birdlife in their natural homes. In Bhutan, discover the kingdom's spiritual heart, the Tiger's Nest Monastery clings to cliffs above Paro, while the valleys of Thimphu and Punakha are dotted with colourful dzongs and sacred temples.

Our Favourite Sightseeing Tours

Kathmandu Heritage Walk

Enjoy an immersive wander through the heart of old Kathmandu in the company of a knowledgeable local guide, who will reveal the stories, secrets, and hidden corners of this extraordinary city. Stroll through narrow lanes lined with centuries-old temples, bustling courtyards, and vibrant markets, where history and daily life blend seamlessly. Along the way, you'll pause for flavourful food tastings and sample traditional teas, gaining a taste of Nepal's culinary heritage. Take a moment to feed the pigeons in Durbar Square, a gesture believed to bring good karma, before hopping onto a traditional rickshaw for a lively ride through the colourful, busy streets.

Departs: On request
Duration: 4 hours

Historic Bazaars of Kathmandu

Step into the vibrant heart of Kathmandu on a fascinating 2-hour guided walk through the colourful markets just south of Thamel. These bustling marketplaces have been carefully designed over generations to serve the community, acting as lively hubs where locals gather, trade, and socialise. As you explore, you'll encounter stalls overflowing with spices, produce, textiles, and daily essentials, giving a true glimpse into everyday life. Alongside the markets, discover an eclectic mix of stupas, shrines, temples, and traditional monuments, each reflecting Kathmandu's rich heritage and architectural diversity.

Departs: On request
Duration: 2 hours

Hot Stone Baths of Thimphu

Experience a traditional Bhutanese hot stone bath in Thimphu, a centuries-old practice designed to restore balance and wellbeing. Smooth river stones are heated in a fire until glowing, then carefully placed into a wooden tub of fresh water mixed with medicinal herbs. As the stones release heat and minerals, the water becomes a soothing infusion believed to ease muscle tension, improve circulation, and promote relaxation. Long valued in Bhutanese culture for its therapeutic properties, the hot stone bath remains a natural and restorative ritual.

Departs: Daily
Duration: 1–2 hours

Breakfast at Everest Base Camp

This is a true bucket-list adventure and for many a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The journey begins with a thrilling 45-minute helicopter flight to Lukla, offering breathtaking views of the Himalayas as the landscape unfolds below. From here, you'll continue to Everest Base Camp, where a private champagne breakfast awaits at the world's highest-altitude pop-up restaurant, set against the dramatic backdrop of Mount Everest itself. Over breakfast, your host—a local Everest summiteer—will share remarkable stories of climbing, the Sherpa way of life, and the mountain's deep cultural significance. The experience concludes with an unforgettable scenic helicopter flight through the Himalayas, passing towering peaks and glaciers.

Departs: March–May & October–November (weather permitting)
Duration: 3–4 hours

Momo Cooking with a Home Chef

Join a warm and authentic momo cooking experience with a welcoming home chef in Kathmandu, and discover one of Nepal's most beloved dishes. This hands-on session begins with an introduction to the ingredients and the traditions behind momos, Nepal's famous steamed dumplings. Under the guidance of your host, learn how to prepare the delicate dough, create flavourful fillings, and master the art of folding these bite-sized parcels. As you cook together, your chef will share stories of local food culture, family traditions, and the role of momos in daily life and celebrations. Finally, sit down to enjoy the delicious dumplings you've prepared, accompanied by homemade chutneys.

Departs: On request
Duration: 3–4 hours

Punakha Nunnery Experience

Visit Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakang, a serene nunnery set on a ridge overlooking the valleys of Punakha and Wangdue. Surrounded by pine forests and commanding panoramic views of the Himalayan peaks, this peaceful site is both a spiritual centre and a place of learning. The nunnery is home to a large bronze statue of Avalokiteshvara, along with other finely crafted Buddhist images, and serves as a vital training ground for nuns who study Buddhist philosophy, meditation, and traditional arts.

Departs: On request
Duration: 1–2 hours



Takstang Monastery

Classic Nepal

11 days

Experience the soul-stirring beauty of Nepal, a land where ancient culture and natural wonders unite. Discover Kathmandu’s timeless temples and bustling markets, then unwind in Pokhara, where serene lakes mirror the peaks of the Annapurna range. Complete your journey with a safari in Chitwan National Park, home to rare wildlife and lush jungle landscapes. From soaring mountain views to rich cultural encounters, Nepal offers a journey filled with unforgettable moments and lasting impressions.

Highlights

Kathmandu – Pokhara – Phewa Lake
Chitwan National Park

Tour Includes

- 10 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast and full board at the Barahi Jungle Lodge
- All sightseeing as shown and entrance fees
- English speaking guides
- Private air-conditioned transfers and a driver throughout

Departure Dates

Daily, January–May, October–December

Day 1: Kathmandu

On arrival in Kathmandu transfer to your hotel. Then explore the sacred hilltop stupa of Swoyambhunath, and visit Kathmandu Durbar Square.

Day 2: Kathmandu

Explore the historic charm of Bhaktapur and Patan Durbar Squares. End the day with a Newari home visit, cooking demonstration, and an authentic Nepalese dinner. (B)

Day 3: Kathmandu

This morning, visit the magnificent Bouddhanath Stupa. Observe prayer rituals, meet a local monk, and explore nearby monasteries. Continue to Pashupatinath, Nepal’s most sacred Hindu temple. (B)

Day 4: Pokhara

Depart for Pokhara, a drive of around 6 hours. Sitting at an altitude of 900m above sea level, this charming town offers spectacular views of the Himalayan peaks. (B)

Day 5: Pokhara

Today, visit the World Peace Stupa, perched high above Phewa Lake with panoramic views of Pokhara and the Annapurna range. (B)

Day 6: Pokhara

A scenic drive to Milan Chowk leads to a gentle uphill walk through chestnut forests, with views of Hemja and Mardi Valleys. (B)

Day 7: Barahi Jungle Lodge, Chitwan National Park

Transfer to the Chitwan National Park. The following is an idea of the schedule of events at the lodge however seasons and weather conditions mean this may change. After lunch enjoy a boat safari with sundowners. (L,D)

Day 8: Barahi Jungle Lodge, Chitwan National Park

Take an exhilarating jeep safari through the park, cross the Rapti River by traditional boat and explore routes based on recent wildlife sightings. Later, enjoy a guided walking safari spotting exotic birds and wildlife. (B,L,D)

Day 9: Barahi Jungle Lodge, Chitwan National Park

Enjoy a peaceful boat safari along the Rapti River and a guided walk through a local Tharu village. (B,L,D)

Day 10: Kathmandu

Your private driver will transfer you back to Kathmandu, a drive of around 4 ½ hours. (B)

Day 11: Departure

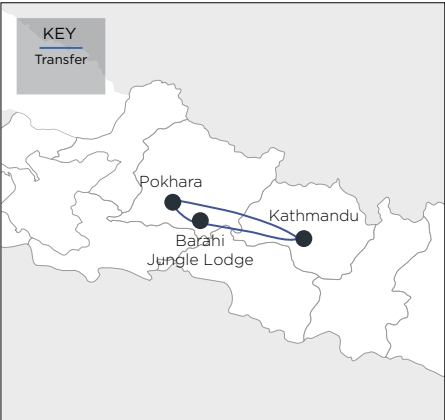
Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)



Pokhara



Barahi Jungle Lodge



Kathmandu

Highlights of Bhutan

8 days

Experience the timeless beauty and rich heritage of Bhutan on this unforgettable journey through the Land of the Thunder Dragon. Explore the capital, Thimphu, where tradition and modern life blend seamlessly, before continuing to the serene valley of Punakha. Conclude in Paro, where sacred monasteries and soaring Himalayan peaks create a truly majestic finale.

Highlights

Thimphu – Punakha – Paro District

Tour Includes

- 7 nights’ accommodation
- Full board
- Transfers and a driver throughout
- Touring as stated

Departure Dates

Daily, Year round

Day 1: Thimphu

On arrival in Paro, transfer to Thimphu. Set in a scenic valley surrounded by pine-covered hills and terraced rice paddies, Bhutan’s captivating capital offers a unique blend of tradition and modernity. (D)

Day 2: Thimphu

Explore the cultural treasures of the Thimphu Valley. Visit the National Library, and the renowned Painting School where Bhutan’s 13 traditional arts come to life. Continue to the Textile Museum, and immerse yourself in Bhutanese heritage at Simply Bhutan. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Punakha

Visit the majestic Buddha Point (Kuensel Phodrang), offering sweeping views across the Thimphu Valley. Continue to the serene Memorial Chorten, a revered monument built for peace and prosperity. Journey on to Punakha, pausing for a countryside walk to the famous Chimi Lhakhang. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Punakha

This morning, enjoy a scenic hike to the hilltop Khamsum Yuelley Namgyel Chorten, offering panoramic views of the lush Punakha Valley and distant Himalayan peaks. Later, explore Sangchen Dorji Lhuendrup Nunnery, beautifully perched above the valley. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Paro District

Set in a scenic valley at 2,200m, Paro is home to ancient monasteries and timeless traditions. Nestled beside the Pa Chhu River, it offers stunning views, serene walks, and cultural richness. (B,L,D)

Day 6: Paro District

Begin your day with a visit to Ta Dzong, Bhutan’s National Museum. Explore magnificent Rinpung Dzong before continuing to Kyichu Lhakhang, one of Bhutan’s oldest temples. This evening, visit a traditional farmhouse for a warm insight into Bhutanese culture, and everyday life. (B,L,D)

Day 7: Paro District

Explore Taktsang Monastery, the iconic “Tiger’s Nest” clinging to a cliff 800 meters above the valley. Visit the historic Drukgyel Dzong, a fortress rich in Bhutanese heritage and this evening, enjoy a gentle stroll through Paro’s charming streets. Soak up the local atmosphere amid stunning Himalayan scenery. (B,L,D)

Day 8: Departure

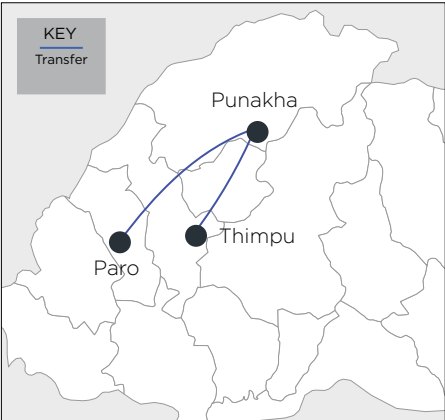
Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. (B)



Thimphu



Taktsang Monastery



Punakha

The Dwarika's

Dwarika’s Hotel, Kathmandu is a remarkable retreat that feels more like a living museum than a hotel. Built to preserve Nepal’s rich heritage, it showcases centuries-old wood carvings, traditional brickwork and intricate Newari architecture, creating an atmosphere steeped in history and culture. Each room is individually designed with antiques, handwoven fabrics and artisanal details, blending old-world charm with modern comfort. Beyond its unique character, the hotel offers a serene outdoor pool, a tranquil spa, and hidden courtyards perfect for relaxation. Dining is a highlight, with Krishnarpan restaurant serving multi-course Nepali feasts; there are also Japanese and international options. A stay at Dwarika’s is an immersion into Nepal’s cultural legacy, where every corner tells a story and every detail reflects the heritage of where you are.

Location: Kathmandu

Our rating: ★★★★★



Bahari Jungle Lodge

Bahari Jungle Lodge offers an intimate stay on the edge of Chitwan National Park, where the forest and river meet in a setting rich with wildlife. It’s not uncommon to see rhinos wander past along the river. Built in harmony with its surroundings, the lodge blends natural materials with traditional Nepalese style, giving the feel of a rustic yet comfortable retreat. Spacious cottages and rooms are simply designed, with thatched roofs and verandas that open onto views of the jungle or Rapti River. Facilities include a riverside dining area serving fresh local and international dishes, an outdoor swimming pool, and guided safaris on foot, boat or 4WD into the park with highly experienced, local guides. There are also cultural dance performances, and afternoon sundowners with memorable views.

Location: Chitwan National Park

Our rating: ★★★★★



Temple Tree Resort & Spa

This tranquil boutique retreat is set in lush gardens, just a short walk from the lake. Designed in a blend of traditional Nepalese architecture and modern style, the resort’s cottages are built around a series of courtyards, giving the feel of a peaceful village setting. Rooms feature natural stone and timber, private balconies, and views of the gardens or the Annapurna mountains. Facilities include an outdoor swimming pool, a spa offering Ayurvedic and Himalayan therapies, and a restaurant serving Nepalese, Asian, and Western cuisine, with al fresco dining available. There are yoga sessions, and it’s easy to explore Pokhara’s nearby lakeside cafés and vibrant markets. With its calm atmosphere and stunning backdrop, Temple Tree offers comfort, character, and a genuine sense of place.

Location: Pokhara

Our rating: ★★★★★



Meghauri Serai, A Taj Safari

Framed by the Rapti River and the dense greenery of Chitwan National Park, Meghauri Serai, A Taj Safari offers an unforgettable wildlife escape. The lodge blends contemporary style with traditional Tharu design, creating an atmosphere that is both refined and rooted in local culture. Guests can choose from river-facing villas with private plunge pools, spacious suites, or cosy lodge rooms, each decorated with natural textures and vibrant artwork. An infinity pool looks out over the river, while the spa provides a peaceful place to unwind after a day of adventure. Dining celebrates fresh Nepali flavours alongside international favourites, with magical al fresco meals under the stars. Guided safaris by jeep, canoe, or on foot bring extraordinary encounters with rhinos, elephants, and the park’s remarkable birdlife.

Location: Chitwan National Park

Our rating: ★★★★★



Hotel Druk

In the heart of Bhutan’s capital, this welcoming hotel combines modern comfort with warm Bhutanese hospitality. Its central location makes it ideal for exploring Thimphu’s cultural landmarks, bustling markets, and lively cafés, which are all within easy reach. The hotel’s interiors reflect a blend of contemporary style and traditional Bhutanese design, with hand-carved details and vibrant local art adding character throughout. Spacious rooms and suites are thoughtfully designed, many offering views across the city or towards the surrounding hills. The restaurant serves authentic Bhutanese cuisine alongside international dishes, while the lounge provides a relaxed setting to enjoy a drink after a day of exploring. A wellness spa and fitness centre add to the sense of comfort, giving a place to relax and recharge.

Location: Thimphu

Our rating: ★★★★★



The Village Lodge

Set in the scenic Paro Valley, surrounded by fields and mountain views, The Village Lodge offers a peaceful stay that reflects Bhutan’s rural charm. Built in traditional style with timber beams and stone walls, the lodge blends seamlessly with its natural setting. The 9 spacious rooms are warm and inviting, with handcrafted furnishings and private balconies that open onto views of the valley and rice paddies. Guests can enjoy Bhutanese specialities and international dishes at the restaurant, with ingredients often sourced locally. Evenings are best spent relaxing by the fireplace or taking in the quiet surroundings from the garden. With its tranquil location and authentic atmosphere, the Village Lodge is a welcoming base from which to explore monasteries, hiking trails, and the cultural heritage of the valley.

Location: Paro

Our rating: ★★★★★



Uma COMO Paro

Perched on a hillside overlooking the Paro Valley, just 30 minutes from the international airport, this serene retreat combines contemporary comfort with Bhutanese charm. The resort’s design reflects local traditions, with clean lines, natural materials, and subtle touches of Bhutanese art creating a sense of calm throughout. Rooms and suites are spacious and elegantly furnished, many with private terraces offering sweeping views of the valley and mountains beyond. Facilities include a wellness-focused spa, an infinity pool, and yoga and meditation spaces designed to encourage relaxation and mindfulness. The restaurant serves fresh, locally inspired cuisine alongside international dishes, often prepared with organic ingredients from the region.

Location: Paro

Our rating: ★★★★★



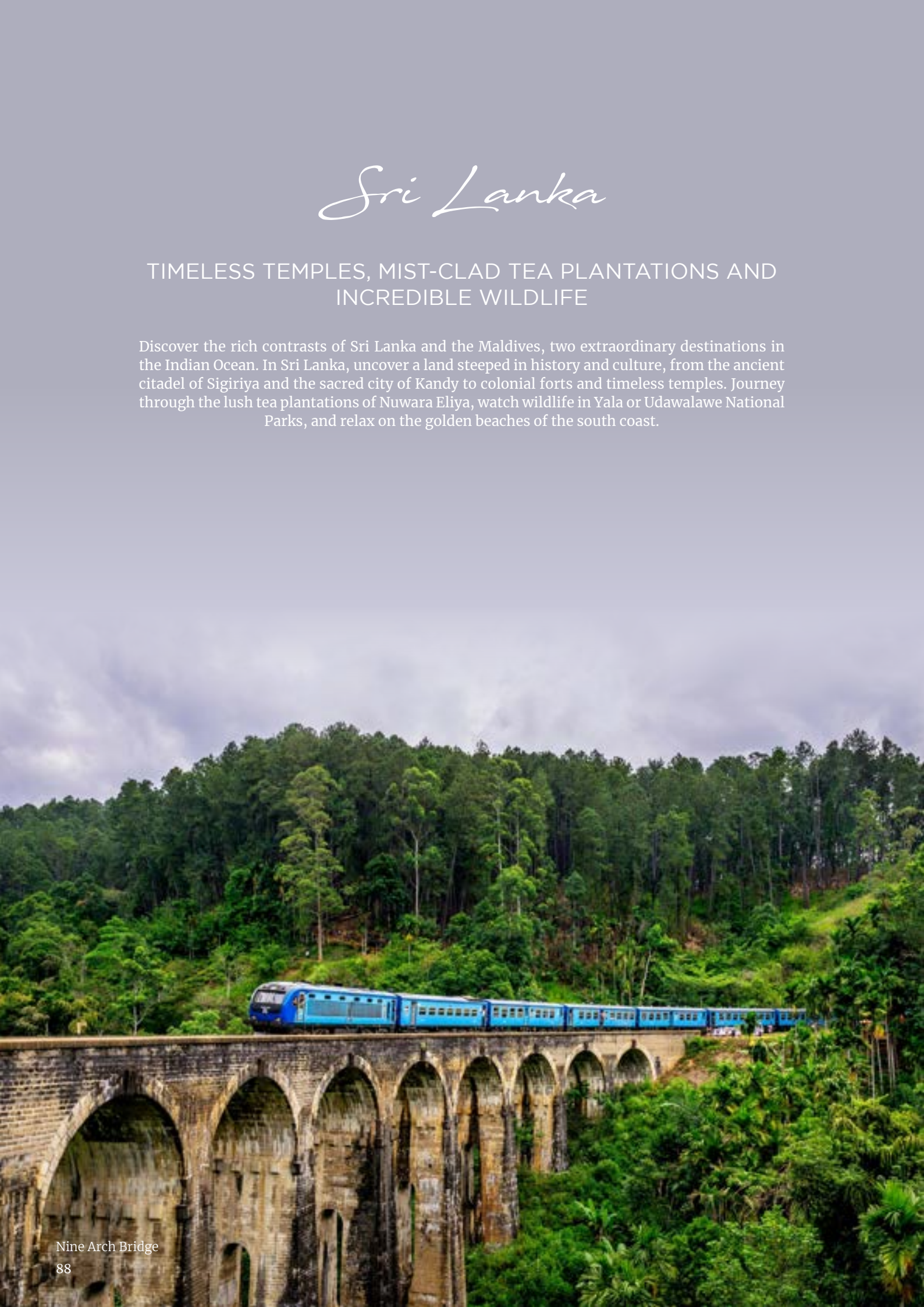
Dhensa

Perched on a forested hillside overlooking the Punakha Valley, Dhensa Boutique Resort offers a peaceful retreat surrounded by pine trees and mountain views. The resort’s design is simple yet elegant, blending clean contemporary lines with subtle Bhutanese touches to create a calm, uncluttered atmosphere. Spacious suites feature large windows, private balconies, and warm wooden interiors, encouraging a deep connection with the natural setting. Facilities include a spa offering traditional Bhutanese hot stone baths, a restaurant serving seasonal produce and Bhutanese specialities, and walking trails that begin right from the doorstep. Guests can explore nearby monasteries and villages, or simply relax in the quiet of the gardens. With its serene location and thoughtful design, Dhensa provides a restorative base for experiencing Bhutan’s culture and landscapes.

Location: Punakha

Our rating: ★★★★★

A blue train is crossing the Nine Arch Bridge, a large stone structure with multiple arches, over a lush green forest. The train is moving from left to right. The background is a dense forest of tall trees. The sky is overcast with grey clouds.





The Cultural Triangle

Sri Lanka’s Cultural Triangle is steeped in history, dotted with ancient capitals, royal citadels, and sacred Buddhist sites. Discover the ruined city of Anuradhapura, the medieval treasures of Polonnaruwa, and the magnificent rock fortress of Sigiriya, before exploring the cave temples of Dambulla. A UNESCO-listed region, it offers a captivating glimpse into the island’s royal heritage and centuries of spiritual tradition.



Tea Country

The misty highlands are the heart of Ceylon tea. Explore Nuwara Eliya, nicknamed “Little England” for its colonial-era bungalows and gardens, before travelling by train through lush hillsides to Ella, with its iconic Nine Arch Bridge and dramatic views of Ella Gap. In Hatton and Haputale, visit working tea estates to see leaves picked and processed, and taste a freshly brewed cup amidst waterfalls and rolling plantations.



Sri Lankan Beaches

Sri Lanka’s coastline offers endless variety, from the golden sands of Bentota to the whale-watching waters of Mirissa and the tranquil crescent of Arugam Bay. On the east coast, Trincomalee boasts calm turquoise seas and some of the island’s finest snorkelling and diving. Relax beneath swaying palms, swim in the warm Indian Ocean, or watch fishermen at work with traditional stilt poles.



Yala National Park

The Yala National Park is Sri Lanka’s most celebrated national park, and lies on the island’s southeast coast. Its varied landscapes of scrubland, forest, and lagoons shelter elephants, crocodiles, sloth bears, and over 200 bird species. Most famous of all are its leopards, the highest density in the world. A jeep safari through Yala’s wilderness offers one of the best chances to witness Sri Lanka’s wildlife at close quarters.



Galle

On Sri Lanka’s southern coast, Galle is a city of history and charm. At its heart lies the UNESCO-listed Galle Fort, built by the Portuguese in the 16th century and later expanded by the Dutch. Stroll along its ramparts to see the lighthouse and crashing waves, then wander cobbled streets filled with boutiques, cafés, and art galleries.



The Maldives

A perfect complement to a Sri Lankan adventure, the Maldives offers a peaceful tropical finale. Soft white sands, clear turquoise waters, and vibrant coral reefs provide an idyllic backdrop for relaxation. Stay in a beach or overwater villa, snorkel among colourful marine life, or simply unwind beneath swaying palms, enjoying a tranquil end to your journey.

Southern Colour and Culture

10 days

From endless beaches pounded by rolling surf, to national parks roamed by elephants, leopards and incredible birdlife. Ancient temples, vast tea plantations, colourful festivals and fabulous food, Sri Lanka is a feast for all the senses. This tour focuses on the south of the island including a scenic train ride on the beautifully named ‘cloud train’ to Nuwara Eliya.

Highlights

Colombo – Sigiriya – Polonnaruwa
Temple of the Tooth – Nuwara Eliya
Yala National Park – Galle

Tour Includes

- 9 nights’ accommodation with daily breakfast
- Meals as shown
- Private car transport and an English speaking guide
- All entrance fees and touring as shown
- Train from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

Departure Dates

Daily

Day 1: Colombo

On arrival in Colombo, your driver will transfer you to your hotel.

Day 2: Sigiriya

Explore Colombo this morning with a walking tour. Visit Wolvendaal Church, a Dutch reform church, the iconic Jami Ul-Alfar Mosque and the Shivite Hindu Temple. This afternoon transfer to Sigiriya. (B)

Day 3: Sigiriya – Polonnaruwa – Sigiriya

An early start today takes you to the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Explore Lankathilaka, the Polonnaruwa Museum, Royal Palace Complex and Gal Vihara. This afternoon join a local guide to ascend the Sigiriya Rock Fortress. (B)

Day 4: Kandy

Your destination today is Kandy. Enjoy a guided tour, including the sacred Temple of the Tooth, one of the most important Buddhist sites. (B)

Day 5: Nuwara Eliya

Board the train from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya. See the lush landscapes of Sri Lankan hill country and meet the locals who use the train as their daily transport. On arrival your private driver will transfer you to your hotel, where high tea will be served. (B)

Day 6: Nuwara Eliya

Explore the Sita Amman Temple, and visit Hakgala Botanical Garden, a beautiful and historic garden that thrives in the cool climate. (B)

Day 7: Yala National Park

Today includes a visit to a tea factory where you’ll learn how the perfect cup of Ceylon tea was crafted in 1867. Afterwards, continue on to Yala National Park. (B)

Day 8: Yala National Park

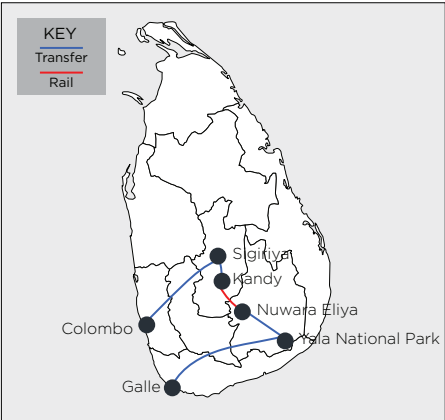
Spend the morning enjoying a local village pottery experience before an afternoon safari of the park. Known for its iconic wildlife including leopards, elephants and birds, you’ll explore one of the lesser visited areas. (B)

Day 9: Galle

Travel on to Galle and spend the afternoon discovering the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Galle Fort. (B)

Day 10: Depart

Depart for your onward flight, or extend your stay.



Sri Lanka Discovery

15 days

Explore the stunning teardrop-shaped island of Sri Lanka on this 15-day adventure, where ancient rock fortresses, sacred temples, and rolling tea plantations await. Journey deep into Yala National Park to spot incredible wildlife, and set sail on a memorable whale-watching cruise along the island’s scenic coast.

Highlights

Colombo – Negombo – Anuradhapura
Sigiriya – Temple of the Tooth
Nuwara Eliya – Yala National Park – Galle

Tour Includes

- 14 nights’ accommodation with daily breakfast
- Meals as shown
- Private car transport and an English speaking guide
- All entrance fees and touring as shown
- Train from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya

Departure Dates

Daily

Day 1: Colombo

On arrival in Colombo, your driver will meet you and transfer you to your hotel for a 2 night stay.

Day 2: Colombo

Today, explore the bustling capital of Colombo. This historic city has been an important trading post since the 5th century and a reflection of Sri Lanka’s colourful history and culture. There is time this afternoon to relax or explore further. (B)

Day 3: Negombo – Anuradhapura

From Colombo, head to Negombo to see the famous fish market, where the fisherman sell their daily catch. Then move on to Anuradhapura, your base in the Cultural Triangle for 2 nights. There may also be opportunity to see the traditional process of toddy tapping en route. (B)

Day 4: Mihintale

Explore the ancient complex of Mihintale, birthplace of Sri Lankan Buddhism and Sri Maha Bodhi, the world’s oldest tree. See the ruined columns of the Brazen Place and the Thuparama Dagoba, regarded as one of the oldest Buddhist structures in the world, before an evening visit to a revered Buddhist temple. (B)

Day 5: Habarana – Polonnaruwa – Sigiriya

Experience local life in Habarana and savour a traditional village-style lunch prepared by locals. This afternoon, tour the ruins of Polonnaruwa before continuing on to Sigiriya. (B,L)

Day 6: Sigiriya

Rise early this morning to visit the incredible rock fortress of Sigiriya. The views of the rock are spectacular, for those climbing the several thousand or steps to the top, the panoramas from the summit even more so. There are landscaped water gardens at the base to enjoy if you choose not to climb the rock. (B)

Day 7: Dambulla – Kandy

See a celebrated collection of Buddhist art in the 5 hilltop caves of Dambulla, before moving on to Kandy. (B)

Day 8: Kandy

Start the day at the Temple of the Tooth, which houses Sri Lanka’s most revered relic, a tooth of Lord Buddha. Your visit is timed with one of the daily pujas (prayer ceremonies), and pilgrims from across the globe flock to this temple. Your tour then continues on to the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, a spectacular and colourful collection of exotic plants. There is a Sri Lankan cooking demonstration this evening. (B)

Day 9: Nuwara Eliya

Today will be one of the highlights of your time in Sri Lanka, with a train journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya. See the lush landscapes of Sri Lankan hill country where the bright green tea terraces stretch into the distance, and meet the locals who use the train as their daily transport. On arrival your private driver will meet you for the drive to your hotel. (B)

Day 10: Yala National Park

From the highlands you now head back down to the lowland country on one of the most scenic drives of the tour. Enjoy an easy walk into the Ella Hills and Little Adam’s Peak. Pass Ravana Falls, arriving this afternoon into Tissamaharama. Known locally as ‘Tissa’, this is a quiet, lakeside town and will be your base for the Yala National Park. (B)

Day 11: Yala National Park

The coastal scrub jungles of Yala form one of Sri Lanka’s greatest national parks, it is also one of the country’s largest. Most famous for its flourishing number of leopards, the park also has a population of elephants, deer, hyaena, sloth bear, crocodiles, wild boar and prolific birdlife. Your day is bookended with early morning and late afternoon safaris. Relax around the lovely swimming pool at your hotel during the heat of the day. (B)

Day 12: Galle

Leave Tissa after breakfast for a leisurely drive along the south coast to Galle. En route visit the unusual boulder-top monastery at MulKirigala. This historic temple dates back more than 2000 years and is home to a gallery of impressive Buddhist art, and also offers panoramic views along the coast. (B)

Day 13: Mirissa

A short early morning drive brings you to Mirissa, where you’ll board a whale watching boat for an adventure in search of the largest living mammal in the world, the blue whale. Research in recent years has earmarked this stretch of Sri Lankan coastline as an important migration route. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore. (B)

Day 14: Galle Fort

Spend today exploring the UNESCO World Heritage Listed Galle Fort. First built by the Portuguese in 1588, it was extensively fortified by the Dutch and is an important historical and archaeological monument. It has a colourful history and is a place of bustling laneways, relics and melting pot of culture and religion. (B)

Day 15: Depart

You will be transferred to Colombo for your onward flight. Or extend your stay. (B)



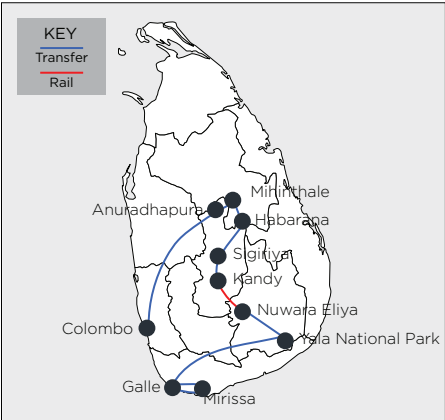
Yala National Park



Kulu Safari, Yala National Park



Nuwara Eliya



Galle

Sri Lanka’s Northern Treasures

10 days

Delve deeper into the unique cultural treasures, exceptional wildlife and stunning landscapes of Sri Lanka on this 10-day tour. Enjoy immersion with local communities, gain an intriguing insight into rural life as well as embarking on an engaging exploration through the rich culture and heritage of the country.

Highlights

Negombo – Wilpattu National Park
Jaffna – Minneriya National Park – Sigiriya
Habarana – Pidurangala – Dambulla
Colombo

Tour Includes

- 9 nights’ accommodation
- Meals as shown
- Private car transport and an English-speaking guide
- All entrance fees and touring as shown
- Water bottle
- Train from Anuradhapura to Jaffna

Departure Dates

Daily

Day 1: Negombo

On arrival in Colombo your driver will meet you for the drive to Negombo, which will take around 50 minutes. After arrival at The Notary’s House, the rest of the day is yours to enjoy. This charming, boutique hotel sits within peaceful gardens and is the perfect spot to unwind after your flight.

Day 2: Chilaw – Wilpattu

Enjoy a traditional toddy tapping experience as you travel to Wilpattu. This unique glimpse into rural life shows you how the skilled tappers climb the tall coconut trees to extract the sap from the flower buds. Learn the importance of the craft and taste the freshly collected sap. (B,L,D)

Day 3: Wilpattu National Park

Today is bookended with safari drives in the Wilpattu National Park, one of Sri Lanka’s premier wildlife spots. The morning safari begins as dawn breaks and your experienced guides will showcase the rich biodiversity of the park. The 2nd of the safari drives begins during the late afternoon, the cooler temperatures means there is the chance to spot myriad wildlife including elephants, leopards and birds amidst the beautiful landscape as the sun sets. (B,L,D)

Day 4: Jaffna

Embark on one of Sri Lanka’s memorable train journeys today, as you travel by rail from Anuradhapura to Jaffna. This scenic and culturally rich journey takes in Sri Lanka’s northern landscapes and passengers are treated to peaceful scenes of rice paddies, glimpses of wildlife and rural life. The train offers charm and comfort and the opportunity to mingle with fellow passengers and local vendors selling snacks as the train passes. On arrival in Jaffna your driver will be waiting to take you to your hotel, where the rest of the day is yours to do as you please. (B)

Day 5: Jaffna

Immerse yourself in the sights, sounds and flavours of Jaffna, known for its Tamil influences, colonial architecture and vibrant markets. Your local guide will lead you through the city, sharing their knowledge and passion. Stops include Nallur Kovil, a hugely significant Hindu temple, filled with intricate carvings and where visitors can see local rituals and practices. Other visits include the Jaffna Fort and opportunity to sample the exceptional northern Sri Lankan cuisine. (B)

Day 6: Habarana

Travel to Habarana and your base for the night, Cinnamon Lodge in the heart of Sri Lanka’s Cultural Triangle. Embark on a late afternoon safari into Minneriya National Park, particularly known for its impressive elephant gatherings, along with other wildlife including leopards, deer and numerous bird species. See the stunning landscapes bathed in gentle golden light as the sun sets, a memorable way to end your day. (B,D)

Day 7: Sigiriya – Habarana

Discover the incredible rock of Sigiriya. Rising dramatically from the surrounding plains, this is one of Sri Lanka’s most ancient rock fortresses. The view is spellbinding; for those who choose to climb the several thousand or so steps to the summit, it is even more so. Half way up the apsaras frescos on a sheltered rock face are remarkable, however if you prefer to stay at the foot there are formal gardens and water features to discover. Later in the afternoon experience Angampora, the traditional martial art of Sri Lanka. In the village of Galapitagala, see the last generation preserving this ancient martial art in a rural village house. (B)

Day 8: Pidurangala

Enjoy an e-bike tour through the scenic trails, local villages and ancient ruins of Habarana before the short drive to Pidurangala. Your overnight stay is at Back of Beyond, a simple, eco-friendly retreat tucked into 4 acres of forest close to Pidurangala Rock. Spend time hiking, bird watching, and take a sunset paddle on Thalkota Lake to soak in the tranquillity of your surroundings in the gentle evening breeze. (B)

Day 9: Dambulla – Colombo

As you head for Colombo visit Dambulla Rock Cave Temple, one of the 8 UNESCO World Heritage sites in Sri Lanka. Explore the huge, well-preserved rock cave temple complex which sprawls across a hilltop on the edge of the town. There are 200 steps to negotiate to reach the 5 separate caves home to Buddha statues and paintings. From here your driver will transfer you to the Galle Face Hotel in Colombo. (B)

Day 10: Departure

Depart for the airport and your onward flight, or extend your stay. (B)



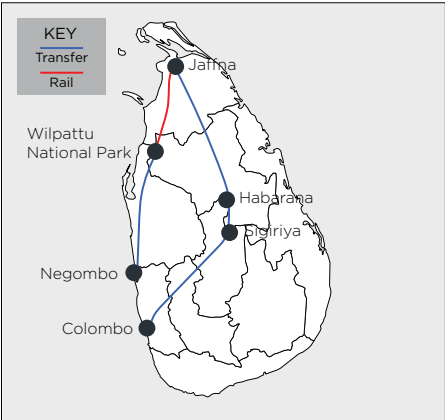
Pidurangala



Wilpattu



Anuradhapura



Jaffna

Discover the Beauty of Sri Lanka

13 days

Discover the rich diversity of Sri Lanka on a small group journey through its cultural heart and scenic landscapes. Explore the ancient cities of Anuradhapura and Habarana, witness elephants in the wild at Minneriya National Park, and experience Kandy’s spiritual charm. Travel through the cool hills of Nuwara Eliya, step back in time at Galle Fort, and unwind on Bentota’s peaceful beaches. This is a journey that captures the essence of Sri Lanka’s heritage, nature, and coastal beauty.

Highlights

Colombo – Sigiriya Rock Fortress
Cultural Triangle – Minneriya National Park
Kandy – Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic
Nuwara Eliya – Udawalawe – Galle – Bentota

Tour Includes

- 12 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 3 lunches & 7 dinners
- Transfers, portorage, and tipping
- Small group tour – maximum of 18 guests
- Services of a travel director and local guides

Tour is operated by Travelmarvel.

Departure Dates

February – June & September – November

Day 1: Colombo

On arrival in Colombo transfer to your hotel, then meet your fellow travellers this evening for a welcome dinner.
Hotel: Granbell Hotel Colombo (D)

Day 2: Habarana

Today, journey into Sri Lanka’s Cultural Triangle. En route, enjoy an Insider Experience at a peaceful Buddhist monastery, where you’ll witness daily rituals, take part in a Dhamma discussion or meditation, and enjoy a traditional lunch. Later, explore the remarkable Sigiriya Rock Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage site famed for its frescoes, water gardens, and sweeping views.
Hotel: Cinnamon Lodge Habarana (or similar) – 3 nights (B,L,D)

Day 3: Anuradhapura

This morning, explore the ancient city of Anuradhapura by tuk tuk, weaving through centuries-old stupas, monasteries, and sacred Bodhi trees in Sri Lanka’s first capital. It’s an exciting and immersive way to experience this UNESCO-listed site. This evening, enjoy a vibrant cultural show featuring traditional music, dance, and folklore. (B)

Day 4: Minneriya National Park

Today’s Insider Experience offers a firsthand introduction to Sri Lankan cuisine as you join a local chef for a cooking demonstration, learning the secrets behind traditional dishes and regional flavours. Later, set off on a game drive through Minneriya National Park. Surrounded by lush forest and open plains, watch for elephants roaming freely in their natural habitat—an unforgettable wildlife encounter and a highlight of your journey through Sri Lanka’s Cultural Triangle. (B,L,D)

Day 5: Kandy

Bid farewell to the Cultural Triangle and journey to the enchanting city of Kandy, where age-old traditions blend seamlessly with everyday life. Explore lively markets, admire scenic views, and visit the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic. Later, enjoy an Insider Experience at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya, where a local botanist storyteller will guide you through the lush grounds, sharing fascinating stories of the garden’s diverse flora and rich botanical heritage.
Hotel: Cinnamon Citadel Kandy (or similar) – 2 nights (B,D)

Day 6: Kandy

Your day begins with a visit to the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic. After lunch enjoy a guided tour of the Suriyakantha Centre for Arts & Culture. (B,L)

Day 7: Nuwara Eliya

Enjoy an enlightening encounter as you journey through the heart of Sri Lanka to the cool climes of Nuwara Eliya, where rolling hills and lush tea estates await. Here, take part in a tea experience, learning the art of tea production amid breathtaking scenery. Along the way, enjoy an Insider Experience with Kanishka, a traditional artist who shares the stories of Sri Lanka’s unique drums, Kandy’s distinctive dance styles, and the ornate jewels worn in performance.
Hotel: Araliya Green City (or similar) – 2 nights (B,D)

Day 8: Nuwara Eliya

Today is yours to enjoy at leisure or choose from a selection of optional experiences to enrich your stay. Take a guided walking tour through Nuwara Eliya’s historic architecture, enjoy an elegant high tea at the iconic Grand Hotel, or set off on a scenic hike through Horton Plains, where dramatic landscapes and hidden waterfalls await. Each option offers a unique way to experience the charm and natural beauty of Sri Lanka’s highlands. (B)

Day 9: Udawalawe

Today, bid farewell to the stunning landscapes of Nuwara Eliya and embark on a scenic train ride (subject to availability) from Bandarawela to Demodara. Take in the breathtaking views of rolling hills, lush tea plantations and misty valleys as the train winds its way through the countryside. Make a stop to visit the famous Nine Arch Bridge, marvelling at its architectural beauty amid the scenic surroundings before reaching Udawalawe.
Hotel: Udawalawe – 2 nights (B,D)

Day 10: Udawalawe

Enjoy a heartwarming visit to the Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home during feeding time, where you’ll witness the care of young, orphaned elephants as they prepare for life back in the wild. Later, take a gentle village walk through peaceful rural landscapes, meeting members of the local community and gaining a deeper understanding of their daily life and traditions. This experience offers a genuine glimpse into the rhythms of rural Sri Lankan life. (B)

Day 11: Galle & Bentota

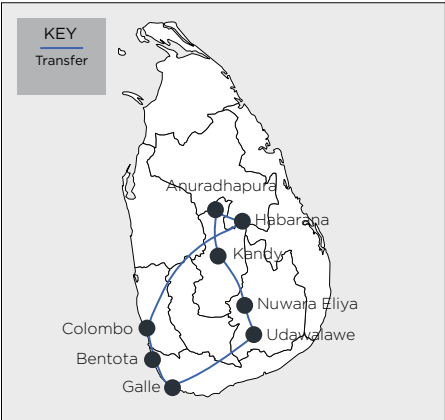
En route to Bentota, pause to explore the coastal charm of Galle. Stroll through its atmospheric streets, where colonial heritage blends with vibrant local life. Discover the UNESCO-listed Galle Fort and soak up its rich history or unwind by the sea. Enjoy an Insider Experience with a local expert, learning the traditional art of cinnamon tapping—a fascinating look at the cultivation and cultural importance of this prized spice in Sri Lanka’s culinary story.
Hotel: Ekho Surf (or similar) – 2 nights (B)

Day 12: Bentota

Unwind in the coastal haven of Bentota, where you can relax on golden sands or take a dip in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean. For those wishing to explore further, an optional visit to the enchanting Lunuganga Estate, the former home of renowned architect Geoffrey Bawa, offers a glimpse into his creative legacy. This evening, enjoy a farewell dinner, reflecting on your journey and sharing travel tales with your fellow companions. (B,D)

Day 13: Departure

A transfer will take you to the airport for your homeward flight. (B)



Journeys: Discover Sri Lanka

12 days

Discover the magic of Sri Lanka, the island once known as “Serendib” by early Arab traders, the word that gave us “serendipity”. This National Geographic Journey with G Adventures takes you through a land of breathtaking palaces, ancient cities, and ornate Buddhist temples. Stroll fragrant spice gardens, sip world-famous Ceylon tea straight from the plantations, and experience unforgettable wildlife encounters with elephants and leopards on safari in two renowned national parks.

Highlights

Colombo – Wilpattu National Park
Anuradhapura – Habarana – Dambulla
Sigiriya – Kandy – Nuwara Eliya –
Udawalawe National Park – Negombo

Tour Includes

- 11 nights’ accommodation
- Daily breakfast, 1 lunch & 3 dinners
- Arrival transfers
- Small group – max 15 guests
- Chief Experience Officer Tour Guide
- Range of activities as stated
- Private vehicle transfers throughout

Tour is operated by National Geographic Journeys with G Adventures

Departure Dates

September – April

Day 1: Colombo

On arrival in Colombo you will be met and transferred to your hotel. There will be a welcome meeting this evening where you can meet your fellow travellers.

Hotel: Fairway Colombo or similar

Day 2: Wilpattu National Park

Today begins with a visit to a local coconut plantation where you’ll learn of the importance of this crop to Sri Lanka before continuing north to the Wilpattu National Park. Explore the park by 4WD with a local expert keeping a lookout for the park’s most famous resident, the leopard. (B,D)

Hotel: Big Game Camp Wilpattu or similar

Day 3: Anuradhapura

Travel to the sacred city of Anuradhapura, this ancient capital of Sri Lanka dates to the 3rd century B.C. Tour the ruins and monasteries, palaces and gardens of this UNESCO World Heritage Site. (B)

Hotel: Palm Garden Village or similar

Day 4: Habarana & Dambulla

Discover daily rural life in the thriving village of Habarana. Travel on foot, by canoe and traditional bull cart as you explore, surrounded by a landscape of lakes and green jungle. A walk through town gives the chance to meet locals and vendors who live here. Continue on to Dambulla this evening. (B,L)

Hotel: Sigiriana Resort by Thilanka or similar – 2 nights

Day 5: Dambulla

This morning, explore the awe-inspiring Sigiriya Rock Fortress. A UNESCO World Heritage site, this ancient royal citadel was built in the 5th century atop a dramatic granite outcrop. Ascend the winding stairways to discover landscaped gardens, cave shelters, monasteries, and palace ruins decorated with striking frescoes. (B)

Day 6: Kandy

Explore the Dambulla Cave Temple, the largest and best preserved collection of cave shrines in Sri Lanka. Visit a spice garden and learn how the spices are used in both food and medicine before continuing on to Kandy. Here, enjoy a tour of the Temple of the Sacred Tooth, home to a tooth of Lord Buddha. This evening be swept away by a captivating show of local music and dance. (B)

Hotel: Hotel Thilanka or similar – 2 nights

Day 7: Kandy

Today, uncover the charms of Kandy. Begin with a visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens of Peradeniya, renowned for their stunning collection of orchids and tropical flora. Continue to the Sthree Craft Shop and Café, a G-Adventures supported social enterprise empowering local women and young people. Enjoy a handicraft demonstration, and sample local teas served with scones and pastries. (B)

Day 8: Nuwara Eliya

Head through the mountains to tea country. Visit a tea plantation and savour a cup of perfectly blended and brewed Ceylon tea. Afterwards enjoy a tour of Nuwara Eliya, following the cool, mist-clad roads through the blankets of tea bushes. This afternoon there is an optional high tea at the colonial-era Grand Hotel. (B)

Hotel: Grand Hotel or similar

Day 9: Udawalawe National Park

Venture out this morning to the Horton Plains National Park, a high altitude protected area of grasslands and hilly cloud forest. Enjoy a picnic breakfast as you end your trek at the point known as World’s End. Afterwards, continue to your tented camp on the edge of the Udawalawe National Park. (B,D)

Hotel: Big Game Camping Udawalawe or similar – 2 nights

Day 10: Udawalawe National Park

Udawalawe is a sanctuary for large herds of elephants and this is one of the best places in the world to observe them. On your jeep safari keep your eyes peeled for the abundant wildlife and sightings of these huge creatures. (B,D)

Day 11: Galle & Bentota

After a cooking demonstration by the camp chef, it’s time to head for the coast and Negombo. A small town that has seen British, Dutch and Portuguese rule, there is time to explore or simply relax on the beach. (B)

Hotel: Jetwing Sea Hotel or similar

Day 12: Departure

You are free to depart at any time today. Your guide can assist with airport transfers. (B)



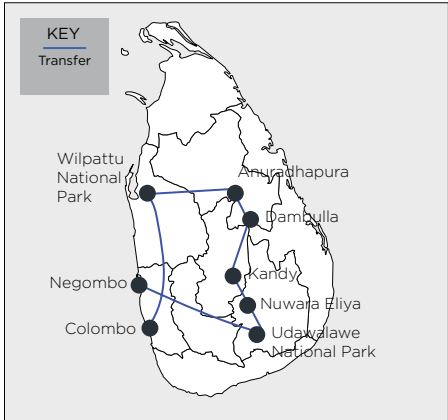
Sigiriya Rock Fortress



Sthree Craft Shop and Café



Tea Plantation



Udawalawe National Park

Aliya Resort & Spa Sigiriya

Nestled in the heart of the Cultural Triangle, this resort offers unobstructed views of Sigiriya and Pidurangala from its vast pool deck, featuring a beautiful infinity pool, blending cultural heritage with modern elegance. Rooms are inspired by the elephants of Sri Lanka, complete with modern comforts and traditional elements with options to stay in wooden chalets bordering the jungle, suites with private pools and deluxe rooms with attics for added space. Dining is available at several venues, including a mix of Chinese, Western and Sri Lankan flavours with panoramic views of the surrounding countryside. Indulge in ancient Ayurveda at the AyurVie Spa, with yoga and meditation, or discover curated cultural activities and eco-initiatives like organic gardens and native tree planting contributing to a sustainable stay.

Location: Sigiriya, Cultural Triangle

Our rating: ★ ★ ★



Water Garden Sigiriya

Water Garden Sigiriya is a beautiful boutique resort within Sri Lanka's Cultural Triangle, offering a blend of modern elegance and ancient heritage. Created by renowned architect Channa Daswatte, the resort features 30 architect-designed villas spread across 38 acres of lush greenery, tranquil waterways, and meandering streams, providing a serene and private retreat. Each villa boasts spacious interiors, private plunge pools, and sundecks, many with views of the iconic Sigiriya Rock. Guests can indulge in delicious dining at the main restaurant or the Kamatha Dining Experience, savouring organic and locally sourced cuisine. The resort also offers a twin-level bar with panoramic views, a spa, fitness centre, and various recreational activities, including cycling and archery.

Location: Sigiriya, Cultural Triangle

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Uga Ulgalla

Located in a 150-year-old village chieftains mansion, Ulgalla is a hotel with traditional elegance and history, offering a unique experience within this remote environment. The only all-pool villa in the Cultural Triangle, Ulagalla comprises of 25 large villas each with private pool and separate living areas, set within a secluded 58 acres with the thoughtfully restored main house at its heart. The resort is home to some of the best restaurants in the area, with options to dine in the main restaurant, in privacy on your own private deck or within a local paddy field. Activities for guests include horseback riding, kayaking, archery and cycling, and Ulagalla is also perfectly located for easy access to the UNESCO treasures of Sigiriya and Anuradhapura.

Location: Anuradhapura, Cultural Triangle

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Amaya Lake

Amaya Lake Dambulla is a serene lakeside retreat nestled on the tranquil shores of Kandalama Lake. This eco-conscious resort offers 119 chalet-style rooms and suites, each designed to blend with the surrounding forested landscape. Guests can indulge in authentic Sri Lankan cuisine at the Wewe Kade restaurant, enjoy rejuvenating treatments at the Panchakarma Ayurvedic Spa, or embark on nature walks and birdwatching excursions. The resort also offers a range of recreational activities, including yoga sessions, swimming in the expansive pool, and exploring nearby attractions like the Dambulla Cave Temples and Sigiriya Rock Fortress. With its blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and modern amenities, Amaya Lake is perfect for those seeking tranquillity and adventure.

Location: Dambulla, Cultural Triangle

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Ceylon Tea Trails

Ceylon Tea Trails is a luxurious retreat nestled in Sri Lanka's central highlands, offering an immersive experience in the heart of tea country. This exclusive resort comprises 5 restored colonial-era planters' bungalows, each exuding old-world charm with period furnishings, fireplaces, and expansive verandas overlooking lush tea estates and serene lakes. With just 27 rooms, the service here is attentive and personal and includes dedicated butlers and private chefs. Culinary offerings are exceptional, featuring gourmet meals, afternoon cream tea, and tea-infused dinners, often accompanied by select wines and spirits. Activities abound, from guided tea plantation tours and lake cruises to croquet and mountain biking.

Location: Hatton, Hill Country

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Jetwing St Andrew's

Jetwing St Andrew's is a charming hill country mansion nestled in the cool climes of Nuwara Eliya, offering a nostalgic retreat in the heart of the island's hill country. Built in 1875, this colonial-era residence has been meticulously restored to blend vintage elegance with modern comforts. The hotel features 56 rooms and suites, each thoughtfully designed to provide a cosy and luxurious ambiance, complete with fireplaces and garden views. Guests can indulge in fine dining at the Old Course Restaurant, enjoy a drink at the Road Hole Bar, styled after a traditional British pub, or partake in high tea on the terrace. With its serene setting amidst lush gardens and proximity to attractions like Hakgala Botanical Gardens, Jetwing St. Andrew's offers an unforgettable hill country experience.

Location: Nuwara Eliya, Hill Country

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Dutch House

Located amid Sri Lanka's misty hill country, Dutch House Bandarawela is a serene colonial-style property set across three garden levels. Designed in an early 18th-century Cape Dutch architectural style, it features hardwood floors, antique furnishings and a veranda overlooking scenic views. Two bedrooms retain the charms of a bygone era on the upper floor of the house; both individually designed with a captivating blend of Sri Lankan and European heritage. Guests are welcome to unwind in the indoor swimming pool, in the lush gardens or in a cosy lounge room. A truly boutique stay, let the private chef and butler take care of your every need – choose your meals from the cookbooks that line the shelves of the house, with the chef at your disposal for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Location: Bandarawela

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Nine Skies

Boasting magnificent mountain views over Ella's countryside, this cosy 5-bedroom tea bungalow is the perfect setting for laid-back adventures. Just 15 minutes from Ella town, this is a great destination to explore the outdoors. Beautifully restored bedrooms with an old-world charm and countryside setting feature high ceilings and private terraces with garden or mountain views, with bathtubs to soak in after adventures around surrounding tea plantations. Dine on the veranda overlooking the tropical gardens with Sri Lankan and international dishes on offer, most of which are made from fruit, herbs and vegetables grown on-site or sourced from local markets. The butlers will pamper each guest, from mixing your favourite drink by the pool or serving afternoon tea.

Location: Demodara

Our rating: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Yala National Park Accommodation

Cinnamon Wild

Cinnamon Wild Yala offers a unique blend of wilderness and luxury, situated on the edge of Yala National Park. This eco-friendly resort spans 10 acres, combining jungle and beach environments to create an immersive wildlife experience. Accommodation options include 68 jungle chalets and 8 beach chalets, each designed with natural materials to blend seamlessly with their surroundings. The beach chalets offer elevated views of the Indian Ocean. The resort's main restaurant, Tuskers, serves a variety of cuisines, while the rooftop Peacock Bar provides panoramic views of the jungle and ocean. Guests can enjoy guided safaris into Yala National Park, renowned for its leopard sightings, and participate in nature walks and cultural excursions.

Location: Yala National Park

Our rating: ★★★★★

Uga Chena Huts

Uga Chena Huts offers an exclusive, all-inclusive safari experience on the edge of the Yala National Park. This eco-luxury resort comprises just 18 spacious, detached cabins, each featuring a private 5-metre plunge pool, freestanding bathtub, and shaded outdoor deck. Designed to blend seamlessly with the surrounding wilderness, the cabins are crafted using natural materials and traditional techniques, providing a harmonious balance between rustic charm and modern comfort. Guests can enjoy gourmet dining at the Basses Restaurant, unwind at the spa, or partake in activities such as guided safaris, birdwatching and stargazing. With a commitment to sustainability, Uga Chena Huts utilises solar energy, wastewater recycling, and supports local communities, offering an unforgettable and responsible luxury retreat in the heart of Sri Lanka's wildlife-rich landscape.

Location: Yala National Park

Our rating: ★★★★★

Leopard Trails

Leopard Trails aims to provide a unique Sri Lankan safari experience in solitude and comfort, with only the walls of your tent separating you from the wonders of this unique environment. These luxurious air-conditioned canvas tents are located on the fringes of Yala and Wilpattu National Parks, amid breathtaking wilderness. Each tent features plush beds, private verandas and en-suite bathrooms, returning guests to the golden age of safaris but with modern comforts. Expert local naturalists will guide you on daily game drives with the chance of catching a glimpse of the elusive leopards, elephants and birdlife. Indulge on al-fresco or bush dinners beneath the stars, along with cookery classes and photography programmes.

Location: Yala National Park

Our rating: ★★★★★

Jetwing Yala

Set at the edge of Sri Lanka's most popular national park, Jetwing Yala immerses you in the sights and sounds of the tropical wild along an unchartered coastline. Where nature meets island history, Jetwing Yala offers guests a wealth of Sri Lankan experiences – explore the wildlife of the park with a local naturalist, visit nearby ancient temples or take to the waves for some water sports. 80 luxurious rooms are designed to reflect the magnificent natural surroundings, with hues of red and green to echo the tropical vibrancy of the region, and contemporary modern features. Delight in regional and Asian-fusion dining under panoramic skies, swim in the 75-metre pool and enjoy a cocktail at the thatched beach bar at this hotel perfectly placed between beach, bush and safari.

Location: Yala National Park

Our rating: ★★★★★



Accommodation **Colombo & Galle**

Galle Face Hotel Colombo

Located in the heart of Colombo along the seafront, The Galle Face Hotel is one of the oldest hotels east of the Suez, and an iconic landmark of Sri Lanka. Where heritage meets history, the hotel embraces its rich traditions that draw back old and new generations of guests time after time. The heritage charm can be seen in the rooms, with distinctive comforts and subtle luxury embellishments, with options for city, sea or garden views and some with private balconies. Savour flavours of the world at the hotel's dining venues, from Firebeach Beach club, light meals at the Travellers Bar or Sri Lankan fusion at The Verandah, where celebrities and authors have dined over the hotel's 150 year history. Indulge in the Balinese spa, spend time at the salt water pool flanked with cabanas or enjoy a game of croquet at this iconic property.

Location: Colombo

Our rating: ★★★★★

Wallawwa Colombo

Although only 20 minutes from the airport, this hotel feels a world away nestled within 7 acres of tropical gardens. This 18-room boutique hotel is housed in an 18th-century manor house complete with a jungle-lined swimming pool, offering a unique place to relax and recharge. The traditional character of the property has been sympathetically blended with contemporary additions, making any of the bedrooms a delight – with four poster beds, vintage décor and high wooden ceilings taking guests back to colonial times. The open-sided restaurant overlooking the 200 year-old gardens is an ideal spot to enjoy Sri Lankan cuisine, with menus designed to make the most of locally grown produce. Ideal as a start or end point to your Sri Lankan journey, it offers timeless charm and personalised service.

Location: Colombo

Our rating: ★★★★★

Merchant Galle Fort

Tucked within the ancient walls of Galle Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Merchant Galle Fort Hotel is a timeless sanctuary where history and elegance intertwine. Every stone whispers stories of old, yet the hotel offers modern and contemporary design too. From its charming colonial architecture to the peaceful courtyards and welcoming service, it inspires a deep sense of connection to heritage and place. The rooms are elegant and beautifully appointed with period furnishings, there is a superb restaurant and dining is a true experience. It's an atmospheric and memorable base from which to explore.

Location: Galle

Our rating: ★★★★★

Fort Bazaar

Formerly a spice merchant's home, Fort Bazaar has been lovingly restored into an 18-room boutique hotel making it one of Galle Fort's most charming properties. Positioned within steps of the fort, shops and key landmarks, this hotel is also just a short drive away from coastal cruises and sandy bays, perfect for diving and surfing. Bedrooms and suites are reminiscent of the fort's Moorish history, with many facing the inner courtyard and are stocked with luxury local sourced amenities and Scandinavian design features all working in harmony to provide an indulgent retreat. After a day of wandering the cobbled streets, guests are invited to relax at the pool, at the in-house spa or with culinary delights at Church Street Social, serving Sri Lankan and Middle-Eastern dishes in the courtyard or the lounge.

Location: Galle

Our rating: ★★★★★

Cinnamon Bentota Beach

Sitting on Sri Lanka’s southern coastline flanked by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean and the Benthara River, the Cinnamon Bentota Beach was originally established in the 1960s by renowned architect Geoffrey Bawa. The hotel has been thoughtfully refurbished to blend mid-century modern design with contemporary elegance and offers 159 rooms and 16 uniquely themed suites with stunning views of the ocean, river, or lush gardens. There are a variety of dining options, for relaxation and recreation the resort offers 2 swimming pools, a spa, a gym, and a range of water sports such as windsurfing and stand-up paddleboarding. There’s also a dedicated kids’ club, while cultural enthusiasts can participate in artisan workshops and cooking classes.

Location: Bentota

Our rating: ★★★★★

Jetwing Saman Villas

Perched on a rocky headland where the Indian Ocean meets the golden shores of the southern coast, Jetwing Saman Villas is just two hours from bustling Colombo. Backed by coconut plantations and a quiet fishing village, this hotel features well appointed rooms and elegant interiors, set amongst sprawling gardens. Four-poster beds, marble baths and open-air showers are featured in the collection of 26 suites, ensuring a tranquil and exclusive atmosphere. Choose to lounge in the infinity pool, stroll along the beach or rejuvenate at the Sahana Spa – this is the place for relaxation. Exquisite dining is available in several settings, from a platform overlooking the sea to the pool pavilion. An abundance of activities are available in Bentota and beyond, from the Bawa Trail to the historic streets of Galle Fort.

Location: Bentota

Our rating: ★★★★★

Adiyta Resort

Named after the Sanskrit god of the sun and located on the beach, this resort offers the ultimate in luxury and distinct Sri Lankan charm. From the sounds of the ocean to the relaxing library and secluded gardens, guests will feel completely at ease at this wellness retreat in the seaside resort town of Hikkaduwa. Each of the 12 suites are uniquely designed with antiques from South Asia and seamless indoor-outdoor living. Guests may dine whenever they wish, with the expertly trained chefs creating culinary masterpieces to please any palate throughout the day from on the beach to under the stars. The resort’s curated experiences range from eco tours, cookery demonstrations, market and bicycle tours, ensuring each stay is enriching and peaceful.

Location: Nr, Galle

Our rating: ★★★★★

Uga Jungle Beach

Uga Jungle Beach offers the perfect blend of lush jungle and Indian Ocean, all whilst seamlessly blending into nature. Designed to look and feel like a luxurious treehouse, the resort is in close proximity to Trincomalee city, offering plenty of adventures and sightseeing. 49 modern chalets have been crafted with the environment in mind, offering spectacular ocean and lagoon views. Each chalet is appointed with king-sized beds, outdoor rain showers and a private deck along with modern entertainment systems. A free-form pool blends into the foliage, and there is also the chance to enjoy an immersive spa treatment and gourmet dining, with fresh local seafood and Sri Lankan flavours. Golden beaches with snorkelling and world-famous whale watching sites are also close by, ensuring the perfect balance of adventure and relaxation.

Location: Trincomalee

Our rating: ★★★★★



Ahu Bay

Ahu Bay is located on a quieter stretch of Sri Lanka’s southwest coast. Flanked by sandy beaches and fringed by the jungle, this boutique hideaway is true barefoot luxury, but still just 2 hours by road from the capital of Colombo. Two beach houses just steps from the ocean contain elegantly designed suites and villas, with ocean facing terraces and teak and rattan natural finishes. Gourmet dining celebrates the ocean and seasonal produce, set within a bamboo-roofed building at the Main Restaurant & Bar on the oceanfront, with options for private candlelit dinners on the beach and afternoon high tea served in the gardens. Sink into cloud-like beanbags as you relax poolside taking in the views of Ahungalla Point, relax on the unspoilt beach or at the Sanctuary Spa, all paired with warm, seamless service.

Location: Ahungalla

Our rating: ★★★★★

Heritage Ahungalla

On Sri Lanka’s southern coastline, Heritage Ahungalla offers a haven of exclusive spaces, breathtaking ocean views and exquisite dining. The country’s first five-star beach resort was designed by tropical modernist architect Geoffrey Bawa, blending pavilions with infinity pools and ocean vistas. 152 rooms and suites are decorated with a luxurious coastal feel, with some featuring Jacuzzis or private balconies— all within a serene environment. Flavours come together from around the world at different dining options – there is also the chance for unique dining experiences such as dining on the beach, barbecuing poolside, or at the chef’s table.

Location: Ahungalla

Our rating: ★★★★★

Cape Weligama

Cape Weligama is a member of prestigious Relais & Chateaux, and is located on the southern cliffs of Sri Lanka, offering an unrivalled coastal retreat. The charming coastal town of Weligama is framed by lush greenery and beaches, just a short distance from historic Galle. The collection of suites and villas here create the ambience of a traditional Sri Lankan village, with terracotta roofs, outdoor verandas and tropical gardens with contemporary interiors inspired by the maritime heritage of the country. Boasting the best pools in Sri Lanka, the highlight is the stunning cliff edge moon pool, and semi-private pools dotted amongst the villas and suites for plenty of areas to relax. Dining experiences honour the island’s heritage and revolve around fresh seafood for ultimate coastal indulgence.

Location: Weligama

Our rating: ★★★★★

Haritha Villas + Spa

Haritha Villas + Spa is designed to deliver the utmost levels of tropical luxury on the southern coast of Sri Lanka, just moments from the beaches of Hikkaduwa. This exclusive contemporary resort offers personalised services and private luxury accommodation set on a lush hillside. Contemporary Villas and Colonial Mansions are designed to suit extravagant tastes, whether that be with authentic Sri Lankan designs or modern minimalism. Both types of accommodations enable guests to enjoy a personal 24-hour butler service, who will tailor your experience from room service to planning excursions. The resort offers international fine dining with garden-grown produce overlooking the infinity pool, a yoga pavilion and indulgent Ayurveda-inspired Jungle Spa.

Location: Hikkaduwa

Our rating: ★★★★★

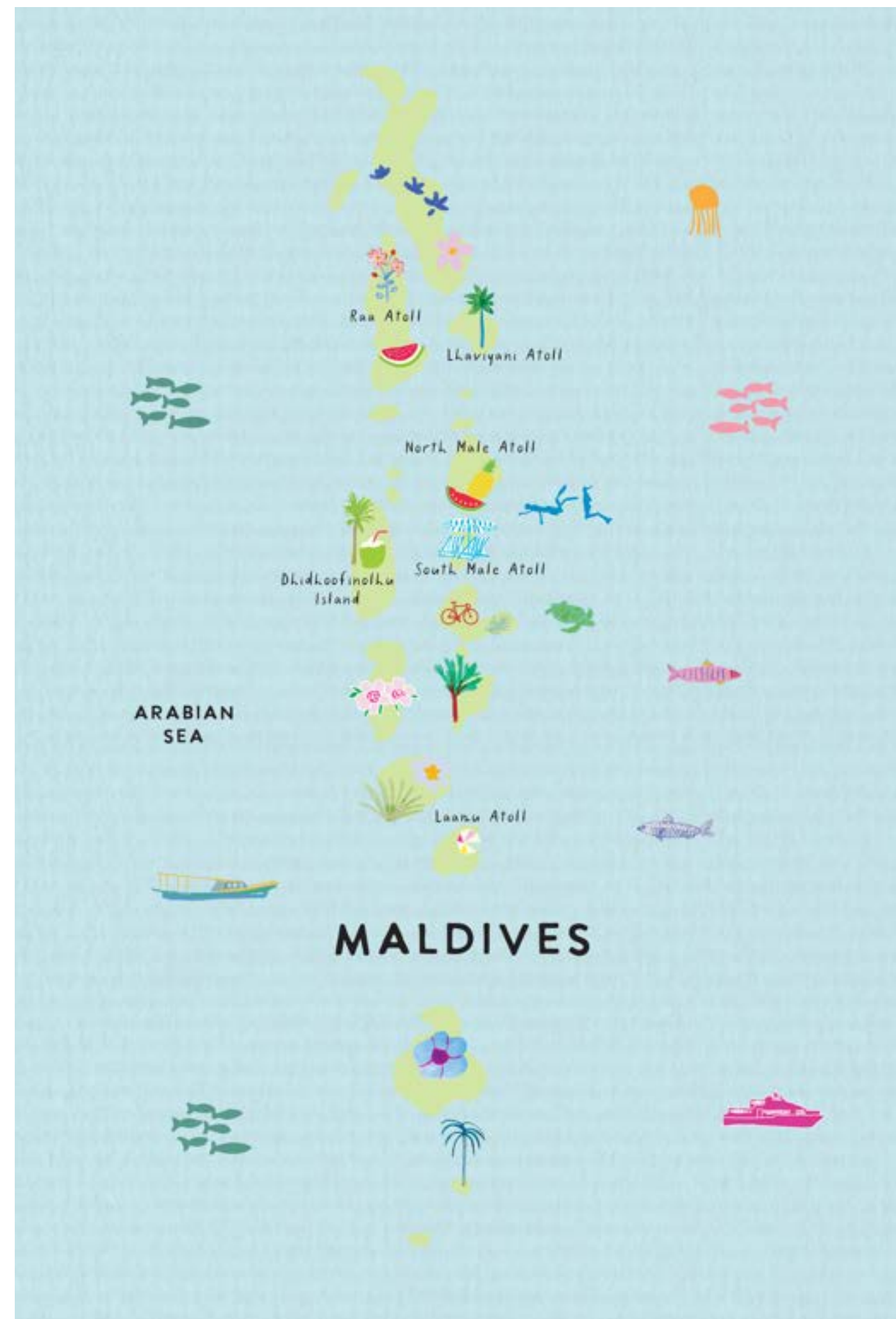
The Maldives

Scattered across the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, the islands of the Maldives are paradise personified.

This is a world of turquoise lagoons, soft white sands, vibrant marine life and endless horizons. Countless coral islands, formed by the crowns of a vast underwater volcanic mountain range, stretch for more than 500 miles across the ocean, just off the south-west coast of India.

With an exceptional choice of resorts and islands, the Maldives caters to every kind of traveller. Whether you seek abundant facilities, a wide range of dining options and watersports in abundance, or a tranquil, barefoot escape far from the crowds, there is an island to suit you. Some are reached by a swift boat transfer, while others require a scenic seaplane flight — an memorable way to take in the atolls and reefs from above.

Life here moves at an unhurried pace. While sea, sunshine and relaxation are the order of the day, there is also a growing focus on sustainability. Visitors are encouraged to explore beyond the resorts and experience the islands' warm culture through local arts and crafts, village visits and marine conservation projects.



Heritance Aarah

Heritance Aarah is a stunning, all-inclusive resort located in the pristine Raa Atoll in the Maldives, renowned for its breathtaking natural beauty and exceptional service. Accessible via a scenic 40-minute seaplane ride from Malé, this gorgeous resort blends traditional Maldivian design with modern elegance, offering an unforgettable escape in one of the world's most spectacular island destinations. The resort features 150 villas and suites, including beachfront and overwater options that provide direct access to the turquoise lagoon or white sandy shores. Each villa is designed for privacy and comfort, with elegant interiors, private pools in many, and panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. Sustainability is also a core value at Heritance Aarah, with initiatives in place to reduce plastic use, support marine conservation, and work closely with the local community.

Dining at Heritance Aarah is a gourmet experience. Guests can choose from a variety of international and local cuisines across multiple restaurants and bars, including the signature Ambula, which specialises in modern Sri Lankan cuisine. The all-inclusive offering is one of the best in Maldives and covers premium spirits, fine wines, and curated experiences.

The Medi Spa at Heritance Aarah offers a range of treatments inspired by both eastern and western wellness traditions, set in an overwater pavilion that enhances the sense of relaxation. The resort also caters to adventure seekers, with activities like diving, snorkelling, sailing, and jet skiing. Families are welcome, with a kids’ club and child-friendly services available.

Location: Raa Atoll

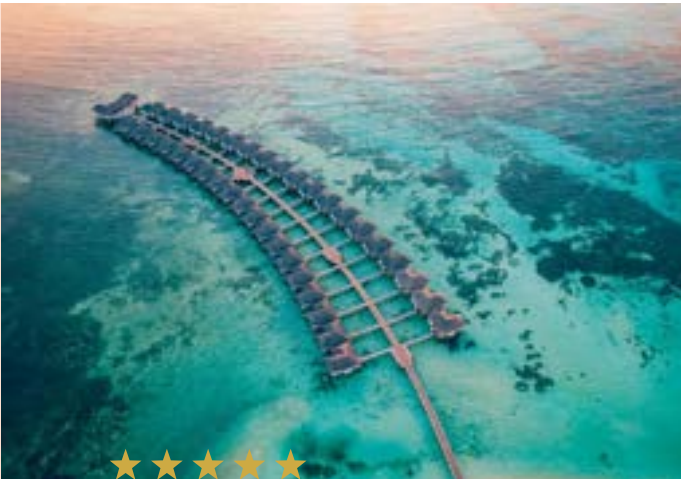
Our rating: ★★★★★

LUX* South Ari Atoll

LUX* South Ari Atoll offers a relaxed yet refined take on the classic Maldivian getaway. Located on Dhidhoofinolhu Island, the resort is a short 25-minute seaplane ride from Malé, placing you right in the heart of one of the Maldives’ most beautiful marine regions. It's well known for its balance of barefoot comfort, thoughtful design, and a focus on meaningful experiences. The resort features 193 villas—beachfront and overwater—designed in a modern, minimalist style. Whether you’re staying in a romantic water villa or a spacious beachfront retreat, each space is built for privacy and comfort, with views that make the most of the Indian Ocean.

Dining is a big part of the experience, with 8 restaurants and 5 bars offering everything from Japanese cuisine at Umami, Italian at Allegria and Southeast Asian in the East Market to plant-based dishes through its “Keen on Green” initiative. There is an abundance of activities and the resort is located in a marine protected area that’s one of the best spots in the Maldives to see whale sharks year-round. You can dive, snorkel, paddleboard, kite surf, or just relax on the beach. There’s also a full-service spa, a modern gym, and daily yoga or wellness classes. This is a resort which also takes sustainability seriously. It runs on solar energy, filters its own water to avoid plastic bottles, and supports marine conservation projects.

Location: Dhidhoofinolhu Island



★★★★★



Fushifaru

Tucked away on the edge of the Lhaviyani Atoll, Fushifaru sits on an island of the same name and is a spectacular 35-minute seaplane flight from Malé. Beautiful views of the ocean stretch in all directions and its location on the edge of a protected marine area ensures some of the best dive sites in the Maldives are within easy reach. This eco-conscious resort offers a combination of beach and overwater villas, some boasting private swimming pools. Choose from beach and pool beach villas on the sunrise or sunset side of the island, thatched roofs and glorious views await from your private deck which sits front and centre stage on the beach. Outdoor bathrooms embrace the tropical surroundings. Perched on timber stilts above the shimmering turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean, the water villas boast an outdoor Jacuzzi or swimming pool, with steps which descend into the lagoon.

When it comes to dining, Korakali offers Maldivian flavours throughout the day on the beach, whilst Raakani is a stunning seafront restaurant serving freshly grilled seafood under a canopy of thatch. There’s also a teppanyaki restaurant where creative cooking and Japanese flavours are the order of the day and parked on the beach you’ll find Thundi, a brightly coloured van serving fresh fruit and juices. The Fanihandi Bar is poolside and the spot for delicious cocktails and casual dining.

Sun-soaked days are spent enjoying the myriad watersports which include water-skiing, kayaks, jet-skis, and windsurfing, or explore one of the superb dive spots, PADI courses are available through the dive centre. Pull on a snorkel and discover the marine life beneath the waves, set sail on a catamaran or sunset cruise, or visit a nearby island for a glimpse of real island life. There’s also a day spa and yoga sessions on the beach.

Location: Lhaviyani Atoll

Our rating: ★★★★★

Hurawalhi Island Resort

Surrounded by the warm waters of the Indian Ocean, Hurawalhi is an adults only, tropical paradise in the Lhaviyani Atoll just a 40 minute seaplane flight from Malé. The location is truly magnificent and the island offers some of the best snorkelling to be had anywhere in the Maldives. Manta rays, reef sharks and sea turtles are regular visitors to the dive sites on your doorstep. This is a place to take a step back, slow down and ease into the rhythm of the Maldives.

The resort boasts 90 elegantly designed villas, including overwater ocean villas and beachfront beach pool villas. Each features modern amenities, private terraces, and panoramic views of the Indian Ocean. The culinary offerings at Hurawalhi are exceptional. The 5.8 Undersea Restaurant, the world's largest all-glass underwater dining venue, offers a unique dining experience surrounded by marine life. Other dining options include Kashibo, serving Asian street food and teppanyaki, and Canneli Restaurant, offering international cuisine with ocean views.

Guests can indulge in various activities, including snorkelling, diving, and dolphin cruises. The resort's Duniye Spa provides a range of treatments using organic products, ensuring a rejuvenating experience. For fitness enthusiasts, the resort offers a fully equipped gym and yoga sessions. Hurawalhi is also committed to marine conservation, with initiatives focused on preserving the local reef manta ray population. Guests can participate in workshops and trips led by the resort's resident marine biologist to learn about and contribute to these efforts.

Location: Lhaviyani Atoll

Our rating: ★★★★★

Velassaru Island Resort

Velassaru Maldives is a serene island retreat just 25 minutes by speedboat from Malé, yet it feels a world away. Set on a pristine coral island surrounded by clear turquoise waters and soft white sands, the resort combines modern design with the quiet charm of traditional Maldivian beauty. It’s a place where simplicity meets sophistication, perfect for couples, honeymooners, and anyone seeking a refined escape. The resort offers 129 villas and bungalows, which are a fusion of clean architecture and natural elements. Whether you choose a beachfront bungalow tucked among palms or a water villa perched above the lagoon, you’ll enjoy comfort, privacy, and uninterrupted views. Some villas include private pools and outdoor rain showers, adding an extra layer of indulgence.

Velassaru’s dining scene spans 5 restaurants and 2 bars, with cuisines ranging from fresh Mediterranean and Japanese teppanyaki to fusion menus that combine Asian and continental flavours. Dine overwater, under the stars, or with your feet in the sand on the beach, private dinners or sunset cruises are also available. The resort’s spa, set above the water, offers treatments inspired by island botanicals and global wellness traditions. With open-air massage pavilions and sea views, it’s a peaceful place to unwind. For the more active, guided snorkelling, diving, watersports, and yoga are all on offer. This lovely island also stands out for its understated luxury—nothing feels overdone. Instead, it’s thoughtful, calming, and focused on helping guests reconnect with nature and themselves.

Location: South Male Atoll

Our rating: ★★★★★



Six Senses Laamu

Six Senses Laamu is a rare kind of island escape - deeply luxurious, yet deeply rooted in nature. Located in the remote Laamu Atoll in the southern Maldives, the resort is accessible by a short seaplane flight, rewarding guests with seclusion, serenity, and a connection to the wild beauty of the Indian Ocean. Built entirely from sustainable materials, the resort’s 97 beachfront and overwater villas are designed to immerse you in the beauty of your surroundings. Each villa offers total privacy, with open-plan spaces, outdoor showers, and decks that open straight onto the beach or lagoon. Many come with private pools, sunken glass bathtubs, and panoramic views that make you feel like you’re part of the sea and sky.

Dining is a highlight at Six Senses Laamu. The resort’s organic garden supplies much of the produce for its restaurants, with Leaf offering fresh Mediterranean dishes, Zen serving inventive Japanese fusion, and Longitude providing international flavours with a relaxed vibe. For something unique, guests can enjoy house-made ice creams, sunset cocktails over the reef, or a 5-course wine tasting in the overwater wine tower. The experience here goes beyond comfort. The Six Senses Spa offers treatments in stilted "nests" that overlook the ocean, along with wellness programmes, yoga, and meditation. You can dive with manta rays, surf uncrowded waves, or snorkel vibrant coral reefs—often just steps from your villa.

What also makes Six Senses so special is its commitment to sustainability. From eliminating plastic and supporting local education to running its own marine conservation centre, the resort lives its values—and invites guests to be part of it.

Location: Laamu Atoll

Our rating: ★★★★★



One&Only Reethi Rah

One&Only Reethi Rah offers an exceptional escape in the Maldives, where luxury and nature come together seamlessly. Located on a private island in the North Malé Atoll, just a 50 minute yacht ride or 20 minute private seaplane flight from Malé International Airport, the resort provides a serene setting surrounded by clear waters, white sandy beaches, and lush greenery. Accommodation comes in the form of 118 spacious villas, designed for privacy and comfort. Choose from the beach villas, offering direct access to the beach, or an overwater villa with panoramic ocean views, each villa offers space and tranquillity. When it comes to dining the choice is diverse and memorable. With 8 restaurants and 5 bars, the resort offers a range of flavours, from Mediterranean and Asian fusion at Reethi to contemporary Japanese dishes at Tapasake. For a unique experience, Botanica serves farm to fork dining, with fresh ingredients from the resort’s own garden. Other options include Fanditha for Middle Eastern-inspired meals, Rabararo for Italian and the Beach Club for casual, beachside dining.

The resort offers plenty of activities in the pool, on land and at sea including snorkelling, diving, and water sports. The dive centre provides guided excursions to nearby reefs, teeming with marine life. The One&Only Spa is a place of relaxation with a variety of treatments, including in-water massages. Families can enjoy the dedicated kids’ and teens’ clubs, ensuring that everyone has something to do.

Location: North Male Atoll

Our rating: ★★★★★

Baros Maldives

Baros Maldives is a boutique resort offering a refined, adults-only experience on a lush island in the North Malé Atoll. Established in 1973, it is one of the Maldives' original luxury resorts, known for its understated elegance and commitment to sustainability. The resort features a choice of accommodation which include beach villas, water villas and suites. Each villa is designed with natural materials, offering private verandas, outdoor showers, and direct access to the beach or lagoon, some also boast private pools. For those seeking enhanced privacy, the Baros Residence provides a secluded retreat with a private infinity pool and dedicated villa host.

Dining here is a delight, with The Lighthouse — an overwater restaurant renowned for its modern Asian and Mediterranean cuisine; Cayenne Grill — an alfresco dining venue serving fresh grilled seafood and meats with an Asian twist; and Lime Restaurant — an open-air pavilion offering international favourites and Maldivian specialties, with beautiful views over the lagoon. There are also a whole host of dreamy private dining locations for something truly special. When it comes to activities if you can tear yourself away from the beach guests can explore the vibrant house reef, home to over 20 sea turtles and various reef sharks, accessible just steps from the shore. The resort also offers diving and snorkelling excursions, dolphin and whale watching, fishing trips, and sunset cruises. For something more relaxing the Serenity Spa provides a range of treatments, including Balinese and East African-inspired massages, in private suites surrounded by tropical gardens. As you would expect Baros is committed to environmental preservation, implementing waste reduction campaigns, energy-efficient systems, and coral planting projects. Guests can participate in guided snorkelling trips and educational programs on marine conservation.

Location: North Male Atoll

Our rating: ★★★★★

OBLU Select Sangeli

OBLU Select Sangeli is a place where luxury meets simplicity, offering the perfect blend of relaxation and adventure in the Maldives. 24 hour speedboat transfers will transport guests to the jetty in 50 minutes. Nestled on a vibrant coral reef, this resort provides an experience that invites you to disconnect from the everyday and truly relax. The tropical suites and villas, whether overwater or beachfront, are designed with comfort and tranquillity in mind. From the moment you arrive, you're surrounded by clear blue waters, white sandy beaches, and the gentle sound of the ocean—a reminder to slow down and take it all in.

With its all-inclusive Serenity Plan, you don't have to worry about the small details. Everything is taken care of, whether it's indulging in fresh local cuisine, enjoying a spa treatment, or exploring the underwater world with a snorkel. There are 4 dining options, a selection of bars and a wonderful spa. Other experiences include sunset cruises, a gym, wine programme, diving and a kids' club. If you are looking for an adult-only stay then One Banyan Island, connected to the main island via a sweeping wooden walkway, offers overwater villas and an array of adult-only activities.

In the heart of the Maldives, OBLU Select Sangeli is more than a destination; it's an opportunity to hit reset and experience life at its most effortless.

Location: North Male Atoll



Our rating: ★★★★★

Joy Maldives by Cocoon

Joy Maldives by Cocoon is a modern and stylish resort located in the heart of the Maldives, offering a perfect mix of relaxation and adventure. Guests have a choice of speedboat transfer, or arrive in style by seaplane on a stunning scenic 10 minute flight. Designed with simplicity and comfort in mind, it provides an ideal setting for couples, families, or solo travellers looking for a tropical getaway. The resort features 151 spacious villas, many of which are perched above the water, offering stunning views and a private experience. The design of the villas is clean and contemporary, creating a calm, comfortable environment that feels connected to the natural surroundings.

One of the key highlights of Joy Maldives is its flexibility. Whether you're looking to spend your days relaxing by the beach, snorkelling in the clear waters, or enjoying a gourmet meal, the resort caters to a wide range of interests. It's easy to unwind with the resort's all-inclusive packages, which cover everything from meals to activities, so you can focus on enjoying the experience. For those seeking more active pursuits, the resort offers excellent diving and snorkelling opportunities, along with water sports that let you explore the vibrant marine life just steps from your villa. There's also a full-service spa for relaxation and wellness treatments.

Joy Maldives by Cocoon is all about enjoying the present moment in a beautiful setting, without the distractions of everyday life. It's a place to recharge, explore, or simply enjoy the peace and quiet of one of the most stunning locations in the world.

Location: North Male Atoll



Our rating: ★★★★★

Meeru Island Resort & Spa

Located in the stunning northern Maldives, Meeru Island Resort & Spa is a true, natural paradise offering an exceptional blend of beauty and relaxation. Welcoming guests for more than 40 years, this charming island offers the ultimate beach holiday, approx 55 minutes speedboat from the mainland. Whether you're looking for a romantic escape, a family holiday, or a chance to unwind in one of the world's most breathtaking destinations. Surrounded by crystal-clear turquoise waters, white sandy beaches, and vibrant coral reefs, Meeru Island is a tropical haven. The resort features spacious villas, including beachfront and overwater options, designed for comfort and privacy. Each room is thoughtfully designed with modern amenities, providing a perfect base for your Maldivian escape.

There are a wide range of activities tailored for all ages, including snorkelling and diving in the vibrant coral gardens, walking trails to explore the island's lush vegetation on foot and the resort even has its own state of the art museum. For those seeking relaxation, the Meeru Spa is an ideal retreat, offering a range of rejuvenating treatments and massages that soothe both body and mind. The resort's dining options, from international buffets to à la carte options, feature fresh, locally sourced ingredients that ensure a delicious dining experience for all tastes. Meeru Island is also dedicated to providing a range of exciting excursions. Discover the underwater world with guided diving trips, take a sunset cruise, or simply lounge by the pool and enjoy the serene surroundings.

Location: North Malé Atoll



Our rating: ★★★★★

Reethi Faru Resort

Located in the pristine Raa Atoll, Reethi Faru offers a true escape into paradise. Enjoy a stunning 45 minute seaplane transfer direct to the resort. This eco-friendly resort is a perfect blend of luxury, comfort, and natural beauty, ideal for those seeking both relaxation and adventure in a serene setting. The resort features a variety of accommodations, from spacious beachfront villas to overwater bungalows, all designed with natural materials to blend seamlessly with the island's lush surroundings. Each villa offers privacy and comfort, with stunning views of turquoise waters, white sandy beaches, and tropical greenery. The natural design creates a sense of harmony with the environment.

Reethi Faru Resort is also known for its exceptional dining experiences. With 6 restaurants offering a range of international and Maldivian cuisine, you can enjoy fresh seafood and locally inspired dishes in a variety of settings, from beachside dining to intimate settings for a romantic experience. There are also 6 bars for every occasion.

For those seeking adventure, Reethi Faru has a range of activities including a superb water-sports centre. Explore vibrant coral reefs while snorkelling or diving, embark on a dolphin cruise, or stay above the waves and try your hand at kayaking, windsurfing, and jet-skiing. The island also offers wellness experiences, with a tranquil spa offering rejuvenating treatments and yoga sessions for those looking to unwind and de-stress. With its commitment to sustainability and preserving the natural environment, Reethi Faru Resort offers a paradise where you can truly reconnect with nature while enjoying the luxury of Maldivian hospitality.

Location: Raa Atoll



Our rating: ★★★★★



Whilst India may not immediately spring to mind as a cruise destination, many leading cruise companies now include this extraordinary country among their ports of call – and with good reason. Arriving in India by sea offers a wonderfully unique perspective, allowing you to witness bustling coastal cities and serene stretches of shoreline before stepping ashore to explore. A cruise can be the perfect addition to your holiday, combining the ease of travel with the excitement of discovering new destinations along the way. From here, we can tailor every aspect of your Indian adventure, designing an itinerary that reflects your interests, pace, and style of travel. Whether it’s cultural landmarks, wildlife encounters, or relaxation, your journey can be as unique as you are.

Celebrity Cruises

Sailing to more than 300 destinations across the globe, Celebrity Cruises is a popular choice and offers a wealth of onboard experiences. Celebrity ships are designed to offer the intimate feel and welcome of a smaller size vessel, combined with the excitement and facilities of a larger one.

Routes Include:

- Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India
- India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore

Oceania Cruises

Oceania Cruises is the world’s leading culinary and destination-focused cruise line. With a fleet of 8 small, luxurious ships designed to carry a maximum of 1,250 guests, the experience includes The Finest Cuisine at Sea and destination-rich itineraries that span the globe. Voyages call on more than 600 ports, in over 100 countries on seven continents.

Routes Include:

- India, Maldives, Seychelles, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa
- Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka , India, Oman, Dubai
- Doha, Dubai, Mumbai, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore

Silversea Cruises

Silversea Cruises is a something of a benchmark when it comes to luxury cruising, offering a fleet of small, luxury ocean-going and expedition ships that range in size. Designed for luxury and indulgence, all ships offer spacious ocean-view suites with private butlers and feature a curated range of voyages that cover all 7 continents.

Routes Include:

- Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Seychelles
- India, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore
- Greece, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman, India

Azamara Cruises

This delightful cruise line is the perfect choice for those who want to immerse themselves in the destinations they visit. Set sail with Azamara and you’ll venture deeper into new cultures, enjoy longer stays in port and travel at a relaxed pace that allows you to appreciate the landscapes, people and places you connect with.

Routes Include:

- Mauritius, Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore
- South Africa, Madagascar, Mauritius, Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore
- Mauritius, Maldives, India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore, Australia

India

India is a vast and diverse country with varying climates, so the best time to visit depends on your destination and interests. Generally, the best time to travel is between October and March, when the weather is cool and pleasant across the country. If you’re heading to the mountains, September to November and March to May are great periods for trekking and outdoor adventures in the Himalayas. The monsoon season, from June to September, brings heavy rain but also transforms regions like Kerala into lush, green paradises perfect for nature lovers. Trips can also be planned around major festivals such as Diwali which takes place in October/November, or visit in March for the colourful Holi festival.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Agra	°C	22	26	32	38	42	41	35	33	33	33	29	24
		14	10	10	4	13	51	207	272	127	30	4	5
Amritsar	°C	19	23	27	34	39	40	36	34	35	32	27	21
		27	28	38	19	17	53	207	182	94	14	6	15
Calcutta	°C	27	29	34	36	35	33	32	32	32	32	29	26
		14	22	29	51	125	299	375	338	303	141	26	8
Chennai	°C	29	31	33	35	38	38	36	35	34	32	29	29
		16	3	2	11	36	56	108	149	118	239	325	122
Cochin	°C	32	32	33	33	32	29	29	29	29	30	31	32
		20	34	50	141	387	727	706	375	305	306	165	49
Darjeeling	°C	11	13	17	20	21	21	21	21	21	20	17	14
		17	16	44	86	170	492	731	568	397	112	15	4
Delhi	°C	21	24	30	36	40	40	35	34	34	33	29	23
		15	9	12	4	11	38	200	233	108	25	3	5
Goa	°C	32	32	33	34	34	31	30	29	30	32	32	32
		0	0	0	12	79	792	959	536	261	133	32	11
Jaipur	°C	23	25	31	37	40	39	34	32	34	34	29	24
		9	8	7	3	14	50	196	211	84	11	3	5
Jodhpur	°C	25	28	33	38	42	40	36	33	35	36	31	27
		3	3	3	2	7	31	123	126	57	4	3	2
Ladakh	°C	-3	-2	4	10	13	17	22	21	18	12	6	0
		12	12	15	12	13	16	30	31	13	3	5	8
Mumbai	°C	28	29	31	32	33	32	30	29	30	32	32	30
		0	1	0	0	11	551	885	620	366	66	5	1
Shimla	°C	10	12	16	21	25	26	22	21	21	19	16	12
		69	35	73	44	59	150	394	314	168	44	13	30
Varanasi	°C	24	27	34	39	42	39	33	32	33	33	29	25
		22	9	11	3	9	86	281	281	192	36	7	5

Nepal

The best time to visit Nepal is from March to May and September to November. During these months, the country enjoys mild temperatures, clear skies, and breathtaking mountain views. In spring, blooming rhododendrons add vibrant color to the landscapes, making it a perfect time for trekking in regions like Everest and Annapurna. Autumn is equally ideal, offering crisp air and unobstructed views of the Himalayas and other prominent peaks.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Chitwan Nat. Park	°C	22	24	30	35	35	33	32	32	31	30	27	23
		21	13	16	30	87	329	467	467	287	85	7	3
Kathmandu	°C	17	19	24	37	28	28	27	27	26	25	22	18
		16	20	34	56	118	257	390	349	220	68	8	12
Pokhara	°C	18	20	26	29	29	29	28	28	27	26	22	19
		27	19	49	96	254	527	738	694	378	120	5	4

Bhutan

The best time to visit Bhutan is also from March to May and September to November. These seasons bring pleasant weather and excellent visibility of the country's mountainous landscapes. Spring offers lush greenery and blooming flowers, while autumn is especially popular for its cultural richness. Major festivals such as Paro Tshechu in the spring and Thimphu Tshechu in the autumn attract visitors from around the world, offering a glimpse into Bhutan's vibrant traditions and spirituality.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Bumthang	°C	9	10	13	16	19	21	21	20	19	17	13	10
		4	8	26	48	102	194	226	186	129	46	9	2
Jakar	°C	10	12	14	17	20	21	21	21	20	18	14	11
		5	10	32	59	129	244	271	219	155	57	10	3
Paro	°C	10	11	14	17	19	20	21	20	20	18	14	11
		11	24	50	87	145	262	316	250	192	71	14	4
Phobjikha Valley	°C	8	9	12	15	17	19	19	19	18	15	12	9
		5	12	30	56	102	186	220	181	128	51	9	3
Punakha	°C	15	16	20	22	24	25	25	25	24	23	19	16
		13	18	60	114	263	514	597	441	326	102	16	6
Thimpu	°C	10	11	15	17	19	21	21	21	20	18	14	11
		10	21	48	84	149	273	325	256	193	70	13	4

°C Average daily maximum temperature



Average monthly rainfall (mm)

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka offers sunshine and warmth year-round, but its climate varies by region due to two monsoon seasons. The best time to visit the southwest and central regions is from December to March, when the weather is dry and sunny, perfect for exploring the Cultural Triangle and relaxing on the coast. If you're heading to the north and east coasts, May to September is ideal, with warm and dry days that are perfect for beach holidays and water sports. Thanks to Sri Lanka's diverse microclimates, it's often possible to find good weather somewhere on the island at any time of year. Even outside of the dry seasons, rain showers are typically brief and followed by sunshine.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Colombo	°C	30	31	32	32	31	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
		74	74	136	136	361	208	135	103	184	360	318	160
Galle	°C	29	30	31	31	30	29	29	28	29	29	29	29
		105	94	143	239	307	192	167	177	222	354	316	192
Hatton	°C	22	23	26	27	25	24	23	24	25	24	24	22
		98	86	147	253	303	341	310	265	254	299	282	181
Kandy	°C	27	28	30	30	29	28	27	28	28	28	27	27
		176	119	130	130	228	173	172	163	176	323	340	262
Nuwara Eliya	°C	19	19	23	24	21	19	18	18	21	19	20	19
		127	87	82	180	180	168	175	154	169	245	236	228
Sigiriya	°C	28	30	32	32	32	31	31	32	32	30	29	28
		163	86	95	153	84	11	47	42	95	253	271	328
Yala National Park	°C	28	29	30	31	32	32	32	32	31	31	29	28
		219	134	95	114	61	8	23	13	28	126	239	237

The Maldives

This tropical paradise enjoys warm temperatures year-round. The dry season, from December to April, is the most popular time to visit, with clear skies, low humidity, and calm seas—perfect for sunbathing, snorkelling, and diving. The wet season, from May to November, brings sporadic rainfall and higher humidity, but still offers plenty of sunshine and high temperatures. During this time, marine life is still abundant and there are better opportunities to spot large aquatic animals like manta rays and whale sharks.

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Malé	°C	30	30	31	32	31	31	31	30	30	30	30	30
		84	52	83	129	219	169	169	188	217	224	201	224

°C Average daily maximum temperature



Average monthly rainfall (mm)



British Airways

Travel from the UK to India in comfort and style with British Airways. With direct flights from London Heathrow to key cities across the region British Airways offers convenient connections and a premium flying experience. Connecting flights are also available.

London Heathrow – India

- * Delhi
- * Mumbai
- * Chennai
- * Bangalore
- * Hyderabad

London Heathrow – Sri Lanka

- * Colombo

London Heathrow – Maldives

- * Male

World Traveller (Economy Class) – Generous baggage allowance, full meals, complimentary bar service, personal entertainment and family-friendly amenities.

World Traveller Plus (Premium Economy) – Wider seats with more legroom and recline, premium dining, extra baggage allowance and a stylish amenity kit.

Club World (Business Class) – Fully flat beds, luxury bedding by The White Company, privacy with Club Suite (on selected aircraft), lounge access, priority services and world-class dining.

First – Ultimate comfort with a private suite, lie-flat bed, gourmet meals, luxury amenity kits by Temperley London, vintage champagne and exclusive lounge access.

Qatar Airlines

A multiple award-winning airline, including winner of ‘World’s Best Business Class’ on several occasions, including the renowned Qsuite experience which is available on selected flights, Qatar offer flights from 5 UK airports with connections through India and the Indian Sub-Continent.

London airports, Birmingham, and Manchester via Doha – India

- * Delhi
- * Mumbai
- * Cochin
- * Chennai
- * Hyderabad
- * Bangalore
- * Kolkata
- * Goa

London airports, Birmingham and Manchester via Doha – Nepal

- * Kathmandu

London airports, Birmingham, and Manchester via Doha – Sri Lanka

- * Colombo

London airports, Birmingham, and Manchester via Doha – Maldives

- * Male

Prepare for an unparalleled experience on board, with spacious cabins, destination-inspired cuisine and excellent hospitality. Stay connected on board with Wi-Fi available on selected aircraft and keep yourself entertained with Oryx One entertainment system which has over 8,000 options to choose from including movies, TV shows, games and music.

Economy Class – Some of the widest economy seats with adjustable head rest and cushioning.

Business Class – Type of cabin and seat depends on aircraft and routes but expect to enjoy a spacious cabin with ambient lighting, and the award-winning QSuites with their enhanced privacy, closing doors and lie flat beds.

General & Important Information

The following pages give information relevant to certain products and services in this brochure, the details shown here form part of your contract with us.

ESCORTED TOURS

International Flights: All our tours exclude international flights to allow us to source the best airline and fare to suit your needs.

Airport Transfers: Arrival and departure airport transfers are included if you arrive and depart on the days shown in the itineraries. If you should add pre or post tour accommodation or packages, transfers are excluded, we can arrange these however additional costs will apply.

WENDY WU TOURS

Tours operated by Wendy Wu Tours, below is some important information relevant to these tours.

Tour Style - Classic Tours: The tours we feature are classified as ‘Classic Tours’ by Wendy Wu Tours. These tours are designed for those who wish to see the iconic sites and magnificent treasures of India on an excellent value group tour whilst travelling with like-minded people. The tours are on a fully-inclusive basis so you will travel with the assurance that all your arrangements are taken care of. You will be accompanied by dedicated and professional National Escorts or local guides, whose unparalleled knowledge will turn your holiday into an unforgettable experience.

Physical Fitness Ratings: Wendy Wu Tours all have a physical rating to guide you in selecting a holiday that suits your comfort level. Joining any of the tours involves independent mobility and the ability to stay active throughout the day, which is essential for fully enjoying the unique charm of each destination. The tours we feature are all classified as Physical Level 1 category. This indicates a level of fitness that allows you to comfortably remain on your feet with occasional rest. Expect to effortlessly navigate boarding and disembarking from various modes of transport, including coaches, trains, and boats. You will be walking around remarkable sites and ascending steps to capture those aweinspiring views.

Please consider: Sightseeing may often involve walking for a reasonable duration, sometimes over multiple steps, or uneven surfaces. Fortresses and some temples involve climbing quite a number of steps, which can be large, not level and sometimes without handrails.

The National Escort is dedicated to providing a high level of service and support throughout your journey however, their primary role is to manage the daily aspects of the tour. They are unable to offer extensive personal physical assistance. We kindly ask our travellers to be prepared for the physical aspects of the tour to ensure a comfortable and enjoyable experience for everyone.

Tour Accommodation: Your accommodation is selected for convenience of location, comfort or character. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all Western amenities. Please note that double bed requests can be made at the time of booking but cannot be guaranteed. Hotels 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 will exist between your home country and India. All group tour hotels have private western bathroom facilities, air conditioning, TV and a telephone. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by their staff and partners to ensure that standards meet needs.

Luggage & Porterage: Luggage restrictions apply and will be provided with your documentation. Porterage whilst on tour is not included, you must be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

TRANSPORT

Coaches: Coaches with air conditioning are used on for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. Coaches and mini buses do not have on board toilet facilities; however, frequent bathroom stops are made for passengers comfort.

Group Size: Most of Wendy Wu tours consist of 10 travellers or more and will be accompanied by a national escort. There will usually be no more than 28 travellers in each group although you may encounter other Wendy Wu tour groups while you are travelling. All departures are guaranteed to operate with a minimum of 8 travellers booked (unless cancelled due to factors beyond control). A national escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. However, at their discretion, they may operate departures with a smaller group size.

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Solo Travellers: On certain tours, selected dates are exclusively for customers who prefer to travel with a group of like-minded solo travellers. You will have a room of your own with no single supplement to pay, while the expert guides take care of you throughout the tour. Ask for details of which tours and dates have Solo Departures.

Itinerary Changes: It is the intention to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, the order of events or sightseeing may change as we look to improve tours or as local conditions dictate. In these circumstances, the best possible arrangements will be made to maintain the integrity of your trip.

TRAVELMARVEL

Tours operated by Travelmarvel.

Accommodation: Accommodation is handpicked by Travelmarvel, you will stay in some of the most charismatic and evocative properties that capture the essence of India and Sri Lanka.

Tour Itinerary: Inclusions and itinerary shown are correct at the time of printing but are subject to change. Your tour includes English-speaking experienced local guides.

Group Size: Standard escorted tours have a maximum group size of 48 travellers or less. Travelmarvel Small Group Tours operate with a maximum of 24 travellers. If on a river cruise please be aware that the maximum number of guests onboard will usually exceed the tour group size.

Luggage & Porterage: Luggage restrictions apply and will be provided with your documentation. Porterage whilst on tour may be included, however you must be able to handle your own luggage within the hotel and when using transportation like trains and coaches.

Physical Fitness: Travelmarvel tours can be physically demanding due to the nature of many sites you'll visit. Some tours require a good level of fitness and health to participate. In some destinations, there are long walking excursions which involve standing for extended periods, walking on uneven ground, and may include stairs or steep inclines. Some tours may not be suitable for people with certain medical conditions or mobility restrictions. You should be able to stand on your feet for an extended period of time to visit museums, temples, attractions and other sites. You must be able to get on and off trains without assistance. For tours that do not include full porterage, this means you will need to be able to carry your luggage on/off a train, change platforms and navigate steps.

G ADVENTURES

Tours operated by G Adventures.

Tour Style: G Adventures operate a range of tours. The options included in this brochure are from the National Geographic Journeys collection. These tours are designed to connect you with the people and history of the places you will visit and include upgraded accommodation and transport and more inclusions.

Tour Itinerary: Inclusions and itinerary shown are correct at the time of printing but are subject to change. Your tour includes a G Adventures CEO (Chief Executive Officer) Tour Guide.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Flight tickets: All airlines now issue e-tickets for your flights, which are electronic paperless tickets. An itinerary will be issued with your documents showing all your flight arrangements that you can present at check in.

Checking in: You must check in for your international flights approximately 3 hours prior to departure time on your ticket or e-ticket. Please note that due to increased security measures, some airlines may request personal information on check in such as home address or address for your initial stay.

Special Requests: Unfortunately, we have no control over the allocation of seats on a flight and cannot guarantee that you will be sitting with your travelling companion. If you require special seating for medical reasons, please let us know. Some airlines allow you to pre-book your seats for a fee, please ask us for more information.

Airlines/Aircraft: Airlines reserve the right to substitute carriers, aircraft types, seat configuration and cabin classes on their flights. Some airlines may still consider an intermediary touchdown on a flight as a 'direct' flight.

Alcohol Policy: All airlines operate a zero-tolerance policy for excess consumption of alcohol on board their flights. Some airlines may or may not serve alcohol on their flights, and some will charge for alcoholic and soft drinks.

Delays: Liability for flight delays are as per the airline's own conditions of carriage. Please see our terms and conditions or call for more information.

Schedule Changes: Flight schedules are arranged many months in advance, and although rare, some flight rescheduling does occur. A schedule change may range from five minutes to a day or more. If a schedule change does occur, and we are told about it before departure, we may offer a revised itinerary and holiday cost to reflect that change. Please note that the holiday price could be higher or lower, depending on the flight affected. Notwithstanding the above, the provisions of paragraph 10 of our Booking Terms & Conditions apply. Please note that schedule changes are made by the airline, not by First Class Holidays. We cannot accept liability for any extra charges incurred as a result of a rescheduled flight.

Additional Deposits & Cancellation Terms: Some suppliers, such as but not limited to, rail journeys, cruise lines, lodges and wildlife viewing tours, escorted tour companies, specialist activities may require an additional deposit in order to confirm a booking. Where this is the case, we will advise at the time of booking. Some of these suppliers may also have different cancellation conditions to ours and we will advise these to you at the time of booking.

Meal Requests: Most international flights include a meal service however flights within India may not include meals. Your Airline may provide any special meals that you may require, please request your special meal with your consultant at the time of booking.

Child Discounts: These will vary dependent upon your airline but as a general rule Children 2-11 years pay 75% of the adult fare. Infants under 2 and not occupying a seat pay 10% of the adult fare if the return date is prior to their 2nd birthday.

Passports and Visas: It is the traveller's responsibility to ensure that they have a valid passport and visa if necessary. First Class Holidays cannot be held responsible if you are not in possession of the correct documentation.

Baggage Allowance:

Flights: Each airline imposes its own baggage allowance, so please check the information for your flights. Airline allowances are strictly adhered to, and charges will be imposed for excess baggage. For the carriage of special items, like golf clubs, skis, wheelchairs etc, there may be an additional charge as this is extra to your normal baggage allowance. Some airlines will require to be told if you intend to take such items, so please check at the time of booking.

Coach & Rail Tours: Due to space limitation on coaches and trains, only one piece of baggage is permitted on all coach and rail tours.

HOTELS & ACCOMMODATION

India and the Indian Sub-Continent offers a wide range of accommodations. Rooms sizes can vary and may be smaller than you have experienced in other parts of the world. Western-style hotels: These can be found in all major cities. These hotels should have the same amenities as other Western establishments, including TVs, air conditioning, heating and internet. Haveli: Found in India these are typically restored heritage mansions, carefully restored into boutique hotels. They offer charm and character however may have less facilities than a traditional hotel and may not have a lift. All rooms will have private bathrooms. Homestays: Offer the opportunity to stay in heritage homes with a family. Rooms may be simply furnished but will have a private bathroom.

Hotel Ratings: Please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality will exist between the UK and the Indian Sub-Continent. We have added gradings to our hotel selection, these gradings are based on location and are purely for guidance purposes, they are not official ratings.

CULTURAL AWARENESS

India and the Indian Sub-Continent is warm and welcoming steeped in tradition and etiquette and it is recommended that you research these before your visit. Visitors to holy sites and temples will be required to wear long trousers, dresses or skirts below the knees with shoulders covered. Shoes are required to be removed, there will often be a shoe stand near the entrance.

Cash & Credit Cards: India is a cash-based society and although there are lots of ATMs we recommend always carrying some cash with you especially in small denominations. Although most stores and restaurants will accept Visa, MasterCard and American Express cards, please consider that some may not. Do not accept damaged bank notes as you will find it difficult to use these. Bringing Indian Rupees into the country is restricted for foreign nationals and non-residents.

Bargaining: Is a way of life, especially in markets or when hailing a rickshaw or tuk-tuk, unless a fixed price is displayed. Keep things in perspective and keep a sense of humour.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Passports & Visas: Please ensure that you are in possession of the correct documentation for both entry into India and the Indian Sub-Continent and for any other country or airport you visit, or transit through, on your journey. Please check for the most up to date rules at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Health & Vaccinations: Please ensure that you are in possession of the correct documentation for both entry into India and the Indian Sub-Continent and for any other country or airport you visit, or transit through, on your journey. Please check for the most up to date rules at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

Foreign Office Advice: The safety of our customers is our priority and as such we work in line with the advice provided by the Foreign & Commonwealth Office. We recommend that you keep up to date with this advice, which can be accessed via the Foreign & Commonwealth office website at www.fco.gov.uk.

Building Works: Where we are advised of building work taking place at your hotel, we will notify you of the work being undertaken, however we cannot take liability for building works outside your accommodation or elsewhere in your destination.

Hotel Check in & out times: Check in time is generally after 3pm on the day of arrival; check out time varies between 10am and 12 noon. If you require a late check out, you should speak to the hotel directly, they may be able to arrange a day room for which you should pay the hotel directly (subject to availability).

Data Protection Statement: Please be assured that we have measures in place to protect the personal booking information held by us. This information will be passed on to the principal and to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements. The information may also be provided to public authorities such as customs or immigration if required by them, or as required by law. Certain information may also be passed on to security or credit checking companies. If you travel outside the European Economic Area, controls on data protection may not be as strong as the legal requirements in this country. We will only pass your information on to persons responsible for your travel arrangements. This applies to any sensitive information that you give to us such as details of any disabilities, or dietary/religious requirements. (If we cannot pass this information to the relevant suppliers, whether in the EEA or not, we will be unable to provide your booking. In making this booking, you consent to this information being passed on to the relevant persons.) Full details of our data protection policy are available upon request.

Documentation: Once your booking is confirmed, you will receive a confirmation invoice which will detail all the arrangements made on your behalf. On receipt, please check all details thoroughly, including the spelling of all names and advise your travel agent immediately if you have any concerns. Your final travel documents will be sent to your travel agent 2 to 3 weeks before departure and may include airline e-tickets, hotel and travel vouchers, maps, tourist information and a day by day personalised itinerary. For some packages, a more detailed documentation kit will be sent to your first hotel.

General & Important Information

Excursions: Any excursions or tours that you book independently and pay for whilst on holiday are not part of your package holiday provided by us. For anything that you do book in this way, your contract will be with the operator of the excursion or tour and not with us. We are not responsible for the provision of these excursions or tours or for anything that occurs during them.

Hotels Additional charges: Hotels may charge for items such as telephone, safe, parking, newspapers, movies, internet and other items. Please check with your hotel for a list of charges which are payable locally.

Hotel Guests: As First Class Holidays do not own the properties featured in our brochure, we have no control over other guests or individual hotel policies. We are unable to accept liability for conferences or conventions being held at your hotel, or for any facilities or amenities, which may be restricted as a result.

Meal arrangements: Most hotels featured in our brochure are booked on a room only basis. This means that no meals are included. If you are taking an escorted tour, independent tour or any other package that includes meals our descriptions will show the number of meals included, if none are stated, none are included. Alcoholic and soft drinks are not included. Meal inclusions are correct at time of print but subject to change.

Non-Brochure Hotels: Please note that if your chosen hotel is not featured in our brochure, we may be able to contact the hotel to obtain rates and make a reservation on your behalf. Please note however that our suppliers and handlers may not have inspected some non-featured hotels and therefore we cannot accept liability for any lapse in standard or facilities.

Our Prices: Hotel prices fluctuate based on demand and we are constantly in contact with our suppliers to ensure that we offer the very best prices available; for that reason prices are not shown so that we can search for and confirm the best available price at the time of booking.

Room Types: It should be noted that a twin or double room is based on two people sharing either one or two beds (i.e. a double room may have one or two beds). Please note we cannot guarantee a double bed for honeymoon couples or twin beds for single sex occupants. When booking two or more rooms, we can request, but cannot guarantee, adjacent rooms. Please advise our staff at the time of booking if would like to make this request.

Security deposit: A credit card imprint may be requested on checking in at your accommodation, as a security deposit to cover any incidentals.

Travel Insurance: A valid insurance policy is a condition of your booking. We do not sell insurance and advise that you research to find the most appropriate insurance policy to suit your health requirements and needs.

Smoking: Smoking is not permitted on any sightseeing tour coach or rail journeys. Most hotels are smoke-free and charges will be incurred if smoking takes place in rooms. All flights are non-smoking.

Travelling in Vehicles: When travelling in any motor vehicle, seatbelts (if provided) must be worn at all times.

Unused Services: No refunds are allowed for unused services provided in your package. Should you cancel, amend or miss any part of your tour for any reason, we are not able to provide any refund.

National Parks: Local charges may apply.

Wildlife Viewing: When booking a wildlife adventure, it should be noted that as viewing the animals in their own natural environment, sightings cannot be guaranteed. The tour guides will do their utmost to ensure that sightings are made, however in the event that this is not possible, refunds will not be made.

Image Copyright: Reproduction of the images within this brochure is not permitted. We do not own the rights to the images used.

Brochure Validity: This brochure was printed in October 2025 and is valid until replaced by a newer edition.

Terms & Conditions

1st Class Holidays Limited Booking Conditions

The following Booking Conditions together with the Important Information, our Privacy Policy and any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking form the basis of your contract with 1st Class Holidays Ltd, trading as First Class Holidays, company number 03445248 and registered address, Trafford House, Chester Road, Manchester M32 0RS ("we", "us", "our").

Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. In these booking conditions, "you" and "your" means all persons named on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is added or transferred. Except where otherwise stated, these booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us in the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you. All references in these booking conditions to "holiday", "booking", "contract", "package", "tour" or "arrangements" mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated.

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking, the ("party leader") agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

A) He/she has read these Booking Conditions and has the authority to and does agree to be bound by them;
B) He/she consents to our use of personal data in accordance with our Privacy Policy and is authorised on behalf of all persons named on the booking to disclose their personal details to us, including where applicable, special categories of data (such as information on health conditions or disabilities and dietary requirements)
C) He/she is over 18 years of age and resident in the United Kingdom and where placing an order for services with age restrictions declares that he/she and all members of the party are of the appropriate age to purchase those services

D) He/she accepts financial responsibility for payment of the booking on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking.

1. Making a booking

Subject to the availability of your chosen arrangements, we will confirm your holiday by issuing a confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the party leader or your travel agent. A binding contract will come into existence between you and us as soon as we have issued you with a booking confirmation that will confirm the details of your booking and will be sent to you or your travel agent. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we (or if you book with an authorised travel agent of ours, that agent) will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or booking confirmation or any other document are wrong, you must contact us immediately as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (or which we are responsible in any document within ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets)). We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits, but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

2. Payment

In order to confirm your chosen holiday, a deposit of 10% of the total holiday cost (or full payment if booking within 89 days of departure) must be paid at the time of booking. The balance of the holiday cost must be received by us not less than 89 days prior to departure. This date will be shown on the confirmation invoice. Reminders are not sent. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you, in which case the cancellation charges set out in clause 5 below, will become payable.

Except for flight inclusive bookings, all monies you pay to one of our authorised travel agents for your holiday with us will be held by the agent on your behalf until a contract between us comes into existence. After that point, your agent will hold the monies on our behalf until they are paid to us. For flight inclusive bookings, all monies paid to any authorised travel agent of ours for your holiday with us will be held on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust subject to the travel agent's obligation to pay such monies to us in accordance with our trading terms unless we fail. In the unlikely event of our financial failure, all monies then held by the travel agent or subsequently paid by you to the travel agent will be held by the agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation on the agent to pay such monies to us.

3. Contract

A binding contract between us comes into existence when we issue our confirmation invoice to the party leader or your travel agent. We both agree that English Law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us ("claim") (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury or death) shall be referred to ABTA Alternative Dispute Resolution Process (if the process is available for the claim in question and you wish to use it – see clause 13) or by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

4. Holiday Insurance

We consider adequate travel insurance to be essential. It is a condition of your contract with us that you should take out insurance to cover you in the event of illness, personal injury or death during the course of your holiday and for cancellation.

Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on your holiday. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs. We do not check alternative insurance policies.

5. If you change your booking & transfers of booking

If, after your confirmation has been issued you wish to make changes to your confirmed holiday, you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. This should be done by the first named person on the booking. Whilst we will endeavour to assist, we cannot guarantee we will be able to meet any such requests. Where we can, an amendment fee of £50.00 per person will be payable together with any costs incurred by ourselves and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. A change of holiday dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation charges in accordance with clause 6 of these Booking Conditions, will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the holiday price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original holiday was calculated has changed.

Transfer of Booking: If you or any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person(s) may transfer their place to someone else, subject to the following conditions:

a. that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
b. we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
c. you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £50 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
d. the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us. You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation charges as set out in clause 6 will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Most airlines do not permit name changes and such changes are likely to be the full cost of the flight.

6. If you cancel your holiday before departure

You or any member of your party, may cancel your holiday at any time provided that the cancellation is made by the party leader and is received by us in writing. As we incur costs from the date we confirm your booking we will retain your deposit and in addition apply cancellation charges up to the maximum amount shown below. The amount of cancellation charge shown is a percentage of the total holiday price excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges which are non-refundable in any event. These charges are calculated from the date we receive your written notification at our offices.

Period before departure in which we receive your notification	Cancellation charge payable
More than 89 days	Deposit Only
Between 88 and 31 days	50%
Between 30 and 15 days	75%
14 days or less	100%

IMPORTANT NOTE: Certain arrangements on this website and in our brochure have different cancellation terms than those stated above. These are either noted on the website, the relevant brochure page or will be advised on your confirmation invoice.

NOTE: Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these charges if the reason for cancellation is covered under the terms of your holiday insurance policy. Where any cancellation reduces the number of full paying party members below the number on which the holiday price was based, we will make any concessions agreed for your booking were based, we will recalculate these items and re-invoice you accordingly. See clause 5 "If you change your booking & transfers of booking" if any member(s) of your party are prevented from travelling.

Cancellation by You due to Unavoidable & Extraordinary Circumstances:

You may terminate the package travel contract at any time before the start of the package without paying a cancellation charge in the event of "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" occurring at the place of destination or its immediate vicinity which will significantly affect the performance of the package or carriage to your holiday destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" may include warfare, other serious security problems such as terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination, or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination as agreed in the package travel contract. This clause 6 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013.

7. If you have a complaint

If in the unlikely event that you have any reason to complain or experience any problems with your holiday whilst away, you must immediately inform our local representative or agent (if we have one) and the supplier of the service(s) in question. Any verbal notification must be put in writing and given to our representative / agent and the supplier as soon as possible. If we do not have or you cannot contact our local representative or agent and any complaint or problem is not resolved to your satisfaction by the supplier, you must contact us in the UK using the contact details we have provided you with during your holiday, giving us full details and a contact number. Until we know about a complaint or problem, we cannot begin to resolve it. If you remain dissatisfied, however,

you must notify us in writing within 28 days of the completion of your holiday and this must be to us at the address detailed in paragraph one of these Booking Conditions.

You must quote your booking reference number, holiday number and departure date. For all complaints and claims which do not involve death, personal injury or illness, we regret we cannot accept liability in respect of any complaint or claims which are not notified to us in accordance with this clause. If you fail to follow this simple complaint procedure, your right to claim any compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a result. Please note that we offer an Alternative Dispute Resolution Service through our ABTA membership. Please see clause 18 for further details.

8. Behaviour and damage

When you book with us, you accept responsibility for any damage or loss caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or loss (reasonably estimated if not precisely known) must be made direct to the accommodation owner or manager or other supplier or to us as soon as possible. If the actual cost of the loss or damage exceeds the amount paid where estimated, you must pay the difference once known. If the actual cost is less than the amount paid, the difference will be refunded. You will also be responsible for meeting any claims subsequently made against us and all costs incurred by us (including our own and the other party's full legal costs) as a result of your actions. You should ensure you have appropriate travel insurance to protect you if this situation arises.

All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If in our reasonable opinion or in the reasonable opinion of some other person in authority, you or any member of your party behaves in such a way as to cause or be likely to cause damage, distress, danger or annoyance to other clients, employees, property or to any third party, or damage to property, we reserve the right to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned immediately. In the event of such termination our liability to you and/or your party will cease and you and/or your party will be required to leave the accommodation or other service immediately. We will have no further obligations toward such person(s) including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made, and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of the termination.

9. Entry Passports, Visa and Immigration Requirements, Safety & Health Formalities

You must ensure you check and fulfil the entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements, safety and health formalities applicable to your itinerary. We can only provide general information about this. You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant Embassies and/ or Consulates, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and your own doctor as applicable. Requirements and the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling to, do change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure in order to make your decisions accordingly. Most countries now require passports to be valid for at least 6 months after your return date. If your passport is in its final year, you should check with the Embassy of the country you are visiting. For further information contact the Passport Office on 0870 5210410 or visit <https://www.gov.uk/browse/citizenship/passports>.

Special conditions apply for travel to the USA, and all passengers must have individual machine readable passports. Please check <https://uk.usembassy.gov>.

For European travel you should obtain a UK Global Health Insurance Card (UK GHIC) prior to departure unless you are able to rely upon an existing European Health Insurance Card (EHIC). For travel to Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Switzerland, UK GHIC and EHIC can not be used for medical treatment. Passengers to these destinations should obtain comprehensive medical insurance prior to departure, including cover for emergency medical treatment and associated costs. Up to date travel advice can be obtained from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, visit <https://www.gov.uk/travelaware>. Non British passport holders, including other EU nationals, should obtain up to date advice on entry, passport, visa, health and immigration requirements from the Embassy, High Commission or Consulate of your destination or country(ies) through which you are travelling.

We do not accept any responsibility if you cannot travel, or incur any other loss because you have not complied with any entry, passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. You agree to reimburse us in relation to any fines or other losses which we incur as a result of your failure to comply with any entry passport, visa, immigration requirements or health formalities. Please note: The impacts of Brexit may change your visa, ticket and health requirements. Third country nationals may require an airport transit visa when passing through EU Member States. There is the potential for disruption at borders when travelling between the UK and EU Member States and you should allow sufficient time for this when planning any onward travel. You should check any impacts of Brexit on your travel, in advance of your departure, to ensure that you fulfil the requirements post-Brexit, including any passport validity requirements.

10. The price of your holiday

Please note, any prices shown are a guide only and subject to the cost of booking. Any price shown in this brochure have been calculated using exchange rates of 15 October 2023 as shown in the Financial Times Guide to World Currencies.

We reserve the right to amend the price of unsold holidays at any time and correct errors in the prices of confirmed holidays. We also reserve the right to increase the price of confirmed holidays solely to allow for increase which are a direct consequence of changes in:

i. the level of the cost of the carriage of passengers resulting from the cost of fuel or other power sources;
(ii) the level of taxes or fees applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including

tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports; and
(iii) the exchange rates relevant to the package. Such variations could include but are not limited to airline cost changes which are part of our contracts with airlines (and their agents), cruise ship operators and any other service providers.

We will absorb and you will not be charged for any increase equivalent to 2% of the price of your travel arrangements, which excludes insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. You will be charged for the amount over and above that. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements) you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of equivalent or higher quality you will not have to pay more but if it is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of your insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to depart.

c) where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
d) where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;

e) where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;

f) where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Force Majeure (see clause 12)

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

12. Force Majeure

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these Booking Conditions, we regret we cannot accept liability or pay any compensation if our contractual obligations to you are affected by "Force Majeure"

In these booking conditions, "force majeure" means any event beyond our or our supplier's control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures has been taken. Such events may include actual or threatened war or terrorism, riot, civil strife, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, the act of any government or other national or local authority including port or river authorities, industrial dispute, labour strikes, lock closure, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, chemical or biological disaster, unavoidable technical problems with transport and all similar events outside our or the supplier(s) concerned's control.

11. If we change or cancel your holiday

The arrangements for holidays are made many months in advance. Accordingly, we must reserve the right to make changes to brochure and holiday details both before and after your booking has been confirmed. Most of these changes will, however, be insignificant.

Changes: If we make an insignificant change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to notify you or your travel agent as soon as is reasonably practicable before your departure, but we will have no liability to you. Examples of insignificant changes include alteration to your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements. Examples of significant changes include the following when made before departure:

(a) a change of accommodation to that of a lower official classification or standard for the whole or a significant part of the time you are away;
(b) a change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of the time you are away,
(c) a change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours,
(d) a change of UK departure airport except between:

- The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
- The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
- The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
- The Midland airports: Birmingham, East Midlands and Doncaster/Sheffield
- The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds/Bradford
- The North eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
- The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen

(e) A significant change to your itinerary, missing out one or more destination entirely
Cancellation:

We will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 89 days before your departure date, except for reasons of force majeure or failure by you to pay the final balance. We may cancel your holiday before this date if e.g. the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached.

If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible and, if there is time to do so before departure, we will offer you the choice of:

i. (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or
ii. Having a refund of all monies paid; or
iii. Accepting an offer of alternative travel arrangements of a comparable or higher standard than us, if available (at no extra cost); or
iv. If available, accepting an offer of alternative arrangements of a lower standard, with a refund of the price difference between the original arrangements and the alternative arrangements. You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of

our offer. If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice. If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements.

Compensation

In addition to a full refund of all monies paid by you, we will pay you compensation as detailed below, in the following circumstances;

a) If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking;
b) If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available
The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure in which we notify you	Compensation per person
Over 89 days	NIL
Between 29 and 88 days	£10
Between 15 and 28 days	£15
Between 8 and 14 days	£20
7 days or less	£25

IMPORTANT NOTE: We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

a) where we make an insignificant change
b) where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 89 days before departure
c) where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
d) where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;

e) where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;

f) where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Force Majeure (see clause 12)

If we become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed, we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

13. Our responsibility to you

(1)We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an "organiser" under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018, as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of the travel services specifically included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking. Please note that we shall not be responsible for any additional services provided to you, whether provided by the travel service providers or otherwise, which are not set out in your confirmation invoice and the information we provided to you regarding the services prior to booking.

(2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any personal injury or death unless you are able to prove that it was caused by our negligence or the negligence of our suppliers.
(3) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:

(a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
(b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
(c) Force Majeure (as defined in clause 12).
(4) We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:

(a) loss of and/or damage to any luggage or personal possessions and money: the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.

(b) Claims not falling under (a) above and which do not involve injury, illness or death: the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.

(c) Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:

i) The extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us.

In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own "Conditions of Carriage" will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those "Conditions of Carriage". You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in the "Conditions of Carriage" form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those "Conditions of Carriage" shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.

ii) In any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of EC 261/2004 (denied boarding and flight disruption), any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.

iii) When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.

(5) Subject to these Booking Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services set out in the confirmation invoice and the information we provide to you regarding the services prior to booking and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your package holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both.

You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. The level of any such price reduction or compensation in respect of any claim for damages or compensation whatsoever will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Booking Conditions and the extent to which ours or our supplier's or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us

(6) It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this clause that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.

(7) Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also sign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.

(8) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:

(a) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you;
(b) relate to any business;

(c) indirect or consequential loss of any kind.

(9) We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.

(10) Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your package, due to "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances", we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible at a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided we have been notified of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, "unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances" mean warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

14. Arbitration

Disputes arising out of, or in connection with your booking which cannot be amicably settled may be referred to ABTA's approved Alternative Dispute Resolution process if you so wish under a special scheme arranged by ABTA Ltd and administered independently. The scheme provides for a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone with restricted liability on the customer in respect of costs. Full details will be provided on request or can be obtained from the ABTA website (www.abta.com). The scheme does not apply to claims for an amount greater than £5,000 per person. There is also a limit of £25,000 per booking. Neither does it apply to claims, which are solely in respect of physical injury or illness or their consequences. The scheme can however deal with compensation claims, which include an element of minor injury, or illness subject to a limit of £1,500 on the amount the arbitrator can award per person in respect of this element.

Your application for arbitration and other required documents must be received by ABTA within 18 months of the date of your last departure from the holiday. Outside this time limit arbitration under the scheme may still be available if we agree, although the ABTA Code does not require such agreement. For injury and illness claims, you can request the ABTA mediation procedure and we have the option to agree to this. Where we act as agent, please bear in mind that your contract with the supplier of the arrangements concerned. Unless the supplier is also a member of ABTA, only disputes relating to our actions as agent can be dealt with by the arbitration scheme or mediation procedure and not complaints about the arrangements themselves or the acts / omissions of the supplier.

15. Conditions of suppliers

Many of the services, which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide the services in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions (see clause 13). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and

conditions and of the international conventions are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

16. Special requests and medical conditions / disabilities

If you have any special request, you must advise us at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. For your own protection, you should obtain confirmation in writing that a special request will be complied (where it is possible to give this) where it is important to you.

We regret we cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as "standard" bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including the airline), please advise us as soon as possible, tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability, which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. If we reasonably feel unable to properly accommodate the particular needs of the person concerned, we must reserve the right to decline their reservation or, if full details are not given at the time of booking or the condition / disability develops after booking, to cancel when we may advise of these details and cancellation charges as set out in clause 6 may apply.

17. Excursions

We may provide you with information (before departure and/or when you are on holiday) about activities and excursions which are available in the area you are visiting. We have no involvement in any such activities or excursions which are neither run, supervised nor controlled in any way by us. They are provided by local operators or other third parties who are entirely independent of us. They do not form any part of your contract with us even where we suggest particular operators/other third parties and/or assist you in booking such activities or excursions in any way. We cannot accept any liability on any basis in relation to such activities or excursions, whether or not they are specifically mentioned in clause 12(1) of our booking conditions, will not apply to them. We do not however exclude liability for the negligence of ourselves or our employees resulting in your death or personal injury. We cannot guarantee accuracy at all times of information given in relation to such activities or excursions or about the area you are visiting which is published on our website at <http://www.caa.co.uk/commercial-travel-industry/airlines/licensing/requirements-and-guidance/third-country-operator-certificates/> detailing air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the UK.

This website/brochure is our responsibility, as your tour operator. It is not issued on behalf of, and does not commit the airlines mentioned herein or any airline whose services are used in the course of your travel arrangements.

20. Prompt Assistance

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances.

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive packages by way of an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH16 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 1036350 email: claims@caa.co.uk (ATOL number 5421) When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom.

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim to the Civil Aviation Authority or your credit card issuer where applicable). If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit, you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent or your credit card issuer where applicable. You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you

Terms & Conditions

FIRST CLASS
 HOLIDAYS



ENQUIRIES & RESERVATIONS

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Japan	0161 888 5619
Southeast Asia	0161 888 5620
Central & South America	0161 888 5602

Administration 0161 888 5605

Email India@fcholidays.com

ALL CALLS MAY BE RECORDED FOR QUALITY & TRAINING PURPOSES
