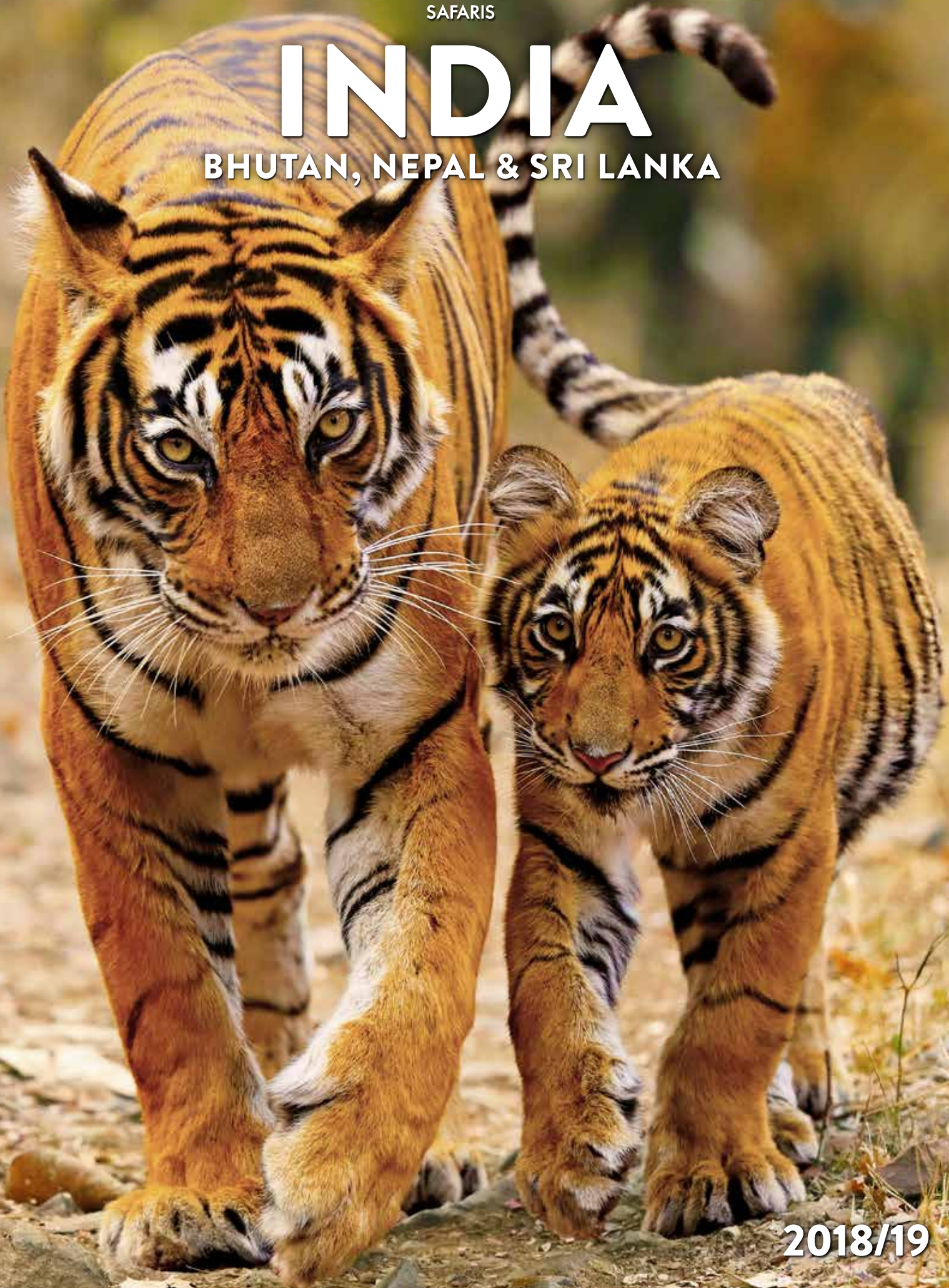




NATURAL FOCUS  
SAFARIS

# INDIA

BHUTAN, NEPAL & SRI LANKA



2018/19





Group of Nihangs (Sikh warriors) with embellished turbans © Abhishek Hajela

## INDIA & BEYOND

A journey to the Indian subcontinent is an absolute feast for the senses, with ancient temples, hilltop fortresses and majestic palaces all vying to catch your eye. The clamour of vibrant markets, rumble of trains and fragrant aroma of exotic spices from food vendors on bustling streets add more dimensions to this sensory smorgasbord. Yet, venture outside of the big cities and you'll find yourself immersed in rural idyll, on a peaceful sun-drenched beach or in forests and jungles where Asiatic rhino, lion, leopard and the magnificent Bengal tiger roam.

Some of our top destinations in this region include India's famous Golden Triangle, comprising of India's three most visited cities: Delhi, Agra and Jaipur as well as the unique Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan and the tropical island of Sri Lanka. Equally as popular are wildlife reserves such as Ranthambore, Kaziranga and Yala, which harbour a multitude of iconic species such as Asian elephant, one-horned rhino, sambar deer, and of course, rare big cats.

So just where do you start? Within these pages, you'll find every element you need to inspire your next holiday, from palatial five-star hotels, luxury sleeper trains and Ayurveda spa retreats to traditional houseboats; jungle lodges and boutique coastal resorts. Our tours are designed to be enjoyed on a private basis, unless you choose to join one of our two hugely popular small group safaris led by NFS General Manager and all-round India expert, Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli (see pages 8-11).

Once you've shortlisted the experiences you'd love to have on your next getaway, contact us. Our team have travelled to all corners of the Indian subcontinent and will be delighted to help bring your trip to life.

Happy travelling,

Stephen & Sara Cameron - Founders

### Weather Chart

India has a tropical climate. Winters are fairly cold in North India but during the day it is extremely pleasant. It rains heavily during the Monsoon period from July to mid-September. Summer temperatures can be very hot.

| INDIA               | Jan    | Feb    | Mar   | Apr   | May   | Jun   | Jul   | Aug   | Sep   | Oct   | Nov   | Dec    |
|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| Agra                | 06 24  | 10 27  | 16 32 | 22 38 | 27 42 | 29 41 | 26 35 | 25 33 | 24 32 | 19 33 | 12 30 | 08 24  |
| Bandhavgarh         | 08 24  | 10 28  | 15 34 | 22 40 | 27 42 | 28 40 | 26 38 | 25 35 | 23 33 | 20 33 | 12 30 | 10 25  |
| Bangalore           | 15 28  | 16 31  | 19 33 | 21 32 | 21 33 | 20 30 | 01 28 | 19 29 | 19 28 | 19 28 | 17 27 | 15 27  |
| Chennai             | 20 29  | 21 31  | 23 33 | 26 35 | 28 38 | 26 37 | 26 35 | 26 35 | 25 34 | 24 32 | 23 29 | 21 28  |
| Kochi               | 23 31  | 24 31  | 26 31 | 26 31 | 26 31 | 24 29 | 24 28 | 24 28 | 24 28 | 24 29 | 24 30 | 23 30  |
| Delhi               | 07 21  | 10 24  | 15 30 | 21 36 | 26 41 | 29 40 | 26 35 | 25 34 | 25 33 | 19 33 | 12 30 | 04 20  |
| Goa                 | 19 31  | 16 31  | 23 31 | 05 32 | 27 32 | 24 30 | 23 28 | 24 29 | 23 29 | 24 31 | 23 32 | 21 32  |
| Jaipur              | 08 22  | 11 25  | 15 31 | 21 37 | 26 41 | 27 39 | 26 34 | 24 32 | 23 33 | 18 33 | 12 29 | 09 24  |
| Kolkata             | 14 26  | 17 30  | 22 34 | 24 36 | 26 36 | 26 34 | 26 32 | 26 32 | 24 32 | 24 31 | 18 30 | 13 27  |
| Leh                 | -14 -3 | -12 01 | -6 06 | -1 12 | 03 17 | 07 21 | 10 25 | 10 24 | 05 21 | -1 14 | -7 08 | -11 02 |
| Mumbai              | 19 29  | 20 30  | 23 31 | 24 33 | 26 33 | 26 32 | 25 30 | 24 29 | 25 30 | 24 32 | 23 32 | 21 31  |
| Varanasi            | 09 23  | 11 27  | 17 33 | 22 39 | 27 41 | 28 39 | 26 33 | 26 32 | 25 32 | 21 32 | 13 29 | 09 25  |
| OTHER               |        |        |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |        |
| Kolombo (Sri Lanka) | 22 30  | 22 31  | 23 31 | 24 31 | 26 31 | 25 29 | 25 29 | 25 29 | 25 29 | 24 29 | 23 29 | 22 29  |
| Kathmandu (Nepal)   | 10 19  | 12 22  | 17 28 | 20 33 | 26 35 | 28 37 | 26 36 | 25 33 | 25 31 | 19 28 | 12 23 | 08 20  |
| Thimphu (Bhutan)    | -3 12  | 01 14  | 04 16 | 07 20 | 13 23 | 15 25 | 13 19 | 16 25 | 15 23 | 10 22 | 05 18 | -1 14  |

High or Best Time    Shoulder or Low Season    Off Season

Front Cover: © Andy Rouse



Bhutan

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City Stays & Day Tours

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Escorted Small Group Tours

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Luxury Train Journeys

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Nepal

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Rajasthan, Taj Mahal & Other Highlights

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Unique Escapes

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Southern India & Kerala

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Sri Lanka

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Wildlife Safaris

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# Let the sights and sounds of India come to you.

Natural Focus Safaris, wilderness your way.

Natural Focus Safaris is a specialist tour company focusing on personalised itineraries to iconic wildlife and wilderness destinations. We are one of Australia's oldest independently owned travel companies, and for over 30 years with our parent company African Wildlife Safaris, have built up an enviable reputation for our in-depth expertise and professionalism. Our dedicated staff are all passionate travellers who between them, have visited all of our destinations, including India, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Covering such a vast region, travel to the Indian subcontinent can seem a little daunting. That is where our expert team of specialised advisers can help. With their hands-on knowledge, they will help custom design the perfect itinerary, cruise or wilderness adventure that fulfills the India experience you're dreaming of.



  
NATURAL FOCUS  
SAFARIS

  
AFRICAN  
WILDLIFE  
SAFARIS



## INDEPENDENT EXPERIENCES FOR THE DISCERNING TRAVELLER.

We believe that to fully experience a country, its wildlife, its culture and its natural beauty, you need to take your time and travel on your own terms. So rather than selecting a pre-packaged tour which may be rushed, inflexible and potentially full of incompatible personalities, we work with you to create a bespoke experience incorporating places you'd love to see, things you're keen to do and accommodation that suits your style and budget.

We pride ourselves on our ability to tailor a truly unique journey that immerses you in some of the planet's most spectacular places. Our philosophy is not just about putting together "a trip" – it's about creating your ultimate travel experience. Expect expert guides, small groups, personalised itineraries and all the security that booking with a reputable, accredited travel company entails.

### OUR BROCHURE

Our brochure is designed to be a starting point from which we can begin building your perfect journey. It features a selection of suggested itineraries and a wide range of carefully chosen accommodations. We can customise, combine, extend and upgrade to suit your budget and travel style – use our expertise to build your unique collection of lifelong memories.

### BEFORE YOU BOOK

The information contained in this brochure was correct at the time of publication. Since then, however, changes beyond our control could have occurred. Please refer to our Booking Conditions on page 51, in particular with respect to prices, itineraries, travel duration, standard of services, airfares and airline schedules. Before you book please check with us to ascertain if there are any alterations to the journey(s) you have selected.

### PRICING

All prices in this brochure are based on twin share accommodation for travel during the low season, and intended as a guide only. Please contact us for the best, most accurate and up-to-date pricing.

### ACCOMMODATION RATINGS

To assist you in choosing your accommodation, we have classified our hotels as AA, A, B, C, River boat or Houseboat. Each tour in the brochure lists the hotels included in each category. Hotels are subject to availability and may be substituted with a similar standard hotel.


- Category AA:** Outstanding hotels. Highest standards of service & facilities. May include a heritage hotel.
- Category A:** Premium 5 star or 5 star hotels and may include a heritage property.
- Category B:** Equivalent to a 4 star hotel.
- Category C:** Equivalent to a 3 star hotel.
- River boat:** Small, boutique vessels.
- Houseboats:** Traditional houseboats on Kerala waterways, rated A for the best available to C for more budget accommodation.


## HOW TO BOOK YOUR TOUR

### A Seamless Travel Experience

As a licensed and professional travel company with over 30 years experience, Natural Focus Safaris and parent company African Wildlife Safaris can offer you all the services you need to plan and organise your holiday. All of our trips are entirely tailor made to suit, and our experienced staff know exactly how to put together the perfect holiday customised to your budget, interests, and travel timeframe.

Information about places you would like to visit has never been more accessible. This can make it both easier, and more challenging when it comes to booking a holiday. We advise that you take the following steps to ensure your travel experience is seamless, without any inconvenient or unexpected surprises.

- **1. RESEARCH**  
Do you have a list of places you wish to go, and things you want to see? Read our brochure and website, then discuss your ideas with our experienced specialists as a starting point.
- **2. PLANNING YOUR TRIP**  
A successful itinerary needs your involvement. The more we know about what you want from your visit, the easier it will be to help you design your perfect holiday. Are there particular regions you want to visit? What time of the year do you wish to travel? Do you have an approximate budget, and a preferred style of travel? Contact us to start planning today.

- **3. BOOK YOUR TRIP (EARLY)**  
Once you are happy with your itinerary, it is time to book. We cannot stress enough the need to book early. There is immense pressure on accommodation and tours in almost all the destinations we offer. To secure your first choice and to avoid disappointment, PLEASE BOOK EARLY.

- **4. SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES**  
When you return home, don't forget to tell us about your experience. Our staff love hearing about their clients' experiences, or seeing photos and videos. And don't forget to share your memories with us on social media.

## ACCOMMODATION



The Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra © Oberoi Hotels & Resorts

### PALACES AND HOTELS

Experience living history in a restored former palace - India has many royal homes now converted into guest accommodations, ranging from 3 to 5 stars in standard. There are also a wealth of great luxury hotels offering the highest levels of world-class service as well as more modest establishments that are clean and comfortable.



The Leela Kovalam © The Leela

### UNIQUE ESCAPES

India and Sri Lanka now boast many fine boutique hotels, some in towns, but many in beautiful and peaceful rural areas. These range from heritage palaces to luxurious treehouses and even African-style sumptuous tented camps. Only a few of these unique properties are featured in our brochure but many more are available on request.



Mahua Kothi, Bandhavgarh © andBeyond

### WILDLIFE LODGES

Accommodations in India's wilderness areas vary from comfortable lodges to heritage hotels and African safari-style tented camps. Most lodges feature a central dining and lounge area, with guests housed in standalone chalets on the property. Rooms and tents have ensuite facilities with excursions conducted by jeep or cantor.



Maharajas Express © Maharajas Express

### RAIL JOURNEYS

Travel in the lavish style of a bygone era on one of our extravagant rail journeys through India. The Palace on Wheels and Maharajas' Express capture the romance and excitement of train travel at the height of the British Raj, offering glamorous cabins, delectable cuisine and guided excursions.



MV Mahabaahu © Pandaw River Expeditions

### RIVER CRUISES

The most relaxing way to see India is aboard one of our boutique ships which cruise India's great rivers - the Brahmaputra and Ganges. Enjoy comfortable air-conditioned, ensuite guestrooms, an onboard restaurant, bar and viewing deck. Take guided onshore excursions to visit wildlife sanctuaries, historic and cultural sites.



### HOUSEBOATS

Explore the idyllic palm-fringed backwaters and sleepy rural hamlets of Kerala, in southern India, by kettuvallam (traditional houseboat). Houseboats are the perfect mode of travel in this tranquil region, offering between one to four simple but charming and comfortable ensuite cabins, with air-conditioning generally available at night.

## STYLE OF TOUR

### PRIVATE JOURNEYS

Private touring is undertaken by 99% of our clients to India. All the city stays and tours presented in this brochure are based on two or more passengers in a private vehicle with your own driver, and local guides provided in each city.

Your itinerary will be personalised and flexible. Our experienced staff will help piece the itinerary together and create a completely custom-designed itinerary that meets your requirements.

### PRIVATE GUIDES

Whilst our journeys include local guides in each city, if you prefer to be accompanied by a specialist guide we can arrange this at an additional cost.

#### Tirath Singh

With an arts degree from Rajasthan, Tirath is a keen naturalist, photographer and excellent guide to have along on any Indian itinerary. Eager to share his exceptional knowledge of India's wildlife and culture, he is one of Natural Focus Safaris' preferred guides for groups and individual bookings.



## OUR INDIA SPECIALISTS

**O**ur team of experienced consultants have travelled widely in India, Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka. They have the expertise and knowledge to help you design the perfect holiday to suit your style and budget.



### Stephen Cameron

Company founder and CEO Steve Cameron, has travelled to India numerous times, leading various escorted trips and touring Nepal, Sikkim and Bhutan. A wildlife enthusiast and keen photographer, he encountered his first Bengal tiger on elephant-back in the Bandhavgarh National Park and has explored the Gir Forest in search of the rare Asiatic lion.



### Rolf Huber

Having previously represented various airlines, Rolf has travelled extensively and worked in many different locations throughout the world, including India. On his most recent trip to the subcontinent, he traversed India's renowned Golden Triangle, comprised of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, and was inspired by the region's rich history and colourful diversity. Sri Lanka is another favourite, for its friendly locals and compact size.



### Jess Hamilton

Jess has seen the magnificent Taj Mahal, marvelled at the impressive hilltop Amber Fort and toured the ancient sensual sculptures of Khajuraho. On safari in Bandhavgarh National Park, she was lucky to see three fully grown Bengal tigers as well as a den full of cubs. Amongst the many experiences still on her wishlist for the subcontinent are trekking beneath the snow-capped Himalayas, attending the vibrant Pushkar camel fair and visiting idyllic Sri Lanka.



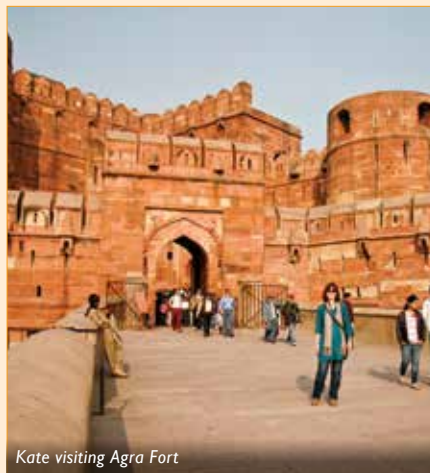
### Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli

After more than 30 years in the industry, our General Manager's passion for travel continues undimmed. Annie has been to Africa countless times, cruised Antarctica and explored South America. She fell in love with India on her first visit in 2002, and returns each year to experience somewhere new! A wildlife enthusiast, she has searched for endangered rhinos in Kaziranga and tracked tigers in Ranthambore, Corbett, Bandhavgarh, Kanha and the Sundarbans. Annie will be escorting her eleventh Taj, Temples & Tigers tour in 2019.



### Kate Witton

India remains a firm favourite for Kate. After her first trip there in 1998, she moved to the subcontinent to work as a tour leader in India and Nepal. Dining with Maharajas, spotting tigers and rhinos from the back of an elephant and exploring ancient forts and palaces, are just a few of the experiences which constantly draw Kate back to this very unique part of the world. With more than 20 years experience in the industry, Kate has travelled across Africa, South America, Asia and the Middle East. Kate is also our Reservations Manager.



Kate visiting Agra Fort

## CONSERVATION



As a specialist tour company tailoring journeys to India, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Canada, Alaska, South America, Antarctica, the Arctic and Africa, Natural Focus Safaris and our parent company African Wildlife Safaris are committed to preserving the world's wilderness. Over the years we have made significant contributions to conservation societies and research projects in the destinations we visit through our policy of giving clients the opportunity to contribute \$10 (or more) per person, which we then match dollar for dollar. We don't charge an administration fee, so 100% of client contributions go to the nominated conservation society or research organisation.

The national parks of the Indian subcontinent are under threat from poaching and habitat destruction, and many of the animals are endangered. The parks shelter an incredible number of animal, bird and plant species, including elephant, jackal, hyena, chital and sambar deer, antelope, tiger, the Asiatic Lion and the Indian rhino. We encourage our clients to spend at least a few days visiting one of the national parks, hopefully to see the magnificent Bengal tiger as well as to appreciate the beauty and fragility of these unique areas.

Along with our ground operator in India we were the first Australian travel company to join Travel Operators for Tigers (TOFT), an organisation dedicated to protecting the highly endangered Bengal tiger. We have also pledged ourselves to the protection of India's other great cat - the Asiatic Lion - with regular donations to the Biodiversity Conservation Trust of India (BCTI).



## CONTACT US

**C**all our experienced consultants to discuss your travel plans, or contact your travel agent.

Call us now on (03) 9249 3777 or 1300 363 302 (interstate callers).

Fax: (03) 9696 4937

E-mail: [info@awsnfs.com](mailto:info@awsnfs.com)

Web: [www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au](http://www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au)



Stunning Tiger family portrait © Andy Rouse

# TAJ, TEMPLES & TIGERS - ESCORTED SAFARI

## DURATION

17 days/16 nights (1 inflight)

## DEPARTS

Ex Mel, Syd, Bne, Adl or Per  
Tuesday 05 Feb 2019

## PRICES FROM

\$12,118 per person twin See p9

## ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

- ✓ Escorted ex Delhi by Anne-Marie Zambelli
- ✓ Min: 8 Max: 16



Tigers on the move, Ranthambore © Tirath Singh



© Natural Focus Safaris

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Total of 12 guided tiger safaris in Bandhavgarh, Kanha and Ranthambore
- The avian paradise of Bharatpur - Keoladeo National Park
- Sunrise and sunset visit to the breathtakingly beautiful Taj Mahal
- The historic treasures of Delhi, Khajuraho and Jaipur
- Accompanying naturalist and an Australian escort



Group shot at the Taj Mahal © Anne-Marie Zambelli



Black-necked stork © Tirath Singh

## INTRODUCTION

**G**o in search of the magnificent Bengal tiger. Contemplate the mystery of ancient temples, grand palaces and the beauty of the Taj Mahal. We invite you to join us on this escorted tour, the main focus of which is to view the endangered tiger. Nothing can prepare you for the excitement of seeing this magnificent creature in its natural habitat, a privilege that few people will ever experience. Whilst this tour visits 3 of India's national parks there is also plenty of time for cultural experiences and historical sites.

## YOUR ESCORT

### Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli

A passionate traveller with over 30 years experience in the travel industry, Anne-Marie Zambelli's knowledge is unrivalled. As our General Manager she is an expert on all our destinations. As a tour leader she is a knowledgeable, enthusiastic and entertaining travelling companion. Captivated by India on her first trip in 2002, Annie has returned many times and explored much of the subcontinent.







ITINERARY

**Day 1 05 Feb Delhi**  
Depart Australia on Singapore Airlines to Delhi. Overnight at Le Meridien.

**Days 2/3 06/07 Feb Ranthambore**  
Morning at leisure before embarking on a comfortable journey by air-conditioned train to Swai Madhopur and Ranthambore National Park, a former private hunting ground of the great rulers of Jaipur and one of the most renowned national parks in India for viewing tiger. Morning and afternoon jungle excursions by jeep or cantor. Accommodation Dev Vilas. BLD

**Days 4/5 08/09 Feb Jaipur**  
Time for one last jungle excursion before departing by road to India's "pink city" – Jaipur (4 hrs). On Day 5 enjoy a full day sightseeing tour including the Amber Fort, City Palace and Jantar Mantar observatory. Overnight at Trident Jaipur. BLD

**Day 6/7 10/11 Feb Bharatpur**  
Transfer by road to Bharatpur and The Birder's Inn. Afternoon visit to Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary Park, an avian paradise with over 380 species of bird. On Day 7 enjoy a second morning excursion to Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary Park before visiting the 16th century Mughal city of Fatehpur Sikri in the afternoon at sunset. BLD

**Day 8 12 Feb Agra**  
Drive to Agra (3 hrs). Tour of Agra Fort followed by a sunset visit to the Taj Mahal. Overnight at Trident Agra. BLD

**Day 9 13 Feb Khajuraho**  
Sunrise visit to the Taj followed by an afternoon flight to Khajuraho and its temple complex dating from 930AD, famous for its beautiful and erotic sculptures. Overnight at Radisson Jass Hotel. BLD

**Days 10/11 14/15 Feb Bandhavgarh**  
Early departure by road for Bandhavgarh National Park (5 hrs). Enjoy morning and afternoon jungle excursions. Accommodation at Bandhav Vilas. BLD

**Days 12-14 16-18 Feb Kanha**  
Morning jungle drive and then road transfer to Kanha National Park. The park is home to a variety of animals including deer, gaur (bison), wild dog and jackal. Accommodation at The Baagh Resort. BLD

**Day 15 19 Feb Delhi**  
Morning jungle drive before departing for Raipur for evening flight to Delhi. Overnight at Le Meridien. BLD

**Day 16 20 Feb Delhi/Inflight to Australia**  
Enjoy a morning tour of New Delhi including Qutab Minar and Humayun's Tomb before lunch at a local restaurant. Early evening transfer to the airport for the return flight to Australia with Singapore Airlines. BL

**Day 17 21 Feb Tour ends Australia**  
Arrive Australia where the tour ends.

PRICING

**EX MEL**  
\$12,272  
per person twin share

**EX SYD**  
\$12,279  
per person twin share

**EX BNE**  
\$12,296  
per person twin share

**EX ADL**  
\$12,275  
per person twin share

**EX PER**  
\$12,118  
per person twin share

Single supplement: \$3257. We can try to arrange shared accommodation on request.

**Price per person includes:** Economy class airfare (strictly subject to availability) with Singapore Airlines for a maximum of 35 days, internal airfares, all current passenger departure taxes and levies, accommodation inclusive of taxes and meals as per itinerary, train fare Delhi - Swai Madhopur in air conditioned chair car, transfers by air conditioned vehicle, city tours and excursions as per the itinerary, jungle excursions by jeep and cantor, services of a local English speaking naturalist, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel and at meal times, standard still camera fees and gratuities.

(Clients joining from Adelaide will require a short stay in Singapore or overnight on the return journey (additional cost) as the flight from Singapore to Adelaide does not connect on 21st February. Please contact us for details.)

**Price excludes:** Items of a personal nature.



Magnificent Taj Mahal, Agra © Shutterstock



Nilgai Antelope with Bank Myna birds © Tirath Singh



Houseboat cruising the backwaters of Kerala © Shutterstock

# TIGERS & SOUTHERN DELIGHTS - ESCORTED TOUR

## DURATION

18 days/17 nights (1 inflight)

## DEPARTS

Ex Mel, Syd, Bne, Adl or Per  
Monday 21 Oct 2019

## PRICES FROM

\$13,045 per person twin See p11

## ESCORTED GROUP TOUR

- ✓ Escorted ex Delhi by Anne-Marie Zambelli
- ✓ Min: 8 Max: 14



Kabini Wildlife Sanctuary © Orange County Resorts and Hotels



© Natural Focus Safaris

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Total of 5 guided tiger safaris in Ranthambore
- Historic Jaipur, with its impressive hilltop fort
- 4 jungle excursions in Nagarhole National Park
- The enchanting southern capital of Mysore
- Cruise along idyllic Keralan backwaters and delicious local cuisine
- Accompanying naturalist and an Australian escort



Traditional South Indian cuisine © Shutterstock



Mysore Palace illumination © Shutterstock

## INTRODUCTION

**D**iscover India's most impressive wildlife reserves, travelling from Delhi to the historic port city of Kochi on India's sultry southwestern coast. Search for magnificent Bengal tigers in Ranthambore and explore lush Nagarhole National Park. On your journey from north to south, travel by rail across the scenic Indian countryside, cruise along lush, sleepy backwater canals on a classic houseboat, take in a performance of an expressive Kathakali dance, learn to cook traditional Keralan cuisine and embark on exciting safaris.

## YOUR ESCORT

### Anne-Marie (Annie) Zambelli

Anne-Marie Zambelli has a travel diary that reads like a year's subscription to National Geographic magazine. With over 30 years' experience in the industry, Annie has led countless tours to Canada, Africa, Antarctica, and has journeyed extensively throughout India searching for endangered rhinos, tracking tigers and leading many group tours. Her knowledge, enthusiasm and experience of the sub-continent is unrivalled.





Tiger posing on fortress ruins, Ranthambore © Aditya Singh

ITINERARY

**Day 1 21 Oct Delhi**  
Depart Australia on Singapore Airlines to Delhi. Overnight at Le Meridien.

**Days 2-4 22-24 Oct Ranthambore**  
Journey by air-conditioned train to Sawai Madhopur, the gateway to Ranthambore, India's most famous tiger reserve. Accommodation at Dev Vilas. BLD

**Days 5/6 25/26 Oct Jaipur**  
Following a final morning safari, travel by road to Jaipur with a packed lunch. Check into your hotel, the fabulous Trident Jaipur, for overnight. Next morning, tour Amber Fort and India's "Pink City" with lunch at a local restaurant. BLD

**Days 7/8 27/28 Oct Mysore**  
Early flight to Bangalore. Lunch at the impressive Taj Bangalore and transfer to your Mysore hotel. Conclude the day with an evening visit to the magnificently illuminated Mysore Palace. On Day 8, explore this enchanting city and the ancient ruins at Somnathpur. Overnight Royal Orchid The Metropole. BLD

**Days 9/10 29/30 Oct Nagarhole National Park**  
Continue by road through lush rural countryside to The Serai, a beautiful resort in Kabini which will be your base for exploring Nagarhole. This national park is renowned for its density of wildlife including leopard, and boasts over 300 avian species. Safaris are by cantor or boat. BLD

**Days 11/12 31 Oct/01 Nov Coorg**  
Morning excursion before departing for Evolve Back Chikkana Halli Estate set amongst a lush 300-acre plantation paradise. Whilst at this tranquil resort, explore the picturesque landscape with a guide and enjoy the property's great facilities which include a pool and Ayurveda wellness centre. BLD

**Days 13/14 02/03 Nov Kochi**  
Transfer to Calicut station for train to Kochi and check in to your hotel, the Taj Malabar, for overnight. Next morning, embark on a heritage walk and in the evening, take in a classical Kathakali dance performance. BLD

**Day 15/16 04/05 Nov Kumarakom**  
Navigate the narrow, palm-fringed canals of Alleppey by traditional houseboat with lunch on board. Disembark and transfer to Kumarakom, where the idyllic Coconut Lagoon resort at the edge of Vembanad Lake awaits. The following day is entirely yours to enjoy the history, culture, cuisine and iconic languid canals of Kerala. BLD

**Day 17 06 Nov Kochi/Inflight to Australia**  
Day at leisure (with day use of your room) before evening transfer to the airport to board your return flight to Australia with Singapore Airlines. BL

**Day 18 07 Nov Tour ends Australia**  
Arrive Australia where the tour ends.

PRICING

EX MEL

\$13,200

per person twin share

EX SYD

\$13,216

per person twin share

EX BNE

\$13,223

per person twin share

EX ADL

\$13,203

per person twin share

EX PER

\$13,045

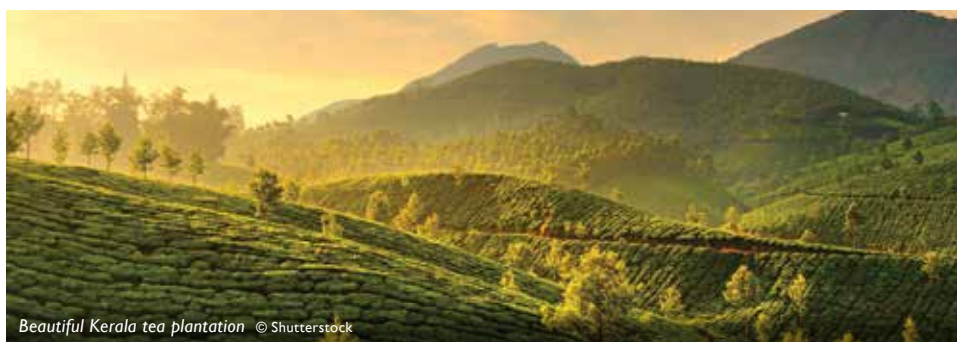
per person twin share

Single supplement: \$3,676. We can try to arrange shared accommodation on request.

**Price per person includes:** Economy class airfare (strictly subject to availability) with Singapore Airlines for a maximum of 35 days, internal airfares, all current passenger departure taxes and levies, accommodation inclusive of taxes and meals as per itinerary, train fare Delhi-Swai Madhopur in air conditioned char car, transfers by air conditioned vehicle, city tours and excursions as per the itinerary, jungle excursions by jeep, special cantor & boat, services of a local English speaking naturalist, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel and at meal times, standard still camera fees and gratuities.

(Clients joining from Adelaide will require a short stay in Singapore or overnight on the return journey (additional cost) as the flight from Singapore to Adelaide does not connect on the 7th November. Please contact us for details.)

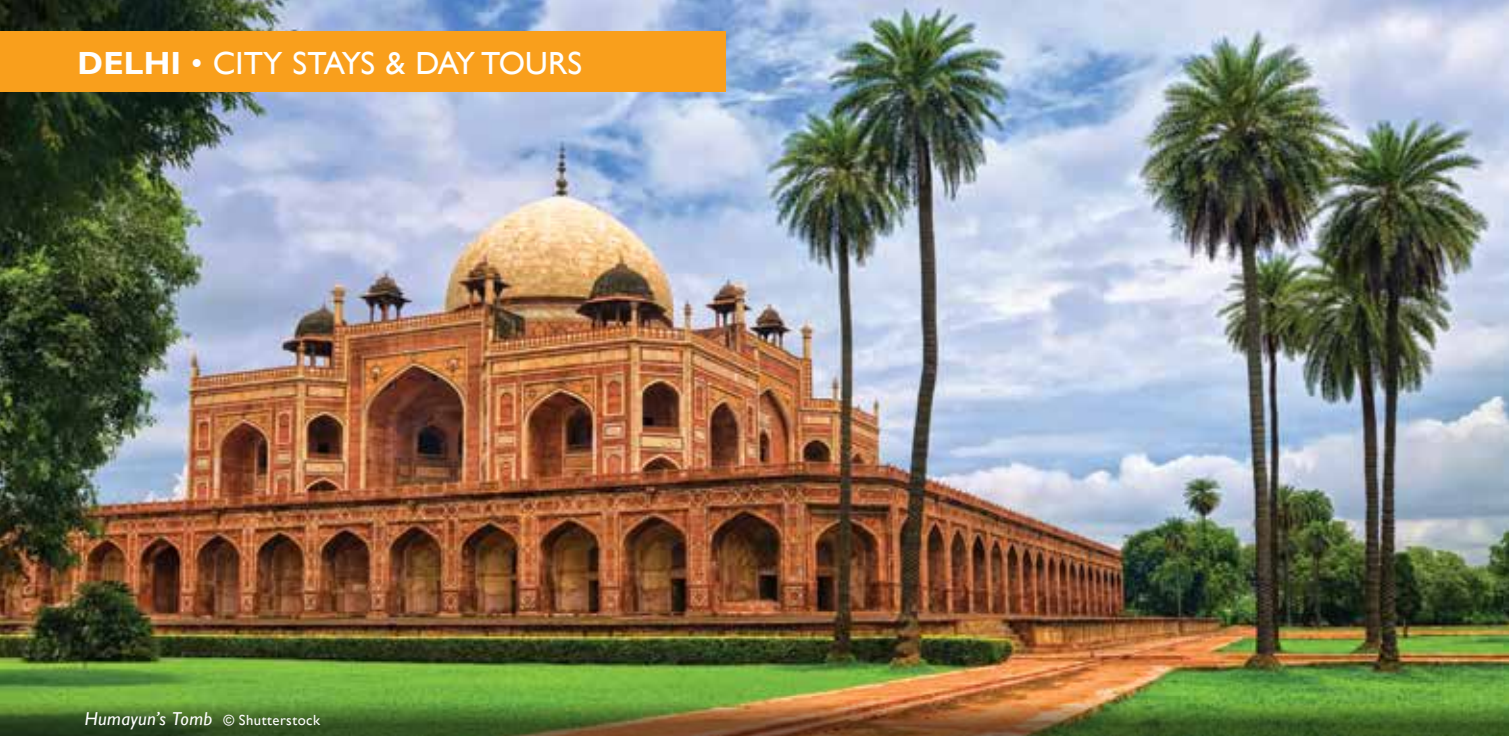
**Price excludes:** Items of a personal nature.



Beautiful Kerala tea plantation © Shutterstock



Chinese fishing nets, Kochi © Shutterstock



Humayun's Tomb © Shutterstock

## DELHI

3 days/2 nights

From \$431 per person twin share

**E**xplore India's dynamic capital, always humming with activity, from the broad streets and majestic government buildings of New Delhi, to the bustling narrow lanes of the fortified old city. Visit the magnificent Jama Masjid, the towering Red Fort, imposing India Gate and the beautiful 12th century Qutab Minar, with its red sandstone tower.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return), 2 nights accommodation with breakfast, half day city sightseeing tour of Old Delhi in standard air-conditioned private vehicle.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Jama Masjid, one of India's largest mosques
- The 16th-century Red Fort,
- Evocative 42m-tall India Gate
- Qutab Minar, the world's tallest brick minaret
- Old Delhi, Delhi's symbolic heart

### ACCOMMODATION

| Price per person from:                        | Twin  | Single |
|---|-------|--------|
| <b>The Leela Palace</b> - Cat AA (Premier Rm) | \$823 | \$1628 |
| <b>Imperial Hotel</b> - Cat AA (Heritage Rm)  | \$791 | \$1480 |
| <b>The Taj Mahal Hotel</b> - Cat A (Dlx Rm)   | \$705 | \$1300 |
| <b>The Claridges</b> - Cat A (Deluxe Rm)      | \$459 | \$902  |
| <b>Le Meridien</b> - Cat B (Executive Rm)     | \$457 | \$898  |
| <b>The Metropolitan</b> - Cat C (Dlx Rm)      | \$461 | \$906  |
| <b>The Park</b> - Cat C (Luxury Rm)           | \$431 | \$812  |

### OPTIONAL DELHI DAY TOURS

| Tour cost per person from:           | Twin     | Single |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Full day city tour Old & New Delhi   | \$160    | \$273  |
| Half day city tour Old Delhi         | Included |        |
| Half day city tour New Delhi         | \$136    | \$231  |
| Red Fort Sound and Light Show        | \$71     | \$121  |
| Same day tour Delhi to Agra (return) | \$293    | \$514  |
| Heritage walk in Old Delhi           | \$131    | N/A    |

Further details for all tours on request.

### AIRPORT ACCOMMODATION (2D/1N)

| Price per person from:                        | Twin  | Single |
|---|-------|--------|
| <b>JW Marriott</b> - Cat A (Deluxe Rm)        | \$260 | \$493  |
| <b>Pullman New Delhi</b> - Cat B (Deluxe Rm)  | \$216 | \$425  |
| <b>Pride (Aerocity)</b> - Cat C (Superior Rm) | \$203 | \$401  |

### AIRPORT ACCOMMODATION INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return) in standard air-conditioned private vehicle, 1 night accommodation with breakfast.



1911 Bar, The Imperial Hotel © The Imperial India

### THE IMPERIAL HOTEL

Category AA

One of the most distinguished addresses in the heart of the capital, this heritage property has hosted royalty, prime ministers, celebrities and adventurers since 1931. Today, it still evokes the halcyon days of the British Raj, offering some of India's most elegant accommodation in 190 rooms and 43 suites. The Imperial Hotel is also home to some of the best restaurants in Delhi.

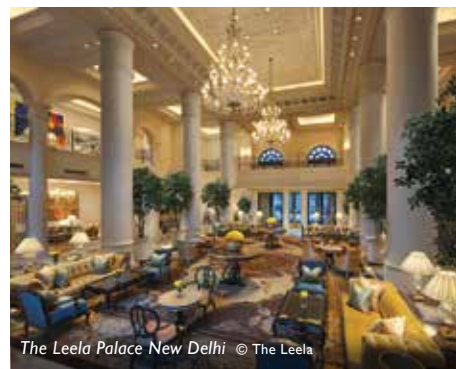


The Taj Mahal Hotel pool lawn, New Delhi © Taj Hotels

### THE TAJ MAHAL HOTEL

Category A

Minutes from the city's most prominent landmarks, this grand hotel on leafy Mansingh Road has 292 premium rooms and suites overlooking Delhi's skyline. It also boasts multiple restaurants, a day spa and state-of-the-art fitness centre with a large outdoor pool. Should you have any other needs during your stay, ask your butler or the Les Clefs d'Or Concierge.



The Leela Palace New Delhi © The Leela

### THE LEELA PALACE NEW DELHI

Category AA

This lavish palace hotel is located in Delhi's affluent Diplomatic Enclave. No expense was spared in its construction; interiors are magnificent whilst the 254 oversized guestrooms are filled with fine furniture and plush fabrics. 24-hour butler service on every floor ensures all needs are met, while a wide range of onsite restaurants provide nourishment.



Old-world charm at The Claridges © The Claridges

### THE CLARIDGES

Category A

This iconic old-world hotel is situated directly opposite the tranquil Lodi Gardens, close to many of Delhi's most famous historic monuments. Its 132 colonial-style rooms are large and bright, while excellent onsite restaurants offer an eclectic mix of Indian and international cuisine. Swim in the heated outdoor pool or go for a relaxing stroll across its peaceful manicured lawns.



12th century Qutab Minar Victory Tower, Delhi © Shutterstock



Bustling Old Delhi © Peter McNally



Le Meridien New Delhi © Le Meridien

**LE MERIDIEN NEW DELHI**

Category B

Walk to the shops of vibrant Connaught Place from this distinctive hotel which towers over Delhi's impressive administrative centre. There are 358 modern air-conditioned guestrooms featuring wooden floors and clutter-free decor, all with convenient access to an outdoor pool, health club, day spa and a wide range of dining establishments.



The Park New Delhi © The Park

**THE PARK**

Category C

Looking out onto the 18th century observatory at Jantar Mantar, this trendy hotel is as popular with travellers as it is with locals for its sophisticated dining and drinking spaces as well as its restful day spa. Guests are accommodated in 220 chic, colourful guestrooms with access to massage services, yoga classes, gym facilities and a gorgeous outdoor pool.



The Metropolitan Hotel & Spa Deluxe Room © The Metropolitan

**THE METROPOLITAN HOTEL & SPA**

Category C

Steps from bustling Connaught Place, this deluxe hotel offers 178 upscale guest rooms with Wi-Fi access, electronic safes and minibars. Enjoy a swim in the outdoor pool or a relaxing massage at the day spa. There are also three onsite restaurants on the premises offering a range of cuisines, a bakery, a craft boutique and a contemporary art gallery.



JW Marriott New Delhi Aerocity © JW Marriott

**JW MARRIOTT NEW DELHI AEROCITY**

Category A

Right next to Indira Gandhi Airport, this convenient 5-star hotel is a short drive from the famous Qutab Minar. It features 523 spacious guestrooms with top quality bedding, the latest technologies and marble bathrooms. Enjoy world-class recreational amenities ranging from a full-service day spa to a fitness facility and lovely outdoor pool.



Pullman Aerocity © Pullman Aerocity

**PULLMAN NEW DELHI AEROCITY**

Category B

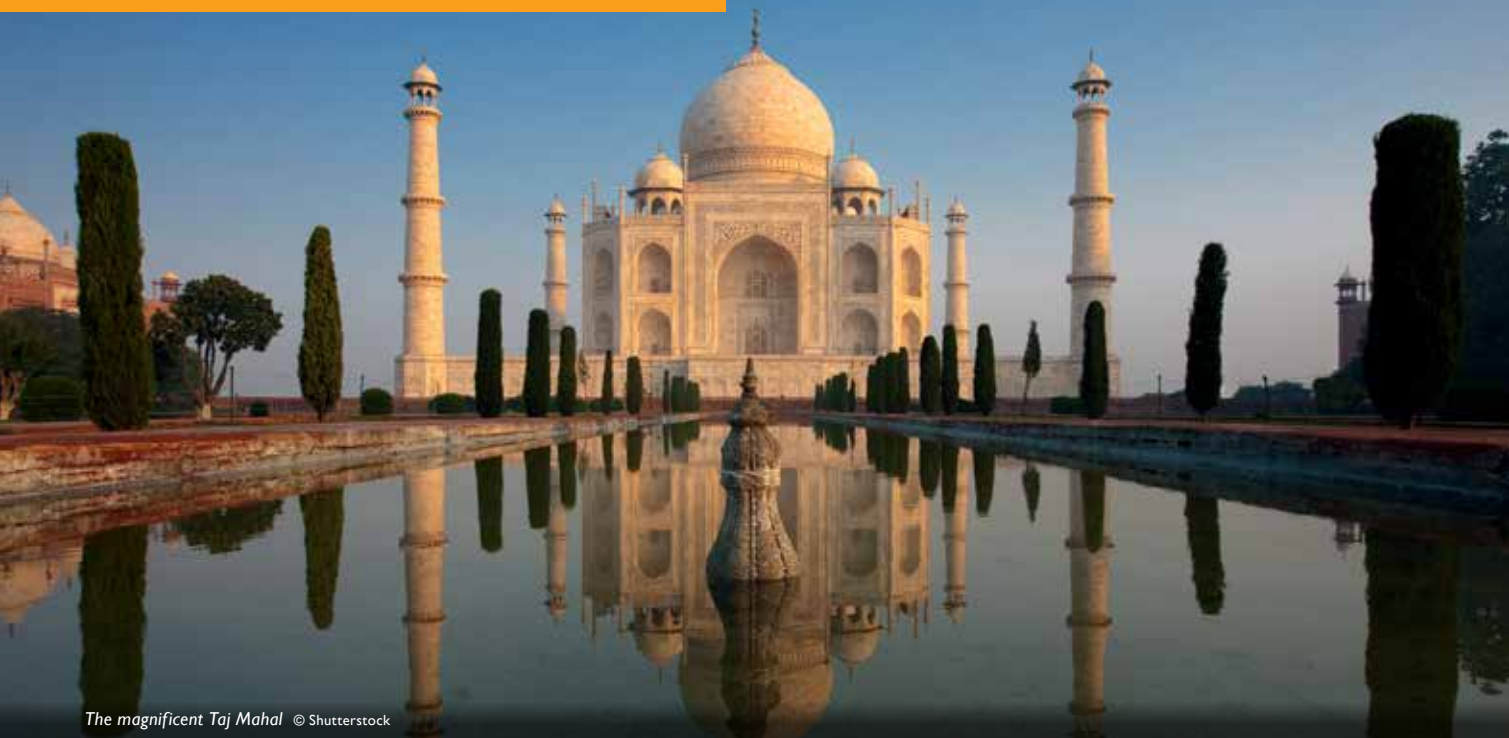
This upscale Aerocity hotel occupies a sprawling complex minutes from the airport. Its 670 contemporary rooms are large, with climate control and oversized bathrooms. Three restaurants and a bar provide refreshment, whilst there is a beautiful outdoor pool and sundeck to help combat jetlag. A sauna and massage services complete the offerings.

**OTHER ACCOMMODATION**

Over the next 6 pages we feature a number of hotels in India's main tourist cities. Natural Focus Safaris also has a range of other accommodations available throughout India.

For further options, please contact us on 1300 363 302 or ask your travel agent.





The magnificent Taj Mahal © Shutterstock

## AGRA

2 days/1 night

From \$266 per person twin share

**A**gra is home to the Taj Mahal, built by Emperor Shah Jahan to honour his late wife Mumtaz Mahal. Made from luminous white marble and standing serenely in a formal garden of cypresses and reflective pools, it is quite possibly the most beautiful building in the world. Other Mughal monuments in this city include the impressive 16th century Agra Fort.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfer train station to hotel (return), 1 night accommodation with breakfast, half day sightseeing tour of Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal in standard air-conditioned private vehicle.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The impossibly beautiful Taj Mahal
- The massive Agra Fort
- Centuries of Mughal history and architecture
- Proximity to the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri

### ACCOMMODATION

|  |       |        |
|--|-------|--------|
| <b>Price per person from:</b>                  | Twin  | Single |
| <b>Oberoi Amarvilas*</b> - Cat AA (Premier)    | \$840 | \$1529 |
| <b>ITC Mughal*</b> - Cat A (Mughal Rm)         | \$314 | \$552  |
| <b>The Gateway Hotel</b> - Cat B (Superior Rm) | \$301 | \$503  |
| <b>Crystal Sarovar</b> - Cat C (Deluxe)        | \$266 | \$455  |

\*Rate is provisional and subject to change.

### OPTIONAL AGRA DAY TOURS

|                                   |          |        |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| <b>Tour cost per person from:</b> | Twin     | Single |
| Half day city tour of Agra        | Included |        |
| Full day tour to Fatehpur Sikri   | \$125    | \$229  |

Further details for all tours on request.



Oberoi Amarvilas, Agra © Oberoi Hotels & Resorts

### THE OBEROI AMARVILAS

Category AA

This exclusive luxury hotel has an unbeatable location just 600 metres from the Taj Mahal, with views of the majestic landmark from each of its 102 exquisite guestrooms. Its manicured grounds feature ornamental fountains, pools and pavilions, where you can dine or sip on a signature cocktail while contemplating the Mughal symbol of eternal love.



The Gateway Hotel Agra © The Gateway Hotels & Resorts

### THE GATEWAY HOTEL FATEHABAD ROAD

Category B

Spread across 6 manicured acres, this smart hotel on Fatehabad Road boasts impressive views of the Taj Mahal. The 100 air-conditioned guestrooms have cool marble floors and access to a pool and gym. There is also a wellness centre and four restaurants to choose from onsite.



ITC Mughal © ITC Mughal

### ITC MUGHAL

Category A

This award-winning hotel is set upon 35 enchanting acres of lush Mughal-style gardens close to the Taj Mahal. Its 233 opulent guestrooms are fit for a king, while the magnificent day spa is the largest in India. Choose from three distinctive dining destinations offering international and local delicacies at this superlative property.



Taj view © Crystal Sarovar Premiere

### CRYSTAL SAROVAR PREMIERE

Category C

Just 3km from the Taj Mahal, this convenient, contemporary hotel provides accommodation in tasteful guestrooms, some which face India's most famous monument. There is a swimming pool, a fitness centre as well as an array of dining options available throughout the day.

# JAIPUR

3 days/2 nights

From \$405 per person twin share

The romantic Rajsthani capital of Jaipur is surrounded by rugged hills on three sides, each crowded with formidable forts, magnificent palaces, mansions and gardens. See the elaborate Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), explore the arresting City Palace with its unique blend of Rajput and Mughal architectural styles, and visit the former fortress of the Rajput kings, the incredible 16th century Amber Fort.

## INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return), 2 nights accommodation with breakfast, full day sightseeing tour of Amber Fort and Jaipur city in standard air-conditioned private vehicle.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The intricate Hawa Mahal or Palace of the Winds
- The alluring City Palace
- Hilltop Amber Fort
- Jaipur's rich royal heritage

## ACCOMMODATION

| Price per person from:                   | Twin   | Single |
|--|--------|--------|
| Rambagh Palace - Cat AA (Palace Rm)      | \$1429 | \$2613 |
| Oberoi Rajvilas* - Cat AA (Premier Rm)   | \$1365 | \$2503 |
| Taj Jai Mahal Palace - Cat A (Luxury Rm) | \$683  | \$1195 |
| Samode Haveli - Cat B (Dlx Rm)           | \$559  | \$1043 |
| Trident Hotel - Cat B (Dlx Garden View)  | \$449  | \$745  |
| Mandawa Haveli - Cat C (Standard Rm)     | \$405  | \$689  |

\*Rate is provisional and subject to change.

## OPTIONAL JAIPUR DAY TOURS

| Tour cost per person from:        | Twin     | Single |
|-----------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Full day Jaipur & Amber Fort tour | Included |        |
| Full day excursion to Samode      | \$129    | \$241  |
| A Glimpse of Daily Life           | \$71     | N/A    |
| Lunch at a Rajput Home            | \$126    | N/A    |

Further details for all tours on request.



Palace of Winds, Jaipur © Shutterstock



Rambagh Palace © Taj Hotels



The Oberoi Rajvilas © Oberoi

## RAMBAGH PALACE

Category AA

Once the residence of kings and princes, this extravagant palace is now a Taj hotel. The 78 rooms and suites are sumptuously decorated with the finest fabrics and furnishings, while the hotel offers a wide range of dining and drinking options as well as swimming pools, yoga, a day spa and fitness centre.

## THE OBEROI RAJVILAS

Category AA

Set amid 32 acres of pleasure gardens, reflective ponds and exotic fountains, this luxury resort is adorned with Mughal arches, colonnades, gilded frescoes and high domed ceilings. Guests at this 71-room hotel can expect five-star facilities, world-class service, unsurpassable views and mouthwatering cuisine.



Amber Fort, Jaipur © Michael Price



Taj Jai Mahal Palace © Taj Hotels

## TAJ JAI MAHAL PALACE

Category A

This former royal residence will transport you back in time. Built in 1745, the heritage estate has been carefully refurbished to exacting standards. Choose from 100 stunning guestrooms that look out upon the Pink City or the immaculate palace grounds.



Samode Haveli © Samode Haveli

## SAMODE HAVELI

Category B

Hidden deep within the streets of Old Jaipur, this heritage property once housed nobles. Today, behind its ornamented walls are 39 rooms, each unique in decoration but equal in luxury and amenity. Dine in the elegant restaurant or out on the regal veranda.



Amber Fort, Jaipur © Shutterstock

## TRIDENT HOTEL JAIPUR

Category B

This sprawling property is set by a lake, with 132 modern guestrooms featuring premium bedding and balconies overlooking the water or manicured gardens. Guests enjoy access to a swimming pool, day spa and several restaurants.

## MANDAWA HAVELI

Category C

Get a taste of Jaipur's history in this late 19th century townhouse. Inside are 70 well-appointed rooms, a swimming pool, beautiful dining spaces and plenty of comfortable places to sit and soak up your atmospheric surrounds.



The Taj Mahal Palace and Gateway of India, Mumbai © Shutterstock

## MUMBAI

3 days/2 nights

From \$502 per person twin share

**M**umbai, formerly known as Bombay, is India's bustling financial and industrial capital. It is also home to 'Bollywood', the world's largest movie industry and many sites of interest.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return), 2 nights accommodation with breakfast, half day city sightseeing tour of Mumbai in standard air-conditioned private vehicle.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The grand Gateway of India on the waterfront
- Gothic Revival-style Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus
- Gateway to the rock-cut Elephanta Caves

### ACCOMMODATION

| Price per person from:   | Twin   | Single |
|--|--------|--------|
| <b>The Taj Mahal Palace*</b> - Cat AA (Palace Wing Luxury Grande Rm) | \$1114 | \$2115 |
| <b>The Taj Mahal Palace*</b> - Cat A (Tower Wing Superior Rm)        | \$762  | \$1415 |
| <b>Trident Nariman Point</b> - Cat B (Superior Rm)                   | \$640  | \$1177 |
| <b>Fariyas Hotel</b> - Cat C (Standard Rm)                           | \$502  | \$967  |

### OPTIONAL MUMBAI DAY TOURS

| Tour cost per person from:                 | Twin     | Single |
|--|----------|--------|
| Half day city tour from City Hotels        | Included |        |
| Half day Elephanta Caves: from City Hotels | \$178    | \$332  |
| from Airport Hotels                        | \$182    | \$341  |
| Mumbai by Dawn                             | \$167    | N/A    |

Further details for all tours on request.

### AIRPORT ACCOMMODATION (2D/1N)

| Price per person from:                           | Twin  | Single |
|--|-------|--------|
| <b>Taj Santacruz*</b> - Cat A (Luxury City View) | \$366 | \$690  |
| <b>The Leela*</b> - Cat A (Premier Pool View Rm) | \$269 | \$528  |
| <b>Taj Lands End*</b> - Cat B (Deluxe Rm)        | \$352 | \$653  |
| <b>Hilton Mumbai</b> - Cat C (Guest Rm)          | \$226 | \$442  |

\*Rate is provisional and subject to change.

### AIRPORT ACCOMMODATION INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return), 1 nights accommodation with breakfast.



© Natural Focus Safaris



The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai © Taj Hotels

### THE TAJ MAHAL PALACE

Category AA & A

This gracious turn-of-the-century hotel is situated along Mumbai's waterfront with views of the Arabian Sea. It has 550 rooms and suites combining nostalgic elegance and 21st century facilities. There are also array of fine dining restaurants, bars, a full service spa and a pool.



Fariyas Hotel Mumbai © Fariyas

### FARIYAS HOTEL

Category C

The Fariyas Hotel has just 94 comfortable rooms conveniently equipped with modern facilities and located minutes away from many of Mumbai's most interesting sites. The hotel also has two restaurants, a bar, steam room, sauna and pool.

### THE LEELA MUMBAI (AIRPORT)

Category A

This resort-style hotel is located just 1.5km from the airport. There are 391 beautifully appointed guestrooms, five restaurants, a lobby lounge, a sublime day spa as well as a large freeform pool set in 11 acres of landscaped gardens.

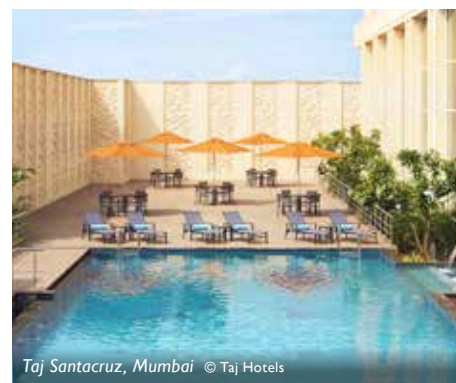


Trident Nariman Point © Trident Hotels

### TRIDENT NARIMAN POINT

Category B

This 35-storey hotel offers panoramic views of the Mumbai skyline. There are 555 well-appointed guestrooms, a fitness centre, wellness spa and a range of restaurants. Take advantage of 24hr concierge service and be sure to stroll the promenade at dusk to enjoy the evening sea breeze.



Taj Santacruz, Mumbai © Taj Hotels

### TAJ SANTACRUZ (AIRPORT)

Category A

A modern architectural triumph, this striking hotel is both close to the airport and ideal for visiting Mumbai's landmarks, museums and galleries. It features 301 spacious rooms, an array of dining options, a health club and day spa.

### HILTON MUMBAI (AIRPORT)

Category C

This Hilton is minutes from both Mumbai's international and domestic terminals. It offers 171 delightful rooms and suites, multiple eateries specialising in various cuisines, a fitness room and outdoor pool surrounded by beautiful landscaping.





A captivating smile © Jean Maxwell



Taj Lake Palace located on Lake Pichola © Shutterstock

## UDAIPUR

3 days/2 nights

From \$456 per person twin share

**T**he City of Lakes, Udaipur offers a captivating blend of palaces, forts, picturesque lakes and lush gardens.

The Aravalli mountain range provides a dramatic backdrop to the city, which is also known as “The Venice of the east”.

Visit the romantic Lake Palace, the City Palace and Saheliyon-ki-Bari.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return), 2 nights accommodation with breakfast, half day city sightseeing tour of Udaipur in standard air-conditioned private vehicle and evening cruise on Lake Pichola.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunrise or sunset over Lake Pichola
- The ornate City Palace
- The “floating” Lake Palace
- Tranquil, fountain-filled Saheliyon-ki-Bari

### ACCOMMODATION

|  |        |        |
|--|--------|--------|
| <b>Price per person from:</b>                    | Twin   | Single |
| <b>Taj Lake Palace*</b> - Cat AA (Luxury Rm)     | \$1458 | \$2662 |
| <b>Oberoi Udaivilas*</b> - Cat AA (Premier)      | \$1414 | \$2598 |
| <b>The Leela Palace*</b> - Cat AA (Lake View Rm) | \$1036 | \$1996 |
| <b>Fateh Prakash</b> - Cat A (Dovecote Rm)       | \$594  | \$1020 |
| <b>Fateh Garh</b> - Cat B (Renaissance Rm)       | \$572  | \$1066 |
| <b>Jagat Niwas</b> - Cat C (Heritage Rm)         | \$456  | \$804  |

\*Rate is provisional and subject to change.

### OPTIONAL UDAIPUR DAY TOUR

|                                   |       |        |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------|
| <b>Tour cost per person from:</b> | Twin  | Single |
| Lunch at Devigarh & Village Walk  | \$232 | N/A    |

Further details on request.

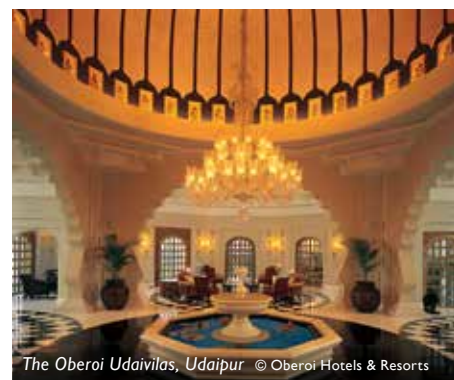


Majestic Taj Lake Palace © Taj Hotels

### TAJ LAKE PALACE

Category AA

This exquisite 250-year old white marble palace appears to float on Lake Pichola and is accessible only by boat. You'll be treated like royalty when staying in any of the 83 sublime rooms which feature a butler on-call 24 hours a day. This iconic hotel has four restaurants, a pool and wellness spa.



The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur © Oberoi Hotels & Resorts

### THE OBEROI UDAIVILAS

Category AA

Set on 50 acres along the banks of Lake Pichola, this sumptuous hotel is a collection of light-filled domes, courtyards and walkways. The 87 ultra-luxurious rooms are enormous, some boasting direct access to a moat-like pool. Enjoy fine dining and signature Oberoi spa therapies in an unparalleled setting.



The Leela Palace Udaipur © The Leela

### THE LEELA PALACE UDAIPUR

Category AA

The most contemporary palace hotel in Udaipur, this lakeside Leela property blends the regal elegance of a bygone era with modern-day luxury. There are 80 indulgent rooms, two restaurants, a walk-in wine cellar, a large pool and relaxing day spa.

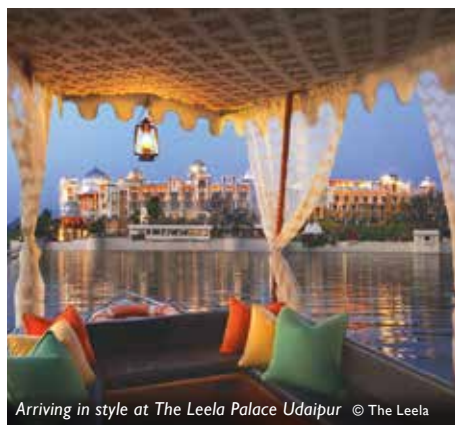


Fateh Prakash Palace © Fateh Prakash Palace

### FATEH PRAKASH PALACE

Category A

Built to host royal functions, this grand palace sits on Lake Pichola's picturesque eastern shore. The 65 guestrooms brim with genuine period furniture while public areas are a showcase of rare paintings and artefacts. Dinner on the terrace is a must.



Arriving in style at The Leela Palace Udaipur © The Leela

### FATEH GARH

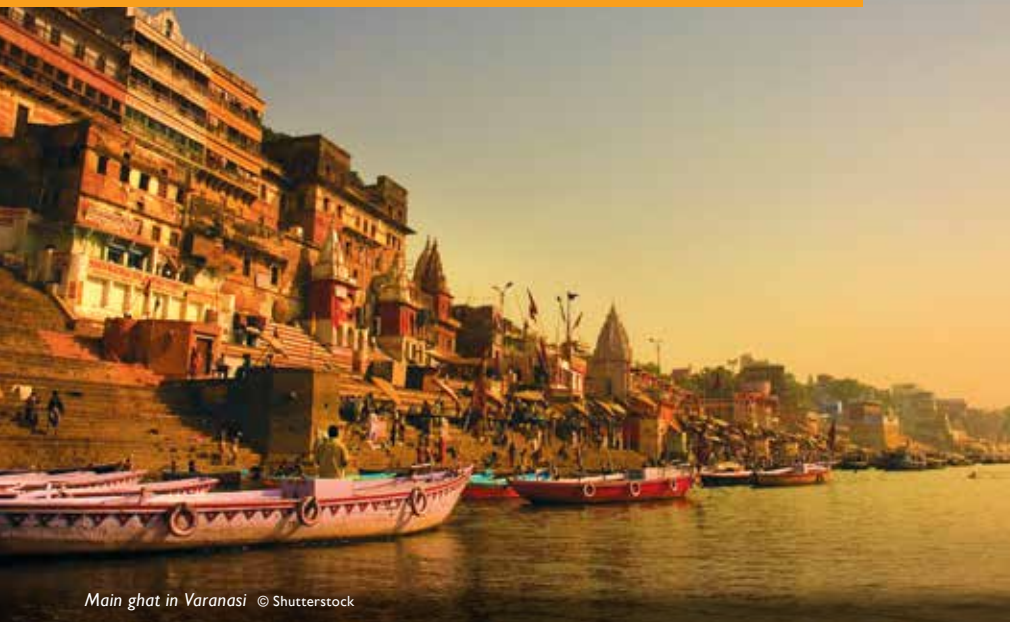
Category B

Perched on a hill at the edge of the city, this peaceful heritage hotel has 48 spacious rooms bathed in natural light. Have high tea on the terrace, a dip in the pool or a massage in a spa - all three locations offer spectacular views over Udaipur.

### JAGAT NIWAS PALACE

Category C

This character-filled 17th century haveli (mansion) is now a charming 28-room boutique hotel with an atmospheric rooftop restaurant. Interiors are vintage in style, with selected rooms offering “jhadokas” or extended balconies with plush seating.



Main ghat in Varanasi © Shutterstock

## VARANASI

3 days/2 nights  
From \$510 per person twin share

**V**aranasi is situated on the banks of the holy Ganges River. It is one of the oldest cities in the world and the ultimate destination for devout Hindus. Narrow winding lanes lined with thousands of temples lead down to waterfront ghats where pilgrims bathe in the early morning, and the dead receive their last rites.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return), 2 nights accommodation with breakfast, half day city tour, half day tour of Sarnath in standard air-conditioned private vehicle, early morning boat ride on the Ganges River and evening Aarti ceremony.

### ACCOMMODATION

| Price per person from:                                 | Twin   | Single |
|--|--------|--------|
| <b>Nadesar Palace</b> - Cat AA (Palace Rm)             | \$1648 | \$3123 |
| <b>Brijrama Palace</b> - Cat A (Nadidhara Rm)          | \$926  | \$1815 |
| <b>The Gateway Hotel Ganges</b> - Cat B (Executive Rm) | \$664  | \$1228 |
| <b>Rivatas</b> - Cat C (Deluxe Rm)                     | \$510  | \$981  |

### OPTIONAL VARANASI DAY TOUR

| Tour cost per person: | Twin | Single |
|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Varanasi Walking Tour | \$90 | N/A    |



Aarti Ceremony, Varanasi © Tony Newlin



Nadesar Palace, Varanasi © Taj Hotels

### TAJ NADESAR PALACE

Category AA

Formerly a Maharaja's residence, this exclusive hotel features just 10 luxurious rooms adorned with priceless artworks. Guests enjoy discreet butler service throughout their stay as well as access to an elegant restaurant, an outdoor swimming pool and a full-service spa.



Brijrama Palace, Varanasi © Brijrama Palace

### BRIJRAMA PALACE

Category A

This prominent 19th century palace on the Ganges riverbank is now a fine hotel with 32 elegant rooms, some overlooking Varanasi's famous ghats. It is also home to two restaurants and a scenic terrace where yoga and meditation can be enjoyed.

### THE GATEWAY HOTEL GANGES

Category B

Set on 40 verdant acres, this distinctive hotel is a haven of peace in bustling Varanasi. The property offers 130 tasteful contemporary rooms, two restaurants, a bar, swimming pool, shopping arcade and fitness centre.



Victoria Memorial, Kolkata © Shutterstock

## KOLKATA

3 days/2 nights  
From \$426 per person twin share

**K**olkata is one of the largest cities in the nation. Capital of India during the days of the British Raj, the city is rich in colonial architecture and remains the country's centre for culture and learning. Discover historic gems such as the white marble Victoria Memorial, the holy Dakshineswar Kali Temple, and the hallowed Eden Gardens, synonymous with Indian cricket.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return), 2 nights accommodation with breakfast, half day city sightseeing tour of Kolkata in standard air-conditioned private vehicle.

### ACCOMMODATION

| Price per person from:                 | Twin  | Single |
|--|-------|--------|
| <b>Oberoi Grand*</b> - Cat AA (Dlx Rm) | \$636 | \$1241 |
| <b>Taj Bengal*</b> - Cat A (Deluxe Rm) | \$656 | \$1209 |
| <b>The Park</b> - Cat B (Park Rm)      | \$516 | \$925  |

\*Rate is provisional and subject to change.

## OTHER CITY STAYS

We can easily organise city stays and day tours across a wide range of cities and towns in India including Jaisalmer, Chennai and Hyderabad.

For further options please contact us on 1300 363 302 or ask your travel agent.



© Natural Focus Safaris



Idyllic Kochi scenery © Shutterstock



The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata © Oberoi Hotels &amp; Resorts

## THE OBEROI GRAND

Category AA

Known fondly as “The Grande Dame of Chowringhee”, The Oberoi Grand features 209 elegant rooms, restaurants offering speciality cuisine, an exclusive spa, large pool and fitness centre. This prestigious Victorian-era hotel occupies a prime location in central Kolkata.



Taj Bengal, Kolkata © Taj Hotels

## TAJ BENGAL

Category A

Walk to the Victoria Memorial, Eden Gardens and National Library from this ideally situated Taj hotel. Designed by a legendary American architect, this prominent downtown hotel offers 213 sublime guestrooms, a wide selection of fine restaurants, a wellness centre, outdoor pool and gym.

## THE PARK

Category B

This chic urban hotel is 500m from the Victoria Memorial and contains 149 stylish, comfortable guestrooms, a day spa, pool and fitness centre. It is also home to a number of restaurants and a bar.

## KOCHI

3 days/2 nights

From \$354 per person twin share

**K**ochi, formerly Cochin, is a vibrant city situated on India's southwest coast. For centuries a centre for the spice trade, throughout Kochi you'll find Arabic, British, Chinese, Dutch and Portuguese influences in the architecture, culture and cuisine. The city is also the most popular gateway into the tropical state of Kerala.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfer airport to hotel (return), 2 nights accommodation with breakfast, half day city sightseeing tour of Kochi in standard air-conditioned private vehicle.

### ACCOMMODATION

| Price per person from:                                   | Twin  | Single |
|--|-------|--------|
| <b>Brunton Boatyard</b> - Cat AA (Std Sea View)          | \$550 | \$1083 |
| <b>Taj Malabar Resort &amp; Spa</b> * - Cat A (Superior) | \$598 | \$1107 |
| <b>Eighth Bastion</b> - Cat B (Standard Rm)              | \$470 | \$925  |
| <b>Arches Hotel</b> - Cat C (Standard Rm)                | \$354 | \$689  |

\*Rate is provisional and subject to change.

### OPTIONAL KOCHI DAY TOURS

| Tour cost per person:               | Twin     | Single |
|-------------------------------------|----------|--------|
| Half day city tour from City Hotels | Included |        |
| Full day city tour from City Hotels | \$115    | \$224  |
| Kathakali dance performance         | \$78     | \$137  |
| Kumbalangi village visit            | \$100    | N/A    |



Brunton Boatyard © Brunton Boatyard

## BRUNTON BOATYARD

Category AA

This evocative boutique hotel nestles in a former Victorian shipyard. All 22 rooms overlook the sea, as do ensuite bathrooms so enjoy a bath while watching fishermen ply their trade. Cuisine is a journey through Kochi's history, while the nostalgic bar is an ideal place for sundowner cocktails.



Taj Malabar Resort &amp; Spa © Taj Hotels

## TAJ MALABAR RESORT & SPA

Category A

This sophisticated 95-room hotel is situated on Willingdon Island, site of the Cochin Port. Interiors are a charming blend of colonial and contemporary, with high ceilings, period furniture and Victorian artefacts. A variety of restaurants and a large infinity pool provide refreshment during the heat of day.



Eighth Bastion © CGH Hotels

## EIGHTH BASTION

Category B

Set inside a meticulously updated heritage house, this boutique hotel showcases the city's Dutch colonial legacy. There are 19 spacious, light-filled rooms, a swimming pool, restaurant and bicycles for hire.

## ARCHES HOTEL

Category C

In the historic heart of Fort Kochi, the Arches Hotel offers just 11 tasteful, air-conditioned guestrooms. Walk to St Francis Church, the iconic Chinese fishing nets or sit back and enjoy a cold drink on the rooftop terrace.



The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur © Oberoi Hotels & Resorts

## EXOTIC INDIA WITH OBEROI HOTELS

10 days/9 nights

From \$5846 per person twin share\*

Departs daily ex Delhi

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, jungle excursions by shared jeeps with local guide in Ranthambore, accommodation on a B&B basis (full board in Ranthambore), lunch at Shahpura Bagh, 2 bottles of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**E**xperience the extraordinary as you travel through exotic India staying in some of the finest hotels in the country. The multi-award winning Oberoi hotel group offers exclusive and luxurious accommodation in some of India's most scenic locations. Travel in style as you discover the beauty of the Taj Mahal and the grand palaces and forts of Rajasthan.

#### Day 1 Delhi

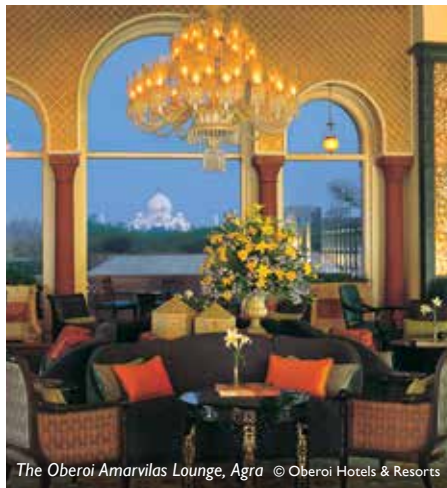
Arrival transfer to The Oberoi, an iconic luxury 5 star hotel in New Delhi located in the centre of India's cosmopolitan capital city.

#### Day 2 Delhi

Full day tour of Old and New Delhi including the vibrant Chandni Chowk bazaar (closed Sun), Raj Ghat (Mahatma Gandhi's memorial), Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar and Jama Masjid. B

#### Day 3 Agra

Morning departure by road to Agra (5 hrs) via the impressive tomb of Emperor Akbar at Sikandra. Afternoon tour of the magnificent Agra Fort before a sunset visit to the beautiful Taj Mahal (closed Fri). Overnight at the luxurious Oberoi Amarvilas featuring breathtaking views of the Taj Mahal, rich interiors, terraced lawns, fountains, reflecting pools and pavilions. B



The Oberoi Amarvilas Lounge, Agra © Oberoi Hotels & Resorts

#### Day 4 Ranthambore

Optional sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal (additional cost) before breakfast. Depart for Ranthambore. The Oberoi Vanyavilas is India's leading luxury jungle resort at the edge of the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. Sumptuous guest tents feature embroidered canopies, slipper bathtubs and private walled gardens. BLD

#### Day 5 Ranthambore

Morning and afternoon game drives searching for tigers and other interesting wildlife in the beautiful Ranthambore National Park. BLD

#### Day 6 Jaipur

After a morning safari, drive to the romantic Rajasthani capital of Jaipur (4 hrs). Check in to The Oberoi Rajvilas, an exquisite resort set upon 32 acres of perfectly landscaped gardens with graceful Mughal arches, colonnades and pavilions. Afternoon visit to the City Palace and Jantar Mantar observatory. B

#### Day 7 Jaipur

Tour of Jaipur including the Amber Fort and Palace of the Winds with an optional walk through the busy, colourful market area of the Old City. B

#### Day 8 Udaipur

Morning departure by road to Udaipur, the 'City of Lakes'. Stop for lunch at Shahpura Bagh, a grand 120 year old estate (see p30), before continuing south. Overnight at the Oberoi Udaivilas on the scenic banks of Lake Pichola. BL

#### Day 9 Udaipur

After breakfast, visit the City Palace, the 17th-century Jagdish Temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu, and the Saheliyon-ki-Bari gardens. B

#### Day 10 Tour ends Udaipur

Morning at leisure until you are transferred to the airport for your onward flight (not included). B



The Oberoi Rajvilas, Jaipur © Oberoi Hotels & Resorts



# GOLDEN TRIANGLE

6 days/5 nights

From \$1528 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Delhi

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| <b>Price per person from*:</b>                                      | Twin   |
| <b>AA</b> The Leela Palace/Taj Rambagh Palace/ ITC Mughal           | \$3313 |
| <b>A</b> The Claridges/Taj Jai Mahal Palace/ITC Mughal              | \$2020 |
| <b>B</b> Le Meridien/Samode Haveli/The Gateway Hotel Fatehabad Road | \$1829 |
| <b>C</b> The Park/Mandawa Haveli/ Sarovar Crystal                   | \$1528 |

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a B&B basis, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**E**xplore Delhi's architectural treasures then drive to Jaipur - the Pink City - with its exotic palaces, gardens and museums. The tour also includes a visit to Fatehpur Sikri, the abandoned 16th century Mughal capital and 'the most beautiful building in the world', the Taj Mahal at Agra.

### Day 1 Delhi

Arrive Delhi and transfer to your hotel.

### Day 2 Delhi

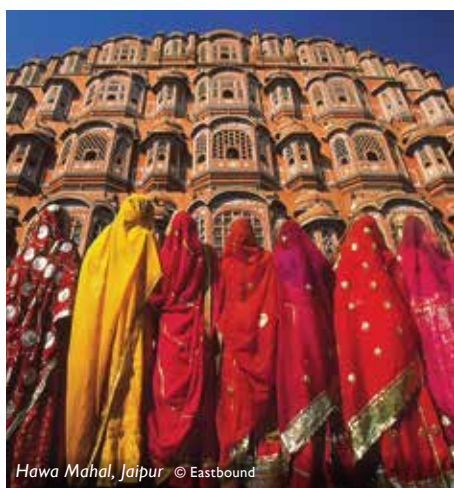
Commence a full day tour of Old and New Delhi including highlights such as Jama Masjid, the biggest mosque in India, the 12th century Qutab Minar and Raj Ghat. B

### Day 3 Jaipur

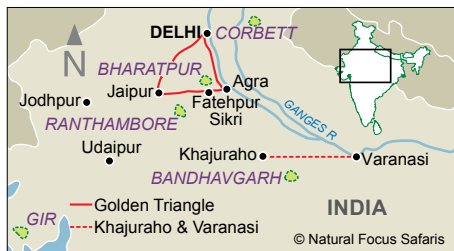
Depart Delhi by road for Jaipur (5 hrs), the regal capital of Rajasthan. Afternoon at leisure. Overnight in Jaipur. B

### Day 4 Jaipur

Morning visit to the Amber Fort and Hawa Mahal. Afternoon city tour of Jaipur including City Palace and Jantar Mantar observatory. B



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur © Eastbound



Hindu Sadhu Holy Men © Shutterstock

### Day 5 Agra

Drive to Agra (7 hrs) via Fatehpur Sikri - a beautifully preserved ghost city. This UNESCO World Heritage Site was constructed by Mughal Emperor Akbar in 1570 and served as the capital from 1571 until 1585. B

### Day 6 Tour ends Delhi

Early morning visit to the magnificent Taj Mahal (closed Fri) followed by the 16th century Agra Fort, an architectural masterpiece by the great Emperor Akbar. Drive back to Delhi (4 hrs) stopping at Akbar's tomb in Sikandra en route. Tour ends. B

## KHAJURAHO/VARANASI EXTENSION

4 days/3 nights

From \$917 per person twin share

Departs daily

ex Khajuraho or Varanasi^

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b>Price per person from*:</b>                                 | Twin   |
| <b>AA</b> The Lalit Temple View (Temple View)/ Nadesar Palace  | \$2059 |
| <b>A</b> The Lalit Temple View (Garden View)/ Braj Rama Palace | \$1419 |
| <b>B</b> Radisson Jass Khajuraho/ The Gateway Hotel Ganges     | \$1067 |
| <b>C</b> Ramada Khajuraho/Rivatas                              | \$917  |

^Tour can operate in reverse ex Varanasi, ending Khajuraho.

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned vehicle with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a B&B basis, airfare Khajuraho/Varanasi or vice versa, boat ride on the Ganges River, 1 bottle of water per person per day included for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**E**xplore the Temples of Khajuraho with their intricate carvings and erotic sculptures. Then visit Varanasi on the holy Ganges River, one of the oldest living cities in the world and the ultimate destination for Hindu pilgrims.

### Day 1 Khajuraho

Arrival transfer to hotel. Tour the intriguing temples of Khajuraho, dating back to the 10th century.

### Days 2/3 Varanasi

Fly to Varanasi and transfer to your hotel. Later, visit Sarnath (closed Fri), where Buddha gave his first sermon. On Day 3 tour the narrow lanes of the Old City and cruise the holy Ganges River. In the evening, witness a beautiful 'aarti' ceremony, which involves the offering of oil lamps to God on the banks of the Ganges. B

### Day 4 Tour ends Varanasi

Transfer to the airport. Tour ends. B



Khajuraho Temple © Shutterstock



Varanasi boat cruise © Eastbound



Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur © Taj Hotels

## ROYAL INDIA WITH TAJ HOTELS

12 days/11 nights

From \$6755 per person twin share\*

Departs daily ex Mumbai

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a B&B basis, domestic economy airfare from Mumbai to Udaipur, lunch in Pushkar, 2 bottles of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**L**ive and breathe India's rich history when you stay at Taj Hotels' historic and luxurious properties. Each of their hotels is distinct in style and combines vibrant local culture and warm Indian hospitality with state-of-the-art facilities. This 12 day tour includes the fairytale Taj Lake Palace which 'floats' on Lake Pichola at Udaipur, and the majestic Rambagh Palace in Jaipur, once home to generations of royalty.

#### Day 1 Mumbai

Arrive Mumbai. Transfer to Taj Mahal Tower, a landmark hotel in the historic Colaba district offering views of the Arabian Sea.

#### Day 2 Mumbai

Explore the highlights of Mumbai including the Gateway of India, the Elephanta Caves, the Prince of Wales Museum and the Hanging Gardens. B

#### Day 3 Udaipur

Morning transfer to airport for flight to Udaipur (1.5 hrs), the 'City of Lakes'. Arrival transfer to Taj Lake Palace, a dream of white marble located in the middle of Lake Pichola with the dramatic Aravalli Mountains as a backdrop. B

#### Day 4 Udaipur

After breakfast, visit the City Palace, the Jagdish Temple, built in 1651 and dedicated to Lord Vishnu, as well as the Saheliyon-ki-Bari gardens. Afternoon boat ride on Lake Pichola. B

#### Days 5/6 Jodhpur

Drive to the desert city of Jodhpur (5.5 hrs) visiting the Ranakpur Temples en route. Tonight, stay at the beautiful Umaid Bhawan Palace, the last of the great palaces of India. Morning visit on Day 6 to the imposing Mehrangarh Fort, built in 1459 on top of a 37m-high sandstone hill. Remainder of the day is free to explore the city's signature blue houses and broad streets. B

#### Days 7/8 Jaipur

Depart for the Rajasthani capital of Jaipur (7 hrs) stopping at Pushkar for lunch. On arrival, check in to Rambagh Palace, former home of generations of royals, offering elegantly appointed rooms, marble corridors and majestic gardens. On Day 8 see the sights of Jaipur including the Amber Fort, Palace of Winds, City Palace and Jantar Mantar observatory. Evening free to explore the bustling markets and streets of the 'Pink City'. BL/B

#### Day 9 Agra

Early departure for Agra (7 hrs) via the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri. The Gateway Hotel Fatehabad Road in Agra is a tranquil retreat set amidst six acres of manicured gardens. B

#### Day 10 Delhi

Visit the Taj Mahal (closed Fri) and 16th century Agra Fort. Drive to Delhi (4 hrs) stopping en route to pay respects at the mausoleum of Emperor Akbar. On arrival in Delhi, check in to the Taj Palace, a grand hotel set in the city's exclusive diplomatic enclave. B

#### Day 11 Delhi

Full day tour of Delhi, including Qutab Minar, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb, Chandni Chowk bazaar (closed Sun), Raj Ghat and India Gate. B

#### Day 12 Tour ends Delhi

Transfer to the airport. Tour ends. B



Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur © Taj Hotels

# CLASSICAL INDIA

9 days/8 nights

From \$2517 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Delhi

Price per person from\*: Cat AA Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$5968 \$3298 \$2924 \$2517

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a B&B basis, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

- AA** The Leela Palace/ITC Mughal/Rambagh Palace/ Umaid Bhawan Palace/Taj Lake Palace
- A** The Claridges/ITC Mughal/Taj Jai Mahal Palace/ Vivanta by Taj Hari Mahal/Fateh Prakash Palace
- B** Le Meridien/The Gateway Hotel Fatehabad Road/ Samode Haveli/Ajit Bhawan/Fateh Garh
- C** The Park/Crystal Sarovar/Mandawa Haveli/Ratan Vilas/Jagat Niwas Palace

**D**iscover the wonders of classical India with an itinerary that combines Mughal treasures such as the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and Fatehpur Sikri, with the extravagant royal architecture of Rajasthan's most famous cities.

### Day 1 Delhi

Arrive Delhi. Transfer to your hotel.

### Day 2 Delhi

Full day tour of Delhi including Qutab Minar, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb, the vibrant Chandni Chowk bazaar (closed Sun) and Raj Ghat (Mahatma Gandhi's memorial). B

### Day 3 Agra

Morning departure by road for Agra (4 hrs) via the tomb of the Great Emperor Akbar at Sikandra. Afternoon tour of the Taj Mahal (closed Fri), before visiting the magnificent Agra Fort. B

### Days 4/5 Jaipur

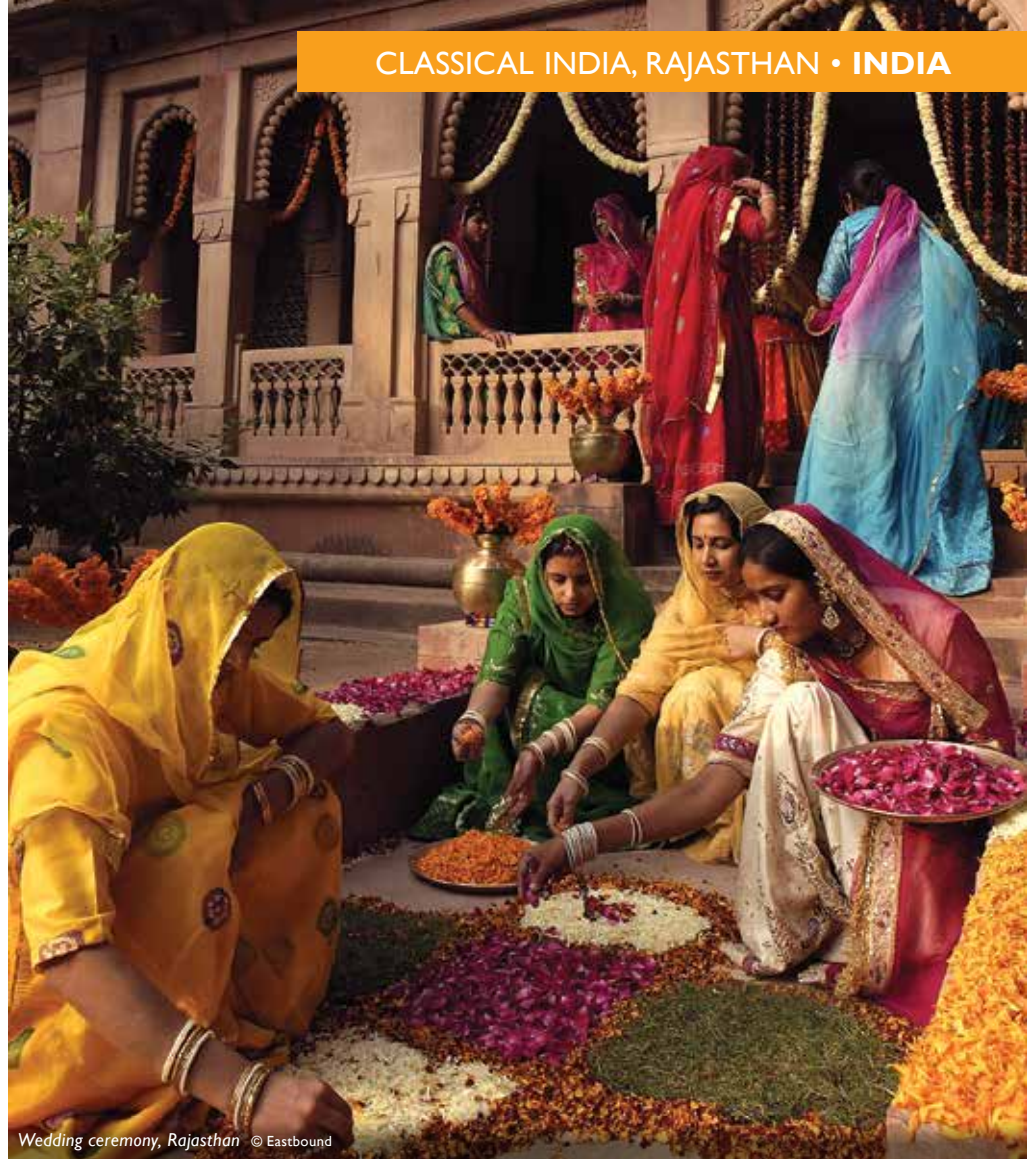
After breakfast, depart for Jaipur (7 hrs), visiting the Mughal ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri en route. Built in 1570, some historians believe this city was abandoned 15 years later due to a lack of water. On Day 5 enjoy a full day tour of Jaipur including the Amber Fort, Palace of Winds, Jantar Mantar observatory and the City Palace. B



Snake Charmer © Shutterstock



© Natural Focus Safaris



Wedding ceremony, Rajasthan © Eastbound

### Day 6 Jodhpur

Morning departure by road to Jodhpur (6.5 hrs), a beautiful desert city founded by Rajput Chief Rao Jodha in 1459. Afternoon at leisure. B

### Days 7/8 Udaipur

Admire the impressive Mehrangarh Fort built in 1459 and take a walk through the local bazaar before heading to the romantic lake city of Udaipur, founded in 1568. Stop at Ranakpur en route to view the Jain temple complex, built in 1439. On Day 8, discover the attractions of Udaipur, including the City Palace, the Jagdish temple dedicated to Lord Vishnu ("the Preserver" in the Hindu Trinity of Gods) and the Saheliyon-ki-Bari gardens. Afternoon cruise on Lake Pichola (water levels permitting). B

### Day 9 Tour ends Udaipur

Transfer to the airport. Tour ends. B



Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur © Taj Hotels



Taj Mahal © Shutterstock

**RAJASTHAN**

Rajasthan, land of the Maharajas, is famous for its colourful royal history and stunning architecture. Discover opulent palaces, delicate temples, pleasure gardens, airy pavilions and huge fortresses which dominate the rugged sandstone hilltops. Cities such as Jaipur and Jodhpur still boast many lavish 'havelis' or mansions, decorated with detailed frescoes featuring religious, historical and folk themes.

Locals often dress in hot pinks, deep blues, rich reds and yellow gold, their vibrant garb ensuring they stand out in Rajasthan's stark desert landscape. Rajasthani artisans are also renowned nationwide for their excellent craftwork.



Amber Fort, Jaipur © Shutterstock

**PALACES AND FORTS OF RAJASTHAN**

14 days/13 nights

From \$3476 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Delhi

Price per person from\*: Cat AA Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$6609 \$4360 \$3737 \$3476

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**INCLUSIONS**

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a B&B basis (full board in Pushkar), 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**AA** The Leela Palace/ITC Mughal (Royal Mughal Suite)/ Taj Rambagh Palace/The Orchard (Luxury Tent) or hotel room<sup>#</sup>/Narendra Bhawan/The Serai (Tented Suite)<sup>#</sup>/Umaid Bhawan Palace/Taj Lake Palace

**A** The Claridges (Dlx Rm)/ITC Mughal (Mughal Rm)/ Taj Jai Mahal Palace/The Orchard (Luxury Tent) or hotel room<sup>#</sup>/Narendra Bhawan/Surya Garh/Vivanta by Taj Hari Mahal/Fateh Prakash Palace

**B** Le Meridien/The Gateway Hotel/Samode Haveli/ The Orchard (Luxury Tent) or hotel room<sup>#</sup>/ Laxmi Niwas Palace/Hotel Rawal Kot/Ajit Bhawan Palace/Fateh Garh

**C** The Park/Crystal Sarovar Premier/Mandawa Haveli/ Pushkar Palace/Ganjer Palace/Fort Rajwada/Ratan Vilas/Jagat Niwas Palace

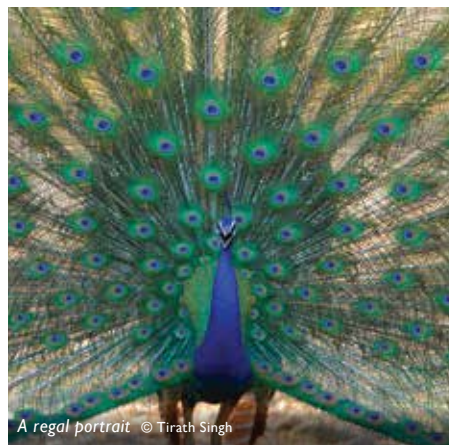
<sup>#</sup>The Orchard Resort in Pushkar is closed between 01 Apr-25 Sep. Guests will stay at Hotel Pushkar Palace or Jagat Palace. The Serai in Jaisalmer is closed 01 Apr-25 Sep. Guests will stay at Surya Garh.

**V**isit the glorious Taj Mahal in Agra before touring regal Rajasthan with its royal palaces, walled cities, medieval fortresses, fascinating temples and richly decorated havelis.

**Day 1 Delhi**  
Arrive Delhi. Transfer to your hotel.

**Day 2 Delhi**  
Full day tour of Delhi including Qutab Minar, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb, Chandni Chowk bazaar (closed Sun) and Raj Ghat. B

**Day 3 Agra**  
Morning departure by road for Agra (5 hrs) via Akbar's tomb at Sikandra. Afternoon tour of the Taj Mahal (closed Fri), before visiting the magnificent 16th century Agra Fort. B



A regal portrait © Tirath Singh

**Days 4/5 Jaipur**

Drive to Jaipur (7 hrs) via the amazingly well preserved city of Fatehpur Sikri, built in 1570 and abandoned just 15 years later. Day 5 full day tour of the famous Amber Fort, Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds), Jantar Mantar observatory and the City Palace, an imposing blend of traditional Rajasthani and Mughal architectural styles. Overnight in Jaipur. B

**Day 6 Pushkar**

Drive to Pushkar (3.5 hrs), home to the only temple in the country dedicated to Lord Brahma ("The Creator" in the Hindu Trinity of Gods). Afternoon at leisure to explore the village. BLD



Spa at The Leela Palace, Udaipur © The Leela



Grande Deluxe Room - The Leela Palace Delhi © The Leela

**STAY LONGER**

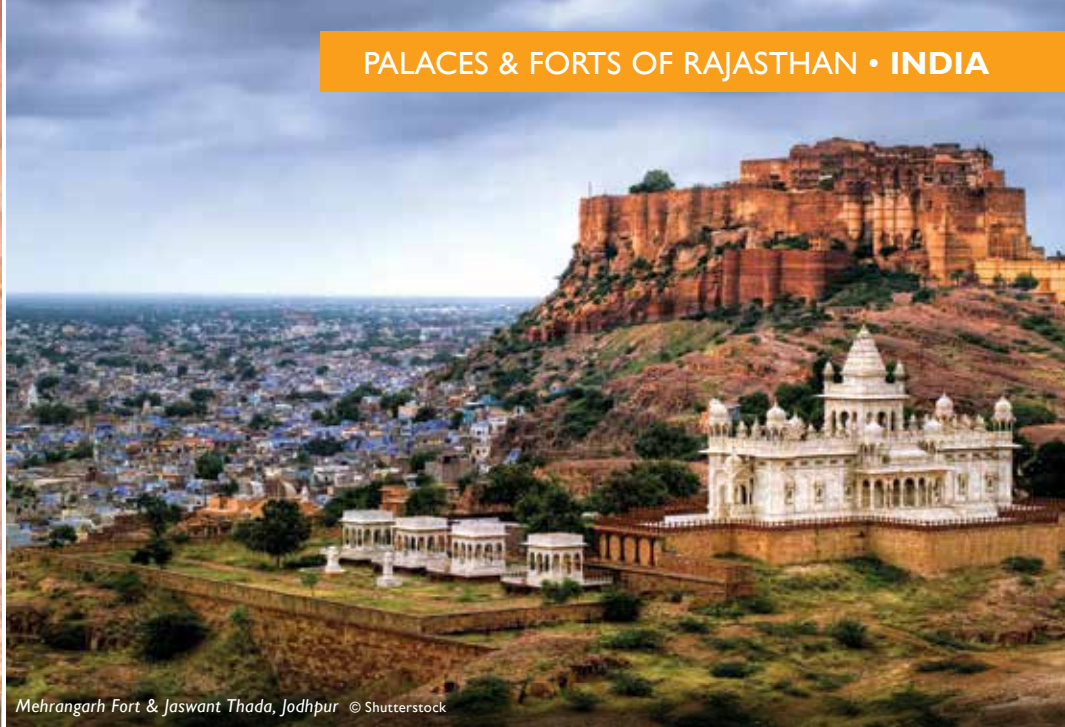
For a comprehensive India experience, combine a trip through Rajasthan with an exploration of the tranquil backwaters and tea plantations of southern India. Alternatively go in search of the elusive Bengal tiger, or head up into the cool Himalayan foothills. Contact our India travel specialists to start planning your journey today.

**T: 1300 363 302**





Palace architecture © David Potts



Mehrangarh Fort & Jaswant Thada, Jodhpur © Shutterstock

**Days 7/8 Bikaner**

Depart for the walled city of Bikaner (4 hrs). Enjoy 2 days exploring the sites, including the imposing Junagarh Fort, built between 1589 and 1594, and encircled by a moat. Inside is a picturesque ensemble of courtyards and beautifully decorated palaces. B

**Days 9/10 Jaisalmer**

Drive to Jaisalmer (6 hrs), a medieval city with narrow streets and intricately carved buildings. Next morning enjoy sightseeing, including Jaisalmer Fort, Jain Temple, Patwon-ki-Haveli and Salim Singh-ki-Haveli. B

**Day 11 Jodhpur**

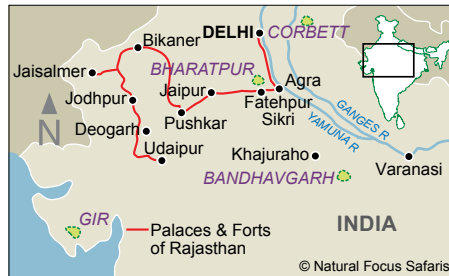
Drive to Jodhpur (6 hrs), founded by the Rajput Chief Rao Jodha in 1459. Afternoon free to explore the sights of this interesting fortified city with its striking blue buildings and imposing fort complex. B

**Days 12/13 Udaipur**

After breakfast, visit the magnificent Mehrangarh Fort and the local bazaar. In the afternoon, depart for picturesque Udaipur (6 hrs) visiting the 15th century Ranakpur Temples en route. Udaipur is a lovely city of white marble palaces, scenic lakes and lush green hills. On Day 13 embark on a morning tour visiting the City Palace, the Jagdish Temple and Saheliyon-ki-Bari, a tranquil garden retreat. Evening boat cruise on Lake Pichola (water levels permitting). B

**Day 14 Tour ends Udaipur**

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight (not included). Tour ends. B



© Natural Focus Safaris

**PUSHKAR CAMEL FAIR 2018**

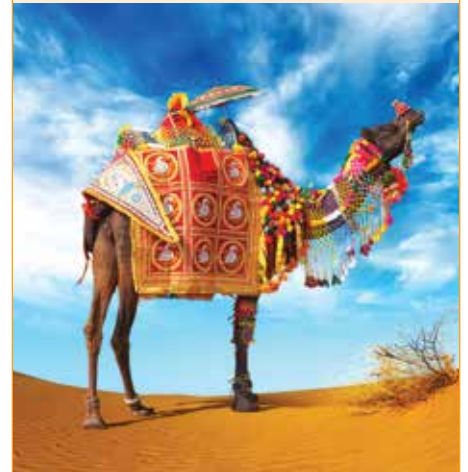
15 -23 Nov. Book Now!

This famous camel and cattle fair is part of a major Hindu festival culminating in a full moon. During this time, Pushkar becomes a riot of colour, sights and sounds as thousands gather to buy, sell and race camels, as well as to take part in the huge handicraft market.

A multitude of pilgrims also add to the crowd, arriving to bathe in beautiful Pushkar Lake. Often, they also float flower petals on the water in the moonlight. For tourists, the fair is an enthralling, almost overwhelming experience that should not be missed.



Arrival at Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur © Taj Hotels



Taj Rambagh Palace, Jaipur © Taj Hotels





Jal Mahal in the middle of Man Sager Lake, Jaipur © Shutterstock



Jodhpur, the Blue City © Abhishek Hajela

## ROYAL RAJASTHAN

17 days/16 nights

From \$8056 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Delhi

|                         |         |        |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|
| Price per person from*: | Cat AA  | Cat A  |
|                         | \$10387 | \$8056 |

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfers, excursions and city tours in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a B&B basis, lunch at local restaurant in Jodhpur, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**AA** The Leela Palace (Royal Club Room)/Vivaana Culture (Royal Room)/Narendra Bhawan (Prince Room)/Suryagarh (Luxury Suite)/Umaid Bhawan Palace (Historical Suite)/Rawla Narlai (Grand Heritage Room)/Taj Lake Palace (Historical Suite)/Shahpura Bagh (Royal Suite)/Taj Rambagh Palace (Historical Suite)/ITC Mughal (Royal Mughal Suite)

**A** The Leela Palace (Premiere Room)/Vivaana Culture (Deluxe Room)/Narendra Bhawan (Residence Room)/Suryagarh (Fort Room)/Umaid Bhawan Palace (Palace Room)/Rawla Narlai (Classic Heritage Room)/Taj Lake Palace (Luxury Room)/Shahpura Bagh (Suite)/Taj Rambagh Palace (Palace Room)/ITC Mughal (Mughal Chambers)

**J**ourney back to the days of the Maharajas on this tour combining the Mughal splendours of Agra and the romance of royal Rajasthan. Staying in some of India's finest palaces and havelis, explore this former princely state with its magnificent forts and palaces, its fine cities and stunning desert scenery.

### Day 1 Delhi

Arrive Delhi. Transfer to your hotel.

### Day 2 Delhi

Full day tour of Old & New Delhi. Highlights include Qutab Minar, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb, India Gate and Raj Ghat. B

### Day 3 Mandawa

Depart Delhi, driving to Mandawa (6.5 hrs), famous for its highly decorated havelis. Afternoon free. B

### Day 4 Bikaner

Morning visit to the painted havelis of Shekhawati before departing for the royal walled city of Bikaner (6 hrs). B

### Days 5/6 Jaisalmer

Morning tour of Bikaner and explore Junagarh Fort. Afterwards drive to Jaisalmer (6 hrs), a World Heritage Site located in the heart of the Great Thar Desert. On Day 6 visit Jaisalmer Fort, Jain Temple, Patwon-ki-Haveli and savour a stunning sunset over the Sam Sand Dunes. B



Local children © Abhishek Hajela

### Days 7/8 Jodhpur

Drive to Jodhpur, stopping at Manvar Desert Camp en route for lunch and a jeep safari. On Day 8 visit the 15th century Mehrangarh Fort and take a heritage walk in the old city and bazaar. Evening at leisure. BL/B

### Day 9 Narlai

Depart for Narlai in the scenic Aravalli Hills. Rest of the day at leisure. B

### Days 10/11 Udaipur

Drive to Udaipur via the Jain temple complex at Ranakpur. Afternoon at leisure to explore The City of Lakes. Evening sound and light show. On Day 11 see the highlights of Udaipur including the City Palace and the Jagdish Temple. Enjoy an afternoon boat cruise on Lake Pichola (water levels permitting). B

### Days 12/13 Shahpura

Morning departure for Shahpura, a wonderful rural estate belonging to a nobleman's descendents in the heart of Rajasthan, visiting the impressive Chittorgarh Fort en route. Afternoon at leisure. On Day 13 enjoy the array of activities on offer at Shahpura Bagh including cycling, boating, bird watching or visiting local sites. B

### Days 14/15 Jaipur

Drive to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur (3.5 hrs). Overnight at the opulent Taj Rambagh Palace. Next day, visit the Amber Fort, Palace of Winds and Jantar Mantar observatory. B

### Day 16 Agra

After breakfast depart for Agra (7 hrs), visiting the well-preserved ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri en route. Afternoon sunset sightseeing tour of the beautiful Taj Mahal (closed Fri). B

### Day 17 Tour ends Delhi

Morning tour of the magnificent Agra Fort, a masterpiece of design built by Emperor Akbar in 1565 AD. Afterwards, drive to Delhi via Sikandra (5 hrs), location of the tomb of Emperor Akbar. Tour ends. B



The impressive Taj Rambagh Palace © Taj Hotels



# INDIA WILDLIFE SAFARIS

3 days/2 nights  
 Departs daily

Leave urban life behind and discover India's wonderful national parks. Many of these reserves were once royal hunting grounds. Today, they are sanctuaries for some 90,000 species and encompass astonishing diversity of terrain. If you're finding it tough to decide where to go, featured on these two pages are a selection of India's finest wildlife havens, where you can go on jungle safaris in search of Asian elephant, rhino, sambar deer and of course, the royal Bengal tiger. The subcontinent is also rich in birdlife, with peacocks and kingfishers being the most resplendent. Whilst parks may require long days of travel, seeing a Bengal tiger in the wild could well be your most cherished memory of India.

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Transfers and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, jungle excursions by shared jeep with local guide (except Keoladeo: 1 park visit by cycle rickshaw & 1 boat ride water levels permitting), accommodation, all meals, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.



## CORBETT NATIONAL PARK

3 days/2 nights from \$1339 per person twin\*  
 Departs daily ex Delhi

Established in 1936, Corbett is India's oldest reserve, and home to a range of picturesque landscapes from sal forest to open plains. Discover this extraordinary destination from Jim's Jungle Retreat, an eco-lodge at the southern edge of the park featuring 18 jungle cottages, lodges and safari tents. Enjoy excursions each day in search of Corbett's many species including elephant, barking deer, wild boar as well as the elusive Bengal tiger.



Painted stork family © Tirath Singh

## KEOLADEO GHANA NATIONAL PARK

3 days/2 nights from \$649 per person twin\*  
 Departs daily ex Delhi

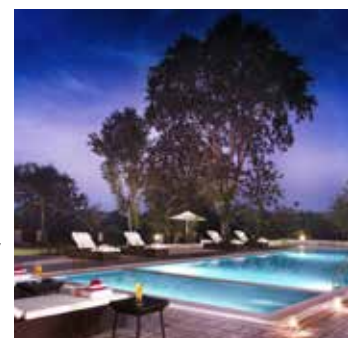
Formerly known as Bharatpur Bird Sanctuary, Keoladeo Ghana National Park is famous for harbouring in excess of over 370 avian species, with numbers peaking in winter (Nov-Mar). Interesting large mammal species include wild boar, nilgai, sambar and hyena. Visitors exploring this World Heritage Site can do it on foot, by bicycle or rickshaw. Peaceful and close to the park entrance, The Birder's Inn is a popular base for excursions into Keoladeo's wetlands.



## GIR FOREST NATIONAL PARK

3 days/2 nights from \$1226 per person twin\*  
 Departs daily ex Diu

The only place in the world where the rare Asiatic lion roams free, Gir harbours dry, deciduous woodland inhabited by 200 species of bird as well as the world's only four-horned antelope - the chowsingha. Other creatures sighted include pythons and mugger crocodiles. Discover this exciting destination from The Gateway Hotel Gir Forest, which offers smart, contemporary accommodation on the fringe of this unique national park.





Tigers on the chase © Aditya Singh

## RANTHAMBORE

3 days/2 nights from \$1112 p.p. twin  
Departs daily ex Jaipur^

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| <b>Price per person from*:</b>               | Twin   |
| <b>AA</b> Oberoi Vanyavilas                  | \$2801 |
| <b>A</b> Vivanta by Taj Sawai Madhopur Lodge | \$1226 |
| <b>B</b> Dev Vilas                           | \$1131 |
| <b>C</b> Tigress Resort                      | \$1112 |

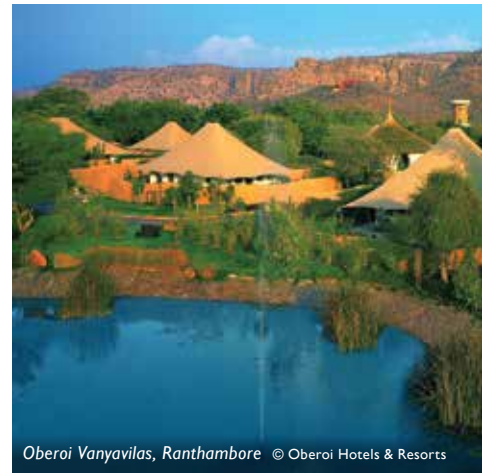
\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

^This tour can also be undertaken from Delhi by air-conditioned train. Contact us for further details.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfers in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, jungle excursions by jeep with local guide, entrance fees, accommodation on a full board basis, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

Once the private hunting reserve of the Maharaja of Jaipur, Ranthambore is one of India's best known tiger sanctuaries. Dominated by the historic, walled Ranthambore Fort, it is famous for its stunning views and its large wild tiger population. So habituated to the presence of humans, Ranthambore's tigers have been known to stalk and hunt prey in full view of visiting safari vehicles. A number of lodges are located at the edge of this wonderful national park, offering early morning and late afternoon guided jungle excursions by jeep.



Oberoi Vanyavilas, Ranthambore © Oberoi Hotels & Resorts



One-horned Indian rhinoceros © Shutterstock

## RHINO TRAIL

4 days/3 nights from \$1273 p.p. twin  
Departs daily ex Guwahati

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| <b>Price per person from*:</b>          | Twin   |
| <b>A</b> Diphlu River Lodge - Kaziranga | \$2055 |
| <b>B</b> Infinity Resort - Kaziranga    | \$1356 |
| <b>C</b> IORA Retreat - Kaziranga       | \$1273 |

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfers in standard air-conditioned private vehicle with English speaking driver, jungle excursions by jeep with local guide, entrance fees, accommodation on a full board basis, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel.

### EXCLUSIONS

Camera fees.

Kaziranga, located in Assam in Eastern India, is one of the last remaining bastions for the endangered one-horned Indian rhinoceros. Drive to an eco-lodge in Kaziranga from Guwahati and undertake a fantastic wildlife adventure in search of these rare animals. Other large animals regularly observed during jungle excursions by jeep in this park include elephant, buffalo and swamp deer. While tigers are resident in Kaziranga, tall grasses make them hard to spot - however, you'll find plenty of evidence that these big cats are present. Birdlife is also wonderful.



White-Throated Kingfisher © Tirath Singh

# ICONS OF INDIA

11 days/10 nights

From \$4202 per person twin share

Departs Mon, Thu & Sat ex Delhi

Price per person from\*: Cat AA Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$7991 \$6074 \$4452 \$4202

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Airfare Agra/Khajuraho and Raipur/Delhi, transfers in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, jungle excursions by jeep with local guide, entrance fees, accommodation on a full board basis in Bandhavgarh and Kanha and bed and breakfast in Delhi, Agra and Khajuraho, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

- AA** The Leela Palace/ITC Mughal/The Lalit Temple View (Temple View Rm)/Mahua Kothi/Banjaar Tola
- A** The Claridges/ITC Mughal/The Lalit Temple View (Garden View Rm)/Samode Safari Lodge/Singinawa Lodge
- B** The Claridges/The Gateway Hotel Fatehabad Road/Radisson Jass/Bandhav Vilas/The Baagh
- C** The Park/Crystal Sarovar/Ramada/Jungle Lodge/Tuli Tiger Resorts

**D**iscover the crown jewel of India's natural heritage - the magnificent royal Bengal tiger. This journey also takes in the architectural and historical treasures of the famous Golden Triangle. Highlights include the grand monuments of Delhi, the erotic temples of Khajuraho, the Agra Fort and the unsurpassable Taj Mahal. This tour is for seasoned travellers as travel days are long but the quality of tiger-viewing is well worth it.

### Day 1 Delhi

Arrive Delhi. Transfer to your hotel.

### Day 2 Delhi

Full day tour of Old and New Delhi. Highlights include Qutab Minar, Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb, Chandni Chowk bazaar (closed Sun) and the Red Fort (closed Mon). B

### Days 3/4 Agra

Morning departure by road for Agra (5 hrs) via Akbar's tomb at Sikandra. Afternoon visit to the magnificent 16th century Agra Fort before a sunset tour of the Taj Mahal (closed Fri). On Day 4 enjoy a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal and then explore the 16th century ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri. Return to Agra for overnight. B



Amazing tiger viewing © Aditya Singh

### Day 5 Khajuraho

Transfer to Agra airport for flight to Khajuraho. Visit the site of one of the oldest temple complexes in India, dating back to 930AD and famous for its sensual sculptures. B

### Days 6-8 Bandhavgarh

Early departure by road for Bandhavgarh National Park (5 hrs). Afternoon at leisure. On Days 7/8 enjoy two full days searching for tigers in jeeps on morning and afternoon excursions. Tiger sightings are not guaranteed; however there is plenty of other wildlife to spot including monkey, chital, sambar deer and wild boar. The park also has over 250 different bird species. BLD

### Days 9/10 Kanha

Drive through farmland and forests to Kanha National Park (5 hrs) for more tiger tracking. Enjoy morning and afternoon safaris by jeep, searching for Kanha's diverse wildlife including deer, Indian bison and over 200 species of bird. BLD

### Day 11 Tour ends Delhi

Morning safari excursion followed by departure for Raipur (4.5 hrs) with packed lunch. Transfer to airport for connecting flight to Delhi. BL



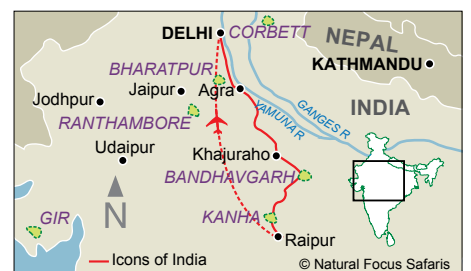
Rare leopard cub sighting © Aditya Singh



Bengal tiger viewing © Tirath Singh



Khajuraho Temple Complex © Anne-Marie Zambelli



## NORTH INDIA UNIQUE ESCAPES

3 days/2 nights

Tents/Lodges

**T**hese magnificent properties offer a truly unique and authentic experience of rural northern India. Soak up the sumptuous and sublimely unhurried atmosphere at **Jawai Bandh** whilst seeking out incredible wildlife including leopards and flamingo in the untrammelled surrounding wilderness. Or discover the necklace of tranquil bird-rich lakes the royal residents of **Shahpura Bagh** nobly mortgaged their assets to create in order to secure water for the local people. Alternatively, head to **Jamtara Wilderness Camp** to seek out the most priceless jewel in India's crown - the royal Bengal tiger. Our experienced specialists can help you incorporate these very special places into your India itinerary.

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

2 nights accommodation on a full board basis (Shahpura Bagh on B&B basis), return transfers in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar, lodge activities, standard still camera fees.



### JAWAI - JAWAI BANDH

3 days/2 nights from \$2829 per person twin share\*  
Departs ex Udaipur or Jodhpur

This superb tented camp nestles amid rocky hills and open grasslands where wild leopard roam. The 8 luxury guest tents are swathed in ivory canvas and feature a monochrome palette with splashes of scarlet - a shade favoured by local Rabari herders. Embark on jeep safaris in search of spotted cats, follow temple trails or visit traditional villages. This outstanding property also has 1 Royal Tented Suite and a junior ranger program making it ideal for families.



### JAMTARA WILDERNESS CAMP - PENCH

3 days/2 nights from \$1405 per person twin share\*  
Departs ex Nagpur

In a sleepy rural village near Pench National Park, this atmospheric wilderness camp consists of just 10 elegant tented suites surrounded by lush forest. Should you wish to sleep out under the stars, a night can be spent upon a 'machaan' or raised platform open to the skies. Meals are enjoyed outdoors beneath ancient trees as often as the weather permits, whilst activities include exciting wildlife safaris in the national park and enriching village walks.



### SHAHपुरA BAGH - JAIPUR/UDAIPUR

3 days/2 nights from \$781 per person twin share\*  
Departs ex Udaipur or Jaipur

Beyond the golden sands of Rajasthan lies a shimmering oasis, created over a century ago by a nobleman who lived at Shahpura Bagh. Today, his descendants warmly welcome guests to his enchanting lakeside estate, to admire the large variety of avian visitors, to fish, to boat and to picnic amongst strutting peacocks. There are just 9 elegant suites and a pool, set amid gardens, pasture and a working farm. Enjoy homecooked meals and genuine Rajasthani hospitality.



## SOUTH INDIA UNIQUE ESCAPES

3 days/2 nights  
Palaces/Resorts

**U**nlock the secrets of South India when you stay at one of these gorgeous boutique properties. To be treated like a king, choose the imperial magnificence of Taj Falaknuma Palace in Hyderabad, built in the late 19th century by Nawab Viqar-ul-Umra, former Prime Minister of Hyderabad. For more down-to-earth indulgence, the southwestern state of Kerala is famed for Ayurvedic resorts which focus on achieving harmony between mind, body and spirit using techniques refined over 5,000 years. Pamper yourself by staying in at least one idyllic Kerala retreats during your holiday. To include any of these enchanting properties in your itinerary, contact our India specialists.

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Accommodation on a B&B basis, transfers in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar, standard still camera fees. Taj Falaknuma Palace also includes half day Hyderabad city tour.



### TAJ FALAKNUMA PALACE - HYDERABAD

3 days/2 nights from \$1508 per person twin share\*  
Departs ex Hyderabad

This 1894 architectural masterpiece is a vision in marble, with one of the world's finest collections of Belgian chandeliers. There are 60 lovingly restored guestrooms, which overlook the palace courtyard and the ancient city of Hyderabad, as well as two fine restaurants. Play billiards on a table whose only counterpart is located in Buckingham Palace or dine in the 101-seater dining room. The signature Taj Jiva Spa offers holistic rejuvenation drawing on ancient Indian therapies.



### THE LEELA KOVALAM - THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

3 days/2 nights from \$602 per person twin share\*  
Departs ex Thiruvananthapuram airport

This sprawling cliff-top beach resort provides accommodation in 183 ultra-contemporary oversized guestrooms and suites, with five-star facilities at guests' disposal. Sample Kerala specialties in the all-day restaurant, sip a classic cocktail with views of the Arabian Sea or take a refreshing dip in the two stunning infinity pools. The Ayurveda spa combines modern and age-old treatments to ensure you leave restored and revitalised.



### PURITY AT LAKE VEMBANAD - MARARIKULAM

3 days/2 nights from \$534 per person twin share\*  
Departs ex Kochi

A member of the prestigious Relais & Châteaux collection, this romantic colonial-style villa is situated on the shores of Lake Vembanad providing exceptional views. The retreat is entirely geared towards relaxation, and features 14 bright, spacious rooms and suites that open out onto terraces and verandas. Stylish sitting and dining areas are replete with outstanding antiques and stunning modern art. Purity also has a pool, a spa and wellness centre offering a wide range of treatments.





## PALACE ON WHEELS

8 days/7 nights from \$5587 per person twin share\*  
 Departs Wednesdays ex Delhi

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Accommodation in twin-bedded cabin with private facilities on a full board basis, city tours and excursions in air-conditioned coach, local guide, entrance fees at monuments, standard still camera fees.

### EXCLUSIONS

Transfers in Delhi, alcohol, bottled water and laundry.

**T**he splendid Palace on Wheels offers an excellent way to explore India. Visit ornate temples, majestic palaces, massive forts and beautiful wildlife sanctuaries returning each night to your travelling hotel room furnished in classic Rajput style. Your extravagant train carries a maximum of 104 passengers in exceptional comfort, with touring taking place by day in air-conditioned vehicles and the majority of surface travel taking place at night. Excursions to the country's most famous landmarks are accompanied by experienced English-speaking guides.



## MAHARAJAS' EXPRESS

8 days/7 nights from \$9541 per person twin share ex Delhi\*  
 8 days/7 nights from \$10914 per person twin share ex Mumbai\*  
 Departs selected Saturdays

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

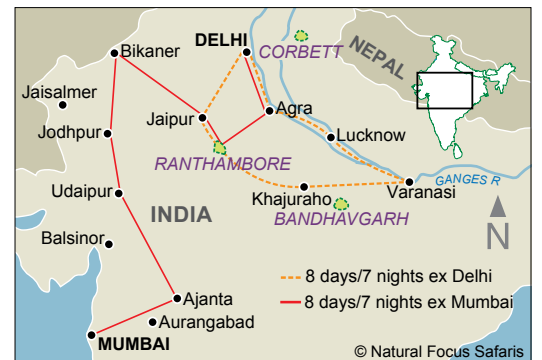
### INCLUSIONS

Accommodation in twin-sharing cabin with private facilities on a full board basis, drinks on board including house brand beer, wine and spirits, station porter charges, city tours and excursions, local guide, entrance fees at monuments, standard still camera fees.

### EXCLUSIONS

Transfers in Delhi or Mumbai, non-house brand alcohol and laundry.

**R**ediscover the golden age of rail travel aboard the lavish Maharajas' Express. This multi award-winning train features 23 opulent coaches accommodating 88 guests, two restaurants serving delectable cuisine, an elegant lounge and a library. Choose from three 8 day itineraries that showcase the very best the subcontinent has to offer, from World Heritage Sites such as the Taj Mahal to a national park famous for its thriving population of majestic Bengal tiger. Each journey includes a range of exciting excursions that will deeply immerse you in India's rich culture.







**SOUTH INDIA**

With its palm-fringed beaches, rice paddies and spice-laden air, the green south of India offers fascinating contrast to the north. Cruise by houseboat upon the tranquil lagoons of Kerala, passing villages surrounded by lush fields and soaring coconut trees, or relax at one of the many world-class Ayurveda retreats. Discover the showy Hindu temples of Tamil Nadu, and enjoy a dramatic performance of Kathakali, a classical Keralan dance.

Houseboat, backwater cruise © Shutterstock

**BACKWATER CRUISE**

8 days/7 nights

From \$1603 per person twin share

Hotels/Houseboat

Departs daily ex Kochi

Price per person from\*: Cat AA Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$2661 \$2406 \$2011 \$1603

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**Note:** Houseboat accommodation is basic but comfortable.

**INCLUSIONS**

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle with English speaking driver, local guide (Kochi only), entrance fees, accommodation, meals as per the itinerary, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**AA** Brunton Boatyard/Windermere (Planter's Villa)/ Premium Houseboat (A/C)/Kumarakom Lake Resort

**A** Taj Malabar Resort & Spa/Windermere (Estate Rm)/Premium Houseboat (A/C)/Coconut Lagoon (Lake Front Pool Villa)

**B** Eighth Bastion/Windermere (Garden Rm)/ Houseboat (A/C)/Coconut Lagoon (Heritage Bungalow)

**C** Hotel Arches/Ambady Estate/Houseboat (A/C)/ Abad Whispering Palms

**T**he tranquil southern Indian state of Kerala is characterised by spice plantations, meandering rivers, verdant hills and beautiful beaches. This gently paced tour takes in the most enchanting areas including the charming port city of Kochi and the backwaters - a maze of canals which can be explored by boat providing a glimpse into rural village life.



Flavours of the South © Shutterstock

**Day 1 Kochi**

Arrive Kochi and transfer to your hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Enjoy an evening performance of Kathakali, an expressive traditional dance form.

**Day 2 Kochi**

Morning city tour. Highlights include the Dutch Palace (closed Fri), Jewish Synagogue (closed Sat), Santa Cruz Basilica and the iconic Chinese Fishing Nets. Afternoon at leisure. B



Chinese Fishing Nets, Kochi © GITO

**Days 3/4 Munnar**

Morning departure for Munnar (4 hrs), blanketed by lush green tea estates. Enjoy an afternoon walk around tea and spice estates. On Day 4 take a scenic 5 hour trek through lush plantations, dense shola forests, mountain ridges and grasslands. B/BL

**Day 5 Houseboat**

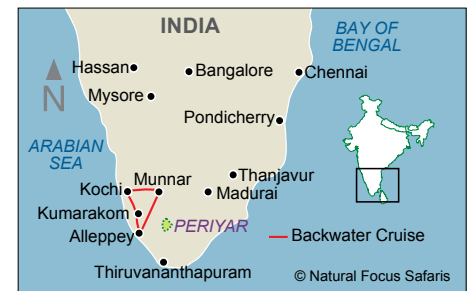
After breakfast drive to Alleppey (5 hrs) and board your houseboat to begin your backwater cruise. Overnight on board. BLD

**Days 6/7 Kumarakom**

In the morning disembark from your houseboat in Kumarakom and check in to your hotel. Afternoon visit to a bird sanctuary, an ornithologist's paradise. Day 7 is at leisure to enjoy the beautiful mosaic of mangrove forests and coconut groves interspersed with waterways and canals. B

**Day 8 Tour ends Kochi**

Transfer to Kochi Airport (2 hrs). Tour ends. B



Beautiful Munnar © Shutterstock



Meenakshi Temple © Shutterstock



Kathakali Dancer © Shutterstock

## WONDERS OF THE SOUTH

15 days/14 nights

From \$3816 per person twin share

Hotels/Houseboat

Departs daily ex Chennai

Price per person from\*: Cat AA Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$5009 \$4815 \$4221 \$3816

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle with driver and English speaking local guides as per itinerary, entrance fees, accommodation, meals as per the itinerary, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**Note:** Houseboat accommodation is basic but comfortable.

- AA** The Leela Palace/La Villa/Ideal River View Resort/Visalam/The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai/Paradisa Plantation/Premium Houseboat (A/C)/Kumarakom Lake Resort (Meandering Pool Villa)/Brunton Boatyard
- A** Taj Coromandel/Palais de Mahe/Ideal River View Resort/The Bangala/The Heritage/Spice Village/Premium Houseboat (A/C)/Kumarakom Lake Resort (Luxury Pavilion Room)/Taj Malabar Resort & Spa
- B** Trident/Maison Perumal/Ideal River View Resort/Chidambaram Vilas/GRT Regency/Shalimar Spice Garden/Houseboat (A/C)/Coconut Lagoon/Eighth Bastion
- C** The Pride Hotel/Promanade/Ideal River View Resort/Chidambaram Vilas/Fortune Pandiyan/Elephant Court/Houseboat (A/C)/Abad Whispering Palms/Hotel Arches

Indulge your senses on a journey through southern India, a land of exotic flora and fauna, stunning beaches, and fragrant spices with a soundtrack of temple bells. Starting in bustling Chennai, this tour offers you the chance to discover flamboyant religious architecture and a rich cultural heritage. Highlights include the colourful temples of Tamil Nadu, the colonial landmarks of Kochi and Kerala's idyllic backwaters.

### Day 1 Chennai

Arrive Chennai in the evening and transfer to hotel.

### Day 2 Pondicherry

Drive to Pondicherry, the "French Riviera of the East". En route explore Mamallapuram, visiting the 7th century Shore Temple. BL

### Day 3 Pondicherry

Enjoy a walking tour of this beautiful city including a visit to the 150 year old Church of The Sacred Heart of Jesus. Visit Auroville, a place of peaceful and harmonious living before enjoying a cooking demonstration and dinner with a local family. BD

### Day 4 Thanjavur

Depart for Thanjavur (4 hrs) via Kumbhakonam, known as the "temple city" of South India. Enjoy an afternoon tour of an art school specialising in 16th century Tanjore paintings. B

### Days 5/6 Chettinad

Morning visit to the famous Brihadeeswara Temple housing a gigantic black granite sculpture of Nandi, the bull of Lord Shiva before driving to Chettinad (2.5 hrs). Remainder of the day is at leisure. On Day 6 explore Chettinad, an area rich in cultural heritage, art, architecture and antiques. B

### Days 7/8 Madurai

Drive to Madurai (3 hrs). Afternoon tour of the stunning Meenakshi Temple before witnessing an evening "Aarti" ceremony. On Day 8 take a half day tour of Madurai, before visiting Kadambhavanam, a centre which showcases local culture, where you enjoy a sumptuous Tamil dinner. B/BD

### Day 9 Periyar

Transfer by road to Periyar (4.5 hrs). Enjoy an afternoon visit to a spice plantation. B

### Days 10/11 Kumarakom

Morning excursion to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary before driving to Kumarakom (4 hrs). The remainder of Day 10 and all of Day 11 are yours to explore on your own. B

### Day 12 Houseboat

Drive to Alleppey. Following a town walking tour, board your houseboat and cruise the canals. BLD

### Days 13/14 Kochi

Drive to Kochi (2 hrs). In the evening enjoy a picturesque boat cruise. On Day 14 explore the sites of Kochi including the Dutch Palace (closed Fri), Santa Cruz Basilica and the Chinese Fishing Nets. B

### Day 15 Tour ends Kochi

Transfer to the airport. Tour ends. B



Beautiful waterways of Kerala © Shutterstock

# HIDDEN GEMS OF KERALA

12 days/11 nights

From \$4545 per person twin share

Hotels/Houseboat

Departs daily ex Kochi (Cochin)

Tour cost per person from\*:  

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Cat A  | Cat B  |
| \$5349 | \$4545 |

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**Note:** Houseboat accommodation is basic but comfortable.

## INCLUSIONS

Transfers in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with driver and English speaking local guides, train Kochi to Calicut, entrance fees, accommodation on a full board basis except in Kochi and Bekal which are on a B&B basis, 2 bottles of water per person per day included for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

- A** Brunton Boatyard/Premium AC House Boat/ Tranquil Resort (Tree House)/Evolve Back Nagarhole/Evolve Back Coorg/Taj Bekal Resort & Spa (Deluxe Delight Villa with courtyard)
- B** Eighth Bastion/Spice Coast Cruise/Wayanad Wild (Standard Room)/The Serai/The Windflower/Taj Bekal Resort & Spa (Superior Charm Room with balcony)

**D**iscover beautiful northern Kerala with its spice estates, coffee plantations and wildlife-rich forests while staying at intimate boutique hideaways. Explore the colonial buildings of old Kochi, take a backwater cruise, go game-viewing at Nagarhole National Park and watch Olive Ridley turtles nesting on white sand beaches (seasonal).

### Days 1/2 Kochi

Arrive Kochi and transfer to your hotel. A magnificent natural harbour, Kochi has been at the centre of the spice trade for centuries. On Day 2 enjoy a morning city tour visiting the Jewish area in Mattancherry, the synagogue (closed Sat) and Dutch Palace with its famous murals (closed Fri). See the iconic Chinese fishing nets and St Francis Church. Evening Kathakali performance. B



Spices of Southern India © Shutterstock



Evolve Back Nagarhole © Orange County Resorts and Hotels



Picturesque Kerala scenery © Shutterstock

### Day 3 Houseboat

After breakfast drive to Alleppey (2 hrs) and board your houseboat to begin a cruise through the sleepy backwaters. Overnight on board. BLD

### Days 4/5 Wayanad

Disembark your houseboat and transfer by train to Calicut. Arrive and drive through hills cloaked in tea and spice plantations to Wayanad. Day 5 at leisure to take a private estate tour or trek to the famous Edakkal Caves. BLD

### Days 6/7 Nagarhole

Pass lush tea plantations en route to Nagarhole National Park (2 hrs) with its abundant birdlife and wildlife including elephant, antelope and tiger. Gameviewing is done by boat, vehicle, or on foot. BLD

### Days 8/9 Coorg

Enjoy wonderful scenery as you travel to the orange groves and tea plantations of Coorg, which you explore on a guided tour. Next morning visit the Dubare Elephant Camp. Afternoon is free for optional activities. BLD

### Days 10/11 Bekal

Drive to Bekal on the Arabian Sea. On day 11 visit the magnificent Bekal Fort and Thakadappuram Beach, renowned for rare Olive Ridley turtles that nest during the rainy season (Sep-Jan). B

### Day 12 Tour ends Mangalore

This morning transfer to Mangalore airport (1.5 hrs). Tour ends. B.



Nagarhole National Park © Eastbound



Kerala Backwater Church © Shutterstock

## STAY LONGER

Combine the wonder of searching for Bengal tigers in one of India's most impressive wildlife reserves, Ranthambore, with an exploration of South India on our Tigers and Southern Delights escorted small group tour (p10/11). Alternatively, head to Sri Lanka to explore the wonders of the enchanting island. Please contact our India travel specialists to start planning your journey.

**T: 1300 363 302**



**NORTH INDIA & LADAKH**

The foothills of North India offer stunning scenery as well as religious shrines and ancient monuments. The Himalayas form a dramatic backdrop to green hills and valleys, meadows full of flowers, rushing streams, waterfalls and forests.

The starkly beautiful desert landscape of Ladakh is dotted with monasteries, fluttering prayer flags and high peaks. This mysterious land has only been open to tourism since 1974, and retains strong Buddhist cultural links with Tibet.

The Golden Temple © Shutterstock

**HIMALAYAN FOOTHILLS**

9 days/8 nights

From \$2546 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Delhi

Price per person from\*: Cat A \$3217 Cat B \$2886 Cat C \$2546

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**INCLUSIONS**

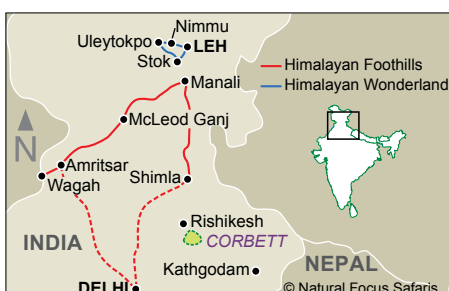
Transfers to and from train stations, train fare Delhi/Amritsar and Shimla/Kalka/Delhi in an A/C chair car, city tours and excursions in private air-conditioned Innova vehicle or similar with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a bed & breakfast basis and lunch where mentioned, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

- A** Taj Swarna (Dlx Rm)/Rakkh Resort (Hill Cottage)/ShivAadya Resort (Royal Rm)/The Cecil (Dlx Rm)
- B** Hyatt (Std Rm)/Eagle Nest (Suite)/ShivAadya Resort (Luxury Rm)/The Clarks (Superior Rm)
- C** Ranjit Svaasa (Svaasa Suite)/Surya Resort (Dlx Rm)/Banon Resort (Deluxe Rm)/Woodville Palace (Std Rm)

**T**his tour combines the holy Sikh city of Amritsar with the emerald valleys of Punjab and Himachal Pradesh. Explore McLeod Ganj, the present home of the Dalai Lama and experience the peaceful atmosphere of Tibetan Buddhism. Visit Shimla, once the summer capital of the British, before you take the Toy Train to Kalka and return to Delhi.

**Day 1 Amritsar**

Early morning departure by air-conditioned train to Amritsar. Transfer to your hotel. Evening visit to the Golden Temple to witness holy worship.



**Day 2 Amritsar**

Morning city tour of Amritsar. Afternoon drive to the Indo-Pakistan border at Wagah (35km) to see the changing of the guard (subject to change). B

**Days 3/4 McLeod Ganj**

Drive to McLeod Ganj (5 hrs), headquarters of the Tibetan government in exile and seat of his Holiness the Dalai Lama. On Day 4 enjoy sightseeing in McLeod Ganj, including the Institute of Tibetan Arts and Namgyal Monastery. BL/B

**Days 5/6 Manali**

Morning drive to the hill station of Manali (7 hrs). Afternoon at leisure. On Day 6 tour the 16th century Hadimba Temple and the village of Vashisht, renowned for its hot springs and temples. BL/B

**Days 7/8 Shimla**

Drive to Shimla (8 hrs), situated at an altitude of 2,213 metres. This former summer capital of the British is also known as the "Queen of Hills" in India. On Day 8 enjoy a morning sightseeing tour including the Viceregal Lodge, Jakhoo Hill and Himachal State Museum. Afternoon at leisure. BL/B

**Day 9 Tour ends Delhi**

Transfer to railway station to board the Toy Train "Himalayan Queen" for Kalka, change trains and board the "Shatabdi Express" bound for Delhi. Transfer to airport or hotel. Tour ends. B



Monks enjoying morning tea in McLeod Ganj © Jean Maxwell



The Cecil, Shimla © Oberoi Hotels & Resorts



Buddhist temples in McLeod Ganj © Shutterstock

# HIMALAYAN WONDERLAND

8 days/7 nights

From \$3021 per person twin share\*

Departs daily ex Leh

**T**he stunning region of Ladakh is blessed with some of the world's mightiest mountain ranges and spectacular desert landscapes. The ancient monasteries that adorn the hillsides are cared for and maintained by resident monks. On this tour you will visit many of these 'gompas' for insight into local Tibetan Buddhist culture, explore the breathtaking, dramatic surroundings, and experience the traditional lifestyle of the warm, friendly Ladakhi people.

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Transfers, city tours and excursions in private vehicle with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a full board basis, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

## EXCLUSIONS

Airfare Delhi/Leh/Delhi.

### Days 1-3 Stok

Arrive Leh and transfer to Stok (45 mins). The remainder of the day is free to acclimatise. On Days 2/3 explore the highlights of this area including Shey Palace with its two storey-high gilded statue of Buddha, the 600-year old Thiksey Monastery, Leh Palace and Stupa. Also enjoy walks through beautiful landscapes, and a traditional family lunch. Overnight at Stok Palace. LD/BLD

### Day 4 Uleytokpo

A scenic drive over winding roads past small villages leads to the Alchi Monastery and the 14th century Likir Gumpa with its priceless paintings. Continue on to Uleytokpo, exploring the Rizong Monastery in the afternoon. Overnight at Ule Ethnic Resort or the Apricot Tree Hotel. BLD



Remote mountain monastery, Ladakh © Shutterstock

### Days 5/6 Nimmu

Morning at leisure before enjoying a hike to Basgo Gumpa and Fort ruins located on a hilltop. Continue on to Nimmu, a traditional farming settlement featuring two monasteries. On Day 6 explore the village and its surrounds. Overnight at Nimmu House. BLD

### Day 7 Leh

Today you have the option of rafting on the Zaskar River in the Indus Valley or exploring the mountainous Chilling area before a transfer to Leh for overnight at Grand Dragon Hotel. BLD

### Day 8 Tour ends Leh

Early transfer to the airport. Tour ends. B



Thiksey Monastery © Shutterstock



Stunning Ladakhi scenery © Shutterstock

## OBEROI WILDFLOWER HALL - SHIMLA

4 days/3 nights

From \$2346 per person twin share\*

Departs daily ex Delhi

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Transfers to and from train stations in private air-conditioned vehicle, train fare Delhi/Kalka and Chandigarh/Delhi in an A/C chair car and from Kalka/Shimla in a non A/C chair car, accommodation on a B&B basis, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**E**xperience Oberoi's 5-star Wildflower Hall, located at 2,500m in Shimla amongst magnificent Himalayan scenery. Nestled amid 23 acres of thick cedar forest, this luxury resort recreates the grand style of colonial summer retreats. 85 bright, spacious guest rooms branch off plush carpeted corridors, with huge windows to appreciate the spectacular surroundings. Dedicated butlers are at your disposal 24 hours a day, while a team of therapists are on hand for yoga, meditation or Ayurvedic treatments at bespoke locations around the hotel. Meals are served in a chic indoor dining room, in the light-filled conservatory or on the outdoor terrace. Activities at this property include picnics in breathtaking settings, guided nature walks, white water rafting and cycling. There is also a heated indoor pool and an outdoor hot tub.



# RIVER CRUISING

From 4 days/3 nights

**T**ake a magical unhurried journey through India by riverboat as you cruise along the sacred River Ganges or the mighty Brahmaputra. From the shaded deck, you can watch the rich panorama of stunning landscapes, traditional villages, rural life and exotic wildlife unfold. Go ashore to visit magnificent temples, ancient cities and historic sites. Go on safari to see rare one-horned rhino in Kaziranga National Park, or explore the Sundarbans where Bengal tigers live amongst the mangroves.

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Accommodation on vessel on a full board basis, pre and/or post cruise hotel accommodation (if applicable), all meals on cruise, Indian brand mineral water with meals, English speaking guide, all entrance fees and sightseeing as per itinerary, transfers, local assistance, government service tax, fuel surcharge if applicable, standard still camera fees.

The Mighty Brahmaputra also includes arrival transfer from Guwahati airport and departure transfer to Jorhat airport.

### EXCLUSIONS

Flights, transportation pre/post cruise, beverages, personal laundry, gratuities, items of a personal nature.



### THE HOLY GANGES CRUISE

12 days/11 nights from \$10,274 per person twin share\*

8 days/7 nights from \$4741 per person twin share\*

Departs ex Kolkata

Cruise along the Hooghly, a tributary of the Ganges between Kolkata and Jangipur, aboard the RV Bengal Ganga. This charming replica colonial steamer has 28 outward-facing staterooms, a fine dining restaurant and large observation deck. Explore villages, historic and religious sites on your relaxed voyage. The longer itinerary extends along the Ganges River proper, to reach mystical Varanasi. Both tours also operate in reverse.



### THE MIGHTY BRAHMAPUTRA CRUISE

8 days/7 nights from \$4158 per person twin share\*

Departs ex Guwahati

Sail down the magnificent Brahmaputra River in the shadow of the Himalayas to Assam, a region rich in history, temples, tribal villages, monasteries, ancient palaces and famous tea estates. Explore scenic Kaziranga National Park by boat and jeep, searching for one-horned rhino, buffalo, Bengal tiger and river dolphin. Travelling on the spacious 23-suite MV Mahabaahu, you'll enjoy the highest standards of service, premium accommodation and fabulous cuisine.



### THE GANGES SUNDARBANS CRUISE

4 days/3 nights from \$1116 per person twin share\*

Departs ex Kolkata

Explore the mysterious Sundarbans, located at the mouth of the mystical Ganges River on the comfortable MV Paramhansa. Navigate the region's labyrinth of islands, mangrove forests and tiny muddy creeks which empty out into the emerald Bay of Bengal. Throughout your journey, keep your eyes peeled for rare creatures such as giant estuarine crocodiles and Bengal tigers, known to compete with local fishermen for fish on the mudflats.





The finest tea in the world, Darjeeling © Stephen Cameron

**SIKKIM**

The tiny Indian state of Sikkim is bordered by Bhutan, Nepal and Tibet and is still relatively unspoiled by tourism. Although many Sikkimese are now Hindu, Buddhist prayer flags and white-washed chortens remain ubiquitous. Sikkim is most famous for monasteries such as Rumtek and Pemayangtse, as well as for being home to the world's third highest mountain, the Himalayan peak of Kanchenjunga, which dominates the skyline.

**HIDDEN KINGDOM**

9 days/8 nights

From \$2491 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Bagdogra

Price per person from\*: Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$3011 \$2674 \$2491

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**INCLUSIONS**

Transfers, city tours and excursions in standard air-conditioned private vehicle with English speaking driver, local guides, entrance fees, accommodation on a full board basis, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, standard still camera fees.

**A** Silver Oaks/Mayfair Resort/Mt. Pendim/Mayfair Resort

**B** Silver Oaks/Denzong Regency/Mt. Pendim/Cedar Inn

**C** Kalimpong Park/Norkhill/Mt. Pendim/The Elgin

**T**ucked away in India's mountainous north is the remote kingdom of Sikkim and also the famous tea terraces of Darjeeling. This region is where you'll find spectacular scenery, remarkable religious monuments, Buddhist monasteries and a vibrant, welcoming people.

**Days 1/2 Kalimpong**

Arrival transfer from Bagdogra airport to the scenic town of Kalimpong (3 hrs), perched on a ridge overlooking the Teesta River. The next day,

tour the Botanical Gardens and Zong Dhog Palri Fo Brang Monastery, containing 108 rare holy scriptures brought by the Dalai Lama when he fled Tibet in the 1950s. BLD

**Days 3/4 Gangtok**

Depart for the Sikkim capital of Gangtok (3 hrs). Visit the prestigious Namgyal Research Institute of Tibetology, sacred Do Drul Chorten and revered Enchey Monastery. BLD

**Day 5 Pelling**

Admire unique religious art at Rumtek Monastery and stroll the serene Nehru Botanical Garden before lunch at a local restaurant. Drive to Pelling (5-6 hrs) with the evening at leisure to enjoy the tiny town's jaw-dropping mountain vistas. BLD

**Days 6-8 Darjeeling**

View the ancient Pemayangtse Monastery before travelling to Darjeeling (5 hrs). On Day 7, witness sunrise from Tiger Hill. If the weather is clear, you may be treated to a glimpse of the majestic, snow-capped Kanchenjunga massif. Later, stop by at Ghoom Monastery, yet another important repository for valuable Tibetan texts. The following day, explore the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Gumbu Rock site and Tea Estate. Free afternoon to relax. BLD

**Day 9 Tour ends Bagdogra**

Return to Bagdogra airport/railway station (4 hrs), where your trip concludes. B



Gautama Buddha statue © Shutterstock



Ceremonial welcome, Kalimpong © Stephen Cameron



Enchey Monastery, Gangtok © Shutterstock



© Natural Focus Safaris

**STAY LONGER**

Gain a deeper understanding of Buddhism and the complex history of this Himalayan region by visiting neighbouring Bhutan. On pages 40-41, you'll find two sample itineraries to this isolated mountain kingdom and one of the most unique destinations on the planet.

**T: 1300 363 302**

## BHUTAN

Travel to the faraway Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan and discover a veritable Shangri-La. Geographically isolated for centuries, the country's cultural traditions and spiritual values remain mostly untouched by modernity.

Visit imposing hilltop monasteries and chortens (stupas) that dominate Bhutanese hilltops and valleys. Red-robed monks perform sacred ceremonies and preside over colourful "Tsechus", festivals celebrated throughout the year. Many locals still favour traditional dress, and you'll find Bhutanese amongst the world's friendliest people.



Punakha Dzong © Shutterstock



Bhutan's national sport, archery © David Kneale

## SPIRIT OF BHUTAN

8 days/7 nights

From \$2834 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Paro

Price per person from\*: Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$5962 \$4214 \$2834

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Accommodation, all meals, sightseeing including entrance fees, transfers by air-conditioned private vehicle, services of a local English speaking guide and driver, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, Bhutan visa fee.

- A Taj Tashi/Uma Punakha/Uma Paro
- B Hotel Osel Thimphu/RKPO Resort Punakha/ Naksel Boutique Hotel & SPA Paro
- C Standard range of accommodations

**D**iscover the uniquely preserved culture and natural beauty of the kingdom of Bhutan. Touring the western valleys, you will discover historic fortresses, ancient monasteries and ornate temples set against a dramatic Himalayan backdrop.

### Day 1 Thimphu

Arrive by air into Bhutan (not included) where you will be met by your guide and driver. Visit the National Museum and the historic 17th century Rimping Dzong. Transfer to Thimphu (1 hr). LD

### Days 2/3 Thimphu

Enjoy a sightseeing tour of the capital Thimphu, including the giant Buddha Dordenma statue overlooking the city, Changangkha Temple, the National Memorial Chorten and Tashichhodzong. On Day 3 hike to Tango Monastery (45 min), one of the regions oldest monasteries. After lunch visit the Bhutanese School for Arts and Painting, the Folk Heritage Museum and The National Library featuring age-old Buddhist scripts. BLD

### Days 4/5 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) via Dochula Pass (3,050m) with its amazing Himalayan views (weather permitting). Afternoon visit to Punakha Dzong, built in 1637. On Day 5 visit Chimi Lhakhang, temple of the 'Divine Madman' followed by a hike through beautiful farmland to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. BLD

### Days 6/7 Paro

After a leisurely morning in Punakha, return to Thimphu for lunch. Afterwards drive to Paro. On Day 7 enjoy a morning walk (3-4 hrs) up to the viewing point of the famous Taksang Monastery, perched on a rocky ledge above a 900m drop. Later we visit the historic ruins of the Drukgyel Dzong, and 7th century Kyichu Temple. BLD

### Day 8 Tour ends Paro

Early morning transfer to airport for your onward flight (not included). Tour ends. B



© Natural Focus Safaris

## BHUTAN E-BROCHURE

What you see on these pages is just a small sample of what we offer in Bhutan. View our full range of cultural tours, mountain treks and unique Buddhist festival celebrations online. Our 16 page Bhutan e-brochure can be downloaded here:

[www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au/bhutan](http://www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au/bhutan)



Beautiful entrance to the main hall of Punakha Dzong © David Kneale



# DRAGON KINGDOM

12 days/11 nights

From \$4368 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Paro

Price per person from\*: Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$12860 \$5884 \$4368

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS

Accommodation, all meals, sightseeing including entrance fees, transfers by air-conditioned private vehicle, services of a local English speaking guide and driver, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel, Bhutan visa fee.

- A Taj Tashi/Uma Punakha/Amankora Gangtey/ Bumthang resorts/Uma Paro
- B Hotel Osel Thimphu/RKPO Resort Punakha/ Rinchenling Lodge Bumthang/Naksel Boutique Hotel & SPA Paro
- C Standard range of accommodations

**D**iscover the ancient Buddhist way of life that still thrives in Bhutan today. This in-depth tour visits the historic and picturesque valleys of Paro, Thimphu, Punakha and Gangtey, as well as Bhutan's spiritual heartland, Bumthang.

### Day 1 Thimphu

Arrive by air into Bhutan where you will be met by your guide and driver. Visit the National Museum which features a fascinating collection of art and the 17th century Rimping Dzong before driving to Bhutan's capital, Thimphu (1 hr). LD

### Days 2/3 Thimphu

Explore Thimphu's many highlights including the Buddha Dordenma statue, the Memorial Chorten and Tashichhodzong. On Day 3 enjoy a hike through forested hills to Tango Monastery. BLD



Punakha Dzong Monastery © Shutterstock



Taktsang Monastery (Tiger's Nest), Paro © Shutterstock



National Memorial Chorten, Thimphu © Shutterstock

### Days 4/5 Punakha

Drive to Punakha (3 hrs) via Dochula Pass. Spend two days exploring. Tour Chimi Lhakhang and Punakha Dzong, and take a short hike to Khamsum Yulley Namgyal Chorten. BLD

### Days 6-8 Bumthang

Depart for Bumthang (8 hrs), the kingdom's spiritual heartland. Explore the valleys many sacred sites and monasteries including the 16th century Tamshing Monastery, Kurje Lhakhang containing a rock imprint of Guru Rimpoche's body, Jambay Lhakhang and visit the 16th century Tang Ugyen Chholing Palace featuring a museum containing an excellent overview of traditional rural life in Bhutan. BLD

### Day 9 Gangtey/Phobjikha

Drive to Gangtey (6 hrs), home of the historic 17th century Gangtey Goempa Monastery. See the impressive Trongsa Dzong en route. BLD

### Days 10/11 Paro

Visit the Phobjikha Sanctuary, famous for its endangered Black-necked Cranes (Nov - Mar) before driving to Paro. On Day 11, walk up to the spectacular Taktsang Monastery (3-4 hrs), perched on a rocky ledge over a 900m drop. Also visit the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong and Kyichu Temple. BLD

### Day 12 Tour ends Paro

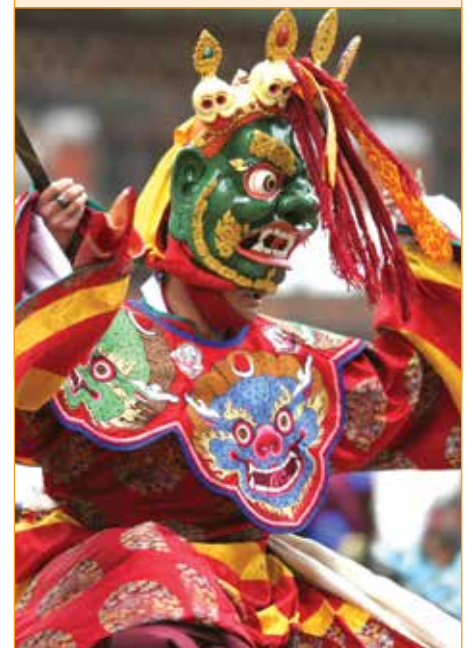
Early morning transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Tour ends. B

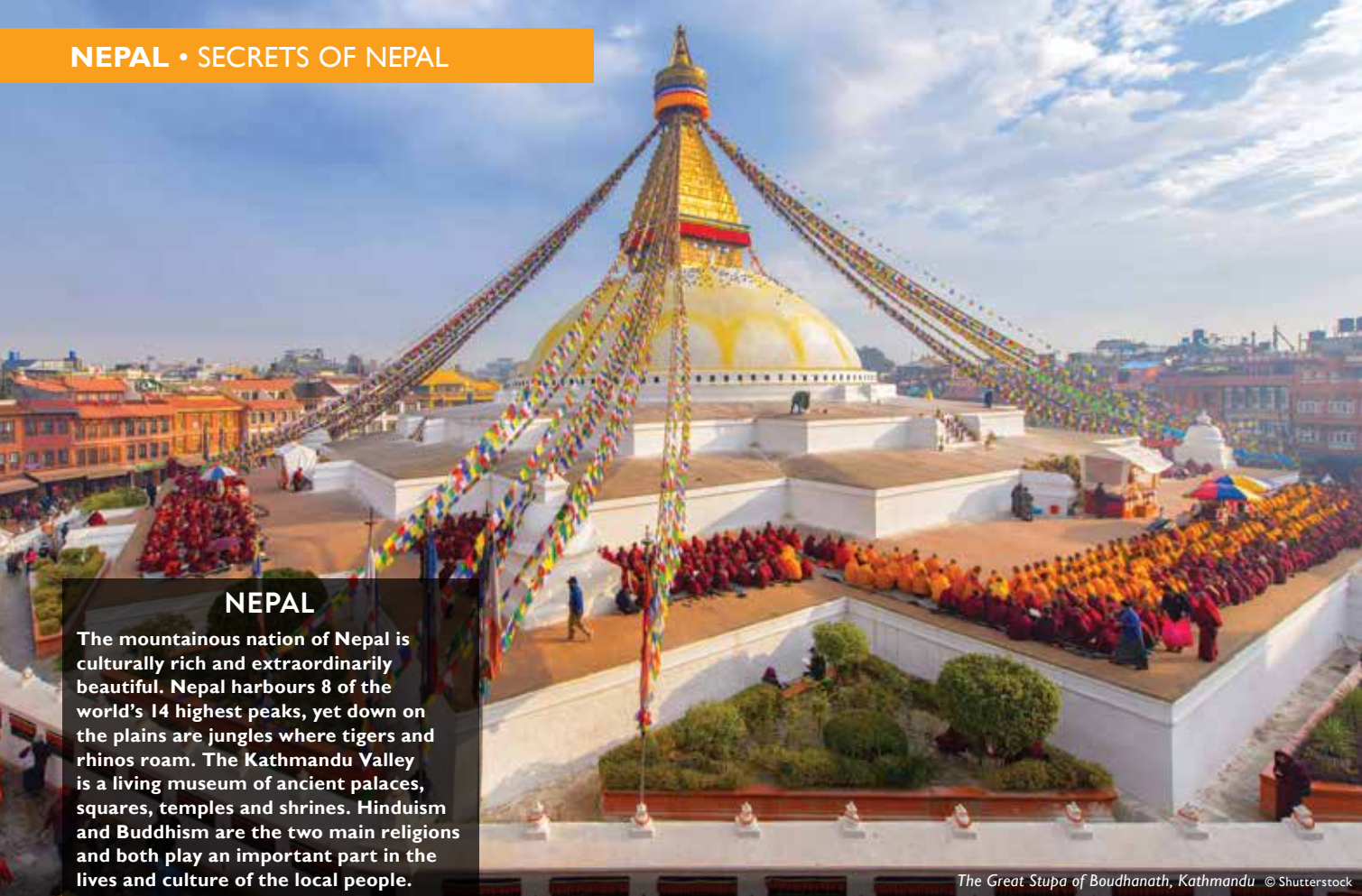


17th century chain bridge near Paro © Shutterstock

## BHUTAN FESTIVALS

Tsechus (festivals) are one of the best ways to experience the ancient culture of Bhutan. Local people gather in a spirit of celebration and faith to witness religious and cultural dances by performers wearing elaborate costumes in honour of Guru Rimpoche. We have a range of suggested festival itineraries that have been carefully selected to ensure the most genuine festival experience without overcrowding. Tsechus are held throughout the year in almost every district. Contact us for full details.





**NEPAL**

The mountainous nation of Nepal is culturally rich and extraordinarily beautiful. Nepal harbours 8 of the world's 14 highest peaks, yet down on the plains are jungles where tigers and rhinos roam. The Kathmandu Valley is a living museum of ancient palaces, squares, temples and shrines. Hinduism and Buddhism are the two main religions and both play an important part in the lives and culture of the local people.

The Great Stupa of Boudhanath, Kathmandu © Shutterstock



Boy with prayer wheels © Nicola Romagna - flickr.com/nromagna/

**SECRETS OF NEPAL**

9 days/8 nights

From \$2747 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Kathmandu

|                         |        |        |        |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Price per person from*: | Cat A  | Cat B  | Cat C  |
|                         | \$3904 | \$3022 | \$2747 |

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**INCLUSIONS**

Return airport transfers, accommodation, meals as per itinerary, airfare Kathmandu/Chitwan and Pokhara/ Kathmandu, road transfer from Chitwan/Pokhara, sightseeing and transfers in standard air-conditioned private vehicle with English speaking driver as per itinerary, local guides, entrance fees, 1 bottle of water per person per day for all surface travel.

**EXCLUSIONS**

Camera fees.

- A** Dwarika's Hotel/ Meghauri Serai, A Taj Safari Lodge/ Tiger Mountain Pokhara Lodge
- B** Hyatt Regency/ Barahi Jungle Lodge/ Temple Tree Resort & Spa
- C** Crowne Plaza Soaltee/Tigerland/Fishtail Lodge

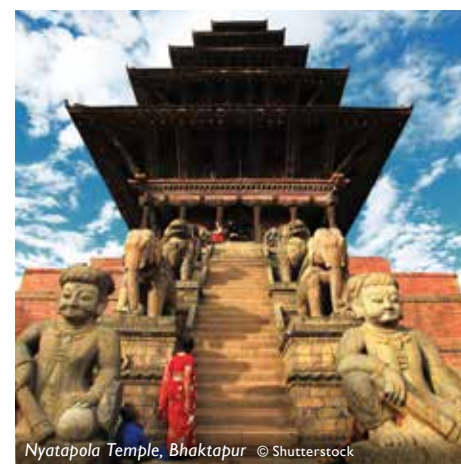
**D**iscover the historic temples and Buddhist treasures of the Kathmandu Valley set amongst awe-inspiring scenery, and then fly to the lakeside town of Pokhara, famous for its panoramic views over the majestic Annapurna Range. Continue on to visit Nepal's wonderful Chitwan National Park – famous for its diverse wildlife, such as the one-horned rhino, Asian elephant, Bengal tiger, gaur and sloth bear. Enjoy jeep safaris in the community forest (buffer zone) and village visits.

**Day 1 Kathmandu**

Arrival transfer from Kathmandu airport to your hotel. Free evening to wander its ancient bustling alleyways.

**Days 2/3 Kathmandu/Patan**

Half day Kathmandu tour, taking in the impressive Swayambhunath Stupa, also known as the "Monkey Temple" as well as iconic Durbar Square. On Day 3 visit Patan, one of the world's oldest known Buddhist cities, situated across the Bagmati River from Kathmandu. The highlight is World Heritage-listed Patan Durbar Square, which is home to an excellent museum and numerous temples, statues and a palace. B



Nyatapola Temple, Bhaktapur © Shutterstock

**Day 4 Kathmandu/Bhaktapur**

Take a day trip to Bhaktapur, a charming ancient city of narrow streets and fascinating monuments. Pashupatinath on the riverbank is the most sacred of all temples in Nepal. Bhaktapur's inhabitants continue to live a traditional way of life and are renowned for their crafting skills. B

**FLY OVER EVEREST**

Soar over the mighty Himalayas on an unforgettable scenic flight. This is the closest visitors can get to Mt Everest (8,848m) without having to trek. Call our Nepal specialists to include this once-in-a-lifetime experience into your itinerary.





Asian rhino, Chitwan National Park © Shutterstock

**Days 5/6 Chitwan National Park**

Transfer to Kathmandu airport for flight to Bharatpur. Transfer to your lodge. Chitwan is Nepal's premier wildlife viewing destination, and home to the world's largest endangered one-horned rhinoceros population. During your visit enjoy lodge activities including a jeep safari to view the parks diverse wildlife. BLD

**Days 7/8 Pokhara**

Travel by road to picturesque Pokhara (5-6 hrs), a region of beautiful lakes and stunning mountain views including Mt Fishtail, Mt Annapurna and Mt Dhaulagiri. Arrival transfer to your hotel followed by tour of the town. Early on Day 8, drive to Sarangkot to appreciate sunrise over the Himalayas before enjoying a 1hr boat ride. Rest of the day at leisure. B

**Day 9 Tour ends Kathmandu**

Transfer to the airport for your return flight to Kathmandu. Tour ends. B



Asian elephant, Chitwan National Park © Shutterstock



**NEPAL TREKKING**

Some of the most famous treks on Earth are found in Nepal, ranging from moderate walks lasting a few days such as found along the very scenic Annapurna circuit, to challenging, life-changing hikes past surreal snow-capped peaks to Everest Base Camp. Along the way, expect to have your breath taken away by beautiful landscapes, amazing cliff-top temples and the hospitality of local villagers. Please contact us for more information on our Nepal trekking options.



Beautiful Pokhara Valley © Shutterstock





Tea plantation © Shutterstock

**SRI LANKA**

The captivating island of Sri Lanka is rich in cultural and archaeological treasures spanning some 2,500 years in history - from the sacred city of Anuradhapura and the cave temples of Dambulla, to the palaces of the royal city of Kandy. It has 7 World Heritage Sites including one natural one - the Sinharaja Forest Reserve.

**SRI LANKA - THE ENCHANTED ISLE**

10 days/9 nights

From \$2003 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Colombo

Price per person from\*: Cat A Cat B Cat C  
\$2651 \$2184 \$2003

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

**INCLUSIONS**

Transfers, excursions in superior air-conditioned private vehicle with English speaking chauffeur guide, entrance fees, accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis, 1 bottle of water per person per day included for all surface travel.

**EXCLUSIONS**

Camera fees.

- A** Jetwing Beach/Cinnamon Lodge/Elephant Stables/Heritance Tea Factory/Anantara Tangalle/Kingsbury
- B** Suriya Resort/Aliya Resort & Spa/Mahawali Reach/Grand Hotel/Coco Tangalle/Galle Face
- C** Goldi Sands/Sigiriya Village/Amaya Hills/Jetwing St. Andrew's Hotel/Buckingham Palace/Jetwing Colombo

**E**xplore the many historical, cultural and natural attractions of Sri Lanka including the cave temples of Dambulla, the royal city of Kandy, and the scenic valleys and dense forests around the hill station of Nuwara Eliya.

**Day 1 Negombo**

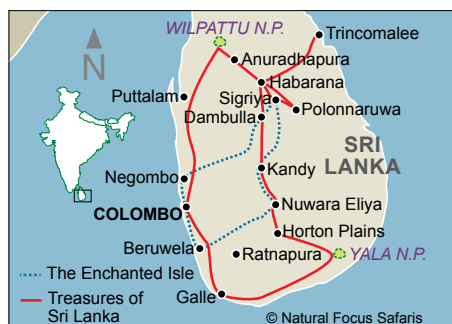
Arrival transfer to your hotel. Rest of the day free to explore this sleepy coastal town.

**Day 2 Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage**

Morning departure to the famous Pinnawala elephant orphanage, established in the 1970s and now home to over 10,000 Asian elephants. B

**Day 3 Cultural Triangle**

Explore the iconic 200m-high Sigiriya Rock Fortress and the World Heritage Site of



Polonnaruwa, which was Sri Lanka's medieval capital. B

**Day 4 Cultural Triangle**

Drive to Kandy, touring the Dambulla Cave Temple and Spice Garden at Matale en route. Remainder of day at leisure. B

**Day 5 Kandy**

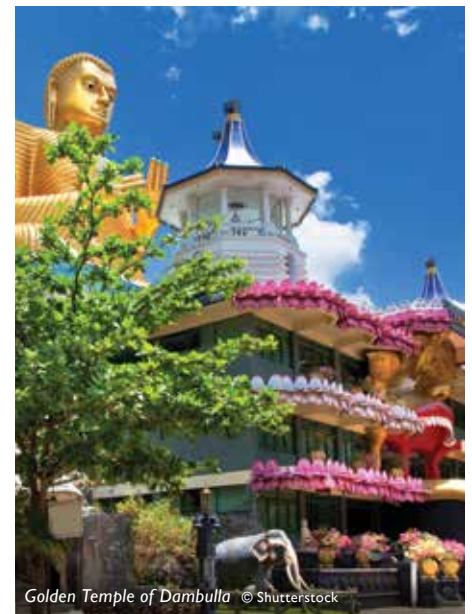
Excursion to the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya, a paradise for nature lovers. Later, visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic, one of the world's most sacred Buddhist sites and enjoy an evening traditional cultural performance. B



Kandyan Dancing © Sri Lanka Tourism

**Day 6 Nuwara Eliya**

Early drive to the hill station of Nuwara Eliya, stopping en route at a tea plantation. In the afternoon, visit Victoria Park and take a guided walk past the city's fine colonial buildings. B



Golden Temple of Dambulla © Shutterstock

**Days 7/8 Tangalle**

Depart for Sri Lanka's idyllic south coast via Kithulgala, one of the wettest places on the island and where the Academy Award-winning movie *The Bridge on the River Kwai* was filmed. The following day is entirely free for you to enjoy the beautiful beaches and old-world charm of Tangalle. B

**Day 9 Colombo**

Tour the many sights of the capital, including the vibrant Pettah bazaar, the clock tower, Buddhist and Hindu temples. B

**Day 10 Tour ends Colombo**

Transfer to airport in Colombo. Tour ends. B



Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage © Shutterstock



Rock fortress of Sigiriya © Shutterstock

## TREASURES OF SRI LANKA

15 days/14 nights

From \$3872 per person twin share

Departs daily ex Colombo

Tour cost per person from\*: 

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| Cat A  | Cat B  |
| \$4388 | \$3872 |

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfers, excursions in superior air-conditioned private vehicle with English speaking chauffeur guide, entrance fees, accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis except in Yala which is full board, 1 bottle of water per person per day included for all surface travel.

### EXCLUSIONS

Camera fees.

- A** Jetwing Beach/Forest Rock Garden/Cinnamon Lodge/Elephant Stables/Heritage Tea Factory/Jetwing Yala/Galle Fort Hotel/The Kingsbury Hotel
- B** Suriya Resort/Palm Garden Village/Aliya Resort & Spa/Mahaweli Reach/Grand Hotel/Jetwing Yala/Fort Printers/Galle Face

**S**ri Lanka is renowned for its cultural heritage, ancient temples and historic fortresses. The country is also rich in natural wonders with national parks where elephants, leopards and abundant birdlife can be seen. This tour encompasses World Heritage Sites, wildlife sanctuaries, an elephant orphanage, a working tea plantation and the famous World's End view.

#### Day 1 Negombo

Arrival transfer to your Negombo hotel with rest of day at leisure.

#### Days 2/3 Anuradhapura

Drive to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Anuradhapura via Wilpattu National Park, which is renowned for its healthy wild leopard population. On Day 3 visit sacred Mihintale, cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, and tour the many attractions of Anuradhapura, including a holy 2,200 year-old bodhi tree and various magnificent Buddha statues. B

#### Days 4/5 Habarana

Depart for Habarana for overnight, with a jeep safari in Minneriya National Park (2hrs) en route. This reserve is popular with leopard and elephant, as well as huge flocks of birds. Next day, tour the east coast deepwater port city of Trincomalee and the Kanniya hot springs. B

#### Day 6 Polonnaruwa

Explore the impressive rock fortress of Sigiriya, which rises 200m above dense jungle. Afterwards, see the well-preserved ruins of Sri Lanka's capital city, constructed in the 11th and 12th centuries. B

#### Days 7/8 Kandy

Drive to Kandy (6 hrs), stopping around the halfway mark to inspect the colourful frescoes of the Dambulla Cave Temple. Highlights of Kandy include the Temple of Tooth Relic, one of the



Traditional stilt fishing © Shutterstock

most sacred Buddhist sites in the world. Enjoy an evening cultural performance. On Day 8 visit the Pinnawala Elephant Orphanage to view the herd bathing in a river. Return to Kandy afterwards, and visit the exquisite botanical garden at Peradeniya. Remainder of day at leisure. B

#### Days 9/10 Nuwara Eliya

Early drive to the hill station of Nuwara Eliya. In the afternoon visit Victoria Park before taking a guided walk to see some of the city's fine colonial buildings. On Day 10, tour Horton Plains, a unique plateau famous for the cascading Bakers Falls and 'World's End', a 1,000m sheer drop overlooking banks of thick clouds. B

#### Days 11/12 Yala National Park

Drive to Yala National Park. This vast reserve of dry woodland and open grasslands is famous for its variety of wild animals including leopards, its aquatic birds as well as its conservation of Sri Lankan elephants. Afternoon safari by jeep accompanied by an experienced tracker. On Day 12 enjoy a full day gameviewing in the national park. BLD

#### Day 13 Galle

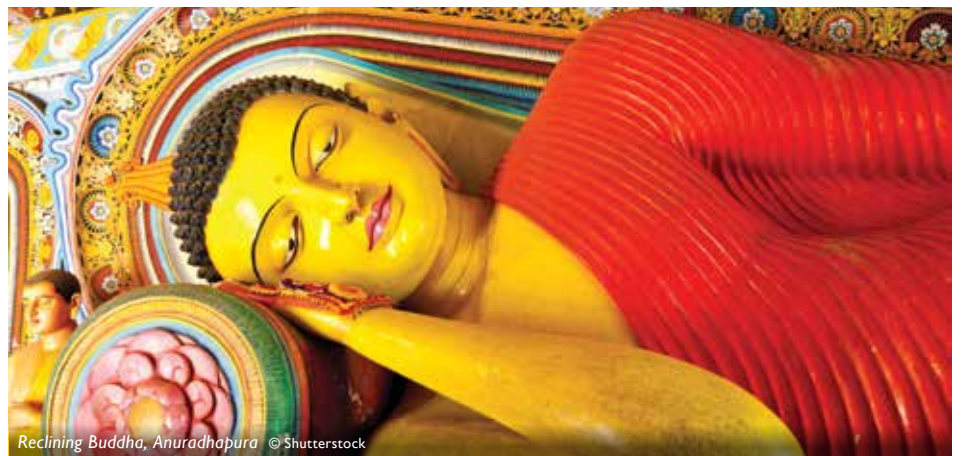
After breakfast depart for the coastal southern port city of Galle. Visit the historic Dutch Fort, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. B

#### Day 14 Colombo

Proceed to Sri Lanka's bustling capital, where skyscrapers rise above charming old British colonial buildings. Bargain for a souvenir at the Pettah bazaar and visit various temples. B

#### Day 15 Tour ends Colombo

Transfer to the airport for your onward flight. B



Reclining Buddha, Anuradhapura © Shutterstock



Residence, Colombo © Uga Escapes



Leopard sighting, Yala National Park © Uga Escapes

## SRI LANKA IN STYLE

14 days/13 nights

From \$5752 per person twin share\*

Departs daily ex Colombo

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

### INCLUSIONS

Transfers, excursions in air-conditioned private vehicle with English speaking chauffeur guide, entrance fees, accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis (full board and local drinks at Thotalagala Plantation House and Chena Huts), 1 bottle of water per person per day included for all surface travel.

### EXCLUSIONS

Camera fees.

**E**xperience world-class luxury, superb service and mouth-watering cuisine on this sensational circuit departing from Sri Lanka's fascinating capital. Travel back in time, visiting coastal cities and highland tea plantations featuring beautifully preserved colonial architecture. Tour enchanting ancient ruins and one of the world's most sacred Buddhist sites. There's also plenty of time to enjoy the country's picturesque white sand beaches and search for its fabulous wildlife. Throughout your journey, stay at unique properties infused with the island's rich history, vibrant traditions and natural charm.

### Day 1 Colombo

Arrival transfer to Uga Residence, Colombo, a grand Victorian mansion that once welcomed the cream of Ceylon society.

### Days 2-4 Anuradhapura

Morning Colombo city tour, to see its bustling markets and gracious colonial buildings before travelling to Ulagalla, a superbly restored historic residence offering stunning guest villas equipped with private plunge pools. During your 3-night stay, visit the impressive dagobas and temples of Anuradhapura and admire the magnificent rock citadel at Sigiriya, built in the 5th century by a king who overthrew his own father. One afternoon, trek through a traditional Sri Lankan village for an insight into rural life. B



Traditional Sri Lankan fisherman © Shutterstock

### Days 7/8 Kandy

Discover Sri Lanka's cultural capital, Kandy, a cool, compact and laid-back city brimming with sights, with the most remarkable being the Temple of the Tooth Relic, which houses a tooth that belonged to Buddha. Accommodation at The Kandy House, a 19th century manor where modern luxury and age-old traditions seamlessly combine. B

### Days 9/10 Haputale

After breakfast, transfer to Thotalagala, a former planter's bungalow turned boutique hotel that boasts stupendous vistas over classic Sri Lankan hill country. Sip premium tea on the lawn, hike up to Lipton's Seat or learn about the journey from leaf to cup at the historic Dambattenne Tea Factory. BLD

### Days 11/12 Yala National Park

Depart for the country's most visited national park, located in the island's southeast. Enjoy four game drives within Yala, providing plentiful opportunities to observe Asian elephant, peacock and leopard in their natural habitat. Retire in the evening to your glamorous thatched pavilion at Chena Huts, a stylish hideaway situated where jungle meets the Indian Ocean. BLD

### Day 13 Colombo

Return to Colombo after a final morning combing the park for interesting animals. Be welcomed once again to the sumptuous Uga Residence. B

### Day 14 Tour ends Colombo

Your trip ends with a transfer to the airport. B



— Sri Lanka in Style © Natural Focus Safaris

### Days 5/6 Trincomalee

Head to Trincomalee, a breezy coastal city on Sri Lanka's eastern coast with a recorded history spanning some 2,000 years. 'Trinco' is home to various interesting landmarks that bear testament to the importance of its natural deep water harbour including the alluring Portuguese-built Fort Frederick and the tidy British War Cemetery. Your accommodation is in the relaxed, treehouse-themed Jungle Beach, which offers secluded cabins, a lagoon-like pool and a wide range of interesting activities including cooking classes and kite-making. B



Beachside dining, Chena Huts © Uga Escapes

# SECRET HIDEAWAYS SRI LANKA

3 days/2 nights  
Departs daily

The enchanted island of Sri Lanka offers some of the most beautiful boutique hotels you will find anywhere in the world. Discover the scenery and culture of this fascinating country whilst staying in one of these serene retreats. These unique hotels are found in the heart of picturesque tea country, close to wildlife sanctuaries, in tranquil forest groves or beside golden beaches fringed by swaying coconut palms. Enjoy warm hospitality, unrivalled luxury and ample opportunities to discover rural Sri Lanka. Call our travel specialists to help you incorporate one or more into your itinerary.

\*Based on two people sharing, singles on request.

## INCLUSIONS (FOR ALL HOTELS ON PAGES 47-50)

2 nights accommodation on a B&B basis^.

^Ceylon Tea Trails and Wild Coast on a FB basis.



## PARADISE ROAD THE TINTAGEL - COLOMBO

3 days/2 nights from \$465\*

Set in one of Colombo's most prestigious neighbourhoods, this stunning 10-room boutique hotel occupies a 1930s colonial building that would later become a private residence for Sri Lanka's Prime Ministers. Each guestroom is individual in aspect and decor, yet all are exquisite. Facilities include a lap pool, a small day spa, a gym and restaurant, with options to dine indoors in air-conditioned comfort or out on the airy veranda.



## KAHANDA KANDA - GALLE

3 days/2 nights from \$814\*

A short tuk-tuk ride from Galle Fort, this serene small hotel nestles amid palm-fringed jungle and working tea plantations. Each of the 10 standalone guest suites are individual in character, containing antiques alongside more contemporary pieces. The restaurant offers classic Sri Lankan and international flavours, as well as cooking classes. Things to do in the area include yoga, escorted cycling excursions and tea estate tours.



## CAPE WELIGAMA - WELIGAMA

3 days/2 nights from \$841\*

Half an hour outside Galle, this Relais & Chateaux property sits on a promontory rising 40m over the Indian Ocean. Its 39 guest villas are designed by one of Asia's most celebrated architects and boast some of the largest rooms in Sri Lanka. Also on Cape Weligama's 12 manicured acres are a range of dining venues and 14 pools. Spend your time whale-watching, fishing or snorkelling. Alternatively, explore the lush rural hinterland by bicycle.





**AMANWELLA - TANGALLE**

3 days/2 nights from \$1302 per person twin share\*

This beautiful beach resort on Sri Lanka's idyllic south coast fronts a crescent of golden sand lapped by the Indian Ocean. There are 27 contemporary guest suites, each with a private terrace and plunge pool. In the splendid main lodge is a spectacular infinity pool, a restaurant and lounge bar. Enjoy a massage in the Spa Suite or do yoga in a coconut grove. The Beach Club at the western end of the resort offers romantic private dining.



**NUMBER ONE MIRISSA - MIRISSA**

3 days/2 nights from \$372 per person twin share\*

This tranquil boutique hotel is set on half an acre of manicured gardens facing Mirissa Beach, a popular departure point for whale-watching. Guest suites feature timber flooring, antique furniture and handmade four-poster beds, and all provide easy access to the sea. Aside from boat safaris, you can visit Yala National Park, snorkel the house reef or go surfing. Back at the property, swim in the pool or dine in the lovely restaurant.



**98 ACRES - ELLA**

3 days/2 nights from \$360 per person twin share\*

Set upon 98 acres of tea plantations in the misty, temperate highlands of Ella, this breathtaking resort accommodates guests in charming chalets crafted from recycled railroad timbers and thatch. Trek to gushing waterfalls or panoramic viewpoints, tour ancient temples and learn about the journey from leaf to cup in this scenic region. Cooking lessons and yoga can be arranged along with vehicle hire should you wish to explore on your own.



**WILD COAST TENTED LODGE - YALA NP**

3 days/2 nights from \$1530 per person twin share\*

This Relais & Chateaux luxury camp is adjacent to Yala National Park, renowned for its high leopard population. Situated where jungle meets the ocean, the 28 cocoon-shaped guest tents feature soaring ceilings, sumptuous four-poster beds and state-of-the-art amenities. Go on a game drive each day in search of wildlife, then enjoy a swim in the enormous pool and a decadent meal in the striking bamboo-clad Dining Pavilion.







**CEYLON TEA TRAILS - HATTON**

3 days/2 nights from \$1266 per person twin share\*

This Relais & Chateaux property lies in the green rolling hills of central Sri Lanka. Guests enjoy gracious hospitality, gourmet food, personal service and an acclaimed tea plantation experience. Each of the 5 individual bungalows on the estate has a distinctive theme and contains a number of rooms and suites. All come with their own chef and butlers. Take a walk, cycle, raft, play tennis or enjoy a very civilised afternoon tea on the lawns.



**MANDIRA BUNGALOWS - HATTON**

3 days/2 nights from \$464 per person twin share\*

Set amid lush, green tea plantations, Mandira Bungalows offers a colonial-style getaway in Sri Lanka's cool central highlands. Three quaint bungalows designed in authentic British high country style await, with period trimmings such as claw-footed tubs and canopied beds. After a day out exploring on foot, by bicycle or kayak, home-cooked fare greets you at the restaurant, prepared by the estate's own devoted cook.



**THE KANDY HOUSE - KANDY**

3 days/2 nights from \$573 per person twin share\*

This 19th century manor house is one of Sri Lanka's finest boutique establishments, with 9 sumptuous guestrooms where modern and traditional luxuries seamlessly blend. Take a dip in the beautifully landscaped infinity pool, feast on local delicacies on your private terrace or enjoy an indulgent massage by an experienced Ayurvedic therapist. You can also explore neighbouring temples or paddy fields on foot or by bicycle.



**GAL OYA LODGE - GAL OYA NATIONAL PARK**

3 days/2 nights from \$470 per person twin share\*

Specialising in high-end, environmentally responsible tourism, Gal Oya Lodge is a secluded upmarket property located in an isolated nature reserve. Its 10 thatched ensuite bungalows feature huge floor-to-ceiling glass doors to let in light and the soothing sounds of nature. Gal Oya is the only place in Sri Lanka where boat safaris can be enjoyed, and where Asian elephants are sometimes seen swimming from island to island.





### JETWING VIL UYANA - SIGIRIYA

3 days/2 nights from \$759 per person twin share\*

In the cultural heart of Sri Lanka close to the spectacular rock monolith of Sigiriya, this lovely hotel nestles within a lush wetland brimming with birds. The 36 guestrooms are carefully designed to blend into the environment, facing either garden, marshes, lake, paddy fields or forest. Optional activities at this unique Jetwing property include tea tasting, cookery classes, spa treatments, yoga, hiking and cycling excursions.



### WATER GARDEN - SIGIRIYA

3 days/2 nights from \$641 per person twin share\*

This magnificent hotel is situated amid tranquil rural landscapes in the shadow of the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress. 30 immaculate guest villas dot the property, appointed with luxuries ranging from secret gardens and personal water views to private plunge pools. Have a butler organise a buggy to the central pool or restaurant. Other activities include cycling, archery and tours of Dambulla, Sigiriya and Minneriya National Park.



### SERENE PAVILIONS - WADDUWA

3 days/2 nights from \$630 per person twin share\*

Flanked by coconut palms and the azure Indian Ocean, this exclusive Balinese-style resort on Sri Lanka's laid-back southwestern coast invites relaxation. The 12 sophisticated guest villas have private plunge pools and round-the-clock butler service. The central pool is the focal point of this property, with submerged Jacuzzi beds and a border of shaded sun loungers. There is also a restaurant, bar, wellness centre, gym, tennis court and reading room.



### REEF VILLA & SPA - WADDUWA

3 days/2 nights from \$851 per person twin share\*

This timeless resort has just 7 lavish suites, located in the tasteful central Plantation House or set on the property's three luxuriant acres facing either the Indian Ocean or tranquil lily ponds. Be transported back to the days of the British Raj by the antique swings, canopied beds, punkah fans and cool tile floors. Dine in the thatched-roof restaurant which overlooks the sparkling central pool or be pampered in the Ayurveda spa.



## GENERAL CONDITIONS

### Trading Names

Natural Focus Safaris is a trading name of African Wildlife Safaris Pty Ltd (the company).

### Before you book

The information presented in this brochure was correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of publication. However, changes beyond our control may have occurred since then with respect to prices, itineraries, duration of holidays, standard of services, tour content, fares and airline schedules. Please check with your travel agent or the company to ascertain if there are any alterations to the tour you select before you book.

### Booking Procedure/Security Deposit

The receipt of a security deposit will be taken as an understanding by the company that the participant has read, understands and agrees to abide by the conditions set out in this brochure. To make a reservation please forward a non-refundable security deposit of 10% of the total tour cost together with a completed Reservation Form - available from [www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au](http://www.naturalfocussafaris.com.au)

### Final Payment

Final Payment is due 60 days prior to departure or more for some tours including Xmas & New Year periods. If payment has not been received by the due date we reserve the right to treat the booking as a cancellation.

### Special Security Deposit Requirements

Some tours require higher security deposits to meet the tour operator's booking conditions. These are:

|        |                           |     |
|--------|---------------------------|-----|
| p38    | All Wildlife Lodges/Tours | 20% |
| p32    | River Cruises             | 20% |
| p40/41 | Luxury Train Journeys     | 30% |
|        | Bhutan - Land             | 30% |

### Client Names - Exactly as per Passport

For security reasons, airlines and the majority of our tour operators require your name exactly as it appears in your passport. It is your responsibility to advise these details. If you or your Travel Agent do not advise the correct information and we have to re-issue airline tickets or other documentation, then we will bill you for all costs incurred, such as airline cancellation charges and courier fees, in addition to our own administration fee.

### Goods & Services Tax (GST)

The Australian Goods & Services Tax (GST) does not apply to international travel. GST does not apply to administration charges such as amendment fees, hotel and late booking fees where these are made prior to travel. Amendment fees charged after travel, for example, in the case of a refund will attract GST.

### Insurance

It is a condition of booking that you are adequately insured for the full duration of your tour. Your policy must include emergency evacuation cover. It is advisable to insure expensive camera equipment separately. Insurance policies rarely cover for loss of cash. We strongly recommend that insurance be purchased at the time you pay your security deposit as our cancellation conditions will be strictly enforced. The choice of insurer is at the sole discretion of the client.

### Cancellations and Refunds<sup>^</sup>

If it is necessary to cancel your holiday, you should notify us immediately in writing and this will take effect the day it is received by us. All monies will be forfeited as follows:

#### Number of days before departure:

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| More than 60 days | Loss of deposit |
| 59 - 41 days      | 45% of fare*    |
| 40 - 31 days      | 65% of fare*    |
| 30 days or less   | No refund*      |

<sup>^</sup> Some tour operators charge higher cancellation fees for some tours. These will be advised with our quote letters and confirmation accounts.

\* Except those amounts that can be refunded, such as airfares (less those amounts forfeited under airline regulations and the company's loss of profit). Insurance premiums are non-refundable, but if the reason for your tour cancellation falls within the terms of the insurance cover, cancellation charges will normally be refunded by the insurance company. The non-issuance of an invoice or the non-payment and/or non-receipt of a security deposit or a major event such as a terrorist related incident, civil unrest or outbreak of a flu type epidemic etc will not exempt passengers from these cancellation and administration penalties.

Cancellation fees are designed to cover the cancellation fees charged by overseas tour operators as well as Natural Focus Safaris loss of profit and to cover our time and effort for work completed.

Please note that employees of our overseas tour operators are not authorised to make any undertakings on behalf of the company regarding refunds or other matters.

After travel has commenced, additional costs incurred due to changes in your itinerary (eg due to airline schedule changes) must be settled directly by you and any requests for refunds must be made on your return.

### Amendments

Due to the extra administrative costs, there will be an automatic minimum charge of \$75 per amendment, in addition to any cancellation fees levied.

### Deferring Travel

Normal cancellation fees apply if you wish to postpone your departure.

### Late Bookings

Bookings made less than 30 days before departure from Australia must be accompanied by full payment. Late bookings will incur a minimum \$50 charge to cover extra administrative expenses.

### Minimum Stay

The company is a specialist tour operator and not a hotel booking service. We therefore will not normally accept reservations under 5 nights for any one booking. Exceptions may be made at our discretion and subject to a booking fee being charged.

### Brochure "From" Prices and Tour Costs

The expression "from" with respect to tour prices stated in this brochure means prices are based on a per person basis in Australian Dollars based on twin share, entry level accommodation (unless otherwise stated) and travel during the low season. This cost is indicative only, is subject to change, and based on ground costs, airfares and exchange rates as at 21/05/2018. Actual prices will vary with changes in costs and exchange rates at time of quotation. Natural Focus Safaris uses a strategy of hedging (purchasing Forward Exchange Contracts) to stabilise prices. No adjustments will be made for exchange rate variations once full payment is received by the company.

However, price may vary up to the date of departure based upon variations in airfares, park fees, departure taxes, hotel rates, government charges or other costs.

### India GST Introduction

India introduced a Goods and Services Tax on 01 July 2017. All prices quoted in this brochure are based on rates supplied by hotels and operators inclusive of applicable current government taxes at the time of printing. Please note that any further increase in government taxes will be passed on and you should take this into consideration when planning your holiday.

### Airline Ticket Taxes & Surcharges

We charge a service fee of 10-15% on airfare taxes and surcharges to cover our costs associated with the collection and administration of these mandatory fees. This service fee is included in the tour costs stated in this brochure.

### Included in Trip Cost

Please note that our tour costs are generally per person twin share and include transportation, accommodation with private facilities, sightseeing, park fees where applicable and services of driver/guide. Where these items are not included we advise accordingly. Meals are not included unless specifically mentioned. Meals are sometimes indicated by:

B= Breakfast, L = Lunch and D = Dinner.

### Not included in the Trip cost

International and domestic airfares and airport/hotel transfers unless specifically stated. Passports, visas, insurance, emergency evacuation costs, extra meals not shown in the itinerary, laundry, tips, some camera fees, items of a personal nature including medication and excess baggage charges.

### 2018/2019 Prices

Prices are shown in Australian Dollars (AUD) and are generally valid from 01/10/18 - 30/09/19 although some tours and lodges have different periods of validity and where possible these are highlighted in the brochure. 2019/20 prices will be available approximately June 2019.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Pre-departure Information

On receipt of your security deposit, a copy of our Pre-departure Information will be forwarded to you. The following are some of the more important details.

### Passport

You should be in possession of a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended stay overseas.

### Visa requirements

Australian nationals require a visa for India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan. Other nationalities should check with us for their visa requirements. Foreign nationals require a re-entry visa for Australia, which should be obtained before departure. The company will not be held responsible for passengers travelling without the correct travel documents.

### Vaccinations & Health

An anti-malarial prophylactic for India is recommended for certain areas. Please check with your doctor for advice on other vaccination precautions against typhoid, tetanus, polio, rabies & meningitis. It is the client's responsibility to ensure he/she has the appropriate vaccinations and documentation.

### Consular Advice

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs issues travel advice for many countries. This is available by calling 1300 555 135 or by visiting their website: [www.smarttraveller.gov.au](http://www.smarttraveller.gov.au)

### Age Limits

Some of our tours have age limits, depending on the type of tour selected.

## RESPONSIBILITY

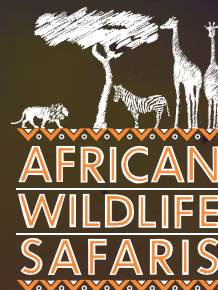
Natural Focus Safaris and African Wildlife Safaris are trading names of African Wildlife Safaris Pty Ltd ("the company" which expression includes its employees, subsidiaries and agents) accepts bookings subject to the following conditions:

1. A booking is accepted only after the receipt of the required security deposit and after the company issues a written confirmation account.
2. Final balance is due 60 days prior to departure, otherwise the company may treat the booking as being cancelled by the client.
3. The company is not itself a carrier or hotelier nor does it own aircraft, hotels or vehicles. The company exercises every care in the selection of carriers, hotels, tour operators and the suppliers of the travel services used in this brochure (all of which carriers, hotels, tour operators and other suppliers are called "the other suppliers").
4. All bookings with the company are subject to the terms and conditions and limitations of liability imposed by the other suppliers some of whom limit or exclude liability in respect of death, personal injury, delay and loss of or damage to baggage and may require the participant to complete a release of indemnity form prior to commencing the arrangements.
5. All tickets, vouchers and documents are issued subject to the terms and conditions under which the other suppliers provide their services and the company is not responsible for carrier caused delays. The terms of your contract are those terms and conditions under which the other suppliers provide their services.
6. The company is not liable in any way for the acts, omissions or default whether negligent or otherwise of the other suppliers pursuant to a contract between the other suppliers and you (which may be evidenced by a ticket, voucher or other document) because the company has no control over the other suppliers.
7. The participant is aware that the tours may operate in remote or inaccessible areas, and that wild and potentially dangerous animals move freely in the areas where the tours are conducted. These areas are not zoos and wildlife viewing is not guaranteed.
8. The participant further acknowledges that where the tour is conducted in an area without proper medical services the company and its servants and agents are expressly authorised to take such action as thought necessary for the provision of medical services and all associated costs are to be paid for by the participant.
9. Should the company or its other suppliers deem it desirable for political, climatic, overbooking of hotels/lodges or other reasons to amend or vary any itinerary it may do so by shortening, varying or completely re-routing the trip in which case no objection or claim for compensation will be made by the participant. The company advises that it is compulsory to take out insurance against the above mentioned risks for your protection.
10. These terms and conditions are incapable of alteration or waiver by any servant agent or representative of the company or of any person providing services on the tour.

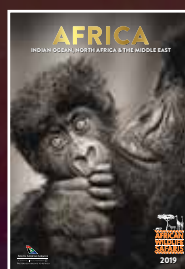


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**NATURAL FOCUS**  
SAFARIS



## INSPIRATIONAL JOURNEYS



### **NATURAL FOCUS SAFARIS**

A division of African Wildlife Safaris Pty Ltd  
A.C.N. 006 516 285

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#### **FOR TRAVEL AGENTS ONLY**

Brochures available from Tifs at: [www.tifs.com.au](http://www.tifs.com.au)

TRAVEL AGENT STAMP



Incredible India