



A Journey Through India

17 days from only £3,245 per person

Spend a little longer in India with Distant Journeys, and delve deeper into the heart of this mystical, mesmerising country. A Journey Through India enjoys all the highlights of a classic touring itinerary, and also includes visits to areas off the well-trodden tourist path.

After completing the Golden Triangle of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, along with a stay in Ranthambore National Park, we continue to Lucknow and Varanasi.

The historic city of Lucknow has an air of grandeur, redolent of the days of the British Raj, and is today a cultural and artistic centre. Varanasi by contrast is the spiritual and sacred heart of India, situated on the banks of the holy River Ganges, and offering a true taste of India at its most authentic.

You'll return home with a lifetime of memories, and a real understanding of the mysterious, magical soul of India.



Your holiday includes

Flights with award-winning scheduled airlines

- ◆ Return economy class flights:
Choose to fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham or Glasgow
- ◆ Alternatively, you can fly direct with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow
- ◆ All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- ◆ UK Air Passenger Duty

Carefully selected hotels

- ◆ Superior hotels in great locations
- ◆ All hotel portorage
- ◆ Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals

- ◆ Daily breakfast, worth £219 per person
- ◆ Eight lunches
- ◆ Four dinners

Unforgettable experiences

- ◆ Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Lucknow and Varanasi
- ◆ Visit the Heritage Transport Museum
- ◆ Jeep ride and tour of Amber Fort, Jaipur
- ◆ Dinner at 1135AD, located within Amber Fort
- ◆ Two safaris in Ranthambore National Park
- ◆ Tour of Fatehpur Sikri
- ◆ Visit to the iconic Taj Mahal
- ◆ Boat ride on the River Ganges

On the ground

- ◆ Services of an experienced Tour Manager and local guides
- ◆ All overseas transfers
- ◆ Modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout

100% confidence

- ◆ Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
- ◆ Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise, please see our booking conditions on pages 40-43.



② = Number of nights



A Journey Through India

Days 1 to 4: UK - Delhi

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Emirates from the UK airport most convenient for you. Choose from London Heathrow, London Gatwick, Manchester, Birmingham or Glasgow. Alternatively, fly direct to Delhi with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow. No matter which airline or airport you choose, there will be no additional cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Delhi, 3 nights

All flights with Emirates to Delhi travel via Dubai. On arrival into Delhi transfer to the five star Hyatt Regency hotel. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink with your Tour Manager and fellow travellers, to become acquainted and learn more about our adventure ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 3: Delhi

Delhi stands as the capital of modern India, where you can experience the combined historic and architectural wonders of the adjoining cities, Old and New Delhi. We begin the day with a fascinating rickshaw ride through the bustling narrow streets of Chandni Chowk in Old Delhi, the former commercial centre of Delhi and still an important trading area of the city. We travel via the opulent Mughal-built Red Fort, Shah Jahan's symbol of power and elegance, and make a stop at India's largest mosque – Jama Masjid.

The contrast with the pulsating streets of Old Delhi is evident as we drive along the wide tree-lined boulevards of New Delhi. We pass the imposing India Gate and Parliament House before lunch at the delightful Olive Bar & Kitchen. Later, we further explore New Delhi, including Humayun's Tomb and the 13th-century Qutub Minar, a red sandstone and white marble minaret, measuring over 75 metres tall. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 4: Delhi Freedom Day

Our first Indian Freedom Day allows us to spend the day as we please. Our Distant Journeys Tour Manager will be on hand with advice on things to do, where to eat, make any arrangements and book excursions for you to further explore the area. Perhaps visit Akshardham Temple and Lotus Temple, two of India's most architecturally impressive wonders. Alternatively, you may prefer to learn about India's melting pot of different cultures, languages and religions during a half day tour, or take a walking tour of Delhi's schools and markets, guided by street children who are supported by the Salaam Baalak Trust. In the evening, there is an option to dine in one of three lovely restaurants, each serving their own versions of traditional Indian cuisine. **Breakfast included**

We recommend

Akshardham and Lotus Temples

Explore two of India's most beautiful architectural temples.







A Journey Through India

Days 5 to 11: Jaipur - Ranthambore - Agra

Day 5: Jaipur, 3 nights

Following breakfast, we drive to Jaipur, stopping en route to visit the excellent Heritage Transport Museum. Enjoy an interesting journey through the evolution of India's motor industry on a self-guided tour. Later, we continue to the colourful city of Jaipur, popularly known as the 'Pink City', and to the Trident Jaipur. Breakfast and lunch included

We recommend

Heritage walking tour, Jaipur

Explore the narrow streets of Jaipur in the company of your knowledgeable local guide.



Day 6: Jaipur

This morning we head out of the city and board our waiting Jeeps, which will take us up the steep-sided slopes of the majestic Amber Fort. This UNESCO World Heritage site is a fabulous example of Rajput architecture, and you will be amazed by the grandeur of its royal halls, decorated with intricate ivory, mirror and glassworks. Later, we stop for a photo opportunity at the beautiful façade of the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds), and discover the delights of Jaipur.

We explore City Palace Museum, with its blend of Rajasthani and Mughal Art, and the awe-inspiring Jantar Mantar, an observatory built in 1726 which still provides accurate information to this day. In the evening we have the option to take one of two wonderful dining experiences. The first, is a dinner under the stars, surrounded by bushland and the Aravali Hills, at Dera Amer. Your second option is to dine in the home of a local Rajasthani family, where you will be treated to a cooking demonstration and an insight into well-heeled Indian life, in the company of your friendly hosts. Breakfast included

Day 7: Jaipur Freedom Day & Amber Fort Dinner

Take advantage of a Jaipur Freedom Day, where you can choose to relax or explore as you please. Perhaps take the opportunity to join a heritage walking tour through the heart of the old city, learning about the local trades and crafts as we navigate the narrow streets. Alternatively, you may wish to discover the ancient art of hand block printing and creating the region's famous Blue Pottery, or you may like to explore a local organic farm, including a live cookery demonstration.

Tour Highlight

This evening will undoubtedly be a real highlight of your tour; a dinner served at 1135AD, a beautiful restaurant set within the historic ramparts of Amber Fort. We dine like royalty, in opulent surroundings, with Amber Fort illuminated against the night sky to make an enchanting backdrop. Breakfast and dinner included



Day 8: Ranthambore, 2 nights

We leave Jaipur and journey to Ranthambore. Built in the style of a traditional Rajput hunting palace, Nahargarh will be our home for the next two nights. Ranthambore National Park is a forested area, with a rugged terrain of rocky ridges, open valleys and lakes. Once the private hunting ground of the Maharaja, the park is now celebrated for its wildlife conservation, and in particular its majestic tigers. Following lunch, we board our open canter vehicle for our first safari in the park. Whilst the elusive tiger is the park's most famous inhabitant, keep an eye out for sambar deer, marsh crocodiles, sloth bears, monkeys, leopards and more than 250 species of bird life. After a thrilling afternoon, we return to our hotel in time for dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 9: Ranthambore

Early this morning, we explore a different area of the National Park in search of wildlife and to see some of the impressive forts, ancient temple ruins, and ramshackle palaces which dot the landscape. We return to our hotel for breakfast, and the remainder of the day is free to spend as we please. The hotel has a wonderful pool area, which is a perfect place to unwind for a few hours with a good book. This evening enjoy a barbecue dinner within the hotel's picturesque grounds. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 10: Agra, 2 nights

All good things must come to an end, and this morning we leave Ranthambore as we make our way to Bharatpur. Enjoy lunch in the peaceful surroundings of Laxmi Niwas Palace before we journey to Fatehpur Sikri. Built in the 16th century by Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri was deserted after only 14 years of rule. The abandoned city has been extremely well preserved and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site, providing a wonderful insight into life in the time of the Mughal dynasty. Following our tour of Fatehpur Sikri, we continue to Agra and the Trident Agra, where we spend our next two nights. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 11: Agra and the Taj Mahal Tour Highlight

Agra is home to India's most iconic attraction, the Taj Mahal, and this morning we enjoy our first experience of this magnificent monument. Taking 22 years to complete, with over 20,000 craftsmen working around the clock, the Taj Mahal was built by Shah Jahan in memory of his late wife and is justifiably considered the world's greatest monument to love. The purity of its white marble exterior and precious gemstones makes this arguably the most beautiful building in the world.

Having explored the Taj Mahal, we visit the impressive 16th century Agra Fort, a commanding red sandstone monument stretching 2.5 kilometres along the banks of the River Yamuna. This walled imperial city was once the home of the Mughal rulers, and for many years, the country was governed from here. Our afternoon has been left free to spend as we please. This evening, why not experience Mohabbat the Taj show – an 80 minute presentation, which perfectly complements the love story behind the Taj Mahal? **Breakfast included**



A Journey Through India

Days 12 to 15: Lucknow - Varanasi

Day 12: Lucknow, 2 nights

Early risers will be able to see the Taj Mahal again, from across the river at Mehtab Bagh or 'Moonlit Gardens'. These gardens offer a peaceful opportunity to marvel at the monument and provide incredible photo opportunities of the subtle colour changes as the sun rises. Following breakfast in the hotel, we travel to Lucknow. This evening, we have the option of dinner in the magnificent surroundings of the city palace, Khajoorgaon. A delightful evening awaits in the company of the Maharaja's family, who host an authentic home-cooked dinner and explain the history of Lucknow's Hindu royalty. Our next two nights will be at Lebua, a boutique hotel, decorated using the Art-Deco style which prevailed in the early 1900s. **Breakfast and boxed lunch included**

Day 13: Lucknow

Lucknow is a multicultural city that has flourished as a cultural and artistic hub, and was the seat of power of the Nawabs in the 18th and 19th centuries. The city rose to prominence during the 1857 Indian mutiny, when it saw fierce fighting between British and Indian armies. Today, we explore the fascinating history of this city from 1784 through to modern times, including visits to La Martiniere School, Bara Imambara and The British Residency. **Breakfast and lunch included**

Day 14: Varanasi, 2 nights

Today we embark on a journey to Varanasi, situated on the banks of the sacred River Ganges, and one of the oldest and holiest cities in the world. For the Hindu religion in particular, Varanasi is considered as the place that provides the ultimate pilgrimage, where pilgrims come to the ghats lining the Ganges to wash away their sins in the sacred waters or to cremate their loved ones. The city shows India at its most authentic, with a kaleidoscope of sights, sounds and smells around every corner. We stay for two nights at the Taj Gateway Hotel. **Breakfast and boxed lunch included**

Day 15: Varanasi and the River Ganges Tour Highlight

Varanasi comes alive in the morning as pilgrims flock to the river banks to bathe in the holy water and worship the rising sun. We rise early to experience sunrise during a boat ride on the Ganges – a truly spectacular sight.

Following our spiritual start to the day, we explore the old city and Bharat Mata Temple before returning to our hotel for breakfast and the remainder of the morning at leisure. This afternoon, we visit Sarnath, where Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment, and explore the important treasures contained within Sarnath's archaeological museum. In the evening we return to the ghats on the Ganges to experience the Aarti ceremony, amongst hundreds of lighted candles and flower offerings. Later there is an optional dinner in the incredible Brijrama Palace, one of the oldest landmarks of Varanasi. **Breakfast included**





A Journey Through India

Days 16 to 17: Delhi - UK

Day 16: Delhi, overnight

After breakfast, we transfer to the airport for our flight to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi, we will be transferred to the nearby Pride Plaza Hotel, New Delhi. Your afternoon is free to spend as you wish, before we bid farewell to India and our new-found friends with a celebratory dinner.

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 17: Depart India – arrive UK

We depart Delhi with Emirates and fly via Dubai to our chosen airport. Alternatively, fly with Virgin Atlantic direct to London Heathrow. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Extend your holiday in Dubai from £395 per person

If you have chosen to fly with Emirates, why not extend your holiday by adding a three-night stopover in Dubai? So you can personalise your stopover to your tastes, you have the choice of two hotel options.



Sheraton Jumeirah Beach

Local rating: ★★★★★

Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Enjoying its own private beach, Sheraton Jumeirah Beach is ideal for enjoying a few days relaxation in the sun. With comfortable rooms and a host of facilities, the hotel is within easy access of The Walk, with its buzzing array of shops and restaurants.

Three nights £495 per person
Single occupancy £795



Mariott Hotel Al Jaddaf

Local rating: ★★★★★

Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located within easy reach of Dubai Mall, the Marriott Al Jaddaf, is the perfect alternative to a beachside hotel. With an outdoor swimming pool, deluxe spa and a choice of seven restaurants it's a great location from which to explore downtown Dubai.

Three nights £395 per person
Single occupancy £595

Your stopover includes return airport transfers, three nights at your chosen hotel and daily breakfast.

Please note, a tourism tax of 21AED (approx £4.50) per room per night is payable locally.

Departure Dates & Prices

2019 Departures

02 November 2019	£3,245 per person
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2020 Departures

01 February 2020	£3,245 per person
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07 March 2020	£3,245 per person
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Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin or double room.

Supplements

Single occupancy supplement £995.

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling economy class, £1,950 per person if travelling premium, and £3,750 per person for business class.

Stopovers

Extend your holiday with a stopover in Dubai from £395 per person.

Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to return Business Class flights from £2,575 per person.

Virgin Atlantic upgrade to return Premium flights from £745 per person, or return Upper Class flights from £1,545 per person.

Important information

Prices are subject to the availability of flights in the lowest available booking class and may change, however the correct price will always be confirmed before you book.

British Citizens travelling to India are required to have a minimum 6 months on their passport and require an e-Tourist Visa, which must be obtained before travelling. For more details on how to obtain your visa, along with other useful information on your holiday, please refer to our 'Helpful Information' guide on pages 38-39.

Full booking conditions are available on pages 40-43.

To book, call us on 01695 577 961

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry. **Email:** enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

