

Other Destinations

Australia

New Zealand

South Africa

Japan

Vietnam

Cambodia

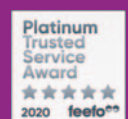
China



distantjourneys
Your Time to Explore

India & Sri Lanka
2021 - 2023

distantjourneys
Your Time to Explore



To book, call our travel experts FREE on

0800 141 3710

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm **Sunday** Open in peak season. See website for details.

Email enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk **Visit** www.distantjourneys.co.uk

Address 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY





Book with 100% Confidence

India is without doubt a country of contrasts; a land of majestic forts and grand palaces, of sacred rivers and high mountain ranges, a melting pot of extraordinary cultures, religions and culinary delights.

Every bit as enthralling, the teardrop-shaped island of Sri Lanka is a vibrant blend of ancient ruins entwined with a rich Buddhist culture. From the verdant tea plantations and rainforested peaks of the interior, to the shimmering white sandy beaches of the coast, Sri Lanka is as spectacular as it is warm and welcoming.

With a maximum group size of only 24 guests, immerse yourself in the incredible diversity these two countries have to offer and discover a journey of heart-warming and never to be forgotten experiences.

Over 75 years creating incredible touring holidays
Our Directors have over 75 years combined travel industry experience and are true escorted touring experts. Between them, they have created an exciting style of flexible, award-winning touring holidays, giving you the chance to create a holiday which is perfect for you. Many years of meticulous planning go into delivering touring holidays of exceptional standards and unbelievable value.

Operated at a leisurely pace and providing you with unrivalled flexibility and value for money, we tailor our itineraries to the tastes of UK travellers, and our aim is simple - to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be.

Award-winning holidays
Our friendly travel professionals are experts in the destinations we visit and are happy to share their passion with you at any time. The exceptional quality of our touring holidays means that Distant Journeys has been a ten-time winner at the prestigious British Travel Awards.

Platinum standard customer satisfaction
We are so proud our customers really love what we do. This is shown by the fact Distant Journeys has achieved an incredible 99% satisfaction rating with independent reviews provider Feefo. What's more, Distant Journeys has been awarded its highest 'Platinum Trusted' rating, for consistently delivering an excellent level of customer service.

Financially protected
Distant Journeys are fully bonded by ATOL, meaning you can book in confidence, knowing your money is 100% safe.

Our Covid Guarantee
For your peace of mind, if Distant Journeys is unable to operate your tour due to Covid-19, we will give you the option to change to another tour, defer your holiday to a later departure date or cancel your holiday with a full refund.



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Call to book

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Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





Small Group Touring

We know that the best kind of touring holiday is one that not only includes the iconic sights that we all want to see, but also one that delves a little deeper; one that allows time to meet local people and one that introduces you to a host of authentic and enriching experiences.

The intimate and relaxed way to explore

As part of a group of no more than 24 guests, Distant Journeys touring holidays to India and Sri Lanka offer you the chance to explore beyond the well-known sights and take a path less trodden, with a number of included intimate experiences to create memories that will last a lifetime. Dine in the home of a local family, pick organic vegetables with a chef and turn them into a delicious lunch, walk through exquisite tea plantations and visit a local school – these are just a few of the experiences and encounters you can enjoy as part of a Distant Journeys small group touring holiday.



Experienced Tour Managers and guides

Knowledgeable Tour Managers and local guides can make the difference between a good holiday and an amazing holiday. Not only will they share information gained through their experience of the local culture, traditions and history, they will also provide insider tips on the places we visit and arrange additional experiences often not suitable for larger groups. They are on hand with recommendations, whether you would like to know which local restaurant serves the best dishes, or where you can buy the best authentic handicrafts.

Private Touring by Distant Journeys

We are delighted to introduce Private Touring by Distant Journeys. The same expertly crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, combined with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date. Whether you prefer to travel with a group of friends, as a family, or you are celebrating a special occasion as a couple, our private touring holidays provide affordable exclusivity and flexibility for groups of any size. Private Touring by Distant Journeys is available on any of our touring holidays to India or Sri Lanka.

Exceptional Value

With Distant Journeys, exceptional value means we will provide you with the opportunity to discover a destination in comfort and style, with many amazing experiences included in the itinerary, but without it costing the earth.

So much included

From start to finish, each Distant Journeys holiday is meticulously planned. As you would expect from a touring holiday, we include return international flights from the UK on award-winning scheduled airlines, with all your on-board meals and drinks included. Breakfast and dinner are included each day, in addition to several lunches and unique dining experiences.

All your touring holiday essentials are included, such as overseas transport in modern air-conditioned coaches, hotel portorage for your luggage, all pre-payable airport and resort taxes, and all the entrance fees to the many incredible places and monuments you will visit. What's more, to help you make the most of your time, you will be accompanied by a knowledgeable Tour Manager throughout your journey.

Price Promise ✓

Early booking offers

Our philosophy is simple - the earlier you book the better the offer you will receive.

No last minute discounts

Distant Journeys never discount our holidays, so you can be confident you will never see your holiday at a lower price than the one you paid.

No surcharges

Irrespective of any additional costs incurred by Distant Journeys as a result of currency fluctuations, air fare increases or other costs associated with your holiday, surcharges will never be added once you have confirmed a booking.

Price match

We want you to have the peace of mind when booking a Distant Journeys holiday that you are receiving the best possible price. So, if you see the same holiday cheaper, not only will we match that price, we will also give you £200 off the price of a future holiday with Distant Journeys.

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 44-47.



Once in a Lifetime Experiences

Distant Journeys offer touring holidays to a selection of truly magical countries, featuring an incredible array of holiday experiences.

When you travel with Distant Journeys, you can be confident that not only will all the must-see sights be included, such as the Taj Mahal in India or Sigiriya in Sri Lanka, but you will also enjoy several extra special experiences to make your holiday as memorable as it should be.

Delightful culinary experiences

Take the special and privileged opportunity to dine with a local family in Jaipur, inhale the enticing aromas and spices on a culinary walking tour of Old Delhi, or indulge in a fascinating exploration of the serene tea plantations of Sri Lanka.

Discover amazing wildlife

Listen to a fascinating tiger talk from one of Ranthambore's knowledgeable naturalists and embark on safaris in search of these majestic animals. Experience incredible wildlife in two of Sri Lanka's National Parks, Yala and Minneriya – endemic birdlife, great Asian elephants roaming free, and the highest concentration of wild leopard per square kilometre anywhere in the world.

Incredible journeys

Ride the famed UNESCO heritage Toy Train to Shimla in the Himalayan foothills of India and unwind during a truly stunning overnight houseboat experience as it navigates the backwaters, rice paddies and forests of Kerala.

Hand-Picked Hotels

Distant Journeys appreciate the hotels in which you stay are an integral part of your holiday enjoyment, which is why we take great care in hand-picking all the accommodation featured in our itineraries.

Location and quality are always paramount considerations, and we strive to provide the best of both.

Hotel ratings

Each property has been personally selected, and you can be confident the hotels featured in this brochure have been carefully chosen for their location, quality, facilities and level of service. We understand from many years of experience, accommodation ratings may vary from country to country. We therefore provide our own ratings, which are based on the expectations of guests from the United Kingdom, alongside the official hotel rating. Please review our hotel directory on pages 38-40 for more information regarding the hotels included.

Location, location, location

Relax in the knowledge that every hotel has been carefully chosen to allow you to make the most of each destination you visit. In India for example, travellers on our Splendours of Kerala tour stay in peaceful Coconut Lagoon, which provides a tranquil retreat in the coconut groves of the Keralan backwaters.

In Sri Lanka, guests stay in the superbly located Jetwing Yala, which overlooks the dramatic southern coastline. Wildlife roam the hotel grounds and Yala National Park, where guests will go in search of leopards, sloth bears and elephants, is just a few miles away.

Character and charm

Many hotels are more than just a place to rest, and in several destinations we select hotels for their history, character and charm. When staying in Shimla in northern India for example, you will enjoy two wonderful nights at the Heritage Grand Hotel, The Oberoi Cecil – with its rich wooden furnishings, glowing fireplaces, grand atrium lobby and incredible panoramic mountain views.



Qutub Minar, Delhi

The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore

11 days from only £1,495 per person

India is both enchanting and fascinating, with colourful, bustling cities entwined with a captivating ancient history and an enthralling blend of cultural attractions.

Our Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour explores the classic Golden Triangle cities of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, the iconic Taj Mahal and provides the opportunity to search for the elusive, majestic Bengal Tiger in Ranthambore National Park. Distant Journeys will also take you beyond the iconic sights as we enjoy a walking food tour through the streets of Old Delhi, experience a rail journey between Delhi and Agra on board the Gatimaan Express and dine with a local family in Jaipur.



Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Flights from Manchester Airport may be possible
- All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- UK Air Passenger Duty

Carefully selected hotels

- First class and deluxe hotels in great locations
- All hotel portorage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals worth £287 per person

- 8 breakfasts
- 3 lunches
- 8 dinners

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur
- Evening food walk in Old Delhi
- Rail journey onboard the Gatimaan Express
- Visit the iconic Taj Mahal
- Tour of Chand Baori Step Well, Abhaneri
- Interactive cooking lesson and lunch at Umaid Lake Palace
- Tiger talk with naturalist in Ranthambore
- Two safaris in Ranthambore National Park
- Jeep ride and tour of Amber Fort, Jaipur

On the ground

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

100% Confidence

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

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 44-47.

The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore

Days 1 to 4: UK - Delhi - Agra

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Flights from Manchester may be possible, please call for details. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Delhi, 2 nights

Our flights to Delhi travel via Abu Dhabi. On arrival into Delhi, we transfer to the delightful Maidens Hotel, a heritage hotel, full of character and charm from a bygone era. In the evening, we meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers for a welcome drink, where we will have the opportunity to become better acquainted for our adventures ahead. Dinner will follow in the pleasant surroundings of the hotel. **In-flight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Delhi

Delhi, a city combining the very best of old and modern India, is a wonderful introduction to this mesmerising country. Following breakfast this morning, we embark on a fascinating rickshaw ride through Old Delhi, taking in sights as we ride through its streets, including the Red Fort – famed for its opulence, and being the palace of the Mughal Empire in the 1500's. We also visit Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, as well as the lively old-city market, Chandni Chowk. Later, witness the imposing India Gate and striking Parliament House, and further explore New Delhi. Visits include Qutub Minar, a 13th century red sandstone and white marble minaret measuring 75 metres tall, as well as the UNESCO heritage site, Humayun's Tomb, where the 16th century Mughal Emperor lies. It's an action-packed day, concluding with an evening food walk in Old Delhi, where we shall explore the cultural mesh of flavours and Dilli recipes on offer in its many eateries. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Agra, Overnight

This morning, we make our way to the railway station where we board India's historic and first semi-high-speed train, the Gatimaan Express, to Agra. On arrival, we visit Agra Fort, an historical fort which remained the main residence of the Mughal emperors until 1638, before travelling to our hotel, the delightful four-star Trident Agra. Built in local red stone, reminiscent of the Mughal era, the hotel sits in beautifully landscaped gardens, offering the perfect retreat from the city.

Tour Highlight

This evening, as the sun sets, we venture out to see India's most iconic attraction and testament of love, the Taj Mahal. Commissioned in 1632 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, to house the tomb of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, this breath-taking complex is said to have been constructed on the banks of Agra's Yamuna River by over 20,000 stone carvers, masons, and artists from across India, Turkey and Iraq. We witness this magnificent monument for a sunset like no other.

Breakfast and dinner included



Amber Fort, Jaipur



Ranthambore National Park

The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore

Days 5 to 9: Ranthambore - Jaipur

Day 5: Ranthambore, 2 nights

We leave Agra behind and journey to Abhaneri. Unique to India, Chand Baori at Abhaneri is a 13 storey, 1300-year-old stepwell, constructed with mind-blowing geometry and aesthetics. Our next stop is Umaid Lake Palace, a tranquil organic retreat nestled in 20 acres of rustic countryside, where we shall venture out with one of the palace's chefs to pick the fresh vegetables required for the day. We shall turn our hand to cooking local delights in their interactive kitchen, and take lunch in the palace's serene surroundings. Afterwards, we continue to Ranthambore, for our next two nights at the charming Ranthambore Kothi Hotel. Situated on the edge of Rajasthan's premier national park, and surrounded by flourishing green forests, it provides the perfect base from which to explore the park. This evening experience a tiger talk with a local naturalist and learn more about Ranthambore's most famous and imposing inhabitant. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Ranthambore

An early start as we journey into Ranthambore National Park, a former private hunting ground of India's great ruler, the Maharaja. The park is famed for its majestic and elusive tigers, and celebrated for its wildlife conservation. Keep an eye out for marsh crocodiles, sloth bears, monkeys, leopards, samba deer, and over 250 bird species – all of which inhabit this incredible part of the world. We'll board our open shared canter vehicle for our first safari, prior to breakfast. We embark on our second safari this afternoon, to explore a different area of the park in our search for the incredible wildlife roaming the lands and waters of this eminent park. Dinner this evening is at our hotel, when we can reflect on the day's adventures. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 7: Jaipur, 3 nights

Enjoy a leisurely morning at the hotel. Following lunch, we journey to the opulent 'Pink City' of Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. Our accommodation in Jaipur is the four star Trident Hotel, which boasts breath-taking views of peaceful Mansagar Lake, Jal Mahal (Jaipur's stunning water palace) and the Aravalli Range. The evening is ours to enjoy in the most perfect surroundings. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 8: Jaipur

Following breakfast, we shall travel a short distance to meet our waiting jeeps, which will take us to yet another UNESCO World Heritage Site – the magnificent Amber Fort. Set amidst dramatic pink hills and overlooking Maota Lake, the nostalgic Amber Fort is a fabulous example of Rajput architecture. Later this evening enjoy the unique delight of a cooking demonstration, and an exclusive insight into Rajasthani family life with dinner at a family home. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Jaipur

This morning we enjoy a tour of the delightful sights of City Palace, including its complex maze of gardens, courtyards and impressive buildings. We also visit Jantar Mantar, the ancient equinoctial sundial, and stop for a photo opportunity at Hawa Mahal, Jaipur's amazing pink sandstone palace. The rest of the day is ours to spend as we please. In the evening, why not take an optional guided walk and visit the old stables which were converted into a market? Closely observe the gathering of local milk sellers, promoting their products for the production of delicious Indian sweets, or meander through the neighbouring eateries serving local delicacies. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Jaipur



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur



Presidential Residence, Delhi

The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore

Days 10 to 11: Delhi - UK

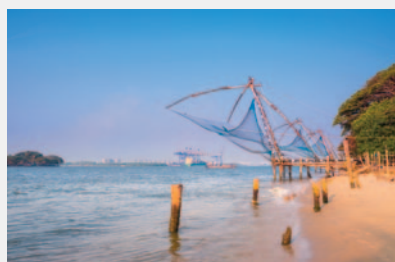
Day 10: Depart India

Following breakfast, we bid farewell to wonderful Jaipur and journey to Delhi Airport for our evening flight with Etihad Airways. **Breakfast included**

Day 11: Arrive UK

Our flights travel via Abu Dhabi, and arrive into the UK in the morning, bringing to an end our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Why not visit Kerala too?



If you wish to experience the delights of Kerala, there are several Golden Triangle & Ranthambore departure dates which may be combined with our Splendours of Kerala itinerary, found on pages 18-23.

Our 22-day combined tour is priced from only £3,190 per person.

Holiday Extensions from only £495 per person

Why not extend your Golden Triangle & Ranthambore holiday with a stay in the hill station of Shimla, or possibly Amritsar – home to the spectacular Golden Temple, Varanasi – the spiritual capital of India, or perhaps enjoy a relaxing beach stay in Goa?



Shimla – 6 days from £695 per person

Travel on the iconic 'Toy Train' to this former colonial retreat, which still retains a certain romance for British visitors.



Amritsar – 4 days from £495 per person

Amritsar is home to the spectacular Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine and one of India's most incredible sights.



Varanasi – 4 days from £645 per person

Situated on the banks of the Ganges, Varanasi is the spiritual home of India and is one of the oldest and holiest cities in the world.

Please see pages 14-17 for more details



Goa – 4 days from £595 per person

Goa is India's pocket-sized paradise, with its blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures combined with sun, sea, sand and lovely seafood.

Departure Dates & Prices

2021 Departures

10 November 2021* **£1,695** per person

2022 Departures

19 January 2022* **£1,695** per person

23 February 2022* **£1,695** per person

16 March 2022 **£1,695** per person

20 April 2022 **£1,495** per person

19 October 2022 **£1,795** per person

09 November 2022* **£1,795** per person

2023 Departures

18 January 2023* **£1,795** per person

22 February 2023* **£1,795** per person

15 March 2023 **£1,795** per person

12 April 2023 **£1,595** per person

*These dates can be combined with our Splendours of Kerala tour on pages 18-23. Prices from £3,190 per person.

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests **£395** per person

3-4 guests **£295** per person

5-9 guests **£195** per person

10-14 guests **£95** per person

15+ guests No extra charge

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

01 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 £345.

01 September 2022 – 31 August 2023 £395.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Etihad Airways upgrade to Business Class from £2,195 per person return.

Private touring

Guests choosing a private tour may select their own departure date. Please note, alternative airlines may be considered or further supplements may apply in certain periods when international flight prices are higher.

Holiday extensions

Extend your holiday with a stay in Goa, Amritsar, Varanasi or Shimla from only £495 per person.

Visa information

An e-Tourist visa is required for travel to India. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 42-43.

Important information

Prices are subject to availability, but the correct price will always be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 44-47.

Call to book

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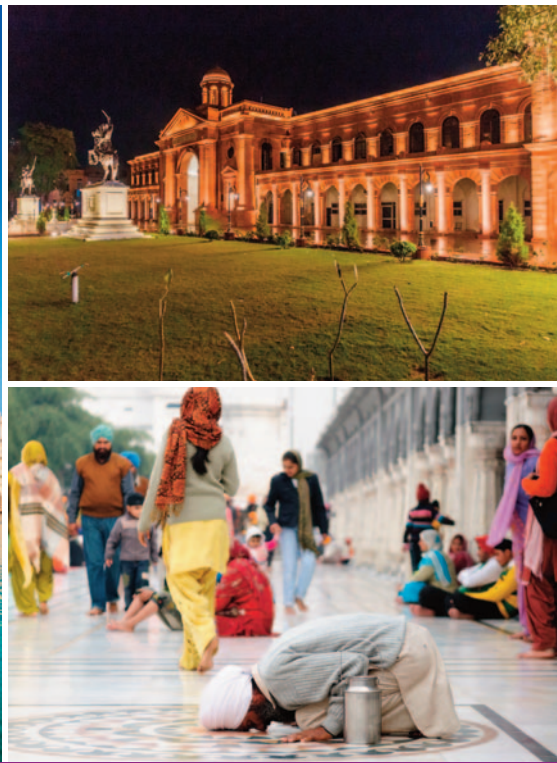
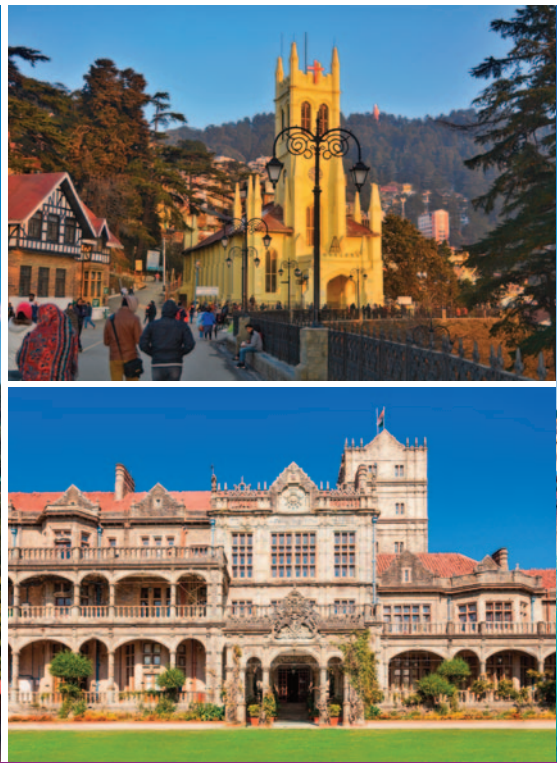
Call FREE on 0800 141 3710

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Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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



Holiday Extensions



Shimla 6 days from only £695 per person

Shimla was known as the ‘Queen of the Hills’ and was the summer capital during British rule in India. Surrounded by steep forested hills falling away on all sides, and with snow-covered mountains as a backdrop, it is little wonder Shimla exerted such a magnetic influence and blossomed into a thriving British hill station.

- Day 1: Delhi, Overnight**
On day 10 of The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour, we travel with our fellow passengers to Delhi, and bid them farewell as we head to the Novotel Aerocity Hotel for an overnight stay. **Breakfast and dinner included**
- Day 2: Delhi - Shimla, 3 nights**
An early start as we board the Shatabdi Express train for our wonderful journey north to Kalka. Our comfortable ‘chair-class’ seats are in air-conditioned carriages with large viewing windows. On arrival in Kalka, we board the Himalayan ‘Toy Train’, an historic rail journey on a narrow gauge railway. Carriages on the Toy Train are small and are not air-conditioned, but this is more than compensated by the increasingly spectacular views across the lower Himalayas. Enjoy the next three nights in Shimla at the fabulous Oberoi Cecil Hotel. **Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included**

- Day 3: Shimla**
The best way to explore Shimla’s most important sights and landmarks is on foot, and we discover the many reminders of British colonial life on this morning’s walking tour including arguably Shimla’s most impressive building – Viceregal Lodge. **Breakfast and dinner included**
- Day 4: Shimla Freedom Day**
A Freedom Day in Shimla to relax or further explore this wonderful town at your leisure. Alternatively, you may wish to take a walking tour and join ‘The Sleeping Beauty Trail’, to learn more about how Shimla has evolved over the years. **Breakfast and dinner included**
- Day 5: Delhi, Overnight**
Following breakfast, we transfer by road to Chandigarh, where we board our train to Delhi. We transfer to the Novotel Aerocity Hotel, for our final night in India. **Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included**
- Day 6: Depart Delhi**
Our flight departs India this morning. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Your Shimla holiday extension includes

Train and coach travel to and from Shimla, three nights accommodation in Shimla, two nights accommodation in Delhi, daily breakfast and dinner, two packed lunches, tour of Shimla, services of a local guide and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £275

Available with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour



See pages 8-13

Amritsar 4 days from only £495 per person

Located in the northern Indian state of Punjab, Amritsar was established in 1577 by the fourth Sikh guru, Ram Das. Home to the magnificent Golden Temple, Sikhism’s holiest shrine and a worthy rival to the Taj Mahal as India’s most spectacular monument, Amritsar offers a beautiful blend of culture, history and tradition.

- Day 1: Amritsar, 2 nights**
We bid farewell to our fellow travelling companions on Day 10 of The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour, departing Jaipur in the early evening on our flight to Amritsar. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel, the impressive Radisson Blu Amritsar, which will be our home for the next two nights. **Breakfast and dinner included**
- Day 2: Amritsar**
After breakfast, we begin our sightseeing tour with a visit to the striking Golden Temple in Jallianwala Bagh. We continue to the Partition Museum, a world first ‘people’ museum that tells the stories of millions of people affected during the partition of 1947. The afternoon is reserved for a very special journey to Wagah border, to witness the inimitable Guard Retreat ceremony. This daily ‘beating retreat’ ceremony attracts crowds from both the sides of the India-Pakistan border, and is characterised by elaborate and rapid dance-like manoeuvres.

- Later this evening we’ll see the breath-taking Golden Temple at night, when numerous lights illuminate its beauty, and witness the sacred and much revered Palki Sahib ceremony. **Breakfast and dinner included**
- Day 3: Delhi, Overnight**
Enjoy a day at leisure before we depart Amritsar late in the afternoon. We board our train to Delhi and enjoy one last scenic journey, before our late evening arrival at the Novotel Aerocity Hotel. **Breakfast and packed dinner included**
- Day 4: Depart Delhi**
This morning we say goodbye to the delights of India and transfer to Delhi Airport, boarding our Etihad Airways flight back to the UK via Abu Dhabi. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Your Amritsar holiday extension includes

Air travel from Jaipur to Amritsar including applicable airport charges, train travel from Amritsar to Delhi, accommodation for two nights in Amritsar and one night in Delhi, daily breakfast and dinner, the services of a local guide and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £125

Available with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour



See pages 8-13

Holiday Extensions



Varanasi 4 days from only £645 per person

Varanasi is India’s spiritual home. A sacred 3,000-year-old Hindu city, resting on the banks of the illustrious Ganges. A city filled with enchanting mysticism, astonishing temples and sacred waters. Most visitors agree, whilst not for the faint-hearted, Varanasi is both a magical and powerful experience.

Day 1: Varanasi, 2 nights
Following the departure of our travelling companions for Delhi, on day 10 of The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour, we fly from Jaipur to Varanasi early in the afternoon and make our way to The Taj Ganges hotel, our home for two nights. This evening we experience the Aarti ceremony, an uplifting spiritual ritual near the Ganges where shells will be blown and incense sticks will be lit in large numbers. During this Hindu ritual of worship, hundreds of lamps will be illuminated to shine bright into the evening, and will be held aloft by the pandits as they chant ancient and enchanting hymns. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 2: Varanasi
Varanasi comes alive early in the morning as pilgrims flock to the river banks to bathe in the holy water and worship the rising sun. We rise early and enjoy a leisurely boat ride on the Ganges – a truly spectacular and cherished sight. Following our spiritual start to the day, we explore the old city and Bharat Mata Temple, a Hindu shrine dedicated to the Goddesses.

This afternoon, we visit Sarnath, where Buddha delivered his first sermon after attaining enlightenment, and survey the important treasures contained within Sarnath’s archaeological museum. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 3: Delhi, Overnight
Our day is at leisure to relax or further explore the intriguing city of Varanasi prior to our afternoon flight to Delhi. Upon arrival we make our way to the Novotel Aerocity Hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Depart Delhi
After breakfast, it’s time to say goodbye to the many charms of India as we transfer to the airport, we will begin our journey back to the UK. **Breakfast included**

Your Varanasi holiday extension includes
Air travel from Jaipur to Varanasi and Varanasi to Delhi including applicable airport charges, accommodation for two nights in Varanasi and one night in Delhi, daily breakfast, three dinners, the services of a local guide and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £175

Goa 4 days from only £595 per person

A holiday destination since colonial times, Goa is known for being a traveller’s paradise. With its unique blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures, breath-taking coastline stretching along the Arabian Sea, buzzing markets, incredible scenery and magnificent temples, a three night stay in Goa will provide the perfect relaxing end to your holiday.

Day 1: Goa, 3 nights
On day 10 of The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour, we fly from Jaipur to Goa via Mumbai. Our home for the next three nights is the Zuri White Sands Hotel, located perfectly on the beach. Spread across 37 acres, the resort is a paradise in itself, complete with a long pool, Goan-style rooms, and a wide range of mouth-watering cuisines, from authentic Goan to European and Pan-Asian dishes. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 2: Goa Freedom Day
Your day is at leisure to spend as you please, whether it be unwinding beside the hotel pool, or enjoying a spa treatment at Maya Spa. Alternatively, why not spend a day at the picturesque Varca Beach, known for its calm waters and glorious white sands? **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 3: Goa Freedom Day
A further Freedom Day to enjoy this popular region. You may wish to take this opportunity to visit the famed Bom Jesus Basilica Church during an optional half-day tour. This UNESCO World Heritage Site is one of a kind in India and is known for its exemplary baroque architecture. The tour also visits one of the many thriving and eclectic markets, selling anything from local spices to beautiful handmade scarves and crafts. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Depart Goa
After breakfast, it’s time to say goodbye to Goa, and our unforgettable Indian adventure. This morning we will transfer to the airport to begin our journey back to the UK via Mumbai and Abu Dhabi. **Breakfast included**

Your Goa holiday extension includes
Air travel from Delhi to Goa and Goa to Mumbai including applicable airport charges, three nights accommodation in Goa on a half-board basis, the services of a local guide, and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £245

Available with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour



See pages 8-13

Available with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour



See pages 8-13

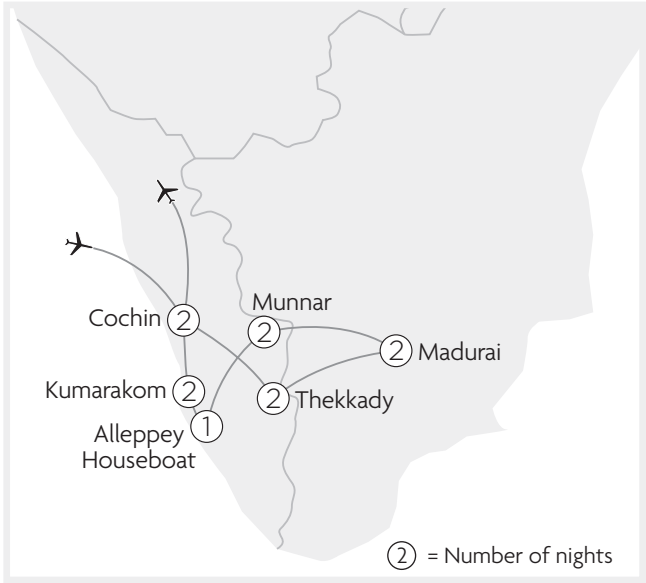


Splendours of Kerala

14 days from only £1,995 per person

Kerala is a tranquil region, boasting an enthralling history, serene backwaters, and opulent green-leaf tea plantations. Blessed with beautiful Arabian Sea coastline and an interior landscape dominated by the hills of the Western Ghats, Kerala is both stunning and captivating.

Our tour begins in colonial-tinged Cochin, where Chinese fishing nets sit alongside European-influenced architecture. Munnar follows with its spectacular location, in the verdant tea plantations of the Western Ghats, and a true highlight of the tour is an overnight stay on a traditional houseboat in Kerala's tranquil backwaters. With fascinating Meenakshi Temple, a cruise on Lake Vembanad and a relaxing Ayurveda massage all included, the Splendours of Kerala tour will provide you with a real appreciation of southern India.



Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Flights from Manchester Airport may be possible
- All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- UK Air Passenger Duty

Carefully selected hotels

- First class and deluxe hotels in great locations
- All hotel portorage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals worth £383 per person

- 11 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 11 dinners

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Cochin and Madurai
- Boat ride on Periyar Lake
- 'Going to Bed Ceremony' at Meenakshi Temple in Madurai
- Discover the tea-making process in Munnar
- Explore the Keralan backwaters on board a kettuvallam houseboat
- A relaxing sunset cruise on Lake Vembanad
- Rejuvenate with an Ayurveda body massage

On the ground

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

100% Confidence

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

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 44-47.



Meenakshi Temple, Madurai



Splendours of Kerala

Days 1 to 6: UK - Cochin - Thekkady - Madurai

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Manchester flights may also be available – please call for details. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Cochin, 2 nights

All flights will travel via Abu Dhabi. On arrival into Cochin, we transfer to the four star Trident Cochin Hotel for our first two nights in India. This evening, enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to learn more of our forthcoming travels. **In-flight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Cochin

Cochin, the colourful port city of Kerala, has been drawing travellers to its shores for over 600 years. We journey first to Mattancherry Palace, also known as the 'Dutch Palace', to admire its exquisite murals. Continue to enchanting Fort Cochin, where Chinese fishing nets line the shore and whose narrow lanes filled with colonial architecture are a delight to explore. This evening, experience a 2,000 year old traditional Kathakali dance performance. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Thekkady, 2 nights

This morning, we begin our scenic journey to Thekkady, home to the renowned Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. Enjoy two nights at the wonderful Spice Village Hotel, a lovely rustic eco-resort within a spice garden, overlooking the cool highlands of Periyar in Thekkady. This evening, enjoy a performance of Kalaripayattu – the oldest and most ancient form of Indian martial arts. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 5: Thekkady

Following breakfast, we explore a spice plantation, where the mystery and history of the Indian tea and spice industry will be revealed. Later, enjoy a tranquil cruise on Periyar Lake (subject to water levels) through the scenic Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, where the surrounding forests are thriving with a range of colourful birdlife and wildlife, including elephants and sambars. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Madurai, 2 nights

We leave Periyar behind and journey to Madurai, a lively and ancient city on the Vaigai River, in the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Home for the next two nights is the Gateway Hotel Pasumalai. Sitting at the top of the Pasumalai Hill and surrounded by 62 acres of spectacular scenic gardens, the hotel enjoys beautiful panoramic views of the famous Meenakshi Temple and Madurai City. This afternoon, we have the opportunity to relax within the grounds of our hotel, or venture into the city to explore. Our Distant Journeys Tour Manager will be on hand with advice on things to do. Following sunset, we experience the unforgettable 'Going to Bed Ceremony' at Madurai's famous Meenakshi Temple. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Tea plantation, Munnar

Splendours of Kerala

Days 7 to 11: Madurai - Munnar - Alleppey- Kumarakom

Day 7: Madurai

Tour Highlight

We begin our morning's sightseeing in the Old City of Madurai, including visits to the ornate facade, colonnades, shrines and towering gateways, known as Gopurams of Meenakshi Temple. We'll also experience traditional ceremonies, devotions, and the animated markets within the temple. Visit Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahall, a dazzling 17th-century palace erected in 1636 AD by King Tirumala Nayaka. Later, ride rickshaws to the local market of Madurai, and explore the quaint, narrow streets of this fascinating city. This afternoon is reserved for leisure, whether it be furthering your adventures through Madurai or relaxing by the hotel pool. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Munnar, 2 nights

Departing Madurai, we begin our spectacular drive high up into the Western Ghats mountain range. Part of India's Kerala state, our destination is the small town of Munnar, situated at 5,200ft above sea level and home to South India's largest tea-growing region. Our accommodation is the unique Tall Trees hotel, situated under 600 tall trees on 66 acres of unspoilt shola forest. The remainder of our day is at leisure to enjoy the stunning and peaceful surroundings of our hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Munnar

This morning, we visit a tea plantation and tea factory to experience the tea making process, including the intriguing process of segregating, drying and threshing. We later visit Tata Tea Museum, displaying machinery and photographic records of the integral part the tea industry has played in this captivating region. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Alleppey, Overnight

Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we say goodbye to Munnar, returning to the lowlands and towards the backwater canals of Kerala. We transfer to Alleppey Jetty for another of our tour's many incredible highlights. Here we board a traditional, thatch-roofed 'kettuvallam' houseboat for a lazy day cruise through a labyrinth of canals, waterways, coconut groves, rice fields, hidden temples and tiny islands. Enjoy the unique experience of a night aboard, enjoying lunch and dinner, and indulging ourselves in the soothing sights of the slowly passing, and distinctly beautiful, Keralan backwaters. This once in a lifetime experience is something you'll be reminiscing about for many years to come. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Day 11: Kumarakom, 2 nights

We wake to the stillness of Kerala's backwaters and continue to work our way through its labyrinth of canals until we reach Coconut Lagoon, our hotel for the next two nights. We enjoy two nights at Coconut Lagoon, which is perfectly situated on the edge of Vembanad Lake. This afternoon, we have the opportunity to explore our new surroundings as we please. Prior to dinner, enjoy a relaxing cruise in a beautifully restored kettuvallam, sailing to the middle of Lake Vembanad, to watch the sun go down. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Houseboat, Alleppey

We planned a holiday of a lifetime and Distant Journeys did not disappoint. From start to finish you could not fault them.

Mr & Mrs Harding, Manchester



Lake Vembanad



Backwaters of Alleppey

Splendours of Kerala

Days 12 to 14: Kumarakom - Cochin - UK

Day 12: Kumarakom

Ayurveda, which means the science of life, originated in India more than 5,000 years ago and is one of the world's oldest holistic medicines. Still a prominent practice in India to this day, today we will experience our own Ayurveda rejuvenation body massage at the hotel. The remainder of our day is free to spend as we please. Perhaps continue your adventure around Kumarakom, or take some time out to enjoy the calm surroundings of our hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: Depart India

Our day is free until we return to Cochin Airport in the afternoon for our overnight Etihad Airways flights. **Breakfast included**

Day 14: Arrive UK

Our flights travel via Abu Dhabi, and arrive into the United Kingdom this morning. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Why not visit the Golden Triangle too?



If you wish to experience sights such as the Taj Mahal and the stunning forts and palaces of Rajasthan, there are several Splendours of Kerala departure dates which may be combined with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore itinerary, found on pages 8-13.

Our 22-day combined tour is priced from only £3,190 per person.



Meenakshi Temple

Departure Dates & Prices

2021 Departures

18 November 2021* **£1,995** per person

2022 Departures

27 January 2022* **£1,995** per person

03 March 2022* **£1,995** per person

13 October 2022 **£2,095** per person

17 November 2022* **£2,095** per person

2023 Departures

26 January 2023* **£2,095** per person

02 March 2023* **£2,095** per person

*These dates can be combined with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour on pages 8-13. Prices from £3,190 per person.

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests **£695** per person

3-4 guests **£495** per person

5-9 guests **£295** per person

10-14 guests **£95** per person

15+ guests No extra charge

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

01 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 £645.

01 September 2022 – 31 August 2023 £695.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Etihad Airways upgrade to Business Class from £2,195 per person return.

Private touring

Guests choosing a private tour may select their own departure date. Please note, alternative airlines may be considered or further supplements may apply in certain periods when international flight prices are higher.

Visa information

An e-Tourist visa is required for travel to India. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 42-43.

Important information

Prices are subject to availability, but the correct price will always be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 44-47.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3710

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





Grand Tour of India

26 days from only £3,495 per person

Spend a little longer in India with Distant Journeys, and delve deeper into the heart of this mystical and mesmerising country, with our Grand Tour of India.

From the foothills of the Himalayas to the palm-fringed beaches of Kerala, our Grand Tour travels the length of this beautiful, complex country and explores in depth the places, people and cultures that define India. We visit shimmering temples and golden palaces, see snow-capped mountains and fragrant spice plantations, vibrant, colourful cities and silent, sleepy backwaters. Our Grand Tour also includes some very special experiences; a ride on the UNESCO Toy Train to Shimla, safaris in Ranthambore National Park and a night onboard a traditional Keralan houseboat.



Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Flights from Manchester Airport may be possible
- All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
- UK Air Passenger Duty

Carefully selected hotels

- First class and deluxe hotels in great locations
- All hotel portorage
- Applicable hotel taxes

Many meals worth £813 per person

- 23 breakfasts
- 7 lunches
- 23 dinners

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Shimla, Amritsar, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Mumbai and Cochin
- Travel to Shimla onboard the UNESCO Toy Train
- The Golden Temple of Amritsar
- Wagah-Attari border ceremony
- Visit the iconic Taj Mahal
- Naturalist tiger talk and safaris in Ranthambore National Park
- Experience dinner at a local family home in Jaipur
- Jeep ride and tour of Amber Fort, Jaipur
- Boat ride on Lake Pichola, Udaipur
- UNESCO World Heritage Site of Elephanta Caves, Mumbai
- Anglo-Indian cookery lesson, Cochin
- Explore the Keralan backwaters on board a kettuvallam houseboat

On the ground

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

100% Confidence

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

*For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 44-47.



Jama Masjid, Delhi



Toy Train to Shimla

Grand Tour of India

Days 1 to 6: UK - Delhi - Shimla - Amritsar

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Flights from Manchester may be possible, please call for details. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Delhi, 2 nights

After transiting in Abu Dhabi, we arrive into Delhi and transfer to the delightful heritage-styled Maidens Hotel. This evening, we will enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to become acquainted and learn more about our forthcoming adventures. **In-flight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Delhi

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing as we explore Old and New Delhi. Begin the day with a pleasant rickshaw ride through Old Delhi; travel via the lavish Red Fort – palace of the Mughal Empire. Visit Jama Masjid, India's largest and most spectacular mosque, and experience Chandni Chowk, the bustling and colourful market of the old city. We continue to New Delhi to visit the iconic India Gate and celebrated Parliament House, and continue to Humayun's Tomb. Our tour concludes at a UNESCO World Heritage Site and 13th century masterpiece, Qutub Minar – India's famed red sandstone and white marble minaret. This evening, we experience a culinary walk in Old Delhi, showcasing a range of authentic Dilli food bursting with all sorts of mouth-watering flavours. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Shimla, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we transfer to New Delhi Railway Station to board our train to Kalka. From Kalka, we board the UNESCO recognised Toy Train on its meandering journey through the foothills of the Himalayan Mountains towards Shimla, famed for being the summer retreat of the British colonial government in the 19th century. This distinctive train offers incomparable views of the surrounding landscapes. We spend our next two nights at the iconic Oberoi Cecil Hotel. Originally built in 1884, this beautiful grand heritage hotel continues to maintain its colonial charm and classic elegance. **Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included**

Day 5: Shimla

Our day begins with a visit to Kufri, a tiny hill station located near Shimla, renowned for its wonderful views and walking trails. Later we enjoy a leisurely walking tour around Shimla, witnessing heritage buildings including the Gaiety Theatre, a restored Gothic construction extraordinarily adorned with papier-mâché! Our tour also visits the General Post Office, and Viceregal Lodge, the most historically significant colonial building of the region, displaying incredible architecture. Later, we have the option to join the Sleeping Beauty Trail, where more of Shimla's history will be revealed. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Amritsar, 2 nights

Bidding farewell to magical Shimla we journey to Chandigarh in a series of smaller vehicles, which are best suited to the mountainous terrain. Following lunch in Chandigarh, we continue in the afternoon to the heritage city of Amritsar, where its magnificent Golden Temple and beautiful blend of culture, history and tradition await. Our hotel for the next two nights is the Radisson Blu hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Amber Fort, Jaipur



Ranthambore National Park

Grand Tour of India

Days 7 to 12: Amritsar - Agra - Ranthambore - Jaipur

Day 7: Amritsar

Tour Highlight

Undoubtedly our highlight today is a visit to the magnificent Golden Temple, one of the most spiritual places in India. We explore the complex, including the incredible community kitchens which produce up to 20,000 meals per day, all prepared by local volunteers. We continue to Jallianwala Bagh, a historic garden and memorial of great national importance. We also experience the Partition Museum - the world's first museum dedicated to the Partition of 1947, telling stories through oral histories, personal artefacts, letters, photographs, and original documents of the millions affected during the Partition. This afternoon we drive out to the India – Pakistan border. Here we shall enjoy a musical spectacular known as the beating retreat ceremony, featuring horses, canons, and the Massed Bands of the Household Division, who put on a mesmerising show that is bound to thrill! **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Agra, 2 nights

After breakfast, we travel to the airport and board our flight to Delhi. On arrival, we drive to Agra, home to the magnificent Taj Mahal. Our home for two nights is the conveniently located, first class Agra Trident Hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Agra

Tour Highlight

We start our day with a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, India's most iconic monument. The Taj Mahal is carved from stunning ivory-white marble and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Mughals were at the peak of their power and wealth during Shah Jahan's reign and it is believed that over 20,000 stone carvers, masons and artists were employed to build this monument to love and one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Later, we continue to Agra Fort, a commanding 16th-century red sandstone fortress. The remainder of the day is at leisure, to relax or explore Agra's many other delights. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Ranthambore, 2 nights

We depart Agra this morning bound for Ranthambore National Park. En route, we visit the famous Chand Baori Step Well, built over a thousand years ago. Enjoy lunch in the lush, rustic countryside setting of Umaid Lake Palace. Spread over 20 acres of leafy land, this organic retreat is a relaxing indulgence far from the bustle of the city, where we try our hand at cooking in its interactive kitchen. We continue to Ranthambore, and our home for the next two nights, the Ranthambore Kothi Hotel. This evening, we prepare for the exciting day ahead with a fascinating tiger talk by an expert local naturalist. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 11: Ranthambore

We begin the day with an early safari in Ranthambore National Park by shared canter vehicles. Ranthambore is one of the largest national parks in northern India, and renowned for its majestic Bengal tigers. We hope to witness these magnificent and elusive predators roaming in their natural habitat. Later this afternoon, join another safari in a different area of the park. Keep a look out for some of Ranthambore's other wildlife including crocodiles, sloth bears, monkeys, sambar deer, and over 250 species of bird, whilst taking in the stunning scenery. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 12: Jaipur, 2 nights

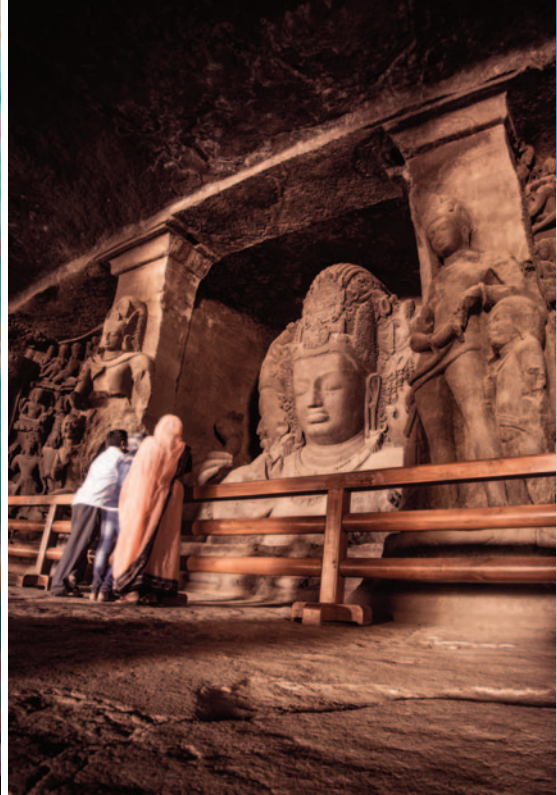
Enjoy a morning at leisure to spend as you please. After lunch we continue our journey to Jaipur, and the deluxe Trident Hotel. This evening enjoy a cooking demonstration and dinner at a local family home, providing a unique opportunity to experience traditional local life. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

From the moment we phoned and booked until departure, we received excellent and first class service. Nothing was too small or too large to deal with, they were superb.

Mr & Mrs Lamb, Cumbria



Taj Mahal, Agra



Elephanta Caves, Mumbai

Grand Tour of India

Days 13 to 18: Jaipur - Udaipur - Mumbai

Day 13: Jaipur

Our day begins as we travel by jeep to Amber Fort, one of the most celebrated forts in India, with astonishing beauty and charm. Whilst in Jaipur, we embark on further sightseeing, visiting the stunning City Palace, the famed astronomical architecture dating back to 1734, Jantar Mantar, and a drive past the distinctive Hawa Mahal, an extraordinary pink and red sandstone palace, widely known as the 'Palace of Winds.' This afternoon we shall visit the Bollywood Theatre, Raj Mandir Palace, considered the finest cinema hall in Jaipur, and famed for its opulent interiors.

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 14: Udaipur, 3 nights

This morning's flight is bound for Udaipur, the crown jewel in the state of Rajasthan, and commonly known as the 'City of Lakes'. Our home for the next three nights is the delightful Trident Hotel. Our afternoon and evening are left completely at leisure. Enjoy!

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 15: Udaipur

Sightseeing today includes the City Palace, Rajasthan's largest citadel; Jagdish Temple, a Hindu shrine dating back to 1651, and a drive around Fateh Sagar Lake and Sahelion-ki-Bari (the Queen's resort for her friends). Enjoy a vegetarian lunch of authentic local Mewari cuisine at the delightful Garden Restaurant. This evening enjoy a boat ride on Lake Pichola, whilst visiting Jag Mandir, the Lake Garden Palace. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 16: Udaipur Freedom Day

A full day at leisure to spend as we please. Our Distant Journeys Tour Manager will be on hand to provide advice on things to do, and to help book any excursions you may wish to experience. Perhaps join a guide on a visit to the home of a rare traditional artisan to understand and experience the vibrant and diverse world of textiles. Alternatively, you may prefer to meet the women of Sadna, in the village temple of Delwara, to learn first-hand how this extraordinary community of women have transformed the well-being of their society. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 17: Mumbai, 2 nights

This morning, we board our flight to Mumbai. On arrival we transfer to the five-star Trident Hotel, Nariman Point. This afternoon, we'll take a short tour of Mumbai, visiting Mani Bhawan, a museum dedicated to Gandhi, the Prince of Wales Museum, Victoria Terminus, over-air Laundromat, Dhobi Ghat and the iconic Gateway of India. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 18: Mumbai

Early risers may wish to take an optional pre-breakfast tour of Mumbai by Dawn, where we take a special peek into the underbelly of working Mumbai - an insight into what makes this magnificent city tick - in the company of an expert guide. Following breakfast, our included tour begins with a pleasant boat ride across the Bay of Mumbai to visit the Elephanta Caves, an intriguing UNESCO World Heritage Site dedicated to the Hindu God, Shiva. This afternoon offers opportunities for further exploration of Mumbai. Perhaps take an optional tour to the six-hundred-year-old Worli fishing village, a quintessential settlement of the original inhabitants of Mumbai. The highlight is venturing into Worli Fort, the stunning British watchtower overlooking the beautiful Arabian Sea. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Lake Pichola, Udaipur



Tea plantation, Kerala



Indian dosa



Houseboat, Alleppey

Grand Tour of India

Days 19 to 26: Cochin - Alleppey - Thekkady - UK

Day 19: Cochin, 2 nights

After a leisurely morning, we transfer to the airport and board our flight to Cochin. Cochin is the Malabar Coast's most historic port, and traditionally the place from where India's invaluable spices were shipped to Europe. On arrival we transfer to the charming Trident Cochin Hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 20: Cochin

Our tour of Cochin begins with a visit to see Mattancherry Palace's exquisite murals. We also experience the entrancing Fort Cochin, where Chinese fishing nets - vast cantilevered contraptions that still work to this day - line the shore. This evening we experience a show with a 2,000 year old history, during a traditional Kathakali dance performance. Later enjoy an Anglo-Indian cookery lesson and dinner at a local family house. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 21: Alleppey, Overnight Tour Highlight

Our travels today take us to Alleppey for one of the true highlights of our tour – an overnight experience on a traditional, thatch-roofed 'kettuvallam' houseboat. Journey through the Keralan backwaters with their labyrinth of canals, waterways, coconut groves, rice fields, hidden temples and tiny islands. This incredible adventure is one you will savour for many years to come! **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 22: Thekkady, 2 nights

We bid farewell to our houseboat and begin our scenic journey to Thekkady. As we traverse through the mountainous countryside of thick jungle and vast carpets of tea bushes, the aroma of spices fill the air. Later we arrive at our hotel, the wonderful Spice Village, located in a spice garden within the cool highlands of Periyar. This evening experience a traditional, ancient Indian martial arts performance, prior to dinner. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 23: Thekkady

This morning, we explore a spice plantation to discover the mysteries of the Indian tea and spice industry. After lunch we enjoy a tranquil lake cruise (subject to water levels) to take in the sights and sounds of the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. We keep our eyes peeled for elephants as well as sambars, nilgiri langur monkeys, and the 260 recorded species of birdlife. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 24: Cochin, Overnight

We return to the Trident Cochin, for our final night in India. Enjoy dinner as we bid farewell to our travelling companions of the last three and a half weeks. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 25: Depart India

A day of relaxation or a final opportunity for further exploration before we depart Cochin. Our flights are with Etihad Airways, and travel via Abu Dhabi. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 26: Arrive UK

We arrive home, bringing to an end our incredible adventure. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Departure Dates & Prices

2021 Departures

25 October 2021 **£3,495** per person

2022 Departures

14 February 2022 **£3,495** per person

07 March 2022 **£3,495** per person

24 October 2022 **£3,695** per person

2023 Departures

13 February 2023 **£3,695** per person

06 March 2023 **£3,695** per person

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests **£795** per person

3-4 guests **£495** per person

5-9 guests **£295** per person

10-14 guests **£95** per person

15+ guests No extra charge

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

01 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 £995.

01 September 2022 – 31 August 2023 £1,095.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Etihad Airways upgrade to Business Class from £2,195 per person return.

Private touring

Guests choosing a private tour may select their own departure date. Please note, alternative airlines may be considered or further supplements may apply in certain periods when international flight prices are higher.

Visa information

An e-Tourist visa is required for travel to India. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 42-43.

Important information

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Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 44-47.

Call to book

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Call FREE on 0800 141 3710

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

Should you prefer, please feel free to email us with your enquiry.

Email: enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk





The Very Best of Sri Lanka

17 days from only £2,295 per person

Sri Lanka is an irresistible destination. Lapped by the Indian Ocean, this tranquil island encompasses idyllic beaches, ancient ruins, verdant tea plantations and oodles of elephants.

Our Sri Lankan adventure begins in Colombo, the nation's lively capital and ends in the historic former Dutch town of Galle. In between, we explore the cultural triangle of Sri Lanka's interior, packed full of ancient ruins and sacred sites - the cave frescoes of Dambulla, the ancient site of Sigiriya, and the sacred Temple of the Tooth. We travel into the hills and tea plantations, see elephants in Minneriya National Park and search for leopards in Sri Lanka's most famous National Park, Yala.



Your holiday includes

Flights with leading scheduled airlines

- Return economy class flights with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow or Manchester
- 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 worth £491 per person

- 14 breakfasts
- 1 lunch
- 1 high tea
- 14 dinners

Unforgettable experiences

- Sightseeing tours in Colombo, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Galle
- Visit a remarkable charity-funded school
- UNESCO World Heritage Site of Polonnaruwa
- Safari in Minneriya National Park
- Explore the ancient site of Sigiriya
- View the caves and frescos of Dambulla
- Witness the 'Temple of the Tooth' ceremony, Kandy
- Tour the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kandy
- Visit a tea plantation in Nuwara Eliya
- Search for leopards on safari in Yala National Park
- Explore the old Dutch Fort of Galle

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 covered by our Covid Guarantee*
- Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 44-47.

Sigiriya

Dambulla Cave Temple

The Very Best of Sri Lanka

Days 1 to 7: UK - Colombo - Habarana - Polonnaruwa - Minneriya - Sigiriya - Kandy

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart London Heathrow or Manchester with Etihad Airways. All flights travel via Abu Dhabi, and no matter which airport you choose, there is no extra cost. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Colombo, 2 nights

On arrival we transfer to the iconic Kingsbury Hotel in Colombo, for our first two nights in Sri Lanka. This afternoon will be ours to spend at our leisure. Later, enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers, where we become better acquainted with our forthcoming adventures ahead. **In-flight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Colombo

Following breakfast, we take a sightseeing tour of Colombo, with its fascinating mix of cultures, religions and colonial influences. Visits this morning include the stately New and Old Parliament and Independence Square. We also visit the Pettah, a neighbourhood famed for open-air bazaars and markets, and the captivating architecture of Gangaramaya Temple. The remainder of our day is free to do as we please. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Habarana, 3 nights

We travel inland to Habarana where, on arrival, we visit an inspiring school project, which was established using charitable donations, and engage with the local school children. Afterwards, we travel to the Cinnamon Lodge Hotel, our home for the next three nights. Our fabulous hotel is surrounded by over 2000 trees that provide a home to serpent eagles, kingfishers and monkeys. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 5: Polonnaruwa and Minneriya National Park

This morning, we explore the medieval city of Polonnaruwa, a UNESCO World Heritage site. See the grand Royal Palace complex, including the majestic Kings Palace and Audience Hall. Also witness the spectacular Gal Vihare complex featuring four gigantic images of Buddha, cut from a single slab of granite - a dramatic highlight of ancient Sri Lankan rock carving. This afternoon, experience a game drive in either Minneriya or Kaudulla National Parks, both set in captivating Sri-Lankan countryside, where wild Asian elephants roam in abundance. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Sigiriya

Tour Highlight

We take an early breakfast before visiting the famous site of Sigiriya to discover its fascinating history. Surrounded by the remains of an extensive network of gardens, the most celebrated site is Sigiriya Rock with its flat-topped summit, some 200 metres above sea level, that contains the ruins of an ancient civilisation. The more adventurous and energetic amongst us will have the opportunity to climb to the summit, passing remarkable frescos and the famous 'Lion's Paws' along the way. On our free afternoon, we have the option to visit the ancient, Buddhist Mihintale Temple and monastery, and the Isurumuniya Temple, visit a local village and community, or simply relax in the surroundings of our hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 7: Kandy, 3 nights

This morning, we embark on our journey to the Last Kingdom of Sri Lanka, Kandy. En route we visit the Cave Temple of Dambulla, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This amazing complex of magnificent caves dates back to the 1st century BC. Later, we stop at the Sri Lankan Garden in the rural village of Matale, a working spice and fruit farm, to learn about the local trees and crops in the company of our host. Enjoy a traditionally-prepared rice and curry lunch, and continue to Kandy and the charming Cinnamon Citadel Hotel for our next three nights. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Tea plantation, Nuwara Eliya



Yala National Park

The Very Best of Sri Lanka

Days 8 to 11: Kandy - Nuwara Eliya

Day 8: Kandy

We begin our day with a visit to the sacred Temple of the Tooth, commonly known as "Sri Dalada Maligawa". A significant shrine for Buddhists worldwide, the temple holds the blessed tooth relic of the Lord Buddha himself. We arrive in time for the morning ceremony and have time to explore the temple grounds. Later, we journey to the elegant Royal Botanical Gardens. With origins dating back to 1371, and once reserved exclusively for Kandyan royalty, these stunning gardens boast some 150 acres of graceful trees, lawns and flowering shrubs. This evening, a cultural show awaits – a fascinating performance of traditional Sri Lankan dances. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Kandy Freedom Day

Enjoy a full day at leisure. Relax by the hotel pool, or perhaps hop on a tuk tuk and navigate the rural setting of Gampola to explore three lesser-known temples with a knowledgeable guide. Alternatively, trek through a nearby rainforest, rich in many species of birdlife, including Layard's Parakeet, Gold-Fronted, Blue-Winged leafbirds, and Spotted and Emerald Doves. You may prefer to visit Bhikkhuni Monastery, where you may learn the history of Buddhist nuns and meet a bhikkuni who will describe the ordained life. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Nuwara Eliya, 2 nights

Today, we journey towards the cooler climates of Sri Lanka's hill country. For those of us who wish to experience the journey by rail, there is an opportunity (at a small extra cost and subject to availability) to join a local train and travel through an idyllic panorama of forests, villages, tea estates and waterfalls. We arrive into Nuwara Eliya, which retains a colonial ambiance with its gentlemen's clubs and mock-Tudor buildings. Enjoy a brief city tour, before arriving at the Jetwing St Andrew's Hotel, offering scenic views of the surrounding countryside. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Nuwara Eliya

Sri Lanka is recognised as one of the finest tea producers in the world, and today we learn about the region's tea plantations. During our tour, we explore a vibrant tea plantation and discover the leaf-picking process. We visit the plantation's factory and learn about rolling and drying the tea, as well as the art of tea tasting. Later, we conclude our day dedicated to Sri Lanka's tea production in the best possible way, with a fabulous high tea. **Breakfast, high tea and dinner included**

We recommend

Kandy to Nuwara Eliya by train

Described as one of the most scenic train rides in the world.



Temple of the Tooth, Kandy

Always a friendly voice answering the phone with good knowledge. I would (and do) recommend Distant Journeys for their meticulous planning and dependable service.

Mrs Semple, Avon



Yala National Park



Tuk Tuk



Galle

The Very Best of Sri Lanka

Days 12 to 17: Yala - Galle - UK

Day 12: Yala, 2 nights

After breakfast, we leave the hill country behind. As we descend, we travel through local villages dotted on the mountainside. Marvel at the vistas of tea plantations, forests and waterfalls in an area blessed with some of the most beautiful views in Sri Lanka. This afternoon, we visit the Elephant Transit Home, a wonderful facility which rehabilitates orphaned baby elephants with a view to releasing them back into the wild. Later, we arrive at the stunning Jetwing Yala Hotel, our home for the next two nights. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: Yala

We have an early start this morning as we venture into the scenic Yala National Park, the second largest national park in Sri Lanka. Yala is home to an eclectic array of wildlife including elephants, bears, crocodiles and wild boars. Whilst elusive, the park also boasts the world's highest concentration of leopards per square kilometre and provides the best opportunity to spot this majestic animal. Our afternoon has been left at leisure to enjoy our hotel, or should we wish, maybe further explore Yala National Park, during an optional afternoon safari. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 14: Galle, 2 nights

Following breakfast, we say goodbye to Yala and travel towards Galle, a striking and historic city on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka. The main maritime port for the country for more than 200 years, Galle is famous for its Dutch fort with its colonial buildings, stylish cafés and quirky boutique shops. We take a brief sightseeing tour before arriving at the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel, sat impressively atop a hillock, overlooking the sapphire waters of the Indian Ocean. This unique hotel was built by the renowned architect Geoffrey Bawa, and inspired by Dutch colonial design. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 15: Galle Freedom Day

With so much on offer, today's Freedom Day is the perfect opportunity to explore this fascinating region in a way that suits you. For those happy with an early start, there is the option to take a whale watching cruise, in search of the magnificent blue whale. For the adventurous amongst us, we can take a tuk tuk safari - a fun-filled 'off the beaten track' adventure to explore lesser known areas of Galle. Alternatively, discover how to paint traditional Sri Lankan masks with help from a renowned artist or learn to cook like a local. For a more relaxing day, be sure to take advantage of the many facilities our hotel has to offer, including spa treatments and two outdoor swimming pools. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 16: Depart Sri Lanka

All good things must come to an end. Nevertheless, we have our final day at leisure including complimentary late check-out, allowing us to further explore the area of Galle, or enjoy one last relaxing day by the poolside to recharge our batteries and freshen up before our evening flight. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 17: Arrive UK

All flights travel via Abu Dhabi. This morning, we arrive into London Heathrow or Manchester, as our Sri Lankan adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Safari camp experience

2 nights from £395 per person



For those wanting to get closer to nature, there is the opportunity to spend two nights in one of Sri Lanka's amazing safari camps. Set in remarkable locations, you'll enjoy two safari drives into lesser known areas of Yala and all meals, along with alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Please call for details.

Departure Dates & Prices

2022 Departures

24 January 2022	£2,295 per person
07 February 2022	£2,295 per person
07 March 2022	£2,295 per person

2023 Departures

23 January 2023	£2,395 per person
06 February 2023	£2,395 per person
06 March 2023	£2,395 per person

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	£395 per person
3-4 guests	£295 per person
5-9 guests	£195 per person
10-14 guests	£95 per person
15+ guests	No extra charge

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

01 September 2021 – 31 August 2022 £545.
01 September 2022 – 31 August 2023 £595.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Etihad Airways upgrade to Business Class from £2,495 per person return.

Private touring

Guests choosing a private tour may select their own departure date. Please note, alternative airlines may be considered or further supplements may apply in certain periods when international flight prices are higher.

Visa information

An e-Tourist visa is required for travel to Sri Lanka. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 42-43.

Important information

Prices are subject to availability, but the correct price will always be confirmed before you book.

Full Terms & Conditions are available on pages 44-47.

Call to book

Our award-winning travel experts are happy to answer any questions you may have, and to help you book your holiday with Distant Journeys.

Call FREE on 0800 141 3710

Monday - Friday 9.00am - 5.30pm **Saturday** 9.00am - 5.00pm
Sunday Open in peak season. See website for details.

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



India Hotel Directory



Agra - Trident Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Trident Hotel has been designed to reflect the region. Its local red stone and white-washed buildings are surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens and a central courtyard. Bedrooms are bright and overlook the gardens or pool area. Dining here is a lovely experience, with an al fresco Italian restaurant, and authentic Indian and Asian cuisine served in the main restaurant.



Alleppey - Houseboat

With their distinctive thatched roofs and wooden hulls, the kettuvallam, or houseboat, is a familiar sight on the Kerala backwaters. Our houseboats are modern with air-conditioning, en suite bathrooms and comfortable furnishings. The dining experience is one of the most memorable and enjoyable parts of the whole trip. Fresh fish is bought from local vendors along the canals, and the vegetables and fruits you find on your plate are either grown on the farm itself or sourced from the local villages.



Amritsar - Radisson Blu

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Radisson Blu Hotel is an oasis of calm amid the bustling city of Amritsar. The hotel's features include a choice of dining options, an outdoor pool and a fitness centre, and free Wi-Fi. Hotel rooms are stylish, spacious and comfortable with every modern amenity and boast views of the verdant lawns and gardens surrounding the property.



Cochin - Trident Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Blending modern facilities with classic style, the Trident Hotel's bedrooms are well-appointed with contemporary comforts, and large picture windows. The Trident Spa offers rejuvenating therapies and a specialist Ayurvedic centre. Energise with a few laps in the outdoor swimming pool or relax in the hotel's beautiful gardens. Travancore Restaurant serves local cuisine as well as Italian pizzas, pastas and risottos.



Delhi - Novotel New Delhi Aerocity Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Novotel New Delhi Aerocity is a modern hotel with spacious and contemporary air-conditioned bedrooms. Guests can take advantage of In Balance, the Novotel Aerocity's fully-equipped health club. Food Exchange is the hotel's signature restaurant, serving Indian, Asian and European flavours coupled with a stylish ambience and Quoin, a casual, relaxed sports bar.



Delhi - Maidens Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Maidens Hotel was built in 1903 to host the attending dignitaries during the 1903 Delhi Durbar, and still retains its colonial charm and elegance. Peacocks roam the hotel's lush gardens, and there is an outdoor pool and fitness centre. Bedrooms combine traditional colonial architecture with modern facilities. The Curzon Room serves an à la carte menu of finest Indian cuisine.



Goa - Zuri White Sands

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Zuri White Sands Resort is set in 38 acres of landscaped gardens on Varca Beach. The resort features spacious guest rooms, a large swimming pool and a variety of dining options ranging from Pan Asian to delicious local Goan cuisine. The elegantly furnished, cool and spacious rooms each have a private balcony overlooking either the pool or the lush gardens.



Jaipur - Trident Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

With décor inspired by the city's rich cultural heritage, the hotel perfectly combines classic charm with modern conveniences. Dining options include the award-winning Jal Mahal restaurant serving authentic Rajasthani delights, and the Grills by the Pool restaurant which serves unique Indian dishes served straight from the open grill.



Kumarakom - Coconut Lagoon

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Situated in the heart of Kerala, Coconut Lagoon is an idyllic resort only accessible by water. Accommodation is in individually designed bungalows, built with traditional materials. The al fresco restaurant serves Kerala cuisine, with an emphasis on freshly-caught fish and the region's signature ingredient, the coconut.



Madurai - The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Gateway Hotel Pasumalai is a former colonial residence set in 62 acres of lush, landscaped gardens. Hotel rooms are stylish and contemporary, and the extensive grounds are centred around a palm-shaded swimming pool. The spa and wellness centre offers Ayurvedic treatments and holistic therapies. VISTA restaurant is open all day with a huge choice of South Indian and international favourites always available.



Munnar - The Tall Trees

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Tall Trees is a haven of tranquillity set in 66 acres of thickly-forested woodland, surrounded by the rolling hills and tea plantations of Munnar. Accommodation is in private cottages built on stilts, with Kerala décor blended with modern facilities and a private balcony looking out onto the tall trees and distant hills of the Western Ghats. Enjoy Kerala specialities and continental favourites in Hill Spice Restaurant.



Mumbai - Trident Hotel, Nariman Point

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Located in the heart of Mumbai. Guest rooms are given character by locally-created artworks, and the hotel's pool boasts views across Marine Drive to the Arabian Sea beyond. International cuisine is served at the hotel's restaurants and the Opium Den bar is an atmospheric venue for an evening drink.



Ranthambore - Ranthambore Kothi

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Surrounded by lush green forests, the Ranthambore Kothi offers deluxe hotel rooms themed in the style of colonial bungalows with private balcony to enjoy the wonderful views. Daavat Restaurant serves both South Indian specialities and international classics and its outdoor tables, set under the palm trees, make for a memorable dining experience amid the sounds of the surrounding forests and the lotus-scented air.



Shimla - The Oberoi Cecil

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Oberoi Cecil is a Shimla landmark, exuding colonial charm and classic elegance unchanged throughout its long history. A warm welcome awaits in the grand atrium lobby, with its glowing fireplaces and stunning mountain views. Hotel rooms are beautifully furnished with Burma teak flooring and modern facilities. The Restaurant is open for all-day dining and serves everything from continental breakfast to Pan-Asian and local specialities.



Thekkady - Spice Village Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

An award-winning boutique hotel located in a spice garden in the cool highlands of Periyar. Spice Village's cottages are simply furnished with cool, naturally lit rooms and private porches. All food is locally sourced within a 50-mile radius of the resort, and a swimming pool invites you in to relax in its cool waters after a day's sightseeing.



Udaipur - Trident Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Trident Hotel sits in splendour on the shores of Lake Pichola with the Aravalli mountain range as its backdrop. The Trident's hotel rooms offer modern comforts and amenities, but also showcase the architectural heritage of Udaipur. Aravalli is the hotel's main restaurant and serves authentic dishes, Western, Asian and Pan-Indian dishes to suit every taste.



Varanasi - The Taj Ganges Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Taj Ganges Hotel is a peaceful getaway spread over 42 acres of lush, tropical gardens. Guest rooms are spacious and well-equipped, with warm wooden flooring and air conditioning. Leisure facilities include a gym and large outdoor swimming pool. Chowk Restaurant serves international, Indian and Pan-Asian cuisines, or for something special, reserve a table at Varuna, the Gateway Ganges' signature restaurant.

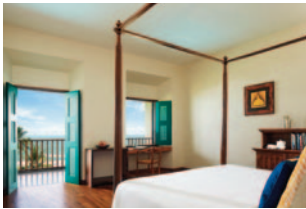
Sri Lanka Hotel Directory



Colombo - Kingsbury Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Kingsbury Hotel, regarded as one of the best hotels in Colombo, is located between Galle Face Green and the World Trade Centre. Superior rooms are contemporary in design with chic décor and amenities. The spacious swimming pool is the perfect place to enjoy a dip after a day of sightseeing. Kingsbury Hotel has seven restaurants and bars, serving dishes from around the world.



Galle - Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Boasting beautiful views of the vast Indian Ocean, the Jetwing Lighthouse Hotel is set on a hilltop just outside the historic city of Galle. The luxury hotel rooms all have either a private balcony or terrace. Leisure facilities include a gym, a floodlit tennis court, two magnificent swimming pools and a blissful spa. By night, the Cinnamon Room is the go-to venue for signature seafood delicacies and locally-sourced Sri Lankan specialities.



Habarana - Cinnamon Lodge

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Cinnamon Lodge Habarana is surrounded by over 2000 trees, home to so much wildlife including serpent eagles, kingfishers and monkeys. The hotel's superior rooms enjoy a living area and terrace or balcony. The Cinnamon Lodge's restaurant serves the most delightful Sri Lankan cuisine, with ingredients sourced from their farm. The tranquil outdoor swimming pool is the perfect place to relax and unwind.



Kandy - Cinnamon Citadel Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

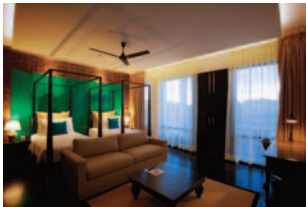
Situated in the hills above Kandy the Cinnamon Citadel Hotel is a wonderful place to relax after a day of sightseeing. This hotel has an outdoor pool and its bedrooms are a unique blend of comfort and historic heritage. Panorama, the hotel restaurant, has an elaborate choice of Thai, Chinese, French, Italian and Indian cuisines for you to enjoy.



Nuwara Eliya - Jetwing St Andrew's Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Jetwing St Andrew's is a restored Georgian style country mansion, combining all the pleasures of country living with a contemporary Sri Lankan touch. The guest rooms at Jetwing St. Andrew's offer a reassuring combination of old world charm and modern amenities. The Old Course Restaurant has a nostalgic atmosphere and is the ideal venue to savour an array of local and international dishes.



Yala - Jetwing Yala Hotel

Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Jetwing Yala Hotel extends over 38 acres between the Indian Ocean and Yala National Park. Each hotel room boasts an open-air balcony or terrace. The hotel enjoys direct beach access and a host of leisure options. The Restaurant at Jetwing Yala serves an array of local and international delicacies, whilst The Beach Bar is the ideal place to enjoy a drink just a few feet away from the deep blue waters of the Indian Ocean.

Our Airline Partner

Fly with an award-winning scheduled airline

Distant Journeys appreciate how important it is to make sure your holiday starts and ends in the best possible way. Our award-winning airline partner offers quality and comfort in Economy Class cabins, which are all the more important when travelling to long-haul destinations.

Why not make your holiday even more memorable with a flight upgrade? With priority check-in, lounge access and spacious comfortable seats, it will take your flying experience to a new level of comfort and service.



Economy Class

Experience the comfort of flying with an award-winning airline. Sit back and relax in Etihad's spacious Economy Class, which has a typical seat pitch of 32". Seats are comfortable and come equipped with USB charging points, adjustable device holders, full-size blankets and plenty of space. Experience the latest entertainment, including live sports and news channels and the finest onboard dining.



Upgrade to Business Class from £2,195 return

Take time for yourself in an Etihad lounge, use the fast-track priority boarding, then relax into your seat, that you can customise for every stage of your journey, including a fully-flat bed. Noise-cancelling headsets allow you to escape to a world of entertainment and dine at any time you choose.

What's included in Business Class:

- Priority check-in
- Lounge access
- 6ft 8" fully-flat beds*
- Direct aisle access at every seat
- Privacy dividers
- 18-inch touch-screen TV with noise-cancelling headset
- Power sockets and USB ports at every seat
- Food and Beverage Manager to guide you through the menu
- Dine Anytime menus – eat whenever you like
- The latest movies, TV shows, music and games
- Seven channels of live news and sport

Important information: Please note all prices are supplements to the individual tour price. All prices shown are subject to availability of flights in the lowest available booking class and may change. The correct price will always be confirmed before you book. Images shown are representative of the product and may vary dependent on the aircraft type. * Seat pitch is dependent on the aircraft type.

Important Information

We recommend that you read our Important Information, together with our Terms & Conditions before booking your holiday.

Entry requirements
The following information on entry requirements, passports and visas is for British Citizens only. Any visa information covers visa requirements for the duration our tour stays in any given country. If you intend to stay longer you should seek additional information before booking.

Holders of a British Subject passport, non-British citizens and holders of a passport endorsed in any way should check immigration requirements with the relevant embassy or consulate of the country to be visited, as should clients with dual nationality or renounced citizenship.

It is important to recognise that whilst the information below is correct at the time we go to print, all requirements may change and all clients must check the up to date position in good time before departure with the Embassy or consulate of the country(ies) you are travelling through and to.

Passports
A valid ten-year British passport is required for all our holidays, valid for a minimum of six months after your return date to the UK. If you are not currently in possession of a valid passport please make sure you leave plenty of time before your holiday to apply for this document.

A full British passport presently takes approximately two to six weeks to obtain. If you are 16 or over and have not yet arranged a passport, you should apply for one at least six weeks before your departure from the UK. The UK Passport Service has to confirm an applicant's identity before issuing their first passport and will ask them to attend an interview in order to do this. Please note, if you need to apply for visas after you receive your new passport, you will need to factor in additional time for this.

For more information on passport and entry requirements please visit the Government Passport Office website, or see our website for more details.

Visas
Both India and Sri Lanka require British Citizens to obtain a visa before travelling.

Country	Visa required	Cost
India	Yes	USD \$25 – 30 days
Sri Lanka	Yes	USD \$35

Applying for your visa
The below information provides guidance on how to apply for your visa. Alternatively, you may prefer to use a visa agency to help you obtain your visa and we recommend The Travel Visa Company, <https://thetravelvisacompany.co.uk/> We also suggest referring to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> for up-to-date entry requirements

India
You are required to obtain an e-Tourist Visa (e-TV) before travelling. You can apply online for your visa within 30 days of travel on the government of India's e-Tourist Visa website, www.indianvisaonline.gov.in/evisa/tvoa.html Your visa is valid for 30 days from the date of entry. You must have applied for your visa no later than four days before you depart.

Sri Lanka
You are required to obtain an ETA Tourist Visa before travelling to Sri Lanka. You can apply online for your visa within 90 days of travel on the government of Sri Lanka's e-Tourist Visa website www.eta.gov.lk

Health & vaccinations
Health facilities, hygiene and disease risks vary worldwide and may change at any time. You should take health advice from your GP or local travel clinic about your specific needs as early as possible and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough (which may be a month or more prior to departure) to be fully effective by the date of travel.

We also suggest referring to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website, <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice> and the NHS Travel Vaccinations website, <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations/>

Travel insurance
We highly recommend that you take out sufficient and appropriate travel insurance. We recommend you do this at the time of booking so that in the event of cancellation, providing it is covered by your policy, your deposit (less any applicable excess) is protected. Distant Journeys work alongside Staysure to offer you a range of comprehensive single trip and annual multi-trip insurance policies.

Staysure™

Distant Journeys customers will benefit from a 15% saving on the base premium of Annual-Multi Trip or Single Trip policies booked through our insurance partner Staysure. For a no obligation quotation, call Staysure on Freephone 0800 652 1125, and quote reference DJ15 to be eligible for the 15% saving. Alternatively, visit our website [distantjourneys.co.uk/insurance/](https://www.distantjourneys.co.uk/insurance/)

Medication and pre-existing conditions
If you have any pre-existing medical conditions or walking difficulties, you should inform us at the time of booking. It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you are carrying is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking or travelling. Always carry medicines in their original, labelled packaging and in your hand-luggage along with a copy of your prescription. Whilst we recommend only carrying enough for the duration of your time away, a small spare supply can be useful. Check that the expiry dates of your medicines will be valid for the duration of your visit abroad.

Mobility on tour
Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. Due to the limited accessibility to many of the sights and restrictions on included activities such as the houseboat in Alleppey and the safari jeeps in Sri Lanka, our tours to India and Sri Lanka are not suitable for wheelchair bound customers or customers with restricted walking abilities. If you are in any doubt of the suitability of any of our tours, or have reduced mobility in any way, it is essential you discuss this with us before making a booking.

Travel documents
On payment of a deposit, your holiday is confirmed and we will send you your confirmation email. It is important you check this email as soon as you receive it. Check the tour name and departure date is correct, check names exactly match your passport and familiarise yourself with the times of your flights. If anything is incorrect, please call us immediately. Your full travel documents which include electronic tickets, a final itinerary, luggage labels and holiday information booklet will be sent to you approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your departure.

Weather
Generally, all our tours travel when it is considered the best time to travel for the local climate, however it is important to note that both India and Sri Lanka cover different climate zones within their respective countries. This means climates will vary between north, south, east and west of both countries. It is also important to recognise that weather patterns around the world are becoming less predictable and the information we provide should be used as a guide only and is no guarantee of the weather at the time you travel. We also recommend checking up-to-date weather forecasts before you travel.

India
With a country this size, it is no surprise that India's weather is extremely varied across the different states. Generally, the best time to travel is between October and March, when the weather is more likely to be warm, sunny, and dry, although you can expect to experience a cooler, less humid climate in locations such as Shimla or Munnar due to their higher altitude locations.

Sri Lanka
Sri Lanka has wide variations in climate, although the best time to visit the west and south coasts as well as the Cultural Triangle is between December and April. Whilst showers can occur at any time, you should see lots of warmth and sunshine along the coast. Expect a cooler climate around the high altitude hill tea plantations.

Clothing
Dress for our tours is generally relaxed and informal during the day, dressing to suit the weather conditions and the activity you are undertaking. Evening dinners are also informal, with smart casual dress being the norm.

It's likely there will be occasions when exploring you'll be walking on uneven surfaces, so we recommend sturdy and comfortable walking shoes. Wearing layers of clothing means it's much easier to deal with potentially varied weather conditions – remember it will be cooler at higher altitudes - and it's always advisable to carry a waterproof. We would also recommend taking good insect repellent, a high factor sun-screen lotion and a hat for protection from the sun.

Both India and Sri Lanka adopt a very conservative standard of dress and we suggest dressing modestly. When visiting sacred places, it is recommended that arms and legs are covered. Women may also wish to take a shawl to cover their shoulders and all visitors should wear long trousers, or skirts or shorts that reach below the knee. Taking off your shoes is also a prerequisite before entering many sacred places – a pair of spare socks come in very handy!

Country	Currency	Additional Information
India	Indian Rupee	Cash withdrawals are limited to R10,000 (approx. £110) per day and you cannot obtain Indian currency before arrival in the country. There are occasional problems withdrawing cash from ATMs, so it's worth taking some sterling or US dollars that can be changed locally at money exchanges.
Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan Rupee	You cannot obtain Sri Lankan Rupee before arrival in the country. Opportunities for cash withdrawals from ATMs are limited and restricted to daily limits ranging between Rs40,000 and Rs60,000 (approx. £148 and £220). We recommend taking some sterling or US dollars that can be exchanged locally in Sri Lanka at local money exchanges.

- No matter which country you are travelling to please take note of the following general advice;
- ATMs are generally available in major cities, less so in rural areas.
 - Credit cards are generally widely accepted in the majority of hotels, cruises, larger international restaurants and shops, although be aware credit card payments may incur an additional fee.
 - If purchasing small items or purchasing from local shops, restaurants and markets, local currency is always recommended.
 - Outside of major cities, with the exception of hotels, local currency is always recommended.
 - If you are planning to use your debit or credit card whilst travelling, advise your bank of your travel plans in advance so you do not encounter potential problems when trying to withdraw cash or make a payment.
 - When you change money, ask for some small bills and keep these, along with coins separate from the larger ones, so that they're readily accessible. Carrying small notes and coins separately is also handy for tipping.
 - It is always worth carrying a small amount of UK Sterling or US Dollars as these can always be readily exchanged.
 - Keep your exchange receipts as these may be needed if you want to exchange any remaining currency you have at the end of your trip.

Currency, or travel cards are a popular way of buying currency for your holiday. You can pre-load these before leaving the UK and many also offer advantageous exchange rates. If travelling to multiple countries, different currencies can be loaded and used for card payments or ATM cash withdrawals. We recommend two companies who offer different types of currency card. The Revolut card offers 150 currencies and enjoys favourable exchange rates, making it a perfect card to use for any card payments, such as hotels and restaurants. You can withdraw cash from ATMs whilst abroad, but there is a limit of £200 per month, before paying a 2% fee. For ATM cash withdrawals, we recommend using the Caxton currency card. This card has the advantage of no overseas ATM fees, meaning you can make unlimited withdrawals whilst on holiday. For further benefits on using currency cards, more information on both companies and relevant website links, please visit www.distantjourneys.co.uk.

Tipping
Tipping varies vastly from country to country. In places like India and Sri Lanka, where wages are low, tipping is greatly appreciated.

If you have received great service from your Tour Manager, guides or driver you may wish to tip them for their service. We are frequently asked for guidance on this and would suggest a minimum of £2-£3 per person, per guide and per driver per touring day, dependent on your level of satisfaction.

Baggage allowance
You're entitled to carry one suitcase per person with the total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 160cm (63 inches) and weight 20kg (44lbs). Please be aware that in most instances, this will be less than the airlines' permitted allowance. Luggage is restricted to accommodate for coach capacity, domestic flights and where applicable local health and safety laws. You must ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried.

Personal and valuable items such as cameras, medication, money / credit cards etc. should be carried in a travel bag or on your person.

Airline seats
With many airlines you can pre-book your seats prior to check in to give you a wider choice of seat selection. Please note, many airlines now charge for this service. Pre-selected seating is not guaranteed and can be charged at the airlines discretion.

Domestic flights
All domestic flights within our tours are booked on a group basis. Your tour manager will fully assist with the check-in process for these flights.

Freedom Days
During your tour, you can book a range of additional optional excursions and activities. These are at an additional cost, subject to availability and seasonal operations, and may be subject to minimum/maximum numbers. Where possible we allow for these to be booked locally with your Tour Manager or local guide, however, in some instances pre-booking will be required. When booking locally, in some countries these excursions can only be paid for in cash.

Details on the Freedom Day experiences available for your tour, along with costs and information on how to book, may be found on our website alongside the itineraries of each individual tour.

Public holidays
On occasions some of our tours may be travelling during National or Public Holidays, some of which are religious. In some instances, this can mean a limitation of services, or reduced opening hours for shops and restaurants. Alternatively, it may mean that some attractions are much busier than normal. For more detailed information, please refer to the Distant Journeys website.

Seat rotation on coaches
On group tours we offer a fair system of seat rotation to allow all passengers to experience a variety of views. Exceptions cannot be made to this policy.

Smoking
Smoking, including electronic cigarettes, is not allowed at any time onboard our coaches or any flight. Within hotels, smoking and the use of electronic cigarettes may be restricted to designated areas. We'll endeavour to ensure there are frequent stops on any coach trip, however we can't guarantee smoking facilities will always be available. It is also worth noting some countries are beginning to ban the use of electronic cigarettes. We recommend you check for up-to-date information before you travel.

Tour Manager
An experienced English-speaking Tour Manager` accompanies every tour. They are there to ensure your comfort, answer your questions and make your holiday relaxed and memorable. `On Private Tours, you will receive the services of a driver(s) and local guides, or a driver guide, as appropriate.

Travel extras
Distant Journeys offer you a range of travel extras – from airport transfers, or airport parking and hotels, to security fast track and airport lounges. For more information and prices on the range of extras available to book, please visit the Distant Journeys website.

Further information
The information provided here is as a general guide only. For more detailed information please refer to our FAQ section on our website www.distantjourneys.co.uk

Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements 2018

Part 1: General
The combination of travel services offered to you is a package within the meaning of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018. Therefore you will benefit from all EU rights applying to the packages. We, Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY, will be fully responsible for the proper performance of the package as a whole. Additionally, as required by law, we have protection in place to refund your payments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that we become insolvent.

Part 2: Key rights under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018

- Travellers will receive all essential information about the package before concluding the package travel contract.
- There is always at least one trader who is liable for the proper performance of all the travel services included in the contract.
- Travellers are given an emergency telephone number or details of a contact point where they can get in touch with the organiser or the travel agent.
- Travellers may transfer the package to another person, on reasonable notice and possibly subject to additional costs.
- The price of the package may only be increased if specific costs rise (for instance fuel prices), and if expressly provided for in the contract, and in any event not later than 20 days before the start of the package. If the price increase exceeds 8% of the price of the package, the traveller may terminate the contract. If the organiser reserves the right to a price increase, the traveller has a right to a price reduction if there is a decrease in the relevant costs.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee and get a full refund of any payments if any of the essential elements of the package, other than the price, has changed significantly. If before the start of the package the trader responsible for the package cancels the package, travellers are entitled to a refund and compensation where appropriate.
- Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee before the start of the package in the event of exceptional circumstances, for instance if there are serious security problems at the destination which are likely to affect the package.
- Additionally, travellers may at any time before the start of the package terminate the contract in return for an appropriate and justifiable termination fee.
- If, after the start of the package, significant elements of the package cannot be provided as agreed, suitable alternative arrangements will have to be offered to the traveller at no extra cost. Travellers may terminate the contract without paying any termination fee, where services are not performed in accordance with the contract and this substantially affects the performance of the package and the organiser fails to remedy the problem.
- Travellers are also entitled to a price reduction or compensation for damages or both where the travel services are not performed or are improperly performed.
- The organiser has to provide assistance if the traveller is in difficulty.
- If the organiser becomes insolvent, payments will be refunded. If the organiser becomes insolvent after the start of the package and if transport is included in the package, repatriation of the travellers is secured. Distant Journeys Limited has taken out insolvency protection for flight-only booking and flight inclusive packages by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 10913, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk. For package holidays which don't include flights, Distant Journeys provides full financial protection by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency. You may contact ABTOT'S 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company. Travellers may contact this entity if services are denied because of Distant Journeys Limited's insolvency. Please see our Booking Conditions for further information.

Part 3: The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 can be found here:
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents/made> as amended
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/1367/contents/made>

Terms & Conditions

1. Important

The following Terms & Conditions together with our Privacy Policy, the general information contained in our tour brochure and any other written information we brought to your attention before we confirmed your booking form the basis of your contract with Distant Journeys Limited, a company registered in England with company number 08994196 and registered office at 8 Hattersley Court, Ormskirk, Lancashire, L39 2AY (“we”, “us”, “our”). Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. In these Terms & Conditions references to “you” and “your” include the first named person on the booking and all persons on whose behalf a booking is made or any other person to whom a booking is added or transferred.

Except where otherwise stated, these Terms & Conditions only apply to the tour arrangements shown in our brochure (including accommodation required both before and after your main holiday and activities and other services) which you book with us and pay for before departure from the UK and which we agree to make, provide or perform (as applicable) as part of our contract with you.

All references in these Terms & Conditions to “holiday”, “booking”, “tour” or “arrangements” mean such tour arrangements unless otherwise stated. All bookings are made pursuant to these Terms & Conditions. **Please be aware that your deposit is non-refundable, (unless stated otherwise in our Covid-19 Guarantee, see clause 11).**

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

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

2. In these Terms & Conditions

- Unless these Terms & Conditions state otherwise, any reference to European Union law and/or International Conventions in these Terms & Conditions, that is directly applicable or directly effective in the United Kingdom is a reference to how it applies in England and Wales. This includes where the law has been retained, amended, extended, re-enacted or given effect on or after 11pm on 31st January 2020 (including the transition period).
- “Force Majeure” means any event which we or the supplier of the service(s) in question could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events are likely to include, but are not limited to (whether actual or threatened) war, terrorism, fire, chemical or biological disaster, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination, epidemics, plagues or pandemics (including, but not limited to the ongoing effects of Covid-19 and/or any other strain of the coronavirus) or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination or remain at the travel destination, loss of power, epidemics or pandemics, industrial disputes, slow-downs or other strike activities, riots or civil disturbances, acts of government, government agencies or other authorities, inability to obtain any necessary licence or consent through no fault of ours and any other event or circumstances beyond the control of us or any supplier of any part of your tour.

Brexit implications; please note that certain travel arrangements may be affected as a result of the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union. This could include an unavailability of certain flight routes, access to certain ports and airports and changes to the visa requirements of British citizens travelling to, within or through the EU. Please rest assured that this is something we will continue to monitor and will advise our customers as soon as possible if we become aware of any confirmed bookings that will be affected. However, since this is something which is completely unprecedented and outside our control, we would treat any such changes as Force Majeure, and whilst we will endeavour to provide suitable alternative arrangements or refunds where possible, we will not be liable to pay you any compensation.

3. Fitness to travel, disabilities and medical problems

Many of our itineraries include sightseeing tours which may involve walking for medium to long periods of time and over uneven surfaces. Steps may also feature, either as part of a tour or within your accommodation. Different modes of transport, such as safari vehicles, tuk-tuks and houseboats may also be used.

It is therefore a condition of booking that you are fit and able to take care of yourself for the duration of the tour and recognise that if you do have any disabilities or walking difficulties you may find access to certain attractions restricted.

If you are in any doubt of your suitability for any of our tours, have reduced mobility in any way, have any medical condition, or any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), it is essential you discuss this with us before making a booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking.

We regret that we cannot provide individual assistance to a passenger for walking, dining, pushing their wheelchair, getting on and off motor coaches or other transportation vehicles or other personal needs. Therefore, passengers who need such assistance, or passengers with disabilities or special needs must be accompanied by a companion capable of providing all assistance required.

We reserve the right to refuse to carry any person who we deem cannot fully care for themselves on tour without assistance or whenever we reasonably feel unable to accommodate the needs or restrictions of any particular passenger. You must also notify us of any changes or deterioration in the disability or medical condition or development of any disability or medical condition after booking.

We further reserve the right to cancel your booking and impose cancellation fees if we are not fully advised of any relevant disability or medical condition at the time the booking is made and/ or promptly notified of any development, change or deterioration occurring after booking. On occasions, the decision to cancel can only be made at the time the person concerned joins the tour as it may only be apparent at this stage that their disability or medical condition cannot be accommodated.

Any passenger affected by a disability or medical condition must ensure they have notified this to their travel insurers and that their travel insurance will cover it. We may refuse to allow you on the tour or may have to terminate your participation in your tour if your mental or physical condition is such as to render you, in the reasonable opinion of any representative of ours or any carrier or other person in authority, incapable of caring for yourself or a hazard to yourself or other passengers.

We will not be liable for any expenses arising from your being precluded from joining or completing the tour for any such reason and no refunds or compensation will be paid.

Mobility aids

If you are planning to take a mobility scooter or other mobility aid please be aware each airline has their own restrictions in regards to what they will carry. This can include, but is not limited to, battery wattage, size and weight. It is your responsibility to ensure you have checked that you meet the airlines requirements. We cannot accept any liability if you are refused boarding or unable to take intended equipment.

Destination specific terms

We use different suppliers in each of the destinations in which we offer tours. Some of the suppliers which we use are unfortunately unable to accommodate particular disabilities or mobility issues and we have set out a brief description of these below:

All tours: Due to the limited accessibility to many of the sights and restrictions on included activities such as the houseboat in Alleppey and the safari jeeps in Sri Lanka, our tours to India and Sri Lanka are not suitable for wheelchair bound customers or customers with restricted walking abilities.

Please Note: The above is not an exhaustive list and we would still strongly advise that you contact us to discuss any disability which you have so that we can ensure that your chosen tour is suitable for your needs.

4. Minimum number of bookings

The operation of all tours is conditional on us securing the minimum number of bookings required to operate the tour. Unless notified otherwise, the minimum number which we aim for in respect of each tour is 15 travellers, or for Private Tours and Holiday Extensions, the minimum number is 2 travellers. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, we reserve the right to cancel or change a scheduled tour. Please also see clause 14. We will endeavour to make any decision to cancel or significantly change a tour no less than 60 days prior to the scheduled departure date of the tour but in any event will notify you no less than 30 days prior to the departure date of the tour.

If you are offered a new travel date as a result of this clause 4, it is your responsibility to advise your travel insurance company of your new travel dates. We are not liable for any loss in failed insurance claims if you fail to do this.

5. Special requests

If you have any special requests (including dietary requirements) you must notify us at the time of booking. Whilst every effort will be made by us to try and arrange your reasonable special requests, we cannot guarantee that they will be fulfilled. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract by us unless the request has been specifically confirmed by us. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier of any service(s) or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met.

Unless and until specifically confirmed by us in writing, all special requests are subject to availability. We cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as “standard” bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests.

If you have any food allergies which may cause significant health issues, you must tell us before you confirm your booking. Whilst our partners will try to accommodate any such requests, it is your responsibility to ensure that you actively avoid any food you are allergic to and make all appropriate enquiries to establish the ingredients contained within any food. The supplier is not under any obligation to prepare or provide special meals.

6. Booking and making payment for your arrangements

To secure any booking, you must pay the applicable deposit or full payment if booking 90 days or less before the start of the tour. Unless otherwise notified to you in writing by us, the deposit for each booking is £500 per person if travelling in economy flight class, £1,500 per person if in business flight class. Where fares are higher than our standard rates, an additional deposit may be required. We reserve the right to return your deposit and decline to issue a booking confirmation at our absolute discretion. The deposit or full payment, as applicable, must be received by us within 7 days of booking to ensure your place on the tour is held. Bookings will be automatically cancelled if the applicable deposit or full payment, as applicable, is not received by us within this 7 day period and we will have no further liability to you. We will not refund your deposit in such circumstances. Deposits are non-transferable and non-refundable except as expressly set out in these Terms & Conditions. We therefore recommend that you have adequate insurance to cover this.

The balance of the tour price (after deduction of the applicable deposit) must be received by us no less than 90 days prior to the start of your tour. If we do not receive all payments due (including any surcharge where applicable) in full and on time, we are entitled to believe that you wish to cancel your booking. In this case, we will be entitled to keep all deposits paid or due at that date. If we do not cancel straight away because you have promised to make payment, you must pay the cancellation fees shown in clause 15 depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled.

Please Note: If you are a single passenger, the applicable single supplement will be added to your invoice at the time of your booking. We will aim to accommodate single passengers in twin or double rooms, with single occupancy.

7. Your contract

Subject to availability we will confirm your booking by issuing our confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the lead name on the booking (“Lead Name”). If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate. Upon receipt, if you believe that any details on the ATOL Certificate or confirmation invoice or any other document are wrong you must advise us immediately as changes cannot be made later and it may harm your rights if we are not notified of any inaccuracies in any document within ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets).

A binding contract between you and us comes into existence when we dispatch our confirmation invoice for all bookings.

8. Law and jurisdiction

We both agree that English law (and no other) will apply to your contract and to any dispute, claim or other matter of any description which arises between us (“claim”) (except as set out below). We both also agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) must be dealt with by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

9. What are your obligations whilst on tour?

- You must follow the Tour Manager’s or, where applicable, Coach Captain’s instructions at all times to ensure on tour safety. You acknowledge that failure to do so may result in restricted access to places of interest on tour or, if necessary for your own safety and/or that of other passengers, withdrawal from the tour. On Private Tours, your obligation is to the appropriate Distant Journeys representative, be that a local guide, or driver guide.
- All our customers are expected to conduct themselves in an orderly and acceptable manner and not to disrupt the enjoyment of others. If we, or our staff or suppliers, are of the view you are negatively affecting your own health, safety or environment or that of other passengers, we can oblige you to withdraw from the tour immediately and we will terminate your booking with us with immediate effect. We will have no further obligations to you and/or your party and we will not be liable to you for any loss, cost or damage resulting from your withdrawal. If you are withdrawn from the tour, you must make your own return travel arrangements at your own expense.

No refunds for lost accommodation or any other arrangements will be made. You and/or your party may also be required to pay for loss and/or damage caused by your actions and we will hold you and each member of your party jointly and individually liable for any damage or losses caused by you or any member of your party. Full payment for any such damage or losses must be paid directly to the hotel manager or other supplier prior to departure. If you fail to make payment, you will be responsible for meeting any claims (including legal costs) subsequently made against us as a result of your actions together with all costs we incur in pursuing any claim against you.

- You must make your own enquiries regarding your tour, including being aware of any relevant government travel or safety warnings.

10. Tour price

Prices shown in our brochures and on the website are believed correct at the time of publication. We reserve the right to alter our advertised (brochure or website) tour prices, introduce supplements or correct pricing errors at any time before your booking is confirmed. We also reserve the right to correct any errors in any tour price and not be legally bound in the case of incorrect pricing and acknowledgement of such an error does not mean acceptance of it. We will advise you of any error of which we are aware and of the revised applicable price at the time of booking. Once the tour price has been confirmed at the time of booking, clause 11 below will apply.

11. Price Promise and Covid Guarantee

Early booking offers: Whilst we may offer promotional discounts and/or additional incentives on some tours, these offers reduce in value closer to the departure date meaning the earlier you book the better offer you will receive. Last minute discounts: It is our policy never to sell any holiday cheaper than originally advertised. In the unlikely event we reduce the price of your holiday to below what you have already paid (after any discounts have been applied), we will contact you to refund the difference. **No surcharges*:** We guarantee that no surcharge will be added to the basic price of your holiday once your booking has been confirmed, irrespective of any fluctuation in currency exchange rates, increases in international included economy air fares, or increases in other costs associated with your holiday other than the circumstances set out in the paragraph below which are expressly excluded from the price promise. In return for this guarantee and its risk to us, we shall not be able to make any refunds in the event of favourable exchange rate variations or other decreases in costs which would otherwise result in the reduction of the selling price except for the circumstances identified in the paragraph below.

Price match: Price match applies to an identical holiday operated by another tour operator (excluding travel agents and arrangements made independently) at the same or a lower price within 7 days of booking with us. By ‘identical holiday’, we mean one which: (i) departs on the same day from the same airport, with the same flight number and carrier, (ii) visits the same destination(s) for the same duration and offers the same number of included excursions/meals, (iii) features the same accommodation and board basis, and (iv) utilises the same services of a Tour Manager/Coach Captain. If this happens we will refund the difference between the cost of the holiday you have booked with us and the price of the identical holiday offered by the competitor. Plus, we will give you £200 per person towards a future booking. Our Price Promise applies once a booking is confirmed and a contract exists between us. It applies to tour prices only and does not include ad hoc or optional services such as airline upgrades, holiday additions, extended stays or regional connecting flights. Additionally, this price promise does not apply to optional services including, but not limited to: visa charges, excursions and amendment fees.

***Exclusion:** The price promise excludes surcharges which are a direct consequence of changes in the level of taxes or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including tourist taxes, landing taxes or embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports. Where such circumstances apply, you will be charged for the amount of any increase in accordance with this clause. However, if this means that you have to pay an increase of more than 8% of the price of your confirmed holiday (excluding any insurance premiums, amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements), you will have the option of accepting a change to another holiday if we are able to offer one (if this is of lower quality you will be refunded the difference in price), or cancelling and receiving a full refund of all monies paid to us, except for any insurance premiums and any amendment charges and/or additional services or travel arrangements. Should you decide to cancel for this reason, you must exercise your right to do so within 7 days from the issue date printed on your final invoice. We will consider an appropriate refund of insurance premiums paid if you can show that you are unable to transfer or reuse your policy. Should the price of your holiday go down due to the changes mentioned above, then any refund due will be paid to you less an administrative fee of £25. There will be no change made to the price of your confirmed holiday within 20 days of your departure nor will refunds be paid during this period.

Covid Guarantee: If Distant Journeys is unable to operate your tour as planned due to Covid-19 (a Force Majeure event), we will notify you as soon as possible. If there is time to do so before your departure date, and if available, Distant Journeys will offer you the following options:

- (for significant changes to your tour) accepting a change to your tour (including, but not limited to, changes to certain arrangements that make up your tour, a change to another tour or deferring your tour to a later departure date); or

- purchasing alternative arrangements from Distant Journeys, of a similar standard to those booked if available, with you paying a supplement if the alternative arrangements are more expensive than those originally booked (you will receive a refund if you select an alternative which is of lower value); or
- cancelling or accepting the cancellation of your tour and receiving a full refund of all monies you have paid to Distant Journeys, in accordance with these Terms & Conditions.

The above options will not be available where any change made to your tour as a result of Covid-19 is considered a minor change (please see clause 14).

Please note that before you travel you should ensure that you and each member of your party have obtained adequate travel insurance (see clause 18). Where you and/or a member of your party are forced to cancel your tour due to contracting Covid-19, we will be unable to refund any monies paid (outside the scope of our Terms & Conditions) and will direct you to your travel insurer.

12. Tour features

The features of the tour are set out in the tour brochure. We make no representations about the features of any tour other than those expressly set out in the tour brochure and these terms and conditions.

13. Brochure validity

The tour brochure and these Terms & Conditions are valid for the departure dates as stated in the tour brochure, or additional departure dates we may introduce, unless otherwise expressly advised by us.

14. Variation or cancellation by us

As we plan your holiday arrangements many months in advance we may occasionally have to make changes or cancel your booking and we reserve the right to do so at any time. We reserve the right to alter or change the accommodation, carriers, vehicles, vessels or any other service(s) which form part of any tour at any time for any reason and cancel or alter the itinerary and/or tour at any time without notice as we consider necessary for any reason whatsoever including road, weather or traffic conditions, non-performance of suppliers, industrial action, operational conditions and requirements, water level problems, excessive winds or Force Majeure. Errors in the details of advertised and/or confirmed tours and/or other details occasionally occur and we reserve the right to correct these whenever they occur.

- In the event of industrial action affecting air, rail, cruise or other tour related transportation we will make every effort to contact the lead name and advise of alternative arrangements (if any).
- Most changes made to a confirmed tour are minor. If we make a minor change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure but we will have no liability to you. Examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights and/or coach journeys by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, changes of carriers. Please note that carriers such as airlines used in the brochure may be subject to change.

- Occasionally, we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour and we reserve the right to do so. A significant change is a change made before departure which, taking account of the information you give us at the time of booking or which we can reasonably be expected to know as a tour operator, we can reasonably expect to have a significant effect on your tour. Examples of “significant changes” include the following, when made before departure:
 - A change of accommodation area for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
 - A change of accommodation to that of a lower standard or classification for the whole or a significant part of your time away.
 - A change of outward departure time or overall length of your arrangements by more than 12 hours.
 - A change of UK departure airport except between:
 - The London airports: Gatwick, Heathrow, Luton, Stansted, London City and Southend
 - The South Coast airports: Southampton, Bournemouth and Exeter
 - The South Western airports: Cardiff and Bristol
 - The Midlands airports: Birmingham, East Midlands and Doncaster Sheffield
 - The Northern airports: Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds Bradford
 - The North Eastern airports: Newcastle and Teesside
 - The Scottish airports: Edinburgh, Glasgow, Prestwick and Aberdeen
 - A significant change to your itinerary, missing out one or more destination entirely.

We will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 90 days before your departure date, except for reasons of Force Majeure, failure by you to pay the final balance or where the minimum number of clients required for a particular tour is not reached.

- If we have to make a significant change or cancel, we will tell you as soon as possible. If there is time to do so before departure, you will be offered the following options:

- (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements; or
- purchasing alternative arrangements from us, of a similar standard to those booked if available, with you paying a supplement if the alternative arrangements are more expensive than those originally booked (you will receive a refund if you select an alternative which is of lower value); or
- cancelling or accepting the cancellation and receiving a full refund of all monies you have paid to us.

You must notify us of your choice within 7 days of our offer. If we do not hear from you within 7 days, we will contact you again to request notification of your choice.

If you fail to respond again, we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements. Please note, the above options are not available where any change made is a minor one.

- If we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour, we will in addition to the options set out above pay you reasonable compensation in the following circumstances*:
 - If, where we make a significant change, you do not accept the changed arrangements and cancel your booking; or
 - If we cancel your booking and no alternative arrangements are available and/or we do not offer one.

The compensation that we offer does not exclude you from claiming more if you are entitled to do so.

Period before departure within which notice of Cancellation or major change is notified to you	Compensation payable per person booking
91 days or more	Nil
75 - 90 days prior to departure	£10
60 - 74 days prior to departure	£20
30 - 59 days prior to departure	£30
Less than 30 days prior to departure	£40

IMPORTANT NOTE: We will not pay you compensation in the following circumstances:

- where we make a minor change;
- where we make a significant change or cancel your arrangements more than 90 days before departure;
- where we make a significant change and you accept those changed arrangements or you accept an offer of alternative travel arrangements;
- where we have to cancel your arrangements as a result of your failure to make full payment on time;
- where the change or cancellation by us arises out of alterations to the confirmed booking requested by you;
- where we cancel due to insufficient bookings;
- where we are forced to cancel or change your arrangements due to Force Majeure.

Very rarely, we may become unable to provide a significant proportion of the arrangements that you have booked with us after you have departed. If that occurs we will, if possible, make alternative arrangements for you at no extra charge and where those alternative arrangements are of a lower standard, provide you with an appropriate price reduction.

15. Amendment or cancellation by you

If you wish to make any amendments to your confirmed booking you must notify us in writing as soon as possible. Whilst we will do our best to assist, it may not always be possible to make such amendments. Where we can, an amendment fee of £75 per person will be payable together with any costs incurred by ourselves and any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this change. You should be aware that these costs could increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and you should contact us as soon as possible. A change of tour dates will normally be treated as a cancellation of the original booking and rebooking in which case cancellation fees will apply. Changes may result in the recalculation of the tour price where, for example, the basis on which the price of the original tour was calculated has changed. Where we are unable to assist you and you do not wish to proceed with the original booking we will treat this as a cancellation by you. A cancellation fee may be payable in accordance with these Terms & Conditions.

Transfer of booking:

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

- that person is introduced by you and satisfies all the conditions applicable to the holiday;
- we are notified not less than 7 days before departure;
- you pay any outstanding balance payment, an amendment fee of £75 per person transferring, as well as any additional fees, charges or other costs arising from the transfer; and
- the transferee agrees to these Terms & Conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation fees as set out below will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for passengers not travelling or for unused services.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

You may cancel your booking by notice to us in writing, this may be by letter or email, and payment of the applicable cancellation fee as shown below. Cancellation notifications are not effective until received by us in writing (if received by us on a weekend day or public holiday the notification will be treated as having been received by us on the next working day). Should one or more member of a party cancel, it may increase the per person holiday price of those still travelling and you will be liable to pay this increase.

The following cancellation fees apply to each individual person who cancels and where shown as a percentage are based on the total cost of the arrangements which are being cancelled excluding any insurance premiums, amendment fee or previously incurred cancellation fees which are all non-refundable in the event of your cancellation:

Cancellation fees

Period before your tour commences within which written notification of cancellation is received by us:

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
More than 90 days prior to departure	Loss of Deposit
90 days to 75 days prior to departure	50% of holiday price
74 days to 60 days prior to departure	60% of holiday price
59 days to 30 days prior to departure	75% of holiday price
30 days prior to departure or less	100% of holiday price

NB Transferring to another departure date is highly likely to be treated as a cancellation by our suppliers and the cancellation fees above will apply. Depending on the reason for cancellation, you may be able to reclaim these cancellation charges (less any applicable excess) under the terms of your insurance policy. Claims must be made directly to the insurance company concerned.

Important Note: Certain arrangements may not be amended or transferred after they have been confirmed and any alteration could incur a cancellation charge of up to 100% of that part of the arrangements. Air Passenger Duty will always be non-refundable.

Cancellation by you due to unavoidable & extraordinary circumstances:

You have the right to cancel your confirmed holiday before departure without paying a cancellation charge in the event of “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances” occurring at your holiday destination or its immediate vicinity and significantly affecting the performance of the holiday or significantly affecting the transport arrangements to the destination. In these circumstances, we shall provide you with a full refund of the monies you have paid but we will not be liable to pay you any additional compensation. Please note that your right to cancel in these circumstances will only apply where the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office advises against travel to your destination or its immediate vicinity. For the purposes of this clause, “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances” means warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely to the travel destination.

This clause 15 outlines the rights you have if you wish to cancel your booking. Please note that there is no automatic statutory right of cancellation under the Consumer Contracts (Information, Cancellation and Additional Charges) Regulations 2013.

16. Our liability

- We will accept responsibility for the arrangements we agree to provide or arrange for you as an “organiser” under the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 (as amended), as set out below and as such, we are responsible for the proper provision of all travel services included in your package, as set out in your confirmation invoice. Subject to these Terms & Conditions, if we or our suppliers negligently perform or arrange those services and we don't remedy or resolve your complaint within a reasonable period of time, and this has affected the enjoyment of your package holiday you may be entitled to an appropriate price reduction or compensation or both. You must inform us without undue delay of any failure to perform or improper performance of the travel services included in this package. The level of any such price reduction or compensation will be calculated taking into consideration all relevant factors such as but not limited to: following the complaints procedure as described in these Terms & Conditions and the extent to which ours or our employees' or suppliers' negligence affected the overall enjoyment of your holiday. Please note that it is your responsibility to show that we or our supplier(s) have been negligent if you wish to make a claim against us.
- We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss, damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:
 - the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
 - the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
 - Force Majeure.
- We limit the amount of compensation we may have to pay you if we are found liable under this clause:
 - loss of and/or damage to any luggage or mobility aids or personal possessions and money: the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is an amount equivalent to the excess on your insurance policy which applies to this type of loss per person in total because you are required to have adequate insurance in place to cover any losses of this kind.
 - Claims not falling under (a) above and which don't involve injury, illness or death: the maximum amount we will have to pay you in respect of these claims is up to three times the price paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total. This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you or your party has not received any benefit at all from your booking.
 - Claims in respect of international travel by air, sea and rail, or any stay in a hotel:

- Where applicable, the extent of our liability will in all cases be limited as if we were carriers under the appropriate Conventions, which include The Warsaw/Montreal Convention (international travel by air); The Athens Convention (with respect to sea travel); The Berne/Cotif Convention (with respect to rail travel) and The Paris Convention (with respect to hotel arrangements). You can ask for copies of these Conventions from our offices. Please contact us. In addition, you agree that the operating carrier or transport company's own 'Conditions of Carriage' will apply to you on that journey. When arranging transportation for you, we rely on the terms and conditions contained within these international conventions and those 'Conditions of Carriage'. You acknowledge that all of the terms and conditions contained in those 'Conditions of Carriage' form part of your contract with us, as well as with the transport company and that those 'Conditions of Carriage' shall be deemed to be included by reference into this contract.
- Where applicable, in any circumstances in which a carrier is liable to you by virtue of EC 261/2004 (denied boarding and flight disruption), any liability we may have to you under our contract with you, arising out of the same facts, is limited to the remedies provided under the Regulation as if (for this purpose only) we were a carrier.
- When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the transport provider or hotelier for the complaint or claim in question.

- It is a condition of our acceptance of liability under this clause that you notify any claim to us and our supplier(s) strictly in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in these conditions.
- Where any payment is made, the person(s) receiving it (and their parent or guardian if under 18 years) must also assign to us or our insurers any rights they may have to pursue any third party and must provide ourselves and our insurers with all assistance we may reasonably require.
- Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss or expense or other sum(s) of any description:
 - which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you;
 - relate to any business;
 - indirect or consequential loss of any kind.
- We will not accept responsibility for services or facilities which do not form part of our agreement or where they are not advertised in our brochure. For example any excursion you book whilst away, or any service or facility which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you.
- Where it is impossible for you to return to your departure point as per the agreed return date of your package, due to “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances”, we shall provide you with any necessary accommodation (where possible, of a comparable standard) for a period not exceeding three nights per person. Please note that the 3 night cap does not apply to persons with reduced mobility, pregnant women or unaccompanied minors, nor to persons needing specific medical assistance, provided we have been notified of these particular needs at least 48 hours before the start of your holiday. For the purposes of this clause, “unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances” mean warfare, acts of terrorism, significant risks to human health such as the outbreak of serious disease at the travel destination or natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or weather conditions which make it impossible to travel safely back to your departure point.

17. Carriers

The applicable conditions of sale / carriage in use by the carriers will apply to you. These may limit or exclude the carriers' liability to you, usually in accordance with international conventions. Copies of these are available on request.

18. Risk and travel insurance

You acknowledge and accept that there are inherent risks associated with our tours, for example events of Force Majeure, hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation particularly in underdeveloped countries or more remote locations, forces of nature, political unrest and accident, illness, epidemics or pandemics in regions without means of rapid evacuation or medical facilities. We cannot accept any liability regarding the provision of medical care or the adequacy of any care that may be rendered where it is provided by third parties.

It is a condition of your booking and your responsibility to ensure that you have sufficient and valid travel insurance to cover your booking with us. We reserve the right to decline your booking if adequate proof of such current and valid travel insurance is not provided to us if requested. Please note that we do not check individual policies for suitability. We insist you take out appropriate travel insurance to cover as a minimum: pre-existing medical conditions, medical expenses, repatriation in the event of accident or illness, cancellation by you for any reason, cancellation charges, loss of luggage, early return following death of a relative as defined in the respective proposal forms or emergency repatriation, for example in the event of accident or illness. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance fully covers all your personal requirements and the specific risks outlined above. Please read your policy details carefully and take them with you on your tour. It is your responsibility to ensure that the insurance cover you purchase is suitable and adequate for your particular needs.

If you choose to travel without adequate insurance cover, we will not be liable for any losses no matter how arising, in respect of which insurance cover would otherwise have been available. If you have any questions, these should be raised with your travel insurance provider.

19. Itinerary changes and travel advice

During local or national holidays, certain facilities such as museums and restaurants, sightseeing tours and shopping may be limited or not available. Alternatives will be offered if possible.

Your safety is our first consideration and if the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) advises against travel to a certain country, we act on this advice. The FCDO issues regular advice and updates on its website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure. You are responsible for making yourself aware of FCDO advice in regard to the safety of the countries and areas in which you will be travelling and to make your decisions accordingly.

20. Baggage allowance

You are entitled to carry one suitcase per person with the total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 160cm (63 inches) and weight 20kg (44 lbs). Hand luggage must have a total sum of its length, width and height not exceeding 115cm (45 inches) and weight 5kg (11lbs). Personal and valuable items such as make-up, cameras, medication, passport, money/credit cards etc should be carried in a travel bag or on your person. You must ensure that luggage meets the weight requirements as overweight or oversize items will not be carried. Some carriers may impose a small surcharge per day for a second suitcase per person. Excess baggage is always at your cost.

21. Young travellers

Travellers who are less than 16 years old on the departure date must be accompanied by and share a room with an adult aged 16 or over. Children under 8 years of age cannot be accepted on our tours.

22. Complaints

If a problem occurs during your tour, you must advise our representative immediately so that steps can be taken to resolve the matter and you can continue to enjoy the remainder of your tour. You must also advise the supplier concerned. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please contact us by email at info@distantjourneys.co.uk or call 01695 577 961.

If you remain dissatisfied, any complaint must ideally be made in writing to us giving full details within 30 days of the end of the tour. If you fail to follow this procedure, your right to claim compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a result.

23. Tour price and duration

All prices in our brochure(s) are quoted in English pounds (Sterling). All prices in our brochure(s) are believed to be correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing but errors may occur and prices are subject to change. You must therefore ensure you check all details of your chosen tour (including the price) with us at the time of booking. The number of days duration stated in each itinerary includes day of departure and day of return. Tour durations may vary should you choose to have a stopover, and airline flight schedules and the itineraries in our brochure(s) should be used as a guide only.

24. Included in your fare

All airfares from the UK in economy class (unless specified at the time of booking), coach travel and overseas transfers* whilst travelling as part of the group or on one of our organised stopover programmes, service of a Tour Manager* or Coach Captain* (if applicable), porterage whilst on tour, airport transfers, meals as specified, accommodation as specified (please note, the third bed in a triple room may be a rollaway bed), sightseeing and admissions and other services as expressly indicated in the itinerary. * Should you be travelling outside of the main group travel dates from or to the UK transfers are not included on any outbound or return stopovers. These are available to purchase at an additional cost. *On Private Tours, you will receive the services of a driver(s) and local guides, or a driver guide, as appropriate.

NOT included in your fare

Meals not specified in the itinerary, drinks unless specified in the itinerary, laundry, passport and visa fees, expenses of a personal nature and any other items which are not expressly included in the cost of your tour. Changes to flight schedules may require additional overnight accommodation at either commencement or completion of tour which is at your own expense.

25. Airfare conditions

Your Distant Journeys travel expert will book the most appropriate fare for your tour based on the information you provide to us. Full details and conditions may be obtained from your travel expert. Changes to original tickets will incur amendment or cancellation fees, are subject to availability and surcharges may apply. Please see clause 15 above. Please note: all airfares are subject to routing restrictions. Airfares and applicable taxes are subject to increase without notice due to fare and tax changes, surcharges dependent on class available at time of booking and other factors outside our control, subject to the provisions of clause 11 (Price Promise) above. Please contact your travel consultant for the applicable rules and regulations.

At the time of booking please ensure you supply your first name and surname as they appear in your passport, as these must be stated on your flight ticket. In some instances, the airline will also request your middle name. You may not be able to travel if the name on your passport and documents do not match. Any costs for ticket changes due to an incorrect name on paperwork which has been sent to you, will result in a cost which we will pass on to you.

26. Flights

For flight inclusive tours, the flight timings given on booking are for general guidance only and are subject to change. The latest timings will be shown on your confirmation documents. As flights only become available to book around 11 months in advance, we are only able to confirm upgrade prices at time of booking your flights. However, the actual flight times will be those shown on your tickets which will be dispatched to you approximately two weeks before departure. You must accordingly check your tickets very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after tickets have been dispatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. Distant Journeys has no control over the allocation of seats by the airline, and even if you have requested or made payment directly with the airline to pre-book seats, no guarantees can be made. The provision of such seats does not constitute a term of your contract with Distant Journeys.

Where applicable and in accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a “Community List” which contains details of air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the European Union. The Community list is available for inspection at https://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban_en. We are also required to advise you of the carrier(s) (or, if the carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/ or aircraft type (where advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these Terms & Conditions. If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to an operating ban as above as a result of which we/ the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of clause 12 will apply.

If you suffer a delay in your outbound travel arrangements, we will do our best to ensure you make the start of your tour or, if this cannot be achieved, join it as soon as possible. Any costs we incur in making any alternative arrangements in this situation where the delay was due to your own actions will be your responsibility. In the event of a flight delay, the airline concerned may provide refreshments and/or other assistance depending on factors such as the length of the delay, time of day and number of passengers affected. We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in the definition of “Force Majeure” (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time).

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances, the airline may be required to pay you compensation, refund the cost of your flight and/or provide you with accommodation and/or refreshments under the Denied Boarding Regulations 2004. Where applicable, you must pursue the airline for the compensation or other payment due to you. All sums you receive or are entitled to receive from the airline concerned by virtue of these Regulations represent the full amount of your entitlement to compensation or any other payment arising from such cancellation, delay, downgrading or denied boarding. This includes any disappointment, distress, inconvenience or effect on any other arrangements. The fact a delay may entitle you to cancel your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight. We have no liability to make any payment to you in relation to the Denied Boarding Regulations or in respect of any flight cancellation or delay, downgrading of any flight ticket or denial of any boarding as the full amount of your entitlement to any compensation or other payment (as dealt with above) is covered by the airline's obligations under the Denied Boarding Regulations. If for any reason, we make any payment to you or a third party which the airline is responsible for in accordance with the Denied Boarding Regulations, you must, when requested, assign to us the rights you have or had to claim the payment in question from the airline. If the airline does not comply with these rules, you should refer to the Civil Aviation Authority at www.caa.co.uk/Passengers/Resolving-travel-problems/

A number of Governments are introducing new requirements for air carriers to provide personal information about all travellers on their aircraft to the Authorities before the aircraft leaves the UK. The data will be collected either at the airport when you check in or in some circumstances when, or after you make your booking. Accordingly, you are advised to allow extra time to check in for your flight. Where we collect this data, we will treat it in accordance with our Privacy Policy.

27. Passports and visas

You must have a valid passport with at least 6 months validity following your return date. It is your responsibility to ensure any visas required for countries to be visited on the tour have been obtained prior to the tour departure date. Failure to obtain correct documentation, visas and/or any other requirements for travel will mean that you may be unable to participate in particular excursions and may be denied boarding and/ or entry into certain countries.

Passport and visa entry requirements and costs are your sole responsibility. We can only provide general information about this. You must check requirements for your own specific circumstances with the relevant Embassies and/or Consulates as applicable. Requirements do change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure. We cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry correct documentation. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty being imposed on us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

Please note: The impacts of Brexit may change your visa, ticket and health requirements. Third country nationals may require an airport transit visa when passing through EU Member States. You should check any impacts of Brexit on your travel, in advance of your departure, to ensure that you fulfil the requirements post-Brexit, including any passport validity requirements. The UK Government passport checker can be found at www.gov.uk/check-a-passport-travel-europe

28. Insolvency protection

We provide financial security for flight-inclusive packages and ATOL protected flights by way of our Air Travel Organiser's Licence number 10913, issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email: claims@caa.co.uk.

When you buy an ATOL protected product from us you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. For further information, visit the Civil Aviation Authority website at www.caa.co.uk/atol-protection/. The price of our flight inclusive arrangements includes the amount of £2.50 per person as part of the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. Not all holiday or travel services offered and sold by us will be protected by the ATOL Scheme. ATOL protection extends primarily to customers who book and pay in the United Kingdom and European Economic Area (EEA).

We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with the services you have bought (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL Scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable).

If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent (or your credit card issuer where applicable). You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays which don't include flights, by way of a bond held by The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited.

The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT) provides financial protection under The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 (as amended) for Distant Journeys (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following:

- non-flight packages; and
- flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK, which are sold to customers outside of the UK. ABTOT cover provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled or repatriation if transportation was included in your package. Please note that bookings made outside the EEA are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with Distant Journeys.

In the unlikely event that you require assistance whilst abroad due to our financial failure, please call our 24/7 helpline on 01702 811397 and advise you are a customer of an ABTOT protected travel company.

You can access The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 (as amended) here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/634/contents/made> and <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2018/1367/contents/made>

29. Coaches

On our group tours, to ensure all passengers have the opportunity to enjoy front and window seats, a daily seat rotation system is employed on all of our coaches and you must follow the seat rotation system.

If you suffer from travel sickness, you should arrange medication or other alternatives to treat symptoms as we cannot make allowances in the seat rotation policy for this, in fairness to other guests.

30. Optional activities and dining

Optional activities and dining are subject to availability, seasonal / operational factors and minimum / maximum numbers. More details on optional tours may be found on our website. On occasion, it may not be possible to arrange an included activity. Suitable alternatives will be arranged. Inclusions may also be subject to change.

31. Vaccines, medication and medical services

Health facilities, hygiene and disease risks vary worldwide. It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all recommended vaccinations and health precautions for the countries you are visiting and ensure that vaccinations or preventative measures are taken early enough to be fully effective by the date of travel. You should take health advice about your specific needs as early as possible and recognise that advice may change, prior to your departure. Please see the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) website www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice and NHS Travel Vaccinations on <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations/> for up to date information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that any medication you need to carry is permitted to be taken into the countries you are visiting. We recommend you consult with your GP and relevant embassy before booking and review in good time before your departure as advice may change. Any medical services and costs required on tour are at your expense. We strongly recommend suitable and adequate travel insurance.

32. Images, photographs, maps and information

The photographs in the brochure and information provided represent typical scenes and descriptive detail for each tour, but it is possible that the subject matter may not be seen or experienced whilst on the tour itself. Some pictures may have been digitally enhanced.

Maps or tour depictions contained in this brochure or any other brochures issued by Distant Journeys, are intended as an indication only and should not be relied upon as the actual route taken during the tour. Distant Journeys are not liable to you for any variation to the tour.

33. Prompt assistance

If, whilst you are on holiday, you find yourself in difficulty for any reason, we will offer you such prompt assistance as is appropriate in the circumstances. In particular, we will provide you with appropriate information on health services, local authorities and consular assistance, and assistance with distance communications and finding alternative travel arrangements. Where you require assistance which is not owing to any failure by us, our employees or sub-contractors we will not be liable for the costs of any alternative travel arrangements or other such assistance you require. Any supplier, airline or other transport supplier may however pay for or provide refreshments and/or appropriate accommodation and you should make a claim directly to them. Subject to the other terms of these Terms & Conditions, we will not be liable for any costs, fees or charges you incur in the above circumstances, if you fail to obtain our prior authorisation before making your own travel arrangements. Furthermore, we reserve the right to charge you a fee for our assistance in the event that the difficulty is caused intentionally by you or a member of your party, or otherwise through your or your party's negligence.

34. Conditions of suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions which will form part of your contract with us. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable International Conventions. Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from us or the supplier concerned.

35. Amendments to these Terms & Conditions

These Terms & Conditions may be subject to amendment from time to time. Amendments will be posted on the Distant Journeys website www.distantjourneys.co.uk