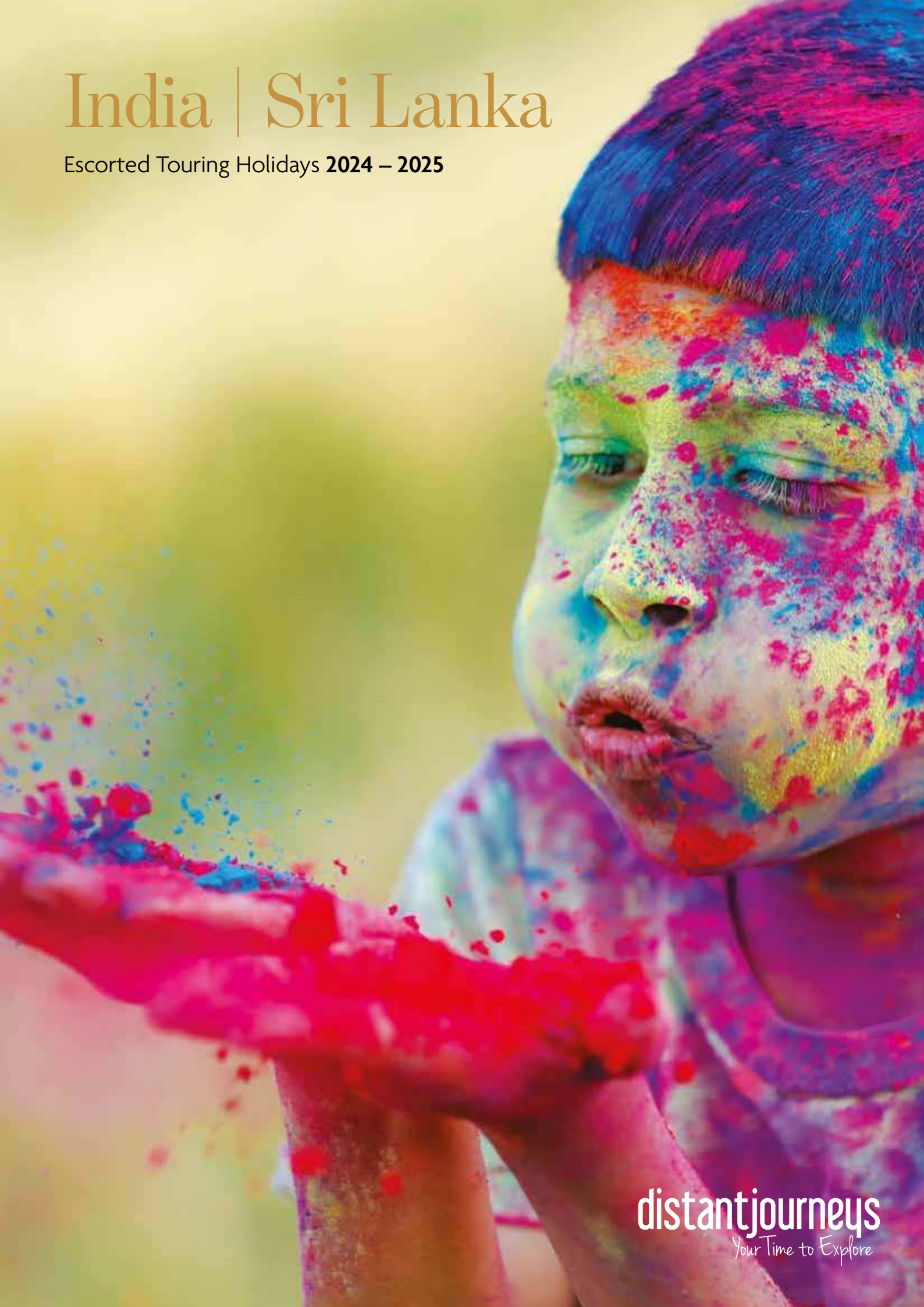


India | Sri Lanka

Escorted Touring Holidays **2024 – 2025**



distantjourneys
Your Time to Explore



Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab, India

"A Warm Welcome Awaits"



I am delighted to introduce our new India & Sri Lanka 2024/25 brochure, showcasing meticulously designed and insightful tours that allow you to truly explore these fascinating countries with Distant Journeys.

India is known for being a melting pot of cultures that leave a lasting impression on the heart, and the teardrop-shaped island of Sri Lanka is as spectacular as it is welcoming. Over the following pages you will find some of our best-selling tours alongside a sprinkling of new itineraries.

As Distant Journeys celebrates its 10th birthday in 2024, I am reminded of what Andrew, Richard and I set out to do from the very beginning. Our aim is simple – to make every moment of your holiday as memorable as it should be.

With over 80 years of experience between us, and the support of an immensely passionate and knowledgeable team, both here in the UK and overseas, we have created an exciting style of flexible touring holidays that meet 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.

The exceptional quality of our touring holidays means that Distant Journeys has been a winner on 13 occasions at the prestigious British Travel Awards, and was also awarded a 'Platinum Trusted' rating by independent reviews provider Feeo, for consistently delivering an excellent level of customer service.

We are so proud our customers love what we do, and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank every single one of you for the loyalty and trust shown over the years. It has been our absolute honour to create these holidays of a lifetime for you, and we look forward to helping you plan your next adventure soon.

And, for those of you who haven't travelled with Distant Journeys yet, a very warm welcome. Our friendly travel professionals are experts in the destinations we visit and would love the opportunity to share their passion with you at any time.

With best wishes for the season ahead,

Simon Whittle
Managing Director

OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

Sri Lanka is one of the most breathtaking countries I have ever visited. A little less than a third of the UK in size, it is the perfect touring destination where everything is easily accessible, and they even drive on the same side of the road! The people of Sri Lanka take such pride in providing the most warm, friendly and exceptional service along with heavenly cuisine. All hotels are well organised and spotlessly clean too.



Richard Hanson
Director

OUR DISTANT JOURNEYS...

India is like nothing I had ever seen or experienced before. This was my first visit and I'm already planning to return. I ended up totally encapsulated by its culture and charm. Ours was a Private Tour, available for many tours in India and Sri Lanka, and my highlight was the Taj Mahal at sunset, words can't really describe it. The details in the building and the story behind it are truly incredible.



Vania Rajao
Reservations Team

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Why Choose Distant Journeys?



Award-winning holidays

Our aim is to offer exceptional value for money without compromising on the quality of your holiday. Our success is evident, with Distant Journeys winning at the prestigious British Travel Awards 13 times.



Meticulously designed tours

Many years of planning go into every detail of our holidays, and each element is carefully chosen with our customers' enjoyment in mind.



Personal knowledge and expert advice

Distant Journeys has a team of professional travel specialists with personal knowledge of the countries we visit, our selected hotels and the experiences offered.



Freedom to explore

Our holidays operate at a relaxed pace to give you plenty of time to fully explore and savour each area, as well as giving you some time to unwind. Many of our tours also have Freedom Days, to spend as you wish.



Hand-picked hotels

We only select accommodation which meets the high standards of quality, service and location our guests have come to expect.



Once in a lifetime experiences

From exciting rail journeys and cruises to exploring lesser-known gems, our holidays feature many incredible experiences which provide memories to cherish forever.



Expert Tour Managers and local guides

Our Tour Managers and local guides are all greatly experienced in their field, and have the right balance of organisational skills and local knowledge, coupled with warm, friendly personalities.



Personalise your travel arrangements

Flying from regional UK airports, typically at no extra cost, upgrading your flight and extending your holiday are just a few of the ways in which you can personalise your tour so it's perfect for you.



Book with confidence

Distant Journeys are fully bonded by the Civil Aviation Authority and The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited, meaning you can book in confidence, knowing your money is 100% safe.



Clockwise from above: Tea Plantation, Munnar, Kerala, India; Local man, India
Elephants, Minneriya National Park, Sri Lanka; Lake Pichola, Udaipur, Rajasthan, India

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 at the last minute, so you can be confident you will never see your holiday at a lower price than you paid.

No additional charges

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 Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.

YOUR TOUR MANAGER SAYS...

India's architectural marvels include forts, palaces and temples and the land has such diverse flora and fauna. Paired with vibrant culture, colourful festivals and mixed weather, India is the most diverse nation in every aspect. Distant Journeys offer beautifully designed itineraries that fulfil every traveller's need, with greatly skilled, professional staff who deliver the highest standard of escorted tours.

Hemant Singh Rajawat
India



YOUR TOUR MANAGER SAYS...

Visit Sri Lanka with Distant Journeys to get to know the country, the locals, history and religion. Experience UNESCO World Heritage sites, safaris in national parks, sample delicious local dishes and see our idyllic coastline for yourself.

Ravi Yogaratnam
Sri Lanka





Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh, India

Holiday Styles To Suit You

Although our love of travel unites us, we all have our own individual requirements when it comes to how we travel. It's your holiday, and with Distant Journeys you can choose the style of holiday that suits you.

Classic Tours

Our Classic escorted tours are a great way to travel and experience a country's scenery, culture and sights with a group of like-minded people, guided by a friendly and knowledgeable Tour Manager who will bring the destination to life. Your carefully-crafted touring itinerary includes a variety of wonderful activities and sightseeing excursions, many meals, and accommodation in top-quality hotels throughout. In India & Sri Lanka, our Classic tour groups have a maximum group size of 24 people, so good company and camaraderie is guaranteed.

Solo Tours

Join a small group of like-minded travellers as you explore India and Sri Lanka. You will be accompanied by a Tour Manager, dedicated to taking away any worries and ensuring you get the best from every moment of your well-deserved holiday. And at the end of a busy day, retreat to the privacy of your own hotel room, safe in the knowledge that there's no single occupancy supplement to pay. Our range of included activities and sightseeing will create friendships forged through shared experiences, and memories to last a lifetime.

Private Tours

If you would like to travel with a group of friends, as a family, or if you are celebrating a special occasion as a couple, our private touring holidays provide affordable exclusivity for groups of any size. Enjoy the same expertly-crafted itinerary and hand-picked hotels, but with the exclusivity and convenience of your own friendly and knowledgeable guides, your own private vehicle and your own choice of departure date. Private Tours give you the flexibility to shape the holiday to suit you.

Rail Tours

In India, join us on board The Deccan Odyssey for an incredible rail journey on one of Asia's most opulent trains. Our two brand-new itineraries offer truly memorable experiences, combining some of the country's most fascinating places with impeccable service, accommodation and dining on the rails.

River Cruises











We are also delighted to exclusively charter the Assam Bengal Navigation (ABN) Sukapha, a wonderful river cruise ship, as we explore the waterways of the Brahmaputra River and Darjeeling on a 17-day adventure, discovering local bankside communities, ever-changing scenery and wildlife.

Exceptional Value

We are passionate about what we do, passionate about the countries we visit, the experiences we include, the service we offer and the value for money we deliver to our guests, without compromising on the quality of the holiday experience.

With Distant Journeys, value for money means we will provide you with the opportunity to discover India and Sri Lanka in comfort and style, with so much flexibility and so many experiences included in the itinerary, without it costing the earth.

So much included

-  Return international flights from the UK on award-winning scheduled airlines, with all on-board meals and drinks included
-  Choice of regional UK airports on selected tours
-  Carefully selected hotels offering quality and comfort. Daily breakfast is included in addition to a selection of other meals
-  Overseas transfers and transport in modern air-conditioned coaches
-  Porter service for your luggage
-  All pre-payable airport and resort taxes. All the entrance fees to the many incredible places and monuments you will visit
-  Experienced Tour Managers or local guides on all escorted tours
-  Once in a lifetime experiences
-  Visits to lesser-known hidden gems
-  Travelling on a Private Tour? You'll enjoy all the same inclusions, travel in your own vehicle and have the convenience of our knowledgeable local guides



Indian henna and traditional dress



CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL....

Second time we have used this company, and hope to do so again. Their attention to detail in arranging their tours is exceptional and this makes for a memorable experience.

We visited Sri Lanka as their first tour to this country. The local guide, driver and helper accompanied us throughout and were a credit to their country. We had very high standard hotels, so many different experiences as we toured around, and the food was wonderful. The people in the country were very hospitable and so pleased to see tourism return. I would highly recommend this Very Best of Sri Lanka trip to anyone.

Mrs Gill – The Very Best of Sri Lanka

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL....

Stop thinking about it and just do it! An absolutely wonderful holiday from start to finish. Thank you so much all at Distant Journeys and in particular Jenny and Leyla who I had the most contact with when booking my Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour.

The weather was perfect in February, our guide Vikram is a totally wonderful tour guide, a person you will never forget if you are lucky enough to be on his tour! I had too many and too wonderful experiences to pick just one but most memorable has to be the Red Fort at Agra and actually seeing tigers in the wild on my 60th birthday.

Miss McNally – Golden Triangle & Ranthambore

Woman in Sri Lanka

Award-winning Customer Service

Great customer service is at the heart of everything we do, and we never lose sight of what matters most – you, our valued customers. We are with you every step of the way; before, during and after your tour. We recognise our guests are individuals, with different requirements, tastes and needs, and we tailor our support accordingly.

Our commitment to excellence has won us many awards, which recognise the superb customer service and high standards throughout the entire experience of booking and travelling with Distant Journeys. We are determined to continue to exceed expectations when it comes to our guests and their well-deserved holiday.

A team of dedicated travel experts

Our Travel Experts are friendly, well-travelled individuals with a passion for the destinations we visit, and love to share their experience and knowledge with you. We have travelled on our tours and visited the places you will visit, so we can offer advice from personal experience and give you practical recommendations.

Experienced Tour Managers and knowledgeable local guides

Distant Journeys' personally-selected Tour Managers work tirelessly to ensure your tour runs smoothly. They use their experience, local knowledge and organisational skills to make sure our guests can relax, knowing they are accompanied by a friendly and resourceful presence who is always on hand to help.

Local guides play an invaluable role when touring India & Sri Lanka too; sharing their knowledge of the culture, traditions and language of their country to provide helpful insights into the places we visit and first-hand recommendations to help guests feel truly immersed in their tour.



Hand-Picked Hotels

Distant Journeys appreciate the hotels in which you stay are an integral part of your holiday, 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 always strive to provide the best of both.

Hotel ratings

Each property has been personally inspected whilst planning our holidays, and you can be confident the hotels featured in this brochure have been carefully selected for their location, quality, facilities and level of service.

We understand from many years of experience that 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 116-127 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 Sri Lanka, stay in the superbly located Jetwing Yala hotel, which overlooks the island's dramatic southern coastline. Wildlife roam the hotel grounds, and Yala National Park, where guests go in search of leopards, sloth bears and elephants, is just a few miles away.

Character and charm

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

OUR HEAD OF PRODUCT SAYS...

My top pick has to be the eco-friendly Coconut Lagoon located in Kerala, India. Set amongst coconut groves and enchanting backwater canals, the hotel is accessible only by boat, which adds to its unique charm. Each of the guest houses are former traditional Keralan homes, each transported and rebuilt from local villages to prevent them from being demolished, preserving the local architecture. Not to mention the rare indigenous breed of cattle, Vechoor, who graze on the land — it is a truly memorable stay.



Liz Reddy
Head of Product



Jetwing Yala, Sri Lanka



Traditional stilt fishing, Sri Lanka

Freedom & Flexibility

Imagine being able to enjoy all the benefits of travelling with a group of like-minded people: the fun, the camaraderie, the friendships, the hassle-free organisation – and at the same time being able to personalise your holiday so that it’s perfect for you.

When it comes to having the freedom to tailor your holiday to suit your tastes and wishes, the flexibility provided by Distant Journeys cannot be beaten.

Fly from your local airport

To get your journey off to the best possible start, on the majority of our tours, Distant Journeys offer flights from London Heathrow or Manchester at no extra cost. Dependent on your choice of airline, flights from Birmingham may also be available.

Flight upgrades

If you would like to treat yourself to a little more comfort on your international flights, Premium Economy and Business Class upgrades are available on selected routes. See pages 128-129 for more.

Freedom Days

For an escorted tour to be truly memorable, we believe you should have the freedom to customise your touring experiences to match your interests. That is why the vast majority of Distant Journeys tours have a number of Freedom Days for you to spend as you please, with many activities and excursions to choose from.

Extend your holiday

Distant Journeys offer a series of spectacular holiday extensions to finish off your holiday adventure. Holiday extensions are dependent on your choice of destination and itinerary, and include Shimla, Amritsar, Varanasi and Kerala in India; and a relaxing beach stay in Sri Lanka.

Once in a Lifetime Experiences

When you travel with Distant Journeys, you can be confident that all the must-see sights will be included, along with several extra special experiences to make your holiday as memorable as it should be.

Join an exclusively chartered river cruise

Meander the waterways of the Brahmaputra River on our exclusively chartered river cruise ship, the ABN Sukapha. We discover plentiful wildlife at nearby national parks, immerse ourselves in riverside communities, get a fascinating glimpse into Assamese culture on Majuli Island and visit a tea estate in Jorhat.

Heritage rail journeys

In Sri Lanka, take a scenic train journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya, past sprawling tea plantations, forests, local villages and cascading waterfalls. In India, ride the famed Toy Trains of Shimla and Darjeeling, in the foothills of the Himalayas.

Fascinating wildlife adventures

From brand-new itineraries covering chances to see species native to India, such as Asiatic lions, One-Horned Rhinoceros, Indian leopards and cobras, to listening to a fascinating talk from one of Ranthambore's knowledgeable naturalists, before searching for the majestic Bengal tiger.

In Sri Lanka, explore some of its most revered national parks, Yala, Udawalawe and Minneriya – home to endemic birdlife, great Asian elephants roaming free, and the highest concentration of wild leopard anywhere in the world.

Unforgettable cultural experiences

Watch the sun set over the majestic Taj Mahal, hear the cheer of the crowd at the Wagah-Attari border ceremony, and take the privileged opportunity to dine with a local family in Jaipur.

Learn the art of tea plucking in the serene and iconic tea plantations of Sri Lanka, explore the ancient and unforgettable site of Sigiriya and witness the Temple of the Tooth ceremony in Kandy.

India by luxury rail

Tour in the most memorable way, with an enchanting rail experience on board The Deccan Odyssey in India. Impeccable service and phenomenal views precede stops at some of the country's most fascinating places.



Anti-clockwise from top: Bengal Tiger, India; ABN Sukapha, India; Tea pickers, Sri Lanka; The Deccan Odyssey train exterior, India



Clockwise from above: Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh; Tiger, Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan; Red Fort, Delhi



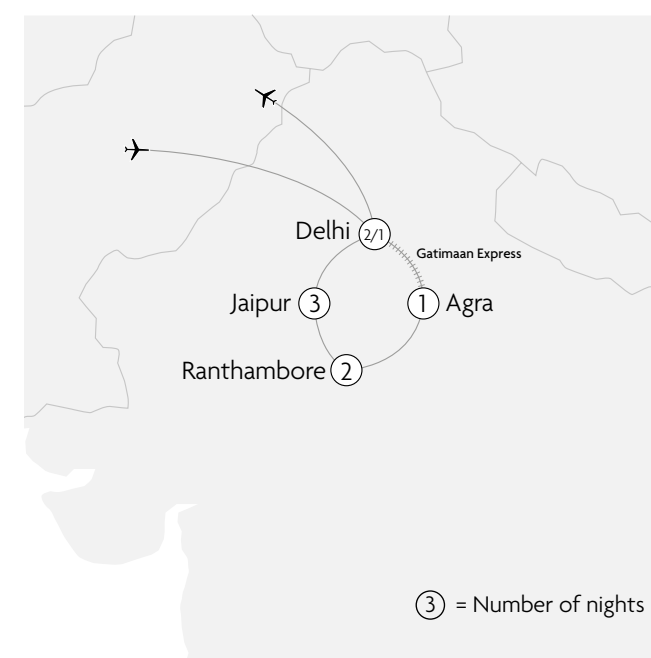
The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore

📅 11 days 💷 from £2,195pp 🌍 September 2024 – April 2025

India is a country which defies description – a vibrant, mesmerising land teeming with energy and life, whose rich history and unique culture make for a truly memorable holiday experience. The Golden Triangle is an area of Northern India which encompasses all that makes India so special – majestic palaces and forts, colourful, bustling cities, abundant wildlife and ravishing scenery.

Our 11-day Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour explores the classic Golden Triangle cities of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra, home to the iconic Taj Mahal. An included two-night stay at Ranthambore National Park provides the opportunity to search for the elusive, majestic Bengal tiger. 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.

With the option of adding an extension to the tour in Shimla, Varanasi or Amritsar, the Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour is the perfect introduction to India.



Your holiday includes

-  Small group touring with max. 24 passengers
-  Return economy flights with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
-  First class hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £350 per person, with daily breakfast, three lunches and dinner each evening
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur
 - ★ Food walk in Old Delhi
 - ★ Rail journey onboard the Gatimaan Express
 - ★ Visit the iconic Taj Mahal
 - ★ Tour of Chand Baori Step Well, Abhaneri
 - ★ Tiger talk with naturalist and two safaris in Ranthambore National Park
 - ★ Jeep ride and tour of Amber Fort, Jaipur
-  Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Amber Fort, Jaipur, Rajasthan



Tiger, Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan



Food markets, Jaipur, Rajasthan

The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore

Days 1 to 9: UK - Delhi - Agra - Ranthambore - Jaipur

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow for our overnight flight to Delhi. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Delhi, 2 nights

On arrival into Delhi, we transfer to the impressive ITC Maurya Hotel. 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. It's an action-packed morning, concluding with a street food walk in Old Delhi, where we shall explore the cultural mesh of flavours and Dilli recipes on offer in its many eateries. 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 World Heritage Site, Humayun's Tomb, where the 16th century Mughal Emperor lies. **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, a historical fort which remained the main residence of the Mughal emperors until 1638, before travelling to our hotel, the delightful ITC Mughal Hotel. Located within close proximity of the Taj Mahal, 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

Day 5: Ranthambore, 2 nights

We leave Agra behind and journey to Abhaneri. Unique to India, Chand Baori at Abhaneri is a 13 storey, 1,300-year-old stepwell, constructed with mind-blowing geometry and aesthetics. Our next stop is Umaid Palace, a tranquil organic retreat nestled in 20 acres of rustic countryside, where we take lunch in the palace's serene surroundings. Afterwards, we continue to Ranthambore, for our next two nights at the charming Ranthambore Regency Hotel. Situated close to 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, sambar deer, and over 250 bird species – all of which inhabit this incredible part of the world. We board our open shared canter vehicle for our first safari, prior to breakfast. We embark on our second safari in the afternoon, to explore the park further 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 ITC Rajputana Hotel, located in the heart of the city and inspired by the architecture of Rajasthan's traditional havelis. The evening is ours to enjoy in the most perfect surroundings. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 8: Jaipur

Following breakfast, we 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 cookery 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**



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur, Rajasthan



Snake charmer



Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore

Days 10 to 11: Delhi - UK

Day 10: Delhi, Overnight

Following breakfast, we bid farewell to wonderful Jaipur and journey to Delhi and our overnight stay at the Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity. We spend our final night in India with new-found friends, sharing tales of our adventures, as we dine together one final time. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

We depart this morning for Delhi Airport for our morning flight with Virgin Atlantic, arriving in London later today. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Holiday Extensions from only £545 per person

Why not extend your Golden Triangle & Ranthambore holiday with a stay in the hill station of Shimla? Or perhaps visit Amritsar – home to the spectacular Golden Temple, or even Varanasi – the spiritual capital of India.

Amritsar – from £545 per person

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.



Shimla – from £745 per person

Sitting in the foothills of the Himalayas, Shimla, a thriving hill station, was known as the 'Queen of the Hills'. Travel on the iconic 'Toy Train' to this former summer retreat, which still retains a certain romance for British visitors.



Varanasi – from £795 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. A city filled with enchanting mysticism, astonishing temples and sacred waters, Varanasi is both magical and powerful.



Please see pages 106-111 for more details

2024 Departures

19 September 2024	£2,195 per person
03 October 2024	£2,345 per person
24 October 2024	£2,345 per person
09 November 2024	£2,345 per person

2025 Departures

16 January 2025	£2,395 per person
01 February 2025	£2,395 per person
15 February 2025	£2,395 per person
03 March 2025	£2,395 per person
17 March 2025	£2,395 per person
03 April 2025	£2,295 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
£495.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,000 per person if travelling Premium Economy and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Virgin Atlantic upgrade to Premium Economy from £995 per person return, or Business Class from £2,895 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

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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





Clockwise from above: Goan beach; Stepwell, Jaipur, Rajasthan; Traditional spices & dry fruits at local bazaar



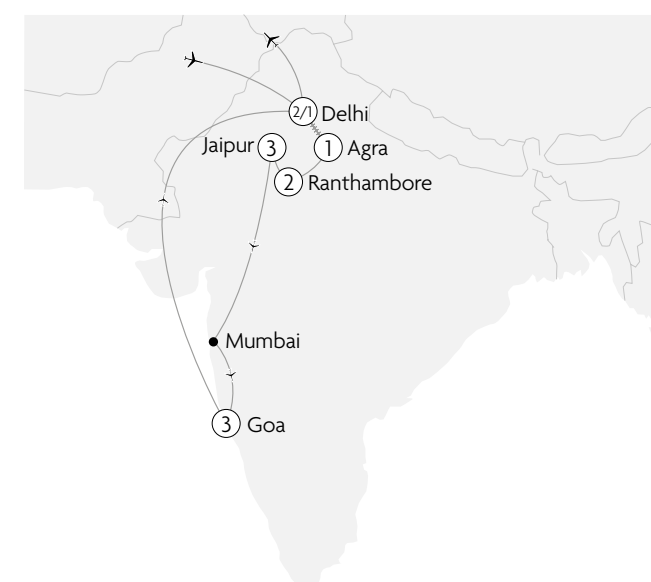
The Golden Triangle & Goa

📅 14 days 💷 from £2,895pp 🌐 October 2024 – April 2025

With majestic forts and a myriad of temples, abundant wildlife and awe-inspiring scenery, rich history and vibrant culture, the Golden Triangle and Goa tour distils India's energy into an adventure-filled holiday with vivid sights and sounds at every turn.

After exploring the bustling cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, visiting the iconic Taj Mahal and searching for the elusive Bengal tiger in Ranthambore National Park, shift down a gear and fly south to the palm-fringed, white sands of the Arabian Sea coast and Goa, India's former Portuguese colony. A holiday destination since colonial times, Goa is known for being a traveller's paradise, where the pace of life slows, and the emphasis is on relaxation. Goa is much more than just its beaches, with a unique blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures reflected in its well-preserved architecture, lively markets and delicious cuisine.

The Golden Triangle & Goa tour will leave memories that will stay with you forever of the magical, mesmerising country of India.



② = Number of nights

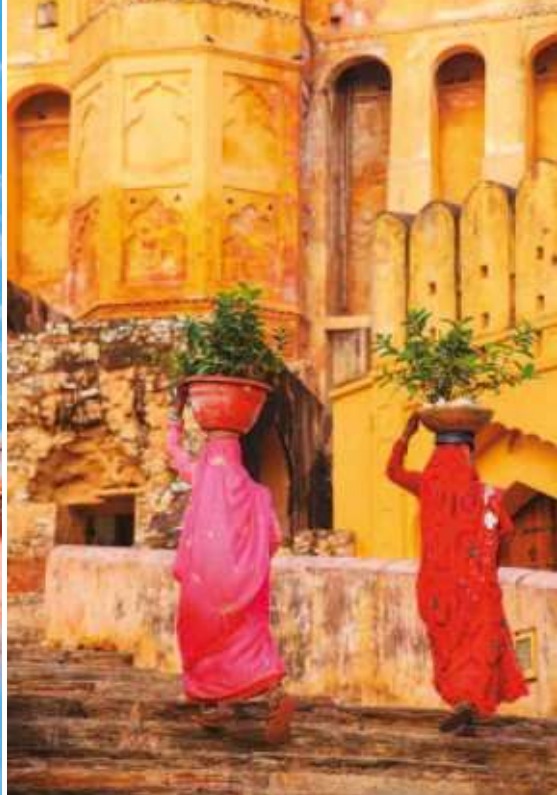
Your holiday includes

-  Small group touring with max. 24 passengers
-  Return economy flights with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. All domestic flights within India are also included
-  First class hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £451 per person, with daily breakfast, three lunches and dinner each evening
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur
 - ★ Food walk in Old Delhi
 - ★ Rail journey onboard the Gatimaan Express
 - ★ Visit the iconic Taj Mahal
 - ★ Tour of Chand Baori Step Well, Abhaneri
 - ★ Tiger talk with naturalist and two safaris in Ranthambore National Park
 - ★ Jeep ride and tour of Amber Fort, Jaipur
 - ★ Three-night stay in the beach resort of Goa
-  Services of an experienced local Tour Manager and local guides
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Jama Masjid, Delhi



Amber Fort, Jaipur, Rajasthan



Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh

The Golden Triangle & Goa

Days 1 to 8: UK - Delhi - Agra - Ranthambore - Jaipur

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow for our overnight flight to Delhi. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Delhi, 2 nights

On arrival into Delhi, we transfer to the impressive ITC Maurya Hotel. 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. It's an action-packed morning, concluding with a street food walk in Old Delhi, where we shall explore the cultural mesh of flavours and Dilli recipes on offer in its many eateries. 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 World Heritage Site, Humayun's Tomb, where the 16th century Mughal Emperor lies. **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, a historical fort which remained the main residence of the Mughal emperors until 1638, before travelling to our hotel, the delightful ITC Mughal Hotel. Located within close proximity of the Taj Mahal, 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

Day 5: Ranthambore, 2 nights

We leave Agra behind and journey to Abhaneri. Unique to India, Chand Baori at Abhaneri is a 13 storey, 1,300-year-old stepwell, constructed with mind-blowing geometry and aesthetics. Our next stop is Umaid Palace, a tranquil organic retreat nestled in 20 acres of rustic countryside, where we take lunch in the palace's serene surroundings. Afterwards, we continue to Ranthambore, for our next two nights at the charming Ranthambore Regency Hotel. Situated close to 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, sambar deer, and over 250 bird species – all of which inhabit this incredible part of the world. We board our open shared canter vehicle for our first safari, prior to breakfast. We embark on our second safari in the afternoon, to explore the park further 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 ITC Rajputana Hotel, located in the heart of the city and inspired by the architecture of Rajasthan's traditional havelis. The evening is ours to enjoy in the most perfect surroundings. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 8: Jaipur

Following breakfast, we 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 cookery demonstration, and an exclusive insight into Rajasthani family life with dinner at a family home. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Goa



Celebrating Holi festival



Chital deer, Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan

The Golden Triangle & Goa

Days 9 to 14: Jaipur - Goa - Delhi - UK

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**

Day 10: Goa, 3 nights

Today, we bid farewell to wonderful Jaipur. We travel to Jaipur Airport for our one-stop flight to Goa. A holiday destination since colonial times, Goa is known for being a traveller's paradise. On arrival, we transfer to the Zuri White Sands Hotel, where we will spend the next three nights. Located on Varca Beach and spread across 37 acres, the resort is ideal for enjoying Goa's famous coastline. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: 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 12: 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 area's many thriving and eclectic markets, selling anything from local spices to beautiful handmade scarves and crafts. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: Delhi, Overnight

Continue to enjoy the delights of Goa until it is time to depart for our flight to Delhi. Upon arrival we make our way to the Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity, where we shall have our final night in India. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 14: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

We depart this morning for Delhi Airport for our morning flight with Virgin Atlantic, arriving in London later today. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

25 October 2024	£2,995 per person
08 November 2024	£2,995 per person

2025 Departures

17 January 2025	£3,095 per person
07 February 2025	£3,095 per person
07 March 2025	£3,095 per person
04 April 2025	£2,895 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

October 2024 – March 2025: £795.
April 2025: £645

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,000 per person if travelling Premium Economy and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Virgin Atlantic upgrade to Premium Economy from £995 per person return, or Business Class from £2,895 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

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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





Clockwise from above: Lake Vembanad, Kerala; White flower with red rose petals; Tea plantation, Kerala



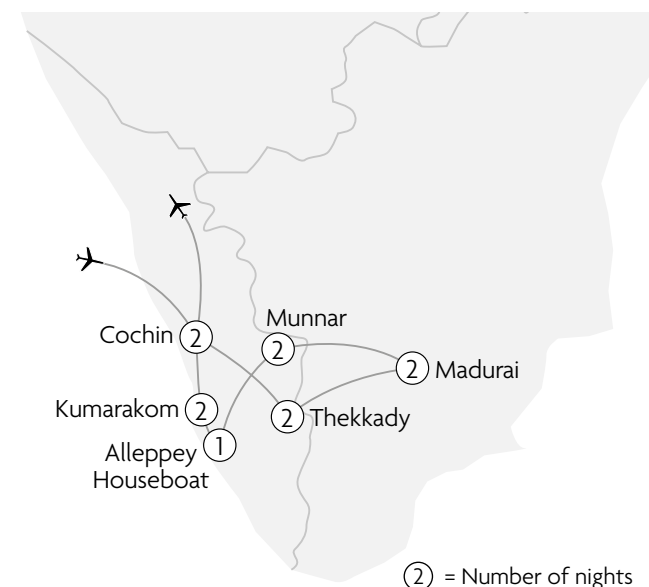
Splendours of Kerala

📅 14 days 💷 from £2,595pp 🌍 September 2024 – April 2025

Kerala is a blissfully tranquil region on India's tropical Malabar Coast, 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 a captivating destination with a relaxed pace of life, which will cast a spell over everyone who visits.

Our 14-day Splendours of Kerala tour begins in colonial-accented Cochin, where ancient 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 visit to see the wild Asian elephants at Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, 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

-  Small group touring with max. 24 passengers
-  Return economy flights with Etihad Airways via Abu Dhabi from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Flights from Manchester may be possible, please speak to our team for further details
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £385 per person, with daily breakfast, one lunch and dinner each evening
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ 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
-  Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Meenakshi Temple, Madurai, Tamil Nadu



Flower market

Splendours of Kerala

Days 1 to 8: UK - Cochin - Thekkady - Madurai - Munnar

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Manchester flights are also available, but may involve a longer connection in Abu Dhabi. 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 adventure. **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. We continue to enchanting Fort Cochin, where Chinese fishing nets line the shore and 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, experience 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, 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. Following an afternoon at leisure and an early dinner, we experience the unforgettable 'Going to Bed Ceremony' at Madurai's famous Meenakshi Temple. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 7: Madurai

Tour Highlight

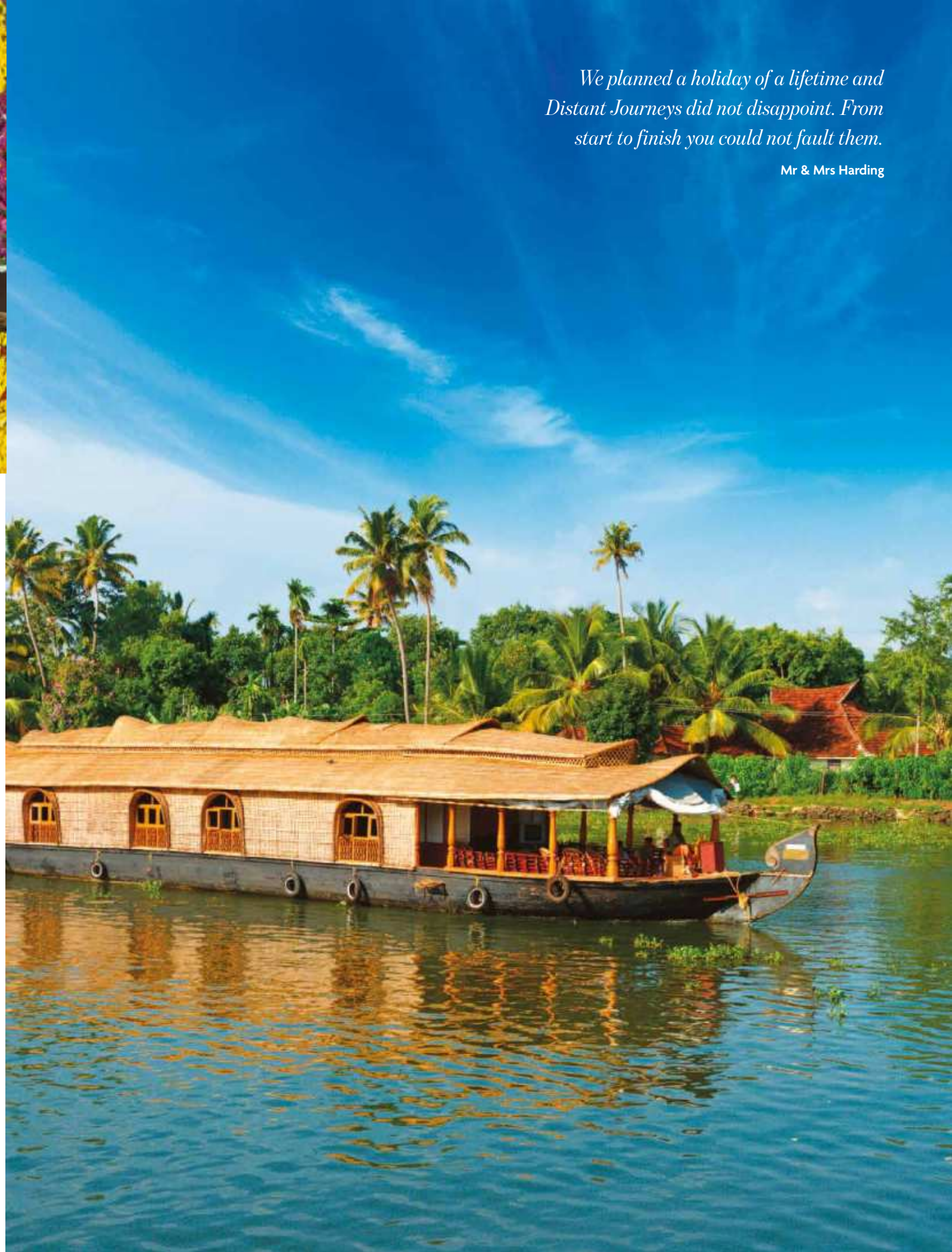
We begin our morning's sightseeing in the Old City of Madurai, with a further visit to Meenakshi Temple. Explore the ornate façade towering gateways and watch traditional ceremonies, devotions, and the animated markets within. We continue with a visit to Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahall, a dazzling 17th-century palace erected in 1636 AD, and take a rickshaw ride along 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, located 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**

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



Kettuvallam houseboat, Alleppey, Kerala



Tea Plantation, Munnar, Kerala



Keralan fisherman



Keralan backwaters

Splendours of Kerala

Days 9 to 14: Munnar - Alleppey - Kumarakom - UK

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 return to the lowlands and journey 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, coconut groves, rice fields and hidden temples. Enjoy the unique experience of a night aboard and indulging ourselves in the soothing sights of the slowly passing, and distinctly beautiful, Keralan backwaters. This once in a lifetime experience is something we will 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 canals until we reach Coconut Lagoon, our hotel for the next two nights. 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**

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**

Kerala Beach Stay

4 Days from £495 per person

Why not extend your Splendours of Kerala holiday with a relaxing four-night beach stay at an idyllic Keralan beach resort?



Known for its palm-lined beaches and stretches of golden sand on the shores of the Arabian Sea, a beach stay in Kerala is the perfect way to finish your Keralan adventure.

Spend three nights at the delightful Marari Beach Resort. Located in the seaside village of Mararikulam and with direct beach access, enjoy the simplicity, harmony and beauty of the region.

Your Keralan beach stay includes:

Three night's accommodation at the Marari Beach Resort on a half-board basis and all transfers.

Please see page 110 for more details.

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

13 September 2024	£2,595 per person
11 October 2024	£2,795 per person
15 November 2024	£2,795 per person

2025 Departures

24 January 2025	£2,795 per person
07 February 2025	£2,795 per person
07 March 2025	£2,795 per person
04 April 2025	£2,595 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

September 2024: £645.
October 2024 - March 2025: £795.
April 2025: £645.

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 £2,895 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

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

Call to book

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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





NEW

Indian Wildlife Adventure

📅 17 days 💷 from £3,695pp 🌐 October 2024 – April 2025

India welcomes you with open arms. It's a country that pulsates with vibrant energy, boasts a history as deep as time itself, and offers a completely unique experience for those interested in exploring its expansive wildlife and natural landscapes.

Our Indian Wildlife Adventure takes you on a mesmerising journey through some of India's most captivating destinations.

Starting with the bustling metropolis of Mumbai, delight in the western state of Gujarat, discover the 15th century Dada Harir Stepwell and visit several of India's most acclaimed national parks. Each stop along the way promises unforgettable moments.

This tour abounds with opportunities – each day a new adventure. Journey through real-life pages from The Jungle Book and have your camera at the ready, with chances to see Asiatic lions, Bengal tigers or India's rare blackbucks to name but a few.









With experienced guides, carefully-selected accommodation, and a well-crafted itinerary, our Indian Wildlife Adventure ensures that you'll create cherished memories at every turn.

Clockwise from above: Asiatic lion cub, Gir National Park, Gujarat; Peacock; Bengal tiger, Pench National Park, Rajasthan



② = Number of nights

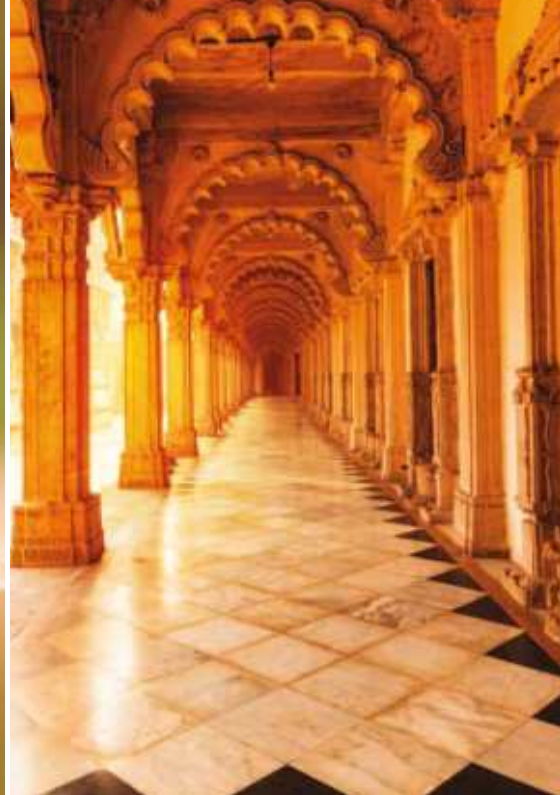
Your holiday includes

-  Small group touring with max. 19 passengers
-  Return economy flights with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Flights with Emirates are also possible at a supplement of £295 per person, please speak to our team for further details. All domestic flights within India are also included
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £652 per person, with daily breakfast, nine lunches and dinner each evening
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Tour of Mumbai
 - ★ Witness a Siddi-Dhamal dance performance in Gir
 - ★ Discover Asiatic lions, with safaris in Gir National Park
 - ★ Blackbuck National Park safari
 - ★ The historic Dada Harir Stepwell in Ahmedabad
 - ★ Experience stargazing in Pench
 - ★ Search for Bengal tigers in Pench National Park
 - ★ Enjoy a 'tiger talk' with a knowledgeable naturalist
 - ★ Visit a tribal village in Kanha
 - ★ Safaris in Kanha and Bandhavgarh National Parks
-  Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Indian Roller Bird, Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh



Hutheesing Jain Temple, Ahmedabad, Gujarat



Lion, Gir National Park, Gujarat

Indian Wildlife Adventure

Days 1 to 12: UK - Mumbai - Gir - Velavadar - Ahmedabad - Pench - Kanha

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart for Mumbai from London Heathrow with Virgin Atlantic. Join us for a relaxing overnight flight as we prepare for an unforgettable trip to India. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham for a supplement, from £295 per person return.

Day 2: Mumbai, 2 nights

Upon arrival, we will transfer to the impressive Trident Nariman Point for our first two nights in India. Later, we meet our Tour Manager and fellow travellers during a welcome drink gathering, prior to dinner. **In-flight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Mumbai

Following breakfast this morning, we take an extraordinary tour of Mumbai. Explore the colonial precinct, vibrant markets and embrace the rhythm of Bollywood. Each activity offers a deeper insight into the city's soul. The evening is yours to unwind at leisure. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Gir, 2 nights

This morning, we take a short flight to Rajkot, followed by a scenic drive to Gir. Travelling through diverse landscapes, we arrive at the magnificent Fern Forest Resort, our haven for the next two nights. Lunch at a restaurant en route to Gir adds a touch of local flavour. As the evening unfolds, prepare to be captivated by the "Siddi-Dhamal" dance, a performance by Siddi Tribes, prior to dinner at the resort. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 5: Gir

Tour Highlight

Rise early this morning for an unforgettable Jeep safari through Gir National Park, home to the majestic Asiatic lions. The park is also home to a diverse range of other wildlife, including the Indian leopard, Indian cobra, striped hyena and a wide range of bird species. Our day offers a perfect blend of thrilling wildlife encounters and relaxation. Explore the resort's facilities including a swimming pool, spa and nature trails. This afternoon, embark on another Jeep safari, revealing more of Gir's hidden treasures. In the evening, relax and unwind with your fellow travelling companions. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Velavadar, Overnight

Following breakfast, we embark on a scenic drive to Velavadar, where the mesmerising Blackbuck National Park beckons. Our home for the night will be the impressive Blackbuck Safari Lodge. In the afternoon, an exciting safari awaits, inviting us to keep a vigilant eye out for the graceful blackbuck, the native Indian antelope, as well as elusive creatures including the jackal and jungle cats. As the evening settles in, enjoy dinner, concluding a day rich with safari experiences. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 7: Ahmedabad, 2 nights

For those with an interest in yoga, we start our day with an early morning session, followed by a leisurely breakfast. We have a relaxed morning at our hotel and for those that wish, for an additional cost, a second safari into Velavadar can be arranged, presenting a golden opportunity to capture one last glimpse of the awe-inspiring wildlife dwelling within Blackbuck National Park. This afternoon, embark on a scenic drive to Ahmedabad, the most populous city in the Indian state of Gujarat. On arrival, we check in to the impressive Welcomhotel by ITC, for our next two nights. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Ahmedabad

Tour Highlight

This morning, we embark on a full-day exploration of Ahmedabad's iconic landmarks. We discover the incredible Dada Harir Stepwell, built in 1499 by the supervisor of Sultan Mahmud Begada's harem. Visits also include Sidi Saiyad Mosque and Hutheesing Temple, Gandhi Ashram and Shreyas Folk Museum, each site narrating the city's rich and fascinating history. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Pench, 2 nights

A morning at leisure until we depart for Nagpur on a short flight. Upon arrival, we collect our cases and drive to Pench National Park, where we continue our wildlife adventure. We arrive at the wonderful Pench Jungle Resort for a two night stay and enjoy dinner as we prepare for another exciting day ahead. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Pench

Tour Highlight

We immerse ourselves in the untamed wilderness as we embark on a Jeep safari through the renowned Pench National Park. This illustrious wildlife sanctuary, famously mentioned in the pages of The Jungle Book, beckons with its captivating allure. The park is home to numerous wild creatures including the Bengal tiger, peafowl, wild dog and sloth bear. Afterwards, enjoy breakfast at our hotel – Pench Jungle Resort – and make the most of the resort's facilities. Take a dip in the outdoor swimming pool, situated amongst dense Teak and Mahua trees, or relax and unwind at the Spa and Wellness Centre.

This afternoon brings another thrilling jungle safari and another opportunity to witness more local wildlife. As the sun sets, delight in an enchanting stargazing session led by a local expert, who will show us the wonders of the Milky Way and the significance of stars and the moon's position in Indian society. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 11: Kanha, 3 nights

Following breakfast today, we embark on a scenic drive to Kanha National Park. This afternoon we visit a nearby tribal village, providing an excellent opportunity to meet the friendly locals and gain a fascinating insight into their way of life. This evening, enjoy a Tiger Talk with a knowledgeable naturalist who will brief us about the animals and flora and fauna within the Kanha National Park. The delightful Kanha Jungle Camp is home for the next three nights. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 12: Kanha

Kickstart the day with an exciting Jeep safari in Kanha National Park, a haven for tigers and diverse wildlife. Nestled in the Maikal range of Satpuras in Madhya Pradesh, the park is home to a wide range of species such as the Bengal tiger, Indian leopard, the sloth bear and the Indian wild dog. After our early morning safari, enjoy breakfast and unwind amongst the lodge's immaculate facilities. This afternoon, we embark on another Jeep safari, led by a naturalist, as we seek to marvel at even more species of wildlife in their natural habitat. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Handmade souvenirs



Elephant, Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh



Royal Bengal Tiger, Bandhavgarh National Park, Madhya Pradesh

Indian Wildlife Adventure

Days 13 to 17: Kanha - Bandhavgarh - Delhi - UK

Day 13: Kanha

Join an early morning Jeep safari for another opportunity to witness Kanha's thriving ecosystem. Enjoy breakfast at the resort and indulge in a little leisure time. Should you prefer, join a naturalist-led nature walk around the resort. An exciting evening awaits as we delve into the world of Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book", connecting you to the park's captivating tales. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 14: Bandhavgarh, 2 nights

Following an early breakfast, we leave Kanha behind for our next destination – Bandhavgarh National Park. Upon arrival, we check in at the charming Tiger Den Resort, where we are able to enjoy an afternoon at leisure. Make the most of the resort's impressive facilities and soak up the wonderful luscious green landscape. This evening, a local naturalist enlightens us on the wonders of Bandhavgarh National Park. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 15: Bandhavgarh

Our day begins with a Jeep safari in Bandhavgarh National Park, a sanctuary of awe-inspiring natural beauty and biodiversity. Often hailed as one of the best places to spot the Bengal tiger, the park is also home to a diverse range of wildlife including leopards, bison and sambar deer.

The rest of the morning is ours to spend at our leisure. Enjoy the relaxing surroundings of this luxury jungle resort prior to lunch. A further Jeep safari awaits this afternoon, followed by dinner and a relaxing evening amongst friends. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 16: Delhi, Overnight

Sadly, we must leave our safari adventures behind. We shall transfer to Jabalpur where our flight to Delhi awaits. Upon arrival we transfer to Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity for our final night in India. This evening enjoy dinner as we reflect on the sights we have encountered over the last two weeks.

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 17: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

As we bid farewell to India, we board our return flight to the UK. Arrive back in London later in the day, with memories to cherish for a lifetime. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

2024 Departures

18 October 2024	£3,695 per person
15 November 2024	£3,695 per person

2025 Departures

17 January 2025	£3,695 per person
07 February 2025	£3,695 per person
14 March 2025	£3,695 per person
11 April 2025	£3,695 per person

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	£1,895 per person
3 guests	£1,295 per person
4 guests	£795 per person
5-6 guests	£695 per person
7-10 guests	£395 per person
11-12 guests	£195 per person
13-16 guests	£95 per person
17+ guests	No extra charge

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement
£895.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,000 per person if travelling Premium Economy and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Virgin Atlantic upgrade to Premium Economy from £995 per person return, or Business Class from £2,895 per person return. Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,895 per person return, or Business Class from £3,895 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

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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





NEW

The Very Best of Southern India

📅 19 days 💷 from £3,245pp 🌍 September 2024 – March 2025

Welcome to a 19-day adventure through the heart of Southern India, where vibrant culture, history, and natural beauty converge.

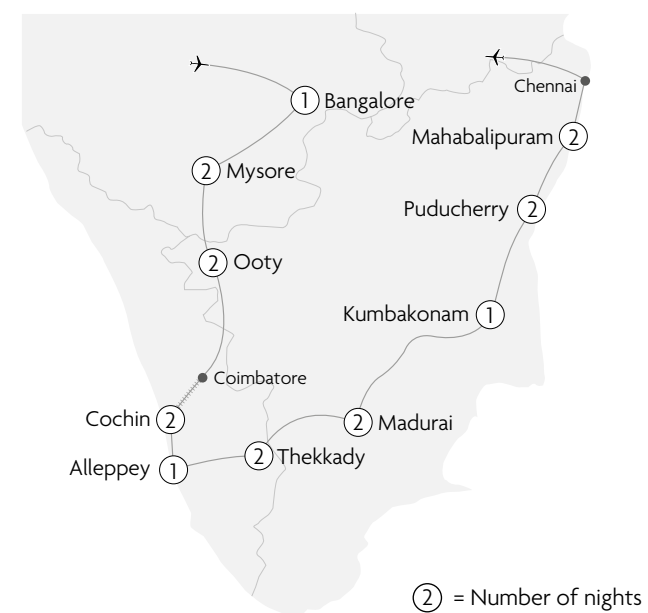
Explore many of India's charming towns and cities, with highlights including visits to Mysore Palace, Meenakshi Temple in Madurai and Cochin, Kerala's captivating port city. We also stay overnight on a traditional houseboat in Alleppey, cruising the enchanting backwaters of Kerala.

Our journey begins in Mysore, exploring its enchanting palace, before visits to Ooty, Cochin and Thekkady, where vibrant markets and aromatic spice plantations await, and traditional art forms like Kathakali dance are ready to awaken the senses.









This unforgettable tour also takes us to the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu, stopping by Madurai, Kumbakonam, Puducherry and finishing with a relaxing beach stay in Mahabalipuram. Explore the bustling streets of Madurai by cycle-rickshaw and expect centuries of history to come alive as we marvel at the Meenakshi Temple, and enjoy a trip to the famous Brihadeshwara Temple in Kumbakonam.

With experienced tour guides, carefully-selected hotels and an unforgettable itinerary, our Very Best of Southern India tour unfolds a new chapter of discovery and exploration each day.

Clockwise from above: Keralan backwaters; Bangalore Palace, Bangalore, Karnataka



Your holiday includes

-  Small group touring with max. 24 passengers
-  Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £634 per person, with daily breakfast, four lunches and dinner each evening, including lunch in a tea plantation and dinner in a family home
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Bangalore, Ooty, Cochin, Madurai, Puducherry and Mahabalipuram
 - ★ Visit magnificent Mysore Palace
 - ★ Drive through Bandipur National Park and Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary
 - ★ Ride the enchanting Ooty Toy Train to Coonoor
 - ★ Visit a tea plantation and spice plantation
 - ★ Cruise the Keralan backwaters on a traditional thatch-roofed 'kettuvallam' houseboat
 - ★ Discover the natural beauty of Periyar National Park
 - ★ Experience the 'Going to Bed' ceremony at Madurai's famous Meenakshi Temple
 - ★ Explore the Shiva god temple, Brihadeshwara Temple
 - ★ Learn about Pattu silk weaving
 - ★ Explore the 7th century Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram
-  Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Mysore Palace, Mysore, Karnataka



Tea Plantation, Ooty, Tamil Nadu

The Very Best of Southern India

Days 1 to 7: UK - Bangalore - Mysore - Ooty - Cochin

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham with Emirates. All flights to Bangalore operate via Dubai. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Bangalore, Overnight

Upon arrival in Bangalore, we will be met at the airport and transferred to the impressive Welcomhotel by ITC. This afternoon, embark on an orientation tour, passing by the majestic Vidhana Soudha and the serene Cubbon Park, and explore the iconic Bangalore Palace. Later this evening, our tour guide will brief us regarding our adventure ahead. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 3: Mysore, 2 nights

We start our day with breakfast, preparing for an exciting day of sightseeing. Today's highlights include a trip to the impressive summer palace of Tipu Sultan, a prominent British military adversary, and the grand Bull Temple. Later in the day, our journey continues to the enchanting city of Mysore. Upon arrival, enjoy a trip to the illuminating Mysore Palace. Home for the next two nights is the Mysore Radisson Blu. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Mysore

After breakfast this morning, we start our day with a visit to the picturesque Chamundi Hills, affording breathtaking views over Mysore. Continuing into the city, prepare to be mesmerised by the grandeur of Mysore Palace, the artistic splendour of Jaganmohan Art Palace and the bustle of Devaraja market. After a morning of exhilarating exploration, the afternoon is ours to enjoy at our leisure. Relax and unwind at the hotel, or take an optional tour to Keshava Temple – a small but impressive temple that dates back to 1268, and is one of the finest examples of Hoysala architecture. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 5: Ooty, 2 nights

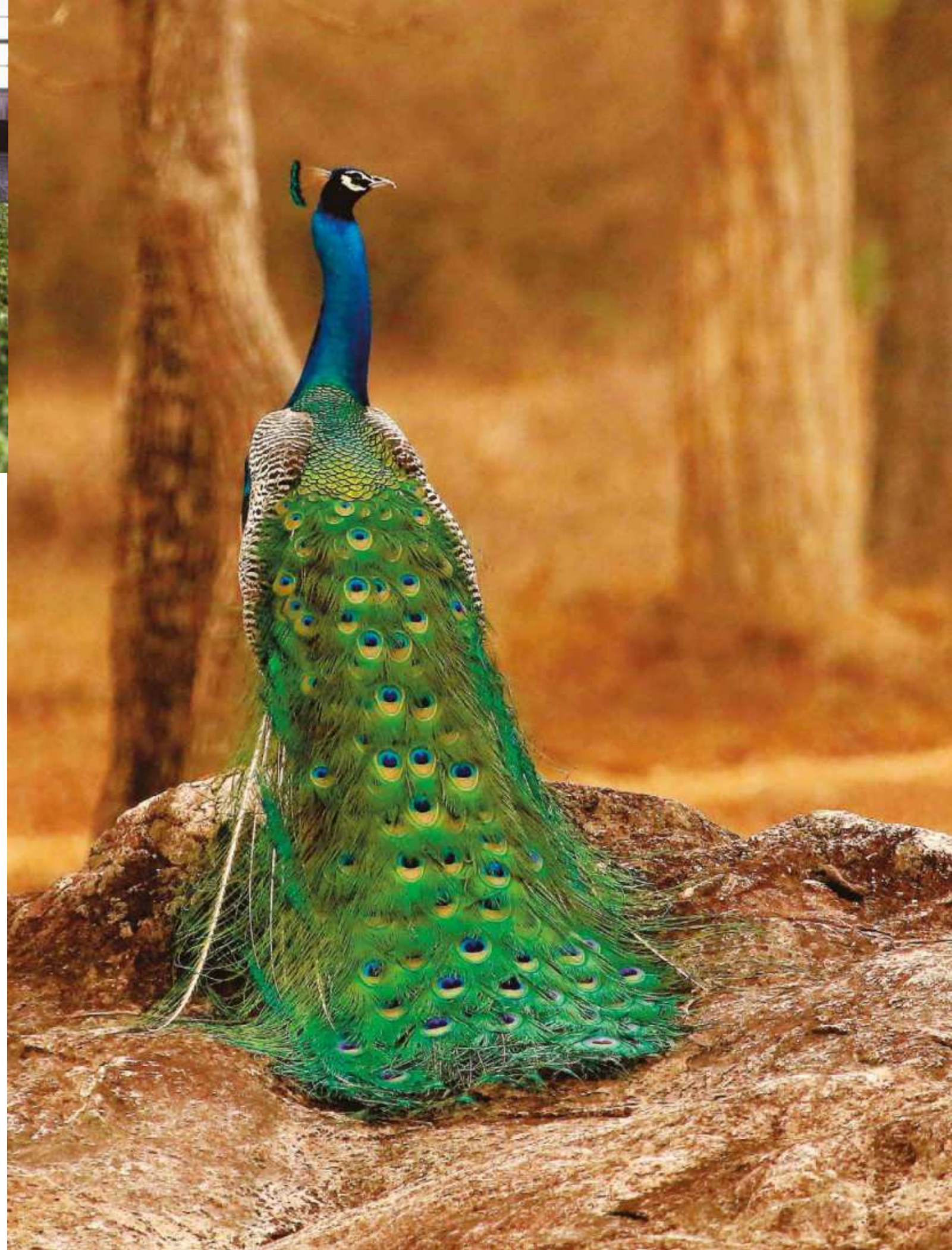
We begin our journey today with a picturesque drive to the enchanting hill station of Ooty. During this scenic journey, we pass through the renowned Bandipur National Park and Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary, where we may be fortunate enough to sight elephants, deer and peacocks on the roadside. Upon arrival in Ooty, we will check in at the wonderful Fortune Resort Sullivan Court and enjoy the rest of our day at leisure. Sit back and relax or explore the surrounding area at your own pace. As the day draws to a close, enjoy dinner at the hotel and retire for a peaceful night's rest. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Ooty

This morning takes us on an unforgettable Toy Train journey from Ooty to Coonoor through the picturesque Nilgiri mountains. Upon arrival, we visit a local tea plantation to learn the art of rolling and drying tea. This afternoon, we return to Ooty and visit the Botanical Gardens, a serene church, and the vibrant market of Ooty, allowing us to soak in the local culture and marvel at its natural beauty. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 7: Cochin, 2 nights

This morning, we embark on a scenic drive to Coimbatore. Later, we board the train to Cochin, providing a leisurely journey that allows us to relish the beauty of the local scenery from the comfort of our carriage. Upon arrival in Cochin, we transfer to the delightful Casino Cochin Hotel for our next two nights. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Male peacock, Bandipur National Park, Karnataka



Keralan backwaters



Elephants, Periyar National Park, Thekkady, Kerala

The Very Best of Southern India

Days 8 to 13: Cochin - Alleppey - Thekkady - Madurai

Day 8: Cochin

Today we explore the vibrant city of Cochin, Kerala's captivating port city, steeped in history and allure. Wander through enchanting Fort Cochin, where Chinese fishing nets grace the shores and colonial architecture adorns narrow lanes. We will also visit the ancient Jewish synagogue; St. Francis Church; Santa Cruz Cathedral Basilica and Kerala Folklore Museum. In the evening, witness the mesmerising 2,000-year-old traditional Kathakali dance, a colourful fusion of costumes, literature, music, painting and dance. Cochin's unique charm and rich cultural heritage will create lasting memories and leave a profound impact on your journey across Southern India. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Alleppey, Overnight Tour Highlight

Today promises to be one of the highlights of our tour as we embark on a fascinating journey to Alleppey. Our first stop is the renowned Mattancherry Palace, also known as the 'Dutch Palace', where we'll no doubt be captivated by its exquisite murals. Later, we head to Alleppey for a truly memorable experience – an overnight stay on a traditional, thatch-roofed 'kettuvallam' houseboat. Cruise through the enchanting Keralan backwaters, a labyrinth of canals, waterways, coconut groves, rice fields, hidden temples, and tiny islands. This incredible adventure will leave us with memories to cherish for years to come! **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 10: Thekkady, 2 nights

After an enthralling time on our houseboats, it's time to embark on our journey to Thekkady; a destination renowned for the prestigious Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. We make our way to Periyar, stopping en-route at a home set amongst the plantations of Kanjirapallyor, where we enjoy lunch and local family hospitality. This evening, enjoy a traditional Kalaripayattu performance, showcasing the mastery of traditional Indian martial arts. Home for the next two nights is the wonderful Elephant Court Hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 11: Thekkady

This morning, adventure enthusiasts might choose to enjoy an optional, early morning trek in Periyar National Park. This trek offers an excellent opportunity to observe local birds, butterflies and other wildlife on a challenging yet rewarding 5km walk, taking approximately two and a half hours, and returning to the hotel in time for breakfast. After breakfast, an enchanting and memorable experience awaits, as we explore a spice plantation, unveiling the mysteries of the Indian tea and spice industry. Later, we enjoy a tranquil cruise on Periyar Lake, surrounded by the vibrant Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, teeming with birdlife and wildlife, including elephants and graceful sambar deer. Later, we return to the hotel where our evening is at leisure. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 12: Madurai, 2 nights

We bid farewell to Periyar National Park and set off on a journey to the vibrant and ancient city of Madurai, located in the Southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Early this evening, the bustling streets and vibrant markets come alive as we explore them by cycle-rickshaw. Later, after an early dinner, enjoy a truly unforgettable experience at Madurai's famous Meenakshi Temple and experience the 'Going to Bed' ceremony. Our home for the next two nights will be the fabulous Heritage Madurai. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: Madurai Tour Highlight

Today's adventures begin in the Old City of Madurai, where we revisit the magnificent Meenakshi Temple, marvelling at its ornate façade and towering gateways. Witness the traditional ceremonies, devotions and vibrant markets that enliven this sacred place. Continuing our journey, we visit Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahall, a dazzling palace built in 1636 AD. The rest of our day is ours to enjoy as we please. Continue your adventures in Madurai or simply unwind by the hotel pool. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Meenakshi Temple, Madurai, Tamil Nadu



Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu



Promenade Beach, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu



Rickshaw tricycles, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu

The Very Best of Southern India

Days 14 to 19: Kumbakonam - Puducherry - Mahabalipuram - Chennai - UK

Day 14: Kumbakonam, Overnight

We begin our morning with a scenic drive to Kumbakonam. Along the way, we pay a visit to the famous Brihadeshwara Temple, a magnificent dedication to the God Shiva. For lunch, enjoy a delightful meal at a renowned local restaurant. Upon arrival in Kumbakonam, we check in at the Mantra Koodam Hotel for an overnight stay. The rest of the evening is ours to enjoy at leisure. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 15: Puducherry, 2 nights

Today we witness the time-honoured art of 'Pattu' silk weaving, a magical transformation of strands of thread into intricate silk saris, adorned with fine gold thread. Marvel at the master craftsmen skilfully working on hand-assembled wooden machines, weaving the silk with utmost precision. The mesmerising process of Pattu silk weaving will leave us in awe. After this unforgettable experience, we continue our journey to Puducherry. This evening, enjoy a leisurely walk along Promenade Beach, a perfect spot to witness the breathtaking sunset, before dinner at the hotel. Our next two nights are in the Palais De Mahe Hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 16: Puducherry

This morning we explore Puducherry Museum, offering insights into the city's history, followed by a visit to the charming French Quarter and the renowned Sri Aurobindo Ashram – a unique experiment in communal living that attracts visitors from around the globe.

This afternoon, why not enjoy an optional tour of Auroville Puducherry, the City of Dawn? This international community is dedicated to peace, sustainability and divine consciousness. It truly is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Alternatively, you might prefer to simply relax at the hotel and enjoy your surroundings? This evening, enjoy a cookery demonstration followed by dinner with a local family, immersing ourselves in the flavours and traditions of authentic Creole cuisine. This cultural culinary journey promises to be an unforgettable highlight of your trip to Puducherry. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 17: Mahabalipuram, 2 nights Tour Highlight

An early morning drive leads us to the historic town of Mahabalipuram. Upon arrival, we shall immerse ourselves in a captivating sightseeing tour of this ancient city. Marvel at the awe-inspiring Shore Temple – a magnificent 7th century structure that reflects the royal taste of the Pallava dynasty. Our exploration continues with a visit to the stone carvings portraying Arjuna's Penance and The Five Rathas. Don't miss the grand Krishna Mandapam, the largest cave-cut Hindu temple. Despite being in ruins, the intricate details preserved from the 7th century make these landmarks truly exceptional. After a busy day of sightseeing, we arrive at the Welcomhotel by ITC, Kences Palm Beach for our final two nights in India. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 18: Mahabalipuram Freedom Day

As we near the end of our trip, our final day in India is ours to spend as we please. This Freedom Day offers an excellent opportunity to explore the city at our own pace, sampling local delicacies and meeting the friendly locals, or merely to relax in the most pleasant surroundings. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 19: Depart Chennai / Arrive UK

Our 19-day journey across Southern India comes to a close, but we leave with memories that last a lifetime. Early this morning, we depart for Chennai Airport where our flight back to the UK awaits. All flights are via Dubai with Emirates, arriving at your chosen UK airport in the early evening, bringing our tour to a conclusion. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Why not extend your stay in Mahabalipuram?



If you wish to spend a little longer relaxing at the Welcomhotel by ITC, Kences Palm Beach, please speak with one of our travel experts.

2024 Departures

27 September 2024	£3,395 per person
08 November 2024	£3,395 per person

2025 Departures

17 January 2025	£3,395 per person
14 February 2025	£3,395 per person
07 March 2025	£3,395 per person
28 March 2025	£3,245 per person

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	£1,195 per person
3 guests	£695 per person
4 guests	£595 per person
5-6 guests	£395 per person
7-9 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
£995.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,000 per person if travelling Premium Economy Class and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,895 per person return, or Business Class from £3,895 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

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Flight schedules and airline carriers are subject to change. Our holiday prices are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will always be confirmed to you before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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





Clockwise from above: Chinese fishing net, Kerala backwaters; Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh



Grand Tour of India

25 days from £3,895pp September 2024 – March 2025

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.

Our 26-day Grand Tour is the ultimate tour of India, visiting places as diverse and historic as Delhi and Shimla, Amritsar and Agra, Jaipur and Udaipur; enthralling areas that are an essential part of any comprehensive tour of India. But Distant Journeys' Grand Tour also offers some truly unique activities and unforgettable experiences, such as a journey aboard the UNESCO recognised Toy Train on its meandering route to Shimla; in Jaipur, we spend an evening in the home of a local family, enjoying a cookery demonstration and a dinner of authentic Indian specialities.

Your Grand Tour will leave you with a lifetime of memories and a true understanding of the traditions and culture of India.



Your holiday includes

- Small group touring with max. 24 passengers
- Return economy flights with Etihad Airways via Abu Dhabi from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Flights from Manchester may be possible, please speak to our team for further details. All domestic flights within India are also included
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £919 per person, with daily breakfast, seven lunches and dinner each evening
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ 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 Kerala backwaters on board a kettuvallam houseboat

- Services of experienced local Tour Managers
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Toy Train, Himachal Pradesh



Bengal Tiger, Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan



Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh

Grand Tour of India

Days 1 to 12: UK - Delhi - Shimla - Amritsar - Agra - Ranthambore - Jaipur

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Manchester flights are also available, but may involve a longer connection in Abu Dhabi. 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. It's an action-packed morning, concluding with a culinary walk in Old Delhi, showcasing a range of authentic Dilli food bursting with all sorts of mouth-watering flavours. 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. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Shimla, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we transfer to New Delhi Railway Station to join 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, 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**

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 the musical spectacular Wagah-Attari border ceremony, 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 accommodation for the next 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 Palace. Spread over 20 acres of leafy land, this organic retreat is a relaxing indulgence far from the bustle of the city. We continue to Ranthambore, and our home for the next two nights, either the Ranthambore Kothi Hotel or The Tigress 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

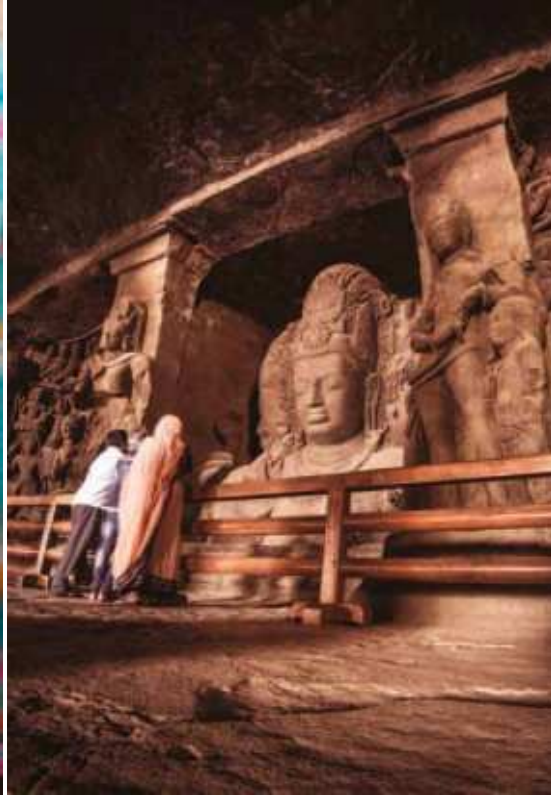
We begin the day with a safari in Ranthambore National Park by shared canter vehicles. Ranthambore is one of the largest national parks in northern India, and renowned for its majestic Bengal tigers. We hope to witness these magnificent and elusive predators roaming in their natural habitat. Later this afternoon, join another safari to explore the park further. 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, 3 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**



Indian sacred cow



Elephanta Caves, Mumbai, Maharashtra

Grand Tour of India

Days 13 to 20: Jaipur - Udaipur - Mumbai - Cochin

Day 13: Jaipur

Following breakfast, we travel a short distance to meet our waiting jeeps, which will take us to a 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. Our afternoon is at leisure 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**

Day 14: Jaipur

We embark on a city sightseeing tour, 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 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 15: Udaipur, 2 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 two nights is the delightful Trident Hotel. Our afternoon and evening are left completely at leisure. Enjoy!

Breakfast and dinner included

Day 16: 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. Enjoy a vegetarian lunch of authentic local Mewari cuisine at the delightful Garden Restaurant. This evening we join a boat ride on Lake Pichola, whilst visiting Jag Mandir, the Lake Garden Palace. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 17: Mumbai, 2 nights

Following a leisurely morning to explore beautiful Udaipur further, we board our flight to Mumbai. On arrival we transfer to the five-star Trident Hotel, Nariman Point, which will be our home for the next two nights. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 18: Mumbai

We take a short tour of Mumbai this morning, visiting Mani Bhawan, a museum dedicated to Gandhi; the Prince of Wales Museum; Victoria Terminus, open-air Laundromat; Dhobi Ghat and the iconic Gateway of India. In the afternoon, we join 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. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 19: Cochin, 2 nights

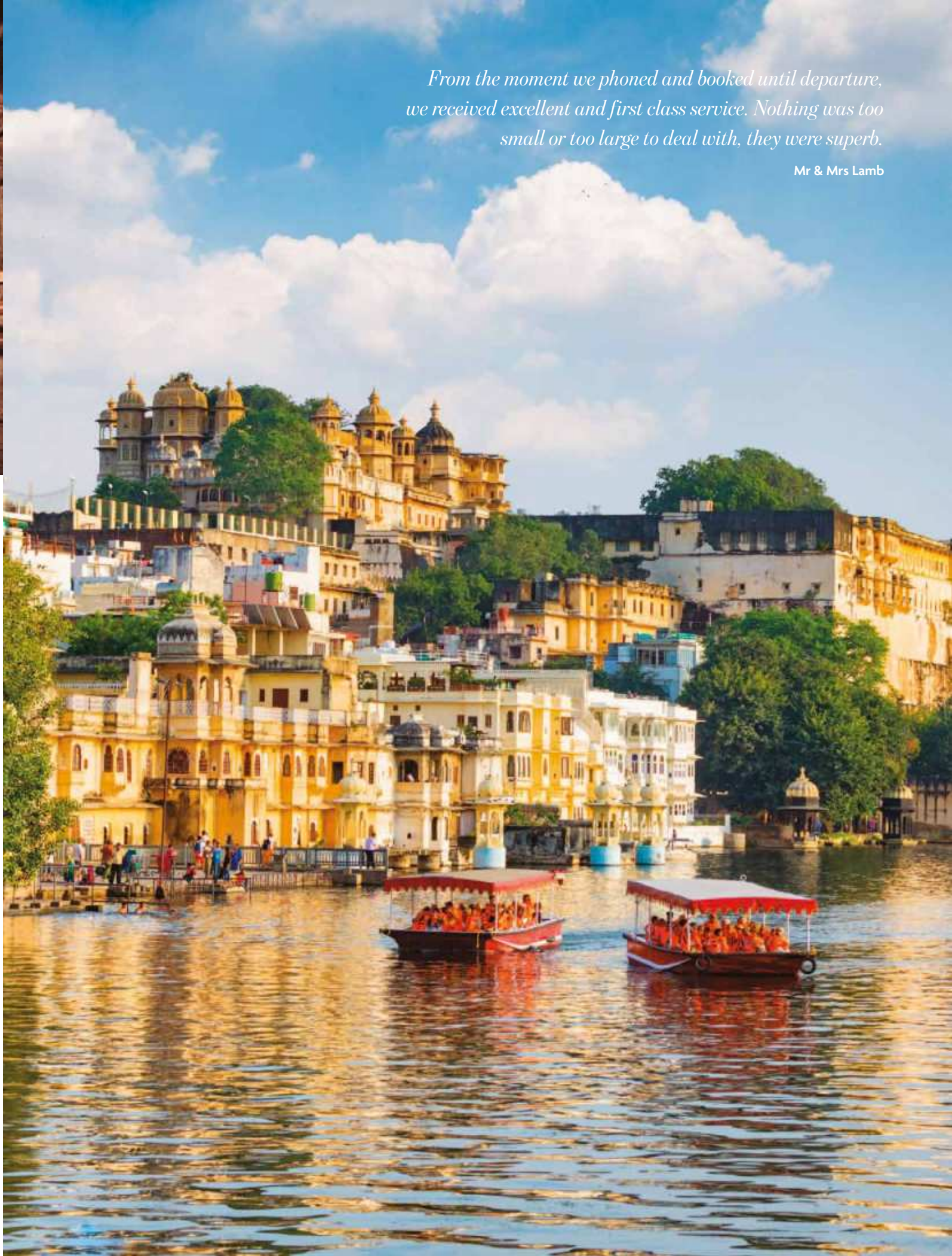
Early risers may wish to take an optional pre-breakfast tour of Mumbai by dawn, where we take a special peek into the underbelly of working Mumbai – an insight into what makes this magnificent city tick – in the company of an expert guide. After breakfast and a leisurely morning, we transfer to the airport 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**

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



Lake Pichola, Udaipur, Rajasthan



Tea Plantation, Thekkady, Kerala



Indian dosa



Kettuvallam, Alleppey, Kerala

Grand Tour of India

Days 21 to 25: Alleppey - Thekkady - Cochin - UK

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 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 / Arrive UK

Early morning, we travel to Cochin Airport for our flight with Etihad Airways, which travels via Abu Dhabi. We arrive into our chosen airport later today. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Kerala Beach Stay 4 Days from £495 per person

Why not extend your Grand Tour of India holiday with a relaxing three-night beach stay at an idyllic Keralan beach resort?



Known for its palm-lined beaches and stretches of golden sand on the shores of the Arabian Sea, a beach stay in Kerala is the perfect way to finish your Indian adventure.

Spend three nights at the delightful Marari Beach Resort. Located in the seaside village of Mararikulam and with direct beach access, enjoy the simplicity, harmony and beauty of the region.

Your Keralan beach stay includes:
Three night's accommodation at the Marari Beach Resort on a half-board basis and all transfers.

Please see page 110 for more details.

Departure Dates & Prices

2024 Departures

04 September 2024	£3,895 per person
09 October 2024	£4,195 per person
23 October 2024	£4,195 per person

2025 Departures

20 January 2025	£4,395 per person
05 February 2025	£4,395 per person
17 February 2025	£4,395 per person
05 March 2025	£4,395 per person

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	£1,095 per person
3-4 guests	£695 per person
5-6 guests	£495 per person
7-9 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

September 2024: £995.
October 2024 - March 2025: £1,245.

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 £2,895 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

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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





NEW

Deccan Odyssey's Grand Heritage

14 days from £6,425pp April 2024 – April 2025

Colourful and chaotic, India oozes culture and passion, overflows with history and intrigue, and bursts with natural beauty and wildlife. And what better way to discover the sights, sounds and scents of this vibrant country than by rail?

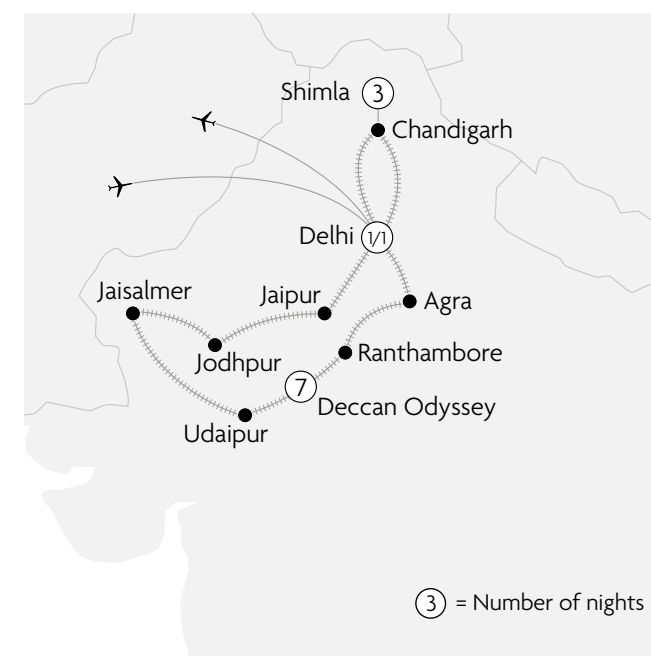
On our 14-day Deccan Odyssey's Grand Heritage tour, you'll experience an enchanting way to travel and many magical moments on a cross-country railway adventure.

Our journey begins in Delhi, the country's captivating capital. From here, we board the Deccan Odyssey which takes passengers on an unforgettable journey through the highlights of northwest India.

From the majestic Taj Mahal and magnificent Agra Fort to beautiful Ranthambore National Park – once the private hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur and home to the famous Bengal tiger.

You'll also visit Rajasthan's enchanted towns of Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur, with their picture-book settings, amazing temples and palaces, and jaw-dropping architecture. The 'Golden City' of Jaisalmer in the heart of the Thar Desert also awaits, and our adventure draws to a close by taking in the fresh air and natural beauty of the city of Shimla, before returning to Delhi with wide smiles and full hearts.

Clockwise from above: Deccan Odyssey Aurangabad welcome; Red Fort, Agra; Dining on board The Deccan Odyssey



Your holiday includes

- Small group touring with max. 24 passengers
- Return economy flights with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, Birmingham or Manchester are also possible at a supplement of £295 per person, please speak to our team for further details
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £567 per person, with daily breakfast, eight lunches and dinner each evening
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Agra, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Jaipur and Shimla
 - ★ Visit the iconic Taj Mahal
 - ★ Safari in Ranthambore National Park
 - ★ Explore a traditional Rajasthani village
 - ★ Discover Jagmandir Island Palace, Udaipur
 - ★ Join a Thar Desert Camel Ride
 - ★ Travel on board the UNESCO Toy Train from Shimla
- Seven-night journey on-board The Deccan Odyssey train, with all meals and soft drinks included with meals
- Services of experienced local guides
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Deccan Odyssey Deluxe twin cabin



City Palace, Lake Pichola, Udaipur, Rajasthan



Bengal Tiger, Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan

Deccan Odyssey's Grand Heritage

Days 1 to 6: UK - Delhi - Deccan Odyssey - Agra - Ranthambore - Udaipur

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow for our overnight flight to Delhi. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham for a supplement, from £295 per person return.

Day 2: Delhi, Overnight

On arrival into Delhi, our waiting coach will transfer us to the stately Heritage Maidens Hotel. This evening, we meet our Tour Guide and fellow travellers for a welcome drink so we may become better acquainted ahead of our forthcoming adventures. **In-flight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Deccan Odyssey, 7 nights

Delhi, the captivating capital city of India, is a mesmerising fusion of old and new, making it the ideal starting point for our journey. Following breakfast this morning, we'll take a rickshaw ride to explore the narrow alleys of Old Delhi, shaped by the influence of past empires. We'll drive via the Red Fort, famous for its enchanting history and dazzling architecture, and visit Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, and the Chandni Chowk market, with its lively atmosphere bursting with exotic sights, sounds, and scents.

This afternoon, we'll view some of the iconic landmarks of New Delhi, including India Gate and Parliament House. We also visit Humayun's Tomb, the 16th-century UNESCO World Heritage Site where the Mughal Emperor lies.

Tour Highlight

Following our sightseeing, we transfer to Delhi railway station to join the magnificent Deccan Odyssey for our cross-country railway adventure. Inside, each of the train's cabins is inspired by a different royal era of Maharashtra. Its two excellent restaurants, Waavar and Utsav, are authentically designed and in keeping with the style and grace of Indian royalty.

Once on board, we will be accompanied to our suites, a serene sanctuary where we can refresh and rejuvenate as we pass through the captivating landscapes. Enjoy the charm of the Deccan Odyssey, and be captivated by the unique blend of experiences that await at each destination. **Breakfast, lunch, and dinner included.**

Day 4: Agra

Tour Highlight

Where else could our visit to Agra begin than with the majestic Taj Mahal. A symbol of love built by Emperor Shah Jahan for his wife, it took 20,000 workers over 20 years to complete. Witnessing first-hand the symmetrical columns crafted from white marble, which were transported across the country on caravans of elephants and camels, is simply breathtaking. This afternoon, we'll explore the magnificent Agra Fort, a seat of power for three generations of the Mughal Empire, and a fascinating glimpse into the rich history and architectural brilliance of the era. Later, as evening falls, we'll reconvene on the Deccan Odyssey for dinner and continue our journey towards Sawai Madhopur. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 5: Sawai Madhopur & Ranthambore

Sawai Madhopur is the gateway to the wilderness of Ranthambore National Park. Once the private hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve now showcases India's tiger conservation efforts. We start our day with an exhilarating jungle safari, with an opportunity to spot tigers, deer, gazelle, wild boar, antelope, sloth bear, leopard and crocodiles. The park also abounds with diverse birdlife, including jungle fowl, eagles and woodpeckers.

Later in the day, we take a village safari to experience rural life in Rajasthan. These villages are home to friendly tribal communities whose livelihoods depend on farming and hunting. We will learn about their traditions, admire the colourful attire of the women against the desert backdrop, and engage with a welcoming local family in their home. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Udaipur

This morning, we arrive at our next stop, Udaipur, nestled beside the serene waters of Lake Pichola. Enjoy breakfast whilst taking in the view of the surrounding Aravali Hills. Explore the famous City Palace, Rajasthan's largest, and marvel at the architecture adorned with gracefully curved arches, intricately carved balconies and beautiful domed roofs. Be sure to visit the stunning collection in the Crystal Gallery.

Later, we take a scenic ferry ride to Jagmandir, a 17th-century palace on a picturesque island. Enjoy lunch serenaded by Tabla and Jal Tarang music and admire the dreamy views of Udaipur, one of Rajasthan's most enchanting cities. As the day winds down, we'll gather back on board Deccan Odyssey for dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Jaisalmer Fort, Rajasthan



Jodhpur, Rajasthan

Deccan Odyssey's Grand Heritage

Days 7 to 9: Jaisalmer - Jodhpur - Jaipur

Day 7: Jaisalmer

Jaisalmer is a captivating desert town, conjuring up dreams of mysterious lanterns and magic carpets. We begin our day with a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Jaisalmer Fort. This 15th-century fort stands tall at 100 metres over the town and glows golden in the Indian sun. Next, we visit Patwon ki Haveli, an impressive five-story mansion renowned for its elaborate carvings. Admire the nearby 15th Century Jain temples, adorned with beautiful sculptures, and the library housing ancient manuscripts. This afternoon, take a camel ride across the Thar Desert and capture stunning sunset photos against the backdrop of sand dunes. Later in the day we return to the Deccan Odyssey, for dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 8: Jodhpur

Today we arrive into the 'Blue City' of Jodhpur. Known for its blue-painted houses, Jodhpur is a magnificent fort town with exceptional Rajput-era architecture. Today we shall explore the formidable 16th-century Mehrangarh Fort, towering 125 metres above the city. Marvel at its strategic gateways and beautiful palatial apartments overlooking vast courtyards. Next, we visit the Jaswant Thada, a cluster of royal cenotaphs in pristine white marble from the late 19th Century. Following lunch today, we visit the museum at Umaid Bhawan Palace. Discover personal artifacts belonging to the H.H. Maharaja of Jodhpur and witness the local cultures as we explore the city on foot. As the day draws to a close, we return to the Deccan Odyssey for a relaxed evening and dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 9: Jaipur

This morning the Deccan Odyssey rolls into the historic capital of Rajasthan, also known as the Pink City. We shall explore Jaipur's attractive forts, majestic palaces, and vibrant bazaars. Jaipur, the 'City of Victory', is a charming destination known for the heroic achievements of its Rajputs. Surrounded by the rugged Aravali Hills, it boasts exquisite palaces, grand mansions, and beautiful gardens. We visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Amber Fort and Hawa Mahal, the Palace of Winds, with its intricate pink sandstone carvings and breathtaking views of the city. Later, enjoy a visit to the City Palace of Jaipur. This elaborate complex features opulent palaces, serene gardens and stunning courtyards adorned with decorative art. We return to the Deccan Odyssey for dinner and our final night on board this spectacular train. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Deccan Odyssey Exterior



India Gate, New Delhi



Christ Church, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh



Shimla, Himachal Pradesh

Deccan Odyssey's Grand Heritage

Days 10 to 14: Shimla - Delhi - UK

Day 10: Shimla, 3 nights

As we arrive into Delhi, our remarkable journey on the Deccan Odyssey comes to an end. Upon arrival, we shall transfer to the airport for our short flight to Chandigarh, where we continue our travels to the enchanting city of Shimla. Home for the next three nights is the exquisite Oberoi Cecil Hotel, a truly iconic hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Shimla

Enjoy an unforgettable day with a leisurely walking tour of Shimla, admiring the many heritage buildings including the enchanting Gaiety Theatre. Our tour also includes visits to the General Post Office and the iconic Viceregal Lodge, the most historically significant colonial building in the region. The rest of the day is ours to explore. Immerse yourself in the charm of Shimla, meander through its narrow streets and soak up the unique atmosphere that makes Shimla so special. Uncover the hidden gems, indulge in the local cuisine or simply relax. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 12: Shimla

Our morning begins with a ride on the Toy Train, a one-of-a-kind experience that promises enchantment and nostalgia. The train departs from Shimla railway station, taking us on scenic journey to Kandaghat, where we disembark. Take in the stunning landscapes and delight in the serene atmosphere as we make our way back to the city of Shimla by coach. The remainder of our day is free to spend as we please. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: Delhi, Overnight

After a leisurely morning, we take a scenic drive from Shimla to Chandigarh. Upon arrival we make our way to the railway station for our onward train journey to Delhi. Sit back and relax, as we make our way back to the bustling capital city and transfer to the Heritage Maidens Hotel, where we stay overnight. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 14: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

This morning, we bid farewell to Delhi as we return to Delhi Airport for our morning flight with Virgin Atlantic. Our flight arrives into London Heathrow later today and it's time to say goodbye to our new found friends, bringing to a conclusion our fabulous Indian adventure. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

2024 Departures

11 April 2024	£6,425 per person
21 November 2024	£6,425 per person

2025 Departures

17 April 2025	£6,425 per person
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Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin room. Double rooms are at a supplement.

Single occupancy supplement

£1,895.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,000 per person if travelling Premium Economy and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Virgin Atlantic upgrade to Premium Economy from £995 per person return, or Business Class from £2,895 per person return. Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,895 per person return, or Business Class from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Flight schedules and airline carriers are subject to change. Our holiday prices are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will always be confirmed to you before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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





NEW

Deccan Odyssey's Cultural Discovery

15 days from £6,555pp April 2024 – March 2025

India has captured the minds and hearts of travellers and poets alike, and for good reason. The country's beauty is matched only by the depth of its history.

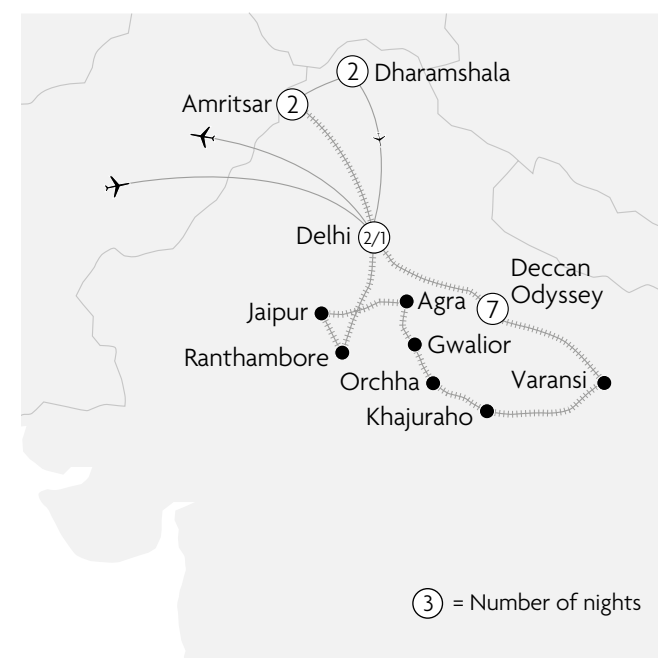
Every corner tells a story: from ancient palaces to imposing forts; pristine forests to the bustle of bazaars. India is the perfect choice for the traveller who wants it all, seeking to make memories that will last a lifetime.

Our 15-day Deccan Odyssey's Cultural Discovery tour explores some of the most iconic sights that India has to offer, starting with Delhi, where history meets modernity. We'll visit the Golden Temple in Amritsar, witness the Wagah-Attari border ceremony in Amritsar and experience the home of Tibetan Buddhism in Dharamshala.

We enjoy seven nights on board the world-renowned Deccan Odyssey; a true highlight of this tour. Lean into the pace of this remarkable rail journey, leaving the comfort of the train to search for the ever-elusive Bengal tiger in Ranthambore National Park, to wonder at the opulent Taj Mahal in Agra and to be dazzled by Jaipur, the Pink City, returning to your elegant cabin and butler after each excursion. We'll visit revered temples as well as other spiritual sites, like the holy River Ganges.

This tour is more than just a trip: it's a Cultural Odyssey, offering immersion alongside exploration.

Clockwise from above: Deccan Odyssey train; Deccan Odyssey dancers; Holy River Ganges



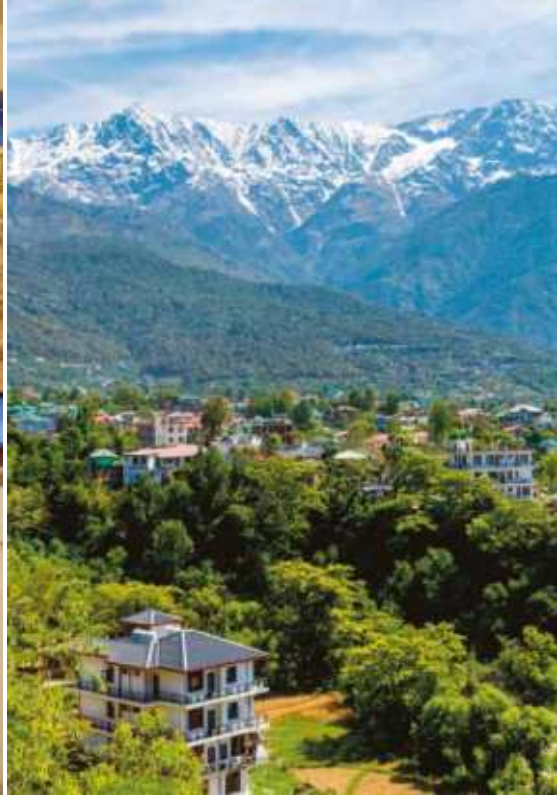
Your holiday includes

- Small group touring with max. 24 passengers
- Return economy flights with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, Birmingham or Manchester are also possible at a supplement of £375 per person, please speak to our team for further details
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £534 per person, with daily breakfast, six lunches and dinner each evening
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Amritsar, Dharamshala, Jaipur, Agra, Gwalior, Orchha, Khajuraho and Varanasi
 - ★ Ride the Shatabdi Express train to Amritsar
 - ★ The Golden Temple of Amritsar
 - ★ Experience the Wagah-Attari border ceremony
 - ★ Safari in Ranthambore National Park
 - ★ Visit the iconic Taj Mahal
- Seven-night journey on-board The Deccan Odyssey train, with all meals and soft drinks included with meals
- Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Buddhist prayer wheel, Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh



Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

Deccan Odyssey's Cultural Discovery

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

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow for our overnight flight to Delhi. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Alternative airline – Emirates

If you prefer, you may fly with Emirates via Dubai from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham for a supplement, from £375 per person return.

Day 2: Delhi, 2 nights

Upon arrival into Delhi, we transfer to the impressive Heritage Maidens Hotel, for our first two nights in India. This evening, we join our Tour Manager and fellow travellers for a welcome drink, to become better acquainted for our adventures ahead. **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 fascinating country. Following breakfast, we embark on a rickshaw ride through Old Delhi, taking in the sights as we ride through its street. We cycle past the Red Fort – famed for its opulence, and being the palace of the Mughal Empire in the 1500s. We 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 the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Humayun's Tomb, where the 16th-century Mughal Emperor lies. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Amritsar, 2 nights

It's an early start today as we make our way to the train station in time to board the Shatabdi Express to Amritsar. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel, the centrally-located Taj Swarna, which will be home for the next two nights. Following dinner this evening, see the breathtaking 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 5: Amritsar

Tour Highlight

We begin our sightseeing tour with a visit to the striking Golden Temple. We continue to the Partition Museum, a world-first 'people' museum that tells the stories of the millions affected during the Partition of India in 1947. The afternoon is reserved for a very special journey to the Wagah border, to witness the inimitable Wagah-Attari border ceremony. This daily 'beating retreat' attracts crowds from both sides of the India-Pakistan border and is characterised by elaborate and rapid dance-like manoeuvres. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Dharamshala, 2 nights

This morning we begin the scenic drive from Amritsar to Dharamshala. Recharge as you take in the views of lush cedar forests and rolling hills as we approach Dharamshala, at the edge of the Himalayas. En route, we visit the magnificent rock-cut temples of Masrur, located in the Kangra Valley. Upon arrival, we will check into Fortune Moksha Hotel. Our evening is at leisure to spend as we please. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab



Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh



Bengal Tiger, Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan

Deccan Odyssey's Cultural Discovery

Days 7 to 11: Dharamshala - Deccan Odyssey - Ranthambore - Jaipur - Agra

Day 7: Dharamshala

A morning of sightseeing takes us to the renowned McLeod Ganj, the spiritual home of Tibetan Buddhism. Tucked among the shrines and statues of the serene Tsuglagkhang Complex, we visit the striking Namgyal Monastery, the library, and see countless artefacts showcasing tradition and art at the Tibetan Museum. We continue to the tranquil Norbulingka Institute, a peaceful sanctuary that pays tribute to Tibetan culture and crafts, and supports Tibetan refugees. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Deccan Odyssey, 7 nights

Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we head to the airport for our flight to Delhi. Upon arrival we transfer to the railway station to board the Deccan Odyssey, the epitome of luxury train travel. Nestle into private cabins, with on-demand butler service, as we take in the tapestry of India's panoramic landscapes. For dinner, we dine on a delicious menu prepared by expert chefs with the freshest local ingredients. Meander the elegant hallways and sample the opulent facilities of the bar, lounge room, signature spa, and more. As we revel in the finer things in life, our overland journey transports us to Sawai Madhopur. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Ranthambore & Sawai Madhopur

Awake in luxury and meet us in the dining car as we prepare to embrace our quest for nature in the world-famous Ranthambore National Park, a tiger reserve that once served as the private hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur. Embark on a thrilling safari in search of the ever-elusive tigers that roam freely. Amid the ancient ruins of yesteryear, we'll immerse ourselves in the vibrant locales of Sawai Madhopur. Later, return to the luxurious embrace of our state-of-the-art train, Deccan Odyssey. Swap stories from plush armchairs as we sip on a cocktail, prior to dinner in the dining car. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

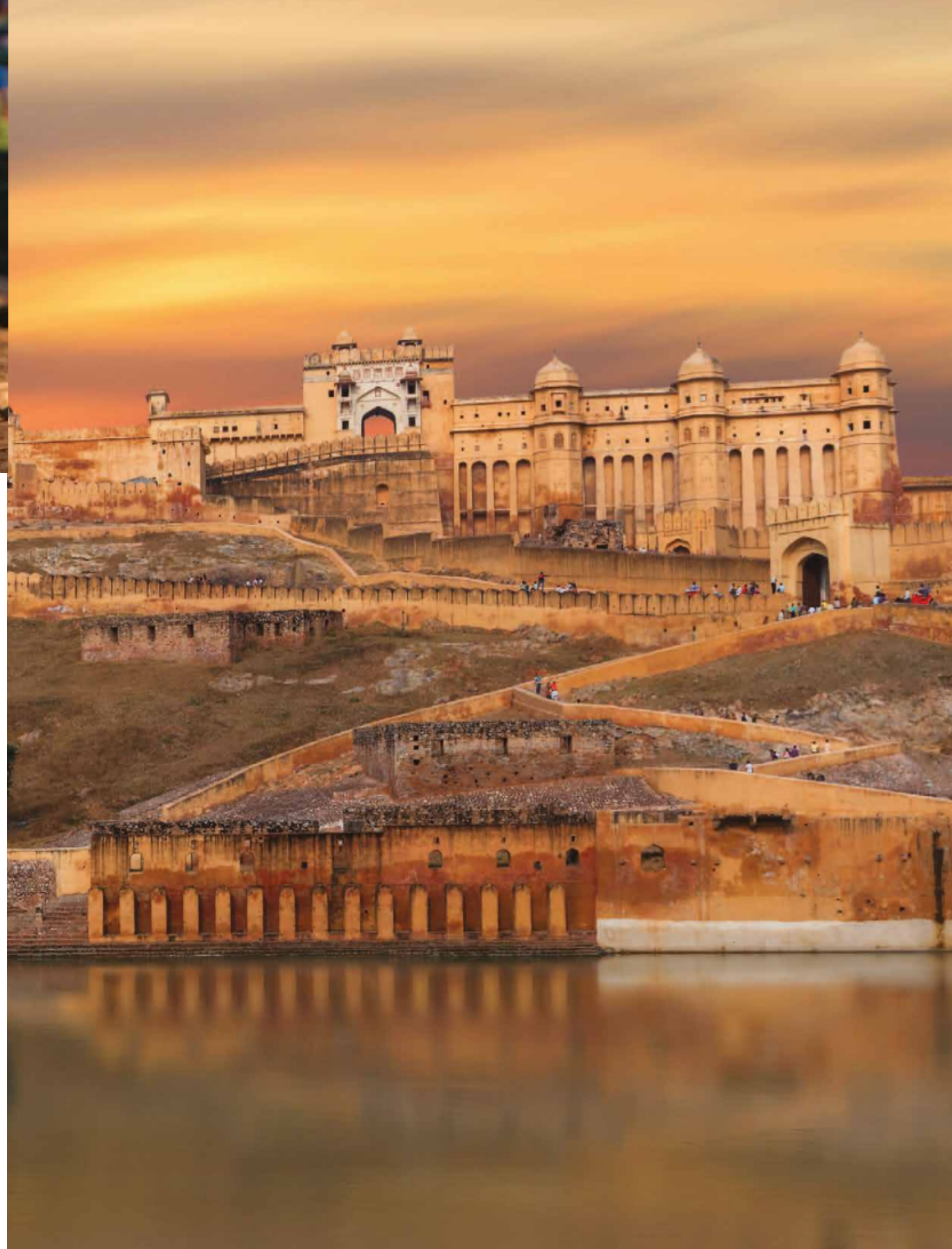
Day 10: Jaipur

We arrive into the historic capital of Rajasthan, 'The Pink City'. After breakfast, we explore the treasure trove of exquisite forts and regal palaces, a testament to the architectural ingenuity of old. Behold the magnitude of Amber Fort that adorns the sprawling landscape; the seven-story citadel of the City Palace with its vast courtyards; and the latticed sandstone work of art that is the Hawa Mahal, known as the Palace of the Winds. History and modernity dance together as we browse the bustling bazaars of this beautiful city, weaving our way between stalls. Afterwards, we return to the comfort of the Deccan Odyssey, where a sumptuous dinner and a comfortable night's rest awaits. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 11: Agra & The Taj Mahal

Tour Highlight

This morning, we set out to discover the Mughal citadel of Agra, where the vision of the Taj Mahal will be seared in our memories forever. The exquisite ivory-white marble mausoleum and testament of love stands as a serene sentinel over the city. We discover other architectural gems, like the imposing beauty of the Agra Fort, and take in the views of the Yamuna River. With the experiences of the day fresh in our minds and hearts, we return to the Deccan Odyssey for dinner. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Amber Fort, Jaipur, Rajasthan



River Ganges, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh



Indian woman in traditional dress



Chandela Temple, Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh

Deccan Odyssey's Cultural Discovery

Days 12 to 15: Gwalior - Orchha - Khajuraho - Varanasi - Delhi - UK

Day 12: Gwalior and Orchha

Enjoy breakfast as the Deccan Odyssey pulls into Gwalior. Disembark and witness the imposing Gwalior fort. Its intricate sandstone façade towers into the azure sky, as the sun catches the ornate details of each majestic turret. We venture onward to the enchanting hidden gem of Orchha. Step into India's rich history as you roam the ruins of grandeur and absorb the tranquillity of the sacred Chaturbhuj Temple which reaches skyward, glowing in the golden light. Step into the Orchha Fort complex with its daunting bastions and intricate architecture, and visit the village for a flavour of local life. Return to the train for another lovely dining experience. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 13: Khajuraho

This morning we visit the historic city of Khajuraho, an archaeological treasure trove. Take in the exquisite beauty of the Chandela Temple complex, a World Heritage Monument, resplendent with carved deities adorning the ornate exterior. Afterwards, it's the spiritual centre of the Mahadev Temple, which tells tales of devotion through its majestic façade and reaching spire. Later in the day, we return to the Deccan Odyssey. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 14: Varanasi

Today we step back in time during our visit to Varanasi – one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. We spend time traversing the bazaars, admiring the serenity of carved temples and walking in the footsteps of history itself as we descend the riverfront steps to the Holy River Ganges. We take a boat along the sacred water, deemed to be the embodiment of the goddess Ganga, as the water's divinity is believed to offer purification and spiritual connection. With full hearts, return to the Deccan Odyssey to experience its comforts for one final evening. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 15: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

Our train returns to Delhi in the early hours and we make our way to the airport to return home. After two weeks discovering the delights of India, it is finally time to say farewell to this enchanting country and our newfound friends. We arrive in the UK in the evening, ready to delight our loved ones with stories from our travels. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

2024 Departures

13 April 2024	£6,555 per person
23 November 2024	£6,555 per person

2025 Departures

01 March 2025	£6,555 per person
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Prices

Prices are per person based on two people sharing a twin room. Double rooms are at a supplement.

Single occupancy supplement

£1,995.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,000 per person if travelling Premium Economy and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Virgin Atlantic upgrade to Premium Economy from £995 per person return, or Business Class from £2,895 per person return. Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,895 per person return, or Business Class from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Flight schedules and airline carriers are subject to change. Our holiday prices are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will always be confirmed to you before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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.

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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





NEW

EXCLUSIVE CHARTER FOR DISTANT JOURNEYS

The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling

📅 17 days 💷 from £5,495pp 🌍 November 2024 – March 2025

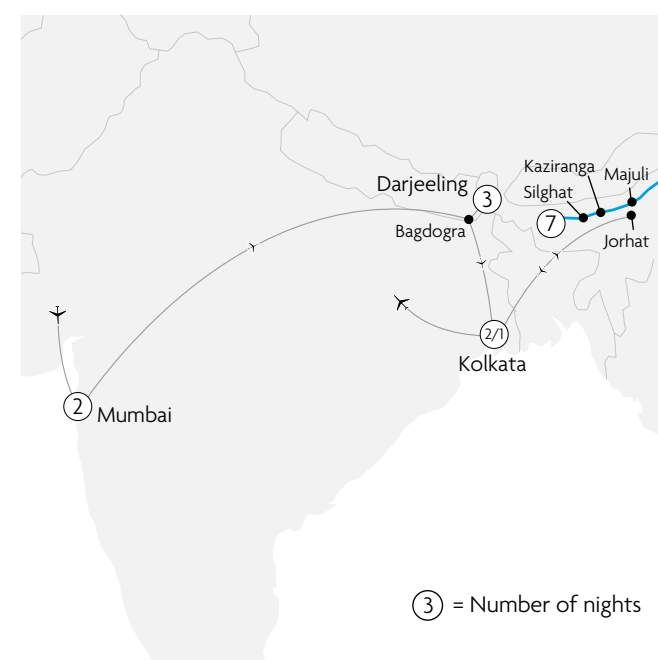
The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling tour is a 17-day journey that takes you on an extraordinary adventure through India's diverse landscapes and cultural tapestry and promises to immerse you in the true essence of India.

Delve into bustling streets of Mumbai, the tranquil beauty of Darjeeling's tea plantations and the historical richness of Kolkata, before embarking on an exclusively chartered cruise on India's acclaimed Brahmaputra River.

As we meander the waterways, aboard the Assam Bengal Navigation Sukapha, enjoy picturesque views of jungle-covered hills and intimate encounters with the unique communities along its banks. There are few better ways to traverse India's diverse landscapes, and the stops along the way are truly unforgettable. Kaziranga National Park, known for its Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros and abundant wildlife, is undoubtedly a highlight of this leg of the adventure.

Carefully-selected hotels and many delectable meals are also included throughout the trip, making The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling tour an unforgettable experience that will stay with you for a lifetime.

Clockwise from above: Sundek on the ABN Sukapha, Brahmaputra River; Darjeeling tea; Mask, Majuli Island, Assam



Your holiday includes

- MAX 24** Small group touring with max. 24 passengers
- Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £635 per person, with daily breakfast, eight lunches and dinner each evening
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Mumbai and Kolkata
 - ★ Toy train ride to Ghoom Monastery in Darjeeling
 - ★ Lunch and tea-tasting at a local tea plantation
 - ★ Watch the sunrise over the Himalayan Range
 - ★ Several wildlife safaris in Kaziranga National Park
 - ★ Discover Assamese culture on Majuli Island
 - ★ The art of tea-growing at an estate in Jorhat
 - ★ View the temples of Sibsagar
- Seven-night journey on-board the ABN Sukapha, with all meals included
- Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Darjeeling, West Bengal



Toy Train, Darjeeling, West Bengal

The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling

Days 1 to 6: UK - Mumbai - Darjeeling

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart for Mumbai from London Heathrow, Birmingham or Manchester with Emirates.

In-flight meals and drinks included

Day 2: Mumbai, 2 nights

Our flights to Mumbai operate via Dubai. Upon arrival, our waiting coach will transfer us to the Trident Nariman Point, for our first two nights in India. Later in the day, we'll join our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to learn more of our forthcoming adventure together. **In-flight meals and drinks, dinner included**

Day 3: Mumbai

This morning, get ready to embark on a five-senses tour of Mumbai to uncover the many things this captivating city has to offer. This immersive experience pays homage to Mumbai's rich history and bustling streets, providing engaging experiences throughout the day that are a true treat for the senses. Later this afternoon, we return to the hotel for an evening at leisure. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 4: Darjeeling, 3 nights

This morning, after breakfast, we depart in time for our flight to Bagdogra, and transfer to Darjeeling. Situated in West Bengal, Darjeeling is a captivating hill station known for its scenic beauty, pleasant climate, and a rich cultural heritage. Sitting at an altitude of around 2,000 metres, in the Lesser Himalayas, it offers panoramic vistas of lush tea plantations, rolling hills and towering Eastern Himalayan peaks. Our hotel for the next three nights is the prestigious Elgin Hotel. This evening, enjoy dinner at the hotel as we prepare for a day of sightseeing tomorrow. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 5: Darjeeling

After breakfast, our day begins with a Toy Train ride to Ghoom Monastery, where we shall explore the Tibetan Buddhist creation that dates back to 1850. One of the monastery's most striking features is the 15-foot-tall statue of the Maitreya Buddha, also known as the Buddha of the Future. Later, we head for Glenburn Tea Estate, a local tea plantation, founded in 1859, and enjoy lunch and an introduction to the art of tea tasting. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Darjeeling

Tour Highlight

Embrace the magic of early morning as we journey to Tiger Hill, an enchanting vantage point, to witness the breathtaking sunrise over the Himalayan Range, including the majestic peaks of Kanchendzonga and even Mount Everest, if the weather permits. As the sun begins to rise, watch in awe as the colours transform, casting a golden hue upon the entire Himalayan panorama. We can't think of a better way to start the day.

After breakfast, the morning unfolds with a visit to the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute and the Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park. Discover the world of mountaineering and gain insights into the flora and fauna of the region. The afternoon is free to spend as you please, enjoying the relaxing surroundings of the hotel, or if you prefer, take an optional street-food walking tour. The Go for Gastronomy experience explores the multicuisine heritage of Darjeeling, allowing us to sample the very best local delicacies. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Tea plantations, Darjeeling, West Bengal



ABN Sukapha, Brahmaputra River



Traditional drying process

The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling

Days 7 to 11: Kolkata - ABN Sukapha - Kaziranga - Vishnath

Day 7: Kolkata, 2 nights

Returning to Bagdogra, we fly to the city of Kolkata. Formerly known as Calcutta, Kolkata is a vibrant and culturally rich city situated in the eastern part of India. It serves as the capital of the Indian state of West Bengal and holds a special place in the country's history and heritage. Kolkata offers a fascinating blend of old-world charm and modern dynamism. Upon arrival we shall transfer to the prestigious Oberoi Grand Hotel. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Kolkata

After breakfast, prepare for a day of exploration taking in Kolkata's most iconic sights and monuments. Our journey takes us through Dalhousie Square, where we pass by significant colonial landmarks including Raj Bhavan, St. John's Church, the High Court, General Post Office, Town Hall, and the Writer's Building. Take in the vibrant atmosphere of the Flower Market and embark on a delightful tram ride, an authentic local experience that allows us to connect with the heart of the city.

Our adventure continues with a visit to the illustrious Victoria Memorial Hall, a tribute to the British Empress Queen Victoria. We'll also pay a visit to Mother Teresa House and enjoy a serene sunset cruise along the River Hooghly, offering an exceptional insight into Kolkata's waterfront. This evening after dinner, enjoy a G&T at the hotel bar and reminisce about today's adventures with your fellow travellers. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: River Island Cruise, 7 nights

This morning, we head for the airport in plenty of time for our flight to Jorhat. Upon arrival, we transfer to Silghat, where we join a magnificent river cruise aboard the ABN Sukapha. This small yet impressive vessel was designed to expertly navigate the mighty waters of the Brahmaputra River. With just 12 cabins accommodating 24 guests, the ABN Sukapha has been exclusively chartered by Distant Journeys for the next seven nights. Retreat to your cabin and take in the views before dinner onboard. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Kaziranga Tour Highlight

Following breakfast, embark on a journey to Kaziranga's Central Range for a captivating open jeep safari. Encompassing an expansive area of about 430 square km, the Kaziranga National Park is a UNESCO World Heritage Site sheltering the world's largest population of the Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros as well as the Indian Wild Water Buffalo. Remarkably, it boasts the highest number of Bengal tigers, making it a haven for wildlife enthusiasts. Cameras at the ready! The park's lush marshlands and thickets of elephant grass provide a haven for diverse species, including Indian elephants, Indian bison, swamp deer, and Capped langurs.

Renowned for its rich biodiversity, the park often draws parallels to Africa's Serengeti due to its profusion of wildlife and avian species, making it a haven for birdwatchers too. Among its feathered inhabitants are the Oriental honey buzzard, Black-shouldered kite, White-tailed eagle and Himalayan griffon. As the day concludes, we rejoin our cruise, navigating upstream along the right bank of Kaziranga National Park to anchor for the night in Vishwanath. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 11: Vishnath

Today offers an opportunity to explore Vishnath, celebrated for its Shiva temple from the Ahom period. Later, reboard as we resume our journey down the river. Keep an eye out for wild elephants and buffalos along the river banks, and perhaps a tiger if we're lucky! As the day unfolds, our cruise provides a prime opportunity to spot the endangered Gangetic dolphin and gain an insight into the daily life of the riverside communities we pass by. As evening approaches, we reach our destination, Dhansiri Mukh. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**



Elephant and calf, Kaziranga National Park, Assam



ABN Sukapha cabin



Majuli Island, Brahmaputra River, Assam



One-horned rhino, Kaziranga National Park, Assam

The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling

Days 12 to 17: Kaziranga - Majuli Island - Jorhat - UK

Day 12: Kaziranga

Embark on an open jeep safari this morning, to discover the lesser-explored Eastern Range of Kaziranga. This area boasts expansive grasslands which are highly favoured by rhinos, and we may even have the chance to spot the elusive Bengal florican (also known as the Bengal bustard). Afterwards, we make our way back to the boat to resume our river cruise aboard ABN Sukapha. This afternoon, perhaps spoil yourself with a treatment in the onboard spa – alternatively simply take in the ever-changing vistas as we travel upstream. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 13: Kaziranga

Today provides another opportunity to enjoy the vibrant and picturesque riverbank as we continue our cruise upstream. Observe the local scenery and wildlife with your fellow travellers, or sit back with a good book and relax. There will be an opportunity to stretch our legs as we take a leisurely stroll through a nearby bankside village, providing a glimpse into the daily life in rural India and allowing us to connect with the locals and understand the culture. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 14: Majuli Island

Tour Highlight

We arrive at Majuli Island in time for breakfast. This island, one of the largest in the world formed by rivers, offers a fascinating glimpse into Assamese culture. Despite its frequent appearances in photographs, it remains a lesser-explored gem. Majuli Island is known for its significance in the peaceful neo-Vaishnavism religion, and its elegant island satras, each catering to different communities. Simplicity thrives in Majuli and worship is offered through the harmony of gayan-bayan (songs and musical instruments), along with readings. Our day includes a visit to the Auniati Monastery, featuring an eclectic museum, followed by a dance performance at Kamalabari Monastery. Later, we'll cruise across to Neamati Ghat on the opposite bank. This afternoon, an opportunity awaits to visit another nearby village, to meet the locals and learn about their daily routines. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 15: Jorhat

Today's itinerary includes a visit to a tea estate in Jorhat, allowing us to understand the fascinating journey from tea bush to cup. Later, we drive to Sibsagar, once the capital of the Ahom kings of Assam. Originally of Shan origin but embracing Hinduism, the Ahoms ruled Assam for nearly 700 years until the 1820s. Their cultural and architectural legacy forms a captivating fusion of Indian and Southeast Asian influences.

We'll encounter temples featuring stupa-like profiles and palaces showcasing distinct forms. Notably, the temple water tank stands as an engineering marvel, being recognised as the world's largest hand-excavated reservoir. Later, we return to our river cruise in Neamati Ghat, conveniently located close to Jorhat. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 16: Kolkata, Overnight

After breakfast this morning, we disembark ABN Sukapha for the final time with memories to cherish for a lifetime. Our transfer awaits to Jorhat Airport, where we will board our flight to Kolkata. Upon arrival in Kolkata, we will transfer to the fabulous Taj City Centre New Town Hotel for a farewell dinner and a relaxing overnight stay. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 17: Depart Kolkata / Arrive UK

Our Indian adventure has come to an end, but the memories made in Darjeeling, Assam and on the banks of the Brahmaputra River will remain forever. Our Emirates flights depart for the UK via Dubai this morning, arriving in the UK in the evening. **Breakfast, in-flight meals, and drinks included**

2024 Departures

03 November 2024 **£5,995** per person

2025 Departures

09 March 2025 **£5,995** per person

30 March 2025 **£5,495** per person

Prices

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

Single occupancy supplement

03 November 2024 and 09 March 2025 – £2,445
30 March 2025 – £1,995.

Deposit

£1,000 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,500 per person if travelling Premium Economy Class and £2,000 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,895 per person return, or Business Class from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

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Important Information

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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





EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Temples & Tigers

📅 13 days 💷 from £2,595pp 🌐 September 2024 – April 2025

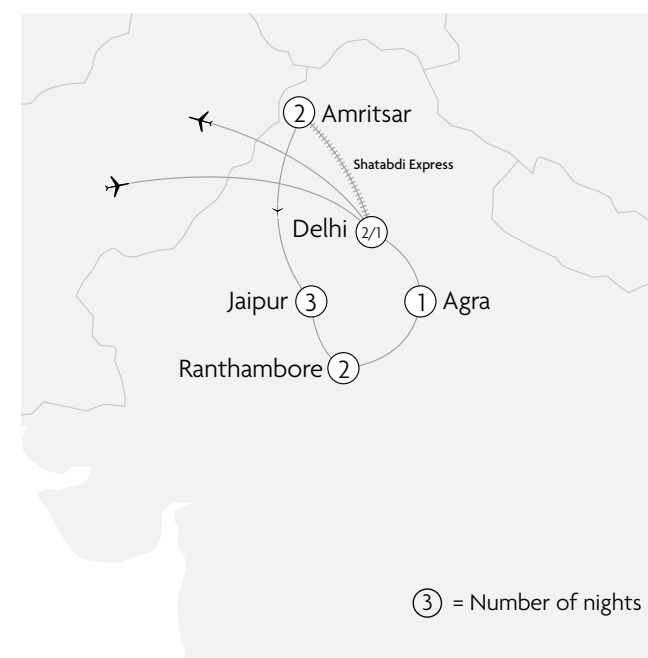
India attracts free spirits and independently-minded travellers, and Distant Journeys is proud to offer a dedicated itinerary exclusively for solo travellers.

As part of a small group of no more than 19 like-minded people, you will enjoy a 13-day tour of India, accompanied by a friendly and knowledgeable Tour Manager.

Our wonderful itinerary includes stays in the classic Golden Triangle cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, plus Amritsar, where the Golden Temple is located, and Ranthambore National Park, home to the majestic Bengal tiger. We will witness sunrise at the Taj Mahal, enjoy the colourful Beating Retreat ceremony at the border with Pakistan and visit the magnificent Amber Fort at Jaipur, among many other highlights.

With your own twin or double room throughout the tour, and no single occupancy supplement to pay, our Temples & Tigers tour offers exceptional value for money to solo travellers.

Clockwise from above: Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab; Taj Mahal, Agra, Uttar Pradesh; Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan



Your holiday includes

-  Small group touring with max. 19 passengers
-  Return economy flights with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Domestic flight within India is also included
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portering and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £418 per person, with daily breakfast, three lunches and dinner each evening
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Amritsar, Jaipur and Agra
 - ★ Rail journey onboard the Shatabdi Express
 - ★ The Golden Temple of Amritsar
 - ★ Wagah-Attari border ceremony
 - ★ Food tour of Amritsar
 - ★ Dinner at a local family home in Jaipur
 - ★ Jeep ride and tour of Amber Fort, Jaipur
 - ★ Two safaris in Ranthambore National Park
 - ★ Chand Baori Step Well, Abhaneri
 - ★ Visit the iconic Taj Mahal
-  Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur, Rajasthan



Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab



Chand Baori Stepwell, Jaipur, Rajasthan

Temples & Tigers

Days 1 to 13: UK - Delhi - Amritsar - Jaipur - Ranthambore - Agra - Delhi - UK

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Virgin Atlantic from London Heathrow for our overnight flight to Delhi. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Delhi, 2 nights

On arrival into Delhi, we transfer to the Eros Hotel New Delhi, Nehru Place, where we spend our first two nights in India. Late afternoon, we join our Tour Manager and fellow travellers to visit the Lotus Temple. Built in the shape of a lotus flower, it is one of only seven Bahai temples built around the world. Later, we return to the hotel 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 also include the UNESCO heritage site, Humayun's Tomb, where the 16th century Mughal Emperor lies. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Amritsar, 2 nights

An early start this morning as we make our way to the train station where we board the Shatabdi Express to Amritsar. Upon arrival, we transfer to our hotel, either the Welcomhotel by ITC or the Radisson Blu Hotel. Located just a short drive from the Golden Temple, we stay here for the next two nights. Following dinner this evening we 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 5: Amritsar

Tour Highlight

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 Wagah-Attari border 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. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 6: Jaipur, 3 nights

This morning, we visit some of the best foodie locations in Amritsar. Enjoy mouth-watering Punjabi dishes such as Amritsari Kulche, Lassi, Maa di daal, Jalebi, Samose, and more! Punctuating the food are the stories of their origin which provide interesting insights into the history of Amritsar, their preparation methods, and cultural significance today. This afternoon we travel to the airport for our evening flight to Jaipur. On arrival we transfer to either the Trident Hotel or the Jaipur Hilton, where we will stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 7: Jaipur

After a leisurely morning, we begin our exploration of the opulent 'Pink City' of Jaipur, capital of Rajasthan. 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. This evening enjoy the unique delight of a cookery demonstration, and an exclusive insight into Rajasthani family life with dinner at a family home. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Amber Fort

Following breakfast, we travel a short distance to meet our waiting jeeps, which will take us to a 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. Our afternoon is at leisure to spend as we please. 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**

Day 9: Ranthambore, 2 nights

This morning, we leave Jaipur behind and travel to Ranthambore. Our next two nights will be spent at the charming Ranthambore Regency Hotel. Situated within close proximity 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 should you wish, you may join an optional tour to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ranthambore Fort. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 10: 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, sambar deer, and over 250 bird species – all of which inhabit this incredible part of the world. We board our open shared canter vehicle for our first safari, prior to breakfast. We embark on our second safari in the afternoon, to explore the park further 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 11: Agra, Overnight

We leave Ranthambore behind and journey to Abhaneri. Unique to India, Chand Baori at Abhaneri is a 13 storey, 1,300-year-old stepwell, constructed with mind-blowing geometry and aesthetics. Afterwards, we continue to Agra and stay overnight at either the Taj Hotel Agra or The Trident Agra. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 12: Delhi, Overnight

Tour Highlight

This morning, as the sun rises, 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 sunrise like no other. We return to the hotel for breakfast and then visit Agra Fort, a historical fort which remained the main residence of the Mughal emperors until 1638. We return to Delhi in the afternoon for our final night in India, staying at the Welcomhotel by ITC, Dwarka. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

After 13 amazing days discovering the delights of India, it's time to say farewell to this amazing country and our new found friends. We depart for the UK this morning, arriving in the UK in the evening. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**



Goa



Diwali Hindu Festival



Local bus, Margao, Goa

Temples & Tigers - Goa Holiday Extension

Days 13 to 17: Goa - Delhi - UK

Goa, a holiday destination since colonial times, is India's pocket-sized paradise. With its blend of Indian and Portuguese cultures combined with sun, sea, sand and lovely seafood it is the perfect way to end your Indian adventure. Available on selected dates, why not extend your Temples & Tigers tour and discover the delights of Goa for yourself?

Day 13: Goa, 3 nights

Following breakfast, we make our way to the airport for our flight to Goa. On arrival, we transfer to the Zuri White Sands Hotel, our home for the next three nights. Spread across 37 acres and perfectly located on the beach, settle in, relax and head to the pool or coast. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 14: Goa Freedom Day

Our day is at leisure to spend as we 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 15: Goa Freedom Day

A further Freedom Day to enjoy this popular region. You may wish to take this opportunity to join an optional tour of 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 16: Delhi, Overnight

Continue to enjoy the delights of Goa until it is time to depart for our flight to Delhi. Upon arrival we make our way to the Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity for our final night in India. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 17: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

After breakfast, it's time to say goodbye to the many charms of India as we transfer to the airport, for our flight back to the UK. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Departure Dates & Prices

Temples & Tigers

2024 Departures

22 September 2024	£2,595 per person
13 October 2024	£2,745 per person
10 November 2024	£2,745 per person

2025 Departures

19 January 2025	£2,845 per person
09 February 2025	£2,845 per person
02 March 2025	£2,845 per person
06 April 2025	£2,695 per person

Temples, Tigers & Goa

2024 Departures

20 October 2024	£3,795 per person
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2025 Departures

16 February 2025	£3,995 per person
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Prices

Prices are per person based on one person in a twin or double room. No single occupancy supplements apply.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,000 per person if travelling Premium Economy and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Virgin Atlantic upgrade to Premium Economy from £995 per person return, or Business Class from £2,895 per person return.

Visa information

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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





NEW EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Clockwise from above: Keralan backwaters; Tea plantation; Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur

Highlights of Southern India

16 days from £3,245pp September 2024 – April 2025

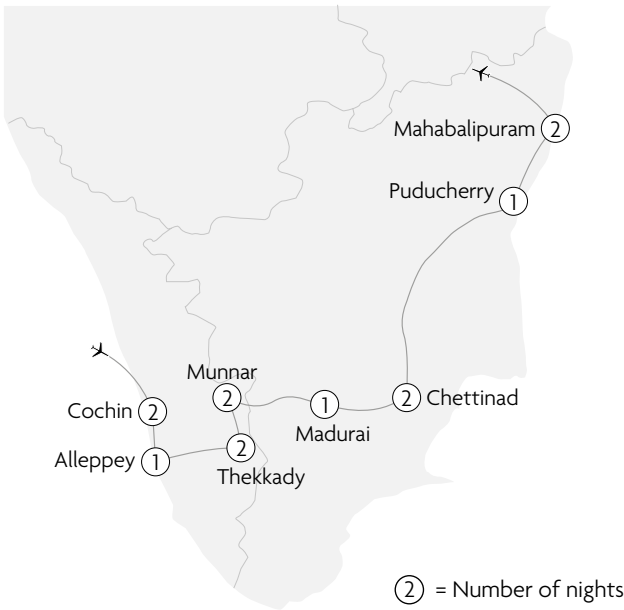
Embark on a captivating journey through the heart of Southern India's natural wonders and cultural marvels. Our Highlights of Southern India tour promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime adventure that seamlessly weaves the splendour of India's southern landscapes with its rich history and vibrant traditions.

This 16-day solo tour is complete with experienced guides, carefully selected hotels and a well-crafted itinerary to create memories that will last a lifetime. And as always, so many unforgettable experiences are included throughout the trip.

Southern India offers diverse landscapes, vibrant cultures, ancient traditions and irresistible charm. Lush green hills adorned with tea plantations give way to pristine backwaters, where traditional houseboats glide through a labyrinth of canals. Storied temples and intricately carved architecture stand as a testament to the region's rich history, while bustling spice markets and aromatic cuisine are certain to delight the senses.

Get ready to explore the vibrant port city of Cochin, adventure through the mesmerising Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, marvel at the tea plantations of Munnar, and board a traditional houseboat in Alleppey as we get acquainted with Kerala's labyrinth of canals and coconut groves.

We'll also pay a visit to Puducherry and explore the magnificent French Quarter, witness a 'Going to Bed' ceremony at Meenakshi Temple in Madurai, and stand in awe of the 7th century Shore Temple in Mahabalipuram, among many other tour highlights.



Your holiday includes

- MAX 19** Small group touring with max. 19 passengers
- Return economy flights with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow or Manchester, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
- Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
- Meals worth £484 per person, with daily breakfast, three lunches and dinner each evening
- Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Cochin, Madurai, Chettinad, Puducherry and Mahabalipuram
 - ★ Sunset cruise on Cochin Harbour
 - ★ Cruise the Keralan backwaters on a traditional thatch-roofed 'kettuvallam' houseboat
 - ★ Discover the natural beauty of Periyar National Park
 - ★ Explore a tea plantation in Munnar
 - ★ Madurai's famous Meenakshi Temple, including the 'Going to Bed' ceremony
 - ★ Introduction to Chettinad cuisine
 - ★ Visit Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur
 - ★ View the 7th century Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram
- Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
- All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
- 100% Confidence. Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.



Kettuvallam houseboat, Alleppey, Kerala



Meenakshi Temple, Madurai, Tamil Nadu



Tea plantation, Munnar, Kerala

Highlights of Southern India

Days 1 to 10: UK - Cochin - Alleppey - Thekkady - Munnar - Madurai - Chettinad

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Etihad Airways from London Heathrow. Manchester flights are also available, but may involve a longer connection. Please call for details. Flights will operate via Abu Dhabi. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Cochin, 2 nights

Upon arrival in Cochin, our private transfer awaits to take us to the four-star Casino Hotel, for our first two nights in India. Our time is at leisure until we meet for an impressive evening sunset cruise around Cochin Harbour, prior to dinner. **In-flight meals, drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Cochin

After breakfast, we begin our day exploring Cochin's captivating attractions. Cochin is a vibrant port city that boasts a rich and fascinating history that's just waiting to be explored. Enjoy a trip to the renowned Mattancherry Palace, also known as the 'Dutch Palace,' celebrated for its splendid murals. This afternoon, a trip to Fort Cochin awaits, with its iconic Chinese fishing nets and charming colonial lanes. As the day comes to a close, we'll have the opportunity to witness a 2,000-year-old Kathakali dance performance. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Alleppey, Overnight

Tour Highlight

Following breakfast at the hotel, we take an unmissable trip to Paradesi Synagogue, an ancient Jewish Synagogue in Cochin's Old Town. Afterwards, we transfer to Alleppey Jetty, where we'll step onto a traditional 'kettuvallam' houseboat. As we cruise through a labyrinth of canals, coconut groves, rice fields, and hidden temples, relish the tranquility of the distinctively beautiful Keralan backwaters. We spend the night aboard the houseboat, immersing ourselves in the soothing sights that unfold, creating a truly unique experience etched in our memories for years to come. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 5: Thekkady, 2 nights

Our day begins with a short drive to Periyar, stopping along the way at a plantation home for a traditional lunch with a local family. Get ready to immerse yourself in the local family's hospitality during this culinary experience. Upon arrival in Periyar, settle into the comfort of the impressive Elephant Court Hotel. The afternoon is ours to spend at our leisure. This evening, we meet to enjoy a traditional Indian martial art performance. The Kalaripayattu performance takes place at a small venue with stadium-style seating and is certainly a trip highlight. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Thekkady

For those that so wish, perhaps take an optional early morning adventure prior to breakfast along Periyar Natural Trek – a sandal trekking programme that provides an opportunity to witness local wildlife, birds, and butterflies in their natural surroundings. The trek spans approximately 4-5 km and lasts around 2.5 hours. Following breakfast, we embark on a journey into the world of spices with a visit to a spice plantation. Uncover the intriguing history of India's tea and spice industry. Later, experience serenity during a cruise on Periyar Lake (subject to water levels) within the scenic Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary. As we navigate along the sanctuary, observe the vibrant bird and wildlife populations that thrive within the local forests, including elephants and sambar deer. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 7: Munnar, 2 nights

After a morning at leisure, get ready to embark on a breathtaking drive through the lofty Western Ghats mountain range. Transitioning within India's Kerala state, our next stop is the charming town of Munnar, 5,200ft above sea level and renowned for hosting South India's largest tea-growing region. Our home for the next two nights is the distinctive Tall Trees Hotel, nestled beneath 600 towering trees within a sprawling 66-acre shola forest untouched by human intervention. Later in the day, we take a unique plantation walk within the resort's grounds, culminating in a tea-tasting session. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Munnar

Our day begins with a morning excursion to a tea plantation and factory, delving into the fascinating process of tea production, where we shall witness traditional segregation, drying and threshing. We shall also explore the Tata Tea Museum, which houses machinery and photographs that narrate the pivotal role the tea industry has held in this beautiful region. The remainder of the day is ours to spend as we please. Perhaps just relaxing at the hotel, enjoying the peaceful surroundings as we reflect on our travels so far. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Madurai, Overnight

Tour Highlight

Leaving the Tall Trees and Munnar behind, we journey to the vibrant and historic city of Madurai, nestled in the heart of the South Indian state of Tamil Nadu. Your afternoon is free to unwind, ahead of an evening filled with exploration and enchantment. As the sun sets, embrace the lively streets and vibrant markets aboard a cycle-rickshaw, immersing ourselves in the local energy. And that's not all – in the evening, we'll also get the chance to witness a 'Going to Bed' ceremony at the renowned Meenakshi Temple. Overnight at the Heritage Madurai. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 10: Chettinad, 2 nights

Today's morning of sightseeing begins in the Old City of Madurai, where our route includes an extended visit to the iconic Meenakshi Temple. See the elaborate façade, and towering gateways, and observe the traditional ceremonies, devout practices, and bustling markets within its premises. Afterwards, we continue to the grandeur of Thirumalai Nayakkar Mahal, a stunning 17th-century palace constructed in 1636 AD. As you bid farewell to Madurai, your journey across Southern India continues towards Chettinad, and your next two nights will be spent at the delightful Chidambara Vilas. This evening, enjoy an enriching experience as we discover the culinary artistry behind Chettinad cuisine, guided by a skilled chef. **Breakfast and dinner included**



Pondicherry Beach



Traditional South Indian curry



Shore Temple, Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu

Highlights of Southern India

Days 11 to 16: Chettinad - Puducherry - Mahabalipuram - UK

Day 11: Chettinad

A morning at leisure, enjoying the peaceful surroundings of Chidambara Vilas. This afternoon, a visit to the heritage village awaits, and an opportunity to explore a local Athangudi tile factory. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 12: Puducherry, Overnight

A morning drive takes us to Puducherry, stopping by the famous Brihadisvara Temple, Thanjavur along the way. We'll also enjoy lunch at an authentic, local restaurant. Later, we arrive at the Residency Tower Hotel and enjoy an evening walk along Promenade Beach to witness Puducherry's mesmerising sunset. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 13: Mahabalipuram, 2 nights

After breakfast, enjoy a morning of cultural exploration, commencing with a visit to Puducherry Museum, where we delve into the region's rich heritage. Traverse the charming French Quarter, a testament to Puducherry's colonial past, and take in the spiritual aura of Sri Aurobindo Ashram, a global beacon for communal living. Afterwards, our journey continues towards Mahabalipuram. Upon arrival, the impressive Welcomhotel by ITC, Kences Palm Beach awaits, which is home for our next two nights. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 14: Mahabalipuram

This morning, we visit the historical wonders of Mahabalipuram. We tour the remarkable Shore Temple, a stunning creation from the 7th century that reflects the exquisite taste of the Pallava dynasty. Delve further into Mahabalipuram's past with a visit to the intricate stone carvings depicting Arjuna's Penance and The Five Rathas. Also witness the grandeur of Krishna Mandapam, the largest cave-cut Hindu temple crafted in the 7th century. Our afternoon and evening are at leisure to spend as we please. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 15: Depart Mahabalipuram

As our journey across Southern India comes to a close, this morning is ours to spend at leisure as we reflect on our incredible adventures of the last two weeks. Before our flight this evening, there is one last opportunity to visit the Dakshinachitra Museum, a cross-cultural living museum of art, architecture and lifestyle, before we depart for the airport. **Breakfast, in-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 16: Arrive UK

Our flights to London Heathrow and Manchester operate via Abu Dhabi, landing in the UK in the morning and bringing to an end our amazing tour of Southern India. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Why not extend your stay in Mahabalipuram?



If you wish to spend a little longer relaxing at the Welcomhotel by ITC, Kences Palm Beach, please speak with one of our travel experts.

2024 Departures

26 September 2024	£3,495 per person
14 November 2024	£3,495 per person

2025 Departures

23 January 2025	£3,495 per person
20 February 2025	£3,495 per person
03 April 2025	£3,245 per person

Prices

Prices are per person based on one person in a twin or double room. No single occupancy supplements apply.

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 £2,895 per person return.

Visa information

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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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





Clockwise from above: Stilt fisherman, Koggala; Safari in Minneriya National Park; Polonnaruwa ancient city



Your holiday includes



Small group touring with max. 24 passengers



Return economy flights with Qatar Airways via Doha from London Heathrow, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty. Flights from Manchester may be possible, please speak to our team for further details



Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes



Meals worth £479 per person, with daily breakfast, one lunch, one high tea and dinner each evening



Unforgettable experiences including:

- ★ 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



Services of an experienced local Tour Manager



All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout



Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.

The Very Best of Sri Lanka

📅 17 days 💷 from £3,495pp 🌐 January – April 2025

Sri Lanka is an irresistible destination. Known as the Pearl of the Indian Ocean, this tranquil, teardrop-shaped island boasts idyllic beaches, ancient ruins and verdant tea plantations.

Sri Lanka is home to many elephants, and a vast array of wildlife and birdlife, many unique to the country, which draws visitors from all over the world.

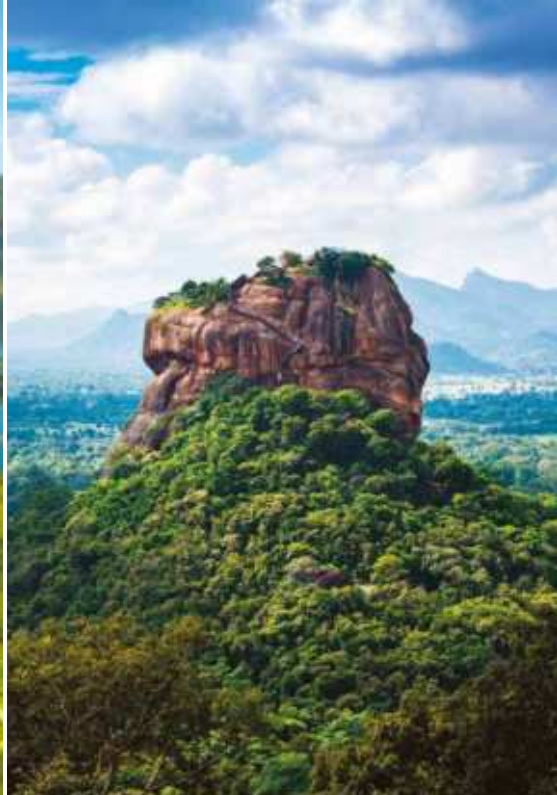
Distant Journeys' 17-day Very Best of Sri Lanka tour is a wonderful introduction to this beautiful country. Our adventure begins in Colombo, the nation's lively capital, and ends in the historic former Dutch town of Galle. In between, we explore the cultural triangle of Sri Lanka's interior, packed full 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 Yala, Sri Lanka's most famous National Park.

Explore the Very Best of Sri Lanka, a land where the warmth of the welcome is matched by the sunny skies and shimmering seas.





Tea picking, Nuwara Eliya



Sigiriya Rock, Dambulla



Temple of the Tooth, Kandy

The Very Best of Sri Lanka

Days 1 to 12: UK - Colombo - Habarana - Polonnaruwa - Minneriya - Sigiriya - Kandy - Nuwara Eliya - Yala

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart with Qatar Airways from London Heathrow. Manchester flights may also be available. Please call for details. Please note, flight schedules and airline carriers are subject to change. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Colombo, 2 nights

All flights to Colombo travel via Doha. On arrival, we transfer to the iconic Kingsbury Hotel in Colombo, for our first two nights in Sri Lanka. 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 spend 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. We 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, then continue to Kandy and the charming Cinnamon Citadel Hotel for our next three nights. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

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 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 will 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 on one of the world's most scenic rail journeys. We join a local train and travel through an idyllic panorama of forests, villages, tea estates and waterfalls. Please note, whilst we endeavour to arrange seats on the train as soon as tickets become available to book, this included rail journey is always subject to availability. 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**

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**

Safari camp experience

2 nights from £515 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, enjoy two safari drives into lesser known areas of Yala and all meals, along with alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks are included. Please call for details.



Sri Lankan Leopard, Yala National Park



Tuk Tuk



Galle City

The Very Best of Sri Lanka

Days 13 to 17: Yala - Galle - UK

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

Today is free 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. Alternatively, you can learn how to paint traditional Sri Lankan masks with help from a local 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 Galle

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

Day 17: Arrive UK

All flights travel via Doha. This morning, we arrive into the United Kingdom, as our Sri Lankan adventure comes to an end. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Sri Lankan Beach Stay 4 Days from £495 per person

Why not extend your Very Best of Sri Lanka holiday with a three-night stay on one on Sri Lanka's renowned beaches.



Sri Lanka's south-west coast is renowned for its stretches of golden sandy beaches, and is the perfect place to unwind after an incredible tour of Sri Lanka.

Spend three nights at the Occidental Eden Beruwala. Boasting a stunning beach-side location, the hotel has vast gardens shaded by coconut trees, making it an idyllic setting for a relaxing stay.

Your beach extension includes:

Three nights accommodation at the Occidental Eden Beruwala on a half-board basis and all transfers.

Please see page 111 for more details.

Departure Dates & Prices

2025 Departures

20 January 2025	£3,495 per person
10 February 2025	£3,495 per person
03 March 2025	£3,495 per person
07 April 2025	£3,495 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

£895.

Deposit

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

Flight upgrades

Qatar Airways upgrade to Business Class from £2,895 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 130-131.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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





NEW EXCLUSIVELY FOR SOLO TRAVELLERS

Clockwise from above: Kandy to Nuwara Eliya railway; Leopard; Sigiriya Rock



Your holiday includes

-  Small group touring with max. 19 passengers
-  Return economy flights with Emirates from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham, inclusive of all airport charges, security charges, any applicable fuel surcharges and UK Air Passenger Duty
-  Carefully selected hotels in great locations, with all hotel portorage and applicable taxes
-  Meals worth £412 per person, with daily breakfast, three lunches, a High Tea and dinner each evening
-  Unforgettable experiences including:
 - ★ Sightseeing tours in Colombo, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Galle
 - ★ Walking tour of Colombo's thriving food scene
 - ★ Explore the medieval city of Polonnaruwa
 - ★ Safari in Minneriya or Kaudulla National Park
 - ★ Discover the ancient site of Sigiriya
 - ★ View the caves and frescos of Dambulla
 - ★ Witness the 'Temple of the Tooth' ceremony, Kandy
 - ★ Scenic train journey from Kandy to Nuwara Eliya
 - ★ Enjoy a tea-picking experience
 - ★ Safari in Udawalawe National Park
 - ★ Search for leopards on safari in Yala National Park
 - ★ Explore the old Dutch Fort in Galle
-  Services of an experienced local Tour Manager
-  All overseas transfers and modern, air-conditioned coaches throughout
-  Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise and is fully ATOL protected

For more information on our Price Promise, please see our Booking Conditions on pages 132-135.

Treasures of Sri Lanka

 14 days  from £3,795pp  January – April 2025

Sri Lanka is so much more than an island. A rich history meets raw, natural beauty in this exquisite country off the coast of India. Its verdant hills, hypnotising beaches and ancient ruins paint a canvas of its complexities. Its cuisine is unparalleled, combining the influences of countless cultures.

On this new tour, exclusively for solo travellers, with no single supplement, we'll dive into Sri Lanka and all it has to offer.

Over 14 days, we'll visit Sri Lanka's most bountiful national parks and admire a wide variety of wildlife in their natural habitat, including Asian elephants, birds, crocodiles, and hopefully, leopards. We'll discover UNESCO World Heritage Sites, from medieval cities to networks of caves, and the ancient rock fortress of Sigiriya.

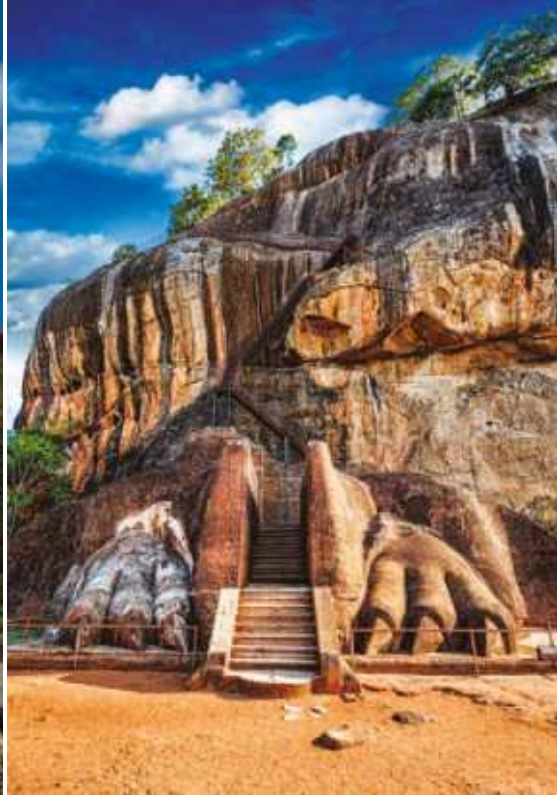
Sacred Buddhist shrines precede idyllic train journeys past sprawling tea estates and cascading waterfalls, and we'll learn about spices and tea-plucking at their source, with the help of local professionals. We take a tuk-tuk to Menikkumbura market, where we meet the village's Ayurvedic doctor, and sample exquisite Sri Lankan cuisine – even preparing an authentic traditional meal ourselves.

Join a small group of like-minded travellers as we explore the Treasures of Sri Lanka together on this superb solo tour.





Golden Buddha Cave Temple, Dambulla



Sigiriya Rock, Dambulla



Loten's sunbird

Treasures of Sri Lanka

Days 1 to 9: UK - Negombo - Colombo - Dambulla - Minneriya - Sigirya - Polonnaruwa - Kandy - Nuwara Eliya

Day 1: Depart UK

Depart from London Heathrow, Manchester or Birmingham with Emirates. All flights to Colombo operate via Dubai. **In-flight meals and drinks included**

Day 2: Negombo, 2 nights

On arrival, we transfer to the coastal town of Negombo, for our first two nights in Sri Lanka. We'll check in at the scenic Jetwing Sea Hotel. Later, enjoy a welcome drink with our Tour Manager and fellow travellers, followed by dinner. **In-flight meals and drinks and dinner included**

Day 3: Colombo

Following a leisurely morning, we take a sightseeing tour of Colombo, with its fascinating mix of cultures, religions, and colonial influences. We'll see the stately New and Old Parliament, Independence Square, the Pettah – a neighbourhood famed for open-air bazaars – and the captivating architecture of Gangaramaya Temple. We will then embark on a walking tour of Colombo's thriving food scene, sampling local street food, browsing artisanal markets, and visiting traditional eateries. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Dambulla and Minneriya National Park, 2 nights

If you're an early bird, don't miss out on the optional visit to Lellama village. We'll see the second-largest fish market in the country, where over 4000 boats depart daily. Chat with locals while admiring the day's catch. We return to the hotel for a hearty breakfast before travelling to Dambulla. On arrival, we check in at Amaya Lake Hotel, where we will stay for the next two nights. This afternoon, experience a game drive in either Minneriya or Kaudulla National Park, both set in the mesmerising Sri Lankan countryside, where wild Asian elephants roam in abundance. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 5: Sigirya and Polonnaruwa

Tour Highlight

We take an early breakfast before visiting the famous site of Sigiriya to discover its fascinating history. Surrounded by the remains of extensive gardens, the most celebrated site is Sigiriya Rock, with its flat-topped summit some 200 metres above sea level, amidst the ruins of an ancient civilisation. The more energetic amongst us can climb to the summit, passing remarkable frescos and the famous 'Lion's Paws' along the way. Later, we enjoy a traditional Sri Lankan lunch before travelling to the medieval city of Polonnaruwa, a UNESCO World Heritage site. See the grand Royal Palace complex, including the majestic Kings Palace and Audience Hall. We 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. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 6: Kandy, 2 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 complex of magnificent caves dates back to the 1st century BC. Later, we stop at the Sri Lankan Spice 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, then continue to Kandy and the charming Cinnamon Citadel Hotel for our next two nights. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 7: Kandy

After breakfast, we enjoy a village walking tour. We will visit Yatiwawala, through lush jungle paths and verdant rice fields, spotting the roaming buffalo. We'll see spices at their source and visit an Ambalama, a shelter built by ancient kings to house weary travellers. Afterwards, we'll take a tuk-tuk to Menikkumbura market, where we meet the village's Ayurvedic doctor. We will then prepare and sample an authentic Sri Lankan meal and return to the hotel for an afternoon at leisure. In the early evening, we visit the sacred Temple of the Tooth, also 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 evening ceremony, followed by a cultural show – a fascinating performance of traditional Sri Lankan dances. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 8: Nuwara Eliya, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

Today, we journey towards the cooler climates of Sri Lanka's hill country, as we join a local train travelling through an idyllic panorama of forests, villages, tea estates, and waterfalls. Please note, whilst we endeavour to arrange seats on the train as soon as tickets become available to book, this included rail journey is always subject to availability. Disembarking in Nuwara Eliya, enjoy a brief city tour before arriving at the Jetwing St Andrew's Hotel, offering scenic views of the countryside. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 9: Nuwara Eliya

After breakfast, enjoy a tea-plucking experience. Prepare to be decked out in local attire as we head to the organic tea fields. We'll be taught the art of which leaves to pluck and the tricky techniques to ensure the leaves end up in our baskets and not on the ground! We'll be accompanied by professional tea-pluckers along the way. We'll conclude the day with High Tea at the hotel. **Breakfast, High Tea and dinner included**



Elephants, Udawalawe National Park



Sri Lankan prawns



Flowers, Temple of the Tooth, Kandy

Treasures of Sri Lanka

Days 10 to 14: Udawalawe - Yala - Kalutara - UK

Day 10: Udawalawe, Overnight

After enjoying our breakfast, we travel to Udawalawe, where we'll stay the night in either the Hotel Centauria Wild or the Grand Udawalawe. After settling in, we'll embark on an afternoon safari. The park is renowned for its elephants, so get ready to admire these majestic creatures up close. The park is a birders' paradise and you can spot deer, buffalo, and crocodiles from the comfort (and safety) of our guided vehicle. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: Yala, Overnight

For those interested, there is the option to purchase an early morning safari in Udawalawe National Park. After breakfast, we visit the Elephant Transit Home, a wonderful facility which rehabilitates orphaned baby elephants, aiming to release them back into the wild. We continue our journey towards Yala and our overnight stay at the Cinnamon Wild Hotel. This afternoon, we embark on a safari in Yala National Park, the largest National Park in Sri Lanka, located approximately 24km northeast of Tissamaharama. Yala is the best location to see rare leopards. Other highlights of Yala include elephants, bears, wild boars, buffalos, deer, crocodiles, and many species of birds. The vegetation ranges from open parkland to dense jungle, with an abundance of water for the wildlife. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 12: Kalutara, 2 nights

We will have an opportunity this morning to take a second safari (own expense) in Yala National Park, before we begin our journey to Kalutara, via Galle. We will experience a city tour in Galle, a striking and historic city on the southwest coast. 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 continue to Kalutara beach and spend our final two nights in Sri Lanka at the Anantara Kalutara Resort. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: Kalutara Freedom Day

We have the chance to spend the day at leisure. Alternatively, there are various optional excursions for you to further explore the area. The first is a Madu River Boat Safari, heading out into the wetland estuaries to discover their mangroves. Lunch is included in this excursion, and so is a visit to Kosgoda Beach, one of Sri Lanka's most important nesting grounds for marine turtles. Admire these beautiful creatures and learn about the conservation efforts. The other optional excursion is a tour to Ahangama to participate in the local art of stilt fishing! This excursion also includes a visit to local villages to learn about finger-weaving and how various artisanal household items are made. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 14: Depart Sri Lanka / Arrive UK

After 14 amazing days full of unforgettable memories, it's time to say goodbye to Sri Lanka. We depart early this morning for Colombo airport for our Emirates flight home. All flights will operate via Dubai. We arrive at our chosen UK airport this evening, bringing to a close our amazing Sri Lankan adventure. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Why not extend your stay in Kalutara?



If you wish to spend a little longer relaxing at the Anantara Kalutara Resort, please speak with one of our travel experts.

2025 Departures

29 January 2025	£3,795 per person
19 February 2025	£3,795 per person
05 March 2025	£3,795 per person
02 April 2025	£3,795 per person

Prices

Prices are per person based on one person in a twin or double room. No single occupancy supplements apply.

Deposit

£500 per person if travelling Economy Class, £1,000 per person if travelling Premium Economy Class and £1,500 per person for Business Class.

Flight upgrades

Emirates upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,895 per person return, or Business Class from £3,895 per person return.

Visa information

You are required to obtain a Tourist Visa before travelling. For more information on applying for your visa and the associated costs, please refer to our Important Information on pages 130-131.

Important Information

Prices and flight upgrades are subject to fuel surcharges and the availability of flights. The correct price will be confirmed before you book.

Full Booking Conditions are available on pages 132-135.

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.

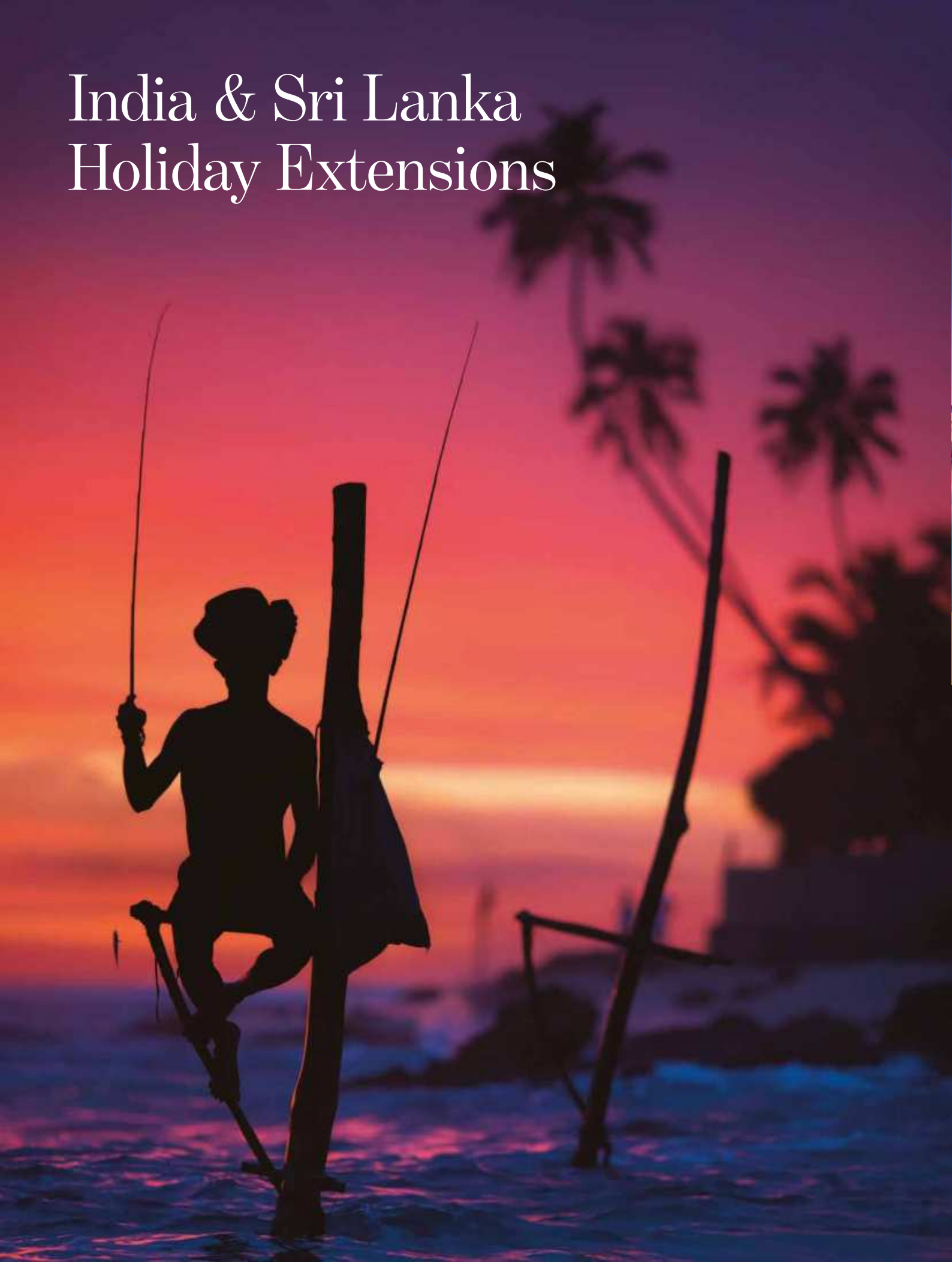
Call FREE on 0800 141 3710

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 & Sri Lanka Holiday Extensions



Traditional stilt fisherman



Amritsar from only £545 per person

Clockwise from above: Golden Temple, Partition Museum, Praying pilgrim

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.

This itinerary follows on from Day 10 of our Golden Triangle and Ranthambore tour.

Day 10: Amritsar, 2 nights

We bid farewell to our fellow travelling companions who depart for their final night in Delhi. Our day is at leisure to continue exploring Jaipur, before we depart 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 11: 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 and learn about the 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 Wagah-Attari border 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 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 12: Delhi, Overnight

Enjoy a day at leisure in Amritsar, before we transfer to the airport for our flight to Delhi. On arrival we transfer to the Pride Plaza Aerocity for our final night in India. **Breakfast and packed dinner included**

Day 13: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

After 13 amazing days discovering the delights of India, it's time to say farewell to this amazing country. Our flight departs Delhi in the morning, arriving in the UK this evening. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Available with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour



See pages 18-23

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, daily breakfast and dinner, the services of a local guide and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £95

India & Sri Lanka Holiday Extensions



Shimla from only £745 per person

Clockwise from above: Toy train; Christ Church; Viceregal Lodge

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.

This itinerary follows on from Day 11 of our Golden Triangle and Ranthambore tour.

Day 11: Delhi – Shimla, 3 nights

An early start this morning, as we bid farewell to our fellow travelling companions and begin our journey to Shimla. At the train station, 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 switch to the Himalayan ‘Toy Train’, a 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. On arrival into Shimla, we transfer to the fabulous Oberoi Cecil Hotel, where we will stay for the next three nights. **Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included**

Day 12: 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 13: Shimla Freedom Day

A Freedom Day in Shimla to relax or further explore this wonderful town at your leisure. 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 14: Delhi, Overnight

Following breakfast, we transfer by road to Chandigarh, where we board our train to Delhi. We transfer to the Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity, for our final night in India. **Breakfast, packed lunch and dinner included**

Day 15: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

Our Indian adventure comes to a close. Our flight departs this morning, arriving in the UK this evening. **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 and one night in Delhi, daily breakfast and dinner, two packed lunches, tour of Shimla, services of a local guide and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £295

Available with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour



See pages 18-23

Varanasi from only £795 per person

Clockwise from above: River Ganges; Hindu man; Aarti ceremony

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.

This itinerary follows on from Day 10 of our Golden Triangle and Ranthambore tour.

Day 10: Varanasi, 3 nights

Following the departure of our travelling companions for Delhi, we fly from Jaipur to Varanasi early in the afternoon and make our way to The Taj Ganges Hotel, our home for three nights. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 11: 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. In the 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 12: Varanasi

A morning sightseeing tour includes visits to Banaras Hindu University campus, New Vishwanath Temple and Sankat Mochan Temple. In the evening, why not join a walking tour exploring the importance of Varanasi to the Hindu faith? **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 13: 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 Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity for our final evening in India. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 14: Depart Delhi / Arrive UK

After breakfast, it’s time to say goodbye to the many charms of India as we transfer to the airport, to will begin our journey back to the UK. Our flight arrives later today. **Breakfast and in-flight meals and drinks included**

Your Varanasi holiday extension includes

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

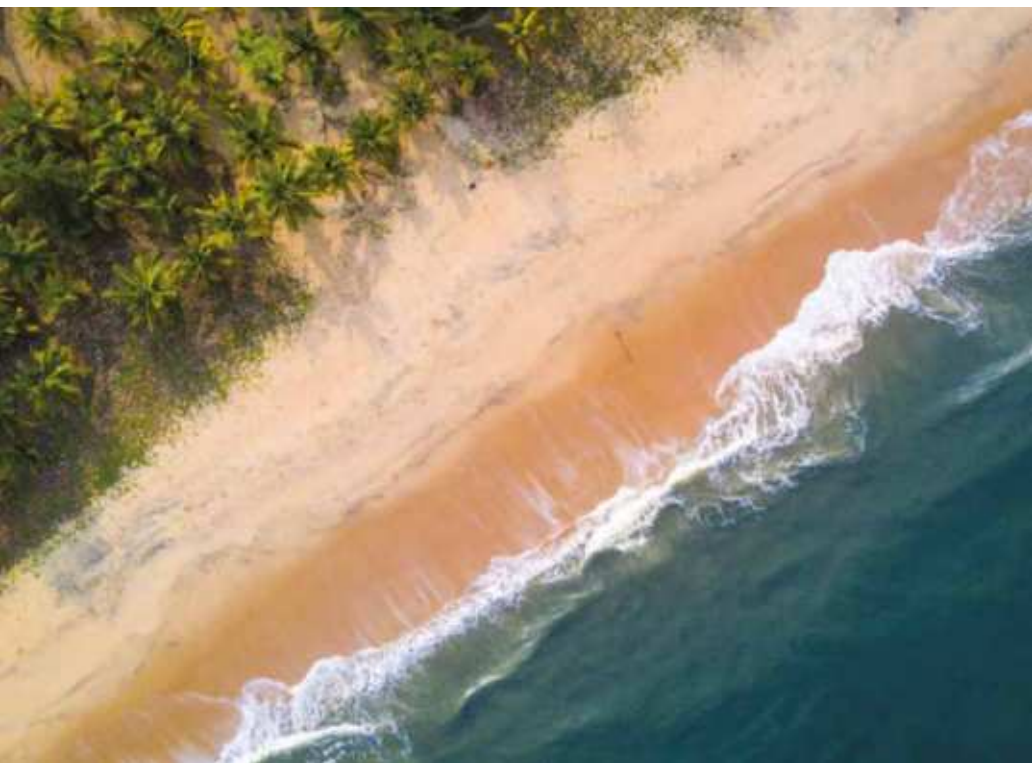
Single occupancy supplement from £195

Available with The Golden Triangle & Ranthambore tour



See pages 18-23

India & Sri Lanka Holiday Extensions



Kerala Beach from only £495 per person

Clockwise from above: Marari Beach; dining at Marari Beach Resort; Marari Beach Resort swimming pool

Kerala is a blissfully tranquil region on India's tropical Malabar Coast, known for its palm-fringed beaches and sleepy backwaters. The unhurried pace of life in Kerala makes it an ideal place to round off your tour with a beach stay, and our three night holiday extension provides a wonderful opportunity to relax and reflect on your time in India.

Available with our
Splendours of Kerala tour
and Grand Tour of India tour



See pages 30-35 & 50-57

Day 1: Mararikulam, 3 nights

As our travelling companions depart for Cochin airport and their flight home, we journey to the sea-side fishing village of Mararikulam. Our home for the next three nights is the Marari Beach Resort. Set amid 30 acres of coconut groves and organic farmland and with direct access to the beach, settle into our individual thatched villa and prepare to relax. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 2: Mararikulam Freedom Day

Our day is at leisure to spend as we please. Marari is a nature lover's paradise and the resort offers a host of activities. Maybe take a morning stroll with one of the resident naturalists, or discover more about the delicious food at Marari Beach Resort with a walk through the hotel's organic gardens. Pick your own fruit and vegetables and let the team of talented chefs work their magic. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 3: Mararikulam Freedom Day

Another day in paradise! Ayurvedic medicine is rooted at the heart of Indian culture and at Marari Beach Resort you can learn more about this ancient treatment and perhaps enjoy a traditional Ayurvedic massage. Other activities include an early morning yoga session, or you could enjoy your last day taking a cooling dip in the green waters of the hotel's saltwater pool and a stroll along the golden sandy beach. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Depart Cochin

We bid a sad farewell to Kerala and India today as we travel to Cochin Airport to begin our journey home to the UK. **Breakfast included**

Your Kerala Beach holiday extension includes

Three nights accommodation in Kerala on a half-board basis and all transfers.

Single occupancy supplement from £245

Sri Lanka Beach from only £495 per person

Clockwise from above: Occidental Eden Beruwala Hotel; Occidental Eden Beruwala swimming pool; Dining at the Occidental Eden Beruwala

Sri Lanka is blessed in many ways, no more so than by its beautiful tropical beaches lapped by the Indian Ocean, and its balmy climate. After your Very Best of Sri Lanka tour, why not wind down with our three night holiday extension at Occidental Eden Beruwala Hotel on Sri Lanka's west coast?

Available with our Very Best
of Sri Lanka tour



See pages 94-99

Day 1: Beruwala, 3 nights

Say farewell to your travelling companions as they head to Colombo and their flight home, while we travel to Occidental Eden Beruwala Hotel on the shores of the Indian Ocean, where white sand beaches and stunning sunsets await. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 2: Beruwala Freedom Day

Today is left entirely free to spend as you please. Take yourself to the beach, enjoy the hotel's swimming pool, or perhaps engage in some of the resort activities. However you choose to spend your day, enjoy. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 3: Bentota Freedom Day

Another day in paradise to unwind and enjoy the hotel and surrounding beaches. Savour the peace and quiet, with just the sound of birdsong and the crash of ocean waves surrounding you. Relax further with a soothing massage or treatment at the hotel's spa. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 4: Depart Colombo

All good things must come to an end and today we travel to Colombo Airport to leave Sri Lanka and begin our journey home to the UK. **Breakfast included**

Your Sri Lankan Beach holiday extension includes

Three nights accommodation in Beruwala on a half-board basis and all transfers.

Superior Land Side Room:	From £495 per person
Superior Ocean Side Room:	From £545 per person
Deluxe Garden Room:	From £595 per person
Premium Room:	From £645 per person

Single occupancy supplement from £295

Deccan Odyssey

India's Luxury Train



Clockwise from above: Deccan Odysseys train; dining on board; local dish

Deluxe twin cabin

Traditional dancers

Be transported to an age of romance and royalty, with an enchanting stay on India's most opulent train, The Deccan Odyssey.

Once reserved only for Indian royalty and British aristocrats, travelling by train is now one of the most exciting and rewarding ways to journey across India. Distant Journeys are delighted to offer two new tours, Deccan Odyssey's Grand Heritage and Deccan Odyssey's Cultural Discovery, which combine a tapestry of must-see destinations with the pure joy of a truly remarkable rail experience.

On board you can expect grandeur, impeccable service and true nostalgia of a bygone era. And, as the train pulls into the station, endless adventure awaits. Each stop welcomes you with all of India's allure, splendour and intrigue. From the exquisite marble mausoleum of the Taj Mahal, majestic against the Agra landscape, to the lush forests of Ranthambore, where prowling tigers stalk their prey, or the vivid 'Pink City' itself, Jaipur.

And, travelling on The Deccan Odyssey, voted as one of the best luxury train in Asia, you're guaranteed to enjoy every moment of the journey too.

Deccan Odyssey's Grand Heritage

India's cities are brimming with history and culture, each with a rich past — stories to be told and wonders to be seen. Our Deccan Odyssey's Grand Heritage tour starts in the captivating city of Delhi, before boarding The Deccan Odyssey for seven nights. Our first stops include Agra, home to the beguiling Taj Mahal, and Ranthambore National Park where we hope to see the majestic Bengal Tiger. Over the course of a few days our train journey will then take us to Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Jaipur, each home to fascinating architecture, forts, palaces and temples. Each evening we will retreat to our palace on the rails, The Deccan Odyssey, for superb drinks and dining. Following our Deccan Odyssey adventure, we finish our tour in the hill station town of Shimla.

Deccan Odyssey's Cultural Discovery

Our Deccan Odyssey's Cultural Discovery, starts with stays in Delhi, Amritsar, home to the masterful Golden Temple and spiritual Dharamshala, located in the Himalayan foothills. Once on board, the Deccan Odyssey, our first stop is Ranthambore National Park, where we visit a tiger reserve that once served as the private hunting ground of the Maharajas of Jaipur. It's then onward to Jaipur, 'The Pink City', followed by Agra and the Taj Mahal. We then discover India's true cultural hotspots over the course of a few days, visiting Gwalior, Orchha, Khajuraho and Varanasi, home to the holy River Ganges. After each day's exploration we are rewarded with a return to The Deccan Odyssey.

Deluxe Cabins

Make yourself at home as you nestle into your elegant cabin, with rich wooden panels, plush bedding, and every amenity you desire.

All cabins feature the following facilities:

- A butler for round-the-clock service
- Air-conditioning
- Complimentary WiFi
- Ensuite bathroom
- Personal safe
- Telephone

Life on board the Deccan Odyssey

India is renowned for its sense of hospitality as well as its incredible beauty – enjoy both as you travel in comfort and partake in all the pleasure The Deccan Odyssey has to offer.

The Deccan Odyssey comprises 21 luxury coaches, each inspired by the regal carriages that transported Indian royalty in the days of yore. Every coach conveys a vision of varied royal eras in India's rich history, displaying diverse dynasties in motion.

Dining

The Deccan Odyssey has two restaurant cars, each opulently decorated with seating designed to enhance your view of the dazzling landscape. With three delectable daily meals, savour wonderful dishes prepared by local chefs with the freshest ingredients. Catered to your tastes, choose from an array of Indian and continental delicacies on offer.

Bar Lounge

Whether you're seeking sundowners after a bustling day of sightseeing or craving a nightcap before retiring for the evening, the bar lounge and its waiting attendants are ready to serve you some of the finest wines and spirits from around the globe.

Spa

For those who wish to take unwinding and relaxation to a deeper level, visit the spa car. The expertly trained therapists are ready to pamper you with massage therapies, ancient Ayurvedic practices and more.

Deccan Odyssey inclusions

- Full board: breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- All off-train experiences
- Soft beverages during meals



The Deccan Odyssey team

ABN Sukapha

Brahmaputra River Cruise

EXCLUSIVE CHARTER FOR DISTANT JOURNEYS



Clockwise from above: ABN Sukapha riverboat; sundeck; lounge

Spacious cabin

Dining on board

With just 12 cabins, exclusively accommodating Distant Journeys’ guests, the ABN Sukapha is home for seven wonderful nights, as part of our Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling tour.

The impressive trans-boundary river of Brahmaputra is sourced in the Himalayas and finds its confluence in the revered and holy River Ganges. This River Island cruise takes you from Silghat to Dibrugarh/Jorhat, docking at plenty of iconic locations along the way. Guests can expect plentiful wildlife, cultural encounters with riverside communities, a fascinating glimpse into Assamese culture on Majuli Island and a visit to a tea estate in Jorhat.

Join us as we meander the waterways of the legendary Brahmaputra River on board our exclusively-chartered ABN Sukapha riverboat.

The Journey

Along the route, take in the wonders of the UNESCO World Heritage Site, Kaziranga National Park, home to the largest population of Indian One-Horned Rhinoceros in the world, as well as the highest density of Bengal Tigers, not to mention its Indian elephants, bison, swamp deer and Capped langurs. Shore excursions include holy monasteries, exquisite temples, sprawling tea estates, and so much more. With all excursions included, all that is left is for you to relish every moment.

Cabin Comforts

The 12, air-conditioned en-suite cabins are bamboo-panelled featuring a large, sliding window that offers panoramic views of the landscape.

Cabin facilities

- Climate control
- En-suite shower with Kama Ayurveda toiletries
- Ample cupboard space and under-bed storage
- High-quality linens
- Sliding floor to ceiling windows

Life on board

Return to the riverboat after each on-shore adventure and enjoy unrivalled service and hospitality, from a cold towel service to refresh yourself once back on board to sipping a chilled welcome drink on deck.

When not relishing the comforts of your private cabin, head to the riverboat’s top floor where an airy, sun-drenched deck awaits you with loungers, armchairs, and more. Take in the sweeping vistas of rolling jungle-covered hills, verdant forests, and the sun’s rays dancing across the water’s surface. Select some light reading from the extensive library, or admire art and handlooms, all locally handcrafted by expert artisans hailing from Assam.

Staff provide local insights into Indian culture with song and dance performances and if your curiosity is piqued, an English-speaking guide is on board, ready to answer your every question as you watch local life on the shore pass you by.

Delectable Dining

The ABN Sukapha ensures a superb culinary experience in the dedicated dining room with expertly trained chefs crafting a delectable buffet of local Indian cuisines and traditional Western dishes. Treat yourself to an expansive choice of wines, spirits, and beers, sourced from around the globe, or enjoy the complimentary tea, coffee, and mineral water onboard.

Serene Spa

If you can take yourself away from the magnificent vistas, indulge in some pampering with selected treatments in the onboard spa.

ABN Sukapha Inclusions

- Exclusive charter for Distant Journeys customers
- Full board: breakfast, lunch, and dinner
- All excursions and entry fees
- Service of an English-speaking guide



ABN Sukapha

India Hotel Directory



ITC Rajputana Hotel, Jaipur



Agra – ITC Mughal Hotel

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

Set among acres of lush gardens, laid out in traditional Mughal style, the ITC Mughal is a resort hotel set in close proximity to the Taj Mahal. The elegantly equipped, air-conditioned guest rooms are furnished with a sofa seating area, a flat-screen TV, a minibar and tea/coffee making facilities. Unwind in the inviting outdoor pools and retreat under the shade of a parasol on the expansive sun terrace. Mughal Pavilion is the hotel's multi-cuisine restaurant offering a delectable spread of both local and international cuisine.



Agra – Taj Hotel & Convention Centre

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

The Taj Hotel & Convention Centre is a fantastic hotel in Agra just a short walk away from the Eastern Gate of the majestic Taj Mahal. With its lavish rooms, stunning rooftop infinity pool and restaurants serving international as well as authentic Nawaabi and Mughlai cuisine, it's the perfect place from which to enjoy the many treasures that Agra has to offer.



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 reminiscent of the Mughal era, surrounded by beautifully landscaped gardens and fountains in a central courtyard. There are extensive recreation and wellness facilities, designed to soothe body and soul. Guest bedrooms are bright and overlook the gardens or pool area. Dining here is a sumptuous experience, with authentic Indian cuisine, succulent grills and wood-fired pizzas served in the main restaurant.



Ahmedabad – Welcomhotel By ITC Hotels

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

Welcomhotel by ITC Hotels in Ahmedabad offers warm Indian hospitality, premium accommodation and signature dining experiences aplenty. Guests can enjoy well-designed rooms and try global, regional and national cuisines from carefully curated menus at the hotel's inviting all-day dining restaurant, WelcomCafe Ikkat. Guests can also advantage of the hotel's fitness centre, interactive cooking sessions, and complimentary evening beverages as well as Ahmedabad's finest collection of tea, coffee and eclectic concoctions at the hotel's relaxed lounge.



Alleppey – Houseboat

With their distinctive thatched roofs and wooden hulls, the kettuvallam, or houseboat, is a familiar sight on the Keralan backwaters. Our houseboats are traditionally styled yet 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 – Welcomhotel By ITC Hotels

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

The Welcomhotel by ITC Amritsar is built around a carefully restored colonnaded mansion dating back to the 1900s. The hotel's architectural heritage is reflected in the opulent furnishings of the guest bedrooms, and the shaded gardens and outdoor swimming pool provide a welcome retreat. Guests' wellbeing is cared for at the Fitness Centre and spa. WelcomCafe Phulkari offers a hearty buffet breakfast while Kebabs & Kurries restaurant showcases authentic Indian cuisine. Swizzle Bar is the place to enjoy a sundowner surrounded by old-world charm.

India Hotel Directory



Amritsar – Radisson Blu Hotel

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 and free Wi-Fi. Hotel rooms are stylish, spacious and comfortable, boasting views of the verdant gardens surrounding the property. Enjoy a visit to the on-site fitness centre and spa or a swim in the outdoor pool, or just relax in the sun with a good book. Dinner at Tavolo Mondo is a range of delicious buffet dishes and local and international à la carte options to cater for all palates.



Amritsar – Taj Swarna

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

Taj Swarna in Amritsar brings style and elegance to offer a truly exceptional stay in true Punjab fashion. Guestrooms are thoughtfully designed to provide a perfect blend of modern comfort and traditional charm and the hotel offers a range of delightful cuisines to satisfy every palate. Taj Swarna pays homage to Punjab culture, incorporating local arts and crafts in its décor while adding a sprinkling of international flair. Meanwhile, fully equipped health and wellness facilities help keep mind, body and soul in check.



Bandhavgarh – Tiger's Den Resort

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

Nestled in the serene surroundings of Bandhavgarh National Park, Tiger's Den Resort is a place to embrace a more natural pace of life. Each of the 34 elegantly appointed cottages feature a private balcony overlooking the majestic Vindhyan Hills which guests can explore for themselves with thrilling wildlife safaris and guided nature walks. If relaxation is more your thing, the beautiful pool amidst the lush greenery is the perfect place to unwind, while a rich variety of Indian and continental cuisine is served at the Sita Madhi Restaurant.



Bangalore – Welcomhotel by ITC

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

Welcomhotel by ITC combines warm Indian hospitality with sustainability. Located in the heart of 'The Garden City', it offers elegant, spacious guestrooms with designer furnishings that blend style and comfort. Guests can discover the culinary heritage of Karnataka with cooking classes and mixology sessions or sample a range of regional and gourmet dishes at the hotel's restaurants. The 24 hour gym is ideal for exercising whilst on tour while the K By Kaya Kalp spa and leafy pool offer a blissful escape for body and mind.



Chettinad – Chidambara Vilas

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

Situated in the historic city of Pudukkottai in Chettinad, the Chidambara Vilas resort exudes an alluring charm that takes guests back in time. Every corner of this heritage hotel reflects the rich cultural history of the region. The exquisitely-designed rooms showcase traditional Chettinad architecture, offering a glimpse into the past without foregoing modern comforts, while the authentic Chettinad cuisine is tantalising on the taste buds. Guest can rejuvenate with refreshing spa treatments and unwind by the sparkling pool surrounded by lush greenery.



Cochin – Casino Hotel

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

The Casino Hotel on Cochin's historic Willingdon Island offers spacious, cosy rooms with stunning views of the city's serene backwaters. Its restaurants provide a range of authentic Kerala dishes and fusion delicacies, and guests can indulge in rejuvenating Ayurvedic treatments at the in-house spa, take a dip in the pool, or explore the beautiful surroundings. The hotel perfectly blends old and new and is an ideal choice for travellers seeking a relaxing and comfortable stay in Kerala's cosmopolitan hub.



Cochin – Trident Hotel

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

Blending modern facilities with classic style, the Trident Hotel's guest rooms are well appointed with contemporary comforts, and large picture windows. Rooms are set around a picturesque central courtyard and landscaped gardens. 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. The Patio is a casual dining area open to the balmy breezes. It's the perfect place to relax and enjoy a light meal and a drink at any time.



Darjeeling – The Elgin Heritage Resort & Spa

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

The Elgin, Darjeeling is a distinguished heritage resort and spa that has been enchanting guests since 1887. Once the summer residence of the Maharaja of Cooch Behar, it offers a comfortable escape in the heart of Darjeeling town, 6,000 feet up in the eastern Himalayas. This elegant, historic hotel offers tastefully appointed rooms and delicious cuisine including a special Darjeeling high tea, while the spa offers rejuvenating treatments inspired by ancient traditions.



Delhi – Eros Hotel New Delhi Nehru Place

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

Eros Hotel New Delhi Nehru is a contemporary sanctuary away from the hustle and bustle of the South Delhi shops, entertainment venues and tourist attractions nearby. The hotel faces the iconic Lotus Temple, and its design encompasses the charm of the old world while retaining a certain sophisticated stylishness and airy brightness. The hotel boasts modern facilities, fantastic views and even a nine-hole putting green, while guests can enjoy cuisines ranging from buffet and à la carte options to authentic Indian dishes at Singh Sahib.



Delhi – ITC Maurya Hotel

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

The ITC Maurya Hotel is a landmark hotel situated in New Delhi's exclusive Diplomatic Enclave. Its imposing stepped structure echoes the design of a Buddhist stupa. The guest bedrooms are modern and stylish, and there is a state-of-the-art, fully equipped gym and an enticing outdoor pool surrounded by a sun deck. There is a choice of cuisines available to suit all tastes, including Bukhara Restaurant, ranked as one of the top 50 best places to eat in India. A nightcap in the cosy Golf Bar will ensure your evening goes with a swing.



Delhi – Welcomhotel by ITC Dwarka

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

The Welcomhotel by ITC Dawarka is a stylish, cosmopolitan hotel located close to both the heart of New Delhi and its airport. The modern air-conditioned guest rooms are a welcome haven, and the hotel has an inviting outdoor pool and fully equipped gym. Pavilion 75 restaurant serves a variety of Indian and international favourites in a relaxed, spacious setting. For dinner, Kebabs & Kurries is your go-to for authentic Northwest Frontier cuisine; delicious food served in an intimate, candlelit restaurant.



Delhi – Maidens Hotel

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

Maidens Hotel is one of Delhi's grandest and best-preserved buildings, built in 1903 to host the attending dignitaries during the 1903 Delhi Durbar, and still retaining its colonial charm and elegance. The sweeping driveway and grand façade give a clue to its illustrious heritage. 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.

India Hotel Directory



Coconut Lagoon, Kumarakom



Delhi – Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity

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

Pride Plaza Hotel Aerocity is situated near to Delhi Airport. The hotel boasts modern facilities blended with authentic Indian furnishings and artwork. Guest rooms are spacious and contemporary, and the hotel's leisure facilities include a fitness centre and an outdoor pool. Zivaya Spa offers indulgent treatments. Café Pride is the hotel's all-day restaurant serving a lavish buffet spread of Indian specialities and international classics, and Stallion Lounge Bar is a cosy space where guests can unwind over a drink in a convivial atmosphere.



Dharamshala – Fortune Park Moksha

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

Fortune Park Moksha, nestled in the picturesque Strawberry Hills of the lush Dharamshala valley, offers a tranquil retreat amidst the rolling Dhauladhar mountain range. With elegantly designed rooms, a swimming pool, and all the usual mod cons, it offers guests a comfortable and relaxing stay. Thanks to the hotel's convenient location, guests have easy access to the city's attractions where they can enjoy delicious dining experiences, explore the arts and crafts bazaar, and take in the stunning natural beauty of the area.



Gir – The Fern Gir Forest Resort

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

The Fern Gir Forest Resort promises guests an unforgettable stay in a stunning natural haven. The resort features air-conditioned accommodation that's designed to provide a comfortable and authentic experience of living in the wild. In fact, the resort is built using styles inspired by traditions that have been passed down generations in the area. The resort's dining options include authentic cuisine that showcases the flavours of the region, and guests have access to a swimming pool, spa, gym and the majestic Sasan Gir National Park right on the doorstep.



Goa – The Zuri White Sands

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

The Zuri White Sands 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. Waterfall Cafe offers multi-cuisine dining all day long, from an extensive buffet spread to live cooking stations where the talented chefs serve street-food classics with a twist.



Jaipur – Hilton Jaipur

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

Hilton Jaipur is set in the heart of the Pink City of Jaipur, with spectacular views of the scenic Aravalli Hills. The richly decorated guest rooms offer air-conditioning, flat-screen satellite TV and seating area. Outside, the hotel has an impressive pool surrounded by a sun terrace and a spa offering rejuvenating treatments while the more energetic can take advantage of Hilton Jaipur's well-equipped fitness centre. Chaandi is the hotel's authentic Indian restaurant with specialities from Rajasthan and the Northwestern Frontier Region.



Jaipur – ITC Rajputana Hotel

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

Situated in the heart of Jaipur, the ITC Rajputana Hotel is inspired by the imposing traditional architecture of Rajasthan. The elegant guest rooms are a welcome haven after a day's sightseeing, with comfortable beds and quality amenities. A Signature Royal Spa, with a range of treatments available, will help you feel relaxed and refreshed. For dining, Jal Mahal Restaurant serves lavish buffet spreads, Peshawri is an award-winning India restaurant and Jaipur Pavilion offers cuisines from around the world.



Jaipur – Trident Hotel

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

With décor inspired by the city's rich cultural heritage, the Trident Hotel combines classic charm with modern conveniences. The stunning views of Mansagar Lake and Jal Mahal are complemented by the dramatic backdrop of the Aravali Hills. Bedrooms are bright and airy, and there is a host of recreation facilities. Dining options include the award-winning Jal Mahal restaurant serving authentic Rajasthani delights, and the Grills by the Pool restaurant which offers unique Indian dishes served straight from the open grill.



Kanha – Kanha Jungle Camp

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

Situated in the enthralling wilderness of Kanha National Park, Kanha Jungle Camp offers an unforgettable adventure through a programme that enables nature and wildlife thrive. The camp's charming rooms are equipped with native prints, wooden beds, organic toiletries and insect repellent and provide a cosy retreat after a day of exploration with the camp's highly experienced guides. At the restaurant, local flavours and international cuisines take centre stage while the tranquil wellness centre will awake the senses.



Kolkata – The Oberoi Grand

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

The Oberoi Grand in vibrant Kolkata is a revered luxury hotel that epitomises elegance and grandeur. Situated near the iconic Victoria Memorial and surrounded by lush gardens, this opulent hotel offers a truly memorable stay. Guestrooms showcase a blend of traditional and contemporary design while at the hotel's exquisite dining venues a culinary journey awaits thanks to a variety of delectable cuisines. Guests can experience ultimate relaxation at the Ayurvedic spa and reawaken their senses with a dip in the beautiful pool.



Kolkata – Taj City Centre New Town

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

Taj City Centre New Town in Kolkata carries an essence of grandeur and urban hospitality. As you step into the hotel, you're greeted with a serene ambiance that instantly diffuses the city's hustle and bustle. The cosy rooms offer a tranquil retreat, complemented by mesmerising city views. The hotel's fine dining restaurants serve a fusion of global and local cuisines and the hotel's dedicated services, including fitness centre and spa, ensure a comfortable and rejuvenating stay.

India Hotel Directory



Kumarakom – Coconut Lagoon

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

Situated in the heart of Kerala, Coconut Lagoon is an idyllic resort set among the backwater canals and only accessible by boat. Accommodation is in individually designed heritage bungalows, built with traditional materials. Each bungalow has its own private outdoor seating area and a partly open-to-sky bathroom to truly feel at one with nature. The lakeside pool is the perfect spot to relax and de-stress. Vembanad restaurant serves Keralan cuisine, with an emphasis on freshly caught fish and the region's signature ingredient, the coconut.



Kumbakonam – Mantra Koodam

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

Mantra Koodam is a gorgeous riverside lodge located in the picturesque Veppathur village of Kumbakonam – known as 'the town of 5,000 temples.' This stunning resort is an ode to the region's rich history and culture, taking guests on a journey through time and nature as soon as they arrive at the 15-acre property. The resort features exquisite guest rooms with elegant furnishings and authentic local décor, and every dish on the menu carries on local traditions passed down through generations. The resort also offers top-notch amenities and services.



Madurai – Heritage Madurai

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

Steeped in history, Heritage Madurai exudes a captivating charm that resonates throughout its corridors and rooms. The hotel boasts a range of luxurious accommodations, including the opulent Luxury Plunge Pool Villas and the distinctively designed Geoffrey Bawa Rooms. Guests can dine beneath a 200-year-old banyan tree accompanied by the delightful melodies of chirping birds, relax in the magnificent Olympic-sized temple tank pool, and take in the rich heritage of Madurai through leisurely walks amidst the hotel's historic architecture.



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 patrolled by the hotel's resident peacocks. Hotel rooms are stylish and contemporary, and the extensive grounds are centred around a palm-shaded swimming pool. Around the hotel are bowls of hibiscus and frangipani, and glowing candles add to the ambience. 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.



Mahabalipuram – Welcomhotel by ITC

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

Welcomhotel by ITC, Kences Palm Beach in Mamallapuram is a verdant beach oasis overlooking the Bay of Bengal. It provides easy access to the Shore Temple and other ancient monuments of Mamallapuram. There's the chance to experience the culinary heritage of Tamil Nadu and discover regional cuisine and rejuvenate mind, body, and soul with signature treatments from India and overseas at the WelcomWellness Spa.



Mararikulam – Marari Beach Resort

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

Marari Beach Resort is set amid 30 acres of coconut groves, organic farmland and fruit trees. Accommodation is in individual guest villas thatched with coconut leaves, with a bathroom partly open to the skies so guests can feel truly at one with nature. Enjoy a cooling swim in the saltwater pool, relax in a hammock under swaying palm trees and dine on the finest organic produce in Chakara Restaurant. The traditionally styled Club House serves premium spirits and wines, cocktails and beers, plus a wide variety of aperitifs and light snacks.



Mumbai – Trident Hotel, Nariman Point

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

Located in the heart of Mumbai, soaring over 35 storeys high above the iconic Marine Drive promenade. Guest rooms are given character by locally created artworks, and the hotel's pool boasts views to the Arabian Sea beyond. Let your stresses slip away at the Trident Spa, a luxury spa offering a variety of Eastern and Western treatments, ranging from Swedish massage to Ayurvedic therapies. International cuisine is served at the hotel's restaurants and the Opium Den bar is an atmospheric venue for an evening drink.



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 misty mountains and tea plantations of Munnar. Accommodation is in private cottages built on stilts, with Keralan décor blended with modern facilities and a private balcony looking out onto the tall trees and distant hills of the Western Ghats. The resort facilities include Tree of Life, a spa offering a range of Ayurvedic treatments. Enjoy Keralan specialities and continental favourites in Hill Spice Restaurant.



Mysore – Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel

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

Nestled in the heart of the city, the Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel offers spacious rooms and suites complete with top-notch amenities and breathtaking views of the Chamundi Hills. Elegance meets convenience here thanks to its excellent local and international restaurants and bars, state-of-the-art fitness centre and round-the-clock business centre. Meanwhile, the Tattva Spa and outdoor pool offer travellers the perfect opportunity to balance mind, body and soul after a busy day exploring the city's many shops, stalls and attractions.



Ooty – Fortune Resort Sullivan Court

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

Fortune Resort Sullivan Court in Ooty is a serene retreat set in the picturesque landscapes of Ooty, conveniently located close to the city centre, railway station, and airport. This modern-day tribute to John Sullivan, the founding figure of the town, exudes a tranquil ambience with its lush green lawns and vibrant patterned gardens. The resort offers a range of well-appointed rooms, most of which provide scenic views of the slopes, along with relaxing indoor and outdoor dining venues.



Pench – Pench Jungle Camp

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

Nestled near the Turia Gate of Pench National Park in Madhya Pradesh, Pench Jungle Camp is a comfortable retreat surrounded by lush foliage and sprawling lawns. The wide range of recently renovated rooms ensures a relaxed and wonderful stay, while the team of knowledgeable naturalists guarantees unforgettable wildlife experiences. The traditionally styled restaurant serves delicious Indian, continental and Chinese dishes indoor and out, providing fuel for busy days exploring the stunning natural surroundings.



Puducherry – Palais De Mahe

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

Located just a stone's throw away from the picturesque seaside promenade of Puducherry, Palais de Mahe offers a relaxing experience thanks to the soothing cool breezes and gentle rumblings of the Bay of Bengal. This hotel mesmerises with its striking colonial architecture and traditional furnishings and combines the best of South Indian colour with French passion and culture. Fine local and international cuisine is served in the hotel's restaurant while the Ayurvedic spa and palm-lined pool provide the perfect opportunity to refresh and reboot.

India Hotel Directory



Zuri White Sands, Goa



Puducherry – Residency Towers
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Residency Towers in Puducherry offers an unforgettable stay in the heart of the French Quarter. Each elegant and spacious room is fully equipped and comes with bike rental and other useful additions, and all are accompanied by a grandeur that emanates effortless comfort and distinction. The hotel offers guests a choice of dining options too, featuring an array of regional and continental cuisine. Guests can even enjoy a tranquil rooftop pool with panoramic views of the city.



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. The large outdoor pool is a lovely place for a swim or just to relax on a sun lounger with a good book. 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.



Ranthambore – Ranthambore Regency Hotel
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Ranthambore Regency Hotel is an ideal hotel for relaxation and exploration, with a superb location, close to Ranthambore National Park. The air-conditioned bedrooms are spacious and well-equipped, the hotel's verdant gardens a tranquil place to relax alongside a spacious outdoor pool shaded by trees. The property offers two restaurants; Ingredients, which offers buffet style throughout the day and Fushia Bar, the go-to venue for drinks and light meals from morning until late evening.



Ranthambore – The Tigress
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

The Tigress Ranthambore is a newly built hotel nestled beside Ranthambore National Park – a former royal hunting ground and a fantastic place to spot tigers in their natural habitat. The Tigress offers a comfortable escape amidst the wilderness, with expert guides on hand as guests explore the majestic beauty of the national park. And after a day in the great outdoors, guests can relax at Shanti wellness spa and toast to another day well spent in one of the resort's five dining and drinking establishments.



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 Indian rugs. The Restaurant is open for all-day dining and serves everything from continental breakfast to Pan-Asian and local specialities. A classical pianist plays each evening, adding to the elegant ambience.



Thekkady – The Elephant Court
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Set amongst four acres of lush, green landscaped hills, The Elephant Court is a tranquil hideaway. The resort boasts spacious, well-designed rooms with elegant furnishings and modern amenities, as well as a convenient pool and health club. Guests can partake in indulgent Ayurvedic treatments or choose from the range of outdoor activities to stimulate both the body and mind. International dishes are served in the Patio Restaurant while Pebbles Speciality Restaurant offers an a la carte experience of authentic Kerala cuisine.



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 so guests can sit outside on a balmy evening and drink in the sounds and scents of the surrounding forests. A swimming pool invites you to relax in its cool waters after a day's sightseeing. All food is locally sourced within a 50-mile radius of the resort; the vegetables are grown at the hotel's organic farm and the fish is caught from the nearby rivers.



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 hotel offers extensive recreation facilities; salute the early morning sun with an outdoor yoga session, or for something a little more energetic visit the well-equipped gym. 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, plus a spa inspired by the principles and practices of the yogic lifestyle. Chowk Restaurant serves international, Indian and Pan-Asian cuisines using produce from the hotel's own organic garden, and Prinsep Bar is the ideal spot for a cool beer or cocktail.



Velavadar – Blackbuck Safari Lodge
Local rating: ★★★★★ Distant Journeys rating: ★★★★★

Blackbuck Safari Lodge in Velavadar offers a comfortable retreat immersed in the beauty of nature. Nestled near a scenic hamlet surrounded by water bodies and farmlands, the lodge provides a peaceful haven for guests. Its cottages, tastefully decorated, blend modern amenities with local architecture and feature private sit-outs. Guests can enjoy guided tours of the national park in jeeps, head to the lodge's charming pond (perfect for birdwatching), and cycle close to the lodge and the nearby Narmada canal.

Sri Lanka Hotel Directory



Beruwala – Occidental Eden Beruwala

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

Occidental Eden Beruwala Hotel is an oasis of calm on the shores of the Indian Ocean where white sand beaches and stunning sunsets await. Guest rooms have décor inspired by Sri Lankan culture and a private balcony or terrace to make the most of the wonderful views. As well as its superb location, the hotel offers fabulous food at the Garden of Eden restaurant; there's also an Ayurvedic spa and a beautiful pool surrounded by palm trees; the perfect place to unwind and relax.



Colombo – Kingsbury Hotel

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

The Kingsbury Hotel enjoys spectacular views of Colombo Harbour. Guest rooms are contemporary in design with chic décor and amenities. The spacious swimming pool is the ideal place to enjoy a dip after a day of sightseeing. For a spot of pampering, Senses Spa offers relaxing and therapeutic treatments. Kingsbury Hotel's restaurants serve dishes from around the world. Round off your evening with a visit to CÉ LA VI, the hotel's rooftop restaurant and bar with sweeping vistas of the city of Colombo and shimmering Indian Ocean beyond.



Dambulla – Amaya Lake

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

Amaya Lake is a stunning lakefront resort with breathtaking views of Kandalama Lake. It is conveniently located near popular attractions, including the fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Site Sigiriya – an ancient rock fortress near the town of Dambulla in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. The resort boasts beautifully furnished chalet-style rooms, providing a cosy and intimate atmosphere and panoramic views, while its restaurants emphasise locally-inspired dishes made from fresh lake fish and homegrown ingredients.



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. Unwind with a drink in the Coats of Arms Bar, while enjoying the panoramic views of the Indian Ocean.



Habarana – Cinnamon Lodge

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

Cinnamon Lodge Habarana is surrounded by the sound of birdsong and lush forests home to wildlife including serpent eagles, kingfishers and monkeys. The well-appointed guest rooms enjoy a living area and terrace or balcony. The hotel boasts a large outdoor pool and sun terrace, with Azmaara Spa offering a range of treatments. Cinnamon Lodge's restaurant serves delightful Sri Lankan cuisine, with ingredients sourced from their organic garden. Tuskers Bar is the place for a sundowner, to unwind with the sights and sounds of a lazy Sri Lankan evening all around.



Kalutara – Anantara Kalutara Resort

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

Guests can take a deep dive into island life at Anantara Kalutara Resort, located in a peaceful setting on Sri Lanka's southwest coast where the Kalu Ganga estuary meets the Indian Ocean. With its Geoffrey Bawa-inspired architecture, 360-degree ocean and lagoon views from each room's private balcony or terrace, comfortable amenities, swimming pools, and range of international, regional and Mediterranean dining options, this is a great location to explore everything Sri Lanka and its tropical southwest coast have to offer.



Kandy – Cinnamon Citadel Hotel

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

Situated in the hills above Kandy the Cinnamon Citadel Hotel sits in an elevated position over 1,600 feet above sea level. There is an outdoor pool with spectacular views over the Mahaweli River, Sri Lanka's longest waterway, and the guest bedrooms are a unique blend of comfort and historic heritage. Panorama offers all-day dining, with a lavish buffet spread and live-action cooking stations serving the freshest ingredients. Guests can relax over a speciality tea or a cool drink at The Lounge, where light snacks are always available.



Negombo – Jetwing Sea

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

Nestled beside the lapping waves of the Indian Ocean, Jetwing Sea is a modern, elegant seaside resort in Negombo, just north of Sri Lanka's capital Colombo. The resort offers modern amenities, swimming pools and a lavish rooftop spa, and is the perfect choice for travellers seeking luxurious indulgence and a chance to discover the long sandy beaches and centuries-old fishing industry that the town is famous for. Mouthwatering cuisine is served at the resort's splendid bars, restaurants and signature dining experiences.



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 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, while the Tea Terrace serves an exquisite selection of Ceylon teas. The Snooker Room has an antique 117-year old table, one of the oldest in Sri Lanka.



Udawalawe – Centauria Wild

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

Centauria Wild is located in Udawalawe, on the banks of Udawalawe Lake and next to the beautiful Udawalawe National Park, famous for its beauty and for being one of the best spots to catch a glimpse of elephants in the wild. The hotel encapsulates the undisturbed nature that surrounds it, offering guests an unforgettable experience. Its fully equipped rooms combine modern comfort with the authentic experience of being in the wilderness, and the dishes in its restaurants are made using quality produce sourced locally and from around the world.



Yala – Cinnamon Wild

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

Cinnamon Wild Yala is a wonderful retreat with cabin-like accommodation, a beautiful swimming pool and stunning surroundings in the famous Yala National Park, world-renowned for its wildlife and natural beauty. After a day searching for the elusive leopard and the many other species that call Yala home, guests can enjoy alfresco dining, an evening walk around the verdant grounds, or laze in the gorgeous swimming pool where they could even be joined by a thirsty elephant or curious wild boar.



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 including a 75-metre-long swimming pool and the Balinese Ayu Spa. The Restaurant serves an array of local and international delicacies, and guests can pull up a seat under the thatched roof of the Beach Bar to sip on a cold beer just a few feet away from the vast blue waters of the Indian Ocean.

Our Airline Partners

Fly with award-winning scheduled airlines

Economy Class

Virgin Atlantic's little extras make a big difference in their Economy cabin. On board, relax in comfortable seats with adjustable headrest and a typical seat pitch of 31 inches. Enjoy a three course meal plus drinks and tempting snacks throughout, and while away the time with the latest and greatest in flight entertainment – all the movies, TV and games will make your journey fly by!





Upgrade to Premium from £995 return

Your time, your space.

- Speed through the airport thanks to special priority check-in and boarding
- Relax pre-flight with a glass of welcome bubbly and a newspaper in your dedicated cabin
- Recline on your wide leather seat with headrest, footrest and 38 inch seat pitch
- Enjoy your choice of three delicious main dishes, upgraded with china crockery, cutlery and linen
- Finish your meal with an after dinner liqueur
- Snooze or freshen up on night flights with your Relax Pack
- Help yourself to tempting snacks and soft drinks whenever you like


Upgrade to Upper Class from £2,895 return


Virgin Atlantic Upper Class. Effortless travel, your way.

- At London Heathrow, breeze through the Private Security Channel within the Upper Class Wing
- Take time out in Virgin Atlantic's Clubhouse and choose from the varied food and fine wine menu
- Onboard, relax or socialise at the Upper Class bar
- Stretch out in your super comfortable Upper Class suite
- Finish off your imaginatively designed meal with cheese and port
- Enjoy a great night's sleep in your spacious, fully flat bed

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 inches[~]. 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 £2,895 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 inch 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

Economy Class

Sit back and relax in Emirates' spacious Economy Class, with a typical seat pitch of 32 inches[~]. Enjoy your own personal in-seat widescreen TV with a wide selection of world movies and music. Enjoy regionally inspired multi-course meals served with a selection of complimentary beverages.





Upgrade to Premium Economy from £1,895 return

Enjoy added comfort and relaxation in Emirates new Premium Economy Cabin, with enhanced dining and beverages.

- Dedicated check-in at certain airports
- Spacious and comfortable cream leather seats offering up to 40 inches of leg room
- Adjustable cushioned leg rest and a greater recline
- Spacious woodgrain tables that fold neatly into the arm of your seat
- Complimentary amenity kits on selected flights
- Large pillows designed for all Premium Economy seats
- Enjoy a choice of delicious multi-course meals with a wide range of beverages


Upgrade to Business Class from £3,895 return


Taste your way around the world with fine dining complimented with exclusive wines and spirits. Stretch out and relax in lie-flat Business Class seats.

- Fully flat bed seat with a seat pitch of up to 79 inches[~]
- Large in-seat entertainment screen
- Fine dining meals served on Royal Doulton China
- Complimentary champagne, wines and spirits
- Priority check-in and priority boarding
- Lounge access

Economy Class

Travel Economy class with Qatar Airways and you'll enjoy one of the widest seats in the industry, designed to bring you the ultimate in space and comfort. Delicious meals from around the world are created by award-winning chefs and there are over 4,000 entertainment options for you to explore on Oryx One.





Upgrade to Business Class from £2,895 return

Recognised as one of the world's best business class experiences, enjoy unrivalled space and comfort along with delectable cuisine to make flying with Qatar Airways a truly remarkable experience.

- Dedicated check-in, priority lanes and lounge access
- Welcome champagne on board
- Comfortable reclining seats that extend to a fully lie flat beds, with direct aisle access
- Exclusive Italian amenity kits and designer lounge wear by The White Company
- An on-demand à la carte menu serves sumptuous cuisine designed by some of the world's best chefs
- Generous storage help keep your belongings within reach
- Advanced LED lighting throughout the cabin will help you adjust to changing time zones

Important information: Prices shown are for return flights and are supplements to the individual tour price. Prices are subject to the availability of flights and may change. The correct price will be confirmed before you book. Images shown are representative of the product and may vary dependant of the aircraft type. [~]Seat pitch is dependent on the aircraft type. Premium Economy is only available on selected flights.

Important Information

We recommend that you read our Important Information, together with our Booking 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.

We also suggest referring to the UK government's Foreign Travel Advice website, gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for advice about travelling abroad, including the latest information on safety and security, entry requirements and travel warnings.

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 up to 10 weeks to obtain. If you are 16 or over and have not yet arranged a passport, you should apply for one at least 10 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

This table provides a quick guide, for British Citizens, to which countries require a visa. If visas are required it is highly recommended you allow for a minimum of two blank pages per visa required. If a visa is being purchased locally, we recommend you have the correct amount, in the relevant currency, as change is not always available.

Country	Visa required	Cost
India	Yes	USD \$40
Sri Lanka	Yes	USD \$35

Applying for your visa

The below information provides guidance on how to apply for your visa. Alternatively, if you would prefer to have assistance with your visa and have the application process managed by a visa company, we recommend The Travel Visa Company.

For more detailed information along with useful links to the Foreign Office, online applications and The Travel Visa Company please refer to the FAQ section of our website.

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.

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.

In addition to the UK government's own travel advice website, we also recommend visiting the NHS Travel Vaccinations website, nhs.uk/conditions/travel-vaccinations for more information any required 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

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. For your enjoyment we recommend a reasonable level of fitness and mobility is required for all tours.

Due to the limited accessibility to many of the sights and restrictions on included activities, our tours are generally 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.

Travel documents, which include electronic air tickets, helpful information and a final itinerary, can be accessed using the Distant Journeys app, approximately 2-3 weeks prior to your departure. Luggage labels will be sent at the same time.

Weather

Generally, all our tours operate when it is considered the best time to travel however it is important to note that some countries, such as Vietnam, India and Sri Lanka cover different climate zones, so climates may vary throughout your tour. As weather patterns around the world are becoming less predictable 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, good insect repellent, a high factor sun-screen lotion and a hat for protection from the sun.

Bear in mind some countries you will visit adopt a more conservative standard of dress than we are used to in the UK. 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 – and commonplace when entering many buildings, including restaurants in Japan.

Currency, credit cards and currency cards

Country	Currency	Additional Information
India	Indian Rupee	Cash withdrawals are limited to R10,000 (approx. £112) 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 Cards

In addition to using Travel Credit cards and Debit cards, a currency card is also a popular way of buying currency for your holiday. You can preload 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 the Revolut card, which 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 further benefits on using currency cards, more information on Revolut please visit <https://www.distantjourneys.co.uk/revolut-currency-card>

Tipping

Unlike the UK, tipping is very much a way of life in India and Sri Lanka. We have included a number of gratuities into your tour, although for your Tour Guide, Drivers and assistants, suggested tipping amounts are as follows

India

Escorted Tours

Tour Managers: INR200 - INR300 per person per day
Coach Drivers: INR100 – INR150 per person per day
Assistant: INR50 – INR100 per person per day

Private Tours

Guide: INR1,200 per day
Driver: INR600 per day

Holiday Extensions

Guide: INR500 per day
Drivers: INR300 - INR500 per day
Bell Boy: INR100 per hotel
Restaurants: INR300

Note: As many our tours visit several areas across India, you may have more than one tour manager, coach driver and coach helper on your tour.

Sri Lanka

Very Best of Sri Lanka: USD \$100 per person to be distributed amongst the Tour Manager, driver and assistant.

Treasures of Sri Lanka: USD \$120 per person to be distributed amongst the Tour Manager, driver and assistant.

Private Tours

Driver Guide: USD \$25 per day

Holiday Extensions

Drivers: USD10 per transfer

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.

Meals

The majority of included meals, unless otherwise specified, will be a buffet. Speciality dinners and lunches will generally be a buffet or set menu. Hotels may offer dining in a la carte restaurants at an additional cost.

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.

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 distantjourneys.co.uk/faqs

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 I0913, 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:

legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents

Booking Conditions

Distant Journeys Booking Conditions. Published September 2023

1. Important

The following booking 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. By asking us to confirm your booking, we are entitled to assume that you have had the opportunity to read and have read these booking conditions and agree to them.

In these booking 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 added to a booking or to whom a booking is transferred.

Except where otherwise stated, these booking 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 booking conditions to “holiday”, “booking”, “tour” or “arrangements” mean such tour arrangements unless otherwise stated. All bookings are made pursuant to these booking conditions. **Please be aware that your deposit is non-refundable where you choose to cancel your holiday.**

By making a booking, the first named person on the booking (the “lead name”) agrees on behalf of all persons detailed on the booking that:

- he/she has read these booking 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.

The Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018 will apply to your contract. For more information on your rights under these regulations please see the link <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents>.

2. In these booking conditions

- Any reference to an EU regulation in these booking conditions should be taken to mean the UK legislation which replaces (or has replaced) that EU regulation and/or any EU regulation which continues to have effect in the UK as a result of being incorporated into UK law (in all cases referred to as ‘retained EU law’). Changes to retained EU law are likely to be made over time. Reference to any EU regulation in these booking conditions is intended to refer to the relevant retained EU law at the applicable time.
- Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances means a situation which is beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. Such situations are likely to include (whether actual or threatened) war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural disaster, fire, flood, an outbreak of a serious illness at your holiday destination, severe adverse weather conditions, closure, restriction or congestion of airports, other transport hubs or airspace, flight restrictions imposed by any regulatory authority or third party and any volcanic activity. Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances also include the covid-19 pandemic and its impact on travel. When we refer to the covid-19 pandemic in these booking conditions, we mean the pandemic resulting from the illness or disease caused by the novel coronavirus which is now called severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) and any mutations or variants of the same and/or any other coronavirus (and its mutations and variants) which is treated as part of the same pandemic and/or another pandemic however described.

3. Special requests / fitness to travel medical conditions / disabilities / reduced mobility / allergies / special dietary requirements

If you have any special request, you should advise us in writing at the time of booking. Although we will endeavour to pass any reasonable requests on to the relevant supplier, we regret we cannot guarantee any request will be met. Failure to meet any special request will not be a breach of contract on our part. Confirmation that a special request has been noted or passed on to the supplier or the inclusion of the special request on your confirmation invoice or any other documentation is not confirmation that the request will be met. All special requests are subject to availability and we cannot guarantee that your special request will be met.

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, houseboats, sampans and rickshaws may also be used.

This is not an exhaustive list and it is therefore a condition of booking that you are fit and able to take care of yourself for the duration of the tour. You must have a level of fitness suitable for your chosen tour and must recognise that if you do have any disabilities or walking difficulties you may find access to certain attractions and/or parts of your tour restricted.

Our tours may not be suitable for people with certain disabilities, medical conditions or significantly reduced mobility. Before you make your booking, we will advise you as to whether the proposed holiday arrangements are generally suitable for someone with reduced mobility. However, reduced mobility of course means different things to different individuals as we fully appreciate that individual capabilities, restrictions and requirements are likely to vary considerably. When we refer to reduced mobility, this means any material reduction in mobility whether this is permanent or temporary and whether caused by age or by physical or mental disability or impairment or other cause of disability.

If you have any doubts about the suitability of a tour or should you suffer from any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy which may affect your tour (including any which affect the booking process) or have any special requirements as a result, please tell us before you confirm your booking so that we can assist you in considering the suitability of the arrangements and/or making the booking. We will need to notify our suppliers to ensure that they can meet your needs. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any material change in your condition, disability or mobility occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition, disability, reduced mobility or significant allergy which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed.

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

We may require a doctor’s note to confirm that you are fit to travel if we have concerns about your ability to participate in a tour.

You must have travel insurance to cover any medical condition, disability, significant reduction in mobility or significant allergy.

Acting reasonably, if we or our suppliers are unable to properly accommodate the needs of the person(s) concerned, we will not confirm your booking or if you did not give us full details at the time of booking, we will cancel it and impose applicable cancellation charges when we become aware of these details. On occasion, 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 we cannot properly accommodate the needs of the person concerned. 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.

We will advise our suppliers of any allergy information you provide us with. However, you must take appropriate precautions to protect yourself whilst on holiday. Without limitation, it is your responsibility to ensure that any food you are intending to consume does not include anything to which you are allergic at the time you order or purchase this.

Please see further information relating to mobility aids and destination specific term by visiting the FAQ section of our website <https://www.distantjourneys.co.uk/faqs/>

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 if travelling to Japan, the minimum number is 20 travellers. For Private Tours, Holiday Extensions and our African Rail Adventure, the minimum number is 2 travellers. For Solo Tours, the minimum number is 10 travellers. *For Enchanting Australia, the minimum number is 9 travellers. Where sufficient numbers cannot be achieved, we reserve the right to cancel or change a scheduled tour. Please also see [clause 13](#). 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 20 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. Booking and making payment for your arrangements

To secure any booking, you must pay the applicable deposit as notified to you at the time we provide our quotation or full payment if booking 90 days or less before the start of the tour. 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 and we will have no further liability to you. Deposits are non transferable and non refundable except as expressly set out in these booking 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 assume 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 14](#) depending on the date we reasonably treat your booking as cancelled.

Please Note: If you are a single customer, unless travelling on one of our Solo Tours, the applicable single supplement will be added to your invoice at the time of your booking. We will aim to accommodate single customers in twin or double rooms, with single occupancy.

6. Your contract

Subject to availability we will confirm your booking by issuing our confirmation invoice. This invoice will be sent to the lead name. If your confirmed arrangements include a flight, we will also issue you with an ATOL Certificate.

Please check this invoice and the ATOL certificate carefully as soon as you receive them. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on any document appears to be incorrect or incomplete as it may not be possible to make changes later. We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracies (for which we are responsible) in any document within 10 days of our sending it out. We will do our best to rectify any mistake notified to us outside these time limits but you must meet any costs involved in doing so.

If you wish to, you may contact us by e-mail for any of the reasons mentioned in these booking conditions (for example, to request an amendment) providing you do so to enquiries@distantjourneys.co.uk

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

7. 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).

You may also use the AITO dispute resolution service, see [clause 21](#).

8. 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 customers, 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 in our reasonable opinion, or in the reasonable opinion of any person in authority, you behave in such a way to cause danger, distress or upset or distress to any third party or damage to any property or the environment, we are entitled, without prior notice, to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned. In this situation, the person(s) concerned will be required to cease all use of the holiday services including leaving the tour and any accommodation. We will have no further responsibility toward such person(s) including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses, costs or loss incurred as a result of the termination.
- When you book with us, you accept responsibility for any damage or loss you cause. 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.

9. 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 10](#) below will apply.

10. Price Promise

Early booking offers: Whilst we may offer promotional discounts and/or additional inclusions 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.

Additional charges *: 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, fuel surcharges or fees chargeable for services applicable to the holiday imposed by third parties not directly involved in the performance of the holiday, including, but not limited to, tourist taxes, landing taxes, embarkation or disembarkation fees at ports and airports or airline fuel surcharges. 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.

11. 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 booking conditions.

12. Brochure validity

The tour brochure and these booking 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.

13. 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 unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. 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 will be insignificant and we have the right to make these. If we make an insignificant change to your holiday, we will make reasonable efforts to inform you as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure. No compensation is payable for insignificant changes. Examples of insignificant changes include alteration of your outward/return flights and/or coach journeys by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type (if advised) or carrier, destination or departure airport to one in a similar geographical location, change of accommodation to another of the same or higher standard, minor changes to the itinerary.

- Occasionally, we have to make a significant change to 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, for example missing out a significant destination entirely.

- In the event we have to significantly alter any of the main characteristics of your confirmed arrangements or accepted special requirements, we will provide you with the following information in writing as soon as possible: (i) the proposed alteration and any impact this has on the price; (ii) in the event that you do not wish to accept the alteration, details of any alternative holiday arrangements we are able to offer (including the applicable price); (iii) your entitlement to cancel your booking and receive a full refund if you do not want to accept the alteration or any alternative holiday arrangements offered; and (iv) the period within which you must inform us of your decision and what will happen if you don’t do so.

- If you choose to cancel your booking in accordance with [clause 13\(4\)](#), we will refund all payments you have made to us within 14 days of the date the cancellation takes effect and terminates your contract (which is usually the date we send you a cancellation invoice following receipt of your written cancellation notification). If we don’t hear from you with your decision within 7 days (having provided you with the above mentioned information for a second time), we will assume that you have chosen to accept the change or alternative booking arrangements. No compensation will be payable or other liability accepted where a change results from unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

- Occasionally, it may be necessary to cancel a confirmed booking. We have the right to terminate your contract in the event (i) we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances and we notify you of this as soon as reasonably possible or (ii) (where applicable) we have to cancel because the minimum number of bookings necessary for us to operate your group holiday has not been achieved and we notify you of cancellation for this reason as referred to in [clause 4](#). Where we have to cancel your booking in these circumstances, we will refund all monies you have paid to us for your booking within 14 days of the effective date of cancellation (see [clause 13\(5\)](#)) but will have no further or other liability to you including in respect of compensation or any costs or expenses you incur or have incurred as a result, including without limitation any payments in relation to travel insurance premiums. We will of course endeavour to offer you alternative holiday arrangements where possible which you may choose to book (at the applicable price) in place of those cancelled. We also have the right to cancel if you fail to make payment in accordance with the terms of your contract in which case [clause 14](#) will apply.

- Please note, a full refund entitlement only arises where we are prevented from performing your contracted holiday arrangements as a result of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances in accordance with [clause 13\(6\)](#) and we exercise our right to cancel as a result. Without limitation, you will not be entitled to a full refund and cancellation charges are likely to apply where such circumstances affect your ability to travel on your holiday rather than our ability to perform or provide the contracted arrangements. This may be the case, for example, where measures applied by the UK or any other government or public authorities mean you are unable to leave your home/local area and/or travel to or gain entry into the country(ies) where your holiday is due to take place. The issue of advice or recommendations against travel by public authorities (such as the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office) does not automatically mean we are prevented from performing your holiday arrangements but may instead affect your ability to travel. Any obligation to quarantine or self-isolate on your return to your country of residence does not affect our ability to provide your holiday and will not entitle you to cancel without paying our usual cancellation charges.

- In the event that unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances occur in the place of destination of your holiday or its immediate vicinity and significantly affect the performance of the contracted arrangements or the carriage of passengers to that destination, you will be entitled to cancel prior to departure without payment of cancellation charges and receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us for your booking (except for any previously incurred cancellation or amendment charges and travel insurance premiums).

Where applicable, you must notify us of your wish to cancel for this reason in writing. Providing we are in agreement that you are entitled to do so in accordance with this clause, we will send you a cancellation invoice to confirm the cancellation. Any refund then due will be paid in accordance with [clause 13\(5\)](#) above. We will notify you as soon as practicable should this situation occur. You will not be entitled to any compensation. Please note, certain situations arising from or in connection with the covid-19 pandemic may constitute unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances. However, this does not mean they will entitle you to cancel and receive a full refund as set out in this clause or in regulation 12(7) of the Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements Regulations 2018.

- If we have to make a significant change to or cancel a confirmed tour, we will 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 an insignificant 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 unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.

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.

14. 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 booking 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
- d) the transferee agrees to these booking conditions and all other terms of the contract between us.

You and the transferee remain jointly and severally liable for payment of all sums. If you are unable to find a replacement, cancellation fees as set out below will apply in order to cover our estimated costs. Otherwise, no refunds will be given for customers 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.

In calculating our cancellation charges, we have taken account of possible cost savings and the generation of income from other bookings which may be able to utilise cancelled services to the extent this is likely to be achievable. 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

Note: If travelling on The Brahmaputra River & Darjeeling tour, the following tour cancellation fees will apply

Tour cancellation period	Fee per person
90 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.

15. Our liability

- (1) We promise to make sure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury, or your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a direct result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers).
- (2) We will not be responsible or pay you compensation for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example, loss of enjoyment or loss of possessions), damage, expense, cost or other claim of any description if it results from:
- a) the acts and/or omissions of the person affected; or
 - b) the acts and/or omissions of a third party unconnected with the provision of the services contracted for and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable; or
 - c) unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances.
- (3) We cannot accept responsibility for any services which do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities which your hotel or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised by us in our brochure or on our website and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract and any excursion or activities you purchase during your tour. In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any advertising material or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you.
- (4) The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract, and the laws and applicable standards of the country in which your claim occurred, will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services which give rise to the claim were provided in compliance with the applicable local laws and standards, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and standards of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable holidaymaker to refuse to take the holiday in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 15(1). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and standards and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care.
- (5) Except as set out in clause 15(6) or as otherwise permitted by English law, we do not limit the amount of damages you are entitled to claim in respect of personal injury or death which we or our employees have caused intentionally or negligently. For all other claims, if we are found liable to you on any basis, the maximum amount we will have to pay you is three times the total holiday cost (excluding any insurance premiums and amendment charges) paid by or on behalf of the person(s) affected in total, unless a lower limitation applies to your claim under clause 15(6). This maximum amount will only be payable where everything has gone wrong and you have not received any benefit at all from your holiday.
- (6) Where any claim concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including without limitation, the process of getting on and/or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, sea or rail carrier to which any international

convention or EU regulation applies where we have arranged that travel as part of our contract, our liability (including the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you, the types of claim and the circumstances in which damages / compensation will be payable) will be limited as if we were the carrier in question as referred to in this clause 15(6). The most we will have to pay you for that claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have to pay you under the applicable international convention(s) or EU regulation(s). Such conventions and regulations include the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended, the Montreal Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air 1999 and for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the Regulation (EC) No 889/2002 on air carrier liability in the event of accidents, the Athens Convention relating to the carriage of passengers and their luggage by sea 1974 (as amended by the 2002 protocol), and Regulation (EC) No 392/2009 on the liability of carriers of passengers by sea in the event of accidents, the Convention on Limitation of Liability for Maritime Claims as amended by the 1996 protocol and the Convention of 1980 concerning International Travel by Rail (COTIR) as amended and Regulation (EC) No 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. You may also have rights under regulation (EU) no 1177/2010 concerning the rights of passengers when travelling by sea and inland waterway or regulation (EC) no 1371/2007 on rail passengers' rights and obligations. Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or EU regulation (including where any claim is not notified and issued in accordance with the stipulated time limits), we, similarly, are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim. When making any payment, we will deduct any money which you have received or are entitled to receive from the carrier for the claim in question. Copies of the applicable international conventions and EU regulations are available from us on request. Please note that strict time limits apply for notifying loss, damage or delay of luggage to the airline or ferry / cruise operator. Any proceedings in respect of any claim (including one for personal injury or death) must be brought within 2 years of the date stipulated in the applicable convention or EU regulation.

- (7) We cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any nature or description which (a) 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 or (b) did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees or, where we are responsible for them, our suppliers or (c) relates to any business (including without limitation, loss of self employed earnings).

16. Conditions of carriers or other suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers such as airlines or cruise lines. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions usually referred to by airlines or cruise lines as conditions of carriage. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions or EU regulations (see clause 15(6)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions and of the international conventions / EU regulations are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

17. Risk and travel insurance

You acknowledge and accept that there are inherent risks associated with our tours, for example unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, hazards of travelling in undeveloped areas, travel by boat, train, automobile, aircraft or other means of transportation particularly in undeveloped 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.

18. 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. Up to date UK border control measures are available at www.gov.uk/uk-border-control. 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.

19. 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.

Knight Inlet: If travelling to Knight Inlet, on our Canada tours, as access is by floatplane, you will be restricted to one piece of luggage weighing no more than 14kg. We suggest taking a small bag for this trip and arranging storage for your main luggage.

20. 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 cannot be accepted on our tours, unless travelling on a private tour.

21. Complaints and Arbitration

If a problem occurs during your tour, you must advise our representative (South Africa only – or appropriate manager, senior personal, when travelling on Rovos Rail) 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.

In the unlikely event of our being unable to reach an amicable resolution of any complaint, you may use the AITO dispute resolution service which provides a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone. Full details are available on request.

22. Tour price and duration

All prices in our brochure(s) are quoted in English pounds (Sterling). The information contained on our website and in our other advertising material is believed to be correct to the best of our knowledge at the time of printing or publication. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of the website, quotations and prices at the time of publication/printing or when they are given to you, regrettably errors may occasionally occur and information may subsequently 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.

23. 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), portage 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, Dubai Tourism tax (if stopping over), 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.

24. 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 14** 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 10**(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.

25. 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. We have 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 us.

Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent electronically with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 weeks before departure. You must check your documents very carefully immediately on receipt to ensure you have the correct flight times and other up to date travel information. It is possible that flight times may be changed even after documents have been sent. We will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs.

In accordance with EU regulation (EC) No 2111/2005 as incorporated into UK law and amended, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a UK Air Safety List which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban in the UK. The UK Air Safety List (which is updated from time to time) can be found on the UK CAA's website www.caa.co.uk.

We will advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) who 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 will advise 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.

If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to a UK operating ban and we/ the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of **clause 11** will apply.

Any change in the identity of the carrier, flight timings, and/or aircraft type (if advised) will not entitle you to cancel or change to other arrangements without paying our normal charges except where specified in these conditions.

26. Delay and Denied Boarding Regulations

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 any flight delay or cancellation at your UK or overseas point of departure, the airline is responsible for providing such assistance as is legally required by the Denied Boarding Regulations (see below). Except where otherwise stated in our brochure or on our website, we regret we cannot provide any assistance in such circumstances other than information and advice to the extent we are in a position to do so.

We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 15 (2) of these Booking Conditions (which includes the behaviour of any passenger(s) on the flight who, for example, fails to check in or board on time). In addition, we will not be liable for any delay unless it has a significant effect on your holiday arrangements.

If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances (including the airport of departure and/or return of the flight and whether you are flying with a UK or EU airline), 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 Regulation EC 261/2004 (as amended by The Air Passenger Rights and Air Travel Organisers' Licensing (Amendment)(EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ('UK Denied Boarding Regulations')). 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 and/or any other payment due to you where applicable. 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 UK 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 UK 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 UK 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 your airline does not comply with its obligations under the UK Denied Boarding Regulations, where applicable, you may use the CAA Passenger Advice and Complaints Service. See www.caa.co.uk/passengers/resolving-travel-problems for further details.

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, visas and health requirements

It is your responsibility to meet all applicable entry and other requirements of your destination country (ies) as well as those applicable on your return home. You must ensure that all your travel documents (physical and electronic), including your passport,

visas / visa waivers, evidence of any other health related requirement and currency are in order, meet all applicable requirements and are valid for travel. All costs incurred in meeting all requirements applicable to your holiday must be paid by you. If you attempt to travel without fully complying with all requirements, you are likely to be refused boarding on your flight or other transport or entry into your destination country. We cannot accept any liability and cancellation charges will apply (as set out in **clause 12**) if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country, or decide not to travel, due to failure (or inability) on your part to obtain and carry all required documentation or to otherwise comply with all applicable requirements.

The passport and visa requirements applicable to the holidays we offer are shown on the FCDO website <https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice>. You must check entry and other official requirements for all countries to or through which you are travelling as well as any requirements applicable on your return to your home country, at the time of booking, and in good time before, and close to departure. Requirements may change and travel restrictions may be imposed (which could be at no or very short notice prior to departure). You must also keep up to date with this information while you are away.

A British passport would can take up to 10 weeks to obtain and may take longer. If any member of your party (who is a British citizen) is 16 or over and hasn't got or previously held a British passport, even more time needs to be allowed as the UK Passport Service has to confirm your identity before issuing your first passport. If any person on the booking is not a British citizen or holds a non British passport, you must check the applicable passport and visa requirements with the embassy or consulate of the country (ies) to or through which you are intending to travel. Please ensure that you check the latest position on applying for or renewing a passport at the earliest opportunity.

Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to your holiday appear on the weblink below for the National Travel Health Network and Centre. It is your responsibility to ensure you obtain details of and comply with all recommended and required vaccinations, health precautions and other health related in good time before departure. You must also keep up to date with the latest information. Details are available from your GP surgery, local travel clinic and the National Travel Health Network and Centre <http://travelhealthpro.org.uk/>. Vaccination and other health requirements/recommendations are subject to change at any time for any destination, including at short or no notice. Please therefore check with a doctor or clinic or other reliable source of information not less than 6 weeks prior to departure and also closer to departure to ensure that you are aware of and can meet the necessary requirements and have the latest information.

In the event that you have not received any compulsory vaccination, you may be unable to enter your destination country(ies) or to access certain services and may encounter other difficulties. You will not be entitled to cancel (without payment of cancellation charges) or receive any refund and we will not have any responsibility for any costs or expenses you suffer as a result in any such situation.

It is the responsibility of the person who makes the booking to ensure that all persons travelling are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents before departure. If failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges, other financial penalty, costs or expenses being incurred by us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us accordingly.

28. Financial security, ATOL and AITO membership

We hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 10913). All flights and flight inclusive holidays we offer are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive package 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.

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

The Civil Aviation Authority can be contacted at Aviation House, Beehive Ringroad, Crawley, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK tel +44 (0)333 103 6350, www.caa.co.uk

In the event of our insolvency we, or any appointed insolvency practitioner, may disclose your personal information to the CAA, and/or any insurers so that they can assess the status of your booking and advise you on the appropriate course of action under any scheme of financial protection. The CAA's General Privacy Notice is at <https://www.caa.co.uk/Our-work/About-us/General-privacy-notice/>

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 for Distant Journeys (ABTOT membership number 5427) and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for:

1. Non-flight packages

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 UK 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 here: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2018/634/contents>.

We are a member of AITO, The Specialist Travel Association. All AITO members are required to provide the highest level of customer satisfaction by concentrating on three main pillars: Choice, Quality and Service – as enshrined in their Quality Charter. Every company admitted to AITO is financially assessed and bound by AITO's own code of business practice. AITO requires that we arrange financial protection for all holidays, including accommodation-only options and tours, as well as any other arrangements. This financial protection applies to customers who are resident in the UK at the time of booking and to most overseas customers who have booked directly with us.

29. Coaches

On our group tours, to ensure all customers 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. Medication

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 booking 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.

35. Amendments to these booking conditions

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



Other Destinations

Canada & Alaska

Australia

New Zealand

Japan

Vietnam & Cambodia

South Africa



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** distantjourneys.co.uk

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