



Grand Tour of India

26 days from only £4,395 per person

Spend a little longer in India with Distant Journeys and delve deeper into the heart of this mystical and mesmerising country, with our Grand Tour of India. From the foothills of the Himalayas to the palm-fringed beaches of Kerala, our Grand Tour travels the length of this beautiful, complex country and explores in depth the places, people and cultures that define India.

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 then enjoying 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**
 - Maximum only 24 passengers
- Flights with leading scheduled airlines**
 - Return economy class flights
 - Fly with Qatar Airways via Doha from London Heathrow. Flights from Manchester may be possible
 - All domestic flights within India
 - All airport charges, security charges and any applicable fuel surcharges
 - UK Air Passenger Duty
- Carefully selected hotels**
 - First class and deluxe hotels in great locations
 - All hotel portorage
 - Applicable hotel taxes
- Many meals worth £885 per person**
 - 24 breakfasts
 - 7 lunches
 - 24 dinners
- Unforgettable experiences**
 - Sightseeing tours in Delhi, Shimla, Amritsar, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, Mumbai and Cochin
 - Travel to Shimla onboard the UNESCO Toy Train
 - The Golden Temple of Amritsar
 - Wagah-Attari border ceremony
 - Visit the iconic Taj Mahal
 - Naturalist tiger talk and safaris in Ranthambore National Park
 - Experience dinner at a local family home in Jaipur
 - Jeep ride and tour of Amber Fort, Jaipur
 - Boat ride on Lake Pichola, Udaipur
 - UNESCO World Heritage Site of Elephanta Caves, Mumbai
 - Anglo-Indian cookery lesson, Cochin
 - Explore the Kerala backwaters on board a kettuvallam houseboat

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

- 100% Confidence**
 - Your holiday is covered by our Price Promise*
 - Your holiday is covered by our Covid Guarantee*
 - Your holiday is fully ATOL protected

* For more information on our Price Promise and Covid Guarantee, please see our Terms & Conditions on pages 112-115.



Shimla



Ranthambore National Park



Taj Mahal, Agra

Grand Tour of India

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

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: Delhi, 2 nights

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

Day 3: Delhi

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

Day 4: Shimla, 2 nights

Tour Highlight

After breakfast, we transfer to New Delhi Railway Station to 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 in Chandigarh, we continue in the afternoon to the heritage city of Amritsar, where its magnificent Golden Temple and beautiful blend of culture, history and tradition await. Our hotel for the next two nights is the Radisson Blu Hotel. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

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, featuring horses, canons, and the Massed Bands of the Household Division, who put on a mesmerising show that is bound to thrill! **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 8: Agra, 2 nights

After breakfast, we travel to the airport and board our flight to Delhi. On arrival, we drive to Agra, home to the magnificent Taj Mahal. Our 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 Lake Palace. Spread over 20 acres of leafy land, this organic retreat is a relaxing indulgence far from the bustle of the city, where we try our hand at cooking in its interactive kitchen. We continue to Ranthambore, and our home for the next two nights, the Ranthambore Kothi Hotel. This evening, we prepare for the exciting day ahead with a fascinating tiger talk by an expert local naturalist. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 11: Ranthambore

We begin the day with 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 in a different area of the park. Keep a look out for some of Ranthambore's other wildlife including crocodiles, sloth bears, monkeys, sambar deer, and over 250 species of bird, whilst taking in the stunning scenery. **Breakfast, lunch and dinner included**

Day 12: Jaipur, 2 nights

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



Elephanta Caves, Mumbai

Grand Tour of India

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

Day 13: Jaipur

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

Day 14: Udaipur, 3 nights

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

Day 15: Udaipur

Sightseeing today includes the City Palace, Rajasthan's largest citadel; Jagdish Temple, a Hindu shrine dating back to 1651, and a drive around Fateh Sagar Lake and Sahelion-ki-Bari. 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 16: Udaipur Freedom Day

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

Day 17: Mumbai, 2 nights

This morning, we board our flight to Mumbai. On arrival we transfer to the five-star Trident Hotel, Nariman Point. Later, we take a short tour of Mumbai, 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. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 18: Mumbai

Early risers may wish to take an optional pre-breakfast tour of Mumbai by Dawn, where we take a special peek into the underbelly of working Mumbai - an insight into what makes this magnificent city tick - in the company of an expert guide. Following breakfast, our included tour begins with a pleasant boat ride across the Bay of Mumbai to visit the Elephanta Caves, an intriguing UNESCO World Heritage Site dedicated to the Hindu God, Shiva.

This afternoon offers opportunities for further exploration of Mumbai. Perhaps take an optional tour to the six-hundred-year-old Worli fishing village, a quintessential settlement of the original inhabitants of Mumbai. The highlight is venturing into Worli Fort, the stunning British watchtower overlooking the beautiful Arabian Sea. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 19: Cochin, 2 nights

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

Day 20: Cochin

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

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

Mr & Mrs Lamb, Cumbria



Lake Pichola, Udaipur



Tea plantation, Kerala



Indian dosa



Houseboat, Alleppey

Grand Tour of India

Days 21 to 26: 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, thatched-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, 3 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: Thekkady Freedom Day

A further day to enjoy this delightful region. Maybe take advantage of one of the many activities offered within the hotel including a naturalist walk, or learning about how different spices are used in Indian cooking with one of the hotel chefs. Alternatively, the Ayurveda centre offers a range of herbal massages and therapies. Or you could just enjoy your surroundings and the hotel pool. **Breakfast and dinner included**

Day 25: 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 26: Depart India Cochin / Arrive UK

Early morning, we travel to Cochin Airport for our Qatar Airways flights. We arrive into the United Kingdom 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 60 for more details.

Departure Dates & Prices

2023 Departures

04 September 2023	SOLD OUT
16 October 2023	SOLD OUT
23 October 2023	SOLD OUT

2024 Departures

22 January 2024	£4,395 per person
29 January 2024	SOLD OUT
09 February 2024	£4,395 per person
12 February 2024	SOLD OUT
23 February 2024	£4,395 per person
01 March 2024	£4,395 per person

Private Touring Supplements

2 guests	£1070 per person
3-4 guests	£670 per person
5-6 guests	£470 per person
7-9 guests	£370 per person
10-14 guests	£170 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 2023: £995.

October 2023: £1,245.

February - March 2024: £1,345.

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 £2,795 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 108-111.

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 Terms & Conditions are available on pages 112-115.

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 3731

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

