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# **INDIA** & CENTRAL ASIA

### BHUTAN | SRI LANKA | ARMENIA | AZERBAIJAN | GEORGIA | KAZAKHSTAN KYRGYZSTAN | MONGOLIA | TAJIKISTAN | TURKMENISTAN | UZBEKISTAN

2024-2025



OUR AWARD-WINNING COLLECTION OF ESCORTED TOURS AND TAILORMADE HOLIDAYS The winner of 'Best Specialist Tour Operator' 13 years running – Globe Travel Awards The most prestigious accolade in the travel industry

# WELCOME TO INDIA AND CENTRAL ASIA!



Come and join us on an extraordinary adventure through these enchanting regions on one of our experience-packed tours. As every traveller is different, we've developed a range of touring styles that will allow you to travel your way. Discover the best option for you here:

#### **CLASSIC**

See the classic sights in the company of an expert guide so that you can really understand the history and culture of the destination. On our Classic tours we take care of everything, leaving you to sit back and enjoy the experience to the full. These tours are fully inclusive of all meals and a comprehensive touring programme including authentic cultural experiences.

#### **GO BEYOND**

Venture off the beaten track to explore fascinating destinations away from the tourist trail. With smaller group sizes and greater flexibility, you will discover the local culture in depth and see sights rarely witnessed by other travellers. Our Go Beyond tours may take you away from the comforts of home but will reward you with the experiences of a lifetime.

#### SOLO TRAVELLERS

We have reserved selected departures of some of our most popular tours exclusively for customers who prefer to share their wonderful holiday experiences with a readymade group of like-minded solo travellers. We provide a room of your own with no single supplement to pay, while our expert guides take care of you throughout the tour. Look out for the S symbol on the opposite page for tours with exclusive solo departures and see page 6 for more details.

#### PRIVATE

A private tour follows a pre-defined itinerary but with the benefit of your own personal guide. Perfect for couples and families wanting greater flexibility on travel dates and accommodation style.

#### TAILORMADE

For the ultimate in bespoke touring, one of our expert consultants will help you in designing a tour to meet your exact requirements. Select your choice of destinations, accommodation, touring and experiences to create the perfect holiday for you.

#### **SPECIAL GROUPS**

If you're travelling in a group of ten or more, we can arrange your own, independent Special Group tour. Whether that's a group of friends and family, or even a club or association, we'll tailor any of our tours to suit your group's wishes so you can enjoy a unique, fully escorted holiday without the hassle of organising everything yourself. See page 57 for more details.



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# THE WENDY WUTOURS DIFFERENCE

Welcome to the latest edition of our India and Central Asia brochure. We are delighted to present you with this selection of carefully crafted tours, each designed to make your adventure with us truly life enhancing and unforgettable in every way. No matter which tour you choose, you are sure to return home with a wealth of wonderful memories.

With the joys of travel well and truly part of our lives once again, we're beyond excited to be able to build on and expand our already rich and comprehensive India, Sri Lanka and Central Asia collection – offering you even more inspirational and exciting experiences.

For our 2024-25 programme, I am thrilled to introduce you to some wonderful new group tours featuring in this brochure for the first time. Our Wildlife of India tour is a thrilling 14-day adventure in search of tigers, leopards, wild boar and much more, and for those who want to soak up the beauty of India's diverse landscapes as you travel, our brand new India by Rail tour is perfect for you.

As always, an experienced National Escort will guide you on our tours. Born and raised in the country you are touring, they will share their in-depth and intimate knowledge of their homeland, providing a unique insight only a local could offer. They'll take care of you every step of the way, so all you need to do is relax and enjoy the journey.

For first-timers to India, our Inspiring India tour is the perfect showcase for this spectacular country's main highlights, from the bustling streets of Delhi to the wildlife of Ranthambore National Park. For those who are excited to experience the delights of Central Asia, our Road to Samarkand tour features the most iconic sights along the legendary Silk Road, offering a true taste of what this history-steeped region has to offer.

I am also incredibly excited to tell you about our new collection of Private Tours taking in some of the best sights in India, Sri Lanka and beyond. These tours are designed for those who want to enjoy the perks of an expertly organised escorted tour but on a private basis for just you and your chosen travel party with your very own chauffeur guide. Find our Private Tours on pages 56 to 67, featuring wonderful itineraries such as Sri Lanka & Maldives Escape, Treasures of Sri Lanka and Jewels of India, just to name a few.

We look forward to welcoming you on a Wendy Wu tour soon!

### OUR REPUTATION AND YOUR PEACE OF MIND

We have won our industry's 'Best Long Haul Specialist Tour Operator' award for 13 years running, we have a 5-star TripAdvisor rating, a Gold Award Feefo Accreditation and 98% of our customers would recommend travelling with us! We are also fully ABTA and ATOL-protected.

## OUR EXPERTISE

No one knows our destinations like we do, and we are passionate about sharing the best of them with you, so there is no one better to recommend the very best tours and experiences for your holiday.

### OUTSTANDING GUIDES

Our much-loved National Escorts, whose knowledge and dedication have won us the best reputation in the industry, will make your holiday with us truly extraordinary.

### EXCEPTIONAL VALUE AND INCLUSIONS

Flights, accommodation, meals, touring, trains, cruises, evening shows, amazing guides and visas...we include it all.

### VISAS

Hassle-free visa process with the costs included in the price, with expert guidance throughout.

### FANTASTIC OFFERS

We are renowned for our amazing Business Class and Premium Economy upgrades, which make your holiday all the more special, and we work with leading airlines to offer you regional departures, so travelling with us is more convenient than ever.

### COMFORT & CONVENIENCE

We hand-pick comfortable hotels in great locations, have a 'seat and a half' policy on our coaches and include all meals on our Classic tours, so you can relax and enjoy your holiday with us, knowing everything is taken care of.





Wendy Wu – Owner, Wendy Wu Tours

### AMAZING TOURS & AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

On tour with us, you will be immersed in culture and history through experiences such as meeting local families, learning ancient traditions and watching cultural shows. We also include delicious local meals in each region. Look out for the Authentic Experiences' box on each tour page!

### TIPPING MADE EASY

We will advise you how much and when to tip and our National Escort will take care of it on your behalf.

#### **OUR ONLY GOAL**

We are only satisfied when you come back to travel with us again and again – only then do we know that we've done a good job of serving you.

# YOUR TOUR, YOUR WAY

We want everyone who travels with us to enjoy each extraordinary day of their Wendy Wu adventure, so we've made it easy for you to choose your perfect holiday. You can select based on Tour Style (which you'll find inside the front cover), by Physical Rating (see opposite page) and if you're travelling solo why not join one of our departures reserved exclusively for Solo Travellers?

#### ACCOMMODATION STYLES

You can be safe in the knowledge that your accommodation has been hand-picked to best suit the locations you'll visit. Our Classic tours feature comfortable, locally rated 3 star plus to 4 star properties, ranging from smart business hotels to family-run guesthouses. On Go Beyond tours you may find yourself in more unusual, characterful or more rustic accommodation which fits perfectly with these tours' adventurous spirit.

#### TOUR PACE

Many of our tours are busy, but that's because we want to make sure you don't miss a single thing. Packing your holiday full of special experiences means some early starts and long days, but you can be sure that you'll return home with many incredible memories! Read our Tour Dossiers and check the Physical Ratings to see if the pace and activity levels are right for you.

#### SOLO DEPARTURES

Solo travellers are more than welcome on any of our holidays, but we've reserved a few departures of our most popular tours exclusively for customers travelling on their own. These special departures feature smaller group sizes, free chauffeur transfers to and from the airport, free airport lounges and complimentary drinks on arrival! See tours: Taj, Temples and Tigers (p.18), Inspiring India (p.20), and Highlights of Sri Lanka (p.36), in this brochure or check our website at www.wendywutours.co.uk for more information.

### CUSTOMISE YOUR TRIP

If you'd like to explore your destination further or arrange a stopover on your flight all you have to do is ask! We have a fantastic range of extension and stopover packages (see page 72) or, if you're looking for something a bit different, our knowledgeable team of experts can help you customise your very own extension to any tour in this brochure.

### PHYSICAL RATING

All our tours feature a physical rating to help you select the right holiday for you. Every one of our tours require the ability to walk around sights unaided, whilst more active tours involve longer walks, cycling and other physical activities. Tours at altitude will have a higher physical rating. For more information on why each tour has been rated the way it has, have a look at the 'Detailed Tour Dossier' available to download on the tour page of our website.



### LEVEL 1

A reasonable level of fitness is required and you should expect to be on your feet for much of the day. You'll be getting on and off coaches, trains or boats and walking around the sights, often including steps, plus occasional longer walks.

### LEVEL 2

Involves a little more time on your feet than a Level 1 tour and may involve more steps and/ or walking.

As the physical demands of each tour are different we recommend you check your Tour Dossier carefully before booking and contact us or your agent if unsure.





### LEVEL 3

A good level of fitness is required as you need to be comfortable walking for 2-3 hours and covering longer distances. Other activities such as cycling will be at a gentle pace and will involve straightforward terrain.

### LEVEL 4

Similar physical activities to Level 3 but they may be longer in duration or on slightly more challenging terrain.



### LEVEL 5

You'll need to be fit and adventurous to participate in these tours as on some days you will be active for most of the day. The terrain may be more challenging and the activities more physically demanding.

# You're in Safe Hands

Our guides are the stars of the show; it is their unrivalled knowledge, passion and expertise that will transform your tour experience from good to truly extraordinary!



"Our guide was brilliant! He knows so much and was able to give loads of information about loads of different places by memory. He went above and beyond to book tickets to see a cricket match for us (this wasn't on the itinerary, but he found a way of including it for us) he listened to us, asked us questions, answered our questions and the entire group were really impressed."

Fern Daish

### AWARD-WINNING GUIDING

On all of our group tours you will be accompanied by a dedicated guide, known as your 'National Escort'. Their dedication, personality and sense of fun will immediately put you at ease and make you feel part of the family.

You will be able to put your utmost trust in your guide who will navigate you through the eccentricities of the local way of life.

### ALL OF OUR NATIONAL ESCORTS...

- Have at least five years' guiding experience
- Are fluent in English
- Are born and raised in the region they are exploring with you
- Go through rigorous and ongoing training programmes
- Are at your service 24 hours a day



# Award-winning expertise

We are so proud of the numerous awards we've received over the years in recognition of the extraordinary travel experience we provide to our customers. We're just doing what we do best – creating memories to cherish and providing exceptional levels of customer service.

# Recommended by you

Awards are all well and good, but it's our customer feedback that means the most to us. We're proud of our 5-star TripAdvisor rating and the fact that so many of our customers would be happy to recommend us to their friends and family - that's all the accolade we need.



# **Our Price Promise**

If you find any of our tours cheaper elsewhere, we'll match the price!

### **UNBEATABLE VALUE**

Our tours are renowned for their comprehensive inclusions and exceptional value for money. We're so confident you won't find the same tour at a better price that if you do, we'll not only match it, but we'll also offer you a discount of £200 per person on a future booking.

### **100% NO SURCHARGE** PROMISE

Once you've paid, you've paid! As soon as we confirm your booking you can relax knowing the holiday price won't increase and you'll never have to pay extra for currency fluctuations and surcharges, etc.















### WE WON'T BE BEATEN **ON PRICE**

If you find a Wendy Wu tour being sold elsewhere for less than our published price, let us know and we'll match the price you've been guoted.

# Cultural Encounters, every step of the way

To make sure you truly immerse yourself in your chosen destination we pack every single one of our tours with authentic cultural experiences. We've highlighted our favourite ones on each tour page in the 'Authentic Experiences' box; but for now, here are just a few examples of what you can look forward to...



## LOCAL COOKING CLASS

Be invited to a local family home and learn about the ingredients and flavours used in traditional cooking, before sampling the delicious dishes yourself.

# KATHAKALI DANCE

PERFORMANCE Be mesmerised by elaborate Kathakali dancers, who perform in colourful dresses and masks to tell ancient Hindu stories.

### AARTI CEREMONY

Get swept up in ringing bells, candlelight and chanting as you witness the puja ceremony of Ganga Aarti, a nightly ritual dedicated to the River Ganges, celebrated on Varanasi's famous ghats.



## EAGLE HUNTING

Eagle hunting in Central Asia is a captivating tradition that showcases the deep bond between the local berkutchi hunters and their trained golden eagles. This ancient practice, rooted in both sustenance and culture, highlights the enduring connection between humanity and nature.





## KALARIPAYATTU MARTIAL ARTS

Native to the southern state of Kerala, Kalaripayattu, at 6,000 years old, is one of the world's oldest traditions. Watch a demonstration of this fascinating martial art, practised by warriors from across castes and religions.

## LOCAL CRAFTS

Visit a craft centre in Jaipur to meet with skilled artisans and watch them at work on techniques such as carpet weaving and block printing.



# **Discover India and beyond** with Wendy Wu Tours

Reaching from the cloud-piercing peaks of the Himalayas to the jewel-bright blue of the Indian Ocean, the Indian Subcontinent encompasses a myriad of landscapes, cultures and nature. Here are some of our favourite destinations...

### WENDY'S TOP 8 SIGHTS

# RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

Whether it's staking out watering holes or combing the tropical jungle of Ranthambore, looking for tigers is an exhilarating experience. That's why a safari is included on so many of our India tours!



#### SIGIRIYA ROCK, 3 **SRI LANKA**

Explore the ruins of the ancient Sri Lankan

fortress atop Sigiriya, or 'Lion Rock', including its

breathtaking views - discover it on our Highlights

fascinating fresco paintings. Then climb further for

tour (page 26).





GOLDEN TEMPLE

of Sri Lanka tour (page 36).

Amritsar's spectacular Golden Temple is a sight to behold – see for yourself on our new India by Rail tour on (page 22) or our Northern India Discovery tour (page 24).





Valley, hike with pilgrims through tranquil woodlands to reach this spectacular monastery. See it on our Himalayan Kingdoms tour (page 46).





# 2 TAJ MAHAL

There have been many words used to describe it, yet few do it justice. We suggest you go and see the Taj Mahal for yourself, that's why it is featured on most India tours.

### **KERALA'S** BACKWATERS

A network of lagoons, canals and rivers enveloped in verdant greenery, Kerala's backwaters are best explored by boat – do this on our South India

### **GHATS OF** VARANASI

A sacred city and one of the world's oldest, Varanasi's ghats, lapped by the River Ganges, showcase humanity laid bare. See them on two tours (pages 28 & 32)

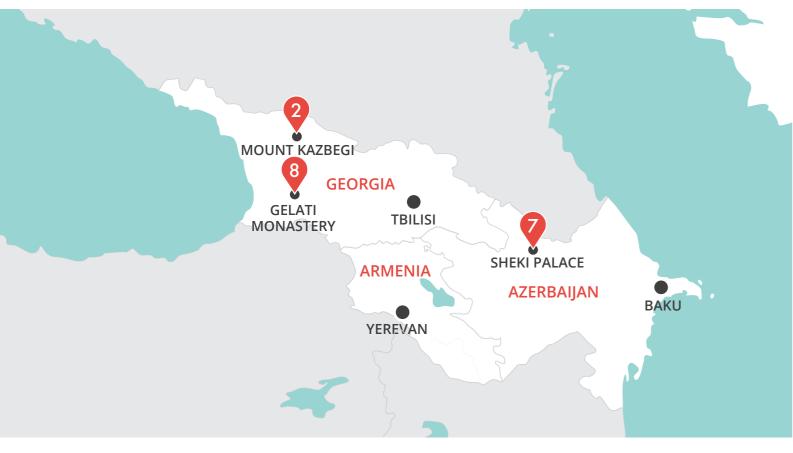


## JAISALMER FORT

elaborately carved from yellow sandstone. This fort is one of very few remaining "living forts" where residents still live within the fort. See our Rajasthan Panorama Tour (page 30).







# **Discover Central Asia with** Wendy Wu Tours

Central Asia's dramatic landscapes are entwined with the legend of the Silk Road; the cross-roads for the movement of people, goods and ideas between Asia and Europe. Its culture, people and landscapes are a hybrid of these historical influences. It's no wonder these incredible destinations are a beacon for travellers looking for a new adventure. We trust that you will discover yours across our new programs.

### WENDY'S TOP 8 CENTRAL ASIA SIGHTS



The beautifully ornate heart of ancient Samarkand, explore the Registan, this legendary city's central square. See this majestic gem on our Road to Samarkand tour (page 50).



**GREAT WHITE** 3 LAKE

This mesmerizing gem nestled within the

heart of Mongolia's Khangai Mountains,

shimmers with crystalline clarity, as its surface reflects the towering peaks that

embrace it. Walk along its shores, on our

Mongolia & Naadam Festival Tour. (page 54)

### DARVAZA GAS CRATER

A magical sight, the natural gas crater is known as the 'Gates of Hell' and has been burning for over 40 years. View its spectacular glow on our Journey through Central Asia tour (page 52).





CITY OF MERV, 6 MARY

One of the oldest and best-preserved cities along the old Silk Road, this ancient, oasis-like UNESCO World Heritage Site is visited on our Journey through Central Asia tour (page 52).



This lavish palace is the most exquisite architectural monument built in the late 18th century and was the summer its intricate decor on our Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan tour (page 48)



## 2 MOUNT KAZBEGI

This striking mountain looms dramatically on the horizon of the vast Georgian landscapes. Discover more of the spectacular Caucasus scenery on our Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan tour (page 48).

### SHEKI PALACE

#### CHARYN 5 CANYON

At 90 kilometres in length, these colourful River offer dramatic sights. See it for yourself on our Journey through Central Asia tour (page 52).



Home to fascinating murals and imagery dating back to the 12th century, this medieval monastery was one of Georgia's very first. Visit it on our Georgia, Armenia & Azerbaijan (Page 48)





# **CLASSIC TOURS**

### For those looking for a fully escorted, fully inclusive group journey

Meticulously designed journeys, perfect for those who want to see iconic sights and magnificent treasures on a fully-inclusive tour that is also fantastic value! With all utmost ease and confidence, accompanied throughout by one of our industry leading National Escorts.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- International airfares
- 3 star plus 4 star accommodation
- All meals
- All transportation in destination
- All entrance fees, guides and daily tours
- Visa fees for UK passport holders

#### **EVERYTHING TAKEN CARE OF**

With a Classic tour all your arrangements are taken care **AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES** of – your flights, all accommodation, transfers, touring, meals, evening entertainment and, in most cases, your visas too! So, all you have to do is show up, explore and enjoy. You will be exploring with a group of a maximum of 28 travellers.

### ALL YOUR MEALS ARE INCLUDED

Whilst breakfasts tend to be a mixture of local eats and familiar dishes from home, when it comes to lunch and your arrangements taken care of, you can travel with the dinner, you'll be dining in local establishments. We include a few 'feature meals', so you get to taste the signature dishes of the region, whilst the rest of the time you'll eat a whole, delicious range of your destination's best food.

### NATIONAL ESCORTS

You can be safe in the knowledge that throughout your tour you'll be in the company of one of our award-winning National Escorts. With their unparalleled knowledge, charisma and talent, these wonderful people are what can push your holiday from fantastic into the realms of truly unforgettable.

Thanks to the extensive expertise of our team, we make sure you get to see those rarely visited places that will give you a more authentic experience of the culture of the region and the chance to meet the friendly local people. Keep an eye out for the 'Authentic Experiences' box on every tour page, for a taste of cultural encounters that you will enjoy.



# TAJ, TEMPLES & TIGERS



#### TOUR TICKLIST

- Witness sunrise at the Taj Mahal
- ✓ Marvel at Delhi's Jama Masjid
- Spot tigers in Ranthambore
- See the grandeur of Fatehpur Sikri
- ✓ Wander Jaipur, the 'Pink City'
- Explore magnificent Amber Fort

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 8 breakfasts, 7 lunches & 8 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Take an exciting rickshaw ride through Khari Baoli Spice Market in Old Delhi, absorbing the heady scents and colourful sights of some of the world's most exotic powders, leaves, roots and seeds.
- ► Venture into the old alleyways of Jaipur to try your hand at block printing, the practice of hand printing textiles with a carved wooden block, a traditional art of the city.
- Learn astronomy the old way at Jaipur's fascinating Jantar Mantar, an 18th-century observatory full of instruments used to measure the distance and positions of celestial objects.



### ITINERARY

#### DAYS 1-2: FLY TO DELHI

Fly overnight to India's capital, Delhi. On arrival at the airport you will be met by a member of the Wendy Wu Tours team and transferred to the hotel. Meet the group tonight for dinner and start getting to know your fellow travellers.

#### DAY 3: DISCOVER DELHI

Today we explore this vivacious city! Starting in atmospheric Old Delhi, embark on a rickshaw ride through the bustling streets. You'll dive straight into the narrow, fragrant lanes of Khari Baoli Spice Market to marvel at the array of colourful herbs and spices. Next, stop to visit the immense Jama Masjid, a Mughal masterpiece of a mosque. Cross over into New Delhi to admire the colonial grandeur of India Gate before seeing the UNESCO-listed Qutab Minar, a 73-metre, 12th-century minaret.

#### Journey to Agra by road and start your explorations at Itmad-ud-Daulah, also known as the 'Baby Taj', an exquisite Mughal mausoleum considered a Taj Mahal prototype. Next, tour the magnificent Agra

DAY 4: TRAVEL TO AGRA

Fort. This mass of red sandstone sits on the banks of the Yamuna River; from its ramparts you may catch a first glimpse of the magical Taj Mahal, just two kilometres downstream.

#### DAY 5: TAJ MAHAL

Rise early to share an unforgettable experience, sunrise at the Taj Mahal. At dawn, when the crowds are at their thinnest, watch this magical building tinge pink as it emerges from the early morning mists. Then travel to Ranthambore National Park, home to majestic Bengal tigers, stopping en route at UNESCO World Heritage Site Fatehpur Sikri, the long abandoned 17th-century capital of the Mughal Empire.







#### DAY 6: TIGERS OF RANTHAMBORE

Together we will explore Ranthambore National Park in search of tigers, taking early morning and afternoon safaris. There are around 50 tigers living amongst the park's undulating landscapes, as well as leopards, nilgai, sloth bears, wild boar, hyena and over 300 species of bird.

#### DAY 7: TRAVEL TO JAIPUR

Departing Ranthambore, travel by road to Jaipur, the 'Pink City'. On arrival, the rest of the day is free to spend as you wish.

#### DAY 8: EXPLORE JAIPUR

The day begins with a photo stop at the Hawa Mahal, the magnificent 'Palace of the Winds'. Next, travel out of the city and board a jeep to reach the extraordinary Amber Fort, the colossal 16th-century yellow and pink sandstone fort that sits 11 kilometres outside of Jaipur. Back in the city, explore the lavish Maharaja's City Palace and the fascinating instruments of Jantar Mantar. Heading deep into the backstreets of the old town, try your hand at traditional artistries at a block printing and carpet weaving workshop.

#### DAY 9: TRAVEL TO DELHI

Leaving the Pink City, return by road to Delhi. On arrival, the rest of the day is free to spend as you wish. This evening, the group will sit down together for the last time at a farewell dinner - the perfect time to reflect on your adventures.

DAY 10: FLY DELHI TO UK Fly to the UK, arriving home the same day.



EXTEND YOUR STA

VARANASI EXTENSION 4 days from £460pp SHIMLA EXTENSION 4 days from £670pp

AMRITSAR EXTENSION 3 days from £570pp

Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.





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PHYSICAL RATING



Enjoy a concise, classic introduction to this beautiful country. Architectural wonders await as you soak up the vibrant sights, sounds and experiences of northern India.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Saturday returning Monday			
2024 DATES			
03 Feb - 12 Feb	£2,790	12 Oct - 21 Oct	£2,890
02 Mar - 11 Mar	£2,790	02 Nov - 11 Nov	£2,890
23 Mar - 01 Apr	£3,190	09 Nov - 18 Nov	£3,190
06 Apr - 15 Apr	£2,790	16 Nov - 25 Nov	£2,890
05 Oct - 14 Oct	£3,190	30 Nov - 09 Dec	£2,890
2025 DATES			
01 Feb - 10 Feb	£2,990	04 Oct - 13 Oct	£3,390
15 Feb - 24 Feb	£2,990	11 Oct - 20 Oct	£2,990
01 Mar - 10 Mar	£2,990	18 Oct - 27 Oct	£2,990
08 Mar - 17 Mar	£2,990	25 Oct - 03 Nov	£2,990
15 Mar - 24 Mar	£2,990	01 Nov - 10 Nov	£2,990
22 Mar - 31 Mar	£2,990	08 Nov - 17 Nov	£3,390
29 Mar - 07 Apr	£2,990	15 Nov - 24 Nov	£2,990
05 Apr - 14 Apr	£2,990	22 Nov - 01 Dec	£2,990
27 Sep - 06 Oct	£2,990	29 Nov - 08 Dec	£2,990
Flight and sup	plement	information	
<ul> <li>Based on London Heathrow departures</li> <li>Regional UK departures available</li> <li>Flight upgrades available on request</li> <li>Land only from £1,990 (Delhi - Delhi)</li> <li>Single room from £450</li> <li>Timping paid locally USC 60</li> </ul>			

• Tipping paid locally US\$60 Dedicated solos departure



## INSPIRING INDIA



### TOUR TICKLIST

- ✓ Tour the spice markets of Delhi
- ✓ Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Spot tigers in Ranthambore
- Explore holy Pushkar
- See the palaces of Udaipur
- Discover the 'Pink City' Jaipur

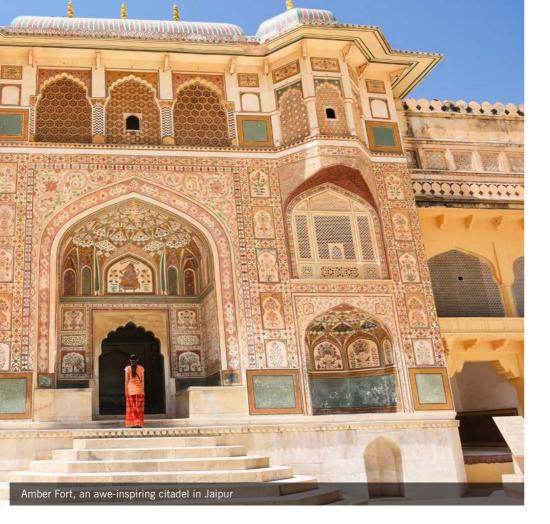
#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 12 breakfasts, 11 lunches & 12 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees • Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Immerse yourself in local life with a walking tour through Pushkar's bustling market, admiring the enormous range of fresh produce, colourful textiles and interesting souvenirs!
- Visit a workshop hidden in the bustling backstreets of old Jaipur to catch a glimpse of the age-old art of carpet weaving, a fascinating artistry still practised the traditional way.
- > Admire the magical city of Udaipur, full of glorious, romantic architecture, from the perfect vantage point - a boat cruising the waters of Lake Pichola



### **ITINERARY**

DAYS 1-2: ARRIVE DELHI Arrive in Delhi where you will be met and transferred to your hotel, for a two night stay. The rest of the day is at leisure.

#### DAY 3: DELHI

After breakfast, get ready for a full-day of sightseeing in both Old and New Delhi. Explore the captivating streets of Old Delhi on foot before visiting Khari Baoli Spice Market, and taking a rickshaw ride through the streets. Visit Jama Masjid, Lakshmi Marayan Hindu Temple, with a quick photo at India Gate, before ending the day visiting Humayun's Tomb and the impressive Quatab Minar.

#### DAY 4: DELHI TO JAIPUR

Embark on a scenic drive to Jaipur, with a delicious lunch en route at a local restaurant. On arrival take some time to relax and unwind before dinner.

#### DAY 5: JAIPUR

After breakfast, stop for a quick view of Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) from the outside, before visiting the magnificent Amber Fort, set atop a hill on the outskirts of Jaipur. Afterwards explore the majestic Maharaja's City Palace, and the fascinating Jantar Mantar Observatory, and try your hand at block printing and carpet weaving with help from the locals.

#### DAY 6: JAIPUR TO PUSHKAR

Start your day with a journey to Pushkar, where you'll have the opportunity to explore the bustling local markets and marvel at the sacred Brahma Temple, a unique place of worship dedicated to the deity believed by many Hindus to be the creator of the universe.

#### DAY 7: PUSHKAR TO UDAIPUR

Today you depart for Udaipur, known as the "City of Lakes". Enjoy a delightful lunch stop in Nathdwara along the way. The rest of the day is free for you to explore at your own pace.

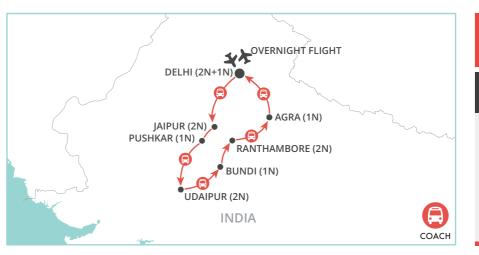
#### DAY 8: UDAIPUR

Embark on an exploration of Udaipur, beginning with a scenic drive around Fateh Sagar Lake. Immerse yourself in the rich culture at the Folk Museum and Mewar Art Gallery, followed by a visit to the magnificent City Palace. The day ends with a delightful cruise on the serene waters of Lake Pichola, taking in the picturesque views that Udaipur has to offer.

#### DAY 9: UDAIPUR TO BUNDI

On your journey to Bundi, take a detour to visit the magnificent Chittor Fort and the awe-inspiring Vijay Stambh. Chittor Fort, one of the largest forts in India. proudly stands atop a hill, providing a breathtaking view of the town of Chittorgarh. Marvel at the grandeur and historical significance of this magnificent fortress before continuing your travels to Bundi.







#### DAY 10: BUNDI TO RANTHAMBORE

Begin your day with a satisfying breakfast and immerse yourself in the charm of the town. Explore its intriguing step wells and uncover the historical wonders of Taragarh Fort. Later, embark on a scenic drive to Ranthambore, where you will check into your hotel and prepare for your wildlife adventure.

#### DAY 11: RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

Indulge in morning and afternoon canter safaris within the national park, offering thrilling opportunities to spot the local wildlife. As you venture into the wilderness keep your eyes peeled for glimpses of the magnificent wildlife like leopards, sloth bears, and various bird species.

#### DAY 12: RANTHAMBORE TO AGRA

Today you journey to Agra, with a captivating stop en route at Fatehpur Sikri, renowned for its splendid Mughal architecture in red sandstone. Explore the Tomb of Chisti and the exquisite Panchal Mahal Palace.

#### DAY 13: AGRA

Wake with much excitement, as you head to the Taj Mahal, regarded as one of the most beautiful buildings in the world and surrounded by lush green gardens. Visit the Itmad-ud-Daulah, nicknamed the Baby Taj, before continuing to the impressive Agra Fort. Todays journey leads you back to Delhi.

#### DAY 14: DEPART DELHI

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight home.



EXTEND YOUR STAY

-

**GOA BEACH EXTENSION** 5 days from £680pp

#### Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.



See tigers in Ranthambor

#### INSPIRING INDIA

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PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Perfect for your first visit to India - soak up the extravagance of Rajasthan, search for tigers in Ranthambore and see the Taj Mahal at sunrise on one extraordinary itinerary.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Friday returning Thursday				
2024 DATES				
26 Jan - 08 Feb	£3,190	11 Oct - 24 Oct	£3,190	
23 Feb - 07 Mar	£3,190	18 Oct - 31 Oct	£3,590	
22 Mar - 04 Apr	£3,190	25 Oct - 07 Nov	£3,190	
29 Mar - 11 Apr	£3,190	01 Nov - 14 Nov	£3,290	
05 Apr - 18 Apr	£3,090	22 Nov - 05 Dec	£3,290	
12 Apr - 25 Apr	£3,390	29 Nov - 12 Dec	£3,590	
04 Oct - 17 Oct	£3,190			
2025 DATES				
24 Jan - 06 Feb	£3,390	11 Apr - 24 Apr	£3,390	
31 Jan - 13 Feb	£3,390	26 Sep - 09 Oct	£3,390	
07 Feb - 20 Feb	£3,390	03 Oct - 16 Oct	£3,390	
14 Feb - 27 Feb	£3,390	10 Oct - 23 Oct	£3,390	
21 Feb - 06 Mar	£3,390	17 Oct - 30 Oct	£3,790	
28 Feb - 13 Mar	£3,390	24 Oct - 06 Nov	£3,390	
07 Mar - 20 Mar	£3,390	31 Oct - 13 Nov	£3,390	
14 Mar - 27 Mar	£3,390	07 Nov - 20 Nov	£3,390	
21 Mar - 03 Apr	£3,390	14 Nov - 27 Nov	£3,790	
28 Mar - 10 Apr	£3,390	21 Nov - 04 Dec	£3,390	
04 Apr - 17 Apr	£3,390	28 Nov - 11 Dec	£3,390	
Flight and supplement information				
<ul> <li>Based on London Heathrow departures</li> <li>Regional UK departures available</li> <li>Flight upgrades available on request</li> <li>Land only from £2,290 (Delhi - Delhi)</li> <li>Single room from £580</li> <li>Tipping paid locally US\$90</li> </ul>				
Dedicated solos departure				



# INDIA BY RAIL



### TOUR TICKLIST

- ✓ Ride the toy train in Shimla ✓ Watch the flag lowering
- ceremony at the Wagah border ✓ Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Experience a Pooja ceremony in Varanasi
- Cruise the banks of the **River Ganges**

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 13 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Explore the Buddhist sites in Sarnath, where Gautama Buddha first taught the Dharma after attaining enlightenment. Visit the Ashoka Pillar, an iconic symbol of Sarnath's heritage
- Embark on a slow-paced charming toy train journey from Shimla to Kandaghat, experiencing breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains and valleys as you travel through the captivating region of Shimla.
- > Participate in block printing, a traditional form of textile printing that involves the use of hand-carved wooden blocks to create intricate patterns on fabric. This art form has a long history and is still practiced throughout India.



### ITINERARY

### DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO DELHI

Upon your arrival at Delhi International Airport, you will be greeted by your National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours and transferred to your hotel. Settle into your accommodation for a two-night stay.

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE DELHI

Begin your day with a drive alongside the magnificent Red Fort, taking in the aweinspiring beauty of its red sandstone structure. Next, embark on a delightful rickshaw ride through the lively streets of Old Delhi, before proceeding to the renowned Jama Masiid. After lunch, fly to Amritsar, eagerly anticipating the adventure that lies ahead.

#### DAY 4: DISCOVER AMRITSAR

Today starts with a morning visit to the historically significant Jallianwala Bagh, a poignant public garden in Amritsar. Continue your exploration by visiting the remarkable Durgiana Temple, and in the afternoon, embark on a scenic drive to the Wagah border, to witness the ceremonial flag lowering ceremony.

#### DAY 5: TRAVEL TO SHIMLA

Catch your morning train and enjoy the picturesque journey as you head towards Chandigarh. Continue by road to the hill station of Shimla, where you will take a walking tour to Mall Road. Explore The Ridge, a spacious open space offering panoramic views of the surrounding hills, and marvel at the architectural beauty of Christ Church, a landmark of Shimla's colonial heritage.

#### DAY 6: SHIMLA

Today begins with an enchanting toy train experience from Shimla to Kandaghat. Return to Shimla by car to enjoy a city tour visiting the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies. Explore the grandeur of this architectural gem and learn about its historical significance. Continue your exploration by visiting the Himachal State Museum. Immerse yourself in the rich heritage and vibrant artistry of the region as you discover the museum's fascinating exhibits.

#### DAY 7: TRAVEL TO DELHI

After your memorable time in Shimla, it's time to transfer to Chandigarh station for your onward journey. Bid farewell to the charming hill station as you board your train bound for Delhi. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the changing landscapes. The afternoon is at leisure for you to explore.

#### DAY 8: TRAVEL TO AGRA

This morning's train journey is to Agra, a city steeped in history and architectural marvels. On arrival explore Fatehpur Sikri. This UNESCO World Heritage Site showcases the grandeur of Mughal architecture. Proceed to Agra Fort, another iconic landmark with imposing red sandstone walls, encompassing palaces, gardens and many halls.

#### DAY 9: TAJ MAHAL

Early morning start with a sunrise visit to the world-renowned Taj Mahal in Agra. As the first rays of sunlight illuminate the iconic white marble monument, witness its ethereal beauty and experience the tranquil atmosphere surrounding this masterpiece, as you learn about the captivating love story behind its creation. Visit a nearby marble workshop to





witness the skilled artisans crafting intricate marble designs before your next train journey takes you to Jaipur, the vibrant capital of Rajasthan.

#### DAY 10: EXPLORE JAIPUR

Explore Jaipur's iconic attractions, including a photo stop at Hawa Mahal. Visit the magnificent Amber Fort and immerse yourself in its regal ambiance. Discover the Maharaja's City Palace while delving into the city's royal heritage before experiencing the scientific wonders of the Jantar Mantar Observatory. Witness traditional crafts like block printing and carpet weaving at a local craft centre and end the day with a delicious dinner and captivating cultural performance.

#### DAY 11: DISCOVER DELHI

Bid farewell to Jaipur as this train journey takes you to Delhi. Upon arrival you will enjoy a tour that begins at the magnificent Qutab Minar, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that stands as a testament to Delhi's rich history and



architectural grandeur. Continue to explore New Delhi, starting with the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India. Stop at the iconic India Gate, a war memorial honouring the brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives.

#### DAY 12: TRAVEL TO VARANASI

Board a morning train from Delhi to the sacred city of Varanasi. Upon arrival, prepare for an enchanting evening rickshaw ride to the banks of the Ganges River. As dusk sets in, witness the mesmerizing Ganga Aarti, a traditional prayer ceremony dedicated to the river, capturing the rhythmic chants, flickering oil lamps, and the divine atmosphere that surrounds you.

#### DAY 13: VARANASI

Enjoy a serene cruise along the Ganges river, soaking in the spiritual atmosphere. Explore landmarks like Bharat Mata Mandir and Durga Temple. Visit Banaras Hindu University and the revered Vishwanath Temple. Venture to Sarnath to explore ancient Buddhist sites, including the Dhamek Stupa and Mulagandha Kuti Vihar, and become immersed in the rich spirituality and cultural heritage of Varanasi and Sarnath.

#### DAY 14: RETURN TO DELHI

Enjoy a free morning to relax or explore at your leisure. In the afternoon, fly from Varanasi to Delhi, returning to this bustling capital city. Enjoy a farewell dinner celebrating a remarkable journey.

DAY 15: DEPART DELHI Fly to the UK, arriving home the same day.





PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Embark on an incredible train journey across India, travelling from west to east. Experience the diverse landscapes, cultures and traditions as you traverse the country. From the bustling metropolises to the serene countryside, this journey promises a tapestry of experiences.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Thursday returning Thursday				
2024 DATES				
21 Mar - 04 Apr	£3,990	10 Oct - 24 Oct	£3,990	
04 Apr - 18 Apr	£3,990	24 Oct - 07 Nov	£3,990	
18 Apr - 02 May	£3,990	07 Nov - 21 Nov	£3,990	
12 Sep - 26 Sep	£3,990	21 Nov - 05 Dec	£3,990	
26 Sep - 10 Oct	£3,990	05 Dec - 19 Dec	£3,990	
2025 DATES				
09 Jan - 23 Jan	£4,290	02 Oct - 16 Oct	£4,290	
23 Jan - 06 Feb	£4,290	16 Oct - 30 Oct	£4,290	
06 Feb - 20 Feb	£4,290	30 Oct - 13 Nov	£4,290	
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13 Mar - 27 Mar	£4,290	27 Nov - 11 Dec	£4,290	
27 Mar - 10 Apr	£4,290	04 Dec - 18 Dec	£4,290	
03 Apr - 17 Apr	£4,290			

#### Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,190 (Delhi Delhi)
- Single room from £840
- Tipping paid locally US\$130pp



## NORTHERN INDIA DISCOVERY



#### TOUR TICKLIST

Discover the delights of Delhi

- See the Taj Mahal at sunrise
- ✓ Tour the incredible 'Pink City'
- Ride the famous Toy Train
- Explore the Golden Temple
- ✓ Learn about Tibetan culture

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 3 star plus 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees • Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- ▶ In the birthplace of yoga, start the day with an invigorating morning practice and meditation session with a master. surrounded by the spectacular Himalayan foothills
- Travel to the border of India and Pakistan to witness the border closing ceremony, a display of fantastically over the top showmanship that involves speed marching, high kicks and stomps, all cheered on by the crowd of locals and tourists alike
- ► Visit the Golden Temple in the evening when, beautifully illuminated, you can witness the Palki Sahib ceremony with its chanting and careful 'putting to bed' of the Guru Granth Sahib, the religious scripture.



### **ITINERARY**

DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO DELHI Fly overnight to Delhi. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

#### DAY 3: DISCOVER DELHI

Take a full day to explore India's vibrant capital. Starting in Old Delhi, embark on a rickshaw ride to the Khari Baoli spice market where you'll learn about local herbs and spices, and visit Jama Masjid. Cross into New Delhi to view the colonial grandeur of the Rajpath, including the Rashtrapati Bhavan and India Gate, finishing the day at Humavun's Tomb.

#### DAY 4: TRAIN TO AMRITSAR

Transfer to Delhi station and hop on a train travelling north to Amritsar. Head to the nearby India-Pakistan border to watch the elaborate border closing ceremony with its fantastically over the top showmanship.

#### DAY 5: EXPLORE AMRITSAR

Enjoy a heritage walk through the city, taking in local temples including Jallianwala Bagh. Visit the Golden Temple, Harmandir Sahib – the spiritual heart of the Sikh faith. Built in the 16th century, its dome is richly gilded in shimmering gold. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity walking around the sacred waters of Amrit Sarovar. Return to the temple this evening to experience Palki Sahib, an atmospheric ceremony accompanied by drums and hymns.

#### DAY 6: TRAVEL TO DHARAMSALA

Ascend into the Himalayas to Dharamsala, a former British hill station that has become the home of the Tibetan Government-in-exile. This afternoon, visit the Tibetan Library and the Tibetan Medical Institute.

#### DAY 7: EXPLORE DHARAMSALA

Start the day at Bhagsunag, a temple dedicated to Lord Shiva before exploring McLeod Ganj, a town with a distinctly Tibetan feel. Explore the town, visiting Buddhist temples and local markets, as well as the Dalai Lama Temple and the Tibetan Museum.

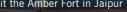
#### DAY 8: YOGA EXPERIENCE

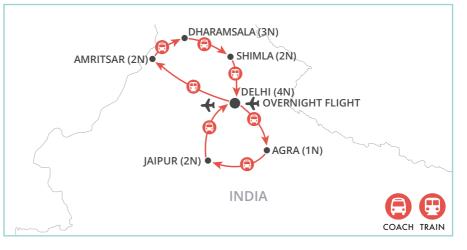
Start the day with a yoga and meditation session. Continue your explorations at the Kangra State Museum and St John's Church. Enjoy a demonstration of how to cook local dishes before spending some time at the Norbulingka Institute. A major centre for Buddhist learning, it also works to preserve Tibet's cultural heritage.

#### DAY 9: TRAVEL TO SHIMLA

Drive to Shimla. On arrival, the rest of the day will be at leisure.











#### DAY 10: TOY TRAIN

All aboard the famous Toy Train, a World Heritage railway built in 1903. This is one of India's most scenic train journeys, where you can admire spectacular views as you wind your way down from the mountains. Return to Shimla by car. This afternoon visit Jakhoo Temple, which sits at the highest point of the city, offering amazing views. Continue to the Himachal State Museum and enjoy a walking tour of Mall Road, Shimla's main street constructed during British colonial rule.

#### DAY 11: SHIMLA TO DELHI

Visit the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies and the Himachal State Museum. Transfer to Kalka to board the train to Delhi.

#### DAY 12: AGRA FORT

Travel to Agra by road. On arrival, admire the colossal Agra Fort, built by the Mughals in the mid-1500s.

#### DAY 13: TAJ MAHAL

Wake early to see the sun rise over India's most iconic sight. At dawn, when the crowds are at their thinnest, the Taj Mahal is often swathed in mist and tinged pink by the rising sun – a magical sight. Depart Agra for Jaipur, stopping en route to admire the symmetrical beauty of the Chand Baori stepwell. Arrive in the 'Pink City' and visit the City Palace and the fascinating Jantar Mantar observatory.

#### DAY 14: EXPLORE JAIPUR

Start with a photo stop this morning at Hawa Mahal, the Palace of the Winds, before heading out of the city to admire the spectacular Amber Fort. Later, in the backstreets of Jaipur's old town, visit a craft centre to watch artisans at

work, practicing traditional crafts like block printing and carpet weaving. Before dinner you will have a cooking demonstration of delicious local dishes.

#### DAY 15: RETURN TO DELHI Return to Delhi, where this evening you will sit down to a farewell dinner.

DAY 16: FLY DELHI TO UK Fly to the UK, arriving home the same day.



VARANASI EXTENSION 4 days from £460p

#### **GOA BEACH EXTENSION** 5 days from £680pp

KOVALAM BEACH EXTENSION 5 days from £370pp

Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.

#### NORTHERN INDIA DISCOVERY

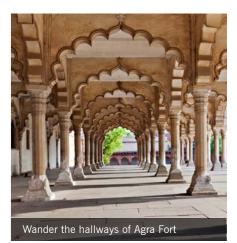


#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

This adventure takes you through the northern hill stations of the Himalavas. visiting Amritsar, before travelling south to India's iconic Golden Triangle -Agra, Jaipur and Delhi. Prepare to be immersed in North Indian culture!



- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,190 (Delhi Delhi)
- Single room from £870
- Tipping paid locally US\$120



# KERALA & THE SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS



#### TOUR TICKLIST

✓ Discover vibrant Chennai

- ✓ Ride Ooty's Toy Train
- Experience Mysore
- Cool off in the tea plantations
- Cruise Kerala's backwaters
- ✓ Relax in Kovalam

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches, 16 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation, plus houseboat
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### Experience a martial arts demonstration

#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Marvel at the strength and agility of Kalaripayattu practitioners at a performance of Kerala's traditional art form. This old martial art combines defensive steps and stances with weaponry such as daggers, spears, maces and bows and arrows.
- ▶ Hosted by a local family in their home. take part in a cooking demonstration of tasty, traditional treats, learning the skills and techniques needed to prepare delicious Keralan dishes.
- Glimpse the traditional lifestyle of Kerala's fisher-folk with a visit to Kumbalangi, where you can see the villagers going about their day to day activities and discover traditional handicrafts



### ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO CHENNAI Fly overnight to the city of Chennai and transfer to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

#### DAY 3: DISCOVER MAMALLAPURAM

After breakfast and tour introduction, you will travel to Mamallapuram. On arrival you will explore this coastal temple town, seeing the fascinating 7th and 8th-century rock carvings, enigmatically called 'Descent of the Ganges'.

#### DAY 4: CHENNAI CITY

Return to Chennai, formerly known as Madras. This city was developed as a British trading post and is home to a number of colonial sights. A city tour begins at the 13-kilometre Marina Beach before a stop at Fort St. George and the British-built St. Mary's Church. The final stop is the colourful Shiva Kapaleeswarar Temple.

#### DAY 5: TRAIN TO BANGALORE

Rise early to catch the Shatabdi Express to the garden city of Bangalore, where you will enjoy an afternoon city tour to see the Bull Temple, Tipu Sultan's Palace and Vidhana Soudha.

#### DAY 6: MYSORE

Head to Mysore, stopping at Srirangapatna Fort en route. Visit the magnificent Maharaja's Palace and drive to Chamundi Hill to admire the 12th-century Sri Chamundeshwari Temple and Nandi Bull. Tonight, enjoy a traditional cooking demonstration hosted by a local family.

#### DAY 7: DRIVE TO OOTY

Today you will journey to the hill station of Ooty, one of three Nilgiri stations, that sits high above the southern plains. Visit the Botanical gardens, taking an uphill walk to visit a small village, gaining insight into the lives of the local people

#### DAY 8: TOY TRAIN TO COONOOR

All aboard the miniature, popular 'Toy Train' to Coonoor, where you will be surrounded with spectacular mountain views. Spend time walking around and appreciating the beauty of this quieter, less famous hill station before returning to Ooty.

#### DAY 9: TRAVEL TO COIMBATORE

Drive to Coimbatore. On arrival, explore the sights of the city, taking in Sri Svetambra Vimalanthar Jain Temple, St Michael's Cathedral and the Athar Jamid Mosque.

#### DAY 10. MUNNAR

Travel to Munnar, a hill station enveloped by lush tea plantations. In the afternoon visit a tea plantation and the Tata Tea Museum.

#### DAY 11: TRAVEL TO THEKKADY

Today explore Eravikulam National Park where you will have the opportunity to spot the local wildlife (closed Feb-Apr. when an alternative light trek will be available). Continue your journey to Thekkady, home of Periyar National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary.

#### DAY 12: PERIYAR WILDLIFE RESERVE

Though designated as a Tiger Reserve in 1978, the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary is best known for its elephants. Take a walk through the reserve, keeping an eve out for its resident elephant population, as well as wild dogs, barking deer,







mouse deer and the elusive Bengal tiger. Visit a spice village before enjoying a traditional Kalaripayattu (martial art) show this evening.

#### DAY 13: DRIVE TO KOCHI

Travel to the coastal town of Kochi. This evening enjoy an exuberant Kathakali dance performance.

#### DAY 14: EXPLORE KOCHI

Full day tour of Kochi. Start at St. Francis Church, the first European church built in India, before a visit to Santa Cruz Basilica. Nearby, see the Chinese fishing nets - the fishermen will demonstrate how they work while your guide explains the mechanics. Finish the day in the Jewish Quarter admiring the synagogue and a stroll through local markets.

#### DAY 15: BACKWATERS CRUISING

Travel to Kumarakom, stopping en route at Kumbalangi, a village created to highlight the lifestyle of fisher-folk in the area. Later board your houseboat, a converted rice barge known as a kettuvallam. Sit back and watch life on the water and the surrounding, untouched wilderness as you cruise unhurriedly along the canals. A delicious dinner of traditional cuisine will be served on board before spending a comfortable night on the water.



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**KERALA & SOUTHERN HIGHLIGHTS** 



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Southern India offers an intensely tropical and laidback experience compared to the north. Travel from the stunning hill stations to the tranquil backwaters on this in-depth journey.

#### DAY 16: DISCOVER TRIVANDRUM

Have breakfast onboard before disembarking and heading for the beach town of Kovalam. Stop on the way in Kerala's capital Trivandrum to explore. Visit Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple, the Observatory and Sri Chitra Art

#### DAY 17: RELAX IN KOVALAM

Gallery to name a few.

DAY 18: FLY TO UK

3 days from £290pp

5 days from £680pp

5 days from £370pp

This morning take a walking tour of the town and visit the lighthouse. The rest of the day is yours to relax or head to the beach, before a farewell dinner this evening.

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same day.



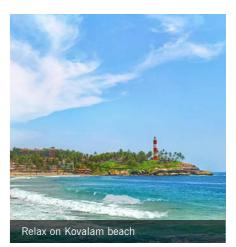
#### GOA BEACH EXTENSION

#### KOVALAM BEACH EXTENSION

Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.



- Single room from £970
- Tipping paid locally US\$100
- Call for our 2026 pricing and departures



# HIGHLIGHTS **OF INDIA**



### TOUR TICKLIST

- Enjoy the buzz of vibrant Delhi
- ✓ Discover Udaipur's palaces
- Search for tigers in Ranthambore
- ✓ Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Explore ancient Varanasi
- Admire the Amber Fort

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 16 breakfasts, 15 lunches & 16 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Soak up the sights and smells of one of Jodhpur's bustling local markets, where the stalls will be piled high with locally grown fruit and vegetables. Learn about the essential herbs and spices needed for Indian cuisine
- Experience the electric atmosphere created by the flickering candles and tinkling bells of a puja held on the banks of the River Ganges, a ceremony dedicated to the river goddess.
- ► Venture into the old alleyways of Jaipur to try your hand at block printing, the practice of hand printing textiles with a carved wooden block, a traditional art of the city.



### **ITINERARY**

DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO DELHI Fly overnight to Delhi, India's rambunctious capital city. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE DELHI

Experience Delhi; ride a rickshaw through the fragrant lanes of Khari Baoli Spice Market and visit Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. Cross over into New Delhi to admire the grandeur of the colonial buildings of the Rajpath, Gandhi Smriti and UNESCO-listed Qutub Minar

#### DAY 4: TAJ MAHAL

Depart for Agra. On arrival, visit the colossal red sandstone Agra Fort, set on the banks of the Yamuna River. The fort was established in the 16th century but has had much added to it over time, making it an eclectic mix of architectural styles. Then you'll stand before India's most iconic building, the Taj Mahal, admiring the play of the light and exquisite detail of the luminous white marble.

#### DAY 5: TRAVEL TO KHAJURAHO

Take a train to Jhansi, with a change at Orchha en route. Continue to Khajuraho, home of the famous temples and enjoy a cultural dance performance this evening.

#### DAY 6: DISCOVER KHAJURAHO

Today, tour the eastern and western groups of Khajuraho's impressive temples. Fly to Varanasi and take a rickshaw to the atmospheric ghats on the River Ganges, where you'll witness a 'Ganga Aarti', a puja ceremony to the river goddess.

#### DAY 7: RIVER GANGES

Rise early for a dawn boat ride along the River Ganges, followed by an informative city tour of Varanasi. This afternoon visit the Buddhist sites at Sarnath

#### DAY 8: EXPLORE JAIPUR

Fly to Jaipur where you have the rest of the day to explore the city on your own, before experiencing a traditional dance performance.

#### DAY 9: AMBER FORT

Start the day with a stop at Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) before visiting the majestic Amber Fort, a magnificent 16th-century yellow and pink sandstone fort. Visit the stunning City Palace, still home of the city's royal family today, and Jantar Mantar Observatory. Head into the backstreets of the old town to visit a workshop where you'll learn about traditional artistries like block printing and carpet weaving.

#### DAY 10: TRAVEL TO JODHPUR

Drive to Jodhpur. Enjoy some leisure time before taking a walking tour to explore the huge variety of local produce at a bustling vegetable and spice market.

#### DAY 11: EXPLORE JODHPUR

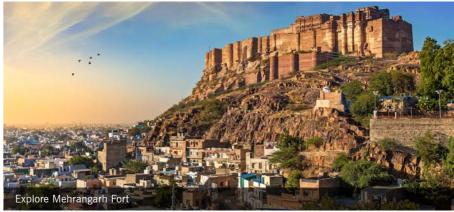
This morning visit the mighty Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada and the museum located in the extravagant Umaid Bhawan Palace. Ride an auto rickshaw to a local restaurant for lunch before enjoying the afternoon at leisure.

#### DAY 12: LAKE PICHOLA

Drive to Udaipur, a city of lakes, palaces and temples. Relax on a cruise along Lake Pichola, admiring the city's grand architecture from the water.







DAY 13: ROMANTIC UDAIPUR

Today, explore the city, starting with a drive around Fateh Sagar Lake. Stop at the Folk Museum, Mewar Art Gallery and Sahelion Ki Bari Gardens. Later, visit the flamboyant City Palace and admire its delightful infusion of Rajasthani and Mughal styles.

#### DAY 14: BUNDI'S STEPWELLS

Drive to Bundi, stopping en route at Chittor Fort. Once of the largest forts in India, Chittor sprawls across a hilltop overlooking the town of Chittorgarh. In Bundi, set out on a walking tour which will include its unique and beautiful stepwells.

#### EXTEND YOUR STAY... DAY 15: RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

Today, travel to Ranthambore National Park. On arrival, enjoy an afternoon at leisure.



DAY 17: RETURN TO DELHI Morning train to Delhi where the rest of the day will be at leisure. DAY 18: FLY DELHI TO UK Fly to the UK, arriving home the same day.

AMRITSAR EXTENSION 3 days from £570pp GOA BEACH EXTENSION

5 days from £680pp SHIMLA EXTENSION

4 days from £670pp

Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF INDIA

CLASSIC

# PHYSICAL RATING



From the desert forts of Rajasthan through Ranthambore, home of the majestic Bengal tiger, past the Taj Mahal and on to the holy city of Varanasi - this tour covers many of India's most magnificent sights.

#### DAY 16: RANTHAMBORE SAFARIS

Enjoy both early morning and afternoon safaris, heading out on the trail of Ranthambore's most famous resident, the majestic Bengal tiger. Keep an eye out for a wealth of other wildlife too, like leopards, elephants and sloth bears.



PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Friday returning Monday				
2024 DATES				
16 Feb - 04 Mar	£4,490	18 Oct - 04 Nov	£4,490	
22 Mar - 08 Apr	£4,390	25 Oct - 11 Nov	£4,490	
04 Oct - 21 Oct	£4,490			
2025 DATES				
14 Feb - 03 Mar	£4,690	03 Oct - 20 Oct	£4,690	
07 Mar - 24 Mar	£4,690	17 Oct - 03 Nov	£4,690	
21 Mar - 07 Apr	£4,690	24 Oct - 10 Nov	£4,690	
Flight and supplement information				
<ul> <li>Based on London Heathrow departures</li> <li>Regional UK departures available</li> </ul>				

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,690 (Delhi Delhi)
- Single room from £800
- Tipping paid locally US\$100



# RAJASTHAN PANORAMA



### TOUR TICKLIST

- Explore magnificent hill forts
- ✓ Take a desert safari
- Wander the 'Blue City
- Discover romantic Udaipur
- See sacred Pushkar
- Safari through Ranthambore

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 20 breakfasts, 19 lunches, 20 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Ride on a rickshaw through the hustle and bustle of Bikaner's bazaar, taking in the sights, sounds and smells of this atmospheric market place and watching the locals go about their day to day life.
- Embark on an exhilarating jeep safari through the stark landscapes of the Thar Desert venturing out to Bishnoi for a village visit, where you'll see local life and the practice of traditional handicrafts.
- Enjoy a cruise on Lake Pichola, passing the magnificent Lake Palace and admiring the majestic architecture that lines the lake's shores.



### ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO DELHI Fly overnight to Delhi and transfer to Gurgaon for an overnight stay. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is at leisure.

#### DAY 3: ALSISAR HERITAGE TOWN

Cross into Rajasthan and travel to the town of Alsisar. This small town is full of traditional frescoes, mansions and cenotaphs and even has a castle. Stay overnight in a beautifully restored haveli.

#### DAY 4: EXPLORE BIKANER

Travel to the vibrant town of Bikaner. Surrounded by the Thar Desert, Bikaner is dominated by its magnificent fort, a complex of ornate buildings and halls, which you'll explore. Then, take a rickshaw ride through the buzzing streets of the old city bazaar. Continue to Gainer.

#### DAYS 5-6: DISCOVER JAISALMER

Rising from the sandy plains of the Thar Desert, Jaisalmer is known as the 'Golden City', nicknamed for its honey-coloured walls. Browse the local markets and visit Sunset Point. Spend the next morning amongst the magnificence of Jaisalmer's 12th-century fort, full of palaces, temples and mansions. Later, travel to the Sam Sand Dunes where you view the sunset and enjoy a ride on a camel.

#### DAY 7: THAR DESERT SAFARI

Venture on through the Thar Desert to Manvar. Here, enjoy a jeep safari to the local Bishnoi villages and get to know the locals. Spend the night in a tented desert camp (mid-Oct to mid-Apr) or the Manyar Resort.

#### DAYS 8-9: JODHPUR

Today, drive to Jodhpur where you'll spend the next two days exploring. Much of Jodhpur's old town is a vivid blue, earning in the moniker the 'Blue City'. While here you'll take a city tour visiting Jaswant Thada, the royal cremation grounds, explore the magnificence of the hilltop Mehrangarh Fort and head to the small museum housed in the impressive Umaid Bhawan Palace.

#### DAYS 10-11: EXPLORE UDAIPUR

Travel to Udaipur via the Jain temple complex of Ranakpur and Surva Temple. India's most romantic city, Udaipur is located on Lake Pichola and surrounded by wooded hills; a maze of palaces, temples and colourful allevways. The next day drive around Fateh Sagar Lake as well as the Folk Museum. Mewar Art Gallerv. Sahelion Ki Bari Garden and the ornate City Palace. Later take a cruise on Lake Pichola passing the magical Lake Palace.

#### DAY 12: RAJASTHAN COUNTRYSIDE

Drive to Deogarh, stopping en route to visit the Eklinji and Nathdwara temples. This evening wander through the bustling streets and enjoy a lavish 'royal experience' a special dinner attended by members of the Deogarh royal family.

#### DAY 13: EXPLORE PUSHKAR

This morning, board a train for a ride through the hills to Phulad, then continue by road to Pushkar. Set on the banks of one of India's most sacred lakes, this holy city has 52 ghats used for worship by Hindu pilgrims. Take a walking tour and admire the Brahma Temple.





#### DAY 14: JAIPUR

Travel to Jaipur, the 'Pink City' and Rajasthan's capital. On arrival, visit the Maharaja's City Palace and Jantar Mantar Observatory, a fascinating collection of wonderful astrological instruments.

#### DAY 15: HAWA MAHAL & AMBER FORT

Begin the day at Hawa Mahal, the 'Palace of the Winds', before travelling out of the city to admire the majestic Amber Fort. Back in Jaipur, try block painting and carpet weaving before enjoying a traditional dinner and dance performance.

#### DAYS 16-17: RANTHAMBORE

Travel to Ranthambore National Park, home to around 50 majestic Bengal tigers and a wealth of other wildlife. The next day, vou will have both morning and afternoon safaris, the perfect opportunity to spot many magnificent creatures.

#### DAY 18: TRAVEL TO AGRA

Today travel to Agra, stopping en route at Bharatpur for lunch and visit Fatehpur Sikri, tomb of Salim Chistic, and Panch Mahal Palace.

#### DAY 19: THE TAJ MAHAL

Wake early to see the sun rise over one of the world's most perfect buildings. At dawn the Tai Mahal is often swathed in mist and tinged pink by the rising sun - a magical experience. This afternoon visit the colossal Agra Fort.

#### DAY 20: DELHI

Travel by road back to Delhi and visit Qutub Minar, Iron Pillar and the Lotus Temple.

DAY 21: VIBRANT DELHI A city of equal chaos and charm, Delhi grabs EXTEND YOUR STAY. **KOVALAM BEACH EXTENSION** 

and Parliament House.

5 days from £370pp

SHIMLA EXTENSION 4 days from £670pp

VARANASI EXTENSION 4 days from £460pp

#### RAJASTHAN PANORAMA



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

This journey through Rajasthan, the land of extravagant forts and palaces. allows wildlife and architecture lovers alike to experience safaris, deserts and colourful cities. Includes an overnight stay in a traditional desert camp.

you and doesn't let go! Explore a vast spice market and admire Jama Masjid, India Gate

#### DAY 22: FLY DELHI TO UK

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same day.



Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.



PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Wednesday returning Wednesday				
2024 DATES				
21 Feb - 13 Mar	£4,190	02 Oct - 23 Oct	£3,990	
06 Mar - 27 Mar	£4,090	16 Oct - 06 Nov	£3,990	
20 Mar - 10 Apr	£4,090	06 Nov - 27 Nov	£4,090	
2025 DATES				
19 Feb - 12 Mar	£4,390	01 Oct - 22 Oct	£4,390	
05 Mar - 26 Mar	£4,390	15 Oct - 05 Nov	£4,390	
19 Mar - 09 Apr	£4,390	05 Nov - 26 Nov	£4,390	
17 Sep - 08 Oct	£4,390			
Flight and supplement information				

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,190 (Delhi Delhi)
- Single room from £930
- Tipping paid locally US\$120



## GRAND TOUR **OF INDIA**



#### TOUR TICKLIST

- ✓ Feel the buzz of Delhi
- ✓ Explore ancient Varanasi
- ✓ Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- ✓ See Rajasthan's hill forts
- Tour cosmopolitan Mumbai
- Cruise Kerala's backwaters

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 27 breakfasts, 26 lunches & 27 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation, plus houseboat
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- ▶ Witness an exuberant performance of the traditional dance-drama that is Kathakali. Kerala's best-known performing art, it is an extravagant retelling of Hindu epics complete with colourful costumes and elaborate make up.
- ► Not well known outside of India, discover the magnificent artistic treasures of the Aianta and Ellora Caves, a series of caverns full of intricate frescoes and carvings created by Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monks.
- Embark on a camel cart ride out into the starkly beautiful landscapes of the Thar Desert - though it may appear barren, you'll find the desert is surprisingly full of things to see.



Experience the exquisite temples of Khajuraho

### ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO DELHI Fly overnight to Delhi. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours at leisure.

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE DELHI

Explore Old Delhi; board a rickshaw to explore the fragrant lanes of a spice market and stop to admire Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque. After lunch, view India Gate and Parliament House before exploring Gandhi Smriti and Qutub Minar.

#### DAYS 4-5: DISCOVER VARANASI

Fly to the ancient city of Varanasi. Head just out of town to the fascinating Buddhist site of Sarnath, where Buddha is said to have delivered his first sermon. The next day, rise early to cruise on the Ganges and explore the city. Later take a rickshaw to the ghats and witness a puja ceremony.

#### DAY 6: EXPLORE KHAJURAHO'S TEMPLES

Fly to Khajuraho to see the exquisite groups of temples and their intricately carved, erotic imagery. Enjoy a cultural dance display.

#### DAY 7: TRAVEL TO AGRA

Travel to the 16th-century city of Orchha and then on to Jhansi station where you'll board the Shatabdi Express train to Agra.

#### DAY 8: TAJ MAHAL

Watch the sun rise over the Taj Mahal, tinging the structure's white marble myriad shades of pink and red as it ascends - a magical experience. This afternoon visit the colossal 16th-century Agra Fort.

#### DAYS 9-10: RANTHAMBORE

Travel to Ranthambore via the ghost city of

Fatephur Sikri. A national park, Ranthambore is home to about 50 majestic Bengal tigers and a wealth of other wildlife. The next day you'll enjoy morning and afternoon safaris to spot them.

#### DAYS 11-12: JAIPUR

Journey to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur for a twonight stay. While here your explorations will include the Hawa Mahal, the majestic Amber Fort, the Maharaja's City Palace, and Jantar Mantar, the largest stone and marble-crafted observatory in the world.

#### DAYS 13-14: PUSHKAR AND KHIMSAR

Travel to Pushkar, a sacred pilgrimage destination for Hindus. This afternoon visit its sacred lake, ghats and the Brahma Temple before a camel cart ride in the desert. The next day visit Khimsar, perched on the edge of the great Thar Desert.

#### DAYS 15-16: DISCOVER JAISALMER

Rising from the sandy plains of the Thar Desert, Jaisalmer is known as the 'Golden City'. Head to Sunset Point to enjoy the views. The next day explore the magnificent Jaisalmer Fort, and ride a camel through the Sam Sand Dunes.

#### DAYS 17-18: JODHPUR & AROUND

Travel to Jodhpur and tour the city, exploring the magnificence of Mehrangarh Fort, visiting the museum of Umaid Bhawan Palace and the spice market. The next day drive through the desert by ieep to Bishnoi village.

#### DAYS 19-20: ROMANTIC UDAIPUR

Drive to Udaipur via the Jain temple complex of Ranakpur and Surya Temple as well as



other Jain Temples. The next day explore the city, driving around Fateh Sagar Lake with stops at the Folk Museum, Mewar Art Gallery and Sahelion Ki Bari Garden. Later visit the ornate City Palace and take a cruise on the shimmering Lake Pichola.

#### DAY 21: AURANGABAD

Morning at leisure before boarding a flight to Aurangabad.

#### DAYS 22-23: AJANTA & ELLORA CAVES

Visit the incredible UNESCO World Heritagelisted Ajanta and Ellora Caves and discover the beautiful murals and exquisite carvings of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain imagery. Fly to Mumbai.

#### DAY 24: DISCOVER MUMBAI

Tour cosmopolitan Mumbai, India's economic powerhouse. View the Gateway to India, dawdle along Marine Drive and visit Chowpatty Beach, Mani Bhavan, Dhobi Ghat, Crawford Market and Flora Fountain. Fly to the relaxed Keralan city of Kochi.

#### DAY 25: EXPLORE KOCHI

Fascinating Kochi is strung across the islands and peninsulas of the Malabar coast. Visit the Dutch Palace and Fort Kochi. This evening enjoy an exuberant Kathakali dance performance.

#### DAY 26: KERALA'S BACKWATERS

Visit Kochi's synagogue, before heading out of the city to Nedumudy to board your houseboat. On this converted rice barge, or 'kettuvallam', you will drift along the peaceful backwaters. Lunch and dinner are served onboard and you will stay onboard overnight.

DAY 27: TRAVEL TO KOVALAM Enjoy breakfast as you cruise into Alleppey, then travel to the beach resort of Kovalam

DAY 28: VISIT TRIVANDRUM Explore Kerala's capital Trivandrum, with visits to Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Sri Chitra Art Gallery, the Observatory and Kanakakunnu Palace. Return to Kovalam for your final night stay.

#### DAY 29: FLY TRIVANDRUM TO UK Fly to the UK, arriving home the same day.



SHIMLA EXTENSION 4 days from £670pp

#### AMRITSAR EXTENSION 3 days from £570pp

extensions and stopovers.

#### GRAND TOUR OF INDIA

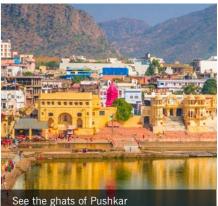


Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

An all-encompassing epic trip through the best that India has to offer. This itinerary showcases the rich history, culture, and natural wonders throughout this fantastically varied country.



PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Wednesday returning Wednesday				
2024 DATES				
21 Feb - 20 Mar	£7,390	30 Oct - 27 Nov	£7,590	
16 Oct - 13 Nov	£7,490			
2025 DATES				
19 Feb - 19 Mar	£7,690	15 Oct - 12 Nov	£7,690	
01 Oct - 29 Oct	£7,690	29 Oct - 26 Nov	£7,690	
Flight and supplement information				
Regional UK	<ul> <li>Based on London Heathrow departures</li> <li>Regional UK departures available</li> <li>Flight upgrades available on request</li> </ul>			

- Land only from £6,590 (Delhi Trivandrum)
- Single room from £1,300
- Tipping paid locally US\$180



#### NEW

# CHRISTMAS IN INDIA



### **TOUR TICKLIST**

- ✓ Immerse yourself in Delhi
- ✓ Spot tigers in Ranthambore
- ✓ Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- Experience a religious ceremony on the Ghats
- ✓ Visit a vintage car museum
- Discover the step wells of Bundi

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 13 breakfasts, 12 lunches & 13 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Immerse yourself in the art of turban tying. delving into the intricacies of this practice, learning to drape and style a turban, an iconic symbol of Indian heritage and pride.
- Sip champagne from a rooftop offering unparalleled views of the majestic Taj Mahal. As the sun's golden hues paint the sky and cast a warm glow over this iconic monument, you'll find yourself in a place where the present and the past blend seamlessly.
- ▶ With its enchanting storytelling and artistic presentations. "Mohabbat the Tai" offers an immersive experience that beautifully commemorates the love story that gave rise to one of the world's most iconic monuments. It's a journey through time that captures the essence of love of love and devotion.



### **ITINERARY**

DAYS 1-2: ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi for a two-night stay. Upon your arrival, you will be you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day is at leisure

#### DAY 3: DELHI

After breakfast, start your day of sightseeing around Old and New Delhi. Travel to Khari Baoli Spice Market and enjoy a rickshaw ride before visiting Jama Masjid. Continue to Lakshmi Marayan Hindu Temple, followed by a brief photo stop at India Gate. End your day with a visit to Humavun's Tomb and the Quatab Minar.

#### DAY 4: DELHI TO JAIPUR

Upon arrival in Jaipur, enjoy an enlightening visit to the Turban Museum, where you will participate in an interactive demonstration on the art of Turban Tying and the various styles of wearing them. As a cherished keepsake, you get to take these turbans with you. After lunch, you have the afternoon at leisure to unwind before indulging in a delightful dinner.

#### DAY 5: JAIPUR

Embark on a journey through Jaipur's treasures: the delicate Hawa Mahal (photo stop outside), the imposing Amber Fort, and the resplendent Hall of Victory. Immerse yourself in living traditions as you engage in block painting and witness the intricate art of carpet weaving.

#### DAY 6: JAIPUR TO PUSHKAR

Begin your day by journeying to Pushkar, where you have time to wander through the vibrant local markets and marvel at the architectural beauty of the Brahma Temple. Later engage in a private religious ceremony on the Ghats of Pushkar sarovar (lake), one of the ten holiest sites in the world.

#### DAY 7: PUSHKAR TO UDAIPUR

After breakfast, drive to Udaipur and check in at your hotel. Later this afternoon, you will visit the Vintage and Classic Car Museum, with its collections of some of the rarest classic and vintage cars. This museum is owned by the Royal Family of Udaipur and is located in the premises of the Garden Hotel. outside the City Palace complex. In these gardens, you will sit down to a delightful High Tea before returning to your hotel.

#### DAY 8. UDAIPUR

Today's adventure is a journey into the heart of Udaipur's culture. Drive around the tranquil expanse of Fateh Sagar Lake and discover the Folk Museum's indigenous heritage treasure trove. The Mewar Art Gallery offers history and modern expression captured on canvas. The highlight will be a visit to City Palace, a regal testament to the city's majestic past.

#### DAY 9: UDAIPUR TO BUNDI

After breakfast, you will travel to Bundi, where, along the way, you visit the aweinspiring Chittor Fort and the majestic Vijay Stambh. The grandeur of Chittor Fort, one of India's largest, stands proudly atop a hill, commanding a panoramic view over the town of Chittorgarh.

#### DAY 10: BUNDI TO RANTHAMBORE

Enjoy discovering this town with its hidden treasures, from the amazing stepwells to Taragarh Fort. There are 50 stepwells dotted throughout the town, and although most are dried up, the stunning remnants of the past are





still present. Taragarh Fort is known for its size and architecture and was constructed in the 8th century atop a steep hillside offering panoramic views of the city below. Arrive in Ranthambore, where you will overnight.

#### DAY 11: RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

Immerse yourself in the wilderness of the park with both morning and afternoon canter safaris, offering you the exciting opportunity to encounter the local wildlife. Each safari, spanning two to three hours, will take you through rugged, unpaved tracks, providing you with opportunities to witness the animals in their natural habitat.

#### DAY 12: CHRISTMAS EVE IN AGRA

Travel to Agra, with a captivating stop en route at Fatehpur Sikri. Explore its wonders, including the Tomb of Chisti and the Panchal Mahal Palace. Feel the spirit of Christmas Eve come alive within the festive ambiance of your hotel. A special option awaits as you have the



opportunity to partake in the magical Christmas Midnight Mass at St. Mary's Church. This promises to be the pinnacle of your Christmas celebrations, adding even more joy to your experience.

#### DAY 13: CHRISTMAS DAY IN AGRA

Wake on Christmas Day and head straight to the spellbinding Taj Mahal – what a wonderful way to start such a special day. Enjoy some time to explore this magnificent monument at your leisure. Visit the Itmad-ud-Daulah, nicknamed the Baby Tai, before continuing to the impressive Agra Fort. After enjoying a Christmas lunch feast filled with lots of entertainment and celebrations, you will be taken to a rooftop restaurant to sip on champagne while watching the sunset over the Taj Mahal. To conclude this magical Christmas Day, enjoy a live musical drama – Mohabbat the Taj - a show depicting the romantic love story of Emperor Shahjahan and his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. This is a true Bollywood experience

#### DAY 14: DRIVE TO DELHI

Drive to Delhi, where you will check in to your hotel. You have the day at leisure to explore or pick up some last-minute shopping before your farewell dinner tonight.

DAY 15: DRIVE TO DELHI After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight home.

#### CHRISTMAS IN INDIA



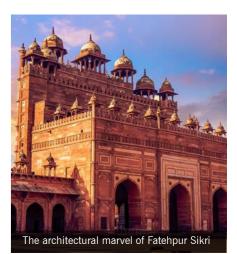
#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Embark on a festive season like no other. from the classic sites of India's Golden Triangle to discovering magical Udaipur and participating in Christmas Eve and Christmas Day festivities, this itinerary is packed with unforgettable moments.





- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,690
- Single room from £740
- Tipping paid locally US\$90



# HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA



#### TOUR TICKLIST

- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Explore ancient Sinhalese ruins
- Discover the delights of Colombo
- ✓ Visit Kandy's sacred temple
- Spot elephants while on safari
- ✓ See Galle's historic fort

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches, 14 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star 5 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



- ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES
- ► Tour the wonderful conservation project at Kosgoda, where a specialist turtle hatchery works tirelessly to protect Sri Lanka's native sea turtle species, and meet its residents.
- ▶ In the island's cultural capital, Kandy, enjoy a fun and fascinating cultural performance of traditional Sri Lankan music and dance.
- ► In the cooler climes of Sri Lanka's Central Highlands, tour a tea factory and plantation to learn all about the cultivation and production of the refreshing tea grown in the area.

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### ITINERARY

#### DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO COLOMBO

Fly overnight to Colombo. On arrival you will be met by your expert tour guide and transferred to your hotel in the coastal town of Negombo, a short drive from Colombo. The rest of the day is yours to explore.

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE SIGIRIYA

This morning travel to Sigiriya, home to the 5th-century UNESCO World Heritage-listed Rock Fortress, 'Lion Rock'. Built by King Kassapa as the centre of his short-lived kingdom, pass between a pair of colossal lion's paws and climb to the top for panoramic views. Explore the surrounding gardens as well as admiring the world-renowned Heavenly Maidens frescoes.

#### DAY 4: DISCOVER POLONNARUWA

Explore the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, the capital of a kingdom that ruled the island between the 11th and 13th centuries, with its well-preserved stupas, frescoes and statues. This afternoon, embark on an adventurous jeep safari on Minneriya National Park. Look out for large herds of elephants, sloth bear, leopards and much more wonderful wildlife.

#### DAY 5: ANURADHAPURA

Drive to celebrated Anuradhapura. The city's greatest treasures are its dagobas; domes enshrining sacred relics. The most notable is the Ruwanwelisaya Dagoba, dating back to the 2nd century BC, which you will visit today along with the Thuparamaya, said to contain the collarbone of Buddha. Discover the city's most renowned relic, the 2,250-year-old sacred Bo Tree. Emperor Asoka's daughter

brought to Anuradhapura a branch of this tree, under which Buddha is said to have gained enlightenment.

#### DAY 6: DAMBULLA ROCK TEMPLE

After breakfast, travel to Dambulla where you will tour the Rock Temple. Dating back to the 1st century BC, the temple is made up of five cave sanctuaries where you'll find some of Sri Lanka's most important Buddha images. Visit a spice garden in Matale where you can see cinnamon, cardamom, pepper creepers and other spice trees growing and watch a cooking demonstration. Continue through majestic hill country to the city of Kandy, Sri Lanka's cultural hub.

#### DAY 7: CULTURAL KANDY

This morning, visit the Peradeniya Royal Botanical Gardens, Later, visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, one of the most revered Buddhist sites in the world. Stolen at Buddha's funeral, the tooth was smuggled into Sri Lanka hidden in the hair of a princess who fled from India. Explore the remains of the Royal Palace, now a museum. This evening you will watch a colourful cultural dance performance.

#### DAY 8: NUWARA ELIYA

Board a train that will take you through the tea plantation-covered hills to Nuwara Eliya on one of the world's most picturesque rail journeys. The rest of the day is at leisure.

#### DAY 9: TEA PLANTATION

This morning you visit a tea plantation learning how tea is graded. Later this afternoon enjoy a city tour taking in the race course, Hill Club Hotel, Gregory Lake and Sita Amman Kovil.







Search for leopards in Yala National Park

#### DAY 10: UDAWALAWE

Travel to the Elephant Transit Home located near Udawalawe National Park, where abandoned baby elephants are cared for before they are released into the park. Continue to Yala, Sri Lanka's premiere national park.

#### DAY 11: YALA NATIONAL PARK

Enjoy morning and afternoon jeep safaris around the park. It is home to elephants, deer and many other mammal species. but most famous for its leopards, whose population density here is among the highest in the world.

#### DAY 12: DRIVE TO HIKKADUWA

Drive to the Hummanaya Blow Hole, the second largest of its kind in the world. After lunch, continue to Dikwella Wewurukannala Temple, dominated by an image of a seated Buddha that is over 48 metres high. Stop along the way at Weligama where you may see the unique stilt fishermen, an old tradition practised by around 500 fishing families in the region.

#### DAY 13: OLD GALLE

Explore the enchanting city of Galle, Sri Lanka's finest colonial treasure. See the lighthouse, the old town and the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Dutch Fort, before wandering charming streets lined with colonial villas, museums, cafes and antique shops.

#### DAY 14: KOSGODA TURTLE HATCHERY

Travel to Colombo, stopping at Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery. The hatchery is home to Sri Lanka's pioneering sea turtle conservation project, established in 1981 to protect the local turtle population.

tours EXTEND YOUR STAY



**BENTOTA EXTENSION** 4 days from £410pp JAFFNA EXTENSION

> 4 days from £470pp TRINCOMALEE EXTENSION 4 days from £480pp

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA





#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

An introduction to the beautiful country of Sri Lanka, travel from the rich heritage of the Cultural Triangle through the wilds of Yala National Park to the colonial seaside beauty of Galle.



#### DAY 15: EXPLORE COLOMBO

Embark on a city tour of Colombo this morning. Explore the Fort district, the historic centre of the city. Wander through Pettah Market. Visit the Dutch Church of Wolvendaal, dating back to 1749, Kelaniya Buddhist Temple, a major pilgrimage site for Buddhist devotees, and Colombo's finest museums. The rest of the day is at leisure.

#### DAY 16: FLY COLOMBO TO UK

Transfer to the airport for your flight to the UK arriving home the same day.

NOT LOOKING TO JOIN A GROUP? Visit page 56 to learn more about our private

Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Friday returning Saturday			
2024 DATES			
02 Feb - 17 Feb	£3,890	25 Oct - 09 Nov	£4,290
01 Mar - 16 Mar	£4,090	08 Nov - 23 Nov	£4,290
15 Mar - 30 Mar	£3,890	22 Nov - 07 Dec	£4,990
12 Apr - 27 Apr	£4,190		
2025 DATES			
31 Jan - 15 Feb	£4,290	24 Oct - 08 Nov	£4,290
28 Feb - 15 Mar	£4,290	07 Nov - 22 Nov	£4,290
14 Mar - 29 Mar	£4,290	21 Nov - 06 Dec	£5,290
11 Apr - 26 Apr	£4,290		
Flight and sup	plement	information	
<ul> <li>Based on London Heathrow departures</li> <li>Regional UK departures available</li> <li>Flight upgrades available on request</li> <li>Land only from £3.090 (Colombo - Colombo)</li> </ul>			

- Single room from £910
- Tipping paid locally US\$110

Dedicated solos departure



#### NEW

# CHRISTMAS IN SRI LANKA

16 DAYS FROM £4,890 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK ALL MEALS

#### TOUR TICKLIST

- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- Explore Medieval Polonnaruwa
- Discover Udawattakele Rainforest
- ✓ Take a street food tour
- Try your hand at curd making
- Enjoy a canoe ride

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 14 breakfasts, 13 lunches & 14 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4-star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- > Experience daily life in a Sri Lankan village. Begin with a serene catamaran ride across the lake, followed by a tuk-tuk ride to a village household to engage with the family members and discover the art of cooking an authentic Sri Lankan meal
- An Udawattakele trek leads you through a lush rainforest teeming with biodiversity. Within its embrace thrives a diverse avian population, making it a haven for bird enthusiasts to see Lavard's parakeet. gold-fronted and blue-winged leafbirds.
- Buffalo curd is famous throughout the island, and learning about its fascinating production process, from udder to table, leaves you with an understanding of the intricacies of dairy farming.

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### ITINERARY

#### DAYS 1-2: ARRIVE COLOMBO

On arrival, you will be greeted and transferred to your hotel, where you have the rest of the day at leisure to settle in, relax and enjoy your surroundings.

#### DAY 3: SIGIRIYA ROCK FORTRESS

After breakfast, you will travel to Dambulla, visiting Sigiriya rock fortress late this afternoon. This impressive rock, the landmark of Sri Lanka, is regarded as the world's eighth wonder amongst the locals. Enjoy magnificent views, rock decorated in colourful frescos and beautiful gardens when you summit.

#### DAY 4: POLONNARUWA

Today you visit Hiriwaduna for a local village experience, enjoying a catamaran ride on the lake, a tuk-tuk trip to a local home and learning to prepare an authentic dish. Next is Polonnaruwa. an ancient city whose impressive stone culture recalls an inspired past.

#### DAY 5: ANURADHAPURA

Set off for Anuradhapura, exploring this magnificent ancient city on foot. Visit the massive Buddhist shrines, splendid palaces, parks and pavilions of this sacred city, dating back to the 5th century BC.

#### DAY 6: DAMBULLA

This morning you will be taken to visit Sri Lanka's most popular religious and cultural site, Dambulla Cave Temple. The country's largest and best-preserved cave temple, it is adorned with colourful frescos, Buddhist statues, and a colossal Buddha figure carved into the rock. It maintains its legacy, history and beauty despite its continuity of use.

#### DAY 7: KANDY

En route to Kandy, stop at the spice garden in Matale, which boasts incredible views of the Aluvihare Mountains. Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic, followed by an amazing cultural dance show in the evening.

#### DAY 8: CHRISTMAS EVE – NUWARA ELIYA

Today after breakfast, you will be taken to Nuwara Eliya by train, travelling on what is known as one of the most picturesque rail journeys in the world. Travel through tea plantations and lush forests as you ascend into the mist of the hillside. Relax in the afternoon before the Christmas Eve festivities begin with a special dinner.

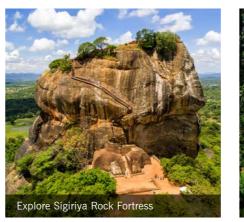
#### DAY 9: CHRISTMAS DAY - NUWARA ELIYA

Merry Christmas! Start the day with a visit to a tea plantation, dressed in handmade. traditional silk sarees as you mingle with the locals. Return to the hotel for the Christmas celebrations with a scrumptious Christmas lunch and lots of celebrations, followed later by High Tea in the beautiful gardens of the Grand Hotel - the perfect way to conclude this magical Christmas Day.



Discover crocodiles in Yala National Park







DAY 10: UDAWALAWE After breakfast, proceed to Yala, with a stop at Udawalawe Elephant Transit Home, before participating in the process of curd making. Though buffalo curd is a quintessential favourite in the Sri Lankan pantry, its arduous journey, from teat to table, is often unheeded. Enjoy a fresh sip of milk after trying your hand milking a buffalo, and end this experience with a fresh pot of curd sweetened with treacle.

#### DAY 11: YALA NATIONAL PARK

Early morning and later this afternoon, you will head off on a jeep safari at Yala National Park. As you embark on a wilderness adventure through Yala's picturesque landscapes, you'll have the chance to encounter not only leopards but also elephants, sloth bears, crocodiles, and a rich variety of bird species.

#### DAY 12: HIKKADUWA

Heading towards Hikkaduwa, you visit a cinnamon plantation. Learn all there is to know about the uses and benefits of cinnamon before enjoying the breathtaking views and the chance to try your hand with the tools of the trade in an Ambalama, once used as a resting place for travellers.

#### DAY 13: GALLE FORT

After breakfast, you will be visiting Galle Fort, set on the peninsula within the walled remains of a fortress. Walk to the lighthouse on its perimeter and visit the Old Dutch Church with its tombstonecovered floor before a stroll along the rampart.

#### DAY 14: KOSGODA TURTLE SANCTUARY

A visit to the Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery is a must. Witness the exceptional sight of the

eggs hatching or the turtles being returned to the sea, moving towards the water as they flap their tiny flippers.

DAY 15: TRAVEL TO COLOMBO After breakfast, return to Colombo for a tour of this amazing city. Enjoy New Year's Eve celebrations with a dinner at the hotel.

#### DAY 16: DEPART COLOMBO Before your flight (time-dependent), you can explore the vibrant city of Colombo further at your leisure. Later, transfer to the airport to board your onward flight home.



TRINCOMALEE EXTENSION 4 days from £480pp JAFFNA EXTENSION

4 days from £480pp

4 days from £410pp

#### CHRISTMAS IN SRI LANKA



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Spend Christmas in Sri Lanka's gorgeous tea country, Nuwara Eliya, as you pluck tea leaves in traditional dress, enjoy High Tea in beautiful surroundings and participate in the celebrations and festivities of the day.

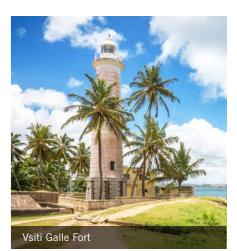


#### **BENTOTA EXTENSION**

Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.



- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,490
- Single room from £1.190
- Tipping paid locally US\$110



# ULTIMATE **UZBEKISTAN**



### **TOUR TICKLIST**

- ✓ Visit Toprak Kala Fortress
- Explore Bukhara's monuments
- ✓ Discover Registan Square
- ✓ Shop at Chorsu bazaar
- Be mesmerised by Gur Emir's tilework
- Stroll through Ichan Kala

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 10 breakfasts, 10 lunches, 10 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 3 star plus 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



Visit a family-run ceramics workshop

#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Visit the workshop of a famous family known for their ceramics - Akbar and Alisher Rakhimov. You will learn about the history of ceramics and get to see the unique collection of their exclusive works. Enjoy a tea ceremony with local pastries baked especially for you.
- Enjoy lunch at the house of a local, who just happens to be an expert suzani (tapestry) maker! You'll dine on 'plov', the national Uzbek dish, which you'll also help to prepare - made with mutton and rice, it includes a large quantity of spices.
- Experience a wine tasting at Khovrenko Winery in Samarkand. You will be taken on a tour of the wine museum, familiarising yourselves with the history of winemaking in the region. This winery also produces vodka and brandy



### ITINERARY

#### DAY 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO TASHKENT

Fly overnight to Tashkent. This afternoon you will explore the capital visiting the old town, Barak Khana Seminary, Tila Shaikh Mosque and the archives known for a rare copy of the Quran. Later, continue to Chorsu bazaar, the oldest market in Tashkent, and Kukeldash Madrassah.

#### DAY 3: DISCOVER NUKUS This morning you will fly to Nukus where the

day's highlight is the Igor Savitsky Museum, home to the finest collection of Soviet avant-garde art, where you'll gain insight into Central Asia's unique cultural heritage. Also, visit the ancient city of Mizdahkan – a complex of Islamic monuments spread over three hills.

#### DAY 4: NUKUS TO KHIVA

Today, drive 200 kilometres to Khiva, visiting little-known, ancient fortresses en route. These include Chalpik Kala, also known as the Tower of Silence, Kizil Kala Fortress and Toprak Kala Fortress – an excavated town considered to be one of the most important monuments on Khorezm. You can also explore Avaz Kala, one of the biggest complexes in Karakalpakstan, comprising three fortresses.

#### DAY 5: KHIVA

Set out on foot, taking in all the major sights of the Itchan Kala. Khiva's evocative and wonderfully preserved old city. Visit the citadel. Kalta Minor Minaret. Kunva Ark. Madrassah Rakhimkhon and the Mausoleum of Pakhlavan Makhmud. Keep exploring this afternoon, at the Friday Mosque and Tashauli Palace, including its harem.

DAY 6: KHIVA TO BUKHARA Set out for Bukhara, taking a long drive across the famous Kyzyl Kum Desert. The Great Silk Road once ran a similar route to the one you will travel today. There will be several photo opportunities along the way as well as a stop along the banks of the Amudarya River.

#### DAY 7: BUKHARA

Begin your full day of touring this incredible city, home to hundreds of registered monuments. The main highlights will include Lab-i-khauz, Madrassah Nadirkhon Devanbegi, Khanaga and Mogaki Attari Mosque. After lunch, visit Ark Fortress, Balakhauz Mosque and see the locals doing block printing, metal chasing and suzani embroidery as well as carving.



Discover the mosques of Bukhara





#### DAY 8: BY TRAIN TO SAMARKAND

Visit Sitora-i-Mokhikhosa, the summer residence of the emir of Bukhara. and then visit Bahauddin Nagshbandi the memorial complex of famous Sufi, the spiritual leaders of this region. In the afternoon you'll make your way to the train station for your journey to Samarkand.

#### DAY 9: SAMARKAND

Today you will explore one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world and the oldest in Central Asia. Visit the breathtakingly beautiful Registan Square which was the heart of Samarkand, and the beautiful madrassahs of Ulug-Bek built in the 15th century, Tillya-Kori built in the 17th century and Gur Emir, the mausoleum of great conquerer Tamerlane. Later you will enjoy a wander through the Silk Road bazaar.

#### DAY 10: SHAKHRISABZ Travel two hours to Shakhrisabz, a small traditional city lying 80 kilometres south of Samarkand. Here, the birthplace of Tamerlane, you will explore Ak-Sarai Palace, Dorus Tilavat cemetry and Kok-Gumbas Mosque, before returning to Samarkand.

#### DAY 11: SAMARKAND TO TASHKENT Exploring today begins with a visit to

station, heading back to Tashkent.

DAY 12: FLY TO UK Fly to UK, arriving home the same day.



#### ULTIMATE UZBEKISTAN



Enjoy an in-depth exploration of the Central Asian nation of Uzbekistan, a heartland of ancient culture, timeless cities and associations with the myths and legends of the Silk Road. Explore among spectacular scenery, discovering architectural wonders and epic history.



Ulugbek's observatory followed by a visit to the ancient settlement of Afrosiab situated in the hills. You will have some leisure time in Samarkand before transferring to the train



- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £2,790pp (Tashkent Tashkent)
- Single room from £380
- Tipping paid locally £100





# GO BEYOND TOURS

### For those who want to venture off the beaten track

Featuring lesser-known destinations and unique experiences that are tantalisingly off the tourist trail, our flexible and often more active Go Beyond tours are all about helping you to see and experience places that may not have made it onto other travellers' radars. On these tours, you may find yourself away from the comforts of home, but you'll be rewarded with unique culture, interactions with local people and unforgettable sights.

#### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- International airfares
- 3 star plus 4 star accommodation
- Most meals
- All transportation in destination
- Entrance fees, guides and daily tours as stated
- Visa fees for UK passport holders

#### UNDISCOVERED DESTINATIONS

We're proud of the fact that we really know our destinations, allowing us to offer tours that feature excursions to hidden gems and secret corners. If you're looking for a holiday that visits places that you thought were too hard to reach, or maybe haven't even heard of, these are the tours for you!

#### SMALLER GROUPS

Exploring in smaller and more flexible groups, we often step off the beaten track and experience the authentic ways of life in the places you're exploring. We make that even easier for you by including cultural visits and local encounters that will put you right in the heart of the destination. In a smaller group you can interact more easily with local communities and discover fascinating cultures so different from our own.

#### EXPERT GUIDING

Your National Escort and local guides, all born and bred in your destination, are an endless source of information about the local history, heritage and culture. Of course, they are more than willing to share that wealth of knowledge about their homeland with you. Who better to help you get to grips with a magical sight, city or region than someone who knows it like the back of their hand?

# WILDLIFE **OF INDIA**



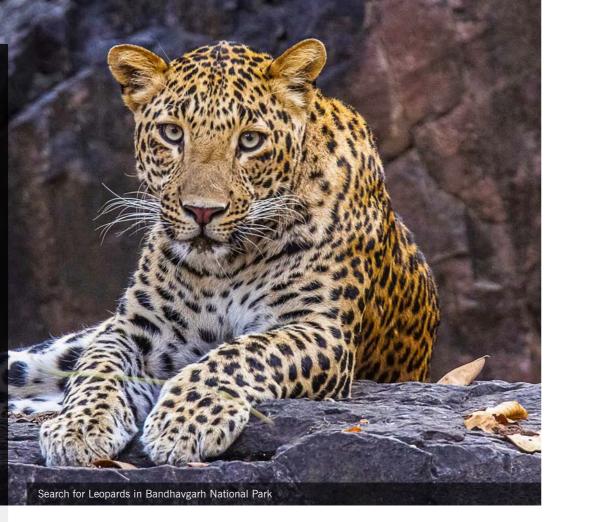
#### TOUR TICKLIST

- Ride in a rickshaw to the market
- Enjoy walking safaris with Naturalists
- ✓ Spot the majestic Bengal tiger
- Explore Panna National Park
- ✓ Visit the Temples of Khajuraho
- Marvel at the Taj Mahal
- PRICE INCLUDES
- 12 Breakfasts, 11 Lunches, 12 Dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 3 star plus 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- ► Enjoy the boat ride on Ken River where you meander across tranquil waters while listening to the chirping birds. Lush green foliage adorns the riverbanks, providing a sanctuary for the myriad of wildlife you are eagerly trying to spot.
- Embark on a jeep safari traversing the dense jungles of Bandhavgarh National Park, hoping to catch a glimpse of the park's majestic residents. The symphony of nature echoes all around, while the calls of birds and the rustling of leaves add to the thrill of this safari.
- ▶ Step into Agra's hidden gem—a marble inlay workshop, where skilled artisans create intricate designs, embedding gemstones into pristine marble reflecting India's rich heritage.



### ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO DELHI Fly overnight to Delhi, where upon arrival you

will be greeted by your National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Transfer to your hotel, and once settled you have the rest of the day at leisure

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE DELHI

Delhi's charm unfolds as you drive past the iconic Red Fort, explore the vibrant Khari Baoli Spice Market on a rickshaw, and visit historical landmarks like Jama Masjid and India Gate. Serenity awaits at Lakshmi Marayan Hindu Temple, while Gandhi Smriti pays homage to the nation's father. Witness the grandeur of Rashtrapati Bhavan and Parliament House, before delving into ancient history at Qutub Minar and the Iron Pillar.

#### DAY 4: DRIVE TO KANHA NATIONAL PARK

Begin today's journey into the heart of India's wilderness with a flight to Nagpur, a city bustling with energy and warmth. On arrival, continue to Kanha National Park, driving through picturesque landscapes as you prepare for a series of thrilling safaris and the chance to observe an array of wildlife in their natural habitat.

#### DAY 5: KANHA NATIONAL PARK

This morning, enjoy a walking safari in the serene Buffer Zone of the National Park, accompanied by an expert Lodge Naturalist. Walk amidst the untouched beauty of the forest as you learn about your surroundings. Later in the day, hop aboard a safari vehicle and venture deep into the wilderness, keeping your eyes peeled for the only surviving population of Barasingha (Swamp Deer) as you explore the landscape.

#### DAY 6: KANHA NATIONAL PARK

A day of adventure with both morning and afternoon safaris. The early morning safari allows for the best opportunity to spot various species of wildlife, while in the afternoon the animals become more active, allowing you to witness their natural behaviour. Be on the lookout for Indian wild dog or the Indian gaur (Bison) which are common to this park.

#### DAY 7: TRAVEL TO BANDHAVGARH

This morning you will travel to Bandhavgarh National Park. On arrival you will join the afternoon safari, allowing the expert guides to lead you through the park's diverse terrains, from dense forests to open grasslands. As the sun dips behind the horizon, the golden hour offers the chance to spot a variety of wildlife, including the elusive Bengal tigers, wild boars, Barking deer and a myriad of bird species.



Spot Indian Gaur in Kanha







Spot open billed stork on Ken Rive

#### DAY 8: BANDHAVGARH

Today you have a morning and afternoon safari. The park's diverse landscapes create an unforgettable wildlife experience, with each safari presenting the possibility of encountering new surprises, such as the Indian leopard or perhaps a sloth bear.

#### DAY 9: TRAVEL TO KHAJURAHO

Embark on an immersive morning walking safari in Bandhavgarh's Panpatha Wildlife Sanctuary, accompanied by knowledgeable guides. Explore the untamed beauty of its rich biodiversity, from the smallest insects to the larger mammals - an extraordinary glimpse into the delicate balance of nature. Afterwards drive to Khajuraho, where you will spend the night.

#### DAY 10: PANNA

Drive to Panna and get ready for a morning boat ride on the enchanting Ken River, which gracefully flows through the Panna Tiger Reserve. This serene boat ride offers a unique perspective of the reserve's diverse flora and fauna as you keep an eye out for crocodiles that frequent the riverbanks. An afternoon game drive allows you to try to spot chital, chinkara, nilgai or even sambar deer.

#### DAY 11: TRAVEL TO AGRA

This morning you will explore the Eastern and Western groups of temples, which stand as examples of ancient Indian craftsmanship and artistry. Marvel at the intricate carvings and sculptures that adorn these temples, each narrating stories of gods, goddesses, and daily life from centuries past. Afterwards, travel by train to Agra, with a stop enroute in Orccha.





#### WILDLIFE OF INDIA



PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

This itinerary presents a comprehensive exploration into India's rich wildlife. encompassing visits to three distinguished National Parks, renowned for their distinct wildlife species, namely Panna, Bandhavgarh and Kanha National Park.

Discover Agra's treasures in a day. Visit the Taj Mahal, the epitome of love, followed by Agra Fort's historical grandeur. Participate in the artistry of a marble inlay workshop, where you witness the meticulous craftsmanship of transforming raw materials into works of art, and the traditional techniques used.

#### DAY 13: RETURN TO DELHI

DAY 12: AGRA

Today you return to Delhi, where you have the afternoon to relax or explore the city at your leisure. This evening, enjoy a memorable farewell dinner, savouring delicious cuisine.

#### DAY 14: DEPART DELHI

Fly to the UK, arriving home the same day.



- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £3,390 (Delhi Delhi)
- Single room from £750
- Tipping paid locally US\$100



# HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS



### TOUR TICKLIST

- Discover Kolkata's culture
- Gaze at Mount Kanchenjunga
- Spot rhinos and elephants
- Soak up Bhutan's culture
- Hike through paddy fields
- Explore tea plantations

#### PRICE INCLUDES

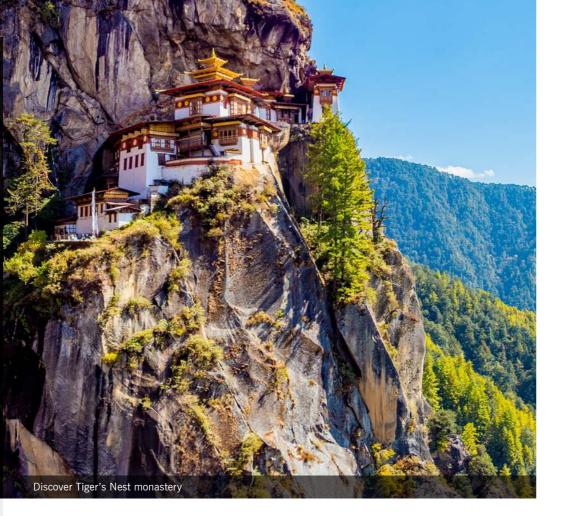
- 22 breakfasts, 21 lunches & 22 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 3 star 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### Admire Black-Necked Cranes in Phobjikha Valley

#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- ▶ Pay a visit to the fascinating Black-Necked Crane Information Centre in the spectacular Phobjikha Valley, where you can learn about these sacred birds and their environment
- ▶ Follow a well-trodden trail, festooned with colourful prayer flags and the occasional prayer wheel, to reach one of Bhutan's most magnificent sights, Tiger's Nest Monastery, perched 900 metres up the steep side of the spectacular Paro Valley.
- Explore Kolkata's traditional potters' quarter, Kumortuli, where you'll see the skilled artisans sculpting idols of gods and goddesses for festivals



### **ITINERARY**

DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO KOLKATA Fly overnight to Kolkata. Depending on your time of arrival the rest of the day is yours to start soaking up the local culture.

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE KOLKATA

Enjoy a relaxed morning before venturing out for an afternoon tour with visits to the magnificent Victoria Memorial and Kalighat Temple - you'll also see Fort William.

#### DAY 4: TRAIN TO NEW JALPAIGURI

Get up early to visit a fragrant flower market. Stop by Kumortuli, the potters' quarter, and see a Jain temple. Later board a train to New Jalpaiguri before driving to Siliguri to spend the night.

#### DAY 5: DRIVE TO DARJEELING

Head out of Siliguri through endless tea plantations to the famous hill station of Darjeeling, which is located at a cool 2.134 metres.

#### DAY 6: EXPLORE DARJEELING

Wake before dawn to catch the sun rising over Mount Kanchenjunga from Tiger Hill, which you'll reach by jeep. On the way back to Darjeeling visit Yiga Choling Monastery. Later, all aboard the famous 'Toy Train' which winds its way through the lush green hills and plantations before exploring the Himalaya Mountaineering Institute and a tea plantation.

#### DAY 7: INTO SIKKIM

Drive north to Pelling, crossing into the state of Sikkim. Visit Pemayangtse Monastery, one of Sikkim's oldest, where you can find tranquillity along with amazing views.

#### DAY 8: KHECHEOPALRI LAKE

Visit the spectacular Khecheopalri Lake. considered sacred by both Buddhists and Hindus, and the magnificent Kanchenjunga Falls.

#### DAYS 9-10: DISCOVER GANGTOK

Drive through more spectacular scenery to Sikkim's vibrant capital Gangtok, stopping at 18th-century Tashiding Monastery en route. There is nowhere better than Gangtok to enjoy exotic flowers and mountain panoramas. The next day visit the Enchey Monastery and the Sikkim Research Institute of Technology.

#### DAY 11: RUMTEK MONASTERY

Begin the day at Dharma Chakra Centre and old Rumtek Monastery, before continuing to the bustling bazaar town of Kalimpong.

#### DAY 12: KALIMPONG AT LEISURE

Take a day to catch your breath and enjoy some leisurely explorations of Kalimpong there are plenty of spots to enjoy Himalayan panoramas and also flower nurseries full of local orchids.

#### DAY 13: WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Take a jeep safari into the depths of Gorumara Wildlife Sanctuary, where you might be lucky enough to spot one-horned rhinos, elephants, leopards and bison.

#### DAY 14: INTO BHUTAN

Cross into Bhutan and continue to Phuentsholing. Later visit the Zangtho Pelri Lhakhang Temple in the centre of the town.







Visit Buddhist monasteries in Thimphu

#### DAYS 15-16: DISCOVER THIMPHU

Follow the national highway to Bhutan's capital Thimphu, stopping en route at Kharbandi Gompa, a Tibetan Buddhist monastery. The next day, explore the city with time at the National Library, National Institute of Traditional Medicine, the Handicrafts Emporium and Folk Heritage Museum, Textile Museum and Trashi Chhoe Dzong.

#### DAY 17: TRAVEL TO GANGTEY

Drive through the dramatic Dochu La mountain pass admiring the views as you travel to the Phobjikha Valley. Visit Gangtey Gompa, the only Nyingmapa monastery in the region and explore Gangtey village and the surrounding valley.

#### DAY 18: WALKING IN GANGTEY

This morning, enjoy a walking tour of Gangtey to take in exceptional views of the surrounding landscapes. The rest of the day is yours to spend as you wish.

#### DAY 19: RURAL BHUTAN

Leave Gangtey for Punakha visiting the Black Necked Crane Information Centre en route. On arrival visit Punakha Dzong before hiking through the paddy fields and local villages to Chimi Lhakhang, a temple of fertility.

#### DAY 20: DISCOVER PUNAKHA

This morning, visit the magnificent temple complex at Sangchhen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang. Later appreciate the incredible views from Khamsum Yuelley Namgyal Chorten which is said to have been built to promote peace, stability and harmony in the changing world.

DAY 21: TRAVEL TO PARO Drive to Paro, stopping en route at the Simtokha Dzong, the oldest fortress in the kingdom. Discover Paro's picturesque surroundings and explore Ta Dzong and Rinpung Dzong.

#### DAY 22: TIGER'S NEST MONASTERY

Taktsang (Tiger's Nest) is Bhutan's most famous monastery, perched on the side of a cliff 900 metres above the Paro Valley. It can only be reached by a moderately challenging hike along a woodland trail - the views along the way are the perfect distraction! Returning to Paro, visit Kyichu Lhakhang.

DAY 23: FLY TO KOLKATA Rise early to fly back to Kolkata, where you'll have the afternoon at leisure.

#### DAY 24: FLY KOLKATA TO UK Fly to the UK, arriving home the same or following day.



#### HIMALAYAN KINGDOMS



PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

This adventurous overland journey takes you through Darjeeling into Bhutan where you'll hike to Tiger's Nest monastery. Accommodation and facilities can be basic in remote areas but it's worth it for the incredible experience.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Friday returning Sunday **2024 DATES** 05 Apr - 28 Apr **£8,390** 08 Nov - 01 Dec **£8,390** 2025 DATES 04 Apr - 27 Apr **£8,590** 07 Nov - 30 Nov **£8,590** Flight and supplement information Based on London Heathrow departures

- Regional UK departures available
- · Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £7,590 (Kolkata Kolkata)
- Single room from £1.550
- Tipping paid locally US\$160

#### EXTEND YOUR STAY



#### VARANASI EXTENSION 4 days from £460pp

SHIMLA EXTENSION 4 days from £670pp

NEPAL EXTENSION 6 days from £640pp

Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.

# GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN



TOUR TICKLIST

- ✓ Sample Georgian cuisine
- Discover ancient caravanserais
- Learn about the 1st Christian nation
- ✓ Marvel at Mount Kazbegi
- ✓ Taste popular local wines
- Explore an abandoned cave town

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 21 breakfasts, 20 lunches, 21 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Experience the art of yoghurt-making in Gabala. Discover the secrets behind this ancient culinary technique and savour the delicious results - this is a hands-on opportunity to immerse yourself in Gabala's culinary heritage
- Explore the Khareba Winery as you venture into a mountain-carved tunnel to discover the atmospheric environment where the wines mature. Learn about the winemaking process while tasting a diverse range of Georgian wines.
- > Participate in a delightful Kubdari masterclass within a local home, learning to prepare the savoury filling, fold the dough, and create these delectable meat-filled pastries. Enjoy the culinary traditions of the region and the warm hospitality of a local family.



### **ITINERARY**

#### DAYS 1-2 FLY OVERNIGHT TO **AZERBAIJAN**

On arrival at Baku airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. Enjoy the rest of the day relaxing or exploring before your dinner in Baku Old Town

#### DAY 3: BAKU CITY TOUR

Today you will enjoy a walking tour through the historic Old City, known as 'Icheri Sheher'. Landmarks such as the maiestic Shirvanshahs' Palace, the emblematic Maiden Tower, and various caravanserais and mosques come to life, brimming with history. Lunch at a local restaurant is followed by some leisure time before dinner.

#### DAY 4: VISIT GOBUSTAN & YANARDAG

Travel to the Absheron region, famous for its preserved rock paintings "petroglyphs", before visiting Azerbaijan's distinctive mud volcanoes - an example of its unique landscapes. Next, Yanardag, the 'burning mountain', comes into view as your journey continues to Ateshgah, the Fire Worshippers Temple.

#### DAY 5: TRAVEL TO GABALA

Depart today for Gabala, visiting the Juma Mosque in Shamakhi en route. Here vou will learn all about yoghurt making. Enjoy lunch before a visit to Meysari winery for a wine degustation. Continue on to Gabala.

#### DAY 6: EXPLORE NIDJ VILLAGE & SHEKI

After breakfast, you will be exploring Nidj village, home to the world's largest Udi population. Move on to Sheki, a renowned point along the Great Silk Road. Discover its treasures, starting with the Summer Palace of the Sheki Khans, before visiting a local family.

#### DAY 7: GOODBYE AZERBAIJAN, **HELLO GEORGIA**

Upon crossing from Azerbaijan to Georgia, you'll enter Lagodekhi, stopping at a local market. Lunch will be at a family house in Gavazi, enroute to Telavi. Following that, the Khareba Winery beckons-indulge in a diverse array of Georgian wines while gaining knowledge about winemaking techniques and the storied history of Georgian viticulture.

#### DAY 8: VISIT SIGHNAGHI

Discover the enchanting town of Sighnaghi with its winding streets and impressive architecture. A visit to a local family winery unveils the secrets of traditional Qvevri wine, followed by lunch. Exploring the town, including historical landmarks like the Sighnaghi Wall and the Bodbe Monastery. Arrive in Tbilisi for dinner.

#### DAY 9: CONTINUE TO ARMENIA

Set out for Sadakhlo to cross the Georgia-Armenia border, where your first stop is the remarkable 10th-century Haghpat Monastery. Proceed to Vanadzor, known as the Green City, and engage in a captivating khachgar carving masterclass. The journey then leads to a visit at Sevanavank Monastery, before ending the day in Dilijan.

#### DAY 10: SELIM CARAVANSERAI

Today's journey begins with a visit to Noratus, home to an astounding collection of ancient Armenian khachkars. Passing through Selim Caravanserai, a relic of the Silk Road, you reach Noravank Monastery, nestled amidst dramatic rock formations that shift in colour with the sun. End the day in Goris.

#### DAY 11: TATEV MONASTERY

After breakfast, you head to Khndzoresk







village, where a famous swinging bridge spans 160 meters long and 36 meters high, connecting the village's banks. Continue to Halidzor for the record-breaking 'Wings of Tatev' aerial cableway, leading to the 9th-century Tatev Monastery perched on Vorotan River's gorge. After lunch, continue to Yerevan.

#### DAY 12: YEREVAN CITY TOUR

Today is all about Yerevan as you explore the historic Republic Square and its concealed millennia of history beneath the stone carpet. Ascend the Cascade Monument for breathtaking views and then travel to Eimiatsin where you will experience a 'tolma' masterclass before the day ends with a visit to Zvartnots Cathedral.

#### DAY 13: GEGHARD MONASTERY

After breakfast, explore the Matenadaran, home to Armenia's impressive collection of ancient manuscripts. Visit Geghard Monastery, Garni Pagan Temple and after a lavash-baking class, return to Yerevan, visiting Symphony of Stones enroute.

#### DAY 14: TRAVEL TO GYUMRI

Head to Saghmosavank Monastery, set atop a stunning gorge and proceed to Gyumri, Armenia's second-largest city with a 3000-year history and cultural prominence. Following lunch, enjoy a city tour, exploring Gyumri's Old Town.

#### DAY 15: BACK INTO GEORGIA

After breakfast, cross the Armenia-Georgia border at Bavra, heading to explore Vardzia. The next stop is Rabati Castle, a 13th-century fortress transformed through various rulers' influences. Today, it stands restored as a cultural centre with museums and galleries showcasing the region's history.

DAY 17: MESTIA After breakfast, head to Mestia, pausing at Enguri Dam. Mestia's preserved landscape features medieval villages with iconic tower houses built by the Svan people, and this entire region is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

#### DAY 18: USHGULI

Today you visit Ushguli, a collection of five villages. Its medieval charm is preserved due to its inaccessibility, and is surrounded by the majestic Caucasus peaks. Here you explore the Svaneti Museum before preparing lunch at a Kubdari masterclass in a local family's home.

#### DAY 19: SISA TURA & ZUGDIDI

Journey back to Kutaisi, stopping along the way at Sisa Tura Ethno Village to prepare local dishes elarji, gebjalia and khachapuri. Continue to Zugdidi and explore the Dadiani Palace Museum, home to impressive art and historical treasures, including Napoleon Bonaparte's death mask.

## DAY 20: KUTAISI TO GORI

After breakfast, continue to Gori, visiting the Joseph Stalin Museum and exploring the ancient cave city of Uplistsikhe. En route to Gudauri, enjoy breathtaking panoramic views across the region's landscapes.

#### GEORGIA, ARMENIA & AZERBAIJAN

#### DAY 16: KUTAISI CITY TOUR

Today you will travel to Borjomi and on to Kutaisi for a city tour that includes the White Bridge, Colchis Fountain, Bagrati Cathedral and Gelati Monastery, where the architecture reflects Georgia's Golden Age.



PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

An adventure through the Caucasus, this tour highlights a real contrast of cultures. See beautiful mountain scenery, enjoy delicious food and wine, and marvel at ancient fortresses, cathedrals, mosques and temples.

#### PRICES & DEPARTURES Departure week days may vary

2024 DATES			
11 May - 02 Jun	£5,390	01 Sep - 23 Sep	£5,390
08 Jun - 30 Jun	£5,390	22 Sep - 14 Oct	£5,390
24 Aug - 15 Sep	£5,390	06 Oct - 28 Oct	£5,390
2025 DATES			
17 May - 08 Jun	£5,590	13 Sep - 05 Oct	£5,590
07 Jun - 29 Jun	£5,590	20 Sep - 12 Oct	£5,590
30 Aug - 21 Sep	£5,590	27 Sep - 19 Oct	£5,590
06 Sep - 28 Sep	£5,590		
Flight and supplement information			

#### Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £4,790 (Baku Tbilisi)
- Single room from £1,050
- Tipping paid locally £150

Call for our 2026 pricing and departures

#### DAY 21: KAZBEGI

Journey to Kazbegi where the highlight of your visit is the Gergeti Trinity Church, a magnificent 14th-century Orthodox church situated atop a hill, overlooking the craggy peaks of the Caucasus Mountains. Enjoy lunch at a local guesthouse and experience a khinkali master class before returning to Gudauri.

#### DAY 22: MTSKHETA AND TBILISI

Start the day visiting Mtskheta's Svetitskhoveli Cathedral before continuing on to explore Tbilisi's Old Town. A lift takes you to the Narikala fortress, and afterwards visit Anchiskhati and Sioni churches. Meidan Square, and Metekhi Cliff. The day ends with a lively folk show, offering a sample of local culture.

#### DAY 23: DEPART TBILISI

Today your journey comes to an end as you are transferred to the airport for your onward flight.

# **ROAD TO** SAMARKAND

DAYS FROM

£6,090

# FLIGHT INCLUSIVE MOST MEALS

22

#### TOUR TICKLIST

- Uncover the beauty of Samarkand
- Learn about silk production
- Discover holy Bukhara
- Meet nomads in Kyrgyzstan
- Lose yourself in vibrant bazaars
- Watch traditional eagle hunting

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 20 breakfasts, 19 lunches, 20 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 3-4 star accommodation, plus guesthouse
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- > One of Central Asia's most iconic experiences, witness the skill and majesty of golden eagle hunting – an age-old Kyrgyz practice - in the spectacular setting of Kyrgyzstan's highlands.
- ▶ Take to the tranquil, vivid-blue waters of Issyk Kul, the world's second largest alpine lake, enjoying a relaxing cruise as you admire the spectacular views of the rugged Ala-Too Mountains.
- ▶ In Kochkor, visit a wonderful local cooperative where women are trained in traditional Kyrgyz handicrafts and given space to show and sell their work, allowing them to earn a wage and keep old traditions alive.



### ITINERARY

#### DAYS 1-2: FLY TO BISHKEK

Fly overnight to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital and cultural hub. Once you have checked in, the rest of the day is for you to relax before dinner.

#### DAY 3: ALA ARCHA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast embark on a city tour to see the White House and Oak Park. Continue to Ala Archa National Park for a leisurely hike through its picturesque scenery of rugged peaks and dramatic gorges. Rest of day at leisure in Bishkek.

#### DAY 4: LAKE ISSYK KUL

Visit the magnificent 12th-century Burana Tower before departing for Cholpon-Ata. Set on the shores of Lake Issyk Kul, visit the astonishing collection of 8th-century petroglyphs etched into glacial stone nearby. Later, take a cruise on the beautiful lake itself, admiring its spectacular alpine-esque surroundings.

#### DAY 5: DRIVE TO KARAKOL

Drive to Karakol, stopping at Semenov Gorge for a gentle hike, and Kyrchyn Jailoo ethnic village en route. This afternoon visit the Przhevalsky Museum, dedicated to the Russian explorer, and visit the striking Holy Trinity Orthodox Church and the Chinese Mosaue

#### DAY 6: JETI-ORGUZ GORGE

Rise early to immerse yourself in the hustle and bustle of Karakol's Sunday morning animal market. In the afternoon, travel to the Jeti-Oguz Gorge for a walk through the canyon of red sandstone. Visit an Irdyk village and enjoy a home-cooked dinner with a local Dugan family

#### DAY 7: EAGLE HUNTING

Depart Karakol early and travel to Skazka Canyon, also known as Fairy Tale Canyon, due to its unusual shapes and colors. Travel further to the village of Bokonbayevo to watch an eagle hunting demonstration, a millenniaold Kyrgyz tradition practised with majestic golden eagles. Continue to Naryn, where you will stay the night.

#### DAY 8: JOURNEY TO TASH RABAT

Pass through dramatic mountain and valley landscapes to reach Tash Rabat. a small stone caravanserai that was of great significance at the height of the Silk Road. Enjoy the peaceful valley said to contain some of the finest landscapes in Kyrgyzstan before returning to Naryn.

#### DAY 9: KOCHKOR

Transfer to Kochkor, the centre of Kyrgyz felt handicrafts. Visit a traditional 'shyrdak' (wool carpet) workshop and a co-op that provides training for local women in traditional handicrafts. In the evening you will travel to a guesthouse near Chong-Kemin National Park.

#### DAY 10: CHONG KEMIN NATIONAL PARK

Travel from Kochkor to Chong Kemin, a quiet valley with small villages surrounded by magnificent mountains. Enjoy a walk in the foothills before travelling to Bishkek airport for your flight to Tashkent.

#### DAY 11: TASHKENT

Explore Tashkent's sights, including the Barak Khana Seminary, Kukeldash Madrassahs, Tila Shaikh Mosque and their archives. Browse the wares of Chorsu bazaar before experiencing a ceramic workshop







#### DAY 12: GOLDEN CITY OF SAMARKAND

Travel to the legendary city of Samarkand where you will enjoy a tour of Registan Square, the Ulug-Bek and Tillya-Kori madrasah. Enjoy the rest of the day exploring at your leisure.

#### DAY 13: SAMARKAND

Explore Gur Emir, the magnificent mausoleum of conqueror Tamerlane, the chief Friday Mosque Bibi-Khanum and the Siab Bazaar and Shahi Zinda Necropolis. Later in the afternoon see Mausoleum of the Prophet Daniel.

#### DAY 14: KONIGIL VILLAGE

Visit Ulugbek's observatory, constructed by Ulugbek (grandson of the great Tamerlane) in 1428-1429. Later see the ancient settlement of Afrosiab. Continue to Konigil Village to visit a papermaking workshop. In the afternoon return to Samarkand and remainder of the day at leisure.

#### DAY 15: SHAKHRISABZ

Travel to Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of the Tamerlane. Explore the city, visiting sites such as the remnants of Ak-Sarai Palace, Dorus Tilavat cemetery and Kok-Gumbas Mosque. Return to Samarkand this afternoon.

#### DAY 16: BUKHARA

Journey to Bukhara. En route, visit Gijduvan, a centre of famous handmade ceramics. Here you will see the fascinating process of making these ceramics. Arrive in the holy city of Bukhara, a treasure trove of history and magnificent architecture. Take this afternoon to begin your explorations and soak up the atmosphere.

# DAY 17: BUKHARA

Explore the legendary Poi Kalon minaret, the Ark Fortress, and Bolo Hauz Mosque. Wander on to the peaceful 16th-century Chor Minor and Chor Bakr necropolis to tour the colourful Khonako-Medrassah-Mosque complex. Later. visit the mausoleum of Ismail Samanid.

#### DAY 18: BUKHARA

This morning visit Sitora-i Mohi Khosa, the Emir's summer palace, a 20th-century confection of a building. Continue to the Bahauddin Nagshbandi Mausolem of a famous Sufi spiritual leader of the region. The afternoon is at leisure. Return to Bukhara and spend the rest of the day at leisure.

#### DAY 19: KHIVA

This morning you will set out for Khiva, a journey that will take you across Kyzyl Kum Desert and a stop at Amudarya River. The route runs 480 kilometres through the stark beauty of the desert, the scenery changing from sparse saksaul trees to the lush riverbanks of the Amudarya.

#### DAY 20: WALLED CITY OF ITCHAN KALA

Explore ancient Khiva, discovering the sights of the UNESCO World Heritage inner-walled city of Itchan Kala including the mighty Kunya Ark and the turguoise tiled Islom-Khodja. Wander through the fascinating Madrassah Rakhimkhon, a beacon of religious, astronomic, geographic and mathematical studies, and see the 19th-century Tash Hauli Palace, decorated in blue fine china tiles.

#### DAY 21: FLY TO TASHKENT

Transfer to Urgench to fly to Tashkent. Upon arrival visit the Museum of Applied Arts

ROAD TO SAMARKAND



PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Follow the famous Silk Road through Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan! This tour will take you off-the-beaten-track to mingle with nomads in traditional yurt camps, to stroll through vibrant bazaars and discover timeless, ornately-decorated cities.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Departing Tuesday returning Tuesday				
2024 DATES				
16 Apr - 07 May	£6,090	10 Sep - 01 Oct	£6,090	
07 May - 28 May	£6,090	24 Sep - 15 Oct	£6,090	
28 May - 18 Jun	£6,090	01 Oct - 22 Oct	£6,090	
2025 DATES				
13 May - 03 Jun	£6,290	16 Sep - 07 Oct	£6,290	
27 May - 17 Jun	£6,290	23 Sep - 14 Oct	£6,290	
02 Sep - 23 Sep	£6,290	30 Sep - 21 Oct	£6,290	
09 Sep - 30 Sep	£6,290			
Flight and supplement information				

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £5,290pp (Bishkek -Tashkent)
- Single room from £910
- Tipping paid locally US\$150

#### Call for our 2026 pricing and departures

as well as the Mustakilik Square and the famous Tashkent Metro. With it's marble and granite decorations the Metro feels like an underground palace.

#### DAY 22: FLY TASHKENT TO UK

Fly to UK, arriving home the same day.

# JOURNEY THROUGH CENTRAL ASIA



#### TOUR TICKLIST

- ✓ Uncover historic Silk Road
- Experience Karakol's market
- Browse colourful bazaars
- ✓ Visit fascinating Kazakhstan
- Explore exotic Khiva
- Discover ancient Samarkand

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 25 breakfasts, 24 lunches, 25 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 3-4 star accommodation, plus yurts
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



Learn about the Akhal Teke horses

#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Visit a stud farm to learn about the famous Akhal Tekes, a native horse breed with a distinctive metallic sheen. These majestic animals have played an essential role in Turkmenistan's history and are the emblem of the country.
- Stroll through Bukhara's Lyab-i Hauz district at twilight, admiring the spectacular architecture that surrounds one of the city's last remaining ponds (hauz), before sitting down to a delicious local dinner.
- Get a true taste of the life of the Kyrgyz nomads at a shepherd's camp, where you'll spend the night sleeping in a traditional yurt.



### ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2: FLY TO KYRGYZSTAN Fly overnight to the city of Bishkek, capital of Kyrgyzstan. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore your surroundings.

#### DAY 3: ALA ARCHA NATIONAL PARK

This morning you visit Manas Monument, Old Square and Parliament House before driving to Ala Archa National Park where you take a leisurely hike through this alpine area offering spectacular glaciers, waterfalls and high summits.

#### DAY 4: CHONG KEMIN NATIONAL PARK

Travel to Chong Kemin National Park, where you will have the chance to walk through the foothills as well as experience local village life.

#### DAY 5: EAGLE HUNTING

Journey to Kochkor, a local centre of felt handicrafts, before stopping at the village of Bokonbayevo to watch an eagle hunting demonstration, a millennia-old Kyrgyz tradition. Spend the night with local shepherds in their camp, sleeping in a traditional yurt, for a true taste of the life of the Kyrgyz nomads.

#### DAY 6: BARSKOON GORGE

Today travel to Karakol, on the way stopping at Barskoon Gorge to see the 'Tears of the Leopard' waterfall. Stop at Skazka Canyon, also known as Fairy Tale Canyon, before continuing on to Karakol.

#### DAY 7: KARAKOL

Visit the Przhevalsky Museum and see the striking Holy Trinity Orthodox Church. In the afternoon, travel to the Valley of the

Flowers and Jety-Orguz where you can enjoy a light hike through the magnificent canyon of red sandstone.

#### DAY 8: SUNDAY MARKET

Rise early for Karakol's bustling sunday market. In the afternoon, drive through breathtaking scenery to visit magnificent Charyn Canyon and its Valley of the Castles, before crossing the border into Kazahkstan, finishing the day in the country's largest city, Almaty.

#### DAY 9: ALMATY

Eniov an orientation walk that takes in Republic Square, Abai Opera Theatre, Central Mosque, Green Market and Zenkov Cathedral. Spend the afternoon among the panoramas of Big Almaty Lake.

#### DAY 10: FLY TO DUSHANBE

Today is at leisure until your late afternoon flight to Dushanbe, Tajikistan's capital.

#### DAY 11: DUSHANBE

Take a full day tour of the capital, walking through the botanical gardens, the Ismoili Somoni monument and Kohi Navruz. a cultural palace and showcase of traditional Taiik architecture. After lunch visit the historical Fortress of Hissor.

#### DAY 12: LAKE ISKANDERKUL

Today you will travel to mountain lake of Iskanderkul, before continuing on to Khujand.

#### DAY 13: KHUJAND

Stroll through the vibrant Panchshanbe Bazaar, admire the 10th-century citadel and relax at Pushkin Square. Cross the border into Uzbekistan, arriving in the city of Tashkent.







Admire Bukhara's architecture

#### DAY 14: TASHKENT

Take a step back in time in the old town and explore the Tila Shaikh Mosque, home to rare copies of the Koran. Stop at Chorsu Bazaar and admire the opulently decorated Tashkent Metro. Visit the ceramic workshop of Akbar and Alisher Rakhimov, and explore the history of ceramics.

#### DAY 15: ARRIVE IN SAMARKAND

Arrive in legendary Samarkand. Wander into the heart of the city for a first glimpse of some of the magnificent sights in the spectacular Registan Square.

#### DAY 16: SAMARKAND

This morning, see Gur Emir, the mausoleum of conqueror Tamerlane. Then, wander through a bustling local market and pause to visit Shah-I-Zinda and Bibi-Khanum Friday Mosque. Visit the Ulugh Beg, an observatory founded in the 15th century and considered one of finest in the Islamic world.

#### DAY 17: SHAKHRISABZ

Visit Shakhrisabz, the birthplace of Tamerlane, and visit the Ak-Sarai Palace, the Dorus Tilayat Cemetery and Kok-Gumbas Mosque. Journey on to the holy city of Bukhara.

#### DAY 18: BUKHARA

Spend the day exploring one of the most famous and spectacular Silk Road cities, with visits to Madrassah Nadirkhon Devanbegi, Poi Kalon Minaret and Mosque and the Ark of Bukhara.

#### DAY 19: BUKHARA

Head out of Bukhara to Sitora-i-Mokhikhosa, the summer residence of the former Emir of Bukhara. Visit Bahauddin Naqshband

Mausoleum, a famous Sufi spiritual leader of this region in the 14th-century. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure.

## DAY 20: JOURNEY TO KHIVA

Journey across the Kyzyl Kum Desert to Khiva, a magical Silk Road city still hidden behind its 10th-century walls. En route you'll make a stop on the picturesque banks of the Amudarva River.

#### DAY 21: WALLED CITY OF KHIVA

Explore ancient Khiva, discovering the sights of the UNESCO World Heritage inner-walled city of Itchan Kala including the mighty Kuhna Ark and the turguoise-tiled Islom-Khodja.

#### DAY 22: EXPLORE KONYE-URGENCH

Cross into Turkmenistan and drive to Konye-Urgench, capital of the Khorezm Empire in the 12th-13th centuries. Explore its magnificent mausoleums, the Kutlug Timur minaret and the fabled Mamun's Academy of Sciences. Fly to Ashgabat this evening, the nation's capital.

#### DAY 23: EXPLORE ASHGABAT

This morning is free to relax before a visit to a local stud farm to learn about beautiful Akhal Tekes horses. Visit the Kipchak complex, the largest mosque in Turkmenistan, then learn about the country's unique history at the National Museum of History and Ethnography.

#### DAY 24: ANCIENT CITY OF MERV

Rise early and fly to the city of Mary to tour the UNESCO-listed oasis-city of Merv, a major archaeological site of Central Asia.



PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Retrace legendary journeys on this unforgettable Central Asian adventure through the 'Five Stans' visiting Silk Road gems, charming villages and remote landscapes while soaking up the mystical old-world atmosphere.

### PRICES & DEPARTURES

Departing Sunday returning Friday			
2024 DATES			
12 May - 07 Jun	£7,990	15 Sep - 11 Oct	£7,990
01 Sep - 27 Sep	£7,990	29 Sep - 25 Oct	£7,990
2025 DATES			
18 May - 13 Jun	£8,290	14 Sep - 10 Oct	£8,290
07 Sep - 03 Oct	£8,290	21 Sep - 17 Oct	£8,290
Flight and supplement information			
Based on London Heathrow departures			

- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £7,190pp (Bishkek -Ashgabat)
- Single room from £1,290
- Tipping paid locally US\$150

#### DAY 25: DARVAZA GAS CRATER

Fly back to Ashgabat to explore both ancient and modern sides of the city visiting Independence Square and the Turkmenistan Independence Monument to see the Ertoghrul Ghazi Mosque. Drive to the Darvaza Gas Crater to walk around the crater as dusk approaches. Enjoy a nomad-inspired dinner under the stars, with a spectacular view of the crater and its glowing flames. Return to Ashgabat.

#### DAY 26: ASHGABAT

Learn about the Turkmenistan's important cotton and gas industries before a visit to the UNESCO-listed Old Nisa Fortress, a stronghold of the ancient Parthian Empire. After lunch continue to the colourful Russian Bazaar and the National Carpet Museum.

#### DAY 27: FLY TO UK

Fly to UK, arriving home the same day.



Visit the legendary Silk Road city of Merv

# MONGOLIA & NAADAM FESTIVAL



#### TOUR TICKLIST

- ✓ Explore the Gobi Desert
- Discover Bayanzag's flaming cliffs
- ✓ Venture to the Singing Sand Dunes
- ✓ Visit Turtle Rock
- ✓ Wander through Ulaanbaatar
- ✓ Admire the steppe grasslands

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- 18 breakfasts. 17 lunches & 18 dinners
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 3 star plus 4 star accommodation & ger camps
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Immerse yourself in fascinating culture as you enjoy a Mongolian folklore show, featuring old music traditions such as throat-singing and horsehead fiddles, dancing and performing arts.
- > The Naadam Festival represents the heritage of Mongolia with competitors participating in archery, wrestling and horseback riding. Enjoy the opening cultural performance, and cheer for the participants alongside the locals.
- Amongst the dramatic landscapes of Mongolia's steppe, receive a warm welcome from a local family as they show you around their ger camp home and introduce you to their nomadic life as livestock herders.



### ITINERARY

DAYS 1-2: FLY TO ULAANBAATAR Fly overnight to Mongolia's capital Ulaanbaatar. On arrival you will be met and transferred to your hotel. You have the rest of the day at leisure.

#### DAY 3: ULAANBAATAR CITY

Start your explorations with a visit to Gandan Monastery, the largest and most important monastery in Mongolia. Later, explore the Museum of Mongolian History for insight into the culture of Mongolia. You will then visit the Museum of Fine Arts.

#### DAY 4: GENGHIS KHAN STATUE COMPLEX

This morning, travel to Terelj National Park stopping en route to visit the Genghis Khan Equestrian Statue Complex. Spend the afternoon exploring the area, enjoying the alpine scenery and seeing Turtle Rock.

#### DAY 5: GOBI DESERT

This morning, fly to Dalanzadgad where you will visit the local market and dinosaurthemed garden before transferring by 4WD to the ger camp near Gurvansaikhan (Three Beauty) National Park. You will then spend the day exploring Vulture Valley and the famed Eagle's Gorge, before driving back to the camp for a visit to a Mongolian family to learn about their lifestyle.

#### DAY 6: KHONGORYN ELS

After an early start you will be travelling by 4WD to Khongoryn Els to explore the remarkable desert landscapes and beautiful sand dunes.

DAY 7: BAYANZAG - FLAMING CLIFFS This morning is at leisure for you to explore. After lunch, continue to Bayanzag - more

commonly known as the 'Flaming Cliffs'. This afternoon there will be a visit to the so-called dinosaur graveyard, an area in the desert littered with prehistoric bones and fossils.

#### DAY 8: ONGIIN KHIID

Today, journey to the banks of the Ongii River, travelling across vast plains. On arrival, visit the ruins of two famed monasteries, the Barlim Khiid to the north and the Khutagt Khiid to the south. Combined they form the complex known as Ongiin Khiid Monastery.

#### DAY 9: MOUNT KHOGNO KHAN

Depart for Mount Khogno Khan to explore the remains of the 17th-century monastery, the Uvgun Khiids, located at the foot of the mountain. The monastery offers views of the spectacular scenery so enjoy some time to explore the monastery and its surroundings.

#### DAY 10: KHARKHORIN

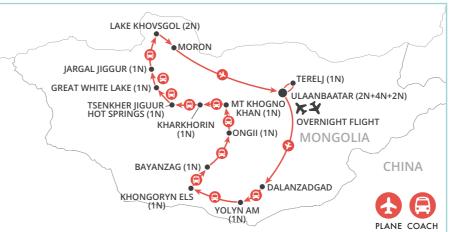
Drive to Kharkhorin, a town on the Orkhon River. Explore the Orkhon Valley, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which includes the ruins of Genghis Khan's capital Karakorum and the Erdene Zuu Monastery.

#### DAY 11: TSENKHER

Enjoy the morning at leisure before continuing to Tsenkher Jiguur. On arrival you'll have more free time to relax in the hot springs and soak up the spectacular surroundings.

#### DAY 12: KHORGO TERKH

Today, you'll travel to the serene Great White Lake (Terkhiin Tsagaan Nuur) to a ger camp that sits on its shores, overlooked by Khorgo Volcano. Take a walk up to the volcano's crater for wonderful views or wander the lake shores to spot birds and







wildlife. There is also a visit to Zayaiin Huree Monastery in Tsetserleg Town.

#### DAY 13: JARGAL JIGUUR

Enjoy a walk around the shores of the lake and soak up the breathtaking scenery before heading on to Jargal Jiguur, also known as the 'home of the yaks', due to the many local families who herd these docile, hairy creatures.

#### DAYS 14-15: LAKE KHOVSGOL

Today is a long drive through Môron to Lake Khovsgol watching plains and glacial peaks pass by. Your ger camp is situated on the eastern shore of the lake. In the afternoon, take a walk to the forest and visit a reindeer breeding family, where you will get introduced to their way of life. You have the next day at leisure to explore freely.

#### DAY 16: ULAANBAATAR CITY

This morning, you will transfer to the airport for your flight to Ulaanbaatar. Upon arrival you will transfer to your hotel and have the rest of the day at leisure.

#### DAY 17: NAADAM EVE

This morning, visit the Mongol Nomadic Show and Khustai National Park to learn about the nomads and their way of life. After lunch. return to Ulaanbaatar city for the Naadam Eve, visiting Central Square where you can view the Naadam Mongol costumes on display.

#### DAY 18: NAADAM FESTIVAL

Today starts the highlight of your journey as you interact with locals and nomads, witnessing the Opening Ceremony of the Naadam Festival. The featured events you will see are wrestling, horseracing and archery.

View the procession of the athletes, officials and monks as the first round of competitions in the wrestling tournament begin.

#### DAY 19: HORSE RACE

Travel outside the city to enjoy the second day of the Naadam Festival. An exciting day unfolds as you view the cross-country horseracing, also known as 'tumnii ekh' (leader of ten thousand). Cheer along with the locals as the athletes compete in a carnival-like atmosphere.

#### DAY 20: ULAANBAATAR CITY

You have the day in Ulaanbaatar to explore as you wish. This evening you will enjoy a traditional Mongolian performance followed by dinner.

#### DAY 21: DEPART ULAANBAATAR Fly to UK, arriving home the same day.

NOT LOOKING TO JOIN A GROUP? Call us to arrange this itinerary as a private tour.



#### MONGOLIA & NAADAM FESTIVAL



of Genghis Khan, traversing vast, rolling plains and seeing sights of immeasurable beauty. Including three exciting days at the Naadam Festival, expect many long, but scenic drives.

#### PRICES & DEPARTURES Departure days of the week vary 2024 DATES 24 Jun - 13 Jul £6,990 2025 DATES

#### 24 Jun - 13 Jul £7,590

#### Flight and supplement information

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £6,090pp (Ulaanbaatar -Ulaanbaatar)
- Single room from £760
- Tipping paid locally US\$120



# PRIVATE TOURS

### Independent travel made easy

Our Private tours are ideal for those who enjoy a degree of independence and flexibility. Our collection of Private tours has been designed to offer a personal touch with the added comfort of stylish hotels and opportunities to explore the local cuisine.

## IS PRIVATE TOURING FOR ME?

Private tours are the perfect choice for those who prefer to travel independently, with groups of friends, for travellers with specific requirements. Our expertly crafted itineraries are tailored for parties as small as two.

#### TRAVEL WHEN YOU WANT

Our Private tours are designed so that you can travel when it suits you best. We've included some example departures to help you choose your dates, but you can travel on any day you wish!

### BENEFITS OF A PRIVATE TOUR

Besides flexibility with your preferred date of travel, our Private tours are crafted especially to suit smaller travelling parties. As well as benefitting from the undivided attention of your knowledgeable private guides, you'll also stay in centrally located hotels, meaning you can explore right from your doorstep and enjoy a more intimate and independent travel experience.

### HOW DO THESE TOURS DIFFER FROM CLASSIC GROUP TOURS?

The group size on our Classic Tours is on average 21. On a private tour, as long as you have a minimum of two people, the group size is entirely up to you.

Private tours include selected meals only, so that you can enjoy the freedom of choosing where you want to dine each evening. Your local guides will help you with dining suggestions in each place you stay.

#### NEW

## CLASSIC INDIA

### **PRIVATE TOUR**



#### PRIVATE TOUR TICKLIST

- Glimpse India's historic Qutab Minar
   Wander India's oldest spice market
- ✓ Marvel at the iconic Taj Mahal
- See magnificent Fatehpur Sikri
- Explore the Maharaja's City Palace

#### PRICE INCLUDES

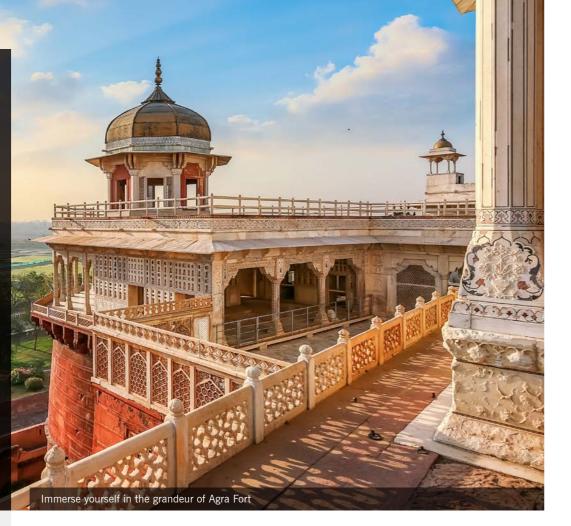
- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fee
- Visas for UK passport holders



Visit Jantar Mantar Observatory

#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Discover the ancient art of astronomy at Jaipur's fascinating Jantar Mantar, an 18thcentury observatory adorned with a variety of instruments designed to calculate distances and chart the positions of celestial bodies.
- Exploring the Taj Mahal is a journey into architectural magnificence and romantic history. This iconic marble mausoleum captivates with its intricate detailing, shimmering white facade and serene surroundings. Walk through the symmetrical gardens leading your gaze to the mesmerising central structure, a testament to the eternal love that inspired its creation.
- Indulge in an exhilarating rickshaw ride through the Khari Baoli spice market in Old Delhi. Immerse yourself in the intoxicating aromas and vibrant colours of an array of exotic powders, leaves and roots.



### **ITINERARY**

#### DAYS 1-2: ARRIVE DELHI

Upon your arrival in Delhi, the vibrant capital of India, the rest of the day is yours to explore at your own pace. Immerse yourself in the local culture and soak up the dynamic atmosphere of the city.

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE DELHI

A city buzzing with character invites you to uncover the treasures of both Old and New Delhi today. Stroll by the awe-inspiring Red Fort, embrace the splendour of Jama Masjid, India's largest mosque, and embark on a rickshaw journey to discover the vastness of Asia's largest spice market. Shifting to New Delhi, capture a moment at the revered India Gate, before venturing further to embrace the magnificence of Humayun's Tomb and the remarkable Qutub Minar. (B)

#### DAY 4: TRAVEL TO AGRA

Set out on a journey by road to Agra, the home of the Taj Mahal. Upon arrival, initiate your exploration with a visit to Itmad-ud-Daulah, affectionately known as the Baby Taj. This exquisite marble tomb predates the Taj Mahal and is thought to have left an imprint on its architectural inspiration. Subsequently, immerse vourself in the grandeur of the Agra Fort, a colossal red sandstone edifice poised along the Yamuna River. While its origins trace back to the 16th century, the fort's history has woven together diverse architectural elements from various periods, forming an intriguing tapestry of styles. (B)

#### DAY 5: TAJ MAHAL

Commence your day at the first light of dawn, setting out to the Taj Mahal. At this serene hour, when crowds are scarce, the Taj Mahal







unveils its splendour amidst a mist-kissed ambiance, illuminated by the gentle blush of the morning sun. After your visit, depart from Agra and embark on a journey to the enigmatic ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri – an evocative collection of abandoned Mughal palaces and temples that exude an otherworldly charm. From there, your road expedition leads you to the captivating city of Jaipur. (B)

#### DAY 6: JAIPUR

Start your day with a brief visit to Hawa Mahal, known as the iconic 'Palace of the Winds,' for a quick photo moment. Venture beyond the city's boundaries to admire the majestic Amber Fort, a sprawling sandstone stronghold from the 16th century. Afterward, proceed to the Maharaja's City Palace, which still hosts the royal family, and explore the intriguing Jantar Mantar Observatory. Conclude your day at a craft centre, where you can delve into the realm of traditional arts such as block printing and carpet weaving. (B)

#### DAY 7: RETURN TO DELHI

Return to Delhi, where you have time for last minute exploring or shopping. (B)

#### DAY 8: DEPART DELHI

Today you depart for the airport for your onward flight. (B)

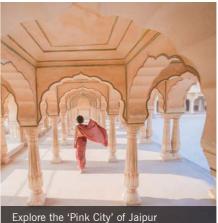
B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner.



**GOA EXTENSION** 5 days from £680pp KOVALAM BEACH EXTENSION 5 days from £370pp

AMRITSAR EXTENSION 3 days from £570pp

extensions and stopovers.





Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our



PHYSICAL RATING



Enjoy a concise, classic introduction to this beautiful country. Architectural wonders await as you soak up the vibrant sights, sounds and experiences of northern India on this private tour.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Sample Departure Dates				
2024 PRIVAT	E TOUR	DATES		
12 Jan - 19 Jan	£3,190	04 Jul - 11 Jul	£3,090	
19 Jan - 26 Jan	£3,190	18 Jul - 25 Jul	£3,090	
02 Feb - 09 Feb	£3,190	08 Aug - 15 Aug	£3,090	
09 Feb -16 Feb	£3,190	15 Aug - 22 Aug	£3,090	
16 Feb - 23 Feb	£3,190	13 Sep - 19 Sep	£3,090	
02 Mar - 09 Mar	£3,190	20 Sep - 27 Sep	£3,190	
09 Mar - 16 Mar	£3,190	02 Oct - 09 Oct	£3,190	
16 Mar - 23 Mar	£3,190	09 Oct - 16 Oct	£3,190	
23 Mar - 30 Mar	£3,190	16 Oct - 23 Oct	£3,190	
07 Apr - 14 Apr	£3,090	23 Oct - 30 Oct	£3,190	
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12 Jan - 25 Jan	£3,390	03 Jul - 16 Jul	£3,290	
19 Jan - 01 Feb	£3,390	10 Jul - 23 Jul	£3,290	
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09 Feb - 22 Feb	£3,390	10 Aug - 23 Aug	£3,290	
16 Feb - 29 Feb	£3,390	13 Sep - 26 Sep	£3,290	
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02 Jun - 15 Jun	£3,290	03 Dec - 16 Dec	£3,390	
16 Jun - 29 Jun	£3,290	08 Dec - 21 Dec	£3,390	
Flight and supplement information				
<ul> <li>Based on London Heathrow departures</li> <li>Regional UK departures available</li> <li>Flight upgrades available on request</li> </ul>				

- Land only from £2,390 (Delhi Delhi)
- Solo pricing on request
- Tipping paid locally

Private tours can depart on any day. Please call our reservations team to book your chosen departure date.

## **JEWELS OF INDIA**

### **PRIVATE TOUR**

14 DAYS FROM £4,090 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK

### PRIVATE TOUR TICKLIST

MEALS AS STATED

- Experience a rickshaw ride
- ✓ Discover the iconic Taj Mahal
- ✓ Visit Ranthambore National Park
- Admire the architecture of Bundi
- Marvel at the Chittor Fort

#### PRICE INCLUDES

E

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visas for UK passport holders



Sail on Pichola Lake

#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Cruise on Lake Pichola enjoying a serene experience as you sail past the iconic landmarks - Lake Palace and City Palace. Soak up the views and capture beautiful photos of the palaces' reflections in the water. It's a romantic and peaceful way to see Udaipur's architecture from a unique perspective.
- > A Ranthambore safari is an exhilarating adventure guided by experts as you explore diverse landscapes, from dense forests to tranquil lakes, in search of the elusive Bengal tigers and other wildlife. An immersive experience that offers you a chance to connect with nature.
- Carpet weaving in India is a centuries-old tradition that showcases the country's rich craftsmanship and artistic heritage Renowned for its intricate designs, vibrant colours, and high-quality materials.



### **ITINERARY**

#### DAYS 1-2: ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi, India's bustling capital, after an overnight flight. Depending on your arrival time, the remainder of the day is at your leisure, allowing you to begin immersing yourself in the local culture.

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE DELHI

Delhi, a city that balances chaos and charm. Today you delve into the sights of both Old and New Delhi: wander past the impressive Red Fort, experience the grandeur of India's largest mosque. Jama Masiid, and take a rickshaw ride to explore Asia's largest spice market. Transitioning to New Delhi, take a brief pause at the iconic India Gate, then continue to explore Humayun's Tomb and the striking Qutub Minar. (B).

#### DAY 4: TRAVEL TO AGRA

Embark on a drive to Agra, the iconic home of the Taj Mahal. Upon arrival, begin your exploration with a visit to Itmad-ud-Daulah. lovingly called the Baby Taj. This elegant marble tomb predates the Taj Mahal and is believed to have influenced its design. Next, delve into the impressive Agra Fort, a massive red sandstone structure situated along the Yamuna River. While established in the 16th century, the fort has undergone various additions, resulting in a fascinating amalgamation of architectural styles. (B)

#### DAY 5: TAJ MAHAL

Begin your day at the break of dawn, as you visit the Taj Mahal. When the crowds are minimal, the Taj Mahal emerges from the mist and is bathed in a delicate pink hue from the rising sun - an enchanting spectacle. After your

visit, leave Agra and journey to the enigmatic ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri, a mesmerising, abandoned ensemble of Mughal palaces and temples. Your road journey then leads you to Ranthambore National Park. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 6: RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK SAFARIS

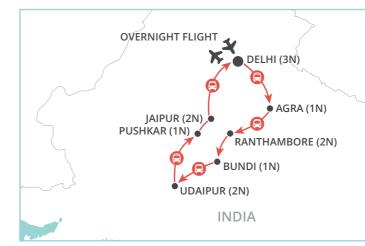
Experience the thrill of both morning and afternoon canter safaris within the national park, maintaining a vigilant watch for the majestic tigers that inhabit the area. Approximately 50 Bengal tigers roam amidst Ranthambore's diverse terrain, alongside leopards, nilgai, sloth bears, wild boar, hyenas and over 300 bird species. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 7: BUNDI

Journey to Bundi, a captivating town in Rajasthan that remains a hidden gem, defined by its imposing Taragarh Fort. Enclosed within



Spot sloth bears in Ranthambore





the fortress walls lies the exquisite Badal Mahal palace, renowned for its intricate painted murals. While exploring the town, uncover its distinctive step wells, once crucial sources of water and now awe-inspiring architectural wonders. (B.L.D)

#### DAY 8: CHITTOR FORT

Leave Bundi behind as you travel to Udaipur, making a stop at the fascinating Chittor Fort along the way. This expansive fortress, one of India's largest, graces a hilltop and surveys the town of Chittorgarh. Inside its walls lie magnificent palaces, gates, temples and towers that have inspired wanderers and artists for generations. Continue to Udaipur where you have the rest of the day at leisure. (B.L)

#### DAY 9: CRUISE LAKE PICHOLA

Your day will be dedicated to exploring the city. Begin with a leisurely drive around Fateh Sagar Lake, followed by visits to the Folk Museum and Mewar Art Gallery. Later, immerse yourself in the intricate beauty of the City Palace before cruising along Lake Pichola. As you glide across the water, you'll admire the city's palaces, including the remarkable Lake Palace, from a unique vantage point. (B)

#### DAYS 10: DISCOVER PUSHKAR

Your road journey today takes you to Pushkar. Nestled alongside one of India's holiest lakes, Pushkar boasts 52 ghats lining the water's edge, where Hindu pilgrims partake in sacred baths. These ghats are accompanied by a myriad of blue-hued temples. Engage in a walking exploration of the lively market and behold the grandeur of the Brahma Temple,

a pivotal shrine within the city. It stands as one of the rare temples worldwide dedicated to Brahma, a deity revered by many Hindus as the creator of the universe. (B)

#### DAY 11: DRIVE TO JAIPUR

Journey to Jaipur, the vibrant 'Pink City' and capital of Rajasthan. Upon reaching Jaipur, explore two of the city's prime attractions: the Maharaja's City Palace, which continues to serve as the residence of the royal family, and the Jantar Mantar Observatory, an intriguing assembly of remarkable instruments crafted to observe celestial phenomena. (B)

#### DAY 12: JAIPUR

Commence your day with a quick stop at Hawa Mahal, the famed 'Palace of the Winds', for a photo opportunity. Afterwards, journey beyond the city limits to marvel at the grandeur of Amber Fort, an expansive 16th-century sandstone fortress in striking hues of yellow and pink, located a mere 11 kilometres from Jaipur. Returning to the city, proceed to a craft centre where you can delve into the world of traditional arts like block printing and carpet weaving. (B)

#### DAY 13: RETURN TO DELHI After breakfast return to Delhi, where the

DAY 14: DEPART DELHI Today you depart for the airport for your onward flight. (B)

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

60

#### JEWELS OF INDIA



PHYSICAL RATING

#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

Perfect for your first visit to India – see the Tai Mahal at sunrise, search for tigers in Ranthambore and soak up the extravagance of Rajasthan on this extraordinary private tour.

rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

#### PRICES & DEPARTURES Sample Departure Dates

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2024 PRIVATE TOUR DATES				
12 Jan - 25 Jan	£4,290	03 Jul - 16 Jul	£4,090	
19 Jan - 01 Feb	£4,290	10 Jul - 23 Jul	£4,090	
02 Feb - 15 Feb	£4,290	03 Aug - 16 Aug	£4,090	
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Flight and supplement information				
<ul> <li>Based on London Heathrow departures</li> <li>Regional UK departures available</li> <li>Flight upgrades available on request</li> <li>Land only from £3,290 (Delhi - Delhi)</li> <li>Solo pricing on request</li> <li>Tipping paid locally</li> </ul>				

Private tours can depart on any day. Please call our reservations team to book your chosen departure date. However please note that Ranthambore National Park is closed on Wednesdays, therefore you should avoid starting the tour on a Friday.

# **SRI LANKA** & MALDIVES ESCAPE

### PRIVATE TOUR

DAYS FROM £6,790 FLIGHT INCLUSIVE FROM THE UK **MEALS AS STATED** 

#### PRIVATE TOUR TICKLIST

## Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress Safari in Minneriya National Park

- Visit Hiriwadunna Village
- Traverse epic landscapes by train
   Explore Sri Lanka's highest plateau
- Relax in the idyllic Maldives

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with chauffeur guide and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- > Experience the authentic charm of Hiriwadunna Village as you begin your adventure with a serene catamaran ride on the lake. Delight in learning the art of preparing an authentic Sri Lankan lunch, gaining insights into the rich culinary heritage of the region.
- Enjoy a display of traditional dance forms like the dynamic Kandyan dance, accompanied by rhythmic drumming and graceful fire dancing. These performances tell stories from Sri Lankan history and folklore, all showcased through elaborate costumes and intricate jewellery.
- ► The Maldives is renowned for its pristine white sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters and vibrant marine life. Participate in a variety of activities ranging from snorkelling and scuba diving to exploring the colourful coral reefs and learning about local marine biodiversity. All non-motorised water sports included.



### **ITINERARY**

#### DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO COLOMBO

Upon your arrival at Colombo Airport, you will be met and transferred to Dambulla. After check-in you have the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE SIGIRIYA & MINNERIYA Visit the iconic Sigiriya Rock Fortress, a UNESCO World Heritage site, with its breath-taking views and historical significance. Afterward, relax at the hotel before heading to Minneriya National Park, known for its elephant population and diverse wildlife. Explore the park's 8,889 hectares, home to numerous bird and animal species, including rare bamboo trees. (B)

#### DAY 4: HIRIWADUNA AND POLONNARUWA

Head to Hiriwadunna village for an authentic local experience, gaining insight into the daily activities of the villagers, and enjoying a catamaran ride on the lake. Take a tuk-tuk ride to a village house where you will interact with a local family and learn the art of preparing an authentic Sri Lankan lunch. Continue to Polonnaruwa for some cultural immersion as you explore the vibrant village life and uncover its historical wonders. (B,L)

#### DAY 5: TRAVEL TO KANDY

Before proceeding to Kandy, you will begin the day with a visit to Dambulla Cave Temple. This World Heritage Site houses captivating religious paintings and sculptures. In Kandy, visit the sacred Temple of the Tooth Relic although you can't view the actual tooth relic, you can view its casket. End the day with a mesmerising Cultural Dance show. (B)

#### DAY 6: SCENIC TRAIN TO NUWARA FIIYA

You have an exciting day ahead with a journey aboard the famous train to Nuwara Eliya, passing by forests and charming villages. Visit a tea estate and tea factory, and learn about the production of tea. Spend the rest of the day relaxing. (B)

#### DAY 7: HORTON PLAINS

Today you depart for Horton Plains, the highest plateau in Sri Lanka. Enjoy the iconic World's End viewpoint where the land dramatically drops off into a sheer precipice offering amazing views. Rest of the day at leisure. (B)

#### DAY 8: NEGOMBO

Transfer to Negombo where you have the day to explore as you wish. (B)







DAY 9: FLY TO MALDIVES

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight to Malé. On arrival you will board your speedboat transfer directly to the resort. (AI)

#### DAYS 10-15: SUN SIYAM OLHUVELI

The Maldives is a tropical paradise renowned for its pristine white sandy beaches, crystalclear turquoise waters, and vibrant marine life. Sun Siyam Olhuveli is a luxurious island resort situated in the South Malé Atoll. With stunning overwater villas and beachfront suites, you will experience the ultimate tropical escape. Indulge in delectable dining options, relax at the Sun Spa, and enjoy a range of non-motorised water sports. (AI)

#### DAY 16: DEPART MALDIVES

(B)

An early transfer by shared speedboat back to Malé International Airport for your onward flight.

B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, AI=All Inclusive.





WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK **EXTENSION** 3 days from £440p

#### JAFFNA EXTENSION 4 days from £480pp

#### TRINCOMALEE EXTENSION 4 days from £480pp

Visit page 72 to learn more about all of our extensions and stopovers.



### PRIVATE SRI LANKA & MALDIVES

PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

This journey is a perfect fusion of culture and relaxation for any traveller wanting the best of both islands. Explore ancient cities, lush tea plantations, and vibrant wildlife in Sri Lanka. Then, luxuriate in the Maldives with vibrant coral reefs, and secluded beaches.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Sample Departure Dates				
2024 PRIVAT	E TOUR	R DATES		
12 Jan - 27 Jan	£7,590	05 Jul - 20 Jul	£6,890	
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15 Jun - 30 Jun	£7,090	08 Dec - 23 Dec	£7,490	
Flight and supplement information				
Based on London Heathrow departures     Regional UK departures available				

- Flight upgrades available on request
- Land only from £5,790 (Colombo Male')
- Solo pricing on request
- Tipping paid locally

Private tours can depart on any day. Please call our reservations team to book your chosen departure date.

# TREASURES **OF SRI LANKA**

#### **PRIVATE TOUR**



#### PRIVATE TOUR TICKLIST

- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress
- ✓ Visit the locals at Vedda Village
- Enjoy breakfast at Sorabora Lake
- Witness a cultural dance show
- Take a tuk-tuk to Nine Arch Bridge
- Experience a jeep safari at Yala National Park

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 4 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Embark on a food tour through the vibrant streets of Pettah. Indulge in this culinary adventure as you sample over 10 types of local food varieties that are synonymous with Colombo's gastronomic scene, immersing you in the rich flavours and aromas as you explore the vibrant markets and street food stalls.
- ► Take one of the most beautiful train journeys in the world, renowned for its incredible scenery. The train winds its way through picturesque landscapes, rolling tea plantations, mist-covered mountains and charming villages as you make your way to Ella.
- Enjoy a wildlife jeep safari at Yala National Park, the largest in Sri Lanka! Yala is renowned for its diverse wildlife and breathtaking landscapes. Look out for the rare and majestic leopards, spot herds of wild elephants, observe bears, wild boars, buffalo, deer, crocodiles and a variety of bird species.



### **ITINERARY**

#### DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO COLOMBO

Upon your arrival at Colombo International Airport, you will be greeted by your National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours. Transfer to your hotel, where the rest of the day is at leisure

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE COLOMBO

After breakfast, embark on a captivating Colombo city tour, taking you through the district of Cinnamon Gardens, visits to the iconic Lotus Tower, the historic Fort area, the vibrant Sea Street, a Hindu Temple adorned with intricate stone carvings, and the Dutch Church of Wolfendhal. Afterwards, delight in a food walk offering a chance to savour over 10 types of local food varieties. (B)

#### DAY 4: DISCOVER POLONNARUWA

Proceed to Dambulla and check in. Later, head to Polonnaruwa, stopping for lunch at Priyamali Gedara on the way. Polonnaruwa, founded in the 11th Century AD and since governed by many kings, experienced its Golden Age under King Parakrambahu I during the 12th Century AD when trade and agriculture flourished. Return to vour hotel. (B)

#### DAY 5: VISIT SIGIRIYA

Today you visit the well-known Sigiriya Rock Fortress, built by King Kashyapa in the 5th century to safeguard himself from rivals. Afterwards, you will visit Hiriwaduna Village for an authentic Sri Lankan lunch and cultural experience. Enjoy a catamaran ride on the lake before heading to explore Wasgamuwa National Park. (B)

#### DAY 6: MAHIYANGANAYA

Head to Mahiyanganaya, with a stop at the remarkable Dambulla Cave Temple along the way. Also known as the 'Golden Temple', it is situated within a large rock, stands over 160 meters tall and spans more than 1.5 kilometres around its base. Continue to Mahiyanganaya. Later visit Vedda Village where the indigenous tribe has an interesting history. (B,L)

#### DAY 7: MADURU OYA

Start your day with breakfast at Sorabora Lake, enjoying a stunning view before a scenic boat ride at Sorabora Wewa, an ancient water reservoir built in the 2nd-century BC. Relax in the afternoon until your visit to Maduru Oya National Park, known for its diverse wildlife. including elephants, leopards, sloth bears, and various bird species. (B,L)

#### DAY 8: KANDY

Travel onwards to Kandy with the rest of the dav at leisure until the evening, when you'll head to the Kandy Temple of the Tooth Relic. This World Heritage Site, locally known as 'Dalada Maligawa', is a sacred place that houses palm-leaf transcripts. Enjoy a cultural dance show before returning to your hotel. (B)

#### DAY 9: KANDY TO ELLA

Today, after an early breakfast, you will embark on a charming train journey from Kandy to Ella, a route reminiscent of colonial times, when the British travelled in similar style in the late 1800s. Enjoy a picturesque ride through lush forests, quaint villages, cascading waterfalls and scenic tea estates. This journey promises breath-taking views and an authentic experience through one of Sri







Enjoy views of Sorabora Lake

Lanka's most beautiful landscapes. (B)

#### DAY 10: EXPLORE ELLA

Head off to climb Little Adam's Peak, also known as 'Punchi Sri Pada'. The peak is surrounded by lush green landscapes and tea plantations with a breathtaking view of Ella Rock, Ella Gap & Ruwana Falls when you summit. Return for breakfast and a relaxing day. (B)

#### DAY 11: NINE ARCH BRIDGE

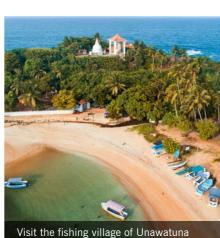
After breakfast, you will embark on a tuk-tuk ride to visit the Nine Arch Bridge. Also known as the 'Bridge in the Sky,' this structure was ingeniously constructed by connecting two bog mountains during the building of the Badulla - Colombo railway. It stands as a remarkable example of colonial-era railway construction in the country, offering a fascinating glimpse into Sri Lanka's engineering heritage. (B)

#### DAY 12: ELLA TO YALA

After breakfast, you will proceed to Yala, where you will have the afternoon to relax before heading out for a wildlife jeep safari. Yala is renowned for its rare and impressive leopards. and is home to herds of wild elephants, bears, wild boars, buffalo, deer, crocodiles and a wide variety of bird species. The vegetation ranges from open parkland to dense jungle, and the park offers an abundant water supply for the animals and birds who call it home. (B)

#### DAY 13: UNAWATUNA

Today you continue to Unawatuna, where you'll have the opportunity to visit the famous stilt fishermen, as they go about their daily routines. In chest-deep water, just a few metres off-shore, they are perched on a crossbar off a single pole



(R)

#### TREASURES OF SRI LANKA

planted into the seabed. This traditional method of fishing has been practiced for generations. Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. (B)

#### DAY 14: KARUNA'S COOKERY CLASS

After breakfast, you'll have the opportunity to enjoy a market visit and shop for the freshest ingredients required for your cooking session. You will then learn how to prepare 5-6 authentic Sri Lankan dishes before you go off and discover Galle Fort. This imposing 16th-century Dutch fort has you wandering through the living museum, exploring the old District Judge's house, and culminates at the iconic lighthouse on the ramparts. (B)

DAY 13: DEPART FROM COLOMBO Transfer to the airport for your departure flight.

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

PRIVATE SRI LANKA

PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

This tour is a journey through the cultural heritage, ancient cities and natural beauty of Sri Lanka, combined with the natural wildlife, colonial architecture and vibrant markets that showcase the best Sri Lanka has to offer.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Sample Departure Dates			
2024 PRIVAT	E TOUR	R DATES	
15 Jan - 30 Jan	£4,390	01 Jul - 16 Jul	£4,190
22 Jan - 06 Feb	£4,390	15 Jul- 30 Jul	£4,190
29 Jan - 13 Feb	£4,390	05 Aug - 20 Aug	£4,190
05 Feb - 20 Feb	£4,390	19 Aug - 03 Sep	£4,190
19 Feb - 05 Mar	£4,390	09 Sep - 24 Sep	£4,790
26 Feb - 12 Mar	£4,390	23 Sep - 08 Oct	£4,790
11 Mar - 26 Mar	£4,690	07 Oct - 22 Oct	£4,790
18 Mar - 02 Apr	£4,690	14 Oct - 29 Oct	£4,790
25 Mar - 09 Apr	£4,690	21 Oct - 05 Nov	£4,790
01 Apr - 16 Apr	£4,690	28 Oct - 12 Nov	£4,790
08 Apr - 23 Apr	£4,690	04 Nov - 19 Nov	£4,790
06 May - 21 May	£4,090	11 Nov - 26 Nov	£4,790
20 May - 04 Jun	£4,090	25 Nov - 10 Dec	£4,790
03 Jun - 18 Jun	£4,090	02 Dec - 17 Dec	£4,790
10 Jun - 25 Jun	£4,090	09 Dec - 24 Dec	£4,790
2025 PRIVAT	E TOUR	R DATES	
16 Jan - 31 Jan	£4,890	02 Jul - 17 Jul	£4,390
23 Jan - 07 Feb	£4,890	16 Jul - 31 Jul	£4,390
30 Jan - 14 Feb	£4,890	06 Aug - 21 Aug	£4,390
06 Feb - 21 Feb	£4,890	20 Aug - 04 Sep	£4,390
20 Feb - 07 Mar	£4,890	10 Sep - 25 Sep	£4,990
27 Feb - 14 Mar	£4,890	24 Sep - 09 Oct	£4,990
12 Mar - 27 Mar	£5,190	08 Oct - 23 Oct	£4,990
19 Mar - 03 Apr	£5,190	15 Oct - 30 Oct	£4,990
26 Mar - 10 Apr	£5,190	22 Oct - 06 Nov	£4,990
02 Apr - 17 Apr	£5,190	29 Oct - 13 Nov	£4,990
09 Apr - 24 Apr	£5,190	05 Nov - 20 Nov	£5,090
07 May - 22 May	£4,290	12 Nov- 27 Nov	£5,090
21 May - 05 Jun	£4,290	26 Nov - 11 Dec	£5,090
04 Jun - 19 Jun	£4,290	03 Dec - 18 Dec	£5,090
11 Jun - 26 Jun	£4,290	10 Dec - 25 Dec	£5,090
Flight and supplement information			

- Based on London Heathrow departures
- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request Land only from £3,290 (Colombo Colombo)

Private tours can depart on any day. Please call our reservations team to book your chosen departure date.

## **SRI LANKAN SPLENDOUR**

#### **PRIVATE TOUR**



#### PRIVATE TOUR TICKLIST

- ✓ Safari in Wilpattu National Park
- Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress
   Visit Dambulla Cave Temple
- Explore the jungle on a night walk
- Picnic in the National Park
- Study multiple species of birdlife

#### PRICE INCLUDES

- International flights and current taxes
- Domestic transportation
- 5 star accommodation
- Touring with guides and entrance fees
- Visa fees for UK passport holders



#### ► AUTHENTIC EXPERIENCES

- Embark on a journey like no other at Nachchaduwa Lake as you encounter a myriad of fascinating wildlife, from graceful birds to majestic buffalo. Observe magnificent elephants leisurely strolling amidst the idvllic scenery.
- Head off on a nocturnal adventure as you set out to find the elusive grev slender loris. With its distinctive protruding eyes and agile limbs, it forages for insects and berries in the moonlit treetops
- Experience the charm of Kandy on a delightful food walk, beginning at the iconic Royal Bar where you can savour the local arrack and appetisers. Get ready to feast on a variety of delectable treats, including egg rotis, fresh hoppers, and Sri Lanka's finest kothu.



### **ITINERARY**

#### DAYS 1-2: FLY OVERNIGHT TO COLOMBO

Upon your arrival in Colombo, you will be greeted by your National Escort from Wendy Wu Tours and transferred to Kotugoda where you will spend the night. Rest of the day is at leisure.

DAY 3: TRAVEL TO ANURADHAPURA

Travel to Anuradhapura the ancient capital

UNESCO World Heritage-listed site, where

a breathtaking 13-meter-tall statue of Lord

Today you explore Wilpattu, with its diverse

and bird species. Among some of the many

ecosystem, a haven for a wide array of wildlife

fascinating creatures are spotted deer, sambhur,

wild buffalo, sloth bear, mongoose, crocodile,

and the splendid peacocks. However, the true

stars of the park are the elusive leopards and

experience sunset at Nachchaduwa Lake. (B)

DAY 5: MINNERIYA NATIONAL PARK

Head to Sigiriya where you will have time to

relax until your afternoon visit to Minneriva

National Park. While the elephants are the

some of the numerous species of birds,

bamboo trees, unique to Minneriya. (B)

highlight of the park, you may also encounter

amphibians, reptile & fish as well as plenty of

DAY 6: SIGIRIYA & POLONNARUWA

An early start as you visit Sigiriya Rock Fortress,

standing tall as a UNESCO World Heritage site

beautiful butterflies. The park is also home to rare

magnificent wild elephants. In the evening

amongst its greatest treasures you'll find

DAY 4: DISCOVER WILPATTU &

NACHCHANDUWA

#### DAY 7: DAMBULLA & KANDY

and worthy of its moniker 'Fortress in the Sky'.

evening adventure – the Loris Night Trail. This

primate hidden amidst the scrublands. (B)

Spend the day relaxing before you embark on your

thrilling guided walk takes you on a nocturnal quest

in search of the elusive grey slender loris, a captivating

Enroute to Kandy you visit Dambulla Cave Temple. and first kingdom of Sri Lanka. Delve into the part of Sri Lanka's Golden Triangle. The cave temples are home to numerous religious and cultural paintings and sculptures. Your afternoon is spent visiting the Temple of The Tooth Relic Buddha, skilfully carved from solid granite. (B) where you'll find the palm-leaf transcripts. Conclude the day with an amazing cultural dance show. (B)

#### DAY 8: EXPLORE KANDY

Start your day with a visit to Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, a beautiful 147-acre oasis. Afterward, return to the hotel and relax until the evening's Kandy Night Food Walk. Experience the city's culinary delights, starting at the iconic Roval Bar. Savour local arrack before enjoying egg rotis, fresh hoppers, and some of the best kothu in Sri Lanka. (B)

#### DAY 9: KANDY TO GAL OYA

After a scenic drive from Kandy to Gal Oya, enjoy some leisure time before your exciting Jungle Night Walk. Join your knowledgeable resident naturalists for a captivating walk through the forest as darkness descends. You may be lucky enough to encounter some of the fascinating nocturnal creatures that emerge from their daytime hideouts. (B)

#### DAY 10: GAL OYA NATIONAL PARK

Embark on a jungle drive and walk through the forgotten Nilgala section of the park, once







cherished by ancient royalty for its abundant medicinal plants and unique endemic birdlife. The area is home to a diverse array of animals, including herds of elephants, four species of deer, and numerous bird species. Enjoy a delightful picnic in your picturesque surroundings. (B)

#### DAY 11: TRAIN TO HATTON

Proceed to Nuwara Eliva for your train journey to Hatton. Experience one of the most scenic journeys in Sri Lanka as you take in breathtaking views of forests, quaint villages, picturesque waterfalls and lush tea estates. Embrace the nostalgia and beauty of this classic train journey, relishing every moment. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 12: HATTON

After breakfast enjoy a tour of the tea factory, an establishment that produces an impressive 16,000 kgs of tea daily. Learn about the intricate tea production process and later have lunch at a waterfall. The journey takes you through picturesque tea estates to Fairlawn Falls, where on arrival, you'll enjoy a pleasant walk alongside the cascading waterfall. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 13: BIRDWATCHING IN HATTON

This morning you will have a birdwatching experience at Camellia Hills. The lush garden is a haven for birdlife, with over 20 different species making it their home. Among the unique endemic birds you may spot, are the vellow fronted barbet, Ceylon scimitar babbler, and Sri Lankan hanging parakeet. Venture further onto the trails which are hotspots for resident, endemic and migratory birds. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 14: YALA VIA UDAWALAWE

Your journey continues as you head to Yala, with a special stop at the Udawalawe Elephant

Transit Home along the way. This facility plays a vital role in caring for injured elephants from various regions in Sri Lanka, serving as a halfway house for orphaned elephants, providing them with care and rehabilitation. (B)

#### DAY 15: YALA NATIONAL PARK

Early morning wildlife jeep safari in Yala National Park, known for its rare leopards, but also home to elephants, bears, wild boars and various bird species. Its diverse vegetation and abundant water sources attract a plethora of wildlife. Enjoy an enchanting evening safari to end an exciting day.

### DAY 16: YALA TO TANGALLE

Today you continue to Tangalle where after check-in you have the rest of the day to relax or explore your surroundings. (B) DAY 17. MIRISSA

Today's early morning start is worthwhile as you embark on an exciting whale watching excursion aboard a luxury catamaran. Your naturalist guide will provide fascinating insights into local marine life, as you look out for blue whales, sperm whales and orca (killer whales). Later, visit the UNESCO-listed Galle Fort, a living museum dating back to 1588. (B)

#### DAY 18: TANGALLE A day at leisure to explore as you wish or relax at

your hotel. (B) DAY 19: DEPART TANGALLE Today your journey comes to an end, as you are transferred to Colombo for your onward flight. (B)

#### SRI LANKAN SPLENDOUR

PRIVATE SRI LANKA

PHYSICAL RATING



#### IS THIS TOUR FOR YOU?

This tour takes you on a captivating journey from the untamed wilderness of national parks, to the historical marvels of ancient fortresses and the allure of serene landscapes. Enjoy the multifaceted exploration of history, nature and adventure while learning about this beautiful island nation.

PRICES & DEPARTURES Sample Departure Dates 2024 PRIVATE TOUR DATES 10 Jan - 28 Jan £9,790 24 Jul - 11 Aug £9,790 17 Jan - 04 Feb £9,790 07 Aug - 25 Aug £9,790 07 Feb - 25 Feb £9,790 21 Aug - 08 Sep £9,790 21 Feb - 10 Mar £9,790 11 Sep - 29 Sep £8,190 28 Feb - 17 Mar £9.790 18 Sep - 06 Oct £8.190 6 Mar - 24 Mar £9,390 25 Sep - 13 Oct £8,190 13 Mar - 31 Mar £9.390 02 Oct - 20 Oct £8.190 20 Mar - 07 Apr £9.390 09 Oct - 27 Oct £8.190 10 Apr - 28 Apr £9,390 16 Oct - 03 Nov £8,190 24 Apr - 05 May £9,390 23 Oct - 10 Nov £8,190 1 May - 19 May £8,190 06 Nov - 24 Nov £9,790 16 May - 02 Jun £8,190 13 Nov - 01 Dec £9,790 12 Jun - 30 Jun £8,190 20 Nov - 08 Dec £9,790 19 Jun - 07 Jul £8,190 04 Dec - 22 Dec £9,790 03 Jul - 21 Jul £9,790 06 Dec - 24 Dec £9,790 2025 PRIVATE TOUR DATES 11 Jan - 29 Jan £11,290 25 Jul - 12 Aug £10,290 18 Jan - 05 Feb £11,290 08 Aug - 26 Aug £10,290 08 Feb - 26 Feb £11,290 22 Aug - 09 Sep £10,290 22 Feb - 12 Mar £11,290 12 Sep - 30 Sep £8,990 28 Feb - 18 Mar £11,290 19 Sep - 07 Oct £8,990 07 Mar - 25 Mar £10,790 25 Sep - 13 Oct £8,990 14 Mar - 01 Apr £10.790 03 Oct - 21 Oct £8.990 21 Mar - 08 Apr £10,790 10 Oct - 28 Oct £8,990 11 Apr - 29 Apr £10,790 17 Oct - 04 Nov £8,990 25 Apr - 06 May £10,790 24 Oct - 11 Nov £8,990 02 May - 20 May £8,590 07 Nov - 25 Nov £10,290 17 May - 03 Jun £8,590 14 Nov - 02 Dec £10,290 13 Jun - 01 Jul £8,590 21 Nov - 09 Dec £10,290 20 Jun - 08 Jul £8,590 05 Dec - 23 Dec £10,290 04 Jul - 22 Jul £10,290 07 Dec - 25 Dec £10,290 Flight and supplement information Based on London Heathrow departures

- Regional UK departures available
- Flight upgrades available on request Land only from £7,390 (Colombo - Colombo)
- Solo pricing on request
- Tipping paid locally

Private tours can depart on any day. Please call our reservations team to book your chosen departure date.



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

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# TAILORMADE INDIA AND BEYOND

The very best of India, exactly the way you want it

#### WHAT IS A TAILORMADE HOLIDAY?

Quite simply, a tailormade holiday is a journey designed and created especially for you. There's no one-size-fits-all when it comes to travel, so tailormade holidays are the perfect opportunity for travellers looking to embark on that once-in-a-lifetime adventure or epic honeymoon, for people who want to indulge their special interest, or for those who simply want to do things their own way.

### WHY TRAVEL TAILORMADE?

You're completely in control of the what, where and when. You can choose the pace, where to linger longer, where to pass through and where to bypass completely. The hotels (from comfortable to all out luxury), what and where you eat, the number of nights, when you depart, the sort of experiences that you'll have, is all up to you too!

Whether you have a fully formed itinerary in mind, or just a vague inkling of what you want to see and do, one of our Personal Travel Specialists will be able to craft you something marvellous - with as much, or as little, input from you as you wish.

#### WHY GO TAILORMADE WITH WENDY WU?

We've long prided ourselves on our abilities to make extraordinary tours, so it goes without saying that we're also pretty good at putting together tailormade ones. Our team of Personal Travel Specialists, who are wonderfully well-travelled and expert travel planners, are on-hand to advise and recommend - just let them know what you're after and they'll do the rest. With a wide range of accommodation options, private guiding when you want it and exceptional knowledge of local flavours and the most authentic local experiences, we've got you covered.

# How does it work?

It's really so simple – just follow the steps below:

"We are writing to say a very big thank you for giving us a wonderful tailormade holiday to India. We were so impressed by how well organised the whole trip was, with reps on hand to meet us at each new destination, local guides for every city who were very informative, and a brilliant driver who looked after us so well during the entire tour."

Kevin & Shirley Mears



leave it with us. with a proposed in no time

### 1:Research

Do some research to decide where you want to go - it could be one, two or even more countries! Think about when you'd like to go, how long for and what your budget may be. For inspiration, you can always have a look at our website, or have a flick through our brochure and see not only the showstopping sights on offer, but the exciting and unusual experiences too!



2: Call us

Give us a call or fill in





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### 3: Sit back

Sit back, relax and We'll create you an itinerary that combines all your ideas and come back to you itinerary and quote

## 4: Perfect it

Tweak it, switch it around, change a hotel here, a meal there - you can make all the adjustments you need to make your trip exactly what you're after. You can do this as many times as you like and take as much time as you need, we are extremely flexible and always happy to help.

### 5: Book it!

When your adventure has reached that ultimate level of perfection and includes everything that you want and need, it's time to book! Call your tailormade consultant. say the word and they will do the rest. Other than a visa form or two, all there is left to do is think about what to pack and get excited!



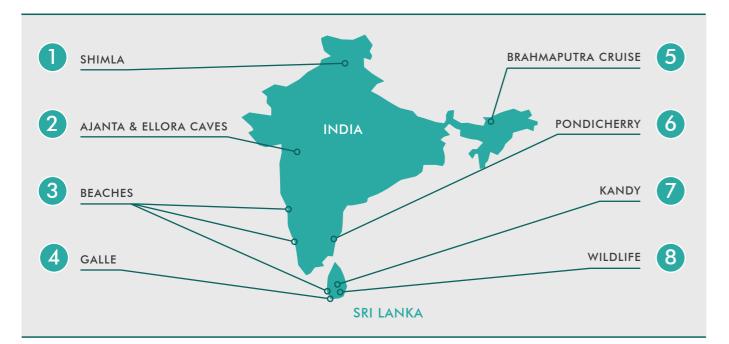






# **Tailormade touring**

Inspirational ideas for your bespoke holiday in India.



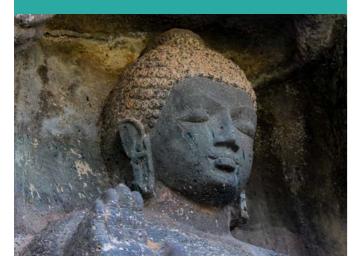
## SHIMLA

Shimla is magnificently placed in the foothills of the Himalaya, perfect for hiking and biking, and there is also the UNESCO-listed Toy Train, for a wonderfully picturesque train ride.



## 2 AJANTA & ELLORA CAVES

Two of India's cultural treasures, these cave complexes are full of ancient and intricate frescoes and carvings by Buddhist, Jain and Hindu monks.





Don't miss Goa, Kovalam or Marari in India or Bentota on Sri Lanka's south-west coast if you are after some beach relaxation.

# 4 GALLE

As well as its UNESCO-listed fort, Galle offers whale watching and bike rides and walks through the patchwork of paddy fields, spice gardens and plantations that surround it.



#### PONDICHERRY 6

architecture and a chilled-out vibe that makes it a joy to explore. It's also a hub for yoga, with the Sri Aurobindo Ashram close by.



Head to Kandy to experience Sri Lanka's classical arts, and to explore the surrounding tea plantations. The Kandy to Ella train, one of the world's most scenic railway journeys, is unmissable.





# **Special groups**

Travelling in your own private group?

If you plan to travel in your very own private group of 10 passengers or more, our award-winning Group Organiser will arrange a Private Group tour just for you. Whether that is a group of friends, family members or even a club or association, we can tailor any of our existing tours, or create a bespoke itinerary, so your group get to see, do and experience exactly what they want.

Every private group will have its own National Escort who will stay with you for the duration of your holiday and will guide you through some truly amazing experiences and adventures. You will also benefit from the vast knowledge of local guides, who join your group in different locations to point out hidden gems you might otherwise miss, and to offer invaluable tips.

With incredible destinations to choose from, your group will never be stuck for places to visit. We offer fully inclusive, escorted tours to Asia, Latin America and the Middle East and can also plan Private Group tours to many other places around the world including Europe and North America.



For more information or to receive a quote please check www.wendywutours.co.uk or call Glen, our Private Group organiser, on 07852 759567.



The Brahmaputra River flows through national parks and remote communities giving a wonderfully authentic glimpse of India not often seen.



#### 8 WILDLIFE

wonderful wildlife and glorious national parks – Yala, Udawalawe, Horton Plains, Wilpattu and Sinharaja.





"We had the most fantastic time and would like to thank Glen at Wendy Wu Tours for making our numerous experiences so memorable, especially at such late notice! Glen had planned everything to perfection and we saw so much in just 19 days. Our guides, Sonny in North India and Ajith in the south, were excellent and could not do enough for us."

<u>Lin Wilson – Fareham</u>

# EXTENSIONS & STOPOVERS

Make your trip of a lifetime even more memorable by extending your tour, or adding a stopover en route. An extension will allow you to delve even deeper into a region, explore a whole other country, or even give you the chance to relax on a beautiful beach. A stopover on the other hand is an easy way not only to break up your journey, but also to add a few days in a buzzing, cosmopolitan metropolis to your travel itinerary.

Most of the extensions and stopovers that you'll find in the following pages are available to be added onto any of our tours. Just ask your reservations consultant for more information on how to do just that.

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74	Amritsar
	Shimla
75	Kerala Backwaters
	Varanasi
76	Goa
	Kovalam
77	Bhutan
	Nepal
78	Bentota
	Trincomalee
79	Jaffna
	Wilpattu National Park
80	Dubai Stopovers
81	Essential Dubai
	Dubai & the Desert

## AMRITSAR



Travel on the Shatabdi Express train to Amritsar to visit the sacred Golden Temple and experience the extravagant closing ceremony of the border between India and Pakistan.

Prices are from per person, based on low season		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER
Standard	£570	£1,060
Superior	£580	£1,100
Deluxe	£630	£ 1,150

#### Price includes

- Accommodation (2 nights Amritsar)
- Return transfers
- Return train tickets
- Meals as stated (B,L,D) Monument entrances
- English speaking local guides



#### DAY 1: DELHI TO AMRITSAR

Transfer from your hotel to Delhi's railway station to board the Shatabdi Express for Amritsar. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel for a two-night stay. In the evening, enjoy a visit to the Golden Temple for the nightly 'Palki Ceremony'.

#### DAY 2: AMRITSAR

The day begins with a city tour, where you return to the Golden Temple to soak up the atmosphere, followed by a visit to the infamous

Jallianwala Bagh. In the afternoon, travel out to Wagah, a border post between India and Pakistan, and enjoy a flag ceremony performed by the border security force from both sides. (B)

#### DAY 3: AMRITSAR TO DELHI

Transfer to the railway station and board your return train for Delhi. On arrival, you will be met and transferred to either the airport or hotel where your arrangements end. (B)

## **KERALA BACKWATERS**

#### 3 DAYS

Cruise the waterways on a "kettuvalam", converted from a traditional rice barge. Over the next two days you will cruise through the 900km network of waterways that fringe the coast from Alleppey to Nedumudy.

Prices are from per person, based on low season		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER
Standard	£340	£670
Superior	£510	£1,050
Deluxe	£680	£1,350

#### Price includes

Accommodation (2 nights on AC Houseboat)

- Return transfers
- Meals as stated (B.L.D)

Pleas note: This excursion is not recommended June to August due to monsoon season

SHIMLA



Travel on the famous Toy Train into the Himalayan foothills to Shimla, the summer capital of the British Raj and the 'Queen of Hill Stations', to explore its spectacular views and colonial gems.

Prices are from per person, based on low season		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER
Standard	£670	£1,190
Superior	£800	£1,420
Deluxe	£970	£1.670

#### Price includes

• Accommodation (2 nights Shimla / 1 night Delhi)

- Return transfers Return train tickets
- Tov Train tickets
- Meals as stated (B,L,D)
- English speaking local guides



#### DAY 1: TRAIN TO SHIMLA

Rise early to meet your guide at your Delhi hotel to transfer to the station. Take the express train to Kalka where you will switch to the famous Tov Train. travelling on this narrowgauge mountain railway to Shimla. Nicknamed the 'Queen of Hill Stations', Shimla sits in a stunning location sprawling across a ridge deep in the Himalayan foothills.

#### DAY 2: EXPLORE SHIMLA

Start the day with a walk to Jakhoo Temple, which sits at the highest point of the city, offering incredible views. Later discover Shimla's most important sights including the old Christ Church and Scandal Point. Visit the Himalayan Aviary this afternoon, home to many species, including the Himalayan Monal. (B,L)

#### DAY 3: SHIMLA TO DELHI

This morning admire the renaissance grandeur of the Vice Regal Lodge located on Observatory Hill, before driving back to Kalka. Take the train to Delhi enjoying dinner on board. On arrival this evening transfer to your hotel. (B,D)

#### DAY 4: DEPART DELHI

After check-out you will be transferred to Delhi airport for your onward flight. (B)

## VARANASI



Journey to the holy city of Varanasi for a spiritual experience including a cruise along the River Ganges and the chance to witness a sacred puja ceremony to Ganga Aarti.

Prices are from per person, based on low season		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER
Standard	£460	£860
Superior	£500	£890
Deluxe	£600	£1,090

#### Price includes

Accommodation (2 nights Varanasi / 1 night Delhi)

 Return transfers Meals as stated (B,L,D)

• English speaking local guides

ceremony.

#### INDIA EXTENSIONS



#### DAY 1: FLY TO KOCHI – ALLEPPEY

On arrival at Kochi airport, you will be met and transferred to Alleppey, where you will board your houseboat and cruise the backwaters of Kerala. Enjoying authentic Keralan food whilst drifting through the quiet canals, relax and witness the life of the people living around the backwater area of Kerala (L,D)

#### DAY 2: BACKWATER CRUISING

Continue cruising through Kerala's backwaters today. You will see small villages, temples, schools and witness the lifestyle of people living on the riverbanks. An unhurried backwater cruise on a traditional househoat is the best way to discover Kerala's exceptional scenic beauty. (B,L,D)

#### DAY 3: ALLEPPEY - KOCHI

Disembark your houseboat this morning in Alleppev and transfer approximately two-hours to your hotel in Kochi, where your arrangements will end. (B)



#### DAY 1: ARRIVE VARANASI

Upon arrival at Varanasi airport, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. This evening take a rickshaw down to the atmospheric ghats on the River Ganges to witness a puja

#### DAY 2: VARANASI

Early this morning, take a boat ride along the River Ganges to see the morning activity on the ghats. Return to your hotel for breakfast and afterwards, embark on a brief city tour of Varanasi. This afternoon, head to Sarnath, an important Buddhist pilgrimage site, where it is believed that Buddha delivered his first sermon. (B,L)

#### DAY 3: VARANASI TO DELHI

After check-out this morning, you will be transferred to Varanasi airport for your flight back to Delhi. Upon arrival you will be transferred to your hotel. (B)

#### DAY 4: DEPART DELHI

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport in time for your onward flight. (B)

## **GOA BEACH**



A little slice of paradise on the Arabian Sea, Goa has gorgeous beaches and a rich Portuguese heritage. Discover it all on this five-day extension, the perfect way to round off your India adventure.

Prices are from per person, based on low season		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER
Standard	£680	£1,310
Superior	£740	£1,350
Deluxe	£1,070	£2,120

#### Price includes

Accommodation (4 nights Goa)

- Return transfers
- Meals as stated (B.L.D)
- 1 day tour of Goa with lunch
- English speaking local guide

Excludes flights to Goa.



Enjoy the gorgeous Goa Beach Resort

#### DAY 1: ARRIVE GOA

On arrival in Goa you will be met and transferred to your hotel. The rest od the day is at leisure.

DAY 2: GOA

Enjoy a full day city tour of Goa, starting with a visit to Altinho Hill and its breathtaking view of Panjim and the river Mandovi. Continue to Dona Paula for a view of Marmgoa, India's largest natural harbor. Later visit Old Goa, well known for its churches. Visit the Professed House and Basilica of Bom Jesus, built in the 16th Century, it contains the tomb of St. Francis Xavier. You then visit Se. Cathedral, the biggest church in the east, St. Cajetan built like St. Peters in Rome, the Church of Lady Rosary and St. Monica.

Conclude the day with some shopping at the local market in Panjim city. (B,L)

#### DAY 3-4: GOA

Spend the next two days at leisure, either relaxing on the beach, participating in the resort activities or sightseeing further, the choice is vours. (B)

#### DAY 5: DEPART GOA

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight. (B)

BHUTAN



Discover the dramatic natural beauty and feel the warm embrace of the Bhutanese people in this nation that values happiness over wealth.

Prices are from per person, based on low season			
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER	
Standard	£1,920	£2,390	
Superior	£2,290	£2,990	
Deluxe	£2,730	£3,790	

#### Price includes

• Accommodation (2 nights Thimphu, 2 nights Paro)

- Return transfers
- Meals as stated (B.L.D)
- Bhutan visa fee • English speaking local guides

Excludes flights to Paro.

## **KOVALAM BEACH**



Kovalam is home to three spectacular crescent beaches. Kerala's idyllic coastal surroundings are the ideal place to relax and unwind, especially thanks to the area's abundance of Ayurveda spas.

Prices are from per person, based on low season		
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER
Standard	£370	£700
Superior	£450	£890
Deluxe	£930	£1,770

#### Price includes

• Accommodation (4 nights Kovalam)

Return transfers

• Meals as stated (B,L,D)

• English speaking local guides

Excludes flights to Trivandrum.



#### DAY 1: ARRIVE KOVALAM

On arrival at Trivandrum airport. you will be met and transferred to your hotel in Kovalam, where you have the day to explore your

### DAY 2: TRIVANDRUM

surroundings.

Leave for Trivandrum this morning and visit the Sri Padmanabhaswamy Temple, the Zoological Gardens and Museums, the Napier Museum and the Sri Chitra Art Gallery. Later visit the Kanakakunnu Palace, the observatory and sree Moolamthirunal Shastri Purthi Memorial. Return to Kovalam, (B)

#### DAY 3: KOVALAM

Spend the day relaxing on the beach, at the pool or take time to explore the local area.

Why not enjoy a Ayurvedic massage, a cultural extravaganza or splurge a little on a shopping spree. (B)

#### DAY 4: KOVALAM

Another day to relax and soak up your surroundings or to explore as you feel fit.

There are various options to fill your time so why not visit the rural countryside, take a boat ride on a freshwater lake, visit to the aquarium or walk along Lighthouse Beach. (B)

#### DAY 5: DEPART KOVALAM

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight. (B)

6 DAYS

NEPAL

Discover the wonders of the Himalavan kingdom of Nepal with this whistle-stop tour through the Kathmandu Valley, a highlight of this intriguing nation.

Prices are from per person, based on low season			
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER	
Standard	£640	£1,010	
Superior	£700	£1,170	
Deluxe	£880	£1,460	

#### Price includes

• Accommodation (3 nights Kathmandu, 2 nights Nagarkot)

- Return transfers
- Meals as stated (B,L,D)
- · English speaking local guides

Excludes flights to Kathmandu.

Depending on weather conditions. you may wish to rise early to view

NAGARKOT You will be met at your Kathmandu hotel and transferred to Nagarkot, a mountainous resort village with spectacular views over the Himalayas. (L). DAY 2: NAGARKOT

the sun rise over the magnificent Himalayas. Later, wander down to the villages of Bastola with a local guide and spend some time exploring through the village. Meet a local family and take part in a cooking class, dining on the results for lunch. Later this afternoon enjoy some time at leisure to relax or hike in the surrounding area. (B,L)





#### DAY 1: PARO TO THIMPHU

Upon arrival at Paro airport you will be met and transferred to your Thimphu hotel (L,D).

#### DAY 2: THIMPHU

Tour Thimphu, including a visit to the National Library, the Institute for Zorig Chusum (Painting School), the National Memorial Chorten, the Folk Heritage and National Textile museums and explore the Trashi Chhoe Dzong (B,L,D).

#### DAY 3: THIMPHU TO PARO

Head back to Paro and visit Simtokha Dzong en route. Upon arrival, explore Ta Dzong, an ancient watch tower and walk down a hillside trail to Rinpung Dzong, home of the Paro Festival (27-31 Mar) (B,L,D).

#### DAY 4: PARO

Hike to the Taktsang Monastery, known as 'Tiger's Nest'. The moderate hike will take you past a cafeteria, which is located approximately halfway up the trail. Here you will enjoy lunch and the wonderful views. Visit the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong and Kyichu Lhakhang on your return to Paro (B,L,D).

#### DAY 5: DEPART PARO

After check-out this morning you will be transferred to Paro airport for your onward flight (B).



## DAY 1: KATHMANDU TO

#### DAY 3: KATHMANDU

Travel back to Kathmandu, visiting the 9th-century former city-state of Bhaktapur en route. (B,L)

#### DAY 4: KATHMANDU TO PATAN

Tour Patan, including the former Royal Palace and Patan's Durbar Square. Return to Kathmandu and visit two of the city's most significant sights, the Boudhanath and Swayambhunath stupas. (B,L)

#### DAY 5: KATHMANDU

Enjoy the day at your leisure to explore Kathmandu. (B,L)

#### DAY 6: DEPART KATHMANDU

After check-out you will be transferred to Kathmandu airport where your arrangements end. (B)

## **BENTOTA EXTENSION**



Bentota is a picturesque coastal town nestled on the southwest coast of Sri Lanka, renowned for its stunning beaches and tranquil waters. This tropical paradise is a haven for sun-seekers, offering a perfect blend of relaxation and adventure.

Prices are from per person, based on low season		
HOTEL TWIN SHARE SOLO TRAVELLER		
Superior	£410	£760
Deluxe	£500	£930

#### Price includes

- Accommodation (4 nights Bentota)
- Return transfers
- Meals as stated (B,L,D)
- Madu Ganga Boat Ride
- English speaking local guides



#### DAY 1: ARRIVE BENTOTA Transfer from Colombo to Bentota and check-in at your hotel for a two

#### night stay. DAY 2: BENTOTA

Enjoy a boat ride through Madu Ganga. Sri Lanka's second largest wetland. The rest of the day is at leisure. Your hotel offers palmfringed shores, clear blue waters, and a range of water sports activities for you to choose from. (B)

#### DAY 3: BENTOTA

Boasting a rich cultural heritage, with nearby attractions like the Brief Garden and the Galapatha Raja Maha Vihara temple, you have the option to explore the cultural treasures of Bentota or simply relax on the beach. (B)

#### DAY4: DEPART BENTOTA

After breakfast transfer back to Colombo, where your arrangements end. (B)

## JAFFNA



Journey to Jaffna, on the northernmost tip of Sri Lanka, and discover a mixture of colonial history and traditional culture from the 17th-century fort, ornate Hindu temples and captivating museums.

Prices are from per person, based on low season			
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER	
Standard	£480	£920	
Superior	£440	£760	
Deluxe	£600	£1,170	

#### Price includes

• Accommodation (3 nights Jaffna)

- Return train tickets
- Return transfers
- Meals as stated (B,L,D)
- Jaffna day tourffna
- English speaking local guides

## TRINCOMALEE



Encounter the diverse coastal town of Trincomalee on Sri Lanka's north-east coast - the meeting point of exotic beaches, marine life, local fishing communities, colourful temples and colonial history.

Prices are from per person, based on low season					
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER			
Standard	£450	£850			
Superior	£460	£910			
Deluxe	£600	£1,060			

#### Price includes

- Accommodation (3 nights Trincomalee)
- Return transfers
- Meals as stated (B,L,D) • Trincomalee day tour
- English speaking local guide



#### DAY 1: TRANSFER TO

TRINCOMALEE You will be met at your Colombo or Bentota hotel and transferred to Trincomalee by road for your 3-night stay.

#### DAY 2: TRINCOMALEE TOUR

Spend the day exploring the fantastically varied city of Trincomalee. Take a tour of the Portuguese fort at the heart of the city, and marvel at the colourful Koneswaram and Pathirakali Amman temples. With their flamboyant painted figures, they were built by the Tamil community that call this area of Sri Lanka home. (B)

#### DAY 3: EXPLORE TRINCOMALEE

Enjoy a day at leisure today. You could soak up the sun on the beautiful beach, go snorkelling around Pigeon Island, take a whale watching trip, or even explore more of the surrounding area – you'll have a car and driver available all day to do just that. (B)

#### DAY 4: TRINCOMALEE TO COLOMBO

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport in time for your onward flight. (B)

Prices are from per person, based on low season				
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER		
Standard	£440	£800		
Superior	£460	£870		
Deluxe	£670	£1,230		

#### Price includes

Accommodation (2 nights Wilpattu)

\* The superior category is on a Full Board basis

- Return transfers
- Meals as stated (B,L,D)
- Wilpattu safari
- English speaking local guides

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## WILPATTU NATIONAL PARK



DAYS

Full of picturesque lakes and dense forest, Wilpattu National Park offers a wonderful slice of genuine Sri Lankan wilderness and is a must for anyone who is an avid safari fan.

#### SRI LANKA EXTENSIONS



#### DAY 1: COLOMBO TO JAFFNA

You will be picked up from your hotel and taken to Colombo's railway station to board the train to Jaffna. Upon arrival, transfer to your hotel. (B)

#### DAY 2: JAFFNA

Start the day at the ancient port of Dambakola Patuna before heading to Keeramallai town, the site of the holy bathing ponds, famous for their healing powers. Later visit Casuarina Beach, where the water is so shallow you can walk for miles into the sea and make a photo stop at Point Pedro, Sri Lanka's most northerly point. Back in Jaffna, visit the ancient NallurKandaswamy Kovil Temple for the nightly puja

ceremony. (B)

#### DAY 3: JAFFNA

After breakfast spend a day at leisure exploring some more of this fascinating area. (B)

#### DAY 4: JAFFNA TO COLOMBO You will be transferred back to Jaffna railway station to board the train back to Colombo. On arrival, your arrangements end. (B)



Spot blue-tailed bee-eaters in Wilpattu National Park

#### DAY 1: COLOMBO TO WILPATTU

You will be collected from Colombo and transferred to Wilpattu. On arrival, join an afternoon safari of the national park. Around the park's many lakes (villus) you'll have the chance to spot a wealth of animal species - spotted deer, sambhur, barking deer, wild boar, buffalo, sloth bear, mongoose and crocodiles. There are also populations of leopards and elephants to keep an eye out for too!

#### DAY 2: WILPATTU SAFARI

This morning, embark on your second Wilpattu safari before spending a free afternoon relaxing at your hotel. (B)

#### DAY 3: WILPATTU TO COLOMBO

After breakfast, transfer back to Colombo where you can be dropped off at the airport or your hotel where your arrangements come to an end.



# DUBAI STOPOVERS

Dubai is the ultimate urban destination – a city full of cutting-edge architecture, epic shopping malls, the finest of the world's luxury hotels and a cosmopolitan nightlife, all topped off with excellent beaches. As modern and extravagant as Dubai might be, there is still plenty of rich and traditional culture to be found, particularly amongst the labyrinthine alleys of the old city.

### **DUBAI HOTELS**



CANOPY BY HILTON DUBAI AL SEEF

Canopy by Hilton Dubai Al Seef is a contemporary new hotel located on the waterfront promenade which means you are spoilt for choice of shops and restaurant options. The view from the rooftop pool is simpl superb.



AMWAJ ROTANA HOTEL **\*\*\*\*** Located on 'The Walk', the Movenpick is well situated for shopping and entertainment. Walking distance to the Arabian Gulf beaches, the hotel facilities include an outdoor pool, five restaurants and wellness centre.



HILTON DUBAI JUMEIRAH HOTEL \*\*\*\*\* Ideally located on a private beach in Dubai Marina, the Sheraton has excellent facilities, including a spa and water sports. The combination of the contemporary hotel and its expansive landscape gardens creates a modern paradise.

## ESSENTIAL DUBAI

### 3 DAYS

See a whole other side of Dubai on a stopover that includes a half day city tour that provides an insight into Dubai's rich history. Admire the incredible architecture – ultra-modern and deeply traditional, and browse through the wares of Dubai's old souks, as atmospheric today as they have been for centuries.

DAY 1: ARRIVE DUBAI Upon arrival in Dubai, you will be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure.

#### DAY 2: EXPLORE DUBAI

Enjoy a half day shared tour of the city, which provides an insight into Dubai's rich history. Stop for photos at Jumeirah Mosque and the Presidential Palace, before visiting the Dubai Museum. Next, take a step back in time and cross Dubai Creek by traditional abra (water taxi) to Deira. Wander through the vibrant spice and gold souks – where the wares have been the same for centuries – and haggle for a bargain or two! The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

#### DAY 3: DEPART DUBAI

Enjoy time at leisure before transferring to Dubai airport for your onward flight. (B)

# DUBAI & THE DESERT

4 DAYS

See a whole other side of Dubai on a stopover that includes a half day city tour that provides insight into Dubai's rich history. Also included is a desert safari where you spend the evening enjoying the entertainment as you feast on Arabic cuisine under the stars at a traditional Bedouin-style camp.

#### DAY 1: ARRIVE DUBAI

Upon arrival in Dubai, you will be met by your driver and transferred to your hotel. Depending on your time of arrival, the rest of the day is at leisure.

#### DAY 2: EXPLORE DUBAI

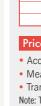
Enjoy a half day shared tour of the city, which provides an insight into Dubai's rich history. Stop for photos at Jumeirah Mosque and the Presidential Palace, before visiting the Dubai Museum. Next, take a step back in time and cross Dubai Creek by traditional abra (water taxi) to Deira. Wander through the vibrant spice and gold souks and haggle for a bargain or two! The rest of the day is at leisure. (B)

#### DAY 3: DESERT ADVENTURE

The day is at leisure before you head out into the desert for a magical evening. View falcons at an amphitheatre before an exciting drive into the sand dunes, with a stop at the perfect spot for sunset. Stop at a Bedouin-style camp for a delicious Arabic-style buffet with unlimited drinks of selected beverages. Here, you can also try camel riding, sandboarding and have a traditional henna design drawn on your hand. (B,D)

#### DAY 4: DEPART DUBAI

Enjoy time at leisure before transferring to Dubai airport for your onward flight. (B)



#### **DUBAI STOPOVERS**



es are from per person, based on low season					
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER			
Standard	£290	£480			
Superior	£350	£520			
Deluxe	£410	£760			

#### Price includes

Accommodation (2 nights Dubai)
Meals as stated (B,L,D)

• Shared touring with guides and entrance fees

Transportation as stated

Note: This stopover is usually available with no additional flight costs if travelling with Emirates.



Head deep into the spectacular desert for a magical experience

ces are from per person, based on low season						
HOTEL	TWIN SHARE	SOLO TRAVELLER				
Standard	£360	£570				
Superior	£550	£930				
Deluxe	£600	£1,050				

#### Price includes

Accommodation (3 nights Dubai)
Meals as stated (B,L,D)

Transportation as stated

Shared touring with guides
 and entrance fees

Note: This stopover is usually available with no additional flight costs if travelling with Emirates.

# Flying in style

At Wendy Wu Tours, we pride ourselves on the strong relationships we have with our airline partners. We can offer you not only the most convenient flights to complement your tour, but the best value too. We believe that your flights are an essential part of your holiday experience, and so our carefully selected airlines offer the utmost comfort, allowing you to arrive relaxed, refreshed and raring to go! All of our tour prices include return international economy class flights, but if you're celebrating or just fancy treating yourself, upgrading your cabin class is a great option.



## ECONOMY CLASS

Offering a comfortable seat, in-flight entertainment and meal service, the Economy cabin varies little between airlines. You can expect to find the following:

- Legroom between 31 and 33 inches
- Personal screen with on-demand entertainment and headphones
- In-flight meals, catering for dietary requirements
- Complimentary baggage allowance



### PREMIUM ECONOMY

Some airlines offer a Premium Economy option on their international flights. With a dedicated cabin and more spacious seating. Premium Economy offers an improved experience over Economy, but without the price tag of Business Class. Perks of Premium Economy include:

- 1-2 extra inches of seat width, 2-3 inches of extra legroom and
- 2-3 inches extra seat recline
- Adjustable head rests, leg rests or lumbar support
- Larger personal screens
- Premium food service
- Increased complimentary baggage allowance



### **BUSINESS CLASS**

Found mostly on long-haul, international routes, those who upgrade to Business Class can expect significantly more comfort and amenities than Economy and Premium Economy. You'll have:

- A dedicated check-in and Business Class lounge access
- Fast track through airport security
- Varying greatly between airlines, Business Class seats range from recliner seats to flatbed seats to 'suites'
- Large personal screens and extra viewing options
- Premium dining and wine service
- Increased cabin crew to passenger ratio
- Extra baggage allowance
- Luxury amenity kit



### **FIRST CLASS**

Long-haul First Class is the ultimate travel luxury, with optimum levels of comfort and service on whichever airline you choose. You can expect:

- Dedicated check-in and fast track through airport security - Access to exclusive First Class lounges
- A flatbed seat or 'suite' with extra space and privacy compared to Business Class
- Exclusive cabin and more specialised service
- Premium dining and wine service
- Luxury amenity kit including pyjamas

# **Preferred Airline Partners**



**BRITISH AIRWAYS** Preferred Partner

### **BRITISH AIRWAYS**

Wendy Wu Tours is delighted to be a British Airways preferred partner, which means we can offer you its most competitive fares. You can fly direct from London Heathrow to Delhi, Chennai, Bangalore, Mumbai and Hyderabad, with a wide range of connecting regional flights from all over the UK. We recommend the extra space and comfort of BA's premium economy cabin, World Traveller Plus.





### VIRGIN

Virgin Atlantic operates a daily direct flight from London Heathrow to Delhi and a daily direct flight to Mumbai too. Renowned for its personal in-flight service, Virgin Atlantic offers choices of main meals, complimentary drinks, on-board wi-fi and has an excellent on-demand entertainment system that features hundreds of movies, TV shows, news updates and games. Their on-demand entertainment system features hundreds of movies, television programmes, news updates and games.

Other airline partners to India include: KLM, Air France and Oman Air.

Note: Aircraft on board facilities differ between aircraft type and can be changed at short notice by the airline. When upgrading your seat, the advertised on board facilities are only guaranteed on the long-haul flight. On domestic or short-haul flights the configuration and facilities will differ to those on your long-haul flights.



### **TURKISH AIRLINES**

Turkish Airlines connects people to 340 destinations and is the only airline in the world which operates to more than 100 countries including 82 destinations in India and Asia. Our passengers can experience an exceptional service onboard with our comfortable seating in Economy and flatbed seats on our Business cabin on wide body aircrafts. Guests will be served our award winning catering services on all routes.



### **ETIHAD**

Etihad operates daily flights from London Heathrow and Manchester to Delhi, Chennai, Trivandrum, Cochin and Mumbai in India, as well as Colombo in Sri Lanka and Kathmandu in Nepal. Flights are via Abu Dhabi. Etihad is one of the world's fastest growing airlines and their flights offer high quality customer service, comfortable seats, excellent in-flight entertainment and exclusive lounges.

# **Hotels**

Your accommodation is chosen for the convenience of its location, levels of comfort or quirky character, so it can range from a smart business hotel here to a family-run guesthouse there. Here is a taster of the type of hotels you will be staying in on your tour.

### EXAMPLE TOUR HOTELS IN INDIA & CENTRAL ASIA















Hotels on our group tours are generally rated as local three to four star standard, but please note that there is no international classification system for hotels and differences in facilities and quality may exist between the UK, India and Central Asia. Hotels are subject to change and will be confirmed with your final documents.

# India & Central Asia for all seasons

Our tours cover the length and breadth of the Indian Subcontinent and Central Asia. Depending on the time of year and where you travel, you may experience two or more seasons as you journey through the region.

				_			
		DELHI				КОСНІ	
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm			Min Temp °C	Max Temp
Jan	7	18	23		Jan	22	32
Feb	11	23	18		Feb	24	31
Mar	15	28	13		Mar	25	32
Apr	22	36	8		Apr	26	33
May	26	39	13		May	25	32
Jun	27	37	74		Jun	22	29
Jul	27	34	180		Jul	23	29
Aug	26	33	173		Aug	22	28
Sep	24	33	117		Sep	22	29
Oct	19	31	10		Oct	23	30
Nov	13	27	3		Nov	23	30
Dec	8	21	10		Dec	23	31

	MUMBAI			DARJEELING				
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm			Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	18	30	10		Jan	3	10	17
Feb	18	31	10		Feb	5	12	15
Mar	21	32	10		Mar	8	16	41
Apr	24	33	10		Apr	11	19	86
May	27	33	10		May	13	19	166
Jun	26	32	560		Jun	15	20	468
Jul	25	30	640		Jul	16	20	710
Aug	25	30	520		Aug	16	20	529
Sep	25	31	320		Sep	15	20	375
Oct	24	33	90		Oct	12	13	121
Nov	22	33	20		Nov	8	16	15
Dec	19	32	10		Dec	5	12	4

COLOMBO			ULAANBAATAR					
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm			Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	22	31	62	1 [	Jan	-28	-14	3
Feb	23	31	69		Feb	-25	-10	5
Mar	24	32	130		Mar	-14	-1	10
Apr	25	32	253		Apr	-5	8	21
May	26	31	382		May	1	14	37
Jun	26	30	186		Jun	8	21	59
Jul	25	30	125		Jul	11	23	72
Aug	25	30	114		Aug	9	21	73
Sep	25	30	236		Sep	2	15	42
Oct	24	30	369		Oct	-6	5	17
Nov	23	30	310		Nov	-16	-5	9
Dec	23	30	168		Dec	-23	-12	5

	TBILISI				TASHKENT		
	Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm		Min Temp °C	Max Temp °C	Rainfall mm
Jan	-5	5	30	Jan	-5	6	63
Feb	-4	6	35	Feb	-4	8	75
Mar	1	11	67	Mar	2	15	92
Apr	4	15	111	Apr	7	21	103
May	9	20	117	May	13	27	76
Jun	14	25	79	Jun	17	32	30
Jul	17	29	50	Jul	20	35	11
Aug	18	29	51	Aug	18	34	5
Sep	13	24	55	Sep	13	29	10
Oct	7	17	70	Oct	7	21	34
Nov	1	11	47	Nov	1	13	58
Dec	-4	6	33	Dec	-4	7	66

Rainfall mm
20
20
40
110
180
690
460
330
340
280
140
30

### Delhi

Delhi's location allows a clash of climate types, meaning that it has distinct summer and winter seasons. May is the peak of the summer where temperatures reach the high 30s until the break of the monsoon at the end of June.

### Kochi

Down in the very south of India in the state of Kerala, Kochi enjoys a tropical monsoon climate. Due to being close to the equator and on the coast, there is little variation in temperature throughout the year.

## Mumbai

Although the monsoon sweeps through Mumbai between June to late September, generally the city has fairly stable weather, located as it is on the coast and within the tropics. The coolest month in Mumbai is January.

## Darjeeling

A former hillstation, Darjeeling has a temperate climate, with wet summers caused by the monsoon, whilst the spring (March and April) and autumn (September to November) offer cool and clear weather.

## Colombo

Sri Lanka's capital tends to be temperate all year round with temperatures hovering between 26 and 30 degrees. The monsoon brings rain to the city between May and August and also between October and January.

### Ulaanbaatar

Located at an altitude of 1,350 metres above sea level and far from the ocean, Ulaanbaatar enjoys brief, warm summers with temperatures in the low 20s, followed by long, cold, dry winters - it's actually the coldest national capital in the world!

### **Tbilisi**

Surrounded by mountain ranges and close to lots of water, Tbilisi has a mild microclimate with hot, humid summers and cold winters that usually see snow. The city receives rain throughout the year, with no specific wet and dry season.

### Tashkent

Tashkent experiences cold, usually snowy winters and long, hot, dry summers, with the highest temperatures in July and August. Most precipitation, rain and snow, falls during winter, with peaks in the early winter months and the spring.

# Your India and Central Asia questions answered

A selection of our most frequently asked questions.



#### Q. How soon after making our booking will we receive confirmation?

A. Once we have received your deposit payment, we will send you a confirmation invoice within 24 hours.

#### Q. Do you send us information about the destinations we will visit?

A. It is essential that you read the relevant Tour Dossier before booking, which you can find on wendywutours.co.uk, or we can arrange for one to be sent to you. If there are any particular challenges such as the length of time spent on your feet, journey times or accommodation standards, they will be explained in these concise trip notes. Two weeks before you travel, you will receive a detailed day-by-day itinerary, a travel guide and phrasebook as well as a suggested packing list with your final documents.

#### Q. Will I know which hotels I will be staying in before I go?

A. Hotel details will be sent with your final documents around two weeks prior to departure. Note that these may be subject to change. Hotels generally range from 3-4 stars. In more remote areas, accommodation may be of a lower standard and may not have all western amenities. Rest assured that all hotels used by Wendy Wu Tours are regularly inspected by our staff and our partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. If you require an early check-in or late check-out for your arrival and departure days, please contact us.

Q. How do I get my visa? A. We have a detailed visa section located on our website with comprehensive instructions on how to obtain a visa for the country you are visiting, this information can be found here https://www.wendywutours.co.uk/help-andadvice/passports-and-visas/contact us for visa application information

**BEFORE YOU TRAVEL** 

#### Q. Do I need travel insurance?

A. Your protection and safety are our main priority. That's why having adequate travel insurance is a condition of booking with us for all the destinations you plan to travel to. Your travel insurance policy must include full cover for COVID-19 both before and during your tour.

#### Q. What vaccinations do I need?

A. Vaccination requirements often change, therefore for up to date information please refer to www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk and always seek your doctor's advice. You may also need to comply with local requirements to be vaccinated for COVID-19 or to undertake COVID-19 tests.

#### Q. What size are your tour groups?

**A.** The group size on our Classic Tours is on average around 21 passengers, with a maximum group size 28. On our Go Beyond Tours and exclusive Solo Departures the average group size is usually lower, depending on the locations visited on the tour. You may meet other tour groups travelling concurrently. On our group tours we operate a seat-and-a-half policy, allowing you to travel in greater comfort.

#### Q. Do you run guaranteed departures?

A. Group tours are guaranteed to run subject to a minimum of 8 passengers. A National Escort will accompany each group of 10 or more. We will endeavour to run groups of a smaller size if viable to do so.

#### Q. As a single traveller, will I have to pay a single supplement?

**A.** We offer several options for single travellers ioining our tours. The first is to book onto one of our Solo Departures, which are reserved exclusively for solo travelers and have single occupancy of a double room built into the tour price (plus free access to an airport lounge and a drinks reception on arrival) or, if you prefer, to pay the single room supplement on a regular departure and have a private room reserved for you. Another possibility is to choose our 'Happy to Share' option where, if we can find you a share partner of the same gender, your Single Supplement will be removed from your booking.

We regret that Happy to Share requests cannot be accepted within 75 days of departure.

#### Q. What is the maximum luggage allowance on your tours?

A. If your tour includes internal flights your main suitcase or backpack must not exceed 15kg and your hand luggage must not exceed 5kg as this is the maximum allowance on internal flights. If there are no internal flights on your tour then your allowance is the international flight limit.

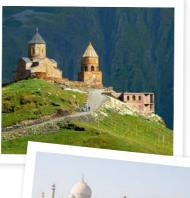
#### Q. What currency should I take?

A. We recommend you take US dollars as well as the local currency and a credit/debit card. We do not recommend travellers cheques. Please ensure you have sufficient funds to pay for personal expenses such as drinks, snacks, souvenirs, additional tipping and optional extras. Tipping must be in US dollars.

#### Q. How fit do I need to be?

A. Our Group tours are graded on each page with a Physical Rating to reflect the level of fitness required. The specific reasons for a particular grading for each tour are clearly described in the Tour Dossiers which you can find on our website. Please contact us if you require any advice.

Our range of Private tours is more flexible and may better cater for individual needs. Ask us for more details







#### Q. What does escorted touring mean?

A. Every Group Tour which has 10 or more passengers travelling will be accompanied by a National Escort from when you land at the airport to when you depart. On multi-country tours different National Escorts are used in each country. Our optional extensions are not accompanied by a National Escort; however you will have the benefit of our knowledgeable Local Guides. Transfers and flights to and from optional extension destinations are not escorted. Private Tours are not accompanied by a National Escort, but will be accompanied by knowledgeable Local Guides in each location.

#### Q. What sort of vehicles do you use?

Air: Internal flights are based on economy class, with reputable airlines.

Road: Coaches with air conditioning are used on our Group Tours for city sightseeing, short excursions to the countryside and longer transfers where necessary. On our Private Tours we use air-conditioned vehicles suitable for the size of the party.

Water: Ships or boats are used on tours which have a cruising element. To undertake these excursions, you will need to be capable of boarding and disembarking from these boats, sometimes without assistance and/or handrails.

Rail: Trains are used on some tours and our groups will travel in air conditioned standard carriages. The trains are generally clean: however you cannot expect western standards.

#### Q. Is there a dress code on your tours?

A. Our dress code is very relaxed; however, please note that clothing covering the arms and legs is more appropriate when visiting religious buildings.

#### Q. Are meals included?

A. All meals (excluding beverages) are included in our group tours except where stated. Please note that in remote areas, meals may be simple and choices limited. Meals included in Private Tours are stated in the itinerary and include several free evenings, offering flexibility for those who wish to explore local restaurants. If you book a fully inclusive Classic Tour your first meal will be dinner on the day of arrival and will end with breakfast on the normal day of departure. Any additional meals will be at your own expense and no refund will be made for any meals missed. You will sample a range of local cuisine with occasional western meals, and meals are usually taken at local restaurants.

## WHILE ON TOUR

## Q. Are there any optional excursions?

A. From time to time your National Escort or Local Guide may suggest optional sightseeing in addition to the standard sightseeing planned, depending on local conditions. Such options are at an additional cost, with prices usually per person. This is paid in cash (local currency) to the guide on the day of the optional excursion - just ask your guide if you need to visit a cash machine before touring for that day commences.

Q. Is tap water safe to drink? A. We strongly recommend that you drink bottled water only.

#### Q. Can special requests be arranged? **A.** If you have any special requests such as

requests cannot be guaranteed.

Q. What are the flying times to India, Sri Lanka, Central Asia and Mongolia? A. Flights to India are approx. 8 hours, to Sri Lanka 11 hours, Tbilisi 8 hours, Tashkent 10 hours and Ulaanbaatar 14 hours.

#### Q. Do you allow children on your tours? A. We allow children 12 years and over on

our Group Tours. We recommend families with children of any age to consider our Private Tours offering greater flexibility whilst on tour and suitable for any age group.

#### Q. Will I be travelling with passengers from other countries?

A. Our groups are generally made up of travellers from the UK, Australia and New Zealand. Occasionally we are joined by English speaking passengers from other countries.

#### Q. What is the average age on your group tours?

**A.** The average age range is 40-65. Younger and older passengers travel with us too.

#### Q. What hours of the day do your tours operate?

A. They generally start about 8am and end shortly after your evening meal. Occasionally earlier starts are required to meet flight departures or to visit sights at the best time of day.



dietary requirements, or if you wish to celebrate an event, please notify us at the time of booking and we will do everything possible to ensure your requests are met. Please note that special

## Health & Safety

Your health, safety and well-being on holiday are of paramount importance to us. Wendy Wu Tours is a fully insured and bonded tour operator with comprehensive public liability cover. Working closely with an independent health and safety organisation, the Wendy Wu Tours team carries out health and safety checks on accommodation, transport and excursions; and works with our destination partners and suppliers towards improving health and safety standards throughout the regions in which we operate. All travellers should be aware that safety standards vary across the different regions we visit and may not match the standards we enjoy in the UK. In the unlikely event of a problem or emergency on tour, Wendy Wu Tours has a Crisis Management process in place to support all of our customers. We also have a dedicated 24 hour emergency support number.

#### Q. How does the tipping system work on vour tours?

A. Tipping is expected in the Indian Subcontinent and in Central Asia. However this can often lead to awkwardness in knowing when it is appropriate to tip and how much, as well as ensuring you have a suitable amount of change available at the time. For your convenience, and based on many years of experience, Wendy Wu Tours operates a kitty system on our Group Tours so your National Escort will look after this aspect of your trip for you. It also ensures that the amounts paid are reasonable for you but still fair for the local people. The amount is stated on each Group Tour page (and will be advised again in your final documents).

Any additional tipping on any of our tours is welcomed at your discretion. Please feel free to tip restaurant staff, porters, or river guides if they performed a special service for you. For tours with fewer than 10 passengers, tipping will be slightly higher than stated on the group tour pages. On Private Tours and Extensions, we will advise recommended amounts. The specific amounts for tipping contributions will be outlined in your final documentation.



# **Booking your trip**

We want to make it as straightforward as possible to book your Wendy Wu holiday. It should be as simple as 1-2-3.

### 1. Choose your tour

Select from this brochure or browse our website to see our full range of award-winning tours and choose the style of travel that suits you. You will also find detailed information in our tour dossiers to make sure the tour is appropriate for you.

### 2. Speak to an expert

Get in touch with one of our expert travel consultants who will be able to answer any of your questions, check availability instantly and confirm prices.

### 3. Make a booking

Did you know you can book most of our tours on our website? Otherwise give us a call or visit your preferred travel agent to pay a deposit and secure your booking from £350pp. Final payment is usually due 75 days before departure.



# Your loyalty matters

Many of our customers enjoy the Wendy Wu Tours experience so much that they travel with us again and again and are happy to recommend us to their friends and family.

#### BECOME A WENDY WU TOURS VIP

Our Wendy Wu VIP loyalty scheme will get you exclusive offers and updates before anyone else plus you'll move up membership levels with every new trip you book - which means bigger savings!

#### Bronze VIP

£100 per person discount When you book your 2nd Wendy Wu holiday

#### Silver VIP

£150 per person discount When you book your 3rd Wendy Wu holiday

#### Gold VIP

£200 per person discount When you book your 4th or more Wendy Wu holiday



#### **RECOMMEND A FRIEND**

We'll send you a gourmet hamper as a thank you for the first booking we receive. Plus for every subsequent booking, we'll send you £50 worth of shopping vouchers.



#### WENDY WU TOURS BOOKING CONDITIONS

The following booking conditions form the basis of your contract with Wendy Wu Tours Ltd. Unit 1. 151-153 Tower Bridge Road. London, SE1 3JE, company number 05107061. Please read them carefully as they set out our respective rights and obligations. By asking us to confirm your booking, you confirm that you have had the opportunity to read and have read these booking conditions, the brochure and tour dossier and agree to be bound by them.

These booking conditions only apply to holiday arrangements which you book with us in 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", "contract", "package", "tour" or "arrangements" mean such holiday arrangements unless otherwise stated. For tailor-made holidays, please refer to our Wendy Wu Tailor Made brochure and terms and conditions, or visit our website. In these booking conditions, "vou" and "your" means all persons named on the booking (including anyone who if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL is added or substituted at a later date) or any of them as the context requires. "We", "us" and "our" means Wendy Wu Tours Limited.

#### 1. Your Holiday Contract

The first named person on the booking ("lead name") must be authorised to make a booking on the basis of these booking conditions by all persons named on the booking and by their parent or guardian for all party members who are under 18 when the booking is made. By making a booking the lead name confirms that he/she is so authorised. The lead name is responsible for making all payments due to us and to indemnify us for the liability of all party members. The lead name must be at least 18 when the booking is made. After we receive your booking request and all appropriate navments (see clause 4 "Payment" below), if the arrangements you wish to book are available, we will issue a confirmation invoice. A binding agreement will come into existence between us when we email your confirmation invoice to the 'lead name' or your Travel Agent. Your invoice will be sent to your travel agent or the lead name on the booking if you have booked direct with us. Please check this invoice carefully as soon as you receive it. Contact us immediately if any information which appears on the confirmation or any other 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 ten days of our sending it out (five days for tickets). 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 change or cancel any arrangements later you may have to pay an amendment or cancellation charge (See clause 8).

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 under the ABTA arbitration scheme (if the scheme is available for the claim in guestion and you wish to use it - see clause 13) or 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 can 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 claim governed by the law of Scotland/Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

#### 2. Your financial protecti

We provide full financial protection for our package holidays. For flight- based holidays this is through our Air Travel Organiser's Licence (ATOL number 6639) issued by the Civil Aviation Authority, Gatwick Airport South, West Sussex, RH6 0YR, UK, telephone 0333 103 6350, email claims@caa.co.uk. When you buy an ATOL protected 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. scheme.\*The flights and flight-inclusive packages we arrange are ATOL protected providing they are made available in the UK. For further information visit the ATOL website at www.atol.org.uk. We are a member of ABTA (ABTA number W7994). If your package holiday does not include a flight, protection is provided by way of a bond held by ABTA The Travel Association 30 Park Street London SE1 9E0 www.abta.co.uk.

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 packages. We 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 navments and, where transport is included in the package, to ensure your repatriation in the event that we become insolvent. More information on key rights can be found by visiting https:// www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2018/9780111168479/contents.

#### 3. Your Holiday Price

Please note, changes and errors occasionally occur. You must check the price of your chosen holiday at the time of booking. The cost of your travel arrangements was calculated using known costs and exchange rates of £1 to USD1.21 in August 2023. We reserve the right to increase and correct errors in advertised prices at any time before your holiday is confirmed. We will advise you of any error which we are aware of and inform the new applicable price at the time of booking. Once the price of your chosen holiday has been confirmed at the time of booking, it will not be subject to change.

#### 4 Payment

In order to confirm your chosen holiday, a non-refundable deposit of at least £350.00 per person (or full payment if booking within 75 days of departure) must be paid at the time of booking. In some cases the amount of deposit may be higher: where, for example, we need to pre-purchase flights tickets, accommodation or other services and in the case of our flight upgrade special offers, to which early airline ticketing may apply - please see the terms and conditions of individual special offers for further information. The balance of the holiday cost must be received by us not less than 75 days prior to departure. This date will be shown on the confirmation invoice. Reminders are not sent. Our preferred method of deposit payment is by bank debit card or credit card. Balance payment may be made by bank debit card, credit card or cheque (providing there is time to clear it to meet the payment schedule shown above - you should allow 5 working days for clearance from the time we receive it). If we do not receive all payments due 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. Except for flight inclusive bookings, all monies you pay to one of our authorised travel agents for your holiday with us will be held by the agent on your behalf until a contract between us comes into existence. After that point. your agent will hold the monies on our behalf until they are paid to us. For flight inclusive bookings, all monies paid to any authorised travel agent of ours for your holiday with us will be held on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust subject to the travel agent's obligation to pay such monies to us in accordance with our trading terms unless we fail. In the unlikely event of our financial failure, all monies then held by the travel agent or subsequently paid by you to the travel agent will be held by the agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation on the agent to pay such monies to us.Please note that on very rare occasions, errors may occur when inputting prices onto our website and systems. We regret that any contract entered into on the basis of a pricing error will be invalid. In the unlikely event that this situation arises, you will be given the option to pay the correct price or cancel with a full refund.

#### **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

#### 5. Travel documents and visas

A Passport with a minimum of six months validity from the intended date of travel, and contains a minimum of two blank pages, is required for travel for the majority of countries in our programme. As visa requirements are constantly changing, you must regularly check the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) website for the most up to date entry requirements. Visa fees, where required, are included for UK British Citizen passport holders and will be specified whether included on your confirmation invoice. If you hold any other British passport (British Subject, British National Overseas) or you are a non-UK passport holder or you reside outside of the UK, you will be required to obtain your own visas at your own expense. It is your responsibility to ensure the visa issued to you is correct. Whilst we include the cost of the standard visa application service in your tour price (for UK British Citizen passport holders), we will pass on any additional charges incurred for non-standard visa processing, or where visa charges are increased following publication of the brochure. Should your visa application be refused for any reason and you wish to cancel your booking the cancellation charges under clause 8 will apply. An express visa process is available for an additional cost depending on the country of visit. We make no promises that your Visa application will be successful and we cannot accept bookings conditional on the issuing of a visa, or payment of the balance of the holiday cost (see clause 4) to be deferred until visas have been issued. Responsibility for documentation accuracy. passport validity and dispatch of documents rests with you. Wendy Wu Tours accepts no responsibility in this regard. We accept no responsibility for passports lost in the post. It is the responsibility of each passenger to ensure that you carry all necessary passport, visa and other travel documentation as required by the country you are visiting, and that all documents are in date and valid. We do not accept responsibility if you cannot travel because you have not complied with any passport, visa or immigration requirements for any part of your holiday. Failure to have any necessary travel or other documents results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty being imposed on us, you will be responsible for reimbursing us in full. For the most up to date information on visa requirements for all destinations that we feature, please visit our website https://www. wendywutours.co.uk/help-and-advice/passports-and-visas/

#### 6. Travel Insurance, Health and Safety

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out suitable travel insurance covering at least circumstances leading to the cancellation of your booking and providing sufficient medical cover for illness or injury and repatriation while overseas, including COVID-19 cover. You must provide us with the name of your insurers and their 24 hour emergency contact number when you book or as soon as possible thereafter. Wendy Wu Tours will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking. You will indemnify Wendy Wu Tours in respect of any assistance or payment made by us in these circumstances. Details of any compulsory health requirements applicable to British citizens for your holiday are available from the websites listed below. It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all recommended vaccinations and health precautions, including COVID-19 protection, in good time before departure. Details are available from your GP surgery and from the National Travel Health Network and Centre www.nathnac. org. Information on health can be found at www.nhs.uk and www. fitfortravel.nhs.uk. Health requirements and recommendations may change and you must check the up to date position in good time before departure. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office publishes regularly updated travel information on its website www.gov.uk/ foreign-travel-advice which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure.

#### 7. If you wish to change your booking

If, after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, we will endeayour to make these changes, but it may not always be possible. Any request for changes to be made must be from the lead name on the booking or your Travel Agent. You will be asked to pay an administration charge as set out below per person and any further cost we incur together with any costs or charges incurred or imposed by any of our suppliers in making this alteration. Examples include:

- Minor amendments to the tour booked OR Minor amendments made within 30 days of departure OR Transferring between tours or changing departure date –  $\pounds50$
- Transferring between tours or changing departure date within 75 days of departure is not permitted and cancellation fees will apply
- Reissue of airline tickets, where possible £50 plus any non-refundable costs of the cancelled ticket and any additional costs of the new ticket

#### **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

You can transfer your booking to another person, who satisfies all the to 'unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances' (see below), conditions that apply to your booking, by giving us notice in writing as you will receive as compensation a credit towards the cost of your soon as possible and no later than 7 days before departure. Both you and the new traveller are responsible for paying all costs we incur in making the transfer.

Once a booking is confirmed no changes are permitted otherwise than in accordance with these terms and conditions.

It is important to note that some arrangements such as certain types of air tickets cannot be changed after a booking has been made as they are sold as part of your fixed package. You will be advised of any such non refundable charges prior to confirming your booking. Any change will be treated as a cancellation in which case cancellation charges will apply. Note that only one change per booking is permitted. Any requests for changes to your booking must be emailed to operations@wendywutours.co.uk.

#### 8. If you wish to cancel your booking

Because we start to incur costs in relation to your arrangements from the time we confirm your booking, if you cancel we have to make a charge and the nearer to your departure date you cancel, the higher the charge will be. If you wish to cancel a confirmed booking you must do so by writing to our head office. Cancellation takes effect from the day we receive your letter. Cancellation charges are shown in the table below and will be payable immediately on cancellation. Where the cancellation charge is shown as a percentage, this is calculated on the basis of the total cost payable by the person(s) cancelling excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges. Insurance premiums and amendment charges are not refundable in the event of cancellation:

75 or more days	Retention of deposit
74— 42 days	30% including deposit
41-28 days	60% including deposit
27 — 15 days	90% including deposit
14 days or less	100% including deposit

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 and we have no liability in these circumstances.

#### 9. If we change or cancel your holiday

Occasionally, we have to make changes to and correct errors in brochure and other details both before and after bookings have been confirmed and cancel confirmed bookings. Whilst we always endeavour to avoid changes and cancellations, we must reserve the right to do so. The right is also reserved to any change in airline, aircraft types and vessels scheduled for any specific departure.

#### If we change your holiday

Even after we have confirmed your booking we may have to make alterations to confirmed arrangements. Most such alterations will be minor and of little effect on your overall arrangements and while we will do our best to notify you of any such minor change before your departure, we will have no other liability to you. Occasionally we may have to make a significant change to your confirmed arrangements. Significant changes include but are not limited to the following (which are illustrative):

- Change of UK departure airport. (A change from one London airport to another is not considered a major change. London airports are Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted, Luton and London City)
- Change of your time of departure or return by more than 12 hours Change of resort
- · Change of holiday accommodation to accommodation of a lower official rating.

If we have to make a significant change, we will notify you as quickly as possible and offer you the following options

(a) (for significant changes) accepting the changed arrangements or (b) purchasing an alternative holiday from us, of a similar standard to that originally booked if available. We will offer you at least one alternative holiday of equivalent or higher standard for which you will not be asked to pay any more than the price of the original holiday. If the holiday is cheaper than the original one, we will refund the price difference. If you do not wish to accept the holiday we specifically offer you, you may choose any of our other available holidays. You must nay the applicable price of any such holiday. This will mean you paying more if it is more expensive or receiving a refund if it is cheaper or

(c) cancelling or accepting the cancellation in which case you will receive a full refund of all monies you have paid to us. In addition, if you choose (a) or (b) above, and the change is not due arrangements, or any alternative selected, of the amount shown in Scale A below. If you choose (c) we will pay you compensation of the amount shown in Scale B below. In all cases we will have no liability for any other or greater compensation, or for expenses or losses incurred as a result of any change

Period before departure date	Compensation per fare paying
notification given by us	passenger (excluding children)
0—7 days	£50
8 – 14 days	£40
15-28 days	£30
29 – 42 days	£20
43 — 75 days	£10

#### If we cancel your holiday

If we have to cancel your booking we will not cancel less than 60 days before your departure date, except for unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances, or failure by you to pay the final balance, or because the minimum number required for the package to go ahead hasn't been reached. Unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances means a situation beyond our control, the consequences of which could not have been avoided even if all reasonable measures had been taken. The minimum number required will be provided to you with the holiday description, along with the time limit for us to tell you if the package has to be cancelled. If your holiday is cancelled you can either have a refund of all monies paid or accept an alternative holiday of comparable standard from us if we offer one (we will refund any price difference if the alternative is of a lower value). No compensation will be payable and the above options for either a of your failure to comply with any requirement of these booking conditions entitling us to cancel (such as paying on time) or where a change is a minor one.

> Please note, in the event of a cancellation, airline schedule change or change of departure airport, we are not liable to cover the cost of flights, trains or any form of transportation or any other expenses incurred by these changes.

#### 10. Our liability to you

(1) We will take reasonable care to ensure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide 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 may 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 result solely 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 and you have suffered loss as a result 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 for any injury, illness, death, loss (for example loss of enjoyment), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any description whatsoever which results from any

- of the following: • the act(s) and/or omission(s) of the person(s) affected or any
- member(s) of their party or • the act(s) and/or omission(s) of a third party not connected with
- the provision of your holiday and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable or
- 'Unavoidable and Extraordinary Circumstances' as defined in clause 9 above.

(3) Please note, 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 and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract including any excursion you purchase in resort. Please also see clause 11 "Excursions". 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 in performing our contractual obligation 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, regulations and relevant standards of the country in which your claim

or complaint occurred - will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services which gave rise to the claim or complaint complied with local laws and regulations applicable to those services at the time, 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 regulations of the UK which would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim or complaint concerns the absence of a safety feature which might lead a reasonable holiday maker 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 10 (1). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and regulations and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care. (5) As set out in these booking conditions, we limit the maximum amount we may have to pay you for any claims you may make against us. Where we are found liable for loss of and/or damage to any uggage or personal possessions (including money), the maximum amount we will have to pay you is £1,500 per person affected unless a different limitation applies to your claim under this clause or clause 10(6) below. You must ensure you have appropriate travel insurance to protect your personal belongings. For all other claims which do not involve death or personal injury, if we are found liable to you on any basis the maximum amount we will have to pay you is three times the price (excluding 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 10(6) below. 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 or part of a claim (including those involving death or personal injury) concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including the process of getting on and/or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, sea, rail or road carrier to which any international convention or regulation applies, the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you will be limited. The most we will have to pay you for that claim or that part of a claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have to pay under the international convention or regulation which applies to the travel arrangements in question (for example, the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended and the Montreal Convention for international travel by air and/or for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the EC Regulation on Air Carrier Liability No 889/2002 for national and international travel by air, the Athens Convention for international travel by sea and COTIF, the Convention on International Travel by Rail). Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or regulation in respect of a claim or part of a claim, we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. When making any payment, we are entitled to 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 regulations are available from us on request. (7) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any description (1) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (2) which 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. Additionally we cannot accept liability for any business losses including self employed loss of earnings.

#### 11 Excursions

We may provide you with information (before departure and/or when you are on holiday) about activities and excursions which are available in the area you are visiting. We have no involvement in any such activities or excursions which are neither run, supervised nor controlled in any way by us. They are provided by local operators or other third parties who are entirely independent of us. They do not form any part of your contract with us even where we suggest particular operators/other third parties and/or assist you in booking such activities or excursions in any way. We cannot accept any liability on any basis in relation to such activities or excursions and the acceptance of liability contained in clause 10(1) of our booking conditions will not apply to them. We do not however exclude liability for the negligence of ourselves or our employees resulting in your death or personal injury. We cannot guarantee accuracy at all times of nformation given in relation to such activities or excursions or about the area you are visiting generally or that any particular excursion or activity which does not form part of our contract will take place as

these services are not under our control. If you feel that any of the activities or excursions referred to in our brochure, on our website and in our other advertising material which are not part of our contract are vital to the enjoyment of your holiday, write to us immediately and we will tell you the latest known situation. If we become aware of any material alterations to area information and/ or such outside activities or excursions which can reasonably be expected to affect your decision to book a holiday with us, we will pass on this information at the time of booking.

#### 12. Complaint procedure

If you have a problem during your holiday concerning any service provided as part of the arrangements we have confirmed, you must inform our National Escort or Local Guide (or, if none available, with our local agent or hotel manager) immediately to enable them to try to resolve the matter. Any notification must be put in writing and given to our representative / agent and the supplier as soon as possible. Our emergency number is manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week and is 01888 288 288. Until we know about a complaint or problem, we cannot begin to resolve it. If you remain dissatisfied, however, you must write to us within 28 days of your return to the UK giving your booking reference and full details of your complaint. Please address all correspondence to customer@ wendywutours.co.uk. Only the lead name should write to us. If you fail to follow this simple complaints procedure, your right to claim any compensation you may otherwise have been entitled to may be affected or even lost as a result.

#### 13 Arbitration

As ABTA members, we are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA's Code of Conduct. Disputes arising out of, or in connection with your booking which cannot be amicably settled may be referred to arbitration if you so wish under a special scheme arranged by ABTA Ltd and administered independently. The scheme provides for a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration and is approved by the Chartered Trading Standard's Institute. Further information on the Code of Conduct and ABTA's assistance in resolving disputes can be found at www.abta.com. You can also access the European Commission Online Dispute (ODR) Resolution platform at http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/odr/. This ODR platform is a means of notifying us of your complaint; it will not determine how your complaint should be resolved.

#### 14. Conditions of Suppliers

Many of the services which make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions (see clause 10(4) and 10(6)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions and of the international conventions are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

#### 15. Behaviour

When you book a Holiday with Wendy Wu Tours Limited you accent responsibility for the proper conduct for yourself and your party whilst on Holiday. If we or any other person in authority is of the reasonable opinion that you or any member of your party is behaving in such a way as to cause or be likely to cause danger or upset to any other person or damage to property, we will be entitled to terminate the holiday of the person(s) concerned. The person(s) concerned will be required to leave the accommodation or other service and we will have no further responsibility to them including any return travel arrangements. No refunds will be made and we will not pay any expenses or costs incurred as a result of the termination. You will be responsible for making full payment for any damage or loss caused by you or any member of your party during your time away. Payment must be paid directly at the time to the service supplier concerned. If the actual cost of the loss or damage exceeds the amount paid where estimated, you must pay the difference once known. If the actual cost is less than the amount paid, the difference will be refunded. You will also be responsible for meeting any claims subsequently made against us and all costs incurred by us (including our own and the other party's full legal costs) as a result of your actions.

#### 16. Special Requests

If you have any special requests, including dietary requirements, you must inform us prior to 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. Unless and until specifically confirmed, all special requests are subject to availability. Unless you receive written confirmation from

the supplier that a special request will be complied with, you must assume that it will not be. The responsibility for providing the special request lies solely with the supplier and not with Wendy Wu Tours. We regret we cannot accept any conditional bookings, i.e. any booking which is specified to be conditional on the fulfilment of a particular request. All such bookings will be treated as "standard" bookings subject to the above provisions on special requests

#### 17. Fitness. Medical Conditions. Disabilities & Illness

Please note that Asia is a vast area with varying terrain (including steps, steep hills and uneven walkways) which can be difficult to negotiate. An indicated 'physical rating' is outlined clearly in this brochure and in the tour specific Tour Dossiers. It is your sole responsibility to ensure that you are sufficiently fit and well to negotiate these areas, without any adverse effect on the overall group or tour operation. You should check that your proposed areas of travel are suitable dependant on your own health, including any medical condition and/or disability that you may have. If you or any member of your party has any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday or has any special requirements as a result of any medical condition or disability (including any which affect the booking process), 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. Dietary allergy requests must be made at time of booking and will be passed on to the relevant supplier, but unfortunately we cannot guarantee these requests can be met and cannot be held responsible for any illness or death caused by food consumed as part of your tour package with us. In any event, you must give us full details in writing at the time of booking and whenever any change in the condition or disability occurs. You must also promptly advise us if any medical condition or disability which may affect your holiday develops after your booking has been confirmed. Should this condition not be met, Wendy Wu Tours reserves the right to terminate the holiday of the person(s) involved, as described in section 9. If due to illness, suspected illness or failure to satisfy medical requirements (for example compulsory vaccinations or testing) we or any of our suppliers refuse to transport or accommodate you, we may (acting reasonably) exclude you from commencing or continuing the trip. In this situation we will provide you with reasonable assistance to make alternative travel arrangements and where possible to rejoin your group when medically cleared to do so. This will be at your own cost and you should contact your travel insurance provider immediately. Note that we will not be liable to refund the cost of your trip (or any part of it) under these circumstances.

#### 18 Flights

In accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005 Article 9, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a "Community list" which contains details of air carriers who are subject to an operating ban within the EU. The Community list is available for inspection at http://ec.europa.eu/transport/air-ban/list\_en.htm.In.accordance with EU Regulations we are required to advise you of the actual carrier(s) (or, if the actual carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. If the carrier with whom you have a confirmed reservation becomes subject to an operating ban as above as a result of which we/ the carrier are unable to offer you a suitable alternative the provisions of clause 9 "If we change or cancel your holiday" will apply. We are not always in a position at the time of booking to confirm the flight timings which will be used in connection with your flight. The flight timings shown in our brochure, on our website and/ or detailed on your confirmation invoice are for guidance only and are subject to alteration and confirmation. Flight timings are outside our control. They are set by airlines and are subject to various factors including air traffic control restrictions, weather conditions, potential technical problems and the ability of passengers to check in on time. Specific instructions relating to departure and travel arrangements will be sent with your air or other travel tickets approximately 2 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 despatched - we will contact you as soon as possible if this occurs. 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.

19. Delay and Denied Boarding Regulations In the event of any flight delay or cancellation at your UK or overseas

#### **BOOKING CONDITIONS**

point of departure, the airline is responsible for providing such assistance as is legally required by the Denied Boarding Regulations (see below). The ferry, tunnel or rail operator is similarly responsible in relation to any delayed or cancelled sea crossing or international rail departure. Except where otherwise stated in our brochure or on our website, we cannot provide any assistance in such circumstances other than information and advice to the extent we are in a position to do so. Any airline concerned may however provide refreshments etc. We cannot accept liability for any delay which is due to any of the reasons set out in clause 10(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. 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 EC Regulation No 261/2004 - the Denied Boarding Regulations 2004. Where applicable, you must pursue the airline for the compensation or other payment due to you. All sums you receive or are entitled to receive from the airline concerned by virtue of these Regulations represent the full amount of your entitlement to compensation or any other payment arising from such cancellation, delay, downgrading or denied boarding. This includes any disappointment. distress, inconvenience or effect on any other arrangements. The fact a delay may entitle you to cancel your flight does not automatically entitle you to cancel any other arrangements even where those arrangements have been made in conjunction with your flight. We have no liability to make any payment to you in relation to the Denied Boarding Regulations or in respect of any flight cancellation or delay, downgrading of any flight ticket or denial of any boarding as the full amount of your entitlement to any compensation or other payment (as dealt with above) is covered by the airline's obligations under the Denied Boarding Regulations. If, for any reason, we make any payment to you or a third party which the airline is responsible for in accordance with the Denied Boarding Regulations, you must, when requested, assign to us the rights you have or had to claim the payment in question from the airline. If your airline does not comply with these rules you may complain to the Civil Aviation Authority on 0333 022 1500 or by completing the relevant online form at www.caa.co.uk.

#### 20. Data privacy and protection

In order to process your booking and meet your requirements, we need to collect personal data from you and pass your personal details on to the relevant suppliers of your travel arrangements. Depending on what's required, the personal data we collect may include names and contact details, credit/debit card or other payment information and special requirements such as those relating to any disability or medical condition which may affect holiday arrangements and any dietary restrictions which may disclose your religious beliefs ("sensitive personal data"). The person who makes the booking is responsible for ensuring that other members of your party are aware of our booking conditions and this privacy policy and that they consent to your acting on their behalf in your dealings with us.

In making your booking, you consent to personal data being passed on to the relevant suppliers and other third parties. We take appropriate technical and organisational measures which are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data,

By making a booking with us, you agree to allow your insurers, their agents and medical staff to disclose relevant information to us in circumstances where we may need to act in your interests or in the interests of everyone in any group with whom you are travelling. In accordance with current legislation and GDPR regulations our privacy policy is available at https:// www.wendywutours.co.uk/ help-and-advice/privacy-policy/. We would also like to hold your information (including any email address), where collected by us. for our own future marketing purposes (for example, to inform you of promotional/competition offers or to send you our brochure). Wendy Wu Tours Ltd. may wish to contact you by post, e-mail and/or telephone with news, information and offers on its holidays we may have available and for market research purposes. If you prefer not to be contacted for the purposes set out above then please contact the Data Protection Officer at the above web address. You can ont out of all communications at any time.

You are generally entitled to ask us what details of yours are being held or processed, for what purpose and to whom they may be or have been disclosed. Please identify any such enquiry as a Subject Access Request and direct your enquiry to a member of our Customer Services team, who will respond to you within one month. In certain circumstances we are entitled to refuse your request. If you believe that any of your personal data which we are processing is incorrect, please contact us immediately so it may be updated.

# TOP REASONS TO CHOOSE WENDY WU TOURS

- · Comprehensive safety management on all holidays
- Outstanding guides
- Unrivalled knowledge and expertise
- Specialist advice from our experienced consultants
- Extensive range of group, private and tailormade holidays
- Fully inclusive prices with no hidden extras
- Depart from many regional UK airports
- Visa service included
- 5-star TripAdvisor rating and Feefo Gold Award every year
- Safe and secure with ABTA, ATOL & IATA
- Winner of industry's 'Best Long Haul Specialist Tour Operator' 13 years in a row

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   Cambodia
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- Kazakhstan Kyrgyzstan Laos Mongolia Nepal Palestine Peru Philippines Portugal South Africa
- South Korea Sri Lanka Taiwan Tajikistan Tibet Thailand Turkey Turkmenistan Uzbekistan Vietnam

To book please call or visit your preferred travel agent.



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wendywutours.co.uk

Mon-Fri 9:00am – 5:30pm Sat 10:00am – 4pm Sun and Bank Holidays – Closed

Opening times may vary at different times of the year. Please visit wendywutours.co.uk for updates.





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