

INDIA



INDIA – BHUTAN – NEPAL – SRI LANKA

TOURS – BEACHES – LUXURY TAILOR-MADE



Established 1968
2020 – 2022
FIRST EDITION

Dear Guest,

Welcome to our 2020 – 2022 Somak Holidays India brochure, your guide to planning the most unforgettable trip to this incredible country.

This brochure features a wide selection of tailor-made holidays, covering the exciting and colourful destinations that majestic India has to offer. Many of our guests are looking for something new, so you could combine your India trip with an extended stay in Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Dubai or the Maldives, wherever takes your fancy.

Most first-timers to India choose to take in the cultural sites of the famous "Golden Triangle", visiting the cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, however, there is so much more to see across this vast country. Perhaps we can tempt you with an itinerary that includes a trip to Ranthambhore National Park, where you might spot tigers and other wildlife in their natural habitat, or take the "Toy Train" up to the Himalayan hill station of Shimla. Culture abounds in the holy cities of Varanasi and Amritsar, so why not visit during festival time? We appreciate some of our guests are also looking for some relaxation, and the beautiful beaches of Goa and Trivandrum await.

We can show you the very best that tailor-made India has to offer, so you can explore this amazing country at your own pace. Our friendly and knowledgeable team can assist in creating your ultimate dream Indian holiday, or feel free to contact your preferred travel agent.

Happy travelling!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Sofat', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and fluid.

Suresh Sofat
Chairman



Welcome to India



- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| INDIA | |
| 1 Bikaner | 25 Ooty |
| 2 Pushkar | 26 Mahabalipuram |
| 3 Fatehpur Sikri | 27 Pondicherry |
| 4 Ranthambhore N.P. | 28 Tanjore |
| 5 Mandawa | 29 Madurai |
| 6 Jaisalmer | 30 Trichy |
| 6 Bandhavgarh N.P. | 31 Munnar |
| 7 Chittaugarh | 32 Periyar N.P. |
| 8 Udaipur | 33 Kumarakom |
| 9 Jodhpur | 34 Allepy |
| 10 Lucknow | 35 Darjeeling |
| 11 Varanasi | 36 Kalimpong |
| 12 Jhansi | 37 Gangtok |
| 13 Gwalior | 38 Amritsar |
| 14 Orchha | 39 Shimla |
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| 16 Pench N.P. | 41 Dharamshala |
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| 19 Dhar | 42 Chitwan N.P. |
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Why India?

Planning a trip to India needn't be a struggle, although it is hard to really appreciate the size of the country, and all the activities that can be enjoyed in a limited period of valuable holiday time. So, leave it to your friendly and knowledgeable experts at Somak Holidays to plan an itinerary for you that takes in all the highlights you want to experience; it is best not to cram too much in, but don't be surprised if it leaves you wanting to come back again for more!

Culture vultures will swoop on the opportunity to take a rickshaw ride around the bustling lanes of Old Delhi, visit the majestic Taj Mahal in Agra, and the many other iconic sites featured in our "Golden Triangle" itineraries, but there is so much more that India has to offer.

India is a haven for culinary experiences, and there is no better time to visit than during one of the many colourful religious festivals which take place throughout the year, perhaps incorporating a visit to the holy River Ganges. Other highlights might include an unforgettable train journey to the hill station of Shimla, perhaps coupled with a relaxing stay on a sandy Goan beach.

Wildlife enthusiasts will love the experience of visiting one or more of the scenic national parks, such as Ranthambhore, where there is the chance to spot tigers and a whole host of other game animals and birds. The parks are famed for their mix of rugged hillsides, marshland, forests and grassy plains, boasting an abundance of pretty flora and fauna.

Best time to travel

India is ideal to visit all year-round, however, the weather does change according to the region, with May and June being the hotter months; the drier and cooler months run from October to March and would be the ideal time to visit northern India including the "Golden Triangle", but southern India, including Kerala and Goa, often fares even better during the early months of the year.

Types of accommodation

We offer a vast array of city centre hotels, rural guesthouses, private homestays, luxury trains and even a river cruise to tempt you with! From the utmost luxury to the more affordable, there is always something to suit everyone.



A warm welcome

Top experiences

- ★ The "Golden Triangle", including the majestic Taj Mahal in Agra, the contrasts of visiting Old and New Delhi, as well as the amazing architecture of Jaipur (see pages 8 – 13)
- ★ Game Parks of India, with the opportunity to spot tigers and other game, birdlife, flora and fauna (see pages 14 – 19)
- ★ Holy cities including Varanasi and Amritsar, especially at the time of religious festivals (see pages 22 – 23, 26, 44)
- ★ Heritage River Cruise (see pages 29 – 31)
- ★ Trains of India – Luxury and other rail routes (see page 45)
- ★ Backwaters and Beaches in Kerala and Goa (see pages 32 – 33 and 48 – 49)
- ★ Extensions to Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and beyond (see pages 52 – 64)

Types of Holiday



Tailor-made

Creating bespoke holidays is our passion, and we want to share our expertise with you. Whether you are a couple looking for a special cultural experience, honeymooners looking for luxury in some of India's most prestigious hotels, or a relaxing family-friendly beach stay, we can help tailor an itinerary to your interests, budget and specific requirements, without you having to be insignificant members of a large tour group.

Train journeys

Rail trips across India offer the opportunity to experience the ever-changing landscape from the comfort of your seat. Choose from luxury trains such as the stunning "Mahrajahs' Express", the regal "Deccan Odyssey" or the majestic "Palace on Wheels". Other trains available to book in advance include the "Toy Train" to the Himalayas, and the comfortable regular service between metropolitan cities, known as the "Shatabdi Express".

River cruise

We are delighted to introduce a new 8-day itinerary featuring the Exotic Heritage Group "Ganges Voyager I" and "Ganges Voyager II" luxury river cruises, exploring the waterways from Kolkata to Chandernagore.

Beach and cultural combinations

Why not combine an unforgettable "Golden Triangle" tour with a relaxing beach stay. For more details see pages 48 – 51.



Jama Masjid Mosque

Essentials

- ★ Don't feel that having booked a "Golden Triangle" tour, you have ticked India off your bucket list.
- ★ Experience to the full all the gentle jolts to the senses that India has to offer – local tastes and aromas, the noisy bustle of the cities, the tranquillity and the views of the scenic landscapes.
- ★ Consider extending your stay to see the incredible wildlife in the National Parks.
- ★ We recommend combining a cultural tour with a relaxing beach stay at the end.
- ★ Tip your driver-guide at the end of your tour to express your gratitude.

Rajasthan & the North

Literally, “Land of Kings”, Rajasthan is India’s largest state, and offers a rich mixture of architecture and culture, set to a backdrop of breathtaking landscapes, flora and fauna. Known for its warm hospitality, a trip to Rajasthan can be enjoyed as a part of our “Golden Triangle” tours. Our bespoke packages to Rajasthan provide an unforgettable experience of this vibrant state, and we look forward to helping you plan the trip of a lifetime soon.

Delhi

Split into “New Delhi” and “Old Delhi”, India’s bustling capital city boasts an impressive and significant history, with an array of attractions as well. From the imposing India Gate to the bazaars of Chandni Chowk, the city is best discovered in a traditional Indian rickshaw. Delhi’s cultural life offers a unique blend of the traditional and the cosmopolitan. The city’s myriad museums, historic forts, botanical gardens and places of worship mean that a new adventure awaits you around every corner.

Agra

Best known for housing the much-loved Taj Mahal, Agra also hosts a wide range of cultural and religious festivals – including the annual “Taj Mahotsav”, a ten-day carnival of arts, crafts and music. Other attractions include the Agra Fort, which houses the Pearl Mosque and the Jahingiri Mahal, a UNESCO World Heritage site which was designated in 1983.

Jaipur

Capital of the Rajasthan state, Jaipur is often known as the “Pink City” owing to the rose hue of its buildings. Jaipur is a popular destination for those seeking a hybrid of architectural beauty, culture and tradition, and captivating landscapes. The Pink City is home to excellent examples of Mughal art and Rajput architecture, as well as one of the world’s most photographed buildings – the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds).



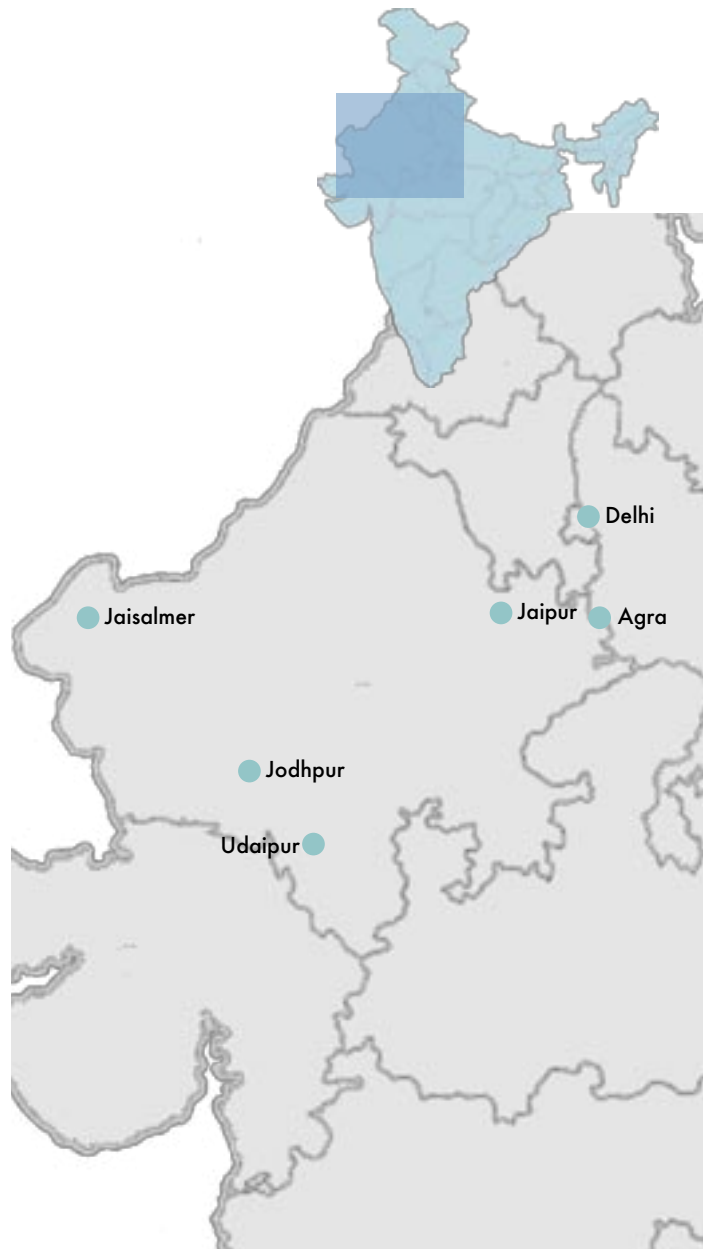
India Gate, Delhi



Taj Mahal, Agra



Jaipur



Udaipur

Known as “The City of Lakes” and nicknamed “The Venice of the East”, Udaipur is a welcome oasis amidst the dry heat of Rajasthan. Udaipur is home to several heritage sites, numerous lakes, and the Aravalli Hills. The City Palace is a must-see, with stunning views of Lake Pichola from its upper terraces.



Jodhpur

Shielded by a 10km stone wall, Jodhpur is nestled on the edge of the Thar Desert and is often referred to as a jewel in the crown of Rajasthan. The City is watched over by the Mehrangarh Fort, an intricate battlement which sits 400ft above. Other must-sees include Jaswant Thada, Ghanta Ghar and Umaid Bhawan Palace.



Jaisalmer

An exuberant past, interesting architecture, and a wealth of culture make this desert city a worthy addition to any trip to Rajasthan. From the citadel of the Golden Fort with its palaces, towers and restaurants, to the range of museums and exhibitions, Jaisalmer is a true juxtaposition of old and new.



Elsewhere in Rajasthan

We are committed to crafting unforgettable escapes, and our bespoke trips to Rajasthan can also feature exciting destinations such as Samode, Pushkar, Neemrana, Mandawa, Bikaner, Khimsar, Narlai and Deogarh.

The Golden Triangle

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur– 1 night Agra –
1 night Delhi

Superior 6 nights from: £1420

Heritage 6 nights from: £1790

The perfect introduction to the wonders of north India. The three cities of Delhi, Jaipur and Agra make up India's "Golden Triangle" and give a fantastic snapshot of the colours and spectacles of this land of wonders.

On this India holiday you will visit many famous and spectacular places such as the Red Fort in Delhi, the Samode Palace in Jaipur and the majestic and romantic Taj Mahal in Agra, amongst many other wondrous sites.

As you embark on your journey through this land you will experience the sights and sounds of India. Your tour guide is at your service throughout your trip to bring you face-to-face with the many aspects of this vast and vibrant land.



Taj Mahal, Agra

The "Golden Triangle" is the backbone of many tours in India

Day 1

Overnight flight from UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

Met at Delhi Airport and transferred to your hotel. Rest of the day at leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Visit Old Delhi and New Delhi. Visit Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid Mosque, drive past the Red Fort. Visit the spice market and take a rickshaw ride. Make a photo stop at India Gate, drive past Government buildings, visit Agrasen ki Baoli stepwell and The Bangla Sahib Sikh Temple.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Meals: Breakfast

Day 4 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur, en route stop at the Samode Palace for lunch.

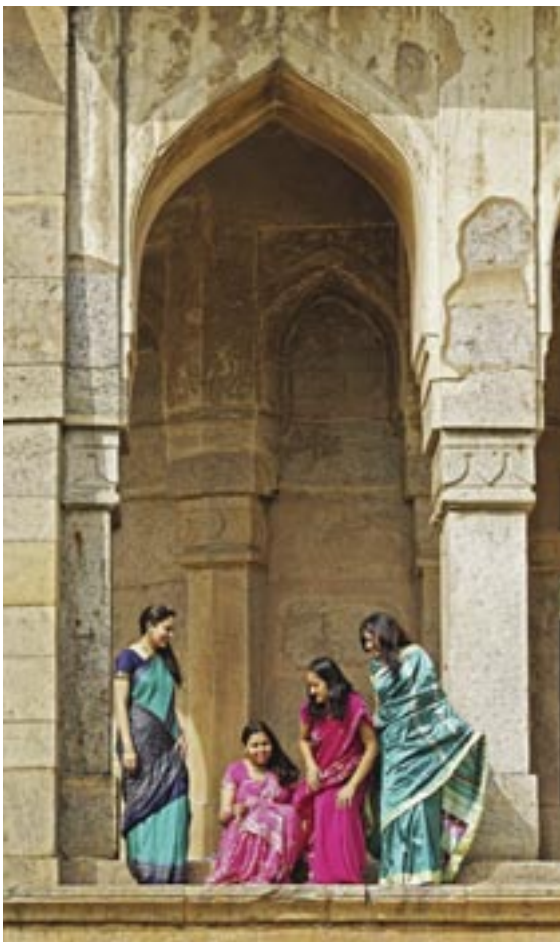
Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) /Four Points by Sheraton.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Immerse yourself in the local culture by staying at Ikaki Niwas, a luxury heritage homestay. You will experience a family home with a similar concept to a bed & breakfast, with a boutique feel, offering the same comfort as a hotel.

Day 5 Jaipur

Enjoy a trip to Amer Fort, a marvellous example of Rajput architecture with its terraces and ramparts reflected in the Maota Lake below. Visit a local school, interact with kids and perhaps do some charitable work. Visit City Palace, a complex of exquisite palaces, gardens and courtyards, decorative art and carved doorways, make a photo stop at Palace of Winds. The opportunity to wander about a local market



Tomb of Mohammed Shah, New Delhi



Hawa Mahal, Jaipur

famous for cotton.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) /Four Points by Sheraton.

Meals: Breakfast

Day 6 Agra

Drive to Agra and visit the oldest and grandest stepwell of Rajasthan at Abhaneri. Lunch at a village camp. Late afternoon visit Mehtab Garden for a spectacular view of the Taj Mahal, from across the River Yamuna.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere.

Meals: Breakfast and Lunch

Day 7 Delhi

Visit the magnificent Taj Mahal and the Red Fort. Later drive back to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Meals: Breakfast

Day 8 Depart

Transfer to Delhi Airport for your return flight to UK.

Meals: Breakfast

The Golden Triangle



What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ 6 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- ★ Visit to the oldest and grandest stepwell of Rajasthan at Abhaneri.
- ★ **Delhi Sightseeing:** Visit Old Delhi and New Delhi which includes Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid Mosque, drive past Red Fort. Walk through the spice market of Fatehpuri. Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi. A photo stop at India Gate, drive past Govt. buildings, visit Agrasen ki Baoli stepwell and The Bangla Sahib Sikh Temple.
- ★ **Jaipur Sightseeing:** Visit Amer Fort and the City Palace. Visit to a local school (during term time) which is giving education to street kids, with whom you may wish to interact. Also make a visit to a local market famous for cotton.
- ★ **Agra Sightseeing:** Late afternoon visit Mehtab view for a spectacular view of Taj Mahal. Morning visit Taj Mahal and Red Fort.

Add to your experience:

- ★ Delhi: A street food tour in Delhi to taste the mouth-watering dishes.
- ★ Jaipur: Experience a vintage car ride or experience a cooking demonstration with a local family and enjoy the dinner.
- ★ Agra: Option to take a heritage walk around the tomb of Itmad-Ud-Daulah.

NB: Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays

Superior Hotel Option

Delhi: Vivanta by Taj

Jaipur: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) or Four Points by Sheraton

Agra: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Heritage Hotel Option

Delhi: The Maidens

Jaipur: Dera Mandawa

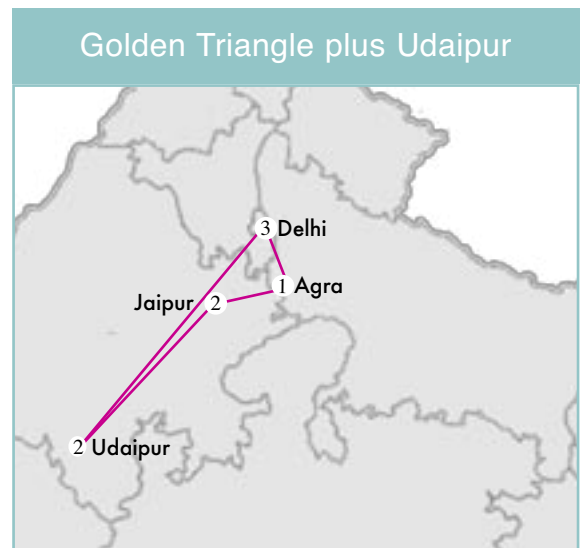
Agra: The Trident

Golden Triangle plus Udaipur

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Udaipur – 2 nights Jaipur – 1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi

8 nights from: £1750

If you would really like to immerse yourself in culture and sightseeing, and find that your "Golden Triangle" itinerary is a little too short, why not extend your stay in Udaipur, the famed "City of Lakes"? You could spend two days exploring the former royal palaces, forts and temples, whilst appreciating the contrast of scenic landscapes and bustling streets. To really appreciate the beautiful surroundings, take a relaxing boat trip on Lake Pichola.



City Palace, Udaipur

Udaipur

On the shores of the shimmering Lake Pichola, Udaipur is one of the most picturesque cities in Rajasthan. Surrounded by the Aravalli Hills, it is one of India's most romantic settings. Home to the stunning Lake Palace, which was the setting of the James Bond film "Octopussy".

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Udaipur

Internal flight Delhi to Udaipur.

At leisure.

Overnight: Lakend Hotel

Day 5 Udaipur

Sightseeing of Udaipur.

Overnight: Lakend Hotel

Day 6 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/Four Points by Sheraton

Day 7 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/Four Points by Sheraton

Day 8 Agra

Drive to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 9 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 10 Depart

Transfer to the airport for flight home.

What's Included:

As per "The Golden Triangle" tour on pages 10 & 11 with the addition of:

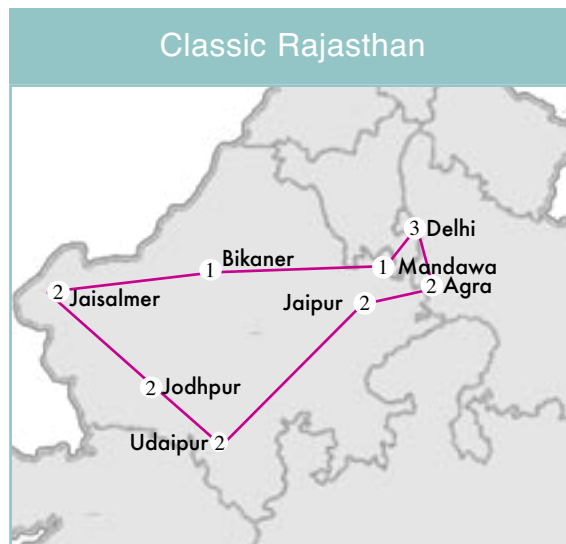
- ✦ Internal flight Delhi to Udaipur
- ✦ All airport/road transfers based on exclusive vehicle
- ✦ **Udaipur Sightseeing:** Walk through the old city, visit the magnificent City Palace and Saheliyon ki Bari (garden of maids), drive past Fatehsagar Lake. Visit Pratap memorial and Jagdish temple. Enjoy a boat ride on Lake Pichola.
- ✦ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ✦ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ✦ Total 8 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- ✦ Day 6: option to fly from Udaipur to Jaipur – price on request

Classic Rajasthan

2 nights Delhi – 1 night Mandawa – 1 night Bikaner – 2 nights Jaisalmer – 2 nights Jodhpur – 2 nights Udaipur – 2 nights Jaipur – 2 nights Agra – 1 night Delhi

15 nights from: £2720

An expansive 15-night tour which visits all the places on the “Golden Triangle” plus many more fascinating areas. Exploring so many diverse and interesting places will allow you to experience many other facets of magical India.



Jaisalmer

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

Met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Mandawa

Drive to Mandawa. In the afternoon, walk through the village and explore the fresco paintings on the old Mandawa havelis.

Overnight: Castle Mandawa

Day 5 Bikaner

On to Bikaner, a city of rich culture, imposing palaces, forts and stunning temples.

Overnight: Gajner Palace

Day 6 Jaisalmer

Drive to Jaisalmer.

Overnight: Mandir Palace

Day 7 Jaisalmer

Today enjoy sightseeing in Jaisalmer with time at leisure.

Overnight: Mandir Palace

Day 8 Jodhpur

Drive to Jodhpur.

Overnight: ITC Welcome Jodhpur

Day 9 Jodhpur

Jodhpur sightseeing and leisure time.

Overnight: ITC Welcome Jodhpur

Day 10 Udaipur

Drive to Udaipur, “Venice of the East”, en route stopping at Ranakpur.

Overnight: Trident Hotel

Day 11 Udaipur

Enjoy a lovely day sightseeing in Udaipur with time at leisure.

Overnight: Trident Hotel

Day 12 Jaipur

Flight to Jaipur, Rajasthan's beautiful “Pink City”.

Overnight: Dera Mandawa

Day 13 Jaipur

A day of sightseeing in Jaipur.

Overnight: Dera Mandawa

Day 14 Agra

Drive to Agra, en route stop at Abhaneri to visit the oldest and grandest stepwell of Rajasthan.

Overnight: Courtyard Marriott

Day 15 Agra

Agra sightseeing with leisure time to relax.

Overnight: Courtyard Marriott

Day 16 Delhi

Return drive to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 17 Depart

Transfer to the airport for flight home.

Note: The Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays.

What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ 15 breakfasts
- ★ **Delhi Sightseeing:** Visit Old and New Delhi which includes Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid Mosque, drive past Red Fort. Walk through the spice market of Fatehpuri. Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi. A photo stop at India Gate, drive past Govt. buildings, visit Agrasen ki Baoli stepwell and the Bangla Sahib Sikh temple.
- ★ **Bikaner Sightseeing:** Visit Junagarh Fort and explore the local market of Bikaner. Take a tonga ride.
- ★ **Jaisalmer Sightseeing:** Visit the Fort, the only inhabited fort in India. Visit the Jain temple located inside the fort. Visit the famous havelis and walk through the local bazaar. Later continue to see the sand dunes.
- ★ **Jodhpur Sightseeing:** Visit the famous Mehrangarh Fort, a great complex standing on the hillside with incredible views of the city of Jodhpur and also visit Jaswant Thada and the local market.
- ★ **Udaipur Sightseeing:** Walk through the Old city, visit the City Palace and Saheliyon ki Bari (garden of maids), drive past Fatehsagar Lake. Visit Pratap memorial and Jagdish temple. Enjoy a boat ride on Lake Pichola.
- ★ **Jaipur Sightseeing:** Visit Amer Fort and the City Palace. Visit to a local school (during term time) which is giving education to street kids, with whom you may wish to interact. Make a photo stop at Palace of Winds, visit to local market famous for cotton. Finally visit Laxmi Narayan temple and witness the Arti ceremony.
- ★ **Agra Sightseeing:** Late afternoon visit Mehtab Garden for a spectacular view of the Taj Mahal. Morning visit the Taj Mahal and Red Fort.

Game Parks of India

India's Game Parks offer some of the most unique wildlife experiences in the world – not least of which is the opportunity to see the country's most regal creature – the tiger. Whilst the safari experience in India is hugely different to the plains of Africa, with the Government retaining tight control over all of India's national parks, a safari in India promises to be a unique and memorable experience amongst some of nature's finest. The best time of year to explore these vast and exciting reserves is from October – March.

Ranthambhore National Park

Once the hunting ground of the Maharajah of Jaipur, Ranthambhore was declared a game sanctuary in 1955, and in 1980 it became a national park. Ranthambhore is famous for its Bengal tigers, and offers some of the best opportunities to see these predators in their natural jungle habitat. Ranthambhore boasts a rich mixture of other fauna including Indian leopards, wild boar, striped hyena and many more.

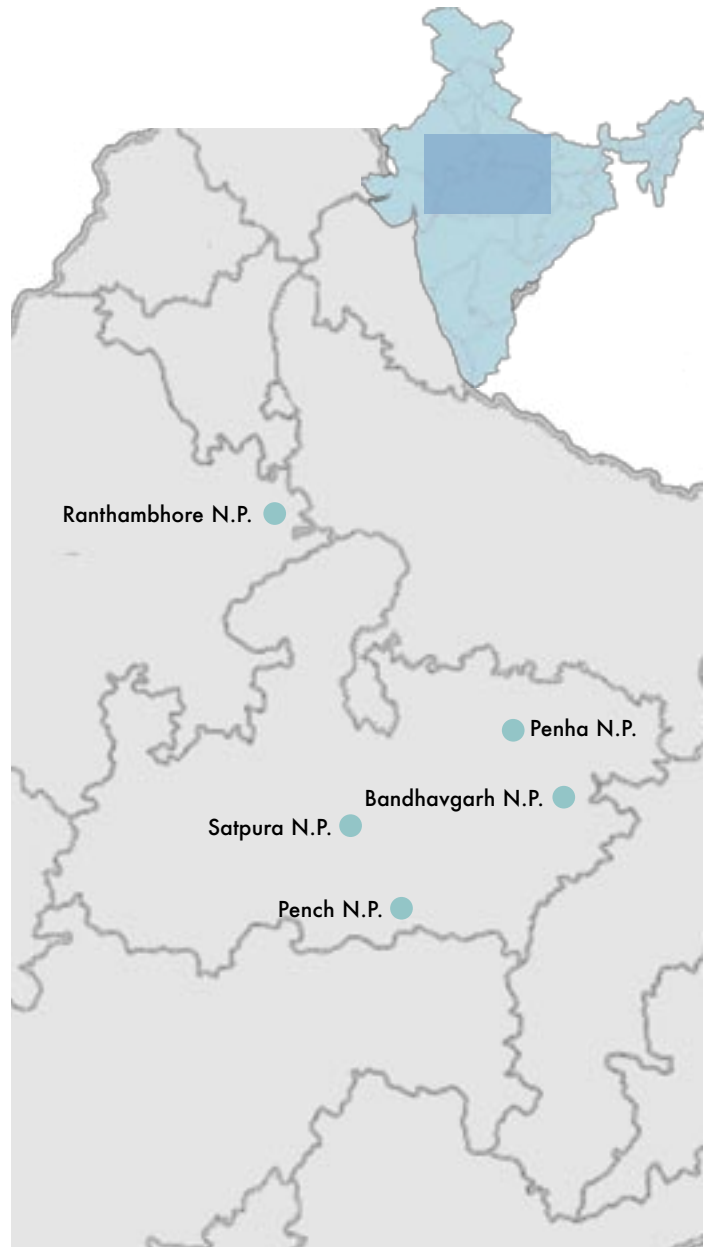
Bandhavgarh National Park

Located in the Umaria district of Madhya Pradesh, Bandhavgarh National Park offers a unique combination of wildlife, landscape and sightseeing. Visitors can experience rugged hillsides, marshland and forests, all of which attract more than 250 species of birds as well as tigers and a large breeding population of leopards. Bandhavgarh was declared a national park in 1968 and is home to more than 37 species of mammals.

Kanha National Park

Kanha National Park is the largest national park of Madhya Pradesh. It is noted for inspiring Kipling to write "The Jungle Book", and its grassy plains and dense woodland is home to a significant population of Bengal tigers, Indian leopards, sloth bears and barasingha as well as more than 200 species of birds.





Pench National Park

Pench National Park is located in the Seoni and Chhindwara districts of Madhya Pradesh, and derives its name from the Pench River that flows from north to south through the park. Declared a national park in 1975 and comprising more than 299km², Pench consists largely of dry deciduous teak forests and is home to a rich variety of flora and fauna including approximately 40 Bengal tigers, and more than 39 species of mammals, 13 species of reptiles and 3 species of amphibians.



Satpura National Park

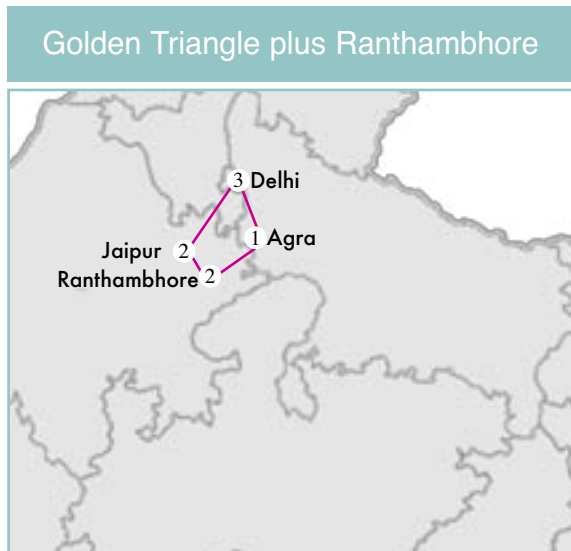
Established in 1981, Satupura National Park is located in the Hoshangabad district of Madhya Pradesh. Visitors to this vast and varied reserve are drawn in by the biodiversity – with a rich population of animals including tigers, leopards and Indian gaur, hidden amongst narrow gorges, sandstone peaks and dense forest.

Golden Triangle plus Ranthambhore

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 2 nights Ranthambhore National Park
1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi

8 nights from: £1640

The Taj Mahal in Agra; the hustle and bustle of Delhi; Jaipur, the “Pink City” and home to the Royal family; and the magnificent tigers and wildlife in Ranthambhore – this is a diverse and exciting tour.



Tiger in Ranthambhore

Ranthambhore

Once the hunting ground of the Maharajah of Jaipur, Ranthambhore was declared a game sanctuary in 1955, and in 1980 it became a national park. Ranthambhore is famous for its tigers and offers some of the best opportunities to see these magnificent creatures, along with many other species of wildlife.

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 5 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Ranthambhore National Park

Drive to Ranthambhore, en route visit the oldest stepwell at Abhaneri. At leisure.

Overnight: Ranthambhore Kothi

Day 7 Ranthambhore National Park

Enjoy morning and afternoon jeep safaris in search of tigers and other wildlife.

Overnight: Ranthambhore Kothi

Day 8 Agra

Drive to Agra for sightseeing.

Overnight~: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 9 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 10 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight home.

What's Included:

As per “The Golden Triangle” tour on pages 10 & 11 with the addition of:

- ★ All airport/road transfers based on exclusive vehicle
- ★ 2 shared jeep safaris in Ranthambhore National Park (additional jeep safaris available)
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ Total 8 breakfasts, 3 lunches and 2 dinners

In Search of Three Big Cats

1 night Mumbai – 2 nights Gir National Park – 2 nights Dasada – 1 night Mount Abu – 2 nights Bera Leopard Sanctuary – 2 nights Udaipur – 1 night Bundi – 2 nights Ranthambhore – 1 night Delhi

14 nights from: £2680

Imagine an itinerary where you might see three of the big cats – the Asiatic lion, the leopard, and of course, the tiger! This tour meanders from Mumbai to Delhi, taking in national parks and sanctuaries where you have the opportunity to see them, as well as a host of other wildlife, birds, flora and fauna, plus some cultural visits.



Leopard in Bera

Day 1

Overnight flight from UK to Mumbai.

Day 2 Mumbai

Met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: The Leela Mumbai Airport

Day 3 Gir National Park

Transferred to airport for flight from Mumbai to Diu. Road transfer to Gir National Park.

Gir National Park and Lion Sanctuary is situated at Sasan Gir, in Junagadh district of Gujarat. Established as a forest reserve to conserve the Asiatic lion, it was declared a national park in 1974. Rough and steep rocky hillsides covered with mixed deciduous forests encircle the park, home to over 300 lions.

Overnight: Lion Safari Camp

Day 4 Gir National Park

Morning and evening game drives in the park.

Overnight: Lion Safari Camp

Day 5 Dasada

After breakfast drive to Dasada. En route sightseeing of Gondal where you will visit Naulakha Palace and Royal Garage.

Naulakha Palace, built during the 17th century is one of the oldest and most beautiful palaces in Gondal, on the banks of the river. The Royal Garage has a large collection of vintage and classic cars and a fleet of 4-wheel drive vehicles

from World War II and the post-war period.

Overnight: Rann Riders

Day 6 Dasada

Morning game drive in The Wild Ass Sanctuary, home to the last of the Indian wild ass and the largest wildlife sanctuary in India. These animals look like a cross between a donkey and a horse. You'll find much more wildlife and plenty of birds as well.

Afternoon visit the local village and explore the handicraft, weaving skills and beadwork of the local community.

Overnight: Rann Riders

Day 7 Mount Abu

Drive to Mt Abu, a hill station with an old colonial charm. Afternoon visit the Dilwara temples.

Overnight: Bikaner House

Day 8 Bera Leopard Sanctuary

Morning, drive to Bera. This range lends a beautiful, serene backdrop to one's stay at one of the country's premier leopard getaway destinations. The terrain is a mix of forest and rocky outcrops adjoining the villages.

Overnight: Leopard Lair

Day 9 Bera Leopard Sanctuary

Morning & evening game drives around Bera.

Overnight: Leopard Lair

What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ 14 breakfasts and all meals at the national parks (Gir, Dasada, Bera and Ranthambhore)
- ★ Total of 7 shared jeep game drives (2 in Gir National Park, 1 in Dasada, 2 in Bera and 2 in Ranthambhore National Park)
- ★ **Udaipur Sightseeing:** Walk through the old city, visit the magnificent City Palace and Saheliyon ke Bari (garden of maids), drive past Fatehsagar Lake. Visit Pratap memorial and Jagdish temple. Enjoy a boat ride on Lake Pichola
- ★ Train journey from Ranthambhore to Delhi

Day 10 Ranakpur – Udaipur

Depart for Udaipur and visit Ranakpur en route.

Overnight: The Trident

Day 11 Udaipur

Sightseeing of Udaipur with time at leisure.

Overnight: The Trident

Day 12 Bundi

Depart for Bundi, en route visit to Chittorgarh in Rajasthan, known for its honey-coloured, 7th century Chittorgarh Fort, a vast hilltop complex with the remains of many temples and monuments.

Overnight: Hadoti Palace

Day 13 Ranthambhore

Morning visit Bundi Fort and stepwells before proceeding to Ranthambhore National Park.

Overnight: Ranthambhore Kothi

Day 14 Ranthambhore

Morning and evening game drives in Ranthambhore National Park.

Overnight: Ranthambhore Kothi

Day 15 Delhi

Transfer to railway station for train to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 16: Depart

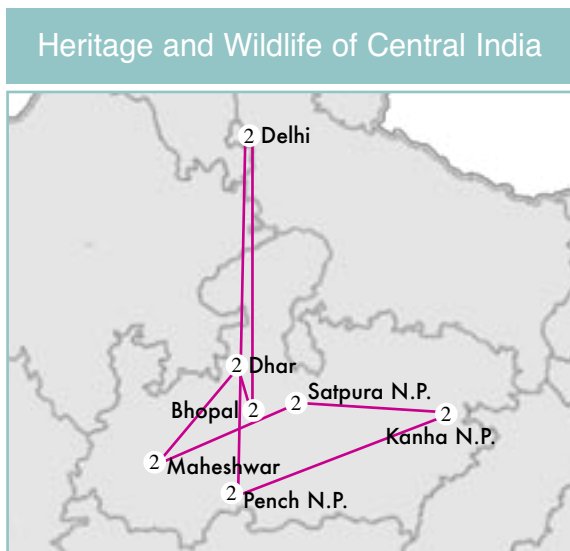
Transfer to airport for flight home.

Heritage and Wildlife of Central India

1 night Delhi – 2 nights Bhopal – 2 nights Dhar – 2 nights Maheshwar – 2 nights Satpura National Park – 2 nights Kanha National Park – 2 nights Pench National Park – 1 night Delhi

14 nights from: £3940

A wonderful mixture of culture and wildlife. Bustling Delhi, lakes, temples and palaces, plus game drives in three national parks – an amazing experience.



Elephants in the national park

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

Met and transferred to your hotel.
Overnight: The Maidens

Day 3 Bhopal

Morning sightseeing tour of Old Delhi with rickshaw ride. Later fly to Bhopal.
Overnight: Jehan Numa Palace

Day 4 Bhopal

Sightseeing of Bhopal.
Overnight: Jehan Numa Palace

Day 5 Ujjain To Dhar

Drive to the city of Dhar, with a visit to Ujjain and visit the Mahakaleshwar Temple.
Overnight: The Jhira Bagh Palace

Day 6 Dhar

Enjoy local sightseeing.
Overnight: The Jhira Bagh Palace

Day 7 Maheshwar

Leisurely drive to Maheshwar, situated on the banks of River Narmada. Time at leisure to enjoy your hotel or explore the town at your own pace.
Overnight: Ahilya Fort

Day 8 Maheshwar

Enjoy local sightseeing.
Overnight: Ahilya Fort

Day 9 Satpura National Park

Drive to Satpura National Park and time at leisure to enjoy your natural surroundings.
Overnight: Reni Pani Jungle Lodge

Day 10 Satpura National Park

Morning and afternoon shared jeep game drives in Satpura National Park.
Overnight: Reni Pani Jungle Lodge

Day 11 Kanha National Park

Drive to Kanha.
Overnight: Chitvan Jungle Lodge

What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ 14 breakfasts and all meals at the national parks
- ★ 2 shared jeep game drives in Satpura, Kanha and Pench national parks
- ★ **Bhopal Sightseeing:** Visit Sanchi, Bhimbetka and orientation tour of Bhopal driving past famous lakes and temples and Jama mosque.
- ★ **Dhar Sightseeing:** Visit Mandu and explore a group of monuments. Visit Rani Rupmati's Palace, Jahaz Mahal and Baz Bahadur Palace.
- ★ **Maheshwar Sightseeing:** Visit the temple, local village and shops.

This is a private tour.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

Day 12 Kanha National Park

Morning and afternoon shared jeep game drives in Kanha National Park.
Overnight: Chitvan Jungle Lodge

Day 13 Pench National Park

Drive to Pench.
Overnight: Pench Tree Lodge

Day 14 Pench National Park

Morning and afternoon shared jeep game drives in Pench National Park.
Overnight: Pench Tree Lodge

Day 15 Delhi

Drive to Nagpur and fly to Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 16 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight home.

Note: Afternoon safaris will not operate on Wednesdays in central India national parks.

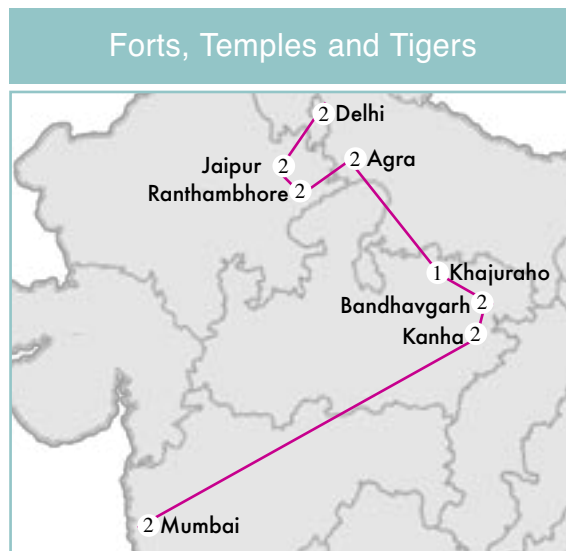
Why not extend your tour to the beautiful beaches of Goa or Kerala?

Forts, Temples and Tigers

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 2 nights Ranthambhore National Park
2 nights Agra – 1 night Khajuraho – 2 nights Bandhavgarh – 2 nights Kanha –
2 nights Mumbai

15 nights from: £3035

A superb itinerary visiting many highlights of this fascinating and colourful country. Start with the sights of the “Golden Triangle” followed by the famous tiger national parks, temples of Khajuraho and a final stop in bustling Mumbai. Various modes of transport are experienced on this tour including two trains and a rickshaw.



Amer Fort, Jaipur

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

Met and transferred to your hotel.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur

Road to Jaipur with lunch en route at Samode Palace. Overnight: Hilton Jaipur

Day 5 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur. Overnight: Hilton Jaipur

Day 6 Ranthambhore

Drive to Ranthambhore and visit the oldest and grandest stepwell of Rajasthan at Abhaneri. Enjoy lunch at a village camp.
Overnight: Ranthambhore Kothi

Day 7 Ranthambhore

Morning and afternoon shared jeep game drives in Ranthambhore National Park.
Overnight: Ranthambhore Kothi

Day 8 Bharatpur – Agra

Train journey from Ranthambhore to Bharatpur. Visit Bharatpur National Park by rickshaw. Explore various species of birds, then drive to Agra.
Overnight: Courtyard by Marriott

Day 9 Agra

Sightseeing of Agra with time at leisure.
Overnight: Courtyard by Marriott

Day 10 Jhansi – Khajuraho

Train from Agra to Jhansi, onward travel by road to Khajuraho. Afternoon sightseeing.
Overnight: The Radisson

Day 11 Bandhavgarh

Drive to Bandhavgarh National Park. Time at leisure to enjoy your natural surroundings.
Overnight: Kings Lodge

Day 12 Bandhavgarh

Morning & afternoon shared jeep game drives.
Overnight: Kings Lodge

Day 13 Kanha

Drive to Kanha National Park.
Overnight: Chitvan Jungle Lodge

Day 14 Kanha

Morning & afternoon shared jeep game drives.
Overnight: Chitvan Jungle Lodge

Day 15 Nagpur – Mumbai

Transfer to Nagpur airport for flight to Mumbai. Transferred to your hotel.
Overnight: Trident Nariman Point

Day 16 Mumbai

Sightseeing tour of Mumbai.
Overnight: Trident Nariman Point

Day 17 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight home.

What's Included:

- ✦ Flights with all transfers
- ✦ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ✦ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ✦ 15 breakfasts, 2 lunches and all meals at the National Parks
- ✦ Visit the stepwell of Rajasthan at Abhaneri
- ✦ 2 shared jeep game drives in Ranthambhore, Bandhavgarh & Kanha
- ✦ Rickshaw ride in Bharatpur National Park with naturalist
- ✦ **Delhi Sightseeing:** Visit Old and New Delhi including Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid Mosque, drive past Red Fort. Walk through the spice market of Fatehpuri. Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi. A photo stop at India Gate, drive past Govt. buildings, visit Agrasen ki Baoli stepwell and the Bangla Sahib Sikh temple.
- ✦ **Jaipur Sightseeing:** Visit Amer Fort and the City Palace. Visit a local school (during term time) which is educating street kids, with whom you may wish to interact. Also visit a local market famous for cotton.
- ✦ **Agra Sightseeing:** Late afternoon visit Mehtab Garden for a spectacular view of the Taj Mahal. Morning visit the Taj Mahal and Red Fort.
- ✦ **Khajuraho Sightseeing:** Visit to Eastern and Western group of temples.
- ✦ **Mumbai Sightseeing:** Morning walk in the famous Fort Heritage District, get an insight into the complex lunch box delivery system of the famous dabbawalas. Visit Prince of Wales museum and Mani Bhavan. Later visit the Dhobi Ghat – the big open-air laundry system. Explore Gateway of India and the famous Chowpatty beach.

Note: Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays.

This is a private tour.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

Why not extend your tour to the beautiful beaches of Goa or Kerala?

Central & East India

From the bustling streets of Kolkata to the lapping waters of the River Ganges, Central and East India is a vast and varied region with plenty that appeals to the modern traveller. Many consider these areas to be the true heart of India, with culture and history woven throughout the landscape in the form of ancient temples, vibrant spirituality and historical cities.

Lucknow

Despite being the capital city of Uttar Pradesh and the largest city in the state, Lucknow is frequently overlooked by tourists visiting the region in favour of other cities such as Varanasi. However, with its fusion of ancient and colonial architecture, along with its outstanding food and connection to the arts, Lucknow is hugely underrated.

Khajuraho

With a population of only 20,000, the remote village of Khajuraho has been listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1986, and is considered one of the “seven wonders” of India. This is due to the discovery of the Khajuraho Group of Monuments, a collection of more than 80 temples built between 950 and 1050AD by the Chandela dynasty. Approximately 25 of these remain intact, having been discovered in the 19th Century, and a visit is highly recommended when exploring Central & East India.

Kolkata

Known as “The City of Joy”, Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta) is the hectic and fascinating capital of West Bengal. Kolkata is one of India’s principal cities for culture, science, education and commerce. As the country’s third largest city by population, it is a bustling place, with a range of culinary, cultural and historical adventures to be had.



Hussainabad Imambara, Lucknow



Devi Jagdamba Temple, Khajuraho



Kolkata Street Scene



Ghats at Varanasi

Varanasi

The holy city of Varanasi, situated on the banks of the sacred River Ganges, is one of the world's oldest cities and has been a cultural centre in India for several thousand years. In the Hindu faith it is believed that bathing in the river will purge all sins and Varanasi is generally regarded as a place of salvation and enlightenment. The ghats (ceremonial steps) offer a glimpse into the city's spiritual significance. A visit to Varanasi is as rewarding as it is exciting.



Wagah border ceremony

Amritsar

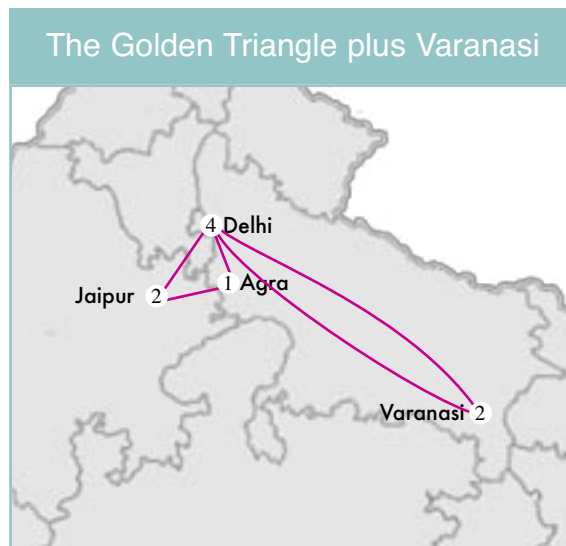
Amritsar is a vibrant and frenetic glimpse into India's rich Sikh history. Most famous for the magnificent Golden Temple – Sikhism's holiest shrine, and one of India's most disarming sights – Amritsar also houses the Jallianwala Bagh memorial, which commemorates the 1919 massacre by the British. The carefully choreographed Sunset Retreat ceremony at the Wagah border, which separates India and Pakistan, is a unique experience worth including – and a welcome break from the sights and sounds of the chaotic old city bazaars.

Golden Triangle plus the Holy City of Varanasi

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi – 2 nights Varanasi – 1 night Delhi

9 nights from: £1700

Whilst a "Golden Triangle" itinerary provides you with a snapshot of Rajasthan's architecture and culture, you will appreciate the religious significance of a two-day extension to the holy city of Varanasi. Stroll along the River Ganges at sunset and watch Hindu pilgrims bathe and perform their ablutions on the banks of these spiritual waters.



Holy man in Varanasi

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur

Road to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 5 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra

Road to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 7 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 8 Varanasi

Transfer to Delhi Airport for internal flight to Varanasi. Evening sightseeing.

Overnight: The Rivatas

Day 9 Varanasi

Sightseeing of Varanasi with leisure time.

Overnight: The Rivatas

Day 10 Delhi

Return internal flight to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 11 Depart

Transfer to the airport for flight home.

Varanasi

The holy city of Varanasi is situated on the banks of the sacred River Ganges and is one of the oldest cities in the world. It is believed that bathing in the river will purge all sins, and, for many Hindus, Varanasi is regarded as the place that provides salvation and enlightenment. The ghats (ceremonial steps) offer a glimpse of the city's spiritual significance.

What's Included:

As per "The Golden Triangle" tour on pages 10 & 11 with the addition of:

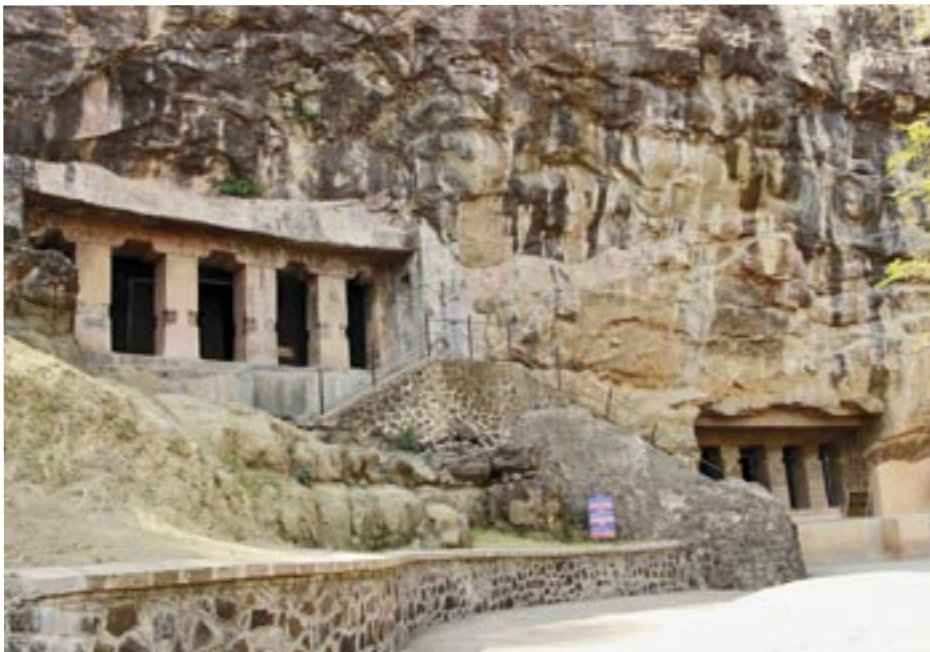
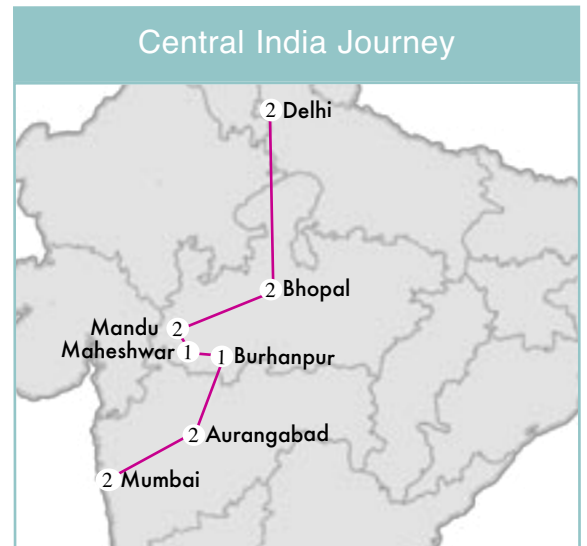
- ★ All airport/road transfers based on exclusive vehicle
- ★ Return internal flight from Delhi to Varanasi
- ★ **Varanasi Sightseeing:** Evening visit the ghats of the Ganges and witness the Arti ceremony. Next day enjoy an early morning boat ride on the sacred River Ganges. Visit the temples, ghats and other city attractions. Also visit Sarnath, a Buddhist temple famous for being the first place where Lord Buddha preached for the first time after gaining enlightenment
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ Total 9 breakfasts and 2 lunches

Central India Journey

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Bhopal – 2 nights Mandu – 1 night Maheshwar – 1 night Burhanpur – 2 nights Aurangabad – 2 nights Mumbai

12 nights from: £2995

First time visitors to India often choose a "Golden Triangle" tour, leaving them wanting more. We have created a central India trip, with sightseeing opportunities in Delhi, Bhopal, Mandu and Mumbai, some of which host UNESCO World Heritage Sites, but with some free time to experience the sights, sounds and aromas of incredible India.



Caves 6 and 7 Aurangabad caves

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Haveli Dharampura

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Haveli Dharampura

Day 4 Bhopal

Transferred for flight from Delhi to Bhopal. Visit Bhimbetka rock shelters, a UNESCO World Heritage site, over 600 rock shelters belonging to the Neolithic age were recently discovered.

Overnight: Jehan Numa Palace

Day 5 Bhopal

Sightseeing of Bhopal.

Overnight: Jehan Numa Palace

Day 6 Mandu

Depart for Mandu, an ancient fort city known for its Afghan architectural heritage. En route visit the Ujjain Temple, one of the most recognized temples in India.

Overnight: Malwa Resort (Government run)

Day 7 Mandu

Explore Mandu on a sightseeing tour.

Overnight: Malwa Resort (Government run)

Day 8 Maheshwar

Drive to Maheshwar situated on the banks of River Narmada.

Overnight: Narmada Resort (Government run)

Day 9 Burhanpur

Visit the Asirgarh Fort situated in the Satpura range connecting the valleys of the Narmada and Tapti rivers, one of the most important routes from northern India to the Deccan Plateau, Gateway of South India.

Overnight: Tapti Retreat (Government run)

Day 10 Aurangabad

A long day, as you depart early from Burhanpur to Aurangabad. En route stop at Ajanta, an exhilarating site! These caves were created in two phases and are considered masterpieces in Buddhist religious art. Ajanta caves are a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Aurangabad

What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ 12 breakfasts
- ★ **Bhopal Sightseeing:** Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Birla Temple, Upper & Lower Lake and Jama Masjid. Afternoon visit Sanchi – A prominent buddhist site and UNESCO World Heritage site.
- ★ **Mandu Sightseeing:** Visit Jahaz Mahal, Hindola Mahal, Rani Ropmati Pavilion and other monuments.
- ★ **Mumbai Sightseeing:** Take a heritage walk, explore the Grand Old buildings of Mumbai. Gateway of India, Prince of Wales museum and Mani Bhawan museum and historical building dedicated to Gandhi. Explore a famous eatery in Mumbai for lunch (payable locally). Visit Crawford market and Chowpatty

Day 11 Aurangabad

Visit Ellora also a UNESCO World Heritage site. It is the largest rock-cut monastery temple cave featuring Buddhist, Hindu and Jain monuments and artwork. Later visit Bibi Ka Maqbara, also known as baby Taj, a tomb which was commissioned by the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Aurangabad

Day 12 Mumbai

Transferred for flight to Mumbai.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point

Day 13 Mumbai

Sightseeing of Mumbai.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point

Day 14 Depart

Transfer to the airport for flight home.

This is a private tour based on 2 sharing. This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

The Himalayas

Incredible landscapes, adventurous escapades and fascinating culture await those who take the time to explore the Himalaya regions of India. It certainly isn't like your standard "Golden Triangle" tour, but we can tailor-make an itinerary so diverse for you that can include visits to remote hill stations, tea plantations, iconic religious sites, as well as the bustling city of Kolkata, perhaps combined with a luxury river cruise.

Dharamshala

Home to the Dalai Lama since fleeing Tibet in the 1950s, the town is located on the slopes of the Kangra Valley. The local area is steeped in Tibetan religious buildings which can be visited, and many of the temples offer superb views across this renowned hill station.

Darjeeling

Around this famed hill station, the subject of tea always comes to mind, but take the time to explore and you will find Tiger Hill, renowned for its incredible sunrise views and occasional glimpses of Mount Everest. Otherwise you can also spot wildlife in one of the nearby zoological parks and experience some Buddhist culture in one of the local monasteries.

Manali

Noted for its fine embroidery, Manali was a former principal gateway on the "Wool Route". It is now recognised as an adventurer's playground for would-be snow skiers and mountain trekkers, as well as those wanting to take to the air or dodge the white water raft currents. Adventurous singles and couples, sign up here!



The Himalayas



Dharamshala



Buddhist Monastery

Ladakh

Visitors to this small southern Himalayan community can expect a warm welcome from the local community in this area of outstanding natural beauty.



Rice Fields

Sikkim

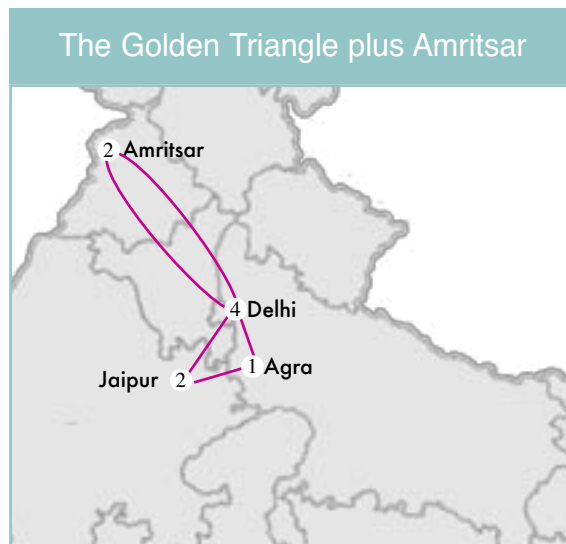
With its Alpine-like views, the impressive Kangchenjunga Mountain dominates the landscape at a height of almost 30,000 feet above sea level, and is the world's third highest mountain. Aside from its own offering of local Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, such as the magnificent example in Pernayantse, it is the gateway to further explorations in Nepal, Bhutan and beyond.

Golden Triangle plus the Holy City of Amritsar

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi –
2 nights Amritsar – 1 night Delhi

9 nights from: £1700

Combine your "Golden Triangle" itinerary with a journey to the holy city of Amritsar. The Golden Temple is revered as one of the holiest sites in the Sikh religion and is worth visiting both in the daytime and in the evening. Aside from other fascinating places to visit, witness the inimitable Sunset Retreat ceremony at the Wagah Border.



Golden Temple, Amritsar

Amritsar

Amritsar, in north-west India, is a vibrant city and most famous for the magnificent Golden Temple, holy shrine of the Sikh religion. A short walk from the temple is the Jallianwala Bagh memorial, which commemorates the events of the 1919 massacre by the British. The carefully choreographed Sunset Retreat ceremony at the Wagah border, which separates India and Pakistan, is a quirky experience worth including.

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur

Road to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 5 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra

Road to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 7 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 8 Amritsar

Transfer to Delhi Railway Station for early morning Shatabdi Express to Amritsar. On arrival in Amritsar transfer to your hotel. Evening sightseeing.

Overnight: Hyatt Regency

Day 9 Amritsar

Sightseeing of Amritsar with leisure time.

Overnight: Hyatt Regency

Day 10 Delhi

Shatabdi Express train back to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 11 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight home.

What's Included:

As per "The Golden Triangle" tour on pages 10 & 11 with the addition of:

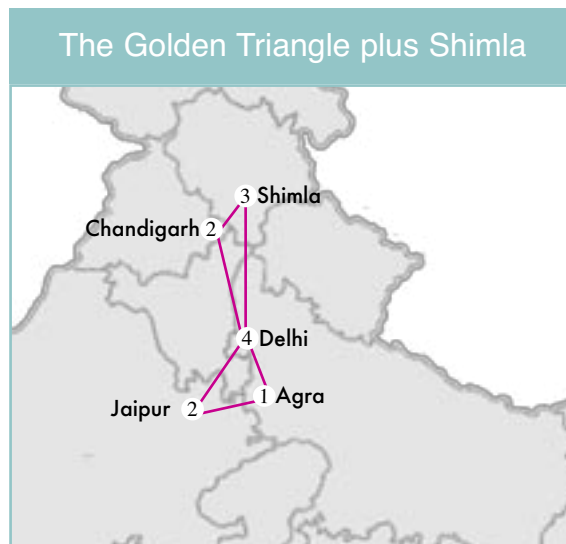
- ★ All airport/road transfers based on exclusive vehicle
- ★ Return train journey from Delhi to Amritsar
- ★ **Amritsar Sightseeing:** Evening visit of the Golden Temple and witness the Palki ceremony and see the Golden Temple illuminated at night. Next day, second visit to the Golden Temple. Visit the Jallianwala Bagh. Afternoon visit the Wagah border to see the beating retreat ceremony.
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ Total 9 breakfasts and 2 lunches

Golden Triangle plus hill station of Shimla

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi –
2 nights Chandigarh – 3 nights Shimla – 1 night Delhi

12 nights from: £2230

After the excitement of “The Golden Triangle” tour, travel to the beautiful hill station of Shimla, at the foothills of the mountains. Here the pace is slower and more relaxed, although there is still plenty to do and see.



Shimla

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 5 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra

Drive to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 7 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 8 Chandigarh

Transfer to Delhi airport for flight to Chandigarh. Transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Taj Chandigarh

Day 9 Chandigarh

Sightseeing of Chandigarh with leisure time.

Overnight: Taj Chandigarh

Day 10 Shimla

After breakfast, drive to Dharampur and board the Toy Train to Shimla. Arrive at Shimla Railway Station and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: The Oberoi Cecil

Day 11 Shimla

Sightseeing of Shimla with leisure time.

Overnight: The Oberoi Cecil

Day 12 Shimla

Day at leisure to explore at your own pace.

Overnight: The Oberoi Cecil

Day 13 Delhi

Road transfer to Kalka Railway station and board the train to Delhi

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 14 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight home.

Chandigarh

Chandigarh, “The City Beautiful”, is the best-planned city in India, with world-renowned architecture, and a wonderful quality of life. There are gardens to explore, architecture to admire, an array of restaurants and street food to savour, among many other attractions.

Shimla

Situated in the northwest Himalayas, Shimla was the summer capital of India before independence, and is now the capital of Himachal Pradesh. Its well appointed city with easy accessibility and untold highlights, make it one of India's most popular hill stations. Visit the Mall, Vice Regal Hall, Christ Church, Shimla State Museum, among many other attractions.

What's Included:

As per “The Golden Triangle” tour on pages 10 & 11 with the addition of:

- ★ Internal flight Delhi to Chandigarh
- ★ All airport/road transfers based on exclusive vehicle
- ★ Toy Train: Dharampur to Shimla
- ★ Shatabdi Express Train: Kalka to Delhi
- ★ **Chandigarh Sightseeing:** Visit Capital Complex, Leisure Valley, Rock Garden, Sukhna Lake and the Rose Garden.
- ★ **Shimla Sightseeing:** Perhaps the most famous temple of Shimla – the Jakhu temple – an ancient temple dedicated to Hindu Deity Hanuman, there is a steep but worthwhile hike of 1.2km to visit the temple. Also visit the second oldest church in North India, situated at the ridge and The Viceroy Lodge.
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ Total 12 breakfasts and 2 lunches

Spirituality & Nature

2 nights Amritsar – 2 nights Dharamshala – 2 nights Manali – 2 nights Shimla – 1 night Delhi

9 nights from: £2370

Discover delightful towns, beautiful hill resorts and sacred temples, surrounded by verdant valleys and spectacular mountains.



Manali

Day 1
Overnight flight UK to Amritsar.

Day 2 Amritsar
Met and transferred to your hotel.
Overnight: Hyatt Amritsar

Day 3 Amritsar
Sightseeing of Amritsar with time at leisure.
Overnight: Hyatt Amritsar.

Day 4 Dharamshala
Drive to Dharamshala through the narrow mountain roads. A beautiful and serene hill town that shot to fame after His Holiness, the Dalai Lama took shelter here. Rest of the day at leisure.
Overnight: Fortune Moksha

Day 5 Dharamshala
Day of sightseeing of Dharmshala to immerse yourself in the spirituality.
Overnight: Fortune Moksha

Day 6 Manali
Almost a full day drive to Manali, named after the sage Manu to whom a temple is dedicated in the old town. The valley is known as the "Valley of the Gods".
Overnight: ManuAllaya Resort and Spa

Day 7 Manali
Sightseeing of Manali.
Overnight: ManuAllaya Resort and Spa

Day 8 Shimla
Drive to Shimla, the capital and the best city of the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Shimla is home to a number of buildings that are styled in the Tudorbethan and neo-Gothic architectures dating from the colonial era, as well as multiple temples and churches.
Overnight: The Oberoi Cecil

Day 9 Shimla – Toy Train
Enjoy the lovely sights of Shimla today with a journey on the Toy Train.
Overnight: The Oberoi Cecil

Day 10 Kalka – Delhi
Drive to Kalka and board the Shatabdi Express Train to Delhi.
Overnight: Holiday Inn Aerocity

Day 11 Depart
Transfer to the airport for flight home.

What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ 9 breakfasts
- ★ Toy Train ride from Shimla to Taradevi
- ★ Shatabdi Express Train from Kalka to Delhi
- ★ **Amritsar Sightseeing:** Evening visit the Golden Temple and witness the Palki ceremony and see the Golden Temple illuminated at night. Next day second visit to the Golden Temple. Visit the Jalianwala Bagh. Afternoon visit the Wagah border to see the beating retreat ceremony.
- ★ **Dharamshala Sightseeing:** Visit Bhagsunath and McLeod Ganj. Bhagsunath has an old temple, a spring, slate quarries and a small yet beautiful waterfall, a popular picnic spot. The Buddha temple is situated opposite the present abode of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. McLeod Ganj is worth a visit to see the Tibetan monasteries and nunnery.
- ★ **Manali Sightseeing:** Visit Vashisht to see the hot water springs, the Hadimba temple and walk along Mall Road and see Naggar Castle.
- ★ **Shimla Sightseeing:** Perhaps the most famous temple of Shimla – the ancient Jakhu temple, is dedicated to Hindu Deity Hanuman, there is a steep but worthwhile hike of 1.2km to visit the temple. Also visit the second oldest church in North India, situated at the ridge and The Viceroy Lodge. In the evening stroll along Mall Road, the most happening place!

This is a private tour based on 2 sharing.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

Why not extend your tour to the beautiful beaches of Goa or Kerala.

Heritage River Cruise



Heritage River Cruise

A 7-night cruise aboard the Ganges Voyager I or Ganges Voyager II promises an opportunity to explore the remote and idyllic Indian villages along the banks of the sacred River Ganges. This boutique ship has 28 cabins, all with en suite facilities and a French balcony.

The ships sail from Kolkata to Murshidabad and back, with all shore excursions included, accompanied by expert guides. The ships boast a dining room, a bar, a spa and a viewing deck. Each vessel has sumptuous Indian textiles, a boutique stocked with Indian crafts and textiles, hospitable staff and delicious European and Indian cuisine. Enjoy entertainment and cultural activities on-board with welcome and farewell receptions.



This cruise follows the green route.



Victoria Memorial, Kolkata

Day 1 Kolkata

Board the ship for a fascinating journey on the Ganges River. After lunch on board, relax and take a stroll in the Indian Botanic Garden located near the jetty.

Day 2 Kolkata Tour – Bally Bridge

Today sightseeing of Kolkata, which includes the well preserved British colonial buildings in Kolkata: Writers' Building, General Post Office, High Court, Raj Bhawan (Governor's House), Town Hall, Council House, Treasury Building, Reserve Bank of India and Dalhousie Square. Visit St. John's Church, the oldest Anglican Church in Kolkata, built in 1756. Visit the Victoria Memorial Museum, which houses the largest collection of British colonial historical artefacts in India. Return to the ship and commence upstream journey passing below the cantilevered Howrah Bridge seeing various colonial buildings along the Ganges River. Moor for the night on the outskirts of Kolkata city near the Bally Bridge.

Day 3 Bally Bridge – Bandel

Set sail upstream to Bandel, meaning "port" in Bengali, which was founded by Portuguese settlers who built the Church and a Monastery around 1660.

In the afternoon visit the Basilica of the Holy Rosary commonly known as Bandel Church, then visit the Hooghly Imambara, one of the famous Shia pilgrimage centres in West Bengal.

Moor at the shore of Bandel.

Day 4 Bandel – Kalna

Sail further upstream to the town of Kalna. In the afternoon enjoy a rickshaw ride through the town centre, en route to the enchanting Rajbari Temple Complex, which has the highest concentration of temples in the region. Also visit the local market on return to the ship.

Moor at Kalna.

2020 Departure Dates:

11 February, 21 March, 11 and 25 April, 13 September and 20 & 29 December

2021 Departure Dates:

14 and 25 March, 23 September, 26 October, 27 November and 29 December

Day 5 Kalna – Mayapur

Sail onward to Mayapur, known as the birthplace of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu who is considered an incarnation of Lord Krishna. It is also the home of the Krishna Consciousness Movement also called ISKCON. Guests can experience the fascinating culture of these followers and their ornate, colourful decorated statues of Krishna.

Moor at Mayapur.

Day 6 Mayapur – Guptipara – Fulia

Sail downstream to Guptipara, a rural town, located on the riverbank. The paddy fields of Guptipara produce the finest rice in West Bengal and the area is also famous for the "Himsagar Aam", the tastiest mango on Indian soil. In the afternoon, sail across to the opposite riverbank and visit the weaving village of Fulia.

Moor overnight at Fulia.

Day 7 Fulia – Chandernagore – Kolkata

Sail further downstream to Chandernagore, which was established as a French colony in 1673. Visit the Sacred Heart Church, designed by French architect Jacques Duchatz. Continue journey back to Kolkata.

Moor overnight at Kolkata.

Day 8 Kolkata

Disembark after breakfast.

7-night Heritage River Cruise

7 nights from: £4370

Day 1
Overnight flight UK to Kolkata.

Day 2
Embark on the Ganges Voyage for 7-night itinerary on-board the Ganges Voyage as per page 30.

Day 8
Disembark and transferred to airport for return flight to UK.



Bandel

The Golden Triangle plus Heritage River Cruise

13 nights from: £5280

Day 1
Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi
At leisure.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi
Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 4-5 Jaipur
Drive to Jaipur.
Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/
Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra
Drive to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.
Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 7 Delhi
Return to Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 8 Kolkata
Fly from Delhi to Kolkata and join the 7-night itinerary on-board the Ganges Voyage as per page 30.

Day 15
Disembark and transferred to airport for flight to UK.



Ganges Voyager Signature Suite



Dining Room

What's Included:

As per "The Golden Triangle" pages 10 and 11 with the addition of:

- ★ All airport/road transfers based on exclusive vehicle
- ★ Internal flight from Delhi to Kolkata
- ★ Golden Triangle: 6 breakfasts and 2 lunches
- ★ Heritage River Cruise: all meals, with local mineral water and tea & coffee

Kerala & Tamil Nadu

The south of India differs significantly from the north. The busy cities around the Golden triangle in the North are swapped for tea plantations and beaches in the South. Kerala in the far south has a charm and gentleness unlike anywhere else in India. It is renowned for its numerous canals, waterways and lakes which together form the enchanting and truly relaxing backwaters. There are wonderful beaches to stroll on, beautiful backwaters to explore, cultural experiences by the score, and delicious local cuisine to be savoured.

Kerala

Kerala, a state on the southwestern Malabar Coast of India, has a charm of its own. Known for being one of the most progressive states in India, it is renowned for its canals, waterways and lakes, which form the enchanting backwaters of the region. Here you can visit tea plantations, enjoy early morning bird watching, and indulge in Ayurvedic spa treatments. We offer a combination of tailor-made itineraries to ensure that you get the most out of this beautiful and unique destination.

Kochi

Also known as the “Queen of the Arabian Sea”, Kochi is a city comprised of islands. It has been an important spice-trading port since as early as the 14th Century, and having been occupied by the Portuguese and Chinese amongst other nations, Kochi has been left with a fascinating combination of cultures. From visiting the Jewish Synagogue, built in 1568, to exploring the oldest European Church in India, built in 1503, Kochi has surprises hidden down every street and alleyway.

Munnar & Thekkady

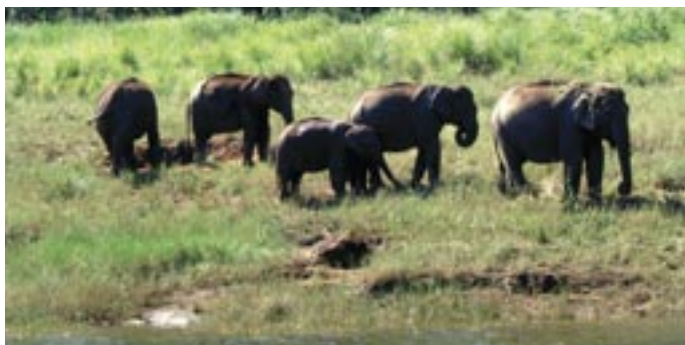
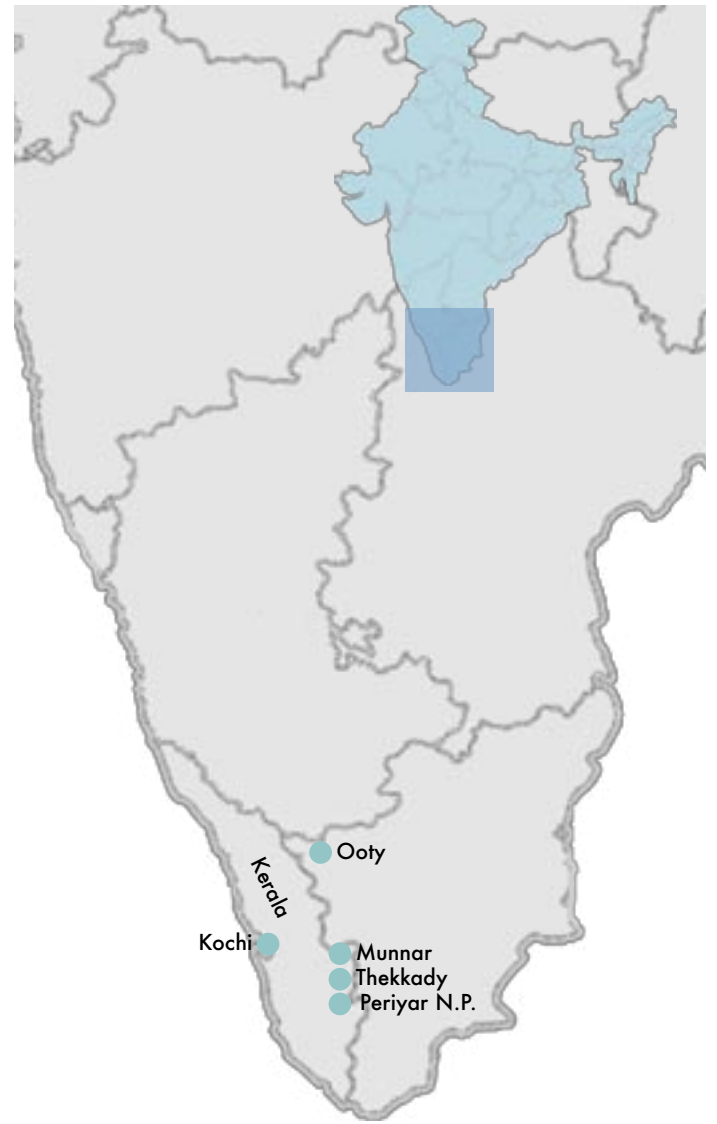
Munnar, a town and hill station located in the Idukki district of Kerala, is considered to be one of the key centres of Kerala’s tea past, present and future, with more than 30 plantations in the immediate area, many of which accept visitors. A step towards the Kerala-Tamil Nadu border takes us to Thekkady, a town that is renowned for being a haven for natural spices, including black pepper, cardamom, cinnamon, nutmeg, ginger and clove. It is unsurprising that Thekkady is a culinary dream, with a wide variety of small, authentic restaurants to choose from.



The backwaters of Kerala



Tea plantation, Munnar



Periyar National Park

Periyar National Park & Wildlife Sanctuary is a protected area of over 950km². The Park is home to elephants and tigers, as well as a host of amazing views across grassland, lakes, and forests. It is possible to enjoy the scenery from a boat on the lake, as well as viewing more than 266 species of birds and 160 butterflies, including the Southern Birdwing.

Ooty

Ooty, officially known as Udhagamandalam, is one of the best-known Tamil hill stations. Ooty is home to a mixture of eucalyptus and pine forests, as well as numerous coffee and tea plantations. The latter was encouraged by the British colonisation, when activities at the time were split between traditional hunting and the “new” sports of tennis and golf. Other highlights of this beautiful town include boating on the nearby lakes and visits to the local Botanical Gardens.

Kerala Experience

3 nights Kochi – 2 nights Periyar – 2 nights Kumarakom – 4 nights Kovalam

11 nights from: £2995

Kerala in the far south of India has a charm and gentleness unlike anywhere else in India. Here you can be as relaxed or as energetic as you wish. On this tour you will visit the delightful areas of Kochi, Periyar, Kumarakom and the pristine beaches of Kovalam.



Houseboat

Day 1

Overnight flight from UK to Kochi.

Days 2-3 Kochi

Kochi is spread across several islands and promontories in a stunning location. Met and transferred to your hotel on Willingdon Island (45 km, approx. 1 hour).

Overnight: Taj Malabar Resort & Spa

Day 4 Kochi

Early morning visit the nearby village of Kuthiatode, followed by a tuk tuk ride to the fishermen's beach to witness the boatmen bringing in their fresh catch for auction. After breakfast have the chance to interact with a local family. Enjoy a rickshaw ride while going through various markets and paddy fields. Late afternoon, proceed to a local theatre where you can see a live performance of Kathakali dance and other performing arts of Kerala.

Overnight: Taj Malabar Resort & Spa

Day 5 Periyar

After breakfast drive to Periyar. On the way stop for lunch at a very old heritage home, enjoy typical Keralan cuisine with a local family. Continue to Periyar. Periyar in Thekkady is South India's most popular wildlife sanctuary, known for its elephants. In the evening witness Kalaripayattu (martial

arts) performance at a local theatre.

Overnight: Spice Village

Day 6 Periyar

Early morning boat ride on Lake Periyar. Walk through the spice plantations. Watch a cooking demonstration and enjoy a freshly cooked meal.

Overnight: Spice Village

Day 7 Kumarakom

After breakfast drive to Kumarakom, a beautiful paradise of mangrove forests, emerald-green paddy fields and coconut groves with enchanting waterways and canals adorned with white lilies.

Overnight: Lake Resort

Day 8 Kumarakom

Board a houseboat for a cruise around the backwaters on Vembanad Lake. Lunch and afternoon tea on board the houseboat.

Overnight: Lake Resort

Days 9-12 Kovalam

After breakfast, drive to Kovalam, an internationally renowned beach with three adjacent crescent beaches. Overnight: Niraamayaa Retreats Surya Samudra

Day 13 Depart

Transfer to Trivandrum airport for return flight to UK.

Kerala Experience



What's Included:

- ✦ Flights with all transfers
- ✦ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ✦ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ✦ 11 breakfasts, 1 local family lunch, 1 lunch on houseboat, 1 cooking class with dinner in Periyar
- ✦ Kochi: Kathakali dance show and morning visit to fisherman's village and interaction with local family. Tuk Tuk ride and local bus ride
- ✦ Periyar: Kalaripayattu martial art show and bamboo rafting
- ✦ Day cruise houseboat with Kerala lunch in Kumarakom
- ✦ **Kochi Sightseeing:** Drive to Fort Cochin to visit The St Francis Church, the oldest European Church in India, Vasco de Gama. Visit the Chinese fishing nets. Take a rickshaw ride (tuk tuk) to Mattancherry, renowned for its wall murals. Visit the Jewish Synagogue (Friday and Saturday closed). Take the local bus from Mattancherry to Broadway (40 minutes), the famous wholesale market. A stroll along the famous Marine Drive, later enjoy a motor boat cruise for 45 minutes around the harbour area.

This is a private tour based on 2 sharing.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

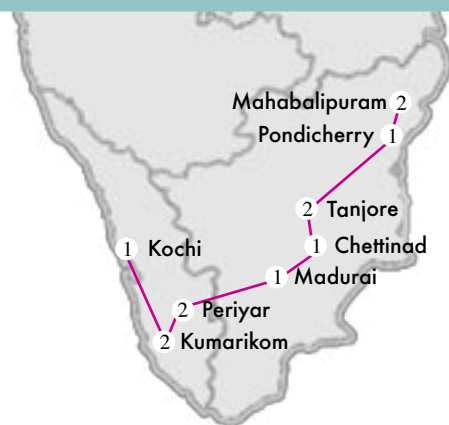
South India Splendour

2 nights Mahabalipuram – 1 night Pondicherry – 2 nights Tanjore –
1 night Chettinad – 1 night Madurai – 2 nights Periyar – 2 nights Kumarakom –
1 night Kochi

12 nights from: £3099

Noted for its tranquil, unspoilt backwaters and waterways, beautiful beaches, lush forests and delicious cuisine, south India really is an absolute delight. Combine all this with visits to temples and vibrant markets, and add a dash of self-indulgence in the form of an Ayurvedic massage, and you have the perfect holiday.

South India Splendour



Kumarakom

Day 1
Overnight flight UK to Chennai.

Day 2 Mahabalipuram
Met and transferred to Mahabalipuram.
Overnight: Chariot Beach Resort

Day 3 Mahabalipuram
Morning sightseeing with afternoon to explore the local backpackers market.
Overnight: Chariot Beach Resort

Day 4 Pondicherry
Leisurely drive to Pondicherry. In the afternoon, enjoy sightseeing. Later relax at one of the cafés in Old Pondicherry for a cup of tea or coffee.
Overnight: Villa Shanti

Day 5 Tanjore
Drive to Tanjore and visit Chidambaram and Gangaikonda Cholapuram en route.
Overnight: Sangam Hotel.

Day 6 Tanjore
Sightseeing of Tanjore with leisure time.
Overnight: Sangam Hotel.

Day 7 Chettinad
Drive to Chettinad and enjoy sightseeing. Chettinad is famous for its cuisine which you may wish to try.
Overnight: Chettinadu Mansion

Day 8 Madurai
Drive to Madurai and visit the local sights.
Overnight: GRT Regency

Day 9 Periyar
Drive to Periyar.
Overnight: Sarovar Poetree Resort

Day 10 Periyar
Early morning boat ride on Lake Periyar. Walk through the spice plantations. Watch a cooking demonstration and enjoy a freshly cooked meal.
Overnight: Sarovar Poetree Resort

Day 11 Kumarakom
Drive to Kumarakom. Afternoon to relax, or choose from activities such as an Ayurvedic massage, village walk, row a country boat through the backwater canals, or a visit to a coir making unit.
Overnight: Eastend Lakesong

Day 12 Kumarakom
In the morning join a houseboat cruise. Sail through the backwaters. Lunch on board. Option to canoe through narrow channels to observe local life. Tea and coffee will be served onboard. Disembark the houseboat and overnight at your hotel.
Overnight: Eastend Lakesong

13 Kochi
Drive to Kochi and enjoy sightseeing of this wonderful city.
Overnight: Crowne Plaza

Day 14 Depart
Transfer to the airport for flight home.

What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ★ 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch on houseboat, 1 cooking demonstration dinner at Periyar
- ★ **Mahabalipuram Sightseeing:** Visit the Shore temple, Five Rathas and Arjuna's Penance rock structures.
- ★ **Tanjore Sightseeing:** Visit Brihadishvara Temple (UNESCO World Heritage site) in Tanjore and the Srirangam temple at Trichy. Also enjoy a visit to a brass idol and traditional musical instrument making factory.
- ★ **Chettinad Sightseeing:** Explore the magnificent old mansions and visit the local market.
- ★ **Madurai Sightseeing:** Visit the famous Meenakshi temple and Thirumalai Nayak palace. Take a walk through the local flower market.
- ★ **Periyar Sightseeing:** Afternoon visit the spice market at Kumily. In the evening, witness Kalaripayattu martial arts show.
- ★ **Kochi Sightseeing:** Visit the Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace, St. Francis Church, see Chinese fishing nets, walk through Fort Kochi area. Witness a show of Kerala's performing arts at Greenix Theatre.

This is a private tour based on 2 sharing, including return flights (regional departures available).

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

Why not extend your tour to the beautiful beaches of Marari or Kovalam.

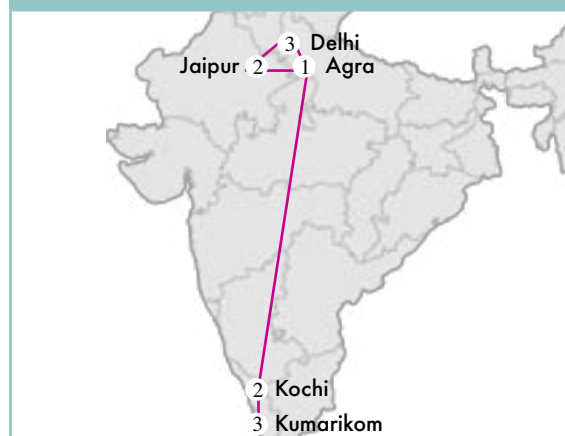
Golden Triangle plus Glimpses of Kerala

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi – 2 nights Kochi – 3 nights Kumarakom

11 nights from: £1900

Experience a fabulous "Golden Triangle" tour in northern India, before heading south to Kerala, where you will visit Kochi, and then explore the picturesque backwater resort of Kumarakom, spending a day on a houseboat.

Golden Triangle plus Glimpses of Kerala



Kochi

Day 1
Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi
Met and transferred to your hotel.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi
Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur
Drive to Jaipur, en route stop for lunch at the Samode Palace.
Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/
Four Points by Sheraton

Day 5 Jaipur
Sightseeing of Jaipur.
Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/
Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra
Drive to Agra for sightseeing of the city.
Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 7 Delhi
Return to Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 8 Kochi
Internal flight Delhi to Kochi. Transferred to your hotel.
Overnight: Holiday Inn

Day 9 Kochi
Sightseeing of Kochi.
Overnight: Holiday Inn

Day 10 Kumarakom
Drive to Kumarakom and relax at your backwater resort.
Overnight: Eastend Lake Song

Day 11 Kumarakom
Day at leisure to enjoy the local surroundings at your own pace.
Overnight: Eastend Lake Song

Day 12 Kumarakom
Board a houseboat for a cruise around the backwaters, catching glimpses of village life around the local area. Lunch and afternoon tea on board the houseboat.
Overnight: Eastend Lake Song

Day 13 Depart
Transfer to Kochi Airport for return flight to UK

What's Included:

- ✦ Flights with all transfers
- ✦ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ✦ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ✦ 11 breakfasts, 2 lunches
- ✦ Visit to the oldest and grandest stepwell of Rajasthan at Abhaneri.
- ✦ **Delhi Sightseeing:** Visit to Old and New Delhi which includes Chandni Chowk, Jama Masjid Mosque, drive past Red Fort. Walk through the spice market of Fatehpuri. Rickshaw ride in Old Delhi. A photo stop at India Gate, drive past Govt. buildings, visit Agrasen ki baoli stepwell and The Bangla Sahib Sikh Temple.
- ✦ **Jaipur Sightseeing:** Visit Amer Fort and the City Palace. Visit to a local school (during term time) which is giving education to street kids, with whom you may wish to interact. Also visit a local market famous for cotton.
- ✦ **Agra Sightseeing:** Late afternoon visit Mehtab view for a spectacular view of Taj Mahal. Morning visit Taj Mahal and Red Fort.
- ✦ **Kochi Sightseeing:** Visit the Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace, St. Francis Church, see the Chinese fishing nets, take a walk through Fort Cochin area, make a visit to Broadway – the local market and see a show of Kerala's performing arts at the local theatre.

Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays.

This is a private tour based on 2 sharing.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

From the North to the South

2 nights Amritsar – 2 nights Dharamshala – 2 nights Shimla – 1 night Delhi –
2 nights Kochi – 2 nights Munnar – 2 nights Periyar – 1 night Kumarakom

14 nights from: £3195

If you are looking for a tour of India that perfectly highlights the contrasts of both the north and south of this amazing country, then this is the one for you! Cultural visits, and a wide variety of scenic landscapes abound, with a Himalayan train journey, as well as a combination of light adventure and relaxation, adding to this unforgettable experience.



Shimla

Day 1

Overnight flight from UK to Amritsar.

Day 2 Amritsar

Met and transferred to your hotel.
Overnight: Hyatt Regency Amritsar

Day 3 Amritsar

Sightseeing of Amritsar, including visit to the Golden Temple.
Overnight: Hyatt Regency Amritsar

Days 4-5 Dharamshala

Drive to Dharamshala through the narrow mountain roads. A beautiful and serene hill town that shot to fame after His Holiness, the Dalai Lama took shelter here.
Overnight: Fortune Moksha

Days 6-7 Shimla

Drive to Shimla. Enjoy the lovely sights of Shimla with a journey on the Toy Train.
Overnight: The Oberoi Cecil

Day 8 Delhi

Drive to Kalka and board the Shatabdi Express Train to Delhi.
Overnight: Pullman New Delhi Aerocity

Days 9-10 Kochi

Transferred for flight to Kochi.
Overnight: Taj Malabar Resort & Spa

Day 11 Munnar

Drive to Munnar, a hill station and a former

resort for the British Raj elite.

Overnight: The Windermere Estate

Day 12 Munnar

A full day of hiking with a local guide, walking through plantations and spice gardens.
Overnight: The Windermere Estate

Day 13 Periyar

Drive to Periyar. In the evening see a Kalaripayattu (martial arts) performance at a local theatre.
Overnight: Spice Village

Day 14 Periyar

Depart early morning for a half-day bamboo rafting experience lasting about three hours revealing a panoramic view of forest-clad hills reflected on the lake. A variety of animals are usually seen close to the lake. Late afternoon tour of the spice plantation with a naturalist.
Overnight: Spice Village

Day 15 Kumarakom

After breakfast drive to Kumarakom. Board a houseboat for a cruise around the backwaters on Vembanad Lake, catching glimpses of village life. Lunch and afternoon tea and snacks on board the houseboat.
Overnight: Lake Resort

Day 16 Depart

Transferred to Kochi Airport for flight to UK.

From the North to the South



What's Included:

- ✦ Flights with all transfers
- ✦ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ✦ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ✦ 14 breakfasts, 1 packed lunch in Munnar and 1 houseboat lunch
- ✦ Toy Train from Shimla to Taradevi
- ✦ Shatabdi Express Train from Kalka to Delhi
- ✦ **Amritsar Sightseeing:** Evening visit the Golden Temple and witness the Palki ceremony and see the Golden Temple illuminated at night. Next day second visit to the Golden Temple. Visit the Jalianwala Bagh. Afternoon visit the Wagah border to see the beating retreat ceremony.
- ✦ **Dharamshala Sightseeing:** Bhagsunath has an old temple, a spring and slate quarries. The Buddha temple is situated opposite the present abode of His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. Mcleod Ganj is well worth a visit to see the Tibetan monasteries and nunnery.
- ✦ **Shimla Sightseeing:** Visit the Jakhu temple, an ancient temple dedicated to Hindu Deity Hanuman, there is a steep but worthwhile hike of 1.2km to visit the temple. Visit the second oldest church in North India, situated at the ridge; and The Viceroy Lodge. In the evening stroll through Mall Road.
- ✦ **Kochi Sightseeing:** Visit the Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace, St. Francis Church, see the Chinese fishing nets, take a walk through Fort Cochin area, make a visit to Broadway – the local market and see a show of Kerala's performing arts at the local theatre.

This is a private tour based on 2 sharing.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

Mumbai

Mumbai is a stunning mix of diversity. A true melting pot of contemporary India, this is one fast-paced city which never sleeps. South Mumbai is a well-preserved catalogue of colonial era architecture, posh neighbourhoods, iconic pubs and eateries accompanied by the gentle breeze of the ocean. Central Mumbai takes a page out of Darwin's theory - a true test of survival of the fittest. One of the best ways to explore Mumbai is by following the path the natives take during their daily routine.



Gateway to India, Mumbai



The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel



The itinerary below can be added onto any of our recommended itineraries within the brochure, and we would be happy to adjust to your requirements.

Day 1

Met and assisted at the airport. Transfer to your hotel.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point, premier ocean view room.

Day 2

Depart on a heritage walking tour of Mumbai through grand old buildings like Victoria terminus; the outside façade of the terminus leans heavily on gothic architecture, and is one of the most finely preserved heritage buildings in Mumbai, followed by a Dabbawala tour. Visit Prince of Wales museum, Mani Bhavan, Dhobi Ghat, an open-air laundry yard near Mahalaxmi Station. You will see thousands of clothes hung to dry, sorted by colour and fabric type. Each section is divided based on the address/locality where the clothes will be delivered after cleaning. Visit Gateway of India and Juhu Chowpatty as well.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point, premier ocean view room. Breakfast

Day 3

Start with an early morning visit to Sassoon Docks in south Mumbai. The fishermen auction their haul to the highest bidder in a loud contest. Today you will explore the local markets of Mumbai, Crawford Market, Zaveri Bazaar and Mangaldas Market. Visit Hanging Gardens. In the evening, we recommend a pub crawl starting from Café Leopold, moving to Café Mondegar and ending at a contemporary lounge/bar of your choice in the trendy Fort district of south Mumbai.

Overnight: Trident Nariman Point, premier ocean view room. Breakfast

Day 4

Today, we'll head to central Mumbai and begin a 2-3-hour walking tour inside Dharavi Slum. Within the narrow lanes of the slum lie over a thousand small scale industries which take home a collective revenue of over 20 million US dollars. Your local guide will take you through the well-organised chaos of Dharavi. Later, transfer to the airport for your onward flight. Breakfast

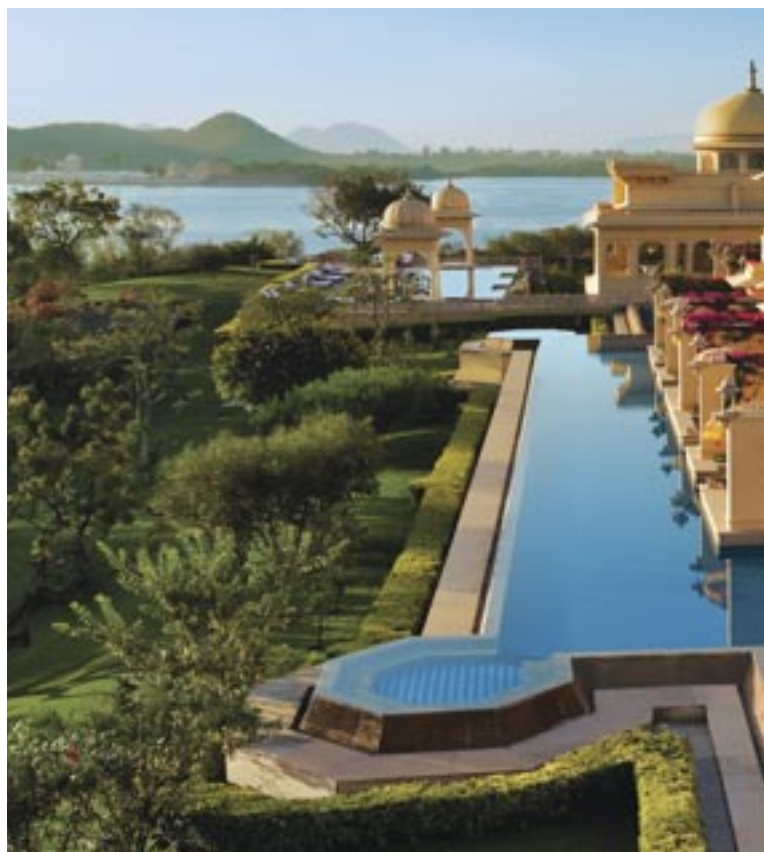
Three nights price from **£850** per person, includes all the sightseeing as mentioned.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

Oberoi Hotels & Resorts

From the magical romance of the Taj Mahal to the vibrant hues of Rajasthan, or the majestic tigers of Ranthambhore to the tranquil serenity of the Himalayas, India promises you memories of a lifetime.

Oberoi Hotels & Resorts offers a window into vibrant cultures, historic monuments and extraordinary landscapes. Infused with a sense of wonder, each unique Oberoi Hotel offers guests an authentic and unique perspective in every city. Savour exquisite regional cuisine, explore historic landmarks and absorb the rich history as you embark on a journey of discovery.



The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur

The Oberoi, New Delhi

The newly-refurbished Oberoi, New Delhi is an iconic luxury 5-star hotel located in the city centre with superb views. The interiors are a contemporary interpretation of Sir Edwin Lutyens' city architecture. The hotel boasts 3 restaurants and 2 bars, and wellness facilities include a spa, heated indoor and outdoor swimming pools and a 24-hour fitness centre.



The Oberoi, New Delhi

The Oberoi, Gurgaon, Delhi

Located just 15 minutes from the airport and 30 minutes from the city centre, this urban sanctuary is defined by bespoke design features. High ceilings and open spaces are filled with natural light, and afford refreshing views of the hotel's vast, azure reflection pool and verdant green wall. Its impressive spa is open 24 hours a day. There are a number of dining options.



The Oberoi, Gurgaon, Delhi

The Oberoi, Mumbai

The Oberoi, Mumbai enjoys an unrivalled position on the exclusive Marine Drive, with unparalleled views of the ocean and the Queen's Necklace; a golden crescent of lights that adorns the shoreline after dark. The centrepiece of the hotel is the atrium lobby, abundant with natural light, and all rooms, restaurants and 24-hour spa facilities revolve around and branch off this focal point.



The Oberoi, Mumbai



The Oberoi Udaivilas, Udaipur

Located on the bank of Lake Pichola, the hotel stands on the 200-year-old hunting grounds of the Maharana of Mewar and is spread over fifty acres, including a twenty-acre wildlife sanctuary with deer and wild boar. It also affords spectacular views across the hotel's verdant gardens and sparkling Lake Pichola. Superb restaurant and spa offerings available.

The Oberoi Rajvillas, Jaipur

The property is a haven of mystical peace and natural serenity; a royal resort set in a breathtaking 32-acre oasis of stunning landscaped gardens, filled with beautiful trees and exotic birdlife. Built around an 18th century Shiva temple where guests can experience chanting with a Hindu priest, meditation and morning yoga. Indoor and outdoor dining is available, on occasion with live music. Excellent spa facilities.

The Oberoi Amarvillas, Agra

Located just 600 metres from the iconic Taj Mahal, each room affords uninterrupted views of this ancient monument to love, while elements of the layout and design pay homage to its Mughal splendour. By day, guests can travel in private golf buggies to the Taj Mahal and at night, you can savour a candlelit dinner beside its soft silhouette. A luxury spa is also on site.



The Oberoi Rajvillas, Jaipur



The Oberoi Amarvillas, Agra



The Oberoi Vanyavillas, Ranthambhore

The Oberoi Vanyavillas, Ranthambhore

Situated less than ten minutes from Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve, the property offers guests the opportunity to see Royal Bengal tigers in the wild. Spread across twenty acres of lush, landscaped gardens, it is rich with indigenous plants and birds. From the observation tower, guests can admire panoramic views of the bordering jungle, spot wildlife at the nearby watering hole and sip champagne at sundown. Luxury dining and spa facilities will offer something special for every guest. Because it is luxury tented accommodation, the property is only open from October to June.

Wildflower Hall, Shimla, Himalayas

Situated at 8,000 feet above sea level, guests can refresh with nature walks, rafting, cycling or yoga, or relax and rejuvenate with an exclusive spa therapy, and an open-air whirlpool offers stunning views. The main restaurant, which spans a smart, brightly lit indoor dining space, a charming glass conservatory with intimate seating arrangements and an outdoor terrace, boasts magnificent views of the Himalayas.



Wildflower Hall, Shimla, Himalayas

Taj Hotels & Resorts

For over a century, the Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai, has set a benchmark for fine living with exquisite refinement, inventiveness and warmth.

Now, with some 98 hotels worldwide, including 62 leisure properties in India, Taj Hotels offers an unrivalled fusion of warm Indian hospitality, world-class service and modern luxury.



Rambagh Palace, Jaipur

The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

The Taj Mahal Palace opened in Mumbai (Bombay) in 1903, giving birth to the country's first harbour landmark. The flagship hotel of Taj Hotels, Resorts and Palaces overlooks the majestic Gateway of India. For those who like to experience fine dining in style, the hotel hosts 10 of the city's most acclaimed restaurants and bars, renowned for delectable cuisines from India, Europe, the Middle East and the Orient. The spa is a sanctuary here and offers you a soothing blend of contemporary massages and aromatherapy for quick rejuvenation.



Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

Taj Lands End, Mumbai

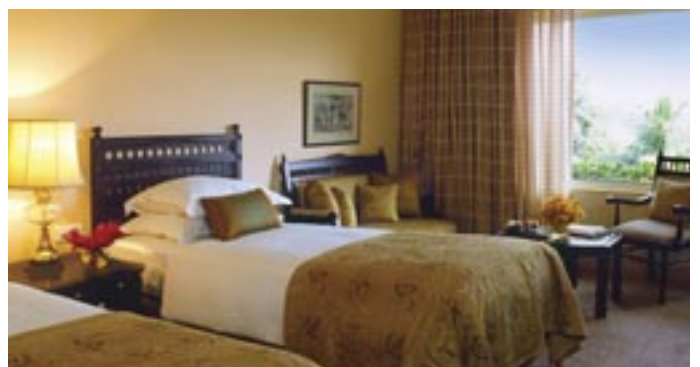
The Lands End hotel enjoys the benefits of a central location in the western suburbs of Bandra, has fantastic views of the city's stunning skyline, the Fort and the Arabian Sea, plus it is not too far from the domestic and international airports. Choose from 3 restaurants and 3 bars, or simply relax by the pool or enjoy a relaxing treatment at the Jiva Spa.



Taj Lands End, Mumbai

Taj Bengal, Kolkata

Taj Bengal is a landmark five-star hotel in downtown Kolkata, in the exclusive neighbourhood of Alipore at the heart of its cultural heritage. Prominent landmarks – Victoria Memorial, Royal Calcutta Race Course, Horticultural Gardens, National Library, Eden Gardens and the Alipore Zoological Gardens are all within walking distance. The city's commercial centre is just two miles away; the airport, an hour's drive. The architecture and interiors of the hotel are deeply inspired by the city's famed art, culture and heritage. The wide array of fine-dining restaurants at Taj Bengal is arguably the best in Kolkata.



Taj Bengal, Kolkata



The Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

This is a five-star deluxe hotel located in the very heart of New Delhi. On Number One Mansingh Road, it stands as tribute to timeless hospitality and service, complementing the broad leafy boulevards of Delhi's chief architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens. The glorious Mughal architecture, dramatic façade of pink Dholpur sandstone, impeccable gardens and pool give it the ambience of a luxurious in-city haven. The Taj Mahal Hotel's culinary repertoire offers several excellent choices that will leave guests spoilt for choice and there is a wonderful spa.

Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad

Perched 2,000 feet above the city is this jewel amongst the clouds. Overlooking the twinkling City of Pearls, this enchanting palace exudes romance and grandeur that can take you back to when the Nizam ruled Hyderabad. This five-star luxury hotel, spread over 32 acres, allows you to journey back to the gilded ages, where opulence and excess are celebrated and savoured in equal measure. Each of the rooms and suites provides marvellous views of the palace courtyard and the 400-year-old city of Hyderabad.

Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur

Built between 1928 and 1943, Umaid Bhawan Palace is a magnificent piece of Rajasthan's heritage, and a symbol of new Jodhpur. Perched on Chittar Hill, the highest point in Jodhpur, Umaid Bhawan Palace inspires with exotic views of the historical Blue City, vast sand dunes, and intimidating Mehrangarh Fort. The palace is conveniently located 20 minutes from the airport, close to the main shopping areas, and the Balsam and Kalyana lakes. Two lovely restaurants may tantalise your taste buds, not to mention a rejuvenating spa.

Lake Palace, Udaipur

Restored to its pristine glory, this spectacular palace became world-renowned when the James Bond film 'Octopussy' was filmed there. This heritage hotel has 66 luxurious rooms and 17 grand suites. Its location on an island in the midst of a lake affords every room breathtaking views of the neighbouring City Palace, Aravalli Hills, Machla Magra Hills and Jag Mandir. This incomparable location provides the perfect backdrop for the exquisite cuisine at the elegant restaurants of Taj Lake Palace.

Rambagh Palace, Jaipur

Originally built in 1835, Rambagh Palace has stepped gracefully through many royal transitions. Today, this jewel in the Taj's crown offers 78 stunningly restored grand luxury rooms and suites which were the chambers of the former Maharaja. The Palace retains its elaborate splendour and elaborate Mughal Gardens. Within this glorious palace showcasing the best of Rajasthan's royal heritage, you can also experience the best fine dining restaurants in Jaipur.



Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad



Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur



Lake Palace, Udaipur



Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

Festivals of India

Wherever you travel in India, your senses will be constantly bombarded with exotic aromas, vibrant colours and outbursts of noise. During the many festivals that occur throughout the year, both nationally and locally, these sensations become even more enhanced, and scheduling your holiday around one of these festivals will leave you with memories, and a fabulous array of food, that you will never forget.

Most festivals are religious in origin, but many feature recurring elements celebrating life in general, including thanksgiving, feasting and fasting, as well as looking to the future with positive anticipation. We have highlighted three of the most popular festivals, but there are many others throughout the year and we can tailor-make an itinerary for you to co-incide with your own celebrations. Call us for the latest festival dates.

Holi is one of the most famous festivals celebrated in India, renowned for people, friends and strangers alike, throwing coloured powder and water on to one another. It typically takes place every year at the end of February or the beginning of March, dependent upon the lunar cycle. The festival marks the end of winter and welcomes the spring, as well as celebrating the triumph of good over evil.

Diwali is known as the Hindu Festival of Lights and is probably the most widely celebrated during the year. It celebrates the triumph of light over darkness, victory over evil, and welcomes happiness and wealth into peoples' homes. It typically takes place over a five-day period at the end of October and the beginning of November and is usually marked by the lighting of lights, candles and fireworks.

Makar Sankranti is a feast day celebrated by Hindus during the month of January, the date timed to coincide with the winter solstice welcoming the warmer summer sun days, and immortalised by the flying of kites. As with most Indian festivals, celebrations will include feasting and spending time with family and friends promoting peace and harmony.



Trains of India

The train is the epitome of Indian travel and a great way to take in the views from the comfort of your seat.

As the pioneer of luxury trains in India, the Palace on Wheels provides a splendid and enchanting 7-night journey through Rajasthan. Starting and ending in Delhi, you will visit Jaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Sawai Madhopur, Chittogarh, Udaipur, Bharatpur and Agra.

The Deccan Odyssey offers six different week-long itineraries, the majority of them departing from and arriving back in to Mumbai along Indian Railways' Maharashtra route. Two routes operate between Delhi and Mumbai, with stops at Agra and Jaipur, as well as Udaipur and Sawai Madhopur for Ranthambhore National Park.

The Maharajas' Express, regularly voted the most luxurious train in the world, offers five itineraries, all of which depart from and/or arrive in to Delhi. Two further itineraries operate between Mumbai and Trivandrum.

The 'Toy Train' is a narrow gauge train from Kalka that meanders through the breathtaking landscapes of the Himalayas to Shimla in the state of Himachal Pradesh. Visitors to Shimla can see temples, churches and colonial buildings and shop at the local bazaar for handicrafts. Five different trains operate the route and the journey takes approximately five hours.

The Shatabdi Express is a comfortable train service provided by the Indian Railways and is a fast passenger train for quick travel between major metropolitan areas, making only a few stops but returning to the place of departure on the same day.

Standards on-board long-distance trains vary, so please discuss with our expert team for more information.



Palace on Wheels



The Deccan Odyssey



Maharajas' Express

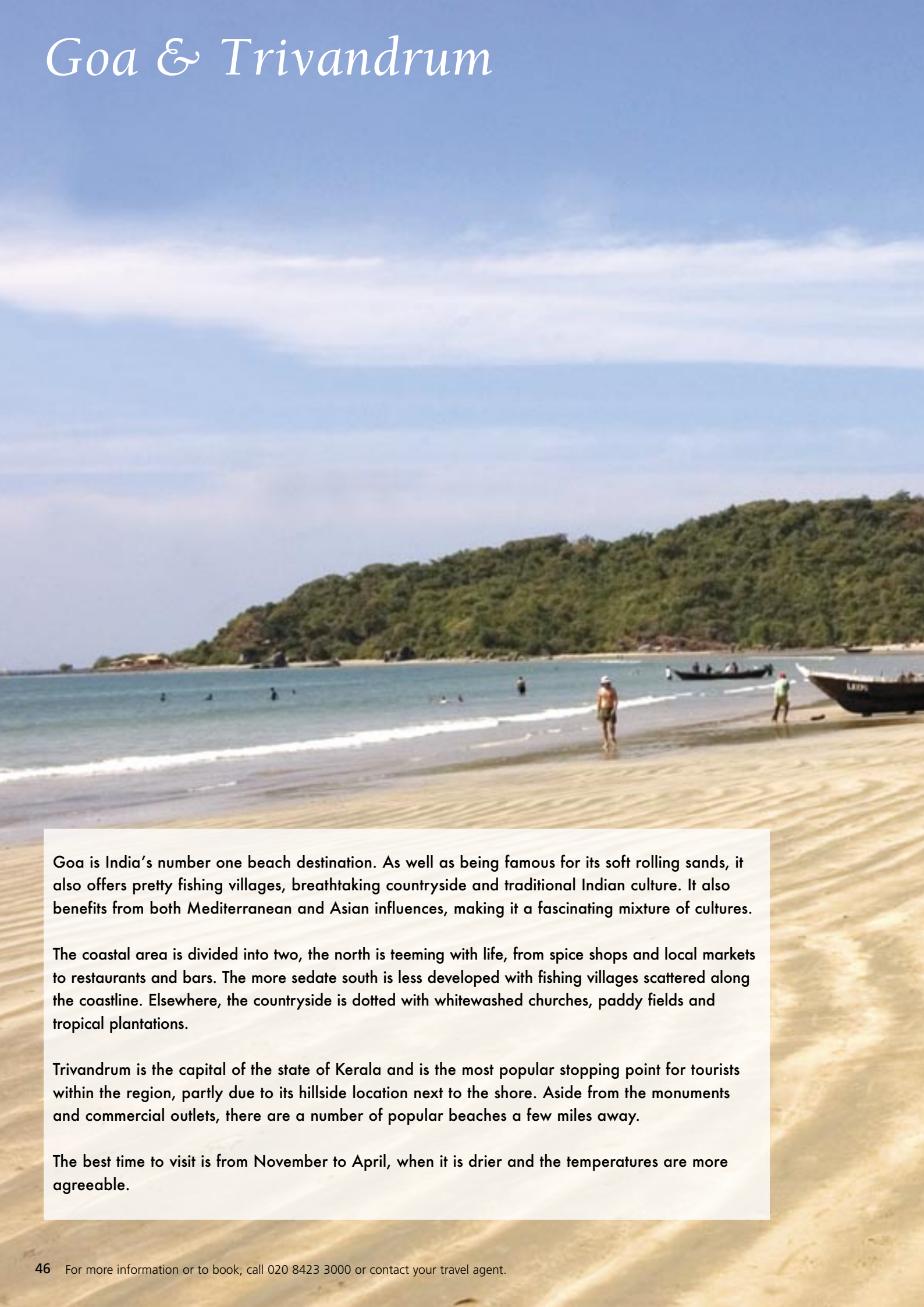


Toy Train



Shatabdi Express

Goa & Trivandrum



Goa is India's number one beach destination. As well as being famous for its soft rolling sands, it also offers pretty fishing villages, breathtaking countryside and traditional Indian culture. It also benefits from both Mediterranean and Asian influences, making it a fascinating mixture of cultures.

The coastal area is divided into two, the north is teeming with life, from spice shops and local markets to restaurants and bars. The more sedate south is less developed with fishing villages scattered along the coastline. Elsewhere, the countryside is dotted with whitewashed churches, paddy fields and tropical plantations.

Trivandrum is the capital of the state of Kerala and is the most popular stopping point for tourists within the region, partly due to its hillside location next to the shore. Aside from the monuments and commercial outlets, there are a number of popular beaches a few miles away.

The best time to visit is from November to April, when it is drier and the temperatures are more agreeable.



Goa Hotels



Royal Orchid Beach Resort & Spa (South)

Situated on South Goa's secluded Uttroda Beach, the Royal Orchid Beach Resort & Spa covers five acres of stunning coastal property. Its selection of stately guest rooms enjoy views over a variety of pools and lawns, and its range of restaurants and bars allow visitors to make the most of the Resort's magnificent surroundings. The in-house Sohum Spa offers a variety of treatments and for the more active, the fitness centre is well-equipped. 35 minutes from the airport



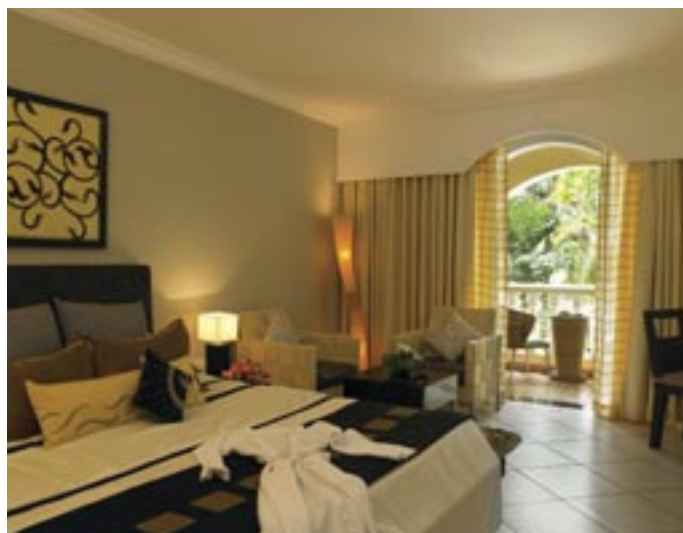
Holiday Inn Resort (South)

With stunning views of Mobar Beach in South Goa, the Holiday Inn Resort comprises 25 acres of unspoiled green landscapes. Whether you are seeking a romantic escape or are travelling with friends or family, the Resort offers optimal relaxation and a combination of luxurious Suites and Villas. With an on-site spa, gym and range of recreational activities including lawn tennis, there is a great selection of ways to enjoy the stunning surroundings of this property. 60 minutes from the airport



Hotel Novotel Goa Candolim (North)

Boasting a range of authentic Indian and international cuisine, Novotel Goa Candolim is a short distance from Candolim Beach. Offering a mixture of nightlife, family spirit and relaxation, this property caters to a wide range of tourists. Novotel Goa Candolim comprises a blend of rooms and suits, as well as an exclusive club wing. In addition to its three pools, a waterfall, and sports zone the hotel also provides an interactive kids' club and a full gymnasium. 50 minutes from the airport



The Zuri White Sands, Goa Resort & Casino (South)

The Zuri White Sands is just 850 metres from Varca beach. The Resort is nestled in 38 acres of lush greenery and boasts a meandering pool, a spectacular view of the sea from its Goan-style luxury rooms, and a stylish casino. The water sports centre offers a great selection of activities and excursions. The recreational facilities are varied and many, with plenty to keep children as well as adults occupied. 70 minutes from the airport

Trivandrum and Mararikulam (Marari) Hotels



Turtle on the Beach, Kovalam

A stone's throw from Hawa and Vizhinjam Beaches, Turtle on the Beach gives guests the choice of a selection of luxurious sea-view rooms and suites. The hotel's excellent service and range of facilities including a fitness centre and spa make this an excellent choice for those wishing to visit Kovalam and Poovar. 40 minutes from Trivandrum Airport



Niraamaya Retreats Surya Samudra, Kovalam

Perched on a dramatic cliff edge and flanked by secluded beaches, this Relais & Chateaux property truly capitalises on its exquisite surroundings. The retreat is dotted with traditional Keralite heritage cottages that rest in the shade of breezy coconut palms. Whether relaxing by the pool or enjoying one of the restaurants, guests can savour spectacular views of the Arabian Sea. The award-winning Niraamaya spa is recognised as one of the best Ayurvedic resorts in India and will rejuvenate your mind, body and soul. 45 minutes from Trivandrum Airport



Abad Turtle Beach, Marari

Enjoying an expansive 13 acre setting, the Abad Turtle Beach resort overlooks the sandy Marari Beach on one side and has a rivulet flowing on the other. The property offers a range of cottages and villas and includes an Ayurveda Centre as well a multi-cuisine selection of restaurants. The elevated infinity pool and sunbathing deck allow guests to relax to the sounds of the sea. 2 hours from Cochin Airport



Marari Beach Resort, Marari

Marari Beach Resort is the ultimate coastal hideaway. Whether it's relaxing in a hammock beneath a palm tree or taking full advantage of the extensive programme of activities, this luxury resort has everything you need for a lazy or active break, all in one place. From its Ayurvedic spa to beach volleyball and everything in between, the facilities and activities at this resort really are exceptional. 2 hours from Cochin Airport

Golden Triangle

plus Goa

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur –
1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi –
5 nights Goa

11 nights from: £2155

plus Ranthambhore & Goa

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur –
2 nights Ranthambhore National Park
1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi –
5 nights Goa

13 nights from: £2400

A cultural "Golden Triangle" tour can easily be combined with a beach stay in Goa. Additionally, complete your Indian adventure with glimpses of wildlife in a National Park.



Day 1
Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi
At leisure.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi
Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 4-5 Jaipur
Drive to Jaipur.
Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/
Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra
Drive to Agra with sightseeing of
Agra.
Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 7 Delhi
Return to Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 8-12 Goa
Transfer to Delhi Airport for flight to
Goa.
Overnight: Royal Orchid Beach Resort
& Spa

Day 13 Depart
Transfer to airport for flight home.

Day 1
Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi
At leisure.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi
Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 4-5 Jaipur
Drive to Jaipur.
Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/
Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Ranthambhore National Park
Drive to Ranthambhore, en route visit the
oldest stepwell at Abhaneri.
Overnight: Ranthambhore Kothi

Day 7 Ranthambhore National Park
Morning & afternoon shared jeep safaris.
Overnight: Ranthambhore Kothi

Day 8 Agra
Drive to Agra and enjoy sightseeing.
Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 9 Delhi
Return to Delhi.
Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 10-14 Goa
Transfer to Delhi Airport for flight to Goa.
Overnight: Royal Orchid Beach Resort &
Spa

Day 15 Depart
Transfer to airport for flight home.

The Golden Triangle plus Goa and plus Ranthambhore & Goa



Jai Mahal Water Palace, Jaipur

What's Included:

As per "The Golden Triangle" tour on
pages 10 & 11 with the addition of:

- ★ All airport/road transfers based on
exclusive vehicle
- ★ Internal flight from Delhi to Goa
- ★ Bed & breakfast in Goa
- ★ 2 shared jeep safaris in Ranthambhore
National Park (additional jeep safaris
available)
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on
use of exclusive vehicle

Golden Triangle

plus Beach at Marari

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur –
1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi –
5 nights Marari Beach, Kerala

11 nights from: £1900

plus Beach at Kovalam

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur –
1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi –
5 nights Kovalam, Kerala

11 nights from: £1800

Round off a remarkable "Golden Triangle" tour, with a Kerala beach stay at either Marari or Kovalam.



Fishing boats at Trivandrum

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 4-5 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra

Drive to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 7 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 8-12 Marari Beach

Transfer to Delhi Airport for internal flight to Cochin. 5 days at leisure at your chosen hotel.

Overnight: Abad Turtle Beach Resort

Day 13 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight home.

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 4-5 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay)/

Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra

Drive to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premiere

Day 7 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 8-12 Kovalam Beach

Transfer to Delhi Airport for internal flight to Trivandrum. 5 days at leisure at your chosen hotel.

Overnight: Turtle on the Beach

Day 13 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight home.

The Golden Triangle plus Kerala and plus Trivandrum



India Gate, Delhi

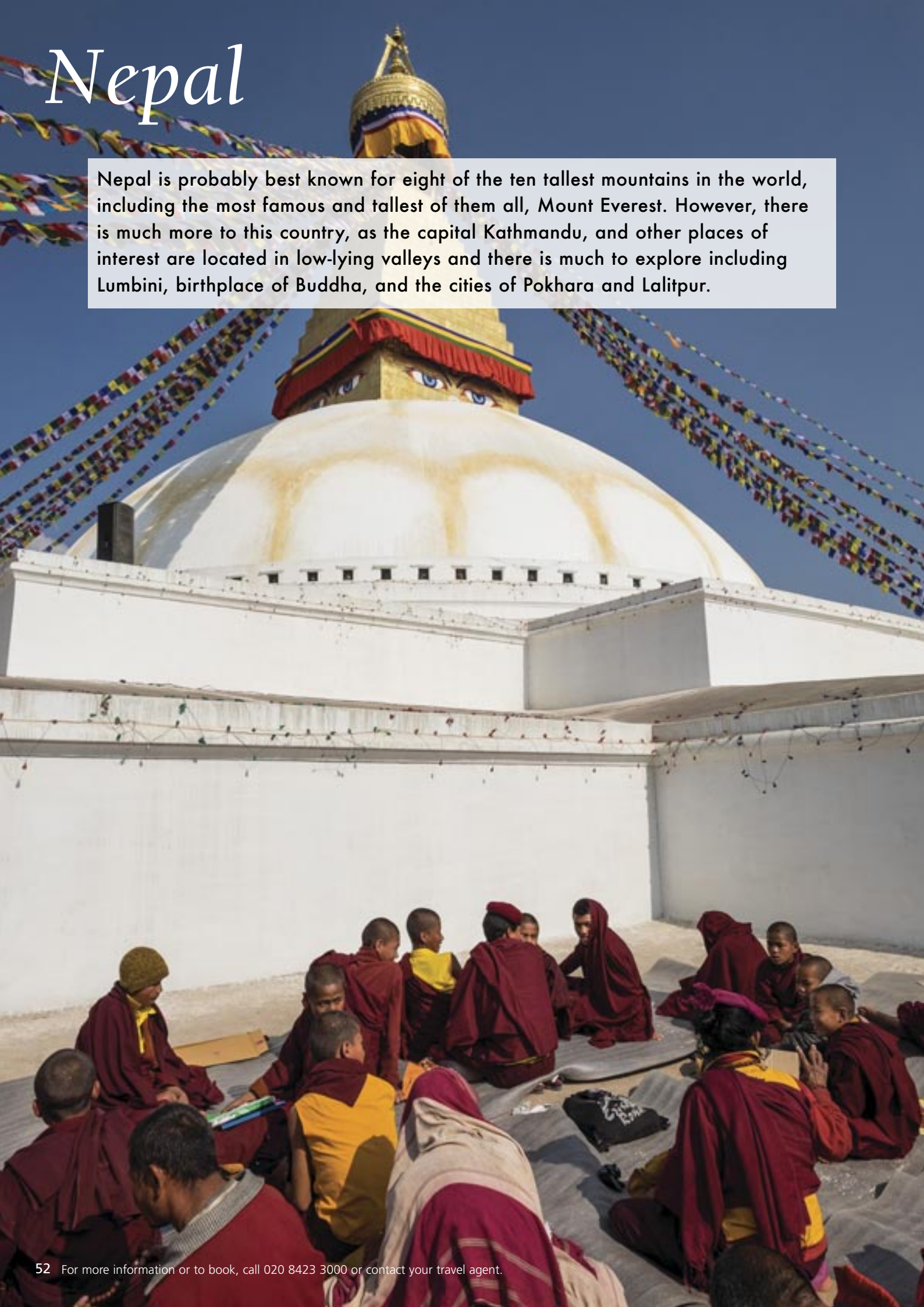
What's Included:

As per "The Golden Triangle" tour on pages 10 & 11 with the addition of:

- ✦ All airport/road transfers based on exclusive vehicle
- ✦ Internal flight from Delhi to Cochin/Trivandrum
- ✦ Bed & breakfast in Kerala

Nepal

Nepal is probably best known for eight of the ten tallest mountains in the world, including the most famous and tallest of them all, Mount Everest. However, there is much more to this country, as the capital Kathmandu, and other places of interest are located in low-lying valleys and there is much to explore including Lumbini, birthplace of Buddha, and the cities of Pokhara and Lalitpur.



Discovering Nepal

3 nights Kathmandu – 2 nights Chitwan National Park – 1 night Bandipur –
2 nights Pokhara – 1 night Kathmandu

9 nights from: £2120

Explore the bustling city of Kathmandu before you are drawn to the tranquillity of parkland, mountain waterfalls, rivers and lakes.



Kathmandu

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Kathmandu.

Day 2 Kathmandu

Met and transferred to your hotel.
Overnight: Hotel Tibet International

Day 3 Kathmandu

Sightseeing tour of Kathmandu with time at leisure.
Overnight: Hotel Tibet International

Day 4 Kathmandu

A further day of sightseeing with time at leisure.
Overnight: Hotel Tibet International

Day 5 Chitwan National Park

Drive to Chitwan National Park. Enjoy some local sightseeing with activities.
Overnight: Landmark Forest Park

Day 6 Chitwan National Park

A further full day at Chitwan National Park with activities.
Overnight: Landmark Forest Park

Day 7 Bandipur

Drive to Bandipur a delightful hill town affording beautiful views of the mighty Himalayas.
Overnight: The Old Inn

Day 8 Pokhara

Drive to Pokhara. Pokhara has mesmerized visitors from all over the world with its rare combination of snow-clad peaks and snow-fed lakes and rivers. The serenity of the Phewa Lake accompanied by the grandeur of Machhapuchhre creates an ambience of peace and magic.
Overnight: Fish Tail Lodge

Day 9 Pokhara

Further full day in Pokhara with sightseeing.
Overnight: Fish Tail Lodge.

Day 10 Kathmandu

Transfer to Pokhara Airport for flight back to Kathmandu.
Overnight: Hotel Tibet International

Day 11 Depart

Transfer to the airport for flight home.

What's Included:

- ✦ Flights with all transfers
- ✦ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ✦ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ✦ 9 breakfasts, lunch and dinner at Chitwan National Park
- ✦ Scheduled jungle activities in Chitwan National Park
- ✦ **Kathmandu Sightseeing:** Tour of Kathmandu city, Swayambhunath and Patan. Walk through the Kathmandu market, and a visit to Pashupatinath, Boudhanath and Bhaktapur.
- ✦ **Chitwan National Park:** Local cultural village tour. Tharu cultural dance presentation by the local villagers. Canoe trip down the Rapti River. A jungle walk.
- ✦ **Bandipur:** A visit here gives an opportunity to get a close look at Newar cultural life. Visit the village and discover its history, architecture, incredible views, awesome caves and unspoilt landscapes.
- ✦ **Pokhara:** Boat ride on Phewa Lake. Hike to Sarangkot for a splendid view of sunrise. Also visit Davis Falls, Gupteshwar Mahadev cave and Vindhyavasini Temple.

This is a private tour, based on 2 sharing.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

Bhutan



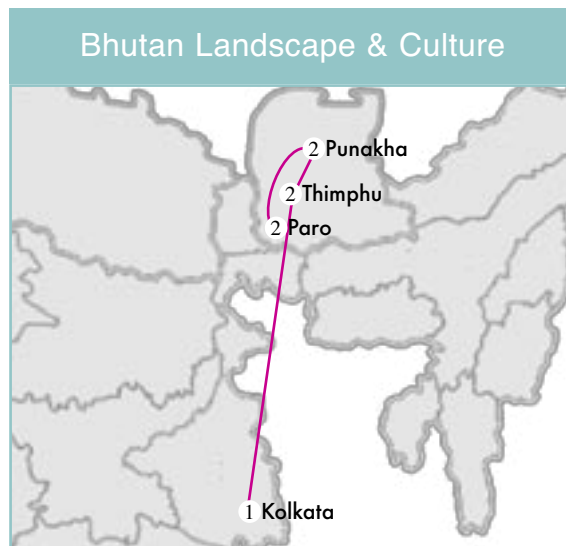
Bhutan is a land of myths and legends that are alive today in the culture and traditions that have been retained for many centuries. You can explore remote monasteries, spiritual temples and amazing landscapes. Aside from the mountainous north, the south of the country is a mix of forest and lowland scrub, where a variety of wildlife can be seen, especially primates, cats and other mammals, and a rich array of birdlife.

Bhutan Landscape & Culture

1 night Kolkata – 2 nights Thimphu – 2 nights Punakha – 2 nights Paro

7 nights from: £3220

An amazing insight in to this land of traditions, mystery and beauty all woven in to one. Visit the capital city of Thimphu, as well as Punakha and Paro, an eclectic mix of Buddhist influences against a backdrop of Himalayan mountain scenery. This itinerary is based on a choice of hotels offering good quality accommodation and levels of service.



Prayer Wheel, Thimphu

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Kolkata.

Day 2 Kolkata

Met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Peerless Inn

Day 3 Paro – Thimphu

Fly from Kolkata to Paro. On arrival drive to Thimphu, capital of Bhutan. En route stop at Chuzom, where Buddhist stupas adorn the confluence of the Thimphu and Paro rivers. On arrival at Thimphu enjoy local sightseeing. Overnight stay at a choice of hotels

Day 4 Thimphu

A further full day in Thimphu for more local sightseeing and exploration. Overnight stay at a choice of hotels

Day 5 Punakha

Drive to the former capital, Punakha via Dochula Pass (3,080 metres) boasting spectacular views of the eastern Himalayas on a clear day. Enjoy local sightseeing. Overnight stay at a choice of hotels

Day 6 Punakha

Full day in Punakha, with some hiking and local visits and time at leisure. Overnight stay at a choice of hotels

Day 7 Paro

Drive to Paro, en route visit Simtokha Dzong, the place of profound tantric teaching. Later, visit Ta Dzong, originally built as a watchtower, but now houses the National Museum. Then walk down to visit Rinpung Dzong (fortress of the heap of jewels). Overnight stay at a choice of hotels

Day 8 Paro

A full day of visiting ancient monasteries. Overnight stay at a choice of hotels

Day 9 Depart

Flight from Paro to Delhi, and connect for onward flight to UK.

This is a private tour, based on 2 sharing.

Price also includes entrance fees and all Bhutan Government royalty taxes.

Upgrade to Amankora Lodges

Amankora Lodges by Aman Hotels and Resorts is a collection of five luxury lodges, spread across Bhutan in Paro, Thimphu, Gangtey, Punakha and Bumthang.

You can upgrade the above itinerary to any of the Amankora Lodges; alternatively, you may wish to build your own tailor-made itinerary. Please call our friendly team on 020 8423 3000 for help and advice or email india@somak.co.uk

What's Included:

- ✦ Flights with all transfers
- ✦ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ✦ Services of local English-speaking guide
- ✦ Bhutan Visa Fee
- ✦ 7 breakfasts, 6 lunch and 6 dinner
- ✦ **Thimphu Sightseeing:** Visit to Buddha Point (Kuensel Phodrang), the largest Buddha statue in the country, walk along the Thimphu main street. Visit the National Library, which holds a vast collection of ancient Buddhist texts and manuscripts, the Zorig Chusum (the painting school). Take a short drive to Pangri Zampa, one of the oldest monasteries in Bhutan. Visit Trashi Chhoe Dzong, an impressive fortress which houses the Secretariat building and the throne room of His Majesty the King. Also visit King's Memorial Chorten, which is continuously circulated by people murmuring mantras and spinning prayer wheels.
- ✦ **Punakha Sightseeing:** Visit Punakha Dzong, a massive structure at the junction of two rivers, which serves as the winter residence of the monk body. Visit the temple of fertility (approx 1.5 hours walk). Evening take a leisurely walk around Punakha village, on the river bank. Visit Namgyal Chorten, a stunning monument built by the Queen and consecrated in 1999. Afternoon visit to Sangchen Dorji Lhuendrup Lhakhang nunnery. The complex houses a permanent higher learning and meditation centre for nuns where, apart from religious trainings, it teaches life skills such as tailoring, embroidery, statue making and thanangka painting.
- ✦ **Paro Sightseeing:** Visit Taktshang monastery (approx. 5 hours' walk), one of Bhutan's most famous monasteries, perched on the side of a cliff 900 metres above the valley floor. This site has been recognized as a most sacred place and visited by all Bhutanese at least once in their lifetime. On the way back, stop at Drukgyel Dzong, a ruined fortress where Bhutanese warriors fought Tibetan invaders centuries ago. Also visit the 7th century Kyichu Lhakhang, one of the 108 temples built in the Himalayas by Tibetan King, Songtsen Gampo. In the evening, option to walk around the main street and the market area.

Sri Lanka

Famed for its vast expanse of golden sand beaches, why not also explore Sri Lanka's ancient Buddhist temples, trek through rugged landscapes, and visit a tea plantation. If you are captivated by wildlife, then enjoy a safari, with the possibility of seeing elephants and tigers as well as other wildlife and birds. Sri Lanka is also a destination where you can relax and soak up the local culture, mingle with the friendly people, enjoy some wonderful local dishes, and enjoy a tailor-made holiday that you will remember for years to come.





Hindu Temple, Colombo



Map locations are approximate and are not intended to be definitive.

Colombo

Colombo is a great place to visit at the start or end of your trip due to its proximity to the airport, and several beach resorts. Its colonial architecture is mainly drawn from its former Portuguese, Dutch and British settlers, and there are a number of sites of religious significance. Its bazaars offer great shopping. Fans of both cricket and seafood may be drawn to the Ministry of Crab, a restaurant located in the Old Dutch Hospital, co-owned by former international stars Mahela Jayawardene and Kumar Sangakkara, and prominent chef Dharsan Munidasa.

The Cultural Triangle

The Cultural Triangle is located in the centre of the island and features a number of significant sites framed by former capital cities Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, as well as Dambulla. A key highlight is the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sigiriya Rock to view the ruined palace. You can view the "Heavenly Maidens" and the Mirror Wall. Nearby, the Dambulla Cave Temple, is a complex of 5 caves, principally devoted to Buddha, in both statue and painting form, of which there are more than 150 representations.

Kandy & Nuwara Eliya

Kandy is widely visited to see the Temple of the Tooth, a Buddhist temple renowned for its holy relic housing one of the great Buddha's teeth.

Nuwara Eliya, by contrast, often referred to as "Little England" due to its colonial feel, will entice you into the countryside where you will see the picking, processing and tasting of those fine tea leaves.

Galle

Galle is most recognised for its Portuguese Fort. Leaving the port, you will find former mansion houses, European-styled churches, museums and ancient mosques. It is also a cultural hub, so you will encounter plenty of stylish restaurants and shops. Cricket fans will be keen to visit the famous international cricket ground.

Jaffna

Jaffna's location, on the north of the island, means it often misses out welcoming international travellers. However, it is beginning to blossom and, as host to a number of temple sites, offers visitors an insight in to another side of what Sri Lanka's culture has to offer.

National Parks

Yala National Park is the most likely area to spot the elusive leopard. You also have the opportunity to spot elephant, sloth bear and buffalo, as well as a whole host of other birds and wildlife.

Udawalawe National Park was created following the building of the nearby reservoir, and is a great area to spot elephants, other mammals and birds. You can visit the Elephant Transit Home which looks after orphaned elephants before releasing them in to the wild, typically aged around 4 years old.

Beaches

Aside from the beach resorts of Negombo, Bentota and Unawatuna on the south west coast, if you are looking for a quieter experience, perhaps travelling as a family, or on honeymoon, maybe head to one of the east coast beaches around Trincomalee, Batticaloa or Passikudah Bay.

In Depth Sri Lanka

1 night Negombo – 1 night Wilpattuwa National Park – 2 nights Jaffna –
2 nights Nilaveli Beach – 1 night Anuradhapura – 1 night Sigiriya – 2 nights Kandy –
2 nights Ella – 1 night Colombo

13 nights from: £2365

Immerse yourself in this fabulous tour of Sri Lanka, where you will enjoy the contrasts of city culture and wildlife, and you may spot Asiatic lions, leopards, elephants and buffalo, among many other game species, birds, flora and fauna. A scenic train journey from Kandy to Ella.



The Temple of the Tooth, Kandy

Day 1

Overnight flight from UK to Colombo.

Day 2 Negombo

Met and transferred to your hotel.
Overnight stay: Goldi Sands Hotel

Day 3 Wilpattuwa National Park

After breakfast transfer to Wilpattuwa National Park, renowned for its leopard population, amongst other animals including elephants, sloth bear, water buffalo, sambhur, spotted deer and mongoose. Afternoon enjoy a private 4x4 jeep safari.

Overnight: Big Game Camp

Day 4 Jaffna

Continue north to Jaffna.

Overnight: Thinnai Jaffna

Day 5 Jaffna

Sightseeing of Jaffna.

Overnight: Thinnai Jaffna

Day 6 Nilaveli

After breakfast transfer to Nilaveli, a coastal town via Elephant Pass, referred to as the "Gateway to Jaffna".

Overnight: Nilaveli Beach Hotel

Day 7 Nilaveli

Day at leisure to enjoy your beach hotel.

Overnight: Nilaveli Beach Hotel

Day 8 Anuradhapura

Depart for Anuradhapura, famous for its well-preserved ruins of ancient Lankan civilization. See the famous Samadhi Buddha statue, depicting the Buddha in a state of "Samadhi" meaning deep meditation.

Overnight: Palm Garden Village Hotel

Day 9 Sigiriya

Depart for Sigiriya and climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress, also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the fortress. Afternoon visit Polonnaruwa, to see the ruins of the Royal Palace, temples and splendid statues of the Buddha.

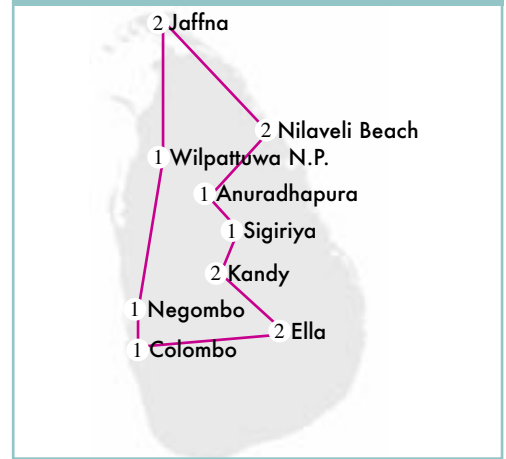
Overnight: Sigiriya Village Hotel

Day 10 Kandy

Depart for Kandy. En route visit the Dambulla cave temples and a spice garden in Matale, where you have the opportunity to sample homemade Sri Lankan cuisine. Short sightseeing afternoon tour of Kandy.

Overnight: Earl's Regent Hotel

In Depth Sri Lanka



What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ English-speaking driver/guide
- ★ 13 breakfasts, 1 dinner at Wilpattuwa National Park
- ★ Entrance fees to monuments
- ★ 4X4 jeep safari in Wilpattuwa National Park
- ★ Train from Peradeniya Railway Station to Ella
- ★ **Jaffna Sightseeing:** Visit various Buddhist and Hindu temples. Visit the Point Pedro Lighthouse, the northern most point of Sri Lanka, Clock Tower and the local fish market, Kiranmali Hotsprings, and Nilavarai Bottomless Well
- ★ **Kandy Sightseeing:** Drive around the lake, visit the bazaar, arts and crafts centre, a gem museum and a lapidary. In the evening watch a cultural show featuring the exotic traditional dances of Sri Lanka. Tour the Temple of the Tooth Relic and visit the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya.

Day 11 Kandy

Further sightseeing with time at leisure.

Overnight: Earl's Regent Hotel

Day 12 Ella

Transfer to Peradeniya Railway Station for a scenic train journey to Ella. Ella is surrounded by hills covered with cloud forests and tea plantations.

Overnight: The Mountain Heavens

Day 13 Ella

Tour around Ella, visit Nine Arches Bridge, Ella Gap and Little Adam's Peak.

Overnight: The Mountain Heavens

Day 14 Colombo

Drive to Colombo.

Overnight: Galadari Hotel

Day 15 Depart

Transfer to Colombo airport for return flight to UK.

Sri Lankan Culture & Beach

1 night Negombo – 1 night Anuradhapura – 2 nights Sigiriya – 2 nights Kandy –
2 nights Nuwara Eliya – 2 nights Udawalawe National Park – 3 nights Bentota Beach

13 nights from: £2125

From hazy mountain hills to golden sand beaches, experience the jungle, teeming with wildlife. Visit Negombo, Sigiriya and a number of authentic local villages. It would be amiss not to visit the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, take a scenic train journey and relax on one of the wonderful beaches of Bentota.



Sigiriya Rock Fortress

Day 1

Overnight flight from UK to Colombo.

Day 2 Negombo

Met and transferred to your hotel.
Overnight stay: Goldi Sands Hotel

Day 3 Anuradhapura

Depart for Anuradhapura, famous for its well-preserved ruins of ancient Sri Lankan civilization. See the famous Samadhi Buddha statue, depicting the Buddha in a state of "Samadhi" meaning deep meditation.
Overnight: Palm Garden Village Hotel

Day 4 Sigiriya

Depart for Sigiriya and climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress, also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the fortress
Overnight: Sigiriya Village Hotel

Day 5 Sigiriya

After breakfast visit Polonnaruwa, to see the ruins of the Royal Palace, temples and splendid statues of the Buddha. Enjoy an authentic homemade Sri Lankan lunch at a local house. Afternoon enjoy a private 4x4 jeep safari in Minneriya National Park.
Overnight: Sigiriya Village Hotel

Day 6 Kandy

Drive to Knuckles Mountain range which is a truly spectacular experience of the natural beauty of the hill country. This wonderful range covers almost every forest type found in Sri Lanka at elevations ranging between 250 and 4,000 feet.

Drive to Kandy. En route visit the Dambulla cave temples and a spice garden in Matale, where you have the opportunity to sample homemade Sri Lankan cuisine.
Overnight: Earl's Regent Hotel

Day 7 Kandy

Sightseeing of Kandy.
Overnight: Earl's Regent Hotel

Day 8 Nuwara Eliya

Transfer to Peradeniya rail station, for a scenic train journey to Nanu Oya. From Nanu Oya transfer to Nuwara Eliya. Enjoy high tea at Grand Hotel, later in the evening walk along Gregory's Lake.
Overnight: Galway Heights Hotel

Day 9 Nuwara Eliya

Depart early morning with packed breakfast and visit Horton Plains, enjoy an approx. 9.5 km

Sri Lankan Culture & Beach



What's Included:

- ✦ Flights with all transfers
- ✦ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ✦ English-speaking driver/guide
- ✦ 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch at a local house
- ✦ High Tea at the Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya
- ✦ Entrance fees to monuments
- ✦ 4X4 jeep safari in Minneriya and Udawalawe National Park
- ✦ Train ride from Peradeniya to Nanu Oya
- ✦ Visit to Horton Plains

This is a private tour based on 2 sharing.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

round trip walk, taking a leisurely three hours.
Overnight: Galway Heights Hotel

Day 10 Udawalawe

After breakfast drive to Udawalawe via Ella and visit Nine Arches Bridge, Ella Gap and Little Adam's peak. In the evening visit Elephant transit camp, a project which sees the rehabilitate of orphaned elephant calves back into the wild.
Overnight: Grand Udawalawe Safari Hotel

Day 11 Udawalawe

Morning at Leisure, afternoon enjoy a 4x4 safari jeep to Udawalawe National Park.
Overnight: Grand Udawalawe Safari Hotel

Days 12-14 Bentota Beach

Continue your journey to the beautiful beaches of Sri Lanka for three nights.
Overnight: The Palms

Day 15 Depart

Transfer to Colombo airport for flight to UK.

Sights & Sounds of Sri Lanka

2 nights Colombo – 2 nights Sigiriya – 2 nights Kandy – 2 nights Nuwara Eliya –
3 nights Bentota Beach

11 nights from: £1870

This itinerary is the perfect introduction to Sri Lanka, a land of outstanding scenery and cultural mysteries. Explore the "Cultural Triangle", taking in a number of UNESCO World Heritage sites and hilly tea plantations, then enjoy a relaxing beach stay.



Bentota Beach

Day 1

Overnight flight from UK to Colombo.

Day 2 Colombo

Met and transferred to your hotel.

Overnight: Galadari Hotel

Day 3 Colombo

Sightseeing of Colombo with time at leisure to explore at your own pace.

Overnight: Galadari Hotel

Day 4 Sigiriya

Depart for Sigiriya, enjoy a homemade lunch at a local house. Later climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress, also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the fortress.

Overnight: Sigiriya Village Hotel

Day 5 Sigiriya

After breakfast visit Polonnaruwa, to see the ruins of the Royal Palace, temples and splendid statues of the Buddha. Enjoy an authentic homemade Sri Lankan lunch at a village house. Afternoon enjoy a private 4x4 jeep safari in Minneriya National Park.

Overnight: Sigiriya Village Hotel

Day 6 Kandy

Depart for Kandy. En route visit the Dambulla cave temples and a spice garden in Matale, where you have the opportunity to sample homemade Sri Lankan cuisine. Short sightseeing afternoon tour of Kandy.

Overnight: Earl's Regent Hotel

Day 7 Kandy

Further sightseeing with time at leisure.

Overnight: Earl's Regent Hotel

Day 8 Nuwara Eliya

Continue to Nuwara Eliya stopping en route at a tea plantation, experience tea plucking with local tea pickers, learn the process and have a cup of one of the finest "Ceylon Teas" with a delicious piece of cake. Later enjoy high tea at Grand Hotel, and an evening walk along Gregory's Lake.

Overnight: Galway Heights Hotel

Day 9 Nuwara Eliya

Depart early morning with packed breakfast and visit Horton Plains, and enjoy an approx. 9.5 km round trip walk, taking a leisurely three hours.

Overnight: Galway Heights Hotel

Sights & Sounds of Sri Lanka



What's Included:

- ★ Flights with all transfers
- ★ Sightseeing and excursions based on use of exclusive vehicle
- ★ English-speaking driver/guide
- ★ 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch at a local house
- ★ High Tea at the Grand Hotel, Nuwara Eliya
- ★ Entrance fees to monuments
- ★ 4x4 jeep safari in Minneriya National Park
- ★ Visit to Horton Plains
- ★ **Colombo Sightseeing:** Visit the Fort, cbd, Pettah Market, Cinnamon Gardens, the affluent neighborhood of Colombo. Also visit the Hindu Temple at Sea Street, the Dutch Church at Wolfendhal, see the replica of Avukana Buddha, the Independence Square and Gangarama Temple.
- ★ **Kandy Sightseeing:** Drive around the lake, visit the bazaar, arts and crafts centre, a gem museum and a lapidary. In the evening watch a cultural show featuring the exotic traditional dances of Sri Lanka. Tour the Temple of the Tooth Relic and visit the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya.

Days 10-12 Bentota Beach

Continue your journey to the beautiful beaches of Sri Lanka for three nights.

Overnight: The Palms

Day 11: Option to drive to Galle and enjoy a walking tour of the walled city of Galle, once the chief port of Ceylon. The area is well known for its handmade lace.

Day 13 Depart

Transfer to Colombo airport for return flight to UK.

This is a private tour based on 2 sharing.

This itinerary can be tailor-made to your own specifications with a choice of alternative accommodation, and duration, please call our friendly and helpful team on 020 8423 3000 or email india@somak.co.uk

Sri Lanka Beach Hotels

Sri Lanka is undoubtedly an island bathed in history and culture, but it is also a place that will encourage you to bathe as well. Its beaches are famed for their golden sands tinged by the warm Indian Ocean. Whether you choose the busier south west coast, or the calmer, shallower waters of the east coast, there are beach hotels that will appeal to every inclination and budget. Below is just a small selection, but we can find the hotel that is just right for you.



Mount Lavinia Hotel

Situated atop a rock just 12km from Colombo, and overlooking the aquamarine waters of the Indian Ocean, Mount Lavinia Hotel boasts a history of more than 210 years. Offering world class service and luxury in equal measure, this hotel effortlessly blends its legacy and colonial-era architecture with a touch of modern romance. With direct access to the beach, the majority of of the rooms enjoy ocean views. The three restaurants offer an impressive array of culinary experiences and as well as a large swimming pool the hotel also includes a full gym and spa. 90 minutes from the airport



Taj Bentota Resort & Spa

Located along one of the finest beaches on the Southwest coast, the Taj Bentota Resort & Spa comprises 160 guest rooms and two suites. Overlooking verdant gardens and the Indian Ocean, the resort offers three speciality restaurants, an all-day dining restaurant, and a bar. Indulgent relaxation packages at the Jiva Spa and an extensive fitness centre are also offered, in addition to the sprawling swimming pool, tennis courts, and a programme of other activities. 95 minutes from the airport



Avani Bentota Resort & Spa

Nestled on one of Sri Lanka's prime beaches, the Avani Bentota Resort's 75 rooms, two suites and private villa all benefit from astounding views of the Indian Ocean. A range of Sri Lankan cuisine and international dishes are offered from the all-day dining restaurant, in addition to the hotel's Sri Lankan speciality restaurant, and a bar. 70km north of Galle, the Avani Bentota Resort's swimming pool and spa give the optimal opportunity to relax in Sri Lanka's southwestern splendour. 90 minutes from the airport



The Palms

Along the sandy beaches of Beruwela is The Palms Hotel, with 100 well-appointed guest rooms and suites, many of which offer exceptional Indian Ocean views. The hotel provides guests with the choice of four dining options, as well as offering a large swimming pool, fitness centre, coffee shop and a bar. This stylish beachfront hotel is only 3km from both Kande Viharaya Temple and the Barberyln Lighthouse. 1 hr 40 minutes from the airport



Anantara Kalutara Resort

1km from Katukurunda Railway Station and on a peninsula between the Kalu Ganga River and the Indian Ocean, the Anantara Kalutara Resort offers a healthy dose of beachfront luxe. The hotel's sleek and modern rooms boast fast wi-fi, Nespresso coffee machines and private balconies or patios and stunning views of the natural surroundings. The three airy restaurants provide a host of culinary surprises and facilities include a spa, full gym and library in addition to the tranquil swimming pool. Suites enjoy separate living areas, gardens and a plunge pool. 90 minutes from the airport



The Blue Water Hotel & Spa

Hidden amongst tropic gardens and palm trees, this family-run hotel offers an upmarket experience with a variety of amenities to suite a range of guests. The resort's Ayurvedic spa provides an oasis of calm from the hotel's three bars and nightclub. The traditional rooms feature terraces and balconies with ocean views. Upgraded rooms add glass feature walls and whirlpool bathtubs. Other amenities include a business centre, outdoor swimming pool, kids' pool and a gym. 70 minutes from the airport

Golden Triangle plus Dubai

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi – 3 nights Dubai

9 nights from: £1530

Dubai is the perfect add-on to your journey if you are looking to embrace a "Golden Triangle" tour, but wanting a little more. Explore the culture in India, and then experience the magic of Dubai, where you can choose from a number of amazing resorts for some much-needed shopping and relaxation.



Dubai

What's Included:

As per "The Golden Triangle" tour on pages 10 & 11

- ✦ Return flights
- ✦ All airport/road transfers
- ✦ Bed & breakfast in Dubai

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) or Four Points by Sheraton

Day 5 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) or Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra

Drive to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premier

Day 7 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 8-10 Dubai

Transfer to Delhi Airport for flight to Dubai, Met and transferred to your hotel for next 3 nights.

Overnight: Four Points by Sheraton Bur Dubai

Day 11 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight to UK.



Four Points by Sheraton Bur Dubai

The hotel is located in the historic heart of Dubai and offers great value for money. A 10-minute drive from the international airport, World Trade Centre and public beach, it provides easy access to the Metro and is also within walking distance of the city's most popular tourist attractions. Its four room categories all sleep up to four people and there is a wealth of dining options to choose from.



Madinat Jumeirah Resort

The resort is a hotel complex, and a large variety of room types are offered in the Mina A'Salaam, Al Qasr and Dar Al Masyaf hotels. Set across its own private beach, the resort is an authentic recreation of ancient Arabia. There are more than 50 restaurants and bars. All the facilities are interconnected by 3 kilometres of waterways and landscaped gardens. The resort also provides extensive leisure and health facilities.



Jebel Ali Beach Hotel

This 5-star property is sure to dazzle with its palm-lined beach, decadent spa, two swimming pools, several restaurants and bars, sporting facilities and children's entertainment clubs. The championship standard, 9-hole, par 36 course offers beautiful scenery and exciting challenges for all abilities. The hotel rooms and suites boast stunning views of the resort's splendid gardens or the glistening ocean backdrop.

Golden Triangle plus Maldives

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi – 5 nights Maldives

11 nights from: £2890

Round off the busy pace of a "Golden Triangle" tour, with the ultimate destination for some rest and relaxation, among the beautiful surroundings of the Maldives. Choose from a number of hotels that also offer a mix of activities including land and water sports, and you will certainly be spoilt for choice when it comes to deciding where to eat.



Maldives

What's Included:

As per "The Golden Triangle" tour on pages 10 & 11

- ★ Return flights
- ★ All airport/road transfers
- ★ All inclusive in the Maldives

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) or Four Points by Sheraton

Day 5 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) or Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra

Drive to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premier

Day 7 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 8-12 Maldives

Transfer to Delhi Airport for flight to Male, Maldives. Met and transferred to your hotel for next 5 nights stay.

Overnight: Meeru Island Resort & Spa

Day 13 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight to UK.



Lily Beach Resort & Spa

Lily Beach, located in the South Ari Atoll, is one of the Maldives' top resorts, renowned for its excellent platinum all-inclusive plan, honeymoon offers and family friendly facilities. Choose from a range of villas and suites either on the beach or over the water. There are 4 restaurants and 3 bars. Little ones will be kept busy in the children's club, while spa activities, snorkelling and diving will appeal to adults.



Meeru Island Resort & Spa

The only resort on Meerufenfushi island, North Malé Atoll, is a tropical paradise of white sand beaches and turquoise lagoons. Meeru offers rooms close to the beach or over-the-water. There is a choice of restaurants and bars. There is a children's and a teens' club, and there is a whole host of activities on land and in the water, including golf, tennis and a spa.



Diamonds Thudufushi

The island features elegant beach bungalows and luxury overwater villas in five different categories. The inimitable Italian décor of the rooms, equipped with every comfort, guarantees guests an exclusive holiday in an oasis of tranquillity. A wellness centre offers ayurvedic treatments, and a diving centre offers an underwater experience. A selection of restaurants and bars cater for all tastes.

Golden Triangle plus Mauritius

2 nights Delhi – 2 nights Jaipur – 1 night Agra – 1 night Delhi – 5 nights Mauritius

11 nights from: £2440

Mauritius on its own is a fabulous destination for a wonderfully relaxing holiday. Follow the vibrant faster paced “Golden Triangle” with the gentle pace, stunning views, excellent water sports, plus delightful sightseeing of Mauritius, and you have an amazing holiday that will last in your memories for a lifetime.



Mauritius

What's Included:

As per “The Golden Triangle” tour on pages 10 & 11

- ✦ Return flights
- ✦ All airport/road transfers
- ✦ All inclusive in Mauritius

Day 1

Overnight flight UK to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi

At leisure.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 3 Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Day 4 Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) or Four Points by Sheraton

Day 5 Jaipur

Sightseeing of Jaipur.

Overnight: Ikaki Niwas (homestay) or Four Points by Sheraton

Day 6 Agra

Drive to Agra with sightseeing of Agra.

Overnight: Crystal Sarovar Premier

Day 7 Delhi

Return to Delhi.

Overnight: Vivanta by Taj Dwarka

Days 8-12 Mauritius

Transfer to Delhi Airport for flight to Mauritius. Met and transferred to your hotel for next 5 nights.

Overnight: Zilwa Attitude

Day 13 Depart

Transfer to airport for flight to UK.



Zilwa Attitude

On the north coast of Mauritius, Zilwa Attitude is a charming and unique hotel. The contemporary rustic-chic design and Mauritian architecture is inspired by the bungalows of old. The aim of the hotel is to feel like home from home. A variety of bars and restaurants are available, as are plenty of activities for the children. The 214 rooms offer plenty of choice from superior to suites and apartments.



Laguna Beach Hotel & Spa

Located in an idyllic spot in the south east corner of the island, the Laguna Beach Hotel and Spa is partly bordered by a beautiful sandy beach. Mountains are visible from some aspects, and the gentle lapping of the ocean is a calming background sound. There are plenty of facilities as well as delightful rooms with beautiful views. An all-inclusive hotel offering a wonderfully relaxing stay.



Heritage Awali Golf & Spa Resort

Situated against a mountain backdrop in Bel Ombre on the south coast of Mauritius. Ideal for families, Heritage Awali stands out for its exceptional range of activities and facilities tailored for the enjoyment of all ages. A wonderful selection of bars and restaurants are available. The rooms and suites are stylish, comfortable and spacious.

Booking Conditions

Your contract is with Somak Travel Limited, of which Somak Holidays is a registered trading division, and is subject to our privacy policy which can be found at www.somak.co.uk/privacy-policy

1. Your holiday contract: When you make a booking you undertake that you have the authority to accept and do accept these booking conditions on behalf of yourself and your party. A contract will exist upon the issue of our Confirmation Invoice. These conditions in conjunction with the information set out in our brochure form the entire agreement between Somak Holidays and yourself. Any advice/information given to you by your travel agent which is inconsistent with our brochure and these conditions will not form part of your contract with ourselves.

2. Your financial protection: We are a member of ABTA (No V5319) and hold ATOL No 2550 issued by the Civil Aviation Authority. £2.50 per person is added to the cost of this air holiday package and is paid to the Civil Aviation Authority to provide ATOL Protection to you. When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday 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 the services you have bought or a suitable alternative, at no extra cost to you. You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme, or your credit card issuer where applicable.

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

All money accepted from you by a travel agent acting as our agent is held by that agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust at all times, but subject to the agent's obligation to pay it to us for so long as we do not fail. If we do fail, any money held at that time by the agent, or subsequently accepted from you by the agent, is and continues to be held by that agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation to pay that money to us.

3. Your holiday price: When you or your travel agent request a booking with Somak, if we are able to accept the booking, you must immediately pay a non-refundable deposit of £300 per person. Occasionally you may be required to pay a non-refundable deposit greater than £300 (which will be advised at the time of booking), this is so that we can secure hotels, flights or products on your behalf that must be paid for by Somak at the time we book them for you. The balance of the price of your travel arrangements must be paid at least 8 weeks before your departure date. If your booking is made within 8 weeks of departure, full payment including any insurance premiums is required at the time of booking. If the deposit is not paid on time, we reserve the right to cancel your travel arrangements. If the balance is not paid on time we shall retain your deposit and reserve the right to cancel your travel arrangements and levy the cancellation charges set out in clause 5 below. All monies you pay to the travel agent are held by them on our behalf at all times. All prices in our brochures or on our website are in £ sterling, per person (based on 2 people sharing).

We reserve the right to change our prices at any time before you book, including any special offers which we may have from time-to-time, and which may or may not be the same as set out in our publicity material.

4. If you change your booking: If, after our confirmation invoice has been issued, you wish to change your travel arrangements in any way, for example, your chosen departure date or accommodation, we will do our utmost to make these changes but it may not always be possible.

Any request for changes MUST be in writing from the person who made the booking or your travel agent. You will be asked to pay an administration charge of £25 per person per change, together with any further charges and/or supplements and/or costs we incur in making this alteration. You should be aware that these costs will increase the closer to the departure date that changes are made and may include the cost of replacement air tickets, you should therefore contact us as soon as possible. We may not be able to make alterations to your holiday arrangements within 21 days of departure without you incurring cancellation charges.

5. If you cancel your holiday: You, or any member of your party, may cancel your travel arrangements at any time. WRITTEN notification from the person who made the booking or your travel agent must be received at our offices. The following scale of cancellation will be payable depending on when the notification of cancellation is received:

| | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 56 days or more | Deposit only |
| 55 – 43 days | 30% of total holiday price |
| 42 – 29 days | 50% of total holiday price |

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 28 – 15 days | 75% of total holiday price |
| Less than 14 days | 100% of total holiday price |

At the time of cancellation, if the deposit paid is greater than any of the cancellation bands above, the higher amount will apply as a cancellation charge.

If possible, but not all, party members cancel, additional charges may be payable by the remaining members (e.g. under occupancy charges).

Note: If the reason for your cancellation is covered under the terms of your insurance policy, you may be able to reclaim these charges.

6. If we change or cancel your holiday: It is unlikely that we will have to make any changes to your travel arrangements. However, we do plan the arrangements many months in advance and occasionally, therefore, it may be necessary to make changes and we reserve the right to do so at any time. Most of these changes will be minor and we will advise you or your travel agent of them if practicable and time permitting. Please note that carriers, timings and routings given in the brochure are for guidance only and may be subject to change. Such changes are deemed to be minor changes. Other examples of minor changes include alteration of your outward/return flights by less than 12 hours, changes to aircraft type, change of accommodation to another of the same standard, or change of airports within the London area.

We also reserve the right in any circumstances to cancel your travel arrangements. For example, if the minimum number of clients required for a particular travel arrangement is not reached, we may have to cancel it. However, we will not cancel your travel arrangements less than 8 weeks before your departure date, except for reasons of force majeure or failure by you to pay the final balance. If it is necessary for us to cancel your travel arrangements for reasons other than force majeure and non-payment of the final balance, we will pay compensation to you as set out in this clause.

If we make a major change to your holiday, we will inform you or your travel agent as soon as reasonably possible if there is time before your departure. You will have the choice of either accepting the change of arrangements, accepting an offer of alternative travel arrangements from us, if available (with no amendment fee although subject to any difference in brochure price), or cancelling your booked holiday and receiving a full refund of all monies paid except for insurance premiums and/or amendment charges. In all cases, except where the major change arises due to reasons of force majeure, we will pay compensation as detailed below for the period before your departure within which the notice of cancellation or major change is notified to you:

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 56 days or more | Nil |
| 55 – 43 days | £10 |
| 42 – 29 days | £20 |
| 28 – 15 days | £30 |
| Less than 15 days | £50 |

'Force Majeure': This means any situation outside our control such as war or threat of war, riot, industrial dispute, technical or maintenance problems with means of transportation, re-scheduling or cancellation of flights by an airline or main charterer, terrorist activity, natural or nuclear disaster, fire, adverse weather conditions or other unforeseen circumstances that amount to force majeure.

As we do not control the day-to-day management of your accommodation it is possible that the reserved accommodation may not be suitable or available to you once you have arrived in resort. If this happens we will endeavour to provide accommodation of at least the same standard in the same resort area. If only accommodation of a lower standard is available then we will refund the difference of the brochure price between the accommodation booked and that available, together with compensation of £50 per person.

In February 2005 European law (EU261) introduced new consumer rights where you may suffer denied boarding, delays or cancellation of your flight. These rights are against the carrier concerned and not against us. In some situations you may be able to cancel your flight and receive a refund of the flight element however this will not entitle you to reimbursement of the cost of the holiday from us. Details of your rights are available at all EU airports and from the airlines concerned.

7. If you have a complaint: If you have a problem during your holiday, you must, whilst in resort, inform the relevant supplier (e.g. your hotelier) and your resort representative as soon as possible and they will endeavour to put things right. You must also complete a Customer Report Form whilst in resort. If your complaint is not resolved locally, please follow it up within 28 days of your return home by writing to our Customer Services Department giving your booking reference and all other relevant information. Please keep your letter concise, to the point and typed if possible. This will assist us to quickly identify your concerns and speed up our response to you.

If you fail to report any problems whilst in resort we will have been deprived of the opportunity to investigate and rectify your complaint whilst you were there, and this may affect any rights you may otherwise have had under this contract.

8. What happens to complaints: It is unlikely that you will have a complaint that cannot be settled amicably either whilst in resort or following your return home. However, disputes arising from this contract which cannot be settled amicably may, if you wish, be referred to the ABTA Arbitration scheme (see below) or to a court of law. The ABTA Arbitration scheme is arranged by The Association of British Travel Agents Ltd., but is administered quite independently by CEDR. The ABTA scheme provides a simple and inexpensive method of arbitration on documents alone, with restricted liability on you in respect of costs. The scheme does not apply to claims for any amount greater than £5,000 per person or £25,000 per booking form. If you choose to proceed to Arbitration under this scheme, you must send a written notice of your decision to ABTA within 18 months after your scheduled

date of return. Full details of the scheme are available from The Association of British Travel Agents Ltd. at 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ, www.abta.com

9. Our liability to you: We are responsible for ensuring that your package holiday is of a reasonable standard and as described to you. If any part fails to reach this standard and affects the enjoyment of your holiday, we will offer reasonable compensation providing it is not due to events outside our control. Our liability in all these cases is limited to a maximum of twice the value of the services affected.

Somak Holidays accept responsibility for death, injury, or illness caused by the negligent acts and/or omissions of our employees or agents, together with our suppliers and sub-contractors, servants and/or agents of the same, whilst acting in the course of their employment in the provision of your package holiday. We will pay compensation equivalent to that which would be awarded in an English Court, but will not offer compensation if the injury, illness or death is caused by your own fault or the fault of someone unconnected with the package, or an event that could not have been expected or avoided even with all due care. In respect of international carriage by air or sea our liability in all cases will be limited in the manner permitted by international conventions. You may ask for copies of these from our offices.

If you purchase excursions which do not form part of the package holiday, your contract will not be with Somak Holidays but with the supplier, we regret we are unable to accept any responsibility in these circumstances, however, we may be able to offer assistance as described below.

10. Personal injury unconnected with your booked travel arrangements: If you, or any member of your party, suffer death, illness or injury whilst overseas, arising out of an activity which does not form part of your package travel arrangements with ourselves, we shall, at our discretion, offer advice, guidance and assistance. Where legal action is contemplated and you want our assistance, you must obtain our written consent prior to commencement of any proceedings. Our consent will be given subject to you undertaking to assign any costs and/or benefits received under any relevant insurance policy to ourselves. We limit the cost of our assistance to you or any member of your party to £5,000 per booking form.

11. Behaviour: Please note that your holiday arrangements will be terminated by ourselves or the suppliers concerned (e.g. airlines, hotels, tour leaders etc.) if you are behaving in such a way as to cause, or be likely to cause, danger or distress to others or damage to property. In this situation, Somak will not be liable to make any refund, pay any compensation, or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result of your behaviour. Please note that you are at all times subject to the laws of the country you are visiting and must respect local cultures and customs.

12. Conditions of carriage/accommodation: Each journey (whether undertaken or not) that you book by air, land or sea is governed by the conditions of the carrier which undertakes to provide that carriage. Some of these conditions limit or exclude liability and are often the subject of international agreements. Copies of applicable conditions are available for inspection at the offices of the carrier concerned or through ourselves. It is your own responsibility to reconfirm the onward or return sectors of any air journey with the carrier concerned or such carrier's duly authorised agents and according to such carrier's regulations. The outbound flight is reconfirmed by Somak Holidays prior to your departure. All accommodation booked by ourselves on your behalf is subject to the 'house rules' of the proprietor.

13. Insurance: It is imperative that you ensure that all of your party have adequate and appropriate insurance. You are free to choose your own policy but you must satisfy yourself that the policy is adequate for your needs, in particular for any activities you are contemplating during your holiday.

14. Documentation: Where travel and health documents are necessary to comply with the requirements of any country you may wish to visit, then it is your responsibility to procure them. If failure to obtain any such documents results in fines, surcharges or other financial penalty being imposed upon us then you shall reimburse us accordingly. You must be aware, by consulting your own doctor if necessary, of specific health precautions deemed prudent for the country/resort you intend to visit and obtain the appropriate medication/inoculations.

15. By making a booking with us you agree to the use and disclosure of the information you provide for the following purposes: to enable us to process your booking (when it may be transferred abroad), for market research and analysis, to prevent fraud and to enable us to contact you by letter, telephone or email. In order for you to travel abroad, it may be mandatory (as required by government authorities at the point(s) of departure and/or destination) to disclose and process your information for immigration, border control, security and anti-terrorism purposes, or any other purposes which they determine appropriate.

16. Law and jurisdiction: The contract between us, and these booking conditions, are governed by and construed in accordance with English law. All parties agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.

Simply India Holidays by Somak INDIA 2020 – 2022

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Somak Holidays is a division of Somak Travel Limited, Registered Office Somak House, Harroviaan Village, Bessborough Road, Harrow on the Hill, Middlesex HA1 3EX. Registration No. 958261.

Holiday Guide

Please read the Holiday Guide and Booking Conditions carefully as these, together with other information contained in our brochure, form the terms and conditions of the contract between you and Somak Holidays ('Somak'). The Booking Conditions detail our responsibilities to you, and yours to us, and provide guidelines to cover circumstances which may arise.

We trust that you will thoroughly enjoy your holiday and sincerely hope that the experience will ensure that you will book with us again. The basis of a good holiday is the careful selection by you of your resort/hotel/itinerary. Space in our brochure is restricted, hence we strongly recommend you seek supplementary and independent information from the applicable tourist offices, libraries, guide books and the internet, rather than rely solely upon the necessarily limited presentation of brochure information. We are happy to advise you generally, but the ultimate choice of holiday destination is yours.

ACCOMMODATION

Unless otherwise stated, accommodation is in standard twin/double rooms, although twin or double beds cannot be guaranteed. Specific room requirements cannot be guaranteed as the allocation of rooms is at the discretion of the hotel proprietor. Rooms are generally available between noon and 3pm, and are to be vacated between 10am and noon, irrespective of your arrival or departure times. Dayrooms, subject to availability and extra cost, may be available. A triple room is usually a twin/double room, with an additional bed of a folding, pull-out design, hence conditions may be cramped. The standard and location of single rooms is not always as good as twin/double rooms (even if a twin/double room is booked for sole occupancy). A supplement is usually payable whether the room allocated is a single or a twin room. Superior and deluxe rooms (or similar) may have the same facilities and be the same size, it may only be the view or position of the room that is different. In the tropics, be prepared to encounter insects (e.g. cockroaches, mosquitoes, ants, etc.) in your hotel room, especially at beach resorts where they are a natural occurrence and do not reflect the standard of hygiene and cleanliness. The term 'sea view' or similar means the sea can be seen from your room but may be at an angle or partially obscured due to foliage.

AIRLINES

Airlines use a variety of aircraft for long haul flights, e.g. Boeing 747, 767, 777 and 787 Airbus A-300, A-310, A-330, A-340 or A-380. Many airlines featured by us operate a code-share system, whereby partner airlines may operate flights on the stated airlines behalf. It is not possible to cancel travel arrangements without cancellation charges being applied because of this. Domestic connections within the UK or to Europe are generally on narrow-bodied aircraft.

AIRPORT TAXES

UK Air Passenger Duty and all UK Airport departure taxes are included in your holiday price. Foreign departure/airport taxes vary and may be payable locally, in cash, for each departure. If departure taxes need to be paid locally we will provide this information with your travel documentation, although this information is subject to change. If you are travelling to more than one destination on your holiday, you may be required to pay a departure tax at each point.

BAGGAGE

Baggage allowances will be shown on your air tickets (infants do not get a baggage allowance). Excess baggage is carried at the airline's discretion and usually incurs charges, payable directly to the airline. Your personal effects and baggage are the responsibility of the airline from check-in to baggage recovery at your destination airport. In accordance with the International Conventions that apply to the air travel industry, compensation for delay, loss of, or damage to baggage, from the airline (on international, or on domestic sectors ticketed as part of an international journey), is limited to up to 1200 Euros. However, if travel insurance is effected, the actual value of any loss (subject to any deductibles, limitations or exclusions of the policy) is normally payable. In order to obtain any compensation, you must complete a 'Property Irregularity Report' before you leave the airport, with a representative of the airline within the time limits specified on your air ticket. For all transfers, it is your responsibility to ensure that all your belongings are loaded onto the correct transfer vehicle. Please ensure that you have adequate insurance cover for loss or damage to baggage.

BROCHURE ACCURACY

Every care has been taken to ensure that the information in this brochure is accurate at the time of printing. The facilities described at a hotel and of tour itineraries are those that are typically available. It is conceivable that hoteliers may, without notice, decide to change facilities which may then be temporarily, or even permanently, unavailable for e.g. maintenance purposes or during periods of low occupancy. As a result of local conditions e.g. weather, time of year etc., safaris, tours or excursions may change from those advertised in our brochure/advised in your itinerary. Occasionally it is also necessary to change hotels/lodges/camps on tours. Such changes are beyond our control but when we are advised of any significant or long-term changes prior to your departure, we will try to notify you if practicable and time permitting.

BROCHURE PRICES

All prices in our brochures and on our website are in £ sterling per person, based on two people sharing. The prices detailed in this brochure should be used as a guideline only, as it is possible that some of the prices contained within the brochure may have changed since it was printed. You will be informed of the actual price at the time of booking. All prices are based on special contract rates with suppliers, and we will not make any adjustments should similar services be offered at a different price locally. Extra Night Prices: All per night prices shown are based on the actual dates that you occupy the accommodation, and not on the date that you leave the UK. Number of nights stated indicate the actual number of nights spent in resort. Please see Booking Conditions (clause 3).

CHILD PRICES

Children under 12, sharing a room with two full paying adults, may receive a discount on their holiday. Child prices are available on request. Children must be under 12 on the return date of your holiday to qualify for a child reduction.

CUSTOMERS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Less developed destinations may lack even the simplest facilities e.g. ramps or lifts etc. and we cannot guarantee that the correct apparatus and necessary modifications exist in any accommodation outlined in our brochure. However, we do wish to provide every possible assistance and request that you provide full details in writing at the time of booking, so that we may assist with the planning of your holiday.

COMPLAINTS WHILST ON HOLIDAY

Please see Booking Conditions (clause 7). If you have reason to lodge a complaint whilst on holiday, it must be reported in writing to the representative, or your driver if on safari, for action to be taken in resort. Please retain a copy of the report lodged with the representative. It is unreasonable to take no action whilst on holiday and complain on return when it is too late for us to rectify the situation.

CREDIT CARDS

Payments made by credit cards overseas, may be subject to a handling fee. Services paid for by credit card will be subject to the applicable rate of exchange at the time the voucher is presented to the credit card company, and may differ from the rate prevailing on the date that the service was provided. Certain local banks may levy an additional charge.

CURRENCY & EXCHANGE

Some countries have restrictions on the importation and exportation of local currency. Please check with the relevant Embassy or High Commission. Never exchange money on the black market. Please ensure you have sufficient monies to cover all expenses whilst on holiday, as our local representatives are unable to help in the event of having insufficient funds in resort.

ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLY

At times, the demands on the local supplies of electricity and water may exceed the supply, with resultant power cuts, water shortages and/or problems with plumbing and drainage. Items usually affected include air-conditioning, running water (hot

and cold), lighting and mini bars. Please note that occasionally these shortages may be for extended periods and may be distributed unevenly throughout the hotel/resort. Power and water rationing imposed by the local authorities may also take place at various resorts. Whilst electrical wiring standards do always meet local safety standards, on occasion they may be lower than those applicable in the UK. Tented accommodation on safari may utilise gas lighting and have basic bathrooms.

EXCURSIONS

Any excursions booked and paid for at your resort are operated by the local handling company and subject to their booking conditions/cancellation charges. Refunds cannot be claimed from ourselves once you have returned to the UK as we are not party to the provision of the services. Local prices may vary. We strongly advise you to only book excursions from reputable and licensed local tour operators. Others may not be able to offer the same level of safety and security, and are often not adequately insured, or licensed. It should also be noted that some types of travel insurance do not cover claims arising from excursions and tours purchased in resort (in particular cancellation of such excursions and tours and losses suffered as a result of partaking in hazardous activities for which an additional premium was not paid).

FLIGHTS

All flights are subject to government approval and may be withdrawn or amended at any time, without Somak incurring liability. All travel information including aircraft types, timings, days of operation and carriers are shown for guidance purposes only and are subject to change. We reserve the right to substitute alternative airlines. Any such change will not entitle you to cancel without penalty. Flights are often full, so your choice of seats may not be available, and it may not be possible to obtain seats together. We recommend that you check-in at least 3 hours prior to the scheduled departure. Check-in desks close well before the scheduled departure time for your flight, and the carrier reserves the right to deny boarding to passengers not checking-in by the time specified. If you fail to check-in on time and miss your flight, we have no liability to you. We have no control over the allocation of seats and provision of specific meal requirements as this is the responsibility of the airline. Disabled and less mobile passengers and children, for safety reasons, will not be allocated emergency exit seats. Almost all airlines operate a total ban on smoking on their flights. The Captain in command of your aircraft by law retains all rights pertaining to the carriage of passengers, cargo, flight routing, etc. Should the Captain of the aircraft refuse to carry you, or your baggage, we will not be liable for any inconvenience suffered, costs incurred, or loss of enjoyment but would assist wherever possible in such circumstances. Flights that are described as direct are those that require no change of aircraft during the journey. Stops may, however, be made en route for refuelling or to embark/disembark passengers. Many airlines operate a 'code share' system whereby partner airlines may operate flights on the stated airlines behalf. Flight times are approximate and, unless otherwise stated, are from London.

FLIGHT DELAYS

Whilst these are regrettable, delays unfortunately may occur due to technical problems, inclement weather or air-traffic control delays. Where long flight delays result in lost holiday time, no refunds are given by hotels/suppliers for unused accommodation/ services, as these are held for delayed arrivals. If your flight is cancelled or delayed and boarding is denied by the airline, you must claim compensation under the Denied Boarding Regulations 2004 from the airline itself. Any payments received constitute your only rights of compensation arising from the cancellation, delay or denied boarding. Consequently Somak is not liable for any inconvenience suffered, costs incurred, or loss of enjoyment suffered as a result of any such delay. We will, however, endeavour to assist in these circumstances. During any flight delay, the airline concerned may, at their entire discretion, be able to provide refreshments and other services and, in extreme conditions, overnight hotel accommodation. We, however, do not undertake to make any such arrangements. Recompense for such delays may be

claimed through certain types of holiday insurance – please check to make sure your holiday insurance policy covers such losses.

HEALTH, SAFETY & SECURITY ABROAD

Whilst we only contract with reputable suppliers abroad, it is important to note that some countries and/or suppliers do not match British health and safety standards. The applicable safety standards and regulations which apply overseas are those of the country concerned and as a result, general standards of safety, hygiene, fire precautions etc. can be different to those we take for granted in the UK. You are therefore advised to take great care when first venturing into unfamiliar buildings or surroundings. Upset stomachs are a common occurrence whilst abroad and can often be attributed to, for example, the change in climate or ice-cold drinks. Local hygiene and food preparation standards are not to blame as a mere change in diet and water can upset the stomach. Sensible precautions need to be taken especially with regard to raw food, drinking water and ice in drinks. We take your safety very seriously. Should the Foreign & Commonwealth Office advise that people should not visit a particular country, we will act upon this advice as appropriate. However, as media coverage indicates, many countries we feature are subject to political and economic instability. Crime against people and property are a fact of life throughout the world and hence it is important to be extra vigilant when visiting strange countries. You have the same responsibility for your personal safety and possessions abroad as you do at home. Avoid drawing attention to yourself by wearing expensive jewellery, carrying expensive camera equipment, publicly displaying large amounts of money etc. Do not leave valuables unattended, and, where possible, store them in a safe. Always respect local customs, standards and sensibilities especially in areas of cultural and religious importance, as failure to do so may offend local inhabitants.

HOLIDAY AND FLIGHT CHANGES IN RESORT

Any changes that you might wish to make to your flight details or accommodation in resort are subject to availability and must be paid for locally. Should you decide to change your accommodation to another featured in our brochure, you will be charged the local rate and not as shown in our brochure. In addition, the original hotel may charge cancellation charges if you leave. Flights usually cannot be changed in resort except by buying new tickets (the cost may be recoverable from your insurers if there is a medical reason which necessitates the change).

HOTEL FACILITIES

Please note that charges may be made for the use of hotel facilities such as golf, tennis, spa, water sports, children's clubs, etc. Please contact us prior to booking if you have specific queries regarding facilities.

INSURANCE

It is imperative that you ensure that all of your party have adequate and appropriate insurance. You are free to choose your own policy but you must satisfy yourself that the policy is adequate for your needs, in particular for any activities you are contemplating during your holiday. Certain activities are considered hazardous, check that you are fully insured.

LUGGAGE ALLOWANCE

For economy-class passengers, many airlines have a strict limit of 20kg baggage allowance, plus 3kg for hand luggage.

MAINTENANCE WORK

Necessary renovation and maintenance work may be carried out at any time, although this work is kept away from guests as far as possible, to minimise any disturbance or inconvenience. (Also see 'resort development').

MEDICAL INFORMATION

You should ALWAYS consult your doctor before travelling for confirmation of inoculations and or medication recommended for travel in your chosen destination. Practical advice is available from the Hospital for Tropical Diseases Healthline: telephone 020 7950 7799 (calls cost 50p per minute and last 7-8 minutes on average). A safari is a physically strenuous undertaking across often-remote locations; any relevant pre-existing medical conditions or previous medical history should be declared to Somak and your travel agent (if used).

MEALS

The standard of meals and services varies immensely, usually in line with the standard of accommodation booked. Meals that are included in your meal plan are usually taken in the main restaurant and will be a buffet or set menu. 'A la carte' meals and speciality restaurants are at additional cost. Breakfast is usually simple English or continental style. 'Half Board' is normally breakfast and buffet/set menu dinner. Some hotels offer a buffet dinner up to a certain voucher value which is at the discretion of the hotel and can be topped-up locally. 'Full Board' means breakfast, buffet/set menu lunch and buffet/set menu dinner. 'All Inclusive' – sometimes not all bars and restaurants are included and supplements may be charged for certain brands of drinks, speciality meals/ restaurants. Meal supplements at peak seasons are obligatory, whether meals are taken or not.

MINIMUM/INSUFFICIENT NUMBERS

Tours may be subject to minimum numbers, and may be cancelled in the event that these are not met. You will then have the choice of booking an alternative holiday with us, though if the alternative is at additional cost the difference will be payable by you, or have a refund of monies paid. Such cancellations will usually be advised a minimum of 8 weeks before departure.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In many cultures it is polite to ask permission before taking a photograph of a person and you may be asked to pay to photograph people. Do not take photographs of airports, bridges, government offices or military buildings. Always check with your guide/representative/ driver. Some countries may require you to register or bond your video equipment with customs on entry.

PREGNANCY

Most airlines will refuse permission for women to fly who will be 28 or more weeks pregnant on the date of return travel. Failure to comply with airline regulations may result in cancellation and denial of boarding, and we cannot be held liable for any such occurrence.

PUBLIC AND RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Please note that services may be curtailed or limited during public holidays, and certain religious holidays. Such public or religious holidays can be called at very little or no prior notice.

REPRESENTATIVES

We employ the services of highly experienced local ground handling companies to oversee all aspects of your holiday as booked in the UK. They will be your first point of contact should you experience any difficulties whilst on holiday and will endeavour to help. You will be met by an airport representative on arrival in your chosen destination, who will provide you with local contact details.

RESORT DEVELOPMENT

Construction work can cause discomfort, vibration and noise at certain times in resorts. We have no control over building work and we are unable to anticipate the speed or extent to which such development may occur. Should we learn of specific developments at or close to your accommodation that are likely to affect the enjoyment of your holiday, we will do our best to contact you before departure. If we are of the opinion that the building works may reasonably be considered to seriously impair the enjoyment of your holiday, we shall offer you the opportunity to transfer to an alternative holiday of comparable type. If the alternative offered is at additional cost, the difference will be payable by you, or we will give you the option to cancel with a full refund of all monies paid.

ROADS

Conditions can be rough and journeys may be long and uncomfortable with infrequent breaks. We strongly recommend that you conduct further research to satisfy yourself that you and your party will be able to withstand the physical rigours involved. All distances and travelling times quoted are approximate and may vary for operational reasons. Driving times may take a lot longer than you would expect.

SCUBA DIVING

We strongly recommend that you only partake in this activity with a registered company that is affiliated to P.A.D.I., or a

similar such organisation. It is dangerous to fly, or proceed to altitude, less than 48 hours after you have dived or diving within 48 hours of a flight. Please ensure that you have adequate insurance cover.

SWIMMING

Swimming along many coasts can be dangerous due to strong undercurrents and other elements. Please seek the advice of the local representative before venturing into the sea and avoid swimming in deserted areas. Do not let non-swimmers or children jump into a swimming pool without first checking the depth and means of exit.

TICKETS & TIMINGS

Having received your payment, you will be sent your tickets and other documentation approximately two weeks prior to departure. Check all details including names and initials carefully. Please note that flight timings may have been adjusted since your confirmation invoice was issued. Your itinerary will be sent with your tickets. Once issued, tickets are non-transferable, non-changeable and non-refundable. Some tickets (eg for light aircraft flights) are issued in resort and handed to you on arrival at your destination.

TIPPING

Tipping is customary in many parts of Africa, but please note that it is entirely discretionary and we recommend that you only tip if you feel that you have received good service.

TOURS – SINGLE SUPPLEMENTS

The supplements are applicable for single occupancy if travelling with at least one other person. All tours can be taken by a single person travelling alone, but will incur a higher supplement, details of which are available on request.

TRAVEL ADVICE

We are working with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to do all that we can to help British travellers stay safe overseas. Before you travel, we recommend that you visit the FCO website at www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice for up-to-date travel advice.

VALUE ADDED OFFERS

All offers are available for holidays started and completed within the periods specified and all nights must be consecutive.

VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visa information in this brochure is provided for British passport holders who are citizens and residents of the United Kingdom. Non-UK passport holders should consult the relevant Embassy, High Commission or Consulate for visa details. It is the responsibility of all passengers to ensure that they hold the correct and valid travel documents, including visas for all countries to be visited. Failure to do so may result in your intended travel being curtailed or terminated, and we will not accept liability for your loss in such circumstances. All UK passport holders travelling to any country featured in this brochure require a 10-year passport, valid for at least 6 months on the date of your intended return to the United Kingdom. All passengers must carry their own travel documentation. All children travelling must be in possession of their own passport. If you are travelling to more than one country on your holiday you may be required to hold multiple entry visas. The time taken to process a visa varies tremendously, however, you should allow at least four weeks by post and two weeks if using a visa service. Note: False declarations on your visa form may result in you being denied entry to the country you intend visiting. Visas may be obtained via The Visaservice www.cibtvisas.co.uk/somak, Tel: 0207 593 6223, email info@cibtvisas.co.uk. Please note that the passport/visa requirements are for guidance only and are subject to change. Please check there have been no amendments.

Somak Holidays also produce an ESSENTIAL HOLIDAY INFORMATION BOOKLET which is sent out with your travel documents. This contains important information that relates to your holiday, and we would strongly recommend that you read this carefully before departure. A copy of this booklet is available on request, if required earlier.



Brochures can be ordered by telephone or on-line
Please call 020 8423 3000 or visit www.somak.co.uk



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