



INDIA

2024-2025



Small Group Escorted Tours . Extensions . Bespoke Experiences

www.eknotravels.com.au

| tour@eknotravels.com.au

Namaste!

Welcome to our India. From the jungles of the south to the Himalayas of the north and the deserts of the west, India has it all, and so do we.

We have put together a range of tours, extensions and bespoke experiences that combine popular must dos like the Taj Mahal and Jaipur with more exotic and remote locations like Ladakh, the Spiti Valley and Northeast India.

Our small groups cater for up to ten people, but if you would like to go at your own pace then we can put together an itinerary to suit your style and budget. Whether you want a luxury hotel, a Rajasthani haveli or a more traditional homestay, we have it covered.

Our expert guides and staff will be on hand to ensure your safety and comfort from the moment you land in India until the time you leave. With over seventeen years' experience, offices in Australia and India and a dedicated 24/7 hotline, we will be with you every step of the way.

All tours/independent travel options are quoted in Australian Dollars. We can provide quotes in USD, Euros or other currencies upon request.



Vikas, Sharon and Shiv

Classic & Festival Tours

Pages 4 to 23



Adventure & Trekking Tours

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Buddhist Pilgrimages

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Yoga & Wellness Tours

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Extensions & Bespoke Experiences

*bespoke experiences are optional extras

Pages 45 to 51



GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Escorted/Independent
Delhi, Agra & Jaipur

6 days, 5 nights

Dates: 9-14 Jan, 13-18 Feb, 13-18 Mar, 10-15 Apr, 9-14 Oct, 13-18 Nov, 11-16 Dec 2024
7-12 Jan, 11-16 Feb, 11-16 Mar, 8-13 Apr, 7-12 Oct, 15-20 Nov, 13-18 Dec 2025

Cost: A\$2590 per person twin share



JAIPUR - Hawa Mahal

Classic & Festival Tours

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Delhi, Agra and Jaipur
- 5 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal
- Welcome dinner

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi
- Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal in Agra
- Agra Fort, a wonder of Mughal architecture
- Amber Fort, City Palace and Hawa Mahal in Jaipur
- Colourful local bazaars of Jaipur

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

- Walk through the old Mughal city in Agra
- Taj Mahal heritage tour
- Live theatre show on the story of the Taj Mahal
- Cooking class with a local family in Jaipur
- Elephant village rescue centre in Mathura

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to incredible India! Upon your arrival at the airport in Delhi, our representative will greet you and escort you to your hotel. After checking in, spend the rest of your day at your leisure exploring the local area or relaxing in the hotel. Our friendly guide and hotel staff will be on hand should you need restaurant recommendations or general provisions.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI

After breakfast, we'll head to the iconic and bustling area of Old Delhi. We'll take a rickshaw tour through the ancient alleyways of Chandni Chowk bazaar before arriving at India's largest mosque, the Jama Masjid. We will then visit the Red Fort, constructed in 1638, as well as Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. As we continue to weave our way to New Delhi, we'll pass British era landmarks such as India Gate, Rajpath, the President's House, Parliament House and the Government Secretariat Buildings. We'll spend the afternoon shopping at one of Delhi's many bustling outdoor bazaars.

Tonight, enjoy a welcome dinner at a restaurant specialising in Indian cuisine.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 3: DELHI TO AGRA

After breakfast we'll drive from Delhi to Agra, home of the majestic Taj Mahal. Upon arrival in Agra, we'll visit the impressive Agra Fort before touring the Taj Mahal. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in fond memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz, the Taj Mahal has been described as the most extravagant monument to love ever built and remains one of India's most enduring symbols.

Overnight: Hotel, Agra

DAY 4: AGRA TO JAIPUR

Rise early to beat the crowds and watch the sun rise over the magnificent World Heritage site the of the Taj Mahal.



GOLDEN TRIANGLE - TOUR MAP

The Taj Mahal is India's most-photographed monument, and today we'll see why. After the Taj, we'll return to our hotel for breakfast and then travel onwards by car to Jaipur, the 'Pink City' of India. We will reach the capital of Rajasthan in the afternoon, and you'll have the rest of the day free to spend at your leisure, getting to know and explore the many colourful bazaars and restaurants of this bustling city.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 5: JAIPUR

Today, visit the magnificent Amber Fort. The Amber fort was built in 1592 and has seen renovations and improvements for over two centuries. Its name is said to derive from the many jewels that are used for decoration inside – come and see for yourself! You can choose to walk, take a jeep, or ride an elephant to the fort's entrance. The ascent to the fort, no matter your mode of transportation, is full of unbeatable views.

After visiting the fort, head back to Jaipur for a tour of the city's iconic landmarks and visit the gorgeous Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) and the City Palace Museum. The museum is filled with rich collections of Rajasthani costumes and medieval armoury. **Overnight:** Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 6: DEPART JAIPUR

Your tour concludes after breakfast. Bid phir milenge (until we meet again) or continue onwards to another exotic destination in India. We will transfer you to the airport in Jaipur for your onward international or domestic flight.



DELHI - Shri Bangla Sahib



DELHI - Lotus Temple

EXTEND YOUR STAY

UDAIPUR & EXOTIC MARIGOLD

HOTEL (Page 48)

5 days, 4 nights

JODHPUR (Page 49)

4 days, 3 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

MUMBAI (Page 48)

4 days, 3 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights



OLD DELHI - Morning rickshaw ride

INSIDE RAJASTHAN

Escorted/Independent
Delhi, Agra, Jaipur & Udaipur

9 days, 8 nights

Dates: 23-31 Jan, 27 Feb-6 Mar,
27 Mar-4 Apr, 25 Sept-3 Oct,
23-31 Oct, 27 Nov-5 Dec 2024
21-29 Jan, 1-9 Mar, 25 Mar-2 Apr,
1-9 Oct, 21-29 Oct, 25 Nov-3 Dec 2025

Cost: A\$3850 per person twin share



JAIPUR - High tea at Ram Bagh Palace

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Delhi, Agra, Jaipur and Udaipur
- 9 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Train (2nd class AC or AC chair class) from Jaipur to Udaipur
- Domestic flight from Udaipur to Delhi
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal
- Dance performance in Udaipur
- Boat ride in Udaipur
- Welcome and farewell dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal
- Agra Fort, a wonder of Mughal architecture
- Amber Fort, City Palace and Hawa Mahal in Jaipur
- Colourful local bazaars of Jaipur
- Udaipur, the Venice of the East

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to incredible India! Upon your arrival at the airport in Delhi, our representative will greet you and escort you to our hotel. After checking in, spend the rest of your day at your leisure exploring the local bazaars or relaxing in the hotel. In the evening we will meet for a welcome dinner at one of Delhi's Indian restaurants.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI TO AGRA

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll drive onwards to Agra, home of the majestic Taj Mahal. After checking in to our hotel, we'll take a tour of the old Mughal city, where the direct descendants of the 20,000 artisans who built the Taj Mahal still live. We will also visit Agra Fort, where Shah Jahan was imprisoned by his son after the Taj Mahal was built.

Overnight: Hotel, Agra

DAY 3: AGRA TO JAIPUR

In the morning we'll visit the Taj Mahal for a spectacular sunrise. Built between 1632 and 1653 in memory of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's third wife, the Taj Mahal is world-renowned and widely admired. After the Taj, we'll return to our hotel for breakfast and then travel onwards by car to Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan. After checking into our hotel, we'll visit Hawa Mahal, also known as the Palace of the Winds.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 4: JAIPUR

On our second day in Jaipur, we'll visit the magnificent Amber Fort. The Amber Fort was built in 1592; and it has seen renovations and improvements for over two centuries. Its name is said to derive from the many jewels that are used for decoration inside...come and see for yourself! After visiting the fort, we'll head back to Jaipur to visit the City Palace Museum. The museum is filled with rich collections of Rajasthani costumes and medieval armoury.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur



KHEMPUR - Best Exotic Marigold Hotel



UDAIPUR - Lake Pichola

DAY 5: JAIPUR

In the morning we'll rise early and visit the local Vishnu and Hanuman temples. Observe the morning prayers before visiting the wholesale flower, vegetable and milk markets where we'll experience the city waking up and coming to life. We'll then head back to the hotel for a late breakfast and some time to relax. Spend the afternoon exploring the sights and colours of the Jaipur markets, including the famous Johari Bazaar (jeweller's market). In the evening we'll visit Jaipur's iconic cinema, Raj Mandir, for a taste of Bollywood's magical brand of entertainment.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 6: JAIPUR TO UDAIPUR

After an early breakfast, we'll travel to Udaipur by train (approx. 6 hours). As we pass through the Thar Desert, you'll see villagers dressed in colourful clothes herding animals against a backdrop of spectacular scenery. We'll arrive by mid-afternoon and check into our hotel by Lake Pichola. Udaipur, also known as the City of Lakes, is one of India's most picturesque cities. Palaces surround the city, the most famous being The Lake Palace, which covers an entire island and was featured in the James Bond film Octopussy. There's no doubt you'll enjoy this relaxing, seductive city. Relax in the evening with some traditional Rajasthani cuisine.

Overnight: Hotel, Udaipur

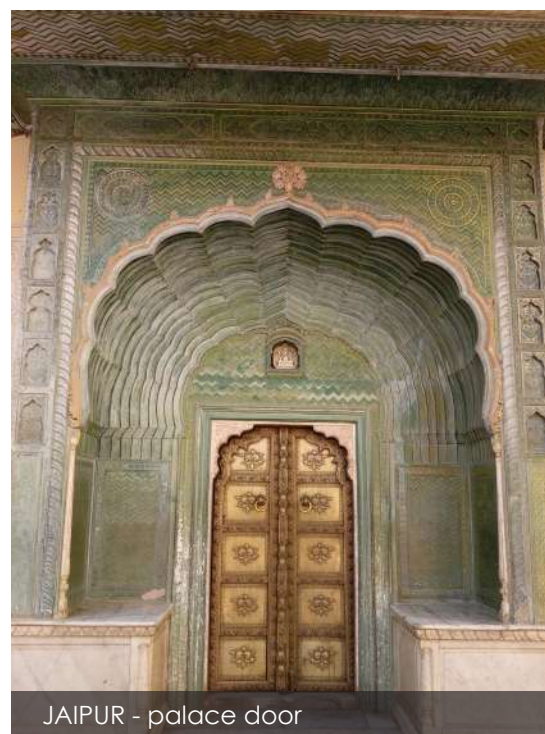
DAY 7: UDAIPUR

In the early morning we'll visit Fateh Sagar Lake to watch the sun rise over the Aravalli Hills. You'll have the option of walking or cycling around the lake. We'll return to the hotel for a late breakfast, followed by a visit to the massive treasure-filled City Palace and a boat ride on Lake Pichola. In the afternoon we'll visit Bagore Ki Haveli, a beautiful mansion housing an art gallery with traditional and contemporary dance performances. Dinner tonight is at a roof top restaurant overlooking Lake Pichola and the City Palace, where we can sit back and enjoy the sweeping views.

Overnight: Hotel, Udaipur

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

- Heritage walk through Old & New Delhi
- Sultanate Delhi tour
- Walk through the old Mughal city in Agra
- Taj Mahal heritage tour
- Live theatre show on the story of the Taj Mahal
- Cooking class with a local family in Jaipur or Udaipur
- Morning heritage walk in Jaipur
- Visit the 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'
- Early morning heritage walk and bicycle ride in Udaipur



JAIPUR - palace door

DAY 8: UDAIPUR TO DELHI

After breakfast we'll leave for our flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi we'll transfer to our hotel. The rest of the day is yours to shop for souvenirs, or visit famous sites such as India Gate, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk, Rajpath and Raj Ghat (the memorial to Mahatma Gandhi). For dinner we will share a special farewell dinner.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 9: DEPART DELHI

After breakfast, the tour will come to an end. We will transfer you to the airport for your onward international or domestic flight.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

JODHPUR (Page 49)

4 days, 3 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

MUMBAI (Page 48)

4 days, 3 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights



AGRA - Taj Mahal



RAJASTHAN - Woman in traditional dress



INSIDE RAJASTHAN - TOUR MAP

HIDDEN GEMS OF THE HIMALAYAS

Escorted/Independent
Delhi, Shimla, Palampur,
Pragpur, Dharamsala & Amritsar

11 days, 10 nights

Dates: 17-27 Apr, 22 May-1 June, 19-29 Jun, 5-15 Oct 2024,
15-25 Apr, 20-30 May, 17-27 Jun, 3-13 Oct 2025

Cost: A\$3550 per person twin share



DHARAMSALA – meeting local Gaddi women

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Delhi, Shimla and Amritsar
- 11 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Train (2nd class AC or AC chair class) from Delhi to Shimla
- Domestic flight from Amritsar to Delhi
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Himalayan tea tour and tea tasting in Palampur
- Welcome and farewell dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Sights and wonders of Delhi
- Travel to the hill station of Shimla on the world famous 'toy train'
- Tour and stay at a family-owned tea estate in Palampur
- Heritage village of Pragpur, stay in a palatial country manor
- Dharamsala, home of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in Exile
- Visit the Golden Temple, Sikhism's holiest shrine, in Amritsar

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to incredible India and to the start of your holiday! Our representative will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel. After checking into the hotel, spend the rest of the day at your leisure exploring the local area and soaking up the vibrant atmosphere. Our guide will be on hand at the hotel if you need any assistance or recommendations.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI TO SHIMLA

Today we'll rise and shine early for a quintessential Indian experience – travelling on the world-famous Indian Railways. Our driver will collect us from our hotel at 4am and we'll set off for a day of eye-opening travel. We'll take a train from North Delhi to Kalka before transferring to the narrow-gauge Kalka to Shimla Railway, known affectionately as the 'toy train'. This route travels along a mountainous track with dramatic views of the hills and surrounding villages. The railway was built in 1898 to connect Shimla with the rest of the Indian rail system, and boasts a staggering 107 tunnels and 864 bridges. Sit back and enjoy the views and listen as our guide shares his knowledge of this beautiful part of the world. We'll arrive in Shimla in the early evening in time for us to check into our hotel and go out for dinner.

Overnight: Hotel, Shimla

DAY 3: SHIMLA

This morning we'll go on a heritage walk taking in the many sights of Shimla. Wander along the Ridge Maidan and Mall Road, pick up some crafts at Lakkar Bazaar, visit the Gaiety Theatre and marvel at the impressive neo-Gothic Christ Church. Shimla is one of the most popular hill stations in India, and with its stunning views, wide boulevards and mist covered mountains it's easy to see why. The town is situated at an altitude of 2276 metres and was initially chosen as a sanatorium for invalid European officers, but soon developed into a large hill town and became the summer capital of the country during the British Raj. In the evening enjoy the jovial atmosphere of the town in one of the many Indian or international restaurants.

Overnight: Hotel, Shimla

DAY 4: SHIMLA TO PALAMPUR

After breakfast we will leave Shimla and travel by car Palampur (approximately 7 hours). Sit back and enjoy the beautiful views as we wind our way through the valleys and foothills of the mighty Himalayas. In the afternoon arrive at our unique eco accommodation in a local tea estate. After settling in you can relax at the lodge or take a walk through the estate, which has been run by the same family since the 1950s.

Overnight: Tea Estate, Palampur

DAY 5: PALAMPUR TO PRAGPUR

This morning we'll take a bespoke tour of the tea estate, which was established in 1857 by the British. We'll learn about the journey from shrub to teacup, try our hands at tea plucking and learn to taste like a tea sommelier. In the afternoon we will travel by car to the heritage village of Pragpur (approximately 2 and a half hours drive). Upon arrival we'll check into the palatial Judges Court Hotel. Spend the afternoon wandering the grounds and soaking up the atmosphere of this country manor.

Overnight: The Judges Court, Pragpur

DAY 6: PRAGPUR TO DHARAMSALA

We'll spend the morning exploring the heritage village of Pragpur, nestled in the shadows of the Dhauladhar mountain range. In the afternoon we'll travel by car to Dharamsala, known the world over as home to the Dalai Lama. We'll drive through the scenic lower hills of Himachal Pradesh before reaching our accommodation at Norbulingka, an arts centre dedicated to the preservation of Tibetan culture. We'll spend the afternoon exploring McLeod Ganj, the hill station above Dharamsala, starting with a visit to the temple of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, the Namgyal Monastery. We'll also visit the Tibet Museum and the Tibetan Houses of Parliament.

Overnight: Norbulingka, Dharamsala

DAY 7: DHARAMSALA

After breakfast, we'll visit Naddi, a scenic local village, and home to our guide Vikas. Naddi offers a chance to meet with members of the Gaddi community and to experience quiet village life, with the added bonus of magnificent views of the Himalayas. After Naddi we'll visit the Tibetan Children's Village, a thriving educational community for Tibetan children living in exile. We'll return to Norbulingka for lunch, and in the afternoon we'll visit Norbulingka's arts centre which preserves the work of Tibetan artisans.

Overnight: Norbulingka, Dharamsala

DAY 8: DHARAMSALA

Today is a rest day. Explore the local area, revisit the Namgyal Monastery, or shop for souvenirs in McLeod Ganj. We can also arrange local bespoke experiences as optional extras.

Overnight: Norbulingka, Dharamsala

DAY 9: DHARAMSALA TO AMRITSAR

After breakfast we'll drive down to the fertile plains of the Punjab. After checking into our hotel, we'll visit Wagah for the closing of the border ceremony between India and Pakistan. This ceremony takes place every evening and involves a display of pomp and grandeur by the Indian and Pakistani border guards. Once it's finished, we'll head back to Amritsar where the rest of the evening is at your leisure. Enjoy a tasty dinner in one of the many Punjabi restaurants or take an evening stroll around the



PALAMPUR - Himalayan tea walk

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

Dharamsala

- Tibetan Buddhist circuit in McLeod Ganj
- Himalayan forest walk
- Tea plantation walk in the Kangra Valley
- Tibetan homestay



SHIMLA – Toy Train



SHIMLA

holy Sikh Golden Temple, which is open 24 hours a day.

Overnight: Hotel, Amritsar

DAY 10: AMRITSAR TO DELHI

This morning we will visit the Golden Temple to enjoy a quiet stroll through the inner corridors as the priests chant from the Sikh holy book. We will visit the langar hall, a massive free community dining room run entirely by volunteers. The Golden Temple langar can serve hot meals to up to 100,000 people a day.

In the early afternoon we will fly back to Delhi. The rest of the afternoon in Delhi is at your leisure to relax or shop for last minute souvenirs.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 11: DEPART DELHI

Our tour concludes after breakfast. We will transfer you to the airport for your onward international or domestic flight.

We look forward to seeing you on another Ekno experience soon. Why not add on one of our extension tours so that you can see another exciting part of India, such as a trip to Udaipur and the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel or to the holy city of Varanasi?



AMRITSAR - Golden Temple

EXTEND YOUR STAY

GOLDEN TRIANGLE (Page 4)

6 days, 5 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

KERARI LAKE TREK (Page 29)

7 days, 6 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights

AGRA & TAJ MAHAL (Page 45)

2 days, 1 night



BEST OF LADAKH

Escorted/Independent
Delhi, Leh, Lamayuru & Alchi

8 days, 7 nights

Dates: *13-20 June, 1-8 July,
21-28 July 2024,
*20-27 June, 1-8 July, 15-22 July 2025
* Dates with Hemis Festival

Cost: A\$3550 per person twin share



LADAKH - mask dance at Hemis Festival

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Leh
- 7 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Return domestic flights from Delhi to Leh
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary



LADAKH - Sankar Gumpa in Leh

HIGHLIGHTS

- Spectacular flight over the Himalayas
- Ancient bazaars of Leh
- Stunning views of the Himalayas from Leh Palace
- Masked Lama dance at the Hemis Festival (June dates only)
- Stok, Shey Palace and Thiksey Monastery
- High pass villages of Lamayuru and Alchi
- Alchi Gumpa

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to India! Upon arrival at the airport in Delhi, our representative will meet you and escort you to the hotel. Spend the rest of the day at your leisure exploring the local area and relaxing in the hotel. Our friendly guide and hotel staff will be on hand should you need restaurant recommendations or general provisions.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI TO LEH

We will take an early morning flight to Leh, the spectacular capital of Ladakh. Our flight will pass over multiple Himalayan ranges, which serves as a fantastic photo opportunity. Leh is framed on all sides by the towering Himalayas, with the mighty Indus River roaring in the valley below. After checking into our hotel, we'll take a walking tour of Leh Bazaar, an important stop on trade routes dating as far back as the third century. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to rest and acclimatise.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 3: LEH

After breakfast, we'll visit Gompa Soma, a Buddhist temple constructed in 1840 at the base of the towering Leh Palace. Afterwards, we'll head to Moti Market for an exploration of Leh's old bazaar, which has a rich history that can be traced back to the Asian spice trade. The afternoon is yours to rest, explore, or sip traditional Tibetan butter tea at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 4: HEMIS FESTIVAL

Today we'll attend the Hemis Festival, an annual celebration of the birth of Guru Padmasambhava. After an early breakfast we'll travel to the Hemis Monastery, the largest and richest monastery in Ladakh. At 9am the celebrations will begin in the courtyard, which will quickly fill up with locals and Buddhist pilgrims.



LEH PALACE

The festival highlight is the gathering of the lamas around the central flagpole to perform mystical mask dances (Chams) and sacred plays. Dressed in colourful bright brocades with vibrantly decorated and richly adorned papier-mache masks, the dancers will enact an elaborate combat between good spirits and evil demons to the clatter of drums, cymbals and long horns.

For other tour dates not including the Hemis Festival: We'll spend the day exploring Leh with a guided tour, including a visit to the Royal Palace. Constructed in the 17th century, this imposing nine story stone palace is one of the most captivating architectural ruins in the region. Situated in the foothills of a barren landscape, the palace was built as a residence for the King and to mark the reunification of Upper and Lower Ladakh.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 5: LEH

After breakfast we'll take a sightseeing tour of Stok Palace, Shey Palace and Thiksey Monastery. Stok Palace is the home of the present-day royal family.

The palace and accompanying museum were built in 1825 by King Tespal Thondup Namgyal. At present the palace has a collection of elaborate royal dresses and crowns on display.

Shey Palace was built by Deldan Namgyal at the beginning of the 17th century AD. The main image in the monastery is a three-story statue of Buddha Shakyamuni made of copper gilt made in the memory of Deldan Namgyal's father Singay Namgyal. The statue is the only one of its kind in the region.

Thiksey Gumpa belongs to the Gelugpa order of Buddhism and is considered to be the most beautiful of all the monasteries in Ladakh. After our day of sightseeing, we'll return to Leh in the evening to rest and eat dinner.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 6: LEH TO LAMAYURU/ALCHI

After breakfast we'll travel to the village of Lamayuru, a spectacular 3-hour drive outside of Leh. Our journey will weave through remote mountain passes and deep river valleys that will embed themselves eternally in your heart and mind.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

Leh

Homestay – stay with a local family and experience the Ladakhi lifestyle
2 days, 1 night



LEH - Buddhist statue

In Lamayuru we'll visit the local monastery and gumpa and then climb to the high point overlooking the town for unrivalled views across this spectacular region. The afternoon is at your leisure to enjoy the lunar-like white stone surroundings. We'll spend the night in either Lamayuru or the nearby village of Alchi.

Overnight: Guesthouse, Lamayuru/Alchi

DAY 7: LAMAYURU/ALCHI TO LEH

We'll begin our return journey to Leh by way of Alchi, an ancient Buddhist village on the banks of the Indus River. Alchi Gumpa is considered one of the oldest Buddhist sites in the region, dating back to the 10th Century. We'll spend the morning observing the comings and goings of the monastery and browsing for handicrafts. Our afternoon drive back to Leh offers a spectacular setting for final thoughts and reflection on our journey and discoveries.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 8: LEH TO DELHI

After breakfast we'll return to Delhi by plane. After we arrive in Delhi, you can and continue on to your final destination.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

SPITI VALLEY (Page 24)

13 days, 12 nights

GOLDEN TRIANGLE (Page 4)

6 days, 5 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

AGRA & TAJ MAHAL (Page 45)

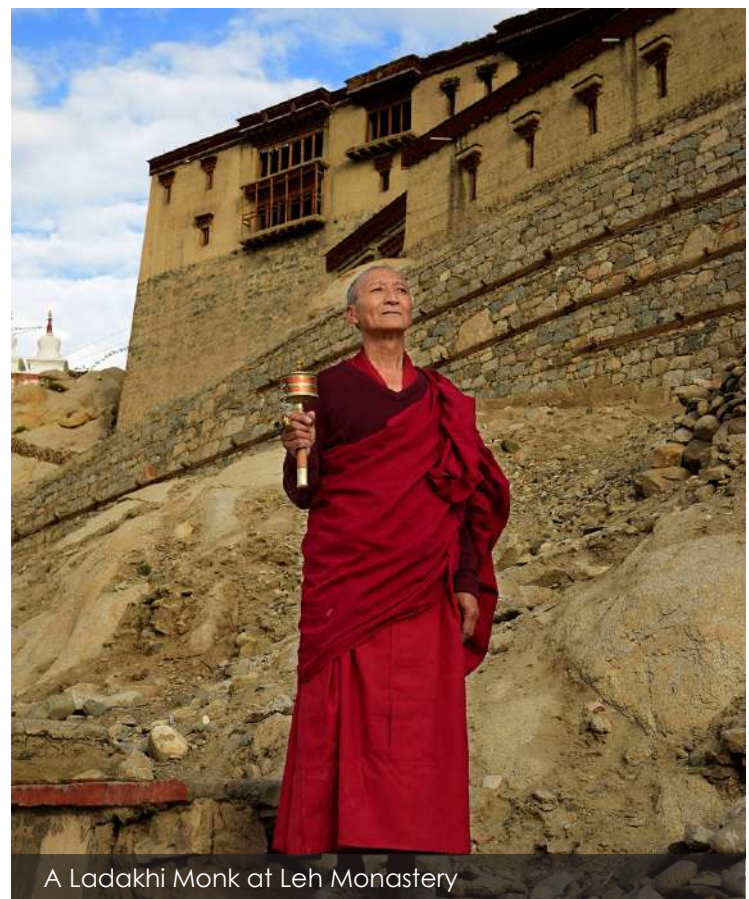
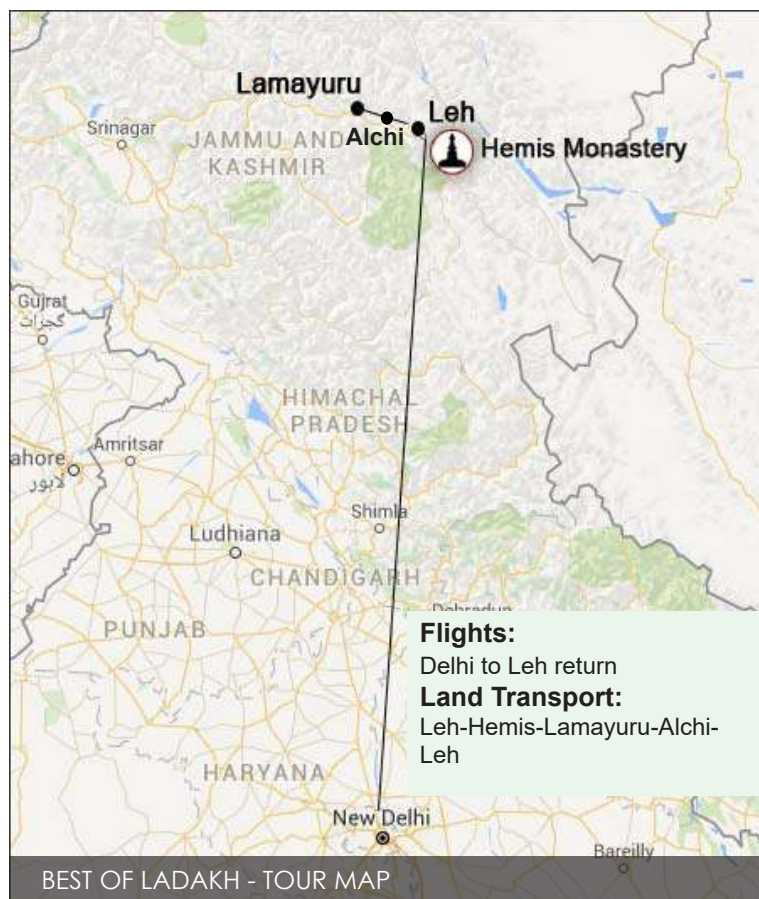
2 days, 1 night

MCLEOD GANJ (Page 47)

5 days, 4 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights



ROYAL RAJASTHAN DIWALI

Escorted/Independent
Delhi, Agra, Jaipur, Jodhpur,
Udaipur

10 days, 9 nights

Dates: 27 October-5 November 2024

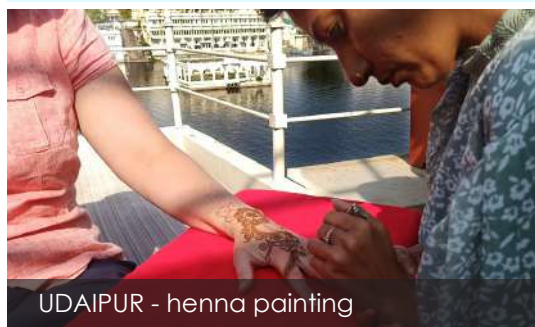
15-24 October 2025

Cost: A\$4100 per person twin share

JAIPUR - Hawa Mahal

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Agra, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur
- 9 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Domestic flight from Udaipur to Delhi
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Boat ride in Udaipur
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Diwali celebration dinner



UDAIPUR - henna painting

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the colourful bazaars of Delhi
- Marvel at the wonders of the Taj Mahal at sunrise
- Discover the sights of Jaipur, including the majestic Amber Fort
- Enjoy a heritage walk through Mehrangarh Fort
- Experience the Diwali festivities in Jodhpur and celebrate with a Diwali feast
- Travel to Udaipur, the 'Venice of East'

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

You'll be met by one of our representatives at the airport and transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is at your leisure to relax or soak up the sights of this bustling city. In the evening we'll share a welcome dinner at an Indian restaurant.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI TO AGRA

In the morning we'll drive to Agra, arriving with plenty of free time to explore this Mughal city. We'll visit the impressive Agra Fort before touring the Taj Mahal. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in fond memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz, the Taj Mahal has been described as the most extravagant monument to love ever built and remains one of India's most enduring symbols. However, not all love stories have happy endings, and Shah Jahan was imprisoned in Agra Fort by his son during his final years.

Overnight: Hotel, Agra

DAY 3: AGRA TO JAIPUR

Rise early and pay a sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal is India's most-photographed monument, and today you'll see why. After the Taj, we'll return to our hotel for breakfast and then travel onwards by car to Jaipur, the 'Pink City' of India. We will reach the capital of Rajasthan in the afternoon, and you'll have the rest of the day free to spend at your leisure. You may wish to explore the sights and colours of the Jaipur markets including the famous Johari Bazaar (jeweller's market), or pay a visit to Jaipur's iconic cinema, Raj Mandir, for a taste of Bollywood's magical brand of entertainment.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 4: JAIPUR

On our second day in Jaipur, we'll visit the magnificent Amber Fort. The Amber Fort was built in 1592, and has seen renovations and improvements for over two centuries. The name is said to derive from the many jewels that are used for decoration inside...come and see for yourself! After visiting the fort, we'll head back to Jaipur to visit Hawa Mahal and the City Palace Museum. The museum is filled with rich collections of Rajasthani costumes and medieval armoury.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 5: JAIPUR TO JODHPUR

After breakfast we'll travel to Jodhpur by car, arriving in the early afternoon (approx. 5 hours). Jodhpur is known as the 'Blue City' as many of the houses are painted in shades of blue. With the towering backdrop of Mehrangarh Fort, one of the largest forts in India, the city is quintessential Rajasthan. In the afternoon we'll head to Sardar Bazaar, one of the oldest markets in India, for handicrafts and antiques. The diversity of what's on offer is impressive.

Overnight: Hotel, Jodhpur

DAY 6: DIWALI CELEBRATION IN JODHPUR

Start the day off right with a delicious omelette and a famous Makhaniya lassi, one of many Indian delicacies that originated in Jodhpur. We'll then head up to Mehrangarh Fort and take in the sweeping view of the city. You can either have the late afternoon free or attend a Rajasthani cooking class at a local family's house. In the evening we'll join locals as they celebrate Diwali before making our way to the city for a special Diwali feast. During Diwali, temples, houses and gardens surrounding the city are lit up with colourful lights and decorated in flower garlands, and locals flock to give offerings to deities. It is a truly magical time to be in India.

Overnight: Hotel, Jodhpur

DAY 7: JODHPUR TO UDAIPUR

After breakfast, we will travel to Udaipur by private vehicle. Udaipur, also known as the 'Venice of the East', is one of India's most picturesque cities. The city was founded in 1559 and was the capital of the Mewar kingdom. Palaces surround the city, the most famous being The Lake Palace, which covers an entire island and was featured in the James Bond film Octopussy. There's no doubt you'll enjoy this beautiful and seductive city. In the afternoon we'll take an orientation walk through the narrow streets so that you can get your bearings. The rest of the day is at your leisure to relax and explore the city.

Overnight: Hotel, Udaipur

DAY 8: UDAIPUR

After breakfast, we'll visit the massive City Palace before enjoying a boat ride on Lake Pichola. In the afternoon we'll visit Bagore Ki Haveli, a beautiful mansion housing an art gallery of contemporary and folk art. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to relax or to enjoy one of our bespoke experiences. We'll meet in the evening for dinner at the Udaigarh Hotel, which overlooks Lake Pichola and the City Palace.

Overnight: Hotel, Udaipur

DAY 9: UDAIPUR TO DELHI

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll fly back to Delhi. After checking into our hotel, the rest of the day is free to either shop or visit the sights of Delhi. We'll meet in the evening for our farewell dinner.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

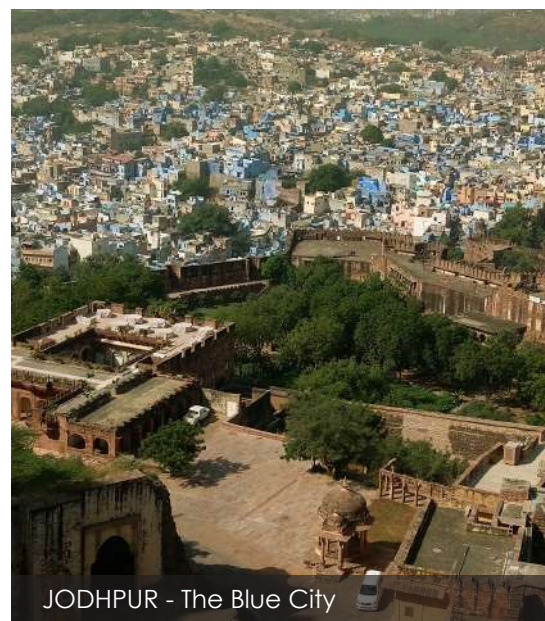
DAY 10: DEPART DELHI

After breakfast, the tour will come to an end. We will transfer you to the airport for your onward international or domestic flight.



BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

- Heritage walk through Old & New Delhi
- Sultanate Delhi tour
- Walk through the old Mughal city in Agra
- Taj Mahal heritage tour
- Live theatre show on the story of the Taj Mahal
- Cooking class with a local family in Jaipur or Udaipur
- Morning heritage walk in Jaipur
- Visit the 'Best Exotic Marigold Hotel'
- Early morning heritage walk and bicycle ride in Udaipur



EXTEND YOUR STAY

JODHPUR (Page 49)

4 days, 3 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

MUMBAI (Page 48)

4 days, 3 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights

ENCHANTING KERALA

Escorted/Independent

Kochi, Munnar, Thekkady, Alleppey Backwaters & Chennamkary

10 days, 9 nights

Dates: 13-22 Jan, 17-26 Feb, 13-22 Oct, 17-26 Nov, 15-24 Dec 2024
15-24 Jan, 15-24 Feb, 20-29 Oct, 19-28 Nov, 13-22 Dec 2025

Cost: A\$3850 per person twin share



Houseboat cruising the Alleppey Backwaters

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Kochi & Thekkady
- 7 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- 1 night on a luxury houseboat with lunch, dinner and breakfast
- 1 night homestay accommodation with lunch, dinner and breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Kathakali dance performance in Kochi
- Tea plantation trek in Munnar
- Welcome and farewell dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the heritage city of Kochi
- Experience a Kathakali dance performance in Kochi
- Enjoy a tea plantation trek in Munnar
- Discover the spice gardens and markets in Thekkady
- Spot wildlife on a cruise in Periyar National Park
- Cruise the backwaters of Alleppey with an overnight stay on a traditional Kettuvallam boat
- Experience village life with a homestay on a car free backwater island
- Indulge in delicious South Indian delicacies

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE KOCHI

Welcome to India! On arrival at Kochi airport, you'll be met by our guide and transferred to our hotel in Fort Cochin. Spend the afternoon exploring this historical area, known for its colonial era architecture, galleries, cafes and boutiques. In the evening we'll wander down to the Chinese fishing nets, where the local fishermen will let you have a go for a small tip. For a truly local experience you can buy fresh seafood and take it to a nearby shack to be cooked before enjoying it as you watch the sun going down.

Overnight: Hotel, Kochi

DAY 2: EXPLORE KOCHI

After breakfast we'll take a heritage tour of the local area. Fort Cochin is a maze of older style southern Indian houses and colonial era buildings, and we'll visit important landmarks including Fort Immanuel, the Dutch Cemetery, Santa Cruz Basilica and Saint Francis Church (believed to be the oldest European church in India). We'll then visit Mattancherry, the old bazaar district and home to the famous spice warehouses, along with Mattancherry Dutch Palace, built by the Portuguese in 1555. We'll explore Jew Town, home to an interesting synagogue as well as antique and curio shops. We'll stop for lunch in a local café before heading back to our hotel. In the afternoon you can relax with an optional Ayurvedic massage. Ayurveda is a holistic form of medicine established over 3000 years ago in India and is the perfect way to unwind after a busy day of exploring. In the evening don't miss the opportunity to catch a traditional Kathakali dance performance.

Overnight: Hotel, Kochi

DAY 3: KOCHI - MUNNAR

After a leisurely breakfast we'll take a scenic 4 hour drive up the Western Ghats Mountain range to Munnar hill station. We'll check into our accommodation and enjoy the fresh air of South India's largest tea growing region. In the afternoon we'll drive up to the Top Station (1880 m above sea level) for picturesque views of the Western Ghats and the neighbouring state of Tamil Nadu. There is a good chance that we'll see wild elephants wandering through the lush hills and jungles on our way.

Overnight: Hotel, Munnar

DAY 4: EXPLORE MUNNAR

Today we'll trek through the tea plantations around Munnar. The mountain scenery is breathtaking, and we'll often be above the clouds or amongst veils of mist. Along the way we'll stop to discover the sheer variety of the fresh local produce on offer at the many tea and spice plantations.

Overnight: Hotel, Munnar

DAY 5: MUNNAR - THEKKADY

After breakfast we'll drive to Thekkady via the Cardamom Hills. The three-hour drive follows a route lined with plantations of tea, cocoa, tapioca, bamboo, coconut, banana, and of course cardamom. Thekkady is the gateway to Periyar National Park, which is home to tigers, elephants, primates and deer. The afternoon is at your leisure to relax or wander the village exploring the local markets. You may also wish to enjoy an optional extra such as a guided hike, a national park safari, a therapeutic Ayurvedic treatment or a traditional South Indian cooking class.

Overnight: Hotel, Thekkady

DAY 6: PERIYAR NATIONAL PARK

In the morning we'll take a scenic walk through the spice gardens before visiting the fragrant and colourful spice markets where you can purchase fresh spices. In the afternoon we'll enjoy a wildlife cruise on Periyar Lake. This is a great opportunity for wildlife spotting, and you are likely to see wild deer, boar, otters as well as many varieties of birdlife.

Overnight: Hotel, Thekkady

DAY 7: HOUSEBOAT ALLEPPEY BACKWATERS

After an early breakfast, we'll depart for Alleppey (4 hours' drive), where we'll board our houseboat for a trip along the backwaters. Local houseboats are made in the traditional Kettuvalam rice barge style and are luxuriously fitted out with bedrooms, a dining room, an open lounge and a deck. A captain and cook will be on hand to look after our every need. We'll spend the afternoon cruising the backwaters, drifting along coconut lined canals and past small villages. Enjoy the delicious South Indian food and the peace of sleeping on board a boat. For many people this is a highlight of their time in India.

Overnight: Houseboat, Alleppey Backwaters

DAY 8: ALLEPPEY HOMESTAY

After a delicious breakfast, you will be dropped at your homestay on a backwater island. Your homestay is with a local family in a picturesque village surrounded by lush rice paddies. The homestay is situated on a car-free island and the only way to get around is on foot, bicycle or by boat. Do all three or just chill in a hammock watching life pass by at a snail's pace. You can also take the optional extra of trying out a South Indian cooking class.

Overnight: Homestay, Chennamkary (Alleppey Backwaters)

DAY 9: ALLEPPEY - KOCHI

After a relaxed breakfast we will depart Alleppey for the drive back to Kochi (2 hours). Spend the rest of the day at your leisure or exploring Fort Cochin. Princess Street is one of the oldest streets in the city and is an excellent place to go for people-watching. It is also home to countless cafes, restaurants, bookstores, tea shops, art galleries and boutiques, making it a perfect place to enjoy good South Indian coffee



KOCHI - fishing boats



KOCHI - Kathakali dance performance



MUNNAR - tea gardens



Traditional South Indian food



KOCHI - Ayurveda Therapy

or to do any last minute souvenir shopping.
Overnight: Hotel, Kochi

DAY 10: DEPARTURE

After breakfast transfer to either Kochi or Trivandrum airport for your onward flight.



ALLEPPEY – Houseboat cruise along the backwaters

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

Ayurvedic massage in Kochi
Guided hike or safari in Periyar National Park
Therapeutic Ayurvedic treatment in Thekkady
Traditional South Indian cooking class in Kochi or Chennamkary
Day trip to Vypeen Island

EXTEND YOUR STAY

KOCHI (Page 50)

3 days, 2 nights

GOAN HOMESTAY (Itinerary on application) 5 days, 4 nights

MUMBAI (Page 48)

4 days, 3 night



Car

Kochi-Munnar-Thekkady
Alleppey-Kochi

ENCHANTING KERALA - TOUR MAP

WONDERS OF NORTH EAST INDIA

including Hornbill Festival

Escorted/Independent

Kolkata, Majuli Island,
Kaziranga, Kohima

13 days, 12 nights

Dates: 21 Nov-3 Dec 2024/25

Cost: Price on Application



NAGALAND - Hornbill Festival

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- 12 nights' accommodation with breakfast and dinner
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Domestic flights from Kolkata to Jorhat, and Dimapur to Kolkata
- Return ferry from Neemati Ghat to Majuli Island
- Train from Mariani to Dimapur
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary



MAJULI ISLAND, ASSAM

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE KOLKATA

Welcome to incredible India! On arrival you will be met by one of our representatives at transferred to the hotel. The rest of the day is free to relax or explore the local surrounds. Kolkata is a fascinating city – full of life, vibrancy and culture. Although no activities are planned, your guide will be on hand to offer help and recommendations. Overnight: Hotel, Kolkata

DAY 2: KOLKATA SIGHTSEEING

Kolkata is an intoxicating city to explore, and today we will discover why. As one of India's largest cities and the former capital of British India, the city is regarded as the artistic and cultural capital of the country. After breakfast at the hotel, we will head to Kumartuli, the atmospheric potters district. The maze-like alleys are home to over 550 different workshops that create religious idols all year-round. The idols are primarily created for the Durga Puja Festival, and wandering the narrow streets offers a rare glimpse into the ritual and skill involved in creating these idols from clay and bamboo. After exploring, we will take a ferry to the Mullick Ghat Flower Market, the largest flower market in Asia. Crossing the mighty Hooghly River by boat offers the chance to view this heaving metropolis from the water as we pass under the iconic Howrah Bridge. We will also visit the grand Raj-era Victoria Memorial before returning to our hotel by late afternoon. The rest of the day is free to spend at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel, Kolkata

DAY 3: KOLKATA TO MAJULI ISLAND

After breakfast, we'll fly to Jorhat before continuing on our journey to Majuli Island. Along the way we'll stop at the 115-year-old Haroocharai Tea Estate for lunch. After lunch we'll drive to Neemati Ghat, where we'll board a ferry Majuli Island. Majuli is the world's largest river island, but it is slowly disappearing as the land is eroded by monsoonal floods and the mighty Brahmaputra River. Majuli is renowned in Assamese culture as home to the medieval Xatras (monasteries) where monks practice Assam's distinctive form of Vishnu worship. The afternoon is yours to relax and enjoy the change of pace after the bustling streets of Kolkata.

Overnight: Hotel, Majuli Island

DAY 4: MAJULI ISLAND

After breakfast we'll visit some of the most significant Xatras on Majuli. Visiting the Xatras is an eye-opening glimpse into the lives of the monks who still lead austere lives mastering religious scripts, art, music, dance and handicrafts. We'll visit Dakshinpaat Xatra, where monks lead a celibate life; followed by Natun Samaguri Xatra, where the monks are allowed to marry. Following that, we'll visit Natun Samaguri Xatra, known for a 400-year-old tradition of religious mask making started by Srimanta Shankardev. The rest of the afternoon is free for you to soak up the atmosphere of the beautiful island. Take a walk through the rice fields or enjoy some bird watching at the wetlands.

Overnight: Hotel, Majuli Island

DAY 5: MAJULI ISLAND

After breakfast we'll hire some bikes and cycle around the local villages. The bike hire scheme was set up to promote sustainable tourism in the area and is one of the best ways to slowly explore the villages and beautiful surroundings. Alternative transport will be provided for those who don't wish to cycle. We'll visit Mishing village, home to the Mishing tribe, who live in distinctive houses built on raised platforms and make up almost half of the population of Majuli. After our bike ride we'll return to our accommodation. The rest of the afternoon is yours to relax or explore. Don't forget to watch the sun set over the Brahmaputra River as people head home by boat. In the evening we'll enjoy a traditional tribal feast. The food on offer is very unique, and there will be plenty of unusual fish, meat and vegetarian delicacies on offer. Finish off the meal by trying the local rice beer, known as Apong.

Overnight: Hotel, Majuli Island

DAY 6: KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

After breakfast we'll say goodbye to Majuli Island and start the journey to Kaziranga National Park, which is home to elephants, tigers, primates and India's famous one-horned rhino. After travelling by ferry and private vehicle, we'll reach our accommodation inside the park. The park consists of several ranges, and over the next two days you'll visit the Central Range (home to tigers), the Bagori Range (home to rhinos, elephants and water buffaloes) and the Burapahar Range (home to Capped Langurs and India's only ape, the Hollock Gibbon). The afternoon is yours to relax in our luxurious riverside accommodation, from where you might even be able to spot rhinos grazing in the neighbouring grasslands.

Overnight: Resort, Kaziranga National Park

DAY 7: KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

Today we'll explore the park with morning and afternoon jeep safaris. Our safari guide will choose which range of the park to cover and will make sure that we pay a visit to all three ranges over the next two days. In between safaris you can relax at the resort.

Overnight: Resort, Kaziranga National Park

DAY 8: KAZIRANGA NATIONAL PARK

This morning we'll enjoy our final jeep safari in Kaziranga National Park. In the afternoon we'll drive to Jorhat, where we'll spend the night before heading off on our adventure to the tribal north-eastern state of Nagaland.

Overnight: Hotel, Jorhat

DAY 9: JORHAT TO KOHIMA

We'll rise early to catch the Shatabdi Express train to Dimapur. The train journey will take two hours and is the perfect time to sit back and enjoy the passing scenery.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The wonders of Kolkata
- Majuli Island, known for its unique Assamese monasteries
- Tribal feast prepared by the Mishing community
- Stay at Kaziranga National Park – home to the elusive Bengal Tiger as well as rhinos, elephants and primates
- Kohima, the capital city of Nagaland
- Sights, sounds and flavours of the Hornbill Festival
- Kigwema village, home to the Angami people.



ASSAM - Kaziranga National Park



ASSAM - Kaziranga National Park



ASSAM - Majuli Island

We'll arrive in Dimapur in time for a late breakfast before continuing by private vehicle to Kohima, the capital city of Nagaland. Kohima is scattered across a series of forested ridges and offers picturesque views of the valley below. After checking into our hotel, we'll visit the War Cemetery, which stands at the battle site of the 64-day Battle of Kohima where the Allied Forces won a decisive battle over the Japanese. The cemetery is one of the most historically significant reminders of the war in this part of the world. We'll also visit the Central Market, where tribal people gather to buy and sell local delicacies.

Overnight: Hotel, Kohima

DAY 10: HORNBILL FESTIVAL

After breakfast we'll attend the colourful opening ceremony of the Hornbill Festival at the Kisama Heritage Village. We'll spend the day at the festival site enjoying the local delicacies on offer as well as the famous Naga hospitality. We'll experience traditional Nagaland dances, songs, games, food, religious ceremonies, and tribal lore. Attending the festival and seeing the different Naga tribes in their full warrior dress is truly a once in a lifetime experience. The Hornbill Festival is organised annually to preserve the culture of the diverse local tribes. Although each tribe has their own festivals, the Hornbill Festival is an important social and cultural event, as well as an opportunity for all the tribes to meet. The festival is named after the hornbill bird, common to the folklore of all the tribes. After leaving the festival site, we'll visit Kigwema Village. The village is home to the Angami people, one of the major Naga ethnic groups. Several households in the village welcome tourists, which will give us a rare peek into the lives of the tribespeople away from the festival site.

Overnight: Hotel, Kohima

DAY 11: HORNBILL FESTIVAL

After breakfast we'll head to Kisama Heritage Village to enjoy the festivities for another day. We'll be able to watch jaw-dropping performances and enactments of the traditional way of life for the various tribes as well as eat delicious Naga food until we can't take any more. In the evening we'll visit the iconic Kohima Cathedral to enjoy the panoramic views of the city.

Overnight: Hotel, Kohima

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

KOLKATA

Heritage walk of the old city

EXTEND YOUR STAY

KOLKATA (Itinerary on application)
3 days, 2 nights

GANGTOK & DARJEELING
(Itinerary on application)
7 days, 6 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)
4 days, 3 nights



NAGALAND - Chapel at Kisama

DAY 12: KOHIMA TO KOLKATA

Today we'll say goodbye to Nagaland. We'll have breakfast at the hotel before taking a scenic drive to Dimapur, where we'll board a flight to Kolkata. We will arrive in Kolkata by mid-afternoon and transfer to our accommodation. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure. You might wish to explore the local area or do some last-minute souvenir shopping.

Overnight: Hotel, Kolkata

DAY 13: DEPART KOLKATA

We will transfer you to the airport in time for your return flight home. We look forward to seeing you on another Ekno experience soon.



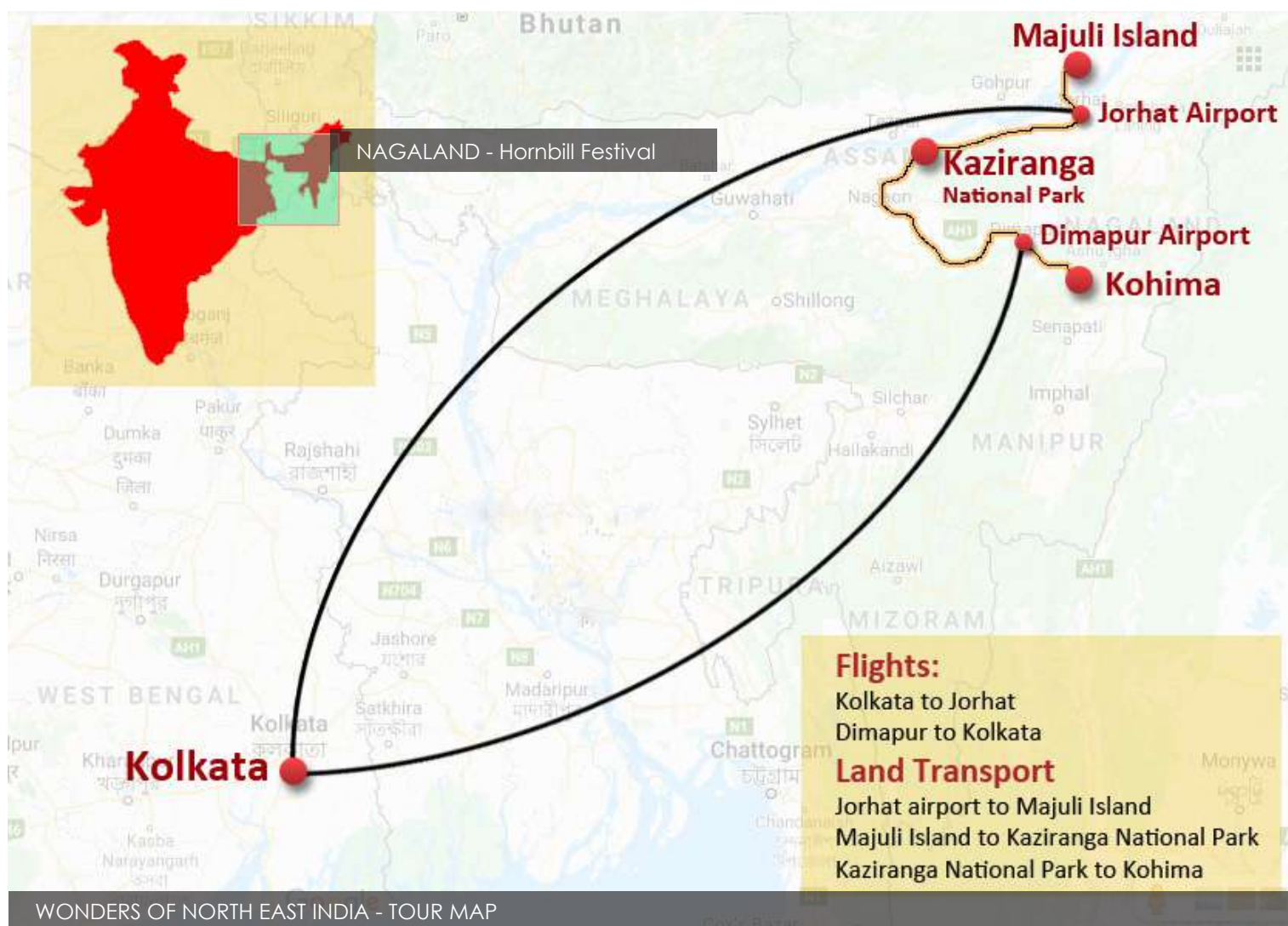
NAGALAND - Hornbill Festival



NAGALAND - village life



NAGALAND - Hornbill Festival



SPITI VALLEY

Escorted/Independent
Delhi, Shimla, Kalpa, Nako,
Tabo, Kaza, Manali &
Chandigarh

13 days, 12 nights

Dates: 5-17 August 2024,
4-16 August 2025

Cost: A\$4150 per person twin share



SPITI - Kaza Monastery

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Delhi and Shimla
- 12 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Train (2nd class AC or AC chair class) from Delhi to Shimla
- Domestic flight from Chandigarh to Delhi
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary



SPITI - rural museum in Dhankar Village

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wonders of Delhi
- Travel on the breathtaking narrow-gauge Kalka-Shimla Railway
- Shimla – the queen of hill stations
- Beautiful Kinnaur Valley
- Ancient Buddhist monasteries at Nako and Tabo
- Ancient Ky Monastery in Kaza
- Manali hill station

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to India! Upon your arrival at the airport in Delhi, our representative will greet you and escort you to the hotel. After checking into your hotel, spend the rest of your day at your leisure exploring the local area and relaxing at the hotel. Our friendly guide and hotel staff will be on hand should you need restaurant recommendations or general provisions.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI

After breakfast we'll head to the bustling bazaars of Old Delhi. We'll admire the magnificent Jama Masjid (India's largest mosque) and enjoy a rickshaw tour through the ancient alleys of Chandni Chowk. Before heading back to New Delhi we'll pass by the magnificent Red Fort, constructed in 1638; as well as Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi. As we continue to weave our way to New Delhi, we will pass majestic British era landmarks such as India Gate, the President's House, Parliament House and the Government Secretariat buildings. Our final stop of the day will be the Laxmi Narayan Hindu Temple.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 3: DELHI TO SHIMLA

We'll leave our hotel in the early hours of the morning and set off on a day of exciting travel on the famous Indian Railways. We'll take a train from North Delhi to Kalka before transferring to the narrow gauge 'toy train' Kalka-Shimla line. This route travels along a mountainous track known for its dramatic views of the hills and surrounding villages. This railway was built in 1898 to connect Shimla, the summer capital of India during the British Raj, with the rest of the Indian rail system. At the time of construction 107 tunnels and 864 bridges were built throughout the course of the track. We'll arrive in Shimla in the early evening in time for dinner.

Overnight: Hotel, Shimla.

DAY 4: SHIMLA

After breakfast we'll set off on a sightseeing tour of Shimla.

We'll visit Kufri, Ridge Maidan, Mall Road and the impressive Christ Church. Shimla is one of the most popular hill stations in India, and with its stunning views, wide boulevards, and mist covered mountains it's not hard to see why. The town is situated at an altitude of 2276 metres and was initially chosen as a sanatorium for invalid European officers, but soon developed into a large hill town and became the summer capital of the country during the British Raj.

Overnight: Hotel, Shimla

DAY 5: SHIMLA TO KALPA

In the morning we'll leave Shimla and make our way to Kalpa in the beautiful Kinnaur Valley. The Kinnaur Valley is known as the gateway to the remote Spiti Valley, and is famous for its apple orchards — just about all of India's apples are produced in this area. The cultural tapestry of the region is rich, and modernity has only recently reached the area. As we explore, we'll be able to observe locals going about their everyday lives in stunning traditional dress. From Kalpa we'll be able to see the spectacular Kinnaur Kailash, one of the highest mountains in the Indian Himalayas at 6055 metres. The area is surrounded by snowy peaks for most of the year, which makes for a beautiful sunset backdrop.

Overnight: Guesthouse, Kalpa

DAY 6: KALPA TO NAKO

The morning is at your leisure to explore Kalpa, before we head towards Rekonag Peo. We'll stop along the way for lunch and to get our permits for the Spiti Valley. Our final destination is the picturesque village of Nako (altitude 3625 metres), which is located just 60kms from the Tibetan border. Nako is home to an ancient monastery dating back to 1025 AD, as well as several Buddhist chortens. The villagers are extremely proud of their heritage and the town is well maintained by the local community. A pretty lake surrounds the town, and is a lovely spot for an afternoon stroll.

Overnight: Guesthouse, Nako

DAY 7: NAKO TO TABO

In the morning we'll set off for our next destination, Tabo. In Tabo we'll visit the famous Tabo Monastery, which dates back to 966AD and is a World Heritage Site. The Dalai Lama maintains that the Tabo Monastery is one of the holiest sites in the world. Due to its height at 3280 metres, Tabo has short summers and very cold winters.

Overnight: Guesthouse, Tabo

DAY 8: TABO TO KAZA

After breakfast we'll leave for our journey to Kaza, stopping off on the way to visit the Dhankar Monastery. Dhankar Monastery was built on a 300-metre-high spur overlooking the Spiti and Pin Rivers, truly one of the world's most spectacular settings for a monastery. In the afternoon we'll bid farewell to Dhankar and head towards Kaza, where we'll spend the next two nights.

Overnight: Guesthouse, Kaza

DAY 9: KAZA

We'll spend the day exploring significant sites around Kaza, with visits to the Sakya Monastery and the world-famous Ky Monastery. Ky Monastery is located on a hill at an altitude of 4166 metres, and is 11kms from Kaza. The monastery has the distinction of being the oldest and the biggest in the Lahaul and Spiti district, as well as being a religious training centre for monks. It is home to around 300 novice monks who are undertaking their religious education. For lunch we'll visit the remote town of Kibber (altitude 4270 metres), where we'll soak up the beauty of the Spiti Valley. With sweeping views of the mountains to one side and the Spiti Valley on the other, it is a great place to relax and to enjoy the views.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

Kaza

Homestay – stay with a local family and experience the Spiti lifestyle

2 days, 1 night



KAZA – Ky Monastery



KAZA - remote primary school



KAZA – friendly locals

The Kibber area is also home to the elusive blue sheep, and if we keep our eyes peeled, we may see one of these shy creatures in the distance. In the late afternoon we'll drive back to Kaza.

Overnight: Guesthouse, Kaza

DAY 10: KAZA TO MANALI

We'll leave Kaza very early in the morning for the drive to Manali. We'll follow the valley floor before gradually rising and crossing the high Rohtang Pass (altitude 3980 metres) which offers some of the most spectacular mountain views in the world. We'll stop at the pass to admire the stunning views before continuing on to Manali and arriving by early afternoon. Manali is nestled amongst the Himalayas on the banks of the Beas River and offers an appeal unlike any other place in India. Old Manali has maintained its old-world charm despite modern conveniences such as the many restaurants offering a variety of local and international cuisines. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore this picturesque town or to take a well-deserved rest.

Overnight: Guesthouse, Manali

DAY 11: MANALI TO CHANDIGARH

After breakfast, we'll leave Manali and begin our descent to the Indian plains. Sit back and admire the stunning views as we travel in comfort through what is known as 'the valley of the gods'. The drive will take approximately 7 hours, and we'll follow the Beas River from Manali to Mandi, passing through one of the most beautiful gorges in Himachal Pradesh before arriving in the modern metropolis of Chandigarh.

Overnight: Hotel, Chandigarh

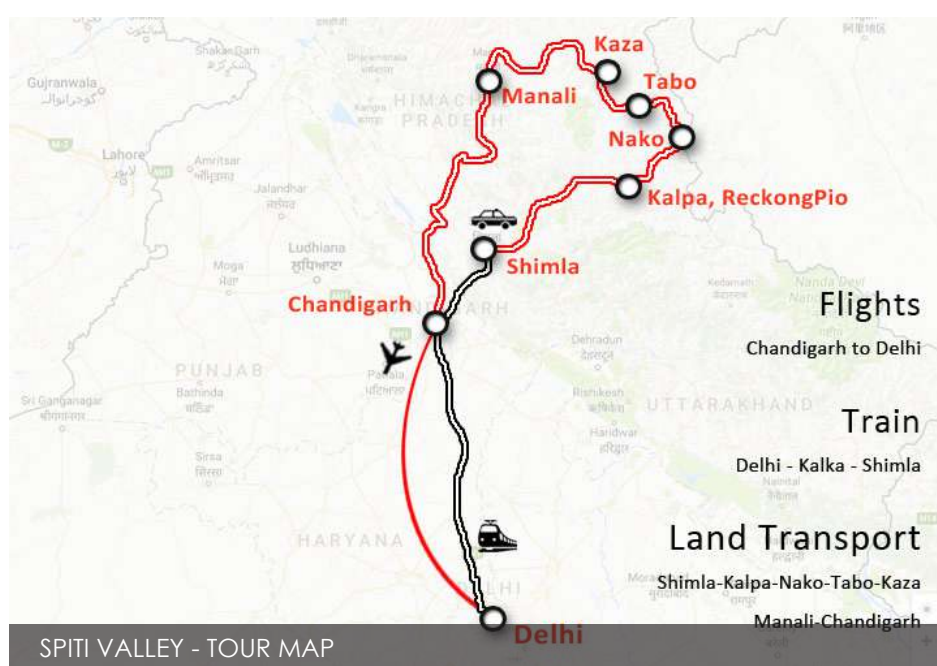
DAY 12: CHANDIGARH TO DELHI

After breakfast we will take a morning flight to Delhi. The rest of the day is at your leisure to relax in our modern hotel or to shop for any last minute souvenirs in the bustling bazaars of Delhi.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 13: DEPART DELHI

We'll transfer you to the Indira Gandhi International Airport for your return flight home. We look forward to seeing you on another Ekno experience soon.



EXTEND YOUR STAY

DELHI (Page 46)

3 days, 2 nights

GOLDEN TRIANGLE (Page 4)

6 days, 5 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

AGRA & TAJ MAHAL (Page 45)

2 days, 1 night

MCLEOD GANJ (Page 47)

5 days, 4 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights



TIGER RESERVE AND GOLDEN TRIANGLE TOUR

Escorted/Independent
Delhi, Jaipur, Ranthambore,
Agra

8 days, 7 nights

Dates: October to May

Cost: A\$3100 per person twin share



Tiger at Ranthambore National Park

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Jaipur and Agra
- 7 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Tiger safari in Ranthambore National Park

HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the sights of Jaipur, including the majestic Amber Fort and the Hawa Mahal
- Wander through the colourful local bazaars of Jaipur and Delhi
- Once in a lifetime tiger safari in Ranthambore National Park
- Explore Agra Fort, a wonder of Mughal architecture
- Marvel at the wonders of the Taj Mahal at sunrise

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

- Heritage walking tour in Old Delhi
- Early morning heritage walking tour in Jaipur
- Cooking class with a local family in Jaipur
- Taj Mahal heritage tour

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to incredible India and to the start of your holiday! Our representative will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel. After checking into the hotel, spend the rest of the day at your leisure exploring the local area and soaking up the vibrant atmosphere.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI TO JAIPUR

After breakfast we'll travel by car to Jaipur, known as the 'Pink City' of India. We'll reach the capital of Rajasthan in the afternoon, and you'll have the rest of the day free to spend at your leisure, getting to know and explore the many colourful bazaars and restaurants of this bustling city.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 3: JAIPUR

Today we'll visit the magnificent Amber Fort. Amber fort was built in 1592; and it has seen renovations and improvements for over two centuries. Its name is said to derive from the many jewels that are used for decoration inside – come and see for yourself! You can choose to walk, take a jeep, or ride an elephant to the fort's entrance. The ascent to the fort, no matter your mode of transportation, is full of unbeatable views. After visiting the fort, head back to Jaipur for a tour of the city's iconic landmarks and visit the gorgeous Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) and the City Palace Museum. The museum is filled with rich collections of Rajasthani costumes and medieval armoury.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 4: JAIPUR TO RANTHAMBORE

After breakfast we'll drive from Jaipur to Ranthambore (approximately 4 hours). Ranthambore National Park is one of the biggest and most renowned national parks in Northern India. The park is located in the Sawai Madhopur district of Rajasthan, which is about 130 km from Jaipur. Once considered as one of the best hunting grounds by the Maharajas of Jaipur, today Ranthambore National Park is a major wildlife tourist attraction that has drawn the attention of many wildlife photographers. After checking into the hotel, spend the rest of the afternoon at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel, Ranthambore

DAY 5: RANTHAMBORE NATIONAL PARK

We'll begin the day with a safari before dawn, take a leisurely break for lunch, and then head out again in the afternoon. Our expert guides are the best in the business at locating tigers, as well as educating us about them. As for long lenses, a 70-200mm is an excellent choice. If you are so inclined, up to 400mm can also come in handy. In the afternoon we'll head to another area of the park to photograph the magnificent tigers of Ranthambore. But the reserve is much more than just tigers. It's rich with a wide range of wildlife, including leopards, sloth bears, sambars, chinkara gazelles, jackals, hyenas, langur monkeys, wild boar and over 300 species of birds. We will all have outside seats in our private jeeps, with unobstructed views. We will also shoot on foot as suitable opportunities arise. One of the many great things about Ranthambore is that the tigers have grown accustomed to the benign human presence and are not shy of the jeeps.

Overnight: Hotel, Ranthambore

DAY 6: RANTHAMBORE TO AGRA

After breakfast we'll drive from Ranthambore to Agra, home of the majestic Taj Mahal. Built by Emperor Shah Jahan in fond memory of his beloved wife Mumtaz, the Taj Mahal has been described as the most extravagant monument to love ever built and remains one of India's most enduring symbols. After checking in to our hotel, we'll take a tour of the old Mughal city, where the direct descendants of the 20,000 artisans who built the Taj Mahal still live. We will also visit Agra Fort, where Shah Jahan was imprisoned by his son after the Taj Mahal was built.

Overnight: Hotel, Agra

DAY 7: AGRA TO DELHI

We will wake up early to beat the crowds and watch the sun rise over the magnificent Taj Mahal. Built between 1632 and 1653, the Taj Mahal is India's most-photographed monument, and today you'll see why. After the Taj, we'll return to our hotel for breakfast and then travel onwards by car to Delhi. When we reach Delhi, we'll check into our hotel. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to relax or enjoy one of our bespoke optional extras.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 8: DEPART DELHI

After breakfast, the tour will come to an end. We will transfer you to the airport for your onward international or domestic flight. We look forward to seeing you on another Ekno experience soon.



TIGER RESERVE AND GOLDEN TRIANGLE - TOUR MAP

EXTEND YOUR STAY

DELHI (Page 46)

3 days, 2 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

MCLEOD GANJ (Page 47)

5 days, 4 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights

UDAIPUR & BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL (Page 48)

4 days, 3 nights



JAIPUR - Hawa Mahal



RANTHAMBORE - Tiger

KARERI LAKE TREK

Escorted/Independent
McLeod Ganj, Kareri Village,
Lioti, Kareri Lake, Bagga, Guna
& Triund

9 days, 8 nights

Dates: May to November

Cost: A\$1500 per person
twin share



KARERI LAKE - trekking in winter

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- 2 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- 6 nights' trekking accommodation in a tent, including all meals and a porter for 7 days
- Transfers on arrival and departure
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Temple of His Holiness The Dalai Lama in McLeod Ganj
- Visit local villages for cultural experiences
- Trek through stunning natural landscape
- Camp at beautiful Kareri Lake



KARERI - village homestay

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE MCLEOD GANJ

Welcome to McLeod Ganj! You will be met by our representative and escorted to your guesthouse, before heading out on a tour of this fascinating North Indian hill station. We'll visit the temple of His Holiness The Dalai Lama, the Namgyel Monastery; as well as the Tibet Museum. Spend the afternoon with your guide and porters learning about the route and making final preparations for the trek.

Overnight: Guesthouse, McLeod Ganj

DAY 2: MCLEOD GANJ TO KARERI VILLAGE

We'll depart McLeod Ganj (at an altitude of 1780 metres) by early morning and begin our trek. We'll walk for 11 km, approximately five hours, ending up at Kareri Village Forest Rest House, at an altitude of 2175 metres. Along the way we'll pass through thick pine forests and traditional villages before enjoying the spectacular sunset views of the valley below.

Overnight: Camping, Kareri Village Forest Rest House.

DAY 3: KARERI VILLAGE TO LIOTI

Today we'll trek from Kareri Village to Lioti (altitude of 2915 metres). The trail passes through lush forests of oak, rhododendron and pine, and follows flowing river streams. After a six-hour trek we'll reach Lioti, a stunning alpine grassland with beautiful sweeping views.

Overnight: Camping, Lioti

DAY 4: LIOTI TO KARERI LAKE

This morning we'll trek to Kareri Lake (altitude of 3200 metres), which will take approximately four hours. The trail follows a deep river gorge, with plenty of soaring mountain views. Kareri Lake is a common grazing spot for Gaddi shepherds as they head for the high passes. Enjoy camping in a beautiful meadow next to Kareri Lake and soak in the pristine mountain air.

Overnight: Camping, Kareri lake

DAY 5: KARERI LAKE TO BAGGA

Today we'll rise early so we can catch the sunrise lighting up the high mountain peaks of the Baleni Pass as well as the valley below. After that we'll trek for approximately four hours as we take the steep descent from Kareri Lake to Bagga, located at an altitude of 2500 metres.

Overnight: Camping, Bagga

DAY 6: BAGGA TO GUNA

Today we'll trek from Bagga to Guna (altitude of 2600 metres). Our journey will take approximately six hours, and will pass through dense pine forests with a steep descent.

Overnight: Camping, Guna

DAY 7: GUNA TO TRIUND

This morning we'll trek from Guna to Triund (altitude of 3350 metres). Triund is a popular sightseeing destination with stunning views of McLeod Ganj and the valley below it. After approximately five hours we'll reach Triund, which has plenty of roadside tea stands, perfect for a hot glass of chai.

Overnight: Camping or guesthouse, Triund

DAY 8: TRIUND TO MCLEOD GANJ

Today weaves us back to where we started at McLeod Ganj. We'll take an easy four-hour trek down from Triund, arriving by mid-afternoon. We'll freshen up in our guesthouse before heading out to dinner. Treat yourself at one of the many fantastic restaurants the town has to offer – from Indian and Italian to Korean or traditional Tibetan, McLeod Ganj has food for all palates.

Overnight: Guesthouse, McLeod Ganj

DAY 9: DEPART MCLEOD GANJ

Our tour ends after breakfast. We hope to see you again for your next Ekno Travels experience.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

DHARAMSALA

Tibetan Buddhist circuit in McLeod Ganj

Himalayan forest trek

Tea plantation trek in the Kangra Valley

Tibetan homestay

EXTEND YOUR STAY

GOLDEN TRIANGLE (Page 4)

6 days, 5 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights

AGRA & TAJ MAHAL (Page 45)

2 days, 1 night

AMRITSAR (Page 45)

3 days, 2 nights

MCLEOD GANJ (Page 47)

5 days, 4 nights



GREAT HIMALAYAN TREK

Escorted/Independent
Delhi - Mandi - Tirthan Valley - Great
Himalayan National Park - Rampur -
Shimla

9 days, 8 nights

Dates: May to November

Cost: A\$3190 per person twin share



GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide
- Local guides in Mandi, Rampur, Shimla
- 6 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- 2 nights' homestay accommodation with all meals
- 1 day trek in the Great Himalayan National Park, including guide
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Return domestic flights from Delhi to Chandigarh
- Train (2nd class AC or AC chair class) from Shimla to Kalka
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the riverside temples and ghats in Mandi
- Enjoy a unique home stay in the picturesque Tirthan Valley
- Discover the beauty of the Great Himalayan National Park with a day hike
- Experience Himalayan village life
- Take in the sights of the stunning Kinnaur region, including the Jalore Pass
- Visit the historical hill station of Shimla
- Marvel at the scenery as you travel on the world-famous 'toy train'

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to incredible India! Our representative will meet you and escort you to your hotel upon your arrival at the airport in Delhi. After checking into the hotel, spend the rest of the day at your leisure exploring the local area and soaking up the vibrant atmosphere. Our friendly guide will be on hand should you need any assistance.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI TO MANDI

After breakfast we'll take an early morning flight to Chandigarh. Upon arrival we'll be met by our driver for the journey to Mandi. Formerly known as Mandav Nagar, Mandi is a major town in the Mandi District in the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh. Famed for its many temples dotted along the banks of the Beas River, it's also known as 'little Kashi' after the holy Indian city of Varanasi. When we arrive in the afternoon we'll settle into our hotel. In the early evening we'll take a walking tour of Mandi bazaar and explore the ancient temples and ghats along the Beas River.

Overnight: Hotel, Mandi

DAY 3: MANDI TO TIRTHAN VALLEY

After breakfast we'll start our journey to the Tirthan Valley. This unspoilt valley is home to traditional Himalayan villages, charming homestays, great walks, and spectacular mountain scenery. Our accommodation for the next two days is a Himalayan homestay right in the lap of nature. Spend the rest of the day in the village experiencing the traditional way of life.

Overnight: Homestay, Tirthan Valley

DAY 4: GREAT HIMALAYAN NATIONAL PARK

Today we'll take an easy trek that explores the Great Himalayan National Park (GHNP). We'll follow the river along a thickly forested trail as we make our way to a picturesque waterfall, where we'll enjoy a picnic lunch before heading back to our homestay. In the afternoon you can try your hand at trout fishing in the Tirthan River or head to the local market in Banjar village, which is known for traditional handmade woollens.

Overnight: Homestay, Tirthan Valley

DAY 5: TIRTHAN VALLEY TO RAMPUR

After breakfast we'll drive to Rampur, a bustling bazaar town and the former winter capital of the Kinnaur district. This is a scenic drive that crosses the Jalori Pass and winds through Himalayan cedar pine and conifer forests. At the high pass we'll be able to stop and rest as we take in the wonderful views of the Himalayan mountain ranges. If the weather is good, we might see Himalayan griffon vultures, the largest birds in the Indian Himalaya. After checking into our hotel in the afternoon, we'll visit the famous Bhima Kali Temple, dedicated to the goddess of the Himalayas, and built in the distinctive Kinnauri style. The rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Overnight: Government Tourist Bungalow, Rampur

DAY 6: RAMPUR TO SHIMLA

After breakfast we'll drive to Shimla. The journey starts by following the Sutlej River, one of the major rivers in Himachal Pradesh. Along the way we'll stop for lunch in Narkanda, the main apple growing region of the Himalayas. After lunch we'll drive through the apple orchards before continuing on to Shimla. Shimla is one of the most popular hill stations in India, and with its stunning views, wide boulevards and mist covered mountains it's not hard to see why. The town is situated at an altitude of 2276 metres and was initially chosen as a sanatorium for invalid European officers, but soon developed into a large hill town, becoming the summer capital during the British Raj. We'll arrive in the afternoon, and in the evening we'll take a stroll along the Mall, a 7km traffic free promenade. Enjoy the atmosphere and choose from the many restaurants along this strip for dinner or a nightcap.

Overnight: Hotel, Shimla

DAY 7: SHIMLA

This morning we'll take a heritage walk that explores some of the many sights of Shimla. Wander along the Ridge Maidan and the Mall, pick up some crafts at Lakkar Bazaar, visit the historical Gaiety Theatre and marvel at the impressive neo-Gothic Christ Church. The afternoon is free for you to continue discovering the local area. You can take the steep hike up to the Jakhu Temple, thronging with monkeys; visit the bazaars for souvenir shopping or take it easy with a stroll along the Mall.

Overnight: Hotel, Shimla

DAY 8: SHIMLA TO DELHI

After breakfast we'll leave Shimla and take a trip on the World Heritage listed Kalka-Shimla Railway. Known as the 'toy train', this route travels along a mountainous track known for its dramatic views of the hills and surrounding villages. The railway was built in 1898 to connect Shimla with the rest of the Indian rail system, and at the time of construction there were 107 tunnels and 864 bridges built. Sit back and enjoy the journey from Shimla to Kalka which will take around five hours. When we reach Kalka, we'll drive to Chandigarh for our flight to Delhi. Upon arrival in Delhi, we'll check in to our hotel. The rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 9: DEPART DELHI

Our tour ends after breakfast. You'll be transferred to the airport for your ongoing flight. We look forward to seeing you on another Ekno Travels experience soon.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

Mall Road heritage walking tour in Shimla
Hatu Peak day trek
Heritage walking tour in Old Delhi
Sultanate tour of Delhi
Visit the community kitchen at Bangla Sahib

EXTEND YOUR STAY

GOLDEN TRIANGLE (Page 4)
6 days, 5 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)
4 days, 3 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)
5 days, 4 nights

AGRA & TAJ MAHAL (Page 45)
2 days, 1 night

AMRITSAR (Page 45)
3 days, 2 nights



BUDDHA'S SACRED SITES

Escorted/Independent
Delhi, Varanasi, Sarnath, Sravasti,
Kushinagar, Vaishali, Rajgir &
Bodhgaya

12 days, 11 nights

Dates: October to March

Cost: A\$3190 per person twin share

Buddhist Pilgrimages



BODHGAYA - Japanese Buddha Statue

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide
- Local guides in Delhi, Varanasi, Sarnath and Bodhgaya
- 11 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- One-way domestic flight from Delhi to Varanasi
- Entrance fees as per the itinerary
- Boat ride in Varanasi

HIGHLIGHTS

- Wonders of Delhi
- Varanasi, the spiritual gateway of India
- Sarnath, where Buddha gave his first teachings
- Ancient Buddhist ruins at Sravasti
- Kushinagar, home of the reclining Buddha Statue
- Vaishali and the Kesariya Buddha Stupa
- Nalanda Monastery
- Bodhgaya, the most important Buddhist pilgrimage site

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to incredible India! Our representative will meet you and escort you to your hotel upon your arrival at the airport in Delhi. After checking into the hotel, spend the rest of your day at your leisure exploring the local area and soaking up the vibrant atmosphere. Our friendly guide and hotel staff will be on hand should you need recommendations or general provisions.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi.

DAY 2: DELHI

After breakfast at the hotel, we'll take a tour of the many sights of Delhi, including a visit to the National Museum, which houses the Sacred Relics of Buddha (5th - 4th century BC), which were discovered in Uttar Pradesh. The relics are outstanding specimens of Buddhist art and are illustrated through exhibits from the three principal Buddhist traditions of Hinayana, Mahayana, and Vajrayana. In the afternoon we'll visit the famous monuments of Delhi, including India Gate, Rajpath and the Government Secretariat Buildings.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi.

DAY 3: DELHI TO VARANASI

This morning we'll fly to Varanasi, considered the spiritual gateway of India and one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. Upon arrival we'll check into our hotel before taking a sightseeing trip to the main ghat area and the Vishwanath Temple. Varanasi is the holiest of the seven sacred cities in Hinduism and Jainism and played an important role in the development of Buddhism. This evening we'll participate in the breathtaking evening puja (prayer ceremony) which accompanies sunset on the Ganges.

Overnight: Hotel, Varanasi.

DAY 4: VARANASI AND SARNATH

After breakfast we'll drive to Sarnath, one of the four main Buddhist pilgrimage sites in North India.

On arrival we'll visit the Deer Park where the Buddha taught The Four Noble Truths (his first teachings) after attaining enlightenment. Afterwards we'll visit Dhamekh Stupa and other important Buddhist ruins including Chaukhandi Stupa and Mulgandha Kuti Vihar. The Dhamekh Stupa is said to mark the exact spot of the Buddha's first teaching of the Four Noble Truths. In the late afternoon we'll return to Varanasi. The evening is free to explore or rest at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel, Varanasi.

DAY 5: VARANASI TO SRAVASTI

After a very early breakfast we'll drive to Sravasti (approximately 8 hours), stopping for breaks along the way. Sravasti is where the Buddha spent the greater part of his monastic life teaching to his disciples. In the late afternoon we'll check into our hotel. The rest of the evening is at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel, Sravasti.

DAY 6: SRAVASTI

We'll spend the day exploring the ruins of Sravasti, the capital of an ancient kingdom. We'll see ancient stupas, majestic viharas, and several temples, the remains of which have been used to establish Buddha's association with the town.

Overnight: Hotel, Sravasti

DAY 7: SRAVASTI TO KUSHINAGAR

This morning we'll drive to Kushinagar (approximately 6 hours). Kushinagar is an important pilgrimage site where the Buddha attained parinirvana after his death, and is where the statue of the reclining Buddha is housed. We'll also have the opportunity to visit the site of the Maitreya Statue Project.

Overnight: Hotel, Kushinagar

DAY 8: KUSHINAGAR

The first stop after breakfast is the site of the reclining Buddha, the Mahaparinirvana Temple, which was unearthed during excavations in 1876. Carved from sandstone, the statue represents the dying Buddha reclining on his right side. We'll then visit the Ramabhar Stupa, which marks the Buddha's cremation ground.

Overnight: Hotel, Kushinagar

DAY 9: KUSHINAGAR TO VAISHALI

After breakfast we'll leave for Vaishali, an important pilgrimage location known as the place where 500 women were ordained by the Buddha. On the way we'll visit Kesariya Stupa, the venue where the Buddha delivered the Kalama Sutta. The stupa has five large terraces which vary in shape and house a life-like statue of Lord Buddha.

Overnight: Hotel, Vaishali.

DAY 10: VAISHALI TO RAJGIR

After breakfast we'll depart for Nalanda Monastery (approximately 4 hours). Nalanda was the most renowned university in ancient India and was home to the great Buddhist scholars of the time. Established in the 5th century BC, it remained the centre of learning up until the 12th century AD. In the afternoon we'll drive to Rajgir, the former capital of the powerful Magadha Kingdom, ruled during Buddha's time by the virtuous King Bimbisara.

Overnight: Hotel, Rajgir.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

Heritage walking tour in Old Delhi
Sultanate tour of Delhi
Visit the community kitchen at Bangla Sahib in Delhi
Evening boat ride on the Ganges River
Heritage walking tour of Varanasi
Sunset boat ride with musicians on the Ganges River
Musical concert at an ashram in Varanasi
Walking tour to the classical music street in Varanasi and visit the home of a local musician

EXTEND YOUR STAY

GOLDEN TRIANGLE (Page 4)

6 days, 5 nights

MCLEODGANJ (Page 47)

5 days, 4 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights

AGRA & TAJ MAHAL (Page 45)

2 days, 1 night

AMRITSAR (Page 45)

3 days, 2 nights



BODHGAYA - Mahabodhi Temple

DAY 11: RAJGIR TO BODHGAYA

After breakfast we'll take the chairlift to visit Vulture Peak and the Japanese Stupa. Vulture Peak Mountain is one of several sites that was frequented by the Buddha and his community of disciples for both training and retreat. It is also the location where the Buddha gave sermons, including the renowned Heart Sutra. In the afternoon we'll leave Rajgir and drive to Bodhgaya. Bodhgaya is home to the Mahabodhi Temple, the holiest Buddhist temple in the world. The temple marks the location where the Buddha is said to have attained enlightenment.

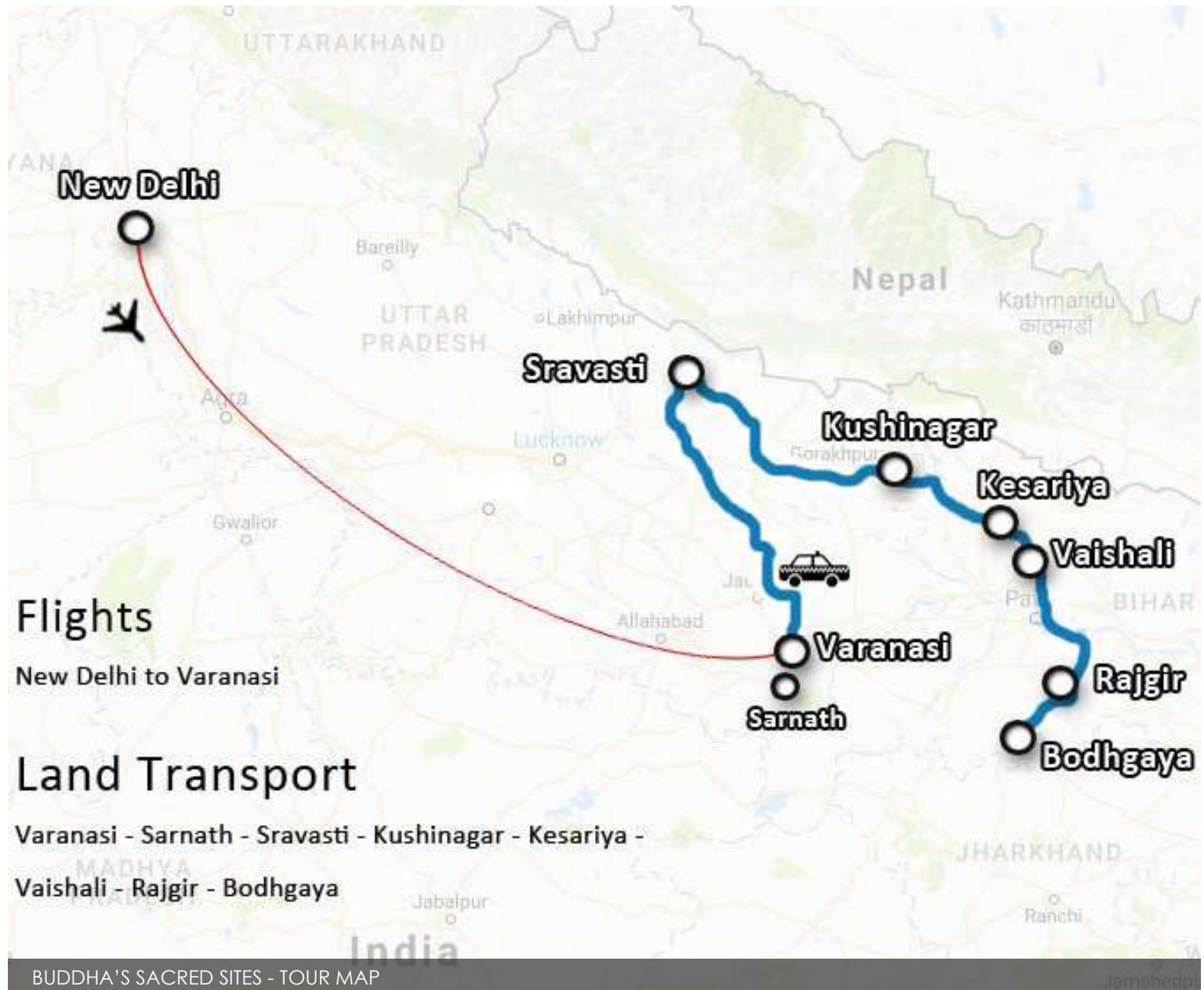
Overnight: Hotel, Bodhgaya.

DAY 12: DEPART BODHGAYA

After breakfast we'll make our final pilgrimage to the Mahabodhi Temple. Following that, we'll transfer you to the airport in time for your ongoing flight. We look forward to seeing you on another Indian experience soon.



KUSHINAGAR - Mahaparinirvana Temple



PILGRIMAGE TO LADAKH

HEMIS FESTIVAL, SPITI VALLEY
TSO PEMA & DHARAMSALA
Escorted

*Delhi, Leh, Keylong, Kaza,
Manali, Tso Pema &
Dharamsala*

16 days, 15 nights

Dates: 13-28 June 2024,
19 June - 04 July 2025

Cost: A\$4500 per person twin share



LADAKH - Local woman in traditional Ladakhi dress

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Leh and Dharamsala
- 15 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Domestic flights from Delhi to Leh and Dharamsala to Delhi
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Welcome and farewell dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Visit the colourful city of Leh, home to significant Buddhist sites
- Experience the mesmerising Lama dancing at the Hemis Festival
- Journey to remote Buddhist monasteries
- Marvel at the lunar-like landscape and cross high mountain passes
- Explore the beautiful Spiti Valley
- Make a pilgrimage to Tso Pema Lake
- Travel to Dharamsala, home of Dalai Lama

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to India! Upon your arrival at the airport in Delhi, our representative will greet you and escort you to the hotel. After checking into your hotel, spend the rest of the day at your leisure exploring the local area or relaxing in the hotel. Your tour leader and hotel staff will be on hand should you need restaurant recommendations or general provisions.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi.

DAY 2: DELHI TO LEH

We will take an early morning flight to Leh, the spectacular capital of Ladakh. Our flight will pass over multiple Himalayan ranges, and serves as a fantastic photo opportunity. Leh is framed on all sides by the towering Himalayas, with the mighty Indus River roaring in the valley below. After we land, we will take a walking tour of Leh Bazaar, an important stop on trade routes dating as far back as the third century. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to rest and acclimatise.

In the evening we will enjoy a welcome dinner at an Indian restaurant.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 3: LEH

After breakfast, we will visit Gompa Soma, a Buddhist temple constructed in 1840 at the base of the towering Leh palace. Afterwards, we'll head to Moti Market, for an exploration of Leh's old bazaar, which has a rich history that can be traced back to the Asian spice trade. We will eat lunch together followed by free time to rest, explore, or sip traditional Tibetan butter tea at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 4: HEMIS FESTIVAL

Today we'll attend the Hemis Festival, an annual celebration of the birth of Guru Padmasambhava. After an early breakfast we'll travel to the Hemis Monastery, the largest and richest monastery in Ladakh. At 9am the celebrations will begin in the courtyard, which will quickly fill up with locals and Buddhist pilgrims. Watch as a raised platform with a richly cushioned seat and a finely painted small Tibetan table is placed with the other ceremonial items – cups of holy water, uncooked rice, incense sticks and tormas made of dough and butter – as musicians play traditional music using cymbals, drums, trumpets, and wind instruments.

The festival highlight is the gathering of the lamas around the central flagpole to perform mystical mask dances (Chams) and sacred plays. Dressed in colourful bright brocades with vibrantly decorated and richly adorned papier-mache masks, the dancers will enact an elaborate combat between good spirits and evil demons to the clatter of drums, cymbals, and long horns.

In the afternoon, we will return to Leh for a guided tour of the city, including a visit to the Royal Palace. Constructed in the 17th century, this imposing nine story stone palace is one of the most captivating architectural ruins in the region. Situated in the foothills of the barren landscape, the palace was built as a residence for the King and to mark the reunification of Upper and Lower Ladakh. Above the Royal Palace, on Namgyal Tsemo (Victory Peak), you'll be able to see the ruins of Leh's earliest royal residence, a fortress type structure built by King Tashi Namgyal in the 16th century.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 5: STOK PALACE, SHEY PALACE & THIKSEY

After breakfast we will set off to explore Stok Palace, the home of the present-day royal family. The palace and accompanying museum were built in the year 1825, by King Tsepal Tondup Namgyal. At present the place has a collection of elaborate royal dresses and crowns, which is open for travellers to explore.

Shey Palace was built by Deldan Namgyal at the beginning of the 17th century AD. The main image in the monastery is a three-story statue of Buddha Shakamuni, made of copper gilt which was made by Deldan Namgyal in the memory of his father Singay Namgyal. The statue is the only one of its kind in the region.

Thiksey Gumpa belongs to the Gelukspa order of Buddhism and is considered to be the most beautiful of all the monasteries in Ladakh. After our day of sightseeing, we will return to Leh in the evening to rest and eat dinner.

Overnight: Hotel, Leh

DAY 6: LEH TO KEYLONG

(380 km, approximately 9-10 hours' drive)

This morning we will leave Leh by private car and travel across the high plateau. We will pass through the border town of Sarchu and into the picturesque Lahaul Valley before reaching Keylong, where we will spend the night. This is a once in a lifetime journey through an amazing lunar-like landscape often referred to 'Little Tibet'.

Overnight: Hotel, Keylong

DAY 7: KEYLONG TO KAZA

(190 km, approximately 9-10 hours' drive)

After breakfast we will leave Keylong and travel to Kaza. We will drive to Chatru and enter the Spiti Valley through the spectacular Kunzum Pass (4550 metres elevation). You might be able to spot yaks as they graze peacefully along the banks of the Spiti River. We will follow the valley floor until we reach Kaza, the largest town of the region, and our overnight stop.

Overnight: Hotel, Kaza

DAY 8: KAZA

We will spend the day in Kaza arranging our permits to travel through the Spiti Valley and acclimatising and visiting the local town. In the afternoon we will travel by car to Ky Monastery. The monastery is located on top of a hill at an altitude of 4166 metres, and is the oldest and the biggest monastery in the Lahaul and Spiti district. It is also a religious training centre for monks, and is home to around 300 novice monks.

We will then head to the remote town of Kibber (4270 metres elevation). With sweeping views of the mountains on one side, and the Spiti Valley on the other, Kibber offers sensational views. The area is also home to the elusive blue sheep, and if you keep your eyes peeled on the horizon you may see one of these shy creatures in the distance. In the late afternoon we will drive back to Kaza.

Overnight: Hotel, Kaza

DAY 9: KAZA

Today we will visit Dhankar Monastery, perched high above the valley floor and with a rich and ancient history. The monastery was built on a 300-metre-high spur overlooking the Spiti and Pin Rivers. It truly is one of the world's most spectacular settings for a monastery and has many holy stories attached to it.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

KAZA - Stay with a local family in Kaza (2 days, 1 night)

DHARAMSALA - Tibetan Buddhist circuit in McLeod Ganj

Himalayan forest trek in Dharamsala

Tibetan homestay in McLeod Ganj

DELHI - National Museum in Delhi



HEMIS FESTIVAL



HEMIS FESTIVAL

Following this, we will travel to the famous 12th century Tabo Monastery, known for its Buddhist relics. Tabo Monastery was founded by the Tibetan Buddhist translator Rinchen Zangpo, and is noted for being the oldest continuously operated Buddhist enclave in both India and the Himalayas. The monastery houses a priceless collection of thangkas (scroll paintings), manuscripts, well-preserved statues, frescos and extensive murals which depict tales from the Buddhist pantheon. The monastery is protected as a national historic treasure of India.

Overnight: Hotel, Kaza

DAY 10: KAZA TO MANALI

We will leave Kaza very early in the morning for the drive to Manali. We will drive along the valley floor before gradually rising and crossing the spectacular Rothang Pass (3980 metres elevation), which offers some of the most spectacular mountain views in the world. We will stop at the pass to admire the stunning view, before continuing to Manali and arriving by early afternoon. The rest of the evening is at your leisure to explore this picturesque town or to take a well-deserved rest.

Overnight: Hotel, Manali

DAY 11: MANALI TO TSO PEMA

We will leave early and drive along the Beas River on our way to Tso Pema (approximately 4 hours). Tso Pema, also known as Rewalsar Lake, is a place of pilgrimage that is holy for Buddhists, Hindus and Sikhs. For Buddhists it is known as the place where Guru Rinpoche performed the miracle of transforming his own funeral pyre into a lake. We will visit Guru Rinpoche's cave in the hills above the lake, as well as a large statue dedicated to him closer to the town. We will also have the opportunity to circumambulate the lake.

Overnight: Guesthouse, Tso Pema

DAY 12: TSO PEMA TO DHARAMSALA

After breakfast, we will drive to Dharamsala. On arrival we will check into our hotel before exploring the town of McLeod Ganj. This fascinating and multicultural hill station is known for being the home of the 14th Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in Exile, and as a result the town resembles a Tibetan village.

In the afternoon, we will visit the temple of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Namgyal Monastery, where you can turn the giant prayer wheels and observe the monks going about their daily activities. Spend the evening in one of the many international restaurants that dot the town as you admire the beauty of the spectacular Dhauladhar mountain range in the background.

Overnight: Hotel, Dharamsala

DAY 13: DHARAMSALA

This morning you might like to enjoy one of the many cafes in the town and have that long awaited espresso coffee, you have earned it! After breakfast we will visit the picturesque village of Naddi. This peaceful village offers spectacular views of both the Dhauladhar mountain range and the lush Kangra valley. Wandering around Naddi and soaking up the scenery is a perfect way to reflect on the journey we have taken and the Buddha's teachings.

On our way back to McLeod Ganj we will visit the Tibetan Children's village (opening hours permitting), which provides care and education for Tibetan children living in exile. We will return to McLeod Ganj to spend some more time at the temple of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Museum, absorbing Tibetan culture as we explore.

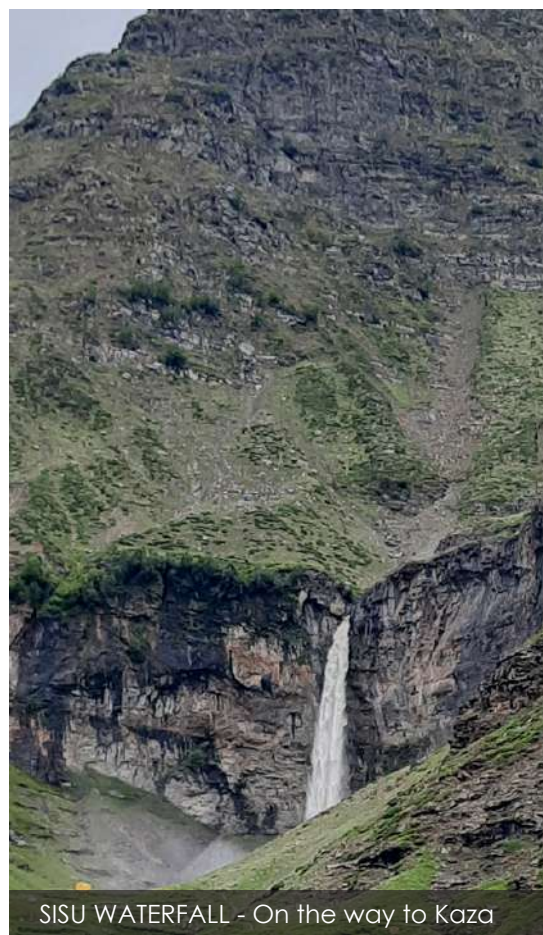
Overnight: Hotel, Dharamsala

DAY 14: DHARAMSALA

Today we will visit the Norbulingka Institute, which works to preserve traditional Tibetan culture and art forms.



LEH - Monk with prayer wheel



SISU WATERFALL - On the way to Kaza

The visit will include a guided tour of the workshops, where you can meet the artisans as they work. Before heading back to McLeod Ganj, we will be able to visit the Gyoto Monastery, a secluded and peaceful haven specialising in the study of Tantric meditation, Tantric ritual arts and Buddhist philosophy.

In the evening we will enjoy a farewell dinner in one of McLeod Ganj's many Indian or Tibetan restaurants.

Overnight: Hotel, Dharamsala

DAY 15: DHARAMSALA TO DELHI

Today we will fly back to Delhi. Enjoy your last day sightseeing or shopping in Delhi. As an optional extra you can visit the National Museum which houses the Sacred Relics of Buddha (5th-4th century BC) which were discovered in Uttar Pradesh. The relics are outstanding specimens of Buddhist Art and are illustrated through exhibits in a variety of materials and forms from the three principal Buddhist traditions – Hinayana, Mahayana and Vajrayana.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 16: DEPART DELHI

We will transfer you to the airport in time for your flight home or further travel in India. We hope you enjoyed your pilgrimage, and we hope to see you again soon.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

AMRITSAR (Page 45)

3 days, 2 nights

GOLDEN TRIANGLE (Page 4)

6 days, 5 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

AGRA & TAJ MAHAL (Page 45)

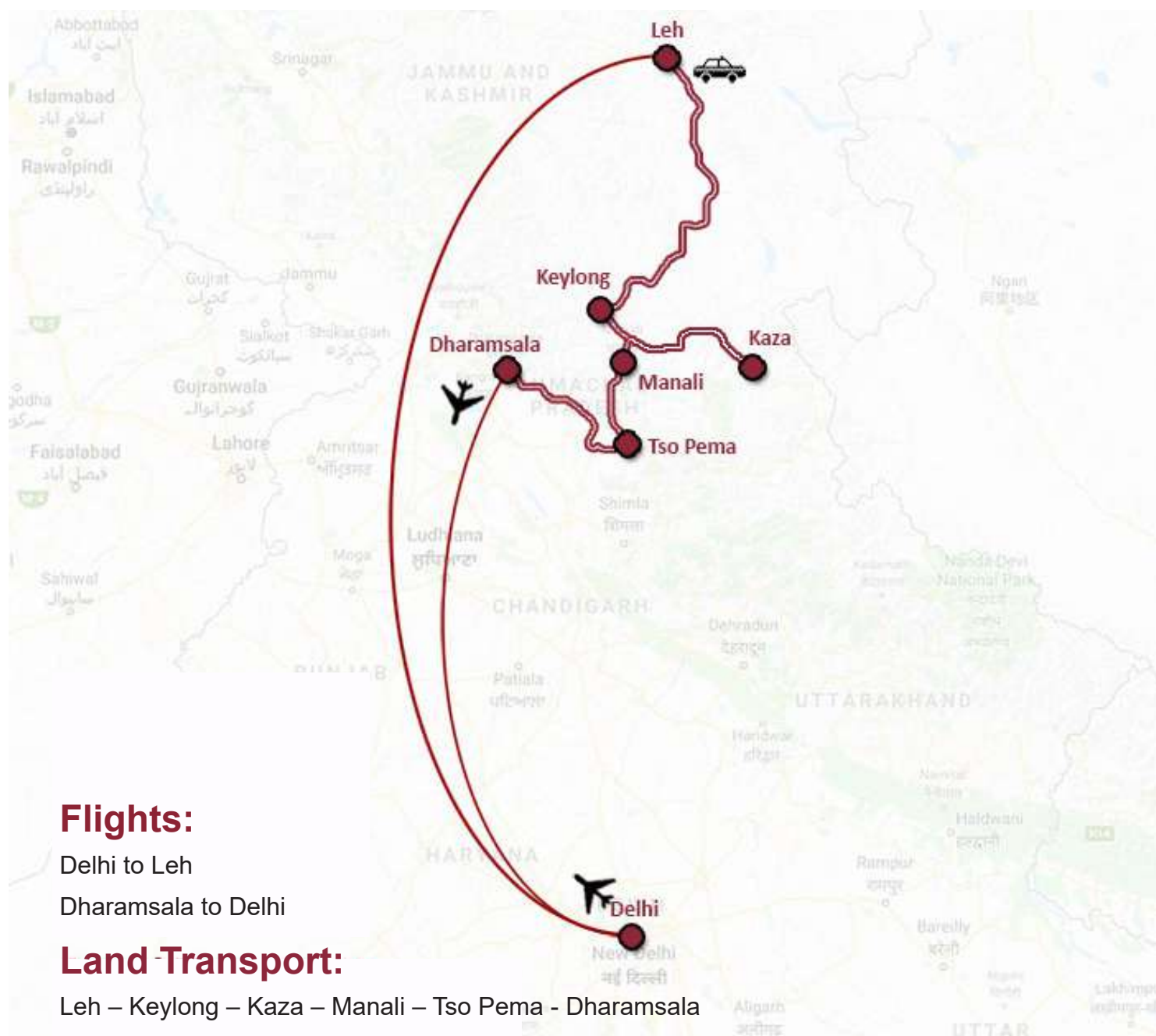
2 days, 1 night

JODHPUR (Page 49)

4 days, 3 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights



YOGA, WELLNESS & CULTURE, SOUTH INDIA

Escorted/Independent

Mumbai, Dabolim, Mandrem

Beach, Kochi, Thekkady,

Alleppey Backwaters & Kochi

14 days, 13 nights

Dates: 13-26 Jan, 9-22 Feb, 13-26 Nov 2024

11-24 Jan, 7-20 Feb, 15-28 Nov 2025

Cost: A\$4750 per person twin share

Yoga and Wellness Tours

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- Services of an English-speaking guide for the duration of the tour
- Local guides in Mumbai, Goa, Kochi and Thekkady
- 10 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- 2 nights homestay accommodation with lunch, dinner and breakfasts
- 1 night on a luxury houseboat with lunch, dinner and breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Domestic flights from Mumbai-Goa and Goa-Kochi
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Cookery class and market tour in Goa
- Welcome and farewell dinners

HIGHLIGHTS

- Soak up the culture of Mumbai
- Chill out on the beaches of Goa
- Experience a traditional Goan cooking class and market tour
- Unwind with yoga, spa sessions, massage and Ayurvedic treatments
- Explore the heritage city of Kochi
- Relax in Thekkady, gateway to Periyar National Park
- Cruise the backwaters of Alleppey with an overnight stay on a traditional Kettuvallam boat
- Experience village life with a homestay on a car free backwater island
- Indulge in delicious South Indian delicacies

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE MUMBAI

Welcome to Mumbai, India. You'll be met at the airport and transferred to the hotel. Spend the rest of the day at your leisure or kick start your adventure by visiting some of the local attractions. The energy and liveliness of this fascinating city is undeniable and there is plenty to discover. You might like to check out Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, the High Court, Mumbai City Museum, or one of the many colourful bazaars.

Overnight: Hotel, Mumbai

DAY 2: MUMBAI

Today we will explore Mumbai and soak up the culture of this thriving metropolis. After breakfast, we'll head to Elephanta Island by boat, leaving from the famous Gateway of India. Elephanta is a small island in Mumbai Harbour and is home to many rock cut temples. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site dating back to AD450-750.

When we return to the mainland, we'll have lunch at Leopold Café. The café has been immortalised in various books and films and is a great spot for people watching. In the afternoon we'll wander around Colaba, soaking up the atmosphere and shopping for souvenirs in the many street markets. You can also choose from one of our optional bespoke experiences for a unique perspective of Mumbai. In the evening we'll enjoy a traditional welcome feast at one of Mumbai's many Indian restaurants.

Overnight: Hotel, Mumbai

DAY 3: MUMBAI - DABOLIM

After breakfast we'll transfer to Mumbai airport for our flight to Goa. Upon arrival we'll transfer to our hotel in Dabolim. After checking in, you can spend the rest of the day relaxing and exploring at your leisure. You might like to check out the beaches or hire a bike for the afternoon.

Overnight: Hotel, Dabolim

DAY 4: DABOLIM - MANDREM BEACH

This morning we'll immerse ourselves in the rich and aromatic traditions of Indian cuisine. We'll start by sharing an authentic local breakfast, followed by a guided tour of the local farmer's market, where we'll get an introduction to the different spices, masalas and ingredients used in Indian cooking.

We'll then participate in a cooking workshop followed by a delicious lunch feast, allowing us to fully experience the culture and traditions of Goa. In the afternoon we'll transfer to our resort at Mandrem Beach, where we'll spend the next three days indulging in rest and relaxation.

Overnight: Resort, Mandrem Beach

DAYS 5-7: MANDREM BEACH

We'll spend the next three days focussing on wellness and relaxation. Indulge yourself with morning yoga and meditation, enjoy massages and day spas and learn about the ancient Indian healing wisdom of Ayurveda. Ayurveda is a holistic form of medicine established over 3000 years ago in India, and is the perfect way to unwind and relax. Spend time at the beach, and as the sun goes down, feast on traditional Goan dishes and soak up the unique culture in this Portuguese influenced state. The days are completely yours to focus on self-care, reflection and new experiences.

Overnight: Resort, Mandrem Beach

DAY 8: MANDREM BEACH – KOCHI

This morning we'll bid farewell to Goa and fly to Kochi. Upon arrival we'll transfer to our hotel. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to explore this historical port city. Visit the many cosmopolitan galleries, cafes and boutiques as well as the beautiful old churches and colonial era architecture. In the evening we'll wander down to the Chinese fishing nets, where the local fishermen will let you have a go for a small tip. For a truly local experience you can buy fresh seafood and take it to a nearby shack to be cooked before enjoying it as you watch the sun going down.

Overnight: Hotel, Kochi

DAY 9: KOCHI

Today we will spend a full day exploring Kochi with a unique heritage tour. We'll start in Jew Town, before heading to Mattancherry and the spice warehouses. We'll follow up by visiting Fort Cochin, a maze of older style southern Indian houses and colonial era buildings, including Fort Immanuel, the Dutch Cemetery, Santa Cruz Basilica and Saint Francis Church. We'll stop for lunch in a local café before heading back to our hotel. In the afternoon you can relax with an optional Ayurvedic massage. In the evening don't miss the opportunity to catch a traditional Kathakali dance performance. Kathakali is a classical form of dance practiced in the state of Kerala and is a unique form of cultural storytelling.

Overnight: Hotel, Kochi

DAY 10: KOCHI – THEKKADY

After breakfast we'll drive to Thekkady via the Cardamom Hills. The three-hour drive follows a route lined with plantations of tea, cocoa, tapioca, bamboo, coconut, banana, and of course cardamom. The afternoon is at your leisure to relax or wander the village exploring the local markets. You may also wish to enjoy an optional extra such as a guided hike, a national park safari, a therapeutic Ayurvedic treatment or a traditional South Indian cooking class.

Overnight: Hotel, Thekkady

DAY 11: ALLEPPEY HOUSEBOAT

After an early breakfast, we'll depart for Alleppey (4 hours' drive), where we'll board our houseboat for a trip along the backwaters. Local houseboats are made in the traditional Kettuvalam rice barge style and are luxuriously fitted out with bedrooms, a dining room, an open lounge and a deck. A captain and cook will be on hand to look after our every need. We'll spend the afternoon cruising the backwaters, drifting along coconut lined canals and past small villages. Enjoy the delicious South Indian food and the peace of sleeping on board a boat. For many people this is a highlight of their time in India.

Overnight: Houseboat, Alleppey

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

MUMBAI: Heritage walking tour of old Mumbai

High tea at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel in Mumbai

Walking tour of Mumbai's Dharavi slum

GOA: Yoga and meditation classes

Day spa and massage treatments

Ayurvedic treatments

KERALA: Traditional South Indian cooking classes

Day trip to Vypeen Island

Kathakali dance performance in Kochi

Hike or national park safari in Thekkady



DAYS 12-13: ALLEPPEY HOMESTAY

After a delicious breakfast, you will be dropped at your homestay on a backwater island. Your homestay is with a local family in a picturesque village surrounded by lush rice paddies. The homestay is situated on a car-free island and the only way to get around is on foot, bicycle or by boat. Do all three or just chill in a hammock watching life pass by at a snail's pace.

Enjoy the wonderful experience of staying with a local family as you share in their culture, traditions, and cuisine. Optional bespoke experiences include South Indian cooking classes and yoga lessons. On your last night you'll enjoy a farewell dinner comprising of South Indian delicacies.

Overnight: Homestay, Chennamkary (Alleppey)

DAY 14: DEPART KOCHI

After saying goodbye to your homestay family we'll drive back to Kochi (2 hours), where you will be transferred to the airport for your onward flight. Thank you for travelling with us and we look forward to seeing you on another Ekno Travels journey soon.

EXTEND YOUR STAY

AMRITSAR (Page 45)

3 days, 2 nights

GOLDEN TRIANGLE (Page 4)

6 days, 5 nights

ANCIENT VARANASI (Page 46)

4 days, 3 nights

AGRA & TAJ MAHAL (Page 45)

2 days, 1 night

JODHPUR (Page 49)

4 days, 3 nights

SACRED RISHIKESH (Page 49)

5 days, 4 nights



Flights:

Mumbai to Goa

Goa to Kochi (Via Mumbai or Bangalore)

Land Transport:

Kochi - Thekkady - Alleppey - Kochi

GOA YOGA & AYURVEDA BREAK

Independent

Goa

8 days, 7 nights

Dates: November to March

Cost: Price on application



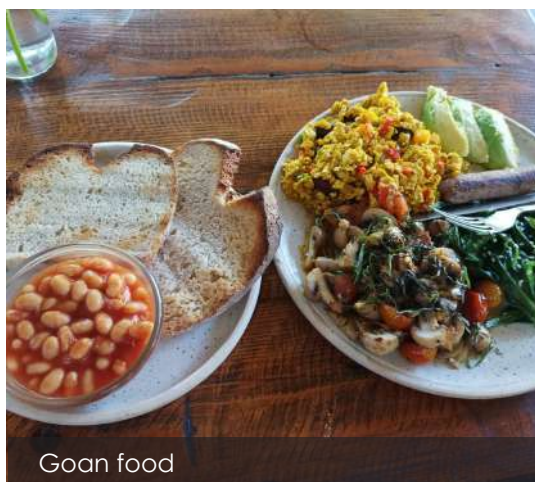
GOA - beachside resort

INCLUDES

- Met on arrival at the airport by an Ekno representative
- 7 nights' accommodation with all meals at The Beach House Goa
- All transfers by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Wellness treatments at The Beach House Goa

HIGHLIGHTS

- Chill out on the beaches of Goa
- Unwind with yoga, spa sessions, massage and Ayurvedic treatments
- Indulge in delicious Goan cuisine
- Explore Loutolim village in the heart of South Goa



Goan food

ITINERARY

DAY 1: ARRIVE GOA

Welcome to Goa, India. You'll be met at the airport by an Ekno Representative and transferred to The Beach House Goa on the secluded sands of Sernabatim Beach in South Goa.

The Beach House Goa is a boutique wellness resort offering a range of innovative and all-inclusive wellness programmes. The resort combines ancient Indian traditions with modern amenities for a mixture of western and eastern healing methods with luxury accommodation. Set against the stunning backdrop of Southern Goa, the resort strives to incorporate the natural beauty of its surroundings in its health-based programmes.

Spend the rest of the day at your leisure or kick start your holiday with a visit to Sernabatim Beach, considered by many as one of the best beaches in India.

Overnight: Sernabatim Beach, Goa

DAYS 2-7: SERNABATIM BEACH, GOA

Spend the next six days in a state of relaxation as your beachside holiday begins. Fill your days with waterside yoga, spa treatments, and walks through the coconut groves. Explore the nearby villages and meet the friendly locals. Learn about Ayurveda wellness techniques, cleansing diets, and Southern Goa culture, a fusion between Portuguese and Indian influences. The Beach House Goa retreats are designed for those that need the space, and time, to take a long deep breath. We invite you to take that breath with us.

Drawing from ancient Indian healing wisdom, Ayurveda is a system of health care native to the Indian subcontinent. True Ayurveda is a holistic lifestyle that stretches far beyond simply treating sickness. The system of health care is based on the prevention of diseases by focusing on harmony and balance through a combination of yoga, herbal medicines, diet, and physical therapies such as massage. Ayurveda is a unique natural system that depends on the diagnosis of your body's humours (vata, pitta and kapha) to achieve the right internal and external balance. Ayurveda believes in the treatment of the individual as a whole, leading to a soul and body free of toxic imbalances.

Overnight: Sernabatim Beach, Goa

DAY 8: DEPART GOA

Relaxed and rejuvenated, your holiday concludes upon your arrival at the airport for your onward international or domestic flight. We look forward to seeing you on another Ekno Travels experience soon.

BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

Day trip to Panjim, the capital of Goa
Additional specialist healing treatments
Massage treatments
Traditional Goan cooking class

EXTEND YOUR STAY

KOCHI (Page 50)

3 days, 2 nights

GOAN HOMESTAY (Itinerary on application) 5 days, 4 nights

MUMBAI (Page 48)

4 days, 3 night



GOA YOGA AND AYURVEDA BREAK - TOUR MAP

Extensions

* No fixed departure – price is based on twin share with a minimum of 2 people



AMRITSAR

3 days, 2 nights

Cost: A\$1200 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 2 days (including transfers from Amritsar train station/airport)
- 2 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- Executive class train ticket from Delhi to Amritsar
- Domestic flight from Amritsar to Delhi
- Transfers from Amritsar train station/airport
- Car and driver for the return trip to the Wagah border and Golden Temple
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary

DAY 1: DELHI TO AMRITSAR

Your train to Amritsar leaves New Delhi Station in the early morning. Travelling by train is one of the many highlights of India, and this journey will take you from the urban sprawl of Delhi to the fertile plains of the Punjab. Your train will arrive at Amritsar Station in the early afternoon, where you'll be met by your local guide and transferred to your hotel. After a short rest you'll be collected by your guide for a trip to the Wagah border for the border closing ceremony. This ritual takes place every evening and involves a display of pomp and ceremony by the Indian and Pakistani border guards. After the closing ceremony, head back to Amritsar where the rest of the evening is at your leisure. Enjoy a tasty dinner in one of the many Punjabi restaurants or take an evening stroll around the Golden Temple, which is open 24 hours a day.

Overnight: Hotel, Amritsar

DAY 2: AMRITSAR

Enjoy a full day of sightseeing in Amritsar. Take an early morning walk to the Golden Temple to soak up the peaceful atmosphere of the inner corridors as priests chant from the Sikh holy book. You'll be amazed by the stunning beauty of this temple as well as the openness of the Sikh people who will be happy to explain any questions that you may have. Visit the langar hall, a massive free community dining room run entirely by volunteers. The Golden Temple langar serves hot meals to up to 100,000 people a day. After the Golden Temple, visit Jallianwala Bagh, the gardens that house a memorial for the victims of the 1919 British massacre.

Finally, visit the Katra Jaimal Singh Bazaar, a local market famous for its textiles and saris. After sunset, you can head back to the Golden Temple for an evening stroll as well as some quiet contemplation.

Overnight: Hotel, Amritsar

DAY 3: AMRITSAR TO DELHI

Your guide will transfer you to the airport for your return flight to Delhi. Your tour arrangement ends upon arrival in Delhi. We hope you enjoyed your trip.



AGRA

2 days, 1 night

Cost: A\$690 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 2 days
- 1 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to the Red Fort
- Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, including entrance fees

DAY 1: DELHI TO AGRA

Leave Delhi in the early morning and head for Agra, arriving by early afternoon. Spend the afternoon relaxing in the hotel or visit Agra's Red Fort, one of the most beautiful forts in Northern India. Agra's Red Fort was the main residence for the emperors of the Mughal Dynasty until 1638, when the Mughal capital was moved from Agra to the Red Fort in Delhi. It is also a UNESCO World Heritage site and is a walled city located 2 kms from the Taj Mahal.

Overnight: Hotel, Agra

DAY 2: AGRA TO DELHI

Rise and shine early to witness a once in a lifetime event, a spectacular sunrise visit to the magnificent Taj Mahal. You will be picked up from your hotel by your local guide. The Taj Mahal is India's most-photographed monument, and today you'll see why. Built between 1632 and 1653 in memory of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan's third wife, the Taj Mahal is world-renowned and widely admired as a wonderful photo opportunity. After visiting the Taj, return to the hotel for breakfast and after a short rest return to Delhi early afternoon.



VARANASI

4 days, 3 nights

Cost: A\$1550 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 3 days
- 3 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Return domestic flights from Delhi to Varanasi
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Day trip to Sarnath
- Sunrise boat ride on the Ganges

DAY 1: DELHI TO VARANASI

Transfer from your hotel in Delhi to the airport for your flight to Varanasi. Upon arrival in Varanasi, you'll be transferred to your hotel which is situated right on Assi Ghat. Take a stroll around the area to soak up the atmosphere of the Ganges River.

Overnight: Hotel, Varanasi

DAY 2: VARANASI

Full day of sightseeing in Varanasi. Rise early in the morning for a memorable sunrise boat cruise on the Ganges. Walk along the riverside ghats, where you'll get a glimpse of the sacred life which is at the heart of 'Mother Ganga'. On the ghats you'll also witness how life and death coexist side by side in Varanasi. Following this you'll visit Godaulia, the old city, to see the ancient riverside temples including the Durga Temple, Vishwanath Temple, Sankat Mochan Temple, Tulsi Manas Temple and the Bharat Mata Temple. During the evening you will visit the main ghat to watch the spectacular daily puja (offerings) made to the Ganges.

Overnight: Hotel, Varanasi

DAY 3: SARNATH

Your driver and private car will collect you after breakfast and take you to nearby Sarnath where you will visit Dhamekh Stupa, the ancient Buddhist ruins, Chaukhandi Stupa and Mulganda Kuti Vihar, followed by a visit to the Deer Park and Archaeological Museum. The rest of the afternoon is at your leisure to wander the thriving ancient alleyways of Varanasi or to relax in one of the many riverside cafes.

Overnight: Hotel, Varanasi

DAY 4: VARANASI TO DELHI

Transfer to airport for your flight to Delhi. Your arrangement with us ends at Delhi Airport. We hope you enjoyed your trip.



DELHI

3 days, 2 nights

Cost: A\$790 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 1 day
- 2 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- Transfer from Delhi international or domestic airport to the hotel
- Private car and driver for sightseeing as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Rickshaw tour in Old Delhi

DAY 1: DELHI

Arrive in Delhi and transfer to your hotel for check in. The rest of the day is free for you to relax and explore the local markets. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to venture out to Connaught Place – the entertainment, shopping and dining hub of New Delhi. You will find a vast array of upmarket shops and street stalls as well as restaurants serving cuisine from all over the world.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI

Spend the day touring old and new Delhi by private car. Head to the iconic and bustling area of Old Delhi after breakfast. Admire the magnificent Jama Masjid (India's largest mosque) and enjoy a rickshaw tour through the ancient alleys of Chandni Chowk bazaar. Pass by the Red Fort, constructed in 1638 and visit Raj Ghat, the cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi.

On the way back to New Delhi, pass British era landmarks such as India Gate, Rajpath, the President's House, Parliament House and the Government Secretariat Buildings. Pay a visit to the Lakshmi Narayan Hindu temple and serene Humayun's Tomb. Spend the afternoon shopping at one of Delhi's many bustling outdoor bazaars.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 3: DEPART DELHI

The tour ends upon check out at your hotel. We hope you enjoyed your stay.



MCLEOD GANJ

5 days, 4 nights

Cost: A\$990 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 4 days
- 4 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Walking tour to Bhagsu, Dharamkot and Naddi

DAY 1: ARRIVE MCLEOD GANJ

Upon arrival, check into your hotel. After freshening up, take a walk to the temple of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, the Namgyel Monastery, followed by a visit to the Tibet Museum. After your walking tour of McLeod Ganj, settle down into one of McLeod Ganj's many cafes for a coffee or a hot ginger lemon tea. The rest of the day is at your leisure.

Overnight: Hotel, McLeod Ganj

DAY 2: MCLEOD GANJ

You'll spend the day exploring McLeod Ganj, including a walking tour to local villages Bhagsu, Dharamkot, and Naddi. The afternoon is free for shopping or relaxing at a café of your choice.

Overnight: Hotel, McLeod Ganj

DAY 3: DHARAMSALA

Head down the mountain to visit Dharamsala and the surrounding villages. Pay a visit to Thosamling Nunnery, Norbulingka (an institute for the preservation of Tibetan arts and culture) and the Nishtha Community Centre (a village health and resource centre). The rest of the afternoon is free to explore Dharamsala bazaar, including the many Indian sweet shops.

Overnight: Hotel, McLeod Ganj

DAY 4: PALAMPUR AND BIR

After breakfast, you will set off on a lovely hour and a half drive through tea plantations to visit Tashi Jong and Dongyu Gatsal Ling nunnery in Palampur. From Palampur, you head to Bir, a Tibetan settlement with several monasteries, including Sherab Ling Monastery. In the evening, return to McLeod Ganj.

Overnight: Hotel, McLeod Ganj

DAY 5: DEPART MCLEOD GANJ

The tour ends upon check out at your hotel. We hope you enjoyed your stay.



JAIPUR

3 days, 2 nights

Cost: A\$990 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 2 days
- 2 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE JAIPUR

Welcome to the Pink City! Transfer from the station or airport to your hotel. In the afternoon you'll visit Jaipur's famous gem and fabric markets. Jaipur's bazaars are a sight to be seen and carry a vast array of products from everyday necessities to fine silks and gems.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 2: JAIPUR

After breakfast, start your day with a tour of the Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds) and spend some time exploring the local markets. From there, drive a short distance outside of Jaipur to the Amber palace, an impressive medieval fortress towering above the village of Ajmer. You can choose to walk, or ride an elephant, to the fort's entrance. Both options offer beautiful views of the surrounding scenery. After the tour, head back to Jaipur to visit the City Palace Museum and the Jantar Mantar, a royal medieval observatory. Time permitting, finish your souvenir shopping in Jaipur's old city bazaars.

Overnight: Hotel, Jaipur

DAY 3: DEPART JAIPUR

After breakfast, depart from Jaipur for your return journey. We hope you enjoyed your stay.



MUMBAI

4 days, 3 nights

Cost: A\$1100 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 2 days
- 3 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- Pickup from Mumbai airport
- All transfers and sightseeing by local train, taxi and ferry
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE MUMBAI

Arrive in Mumbai and transfer to your hotel for check in. The rest of the day is free for you to relax and explore the local surrounds. Depending on your arrival time, you may wish to venture out for a stroll around Colaba, where you will find a vast array of street stalls and restaurants serving cuisine from all over the world. It is a fascinating area to explore and you might even enjoy a visit to the world famous Leopold Cafe and Bar, which has stood on the corner of Colaba Causeway since 1871.

Overnight: Hotel, Mumbai

DAY 2: MUMBAI

After breakfast set off for a full day of sightseeing around Mumbai. Start by visiting the colourful Crawford Market, the ornate Flora Fountain and then stop to admire the Gothic architecture of CST train station (formerly known as Victoria Terminus). You will then travel up to Malabar Hill and Kamala Nehru Park to admire the views of the city sprawling below.

You will then head to Chowpatty Beach – famous for having some of the best street food in Mumbai. On your way back to your hotel you can take a promenade down Marine Drive, a popular walking spot also known as the 'queen's necklace' due to its twinkling night lights resembling a string of pearls. You will return to Colaba to soak up the nightlife and enjoy eating at one of the many fantastic restaurants.

Overnight: Hotel, Mumbai

DAY 3: MUMBAI

Today you will visit some of the surrounding areas of Mumbai. You will start by admiring the splendour of the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, before taking a boat from the Gateway of India out to the rock-cut temples on Elephanta Island.

When you return to the mainland you will visit Mani Bhavan, the house where Mahatma Gandhi stayed. You will then visit Mumba Devi Mandir – an old Hindu temple and the origin of the city's name; followed by a visit to the Haji Ali mosque and shrine. This shrine is 600 years old and can only be reached at low tide as it is located on an islet reached by a causeway.

In the afternoon you can visit Juhu, an upmarket area known for its sprawling beach.

Take a stroll along the beach and watch as people indulge in two of Mumbai's favourite past times – playing cricket and eating street food! This area is home to many Bollywood stars and tonight you will have the option of going to the cinema to watch one of Mumbai's famous Bollywood movies.

Overnight: Hotel, Mumbai

DAY 4: DEPART MUMBAI

The tour arrangement ends upon check out at your hotel. We hope you enjoyed your stay.



UDAIPUR &

Best Exotic Marigold Hotel

4 days, 3 nights

Cost: A\$1790 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Local English-speaking guide in Udaipur
- 3 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary
- Boat ride in Udaipur

DAY 1: UDAIPUR TO KHEMPUR

After an early breakfast leave Udaipur/Jaipur for Khempur. As you drive through the Thar Desert you will pass by desert scenery filled with villagers dressed in colourful clothes herding animals.

Arrive mid-afternoon and check into your hotel, where "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel" was filmed. Relax in the hotel and enjoy traditional Rajasthani food for dinner.

Overnight: Hotel, Khempur

DAY 2: KHEMPUR

Today is for relaxation – reflect on your adventure and enjoy the beautiful old building. The hotel, Ravla Khempur, exudes historical ambience, and has a passionate history that dates back to 1628 AD. The lofty terraces, open courtyards, sprawling gardens, canopied balconies, stables and horses will transport you back in time. Take time to stroll through the surrounding small village and sample local life as you reflect on your favourite scenes from the movie.

Overnight: Hotel, Khempur.

DAY 3: KHEMPUR TO UDAIPUR

After breakfast at the hotel, drive to Udaipur (approximately 90 minutes). Arrive in Udaipur and check in at your hotel on

the ghats. Tour the City Palace, Jagdish Temple, Jag Mandir, Bhartiya Lok Kala Mandal and Sahelion Ki Bari, followed by a boat ride on Lake Pichola (subject to the water level).

Overnight: Hotel, Udaipur

DAY 4: DEPART UDAIPUR

Your tour ends after breakfast when you check out of your hotel.



SACRED RISHIKESH

4 days, 3 nights

Cost: A\$2100 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 2 days
- 3 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Train from Haridwar to Delhi
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE DELHI

Welcome to incredible India and to the start of your holiday! Our representative will meet you at the airport and escort you to your hotel. After checking into the hotel, spend the rest of the day at your leisure exploring the local area and soaking up the vibrant atmosphere.

Overnight: Hotel, Delhi

DAY 2: DELHI TO RISHIKESH

Take a scenic drive to Rishikesh (approximately 6 hours), arriving in the afternoon. Check into your accommodation at Tapovan, right near the Luxman Jhula bridge. After settling in, take a walk to Tapovan market and Laxman Jhula, soaking in the sights and sounds of this very spiritual town. In the evening you can enjoy dinner at one of the restaurants overlooking the River Ganges.

Overnight: Hotel, Rishikesh

DAY 3: RISHIKESH

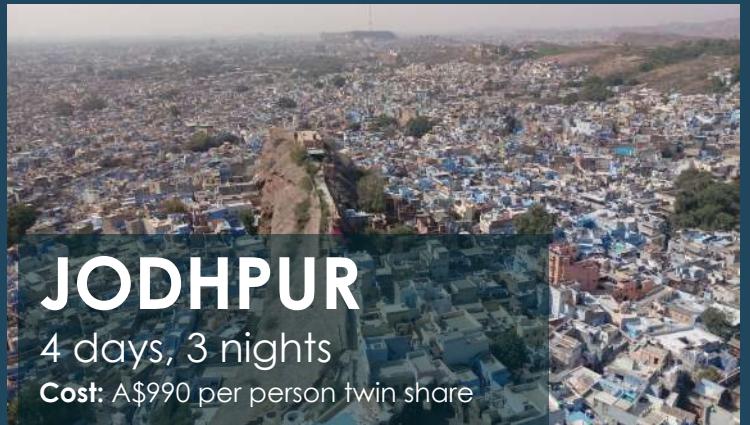
Enjoy the morning relaxing. You might enjoy some of our bespoke extras, which include yoga classes, holistic Ayurveda treatments, sound healing and palmistry sessions. After lunch you will have the afternoon to explore some of the many temples and ashrams

around Rishikesh, including the ashram where the Beatles stayed. In the evening, sit, enjoy and witness the Ganga Aarti (evening fire prayer), which is performed every night on the banks of the Ganges. The ceremony attracts large numbers of devotees and is accompanied by bhajans (holy songs), drums and bells. You might like to join the worshippers by lighting an oil lamp and setting it afloat on the holy waters of the Ganges.

Overnight: Hotel, Rishikesh

DAY 4: RISHIKESH TO DELHI

After breakfast check out of your hotel and drive to Haridwar (1 hour). Take a walk to the Haridwar street markets, enjoying the exciting buzz of the Hindu devotees as they head to the Ganges. Visit some of the many significant temples including Pareshwar Mahadev Temple, Daksha Mahadev Temple and Mansa Devi Temple. As you head down to the ghats you can visit Har-ki-Pauri (the footsteps of God) – one of the most sacred ghats in India. In the late afternoon you will take a train to Delhi, where your tour concludes.



JODHPUR

4 days, 3 nights

Cost: A\$990 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 3 days
- 2 nights' hotel accommodation with breakfast
- 1 nights' homestay accommodation including breakfast, lunch and dinner
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE JODHPUR

Arrive in Jodhpur and settle into your hotel. Jodhpur is known as the 'blue city' owing to the many blue houses set against the backdrop of the Mehrangarh Fort. You will be staying close to one of the liveliest attractions in Jodhpur, the Sadar Bazaar. Sadar is one of the oldest markets in India, known for handicrafts and antiques. The diversity of what's on offer is impressive and there is something for everyone. Take a stroll and soak in the ambience. You can either have the late afternoon free or attend a cooking class at a local family home, where you can try using traditional Indian spices - taste the difference!

Overnight: Hotel, Jodhpur

DAY 2: JODHPUR

Take an early morning heritage walk through the old city to the base of Mehrangarh Fort. Experience the city waking up with a local chai along the way. Return to the hotel for a late breakfast before heading up explore the Mehrangarh Fort, one of the largest in India, where you can take in the sweeping view of the city.

Overnight: Hotel, Jodhpur

DAY 3: BISHNOI VILLAGE

After breakfast, leave the hotel and take a short drive to your next destination, a Bishnoi village homestay. The Bishnoi people are famous for their harmonious and eco-friendly lives lived with animals and nature. You will have the opportunity to learn about Bishnoi culture and rural village life as you meet and visit families. Visit craftspeople including weavers, potters and block printers and have the chance to buy their work.

Overnight: Homestay, Bishnoi village

DAY 4: DEPART JODHPUR

After breakfast you will be transferred to the airport or train station for your departure. We hope you enjoyed your stay.

DAY 2: EXPLORE KOCHI

Today, head to the mainland area of Ernakulam where you will visit the Kerala Folklore Museum. This privately-owned museum offers a unique way to learn about the culture of Kerala with over 4000 artifacts and magnificent architecture, including the main entrance which is made from the remnants of a temple.

Whilst you are in Ernakulam, visit the bustling Broadway Bazaar markets, where it is possible to find just about anything you could ever want. Enjoy a walk along Marine Drive promenade before catching a ferry back to Fort Cochin.

Enjoy your last night in Kochi by taking a final promenade from Mahatma Gandhi Beach to the fish markets.

Overnight: Hotel, Kochi

DAY 3: DEPART KOCHI

After breakfast we will transfer you to Kochi airport for your onward flight.



KOCHI

3 days, 2 nights

Cost: A\$790 per person twin share

INCLUDES

- Services of a local English-speaking guide for 2 days
- 2 nights' accommodation with breakfast
- All transfers and sightseeing by private AC vehicle as per the itinerary
- Return ferry to Vypeen Island
- Entrance fees to all sites and monuments as per the itinerary

DAY 1: ARRIVE KOCHI

This morning join the locals and catch the ferry to Vypeen Island. The island is quiet with beautiful long beaches and a chilled-out atmosphere. Relax on Cherai Beach, explore the quiet backwaters and visit the 16th century Pallipuram Fort.

In the afternoon return to Fort Cochin by ferry. The afternoon is yours to try out a unique local experience (optional extra). Choose from a Kathakali dance lesson, a cooking class at a local's home, an Ayurvedic spa treatment, a guided bike tour or a sunset boat cruise.

Overnight: Hotel, Kochi

Traditional houseboat on the backwaters of Kerala



BESPOKE EXPERIENCES

*Prices on Application

Agra

- Taj Mahal heritage tour
- Heritage walking tour through the old Mughal city
- Live theatre show on the story of the Taj Mahal

Amritsar

- Heritage walking tour
- Community kitchen at the Golden Temple

Delhi

- Heritage walking tour in Old Delhi
- Sultanate Delhi tour
- Community kitchen at Bangla Sahib

Dharamsala / McLeod Ganj

- Tibetan Buddhist circuit
- Himalayan forest trek
- Tea plantation trek in the Kangra Valley
- Tibetan Homestay
- Palampur & Andretta day trips

Jaipur

- Early morning heritage walking tour
- Cooking class with a local family
- Elephant village

Jodhpur

- Sunset heritage walking tour
- Cooking class with local family
- Spice lesson with a local family
- Sunrise nature walking tour
- Bishnoi village homestay

Kolkata

- Heritage walking tour through the old city

Kochi

- Ayurvedic massage or Ayurveda day treatment
- Traditional South Indian cooking class
- Day trip to Vypeen Island
- Island homestay with a local family
- Houseboat on the backwaters

Leh

- Homestay with a Ladakhi family

Mathura

- Elephant village rescue centre
- Bear rescue centre

Shimla

- Mall Road heritage walking tour
- Hatu Peak day trek
- Shimla to Kalka 'Toy Train' ride

Spiti Valley

- Kaza Homestay

Udaipur

- Overnight stay at The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
- Heritage walking tour through the old city
- Early morning walk or bicycle ride around Fateh Sagar Lake
- Cooking class with a local family

Varanasi

- Heritage walking tour
- Sunset boat ride with musicians
- Musical concert at an ashram
- Walking tour to the classical music street
- Visit the home of a local musician



Get in Touch

If you have a story to share or a question that has not been answered in our brochure or on our website, please get in touch with us via our contact details listed below.



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