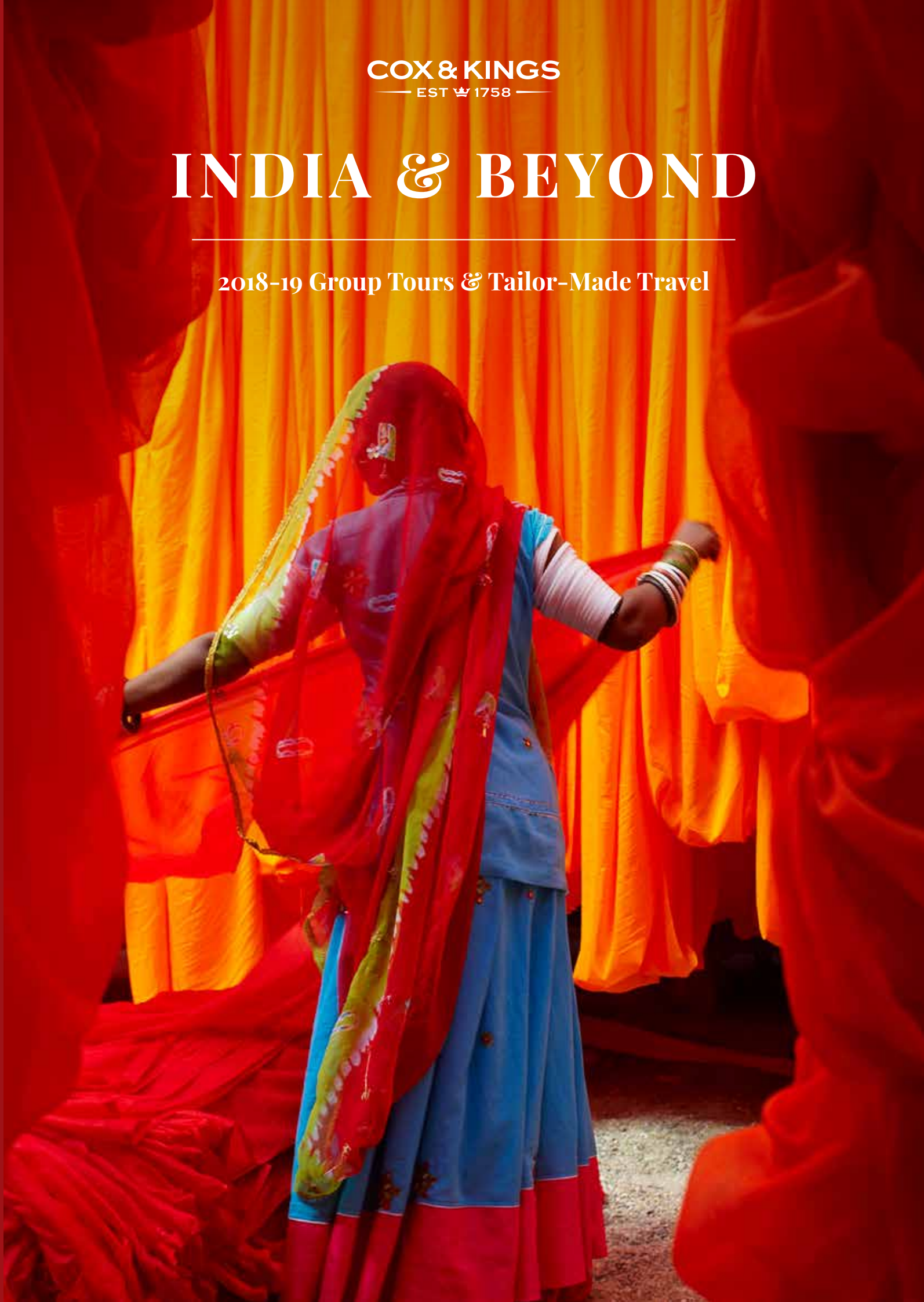


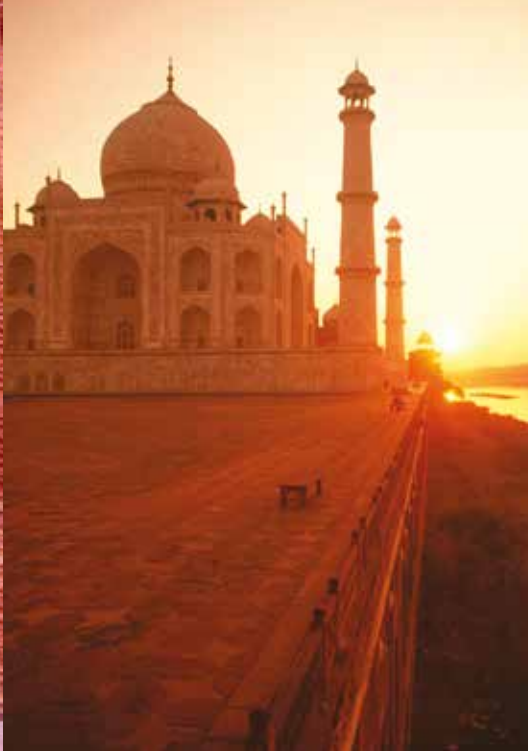
COX & KINGS

— EST 1758 —

INDIA & BEYOND

2018-19 Group Tours & Tailor-Made Travel





Inspiring Travel for 260 Years

In an age that has witnessed an explosion in the popularity of travel, when new travel companies appear and disappear with bewildering frequency, Cox & Kings is, above all else, a travel company you can trust. Our experience, knowledge, service and business ethics are all underpinned by 260 years of heritage.

Cox & Kings' illustrious history is extraordinary, not just in its longevity but in how it has reinvented itself as the world around it has changed. You can read more about our company's story online at coxandkings.co.uk/history.

A common strand running through the entire history is the spirit of innovation, which has remained a driving force for the business to this day. Our company may be old but it's full of youthful energy.

I am proud that we continue to build on the tradition of high quality service, attention to detail and innovation that made Richard Cox so successful 260 years ago. I very much hope that this brochure will inspire and that you will entrust your next adventure to Cox & Kings.



Peter Kerkar
Managing Director

Why entrust your holiday to Cox & Kings?

- Our extraordinary heritage – founded in 1758
- Award-winning holidays
- Big company value & small company service
- The expert advice of your personal tour consultant
- Equal expertise at organising small group tours and private tailor-made travel
- The best guides to bring a destination to life
- Cox & Kings' network of offices throughout India

What we offer to India & Beyond

- Private tailored travel
- Small group tours
- Special group tours for solo travellers
- Luxury train journeys
- Serene river cruises
- Stylish tented camps
- Private villas

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**EXPERIENCE
ADVENTURE**



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Escorted Group Tours

Designed by Experts

- **Small Group Sizes**

We keep our groups compact and manageable, with an average group size of 14 and a maximum of 26.

- **Local Tour Managers**

We employ local tour managers for their in-depth knowledge of the places, people and culture, which in turn supports the local community.

- **Excellent Value for Money**

For those seeking a premium touring experience, comparing all inclusions, Cox & Kings tours offer superb value for money.

- **High Quality Accommodation**

We take great care in our selection of accommodation. Typically, we feature well-located, 4- and 5-star, character hotels.

- **Cox & Kings Signature Experiences**

Each tour includes a number of exceptional experiences, revealing hidden wonders and cultural secrets.

- **All Entrance Fees Included**

All sightseeing entrance fees included where possible as well as local taxes.

- **Balanced Pace**

Opportunities to relax or explore independently are built into most tours.

- **Tailored to You**

We are delighted to organise extensions before or after your tour, as well as room and flight upgrades.

- **Flight Flexibility**

Flights are included as standard with the option to choose an alternative airline (where available), add regional flights or join the tour on a land-only basis.

- **Special Tours**

In addition to our main group tours, we also offer expert-accompanied art tours, specially created tours for solo travellers (see page 178 for further details) and tours for private groups.

- **Solo Travellers Tours**

This brochure includes a selection of tours specially created for individual travellers (see tours on pages 34 and 148 for further details).

- **24-Hour Emergency Support**

While you are away you will have 24-hour phone numbers for both our local representatives and our UK emergency phone.

- **Full Holiday Protection**

We are members of AITO and ABTA, our air holidays are fully ATOL protected and we follow British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice regarding destination safety (see page 174 for details).

Please see page 5 for a list of all the group tours featured in this brochure. If you would like to find out more about how our holidays operate, please refer to Cox & Kings Holidays Explained on pages 178-179 of this brochure.



Private Travel

Tailored for You

- **100% Flexibility**

All our itineraries can be tailored to suit your needs, or we can create an itinerary for you entirely from scratch, no matter how complex your requirements.

- **Planned by Experts**

Throughout the planning process you will be guided by your personal tour consultant, who will design an itinerary around your particular interests and requirements.

- **Support on the Ground**

At each new destination on your journey, you will be welcomed by a Cox & Kings representative who will accompany you to your hotel and ensure you are happy with all the arrangements.

- **Private Car Travel**

For road journeys, you will be driven by air-conditioned private car, allowing the flexibility to make stops en route, where and when you wish.

- **Private Guides**

An English-speaking local guide will accompany most sightseeing excursions, so you can ask as many questions as you like, based on your particular interests.

- **Cox & Kings Signature Experiences**

From market tours and cooking classes to hot air balloon rides and epicurean dining, we can arrange a whole variety of experiences.

- **Wide Choice of Accommodation**

Whether it's a sophisticated city centre hotel or a 'back-to-nature' wilderness lodge, we can cater to all tastes and a range of budgets.

- **Multi-Country Itineraries**

We are experts at combining multiple countries in a single journey.

- **Family Holidays**

We arrange seamless itineraries that include experiences to inspire older and younger generations alike (see page 8 for details).

- **Private Groups**

If you are a member of a club, society or simply a group of friends with a common interest, we can create an itinerary to suit the particular interests, dates and budget of the group.

- **24-Hour Emergency Support**

While you are away you will have 24-hour phone numbers for both our local representatives and our UK emergency phone.

- **Full Holiday Protection**

We are members of AITO and ABTA, our air holidays are fully ATOL protected and we follow British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) advice regarding destination safety (see page 174 for details).

If you would like to find out more about how our holidays operate, please refer to Cox & Kings Holidays Explained on pages 178-179 of this brochure. There is also a wealth of additional information about the countries featured in this brochure in the Indian Subcontinent and Indian Ocean sections of our website, reached via the 'Destinations' link. Please visit CoxandKings.co.uk

Family Adventures

Inspiring Travel for Generations

Cox & Kings family holidays are specially created for families seeking adventure and discovery without compromising on comfort and peace of mind.

All families are unique, so the ideas we have put together in our Family Adventures range are intended purely as suggestions – our specialist tour consultants are experts in designing holidays completely tailored to your family's interests, different ages and varying spirit of adventure.

We do not specialise in resort-based, kids-club type holidays. Instead, we create inspiring itineraries to enable family members of all generations to get out into the world, experiencing its countless wonders together and collecting enduring memories.

In this brochure we have included some ideas for adventures in the Indian Subcontinent. However, to see a full list of all our suggestions please visit coxandkings.co.uk/family



Wildlife drive, Ranthambore National Park

- **Trusted for generations**

Cox & Kings' extraordinary longevity is no accident; the company has served many roles and organised many kinds of travel over the years, but the culture of personal service and going above and beyond expectations has been a common thread running through all we have done since the 18th century. You could not entrust your family's travel arrangements, however complex, to more experienced or reliable experts.

- **Adventure in its many forms**

To us, adventure is any new, mind-broadening experience. Learning to cook exotic cuisines, exploring labyrinthine souks and learning first-hand about the lives of locals are as much adventures as white-water rafting, mountain climbing or trekking into the unknown. On our family holidays we cater to adventure in its many forms.

- **Travel for generations**

Cox & Kings Family Adventures are best suited to family members who are old enough to enjoy the many cultural and natural surprises they will encounter along the way, and mobile enough to join in most of the activities. Other than that, they will suit people of all ages with an adventurous spirit, whether you are looking for a multi-generational get-together with grandparents, parents and children; to

broaden children's horizons before they fly the nest; to take grown-up offspring on the kind of trip they may not be able to afford on their own; or to celebrate a special occasion with the people who matter to you most.

- **Flexible private travel**

All our Family Adventure holidays are intended as suggestions rather than fixed itineraries. They have been designed with families in mind, but all families are different. All our family holidays are tailor-made by one of our expert tour consultants around the specific interests of each family and, in some cases, the diverse interests of the same family.

- **Destinations with diverse appeal**

Cox & Kings can arrange tailor-made travel around the world. However, we have selected the destinations featured in our Family Adventures collection because their diverse range of activities and hands-on experiences, choice of accommodation and, not least, security, make them particularly well-suited to family travel.

- **Adventure by day – comfort by night**

Adventure does not have to mean 'slumming it'. At Cox & Kings we can arrange accommodation of all types and standards, however we specialise in organising travel for those seeking eye-opening experiences

by day, coupled with stylish and comfortable accommodation in which to relax and enjoy the eye-closing time at night.

- **In safe hands**

All holidays are important, but family holidays are particularly precious. Your itinerary will have been planned by an expert and then, on your travels, you will be fully supported along the way. On arrival at your destination you will be met at the airport by a private car and driver. From that moment on you will be served by knowledgeable, friendly and flexible guides, responsible drivers and the round-the-clock support of our local representatives who can iron out any unexpected problems along the way, allowing you to travel with complete peace of mind.

- **Looking ahead**

If you are planning a family holiday over the school holidays or peak periods such as Christmas and New Year, we recommend booking well in advance. The nature of many of the lesser-visited destinations we cover means that there are not a great number of suitable hotels and many of the best are quite small. Booking early greatly increases the options available to you and has the added benefit of extending the phase of excited anticipation – which, after all, is in itself one of the great pleasures of travel!



Hot air ballooning, Jaipur

Active Holidays for All Ages

Cycle around historic ruins, gaze in wonder at elephants as they gather at a watering hole and then relax on the beach...all in one day! Compact Sri Lanka has something for every age group. Explore the country on leisurely train rides with the locals, on boat trips through mangroves and by jeep as you search for wildlife in the national parks. For more ideas to entertain children and adults alike, please see pages 142-143.

India, one of the most colourful countries on this planet, is similarly packed with activities for all. Explore labyrinthine palaces, go in search of Royal Bengal tigers, learn how to prepare delicious Indian dishes, speed along zip lines from the ramparts of Mehrangarh fort, discover enchanting Mughal history or cycle through scenic countryside. See pages 26-27 for inspirational experiences in the Indian state of Rajasthan.

Relaxed Get Togethers

Less can be more when it comes to travel, especially when you're looking to relax with family. This brochure features many ideas for slow motion family holidays which can make for a relaxing, invigorating and ultimately memorable escape. Easy-paced, multi-centre tours such as those featured on pages 38-39 and 143 allow you to explore as much or as little as you like, spending a minimum of 3 nights in each location.

In Sri Lanka, tour the ancient ruins of the Cultural Triangle and the tea plantations around Kandy before heading to the shallow beaches of Passikudah for a relaxing break. India offers wildlife spotting and stargazing in national parks, tranquil cruises along the backwaters of Kerala and relaxing stays in characterful heritage homes and forts. See page 161 for ways to see Nepal as a family.



Memorable Family Celebrations

India and Sri Lanka are ideal for celebrating that special event in your family. What could make the occasion more memorable than enjoying lunch overlooking the magnificent Taj Mahal or celebrating with a dinner at an ancient stepwell by the shimmering light of hundreds of oil lamps. Sight a tiger or leopard in its natural habitat, take a city tour in a vintage car, or take to the skies in a hot air balloon, drifting slowly over spectacular landscapes.

It's not just the sights that you see that are unforgettable – it's also the places you stay. Why not opt for a private villa, the perfect place to celebrate in style, allowing for a real sense of intimacy and exclusivity. A selection of villas with pools are highlighted on pages 10 and 11 to cater for families of all sizes.



Holi festival, Nepal

Private Villas in Sri Lanka & India

Privacy, peace, a pool of your own and the flexibility to do what you want, when you want are all good reasons to choose villa accommodation for a relaxing end to your tour. Book an entire villa with a group of friends or family for quality time together and the space and freedom to relax and explore as much or as little as you choose.

Enjoy the simple things in life, from shopping at local markets to source delicious fresh produce, to discovering a tiny, hidden restaurant you all love. If self-catered villas sound like too much work, many of our recommended properties also provide housekeeping staff and a private chef. Or opt for the best of both worlds and rent a villa within the grounds of a hotel – an increasingly popular option.

This selection of stunning private villas in Sri Lanka and India accommodates groups and families of all sizes. Please turn to pages 86 and 127-128 for more villa accommodation options in India and to pages 152-153 for more options in Sri Lanka.

Further villas can also be viewed on our website, CoxandKings.co.uk, or call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk for more options to suit your exact requirements.



Luxury Villa

Habaraduwa House, near Kogalla, Sri Lanka

Providing panoramic views of the Indian Ocean, Habaraduwa House is a stylish, fully staffed villa with a private chef and housekeeping staff. The house has been designed as a series of stand-alone buildings with a large living room, flanked on each side by two bedrooms, a pavilion and a further bedroom, all of which face the ocean. They are linked by a full length terrace, with steps to the swimming pool and garden. A games room and a fourth bedroom are situated in a separate building.

Features:

4 rooms sleeping up to 8, private chef, swimming pool, games room.



Luxury Villa

Apsara, Bentota, Sri Lanka

Located directly on the peaceful banks of the Bentota river on Sri Lanka's stunning west coast, Apsara is a contemporary private villa just a 5-minute drive away from the sandy beaches of Bentota. The three bedrooms, which feature four-poster beds, are all situated around a central courtyard and the exclusive tropical garden has a swimming pool and wonderful river views. Siri, the private chef, can tailor meals to your requirements and you can even accompany him on his daily visits to the local markets.

Features:

3 bedrooms sleeping up to 7, private chef, private garden with swimming pool, direct river access with jetty.



Luxury Villa

Meda Gedara, Dickwella, Sri Lanka

Immersed in a large garden with direct beach access in Dickwella, Meda Gedara is an expansive and elegant private villa and a perfect choice for special family or group getaways. The seven bedrooms include a mixture of master suites, twin rooms and a bunk room for children. All differ in their furnishings and design. The communal areas are all open plan and include a large living room, a dining room and an outdoor terrace. The garden centres around a large swimming pool, replete with a water slide.

Features:

7 bedrooms sleeping up to 10 adults and 8 children, yoga shala, swimming pool, cinema room, Wi-Fi, fully staffed including private chef.



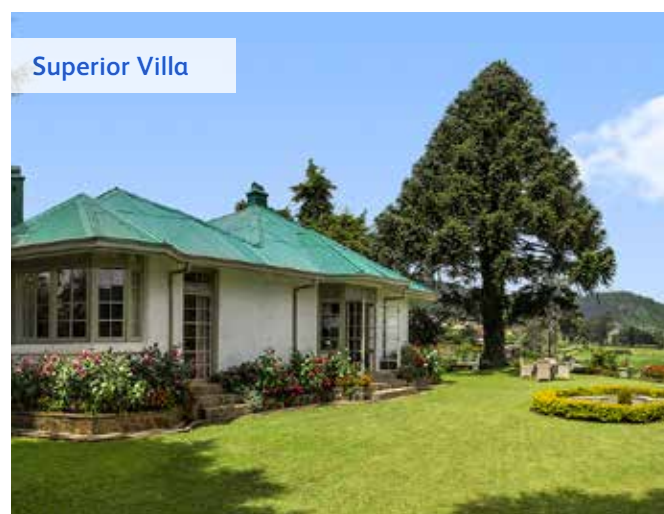
Luxury Villa

Cloughton House, Dickwella, Sri Lanka

Designed by Sri Lanka's legendary architect Geoffrey Bawa, Cloughton House is a stylish hilltop villa located above a sandy beach near Dickwella. The expansive garden has superb sea views as well as plenty of secluded spots with lounging chairs and steps leading down to the bay below. The art deco swimming pool is situated further down the hill flanked by a terrace and pavilion. The five rooms are perfect for a large family or group and are light, airy and elegantly designed.

Features:

5 bedrooms sleeping up to 8 adults and 4 children, private chef, swimming pool, games room, yoga shala, massage room.



Superior Villa

Hill Rise, Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka

Hill Rise is a four-bedroom private bungalow opposite the beautiful Lake Gregory in Nuwara Eliya. The interior is furnished with plush sofas and multiple fireplaces. Guestrooms open onto the lush garden and two of the bedrooms feature a king-sized four-poster bed. The villa is staffed with a butler and a chef and meals can be catered to guests' preferences. Enjoy walks along Lake Gregory, a round of golf at Nuwara Eliya golf club or visit the stables and watch the owner's horses in training.

Features:

4 rooms sleeping up to 8, private chef, garden, television, board games.



Luxury Villa

Coco Shambhala, Goa, India

Coco Shambhala is a collection of four luxury villas in Goa set amid tropical gardens and vegetation close to Coco beach. Each villa is elegantly furnished, spacious and decorated in the style of colonial Goa with French windows and high ceilings. They each feature a treetop living pavilion, private plunge jet pool, two en suite bedrooms, a kitchen and a complimentary car and driver. The kitchen team and in-house sommelier craft menus that are then further tailored to your preferences. There is a large freeform swimming pool shared by all the villas.

Features:

4 villas (each with 2 bedrooms sleeping up to 4), swimming pool (shared), private plunge pool, lounge, garden.



Luxury Villa

Beach Gate Bungalows, Kochi, India

Beach Gate Bungalows is formed of two separate bungalows built in the 1950s, typical of the houses of the European settlers of that time. Each spacious bungalow houses three bedrooms, a dining room overlooking its own private pool and a fully equipped kitchen. The bungalows are just a short walk away from the beach and located in the historic heart of Fort Kochi. Should you wish, a private chef can also be provided to cater for your every need with fresh produce and seafood sourced from the local markets.

Features:

2 bungalows (each with 3 bedrooms), garden, swimming pool, kitchen.

Rail Journeys in India & Sri Lanka

India has one of the world's largest rail networks, with more than 64,000km of track, making it the perfect way to explore this huge country. A range of rail journeys are available, from short excursions to overnight journeys and longer luxury itineraries traversing through multiple regions and cities.

Passenger trains such as the *Shatabdi Express* are a convenient way to quickly cover long distances between major cities and are far from the crowded and uncomfortable journeys that some people might envisage. More leisurely and scenic routes in India and Sri Lanka are detailed below.



Presidential suite, *Deccan Odyssey*



Toy Train, Darjeeling

Luxury Trains

Luxury journeys enable you to enjoy the same exemplary levels of service that epitomise all our holidays in India with the added romance of an epic rail journey. The *Deccan Odyssey* and the *Palace on Wheels* both offer exciting and diverse routes across India and combine the key sites with remote treasures, without having to compromise on creature comforts.

Deccan Odyssey

Offering six different routes travelling between Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay), *Deccan Odyssey* rail journeys reveal the history, culture and natural beauty of both well-known destinations and remote hidden gems, all with the help of expert guides. The elegant cabins have taken inspiration from the private carriages of the former maharajahs and an onboard spa and massage cabin help add to the sense of luxurious well-being. Dining on board the *Deccan Odyssey* is also a fine experience with a choice of two restaurant cars offering Indian, continental and oriental cuisine.

Palace on Wheels

The stylish *Palace on Wheels* journeys across Rajasthan passing the captivating sights of the Golden Triangle. The train has 14 carriages decorated in classic Rajput style, each one named after a former Rajput state and echoing India's royal past. The lounge, bar, spa and two restaurants ensure that your exploration of north-west India's most spectacular sights is done in the utmost comfort. Highlights on this 7-night rail journey include a visit to the marble magnificence of the Taj Mahal, exploring colourful bazaars and tiger-spotting in Ranthambore National Park.

See pages 40-43 and 85 for further details and itineraries.

Toy Trains

Narrow gauge 'toy' trains have been travelling for over 100 years along the mountain railway lines built by the British. These trains afford spectacular views as they gradually climb between scenic hill stations. Many of these renowned trains feature on our escorted group tours.

Shimla-Kalka toy train: The *Himalayan Queen* in Shimla is said to be one of the most beautiful railways in the world and offers sweeping views of the mid-Himalaya (see page 28).

Darjeeling Hill Railway: Now a listed world heritage site, the Darjeeling toy train passes stunning landscapes and small villages allowing you to witness daily life in the region (see page 72).

Blue Mountain Railway: Travelling between Ooty and Coonoor in Tamil Nadu, this scenic journey offers spectacular views of the eastern slopes of the rainforest-covered Nilgiri hills (see page 122).

Deogarh rural train ride: This scenic 1.5-hour train ride brings you into close contact with local people and rural village life in Rajasthan (see page 34).

Kangra Mountain Railway: Combining scenic mountain beauty with rural local villages and quaint train stations, the Kangra Mountain Railway is a wonderful way to experience life in the sub-Himalayan foothills (see page 60).

Kandy to Ella: One of Sri Lanka's most scenic train journeys, this route meanders past tea plantations, rolling hills and waterfalls. Most passengers disembark after 4 hours at Nuwara Eliya but the train sedately climbs for a further 3 hours to Ella (see page 142).

River Cruising in India

The rivers of India are a lifeline for millions of people and, as the source of all life, are considered sacred. A river cruise allows you to explore remote lands, marvel at crumbling palaces and ancient monuments, discover quaint villages and see first-hand the importance of the river in the day-to-day life of local people.

India's most notable rivers are the sacred Ganges, flowing from the western Himalaya across the northern plains into Bangladesh, and the mighty Brahmaputra, which extends for 2,900km from China to India. Branching off from the Ganges is the Hugli river, passing through Kolkata (Calcutta).

The Brahmaputra, Assam

Cruise the mighty Brahmaputra, one of India's major waterways that has long been intrinsic to the social and cultural core of the state of Assam. Largely inaccessible by other means, a river cruise on the Brahmaputra offers the opportunity to discover remote villages scarcely reached by tourism, traditional tea plantations and an array of monasteries and temples displaying an extraordinary variety of architectural styles. The spectacular wildlife parks on the banks of the river are also a major draw to this remote region; the world-renowned Kaziranga National Park is inhabited by the world's largest population of one-horned rhino as well as elephants, deer, bison and tigers.

Cruising options: Assam Bengal Navigation (ABN) offers a variety of cruising options on board comfortable vessels with en suite, air-conditioned cabins (see page 74).



Brahmaputra paddy fields, Assam



RV *Rajmahal*

The Ganges

The Ganges river begins high in the Himalaya before trickling down into India where it flows east and confluences with the Hugli. The river provides support for the 400 million who live in its basin.

There are many cruise options available on the Ganges and a voyage on its sacred waters allows you to experience the spirituality of the river, see majestic palaces, historic structures and witness aarti ceremonies on the ghats of ancient cities such as Varanasi or Patna. These riverside cities became centres of art, music, trade, learning and spiritual pursuits due to their location. Life along the river can also be idyllic; catch glimpses of life in rural India as you drift in comfort slowly up or downstream along India's most sacred river.

Cruising options: Assam Bengal Navigation (ABN) offers a variety of cruises on the Ganges river aboard the RV *Rajmahal*.

The Hugli, West Bengal

Branching off from the Ganges river at the Farakka Barrage in the north of West Bengal, the Hugli river stretches some 260km south passing through many settlements that have congregated on its banks, including India's second largest city – Kolkata (Calcutta). As you cruise along the river, blissfully slip away from Kolkata and witness how the chaos of a bustling city is slowly replaced by sleepy villages, decaying colonial mansions and farmland. Shore highlights include exploring Mughal-style gardens, rustic villages, terracotta temples and the battlefield of Plassey. Endangered Gangetic river dolphins also inhabit the river, as well as an array of bird species native to the Hugli.

Cruising options: The *Ganges Voyager* offers a 7-night cruise from Kolkata through the settlements of Chandernagore, Matiari, Baranagar and Kalna (see page 75).



Signature suite, *Ganges Voyager*



Rajasthan & the North

Group tours • Tailor-made travel • Rail journeys



If you're not sure where to start in India, start with the north. Most first-time visitors head for Rajasthan, a region that flaunts a regal past and parades all the brilliant colour and exotic charm associated with this vibrant country. Discover the powder-blue houses of Jodhpur, the glistening lake city of Udaipur, ornate havelis in Shekhawati and remote fortified cities in the Great Thar desert.

Beyond Rajasthan, the north of India contains some of the most celebrated and memorable sights in the country. Visit Delhi, the capital, for Mughal architecture, marvel at the Taj Mahal in Agra and explore your spiritual side in the holy city of Varanasi. Once you've seen enough of civilisation, search for tigers in Ranthambore National Park or spot birdlife in Bharatpur.

	Discover Rajasthan & the north		Exotic India • Solo travellers
16	The Golden Triangle	34	Tour extensions
18	Beyond the Golden Triangle	36	Easy-paced private tours
20	The Great Thar desert	38	The Indian Odyssey • Rail journey
22	Udaipur & southern Rajasthan	40	Palace on Wheels • Rail journey
24	The Ganges plain & beyond	42	
26	Experiences in Rajasthan		
	Small group & private tours		
28	The Golden Triangle & Shimla • Group or private	44	
30	Grand Tour of Northern India • Group or private	46	
32	Passage through Rajasthan • Group or private	47	
		50	

The non-exclusive group tours 'Classic India' and 'Classic Rajasthan' can be viewed online at CoxandKings.co.uk

Places to stay – our suggestions
Heritage hotels
Oberoi hotel collection
North India hotels & camps
Taj hotel collection: northern, central & southern India

Climate

Between October and March, days are normally warm and sunny while nights are much cooler, particularly in December and January. The pre-monsoon months of May and June are very warm, while the rains usually arrive in July and continue to early September.

Delhi

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	21	24	30	36	39	39	35	33	34	33	28	23
B	7	10	15	21	25	28	27	26	24	19	13	8
C	19	15	15	8	17	53	220	257	126	24	5	8

Udaipur

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	24	26	31	36	38	35	30	28	30	32	29	25
B	9	11	17	22	25	24	23	22	21	19	14	10
C	4	2	8	4	12	89	244	248	136	13	14	2

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

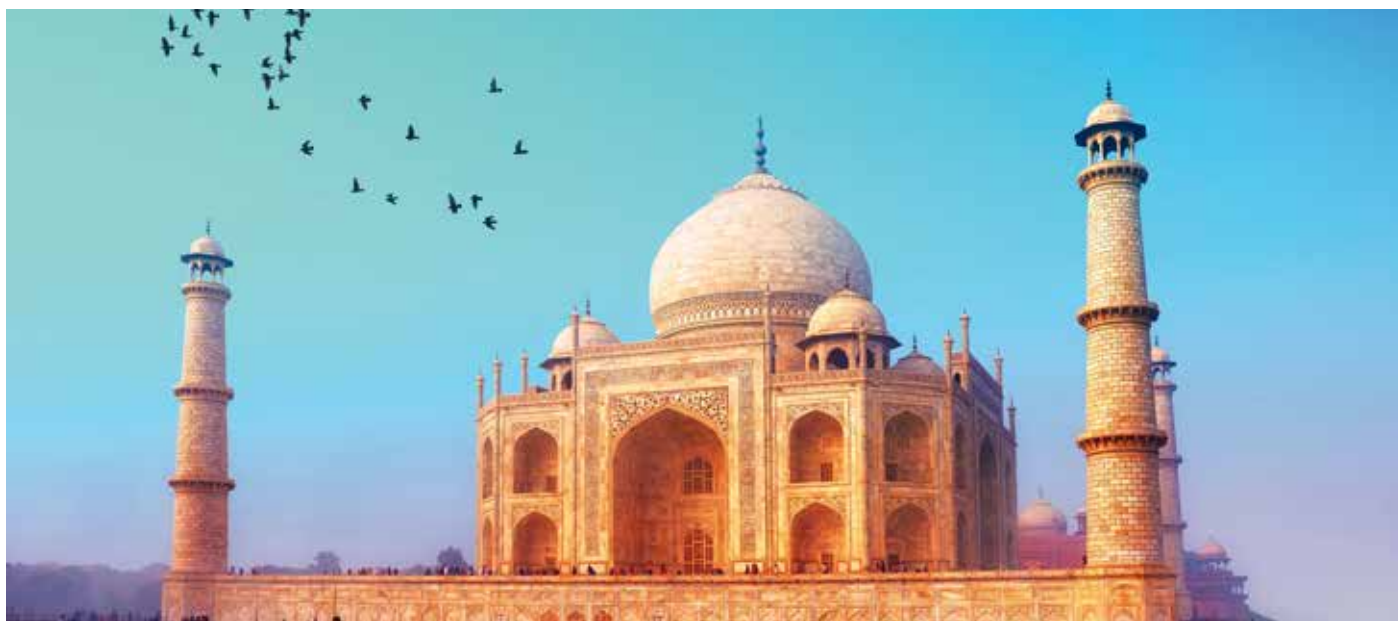
t 020 3930 5073 **e** Info@CoxandKings.co.uk **w** CoxandKings.co.uk

Image left: Woman at a stepwell, Jaipur

Discover The Golden Triangle

A journey around India's Golden Triangle reveals the exceptional wealth of cultural, historical and architectural splendour in three of northern India's most captivating cities: Delhi, Agra and Jaipur. Explore Delhi's bustling streets and the varied architecture between its old and new centres, marvel at the architectural spectacle of intricate mausoleums and lush green gardens in Agra and gaze upon Jaipur's imposing Amber fort.

Between Agra and Jaipur, it is well worth making a stop in the ancient deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. Any journey can also be extended beyond the Golden Triangle to discover secret treasures such as the fortress in Gwalior; the rural town of Bharatpur and the Chambal valley, both superb locations for keen birders; and Ranthambore National Park, home to Bengal tigers.



Taj Mahal, Agra

Delhi

Former Viceroy's House • Colourful bazaars of Old Delhi

The Indian capital is steeped in a glorious but turbulent history. Despite being abandoned many times, its rulers returned to it again and again, rebuilding it at least seven times. Today, the adjoining cities of Old and New Delhi are home to countless wonders.

In the pulsating old city, visit the winding alleys of Chandni Chowk and the vast Jama Masjid mosque. New Delhi is a fascinating contrast, with the grand Lutyens-designed government buildings including the former Viceroy's House now home to the President, the majestic India Gate memorial and broad, tree-lined avenues. Head for Humayun's tomb, an early example of Mughal architecture, the magnificent 14th-century Agrasen-ki Baoli stepwell and the beautiful Gurudwara Bangla Sahib Sikh temple. Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 2 nights.

Agra

Celebrated Taj Mahal • Mighty Agra fort • Fatehpur Sikri

Agra is home to India's most celebrated attraction, the Taj Mahal, and the stupendous 16th-century Mughal-built Agra fort, which encompasses the imperial city of the Mughal rulers. Completed by Emperor Shah Jahan in 1653 in memory of his late wife, the Taj Mahal took 20 years to build; it is justifiably lauded as the world's greatest monument to love. Sunrise is a magical time to visit when the marble transforms its colour in the changing dawn light.

Fatehpur Sikri occupies a rocky crest some 40km to the south-west of Agra. A Unesco world heritage site and once the imperial capital of Akbar the Great, the city's wonderfully preserved collection of monuments provide a remarkable insight into the daily life of the 16th-century Mughal court.

Jaipur

Sprawling palace complex • Amber fort

Jaipur, meaning 'the city of victory', was founded in 1727. Popularly known as the Pink City due to the colour of the stone, Jaipur's prime attraction is the sprawling palace complex, still home to the current maharajah. It includes a fascinating museum of the maharajas' lavish possessions as well as the Jantar Mantar observatory. Jaipur is also a delight for those seeking traditional Indian crafts, including jewellery, silver and silk.

Just outside Jaipur, Amber was the ancient capital of the Kachwaha Rajputs from 1037 until maharajah Sawai Jai Singh founded Jaipur. The majestic fort-palace here displays many Mughal influences in addition to traditional Rajput designs. Cox & Kings recommends a lavish lunch at 1135AD, a restaurant set within the historic ramparts of the fort.



Amber fort, Jaipur



Humayun's tomb, Delhi

C&K Recommends...

Delhi Art Trail

Discover contemporary Indian art with a knowledgeable and friendly guide on a gallery-hopping tour. From visiting art galleries to meeting discerning collectors, gain an insight into the local culture and appreciation of modern art. True enthusiasts should head to the National Gallery of Modern Art, which is housed in the former Delhi residence of the maharajah of Jaipur. Here you will find an inspiring collection of contemporary art works.

Cookery lesson in Delhi

Visit the private home of Neha Gupta for a taste of traditional Indian cooking. Her home is located in the delightful area of Haus Khas, surrounded by 800-year-old monuments dating back to the Mughal era. Celebrate a love of Indian food while learning the techniques behind authentic home cooking. Learn how to cook Indian breads and other dishes before enjoying the Indian delicacies that you have created with a little help from Neha.

Visit to Rashtrapati Bhavan, Delhi

Rashtrapati Bhavan, the residence of the president of India and the former Viceroy's House, and its manicured Mughal gardens are open to visitors on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. Take a guided tour of this elegant masterpiece, created by Lutyens, which houses national treasures and artefacts dating back to the colonial era. The changing of the guard ceremony, which takes place on Saturday mornings, is a spectacle not to be missed.

A suggested itinerary...

Taste of India

8 Days & 6 Nights from £1,495

This introductory tour explores India's Golden Triangle, visiting the country's most celebrated sights. Starting in imperial Delhi, the journey encompasses the ethereal Taj Mahal and the magnificent Amber fort in Rajasthan's vibrant capital city, Jaipur.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Overnight flight to Delhi. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Arrive and transfer to Shanti Home for a 2-night stay. Rest of the day at leisure. (N)

Day 3: Delhi

Old Delhi walking tour including the Jama Masjid mosque. Afternoon visit to Humayun's tomb and the Gurudwara Bangla Sahib Sikh temple. (B)

Day 4: Agra

Early morning train to Agra. Afternoon visit to the Taj Mahal and Agra fort. Overnight stay at the Coral Tree Homestay. (B)

Day 5: Fatehpur Sikri • Jaipur

Morning drive to Jaipur, via Fatehpur Sikri. Stay 3 nights at the Shahpura House. (B)

Day 6: Jaipur

Morning visit to Amber fort. Afternoon excursion to the City Palace. (B)

Day 7: Jaipur

Day at leisure or explore Jaipur's bazaars. In the evening, relax at Castle Kanota, familiar as the

Viceroy Club in The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel. (B)

Day 8: Fly home

Transfer to Jaipur airport and fly home. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £1,495 (Apr – Sep)

High season from: £1,535 (Jan – Mar)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

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e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



Beyond the Golden Triangle



Frescoed havelis, Mandawa, Shekhawati

Shekhawati

Rich & colourful frescoes • Ornate havelis

Shekhawati, or Garden of Shekha, in the north-east of Rajasthan is one of the region's best-kept secrets. It was once an important trading post on the caravan route but the development of ports led to the migration of merchant traders, turning Shekhawati into a deserted town.

Today, the region is renowned for the elaborate and colourful 19th-century frescoes that decorate the ornate havelis, or mansions, of the Marwari merchants, reflecting the lifestyle that they encountered in foreign lands. The villages of Mandawa, Dundlod, Nawalgarh and Fatehpur collectively form an open-air art gallery that claims to have one of the largest concentrations of frescoes in the world.



Raj Niwas Palace, Dholpur

Dholpur

Explore Agra & the Chambal valley • Stay in a former royal palace

The historic town of Dholpur once had a strategic importance for the powerful rulers of Rajasthan due to its close proximity to cities like Gwalior and Agra. The ruins of the 15th-century Shergarh fort, used to defend Dholpur in two important Mughal wars, merit exploration. Dholpur itself is an excellent base to explore Agra or the Chambal National Park, where boat and river safaris provide excellent opportunities to view wildlife. The red sandstone of Dholpur is famous throughout the country and was used in the construction of the Red Fort in Delhi.

Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at the Raj Niwas Palace, a charming converted palace and former home to generations of royals.



Tiger, Ranthambore

Ranthambore

Tigers & other wildlife • 250 bird species

A prime example for tiger conservation efforts, Ranthambore National Park, once the private hunting ground of royalty, covers an area of 400 sq km. Celebrated for its tigers, Ranthambore is also home to a large variety of animals including sambar deer, chital, marsh crocodiles, sloth bears and leopards. It is also a birdwatcher's paradise with more than 250 species of birds nesting there. The best time to see wildlife is between October and May. The park is also home to a majestic eighth-century fort, ancient temple ruins, ramshackle palaces and lakes.

Cox & Kings recommends at least a 2-night stay in Ranthambore at Kipling Lodge.



Cranes, Bharatpur

Bharatpur

Wetlands of Keoladeo Ghana • Birdwatching & boat trips

Little more than an hour's drive from Agra, Bharatpur is home to the Unesco world heritage-listed Keoladeo Ghana National Park. Once the duck hunting reserve of the maharajahs, the park now attracts a large number of aquatic birds to its wetlands during winter. More than 360 species of migratory and resident birds have been recorded here at any one time, including the Siberian crane. A boat trip in the early morning or late evening can be a highly rewarding experience, as is exploring the park by bicycle or rickshaw.

Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 2 nights at the contemporary, 23-room Bagh Hotel, a boutique property located near Bharatpur.

Pushkar

Sacred Pushkar lake • Camel fair

The lakeside town of Pushkar is located close to the bustling Rajasthani town of Ajmer, but separated from it by Nag Pahar, or the Snake Mountain. The town clings to the side of the small Pushkar lake, believed by Hindus to have been created by Lord Brahma, making it an important pilgrimage centre. The town is perhaps best known for its spectacular camel fair, which takes place each November. During these few days the town overflows with tribal people from all over Rajasthan, as well as pilgrims, traders and tourists.

Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at The Orchard, which features air-conditioned tents during the fair.



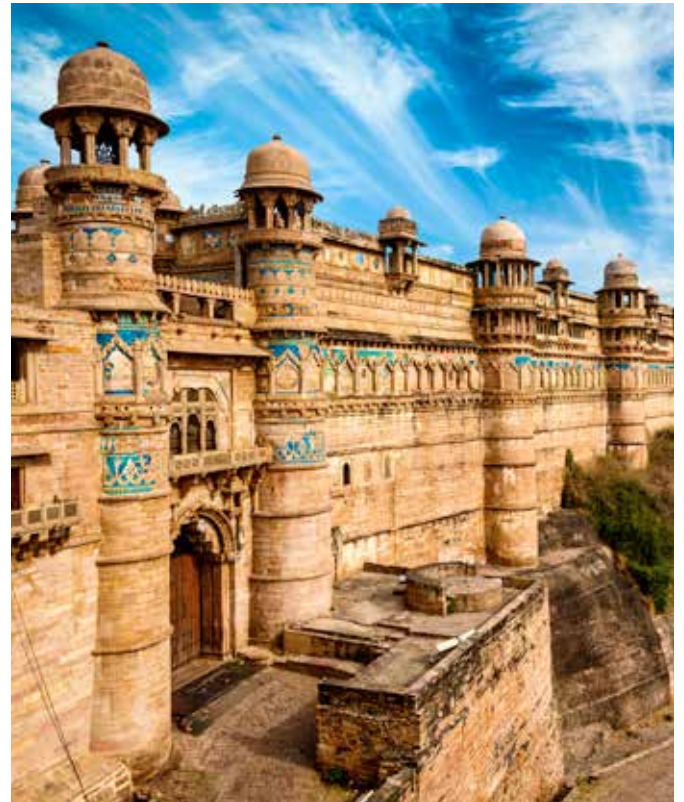
Camels at the Pushkar fair

Gwalior

Splendid Gwalior fort • Exquisite Jai Vilas Palace

In 1780, Sir Warren Hastings wrote that Gwalior was the key to central India. It was a thought shared by many ambitious chieftains and kings before him, so it was no wonder that the eighth-century Gwalior fort was described by the Mughal emperor Babur as “the pearl in the necklace of the forts of Hind”. Today, the splendour of Gwalior lives on in the fort as well as in the Jai Vilas Palace, featuring exquisitely carved temples and resounding with the melodies of Tansen’s ragas – the renowned musician whose tomb makes for a worthwhile visit.

Cox & Kings recommends at least 2 nights at the 120-year-old Usha Kiran Palace, once host to King George V and now converted into a hotel.



Gwalior fort

C&K Recommends...

Dera Amer elephant camp, Jaipur

Surrounded by the wilderness of a reserve forest, the delightful Dera Amer elephant camp is set in a picturesque valley behind the hills of the majestic Amber fort. Feed, wash and paint elephants and explore the surrounding villages and the foothills of the Aravalli range before returning to the camp for an alfresco dinner.

Kalakriti cultural dance performance, Agra

Watch the Mughal era come alive with a Kalakriti dance performance held at a local theatre in Agra. The performance depicts the epic story of the creation of the Taj Mahal and the romantic love story of Emperor Shah Jahan and his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal. The tale is told through multiple art forms including Bollywood song, dance sequences and traditional theatre. An English interpretation of the story is relayed by headphones.

Balloon ride over Jaipur

Drift slowly over the ‘Pink City’ of Jaipur experiencing the sights from the air on an exhilarating one hour sunrise or sunset hot air balloon ride. Highlights include seeing the mesmerising Amber fort from above, the vast Aravalli mountain ranges surrounding it, the hidden forts and palaces of the Rajasthan countryside and traditional villages.



Balloon ride over Jaipur

Discover The Great Thar Desert

The Thar desert, in the north-west corner of India, is believed to have supported some of the world's earliest urban settlements. As part of the Silk Road, a 2,000-year-old trading route that connected China to Turkey and Italy via India, the Thar once had colourful caravans laden with spices, silk, tapestries and precious stones travelling through it.

Along this route, desert towns such as Jaisalmer became popular stops for the weary travellers who preferred the romantic dunes of the Thar desert to the wild Pamir mountains of Central Asia. More recently, the great Rajput dynasties built mighty fortifications, lavish palaces and beautiful cities.

The combination of ancient history, impressive architecture, unusual cultures and opportunities to stay in the heart of the desert make this a rewarding region to visit.



Bikaner

Old walled city • Junagarh fort • Camel farm

Rao Bika, a descendant of the house of Jodhpur, founded the desert town of Bikaner and developed it as an important staging post on the great caravan trade routes. Located in western Rajasthan, Bikaner is home to the impressive structures of the Junagarh fort, built between 1589 and 1593, and the Lalgarh Palace. Nearby, the extraordinary Karni Mata temple houses one of the most unusual shrines in India: its sacred black rats are protected and worshipped as reincarnations of saints.

Cox & Kings recommends a stay of 2 nights to visit the Junagarh fort and museum, which houses a collection of first world war aeroplanes, and the camel breeding farm. An evening stroll through the old walled city rewards visitors with charming havelis adorned with exquisite carvings and notable Jain temples.

Jaisalmer

The exquisite Golden Fort • Camel safari to tribal villages

The approach to the fortified 12th-century desert city of Jaisalmer is magical. Dominating the view is the stunning Golden Fort, which, even today, is home to many of the town's people. The streets are awash with merchant mansions, called havelis, with beautifully carved facades, jali screens and oriel windows overhanging the streets. Patwon-ki-haveli is one of the best preserved of these. The city, with its labyrinthine streets, exudes an extraordinary medieval atmosphere.

For those interested in exploring the shifting sand dunes and the desert life around Jaisalmer, a camel safari visiting tribal villages and the surrounding wilderness is recommended. Suryagarh, a fort-hotel located 12km from Jaisalmer, offers a fascinating desert trail, which uncovers the stories behind the area's abandoned settlements and ruined temples.



Gadi Sagar (Gadisar) lake, Jaisalmer



Mehrangarh fort, Jodhpur

Jodhpur

Magnificent Mehrangarh fort • Blue-washed houses

The bustling city of Jodhpur owes its prosperity and great wealth to its strategic location on the Silk Road. The imposing Mehrangarh fort looms over the city, and the red sandstone palaces it contains form one of the most impressive desert citadels in Rajasthan. The Brahmins' blue-washed houses, which lie in the fort's shadow, give the city its distinctive colour and lend the city its epithet of 'the Blue City'. Life revolves around the vibrant bazaar and bustling Sardar market, frequented by tribal people from the surrounding villages. Here you can buy anything from leather *mojaris* (shoes) and dentures to ornamental swords.

There are some remarkable sights around Jodhpur including the temples at Osian and the grand heritage hotels located in the nearby villages of Rohet and Pali.

C&K Recommends...

Tour of Viceroy's House filming locations

Explore the filming locations of *Viceroy's House*, the tale of the end of the British rule over India and the birth of two nations. The majority of the filming took place in the Umaid Bhawan Palace, the former home of the Jodhpur royal family and built with the same marble as the Taj Mahal. Other filming locations you will see include the 12th-century Nagaur fort complex, the Chopasani School and the Raoti Palace.

Desert camps

The remote, picturesque villages of Khimsar, Manvar and Osian, located between Jodhpur and Jaisalmer, make an ideal base from which to experience Indian desert life. For a private and romantic sunrise or sunset experience, it is best to stay overnight in a mobile tent. These simply furnished tents, pitched in the remote wilderness, are also well located for exploring local villages and venturing out on a camel safari.

Demoiselle cranes, Khichan

The small village of Khichan, located between Nagaur and Phalodi, is famed for the dramatic congregation of demoiselle cranes that arrive from as far as Europe and Mongolia during the months of August to March. Nearly 9,000 cranes descend on this tiny village, spurred on by the organised feeding of the local villagers. Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 2 nights in the modest yet characterful Lal Niwas.



Camel caravan

A suggested itinerary...

Heritage Rajasthan

15 Days & 13 Nights from £3,045

Journey back in time, to a bygone era of pomp & luxury, and experience the opulence and extravagance of the royal houses of Deogarh, Jodhpur, Udaipur, Jaipur and the colonial jewel of Delhi.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Transfer to the Haveli Dharampura for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Delhi

Explore the myriad charms of Old and New Delhi including a tour of Rashtrapati Bhavan. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Jaipur

Morning flight to Jaipur for a 2-night stay at Shahpura House. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 5: Jaipur

Morning visit to the imposing Amber fort. Afternoon exploration of Jaipur's exquisite City Palace, observatory and local bazaars. Enjoy an

evening drink at the Rambagh Palace's iconic Polo Bar. (B)

Day 6: Nimaj

Morning drive to Nimaj for an overnight stay at the luxurious Chhatra Sagar tents, overlooking a lake teeming with birds. (B)

Day 7: Jodhpur

Morning at leisure to walk in the surrounding area or to venture out for birdwatching and into the surrounding villages by jeep. Afternoon drive to Jodhpur for 2 nights at Ajit Bhawan. (B)

Day 8: Jodhpur

Morning excursion to visit the Mehrangarh fort. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 9: Ranakpur • Narlai

Morning visit to the exquisite Jain temples at Ranakpur. Continue to Narlai for an overnight stay at Rawla Narlai. Stepwell dinner. (B, D)

Day 10: Deogarh

Morning visit to the impressive Kumbhalgarh fort. Continue to Deogarh for 2 nights at the boutique homestay Dev Shree. (B)

Day 11: Deogarh

At leisure to enjoy a scenic train ride, village jeep safari or rest by the pool. (B)

Day 12: Nathdwara • Udaipur

Visit the temples at Nathdwara en route to Udaipur for 3 nights at the Amet Haveli. (B)

Day 13: Udaipur

Explore the beautiful lakeside town of Udaipur including the magnificent City Palace and Arts & Frames – an art gallery dedicated to contemporary and traditional art. (B)

Day 14: Udaipur

Day at leisure to explore the surrounding area. (B)

Day 15: Fly home via Mumbai

Early morning flight from Udaipur to Mumbai (Bombay) to connect with your flight home. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,045 (Jan – Mar)

High season from: £3,225 (Oct – Dec)

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Discover Udaipur & Southern Rajasthan

Imposing forts, captivating temples, impressive stepwells, tranquil lakes and barren red hills characterise the south and east of Rajasthan. The region, abounding in history, has always been at the forefront of creative art and architecture. A journey through this intriguing region will reveal spectacular Jain and Hindu temples and the immense wealth and majesty of the fabled maharajas, as well as provide opportunities to meet local farmers and skilled artisans at work. At its heart lies magical Udaipur, cited by Colonel James Tod as the “most romantic spot on the continent of India”. Wildlife enthusiasts may be rewarded by leopard sightings at Bera, Mount Abu or the Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary.



City Palace, Udaipur

Udaipur

Picturesque town & lake • Beautiful palaces

Set on the shores of Lake Pichola and surrounded by the Aravalli hills, Udaipur is undeniably the most picturesque city in Rajasthan and one of India's most romantic settings. As capital of the old Mewar state, it was the only Rajput stronghold to uphold its Hindu allegiance in the face of Muslim invasion. From the late 16th century, peace brought about an era of renaissance in the arts and encouraged the building of beautiful palaces and attractive gardens around the lake.

High above the lake towers the deserted Monsoon Palace. To see the sunset from its ruins is truly sublime, with the city palace walls turning to gold and the waters shimmering in the distance.

Udaipur & Surrounds

Jain temples • Ancient fortifications

The area around Udaipur is dotted with an array of treasures including the Jain temples at Ranakpur. Almost 500 years old, the halls and one thousand elaborate marble pillars are exquisitely preserved and exude a serene ambience. The ancient temples at Eklingji reward visitors with an elegant marble complex made up of 108 temples, the first of which was built in 734AD by Bappa Rawal.

Kumbhalgarh is one of the finest examples of defensive fortification in Rajasthan. Within its walls were once 365 temples and shrines, a garrison and a self-sufficient village. Early evening is an enchanting time to visit when the fort is illuminated for a few minutes by the setting sun.



Bundi Palace, Bundi



Interior of Dilwara Jain temple, Mount Abu

Bundi & Kota

Traditional murals of Bundi Palace • Baroli temples in Kota

Featuring palaces, forts and *baolis* (stepwells), Bundi is also home to the imposing Taragarh fort. Bundi Palace is renowned for its traditional murals, offering a glimpse of the lifestyle of previous rulers. It was here in Bundi that Kipling wrote part of *Kim* when he stayed at the Sukh Mahal Palace on the edge of Jait Sagar lake.

On the east bank of the Chambal river is the princely estate of Kota, founded in 1631. The town has one of the largest fort complexes in Rajasthan. Dating back to the 13th century, it features elaborately painted chambers and a museum. Kota is also an ideal base from which to explore the ancient Baroli temples, the Kota Doria weavers' village and the Darrah Wildlife Sanctuary.



Chittorgarh fort

Chittorgarh

Chittorgarh fort • 700 years of history

Set in one of Rajasthan's lesser-known corners lies one of the state's oldest and most interesting treasures. The story of Chittorgarh is a saga of valour, tenacity and sacrifice. It was sacked three times in its history and the fort is a veritable treasure trove of antiquity, offering an insight into the life of the great Rajput rulers, who chose to lay down their lives fighting a superior enemy instead of leading a life of submission under them.

Perched on a rocky plateau, the Chittorgarh fort rises abruptly above the surrounding plain. Of particular interest among the deserted buildings, which cover a remarkable 700 years of history, are Padmini's Palace, the Palace of Rana Kumbha, the Victory Tower and the ruined Palaces of Jaimal and Patta.

Mount Abu

Jain art & architecture • Temples & forts • Only hill station in Rajasthan

Mount Abu, on the edge of south-west Rajasthan, is a place of great religious significance, while the Abu plateau is the location of some of the most outstanding Jain temples. The Dilwara temple complex, set in beautiful surroundings, is a superb example of medieval Jain art and architecture. Built between the 10th and 13th centuries, the temples, with their ornate, jewel-like interior, remind visitors of the Jain philosophy.

During the 19th century, the British leased Abu from the rulers of Sirahi and built a town around a lake, making Mount Abu Rajasthan's only hill station. The neighbouring sanctuary rewards wildlife enthusiasts with possible sightings of leopards, sloth bears, langurs, sambars, wild boar and over 250 species of birds.



Leopard, Bera

Bera

Leopard country • Converse with Rabari herdsmen

Situated in the shadows of the rugged Aravalli range, Bera is a small hamlet surrounded by thickly wooded forests, rugged hills and rocky outcrops. The terrain and the caves that delve deep into hillocks provide a perfect habitat for leopards who roam freely and sightings are commonplace.

Although leopard safaris are the main attraction, there is a variety of wildlife in the area that can be spotted on the wildlife drives. Nature trails, rural village visits and walks with the Rabari herdsmen, who have shared this land with the wildlife for many centuries, are popular excursions here.

Cox & Kings recommends a minimum stay of 2 nights at the Jawai Safari Camp or the Bera Safari Lodge to fully experience Bera.

Discover the Ganges Plain & Beyond

Together, the cities of Lucknow, Varanasi and Khajuraho offer the kind of diverse experiences that India is renowned for and provide an insight into the country's character. Each city is distinct, but all share centuries of Indian history and have been the backdrop to many significant events.

Visit Lucknow, where the 1857 Indian mutiny took place, and Varanasi, close to the site of Buddha's first sermon. The erotic Chandela temples at Khajuraho are also the gateway to the wildlife reserves of central India, with Panna National Park and its indigenous tiger population lying a mere 60km to the south.



Hindu pilgrims bathing in the Ganges river, Varanasi



Kandariya Mahadev temple, Khajuraho

Varanasi

Hindu centre of pilgrimage • Sacred Ganges river

Set on the riverbanks of the sacred Ganges, Varanasi is one of the oldest cities in the world and the holiest of all for devout Hindus. It is believed that bathing in the river will purge all sins and, for many Hindus, Varanasi is regarded as the place that provides salvation and enlightenment.

An early morning boat ride or walk along the riverside ghats offers a glimpse of the city's spiritual significance, with pilgrims performing their ablutions and other rituals, funeral pyres blazing on the steps, incense wafting through the air and music chiming all around. The town is also a favourite among Buddhists as Sarnath, the town where Buddha gave his first sermon after enlightenment, is only a short drive away.

Khajuraho

Exquisite Chandela temples • Raneh Falls

A thousand years ago, artisans of the Chandela dynasty built the spectacular temples at Khajuraho, which were to become renowned for their exquisite carvings and erotic sculptures. The sculptures, which were rediscovered by an English soldier in 1839, are said to portray the rite of creation in which both body and soul are involved. Of the original 85 temples, only 22 now survive.

Every February, the Khajuraho Dance Festival celebrates the cultural heritage of the region through the medium of classical Indian dance styles. Craftsmen also showcase their indigenous art and crafts against the backdrop of the majestic temples.



Imambara, Mohammed Ali Shah mausoleum, Lucknow

Lucknow

Remnants of the Raj • Unique Indo-Persian culture

Rudyard Kipling said in his novel *Kim* that “there is no city – except Bombay (Mumbai), the queen of all – more beautiful in her garish style than Lucknow”. The city rose to prominence during the 1857 Indian mutiny when it saw fierce fighting between British and Indian forces.

The Raj era bequeathed Lucknow many fine colonial monuments, including the former Residency and La Martinière College. However, it was under the Muslim Nawabs of Oudh (Awadh) in the 18th century that Lucknow reached its apogée as a political and cultural centre. For an insight into local life, the ghats of the Gomti river are worth exploring, where handmade garments are taken for their last wash before they hit the local shops.

C&K Recommends...

Evening Ganga Aarti ceremony, Varanasi

Every evening at sunset, on the banks of the Ganges river, evening *puja* (prayers), are led by priests, while musicians play and *deeyas* (oil lamps) are offered to Mother Ganga in thanks for the light of the sun. This mystical daily ritual is known as the Ganga Aarti and is best witnessed from a boat. The ghats of Varanasi are also the perfect spot to see the Dev Deepawali festivities, celebrated 15 days after Diwali.

Special tea session with Nawab Jafar Mir Abdulla, Lucknow

Meet a descendent of the Nawab of Oudh for afternoon tea and discover the Nawab culture in which modern day Lucknow was founded. Learn how the city has changed over the years and experience the etiquettes, mannerisms and the art of speech that was innate in Nawab society. In this private session, tea is served along with Indian savouries in a small family museum hosting Nawab-era artefacts and inherited antiques.

Full-day excursion to Panna National Park

Sixty kilometres to the south of Khajuraho lies Panna National Park, formerly the private hunting grounds of the royal family of Panna. Today, it is a habitat for tigers, panthers and the rare and endangered caracal. The park is also home to members of the deer family including graceful chinkara or Indian gazelle, sambar, cheetal and chowsingha. Nearby, Ken river offers opportunities for angling, or to enjoy lunch at the charming Ken River Lodge.



Cheetal, Panna National Park

A suggested itinerary...

Classical India

13 Days & 11 Nights from £2,595

This journey highlights the incredible diversity of northern India.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Overnight flight to Delhi. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Morning arrival and transfer to the LaLiT for a stay of 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Delhi

Full-day tour of Old and New Delhi. (B)

Day 4: Lucknow

Morning train to Lucknow. Arrive and transfer to the Vivanta by Taj – Gomti Nagar for a stay of 2 nights. (B)

Day 5: Lucknow

Morning at leisure. Afternoon walking tour of the

colonial highlights of Lucknow. (B)

Day 6: Varanasi

Train to Varanasi. Stay for 2 nights at Suryaoday Haveli. Evening visit to the ghats for the Aarti ceremony. (B)

Day 7: Varanasi • Sarnath

Take an early morning boat ride along the ghats. Later, visit Sarnath. (B)

Day 8: Fly to Khajuraho

Fly to Khajuraho. Afternoon visit to the Chandela temples, noted for their masterful carvings and erotic imagery. Stay 2 nights at the LaLiT Temple View (B)

Day 9: Panna National Park

Day excursion to Panna National Park. (B)

Day 10: Orchha • Agra

Travel by road and rail to Agra for 2 nights at the Courtyard by Marriott. En route, stop at Orchha to explore the spectacular fort palace, which includes the Jahangir Mahal and the impressive religious murals of the Raj Mahal. (B)

Day 11: Agra

Visit three of India's most iconic buildings: the tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah, Agra fort and the marble magnificence of the Taj Mahal. (B)

Day 12: Delhi

Drive to Delhi and stay overnight at the Trident Gurgaon. (B)

Day 13: Fly home

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,595 (Apr – Jun)
High season from: £2,885 (Jan – Mar)

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Experiences in Rajasthan

Steeped in 5,000 years of history, this region offers a wealth of historic forts and sumptuous palaces that stretch from the vast Thar desert through the Aravalli mountains to the spiritual Ganges river. Take part in some truly authentic experiences that lay bare the life of its people and ever-changing culture.

This is a destination that appeals to the artistic traveller, the food lover, the culture vulture, the historian, the photographer and the wildlife enthusiast alike. Cox & Kings can offer unique ways to experience this land of colour and ensure that you really get under the skin of this vibrant nation.



Rural train near Deogarh

Rural train ride, Deogarh

The narrow gauge railway that links the regions of Mewar and Marwar owes its origins to the British. A scenic 1.5-hour train ride brings you into close contact with local people and rural village life. The journey starts from Kamlighat station and ends at Phulad chugging through tunnels, across bridges and past tiny railway stations in an area that inspired Rudyard Kipling's book *The Man Who Would Be King*. The landscape is rugged yet stunning and feels blissfully out of the way and isolated.



Rajasthani farmer, Udaipur

Rural cycle ride, Udaipur

Explore the rural landscapes of Udaipur on a gentle guided bike ride to Lake Badi, passing local villages and the spectacle of the Monsoon Palace en route. The perfect activity for families, the 2- to 3-hour tour unveils tranquil landscapes, brightly clad women and thriving farming communities. Look out for kingfishers, cows, goats and dancing peacocks along the way before stopping to visit a local family for a cup of warming masala chai.



Street food, Agra

Evening chaat crawl, Agra

Take part in an Indian food adventure on a carefully curated chaat crawl, visiting the city's most celebrated and tourist-friendly chaat and food stalls. Chaat are savoury snacks, typically served at roadside stops from stalls or carts. Agra holds the accolade for serving up some of the country's best fare. This tour is designed to deliver the gastronomic satisfaction that real food lovers crave. An evening chaat crawl is a safe and hygienic way to sample Indian street food at its best.



Women carrying water, Khimsar

Tribal villages & dunes, Khimsar

On the edge of the Great Thar desert, amid the Akla dunes, lie the desert villages of Khimsar which are accessible mainly by jeep or camel. Explore off the beaten track, uncovering some of Rajasthan's most colourful and hospitable tribal communities and spectacular desert landscapes. Once an independent kingdom, Khimsar is most famous for the Nagaur fort, constructed by Prince Rao Karamasji in 1523. The walls and the parapets of this 450-year-old structure still stand proudly today.



Changing of the Guard, Delhi

Changing of the Guard ceremony, Delhi

Witness the pomp and colour of the morning changing of the guard ceremony, a fascinating ritual conducted by guards and sentries on the forecourt lawns of Rashtrapati Bhavan (the president's palace). The ceremony involves a series of military displays including a brass band performance and foot drills, finishing with an elegant equestrian display, all set against the backdrop of the majestic dome of the palace. The ceremony takes place every Saturday morning and lasts about 30 minutes.



Marsh crocodile, Chambal river

Chambal river safari, Chambal valley

Sail for 30km through the impressive ravines of the mighty Chambal river, just an hour's drive away from Agra. The Chambal river hosts an astounding variety of riverine fauna. Wildlife that you may encounter could include gharials, the rare and endangered Gangetic dolphin, marsh crocodiles, turtles and jungle cats. The Chambal valley, in which the river is situated, is also a birdwatcher's paradise and the riverbanks are the ideal habitat for a myriad of migratory and resident birds.



Vintage car, Jaipur

Sightseeing by vintage car, Jaipur

When the first motorcars started arriving in India, Rajasthan's princes and aristocracy were among the earliest to order them. Many of the aristocratic families kept their vintage cars in their garages in immaculate condition as collector's items. Indeed, some of these vehicles date back to the turn of the century. There is nothing more romantic than seeing the sights of Jaipur such as the Palace of the Winds or Amber fort than in one of these fine vintage vehicles, which are now available for touring.



City Palace, Jaipur

Private City Palace visit, Jaipur

The City Palace in Jaipur showcases a wonderful fusion of Mughal and European architecture. A private guided tour gives you access to some of the private rooms within the complex. See an exquisite gold-lacquered room designed by master craftsmen, considered to be one of the most beautiful rooms in the palace, and discover other hidden treasures including early Mughal paintings, artefacts and furniture commissioned directly by the maharajah of Jaipur.

A suggested itinerary...

Wild Rajasthan

15 Days & 13 Nights from £3,035

This tour gets off the tourist trail and explores the rural side of Rajasthan. A journey through this intriguing region provides an opportunity to meet local farmers, see a myriad of wildlife and discover a region that has always been at the forefront of art and architecture.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Overnight flight to Delhi. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Transfer to the boutique Manor Hotel for 2 nights. Afternoon at leisure. (N)

Day 3: Delhi

Morning heritage walk in the neighbourhood of Hauz Khas. Afternoon tea tasting tour in Old Delhi. (B)

Day 4: Agra

Early morning train to Agra. Visit the Taj Mahal and explore Agra fort. Overnight at the delightful Coral Tree Homestay. (B)

Day 5: Fatehpur Sikri • Ramathra

Visit the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri en route to Ramathra. Stay 2 nights at Ramathra Fort. (B, D)

Day 6: Ramathra

At leisure or take a walk to the small local temple and village, go on a cycle ride or join a jeep safari into the surrounding countryside. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Ranthambore National Park

Continue to Ranthambore and stay 2 nights at Kipling Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Ranthambore National Park

Wildlife drives in the early morning and late afternoon in search of colourful birdlife, monkeys, marsh crocodiles and the elusive Bengal tiger. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Bundi

Early morning wildlife drive before travelling to Bundi for 2 nights at Bundi Vilas. (B)

Day 10: Bundi

Explore Taragarh fort, exotic stepwells and the traditional murals of Bundi Palace. (B)

Day 11: Bhainsrorgarh

Travel to Bhainsrorgarh and stay 2 nights at Bhainsrorgarh Fort hotel. (B, D)

Day 12: Bhainsrorgarh

Take a boat ride to the river island for a picnic

lunch, hike to the ninth-century Badoli temples, walk through the local village or take a sunset jeep safari. (B, D)

Day 13: Chittorgarh • Udaipur

Visit one of Rajasthan's lesser-visited gems, Chittorgarh fort, en route to Udaipur for 2 nights at the lakeside located Fateh Prakash. (B)

Day 14: Udaipur

Explore the sights including the City Palace and stunning Lake Pichola. (B)

Day 15: Fly home

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,035 (Jan – Mar)

High season from: £3,175 (Oct – Dec)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



The Golden Triangle & Shimla

Duration • 13 Days & 11 Nights

Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,075

Private tour • From £2,625

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions (see p36-37), room and flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 18 people (max 26)
- ❖ Direct international flights with Virgin Atlantic
- ❖ Express train travel in air-conditioned executive class
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 11 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 11 dinners
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & all entrance fees
- ❖ Porterage at airports and stations
- ❖ Balanced pace



Amber fort, Jaipur

Experience a taste of India on this outstanding introductory tour of the country's most celebrated sights. Exploring the Golden Triangle, this journey combines imperial Delhi with the legendary Taj Mahal at Agra and a 3-night stay in the princely city of Jaipur, culminating in the beautiful hill station of Shimla.

Day 4: Agra

Visit the Taj Mahal at sunrise. After breakfast, visit the tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah and Agra fort. Evening visit to Mehtab Bagh, a 400-year-old Mughal garden on the banks of the Yamuna, to see the sun set over the Taj Mahal. (B, D)

Day 5: Fatehpur Sikri • Jaipur

Continue to the pink city of Jaipur via the deserted sandstone city of Fatehpur Sikri. Stay 3 nights at Ramgarh Lodge (or similar). (B, L, D)

Day 6: Jaipur

After breakfast, visit the ancient palace of Amber fort and then the City Palace in the afternoon, home of the present maharajah. (B, D)

Day 7: Jaipur

A day at leisure to relax or explore Jaipur's many bazaars. Alternatively take an optional tour of the ghost town of Bhangarh, visit the elephant camp at Dera Amer or take a sunrise balloon flight over the peaceful countryside*. (B, D)

Day 8: Delhi

Drive to Delhi in the morning and stay overnight at the Eros Hotel (or similar). (B, D)

Day 9: Shimla

Take the morning express train to Kalka followed by the narrow gauge mountain railway toy train ride to Shimla. Stay at the Oberoi Cecil in Shimla, the British summer capital during the Raj era, for 3 nights. Upgrade to a Premier Valley View room from £70 for 3 nights. (B, L, D)

Days 10-11: Shimla

Morning tour of Shimla. Remainder of time at leisure. (B, D)

Day 12: Delhi

Drive to Chandigarh this morning and connect

Weather

Agra

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	22	25	32	38	41	41	35	33	34	34	29	24
B	8	10	16	22	26	28	27	26	25	19	13	8
C	12	11	10	6	13	52	205	270	125	22	5	6

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Relax at a former maharajah's hunting lodge in Jaipur
- ❖ Watch the sun set over the Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh gardens
- ❖ Ride the toy train to Shimla

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Overnight flight from London (regional connections available) to Delhi with Virgin Atlantic. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Arrive in Delhi in the morning and transfer to the Eros Hotel (or similar) for 1 night. Afternoon tour of Old Delhi, including the Jama Masjid mosque and Raj Ghat. (D)

Day 3: New Delhi • Agra

Morning tour of New Delhi with a drive past India Gate and the former viceregal residence, both very fine examples of British imperial architecture. Continue to the tomb of the Mughal emperor Humayun and the Qutb Minar tower. Afternoon drive to Agra where you will stay for 2 nights at the Trident Agra (or similar). (B, D)



Taj Mahal, Agra

with the express train to Delhi. Stay overnight at the Eros Hotel (or similar). (B, D)

Day 13: Fly to London

Morning transfer to the airport. Fly to London with Virgin Atlantic. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

***Optional activities:** These activities can be pre-booked or booked locally and incur an additional charge.

Tour variations: Due to changes to seasonal schedules and opening times, there are minor itinerary variations for certain departure dates. Please check with your Cox & Kings tour consultant for details.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

For details of our non-exclusive group tour 'Classic India', please visit CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: IGT

Group tour

Low season from £2,075
Guide price months: Sep

High season from £2,225
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

Single supplement from £705

Private travel

Low season from £2,625
Guide price months: Sep

High season from £2,710
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

Single supplement from £705

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (22 Dec – 2 Jan)

Virgin Atlantic flight upgrades

Premium Economy from £545 return
Upper Class from £1,795 return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Fri)	Rtn (Wed)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Wed)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Wed)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Wed)
19 Jan 18	31 Jan 18	30 Mar 18	11 Apr 18	16 Nov 18	28 Nov 18	01 Mar 19	13 Mar 19
02 Feb 18	14 Feb 18	13 Apr 18	25 Apr 18	23 Nov 18	05 Dec 18	08 Mar 19	20 Mar 19
09 Feb 18	21 Feb 18	21 Sep 18	03 Oct 18	21 Dec 18	02 Jan 19	15 Mar 19	27 Mar 19
23 Feb 18	07 Mar 18	05 Oct 18	17 Oct 18	18 Jan 19	30 Jan 19	29 Mar 19	10 Apr 19
02 Mar 18	14 Mar 18	19 Oct 18	31 Oct 18	01 Feb 19	13 Feb 19		
09 Mar 18	21 Mar 18	02 Nov 18	14 Nov 18	08 Feb 19	20 Feb 19		
16 Mar 18	28 Mar 18	09 Nov 18	21 Nov 18	22 Feb 19	06 Mar 19		

Grand Tour of Northern India

Duration • 15 Days & 13 Nights
Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,495
Private tour • From £2,695

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions (see p36-37), room and flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 15 people (max 26)
- ❖ Direct international flights & internal flights in India
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 13 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners
- ❖ Welcome drink to meet the group and guide
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & all entrance fees
- ❖ Porterage at airports and stations
- ❖ Festival departures



Women selling colourful fabrics, Jodhpur

Explore the diverse cultural influences that have created the fascinating heritage of northern India. This tour encompasses the holy city of Varanasi, the resplendent Taj Mahal, Jodhpur's blue-washed houses, and the beautiful lakes and palaces of Udaipur. Also go in search of the elusive Royal Bengal tiger in Ranthambore National Park, India's premier tiger reserve.

Weather

Delhi

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	21	24	30	36	39	39	35	33	34	33	28	23
B	7	10	15	21	25	28	27	26	24	19	13	8
C	19	15	15	8	17	53	220	257	126	24	5	8

A: Maximum average temperature (C)
 B: Minimum average temperature (C)
 C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Two nights in a leading heritage hotel
- ❖ Evening spiritual aarti ceremony
- ❖ Lunch overlooking the Taj Mahal
- ❖ Holi celebrations at the Maharajah's Palace

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Fly from London (regional connections available) to Delhi with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Transfer to the Trident Gurgaon (or similar) for 2 nights. Afternoon at leisure. Evening welcome drink to meet the group and guide. (N)

Day 3: Old & New Delhi

Morning tour of Old Delhi, including a drive past the Red Fort, a visit to the Jama Masjid, and Raj Ghat and a walking tour of Old Delhi. Afternoon tour of New Delhi, including India Gate and the viceregal residence. Continue to the tomb of the Mughal emperor Humayun and the Qutb Minar tower. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Varanasi • Sarnath

Morning flight to Varanasi. Stay at the Hotel Madin (or similar) for 1 night. Afternoon tour of Sarnath. This evening, visit the Dasaswamedh ghats to witness the magical Ganga aarti ceremony from a boat on the Ganges. On 19 Nov 2018 departure enjoy the Dev Diwali celebrations when the steps of the ghats are lit with more than a million earthen lamps*. (B)

Day 5: Fly to Agra

Serene early morning boat ride on the Ganges. After breakfast, fly to Agra and transfer to the Trident Agra (or similar) for a 2-night stay. (B)

Day 6: Agra

Early morning visit to the Taj Mahal. After breakfast, visit the huge Agra fort and the tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah. Lunch at a rooftop restaurant overlooking the Taj Mahal. Afternoon at leisure or optional excursion to Akbar's tomb at Sikandra*. (B, L)

Day 7: Fatehpur Sikri • Ranthambore

Morning drive to Fatehpur Sikri, the deserted 16th-century, red sandstone city. Continue to Bharatpur and take the train to Sawai Madhopur. Transfer to the Dev Vilas (or similar) for 2 nights. (B, D)

Day 8: Ranthambore

Early morning and late afternoon wildlife viewing. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Jaipur

After breakfast, drive to Jaipur and stay at the Trident Jaipur (or similar) for 2 nights. (B)

Day 10: Jaipur

Optional early morning yoga session*. Morning tour of the ancient palace of Amber fort. Afternoon visit to the City Palace and Jantar Mantar astronomical observatory. (B)

Day 11: Jodhpur • Rohet

Full-day drive to Rohet via Jodhpur. Visit the magnificent Mehrangarh fort and the imposing Jaswant Thada cenotaph. Continue to Rohet and stay at Rohet Garh (or similar) for 2 nights. On 27 Oct 2018 departure, enjoy the Diwali celebrations*. (B, D)

Day 12: Bishnoi tribal villages

Morning at leisure. After lunch, take a 4x4 safari to visit the Bishnoi tribal villages. (B, D)

Day 13: Ranakpur • Udaipur

Drive to the lake city of Udaipur, visiting the exquisite Jain temples at Ranakpur en route. Arrive at the Trident Udaipur (or similar) for a 2-night stay. Or upgrade to the Taj Lake Palace (Lake View room) from £565 for 2 nights.



City Palace, Udaipur

On 17 Feb 2018 and 7 Mar 2019 departures, join the Holika Dahan celebrations at the Maharajah's Palace in Udaipur*. (B)

Day 14: Udaipur

Morning tour of the City Palace, Jagdish temple and a miniature painting studio. Afternoon at leisure. Evening Bagore-ki-Haveli cultural show. (B)

Day 15: Fly to London via Mumbai

Transfer to the airport and fly to Mumbai (Bombay) to connect with the British Airways flight to London. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Festival departures

The 17 February 2018 and 7 March 2019 departures of this tour are timed to coincide with the colourful Holika Dahan festival which will be celebrated in Udaipur with a visit to the celebrations at the Maharajah's Palace. The 27 October 2018 departure will coincide with the Diwali celebrations in Jodhpur. The 19 November 2018 departure will include the enchanting Dev Diwali 'Festival of the Lights' celebrations in Varanasi.

Important information

***Optional activities:** These activities can be pre-booked or booked locally and incur an additional charge.

Tour variations: Due to changes to seasonal schedules and opening times, there are minor itinerary variations for certain departure dates. Please check with your Cox & Kings tour consultant for details.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: GTR

Group tour

Low season from £2,495
Guide price month: Apr

High season from £2,835
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

Single supplement from £585

Private travel

Low season from £2,695
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £3,025
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

Single supplement from £585

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

British Airways flight upgrades

World Traveller Plus from £350 return
Club World from £1,825 return
First from £2,695 return

Regional air connections

Prices on request: British Airways to/from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle or Belfast.

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
20 Jan 18	03 Feb 18	24 Mar 18	07 Apr 18	19 Nov 18	03 Dec 18	07 Mar 19	21 Mar 19
03 Feb 18	17 Feb 18	14 Apr 18	28 Apr 18	19 Jan 19	02 Feb 19	23 Mar 19	06 Apr 19
17 Feb 18	03 Mar 18	13 Oct 18	27 Oct 18	02 Feb 19	16 Feb 19		
24 Feb 18	10 Mar 18	27 Oct 18	10 Nov 18	16 Feb 19	02 Mar 19		
10 Mar 18	24 Mar 18	10 Nov 18	24 Nov 18	23 Feb 19	09 Mar 19		

Passage through Rajasthan

Duration • 16 Days & 14 Nights
Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,495
Private tour • From 2,865



This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions (see p36-37), room and flight upgrades available
- ❖ Maximum group size – 26 people
- ❖ Direct international flights with British Airways
- ❖ Internal flights in India
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 14 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Porterage at airports and stations
- ❖ Balanced pace



Woman sorting chillis, Jaipur

The princely state of Rajasthan is India at its colourful best. Following a tour of the imperial sights of Mumbai (Bombay), travel through the heart of Rajasthan exploring magnificent forts and ornate palaces, finishing at the astounding Taj Mahal.

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Dinner at Rawla Narlai's stunning stepwell
- ❖ Scenic train ride through rural Rajasthan
- ❖ Sunset dinner in the sand dunes of the Great Thar desert
- ❖ Dine overlooking Udaipur's Lake Pichola

Weather

Jaipur

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	22	25	31	36	40	39	34	32	33	34	29	24
B	7	10	15	21	25	27	25	24	23	19	13	8
C	6	10	5	4	18	51	213	227	80	12	8	3

A: Maximum average temperature (C)
 B: Minimum average temperature (C)
 C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Day 1: Fly to Mumbai

Fly from London (regional connections available) to Mumbai (Bombay) with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Mumbai

Arrive and transfer to the Trident Nariman Point for an overnight stay. Afternoon sightseeing in Mumbai visiting the Gateway of India, Chor bazaar, Dhobi Ghat and Victoria Terminus. (N)

Day 3: Fly to Udaipur

Midday flight to Udaipur. Afternoon boat cruise on Lake Pichola. Dinner at Sunset Restaurant overlooking Lake Pichola. Spend 2 nights at Fateh Prakash Palace or upgrade to the Oberoi Udaivilas (Premier room) from £265. (B, D)

Day 4: Udaipur

Sightseeing in Udaipur visiting the City Palace, miniature painting studios and Jagdish temple. Thali lunch at the Garden Restaurant adjacent to the Vintage Car Museum. Optional evening

cultural performance at Bagore-ki-Haveli*. (B, L)

Day 5: Ranakpur • Rawla Narlai

Travel to Rawla Narlai visiting the magnificent Jain temples at Ranakpur en route. Spend 2 nights at the heritage resort of Rawla Narlai, located in the Aravalli hills. Late afternoon village walk to see rural life. (B)

Day 6: Rawla Narlai

Choose from a range of optional activities organised by the hotel, from jeep safaris in search of leopards to a guided walk exploring the nearby villages*. This evening, dine at the 16th-century *baori* (stepwell), illuminated by hundreds of oil lamps. (B, D)

Day 7: Jodhpur

Take a scenic 1.5-hour rural train ride from Khamil Ghat to Phulad. The train chugs through tunnels, past waterfalls and tiny railway stations in an area that inspired Rudyard Kipling's book *The Man Who Would Be King*. Continue by road to Jodhpur for 2 nights at Ajit Bhawan. (B)

Day 8: Jodhpur

Visit Jaswant Thada and continue to the formidable Mehrangarh fort. Take a heritage walk through the streets dotted with temples and bazaars. Optional evening meal on the rooftop of the Chokelao Restaurant, set on the ramparts of the Mehrangarh fort*. (B)

Day 9: Bikaner

Drive to Bikaner in the heart of the Thar desert for an overnight stay at the magnificent Narendra Bhawan, a grand residence that was home to the last reigning maharajah of Bikaner. Late afternoon jeep safari into the desert to witness the spectacular sunset over the dunes. Enjoy a barbecue dinner and cultural show in the heart of the dunes. (B, D)

Day 10: Jaipur

Morning visit to Junagarh fort, built in 1588 by Raja Rai Singh. Later drive to the royal city of Jaipur. En route, visit the town of Fatehpur and its 'open-air gallery' of beautiful havelis decorated in colourful frescoes. Transfer to Shapura House (or similar) for a 2-night stay. (B)

Day 11: Jaipur

Morning photo stop at the Palace of Winds, before a tour of the Amber fort. Afternoon tour of the royal city of Jaipur. Highlights include the City Palace Museum, the Jantar Mantar observatory and the colourful bazaars. (B)

Day 12: Ranthambore National Park

Travel to Ranthambore for 2 nights at Kipling Lodge. Afternoon at leisure. (B)



Women in Amber fort, Jaipur

Day 13: Ranthambore National Park
Early morning safari in search of Bengal tigers. Afternoon at leisure or visit Ranthambore fort and the NGO-supported Dastkar foundation where local women produce handicrafts*. (B)

Day 14: Fatehpur Sikri • Agra
Morning drive to Agra visiting Fatehpur Sikri, the deserted sandstone city, en route. Overnight at the Courtyard by Marriott. (B)

Day 15: Delhi
Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal. After breakfast visit Agra fort before departing for Delhi and an overnight stay at the Trident Gurgaon. (B)

Day 16: Fly to London
Transfer to the airport for the British Airways flight to London. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Extension

Tour + Delhi
1 Day & 1 Night from £195

Extend your stay with an extra night at the Trident Gurgaon and enjoy a day's sightseeing.

Day 16: Delhi
Morning tour of Old Delhi driving past the Red Fort and visiting the Jama Masjid. Afternoon tour of New Delhi with a drive past India Gate and the former vice regal residence, both fine examples of British colonial architecture. Visit the tomb of the Mughal emperor Humayun. (B)

Day 17: Fly home
Transfer to the airport for the British Airways flight to London. (N)

For more extension options including Goa, Amritsar or Varanasi, please see pages 36-37.

Important information

***Optional activities:** These activities can be pre-booked or booked locally and incur an additional cost.

Tour variations: Due to changes to seasonal schedules and opening times, there are minor itinerary variations for certain departure

dates. Please check with your Cox & Kings tour consultant for details.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

For details of our non-exclusive group tour 'Classic Rajasthan', please visit CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: PTR

Group tour

Low season from £2,495
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £2,935
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

Single supplement from £805

Private travel

Low season from £2,865
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £3,175
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

Single supplement from £805

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

British Airways flight upgrades

World Traveller Plus from £350 return
Club World from £1,825 return
First from £2,695 return

Regional air connections

Prices on request: British Airways to/from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle or Belfast.

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
25 Jan 18	09 Feb 18	10 Mar 18	25 Mar 18	08 Nov 18	23 Nov 18	14 Feb 19	01 Mar 19
08 Feb 18	23 Feb 18	05 Apr 18	20 Apr 18	15 Nov 18	30 Nov 18	21 Feb 19	08 Mar 19
15 Feb 18	02 Mar 18	11 Oct 18	26 Oct 18	24 Jan 19	08 Feb 19	10 Mar 19	25 Mar 19
22 Feb 18	09 Mar 18	30 Oct 18	14 Nov 18	07 Feb 19	22 Feb 19		

Exotic India

Duration • 13 Days & 11 Nights
Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,995

Solo Travellers

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Twin/double room for single use
- ❖ Flexible – extensions (see p36-37), room and flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 12 people (max 18)
- ❖ Direct international flights with British Airways
- ❖ Internal flights in India
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 11 dinners
- ❖ Welcome and farewell group dinners
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & all entrance fees
- ❖ Portering at airports and stations

Weather

Delhi

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	21	24	30	36	39	39	35	33	34	33	28	23
B	7	10	15	21	25	28	27	26	24	19	13	8
C	19	15	15	8	17	53	220	257	126	24	5	8

A: Maximum average temperature (C)
 B: Minimum average temperature (C)
 C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Bengal tiger, Ranthambore

Starting from India's historic capital, Delhi, this journey for solo travellers continues to Agra to see the sun rise at the Taj Mahal. Search for elusive Bengal tigers in Ranthambore and marvel at the majestic forts and grand palaces of princely Rajasthan, in the company of like-minded travellers.

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ See the Changing of the Guard ceremony at the President's Palace
- ❖ Stay in a traditional haveli in Jaipur
- ❖ Scenic ride on Deogarh's metre-gauge train
- ❖ Farewell dinner overlooking Lake Pichola

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Overnight flight from London (regional connections available) to Delhi with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Arrive in Delhi and transfer to the Eros Hotel (or similar) for 2 nights. Late afternoon tour of Old Delhi exploring Chandni Chowk by cycle rickshaw. Welcome dinner at the Haveli Dharampura in Old Delhi. (D)

Day 3: Delhi

Morning visit to the President's Palace for the Changing of the Guard ceremony. Continue on

your tour of New Delhi visiting the tomb of the Mughal Emperor Humayun and the Qutb Minar tower. Afternoon at leisure – perhaps explore one of Delhi's many markets or simply relax at the hotel. (B, D)

Day 4: Agra

Drive to Agra. In the afternoon, visit the tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah and Agra fort. Stay overnight at the Courtyard by Marriott (or similar). (B, D)

Day 5: Fatehpur Sikri • Ranthambore

Early morning sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal. After breakfast, drive to the deserted sandstone city of Fatehpur Sikri. Continue to the train station and travel by train to Sawai Madhopur for 2 nights at the Kipling Lodge. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)

Day 6: Ranthambore

Early morning and late afternoon wildlife drives in search of tigers. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Jaipur

After breakfast, drive to the pink city of Jaipur. Stay 2 nights at Shahpura House (or similar). (B, D)

Day 8: Jaipur

This morning visit the ancient Amber fort and then the City Palace, home of the present maharajah. (B, D)

Day 9: Pushkar • Deogarh

Morning departure for Deogarh visiting Pushkar and its temples and markets en route. Stay 2 nights at the Deogarh Mahal, a former palace and now a superb heritage hotel. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)

Day 10: Deogarh

This morning take a scenic ride on Deogarh's metre-gauge train passing waterfalls, lush landscapes and rural life. Afternoon jeep safari visiting local Bishnoi tribal villages. This evening enjoy an evening of traditional Rajasthani folk dancing. (B, D)

Day 11: Ranakpur • Udaipur

Drive to Udaipur, set on the shores of Lake Pichola and arguably Rajasthan's most picturesque city. Visit the magnificent Jain temples at Ranakpur en route. Stay 2 nights at LaLiT Laxmi Vilas Palace. (B, D)

Day 12: Udaipur

Enjoy a guided tour of Udaipur including the magnificent City Palace, which was built in 1559AD and sits on the edge of Lake Pichola, the Jagdish temple and the Garden of the Maid's Honour. End the tour with a cruise on the lake. This evening enjoy a farewell dinner overlooking Lake Pichola. (B, D)



Women carrying water at a stepwell, Jaipur

Day 13: Fly to London via Mumbai

Fly from Udaipur to Mumbai (Bombay) to connect with the flight to London. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Solo Travellers group tours: These small group tours have been specially created for solo travellers. Benefits include single occupancy of double / twin rooms as standard and at sensible prices, plus the company of like-minded travellers. View the complete collection at coxandkings.co.uk/solo-travellers

Tour variations: Due to changes to seasonal schedules and opening times, there are minor itinerary variations for certain departure dates. Please check with your Cox & Kings tour consultant for details.

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: XOT

Group tour

Low season from £2,995
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £3,195
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

British Airways flight upgrades

World Traveller Plus from £350 return
Club World from £1,825 return
First from £2,695 return

Regional air connections

Prices on request: British Airways to/from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle or Belfast.

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on single occupancy of a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Thu)	Rtn (Tue)	Out (Thu)	Rtn (Tue)	Out (Thu)	Rtn (Tue)
01 Feb 18	13 Feb 18	12 Apr 18	24 Apr 18	31 Jan 19	12 Feb 19
15 Feb 18	27 Feb 18	18 Oct 18	30 Oct 18	14 Feb 19	26 Feb 19
08 Mar 18	20 Mar 18	08 Nov 18	20 Nov 18	07 Mar 19	19 Mar 19

Tour Extensions



Tigers, Ranthambore



Golden Temple, Amritsar



Sadhu, Varanasi

Tour + Ranthambore 4 Days & 3 Nights from £685

Ranthambore is a stunningly beautiful reserve dominated by its majestic fort and home to a dazzling array of tigers, sambhars, panthers, marsh crocodiles and sloth bears. As a result of the stringent conservation efforts, tigers are more active in Ranthambore during the day than in any other park in India. The park's popularity is due, in no small part, to the sightings of tigresses with their cubs.

Day 1: Ranthambore

Travel to Ranthambore for 2 nights at Dev Vilas. (B, D)

Day 2: Ranthambore

Early morning and late afternoon drives to search for tigers. (B, L, D)

Day 3: Delhi

Morning wildlife viewing. Return to Delhi for 1 night at Claridges. (B)

Day 4: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London. (B)

Tour + Amritsar 3 Days & 2 Nights from £405

Amritsar, the holy city of the Sikhs, is the location of their most sacred shrine – the Darbar Sahib, or Golden Temple. Fashioned in marble, mirror work and gold, it is beautifully reflected in the surrounding expanse of water.

Day 1: Amritsar

Drive to Chandigarh and take the train to Amritsar. Transfer to Taj Swarna and stay for 2 nights. (B)

Day 2: Amritsar • Wagah

Morning visit to the famed Golden Temple, Jallianwalla memorial and the Ram Bagh gardens with the summer palace of Maharajah Ranjit Singh. This afternoon, transfer to Wagah on the India-Pakistan border to see the spectacular Sunset Retreat ceremony. (B)

Day 3: Fly to London via Delhi

Transfer to the airport and fly to London via Delhi. (B)

Tour + Varanasi 4 Days & 3 Nights from £525

Varanasi is set on the riverbanks of the sacred Ganges. For Hindus, it is believed that bathing in the river will purge all sins. A dawn boat trip along the ghats reveals an intoxicating blend of incense, chimes and morning rituals.

Day 1: Fly to Varanasi

Morning flight to Varanasi. Stay at the Hotel Madin (or similar) for 2 nights. Afternoon tour of Sarnath. This evening visit the Dasaswamedh ghats to witness the Ganga aarti ceremony. (B)

Day 2: Varanasi

Early morning boat ride on the Ganges. Later this morning visit Chunar fort and Ramnagar fort. (B)

Day 3: Fly to Delhi

Fly to Delhi and stay overnight at the Radisson Blu Dwarka (or similar). (B)

Day 4: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London. (B)



Gateway of India, Mumbai



Cola beach, Goa



Wild elephants, Jim Corbett National Park

Tour + Goa

5 Days & 4 Nights from £725

The former Portuguese colony of Goa, India's smallest state, is a perfect place to relax as it offers long stretches of beautiful beaches lined with palm trees, world heritage architecture, and rich flora and fauna.

Day 1: Fly to Goa

Fly to Goa. Transfer to Taj Exotica* in south Goa for 4 nights. This luxury resort is set in lush greenery and overlooks the Arabian Sea. (B)

Days 2-4: Goa

At leisure or enjoy a tour of Old Goa and Panjim or alternatively visit Dudhsagar falls and a spice plantation. (B)

Day 5: Fly to London via Mumbai

Transfer to the airport and fly to London, via Mumbai (Bombay). (B)

*Hotel options: See pages 86-87 for other hotel suggestions in Goa.

Tour + Haridwar & Corbett National Park

5 Days & 4 Nights from £770

Extend your tour with a visit to the sacred towns of Haridwar and Rishikesh and picturesque Corbett National Park, a renowned tiger reserve.

Day 1: Haridwar

Drive to Chandigarh and take the train to Haridwar. Overnight at the Haveli Hari Ganga. Evening aarti ceremony. (B)

Day 2: Corbett National Park

Drive to Corbett National Park. Afternoon wildlife drive. Stay 2 nights at Jim's Jungle Retreat. (B, L, D)

Day 3: Corbett National Park

Full-day wildlife viewing. Look out for tigers, large elephant herds, marsh crocodiles, wild boar, deer and prolific birdlife. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Delhi

Early morning wildlife drive. Drive to Delhi for an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn Aerocity. (B)

Day 5: Fly to London (B)**Tour + Mumbai**

4 Days & 3 Nights from £525

Packed with colonial-era architecture and home to India's most prolific film industry, the 'City of Dreams' is a melting pot of vibrant bazaars, temples, galleries and excellent restaurants.

Day 1: Fly to Mumbai

Fly to Mumbai (Bombay). Transfer to Trident Mumbai, located on Marine Drive, for a 3-night stay. (B)

Days 2-3: Mumbai

At leisure or spend your days wandering through Chor bazaar, known as the 'thieves market' and one of the largest flea markets in India; exploring Asia's largest slum in Dharavi; strolling through the heritage village of Khotachiwadi with its Portuguese-inspired dwellings; taking a Mumbai culinary tour; or visiting Kala Ghoda, an area that houses some of the city's finest art galleries and museums. (B)

Day 4: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly to London. (B)



Taj Lake Palace on Lake Pichola, Udaipur

Boutique Rajasthan (easy pace)



Duration • 15 Days & 12 Nights

Private tour • From £6,095

Category • Luxury

Explore Rajasthan's most captivating sights, visit quaint local villages and relax in the wilderness in breathtaking rural locations and luxury tented accommodation where leopards roam wild and free.

Day 1: Fly to Jaipur via Muscat (N)

Days 2-3: Jaipur

Arrive in Jaipur and transfer to Alila Fort Bishangarh, a heritage fortress with spectacular views overlooking rural Rajasthan, for 3 nights.

Following day at leisure. (B)

Day 4: Jaipur

Explore Jaipur and its magnificent Amber fort. Lunch at 1135AD restaurant, located in the fort's ramparts. Afternoon visit to the City Palace and observatory. (B)

Day 5: Chhatra Sagar

Travel to Chhatra Sagar for 3 nights in luxury tented camps perched on the dam of a reservoir. (B, L, D)

Days 6-7: Chhatra Sagar

Activities include farm or village tours, sunrise birdwatching trips and visits to Jodhpur and Mehrangarh fort. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Jawai Leopard Camp

Travel to Jawai Leopard Camp, a luxury eco-friendly desert camp. Stay 3 nights in the remote Rajasthan wilderness. (B, L, D)

Days 9-10: Jawai Leopard Camp

Morning and afternoon jeep safaris to seek the leopards which roam this extraordinary landscape. Meet with the friendly local shepherds who wander this area. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Devigarh

Travel to Devigarh, nestled in the Aravalli hills of Udaipur. Stay 3 nights at the Hotel Raas. (B)

Days 12-13: Devigarh

Relax or explore Delwara local village, the temple complexes at Nathdwara and Eklingji, or visit the lakeside town of Udaipur and its magnificent City Palace. (B)

Days 14-15: Fly home

Transfer to Udaipur airport for your flight home via Jaipur and then Muscat. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards, to discuss flight options or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £6,095

Guide price months: Jan – Mar

High season from £6,435

Guide price months: Oct – Dec

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)



Humayun's tomb, Delhi

The Golden Triangle (easy pace)



Duration • 15 Days & 13 Nights

Private tour • From £4,175

Category • Luxury

Marvel at the Golden Triangle's most celebrated sights including the spellbinding Taj Mahal, staying in luxury accommodation throughout. Includes opportunities to search for tigers in Ranthambore.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Transfer to the Oberoi Gurgaon for 2 nights. Afternoon at leisure. (N)

Day 3: Delhi

Explore Lutyen's New Delhi visiting the medieval Hauz Khas complex and Humayun's tomb. Drive past the President's Palace and India Gate. (B)

Days 4-5: Agra

Travel by train to Agra to admire the majesty of the Taj Mahal and scale of the imposing Agra fort. Spend 2 nights in the Oberoi Amarvilas. (B)

Day 6: Ramathra

Continue to Ramathra for 3 nights at the idyllic Ramathra Fort with its commanding views of the surrounding countryside. (B, D)

Days 7-8: Ramathra

Spend 2 days doing as much or as little as you like in this slice of rural heaven. Enjoy nature walks, trekking to old temples and hidden forts or a picnic on the shores of Kalisil lake. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Ranthambore National Park

Travel to Ranthambore for 3 nights in a luxury tent at the Oberoi Vanyavilas, an idyllic retreat set in landscaped gardens. (B, D)

Days 10-11: Ranthambore National Park

Early morning and late afternoon wildlife drives in search of the park's native tigers. Or head to the Chambal river to spot India's critically endangered crocodile, the gharial. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Samode Palace

Travel to Samode for 3 nights at the sublime Samode Palace. (B)

Days 13-14: Samode Palace

Swim in the mosaic swimming pool, laze by the rooftop infinity pool, watch the sun as it sets over the Aravalli range or enjoy a spa treatment. Spend a day exploring the myriad attractions of Jaipur including the Amber fort and City Palace. (B)

Day 15: Fly home via Delhi

Transfer to the airport for your flight home via Delhi. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards, to discuss flight options or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £4,175

Guide price months: Apr – Jun

High season from £5,455

Guide price months: Oct

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)



Mehrangarh fort, Jodhpur

Deserts & Forts (easy pace)

Duration • 17 Days & 15 Nights
Private tour • From £4,885
Category • Luxury



Explore Rajasthan's forts and mighty Thar desert on this slow-paced tour. Mingle with local people in the markets of Jodhpur and experience enchanting rural life.

Day 1: Fly to Jodhpur via Delhi (N)

Day 2: Jodhpur

Arrive in Jodhpur for 3 nights at Raas Jodhpur with its ideal situation beneath the ramparts of the mighty Mehrangarh fort. (B)

Days 3-4: Jodhpur

Explore the fascinating Mehrangarh fort and its museum, then wander through the old town discovering tiny courtyards, hidden temples, untouched havelis and Brahmin blue houses. (B)

Day 5: Chhatra Sagar

Travel to Chhatra Sagar for a 3-night stay in luxury tented camps perched on the dam of a reservoir. (B, L, D)

Days 6-7: Chhatra Sagar

Enjoy a range of local activities from farm or village tours to sunrise birdwatching trips. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Nagaur

Travel to Nagaur for 3 nights at Ranvas, a spectacular hotel located in the ramparts of Nagaur fort with its painted palaces, mosques, open terraces and Mughal pleasure gardens. (B)

Days 9-10: Nagaur

Sightseeing in the local area with time to relax and explore the town. (B)

Day 11: Jaisalmer

Drive through the Thar desert to the stunning desert city of Jaisalmer. Spend 3 nights at Killa Bhawan. (B)

Days 12-13: Jaisalmer

Full-day sightseeing in Jaisalmer followed by a day at leisure. (B)

Day 14: Rohet

Drive to Rohet for 3 nights at the tranquil Mihir Garh overlooking the fields. (B)

Days 15-16: Rohet

Morning village tour and afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 17: Fly home

Fly home via Jodhpur and Delhi. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards, to discuss flight options or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £4,885	High season from £5,165
Guide price months: Jan – Mar	Guide price months: Oct – Dec

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)



Holi festival

Colours of Rajasthan (easy pace)

Duration • 17 Days & 15 Nights
Private tour • From £4,465
Category • Luxury



Vibrant and exotic, Rajasthan is India's most colourful region. Discover its main attractions and lesser-known sights as you meander through this extraordinary land with plenty of time at leisure.

Day 1: Fly to Udaipur via Delhi (N)

Day 2: Udaipur

On arrival, transfer to the Bujera Fort, a peaceful oasis with views of the City Palace, for 3 nights. (B)

Days 3-4: Udaipur

Spend a day exploring the delights of the lake city followed by a day at leisure at the hotel and an evening cultural performance on the shores of Lake Pichola at the Bagore Ki Haveli. (B)

Day 5: Deogarh

Travel to Deogarh for 2 nights at the delightful boutique homestay, Dev Shree, located on the shores of Lake Ragho. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)

Day 6: Dev Shree

Scenic ride on Deogarh's metre-gauge train passing waterfalls, lush landscapes and rural life. (B, D)

Days 7-8: Pali

Travel to Pali for 2 nights at Chanoud Garh, a 300-year-old palace. The next day take a morning jeep safari to visit the colourful Rajbari shepherds. (B)

Day 9-11: Jodhpur

Travel to Jodhpur for 3 nights at Raas Jodhpur. Explore the fascinating Mehrangarh fort and its museum. Remainder of your stay at leisure. (B)

Day 12: Chhatra Sagar

Travel to Chhatra Sagar for a 2-night stay in luxury tented camps perched on the dam of a reservoir. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Chhatra Sagar

Enjoy a range of local activities from farm or village tours to sunrise birdwatching trips. (B, L, D)

Day 14-16: Jaipur

Travel to Jaipur for 3 nights at Khas Bagh, a delightful family-run hideaway located a stone's throw from the 12th-century Amber fort. Time at leisure to explore the charms of Jaipur. (B)

Day 17: Fly home (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards, to discuss flight options or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £4,465	High season from £4,675
Guide price months: Jan – Mar	Guide price months: Oct – Dec

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

The Indian Odyssey Luxury Rail Journey

Duration • 11 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Luxury

Rail journey • From £4,995

Tour overview

The Indian Odyssey is just one of six different train journeys available aboard the *Deccan Odyssey*, one of India's most luxurious trains. Travel from Delhi to Mumbai (Bombay) across the north Indian plains, taking in the major highlights including the Taj Mahal, the majestic forts and palaces of Rajasthan, Ranthambore tiger reserve and the Ellora cave temples.

This rail journey features...

- ❖ 5-star de luxe accommodation
- ❖ 7-nights on board the *Deccan Odyssey* in a Deluxe en suite cabin
- ❖ Flexible – extensions, room/cabin & flight upgrades available
- ❖ International flights
- ❖ Private arrival & departure transfers
- ❖ All meals & soft drinks included during the train journey
- ❖ Butler service
- ❖ Guided off-train excursions as specified
- ❖ All entrance fees & still camera fees included
- ❖ Porterage at stations

Special experiences

- ❖ Boat ride on the majestic Lake Pichola in Udaipur
- ❖ Sample secret recipes from the royal kitchens of Vadodara
- ❖ Thrilling tiger safari in Ranthambore

Area map



Deccan Odyssey restaurant

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Overnight flight to Delhi. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Arrive and transfer to the Trident Gurgaon in New Delhi for an overnight stay. (N)

Day 3: Board the Deccan Odyssey

This evening, join the *Deccan Odyssey* for a 7-night journey. (B, D)

Day 4: Ranthambore

Arrive in Ranthambore and venture out on an early morning wildlife safari. In the afternoon, enjoy a village tour. After high tea at Sawai Madhopur Lodge, the train will continue onwards to Agra. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Agra

Arrive into Agra, the former Mughal capital. Visit the majestic Taj Mahal and other architectural gems of the Mughal empire including the Agra Fort. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Jaipur

Explore the forts and palaces of the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, including a walk through the colourful bazaars. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Udaipur

Arrive into Udaipur this morning and visit the magnificent City Palace complex. Later, take a boat ride on Lake Pichola. In the afternoon, enjoy a heritage walk through the markets of Udaipur. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Vadodara

Arrive in Vadodara. Visit the world heritage-recognised Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, the Jami Masjid mosque and the Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum. Later today, enjoy a folk dance performance and dine on an array of delicacies from the royal kitchens at the Laxmi Vilas Palace. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Aurangabad • Ellora cave temples

Morning arrival in Aurangabad and spend some time at leisure. In the afternoon, visit the world heritage-listed Ellora cave temples: rock cut shrines that represent Buddhist, Hindu and Jain forms of art. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Disembark in Mumbai

Morning arrival in Mumbai (Bombay), where you will disembark. Continue to The Trident Mumbai for an overnight stay. (B)

Day 11: Fly home (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Non-exclusive activities: While on board the train, all transfers and excursions are operated as a group with other passengers who may or may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Itinerary changes: Please check the itinerary when you board the train as this is subject to change at the discretion of the operator.

Overnight journeys: The train travels between towns during early mornings and late evenings, allowing guests to see the scenery as the train cuts across the Indian countryside; however, on certain days there are overnight journeys to cover the distances while on other days some overnight travel is essential to follow the schedule as per the requirements of the Indian Railways.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Year-round from £4,995

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

The train

Cox & Kings is delighted to offer the *Deccan Odyssey* train, enabling you to enjoy the same exemplary levels of service that epitomise all our holidays in India with the added romance of an epic rail journey.

The *Deccan Odyssey* offers a variety of inspiring rail journeys through some of India's most culturally rich regions and areas of outstanding natural beauty. The exciting and diverse routes across India combine the key sites with the more remote treasures away from the main tourist trail, without having to compromise on creature comforts.

Inspired by the elegant private carriages of the former maharajahs, the *Deccan Odyssey* comprises 21 luxuriously appointed coaches with each carriage reflecting a different era of India's vibrant past.

Each of the 12 accommodation coaches feature fully air-conditioned, comfortably furnished cabins with either double or twin beds and modern en suite facilities. There is also an attendant offering round-the-clock service.

Dining on board is a highlight. The *Deccan Odyssey* features two restaurant cars offering a large selection of Indian, continental and oriental cuisine, along with a well-stocked bar. The restaurant and bar car, with their large picture windows, provide fantastic views out across the landscapes of India. Alternatively, take advantage of the onboard spa and massage cabin.



The *Deccan Odyssey*



Taj Mahal, Agra

Alternative routes

The *Deccan Odyssey* offers five other journeys aside from the Indian Odyssey. All of them include 7 nights aboard the luxury train with all meals and sightseeing included.

Hidden Treasures of Gujarat

Mumbai • Vadodara • Bhavnagar • Sasan Gir National Park • Little Rann of Kutch • Modhera • Nasik • Mumbai (see page 85)

Indian Sojourn

Mumbai • Vadodara • Udaipur • Jodhpur • Agra • Ranthambore • Jaipur • Delhi

Maharashtra Wild Trail

Mumbai • Ellora caves • Aurangabad • Pench National Park • Tadoba National Park • Ajanta caves • Nashik • Mumbai

Jewels of the Deccan

Mumbai • Bijapur • Aihole & Pattadakal • Hospet • Hyderabad • Ellora caves • Ajanta caves • Mumbai

Maharashtra Splendour

Mumbai • Nasik • Ellora caves • Ajanta caves • Kolhapur • Goa • Ratnagiri • Mumbai

It is also possible to arrange a grand tour of India by combining more than one journey. For further details, please visit CoxandKings.co.uk or speak to one of our India experts.

Palace on Wheels Heritage Train

Duration • 11 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Superior

Rail journey • From £5,065

Tour overview

The *Palace on Wheels* train explores north-west India's most spectacular sights in the style of the maharajahs and maharanis. The 56 air-conditioned cabins are all en suite and decorated in classic Rajput style. Starting in Delhi, the route takes in the cities, forts, palaces and wildlife of Rajasthan.

This rail journey features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ 7-nights on board the *Palace on Wheels* in a Deluxe en suite cabin
- ❖ Flexible – extensions & flight upgrades
- ❖ International flights
- ❖ Private arrival & departure transfers
- ❖ All meals & soft drinks included during the train journey
- ❖ Guided off-train excursions as specified
- ❖ All entrance fees & still camera fees included
- ❖ Porterage at stations
- ❖ Personal train attendant
- ❖ Lounge, bar, 2 restaurants & spa

Special experiences

- ❖ Royal lunch in Udaipur's City Palace
- ❖ Experience sunset cocktails, cultural dance performance & dinner amid the sand dunes in Jaisalmer
- ❖ Tiger trails at Ranthambore
- ❖ Sightseeing of Taj Mahal & sound and light show at Chittorgarh fort

Area map



The *Palace on Wheels*

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Overnight flight to Delhi. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Transfer to the Eros Hotel for 1 night. Afternoon tour of Lutyen's New Delhi. (N)

Day 3: Board the Palace on Wheels

Morning at leisure. Afternoon transfer to the station to board the *Palace on Wheels* for a 7-night journey. Dinner and evening departure for Jaipur. (B, D)

Day 4: Jaipur

Morning tour of Jaipur's highlights including Jantar Mantar astronomical observations site and City Palace. Afternoon visit to the ancient capital of Amber fort. Return to the train for an evening departure to the city of Sawai Madhopur. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Ranthambore • Chittorgarh

Early morning arrival in Sawai Madhopur, then drive to Ranthambore for wildlife viewing. Late morning departure for the hilltop fortress at Chittorgarh including a sound and light show. Return to the train for dinner. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Udaipur

Morning travel to Udaipur. Morning tour of the City Palace and Crystal Gallery. Afternoon boat ride on Lake Pichola and return to the train for an overnight journey to Jaisalmer. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Jaisalmer

Morning tour of Jaisalmer fort and its exquisite havelis. After lunch aboard the train, visit the Sam sand dunes for a short camel ride and

afternoon tea. Dinner in Jaisalmer before returning to the train. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Jodhpur

Morning arrival in Jodhpur. Visit Jaswant Thada cenotaph, Mehrangarh fort and the Umaid Bhawan museum. In the afternoon there will be some time at leisure before returning to the train and departing for Bharatpur. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Bharatpur • Agra

Early morning visit to Bharatpur, one of the finest bird sanctuaries in the world. Continue to Agra to explore the majestic Taj Mahal and Agra fort. Return to the train for the overnight journey to Delhi. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Disembark in Delhi

Morning arrival in Delhi. Disembark for a tour of Old Delhi. Overnight at the Eros Hotel. (B)

Day 11: Fly home

Transfer to the airport and fly home. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Extensions

Tour + Goa

5 Days & 4 Nights from £770

Extension starts on Day 10 of tour

The former Portuguese colony of Goa on the south-west coast is a perfect location for relaxing in idyllic surroundings. There are long stretches of beautiful beaches, striking



Jaisalmer fort

Portuguese architecture, and delightful cuisine, quite distinct from other Indian dishes. Stay 4 nights at the luxurious Leela Goa, combining Goa's Portuguese style with Indian hospitality. Located amid lagoons and tropical gardens on south Goa's Mobor beach, it features a wealth of facilities for relaxation and rejuvenation. For ideas on other Goa beach retreats and experiences, see pages 86-87.

Tour + Shimla

5 Days & 4 Nights from £640
Extension starts on Day 10 of tour

Fly to Chandigarh and drive to Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh and the British summer capital during the Raj era. Set in the Himalayan foothills, this town remains a cool

retreat – ideal for relaxing walks in the hills. Stay for 3 nights at the Oberoi Cecil hotel. Return to Chandigarh for a flight to Delhi and overnight at the Eros Hotel before your return flight home.

Important information

Departures: The train departs Delhi on Wednesdays, from September to April. Flights from London are on Monday evenings.

Non-exclusive activities: When on board the train, all transfers and excursions are operated as a group with other passengers who may or may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £5,065
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £5,625
Guide price months: Jan – Mar

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 14 Jan)

Heritage Hotels

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.

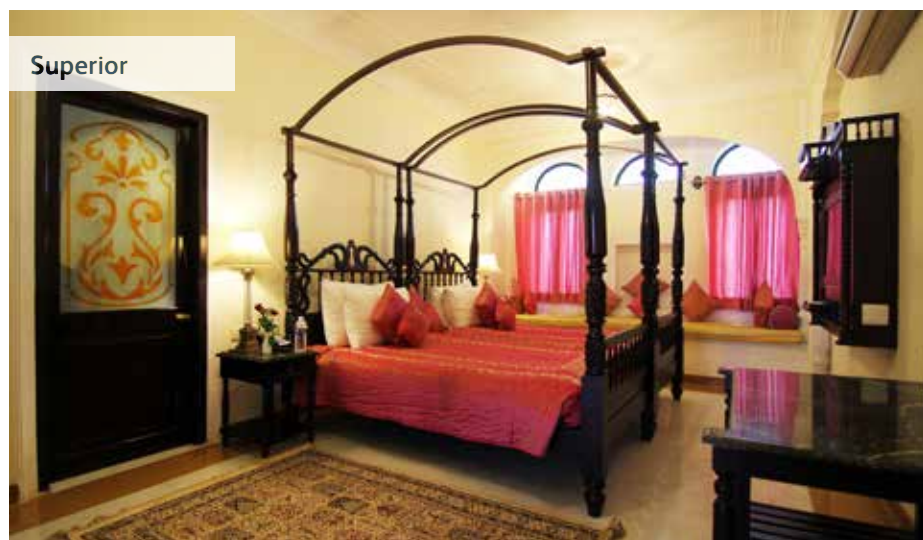


Luxury

Alila Fort Bishangarh, Bishangarh

Located in the small village of Bishangarh, just 60km from Jaipur, the Alila Fort is a former heritage fortress perched on a granite hill offering wonderful 360-degree views of the surrounding Rajasthani landscape. The property has now been carefully restored and transformed into a luxury resort offering 59 luxurious rooms with modern facilities.

To maintain the original character of the property, the resort still features the fort's original 2-metre-thick walls and its battlement turrets and arches. Together these showcase a unique example of the Jaipur Gharana architecture, which was influenced by both the Mughals and the British. The restaurant features hand-painted wall art and serves delicacies from the renowned spice route.



Superior

Shahpura House, Jaipur

Originally the residence of the scions of the Shekhawat clan of Rajputs, Shahpura House is set in a relatively quiet residential area in downtown Jaipur. This converted hotel with its colourful Shekhawati frescoes and domes reflects the fusion of Hindu Rajput and Islamic Mughal-style architecture. Each of the spacious rooms and suites are simply furnished and tastefully decorated by combining traditional features with essential modern amenities.

Facilities include a multi-cuisine restaurant that serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, a rooftop restaurant, which is open for dinner, a well-stocked bar, an outdoor swimming pool and a spa offering a selection of treatments and massages.



Good Standard

Rawla Narlai, Desuri

Once a favourite hunting lodge of the Jodhpur royal family, the delightful 17th-century Rawla Narlai is surrounded by forested hills and rocky outcrops. Over the years it has transformed into a stylish boutique hotel while retaining its original structure. The 32 rooms vary significantly in shape, size and decor, from small classic rooms to large opulent suites, all featuring their own character. The contemporary rooms are all set in a purpose-built block overlooking the garden and swimming pool.

The nearby lake is the ideal spot for walking, picnicking or birdwatching. Excursions can be taken to Kumbhalgarh fort and the Jain temples at Ranakpur. Around 3 hours' drive from Jodhpur, this is the perfect stopping-off point on a journey between Jodhpur and Udaipur.

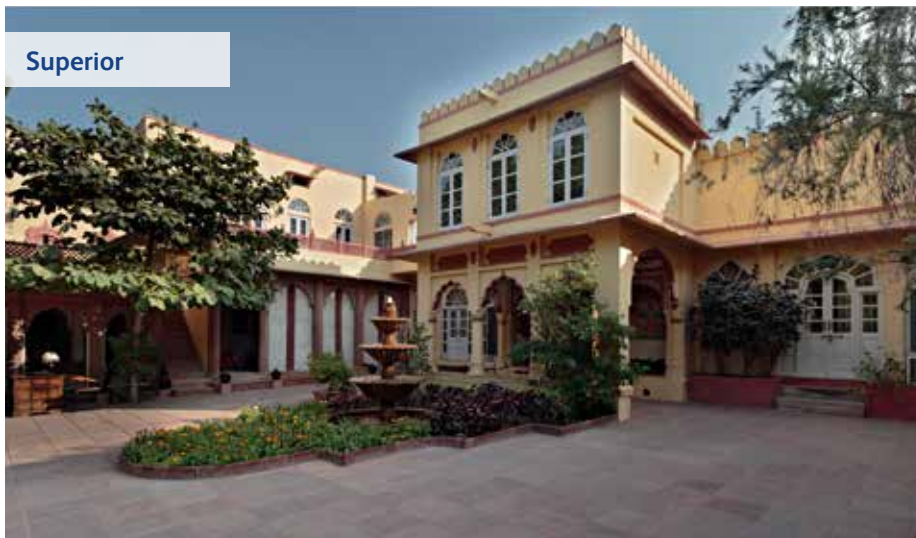
Superior

**Deogarh Mahal, Deogarh**

Deogarh Mahal, a unique family residence, overlooks the delightful village of Deogarh in the Aravalli hills. This exquisite property is owned and lived in by the ruling family, who play an active part in the running of the hotel. The 50 rooms and suites, all with modern amenities, are individually decorated with stained glass, sumptuous colourful fabrics and antiques, each designed and furnished in traditional style.

The accommodation is laid out over several floors and facilities include a swimming pool, jacuzzi, indoor badminton court, snooker table and fitness centre. Evening drinks are normally served on the terrace before a traditional Mewari dinner either on the terrace or in the regal dining room.

Superior

**Rohet Garh, Rohet**

Located in the picturesque hamlet of Rohet, just 45km from Jodhpur, Rohet Garh is a charming fortified accommodation with a history dating back almost 400 years. This is the family home of the town's current ruling family who have beautifully restored the property, keeping the original ramparts of the fort and maintaining its majestic ambience. The traditional Rajasthani style is reflected throughout the property replete with high walls, individually decorated guestrooms and a beautiful garden.

Unwind by the pool, watch the sunset from the terrace and enjoy traditional folk music and dance performances. In the surrounding area, it is possible to take desert safaris to local villages by horse, camel or 4x4, or take part in culinary experiences.

Good Standard

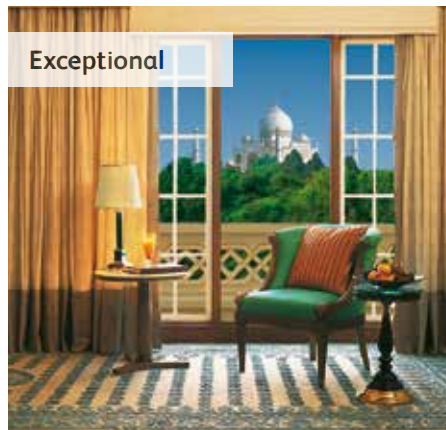
**Ajit Bhawan, Jodhpur**

Ajit Bhawan was originally built for Maharajah Ajit Singh in the 1920s and is known as one of the pioneer 'heritage' hotels of India. Today, the red sandstone structure with its arched windows, carved balconies, cupolas and a quadrangle with exquisitely carved latticework is a luxury boutique hotel that effortlessly transports guests to a bygone era.

Accommodation is provided in spacious rooms, tented suites or large opulent suites located among the property's lush gardens. Each room has exquisite furnishings including the maharajah's own collection of artefacts. Breakfast and lunch are served in the restaurant while dinner is served in the garden with a selection of Indian and continental dishes available.

Oberoi Hotel Collection

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



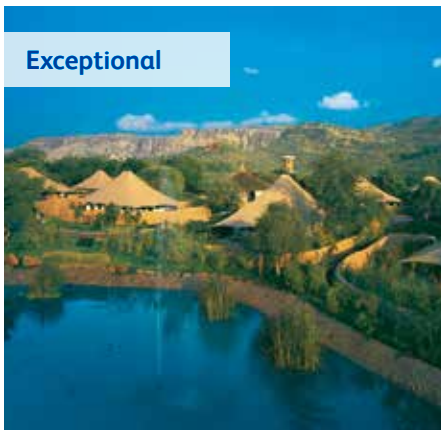
Exceptional

The Oberoi Amarvilās, Agra

The Oberoi Amarvilās is a luxury resort set among Mughal-style terraced lawns and reflection pools in an unparalleled position just 600 metres from the Taj Mahal. Enjoy uninterrupted views of this romantic icon from all the rooms and suites, as well as the lounge and bar. The spa offers personalised treatments while the pool is reminiscent of magical scenes from the Arabian Nights.

Features:

102 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, lounge, swimming pool, gym, spa, Wi-Fi.



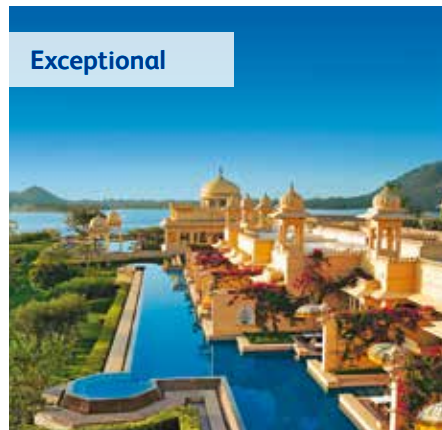
Exceptional

The Oberoi Vanyavilās, Ranthambore

The Oberoi Vanyavilās is a luxury jungle resort with luxury air-conditioned tents located on the edge of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. Set within 8 hectares of lush gardens, the hotel has an observation tower offering exceptional views of the surrounding landscape as well as the opportunity to spot tigers while sipping champagne at sunset. The hotel can also organise dinner under the stars.

Features:

25 luxury tents, restaurant, bar, spa, outdoor swimming pool, gym, billiards room, Wi-Fi.



Exceptional

The Oberoi Udaivilās, Udaipur

Inspired by the traditional architecture of a Rajasthani palace, the Oberoi Udaivilās is a lavish resort that spans the banks of Lake Pichola. The hotel stands upon the 200-year-old hunting grounds of the Maharana of Mewar and includes many hectares of beautifully landscaped gardens and a wildlife sanctuary. Some rooms come with private or semi-private pools and have lake or garden views.

Features:

87 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, 2 swimming pools, spa, gym, Wi-Fi.



Exceptional

The Oberoi Rajvilās, Jaipur

The Oberoi Rajvilās combines traditional style and modern comfort. Adorned with Mughal arches, high domed ceilings and crystal chandeliers, it displays all the hallmarks of Rajasthani opulence. Exquisite rooms and luxury tents are set within 12 hectares of landscaped gardens filled with exotic birdlife. The Oberoi Spa offers a range of treatments and yoga classes in an 18th-century Shiva temple.

Features:

71 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, outdoor swimming pool, gym, tennis court, spa, Wi-Fi.



Luxury

The Oberoi Gurgaon, Delhi

Located in the heart of the central business district of Delhi's National Capital Region and in close proximity to Delhi International airport, The Oberoi, Gurgaon is an urban sanctuary of exquisite architectural design punctuated by reflection pools and green walls, and filled with natural light. Accommodation features high ceilings and large picture-frame windows. The restaurants serve a range of fine cuisines.

Features:

202 rooms, 2 restaurants, piano bar & cigar lounge, salon, retail arcade, gym, pool, spa, Wi-Fi.



Luxury

The Oberoi Mumbai

One of this vibrant city's landmarks, the Oberoi Mumbai enjoys an unrivalled position on Marine Drive overlooking the Arabian Sea, with easy access to the best shopping, dining and tourist attractions in Mumbai (Bombay). This luxury hotel serves modern Indian, fine Japanese, Italian and other international cuisines, while the hotel's chic bar has a live jazz band and sea views.

Features:

287 rooms, 3 restaurants, bar, coffee shop, spa, gym, Wi-Fi.

North India Hotels & Camps

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



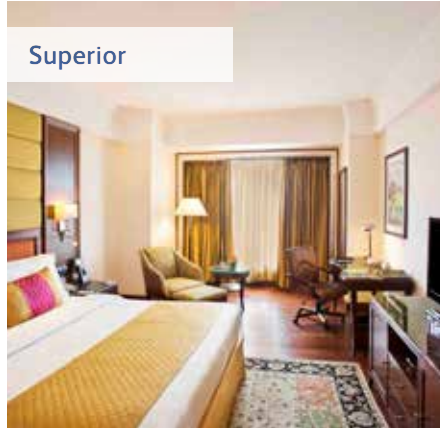
Exceptional

The Imperial, New Delhi

Set in spacious grounds in the heart of New Delhi, The Imperial dates back to the 1930s and continues to offer a traditional ambience and colonial elegance. Shining marble floors, imposing high ceilings and historic artwork make for a grand interior. The hotel is considered one of the best places in Delhi for afternoon tea and also offers an array of dining options.

Features:

235 rooms, 4 restaurants, 2 bars, cafe, pastry shop, swimming pool, spa, gym, Wi-Fi.



Superior

The Eros, New Delhi

With an excellent location in the heart of south Delhi's prosperous business district, the Eros has easy access to some of the best shopping and dining options in the capital. The architecture has been inspired by the British architecture of New Delhi: shimmering chandeliers, polished marble floors and elegantly designed rooms feature prominently. There are several fine dining options offering a varied choice of worldwide cuisines.

Features:

224 rooms, 3 restaurants, coffee shop, bar, swimming pool, spa, Wi-Fi.



Superior

The Haveli Dharampura, Old Delhi

The Haveli Dharampura, located in Old Delhi, offers the old world charm of a restored haveli combined with the modern amenities of a superior hotel. All 14 rooms are tastefully decorated with the royal Mughal theme in mind. There is a rooftop terrace where guests can dine in the evening with views of some of Delhi's architectural wonders including Jama Masjid and the Red Fort.

Features:

14 rooms, multi-cuisine restaurant, rooftop terrace, spa, shisha room, art gallery, library, Wi-Fi.



Superior

Courtyard by Marriott, Agra

Located within a short driving distance of the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and the tomb of Akbar at Sikandra, the newly-built Courtyard by Marriott Agra is a contemporary hotel offering spacious rooms and suites with modern touches and amenities. The expansive lawns and the outdoor swimming pool provide the perfect setting to relax in, while the three on-site dining options serve a selection of Indian and international cuisine.

Features:

194 rooms, 3 restaurants, bar, swimming pool, gym, Wi-Fi.



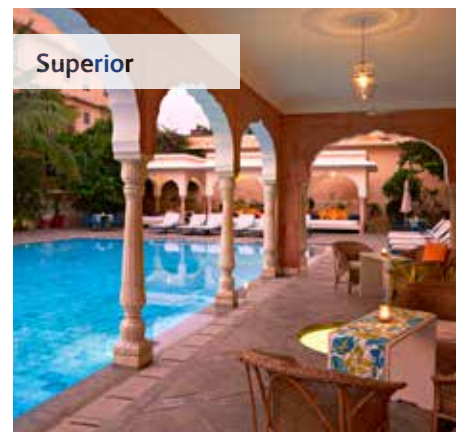
Superior

The Gateway Hotel Ramgarh Lodge, near Jaipur

Built in the late 1930s and converted into a hotel in the late 1980s, The Gateway Hotel Ramgarh Lodge Jaipur was once the favourite hunting retreat of the maharajah of Jaipur. Located around 40km from Jaipur, this rustic lodge set in the forested Aravalli hills exudes an air of history. All rooms and suites are spacious, comfortably furnished and overlook either the rugged mountains or the landscaped gardens.

Features:

14 rooms, dining room, bar, swimming pool, tennis court, Wi-Fi.



Superior

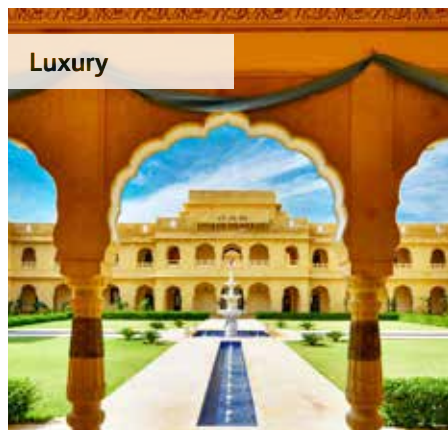
Samode Haveli, Jaipur

The Samode Haveli is an intimate hotel, self-described as an urban oasis within the city of Jaipur. Built almost two centuries ago, the meticulously restored mansion combines old-world charm with contemporary touches and a friendly atmosphere. Each of the rooms has individual character, representing the diverse history and culture of Samode. In the evening, guests can unwind by watching a traditional Rajasthani folk performance.

Features:

39 rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, spa & fitness centre, Wi-Fi.

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



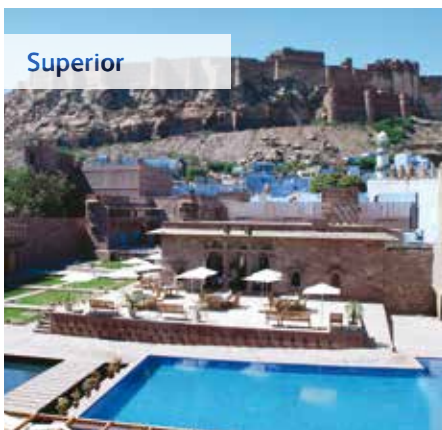
Luxury

Jaisalkot, Jaisalmer

Set within 10 hectares of land, Jaisalkot is a majestic fort hotel located away from the bustling centre of Jaisalmer. The property elegantly combines a heritage feel with the modern conveniences of a luxury hotel. Each of the rooms overlooks either the large front *maidan* or the vast desert landscapes. Dining options include a poolside restaurant and an indoor dining room. Activities including mini golf, croquet, stargazing and jeep safaris are available.

Features:

50 rooms, 2 restaurants, games room, bar, tea lounge, spa, pool, Wi-Fi.



Superior

Raas, Jodhpur

This glorious hotel, comprising four beautifully restored, red sandstone buildings juxtaposed with slick, modern structures, lies in the heart of Jodhpur's walled city at the foot of the mighty Mehrangarh fort. The subtle use of colour used throughout the property, combined with stunning design, is truly outstanding. Dining is one of the highlights here with two restaurants offering Indian and international cuisines served on the beautifully lit outdoor terrace.

Features:

39 rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, outdoor terrace, Wi-Fi.



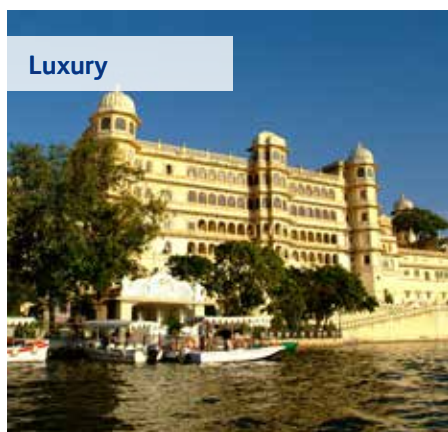
Good Standard

Laxmi Niwas Palace, Bikaner

The Laxmi Niwas Palace is a magnificent red stone edifice designed by Sir Swinton Jacob in Anglo-Saracenic style on the orders of Maharajah Ganga Singh. It is built around a central courtyard and is intricately carved, right up to the highest dome. The palace is set in spacious gardens and is approached through a monumental entrance in the form of a clock tower. Within the grounds are tennis and badminton courts, croquet lawns and putting greens.

Features:

77 rooms, restaurant, bar, games room, swimming pool, Wi-Fi.



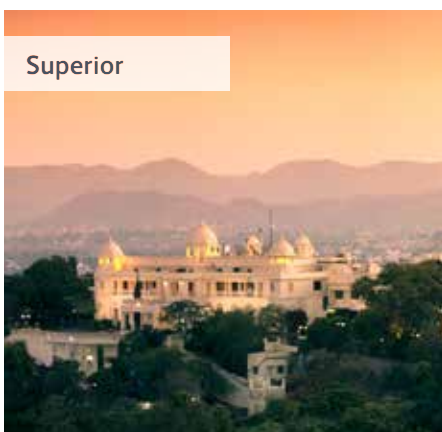
Luxury

Fateh Prakash Palace, Udaipur

Fateh Prakash is a royal residence decorated in traditional style with an excellent location in the heart of Udaipur overlooking Lake Pichola. A durbar hall, antique furniture and an extensive crystal gallery all keep the ancient charm of the palace alive. The hotel consists of nine suites in the former state rooms and the Dovecote Wing, all with private sitting areas, large arched windows, and replete with replica paintings and period furniture.

Features:

65 rooms, restaurant, bar, games room, swimming pool, spa, Wi-Fi.



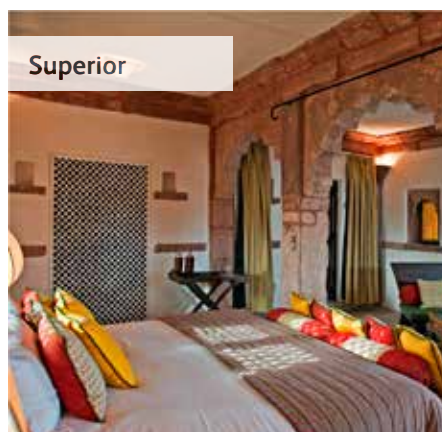
Superior

The LaLiT Laxmi Vilas Palace, Udaipur

Nestled amid the Aravalli hills, the LaLiT Laxmi Vilas Palace was built by Maharana Fateh Singh in 1911 and the majestic architecture and decor reflects the culture, charm and grandeur of this bygone era. Sitting on a hilltop, the retreat overlooks the serene Fatehsagar lake, a captivating view that can be enjoyed from many of the guestrooms. The hotel restaurant serves continental and Indian cuisine.

Features:

55 rooms, restaurant, bar, games room, fitness centre, Wi-Fi.



Superior

Ranvas, Nagaur

The brainchild of the Maharajah of Jodhpur, this 18th-century former palace is set within the ramparts of the Ahichhatragarh fort. Superbly restored to its former glory, Ranvas features 10 elegantly furnished and spacious havelis that were once home to queens. Individually designed and decorated in keeping with the building's style, they are furnished with local artefacts while subtly incorporating essential modern conveniences.

Features:

10 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, swimming pool, library, Wi-Fi.

Exceptional



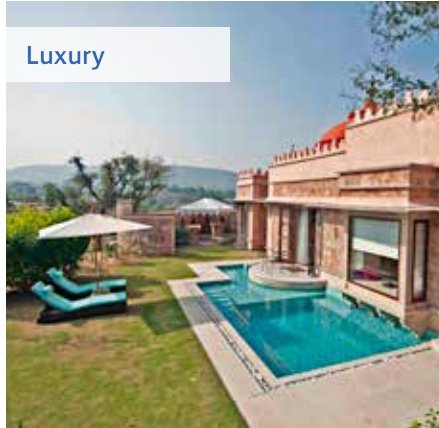
Jawai Leopard Camp, Bera

The Jawai Leopard Camp is a luxury desert camp set in wilderness near the town of Bera. The camp aims to promote conservation via a low-impact eco-tourism model, nurturing relationships with local inhabitants. Tented rooms offer unobstructed views and guests can enjoy private dining in different locations. Leopards are the main attraction, but a variety of wildlife can be spotted on drives and walking safaris.

Features:

9 luxury tents, private dining locations, spa, yoga facilities.

Luxury



Tree of Life Resort & Spa, Jaipur

The Tree of Life Resort & Spa is set among 3 hectares of landscaped gardens with the rugged Aravalli hills in the background. The hotel is a true reflection of both Rajasthani culture and architecture. The suites and villas combine centuries of tradition with modern conveniences, and offer superb views of the Rajasthani countryside. Some of the luxury villas feature a private pool.

Features:

14 villas, restaurant, in-room and other private dining locations, bar, swimming pool, spa, Wi-Fi.

Superior



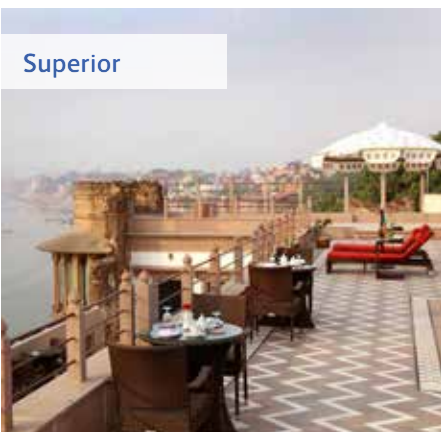
Kipling Lodge, Ranthambore

On the outskirts of Ranthambore National Park surrounded by lush fields and trees, Kipling Lodge is a warm throwback to the old-world charm and hunting lodges that once inspired Rudyard Kipling. Rooms are comfortable and spacious and come with a private garden or terrace while the large courtyard is the perfect spot to dine alfresco. This is an ideal base for morning safaris in search of elusive tigers.

Features:

16 rooms, restaurant, swimming pool, library, Wi-Fi.

Superior



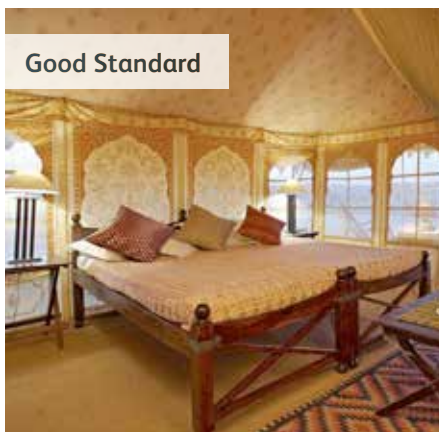
Brijrama Palace, Varanasi

One of the oldest landmarks in Varanasi, the Brijrama Palace is a beautiful heritage property on the banks of the River Ganga. Built in 1812, the architecture is directly influenced by the erstwhile ruling dynasty of the Marathas, which is also reflected in the design of each of the spacious rooms. The palace offers multiple cuisines in a choice of dining locations.

Features:

32 rooms, restaurant, library, Wi-Fi.

Good Standard



Manvar Resort Tented Camp, Manvar

Situated in the Thar desert, Manvar Resort offers the choice between traditional rooms at the resort or tented rooms in a more remote location 7km away from the resort. All tents feature bathrooms with running water and offer beautiful views over the dunes. Dinner is served at the camp and is normally accompanied by traditional folk music and entertainment.

Features:

21 rooms & 10 Deluxe tents, restaurant, outdoor pool, garden, bar, steam & massage room, Wi-Fi (features listed are applicable to the resort).

Good Standard



Ramathra Fort, Karauli

Originally built by the maharajah of Karauli, Ramathra Fort is the ancestral home of Ravi and Gitaniali, who lovingly converted it into a characterful hotel. It is ideally situated between two of India's renowned wildlife reserves, Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary and Ranthambore National Park. Guests at the fort can take part in jeep safaris.

Features:

12 rooms & 6 luxury tents, dining room, jacuzzi, outdoor courtyard.

Taj Hotel Collection

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.

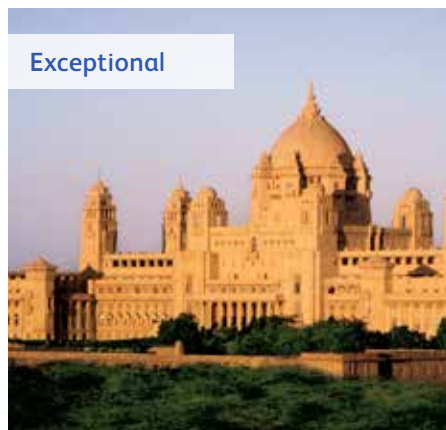


Taj Lake Palace, Udaipur

Taj Lake Palace was built in 1746 by Maharana Jagat Singh II as his summer residence. Set on an island in Lake Pichola, this de luxe hotel offers shaded gardens and terraces as well as wonderful views of the City Palace and the Aravalli mountains. All rooms and suites are individually designed to capture a different mood and period. There are several dining options including the opportunity to dine on a 150-year-old royal barge.

Features:

83 rooms, 3 restaurants, bar, swimming pool, gym, spa, yoga facilities, Wi-Fi.

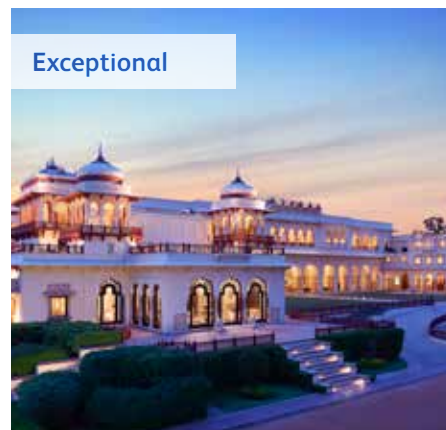


Umaid Bhawan Palace, Jodhpur

Perched high above the desert capital of Jodhpur, Umaid Bhawan Palace is the last of the great palaces of India. The sandstone monument was conceived on the grandest possible scale, in the fashionable art deco style of the 1930s, and served as the principal residence of the Jodhpur royal family. In the finest tradition of Rajput hospitality, the palace offers its guests a taste of royal living.

Features:

64 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, indoor & outdoor pools, squash court, tennis lawn, yoga studio, billiards room, spa, gym, library, Wi-Fi.

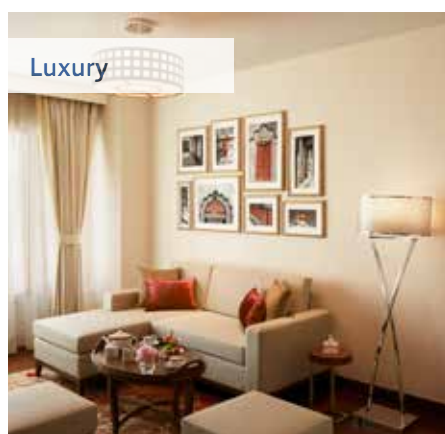


Rambagh Palace, Jaipur

Once the residence of the Jaipur royal family, the Rambagh Palace is a fine example of grand and ornate Rajput architecture. Set in 19 hectares of beautiful, landscaped Mughal gardens, all of the hotel's guestrooms and suites are elegantly furnished. Built in 1835, the Rambagh Palace offers regal dining options as well as atmospheric private dining venues set against the stunning backdrop of the palace for an intimate meal.

Features:

78 rooms, 4 restaurants, bar, indoor & outdoor swimming pool, Jiva spa, gym, yoga, Wi-Fi.

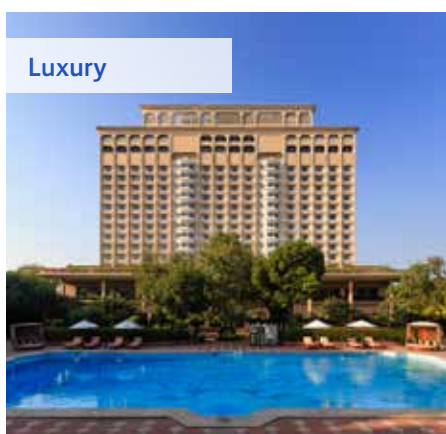


Taj Swarna, Amritsar

The Taj Swarna is a stylish and contemporary hotel located in the very heart of Amritsar. The 157 spacious rooms blend an elegant ambience with state-of-the-art amenities and a stylish decor. An selection of dining options are available, from the all-day dining restaurant serving a variety of Indian and international cuisines to the Chinese Room, which draws its influence from the Sichuan and Cantonese provinces.

Features:

157 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, swimming pool, spa & fitness centre, Wi-Fi.

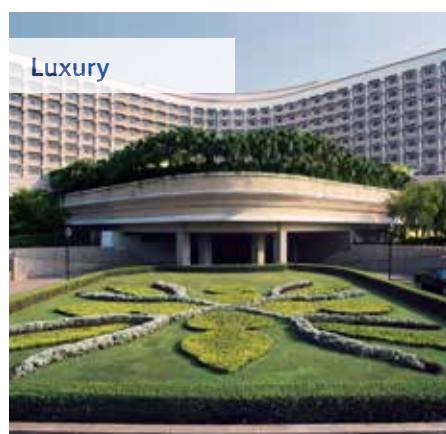


The Taj Mahal Hotel, New Delhi

Located in the lush surroundings of Lutyen's Delhi, the landmark Taj Mahal, New Delhi offers a unique blend of comfort and discreet service with stunning aerial views, all within close proximity of heritage wonders and commercial hubs. The dining options are exemplary: sample contemporary gourmet Indian cuisine at Varq, savour award-winning Japanese fare at Wasabi, try the much celebrated House of Ming or dine at The Grill Room located on the rooftop.

Features:

292 rooms, 5 restaurants, 2 bars, outdoor swimming pool, spa, sun terrace, Wi-Fi.



Taj Palace, New Delhi

Set within several hectares of land, The Taj Palace is ideally located in the diplomatic enclave of New Delhi, a truly enviable location. Overlooking Delhi's ridge forest, the hotel offers elegant rooms and suites with contemporary decor infused with Indian art. The hotel has four different restaurants serving a variety of fine cuisine, ranging from Chinese to Indian. Classic afternoon tea is also served in the Tea Lounge.

Features:

403 rooms, 4 restaurants, 2 bars, outdoor pool, gym, nine-hole putting green, spa, Wi-Fi.

Exceptional



The Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai

Built in 1903, this gracious and iconic hotel is located in central Mumbai, opposite the Gateway of India. A treasure trove of invaluable memorabilia, guests at the hotel have included royalty and heads of state. The Taj Mahal Palace is split into the old-world Palace Wing and the contemporary Tower Wing, with all rooms luxuriously furnished with every comfort you might need.

Features:

543 rooms, 6 restaurants, bar, coffee lounge, patisserie, outdoor pool, gym, spa, Wi-Fi.

Exceptional



Taj Falaknuma Palace, Hyderabad

The Taj Falaknuma Palace, originally the royal guesthouse of Nizam of Hyderabad, has been converted into an opulent hotel displaying a rare blend of original Italian and Tudor architecture. Set high above Hyderabad, this imposing palace-hotel features stylish rooms and suites overlooking the perfectly manicured gardens and courtyard. For a truly special welcome, arrive at the hotel in a luxury horse-drawn carriage.

Features:

60 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, unique dining experiences, swimming pool, Jiva spa, library, billiards room, Wi-Fi.

Luxury



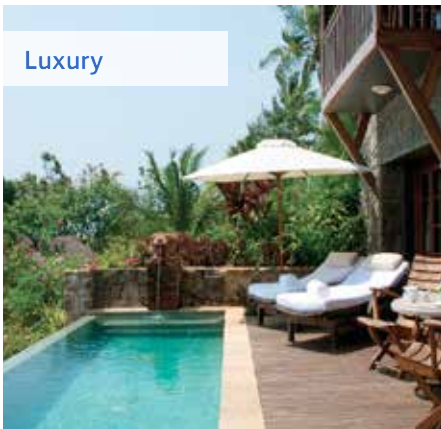
Taj Malabar, Kochi

Situated on Willingdon island, Taj Malabar offers panoramic views of Kochi (Cochin) harbour and the Keralan backwaters. The guestrooms and suites, with their teak flooring and charming artefacts, reflect the region's heritage. The hotel's choice of restaurants serve local and international cuisine, with a dedicated seafood restaurant styled as a traditional rice boat overlooking the ocean.

Features:

95 rooms, 4 restaurants, bar, infinity pool, spa, beauty salon, games room, Wi-Fi.

Luxury



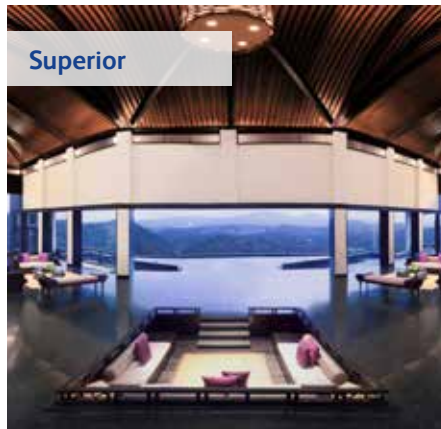
Taj Green Cove Resort & Spa, Kovalam, Kerala

This tranquil resort is located on a hill facing the glistening Arabian Sea. The granite stone cottages with elephant-grass thatched roofs combine local heritage with contemporary decor and feature private balconies. The resort has its own lagoon and a nine-hole putting green as well as a range of other leisure activities including archery and cycling.

Features:

59 rooms, 3 restaurants, bar, outdoor pool, nine-hole putting green, spa, Wi-Fi.

Superior



Taj Madikeri Resort & Spa, Coorg

Perched on a hillside near Madikeri town in Coorg (Kodagu), Taj Madikeri Resort & Spa sprawls across a rugged mountain amid 73 hectares of rainforest. Rooms are stylishly decorated, featuring modern amenities and rainforest views. Tours and nature walks can be arranged as well as cooking lessons and alternative dining experiences within the grounds.

Features:

62 rooms, 4 restaurants, bar, outdoor swimming pool, temperature controlled indoor swimming pool, fitness centre, activity centre, spa, Wi-Fi.

Luxury



Taj Exotica, Goa

Set within 22 hectares of landscaped gardens in south Goa and beside a beautiful beach, the Taj Exotica is a luxury resort featuring several dining options including fine dining restaurants serving a range of cuisines from Asian to continental. The resort also provides a variety of recreational options including a nine-hole golf course, badminton facilities and a tennis court.

Features:

140 rooms, 3 restaurants, lounge, bar, sports complex, spa, shopping arcade, swimming pool with separate children's pool, Wi-Fi.



Indian Himalaya

Group tours • Tailor-made travel



With dense forests and colourful rhododendrons, echoing ravines and vast panoramas of some of the highest peaks in the world, the Indian Himalaya possess an intense natural beauty and spirituality. Nature lovers will delight in the scenery as well as the wildlife, including tigers and elephants and an enormous array of birdlife.

There is also incredible cultural variety here. The Sikhs' contribution to the cuisine and culture of northern India is undeniable, and nowhere in the Punjab is this more apparent than in the magnificent Golden Temple at Amritsar. In neighbouring Himachal Pradesh, hill stations such as Dalhousie and Shimla owe their popularity to the Raj while the Kangra valley is especially pretty with its delightful villages. Those drawn to discover more on Tibetan culture should head to the mellow Dharamsala, home to his Holiness the Dalai Lama, while in the foothills pilgrims are attracted to the sacred sights of Haridwar and Rishikesh.

Discover the Indian Himalaya

- 54 Amritsar & Shimla
- 56 Dharamsala, Kangra valley, Praggpur & Palampur
- 57 Manali, Haridwar & Jim Corbett National Park
- 58 Kumaon villages
- 59 Ladakh

Small group & private tour

- 60 Journey through the Himalayan Foothills • Group or private
- 62 Tour extensions

Places to stay – our suggestions

- 63 Hotels & retreats
- 64 Luxury travelling camps

Climate

In the high mountains there is snow and ice throughout the year, while a tropical climate prevails in the foothills. However, lowland nights are cold and temperatures can fall to freezing in the depths of winter. The monsoon rains arrive in June and last until September, bringing muggy, cloudy weather, while from October through to April the weather is sunny and warm. Winters can be very cold, but will often still be sunny and bright during the day. Skies tend to be clearer for mountain views between October and January.

Shimla

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	11	12	17	22	25	26	23	22	22	21	17	13
B	2	3	7	12	15	17	16	16	14	12	7	4
C	78	70	74	50	66	170	410	334	190	38	16	41

Amritsar

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	19	22	26	34	39	40	35	34	35	32	27	21
B	4	6	11	17	22	25	26	25	22	16	9	5
C	27	28	37	18	18	51	199	183	97	19	6	15

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

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Image left: Ki monastery, Spiti valley

Discover the Indian Himalaya



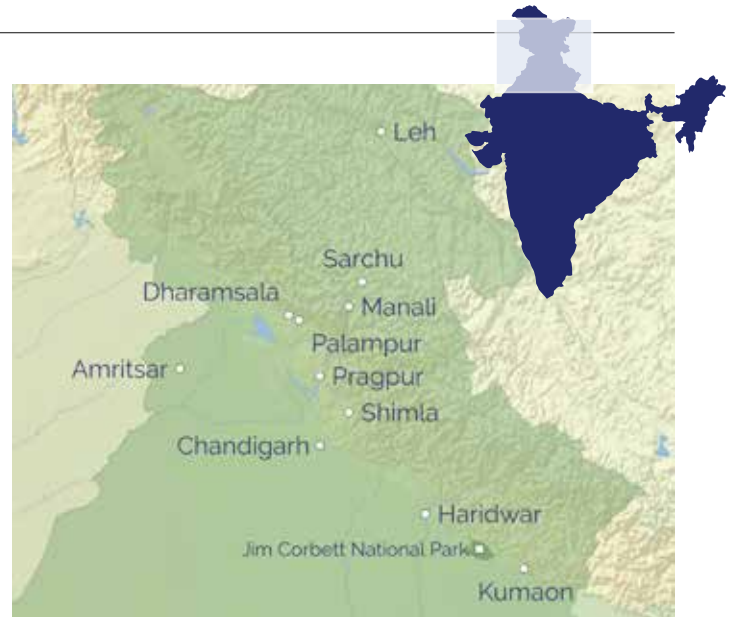
The Golden Temple, Amritsar

Amritsar

Home of the Golden Temple • Sunset Retreat ceremony

Amritsar, in north-west India, is a vibrant and friendly city. It is most famous for the spectacular Golden Temple, the holiest shrine of the Sikh religion. Sacked by the Afghans in 1761, the shrine was rebuilt by the Sikhs' greatest secular leader, Maharajah Ranjit Singh. He donated the gold top, believed to be gilded with 100kg of pure gold, which gave it the name Swarn Mandir, or Golden Temple. On average 75,000 people a day eat for free from the temple's kitchen, which is open 24 hours and serves simple but wholesome vegetarian food including traditional dal.

A short walk from the temple is the Jallianwala Bagh memorial, which commemorates the events of the 1919 massacre by the British. The carefully choreographed Sunset Retreat ceremony at the Wagah border, which separates India and Pakistan, is a quirky experience worth including.



Shimla

Shimla

Summer capital of the British Raj • Colonial legacy

Situated in the north-western Himalaya and set amid evergreen forests and snow-capped peaks, the Indian hill station of Shimla was the summer capital of the British Raj. The Mall is Shimla's main promenade. Here, stately colonial buildings rub shoulders with half-timbered houses, churches and other historic landmarks, as well as the city's colourful market, Lakkar bazaar and the restored Gaiety theatre, once frequented by Rudyard Kipling. Shimla's ornate Viceregal Lodge, built in 1888 by the British viceroy Lord Dufferin, houses the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies as well as a museum and beautifully laid out gardens.

At an altitude of 2,500 metres, our recommended hotel is Oberoi Wildflower Hall, located a picturesque 45-minute drive from Shimla and overlooking a magnificent vista of rugged mountains, snow-clad peaks, verdant meadows and cedar forests.

C&K Recommends...

Palki Sahib ceremony, Amritsar

The auspicious Palki Sahib ceremony is performed twice a day at the Golden Temple in Amritsar. To the accompaniment of drums and hymns, a gold and silver gilded palanquin (palki) decorated with silk brocades is prepared by the devotees to carry the Guru Granth Sahib (the Holy Book) from the main shrine to the inner sanctum. It rests here for the night until the ceremony is performed again the next morning to return it to the main shrine.

Toy train journeys

Travel on the toy train from Kalka to Shimla. Completed in 1903, this railway line is considered one of the finest engineering feats in India and offers stupendous views of the Himalayan scenery. Less well known is the charming narrow gauge railway that links Pathankot with Jogindernagar near Dharamsala. The views of the Kangra valley are simply spellbinding as the train chugs along at a sedate pace. The magnificent views more than compensate for the hard seats.

Colonial heritage tour of Shimla

Journey across the heart of Shimla town, passing Christ Church, The Ridge, the restored gothic Gaiety theatre, Scandal Point, the Post Office and Gorton's Castle, before proceeding to the Viceregal Lodge, with its magnificently kept lawns and botanical gardens. This was the former residence of the British viceroy Lord Dufferin and remained the seat of power in colonial India during the summer months until the 1940s.



Durgiana Temple, Amritsar



Viceregal Lodge, Shimla

A suggested itinerary...

Kipling's India

12 Days & 11 Nights from £3,345

Rudyard Kipling is the writer who perhaps more than anyone moulded British perceptions of India. This tour takes in Kipling's birthplace in Mumbai (Bombay), Shimla where he reported on the summer season of the British Raj, while Pench National Park inspired his most famous work, *The Jungle Book*.

Day 1: Fly to Mumbai

Fly to Mumbai. Transfer to the Taj Land's End for 2 nights. (N)

Day 2: Mumbai

Take a tour of Kipling's birthplace, Dean House, as well as Crawford Market. (B)

Day 3: Fly to Nagpur

Morning flight to Nagpur and transfer to Pench National Park for 3 nights at Jamtara. (B, L, D)

Days 4-5: Pench

Twice-daily wildlife drives in search of tigers, immortalised as Shere Khan in Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Fly to Delhi

Transfer to Nagpur for the flight to Delhi and 2 nights at Claridges. (B)

Day 7: Delhi

Tour the historic sights of Delhi. (B, L)

Day 8: Shimla

Take the renowned toy train for the picturesque ride to the summer capital of the British Raj. Spend 3 nights at the Oberoi Cecil. (B)

Day 9: Shimla

Visit the Gaiety theatre where Rudyard Kipling trod the boards, the historic Mall and the Vice Regal Lodge. (B)

Day 10: Shimla

Day at leisure. (B)

Day 11: Train to Delhi

Drive to Chandigarh and visit the Rock Garden before boarding the train to Delhi. Overnight at Claridges. (B, L)

Day 12: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,345 (Apr – Jun)
High season from: £3,725 (Oct – Dec)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

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Kalaczakra temples, McLeod Ganj



Kotwali bazaar, Dharamsala

Dharamsala

Home of the Dalai Lama • Tibetan culture

Dharamsala is an old garrison town that was developed by the British as a hill station to escape the stifling heat of the plains. Today, it is renowned as the home of the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile. It attracts visitors for its distinct Tibetan character and heritage, as well as the spectacular countryside. The main city centre is a charming Tibetan settlement with bustling bazaars and a monastery. The Norbulingka Institute, established to preserve traditional Tibetan arts, is just south of Dharamsala and well worth a visit.

Dharamsala offers a wealth of activities from gentle walks to morning yoga sessions and cookery classes against the backdrop of the stunning Dhauladhar mountain range. The nuns at Thosamling nunnery are also happy to welcome you to explain the Tibetan Buddhist traditions which they follow.



Kangra fort, near Pragpur

Pragpur

Heritage village • Punjabi Lohri festival

The medieval village of Pragpur is an idyllic base from which to explore the breathtaking Kangra valley. A lively artisan tradition can be found in its charming market while the surrounding countryside offers ample opportunities for walks, fishing, bicycle rides and birdwatching. The annual Punjabi Lohri festival, marking the movement of the sun between the hemispheres, is joyously celebrated each January with the lighting of bonfires. Another nearby heritage village is Garli, which has diverse styles of architecture ranging from mansions to temples, evidence of its important past.

Cox & Kings suggests a minimum stay of 2 nights at the heritage hotel Judges Court, built in 1918 and lovingly restored to its former grandeur. Tours to Kangra fort and other sights in this pretty village can be arranged by the hotel.

Kangra Valley

Stunning Himalayan scenery • Scenic mountain railway

Known as one of the most picturesque valleys of the lower Himalaya, Kangra valley offers a contrasting array of activities and places to visit. The ruins of the regal Kangra fort, the largest fort in the Himalaya, are well worth exploring. An excellent audio guide and museum unfold the history of this ancient fort. The beautiful Masroor rock-cut temples and their elaborate carvings were conceived in the same manner as the great temple of Mahabalipuram in Tamil Nadu. The grounds afford an amazing view of the snow-clad Dhauladhar ranges.

The unmissable Kangra Valley Railway covers a distance of 163km across beautiful sub-Himalayan terrain and a valley known for its natural beauty, rice fields and ancient Hindu shrines. The 90-minute section between Baijnath and Nagrota is one of the most scenic.



Tea estate, Palampur

Palampur

Charming hill station • Lush tea estates

Situated on the edge of the Dhauladhar mountain range in the Kangra district of north India, about 35km from Dharamsala, Palampur is a small green hill station, surrounded by tea gardens and pine forests. Palampur is the tea capital of Himachal Pradesh, benefiting from the area's mild climate.

Cox & Kings can organise a visit to a working tea plantation where you can wander through beautifully manicured tea gardens, interact with the estate workers and see how tea is processed in the small factory before sampling some of their finest infusions. Palampur is also an ideal spot to stay before hopping onto the Kangra Mountain Railway from Nagrota.

Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at Rakkh Resort, perched atop a hillside, to explore the area's friendly villages and local temples.

Manali

Walks through fairy-tale forests • Stunning views from Rohtang Pass

Situated at the northern end of the Kullu valley, Manali has spectacular views of snow-capped peaks and wooded slopes. There are marvellous walks through dappled orchards and fairy-tale deodar cedar forests. The Manali market is crowded with a myriad of interesting shops selling Tibetan carpets and crafts while the appetising aroma of steaming noodles hangs about the little restaurants.

Essential sights include Rohtang Pass with its picturesque views and hidden waterfalls and the old kullu-style temples with their receding shingle-slate roofs. Hadimba Devi temple, built in 1533, is notable for its mud-clad walls and the elaborate wooden doorway adorned with miniature paintings of animals and the goddess Hadimbi herself. Also worth visiting is Naggar with its 15th-century castle, small temple and Roerich art gallery. For pure relaxation, lie back and relax in the warm waters of the Vashisht hot water springs.

Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at ShivAdya Resort & Spa located in the beautiful village of Karjan, a 20-minute drive from Manali.



Tiger, Jim Corbett National Park

Haridwar

Holy Hindu city • Evening aarti ceremony

One of the seven holiest sites for Hindus, the sacred town of Haridwar is set at the point where the Ganges emerges from the Himalaya into the Indo-Gangetic plain. Like Varanasi, the ghats at Haridwar attract hundreds of pilgrims from around India, who come to either offer their thanks to the river for being the source of life and prosperity or immerse the ashes of their loved ones.

However, it is the evening aarti ceremony that should not be missed; this is Haridwar at its best. Performed each evening at sunset, the ghats of Har-ki-Pauri come to life with sacred chants, the smell of incense and the ringing of bells. Musicians play while flaming torches light up the sky in a carefully choreographed ritual, providing a fascinating and spiritual conclusion to the day's end.

Jim Corbett National Park

Tigers & other wildlife • Lush forests

Established in the 1930s in the Himalayan foothills, the Jim Corbett National Park was one of the first wildlife reserves to be set up in India and perhaps the most beautiful of all parks in the north and central Indian belt. Named after the renowned hunter turned conservationist, it was at this wildlife reserve that the Project Tiger initiative was first introduced to preserve natural habitats and ecosystems to protect tigers.

With numerous ravines, streams and a varied topography, the dense deciduous forests of Corbett support more than 400 different types of plants, 600 species of birds and a wide variety of indigenous species, including elephants and gharials. Cox & Kings suggests a minimum stay of at least 2 nights at Jim's Jungle Retreat to explore this enchanting wildlife reserve.

A suggested itinerary...

Himalayan Odyssey

18 Days & 16 Nights from £3,175

Cross the foothills of the Himalaya discovering spellbinding scenery and enthralling cultures.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Transfer to the Oberoi Maidens for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Delhi

Sightseeing of Old and New Delhi. (B)

Day 4: Amritsar

Take the train to Amritsar for 2 nights at Ranjit Svaasa. Visit the Golden Temple for the evening Palki Sahib ceremony. (B, D)

Day 5: Amritsar

Explore local markets and temples on a heritage walk visiting the Jallianwala Bagh memorial. Head to the Indo-Pakistan border for the pomp of the Wagah border closing ceremony. (B, D)

Day 6: Pragpur

Travel to Pragpur for 2 nights at the delightful

Judges Court. (B, D)

Day 7: Pragpur

At leisure. Alternatively visit Kangra fort or hop on the scenic Kangra Valley Railway. (B, D)

Day 8: Dharamsala

Head to the home of the Tibetan Government in exile for 2 nights at the quirky Chonor House. Learn how to cook the local speciality of stuffed *momos* (dumplings). (B)

Day 9: Dharamsala

Morning walk through traditional Gaddi villages to Naddi with views of the Dhauladhar range. Later, visit McLeod Ganj with its Buddhist temples and markets, and the Norbulingka Institute. (B)

Day 10: Manali

Travel to Manali with views of Kullu valley en route. Stay 3 nights at ShivAdya Resort. (B, D)

Days 11-12: Manali

Discover the beauty of the area visiting Parvati valley, Naggar, the Hadimba temple and Vashisht springs. (B)

Day 13: Shimla

Depart for the former summer capital of the British Raj, Shimla, and 2 nights at the Oberoi Cecil. (B)

Day 14: Shimla

Morning tour of the Mall and Viceregal Lodge. (B)

Day 15: Haridwar

Toy train to Solan before driving to Haridwar for 2 nights at Haveli Hari Ganga. (B)

Day 16: Haridwar

See the ashrams of Rishikesh and witness the evening aarti ceremony. (B)

Day 17: Delhi

Take the train to Delhi and overnight at Oberoi Maidens. (B)

Day 18: Fly home

Fly home. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,175 (Jan – Mar)

High season from: £3,215 (Apr – Sep)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

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Colourful wishing cloths, Kumaon

Kumaon Villages

Remote villages • Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary

The ancient Kumaon villages are set at the foot of some of the tallest mountains in India. Various cultures have influenced the region over the last 4,000 years, leaving an abundance of archaeological wonders behind, including rock paintings and rock shelters dating back to the palaeolithic era. Ancient customs combined with scenic views make this an intriguing region to visit.

Lying at the heart of the Kumaon hills, the quiet Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary is a nature lover's haven. Surrounded by dense oak, pine and rhododendron forests and perched at an altitude of almost 2,500 metres, it offers superb views of the snow-clad Himalayan peaks. Renowned for its variety of flora and fauna, the sanctuary is home to jungle cats, leopards, langurs, flying squirrels and over 200 bird species.

C&K Recommends...

Scenic Kumaon trails

Following meandering streams and snaking through forests to terraced fields, these walks can be of a gentle nature and are a great way to discover spectacular mountain views, learn about local plants and visit rural villages. Kalmatia Sangam, a charming 19th-century retreat tucked among the terraced wheat fields of Kumaon, is ideally placed as a starting and finishing point for treks.

Walks from one Kumaon village to another along rural trails are also possible and can be tailored to suit your interests. Accommodation is arranged in clean and simple village houses adapted to western needs. The charm of the houses and the opportunity to experience rural life in this beautiful part of India more than compensates for any shortage in facilities. Walks are moderately paced, but a good level of fitness is required.

A suggested itinerary...

A Walk through Himalayan Foothills

11 Days & 9 Nights from £2,415

This journey provides an insight into the culture and scenic beauty of this little-visited region, with leisurely walks in the Himalayan foothills combined with tracking exotic wildlife in Corbett National Park and a visit to the sacred city of Haridwar.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Arrive and transfer to the Maidens Hotel for 1 night. (N)

Day 3: Kathgodam

Take the train to Kathgodam. Stay overnight at

Itmnaan Estate, set in a peaceful rural setting in the Kumaon Himalayas. (L, D)

Days 4-5: Village treks

Trek from your accommodation through charming picturesque villages including Almora, Thikalna and Ganghet, staying each night in a local village house. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Kathgodam

Return trek to Itmnaan Estate and stay overnight. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Corbett

Drive to Corbett National Park for 2 nights at the Riverview Retreat. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Corbett

Wildlife viewing. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Haridwar

Drive to Haridwar to join the throngs on the riverbanks for the evening aarti ceremony. Overnight at the Haveli Hari Ganga. (B)

Day 10: Delhi

Take the train to Delhi. Stay overnight at the Maidens Hotel. (B)

Day 11: Fly to London (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,415 (Jan – Apr)

High season from: £2,545 (Oct – Nov)

Tailored travel

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Ladakh

Striking landscape • Enchanting city of Leh

Often referred to as 'Little Tibet', Ladakh is one of the most remote states in India. It separates the western Himalayan peaks from the vast Tibetan plateau, and is an area of immense beauty with a striking contrast between the desert-like rocky landscape and the irrigated green fields near the rivers. In the Nubra valley, sand dunes are sculpted by the wind while elsewhere stunning glacial lakes are home to a myriad of migratory birds.

Leh, dominated by the eight-storey Leh Palace, is a convenient base to explore the many impressive gompas, ancient monasteries and spectacular countryside. The glittering Shanti stupa towers over Leh from a high, rocky ridge. Visible from almost anywhere is the 16th-century Tsemo fort housing a small Buddhist shrine. Leh offers a glimpse into an age-old way of life that has remained little changed for centuries. Make sure to pop into Lala's Art Café with its home-made cakes and art and photography exhibitions. Due to the high altitude, you will need time to acclimatise in Leh.

C&K Recommends...

Shakti village houses, Ladakh

Village walks are a rewarding way to explore the striking scenery of Ladakh. Staying in simple yet elegant Shakti village houses adapted to meet the demands of western travellers, learn about the rural Ladakhi lifestyle and see how the locals continue to preserve much of the traditional Tibetan culture that has been lost within Tibet itself.



Shakti village, Ladakh



Leh Palace, Ladakh

A suggested itinerary...

Shakti Ladakh Village Experience

12 Days & 10 Nights from £7,595

Visit picturesque mountain villages and ancient isolated monasteries set against the rugged, barren plateaux, punctuated by streams and green fields.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Transfer to The Claridges for a 2-night stay. (N)

Day 3: Delhi

Morning tour of Old Delhi. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Leh

Fly to Leh and transfer to the Shakti village house in Nimoo for a 3-night stay. Nimoo is located in the Indus valley at the confluence of the Zaskar and Indus rivers. Spend the rest of the day acclimatising to the altitude. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Nimoo

Leisurely morning guided walk of the village of Nimoo. Afternoon at leisure or visit the Basgo fort. Evening cooking lesson. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Nimoo

Visit to the artisan village of Chilling before a picnic lunch. Afternoon at leisure or guided hike. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Likhir

Visit the 11th-century Alchi monastery before enjoying a picnic lunch at Saspol. Check into the Shakti village house in Likhir for a 2-night stay. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Likhir

Visit Ladakh's oldest monastery, Lamayuru. This afternoon, visit Rizong monastery or enjoy a soft trek to Yangthang village. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Ranbirpur

Visit the dramatic monastery at Phyang before reaching the River House at Ranbirpur, with its spectacular views of the Stok Kangri mountain range, for a 2-night stay. Visit a local oracle. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Ranbirpur

Early morning visit to Thiksey monastery for the Buddhist prayers. Visit Hemis, Ladakh's largest monastery. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fly to Delhi

Transfer to Leh airport for your flight back to Delhi. Transfer to Claridges for an overnight stay. Afternoon city tour of New Delhi. (B)

Day 12: Fly home

In the morning transfer to Delhi airport for your flight back home. (B)

Guideline Prices

From £7,595 (May – Sep)

Tailored travel

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Journey through the Himalayan Foothills

Duration • 13 Days & 11 Nights
Category • Standard

Group tour • From £1,995
Private tour • From £2,395

This group tour features...

- ❖ 3- & 4-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions (see p62), room & flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 12 people (max 19)
- ❖ International flights with Jet Airways
- ❖ Internal flights in India
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Express train in air-conditioned executive class
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 11 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Porterage at airports and stations

Weather

Shimla

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	11	12	17	22	25	26	23	22	22	21	17	13
B	2	3	7	12	15	17	16	16	14	12	7	4
C	78	70	74	50	66	170	410	334	190	38	16	41

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Kalaczakra temple in Dharamsala, McLeod Ganj

Travel to the holy city of Amritsar and McLeod Ganj, home to the Tibetan government-in-exile. Continue through the foothills of the Himalaya to Shimla. Along the way, appreciate the cultural diversity of the region through its temples, monasteries and museums.

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ **Heritage walk through Amritsar**
- ❖ **Ride on the Kangra Mountain Railway and the toy train to Solan**
- ❖ **Visit a local family in Dharamsala**
- ❖ **Explore a working tea plantation**

Day 1: Fly to Amritsar via Delhi

Overnight flight from London (regional connections available) to Amritsar via Delhi with Jet Airways. (N)

Day 2: Amritsar

On arrival, transfer to the hotel. Evening visit to the Golden Temple for the auspicious Palki Sahib night ceremony to witness the evening *kirtan* (devotional prayers). The temple is profusely lit up and the lights are beautifully reflected in large water tanks surrounding the sanctum. Stay 2 nights at the Hyatt Amritsar (or similar). (N)

Day 3: Amritsar • Wagah

Morning visit to the Golden Temple and the

community kitchen called Langar. Take a guided heritage walk passing the Gurudwara Saragarhi, dedicated to the heroism of the 21 soldiers of the 36 Sikhs Battalion who lost their lives in 1897 as they defended their posts against Afghan soldiers. Weave your way through Qila Ahluwalia, a fort replete with colonial architectural features, before arriving at the Jalebiwala Chowk with its jalebi shop selling delicious sticky sweets. Late afternoon visit to Wagah, situated on the border with Pakistan, for the unmissable Changing of the Guard ceremony. (B)

Day 4: McLeod Ganj

Travel by road to McLeod Ganj in Dharamsala. McLeod Ganj is home to the Dalai Lama and is the centre of Little Tibet. This afternoon visit His Holiness the Dalai Lama's monastery, Tsuglag Khang. Continue with a tour of McLeod Ganj, visiting the handicrafts centre and a local family house to see the regional Gaddi dress. The evening is free to explore McLeod Ganj market. Spend 2 nights at the Pride Surya Resort (or similar). (B)

Day 5: Dharamsala

After breakfast, visit the Norbulingka Institute, dedicated to the preservation of Tibetan culture. Later, take a gentle walk through traditional Gaddi settlements to Naddi village, enjoying spectacular views of the Dhauladhar mountain range as the sun sets. (B)

Day 6: Masroor • Palampur

Travel by road to Palampur for an overnight stay at Taragarh Palace. En route, visit the rock-cut temples at Masroor and enjoy a visit to a working tea plantation where you can wander



Tibetan monks

through beautifully manicured tea gardens, interact with the estate workers and see how tea is processed in the small factory before sampling some of their finest infusions. (B, D)

Day 7: Pragpur via Kangra Mountain Railway

Today drive to Baijnath to board the Kangra Mountain Railway for the 1.5-hour scenic ride to Nagrota. Afterwards drive to Kangra to visit the impressive fort and on to Pragpur. Stay 2 nights at The Judge's Court, a delightful old manor house that has been converted into a hotel. (B, D)

Day 8: Pragpur

At leisure, with opportunities for leisurely walks in the surrounding villages, including Garli, or visit the temples at Jwalamukhi and Chintpurni. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Shimla

Full-day drive through the Himalayan foothills to the former British hill station of Shimla. On arrival, check in for 2 nights at the Oberoi Cecil or upgrade to the Oberoi Wildflower Hall (Premier Valley View room) from £325. (B)

Day 10: Shimla

Full-day tour of Shimla, including the Viceregal Lodge, Himachal State Museum and the Gaiety theatre. Later in the day, enjoy some time at leisure to stroll along the Mall and the Ridge. (B)

Day 11: Chandigarh via toy train

Take the *Himalayan Queen* toy train from Shimla to Solan (3 hours) to enjoy the beautiful Himalayan scenery. This narrow gauge railway is considered one of the finest engineering feats in India. Continue by road to Chandigarh (2 hours) for an overnight stay at the LaLiT Chandigarh. (B)

Day 12: Delhi

Morning train to Delhi (4 hours). Spend the afternoon at leisure and overnight at the Oberoi Maidens (or similar). (B)

Day 13: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Itinerary: The order of the visits may change due to national holidays and museum opening times.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: HTT

Group tour

Low season from £1,995
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £2,025
Guide price months: Oct – Feb

Single supplement from £635

Private travel

Low season from £2,395
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £2,435
Guide price months: Oct – Feb

Single supplement from £635

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

Jet Airways flight upgrades

Premiere Class from £1,775 return
First Class from £3,775 return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Tue)	Rtn (Sun)	Out (Tue)	Rtn (Sun)	Out (Tue)	Rtn (Sun)	Out (Tue)	Rtn (Sun)
13 Feb 18	25 Feb 18	10 Apr 18	22 Apr 18	06 Nov 18	18 Nov 18	12 Mar 19	24 Mar 19
27 Feb 18	11 Mar 18	25 Sep 18	07 Oct 18	20 Nov 18	02 Dec 18	26 Mar 19	07 Apr 19
13 Mar 18	25 Mar 18	09 Oct 18	21 Oct 18	12 Feb 19	24 Feb 19	09 Apr 19	21 Apr 19
27 Mar 18	08 Apr 18	23 Oct 18	04 Nov 18	26 Feb 19	10 Mar 19		

Tour Extensions



Tiger, Corbett National Park



Goa beach



Oberoi Sukhvilas

Tour + Haridwar & Corbett National Park

5 Days & 4 Nights from £770

Extend your stay with a visit to spiritual Haridwar to see the aarti ceremony on the banks of the River Ganga, then continue to Corbett National Park for thrilling wildlife safaris in search of tigers.

Day 12: Train to Haridwar

Take the train to Haridwar. Overnight at the Haveli Hari Ganga. Witness the evening aarti ceremony at Rishikesh. (B)

Day 13: Corbett National Park

Drive to Corbett National Park for a 2-night stay at Jim's Jungle Retreat. (B, L, D)

Day 14: Corbett National Park

Full-day wildlife viewing. Corbett is famous for tigers, but it is also home to large elephant herds, which congregate around the picturesque Dhikala Camp. Marsh crocodiles, wild boar, deer and prolific birdlife can also be found. (B, L, D)

Day 15: Delhi

Early morning wildlife drive. Drive to Delhi and stay overnight at the Holiday Inn Aerocity. (B)

Day 16: Fly to London

Fly to London. (B)

Tour + Goa

5 Days & 4 Nights from £745

The former Portuguese colony of Goa, India's smallest state, is a perfect place to relax as it offers long stretches of beautiful beaches lined with palm trees, world heritage architecture and rich flora and fauna. The town of Goa itself has a colourful history and is well worth the venture out of the hotel to explore.

Day 13: Fly to Goa

Fly to Goa. Transfer to Alila Diwa Goa* in south Goa for 4 nights, a luxury resort set amid lush paddy fields and within walking distance of Majorda beach. (B)

Days 14-16: Goa

At leisure to enjoy the resort's facilities which include an infinity pool, a world-class spa and morning yoga classes. Alternatively, enjoy a tour of Old Goa and Panjim or visit the beautiful Dudhsagar falls and a spice plantation. (B)

Day 17: Fly to London via Mumbai

Transfer to the airport and fly to London, via Mumbai (Bombay). (B)

*Hotel options: See pages 86-87 for other hotel suggestions in Goa.

Tour + Oberoi Sukhvilas Resort

5 Days & 4 Nights from £1,405

Surrounded by over 3,000 hectares of protected natural forest and lying at the foothills of the outer Himalaya, the traditional Indian architecture, landscaped gardens and stunning water features of the the Oberoi Sukhvilas make for the ideal place to relax at the end of a tour.

Day 11: Oberoi Sukhvilas

Take the *Himalayan Queen* toy train from Shimla to Solan (3 hours) to enjoy the beautiful Himalayan scenery. This narrow gauge railway is considered one of the finest engineering feats in India. Continue by road to Chandigarh (2 hours) for a 3-night stay at Oberoi Sukhvilas (Premier room). (B)

Days 12-13: Oberoi Sukhvilas

Spend 2 days relaxing by the pool or at the forest-side spa. Indulge in exceptional cuisine in the refined dining room or eat alfresco under the stars. Optional excursions can be made to Chandigarh and its rock garden, Sukhna lake and Zakir Hussain Rose Garden. (B)

Day 14: Delhi

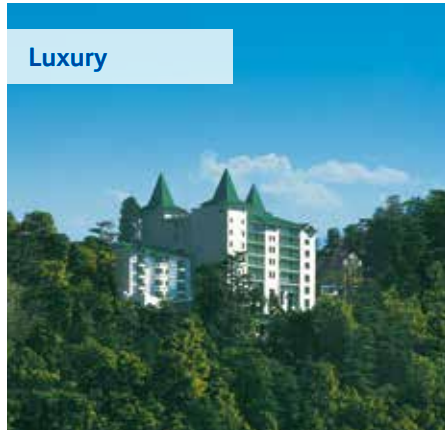
Morning train to Delhi (4 hours). Afternoon at leisure and overnight at the Oberoi Maidens (or similar). (B)

Day 15: Fly home

Fly to London. (B)

Hotels & Retreats

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



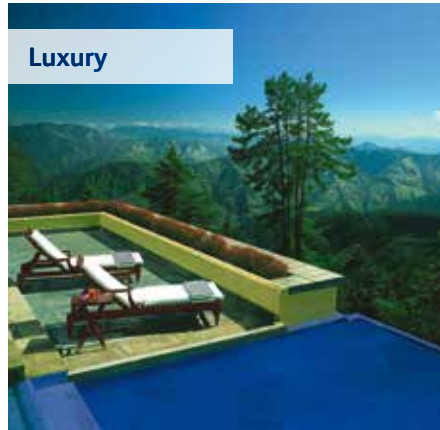
Luxury

Oberoi Cecil, Shimla

Combining all the traditional charm of the colonial era with the modern luxuries of today, the Oberoi Cecil provides a magnificent base from which to explore Shimla, the former summer capital of the British Raj. The 130-year-old heritage hotel has retained its grandeur with elegant interiors and antique furniture. Views of towering cedar forests and the Shimla valley are offered from many of the hotel's exquisite rooms.

Features:

79 rooms, restaurant, bar, indoor swimming pool, games room, spa, Wi-Fi.



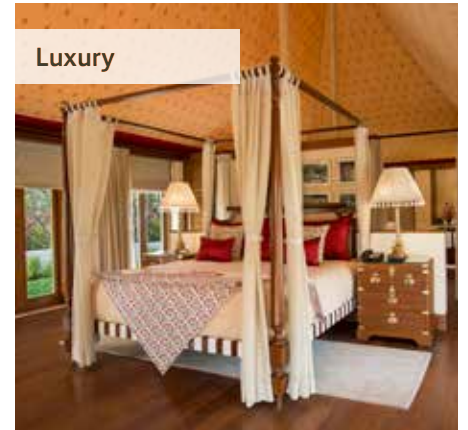
Luxury

Oberoi Wildflower Hall, Shimla

Wildflower Hall is the former residence of Lord Kitchener, erstwhile commander-in-chief of the British army. His residence has been restored to its original splendour and, at approximately 2,500 above sea level, overlooks soaring mountains, beautiful valleys and dense cedar forests. It is the perfect base from which to explore the Greater Himalaya and colonial Shimla. The world-class spa offers a range of rejuvenating holistic treatments.

Features:

85 rooms, restaurant, outdoor dining terrace, lounge, library, spa, swimming pool, Wi-Fi.



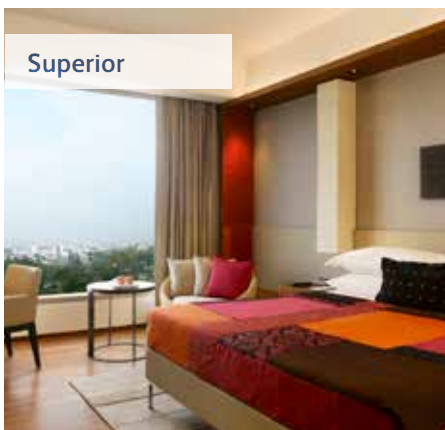
Luxury

Oberoi Sukhvilas, Chandigarh

The Oberoi Sukhvilas is surrounded by protected natural forest and offers beautiful views from all sides. The resort harmonises traditional Indian architecture, landscaped gardens and water features. The spa offers private consultations with an Ayurvedic doctor, hydrotherapies, specially curated Oberoi spa treatments, yoga and dietary advice. Dining options include speciality and multi-cuisine restaurants, with indoor and alfresco seating.

Features:

60 rooms, 2 restaurants, 24-hour in-room dining bar, Ayurveda spa, Wi-Fi.



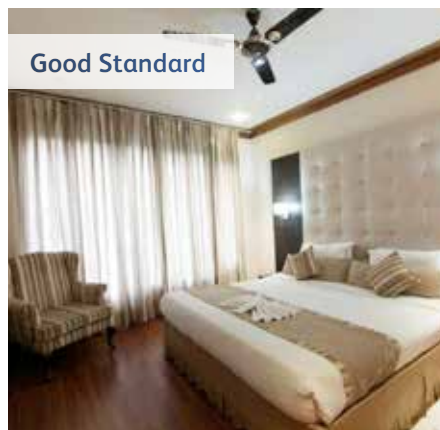
Superior

Hyatt Amritsar, Amritsar

Set in the heart of the city, the Hyatt Amritsar offers one of the best locations to visit the Golden Temple. Rooms are elegantly designed in warm wooden hues and some of the suites are located on the highest floor, offering panoramic views of the historic city. The two restaurants serve a variety of dishes including Thai, Chinese and Punjabi delicacies and there is a relaxing lounge bar for evening drinks and cocktails.

Features:

248 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, pastry shop, swimming pool, gym, spa, Wi-Fi.



Good Standard

Pride Surya Resort, Dharamsala

Situated in the shadows of the impressive Dhauladhar range, Pride Surya Resort is the ideal base from which to explore Dharamsala, home of the Dalai Lama, and to experience the Tibetan culture of McLeod Ganj. The property offers spacious and homely interiors with a range of well-appointed and comfortable room categories, many with wonderful views over the valley below. The hotel offers sightseeing and trekking packages.

Features:

53 rooms, restaurant, bar, spa, Wi-Fi.



Good Standard

Judge's Court, Pragpur

Set among almost 5 hectares of exotic trees and fruit orchards, the Judge's Court comprises a colonial-style country manor that was built at the turn of the 20th century and an ancestral cottage, which is nearly 300 years old. The rooms and suites are spacious and elegantly furnished with period-style furniture to retain their original charm. The restaurant serves Indian as well as continental cuisine using produce derived from their own garden.

Features:

20 rooms, restaurant, garden, lounge, pool, Wi-Fi.

Luxury Travelling Camps



Inspired by the royal caravans that once transported emperors of the 16th century, who loved to go on expeditions without sacrificing their lavish lifestyle or the comforts of home, luxury camps offer the chance to travel through some of the most remote and captivating corners of India in style.

The Ultimate Travelling Camp offers a range of unique and diverse experiences in stunning locations, staying in luxury tented suites and dining on exceptional cuisine. Carefully chosen for their dramatic setting, discover ancient cultures, isolated communities and colourful local festivals without having to compromise on any creature comforts.

For the discerning traveller seeking to discover something truly exotic, there is the option to travel to Nagaland* and stay in the Kohima Camp in the remote north-eastern corner of India, to watch the indigenous Hornbill festival of the Naga warrior tribes (see p77). For those who would like to travel during the summer, there is the option to stay at the Chamba Camp Thiksey near Leh† and the Chamba Camp Diskit in the Nubra valley‡, both in Ladakh. For more information, please see the suggested itinerary on the next page or contact Cox & Kings for further details.

* for travel between 29 Nov and 12 Dec 2018

† for travel between 15 May and 10 Oct 2018

‡ for travel between 15 June and 30 Sep 2018



Thiksey monastery, Ladakh



Exceptional

The Chamba Camp Thiksey, near Leh

Nestled in the shadows of an ancient 15th-century monastery, the Chamba Camp Thiksey near Leh, set up by The Ultimate Travelling Camp, showcases the wild beauty of Ladakh – a Himalayan land of snow-capped peaks, highland deserts and lush green valleys.

The camp features 11 air-conditioned, luxury suite tents and 3 Presidential suites, all with en suite facilities, heating and a private butler service. Decorated with fine fabrics, the suite tents are spacious and offer striking views of Thiksey monastery and the snow-capped peaks of the Himalaya. Chamba Camp Thiksey's restaurant serves a daily menu of traditional local specialities and international delicacies using organically grown local produce, all served on Gien china tableware, making dining a lavish experience in itself.



Exceptional

The Chamba Camp Diskit, near Nubra valley

With inspiring views of the ancient Diskit monastery, the imposing snow-capped mountains and the rugged landscape acting as the backdrop, the intimate and stylish Chamba Camp, Diskit offers exclusive tented suite accommodation.

Each of the four spacious, luxurious suite tents is elegantly decorated in a traditional style, featuring an outdoor terrace and private butler service.

The reception has a collection of books on Ladakh covering its historic monuments and the region's cultural history, while sumptuous meals are served in the dining tent – the award-winning restaurant offers recipes from the chef's family, interspersed with fusion cuisine.

Ultimate Experiences

A visit to Ladakh, in the heart of the Himalaya and Kunlun mountains, offers the chance to revel in unspoilt scenery, taking you back in time to a land with a fascinating culture that remains virtually unchanged by the passage of time.

Venture forth from the luxury tented suite accommodation to explore a range of different activities: discover the wonders of Leh, observing unique time-honoured rituals in the home of the last undisturbed Tantric Buddhist population on Earth; watch sports such as polo (subject to local conditions), brought to Ladakh in the 17th century by the royal family; and go on guided birdwatching walks along the Indus river with the camp's resident naturalist. Alternatively, visit ancient monasteries with interiors adorned with beautiful statues and murals and marvel at breathtaking mountain vistas.



Thiksey monastery, Ladakh



Hemis monastery, Ladakh

Colourful Festivals

Experience some of Ladakh's colourful festivals. Traditionally, the most vibrant festivals were held in the winter months. However, some celebrations have now been moved to the summer to make them more accessible to tourists and to boost the local Buddhist monasteries' conservation efforts. Travellers should book early to visit Leh during the summer festival season.

Hemis Tsechu, Leh

Hemis Tsechu, a two-day festival celebrated annually, is one of the biggest and most famous held in the town of Leh. The festival marks the anniversary of the birth of Guru Padmasambhava, the patron saint of Tibetan Buddhism who brought Buddhism from India to Tibet.

During the festival, the monks, dressed in elaborately decorated and colourful brocades with striking masks, perform dance-dramas called *chhams* to the accompaniment of the sound of drums, cymbals and other traditional musical instruments. The performances highlight the various miraculous deeds of Padmasambhava, who is believed to have fought several demons to protect the local people and the king.

Today, the festival is more than a celebration of good over evil – it is an event that showcases the long-standing traditions and cultural heritage of the region.

A suggested itinerary...

Ladakh: Land of the Lamas

11 Days & 9 Nights from £4,045

Discover the magnificent scenery and centuries-old culture of Ladakh. This short journey, staying at Chamba Camp, Thiksey and Chamba Camp, Diskit, explores some of the fascinating monuments and ancient monasteries that continue to preserve the traditional art forms, fairs and festivals of the area.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Overnight flight to Delhi. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Transfer to The Imperial for a 2-night stay. (B)

Day 3: Delhi

Morning tour of New Delhi. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Leh

Morning arrival and check into the Chamba Camp, Thiksey for a 3-night stay*. Remainder of the day at leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Leh

Morning at leisure. Guided afternoon tour of

the old city including a visit to the 17th-century palace and the Shanti stupa. From here enjoy spectacular sunset views while sipping traditional butter tea. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Leh

Early in the morning visit Thiksey monastery for a guided tour and to join in with morning prayers. Remainder of the morning at leisure. After lunch discover some of the monastic treasures on offer in Thiksey including Alchi monastery and Basgo fort. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Nubra valley

Drive to Nubra valley via the Khardung La mountain pass – at a height of 5,580 metres, it is considered to be the highest motorable pass in the world – and stay 2 nights at the Chamba Camp, Diskit*. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Nubra valley

After breakfast, visit the quaint village of Turtuk. Admire the traditional houses called *nangchung* and taste the delicious apricots grown in the region. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Leh

Morning camel-back ride along the soft, white, sandy deserts of Nubra valley. Later return to Chamba Camp, Thiksey for an overnight stay.

Remainder of the day at leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Fly to Delhi

In the morning, bid farewell to the land of the lamas as you transfer to Leh airport for your flight back to Delhi. On arrival, transfer to The Imperial for an overnight stay. Afternoon city tour of Old Delhi. (B)

Day 11: Fly home

In the morning, transfer to Delhi airport for your flight back home. (B)

Guideline Price

Low season from £4,045 (15 Jun – 15 Sep 2018)
High season from £4,115 (16 – 30 Sep 2018)

*Stays of up to 5 nights at Chamba Camp, Thiksey or just 1 night at Chamba Camp, Diskit are available on request.

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk





Eastern India

Group tours • Tailor-made travel • River cruises



Stretching from the coast of the Bay of Bengal to the heights of the southern Himalaya, eastern India encompasses undulating hills and leafy tea plantations, Buddhist monasteries and ancient temples, remote mountain villages and a lingering colonial legacy.

Kolkata (Calcutta), the former capital of the British Raj, lies towards the Bay of Bengal, offering a mixture of vibrant, often chaotic, city life with majestic colonial monuments. Inland, reaching into the cooling foothills of the Himalaya, perch towns with elaborate Buddhist monasteries, and Darjeeling, the British summer capital, surrounded by lush tea plantations. In the distant reaches of eastern India are further British hill stations such as Shillong, the tranquil tea estates of Assam, and superb wildlife in the Kaziranga National Park, home to one-horned rhinos, Bengal tigers, wild elephants and more.

Discover eastern India

- 68 Kolkata, Darjeeling & Kalimpong
- 69 Gangtok, Pelling, Shillong & Kaziranga National Park
- 70 Bhubaneswar, Puri & Konark

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- 71 Eastern Himalayan Trails • Private
- 72 Taj, Tigers & Trains • Group or private
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Places to stay – our suggestions

- 76 Hotel collection
- 77 Luxury travelling camps

Climate

The weather in states such as Odisha (Orissa) is defined by cooler weather from October to February, scorching heat from March to May and the monsoon rains from June to October. In north-eastern states such as Assam, March to June and September to November are the driest and most pleasant periods.

Kolkata

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	26	29	34	35	35	34	32	32	32	32	30	26
B	13	16	21	25	26	26	26	26	26	24	19	14
C	12	23	32	59	109	268	325	324	271	129	19	9

Darjeeling

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	16	18	22	24	25	26	25	26	25	25	22	18
B	5	7	11	14	16	18	19	19	18	15	10	7
C	15	20	43	92	192	519	780	577	426	111	15	9

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

020 3930 5073 Info@CoxandKings.co.uk CoxandKings.co.uk

Image left: Tea plantation, Darjeeling

Discover Eastern India

Kolkata

Colonial legacy • Victoria Memorial • Lively flower market

Kolkata (Calcutta), India's second largest city and located on the east bank of the Hooghly river, is often seen as a microcosm of the country. It is an extraordinarily vibrant city and the proud cultural capital of India. Capital of British India for nearly 140 years, many colonial buildings remain and the British legacy can still be felt in the area surrounding Dalhousie Square.

Among the most famous of the monuments in Kolkata are the Victoria Memorial, a large marble edifice planned by Viceroy Curzon, and the impressive steel structure of the Howrah Bridge. For a touch of local life, an early morning visit to the city's colourful flower market rewards the casual observer with a sea of intense colours and smells. Or wander along College Street with its array of book stalls before enjoying a coffee at the vintage Indian Coffee House. Cox & Kings recommends at least 3 nights to discover the city's many delights.



Tea plantation, Darjeeling



Victoria Memorial, Kolkata

Darjeeling & Beyond

Colonial summer capital • Tea plantations

Originally known as Dorje Ling ('Place of the Thunderbolt'), Darjeeling became India's summer capital during the Raj. Today, the town is still strewn with buildings from the colonial days and retains much of its old character. A ride on the famous Darjeeling Hill Railway (now a world heritage site), shopping for local crafts at the mall, and a visit to Observatory Hill – an excellent viewing point of Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world – should not be missed. Among the colonial-era architecture are Buddhist monasteries and the fascinating Tenzing Norgay mountaineering institute. In addition, those who opt to stay on a working tea estate outside Darjeeling can explore the lush tea plantations, interact with estate workers and learn to pluck 'two leaves and a bud'.

Kalimpong

Colourful markets • Orchid nurseries • Rural life

Kalimpong is a delightful small town in the far north of West Bengal, located at an altitude of 1,250 metres and set in beautiful wooded mountain scenery. This bustling market town was formerly a major centre for tea trade along the Silk Route. The traditional Wednesday and Saturday market attracts villagers from all around plying their fruit, vegetables, woollen cloth and traditional medicines.

Kalimpong is equally famous for its nurseries that export beautiful orchids, dahlias and gladioli. This isolated mountain region offers plenty of opportunities for an authentic insight into a rural way of life. Walks through remote villages and rice fields lead to scenic waterfalls and river beaches at Tista Bazar and Kalijhora.



Rumtek monastery, Gangtok

Gangtok

Rich Tibetan Buddhist culture • Village walks

Gangtok, which means 'lofty hill', occupies the west side of a long ridge flanking the Ranipool river and is the capital of the remote state of Sikkim in the eastern Himalaya. Perched at a height of 1,675 metres, Gangtok offers spectacular views of the entire Kanchenjunga range and is rich in Tibetan Buddhist culture.

Visit Enchey monastery, an important seat of the Nyingma order, built on a site blessed by a lama renowned for tantras and his power of flying. Also worth visiting is the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, a specialist museum that houses rare Tibetan scriptures and artefacts. Gangtok is a good base for village walks and to visit other colourful monasteries in the region.



Living root bridge, Shillong

Shillong & Beyond

'Scottish' countryside • Living root bridges

Set in a cradle of tall pine conifers, pineapple shrubs and heather-clad hills, Shillong is a popular hill station, with beautiful lakes and waterfalls, and the capital of the state of Meghalaya. Dotted with fine old churches, the erstwhile 'Abode of Clouds' is ideally located to visit the towns of Mawsynram and Sohra, which lay claim to being the wettest places on Earth.

If you wish to combine relaxation with a bit of adventure, visit the Khasi village of Mawlynnong, renowned for extraordinary centuries-old living bridges made entirely from the roots of Indian rubber trees. Their development and maintenance is a community affair, taking the Khasi tribe between 10 to 15 years to fully erect a root bridge.



View of the Kanchenjunga range from Pelling

Pelling & Surrounds

View the Kanchenjunga range • Elaborate monasteries

At an altitude of nearly 2,150 metres, Pelling is perhaps one of the best places to see the mighty Kanchenjunga at close quarters. The small, quiet town is home to many ancient Buddhist sites dedicated to Guru Rinpoche, the sage who is believed to have introduced Buddhism to the Sikkimese.

Visit the 18th-century Pemayangtse monastery, Sikkim's major monastery and a treasure trove of religious art. Nearby, the ruins of Rabdentse, Sikkim's royal capital between the 17th and 18th centuries, reveal the strategic location of this town. Pelling is a convenient base from which to visit the Tashiding monastery, an important pilgrimage centre.



One-horned rhino, Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park

One-horned rhinos, Bengal tigers & wild elephants

At the turn of the century, Kaziranga was designated a wildlife reserve to protect the nearly extinct Indian one-horned rhinoceros. Today, Kaziranga, the oldest park in Assam, has a healthy population of the species, which may be spotted in the marshes and grasslands. The park's tall elephant grass with thorny rattan cane and tropical semi-evergreen forests are a natural habitat for shy Bengal tigers, wild buffaloes, barasinghas, wild elephants and an enormous variety of birds. The park remains open for eight months from 1 October to 31 May.

Accompanied by a naturalist, safaris are either on elephant back or in open-top 4x4s. Cox & Kings suggests 3 nights at Diphlu Wildlife Lodge combined with a 7-night Brahmaputra river cruise.



Lingaraja Hindu temple complex, Bhubaneswar



Entrance to the sun temple, Konark

Bhubaneswar

Home to 500 temples • Rock edicts of Dhauli

Once the capital of the Kalinga empire, which flourished nearly 2,000 years ago, Bhubaneswar's greatest attraction is the architectural legacy of that period. Spread around the Bindu Sagar lake, Bhubaneswar was often referred to as 'Temple Town' as the lake was once reputed to be surrounded by 7,000 temples. Of the 500 that survive today, most date from between the eighth and 13th centuries, but the sites in the vicinity reveal that the region's importance stretches back to a much earlier date. These sites include the remains of a moated city at Sisupalgarh and the rock edicts at Dhauli, which transformed Buddhism into an important, international religion. Cox & Kings recommends a stay of 2 nights, including a visit to the Jain caves of Khandagiri and Udayagiri.

Puri & Konark

Jagannath temple • Konark sun temple • Lake Chilika

Situated on the Bay of Bengal, Puri, endowed with expansive beaches, is also one of the four holiest pilgrimage centres for Hindus. The 12th-century Jagannath temple, referred to by some as the White Pagoda, is only open to Hindus but can be glimpsed from the roofs of buildings nearby. Close by in Konark is the Unesco-protected sun temple. Built in the 13th century, the black sandstone temple complex takes the form of the chariot of Surya, the sun god, and is heavily decorated with exquisite stone carvings. Its imposing dimensions and faultless proportions are covered with images depicting countless scenes ranging from courtly life to military battles. For wildlife enthusiasts, a trip to Lake Chilika is a must to see Irrawaddy dolphins and a variety of migratory birds.

C&K Recommends...

Walking tour of Kolkata

Take a guided tour of the lively narrow alleys of the 'Black Town' in north Kolkata (Calcutta). Visit the striking mansions of the pioneering Bengali families of the 18th and the 19th centuries, including the home (now university) of the renowned Bengali Nobel Laureate, Rabindranath Tagore. Also explore the potters' market – Kumartuli – where the idols for the religious festivals celebrated in the city are made.

Photographic tours of Kolkata

Calcutta Photo Tours offer 3-hour guided explorations of the vivid sights and colours of Kolkata. Hone your photographic skills while immersing yourself in the local markets, marvelling at the vestiges of European architecture or exploring the more hidden aspects of its religions and myriad cultures. Calcutta Photo Tours offer a selection of four tours to choose from, beginning at either 6.30am or 2pm.

A suggested itinerary...

Temples & Nizams

12 Days & 10 Nights from £2,525

The little-explored state of Odisha (formerly Orissa) rewards visitors with an array of temples and tribal villages. From Kolkata (Calcutta), journey south to Bhubaneswar, home to more than 500 temples, and explore Puri and the sun temple at Konark. Journey's end is in Hyderabad, once ruled by the powerful and wealthy Nizams.

Day 1: Fly to Kolkata (N)

Day 2: Kolkata

Arrive in the morning and stay 2 nights in the LaLiT Great Eastern. (N)

Day 3: Kolkata

This morning enjoy a city tour visiting the Indian

Museum – the oldest and largest in India – the Victoria Memorial, Howrah flower market, St Paul's Cathedral and the Marble Palace, which houses paintings by Rubens, Titian and Reynolds. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Bhubaneswar

Fly to Bhubaneswar for a 2-night stay at Mayfair Lagoon. Afternoon sightseeing tour includes visits to the most important temples. (B)

Day 5: Bhubaneswar

Excursion to the caves at Udayagiri, Ratnagiri and Lalitgiri. (B)

Day 6: Puri

Drive to the coastal settlement of Puri, stopping en route at the artisan villages of Pipli and Raghurajpur. Stay 3 nights at Mayfair Waves. (B, D)

Day 7: Konark

Visit the impressive sun temple at Konark. (B, D)

Day 8: Lake Chilika

Boat ride on Lake Chilika, the largest brackish body of water in Asia and an important breeding ground for flamingoes. (B, D)

Day 9: Fly to Hyderabad

Drive to Bhubaneswar for the flight to Hyderabad. Spend 3 nights at Taj Krishna. (B)

Days 10-11: Hyderabad

Visit the sights including the iconic Charminar, the Salar Jung Museum and the vibrant Laad bazaar. Explore the impressive Golconda fort and Qutb Shahi tombs on the outskirts of Hyderabad. (B)

Day 12: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,525 (Apr – Sep)

High season from: £2,625 (Jan – Mar)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



Eastern Himalayan Trails

Duration • 12 Days & 10 Nights

Category • Superior

Private tour • From £3,075

Tour overview

Beginning in Kolkata (Calcutta), this journey captures the highlights of the Indian states of West Bengal and Sikkim, uncovering remarkable religious monuments, Tibetan culture and spectacular mountain scenery, including the world's third highest peak, Kanchenjunga. Finish with 3 nights among the tea plantations near the popular hill station of Darjeeling. Stay in boutique heritage hotels, including the Glenburn tea estate, situated high in the Himalaya, surrounded by tea plantations, butterflies and birdlife.

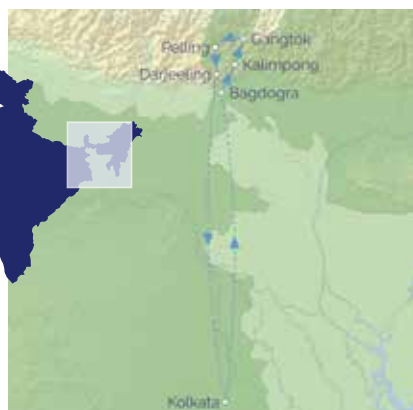
This private tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ English-speaking local guide in each destination
- ❖ Air-conditioned transfers
- ❖ International flights & internal flights in India
- ❖ All sightseeing as described
- ❖ All entrance fees
- ❖ Meals as per the itinerary

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Stays in characterful heritage hotels
- ❖ Visit areas rich in Tibetan culture
- ❖ Enjoy spectacular views of the Kanchenjunga mountain range
- ❖ Ride the scenic toy train from Darjeeling to Ghoom

Area map



Tea plantation, Darjeeling

Day 1: Fly to Kolkata (N)

Day 2: Kolkata

Arrive in Kolkata (Calcutta) and transfer to the Oberoi Grand for a 2-night stay. (N)

Day 3: Kolkata

Morning visit to the colourful flower market, followed by a cruise on the Hooghly river. This afternoon, take a walking tour of Kolkata. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Bagdogra • Kalimpong

Fly to Bagdogra and drive to the remote hill station of Kalimpong, famous for its exotic flower nurseries. Stay overnight at the Elgin Silver Oaks hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Gangtok

Drive to Gangtok and stay 2 nights at the Elgin Nor-Khill hotel. Gangtok offers excellent views of the entire Kanchenjunga range and, like the rest of the state of Sikkim, is rich in Tibetan Buddhist culture. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Gangtok

Morning tour of the 200-year-old Enchey monastery, noted for its beautiful murals, images of gods, goddesses and objects used for rituals and ceremonies, and the orchid sanctuary. This afternoon, visit the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology and the Do-Drul Chorten stupa with its beautiful prayer wheels and flags. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Pelling

Visit the 16th-century Rumtek monastery, built in authentic Tibetan design with typical monastic paintings and wood carvings. Stay overnight at the Elgin Mount Pandim, set in eight acres of virgin forest. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Darjeeling

Morning visit to Pemayangtse monastery and Khecheopari lake. Continue to Darjeeling, straddling a ridge and surrounded by tea plantations, it is home to people from the surrounding eastern Himalaya, as well as Nepalis and Tibetan refugees. Stay 3 nights at Glenburn tea estate outside Darjeeling. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Darjeeling

Full-day guided walking tour of the estate. The walk offers spectacular views of Sikkim, the hill station of Kalimpong and the Rungeet river. Walking through the forests you will observe the rich diversity of birds, butterflies, plant and animal life typical to this habitat as well as glimpses of rural life. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Darjeeling

Ride the toy train from Darjeeling to Ghoom. Afternoon guided walking tour of Darjeeling including the Tibetan Refugee Centre and the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fly to Kolkata

Drive to Bagdogra and fly to Kolkata for an overnight stay at the Oberoi Grand. (B)

Day 12: Fly home (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards and to discuss flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £3,075
Guide price months: 06 Jan – 14 Mar

High season from £3,125
Guide price months: 15 Mar – 15 Jun

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 5 Jan)

Taj, Tigers & Trains

Duration • 14 Days & 12 Nights
Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,895
Private tour • From £3,155



This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions, room and flight upgrades available
- ❖ Maximum group size – 24 people
- ❖ Direct international flights with Virgin Atlantic
- ❖ Internal flights in India
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Express train travel in air-conditioned class
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 12 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 6 dinners
- ❖ Welcome drink to meet the group and guide
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Portering at airports and stations

Weather

Darjeeling

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	16	18	22	24	25	26	25	26	25	25	22	18
B	5	7	11	14	16	18	19	19	18	15	10	7
C	15	20	43	92	192	519	780	577	426	111	15	9

A: Maximum average temperature (C)
 B: Minimum average temperature (C)
 C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Toy Train, Darjeeling

Cross the Ganges plain from Delhi to Kolkata (Calcutta), taking in the majesty of the Taj Mahal, remarkable wildlife in Ranthambore, the spiritual aura of Varanasi and colonial Lucknow and Kolkata. Finish in the tea plantations of Darjeeling.

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Lunch & visit to a working tea plantation
- ❖ Awadhi cuisine dinner in Lucknow with a royal family
- ❖ Ride on the renowned Darjeeling toy train
- ❖ Lunch overlooking the Taj Mahal

Day 1: Fly to Delhi

Travel from London (regional connections available) with Virgin Atlantic to Delhi. (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Arrive in Delhi and transfer to the Trident Gurgaon for an overnight stay. Afternoon at leisure. This evening join the rest of your group and your guide for a welcome drink. (N)

Day 3: Ranthambore National Park

Sightseeing in New Delhi. Take the afternoon train to Sawai Madhopur and drive the short distance to Dev Vilas (or similar) for 2 nights. (B, D)

Day 4: Ranthambore National Park

Early morning and late afternoon wildlife drives in search of tigers (B, L, D)

Day 5: Agra

Morning train to Bharatpur and drive to Agra. After lunch at a rooftop restaurant overlooking the Taj Mahal, visit the marble magnificence of the Taj Mahal and explore the imposing Agra fort. Overnight stay at Trident (or similar). (B, L)

Day 6: Lucknow

Travel to Lucknow for a 2-night stay at Lebuva Lucknow. This afternoon enjoy a walking tour visiting Kaiserbagh, once described as the most beautiful palace in the world, and Kotwara House, home to the legendary film-maker and artist Muzaffar & Meera Ali. Watch clips of his most iconic films over a cup of tea. (B)

Day 7: Lucknow

Half-day tour of Lucknow, followed by a visit to La Martinière school, the Lucknow Residency, Asifi Imambara and the magical Husainabad complex. Rest of the day at leisure before the highlight of a dinner with a royal family of Lucknow. Enjoy a live Kathak dance performance before a home-cooked Awadhi dinner. (B, D)

Day 8: Varanasi

Take the morning train to Varanasi for an overnight stay at Hotel Madin. This evening watch the mesmerising aarti ceremony on the banks of the River Ganges. (B)

Day 9: Fly to Kolkata

Early morning boat ride on the Ganges to see cremation sites and colourful bathing ghats. After breakfast, visit Sarnath, the site of Buddha's first sermon after receiving enlightenment. Take the evening flight to Kolkata for 2 nights at the centrally located LaLiT Great Eastern Hotel or upgrade to the Oberoi Grand (Deluxe room) from £45. (B)

Day 10: Kolkata

Half-day tour of Kolkata's colonial heritage including a ride on one of Kolkata's historic trams. Optional afternoon visit to the Victoria Memorial, South Park Cemetery and Kumartuli – the potter's village where the idols are created for the city's festivals. (B)

Day 11: Fly to Darjeeling

Morning at leisure. Take the afternoon flight to Bagdogra and transfer to Darjeeling for 2 nights at the Elgin Hotel. (B, D)

Day 12: Darjeeling

Enjoy a ride on the Darjeeling Hill Railway from Darjeeling Town, through the picturesque Batasia Loop. Visit Ghoom Monastery before heading to the Glenburn Tea Estate (or similar) to learn about the process of refining tea before a tea



Asfi mosque, Lucknow

tasting session. Walk through the tea fields with a guide and interact with the tea picker ladies learning how to pluck the "two leaves and a bud". Lunch will be served at a scenic location in the colonial estate. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Darjeeling • Fly to Delhi

Optional early morning visit to Tiger Hill to watch the sunrise over the Kachenjunga Range. After breakfast, visit the zoo, famous for its snow leopards and red pandas, the renowned Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, the Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre and Lloyds Botanical Gardens. Fly to Delhi for an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn Aerocity. (B, D)

Day 14: Fly to London

Take the Virgin Atlantic flight to London. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Extension

Relax on the pristine white sands of the secluded Andaman Islands.

Tour + Andaman Islands

6 Days & 5 Nights from £825

Day 13: Kolkata

Evening flight to Kolkata and overnight at the J W Marriott. (B)

Day 14: Fly to Port Blair • Havelock Island

Fly to Port Blair and take a catamaran ride (1.5 hours) to Havelock island for 3 nights at Barefoot at Havelock. (B)

Days 15-16: Havelock Island

Spend 2 days at leisure enjoying the empty beaches and untouched primeval jungle of this slice of heaven. (B)

Day 17: Port Blair

Afternoon catamaran ride to Port Blair. Overnight at Fortune Resort Bay Island, Port Blair. (B)

Day 18: Fly to London via Chennai

Fly to Chennai and connect with the British Airways flight to London. (B)

For more extension options including Agra, Gangtok, Kalimpong, Bhubaneswar and Goa please visit us online at CoxandKings.co.uk

Important information

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: TAJ

Group tour

Low season from £2,895
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £3,095
Guide price months: Oct – Feb

Single supplement from £785

Private travel

Low season from £3,155
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £3,365
Guide price months: Oct – Feb

Single supplement from £785

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

Virgin Atlantic flight upgrades

Premium Economy from £545 return
Upper Class from £1,795 return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Fri)	Rtn (Thu)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Thu)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Thu)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Thu)
02 Feb 18	15 Feb 18	30 Mar 18	12 Apr 18	16 Nov 18	29 Nov 18	15 Mar 19	28 Mar 19
16 Feb 18	01 Mar 18	12 Oct 18	25 Oct 18	01 Feb 19	14 Feb 19	29 Mar 19	11 Apr 19
02 Mar 18	15 Mar 18	26 Oct 18	08 Nov 18	15 Feb 19	28 Feb 19		
16 Mar 18	29 Mar 18	09 Nov 18	22 Nov 18	01 Mar 19	14 Mar 19		

Cruising the Brahmaputra

Duration • 15 Days & 13 Nights

Category • Superior

River cruise • Prices on request

Tour overview

Cruise downstream from Dibrugarh along the Brahmaputra river. Discover the ancient capital of the Ahom kings, visit Hindu monasteries on one of the largest riverine islands, and take a 4x4 safari in search of the endangered one-horned rhino. Finish in Guwahati, a town renowned for its tantric traditions.

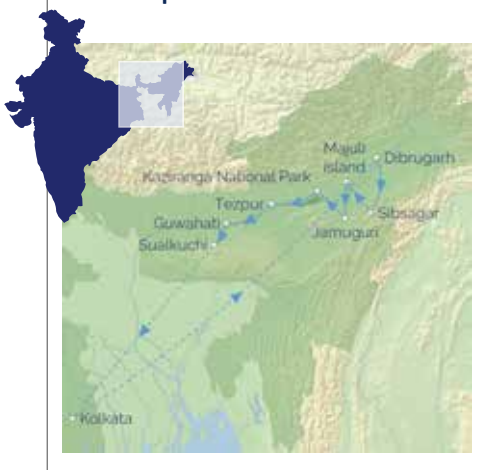
This river cruise features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ International & internal flights in India
- ❖ 10 nights on board either RV *Sukhapa* or RV *Charaidew*
- ❖ Spacious cabins with en suite bathroom & panoramic windows
- ❖ Shore excursion programme including all entrance fees
- ❖ Experienced guide & naturalist on all excursions
- ❖ Welcome & farewell reception
- ❖ All meals included
- ❖ Spacious air-conditioned lounge with library
- ❖ Local onboard entertainment
- ❖ Spa (aboard RV *Sukhapa*)

Special experiences

- ❖ Heritage walk in colonial Kolkata (Calcutta)
- ❖ Spot one-horned rhinos in Kaziranga National Park
- ❖ Marvel at ancient temples & riverine life

Area map



Indian rhinos, Kaziranga National Park

Day 1: Fly to Kolkata (N)

Day 2: Kolkata

Arrive and transfer to the Oberoi Grand for 2 nights. Afternoon at leisure. (N)

Day 3: Kolkata

Half-day tour of Kolkata's colonial heritage. Afternoon optional visit to the Victoria Memorial and South Park Cemetery. (B)

Day 4: Dibrugarh

Fly to Dibrugarh. Board the RV *Sukhapa* / RV *Charaidew* for 10 nights cruising the Brahmaputra river. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Sibsagar

Morning visit to Sibsagar, the one-time capital of the Kings of Assam. Have lunch at a tea estate before cruising to Majuli, the world's largest riverine island. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Majuli island

Visit Auniati monastery with its eclectic museum. Attend a dance performance at Kamalabari monastery. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Jamuguri

Spend much of the day on the river, watching for water birds and river dolphins. Short visit to a tribal village. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Kaziranga National Park

Visit the temple town of Vishnath before a jeep ride through Kaziranga's western range. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Kaziranga National Park

Explore Kaziranga's central range on an early morning elephant ride, the best way to get really close to the rhinos and Kaziranga's other mammals. Drive to Kaziranga's little-visited eastern range, or the newly-opened Burapahar range, for a further jeep safari before returning to the boat. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Tezpur

Visit Tezpur's sixth century Da Parbatia temple. Cycle rickshaws will take you through the bazaars to Cole Park with its collection of

medieval stone carvings. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Guwahati

Today is spent on the river. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Guwahati

At Guwahati climb up to the pretty Aswaklanta temple before driving out to the beautifully sited temple ruins of Madan Kamdev. Cruise to Sualkuchi. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Sualkuchi

Visit Sualkuchi and its weaving workshops, Nilachal hill with its variety of birds and the poignant Commonwealth War Graves. Museums and bazaars are also visited. (B, L, D)

Day 14: Fly to Kolkata

Disembark and transfer to Guwahati airport. Fly to Kolkata. Overnight at the Oberoi Grand. (B)

Day 15: Fly Home

Transfer to the airport and fly home. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary - B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Prices: Please speak to your consultant.

Tour alterations: The river cruise itinerary is subject to river conditions and elephant safaris are subject to availability. Kaziranga National Park features low-lying grassland, which may be off-limits when the river is at, or near, flood level.

Cruise options: Please note that shorter versions of this Assam cruise including 4-, 6- and 7-night itineraries are available. The above is based on Assam dispatch 4 downstream cruise. For further details including departure dates, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Cruising the Lower Ganges

Duration • 11 Days & 9 Nights
Category • Luxury

River cruise • From £4,215

**NEW
TOUR**

Tour overview

Cruise the sacred Ganges river for 7 nights aboard the luxury, all-suite *Ganges Voyager*. Discover remote towns, timeless villages and ancient temples on the water's edge, with time at leisure on board the ship to take in the passing landscapes.

This river cruise features...

- ❖ 5-star de luxe accommodation
- ❖ International flights
- ❖ 7-nights on board the luxurious *Ganges Voyager I or II*
- ❖ Spacious suites with en suite bathrooms
- ❖ Guided excursions with English-speaking local expert guides & portable audio headset
- ❖ All entrance fees included
- ❖ Complimentary Wi-Fi
- ❖ Afternoon tea, coffee & snacks in the Governor's Lounge
- ❖ All meals & wine with dinner included
- ❖ Complimentary local beers, spirits & soft drinks throughout the cruise
- ❖ Welcome & farewell dinners

Special experiences

- ❖ Visit Mother Teresa's Missionary of Charity
- ❖ Travel to the Rajbari temple complex by rickshaw
- ❖ Observe Indian life along the river banks in rural India



Ganges Voyager

Day 1: Fly to Kolkata (N)

Day 2: Kolkata

Arrive in Kolkata (Calcutta) and transfer to the Oberoi Grand for 1 night. (N)

Day 3: Kolkata

Transfer to the *Ganges Voyager II* for the 7-night journey. Lunch will be served on board. In the afternoon, visit Mother Teresa's house and tomb. Learn about her life story at the permanent exhibition, which includes a visit to her personal room and her orphanage, Shishu Bhavan, where one of the sisters will take you on a guided tour. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Kalna

Morning rickshaw ride through Kalna to the Rajbari complex, home to the highest concentration of temples in the region. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Kolkata

Early morning city tour of Kolkata including the Victoria Memorial Museum, which houses the largest collection of British colonial historical artefacts in India. After lunch, journey upstream for an afternoon excursion in Bandel. Visit the Hooghly Imambara, a Shia pilgrimage site built in 1841 by Haji Mohammad Mahasin. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Matuari

Go ashore to visit the bazaar in Matuari, known for manufacturing beautiful handcrafted brass items, created using traditional methods. Continue upstream past the battlefield of Plassey, where Robert Clive of the British East India Company defeated the Mughal Nawabs in 1757. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Khushbagh • Baranagar

This morning, visit the charming village of Khushbagh, passing through scenic fields to arrive at the well-preserved mosque complex built by Nawab Ali-WardiKhan, housing his family's private mosque. Later, visit the rural village of Baranagar, home to several temples dating from the 18th century (1714 – 1793) and the Hazarduari Palace. Return to the ship for dinner and a cultural performance on board. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Mayapur

After a morning observing local life along the

riverbanks, stop in the village of Mayapur, known as the birthplace of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu (1486) who is considered to be an incarnation of Lord Krishna. Experience the fascinating culture of Krishna followers and learn about the 700,000 sq foot temple that has been recently constructed in the complex. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Chandernagore

Begin the day in Chandernagore, established as a French colony in 1673. Explore the French colonial buildings along the promenade, including the former French governor's residence. Later, visit the Sacred Heart Church of Chandernagore before returning to the ship and continuing downstream to Kolkata. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Kolkata

Following breakfast, disembark the vessel and transfer to the Oberoi Grand. (B)

Day 11: Fly home

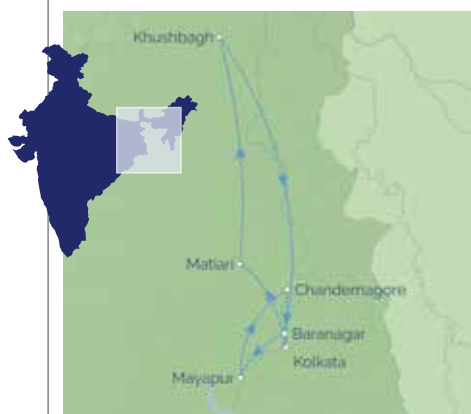
Transfer to the airport and fly home. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Cruise options: For further details including departure dates, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Area map



Guideline prices for 2018-19

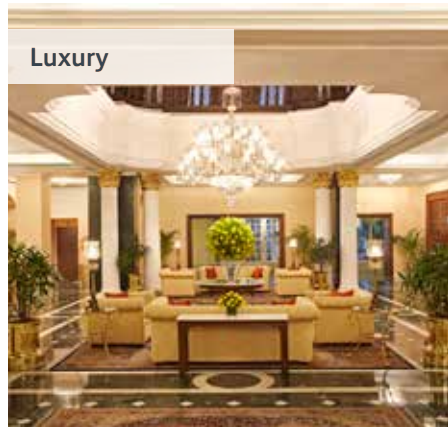
Low season from £4,215
Guide price months: Apr – Sep

High season from £4,265
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

Hotel Collection

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



Luxury

The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata

Known as the Grand Dame of Kolkata, The Oberoi Grand has hosted functions for heads of state and maharajahs in its time. Located in the business district and close to all the city's major landmarks, this is a classic and stylish hotel that continues to provide high-class service in sumptuous surroundings. Lounge by the pool amid the palms of the quadrant garden, enjoy a spa treatment and dine on fine cuisine.

Features:

209 rooms, 4 restaurants, bar, outdoor swimming pool, gym, spa, Wi-Fi.



Luxury

Glenburn Estate, near Darjeeling

Glenburn Estate is a delightful 647-hectare working tea estate, just an hour's drive from Darjeeling. Offering breathtaking views of the Kanchenjunga mountain range, the estate is an ideal place to relax and explore the beautiful countryside. Accommodation is provided in eight luxuriously converted suites. The estate offers tea-based experiences inspired by vineyards in Europe and other parts of the world.

Features:

8 rooms, restaurant, bar, garden, terrace, spa treatments, Wi-Fi.



Superior

Windamere Hotel, Darjeeling

Established in the 19th century as a boarding house for English and Scottish tea planters, the Windamere was converted into a heritage hotel just before the outbreak of the second world war. Located on Observatory Hill, the hotel offers picturesque views of the surrounding tea plantations. Combining modern facilities with traditional 'old Darjeeling' charm, the hotel is a true testament to the colonial period.

Features:

28 rooms, restaurant, bar, garden, spa, gift shop, Wi-Fi.



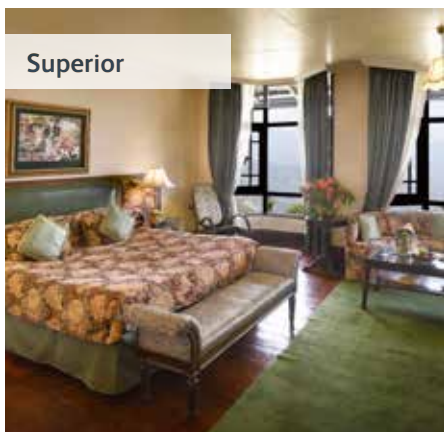
Superior

Diphlu River Lodge, Kaziranga National Park

The Diphlu River Lodge is an eco-resort built on stilts in the middle of green paddy fields on the edge of the River Diphlu. Managed by Assam Bengal Navigation, the lodge operates to the high standards of their well-established cruises on the Brahmaputra and Hooghly rivers. The 12 rooms are large with a rustic feel, making use of local materials and artefacts.

Features:

12 rooms, outdoor coffee lounge, library, dining area.



Superior

Elgin Silver Oaks, Kalimpong

The Elgin Silver Oaks was once a boarding house for British settlers visiting the quiet hill resort of Kalimpong. Set amid landscaped gardens filled with pine trees, rhododendrons, magnolia, ferns and orchids, the hotel still has the distinctive atmosphere of the Raj era with its oak panelling and period furniture. All of the elegant rooms have extensive views across the valley and the Himalaya.

Features:

25 rooms, restaurant, bar, library.



Superior

Mayfair Lagoon, Bhubaneswar

Conveniently located in the heart of Bhubaneswar, Mayfair Lagoon has its very own private lake and gardens yet is only minutes away from the city's shopping and entertainment centres. As well as featuring several restaurants and pools, its rooms and villas afford magnificent views of the lush, serene surroundings, providing an oasis of calm amid the bustle of the city.

Features:

70 rooms, 7 restaurants, bar, outdoor & indoor pools, gym, tennis courts, bowling alley, Wi-Fi.

Luxury Travelling Camps



Exceptional



Hornbill Festival, Kohima



Tribal performance

The Kohima Camp, Nagaland

In the heart of the Angami Naga country, the Kohima Camp, Nagaland, operated by The Ultimate Travelling Camp, is located in the foothills of the picturesque Japfū mountain. It offers individually designed, luxurious suite tents, ideal for those seeking to explore off the beaten track without compromising on creature comforts.

Operating for only a few days of the year, the camp is set up exclusively for the exotic and colourful Hornbill festival in December, an indigenous celebration of the warrior tribes of Nagaland. The spacious suite tents are elegantly furnished with essential modern conveniences and the services of a private butler. The camp's other facilities include a restaurant that serves local as well as international cuisine. Please see pages 64 – 65 for further details on The Ultimate Travelling Camp.

The Hornbill Festival

Celebrated annually by nearly 16 different Naga warrior tribes, the Hornbill festival, regarded as the 'festival of festivals', is held during the first week of December. Spread over a period of 10 days, the celebrations bring together the various Naga tribes from the region in a grand cultural gathering.

Each tribe can be distinguished either by their headwear, exquisitely designed jewellery or the ceremonial garments they wear. The festival is more than just a cultural extravaganza – it combines traditional tribal warfare stunts with arts and crafts, music and dance. The festival offers guests of The Ultimate Travelling Camp an excellent opportunity for an insight into the unique Naga culture and an understanding of the lifestyle of the various tribes.

A suggested itinerary...

Exotic Nagaland: The Mystic World of the Naga Tribes

9 Days & 7 Nights from £5,215

This tour stays at the Kohima Camp, set up exclusively for the colourful and exotic Hornbill festival in December.

Day 1: Fly to Kolkata (N)

Day 2: Kolkata

Arrive in Kolkata (Calcutta) and transfer to The Oberoi Grand for 2 nights. Afternoon city tour. (N)

Day 3: Kolkata

Morning visit to the flower market and cruise on the River Hooghly. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Dimapur • Kohima

Fly to Dimapur and drive to Kohima. Stay for 4

nights at The Kohima Camp, Nagaland. Spend the afternoon relaxing in the camp. (B, D)

Day 5: Hornbill festival

Morning visit to Kisama village for the Hornbill festival. Return to the camp for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure or visit Kohima to soak up the festival atmosphere in the evening. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Hornbill festival • Kigwema

Morning visit to the Hornbill festival. Return to the camp for lunch and in the afternoon visit the Kigwema village, part of the Angami tribe. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Kohima • Khonoma

Morning guided tour of Kohima, including the second world war cemetery and museum. Proceed to Khonoma village for a traditional lunch and brief village tour. Spend your last evening in camp relaxing. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Fly to Kolkata

Fly to Kolkata. Overnight at The Oberoi Grand. (B)

Day 9: Fly home

Transfer to the airport and fly home. (B)

Guideline Price

From £5,215 (29 Nov – 12 Dec 2018)

The camp only operates during the above dates. If you wish to stay for a shorter or longer period, there are also 2-, 3- and 5-night programmes. Please speak to one of our India experts for further details.

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

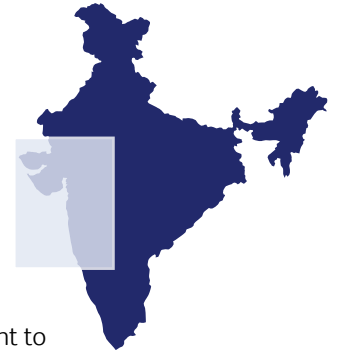
e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk





Western India

Tailor-made travel • Rail journeys



The states of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Goa line the west coast of India. Together they offer a diverse range of landscapes, from expansive barren salt plains through to the hustle and bustle of modern cities and tranquil stretches of silky sand. Whether you want to head off on an adventure to visit tribal villages or go in search of lions, shop to your heart's content in the city or take time out on the beach, western India can offer it all, and more.

Gujarat, in the north-west of India, provides an off-the-beaten-track experience where you can explore ancient tribal villages, look for endangered Asiatic lions and discover the birdwatching paradise of the Little Rann of Kutch. To the south of Gujarat, Maharashtra is dominated by the vibrant city of Mumbai (Bombay), home to Bollywood and many designer shops. The city of Aurangabad, just a little to the east, is surrounded by historical sights including the Unesco-listed Ellora and Ajanta caves. Further south, Goa offers Portuguese history and top-notch beach resorts, making it the perfect spot to unwind.

Discover western India

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Private tours

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Places to stay – our suggestions

- 86 Goa villas & resorts

Climate

Temperatures are very comfortable between November and February, although evenings can be cold. Summers can be extremely hot, with monsoon rains between mid-June and mid-September.

Mumbai

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	30	30	32	33	34	32	30	30	30	33	33	31
B	19	19	22	25	27	26	25	25	25	24	22	20
C	0	1	0	1	13	576	967	621	347	83	11	3

Ahmedabad

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	28	31	36	39	42	38	33	32	34	36	33	29
B	12	14	19	23	26	27	25	25	24	21	16	13
C	1	0	1	1	5	81	276	217	143	13	6	3

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

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Image left: Hindu woman with veil, Gujarat

Discover Gujarat



Ornate stone carved walls of the Rani-Ki-Vav stepwell at Patan, Gujarat



Flamingoes, Little Rann of Kutch

Ahmedabad

Temples, mosques & stepwells • Calico Museum

Set on the banks of the Sabarmati river, Ahmedabad combines old world wonders with new world metropolis. Founded in the 15th century, the city served as the capital of the Gujarat sultanate before evolving into the centre of India's textile industry. The Calico Museum of Textiles, a main attraction, houses some of the world's finest collections of antique and modern Indian textiles. Visit the city in January, when crowds throng the riverfront to witness the colourful Uttarayan kite festival.

En route between Ahmedabad and the Little Rann of Kutch is Patan and its beautiful Rani-ki-Vav stepwell, the oldest and finest of its kind in Gujarat. Also visit the 11th-century sun temple at Modhera. During the equinox, the sun's rays illuminate the sanctum at dawn.

Little Rann of Kutch

Coastal wetland • Superb wildlife spotting

The Little Rann of Kutch, a remarkably expansive saline wilderness that transforms into a spectacular coastal wetland after the monsoon, offers exciting cross-desert safaris and superb wildlife viewing opportunities. In winter the birdlife is abundant and the area is home to almost 300 species including waterfowl, flamingoes, spoonbills and demoiselle cranes. In 1973, the Little Rann of Kutch was designated as a wildlife sanctuary, as it is home to the endangered Indian wild ass.

Cox & Kings suggests a minimum 2-night stay at the Rann Riders, set in the village of Dasada along the edge of the desert, with a visit to the colourful, pastoral settlements of the local Kharapat Rabari people, known for their exquisite embroidery.



Market stall, Bhuj

Bhuj

Distinctive Banni villages • Kutchi-embroidered handicrafts • Salt flats

Set within the heart of the Kutch province, Bhuj is the gateway to colourful Banni tribal villages and the salt flats of the Kutch. The old part of the town is a maze of narrow, winding streets where horse-drawn tongas and camel carts continue to transport the wares of the local traders. The legendary Kutchi-embroidered handicrafts are the city's main industry. In 2001, an earthquake destroyed many of the old walls surrounding the city. Despite this, some historic buildings such as the Prag Mahal and Aina Mahal remain and house some intriguing 18th-century antiques. Cox & Kings recommends a 3-night stay at the Shaam-e-Sarhad, a simple, but charming property owned and managed by the local community.



Asiatic lion, Sasan Gir National Park



Palitana temple carvings

Bhavnagar

Vibrant bazaars • Palitana temples in the Shatrunjaya hills • Views of Saurashtra plains

Founded in 1723, the port city of Bhavnagar lies on the west side of the Gulf of Khambhat. Still retaining some of its old charm, with vibrant bazaars and rustic wooden houses, it acts as the gateway to the magnificent Palitana temple complex in the hills of Shatrunjaya. Regarded as one of the most sacred Jain sites, it consists of 863 intricately carved marble shrines. The act of ascending a path to reach a holy place is central to the Jain consciousness and the climb of 3,500 steps (a total distance of 3.5km each way) rewards visitors with breathtaking views across the Saurashtra plains. Cox & Kings recommends a minimum stay of 2 nights at the simple but characterful Nilambagh Palace.

Sasan Gir National Park

Home to Asiatic lions • 250 bird species • Hot springs

Sasan Gir, in south-west Gujarat, is a beautifully forested national park and the last natural home of endangered Asiatic lions. Characterised by rocky hills and deep valleys, the vegetation is typically semi-deciduous with lots of dry forest teak. The park was established in 1965 when there were thought to be only 12 wild lions left in India. Fortunately, the park's conservation efforts mean there are now more than 300. The park is also home to healthy populations of leopards, hyenas, wild boar, jackals, crocodiles and more than 250 bird species. Added attractions include the Kankai Mata temple and the Tulsi Shyam hot springs. Cox & Kings recommends a minimum 2-night stay at the Lion Safari Camp.

A suggested itinerary...

Colours of Gujarat

13 Days & 11 Nights from £3,235

Discover the hidden treasures of this little explored region.

Day 1: Fly to Bhuj via Mumbai (Bombay) (N)

Day 2: Bhuj

Arrive and transfer to Shaam-e-Sarhad Village Resort for 3 nights. (D)

Day 3: Bhuj

Visit the walled city of Bhuj. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Banni villages

Full-day visit to the Banni villages and the salt flats. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Gondal

Drive to the small royal town of Gondal. Stay at the Orchard Palace hotel for 2 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Junagadh

Full-day tour of the magnificent Junagadh fort, lying at the foot of the Girnar Hill. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Sasan Gir National Park

Spend 2 nights at the Lion Safari Camp. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Sasan Gir National Park

Full-day wildlife viewing. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Bhavnagar

Drive to Bhavnagar and stay at Nilambagh Palace hotel for 2 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Shatrunjaya temple complex

Visit to the Jain temple city of Shatrunjaya. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Ahmedabad

Drive to Ahmedabad. Stay 2 nights at the House

of MG. Evening walk around the historic city. (B)

Day 12: Modhera

Visit the sun temple at Modhera. (B)

Day 13: Fly home via Mumbai (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,235 (Jan – Mar)

High season from: £3,435 (Oct – Dec)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

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Discover the Maratha Heartland



Jain temple, Nasik



Chatrapati Shivaji Terminus, Mumbai

Mumbai

Gateway of India • Home of Bollywood

Rudyard Kipling described Mumbai (Bombay) as 'the Mother of Cities'; its story is of an incredible transformation, from its foundation to the present day. Built expressly for trade by the British, the city changed hands over the years from the fishing village of the Kolis, through the Portuguese conquest, to the Portuguese Infanta Catherine of Braganza who took the seven islands of Mumbai as her dowry to Charles II of England. Mumbai was, and still is, the Gateway of India and a grand archway of that name was built to commemorate the visit of King George V and Queen Mary in 1911.

Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 3 nights to uncover the many sides of this city including a food walking tour and a visit to some of the city's celebrated landmarks and museums.

Matheran

Picturesque hill station • Scenic walks • Toy train ride

Matheran is the smallest hill station in India and arguably the most splendid. Set atop the Western Ghats mountain range, Matheran lies among a dense forest criss-crossed with walking tracks and dotted with viewpoints. Its proximity to Mumbai meant that the town became a popular retreat, particularly for the British aristocrats and the Parsis to escape from the scorching heat of the plains.

Today, Matheran's 19th-century colonial homes, some grand and some crumbling, serve as a reminder of its former charm. Take long walks and don't miss the trail that leads to One Tree Hill, an exceptional view point where a fragment of rock creates an island in the sky. Getting to Matheran is still half the fun, with a narrow-gauge toy train chugging along a 21-km stretch from Neral Junction to the heart of the village.

Nasik

Ancient temples • Bathing ghats • Vineyard tours

Standing on the Godavari, one of India's holiest rivers, and surrounded by nine hills and a number of lakes, Nasik is an important pilgrimage town and one of the four holy cities that plays host every 12 years to the Kumbh Mela pilgrimage. This well-planned historic city features landmarks integral to Hindu mythology and the Freedom Struggle, and is also home to many exotic temples and bathing ghats.

Often referred to as the 'Napa Valley of India', Nasik is increasingly becoming popular for its vineyards and is now regarded as the home of India's growing wine industry. Nasik's primary wine growing region is blessed with the ideal climate for cultivating the quartette of French grape varieties that Indian wine is produced from. On a tour of the vineyards, learn about the different types of grapes grown, how Indian wine has evolved and enjoy a wine tasting session and lunch.

Aurangabad

'The poor man's Taj Mahal' • Daulatabad fort • Rock-cut temples in Ajanta & Ellora

Named in honour of the great Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who used the town as a hub for his Deccan campaign, Aurangabad is home to several interesting historic sites including the Bibi-ka-Maqbara, otherwise known as 'the poor man's Taj Mahal', and the fort of Daulatabad. Built in 1679 by the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb as a mausoleum for his wife, the Bibi-ka-Maqbara not only mimics but undoubtedly resembles the Taj Mahal.

The city is also a base from which to explore the rock-cut Buddhist temples at Ajanta. More than 2,000 years ago, Buddhist monks carved out a series of cave temples and shrines from a rugged horseshoe-shaped cliff, then delicately painted them. Abandoned and lost for several centuries, the caves were rediscovered by an Englishman in the 19th century. Much closer to Aurangabad are the Ellora cave temples, which were built between the sixth and 10th centuries and reveal the religious tolerance of the time.



Ellora cave temples



Bibi-qa-Maqbara, Aurangabad

C&K Recommends...

Chor bazaar, Mumbai

Explore Mumbai's famous Chor bazaar, which houses India's largest collection of antique stores. Begin your tour at Taherally's, the antiques dealer whose shop displays some of the most beautiful Venetian glass items. Continue past quaint shops with curios and collector's items as well as those that sell just about anything, from grandfather clocks and nautical instruments to crystal chandeliers and old English tea sets. Finish at Phillips Antiques, established in 1860 and renowned for its variety of European and oriental art and antiquities.

Dharavi slum tour, Mumbai

Dharavi, a bustling collection of settlements, is Asia's largest slum and houses a large number of thriving small-scale industries. A social worker will walk you through the area where you will visit some of the small industries that thrive here, from leather to pottery and poppadom production. You will also spend time with a community group to learn more about the work they do here to provide educational facilities for some of the local children.

Colonial Mumbai

Mumbai's long association with the British is reflected in the old-world charm of its buildings, with many built in an Indo-Saracenic style of architecture. Head out on foot with a local historian to see some of the city's famous landmarks. Your visit will include the Asiatic Library, Horniman Circle gardens, St Thomas Cathedral, the Central Telegraph Office, and the Venetian-style galleries of the High Court. Finish your tour at the renowned Rajabai clock tower, standing 85 metres high and with a fine view of the city.

Bollywood tour, Mumbai

With their casts of thousands wearing exotically sequined costumes, dancing to hip-swivelling music and singing energetic songs, Bollywood movies are an integral part of Indian life. Gain a greater understanding of this phenomenon on a behind-the-scenes tour of the famous Mumbai film-making industry. Meet the performers, directors and technicians who will re-enact scenes from movies and answer questions on an industry that produces some 1,000 movies per year. After lunch, visit the live set of a forthcoming movie to experience first-hand how the films are created.

Wildlife, Tribes and Temples of Gujarat

Duration • 17 Days & 14 Nights

Category • Standard

Private tour • From £4,095

**NEW
TOUR**

Tour overview

Often overlooked, India's north-west state is a land of walled cities, small villages and exquisite temples. It is also home to Sasan Gir National Park, the only place on the planet where Asiatic lions still roam in the wild. This trip takes you from India's most beautiful city, Udaipur, through the diverse landscapes, stunning temples, tribal villages and wildlife of Gujarat before reaching journey's end in cosmopolitan Mumbai (Bombay).

This private tour features...

- ❖ 3- & 4-star accommodation
- ❖ English-speaking local guide in each destination
- ❖ Air-conditioned transfers
- ❖ International & internal flights in India
- ❖ All sightseeing as described
- ❖ All entrance fees & wildlife drives
- ❖ Meals as per the itinerary

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Relaxation time in Udaipur
- ❖ Search for Asiatic lions in Sasan Gir
- ❖ Heritage walk in Ahmedabad including Gandhi's ashram
- ❖ Jeep safari in Blackbuck National Park and Little Rann of Kutch
- ❖ Visit Modhera sun temple and the exquisite Rani-ki-Vav stepwell

Area map



Jain temples, Palitana

Day 1: Fly to Udaipur via Delhi (N)

Day 2: Udaipur

Transfer to Fateh Prakash hotel located on the shores of Lake Pichola for 2 nights. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 3: Udaipur

Half-day tour of the City Palace and Jagdish temple. Afternoon at leisure to explore the old town or take a boat ride on Lake Pichola. (B)

Day 4: Mount Abu

Travel to Mount Abu visiting the stunning Delwara Jain temple. Overnight at Connaught House. (B)

Day 5: Dasada

Visit the Modhera sun temple, built in 1026, and Rani-ki-Vav stepwell, one of the largest and grandest stepwells in India. Visit the colourful havelis at Sidhpur en route to Dasada for 2 nights at the Rann Riders Eco-Resort. (B)

Day 6: Little Rann of Kutch

Enjoy a desert safari across the Little Rann of Kutch, a saline wilderness which is home to the wild ass as well as a multitude of water birds. In the afternoon, visit some of the local settlements and villages, renowned for their traditional embroideries and weaving. (B)

Day 7: Ahmedabad

Travel to Ahmedabad for 2 nights at the House of MG. Enjoy a walking tour around the old city visiting Mangaldas ni haveli, Manek Chowk square, the kite museum and Sarkhej Roza mosque complex. Enjoy a Thali dinner in your historic hotel. (B)

Day 8: Ahmedabad

Half-day tour taking in Sidi Saiyyed mosque,

Hutheesing temple, Gandhi ashram, Dada Hari stepwell and the Shreyas folk museum. (B)

Day 9: Velavadar

Travel to Velavadar for 2 nights at the Blackbuck Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Velavadar

Morning wildlife drive in Blackbuck National Park. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Palitana • Diu

Depart early to visit the Jain temple complex at Palitana. The walk takes approximately 2 hours to climb the 3,800 steps. Lunch at Vijay Vilas Palace. Continue to Diu for 2 nights at the Radhika Beach Resort. (B)

Day 12: Diu

Morning at leisure. Afternoon tour of the town including Diu fort and the colourful Nagar Seth haveli. (B)

Day 13: Sasan Gir National Park

Drive to Sasan Gir, home to the Asiatic lion, visiting the Somnath temple en route. Spend 2 nights at the Lion Safari Camp. (B, D)

Day 14: Sasan Gir National Park

Early morning and afternoon wildlife drives in the park. (B, L, D)

Day 15: Fly to Mumbai

Travel to Rajkot for the evening flight to Mumbai (Bombay). En route visit the magnificent Junagarh fort and the house of Mahatma Gandhi in Rajkot. Overnight at the Trident, Mumbai. (B)

Days 16-17: Fly home

Take an optional half-day tour of Mumbai visiting the gateway of India, Victoria Terminus, Dhobi Ghat and Chor bazaar. Late check out then take the overnight flight home, arriving the next day. (B) (N)

Meal basis: As per itinerary - B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards, to discuss flight options or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £4,095
Guide price months: Jan – Mar

High season from £4,295
Guide price months: Oct – Dec

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

Hidden Treasures of Gujarat

Duration • 11 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Luxury

Rail journey • From £4,725

Tour overview

This rail journey aboard the luxurious *Deccan Odyssey* travels to some of India's hidden gems. This round-trip from Mumbai (Bombay), the pulsating commercial capital of India, includes visits to the exquisite Jain temples at Palitana, the sun temple at Modhera, the world heritage site of Champaner-Pavagadh, and the opportunity to see some of the last remaining Asiatic lions in their natural habitat.

This rail journey features...

- ❖ 5-star de luxe accommodation
- ❖ 7-night luxury rail journey in a Deluxe en suite cabin
- ❖ International flights
- ❖ Private arrival & departure transfers
- ❖ Pre- & post-rail luxury accommodation
- ❖ All meals included during the train journey
- ❖ Complimentary soft drinks & tea / coffee on board
- ❖ Butler service
- ❖ Guided off-train excursions as specified
- ❖ All entrance fees & still camera fees
- ❖ Portering at stations

Special experiences

- ❖ Admire the exquisite Jain temple complex in Palitana
- ❖ Visit the historic sun temple at Modhera
- ❖ Search for Asiatic lions in Sasan Gir



Asiatic lions, Sasan Gir National Park

Day 1: Fly to Mumbai (N)

Day 2: Mumbai

Arrive and transfer to The LaLiT Mumbai (or similar) for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day at leisure. (N)

Day 3: Mumbai

Morning at leisure. Afternoon transfer to the Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to board the *Deccan Odyssey* for your 7-night journey. (B, D)

Day 4: Vadodara

Visit Champaner-Pavagadh Archaeological Park, an ancient town full of ruins, and the Maharaja Fateh Singh Museum, originally constructed as a school for the maharajah's children. Later today, watch a live folk performance while enjoying high tea at the magnificent Laxmi Vilas Palace, residence of the royal family. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Bhavnagar

Arrive into the port city of Bhavnagar where there will be an excursion to Palitana, famed for its spectacular cluster of Jain temples exquisitely carved in marble. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Sasan Gir National Park

Accompanied by an expert naturalist, venture into the national park in search of the Asiatic lion. Return to the train and proceed to Somnath to visit its temple, regarded as one of the twelve most sacred shrines dedicated to Lord Shiva. (B, L, D)

Day 7: The Little Rann Of Kutch

Desert safari across the Little Rann of Kutch, a saline wilderness inhabited by wild ass and a multitude of water birds. Visit some of the local settlements, renowned for their traditional

embroideries and weaving. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Modhera

Arrive in Modhera, known for its sun temple dating from the 11th century, and the Rani ki Vav stepwell, one of the finest examples of subterranean architecture for water management. Continue to Patola House, where traditional Patola sarees are made. Overnight journey to Nasik. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Nasik

Arrive in the holy city of Nasik, one of the four locations to hold the Kumbh Mela festival and an important pilgrimage site for many Hindus. Visit the Buddhist Pandavleni caves that date back to second century BC. Continue to the Grover Zampa vineyards for a wine tour, followed by lunch before returning to the train. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Mumbai

Morning arrival in Mumbai. Disembark and continue to The LaLiT Mumbai for 1 night. (B)

Day 11: Fly home

Transfer to the airport and fly home. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary - B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

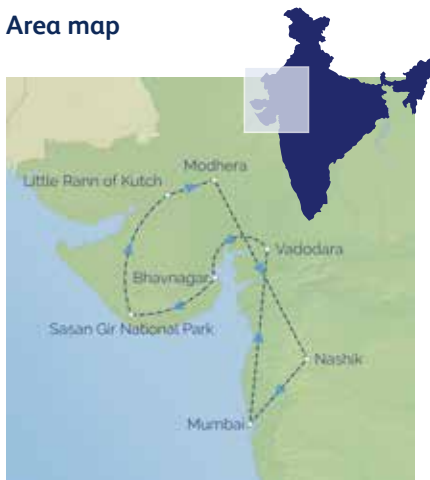
Important information

Itinerary changes: Please check the itinerary when you board the train as this is subject to change at the discretion of the operator.

Overnight journeys: The train travels between towns during early mornings and late evenings, allowing guests to see the scenery as the train cuts across the Indian countryside; however, on certain days there are overnight journeys to cover the distances while on other days some overnight travel is essential to follow the schedule as per the requirements of the Indian Railways.

Non-exclusive activities: When on board the train, all transfers and excursions are operated as a group with other passengers who may or may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Area map



Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £4,725
Guide price months: Jan – Sep

High season from £4,775
Guide price months: Oct – Dec

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

Goa Villas & Resorts

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.

Goa, India's smallest state, is famous for its laid-back atmosphere coupled with miles and miles of golden beaches lined with palm trees. Colonised for over 450 years by the Portuguese, the European influence is still evident in the baroque architecture, military forts, Catholic culture and flamboyant cathedrals. The reason for their invasion is also still here – spice. The scents and flavours of Goan cuisine are mouthwatering.

There are three distinct regions to the state. The town of Old Goa, which, along with Panjim – the capital city – makes up central Goa, has a strong Portuguese influence. Central Goa, famed for its nightlife, separates north Goa from the far south, which is ideal for those seeking tranquil, expansive beaches.

The laid-back lifestyle of Goan people, their distinct music, colourful markets and the small rural villages in the region make Goa an ideal destination to explore and relax, particularly in the months from October to March.



Luxury Villa

Ishavilas, Siolim

Located in the sleepy town of Siolim in Goa, not far from the beaches and fine restaurants, Ishavilas is a collection of three Portuguese villas nestled among lush greenery and a sprawling garden. The elegantly furnished villas include a 1-bed villa (sleeps 2), a 2-bed villa (sleeps 4) and a 4-bed cottage (sleeps 8). The villas are fully staffed with the option to personalise daily meals.

Features:

3 villas, private staff, swimming pool, dining room, garden.



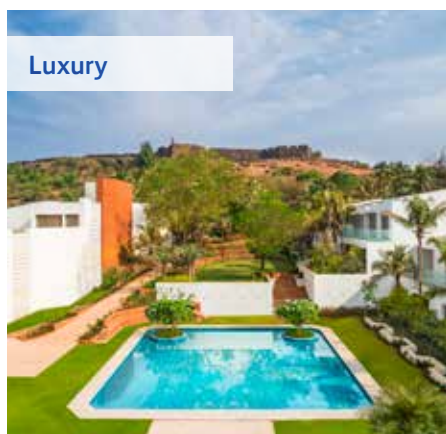
Luxury Villa

Shunya Noi Varo, Siolim

Approximately a 10-minute walk to the nearest beach, the Shunya Noi Varo is a tastefully restored Portuguese-era home combining the comforts of a luxury property and the warmth of a homestay. Sleeping up to 10 people, the Shunya Noi Varo is a good choice for groups or leisurely family getaways. The cheerful house staff are happy to engage with you, whether to plan your daily meals or advise on day trips.

Features:

5 rooms sleeping up to 10 people, private chef, lap pool, air-conditioned rooms, Wi-Fi.



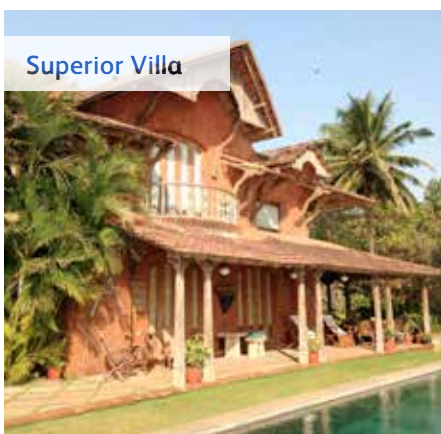
Luxury

W Resort, Vagator Beach

Within walking distance of the popular Vagator Beach in north Goa, the W Resort is a beach spa retreat surrounded by spectacular scenery. The beauty of the scenery is equalled by the stylish design and ambience of the property. The rooms are spacious with modern amenities and the resort also has several 2-bedroom seafront villas, which provide an ideal space for a family getaway.

Features:

160 rooms including villas sleeping up to 4, 2 restaurants, bar, spa, swimming pool.



Superior Villa

Ahilya by the Sea, Coco Beach

The intimate and sophisticated Ahilya by the Sea is tucked away near Coco Beach and offers 3- and 4- bedroom Portuguese-style villas that can be used exclusively for groups of friends or a family. With a relaxed, friendly atmosphere and a strong emphasis on the arts, music and cuisine, the Ahilya by the Sea recreates the glorious atmosphere of Old Goa in bygone times.

Features:

3- and 4-bed villas sleeping up to 6 and 8 people, swimming pool, dining room.



Superior

Vivanta by Taj – Holiday Village, Sinquerim Coast

Located along the beautifully preserved Sinquerim coast, Vivanta by Taj – Holiday Village resembles a Goan-Portuguese village. The 142 rooms set within terracotta-roofed cottages are located amid landscaped gardens. Restaurants include beachfront seafood dining, a restaurant serving Indian and international cuisine, and a Thai restaurant.

Features:

142 rooms, 4 restaurants, bar, swimming pool, spa, five-hole golf course.



Luxury

Taj Exotica, Benaulim

Set within 22 hectares of landscaped gardens in south Goa and beside a beautiful beach, the Taj Exotica is a luxury resort featuring several dining options including fine dining restaurants serving a range of cuisines from Asian to continental. The resort also provides a variety of recreational options including a 9-hole golf course, badminton facilities and a tennis court.

Features:

140 rooms, 3 restaurants, lounge, bar, fitness centre, Jiva spa, shopping arcade, swimming pool with separate children's pool.



Luxury

Park Hyatt Resort & Spa, Arossim

The award-winning Park Hyatt in southern Goa is a luxury beach resort set amid landscaped gardens and lagoons. Designed in traditional Portuguese-Goan style, the hotel combines striking architecture and understated elegance with the highest standards of service. The spacious pousada-style rooms and suites blend regional charm with contemporary style.

Features:

250 rooms & suites, 5 restaurants, 2 bars, poolside bar, wine room, outdoor swimming pool, spa, children's club, Wi-Fi.



Luxury

The Leela, Cavelossim

Set among lush landscaped gardens and fronted by a golden beach, the Leela combines Portuguese style with Indian hospitality. The magnificent lobby draws on 14th-century design motifs, while the gardens and lagoons complete the atmosphere of opulence. Most rooms and suites have a terrace or balcony. Dining options include an Indian, Italian and seafood restaurant.

Features:

206 rooms & suites, 4 restaurants, 2 bars, outdoor swimming pool, spa, children's club, tennis courts, 12-hole par 3 golf course, Wi-Fi.



Superior

Alila Diwa, Majorda

Set amid lush rice fields leading to the Arabian Sea, Alila Diwa Goa is a contemporary resort in a peaceful setting. Inspired by traditional Goan design with high ceilings, tiled roofs and wide verandas, it features elegantly furnished rooms overlooking picturesque paddies. Among the delightful experiences on offer, we recommend a cooking class to learn how to prepare local delicacies.

Features:

153 rooms & suites, 3 restaurants, bar, infinity pool, spa, children's club, mini theatre, library, Wi-Fi.



Superior

Vivanta by Taj – Fort Aguada Beach

Built on the ramparts of a 16th-century Portuguese fort, Vivanta by Taj – Fort Aguada Beach is spread across 30 hectares of tropical land. Located on a hillside, the resort offers fantastic views of the coast below. With Goan-Portuguese architecture and an elegant interior design, the hotel effortlessly blends colonial and contemporary influences. The hotel has five restaurants serving local and international dishes.

Features:

145 rooms, 5 restaurants, bar, mini-golf, swimming pool, spa, fitness centre.



Good Standard

Siolim House, Siolim

Built in 1675, Casa Palacio Siolim House is an old Portuguese colonial manor house. After extensive restoration, it was converted into a hotel and is today an ideal retreat for those who prefer hotels with the atmosphere of a private home. Featuring eight rooms, the house is located just a short drive from Goa's beautiful beaches and has its own private swimming pool.

Features:

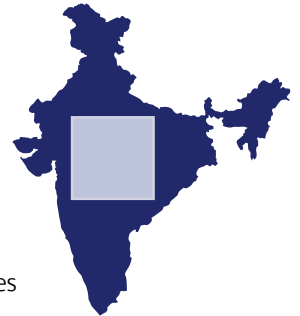
8 rooms & suites (some air conditioned and others with ceiling fans), dining room, swimming pool, Wi-Fi.



Central India & its Wildlife

Group tours • Tailor-made travel

The heart of India has a lot to offer. From lush tropical jungle, thick teak forests and open grassland to shimmering lakes, meandering rivers and crashing waterfalls, central India's varied environments remain untouched and are home to a vast diversity of flora and fauna, all thriving in some of the world's most spectacular national parks. Alongside the wildlife are ancient fortress towns, splendid palaces and historic cities.



Jump on a jeep safari in Panna National Park, looking out for Bengal tigers, leopards and sloth bears; visit the beautiful sal and bamboo forests of Kanha, inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*; search the skies for migratory steppe eagles in Bandhavgarh; and venture into Satpura on a walking safari. Make a return to civilisation and marvel at the many historical sights of this region: visit the picturesque riverside city of Orchha, the temples and ghats of Maheshwar fort and the ruined city of Mandu. The natural and historical wonders in the central provinces are endless.

Discover central India & its wildlife

- 90 Bhopal, Orchha & Maheshwar
- 91 Pachmarhi
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- 93 Pench, Satpura, Kanha & Tadoba-Andhari national parks

Small group & private tours

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- 96 Suggested wildlife itineraries • Private

Places to stay – our suggestions

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Climate

Central India has a subtropical climate and, like areas in north India, it has a hot dry summer (April-June) followed by monsoon rains (July-September), with a cool and relatively dry winter. Madhya Pradesh is not prone to extreme temperatures, though you may experience summer heat waves, or cold snaps and heavy rainfall during the winter.

Kanha

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	26	29	33	38	40	36	30	29	30	31	28	26
B	11	13	18	22	26	25	23	23	22	19	14	11
C	21	22	23	12	15	179	423	452	219	42	11	20

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

020 3930 5073 Info@CoxandKings.co.uk CoxandKings.co.uk

Image left: Leopard, Bandhavgarh National Park

Discover Central India

Bhopal

Teeming markets, mosques & palaces • Prehistoric cave paintings

Bhopal, the vibrant capital of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, was founded by the legendary Raja Bhoj, who is credited with constructing the lakes around which the city is built. The present city was laid out by the Afghan chief Dost Mohammad Khan, who was in charge of Bhopal during Aurangzeb's reign but took advantage of the confusion following Aurangzeb's death in 1707 to carve out his own small kingdom.

Today, the aristocratic influence of the former rulers is still visible in the old city's bustling markets, beautiful mosques and exquisite palaces. The city is also an excellent base to visit the prehistoric cave paintings at Bhimbetka and the Buddhist temples at Sanchi. Cox & Kings suggests a minimum stay of at least 2 nights at Jehan Numa Retreat.



Royal cenotaphs of Orchha

Orchha

Beautiful palaces & shrines • Superb rural vistas

Straddling the Betwa river, Orchha, abandoned and somewhat neglected, is perhaps one of the most picturesque places that you can visit in central India. Founded in 1531, it remained the capital of the Rajput kingdom until 1783. The sleepy town, a remarkable legacy of the Bundela rulers, has three beautiful palaces, which combine to form an imposing complex scattered with small shrines and cenotaphs. Temples such as the Chatrabhuj and Lakshmi Narayan, along with the Jahangir Mahal Palace, are still in good condition, while nearby you can enjoy fabulous panoramas of the surrounding countryside. Orchha's convenient location makes it an ideal overnight stop, either between Gwalior and Khajuraho or when combining Agra and Khajuraho.

Maheshwar

Bathing ghats & ancient temples • Maheshwar fort

The historic fort-city of Maheshwar is located on the banks of the Narmada river. A pilgrimage centre since medieval times, it is now renowned for its bathing ghats and rows of ancient temples. The town first came to prominence in the 18th century during the reign of Queen Ahilyabai Holkar. Under her patronage, the Maheshwar fort was strengthened and modernised and a number of temples and ghats were built. The queen also promoted the use of the handloom and, 250 years later, saree weaving is a thriving industry in the town. Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 3 nights at the Ahilya Fort, the former home of Queen Ahilyabai and now a delightful hotel with stunning views of the river and ancient temples.

Pachmarhi

Colonial hill station • Walking trails • Rock paintings

On the northern slopes of the Satpura range, Pachmarhi is central India's only hill station, surrounded by tranquil forests interspersed with deep pools, ravines and caves. Introduced to the western world by Captain Forsyth in 1857, the British developed Pachmarhi as the summer capital of the central provinces. Today, the sprawling civil area within the town retains a distinct colonial ambience. It is also now a biosphere reserve and an ideal place from which to trek to the neighbouring Mahadeo hills, known for their astonishing wealth of rock paintings. There are numerous walks into the countryside of varying difficulty, with opportunities to meet local tribes.



Bhimbetka caves



Ruins of Afghan architecture, Mandu

C&K Recommends...

The ghost city of Mandu

Mandu, with sweeping views of the Nimar plains, was once the largest fortified city on Earth. Initially christened by the Malwa sultans as the 'City of Joy', the medieval capital inspired its rulers to celebrate the most pleasurable of pastimes – one of Mandu's most famous palaces was built solely to house some 15,000 concubines. This exotic ghost city is under an hour away from Maheshwar and, even more so than Orchha, is rural India at its best.

Visit to Bhimbetka caves

The Bhimbetka caves are set in the foothills of the Vindhya mountains, hidden amidst dense deciduous forest. They contain what are thought of as south Asia's richest collection of prehistoric paintings. The oldest of the paintings are believed to date back 12,000 years while more recent examples date from the medieval period. The Unesco site, which was only discovered in 1957, contains many other archaeological discoveries including tools and weapons.

A suggested itinerary...

The Heart of India

15 Days & 14 Nights from £3,955

The state of Madhya Pradesh contains a number of hidden jewels including the silent Buddhist ruins at Sanchi, the abandoned citadel at Mandu and temple ghats that line the Narmada river at Maheshwar and Omkareshwar.

Day 1: Fly to Mumbai (Bombay)

On arrival transfer to the Trident Nariman Point for a 2-night stay. (N)

Day 2: Mumbai

Explore colonial Mumbai and the Chor Bazaar. (B)

Day 3: Maheshwar

Travel to Maheshwar for 3 nights at the stunning Ahilya Fort. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Maheshwar

Day at leisure to explore the historic fort-city or

take a sunset river cruise. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Mandu

Visit the ghost city of Mandu. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Bhopal

Travel to Bhopal visiting Omkareshwar, a sacred Hindu island, en route. Spend 2 nights at Jehan Numa Palace. (B)

Day 7: Sanchi

Visit the stupas at Sanchi. (B)

Day 8: Satpura National Park

Visit the Bhimbetka cave paintings en route to Satpura. Stay 3 nights at Forsyth's Lodge. (B, D)

Days 9-10: Satpura National Park

Explore the park by jeep, canoe, walks and a night drive. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Orchha

Travel to Orchha by train and car to visit the beautiful palaces and shrines. Overnight at the Amar Mahal. (B)

Day 12: Gwalior

Travel to Gwalior, stopping en route at the stunning fort at Jhansi. Stay 2 nights at the Taj

Usha Kiran Palace. (B)

Day 13: Gwalior

Visit the magnificent Gwalior fort. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 14: Delhi

Take the train to Delhi. Overnight at The Claridges. (B)

Day 15: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,955 (Apr – Jun)

High season from: £4,615 (Jan – Mar)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



Central India's Wildlife

To experience India's rich wildlife, we recommend a visit to the state of Madhya Pradesh in the heart of India. Take safaris in open-top 4x4s and seek out tigers and other wildlife in the company of experienced naturalists and trackers. October to April is generally viewed as the best time to visit due to cooler weather, which means wildlife drives and travelling will be more comfortable. After the monsoon, October to the end of December is the 'green' season, with water-filled areas of land making for spectacular scenery. From January, increasing temperatures and little rain forces wildlife to congregate around the last remaining waterholes making it a good time to see and photograph wildlife. February, March and April are probably the best times to see tigers in India. National Parks in Madhya Pradesh remain closed on Wednesdays and in central India annually from 1 July to mid-October.



Indian roller, Panna National Park



Bengal tigers, Bandhavgarh National Park

Panna National Park

Bengal tigers, leopards, sloth bears & hyenas •
200 bird species

Dominated by lush, tropical forests, picturesque gorges and cascading waterfalls, Panna, one of the few large forested habitats left in the north-central highlands of India, is the most easily accessible park in this region. Since 2010, an extensive repopulation programme has seen an increase in the numbers of Bengal tigers in the park. The park is also home to leopards, sloth bears, nilgai, chinkara and hyenas, while the open grasslands support more than 200 bird species.

Bandhavgarh National Park

High density of tigers • Indian bison & wild dogs •
Steppe eagles

Bandhavgarh, in the heart of India, has one of the highest density of tiger populations in the country. Once the hunting preserve of the maharajhs of Rewa, the reserve's open terrain features large, grassland meadows, which offer good chances of tiger sightings. The park is home to a variety of other mammals, including leopards, Indian bison, hyenas and wild dogs. It is estimated that 150 bird species can be found here, including migratory steppe eagles that arrive in winter.



Nilgai, Pench National Park

Pench National Park

Rich biodiversity • Cheetals, sambars & nilgais

Perennial springs, a meandering seasonal river, open hilly terrain and teak forests make Pench one of central India's most beautiful national parks. Lying at the foot of the Satpura range of hills, its striking landscape is rich in biodiversity and supports an abundance of flora and fauna, including aquatic life and a number of endangered species. The fauna is varied with cheetals, sambars and nilgais regularly seen grazing on roadsides and the banks of the river. Jackals, wild dogs, gaurs, sloth bears and tigers, while not as common, are also present.



Eurasian hoopoe, Kanha National Park

Kanha National Park

Bengal tigers • Ant-eating pangolins • Birdwatcher's paradise

One of India's largest national parks, Kanha's green meadows and lush sal and bamboo forests provided the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*. Along with Bengal tigers, 22 animal species are regularly spotted here, including striped hyenas, leopards, ant-eating pangolins, highly endangered hard-ground barasingha – a type of deer – and the unusual three-striped palm squirrel. With more than 200 recorded bird species, Kanha is also a birdwatcher's paradise.



Sloth bear cub, Satpura National Park

Satpura National Park

Walking safaris • Tigers, leopards & sloth bears

One of the best-kept secrets of central India, Satpura National Park is home to thick dry deciduous forests, the Tara reservoir and striking landscapes. Although it is officially a tiger reserve, the tiger population is relatively small and this is perhaps the only park in central India where walking safaris can be organised, allowing you to get even closer to the flora and fauna. The park's limited exposure to humans, combined with the option of walking safaris in the core area, makes for an intimate wilderness experience.



Leopard, Tadoba-Andhari National Park

Tadoba-Andhari National Park

Bengal tigers • Leopards, wild dogs & hyenas • Many species of birds and butterflies

Tadoba-Andhari combines Tadoba National Park and Andhari Wildlife Sanctuary to form the oldest wildlife reserve in the state of Maharashtra. Characterised by a hilly terrain with dense dry deciduous forests, beautiful meadows, deep valleys and lakes, including the vast Tadoba lake, it is known to have one of the highest densities of Bengal tigers in India. The park is also home to hyenas, Indian wild dogs, sloth bears, leopards, nearly 200 different species of birds and more than 70 species of butterflies.

An Indian Wildlife Odyssey

Duration • 13 Days & 12 Nights

Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,935

Private tour • From £3,055

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions, room & flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 8 people (max 12)
- ❖ Direct international flights & internal flights in India
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour guides
- ❖ 10 wildlife safaris accompanied by experienced naturalists
- ❖ 12 breakfasts, 8 lunches, 8 dinners
- ❖ All meals & safaris in Pench, Kanha & Satpura national parks
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Porterage at airports and stations

Weather

Kanha National Park

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	26	29	33	38	40	36	30	29	30	31	28	26
B	11	13	18	22	26	25	23	23	22	19	14	11
C	21	22	23	12	15	179	423	452	219	42	11	20

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Wild tigers on the road

This small group tour explores central India's national parks in search of tigers. Kanha is known for its wild dogs, leopards and sloth bears, Satpura offers walking safaris and nights under canvas while Pench inspired Rudyard Kipling's celebrated novel *The Jungle Book*.

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Boat & walking safari in Satpura
- ❖ Jeep safaris accompanied by experienced naturalists
- ❖ Stargazing in Pench National Park

Day 1: Fly to Mumbai

Depart on the Jet Airways flight from London (regional connections available) to Mumbai (Bombay). On arrival, transfer to the Trident Nariman Point (or similar) for a 2-night stay. (N)

Day 2: Mumbai

Morning at leisure. In the afternoon you will see some of the city's landmarks: the Gateway of India, the Victoria Terminus, Rajabai Clock Tower and the High Court. Visit the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya, formerly the Prince of Wales Museum. Drive past the Hanging Gardens and Parsi Tower of Silence, including a photo-stop at the Dhobi Ghat. (B)

Day 3: Fly to Nagpur • Pench National Park

Take the morning flight to Nagpur and transfer to Pench National Park for 2 nights at Tathastu Resort (or similar). Pench National Park, nestling in the lower southern reaches of the Satpura hills, is named after Pench river, meandering through the park from north to south. After lunch, visit a local village. Evening stargazing session. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Pench National Park

Morning and afternoon wildlife drive in the company of resident naturalists. Pench tiger reserve has the highest density of herbivores in India. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Kanha National Park

This morning drive to Kanha National Park for 3 nights at Chitvan Jungle Lodge (or similar). The park was created in 1955 and today is among the most scenic wildlife reserves in Asia. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Kanha National Park

Early morning wildlife drive. There are 175 varieties of birds in Kanha, although most visitors are looking out for Kanha's major attraction, the tiger. Return to the hotel for breakfast. In the afternoon take a further wildlife drive in the park. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Kanha National Park

Early morning wildlife drive. Return to the hotel for breakfast. Further wildlife drive in the afternoon. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Satpura National Park

This morning drive to Satpura National Park and stay 3 nights at Forsyth Lodge (or similar). The park's limited exposure to humans, combined with the option of walking safaris in the core area, means Satpura is arguably the only place in India that offers an intimate wilderness experience. Other than the small tiger population, the park is home to leopards, wild dogs, sloth bears, wild boars, langurs and Indian gaurs. Birding here is also excellent and many raptors, as well as kingfishers and terns, can be spotted. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Satpura National Park

Accompanied by a naturalist and a tracker, go on a morning jeep safari, allowing you to cover wide swathes of the Satpura reserve looking for leopards, gaurs (Indian bison), sloth bears, wild dogs, hyenas and elusive tigers. After lunch enjoy an afternoon walking safari. (B, L, D)



Cheetal deer, Pench National Park

Day 10: Satpura National Park

Morning jeep safari. Afternoon safari by boat. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Bhimbetka caves • Bhopal

Breakfast at the hotel. This morning drive to Bhopal, visiting the Bhimbetka caves, known for their prehistoric paintings, en route. Overnight at the Jehan Numa Palace (or similar). (B)

Day 12: Fly to Delhi

Morning at leisure or optional visit to the world-famous stupas at Sanchi. Fly to Delhi for an overnight stay at the Holiday Inn Aerocity (or similar). (B)

Day 13: Fly to London

Transfer to the airport and fly back to London with Jet Airways. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary - B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Extension

Tour + Taj Mahal

3 Days & 2 Nights from £270

Extend your time in India with a visit to Agra to see the celebrated Taj Mahal.

Day 12: Agra

Take the afternoon train to Agra and spend 2 nights at the Trident Agra. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 13: Agra

Sunrise visit to the Taj Mahal, followed by a tour of the tomb of Itmad-ud-Daulah and the impressive Agra fort. (B)

Day 14: Fly to London

Travel by road to Delhi and fly to London with Jet Airways. (B)

Important information

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: JBK

Group tour

Low season from £2,935
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £3,035
Guide price months: Nov – Mar

Single supplement from £985

Private travel

Low season from £3,055
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £3,125
Guide price months: Nov – Mar

Single supplement from £985

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

Jet Airways flight upgrades

Premiere Class from £2,435 return
First Class from £4,095 return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

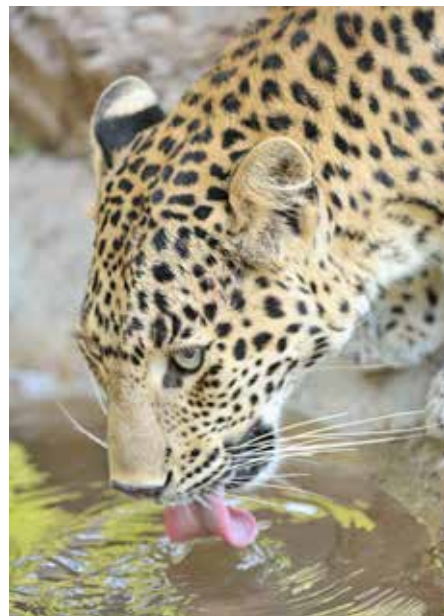
Out (Wed)	Rtn (Mon)	Out (Wed)	Rtn (Mon)	Out (Wed)	Rtn (Mon)	Out (Wed)	Rtn (Mon)
24 Jan 18	05 Feb 18	14 Mar 18	26 Mar 18	14 Nov 18	26 Nov 18	20 Feb 19	04 Mar 19
14 Feb 18	26 Feb 18	11 Apr 18	23 Apr 18	05 Dec 18	17 Dec 18	6 Mar 19	18 Mar 19
28 Feb 18	12 Mar 18	07 Nov 18	19 Nov 18	23 Jan 19	04 Feb 19	10 Apr 19	22 Apr 19



Asiatic lion, Sasan Gir National Park



Tiger, Pench National Park



Leopard, Jawai Hills

Suggested wildlife itineraries...

India's Big Five

15 Days & 12 Nights from £5,175

India possesses its own Big Five to rival that of Africa. This enthralling journey travels through three of the country's most diverse national parks with opportunities to spot its five large mammals: tigers, lions, leopards, rhinos and elephants.

Day 1: Fly to Mumbai (N)

Day 2: Mumbai

Arrive in Mumbai (Bombay) and transfer to the Taj Santa Cruz for an overnight stay. (N)

Day 3: Fly to Rajkot • Sasan Gir National Park

Fly to Rajkot and travel to Sasan Gir National Park for a 3-night stay at the Lion Safari Camp. The national park is Asia's last natural home of the Asiatic lion. (B, L, D)

Days 4-5 Sasan Gir National Park

Explore Sasan Gir National Park on morning and afternoon wildlife safaris. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Fly to Mumbai

Travel to Rajkot and fly to Mumbai for one night at the Taj Santa Cruz. (B)

Day 7: Kanha National Park

Fly to Nagpur and travel to Kanha National Park, the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's *The Jungle Book*, for 3 nights at Kipling Camp. (B, L, D)

Days 8-9: Kanha National Park

Vehicle safaris in search of tigers. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Fly to Kolkata

Drive to Nagpur and take an internal flight to Kolkata (Calcutta). Overnight at The Oberoi Grand.

Day 11: Fly to Guwahati • Kaziranga National Park

Fly to Guwahati and travel to Kaziranga for 3 nights at Diphlu River Lodge. Kaziranga was declared a wildlife reserve in 1926, in order to save the greater one-horned rhino. (B, L, D)

Days 12-13: Kaziranga National Park

Vehicle safaris in search of one-horned rhinos, tigers and elephants. (B, L, D)

Days 14-15: Fly home

Drive to Guwahati and fly home. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £5,175 (Nov – Dec)
High season from: £5,225 (Jan – Apr)

Secret India

12 Days & 10 Nights from £3,465

Away from India's better-known wildlife parks are two hidden gems – Satpura and Tadoba-Andhari. Less visited than other parks, both are seeing increased sightings of leopards, tigers and sloth bears. Satpura is also India's only park to offer walking safaris.

Day 1: Fly to Mumbai (N)

Day 2: Mumbai

Arrive in Mumbai (Bombay) and transfer to the Leela for an overnight stay. (N)

Day 3: Fly to Nagpur • Tadoba-Andhari National Park

Fly to Nagpur and transfer to Tadoba-Andhari National Park where an estimated 100 tigers roam the park. Spend 3 nights at Svasara Jungle Lodge. (B, L, D)

Days 4-5: Tadoba

Spend 2 days exploring the park. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Pench National Park

Travel to Pench for a 2-night stay at Taj Baghvan.

The reserve has extremely good tiger sighting opportunities and a varied fauna with sambar deer, dholes, leopards and nilgai regularly seen. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Pench

Full day exploring the two routes through the national park. Optional night safari in the buffer zone. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Satpura National Park

Transfer to Satpura for 3 nights at Reni Pani Jungle Lodge. Activities offered in Satpura include canoe trips, walking tours and elephant safaris. It is India's only national park to offer walking safaris, camping and trekking trips. (B, L, D)

Days 9-10: Satpura National Park

Explore Satpura by jeep, on foot and by boat. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Bhopal

Morning wildlife drive. Travel to Bhopal visiting the 10,000-year-old rock shelters of Bhimbetka en route. Overnight at Jehan Numa Palace. (B)

Day 12 Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,465 (Apr – Jun)
High season from: £4,195 (Jan – Mar)

Tigers & Leopards

13 Days & 11 Nights from £5,195

Little-known Tadoba, with its open forest, is stepping into the limelight for its tiger sightings. The Jawai Hills of Rajasthan could be regarded as an unusual location for elusive leopards yet here, among this spectacular scenery, they thrive.

Day 1: Fly to Delhi (N)

Day 2: Delhi

Arrive in Delhi and transfer to Claridges for one night. (N)

Day 3: Fly to Nagpur • Tadoba-Andhari National Park

Fly to Nagpur and travel to Bamboo Forest Lodge in Tadoba for 4 nights. (B, L, D)

Days 4-6: Tadoba-Andhari National Park

Exploring the park by 4x4 jeeps, Tadoba offers a realistic chance of good tiger sightings. Largely undiscovered by tourists, you may also spot sloth bears, wild dogs, gaur and many birds. Birdwatching and stargazing activities are on offer, and treks are also possible in the buffer region. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Nagpur • Fly to Mumbai

Travel to Nagpur and fly to Mumbai (Bombay) for an overnight stay at the Taj Santa Cruz. (B)

Day 8: Fly to Jodhpur • Jawai

Fly to the blue city of Jodhpur. Explore the Mehrangarh fort and the fascinating streets before departing for the Jawai Leopard Camp for a 4-night stay. The Jawai Leopard Camp is a luxury, eco-friendly, desert camp set in the remote Rajasthan wilderness, where leopards roam wild and free. (B, L, D)

Days 9-11: Jawai

Morning and afternoon jeep safaris. There is also the opportunity to explore the surrounding area and to meet with its colourfully attired shepherds. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Fly to Delhi

Morning at leisure. Fly to Delhi and overnight at the Andaz. (B, L)

Day 13: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £5,195 (Jan – Apr)
High season from: £5,475 (Oct – Dec)

Taj Safari Lodges

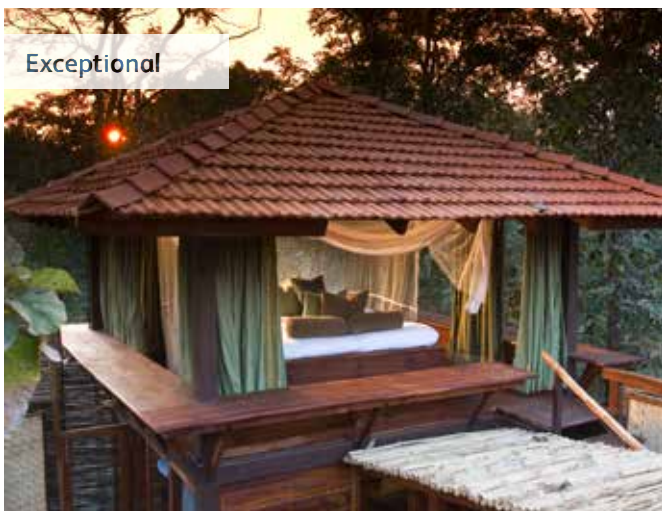


Mahua Kothi, Bandhavgarh

Located in a breathtaking setting among 16 hectares of open grass, meadowland and bamboo fronds, and just a 10-minute drive from the national park, this exclusive camp features 12 charming suites, crafted using local techniques and furnished with modern amenities. The vast grounds can be explored by bicycle, which are available to rent from the lodge. Enjoy wildlife drives and walks, watch the chef cook local specialities in the open-plan kitchen or simply relax by the pool.

Features:

12 suites, restaurant with open kitchen and bar, kitchen garden, outdoor swimming pool, in-room massage service.



Baghvan, Pench

Baghvan comprises spacious, contemporary bungalow suites, decorated in traditional Indian style and just a few minutes' drive from Pench National Park. All feature a *machan*, or covered private roof terrace, which acts as a viewing platform during the day – great for spotting wildlife that wanders the riverbed snaking past the lodge grounds – and can be used at night for a romantic sleep-out under the stars to the sounds of the jungle.

Features:

12 bungalow suites with private machans, dining deck by the riverbed, kitchen garden, swimming pool, sitting room with small library.



Banjaar Tola, Kanha

This outstanding lodge, set on the banks of the Banjaar river, is only a few minutes' drive from the lush forests and verdant meadows of Kanha National Park. The lodge has two stylish camps, each with nine tented suites built on stilts. The tents are spacious and contemporary in design replete with bamboo furnishings and overlook the core zone of the forest. Safaris at Banjaar Tola take guests in search of tigers, hardground barasingha deer, a variety of bird species and other wildlife.

Features:

18 tented suites with private viewing deck, restaurant with open kitchen, kitchen garden, lounge, swimming pool.



Pashan Garh, Panna

Perched on top of a hillock, Pashan Garh is set among 75 hectares of private jungle wilderness atop a small hill with views over the forest. Inspired by the local dry-packed stone architecture, the 12 chic cottages combine traditional style with modern flair and sophisticated design. Camera traps or a night safari within the lodge acreage are unique ways to appreciate the night life of the forest, which is teeming with antelope, leopards, wild boars, jackals and hyenas.

Features:

12 cottages with day beds, restaurant with interactive kitchen, infinity pool, kitchen garden, courtyard.



The Deccan Plateau & Tamil Nadu

Group tours • Tailor-made travel



The Deccan plateau makes up most of the central part of southern India, bordered by the mountain ranges of the Western and Eastern Ghats. During the medieval age, a number of India's greatest dynasties grew within this region. Almost every city contains architectural jewels: the maharajahs of Mysore constructed exquisite royal palaces and gardens while the city of Hyderabad was built by its ruler to resemble paradise itself.

Further south lies Tamil Nadu, an ancient land with a distinctive language, culture and history. This state has been at the heart of southern India's religious development and is scattered with ornate temples, ruined forts and colonial monuments.

	Discover the Deccan & Tamil Nadu	106	Tamil Nadu: Tiruchchirappalli, Madurai, Thanjavur (Tanjore)
100	Deccan: Hyderabad, Gulbarga & Bidar	107	Tamil Nadu: Pollachi & Valparai
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Climate

Tamil Nadu has a tropical climate with little temperature fluctuation. November to March heralds the winter season with cool temperatures in the hill stations. April and May are the hot months before the south-west monsoon from June to September. The north-east monsoon is between October to December with the dry season lying from January to May. The Deccan plateau is best visited from September to May.

Hyderabad

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	29	32	35	38	39	34	31	30	31	31	29	28
B	15	18	21	24	26	24	23	22	22	20	17	15
C	3	6	13	20	35	105	174	165	184	90	19	6

Chennai

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	29	31	33	35	38	38	36	35	34	32	29	29
B	20	20	22	26	28	27	26	26	25	24	22	21
C	20	12	4	10	38	61	117	158	135	259	343	147

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

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Discover The Deccan & Beyond



Mecca Masjid, Hyderabad



Golconda fort, Hyderabad

Hyderabad

Golconda fort • Koh-i-Noor diamond • Mecca Masjid

In 1591, Quli Qutub Shah founded Hyderabad, the pearl of the Deccan. To the west of the city, the spectacular Golconda fort was an important centre of Muslim power for more than 400 years and is known as the source of the Koh-i-Noor diamond.

Within the city, unmissable sights include Char Minar, a masterpiece of Qutub Shahi architecture, the Salar Jung Museum, the magnificent Chowmahalla Palace complex, and the impressive Jami and Mecca mosques. A maze of bazaars surrounds the Char Minar arch, the best known and oldest of which is Lad bazaar. Here, you can buy almost anything, from wedding bangles and rosewater to silver work, antiques, fabrics and pearls. Cox & Kings recommends a 3-night stay at the timeless and luxurious Taj Falaknuma Palace.

Gulbarga & Bidar

Medieval capitals • Gulbarga fort • Bidar fort

Gulbarga, the first capital of the Bahami kingdom, is known among south Indian Muslims as the home of Gesu Daraz Chishti, who was instrumental in spreading Islam in the Deccan. Highlights include several monuments such as Gulbarga fort, a magnificent structure with impressive round bastions; the Jami mosque, built in a similar style to the great mosque in Córdoba; and the Dargah of Bande Nawaz, a shrine to the 15th-century saint.

Two hours south of Gulbarga is the Islamic relic of Bidar. Little visited, this old walled town was the capital of the Bahmani kingdom from 1428-1487. The imposing 15th-century fort houses former palaces, of which the Ragin Mahal is the most elegantly decorated. Its intricate inlay of mother of pearl and curving calligraphy is truly spellbinding.

Badami, Aihole & Pattadakal

Rock-cut cave temples in Badami • World heritage sites

Picturesquely situated Badami, the capital of the early Chalukyas, is known for its magnificent sixth-century rock-cut cave temples and red sandstone cliffs. Of the four temples, three are dedicated to Hindu gods whilst the fourth is a Jain temple. A wander through Badami's backstreets reveals a treasure trove of old houses and Chalukyan ruins.

Aihole, with more than 100 temples, is renowned as the 'cradle of Indian architecture', illustrating a range of developing styles from Hoysala to Nagara, while Pattadakal is an art historian's dream. The monuments are remarkable for their variety and different architectural styles, clearly illustrating the region's position at the crossroads of north and south Indian traditions.

Hampi

Historic ruins & palaces • Spectacular landscape

The medieval capital of the Vijayanagara empire, mystical Hampi was once enormously wealthy and regarded as greater than Rome. Today, the surreal boulder-strewn landscape, on the bank of the Tungabhadra river, is dotted with the impressive ruins of more than 500 monuments. Walk through the palace complex and enjoy breathtaking views from hilltop shrines. The best way to enjoy this site is to explore it over a period of several days. The most impressive sights include Hampi bazaar; the Virupaksha temple, dating back to the 15th century and still used to this day; Sulu bazaar; the 16th-century Vittala temple, one of south India's three world heritage monuments; and the royal enclosure area, which contains the impressive Queen's bath, the elephant stables; and the Lotus Mahal, a fine example of Indo-Saracenic architecture.



Hampi



Pattadakal

C&K Recommends...

Mix with the old ittar sellers, Hyderabad

Tucked away amid the chaotic streets of Char Minar and the hustle and bustle of shops selling colourful bangles and elegant pearls lie a handful of perfume shops paying homage to the Mughal legacy of ittar, an essential oil. Marvel at the beautiful glass bottles and learn more about the blending of essential oils that form the basis of these heady perfumes.

Dine with a local family, Hyderabad

Hyderabad cuisine, a delectable mix of Mughlai and traditional south Indian food, is in many ways the legacy of the Nizams of Hyderabad. As guests of a Hyderabad family, learn about local recipes and how the various herbs, condiments and spices are used to give dishes their distinctive flavours. Following the demonstration, dine with the hosts.

Hyderabad's White Mughals tour

In the 18th and 19th centuries, many British officers assimilated into Indian society and a number of inter-ethnic marriages took place. This tour is based on William Dalrymple's book *White Mughals*, which tells the true story of the tragic romance between James Kirkpatrick and the beautiful Khair-un-Nissa. Visit The Residency, built by Kirkpatrick; the remains of the Zenana, the women's quarters; several churches; and the ruins of buildings from this period of Indian history.

A suggested itinerary...

Journey to Hampi

14 Days & 12 Nights from £3,115

Explore the striking monuments and intriguing history of the once powerful kingdoms of this region.

Day 1: Fly to Hyderabad (N)

Day 2: Hyderabad

Arrive and transfer to Taj Krishna for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Hyderabad

Morning visit to Golconda fort. Afternoon *White Mughals* tour. (B)

Day 4: Bidar • Gulbarga

Visit the ruins of the Bahamani kingdom in Bidar. Continue to Lumbini's Grand Hotel in Gulbarga. (B)

Day 5: Bijapur

Explore Gulbarga and drive to Bijapur for 2 nights in the Hotel Basava Residency. (B)

Day 6: Bijapur

Explore Bijapur, home to some of the finest Islamic architecture in the Deccan. (B)

Day 7: Aihole • Pattadakal • Badami

Visit the ancient temples at Aihole and Pattadakal. Stay overnight at the Badami Court hotel in Badami. (B, D)

Day 8: Hospet

Visit Badami's rock-cut shrines. Continue to Hospet and stay 3 nights at the Orange County Hampi. (B)

Days 9-10: Hampi

Visit the ruins of the Vijayanagar empire at Hampi. (B)

Day 11: Goa

Drive to Goa and stay 3 nights at Vivanta by Taj

Holiday Village. (B)

Days 12-13: Goa

At leisure. (B)

Day 14: Fly home

Transfer to the airport and fly home. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,115 (Apr – Sep)

High season from: £3,425 (Jan – Mar)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



Bengaluru

Garden city • Gateway to southern India

Set on the southern edge of the Deccan plateau, Bengaluru (Bangalore) is known as the 'Garden City' thanks to its numerous parks and tree-lined avenues. An excellent gateway to the many exotic towns and cities in southern India, Bengaluru is India's fastest growing metropolis, having emerged as the 'Silicon Valley of the east'. Relics of the past are dotted among the shopping malls, restaurants and sophisticated coffee bars, while there is a collection of stylish upmarket hotels and affordable international-style accommodation to choose from.



Bangalore Palace, Bengaluru

Mysore

Ornate architecture • Exquisite temples of Somnathpur

Mysore, a charming city, is the former capital of an important princely state. Magnificent palaces and royal gardens offer a glimpse of its past grandeur. The Wodeyars, the rulers of the state under British protection, were connoisseurs of art and architecture. The ornate Mysore Palace, designed by Henry Irwin, is embellished with murals. Its 100,000 light bulbs are illuminated over weekends and public holidays for an ethereal air. Mysore is also an excellent base to visit the island citadel of Srirangapatna and the exquisite temples of Somnathpur.



Mysore Palace



Keshava temple, Somnathpur

C&K Recommends...

Artisan tour, Mysore

Mysore is renowned for its inlay art, paintings, woodwork and stone carving. The backstreets of Mysore teem with wood inlay workshops. Interact with the local artisans and learn more about traditional styles and techniques. Nowadays, 5,000 artisans earn their living from their intricate carvings on rose and sandalwood.

Somnathpur, near Mysore

Built in 1268, the Keshava temple at Somnathpur is the best-preserved example of Hoysala architecture in India. The Hoysalas, a dynasty that ruled the southern Deccan between the 11th and 14th centuries, developed a distinct architectural style. This particular star-shaped temple is characterised by intricate carvings of scenes from the epics.

Srirangapatna

The spectacular island fortress of Srirangapatna is the former capital of two of south India's most powerful 18th-century rulers – Haider Ali and his son Tipu Sultan. The main attraction is Tipu's summer palace, set within ornamental gardens. Equally impressive is the tiger-striped interior of the Gumbaz, which houses the mausoleum of Tipu Sultan and his parents.

Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary

Situated on the banks of the Kaveri, Ranganathittu is renowned as a paradise for bird watchers. A series of small islands form an excellent habitat for water birds, with 14 species breeding here, including herons, storks, kingfishers and spoonbills. June to November offers the best birdwatching opportunities.



Scene from Ramayana carving, Halebidu temple



Elephant, Dubare

Chikmagalur

Easy access to Hoysala temple towns • Close to Bahubali monolith

Chikmagalur, located in the foothills of the Western Ghats, is famous for its tea and coffee plantations. The rugged mountain trails also make it a popular destination for trekking. Steeped in history and culture, Chikmagalur is the birthplace of the Hoysala dynasty. Today, it makes for an excellent base to visit the intricately carved Hoysala temples at Belur and Halebid, and the extraordinary Jain pilgrimage town of Shravana Belagola, famous for its monolithic statue of Bahubali. The tallest in India, it was erected in 981AD as a gift from Chamundaraya.

Kodagu

Walks through beautiful scenery • Wild elephants at Dubare • Tibetan life in exile

Straddling the eastern slopes of the Western Ghats, Kodagu (Coorg) is home to verdant valleys, fast-flowing streams, extensive paddy fields, exotic spices and lush tropical forests. Take guided walks through a working coffee estate before continuing to Dubare, home to wild elephants and more than 300 bird species. In nearby Bylakuppe, visit the second largest Tibetan community in India; the Nyingmapa Tibetan monastery provides a rare insight into Tibetan life in exile. Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at the Orange County Coorg.



Langur monkey, Nagarhole National Park

Nagarhole National Park

Tropical forests • Wild elephants, tigers & leopards

Nagarhole is a combination of the Kannadiga words *nagara*, meaning cobra, and *hole*, meaning streams, for the myriad streams that snake through the lush tropical forests. The jungle is home to over 300 bird species, including Malabar trogons, Malabar pied hornbills, crested hawk eagles, as well as elephants, gaurs (Indian bison), four-horned antelope, wild pigs and common langurs. The prey density of the park is one of the highest in Asia and the ecosystem naturally supports a thriving population of predators such as tigers, leopards and wild dogs. Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at the Orange County Kabini.

Bandipur National Park

Scenic wildlife reserve • Sloth bears, tigers & leopards

Once a private hunting ground, Bandipur is located in the foothills of the Western Ghats and is a Project Tiger site. Covered with a mix of deciduous and evergreen forest, this is a picturesque reserve with tall peaks and meandering streams. The reserve is home to a variety of wildlife including a sizeable population of Asiatic elephants, sambar deer, four-horned antelope, sloth bears, wild boars, elusive Bengal tigers, leopards and hyenas. The resident birds include woolly-necked storks, red-headed vultures and honey buzzards, amongst others. Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at the Serai.

Discover Tamil Nadu



Murugan temple, Chennai



Kailasanathar temple, Kanchipuram

Chennai

Former trading hub • Shore temples of Mahabalipuram

Chennai (Madras) was the busiest and wealthiest port during the British Raj, until Mumbai (Bombay) took the lead in the mid-19th century. The city encompasses several earlier settlements and has an intriguing history. A tour reveals ancient temples, monuments and markets that preserve the traditional Tamil character.

The stunning shore temples of Mahabalipuram lie to the south of the city. Its exquisite rock-cut temples, or *rathas*, have been declared a world heritage site. Eight temple porches dominate the hillside, while one shore temple survives, an exquisite row of Nandi Bulls surrounding its walls.

Kanchipuram

Vibrant religious centre • Silk weaving

One of the most vibrant religious and cultural centres in Tamil Nadu, Kanchipuram is among India's holiest cities and the seat of an ancient *gurukul*, a centre of learning. The town was once the capital of the powerful Pallava and Chola dynasties, which contributed its 150 temples, including the Kailasanathar temple, a favourite with art historians. The cluster of temple *gopurams* (towers) make for quite a picture.

The town is also an important centre for handwoven silk. Cox & Kings can arrange a visit to a weaver's home to watch the intricate process of preparing silk brocade.



Tricycle and French architecture, Puducherry

Puducherry

French legacy • Mohanam Cultural Centre

The charming seaside town of Puducherry (Pondicherry) is a former French enclave on the coast, south of Chennai. The French relinquished control nearly 50 years ago yet the unusual mixture of French and Tamil traditions remain. The French presence and influence is evident in many of the town's buildings and architecture.

Visit the Mohanam Cultural Centre. Run by young people from the surrounding villages, it aims to preserve the culture of the region through a series of heritage workshops for both locals and visitors. Take part in interactive crafts, dance, martial arts and theatre demonstrations.



The Blue Mountain Railway, Ooty

Ooty

Hill station • Ride the Blue Mountain Railway

In 1799, the British East India Company annexed the Nilgiri hills from legendary Mysore ruler Tipu Sultan. The celebrated hill station of Udhagamandalam, affectionately known as Ooty, has many relics from the British period when it functioned as the summer capital of the Madras presidency. Visitors should explore St Stephen's Church, its roof timbers reputed to have been pillaged from Tipu Sultan's palace; the Nilgiri Library, an elegant neo-gothic building; and the Snooty Ooty Club, where the game of snooker is believed to have been invented. A scenic ride aboard the British-built Blue Mountain Railway offers spectacular views of the eastern slopes of the rainforest-covered Nilgiri hills.



Indian mansion, Chettinad

Chettinad

Chettiar merchant mansions • Intricate architecture

Chettinad, named after the Chettiar merchants, is a small town in rural Tamil Nadu. Between the mid-19th century and early 20th century, the Chettiars accumulated much wealth and created lavishly decorated, fortress-like mansions. Today, the semi-arid region is dotted with grand houses and palatial mansions, notable for their intricately carved woodwork as well as arts and crafts from different parts of the world. Curiously, the mansions were rarely lived in for any length of time and even today are used mostly for family reunions and celebrations. Cox & Kings suggests a stay of at least 2 nights at one of the converted mansions and a tour of local villages to soak up the atmosphere.



Kodaikanal lake, Dindigul

Dindigul

17th-century rock fort • Stay in Tamil Nadu's hinterland

Set in the foothills of the Western Ghats, the small, remote town of Dindigul offers a welcome contrast from the more bustling towns of Tamil Nadu. It is renowned for its 17th-century rock fort, which figured prominently in the military operations of the Marathas and the Wodeyars due to its commanding views of passes into Madurai.

Approximately 45km from Dindigul is the intimate and tranquil Rajakkad Estate, set among verdant forest and coffee plantations. This is a small, boutique property with a homely ambience surrounded by stunning scenery, remote villages and serene walking paths.

Tiruchchirappalli

Site of historical battles • Vast Ranganatha temple

Tiruchchirappalli lies in the heart of Tamil Nadu, on the banks of the Kaveri (Cauvery) river. Its strategic location made it the scene of many bitter battles, initially between the Cholas and the Pallavas, and later between the Nayakas and the Mughals, before it became a major military cantonment and missionary centre during British rule.

A huge conical rock and ancient temples form the focus of the old city. You can climb the rock (437 steps cut into the stone), reaching the small Ganesh temple at its summit where superb views look out to the towering *gopuram* (tower) of the Srirangam temple.

The Ranganatha temple, just outside town, is one of India's largest temple complexes, remarkable for the geometric clarity of its design.



Meenakshi temple, Madurai



Flower market, Madurai



Temple, Thanjavur

Madurai

Ancient & bustling city • The lively Meenakshi temple • Gandhi Museum

Legend has it that a few drops of nectar fell from Shiva's locks onto the city of Madurai, giving it its name, which means 'city of nectar'. Once the seat of power of the Pandyan rulers, Madurai lies on the banks of the Vaigai river and is one of the oldest cities in southern India. The frenetic centre of the city's activity is the main temple – the mighty Meenakshi-Sundareswarar. An important centre for Hindu pilgrimage and covered in a profusion of brightly coloured stucco figures, it is one of India's liveliest temples. The dimly lit pillared halls are filled with pilgrims, priests and exotic fragrances. Madurai's other attractions include the Gandhi Museum, dedicated to the life of the great Mahatma Gandhi, and the impressive Nayaka Palace.

Thanjavur

Brihadeeswara temple • Bronze casting workshops • Thanjavur Art Gallery

Set in the heart of the lush rice-growing delta of the Kaveri river and once home to successive Chola, Nayaka and Maratha rulers, Thanjavur (Tanjore) is best known for its magnificent temples and distinctive artistic style. The Chola rulers were great patrons of art and architecture and spent enormous sums building grand temples. They also encouraged the practice of donating wealth to the temple for spiritual gain, which led to Thanjavur gaining prominence. Today, visitors can explore the Brihadeeswara temple, a monumental architectural achievement of the Cholas; see workshop areas where artists create exquisite bronze idols; visit the Thanjavur Art Gallery; and tour many other outstanding temples. Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at the boutique Svatma.



Indian elephants, Valparai

Pollachi & Valparai

Indira Gandhi National Park • Elephants at Valparai

Located in Coimbatore district and bordering the Western Ghats are the scenic towns of Pollachi and Valparai. Pollachi, known for its abundance of coconut groves and proximity to the Indira Gandhi National Park, is an area of outstanding natural beauty and home to many rare species of flora and fauna. It is also a perfect base for discovering ancient temples, visiting the Temple of Consciousness with its meditation hall, museum, library and communal kitchens, and exploring the nearby rustic villages where you can sample a traditional meal at one of the local houses. Keen bird watchers will also enjoy the variety of birdlife found here. Sightings might include the great pied hornbill and the black-headed ibis.

Valparai is a hill station located in the Anaimalai hills of the Western Ghats. Records indicate that the town dates back to the mid-19th century, when the first coffee plantation was established. Today, the town is surrounded by lush tea plantations and evergreen forest, home to wildlife including leopards, lion-tailed macaques, wild boar and elephants. Go on hikes in the surrounding landscape or join a tour around the local tea plantations.

C&K Recommends...

Follow the cotton trail, Pollachi

Visit Appachi Cotton, a social enterprise where you can learn first-hand about cotton cultivation in India from true artisans of the craft. They will lead you through the complete process of ginning, spinning, weaving and dyeing resulting in exquisite handcrafted fabrics and scarves. Make sure to also visit the adjoining school that it supports.

Tales of fickle kings and imposing palaces, Madurai

In a city that has endured such a turbulent history, it is little wonder that Madurai's streets and monuments hold such a wealth of stories. Join a Storytrails short walk through this ancient city and listen to tales that span the gamut of time and blur the lines between history and myth, stories of fickle kings and towering monuments, whimsical gods and extraordinary mortals, providing a glimpse into the city's past.



Tea plantations, Valparai

A suggested itinerary...

Grand Tour of South India

15 Days & 13 Nights from £2,675

Travel across southern India savouring the flamboyant temples of Tamil Nadu, the Kerala backwaters and charming Kochi.

Day 1: Fly to Bengaluru (Bangalore) (N)

Day 2: Srirangapatna • Mysore

Transfer to the LaLiT, Bengaluru for immediate occupancy. After breakfast, travel to Mysore, visiting Srirangapatna en route. Stay 2 nights at the Radisson (or similar). (B)

Day 3: Mysore

Morning visit to the Nandi Bull and the Maharajah's Palace. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 4: Ooty • Coonoor

Drive to the British hill station of Ooty. Afternoon tour of Ooty botanical gardens. Continue to Coonoor and stay 2 nights at the Gateway Hotel Coonoor. (B)

Day 5: Coonoor

Scenic narrow gauge train trip to Ooty. (B)

Day 6: Kochi

Full-day drive to Kochi (Cochin). Stay 2 nights at the Malabar House. (B)

Day 7: Kochi

Morning cruise in scenic Kochi harbour, followed by a visit to Jew Town. In the evening, visit a Kalaripayattu studio. (B)

Days 8-9: Alleppey • Kumarakom

Morning visit to Mattancherry Palace. Drive to Alleppey for a cruise through the backwaters. Transfer to Coconut Lagoon for 2 nights. Evening sunset boat trip on Lake Vembanad. Following day at leisure. (B)

Day 10: Thekkady

Morning transfer to Thekkady. After lunch, visit a spice garden. Overnight at the Spice Village. (B)

Day 11: Madurai

Drive to Madurai. Visit the Meenakshi temple. Stay overnight at the Heritage Madurai. (B)

Day 12: Tiruchchirappalli • Kumbakonam

Morning drive to Tiruchchirappalli to visit the

imposing Rock Fort temple. Continue to the nearby town of Kumbakonam for a 2-night stay at Hotel Paradise Resort. (B)

Day 13: Thanjavur

Morning visit to Brihadeeswara temple in Thanjavur (Tanjore) and Darasuram, a temple noted for its fine sculpture. Continue to a bronze-casting centre. (B)

Days 14-15: Chennai

Full-day drive to Chennai (Madras). Stay at Trident Chennai until departure to the airport. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,675 (May – Sep)

High season from: £2,875 (Jan & Mar – Apr)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

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Treasures of Southern India

Duration • 14 Days & 12 Nights
Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,395
Private tour • From £2,745

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions (see page 110), room & flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 14 people (max 26)
- ❖ International flights with British Airways
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 13 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 6 dinners
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Porterage at airports & stations

Weather

Madurai

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	30	31	33	34	34	32	32	32	32	31	30	29
B	22	22	24	26	26	25	24	24	24	24	23	22
C	16	19	22	63	54	87	130	140	111	192	141	71

A: Maximum average temperature (C)
 B: Minimum average temperature (C)
 C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Theyyam dancer

The delicate scent of spices, the sound of temple bells, exotic flora and fauna, and idyllic sandy beaches all characterise Tamil Nadu and Kerala. This journey travels through hill stations, tropical backwaters and temple-laden towns while staying in some of the region's very best hotels.

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ **Stay in the heart of the French quarter in Puducherry (Pondicherry)**
- ❖ **Visit Meenakshi temple for the night ceremony**
- ❖ **Spend 2 nights relaxing in the Kerala backwaters at the sublime Kumarakom Lake Resort**
- ❖ **Guided tour of hidden Kochi**

Day 1: Fly to Chennai

Direct flight from London (regional connections available) to Chennai (Madras) with British Airways. (N)

Day 2: Chennai

On arrival transfer to the Hyatt Regency (or similar) for 1 night (early check in available). Time at leisure before an afternoon tour of the city followed by free time at Marina beach. (B)

Day 3: Mahabalipuram • Puducherry

Morning walking tour of Mylapore, a town that

predates Chennai by 2,000 years. Continue to Puducherry (Pondicherry), visiting the world heritage listed shore temples at Mahabalipuram en route. Stay 2 nights at the Palais de Mahe (or similar) located in the heart of the French quarter. (B)

Day 4: Puducherry

This morning visit a local rural village, organised by Mohanam Cultural Centre. Watch the villagers involved in traditional crafts such as stone carving, ceramics and terracotta work. Afternoon guided walk through Puducherry, the location for the award-winning film *Life of Pi*. (B)

Day 5: Thanjavur

Drive through scenic countryside to Thanjavur (Tanjore) for 2 nights at the magical Svatma. Lunch at Kumbakonam and visit the handloom weavers' houses in Darasuram en route. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Thanjavur

Morning visit to the Brihadeeswarar temple and its beautiful frescoes. Later, visit the art gallery and fascinating Saraswathi Mahal library at Tanjore Palace. Evening introduction to the art of Thanjavur paintings at your hotel followed by dinner. (B, D)

Day 7: Chettinad

Travel to Chettinad. Visit to a village market and evening culinary experience followed by a traditional dinner. Overnight stay at Chidambara Villas (or similar). (B, D)

Day 8: Madurai

Travel to Madurai. Evening visit to the illuminated Meenakshi temple and Hall of



Shore Temple near Mahabalipuram

a Thousand Pillars for the night ceremony. Overnight stay at the Heritage Madurai. (B)

Day 9: Munnar

Travel to the hill country around Munnar for an overnight stay at Blackberry Hills Resort (or similar). (B, D)

Day 10: Kumarakom

Morning guided walk through a working tea plantation at Kannan Devan Tea Museum. Travel to Kumarakom for 2 nights at the Kumarakom Lake Resort, set within gardens and with panoramic views of Lake Vembanad. (B, D)

Day 11: Kumarakom

Day at leisure to enjoy the beautiful surrounds. (B, D)

Day 12: Kochi

This morning, cruise aboard a *shikara* (wooden boat) through the backwaters before driving to Kochi (Cochin). Evening traditional Kathakali dance performance. Stay 2 nights at Eighth Bastion (or similar). (B)

Day 13: Kochi

Morning sightseeing tour of Kochi's highlights including Mattancherry Palace, the Chinese fishing nets and the 16th-century St Francis Church. Then explore hidden Kochi including Jew Town, which showcases a number of dying arts such as exquisite French lace embroidery. Continue to dhobi wallah, a wash-house where a sea of white hotel sheets and clothing are slathered on the washing stones. Finish with a stop at Kochi's foremost art gallery-cum-cafe, Kashi. Afternoon at leisure to further explore the labyrinthine streets

and their array of local markets. (B)

Day 14: Fly to London via Mumbai

Fly to London via Mumbai (Bombay) with British Airways. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: CMK

Group tour

Low season from £2,395
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £2,525
Guide price months: Oct – Feb

Single supplement from £985

Private travel

Low season from £2,745
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £2,845
Guide price months: Oct – Feb

Single supplement from £1,005

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

British Airways flight upgrades

World Traveller Plus from £395 return
Club World from £2,095 return

Regional air connections

Prices on request: British Airways to / from Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle or Belfast

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Sun)	Rtn (Sat)	Out (Sun)	Rtn (Sat)	Out (Sun)	Rtn (Sat)	Out (Sun)	Rtn (Sat)
21 Jan 18	03 Feb 18	25 Feb 18	10 Mar 18	18 Nov 18	01 Dec 18	10 Feb 19	23 Feb 19
28 Jan 18	10 Feb 18	11 Mar 18	24 Mar 18	20 Jan 19	02 Feb 19	24 Feb 19	09 Mar 19
11 Feb 18	24 Feb 18	28 Oct 18	10 Nov 18	27 Jan 19	09 Feb 19	10 Mar 19	23 Mar 19

Tour Extensions



Tea plantation, Coonoor



Wild elephant, Nagarhole



Marari Beach Resort

Tour + Coonoor & Mysore 5 Days & 4 Nights from £645

Travel to Ooty to explore the erstwhile British summer capital and to ride the scenic Blue Mountain Railway. Charming Mysore is home to India's largest palace and a base from which to explore the island citadel of Srirangapatna.

Day 14: Coonoor

This morning drive to Coonoor. Stay 2 nights at the Gateway Hotel Coonoor (or similar). (B)

Day 15: Ooty

Enjoy the scenic narrow gauge train trip to Ooty aboard the *Blue Mountain Railway* as it glides past tea plantations and charming villages.

Afternoon tour of Ooty's botanical gardens. (B)

Day 16: Mysore

Travel to Mysore and visit the impressive Nandi Bull and the magnificent maharajah's palace.

Overnight at the Radisson Mysore (or similar). (B)

Day 17: Srirangapatna • Bengaluru

Travel by road to Bengaluru (Bangalore) visiting Srirangapatna en route. Overnight at the LaLiT Ashok Bangalore (or similar). (B)

Day 18: Fly to London (B)

Direct flight to London with British Airways. (B)

Tour + Mysore & Nagarhole National Park 5 Days & 4 Nights from £1,045

Enjoy a wildlife safari in Nagarhole tiger reserve, noted for its population of birds, elephants, langurs and predators such as tigers, leopards and wild dogs. In the Kabini area a black panther has been regularly sighted along with two tigresses and their cubs.

Days 14-15: Fly to Bengaluru • Nagarhole

Fly to Bengaluru (Bangalore) and transfer by road to Kabini for 2 nights at the Orange County Kabini. Full-day wildlife viewing the following day. (B, L, D)

Day 16: Mysore

Morning wildlife viewing. Travel to Mysore and take a guided tour of the city's artisan quarter and stunning maharajah's palace. Overnight at the Radisson Mysore. (B)

Day 17: Srirangapatna • Bengaluru

Travel by road to Bengaluru visiting the island citadel of Srirangapatna en route. Overnight at the LaLiT Ashok Bangalore (or similar). (B)

Day 18: Fly to London (B)

Direct flight to London with British Airways. (B)

Tour + Marari Beach Resort 4 Days & 3 Nights from £335

Extend your stay in tropical Kerala by spending 3 nights at Mararikulam, a beautiful stretch of beach located between Kochi (Cochin) and Alleppey. One of the picturesque fishing villages that dot the coastline, the main attractions are the local culture, the warm waters of the Indian Ocean and the extensive sandy beaches. Stay at Marari Beach Resort, a homely haven with thatched cottages set amid gardens by the sea.

Day 14: Marari

This morning drive to Mararikulam for 3 nights at the Marari Beach Resort, a village-style hotel that provides comfortable accommodation in 62 individual cottages and Deluxe pool villas. (B)

Days 15-16: Marari

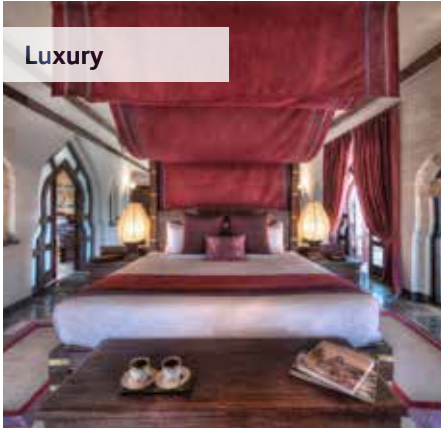
Days at leisure to enjoy the resort's facilities, which include daily yoga sessions and a large swimming pool. The resort is also able to offer culinary experiences, village walks and cycling excursions. (B)

Day 17: Fly to London via Mumbai

Fly to London via Mumbai (Bombay) with British Airways. (B)

Deccan Hotel Collection

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



Luxury

Orange County, Hampi

Recreating the architectural heritage of the Vijayanagara empire, the Orange County Hampi, which opened in 2016, blends historical elegance, palatial grandeur and modern luxury. The 46 suites are split into four categories, all decorated in an Indo-Islamic style and the architecture of Hampi. The hotel has an infinity pool, a family pool, a spa and two restaurants offering continental and Indian cuisines.

Features:

46 suites, 2 restaurants, 2 swimming pools, spa, Wi-Fi.



Luxury

Orange County, Nagarhole

Flanked on both sides by the Kabini river, the picturesque Orange County Kabini is an ecolodge set in the heartland of the Kadukuruba tribe of Nagarhole forest. Inspired by the mud-walled thatched dwellings of the Kuruba tribe, the hotel is built in authentic village style using local materials. The lodge offers a range of nature activities including walking, jeep and boat safaris and elephant encounters.

Features:

37 palm-thatched huts, 2 restaurants, bar, private dining cruise, 2 pools, spa.



Luxury

Orange County, Kodagu

Orange County Coorg is located in the hills of the Western Ghats and offers one of the best plantation experiences in India. This peaceful resort comprises thatched cottages, villas and bungalows inspired by Kodava architecture and in keeping with the natural environment. A range of activities are on offer including plantation and nature walks, birdwatching, village visits and joining in the plantation worker's shift.

Features:

43 villas, cottages & bungalows, 3 restaurants, bar, infinity pool, family pool, spa.



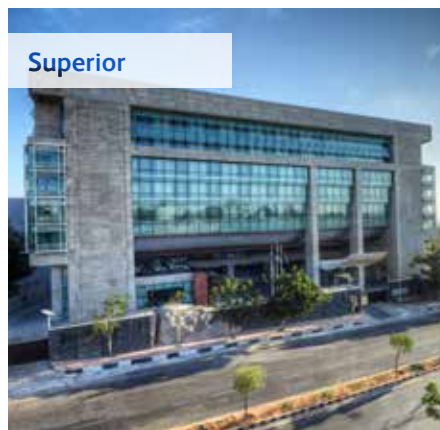
Luxury

The Serai, Bandipur

Inspired by African wildlife lodges and designed in harmony with its natural surroundings, the luxury Serai occupies an enviable location overlooking the majestic Nilgiri hills and is just a couple of kilometres from Bandipur National Park, a noted tiger reserve. The Serai offers accommodation ranging from huts to residences, each with thatched roofs, spacious bathrooms and open verandas looking out towards the forests and mountains.

Features:

22 mountain-view huts & 2 residences, restaurant, bar, wildlife library, pool, spa.



Superior

Park Hyatt, Hyderabad

Set between the residential districts of Jubilee Hills and the Banjara Hills, the Park Hyatt Hyderabad is a large luxury property with striking architecture, a grand atrium and carefully curated artwork. Rooms above the standard category have views of Hyderabad's skyline. The three restaurants offer an array of fine-dining options and the lounge is a relaxing spot to enjoy afternoon tea or an evening night cap.

Features:

185 rooms, 3 restaurants, spa & fitness centre, swimming pool, Wi-Fi.



Superior

SwaSvara, Gokarna

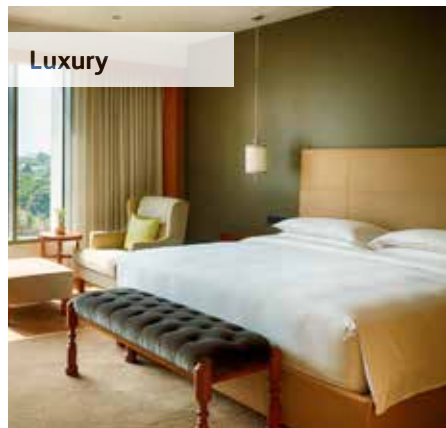
SwaSvara is located on a clifftop overlooking Om beach, surrounded by large coconut groves and paddies and with rooms and villas set between the rainforest and the resort's own lake. SwaSvara is a relaxation haven where the focus is on wellness and rejuvenation, with Ayurvedic spa treatments, extensive yoga and meditation facilities on offer. Dining is also centred on wellbeing, with an emphasis on healthy eating.

Features:

24 Konkan villas, restaurant, bar, indoor & outdoor pool, spa, yoga & meditation facilities.

Tamil Nadu Hotel Collection

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



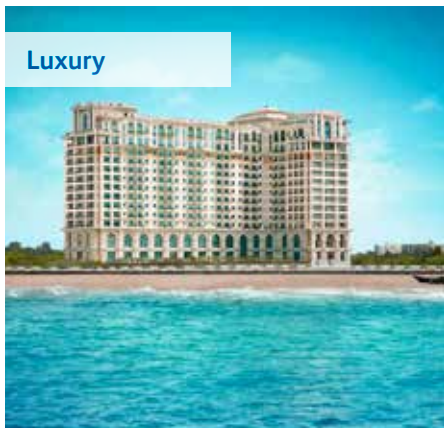
Luxury

Park Hyatt, Chennai

The luxurious Park Hyatt Chennai is located next to the official residence of the Governor of Chennai with easy access to the commercial districts of the city. The chic, minimalist design combined with Chennai's (Madras') rich cultural heritage lends an interesting character to the hotel. The two restaurants serve Indian and international cuisine while the rooftop infinity pool offers views over Guindy National Park.

Features:

201 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, infinity pool, spa.



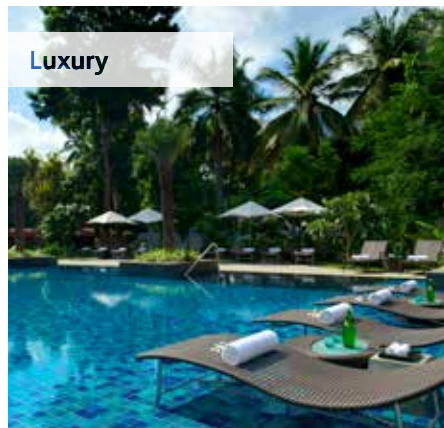
Luxury

The Leela Palace, Chennai

Set on the confluence of the Bay of Bengal and the Adyar river, the Leela Palace is an opulent hotel inspired by the fortress-like mansions of the Chettinad dynasty. The hotel exudes regal splendour, featuring high ceilings, tall wooden pillars, Tanjore paintings and other impressive artefacts. The spacious rooms are all luxuriously furnished and offer spectacular sea views.

Features:

326 rooms, 3 restaurants, lounge bar, swimming pool, spa.



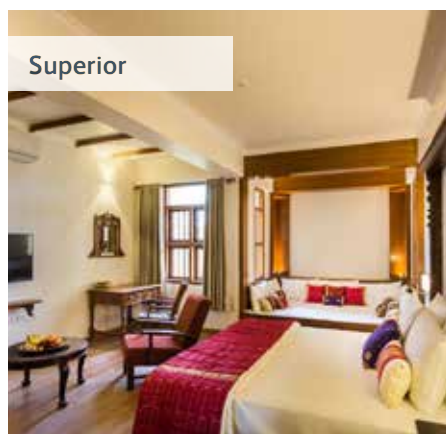
Luxury

Taj Coromandel, Chennai

One of Chennai's best-known landmarks, the Taj Coromandel presents a rich fusion of south Indian design and classic elegance. Rooms are understated with dark mahogany and textured furnishings inspired by the fishing boats that ply the beaches of Chennai. A fine array of dining is on offer in any one of the hotel's four restaurants, including Chinese and Indian cuisines.

Features:

212 rooms, 4 restaurants, bar, swimming pool, shopping arcade.



Superior

Svatma, Thanjavur

Svatma is a truly magical hotel, lying in landscaped gardens in close proximity to Thanjavur's (Tanjore's) most celebrated sights. Built as an elite family residence over 100 years ago, Svatma has been lovingly restored to provide 38 rooms all decorated in an individual style and character. A number of experiences are available including cookery classes, chamber concerts and Thanjavur painting lessons.

Features:

38 rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, spa.



Superior

Palais de Mahé, Puducherry

This quaint hotel is located in the heart of Puducherry's (Pondicherry's) old French quarter. The high ceilings, large verandas, bright tangerine pillars and ochre colonnades of this heritage-style mansion echo the distinctive Indo-French architecture of the region. The 18 spacious rooms are elegantly decorated using locally crafted furnishings. This delightful hotel includes a rooftop restaurant serving Indian and continental cuisine.

Features:

18 rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool.



Good Standard

Maison Perumal, Puducherry

Located in Puducherry's (Pondicherry's) seldom-explored Tamil quarter and set among rows of old Tamil houses, the Maison Perumal radiates old-world charm and warm hospitality. The architecture combines the best of French and Dravidian styles and there are many little details that bring this old family mansion to life. In the light and airy dining room you can enjoy local and international fare, always with an emphasis on local produce and French flavours.

Features:

10 rooms, restaurant & bar, courtyard.



Superior

Heritage Madurai, near Madurai

Set among 7 hectares of lush green gardens, the colonial Heritage Madurai has been beautifully restored and converted into a stylish hotel with a distinctive character. The rooms feature a seamless blend of old-world charm, all set within traditional village houses, some with their own sun deck and plunge pool. Savour modern Indian and international cuisine in the restaurant, with the option to dine beneath a 200-year-old banyan tree.

Features:

64 rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, courtyard.



Good Standard

Coco Lagoon, Pollachi

The Coco Lagoon is situated near the quaint town of Pollachi on the borders with Kerala. This is the ultimate rural resort, set in the heart of the countryside and surrounded by lush coconut groves and beautiful tropical gardens. There are 32 rooms in total including Deluxe rooms, suites, garden and pool villas, all with their own private balconies. The retreat offers yoga and a variety of meditation therapies to really help you relax.

Features:

32 rooms, restaurant, Ayurveda spa, yoga, infinity pool, fitness centre.



Superior

Chidambara Vilas, near Karaikudi

Originally built during the late 19th century, Chidambara Vilas was once a Chettiar mansion. Painstakingly restored over three years, it has retained many of its original features including a colourful facade, exquisite carvings, grand halls, courtyards, minarets and towers that look out over the town and paddy fields. The spacious rooms are comfortably furnished and carefully combine traditional charm with essential modern luxuries.

Features:

25 rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool.



Good Standard

Rajakkad Estate, Dindigul

Located in the hill country of southern India, Rajakkad is set among lush forests and coffee estates with the Palani hills in the background. This intimate and tranquil estate has an 18th-century ambience with seven unique bedrooms. The hotel's restaurant uses local ingredients, including those from the estate's own farm. The estate is a paradise for bird watchers and yoga classes are available in the beautiful surroundings.

Features:

7 rooms, dining room, sitting room, yoga classes.



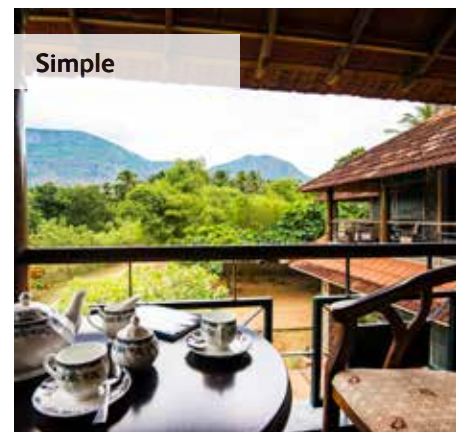
Good Standard

CGH Visalam, Chettinad

A typical Chettinadu mansion, CGH Visalam was originally built in the early 20th century and offers an eclectic mix of art deco, colonial and south Indian architectural styles. The 15 heritage rooms are simply furnished in the local style with original 1930s furniture, combining old-world grace with modern amenities. The distinctive local Chettinad cuisine is served in the mansion's restaurant and cookery classes are also offered to guests.

Features:

15 rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool.



Simple

Banyan Tree Farmstay, Valparai

Set within an 85-hectare working farm in the foothills of the Anamalais, the Banyan Tree offers a farm stay experience in rural Tamil Nadu. The ambience is homely and although guestrooms are simple, they are spacious and feature air conditioning and private verandas, providing a perfect spot for birdwatching. Relax into the local rhythm of life on plantation tours, village visits and cycle rides or nature treks through the countryside.

Features:

6 rooms, dining rooms, swimming pool, home theatre, fitness centre.



Kerala

Group tours • Tailor-made travel

The south of India is a tranquil region combining beautiful scenery, laidback cultures and the legacy of many layers of history that have resulted from its position as a centre for the spice trade, dating back to ancient times.



Kerala is often celebrated as the spice coast of India, a serene land of backwaters, verdant hills, quiet villages, leafy tea plantations, delicious food and fine beaches. This state is the ultimate region for relaxation amid interesting surrounds. The coastline is crammed with seaside villages and spice ports, dotted with the remnants of Portuguese and French cultures. Sleepy backwaters and palm-fringed beaches let you embrace the tropical climes, while colonial hill stations help you escape it.

Discover Kerala

- 116 Kochi (Cochin) & the Keralan backwaters
- 118 Lake Vembanad, Kumarakom, Thekkady, Periyar National Park & Munnar
- 119 Eravikulam National Park
- 120 Thalassery, Kasargod & Wayanad
- 121 Keralan beaches

Small group & private tour

- 122 Passage through Kerala • Group or private
- 124 Tour extensions

The non-exclusive group tour 'Spice Lands of Kerala' can be viewed online at CoxandKings.co.uk

Places to stay – our suggestions

- 126 Homestays & hideaways
- 128 Hotels, villas & lodges

Climate

Kerala experiences its most pleasant weather between November and March. Monsoon rains normally arrive in late April and last until July. Summer temperatures are lower than in northern India, although humidity is higher, however this is somewhat offset by a cooling breeze, felt most keenly along the coast and in the eastern highlands.

Kochi

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	31	32	32	32	31	29	28	28	29	30	31	31
B	22	23	24	25	25	24	23	23	23	23	23	22
C	6	24	37	107	284	752	848	514	316	310	155	42

Thalassery

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	31	32	33	33	32	29	28	28	29	31	31	32
B	22	23	25	26	26	24	23	23	24	24	23	22
C	3	6	17	88	258	814	997	538	277	254	129	27

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

020 3930 5073 Info@CoxandKings.co.uk CoxandKings.co.uk

Discover Kerala

Kerala, often celebrated as the spice coast of India, is renowned for its distinctive cultural and artistic traditions. This tiny state is rich in natural beauty with plantations growing many of the exotic spices indigenous to India; from cardamom to saffron and turmeric, they can all be found in abundance. A journey through this tropical land, which is also the smallest of all states in southern India, reveals its natural beauty and the influence of the various cultures that traded with the region over the years.

Kerala is no less renowned for its wealth of festivals, from the state festival of Onam to the prestigious Nehru Trophy Boat Race held on Lake Punamada, where magnificent snake boats compete for the prize of winning the world's most popular boat race.

For those wishing to go beyond the usual tourist trails, little-explored northern Kerala offers the opportunity to discover the rural charms of this region. Alternatively combine Kerala with the wildlife reserves and colonial hill stations in the neighbouring states.



Kochi

Rich colonial legacy • Spice trade history

Kochi (Cochin), overlooking the Arabian Sea and once a strategic port on the spice route, is an enchanting blend of east meets west. The narrow lanes of Fort Kochi are filled with colonial buildings, which serve as reminders of when the Dutch, Portuguese and British all vied for control of the spice trade. Buy exotic spices in the local market or take a sunset cruise in the harbour to see fishermen work the Chinese fishing nets.

Scratch beneath the surface and Kochi is so much more than the main sights of Mattancherry Palace, the synagogue and the 16th-century St Francis Church. Head off by rickshaw or on foot through the labyrinthine streets to explore its array of local markets: wander along Gujarati Street with its sweet and fruit stalls, discover the amazing collection of cotton items on Marine Drive and visit The International Pepper Exchange, the only place in the world where pepper is the exchange currency.



Chinese fishing nets, Kochi

The Keralan Backwaters

Cruise narrow canals & lakes • Abundant birdlife

A rural, riverine expanse of verdant coconut groves and paddy fields, the Keralan backwaters, formed by the 40 or so rivers that flow down to the Arabian Sea from the Cardamom Hills, are one of India's most enchanting areas and can be explored on a *kettuvallam* (converted rice boat) or aboard the *Oberoi MV Vrinda*. Traditionally, the kettuvallams were designed to carry cargo such as spices, and to provide living accommodation for the boatmen. Today, while the historic character of the boats has been preserved, these rice barges have been adapted to offer a unique journey along the waterways to observe traditional rural Indian life.

A backwaters cruise followed by an overnight stay aboard a kettuvallam offers a magical insight into the lifestyle of rural Kerala. Traditional Keralan cuisine is prepared and served on board by one of the boatmen. Just before sunset the boat drops anchor for the night. This is when the fishermen take their nets to the water to begin the night's fishing.



Church in the Keralan backwaters



Houseboat on the backwaters



Onam festival, Thrissur

C&K Recommends...

Cookery lesson, Kochi

Visit Neema's Kitchen for a taste of traditional Indian cooking. Celebrate a love of Indian food and spices while learning the techniques and delicate touches behind authentic home cooking. Neema will enthusiastically engage you in an interactive cooking class where you will learn how to cook Indian breads and scented rice among other dishes, before you enjoy the Indian delicacies that you have created. You can also stay at her home, a treasure trove of Portuguese history on the delightful Vypeen island.

Visiting Kerala at festival time

Onam marks Kerala's biggest cultural event, when the entire state celebrates the golden age of mythical King Mahabali. This 10-day festival in September is filled with folk performances such as Kummattikali, a colourful mask dance, and game playing. In Thrissur, men paint their bodies to look like tigers and wear tiger masks as they perform the Pulikali, or tiger dance. Another highlight is the Snake Boat Race, or Vallamkali, on the River Pampa. Decorated boats, oared by hundreds of boatmen, compete amid the chanting of songs and raucous cheering.

Hidden Kochi

Visit St Francis Church School, which provides 20 local children with a basic education and food. The children delight in showing off their singing skills to visitors. Jew Town houses a number of dying arts such as exquisite French lace embroidery; local artisans are happy to demonstrate their artistry. Be sure to visit Kochi's dhobi wallah wash-house where a sea of white hotel sheets and clothing are slathered on the washing stones. Finish with a stop at Kochi's foremost art gallery-cum-cafe, Kashi, or feast on a seafood dinner at the renowned Oceanos Restaurant.

Explore Kochi's artistic side

From December 2018 to March 2019, Kochi will play host to a celebration of contemporary art from around the world in the Kochi-Muziris Biennale. Venues around Fort Kochi will display works by international and Indian artists across a variety of mediums including film, installation, painting, sculpture, new media and performance art. Diverse cultural programmes will also engage visitors in this celebration of modern Kochi and its mythical predecessor, the ancient port of Muziris. Visit on a Monday when entry to all the events and venues is free.

Lake Vembanad & Kumarakom

Saltwater lagoon • Bird sanctuary

The vast, shimmering saltwater lagoon of Lake Vembanad lies between coastal Kochi and the town of Alleppey. A prime fishing ground for the local villagers, it is also an important nesting site for migratory wetland birds from as far afield as the Himalaya and even Siberia. The 5-hectare Kumarakom sanctuary, tucked away in mangrove, paddy and coconut groves, has been specifically set aside to cater for species such as darters, white-breasted water hens and pelicans, as well as Siberian storks, egrets and teals. The best season for birdlife is June to August. Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 2 nights at the Kumarakom Lake Resort.



Stork-billed kingfisher

Thekkady

Spice gardens • Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

Thekkady is set among the endless green slopes of the Cardamom Hills in the spice-growing region of the Western Ghats. The dense jungle and vast plantations of teak, cardamom, tea, rubber and coffee offer perfect respite from the heat of the coastal plains. A guided tour around a spice garden is an excellent way to see how the different spices are grown and to learn about the many uses of the various spices. Thekkady is also home to the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, which is famous for its elephants. Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 2 nights at the Shalimar Spice Garden.



Elephant bathing, Periyar National Park



Tea plantations, Munnar

Periyar National Park

Elephants & sloth bears • Scenic treks

Set high in the ranges of the Western Ghats, Periyar National Park is a botanical delight surrounding the picturesque waters of Lake Periyar. The park is home to some 320 bird species and over 60 species of mammals including nearly 1,000 elephants and a healthy population of gaur and wild boar. Although a designated tiger reserve, the tigers can be elusive and hard to spot. The park can be explored in numerous ways, from delightful forest treks seeking the Nilgiri langur to jeep safaris. Three-hour night treks can also be arranged. Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 2 nights at the Spice Village or at Hills & Hues.

Munnar

Tea estates • Kannan Devan Tea Museum

In the shadows of Anamudi, Kerala's highest peak, the hill station of Munnar stands amid dramatic mountain scenery, surrounded by rolling green tea plantations that were set up in the early 1900s by pioneering Scottish planters. See the tea pluckers at work and learn how tea was first introduced during the British Raj. The Kannan Devan Tea Museum houses some of the old instruments that were used in the production of tea in the early 20th century and provides a comprehensive explanation of the various stages of tea processing. Cox & Kings recommends a stay of at least 2 nights at the Talayar Valley Bungalow or Ambady Estate.



Nilgiri tahr, Eravikulam National Park

Eravikulam National Park

See rare mountain goats • Anamudi, south India's highest peak

Established to protect the endangered Nilgiri tahr, or mountain goat, the Eravikulam National Park is spread over an area of 97 sq km. Rich in forest and grasses, the park lies along the high ranges of the western coast of Kerala. The Nilgiri tahr is the main attraction as are sambar deer, bison, Nilgiri langur monkeys and the abundant birdlife.

The park really comes into its own once every 12 years, when the hill slopes are covered in a carpet of blue, the result of flowering Neelakurinji, a plant endemic to this part of the Western Ghats. Within the park boundaries is Anamudi, south India's highest peak. The grasslands and beautiful forest paths are popular for those seeking a soft trekking adventure.

C&K Recommends...

Sunset boat ride, Kumarakom

Board a boat at your hotel for a sunset ride around the serenely beautiful and scenic backwater destination of Kumarakom. Cruise out into the lake where your boat will drop anchor allowing you to watch the sun descend into the shadows of the shimmering lake.

Nature walks in Periyar National Park

A number of scenic trails criss-cross the Periyar National Park. An early morning walk, accompanied by a local guide, offers an excellent opportunity to see tropical plant life, a variety of birds and butterflies and, if you are lucky, barking deer, sambars and langurs too.

A guided walk through Windermere Estate, Munnar

The low clouds, rolling hills and chirping birds make the Windermere Estate a treat for nature lovers. Take a guided walk through the estate to view impressive mountain scenery and the extraordinary flora and fauna. Walks are around 4km long and usually take about 2 hours.

A guided tour of a working tea estate, Munnar

Accompanied by a guide, walk through a working tea plantation. Depending on the time of year, you might be able to see colourful tea pickers at work. Learn how tea was first introduced during the British Raj, the different types of tea that are produced today and the modern-day challenges faced by the estate owners.



Tea picker, Munnar

A suggested itinerary...

Hidden Gems of the South

16 Days & 14 Nights from £3,075

From the bustling port of Kochi (Cochin) and its colonial history, travel deep into the rolling hills of rural Kerala, amid spice and tea plantations. Finish in the luxury resort of Vivanta by Taj – Bekal for beach and backwaters relaxation.

Day 1: Fly to Kochi (N)

Day 2: Kochi

Transfer to the Eighth Bastion for a 2-night stay. Evening Kathakali dance performance. (B)

Day 3: Kochi

Explore Fort Kochi and the Mattancherry Palace. (B)

Day 4: Munnar

Travel into the Cardamom Hills for a 2-night stay at Windermere Estate. (B)

Day 5: Munnar

Guided walk of the Windermere Estate. (B)

Day 6: Pollachi

Transfer to Cocco Lagoon for a 2-night stay. (B)

Day 7: Pollachi

Excursions in the local area include following the Cotton Trail, visiting the Temple of Consciousness, or exploring the rolling scenic hills of Valparai. (B)

Day 8: Nilambur

Spend time exploring the rubber and teak plantations at Nilambur. Overnight stay at Maranat Mana, a traditional Brahmin household. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Wayanad

Travel to Kerala's green paradise for 2 nights at Tranquil – A Plantation Hideaway, complete with numerous walking trails and vanilla plantations. (B, D)

Day 10: Wayanad

At leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Kodagu (Coorg)

Delve deeper into the Western Ghats with 2 nights at Orange County, Coorg. (B)

Day 12: Kodagu

Visit Bylakuppe Tibetan Settlement, enjoy a coracle ride on River Cauvery or take part in a variety of nature and village walks. (B)

Day 13: Bekal

Travel to Bekal for 3 nights at the Vivanta by Taj – Bekal. (B)

Days 14-15: Bekal

At leisure. (B)

Day 16: Fly home via Mumbai (Bombay) (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,075 (Apr – Sep)

High season from: £3,295 (Jan – Mar)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk





Cherai beach, Kannur



Theyyam performance

Thalassery

Immense forts • Idyllic homestays

North of Kozhikode, the charming coastal town of Thalassery was once a major European trading settlement and an important port in the spice route along the Malabar coast. Its convenient location, with easy access to Mysore, makes it an ideal stop on a journey through northern Kerala. Visit the British-built Thalassery fort with its massive walls, intricately carved doors and secret tunnels leading to the sea. The Portuguese-built Fort St Angelo, which is perched on a promontory overlooking the sea in the neighbouring seaport of Kannur, is also well worth exploring. Cox & Kings suggests a minimum stay of 2 nights at Ayisha Manzil Keralan homestay, renowned for *moplah* cooking classes (Arabic- and Portuguese-influenced cuisine) conducted by the hosts.



Ritualistic art, Wayanad

Kasargod

Cultural centre of Neeleshwar • Tropical beaches

Kasargod lies on the northern tip of the Keralan coast, characterised by picturesque rolling hills, swaying coconut palms, ancient temples and majestic forts. The small town of Neeleshwar, the cultural capital of Kasargod, is known for its folk art, powerful Theyyam dance rituals, old markets and weavers. A selection of luxury hotels dotted along the expansive tropical beaches make Neeleshwar and the other small fishing hamlets in the region a convenient base to explore the Keralan countryside and visit the historical Bekal and Chandragiri forts. This is an ideal way to complete a journey through northern Kerala. Cox & Kings recommends a minimum stay of at least 4 nights at either the exquisite Neeleshwar Hermitage or the stylish Vivanta by Taj – Bekal.



Waterfall, Wayanad

Wayanad

Outstanding natural beauty • Edakkal caves with prehistoric carvings • Wildlife sanctuaries

Along the edge of the stunning Western Ghats, on the higher slopes of the Nilgiri Biosphere, Wayanad is a region of immense beauty with lush tropical forests, deep valleys, waterfalls and sprawling plantations. Not only are there many trekking trails snaking through the forests and a rich biodiversity, including lesser-known wildlife sanctuaries in Muthanga and Tholpetty, but the region also has ancient monuments, including the Edakkal caves with prehistoric relief carvings.

Cox & Kings suggests a minimum stay of 2 nights at Tranquil – A Plantation Hideaway, set amid a 160-hectare coffee and spice plantation, or at Wayanad Wild amid the rainforests of Lakkidi. From here, visit the Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary.

C&K Recommends...

Day hikes in Wayanad

Hike through dense forests, past picturesque mist-clad hill stations and across sprawling spice plantations on a guided trek in the deep valleys of Wayanad. A typical hike will introduce you to the flora and fauna of the region, as well as the locals, as you pass through rural villages, cultivated land and plantations. A series of treks are available ranging in duration and tailored to your abilities.

A night in a tree house

Set among 160 hectares of picturesque coffee and vanilla plantations in Wayanad, Tranquil – A Plantation Hideaway features rooms, suites and tree houses. Tucked away 35 feet up in the air, the spacious and secluded tree houses are built entirely with bamboo woven walls, coffee roots for tables and shelves, and a trunk growing through the bedroom.

Keralan Beaches

From the idyllic beaches near Kasargod in north Kerala to the bustling beach town of Kovalam at the southern tip, Kerala's scenic tropical coast on the Arabian Sea is a perfect place to relax and revitalise after a tour of southern India.

Kovalam, spread over three bays of golden sand in the far south of the state, is the most developed of the region's beach resorts. Choose from the opulent luxury of the Leela, or the boutique Surya Samudra. Travelling further north, the former backpacker haven of Varkala is renowned for its temples and dramatic backdrop of huge red cliffs. It remains an idyllic spot to enjoy the sunset over the Arabian Sea.

Conveniently located between Alleppey and Kochi lies Mararikulam with its wealth of upmarket luxury resorts and palm-fringed beaches. The nearby local village offers the sight of fishermen departing for their nightly trips. Cox & Kings recommends the Marari Beach Resort or the idyllic Marari Villas.

The far north of the Malabar coast offers less explored and remote beaches combined with an area rich in traditional customs and culture. This is the area for the Theyyam masked dances which take place in the local temples. Bekal, Kasargod and Kannur all offer tranquillity and empty beaches. Choose from the Neeleshwar Hermitage in Kasargod, the Vivanta by Taj – Bekal or the Kannur Beach House.



Varkala beach



Old fishing boats on a beach

A suggested itinerary...

Malabar Trails

12 Days & 9 Nights from £2,845

North Malabar is the creative centre for much of Kerala's folk music and colourful art. Little-explored by tourists, discover the rural charms of Kerala on this tour while staying in characterful accommodation, including authentic homestays.

Day 1: Fly to Kochi

Overnight flight to Kochi (Cochin). (N)

Day 2: Athirapally

Transfer to Athirapally. Stay at the Rainforest Lodge, set in almost 3 hectares of virgin rainforest. Afternoon visit to the waterfalls or take a guided jungle trek. (N)

Day 3: Sulthan Bathery

Drive to Sulthan Bathery and stay 2 nights at Tranquil – A Plantation Hideaway. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Edakkal caves

Morning visit to the Edakkal caves. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Nagarhole

Drive to Nagarhole. Stay 2 nights at the Orange County Kabini. Afternoon wildlife viewing. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Nagarhole

Full-day wildlife viewing. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Madikeri

Afternoon drive to Madikeri and stay 2 nights at the delightful Orange County Coorg. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Bylakuppe

Guided walk through the plantation, followed by a visit to the town of Bylakuppe. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Bekal

Drive to Bekal and stay 2 nights at the Vivanta by Taj-Bekal. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Bekal

At leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Fly home

Afternoon drive to Kozhikode and fly home. (B)

Day 12: Arrive home (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,845 (Apr – Sep)

High season from: £3,085 (Jan – Mar)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



Passage through Kerala

Duration • 13 Days & 11 Nights
Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,425
Private tour • From £2,825

NEW TOUR

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions (see page 124), room & flight upgrades available
- ❖ Maximum group size – 26
- ❖ International flights with Emirates
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 11 breakfasts, 4 lunches, 3 dinners
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Porterage at airports & stations
- ❖ Included safari & national park fees



Decorated elephants at Hindu temple, Kochi

This tour takes in the beautiful sights and tranquil landscapes of Karnataka and Kerala including the immense Maharajah's Palace in Mysore, the wildlife of Nagarhole National Park, the lush beauty of Wayanad, a rail ride through the Nilgiri mountains and a cruise along the peaceful backwaters of Kochi.

Saracenic architecture. Afternoon at leisure to relax. Evening food tour of Mysore's celebrated gastronomical delights including Mysore Masala Dosa. Return to the Maharajah's Palace this evening to see it illuminated by over 1,000 light bulbs. (B)

Day 4: Nagarhole National Park

Travel to Kabini for an overnight stay at the Serai Kabini (or similar). The prey density of Nagarhole National Park is one of the highest in Asia and the eco-system naturally supports a thriving population of predators such as tigers, leopards and wild dogs. Afternoon safari in search of the park's endemic wildlife, which also includes 300 bird species, elephants, gaurs and common langurs. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Nagarhole National Park • Wayanad

Optional early morning safari. After breakfast, travel to Wayanad for 2 nights at Wayanad Wild (or similar). Occupying a position on the edge of the stunning Western Ghats, Wayanad is an area of outstanding natural beauty with lush tropical forests, deep valleys, waterfalls and sprawling plantations. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Wayanad

Day at leisure to unwind amid the serene beauty of the surrounding forest or to enjoy the many excursions offered by the hotel, from guided nature walks and treks following elephant trails to Kerala cooking classes, visits to nearby tea plantations and rural cycling trips*. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Coonoor

Leisurely drive to the hill station of Coonoor and stay 2 nights at the Gateway Hotel Coonoor (or similar). (B)

Weather

Kochi

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	31	32	32	32	31	29	28	28	29	30	31	31
B	22	23	24	25	25	24	23	23	23	23	23	22
C	6	24	37	107	284	752	848	514	316	310	155	42

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ **See Mysore Palace illuminated by 1,000 lightbulbs**
- ❖ **Relax amid the scenic beauty of Wayanad and the backwaters**
- ❖ **Ride the scenic Blue Mountain Railway**
- ❖ **Safari in Nagarhole National Park**

Day 1: Fly to Bengaluru via Dubai

Fly from London (regional connections available) to Bengaluru (Bangalore) with Emirates via Dubai. (N)

Day 2: Srirangapatna • Mysore

Early lunch at the LaLit Bengaluru, before travelling to Mysore for 2 nights at the Radisson (or similar). En route, stop at the island fortress of Srirangapatna, the former capital of south India's most powerful 18th-century rulers. (L)

Day 3: Mysore

Walking tour visiting some of Mysore's architectural wonders. Tour the Maharajah's Palace, the largest in India, which dominates the centre of Mysore with its synthesis of Hindu and



Keralan backwaters

Day 8: Ooty

Ride the Blue Mountain Railway to Ooty, a scenic narrow gauge train that runs across plains, plantations and the verdant hills of the Nilgiri mountains. Afternoon tour of the botanical gardens in Ooty, filled with more than 1,000 varieties of plants, shrubs and trees. Drive back to Coonoor. (B)

Day 9: Kochi

Travel to Kochi and transfer to the Eighth Bastion (or similar), located in the heart of Fort Kochi for 2 nights. Remainder of the day is at leisure to explore the local area. (B)

Day 10: Kochi

Visit some of the highlights of this enchanting port, taking in the architectural styles that reveal Arab, Jewish and European influences. View the remarkable, cantilevered Chinese fishing nets, explore the 16th-century Portuguese-built Mattancherry Palace, the Church of St Francis and the world's oldest active Jewish synagogue in historic Jew Town. Wander through markets and visit the vibrant Dhobi Ghats. Later, visit the Kathakali dance studio to see a traditional performance. (B)

Day 11: The backwaters

Drive to the backwater region of Kerala this morning. The backwaters are home to a variety of species of fauna and flora. Stay for 2 nights at the Coconut Lagoon (or similar). (B)

Day 12: The backwaters

Morning at leisure. Afternoon backwater cruise by shikara boat through narrow canals. This cruise explores these picturesque waterways, revealing boats carrying loads of coir, copra and cashews and, along the water's edge, numerous churches and markets. (B)

Day 13: Fly to London via Dubai

Morning transfer to the airport and fly to London, via Dubai, with Emirates. (B)

Important information

***Additional activities:** These are at an extra cost, which is payable locally.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

For details of our non-exclusive group tour 'Spice Lands of Kerala', please visit CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: PKR

Group tour

Low season from £2,425
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £2,525
Guide price months: Oct – Feb

Single supplement from £955

Private travel

Low season from £2,825
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £2,895
Guide price months: Oct – Feb

Single supplement from £955

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

Emirates flight upgrades

Business Class from £2,295 return
First Class from £4,625 return

Regional air connections

Prices on request. Emirates to / from Birmingham, Glasgow, Newcastle and Manchester

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Fri)	Rtn (Wed)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Wed)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Wed)	Out (Fri)	Rtn (Wed)
26 Jan 18	07 Feb 18	23 Mar 18	04 Apr 18	25 Jan 19	06 Feb 19	22 Mar 19	03 Apr 19
09 Feb 18	21 Feb 18	26 Oct 16	07 Nov 16	08 Feb 19	20 Feb 19		
23 Feb 18	07 Mar 18	16 Nov 16	28 Nov 16	22 Feb 19	06 Mar 19		
09 Mar 18	21 Mar 18	23 Nov 16	05 Dec 16	08 Mar 19	20 Mar 19		

Tour Extensions



Traditional mask dance, Onam festival, Thrippunithura



Maldives



Marari Beach Resort



Rice barge

Tour + Maldives

5 Days & 4 Nights from £1,725*
Extension starts on Day 13 of tour

Four degrees north of the equator, the Maldivian archipelago of 1,190 islands stretches ribbon-like across the deep blue seas of the Indian Ocean. Here, the tropical sandy hideaways offer visitors pure relaxation in exquisitely beautiful surroundings. Fly from Kochi (Cochin) to Malé and take a seaplane to the charming Cocoa Island, which offers 33 rooms and suites, each with a private terrace and direct access to the sea. Stay 4 nights, with all meals included. For other options in the Maldives, see page 156-157 or please ask for details.

***Pricing:** The Maldives extension price is based on travel in the low season and is intended as a guideline. There are often special offers available for off-peak travel and longer stays. Please contact Cox & Kings for details.

Tour + Marari Beach Resort

4 Days & 3 Nights from £335
Extension starts on Day 13 of tour

Located between Kochi (Cochin) and Alleppey, Mararikulam is a beautiful stretch of beach. One of the picturesque fishing villages that dot the coastline, the main attractions are the local culture, the warm waters of the Indian Ocean and the extensive sandy beaches.

Extend your stay in tropical Kerala by staying 3 nights at the Marari Beach Resort, a village-style hotel that provides comfortable accommodation in 62 individual cottages and Deluxe pool villas. Marari Beach Resort is around 1.5 hours from Kochi airport and the backwaters.

Tour variation: Rice barge cruise

13 Days & 11 Nights from £165
Extension starts on Day 11 of tour

In a variation to the main tour, instead of taking a shikara ride on Day 12, leave the group on day 11 and explore the Keralan backwaters in a traditional wooden rice barge. Once used to ferry rice and other goods across Kerala and provide accommodation for the boatmen, the barges have been sensitively converted into floating homes for tourists, with a few tweaks and essential modern conveniences added.

Relax on a full-day cruise through the backwaters, followed by a night on board the boat. Return to shore the next day to join the rest of the group for an overnight stay at the Coconut Lagoon.



Buddha statues, Dambulla caves, Sri Lanka



Meenakshi Temple, Madurai



Taj Mahal, Agra

Tour + Sri Lanka Experience

9 Days & 8 Nights from £995

Experience a taste of Sri Lanka by exploring the cultural and scenic highlights of the island, from the ruins of the ancient capitals of the Cultural Triangle to tea plantations and tropical beaches.

Day 13: Fly to Colombo • Sigiriya

Morning flight to Colombo. Drive to Sigiriya and stay 3 nights at the Jetwing Lake. (B)

Day 14: Sigiriya

Morning visit to the rock fortress of Sigiriya. (B)

Day 15: Polonnaruwa • Minneriya

Morning tour of 11th-century Polonnaruwa.

Afternoon visit to Minneriya to see the elephants. (B)

Day 16: Dambulla • Kandy

Morning visit to the Dambulla caves. Continue to Kandy for 2 nights at Amaya Hills. (B)

Day 17: Kandy

Morning visit to the Temple of the Tooth and Royal Botanical Gardens. Afternoon at leisure to explore the local markets. (B)

Day 18: Nuwara Eliya

Drive to the hill station of Nuwara Eliya, visiting a tea plantation en route. Stay at the Jetwing St Andrews. (B)

Days 19-20: Wadduwa

Drive to Wadduwa for 2 nights' relaxation by the beach at Tabrobana. (B)

Day 21: Fly to London

Transfer to Colombo and fly to London with Emirates. (B)

Tour + Golden Triangle

7 Days & 5 Nights from £765

Visit the iconic landmarks of India's Golden Triangle.

Day 13: Fly to Delhi

Fly to Delhi and transfer to the Eros Hotel Nehru Place for 2 nights. (B)

Day 14: Delhi

Enjoy a guided tour of Old Delhi and New Delhi including a drive past the Red Fort and India Gate and a visit to Jama Masjid and Raj Ghat. End the tour with a visit to Qutb Minar tower and the tomb of Emperor Humayun. (B)

Day 15: Agra

Drive to Agra. Enjoy lunch at a rooftop restaurant overlooking the Taj Mahal before visiting Agra fort and the Taj Mahal. Check into the Courtyard by Marriott for an overnight stay. (B)

Day 16: Fatehpur Sikri • Jaipur

Drive to Jaipur, en route visiting Fatehpur Sikri, the beautiful deserted citadel. Check into the Hilton, Jaipur for 2 nights. (B)

Day 17: Jaipur

Tour the fabulous hilltop citadel of Amber fort, en route taking a photo-stop at Hawa Mahal. Visit the City Palace Museum and the Jantar Mantar observatory. Walk around the colourful bazaars. (B)

Days 18-19: Delhi • Fly to London

Drive back to Delhi and transfer to the airport for your return flight via Dubai. (B) (N)

Tour + Tamil Nadu

6 Days & 4 Nights from £845

Explore the temples and artistry of the eclectic state of Tamil Nadu.

Day 13: Thekkady

Morning transfer to Thekkady. After lunch, visit a spice garden to learn about different spices and how they are used. Overnight at the Spice Village. (B)

Day 14: Madurai

Drive to Madurai and visit the Meenakshi temple for the evening ceremony. Surrounded by colourful markets, the temple is a brilliant example of southern temple architecture, with its nine gopurams soaring to almost 50 metres above the gateways. Stay overnight at the Gateway Hotel Madurai. (B)

Day 15: Tiruchchirappalli • Kumbakonam

Morning drive to Tiruchchirappalli to visit the imposing Rock Fort temple. Continue to the nearby town of Kumbakonam for a 2-night stay at Mantra Veppathur. (B)

Day 16: Thanjavur

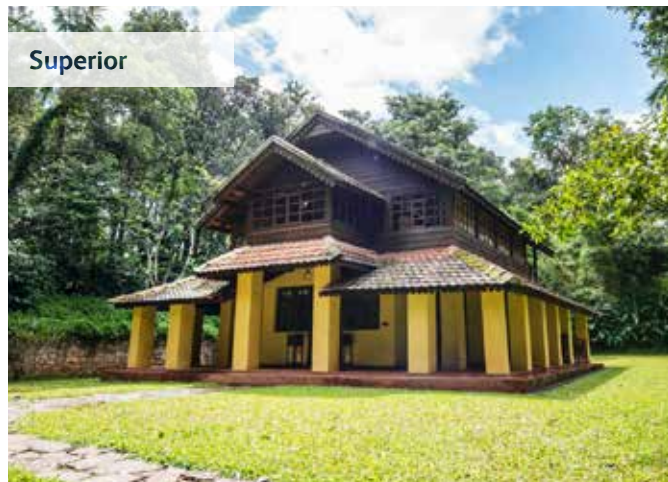
Visit to Brihadeeswara temple in Thanjavur (Tanjore) and Darasuram, a temple noted for its fine sculpture. Continue to a bronze casting studio to view the lost art of wax metal casting. (B)

Days 17-18: Chennai • Fly to London

Full-day drive to Chennai (Madras). Stay at Trident Chennai until departure to the airport. (B) (N)

Homestays & Hideaways

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



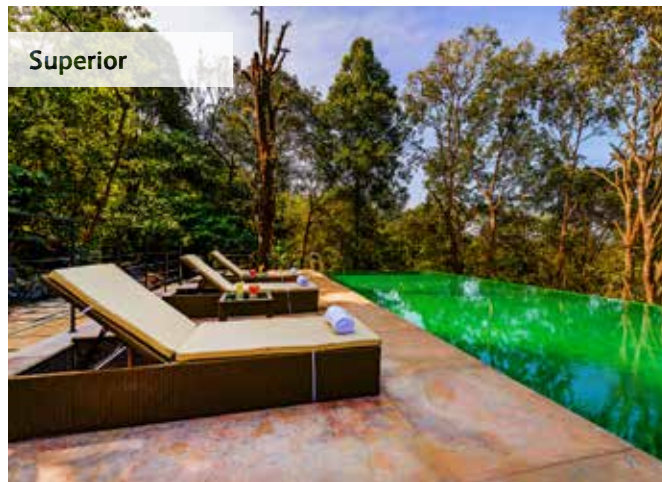
Superior

Pepper Trail, Wayanad

Set in the heart of a colonial coffee and spice plantation, among 80 hectares of silent, serene tropical rainforest, the Pepper Trail Wayanad relives a bygone era. Accommodation comes in either luxury tree houses built on giant jackfruit trees 40 feet above the ground, or beautiful heritage suites in the charming 140-year-old colonial bungalow. Rooms are elegantly designed and each comes with an antique four-poster bed and en suite bathroom. The restaurant is set high up amid the trees offering stunning views and an innovative dining experience.

Features:

8 rooms, restaurant, daily excursions, Wi-Fi.



Superior

Wayanad Wild, Wayanad

Located in the depths of the rainforests of Lakkidi, the gateway to the picturesque Wayanad district, the Wayanad Wild is a family friendly resort offering luxury cottages in beautiful surroundings. The 17 rooms are all comfortable and spacious and the surrounding canopy offers an abundant variety of flora, birdlife, peaceful streams and remarkable rock formations. A range of activities and excursions suitable for all ages are available including hikes, cycling tours and visits to a neighbouring tea factory.

Features:

17 rooms, restaurant, swimming pool, indoor games.



Good Standard

The Waterfront Granary, Kochi

Set on Kochi's (Cochin's) bustling Bazaar Road, close to Kochi's main historic attractions, the Waterfront Granary is India's first museum hotel. Some of the artefacts and antiques on display have a priceless heritage and convey a story of the local area and the century-old granary, which houses the museum. Rooms are spacious, elegantly decorated and continue the museum theme seamlessly. The restaurant specialises in Kutchi cuisine but also offers national and international dishes.

Features:

16 rooms, restaurant, swimming pool, gift shop, Wi-Fi.



Good Standard

Ambady Estate, Munnar

Ambady Estate is set among almost 30 hectares of cardamom plantations that merge with the lush green forests of Munnar. The estate features four twin cottages and although simply furnished, they are charming and overlook either the garden or the surrounding hills. The atmosphere is more that of a private farm than a hotel; the owners live next door and ensure that guests are provided with personal care and attention. The dining room serves local Kerala and continental cuisine.

Features:

4 cottages, dining room, daily excursions.



Hills & Hues, Thekkady

Set in the hills surrounding the Periyar Tiger Reserve, approximately 12km from Thekkady, the Hills & Hues resort is a beautiful property surrounded by lush greenery and a variety of rare flora and fauna. The six pinewood cabins are designed in an English country style and each comes with a breathtaking view of the valley below. The restaurant, which also has a commanding view of the valley, serves a variety of cuisine from all around the world with Kerala specialities prepared from organic produce grown on the property.

Features:

6 rooms, restaurant, library, watchtower, guided walks of the area.



Paradisa Plantation, Thekkady

Perched on a hillock, Paradisa Plantation enjoys a majestic setting with spectacular views of the Cardamom Hills. Inspired by traditional Kerala style, the nine individual cottages, dotted among the 16-hectare coffee and spice plantation, feature broad wooden beams, granite and teakwood columns and ornate rosewood doors with simple modern amenities. Delicious home-cooked Indian and continental meals are served in the open-sided thatched stone pavilion. If you wish to explore further, a tour of the plantation can be arranged upon request.

Features:

9 rooms, restaurant, swimming pool, Wi-Fi.

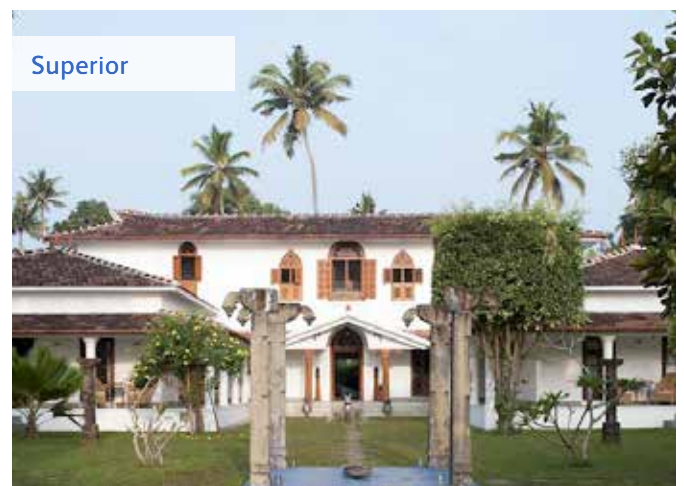


Privacy at Sanctuary Bay, Alappuzha

Situated on the shores of Lake Vembanad, on Kerala's Malabar Coast, Privacy at Sanctuary Bay offers two delightful bungalows each comprising one double room and one twin room, all with attached bathrooms. The bungalows offer fantastic views over the lake to the front, and gardens with palm trees behind. Each bungalow is only ever rented to one party at a time. Privacy comes with its own chef and meals are prepared to guests' individual tastes.

Features:

2 private bungalows, swimming pool (shared), private chef.



Purity, Alleppey

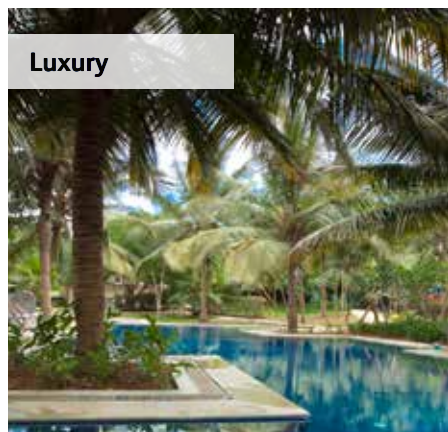
Set on the shores of Lake Vembanad, this delightful villa has been refurbished and converted into a stunning boutique hotel. All rooms and suites have terraces or verandas that overlook either the garden or the lake and are furnished with an eclectic collection of antique objects and period furniture. With spa treatments, yoga and dining in a lakefront setting, Purity is ideal for those seeking something small, intimate and characterful in the backwaters.

Features:

14 rooms, dining room, swimming pool, Ayurvedic spa.

Hotels, Villas & Lodges

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.

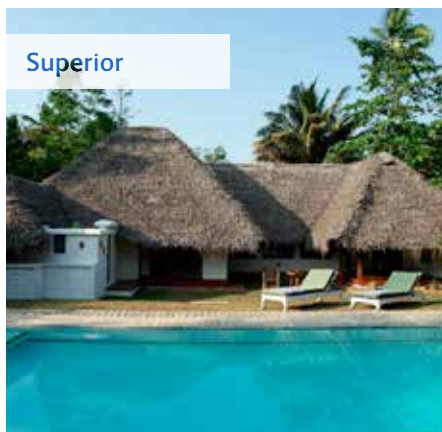


Niraamaya Surya Samudra, Kovalam

Situated on a dramatic stretch of coastline, Niraamaya Surya Samudra is a chic retreat with its own private beach and stunning infinity pool surrounded by palm trees. Some of the cottages were originally magnificent Keralan homesteads, now transplanted across the state. The rooms and the restaurant's terrace offer wonderful views of the coastline and spectacular sunsets.

Features:

31 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, private beach, library, infinity pool, Wi-Fi.

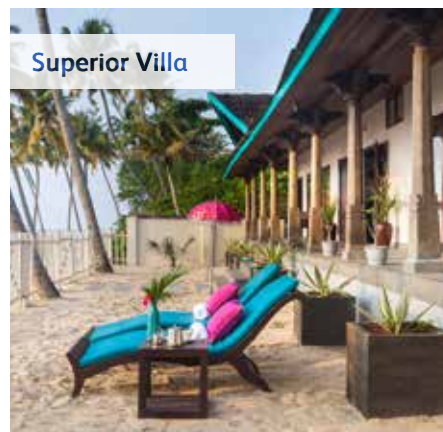


Marari Beach Resort, Mararikulam

The Marari Beach Resort is situated on golden sands in a sleepy fishing village located between the port city of Kochi (Cochin) and Alleppey. This village-style hotel provides comfortable accommodation in individual thatched roof cottages and de luxe pool villas. One of the hotel's restaurants serves seafood dishes in a traditional clay pot with a traditional leaf spoon.

Features:

62 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar with live music, outdoor pool, tennis courts, spa, library, Wi-Fi.



Marari Villas, Mararikulam

Marari Villas is a collection of charming private villas tucked away near Marari beach, a stretch of peaceful coastline between the beautiful backwaters of Alleppey and the cultural sights of Kochi (Cochin). This secluded haven offers many of the luxuries of a larger resort. Villas vary from one to three bedrooms, all decorated differently and some with a private pool, sea views, private gardens or direct beach access.

Features:

1-3 bedroom private villas, swimming pool, dining area.



Eighth Bastion, Kochi

Set in the heart of Fort Kochi (Cochin), Eighth Bastion is a small, chic property that effortlessly combines contemporary and colonial styles. The hotel is built around a small courtyard. Rooms are elegantly decorated in a retro, minimalist style allowing for a light and airy feel and many overlook the Arabian Sea. No two rooms are of the same size and some feature indulgent sunken bathtubs.

Features:

19 rooms, restaurant, outdoor pool, garden.



Malabar House, Kochi

The Malabar House is a small and stylish boutique hotel located in Fort Kochi (Cochin), the historic centre of the city. All rooms are furnished with antiques and the hotel incorporates many pieces of art from the Malabar coast. The tropical garden features a small swimming pool, a stage for cultural shows and a highly acclaimed and stylishly furnished seafood restaurant.

Features:

17 rooms, wine lounge, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, sun terrace, spa, Wi-Fi.



Kumarakom Lake Resort, Kumarakom

Offering panoramic views of Lake Vembanad and set in 4 hectares of gardens, the Kumarakom Lake Resort is a haven of tranquility among the emerald-green backwaters of Kerala. Rooms, cottages and villas are built to resemble a 16th-century Keralan home. Some of the villas are set among meandering pools. The resort also offers the option to overnight on a traditional houseboat.

Features:

59 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, tea room, infinity pool, gym, spa, library, Wi-Fi.



Superior

Talayar Valley Bungalow, Munnar

With stunning 360-degree panoramic mountain views, the Talayar Valley Bungalow, close to Munnar, is a vast and spacious boutique property converted from an old tea planter bungalow. Rooms are large and tastefully decorated, each with different interior decor themes. Hammocks are provided in the beautiful gardens and guests can enjoy evening bonfires or hosted barbecues.

Features:

4 rooms, cigar lounge, terrace, garden, fire pit.



Superior

The Windermere Estate, Munnar

Surrounded by rolling hills and lush forests in Kerala's Western Ghats, The Windermere Estate is a charming retreat covering 24 hectares of lush greenery. The 18 rooms and villas feature gabled roofs, high ceilings, beams of red cedar and teak furniture, many offering views of the hills and rainforest. Local, oriental and continental cuisines are on offer at the restaurant.

Features:

18 rooms & villas, 2 dining areas, gardens, library.



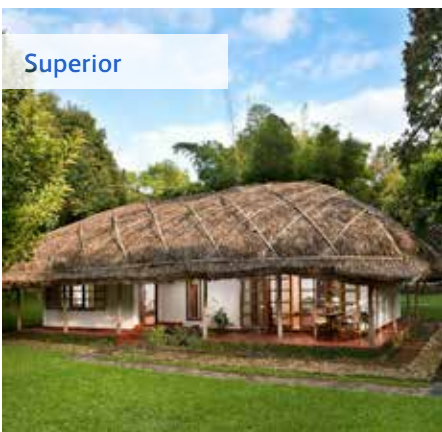
Good Standard

Blackberry Hills Retreat & Spa, Munnar

Set against the backdrop of the Western Ghats, Blackberry Hills Retreat & Spa is a tranquil mountain resort. Each of the rooms and cottages is furnished in an ethnic style and offers superb views of the surrounding mountain range, tropical forests and tea plantations. The retreat offers nature walks, treks and birdwatching, as well as meditation sessions.

Features:

16 cottages, 4 villa suites, restaurant, spa, daily excursions.



Superior

Spice Village, near Thekkady

Incorporating the essence of a mountain tribal village, the Spice Village is located close to Periyar Wildlife Reserve in the small town of Kumily. The welcome at the hotel is like no other, with staff greeting guests on the lawn and serving herbal brews using plants handpicked by the staff themselves. Cooking classes for guests interested in learning how to cook Keralan delicacies are offered by the chef.

Features:

52 rooms, restaurant, bar, outdoor swimming pool, tennis court, spa, cooking classes, Wi-Fi.



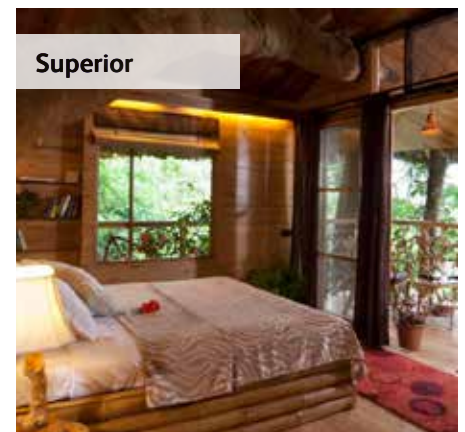
Superior

Rainforest, Athirapally

Located at the foot of the famous Athirapally falls, on the edge of the Sholayar Forest Range, Rainforest is a simple rustic lodge with 10 rooms spread over three floors. The rooms are spacious, elegantly furnished and come with floor-to-ceiling windows that offer stunning view of the waterfalls. The minimalist style combined with warm earthen decor creates a refreshing feel.

Features:

10 rooms, dining area, infinity pool, library



Superior

Tranquil – A Plantation Hideaway, Sultan Battery

Set among picturesque coffee and vanilla plantations, Tranquil – A Plantation Hideaway is a plantation bungalow that has been beautifully restored, offering a relaxed, intimate, homestay ambience. The guest bungalow has six spacious, simply furnished bedrooms with en suite facilities. There is also a sturdy tree house with a secluded terrace for fabulous forest views.

Features:

6 rooms, treehouse, dining area, swimming pool, games room.



Sri Lanka & the Maldives

Group tours • Tailor-made travel

For a relatively small island, Sri Lanka, formerly known as Ceylon, has remarkable cultural and geographical diversity: rolling green hills carpeted with tea plantations, ruins of ancient capital cities, wildlife reserves that display an incredible biodiversity, all wrapped up within a stunning coastline, dotted with boutique beach resorts.



In the lush hills of Kandy, the last Sinhalese city to fall to the British in the 19th century, visit the sacred Temple of the Tooth and exotic botanical gardens. Kandy is the natural gateway to Sri Lanka's tea country, a dramatic landscape dotted with quaint colonial towns. In the north, the ancient cities of the Cultural Triangle provide a fascinating glimpse into the island's history. Search for leopards, sloth bears and elephants in Yala National Park, or simply relax on the beaches that fringe the coastline. Before you head home, escape to the idyllic tropical islands of the Maldives, just a short direct flight away from Colombo.

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Climate

With consistently warm and sunny climates, conditions rarely grow chilly. Around the coast, temperatures are much higher. While sea breezes keep the air fresh during the day, evenings can be rather humid. It can rain at any time of year; the south-west coast experiences monsoon rains between May and October, while the north-east monsoon occurs between October and December. In the south-west, rainfall is at its most intense from April to June and from October to November. Rain tends to fall mainly in the afternoons.

Sigiriya, Sri Lanka

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	28	30	32	32	31	31	31	31	31	30	29	28
B	21	21	22	23	24	24	23	23	23	22	22	21
C	109	87	84	169	97	55	70	71	99	267	298	258

Galle, Sri Lanka

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	29	30	31	31	30	29	29	29	29	29	29	29
B	22	22	23	24	25	24	24	24	24	23	22	22
C	94	100	122	234	304	207	202	173	249	340	296	181

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

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Image left: Tea pickers, Sri Lanka

Discover Sri Lanka



Sunset by the seaside, Colombo



Seema Malaka temple, Beira lake, Colombo

Colombo

Colonial architecture • Bustling markets in Pettah • Historic fort district

Being the capital of Sri Lanka, Colombo is a rapidly changing city with a vibrant cosmopolitan feel to it and is a must see at the beginning or end of any itinerary. The country's biggest city and the political, economic and cultural hub, it was once the capital under the British and remained so when Sri Lanka achieved independence.

Colombo now offers a wealth of interesting attractions, including the National Museum, the Pettah bazaar, colonial buildings beautifully restored from the Dutch, Portuguese and British eras and some lovely temples. Discover Colombo's historic fort district, visit iconic landmarks of the late 19th century and take in a scenic sunset on the coast at Galle Face Green. Food is also a highlight in Colombo where you can dine at one of the eateries in the Old Dutch Hospital or be adventurous and try some of the delicious street food.

C&K Recommends...

Old Colombo walkabout with Mark Forbes

Walk the streets of Colombo with local expert Mark Forbes as he guides you through the vibrant bazaars of Pettah and former colonial Dutch mansions. Mark's expert knowledge uncovers off-the-tourist-trail spots teeming with local sellers of textiles and spices. Wander past colonial gems such as the 17th-century Old Dutch Museum and the high-end restaurants and bars of the Old Dutch Hospital.

Sri Lankan cooking masterclass, Colombo

Experience the rich flavours Sri Lankan cuisine has to offer with the hints and tips of Mohara Dole, a local lady at the forefront of Sri Lanka's food industry. Mohara Dole cooks a variety of traditional Malay and Sri Lankan dishes, from curries to rice and sambol. Influenced by both Tamil and Sinhalese culture but retaining her Malay background, Mohara blends vibrant colourful spices in her dishes which enhance the mouthwatering flavours and heady aromas. Learn how to cook some of these dishes with her expert assistance.

Kandy

Temple of the Tooth • Royal Botanical Gardens • British Garrison Cemetery

Kandy, once an impregnable fortress, was the capital of the last Sinhalese kingdom. Today, this bustling city is Sri Lanka's cultural centre and home to the country's holiest site, the Temple of the Tooth, said to contain the tooth relic of Buddha. The temple is set on the shores of a beautiful lake in the midst of town. Just a short walk away from the temple is the British Garrison Cemetery, established in 1817 for the British nationals that died in Ceylon. Kandy is also known for its quaint old quarter, cultural performances and interesting museums. The Victoria Golf Club, one of the most scenic golf courses in Asia, and the exotic Peradeniya botanical gardens are a short drive away from Kandy and easily visited as a day trip.

The Hill Country

Adam's Peak • Tea estates & rose gardens • Scenic walks

Sri Lanka's captivating hill country offers visitors an idyllic mix of misty mountains, colonial hill stations, lush tea plantations and tumbling waterfalls as well as the attractive villages of Nuwara Eliya, Hatton and Kothmale. With brick- and stone-built houses, rose gardens, and beautiful lawns, the villages have in many ways retained their colonial style. The region is also the setting for the natural wonders of the Horton Plains, Ella Gap and Adam's Peak, one of Sri Lanka's most significant landmarks standing at more than 2,130 metres.



Train from Nuwara Eliya to Kandy



Temple of the Tooth, Kandy

C&K Recommends...

VIP access to the Temple of the Tooth, Kandy

Dating back to the 16th century, the Buddhist Temple of the Tooth in Kandy houses the relic of the tooth of Buddha and is thus of huge significance to worshippers. During your visit you will have VIP access to enter the inner-sanctum where the tooth is kept, something available to only a few visitors.

Visit Kandy's botanical gardens with a professor of botany

Explore the Peradeniya botanical gardens near Kandy with an expert botanist, who will be able to guide you through the 60-hectare estate with an encyclopaedic knowledge of the 4,000 different species of plants and trees found in the garden. Highlights include a fine collection of orchids and a stately avenue of royal palms that were planted in 1905.

A suggested itinerary...

Treasures of Sri Lanka

16 Days & 14 Nights from £2,645

Delve into Sri Lanka's natural and archaeological wonders. Starting from Colombo, Sri Lanka's ancient capital, traverse quaint tea country and tropical rainforests to the jungles of Yala, which has one of the highest wild leopard densities in the world.

Day 1: Fly to Colombo (N)

Day 2: Colombo

Arrive and transfer to Cinnamon Lakeside for a 1-night stay. (N)

Day 3: Habarana

Drive to Habarana. Stay 3 nights at the Cinnamon Lodge. (B)

Day 4: Habarana

Visit Sigiriya rock fortress. (B)

Day 5: Polonnaruwa • Minneriya

Visit Polonnaruwa and Minneriya National Park. (B)

Day 6: Dambulla • Kandy

Drive to Kandy, via the Dambulla caves and Popham arboretum. Stay 2 nights at Jim's Farm Villas. (B)

Day 7: Kandy

At leisure or visit the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya. (B)

Days 8-9: Hill country

En route to Kothmale, visit Kandy's Temple of the Tooth. Stay 2 nights at Mas Villa. At leisure to explore the tea fields, grand temples and waterfalls on foot or by bike. (B)

Day 10: Yala

Drive to Yala and spend 2 nights at Jetwing Yala. (B)

Day 11: Yala

Early morning wildlife viewing. (B)

Day 12: Galle

Drive to Galle and stay 2 nights at the Jetwing

Lighthouse. (B)

Day 13: Galle

Explore Galle fort. (B)

Day 14: Wadduwa

Drive to Wadduwa and spend 2 nights at the Blue Water. (B)

Day 15: Wadduwa

At leisure. (B)

Day 16: Fly home

Drive to Colombo and fly home. (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,645 (Sep – Oct)

High season from: £2,725 (Nov – Dec)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

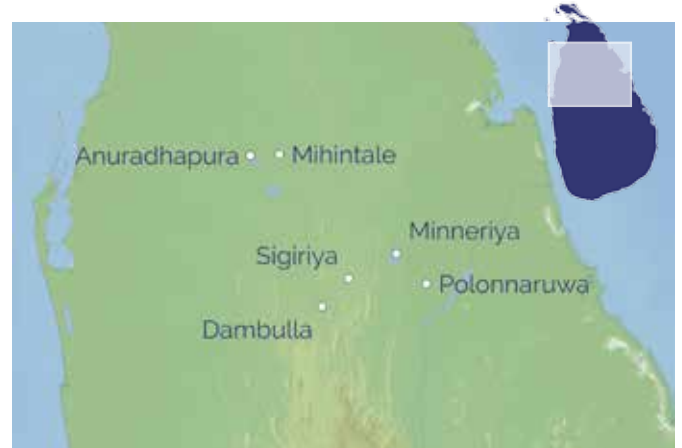
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The Cultural Triangle

The ancient cities of Anuradhapura, Sigiriya and Polonnaruwa, as well as the cave temples at Dambulla, together make up Sri Lanka's famed Cultural Triangle. For those who want to combine culture with wildlife, Minneriya Tank and its enviable gathering of Asiatic elephants can be visited alongside Polonnaruwa. This picturesque region, situated to the north of Kandy, is home to many heritage-listed sites and is an ideal base from which to discover Sri Lanka's cultural and religious history full of lost cities, ruined palaces and cave temples. A trip to the Cultural Triangle is essential for any first-time visitor to Sri Lanka and all of the areas are within easy reach of each other, meaning that the main sites are quite easily combined.



Anuradhapura & Mihintale

First ancient capital • Cradle of Buddhism in Sri Lanka

Part of the Cultural Triangle, Anuradhapura was ancient Sri Lanka's first capital and was founded during the fourth century BC by Sinhalese King Pandukabhaya. The city was established around the sacred Sri Maha Bodhi tree, which is said to be the oldest tree planted by hand in the world. Of huge spiritual meaning to Buddhists, the tree is believed to have grown out of the sapling of the original fig tree in India under which Buddha attained enlightenment. Mihintale, with its pristine white stupa among lush forest is set to the east of the ancient city and is considered to be the cradle of Sri Lankan Buddhism.



Reclining Buddha statue, Anuradhapura



Monk and Buddha stone carving, Polonnaruwa



Elephants, Minneriya

Polonnaruwa

Impressive Buddhist architecture

Second to Anuradhapura and on a smaller scale, Polonnaruwa was the capital of the Chola and Sinhalese kingdoms some 1,000 years ago. Today it is an impressive archaeological site on the Cultural Triangle, packed with ancient structures including tombs, temples and stupas.

References to Buddha are ever present here including the Polonnaruwa Vatadage, a circular structure containing a statue of Buddha in the centre, and Gal Vihara, carved out of a single rock and featuring a large 15ft statue of the posture known as 'sitting Buddha'.

Minneriya

Elephant gathering • Birdwatching & other wildlife

Close to Polonnaruwa lies the Minneriya Sanctuary, scene of what is commonly known as 'The Gathering'. Between the months of August and October, the area attracts the largest concentration of Asiatic elephants in the world as they come to drink the waters and graze on the rich green grass. The park is also home to other wildlife including sambar deer, buffaloes and crocodiles. Birdlife including herons, painted storks and cormorants also gather in large numbers. If visiting Polonnaruwa and Minneriya in the same day, stop at the family-run Priyamali Gedara for a traditional Sri Lankan farm lunch of rice and curry.

Sigiriya

Astonishing Sri Lankan rock kingdom

Sigiriya rock fortress is a 370-metre-high rocky outcrop in the heart of the Cultural Triangle. The renowned rock citadel was built during the fifth century under King Kassapa, abandoned for centuries and only rediscovered by a British archaeologist in the late 19th century. A climb to the top offers stunning views of the surrounding lush landscape and an insight into the peoples that once lived here while the beautiful water gardens and historic museum at the bottom are also worth visiting.



Sigiriya



Wall painting, Sigiriya

Dambulla

Hillside cave temples • Buddhist relics and images

Dambulla's Buddhist temple complex is one of the best-preserved in Sri Lanka. The five caves are located at the top of a steep hill and contain an impressive collection of Buddhist murals and statues, including a 15-metre-long reclining statue of the god. The caves' history is thought to date back as far as the first century BC when King Valagamba took refuge here and had the interior of the caves carved into temples. This site is one of Sri Lanka's highlights for tourists and Buddhist pilgrims alike.



Wall paintings and Buddha statues, Dambulla caves

C&K Recommends...

Visit the Polonnaruwa primate conservation centre

Observe monkey behaviour and discover the intricate stages of primate conservation on a guided field session within the Polonnaruwa temple complex. The centre seeks to conserve and protect the three species of monkeys that are native to Sri Lanka: the grey langur, the toque macaque and the purple-faced langur.

Hiriwadunna village walk

Visit Hiriwadunna village in the Cultural Triangle to experience the day-to-day life of a small local community. Travelling by bullock cart, on foot and aboard a traditional canoe, reach Hiriwadunna where you will learn about the chena cultivation method and enjoy a traditional curry and rice lunch.

A suggested itinerary...

Hidden Sri Lanka

16 Days & 14 Nights from £2,805

Head off the beaten path to seek out indigenous local tribes and enjoy walks amid stunning scenery, with stays at unique properties and finishing on the palm-fringed south coast.

Day 1: Fly to Colombo (N)

Day 2: Kegalle

Take the afternoon train to Rambukkana and transfer to the Rosyth Estate House, a colonial planter's bungalow, for a 2-night stay. (D)

Day 3: Kegalle

Explore the tea estate or relax by the pool and take in the stunning views. (B, D)

Day 4: Kandy

Transfer to Madukelle Tea and Eco Lodge for 3 nights. (B)

Days 5-6: Kandy

Explore the delights of Kandy including the Temple of the Tooth, Royal Botanical Gardens and local markets and artisan workshops. (B)

Day 7: Gal Oya National Park

Travel to Gal Oya National Park for 2 nights at the Gal Oya Lodge. (B)

Day 8: Gal Oya National Park

Take a boat safari on Senanayake Samudraya lake in search of the endemic birdlife and elephants. Jeep safaris, nature walks and opportunities to meet the indigenous Vedda tribes are also available. (B)

Day 9: Ella

Travel to Ella for 2 nights at 98 Acres Resort & Spa. (B)

Day 10: Ella

Range of optional activities including tea plantation visits, hiking, birdwatching and cookery lessons. (B)

Day 11: Uda Walawe National Park

Travel to Uda Walawe National Park for 2 nights

at Kalu's Hideway. (B)

Day 12: Uda Walawe National Park

Morning safari in the national park in search of elephants and exotic birds. (B)

Day 13: Thalpe

Visit the Elephant Transit home en route to Thalpe for 3 nights at Apa Villa. (B)

Days 14-15: Thalpe

At leisure or take a tour of Galle. (B)

Day 16: Fly home (N)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,805 (May – Jun)

High season from: £2,885 (Sep – Oct)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

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Sri Lanka's Wildlife



Sloth bear, Wilpattu National Park



Wilpattu National Park

Leopards, sloth bears & elephants • Luxury camping

Lying along the north-west coast of Sri Lanka, Wilpattu, the island nation's oldest and largest national park, reopened in early 2010. Its landscape consists of open grasslands and dense scrub jungle interspersed with lakes that fill with rainwater.

Unspoilt and relatively unknown, Wilpattu is home to a variety of wildlife including leopards, sloth bears, mugger crocodiles and endemic birds. Although the park supports more leopards than Yala, the chances of sightings are only second to Yala.

Wilpattu is less busy than Yala and offers a good safari experience. Accommodation options include comfortable eco lodges, tented camping and an authentic eco experience at the Mudhouse, Anamaduwa. Surrounded by nature, the latter offers a private retreat staying in basic huts made from natural materials for those who want to experience rural Sri Lanka.



Elephants, Uda Walawe National Park

Gal Oya National Park

Boat safaris on Sri Lanka's largest reservoir

Set in Sri Lanka's south-east, Gal Oya National Park is an area of outstanding beauty with evergreen forests and mountainous grasslands surrounding Sri Lanka's largest reservoir, the Senanayake Samudra. Dotted with small picturesque islands, boat safaris on the lake include sightings of diverse wildlife including leopards, wild elephants, sloth bears, water buffaloes, wild boars and common langurs that come to the water's edge to drink.

The park is also a birder's paradise with up to 150 species of birds present in the area. Presently Gal Oya is the only wildlife park in Sri Lanka to offer boat safaris from where you can see one of the park's main attractions – elephants crossing from one island to another.

Uda Walawe National Park

Large herds of elephants • Elephant Transit Centre

Located in Southern Sri Lanka, Uda Walawe National Park covers a vast area of shallow grasslands and thorn scrubs. It includes a large reservoir, the Uda Walawe Tank, which is fed by the Walawe Ganga. The park is home to an estimated 600 elephants, best spotted by the many pockets of water. Wildlife spotting is better than in other parks due to the lack of dense vegetation making sightings easier. Wildlife includes wild buffaloes, mongooses, crocodiles and the occasional sloth bear and leopard.

Uda Walawe is also home to the Elephant Transit Centre which, supported by the Born Free foundation, helps care for orphaned and sick elephants until they are able to return to the park. Cox & Kings recommends an overnight stay at the luxury Mahoora Safari Camp.



Macaque, Sinharaja rainforest

Sinharaja Rainforest

Primary rainforest • Superb birdlife & amphibians

A Unesco world heritage site, Sinharaja Forest Reserve is arguably Sri Lanka's most important region of biodiversity and a key part of local legend and folklore. This huge rainforest area lies in the south of the country, in between the hill country and the southern beaches, and has a predominantly wet climate year round, which helps replenish the fertile soils. On the narrow walking trails that cut through the undulating terrain of the country's last remaining primary tropical rainforest, glimpse endemic birdlife, rare amphibians and mammals. For those with a keen interest in natural history and birding, the walks are best accompanied by expert naturalists based at one of the eco lodges. Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at the Sinharaja Rainforest Edge.



Leopard, Yala National Park

Yala National Park

Leopards, sloth bears & elephants • Numerous migratory bird species

Punctuated with rocky outcrops, thorny scrubland, small patches of riverine forests and dry grasslands, the beautiful wildlife reserve of Yala is one of Sri Lanka's highlights for wildlife spotting. The park has one of the highest densities of leopards living in the wild and the subspecies found here, known as *Panthera pardus kotiya*, is unique to Sri Lanka. Leopard sightings have increased over the years, so visitors with a keen eye may be lucky to catch sight of the park's most elusive inhabitants, although they are best seen from February to July. Yala is also one of the best places in Sri Lanka to see Asian elephants, sloth bears, Hanuman langurs, golden jackals, crocodiles and many migratory birds in their natural habitat. Cox & Kings recommends a 2-night stay at Chena Huts.



Flamingoes, Bundala National Park

Bundala National Park

Migratory birds including flamingoes • Beautiful scenery

Bundala National Park is located on the southern coast and often lives in the shadow of the more popular Yala National Park. However, Bundala's untouched landscape, interspersed with many lagoons, waterways and dunes that play host to a huge variety of birds, make it one of the best bird spotting sites in Sri Lanka. Up to 200 species of birds have been recorded here including traditional egrets, herons and storks, but it is the flamingo that is the park's main attraction, with up to 2,000 recorded at any one time as they migrate to Sri Lanka during the winter season. The park is also home to crocodiles, a small number of elephants and is the hatching ground for certain species of Sri Lankan turtles including leatherbacks and loggerheads.



Breaching whale, Mirissa

Mirissa & Dondra

Formidable whale-watching opportunities • Tallest lighthouse in Sri Lanka

At the southernmost tip of Sri Lanka lie the coastal villages of Mirissa and Dondra, which offer sublime opportunities for whale watching. Here, the Atlantic shelf lies close to the shore and provides deep water close to land, making it one of the best places in Sri Lanka to look for whales, particularly blue and sperm whales. Due to this underwater topography, whales are able to pass close to shore on their seasonal migrations and, though sightings cannot be guaranteed, boat trips from December to April offer the best chances. The area possesses stunning beaches with small boutique resorts whilst Dondra is also home to the tallest lighthouse in Sri Lanka, which can be climbed for spectacular views of the Indian Ocean.

Coastal Sri Lanka

The South-West Coast

Palm-fringed sands, wildlife & historic towns

The south-west coast is awash with pristine beaches and idyllic properties, perfect for relaxation after an epic journey exploring the ancient cities and cool highlands of the interior.

Travelling east from Galle are the unspoilt beaches of Thalpe and Weligama (meaning 'sandy village'); Mirissa, a top whale-watching spot and the ideal place to dine on seafood; Tangalle's palm-fringed coves; and Hambantota, a convenient base for exploring the nearby national parks of Bundela and Yala as well as the temples at Kataragama and vast coastal salt pans.

To the west of Galle, Bentota offers palm-backed sandy beaches and is a good base from which to visit the turtle sanctuary at Kosgoda. A 1.5-hour journey from Colombo airport, stretch the endless sands of Wadduwa. The choice of accommodation along this coastline is endless, from the ultra-luxury Cape Weligama Relais & Chateaux, set atop a promontory above the Indian Ocean, to the quirky Owl and the Pussycat in Thalpe.

For families, Weligama Bay is considered the best and safest beach for children in the south. Alternatively, head to Kalapitiya on the west coast or the east coast's gently shelving beaches at Trincomalee.



Galle

Historic fort • Idyllic expansive beaches • Boutique ambience

The main attraction of Sri Lanka's south-west coast is historic Galle city and its 17th-century Portuguese fort. The town itself is a fascinating hub of art galleries, cafes, restaurants and quirky shops. Upmarket luxury and character-rich boutique properties are easy to find here, a lot of them with a heavy influence from the colonial period. The beachfront Fortress and Jetwing Lighthouse offer the best of both worlds – the opportunity for sightseeing and relaxation by the coast. Along the coast in both directions are numerous towns and villages showcasing the region's vibrant cultural heritage and miles of pristine beaches.



Galle fort and lighthouse



Fisherman, Sri Lanka

C&K Recommends...

Whale-watching safari

The south-west coast of Sri Lanka is renowned for whale watching particularly during the migration season between November to March. Take part in a whale-watching safari in search of the world's largest mammal, the blue whale, as well as other species such as sperm and humpback whales. Mirissa is a particular focus as nowhere else in the world do blue whales swim so close to the shore.

Watch turtles nesting

Turtle Watch Rekawa near Tangalle is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the survival of the five species of turtles found in Sri Lanka: olive ridley, loggerhead, green, hawksbill and leatherhead, all of which are experiencing declining populations. Arriving after dark, you will be briefed about the conservation programme before gathering on the shore with a conservationist to watch the turtles' nesting rituals.



Fishing boats on the coastline

Kalametiya Bird Sanctuary, near Tangalle

This secluded nature reserve sprawls across a huge enclave covering 2,500 hectares of mangrove swamps, lagoons and scrubland. At the bird sanctuary you can observe a variety of wetland birds including species that are endemic to Sri Lanka and some endangered birds such as black-capped purple kingfishers, Indian reef herons, jungle fowl and glossy ibises.

Kataragama

The town of Kataragama lies practically on the border of Yala National Park in the south-east corner of Sri Lanka and is an important pilgrimage site for Buddhists, Muslims and Hindus alike. During July and August a religious festival including parading elephants and loud drums attracts devotees from as far as Jaffna in northern Sri Lanka, who come to perform acts of penance such as the 'treading of flowers' or walking on red-hot cinders.



Buddha obelisk, Hikkaduwa

A suggested itinerary...

Tea Trails & Beaches

13 Days & 11 Nights from £3,495

Combine the idyllic beaches of the south-west coast and a relaxing stay amid tea plantations with visits to important cultural sites and a wildlife safari in Yala National Park.

Day 1: Fly to Colombo (N)

Day 2: Negombo

Transfer to the Jetwing Lagoon. (N)

Day 3: Matale

Optional morning catamaran ride from Negombo beach. Travel to Matale for 4 nights at Jim's Farm Villas. (B)

Day 4: Sigiriya • Dambulla

Day tour to Sigiriya and Dambulla caves. (B)

Day 5: Matale

Optional activities including cycling, walking in the Knuckles ranges or a cookery lesson. (B)

Day 6: Kandy

Morning visit to Kandy's Temple of the Tooth for the morning Puja ceremony and wander through Kandy's local markets. Afternoon at leisure to visit the Peradeniya botanical gardens or any of the local artisans. (B)

Day 7: Koslanda

Take the midday train from Kandy to Hatton. Drive to Koslanda and stay 2 nights at the Living Heritage. (B)

Day 8: Koslanda

Optional activities include trekking, tea plantation visits, tree planting and Sri Lankan cookery lessons. (B)

Day 9: Yala National Park

Descend to Yala National Park stopping en route at Buduruwagala – a series of well-preserved Buddhist figures carved into sheer rock – and Diyaluma waterfalls. Stay 2 nights at Noel Rodrigo's Leopard Safaris. (B, D)

Day 10: Yala National Park

Enjoy a morning wildlife drive in the park.

Afternoon optional cycle ride outside the park or wildlife drive. Dine under the stars. (B, L, D)

Days 11-12: Galle

Transfer to the Fortress, Galle for 2 nights on the beach. Days at leisure or visit Galle fort, Galle's mask museum, the turtle hatchery at Kosgoda or whale watching (November to April). (B)

Day 13: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,495 (May – Jun)

High season from: £3,525 (Nov – Dec)

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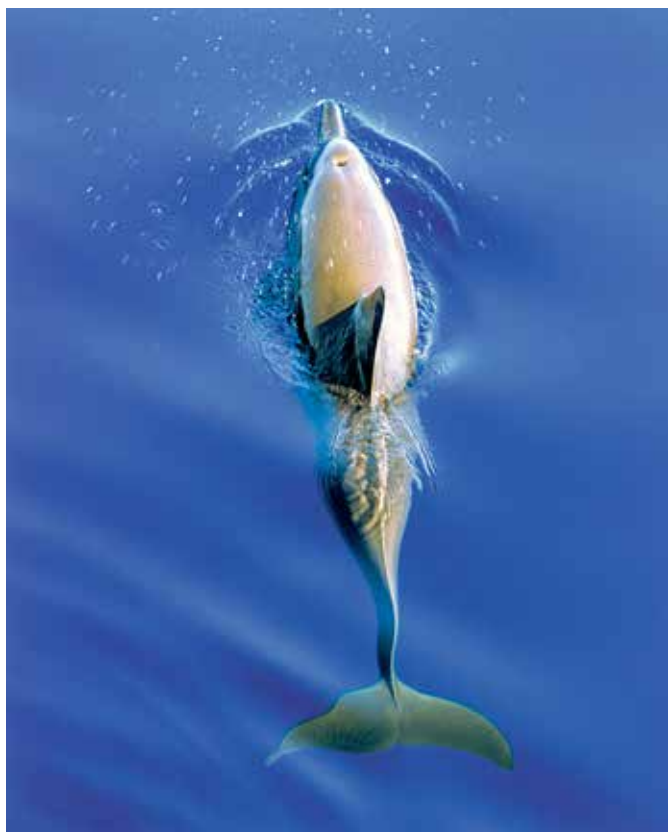


Negombo & Kalpitiya

Dutch Canal • Beaches • Spinner dolphins

Stretching from Colombo to Negombo along the coast is the old Dutch Canal lined with fishing villages and nature areas. Exploring by bicycle on the canalside paths is a highly rewarding experience as is a privately guided boat tour through the bird-filled Muthurajawela wetlands. Negombo is renowned for its daily fish market and the sight of outriggers returning home after a fishing trip is something to behold.

Travelling further north, through coconut plantations, is Kalpitiya and Dutch Bay. Aside from kitesurfing, the area's principle draw is the schools of dolphins which play in the offshore waters. From November to March, boat safaris depart every day in search of spinner dolphins. Snorkelling trips to the Bar Reef with its array of big fish are equally popular.



Spinner dolphin, Kalpitiya



Buddhist stupa, near Jaffna

Jaffna

Symbolic rail journey • Ancient temples & historic forts

The spiritual and intellectual heart of Sri Lanka's Tamil community, Jaffna sits on Sri Lanka's northernmost tip. It has a turbulent history of invasion and reconquest. After independence, the town was caught up in the civil war and was off-limits for nearly 30 years. Although the relics of the war remain visible, Jaffna is today the island's rising star: visit remote islands and discover the colourful, ancient and distinctive temples of the Tamils.

For the adventurous, Jaffna can be reached from Colombo on the *Yal Devi (Queen of Jaffna)* train which recommenced operation in 2014 and symbolically reconnects the Tamil north with the Sinhalese south. The journey takes 6-7 hours, stopping en route at the historic Buddhist site of Anuradhapura. Air-conditioned seats, a buffet car and a sleeper service are available on this route.

A suggested itinerary...

Sri Lanka Explorer

14 Days & 12 Nights from £2,415

Starting from Sri Lanka's oldest wildlife reserve, this itinerary offers an insight into the distinct culture of Jaffna and provides opportunities for relaxation on one of the scenic beaches along the east coast of Sri Lanka, best visited during the summer months.

Day 1: Fly to Colombo (N)

Day 2: Colombo

Arrive and transfer to the Ozo Colombo for an overnight stay. (N)

Day 3: Anuradhapura

Take the *Queen of Jaffna* train to Anuradhapura for a 2-night stay at the Palm Garden Village. (B)

Day 4: Anuradhapura

Visit the ancient sites of Anuradhapura and

Mihintale. (B)

Day 5: Wilpattu

Drive to Wilpattu National Park. Stay 2 nights at the Mahoora Tented Safari Camp. (B, D)

Day 6: Wilpattu

Early morning and late afternoon wildlife viewing. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Jaffna

Drive to Jaffna and spend 3 nights at the Jetwing Jaffna. Afternoon visit to the ancient Naguleswaram Kovil, the hot springs of Keerimalai and the ruins of Kandarodai Buddhist temple. (B)

Day 8: Jaffna

Morning visit to the bustling Jaffna market. Afternoon visit to the 17th-century Jaffna fort, the revered Nallur Kandaswamy Kovil and ancient churches dating back to the colonial period. (B)

Day 9: Jaffna

At leisure. (B)

Day 10: Pasikudah

Morning drive to Pasikudah to stay 3 nights at

the Anilana Passikudah. (B)

Days 11-12: Pasikudah

At leisure. (B)

Day 13: Fly to Colombo

Drive to Batticaloa and fly to Colombo. Overnight at Cinnamon Lakeside. (B)

Day 14: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,415 (Jan – Apr)

High season from: £2,495 (May – Jun)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



The East Coast

Picturesque beaches • Traditional fishing villages

The east coast of Sri Lanka, in complete contrast to the west coast, offers secluded beaches and shimmering blue seas. Explore traditional fishing villages such as Pasikudah, historic coastal towns such as Trincomalee and areas of unspoilt natural beauty including lagoons such as Batticaloa. Pasikudah is famous for being one of the longest shallow coastline beaches in the world, while further north the historic town of Trincomalee is home to the magnificent Koneswaram Kovil (temple) and the 17th-century Dutch-built forts. Off its coast lies Pigeon Island with its powdery white sands, coral reefs and fine snorkelling on the shallow reef. The underwater landscape is home to dozens of corals and hundreds of reef fish, including blacktip reef sharks and turtles. The east coast is best visited between April and September.



Hindu temple, Trincomalee



Cinnamon Air

C&K Recommends...

Scenic flights with Cinnamon Air

Operating throughout Sri Lanka, a flight with Cinnamon Air is more than just a domestic transfer. With their fleet of 6- to 9-seater Cessna aircraft, the service affords passengers a bird's-eye view of the stunning Sri Lankan scenery below. Many of the flights land on water, which is a thrilling experience in itself. These flights can significantly reduce travel time between destinations allowing you more time to enjoy the area and your hotel. Scenic 20-minute flights are also available in Kandy, Colombo and Sigiriya for those wanting to view Sigiriya Rock, the Cultural Triangle or the breathtaking coastline from above.

A suggested itinerary...

Sri Lanka Family Adventure (Apr – Sep)

14 Days & 12 Nights from £4,245

Sri Lanka has a wealth of attractions for all the family – white sand beaches, exotic wildlife, mystical ruins and activities from elephant-back rides to whale watching and snorkelling. While the south-west coast experiences the monsoon from May to September, this is the perfect time to visit the east coast.

Day 1: Fly to Colombo (N)

Day 2: Marawila

Travel to Horathapola Estate (Family Lodge) for 1 night in this planter's bungalow with garden and outdoor pool. Afternoon at leisure. (D)

Days 3: Wilpattu National Park

Drive to Wilpattu National Park for 2 nights at

Noel Rodrigo's Leopard Safaris. Afternoon wildlife drive in Wilpattu. (B, L, D)

Day 4: Wilpattu National Park

Morning wildlife drive. Optional afternoon activities such as birdwatching, cooking classes and amateur photography walks. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Anuradhapura

Drive to the Cultural Triangle for 4 nights at Ulagalla (Deluxe room with attic). (B)

Day 6: Sigiriya

Morning climb of Sigiriya rock. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 7: Polonnaruwa • Minneriya Tank

Cycling at Polonnaruwa. Lunch at Priyamali Gedara. Optional afternoon at Minneriya Tank. (B)

Day 8: Habarana • Hiriwadunna

Morning elephant experience at Habarana. Hiriwadunna village trek. Optional afternoon cookery lesson or cycle ride at Pewehera. (B)

Day 9: Trincomalee

Drive to Trincomalee on the east coast for

4 nights at Uga Jungle Beach (Beach Villa).

Range of water sports on offer including snorkelling on coral reefs at Pigeon Island. (B)

Days 10-12: Trincomalee

At leisure. Optional whale-watching trip. (B)

Day 13: Fly to Colombo

Domestic flight to Colombo for an overnight at the Wallawa (Family suite). (B)

Day 14: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £4,245 (Apr – Jun)

High season from: £4,525 (Jul)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



Experiences in Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka packs in an extraordinary wealth of diversity between its coasts, from long stretches of pristine beaches to the wilderness of the hill country and mystical ancient ruins. Whether your interest lies in wildlife, adventurous activities or historical sites, Sri Lanka has it all. And with relatively short travel distances between regions, you are never far from your next exciting adventure. Cox & Kings can offer an array of authentic experiences to enhance your stay in Sri Lanka.



Hot air balloon © Sri Lanka Tourist Board

Hot air balloon ride, the Cultural Triangle

Take to the skies and drift slowly over idyllic countryside as you watch the sun rise over the ancient sites dotted across the Cultural Triangle. Watch the balloon inflate before embarking on a one-hour flight over the Kandalama tank, with the Golden Buddha sitting majestically at one end and the impressive Sigiriya rock fortress in the distance. If you're lucky you may even spot elephants roaming in the wild below. Upon landing, enjoy a champagne breakfast.



Anuradhapura, Mihintale

Anuradhapura cycling tour

Explore Anuradhapura by bike in the company of a resident expert. During your leisurely ride along the sacred trails of the venerated city, your guide will share tales about Sri Lanka's first kingdom, its ruins and the Sri Maha Bodhi tree, a spiritual site for Buddhists. As the capital of the aforementioned kingdom, Anuradhapura was undoubtedly the grandest city in ancient Sri Lanka and remained its capital for 1,400 years from 380BC.



Train ride, Hill Country

Rural train ride, Hill Country

Enjoy a leisurely rural train ride in Sri Lanka's serene Hill Country. Travel along at just 30km per hour, passing copious tea plantations, waterfalls and mountain creeks before gradually creeping up into the clouds. The scenery is spectacular, as are the glimpses of rural life and the experience of sharing this journey with the locals who use these trains daily. Journeys can be taken throughout the Hill Country but a popular route is between Nuwara Eliya and Kandy.



Asian elephants, Gal Oya National Park

Boat safari, Gal Oya National Park

Take a boat safari on the serene Senanayake Samudraya lake in search of endemic birdlife and mammals that come to the water's edge to drink or to forage along the shoreline. This is the perfect opportunity to observe hidden behaviours of certain animals and it may be possible to see elephants swimming from island to island in search of food. The park, which is situated in the east of the island, is home to more than 32 species of mammals including leopards, sloth bears and water buffaloes.



City clock tower, Galle

Tour of Galle fort, Galle

Originally built by the Portuguese and later destroyed and rebuilt by the Dutch in 1640, the Unesco world heritage site of Galle fort played a pivotal strategic role in Sri Lanka's history between the 16th and 18th centuries. The fort was designed as a typical 'star fort' and enclosed a 36-hectare site, complete with grand colonial mansions, narrow streets and civic buildings. The modern-day fort area is full of interesting boutique shops, cafes, restaurants, galleries and characterful architecture.



Market, Colombo

Street food safari, Colombo

Colombo is teeming with delicious food stalls offering a varied and delectable array of snacks, fiery curries and native dishes. Navigate through the bustling streets in a tuk tuk and discover some of the best eateries and most colourful markets the capital has to offer. Two favourite dishes include *kottu*, a mixture of *roti* (bread), vegetables, spices and meat, and *hoppers*, a pancake bowl filled with either eggs or curry. Conclude the tour in a local tea room.



Knuckles mountain range

Trekking in the Knuckles mountain range

Take a gentle hike in the beautiful Knuckles mountain range near Kandy where, at higher elevations, a series of isolated cloud forests harbour a variety of flora and fauna, some of which cannot be found anywhere else in the world. Alternatively hike to some of the region's natural springs or lakes, perfect for bathing. The mountain range takes its name from a series of peaks in the west of the massif, which resemble the knuckles of a clenched fist when viewed from certain locations.



Sri Lankan schoolchildren

Visit to a local school, various locations

Visit a local school and learn more about rural life and the educational system in Sri Lanka. Many students will have a limited proficiency in English. You may be able to help teach an English class or, if you prefer, simply observe a lesson in a classroom. Half-day or full-day trips are available with the opportunity to have lunch and converse with the local teachers. Available in Kandy, Galle, Colombo and Nuwara Eliya.

A suggested itinerary...

Sri Lanka in Slow Motion

18 Days & 16 Nights from £3,995

With a wide variety of activities, an easy-going culture and beautiful golden beaches, east coast Sri Lanka is the perfect destination to discover from May to September.

Day 1: Fly to Colombo. (N)

Day 2: Colombo

Arrive and check in to the Maniumpathy Hotel. (N)

Day 3: Colombo • Rambukkana

Explore the hidden charm of the bustling capital in the company of an avid historian and photographer. Travel to Rambukkana on the evening train and transfer to Rosyth Estate House for a 3-night stay. (B)

Days 4-5: Rambukkana

Relax by the pool, enjoy the stunning views or take a walk to the nearby tea factory for a guided tour. Mid-morning cooking class, followed by a lunch of the dishes you have prepared. Afternoon guided walk of the tea estate. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Kandy

After breakfast proceed to Kandy for 3 nights at Kings Pavilion. Enjoy an evening cultural show. (B)

Days 7-8: Kandy

Witness the early morning Puja ceremony at the sacred Temple of the Tooth, then continue to the Royal Botanical Gardens. At leisure. (B)

Day 9: Gal Oya

After breakfast, proceed to Gal Oya for 2 nights at Gal Oya Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Gal Oya

Enjoy a boat safari on Senanayake Samudraya to observe the local wildlife including crocodiles, deer, elephants and many rare and endemic species of birds. Afternoon at leisure with opportunities for additional activities such as meeting the indigenous Veddah tribes, taking a jeep safari or nature walk, or enjoying a guided bicycle ride to the beautiful Namal Oya reservoir. (B, L, D)

Days 11-13: Passikudah

After breakfast proceed to Passikudah for 3 nights relaxing at Uga Bay Passikudah. (B)

Day 14: Sigiriya

Travel to Sigiriya visiting the impressive Buddhist

architectural gem of Polonnaruwa and the monkey rehabilitation centre en route. Spend 3 nights at Water Garden, Sigiriya. (B)

Days 15-16: Sigiriya • Dambulla

Climb the fifth-century Sigiriya rock fortress before marveling at the hillside cave temples at Dambulla. (B)

Day 17: Colombo

Travel back to Colombo by road for an overnight stay at the Maniumpathy Hotel. Or opt for a domestic flight with Cinnamon Air. (B)

Day 18: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,995 (May)

High season from: £4,435 (Jul)

Tailored travel

Contact our experts

t 020 3930 5073

e Info@CoxandKings.co.uk



The Enchanted Island

Duration • 14 Days & 12 Nights

Category • Superior

Group tour • From £1,995

Private tour • From £2,125

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions, room & flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 16 people (max 26)
- ❖ Direct international flights with Sri Lankan Airlines
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 12 breakfasts
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Wildlife safari & national park entrance fees

Weather

Colombo

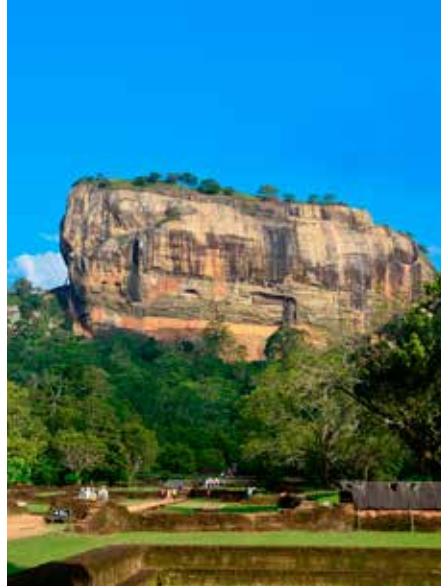
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	31	31	32	32	31	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
B	22	23	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	24	23	22
C	55	74	136	250	382	186	124	116	236	371	306	166

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Sigiriya rock fortress

The island nation of Sri Lanka has a wealth of cultural, archaeological and natural treasures. This comprehensive tour visits both the popular and some of the lesser-known sites in northern, central and southern Sri Lanka.

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Visit the impressive Dambulla caves & Sigiriya rock fortress
- ❖ Witness a Puja ceremony at the Temple of the Tooth
- ❖ Stay in an authentic converted tea factory
- ❖ Finish the tour with relaxation on the beach

Day 1: Fly to Colombo

Overnight flight from London (regional connections available) to Colombo with Sri Lankan Airlines. (N)

Day 2: Colombo

Afternoon arrival and transfer to the Cinammon Lakeside (or similar) for 1 night. (N)

Day 3: Dambulla

In the morning transfer to Dambulla. Stay 3 nights at the Heritance Kandalama hotel (or similar). (B)

Day 4: Anuradhapura • Mihintale

Drive to the ancient city of Anuradhapura. For 1,400 years this city was Sri Lanka's capital and contains fabulous Buddhist shrines and relics. Afternoon visit to Mihintale, the birthplace of Buddhism in Sri Lanka. (B)

Day 5: Sigiriya • Polonnaruwa

Morning visit to the rock fortress town of Sigiriya. Continue to the 11th-century medieval capital of Polonnaruwa. (B)

Day 6: Dambulla • Kandy

Morning visit to Dambulla, home to Asia's most impressive cave temples. Continue to the beautiful hill station of Kandy and stay 2 nights at the Earls Regency Hotel (or similar). Afternoon city tour. Later, in the evening, take time to watch a traditional Kandyan dance performance and visit the Temple of the Tooth. (B)

Day 7: Kandy

Kandy is set on the shores of a beautiful man-made lake and the area abounds with rich and varied plant life. Morning visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 8: Nuwara Eliya

Early morning drive to Nuwara Eliya hill station via a tea plantation. Situated at 2,000 metres above sea level, Nuwara Eliya attracted the British in the 18th century and their legacy is still visible. Stay at the Heritance Tea Factory (or similar) for 2 nights. (B)

Day 9: Horton Plains

Early morning visit to Horton Plains, situated on Sri Lanka's highest plateau (this excursion involves a 2.5-hour trek*). Horton Plains is inhabited by large populations of monkeys and sambar deer. The remainder of the day is at leisure. (B)

Day 10: Ella • Yala

Transfer to Ella; the view through the Ella Gap – a break in the hills – is one of the finest in Sri Lanka. Visit the Rawana Ella Falls before continuing to Yala. Stay 2 nights at Jetwing Yala (or similar). (B)

Day 11: Yala

Morning wildlife safari in Yala National Park. Covering 1,300 sq km, Yala National Park encompasses a diversity of jungle habitats, including scrub, brackish lagoons and riverside locations. Creatures that may be seen include elephants, leopards, sloth bears, spotted deer, sambar deer, wild pigs, jackals, marsh crocodiles and a great variety of birdlife. (B)

Days 12-13: Galle • Ahungalla

Drive to Ahungalla, stopping for a tour of Galle



Elephants, Yala National Park

fort. Stay 2 nights at Heritance Ahungalla or upgrade to the Vivanta by Taj Bentota (Superior Charm room) from £245. Following day at leisure. (B)

Day 14: Fly to London

Transfer to Colombo and fly to London with Sri Lankan Airlines. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Extension

Tour + Maldives

5 Days & 4 Nights from £1,725
Extension starts on Day 14 of tour

The Maldivian archipelago of 1,190 islands stretches across the Indian Ocean. These tropical hideaways offer pure relaxation in exquisite surroundings. This extension price is based on a short flight from Colombo to Malé and a speed boat to the charming Cocoa Island, which offers 33 rooms and suites, each with a private terrace and direct access to the sea.

Important information

Maldives extension price: The Maldives extension price is based on travel in the low season and is intended as a guideline. There are often special offers available for off-peak travel and longer stays. Please contact your Cox & Kings travel consultant for details.

***Accessibility:** Due to high altitude and uneven terrain, the Horton Plains trek requires a good level of fitness. Visits to certain ancient monuments in the Cultural Triangle require quite a bit of step climbing. In some cases this is in excess of 1,800 steps and in other instances somewhere between 800 and 1,200 steps.

Private & tailored travel: This itinerary can be taken privately, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: CET

Group tour

Low season from £1,995
Guide price months: Sep

High season from £2,225
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

Single supplement from £550

Private travel

Low season from £2,125
Guide price months: Sep

High season from £2,345
Guide price months: Oct – Mar

Single supplement from £550

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 15 Jan)

Sri Lankan Airlines flight upgrades

Business Class from £1,795 return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Sun)	Rtn (Sat)	Out (Sun)	Rtn (Sat)	Out (Sun)	Rtn (Sat)	Out (Sun)	Rtn (Sat)
14 Jan 18	27 Jan 18	04 Mar 18	17 Mar 18	13 Jan 19	26 Jan 19	03 Mar 19	16 Mar 19
28 Jan 18	10 Feb 18	09 Sep 18	22 Sep 18	27 Jan 19	09 Feb 19		
11 Feb 18	24 Feb 18	21 Oct 18	03 Nov 18	10 Feb 19	23 Feb 19		
25 Feb 18	10 Mar 18	18 Nov 18	01 Dec 18	24 Feb 19	09 Mar 19		

Sri Lanka Summer Explorer

Duration • 14 Days & 12 Nights
Category • Superior

Group tour • From £1,695
Private tour • From £1,945

**NEW
TOUR**

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Flexible – extensions, room & flight upgrades available
- ❖ Maximum group size – 26 people
- ❖ Direct international flights with Sri Lankan Airlines
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 12 breakfasts & 3 lunches
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Balanced pace
- ❖ Perahera festival departure



Beach, Passikudah

Sri Lanka is a year-round destination: while the west and south succumb to monsoon rains, the period from May to September is the right time to travel to the rest of the country. This tour includes tea plantation tours, sacred Buddhist sights, wildlife tracking excursions, ancient architectural riches and beach relaxation.

absorbing the city's unique mix of Portuguese, Dutch, English and Indian influences. (B, L)

Day 4: Kandy

Drive to Kandy, the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings. Drive around Kandy lake, which was built by the last Sinhala king, Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe, in 1798. Visit the Kandy town bazaar, the arts and crafts centre and lapidary. Later, watch an evening Puja ceremony at the sacred Temple of the Tooth followed by a cultural show. Stay at the Amaya Hills (or similar), located in the heart of the town, for 3 nights. (B)

Day 5: Kandy

Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens in Peradeniya, which contains an amazing variety of flowers, tree and plants. Peradeniya was first built as a pleasure garden by a Sinhala king and was later expanded by the British. Remainder of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 6: Nuwara Eliya

Take the scenic train journey from Peradeniya to Nanu Oya station, the heart of tea country (subject to availability). Drive to Nuwara Eliya Golf Club for lunch. Founded in 1889, it is one of the oldest golf clubs in Asia. On your way back to Kandy, visit a tea plantation and factory to see the manufacturing and grading process of tea, before tasting a cup of pure Ceylon tea. (B, L)

Day 7: Sigiriya

Transfer from Kandy to Sigiriya. En route visit the Dambulla cave temples containing the largest area of paintings found in the world and over 150 images of the Buddha. The largest is a colossal figure that spans 14 metres. Spend 3 nights at the Jetwing Lake (or similar). (B)

Day 8: Polonnaruwa

Visit the Primate Centre at Polonnaruwa including a guided jungle tour of the three primate species

Weather

Passikudah

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	27	29	30	33	34	34	34	34	33	31	29	28
B	24	24	25	25	26	26	25	25	25	24	24	24
C	110	100	60	60	60	30	70	90	90	210	330	350

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ **Authentic Sri Lankan lunch in a local village**
- ❖ **3 nights relaxation on a tranquil east coast beach**
- ❖ **Visit the Primate Centre at Polonnaruwa**
- ❖ **Scenic train journey through the tea country**

Day 1: Fly to Colombo

Overnight flight from London (regional connections available) to Colombo with Sri Lankan Airlines. (N)

Day 2: Colombo

Arrive in Colombo and transfer to the Jetwing Colombo Seven (or similar) for a 2-night stay. Afternoon at leisure. (N)

Day 3: Colombo

Travel to a rural village amid the paddy fields for a tuk-tuk ride and a visit to a traditional village home. Watch the traditional production of cinnamon and oil and the ancient art of rubber tapping. Enjoy an authentic Sri Lankan lunch followed by a panoramic city tour of Colombo,



Lion Rock fortress, Sigiriya

(toque macaques, hanuman langurs and purple-faced langurs), a documentary film, lecture and refreshments. Continue to Polonnaruwa, once an important medieval capital and the crown jewel of King Parakramabahu I. (B)

Day 9: Sigiriya • Minneriya

Drive to Sigiriya to climb the fifth-century rock citadel. Ascend the steep stairs – 1,200 in total – to reach the summit of the fortress, admiring the colourful frescoes that adorn the side of the rocks along the way. Enjoy a typical farm lunch at Priyamali Gedara. Continue to Minneriya for an afternoon safari. Spreading over 8,800 hectares, this is a sanctuary for elephants, herds of deer and a variety of birdlife. Evening cookery demonstration at the hotel. Learn how to make a typical Sri Lankan chicken curry and two vegetable dishes. (B, L)

Day 10: Passikudah

Travel to Passikudah for 3 nights' relaxation at Anantaya Resort, Passikudah (Superior room). Located on a secluded beach on the lesser-visited east coast of Sri Lanka, the luxury Anantaya Passikudah is surrounded by unspoilt natural beauty, clear waters and exotic coral reefs. (B)

Days 11-12: Passikudah

At leisure. (B)

Day 13: Colombo

Travel back to Colombo by road for an overnight stay at the Jetwing Colombo Seven (or similar) or opt for a domestic flight with Cinnamon Air from Batticaloa, from £270. (B)

Day 14: Fly to London

Take the direct flight back to London with Sri Lankan Airlines. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Festival departure

The 13 August 2018 departure coincides with the Esala Perahera festival in Kandy.

Important information

Accessibility: Visits to certain ancient monuments in the Cultural Triangle require steep climbing, including ascending more than 1,800 steps in one instance.

Tour variations: Due to changes to seasonal schedules and opening times, there are minor

itinerary variations for certain departure dates. Please check with your Cox & Kings tour consultant for details.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your exact requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: SSU

Group tour

Low season from £1,695
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £1,825
Guide price months: May – Jun

Single supplement from £440

Private travel

Low season from £1,945
Guide price months: Apr

High season from £2,035
Guide price months: May – Jun

Single supplement from £440

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (16 – 26 Aug)

Sri Lankan Airlines flight upgrades

Business Class from £1,795 return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Mon)	Rtn (Sun)	Out (Mon)	Rtn (Sun)	Out (Mon)	Rtn (Sun)	Out (Mon)	Rtn (Sun)
12 Mar 18	25 Mar 18	14 May 18	27 May 18	18 Jun 18	01 Jul 18	13 Aug 18	26 Aug 18*
16 Apr 18	29 Apr 18	04 Jun 18	17 Jun 18	16 Jul 18	29 Jul 18	10 Sep 18	23 Sep 18

Splendours of Sri Lanka

Duration • 14 Days & 12 Nights
Category • Superior

Group tour • From £2,830

Solo Travellers

This group tour features...

- ❖ 4- & 5-star accommodation
- ❖ Twin / double rooms for single use
- ❖ Flexible – extensions, room & flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 12 people (max 18)
- ❖ Direct international flights with Sri Lankan Airlines
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour manager
- ❖ 12 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 10 dinners
- ❖ Welcome and farewell group dinners
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Wildlife safaris & national park entrance fees

Weather

Colombo

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	31	31	32	32	31	30	30	30	30	30	30	30
B	22	23	24	24	25	25	25	25	25	24	23	22
C	55	74	136	250	382	186	124	116	236	371	306	166

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



Tea pickers, Nuwara Eliya

This introductory tour combines the Cultural Triangle's ancient cities with scenic hill country, man-made marvels and abundant wildlife. Finish the tour with a relaxing 2-night stay on a palm-fringed beach.

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ **3 safaris in Wilpattu in search of wild elephants and leopards**
- ❖ **Sri Lankan cookery lesson**
- ❖ **2-night luxury beach stay**

Day 1: Fly to Colombo

Overnight flight from London (regional connections available) to Colombo with Sri Lankan Airlines. (N)

Day 2: Chilaw

Arrive and transfer to the Anantaya hotel (or similar) for 1 night. Welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3: Anuradhapura

Drive to Anuradhapura via Wilpattu National Park. Afternoon wildlife safari in search of leopards and sloth bears. Stay 3 nights at the Forest Rock Garden Resort (or similar). (B, D)

Day 4: Wilpattu National Park • Anuradhapura

Full-day safari in Wilpattu National Park. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Anuradhapura

Drive to the ancient city of Anuradhapura. For 1,400 years, this city was the capital of Sri Lanka and contains fabulous Buddhist shrines and relics. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)

Day 6: Dambulla

Transfer to Dambulla. Stay 2 nights at the Amaya Lake hotel (or similar). Afternoon cookery lesson. This evening enjoy a sunset boat ride on the lake. (B)

Day 7: Sigiriya • Polonnaruwa

Morning visit to the Unesco-listed rock fortress town of Sigiriya. Continue to the 11th-century medieval capital of Polonnaruwa. (B)

Day 8: Dambulla • Kandy

Morning visit to Dambulla, home to Asia's most impressive cave temples. Continue to the beautiful hill station of Kandy and stay 2 nights at the Amaya Hills (or similar). Afternoon sightseeing tour. In the evening, watch a traditional Kandyan dance performance and visit the Temple of the Tooth for the evening Puja ceremony. (B, D)

Day 9: Kandy

Kandy is set on the shores of a beautiful man-made lake and the area abounds in rich and varied plant life. Morning visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens. Afternoon at leisure to explore Kandy's markets. (B, D)

Day 10: Nuwara Eliya

Morning drive to the hill station of Nuwara Eliya via a tea plantation. Situated at 2,000 metres, Nuwara Eliya attracted the British in the 18th century and their legacy is still visible. Stay at the Araliya Green Hills (or similar) for 2 nights. (B, D)

Day 11: Horton Plains

Early morning visit to Horton Plains, situated on Sri Lanka's highest plateau (this excursion involves a 2.5-hour trek*). Horton Plains is inhabited by large populations of monkeys and sambar. The rest of the day is at leisure. (B, D)

Day 12: Wadduwa

Drive to Wadduwa. Stay 2 nights at the Blue Water Hotel, a luxury hotel with breathtaking views of the Indian Ocean. (B, D)

Day 13: Wadduwa

Day at leisure. Farewell dinner. (B, D)

Day 14: Fly to London

Transfer to Colombo and fly to London with Sri Lankan Airlines. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.



Buddha, Polonnaruwa

Important information

Solo travellers group tours: These small group tours have been specially created for solo travellers. Benefits include single occupancy of double / twin rooms as standard and at sensible prices, plus the company of like-minded travellers. View the complete collection at coxandkings.co.uk/solo-travellers

***Accessibility:** Due to high altitude and uneven terrain, the Horton Plains trek requires a good level of fitness. Visits to certain ancient monuments in the Cultural Triangle require steep climbing, including ascending more than 1,800 steps in one instance.

Tour variations: Due to changes to seasonal schedules and opening times, there are minor itinerary variations for certain departure dates. Please check with your Cox & Kings tour consultant for details.

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: SCN

Group tour

Low season from £2,830
Guide price months: Mar

High season from £2,935
Guide price months: Jan

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 15 Jan)

Sri Lankan Airlines flight upgrades

Business Class from £1,795 return

Regional air connections

Please speak to your consultant for details

The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on single occupancy of a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out (Wed)	Rtn (Tue)	Out (Wed)	Rtn (Tue)	Out (Wed)	Rtn (Tue)	Out (Wed)	Rtn (Tue)
10 Jan 18	23 Jan 18	14 Mar 18	27 Mar 18	19 Dec 18	01 Jan 19	06 Feb 19	19 Feb 19
24 Jan 18	06 Feb 18	17 Oct 18	30 Oct 18	16 Jan 19	29 Jan 19	20 Feb 19	05 Mar 19
07 Feb 18	20 Feb 18	07 Nov 18	20 Nov 18	30 Jan 19	12 Feb 19		

Wonders of the Wild

Duration • 12 Days & 10 Nights

Category • Discovery

Private tour • From £2,255

Tour overview

Discover the remarkable natural diversity of Sri Lanka, from the birds and reptiles in the rainforests to large mammals in the national parks and the abundant marine life in the waters off the south coast. Starting from the Sinharaja biosphere, renowned for its endemic birds, this tour visits the Uda Walawe and Yala national parks in search of wild elephants and leopards. Continue to the west of the island to look for blue whales and sperm whales off the coast of Galle and see turtles hatch in Kosgoda, before returning to Colombo.

This private tour features...

- ❖ Private driver-guide throughout
- ❖ Air-conditioned transfers
- ❖ International flights
- ❖ All sightseeing as described
- ❖ All entrance fees & wildlife drives
- ❖ Meals as per the itinerary

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Walking safaris in Sri Lanka's tropical rainforest
- ❖ Huge variety of endemic birds at Bundala bird sanctuary
- ❖ Search for leopards, crocodiles & elephants in Yala & Uda Walawe
- ❖ Visit Kosgoda turtle hatchery
- ❖ Boat safari to seek out blue whales & sperm whales

Area map



Leopard, Sri Lanka

Day 1: Fly to Colombo (N)

Day 2: Colombo

Morning arrival and transfer to the Mount Lavinia Hotel for 1 night. (N)

Day 3: Sinharaja

Morning transfer to the Sinharaja biosphere, a Unesco world heritage site and Sri Lanka's last remaining tropical rainforest. Stay for 2 nights at the Rainforest Edge. (B)

Day 4: Sinharaja

Early morning and late afternoon walking safari looking for endemic birds, butterflies, reptiles, amphibians and flowers. (B)

Day 5: Udawalawe

Early morning walking safari. Late morning drive to Udawalawe National Park. Stay 2 nights at Grand Udawalawe Safari Resort. (B)

Day 6: Udawalawe

Early morning and late afternoon wildlife viewing in Uda Walawe National Park, home to a large number of elephants as well as deer, water buffaloes and a wide variety of bird species. (B)

Day 7: Yala

Morning drive to Yala via Bundala bird sanctuary. One of the largest wildlife reserves in Sri Lanka, Yala is known for its high density leopard population. It is also possible to spot

sloth bears, wild elephants, spotted deer, crocodiles and an incredible array of birdlife. Stay for 2 nights at The Safari (or similar). (B)

Day 8: Yala

Early morning and late afternoon wildlife viewing in search of leopards and sloth bears. (B)

Day 9: Mirissa

Morning drive to the south coast of Mirissa, which has earned a reputation as one of the world's hot spots for whale and dolphin watching. Stay 2 nights at the Mandara Resort. (B)

Day 10: Mirissa

In the morning, head to Dondra Head in search of whales*. The continental shelf is at its narrowest near Dondra Head, making it one of the best places to see blue whales and sperm whales. Afternoon at leisure. (B)

Day 11: Kosgoda • Colombo

Take a morning boat safari for another chance to spot whales and dolphins. Later, drive to Colombo via Kosgoda. The small coastal town of Kosgoda is best known for its turtle hatchery, which was established in 1981 to protect Sri Lanka's sea turtles from extinction. Stay overnight at the Ramada Colombo. (B)

Day 12: Fly home (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Discovery tour: This tour involves some longer drives and stays in some simple hotels.

***Whale watching:** This is available from November to April.

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £2,255
Guide price months: May – Jun

High season from £2,325
Guide price month: Nov

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 15 Jan)

Sri Lanka in Luxury

Duration • 15 Days & 13 Nights

Category • Luxury

Private tour • From £2,855

Tour overview

Known as the pearl of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka has a wealth of cultural and natural treasures. This tour covers many of them, from the ancient city of Anuradhapura in the north to the fortified city of Galle built by the Portuguese in the south, and passing by Sri Lanka's stunning highlands. Staying in small and intimate luxury properties where you will often be treated as family, this itinerary offers one of the best ways to explore the island.

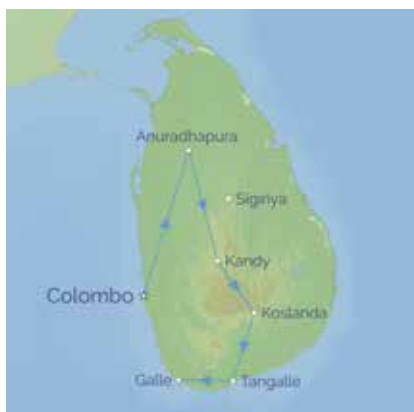
This private tour features...

- ❖ 5-star de luxe accommodation
- ❖ Private driver-guide throughout
- ❖ Air-conditioned transfers
- ❖ International flights
- ❖ All sightseeing as described
- ❖ All entrance fees
- ❖ Meals as per the itinerary

C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Discover ancient ruins in the archaeological triangle
- ❖ Visit Kandy's Peradeniya botanical gardens
- ❖ Learn the art of tea making
- ❖ Relaxation time on the palm-fringed coastline
- ❖ Explore the vibrant city of Galle and the fortified colonial Old Town

Area map



View from Bougainvillea Retreat

Day 1: Fly to Colombo (N)

Day 2: Colombo

Afternoon arrival and transfer to the Wallawwa hotel for 1 night. (N)

Day 3: Anuradhapura

Morning transfer to Ulagalla Resort for 2 nights, a short drive from the ancient city of Anuradhapura. Remainder of day at leisure. (B)

Day 4: Anuradhapura

Drive to the ancient city of Anuradhapura. For 1,400 years this city was Sri Lanka's capital and contains fabulous Buddhist shrines and relics. (B)

Day 5: Sigiriya • Kandy

Early morning drive to the ruined city of Sigiriya with its impressive palace-fortress high up on a protruding column of rock. Continue to Kandy and stay 3 nights at Bougainvillea Retreat. (B)

Day 6: Kandy

Morning visit to the Temple of the Tooth, a Buddhist temple which houses the relic of the tooth of Buddha. Afternoon visit to the Peradeniya botanical gardens. (B)

Day 7: Kandy

Spend a day at leisure either relaxing at your hotel or exploring Kandy. (B)

Day 8: Koslanda

Early morning drive to Koslanda via a tea

plantation. Stay at Living Heritage Koslanda, featuring its own tea plantation, for 2 nights. (B)

Day 9: Koslanda

Day at leisure to relax or take part in some of the experiences on offer at the hotel including cooking classes, hikes to the nearby waterfall and other walks through the forest. (B)

Day 10: Tangalle

Drive to Tangalle on the southern coast and stay for 2 nights at the Last House. Remainder of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 11: Tangalle

Day at leisure. You may wish to relax on the beach or book yourself a spa treatment. (B)

Day 12: Galle

Drive to the fortress city of Galle and stay for 2 nights at Why House or Kahanda Kanda. Afternoon guided tour of Galle, including the fort. (B)

Day 13: Galle

At leisure to explore the streets of Galle and the many boutique shops, cafes and Dutch colonial-inspired buildings, or relax at your hotel. (B)

Day 14: Colombo

Transfer to Colombo and stay for 1 night at The Residence. Afternoon guided walking tour of Colombo, a fascinating experience that shows how far this city has come in the last few years. (B)

Day 15: Fly home (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Important information

Tailor-made travel: For a price quote based on alternative accommodation standards or flight options, or to tailor this itinerary, please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Low season from £2,855
Guide price months: May – Jun

High season from £3,295
Guide price months: Mar

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 15 Jan)

Exclusive Villas & Retreats

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



Luxury

Ulagalla, Anuradhapura

Tucked away among 23 hectares of lush paddy fields, forests and the Ulagalla reservoir, Ulagalla resort is built around a beautifully restored historic mansion. The stylishly laid out, luxurious villas have been designed to make the most of the natural setting and each has separate living and sleeping areas, a private plunge pool and a small courtyard. Both Sri Lankan and international cuisine is on offer at the fine dining restaurant or in the privacy of your own chalet.

Features:

20 villas, restaurant, coffee lounge, swimming pool, fitness centre, spa, souvenir shop.



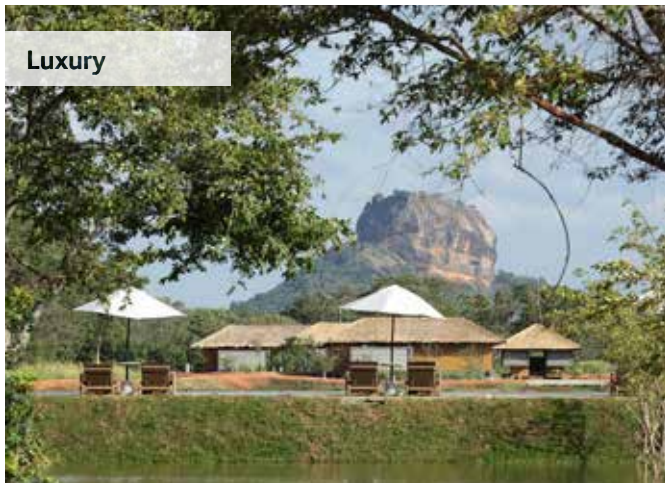
Luxury

Jetwing Vil Uyana, Sigiriya

Surrounded by jungle, Jetwing Vil Uyana is one of the first hotels in the country to construct a wetland system and form its own nature reserve. Inspired by local traditions, Jetwing Vil Uyana provides a setting of peace and tranquillity. Dotted across 9.5 hectares of land, each of the 36 stylishly furnished dwellings feature a private deck and offer scenic views. The dwellings are divided into either water, paddy, marsh or garden dwellings and some feature private plunge pools.

Features:

36 rooms, 2 restaurants, swimming pool, spa.



Luxury

Water Garden Sigiriya, Sigiriya

Located in the lush countryside of central Sri Lanka, the Water Garden Sigiriya is a beautiful hotel surrounded by lakes and streams. Its design takes inspiration from the 2,000-year-old water garden of Sigiriya rock fortress, which is located just 6km away. All rooms are spacious and come with a sun deck large enough to double up as an observation point for watching wildlife that may roam the property's periphery.

Features:

30 rooms, restaurant, bar, swimming pool, spa.



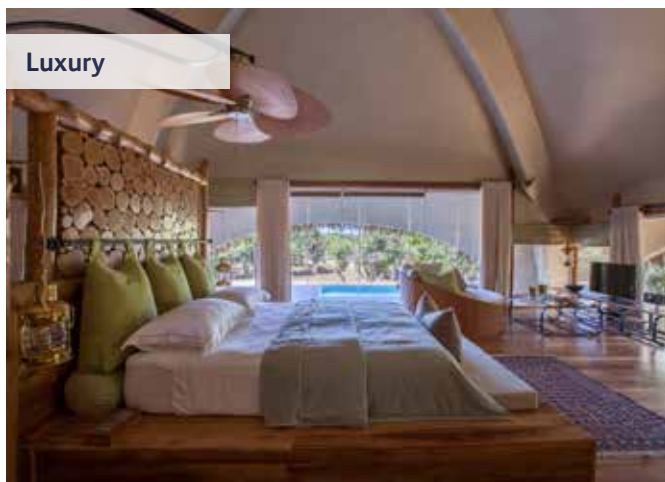
Superior Villa

20 Middle Street, Galle

Built in the mid-18th century and located inside the historic walls of Galle fort, 20 Middle Street is an opulent private house bursting with charm and character. The design is archetypal of the era with a handsome exterior and an internal courtyard garden while the interiors are fitted with original wooden furniture. The property is used on an exclusive basis, sleeping up to 8 people and replete with a private chef.

Features:

5 rooms sleeping up to 8, private chef, pool, snooker table, Wi-Fi.



Luxury

Chena Huts, Yala

Chena Huts overlooks a beach where sea turtles come to lay eggs by moonlight and elephants wander down from the nearby jungle to play in the surf. This luxury boutique property comprises 14 private pavilions surrounded by lush green forest, each decorated to echo African safari style with beautiful wooden furniture and light colours. Each of the cabins features its own private deck with a large plunge pool. The resort is conveniently located next to Yala National Park.

Features:

14 cabins, swimming pool, restaurant, poolside bar.



Luxury

Mas Villa, Kothmale

Mas Villa is a luxury manor house set within 6 hectares of lush hill country near Nuwara Eliya. Overlooking the stunning Kotmale reservoir and jungle-clad mountains, it offers a wealth of activities, from exploring the tea fields, grand temples and waterfalls on foot or by bike, to fishing and boating on the reservoir. Each room is decorated differently, blending modern luxury with the traditional style of the hotel. All rooms offer views of the surrounding countryside.

Features:

6 guest rooms and 1 suite, dining veranda, spa, swimming pool.



Luxury Villa

Ceylon Tea Trails, near Nuwara Eliya

The Bogawantalawa valley lies in the heart of Sri Lanka amid rolling hills and spectacular scenery. Scattered across 2,000 sq km of tea plantations, Ceylon Tea Trails is a collection of five beautifully restored bungalows originally built for British tea managers during the Raj. Each bungalow is unique and offers a luxury experience of life on a working tea estate. Each bungalow also has its own dedicated manager, in-house chef, butler and support staff to attend to guests' every need.

Features:

5 bungalows, private dining, spa, daily excursions.



Luxury

Rosyth Estate House, Kegalle

The Rosyth Estate House is set in a 1926 colonial planter's bungalow in a 25-hectare private tea and rubber estate, 1,100ft above sea level. It offers outstanding boutique accommodation, exceptional Sri Lankan cuisine and the opportunity to experience the beauty and culture of rural Sri Lanka. Guests can explore the estate, visit the local tea factory, enjoy a cookery lesson, relax by the pool or simply take in the stunning views.

Features:

9 rooms, dining pavilion, lounge, library, swimming pool, garden, spa, complimentary daily yoga.

Hotels, Camps & Beach Resorts

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



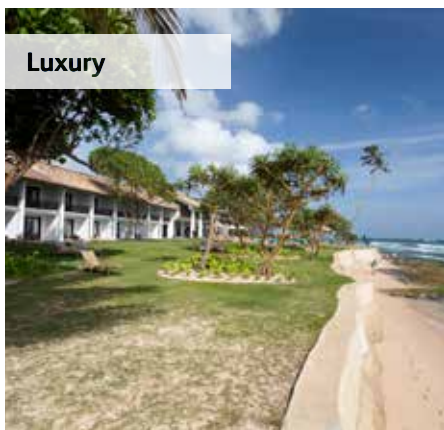
Luxury

Heritance Tea Factory, Nuwara Eliya

Set over 2,000 metres (6,800 feet) above sea level, the Heritance Tea Factory was built as the Heathersett Tea Factory in the days of the British Raj. The conversion combines much of the original building's style and machinery with a range of modern innovations. The views are entrancing, with a wide panorama to the front and gentle pastoral scenes to the rear. One of the hotel's restaurants is set in a train carriage.

Features:

57 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, billiards, mini golf, garden, working tea factory.



Luxury

The Fortress, Galle

The Fortress is a spa and yoga-centric property located by the sea, styled upon the Dutch fort in Galle with architecture that fuses old Dutch and Portuguese designs with Sri Lankan motifs. All of the 53 rooms are spacious, luxuriously appointed and open out onto a courtyard or balcony. The hotel has three restaurants serving international and local delicacies and a selection of wines and spirits.

Features:

53 rooms, 3 restaurants, bar, pool, spa.



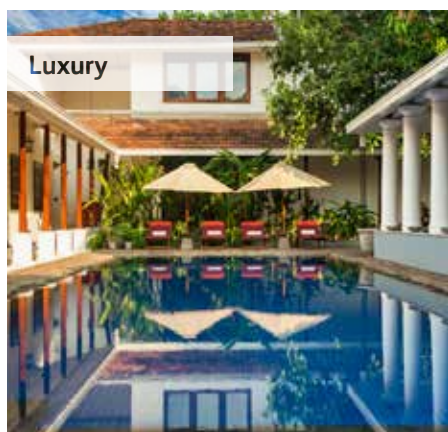
Luxury

The Fort Bazaar, Galle

Situated in the atmospheric Galle fort, the boutique Fort Bazaar offers a convenient location for visiting the region's historic sites and sandy beaches. The property provides a comfortable place to relax, with a gourmet restaurant, a vibrant bar and a first class spa. The 15 elegant rooms open onto a central courtyard flanked by alfresco seating while three spacious suites with balconies look over the fort's red-tiled rooftops.

Features:

18 rooms, restaurant, bar, cinema, spa



Luxury

Residence, Colombo

Once the home of the flamboyant society couple Sheikh and Zarina Moosajee, this 19th-century 'bungalow-palace' has been extensively renovated and carefully converted into a boutique hotel. The colonial bungalow houses the stylishly designed grand suite with luxurious furnishings that combine old-world charm with modern conveniences while the converted warehouse features sleek and contemporary poolside suites with small garden courtyards.

Features:

11 suites, restaurant, bar, outdoor pool, spa.



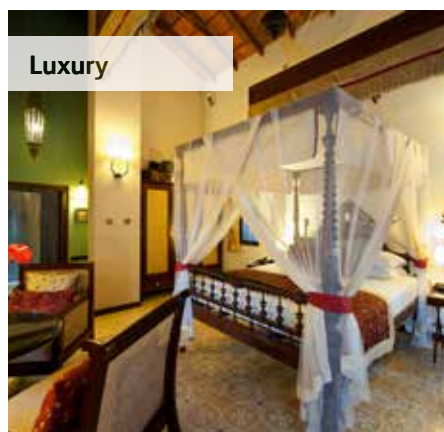
Luxury

Maniumpathy, Colombo

Located in the heart of Colombo, within easy reach of the city's sights, shops and restaurants, Maniumpathy is an atmospheric manor house that dates back to 1906. Originally built by a doctor from Jaffna, the house has been extended and its interiors modernised without affecting the property's period features. The rooms all have their own individual design and unique character. This boutique hotel offers an oasis of serenity and luxury in busy Colombo.

Features:

8 rooms, restaurant, swimming pool, Wi-Fi.



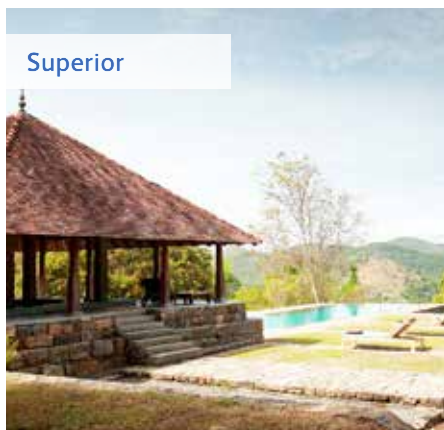
Luxury

The Reef Villa & Spa, Wadduwa

An elegant fusion of Sri Lankan manor house architecture and colonial grandeur, The Reef Villa & Spa is a luxurious boutique hotel set among a hectare of lush tropical gardens that lead to the turquoise waters of the Indian Ocean. This is a suite-only property, some set among lily ponds, others in the plantation house. Attention to detail and personalised service characterise this exclusive beach resort.

Features:

7 suites, restaurant, swimming pool, communal lounge and spa.



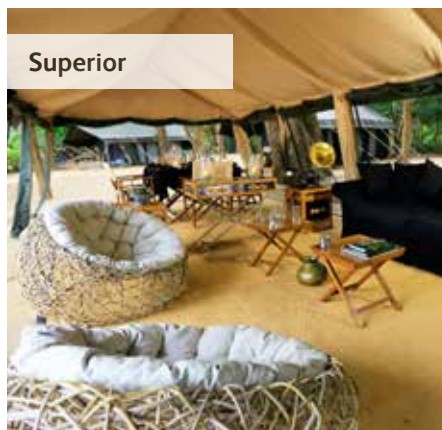
Superior

Living Heritage, Koslanda

Living Heritage Koslanda is a boutique hotel built within tropical gardens and ancient forest. Traditional Sri Lankan design and architecture is portrayed throughout the property while the infinity pool offers spectacular views of the surrounding hills. The property has its own private spectacular waterfall and natural swimming hole which is reached via a nature walk through the forest. The hotel offers private cookery demonstrations with experienced chefs.

Features:

3 suites & 1 deluxe room, restaurant, infinity pool



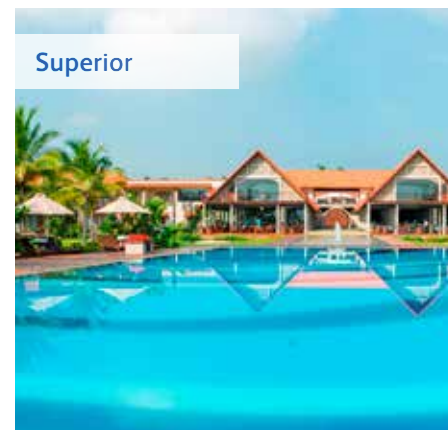
Superior

Leopard Trails, Wilpattu National Park

Leopard Trails Wilpattu Camp is located within the north-western buffer zone of Wilpattu National Park and approximately a 20-minute drive from the park's main entrance gates. Included within your stay are morning and afternoon wildlife drives accompanied by a qualified naturalist / ranger. Full board is provided at the camp with soft drinks, wine, beer and spirits included. Each tent can accommodate up to three guests.

Features:

3 spacious safari tents, separate dining tent, lounge, bar, small library.



Superior

Uga Bay, Passikudah

Set in front of the beautiful white sands of Passikudah, one of Sri Lanka's finest beaches, Uga Bay offers spacious rooms, elegantly decorated and arranged in a semi-circle to benefit from the best sea views across the palm-fringed gardens of Uga Bay. There is a stunning infinity pool, a restaurant serving Asian and international cuisine and a spa offering a range of Swedish and Balinese treatments as well as massages available indoors or in poolside cabanas.

Features:

46 rooms, 1 suite, 1 villa, restaurant, bar, infinity swimming pool, spa.



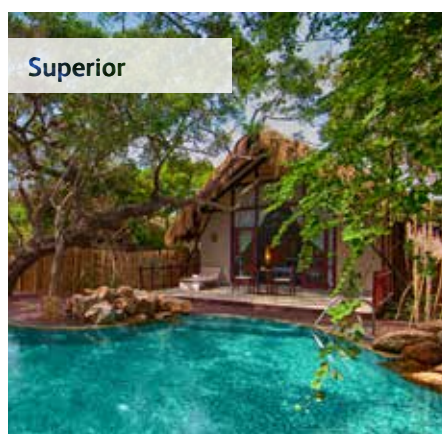
Superior

Vivanta by Taj – Bentota

Situated on a hilllock overlooking the Indian Ocean and a palm-fringed stretch of golden beach, the Vivanta by Taj – Bentota is a stylish property set in lush tropical landscaped gardens. The guestrooms are elegantly designed and feature large bay windows, many of which offer spectacular views out to the Indian Ocean. Dine in any of the hotel's indoor and outdoor venues offering everything from fresh local seafood to Chinese dishes and Indian fare.

Features:

162 rooms, 4 restaurants, bar, pool, spa.



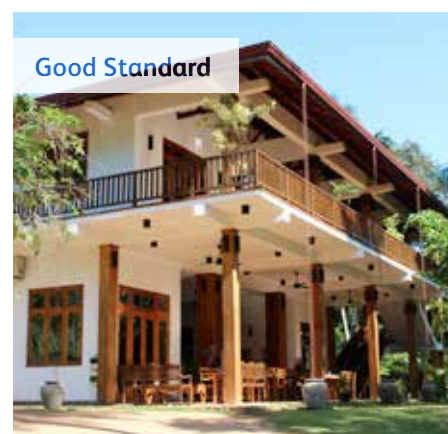
Superior

Jungle Beach, Trincomalee

Sandwiched between the Indian Ocean on one side and a lagoon on the other, Jungle Beach is a stylish retreat set in the coastal village of Kuchchaveli near Trincomalee. The villas, spread among mature gardens, are spacious, elegantly furnished and feature a private balcony overlooking the beach, the lagoon or the woodland and tropical mangroves. Dine in the restaurant or in different locations around the resort, including a private picnic on the beach.

Features:

48 villas, restaurant, outdoor swimming pool, spa, gym, yoga studio.



Good Standard

Jim's Farm Villas, Matale

Set within a 20-hectare organic farm with stunning mountain views, Jim's Farm Villas is surrounded by wooded hills and paddy fields and is a haven for birds. Specially designed to showcase the best of Sri Lankan craftsmanship, all the rooms have cool kumbuk wood flooring, vaulted wooden ceilings and traditional teak and rattan furniture. There is a choice of three villas, which can be booked in their entirety or by room.

Features:

14 rooms including family rooms, spa, fine dining restaurant, swimming pool.

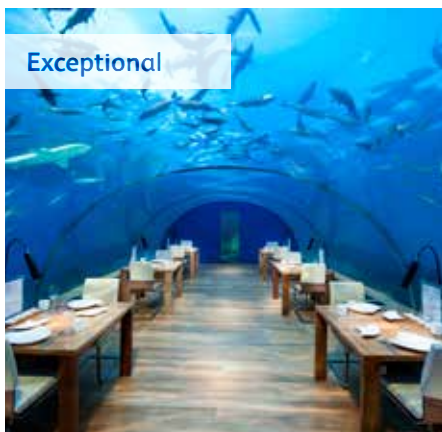
Maldives Luxury Resorts

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.

Four degrees north of the equator, the Maldivian archipelago of 1,190 islands stretches ribbon-like across the deep blue waters of the Indian Ocean. The islands have their fair share of pristine white sandy beaches and crystal-clear turquoise waters – a purity which attracts a rich variety of marine life.

The underwater spectacle is breathtaking, from shark pups to schools of tropical fish, turtles and dolphins, all flitting through the warm waters and multi-coloured coral reefs. This, combined with the idyllic white-sand beaches, year-round sunshine and indulgent beach resorts and hideaways, creates the ideal tropical holiday destination.

With direct flight connections from Delhi and Colombo, a tour of India or Sri Lanka combined with a beach break in the Maldives is more accessible than ever – an idyllic end to a holiday.



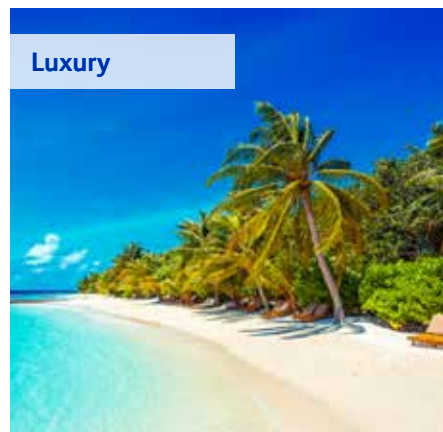
Exceptional

Conrad Maldives Rangali Island, South Ari atoll

The sumptuous Conrad Maldives Rangali Island is built on the two exotic islands of Rangali and Ranglifinolhu, with the latter being an adults-only island. The islands are linked by a 500-metre footbridge and are surrounded by a colourful house reef. With 12 restaurants, there is a huge array of dining options to choose from, including the underwater Ithaa restaurant.

Features:

150 rooms, 12 restaurants, 2 swimming pools, dive centre, spa.



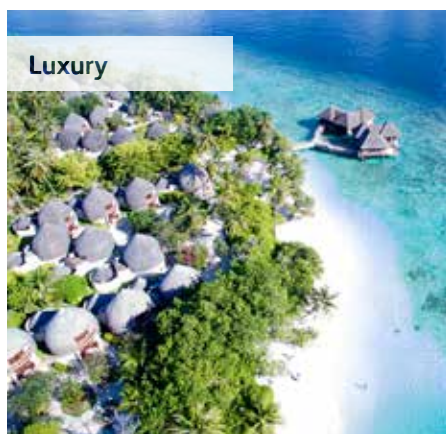
Luxury

Lily Beach, South Ari atoll

Renowned for its idyllic tranquil beaches, lush tropical vegetation and the exotic house reef, the all-inclusive Lily Beach Resort & Spa on Huvahendhoo island is approximately a 25-minute seaplane transfer from Malé. Each of the 125 beach, lagoon and water villas are a fusion of contemporary style with traditional Maldivian touches. Facilities include an open-air restaurant with live cooking stations.

Features:

125 rooms, 5 restaurants, 2 swimming pools (including one quiet pool), semi-submarine, dive centre, gym, spa, tennis courts.



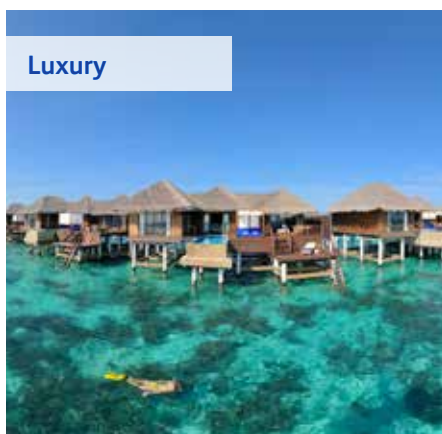
Luxury

Bandos Island Resort & Spa, North Malé atoll

The vibrant Bandos Island Resort & Spa is surrounded by azure blue waters and one of the best reefs in the North Malé atoll. It is also well located, just 20 minutes by speedboat from Malé International airport. Spread among 18 hectares on one of the larger islands in the atoll, the rooms and villas are comfortably furnished and decorated in Maldivian style. Bandos also has its own uninhabited island.

Features:

215 rooms, 3 restaurants, 2 bars, pool bar, swimming pool, flood-lit tennis courts, gym, spa.



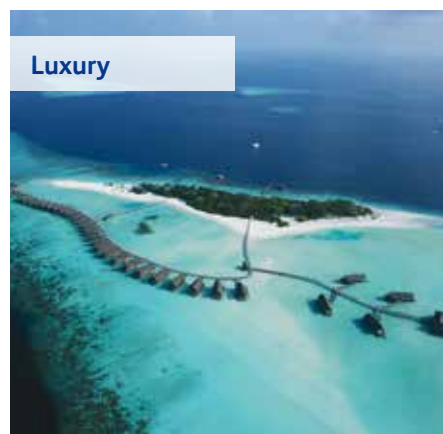
Luxury

Coco Bodu Hithi, North Malé atoll

Located within the vicinity of the world-class Madivaru Beyru dive site where manta rays and hawksbill turtles are abundant, the Coco Bodu Hithi is a contemporary resort on a tropical private island. Choose between an Island Villa replete with a private courtyard and pool or one of the luxurious Water Villas with split-level water decks and direct access to the stunning lagoon. The resort also has five restaurants offering a variety of fine dining choices.

Features:

100 rooms, 5 restaurants, 2 bars, spa, PADI dive centre, water sports centre.



Luxury

Cocoa Island, South Malé atoll

Flanked by a smooth sandy beach and a quiet reef, Cocoa Island is located in the less developed South Malé atoll. Inspired by the dhoni boats used by local fishermen, this private island features simple yet elegant suites that are moored along wooden walkways, but are firmly fixed in place so do not sway. Each room has a private terrace with direct access to the warm lagoon, and from the wide platform bed you can look directly out over the watery expanse.

Features:

33 rooms & suites, restaurant, bar, spa, yoga pavilion, infinity pool, fitness centre, Wi-Fi.



Luxury

Dusit Thani Maldives, Baa atoll

Dusit Thani offers a blend of Thai hospitality within the unparalleled luxury setting of the Maldives. Just 35 minutes by seaplane from Malé, the resort is encircled by white sandy beaches, a stunning 360-degree living house reef and a turquoise lagoon. Snorkel in the crystal-clear lagoons, swim in one of the Maldives' largest infinity pools, take a spa treatment in the treetop spa or choose to dine in a private setting around the island.

Features:

94 rooms, 3 restaurants, 2 bars, pool, fitness centre, spa, yoga, two tennis courts.



Luxury

Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu, Baa atoll

Surrounded by a beautiful lagoon, Coco Palm Dhuni Kolhu sits on a private island in Baa atoll. It features 98 comfortably furnished, thatched villas, some built on stilts over the lagoon while others are dotted among the lush tropical vegetation overlooking the shimmering Indian Ocean. Dining options include a restaurant serving local and international cuisine, a speciality restaurant serving Maldivian, Thai and Indian cuisine, and an alfresco dining venue.

Features:

98 rooms, 2 restaurants, 2 bars, spa, water sports centre.



Luxury

Ayada Resort, Gaafu Dhaalu atoll

Located on the remote Ghaafu Dhaalu atoll, the Ayada is a perfect choice for those looking for a luxurious and quiet retreat. The 15-hectare island is rich with natural tropical habitats, beautiful white sandy paths and a pristine coral reef. As one of the newest resorts in the Maldives, there is a fresh and contemporary ambience. The restaurants provide an enormous choice of fine-dining options against breathtaking views of the ocean.

Features:

122 rooms, 6 restaurants, bar, award-winning spa, tennis court, dive centre.



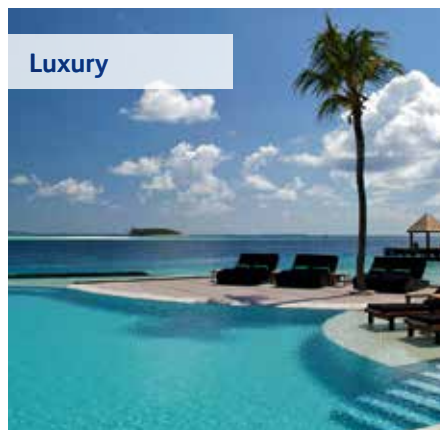
Luxury

Atmosphere Kanifushi, Lhaviyani atoll

The luxurious Atmosphere Kanifushi is located on the beautiful and sparsely populated Lhaviyani atoll, complete with a stunning house reef, pristine white sand beaches and a turquoise lagoon. Each of the 132 spacious villas have direct beach access, an open-air bathroom and a private garden area. A large range of daily excursions and activities, including snorkelling and diving trips, are included in the Platinum price plan.

Features:

132 villas and suites, 5 restaurants, 2 pool bars, dive centre, swimming pool, spa, fitness centre.



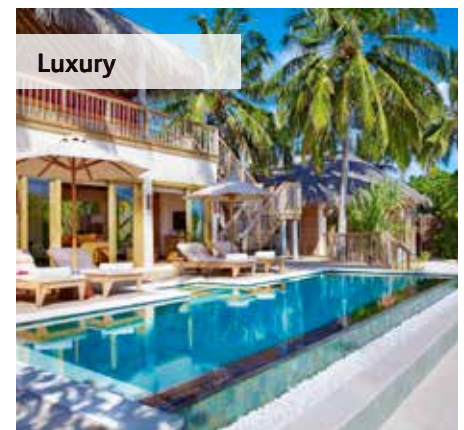
Luxury

Komandoo Island, Lhaviyani atoll

Set at the top of the Lhaviyani atoll, the adults-only Komandoo Resort is an idyllic private island retreat with long stretches of beautiful white sand and a sparkling house reef. Just a short boat ride away you will find some of the Maldives highest-rated dive sites, suitable for all levels of experience. The villas are all elegantly furnished with solid teak furniture, all overlooking the Indian Ocean, and the two restaurants offer an array of cuisines.

Features:

65 villas, 2 restaurants and bars, swimming pool, spa, games room, dive centre.



Luxury

Six Senses Laamu, Laamu atoll

Surrounded by lush mangrove forests and an unspoilt coral house reef, Six Senses Laamu is the only resort in the remote and idyllic Laamu atoll. This eco-conscious resort, which elegantly combines rustic style with modern comforts, features 97 chic and spacious thatched-roof villas with some built on stilts over water and others on the beachfront with direct access to the ocean. The resort offers an abundance of activities.

Features:

97 villas, 4 restaurants, 2 bars, swimming pool, spa, water sports.



Nepal & Bhutan



Group tours • Tailor-made travel

The Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal and the Kingdom of Bhutan are two of the world's most mountainous countries. Wedged between the Himalaya and Indian plains, Nepal is a melting pot of different cultures and terrains while Bhutan remains enigmatic and unspoilt with Buddhism, the state religion, influencing every aspect of life here.

Nepal contains eight of the world's highest mountains, and this striking scenery is a walker's paradise. Meanwhile the steamy jungles are home to rhinos, Bengal tigers and sloth bears. The country maintains strong Buddhist and Hindu influences, with peaceful towns and small temples. Bhutan is also deeply spiritual. Dotted across a landscape of snow-capped peaks and deep valleys, carpeted with primeval forests, are fantastic monasteries and incredible fortress-like dzongs. Attend spectacular religious dance festivals, browse beautifully made textiles and handicrafts, and explore wonderful hiking routes.

- Discover Nepal & Bhutan**
- 160 Nepal: Kathmandu, Pashupatinath & Bodhnath
 - 161 Nepal: Kathmandu valley, Nagarkot & Dhulikhel
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 - 165 Bhutan: Bumthang & Phobjikha valleys, Punakha

- Small group & private tour**
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- Places to stay – our suggestions**
- 168 Nepal hotels & lodges
 - 169 Bhutan retreats & lodges

Climate

Both Nepal and Bhutan's climates vary between mountainous and lowland regions. In the high mountains there is snow and ice throughout the year, while a tropical climate prevails in the foothills. However, lowland nights are cold and temperatures can fall to freezing in the depths of winter. The monsoon rains arrive in June and last until September. From October through to April the weather is sunny and warm. Winters can be very cold, but will often still be sunny and bright during the day. Skies tend to be clearer for mountain views between October and January.

Kathmandu, Nepal

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	18	19	24	27	29	29	28	28	28	26	22	19
B	1	3	7	11	15	19	19	19	18	13	7	2
C	16	24	39	75	158	341	547	474	323	78	10	18

Paro, Bhutan

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	7	9	12	15	17	18	18	18	17	16	12	10
B	-6	-4	0	4	7	10	11	10	9	4	-1	-5
C	9	10	34	81	180	416	549	406	259	84	11	5

Key: A: Maximum average temperature (C) B: Minimum average temperature (C) C: Average rainfall (mm)

Inspired to venture further afield? Browse our website to discover additional destinations, places to stay and itineraries; or speak to our India experts.

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Image left: Tiger's Nest monastery, Bhutan

Discover Nepal



Swayambhunath monkey temple, Kathmandu

Kathmandu

Medieval city • Magnificent Swayambhunath stupa

The capital of the ancient mountain kingdom of Nepal, Kathmandu is a maze of narrow streets, wooden temples and beautifully decorated palaces where the sound of jangling cymbals and rich aromas fill the air. Visit the beautiful Durbar Square, which despite sustaining damage during the earthquake retains much of its architectural charm, and wander through the district of Thamel with its many interesting cafes, restaurants and shops.

Located on a hillside above the city is Swayambhunath, a white stupa with a spire on top which features the colourful eyes of Buddha. A visit during the afternoon is a memorable experience: watch the locals who come to worship here and enjoy picturesque sunsets over the city.

C&K Recommends...

Visit Swayambhunath with a monk

Visit Swayambhunath in the company of a resident monk who will give you an insightful introduction to Buddhist philosophy and its significance in contemporary society. You can request to participate in some of the *pujas* (religious ceremony) of the monks, which involve lighting butter lamps and sitting in one of the chanting sessions in the prayer halls. If there is a high ranking monk conducting a prayer session during your visit, you may be able to request an audience with him for a blessing.

Learn to cook dal bhat

Enjoy a 3-hour cookery demonstration uncovering the secrets behind Nepali's staple dish – *dal bhat*. This dish comes with rice, lentils, soup, curry chicken, cauliflower with potato and a special chutney concoction that will fire up your taste buds. Take part in a cookery lesson in a traditional local home and savour the results of your efforts. Learning to cook *dal bhat* will give you a lifelong skill to bring back home with you.



Pashupatinath & Bodhnath

Important Hindu temples • Bustling religious activity

Located on the banks of the sacred Bagmati river, Pashupatinath Hindu temple is the most important in Nepal. The surrounding market stalls offer marigolds, incense, Hindu images and other religious artefacts. Non-Hindus are not permitted to enter the main temple but the area has a certain charm with a view point of the temple and the ghats.

Located just east of Kathmandu, Bodhnath is set on what used to be a major trade route between Nepal and Tibet. Today the main attraction is an enormous Buddhist stupa, one of the largest in the world and of huge religious importance to Tibetan Buddhism. Visit one of the outlying monasteries and gompas in the evening when Buddhist monks carry butter lamps and prayer wheels to the Bodhnath stupa.



Kathmandu

Kathmandu Valley

Ancient city-states • Well-preserved royal palaces

The Kathmandu valley is formed by a series of villages set against the backdrop of the highest mountain range in the world, the Himalaya. Known as the 'Town with a Thousand Golden Roofs', Patan rose to prominence while Kathmandu was still just a collection of villages. Once home to over 1,200 Buddhist shrines and monuments, today the town is renowned for its master craftsmen, metal workers and artists. It is also famous for its elegant Newari architecture – walk through Durbar Square for an insight into Patan's important past, dotted with ancient temples and pagodas. Bhaktapur, with its Palace of 55 Windows, is no less an architectural gem.



Bodhnath stupa, Kathmandu

Nagarkot & Dhulikhel

Charming hillside villages • Treks with stunning views

Nagarkot and Dhulikhel are two small hillside villages offering stunning views over the snow-capped Himalaya. Aside from the views, the towns offer an ideal base for short walks and hikes in the surrounding countryside. Nagarkot is situated atop a hill at an altitude of 7,198 feet and was once the mountain retreat of the Nepalese maharajahs. Dhulikhel, on the other hand, is an old Newari town and at one time a stop on the trade route to Lhasa. The town has impressive old buildings, many with ornate wooden lattices in place of glass windows, and various Hindu temples. A sunrise walk to the Kali shrine at 5,626 feet rewards the early riser with views towards the Annapurna range and Everest.



Nepalese children, Kathmandu

A suggested itinerary...

Nepal Family Adventure

13 Days & 11 Nights from £3,075

Offering striking scenery, medieval towns, dense jungles filled with rare wildlife and adventurous activities, Nepal is an enticing playground for all ages. This itinerary gives you the very best introduction to one of the world's most mountainous and welcoming countries.

Day 1: Fly to Kathmandu via Delhi (N)

Day 2: Kathmandu

Afternoon arrival in Kathmandu and 20-minute transfer to the Hotel Himalaya (Deluxe rooms) for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Kathmandu

Day at leisure to explore medieval Kathmandu, a captivating city. (B)

Day 4: Nuwakot

Drive (2 ½ hours) into rural Nepal to the hilltop village of Nuwakot. En route, visit a village school, where you can meet with the local

students. Overnight at the Famous Farm House, a traditional Nepalese converted farmhouse. (B)

Day 5: Chitwan National Park

Drive (6 hours) to Chitwan National Park for 3 nights at the Barahi Jungle Lodge (Family suite) located on the banks of the Rapti river. (B, L, D)

Days 6-7: Chitwan National Park

Wildlife safari by jeep, canoe or on elephant-back. In the evening enjoy a traditional cultural dance performance by members of the local Tharu tribe. Other day-time activities include washing and bathing elephants. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Pokhara

Drive (4 hrs) to the city of lakes – Pokhara – with views of rocky gorges and three of the world's 10 highest mountains. Stay 3 nights at the Temple Tree Resort (Deluxe rooms, interconnecting) (B)

Day 9: Pokhara

Early morning drive to Sarankot with possible sunrise views over the mountain panorama. After breakfast, visit a cave full of strangely shaped stalagmites, a lively temple and the thundering David Falls. Continue on foot to Phewa lake to enjoy the gentle boat ride back to Pokhara. (B)

Day 10: Pokhara

Day at leisure to relax by the pool or take an optional 3-hour soft trek in the nearby mountains. (B)

Day 11: Kurintar

Drive to Kurintar (approx. 3 hours) and transfer to Summit River Lodge (Cottage rooms) for an overnight stay. Remainder of the day is at leisure to relax by the pool or hike in the nearby hills. (B)

Day 12: Kathmandu

Drive to Kathmandu (3 hours) and stay overnight at the Hotel Himalaya. (B)

Day 13: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £3,075 (Apr – Jun)

High season from: £3,125 (Jan – Mar)

Tailored travel

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Lumbini

Holy Buddhist site

Situated in the foothills of the Himalaya, Lumbini is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site in the Rupandehi district of Nepal and is renowned as the place where Queen Mayadevi gave birth to the Gautama Buddha. It is one of four important pilgrimage sites linked to various periods of the Buddha's life. The great Emperor Ashoka, who once ruled over most of the Indian Subcontinent, visited Lumbini in 249BC and constructed four stupas and a stone pillar with a figure of a horse on top. Neglected for centuries, Lumbini was rediscovered in 1895. Further exploration and excavation revealed the existence of a brick temple and a sandstone sculpture within the temple itself, which depicts scenes of the Buddha's birth.



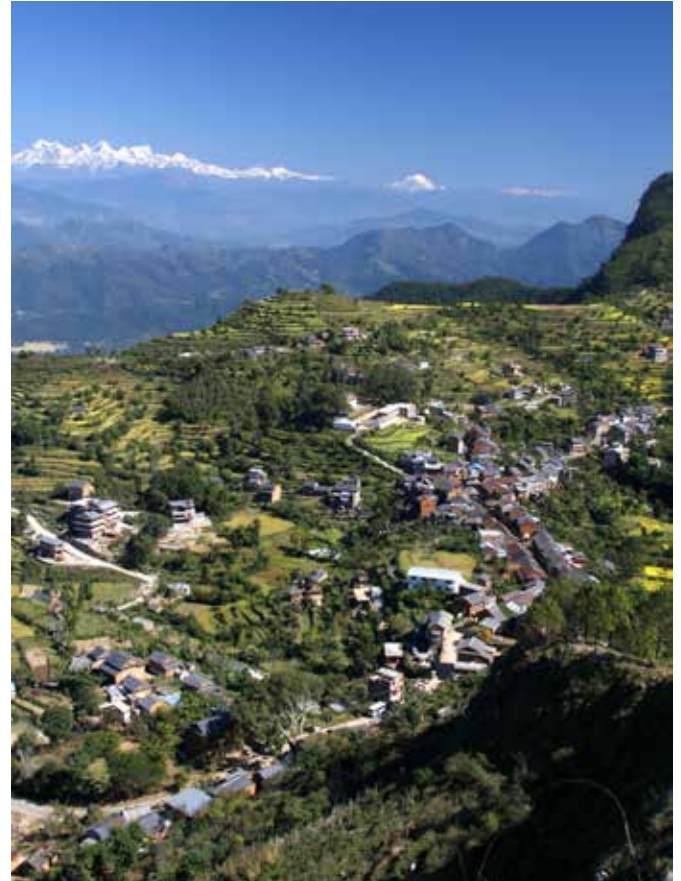
Buddha, Lumbini

Nuwakot & Bandipur

Fortress ruins in Nuwakot • Newari houses in Bandipur

In the heart of Nepal, the quaint village of Nuwakot is one of the country's best-kept secrets. The ruins of the crumbling 18th-century Saat Tale Durbar (seven-storey fortress) highlights the strategic location of Nuwakot in the past. The fortress ruins are a poignant reminder of the consequences of the various military campaigns launched by King Prithvi Shah to unify Nepal.

To the west of Nuwakot, perched high along a ridge, is the picturesque Newari town of Bandipur. Its location along the ancient trading route between India and Tibet once made it prosperous, evident in the remaining Newari mansions with exquisitely carved wooden windows.



Bandipur

A suggested itinerary...

Splendours of Nepal

14 Days & 12 Nights from £2,545

This journey focuses on the country's finest sites, hotels and scenery, combining Kathmandu valley's ancient monuments and the mountains and valleys of the Himalaya with the Buddhist site of Lumbini and the Chitwan National Park, where rhinos roam.

Day 1: Fly to Kathmandu (N)

Day 2: Kathmandu

Arrive and transfer to the Shanker Hotel for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Kathmandu • Bhaktapur

Morning tour of Kathmandu. Afternoon visit to the medieval city of Bhaktapur. (B)

Day 4: Nuwakot

Drive to Nuwakot and transfer to the Famous

Farm for 1 night. Afternoon village walk. (B, L, D)

Days 5-6: Bandipur

Drive to the Newari village of Bandipur and spend 2 nights at Gaun Ghar. Afternoon village walk.

Following day at leisure. (B, L, D)

Day 7: Pokhara

Drive to Pokhara and stay 2 nights at the Temple Tree Resort & Spa. Afternoon tour of Pokhara. (B)

Day 8: Pokhara

Morning trek to the World Peace Pagoda. Continue on foot to Phewa lake and take a boat back to Pokhara. (B)

Day 9: Lumbini

Drive to Lumbini and stay 2 nights at the Hotel Buddha Maya. (B)

Day 10: Lumbini

Morning tour of Lumbini. (B)

Day 11: Chitwan

Drive to Chitwan and stay 2 nights at the Barahi Jungle Lodge. Afternoon wildlife viewing. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Chitwan

Early morning and late afternoon wildlife viewing. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Kathmandu

Drive to Kathmandu and stay overnight at the Shanker Hotel. (B)

Day 14: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £2,545 (Apr – Jun)

High season from: £2,595 (Jan – Mar)

Tailored travel

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Phewa lake, Pokhara

Pokhara

Guided walks & treks • Meadows, hills & high peaks

The peaceful town of Pokhara lies on the shores of Nepal's second largest lake, Phewa Tal, and is surrounded by the majestic snow-capped Annapurna mountain range. Pokhara once belonged to the independent kingdom of Kaski, and the ruins of ancient stone fortresses stand on the surrounding foothills, backed by some of the world's highest peaks including the Dhaulagiri massif, the Annapurna and, most spectacular of all, the soaring spire of Machhapuchhre, also known as Fish Tail. All of this, combined with a gentle climate, makes Pokhara an ideal place to simply relax and take walks or more energetic hikes in the surrounding hills. The town serves as a major launching point for treks into the popular Annapurna region.

Chitwan National Park

Unesco site • Leopards & one-horned rhinos

Until the 20th century, Chitwan valley was a hotspot for hunting expeditions, but just over 40 years ago Nepal's administrators passed legislation to protect the primeval forests and remaining wildlife, including dwindling tiger and rhinoceros populations. Today, the park is a Unesco world heritage site made up of sal forest and rolling grasslands that support a unique and varied wildlife population. The park is home to a great number of Asian one-horned rhinos, wild boars, gaur, rhesus monkeys, a small yet healthy population of leopards and more than 450 species of bird. Elephants are also common, while marsh crocodiles, rare gharials and Gangetic dolphins lurk in the rivers.



One-horned rhino, Chitwan National Park



Mount Machhapuchhre, Pokhara

Bardia National Park

Royal Bengal tigers • Wide variety of wildlife

Similar to Chitwan for wildlife viewing but with fewer crowds, Bardia National Park is made up of sal forest and vast grasslands and is located in the remote south-eastern corner of Nepal. For many years the park suffered under the Maoist insurgency as much of the wildlife was not protected. Today the situation is being reversed and the park is becoming more popular. Despite wildlife being rather elusive, the chances of seeing a tiger here are higher than in most places in the country, with the population of these majestic creatures slowly increasing. The park is also home to other mammals such as Asian one-horned rhinos, wild elephants, leopards and langurs. There are also over 250 species of birds including Bengal floricans and sarus cranes.



Nepalese potter

C&K Recommends...

Traditional Nepalese pottery class

The art of pottery has been an integral part of Nepalese culture for thousands of years and clay pots are still very much used in everyday life for both practical and decorative purposes. Suitable for all levels of experience, throw your own pot on a traditional potter's wheel, moulding your clay into your design before adding beautiful Nepalese patterns and inscriptions as taught by your expert pottery master. Take home what you make as a souvenir.

Ker & Downey trek

Walk through the foothills of the mighty Annapurna range and experience the beauty of the mountains at close quarters on a relatively easy 4-day / 3-night trek. Stay in comfortable Ker & Downey lodges with separate bedrooms and en suite facilities; each has been hand built by local craftsmen to a traditional Nepalese design. Walk up through the rice terraces and sub-tropical forests of orchids, magnolia and rhododendron, passing the ethnic villages of Gurung and Magar and visiting a local school en route.

Discover Bhutan

Thimphu

Showcase of traditional Bhutanese life • Numerous museums to explore

The Bhutanese capital city, Thimphu, maintains a strong national character and a medieval feel in its architectural style. Its narrow streets are lined with small shops packed with produce and there is a busy weekend market. Visit the Tashichho dzong, the seat of the government and the central monastic body; it is the location for the Thimphu Tsechu festival which takes place from 19 to 21 September 2018. Other intriguing Thimphu sites include the School of Arts and Crafts, where children learn painting and woodcarving, the Institute of Traditional Medicine, a papermaking factory, the National Textile Museum and the Folk Heritage Museum.



Masked dancers



Paro

Taksang (Tiger's Nest) monastery • Ancient temples

Overlooked by the spectacular Taksang monastery, the beautiful Paro valley encapsulates the rich culture and scenic beauty of Bhutan. Perched on a cliff, the monastery is believed to be the site where Guru Padmasambhava landed on the back of a tiger in the eighth century and is one of the country's holiest sites. Paro is also home to many of Bhutan's oldest temples and monasteries, including Rinpung dzong, the impregnable fortress, and Ta dzong, the old watchtower. Rinpung dzong is also the venue for the Paro festival, which for 2018 will take place between 27 and 31 March.

A suggested itinerary...

Assam, Darjeeling & Bhutan Odyssey

16 Days & 14 Nights from £4,925

A spectacular private journey that begins in the historic and cultural heart of West Bengal, taking you from the old colonial capital of Kolkata (Calcutta) and deep into the mystical 'Land of the Thunder Dragon', one of the most unusual and spectacular destinations anywhere on Earth.

Day 1: Fly to Kolkata (N)

Day 2: Kolkata

On arrival transfer to the LaLiT Great Eastern for an overnight stay. (N)

Day 3: Kaziranga National Park

Fly to Guwahati and transfer to the Diphlu River Lodge for 2 nights. (B, L, D)

Days 4: Kaziranga National Park

Explore the park, in search of one-horned rhino, by jeep and on elephant-back. (B, L, D)

Day 5: Darjeeling

Fly to Badogra and travel to Darjeeling for 3 nights at the Elgin. (B, D)

Day 6: Darjeeling

Witness the sunrise over the mighty peaks of Mt. Everest and Kanchenjunga. Take the historic toy train ride to Ghoom and enjoy a half-day city tour of this sparkling hill resort. (B, D)

Day 7: Darjeeling

Spend the day learning all about tea, visiting tea plantations and enjoying a tea tasting. Afternoon at leisure. (B, D)

Day 8: Phuntsholing

After breakfast take a scenic drive to Phuntsholing crossing the Coronation Bridge. Spend the night at the Hotel Druk. (B, D)

Day 9: Thimphu

Travel to Thimphu, visiting Simtokha dzong en route, the oldest fortress in the kingdom built in 1629. Spend 2 nights at the Hotel Kisa. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Thimphu

Explore Thimphu including the Tashichho dzong, School of Arts and Crafts, Simply Bhutan project and a local bazaar. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Punakha

Drive across the stunning Dochu La Pass to Punakha. En route enjoy a short walk to Khamsum Yueling temple which provides an idyllic spot for a picnic lunch. Spend 2 nights at the Drubchhu Resort. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Punakha

Visit the beautiful Punakha dzong, the largest in the country. Later take a short excursion to Chimi Lhakhang also known as 'Fertility Temple'. (B, L, D)

Day 13: Paro

Drive to Paro for 2 nights at the The Village Lodge. Experience a local hot stone bath. (B, L, D)

Day 14: Paro

Enjoy the spectacular walk to the 300-year-old Tiger's Nest Monastery. At leisure or cycle through the Haa valley, try your hand at archery or enjoy a lesson creating spicy Bhutanese cuisine. (B, L, D)

Day 15: Fly to Delhi

Fly to Delhi. Overnight at the LaLiT New Delhi. (B)

Day 16: Fly home (B)

Guideline Prices

Low season from: £4,925 (Jan – Feb)

High season from: £5,295 (Mar – Apr & Nov)

Tailored travel

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Bumthang Valley

Spiritual heartland of Bhutan • Explore lesser-visited valleys nearby

The Bumthang district is located in central Bhutan and borders Tibet in the north. With several ancient temples and monasteries dotting the undulating landscape, the valley that takes its name is regarded as the spiritual heartland of Bhutan. It is believed to be where Buddhism first took hold in the country. Monasteries to visit include Jambey lhakhang, one of 108 monasteries built in the seventh century to subdue evil spirits, and Kurjey lhakhang, one of the most sacred monuments in Bhutan. The Bumthang valley is an ideal base from which to explore some of the lesser-visited valleys on easy day walks.



Punakha dzong

Punakha

Scenic winter capital

Situated in the lowest of Bhutan's central valleys, Punakha is Bhutan's winter capital. Its warmer climate sees the fertile valley blanketed in cactus plants and orange orchards. Naturally and culturally spectacular, Punakha is set against the backdrop of snow-covered mountains and pine-clad hills. The scenic drive from Thimphu passes over the stunning Dochu-La-Pass and through rhododendron forests. A short walk to Khamsum Yueling temple provides an idyllic spot for a picnic lunch and a walk across the second largest suspension bridge in the world, which crosses the Pho-chu river.

C&K Recommends...

Learn about the life of a Bhutanese farmer, Paro

The beauty of Paro's valley is embellished by a cluster of quaint farmhouses, which are very colourful, decorative and traditionally built without the use of a single nail. All farmhouses follow the same architectural pattern and a visit allows guests to learn about agrarian traditions and Bhutanese culture. Easily combined with other trips around Paro, a visit to one of these houses is a culturally enriching experience.

Hike in the remote Thang valley, Bumthang

The Thang valley is one of Bhutan's most remote and sacred valleys and well worth exploring. Discover beautiful monasteries and temples and make sure to stop at Membartsho, or the 'Burning Lake', one of the most sacred places in Bhutan. It is believed that Pema Lingpa, the treasure discoverer, found several of Guru Rinpoche's treasures here after entering the lake with a lamp that still shone even after it was submerged, hence the name 'Burning Lake'.

Phobjikha Valley

Ancient temples & villages • Winter migration of black-necked cranes

The picturesque Phobjikha valley, situated in the mountains east of Wangdue Phodrang, is wide and flat in contrast to the dense forests that cover most of Bhutan. Phobjikha village is dominated by the 17th-century Gangtey gomba, the only Nyingmapa monastery on the western side of the black mountains. The monastery's renovated complex is an outstanding example of the craftsmanship of Bhutan's finest artisans. During the winter, black-necked cranes arrive in large numbers from the Tibetan plateau. There is even an annual festival in celebration of their arrival, which takes place on 11 November 2018.



Taktsang monastery, Paro



Masked dancer at the Tschu festival, Bhutan

Archery experience, Paro

Try your hand at archery, the national sport, which has become deeply entrenched within Bhutanese culture. After becoming redundant as a means of hunting and within warfare, archery became a social sport in Bhutan, played by everyone from kings to villagers. Watch locals compete against each other, regularly hitting the target from remarkable distances. Try the sport yourself using authentic bamboo bows and wearing traditional attire.

Bhutan: The Dragon Kingdom

Duration • 11 Days & 9 Nights

Category • Discovery

Group tour • From £3,035

Private tour • From £3,185

This group tour features...

- ❖ Flexible – extensions, room & flight upgrades available
- ❖ Average group size – 11 people (max 26)
- ❖ International flights
- ❖ Transfers in air-conditioned vehicles
- ❖ Experienced local tour guides
- ❖ 9 breakfasts, 6 lunches, 7 dinners
- ❖ Farewell dinner
- ❖ Guided sightseeing & entrance fees
- ❖ Porterage at airports and stations
- ❖ Bhutanese visa included
- ❖ Festival departures: Paro, Thimphu, Punakha, Jambhay Lhakhang & Black-necked Crane



Traditional dancer

The remote Kingdom of Bhutan, with its fascinating cultural heritage and beautiful mountain scenery, was off limits to tourists until 1974. Today, the country continues to preserve its age-old traditions, as revealed in this tour, which travels through western and central Bhutan visiting the forts, monasteries and markets of the 'Dragon Kingdom'.

Weather

Thimphu

	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
A	7	8	12	14	16	18	18	18	17	15	12	9
B	-7	-5	0	3	6	9	10	10	8	3	-2	-5
C	8	9	34	79	180	411	529	391	247	81	11	5

A: Maximum average temperature (C)

B: Minimum average temperature (C)

C: Average rainfall (mm)

Area map



C&K Signature experiences

- ❖ Witness Bhutan's colourful festivals
- ❖ Bhutanese cooking class
- ❖ Explore Kathmandu's medieval centre
- ❖ Meet with local monks

Day 1: Fly to Kathmandu via Delhi

Overnight flight from London (regional connections available) to Kathmandu, via Delhi, with Jet Airways. (N)

Day 2: Kathmandu

Afternoon arrival in Kathmandu and transfer to the Hotel Himalaya (or similar) for 2 nights. (N)

Day 3: Kathmandu

Morning tour of Kathmandu. Afternoon visit to the temple at Pashupatinath and Bodhnath. (B)

Day 4: Fly to Paro • Thimphu

Morning flight to Paro. Drive to Thimphu. Afternoon tour including the National Library. Stay 2 nights at the Hotel Kisa (or similar). (B, L, D)

Day 5: Thimphu

Morning sightseeing in Thimphu, including the National Memorial Chorten. Afternoon at leisure. Dinner this evening with a local family. (B, L, D)

Day 6: Punakha

Travel to Punakha. Visit a traditional farmhouse for an authentic village experience. Stay 2 nights at the Meri Puensum (or similar). (B, L, D)

Day 7: Punakha

Morning tour of Punakha, including the Punakha dzong, a 17th-century fortress. This afternoon visit the Nalanda Buddhist Institute to meet with the Buddhist monks. (B, L, D)

Day 8: Paro

Drive to Paro and stay 2 nights at the Village Lodge (or similar). Afternoon visit to Ta dzong, now the national museum. Later, enjoy a cooking class in spicy Bhutanese cuisine. (B, L, D)

Day 9: Paro

Morning trek to Taksang (Tiger's Nest), a monastery perched on a rocky ledge. The return walk takes about 5 hours. Afternoon visit to Rinpung dzong. Later try your hand at Bhutan's national sport – archery. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Fly to Kathmandu

Morning flight to Kathmandu. Stay overnight at the Hotel Himalaya (or similar). Farewell dinner at Brick Café. (B, D)

Day 11: Fly to London via Delhi

Fly from Kathmandu to London, via Delhi, with Jet Airways. (B)

Meal basis: As per itinerary – B: Breakfast, L: Lunch, D: Dinner, N: No meals.

Extension

Tour + Gangtey + Bumthang

4 Days & 4 Nights from £805

This extension starts on Day 8 of the tour and diverts via Gangtey and Bumthang, taking in spectacular scenery and religious sights.

Day 8: Gangtey

Drive through picturesque Himalayan scenery via Dochula Pass (3,100 metres). Enjoy an excursion to a local village. Stay 2 nights at Hotel Dewachen (or similar). (B, L, D)



Taksang Goemba (Tiger's Nest Monastery)

Day 9: Gangtey

Morning visit to Ta dzong and Trongsa dzong. Afternoon walk to explore the surrounds. (B, L, D)

Day 10: Bumthang

Proceed to Bumthang, one of the most spectacular valleys in Bhutan. Stay at the Village Lodge (or similar) for 2 nights. (B, L, D)

Day 11: Bumthang

Visits to Kurje lhakhang, Jambay lhakhang, the ancient Buddhist wall paintings at Tamshing lhakhang and Jakar dzong. (B, L, D)

Day 12: Paro

Travel to Paro. Stay 2 nights at the Village Lodge (or similar). (B, L, D)

Day 13: Paro

Morning trek to Taksang (Tiger's Nest) monastery. The return walk takes about 5 hours. Afternoon visit to Rinpung dzong and Ta dzong, now the national museum. Later, enjoy a cooking class in spicy Bhutanese cuisine. (B, L, D)

Day 14: Fly to Kathmandu

Morning flight to Kathmandu. Stay overnight at the Hotel Himalaya (or similar). (B)

Day 15: Fly to London via Delhi

Fly to London, via Delhi, with Jet Airways. (B)

Tsechus (festivals)

The 17 Feb 2018 departure coincides with the Punakha tsechu; the 22 Mar 2018 departure coincides with the Paro tsechu (slightly different itinerary to allow more time in Paro – please ask your tour consultant for details); and the 16 Sep 2018 departure coincides with the Thimphu tsechu. The 16 Oct 2018 departure and extension coincides with Jambhay Lhakhang and the 3 Nov 2018 departure and extension visits the Black-Necked Crane Festival.

Important information

Discovery tour: Hotel standards in Bhutan range from first class in Paro (available at a supplement on private travel only) to reasonably comfortable in western Bhutan and more basic in central areas. The tour involves some long drives. The road from Trongsa to Bumthang is currently under repair.

Tour variations: Due to changes to seasonal schedules and opening times, there are minor

itinerary variations for certain festival departure dates. Please check with your Cox & Kings tour consultant for details.

Private & tailor-made travel: This itinerary can be taken privately on a date that suits you, for which guideline prices are shown. Alternatively, it can be tailored to your requirements. Please call 020 3930 5073 or email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk

Guideline prices for 2018-19

Tour code: BHU

Group tour

Low season from £3,035
Guide price months: Feb

High season from £3,135
Guide price months: Oct – Nov

Single supplement from £405

Private travel

Low season from £3,185
Guide price months: Feb

High season from £3,285
Guide price months: Oct – Nov

Single supplement from £405

The guideline high season prices may be significantly lower than the peak season prices (20 Dec – 10 Jan)

Jet Airways flight upgrades

Premiere Class from £1,725 return
First Class from £3,365 return

Regional air connections

From £205 return
Please speak to your consultant for details

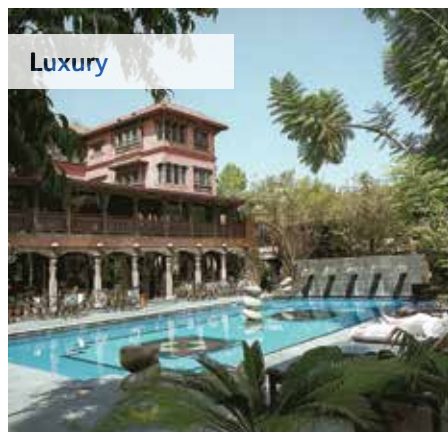
The guideline tour prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room. For current prices for all departure dates, including special offers when applicable, please call 020 3930 5073, email Info@CoxandKings.co.uk or visit CoxandKings.co.uk. All prices are subject to availability.

Departure dates for 2018-19

Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn	Out	Rtn
17 Feb 18	27 Feb 18	16 Sep 18	26 Sep 18	16 Oct 18	26 Oct 18
22 Mar 18	01 Apr 18	01 Oct 18	11 Oct 18	03 Nov 18	13 Nov 18

Nepal Hotels & Lodges

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



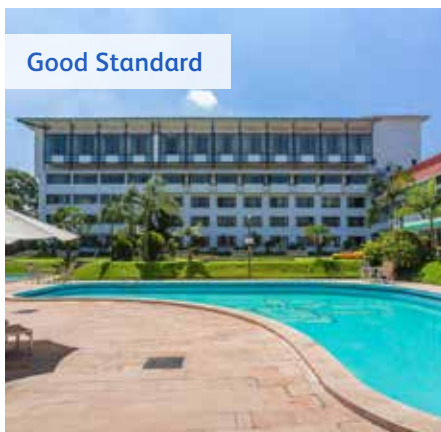
Luxury

Dwarika's Hotel, Kathmandu

Dwarika's Hotel was created with the aim of preserving the architectural heritage of Nepal. An award-winning hotel, it seamlessly blends modern-day comforts with traditional Newari motifs and custom-designed handmade furniture. Exquisite wooden and terracotta features rescued from traditional properties around Kathmandu have been used in its construction.

Features:

87 rooms, 2 restaurants, outdoor swimming pool, spa.



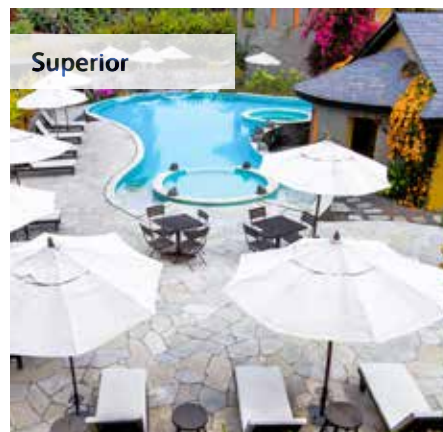
Good Standard

Hotel Himalaya, Kathmandu

Surrounded by 4 hectares of beautiful landscaped grounds, Hotel Himalaya is located within easy reach of Kathmandu city centre. Guests can enjoy 180-degree panoramic views of the majestic Himalayan range from the hotel's garden. The hotel's dining options include international cuisine at Cafe Horizon with in-room dining also available. Facilities include a tennis court, swimming pool and health club.

Features:

125 rooms, restaurant, bar, tennis court, swimming pool, spa.



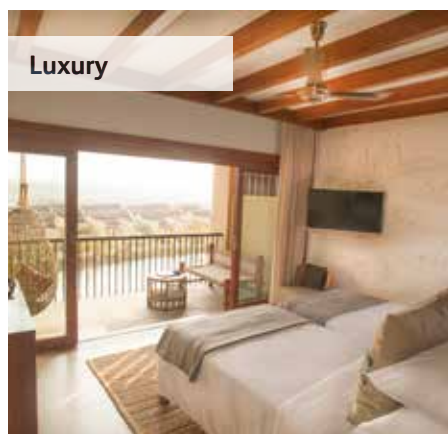
Superior

Temple Tree Resort & Spa, Pokhara

Located in Lakeside, the tourist hub of Pokhara, Temple Tree Resort & Spa is ideally situated near all the restaurants and shops in this area and is just a short walk away from scenic Lake Phewa. The resort combines western standards and the architecture and culture of the western Himalaya. Each of the 47 comfortably furnished rooms has its own small private terrace or balcony and looks onto the landscaped grounds.

Features:

47 rooms, 2 restaurants, bar, infinity pool, spa.



Luxury

Meghauli Serai, Chitwan National Park

Perched on the edge of the Rapti river and the Chitwan National Park, the Meghauli Serai offers luxury accommodation with a backdrop of spectacular landscapes and regular wildlife sightings, including rhinos and crocodiles. Choose between one of the contemporary rooms with balconies overlooking the park, or a spacious villa replete with a private plunge pool. There is a choice of activities available from jungle safaris to sunset river canoeing.

Features:

30 rooms, restaurant & bar, swimming pool, games room, Jiva spa, library. Wi-Fi.



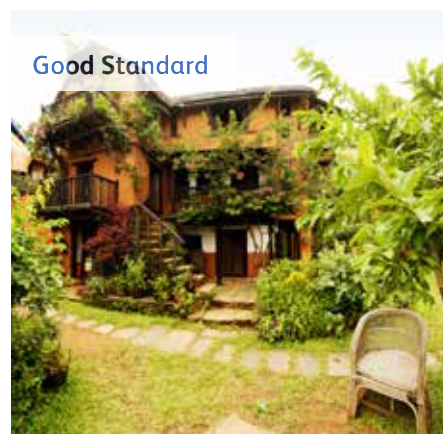
Superior

Barahi Jungle Lodge, Chitwan National Park

Situated on the banks of the Rapti river, the Barahi Jungle Lodge offers tranquil accommodation amid the wilderness of Chitwan National Park. The property has 35 guestrooms (including family suites), each in a separate cottage with private balconies and views out over the river and national park. The lodge has a restaurant that serves a mixture of local, regional, Chinese and continental dishes.

Features:

35 rooms, restaurant, swimming pool, spa.



Good Standard

The Famous Farm, Nuwakot

Perched on a terraced hillside overlooking the picturesque village of Nuwakot, The Famous Farm is an atmospheric, converted farmhouse that retains much of its original Newari design and character. The 13 simple rooms each have their own distinct character and decor and are spread across three buildings, which are set around a courtyard. The resident chef prepares a variety of Nepalese home-cooked meals using fresh, local produce.

Features:

13 rooms, dining room, garden, Wi-Fi.

Bhutan Retreats & Lodges

This is a selection of our recommended accommodation. Please see our website for more options.



Luxury

Uma by COMO, Paro

Perched on a hilltop surrounded by orchards and terraced mountains, Uma by COMO Paro is an inland retreat with easy access to many of Paro's cultural sights. The luxurious rooms, suites and villas combine minimalist contemporary style while retaining traditional Bhutanese elements. The chic villas, with a private therapy suite for spa treatments and 24-hour COMO butler, are the epitome of luxury living.

Features:

29 rooms & villas, restaurant, bar, spa, Bhutanese hot stone bathhouses, indoor pool, gym, yoga studio.



Luxury

Uma by COMO, Punakha

On a picturesque hillside at the far western end of the Punakha valley, the chic and cosy luxury lodge, Uma by COMO, Punakha, enjoys an incredible location overlooking the Mo Chu river. The luxuriously appointed rooms and villas combine minimalist style with traditional Bhutanese character and spectacular views. Some rooms feature a terrace and the villas feature a private living room and a terrace.

Features:

10 rooms & villas, restaurant, spa.



Good Standard

Meri Puensum, Punakha

Situated approximately 5km from Punakha, the family-run Meri Puensum offers true Bhutanese hospitality. The hotel is situated high on a hillside with panoramic views of the fields, terraces and river below. Accommodation is simple but comfortable with en suite rooms, many with private balconies offering superb views. The restaurant serves both Bhutanese and international cuisine.

Features:

34 rooms, restaurant, bar.



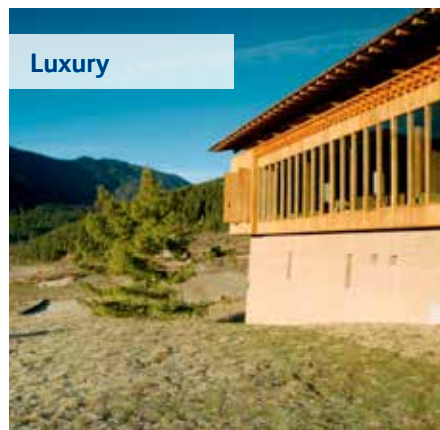
Luxury

Taj Tashi, Thimphu

In the heart of the Thimphu valley, the Taj Tashi superbly combines Bhutan's majestic dzong (fortress) architecture with contemporary design. This impressive hotel features spacious rooms and suites with large bathrooms and tantalising views of the township and the mountain peaks beyond, all tastefully furnished with traditional hand-painted Bhutanese murals decorating the walls, highlighting the region's art and culture.

Features:

66 rooms & suites, 2 restaurants, bar, tea lounge, gym, indoor swimming pool, spa.



Luxury

Amankora, Gangtey

Set in the wilderness of the Phobjikha valley, the Amankora in Gangtey offers sweeping views across the gorge and the magnificent Gangtey Gumpa. The suites are designed to be cosy yet stylish, with wood panelling, a terrazzo-clad bath and daybed, and floor-to-ceiling windows with beautiful views over the Phobjikha valley. There are several Amankora properties throughout Bhutan, all offering similar levels of luxury.

Features:

8 suites, dining room, spa, yoga studio.



Good Standard

The Village Lodge, Bumthang

Located in the centre of the beautiful valley of Bumthang, the Village Lodge hotel offers nine clean and comfortable rooms with simple decor and private en suite facilities. The restaurant serves Bhutanese cuisine although international dishes are also available. Set amid farmlands, the lodge is conveniently located for outdoor activities including walks, picnics and cycle rides in the surrounding area.

Features:

9 rooms, restaurant, bar, lounge, Wi-Fi.

Booking Conditions

Our full booking conditions apply to all bookings. These appear on our website www.coxandkings.co.uk and can also be provided by post or e-mail on request.

The following booking conditions contain only some of the terms and conditions (which may also be a summary) which apply to your booking. Before you make your booking, you must read our full booking conditions. By seeking confirmation of your booking, we are entitled to assume that you have done so and accept the full booking conditions as the basis for your contract with Cox & Kings Travel Limited ('Cox & Kings', 'we', 'our' or 'us') and with any supplier with whom you have a direct contract. In these booking conditions, 'you' and 'your' means all persons named on the booking or any of them as applicable (including anyone who is added or substituted at a later date).

1) YOUR CONTRACT

(a) If you book only one type of arrangement with Cox & Kings (for example hotel(s) only or cruise only) and unless otherwise advised at the time of booking, Cox & Kings acts only as a booking agent for the supplier of that arrangement (for example the hotel or cruise provider). Your contract for that arrangement will be with that supplier (in these conditions referred to as the 'Third Party Supplier') and not Cox & Kings. The Third Party Supplier's own terms and conditions (copies available on request) will apply to that contract in addition to the applicable parts of these conditions. (b) In all other cases your contract will be with Cox & Kings. (c) When you make a booking the person who makes the booking guarantees that they have the authority to accept and do accept on behalf of your party the terms of these booking conditions.

2) BOOKING, PAYMENT AND CONFIRMATION

(a) Information as to how to make a booking, including the applicable deposit or other amount payable in order to do so and how we will communicate with you in respect of your booking, is shown on our website. For some holidays, a higher deposit will be payable or it may be necessary to make full payment at the time of booking. This is usually the case where full payment for certain services, such as your flight, has to be made at the time of booking in order to secure that service or the price quoted. Where full payment is required at the time of booking, 100% cancellation charges will also apply from confirmation of booking in the event that you subsequently cancel. (b) Where you book over the telephone and we are in a position to confirm your booking, a binding contract between you and Cox & Kings or between you and the Third Party Supplier, as applicable, will come into existence when we verbally confirm your booking. All other bookings will be confirmed and a binding contract will come into existence when we issue a confirmation invoice. Please note, though, that if you book private travel arrangements or an extension to a group tour, your accommodation, flights etc will only be requested by Cox & Kings once the payment due at the time of booking has been received. Your confirmation invoice will indicate your requested package cost and you will be advised of any accommodation, flights etc that are still on request and not confirmed at the time the confirmation invoice is issued. (c) It is your responsibility to check the confirmation invoice and any other documents we send you carefully and to let Cox & Kings or your travel agent know immediately in the event of any error or inaccuracy, as it may not be possible to make changes later. Where we act only as agent for a Third Party Supplier we will have no responsibility for any errors in any documentation except where those errors were made by ourselves. (d) The balance of the cost of your arrangements is payable not less than eight weeks prior to departure, unless you are informed otherwise.

If all payments (including any surcharge where applicable) are not received on time, we (or we acting as agent for the Third Party Supplier where applicable) are entitled to assume that you wish to cancel your booking and will retain the deposit paid. If we do not cancel straightaway because you promise to make payment but you still fail to do so, you must pay the cancellation charges shown in clause 10 depending on the date we (or, where applicable, the Third Party Supplier where we are acting as agent) reasonably treat your booking as cancelled by you.

(e) Travel documents will be provided as referred to in our full booking conditions.

(f) Cox & Kings has included in the relevant prices all government taxes in the amount applicable at the time of booking that do not have to be paid locally. Those that have to be paid locally by you are extra and are your responsibility (such as international airport departure tax).

3) SPECIAL REQUESTS / MEDICAL CONDITIONS / DISABILITIES / REDUCED MOBILITY

If you have any special requests, including for flight seats, room / cabin allocation, dietary considerations etc, you must advise in writing at the time of booking. The same applies to any disability, medical condition or reduced mobility which may affect your arrangements or the booking process so that we can advise as to the suitability of the chosen arrangements and / or assist you with making your booking. We will deal with special requests and information relating to any disability, medical condition or reduced mobility as referred to in our full booking conditions.

4) YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

For holidays which do not include flights organised by us, any money you pay to one of our authorised travel agents for your booking will be held by the travel agent on behalf of Cox & Kings / the Third Party Supplier (as applicable) until it is paid to us. For flight inclusive bookings, all monies paid to any authorised travel agent of ours for your holiday with us will be held on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust subject to the travel agent's obligation to pay such monies to us in accordance with our trading terms unless we fail. In the unlikely event of our financial failure, all monies then held by the travel agent or subsequently paid by you to the travel agent will be held by the agent on behalf of and for the benefit of the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust without any obligation on the agent to pay such monies to us.

5) INSURANCE

It is a condition of booking with us that you take out insurance at the time of, or prior to, making your booking. Further information in respect of this requirement is shown in our full booking conditions.

6) ALTERATION BY YOU

(a) If you wish to make any amendments to your holiday after it has been confirmed (including where you wish to transfer your place on the booking to someone else), you must inform us in writing and we will do our best to help. An amendment fee together with the costs and charges incurred as a result or, for certain alterations, cancellation charges, will be payable. Please see our full booking conditions for further information.

(b) If you wish to change any aspect of your holiday after it has commenced, Cox & Kings and / or their agents will do their best to assist, subject to you being responsible for any cancellation charges that may be levied for the arrangements originally booked, for the cost of your new arrangements and for any costs incurred by Cox & Kings and / or their agents in attempting to secure or securing any revised arrangements. All such charges and costs are payable locally.

7) PRE-DEPARTURE CHANGES TO, OR CANCELLATION OF, YOUR ARRANGEMENTS BY US OR YOUR THIRD PARTY SUPPLIER

(a) This clause 7(a) applies only if your contract is with us.

Occasionally, we have to make changes to and correct errors in brochure and other details both before and after bookings have been confirmed and cancel confirmed bookings, which we reserve the right to do.

Most changes are minor. Occasionally, we have to make a significant change. Examples of significant and minor changes and the options and compensation (where applicable) we will offer you in the event of our having to make a significant change or cancel are shown in our full booking conditions. Exceptions to the payment of compensation apply. We are not obliged to notify you of minor changes.

All group holidays with Cox & Kings require a minimum number of bookings before they will operate. If an insufficient number of people have booked to make your holiday arrangements financially viable so that we have to cancel, we will inform you no later than 8 weeks before your departure date. In this case, you will be offered the options set out above but no compensation will be payable.

(b) This clause 7(b) applies if your contract is with a Third Party Supplier.

If the Third Party Supplier changes or cancels your booking, we will pass on the new details to you together with any compensation that the Third Party Supplier may offer. As agent only for the Third Party Supplier we cannot accept any liability for any changes or cancellations made to these bookings.

8) POST-DEPARTURE CHANGES AND CURTAILMENT

Please note, clauses 8(a) and (b) only apply where your contract is with us.

(a) Changes and curtailment after departure (not caused by force majeure) If, after departure, it becomes apparent that a significant proportion of the services you have booked with us cannot be provided, we will make suitable alternative arrangements at no extra cost to you and, where appropriate, compensate you for any difference in value between the arrangements you should have received and the alternative arrangements made and for any disappointment or inconvenience you have reasonably suffered as a result as referred to in our full booking conditions.

(b) Changes and curtailment after departure (caused by force majeure) If, after departure, it becomes apparent that a significant proportion of the services you have booked with us cannot be provided, we will make suitable alternative arrangements at no extra cost to you. If we are unable to do so, or you reject the alternative arrangements offered for good reasons, we will, where appropriate, return you by equivalent transport (type and class of travel) to the departure point of your holiday or such other place as we agree as soon as we are reasonably able to do so. Please refer to our full booking conditions for further details of the extent of our liability in this situation. Very rarely, we may be forced to curtail your holiday and return you to the UK (where your holiday includes return travel) before the scheduled end of your holiday.

This is extremely unlikely, but if this situation does occur, we regret we will be unable to make any refunds, pay you any compensation or meet any costs or expenses you incur as a result.

(c) Changes and curtailment after departure – contract with a Third Party Supplier As agent only for the Third Party Supplier, we cannot accept any liability for any changes to or curtailment of your arrangements made after departure.

9) FORCE MAJEURE

Except where otherwise expressly stated in these booking conditions, neither we nor any Third Party Supplier can accept liability or pay any

compensation where the performance or prompt performance of our or the Third Party Supplier's contractual obligations is prevented or affected by or you otherwise suffer any damage or loss (as more fully described in clause 13(a)(ii) of our full booking conditions) as a result of force majeure. In these booking conditions, 'force majeure' means any event which we / the supplier of the service(s) in question / the Third Party Supplier could not, even with all due care, foresee or avoid. Such events are likely to include, whether actual or threatened, war, riot, civil strife, terrorist activity, industrial dispute, natural or nuclear disaster, adverse weather conditions, flood, epidemics, fire, airport, port or airspace closures, restrictions or congestion, flight restrictions imposed by any regulatory authority or other third party and all similar events outside the control of the party concerned.

10) CANCELLATION BY YOU

Should you wish to cancel your booking, the person who made the booking must notify Cox & Kings or your travel agent (as applicable) in writing. Such notification will only be effective on receipt by us of your written notification, since we can only act on receipt of this. Please state the reason for your cancellation as you may be covered by your insurance policy. Claims must, however, be made direct to your insurance company.

The following cancellation charges will apply unless you are otherwise advised at the time of booking. For some bookings, including those for which full payment is required at the time of booking, 100% cancellation charges apply from the confirmation of your booking. Where the cancellation charge is shown as a percentage, this is calculated on the basis of the total cost payable by the person(s) cancelling, excluding insurance premiums and amendment charges. Insurance premiums and amendment charges are not refundable.

Days before departure notification received	Amount of cancellation charges as a % of total tour cost
More than 56 days	Deposit(s) (inc any additional deposit)
56-29 days	40% or deposit(s) if higher
28-15 days	60% or deposit(s) if higher
14-8 days	75% or deposit(s) if higher
7-4 days	90%
3 days to day of departure or later	100%

No allowance or refund can be made for meals, rooms, excursions etc included in the price of your tour but not taken, nor can any refund be made for services that cannot be used due to lost, mislaid or destroyed travel tickets or vouchers. Part cancellation of a booking may result in increased costs for the remaining party members where any cancellation reduces the number of full paying party members below the number on which the price, number of free places and/ or any concessions agreed for your booking were based. We will recalculate these items and re-invoice you accordingly.

11) PRICES

Prices are based upon known costs and exchange rates as shown in our full booking conditions which can be viewed on our website at CoxandKings.co.uk. Where your contract is with Cox & Kings, once the price of your chosen holiday has been confirmed at the time of booking, we will only change it in the circumstances and subject to the restrictions set out in our full booking conditions. Where your contract is with a Third Party Supplier, as we act only as agent, we must pass on to you in full all additional costs and charges of whatever nature imposed by the Third Party Supplier in accordance with its own terms and conditions. Please note, changes and errors occasionally occur. You must check the price of your chosen holiday at the time of booking. We reserve the right to make changes to, and correct errors in, advertised prices at any time before your holiday is confirmed. Occasionally our holiday prices are discounted for a

limited period for promotional purposes. Discounts cannot be applied retrospectively to reduce the price of a confirmed booking.

12) YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Visas: General information concerning visa requirements applicable to British citizens with British citizen passports is set out in our Documents & Health section. Please also see our full booking conditions for further information.

(b) Passports: British citizens require a full British passport (valid for at least six months beyond the end of your holiday) for the holidays we offer. Please see our Documents & Health section for full details or seek the advice of our travel consultants. Please note, requirements may change and you must check the up-to-date requirements in good time before departure. A full British passport presently takes approximately three to six weeks to obtain. Please also see our full booking conditions for further information. (c) Health: It is your responsibility to ensure you are aware of all recommended and required vaccinations and health precautions in good time before departure. Please also see our full booking conditions for further information.

(d) Documents: It is the responsibility of the person who makes the booking to ensure that all members of the party are in possession of all necessary travel and health documents and have all necessary vaccination certificates before departure. All costs incurred in obtaining such documentation or vaccinations / certificates must be paid by you. We regret we cannot accept any liability if you are refused entry onto any transport or into any country due to failure on your part to carry correct documentation or have the correct vaccinations / certificates. Please see our full booking conditions for further information.

(e) Travel advice: For up to date travel advice from the UK government, visit www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice and <https://travelaware.campaign.gov.uk/> which you are recommended to consult before booking and in good time before departure.

13) OUR LIABILITY

This clause 13(a) does not apply where your contract is with a Third Party Supplier (a) (i) We promise to make sure that the holiday arrangements we have agreed to make, perform or provide as applicable as part of our contract with you are made, performed or provided with reasonable skill and care. This means that, subject to these booking conditions, we will accept responsibility if, for example, you suffer death or personal injury or your contracted holiday arrangements are not provided as promised or prove deficient as a result of the failure of ourselves, our employees, agents or suppliers to use reasonable skill and care in making, performing or providing, as applicable, your contracted holiday arrangements. Please note, it is your responsibility to show that reasonable skill and care has not been used if you wish to make a claim against us. In addition, we will only be responsible for what our employees, agents and suppliers do or do not do if they were at the time acting within the course of their employment (for employees) or carrying out work we had asked them to do (for agents and suppliers). (ii) We will not be responsible for any injury, illness, death, loss (including loss of possessions or enjoyment), damage, expense, cost or other sum or claim of any nature whatsoever which results from any of the following: (1) the act(s) and / or omission(s) of the person(s) affected or any member(s) of their party or (2) the act(s) and / or omission(s) of a third party not connected with the provision of your holiday and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable or (3) force majeure as defined in clause 9. (iii) We cannot accept responsibility for any services that do not form part of our contract. This includes, for example, any additional services or facilities that your hotel, cruise provider or any other supplier agrees to provide for you where the services or facilities are not advertised in our brochure or on our website as forming part of your holiday and we have not agreed to arrange them as part of our contract,

and any excursion / activities you purchase while away. Please also see clause 17 "Excursions / Activities / Suppliers Terms and Conditions". In addition, regardless of any wording used by us on our website, in any of our brochures or elsewhere, we only promise to use reasonable skill and care as set out above and we do not have any greater or different liability to you. (iv) The promises we make to you about the services we have agreed to provide or arrange as part of our contract – and the laws and standards of the country in which your claim or complaint occurred – will be used as the basis for deciding whether the services in question had been properly provided. If the particular services that gave rise to the claim or complaint were provided in compliance with the applicable local laws and standards, the services will be treated as having been properly provided. This will be the case even if the services did not comply with the laws and standards of the UK that would have applied had those services been provided in the UK. The exception to this is where the claim or complaint concerns the absence of a safety feature that might lead a reasonable holidaymaker to refuse to take the arrangements in question. Please note, however, our obligation is to exercise reasonable skill and care as referred to in clause 13(a) (i). We do not make any representation or commitment that all services will comply with applicable local laws and standards and failure to comply does not automatically mean we have not exercised reasonable skill and care. (v) As set out in our full booking conditions we limit the maximum amount we may have to pay you for certain claims you may make against us. (vi) Where any claim or part of a claim (including those involving death or personal injury) concerns or is based on any travel arrangements (including the process of getting on and / or off the transport concerned) provided by any air, rail or sea carrier to which any international convention or EU regulation applies, our liability (including the maximum amount of compensation we will have to pay you, the types of claim and the circumstances in which compensation will be payable) will be limited as if we were the carrier in question as referred to below. The most we will have to pay you for that claim or that part of a claim if we are found liable to you on any basis is the most the carrier concerned would have to pay under the international convention or EU regulation that applies to the travel arrangements in question (for example, the Warsaw Convention as amended or unamended and the Montreal Convention for international travel by air and / or, for airlines with an operating licence granted by an EU country, the EC Regulation on Air Carrier Liability No 889/2002 for national and international travel by air, the Athens Convention (as amended by the 2002 Protocol) and the Convention concerning International Travel by Rail (COTIF) as amended for travel by rail). Where a carrier would not be obliged to make any payment to you under the applicable international convention or EU regulation (including where any claim is not notified and issued in accordance with the time limits stipulated in the applicable convention or regulation), we similarly are not obliged to make a payment to you for that claim or part of the claim. Please also note that strict time limits usually apply for notifying loss, damage or delay of luggage. You are not entitled to make any claim against us which concerns or is based on any travel arrangements provided by any air, rail or sea carrier if such a claim is not expressly permitted to be brought against the carrier by the international convention or regulation that applies to the travel arrangements in question. When making any payment, we are entitled to deduct any money that you have received or are entitled to receive from the carrier for the complaint or claim in question. Copies of the applicable international conventions and regulations are available from us on request. Please note, for travel by sea the Athens Convention (as amended by the 2002 Protocol) limits the maximum amount the carrier has to pay if found liable in the event of death or personal

INFORMATION

injury. The Athens Convention also limits the maximum amount the carrier has to pay if found liable in the event of loss or damage to luggage and also makes provision for valuables. Once on board ship, all valuable and important items should be deposited with the purser or in the mini-safe in your cabin if available. Please remember that no cabin mini-safe is totally secure and consider whether you need to bring such items on holiday with you. Placing items in a mini-safe is not depositing them with the carrier for safekeeping for the purposes of the Athens Convention. We and the carrier cannot accept any responsibility or liability for any valuable or important items which are not deposited with the purser for safekeeping. For items which are deposited with the purser for safekeeping, the maximum the carrier would have to pay you if found liable for any item(s) lost or damaged (for any reason) while deposited is the maximum which is payable under the Athens Convention in this situation. As referred to above, we are entitled to rely on all limitations of liability available to the carrier. (vii) Please note, we cannot accept any liability for any damage, loss, expense or other sum(s) of any description (1) which on the basis of the information given to us by you concerning your booking prior to our accepting it, we could not reasonably have foreseen you would suffer or incur if we breached our contract with you or (2) which did not result from any breach of contract or other fault by ourselves or our employees or, where we are responsible for them, our suppliers. Additionally we cannot accept liability for any expenses or losses that relate to or arise from any business (including without limitation, self-employed loss of earnings).

(b) Clauses 13(b) (i) and (ii) below apply only if your contract is with a Third Party Supplier.

(i) When we act only as an agent for the Third Party Supplier concerned we accept no liability in relation to the arrangements provided by that Third Party Supplier or for the acts or omissions of the Third Party Supplier concerned. The terms and conditions of the Third Party Supplier will apply to your contract (copies available on request from us).

(ii) However, in the event that we are found liable in respect of any Third Party Supplier arrangements on any basis whatsoever, we are entitled to rely on the limitations and exclusions of liability and defences set out in clause 13(a). We do not exclude or limit any liability for death or personal injury that arises as a result of our negligence or that of our employees while acting in the course of their employment.

14) TRANSPORTATION (INCLUDING DELAY)

(a) Air, rail, road and other departure times are supplied by the carriers. Please see our full booking conditions for details of our responsibility in the event of delay.

(b) In accordance with EU Directive (EC) No 2111/2005, we are required to bring to your attention the existence of a 'Community list' that contains details of air carriers that are subject to an operating ban within the EU Community. The Community list is available for inspection at http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/air/safety/air-ban_en. We are also required to advise you of the carrier(s) (or, if the carrier(s) is not known, the likely carrier(s)) that will operate your flight(s) at the time of booking. Where we are only able to inform you of the likely carrier(s) at the time of booking, we shall inform you of the identity of the actual carrier(s) as soon as we become aware of this. Any change to the operating carrier(s) after your booking has been confirmed will be notified to you as soon as possible. For information on flight timings, please see our full booking conditions.

(c) If your flight is cancelled or delayed, your flight ticket is downgraded or boarding is denied by your airline, depending on the circumstances, the airline may be required to pay you compensation, refund the cost of your flight and / or provide you with accommodation and / or refreshments under EC Regulation No 261/2004 – the Denied Boarding Regulations 2004. Please see our full booking conditions for further information.

15) COMPLAINTS AND PROBLEMS

If you have a complaint about any of the holiday arrangements booked with or through Cox & Kings, you must follow the complaint procedure set out in our full booking conditions.

16) ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

A choice of two alternative dispute resolution schemes are available in the event that you have a complaint or claim against Cox & Kings which cannot be resolved. Please see our full booking conditions for further information.

17) EXCURSIONS / ACTIVITIES / SUPPLIERS TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(a) Please see our full booking conditions for details of our liability for the excursions and activities which you may be offered.

(b) Many of the services that make up your holiday are provided by independent suppliers. Those suppliers provide these services in accordance with their own terms and conditions. Some of these terms and conditions may limit or exclude the supplier's liability to you, usually in accordance with applicable international conventions (see clause 13(a)(vi)). Copies of the relevant parts of these terms and conditions are available on request from ourselves or the supplier concerned.

18) FINANCIAL SECURITY

We are a member of ABTA (ABTA number V2999). We also hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence issued by the Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL number 2815.) When you buy an ATOL protected flight or flight inclusive holiday from us*, you will receive an ATOL Certificate. This lists what is financially protected, where you can get information on what this means for you and who to contact if things go wrong. We, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL Certificate, will provide you with the services listed on the ATOL Certificate (or a suitable alternative). In some cases, where neither we nor the supplier are able to do so for reasons of insolvency, an alternative ATOL holder may provide you with services you have bought or a suitable alternative (at no extra cost to you). You agree to accept that in those circumstances the alternative ATOL holder will perform those obligations and you agree to pay any money outstanding to be paid by you under your contract to that alternative ATOL holder. However, you also agree that in some cases it will not be possible to appoint an alternative ATOL holder, in which case you will be entitled to make a claim under the ATOL scheme (or your credit card issuer where applicable). If we, or the suppliers identified on your ATOL certificate, are unable to provide the services listed (or a suitable alternative, through an alternative ATOL holder or otherwise) for reasons of insolvency, the Trustees of the Air Travel Trust may make a payment to (or confer a benefit on) you under the ATOL scheme. You agree that in return for such a payment or benefit, you assign absolutely to those Trustees any claims which you have or may have arising out of or relating to the non-provision of the services, including any claim against us, the travel agent or your credit card issuer where applicable. You also agree that any such claims may be re-assigned to another body, if that other body has paid sums you have claimed under the ATOL scheme.*The air inclusive holidays and flights we arrange are ATOL-protected providing they are made available in the UK. For further information, visit the ATOL website at: www.atol.org.uk. The price of our air holiday packages includes the amount of £2.50 per person which is the ATOL Protection Contribution (APC) we pay to the CAA. This charge is included in our advertised prices. If you have a contract with us for arrangements that do not include a flight(s), Abta will financially protect your holiday in the event of our insolvency by arranging for you to receive a refund or to be repatriated except where your contracted arrangements with us do not include transport to and from the UK. In this case, if already abroad, you will be returned to the point where your contracted arrangements with us commenced. Please go to www.abta.com for information on Abta's travel protection. Please note, our ATOL and Abta membership does not

protect bookings where we act only as agent.

19) LAW AND JURISDICTION

Your relationship (and any contract you may have) with Cox & Kings or with any Third Party Supplier and any dispute, claim or other matters of any nature arising from it ('claim') shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law. We both agree that any claim (and whether or not involving any personal injury) that arises between us must be dealt with under the Abta or Aito arbitration schemes (if the scheme is available for the claim in question and you wish to use it – see clause 16) or by the Courts of England and Wales only unless, in the case of Court proceedings, you live in Scotland or Northern Ireland. In this case, proceedings must either be brought in the Courts of your home country or those of England and Wales. If proceedings are brought in Scotland or Northern Ireland, you may choose to have your contract and any dispute, claim or other matter of any description that arises between us governed by the law of Scotland / Northern Ireland as applicable (but if you do not so choose, English law will apply).

DATE OF ISSUE JULY 2017

DATA PROTECTION PRIVACY POLICY

For the purposes of the Data Protection Act 1998, we are a data controller. The following is a summary of our full privacy policy, which sets out how we collect and use the personal information ('personal data') you provide us with directly or through use of our website. Our full, current privacy policy appears on our website, which you should read before providing us with any personal data. Appropriate personal data will be passed on to relevant suppliers / any Third Party Supplier / any other third party (including banks and / or credit card issuers) who need to know it so that your holiday can be provided, to government / public authorities (UK and overseas) such as the police, customs or immigration if required by them, to security or credit checking companies, to other companies who provide services on our behalf (such as mailing brochures and marketing material) or as required by law. We take steps to protect the personal data that is provided to any such party. In making your booking, you consent to personal data being passed on to the relevant parties. Your personal data may be stored, used and otherwise processed within the UK and / or any other country / countries of the European Economic Area (EEA) and / or outside the EEA. Data protection laws may not be as strong outside the EEA as they are in the EEA. Personal data will not be transferred to a country outside the EEA unless the conditions referred to in our full privacy statement are satisfied. We would also like to store and use your personal data for future marketing purposes as referred to in our full privacy policy. We take appropriate technical and organisational measures that are intended to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, personal data. Our full privacy policy contains the procedure for reviewing and amending any personal data of yours we are processing. See www.coxandkings.co.uk for details.



Abta

Abta and Abta members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist them when things do not go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by Abta's Code of Conduct. For further information about Abta, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration service available to you if you have a complaint, contact Abta, 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ or call 020 3117 0500 or www.abta.com. The above applies only to services supplied by Cox & Kings Travel Limited and does not apply to services featured in this brochure that are provided by any Third Party Supplier where you enter into a contract with the Third party Supplier.

Travel Insurance

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking. Cox & Kings requires that everyone who books with us has travel insurance which includes cover for all activities featured as part of their trip at the time of booking. If you have not already arranged appropriate cover, our recommended travel insurance provider is Campbell Irvine Direct.

To arrange cover or to obtain a quotation, please contact Campbell Irvine Direct.

You can apply for travel insurance online at: campbellirvinedirect.com/coxandkings

Or call: 020 7938 1734 • Email: info@campbellirvine.com



IMPORTANT

This is only a summary of cover; full details of the cover provided are shown on your policy document. You will be asked to read it carefully to ensure you are happy with the cover provided which is offered on a non-advised basis from a single insurer.

A copy of the policy document is available for download online at campbellirvinedirect.com/coxandkings. The policy contains a 21-day cooling off period and details of how to make a claim and who to contact in the event of a medical emergency.

The policy includes certain terms and conditions, exclusions and excesses. In particular cover is excluded for any defined pre-existing medical condition from which you or any person upon whom travel depends are suffering. If in doubt please contact the insurer's medical helpline as additional cover may be purchased directly from the insurer's medical screening helpline for certain pre-existing medical conditions.

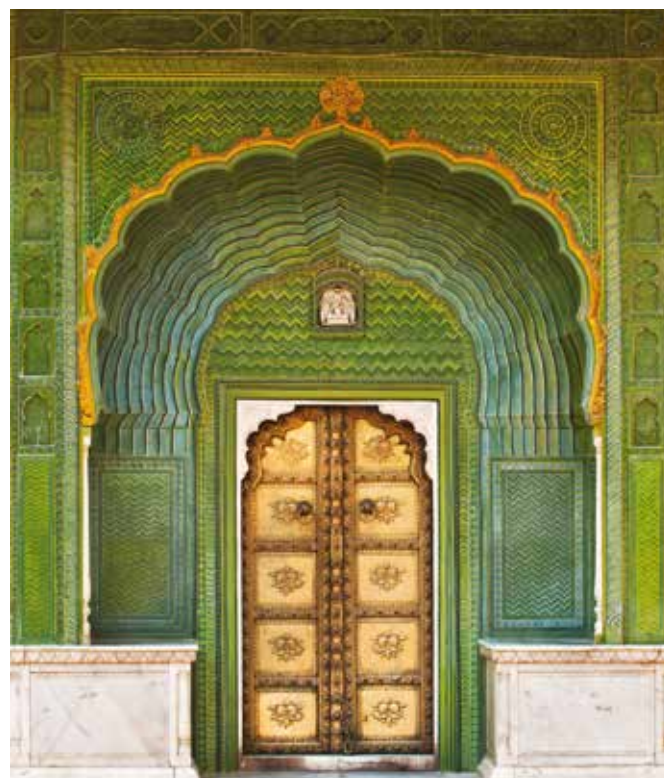
An additional premium applies to any person **aged 66 to 69 years** at the date of payment of the insurance premium. The appropriate premium will be quoted on application. This insurance is **not** available to any person **aged 70 years or more** at the date of payment of insurance premium unless agreed in writing. If you are aged 70 or older, the charity Age UK offers a travel insurance policy. You can find details at ageuk.org.uk/products/insurance.

Cox & Kings is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Ltd. who is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. This can be checked on the FCA's register by visiting the FCA's website at fca.org.uk or by contacting them on 0800 111 6787.

TRAVEL INSURANCE SUMMARY OF COVER (SUMS INSURED ARE PER INSURED PERSON)

BENEFIT	LIMIT
A. Medical expenses	£10,000,000
Diagnostic tests	£10,000
In patient benefit	£10 per day up to £200
Criminal injuries	£100 per day up to £5,000
B. Personal liability	£2,000,000
C. Personal accident	£25,000
D. Cancellation or curtailment	£3,000*
E. Delayed departure or arrival	
Either compensation up to	£100
OR cancellation after	
8 hours up to	£1,500
Hijack of aircraft	£100 per day up to £3,000
Interruption of transport	£300
F. Personal effects	£2,000
	(Valuables limited to £350)
	(Single article limit £250)
	(Disc collections £200)
Temporary loss of baggage	£100
Money	£500
Tickets	£1,000
Passport and visas	£250
G. Legal expenses	£25,000
H. Winter sports	Optional

*Cancellation cover may be increased when you apply.



Doorway of the City Palace, Jaipur

Travel in India & the Subcontinent

At Cox & Kings, we believe that a good holiday is not luck, but judgment. We have compiled the following information to outline the nature of travel in the Indian Subcontinent, and to help you prepare for your holiday. However, even with the most meticulous planning, minor problems can occur and, while our local representatives are always on hand to rectify such occurrences, we do request that you have a patient and broadminded approach to travelling in the Subcontinent.

Flights

International flights: Our itineraries use a number of reputable airlines and our costs are based on Economy Class unless otherwise stated. Upgrading to Premium Economy on some routes and Business or First Class is normally possible, subject to availability. Some flight routings involve a change of aeroplane en route to your destination, so please take note of the flight details on your confirmation invoice as these will show the amount of scheduled transit time in the stop-off city. Please also note that 'non-stop' flights have no scheduled touchdowns en route, while 'direct' flights mean there is no change of aircraft but stops are possible, and indeed probable, as per the airlines' timetables. Unfortunately, airlines change their schedules regularly and, although we will advise you of any stops or aeroplane changes at the time of booking, we cannot be held responsible for any changes made after this date. However, if you specifically require a non-stop flight please ensure that you request this at the time of booking.

Internal flights: For internal flights in India, we generally use Jet Airways, Spicejet, Air India and IndiGo Airlines, whose fleets of aircraft principally feature Boeing 737s, Airbus and ATRs. In-flight catering on all airlines is basic, and normally consists of sandwiches and Indian snacks served with tea or coffee. Impromptu strikes are often called and this may mean delays to your departure, an extra night's accommodation at your board point or travel by an alternative airline or transportation method. Although these arrangements are at the discretion of the airline, Cox & Kings will do everything possible to minimise the inconvenience. Many flights in India are 'hopping' flights, stopping at several cities before reaching their final destination. When you board these flights after the city of origin, there is no allocated seating and the flight will be on a free-seating basis. When departing India from Mumbai (Bombay), it may be necessary to leave several hours before your flight departs, on account of traffic congestion and because flights from Mumbai are often heavily overbooked and the last passengers to check in are often bumped off.

Flight delays & insurance: Unfortunately, due to the increase in air traffic, government restrictions and changing weather conditions, flight delays have become more commonplace. These delays can cause problems with onward connections and / or hotel and holiday arrangements and, while the airline will sometimes make alternative arrangements to get you to your next destination at no extra cost, additional costs may be involved for accommodation in the event of an overnight cancellation and also after your arrival at your next destination. These may be in the form of additional accommodation costs, transfers and onward travel. It is important that your insurance covers you against the costs incurred as a result of cancellation or delay to your flight. Unfortunately, since most services are paid for in advance, any services missed due to delays are non-refundable. We strongly recommend that you are insured against such eventualities.

Flight amendments: Most tours use special airline fares, which normally restrict changes of date, route and airline. Any such changes made after a ticket has been issued will normally necessitate the purchase of a new ticket at the passenger's expense.

Special requests: Cox & Kings will endeavour to request any specific meals or services, on the condition that you are told at the time of booking. Specific seat requests with most major airlines can now only be requested if travelling in one of the premium classes. We are able to request general seating preferences for Economy Class passengers. However, with all special requests, please remember that they are 'requests' and as such are at the discretion of the airline and cannot be guaranteed.

Airport departure taxes: International UK and India departure taxes are included in the cost of your holiday (unless otherwise stated). In other countries these may need to be paid locally in local currency. Please note that these taxes are subject to change.

Road Travel

Driving in India can seem hazardous to westerners due to complicated codes of conduct that apply. However, all our drivers are carefully trained and experienced. Unfortunately roads in India are not like those in the west and are frequently narrow, bumpy, pot-holed and have stretches which are not sealed or which are under reconstruction. Livestock is often seen wandering the roads and always has the right of way, which can cause drivers to swerve to avoid it. Road conditions in India change throughout the year, due to monsoon rains and extreme weather patterns, and journey times can vary enormously at all times of year, which is beyond the control of Cox & Kings. Most cars used will be Indigos, which are comfortable and ideally suited to local roads. Coaches are also custom-made locally on truck chassis and are not comparable with European coach standards, but they are comfortable and maintained to a high local standard. Please bear in mind that if sitting at the back of a coach, the journey may be less comfortable due to coach design.

Car Hire

Cox & Kings does not organise self-drive car hire on behalf of its clients anywhere in the Indian Subcontinent and advises against self-driving as, in our opinion, it is unsafe. In the event that you do wish to book an independent self-drive, please be aware that this does not form part of your package holiday with Cox & Kings and, as such, Cox & Kings is not liable in any way for this part of your holiday. Please ensure that, if you do make such a booking, your insurance policy covers you.

Train Travel

Train travel in India can be a very rewarding and enjoyable experience. Train travel is often more convenient than flying or driving, but trains cannot be compared with those in Europe. In many cases, carriages can seem quite basic and visibility from the windows may be restricted. Where possible, we try to reserve First Class or air-conditioned carriages, but these cannot always be reserved and do not exist on all routes. Please contact your tour consultant to discuss the facilities on a particular route. Please note that, in general, most trains do not take reservations until 60 days prior to departure.

Early Starts

Many flights to, from and within the Subcontinent depart and arrive very late at night or early in the morning. Although Cox & Kings will endeavour to book you on a flight that departs / arrives at a reasonable time, often there is little or no choice and some very early check-in / check-out times may be required. Sometimes it is necessary to leave your hotel before 6am in order to maximise the opportunities for sightseeing during your holiday.

Accommodation

Accommodation standards vary dramatically throughout the Subcontinent. In larger cities such as Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay), the hotels we use are fully modernised with excellent facilities, while in other cities and towns the hotels are usually smaller, but quite often still have good facilities. In the desert cities of Rajasthan, areas of southern India, small hill towns and recently opened areas, many hotels we use are small, privately owned properties or converted palaces, retaining much of their original ambience, but the room size, shape and design can vary enormously (even within the same price bracket). Although palace hotels often have simple facilities and service can be slow, we ask for your patience as this is more than compensated for by their atmosphere and charm. Hotels in India continually try to upgrade their services and many can suffer from building works throughout the year. Cox & Kings will endeavour to obtain rooms as far away from any construction work as possible, but please bear in mind that hotels run on full capacity during peak season and specific

rooms can rarely be pre-booked. The allocation of twin rooms is subject to availability at the time of check-in.

Check-in & check-out times: If a flight arrives very early in the morning, you may be taken for breakfast or sightseeing before being allocated your room, as the check-in / check-out time in India is usually 14:00. Cox & Kings will endeavour to make your room available as early as possible in these instances but this cannot be guaranteed.

Wildlife parks & remote areas: Even when you travel off the beaten track with Cox & Kings, you can be sure that your accommodation in wildlife lodges, smaller hotels and tented camps is the best available. Sometimes the best hotel may be the only hotel, which may be very modest. In these cases we feel that the simplicity of such accommodation is outweighed by the experience of these more remote areas. Wildlife park accommodation cannot generally be compared to that available in parts of Africa and the Far East and is often reached down narrow, makeshift roads, far from other civilisation. Accommodation will often be in tents or lodges that, although they feature private facilities, should not in most cases be compared to those available in other parts of the world.

Single supplements: Generally in India, single and double rooms carry the same price, which means that single supplements for certain itineraries can seem high. Single rooms are not available at all hotels and lodges, especially in peak season. Often, the location and standard of single rooms may not be as good as that of doubles. If you are in doubt, we suggest you request a double room in advance, at an additional supplement. If you are unhappy with your room while on holiday, please query this with a Cox & Kings representative at the time.

Itinerary Changes

From time to time, our ground agents may have to amend your itinerary. This could include changes to the order of activities and, in some extreme cases, have to exclude a visit to a particular site. This is largely due to the need to accommodate local conditions, such as increased security around places of interest such as forts, temples, museums, palaces and markets, among others. Where this information is made available to us in good time, we will advise you prior to your departure. However, the security arrangements and closure of monuments around important public holidays such as Republic Day or festivals such as Holi do vary from one season to another and the details are only made available at short notice. Equally, if your holiday to a city or a town coincides with the visit of a head of state of another country, please do expect changes such as additional security around the airport. Any changes to your itinerary will be advised by the local ground agent. However, on arrival, if you are either unable to locate the airport representative or are unhappy with the changes, we strongly recommend that you contact our local representatives in the first instance. The contact details of our local offices can be found alongside the documents dispatched with the final itinerary.

British Foreign & Commonwealth Advice

Cox & Kings supports the British Foreign & Commonwealth Office (FCO) Travel Aware campaign to help you stay safe and healthy overseas. Find out more at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk. The FCO website provides travel information for many countries around the world, which includes advice on safety and security, entry requirements and health, as well as general information. Cox & Kings strongly recommends that you, and everyone on your booking, visit the FCO website and read the advice about the country you are planning to visit prior to booking. You should also revisit the advice regularly prior to your departure as it may change frequently. It is also possible to sign up to receive FCO e-mail updates for your destination so you are aware of any changes to advice they issue and we recommend you do this. There are different levels of advice, and sometimes this includes advice against travelling to certain areas or countries. To check the current travel advice, visit gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice and follow twitter.com/fcotravel and facebook.com/fcotravel.

Documents & Health

Health & Entry Requirements

All the destinations featured in this brochure have specific entry regulations and many have recommended health precautions. The requirements and recommendations in force at the time of publication are detailed below. If there are any alterations, you will be informed at the time of booking or as soon as these are known to us. However, it is your responsibility to check the relevant requirements and recommendations before departure to ensure that you comply with them, and to take with you the correct documentation for the country or countries that you are visiting.

Please note that the entry requirements listed are only valid for British citizens. All other nationalities should check with the relevant embassy / consulate for advice. Regarding any inoculations or health precautions that may be needed, Cox & Kings recommends that you consult your GP or travel clinic for personal advice.

Requirements and recommendations are as follows:

Bhutan:	ABC*DEFGHIK.
India:	AB*C*DEFGHIJK.
Maldives:	AB*C†EGIK.
Nepal:	AB* C†DEGHIJK.
Qatar:	AB*EGIK.
Sri Lanka:	AB†C†EGHIK.
UAE:	AB*EGIJK.

Key to the codes:

A:	Full valid British passport required (minimum six months validity from the intended date of return).
B:	Visa required (see note).
B*:	Visa required and can be obtained on arrival. Please check requirements with your tour consultant.
B†:	Visa required, to be completed online.
C:	Yellow fever precautions advised.
C*:	A yellow fever certificate is required if travelling from an infected country.
C†:	A yellow fever certificate is required for all travellers more than one year old when travelling from an infected country.
D:	Cholera precautions advised.
E:	Typhoid, polio, rabies and hepatitis A precautions may be advised.
F:	Malaria precautions advised.
G:	Tetanus precautions advised.
H:	Areas of high altitude – check with your GP for confirmation that it is safe for you to visit.
I:	Food and drink precautions advised.
J:	Diphtheria precautions advised.
K:	Hepatitis B precautions advised.

Changes to requirements and recommendations:

The above information is accurate at the time of writing (May 2017). Cox & Kings will advise you before accepting your booking should there be any subsequent changes to the above recommendations and requirements. You should



Bengal tiger, India

contact your GP or visit the Masta (Medical Advice Service for Travellers Abroad) website atmasta-travel-health.com where you can receive professional advice as well as arrange any vaccinations. Further country-specific useful health advice for travellers can be found via:

- fitfortravel.nhs.uk
- gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice

General Health Advice

Please see the advice regarding inoculations for specific countries above. For more general advice, please note the following:

- Drink only bottled water and check the seal is secure when you receive it.
- Do not eat raw vegetables, unpeeled fruit and raw or uncooked seafood.
- Avoid drinks with ice in unless you know that the ice was made from filtered water.
- Avoid food and drink from street vendors and restaurants that might have suspect refrigeration and sanitary practices.

High Altitude: Please check with your tour consultant as to which areas are at high altitude. In order to minimise the effects of altitude, it is advisable to rest for a few hours upon arrival. If you have any history of heart complaints, or if you are over the age of 60, please check with your GP that it is safe to visit these areas.

Malaria: Malaria is a risk in certain parts of the Indian Subcontinent, particularly in rural areas in eastern India and southern Bhutan. In other areas, the risk is so low that anti-malarial prophylactics are not advised; however, it is advisable to take precautions to prevent mosquito bites. Please check with your doctor on the current precautions advised.

Passports & Embassies

This advice is only valid for British citizen passport holders. Holders of any other type of British passport (eg British subjects) or of any other nationality must contact the relevant embassy / consulate (details listed below). It is important that you hold a valid 10-year British passport and we recommend that your passport

is valid for a minimum of six months from your date of return to the UK. Passport application forms can be obtained from the post office or online at gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports. The passport advice telephone line is on 0300 222 0000 (calls are charged at national rate). Whether renewing your passport or applying for a new one, all relevant information can be found on the website or by telephoning the number above. The cost for a postal application is £72.50 and takes a minimum of three weeks to obtain from the date of application. Fast track passports of either 1 day or 1 week are also available at a higher cost.

Information on visas may be obtained from the respective embassies and high commissions at the following addresses:

- For Bhutan, Cox & Kings will process the visas as there is no consulate or embassy in the UK.
- Indian High Commission, India House, Aldwych, London WC2B 4NA. Tel: 020 7836 8484.
- Embassy of Nepal, 12A Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QU. Tel: 020 7243 7854.
- High Commission of Sri Lanka, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 2LU. Tel: 020 7262 1841.
- Embassy of the United Arab Emirates (Dubai & Abu Dhabi), 30 Prince's Gate, London SW7 1PT. Tel: 020 7581 1281.
- For the Maldives, a tourist visa is issued free of charge upon arrival into the Maldives for a stay of up to 30 days.

For India, Sri Lanka and Nepal, holders of passports endorsed 'British citizen' who meet the eligibility criteria can also apply for a tourist visa online. Further information on this process can be found on the below websites:

India: indianvisaonline.gov.in
Sri Lanka: eta.gov.lk/slvisa/
Nepal: online.nepalimmigration.gov.np/tourist-visa

Please note that entry and visa requirements can change at any time and it is your responsibility to make sure that you are in possession of the appropriate and valid visa.

Visas

If you require further information about obtaining a visa, Cox & Kings can recommend a reputable visa assistance company who can help with your application. Please contact your tour consultant for details.

Neither Cox & Kings nor any visa assistance company can guarantee the granting of any visas as this is a matter outside of their control. If a visa is not granted through no fault of Cox & Kings or any visa assistance company, neither will accept any liability for the consequences. Therefore Cox & Kings reserves the right to pass on to you any costs incurred as a result, including cancellation charges.

Flying in Style

Your choice of scheduled airlines: It is Cox & Kings' policy to use scheduled flights on airlines with strong reputations for service, reliability and punctuality. Our holidays to the Indian Subcontinent feature a number of world-class airlines and on these pages we have highlighted six of the best and the different services they offer.

Stretch out: On long-haul flights, a little extra room can make a big difference to your comfort, so Cox & Kings offers a range of upgrade options at great prices.

In addition, the faster check in and comfortable lounges available to most upgrading passengers allow you to pass through the airport with ease.

Regional connections: Cox & Kings offers excellent add-on prices for those wishing to connect to long-haul flights from regional UK airports.

For further information, please either refer to the price panel on the tour page in this brochure or contact Cox & Kings.



British Airways flies from London Heathrow non-stop to Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Hyderabad, Chennai (Madras) and Bengaluru (Bangalore), and from London Gatwick to the Maldives from October to March. You can check in at the check-in kiosk at the airport. Alternatively check in online or by using the British Airways app – print or download your boarding pass and take your baggage directly to the Bag Drop desk.



World Traveller benefits: A 79cm (31in) seat pitch with lumbar support, footrest and adjustable headrest; 23cm (8.9in) personal television screen with audio video on demand, offering access to 200 film, television and music channels; and three-course meals with complimentary bar service.



World Traveller Plus benefits: A smaller cabin for more privacy; a 97cm (38in) seat pitch; wider seat with adjustable headrest, leg rest, footrest and lumbar support, offering more personal space than World Traveller; 27cm (10.6in) personal in-flight entertainment screen; and enhanced choice of meals served on china crockery with complimentary bar service. Upgrade from £350 per person return.



Club World benefits: Dedicated check-in desks, departure and arrival lounges, as well as complimentary treatments in the Elemis Travel Spa*; a seat that converts into a 183cm (6ft) fully flat bed with a bigger pillow, mattress topper and duvet; 31cm (12.1in) personal in-flight entertainment screen; a new restaurant-style dining experience serving freshly prepared dishes from display trolleys; and snacks and beverages from the Club Kitchen. Upgrade from £1,825 per person return.



First benefits: Exclusive experience at the First Wing in London Heathrow or from dedicated check-in desks at other airports; departure and arrival lounges; complimentary treatments in the Elemis Travel Spa*; personal suite with a seat that converts into a 198cm (6ft 6in) flat bed; 39cm (15.4in) personal in-flight entertainment screen; turndown service including a duvet, pillows and pyjamas; pre-flight dining is available at London Heathrow; on board choose from a formal à la carte menu or an informal dining option, accompanied by fine wines and champagnes. Upgrade from £2,695 per person return.

*Elemis Travel Spa: Available at London Heathrow Terminal 5. Cabin design elements may vary by aircraft.



Virgin Atlantic operates daily non-stop flights from London Heathrow to Delhi out of Terminal 3. You can check in online or by using the Virgin Atlantic app – print or download your boarding pass and take your baggage directly to the Bag Drop desk. Alternatively check in at the check-in kiosk at the airport.

Economy Class benefits: Seats with 79cm (31in) seat pitch; complimentary drinks; over 300 hours of award-winning entertainment. Overnight flights include a Relax Pack.

Premium Economy benefits: Priority check in and boarding; dedicated Premium Economy cabin; welcome drink; wide leather seat with 97cm (38in) seat pitch; in-seat power supply; premium menu. Upgrade from £545 per person return.

Upper Class benefits: Chauffeur-driven car service* to take you to the Upper Class Wing within minutes**; access to the Clubhouse airport lounge***; excellent onboard cuisine and fine wines; Upper Class Suite with fully flat bed. Upgrade from £1,795 per person return.

* Chauffeur driven car service available at most destinations with selected Upper Class fares. Mileage restrictions apply. ** Timings based on using Upper Class Wing at London Heathrow. *** Lounge facilities vary at each destination.



British Airways World Traveller Plus



British Airways Club World



Virgin Atlantic Upper Class



Oman Air operates two daily flights from London Heathrow and one daily flight from Manchester to Muscat, with onward connections to Kathmandu, Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Jaipur, Lucknow, Bengaluru (Bangalore), Hyderabad, Calicut, Kochi (Cochin), Chennai (Madras), Trivandrum and Colombo.

Economy Class benefits: An 86cm (34in) seat pitch with adjustable headrest and leg rest; personal 26cm (10in) television screen with live satellite television and audio video on demand; and varied menus to include international and Arabic dining with a complimentary bar service.



Oman Air Business Class

Business Class benefits: Separate check in; complimentary airport chauffeur-drive service within 50 miles of London Heathrow / Manchester and on arrival in Muscat within a 60km radius; access to lounges; 208cm (6ft 10in) lie-flat beds; 43cm (17in) personal television screen with live satellite television and audio video on demand; and à la carte menu with fine wines.
Upgrade from £2,045 per person return.

First Class benefits: Complimentary airport chauffeur-drive service; separate check in and access to lounges; six mini-suites; 221cm (7ft 3in) lie-flat beds; 58cm (23in) personal television screen; onboard lounge area; and à la carte menu with fine wines.
Upgrade from £3,595 per person return.



Oman Air Business Class



Jet Airways, recently awarded India's best airline, operates daily non-stop flights from London Heathrow to Mumbai (Bombay) and Delhi, with onward connections to more than 50 destinations in the Indian Subcontinent and Far East. This includes Kathmandu and Colombo, Singapore and Hong Kong.

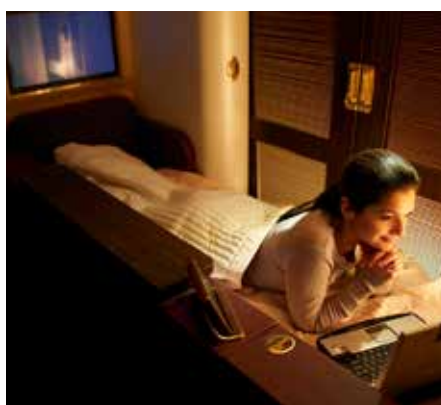
Economy Class benefits: Up to 81cm (32in) seat pitch, with lumbar support, backrest and headrest; personal 27cm (10.6in) touchscreen TV with audio video on demand; and a choice of Indian or continental meals.

Première benefits: Separate check in; access to lounges; armchair-style seat, with fully adjustable lumbar support and headrest, which converts to a 185cm (6ft 1in) fully flat bed; all seats have direct aisle access; pillows and duvets are provided as well as a sleeper suit on overnight services; selected menu to choose from and an extensive wine and beverage list, including Bollinger champagne; and personal 39cm (15.4in) television screen.
Upgrade from £1,995 per person return.



Jet Airways Première Class

First Class benefits: Separate check in, with access to lounges; private suite offering the ultimate in comfort and privacy; seats that convert into a 211cm (6ft 11in) fully flat bed; fold-down companion seat; pillows and duvet are provided as well as a sleeper suit on overnight services; private wardrobe; 58cm (23in) seat-back television, and five-course menus with the fine wines and champagnes.
Upgrade from £3,775 per person return.



Jet Airways First Class



Sri Lankan Airlines flies non-stop from London Heathrow to Colombo. Connections from Colombo are offered to a host of destinations in the Indian Subcontinent including the Maldives, Chennai (Madras), Kochi (Cochin), Trivandrum, Bengaluru (Bangalore), Madurai, Delhi and Mumbai (Bombay).

Economy Class benefits: An 81cm (32in) seat pitch with lumbar support; personal television screen for every passenger, with over 275 hours of on-demand entertainment; Wi-Fi; and choice of meals with complimentary bar service.

Business Class benefits: Complimentary airport limousine service for passengers within a 120-km (75-mile) radius of London Heathrow; separate check in and access to lounges; lie-flat beds with a 198cm (6ft 5in) pitch; 38cm (15in) personal television screen; and à la carte meals served with fine wines.

Upgrade from £1,795 per person return.



Emirates operates 17 daily flights to Dubai – six from London Heathrow, three from London Gatwick and Manchester, two from Birmingham and Glasgow, and one from Newcastle – offering onward connections to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Kochi, Trivandrum, Colombo, the Maldives and Dhaka.

Economy Class benefits: Enjoy up to 84cm (33in) seat pitch with adjustable headrest; 34cm (13.3in) television screen with over 2,500 channels of on-demand entertainment including Wi-Fi*; gourmet meals with complimentary bar service.

Business Class benefits: Complimentary airport chauffeur-drive service (distance restrictions apply) in over 70 cities worldwide; priority check in and lounge access; flat-bed seats with up to 223cm (88in) seat pitch; a personal widescreen television screen up to 51cm (20in); and multi-course gourmet cuisine served with award-winning wines. First and Business class passengers can enjoy a drink at the Emirates A380 Onboard Lounge.

Upgrade from £2,295 per person return

*Wi-Fi available on all A380 & selected B777 aircraft



Emirates Business Class

Cox & Kings Holidays Explained

Accommodation Ratings

The properties displayed on the accommodation pages in this brochure and on our website are each given one of the following six ratings, listed in order of comfort:

Exceptional: Truly exclusive and exceptionally luxurious.

Luxury: Very high class accommodation with superb facilities and service.

Superior: High standard accommodation, service and facilities.

Good Standard: Good standard accommodation, service and facilities.

Simple: Clean and comfortable with en suite bathrooms, but limited facilities.

Basic: Very modest, typically with shared bathrooms and minimal facilities.

Due to space restrictions this brochure only features a limited selection of the hotels we offer. Please visit CoxandKings.co.uk to see our full range.

Prices

We go to great lengths to ensure that our tours represent excellent value for money, taking into account the quality of accommodation and the services included. Our guideline prices are all per person in UK pounds, based on two people sharing a twin / double room.

The pricing for all our tours to the Indian Subcontinent includes the international airfare from the UK. However, in an era when airlines regularly change their fares due to fuel costs and other factors, the cost of a tour can change after the publication of our brochures. Therefore, in this brochure all our prices are guideline prices. For each tour we publish a lead-in price for the low season, which is indicative of the lowest price at which the tour is available, and the lead-in price for the high season. In some cases the prices for peak season departures, over the Christmas period for example, may be significantly higher than the guideline high season price.

For group tours, to see more up to date pricing for a specific departure date, please visit our website at CoxandKings.co.uk

Important: For both group and private tours, please contact one of our tour consultants for an accurate price quote for a specific departure date.

Escorted Group Tours

To enhance your enjoyment of the tour, we like to keep our groups small and manageable. Therefore, numbers are normally restricted to a maximum of 26 people.

The majority of our tours are general interest tours, most of which are operated by Cox & Kings for Cox & Kings clients. Where tours are labelled non-exclusive group tours, they are not operated by Cox & Kings and the participants may not all be Cox & Kings clients.

There are four categories of group tour: Luxury, Superior, Standard and Discovery (see paragraph on Tour Categories).



The Maldives

Solo Travellers Tours

In addition to our main group tours, we also feature Solo Travellers tours in the Indian Subcontinent. This collection has been specially created for individual travellers who enjoy exploring fascinating parts of the world in the company of like-minded people. We also have a dedicated brochure and website section (coxandkings.co.uk/solo-travellers) that describe the complete range.

Tour Categories

Cox & Kings tours fall into one of four categories, based on the level of comfort you can expect on a tour, as described below. On certain tours, we include some departures in one category and some in another.

Luxury: These are our most comfortable tours and will usually feature 5-star de luxe accommodation throughout.

Superior: Most Cox & Kings tours fall under this category and are based in 4- or 5-star accommodation where available, or the best alternative elsewhere.

Standard: Simpler in emphasis, these itineraries typically feature 4-star or good 3-star accommodation throughout, or the best alternative elsewhere.

Discovery: This type of tour is best suited to the hardier traveller as it will typically include some quite basic accommodation, possibly longer and rougher road journeys and, in some cases, more strenuous activities, such as trekking.

Private Travel

Private travel refers to trips taken independently and includes both set itineraries and tailor-made holidays. Almost all our group tours can be taken on a private basis and some itineraries are available for private travel only. The *private tours* and *suggested itineraries* listed in this brochure are suggestions to demonstrate how multiple places can be connected together, giving an idea of how long you might like to spend in each place and also a guideline price. All our itineraries can be tailored to suit your particular requirements.

Cruises & Rail Journeys

Tours are labelled as *cruise* or *rail journey* if the core content of the itinerary is by boat or train, including staying on board at night.

In such cases, while the sections of the itinerary before and after the cruise or rail journey would operate as private travel, the days during the cruise or rail journey and the relevant transfers and excursions may be operated on a group basis with other passengers who may not be Cox & Kings clients.

Road Journeys

Road journeys in the Indian Subcontinent have little in common with those back home. There are completely different customs when it comes to road use and road craft, and all manner of vehicles, people and animals can be found moving about, even on the main roads. To most visitors, road journeys in the Indian Subcontinent can seem quite startling at first; however, Cox & Kings drivers are very experienced and in tune with other road users, allowing you to relax and absorb the extraordinary sights and sounds en route.

Given the unique aspects to driving in the Subcontinent, in the interests of safety Cox & Kings does not organise self-drive travel anywhere in the Indian Subcontinent.

For escorted group tours, Cox & Kings uses air-conditioned buses of an appropriate size for the number of people travelling, while, for private travel in India, Cox & Kings uses the three types of vehicle described below or similar. However, in places such as Ladakh, Sikkim and Darjeeling, where the local transport union controls the supply of vehicles to tour operators, we are unable to source vehicles or monitor the standards ourselves, as is our practice elsewhere in India.

Tata Indigo: This four-door family saloon with hatchback is built in India and is the standard car used by Cox & Kings for private travel. The Indigo can seat a driver plus two passengers; however, please be aware that the boot can only accommodate two large pieces of baggage. The Indigos used by Cox & Kings feature air conditioning.



Toyota Innova: The Toyota Innova, also built in India, is a larger vehicle combining the best features of a sedan with the ground clearance of an MPV (multi-purpose vehicle) to ensure a more comfortable journey, especially when driving long distances. The Innova can seat a driver plus three passengers and four medium pieces of luggage. The Innovas used by Cox & Kings feature air conditioning.



Ford Endeavour & Mercedes-Benz: Upgrades to these luxury vehicles are available on request. The Ford Endeavour is a rugged and stylish SUV (sport utility vehicle). Its high seat position and spacious interior mean that it is ideal for covering the long distances of northern India in comfort. The Endeavour can seat a driver plus four passengers and four large pieces of luggage. A limited range of modern Mercedes-Benz cars is now available on tours that depart from Delhi.



Upgrades & Supplements

Regional air connections: Most Cox & Kings holidays are based on flights from London Heathrow or Gatwick and in most cases it is possible to connect with those flights from regional British airports for a small supplement. Please ask your tour consultant for details.

Flight upgrades: For those wishing to fly in greater comfort, Cox & Kings can offer favourable prices for upgrading to Premium Economy, Business and First Class. Guideline prices for these upgrade supplements are included on the tour page. Please contact your tour consultant for a price quote based on your specific date of departure. The Flying in Style section on pages 176-177 contains more information about the different premium classes on the airlines we most commonly use.

Room upgrades: On both group tours and private holidays there may be opportunities to upgrade to a higher standard of room in many hotels. Please ask your Cox & Kings tour consultant to explain the upgrade options to you and provide you with a price quote.

Single room supplements: If you are a single traveller joining a group tour there will generally be a supplementary charge. This is because hotels typically charge more per person for single occupancy as the cost of maintaining a room for one person can be almost as high as it is for two. Some of the group tours in this brochure are dedicated Solo Travellers tours, for which the prices include single occupancy of a double / twin room, so there is no additional supplement.

Land-Only Travel

Although guideline prices for the tours in this brochure include the international airfare, if you would prefer to book your own flights, whether to join a group tour or for private travel, your Cox & Kings tour consultant will be happy to quote you the price for taking the tour on a land-only basis.

However, before booking your own flights please always contact your tour consultant because there are important issues to be aware of. For example, if a tour includes internal flights there can be an impact on the cost of those flights if they are booked separately from the international flights, or on a different airline from the one mentioned in the itinerary.

If booking on a group tour you would also need to be aware of the tour timings and there may be supplementary costs if you require private transfers or additional hotel nights on arrival or departure.

We strongly advise against booking flights independently of Cox & Kings for group tours as you would incur significant charges in the event that a group tour is cancelled. Finally, it is important to be aware that, if you choose to book your international flights independently of Cox & Kings, you would no longer benefit from the full Atol holiday protection provided by a packaged air and land holiday.

When to Travel

Weather in the Indian Subcontinent is very variable through the seasons and in different regions. The opening spread of pages for each country / region includes climate information and most tour pages include detailed charts showing the average temperature and rainfall in the relevant regions throughout the year. Even greater detail – and measurements in imperial units – can be found on our website. Our expert tour consultants will also be delighted to give you detailed advice about the likely conditions at different times of year.

The Indian Subcontinent is also well known for its festivals. If you are interested in visiting during a particular celebration, please contact a Cox & Kings tour consultant for dates. Some Cox & Kings tours have special festival departures and these are highlighted on the tour page.

Mobility & Accessibility

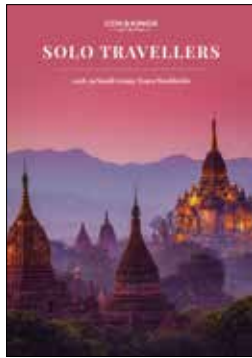
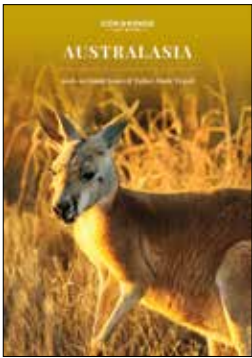
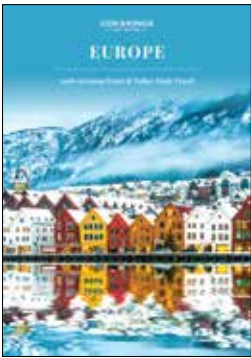
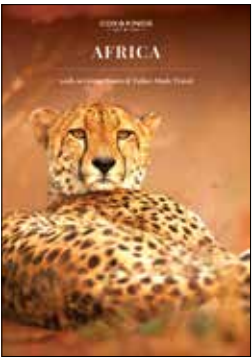
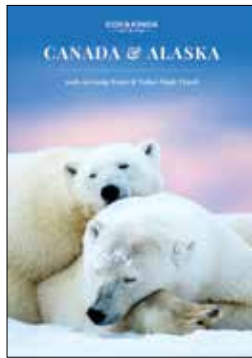
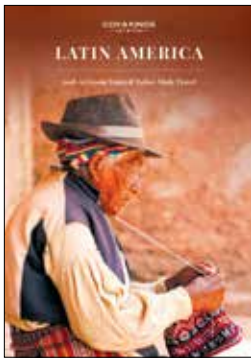
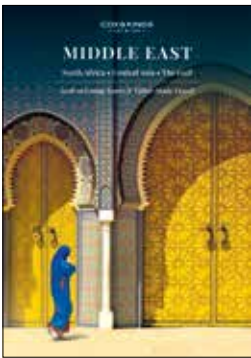
Many Cox & Kings tours visit places that require quite a lot of walking. In the case of historical / archaeological sites in particular, surfaces can be uneven and there may be a lot of steps. If you have any concerns about how strenuous a particular itinerary may be, please speak to one of our expert tour consultants prior to booking to get a realistic sense of what is involved.

Combining Multiple World Regions

Should you wish to combine multiple regions of the world in a single journey, Cox & Kings has a great deal of experience in tailoring such travel plans, including arranging round-the-world flights. Please contact us for details of the various options and a price quotation.

Ensuring Your Enjoyment

When making a booking, if you feel that there is anything Cox & Kings should know about that is essential to your enjoyment of your holiday, please ensure that we have been made aware of this, preferably in writing, at the time of booking.



EXPERIENCE  ADVENTURE

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