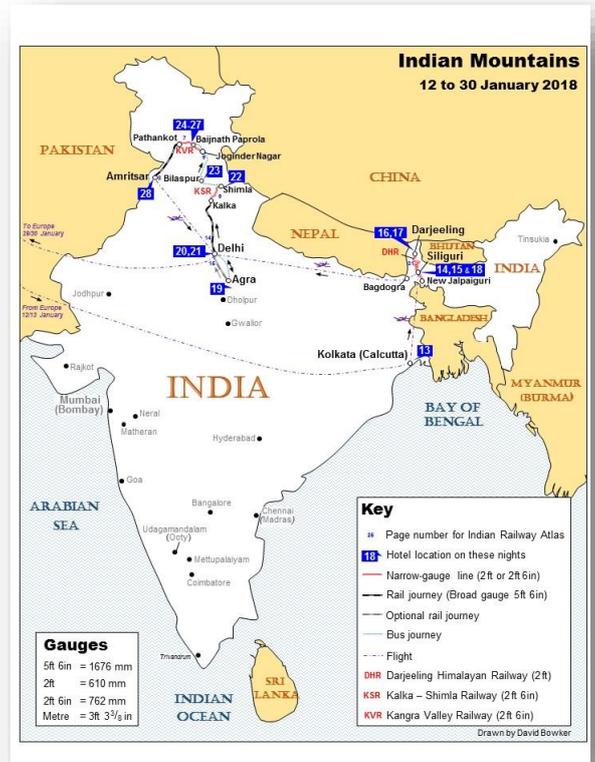


Not just a railway tour – get up close and personal with India’s colourful ambience, plenty of sightseeing too! Contrast the Himalayas in the Northwest and Northeast of India.

Tour highlights

- Tour Kolkata by private vintage tram, and see India’s busiest station at Howrah
- The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway needs no introduction – our usual unrivalled programme including a three-course dinner as steam blasts its way through the forests, plus steam-hauled charters over the whole of the available length.
- See the world-famous Taj Mahal – inside and out!
- A visit to the National Railway Museum.
- Ride the narrow-gauge Kalka-Shimla line in one of their amazing vintage railcars
- Sightseeing highlights: Apart from the Taj Mahal, there’s Kolkata’s Victoria Memorial, Delhi, the Himalayas at Darjeeling and Kangra Valley, not to mention all the colourful bazaars and busy cities.
- Three days on the magic Kangra Valley Railway and a visit to the Shanan Power Station.

Please note all times are based on current timetables at October 2016, and are subject to change.



Friday 12 January

We’ll check in at your chosen airport (we can offer several regional departures) for our flights to...



Saturday 13 January

....Kolkata. After clearing immigration you will meet your Tour Manager and board the coach for the transfer through the city suburbs to our hotel in the centre of Kolkata. In the afternoon we’ll take a ride on one of Kolkata’s remaining trams – it’s an excellent way of seeing the city in relative peace whilst still being close to the action.

Sunday 14 January

We’ll catch a late morning flight from Kolkata to Siliguri. A coach will then take us to the Cinderella Hotel, from where the Indian arm of the Darjeeling Railway Society is run. The hotel’s restaurant is pure vegetarian, but the food is delicious! This will be followed by one of our exclusive ‘dining trains’, with a full three course dinner served on the train as it climbs through the forest to Rangtong.

Monday 15 January

We'll start the day with a steam charter over the rarely-travelled bottom section of line, from New Jalpaiguri to Siliguri Junction, and then continue to Tindharia where we pay a visit to the railway's workshops. This is where the whole of the railway's fleet of rolling stock is maintained. As road and rail run together, a coach will accompany the train for those who wish to take photographs, and there are regular opportunities to change between coach and train.



Tuesday 16 January

We will have a second steam charter running between Tindharia and Darjeeling. Again, a coach will run alongside for the photographers. There will be a short break at Kurseong, where Bengal's best samosas are made. Our hotel tonight is the iconic Windamere, Darjeeling's premier hotel for the last 200 years!

Wednesday 17 January

In the morning, we'll take the 'joy train' from Darjeeling up to Ghum to visit the Railway's excellent museum, and share a cup of 'chai' with the train crew. If we're lucky with the weather, there will be



stunning views of Kanchenjunga, the third highest mountain in the world, and we'll have the opportunity to photograph the train with the mountain in the background. Fabulous! The rest of the day is free to explore Darjeeling – there's plenty to do. Don't miss Das Studio's albums of historic photos, fancy cakes at Glernary's, and buy some tea from Keventers to take home. Then there's the Planters Club, the Mountaineering Institute, the Zoo and The Tibetan Refugee Self-Help Centre. Or just chase trains...

In the evening, the 'Railway Club', with its library of DHR items will be open, with service from the bar.

Thursday 18 January

If you can stand being up for six-thirty, if the weather is kind, the view of Kanchenjunga and the Himalayas from Observation Point (200 yards from the Hotel's back door) is nothing short of stunning, and not to be missed. The rest of the morning is free for train-chasing and sightseeing. In the afternoon, the coaches will take us back down the hill to Siliguri for the night, but we will provide an opportunity for those who wish to ride as much of the way as possible by rail.



Friday 19 January

For our final morning, we will pay a visit to one of the many tea estates around Siliguri to see how tea is grown and turned into the tea bags that we use every day. From Bagdogra, we'll take the afternoon Jet Airways flight to Delhi. A coach will meet us and drive us down to Agra for the night.

Saturday 20 January

We visit the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort, both of which are justifiably world-famous, and should not be missed on any Indian tour. In the evening, the coach will take us back to Delhi. (We can arrange for you to do this by rail, but rail services from Agra to Delhi are notorious for late running and delays en route).

Sunday 21 January

A free day in Delhi. We'll arrange transport for a visit to the National Railway Museum or a coach tour of the major attractions – India Gate, The Parliament, Connaught Place and Humayun's Tomb. There's plenty of shopping, too!

Monday 22 January

We will take the early morning train from New Delhi for an early afternoon arrival at Kalka, the gateway to the famous 2'6" gauge line up to Shimla. On this line, we can make half the journey in one of the Railway's iconic Railbuses, but accommodation is limited, and this is open to the first 24 applicants only. The rest of the journey will be on the Kalka Shimla Express in first class. We should arrive in Shimla by 6.00p.m.



Tuesday 23 January



The morning is free to wander around the pleasant hill station of Shimla. In the afternoon, we will set off by minibus for the journey through the Himalayan foothills for a night at Bilaspur. Our hotel tonight is basic but clean, and has an excellent buffet dinner, and strong beer!

Wednesday 24 January

Our road trip continues via Mandi, where we will have a break to see this lovely town on the Beas River. The scenery becomes more impressive as we approach Jogindernagar. Overnight will be at the Taragarh Palace Hotel at Baijnath, a luxurious surprise in the mountains.

Thursday 25 January

We'll take a day trip by train from Baijnath Paprola to the end of the Kangra Valley Railway at Jogindernagar, with the opportunity to explore a typical mountain market town.

Friday 26 January

We will arrange a visit to the Shanan Hydro-electric Power Station, based on a lake in the high Himalaya, with an impressive rope-worked incline system with steep grades following the pipes up the mountain to the lake that feeds it.



Saturday 27 January

We have a choice today: you may take an excursion to Dharamsala, the home of the Dalai Lama, driving through fabulous Himalayan scenery. Alternatively, take a road excursion to photograph some of the best and most impressive locations on the Kangra Valley Railway, including the 600 foot high bridge over Reond Nullah, and the equally impressive Bathu Bridge.



Sunday 28 January

An early start to catch the 0720 train from Baijnath Paprola to Pathankot through wonderful scenery, where we'll connect into the early evening train down to Amritsar for the night.

Monday 29 January

We will spend our day in Amritsar visiting the breathtaking Golden Temple, where a 'free canteen' policy produces many thousands of meals a day – help produce the chappatis if you wish! In the afternoon, we will visit Indian Railways Amritsar Works, where steam overhauls are carried out, and they have an amazing model collection. Oh, and a monorail on display. We will take an evening flight down to Delhi, where there will be time for a meal before....

Tuesday 30 January

...we check in around 0100 for our flights back to the UK.



What's included?

Economy class flights to/from India, breakfast and dinner (*) daily, accommodation in 3-4 star hotels (or best available locally), all transport, charter trains and excursions as set out in the itinerary and the services of a Darjeeling Tours Limited Tour Manager. (Personal and incidental expenses are not included). (*) Dinner is not included in Kolkata or Delhi, where there is plenty of choice, both in and out of the hotel. Food is not expensive, and this allows considerable individual flexibility.

Prices

Fully inclusive price from London:	£ 3,925 based on two people sharing
Ground only price (international flights excluded)	£ 3,350
Single supplement:	£ 625



Please note that carriers, flights times and train times are subject to change.
Darjeeling Tours Limited, Lime Tree Lodge Thorpe Road Mattersey Doncaster DN10 5ED
Tel: +44 (0)208 249 8943 www.darjeelingtours.co.uk email: tours@darjeelingtours.co.uk