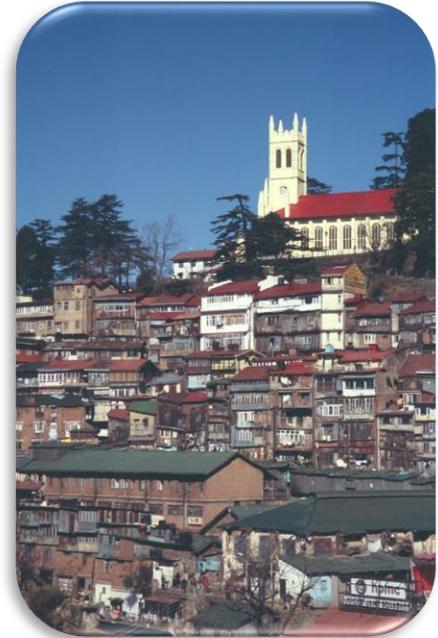


**Not just a railway tour – get up close and personal with India’s colourful ambience, plenty of sightseeing too!**

### 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, and its outpost at Rewari
- 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, Assam tea gardens, Delhi (the capital), the Himalayas at Darjeeling, not to mention all the colourful bazaars and busy cities.



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

### Wednesday 28 February

We’ll check in (we can offer a choice of regional airports) for our flights to...

### Thursday 1 March

....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.



### Friday 2 March

In the morning 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. In the afternoon, we’ll take a gentle stroll through the teeming streets to see some of the city’s historic buildings, a couple of steam locomotives, the famous Howrah Bridge and Howrah station. Just down the road is Kolkata’s Railway Museum, well worth a visit

### Saturday 3 March

We’ll catch the ‘Intercity Express’ – the fastest train of the day – to New Jalpaiguri at the foot of the DHR. The journey takes us through the fertile rice-fields in the Ganges valley and across this enormous river at the Farakka Barrage, one of the largest river control complexes in the world. From New Jalpaiguri, coaches will 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!

### Sunday 4 March

We'll start the day with a steam charter over the rarely-travelled bottom section of line, from New Jalpaiguri to Siliguri Junction. In the afternoon, we'll take the buses down to Siliguri Junction shed to meet the DHR's fleet of 'B' class steam locomotives. 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 5 March

We'll take a charter steam special from Siliguri Junction to Tindharia and pay a visit to the railway's workshops there, 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 6 March

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 7 March



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 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 8 March

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 9 March

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.



### Saturday 10 March

We'll take the train for the ninety minute journey to Rewari, the new outpost of the National Railway Museum where they keep their operational steam locomotives. There is the possibility that the train may be steam hauled for the outward journey with a WP Pacific. Sorry, no guarantees!

### Sunday 11 March

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 6p.m



### Monday 12 March

The day is free to explore this beautiful Hill Station, the summer capital of India in the days of the Raj. There is the possibility that we may be able to arrange a steam-hauled excursion on the Kalka-Shimla line – if this can be done, we will contact you all to give you the option of riding it.

### Tuesday 13 March

We will travel back to Delhi today, starting at a relatively civilised 1030 from Shimla, taking the narrow gauge train all the way back down to Kalka. This connects with the evening Shatabdi to Delhi – dinner is served on the train, and we arrive in Delhi relatively late at 10pm.



### Wednesday 14 March

We'll arrange a sightseeing tour of India's capital city in the morning, seeing India's impressive parliament building, India Gate, and the impressive Humayan's Tomb. In the afternoon, we'll arrange a visit to the National Railway Museum, a very impressive collection of locomotives, stock and models.

### Thursday 15 March

Today, we'll take a day trip to Agra to 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 it will mean an early start, and the return rail services from Agra to Delhi are notorious for late running and delays en route).

### Friday 16 March

We'll need to move to Delhi's international airport for the 1035 flight back to the UK.

## Optional extension to the Nilgiri Rack-railway – 16 to 20 March 2018



### Friday 16 March

We'll be at the airport for the 1350 flight to Coimbatore, due to arrive at 1645. A coach will meet us and take us for the hour's drive to Mettupalaiyam, at the foot of the Nilgiri Line. There is a modest hotel here, handy for the station, so (providing the flight is on time) we'll have a walk down before dinner to see the downhill train arrive, due at 1835.

### Saturday 17 March

The steam-hauled train with the 0-8-0 rack tank pushing loud and hard climbs the 18 miles through lush green scenery to Coonoor, from where a diesel takes over for the last 11 miles to Ooty (for short – it was once Ootacamund, now Udagamandalam!). This is where the game of snooker was invented. A coach will take us round to the five-star Taj Savoy hotel. The afternoon is free to walk round this very British hill resort.

### Sunday 18 March

Today is a free day in Ooty if you wish to just enjoy the Hotel's beautiful gardens, or to explore further. There is the opportunity to ride the train back down to Coonoor and visit the locomotive works there, and then back to Ooty by train

### Monday 19 March

After a free morning, the coach will take us back down the hill to Coimbatore, where we'll catch the evening flight to Mumbai, due in at 2220, where we transfer to the international terminal....

### Tuesday 20 March

...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, Delhi or Mumbai, where there is plenty of choice, both in and out of the hotel. Food is not expensive, and this allows considerable individual flexibility.

### Prices

<b>Fully inclusive price from London:</b>	<b>£ 3,425 based on two people sharing</b>
<b>Ground only price (international flights excluded)</b>	<b>£ 2,845</b>
<b>Single supplement:</b>	<b>£ 595</b>
<b>Extension to Ooty</b>	<b>£ 495 based on two people sharing</b>
<b>Single supplement:</b>	<b>£ 240</b>



Please note that carriers, flights times and train times are subject to change.  
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