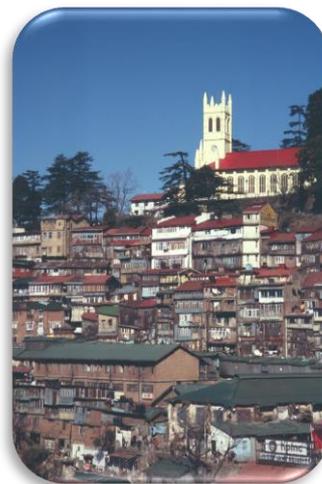


21 March to 5 April 2019

We'll be visiting four of the premier destinations in India – Delhi, Agra and Jaipur on the plains, and the hill station of Shimla for a wonderful introduction to this colourful exciting country. Unlike many Golden Triangle tours, this is sensibly arranged to allow you to see the cities at your own pace.

Tour highlights

- Take a steam train ride on the main line from Delhi to Rewari
- Jaipur, the Pink City, has a myriad of attractions, including Amber palace and the amazing Jantar Mantar, an observatory built in the 1700'S
- See the world-famous Taj Mahal – inside and out!
- The Red Fort at Agra is well worth a visit
- Ride the narrow-gauge Kalka-Shimla line with wonderful views of the Himalayas
- All the best of Delhi's landmarks, including Parliament, Connaught Place, Hanuman's Tomb and the Railway Museum.
- Time in the Hill Station of Shimla, home of the British Government of India during the hot season with a narrow gauge steam charter.



Please note all times are based on current timetables at September 2017, and are subject to change.

Thursday 21 March

We'll check in mid-morning (we can offer a choice of regional airports) for our flights to...

Friday 22 March

....Delhi, with arrival due at 0910. 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 Delhi. For the energetic, we will take a short walking tour of Connaught Place, a few yards from our hotel and home to a whole bunch of interesting shops. We will need to walk the one kilometre to a really good local restaurant for dinner (or take a taxi....) (B,D)



Saturday 23 March

In the morning we'll take a ride on a steam train on the main line from Delhi's Cantonment station down to Rewari, where we will visit the small railway museum there. We will then continue to Jaipur for the night, by train if possible, but (if the train is very late), we will have a coach standing by for the journey. (B,D)

Sunday 24 March

After breakfast, our coach will take us on the five mile journey out to the lake at the foot of Amber Palace, where we change the method of transport from coach to elephant for the final half mile up to the fort itself. We'll spend the afternoon close to the city centre where the most impressive attraction is Jantar Mantar, the observatory, which has a sundial accurate to within 20 seconds! (B,D)



Monday 25 March



After a leisurely breakfast, we drive the suburb of Sanganer where you'll see the fascinating art of silkscreen printing and block printing with traditional wooden blocks. We'll also visit a hand-made paper factory and see the famous blue pottery being made. The afternoon is free in Jaipur - there is a very good walk, less than a mile in total, that takes in most of the sights, with the Hawa Mahal and many interesting bazaars and back streets to explore. (B,D)

Tuesday 26 March

Have a leisurely breakfast, and then the morning is free to continue your exploration of this interesting city. In the afternoon we'll catch the Kolkata Express from Jaipur station at 1455, but only as far as Bharatpur, one of India's famous bird sanctuaries, where we are due to arrive at 1719. A coach will meet the train and take us to our hotel (B,D)



Wednesday 27 March

We will pay a visit to the Bird Sanctuary in the morning where we may expect to see many varieties – over 300 varieties, with an emphasis on water birds, plus several varieties of deer. In the afternoon, we will continue to the World Heritage Site of Fatehpur Sikri, a fortified city built in the late 1500's and soon abandoned due to a lack of water. The architecture is amazing! We will then continue on an hour's journey to our hotel in Agra.

Thursday 28 March

As we are in Agra, we must, of course, visit both the Taj Mahal and the Red Fort! Both buildings are absolutely stunning – this will be a day that stays with you for the rest of your life! We will also pay a visit to a 'marble factory', where there will be a demonstration of how the exquisite inlaid marble plates and plaques are produced, and we will see how to tell the difference between proper marble and (the much cheaper) soapstone. If the River Jumna beach at the back of the Taj is open, we will visit it at sunset for stunning photos of the Taj Mahal bathed in evening sunlight. There might also be a camel to play with! (B,D)



Friday 29 March

After breakfast, we will transfer to Agra's main station, Agra Cantonment to catch the 1025 train up to Delhi. It's due to arrive at 1345 but be warned, this can run quite late! On arrival, we will transfer to our hotel by road, and the rest of the afternoon is free. We will arrange for dinner again at a local restaurant. (B,D)

Saturday 30 March

Each Saturday, The President's Guard changes with an impressive ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhavan, which lasts over an hour and features precision marching and horsemanship. We will then take a tour of some of the major tourist 'must-sees' in the City including the Government building, India Gate, Humayan's Tomb, Safdarjang's tomb, Nizamuddin Dargah and an amazing cycle rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk Bazaar. (B,D)



Sunday 31 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. The journey will be on the Kalka Shimla Express in first class, and the train twists and climbs through fabulous scenery as it climbs the mountains until Shimla appears on the high horizon. We should arrive by 6p.m for a two night stay. (B,D)

Monday 1 April

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. We will arrange an excursion to the Viceregal Lodge, the summer residence of the British Viceroy, which looks like a Scottish Baronial Castle. (B,D)



Tuesday 2 April

A free day in Shimla. We would suggest a gentle walk up the (traffic-free) Mall for about 400 yards to see the old Gaiety Theatre and the impressive Town Hall, which looks as if it has been transplanted from Derbyshire! There is also the 1846 Christ Church with its tower. It, too, looks as if it has been transported from Britain. (B,D)

Wednesday 3 April

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. We'll transfer to a hotel near the airport. (B,D)

Thursday 4 April

A free day in Delhi. There are so many places to visit – do your own thing or join us for a visit to the National Railway Museum and a bit off shopping for souvenirs at the Khan Market. We will arrange a farewell dinner in Central Delhi before we take a very late journey out to the airport.....(B,D).

Friday 5 April

....to check in for the 0415 flight back to Dubai with connections to most major UK airports. (B)

Optional extension to Goa – 5 to 10 April 2019

Friday 5 April

We'll be at the airport for the late morning flight to Goa's Dabolim airport from where our coach will take us to our seaside resort in the village of Cavelossim, 500 metres from the beach. (B,D)

Saturday 6 April to Monday 8 April

Time to chill! Laze around the hotel or take the short walk and laze on Goa's famous beach! If you are feeling a little more adventurous, we can arrange excursions to the local Goan towns of Margao or Vasco da Gama, or up the ghats (the steep hills fronting the coast) to see the impressive Dudh Sagar falls.

(B,L,D)

Tuesday 9 April

After a final day on the beach, we will depart for an evening flight up to Mumbai..... (B,D)

Wednesday 10 April

...for our flights back to the UK, where we are due to arrive around 0730.

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. All tips throughout the tour (except for the Tour Manager) are included and will be dealt with on your behalf. 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. On a daily basis, meals provided are shown with the following key: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, T= Afternoon tea, D=Dinner.

Prices

Fully inclusive price from London:	£ 3,775 based on two people sharing
Ground only price (international flights excluded)	£ 3,275
Single supplement:	£ 595
Extension to Goa	£ 495 based on two people sharing
Single supplement:	£ 260



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