

From Chennai to Mumbai exploring India's hidden rich heritage textile and its silk weaving process! Travelling through the mesmerising views of the ocean on the coastal drive onward to the Nilgiris mountains. Interesting mix of exclusive quilt exhibits, cultural & heritage visits, stitching & weaving workshops with local artisans in rural areas, architecturally rich & colourful temples, UNESCO World Heritage Mountain railway ride and a most unique visit to the Elephant Whisperer's camp. Staying in some of India's best hotels throughout with warm hospitality. The tour is led by UK textile experts who will share their knowledge and expertise throughout!

Tour highlights

- Hotel accommodation for 13 nights with breakfast.
- All dinners in respective hotels and speciality local restaurants.
- Workshop on quilting with private exhibit (Chennai).
- Weaving demonstration at the Kalashetra Centre of performing arts (Chennai).
- UNESCO World Heritage Mahabalipuram shore temple complex.
- Workshop on Silk weaving with weavers in a village.
- Visit to the Theppakadu Elephant Camp based on which is the Academy award winning documentary, The Elephant Whisperers.
- Ride on the UNESCO World Heritage Nilgiri Mountain Railway.
- Holiday protection and assurance through a UK ATOL protected tour partner.
- *Extension tour options possible for Goa.*

Please note all times are based on current timetables at June 2023 and are subject to change.

Wednesday 17th January

London / Chennai

Depart Heathrow by an overnight flight (TBA)

Thursday 18th January

Chennai



Arrive early morning at Chennai international airport and after clearing immigrations, transferred to your hotel with rooms available for immediate check-in.

By noon, we have a guided orientation tour of the marine city of Chennai!

Friday 19th January

Chennai

Enjoy scrumptious breakfast at the hotel. Today we will visit the Kalakshetra Foundation. Spread over almost 100 acres by the seashore in Chennai, the foundation, as it is known today, is a vital centre for the study and performance of fine arts. We visit the Crafts & Weaving Centre for a demo on Weaving on the traditional looms (10 nos. cotton & 04 nos silk looms), led by expert curators and learned students who are following this art form. Besides, we also get to witness other art forms such as Kalamkari & block printing, dance performance & be part of any special event happening at the foundation. This Weaving Centre produces hand spun silk, silk-cotton, and cotton saris, dance dhavanis, dupattas, and dress materials.



Saturday 20th January

Chennai



After breakfast, we will make our way to a private studio to experience the rich quilts on exhibit especially for us. A curated exhibition preview, Lecture and/or Kowdhi demo (try your hand at a small piece), Trunk show by International Award-winning Quilt artist, Interaction with local quilters over tea and cake, show and tell (bring an item for show and tell), Block exchange (bring a 12" quilt block to exchange with an Indian counterpart). Late afternoon, we plan to visit the local markets especially the famous street of cotton goods.

Sunday 21st January

Chennai / Mahablipuram / Kanchipuram

Driven on the coastal road to Mahablipuram to visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Shore Temples, Arjuna's Penance and Krishna Mandapam. We enjoy lunch at a beach side resort after which we make our short journey to a small town of Kanchipuram.



Monday 22nd January

Morning visit the famous 7th century AD temple having a 10 ft high Shivalinga. Later, we visit the famous silk weaver's colony and try our hands on the silk weaving art form. Witness the weaver's lifestyle, interaction with them and of course learning their art skill.



Tuesday 23rd January

Kanchipuram / Chennai / Bengaluru (by air)

Morning driven back to Chennai airport (60 kms / 2 hrs) to board a short direct afternoon flight to Bengaluru (erst. Bangalore). **Time at leisure or a workshop.** Overnight in Bengaluru.

Wednesday 24th January

Bengaluru

After breakfast we visit the city highlights of Vidhan Soudha, Cubbon Park, Bangalore Palace etc. Afternoon, we visit the Museum of Art & Photography. Evening is free for shopping in the famous MG Road showrooms and also try your luck in the local bazaar.

Thursday 25th January

Bengaluru / Mysuru (145 kms / 3 hrs)

We drive south towards Mysuru (erst Mysore). En route we visit the Government Silk Cocoon Market, Asia's largest silk cocoon market. A treat to your eyes and great photo opportunities. Witness the origin of silk trading in India!



Further arrive at Srirangapatna (Seringapattinam) to visit the grand Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace and Museum and the Gol Gombaz.

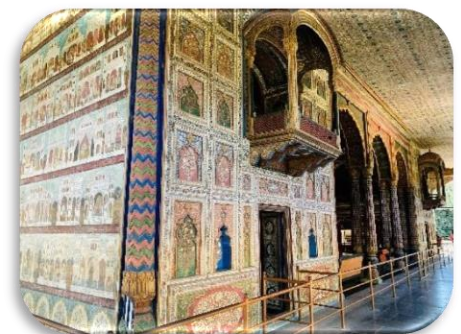
Friday 26th January

Mysuru

Morning visit to the majestic Mysore Palace of the Wodeyar dynasty.

Time at leisure or a workshop.

Late afternoon, visit the Brindavan Gardens situated on the heritage Krishna Raja Sagar Dam.



If time permits, we will enjoy the sound & Light show at the Mysore Palace.



Saturday 27th January

Mysuru – Ooty (125 kms / 3.5 hrs)

Morning visit the Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (KSIC) Factory & showroom. Afternoon, driven south (15 kms) through the thick forests of Bandipur in Karnataka state and crossing over to Mudumalai in Tamil Nadu to halt at the century old Theppakadu Elephant Camp at Mudumalai Tiger Reserve. The plot and site of the Oscar winning movie, Elephant Whisperers. Witness elephants being fed and bathed.



Sunday 28th January



Ooty

This morning we ride on the UNESCO World Heritage Mountain Railway - the Nilgiri Mountain Railway (NMR) from Ooty – Coonoor. We return by our vehicle.

Afternoon, free to enjoy time at leisure with a workshop organised by the expert.

Monday 29th January

Ooty

Morning visit to a Nilgiri Tea garden for a walking tour of the estate followed by the factory & then the tea tasting session. Return to your hotel with rest of the day at leisure. Shopping opportunity in the local market street of Ooty.

Sunday 30th January

Ooty / Coimbatore / Mumbai

Late morning transfer to Coimbatore airport for a short flight to Mumbai for a overnight stay with farewell dinner.

Monday 31st January

Mumbai / London (by air)

After breakfast, transferred to Mumbai international airport for your afternoon flight back to UK.

What's included?

Daily breakfast and dinners including a farewell meal, 2 lunches, accommodation in 5 star hotels (or best available locally) for 13 nights, internal flight & train, all transport, workshops, local guide, entrance fees to monuments and sights, services of a UK tour manager and a Textile Expert and excursions as set out in the itinerary and the services of a Darjeeling Tours Limited Tour Manager from India to accompany throughout the tour. (Personal and incidental expenses are not included).

Prices

Fully inclusive price from London:	£ 4,700 per person based on two people sharing
Ground only price (international flights excluded)	£ 3,950 per person based on two people sharing
Single supplement:	£ 980



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

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