

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

Tour highlights

- Ride the Kalka - Shimla line: the first 14 booked get to ride a chartered railbus
- Three days on the magic Kangra Valley Railway and a visit to the Shanan Power Station
- Time in Amritsar – The Golden Temple is unbelievable!
- Cycle rickshaw ride through Delhi’s famous bazaar, Chandi Chowk
- Time to explore the Pink City of Jaipur – the Observatory is a real treasure
- A real taste of the past with a ride on the steep KambliGhat on one of the very few remaining metre-gauge lines in India
- A guided tour of Udaipur



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



Monday 26 February

We'll check in for our flight to

Tuesday 27 February

...Delhi, arriving early morning, where we will take you straight to your hotel. After a morning's rest, we'll arrange transport for a visit to the National Railway Museum to see the cream of India's railway treasures.

Wednesday 28 February

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 14 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.

Luggage will be transported by road from Delhi to Shimla.

Thursday 29 February

We have requested a steam charter train from Shimla down the line to Kathleeghat but we understand there are problems with the locomotive: if it is steamable, it may be in steam for us at Shimla if it is unfit for the charter. The rest of the day is free to wander around the pleasant hill station of Shimla.

Friday 01 March

After breakfast, we will set off by minibus for the journey through the Himalayan foothills for a night at Mandi, a lovely town on the banks of the River Beas. It's a really pleasant place to wander round, full of friendly people. Our hotel tonight is basic but clean, and has an excellent buffet dinner, and strong beer!

Saturday 02 March

Our road trip continues to Joginder Nagar, the outer terminus of the Kangra Valley Railway. The scenery becomes more impressive and if we have a good run, we shall be able to get our first experience a short ride on the Kangra Valley from there on the 1155 train for the two hour journey to Baijnath Paprola. From there, it's a very short ride to our hotel in Palampur. We are reasonably central, so there is the opportunity to wander round a typical mountain market town.



Sunday 03 March

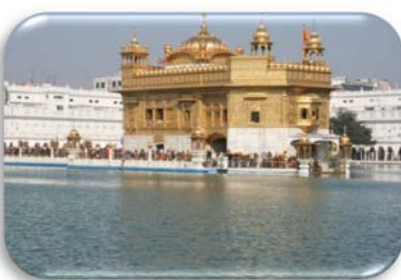
We'll take the 1054 train from Palampur and, after a change in Baijnath Paprola, we'll arrive in Joginder Nagar, from where the coach will take us for an afternoon visit to the Shanan hydro-electric power station, which has an amazing cable-worked hill railway system to take materials up the 'top lake', way up in the Himalayan foothills. We will return to Palampur for the night.

Monday 04 March

We have an excursion to Dharamsala, the home of the Dalai Lama, driving through fabulous Himalayan scenery.

Tuesday 05 March

We aim at catching the narrow-gauge train from Palampur to Nurpur Road, just short of the damaged Chakki viaduct through wonderful scenery, subject to train timings! (see our note below). Our coach will run us the short distance to Pathankot where we will be catching a local train down to Amritsar for the night.



Wednesday 06 March

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 chapattis if you wish! Then we will visit the border flag ceremony at the Pakistani border, an amazing bit of theatre!

Thursday 07 March

We will head out to the airport to catch the lunchtime flight down to Delhi. On arrival, transfer to our hotel for the next two nights.

Friday 08 March

We can offer a choice – spend the day relaxing at the hotel, or take a coach tour of the city. We will cover India Gate, the Indian Parliament, a cycle-rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk bazaar, Rajghat – resting place of Mahatma Gandhi and Humayan's tomb, plus a chance to do ride on the Delhi Metro train (Tube).

Saturday 09 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 steam locomotive. Sorry, no guarantees! There will be time to look round the National Railway Museum's outpost here with metre and broad gauge locomotives before continuing to Jaipur, the Pink City, by train, due to arrive at 8 p.m., in time for a late dinner.



Sunday 10 March



In the morning we will pay a visit to Amber palace, built high up on a rocky outcrop. Access is via a short 4x4 jeep ride. Rest assured the ride and the Palace is well worth the hassle! We will return to the city for the afternoon, to admire the pink stone buildings, the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds)



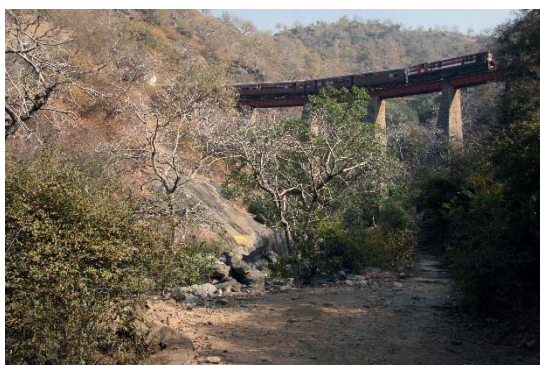
which is maybe the best-known of Jaipur's buildings and the fascinating Janta Mantar, or Observatory, with a sundial accurate to 20 seconds!



Monday 11 March

We'll take a 170 mile ride down the main line towards Mumbai, disembarking at the Rajasthani city of Marwar. A coach will take us for the two-hour journey to the small town of Jojawar, where there is a hidden gem of a palace hotel, our home for the

night. In the evening, turn right out of the hotel gate, and you are in the middle of this small town's commercial area. Exploring on foot with one of the staff guides is a great way to experience life here as it unfolds before your eyes.



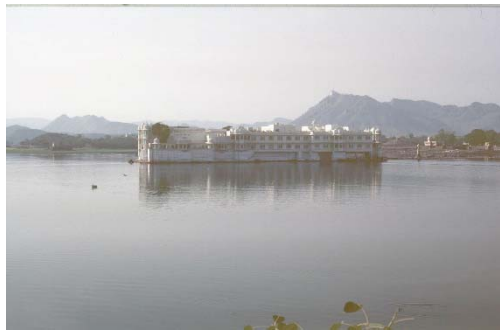
Tuesday 12 March

The coach will take us for an hour's run to Kambli Ghat station for one of our favourite excursions – the daily metre gauge train from the highest station in the Aravalli mountains, Kambli Ghat, to Phulad, running through beautiful forests and hills in Rajasthan. You will find plenty of interaction with the locals on the train with plenty of conversation, but beware of some of the monkeys who will visit some of the stations aggressively begging for banana skins – or the bananas themselves!

From Phulad, the coach will take us for the three hour ride to the city of Udaipur, our base for the night.

Wednesday 13 March

Udaipur is a lovely city, and we'll have a morning tour of the city and environs. Afterwards, we have arranged a late afternoon cruise on Lake Pichola, with the Lake Palace Hotel on an island in the middle, made famous by James Bond's 'Octopussy', a vision in white marble. We will transfer out to the airport to catch the 1950 flight up to Delhi. After a late dinner at the airport.....



Thursday 14 March

....we will check in for a small hours flight to get us back to the UK for a lunchtime arrival.

Or you may like to extend your stay in Udaipur or choose from the list of extension tours we have.

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 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:	£ 4,875 based on two people sharing
Ground only price (international flights excluded)	£ 4,150
Single supplement:	£ 635

Note on the Kangra Valley Railway

At the time of writing (April 2023), the last few miles of the Kangra Valley Railway from Nurpur Road to Pathankot is closed due to a collapsed bridge over the Chakki River. We hope that this will be repaired by February 2024, but we will, of course, keep you updated as to the current position. Of course, if the bridge has been rebuilt, we will take the train through to the end of the line at Pathankot.



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