

Best of Northern India - Private Robbins

Trip Code: BONN

Version: Best of Northern India - Private Robbins



CULTURE



GUIDED GROUP



LEISURELY



HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the majestic forts, palaces, temples of Rajasthan
- Experience an unforgettable sunrise over the beautiful Taj Mahal at Agra
- Take a boat on the Ganges to experience dawn break over Varanasi
- Observe an abundance of wildlife at Ranthambore Tiger Reserve

AT A GLANCE

- 10 days touring and sightseeing including 2 game drives
- Join at Delhi

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

- 10 Breakfasts
- 10 Dinners
- 8 nights Hotel
- 2 nights Sleeper Train

[VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE](#)

Introduction

Offering a blend of magical experiences, this short holiday manages to capture the very essence of northern India. We start out with 2 days in the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, famed for its skilled gem-stone cutters and fabled jewellery shops. One of the most attractive cities of the princely state of Rajasthan; with its splendid Palace of the Breeze, the Jantar Mantar Observatory and the imposing Amber Fort, Jaipur was awarded UNESCO World Heritage status in 2019. We then drive through rural India to the 'Project Tiger' reserve of Ranthambore, where we have included evening and morning game drives to give us the best chance of spotting a tiger, in addition to a huge diversity of other wildlife. Continuing our journey eastwards, we visit the Emperor Akbar's abandoned ghost palace of Fatehpur Sikri, once seat of the Mughal Empire. We arrive at Agra and prepare ourselves for what will undoubtedly be the highlight for many: experiencing sunrise over the Taj Mahal, built by Shah Jahan as a mausoleum and tribute to his beloved wife. Agra Fort takes many by surprise, overshadowed as it is by the Taj Mahal. The sheer scale and workmanship of this red sandstone and white marble palace is incredible and is surely worthy of the trip to Agra alone. We then take a night train to Varanasi, known as the City of Light, a nod to the candle-lit evening prayer ceremonies that take place on the ghats of the River Ganges. We take to the river at dawn by boat to observe the countless Hindu pilgrims coming to bathe in the holy waters and to pray and give offerings. We round off this incredible voyage with 2 days of sightseeing in Delhi, your chance to explore the temples and bazaars the city is famed for. A holiday for those seeking complete sensory immersion into the fascinating cultural experience that is northern India.

Is this holiday for you?

This private touring and sightseeing adventure holiday incorporates many of the highlights of northern India into a week and a half. It is perfect for anyone wanting to experience the wildlife, culture and architecture to be found in this corner of North India. There is a fair amount of travelling, as you journey between Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Varanasi. However, using private, air-conditioned minibuses and also air-conditioned sleeper trains, the effect of this is kept to a minimum. The 2 game drives in the Ranthambore National Park are normally in 'canters' which are large, open trucks fitted with seats and offering a good field of view. Whilst sightseeing, there will be some leisurely walking on city streets and on good trails.

Itinerary

Version: Best of Northern India - Private Robbins

DAY 1

Meet your guide at Delhi's International Airport in the late morning. Drive south to the Rajasthani capital of Jaipur.

Your holiday starts with a late morning meeting with the local guide at Delhi Airport. Boarding your private transport, you'll drive south through the outskirts of Delhi and through a fascinating landscape of cultivated fields mixed with dry scrub-land with a backdrop of distant hills. The journey passes through many small villages and larger bustling towns where we share the road with bullock carts and rickshaws and elaborately painted trucks. We enter the state of Rajasthan where we immediately notice the distinctive clothing of the people. Men wear loose-fitting white clothing, topped off with a crimson or saffron turban. The turbans are wound from a strip of cloth 82 feet in length and they are tied in many different, regional styles. The women wear incredibly colourful shawls, skirts and sarees, often decorated and embroidered with mirror thread. After approximately 5 hours, including a lunch stop, we pass beneath the imposing Amer Fort and drive through the gates to enter the 'Pink City' of Jaipur, so-named for the pastel-washed stucco of many of its principal buildings. Check in at the Jaipur hotel and during dinner your guide will brief you on the days ahead.

Meals: D



Accommodation

Hotel

DAY 2

Sightseeing tour of Jaipur, including the Hawa Mahal, City Palace, Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory and the imposing Amber Fort.

You'll have a full day of guided sightseeing in and around the splendid 'Pink City'. After a reasonably early start, your first brief stop is a photo opportunity opposite the spectacular Hawa Mahal or Palace of the Winds, where the young princesses could peep through grill-like windows at the crowds below without being seen. Then drive back out to the Amber Fort. This magnificent fort, built out of yellow sandstone, occupies a very picturesque location on a ridge-top above Maota Lake in the Aravalli hills. The traditional seat of power until the capital was moved to Jaipur in 1727 AD, the present-day fort was constructed at the end of the 16th century by one of Akbar's generals. Inside, the fort is a complex of palaces, temples, state buildings and courtyards on several levels. Entry to the fort is through the magnificent Sun Gate which is large enough to accommodate a marching army and their elephants! There's lots to see here and you will spend a good couple of hours. After the Amber Fort, return to Jaipur and its City Palace. When the Rajput ruler Jai Singh II decided to move the apparatus of state to Jaipur he constructed the

quintessentially Indian complex of buildings, courtyards, gardens and lakes known simply as the City Palace. The centre-piece of the complex is the seven-storied Chandra Mahal which is still the residence of the former ruling family of Rajasthan. The ground floor of the Chandra Mahal is now a museum exhibiting carpets, paintings, manuscripts and armoury belong to the royal family. Like many buildings in Jaipur the walls of the City Palace are rendered with stucco and painted pink. This was first done throughout the city in honour of the visit of the then Prince of Wales (later to become King Edward VII) and has remained as the theme colour of Jaipur ever since. Also well worth a visit is the strangely beautiful Jantar Mantar, a collection of astronomical structures built on the orders of Jai Singh II when he set up his capital in Jaipur. The 'observatory' consists of 14 structures on a gigantic scale, built with geometric precision from local stone and marble. These were used for measurement of time, the tracking of stars and planets and the prediction of astronomical events such as eclipses. Amongst the other elements that we may be able to squeeze in are: a market visit, a hand-woven rug manufacturer (if anyone is interested in making a purchase) and a visit to a cinema to see a Bollywood movie. After our long day, you'll return to the hotel for dinner and spend a second night in Jaipur.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 3

A second day of sightseeing in Jaipur.

Breakfast at the hotel. Today the day is dedicated for your Jaipur exploration at Galta Ji Temple, renowned for its sacred springs and resident monkeys. Next, visit the majestic Jaigarh Fort, home to the world's largest cannon and panoramic views. Photo stop at The Jal Mahal, also known as the Water Palace, is an architectural marvel situated in the middle of the Man Sagar Lake. Also visit the Nahargarh Fort, where stunning cityscapes and sunset views make for a perfect finale to your day. Evening at leisure.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 4

Journey south through Rajasthan to Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and take an afternoon game drive.

After an early breakfast at the hotel, you'll board your private transport and continue your journey south. Having left the city, it will take around 3 to 4 hours to drive to Ranthambore passing through typically Rajasthani villages en route. Arriving in Ranthambore, you'll check in at your hotel, have lunch and then

meet up with your naturalist guide and 'canter' transport at the hotel gate. You'll then head out on your first game drive into the National Park. Ranthambore was originally designated as a game reserve by the Indian Government as long ago as 1955. In the seventies it was at the centre of 'Project Tiger' which set out to save the rapidly dwindling tiger population of India. Ranthambore was given National Park status in 1980 and the park encompasses large tracts of forest as well as areas of grassland, hills and lakes. This is one of the few places in India where there is a real chance of spotting a tiger during the game drive. There are several different 'routes' through the park and you'll be allocated one of the routes at random. There are a number of lakes, stands of forest, rocky gorges and lots of very approachable animals, such as spotted deer, chital, wild boar, crocodiles, nilgai (also known as blue bull, the biggest of the antelopes), leopard and tiger, as well as many exciting bird species, including vultures and eagles. The animals and birds pay little attention to the safari vehicles. After around 3 hours, you'll return to your accommodation outside the park.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 5

Morning game drive in search of tigers. Transfer to Agra via the ghost city of Fatehpur Sikri.

Another early start today and a return to the park for a second game drive and another chance of seeing a tiger, as well as lots of other exciting wildlife. You'll be allocated a different 'route' in the park. Returning to the hotel for a late breakfast, you'll then drive north-east to the well-preserved former Mughal capital of Fatehpur Sikri. The drive will take at least 4 hours. Built during the second half of the 16th century by the Emperor Akbar, Fatehpur Sikri (the City of Victory) was the capital of the Mughal Empire for just 10 years. Legend has it that the city was built here after a chance meeting between the emperor and a holy man close to this spot, but ultimately its location proved to be strategically untenable and it was abandoned. There is no inhabited city here but the complex of monuments and temples, all in a uniform architectural style, are superbly preserved and includes one of the largest mosques in India, the Jama Masjid. The city is now a World Heritage Site. Following a guided sightseeing tour of this ancient city, you'll continue the drive to nearby Agra where you'll check in at your hotel close to the Taj Mahal.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 6

Visit the Taj Mahal to watch the sunrise followed by exploring Agra Fort. Board overnight train to Varanasi.

A highlight of the tour, this morning at sunrise, you'll visit the Taj Mahal - one of the man-made 'seven wonders' of the world. Whatever you think you know about the Taj Mahal from the countless photographs and images which are worldwide, you are in for a pleasant surprise. No photograph can adequately portray the exquisite beauty, precision and craftsmanship of this incredible monument built for love. It took 20,000 people 22 years to build it, using over 1000 elephants to transport the marble for its dazzling white walls and dome. Twenty eight different types of precious and semi-precious stones are inlaid into parts of the marble, some of these depicting verses from the Koran in highly decorative script. The Taj Mahal itself is a mausoleum for Mumtaz the wife of its builder Shah Jahan and is set in tranquil gardens providing several vantage points from which to contemplate the building. From an upper terrace it is possible to look across the Yamuna River, the largest tributary of the Ganges, towards the Agra Fort. A visit to the Taj Mahal can easily absorb a whole day, but there are more sights that you'll want to see in Agra. So, after an approximately 3-hour visit, you'll return to the hotel for a late breakfast and a wash and brush up. Then, in the early afternoon you'll drive to the Agra Fort, another UNESCO World Heritage Site. There has been a walled city on this site for more than a thousand years, but the present structure was built by the Mughals. Commanding gates, fashioned in red stone, as well as an excellent view of the Taj Mahal, just 2 and a half kilometres away, are highlights of this impressive site. There's also the opportunity to drive across the Yamuna River to gain a different perspective of the Taj from the opposite bank. As your final Agra experience, you'll find a restaurant in one of the shopping streets and take a late lunch, with the chance to do some exploring in the bazaar. The train from Tunla Junction is generally in the early evening and there's a drive of about 45 minutes to get to the station. Here, you'll say goodbye to your driver who has been with you for the first 6 days of the trip and you will no doubt want to give him a tip. At Tunla, you will experience an essential part of Indian life, as you board the overnight sleeper train to Varanasi. For this journey you will travel in air-conditioned carriages with four berths to a compartment. Dinner will be a snack affair provided by your guide. The train departs around 9.00 pm and you will soon be tucked up in bed and being rocked to sleep by the motion and noises of the train as it rattles through the warm Indian countryside.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Sleeper Train

DAY 7

Arrive in Varanasi. Free time for sightseeing with an option to visit the Ganges for the Aarti ceremony.

You'll wake up to the call for 'chai chai' as tea and coffee are brought around the carriage. There will be plenty of time to get dressed and ready before the train pulls into Varanasi. Here you'll transfer to your hotel in the city in time for breakfast and the rest of the day is free for independent sightseeing in this holiest of Indian cities located on the banks of the Ganges. Also known as Kashi and Benares, Varanasi is a city of temples and every colourful, ancient but vibrant aspect of Hinduism can be seen on its streets. In the late afternoon, your guide will arrange for the group to travel out to the banks of the Ganges to

witness the aarti ceremony. This is an optional activity, as the journey can only reasonably be made by motorised rickshaw or 'tuk-tuk' during the busiest part of the day. This is an exciting way to travel (it takes 20 minutes in each direction) and may not be to everyone's taste. However, the aarti ceremony is unmissable and highly recommended. The cost of this trip out to the Ganges is around 1500 rupees (£15) to include watching the aarti ceremony from a boat that will pull just 50 or 100 metres off shore to gain the best viewpoint. The ceremony takes place at 2 locations close together on the wide stone steps known as ghats, where pilgrims take the waters and perform their pujas. The aarti ceremony takes place every evening, involving 7 priests and thousands of oil lamps are floated on the river, each one representing the hopes or prayers of the individuals who push them out into the gentle current. Return to your hotel by tuk-tuk and overnight at the Varanasi hotel.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation

Hotel

DAY 8

Sunrise sail on the Ganges before exploring the bazaars of Varanasi. Overnight train to Delhi.

Leaving the hotel in the early morning pre-dawn darkness, you'll travel by bus through the quiet city streets back to the ghats where your boat is waiting. All aboard, you'll float out onto the river for one of India's most magical experiences, watching the sun rise over the Ganges and the ghats. After the spectacle of the sunrise itself, you'll be rowed slowly along the river, watching the activity of the ghats as the devotees come down to the waters. All aspects of life can be seen on the ghats as people make their offerings and prayers, wash themselves and their clothes and even cremate their loved ones on the banks of the most important river in Hinduism. From the vantage in the boat and with the soft pink dawn light, the higgledy-piggledy arrangement of temples and houses rising from the shore have a magical quality. After this Ganges experience, you'll return to the hotel for breakfast and then have some free time for shopping in the busy bazaars. As well as having the distinction of being one of the oldest cities on earth, Varanasi is also famous for its silk and there are bargains to be had here if you are looking for souvenirs. The Buddhist site of Sarnath is a short distance outside the city and can be visited as an optional excursion arranged locally. In the early evening, you'll drive back to the railway station (up to 1 hour drive) to catch the overnight train to Delhi. You'll have a snack dinner on board the train, before settling down for the night.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation

Sleeper Train

DAY 9

Guided sightseeing tour of Delhi, including the Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk, the Red Fort and Raj Ghat.

You'll arrive in Delhi in the morning and transfer to your hotel first to rest. You'll then take breakfast at the hotel before heading out for a morning 's guided sightseeing around the capital. In the Old City you will visit the Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk, the Red Fort and Raj Ghat. The rest of the day is then free for further independent sightseeing or for some souvenir buying. As well as the sprawling bazaars there are several very modern shopping malls in the modern centre of Delhi. There are also 'state emporiums' which are showcases for the particular crafts of other states in India (including silks from Varanasi and the colourful textiles of Rajasthan). Dinner and overnight in Delhi.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 10

A second day of sightseeing in Delhi.

After breakfast, you'll visit the magnificent Akshardham Swaminarayan Temple, an architectural masterpiece showcasing India's rich cultural heritage. Then, after lunch, you can visit the Humayun Tomb and if time allows you also have the chance to visit the Qutab Minor and Lotus Temple in South Delhi. Evening free time, dinner and a second overnight in Delhi.

Meals: **B D**



Accommodation
Hotel

DAY 11

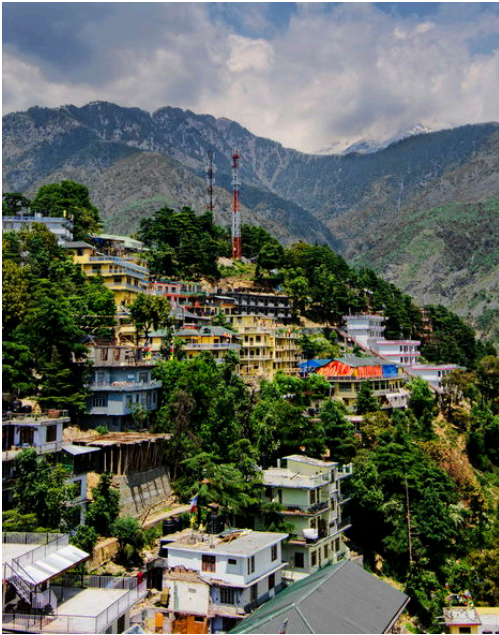
Your holiday ends after breakfast. A group transfer to Delhi airport is provided.

Your holiday ends after breakfast. A transfer to Delhi airport is provided.

Meals: **B**

Extensions

When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Dharamsala and the Dalai Lama

Dharamsala is a former British Raj hill-station in the Dhauladhar mountain range and currently home to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in exile. On this four day extension, you will be able to sample a flavour of life in Tibet and enjoy visits to the Dalai Lama's temple complex; the Norbulingka Institute; the Tibetan children's village and visit a local Gaddi Tribal village to experience the life of the people who traditionally inhabit the lower reaches of the Dhauladhar.

4 days from
US\$1,075 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional English-speaking local leader
- Delhi Airport transfers on the group departure day
- All land transport involved in the itinerary
- Wildlife guides during 2 Ranthambore game drives
- All accommodation as described
- Meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Park and monument entrance fees
- Guided sightseeing tours in Jaipur Agra Varanasi and Delhi

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Delhi Airport transfers (other than group transfer) on arrival
- Indian Visa
- Tips for local staff
- Some meals as detailed in the Meal Plan
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport in the late morning of Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary.

A single timed transfer from the group's Delhi hotel back to Delhi Airport is provided on the final day of the itinerary.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All breakfasts and all dinners are included in the holiday price from dinner on day 1 to breakfast on day 11. Since it makes sense on a tour of this nature to occasionally skip lunch and to take snacks at any time during the day, we have not included the cost of lunches in the overall price. Any snacks or lunches will be paid for directly and we estimate that you should budget a total of £100 for this.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a [Water-To-Go bottle](#)) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

Part of the experience of a visit to India is sampling the excellent local food. Indian cuisine offers a wide choice of dishes, much more variety than the 'curries' we are used to in Indian restaurants at home and the nan breads are like nothing you'll have experienced. Whether the food is presented as a dinner buffet or as a set menu, there will always be vegetarian options. In some places, there will also be familiar international dishes. Breakfasts include cereals, bread, possibly in the form of local 'rotis', eggs, hard-boiled or omelette, often one or two delicious, spicy Indian breakfast options, fruit, juice, hot water for tea or coffee. Lunches will usually be at a restaurant where you can choose what you want - the guide will help with this.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your diet with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Accommodation

There will be a total of 8 nights in comfortable tourist standard hotels in Jaipur, Ranthambore, Agra, Varanasi and Delhi. On 2 nights, the accommodation will be in air-conditioned sleeper carriages on overnight trains. All accommodation except the sleeper train is allocated on a twin-sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Depending upon availability it may be possible to arrange single rooms for the hotel nights. For hotel prices and single supplement costs please refer to the dates and prices page of the trip on our website.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied throughout by an experienced English-speaking tour leader and during the game drives in Ranthambore, by a wildlife expert. During the tours of Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi and Delhi, there will also be a local city guide.

Spending Money

Approximately £250 (or equivalent in Euros, US dollars etc.) changed into local currency (Indian rupees), should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses, including snacks or lunches, tips for your guides, beer and soft drinks, etc. There is also the optional excursion to the Ganges in Varanasi on Day 8 to account for, which is payable directly to your guide at a cost of around 1500 rupees (£15). There are several opportunities to buy souvenirs on this trip. It is not necessary to purchase local currency (Indian Rupees) before you travel. Sterling, US dollars and Euros are readily exchanged in Delhi. Since you will be changing the majority of your spending money into local currency on the day of arrival, we recommend taking this in cash. You can change an initial amount on arrival at Delhi Airport, where the rate is likely to be a few rupees down on what you can expect to get on the high street. Credit cards can be used to purchase many goods in Delhi and Agra and are particularly useful for more expensive souvenirs. It is possible to withdraw cash (rupees only) from cash machines in Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Varanasi using credit and debit cards.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is an accepted and expected part of Indian culture, although you should only tip for services which are well done. We recommend that tips to your guides and driver be made from the group as a whole and that the group decides together on an appropriate amount. Your guide will help with sundry tipping; bell boys, other hotel staff, toilet attendants, lunchtime restaurant staff, Ranthambore staff and railway porters. This means you don't need to concern yourself with who to tip and who not to tip. Your guide will set up a tip 'kitty' for this and you will probably be asked to contribute 4000 rupees (£40) each for this. Separately from this, you will need to tip the driver who is with you for the whole trip. And you will need to tip your guide. As a rough guide we suggest that £120 will allow you to pay reasonable tips.

Additional Information

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are responsible for the conservation of many monuments in India (including the Taj Mahal). This organisation will occasionally undertake work to restore the various monuments, but often without notice, so it is difficult to forewarn our customers of this work. It is possible that, at any time, monuments on this holiday could be having work done on them.

Baggage Allowance

You should restrict your luggage to one main travel bag plus a small daypack to carry cameras, binoculars, water etc. We recognise that for some of our holidays and for some of our travellers, the KE Trek Bag may not provide the best solution when packing for your trip. A bag with fitted wheels and with more than one compartment and more than one access zip is probably more appropriate for this kind of trip.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required, and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents and visas for your holiday. Please ensure that you check for the latest advice for each country visited before travel.

Visa India

Most nationalities, including travellers from the UK, the USA and many European countries can apply for their Indian Visa online through the **E-Visa Application** process. You must make your application at least four days prior to departure. Please download the detailed information document for details of how to apply for your visa: [Visa India PDF](#)

Sikkim

If you are joining one of our Sikkim Beneath Kangchenjunga (SIK) groups, we will ask you to complete a Sikkim Permit form approximately 20 days before you travel. You will need your Indian Visa details for this form. A 30-day E-Tourist Visa can be applied for within 30 days of travel and will usually be processed within a couple of days. As an alternative you can apply for a 1-Year E-Tourist Visa within 180 days of travel. **DO NOT MENTION SIKKIM** in 'Places to be visited' when you make your application.

Health & Vaccinations

Dengue fever is a known risk in places visited. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you [take precautions to avoid mosquito bites](#).

Zika virus has been confirmed as active in this country. It is a tropical viral disease spread by daytime biting mosquitoes. There is currently no vaccine or prophylaxis available and therefore the best form of prevention is to avoid being bitten. We recommend you take the usual precautions to avoid mosquito bites. The mosquitoes that transmit ZIKV are unlikely to be found above 2,000m altitude. For more information, visit the website of the National Travel Network and Centre (NaTHNaC) at <https://travelhealthpro.org.uk>

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips. You will need to carry your own treatment for the allergy with you, as 'adrenaline auto-injectors' are not carried as standard by KE leaders and staff. You should inform your leader on arrival of your allergy, and let them know where you keep your adrenaline pen.

You should contact your doctor or travel clinic to check whether you require any specific vaccinations or other preventive measures. You should be up to date with routine courses and boosters as recommended in the UK e.g. diphtheria-tetanus-polio and measles-mumps-rubella, along with hepatitis A and typhoid.

Malarial prophylaxis is not usually required for trips in the mountains, however if you are visiting rural and remote low lying areas then they might be necessary.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dentist check up. A good online resource is [Travel Health Pro](#).

Currency

The currency of India is the Indian Rupee.

Preparing for your Holiday

Although there is no strenuous walking on this holiday, there are several sights which are best explored on foot and it makes a lot of sense to get some additional exercise before coming on any active holiday. Some of the days it will get quite hot and you should be prepared for this. Before departure, we suggest that you do some reading about the country, its people and the wildlife you are likely to see.

Climate

Outside of the Indian Monsoon (June to September) you should experience little if any rainfall. By mid August the monsoon has lost most of its force although short lived cloud bursts particularly in the afternoon, are reasonably common except in Rajasthan which tends to be very dry at this time. The coolest temperatures are encountered during November and December when the maximum daytime temperatures will generally be in the mid to high twenties of Celsius. From February temperatures start to rise reaching mid thirties during trips in March and April. The arrival of the monsoon cools everything down again and temperatures in August and September can often be the same or even less than April. Evening temperatures from late October to February can be quite chilly (requiring a jacket).

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's '[Travel Aware](#)' campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. North Americans can also check out the U.S. Department of State website: www.travel.state.gov for essential travel advice and tips.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- India - Lonely Planet
- Guide India - The Rough Guide
- Indian Wildlife Insight Guide
- Field Guide to the Mammals of the Indian Subcontinent. K. K. Gurung and Raj Singh
- Birds of India. Richard Grimmett, Carol and Tim Inskipp
- The Jungle Book. Rudyard Kipling

Maps

TTK State Road Maps

Locally produced maps showing road and rail network with intermediate driving distances. No information on topography is given but each map comes with a booklet providing further information on places of interest. Three sheets are required to cover the whole tour (Madhya Pradesh Rajasthan and Varanasi).

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our [Travel Insurance](#) page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

BON Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You must bring the following items:

- Strong shoes or trainers
- Socks
- Underwear
- Lightweight trousers
- Shirts (at least one long-sleeved with collar) and T-shirts
- Jacket
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses
- Small padlock (to lock your KE trek bag)
- Small daypack 20 to 25 litres
- Torch
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2) (we encourage re-filling water bottles rather than single use plastic)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters (band-aids), insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

◆ **The following items are optional:**

- Pocket-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit - (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera
- Travel clothes
- Reusable cloth bag for shopping (to avoid plastic bags)

Cotswold Outdoor

Many of the equipment items listed above are available from [Cotswold Outdoor](#) - our '**Official Recommended Outdoor Retailer**'. When you book a holiday with KE you will receive a 12.5% discount with Cotswold Outdoor, Snow+Rock and Runners Need. The discount code can be downloaded from your MyKE account and you can use this code at the checkout, either in store or online.

Why Choose KE

BON Why KE

We have carefully put together this trip for those wanting to see the outstanding highlights of northern India in one perfect package. More than the typical Golden Triangle tour this area is rightly renowned for, we also include a trip to Varanasi, one of the holiest cities in India on the banks of the Ganges. With visits to the architectural wonders of Rajasthan and Agra, safari drives and all breakfasts and dinners included; this holiday represents outstanding value for money.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 18/05/2025 and the trip is subject to change