Best of Northern India

Trip Code: BON

Version:

CULTURE	GUIDED GROUP	LEISURELY
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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

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

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

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 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 a sightseeing tour of Delhi, 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.

View our full range of walking and trekking holidays in India.

Is this holiday for you?

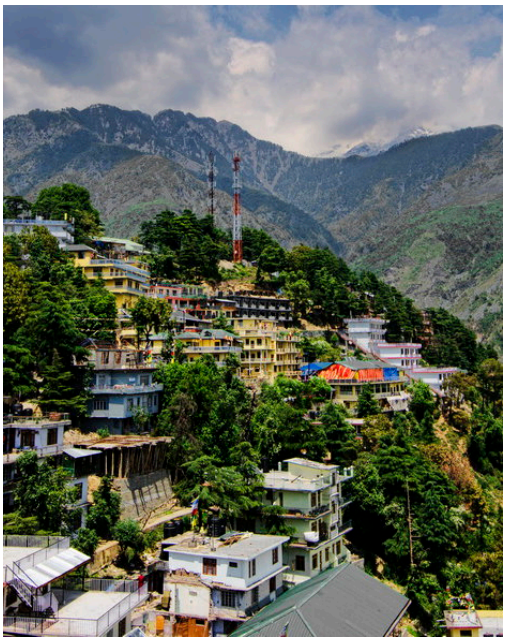
This touring and sightseeing adventure holiday incorporates many of the highlights of northern India into little more than a week and is perfect for anyone wanting to experience the wildlife, culture and architecture to be found in this corner of North India. There is a fair amount of travelling, as we 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. Our game drives in the Ranthambore National Park are 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:

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 Dhaula Dhar 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 Dhaula Dhar.

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 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 9. 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 £50 - £75 for this.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for 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 meals 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.

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 place, 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.

Accommodation

The group will have a total of 6 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.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

Approximately £200 (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 6 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. Sterling, US dollars and euros are readily exchanged in India. 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, Jaipur, Agra and Varanasi 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. 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 may set up a tip 'kitty' for this and you be asked to contribute £20 - £30 each (in rupees) for this. You should pay a tip to your driver at the end of the holiday. This should be done by the group as a whole and your tour guide will help you decide on an appropriate amount. You will have the opportunity to tip your tour leader separately during dinner on the final evening of the holiday. As a rough guide and depending on group size, we suggest that you should allow a total of £80 for tips - although the amount you give is entirely up to you.

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.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

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 including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO 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

NB. The application process can be temperamental and we suggest you try a different browser (Firefox is known to work) if your application does not at first go through.

e-Arrival Card - Important

Separately and additionally, foreign nationals must now complete an e-arrival card to present at immigration on arrival in India along with their e-Visa. The digital e-Arrival form is found here https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/earrival/ It should be completed **within the 72 hours prior to your arrival in India.**

Ebola Self-Declaration Form (SDF) - Important

All passengers travelling to India must now also complete the Ebola Self-Declaration Form (SDF) to present at immigration on arrival in India. The form is found here https://airsuvidha.civilaviation.gov.in It should be completed **within the 72 hours prior to your arrival in India.**

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.

Nagaland

If you are joining the Kaziranga, Nagaland and the Hornbill Festival (HBF) group we need to apply for a PAP (Protected Area Permit) for Nagaland once the tour is confirmed. Approximately 20 days before you travel, we will need from you a copy of your passport and of your Indian E-Tourist Visa, along with a colour passport photo and a copy of your international flight e-tickets.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

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.

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. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

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)

Private Groups Information

Make this KE Adventure holiday your own!

- Do our normal group departure dates not fit?
- Would you prefer to travel with just friends and/or family?
- Are you looking to organise a trip for your local walking, biking or mountaineering club?

It's really easy to make a trip your own. Simply select from our full range of adventure holidays and choose the dates that work for you and your group.

We are experts in creating holidays for groups of friends, families, charities and clubs. Our personal service means you'll be fully involved as we make the arrangements for your perfect adventure holiday.

Independence with Security

Travelling as a KE Private Group allows you more flexibility and choice, but still with the peace of mind that everything is pre-planned and arranged for your group by a reputable adventure travel company.

To take your first step to an amazing adventure with your friends and family complete the private group enquiry form, or call our **Sales Experts on: 017687 73966**

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

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 and comfortable shoes or trainers
- Lightweight trousers
- Shirts (at least one long-sleeved with collar) and T-shirts
- Light, windproof and waterproof jacket
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 20 to 25 litres
- Torch
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)
- Water bottles 1 litre (x2)
- 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 - see note about mobile phone use below

- Travel clothes

Mobile Phone use on safaris:

The use of mobile phones (including for photography) is generally prohibited inside national parks during wildlife safaris. If you intend to take photographs on safari you will need to take a camera.

Satellite Communications:

India does not currently allow the carrying of satellite communication devices such as satellite phones and Garmin ‘inReach’.

If you use such devices, please do not bring these with you to India.

Land Only Information

Please refer to the 'Joining Arrangements & Transfers' within Holiday Information for further details.

Flights and other transport to your destination should not be booked until you have received your booking confirmation and the departure is showing 'Guaranteed to Run' or 'Limited'.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary starting at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport in the 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.

Flight Inclusive Information

Limited seats are available at the advertised flight price, please book as early as you can. If we are unable to secure seats at the price shown, or you have requested regional departures and/or upgrades, we will provide you with an alternative quote. It is likely that flight payment will be in advance of your final holiday balance. Booking a flight inclusive package means you will benefit from full financial protection, eases your holiday planning, and leaves us to deal with airlines and schedule changes. If you book flights through KE Adventure Travel we will offset the carbon of your flight.

Regional departures and/or alternative carriers are available on request.

Flight Inclusive Information

The FLIGHT INCLUSIVE dates and prices are based on UK flights from London to Delhi. Outbound flights will usually depart from the UK in the evening, arriving in the morning on the following day (Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary). Return flights will depart Delhi on the last day of the itinerary, arriving in the UK later the same day.

Why Choose KE

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 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change