



PRIVATE JOURNEYS, PLANNED LOCALLY

India

Palaces, deserts, mountains and the backwaters of the south

INDIA

India, one region at a time

India is too big to see in one trip, so we help you choose. Most first visits start in Rajasthan; return trips go south to Kerala or north to the Himalaya.

India is the size of Europe, with as many languages and cuisines. The trick is to travel less and see more: two or three regions, with time in each.

Rajasthan is the classic first trip: forts, palaces and desert towns, with Delhi and Agra at either end. Kerala and Tamil Nadu are slower and greener, with backwaters, tea hills and temple towns. Ladakh, high in the Himalaya, is a different world again, open from June to September.

We are based in New Delhi, so India is where we know the most hotels, guides and back roads.

BEST TIME

October to March for most regions. Ladakh: June to September.

IDEAL LENGTH

12 to 21 nights, two or three regions

TIME

UTC +5:30 (3.5 hours ahead of Paris in summer, 4.5 in winter)

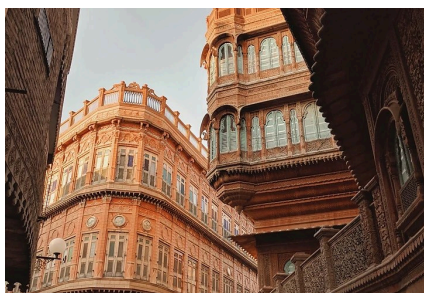
CURRENCY

Indian rupee (INR)

LANGUAGES

Hindi and English are widely spoken, with many regional languages

WHERE TO GO



Rajasthan

Forts and palaces, painted havelis in Shekhawati, a night in the desert near Jaisalmer or Bikaner. Best October to March.



Kerala and Tamil Nadu

Backwaters by houseboat, tea estates in Munnar, the temple towns of Madurai and Thanjavur, and Ayurveda by the sea.



Ladakh

Buddhist monasteries, high passes and desert valleys at 3,500 metres. A summer trip, June to September.

Journeys in India



INDIA · 14 NIGHTS

Rajasthan by its back roads

Route: Delhi · Shekhawati · Bikaner · Khejarla · Jodhpur · Jaipur · Agra

Best time: October to March · Price on request

Painted havelis, a night in a village fort and two unhurried days in Jodhpur, ending at the Taj Mahal at sunrise.

Days 1–2 Delhi: Your driver meets you at the airport. The next day, a cycle-rickshaw through the lanes of Old Delhi to Jama Masjid, then Humayun's Tomb and the gardens of Lodhi in the afternoon.

Days 3–4 Shekhawati: A five-hour drive to Mandawa. Walk the painted havelis with a local guide who knows which families still live in them.

Days 5–6 Bikaner: Junagarh Fort, the carved Rampuriya havelis, and the camel research farm outside town at feeding time.

Day 7 Khejarla: Through the desert to a village fort. In the late afternoon, a jeep visit to the Bishnoi villages, known for protecting their trees and wildlife.

Days 8–9 Jodhpur: Mehrangarh Fort in the soft light of the morning, then down through the blue lanes of the old city to the clock tower market. The second day is yours.

Days 10–12 Jaipur: The Amber Fort, the City Palace and Jantar Mantar observatory. A morning with block printers in Sanganeer, and free time for the bazaars.

Days 13–14 Agra: Fatehpur Sikri on the way. The Taj Mahal at sunrise, before the crowds, and Agra Fort in the afternoon.

Day 15 Departure: Drive to Delhi airport, about four hours by expressway, for your flight home.



INDIA · 12 NIGHTS

Backwaters, tea hills and temple towns

Route: Kochi · Munnar · Madurai · Thekkady · Alleppey · Kovalam

Best time: October to March · Price on request

Old Kochi, the tea estates of Munnar, the great temple of Madurai, a night on a houseboat and three days by the sea.

Days 1–2 Kochi: Fort Kochi's Chinese fishing nets, the Jewish quarter and the spice warehouses of Mattancherry. A Kathakali performance in the evening.

Days 3–4 Munnar: Up into the hills, about four hours. Walk through the tea estates with a planter and visit Eravikulam National Park.

Days 5–6 Madurai: Down the Bodi pass into Tamil Nadu. The Meenakshi temple by day and for the evening ceremony. Optional day trip to Thanjavur.

Days 7–8 Thekkady: Periyar Tiger Reserve: a guided forest walk at dawn and a boat on the lake. Spice gardens in the afternoon.

Day 9 Alleppey: Board a private houseboat with its own cook and drift through the backwaters until the next morning.

Days 10–12 Kovalam: Three days by the sea. Ayurvedic treatments, the lighthouse beach and the fishing villages.

Day 13 Departure: Transfer to Thiruvananthapuram airport, about 30 minutes.



INDIA · 10 NIGHTS

Ladakh: high passes and monasteries

Route: Leh · Nubra Valley · Pangong Tso · Leh · Alchi

Best time: June to September · Price on request

Buddhist monasteries, sand dunes and Bactrian camels in the Nubra Valley, and a night by Pangong lake at 4,250 metres.

Days 1–3 Leh: Fly in from Delhi and rest. Then gentle visits: Shanti Stupa, Leh Palace, and the monasteries of Thiksey, Hemis and Shey.

Days 4–5 Nubra Valley: Over the Khardung La pass to Diskit monastery and the sand dunes of Hunder, with its two-humped camels.

Day 6 Pangong Tso: Along the Shyok river to Pangong, the long lake that changes colour through the day.

Day 7 Leh: Back to Leh over the Chang La pass.

Days 8–10 Alchi: West along the Indus to the painted temples of Alchi, Lamayuru monastery and the apricot villages of the Sham valley.

Day 11 Departure: Drive to Leh and fly to Delhi.



INDIA · 8 NIGHTS

First time in India

Route: Delhi · Agra · Jaipur · Udaipur

Best time: October to March · Price on request

Delhi, the Taj Mahal at sunrise, three days in Jaipur and two by the lake in Udaipur: the classic first visit, at a pace that leaves room to enjoy it.

Days 1–2 Delhi: Your driver meets you at the airport. The next day, Old Delhi by cycle-rickshaw, the Jama Masjid and a food walk, then Humayun's Tomb in the afternoon light.

Day 3 Agra: A fast train or a four-hour drive to Agra. The Agra Fort in the afternoon, and the Taj Mahal from across the river at sunset.

Day 4 Agra to Jaipur: The Taj Mahal at sunrise, then on to Jaipur by way of Fatehpur Sikri, the abandoned Mughal capital, and the step well at Abhaneri.

Days 5–6 Jaipur: The Amber Fort early, before the groups, the City Palace and the observatory, the bazaars of the old city and a block-printing workshop in Sanganer.

Days 7–8 Udaipur: A one-hour flight to Udaipur. A boat on Lake Pichola at sunset, the City Palace, and a morning in the countryside or a cooking class with a local family.

Day 9 Departure: Fly to Delhi or Mumbai for your international flight.



INDIA · 12 NIGHTS

Classical India: forts, temples and the Ganges

Route: Delhi · Jaipur · Agra · Orchha · Khajuraho · Varanasi

Best time: October to March · Price on request

The Golden Triangle, then south into the heart of India: the palaces of Orchha, the carved temples of Khajuraho, and the ghats of Varanasi at dawn.

Days 1–2 Delhi: Arrival, then a day in Old and New Delhi: the Jama Masjid, Humayun's Tomb and the Qutub Minar.

Days 3–4 Jaipur: Drive to Jaipur. The Amber Fort, the City Palace, the observatory and the bazaars of the pink city.

Days 5–6 Agra: Drive to Agra by way of Fatehpur Sikri. The Taj Mahal at sunrise, the Agra Fort and the tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah.

Days 7–8 Orchha: A fast train to Jhansi, then a short drive to Orchha. Walk the palaces and temples, and watch the sun set behind the cenotaphs on the river.

Days 9–10 Khajuraho: About four hours by road to Khajuraho. The western group of temples in the morning light, and the eastern and Jain temples with a guide.

Days 11–12 Varanasi: Fly to Varanasi (direct on some days in winter, otherwise by road and train). An evening on the river for the aarti ceremony, a boat at dawn along the ghats, and Sarnath, where the Buddha first taught.

Day 13 Departure: Fly to Delhi for your international flight.



INDIA · 21 NIGHTS

Grand India: three weeks from Rajasthan to Kerala

Route: Delhi · Jaipur · Jodhpur · Udaipur · Agra · Varanasi · Kochi · Kumarakom · Marari

Best time: November to February · Price on request

The forts and palaces of Rajasthan, the Taj Mahal, the Ganges at Varanasi, then south to the backwaters and beaches of Kerala: north and south India in one long journey.

Days 1–2 Delhi: Arrival, then Old Delhi by cycle-rickshaw, Humayun's Tomb and the Lodhi gardens.

Days 3–5 Jaipur: Drive to Jaipur. The Amber Fort, the City Palace, the bazaars, and a day in the countryside or a block-printing workshop.

Days 6–7 Jodhpur: Drive to Jodhpur, the blue city. Mehrangarh Fort, the old town and a village visit with a local guide.

Days 8–10 Udaipur: Drive to Udaipur by way of the Jain temple at Ranakpur. The lake, the City Palace and quiet time by the water.

Days 11–12 Agra: Fly to Delhi or Jaipur and drive to Agra. The Taj Mahal at sunrise and the Agra Fort.

Days 13–14 Varanasi: Fly to Varanasi. The evening aarti, a dawn boat on the Ganges and Sarnath.

Days 15–16 Kochi: Fly to Kochi. The old quarter of Fort Kochi, the Chinese fishing nets, and a Kathakali performance.

Day 17 Backwaters: A night on a private houseboat on the backwaters near Alleppey, with your own crew and cook.

Days 18–19 Kumarakom: A lakeside hotel on Vembanad lake. Canoe through the canals at dawn, or do nothing at all.

Days 20–21 Marari: Two days on a quiet beach with fishing villages on either side.

Day 22 Departure: Fly from Kochi to your international connection.



INDIA AND NEPAL · 14 NIGHTS

India and Nepal: from the Taj to the Himalaya

Route: Delhi · Agra · Varanasi · Kathmandu · Chitwan · Pokhara · Kathmandu

Best time: October to November, and February to March · Price on request

The Taj Mahal and the Ganges, then a short flight to Nepal for the temples of the Kathmandu valley, the rhinos of Chitwan and the Annapurnas at sunrise.

Days 1–2 Delhi: Arrival, then Old Delhi and Humayun's Tomb.

Day 3 Agra: Fast train to Agra. The Agra Fort, and the Taj Mahal at sunset from across the river.

Days 4–5 Varanasi: The Taj Mahal at sunrise, then fly to Varanasi. The evening aarti, a dawn boat on the ghats and Sarnath.

Days 6–8 Kathmandu: Fly to Kathmandu, direct from Varanasi on some days or by way of Delhi. Durbar Square, Swayambhunath, Boudhanath at dusk, and a day in Patan and Bhaktapur.

Days 9–10 Chitwan: Drive south to Chitwan National Park. Jeep and canoe safaris for rhino, deer and birds.

Days 11–13 Pokhara: Drive to Pokhara. Sunrise over the Annapurnas, a boat on Phewa lake and a short walk to a hilltop village.

Day 14 Kathmandu: Fly back to Kathmandu for a last afternoon in the valley.

Day 15 Departure: Fly home from Kathmandu, or by way of Delhi.



INDIA AND SRI LANKA · 14 NIGHTS

Kerala and Sri Lanka: spice coast and tea hills

Route: Kochi · Munnar · Alleppey · Colombo · Sigiriya · Kandy · Ella · Galle

Best time: December to March · Price on request

Old Kochi, the tea hills of Munnar and a night on a houseboat, then a short flight to Sri Lanka for its ancient cities, the hill-country train and the fort at Galle.

Days 1–2 Kochi: Arrival in Kochi. The old quarter of Fort Kochi, the spice warehouses of Mattancherry and a Kathakali performance.

Days 3–4 Munnar: Drive up into the Western Ghats. Walk through the tea estates and visit a working factory.

Day 5 Backwaters: Down to Alleppey for a night on a private houseboat on the backwaters.

Day 6 To Sri Lanka: Fly from Kochi to Colombo and drive to a quiet hotel near the airport.

Days 7–9 Cultural Triangle: Drive to Sigiriya. Climb the rock fortress early, see the cave temples of Dambulla and the ruined city of Polonnaruwa.

Day 10 Kandy: The Temple of the Tooth and the botanical gardens at Peradeniya.

Days 11–12 Hill country: Drive to Nanu Oya and take the train to Ella through the tea estates. Walk to Little Adam's Peak and the Nine Arch Bridge.

Days 13–14 Galle: Drive down to the south coast. Walk the ramparts of Galle Fort at sunset and spend a day on the beach.

Day 15 Departure: About two hours by expressway to Colombo airport.



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