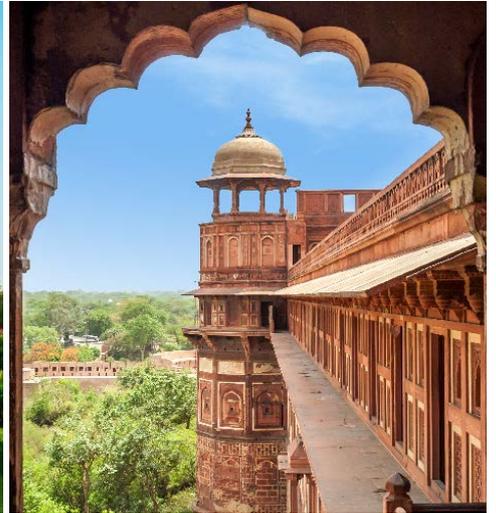


# Beyond India's Golden Triangle



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Experience the marbled memorials, gilded domes and elegant minarets of India's lavish Mughal-era architecture as you explore the ancient palaces and forts of the north. Journey from the Golden Triangle to the cities of Jodhpur and Udaipur, visiting the historic sights of Delhi, four spectacular forts and the iconic Taj Mahal on this 11-day tour of the subcontinent's royal residences.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to India. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important information such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### DAY 1: UK to Delhi

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Delhi.

### DAY 2: Delhi L/D

On arrival in Delhi, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. An afternoon tour of India's lively capital visits the wartime monument of India Gate, the gilded domes of Bangla Sahib Sikh Temple and the cremation grounds of Mahatma Gandhi. Return to your hotel for dinner or enjoy an optional Ghungroo dance and drama show and open-air barbecue dinner (at a fee).

### DAY 3: Delhi to Udaipur B/L/D

Take in the sights of historic Old Delhi on this morning's tour, stopping at the ornate mosque of Jama Masjid before a rickshaw carries you through the winding lanes of Chandni Chowk market and past the vermillion walls of the Red Fort. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight to Udaipur.

### DAY 4: Udaipur B/L/D

Explore the legacy of Udaipur's Mughals as you visit the City Palace, Jagdish Temple and the Sahelion Ki Bari gardens. Drive around Fateh Sagar Lake then walk through the city's bustling old market. An optional excursion later today takes you on a boat cruise around Lake Pichola before tonight's farewell dinner.

### DAY 5: Udaipur to Jodhpur B/L/D

Depart Udaipur this morning, travelling first to the beautiful temple complex of Ranakpur Jain in Jodhpur. Continue onward to Jodhpur for your overnight stay, arriving in time for an evening walk around the colourful Clock Tower market.

### DAY 6: Jodhpur B/L/D

This morning's tour of Jodhpur takes you to the vast Mehrangarh Fort and its magnificent palaces. Explore the marbled pavilions of Jaswant Thada

before an afternoon at leisure. Alternatively, visit the Bishnoi Village to experience rural Rajasthan.

### DAY 7: Jodhpur to Jaipur B/L/D

Journey to Jaipur, stopping en route at Chand Baori, an 8th century structure which features 3,500 symmetrical steps leading to the bottom of a well. Continue on to Jaipur where you will have the rest of the day at leisure. Alternatively, take an optional evening trip to Birla Temple to witness a prayer ceremony.

### DAY 8: Jaipur B/L/D

This morning, a brief stop at Hawa Mahal allows you to take pictures of the 952 windows of this elaborate, pink palace. Next, take an elephant or jeep ride to the Amber Fort whose rugged exterior walls shield a lavishly bejewelled interior. This afternoon, explore another monument of the Maharajas at the City Palace.

### DAY 9: Jaipur to Agra B/L/D

Depart Jaipur this morning for your journey to the city of Agra.

### DAY 10: Agra B/L/D

See India's most iconic landmark bathed in an early morning glow on a sunrise visit to the spectacular Taj Mahal. After breakfast, wander the imposing red stone battlements of the Agra Fort. Enjoy an afternoon at leisure or take an optional excursion to the tranquil garden complex of Mehtab Bagh.

### DAY 11: Agra to the UK or extension B

Transfer to Delhi airport for your return flight to the UK or continue on to your chosen extension.



## ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

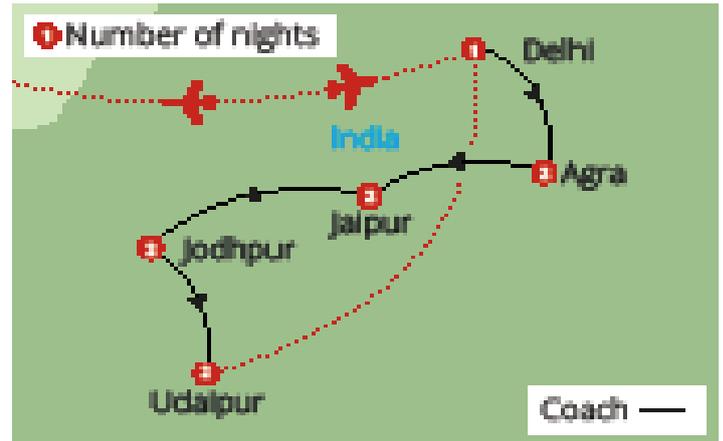
### Accommodation

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to leisure hotels. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and India. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs. If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

**Final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

### Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Lunch and dinner where stated will be taken at local restaurants or at your hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes.



## ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Delhi you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Earthen Experiences**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Earthen Experiences, representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your national guide will be on hand 24 hours a day should you have any queries. However, if you need to contact your representative during your stay the details are:

### Earthen Experiences

Earthen Experiences, 2 DDA Commercial Complex, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi 110017  
 Telephone Number: 0091 11 4921 1000 (09:30 – 18:00)  
 E-mail: info@earthenexperiences.com

### Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Earthen Experiences:  
 Mr. Mohammad Kaushar – General Manager:  
 24 hour number: 0091 98 9974 0800  
 E-mail Address: mohammad.kaushar@earthenexperiences.com  
 Mr. Anuj Negi – Director: 24 hour number: 0091 99 1085 9004  
 E-mail Address: anuj.negi@earthenexperiences.com

## WHAT TO PACK

- Insect repellent and sun cream
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Waterproof lightweight jacket
- Sunglasses and hat
- Ruck sack
- Binoculars
- Camera and charger
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Long sleeve shirt and long trousers

- Swimwear
- Anti-bacterial hand sanitiser
- Personal toiletries and first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- An electric plug converter - The voltage in India is 220 volts with plugs and sockets having either grounded 3 pin connections or ungrounded 2 pin connections. Should you plan to use your own hairdryer, travel iron, video camera, battery charger, electric shaver etc, it is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to **Delhi International Airport** with **Virgin Atlantic (VS)**, departing from **London Heathrow Terminal 3**.

**IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.**

### Baggage Allowance

Baggage allowance (per person): Each passenger is entitled to 23kg of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 56cm x 36cm x 23cm in size or 10kg in weight. Weight restrictions will be finalized on E-ticket receipt. Should you wish to take additional luggage you will need to pay extra at check-in. Check-In should be at least 3 hours before departure.

### Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras on 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

## WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

### Visas

A visa is required for entry into India. British Citizen Passport Holders will need to obtain an e-Tourist Visa (eTV) for travel to India. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury". The cost of the visa is approximately £134 per person. The Travel Visa Company can only apply for this 120 days before your proposed travel date and takes around 10 working days to issue. It is only valid for a 60 day single entry stay from the date of arrival. When calling the Travel Visa Company, they will advise you of any changes to the fees or the procedure, they will also advise you of all information they will require in order to apply for the visa. Alternatively, you can visit The Indian Visa Application Centre in London: 142- 148 Goswell Road, London, EC1B 7DU. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months before you enter India. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury. We recommend you check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity

### Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

### Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general

information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; [www.fco.gov.uk](http://www.fco.gov.uk), [www.travelhealthpro.org.uk](http://www.travelhealthpro.org.uk), [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk), your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic

**Physical Accessibility**

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties. All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. Our tour paces are marked with dots out of 3, with the differences being as follows:

- 1 Dot the tour is Easy-Going
- 2 Dots the tour is Intermediate
- 3 Dots the tour is Advanced

Beyond Indias Golden Triangle is rated as 2 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Intermediate. A good level of fitness is required as you may be on your feet for approximately four hours in a day, though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and will vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, and may be getting on and off coaches, trains and boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. You will stay in variety of hotels throughout the tour.

Our guides will always endeavor to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

**Tour Guides - National Guide**

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

**Private Tour**

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

**Tippling**

It is customary to tip your guide and driver. This is at your discretion, but we recommend you allow approximately £3 per person per day. It is asked that you tip in pounds and not local currency, please do not give coins as these are difficult to exchange.

**Group Size**

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 35. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

**Currency Exchange**

The currency in India is the Rupee or Rs. The Rupee is a closed currency and officially you are not allowed to take any cash out of India. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted in India should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you. There are restrictions on taking Indian rupees into India. Visitors, including tourists, are not permitted to take any amount of Indian currency into the country. You can take cash or travellers' cheques (in pounds sterling or another foreign currency) and/or a bank card with you and exchange or withdraw rupees once in India.

We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

**Personal Expenses**

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £500 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

**Credit Card Information**

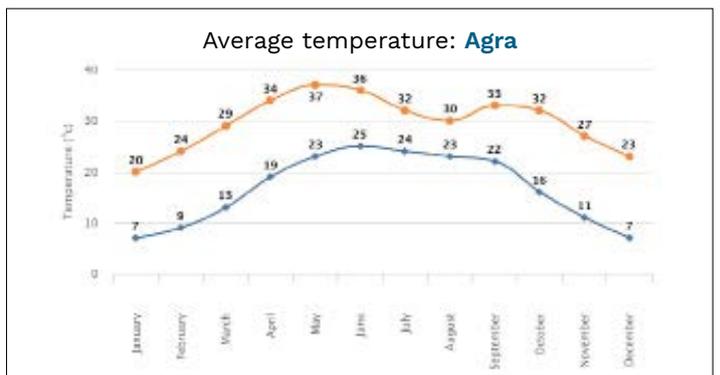
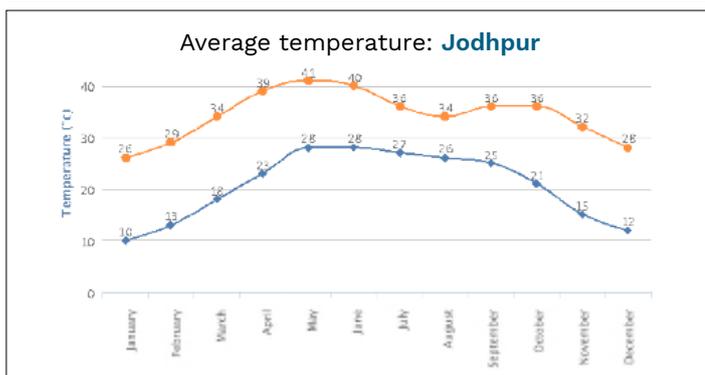
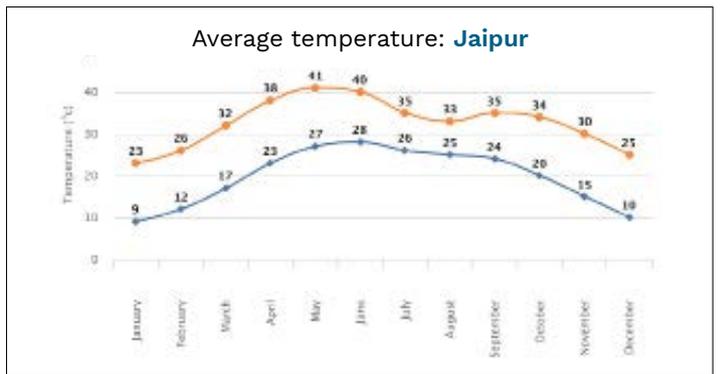
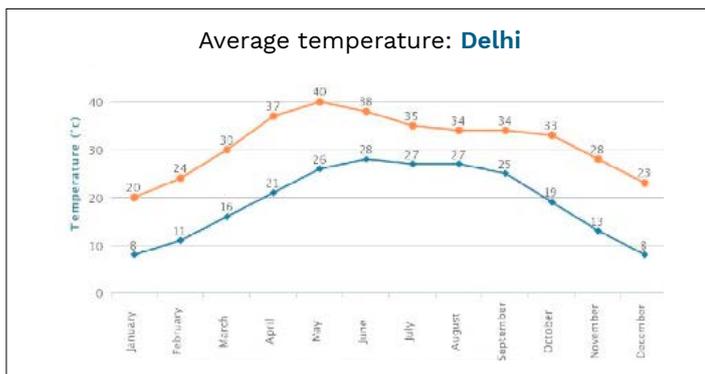
As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

**Itinerary Changes**

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. The schedules of the domestic airlines in country are subject to frequent changes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction &/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however, order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

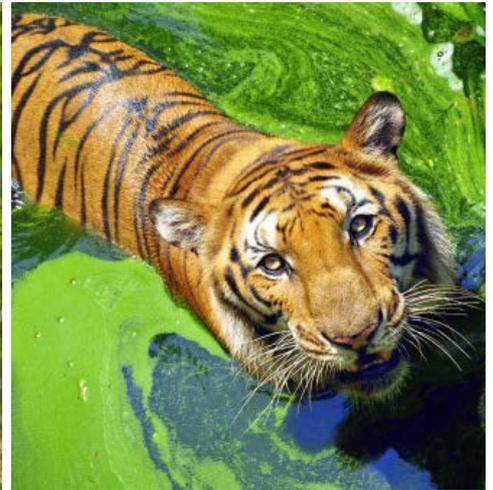
**WEATHER AND CLIMATE**

Weather can vary quite considerably throughout the year, so please familiarise yourself with the climate charts below.



# Tigers of Ranthambore extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



## TRIP OVERVIEW

Once a famous hunting ground for the gallant rulers of Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park is spread over 1,344km<sup>2</sup> and is one of the biggest national parks in India. Choose this extension to experience a variety of wildlife including tigers, leopards, deer and much more.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your Ranthambore extension.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### Day 11: Udaipur to Delhi B/L/D

Depart Udaipur and fly to Delhi where you will be met on arrival and taken to your hotel for the rest of the day at leisure.

### Day 12 : Delhi to Ranthambore B/L/D

From Delhi, board the train for a relaxing journey through rural India to Ranthambore for a wildlife experience of a lifetime. Ranthambore National Park is renowned for its stunning array of wildlife including tigers, leopards, striped hyenas, sambar deer, sloth bears and black buck.

### Day 13 : Ranthambore B/L/D

Enjoy an early morning jungle safari followed by breakfast back at your hotel. After relaxing at the hotel, take a second safari trip later this afternoon for another chance to spot Ranthambore's wild inhabitants.

### Day 14 : Ranthambore to Delhi B/L/D

Depart Ranthambore and catch the train to Delhi. The remainder of your day within the Indian capital is at leisure.

### Day 15 : Delhi to UK B

After breakfast transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

### Hotel Information

Your stay in Ranthambore will take place at the following hotels:

#### 4★ Ranthambore Regency Hotel (2 nights):

This family-run hotel offers guests a peaceful and comfortable stay with well-appointed garden or poolside rooms and excellent service. Ranthambore has one of the best tiger habitats in the world and this, together with the hotel staff's local knowledge, provides the best chance of spotting tigers in the wild.

Address: Ranthambore Rd, Saptar, Sawaimadhapur, Rajasthan 322001, India

Telephone: 0091 7462 221 176

#### 4★ Radisson Blu Dwarka (2 night):

Located in a tranquil setting away from the bustle of the city and within walking distance of the Delhi Metro, the Radisson Blu Hotel New Delhi Dwarka boasts an excellent range of services and facilities.

Address: Plot 4, Dwarka City Centre, Sector 13, Dwarka New Delhi India

Telephone: 0091 1130 908 000

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

If the hotels listed are unavailable an alternative will be used of a similar standard.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any meals not included, drinks and personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, and any extra snacks.

### Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour. You will be met by a local guide, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

### Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details while you are in Ranthambore;

#### Earthen Experiences

Mr. Mohammad Kaushar – General Manager:

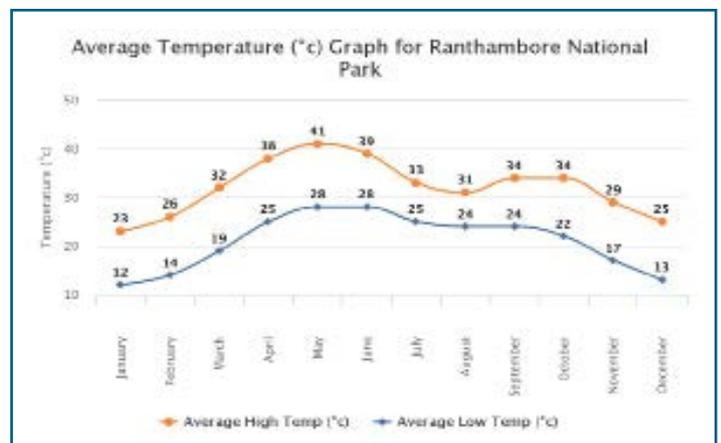
24 hour number: 0091 98 9974 0800

E-mail Address: mohammad.kaushar@earthenexperiences.com

Mr. Anuj Negi – Director: 24 hour number: 0091 99 1085 9004

E-mail Address: anuj.negi@earthenexperiences.com

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE



# Shimla Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



## TRIP OVERVIEW

As capital of the state of Himachal Pradesh, the engaging town of Shimla is a popular resort for tourists and local vacationers alike. This former British summer capital still retains much of its colonial heritage and is the perfect extension to your tour of India.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Shimla.

### Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

### DAY 11: Udaipur to Delhi B

Depart Udaipur and fly to Delhi where you will be met on arrival and taken to your hotel for the rest of the day at leisure.

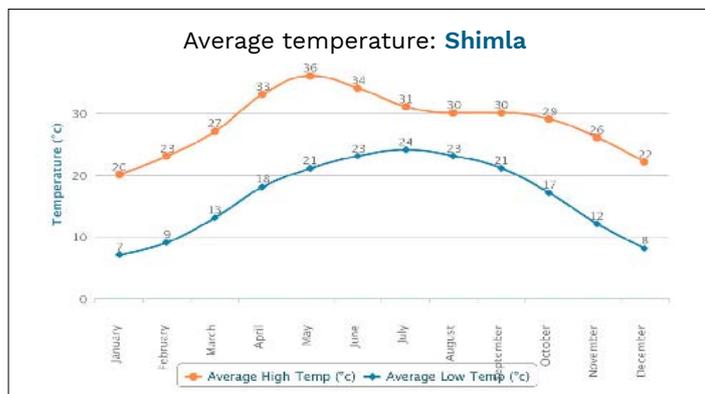
### DAY 12: Delhi to Shimla B

This morning you be transferred to the station in Delhi to board the train to Kalka. On arrival you will be met and start your journey to Shimla. Set amidst the snow-capped Shivalik mountain range, the hill town holiday resort displays many examples of its colonial past including charming iron lamp posts and hand-painted signs. Your evening will be at leisure to explore the local bazaars and pedestrianised streets.

### DAY 13: Shimla and Kufri B

Just 30 minutes drive from Shimla is the beautiful town of Kufri, surrounded by dense forest and stunning mountain scenery. After lunch in a local restaurant you will be taken on a tour of Viceregal Lodge, the impressive former summer residence of the British Raj leader who governed the entire Indian subcontinent until 1946. Following some time learning about some of the significant decisions made within the viceroy, you will be transferred back to your hotel in Shimla.

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE



### DAY 14: Shimla to Delhi B

After breakfast you will drive to Kalka in time to catch the train back to Delhi where you will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel.

### DAY 15: Delhi to the UK B

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

### Hotel Information

#### Delhi (2 nights): 4★ Radisson Blu Dwarka

Plot 4, Dwarka City Centre, Sector 13, Dwarka New Delhi India  
 Contact number: 0091 1130 908 000

#### Shimla (2 nights): 4★ Hotel Zion

The Zion - An Amritara Resort Near Sankat Mochan (Old Muhal Badai),  
 171006 - Shimla.

Contact number: 0091 177 283 1455

If the hotels listed are unavailable alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

### Tour guides

This is a fully escorted tour extension, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as lunch and dinner plus souvenirs and laundry.



4★ Radisson Blu Dwarka

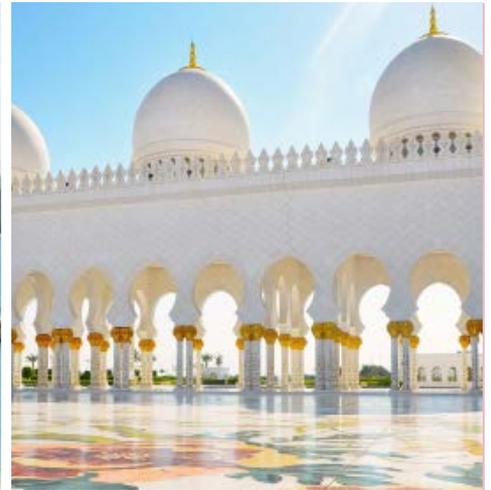
## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**

# Dubai City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0843 224 0723



## TRIP OVERVIEW

An extension to Dubai and its Emirates is the perfect place to relax and soak in the Arabian sun which shines out of a clear blue sky day after day. The United Arab Emirates offer a kaleidoscope of attractions from bustling city centres to rugged mountains and idyllic beaches.

## ITINERARY & DETAILS

*This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extension in Dubai.*

### Hotel (2 nights)

Your stay in Dubai will take place at one of the following hotels:

**4★ Marco Polo** on Bed & Breakfast.

#### Hotel Information

Address: Al Mateena St, Al Muteena, Deira, Dubai, United Arab Emirates  
Contact number: 00971 4 272 0000

**5★ Carlton Palace Hotel** on Bed & Breakfast.

#### Hotel Information

Address: Al Maktoum Rd Deira, Dubai 56262 United Arab Emirates  
Contact number: 00971 4 227 0000

**5★ Stella Di Mare** on Bed & Breakfast.

#### Hotel Information

Address: Al Mattla'ee Street - Dubai - United Arab Emirates  
Contact number: 00971 4 563 5555

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

**Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.**

### Visas

All UK passport holders do not require a visa.

### Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry plus any meals and drinks that are not included.

### Tour Guides

Your stay in Dubai is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

### Currency

The currency in Dubai is the UAE Dirham.

### Festivals

Ramadan will fall for a 1 month period sometime in May/June. Please be advised that restaurants, bars and facilities may close during this period. Please ask Reservations for details.

## FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your e-ticket and final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0843 224 0723**

### Tourist tax

The Emirates of Dubai and Ras Al Khaimah have introduced a compulsory tourist tax on all hotel accommodation, to be paid by guests at the hotel before departure. Please ask Reservations for details.

### Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour. Applies when flying with Emirates.

### On your arrival

On your arrival in Dubai you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Desert Gate**, holding a sign displaying: "Guest Name". The Mercury Holidays/Desert Gate representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Desert Gate during your stay the details are:

### Desert Gate Tourism

Address: 16E1, IRise Tower, Tecom, P O Box19271, Dubai Office number: 009714 442 1155  
Email: premium@desertgate.ae

### Emergency Contact details

Tel (24hr): 00971 52 750 2173  
Jiri (Representative): 00971 52 332 4356 Romina (Representative): 00971 52 614 7659 Airport Representative (24hr): 00971 52 7502173

