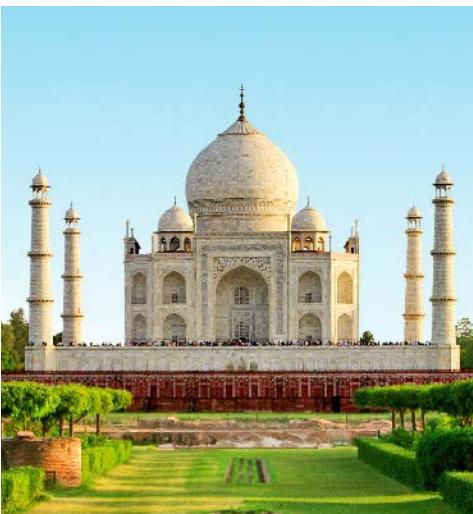


TAJ, TIGERS AND BOMBAY



TRIP OVERVIEW

Travelling from Mumbai to Jaipur, this twelve day, ten night tour of the Golden Triangle and the exotic Ranthambore National Park takes you through India's most famous sights. Ride a rickshaw around Old Delhi, marvel at the Taj Mahal in Agra and discover the Pink City. Spend two nights in Ranthambore where you'll have the chance to spot Royal Bengal tigers on safari.

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: Manchester to Mumbai

Depart Manchester on your direct scheduled, overnight flight to Mumbai Airport.

DAY 2: Mumbai B/L/D

On arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After lunch depart for a tour of Mumbai. Delight in admiring such sites as the grand Jain Temple before meandering through the Hanging Gardens with amazing views of the city and sea. Continue to the museum of Mani Bhavan and finally explore the beautiful Kamala Nehru Park.

DAY 3: Mumbai B/L/D

Visit the iconic stone arch landmark known as the Gateway of India to board a motorboat to Elephanta Island and explore the UNESCO listed ancient caves dedicated to the Hindu God Shiva.

DAY 4: Mumbai to Delhi B/L/D

Fly to Delhi and take a short tour of New Delhi. Offering you a taste of its imperial glory, you'll drive past the India Gate, President's House, Parliament Building and visit the Birla Temple.

DAY 5: Delhi B/L/D

A full day tour of Delhi commences after breakfast, beginning with historic Old Delhi. Travelling through the narrow and crowded streets on a rickshaw, passing vibrant food markets of Old Delhi. A visit to the regal Red Fort gives you a sense of the lavish life once led by the former rulers before stopping for lunch in a local restaurant. Your tour will continue on to New Delhi to see the Mahatma Gandhi memorial and the 12th century Qutab Minar.

DAY 6: Delhi to Agra B/L/D

After breakfast, you will be driven to Agra arriving at your hotel in time for lunch. During the afternoon, you will visit the vast red sandstone Agra Fort. The colossal walled city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

DAY 7: Agra to Ranthambore B/L/D

Today starts with a tour of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the spectacular Taj Mahal. Taking 17 years and 20,000 men to build, the heartbroken Mughal Emperor Shahjahan dedicated this marble monument of love to his deceased wife to enshrine her mortal remains. Following this, travel to Ranthambore National Park where you will spend the night.

DAY 8: Ranthambore B/L/D

Ranthambore National Park is home to a variety of species, including tigers, leopards and jungle cats. Enjoy an early morning jungle safari where you may even spot the elusive tiger. Return to your hotel for breakfast, lunch and some leisure time. A second safari trip will follow in the afternoon to visit other areas of the park.

DAY 9: Ranthambore to Jaipur B/L/D

Today journey to the Pink City of Jaipur, which got its name from the distinctive earthy red coloured buildings. Enjoy the rest of the day free for relaxing or exploring the largest city in Rajasthan.

DAY 10: Jaipur B/L/D

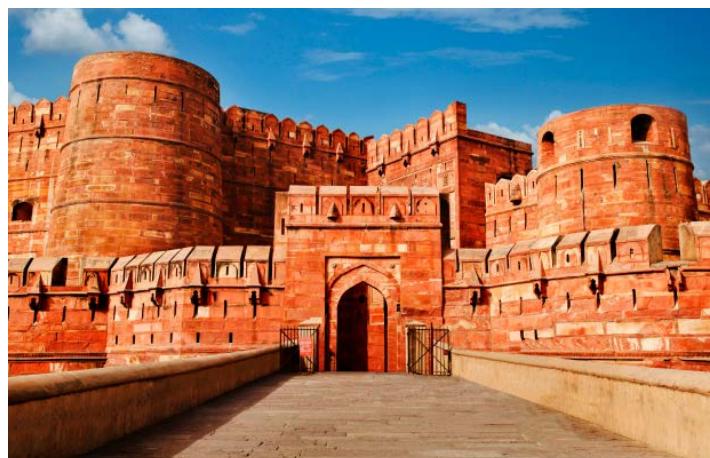
Begin your first day in Jaipur with a visit to the Amber Fort. Spanning over four huge courtyards, you will travel into the centre of the fort. An afternoon tour of Jaipur takes in the major sights, including the City Palace, the observatory of Jantar Mantar and Hawa Mahal, the 'Palace of Winds'.

DAY 11: Jaipur to Delhi B/L/D

The morning is left free, so why not visit some of the local bazaars and stalls to shop or to sample the delicious street food that Jaipur has to offer. Return to Delhi for a final farewell dinner & dance show.

DAY 12-13: Delhi to Manchester B

After breakfast, take a full day at leisure to relax and explore Delhi at your own pace, before boarding your overnight flight to Manchester or continue on to your extension.



ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Hotel information

Mumbai (2 nights) 4★ The Fern Residency

Address: B-411, Acres Club, Hemu Kalani Marg, Sindhi Society, Chembur East, Mumbai, Maharashtra 400071, India
Contact number: 0091 22 2523 8000

Delhi (3 nights) 4★ Park Plaza Shahdara

Address: Plot 32 Shahdara Extension Central Business District, Delhi 110095, India
Contact number: 0091 11 4563 0000

Agra (1 night) 5★ Crystal Sarovar Premiere, Agra

Address: Fatehabad Rd, Near KFC, Tajganj, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282001, India
Contact number: 0091 562 711 0711

Ranthambore (2 nights) 4★ Hotel Ranthambore Regency

Address: Ranthambhor Rd, Subhash Nagar, Saptar, Sawai Madhopur, Rajasthan 322001, India
Contact number: 0091 7462 221 176

Jaipur (2 nights) 5★ KK Royal Hotel

Address: Amer Rd, Amer, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302028, India
Contact number: 0091 141 405 5000



Accommodation

All accommodation is 4 and 5★ and features an en suite bathroom, heating/air-conditioning, satellite TV and tea/coffee facilities. Mercury Holidays has visited and inspected all of the hotels to ensure that they meet the high standards of service which we require for our clients. If the hotels detailed are not available alternatives will be used of a similar standard.

Final confirmation of your hotels will be sent in a document approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

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

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

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

Jayasree Travels and Tours

P.O Box 5236,
Pettah
Thiruvananthapuram
Kerala
India
Telephone Number: 0091 471 2505067

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Jayasree Travel and Tours

Contact	Telephone number
Ms Jayasree Vikraman:	00919747005888
Mrs Samitha Azhar:	00919744713380
Mr Biju Unnikrishnan.A.G:	0091 9526188860
Mr Harish Kumar:	0091 952 618 8859
Mrs Prashansa Alkesh:	0091 997 148 8995/0091 9958988772

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Warm clothing and thermals in winter
- Camera and charger
- An electric plug converter
- Loo paper for public WCs
- Binoculars
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters, stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (Mumbai) via Dubai with Emirates (EK) departing from Manchester Airport Terminal 1.

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 30kg of hold luggage plus 1 item of hand luggage not exceeding 55cm x 38cm x 20cm 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 Holidays". 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.

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 Holidays 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, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with an average level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves full days of sightseeing, often on foot, and includes some climbing of stairs and getting on and off coaches and boats. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

Tour Guides

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 locations which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Tipping

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 40. 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 Kerala is the Indian 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.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry and extra drinks and snacks. Approximately £100-£200 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour.

Credit Card Information

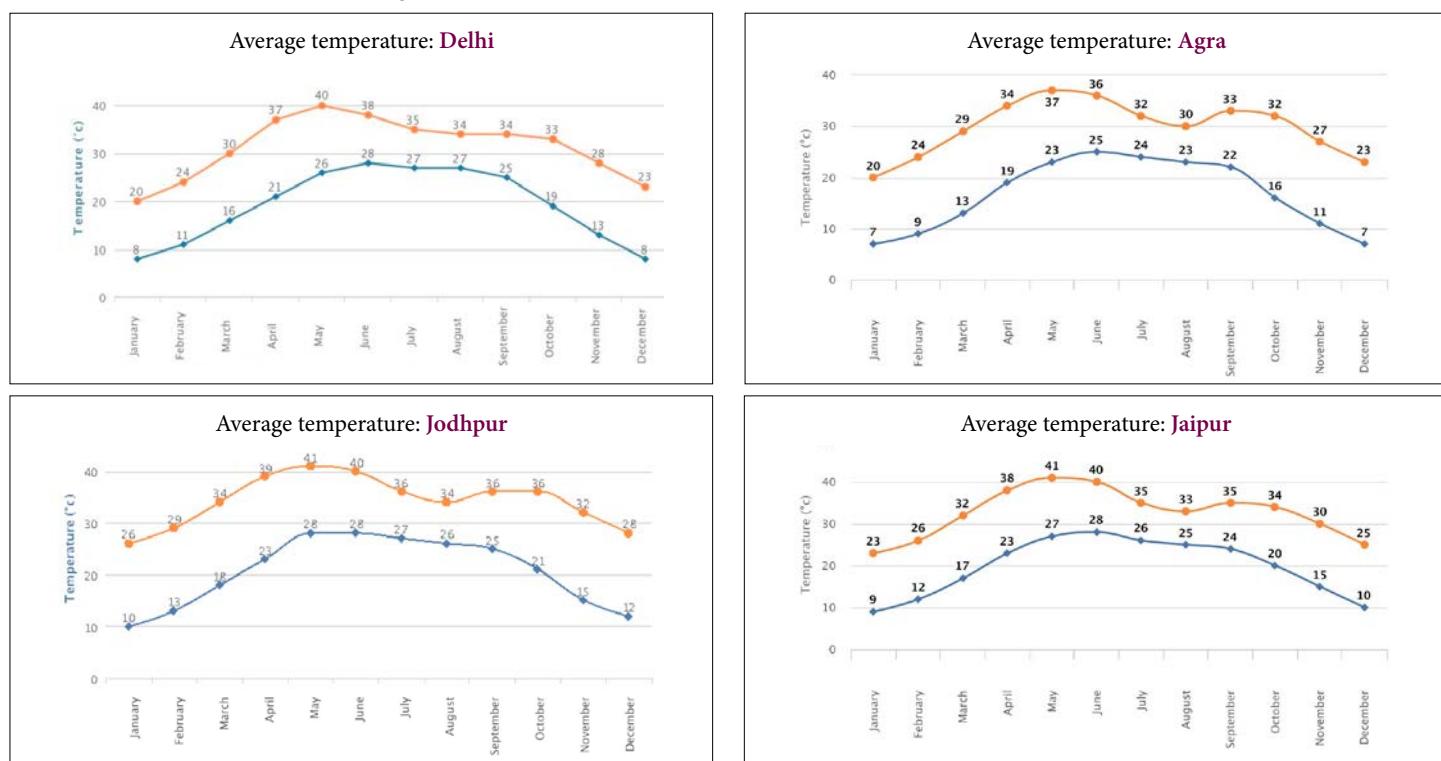
As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. 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 and/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.

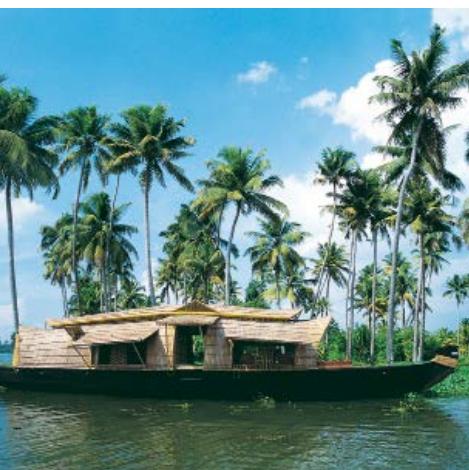
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



HIGHLIGHTS OF KERALA

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



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your 4 night/5 day Highlights of Kerala tour offers the perfect opportunity to explore one of the most beautiful and distinctive states in India.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 13: Delhi to Kochi (Cochin) B

Depart Delhi in the morning for your flight to Kochi in India's beautiful southern state of Kerala, where you will be met and transferred to your hotel.

Day 14: Kochi to Alleppey B

This morning embark on a city tour of Cochin including the impressive Chinese fishing nets, the Mattancherry Dutch Palace and St. Francis, the oldest European church in India. Then continue on to Alleppey where you will board a traditional houseboat which will be both your transport and accommodation. This leisurely cruise takes you through the winding backwaters of Kerala, meandering through the beautiful lagoons, rivers and canals whilst enjoying the local food and stunning rural scenery of the surrounding villages.

Day 15: Alleppey to Thekkady B

Disembarking your houseboat after breakfast, your tour continues with a drive through the spectacular countryside. Journey on to Thekkady, a stunning area located high in the Cardamom hills containing tea gardens, rubber, coffee and pepper plantations. Following lunch, board a boat at Periyar Lake where you can view various species of wildlife and enjoy picturesque scenery.

Day 16: Thekkady to Kochi (Cochin) to the UK B

After breakfast proceed to Cochin and check in at your hotel. This evening you will experience a Kathakali performance, a traditional Keralan dance show.

Day 17: Kochi to Mumbai B

After breakfast travel to the airport for your flight to the UK.

Currency

The currency in Kerala is the Rupee or Rs. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you.

Tour guides

This add-on to Kerala is fully escorted.

Hotel Information

Cochin (2 nights): 5★ Casino Hotel

Address: KPK Menon Rd, Willingdon Island, Kochi, Kerala 682003, India
Contact number: 0091 484 286 4500

Alleppey Tradition Houseboat: (1 night)

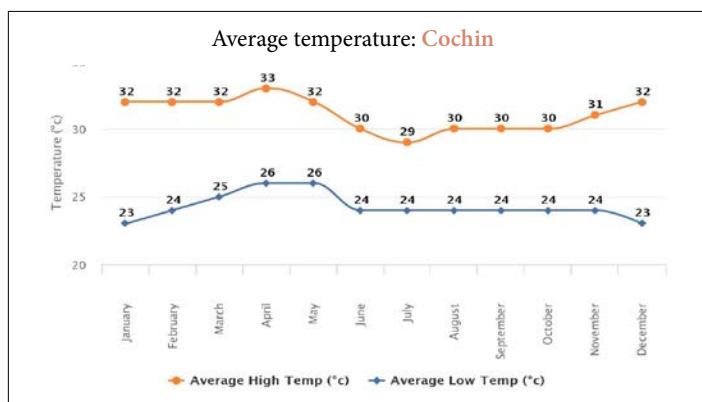
Thekkady (1 night): 3★ Aranya Nivas

Address: Thekkady P.O., Kumily, Kerala 685536, India
Contact number: 0091 4869 222 023

Alcoholic drinks

Please note that Kerala has strict laws regarding the governance of the sale of alcohol in public places including hotels and restaurants. The sale and consumption of alcohol is therefore often restricted in hotels, varying from one establishment to another. You may however bring your own alcohol with you for private consumption in your room.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



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**