

Darjeeling, Sikkim and the Himalayas



TRIP OVERVIEW

From bustling Kolkata with its rich colonial heritage, head to the astounding natural beauty of Darjeeling and Sikkim on a journey into the Himalayas. Discover verdant tea plantations, Buddhist monasteries and breathtaking views across snow-capped mountains on a trip to a unique and less visited part of India.

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 airline and hotel details and visa requirements.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: London to Kolkata

Depart London on your overnight flight to Kolkata.

DAY 2: Kolkata D

Upon arrival into the 'City of Joy', transfer to tonight's hotel and uncover the magnificent sights of this city of contrasts on an enlightening afternoon orientation tour. Be transported back in time with a visit to one of South Asia's finest surviving Colonial centres, Dalhousie Square, a bustling plaza in the heart of modern Kolkata. Fringed by a spectacular array of historical and architectural wonders, catch a glimpse of the high roofed white dome of Kolkata's General Post Office and the impressive St Paul's Cathedral. A remarkable example of Gothic Revival architecture, three intricately embellished stained-glass windows dominate the cathedral's majestic façade and flood its ornate interior with a spectacular kaleidoscopic showcase.

DAY 3: Kolkata to Darjeeling B/L/D

After breakfast, embark on a short flight to Bagdogra before twisting through the fluctuating landscapes of Darjeeling, an area often referred to as the Queen of Hills. With a tranquil ambience, Darjeeling serves as India's core tea growing district, affording breath-taking views of rolling hills and emerald green tea plantations which stretch along the horizon. Framed by some of the world's highest pinnacles, the imposing peaks of the Himalayas establish an unforgettable backdrop.

DAY 4: Darjeeling B/L/D

Early this morning, ascend 8,300ft into the dizzying heights of Tiger Hills to see the first peek of sunlight emerge over the tip of Mount Kanchenjunga the highest point in the Darjeeling Hills. A picturesque descent leads you back to the hotel for breakfast. Later this morning, the charming Toy Train zigzags along narrow, mountainous tracks through small villages and lush green vegetation to reach the iconic Batasia Loop, an encircling segment of railway track, constructed to ease the mountain's steep gradient. A popular observation point, disembark to wander twisting pathways and blossoming gardens and discover the centralised poignant war memorial, dedicated to the soldiers who lost their lives in various wars after Indian Independence.

Please note: Mountain views are dependent on weather conditions

DAY 5: Darjeeling to Gangtok B/L/D

This morning, transfer to the largest town and capital of Sikkim, Gangtok; an area of supreme beauty, this tiered district is one of the most beautiful areas in the state. En-route to the heart of Gangtok, stop at the small hillside retreat of Lamahatta, a peaceful village nestled amongst towering pine trees, and embark on a short hike within Lamahatta Park, where nature lovers will relish in this biodiverse haven, laden with an extensive

variety of flora and fauna. Continue onwards to experience the charged energy emanating from one of Gangtok's oldest streets, the Lal Bazaar - a swarming market square where local vendors congregate to sell an abundance of produce, traditional clothing and local goods, to name just a few. A visual delight, feast your eyes on the market's vibrant showcase of fresh vegetables, before a leisurely stroll leads you to Gangtok's principle shopping boulevard - MG Marg, whose teeming shops, cafes and restaurants generate a dynamic ambience.

DAY 6: Gangtok B/L/D

A full day city tour of Gangtok commences at the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, a fascinating museum brimming with a varied collection of local arts and crafts. Next, venture to the Research Institute of Tibetology to examine a splendid exhibition of unique Tibetan artefacts, including statues, paintings and Thangkas; exemplifying traditional Sikkimese architecture, this distinctive establishment's foundation stone was laid by the 14th Dalai Lama in 1957. En-route to Tashiview Point, stop at the Do-Drul Chorten, which, crowned by a gilded dome, can be spotted from numerous vantage points across Gangtok. Later, discover the 1,001 golden Buddha statues concealed behind the flamboyant walls of Rumtek Monastery, and conclude today's tour at Enchey Monastery, whose literal meaning translates as the 'solitary temple', a fitting name for this peaceful hillside sanctuary.

Please note: The Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom is closed on Saturday, Sunday and during local festivals and national holidays.

DAY 7: Gangtok to Kalimpong B/L/D

Departing Gangtok this morning, transfer to the foothills of the mighty Himalayas, visiting the quiet town of Kalimpong. A serene ambience dominates this religiously symbolic district which is intensified by copious monasteries and churches peppering the landscape. At your own pace, spend the day at leisure to enjoy views of the Himalayas and explore the town's local architecture, where remnants of the British era continue to be seen.

DAY 8: Kalimpong B/L/D

After breakfast, enjoy a city tour of the sleepy town of Kalimpong, beginning at the extravagant Mangal Dham, a distinctive pink temple complex set amongst an excellently preserved garden which booms with a wealth of vibrant flowers, extending over 2 acres of land. Built in memory of the guru ShirMangaldasju who dedicated his life to serving the town's most deprived residents, this unique shrine is one of the most significant religious centres in Kalimpong. Next, soar 1,704 metres above sea level upon DeoloHill, catching sight of spellbinding views overlooking the region, and gain an alternative perspective from the neighbouring Durpin Dara Hills. Finally, exhibited at Pine View Nursery, admire a dazzling showcase of more than 1,500 species of Cacti from around the globe, the largest singular collection in Asia, before enjoying an evening at leisure.

DAY 9: Kalimpong - Bagdogra - Kolkata B

This morning, journey to Bagdogra Airport and board your scheduled flight to Kolkata, spending the evening at leisure.

DAY 10/11: Kolkata to UK or extension B

Depart Kolkata on your return flight to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.

ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation guide

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.

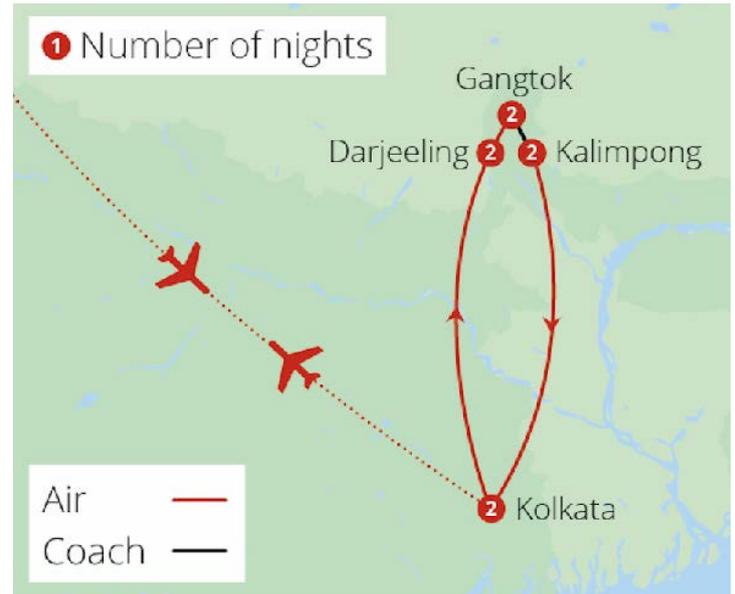
Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

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.

Please note: 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. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Your initial flight is to Kolkata, via Dubai with Emirates, 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 (per person)

Each passenger is entitled to 25kg 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.

ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Kolkata you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Jayasree Travels & Tours, 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 you may have, however if you need to contact JayasreeTravels during your stay the details are:

Jayasree Travels and Tours

Address: F 341-Ground Floor Lado Sarai New Delhi 110030

Telephone Number: 0091 471 2505067

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Jayasree Travels:

Name	Contact Number
Mrs Samitha Azhar	0091 974 471 3380
Mr Biju Unnikrishnan	0091 952 618 8860
Mr Harish Kumar	0091 952 618 8859
Mr Amit Bhardwaj	0091 995 898 8719

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

India: 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. Please inform them that you will be visiting Sikkim and if you plan to take one of our India Extensions as you will be required to have a multi entry visa. Alternatively you can visit The Indian Visa Application Centre in London: 142-148 Goswell Road, London, EC1B 7DU. British passport holders do not need to obtain a visa for Nepal prior to departure.

The standard Indian visa is valid for Darjeeling & Kalimpong (no special permit is required). For visits to Sikkim an ILP (Inner Line Permit) is required which is available for no additional cost: simply mention the visit to Sikkim at the time of applying for your India visa. If you have a valid Indian visa and do not have an ILP, our tour escort can organise this for you (on arrival at the entry point/s).

For Sikkim ILP (Inner Line Permit), Sikkim Tourism has made the ILP ap-

plication form available online. The procedure is as follows:

1. Visit the website www.sikkimilp.in fill in the form, upload and you will be given a unique number
2. Print off the form and keep it with your other travel documents.
3. On arrival with this form you will receive the ILP from Sikkim Tourism office at Delhi, Kolkata, Bagdogra Airport, Rongpoo & Melli Checkpost.
4. Your photograph will be taken at these checkpoints and all documents (passport, visas) will be scanned by Indian Customs officials.
5. The ILP is then issued.

We strongly recommend that you bring a photocopy of the following documents, together with the original. Namely 06 copies of your photograph, 6 photocopies of your passport, and 6 copies of your valid Indian Visa.

NB The ILP (Inner Line Permit) cannot be given to certain foreign nationals on arrival at the checkpoints and must be arranged before travel. These are: Chinese from mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau, Pakistan, Nigeria, Bangladesh & Burma (Myanmar).

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 cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. Should the tour not meet minimum numbers, then it will be operated with local guides only.

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

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.

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 £400-£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.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 20. 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.

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.

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 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

Darjeeling, Sikkim and the Himalayas is rated as 3 Dots meaning that the tour pace is Advanced. A higher level of fitness as required as you may be on your feet for most of the day though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, getting on and off coaches, trains, boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. There may be some time spent at high altitude. You will stay in variety of hotels, possibly including overnight trains, and accommodation standards may not match those you are used to at home.

Our guides will always endeavour 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.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you may 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. MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Internal Transportation

Vehicles appropriate to the size of your group will be used on this tour. In Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Gangtok this may include 7-seater Innova Vans which due to the small roads and local conditions are the most comfortable way to travel. There will be no more than four guests to one vehicle.

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



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 1,344km² 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 9: Bagdogra to Delhi B/D

Following breakfast in Bagdogra, fly to India's capital for a day at leisure.

Day 10: 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 11: 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 12 : Ranthambore to Delhi B/L/D

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

Day 13 : 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 hotel:

4★ Ranthambore Regency Hotel (2 nights):

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

Address: Ranthambore Rd, Saptar, Sawaimadhopur, Rajasthan 322001, India. Telephone: 0091 7462 221 176

Your stay in Delhi will take place at the following hotel:

5★ The Metropolitan Hotel and Spa (2 nights):

Located in the heart of New Delhi, this hotel has a certificate of excellence.

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.

Facilities include an outdoor swimming pool and a health spa. Room facilities include LED flat screen TV, FREE Wi-Fi, tea and coffee maker and safe and have a choice of a pool or city view.

Hotel information: Bangla Sahib Rd, Sector 4, Gole Market, New Delhi, Delhi 110001, India. Telephone: 0091 11 4250 0200

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

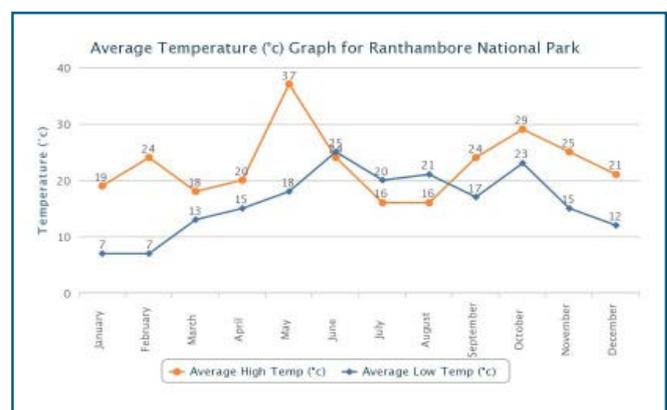
Personal Expenses

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

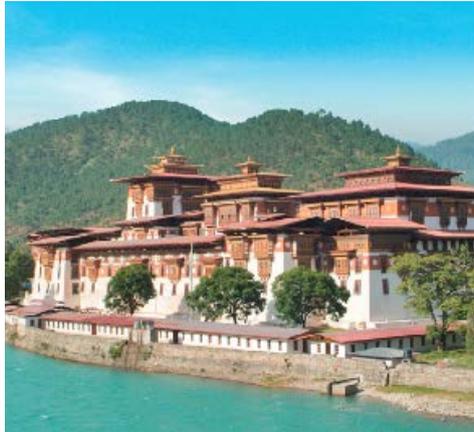
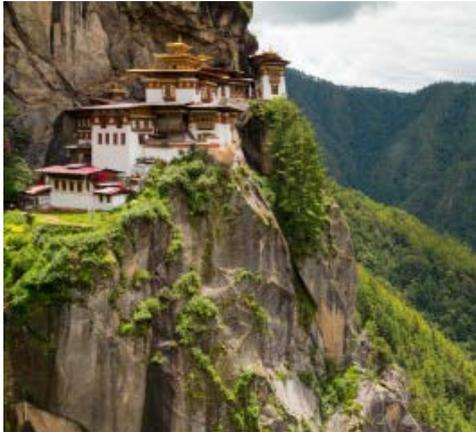
This is a fully escorted tour. You will be met by a local guide, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. For groups of up to 10 travellers, a local English-speaking guide will accompany you during your visit. For groups with more than 10 travellers, a full tour escort will be provided throughout your trip.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



Mystical Bhutan

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 extension to mystical Bhutan offers you the chance to become one of the privileged few to say they have experienced this beautiful kingdom in this relatively untouched corner of the Himalayas.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 9: Bagdoro to Paro B/D

Depart Kolkata in the morning for your flight to Paro in Bhutan, offering incredible views across the entire Himalayan region. Your guide will meet you on arrival and accompany you to Thimphu, stopping en-route to admire the joining of the Thimphu and Paro Rivers at Chuzom before arriving at your hotel with some time to relax. In the afternoon visit the impressive fortress of Trashichoedzong, then 'Buddha Point' where locals chant prayers to the largest Buddha statue in Bhutan. In the evening explore Thimphu's main market area and browse through paintings, hand-woven textiles and jewellery.

Day 10 : Thimpu to Paro B/L/D

Explore the Thimphu valley with a trip to the National Library and the King's Memorial Chorten – a monument constructed to represent world peace and prosperity. Taking the scenic highway back to Paro appreciate the dramatic river valleys before arriving at your hotel late morning. Next visit Ta Dzong, originally built as a watchtower during the 1864 Duar War and now home to the National Museum focussing on royal memorabilia and Bhuddist art.

Day 11 : Paro B/L/D

Visit the breath-taking Taktshang Monastery perched on the side of a cliff, a place of worship recognised as one of Bhutan's most famous monasteries. In the afternoon drive to the ruins of Drukgyel built back in 1649 as a control point along the route to Tibet.

Day 12 : Paro to Kolkata B

Depart Paro after breakfast for your return flight to Kolkata, with the rest of the day at leisure.

Day 13 : Kolkata to the UK B

Transfer to Kolkata airport for your flight to the UK.

Hotel Information (4 nights on Bed and Breakfast)

Kolkata: (1 night) 4★ Zone by the Park - DG Block (Newtown), Action Area I, Newtown, New Town, West Bengal, 700156

Contact number: 033 2324 6300

Paro, Bhutan: (3 nights) 3★ The Village Lodge - Paro, Bhutan.

Contact number: 00975 8 272 340

Or

3★ Tashi Phuntshok - Paro, Bhutan.

Contact number: 00975 8 272216

Thimphu, Bhutan: (3 nights) 3★ Hotel Gakyil - Wozzim Lam, Thimphu, 00975 Bhutan.

Contact number: 00975 2 339 640

Or

Thimphu, Bhutan: (3 nights) 3★ Hotel Kisa - Chang Lam, Thimpu, Bhutan.

Contact number: 00975 2 336494

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

Meals

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

Visas

British Passport Holders do need a permit to enter Bhutan. However, we have included the cost of this in the extension price and the Mercury Holidays representative will give this to you before you depart Nepal for your flight to Paro. You will also need to make sure you request a multiple entry visa on arrival in Nepal at the start of your main tour.

Tour guides

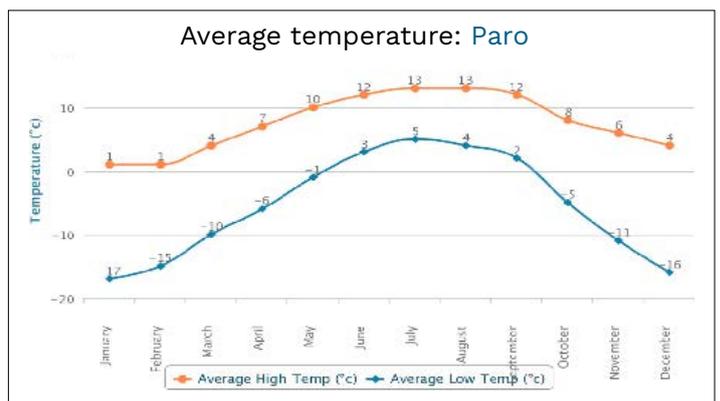
This is a fully escorted tour extension, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Please note:

Due to frequent flight schedules changes by the domestic airline, some amendments may need to be made to the order of touring within Bhutan.

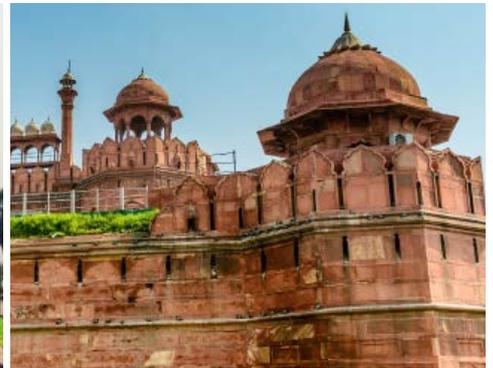
WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



India's Golden Triangle

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



TRIP OVERVIEW

Travelling from Delhi to Agra then Jaipur, this 6 night extension tour of the Golden Triangle takes you through India's most famous sights. Ride a rickshaw around Old Delhi, marvel at the Taj Mahal and discover the Pink City of Jaipur.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your extensions to India's Golden Triangle

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

Day 9: Bagdogra to Delhi B/D

This morning, journey to Bagdogra Airport and board your scheduled flight to New Delhi. Embark on a orientation tour of New Delhi, witnessing the India Gate, President's House, Parliament Building.

Day 10: Delhi B/L/D

A full day tour of Delhi begins in Old Delhi this morning. Travel through the narrow and crowded streets on a rickshaw, visiting the Red Fort along the way. Continue to New Delhi to see the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial and the 12th century Qutab Minar, the tallest stone tower in India.

Day 11: Delhi & Agra B/L/D

Travel to Agra and visit the vast red sandstone Agra Fort, which was built in 1565 and boasts grand palaces, gigantic pavilions and spectacular courtyards.

Day 12: Agra & Jaipur B/L/D

Early this morning, marvel at one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the breath-taking Taj Mahal, later continuing on to Fatehpur Sikri, a magnificent fortified ghost city, en-route to the 'Pink City' of Jaipur.

Day 13: Jaipur B/L/D

Today, wander the courtyards of the spectacular Amber Fort, before embarking on an afternoon city tour of Jaipur, taking in its major sights including The City Palace and the Jantar Mantar. Lastly, marvel at the Hawa Mahal, known to many as the Palace of Winds.

Day 14: Jaipur & Delhi B/L/D

Enjoy a morning at leisure, perhaps choosing to visit some of the local bazaars, or wander the streets and sample the delicious and unique Rajasthani street food that Jaipur has to offer. Return to Delhi and enjoy a farewell dinner and cultural dance show to round off this unforgettable tour.

Day 15: Delhi to the UK B

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to London.

Hotel Information (6 nights on Full Board)

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

Delhi 5★ The Metropolitan Hotel and Spa - Bangla Sahib Rd, Sector 4, Gole Market, New Delhi, Delhi 110001, India.
 Contact number: 0091 11 4250 0200

Agra: 5★ Ramada Plaza Agra - 672 Basai, Fatehabad Road, Agra, Uttar Pradesh 282001, India.
 Contact number: 0091 562 712 3500

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.

Jaipur: 5★ KK Royal Hotel - Amer Road, Amer, Jaipur, Rajasthan 302028
 Contact number: 0091 141 405 5000

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

Meals

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

Currency Exchange

The currency in India is the Rupee or Rs. The Rupee is a closed currency, meaning you cannot buy currency before you travel 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.

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 cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times. For groups of up to 10 travellers, a local English-speaking guide will accompany you during your visit. For groups with more than 10 travellers, a full tour escort will be provided throughout your trip.

Tipping

Tipping is not compulsory and is at your discretion. Should you wish to tip, this will be collected by your guide at the end of your tour for your convenience. It is asked that if you do not tip in the local currency, please do not give coins as these are difficult to exchange.

Travel Plug Adaptor

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.

Dubai City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so, please contact 0843

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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.

Centrally located in the leisure district of Deira, the Marco Polo offers a great range of guest facilities including a roof top pool, plus an excellent selection of restaurants featuring several speciality eateries. The hotel provides a free shuttle service also operates to one of Dubai's beaches.

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.

The luxurious Carlton Palace Hotel is situated upon the exclusive Al Maktoum Street, within the heart of Dubai's business district. The city's best-known and most extravagant shopping malls are in walking distance along the busy waters of Dubai Creek; great nearby transport links will also open up a wealth of opportunities to further explore your surroundings.

Hotel Information

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

OR

5★ Stella Di Mare Dubai Marina on Bed & Breakfast. (Available from April 2020)

This sophisticated 5-star hotel is idyllically positioned just a short walk from a host of stylish shopping complexes, unmissable attractions and the warm waters of the Arabian Gulf. Offering an assortment of excellent guest facilities including an outdoor swimming pool, a choice of bars and a fantastic collection of restaurants, this luxurious hotel exudes elegance. Address: Al Mattla'ee Street - Dubai - United Arab Emirates
Contact: 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 information

Please find below the emergency contact details
24hr: 00971 527502173 Jiri (Representative): 00971 523324356 Romina (Representative): 00971 526147659 Airport Rep. (24hr): 00971 527502173

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.

