# Namaste Tours

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#### Namaste!

Established in 1999, NAMASTE TOURS is a specialist, top-quality destination Management Company. Since inception, Namaste's mission has been to create customized travel solutions, covering the length and breadth of India and the subcontinent. Programs that are on offer go beyond the ordinary and bring the visitor in contact with the heart of the country, the essence of the culture and the diversity of its people, religion, cuisine, weather systems and terrain. This poses both a significant challenge as well as an opportunity to create a wealth of experiences. We weave each program with the Indian ethos of warmth and hospitality.

We cater to incentives houses, professional & trade associations, specialist tour companies and above all, the discerning traveler.

NAMASTE TOURS is recognized by the Government of India, Tourism department and is a member of various National and International travel bodies such as IATO, ASTA, TAAI and PATA

We take care of our clients in "cotton wool".

Should you require any further information/assistance, we are at your complete disposal.

Sincerely,

**P. Balasubramanyan**Director Sales & Marketing





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civilization at work.

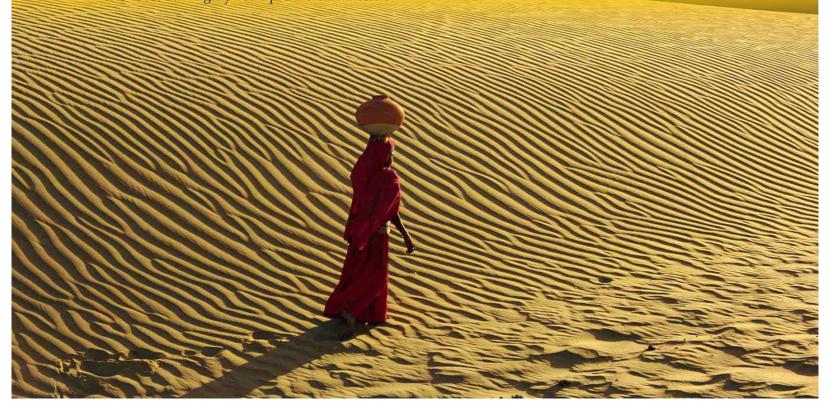
ndia's social complexity and cultural diversity are legendry. The nation's population is the second largest in the world, an incredible mosaic of more than a billion inhabitants - one sixth of the worlds human beings. A multitude of ethnic groups & classes abound in this great country, the world's largest democracy.

In modern India turbaned Rajputs rub shoulders with suited businessmen. The sonorous tones of Muslim call to prayer blend with the clang of Hindu temple bells and the lively radio broadcast. The roar of jet planes from far above resound in the ears of ox-cart drivers. In every village, every town, and every region of India, one sees a highly complex and ancient

Great architecture, fine crafts, beautiful arts, complicated systems of agriculture and social organization, inspired religions, magnificent festivals - all are part of daily life for the people of India.

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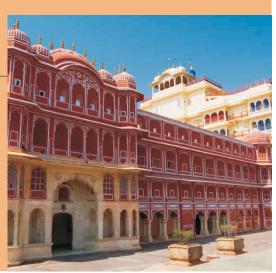
Today's Indians can freely draw upon their deeply rooted heritage as they shape new institutions with which to meet the future. People living today share love and hope with one another, and they also share with the many generations of the past the most heartfelt ambition to create whole and satisfying lives for themselves and their children within the embrace of the land of India.





#### IRRESISTABLE INDIA

She true Indian motif is not just the Taj Mahal, the elephant or the patient peasant behind the ox drawn plough. It is the crowd, the ocean of faces in the land of multitudes, endlessly stirring, pushing and moving. It is in this human circulation that one sees India's colour, variety, busyness, and, senses also its power, vitality and grandeur....





Day 01 Arrive Delhi - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Delhi - After breakfast enjoy a guided tour of Delhi visiting Red Fort, Rajghat, India Gate, Parliament House, Qutub Minar & Humanyun's Tomb. Return back to your hotel for overnight stay.

Day 03 Delhi / Varanasi - Leave early morning by flight to Varanasi. On arrival transfer to hotel. Afternoon guided excursion to Sarnath. Overnight at the hotel in Varanasi.

Day 04 Varanasi - Boat ride at dawn down India's most sacred river, the Ganges. After breakfast, guided city tour of Varanasi. Overnight in Varanasi.

Day 05 Varanasi / Khajuraho - Morning transfer to airport to board plane to Khajuraho. On arrival transfer to hotel. Afternoon visit the Western group of temples, famous for its erotic sculptures. Overnight at the hotel in Varanasi.

Day 06 Khajuraho / Agra - Morning is free at leisure. Afternoon depart by train to Agra and on arrival transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 07 Agra - At sun rise, marvel at the beauty of the Taj Mahal. Enjoy guided tour of Agra, famous for its inlay work, carpets, gold thread embroidery, leather shoes and Agra Fort. Overnight at the hotel in Agra.

Day 08 Agra/Fatehpur Sikri/Jaipur - Morning drive to Jaipur (230 kms) en route visit the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. Arrive Jaipur and check in at hotel for overnight stay.

Day 09 Jaipur - Wake up in the picturesque Pink City of fairy tale palaces and rugged fortresses. Visit Amber Fort. Ride an elephant to ascend the hill on which the Fort is situated. In the afternoon enjoy a guided city tour of Jaipur. Visit City Palace and Jantar Mantar. Overnight in Jaipur.

Day 10 Jaipur / Mandawa - Drive to the medieval town of Mandawa (180 kms), known for its colourful,

exquisitely carved Havelis with beautiful frescoes. On arrival, check in at hotel. Later visit nearby villages to see the lavish Havelis. Overnight at the hotel in Mandawa.

Day 11 Mandawa / Bikaner - In the morning drive to Bikaner (150 kms), the royal fortified city, renowned for the best riding camels in the world. Visit Junagarh Fort. Overnight at the hotel in Bikaner.

Day 12 Bikaner / Deshnok / Jaisalmer - Morning drive to Jaisalmer (331 kms) through Thar Desert en route visiting the 600 year old Karni Mata temple at Deshnok. On arrival in Jaisalmer check in at hotel for overnight stay.

Day 13 Jaisalmer - Explore the city of Jaisalmer visiting city palace, havelies, temples and typical desert life. Visit Jaisalmer fort and enjoy a jeep safari through remote desert villages of Roopsi, Doojasar, Kanoi, Kuldara and Cenotaphs of Barabagh. Afternoon enjoy camel safari in the Thar Desert to see sunset. Overnight at the hotel in Jaisalmer.

Day 14 Jaisalmer / Jodhpur - Early morning drive to Jodhpur and on arrival check-in at hotel. Enjoy a city tour in the afternoon. Visit Mehrangarh fort that soars 125 mts. above the plains. Overnight at the hotel in Jodhpur.

Day 15 Jodhpur / Ranakpur / Udaipur - In the morning drive to Udaipur (260 kms), en route visit the 500 years old Jain Temple complex in Ranakpur. On arrival in Udaipur, check in at hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Udaipur.

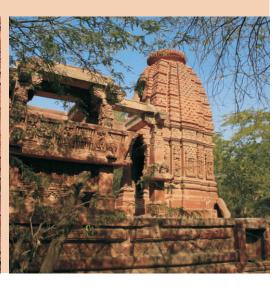
**Day 16 Udaipur / Mumbai** - Enjoy a guided city tour of Udaipur. Afternoon is free. (Optional: enjoy a boat cruise on Lake Pichhola). Evening depart by flight to Mumbai. On arrival in Mumbai, transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

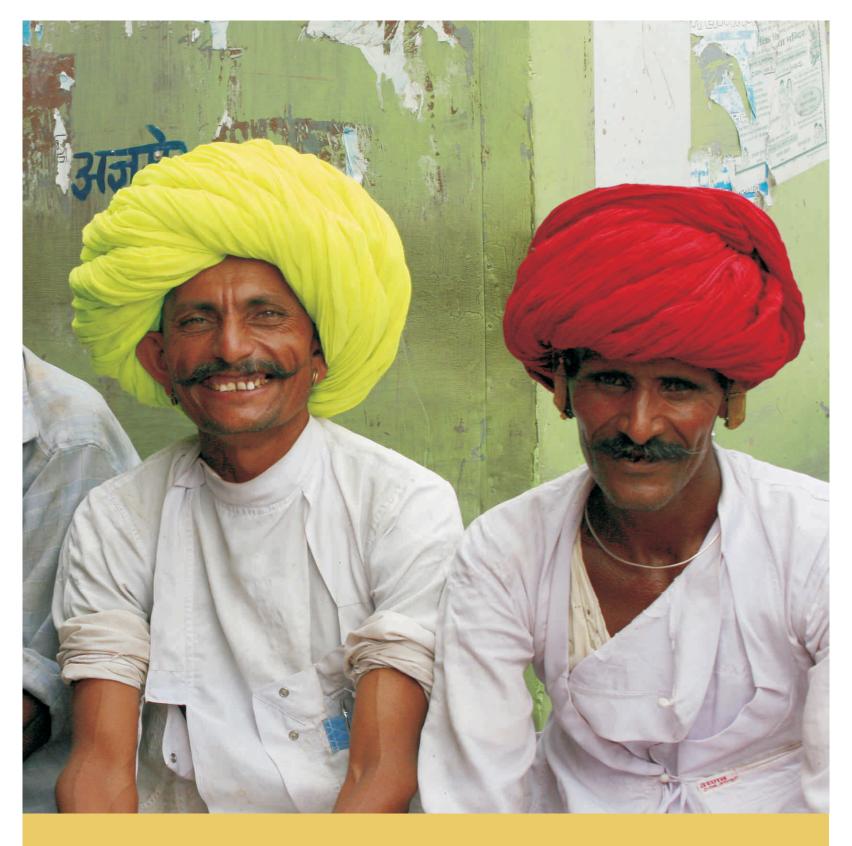
**Day 17 Mumbai** - Take a motor launch from Gateway of India to the Elephanta Caves. Enjoy a guided city tour of Mumbai. Overnight at the hotel in Mumbai.

Day 18 Mumbai / Depart - Full day free for independent activities. Farewell dinner at a Specialty Restaurant in the evening and transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.









## RUSTIC RAJASTHAN TOUR

Rajasthan boasts of a heritage as rich as its landscape. The craftsmen here have been creating the most opulent and richest of treasure. Sand dunes, wooded hills and amazing lakes, palaces and sugged forts, men and women in colorful turbans and skirts, bustling towns and quiet villages, camels, elephants and tigers, harsh sunlight and the cool evening breeze - are all there in abundance.





Day 01 Arrive Delhi - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Delhi - After breakfast enjoy a guided tour of Delhi visiting Red Fort, Rajghat, India Gate, Parliament House, Qutub Minar & Humanyun's Tomb. Return back to your hotel for overnight stay.

Day 03 Delhi / Alsisar - Drive to Alsisar and on arrival check-in at hotel. Afternoon visit fascinating havelies of Alsisar. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 04 Alsisar / Bikaner - Morning depart for Bikaner and check in at hotel. Afternoon Visit Junagarh Fort and Camel Breeding Farm. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 Bikaner / Deshnok / Pokharan / Jaisalmer - Transfer to Jaisalmer visiting Karni Mata temple at Deshnok on the way. En-route, also take lunch at historic Fort Pokharan. Arrive Jaisalmer and check-in check in at hotel.

Day 06 Jaisalmer/Desert Camp - Morning take a tour of Golden Fort, the Jain temples inside, Patwa-ki-haveli, Nathmal-ki-haveli and Salim Singh-ki-haveli. Later visit Sam sand dunes. Also, take short camel ride on the dunes. Overnight at the Desert Camp.

Day 07 Jaisalmer/Jodhpur/Jalamandgarh - Depart for Jalamandgarh en route visiting Mehrangarh Fort at Jodhpur. Also visit nearby Royal Memorial. Stay overnight at heritage hotel Jalamandgarh.

Day 08 Jalamandgarh/Ghanerao - In the morning, visit village to understand the life in rural Rajasthan. Visit Bishnoi-ki-dhani (Bishnoi are a local clan who are very famous for their conservation work). Later proceed to Ghanerao and stay at Royal Castle.

Day 09 Ghanerao / Ranakpur / Kumbhalgarh / Udaipur - In the morning visit Ghanerao village and castle. Later drive to Udaipur visiting Ranakpur to see 15th century

temple. Also visit fort and surroundings at Kumbhalgarh. Arrive at Udaipur and check in at hotel. Overnight at the

**Day 10 Udaipur** - Visit City Palace, Sahelion-ki-bari and Folk Art Museum. In the evening take a boat ride over Lake Pichhola. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 11 Udaipur / Chittaurgarh / Bassi Fort - Drive to Chittaurgarh and visit indomitable pride of Chittaurgarh, its Fort, Kirti Stambha, Vijay Stambha and Padmini's Palace. Overnight at Bassi Fort.

Day 12 Bassi Fort / Kota - In the morning drive to Kota. Later visit City Palace & in house Museum, Jagmandir Palace, Chambal Garden and Chhattar Bilas Garden. Overnight at palace hotel.

Day 13 Kota / Bundi / Pushkar - After breakfast, transfer to Pushkar stopping at Bundi to visit Taragarh Fort, Bundi Palace, Ratan Daulat and various Baoris. Arrive at Pushkar and check in at hotel for overnight stay.

Day 14 Pushkar / Samode - Morning, visit world famous Brahma temple and holy Pushkar Lake. Later depart Pushkar for Samode. On arrival at Samode, check in at opulent Samode Palace. Rest of the day free for independent activities. Overnight at the palace.

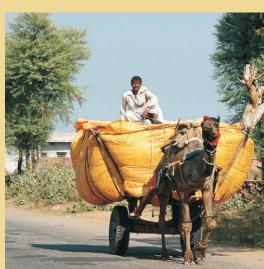
Day 15 Samode / Jaipur / Samode - Today take an excursion to Jaipur and visit Amber Fort, City Palace and Jantar Mantar. Overnight at Samode Palace.

Day 16 Samode / Agra - Depart for Agra stopping en route visiting the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. Arrive Agra and check in at hotel. Later visit Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 17 Agra / Delhi / Departure - Depart Agra for Delhi. Arrive Delhi, transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.



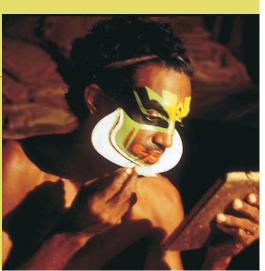






## KERALA-GOD'S OWN COUNTRY

Kerala with its coconut palms, red tiled houses, innumerable lakes, winding backwater canals, beaches, colourful festivals, martial arts and wildlife sanctuaries is once in a lifetime experience. It is one of the enchanting place with equable climate, a long shoreline with serene beaches, tranquil stretches of emerald backwaters, lush hill stations, exotic wildlife, waterfalls, sprawling plantations and paddy fields. It is an ideal place to rejuvenate your body and soul with exclusive Ayuwedic therapies.





Day 01 Arrive Cochin - A warm welcome by our representatives and transfer to hotel. Later take a guided city tour of Cochin, the gateway to Kerala. Enjoy a live performance of Kathakali dance in the evening. Overnight at the hotel in Cochin.

Day 02 Cochin / Munnar - Munnar, a peaceful hill station with its impeccable beauty has become the most sought after destination for a holiday. Munnar was the erstwhile 'Summer Capital' of the British Government in South India. It is the luxuriant gift of nature to the Western Ghats, the eastern border of Kerala and an adjoining part of Tamilnadu. The very name 'Munnar' means three rivers and there are actually three of them, confluence of three mountain streams-Mudrapuzha, Nallathanni and Kundala 5000ft above sea level. Munnar consists of vast sloping areas of tea plantations. In the morning drive to Munnar, en route visiting the fragrant cardamom plantations. On arrival in Munnar, check in at hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel in Munnar.

Day 03 Munnar - The day is free to relax or to visit the bazaars, plantations and to take a boat ride in the lake. Overnight at the hotel in Munnar.

Day 04 Munnar / Periyar - Periyar tiger Reserve, Thekkady, is an example of nature's bounty, with great scenic charm, rich bio diversity and providing veritable visitor satisfaction. Sprawled over an area of 777 Sq. km., Periyar is one of the 27 tiger reserves in India. Zealously guarded and efficiently managed reserve is a repository of rare, endemic and endangered flora and fauna and forms the major watershed of two important rivers of Kerala, the Periyar and Pamba. Early Morning drive to Periyar. On arrival, check in at hotel. Later visit the Periyar Tiger Reserve, one of the finest habitats for the Asiatic elephant and enjoy a boat ride in Lake Periyar. Also visit Kumily

spice market to see and buy spices. Overnight at the hotel in Periyar.

Day 05 Periyar / Kottayam - Early Morning drive to Kottayam. On arrival, switch over to the House Boat and cruise along the backwaters, passing through paddy fields, villages and market. Overnight on board House Boat.

Day 06 Kottayam / Kovalam - Kovalam has three crescent shaped beaches. Shallow waters stretching for hundreds of metres are ideal for swimming. The beaches have steep palm covered headlands and are lined with shops that offer all kinds of goods and services. The larger of the beaches is called Light House Beach for its 35 metre high light house which towers over it atop Kurumkal hillock. The second largest one is Hawah Beach. Visitors frequent these two beaches. The northern part of the beach is known as Samudra Beach in tourism parlance. A large promontory separates this part from the southern side.

Arrive in Alleppey and switch over to car and drive to Kovalam en route stopping at Trivandrum for handicrafts and silk. On arrival in Kovalam, check in at a beach resort. Rest of the day relax or indulge in Ayurvedic massages. Overnight at the beach resort in Kovalam.

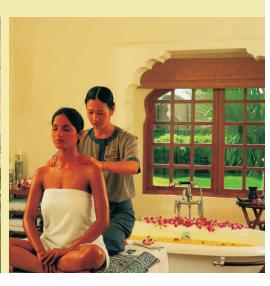
Day 07 Kovalam - Full day free to relax or to revitalize the body and soul with Ayurvedic massage. Overnight at the beach resort in Kovalam.

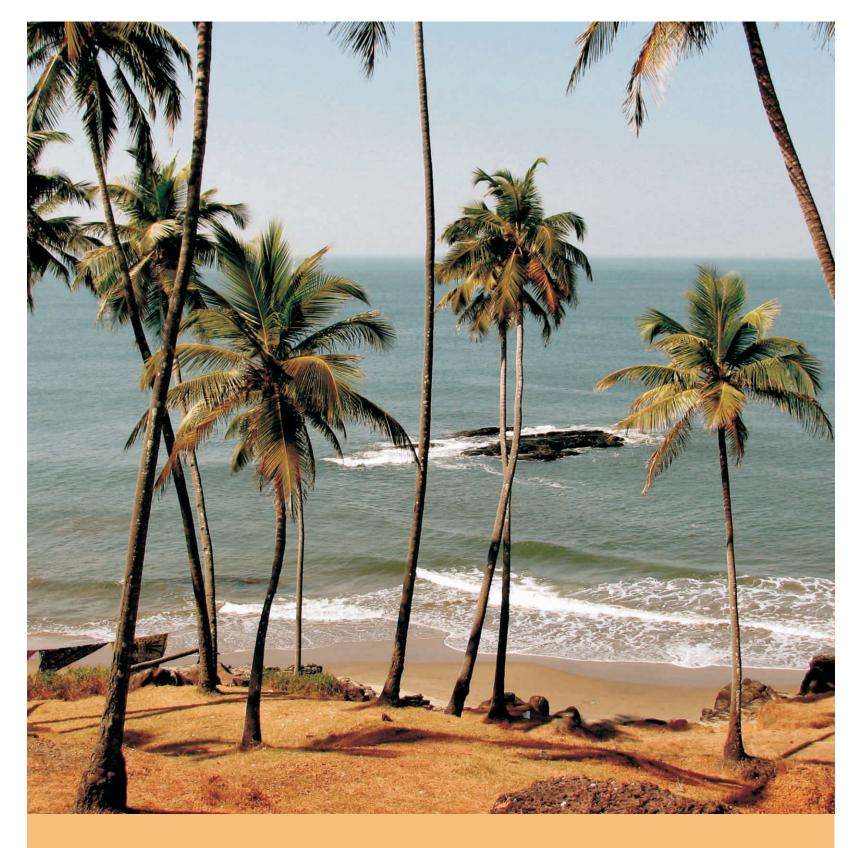
Day 08 Kovalam - The day is at leisure for unwinding or to stroll on the unspoiled beach. Overnight at the beach resort in Kovalam.

Day 09 Kovalam/Trivandrum/Mumbai - In the morning transfer to Trivandrum airport to connect flight to Mumbai. On arrival in Mumbai, transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.









## DISCOVER KARNATAKA

With lofty hills, azure sea, lovely cascades and mysterious forests, Karnataka represents nature at its very best. A visit to the state is sure to create a long lasting impression in your mind. Explore the absolutely wonderful places, be it the Nandi Thills, Kemman Gundi, Madikeri or Kudremukh. Unveil the charm of the sand and the surf in the fantastic beaches. Be captivated by historical monuments which are manifestations of their architectural skills.





Day 01 Bangalore - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives at airport. Later assistance and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Bangalore - Morning proceed for a guided tour of Bangalore city. Visit Bull temple, botanical gardens of Lal Bagh and Vidhan Soudha. Afternoon is free. Overnight at the hotel in Bangalore.

Day 03 Bangalore / Mysore - Morning drive to Mysore. On arrival check in at hotel. Later visit Mysore Palace, Chamundeshwari temple and Summer Palace in Srirangapatnam. Overnight at the hotel in Mysore.

Day 04 Mysore / Nagarhole - Drive to Nagarhole. On arrival check in at a jungle resort. Overnight at the jungle resort in Nagarhole.

Day 05 Nagarhole - Full day jungle activities. Overnight at the jungle resort in Nagarhole.

 $Day\,06\ Nagarhole\ /\ Coorg$  - Drive to Coorg, en route visiting tea plantations. On arrival check in at a resort. Relax rest of the day. Overnight at the resort in Coorg.

Day 07 Coorg - 252 kms from Bangalore and 1525 m above sea level lies Coorg which means 'dense forest on steep hill'. Misty hills, lush forest, acres and acres of tea and coffee plantation, orange groves, undulating streets and breathtaking views are what make Coorg an unforgettable holiday destination. Full day visit to tea and other plantations. Overnight at the resort in Coorg.

 $Day\,08\,$  Coorg / Hassan - Drive to Hassan. On arrival check in at hotel. Later a visit to Belur and Halebid. Overnight at the hotel in Hassan.

 $Day\,09~Hassan\ /\ Hospet$  - Drive to Hospet. On arrival check in at hotel. Rest of the day is free to relax. Overnight at the hotel in Hospet.

Day 10 Hospet - The ruins of Hampi of the 14th Century lies scattered in about 26 sq. km area, amidst giant boulders and vegetation. Protected by the tempestuous river Tungabhadra in the north and rocky granite ridges on the other three sides, the ruins silently narrate the story of grandeur splendor and fabulous wealth. The splendid remains of palaces and gateways of the broken city tells a tale of men infinite talent and power of creativity together with his capacity for senseless destruction. Full day visit the ruins of Hampi. Overnight at the hotel in Hospet.

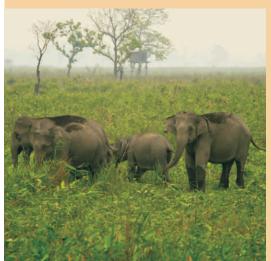
Day 11 Hospet / Badami - The capital of the Early Chalukyas, Badami is picturesquely situated at the mouth of a ravine between two rocky hills. Badami is famous for its four cave temples - all hewn out of sand stone on the precipice of a hill. Drive to Badami. On arrival check in at hotel. Visit Aihole and Pattadakkal. Overnight at the hotel in Badami.

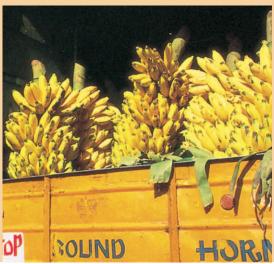
Day 12 Badami / Goa - The azure seas of Goa yield a variety of fresh, tasty seafood and fish. With a pleasant climate and diverse flora and fauna, Goa is a haven of peace and a mix of laziness and nonchalance, a mixture of the past and the future, where beautiful palm-fringed beaches glitter on its shores. Flowering plants and trees grow lush, verdant, and fast. Fat ripe fruits like mangoes, papayas, cajus and many others abound. Early morning drive to Goa. On arrival check in at hotel. Rest of the day relax at the beach. Overnight at the hotel in Goa.

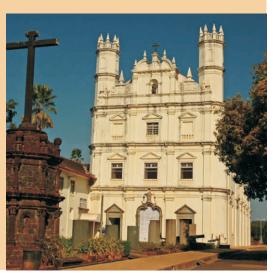
Day 13 Goa - Full day at the beach. Optional: Half day guided city tour of Goa. Overnight at the hotel in Goa.

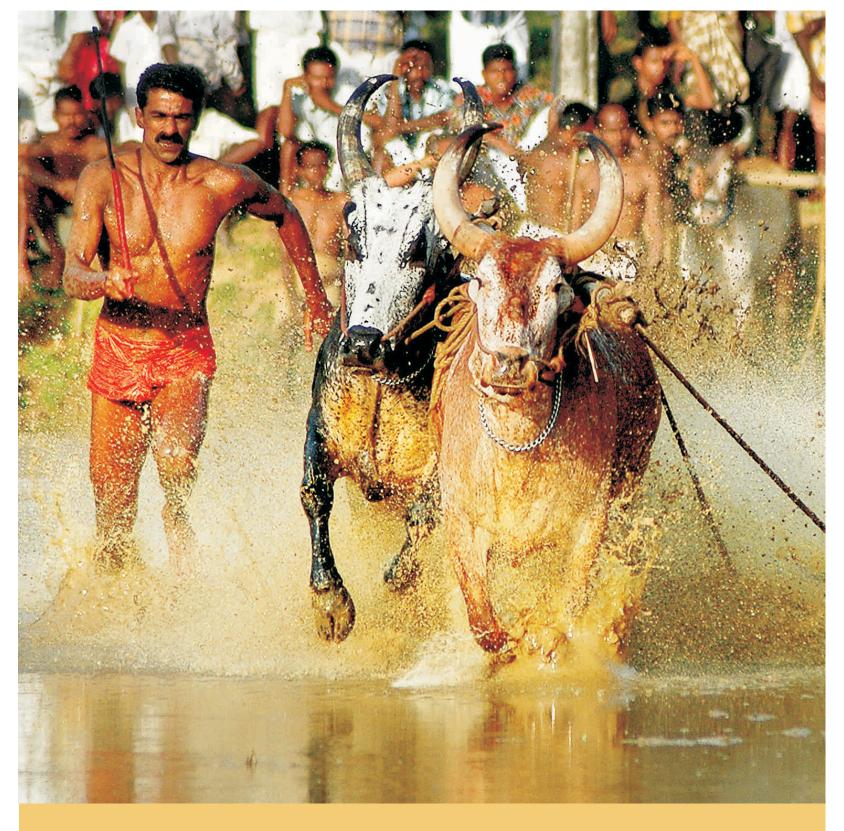
Day 14 Goa - Full day relaxation at the beach. Overnight at the hotel in Goa.

Day 15 Goa/Mumbai - Enjoy a full day at the beach. Later transfer to airport to catch flight to Mumbai. On arrival in Mumbai transfer airport to board flight for your journey back home.



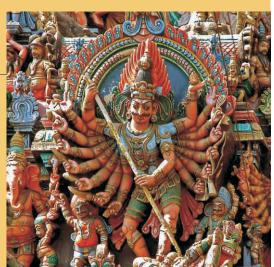






## GRAND SOUTH INDIA

South India, is a unique destination with lush green tropical vegetation, magnificent temple architecture going back to the 6th century, unaltered traditions of food, religion and lifestyle, handicrafts, heritage of sandalwood, silk, rosewood and brass, and of course the grandeur of classical dance and music.





Day 01 Chennai - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Chennai - Guided city tour of Chennai. Visit Cathedral of Sam Thome, St Mary's Church, Chennai museum and Kapaleeshwar temple. Afternoon is free. Overnight at the hotel in Chennai.

Day 03 Chennai / Thanjavur - Morning is free. Later transfer to railway station to board train to Thanjavur. On arrival in Thanjavur, transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 04 Thanjavur / Trichy - Take a guided city tour of Thanjavur. Visit temple of Brihadeeshwar, Thanjavur Palace and Saraswati Mahal Library. Drive to Trichy. On arrival, check in at hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 Trichy/Madurai -. Enjoy city tour of Trichy and Srirangam and visit Vinayaka temple, Tayumanaswamy temple and town of Srirangam. Drive to Madurai. On arrival, check in at hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Madurai.

Day 06 Madurai - A guided city tour of Madurai. Visit Tirumal Nayak Palace, Mariamman Teppakulam and Tirumangalam. Afternoon is free for independent activities. In the evening attend temple ceremony at Meenakshi Temple. Overnight at the hotel in Madurai.

Day 07 Madurai / Kodaikanal - Drive to Kodaikanal and on arrival check in at hotel. Afternoon is free. Overnight at the hotel in Kodaikanal.

Day 08 Kodaikanal - Enjoy boating in the lake. Later take a city tour. Afternoon is free. Overnight at the hotel in Kodaikanal

Day 09 Kodaikanal / Periyar - Drive to Periyar in the morning and on arrival check in at a jungle resort. Visit Kumily spice market in late afternoon. Overnight stay at the jungle resort in Periyar.

Day 10 Periyar / Kottayam / Cochin - Enjoy an early morning boat ride in Lake Periyar to watch wildlife. Later drive to Kottayam. On arrival enjoy a 2 hrs boat cruise in the backwaters. Later drive to Cochin. On arrival check in at hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel in Cochin.

Day 11 Cochin - A guided city tour of Cochin. Visit the Jewish Synagogue, Dutch Palace and St Francis Church. Afternoon is free. Later attend a Kathakali dance performance. Overnight stay at the hotel in Cochin.

 $\begin{array}{lll} \textbf{Day 12} & \textbf{Cochin} / \textbf{Ooty} \text{ - Early morning drive to Ooty. On} \\ \textbf{arrival check in at hotel. Rest of the day is free to relax.} \\ \textbf{Overnight stay at the hotel in Ooty.} \end{array}$ 

Day 13 Ooty - A guided tour of Ooty, visit Botanical Garden and Doddabetta - the highest peak in the Nilgiris. Rest of the day is free for independent activities. Overnight stay at the hotel in Ooty.

Day 14 Ooty/Mysore - Drive to Mysore. On arrival check in at hotel. Visit Brindavan Gardens in the evening. Overnight stay at the hotel in Mysore.

Day 15 Mysore / Bangalore - A guided city tour of Mysore. Visit Mysore Palace, drive up the Chamundi hill to visit Chamundeshwari temple and the Summer Palace of Srirangapatnam. Drive to Bangalore. On arrival check in at hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel in Bangalore.

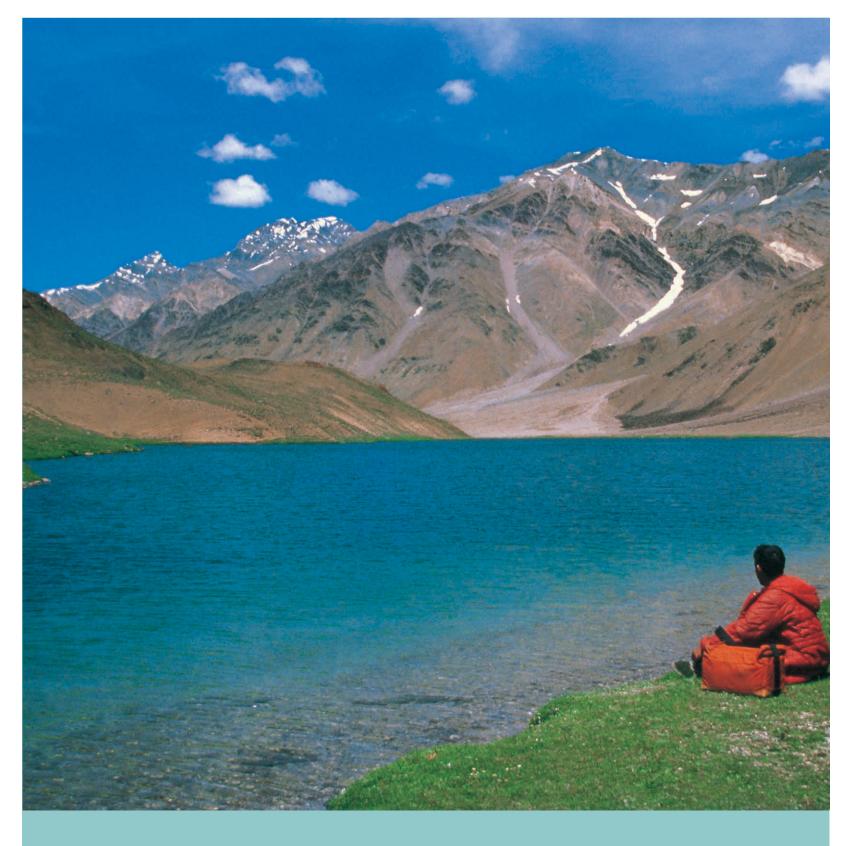
Day 16 Bangalore - Enjoy a guided tour of Bangalore and visit Bull temple, botanical gardens of Lal Bagh and the magnificent building - Vidhan Soudha. Afternoon is free. Overnight stay at the hotel in Bangalore.

Day 17 Bangalore / Mumbai / Depart - Morning is free for independent activities. Transfer to airport in the afternoon to connect flight to Mumbai. Later late evening transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.



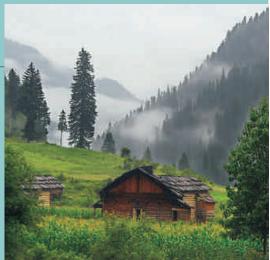






## KASHMIR - PARADISE ON EARTH

Fashmir, noted for its unsurpassed scenery is referred as "Paradise" on earth. Nestling in the lap of dazzling, snow-capped Flimalayas, the Kashmir valley is a jewel in India's crown. An inspiration for art, music and poetry, Kashmir is also a honeymooners' paradise, a nature lover's wonderland and a shopper's diream come true. Two major Flimalayan ranges, the Great Flimalayan Range and the Pir Panjal, surround the landscape from the north and south respectively. They are the source of great rivers, which flow down into the valleys, forested with orchards and decorated by lity-laden lakes.





Day 01 Arrive Delhi - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Delhi - After breakfast enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi visiting Qutab Minar, one of the tallest tower of it's time, Humanyun's Tomb, one of the forerunner of the Taj Mahal, drive past India Gate and President House and other government buildings, Red Fort, symbol of mighty Mughal empire, Jama Masjid, one of the biggest mosque in India, Chandni Chowk and Raj Ghat (Mahatma Gandhi Memorial). Return back to your hotel for overnight stay.

Day 03 Delhi / Srinagar - Srinagar is the summer capital of the Indian state Jammu & Kashmir. The city of Srinagar lies on the banks of the Jhelum River, which is a tributary of the Indus River. Houseboats, handicrafts and dry fruits make Srinagar, India a popular tourist destination. Some of the places tourists frequently visit in course of their Srinagar travel are Hazratbal Shrine, Shankaracharya Temple, Khanqah-e-Mollah, Khir Bhawani Temple, Jama Masjid, Chatti Padshahi, Nishat Garden, Cheshma Shahi and Pari Mahal, Dal Lake, Shalimar Garden and Sonmarg. Morning flight to Srinagar and on arrival assistance and transfer to Deluxe Houseboat. Afternoon is free for independent activities. Overnight stay at the houseboat in Srinagar.

Day 04 Srinagar - In the morning take a guided tour of the world famous Mughal Gardens. Return to houseboat for a hot lunch. In the afternoon enjoy a Shikara ride on the Dal Lake. Overnight stay at the houseboat in Srinagar.

Day 05 Srinagar / Gulmarg - Gulmarg's legendary beauty, prime location and proximity to Srinagar naturally make it one of the premier hill resorts in the country. Originally called 'Gaurimarg' by shepherds, its

present name was given in the 16th century by Sultan Yusuf Shah, who was inspired by the sight of its grassy slopes emblazoned with wild flowers. Gulmarg was a favourite haunt of Emperor Jehangir who once collected 21 different varieties of flowers from here. Today Gulmarg is not merely a mountain resort of exceptional beauty- it also has the highest green golf course in the world, at an altitude of 2,650 m, and is the country's premier ski resort in the winter.

Enjoy a full day tour of the breathtaking valley of Gulmarg (Meadow of Flowers). Also have a Gondla ride (cable car) from Gulmarg to Khalinmarg. Return to houseboat in the evening. Overnight stay in the houseboat at Srinagar.

Day 06 Srinagar / Pahalgam - Situated at the confluence of the streams flowing from Sheshnag Lake and the Lidder river, Pahalgam (2,130 m) was once a humble shepherd's village with breathtaking views. Now it is Kashmir's premier resort, cool even during the height of summer when the maximum temperature does not exceed 25 degree Celcius. Around Pahalgam are many places of interest; the most beautiful of these is the huge, undulating meadow of Baisaran, surrounded by thickly wooded forests of pine.

Drive to Pahalgam and check-in at hotel. Rest of the day free for trekking. Overnight stay in the hotel in Pahalgam.

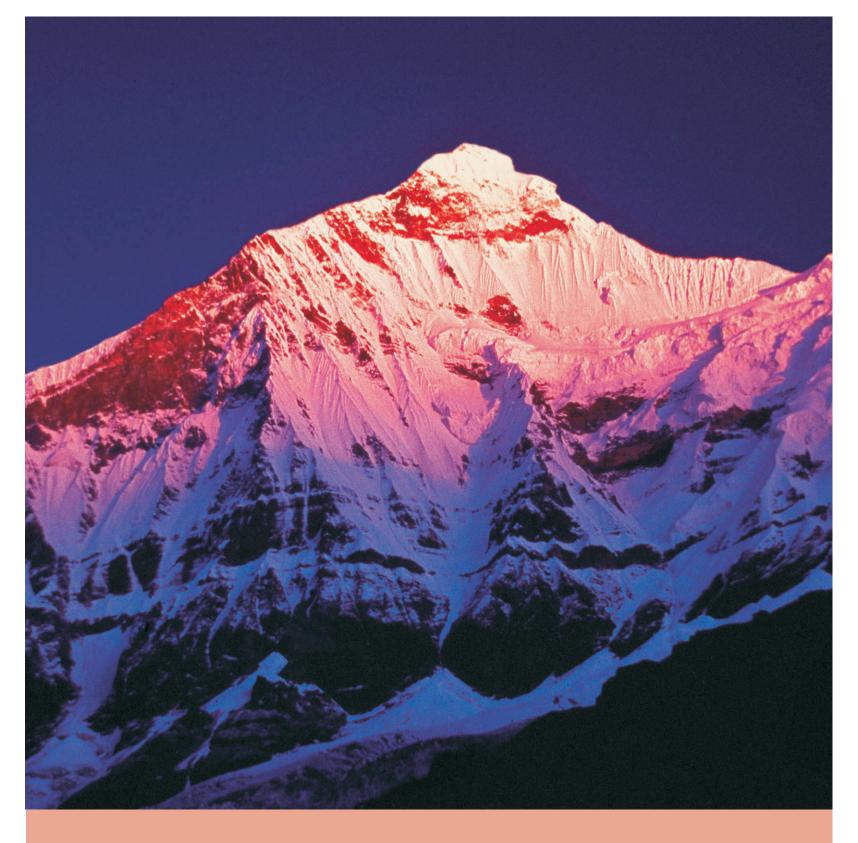
**Day 07** Pahalgam/Patnitop - Drive to Patnitop and checkin at resort. Rest of the day is free for trekking. Overnight stay at the hotel in Patnitop.

Day 08 Patnitop / Jammu / Delhi / Depart - Drive to Jammu and then board a train for Delhi. On arrival in Delhi, transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.









## JOURNEY IN THE HIMALAYAS

Sest in the lap of Flimalayan glory. Explore beautiful landscapes, lush green valleys, meadows of wild flowers, or fruit laden orchards. Get drenched into sheer and pleasant ambiance. Watch captivating view of snow capped mountain peaks. Walk through dense deodar and pine forests, rejuvenate with nature and its secretive yet refreshing ways. Be captivated by the sight of sparkling water streams gushing down from breathtaking heights and scenic splendor of rhododendron and deodar forests.





 ${f Day\, 01}$  Arrive  ${f Delhi}$  - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Delhi/Amritsar - After breakfast enjoy a guided tour of Delhi visiting Red Fort, Rajghat, India Gate, Parliament House, Qutub Minar & Humanyun's Tomb. Afternoon transfer to railway station to board train for Amritsar. Arrive Amritsar and transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 03 Amritsar - Morning visit Golden Temple and Jallianwala Bagh. Afternoon drive to Wagha border to witness evening boarder closing ceremony. Return back to your hotel for overnight stay.

Day 04 Amritsar / Dharamsala (220 Km) - Morning depart Amritsar for Dharamsala. Arrive Dharamsala and check in at hotel. Afternoon visit Tsuglakhang or HH Dalai Lama's Temple, Bhagsu Nag waterfalls and the temple dedicated to Lord Shiva. Walk around the market in the evening. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 Dharamsala - Morning visit Norbulingka, an Institute for the preservation of traditional Tibetan arts and crafts. Also visit Kangra Art Museum which exhibits paintings from the Kangra School of Miniature Painting, sculptures, tribal ornaments and photographs of local monuments. Afternoon visit The Tibetan Institute of the Performing Arts founded in 1959 by His Holiness the Dalai Lama to preserve traditional Tibetan art forms in music, dance and theatre. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 06 Dharamsala / Manali - Morning depart Dharamsala by surface for Manali (235 Km). Arrive Manali and check in at hotel with rest of the day at leisure or free for optional activities. Evening stroll around the mall. Overnight stay at the hotel.

**Day 07** Manali - Morning excursion to Naggar, visit Nagar Castle, Nicholas Roerich Art Gallery and folk museum. Afternoon visit Vashist sulphur spring, temple and Hidimba Temple. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 08 Manali - Full day at leisure or free for optional activities (optional individual excursions could be organized to Solang Valley, Kothi, Manikaran at an extra cost). Overnight at the hotel.

Day 09 Manali / Shimla - Morning depart Manali for Shimla by coach (260 Km) stopping en route to explore Kullu. Arrive Shimla and check in at hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 10 Shimla - Morning visit the ridge, Viceregal Lodge, State Museum. Afternoon excursion to Jhaku hills. Evening walk on the Mall. Overnight at the hotel.

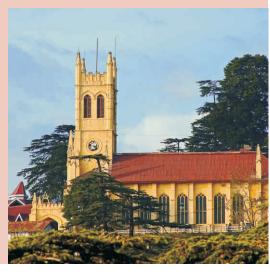
Day 11 Shimla - Morning depart on a day return excursion to Kufri. Return back to hotel by late afternoon with rest of the day at leisure or free for optional activities. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 12 Shimla / Chandigarh - After a leisurely morning depart Shimla for Chandigarh (120 Km). Arrive Chandigarh and check in at hotel. Afternoon visit Nekchand's garden. Overnight at hotel.

Day 13 Chandigarh / Delhi / Depart - Morning depart Chandigarh for Delhi and on arrival transfer to hotel. Afternoon sightseeing tour of Delhi includes Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Chandni Chowk and Raj Ghat (Mahatma Gandhi Memorial). Later transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.



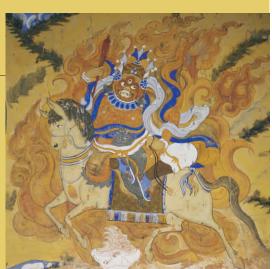






## ON TOP OF THE WORLD - LADAKH

Explore spectacular terrain: high mountain ranges; deep valleys; a fantastic variety of vegetation ranging from dense tropical forests of the lower foothills to alpine and sub-alpine vegetation in the higher reaches and from the rain forests of the east to the desert vegetation in the barren Stans Stimalayas. For the visitors to the region, there are fantastic trekking and mountaineering opportunities, some breathtaking journeys along some of the highest roads in the world, and a glimpse of the life that thrives in the heart of the highest mountain range on earth.





Day 01 Delhi - On arrival a warm welcome by our representatives and transfer to hotel. Overnight stay at the hotel in Delhi.

Day 02 Delhi/Leh - Early morning connect flight to Leh. On arrival, transfer to hotel. Rest of the day free to get acclimatized. Later tour of Leh city. Overnight stay at the hotel in Leh.

Day 03 Leh - Leave for sightseeing of Leh Tsemo, Leh Palace and later drive to Shanti Stupa. Take a walk down local bazaar. Overnight at the hotel in Leh.

 $Day\,04$  Leh / Thiksey-Shey / Leh - Founded in 15th century, Thiksey, a 12 storey Gompa painted in red, ocre and white has 60 lamas in residence, plus a nunnery and a total of 10 temples. There are excellent views across the Indus Valley flood plain both east and westbound from it, from which the Gompa at Matho (to the east), the royal palace at Stok (across the valley to the south) and the former royal palace at Shey (to the west) are clearly visible.

Early morning drive to Thiksey Monastery. Visit Shey palace and monastery. Drive back to Leh. Overnight stay at the hotel in Leh.

Day 05 Leh/Likir/Yangthang - Drive to Likir monastery and trek to Likir village. Ascend a small pass Pobela to arrive at Sumdo. Trek to reach Charatsela and Yantang. Camp overnight in Yangthang.

 ${\bf Day\,06~Hemis~Shukpachan}$  - Trek to Wulle valley to Hemis Shukpachan via Sermanchanla. Overnight stay in the camp.

 $\mathbf{Day}\,\mathbf{07}$   $\mathbf{Temisgam}$  - Trek to Temisgam village. Overnight stay in camp.

 ${f Day\, 08}$   ${f Temisgam\,/\, Lamayuru}$  - In the morning trek to Tia village. Drive back to Temisgam and head to Lamayuru. Overnight stay in camp.

 $Day\,09\ Lamayuru\ /\ Wanla$  - Visit the Lamayuru monastery and then trek to Wanla village. Overnight in camp.

Day 10 Wanla - Explore Wanla. Overnight in camp.

Day 11 Ridzong / Alchi - Drive to Alchi, en route visit nunnery at Ridzong. Overnight in Alchi.

Day 12 Alchi/Leh - Visit Alchi monastery and then drive to Leh. En route visit the Basgo castle and monastery. Overnight in Leh.

Day 13 Leh - Enjoy a relaxed day in Leh. Overnight in Leh.

Day 14 Hemis - Hemis Monastery holds the distinction of being the biggest as well as the wealthiest monastery of Ladakh. It dates back to the year 1630 and was founded by the first incarnation of Stagsang Raspa Nawang Gyatso. Drive to Hemis monastery. Walk up to Gotsang and later come back to Hemis. Overnight in Camp.

 ${f Day 15}$  Tso moriri - Drive to Tso Moriri Lake, home to many migratory and endangered species of bird. Overnight in camp.

**Day 16** Tso moriri - In the morning visit the nomad camp. Enjoy a walk around the tranquil lake. Overnight in camp.

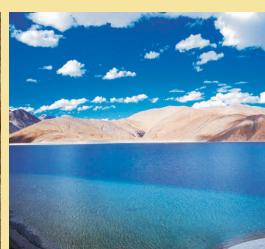
Day 17 Leh - Drive back to Leh. Overnight in Leh

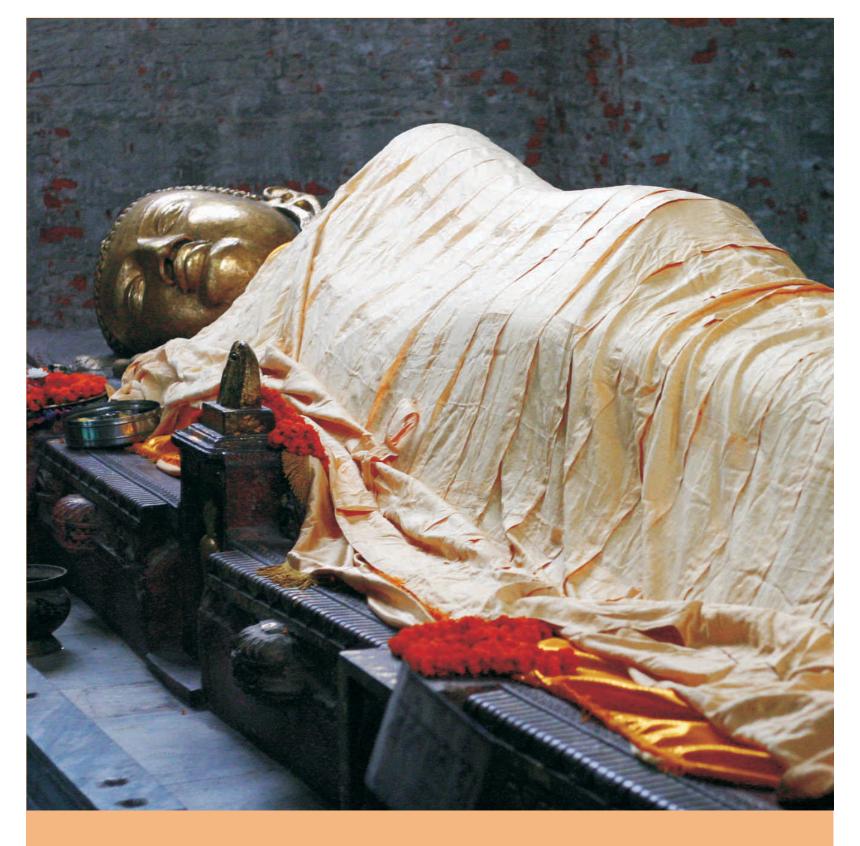
Day 18 Phyang / Leh - Visit the Phyang monastery and Phyang valley. Drive back to Leh, en route visit the Spituk monastery. Overnight in Leh.

Day 19 Delhi - Leave in the morning to connect flight to Delhi. On arrival in Delhi transfer to a hotel. Rest of the day free for independent activities. Do your last minute shopping. Late evening transfer to airport to board connect flight back home.



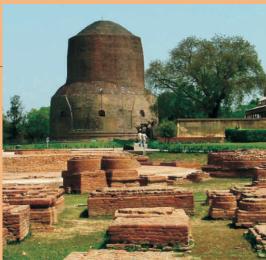






## **BUDDHIST TRAIL**

Buddhism was developed in the late 500 B.C.'s and was founded by Gautama Siddhartha. Buddha was born as Gautama Siddharta in Lumbini and lived in India. In Bodhgya, Gautama attained enlightenment under the sacred Bodhi tree and became known as Lord Budha. In Samath Buddha delivered his first sermon to his five disciples, preaching the middle path for attaining 'Niwana'.





Day 01 Arrive Delhi - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to the hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Delhi - After breakfast enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi visiting Qutab Minar, one of the tallest tower of it's time, Humayun Tomb- one of the forerunner of the Taj Mahal, drive past India Gate and President House and other government buildings, Red Fort, symbol of mighty Mughal empire, Jama Masjid, one of the biggest mosque in India, Chandni Chowk and Raj Ghat (Mahatma Gandhi Memorial). Return back to your hotel for overnight stay.

Day 03 Delhi / Patna / Vaishali - Early morning transfer to airport to board flight to Patna. Assistance on arrival and check-in at hotel. Set out for an excursion to Vaishali where Lord Buddha gave important teachings. Return back to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 04 Patna/Nalanda/Rajgir-After breakfast travel to Rajgir and check-in at Hotel. Rajgir was a city of main importance for Lord Buddha in his time, Visit Nalanda University. Founded around the III century A.C. this university was a center for profound studies of the Buddha-dharma for more than a thousand years. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 05 Rajgir / Bodhgaya - After breakfast proceed to Bodhgaya en-route visiting Mahakala Caves, Arrive Bodhgaya and check-in at hotel for overnight stay.

Day 06 Bodhgaya - Bodhgaya, beyond any doubt is considered the most important site of Buddhism. After breakfast visit the place where prince Siddhartha through his efforts reached the Buddha state. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 07 Bodhgaya / Varanasi - After breakfast, prepare to leave towards the City of Benares (Varanasi). A Legendary city considered to be one of the most antique of the world. Arrive Varanasi and check-in at hotel for overnight stay.

Day 08 Varanasi / Sarnath / Varanasi - Enjoy a boat ride by Ganges River, After Breakfast visit to Sarnath (Isipathana-Mrigadeva) the very well known "Gazelles Park" where the historic Buddha turned for the first time the wheel of dharma, and the first sangha of history was formed. Return back to hotel at Varanasi.

Day 09 Varanasi / Kushinagar - After an early breakfast proceed to Kushinagar, place where the Buddha died. This event is called "The last Great Nirvana" (Mahaparinirvana). Overnight stay at the hotel.

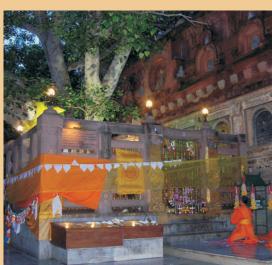
Day 10 Kushinagar / Shravasti - Morning drive to Balrampur. On arrival check - in at hotel. Afternoon visit the extensive ruins of this ancient city & Jetavana Monastery. Overnight stay at the hotel.

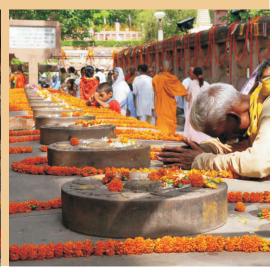
Day 11 Shravasti / Lumbini - After breakfast cross the border towards Nepal. Arrive to Lumbini, the place where the Buddha was born more than 25 centuries ago. Overnight stay at the hotel.

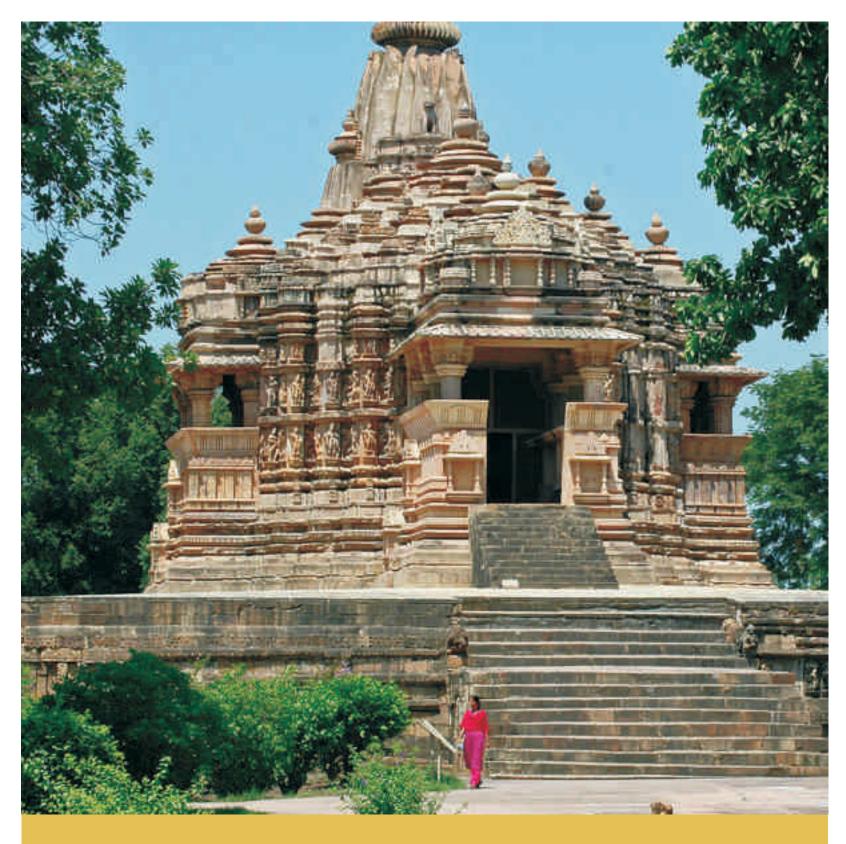
Day 12 Lumbini / Kapilavastu / Lumbini - After breakfast visit the Palace where Prince Siddhartha lived for more than 29 years, until he escaped from it by the orient door to begin his odyssey in search of enlightenment. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 13 Lumbini / Gorakhpur / Delhi / Depart - After breakfast transfer to Gorakhpur railway station to board train to Delhi. Later late evening transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.



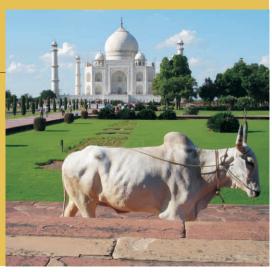






## IN THE HEART OF INDIA

Madhya Pradesh is called the "Heart of India" not only because of its location in the centre of the country but also being home to the cultural heritage of Thinduism, Buddhism, Jainism and Islam. Innumerable monuments, exquisitely carved temples, stupas, forts and palaces dot the state. Its natural beauty is equally varied with spectacular mountain ranges, meandering rivers and miles and miles of dense forests.





Day 01 Arrive Delhi - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Delhi / Agra - After breakfast enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi visiting Qutab Minar, one of the tallest tower of it's time, Humanyun's Tomb, one of the forerunner of the Taj Mahal, drive past India Gate and President House and other government buildings, Red Fort, symbol of mighty Mughal empire, Jama Masjid, one of the biggest mosque in India, Chandni Chowk and Raj Ghat (Mahatma Gandhi Memorial). Later drive to Agra, On arrival check into Hotel for Overnight.

Day 03 Agra - Morning sightseeing tour of Agra visiting Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal (Taj Mahal remain closed to visitors on Friday). Rest of the day free. Overnight at Hotel.

Day 04 Agra / Jhansi / Khajuraho - Morning transfer to train station to connect the Shatabadi Express for Jhansi. Assistance on arrival & followed by transfer to Khajuraho. On arrival check into Hotel. Later proceed on a tour of Khajuraho. Return back to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 05 Khajuraho / Orchha - After breakfast drive to Orchha, On arrival check into Hotel Later visit important sites in Orchha. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 06 Orchha / Jhansi / Bhopal / Sanchi - Morning transfer to Jhansi train station to connect the train for Bhopal followed by drive to Sanchi enroute visiting for Bhimbetka to visit pre historic cave paintings. On arrival check into Hotel for Overnight.

Day 07 Sanchi - Morning depart on a day return

excursion to Udaigiri Caves. Also, visit the ancient city of Vidisha on return. Return back to hotel for overnight stay.

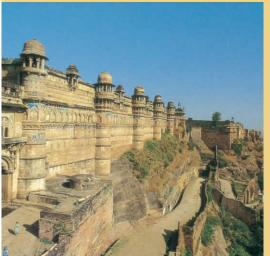
Day 08 Sanchi / Ujjain / Indore - After breakfast drive to Indore, enroute visting Ujjain the famous temple of one of the Jyotirling after visit continue to Indiore, On arrival check into Hotel. Rest of the day is free. Overnight at Hotel.

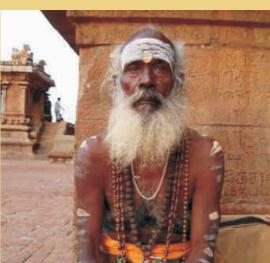
Day 09 Indore - Morning sightseeing tour of Indore includes visit to Kanch Madhir - a shrine of Digamber Jains has its walls, roof and floor lavishly inlaid with mother-of pearl, glass and multi-coloured beads. Chhatri Bagh - the Chhatris are memorial tombs of the Holkar Kings. The largest and most impressive is the Chhatri of Malhar Rao Holkar I Palace that is lavishly decorated with frescoes. The Lal Bagh Palace is now a museum and cultural centre with its dazzling treasure. Overnight stay at the hotel.

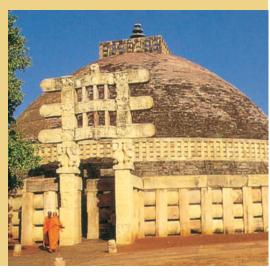
Day 10 Indore / Maheshwar (155 Km) - Morning depart Indore for Maheshwar visiting Omkareshwar en route. Arrive Maheshwar and check in at hotel. Afternoon explore Maheshwar. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 11 Maheshwar / Mandu (60 Km) - After a leisurely morning depart Maheshwar for Mandu. Arrive Mandu and check in at hotel. Afternoon proceed on a sightseeing tour of Mandu. Return back to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 12 Mandu / Indore / Depart (98 Km) - Morning visit some more sites in Mandu. Later drive to Indore to connect the flight or train to Delhi. Later transfer to airport to board flight for you journey back home.









#### IN SEARCH OF THE WILD

India has some of the most spectacular wildlife reserves. With 80 national parks, 441 sanctuaries and 23 tiger reserves India is a perfect place for wildlife travelers. Spot a striped predator amidst the tall grass or the wetlands, see herds of wild elephants and deer in their natural habitat, or watch a peacock dancing in all its splendors. Explore these fascinating sights on elephant back as well as by jeeps. Live in a rest house or a tent in the midst of dense wilderness and wake up to the twittering of birds, or maybe the roar of a lion!





Day 01 Delhi - On arrival a warm welcome by our staff and transfer to hotel. Overnight in Delhi.

Day 02 Delhi - After breakfast enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Old and New Delhi visiting Qutab Minar, one of the tallest tower of it's time, Humanyun's Tomb, one of the forerunner of the Taj Mahal, drive past India Gate and President House and other government buildings, Red Fort, symbol of mighty Mughal empire, Jama Masjid, one of the biggest mosque in India, Chandni Chowk and Raj Ghat (Mahatma Gandhi Memorial). Return back to your hotel for overnight stay.

 ${f Day\, 03}\ {f Delhi}$  /  ${f Nagpur}$  - Early morning connect flight to Nagpur. On arrival in Nagpur drive to Kanha and check in at resort for overnight stay.

Day 04 Kanha - Kanha is one of the oldest and best managed parks of India. Known for its wilderness and tiger sightings, Kanha has been immortalized by Rudyard Kipling by incorporating it in his Jungle Book adventure of Mowgli. Very rich in wildlife Kanha has the distinction of harbouring the last of the highly endangered Hard Ground Barasingha. Tiger, Leopard, Wolf, Striped Hyena and the Indian Wild Dog, Indian Fox, Common Palm Civet, Small Indian Civet, Jackal are the greater and less predators here.

Early morning and afternoon jeep safari through Kanha in search of Tiger . Overnight in Kanha.

Day 05 Kanha - Enjoy jeep safari. Overnight in Kanha.

Day 06 Kanha / Bandhavgarh - The Bandhavgarh National Park is nestled among the Vindhya hills, Bandhavgarh covers an area of 448 square kilometers. The wildlife sanctuary has an abundance of Sal trees and bamboo, which provides shelter to a large number of animals and birds. After morning jeep safari, drive to Bandhavgarh and check in at resort. Time permitting afternoon jeep safari. Overnight in resort.

**Day 07 Bandhavgarh** - Early morning and afternoon jeep safari through Bandhavgarh. Overnight in resort.

Day 08 Bandhavgarh - Early morning and afternoon excursion and jeep safari. Overnight in resort.

 $Day\,09\,$  Bandhavgarh / Umaria / Agra - After morning Jeep safari transfer to railway station to board overnight train to Agra. Overnight on board the train.

Day 10 Agra - Arrival at Agra. Transfer to hotel. Later visit Agra Fort and the Taj Mahal. Overnight in Agra.

Day 11 Agra / Ranthambhore - Leave for Ranthambhore. On arrival, check in at resort. Overnight in Ranthambhore.

Day 12 Ranthambhore - Ranthambhore National park lies at the edge of a plateau, and is bounded to the north by Banas River and to the south by Chambal River. There are several lakes in the park. The park is famous for its tiger population, and is one of India's Project Tiger reserves. Other major wild animals include the tiger, leopard, nilgai, dhole, wild pig, sambar and chital. It is also home to wide variety of trees, plants, birds and reptiles. Ranthambhore is also the site for one of the largest Banyan trees in India.

Take morning and afternoon jeep safari in the sanctuary. Overnight in Ranthambhore.

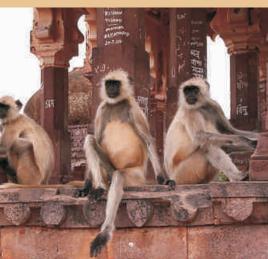
 $\mbox{\bf Day 13}$   $\mbox{\bf Ranthambhore}$  - Morning and afternoon jeep safari. Overnight in Ranthambhore.

Day 14 Ranthambhore / Jaipur - After Jeep safari, leave for Jaipur and check in at hotel for overnight stay.

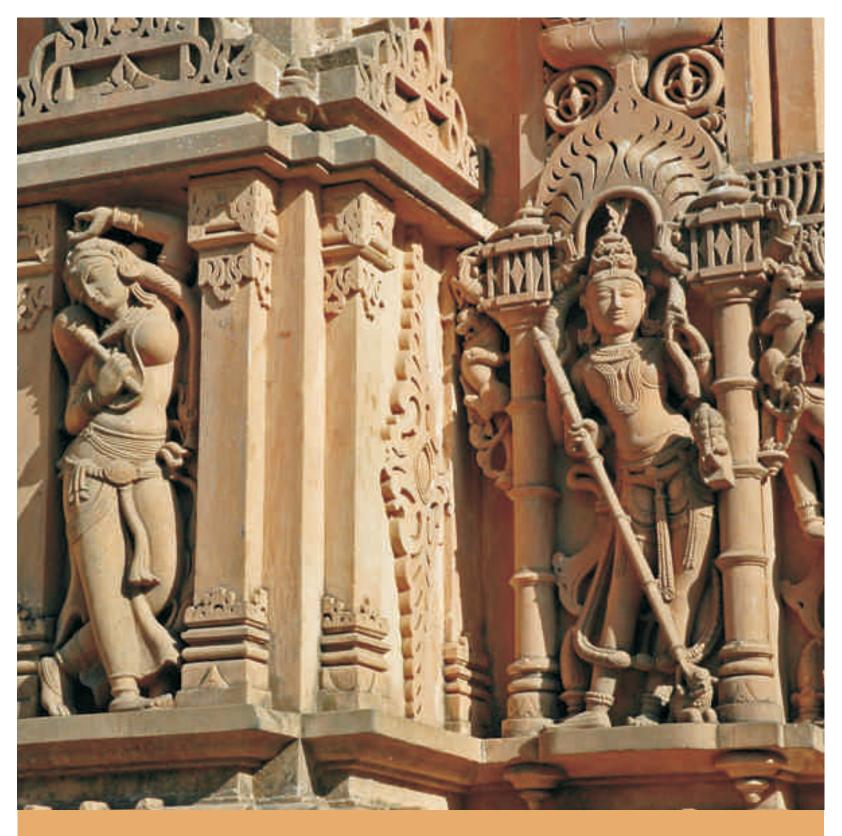
Day 15 Jaipur - City tour of Jaipur. Visit the City Palace & Jantar Mantar - an Observatory. Overnight in Jaipur.

Day 16 Jaipur / Delhi / Depart - A guided excursion to Amer Fort and Hawa Mahal. Later drive to Delhi. On arrival transfer to airport hotel for wash and change. After a farewell dinner transfer to airport for flight back home.









## **BEST OF GUJARAT**

Discover a land where azure seas meet sparkling sands, blushing sunsets embrace rosy dawns. The jungles are verdant, lush and green, where lions prowl and flamingoes preen. Marble temples white and pure, reflect the glory of the days of yore. Age-old palaces browned in the sun and water parks for a day of fun. Here tribal life is a celebration, of music, dance and multi coloured traditions. Explore places like Somnath, Dwarka, Gir Torest and many more in this serene, pristine & divine land.





Day 01 Arrive Mumbai - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Mumbai / Ahmedabad - Morning proceed on a city tour of Mumbai visiting the 19th century Jain Temple, Kamala Nehru Park, Hanging Gardens of Bombay and the Towers of Silence where the Parsis dispose their dead. Also visit Mani Bhavan and Prince of Wales Museum, which has an excellent collection of miniatures (closed on Mondays). Afternoon transfer to airport to board flight for Ahmedabad. Arrive Ahmedabad and transfer to hotel. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 03 Ahmedabad - Morning proceed on a full day sightseeing tour of Ahmedabad visiting Siddhi Sayad Masjid, famous for its exquisite twin windows of pierced stone, Calico Museum, Gujarat's famous carved wooden Haveli and Adalaj Step well built in 1499 A.D. by Queen Rudabai. Also visit Sabarmati Ashram built by Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi on the banks of the Sabarmati River in 1915. This was the nerve centre of India's freedom movement. In 1930 Gandhiji began his famous Dandi March from here. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 04 Ahmedabad / Bhavnagar (250Kms) - Morning depart Ahmedabad for Bhavnagar stopping en route at Lothal. Arrive Bhavnagar and check in at hotel followed by afternoon tour of Bhavnagar. Overnight at the hotel

Day 05 Bhavnagar / Diu (260 Kms) - Early morning depart Bhavnagar for Diu stopping en route at Palitana to visit Jain Temples. Arrive Diu and check in at beach resort with rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the resort.

 ${\bf Day\,06}~{\bf Diu}$  - Full day at leisure or free for independent activities. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 07 Diu / Sasan Gir (120 Km) - After a leisurely morning depart Diu for Sasan Gir. Arrive Sasan Gir and check in at jungle lodge / camp. Afternoon proceed on an evening game viewing drive in Gir forest, the only place in the world outside Africa, where lion can be seen in its natural habitat. Overnight at jungle lodge.

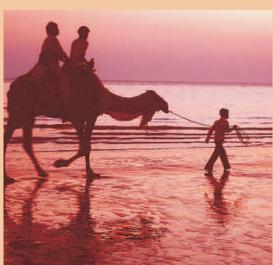
Day 08 Sasan Gir/Gondal (125 Km) - Morning depart Gir for Rajkot stopping en route to Junagarh to see Uparkot Fort & Buddhist cave-sites, Ashoka's rock inscriptions (3rd century BC), palace museum, 18th & 19th century royal mausoleum complexes, Nawabi buildings and museums. Arrive Gondal and check in at hotel. Afternoon explore Gondal to see the 1748 AD Naulakha Palace, the Vintage and Classic Car museum, the Bhuvaneshwari Ayurvedic Pharmacy and Swaminarayan Temple. Overnight at hotel.

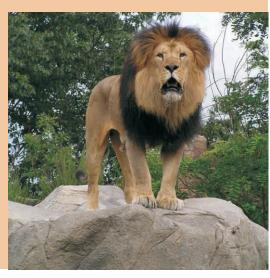
Day 09 Gondal / Bhuj (280 Km) - Morning depart Gondal for Bhuj. Arrive Bhuj and check in at hotel with rest of the day at leisure or free for independent activities. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 10 Bhuj - Morning proceed on a full day excursion to Bani villages. Bani area bordering the Rann of Kutch is inhabited by two Muslim tribes, the Jath and Mutwali. While the women do exquisite embroidery on garments the men tend their cows and buffaloes. The people are hospitable and friendly and their houses are decorated and painted in a most fashion. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 11 Bhuj / Mumbai / Depart Day at leisure or free for independent activities. Afternoon transfer to airport to board flight for Mumbai. Arrive Mumbai and transfer to an airport hotel for dinner followed by transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.









## NORTH EASTERN MYSTERY

Discover a land of myths and mystery. "The land of red river and blue hills,". Mawel at unique landscapes with sprawling tea gardens and unending stretches of paddy fields interspersed with groves of coconut, areca nuts and banana trees. Explore Majuli river island, the largest river island in the world and Kraziranga national park, home to Indian one horned Rhinos. Be enchanted by a land of magnificent beauty, undulating hills, rolling grasslands, cascading waterfalls, snaking rivers, terraced slopes and thrilling wildlife.





Day 01 Arrive Delhi - A warm welcome on arrival by our representatives and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 02 Delhi - After breakfast enjoy a guided tour of Delhi visiting Red Fort, Rajghat, India Gate, Parliament House, Qutub Minar & Humanyun's Tomb. Return back to your hotel for overnight stay.

Day 03 Delhi/Dibrugarh - Morning transfer to airport to board flight for Dibrugarh. Arrive Dibrugarh and transfer to Tea bungalow. After lunch go for a tea tour. In the evening enjoy a cultural programme performed by ethnic Assamese dance group. Overnight at Bungalow. (N.B.-Tea factories are functional from March to December only). Overnight at the Tea Bungalow.

Day 04 Dibrugarh - Early morning drive to river front and take a Boat Cruise on the mighty Brahmaputra River in a country boat. Cruise up to a beach island in the midst of the river. En route there is a possibility of your sighting flocks of migratory water birds and the elusive Gangetic River Dolphin. Enjoy view of the Eastern Himalayas and take a nature walk in the vast expanse of grasslands surrounding the island. After breakfast drive to Digboi (90Kms/2hrs). Visit the Oil Museum which was set up to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Digboi Oil Refinery. Visit Digboi War Cemetery (closed on every Monday and Friday). Also visit an ethnic tribal village like Tai-Phakial. Return to Dibrugarh by evening and overnight at the Tea Bungalow.

Day 05 Dibrugarh / Jorhat (140 Km) - After breakfast drive to Jorhat stopping en route at Sivsagar. Arrive Jorhat and check in at Tea Bungalow. Evening enjoy a Satriya dance performance. The largest and the oldest amphitheatre of Asia (Rang Ghar) is also another remarkable landmark in the history of Sivsagar. The Tai-Ahom Museum of Sivsagar contains the some of the relics of the Ahom period, like - swords, clothes, manuscripts and sundry artifacts. Overnight at Tea Bungalow.

Day 06 Jorhat / Kaziranga (90 Km) - Morning excursion

to Majuli Island and afternoon drive to Kaziranga (both World Heritage Sites). Drive a short distance to Neematighat (12kms/20mints) for ferry crossing to Majulithe largest inhabited river island in the world and famous for the Vaishnavite Satras or monasteries Visit the monasteries and interface with tribes in the island. Arrive Kaziranga and check in at jungle lodge. Overnight at the lodge.

Day 07 Kaziranga - Early morning, go for an elephant safari to the central range of the park followed by a jeep safari after breakfast to the western range of the park. Post lunch, visit the eastern range of the park by jeep. Evening at leisure. Overnight at the lodge. Overnight at jungle lodge.

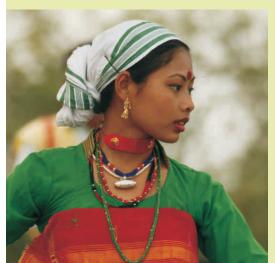
Day 08 Kaziranga / Shillong (320 Km) - Morning depart for Shillong and on arrival check in at hotel. Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight at the hotel.

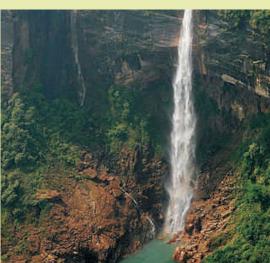
Day 09 Shillong - Morning proceed on a day return excursion to Cherrapunjee. The drive gives a spectacular view of deep gorges and the rolling hills with rich tropical vegetation that boast an innumerable variety of ferns, moss and orchids. Cherrapunjee's numerous falls are most impressive during the steamy monsoon season when awesome torrents of water plunge down to the plains of Bangladesh. At Cherrapunjee, explore the lime-stone caves. Return to Shillong in the evening. En route visit David Scott's Trail. Overnight at the hotel.

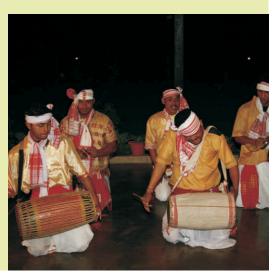
 ${f Day 10}$  Shillong - Full day at leisure or free to explore Shillong. Overnight at the hotel in Shillong.

Day 11 Shillong / Guwahati (120 Km) - Morning depart for Guwahati and on arrival check in at hotel. Afternoon visit The Kamakshya temple. Overnight at the hotel.

Day 12 Guwahati / Delhi - Transfer to airport to board flight for Delhi. Arrive Delhi and transfer to hotel. Rest of the day is free for independent activities. Late evening transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.









#### TEXTILE TOUR - RAJASTHAN / GUJARAT

Regional styles colour motif and specific fabric skills throughout both states have its own symbolism. Rajasthan is the ''colour belt of India'' known for its tie-

Rajasthan is the ''colour belt of India'' known for its tiedie and block printing intricate weaving of cotton durries, silks and brocades.

In Gujarat muslins are so fine that they are described as 'air woven'. At Patan, Patola sarees are created using double-ikat-style weaving. It takes months and sometimes more than a year to produce one sari.

Day 01 Delhi - On arrival a warm welcome by our staff and transfer to hotel. Take a sightseeing tour of Delhi. Overnight in Delhi.

Day 03 Jaipur - Enjoy a half day sightseeing tour of Hawa Mahal, Jantar-Mantar, city palace museum and Galta temples. In the afternoon visit the Rani Sisodia Gardens. Overnight in Jaipur.

Day 04 Bundi / Kota - Drive to Kota via Bundi. Visit the Chatar Mahal frescoes and Raniji Ki Baoli. Overnight in

Day 05 Bhilwara / Chittaurgarh - Drive to Chittaurgarh via Bhilwara - the city of textile industries. Visit the palaces of Rana Kumbha and the Tower of Victory. Overnight in Chittaurgarh.

Day 06 Udaipur - Drive to Udaipur. On arrival check into hotel. Enjoy a half day tour of Udaipur visiting City Palace, Jagdish Temple, Fateh Sagar Lake and Saheliyon Ki Bari. Overnight in Udaipur.

**Day 07 Udaipur** - Visit Eklingji temple, temples of Nagda, the Puppet museum and the Local Handicrafts centre known as "SHILPGRAM". Overnight in Udaipur.

Day 08 Jodhpur - Drive to Jodhpur en route visit the Jain

temples at Ranakpur. On arrival at Jodhpur check into hotel. Overnight in Jodhpur.

Day 09 Jodhpur / Ahmedabad - Visit Mehrangarh Fort, Clock Tower market and Mandore Gardens in the morning. See the special Sarees and leather embroidery Jooties or shoes. Transfer to airport to board flight to Ahmedabad. On arrival transfer to hotel. Overnight in Ahmedabad.

Day 10 Ahmedabad - Visit Kalamkari work in Mirzapur, textile museum & Shreyas Folk art museum. Overnight in Ahmedabad.

Day 11 Ahmedabad - Visit Patan, famous for Masharoo and Patola Saree weavers and Pethapur villages for wooden block makers. Overnight in Ahmedabad.

Day 12 Rajkot - Proceed to Rajkot. On arrival transfer to hotel. Visit Rashtriyashala for single IKAT saree weaving center. Overnight in Rajkot.

Day 13 Rajkot - Visit Jamnagar to see Bandhani Saree with technique of tie and dye and Gharchola Saree. Overnight in Rajkot.

**Day 14 Bhuj** - Visit Bhuj via Dhudhai. Visit the AARI embroidery technique, tie and dye technique on Silk fabric at the place of a National Award winner. Overnight in Bhuj.

Day 15 Bhuj - Visit NIRONA village famous for its Ragan art technique on cotton fabric, Bunny village for intricated embroidery work on cotton fabric and leather. The villages to be visited are Bhirandiyala, Hodka, Dhordowandh and Vap. Overnight in Bhuj.

Day 16 Rajkot - Proceed to Rajkot via Dhamadka village famous for its AJARAKH printing and Batik. Overnight in Rajkot.

Day 17 Ahmedabad / Delhi - Drive to Ahmedabad. On arrival board flight to Delhi. On arrival transfer to hotel. Overnight in Delhi.

 ${\bf Day\,18}\;\;{\bf Delhi}\,/\,{\bf Depart}$  - Transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.









#### **ORISSA TRIBAL TOUR**

In the ethno-cultural map of Orissa, two tribes stand out quite prominently for their educational backwardness and continuing ethnic and cultural identity. The kondhas and its subsection constitute the major percentage of tribal population in the district and the Souras stand second. There are also many other tribal communities who are, however, negligible in number but definitely contribute to the exotic intermingling culture of the district.

**Day 01 Bhubaneshwar** - A warm welcome by our representatives at the airport and transfer to hotel. Half Day City Tour of Temples. Overnight stay at the hotel.

Day 02 Bhubaneshwar - Full day city tour of Bhubaneshwar covering Khandagiri and Udaygiri caves, tribal museum and Nandankanan Biological Park or full day visit of Nuapatana. Visit of sari weaving and dokra metal works village. Back to Bhubaneshwar or full day visit of Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri and Udaygiri Budhist monasteries. Back to Bhubaneshwar or full day visit of Puri and Konark. Overnight stay at the hotel in Bhubaneshwar.

Day 03 Bhubaneshwar / Baliguda - Drive from Bhubaneshwar to Baliguda visiting roadside common village, semi-tribal and tribal village. Overnight atthe hotel in Baliguda.

Day 04 Baliguda / Raygada - Drive from Baliguda to Raygada visiting a few Kuttiya Kondh villages. Overnight at the hotel in Rayagada.

Day 05 Raygada/Jeypore - Drive to Chatikona and visit a few Dongariya Kondh villages. Drive back to Jeypore. Overnight at hotel.

Day 06 Jeypore / Bhubaneshwar - Drive to Bhubaneshwar and later transfer to airport to board flight back home.

#### **DRISSA SOUL OF INDIA**

**Day 01 Bhubaneshwar** - On arrival a warm welcome by our representatives and transfer to hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Bhubaneshwar.

Day 02 Bhubaneshwar - Enjoy a guided city tour of Bhubaneshwar in the morning. Afternoon is free for independent activities. Overnight at the hotel in Bhubaneshwar.

**Day 03 Bhubaneshwar** - Enjoy a guided excursion to Nuapatna (weaving village) and Sadeibarini (Dokra metal work village). Overnight at the hotel in Bhubaneshwar.

Day 04 Bhubaneshwar / Puri - The magnificent Sun Temple at Konark is the culmination of Orissan temple architecture, and one of the most stunning monuments of religious architecture in the world. The massive structure now in ruins, sits in solitary splendour surrounded by drifting sand.

Morning drive to Puri en route visit the Sun Temple at Konark. On arrival check in at hotel. Rest of the day free. Overnight at the hotel in Puri.

Day 05 Puri - The fine white sands of Puri beach and the roar of the breakers rolling in from the Bay of Bengal have fascinated visitors throughout the ages. Enjoy a full day at the beach. Overnight at the hotel in Puri.

Day 06 Puri / Bhubaneshwar - Morning drive to Bhubaneshwar via the appliqué village of Pipli and the pattachitra painting village of Raghurajpur. On arrival in Bhubaneshwar, check in at hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Bhubaneshwar.

Day 07 Bhubaneshwar - Morning assistance and transfer to airport in time to to board flight for your journey back home.









#### NEPAL

#### HIMALAYAN KINGDOM

## BHUTAN DRAGON KINGDOM

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Day 01} & Arrive \, Kathmandu - \hbox{On arrival a warm welcome} \\ by our representatives and transfer to hotel. Afternoon is free to relax. Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu. \end{tabular}$ 

Day 02 Kathmandu - Visit Durbar Square, Hanuman Dhoka, the ancient Royal residential quarter, Mahadev and Parvati temples. Visit Swayambhunath. Afternoon is free to relax. Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu.

Day 03 Kathmandu - Enjoy a visit to Bodhnath and Pashupatinath temple area. Overnight in Kathmandu.

 ${\bf Day\,04~Kathmandu}$  /  ${\bf Chitwan}$  - Morning drive to Chitwan and check-in at Jungle Lodge. Take an elephant safari. Overnight in Chitwan.

Day 05 Chitwan - Visit Elephant breeding center. Afternoon is free to relax. Overnight in Chitwan.

Day 06 Chitwan/Pokhara - Drive to Pokhara and checkin at hotel. Afternoon visit Brindabashini Temple, David's fall and enjoy boating in Fewa Lake. Overnight in Pokhara.

**Day 07 Pokhara** - Whole day is for relaxation (Optional-Trekking). Overnight in Pokhara.

Day 08 Pokhara / Dhulikhel - Drive to Dhulikhel and on arrival check-in at hotel. Overnight in Dhulikhel.

Day 08 Dhulikhel - Enjoy a relaxed day. Overnight in Dhulikhel.

 $Day\,10\ Dhulikhel\,/\,Kathmandu$  - In the morning, drive to Kathmandu airport to board flight for your journey back home.

**Day 01** Arrive Kathmandu - On arrival a warm welcome by our representatives and transfer to hotel. Rest of the day free. Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu.

Day 02 Kathmandu - Visit Durbar Square, Hanuman Dhoka, ancient, Royal residential quarter, Mahadev and Parvati temples. Visit Swayambunath. Afternoon is free. Overnight at the hotel in Kathmandu.

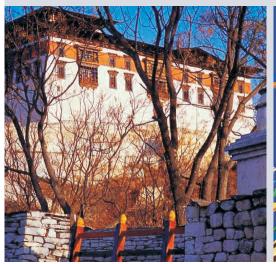
Day 03 Kathmandu/Paro/Thimpu - Fly to Paro and on arrival, drive to Thimpu en route visiting the castle shaped Ta-dzong. Also visit the ruins of Drukgyel Dzong and Kyichu Lhakang, On arrival check in at hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Thimpu.

Day 04 Thimpu / Punakha (wangdi) - The capital of Bhutan, Thimpu is famous its untouched natural beauty. The major tourist attractions in Thimpu are the galleries, museums or places of historic interest. The blissful natural beauty of the Himalayas attracts a lot of tourists to Thimpu.

Visit National Library, Painting School and Traditional Medicine Institute. Proceed to Wangdiphodrang and check-in at hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Punakha.

Day 05 Punakha / Paro - Visit Punakha Town and Punakha Dzong. Later drive to Thimphu and then to Paro en route visiting Simtokha Dzong. On arrival, check-in at hotel. Overnight at the hotel in Thimphu.

Day 06 Paro / Kathmandu - Walk down the trail to visit the fascinating Rinpung Dzong. Later transfer to airport for flight to Kathmandu. On arrival, connect onward flight back home.









#### PAKISTAN

#### ANCIENT CULTURE

#### SRI LANKA EMERALD ISLAND

Day 01 Arrive Karachi - A warm welcome on arrival and transfer to hotel. Later take a city tour of Karachi. Overnight at the hotel in Karachi.

Day 02 Karachi / Hyderabad - Drive to Hyderabad via the town of Thatta. Overnight at hotel in Hyderabad.

Day 03 Hyderabad - A full day excursion to Bhit Shah Shrine of Sufi poet Shah Abdul Latif & Hala. Visit Mausoleum of Muslim saint, Makhdoom Nooh. Drive back to Hyderabad. Overnight in Hyderabad.

Day 04 Sehwan / Larkana -Drive to Larkana via Sehwan and enjoy Dhamal (Sufi dance) with folk music and colourful dress at the shrine of the great Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar. Continue to Larkana and transfer to hotel overnight stay.

Day 05 Larkana / Mohenjodaro / Sukkur - Drive to Sukkur en route visiting site of Indus valley civilization, Mohenjodaro. Arrive Sukkur and transfer to hotel for overnight stay.

Day 06 Sukkur - Full day tour of Sukkur. Overnight at hotel.

Day 07 Bahawalpur - Drive to Bahawalpur en route visiting Bhong. Overnight stay at hotel in Bahawalpur.

**Day08** Multan - Proceed to the historical city of Multan and enjoy a city tour. Overnight at the hotel in Multan.

Day 09 Lahore - Enjoy a drive to Lahore via Harappa, the prehistoric Indus Valley Civilization site. On arrival at Lahore transfer to hotel. Overnight in Lahore.

 ${f Day 10}$  Lahore - Enjoy a full day city tour of Lahore. Overnight in Lahore.

Day 11 Islamabad - Drive to Islamabad en route visiting Khewra Salt Mines. On arrival transfer to hotel. Later enjoy city tour. Overnight in Islamabad.

Day 12 Islamabad - After an unparalleled insight into an ancient culture, transfer to airport to board flight for your journey back home.

**Day 01** Arrive Colombo - On arrival a warm welcome by our representatives and transfer to hotel. Rest of the day is free. Overnight at the hotel in Colombo.

Day 02 Colombo / Habarana - Proceed to Habarana, en route visit the Pinnawala elephant orphanage and rock fortress of Sigiriya. Overnight at hotel in Habarana.

Day 03 Habarana / Kandy - Proceed to Kandy, en route visit Dambulla cave temples. In the evening, take a city tour of Kandy including a visit to the temple of the Tooth relic. Overnight at hotel in Kandy.

 $\label{eq:continuous} \textbf{Day 04} \quad \textbf{Kandy} \, / \, \textbf{Nuwara Eliya} \, - \, \textbf{Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens}. \, \textbf{Later proceed to Nuwara Eliya}, \, \textbf{en route visit a tea factory} \, / \, \textbf{plantation}. \, \textbf{Take a site walk at the town in the evening}. \, \textbf{Overnight in Nuwara Eliya}.$ 

Day 05 Nuwara Eliya / Katharagama - Proceed to Katharagama and visit the Katharagama Kovil. Overnight at hotel in Katharagama.

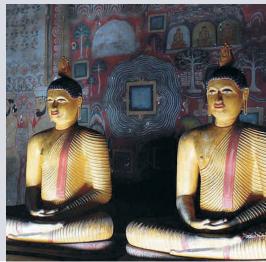
Day 06 Katharagama / Hikkaduwa - Proceed to Hikkaduwa via Galle. Take a City tour of Galle, famous for its Old Dutch fort and ramparts. Visit the turtle hatchery and a mask factory. Overnight in Hikkaduwa.

Day 07 Hikkaduwa / Colombo - Proceed to Colombo. On arrival, check in at hotel. Later take a city tour of Colombo. Visit 100-year-old clock tower, Colombo museum, Bandaranaike memorial international conference hall, new Parliament in Sri Jayawardenapura and folk art centre. Overnight at the hotel in Colombo.

**Day 08 Colombo** - Assistance and transfer to Colombo airport to board return flight back home.











TRAVELLING IN INDIA

**Visa** All foreign tourists to India (except for Nationals of Nepal, Bhutan) need a valid visa to enter India. Visa is not granted on arrival. The cost of the visa is USD 30 for upto six months, USD 50 for one year and USD 100 for more than a year. Tourist visas allow multiple entry to simplify the visits to the neighbouring countries.

**Special permits** Some areas in India, usually the border districts are out of bounds for normal travellers due to political and security reasons. Special permits may be procured if you wish to visit them. Permits are usually provided to groups and for a limited number of days. There's no extra charge for acquiring the permits and they may be obtained from the Indian missions abroad or governmental agencies with India.

**Entry points** You can enter India through its four major metropolises with international airports, Delhi, Mumbai (Bombay), Chennai (Madras), Kolkata (Calcutta), Bangalore and Hyderabad.

Climate India has three major seasons: winter, summer and monsoon. The winter months (November to February) have bright, sunny days and are pleasant throughout India. The desert region of Rajasthan and the coastal regions are extremely popular in the winter months. This is also the time for winter sports and a white Christmas in the hill states of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttaranchal. In Maharashtra, South and East India, December and January are pleasantly cool, never very cold. The summer months (April to June) are hot in most parts of India. During this period hill stations such as Simla, Mussorie, Nainital, Kullu and Kashmir Valley (north), Darjeeling and Shillong (North East), Ootacamund and Kodaikanal (South) Pachmarhi (Central India) and Mount Abu (Rajasthan) provide cool retreats. Adventure sports in the

hills, such as trekking, paragliding, angling are also best experienced in the summer. The Monsoon is an amazing phenomenon of nature. Sometime in June, the clouds break in the coast of southern India and are pushed up northwards by July- immersing the entire Indian subcontinent in torrents. India receives its major share of rain between June and September. The south-eastern areas receive most rainfall between mid October and December end. The only area which remains dry is the the fascinating moonscape of Ladakh and its adjoining areas in Himachal Pradesh.

**Languages** Hindi is India's official language. There are more than 15 other recognized languages. English is widely spoken.

**Currency** The rupee (Rs) is divided into 100 paise. There are coins of 1, 2 and 5 rupees and notes of 1,2,5,10,20,50,100,500 and 1000 Rs. The rate of exchange rate is about 45 rupees to a dollar. Travelers cheques of all banks (American Express, Thomas cook) are accepted in India. It is always advisable to carry US Dollars or UK pounds in cash as sometimes it would be difficult to change travelers cheques or use credit cards in smaller towns. Credit cards are widely accepted in major cities. ATM's can be found everywhere now especially in bigger cities.

**Etiquette and Customs** India is a vast country and different customs are followed in different parts of the country. These are the situations you need to know about.

Always remove your shoes before entering a holy place. Gurudwara's (Sikh Temple) will also require you to cover your head.

- \* Do not touch any holy object with the feet or your left hand. Also, do not give, take or point at anything with the left hand.
- \* If you are required to eat with your fingers at any place, do not use the left hand.
- \* Public show of affection is generally disapproved of, particularly in smaller cities and villages. Avoid it.
- \* Avoid wearing cloths that bare your arms and legs- in small cities and villages in particular.
- \* Always follow the rules written on notice boards at holy places. These may include 'leather objects not allowed', 'cameras not allowed', 'menstruating women not allowed', and so on.
- $^{\star}$  Giving tips is customary but not mandatory. At restaurants, the usual rule of 10% applies.
- \* Bargaining for a lesser price is a fairly common fact of life, especially at local bazaars, with rickshaws and auto drivers. However, recognized and larger shops and departmental stores will usually charge fixed prices.
- \* IST stands for Indian Standard Time but people will smile and inform you that it may be read as Indian 'Stretchable' Time. No, things don't always move as per schedule in India!



**Shopping** The phrase 'shop till you drop' takes you to a new dimension in India. Richly coloured silk & brocades, gorgeous carpets and rugs, delicately painted 'Moghul' miniatures, intricately designed wooden and hand-painted papier-mache boxes, treasure-chests of precious and semi precious stones, marble inlay work, brass statues, antique silver jewellery, delicate carvings in wood, stone etc.

Food Cuisine in India differs not only from region to region but even from one household to another. Some of the great culinary traditions of India originated in the royal courts of the Mughals. Mughlai food, whether from Delhi, Hyderabad or Lucknow, is usually meal based. The tandoor or clay oven is used as a stove. Braised meats, rich sauces and flavoured rice are the highlights of this form of cooking - served at innumerable speciality restaurants across the country. Kashmir, is famous for its 24 course banquet, the Wazwan; coastal areas such as Goa, Kerala, Bengal specializes in fish and sea food and coconut based dishes; Gujarat and Tamil Nadu excel in vegetarian specialities. Sweetmeats of India have their own special place in the culinary traditions-Bengal, Bikaner and Delhi are particularly famous in this regard.

India: The land and people Dominating the subcontinent both literally and metaphorically, the Himalayans have always been of immense importance to India. They are the source of India's two greatest river systems, the Indus and the Ganges, which not only bring down water but also the silt which form the land. Around Mount Kailash many of the most beautiful legends have been woven and some of the most sacred shrines of all Indian religions are located within their ranges. Most sacred shrines of all Indian religions are located within their ranges. The two great river systems are separated from each other by the Thar Desert of Rajasthan, a complete contrast to the heavily tilled fields of the river valleys. South is another range of mountains, the Vindhyas, which are not as high as the Himalayas but form the barrier between north and south known as the Deccan. The Deccan itself is a mostly dry, hilly plateau with ranges of hills on either side.

The coastal plains is composed of fertile alluvial soil which supports a flourishing agriculture and Kerala on the Malabar coast is the most densely populated region in all India. The larger eastern plain alternates between coastal and delta areas.

From Kashmir in the north to Kanya Kumari in the south is some 2000 miles and there is great temperature variation, the hottest part being the northern plains in summer. The monsoons control the temperature and also the agriculture, and when the rains come in June the whole land gives a sigh of relief. The rains continue throughout June, July and August with a high humidity in Sept and

Oct, but very little rain falls between Oct and May which therefore becomes the hottest months on the plains.

India has over 500 species of mammals, 3000 species of birds, plus a wide variety of fish,amphibians,reptiles and insects. Lions, Tigers and other large predators have been greatly reduced in number because of hunting and the encroachments of civilisation. Three varieties of rhinoceros are still found in the Sundarbans and the Brahmaputra Valley, while the formerly ubiquitous elephant has been driven into the sparcely inhabited hill areas which also house gaur, a kind of wild bison. Leopards are widely distributed as are wolfs and hyenas, while black bears are common in woody hills and forest areas. Although India has beautiful varieties of parrot, kingfisher and heron, 4 types of vulture and several species of eagle and falcon. Small game birds are plentiful.

The ethnic composition of India is probably the most complex of any country and because of the vastness of the land and the prevailing concepts of social segregation it has not become a 'melting pot', and the various ethnic distinctions have remained. Four main racial stocks and four language families can be distinguished: the Caucasoid, Proto-Australoid, Mongoloid and Negrito races; and the Dravidian, Indo European, Austro Asiatic and Sino Tibetan language families. While some of the other races where originally more widespread, today the great majority are of the Caucasoid racial stock and speak languages of the Indo European and Dravidian families.

The Caucasoid racial types descend from the same stock as the European races and came into the subcontinent in several waves of migrations from the north west. An initial wave in appoximately 3000 BC is associated with the Indus Valley culture, which was then pushed south by the advent of another Caucasoid group, the Aryans, around the middle of the 2nd millenium BC. These Caucasoid peoples spread and became dominant throughout the subcontinent, and the aboriginal Negritos and the Proto-Australoids were driven into small pockets in the hilly regions of southern and central India. The Mongoloid peoples, speaking Sino-Tibetan, inhabit the Himalayan area in the north.



