



# INDIA & NEPAL ENCOMPASSED, (WNT)

Kathmandu to Kathmandu 90 Days, departing 24th October 2020



## TRIP OVERVIEW

**Trip Style:** Overlanding

**Route:** Kathmandu to Kathmandu

**Duration:** 90 Days

**Transport:** Overland Expedition Vehicle, Jeep, Private Bus, Tuk Tuk, Boat, Camel, Train, Canoe, Overnight Boat

**Accommodation:** Comfortable Hotel 18 nights  
Guesthouse 21 nights  
Basic Hotel 35 nights  
Camping 8 nights  
Camping without facilities 2 nights  
Overnight Train 2 nights  
Overnight Boat 1 night

**Meals:** Breakfasts x 51, Lunches x 22, Dinners x 28

**Physical Challenge:** ● ● ○ ○ ○

Your itinerary may include easy-paced day walks, bike rides, and other activities that are not too strenuous.

**Lifestyle Challenge:** ● ● ● ○ ○

This trip has a bit of everything. Some areas that you travel through may be physically challenging; for example you may be at altitude some of the time and you may be camping for several nights. The pace of the trip can be tiring at times and some facilities will be basic. However there will also be plenty of time to relax and some comfortable accommodation.



# DAILY ITINERARY

## Day 1 - Kathmandu (24th October 2020)

Border Information: If you are joining the trip in Kathmandu, you will most likely enter Nepal at Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport (IATA code: KTM).

Wrapped around the Himalayan mountain range is the remarkable country of Nepal. It is the birthplace of the Buddha and is a land of legend and beauty. Within its narrow confines Nepal contains an utterly spectacular variety of culture and landscapes. Nepal has a stunning natural beauty and a simple charm.

There is an important group meeting at 6:00pm. Your leader will leave a note at reception telling you where and when this important meeting will take place.

Please note that many of the optional activities listed will only be possible for those with extra time in Kathmandu before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Kathmandu.

Accommodation: Hotel Tibet A""

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Visit the beautiful and tranquil Durbar Square in the nearby medieval town of Bhaktapur and visit its nearby museums

Entrance: 1,500 NPR

Visit the ancient stupa of Boudhanath. It is one of the largest stupas in the world and on clear days offers views of Everest

Entrance: 400 NPR

Swayambhunath, or Monkey Temple as it is known, is an ancient religious complex atop a hill in the Kathmandu Valley. It has ancient carvings, superb views of the surrounding valley and is crowded with monkeys mingling with the visitors.

Entrance: 200 NPR

Visit the oldest Hindu temple still in use in the Kathmandu Valley

Entrance: 300 NPR

Visit Durbar Square, the heart of the old town from where kings once ruled

Entrance: 1,500 NPR

Visit the former royal palace of Narayanhiti and see the crown jewels of Nepal

Entrance: 500 NPR

Visit the sacred Hindu Pashupatinath Temple, dedicated to Nepal's unofficial national deity

Entrance: 1,500 NPR

Visit Lalitpur city and view a mass of temples in the Newa architecture style

Entrance: 1,000 NPR

Get out of the city and explore the nearby national park of Sundarijal and see its idyllic waterfalls and rock formations

Entrance: 600 NPR

## Day 2 - Nuwakot (25th October 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

Today our journey begins with a drive to the historic village of Nuwakot, one of Nepal's hidden gems nestled in the

central hills of the country. Full of ancient temples and palaces, Nuwakot has a beautifully serene atmosphere and rustic ambience - perfect for getting a taste of the calm pace of rural Nepalese life.

### Day 3 - Nuwakot (26th October 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

Today is a free day to explore the stunning village of Nuwakot and its surroundings.

#### Daily Activities

##### Optional Activities

Trek around the incredible hills, terraced fields and traditional villages in the area, taking in some of the awe-inspiring scenery

Price: Free

Explore the historic Nepalese village of Nuwakot and visit its 18th-century palace, once an important stop on the bustling Tibetan-Kathmandu Valley trade route.

Entrance: Free

### Day 4 - Pokhara (27th October 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will depart Nuwakot and make our way to Nepal's second city - the adventure town of Pokhara!

### Day 5 - Pokhara (28th October 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will have a free day in the fantastic city of Pokhara. The area is famous for its myriad of spectacular waterfalls surrounded by fertile forests and towering mountains, for its fantastic choice of yoga and meditation retreats, and for its overwhelming choice of adventure activities from trekking to rafting to zip-lining to mountain biking!

#### Daily Activities

##### Optional Activities

Trek around the stunning Himalayan foothills, the local villages and monasteries in the peaceful area of Dhulikhel

Hike to World Peace Stupa: 20 USD

Take a boat out on Phewa Lake near Pokhara basking in the spectacular mountain-and-forest scenery of one of Nepal's most beautiful spots

1hr with a boatman: 500 NPR

Head out to the stunning Phewa Tal Lake on an unforgettable pony trek through the lush forests near Pokhara

Half day: 2,000 NPR

Head out on an adrenaline-fuelled white water rafting expedition near the adventure town of Pokhara

Half Day Rafting: 50 USD

Take an early trip to the summit of Sarangkot to witness the incredible sunrise while surrounded by some of the world's highest mountains with the possibility of trekking downhill back to Pokhara

Approximate cost, depends on numbers: 40 NPR

## Day 6 - Annapurna Region (29th October 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

This morning we take a short drive out of Pokhara to the small village of Dhampus, where we start our 3-hour trek to our Annapurna eco-lodge. The lodge is dramatically located in the foothills of the mountains of Annapurna and Manaslu, and is a paradise for taking walks through the stunning Nepalese countryside.

The trek is approximately 3 hours in total, and is relatively easy but is mainly uphill. The trek can be skipped by any individual if need be.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Head out on a fantastic trek along the ridge at the start of the Mardi Himal Trail taking in the unreal vistas of Annapurna and Machhapuchhare in the mountain ranges nearby

Included

## Day 7 - Annapurna Region (30th October 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will explore the area around our eco-lodge, meet many of the locals, and get into the heart of the community. We will hopefully visit a local school and give something back to the local community by helping to maintain their ingenious water systems.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Enjoy a sunrise Yoga Class

Yoga Class 1 Hour: 700 NPR

## Day 8 - Bandipur (31st October 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will make our way back down to the town of Pokhara. If people are feeling energetic there is an option to walk down to another village and meet the jeeps there giving people a chance to take in more incredible views of Annapurna and Machhapuchhare mountains. We will stop at a small village for lunch and then take the steep downhill trail to rejoin our overland truck on the main road. From there, we will drive to the delightful town of Bandipur.

## Day 9 - Bandipur (1st November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will have free time to relax and explore the local surroundings.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Walk the 300 steps up to the Temple on the Hill for a stunning sunset over Bandipur and surrounding villages and mountains.

Price: Free

## Day 10 - Chitwan NP (2nd November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will drive through stunning scenery down to the lowlands of Nepal and the Terai grasslands. Our destination is Chitwan National Park, where we will stay for the next 2 nights.

If we arrive in good time we will make a visit to Bis Hazaar Tal, also known as 20,000 Lakes, which is a wetland area near the Royal Chitwan National Park. Here we will get the opportunity to see peacocks, wild boars, deer and there is also a slim chance of seeing tigers and rhinos. If we cannot visit the 20,000 Lakes area today we will make our visit tomorrow.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Witness the fascinating and impressive local tradition of Tharu stick dancing	Included
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Take a canoe ride down the river spotting local wildlife	Included
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## Day 11 - Chitwan NP (3rd November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we'll spend the day exploring the National Park by canoe and on foot, and there is the option to take a jeep safari! There will be an opportunity to see a traditional Nepali dance demonstration in the evening.

In Chitwan we will stay in a local guest lodge.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Explore the heart of the incredible Chitwan National Park on a jeep safari (alternative to the 20000 Lake excursion)

Jeep Safari : 3,500 NPR

## Day 12 - Gorakhpur (4th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Border Information:** Exit Nepal at Belhiya, enter India at Sonauli.

Today we enter the legendary country of India. India has so much to offer, from the beautiful landscapes of the Himalayas, to the amazing temples and coastlines, rich culture, and of course the food!

This morning we have a fairly relaxed start to the day before packing up and driving to the border. We will cross the border to India and continue on a short drive to the town of Gorakhpur

## Day 13 - Varanasi (5th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will continue driving and reach the holy city of Varanasi in the evening.

## Day 14 - Varanasi (6th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will get up very early for an included boat trip down the Ganges. This is a magical time of day to see the famous ghats and watch the morning rituals of the thousands of people who come here to purify themselves in the holy river. We will have auto-rickshaws for the rest of the day to explore the rest of the city - we will have the opportunity to use them to visit a traditional silk workshop and the Mother India temple.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

At dawn drift down the holy River Ganges in Varanasi

Included

#### Optional Activities

Visit the Mughal-era mosque of Gyanvapi in Varanasi

Entrance: Free

Visit the ancient site of Isipatana and the museum in the town of Sarnath one of the most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the world and where many Buddhist nations have built temples in their national styles

Giant Buddha Statue: Free

Explore the stupas and temples of Varanasi

Entrance: Free

## Day 15 - Khajuraho (7th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a full days drive to the town of Khajuraho.

On arrival we will set up camp before settling in for the evening.

## Day 16 - Khajuraho (8th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will head out for an included guided visit to the Khajuraho Erotic Temples. In the afternoon we will have some free time to explore the town or relax back at camp.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Guided tour of the famous erotic temples at Khajuraho

Included

## Day 17 - Khajuraho (9th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today is free to explore the area, relax on the banks of the river, or take an optional jeep safari to the nearby Panna National Park in search of wildlife.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Jeep safari through Panna Game Reserve

Entrance, jeep and guide (price based on 5 pax sharing transport and guide costs): 1,600 INR

### Day 18 - Agra (10th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

After breakfast we leave our campsite and head to the city of Agra. Most of today will be spent travelling and we will arrive in the evening.

### Day 19 - Agra (11th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will have an included day tour of the major sites of Agra, starting with sunrise at the world-famous iconic mausoleum of the Taj Mahal, followed by a visit to the Agra Fort.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Explore the peaceful grounds of the Itmad Ud Daulah mausoleum, often described as a 'draft' of the Taj Mahal  
Included

Visit the Agra Red Fort and see some of the most exquisite architecture of the Mughal Period  
Included

Go on a guided tour of the stunning Taj Mahal, one of the most famous buildings in the world  
Included

### Day 20 - Jaipur (12th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

We leave Agra today and head overland to the pink city of Jaipur, stopping en route at Fatehpur Sikri (the old capital of the Mughal Empire).

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Discover the perfectly-preserved 16th-century Mughal capital of Fatehpur Sikri and its beautiful temples and monuments  
Included

### Day 21 - Jaipur (13th November 2020)

Today we will have a full day exploring the sites of Jaipur on rickshaws with our local guide. Whilst in Jaipur there will also be the option for an early morning or late afternoon hot air balloon ride over the city.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Visit the ancient citadel of the Amber Palace a fascinating blend of Hindu and Mughal architecture

Included

Guided tour of Jaipur, the beautiful Pink City

Included

Explore the fascinating 18th-century astronomical observatory of Jantar Mantar

Included

Visit the City Palace, a unique and arresting complex of several palaces, pavilions, gardens and temples that occupies one-seventh of the area of Jaipur

Included

### Optional Activities

Take an unforgettable sunrise or sunset balloon ride over the forts and palaces of Jaipur

1hr flight: 280 USD

Head out to see a Bollywood movie at the Raj Mandir one of India's most famous and elegant cinemas

Entrance: 170 INR

See a traditional outdoor Rajasthani Kathputli puppet show in Jaipur

Entrance per Group: 1,000 INR

## Day 22 - Delhi (14th November 2020)

Today we leave Jaipur and travel to the chaotic Indian capital of Delhi.

## Day 23 - Delhi (15th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will have an included guided tour of Old Delhi, heading to the Mughal Jama Masjid mosque, a local tea-maker, a Sikh temple, and the local spice markets. We will also have some free time to freely explore the sights of Delhi in the afternoon.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Take a walking tour through some of the back streets and narrow alleyways of Old Delhi discovering the hidden side of the city

Included

### Optional Activities

Explore the site of Humayun's Tomb a phenomenal early Mughal tomb that is said to be a major inspiration for the Taj Mahal

Entrance: 500 INR

See the India Gate at the end of Delhi's ceremonial axis built to commemorate all Indians who have died in various wars



Entrance: Free

Visit the Indira Gandhi Museum in Delhi dedicated to the former Prime Minister who was assassinated by her own bodyguards in 1984

Entrance: 100 INR

Visit the stunning Mughal-era mosque of Jama Masjid in Old Delhi and climb its iconic minarets for an unrivalled view of the old city

Entrance: 400 INR

See the ground-breaking modern architecture of the Delhi Baha'i Temple known as the Lotus Temple due to its unique shape

Entrance: Free

See some of the incredible artifacts and antiquities in the National Museum in Delhi

Entrance and audio guide: 1,000 INR

Discover the phenomenal 13th Century Qutab Minar and Mehrauli Archaeological Park in the south of Delhi an intricately-carved pillar built during the Sultanate era of Indian history

Entrance and audio guide: 720 INR

Freely explore the colossal Mughal Red Fort in Old Delhi built by the emperor Shah Jahan in 1648 upon moving the capital there

Entrance and audio guide: 620 INR

Explore the Sanjay Colony 'slum' area of Delhi on a guided tour to see the micro-industries, schools and residential life there

Entrance: 1,000 INR

Discover the fascinating modern displays and buildings of the Swaminarayan Akshardham Hindu Temple, reportedly the largest Hindu building in the world

Entrance: 200 INR

## Day 24 - Delhi (16th November 2020)

**Border Information:** If joining the trip in Delhi, you will most likely enter India at Delhi Indira Gandhi International Airport (IATA code: DEL).

Today is a free day to explore Delhi. There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm - please look for a note from your tour leader when you arrive at the hotel giving more details about this meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Delhi before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Delhi.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Explore the Sanjay Colony 'slum' area of Delhi on a guided tour to see the micro-industries, schools and residential life there

Entrance: 1,000 INR

Explore the site of Humayun's Tomb a phenomenal early Mughal tomb that is said to be a major inspiration for the Taj Mahal

Entrance: 500 INR

See the India Gate at the end of Delhi's ceremonial axis built to commemorate all Indians who have died in various wars

Entrance: Free

Freely explore the colossal Mughal Red Fort in Old Delhi built by the emperor Shah Jahan in 1648 upon moving the capital there

Entrance and audio guide: 620 INR

## Day 25 - Bikaner (17th November 2020)

Today we start our journey with a full day drive to the city of Bikaner.

In Bikaner we will either stay in a local hotel or camp at an eco-lodge a short distance outside the city.

## Day 26 - Jaisalmer (18th November 2020)

Today we continue our journey with a drive to the ancient Rajasthani city of Jaisalmer, stopping at the Karni Mata (Rat Temple) for an included visit en route.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Witness the holy rats in the Karni Mata rat temple near Bikaner

Included

## Day 27 - Jaisalmer (19th November 2020)

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

We will have free time this morning to explore the sights of Jaisalmer. In the late afternoon we will head out on an included camel safari into the Thar Desert - exploring the desert with local Rajasthani camel drivers is the most authentic way to experience the area!

Tonight we will camp out on the outskirts of the desert, sleeping under the stars.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Trek into the Thar Desert on an overnight camel safari with Rajasthani camel drivers

Included

## Day 28 - Jaisalmer (20th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

This morning we will return to Jaisalmer from our camel safari. The rest of the day will be free to relax or explore more of Jaisalmer and the surrounding area.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Jaisalmer Fort

Museum Entrance: 500 INR

Visit the beautiful and ornate 18th-century mansions of Salim Singh-ki Haveli and Patwa-ki Haveli

Entrance: 220 INR

Watch the sunset from the stunning Amar Sagar Jain Temple in Jaisalmer

Entrance: 150 INR

Jeep (cost per vehicle, max 6 pax): 1,800 INR

Jaisalmer Kuldhara Ghost Town

Entrance: Free

## Day 29 - Jodhpur (21st November 2020)

**Meals:** Dinner

This morning we will drive from Jaisalmer to another famous Rajasthani city, Jodhpur. En route to Jodhpur we will make an included visit to the Sambhali Trust project (a charitable project that works for the empowerment of women and girls in Rajasthan), where we will learn about the efforts of the project and make a group donation from the kitty.

After our visit we will make our way to our accommodation, rooms that have been set up by local families in their own homes for visitors. We will be splitting up into 2 or 3 small groups for our community guesthouses.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Visit and support the Dragoman-supported Sambhali Trust near Jodhpur and see the excellent work they do to provide local women and girls with education and vocational skills

Included

## Day 30 - Jodhpur (22nd November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

After breakfast we will have an included visit to the Mehrangarh Fort and palace. The afternoon is then free to explore this wonderful city independently.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Explore the blue city of Jodhpur and the mighty Meherangarh fort

Included

### Optional Activities

Prepare a meal with a local chef, learning traditional Indian cooking techniques along the way

Class with dinner: 1,000 INR

Explore the white marble memorial of Jaswant Thada, the traditional cremation ground of Jodhpur rulers

Entrance: 100 INR

Explore the nearby Mandore Gardens and ancient ruined fort

Entrance: Free

Explore the museum of the Jodhpur Royal Family in the Umaid Bhawan Palace, one of the world's largest private residences

Museum Entrance: 50 INR

Go out on an exhilarating zip-lining excursion over the gardens of the Mehrangarh Fort

6 lines: 1,999 INR

## Day 31 - Udaipur (23rd November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

After breakfast we set off for our drive to Udaipur, visiting the Jain Temple at Ranakpur en route. We will have 3 nights in Udaipur, giving us plenty of time to discover this amazing, romantic Rajasthani city.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Visit to Ranakpur Jain marble temple

Included

## Day 32 - Udaipur (24th November 2020)

On these 2 days we will have free time to explore the sites in and around Udaipur, take part in some optional activities, and relax on one of the many roof-top terraces in the city.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Visit the Animal Aid Unlimited animal shelter and hospital in Udaipur and support the incredible work they do there to look after injured street animals in the area

Donation: 10 INR

Learn all about the folk art culture songs and festivals of Rajasthan at the Bharatiya Lok Kala Mandal cultural institution

Entrance: 50 INR

Visit the flamboyant City Palace of Udaipur built in a fascinating fusion of Rajasthani and Mughal styles

Entrance and Audio Guide: 700 INR

Enjoy some Rajasthani folk music and traditional dances set in an old haveli

1 hr: 150 INR

Head out on a half-day horse ride through the beautiful surroundings of the foothills of the Aravalli Mountains around Udaipur

4 hrs: 3,500 INR

Visit the iconic Monsoon Palace perched on a mountain overlooking Udaipur

Entrance: 160 INR

Explore the Pichola Lake, and its famous temple islands of Jagniwas and Jagmandir, on a stunning and peaceful boat cruise

1 hr: 430 INR

30min: 300 INR

Take an evening ride on the Udaipur Ropeway to see the stunning vista of the city after sunset

Return: 103 INR

### Day 33 - Udaipur (25th November 2020)

We have a 2nd full day in Udaipur to give us plenty of time to discover this amazing, romantic Rajasthan city and relax on one of the many roof-top terraces

### Day 34 - Mandu (26th November 2020)

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

Leaving Udaipur, we will be joined by a local cook who will accompany us during the next few days as we travel through Ajanta and Ellora.

Today will mostly be spent travelling to Mandu via the backroads of rural Rajasthan. We will be off the tourist trail here and tonight we will camp or stay in a local hotel.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Visit the tomb of Hoshang Shah, the first Muslim leader of Mandu - the tomb itself is India's first marble building and one of the most refined examples of Afghan-style architecture in the country

Included

### Day 35 - Mandu (27th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will visit Mandu, an extensive and largely abandoned hill-top fort from the Mughal era. We will then spend the afternoon driving to our camping spot near Kharwand Dam, en route towards Ajanta.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Visit to the Jahaz Mahal (the Ship Palace) - the most famous building in Mandu

Included

Visit the deserted hilltop ghost city of Mandu

Included

### Day 36 - Ajanta (28th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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Today we complete the drive to Ajanta, arriving in the afternoon. We will visit the complex of 29 ancient Buddhist temples cut into the rock face. We will find a basic camp nearby or continue onto Ellora depending on time.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Take a guided visit around the incredible Buddhist rock caves and paintings of Ajanta some dating back as far as the 2nd century BCE

Included

## Day 37 - Ellora (29th November 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

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Today we will drive a short distance to Ellora where we will have an included visit to the ancient Buddhist, Hindu and Jain caves - a set of a small temples in the rock face dating from the 6th to 11th Centuries CE. We will camp in the grounds of a hotel tonight.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Guided visit to the Buddhist Hindu and Jain rock-cut temples and monasteries of Ellora

Included

## Day 38 - Mumbai (30th November 2020)

Setting off early today, we will say goodbye to our local cook and drive to the bustling city of Mumbai.

## Day 39 - Mumbai (1st December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

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**Border Information:** If joining the trip in Mumbai, you will most likely enter India from Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport (IATA code: BOM).

There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm at the joining hotel in Mumbai - please look out at the reception for a note from your tour leader with further details about this meeting. Otherwise, today is free to explore the sights and sounds of Mumbai.

## Day 40 - Mumbai (2nd December 2020)

Today will be a free day to explore this amazing city. This is also an opportunity to take a tour of the Dharavi slum areas of Mumbai.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Take a Bollywood dance class in one of Mumbai's premier dance studios

1hr: 500 INR

Take a fascinating tour of Film City one of Mumbai's premier Bollywood filming studios

Entrance: 3,500 INR

Take a guided tour of the backstreets shops and schools of the Dhavari district to experience a slice of the real Mumbai

2.5hr Tour, price for a group of 5: 3,250 INR

4.5hr Tour, price for a group of 5: 6,000 INR

Explore the labyrinth of cave-temples on Elephanta Island near Mumbai some of the most impressive rock carvings in all of India

Boat: 125 INR

Discover the marvellous collection of historical objects and art at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya Museum one of India's premier museums

Entrance: 500 INR

## Day 41 - Goa (3rd December 2020)

We will start our journey by taking the train along the coast to Goa. We will stay for 2 nights at the relaxed beaches of Vagator in the northern part of Goa.

Estimated Journey Time (on train) - 11-12 hours.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Experience a local overnight train from Mumbai to Goa

Included

## Day 42 - Goa (4th December 2020)

We will have a 2nd night in North Goa tonight. Most travellers are drawn to Vagator for the stunning sunsets, the laid-back atmosphere and the proximity of some other quieter beaches in the area such as Arambol and Anjuna.

## Day 43 - Old Goa (5th December 2020)

After our 2 nights on the northern beaches of Goa, we head off in the truck to the southern end of Goa. En route we will stop off at the site of Old Goa to spend some time independently exploring the area's colonial buildings.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Freely explore the historic churches and ancient streets of the old Portuguese city of Old Goa

Tour, price per group: 2,500 INR

Own exploration: Free

## Day 44 - Old Goa (6th December 2020)

We will stay for a 2nd night on either the stunning beach of Agonda or Palolem, these beaches are the perfect places to sit back and watch the fishing boats landing their catch or sample the delicious local cuisine.

## Day 45 - Hampi (7th December 2020)

Leaving the beaches of Goa behind us, we set off on a full day drive into the state of Karnataka and to the village of Hampi. The village is located within the ruins of Vijayanagara, the former capital of the ancient Vijayanagara Empire.

## Day 46 - Hampi (8th December 2020)

Today we will have a guided tour of the historical sites around Hampi by rickshaw and on foot.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Discover the lost kingdom of Vijayanagar in the magnificent ruined city of Hampi

Included

## Day 47 - Mysore (9th December 2020)

From Hampi we will have another full day drive to the city of Mysore, one of India's most attractive towns.

## Day 48 - Mysore (10th December 2020)

On our 2nd day we will have free time in Mysore to independently explore the city's beautiful gardens, palaces, and the Shir Chamarajendra art gallery.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Explore the amazing Maharajas Palace of Mysore

Included

#### Optional Activities

Explore Mysore's many parks and gardens

Entrance: Free

Take a stroll through the huge Devarja market, a traditional and colourful bazaar

Price: Free

Climb the 1000 steps to the summit of Chamundi Hill to visit the famous Sri Chamundeshwari Temple and take in the views of the city below

Rickshaw: 100 INR

## Day 49 - Wayanad (11th December 2020)

**Meals:** Dinner

Today we travel up into the cool highlands and head to the hill-station of Wayanad, a small settlement surrounded by tea and coffee plantations.

Whilst in Wayanad we stay as guests of local families at a local guesthouse.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities



See the 7000-year-old Neolithic petroglyphs at the Edakkal caves en route

Included

## Day 50 - Wayanad (12th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

There are many optional activities available in Wayanad which we will have time to do today, from hiking up Chembra Peak, visiting local waterfalls and tea plantations, or the chance to visit the nearby Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Take a strenuous day-hike up the 2100m Chembra Peak the highest peak in the Wayanad area

Trekking Fee (per 5): 1,800 INR

Guide (cost per group): 2,200 INR

Jeep (taking 4 pax): 2,500 INR

Trekking in the tea and coffee plantations of Wayanad

Entrance: Free

Take a walk through the scenic Wayanad countryside to visit the Meenmuttery or Kanthanppara waterfalls

Entrance: 20 INR

Take a jeep safari around Muthanga Wildlife Sanctuary

Entrance: 325 INR

Jeep (taking 5 pax): 700 INR

## Day 51 - Kochi (13th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will continue our journey with a full day drive to the coastal city of Kochi.

## Day 52 - Kochi (14th December 2020)

This morning we will take a local boat to Fort Cochin and have free time to explore and visit various sites including the Jewish Quarter, St Francis Church and the iconic Chinese fishing nets. In the evening we will be able to see a performance from the famous Kathakali dancers, India's most spectacular dance drama.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Visit Fort Cochin or watch the Kathakali dancers

Included

Evening visit to watch the classical Indian dance drama of Kathakali

Included

## Day 53 - Alleppey (15th December 2020)

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

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Leaving the bustle of Kochi behind, today we embark on our included overnight houseboat cruise on the tranquil Keralan backwaters of Alleppey. We will often split into smaller groups to board our traditional 'Kettuvallom' boats which will take us around the scenic rivers and spend the night aboard.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Overnight on a houseboat in the Kerala Backwaters, exploring the unique eco-system of this labyrinthine system of lakes, canals and rivers

Included

## Day 54 - Varkala (16th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

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After our fantastic overnight cruise along the Keralan backwaters, we continue our journey with a short drive to the beach resort of Varkala.

## Day 55 - Varkala (17th December 2020)

Today we have free time to explore the surrounding areas and relax on the beautiful beaches.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Head out for an evening performance of traditional Keralan Kathakali dancing

Entrance: 400 INR

Get a traditional Ayurvedic massage in the Keralan town of Varkala

Massage: 1,200 INR

Visit the 2000-year-old pilgrimage site of the Janardana Swami Temple, dedicated to a form of the Hindu Lord Vishnu

Entrance: Free

## Day 56 - Varkala (18th December 2020)

Our final day in Varkala today, spend more time relaxing the beautiful beaches or why not sample the justifiably-famous Keralan cuisine at one of the great local restaurants.

## Day 57 - Kanyakumari (19th December 2020)

Today we will have a morning drive to Kanyakumari (also known as Cape Comorin), the very southern point of India. Here we will have free time to explore the Vivekananda Rock and the surrounding sites.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Take the ferry over to Vivekananda Rock and explore the memorial to the Hindu monk Swami Vivekananda

Express ticket: 200 INR

Regular ticket: 50 INR

## Day 58 - Madurai (20th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

This morning we have the option to get up early to watch the sunrise from the southern tip of India with thousands of locals, what can be an incredible experience! From Kanyakumari we then start heading back north again, and drive to the holy city of Madurai. In the afternoon we will have an included visit to the Sri Meenakshi Temple in Madurai.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Visit to the historical Hindu Meenakshi Amman Temple dedicated to lord Shiva

Included

## Day 59 - Pondicherry (21st December 2020)

Today we head to the French-influenced town of Pondicherry, and will have a free time on arrival in the afternoon.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Visit the spiritual community of the Sri Aurobindo Ashram founded in the early 20th century by the famous Bengali freedom fighter and spiritual leader

Entrance: Free

Take Bollywood dance class

Dance class: 400 INR

## Day 60 - Pondicherry (22nd December 2020)

On our 2nd day why not spend the day relaxing and soak up the atmosphere or explore the town and its beautiful colonial architecture.

## Day 61 - Chennai (23rd December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we have a short drive to the ancient city of Mahabalipuram, once the capital of the Pallava Dynasty in the 7th Century CE. On arrival we will have an included visit to the incredible Shore Temples and other monuments around the town ( time permitted ).

In the afternoon we will finish the short drive to the bustling coastal city of Chennai.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Visit to the Shore Temples and Pagodas of Mahabalipuram

Included

## Day 62 - Chennai (24th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Border Information:** If you are joining in Chennai, you will most likely enter India in Chennai International Airport (IATA code: MAA).

Today is a free day to explore the sights, sounds and flavours of Chennai. There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm - please look for a note from your tour leader when you arrive at the hotel giving more details about this meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Chennai before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Chennai.

*\*Important note\* - if you are joining the trip in Chennai, please make sure that you send us a scan of your Indian visa as soon as you have obtained it. If you plan to take the e-visa option, please make sure you arrange this well in advance and send us a copy of your receipt as soon as possible. If we do not receive this in advance, then we will not have enough time to get your permits for the Odisha Region and you will not be able to visit this area. We will also need these to purchase your train tickets.*

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Visit the Fort St. George, the site of the East India Company's first trading station in 1640, and the first British fort in India

Entrance: 100 INR

Visit the Chennai Government Museum, and its incredible selection of antiquities including Roman artefacts and coins from all eras of India's past

Entrance: 250 INR

Visit the many historic temples mosques and churches of Chennai

Entrance: Free

## Day 63 - Tirupati (25th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we start our journey with a drive to the bustling town of Tirupati. In the afternoon there will be an optional visit to the Sri Venkateswara holy temple in the nearby town of Tirumala. ( Please note if you wish to visit the temple there is a dress code of Dhoti with upper cloth for men and saree or half-saree with blouse or churidar with pyjama and upper cloth for women. It is also quite difficult to get tickets to visit the temple due to the high numbers of pilgrims visiting the temple during this time, if we can not get any tickets available we will visit Srikalahasteeswara temple instead ).

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities

Visit the Sri Venkatesvara Tirumalai Temple

Entrance: 300 INR

Transport (price per car taking max 5 pax): 2,500 INR

## Day 64 - Vijayawada (26th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Leaving Tirupati, we will spend the next few days overlanding through Andhra Pradesh, one of the least developed states in India. This is real off-the-beaten-track overlanding, and we will arrive in the small city of Vijayawada this evening.

## Day 65 - Visakhapatnam (27th December 2020)

**Meals:** Lunch, Dinner

Today we continue our journey and drive through the back roads of Andhra Pradesh. Our final destination tonight is the coastal town of Visakhapatnam.

## Day 66 - Odisha Tribal Area (28th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will begin our guided tour through the rarely-visited Odisha Tribal Regions, which we will comprehensively visit over the next 6 days. In these regions the itinerary has to be kept fairly flexible, allowing us the freedom to alter things slightly if we hear of any special events or market days in particular villages. However, we will generally follow the plan below:

This morning we will have an early start from Visakhapatnam to arrive in a small village called Goudaguda in time to visit the Monday markets. Beautiful earthen pottery is skillfully produced in this area and you may even get the chance to try this for yourself.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Visit the Monday market in the indigenous melting pot of Goudaguda soaking up the incredible atmosphere as the locals barter and trade their produce

Included

#### Optional Activities

Bathe in the natural hot springs with the local villagers at the small temple of Taptapani

Entrance: Free

## Day 67 - Odisha Tribal Area (29th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Today we will have a guided walk in the morning through the countryside around Goudaguda, visiting the neighbouring Mahali and Kondh tribal villages.

This evening we will return to our guesthouse in Goudaguda for the night.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Head out for a full day hike around the Goudaguda region visiting nearby villages of the Kondha Mahali and Paroja tribal people

Included

## Day 68 - Odisha Tribal Area (30th December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After breakfast at our guesthouse we will drive to the lively Chatikona Market, which is a weekly highlight for the Dongria Kondh tribe. We will then continue on and travel through the hills to the village of Muniguda, our destination for tonight.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Explore the rarely-visited Wednesday Market in Chakitona the main weekly market for the Desia and Dongria villagers from the area

Included

See a fascinating local cooking demonstration and learn about the incredible work of the New Hope Community Centre in the rural village of Muniguda

Included

## Day 69 - Odisha Tribal Area (31st December 2020)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will continue our journey north driving through a well known Elephant Range. We will then have a chance to stretch our legs and walk into the Desia Kondh indigenous community. They are distinguished by the unique facial tattoos of the women. After a village visit and picnic lunch we will continue to Baliguda.

## Day 70 - Odisha Tribal Area (1st January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we are going to continue on to the fascinating fishing town of Gopalpur, a once major port for the East India Company which has an interesting decaying charm. We will have plenty of free time here to be able to explore this fascinating town.

## Day 71 - Puri (2nd January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

Our tour of the Odisha tribal areas comes to an end today as we drive on to the small town of Puri.

Puri is one of the holiest pilgrimage places in India, and has a wonderful long sandy beach. On arrival we will explore the old pilgrim route by cycle-rickshaw, taking in ashrams, Hindu monasteries, a palm leaf manuscript library and the awesome Jagannath temple.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Explore the religious sites of Puri by cycle-rickshaw including the Jagannath Temple one of the four most sacred Hindu pilgrimage sites in India

Included

Explore the ruins of the 13th-century Sun Temple of Konark near to Puri shaped like a colossal chariot with elaborately carved stone wheels

Included

## Day 72 - Puri (3rd January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Our first full day here in Puri, we plan to take a short drive back to visit Chilika Lake and explore the lake by boat and take a walk through some of the surrounding fisherman's villages.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Enjoy a boat trip on Chilika Lake, bird spotting and taking in the scenery

Included

## Day 73 - Puri (4th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast

Today we will begin with a cycle ride through rice paddies and rural hamlets, meeting local craftsmen and women and watching them demonstrate their unique crafts. In the afternoon we will have a guided tour of the UNESCO World Heritage site of the Konark Sun Temple.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Explore the ruins of the 13th-century Sun Temple of Konark near to Puri shaped like a colossal chariot with elaborately carved stone wheels

Included

Take a cycle ride through the stunning back-roads and villages near Puri to visit the artisan village of Raghurajpur and see the fantastic array of handicrafts traditionally manufactured there

Included

## Day 74 - Kolkata (5th January 2021)

It will be an early start today as we will travel by train to Kolkata, the largest city in India. We will have free time today and tomorrow to explore this remarkable city, or take an optional photographic tour.

Estimated Journey Time (by train) - 7-8 hours.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Experience a local train ride from Puri to Kolkata

Included

## Day 75 - Kolkata (6th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Border Information:** If you are joining the trip in Kolkata, you will most likely enter India at Kolkata Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport (IATA code: CCU).

Today is a free day to explore the sights, sounds and flavours of the incredible city of Kolkata. There will be an important group meeting at 6:00pm - please look for a note from your tour leader when you arrive at the hotel giving more details about this meeting.

Please note that many of the options listed below will only be possible for those with extra time in Kolkata before the start of your trip with us - please contact the Sales team if you would like to book pre-tour accommodation with us to have extra time exploring Kolkata.

## Day 76 - Overnight train to Siliguri (7th January 2021)

During the day we will have free time to explore Kolkata, and we have the opportunity to take an optional photographic tour of the city.

Whilst in Kolkata, your leader will assist you in arranging your Sikkim permit (you will need to bring passport photos and a photocopy of your passport photo page).

We will meet in the evening to head to the train station and board our overnight train to Siliguri - accommodation tonight will be on the train, where there are basic bunk beds with sheets provided.

### Daily Activities

## Included Activities

Experience a local overnight train from Kolkata to Siliguri

Included

## Optional Activities

Visit the Eden Gardens, the most famous and iconic cricket stadium in India

Entrance: Free

See the famous Howrah Bridge over the Hooghly River thought to be the busiest bridge in the world with 150000 pedestrians and 100000 vehicles crossing every day

Entrance: Free

Explore the vast fields and parks of the Maidan (the 'lungs of Kolkata') and observe daily life away from the chaos of the city

Entrance: Free

Discover the incredible array of art and historical artefacts on display at the Indian Museum in Kolkata - the largest and oldest museum in India

Entrance: 500 INR

Head out on a fantastic photographic tour of Kolkata exploring the hidden gems back streets and photogenic spots of the city with a superb local guide

Price: 2,000 INR

Visit the Mother Teresa of Calcutta Centre a museum illustrating the life and work of the famous and controversial missionary

Entrance: Free

Visit and support the Usthi Foundation's school and farm for impoverished children in Kolkata, and see the amazing work they do (if available)

Suggested minimum donation: 10 USD

Transport to project (price per 6-seater car): 3,000 USD

See the huge white marble Victoria Memorial, built in the early 20th century by the British Viceroy of India and a grandiose reminder of Kolkata's colonial past

Entrance: 500 INR

## Day 77 - Darjeeling (8th January 2021)

We will arrive into Siliguri at around 9:00am this morning, meeting our jeeps and drivers at the station for our onward journey through the narrow winding roads to Darjeeling. The town of Darjeeling is really more a collection of villages situated on a high ridge, linked by a series of steps and winding lanes and surrounded by rice and tea terraces.

Jeeps are used in this region rather than our overland truck as they are perfect for the narrow, steep and winding roads of the area. We will continue with the jeeps all the way until the trip returns to Siliguri (after Gangtok).

## Day 78 - Darjeeling (9th January 2021)

Today is a free day to explore Darjeeling. Perhaps take a scenic train ride through the Darjeeling foothills or visit the museum at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute.

## Daily Activities

### Optional Activities



See the museum at the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute containing many exhibits from mountaineering history and the grave of Tenzing Norgay, one of the first men to summit Mount Everest

Entrance: 100 INR

Time to explore the tea plantations

Guided Tour: 100 INR

Take an early jeep trip to Tiger Hill where you can get an incredible sunrise view of Kangchenjunda the 3rd-highest mountain in the world

Entrance: 10 INR

Jeep (max 5 pax): 1,800 INR

Entrance to the superior viewing platform: 50 INR

Scenic train ride through the stunning Darjeeling foothills

Entrance: 1,600 INR

## Day 79 - Darjeeling (10th January 2021)

We have another day here in Darjeeling to relax and take in the sites of Darjeeling and its surrounds.

## Day 80 - Karmi Farm (11th January 2021)

**Meals:** Dinner

Today we will have one last free morning to explore Darjeeling. After lunch we will leave in our jeeps for Karmi Farm, a tea plantation located in a remote rural area nearby.

## Day 81 - Karmi Farm (12th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

During our stay at Karmi Farm we will have plenty of free time to enjoy some fantastic hikes around the region.

## Daily Activities

### Included Activities

Visit to the Karmi Farm charity project

Included

### Optional Activities

Trekking in the foothills of Darjeeling

Price: Free

## Day 82 - Karmi Farm (13th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

If we haven't already we can visit the Karmi Farm Clinic charitable project this morning. In the afternoon why not spend the afternoon relaxing and take in the stunning views from the lodge.

## Day 83 - Gangtok (14th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast

After breakfast we will leave Karmi Farm in our jeeps and continue to Gangtok, the hilltop capital of Sikkim.

## Day 84 - Gangtok (15th January 2021)

Today we will have an included visit of the nearby Rumtek Dharma Monastery in the morning, leaving the afternoon free for you to explore Gangtok.

### Daily Activities

#### Included Activities

Explore the incredible 18th-century Rumtek Monastery the home of the Karmapa Lama the spiritual head of the Karma Kagyu sect of Buddhism

Included

#### Optional Activities

Visit the Enchey Monastery, built on a stunning ridge of a hill above Gangtok

Entrance: 10 INR

Visit the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, a museum dedicated to Tibet and its culture

Entrance: 10 INR

Take a jeep trip to beautiful Tsomgo Lake in Sikkim

Jeep (5 pax): 5,500 INR

Guide: 500 INR

## Day 85 - Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (16th January 2021)

**Border Information:** Exit India at Kakarbhitta, enter Nepal at Kakarbhitta.

Today we travel in our jeeps back to Siliguri, where we will finally join our overland truck! We will then drive over the border into Nepal and continue onto Koshi National Park Wildlife Reserve.

## Day 86 - Koshi Tappu Wildlife Reserve (17th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

After a good breakfast to set us up for the day our guide will take us through the options of what you can do today. There will be the chance for bird watching, jeep safaris or simply exploring the local villages.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Float down the Koshi river on a rubber boat - spend the day looking for warders and raptors and some Wild Water Buffaloes on the sand banks.

4hrs: 44 USD

Wildlife Reserve permit for 1 day: 15 USD

Take a jeep safari through the wildlife reserve with the hope of spotting wild water buffalo, river dolphins, or maybe even the one wild elephant.

Jeep per 4: 140 USD

Wildlife Reserve permit for 1 day: 15 USD

## Day 87 - Chitwan NP (18th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

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Today we will leave the plains of the Terai behind and head towards Chitwan National Park.

## Day 88 - Khatauti Khola (19th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

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This morning there will be time to do a safari around the national park and after lunch we will journey to Khatauti Khola, home to the Royal Beach Camp eco-adventure camp in the Nepalese mountains.

There are several optional activities on offer here such as kayaking, rafting, hiking and mountain bikings or simply relax in the quiet surroundings.

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Whitewater rafting, kayaking, canyoning and other mountain adventures in the Himalayas

Canyoning, rafting or kayaking: 35 USD

Combo of 2 activities: 55 USD

## Day 89 - Kathmandu (20th January 2021)

**Meals:** Breakfast

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This morning we will spend some free time at the Royal Beach Camp to give us more time to take part in the optional adventure activities there, then after lunch we will drive the last stretch up to Kathmandu, the evocative capital of Nepal.

## Day 90 - Kathmandu (21st January 2021)

**Border Information:** If you are finishing your trip in Kathmandu, you will most likely exit Nepal at Kathmandu Tribhuvan International Airport (IATA code: KTM).

Today is the end day for passengers finishing their trip in Kathmandu. Please note there is no accommodation included on the trip tonight - please contact your sales agent if you are interested in booking extra nights of accommodation in order to fully explore and take part in some of the optional activities listed below.

Accommodation:

### Daily Activities

#### Optional Activities

Visit the beautiful and tranquil Durbar Square in the nearby medieval town of Bhaktapur and visit its nearby museums

Entrance: 1,500 NPR

Visit the ancient stupa of Boudhanath. It is one of the largest stupas in the world and on clear days offers views of Everest

Entrance: 400 NPR

Visit the oldest Hindu temple still in use in the Kathmandu Valley

Entrance: 300 NPR

Visit Durbar Square, the heart of the old town from where kings once ruled

Entrance: 1,500 NPR

Swayambhunath, or Monkey Temple as it is known, is an ancient religious complex atop a hill in the Kathmandu Valley. It has ancient carvings, superb views of the surrounding valley and is crowded with monkeys mingling with the visitors.

Entrance: 200 NPR

Visit the former royal palace of Narayanhiti and see the crown jewels of Nepal

Entrance: 500 NPR

Visit Lalitpur city and view a mass of temples in the Newa architecture style

Entrance: 1,000 NPR

Get out of the city and explore the nearby national park of Sundarijal and see its idyllic waterfalls and rock formations

Entrance: 600 NPR

## ITINERARY DISCLAIMER

The routes, activities and places visited described in these notes are intentions and are meant as a rough guide only. By their very nature, overland itineraries need to be flexible and the regions that we are travelling through are often unpredictable. We intend to follow the planned route but exact night stops and inclusions cannot be guaranteed and it sometimes happens that we decide to make a change to our planned itinerary. This may be for a variety of reasons; climatic, road or bureaucratic conditions may demand it. Changes to the itinerary may occur with little notice so please be prepared for modifications to your trip.

### Drive Times

Drive times are listed in the day-to-day itinerary. These are the approximate number of hours that the vehicle will be in motion, and does not include any time taken for coffee or lunch stops, border crossings, photo stops, activities en route, comfort breaks, shopping stops, toilet stops, etc. The times given are approximate estimates only and whilst given with the best of intentions, the drive times are heavily dependent on traffic, road conditions, weather, police roadblocks, and many other factors.

### Accommodation and Meals Included

The type of accommodation and included meals are listed for each day of the itinerary. These listings show our intention and on most departures the listings will be accurate. However due to the flexible nature of overland itineraries, climatic, bureaucratic or road conditions may demand changes to our listed intentions or groups may simply decide to amend the plans from time to time.

### Optional Activities

A selection of optional activities is listed in the day-to-day itinerary. This list is designed to be a helpful guide as to what is commonly available in each location, and is neither an exhaustive list, a guarantee that the activity is available, or an endorsement or recommendation. Certain activities may not be available on your particular visit and it may not be possible to do all the activities listed in the time available at each destination. It is recommended to give yourself extra time in your joining or ending city if you would like to participate in some optional activities there. Prices listed are for entrance only and do not include transport costs to and from the sites or local guides unless indicated. The prices are displayed according to our latest information and in the best faith, but prices do fluctuate due to exchange rates, season, numbers of participants, and simple increases from the operator, and therefore any prices listed are a guide only and cannot be guaranteed. If you partake in any optional activities, you do so at your own risk and it must be clearly understood that your participation is your own decision and does not form part of your contract with Dragoman. You may be required to sign/complete a waiver form or optional activity form for some optional activities. For more information around activity safety and insurance, please see the Essential Information document.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

In the event of a real emergency once you have left your home country, please contact us on our out of office hours number. If you cannot get through on the phone, please leave a message with your name, reference number, contact details and a message with the help that you need and we will get back to you. Please bear in mind that real progress or action may not be possible until normal office hours, depending on the issue.

If your flight is delayed, please inform us as soon as you can and then make your way to the joining hotel as instructed in the Joining Point section of these notes.

**Out of hours Number: +44 (0) 7985 106564**

## A FEW RULES

We expect all group members to act respectfully towards our staff and other group members. Bullying will not be tolerated.

Engaging in commercial or exploitative sexual activities, committing acts of violence or threatening violence towards local people, other group members or any member of our staff is not allowed. Any customer engaging in such activities will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

You must at all times comply with the laws, customs, foreign exchange and drug regulations of all countries visited and conduct yourself in accordance with our responsible travel policy. Any customer found contravening such laws or regulations will be required to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price.

Although we are aware that in some parts of the world taking, carrying or selling drugs, or carrying weapons may be legal, it is not acceptable for Dragoman customers and our tour leaders have the right to ask you to leave the trip immediately with no refund of the trip price if you are found to be engaging in such activities.

## ISSUES ON THE TRIP

While we always endeavour to provide the best possible holiday experience, due to the nature of travel and the areas we visit sometimes things can and do go wrong. Should any issue occur while you are on your trip, it is imperative that you discuss this with your group leader or our local partner straight away so that they can do their best to rectify the problem and save any potential negative impact on the rest of your trip.

We recognise that there may be times when your group leader may not be able to resolve a situation to your satisfaction. If this is the case please contact our customer relations department on [customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk](mailto:customer-relations@dragoman.co.uk).

You may also choose to provide details in your feedback questionnaire which we ask you to complete at the end of your trip, but we do ask you to be aware that it is very difficult for us to provide any practical help after the trip is complete.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

### OVERLANDING LIFESTYLE

Dragoman was founded in 1981, and has had many years of experience of leading overland trips across 4 continents. Overlanding is all about sharing a great travelling experience with like-minded people. On your trip you'll travel in one of Dragoman's purpose-built iconic expedition vehicles on an off-the-beaten-track adventure along rugged roads, experiencing the sights, sounds and smells of the world up-close. Your journey will be overland, sometimes across vast distances, so some long days spent driving are inevitable - but these will be interspersed with breaks of a day or two at a destination or activity.

On an overland journey, you are more than just a passenger and everyone gets involved setting up camp - we supply the tent but it's up to you to pitch it! As part of your trip, you will be assigned a truck job which could be collecting firewood or water, luggage loading, organising food, stores, etc. Like all great adventures, the more you put in the more you'll get out! For more details of how an overlanding trip works, please see the Essential Information document.

### SAFETY STANDARDS

We run adventure journeys in off the beaten track areas, which often have poor infrastructure. You should expect that some of these areas do not adhere to 'Western' safety standards. For more information, please see the Essential Information document

### MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN REMOTE AREAS

We will be travelling to areas in remote locations where medical assistance will not be available, and communications may be sparse. We do not carry satellite phones on our regular trips. Therefore, if you have a medical condition such as a heart condition that would put you at risk, we would suggest that this is not the trip for you. Also, please be aware that should an emergency occur, there is likely to be a considerable delay in accessing medical care, and by joining our trip you accept this risk.

### VISAS, HEALTH, INSURANCE & MONEY

Before you travel there are vital things to consider such as:

- Any visas needed for your trip
- Any vaccinations needed (please consult your GP or travel clinic)
- Organising your local payment (the kitty)
- Buying travel insurance (insurance is compulsory to be allowed to join our trips)

For more information on these topics, please see the Essential Information Document.

## ALTITUDE WARNING

### Warning - this trip goes above 2800m.

Please note that this trip spends time above 2800 metres/9200 feet where it is possible for travellers to experience some adverse effects on your health due to the altitude, potentially including Acute Mountain Sickness (AMS), High Altitude Cerebral Edema (HACE) and High Altitude Pulmonary Edema (HAPE). Because of this it is very important that you make yourself aware of the cause and effects of travelling at altitude and monitor your health during this trip.

For further information please [download our AMS information sheet](#) or refer to the following website: [www.high-altitude-medicine.com](http://www.high-altitude-medicine.com). If you are starting your trip in a destination above 2800m/9200ft we strongly advise reading this information prior to arrival. Your leader will also hand you a copy of the AMS information sheet during your trip as well as holding a short meeting prior to travelling to altitudes above 2800m/9200ft for the first time.

**Some travel insurance companies will stipulate a maximum altitude limit. Please ensure that you are covered and if necessary pay the additional premium of extended cover.**

## NEPAL NOTES

## INDIA NOTES

Please ensure you have an up to date version of these notes. **These notes were printed on the 21st January 2021**