Tigers, Temples and the Taj Mahal

Trip Code: TTT

Version:

CULTURE	GUIDED GROUP	LEISURELY 1



HIGHLIGHTS

- Give yourself the best chance of a tiger sighting in three of India's premier tiger reserves
- Observe an astonishing variety of wildlife including hyena, leopard and antelope
- See the India as described in Kipling's Jungle Book
- Spend a full day exploring Agra, including the Taj Mahal and Agra Fort

AT A GLANCE

- 13 days touring and sightseeing including 8 game drives
- Join at Delhi

ACCOMMODATIONS & MEALS

VIEW DATES, PRICES & BOOK YOUR HOLIDAY HERE

Introduction

For those with an interest in India and in particular its wildlife, this is an unmissable Indian adventure holiday. After an overnight train ride from Delhi, we take our first game drives at Bandhavgarh, which has the highest density of tigers of any Indian reserve - there is every chance of spotting a tiger here! After 3 days, we move on to nearby Kanha, a well-run park comprising almost 2000 square kilometres of grassland, forest and rocky ridge-lines, whose rich wildlife includes monkeys, deer, wild boar, leopard and tiger. Then, we travel to Agra and spend a full day exploring the magnificent sandstone and white marbel Agra Fort, the colourful bazaars and the sublimely beautiful Taj Mahal. Finally, we visit world-famous Ranthambhore, once a hunting reserve of the Jaipur Maharajas and now home to an abundance of wildlife. With its atmospheric forts and temples, hidden deep within the forest, this place was an inspiration for Kipling. It can inspire you, too!

Is this holiday for you?

This is a tour of three of the best national parks in India plus a visit to its most famous building and national icon, the Taj Mahal. Consequently the trip involves a fair amount of travelling. However, by using comfortable air-conditioned sleeper trains and spending a minimum of 3 nights in each hotel base while exploring the parks, the effect of the travelling is kept to a minimum. For the most part our exploration of these reserve areas is by 'canters' which are large, open trucks fitted with rows of seats and offering a good field of view. We may also travel at times by boat or even cycle rickshaw! We will also do some walking on good trails for better vantage of the wildlife, but walks will be short and this is not intended to be a a trekking trip. This wildlife tour of North India should appeal to all who love wildlife and wish to encounter the essence of Kipling's India.

Itinerary

Version:

Extensions

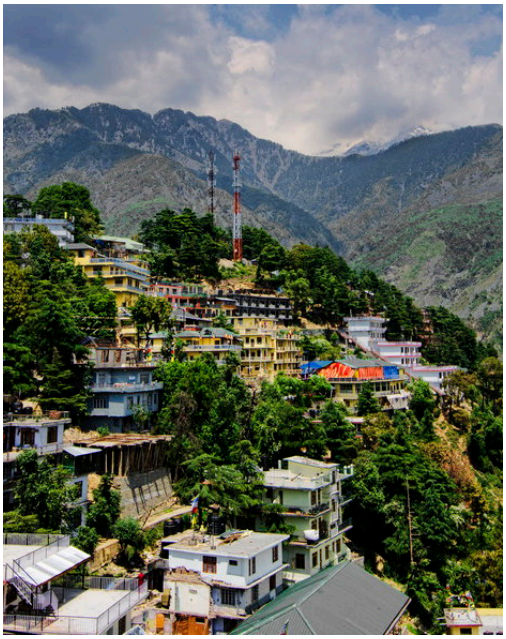
When booking your holiday, you will be able to 'add an extension option'. Once we have received your booking we will contact you to discuss additional services required for the extension and to take any additional deposit.



Delhi Sightseeing Tour - Full day

Old Delhi is centred on the Red Fort and is a labyrinth of narrow, bustling streets including Chandni Chowk bazaar. Must-sees here include the Red Fort, built by Emperor Shah Jahan; Hummayan's Tomb, constructed in similar style to the Taj Mahal and the towering Qutab Minar minaret. New Delhi was the creation of the British Raj who wanted to show their ascendency over the former Mogul rulers with many grand buildings designed by the greatest ever British architect, Sir Edwin Lutyens. Exploring this area by vehicle will give a glimpse of this interesting aspect of India.

1 day from
¤9,223,372,036,854,776,000 per person



Dharamsala and the Dalai Lama

Dharamsala is a former British Raj hill-station in the Dhaula Dhar mountain range and currently home to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in exile. On this four day extension, you will be able to sample a flavour of life in Tibet and enjoy visits to the Dalai Lama's temple complex; the Norbulingka Institute; the Tibetan children's village and visit a local Gaddi Tribal village to experience the life of the people who traditionally inhabit the lower reaches of the Dhaula Dhar.

4 days from
¤9,223,372,036,854,776,000 per person

Holiday Information

What's Included

- A professional English-speaking local leader
- Delhi Airport transfers on group arrival and departure days
- All land transport involved in the itinerary including overnight sleeper train
- Use of shared 'day-rooms' at the group hotel on Day 1
- All accommodation as detailed in the trip dossier
- All meals throughout the trip
- Wildlife safari guides for the game viewing
- Guided sightseeing tour of Delhi and Agra

What's not Included

- Travel insurance
- Delhi Airport transfers if arriving earlier or departing later than the group days
- Indian Visa
- Tips for local staff
- Miscellaneous expenses - drinks and souvenirs etc.

Joining Arrangements & Transfers

The group will meet at the hotel in Delhi.

A group transfer from Delhi Airport is provided on the morning of Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary and a group transfer back to the same airport is provided on the final day of the itinerary.

Anyone may join the group transfers by prior arrangement. Travelling as a group or on public transport saves energy. If this is not practical, we can provide private transfers at an additional cost. Taxis are also available.

Hotel contact details and an emergency number will be provided with your booking confirmation.

Meal Plan

All meals are included, from lunch on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary to breakfast on Day 14.

Special Diets

Whilst we can cater for vegetarians, albeit sometimes with a more limited choice, we cannot always provide for special diets. Due to the nature of some of the trips that we operate and the countries in which we operate them, it can be very hard (and sometimes impossible) to cater for a wide range of dietary choices and you may have to supplement your meals with food/snacks from home. If you have specific dietary requirements please do speak to our sales team and they will be able to advise you whether or not we will be able to offer your specific choice. Please note that we are unable to provide separate menus and cannot accept liability for any problems arising from special dietary requirements or intolerances.

Food & Water

It is not recommended to drink untreated water from the taps. You should take purification tablets or a filter bottle (such as a Water-To-Go bottle) to treat your water. We do not encourage the purchasing of single use plastic bottles.

All meals are provided. Part of the experience of a visit to India is sampling the excellent local food. Indian cuisine offers a wide choice of dishes, much more variety than the 'curries' we are used to in Indian restaurants at home and the nan breads are like nothing you'll have experienced. Whether the food is presented as a dinner buffet or as a set menu, there will always be vegetarian options. In some place, there will also be familiar international dishes. Breakfasts include cereals, bread, possibly in the form of local 'rotis', eggs, hard-boiled or omelette, often one or two delicious, spicy Indian breakfast options, fruit, juice, hot water for tea or coffee. Lunches will usually be at a restaurant where you can choose what you want - the guide will help with this.

Accommodation

The group will have the use of communal 'day-rooms' in the group hotel in Delhi at the beginning of the trip and an overnight stay at the end of the trip. We will have a total of 11 nights in good standard hotels in Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Agra and Ranthambore and 2 night's air-con birth on sleeper trains. All accommodation except the sleeper train is allocated on a twin-sharing basis. If you are travelling by yourself, you will be paired up with another single client of the same sex. Depending upon availability it may be possible to arrange single rooms for the hotel nights. For hotel prices and single supplement costs please refer to the dates and prices page of the trip on our website.

Group Leader & Support Staff

The group will be accompanied by an experienced professional leader throughout and there will also be various wildlife guides during the game viewing, as well as cultural guides when sightseeing in Delhi and Agra.

Altitude

This holiday does not involve any significant ascent to altitude and we would not expect any altitude issues with this trip.

Spending Money

Approximately £200 (or equivalent in euros, US dollars etc.) changed into local currency (Indian rupees), should be allowed for miscellaneous expenses, including tips for your driver and guide, beer and soft drinks, etc. There are several opportunities to buy souvenirs on this trip. Sterling, US dollars and euros are readily exchanged in Delhi. Since you will be changing the majority of your spending money into local currency on the day of arrival, we recommend taking this in cash. Credit cards can be used to purchase many goods in Delhi and Agra and are particularly useful for more expensive souvenirs. It is possible to withdraw cash (rupees only) from cash machines in Delhi and Agra using credit and debit cards.

Guidance on Tipping

Tipping is an accepted and expected part of Indian culture, although you should only tip for services which are well done. Your guide will help with sundry tipping; bell boys, other hotel staff, toilet attendants, lunchtime restaurant staff, game reserve staff and railway porters. This means you don't need to concern yourself with who to tip and who not to tip. Your guide may set up a tip 'kitty' for this and you will be asked to contribute £40 each (in rupees) for this. You should pay a tip to your driver at the end of the holiday. This should be done by the group as a whole and your tour guide will help you decide on an appropriate amount. You will have the opportunity to tip your tour leader separately during dinner on the final evening of the holiday. As a rough guide and depending on group size, we suggest that you should allow a total of £90 for tips - although the amount you give is entirely up to you.

Additional Information

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) are responsible for the conservation of many monuments in India (including the Taj Mahal). This organisation will occasionally undertake work to restore the various monuments, but often without notice, so it is difficult to forewarn our customers of this work. It is possible that, at any time, monuments on this holiday could be having work done on them.

Baggage Allowance

There is no restriction on the weight of your equipment, other than that imposed by the airline. However, you should restrict your luggage to one main item of baggage plus a small daypack in which you will carry your camera, binoculars, water etc.. We recognise that for some of our holidays and for some of our travellers, the KE Trek Bag (see below) may not provide the best solution when packing for your trip. A bag with fitted wheels or a holdall with more than one compartment and more than one access zip can, in some circumstances, be more appropriate. Although it can be useful for our tour leaders when all members of the group have similar, identifying baggage, we have no problem if you choose to use an alternative bag.

Group Size & Holiday Status

For each holiday there is a minimum number of participants required to enable it to go ahead. Once the minimum number is reached, the trip status will change from 'Available' to 'Guaranteed to run'. You can check the trip status for each departure in the ‘Dates and Prices’ table. Other than in exceptional circumstances, we will not cancel a trip once it has achieved this guaranteed to run status so you are free to proceed with your international flight booking and other travel arrangements.

General Information

Passport & Visas

The information that we provide is for UK passport holders.

A passport with 6 months remaining validity at the end of your stay is generally required**,** and you should have at least 2 blank pages for each country that you visit.

For other nationalities, please refer to your own Government website for the latest information.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates *(see Health & Vaccinations below),* **and visas for your holiday.** Please ensure that you check the FCDO for the latest advice for **each country visited** before travel.

Visa India

Most nationalities, including travellers from the UK, the USA and many European countries can apply for their Indian Visa online through the **E-Visa Application** process. You must make your application at least four days prior to departure. Please download the detailed information document for details of how to apply for your visa: Visa India PDF

NB. The application process can be temperamental and we suggest you try a different browser (Firefox is known to work) if your application does not at first go through.

e-Arrival Card - Important

Separately and additionally, foreign nationals must now complete an e-arrival card to present at immigration on arrival in India along with their e-Visa. The digital e-Arrival form is found here https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/earrival/ It should be completed **within the 72 hours prior to your arrival in India.**

Ebola Self-Declaration Form (SDF) - Important

All passengers travelling to India must now also complete the Ebola Self-Declaration Form (SDF) to present at immigration on arrival in India. The form is found here https://airsuvidha.civilaviation.gov.in It should be completed **within the 72 hours prior to your arrival in India.**

Sikkim

If you are joining one of our Sikkim Beneath Kangchenjunga (SIK) groups, we will ask you to complete a Sikkim Permit form approximately 20 days before you travel. You will need your Indian Visa details for this form. A 30-day E-Tourist Visa can be applied for within 30 days of travel and will usually be processed within a couple of days. As an alternative you can apply for a 1-Year E-Tourist Visa within 180 days of travel. DO NOT MENTION SIKKIM in 'Places to be visited' when you make your application.

Nagaland

If you are joining the Kaziranga, Nagaland and the Hornbill Festival (HBF) group we need to apply for a PAP (Protected Area Permit) for Nagaland once the tour is confirmed. Approximately 20 days before you travel, we will need from you a copy of your passport and of your Indian E-Tourist Visa, along with a colour passport photo and a copy of your international flight e-tickets.

Health & Vaccinations

Vaccinations:

You should be up to date with the routine vaccinations recommended in the UK for overseas travel.

You must also contact your doctor or travel clinic to check if there are specific vaccinations or other preventive measures that you need for the area you are visiting, in good time before you are due to depart.

Please ensure you are looking at the recommendations for all countries visited on your holiday plus recommendations for any borders you cross.

On holidays to more remote areas you should also have a dental check-up.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you have the correct travel documents including vaccinations and health certificates.

Please check the FCDO and Travel Health Pro. For all of your intended destinations for up-to-date advice.

Severe Allergies:

If you have a severe allergy please inform the KE office before you travel. We will do all we can to help, but we cannot guarantee an allergy free environment on KE trips.

Currency

The currency of India is the Indian Rupee.

Preparing for your Holiday

Although there is no strenuous walking on this trip it makes a lot of sense to get some additional exercise before coming on any active holiday. Walking, jogging and swimming are all good for developing fitness and stamina. On some days it can be quite hot and you should be prepared for this. Before departure, we suggest that you do some reading about the country, its people and the wildlife you are likely to see.

Climate

We run this holiday outside of the wet 'monsoon' period and do not expect to experience significant rainfall. The maximum daytime temperatures will range between 25 and 30 degrees centigrade during November and December, rising to 35 degrees centigrade during March and April. Evening temperatures in Delhi and Agra from late October to February can be quite chilly, dropping below 15 degrees centigrade at times, and you should be prepared for this.

Travel Aware

As a reputable tour operator, KE supports the British Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office's **'Travel Aware'** campaign to enable British citizens to prepare for their journeys overseas. The 'Travel Aware' website provides a single, authoritative source of advice for all kinds of travellers and we recommend that before travel, all KE clients visit the official UK Government website at travelaware.campaign.gov.uk and read the FCDO Travel Advice for their chosen destination. All other nationalities should check their government websites for relevant information.

KE treat the safety and security of all clients as the most important aspect of any trip we organise. We would not run any trip that we did not consider reasonably safe. Should the FCDO advise against travel for any reason, we will contact everyone booked to travel to discuss the situation. We receive regular updates directly from the FCDO and are in constant touch with our contacts on the ground. If you have any questions about government travel advice, please call our office.

Single Use Plastic

KE do not encourage the use of single use plastic items. We are ensuring that our agents all over the world are working together to reduce the problem and educate those around them. We are leading by example in our KE office by reducing our plastic use.

Books

- India - Lonely Planet
- Guide India - The Rough Guide
- Indian Wildlife Insight Guide Field Guide to the Mammals of the Indian Subcontinent. K. K. Gurung and Raj Singh
- Birds of India. Richard Grimmett, Carol and Tim Inskipp
- The Jungle Book. Rudyard Kipling

Maps

India North West - Reise Know-How Verlag. 1:1,300,000

Detailed road map of North-Western India with relief shading, spot heights and names of hills, mountain ranges, valleys, etc. Nature reserves and bird sanctuaries are highlighted and symbols show locations of various UNESCO sites, forts and palaces, temples and other religious buildings. Latitude and longitude grid is at intervals of 1°. TTK State Road Maps are also available on the internet. These are locally produced maps showing road and rail network with intermediate driving distances. No information on topography is given but each map comes with a booklet providing further information on places of interest. 2 sheets required (Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan)

Travel Insurance

It is an essential condition of joining a holiday with KE Adventure Travel that you have a valid travel insurance policy to cover the cost of medical treatment and to protect the value of your holiday in the event of cancellation. When taking out insurance please ensure the policy you choose covers you for the activities and altitude included in your itinerary.

For appropriate insurance cover we recommend Campbell Irvine Direct. Please go to our Travel Insurance page for further information and to get a quote.

Equipment Information

Equipment List

The following checklist should help you with your packing. As a general rule, you should always try to keep the weight of your equipment to a minimum.

You must bring the following items:

- Strong and comfortable walking shoes or trainers
- Lightweight trousers
- Shirts (at least one long-sleeved with collar)
- Casual shirts or T-shirts
- Light, windproof and waterproof jacket
- Sunhat
- Sunglasses
- Daypack 20 to 25 litres
- Torch
- Sun protection (including total bloc for lips, nose etc.)

- Water bottles 1 litre (x2)
- Water purification tablets
- Washbag and toiletries
- Antibacterial handwash
- Basic First Aid Kit including: antiseptic cream, throat lozenges, diarrhoea treatment (Imodium), painkillers, plasters, insect repellent, and re-hydration salts (Dioralite).

The following items are optional:

- Pen-knife (remember to pack sharp objects in hold baggage)
- Repair kit – (eg. needle, thread, duct tape)
- Camera - see note about mobile phone use below
- Travel clothes

Mobile Phone use on safaris:

The use of mobile phones (including for photography) is generally prohibited inside national parks during wildlife safaris. If you intend to take photographs on safari you will need to take a camera.

Satellite Communications:

India does not currently allow the carrying of satellite communication devices such as satellite phones and Garmin 'inReach'.

If you use such devices, please do not bring these with you to India.

Land Only Information

The LAND ONLY dates and prices are for the itinerary starting at the hotel in Delhi. A single group transfer is provided from Delhi Airport on Day 1 of the Land Only itinerary and back to the airport on the final day of the Land Only itinerary.

Why Choose KE

Why KE

This trip features three of India's premier tiger reserves and offers the very best chance to see a tiger in the wild! Don't forget there is an incredible variety of wildlife in these reserves and there is every chance of spotting antelope, hyenas or every leopards. This amazing wildlife trip is complemented by time to explore the pulsating streets of Delhi and a trip to the incomparible Taj Mahal.

Please Note This document was downloaded on 11/11/2026 and the trip is subject to change