

The Golden Triangle

This is undoubtedly the perfect tour of India's greatest highlights, with special visits to the glorious Taj Mahal at sunset and sunrise when shadows and sunlight play on its exquisite marble surfaces. We also admire the grandeur of Delhi, and in Ranthambore go in search of the great Bengal Tiger. This comprehensive yet compact itinerary is enhanced by staying at well-located modern hotels.



9 days

Delhi (1 night)
Agra (1 night)
Taj Mahal
Fatehpur Sikri
Ranthambore (2 nights)
Jaipur (2 nights)
Amber Fort
Delhi (1 night)

Day 1 London (Monday) Depart Heathrow at 2050 on Jet Airways' non-stop flight to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi On arrival transfer to the 4-star Oberoi Maidens Hotel. Later drive past the Red Fort, and see the Jama Masjid mosque, the largest in India. Evening welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3 Agra Drive to Agra to stay at the 4-star Trident Hotel. Afternoon visit to Agra Fort, followed by sunset visit to the Taj Mahal, the most romantic and evocative sight in the whole of India, and one that symbolises eternal love for the world. (B)

Day 4 Ranthambore This morning you have the option of visiting Taj Mahal at sunrise – bathed in the light of a new day. Visit the romantic town of Fatehpur Sikri before driving to Bharatpur to board the afternoon Kota Jansatabdi Express train to Ranthambore. Stay 2 nights at the Kothi Resort. (BD)

Day 5 Ranthambore Enjoy early morning and late afternoon game drives today, at times when the animals begin to stir and search out water. (BLD)

Day 6 Jaipur After an early game drive travel onwards to Jaipur to the characterful Mandawa Hotel. Jaipur is known as 'the pink city' as its walls and buildings were so painted to mimic the red sandstone walls of the Mughal capitals. Optional evening Sound and Light Show at Amber Fort. (BL)

Day 7 Jaipur Visit the Amber Fort, where we may be able to ascend the ramparts by elephant, otherwise by jeep, and drive past the elegant Palace of the Winds. Afternoon visit to the City Palace with its numerous museums and admire the 18th century Observatory. Evening stroll through the colourful local markets of Jaipur. (B)

Day 8 Delhi Depart Jaipur in the morning to reach Delhi. Drive through the grand avenues in New Delhi, see the impressive Humayun's Tomb and the fascinating ruins of the Qutab Minar Mosque. Stay overnight at The Pllazio Hotel. (BD)

Day 9 London Depart for London Heathrow, arriving at around 1740. (B)

Varanasi and Nepal extension

An opportunity to extend your tour on a visit to the holy city of Varanasi on the Ganges, and to explore the fascinating Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal.

Day 9 Varanasi Fly to Varanasi for 2 nights at the 4-star Taj Ganges Hotel. In the afternoon visit the stupas, shrines and temples at Sarnath where Buddha preached his first sermon. (B)

Day 10 Varanasi Early morning cruise on the Ganges to see the ritual bathing of the faithful as they immerse themselves in the holy river, and witness aarti and prayers on the ghats. (B)

Day 11 Kathmandu Fly to Kathmandu and transfer to the 5-star Radisson Hotel for 2 nights. Remainder of the day at leisure. (B)

Day 12 Kathmandu Morning drive to the medieval village of Bungamati (16th century), a centre for traditional crafts and a hidden gem well off the tourist trail. Crossing the Bagmati River we visit Patan, the City of Beauty with its rich architectural heritage from the great days of the Malla kings. Afternoon explore Patan including the colourful Durbar Square, surrounded by a confusion of ancient temples and royal palaces. Visit Pashupatinath and Boudhanath. (B)

Day 13 Bhaktapur, Nagarkot Rise early this morning for magnificent views of the Himalaya at sunrise. Optional flight to admire the spectacular views over Mt Everest also available. In the afternoon depart Kathmandu for Bhaktapur, the most traditional of the valley's old capitals, and Changu Narayan Temple, the supreme example of Nepalese temple architecture, dating back to the 4th century. Stay overnight at the 3-star Fort Resort in Nagarkot. (B)

Day 14 Kathmandu, Delhi Return to Kathmandu to fly to Delhi for an overnight stay at the Vivanta by Taj Dwarka Hotel and farewell dinner. (BD)

Day 15 London Fly with Jet Airways to London Heathrow, arriving at around 1740 (Monday). (B)

Tour code INDTRI		
Departures 2016	Twin share	Single supp
Feb 15	£1745	£355
Oct 10, Nov 14	1745	355
Private journey price from £1840 per person twin shared (Minimum 2 passengers)		
Tour code TRINEP		
Departures 2016	Twin share	Single supp
Feb 15	£2895	£725
Oct 10, Nov 14	2895	725
Private journey price from £2990 per person twin shared (Minimum 2 passengers)		
Business Class upgrade from £1595 one way, £2995 return		
Price includes		
• Economy class flights		
• Twin-shared accommodation, transfers, transportation and sightseeing as listed (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)		
• Services of English-speaking local Tour Guides		
Not included		
• Travel insurance • Gratuities • India visa		
• Any government taxes or compulsory charges introduced after brochure publication		

16 days

Delhi (1 night)
Agra (1 night)
Taj Mahal
Ranthambore (2 nights)
Jaipur (2 nights)
Cochin (2 nights)
Kumarakom (2 nights)
Alleppey houseboat (1 night)
Periyar (2 nights)
Cochin (1 night)

Day 1 Depart (Monday) Depart Heathrow at 2050 on Jet Airways' non-stop flight to Delhi.

Day 2 Delhi On arrival transfer to the 4-star Oberoi Maidens Hotel. Later visit the Jama Masjid mosque, and drive past the Red Fort. Evening welcome dinner. (D)

Day 3 Agra Drive to Agra to stay at the 4-star Trident Hotel. Afternoon visit to Agra Fort, followed by sunset visit to the Taj Mahal. (B)

Day 4 Ranthambore This morning you have the option of visiting the Taj Mahal at sunrise – bathed in the light of a new day. Drive to Bharatpur and board the afternoon Jansatabdi Express train to Ranthambore. Stay 2 nights at The Kothi Resort. (BD)

Day 5 Ranthambore Enjoy early morning and late afternoon game drives. (BLD)

Day 6 Jaipur Enjoy a morning game drive. Travel onwards to Jaipur to the characterful Mandawa Haveli Hotel. Optional evening Sound and Light Show at Amber Fort. (BL)

Day 7 Jaipur Visit the Amber Fort, where we may be able to ascend the ramparts by elephant, otherwise by jeep, and drive past the elegant Palace of the Winds. Visit the City Palace with its numerous museums and admire the 18th century Observatory. Evening stroll through the colourful local markets of Jaipur. (B)

The Golden Triangle & Kerala

North and South India

It would take months, if not years, to discover everything that India has to offer, but it makes more sense to concentrate on one or two regions. We have designed this tour to explore two of her most fascinating regions, Rajasthan and Kerala, that together offer the most exciting contrasts and vivid insights into the India of past and present, her ancient yet thriving culture, her grandiose monuments and waterside villages.

Day 8 Cochin Fly from Jaipur to Cochin via Bombay and transfer upon arrival to the Old Harbour Hotel for 2 nights. (B)

Day 9 Cochin Tour the old quarter of Mattancherry, its splendid Synagogue, the Dutch Palace, and Fort Cochin. See the great cantilevered Chinese fishing nets lining the northern shore. This evening enjoy a traditional Kathakali dance performance. (B)

Day 10 Kumarakom Start your day with a drive to the backwaters, pausing en-route to visit Phillipkuttu Farm for lunch and a cookery demonstration before continuing to Kumarakom. Stay at the Kumarakom Lake Resort for 2 nights. Remainder of the day at leisure. (BLD)

Day 11 Kumarakom Enjoy a day at leisure to relax or explore at your own pace. (B)

Day 12 Alleppey Houseboat Drive to the jetty to board our houseboat, a kettuvallum. Converted from a traditional rice barge and on board which we spend the night. Relax as you are punted through the tree-lined backwaters. (BLD)

Day 13 Periyar Disembark at Kumarakom Jetty Point and drive to Periyar, one of India's most popular wildlife reserves, home to tigers and leopards, as well as elephants and sambar, wild pig, flying squirrel, mongoose and hundreds of bird species such as blue-winged parakeets, laughing thrushes, mynah birds and herons. Stay at the Spice Village Hotel for 2 nights. Remainder of the day at leisure. (BD)

Day 14 Periyar Explore the wildlife reserve by shared jeep. In the afternoon enjoy a tour of a spice plantation. (BD)

Day 15 Cochin Early morning optional bird walk at the hotel. After breakfast drive back to Cochin for a final night at the Old Harbour Hotel. Afternoon at leisure. Enjoy an evening farewell dinner. (BD)

Day 16 London Transfer to Cochin airport for the return Jet Airways flight to London Heathrow via Bombay, arriving around 1740 the same day. (B)

Post-tour beach extension in Mararikulam
Stay at the Marari Beach Resort for 3 nights, from £535 per person twin shared.



Tour code TRIKER		
Departures 2016	Twin share	Single supp
Feb 15	£2995	£1045
Oct 10, Nov 14	3195	1175
Private journey price from £3090 per person twin shared (Minimum 2 passengers)		
Business Class upgrade from £1595 one way, £2995 return		
Price includes		
• Economy class flights		
• Twin-shared accommodation, transfers, transportation and sightseeing as listed (B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner)		
• Services of English-speaking local Tour Guides		
Not included		
• Travel insurance • Gratuities • India visa		
• Any government taxes or compulsory charges introduced after brochure publication		