

Grand Tour of Rajasthan



TRIP OVERVIEW

Explore the iconic monuments of Delhi and Agra before travelling further into the enchanting northern province of Rajasthan, awash with all the vibrant colours of India. Brimming with atmospheric cities, stunning scenery and delicious cuisine, discover magnificent forts, opulent palaces and experience an unforgettable night in a deluxe tent under the stars in the immense Thar Desert.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information that you require for a smooth and comfortable trip to Rajasthan. Please take the time to read this dossier to familiarise yourself with all the aspects of our tour. It includes important details such as flight details, visa requirements and travel insurance.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 1: UK to Delhi

Depart London on your scheduled, overnight flight to Delhi International Airport.

DAY 2: Delhi L/D

On arrival in Delhi, you will be met and transferred to your hotel. After lunch, a short tour of the beautifully planned city of New Delhi will follow. Offering you a taste of its imperial glory, you'll drive past the India Gate and Parliament Building before visiting the Birla Temple, made purely out of 2,000 tons of Rajasthani white marble.

DAY 3: Delhi B/L/D

Today enjoy a full day tour of Delhi, beginning with the historic Old Delhi. Travelling through the narrow, crowded streets on a rickshaw, pass vibrant food markets and chai wallahs brewing their sweet tea. A visit to the regal Red Fort gives you a sense of the lavish life once led by the former rulers before your tour continues to New Delhi to see the Mahatma Gandhi memorial and the 12th century Qutab Minar with its fine examples of Indo-Islamic architecture.

DAY 4: Delhi to Agra B/L/D

Depart Delhi for a leisurely train journey to Agra. Despite being a small city, Agra was once the capital of the mighty Mughal dynasty whose strength manifested itself in the huge forts and buildings designed to maintain its power. During the afternoon you will visit the vast red sandstone Agra Fort. The colossal walled city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, built by the Mughals in 1573 and boasts gigantic pavilions, grand palaces and spectacular courtyards.

DAY 5: Agra to Jaipur B/L/D

This magical day starts with a tour of one of the Seven Wonders of the World, the Taj Mahal; words do not do this remarkable palace justice. Taking 17 years and 20,000 men to build, the heartbroken Mughal Emperor Shahjahan dedicated this stunning white marble monument of love to his deceased wife to enshrine her mortal remains. You will then drive to the Pink City of Jaipur, passing farms and villages before arriving in Jaipur in time for dinner.

DAY 6: Jaipur B/L/D

Begin your day in Jaipur with a visit to the spectacular Amber Fort, the ancient capital of the royal family until 1728. Spanning over four huge courtyards, you will travel to the centre of the fort by either elephant or jeep, passing snake charmers and harems of the Maharajah along the

way. An afternoon city tour of Jaipur takes you to the City Palace and astronomical observatory of Jantar Mantar. Lastly marvel at the hundreds of tiny windows on the façade of the Hawa Mahal, known to many as the Palace of the Winds.

DAY 7: Jaipur to Bikaner B/L/D

Following breakfast you will start the drive to Bikaner, stopping en-route for lunch. Bounded by sand dunes and situated on an elevated plain, this vibrant desert town is fondly known as the 'camel country' of India. Arriving early evening you will check-in to your hotel for your overnight stay.

DAY 8: Bikaner B/L/D

A morning tour of the 16th century Junagad Fort awaits you today. With its unique and formidable structure, you will be able to appreciate the amazing network of havelis – mansions with courtyards and balconies of red sandstone and marble. The fort also contains numerous monuments with gold plasters, exquisite mirror work and hidden chambers. Returning to the hotel for lunch you will have the rest of the day at leisure to relax.

DAY 9: Bikaner to Jaisalmer B/L/D

This morning you will head to the 'Sun City' of Jaisalmer, located in the great Thar Desert. Dominated by the breathtaking fort, this beautifully evocative city is one of Rajasthan's biggest attractions with its mysterious camel-train trade routes and local bazaars brimming with bright embroideries and dazzling glass mirrors. On arrival into the city you will check into your hotel before visiting some of the main attractions including the 12th century Jain temples and the magnificent golden Jaisalmer fort itself.

DAY 10: Jaisalmer to Manvar B/L/D

This morning you will drive to Manvar. Located in the heart of Rajasthan, Manvar's wilderness is beautiful beyond imagination. Surrounded by sand dunes, your desert camp destination is perfectly situated for fantastic views of the vast desert. After check-in and lunch you will be taken on a desert jeep safari to see some of the rural life of the surrounding areas. Later, enjoy the unique experience of a camel ride into the Thar Desert. This evening witness the stunning sunset with a cultural performance and dinner under the starlit skies.

(Desert Camps are closed 1st April to 30th September. Resort is operational until around mid-May and opens 1st August.)

DAY 11: Manvar to Jodhpur B/L/D

After breakfast, check-out and proceed to Jodhpur where you will enjoy an afternoon tour of the buzzing 'Blue City'. Starting at the mighty 15th century Mehrangarh fort, this magnificent architectural masterpiece towers above the sandstone hills of the city and boasts huge courtyards and palatial apartments within. Continue on to Jaswanth Thada, the traditional cremation ground of the rulers of Jodhpur with ornamental gardens containing the fabulous white marble memorial to the Maharaja, Jaswanth Singh II.

DAY 12: Jodhpur & Bishnoi B/L/D

Spend a relaxed morning at leisure before an afternoon visit to a tribal village in the nearby Bishnoi, offering a taste of the past and rich culture of the region. Inhabited by a community of nature worshippers, the beautifully scenic village contains a natural lake surrounded by Khejri trees where migratory birds, antelope and other animals come from nearby areas to drink and graze.

DAY 13: Jodhpur to Udaipur B/L/D

Leaving Jodhpur, en-route to Udaipur you will visit the world famous Ranakpur temple complex. Acclaimed for their intricate and superb architectural style, the temples are the largest of the Jain cult and form one of the five major pilgrimage sites. Wholly constructed in marble with more than 1,400 exquisitely carved supportive pillars, they contain numerous beautifully and delicately carved sculptures and are definitely a highlight of any trip to this area. After lunch at local restaurant we continue onwards to Udaipur.

DAY 14: Udaipur B/L/D

Affectionately known as 'The Venice of the East', magical Udaipur is a city of romance with beautiful lakes and fantastical palaces all bordered by lush, forested hills. This morning you will visit the huge City Palace, lining the eastern shore of Lake Pichola, with its balconies gazing out towards the stunning Lake Palace seemingly floating on the waters across the

shimmering lake. Next make a stop at the celebrated Jagdish temple, the largest in the city and whose 79 foot sculpted spire dominates the skyline. Here you can appreciate the three-storied temple that is dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the preserver of the Universe.

DAY 15: Udaipur to Delhi B/L/D

This afternoon you will fly to Delhi where your day will be spent at leisure.

DAY 16/17: Delhi to the UK or Extension B

This morning you will be transferred to the airport in time for your flight back to the UK, or continue on to your chosen extension.



ACCOMMODATION DETAILS & MAP

Accommodation guide

Your accommodation is selected for convenience, location, comfort or character, and can range from business hotels to camps. Hotel accommodation is generally rated as local three to four-star standard, but please note there is no international classification system for hotels, and differences in facilities and quality do exist between the UK and India. All group tours hotels have private bathroom facilities and air-conditioning, where needed. Rest assured that all accommodation used by Mercury Holidays is regularly inspected by our staff and partners to ensure that standards meet your needs.

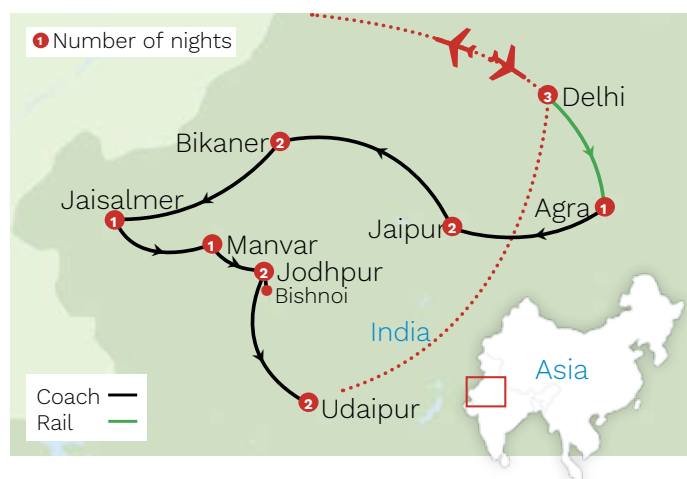
If you have booked a triple share please note that your room will be a twin room with a rollaway bed or sofa bed added. This may limit the floor space in the room.

Please note for selected departures from April - June your stay will be at the Manvar Desert Resort, rather than the Camp, due to weather conditions.

Please note: final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Meals

Breakfast is always western style and served in the hotel each morning. Dinner (when included) will be taken in local restaurants or at the hotel. A variety of restaurants are visited giving you the chance to experience a range of dishes and flavours.



ON YOUR ARRIVAL

On your arrival in Delhi you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Jayasree**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Jayasree representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Jayasree during your stay the details are:

Jayasree Travels and Tours

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

Telephone Number: 0091 471 2505067

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Jayasree Travels:

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

WHAT TO PACK

- Sunscreen and hat in summer
- Comfortable walking shoes
- Camera and charger
- Binoculars
- Loo paper for public WCs
- A hand luggage bag for your stay in Manvar
- Personal first aid kit containing travel pills, rehydration powder, plasters,

- stomach settlers, antiseptic creams, aspirin etc
- Travel Plug Adaptor - The voltage in India is 220 Volts with plugs and sockets having either grounded 3 pin connections or ungrounded 2 pin connections. Should you plan to use your own hairdryer, travel iron, video camera, battery charger, electric shaver etc, it is advisable to bring a multi-adaptor.

WHAT YOU NEED FOR YOUR TOUR

Visas

A visa is required for entry into India. British Citizen Passport Holders will need to obtain a tourist visa. We work closely with The Travel Visa Company who will be able to arrange your visa on your behalf. Please call them on 01270 250 590 and quote "Mercury Holidays". The Travel Visa Company can only apply for this 120 days before your proposed travel date. When calling the Travel Visa Company they will advise you of any changes to the fees or the procedure, they will also advise you of all information they will require in order to apply for the visa. Alternatively you can visit The Indian Visa Application Centre in London: 142-148 Goswell Road, London, EC1B 7DU. Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months before you enter India. Visa requirements are subject to change and obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the traveller and not Mercury Holidays. We recommend you check with your destinations' Tourist Board or Embassy prior to departure for the most up to date guidelines regarding visas and passport validity.

Insurance

We strongly recommend that you and all members of your party are suitably insured as soon as you book your holiday. It is a condition of booking that you must have suitable travel insurance. It is important that you purchase travel insurance that suitably covers your participation in whatever activities you may undertake at the time that you make your booking. To assist you with this, we have arranged travel insurance in partnership with Holiday Extras. To arrange your travel insurance with Holiday Extras, please call 0800 781 4237 and quote 'WK830' for preferential rates. Please ensure you provide us with the name of your insurer, policy number and their 24 hour emergency contact number as soon as possible. Mercury Holidays will not be liable for any costs incurred by you due to your failure to take out suitable travel insurance from the date of booking.

Health and Vaccinations

It is your responsibility to check any health and vaccination requirements applicable to your booked arrangements. We can only provide general information about this. Health and hygiene facilities and disease risks vary from country to country. You should take health advice about your own needs as early as possible and in good time before your departure. Sources of information include; www.fco.gov.uk, www.travelhealthpro.org.uk/, www.hpa.org.uk, your General Practitioner or a specialist clinic.

Physical Accessibility

This tour is accessible to most people with a good level of fitness and normal mobility. It involves climbing of steep stairs and getting on and off coaches. This tour is not suitable for anyone with walking difficulties.

All our tours feature a "Tour Pace" to help find the right holiday for you. To travel on any of our tours requires unaided mobility and the ability to stroll around the sights, climb stairs and get on and off coaches and boats. The tour pace for Grand Tour of Rajasthan is Challenging. A higher level of fitness as required as you may be on your feet for most of the day though this will be interspersed with regular breaks and vary from day to day. You will be walking around the sights, getting on and off coaches, trains, boats and climbing steps which may be irregular. There may be some time spend at high altitude. You will stay in variety of hotels, possibly including overnight trains, and accommodation standards may not match those you are used to at home.

Our guides will always endeavour to provide the highest level of service and assistance; however, they cannot be expected to cater for customers who are unfit to complete the itinerary.

Group Size

The minimum number of travellers in your group will be 10, and the maximum will be 40. If in the unlikely event there are less than 10 people booked on your tour date, we will endeavour to reduce any disruption to your holiday and try to operate your tour with lower passenger numbers. If

we are not able to operate your departure date, then you may be asked to change to a different date and a full refund will be made available to you should this alternative not be suitable.

Tour Guides

This is a fully escorted tour, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip. You will also be joined by a local guide in each of the cities which you visit, ensuring that you have first-hand knowledge at all times.

Private Tour

If you have booked a private tour then you will be accompanied by a Driver Guide or a Driver and Local Guides. These will be available to you during all scheduled sightseeing. Private Tours can depart on any day of the week depending on flight and train schedules and the opening days of the attractions. They will follow the itinerary as described in the brochure unless you have been advised otherwise and you will still have all of the same meals, sightseeing and local excursions included.

Tipping

It is customary to tip your guide and driver. This is at your discretion but we recommend you allow approximately £3 per person per day. It is asked that you tip in pounds and not local currency, please do not give coins as these are difficult to exchange.

Currency Exchange

The currency in India is the Rupee or Rs. The Rupee is a closed currency and officially you are not allowed to take any cash out of India. US Dollars and GBP are also widely accepted in India should you wish to keep an alternative currency on you. There are restrictions on taking Indian rupees into India. Visitors, including tourists, are not permitted to take any amount of Indian currency into the country. You can take cash or travellers' cheques (in pounds sterling or another foreign currency) and/or a bank card with you and exchange or withdraw rupees once in India. We recommend that you exchange your currency before you leave the UK. It is important that you budget carefully and ensure you have the right form of currency before you arrive in the country. Cash machines will also be available throughout the tour in order to withdraw money in your local currency.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs, laundry, any meals not included in the itinerary as well as drinks and any additional snacks. Approximately £400 per person will be sufficient for the duration of the tour. It is a good idea to try and maintain a supply of small notes and change in the local currency for tipping or small purchases.

Credit Card Information

As normal practice you will be asked for your credit card details on check-in at the hotel in order to cover any extras incurred during your stay. If you do not have a credit card you may be asked for a cash deposit. American Express, Diners Club, MasterCard and Visa are widely accepted in hotels.

Itinerary Changes

The order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions or for operational purposes. For this reason, we have indicated approximate times only. Your local guide will inform you of any schedule changes as they are informed of them. Some road construction and/or weather conditions may lengthen the driving times. Our intention is to adhere to the day-to-day itinerary as printed; however order of events and sightseeing may vary according to local conditions.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

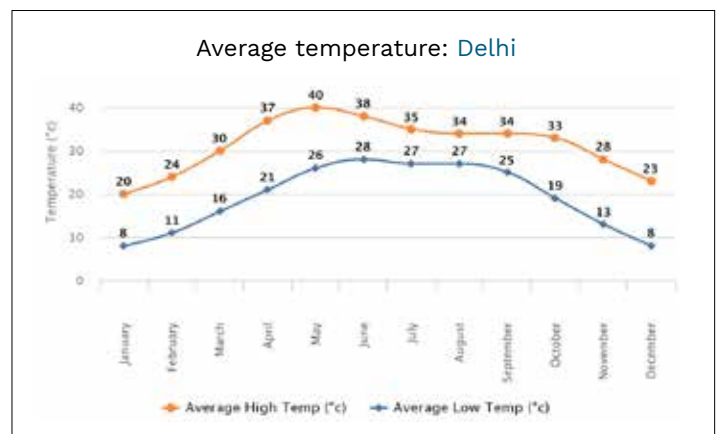
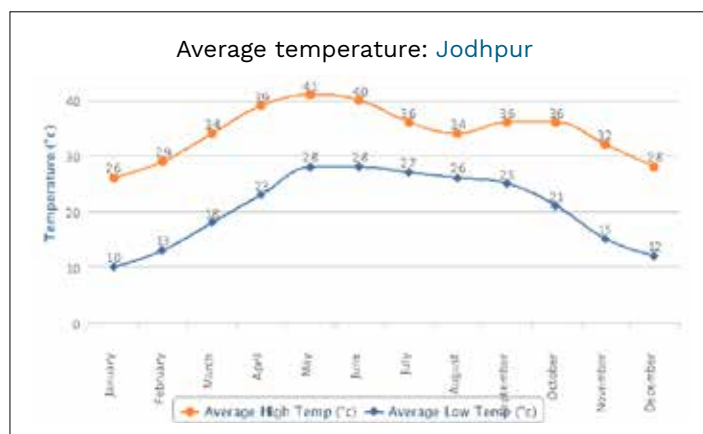
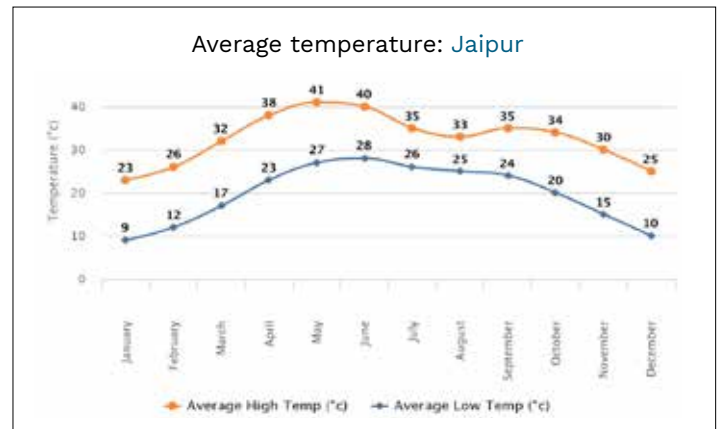
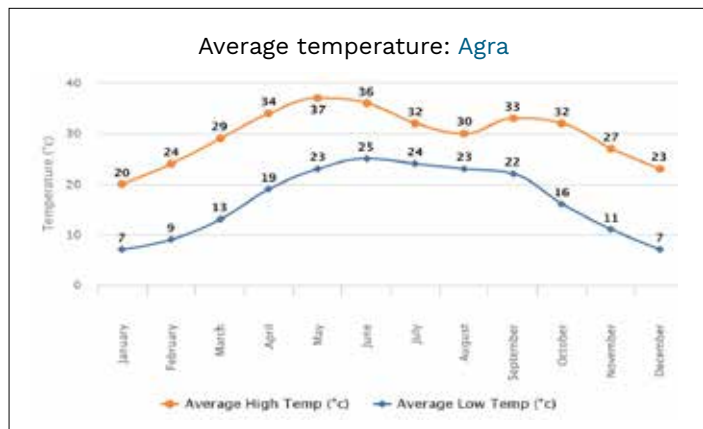
IMPORTANT: Please note that final flight details, including terminal, airline and baggage allowance, will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure. A printed E-ticket is no longer required at check-in, all you need to do is present your passport to the staff at the desk and your boarding pass will be given to you.

Airport Extras

If you wish to arrange Airport car parking, lounges or accommodation at preferential rates, we recommend you book this in advance with Holiday Extras Tel. 0871 360 2000, quoting HX313.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE

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



Shimla Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

As capital of the state of Himachal Pradesh, the engaging town of Shimla is a popular resort for tourists and local vacationers alike. This former British summer capital still retains much of its colonial heritage and is the perfect extension to your tour of India.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Shimla.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 16: Delhi to Shimla B

This morning you be transferred to the station in Delhi to board the train to Kalka. On arrival you will be met and start your journey to Shimla. Set amidst the snow-capped Shivalik mountain range, the hill town holiday resort displays many examples of its colonial past including charming iron lamp posts and hand-painted signs. Your evening will be at leisure to explore the local bazaars and pedestrianised streets.

DAY 17: Shimla and Kufri B

Just 30 minutes drive from Shimla is the beautiful town of Kufri, surrounded by dense forest and stunning mountain scenery. After lunch in a local restaurant you will be taken on a tour of Viceregal Lodge, the impressive former summer residence of the British Raj leader who governed the entire Indian subcontinent until 1946. Following some time learning about some of the significant decisions made within the viceroy, you will be transferred back to your hotel in Shimla.

DAY 18: Shimla to Delhi B

After breakfast you will drive to Kalka in time to catch the train back to Delhi where you will be met on arrival and transferred to your hotel.

DAY 19: Delhi to the UK B

Transfer to the airport for your flight back to the UK.

Hotel Information

Delhi (1 night): 5★ The Metropolitan Hotel and Spa - Bangla Sahib Rd, Sector 4, Gole Market, New Delhi, Delhi 110001, India
Contact number: 0091 11 4250 0200

Shimla (2 nights): 5★ Radisson Jass - Goodwood Estate, Lower, Bharari, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh 171001, India. Contact number: 0091 177 265 9012

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

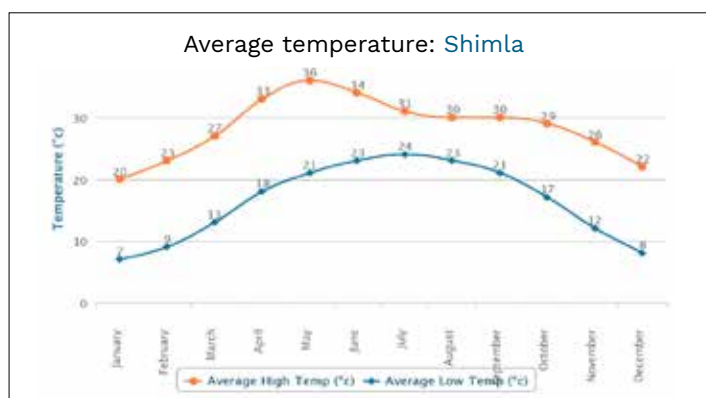
Tour guides

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

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as lunch and dinner plus souvenirs and laundry.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



5★ Radisson Jass

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Tigers of Ranthambore Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Once a famous hunting ground for the gallant rulers of Jaipur, Ranthambore National Park is spread over 1,344km² and is one of the biggest national parks in India. Choose this extension to experience a variety of wildlife including tigers, leopards, deer and much more.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Ranthambore.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 16: Delhi B/L/D

Following breakfast you will enjoy a day at leisure.

DAY 17: Delhi to Ranthambore B/L/D

After breakfast you will transfer to the railway station to board the train for a relaxing journey through rural India to Ranthambore for a wildlife experience of a lifetime.

DAY 18: Ranthambore B/L/D

Enjoy an early morning jungle safari followed by breakfast back at your hotel and some leisure time when you can take advantage of the hotel's outdoor pool. A second safari trip will follow after lunch to visit further areas of the park.

DAY 19: Ranthambore to Delhi B/L/D

Following an early breakfast you will catch the train back to Delhi, arriving in time for lunch with the rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 20: Delhi to the UK B

Depart after breakfast for your flight to the UK

Hotel Information

Ranthambore (2 nights): 4★ Ranthambore Kothi - Near Helipad, Village Khilchipur, Sawaimadhopur, Rajasthan, 322001, India.
Contact number: 0091 7462 252 112

Delhi (2 nights): 5★ The Metropolitan Hotel and Spa - Bangla Sahib Rd, Sector 4, Gole Market, New Delhi, Delhi 110001, India
Contact number: 0091 11 4250 0200

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

Tour guides

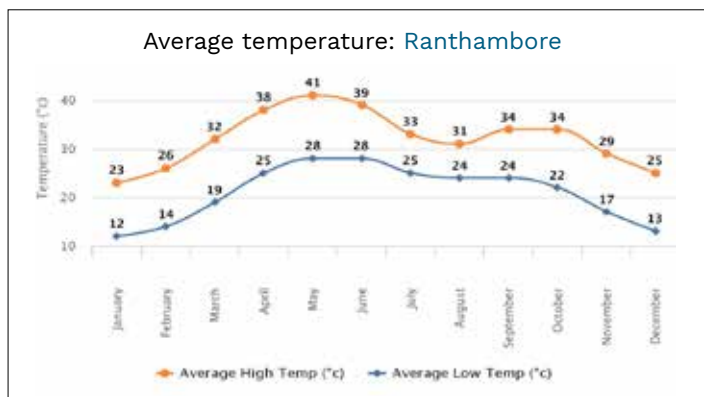
This is a fully escorted tour extension, meaning that you will be met on arrival by your national guide who will remain with you for the duration of your trip ensuring that you always have first-hand knowledge.

You will be accompanied by a naturalist while on the safaris. Please note the safaris are a shared service due to the number of vehicles allowed into the reserve at one time.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs and laundry.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



4★ Ranthambore Kothi

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Goa Beach Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Extend your trip with a stay in Goa where your hotel is within walking distance from some of the most beautiful beaches. Goa is India's most popular and laid-back resort destination.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Hotel (4 nights)

Your 4-night-stay in Goa will take place at the following hotel:

4★ Kyriad Prestige Calangute on All-Inclusive.

Address: Umtavaddo, Calangute, Bardez, Goa 403516, India

Contact number: 0091 93709 01845

or

5★ Radisson Goa Candolim on All-Inclusive.

Address: Fort Aguada Road, Bammonvaddo, Goa 403515, India

Contact number: 0091 832 671 9999

or

5★ Zuri White Sands on All-Inclusive.

Address: Pedda, Varca, Goa 403721, India

Contact number: 0091 832 272 7272

Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, drinks, snacks and any meals.

Tour Guides

Your Goa extension is not escorted. You will be transferred to your hotel after your main tour and will receive transfers to the airport at the end of your stay.

Currency

The national currency of India is Indian Rupee and the same currency is used in Goa.

Visa Information

All foreign nationals entering India are required to possess a valid international travel document in the form of a national passport with a valid visa obtained from an Indian Mission or Post abroad.

On your arrival

On your arrival in Goa you will be met by a representative from our local agent, **Earthen Experiences**, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Earthen Experiences representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. However, if you need to contact Earthen Experiences during your stay the details are:

Earthen Experiences

411, Gera Imperium 1, EDC Patto Plaza, Panjim, Goa 403001

Tel (Mon-Fri Office hours: 10am-5:30pm): Jan Fernandes - 0091 9763550906 / 0091 8788278453

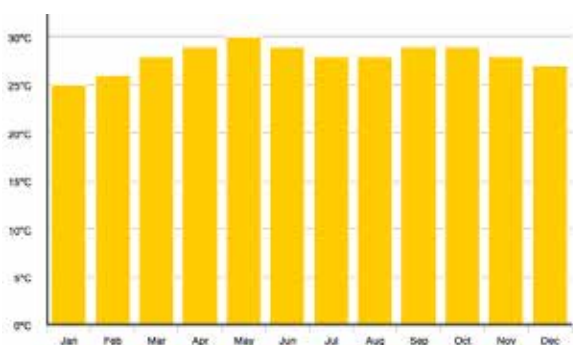
Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Earthen Experiences:

Reshma Alves - goa@earthenexperiences.com. Tel: 0091 9158151100

Warren Pinto - warren.pinto@earthenexperiences.com. Tel: 0091 9860096105

Average temperature: Goa



4★ Radisson Goa Candolim

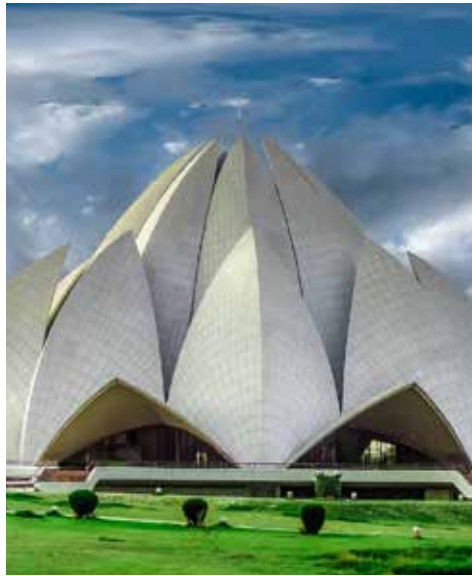
FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Delhi City Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

After your Escorted Tour, spend two days at leisure in Delhi, giving you time to explore the historical sites and diverse culture.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

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

Hotel (2 nights)

Your stay in Delhi will take place at one of the following hotels:

5★ The Metropolitan Hotel and Spa on Bed & Breakfast.

A 5-minute drive from Connaught Place, The Metropolitan Hotel & Spa New Delhi features an outdoor pool and 3 dining options. Situated in New Delhi's city centre, it also offers a fitness centre and spa. The Metropolitan Hotel & Spa is 0.6 miles from New Delhi Railway Station, 550 yards from Airport Express Metro Station (Shivaji Stadium) and 7.5 miles from Delhi International Airport. Room facilities include LED flat screen TV, FREE Wi-Fi, tea and coffee maker and safe and have a choice of a pool or city view.

Hotel Information

Address: Bangla Sahib Rd, Sector 4, Gole Market, New Delhi, Delhi 110001, India. Contact number: 0091 11 4250 0200
Any alternative hotels or board basis will have been confirmed at booking. Please speak to our reservations department if you are unsure.

Please note: the hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Visas

A visa is required for entry into India.

Personal Expenses

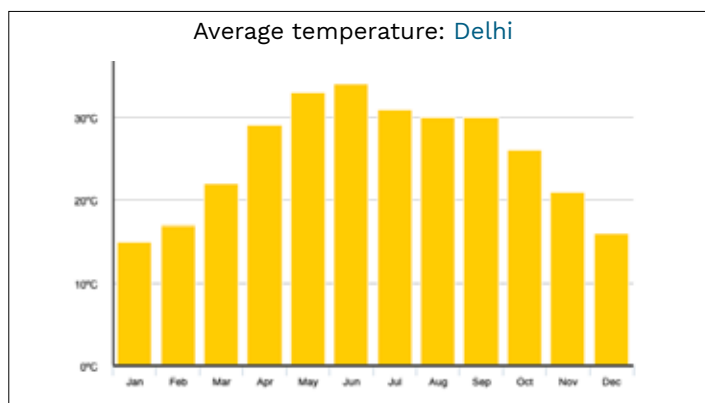
You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as souvenirs, laundry, drinks, snacks and any meals.

Tour Guides

Your Delhi extension is not escorted. You will be transferred to your hotel after the Grand Tour of North India and will receive transfers to the airport at the end of your stay.

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



5★ The Metropolitan Hotel and Spa

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

Sri Lanka Cultural Highlights

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

This Sri Lanka cultural highlights extension offers a captivating glimpse into the modern-day Sri Lanka. Explore ancient cities and temples that date back to past civilisations, venture into the intriguing highlands where the renowned Ceylon tea thrives on steep slopes, visit the lakeside city of Kandy – the final bastion of the Sri Lankan Kings, and witness an elephant orphanage where these majestic creatures are cared for.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your add-on in Shimla.

Your included meal guide:

B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

DAY 16: Delhi to Colombo B

Check out from your hotel and proceed to the airport for your late afternoon flight to Colombo. Upon arrival, you will be met and transferred to your hotel in the city.

DAY 17: Colombo to Sigiriya B/D

Following breakfast, embark on a half-day city tour of Colombo. The commercial capital of Sri Lanka. Colombo is a bustling, cosmopolitan city whose colonial history is still very much evident along wide, shaded boulevards and among its Victorian churches and cafes. Begin your city tour by visiting the vibrant temples and bazaars of Pettah, selling seemingly everything from traditional jewelry to Ayurvedic medicines. Next, enjoy a trip to the Old Dutch hospital, a highlight of the restored Fort complex and home to some of Colombo's chicest restaurants, cafes, and shops. Along with the new additions, a visit to a Buddhist temple and a Hindu Kovil is a must to experience the diverse culture of this lively island. This afternoon, proceed to Sigiriya, where the rest of the day is at leisure before dinner at your hotel.

DAY 18: Sigiriya B/D

This morning, after an early start and cup of tea or coffee, set out to explore the Sigiriya Rock Fortress. Accessed by a spiral stairway this

ancient palace was built by King Kashyapa (473-491 AD) as his new capital. Explore the remains of the palace and its famous frescoes, created using earth pigments on plaster. Return to the hotel for a late breakfast and a spot of relaxation by the pool. In the afternoon, journey to Polonnaruwa, the second capital of Sri Lanka in the 11th and 12th centuries AD. Explore the ruins of the Royal Palace, the Council Hall, Lotus Bath and the Polonnaruwa statue. After strolling through the ancient city, you'll drive back to Sigiriya, visiting a Wood Carving Centre en route.

DAY 19: Sigiriya B/D

After breakfast proceed to Anuradhapura Sri Lanka's 1st capital city. Embark on a tour of the city including a visit to the sacred Bo Tree, the oldest living human-planted tree in the world, as well as Samadhi Buddha – A statue of the Buddha regarded as one of the finest in Sri Lanka. Return this afternoon back to your hotel in Sigiriya where you can spend the afternoon at leisure or head out on an optional bird watching or nature ramble.

DAY 20: Sigiriya to Kandy B/D

After breakfast proceed to the Dambulla Rock Temple, a World Heritage site and the most impressive of Sri Lanka's cave temples. This complex of five caves has over 2000 square meters of painted walls and ceilings and contains over 150 images or statues of Buddha. Proceed onwards to Kandy, stopping en route at Matale to visit a Spice Garden where you'll learn about the variety of spices available in Sri Lanka. On arrival in Kandy check in at your hotel before undertaking a tour of the city. Kandy was the last capital of the Sri Lankan kings and is a World Heritage Site. Drive



3★ Sigiriya Village Hotel



5★ Heritance Tea Factory

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**

around the Lake before visiting the Kandy town and bazaar, an Arts & Crafts Centre, gem museum, and lapidary before returning to your hotel.

DAY 21: Kandy B/D

After breakfast visit the Botanical Garden in Peradeniya. This Botanical Garden was first built as a pleasure garden by a Sinhala king before later being expanded by the British. Its 147 acres provides an amazing variety of trees, plants, and flowers. Continue to the Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage, where you'll spend considerable time with these magnificent creatures before returning to Kandy. In the evening visit the Temple of Tooth Relic in time for a Pooja ceremony. Finally enjoy a Cultural Show before returning to your hotel for dinner.

DAY 22: Kandy to Nuwara Eliya B/D

After breakfast proceed to Nuwara Eliya, heart of Sri Lanka's tea making industry. En route visit a tea estate to study the manufacturing process of Ceylon tea. On arrival in Nuwara Eliya, head on a short city tour of the city which includes a walk around a typical local market. Carry on to your hotel for the night.

DAY 23: Nuwara Eliya to Colombo B/D

After breakfast, return to Colombo via Kitulgala, the location where The Bridge over the River Kwai was filmed. Stop also at the beautiful St. Clairs and Devon waterfalls which make for a great photo opportunity. Finally arrive in Colombo and check in to your hotel in time to spend one final evening in the city.

DAY 24: Colombo to UK B

After breakfast proceed to the airport for your return flight to the UK.

Hotel Information

Sigiriya (3 nights): 3★ Sigiriya Village Hotel

Sigiriya Village Hotel, PO Box No.01, Sigiriya, 21120, Sri Lanka
Contact number: +94 66 2286 803 / +94 66 2286 806

Kandy (2 night): 4★ Tourmaline Hotel

Anniawatta Circular Road, Kandy, Sri Lanka
Contact number: +94 81 738 9000

Nuwara Eliya (1 night): 5★ Heritance Tea Factory

Kandapola, Nuwara Eliya, Sri Lanka.
Contact number: +94 52 222 9600

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

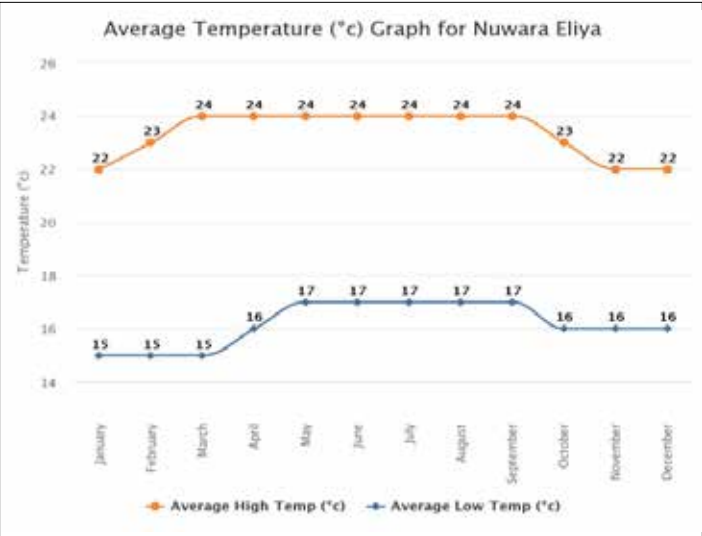
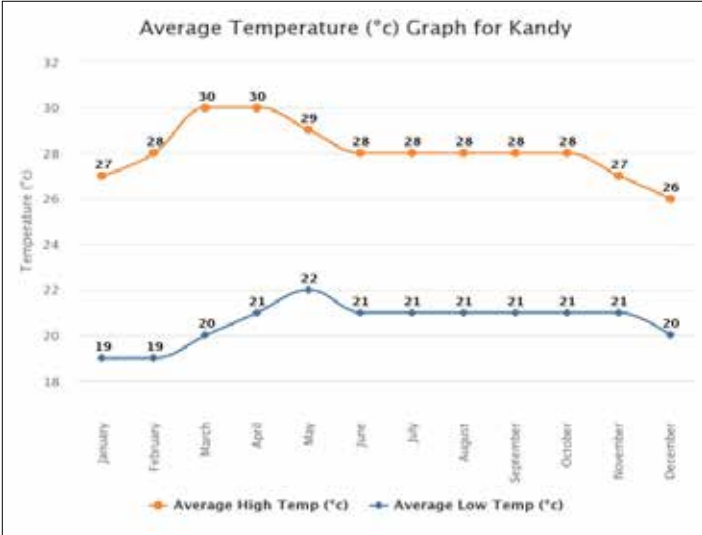
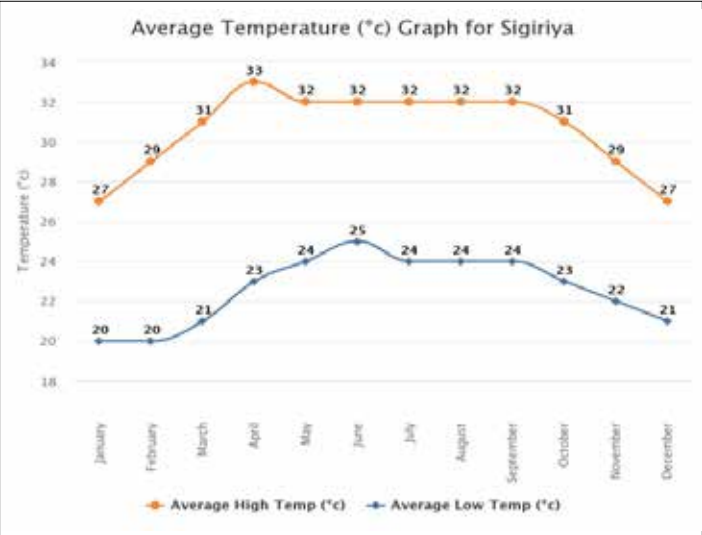
Tour guides

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

Personal Expenses

You will need to take money with you to cover any personal purchases, such as lunch and dinner plus souvenirs and laundry.

WEATHER AND CLIMATE



FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

Sri Lanka Beach Stay Extension

If you have not yet booked this fabulous extension, there is still time to do so. Please contact 0333 003 0522



TRIP OVERVIEW

Your extended stay in Sri Lanka, at one of the wonderful beach resorts on the west coast of the country, allows you to indulge in a calming massage or simply relax by the beach.

ITINERARY & DETAILS

This document aims to give you all the information which you will require during your Sri Lanka beach stay extension.

Sri Lanka Beach Stay (4 nights)

Located off the southern tip of India, Sri Lanka's warm charm and vibrant culture will seduce any traveller. The island boasts endless golden beaches, timeless ruins, colourful cuisine and a stunning array of native wildlife.

Hotel Information

On the west coast of Sri Lanka, Kalutara is the ideal place to relax and indulge yourself with a stay at your chosen hotel at the **4★ Citrus Hikkaduwa Hotel** or the **5★ Royal Palms Beach Hotel**. Your transfers and accommodation are included and your stay will be on a Half Board or All-Inclusive basis. This will have been confirmed at time of booking.

Hotel Information:

4★ Citrus Hikkaduwa Hotel - 400 Galle Rd, Hikkaduwa 80240, Sri Lanka
Contact number: 0094 77 730 9874

5★ Royal Palms Beach Hotel - De Abrew Road, Waskaduwa, Kalutara.
Contact number: 0094 34 222 8113

If you have booked another hotel, other than those featured above, this will be shown on your invoice.

The hotels listed are provided for guidance only and final confirmation of your accommodation will be sent in a document, along with your final flight information, approximately 10 days before you travel.

Personal Expenses

You will need to take some extra money with you to cover any personal purchases such as souvenirs and laundry and any meals and snacks where these are not included.

Tour Guides

Your beach stay is not escorted by a tour guide. All internal transfers are included.

On your arrival in Colombo you will be met by a representative from our local agent, Aitken Spence, holding a sign displaying: "Mercury Holidays". The Mercury Holidays/Aitken Spence representative will show you to your transfer vehicle. Your guide will be able to answer any queries. If you need to contact Aitken Spence during your stay the details are:

Aitken Spence Travel (Colombo)

04th Floor, Aitken Spence Towers 02, 315, Vauxhall Street, Colombo 02 Sri Lanka. Contact number: 0094 112 499623

Emergency contact information

Please find below the emergency contact details for Aitken Spence Travel

Contact
Rizmika: 0094 772 916461

Anil: 0094 777 270500

Anu 0094 774 593182

Please note

This extension takes place after your main tour.



The Palms



Royal Palms Beach Hotel

FLIGHT INFORMATION

Please note: Final hotel and flight details will be confirmed on your final documentation which will be sent to you approximately 10 days before departure.

For any further enquiries or for more information call us on **0333 003 0522**