G Adventures

Last Updated: October 21, 2021



Ultimate India by Rail

46 days, Delhi to Delhi

Trip code AHFR

What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Women With Wheels, Indira Gandhi International Airport
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Taj Mahal visit
- Agra Fort visit
- Jaipur orientation walk
- Amber Fort visit
- Udaipur orientation walk
- Jagdish Temple and City Palace visit
- Rajasthani cultural show
- Bundi Fort and stepwells visit
- Colaba area walking tour
- Gateway of India visit
- Beach time in Goa
- Walking tour and ruins visit in Hampi
- Hazararama Temple visit
- Mysore Palace and Chamunda Hill visits
- Namdroling Monastery visit
- Coffee plantation tour
- Madikeri Fort and Raja's Seat visit
- Fort Kochi and Chinese fishing nets visit
- Backwaters canal ride
- Vivekananda Rock and Ramkrishna Ashram visit
- Meenakshi Temple visit
- Cycle tour to Shore Temple and Mamallapuram Beach
- Charminar and Golconda Fort visit
- Jagannath Temple visit
- Raghuraj Pur village visit
- Kolkata city tour
- Victoria Memorial visit
- Visit Mother Teresa's House
- Tiger Hill sunrise visit
- Tea estate visit
- Mahakal Temple visit
- Peace Pagoda visit
- Toy train ride
- Local lunch
- Rumtek Monastery day trip
- Deolo Hill visit
- Evening ghats visit
- Sunrise boat trip on the Ganges
- Bara Imambara visit
- Orientation walks in Darjeeling, Gangtok, and Kalimpong
- Internal flights
- All transport between destinations and to/from included activities

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and G Adventures. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

VALIDITY: Valid for all trips departing January 1st, 2019 and onwards

Itinerary



NOTE: Accommodations vary per departure and are subject to change until tour start date; they are not final and should be used as examples only. Travellers may login to the G Adventures App to view accommodations specific to their departure.

Itinerary Notes

Want to experience the sights and sounds of Holi? Make sure you're in India on March 10, 2020 or March 29, 2021 for the nation's most colourful festival.

Day 1

Delhi

Arrive at any time. Arrival transfer is included through the G Adventures-supported Women With Wheels project.

Today's Activities

ACTIVITY

Your opportunity to meet your CEO and fellow travellers, and learn more about your tour. Opt to join the group for a local meal afterwards. Don't forget to see the notice in the lobby (or ask reception) for the official time and place to meet up with the group.

ACTIVITY

Transfer by a G Adventures-supported project, Women With Wheels. This program provides safe and reliable transport for travellers, while providing a dignified livelihood for local women who once lacked financial opportunities.

Day 2

Delhi/Āgra

Take the Shatabdi Express train to Agra, with breakfast served on board. Enjoy a guided tour of the impressive Taj Mahal and Agra Fort. Time permitting, opt to visit the Baby Taj.

Meals included

Breakfast

Today's Activities

Train Delhi – Āgra 2h-3h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Taj Mahal Guided Tour Tāj Mahal 1h-3h

Here's one to cross off your bucket list: a visit to one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Take a guided tour of India's most famous landmark and an icon of Mughal architecture. Built by the emperor Shah Jahan as a testament of his love to his wife, Mumtaz Mahal, this stunning white marble structure draws visitors from all over the world.

Agra Fort Guided Tour Āgra 1h-3h

Enjoy a guided tour of this palatial Mughal fort made of red sandstone and white marble. One of the most important battles of the Indian rebellion of 1857 happened at this fort, which caused the end of the British East India Company's rule in India.

Optional Activities - Day 2

Baby Taj Visit Āgra 310INR

Visit this mausoleum that looks like a jewel box, built before the Taj Mahal by Queen Nur Jahan for her father. Enjoy the intricate details of the structure; it was the first Mughal building faced with white marble and where "pietra dura" (precious stones inlaid into marble) was first used.

Day 3 Āgra/Jaipur

Hop on a Shatabdi Express train in the evening to Jaipur.

Today's Activities

Free Time Āgra

Get out and see more of this historic city filled with architectural marvels.

Train Āgra – Jaipur 4h-4h30m

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Day 4

Jaipur

Take an orientation walk around town. Take a photo of the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) and visit the Amber Fort. Walk around the Old City and markets and opt to visit the City Palace. With free time, wander the Jantar Mantar or check out a Bollywood film at the spectacular Art Deco film house, the Raj Mandir.

Today's Activities

Orientation Walk Jaipur 1h-2h

Head to the markets of this "Pink City," the capital of Rajasthan, and one of the most important heritage cities in India on this CEO-led orientation walk.

Amber Fort Visit Jaipur

Take in the Hindu and Muslim architecture of the beautiful Amber Fort. Wander through the halls and courtyards and admire the intricate details.

Optional Activities - Day 4

Jantar Mantar Visit Jaipur 202INR 1h-2h

Visit the Jantar Mantar observatory for a guided tour and explore the collection of astronomical instruments housed there, some dating back to 1727.

Jaipur Balloon Ride Jaipur

Begin your day at dawn, just as the sun starts to rise. As you drift into the sky, enjoy the silence and serenity of the morning, watching as the day starts for the colourfully dressed inhabitants below. From high in the sky, you may float over rolling hills, villages teeming with life, and a small monastery. You may even spot elephants—if luck is on your side.

Available September 1 - April 30.

Movie at Raj Mandir Jaipur 200-400INR

Visit this spectacular cinema and watch a song-and-dance Bollywood film.

Day 5 Jaipur/Udaipur

In the morning board a train and soak in the passing scenery en route to Udaipur. Arrive in the evening with free time to explore the city.

Today's Activities

Train Jaipur – Udaipur 7h30m-8h 430km

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Time Udaipur

Stretch your legs and explore Udaipur with a free evening.

Day 6 Udaipur

Enjoy an orientation walk, including a visit to the Jagdish Temple and the City Palace, one of the largest royal palaces in India. Attend a Rajasthani cultural show on Gangaur Ghat.

Discover the early morning serenity of the city by pre-booking the Udaipur Sunrise Cycle tour extra, or opt to sharpen your culinary skills by pre-booking the Udaipur Cooking School extra.

Today's Activities

Udaipur Orientation Walk Udaipur

Go on a guided orientation walk and get to know local markets and key places.

Jagdish Temple Visit Udaipur

Visit the intricately-carved Jagdish Temple, which pays homage to Vishnu, the Hindu god of preservation. Make sure to take a peek at the black stoned image of Vishnu that's housed inside the shrine.

City Palace Visit Udaipur 1h-2h

Visit Rajasthan's largest palace to get a sense of how royalty lived. Take in the view from one of its many intricately-decorated balconies, with one side facing the stunning Lake Palace.

Rajasthani Cultural Show Udaipur 1h 1km

Enjoy an evening cultural show that includes traditional music and dancing from the state of Rajasthan.

Optional Activities - Day 6

Monsoon Palace Visit Udaipur 505INR

Hop in an auto rickshaw and head outside of Udaipur to the stunning Monsoon Palace, perched high above town. Enjoy sweeping views of the city and surrounding lakes and countryside. Consider visiting at sunset for an unforgettable view.

Udaipur Sunrise Cycle Tour Udaipur 3h-3h30m 20km

Discover the early morning serenity of Udaipur with a ride along the city's picturesque lakes as the sun rises. Embark in the village of Kalarohu, travelling towards Fateh Sagar Lake to observe the lake's three islands as the birds flock to the tranquil waters. Cycle past agricultural workers in action in the lush farming communities of Badi and Hawala before making a loop around the hilltop palatial residence, Monsoon Palace. Travel on through more villages to reach Tiger Lake, this morning's setting for a picnic breakfast. The tour offers ample opportunities for photographs and to learn more about Indian history so don't forget your camera! The journey concludes with a downhill ride towards our finishing point.

Udaipur Cooking School Udaipur 2h-3h

This your chance to learn from the locals how to make authentic Rajasthani dishes. Start the class with a warming cup of masala chai as your hosts introduce you to the range of ingredients and spices that will formulate your lunch menu. Watch as they demonstrate how to make rice, curries, and chapatis or opt to get hands-on and join them in cooking up these tasty dishes. Tuck in and enjoy your creations for lunch.

Day 7 Udaipur/Būndi

Take a train to Bundi to explore the fort and stepwells.

Opt for a sunrise bicycle tour of Udaipur before the train to Bundi this afternoon.

There is no shortage of notable architecture in Bundi. From palaces to baoris, otherwise known as stepwell reservoirs, explore the many man-made marvels of Bundi.

Today's Activities

Bundi Fort and Stepwells Visit | Būndi | 2h-3h

Bundi is well-known for its ornate forts and stepwells. The fort was constructed in AD 1354 and overlooks the city, making it a popular lookout point for visitors. The stepwell here is intricately carved and over 45m (148ft) deep. Built in 1699, it is one of the largest stepwells in Rajasthan.

Train | Udaipur – Būndi | 4h30m

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Optional Activities - Day 7

Udaipur Sunrise Cycle Tour | Udaipur | 3h-3h30m | 20km

Discover the early morning serenity of Udaipur with a ride along the city's picturesque lakes as the sun rises. Embark in the village of Kalarohu, travelling towards Fateh Sagar Lake to observe the lake's three islands as the birds flock to the tranquil waters. Cycle past agricultural workers in action in the lush farming communities of Badi and Hawala before making a loop around the hilltop palatial residence, Monsoon Palace. Travel on through more villages to reach Tiger Lake, this morning's setting for a picnic breakfast. The tour offers ample opportunities for photographs and to learn more about Indian history so don't forget your camera! The journey concludes with a downhill ride towards our finishing point.

Day 8 Būndi/Mumbai

Explore Bundi with some free time before an overnight trip on the Mumbai Rajdhani Express train, with dinner on board.

Meals included

Dinner

Today's Activities

Free Time Būndi

Get outside and discover more of Bundi.

Train Būndi – Kota 1h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Basic Overnight Train (beds) Kota – Mumbai 12h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Day 9

Mumbai

Arrive in the morning in bustling Mumbai, home to 20 million people. Take a walking tour of the Colaba area and see the Gateway of India.

Today's Activities

Free Time Mumbai

Explore the cafes and charming colonial architecture in this sprawling city.

Colaba Walking Tour Mumbai 1h-3h 3km

Walk through the charming Colaba neighbourhood of Mumbai, visiting some highlights along the way. Enjoy the architecturally splendid Gateway of India, magnificent colonial buildings, charming cafes, and high-end boutiques.

Gateway of India Visit Mumbai

Enjoy a visit architecturally splendid arch, popular with tourists from India and around the world, was built during the British rule and offers amazing views of the Arabian Sea, with boats bobbing in the water close to it.

Day 10 Mumbai/Goa

Catch a morning flight to beautiful Goa. Spend free time relaxing on the beach or exploring the city's monuments.

Opt to visit the many Portuguese-built monuments, wander around the churches of Old Goa (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), or discover Panjim, the capital of the state. Don't forget to indulge in Goan cuisine.

Today's Activities

Free Time Goa

Don't waste a minute -- start exploring this charming piece of paradise.

Plane Mumbai - Goa

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Optional Activities - Day 10

Goa Beach Visit Goa Free

Relax on some soft, white sand -- Goa's beaches are famous the world over for good reason. Hydrate with a smoothie or fresh coconut water.

Old Goa Visit Goa 1600INR 2h-3h

Explore the rich history and impressive architecture of Old Goa, the former colonial capital of the state. The convents and churches are stunning, and the area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Be sure to visit the Basilica of Bom Jesus, which contains the relics of St Francis Xavier.

Panjim Visit Panjim

Walk through the Latin Quarter or by the river of this charming capital city. Take a short boat ride, visit a casino, or just relax and take in the chilled out vibe. Don't forget to eat some delicious Goan food, but watch out -- it can be spicy.

Day 11

Goa

Enjoy a free day in Goa.

With free time in Goa, opt to explore the city and learn about it's ancient Portuguese colony, visit a market, or relax on the beach.

Today's Activities

Free Time Goa

See more of the lakes and palaces in this beautiful city.

Optional Activities - Day 11

Goa Beach Visit Goa Free

Relax on some soft, white sand -- Goa's beaches are famous the world over for good reason. Hydrate with a smoothie or fresh coconut water.

Old Goa Visit Goa 1600INR 2h-3h

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Day 12

Goa

Spend the day relaxing in paradise.

Today's Activities

Free Time Goa

Get active or get lazy. The choice is yours.

Optional Activities - Day 12

Panjim Visit Panjim

Walk through the Latin Quarter or by the river of this charming capital city. Take a short boat ride, visit a casino, or just relax and take in the chilled out vibe. Don't forget to eat some delicious Goan food, but watch out -- it can be spicy.

Goa Beach Visit Goa Free

Relax on some soft, white sand -- Goa's beaches are famous the world over for good reason. Hydrate with a smoothie or fresh coconut water.

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Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

You may be a seasoned pro at group travel by now, but there will likely be some new travellers joining the group. Sit in on the welcome meeting to meet the newest members of your group and learn about the next leg of your tour.

Day 13 Goa

Spend a free day relaxing on the beach or opt to visit the many Portuguese-built monuments, wander around the churches of Old Goa (a UNESCO World Heritage Site), or discover Panjim, the capital. Don't forget to indulge in Goan cuisine.

Today's Activities

Free Time Goa

Explore all Goa has to offer.

Optional Activities - Day 13

Old Goa Visit Goa 1600INR 2h-3h

Explore the rich history and impressive architecture of Old Goa, the former colonial capital of the state. The convents and churches are stunning, and the area is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Be sure to visit the Basilica of Bom Jesus, which contains the relics of St Francis Xavier.

Goa Beach Visit Goa Free

Relax on some soft, white sand -- Goa's beaches are famous the world over for good reason. Hydrate with a smoothie or fresh coconut water.

Panjim Visit Panjim

Walk through the Latin Quarter or by the river of this charming capital city. Take a short boat ride, visit a casino, or just relax and take in the chilled out vibe. Don't forget to eat some delicious Goan food, but watch out -- it can be spicy.

Day 14 Goa/Hampi

Travel by Visakhapatnam Howrah Express train and then by van to reach Hampi, in the heart of Karnataka.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Calangute - Madgaon 1h-1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Local Train Madgaon – Hospet 6h-7h

Climb aboard, take your seat, and get around like the locals do.

Private Vehicle Hospet – Hampi 1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 15 Hampi/Mysore

Enjoy a walking tour and explore the spectacular ruins of Hampi Palaces, Vittala Temple complex, Virupaksh Temple, Hazararama Temple, and the boulders on the river. In the evening, take an overnight Hampi Express train to Mysore.

Today's Activities

Hampi Ruins Walking Tour Hampi 2h

Explore the spectacular ruins of Hampi Palaces, Hazararama Temple, and the boulders on the river on this walking tour.

Private Vehicle Hampi – Hospet 1h-1h30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Overnight Train (beds) Hospet – Mysore 12h

Stretch out and get some well-earned rest en route to the next stop.

Day 16 Mysore

Arrive to Mysore and explore the Mysore Palace and Chamundi Hill.

Today's Activities

Mysore Palace Visit Mysore

This stunning palace was the home of the Maharajas of Mysore, the former royal family, which ruled from 1399 to 1950. Learn about the rich history of Indian royalty and soak in the splendor of an era long gone.

Chamundi Hills Visit Mysore 1h

Enjoy a visit to the gorgeous temple devoted to the Hindu goddess, Chamundi, located on Chamundi Hill.

Day 17 Mysore/Madikeri

Drive to Bylakuppe and explore the Namdroling Monastery - home to nearly 5,000 Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns. Later drive to Madikeri for the evening.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Mysore – Bylakuppe 2h-3h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Namdroling Monastery Visit Bylakuppe

Home to nearly 5,000 Tibetan Buddhist monks and nuns, Namdroling Monastery is known as a centre for teachings of the Buddha and the Nyingma tradition - the oldest of the four major schools of Tibetan Buddhism.

Private Vehicle Bylakuppe – Madikeri 1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 18

Madikeri

Explore Madikeri (the coffee hub of India) and enjoy a tour of a coffee plantation. Later, enjoy an orientation walk around the town and then enjoy free time to explore in the afternoon.

Today's Activities

Coffee Plantation Tour Madikeri

Head out into the hills to visit one of the many coffee plantations in the region. Learn about the production process and have a sample or two of the locally-grown coffee while taking in the beautiful scenery.

Orientation With CEO Madikeri 30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time Madikeri

Explore Madikeri with free time this afternoon.

Day 19

Madikeri/Kochi

Take a morning drive to the coastal town of Kannur. Catch the Ernakulam Express to Kochi in the afternoon.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Madikeri – Kannur 3h-4h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Train Kannur – Kochi 6h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Day 20

Kochi

Explore the Fort Kochi area and see the Chinese fishing nets at work. If time permits, visit the Jewish area and synagogue, the Dutch Palace, and Spice Market.

Today's Activities

Fort Kochi Visit Kochi 1h-2h 2km

Enjoy your stay in charming Fort Kochi, which evokes an era long gone. Walk through the cobblestone streets, visit delightful tea houses, and have a relaxing drink while sitting by the water. Be sure to check out Vasco de Gama's tombstone and the famous blue synagogue.

Chinese Fishing Nets Visit Kochi 30m

Check out these magnificent fishing nets, which are an icon of Kochi. They were gifted to the Kochi King by Chinese Emperor Kubalagi in the 14th century as the two empires were trading partners.

Optional Activities - Day 20

Kochi Spice Market Kochi

Tantalize your senses and tickle your taste buds with a trip to the Kochi Spice Market. Cardamom, cinnamon, and cumin galore!

Jewish Synagogue Kochi 10INR

Enjoy a visit to this gorgeous synagogue located in an area of Fort Kochi known as Jew town. Built in 1567 by Sephardic Jews, it is the only functioning synagogue in Kochi today.

Dutch Palace Visit Kochi

Explore the grounds of this gorgeous white palace built in 1555, also known as the Mattancherry Palace. Check out the intricate and extremely well preserved murals, depicting tales from Hindu mythology. Get a taste of life as a Kochi royal by looking at elaborate palanquins and bejewelled clothing on display here.

Day 21 Kochi

Make the most of Kochi with free time to explore.

Today's Activities

Free Time Kochi

Don't delay—get exploring. Kochi is beautiful!

Optional Activities - Day 21

Dutch Palace Visit Kochi

Explore the grounds of this gorgeous white palace built in 1555, also known as the Mattancherry Palace. Check out the intricate and extremely well preserved murals, depicting tales from Hindu mythology. Get a taste of life as a Kochi royal by looking at elaborate palanquins and bejewelled clothing on display here.

Kochi Spice Market Kochi

Tantalize your senses and tickle your taste buds with a trip to the Kochi Spice Market. Cardamom, cinnamon, and cumin galore!

Jewish Synagogue Kochi 10INR

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Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

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Day 22 Kochi/Alleppey

Take the early train to Alleppey to explore the Kerala backwaters. Walk in the paddy fields and take a canoe ride through the canals the region is famous for.

This evening enjoy a taste of local life with a homestay.

Meals included

Dinner

Today's Activities

Train Kochi – Alleppey 1h-1h30m

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Tuk-Tuk Alleppey – Kerala Backwaters 30m

Scoot quickly around the big cities inside a three-wheeled mini-taxi.

Kerala Boat Tour Alleppey 1h

Enjoy a boat ride through the beautiful backwaters of Kerala. Take in the lush, green scenery and the multitude of coconut trees.

Day 23

Alleppey/Kanyakumari

Enjoy some more time in Kerala before an evening train to Kanyakumari for a full day exploring the area.

Meals included

Breakfast

Today's Activities

Free Time Alleppey

Enjoy more time here.

Train Alleppey – Nāgercoil 4h30m

Meals are available for purchase on board.

Private Vehicle Nāgercoil – Kanyakumari 30m

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 24

Kanyakumari/Madurai

Spend the day in Kanyakumari. Drive to the southernmost tip of India and take a ferry across to Vivekananda Rock and the Ramkrishna Ashram. Take an evening Kanyakumari Express train to Madurai.

Today's Activities

Ferry Kanyakumari – Vivekananda Rock Memorial 30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Ferry Vivekananda Rock Memorial - Kanyakumari 30m

Get to the next spot on your route aboard a convenient and efficient ferry boat.

Vivekananda Rock and Ramkrishna Ashram Visit 2h-3h

Take an enjoyable ferry ride to Vivekananda Rock, a small island about 100m from the mainland. Mix with the many pilgrims going to visit this holy site—it honours the Hindu poet and philosopher, Swami Vivekananda. Learn about Hinduism at the peaceful Ramakrishna Ashram, an ashram maintained by the Ramakrishna Mission, which is a Hindu movement named after the late philosopher, Swami Ramakrishna.

Train Kanyakumari - Madurai 4h30m

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Day 25 Madurai

Explore the Meenakshi Temple and colourful markets of Madurai.

Today's Activities

Meenakshi Temple Visit Madurai 2h-3h

Visit the gorgeous Meenakshi Temple, considered to be the finest in South Indian religious architecture. This enormous temple complex is dedicated to Shiva and his consort Parvati, or Meenakshi. Even before you pass through the massive stone walls of the temple, the nine striking gopurams (monumental gateways covered with stucco figures of deities, mythical animals, and monsters all painted in vivid colours) loom high above.

Free Time Madurai

Enjoy some free time exploring the bustling markets and gorgeous temples of this holy city.

Optional Activities - Day 25

Gandhi Museum Madurai

Learn about India's struggle for independence at this museum devoted to the great man famous the world over, Mahatma Gandhi.

Thirumalai Nayak Palace Visit Madurai 50INR

Visit what remains of the 17th century palace of the ruler Thirumalai Nayak -- he contributed extensively to the gorgeous Meenakshi Temple, which is located less than 2km away.

Cycle-Rickshaw Tour Madurai 350INR

Sit back and relax during this eco-friendly tour -- you'll be pulled along by a bicyclist! See the sights at a slower pace and form street level. Check out the fruit and vegetable market, watch the pressing of oil by bullocks, and the famous Gandhi museum and palace.

Day 26 Madurai/Māmallapuram

Take the morning Vaigai Express to Chengalpattu before continue by van to Mamallapuram.

Today's Activities

Train Madurai – Chengalpattu 6h30m

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Private Vehicle Chengalpattu – Māmallapuram 30m-1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 27 Māmallapuram

Cycle around and explore the rock-cut Shore Temple and Mamallapuram Beach.

Today's Activities

Sunrise Shore Temple Visit Māmallapuram

Explore this impressive group of monuments that were sculpted during the 7th and 8th century, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, at sunrise. Of these, the Shore Temple stands out for its a marvelous view of the Bay of Bengal's shore. Made of granite, it's actually a twin-temple dedicated both to the Hindu gods, Vishnu and Shiva.

Mamallapuram Beach Visit Māmallapuram

Kick off your shoes and walk through the soft sand of this stunning beach. Watch fishermen take out their boats and bring in their catch.

Optional Activities - Day 27

Mamallapuram Bicycle Tour Māmallapuram 325INR 1h-3h

Jump on your bike and enjoy a ride around this charming, historical beach town.

Day 28

Māmallapuram/Chennai

Drive to Chennai and explore Marina Beach and San Thome Basilica. Later, board an overnight train to Hyderabad.

Accommodation on the train tonight will be either in two tier or three tier bunks.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Māmallapuram - Chennai 1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Basic Overnight Train (beds) Chennai - Hyderabad 13h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Chennai City Tour Chennai

Get to know this South Indian cultural hub with a visit to San Thome Basilica and a stroll along the expansive Marina Beach.

Day 29 Hyderabad

Learn more about the region's history with a visit to the iconic Charminar and historic Golconda Fort.

Today's Activities

Golconda Fort Visit Hyderabad

Explore the remains of this former medieval capital.

Charminar Visit Hyderabad

Visit Hyderabad's most iconic structure, sometimes called the "Arc de Triomphe of the East", and take in the bustling atmosphere. Swing by the nearby Laad Bazaar and browse the stalls.

Day 30 Hyderabad/Puri

Enjoy a free morning to continue exploring this state capital before catching an evening flight to Bhubaneshwar. Continue by van to reach Puri.

Opt to visit the Salar Jung Museum or the scenic Qutb Shahi Tombs with free time.

Today's Activities

Free Time Hyderabad

Head out and explore.

Plane Hyderabad – Bhubaneshwar

Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... yup, it is a plane, actually.

Private Vehicle Bhubaneshwar – Puri 1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 31

Puri

Explore Raghuraj Pur village and beautiful Puri beaches.

Today's Activities

Raghuraj Pur Village Visit Puri 2h-3h 24km

Enjoy the varied artistic delights of this heritage crafts village, including Gotipua dance troupes, palm leaf paintings, stone and wood carvings, and toys made of wood, papier-mache, and cow dung (yes, you read that correctly).

Free Time Puri

Get out and explore.

Day 32

Puri/Calcutta

Take a morning Shatabdi Express train to Kolkata, with lunch provided on board. Arrive in the afternoon and take an orientation walk with the CEO.

Meals included

Lunch

Today's Activities

Train Puri – Calcutta 7h30m-8h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Time Calcutta

Start exploring.

Day 33

Calcutta

Explore the vintage monuments and streets of this former capital of the British Era, also visit Missionaries' of Charity the noble peace prize winner, Mother Teresa's house and final resting place.. Opt to take a ferry ride across the Hooghly River. Opt to join the group for dinner at one of the famed restaurants on Park Street for the final night out.

Today's Activities

Free Time Calcutta

Get out and explore.

Day 34

Calcutta

Spend some free time exploring this fascinating city.

Today's Activities

Free Time Calcutta

Make the most of your time in charming Kolkata.

Optional Activities - Day 34

New Market Visit Calcutta Free

Visit the New Market area and learn about the history of this shopping mecca. Officially built in the 1870s, it once housed the most important retailers of the British era. Feel free to pick up a few things, too!

Victoria Memorial Visit Calcutta 250INR

Enjoy a visit to this palatial white marble building, built in the beginning of the 20th century. It is dedicated to Queen Victoria and has a lush green "maidan" (lawn) in front of it. The Victoria Memorial is architecturally impressive; it combines British and Mughal design, along with elements of Venetian, Egyptian, Islamic, and other architecture.

Ganges Ferry Ride Calcutta 20INR

Head out to explore the sacred River Ganges on a ferry ride.

Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

You may be a seasoned pro at group travel by now, but there will likely be some new travellers joining the group. Sit in on the welcome meeting to meet the newest members of your group and learn about the next leg of your tour.

Day 35 Calcutta/Jalpāiguri

Visit the Victoria Memorial and explore Mother Teresa's House. Enjoy free time later and opt to explore the Indian Museum. In the evening, board an overnight New Jalpaiguri Kamrup Express train to New Jalpaiguri.

Today's Activities

Victoria Memorial Visit Calcutta 1h

Enjoy a visit to this palatial white marble building, built in the beginning of the 20th century. It is dedicated to Queen Victoria and has a lush green "maidan" (lawn) in front of it. The Victoria Memorial is architecturally impressive; it combines British and Mughal design, along with elements of Venetian, Egyptian, Islamic, and other architecture.

Mother Teresa's House Visit Calcutta

Visit Mother Teresa's house, now often referred to as "Motherhouse." See the local chapel, the tomb of Mother Teresa, and the modest room she called home for almost 50 years.

Basic Overnight Train (beds) Calcutta – Jalpāiguri 13h

Experience overnight travel like a local. Sit back and get some well-earned (and likely much-needed) rest en route to your next stop.

Optional Activities - Day 35

Indian Museum Calcutta 500INR

Gain a deeper understanding of the history of this country with a walk back in time at the Indian Museum. The largest and oldest museum in India, explore the rare collections ranging from six different sections: art, archaeology, anthropology, geology, zoology and economic botany.

Day 36 Jalpāiguri/Darjeeling

Arrive at New Jalpaiguri and continue onwards by van to Darjeeling. Take an orientation tour of the town before enjoying free time with the rest of the evening.

Famous for the black tea grown amongst the tea plantations, enjoy the scenic views of Darjeeling. Set upon the foothills of the Himalayas, expect the climate to be much different from the plains.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle | New Jalpaiguri – Darjeeling | 3h30m-4h | 115km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation With CEO | 30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time | Darjeeling

Relax with a free evening in this picturesque hill station.

Day 37 Darjeeling

Watch the sunrise at Tiger Hill, visit a tea estate and explore the Mahakal Temple. Later, travel the World Heritage-listed Darjeeling Himalayan Railway on a vintage steam engine train. Continue with a visit to the Peace Pagoda.

Please note that occasionally the cooking demonstration may be moved to Varanasi to better suit the day's schedule.

Today's Activities

Tiger Hill Sunrise Visit | Darjeeling | 1h-2h

Wake up early for a drive up to the top of Tiger Hill. The early start will be rewarded with stunning panoramic views of Mt Everest and Mt Kangchenjunga, the first and third highest mountains in the world. Make it there in time for sunrise to see the mountains bathed in pink light.

Tea Estate Visit Darjeeling 1h-2h

Visit the Tukvar Tea Estate, first planted by the British in 1852. This is the oldest tea estate and produces the world-famous Darjeeling tea, known as the champagne of tea. Enjoy a cup!

Mahakal Temple Visit Darjeeling

Enjoy a visit to this charming temple is situated on top of a hill. Inside, you'll find a cave designated as a holy site for worshippers of Shiva, the Hindu god of destruction. Previously the location of a Buddhist Monastery, it continues to be an important site for pilgrims.

Peace Pagoda Visit Darjeeling 1h-2h 6km

Visit this beautiful pagoda built with guidance from a Buddhist monk from Japan. As with other Peace Pagodas around the world, its aim is to unite peace seekers to create the calm they hope for.

Toy Train Darjeeling – Kurseong

Climb aboard and grab a seat aboard this charming narrow-gauge train.

Day 38 Darjeeling/Gangtok

Continue by private van to Gangtok and take an orientation tour of the town. Take in the stunning scenery of the Himalayas surrounding this quaint town.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Darjeeling – Gangtok 3h30m-5h 100km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation With CEO 30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Day 39

Gangtok

Start the day with an orientation walk, then enjoy a free day to explore this scenic town.

Today's Activities

Free Time Gangtok

Enjoy a full day to explore the stunning town of Gangtok.

Orientation With CEO 30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Day 40

Gangtok/Kalimpong

Continue by private vehicle to Kalimpong. Stop along the way at Rumtek Monastery. Embark on an orientation walk of the town of Kalimpong then enjoy the rest of the day to explore at leisure.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Gangtok – Kalimpong 2h30m-3h 75km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Orientation With CEO 30m-1h

Enjoy a brief walk with your CEO. He/she will give you some tips on finding things like supermarkets, main squares, and ATMs. For more specific or in-depth information, an official guided tour is recommended.

Free Time Kalimpong

Take the afternoon to explore the scenic views throughout Kalimpong.

Day 41 Kalimpong to New Jalpaiguri

Drive to New Jalpaiguri Station with a stop en route at Deolo Hills to take in views of the mountainous scenery. Catch the overnight train to Varanasi.

Today's Activities

Overnight Train (beds) Jalpāiguri – Varanasi 18h-20h 750km

Stretch out and get some well-earned rest en route to the next stop.

Deolo Hill Visit Kalimpong

Visit Deolo Hills, home to the highest point in Kalimpong, and enjoy views of the mountain scenery.

Private Vehicle Kalimpong – Jalpāiguri 2h30m-3h 75km

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Day 42 Mughal Sarāi/Varanasi

Arrive to Mughal Sarai in the morning and continue by van to Varanasi. Enjoy an evening visit to the ghats and watch the prayer sessions.

Today's Activities

Private Vehicle Mughal Sarāi – Varanasi 1h

Settle in and scan the scenery from the convenience of a private vehicle.

Ghats Visit Varanasi 1h-3h 8km

Walk along the ghats (waterfront steps) leading into the sacred River Ganges in Varanasi. The ghats are all used for different purposes -- some for bathing, some for puja (prayer) ceremonies, and others for cremation.

Day 43 Varanasi

Take a sunrise boat trip on the Ganges. Enjoy a free afternoon to explore Sarnath and the city of Varanasi.

Today's Activities

Morning Ganges Boat Tour Varanasi 1h

Catch the sunrise from a boat cruising the sacred Ganges River, where Hindu pilgrims from all over the world come to wash away their sins and cremate their loved ones. Witness locals participating in dawn rituals of bathing and burning at the river.

Free Time Varanasi

Enjoy some more time in this holy city.

Day 44 Varanasi/Lucknow

Take a morning Varanasi-Lucknow Intercity train. In the afternoon, visit the Bara Imambara.

Today's Activities

Train Varanasi – Lucknow 6h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Bara Imambara Visit Lucknow 1h-2h

Visit the famous Shia Muslim shrine located in Lucknow. With ornate Mughal architecture, this massive shrine is a striking sight to behold.

Day 45 Lucknow/Delhi

Spend most of the day exploring Lucknow. Opt to explore The Residency and be immersed in colonial era history. In the afternoon, board the Swarna Shatabdi Express train to Delhi, with dinner provided on board. Enjoy the night in the bustle of Delhi.

Meals included

Dinner

Today's Activities

Train Lucknow – Delhi 6h

Climb aboard, take a seat, and enjoy the ride.

Free Time Lucknow

Get out and explore.

Optional Activities - Day 45

The Residency Lucknow 200INR

Also known as the British Residency, this colonial era Residence has been in numerous battles. Find the bullet marks still scarring the walls or walk the gardens and observe the ruins.

Day 46

Delhi

Depart at any time.

With extra time, you can book our 'Agra Independent Adventure' including accommodation, transport, and a guided visit to India's most famous sight, the Taj Mahal.

What's included

- Your G for Good Moment: Women With Wheels, Indira Gandhi International Airport
- Your Welcome Moment: Meet Your CEO and Group
- Taj Mahal visit
- Agra Fort visit
- Jaipur orientation walk
- Amber Fort visit
- Udaipur orientation walk
- Jagdish Temple and City Palace visit
- Rajasthani cultural show
- Bundi Fort and stepwells visit
- Colaba area walking tour
- Gateway of India visit
- Beach time in Goa
- Walking tour and ruins visit in Hampi
- Hazararama Temple visit
- Mysore Palace and Chamunda Hill visits
- Namdroling Monastery visit
- Coffee plantation tour
- Madikeri Fort and Raja's Seat visit
- Fort Kochi and Chinese fishing nets visit
- Backwaters canal ride
- Vivekananda Rock and Ramkrishna Ashram visit
- Meenakshi Temple visit
- Cycle tour to Shore Temple and Mamallapuram Beach
- Charminar and Golconda Fort visit
- Jagannath Temple visit
- Raghuraj Pur village visit
- Kolkata city tour
- Victoria Memorial visit
- Visit Mother Teresa's House
- Tiger Hill sunrise visit
- Tea estate visit
- Mahakal Temple visit

- Peace Pagoda visit
- Toy train ride
- Local lunch
- Rumtek Monastery day trip
- Deolo Hill visit
- Evening ghats visit
- Sunrise boat trip on the Ganges
- Bara Imambara visit
- Orientation walks in Darjeeling, Gangtok, and Kalimpong
- Internal flights
- All transport between destinations and to/ from included activities

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Ride a toy train in Darjeeling, Live like a local in the Kerala Backwaters, Enjoy the laidback vibe and tasty food of seaside Goa, Take a cycling tour to Shore Temple, Visit the Peace Pagoda, Watch the sunrise from a boat on the Ganges

Itinerary Notes

Want to experience the sights and sounds of Holi? Make sure you're in India on March 10, 2020 or March 29, 2021 for the nation's most colourful festival.

What are the main highlights of this trip?

Ride a toy train in Darjeeling, Live like a local in the Kerala Backwaters, Enjoy the laidback vibe and tasty food of seaside Goa, Take a cycling tour to Shore Temple, Visit the Peace Pagoda, Watch the sunrise from a boat on the Ganges

Is there a travel disclaimer for my itinerary I should review before booking this trip?

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.

Are there Itinerary notes?

Want to experience the sights and sounds of Holi? Make sure you're in India on March 10, 2020 or March 29, 2021 for the nation's most colourful festival.

What important notes should I be aware of before the trip?

1. CULTURE
India is a country which is very different to anything you will have experienced before. Although this means it is not the easiest place to travel, this is also what makes it so special. Pollution, poverty and the crowds can result in initial culture shock but should be seen as an exciting new challenge. During our time here we have come to love this large and wonderfully different country but we know that we should always expect to encounter some difficulties along the way.

In India there are very different attitudes to time keeping, public cleanliness, privacy and service. Trains will sometimes be late, plumbing can sometimes be temperamental and power will often just vanish. Optimistic menus turn out to have only one dish available and everyone, just everyone, will want to know your name. If you are able to travel with a lot of patience and a healthy sense of humor, then we know that you - like all of us - will be captivated by what India has to offer.

2. COMBO TRIP
This trip is a combination of multiple G Adventures tours. As such, the CEO and/or group members on your tour may change between tour segments. Likewise, some CEOs and group members may have previously been travelling together on another G Adventures tour, or they may continue travelling together on another G Adventures tour after your trip concludes.

What is the role of the group leader during this trip?

All G Adventures group trips are accompanied by one of our Chief Experience Officers (CEO). The aim of the CEO is to take the hassle out of your travels and to help you have the best trip possible. They will provide information on the places you are travelling through, offer suggestions for things to do and see, recommend great local eating venues and introduce you to our local friends. While not being guides in the traditional sense you can expect them to have a broad general knowledge of the countries visited on the trip, including historical, cultural, religious and social aspects. We also use local guides where we think more specific knowledge will add to the enjoyment of the places we are visiting - we think it's the best of both worlds.

What is the maximum and typical number of participants on this tour?

Max 15, avg 12

What meals are included in this trip?

2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 3 dinners

What are the meals like on this trip?

Eating is a big part of travelling. Travelling with G Adventures you experience the vast array of wonderful food that is available out in the world. Generally meals are not included in the trip price when there is a choice of eating options, to give you the maximum flexibility in deciding where, what and with whom to eat. It also gives you more budgeting flexibility, though generally food is cheap. Our groups tend to eat together to enable you to taste a larger variety of dishes and enjoy each other's company. There is no obligation to do this though. Your CEO will be able to suggest favourite restaurants during your trip. Vegetarians will be able to find a huge range of different foods - India is vegetarian heaven. For all trips please refer to the meals included and budget information for included meals and meal budgets.

What are the modes of transportation on my trip?

Train (seats), train (beds), toy train, private vans, walking, plane.

How will we travel between destinations?

TRAINS

The best way to see India is at ground level on the railway system. In fact, no visit to India would be complete without the experience of tavelling on a train and negotiating the busy railway stations. The chaos in the Indian Railway stations is a replica of the life in India. Indian trains are not merely a conveyance they are an odyssey so sit back relax, be patient and enjoy the show.

G Adventures uses a combination of AC 2 tier, AC 3 tier and sleeper class (for overnight journeys) and AC Chair car or second class seats for day journeys. Indian railways operate with a centralized reservation system. This means that G Adventures cannot control how seats are assigned within a class. Despite our requests to seat the entire group together, often times seats are spread out in the coach or throughout different coaches. This is all part of the adventure that is travelling India by rail. Take advantage of the opportunity to chat with locals and remember you always have the support of your CEO.

There are no restaurant or buffet cars on Indian Railways, but on long distance trains an attendant will appear in your coach and ask you if you would like to order food. Regular stops are made at stations where food is also available and on some trains many vendors board the train selling chai, cold drinks and crisps and biscuits.

Don't expect pristine western standards anywhere in India, but you'll find AC2, AC3 and AC Chair class fairly clean by Indian standards, with both western-style and squat toilets usually in a reasonably sanitary condition. Sleeper Class and 2nd class toilets may be a different matter! Bring your own toilet paper and hand wash soap or antibacterial lotion.

Indian trains are quite safe to travel on, even for families or women travelling alone, and you are unlikely to have any problems. Having said that, theft of luggage, although rare is not unheard of, so just for peace of mind you might like to take along a chain and padlock to secure your bags (readily available at all Indian stations).

Generally, Indian Railways are very efficient, but Indian trains do run late particularly in winter time when fog is heavy, and sometimes it's hours rather than minutes. Make sure you have something to occupy your time – a good book, music, a magazine or photos of your home country and family to show the Indian travellers also waiting for the train. You should also have snacks and water for the journey.

Please note that you MUST be comfortable carrying your own luggage, as there will be a lot of up and down stairs on this trip due to the size and layout of train stations in India. Most often, you will not have access to escalators or elevators. You will also be required to carry your luggage short distances between transport start or end points and hotels.

ROAD

Traveling by road in India is certainly not what people are use to in Western countries. Rules are not always followed, drivers appear to speed, do not stay in their lanes, overtake in seemingly dangerous situations, rarely use their mirrors or driving lights at night time. The horn however is used very frequently and can range from the latest Bollywood tune to Britney Spears! In India, although the government is investing large sums of money improving the road infrastructure, there is a lot more to be done. As a result, in India, some of the roads are poorly maintained, pot holed and uneven. This gets even more pronounced particularly during and after the monsoon. Travel time covering relatively short distances is very long in comparison to Western countries.

Is there an extra cost for travelling solo?

We believe solo travellers should not have to pay more to travel so our group trips are designed for shared accommodation and do not involve a single supplement. Single travellers joining group trips are paired in twin or multi-share accommodation with someone of the same sex for the duration of the trip. Some of our Independent trips are designed differently and solo travellers on these itineraries must pay the single trip price.

Where will we stay during the trip?

Hotels/guesthouses (39 nts), sleeper trains (5 nts), homestay (1 nt).

If I choose to purchase My Own Room, are there any exceptions during the trip?

Please note that if you have booked the "My Own Room" option for this tour, you will receive your own single room for all night stops

Do any exceptions apply to Rooming or “My Own Room” on my tour?

Night 8, 15, 28, 35 & 41 overnight train

What should I expect from the accommodations on this trip?

A variety of styles of hotels/guest houses are used in India. These can vary in terms of service, efficiency and cleanliness. In many instances they might not be like what you are used to back home. Power cuts can and are a regular occurrence in many places, especially throughout North and Central India. Although a number of hotels have generators there may be times when these won’t work. It is also recommended when you are in your room to lock the door, as staff will sometime enter without reason.

What is the joining hotel?

For details of your joining hotel please refer to your tour voucher, G Account, the G Adventures App or contact your travel agent.

What are the joining instructions?

Please note, the included arrival transfer occurs on Day 1 of the tour. If you plan to arrive prior to Day 1, you will be required to arrange pre-tour accommodation through G Adventures to be eligible for the transport from the airport.

Your arrival transfer will be provided by our G Adventures-supported project Women With Wheels. This program provides safe and reliable transport for travellers, while providing a dignified livelihood for a local woman from a resource poor community. You will be greeted by a trained driver from the project with a G Adventures sign with your name on it. The drivers mostly wait outside exit Gate number 6. Please check carefully once you exit the baggage hall as there will be hundreds of people waiting outside in the arrival area. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our transfer representatives in Delhi. Our airport representatives can be reached at the Sakha Call Centre at +91 92787-08888

Be aware also, of touts at the airports, even at hotel-reservation counters. They may try to trick you into booking a hotel room by claiming that your prior reservation is invalid. Ignore them.

Please note that Day 1 is an arrival day and no activities have been planned for that day other then your welcome meeting in the evening, so you can arrive at any time. Similarly the last day is a departure day during which no activities have been planned.

Your CEO will organize a short meeting soon after arrival, during which you will meet other tour participants and receive information about general and specific aspects of the trip. A welcome note will be left for you in the hotel so you have all the necessary information regarding the meeting time. If you arrive late, s/he will leave you a message detailing what time and where you should meet the next morning.

What should I do if I can’t find my airport transfer or experience arrival issues?

We don't expect any problems, and nor should you, but if for any reason you are unable to commence your trip as scheduled, please refer to the emergency contact details provided in this dossier and contact us as soon as possible. If you have a pre-booked transfer, and you have not made contact with our representative within 30 minutes of clearing customs and immigration, we recommend that you make your own way to the Starting Point hotel, following the Joining Instructions. Please apply to your travel agent on your return for a refund of the transfer cost if this occurs.

Who do I contact for arrival issues or in the event of an emergency?

Should you need to contact us during a situation of dire need, it is best to first call either the G Adventures Local Representative (if one is listed below) or our G Adventures Local Office. If for any reason you do not receive an immediate answer, please leave a detailed message and contact information, so they may return your call and assist you as soon as possible.

AIRPORT TRANSFER
If you have purchased an arrival through G Adventures or if an arrival transfer is included in the cost of your tour, please note that:

Your arrival transfer has been arranged based on flight information provided to us. If you are advised of a flight schedule change within 48 hours of your scheduled arrival time, we will do our best to rearrange your arrival transfer however we cannot guarantee this. If your arrival transfer does not arrive within 30 minutes after you have exited the arrivals area please take a taxi to your start point hotel.

If your call is specifically concerning Airport Transfer complications please call our local G Adventures Transfer providers directly at:
New Delhi Airport:

Sakha Call Center
From outside India: +91 9278708888
From within Delhi: 9278708888
From outside Delhi: 09278708888

Airport Representative
From outside India: +919599193260 or +919599051397

From within Delhi: 9599193260 or 9599051397

From outside Delhi: 09599193260 or 09599051397

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS
G Adventures Local Office (Delhi)
G Adventures South Asia Manager, Sorab (Delhi, India)

>From outside of India: +91 88 5180 6614
>From within Delhi: 88 5180 6614
>From within India, but outside Delhi: 088 5180 6614

G Adventures Office Bangkok, Thailand
During Office hours (Weekdays, 9am-5pm Local Time): +66-02-3815574

If you are unable for any reason to contact our local office, please call the numbers listed below which will connect you directly with our Sales team who will happily assist you. Hours of operation by region can be found here.

Toll-free, North America only: 1 888 800 4100
Calls from UK: 0344 272 0000
Calls from Germany: 0800 365 1000

Calls from Australia: 1 300 796 618
Calls from New Zealand: 0800 333 307
Outside North America, Australia, New Zealand, Germany and the UK: +1 416 260 0999

What are the packing guidelines and luggage restrictions?

What you need to bring depends on the trip you have chosen and the countries or regions you are planning to visit. We suggest that you pack as lightly as possible as you are expected to carry your own luggage. As a rule we try not to have to walk more than 15-20 minutes with your bag which is why we recommend keeping the weight of your bags between 10-15kg/22-30lb. Suitcases are not recommended for G Adventures trips! Most travellers carry a backpack or rolling bag of small to medium size (no XXL ones please!) as they need to fit under the beds when travelling on sleeper trains. You will also need a day pack/bag to carry water, cameras and other electronics like ipods and mobile phones. If your trip involves overnights in home stays, villages or camping then you usually have the opportunity to rent sleeping bags if need be instead of bringing them with you.

Standard luggage allowance for internal flights is 15kg (33lb) for checked luggage, and is 7kg (15lb) for carry-on luggage. Any charges for additional luggage or weight is the responsibility of the passenger.

What should I pack for this trip?

Cold Weather:

- Long-sleeved shirts or sweater
- Scarf
- Warm gloves
- Warm hat
- Warm layers
- Warm waterproof jacket

Conservative Dress:

- Modest clothing that covers knees and shoulders (Long pants, long skirts, shirts that cover shoulders)
- Shawl or scarf (for temple visits)

Documents:

- Flight info (required) (Printouts of e-tickets may be required at the border)
- Insurance info (required) (With photocopies)
- Passport (required) (With photocopies)
- Vouchers and pre-departure information (required)
- Visas or vaccination certificates (With photocopies)

Essentials:

- Footwear (required) (Closed toe suggested)
- Toiletries (required) (Shampoo, bodywash, soap, etc.)
- Binoculars (optional)
- Camera (With extra memory cards and batteries)
- Cash, credit and debit cards
- Day pack (Used for daily excursions or short overnights)
- Ear plugs
- First-aid kit (should contain lip balm with sunscreen, sunscreen, whistle, Aspirin, Ibuprofen, bandaids/plasters, tape, anti-histamines, antibacterial gel/ wipes, antiseptic cream, Imodium or similar tablets for mild cases of diarrhea, rehydration powder, water purification tablets or drops, insect repellent, sewing kit, extra prescription drugs you may be taking)
- Flashlight/torch (Headlamps are ideal)
- Fleece top/sweater
- Hat
- Headphones (Noise-cancelling recommended)
- Locks for bags
- Long pants/jeans
- Moneybelt
- Outlet adapter
- Personal entertainment (Reading and writing materials, cards, music player, etc.)
- Reusable water bottle
- Shirts/t-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Small travel towel
- Sunglasses
- Swimwear
- Watch and alarm clock
- Waterproof backpack cover
- Windproof rain jacket

Health & Safety:

- Face masks (Clients will be only be required to wear a face mask where it is mandated by local regulations.)
- Hand sanitizer
- Pen (Please bring your own pen for filling out documents.)

Light Hiking:

- Hiking boots/sturdy walking shoes
- Hiking pants (Convertible/Zip-off and quick dry recommended)
- Walking poles

Train Travel (Optional):

- Slip-on shoes
- Small container with lid
- Travel cutlery
- Travel or camp cup

Warm Weather:

- Sandals/flip-flops
- Shorts/skirts (Longer shorts/ skirts are recommended)
- Sturdy water shoes/sandals
- Sun hat/bandana
- Swimwear Note: During the colder months (Oct-Apr) the mountains can be cold, so please make sure you pack warm clothes. During the months of Jul-Sep is the rainy season, so please make sure to pack waterproof clothes.

Where can I do my laundry on this trip?

Laundry facilities are offered by some of our hotels for a charge. There will be times when you may want to or have to do your own laundry so we suggest you bring non-polluting/biodegradable soap.

What are the visas and entry requirements for my trip?

All countries require a valid passport (with a minimum 6 months validity). Contact your local embassy or consulate for the most up-to-date visa requirements, or see your travel agent. It is your own responsibility to have the correct travel documentation. Visa requirements for your trip will vary depending on where you are from and where you are going. We keep the following information up to date as far as possible, but rules do change and sometimes without warning. While we provide the following information in good faith, it is vital that you check the information yourself and understand that you are fully responsible for your own visa requirements.

Visa information specific to your destination and nationality can be found in our Important Pre-Departure Information page here

All travellers must have a valid Indian visa prior to the start of their tour. Please note that visas for India are the responsibility of the individual traveller.

To obtain a visa for India, you may either apply for an e-Visa using the link below, or alternately visit the Indian embassy or consulate nearest you to apply for a physical visa on your passport.

India is now offering e-Visas for some nationalities. Please visit this link for further information, and to check if your nationality is eligible for an e-Visa: https://indianvisaonline.gov.in/visa/tvoa.html

As there are many fake websites, please only use the link above to apply for your e-Visa and for any additional information.

Please use the start hotel of your tour as a reference for your visa application. Contact us or your travel agent if you need further information.

What should I consider when planning my personal expenses and discretionary spending for this itinerary?

Every traveller is different and therefore spending money requirements will vary. Some travellers may drink more than others while other travellers like to purchase more souvenirs than most. Please consider your own spending habits when it comes to allowing for drinks, shopping and tipping. Please also remember the following specific recommendations when planning your trip.

What should I know about currency, credit cards, and exchanging money while on this tour?

As currency exchange rates in Asia fluctuate often we ask that you refer to the following website for daily exchange rates: www.xe.com As of Feb 2012 the exchange rate for INDIA was 1 USD = 49.00 INR (Indian Rupees). There are many ATM machines that accept both Visa and Mastercard but these are limited to major cities. Major credit cards are accepted in most shops but they may charge a 2-4% transaction fee.

What emergency funds do I need access to on this trip?

Please also make sure you have access to at least an additional USD $200 (or equivalent) as an 'emergency' fund, to be used when circumstances outside our control (ex. a natural disaster) require a change to our planned route. This is a rare occurrence!

Do I need to pay a departure tax?

All departure taxes should be included in your international flight ticket.

What are the tipping guidelines for this trip?

It is customary in Asia to tip service providers such as waiters, at approximately 10%, depending on the service. Tipping is expected - though not compulsory - and shows an expression of satisfaction with the people who have assisted you on your tour. Although it may not be customary to you, it is of considerable significance to the people who will take care of you during your travels. There are several times during the trip where there is opportunity to tip the local guides or drivers we use. You may do this individually, or your CEO will offer to collect the money and tip as a group. Recommendations for tipping drivers and local guides would range from USD1-2 per person per day depending on the quality and length of the service; ask your CEO for specific recommendations based on the circumstances and culture. Also at the end of each trip if you felt your G Adventures CEO did an outstanding job, tipping is appreciated. The amount is entirely a personal preference; however as a guideline USD20-30 per person, per week can be used.

What activities are optional on this trip?

Āgra

- Baby Taj Visit (310INR per person)

Jaipur

- Jantar Mantar Visit (202INR per person)
- Jaipur Balloon Ride
- Movie at Raj Mandir (200-400INR per person)

Udaipur

- Monsoon Palace Visit (505INR per person)
- Udaipur Sunrise Cycle Tour
- Udaipur Cooking School

Goa

- Goa Beach Visit (Free)
- Old Goa Visit (1600INR per group)
- Welcome Meeting for Travellers on Combos

Panjim

- Panjim Visit

Kochi

- Kochi Spice Market
- Jewish Synagogue (10INR per person)
- Dutch Palace Visit

Madurai

- Gandhi Museum
- Thirumalai Nayak Palace Visit (50INR per person, 1200INR per group)
- Cycle-Rickshaw Tour (350INR per person)

Māmallapuram

- Mamallapuram Bicycle Tour (325INR per person, 1000INR per group)

Calcutta

- New Market Visit (Free)
- Victoria Memorial Visit (250INR per person)
- Ganges Ferry Ride (20INR per person)
- Indian Museum (500INR per person)

Lucknow

- The Residency (200INR per person)

Are there any health considerations I should know before travelling?

Please note inoculations may be required for the country visited. It is your responsibility to consult with your travel doctor for up to date medical travel information well before departure.

You should consult your doctor for up-to-date medical travel information well before departure. We recommend that you carry a First Aid kit and hand sanitizers / antibacterial wipes as well as any personal medical requirements. Please be aware that sometimes we are in remote areas and away from medical facilities, and for legal reasons our leaders are prohibited from administering any type of drug including headache tablets, antibiotics, etc. In Asia pharmacies tend to stock the same western drugs as you get at home but they are usually produced locally so please bring the full drug name with you when trying to purchase a prescription drug. When selecting your trip please carefully read the brochure and itinerary and assess your ability to cope with our style of travel. Please refer to the Physical and Culture Shock ratings for trip specific information. G Adventures reserves the right to exclude any traveller from all or part of a trip without refund if in the reasonable opinion of our CEO they are unable to complete the itinerary without undue risk to themselves and/or the rest of the group.

What general safety tips and free-time guidelines should I follow?

Many national governments provide a regularly updated advice service on safety issues involved with international travel. We recommend that you check your government's advice for their latest travel information before departure. We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewelery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes, which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage. When travelling on a group trip, please note that your group leader has the authority to amend or cancel any part of the trip itinerary if it deemed necessary, due to safety concerns. Your Chief Experience Officer (CEO) will accompany you on all included activities. During your trip you will have some free time to pursue your own interests, relax and take it easy and explore at your leisure. While your CEO will assist you with options available in a given location, please note that any optional activities you undertake are not part of your itinerary, and we offer no representations about the safety of the activity or the standard of the operators running them. Please use your own good judgement when selecting an activity in your free time. Although the cities visited on tour are generally safe during the day, there can be risks to wandering throughout any major city at night. It is our recommendation to stay in small groups and to take taxis to and from restaurants, or during night time excursions.

Water based activities have an element of danger and excitement built into them. We recommend only participating in water based activities when accompanied by a guide(s). We make every reasonable effort to ensure the fun and adventurous element of any water based activities (in countries with varying degrees of operating standards), have a balanced approach to safety. It is our policy not to allow our CEOs to make arrangements on your behalf for water based activities that are not accompanied by guide(s).

Swimming, including snorkeling, is always at your own risk. Read more about travel safety for ways to further enhance your personal safety while traveling.

Are there any specific safety considerations for this itinerary?

We strongly recommend the use of a neck wallet or money belt while travelling, for the safe keeping of your passport, air tickets, travellers' cheques, cash and other valuable items. Leave your valuable jewellery at home - you won't need it while travelling. Many of the hotels we use have safety deposit boxes which is the most secure way of storing your valuables. A lock is recommended for securing your luggage

What are the mandatory group rules regarding laws and behaviour?

Illegal drugs will not be tolerated on any trips. Possessing or using drugs not only contravenes the laws of the land but also puts the rest of the group at risk. Smoking marijuana and opium is a part of local culture in some parts of the world but is not acceptable for our travellers. Our philosophy of travel is one of respect towards everyone we encounter and in particular the local people who make the world the special place it is. The exploitation of people in the sex trade is completely contrary to this philosophy. Our CEOs have the right to expel any member of the group if drugs are found in their possession or if they utilize the services of paid sex workers, in any capacity.

What are the mandatory travel insurance requirements for this trip?

Travel insurance is compulsory in order to participate on any of our trips. When travelling on a group trip, you will not be permitted to join the group until evidence of travel insurance has been sighted by your leader, who will take note of your insurance details. When selecting a travel insurance policy we require that at a minimum you are covered for medical expenses including emergency evacuation and repatriation. A minimum coverage of USD200,000 is required. We strongly recommend that the policy also covers personal liability, cancellation, curtailment and loss of luggage and personal effects. Some tours include adventure activities that require extra coverage (e.g. crampon use); please review your itinerary and make sure that you are covered for all included activities. If you have credit card insurance we require proof of purchase of the trip (a receipt of credit card statement) with a credit card in your name. Contact your bank for details of their participating insurer, the level of coverage and emergency contact telephone number.

What is Planeterra?

Planeterra International Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to turning travel into impact by helping local communities earn an income from tourism. Planeterra connects underserved local communities to the benefits of tourism by developing and supporting small community-owned businesses. These businesses support Indigenous people, empower women, grant youth access to employment opportunities, and protect the environment. Planeterra also works to ensure these businesses have a thriving customer base by integrating their projects into G Adventures' itineraries globally.
G Adventures is Planeterra's largest corporate donor, covering all operating costs, so 100% of your donation will bring opportunity to people in need.

G Adventures Dollar-a-day Program - Make Every Day Count - Turn your travel into impact with Planeterra Foundation.

Did you know? Most communities around the world do not benefit from tourism. Give back to the places you visit on your travels by creating opportunities for local people to earn an income, and protect the environment.

Make every day count by donating $1/day for the length of your trip, and join us in empowering the communities you will visit when you travel. 100% of your donation goes directly to Planeterra projects.

How should I dress to respect local customs during the tour?

In Asia the dress standard is more conservative than it is back home. When packing try to pick loose, lightweight, long clothing that will keep you cool in the usually hot and humid climate of Asian summers. In predominately Buddhist, Hindu and Muslim countries we ask that you dress respectfully and avoid very short shorts/skirts and singlets/tanktops when visiting small rural communities or visiting temples or mosques or other holy sites as this may restrict your entry.

India is very conservative and you should dress accordingly. As a general guideline shoulders and knees should be covered at all times. The wearing of shorts is not allowed as it will restrict your entry into buildings of a religious nature and family homes. A light water and windproof jacket is useful and a hat essential.
NB: WE STRESS THAT IT CAN BE VERY COLD IN THE HILLS DURING THE MONTHS FROM DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY.

NB: During our trip there will be many opportunities for you to meet and "talk" with locals. One way to start any conversation is with pictures. We recommend that you bring some photos/postcards of your family, home, city or country where you live, animals peculiar to your country etc.

How can I share feedback about my trip experience?

Earn 5% off your next G Adventures Tour (up to $100 USD)*

After your travels, we want to hear from you! Your feedback information is so important to us and to thank you for your time, we are pleased to offer a 5% discount (up to a maximum of $100 USD) off your next G Adventures holiday. All you need to do is submit the form within 4 weeks of the completion of your tour, and you'll be able to join the thousands of travellers who have taken 2, 3, 4 or even 10 or more tours with us!

Discount cannot be combined with other offers or applied to 'Independent' style trips. Maximum discount value is $100 USD (or equivalent currency). Valid for new bookings only. G Adventures reserves the right to withdraw or modify this offer at any time without notice. Limited to one discount per person.

Does G Adventures have an email newsletter I can subscribe to?

Our adventure travel e-newsletter is full of travel news, trip information, interesting stories and contests. To avoid missing out on special offers and updates from G Adventures, subscribe at www.gadventures.com/newsletters/

Stay current on how our company invests in our global community through our foundation – Planeterra. Sign up for Planeterra's monthly news to learn more about how to give back and support the people and places we love to visit.

What are the age restrictions for this trip?

You must be 18 to travel unaccompanied on a G Adventures tour. For minors travelling with a guardian over 21 years old, the minimum age is 12.

Are international flights included in this trip?

No, international flights are generally not included in the price of your tour.

However, on some tours travelling between two different countries, international flights are included as part of the itinerary and price of the tour. Please speak to your GCO or booking agent for further details.

In addition, check-in times and baggage allowances/restrictions vary by airline and can change at any time. For the most up-to-date information for your flight, please contact your airline. We recommend checking in online in advance to avoid potential delays at the airport.

What should LGBTQ+ travellers know about safety and travel considerations on this trip?

The safety and well-being of all of our travelers is a priority at G Adventures and that includes our travelers who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. We recognize that there are specific concerns and questions you may have about your adventure in terms of safety and security. We encourage you to visit our LGBTQ+ page for useful resources to ensure you feel safe and comfortable throughout the duration of your trip. The Equaldex tool linked on this page can be of particular help when deciding where you may want to visit next.

Dossier Disclaimer

The information in this trip details document has been compiled with care and is provided in good faith. However it is subject to change, and does not form part of the contract between the client and the operator. The itinerary featured is correct at time of printing. It may differ slightly to the one in the brochure. Occasionally our itineraries change as we make improvements that stem from past travellers, comments and our own research. Sometimes it can be a small change like adding an extra meal along the itinerary. Sometimes the change may result in us altering the tour for the coming year. Ultimately, our goal is to provide you with the most rewarding experience. Please note that our brochure is usually released in November each year. If you have booked from the previous brochure you may find there have been some changes to the itinerary.

VERY IMPORTANT: Please ensure that you print a final copy of your Trip Details to review a couple of days prior to travel, in case there have been changes that affect your plans.

Itinerary Disclaimer

While it is our intention to adhere to the route described below, there is a certain amount of flexibility built into the itinerary and on occasion it may be necessary, or desirable to make alterations. The itinerary is brief, as we never know exactly where our journey will take us. Due to our style of travel and the regions we visit, travel can be unpredictable. The Trip Details document is a general guide to the tour and region and any mention of specific destinations or wildlife is by no means a guarantee that they will be visited or encountered. Aboard expedition trips visits to research stations depend on final permission.

Additionally, any travel times listed are approximations only and subject to vary due to local circumstances.