



Le Passage
to India

The journey of a lifetime,
every time

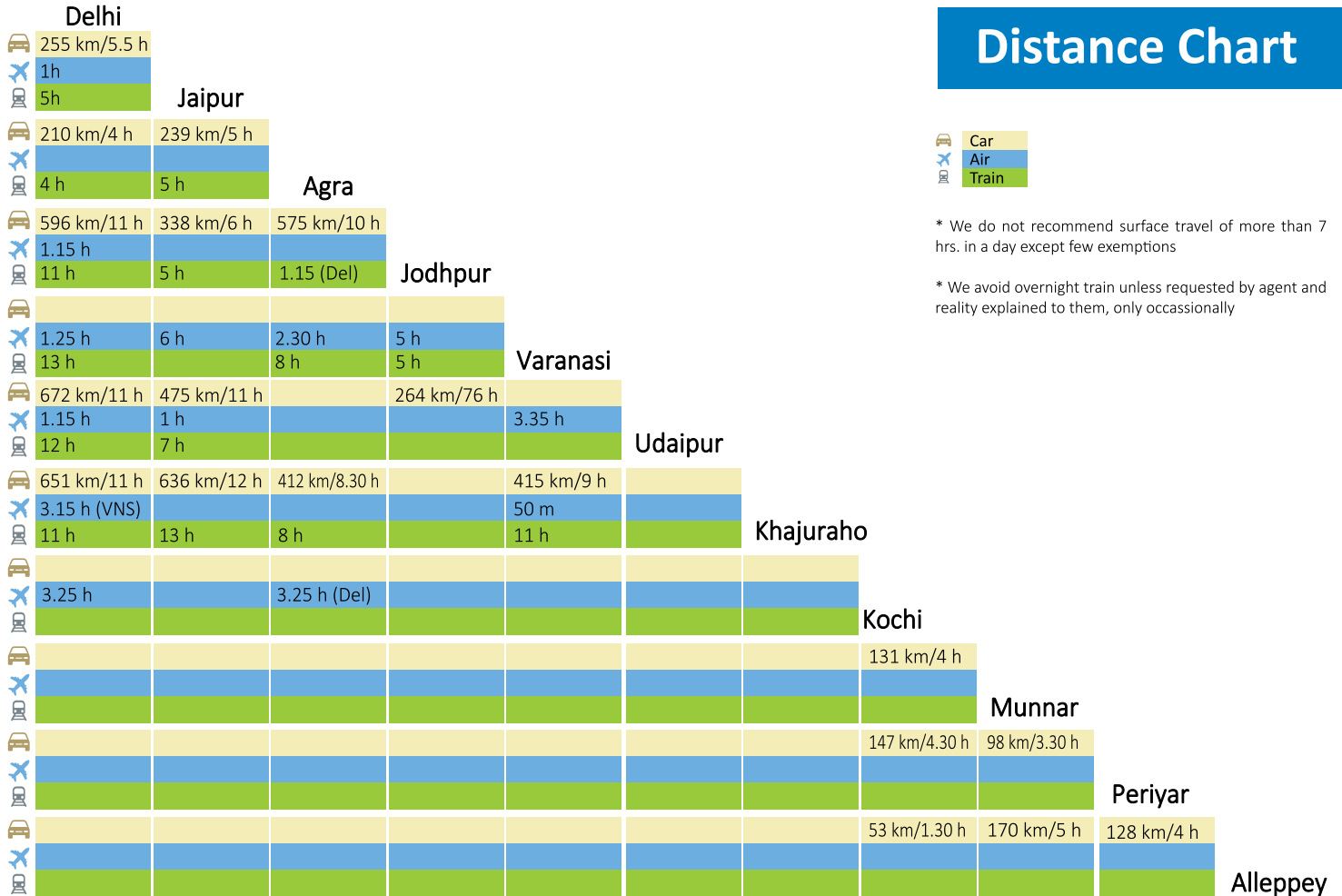
Highlights of India

INDIA

AT A GLANCE



Distance Chart



- Car
- Air
- Train

* We do not recommend surface travel of more than 7 hrs. in a day except few exemptions

* We avoid overnight train unless requested by agent and reality explained to them, only occasionally

CLASSIC

NORTH INDIA



CLASSIC GOLDEN TRIANGLE

Delhi, Agra and Jaipur



DELHI



AGRA



JAIPUR



GOLDEN TRIANGLE WITH RAJASTHAN

Jodhpur and Udaipur



JODHPUR



UDAIPUR



GOLDEN TRIANGLE WITH SPIRITUALITY

Khajuraho and Varanasi



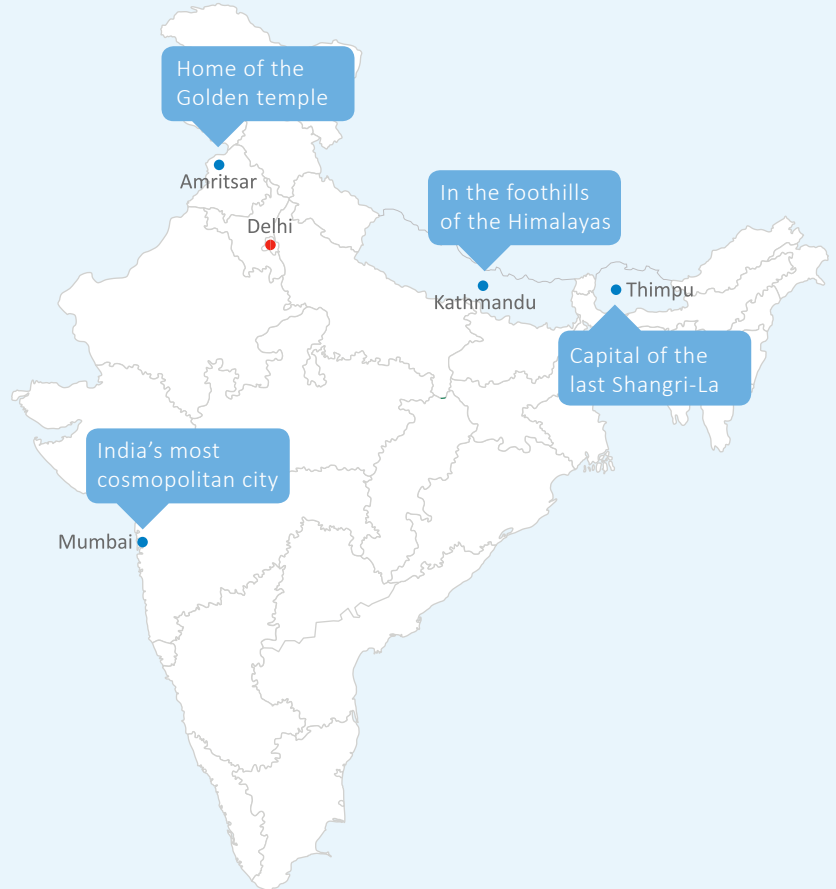
KHAJURAHO



VARANASI



EXTENSION



AMRITSAR



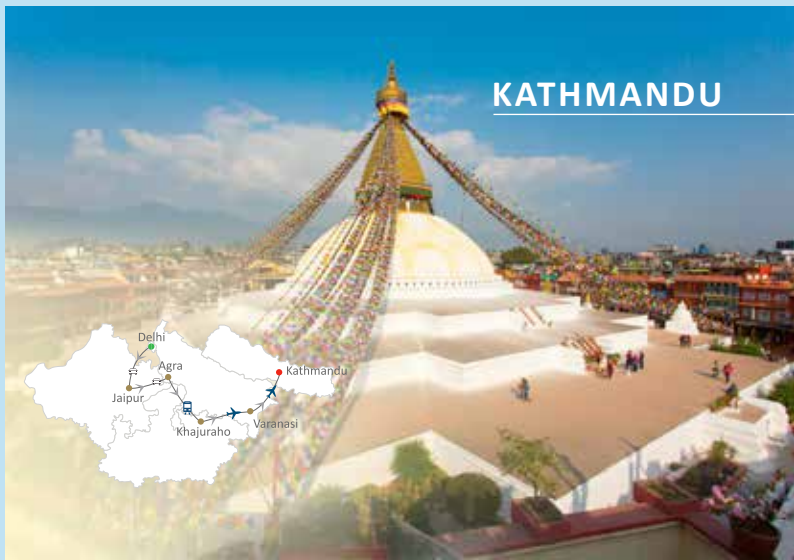
MUMBAI



THIMPU



KATHMANDU



DESTINATION

DELHI



DELHI



Delhi is the capital city of India. It is a city of many stories, a city ruled by many dynasties, a city of chaotic tapestry of medieval fortifications, Mughal mausoleums, dusty bazaars, colonial-era town planning, and mega malls. While in Delhi, do not miss the two facets of the city – the old and the new. Old Delhi will give you a glimpse of the times gone by and an insight to many stories that it has kept in itself. New Delhi on the other hand is a well-planned area with architectural delights such as the India Gate and the President's House. Delhi has also enjoyed being the political hub of India. Every political activity in the country traces its roots to this city.



Map not to scale

LANGUAGE



Hindi & English

SEASON



September - April

ELEVATION



728 ft

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **JAMA MOSQUE:** One of the largest mosques of India, Jama Masjid was built between 1644 and 1656. The complex can accommodate 25000 people at one time.
- **HUMAYUN'S TOMB:** The monument is the final resting place of Mughal Emperor Humayun. A century after its construction, Humayun's tomb inspired the construction of the more famous Taj Mahal.
- **GANDHI SMIRTI:** Gandhi Smriti is a poignant museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi and where he was shot dead on the grounds by a Hindu zealot. The house itself is where Gandhi spent his last 144 days. The exhibits include rooms preserved just as Gandhi left them, a detailed account of his life and last 24 hours, and vivid miniature dioramas depicting scenes from his life.
- **THE RED FORT:** The Red Fort, made entirely of red sandstone, took 9 years to complete. It was originally constructed as the residence of Shah Jehan who also shifted the capital of his empire from Agra to Delhi.
- **LUTYEN'S DELHI:** Driving past the President's Residence, India Gate, and many other colonial buildings in Lutyen's Delhi is a must. famous architect Sir Lutyens, adapted traditional Indian and Mughal architectural styles to make some of the most impressive buildings in Delhi.

CONNECTIVITY:

New Delhi International airport has flights coming in from almost all international airports worldwide and is very well connected to all domestic airports in India. It is also the gateway for major cities such as Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi, Leh, Khajuraho, Udaipur, and Ranthambhore by surface and/or flights.



RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

The Oberoi, Gurugram

Conveniently located at a fifteen minute driving distance from New Delhi's international and domestic airports and spread over nine acres, The Oberoi, Gurgaon is an urban sanctuary defined by bespoke design features. Its high ceilings and open spaces filled with natural light afford refreshing views of the hotel's vast, azure reflection pool and verdant green wall.

The Leela Palace

A flagship property of The Leela Palaces, Hotels and Resorts, it is one of the finest architectural marvels built from the ground up in the last thirty years. Built in the shape of a butterfly, its architecture is inspired by Lutyens, and its levels of refinement and generosity of space, mirror the great palaces of the world.

The Oberoi, New Delhi

The Oberoi, New Delhi is an iconic luxury 5 star hotel located in the center of India's cosmopolitan capital city. The interiors of the hotel have been designed in a contemporary interpretation of Sir Edwin Lutyen's architecture. The hotel is equipped with new, clean air technology which promises guests the cleanest air in the city, at par with global standards. All rooms and suites offer views of the Delhi Golf Course on one side and the historical World Heritage Site Humayun's Tomb on the other. Hotel offers multiple outlets with option of all day dining to fine dining, a roof top Bar and signature Obeori Spa.





Changing of the Guards

Add pomp to your Saturday morning at Rashtrapati Bhavan, the President's house. The 30-minute Changing of the Guard ceremony starts at 10 a.m. with the Army Brass Band leading the troops in their regalia. After the guard replacement, it concludes with a grand equestrian display and the playing of the national anthem. There is an inimitable sentiment when observing the residence of the President of the largest democracy in the world.



Cooking for a Cause

Combine the best of two activities; learning how to cook wholesome Indian food with a social cause activity. Join volunteers at the Sikh temple kitchens and learn to cook fresh Indian food for the lunch time service. Joining the hundreds of guests for lunch will also be the children from Project Aarman, our flagship project by Shaping Lives. You can also join them and the food may be simple, but it will be one of the best meals you eat on your trip.



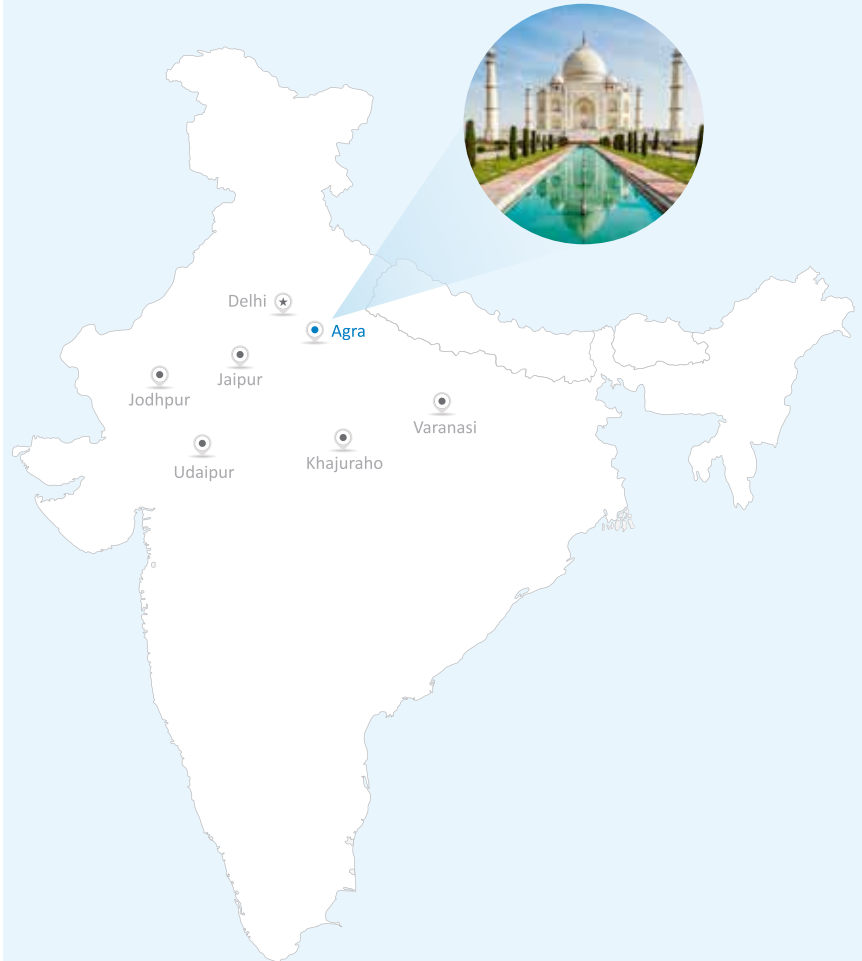
Your Shopper

Treat yourself to this bespoke shopping tour, with an itinerary based entirely around your personal wishes. From markets where you can be assured of getting the best bargains to exclusive visits to high-end designer boutiques with a personal shopper. The choices in Delhi are endless; shoes, jewelry, linen, furniture, accessories, paintings, to name just a few of the choices that will tempt you.

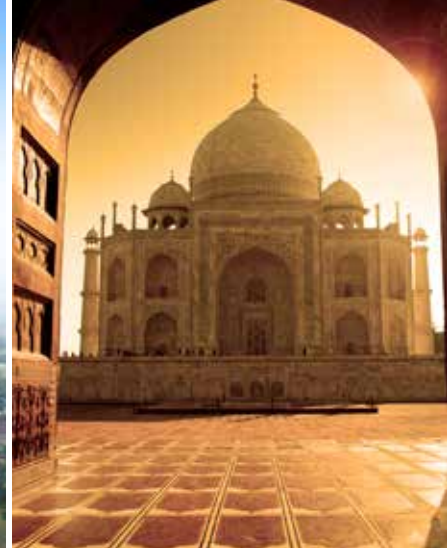


DESTINATION

AGRA



AGRA



Situated on the banks of the river Yamuna in India, Agra is famous worldwide for the monument of love, Taj Mahal, which is also one of the Seven Wonders of the World. Agra is the most visited city in India. It also held great significance in the Mughal Empire and was the capital of the empire for a very long time. Agra is also possibly the only city in the world to have more than two UNESCO World Heritage sites.

LANGUAGE



Hindi & English

SEASON



September - April

ELEVATION



547 ft

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **TAJ MAHAL** – The monument was constructed by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jehan in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The construction of the Taj Complex began about 1631 AD. The principal mausoleum was completed in 1648 AD and the outlying buildings and gardens were finished five years later in 1653 AD.
- **AGRA FORT** – The Agra Fort is a UNESCO World Heritage site. Built by Akbar in 1654 the Red Fort was both a military strategic point and the royal residence. The fort contains splendid palaces both in red sandstone and white marble built by two generations of prolific builders, Akbar and later Jehangir and Shahjahan.
- **ITMAD UD DAULAH TOMB** – The mausoleum of Mir Ghiyas Beg, a minister in the court of Shah Jahan, Itmad-ud-daula is both historically and architecturally significant. This is because Itmad ud Daula was the very first tomb in India that was entirely made out of marble.
- **FATEHPUR SIKRI** – This fortified ancient city, 40km west of Agra, was the short-lived capital of the Mughal empire between 1571 and 1585, during the reign of Emperor Akbar. Akbar built his new capital here, including a stunning mosque, and three palaces for each of his favourite wives.

CONNECTIVITY:

Agra airport has flights to and from Delhi, Varanasi and Khajuraho on selected days of the week during the months of October to March. Agra is connected very well by a six lane highway Yamuna Expressway from Delhi which takes 3 hours to reach Agra. It is also very well connected by road to Jaipur, which is the gateway to Rajasthan.



Map not to scale



RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



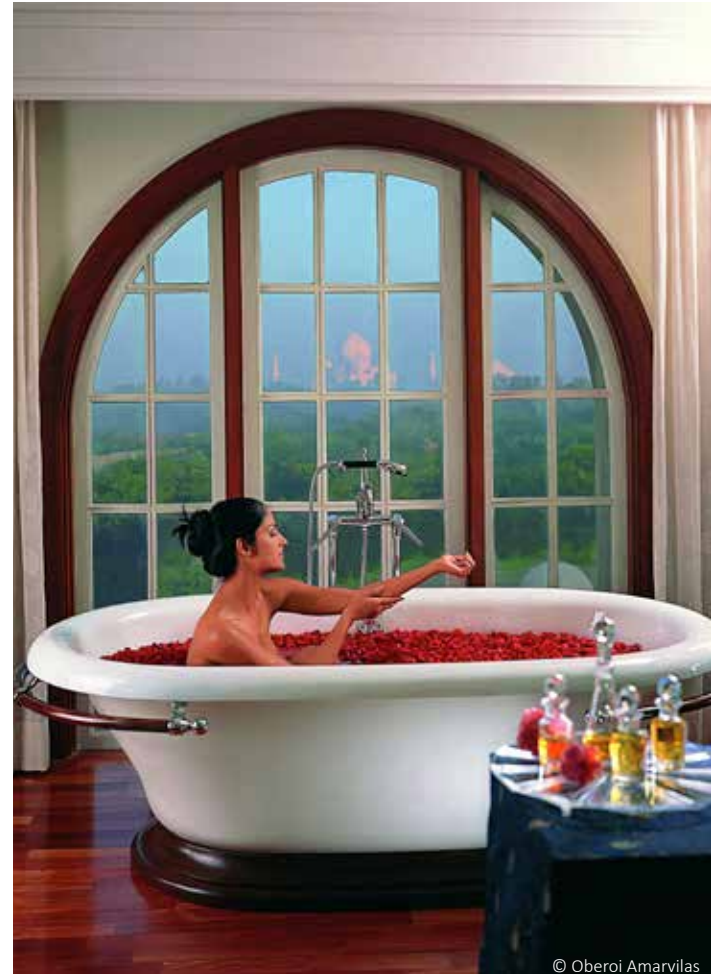
SUGGESTED HOTELS

Oberoi Amarvilas

The only hotel in Agra which boasts of unobstructed views of the Taj Mahal from each room, it is located at a mere distance of 600 metres from the monument of love. Guests staying here can visit the Taj Mahal in private golf buggies and can also enjoy views of the monument from the verandah and the bar of the hotel.

ITC Mughal

Sprawled over 35 acres of luxurious gardens, and in close proximity to the Taj Mahal, ITC Mughal, a luxury hotel in Agra is a fitting tribute to the great Mughal builders of the past. The only Indian hotel to have won the prestigious Aga Khan Award for its excellent representation of Mughal architecture. This luxury hotel in Agra comprises of 233 opulent rooms and suites.



© Oberoi Amarvilas



Cantonment Walk

Agra isn't just about the Taj and other Mughal monuments, it's also a treasure house of colonial Raj structures. Your host on the walk is a charming retired Army officer. Start at his home, a beautiful Colonial Bungalow, with a cup of hot tea before the walk. Hear wonderful stories that were shared by his grandfather who served in the Royal British Indian Army. Discover a story behind every street and realize the city has so much more to offer than the Taj Mahal.



Meeting with Inlay Artisans

Taj Mahal's intricate beauty lies in the inlay work; where semi-precious stones are set into the marble tiles and floors to create floral motifs. If interested, Le Passage to India can organize a 'Meeting with Inlay Artisans' to understand how the craftsmanship has continued through the ages. And you can even participate in a workshop and learn the craft to take home a very personalized souvenir!



Renewal of Vows

The Taj Mahal is the most iconic symbol of love in the world. Relive the cherished memories of marriage and say 'I do' all over again in an authentic wedding ceremony designed exclusively for you and your loved one. Unravel the traditional Indian rituals and rekindle the timeless bond through this spiritual union.



DESTINATION

JAIPUR



JAIPUR

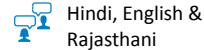


Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital, is an enthralling historical city and the gateway to one of India's most vibrant states. Established in 1727 by Jai Singh II, it is India's first planned city. It is a very popular tourist destination, full of colourful, chaotic streets flowing with a heady brew of both the old and the new — careering buses dodge dawdling camels, leisurely cycle-rickshaws frustrate swarms of motorbikes, and buzzing auto rickshaws everywhere. This royal city is rich in heritage, culture and architecture. With splendid fortresses, majestic palaces, tranquil temples and beautiful havelis; Jaipur is quite the ideal tourist destination. Other than these captivating attractions, Jaipur displays exquisite handicrafts and spectacular jewellery.



Map not to scale

LANGUAGE



Hindi, English & Rajasthani

SEASON



September - April

ELEVATION



1432 ft

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **AMBER FORT** – Perched high on a hill, Amer Fort is one of the most visited forts and an extremely popular tourist destination. Known for its artistic style reflecting both Hindu and Rajput architecture, this fort was built in the 16th century.
- **CITY PALACE** – The residence of the present Maharaja of Jaipur, the City Palace is a beautiful complex of courtyards, gardens, and buildings, right in the centre of the Pink City.
- **HAWA MAHAL** – Also known as the Palace of Winds, it was a high screen wall built especially for the royal women to witness royal processions yet remaining unseen by the outside world. Its unique five-storey exterior is like a honeycomb, with its 953 small windows or jharokhas decorated with intricate latticework.
- **OBSERVATORY** – Also known as Jantar Mantar, this unique monument built in 1728 is the only surviving and largest observatory in India built for measuring the time of the day — correct to half a second and declination of the Sun and the other heavenly bodies. The words jantar and mantar (or yantra and mantra) mean calculation instruments.

CONNECTIVITY:

Jaipur is a 5 hours drive from Delhi and Agra, and is also well connected by road to Jodhpur and Udaipur. Jaipur has an international airport which receives flights from many cities in the Middle-East as well as from important destinations of India.



RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Oberoi Rajvillas

Built around an 18th century Shiva temple, the Oberoi Rajvillas is a royal resort surrounded by landscaped gardens. Each cluster of rooms unfolds into a courtyard with a fountain and access to the gardens. The presidential villa, the Kohinoor Villa, is a private enclosure with a centrepiece swimming pool, overlooked by a private dining pavilion.

Taj Rambagh Palace

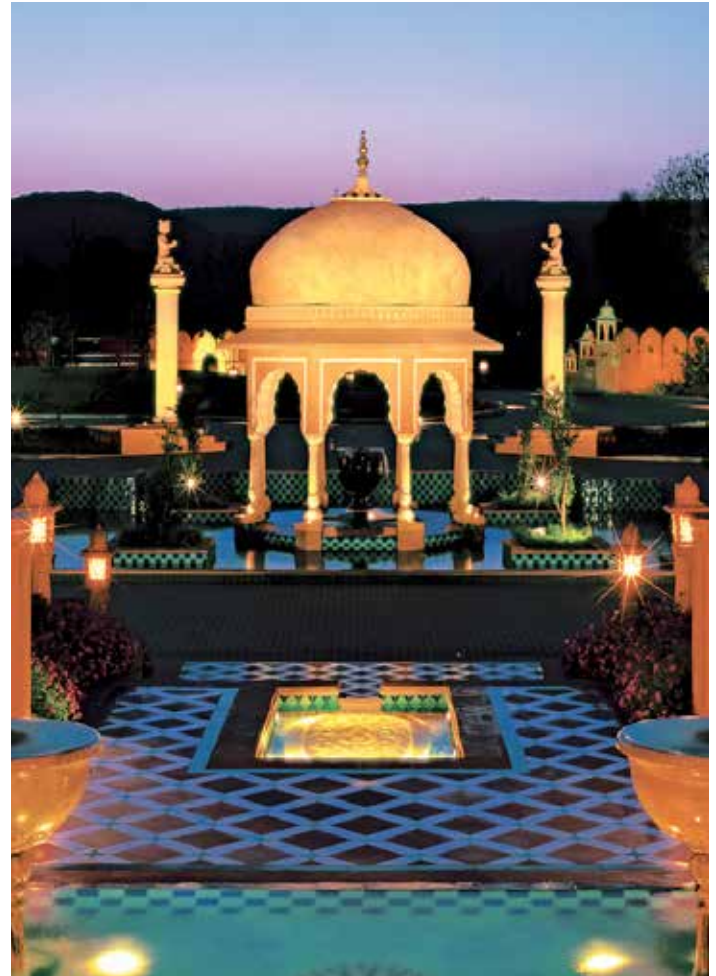
The former palace of the Maharaja of Jaipur, Rambagh Palace is now an iconic luxury hotel in the city. Though a hunting lodge in 1887, in 1931 it was expanded into a palace with the addition of many royal suites and was developed as a hotel in 1957. The two Presidential suites, the Sukh Niwas and Suryavnashi are grand examples of exquisite architecture.

Sujan Rajmahal Palace

Both classical and contemporary, this hotel has spacious, light-filled suites which are decorated by an unbelievable diversity of wallpapers, and boast a rare quality of comfort. Surrounded by carefully attended gardens and basins, the Rajmahal is at the heart of Jaipur.

Samode Palace

The Samode Palace is itself a highlight of the town, now painstakingly transformed into an elegant and quiet luxury hotel, carefully preserved as a fine example of Rajasthani style. There are 40 guest bedrooms, all decorated with regal heirlooms, but improved with modern comforts such as air-conditioning. Meals are served in either the dining room or the courtyard restaurant.





Private visit to City Palace

The City Palace in Jaipur is a superb example of a marriage of the Rajput and Mughal styles of architecture. We will organize a special 'behind the scenes' tour of the residential areas of the Palace. This tour ends with a glass of Indian champagne served to you by the personal butlers of the royal family in their living room. This room is used to host all the dignitaries and guests like Princess Diana and even Oprah. Today, it is your turn to be hosted in this magnificent room.



Day with the Masters

The Anokhi Museum is located in a magnificently restored Haveli (mansion) and the museum displays a varied selection of block printed textiles alongside images, tools and related objects – all chosen to provide an in-depth look into the complexity of this ancient tradition. Le Passage to India Journeys will organize a session with one of the masters and you get to watch him carve unbelievably intricate wooden printing blocks and even have a go at printing your own scarf under his direction.



Day with the Elephants

Le Passage to India Journeys only supports activities that are cruelty free and we do not offer elephant rides at Amber Fort. Instead, visit an exclusive farm where you can spend as much time as you like with these gentle giants. Get a chance to paint them with the natural colours which do not harm their skin, take a ride through the natural countryside on them, feed them and in the warmer months, even bathe them. Top it off with an exclusive lunch or dinner at a private venue decorated especially for you and you have an experience that is truly extraordinary.



DESTINATION

JODHPUR



JODHPUR



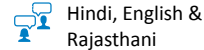
Jodhpur was founded by Rao Jodha, a chief of the Rathore clan, in 1459, and is named after him. Jodhpur was previously known as Marwar. It is the second largest city in Rajasthan, divided into two parts — the old city and the new city. The old city is separated by a 10 km long wall surrounding it. It has eight gates leading out of it. The new city is outside the walled city. Often referred to as the Blue City, Jodhpur is filled with grandeur, royalty and ethnicity. For an overview of Jodhpur, and the blue houses of the old town, nothing beats heading up to the Mehrangarh Fort. From this majestic fort's crenelated ramparts you enjoy postcard views of the ancient blue city below and, in the distance, the grand silhouette of the Umaid Bhawan Palace, residence of the current Maharaja and a heritage hotel. A bird eye's view from the mighty Mehrangarh Fort offers a 360 degree view of the blue city.



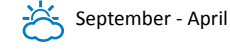
Map not to scale



LANGUAGE



SEASON



ELEVATION



MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **MEHRANGARH FORT** – 400 ft above the skyline of Jodhpur city, on a perpendicular cliff, stands the mighty, majestic Mehrangarh Fort. Made of red sandstone, it is home to many gardens, courtyards and palaces known for their intricate carvings, elaborate balconies and arched galleries within the complex. The fort is guarded by 7 large gates.
- **JASWANT THADA** – A memorial to Maharaja Jaswant Singh II, this white marble cenotaph is at a kilometre's distance from the Mehrangarh Fort. The cenotaph is famous for its architectural marvels as it adorns an array of whimsical domes, built out of intricately carved sheets of marble.
- **TAJ UMAID BHAWAN PALACE** – One of the most fascinating palaces of Jodhpur is the Ummaid Bhawan Palace; also one of the newest palaces built in India in recent times. Maharaja Ummaid Singh constructed the palace in the 20th century for the welfare of the people of Jodhpur. The purpose was to create employment to the people of Jodhpur. A part of the palace has now been converted into a hotel and a museum.

CONNECTIVITY:

Very conveniently located between Jaipur and Udaipur, Jodhpur is also the gateway, and the commercial airport used for entering Jaisalmer. Flights operate from and to Delhi and Mumbai, and connect Jodhpur directly to the main gateways into India.

RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Taj Umaid Bhawan Palace

Umaid Bhawan Palace is the last of the great palaces of India and one of the largest private residences in the world — set amidst 26 acres of lush gardens. Named after Maharaja Umaid Singh, grandfather of the present Maharaja of Jodhpur, this golden-yellow sandstone monument was constructed in the fashionable Art Deco style of the time. The 347-room palace was completed in 1943.

Vivanta By Taj, Hari Mahal

This upscale hotel featuring grand, Moghul-inspired domes is 2.4 km from Jodhpur Junction railway and 3.9 km from Ghanta Ghar, the clock tower of Rajasthan. Featuring intricate crown moulding and elegant windows, the elegant rooms and suites have flat-screen TVs, free Wi-Fi and minibars, as well as tea and coffee-making facilities.

Raas

Perfectly placed in what could be called the shadow of the Mehrangarh Fort, this hotel is Jodhpur's first boutique hotel, and almost all rooms have spectacular views of the majestic fort. With its sensational vistas, different styles and angles, a central water body, and a garden, Raas surely sits well in its surroundings.

Mihir Garh Fort

Perched on a sand mound at the edge of the Thar desert, Mihir Garh Fort is an uber luxurious property just outside Jodhpur. Made of wattle, mud and wood, the fort comprises just nine suites set over two floors. The spacious rooms are either sunset or sunrise facing, and hence, also known as the Sun Fortress.



© Vivanta by Taj



Exclusive Bhopa Performance

In the evening you will see a performance by the Bhopas, a tribe that has a tradition of storytelling through song and dance. A long painted scroll depicting the dramatic events in the life of the Marwar hero, the brave warrior Pabuji, whose tales make up the story is used to help narrate the tale through songs. This is a popular folk performing art and the performance will be exclusively organized for you.



Curator Walk: Mehrangarh After Hours

Let our curator take you on an after-hours tour of Mehrangarh Fort – to experience the beauty of Mehrangarh that will give you deep and personal insight into the architecture and anecdotal history of this magnificent fortress that has played such an important role in Jodhpur's history.



Sun, Sands and Culture

Take a fun and thrilling 4 x 4 driving wilderness experience that adds an element of thrill and adventure to your rustic ramblings. Visit tribal villages along the way, interact with the people to understand their ways of life. You could also try your hand at making the traditional hand-patted bread or churning buttermilk, and then sit down to enjoy a traditional, home-cooked meal.





Indigenous Textile Trail

Set off on a Blue City Walk, where numerous artisans live and work at a variety of indigenous art forms, executed on handspun textiles. Explore streets peopled with Rangrezz fabric dyers, Bandhej tie-and dyers and Chippa block printers, each community preserving a distinct art form passed down over the generations. The Blue city guards the secrets of techniques like gota-patti embroidery – needlework of flower-and-leaf motifs, zari embroidery that uses silver and gold filaments, and the danka ornate needlework of lavish embellishment.



Blue City's Fashion Trail

A desert may seem an unlikely place to encounter fashion – yet, Jodhpur has long been a fashion conscious city. With its horse riding traditions, the city has given the world the famous ‘jodhpur breeches’ – loose-fitting at the thighs and tight-fitting from the knee down, with modern variations still bearing the name. Blaze across Jodhpur’s local fashion hubs – from bandhej indigenous handloom fabric centres, to boutiques that marry traditional and contemporary designs. Discover the way the desert folk add colour and embellishment to their clothing to stand out against the dun landscape.

DESTINATION

UDAIPUR



UDAIPUR



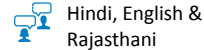
Udaipur is a small city in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, formerly the capital of the Rajput kingdom of Mewar. Founded by Udai Singh II in 1559, it is set around a series of artificial lakes and known for its lavish palaces. City Palace, overlooking Lake Pichola, is a monumental complex of 11 palaces famed for its intricate peacock mosaics. Known to be a honeymooner's paradise, the lake city's charm has left many a tourist spellbound. One of the iconic palaces of Udaipur is the Palace in the middle of the lake. In a desert state, a city with many lakes is a welcome change for people visiting this beautiful city. The lakes of the city are interconnected to form a lake system which supports and sustains the ground water recharge, water availability for drinking, agriculture, industries and is a source of employment through tourism. The lake system has three main lakes in its upper catchment area, six lakes within its municipal boundary and one lake downstream.



Map not to scale



LANGUAGE



Hindi, English & Rajasthani

SEASON



September - April

ELEVATION



1879 ft

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **CITY PALACE** – Built from 1559 onwards, the city palace is a series of large palaces built over the years. The main entrance gate, known as the Tripolia Gate was built in 1725. The gate further opens into an array of courtyards, overlapping partitions, terraces, corridors, and gardens.
- **BOAT RIDE ON LAKE PICHOLA** – Created in 1632 Lake Pichola is an artificial fresh water lake. The lake's surroundings and the several islands within the lake have been developed over the centuries, with palaces, marble temples, family mansions, bathing ghats etc. the Taj Lake Palace is undoubtedly one of the special treasures of the lake.
- **MONSOON PALACE** – Originally built as an astronomy centre to keep track of the monsoon clouds in the area, it also served as the summer resort for the Maharanas. Known as Sajjan Garh, it is built with white marble and is located on the Bansdara peak of the Aravalli hill range. The palace offers a panoramic view of the city's lakes, palaces and surrounding countryside.

CONNECTIVITY:

Udaipur is well connected to the major cities of India by land, rail and air. It is also at a drivable distance from Jodhpur. The airport has daily direct flights to and from Jaipur, Mumbai and Delhi, making it easily accessible.

RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Taj Lake Palace

A perfectly created, white marble palace sits in the middle of Lake Pichola. Originally built between 1743 and 1746 by the Maharana Jagat Singh II of Udaipur, Rajasthan as a winter palace, the Taj Lake Palace today has a total of 83 rooms and suites. Interestingly, the “Royal Butlers” in the hotel are descendants of the original palace retainers.

The Oberoi Udaivilas

Located on the banks of Lake Pichola, The Oberoi Udaivilas stands on the 200 year old hunting grounds of the Maharana of Mewar. Spread over a luxurious fifty acres, which includes a twenty-acre wildlife sanctuary with deer and wild boar, The Oberoi Udaivilas affords spectacular views across the verdant gardens and the sparkling Lake Pichola.

Fateh Prakash Palace

Maharana Fateh Singh, one of the greatest Maharanas of Mewar, ruled from 1884 to 1930. Built during his reign as an exclusive venue for royal events, the imposing 19th century palace has been preserved beautifully. The elegant hotel is a 3-minute walk from the Lake Pichola shoreline and 1.3 km from the Jagdish Temple.

The Leela Palace

Perched on a sand mound at the edge of the Thar desert, Mihirgarh Fort is an uber luxurious property just outside Jodhpur. Made of wattle, mud and wood, the fort comprises just nine suites set over two floors. The spacious rooms are either sunset or sunrise facing, and hence, also known as the Sun Fortress.





Phad Miniature Paintings

For the artsy, we can organise a one-on-one session with local miniature Phad painting artists. Phad is a scroll painting done on long cloth panels depicts folk and historic stories in a narrative style. The Mughal miniatures depict mythology, court scenes, hunting scenes, and nature, among other motifs – and evolved into different styles across the different desert kingdoms of Rajasthan. Learn the intricacies of these different art forms – and the rich narrative behind them and their depictions.



Private Aarti At Jagdish Temple

Take a private boat ride on the beautiful Lake Pichola and stop at the wondrous Jagdish Temple, a three-storied wonder of architecture comprising of an intricately sculpted spire, beautifully carved pillars, decorated ceilings and painted walls dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the sustainer in Hindu mythology. Here, we will organize a private aarti ceremony for you with a priest. The prayers offered are for good luck and fortune.



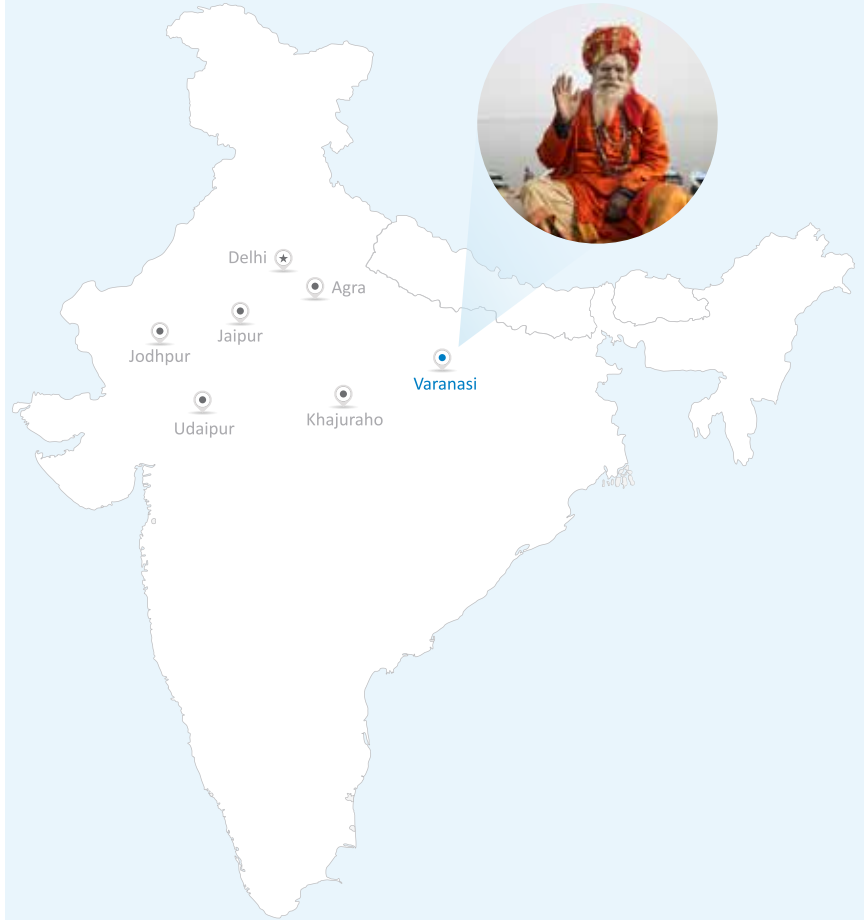
Art of Water Painting

Unlock the secrets of jal sanjhi, a rare, 200-year-old art form that involves painting on water, kept alive by one family in Udaipur. Usually portraying scenes from Lord Krishna's life that are skillfully lifted off the surface of water – the jal sanjhi is for the truly intrepid artist!



DESTINATION

VARANASI



VARANASI



One of the oldest, continuously inhabited cities of the world, Varanasi is also one of the most sacred cities for Hindus in India to visit at least once in their lifetime. Situated on the banks of the river Ganges, it is one of the holiest places in the country. According to Hindu mythology, once one takes a dip in the waters of the Ganges, one is cleansed of the sins of a lifetime. Pilgrims come here from all over the country, and even the world, to not only wash away sins and but also cremate their loved ones and scatter the ashes in the river. It is said that those who are cremated in this Holy City will achieve salvation. Varanasi also has, for centuries, been famous for its muslin and silk fabric.



LANGUAGE



Hindi & English

SEASON



October-March

ELEVATION



290 ft

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- EARLY MORNING BOAT RIDE:** Take a boat ride on the Holy Ganges early in the morning - watch pilgrims take a holy dip and offer their morning prayers to the rising sun, sing songs, and perform rituals on the ghats.
- EVENING AARTI BY THE GANGES:** An evening visit to the banks of the Holy River to attend the Agni Pooja (prayers with brass oil lamps) ceremony is a divine experience. This beautiful spiritual ritual is performed daily in the presence of a huge crowd with bells and lamps, to the accompaniment of holy chants.
- SARNATH:** Sarnath is one of the most important spiritual pilgrimages for Buddhists. After His Enlightenment in Bodhgaya, Lord Buddha sought his five former companions and taught them the first Dhamma. This event is referred to as “the turning of the wheel of the Dharma” and also marks the founding of the Sangha, or the community of monks.
- BENARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY:** Established in 1916, the BHU is regarded as a centre of learning and quality education in India. The campus has a museum with a collection of miniature paintings, 12th century palm leaf manuscripts, sculptures, and local history displays.

CONNECTIVITY:

The International Airport at Varanasi connects the city to many international destinations. Domestic flights from all the major cities of India fly into the city. It is a gateway to the historic temple city of Khajuraho, with direct flights to and from Khajuraho.



RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Taj Nadesar Palace

Nadesar Palace, a unique luxury heritage hotel, has hosted royalty, statesmen and celebrities since 1835. The hotel is set amidst beautiful gardens, mango orchards, marigold and jasmine fields. Works of art from the Maharaja's collection decorate the walls of the Palace's 10 luxurious suites. Embellished with original pieces of furniture refurbished to recreate the ambience of a bygone era, the décor of the rooms is intended to evoke the colours of flowers.

Taj Gateway

The hotel features 47 exquisitely appointed rooms and suites, a fine dining restaurant and a bar, three banquet and conference venues, and the award-winning Rejuve – The Spa. The Lalit Temple View organises special evening programmes for guests, showcasing the heritage and culture of the City of Exotic Temples with an in-house sound and light show, and the traditional *Sandhya Aarti* (evening ritual).

Suryaunday Haveli

Located on the Shivala Ghats, the Haveli traces its history back to the early 20th century. It was built by the Royal Family of Nepal as a retreat for the aged. It has now been painstakingly put together again to provide the best ghat experience in Benaras. The stay begins with a 15 minute boat ride upstream along the famous ghats of Benaras to reach the Haveli. The Haveli is also connected by small alleys and streets leading to the Famous Kashi Vishwanath Temple.





In the Footsteps of the Buddha

In 528 BC, after the Buddha attained enlightenment in Bodhgaya, he travelled to Deer Park in Sarnath to preach his first sermon, called the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta. The stupa rests on the exact spot where the Buddha imparted his first teachings. As part of this exclusive Le Passage to India Journeys tour you revisit the sights where Buddha spent his first rainy season and realize that you are truly part of something very special as you trace the footsteps of the Great One.



Meeting a Master Silk Weaver

Silk is considered to be a pure textile used by gods and the goddesses and is coveted by every Indian woman. In Varanasi the art reached a zenith under the patronage of the Mughal Emperors. If you are keen, we can organize a private appointment with an “ustaad” or master design maker whose lineage in weaving goes back centuries. His forefathers’ works are exhibited at the Victoria and Albert Museum. Today, international designers like Kenzo and Hermes also use his fabrics.



Food Tour

When pilgrims visit Varanasi, they need to eat and so food plays a very important role in the holy city. Our private guides take you through streets that have a wide range of eateries to suit every traveler’s appetite. Indulge in some great street food items like- Kachori & Jalebi, Banarsi Chat, Mallaiyo, Banarsi Pan and Lassi. Seasoned and regular visitors to Benares know that after the many spiritual rituals have been performed, time must be set aside for some soul food too. You will not be disappointed!



DESTINATION

KHAJURAHO



KHAJURAHO



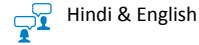
A small town in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, Khajuraho is world famous for its Hindu and Jain temples built from 950 to 1050 AD. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is known for its exquisitely sculptured temples dedicated to Shiva, Vishnu, and Jain patriarchs. Khajuraho was one of the capitals of the Chandela kings, who from the 9th to the 11th century CE developed a large realm, which, at its height, included almost all of what is now Madhya Pradesh state. By the 12th century, the Khajuraho temple site had 85 temples, spread over 20 square kilometres. Of these, only about 20 temples have survived, spread over 6 square kilometres.

The Khajuraho group of temples were built together but were dedicated to two religions— Hinduism and Jainism—suggesting a tradition of acceptance and respect for diverse religious views.

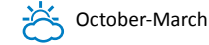


Map not to scale

LANGUAGE



SEASON



ELEVATION



MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- MAIN TEMPLES:** Among the three temple groups in Khajuraho the Eastern group, the Southern Group and the Western group of temples, only the Western group has the facility of an Audio guided tour through the seven eight temples. This tour, developed by the Archaeological Survey of India, includes a narration of the temple history and architecture.
- LAKSHMAN TEMPLE:** The large Lakshman Temple took 20 years to build. It is arguably the best preserved of all the Khajuraho temples. One can see carvings of battalions of Chandela soldiers here. Varaha, dedicated to Vishnu's boar incarnation, and the locked Lakshmi are two small shrines facing the large Lakshman Temple.
- KANDARIA MAHADEV TEMPLE:** The carvings in this temple are extremely intricate and are much more detailed than the other temples around. It is the largest and most ornate Hindu temple here and is considered one of the best examples of temples preserved from the medieval period in India. The temple is dedicated to Shiva, in the form of a linga. It was made in 1030 by King Vidhyadhara of the Chandela dynasty. The main deity image is located in the central shrine, and the outside of the shrine and the exterior of the temple are richly decorated with sculptures.

CONNECTIVITY:

Khajuraho airport, though a small one, is well connected with direct flights to and from Delhi, Agra, Varanasi and Mumbai, hence making it a well-connected important link in the tourist sector.



RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

The Lalit Temple View

The hotel features 47 exquisitely appointed rooms and suites, a fine dining restaurant and a bar, three banquet and conference venues, and the award-winning Rejuve – The Spa. The Lalit Temple View organises special evening programmes for guests, showcasing the heritage and culture of the City of Exotic Temples with an in-house sound and light show, and the traditional *Sandhya Aarti* (evening ritual).

Radisson Hotel

Situated within five kilometres of the Khajuraho Civil Aerodrome airport (HJR), Radisson Hotel Khajuraho is an ideal place to stay while visiting area attractions.

Sarai Toria

Sarai is an ancient Persian term for an inn and Toria is a nearby village; hence the Sarai at Toria. Keeping environmental concerns in mind, they have used minimal concrete and steel and sourced most of our materials locally- mud, stone, wood, brick, lime, tile, bamboo and grass. They have combined traditional methods and modern architectural design to insulate rooms from the extremes of the outside climate. But the rustic mud exteriors hide elegant and contemporary interiors.





Picnic Lunch at Ajaigarh Fort

Take a break from the temples and visit the Fort situated at an altitude of 206 meters on the Vindhya mountain range. Located on the flat-topped projection, the fort offers breathtaking views of the Ken river. The fort is a glorious example of the architectural excellence possessed by the artisans during Chandela dynasty. The fort still lives to tell the tale about the majestic past and we will also organize a charming and exclusive picnic lunch for you here.



Private Morning Yoga

Against the stunning backdrop of the temples, with a delicious nip in the air, golden tendrils of sun pouring in through huge banyan trees and rural sounds of a temple town waking up filled the air, enjoy a peaceful and exclusive yoga session with a master. Tolling bells at a shrine nearby and a small procession of brightly clad ladies singing as they carry baskets of flowers, sweets and incense to the nearby temples adds to the atmosphere and makes this a perfect start to your day.



Private visit to Mehalwar village

Take a private boat ride on the beautiful Lake Pichola and stop at the wondrous Jagdish Temple, a three-storied wonder of architecture comprising of an intricately sculpted spire, beautifully carved pillars, decorated ceilings and painted walls dedicated to Lord Vishnu, the sustainer in Hindu mythology. Here, we will organize a private aarti ceremony for you with a priest. The prayers offered are for good luck and fortune.

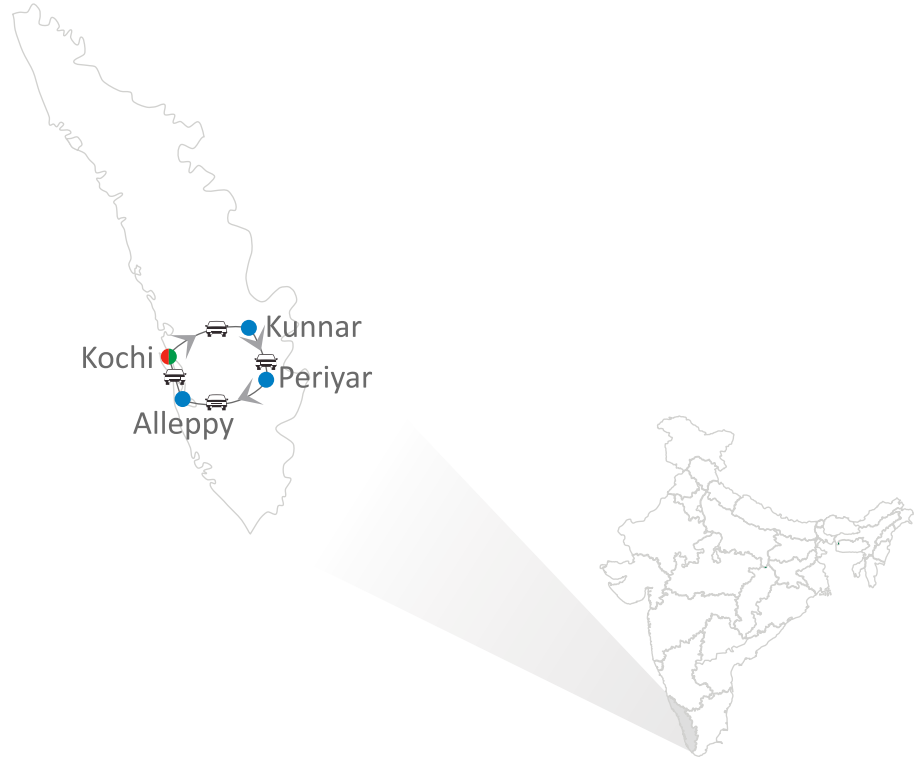
CLASSIC

SOUTH INDIA



CLASSIC SOUTH INDIA

Kochi, Munnar, Periyar and Alleppey



KOCHI



MUNNAR



PERIYAR

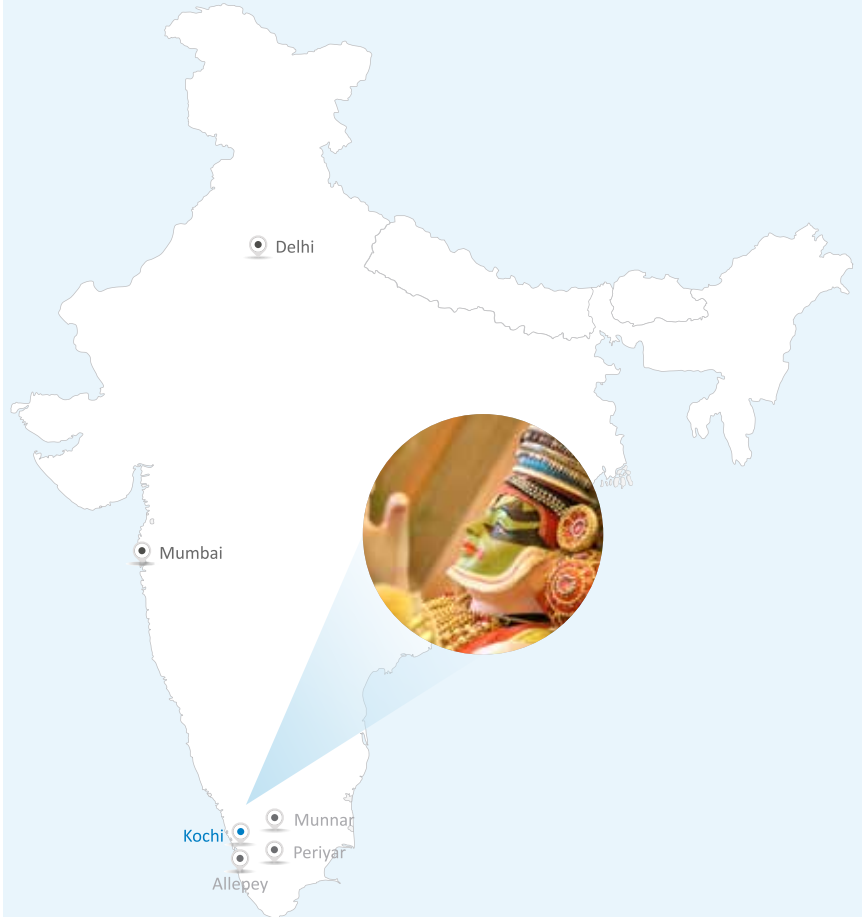


ALLEPPEY



DESTINATION

KOCHI



KOCHI



Serene Kochi has been drawing traders, explorers and travellers to its shores for over 600 years. Nowhere else in India could you find such an intriguing mix: giant fishing nets from China, a 400-year-old synagogue, ancient mosques, Portuguese houses and the crumbling remains of the British Raj. The result is an unlikely blend of medieval Portugal, Holland and an English village grafted onto the tropical Malabar Coast. It's a delightful place to spend some time and nap in some of India's finest homestays and heritage accommodation. Kochi is also a centre for Kerala arts and one of the best places to see Kathakali and kalaripayat.

Mainland Ernakulam is the hectic transport and cosmopolitan hub of Kochi, while the historical towns of Fort Cochin and Mattancherry, though well-touristed, remain wonderfully atmospheric – thick with the smell of the past. Other islands, including Willingdon and Vypeen, are linked by a network of ferries and bridges.



Map not to scale

LANGUAGE

Malayalam & English

SEASON

October - April

ELEVATION

0 ft

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **PARADESI SYNAGOGUE:** Originally built in 1568, this synagogue was partially destroyed by the Portuguese in 1662, and rebuilt two years later when the Dutch took Kochi. It features an ornate gold pulpit and elaborate hand-painted, willow-pattern floor tiles from Canton, China, which were added in 1762.
- **CHINESE FISHING NETS:** The unofficial emblems of Kerala's backwaters, and perhaps the most photographed, are the half dozen or so giant cantilevered Chinese fishing nets on Fort Cochin's northeastern shore.
- **HILL PALACE MUSEUM:** This Museum at Tripunithura, 14km southeast of Ernakulam, was formerly the residence of the Kochi royal family and is an impressive 49-building palace complex. It now houses the collections of the royal families, as well as 19th-century oil paintings, old coins, sculptures and paintings, jewellery and temple models.
- **ST FRANCIS CHURCH:** Constructed in 1503 by Portuguese Franciscan friars, this is believed to be India's oldest European-built church. The edifice that stands here today was built in the mid-16th century to replace the original wooden structure.

CONNECTIVITY:

Cochin International Airport is an international airport serving the city of Kochi, located at Nedumbassery, about 25 km (16 mi) northeast of the city. Ernakulam Junction railway station (also known as Ernakulam South) is a major railway junction station connecting Kochi to major cities of the country.



RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Crown Plaza

The hotel offers excellent views of the backwaters and the city. The extensive spa, leisure facilities, all within a tranquil waterfront setting, makes Crowne Plaza Kochi a good option for both business and leisure travel.

Vivanta by Taj – Malabar

Situated on Willingdon Island, with a magnificent view of Cochin harbour, Vivanta by Taj – Malabar strikes a fine balance between the past and the future and is one of the best leisure hotels in Cochin.

The Malabar House

The Malabar House is part of Fort Cochin's & Kerala's historical fabric. Its history dates back to 1755, when Jan Herman Clausing, a Dutch, bought the property from Mathew Henrich Beyls. Subsequently owned by spice traders, tea traders & bankers, in 1996 it became Fort Cochin's first boutique heritage hotel.

Brunton Boatyard

This elegant hotel in a Victorian-style building on a former boatyard is a two minute walk from the Fort Kochi - Vypin Ferry Terminal and 2.6 km from the 16th-century Synagogue, the oldest synagogue in the Commonwealth.





Muziris

The heart of the historic Spice Route, the ancient world's greatest trading centre in the East, this legendary seaport traded in everything from spices to precious stones with the Greeks, Romans and the rest of the world. With your Le Passage to India Journeys specialist explore remnants of Buddhists, Arabs, Chinese, Jews, Romans, Portuguese, Dutch and even the British culture here. Must-visit locations are Paravur Market, Chendamangalam Synagogue, Palayam Palace and Pattanam excavation site.



Traditional Dinner with local family

Visit a home in Fort Kochi, Kerala, India for a fun, interactive cooking session followed by dinner. With the lady of the house, prepare the cuisine of Kerala, which offers a variety of both vegetarian and non-vegetarian dishes. Typically the menu includes a starter such as idiappam (string hoppers) or fish fry, then vegetables, chicken curry, rice, vellai-appam (pancakes), and more. The menu varies depending on the season and what's fresh in the market on the particular day. After cooking, enjoy the meal together with the family before returning to your hotel.



Meditation and Ayurveda

Start the day with a yoga session with a renowned expert at her yoga studio, a sunset cruise, in a temple ground, a park by the backwater or at the comfort of your own hotel, depending on your preference. You can also opt for yoga therapy and chakra meditation. Then, indulge in a traditional oil massage (the abhyanga) or deep tissue massage to rejuvenate your body.



DESTINATION

MUNNAR



MUNNAR



Munnar, the largest tea-growing region in South India, is surrounded by rolling green hills covered with beautifully manicured emerald-green tea plantations. The mist often seems to play hide and seek with the landscape. If you leave the hills and head to the proper town, you will be stunned by its uncanny similarity to the hill stations of North India. So, on a trip to Munnar, you will have the best of both worlds – the trappings of a typical hill station and delightful seclusion in the lap of nature. Today, Munnar has become the commercial hub of some of the highest tea-growing estates in the world. These plantations are largely owned by the Tata conglomerate and some are also under Kannan Devan Hills Plantation Company (KDHP), a local cooperative.



Map not to scale



LANGUAGE

Malayalam & English

SEASON

October - April

ELEVATION

5,026

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **TEA MUSEUM:** Located around 1.5 km northwest of Munnar, this aptly named museum demonstrates the working of a tea Factory. It also displays colonial-era photographs, a tea-roller dating back to 1905 and other relics. Along the way, you will enjoy the mesmerizing sight of verdant tea gardens.
- **MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH:** Located on a hill, with panoramic views of the surrounding lush green landscape and the city, the church was built in 1898 and has wood-framed windows that adorn the soft-yellow façade. The altar is impressive with statues of Christ and the Virgin Mary.
- **ERAVIKULAM NATIONAL PARK:** This is the first of its kind in Kerala, where the endangered Nilgiri Thar is protected. Spread over 97 sq. km., this park holds the largest viable population of Tahr, several other species of rare animals, birds and butterflies.

CONNECTIVITY:

The Cochin International Airport is roughly 110 km by road and the Madurai International Airport is approximately 140 km. The nearest railway station is at Aluva at a distance of nearly 110 km. The Ernakulam Railway Station is around 130 km away and the Madurai Railway Station is around 135 km. There is a bus station on the main street, Main Bazaar. Buses connect Munnar to most of the nearby cities.

RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Windermere Estate

The rooms here are set in bungalows that are a throwback to the old ways of life: gabled roofs; high ceilings; beams of red cedar; teak furniture; terracotta floors rubbed with linseed oil and hardwood floor polished with traditional wax; linen furnishings and crochet and cross-stitch art framed on walls. Cooled by the surrounding mist all day, there are no fans or air conditioners here, for none are ever required.

Fragrant Nature

Styled on the design of local planter bungalows with cozy fireplaces in every room the hotel features a restaurant and free WiFi throughout the property. Some rooms include a seating area for your convenience as well.





Cycling Trails

Beyond hikes and trails, Munnar's mountain paths winding through tea plantations and spice gardens are great for bicycling. Cycle past forested valleys and wayside brooks, discover the ancient dolmens on the mountainside or stop off for picnics along the way, with sweeping views over rain-fed reservoirs and tiny hamlets.



Tea Trails

There's no better way to explore Munnar than by experiencing a tea trail; visit the lush, verdant slopes of a tea estate to get a glimpse into an industry that is over a hundred years old and learn the story behind your morning cuppa. Follow this with a visit to the Tea Museum, which houses curios, photographs and machineries representing a turning point for the tea industry in the region, as also some colonial-style furniture. Don't miss out on the tea-tasting demonstration, where infusions of different tea varieties and an insight into the nuances of tea-processing await you.



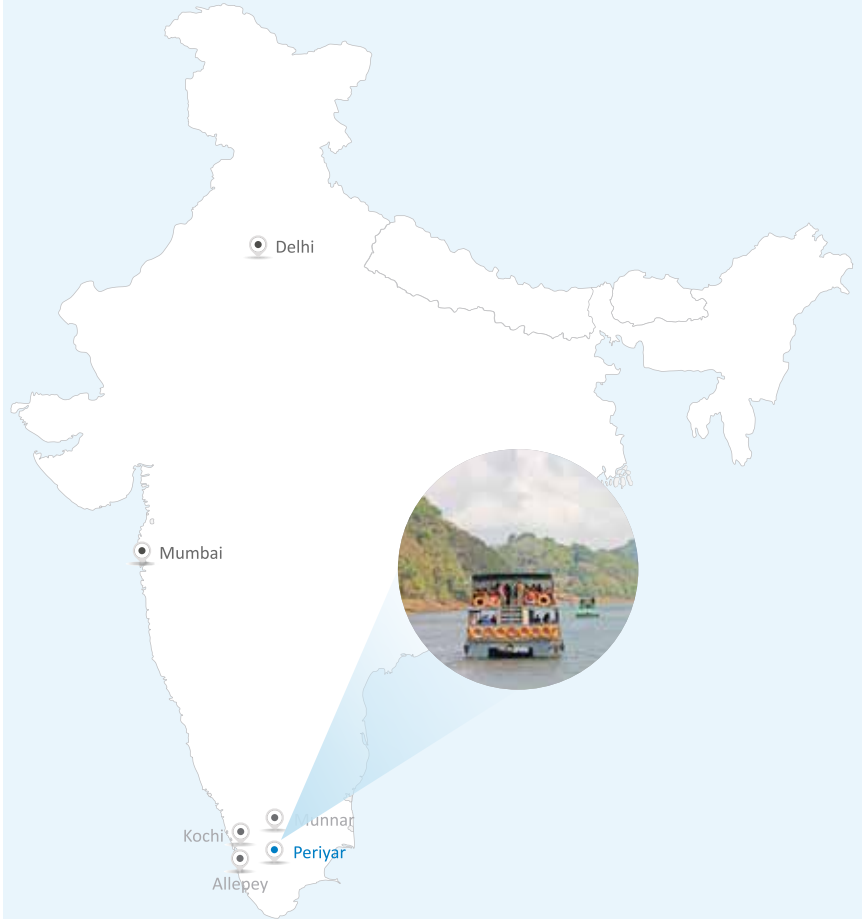
Crafts for a Cause

If you have a little more time on hand, a visit to Srishti, the handmade paper crafts centre is an interesting detour. The paper is made out of a variety of materials like the leaves of eucalyptus, lemongrass, lantana and pineapple, and is then crafted into delightful objects from notepads to containers – a haven for the stationary shopaholic! What's more the centre has a social conscience – it is a unique venture of a corporate giant – Tata, for the rehabilitation of the physically challenged dependants of its employees.



DESTINATION

PERIYAR



PERIYAR



Periyar, also known as Thekkady, is South India's most popular wildlife sanctuary. It covers an area of roughly 777 sq. km and also includes a 26-sq-km artificial lake created by the British in 1895. The park is home to lots of wildlife, including deer, bison, wild boars, and around 1000 elephants. There are roughly 40 tigers as well but they remain elusive. Domestic as well as foreign tourists visit the park in large numbers. While in Periyar, you may also want to enjoy the idyllic boat cruise offered here. For an authentic wilderness experience, go on a trek with a tribal villager. The charm of the woodlands and the hills slowly grow upon you and ensure a deeply gratifying experience. Carry your woollens and waterproofs.



Map not to scale



LANGUAGE

Malayalam &
English

SEASON

October - April

ELEVATION

6,200

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **PERIYAR WILDLIFE SANCTUARY:** Periyar strikes a deep chord with wildlife enthusiasts and the ones with an eye for nature. The jungle denizens here include bison, deer, wild boars, around 1000 elephants and some 40 tigers. However, true to its nature, the tiger remains elusive and makes an appearance only when it wants to. Periyar is one of the most popular wildlife sanctuaries in South India. There is also a 26-sq-km artificial lake here created by the British in 1895.
- **ABRAHAM'S SPICE GARDEN:** Abraham's Spice Garden is situated around 3 km from Kumily. This family-run farm has been around for more than 50 years now. While here, join a one-hour tour of the spice gardens for some interesting insights.
- **CONNEMARA TEA FACTORY:** The Connemara Tea Factory is around 13 km from Kumily. It's a nearly 77-year-old working tea factory and plantation, where visitors are taken on guided tours of the tea garden and the tea-making process. Finally, tea tastings are offered. The factory is on the route of regular buses from Kumily.

CONNECTIVITY:

The nearest airport is Cochin (200 km. away), which is well connected by air to almost all major cities of India. The other gateway for Periyar is Madurai, around 185 km. away. By road, Periyar is accessible via Cochin (200 km.), Kumarakom (190 km.) and Madurai (185 km).

RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Spice village

It is a work of nature as much as it is a lofty expression of the imagination. The resort was conceived as a village. Though traditional in its conception, this is a 'village' that offers you all the comforts of a city minus the noise, pollution and other urban ills that you can do without. Its interaction with the ecology of these hills is symbiotic, influenced by the native people of these parts who have lived in harmony with their surroundings for generations.

Poetree Sarovar

From the shaded seclusion of this property, designed with minimalist and aesthetic principles, guests can relax in luxury and admire unforgettable views over the Periyar forest and across expansive mountain ranges. From each room, guests can soak in a calm and serene vibe, a feeling of being one with the land, distinct to Periyar and Thekkady. The splendid artificial lake formed by Mullaperiyar Dam across the Periyar River is the greatest attraction where herds of wild elephants come down to quench their thirst.

Shalimar Spice Garden

Built on verdant lands unscathed by modernization, the Shalimar Spice Garden is a perfect blend of European and Indian living without diluting the rich heritage of Kerala. The resort merges with the spice gardens that encompass it. The gentle mountain stream meanders through the property and a wooden bridge built over the stream connects the resort to the outside world.





From Farm to Market

Today the hills around Thekkady produce some of the top quality cardamoms in the country and for that matter best in the world. Enjoy an exclusive farm to the market tailored program where you take a walk with your Le Passage to India Journeys guide through the plantations, understand the harvest, the processing, and finally see the sale of the spice through auction centers. Prior permission is required to attend an actual auction. A representative of the Spices Board who has in-depth knowledge of the crop decides the base price of the lot. Once the auction is set, the decisions are made swiftly, as the bell rings the bidding starts, and traders bid. A price that sustains for seven seconds would be the final price for the lot kept for auction. It is a fascinating experience for everyone but especially for those who wish to experience the rich spices of Kerala.



An evening bullock cart ride through rural Thekkady

Trade your luxury vehicle and visit the farmlands of a village hidden in the valley behind the mountains of Periyar Tiger Reserve in a bullock cart. It's difficult to imagine a time when bullock carts ruled the streets as a primary means of transport. They were the Cadillacs of old and even though slow, got the job done. Ride through the many plantations, see the diverse agricultural crops of mangoes, tamarind, onions, sunflower, jasmine and a score of other vegetables, interact with the locals and in the company of your Le Passage to India Journeys guide, get understanding into how farming has woven delicately with the culture and the life of the villagers. There is an undeniable, artifice free, rustic charm to this entire experience and funds from this programme go towards sustaining the villages.

DESTINATION

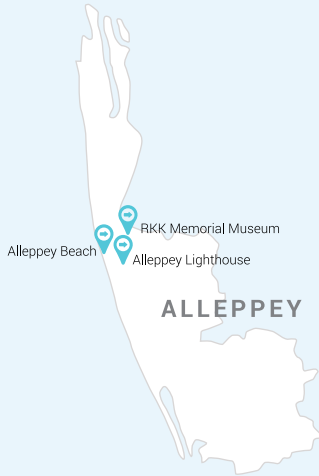
ALLEPPEY



ALLEPPEY



Alappuzha, more popularly known as Alleppey, is the hub of Kerala's famed backwaters. Over a thousand houseboats dreamily sail over the vast network of these meandering waterways. As you stroll around the city center and the bus-stand area, you will definitely be compelled to draw parallels with Venice; there definitely is some weight to its 'Venice of the East' tag. As you move west to the beach or towards the backwaters, the scenery gives way to an enchanting world of greenery dotted with sleepy villages, toddy shops, houseboats and punted canoes. Take in the sights of emerald paddy fields and observe the local way of rural life along the banks to feel the pulse of Alleppey. The experience can't be put into words.



Map not to scale

LANGUAGE

Malayalam & English

SEASON

October - April

ELEVATION

36 ft

MAIN HIGHLIGHTS:

- **RKK MEMORIAL MUSEUM:** The grand building of Revi Karuna Karan (RKK) Memorial Museum has a spectacular façade of Greco-Roman columns. Inside, the personal opulent collection of RKK has been displayed. It includes crystal, porcelain, vintage furniture, Kerala antiques, some priceless works of art and even ivory. The museum was built as a memorial to RKK after his death in 2003.
- **ALLEPPEY BEACH:** Alleppey's main beach lies about 2 km. to the west of the city center. Swimming is not a good idea as the currents are strong but it's a fabulous place to enjoy a spectacular sunset. There is a fine coffee shop here and also some other joints for a drink or a snack. Simply put, it's a pristine beach and has largely escaped the clutches of so-called development.
- **ALLEPPEY LIGHTHOUSE:** The candy-striped Alleppey Lighthouse is just a little beyond the beach. Step into the past by visiting the museum here and check out its original oil lamp. A spiral staircase runs to the top and your climb up will be rewarded with a 360-degree lush green view of Alleppey.

CONNECTIVITY:

The nearest airport is Kochi Airport (COK), Ernakulam, Kerala at a distance of 56 km. The Thiruvananthapuram International Airport (TRV) is 126 km away. Alleppey is also connected to major cities via rail by its train station: Alappuzha (ALLP). There is a bus station too.



RECOMMENDED

HOTELS &

RESORTS



SUGGESTED HOTELS

Kumarakom Lake Resort

The rooms, villas and suites at Kumarakom Lake Resort are a perfect blend of Kerala's traditional architectural charm with luxurious, modern comforts. Each is a careful reconstruction of manas, the 16th century traditional homesteads of Kerala, with many such manas having been transplanted from their original locations and reassembled painstakingly by hand, plank by plank, tile by tile, to create the luxurious abodes at Kumarakom Lake Resort.

Purity at Muhamma

Overlooking Lake Vembanad at its widest point, Purity is 50 km from The Malabar House and 70 km from Cochin International Airport. Purity has 5 unique deluxe rooms, 5 garden suites and 4 Vembanad suites that are ideal for families. All rooms have terraces and verandahs overlooking the lake. All guests are invited to a yoga session every morning between 7.30am and 8.30am. The session is complimentary and does not require previous experience.

Coconut lagoon

Coconut Lagoon is located on the Vembanad Lake, one of India's largest inland lakes with its own distinctive ecology that supports a plethora of natural life. There's only one way to get to Coconut Lagoon: over the water. The boat ride over the lake's gentle swells, past lazy coconut palms and houses to the resort sets the tone of your holiday to come-exciting and novel, yet relaxed and nurturing!

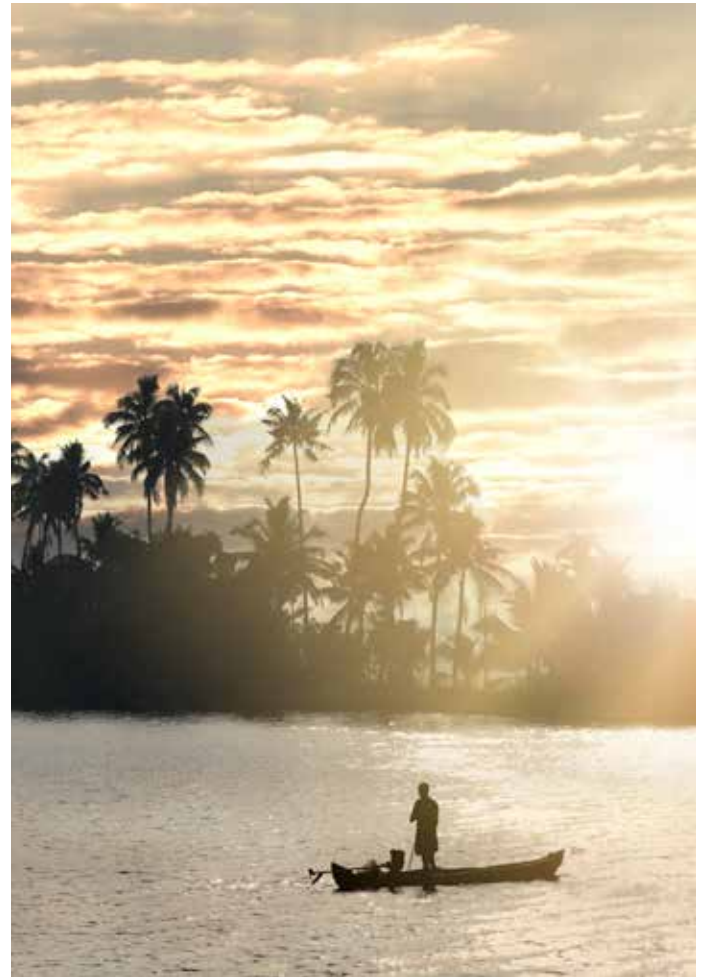




Participate in a Local Fish Auction

Over 4,600 miles of sea lap the shores of India, resulting in coastal cuisine that is laden with fish. Kerala has an added bonus of rivers and backwaters that sparkle with fresh water gills and no day is complete without fish being served at least at one meal. As you sail the tranquil backwaters in your private houseboat, stop at the local fish markets where stalls, with obediently stacked fish await direction from enthusiastic vendors. Crabs, pearl spot, snapper, several varieties of sardines and mackerel the choice is plenty. Your chef and butlers will be on hand to assist as you visit each stall. Each vendor specializes in one or two types of fish and bargaining is mandatory. It is all part of the experience and a lot of fun!

Once you set sail again, you can brief your chef on how you want it all cooked, then sit back and enjoy a chilled beer as he works on cooking up delicious flash fried sardines with a squeeze of lemon, clams stir fried with coconut and tropical spices, grilled or perhaps masala-fried snapper and of course, the favorite fish curry. It's an almost perfect moment ...



Thank You,
We look forward to serving you



MARIA DO CARMO CAMACHO



ARVIND BHATIA



Le Passage
to India

CONTACT DETAILS:

B-128, Sector-5, Noida-201301, India | Tel: (+91-120) 3300555 | Fax: (+91-120) 3823501
E-mail: arvind@lpti.in, mariacarmo.camacho@dmclinks.pt | Website: www.lpti.in
