Railways of the Raj 14 days

Six scenic train journeys, Kolkata to the majestic hill stations of Darjeeling and Shimla, holy Varanasi on the Ganges, the Taj Mahal in Agra and more!

TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: Kolkata / Ends in: Delhi
- Departs: Any day of the year
- No local payment required
- Breakfast:10, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 2
- Hotel Rating: Superior
- Tour Guide: Yes - for all scheduled sightseeing

ONLINE RESOURCES:

- For a detailed GO GUIDE - click here
- To book this trip - click here
- To enquire about this trip - click here

TOUR MAP:

QUICK WEB LINKS

India Prices ::: Why Us for India? ::: India Reviews ::: Our India Blog ::: Golden Triangle Tours ::: Kashmir Tours ::: Kerala Tours ::: Top Spots in India ::: Best Time to Travel ::: Festivals & Events ::: Hotels in India ::: Tiger Spotting ::: India - Useful Info ::: FAQs on India ::: India Visas ::: India Gallery

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Day 1: Kolkata

Once you arrive into Kolkata you'll be met at the airport and transferred to your hotel. The rest of the day is yours to explore Kolkata or relax at the hotel. Overnight - Kolkata

Day 2: Kolkata city sights

This cultural city is an amazing example of East meets West. Enjoy a sightseeing tour which includes a visit to the Victoria Memorial. Opened by the Prince of Wales in 1921, this imposing vision in marble often called the "Taj" of the British Raj overlooks the grassy Maidan, the city's green belt. Overnight - Kolkata

Day 3: Kolkata

Kolkata - New Jalpaiguri. Enjoy the day to independently explore Kolkata. Early this evening, you'll board the Darjeeling Mail train. In air conditioned 1st class sleeper accommodation, relax as the train heads north to New Jalpaiguri. Overnight - Train

Days 4 - 6: Darjeeling

New Jalpaiguri - Darjeeling - Varanasi. Early this morning, you'll continue the journey to Darjeeling by car. Sitting at a spectacular altitude of 2124m with a backdrop consisting of mighty snow-clad Himalayan peaks and surrounded by verdant tea plantations. Owing to Darjeeling's proximity to Tibet, the town has a Tibetan Refugee Centre comprising care for the young and old and craft workshops that produce carpets, leather work and other Tibetan curios. If you have time, it's worth a look. Early morning of day 5, we enjoy a drive to Tiger Hill to catch sunrise over the snowy peaks of Kanchenjunga - the world's third highest mountain. Continuing to the Ghoom Gompa (monastery) followed by city sightseeing and a visit to a tea estate. Day 6, drive to New Jalpaiguri to catch the Varanasi North-East Express train (2nd class A/C sleeper) to Varanasi. Overnight - (2) Darjeeling - (1) train

Days 7 - 8: Varanasi

Arriving early this morning to Mughalsarai, we drive to Varanasi. Varanasi or the city of Shiva, is the holiest Hindu pilgrimage destination in India. Abundant with temples and streets that resemble a mass of tangled shoe laces, Varanasi is one of India's most colourful cities, later we enjoy a city sightseeing tour. Early morning, day 8, we boat ride on the holy Ganges to witness the sunrise and the ancient religious tradition of ritual cleansing that takes place on the famous riverside ghats (steps) that line the banks. Late afternoon board the Marudhar Express train (1st A/C class sleeper) to Agra. Overnight - (1) Varanassi - (1) train

Days 9 - 10: Agra

An early morning arrival in Agra allows you the chance to relax. Visits to the Taj Mahal, Agra Fort and marble craft shop later this afternoon. Day 10, free morning or re-visit the Taj Mahal. Afternoon vehicle transfer to Delhi in time to board the Howrah Delhi Kalka Express train (air-conditioned 1st class sleeper) to Kalka. Overnight - (1) Agra - (1) train

Days 11 - 12: Kalka - Shimla

Kalka - Shimla - (breakfast day 12 only). Very early today, we board the Kalka-Shimla Express (non a/c 1st class), arriving Shimla late morning. Shimla, the 'old summer capital' of British India sprawls along a crescent-shaped ridge at an altitude of 2100m. The famous 'Mall' lined with stately English houses, Christ Church, Gorton Castle and the fortress-like former Viceregal Lodge reinforces Shimla's English flavour. It's worth exploring the narrow streets which fall steeply away from the ridge to colourful local bazaars. Overnight - Shimla

Day 13: Shimla

Shimla - Delhi (Kalka). Leaving Shimla, drive to Kalka to catch the afternoon, Shatabdi Express train (airconditioned chair car) bound for Delhi. Overnight - Delhi

Day 14: Delhi

This morning embark on a sightseeing tour of Old Delhi including the Red Fort, Jama Masjid mosque and the bazaars of Chandni Chowk. This afternoon, enjoy the sights of New Delhi including the majestic India Gate, Rajpath and Connaught Place. A visit is also

made to Qutab Minar, a massive tower built to proclaim the arrival of Islam in India in the 11th century and a carpet emporium. Late this evening, enjoy an included onward transfer to the airport.

WHAT YOU SEE AND WHAT YOU GET:

Below is a list of key highlights and what is included on this tour. Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

Trip Highlights

- Cultural Kolkata - Victoria Memorial, Indian Museum, Jain Temple, Howrah flower market, Hooghly River
- Darjeeling - Tea Coutry
- Holy Varanasi and sunrise on the Ganges
- Agra - the beautiful Agra Fort and the Mughal mausoleum known as Baby Taj
- The spectacular Taj Mahal - India's most famous monument in all its glory.
- Shimla scenic hill station with Himalayan backdrop
- Old and New Delhi - the magnificent Red Fort, India's largest mosque Jama Masjid, and Gandhi's crematorium Raj Ghat.

What's Included

- 6 different train journeys
- 10 breakfasts, 2 lunches and 2 dinners - Darjeeling
- 9 nights 4 star hotels and 4 nights overnight train journeys
- Drive to Tiger Hill - Darjeeling
- Visit to Tea Estate - Darjeeling
- Sunrise boat cruise on the holy Ganges - Varanasi
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 14
- Touring and excursions as per itinerary
- Local English speaking specialist guides at local sights
- Entrance fees to all relevant sights
- Chauffeur driven air-conditioned vehicle (non air conditioned in Darjeeling)

What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Laundry, drinks, items of a personal nature
- Tipping - an entirely personal gesture

PRICES AND DATES: from USD $2,799

Prices shown are 'per person', based on a travelling party of at least 2 adults. The single supplement price needs to be added to the twin/double price if single rooms are required. If travelling solo, an additional '1-person' supplement will apply. Prices are indicative and will vary depending on your chosen hotels, room availability as well as time of travel i.e. during India's peak travel season of 21 Dec - 10 Jan, additional supplements will apply. Equally, if you with to travel to India during the summer, rates will be cheaper than those quoted.. Please bear this in mind if comparing prices as we always aim to deliver exceptional value. This itinerary is based upon superior accommodation. Deluxe properties are also available upon request. Please note that discounts will apply if there are more 4 our more people in your travelling party, since fixed costs like transportation and guiding are shared across the group.

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.

POSTCARDS:

Here's what some of our past travellers have written in to us and said about their experiences on this trip.

Hi Charlie Back safely on time after the most amazing seven weeks! Everything went so smoothly, all agents / guides / drivers / hotels were absolutely superb .. we can't fault anything at all! thank you so much ... an amazing trip ... organised and executed by a superb team!! Off to do the washing now ..

Steve and Helen Martin, May 2012

My mother and I returned on Sunday, 6th November, 2011 from the 'Railways of the Raj' holiday organised by On The Go Tours. We had a marvellous holiday, which was extremely well organised. As the title of the tour suggests, we travelled by rail - mostly overnight rail journeys. The organisation started well with the excellent pack we received on arrival in Kolkata - it included all rail tickets, well documented and accompanied, where necessary, by the route timetable. All guides were very efficient, pleasant and knowledgeable and the drivers deserved medals! We were particularly impressed by the efficiency of the guides in relation to the rail journeys. At no point were we left to our own devices and it was a particularly nice touch

that the guide at our departure point texted the guide a the next port of call to let him know that we were on our way and what carriage and cabin we were in, the end result of which meant that our new guide was standing on the platform right outside our carriage. It really was great service and helped to allay any fears we had about finding our guide in the railway stations - which would have been no mean feat given that 14 million people per day travel on the Indian railways! We would be grateful if the recipient of this e-mail in India ensures that our thanks are noted by you team in India. We thanked all the guides and drivers personally, but a further thank you I'm sure will not go amiss.

Susan Wilson , Dec 2011