

# Delhi to Darjeeling 18 Days



Taking in all the very best of India; Delhi, Jaipur, the Taj Mahal, the mysterious Temples of Khajuraho, ancient holy Varanasi, the remote hill station of Kalimpong and of course Darjeeling, tea central.

## TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: New Delhi / Ends in: Kolkata
- Departs: Every second Saturday - September through to April
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 15, Lunch: 5, Dinner: 7
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star & heritage hotels
- Tour Guide: Yes

## 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 ::: Kerala Tours ::: Top Spots in India ::: Festivals & Events ::: Hotels in India ::: Tiger Spotting ::: India - Useful Info ::: FAQs on India ::: India Visas ::: India Gallery

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## Day 1: New Delhi

Saturday. Welcome to India and the start of your holiday! Arrive Delhi, included transfer to hotel. Free afternoon and evening. Overnight - [New Delhi](#)

## Day 2: Old & New Delhi

This morning, our welcome meeting takes place. We'll then enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Delhi, taking in the impressive Red Fort, Jama Masjid - India's oldest and largest mosque, Raj Ghat - the site of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation, Humayan's Tomb, Qutab Minar and a carpet emporium where we can witness a demonstration on the art of carpet weaving. Tonight, we enjoy a Namaste Dinner at an Indian restaurant. Overnight - [New Delhi](#)

## Days 3 - 4: Amber Fort on Elephant back

Delhi - Jaipur. Today, we travel by road to the architecturally flamboyant Jaipur - capital of Rajasthan which was founded in 1727. We enjoy a tour of the City Palace and Jantar Mantar - a medieval astronomical observatory - both of which were built by Jaipur's founder - Jai Singh. Next morning, we travel to Amber Fort, where we take an elephant ride to the summit of the stunning 16th century Rajput fort. Enjoy the remains of the day your way.

Jaipur boasts some of the most colourful bazaars in Asia. Keep your eyes peeled for colourful papier mache puppets and traditional Rajasthani 'curly toe' jooti shoes. We'll also visit a cotton trading/tailor shop which specialises in tablecloths and other articles block-printed with traditional Rajasthani designs and a very capable tailoring service where bolts of European-style fabric can be crafted into shirts and other garments meeting your specification. Prices are excellent and your new garb will be delivered to your hotel before we leave! Overnight - [Jaipur](#)



## Day 5: Abhaneri Stepwells & Rural India

Jaipur - Bharatpur via Abhaneri and Perharsar. Our first stop this morning is the village of Abhaneri, home to see the incredible 9th century step well - Chand Baori. Continuing on to the rural village

of Perharsar, we walk through the backstreets to gain an insight into local life, visit the school where we operate our 'Change for Children' programme (if open) and stop at a charming, rustic haveli. Next stop Bharatpur, where after hotel check in and a bit of a freshen up, we bicycle rickshaw ride through Keoladeo Ghana National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage. Overnight - [Bharatpur](#)

## Day 6: Home of the legendary Taj Mahal

Bharatpur - Agra. Today we travel to Agra via Fatehpur Sikri - the magnificent fortified Mughal capital of Emperor Akbar. In Agra, we visit the impressive Agra Fort before touring the the legendary Taj Mahal and witnessing a magical sunset. Built by Shah Jahan in the 16th century as an enduring memorial to his beloved wife Mumtaz, the Taj Mahal is without peer. Overnight - [Agra](#)

## Day 7: Orchha on the River Betwa

Agra - Orchha. Striking south, we journey by express train to Jhansi and onwards by road to Orchha. Situated on the banks of the River Betwa, Orchha is dotted with temples and palaces built by Bundela rulers, which we'll explore. Overnight - [Orchha](#)



## Day 8: Khajuraho

Orchha - Khajuraho. Driving south-east today, we arrive in Khajuraho, famed for its stunning temples built in the Chandela dynasty over a 100 year burst of creative genius from 950 - 1050AD. The carved temples display exceedingly artistic aspects of Indian life a millennium ago. How and why they were built still remains a mystery. We've plenty of time to see the temples for ourselves! Overnight - [Khajuraho](#)

## Day 9: Holy Varanasi

Khajuraho - Varanasi. This morning consider taking a wildlife safari at Panna National Park. Around noon, forgoing a long drive, we fly east to Varanasi. Perhaps the holiest city in India; Varanasi, also known as Benares or the city of Shiva, is also one of the oldest cities on earth. Sitting on the banks of the holy River Ganges, it has been a centre of learning and civilisation for more than 2000 years and is a place of Hindu pilgrimage. Overnight - [Varanasi](#)

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## Days 10 - 11: Sunrise on the Ganges & free time

Varanasi - New Jalpaiguri. On the morning of day 10, we enjoy a sunrise boat ride on the holy Ganges where we'll view the ancient religious tradition of ritual cleansing that takes place on the many riverbank ghats (riverside steps). Later, we undertake guided tour of many of the cities main attractions and at sunset you can opt to independently re-visit the ghats for the evening pilgrimage, remarkably different from the dawn ritual.

On day 11, take the opportunity to further explore the colourful city at leisure, before our early evening transfer to Mughal Sarai rail station for our North East Express train to New Jalpaiguri. Overnight - Varanasi (1) Train (1)



## Day 12: Kalimpong

New Jalpaiguri - Kalimpong. On arrival this morning, we'll be met to commence the 3 hour drive to Kalimpong. Kalimpong, a remote hill station, once part of Sikkim and one-time meeting point on the trade route to Tibet, Bhutan and Nepal, sits amid beautiful mountain scenery where orchids and other flowers grow in profusion. Great views can be had of Kanchenjunga and the town possesses several important monasteries, including the brightly painted Zong Dog Palri Phodrang Gumpa (simply known as Durpin Monastery) and Thirpai Choling Gumpa founded in 1892 and recently renovated. You'll have the day to enjoy the town your way. Overnight - [Kalimpong](#)

## Days 13 - 14: Gangtok - Tibetan culture

Kalimpong - Gangtok. Leaving Kalimpong, we drive to Gangtok, where the remains of the day are at leisure. Capital of Sikkim, a tiny Himalayan state known for its orchids and flowers and for the heavy influence of Tibetan culture, Gangtok although rapidly developing is still full of charm, thanks to its Buddhist past. Beyond the busy market areas, lie monastic complexes and striking countryside.

On day 14 we visit beautiful Rumtek Monastery, Sikkim's largest and most active monastery, which is located in a lower valley. We then tour Gangtok taking in the Royal Monastery - Tsuklakhang,

the Institute of Tibetology and the Orchid Sanctuary. Built in 1958, the Research Institute of Tibetology is world famous for its research activities on the language and culture of Tibet; possessing a faculty of eminent scholars, a library with a large collection of documents and rare books on Buddhism and an attached museum with a rare collection of antiques, coins and Tibetan paintings. Overnight - [Gangtok](#)

## Days 15 - 16: Darjeeling

Gangtok - Darjeeling. Leaving Gangtok, we drive to Darjeeling. Sitting at a spectacular altitude of 2124m with a backdrop of mighty snow-clad Himalayan peaks and surrounded by verdant tea plantations, Darjeeling has been a popular hill station since the British established it as an R & R centre for their troops in the mid 19th century. Draw cards include a number of Buddhist monasteries, tea plantations and colourful markets.

On day 16, we enjoy a drive to Tiger Hill to catch sunrise over the snowy peaks of Kanchenjunga - the world's third highest mountain. Continuing, enjoy a visit to the Ghoom Gumpa (monastery) followed by city sightseeing and a visit to a tea estate. If wanting to purchase Darjeeling's most famous export, consider First Flush Super Fine Tippy Golden Flower Orange Pekoe 1. It's Darjeeling's best. Overnight - [Darjeeling](#)



## Days 17 - 18: Kolkata

Darjeeling via Jalpaiguri - Kolkata. Transferring to Jalpaiguri station, we catch our overnight 2nd class sleeper train for Kolkata (\*option to fly available, see below). We arrive into Kolkata on the morning of day 18 - Tuesday. This marks the end of our tour and we transfer you to the airport. As the train arrives at approximately 6 am we advise that you book your departure flights for after 12 noon. Train (1)

### 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

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included in the tour price.

## Trip Highlights

- Delhi - Old Delhi - Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Raj Ghat.
- New Delhi - India Gate, Rajpath, Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar, carpet emporium (with demo)
- Jaipur - Amber Fort, Jantar Mantar and City Palace
- Abhaneri - Chand Baori 9th century step well
- Bharatpur and Perharsar Village
- Keoladeo Ghana National Park - UNESCO site
- Agra - Taj Mahal (entrance fee included) and Agra Fort
- Fatehpur Sikri - ancient Mughal city
- Orchha - temples of the Bundelas (entrance fee included)
- Khajuraho - Chandela dynasty temples & Jain temples
- Varanasi, Mother India site, local temples and mosque and the holy River Ganges
- Kalimpong - hill station and monasteries
- Gangtok - capital of Sikkim, Buddhist monasteries, Tibetan sites & flower orchards
- Darjeeling - home of the top cuppa, tea plantations, Tiger Hill, Buddhist monasteries & colourful markets

## What's Included

- 15 breakfasts, 5 lunches, 7 dinners including Namaste Dinner in Delhi
- 15 nights - 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- 2 nights train - Varanasi - New Jalpaiguri & New Jalpaiguri to Kolkata (2nd class air-conditioned)
- Elephant ride to Amber Fort - Jaipur (\*Subject to Government regulations and availability)
- Horse and cart ride to Taj Mahal - Agra
- Bicycle rickshaw ride in Keoladeo Ghana National Park
- Sunrise boat cruise on the holy Ganges - Varanasi
- Economy class flight - Khajuraho to Varanasi
- Entrance fees for the Taj Mahal, Jaipur City Palace, Jantar Mantar and Bundela Temples
- All relevant transfers and transportation
- Airport arrival and departure transfers on day 1 and day 18
- Touring of Delhi, Jaipur, Perharsar, Chand Baori Step Well, Agra, Orchha, Khajuraho, Varanasi, Kalimpong, Gangtok and Darjeeling
- English speaking Indian tour leader for groups of 6 or more
- Specialist guides at local sights

## What's Not Included

- International flights and visas
- Tip for your tour leader. We suggest \$13-\$20 USD per person for this tour. Tipping your leader is an entirely personal gesture.
- Entrance Fees: \$65-75 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$30-35 USD

## BOLT-ONS:

Make the most of your time away! Listed below are the optional activities that are available on this trip. Please note that you will need to book these prior to travel as we cannot always guarantee availability of these activities once you are on holiday.

### Diwali - Festival of Lights Supplement - USD \$100

The Festival of Light is the happiest festival of the Hindu calendar. At night, countless oil lamps are lit to show Rama the way home from his period of exile. In all the festival lasts five days.

### Balloon over Jaipur - USD \$299

Sail within a breath of lofty hilltop forts and fine regal palaces. Look down upon sleepy villages waking to the early morning sun. Drift past expansive waterside manors and intricately stone carved temples with the Pink City of Jaipur in the distance on a magical hot air balloon adventure.

### Shimla Calling - 4 days - USD \$579

Ride the narrow gauge railway aboard the Himalayan Queen Toy Train to Shimla. Nestled between lofty peaks and breathtaking scenery, the charming getaway was once the summer capital of British India. The natural beauty of Shimla will enchant you, being famous for its colourful bazaar, temples at soaring heights, stunning sunsets and verdant woods, contrasted with the quintessential English pomp and style.

### Golden Amritsar - 3 days - USD \$469

Home to the world famous Golden Temple and the seat of the Sikh religion, Amritsar is one of the Punjab's principal cities. Built in 1803 and made of marble, copper and pure leaf gold, the temple is an amazing architectural feat. During your stay, enjoy a visit to Wagah - the only road border crossing between India and Pakistan where the fascinating sunset 'retreat' ceremony takes place with great pomp.

### Panna Wildlife Safari - half day - USD \$149

Go where the wild things are! Available on our Deserts, Palaces, Ganges; Highway to Himalayas and Delhi to Darjeeling and also to anyone wanting to take a walk on the wildside is an excursion to Panna National Park. Panna National Park is home to some of the best wildlife species in India. The park is renown for its wild cats, leopards as well as deer, antelope, langur monkey and sambar.

## PRICES AND DATES: from USD \$2,999

Prices shown are per person travelling. 'Twin/Double' prices per person apply when there are 2 people travelling, sharing a room.

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The 'Single supplement' applies for single travellers who require their own room and needs to be added to the 'Twin/Double' price. If you are happy to be paired up with another single traveller of the same sex on your tour, this can be arranged, (if another solo traveller of the same sex is already booked upon the tour), thus avoiding the single person supplement. All our scheduled tour departures are guaranteed subject to a minimum of 2 travellers. To date we have not cancelled a single trip. Note: If departing on 23 March 2013 we will be attending the Elephant Parade in Jaipur and taking part in Holi celebrations in Bharatpur. Please see our tour Go Guide for more info.

Pre-Tour accom (Delhi)	USD \$89	USD \$40
Post-Tour accom (Mumbai/Kolkata)	USD \$169	USD \$120

## POSTCARDS:

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

*A very well organized, informative and safe tour.*

[Ellen Barbour , Feb 2012](#)

*Hi, Just a short note to thank you and your team for looking after Jeanette Forrest and myself during our recent visit to India. At all times your agents were there to meet us off and on all trains and planes, all were more than courteous and helpful, and always on time to pick us up for what ever was planned for the day. All your drivers were excellent and the vehicles were spotless. All guides were very informative and knowledgeable. Would highly recommend your team/On the Go. Once again, many thanks*

[Carl Brook, Oct 2010](#)

*Hi John, We came back from India couple of days ago and I have to say we had a blast over there! We throughoutly enjoyed the tour. Our group was perfectly matched up, we got on so well with everyone and made some good friends. Our guide was very informative and ready to answer all our questions, and believe me - there were plenty of those. We would definitely recommend India with On the Go. Fantastic tour! Thanks John,*

[D.Middleton, Dec 2009](#)

*I was given this tour as a birthday present from my husband. Firstly I was a bit worried beacuse I have never been to India or any Asian country and I didn't know what to expect. But everything was just fantastic! We saw a lot of the country and learnt about the culture and religion, wchich was very fascinating. Very much enjoyed Setandra's sence of humor! what an excellent guide - very knowledgeable. Nearly turned me into a vegetarian!*

[Margaret Taylor, Nov 2009](#)

*A very enjoyable, interesting and informative holiday. Plenty to do and see and never a dull moment! A very memorable holiday and one that I will never forget! Thank you all so much!*

[J Patterson, Nov 2008](#)

### 2012

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
15 SEP - 02 OCT	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
29 SEP - 16 OCT	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
13 OCT - 30 OCT	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
27 OCT - 13 NOV	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
10 NOV - 27 NOV	USD \$3,099	USD \$1,159
24 NOV - 11 DEC	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
08 DEC - 25 DEC	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
22 DEC - 08 JAN	USD \$3,099	USD \$1,159

### 2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
12 JAN - 29 JAN	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
26 JAN - 12 FEB	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
09 FEB - 26 FEB	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
23 FEB - 12 MAR	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
09 MAR - 26 MAR	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
23 MAR - 09 APR	USD \$3,099	USD \$1,159
06 APR - 23 APR	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
20 APR - 07 MAY	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
07 SEP - 24 SEP	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
21 SEP - 08 OCT	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
05 OCT - 22 OCT	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
19 OCT - 05 NOV	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
02 NOV - 19 NOV	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
16 NOV - 03 DEC	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
30 NOV - 17 DEC	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
14 DEC - 31 DEC	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159
28 DEC - 14 JAN	USD \$2,999	USD \$1,159

### Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
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