

# Highway to Himalayas 18 Days



Combining an intoxicating mix of culture, incredible wildlife, exceptional sights and unsurpassed scenery. A road less travelled, the Highway to Himalayas is our definitive group tour of the North of India and Nepal.

## TOUR DETAILS:

- Starts in: New Delhi / Ends in: Kathmandu
- Departs: Every second Saturday - September through to March
- No local payment required
- Breakfast: 17, Lunch: 2, Dinner: 4
- Hotel Rating: 3 - 4 star & heritage hotels
- Tour Guide: Yes (for groups of 6 or more)

## 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. Overnight - [New Delhi](#)

## Day 2: Old Delhi

Delhi. This morning, our Welcome Meeting takes place. An orientation tour of India's capital includes congested Old Delhi and the more streamlined New Delhi. Highlights of our tour include India Gate, Jama Masjid - India's oldest and largest mosque, Qutab Minar and Raj Ghat - site of Mahatma Gandhi's cremation. Tonight, we enjoy a Namaste Dinner at an Indian restaurant. Overnight - [New Delhi](#)

## Days 3 - 4: Jaipur

Delhi - Jaipur. Today, we travel by road to Jaipur also known as the Pink City. We enjoy a tour of the City Palace and Jantar Mantar - an old, yet cleverly designed space observatory. On our second day, we enjoy a stately elephant ride and visit the stunning 16th century Amber Fort. Jaipur is sensational for shopping. Keep your eyes peeled for colourful papier mache puppets and traditional jootis - the Rajasthani shoe of choice.

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 Peharsar. Departing Jaipur we stop in the village of Abhaneri to see Chand Baori, which is the largest and deepest step well in the world. This incredible well has an staggering 3500 steps and is 13 stories deep. Then we drive on to the rural village of Peharsar, where we walk the backstreets discovering local life, traditions and (if open) visit the village school where we operate our 'Change for Children' programme. Here, we'll also visit a charming haveli (mansion house) with small courtyard, lawned gardens and rustic appeal carefully being restored to the splendour of better farming years. After hotel check in at Bharatpur and time to freshen up we visit Keoladeo Ghana National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, where we'll enjoy a leisurely bicycle rickshaw ride through the park. Overnight - [Bharatpur](#)



## Day 6: Agra Fort & the 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 spectacular golden 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

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. 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: Varanasi

Khajuraho - Varanasi. Early this morning we offer a jeep safari in Panna NP, please see our wildlife safari Panna NP bolt on for details. This afternoon we bid farewell to Khajuraho and 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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## Day 10: Boat Ride on the Ganges

This morning, 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 embark on a tour of this vibrant and deeply spiritual city.

At sunset consider re-visiting the ghats for the evening pilgrimage, remarkably different from the dawn ritual. Overnight - [Varanasi](#)

## Day 11:

Varanasi - Lumbini. Today we drive north and cross the border into neighbouring Nepal. Our destination is Lumbini, where we can visit the birthplace of Lord Buddha in 623BC. The Lumbini Garden is famous for the Ashokan Pillar, which offers epigraphic evidence of Lord Buddha's birth. Overnight - [Lumbini](#)



## Days 12 - 13: Chitwan N. P.

Lumbini - Royal Chitwan NP. Leaving Lumbini, we drive to Royal Chitwan National Park. Widely acknowledged as one of the finest National Parks in Asia, Chitwan supports a population of a variety of species including Indian one horned rhino, bison, sloth bear, wild boar, deer, leopard and of course the magnificent, if elusive, Bengal tiger. On day 13 we enjoy morning and evening elephant ride game walks. Overnight - [Chitwan N.P.](#)

## Days 14 - 15: Pokhara

Chitwan NP - Pokhara. Today we drive to Pokhara. Perhaps the most stunning of Pokhara's sights is the spectacular backdrop panorama of the Annapurna range. Although the highest among them is Annapurna (8091m), it is the fish tailed summit of Machhapuchhre (6977m) spectacularly rising behind Lake Phewa that completes the vista. We enjoy 2 free days in Pokhara. Hike, bike, shop or relax - the choice is yours! Overnight - [Pokhara](#)

## Days 16 - 17: Amazing Kathmandu

Pokhara - Kathmandu. Driving north, we arrive in Kathmandu. Resembling a medieval city of temples, shrines and living gods, Kathmandu is Nepal's biggest and most cosmopolitan city, a meeting place of a dozen ethnic groups and once one of the most important points on the caravan routes between Tibet and India.

Our sightseeing will include an overview of the city taking in Pashupatinath Temple which stands on the banks of the River Bhaginiti, Swayambhunath Pagoda and colossal Bodhnath. We'll explore Durbar square in the heart of Kathmandu, which is home to more than 50 stunning temples and shrines.

There will also be free time to relax, explore and shop on your own. For a unique experience, opt to take a scenic flight toward and up close the Mt Everest. The hour long flight (offered by a number of local companies) offers views of a seeming endless chain of snow capped peaks, as you fly above the clouds, over glaciers and lakes, rivers, gorges and see the world's highest and most enigmatic mountain - Mt Everest. Overnight - [Kathmandu](#)



## Day 18: Kathmandu

Tuesday. Our holiday concludes after breakfast and included onward departure 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.

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Further, where appropriate, we have listed the items that are not included in the tour price.

## Trip Highlights

- Delhi - Old Delhi - Red Fort, Jama Masjid and Raj Ghat.
- New Delhi - India Gate, Rajpath, Humayun's Tomb, Qutab Minar and a carpet emporium with demonstration
- Jaipur - Amber Fort, Jantar Mantar, City Palace and visit to a cotton trader/tailor
- Abhaneri - Chand Baori 9th century step well
- Bharatpur and Perharsar Village
- Keoladeo Ghana National Park - UNESCO site
- Agra - Taj Mahal (entrance fee included), Agra Fort and a visit to a marble craft shop
- Fatehpur Sikri - ancient Mughal city
- Orchha - temples of the Bundelas (entrance fee included)
- Khajuraho - Chandela dynasty temples and Jain temples
- Varanasi, Mother India site, local temples, mosques and the holy River Ganges
- Lumbini - birthplace of Lord Buddha. City and Ashokan Pillar
- Royal Chitwan National Park - Nepal
- Pokhara and the Himalayas, Lake Phewa - Nepal.
- Kathmandu - the city, Durbar Square, Pashupatinath Temple and various other temples and shrines - Nepal

## What's Included

- 17 breakfasts, 2 lunches, 4 dinners (including Namaste Dinner in Delhi)
- 17 nights - 3-4 star and heritage hotels
- Elephant ride to Amber Fort - Jaipur (\*Subject to Government regulations and availability)
- Horse and cart/buggy 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, Chitwan National Park, Pokhara and Kathmandu
- 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: \$105-115 USD
- Tipping Kitty: \$35-40 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.

### 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 \$3,049

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

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tour Go Guide for more info.

## 2012

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
15 SEP - 02 OCT	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
29 SEP - 16 OCT	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
13 OCT - 30 OCT	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
27 OCT - 13 NOV	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
10 NOV - 27 NOV	USD \$3,149	USD \$1,089
24 NOV - 11 DEC	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
08 DEC - 25 DEC	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
22 DEC - 08 JAN	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089

## 2013

Date	Price/Person	Single Supp.
12 JAN - 29 JAN	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
26 JAN - 12 FEB	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
09 FEB - 26 FEB	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
23 FEB - 12 MAR	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
09 MAR - 26 MAR	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
23 MAR - 09 APR	USD \$3,149	USD \$1,089
06 APR - 23 APR	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
20 APR - 07 MAY	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
07 SEP - 24 SEP	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
21 SEP - 08 OCT	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
05 OCT - 22 OCT	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
19 OCT - 05 NOV	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
02 NOV - 19 NOV	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
16 NOV - 03 DEC	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
30 NOV - 17 DEC	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
14 DEC - 31 DEC	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089
28 DEC - 14 JAN	USD \$3,049	USD \$1,089

## Supplementary Prices

	Price/Person	Single Supp.
Post-Tour accom (Kathmandu)	USD \$89	USD \$40
Pre-Tour accom (Delhi)	USD \$89	USD \$40
Car Transfers - Kathmandu	USD \$59	USD \$0

## POSTCARDS:

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

*I have had an excellent tour of N. India and would not hesitate to recommend it to others.*

[Elizabeth Crichton , Mar 2012](#)

*I've had an outstanding time in India once again, much credit is due to our tour leader Atul. He's top-notch at his job and made everything go remarkably smoothly, always in a friendly manner. His fluency in english is terrific.*

[Lance Hori , Mar 2012](#)

*Excellent trip to India, everything went without fault. This could be down to background work carried out by Atul to ensure everything went smoothly. Sad to leave India, hopefully Nepal will be just as good.*

[Jennifer Opara , Feb 2012](#)

*our guide, Satendra was excellent, very cheerful and always went out of the the way to make our experience memorable and enjoyable. Thank you.*

[Meri G, Feb 2011](#)

*Excellent guide, thoroughly enjoyed the experience in India. Will recommend it to everyone!*

[D Griffiths , Jan 2011](#)

*Orchha, Khajuraho & Varanasi sightseeing was outstanding!*

[Lavita Nelly, Apr 2010](#)

*Visa services was excellent, Orchha Fort was favourite part of the tour. Overall very enjoyable, well organized. Well worth recommending.*

[Timothy F, Apr 2010](#)

*We had a great time, great guide and looking forward to another on the go tour.*

[Kevin Barrett, Apr 2010](#)