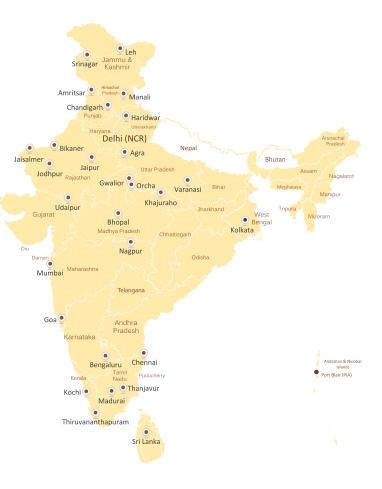


# Impressions of India, Sri Lanka & Bhutan

# **The Earthen Experiences**

Journey into awe-inspiring diversity, ancient belief systems, breath-taking colours and fulsome flavours. Savour a bewildering variety of landscapes, languages, crafts, cuisines, culture and ethnicities. As a tribe of travellers, we believe in journeys beyond the conventional.

Join us in our quest for these earthen experiences.



# Contents

| Golden Triangle Tour04                                |
|---|
| Classic Rajasthan 07                                  |
| Golden Triangle with Ranthambore11                    |
| Northern India Tour 15                                |
| Indian Himalayan Heritage 19                          |
| Eastern Himalayan Adventure 23                        |
| Colonial Kolkata & Darjeeling Heritage Train & Bhutan |
| Classic Kerala 32                                     |
| Classic South India 36                                |
| Spice and Coffee Trails 40                            |
| Jungle Book Adventure 44                              |
| Highlights of Sri Lanka 48                            |
| Sri-Lanka- Wildlife Tour 53                           |
|   |





# **GOLDEN TRIANGLE TOUR**

# 06 Nights & 07 Days

Route: Delhi (02) - Agra (02) - Jaipur (02) - Delhi





#### Best time to visit: October to mid-April

India is certainly a place where a lot of kingdoms and royal dynasties have ruled. It is only because of these rulers that India is a multicultural country. Be it Mughals, Britishers, French or Portuguese, every ruling culture has added something brilliant into the already charismatic culture of this ever charming nation. This exclusive tour brings to you the rich heritage and grandeur of Mughal rulers when everything was larger than life. Elaborate cuisines and tales of bravery mark two specific aspects of Mughals. Rajput kingdoms spread across northern parts of India brought so much colour, luxurious lifestyle and smart architecture to India.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Rickshaw ride through the bazaars of Delhi
- Explore the Bangla Saheb Gurudwara in Delhi and participate in cooking to feed 5000 devotees everyday.
- Amazing views of the Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh in Agra
- Experience the Taj Mahal in Agra at sunrise
- The exquisite Chand Baori (stepwell) in Abhaneri

#### **DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI**

Arrive in Delhi by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 02: DELHI

In the morning, explore the historic lanes of Purani Dilli- visit Jama Masjid, enjoy a rickshaw ride at Chandni Chowk, drive past the Red Fort, and stop at Raj Ghat.



Spend the afternoon in New Delhi with a visit to the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, and then drive past India Gate, President's Estate, and the Parliament House.

Later in the day, visit Humayun's Tomb and the Qutab Minar. Overnight stay.

DAY 03: DELHI - AGRA (APPROX. 04 HOURS' DRIVE) In the morning, drive to Agra.

Late afternoon, take in the beauty of Mehtab Bagh, a charbagh complex to the north of the Taj Mahal, on the east bank of Yamuna River. Take in the spectacular view of the Taj Mahal from here, as envisioned by the Mughals centuries ago.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 04: IN AGRA

Early in the morning, experience the awe inspiring beauty of the Taj Mahal at sunrise.

Later visit the Agra Fort, another UNESCO World Heritage Site from the same era.

Overnight stay. (Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays)

# DAY 05: AGRA – CHAND BAORI - JAIPUR (APPROX. 5 HOURS' DRIVE)

Today morning leave Agra by road for Jaipur.

Enroute visit the beautiful Chand Baori (stepwell) in Abhaneri village. Overnight stay.



#### DAY 06: JAIPUR

In the morning, enjoy a Jeep ride to Amber fort. En route to the fort, stop at Hawa Mahal.

In the afternoon, visit Maharaja's City Palace and the Jantar Mantar. Overnight stay.

# DAY 07: JAIPUR - DELHI (APPROX. 4 HOURS' DRIVE) & DEPARTURE DELHI

Morning at leisure.

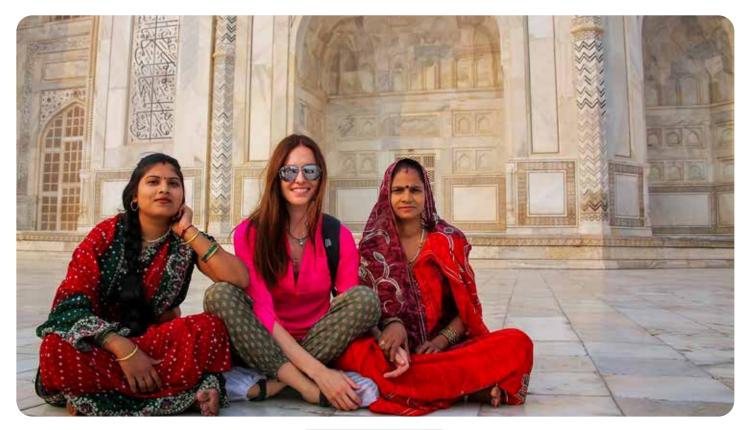
Later, drive to Delhi and proceed directly to the Delhi airport to board your return flight back home.

### Safe onward travels

# **CLASSIC RAJASTHAN**

# 11 Nights & 12 Days

Route: Delhi (02) – Agra (02) – Jaipur (02) – Jodhpur (02) – Udaipur (02) - Delhi (01)







#### Best time to visit: October to mid-April

Knowing the rich culture and history of a country like India is easier if you look closely through the mysterious windows of its palaces, bask in the grandeur of its larger than life forts and embrace love for life at its abundant deserts. This land is an unforgettable story that will last longer than a lifetime in the calendar of your memories. Gear up for a unique visit right from Delhi which offers a close rendezvous of the Mughal era monuments and colonial remnants and greet the adorable sight of Taj Mahal, that spells LOVE like no one else. Delight your soul in the pink Jaipur city and submerged into the rich cultural heritage of the blue city Jodhpur. Your grand travel takes you to Udaipur, known as the "City of Lakes," famed for its shimmering lakes, grand palaces, and rich heritage. Often called the "Venice of the East."

### **Tour Highlights:**

- Rickshaw ride through the bazaars of Delhi
- Experience the Taj Mahal in Agra at sunrise
- The exquisite Chand Baori (stepwell) in Abhaneri
- Walk through the local bazaars in Jodhpur
- Relaxing boat ride on Lake Pichola

### DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay.

### DAY 02: DELHI

In the morning, explore the historic lanes of Purani Dilli- visit Jama

Masjid, enjoy a rickshaw ride at Chandni Chowk, drive past the Red Fort, and stop at Raj Ghat.

Spend the afternoon in New Delhi with a visit to the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, and then drive past India Gate, President's Estate, and the Parliament House. Later in the day, visit Humayun's Tomb and the Qutab Minar.

Overnight stay.

# DAY 03: DELHI - AGRA (APPROX. 04 HOURS' DRIVE)

Early morning drive to Agra.

Early in the afternoon, join an optional visit to the Sheroes Hangout Café, an establishment that aims to empower acid attack survivors.

Late afternoon, take in the beauty of Mehtab Bagh, a charbagh complex to the north of the Taj Mahal, on the east bank of Yamuna River. Take in the spectacular view of the Taj Mahal from here, as envisioned by the Mughals centuries ago.

Overnight stay.

### DAY 04: AGRA

Early in the morning, experience the awe inspiring beauty of the Taj Mahal at sunrise.

Later visit the Agra Fort, another UNESCO World Heritage Site from the same era. Overnight stay.

(Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays)

## DAY 05: AGRA - CHAND BAORI - JAIPUR (APPROX. 5 HOURS'



#### DRIVE)

In the morning, leave Agra by road for Jaipur.

Enroute visit the beautiful Chand Baori (stepwell) in Abhaneri village. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 06: JAIPUR

In the morning, enjoy a Jeep ride to Amber fort. En route to the fort, stop at Hawa Mahal.

In the afternoon, visit Maharaja's City Palace and the Jantar Mantar. Overnight stay.

### DAY 07: JAIPUR - JODHPUR (APPROX. 6-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Jodhpur. Late afternoon, enjoy an interesting walk through the city's bustling



Clock Tower market. Overnight stay.

#### **DAY 08: JODHPUR**

In the morning, visit the 5-km long Mehrangarh Fort, situated on a 125-mt high hill. Later in the day, visit Jaswant Thada- a cluster of royal cenotaphs made of white marble.

Overnight stay.

# DAY 09: JODHPUR – RANAKPUR - UDAIPUR (APPROX. 06 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Udaipur, stopping at Ranakpur en route, to take in an exceptionally beautiful complex of one of the largest and most important Jain temples in India. Later continue to Udaipur. Overnight stay in Udaipur.



#### DAY 10: UDAIPUR

In the morning, visit the City Palace and the Jagdish Temple. Also visit the Sahelion Ki Bari gardens and then enjoy a drive around the Fatehsagar Lake.

Late in the afternoon, relish a relaxing boat ride on **Lake Pichola.** Overnight stay.

#### DAY 11: UDAIPUR/DELHI BY FLIGHT

Transfer to the airport in time to board flight to Delhi. On arrival in the capital, transfer to the hotel.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 12: LEAVE DELHI

Transfer to airport to board your return flight back home. Safe onward travels

# **GOLDEN TRIANGLE WITH RANTHAMBORE**

# 09 Nights & 10 Days

Route: Delhi (02) – Agra (02) – Ranthambore (02) – Jaipur (02) – Delhi (01)







# Best time to visit: October to April (also May & June for wildlife enthusiasts)

India is certainly a place where a lot of kingdoms and royal dynasties have spent their time. It is only because of these rulers that India is a multicultural country. Be it Mughals, British, French or the Portuguese, every ruling culture has added something brilliant into the already charismatic culture of this ever charming nation. This exclusive tour brings to you the rich heritage and the lost era of Mughal rulers when everything was larger than life. Elaborate cuisines and tales of bravery mark two specific aspects of Mughals. Rajput kingdoms spread across northern parts of India brought so much colour, luxurious lifestyle and smart architecture to India. Ranthambore with tis deciduous forest is the home to Royal Bengal Tiger. The park offers a habitat to a variety of birds, and animals. The Indian Sambar deer, Chital-spotted deer, the shy Sloth Bear along with peacoks, drongos, parakeets and other varieties of birds make it to this list.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Rickshaw ride through the bazaars of Delhi
- Experience the Taj Mahal in Agra at sunrise
- Amazing views of the Taj Mahal from Mehtab Bagh in Agra
- Train journey on Indian rail
- Tiger safari in the Ranthambore National Park

#### DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 02: DELHI

In the morning, explore the historic lanes of Purani Dilli- visit Jama Masjid, enjoy a rickshaw ride at Chandni Chowk, drive past the Red Fort, and stop at Raj Ghat.

Spend the afternoon in New Delhi with a visit to the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, and then drive past India Gate, President's Estate, and the Parliament House. Later in the day, visit Humayun's Tomb and the Qutab Minar.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 03: DELHI - AGRA (APPROX. 04 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Agra.

Late afternoon, take in the beauty of Mehtab Bagh, a charbagh complex to the north of the Taj Mahal, on the east bank of Yamuna River. Take in the spectacular view of the Taj Mahal from here, as envisioned by the Mughals centuries ago.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 04: IN AGRA

Early in the morning, experience the awe inspiring beauty of the Taj Mahal at sunrise.

Later visit the Agra Fort, another UNESCO World Heritage Site from the same era.

Overnight stay.

(Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays)

#### DAY 05: AGRA - FATEHPUR SIKRI – BHARATPUR - SAWAI MADHOPUR BY TRAIN

In the morning, leave Agra by road to visit Fatehpur Sikri (an approx.



45 min drive).

Post visit, transfer to Bharatpur railway station to board train for Sawai Madhopur.

On arrival, transfer to your wildlife resort. Overnight stay.

#### **DAY 06: IN RANTHAMBORE**

Early morning & late afternoon safaris in Ranthambore National Park. Formerly the hunting grounds for the Maharajahs of Jaipur, today this is one of the finest tiger reserves in the country. Ranthambore sanctuary has a large number of fauna; you may be able to see sambhar, chital, nilgai, chinkara, langur, wild boar, peafowl, and of course, the King of the Jungle- the Great Indian Tiger.

A choice of jeep and canter safaris is available to be booked. Overnight stay.



### DAY 07: RANTHAMBORE - JAIPUR (APPROX. 4-HOURS' DRIVE)

Early morning safari in Ranthambore National Park. Later, drive to Jaipur. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 08: JAIPUR

In the morning, enjoy a Jeep ride to Amber fort. En route to the fort, stop at Hawa Mahal. In the afternoon, visit Maharaja's City Palace and the Jantar Mantar. Overnight stay.

# DAY 09: JAIPUR - DELHI (APPROX. 5 HOURS' DRIVE)

Morning at leisure.

Later drive to Delhi, and on arrival, check in at the hotel. Overnight stay.

## DAY 10: LEAVE DELHI

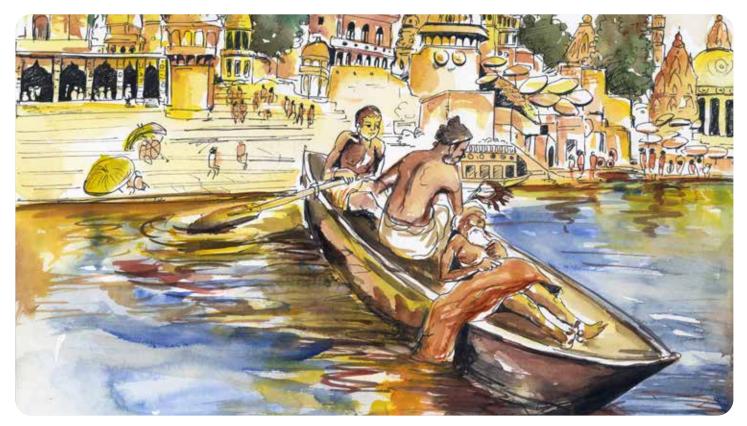
Transfer to Delhi airport in time to board your return flight back home.

## Safe onward travels

# NORTHERN INDIA TOUR

# 12 Nights & 13 Days

Route: Delhi (02) – Lucknow (02) - Varanasi (02)- Khajuraho (01)- Gwalior (01) - Agra (02) – Jaipur (02) – Delhi







#### Best time to visit: October till mid-April

The story of India changed with each dynasty that ruled over centuries, each leaving a distinct mark on the culture and architecture. Lucknow brings to life the rich heritage and the lost era of Mughal rulers when everything was larger than life. Rajput kingdom brought colour, luxurious lifestyle and Indo-Islamic architecture to India with intricate carvings and balconies. Witness life and death as two permanent aspects of the reality at ghats of the ancient city Varanasi. Admire the silent pictures of UNESCO temples of Khajuraho which are far beyond from the time in which these were actually painted and carved. The magnificent fort of Gwalior tells its own story. Finally, engage in the tales of love at the Taj Mahal.

### **Tour Highlights:**

- Take a Cycle Rickshaw ride through the bazaars of Old Delhi
- Explore Lucknow through a guided heritage walk
- Witness Aarti on the banks of Ganges in Varanasi symbolizing profound connection between Hindu devotee and their Almighty.
- Enjoy a short train journey from Jhansi to Gwalior-Agra
- Take in mesmerising views of the Taj Mahal in Agra

# DAY 01 : ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to your hotel Overnight stay.

# DAY 02: DELHI

In the morning, explore the historic lanes of Purani Dilli- visit Jama

Masjid, enjoy a rickshaw ride at Chandni Chowk, drive past the Red Fort, and stop at Raj Ghat.

Spend the afternoon in New Delhi with a visit to the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, and then drive past India Gate, President's Estate, and the Parliament House. Later in the day, visit Humayun's Tomb and the Qutab Minar.

Overnight stay.

## DAY 03: DELHI/ LUCKNOW (BY FLIGHT)

In the morning transfer to Delhi airport to board the flight for Lucknow. On arrival, transfer to the hotel.

In the evening, explore the lanes of Lucknow through a guided heritage walk.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 04: LUCKNOW

In the morning, visit Rumi Darwaza, Bara Imambara, Husainabad Immambara, and the Asafuddaula Immambara.

Later, visit the British Residency and La Martiniere College. Overnight stay.

### DAY 05: LUCKNOW=VARANASI (BY TRAIN)

Post breakfast, transfer to Lucknow railway station to board the train for Varanasi.

On arrival, transfer to the hotel. In the evening, take in the awe inspiring devotional Aarti on the ghats of the river Ganga. Overnight stay.



#### DAY 06: VARANASI

Early morning boat cruise on the Ganga – the holiest of rivers in India. Later visit Sarnath. Also visit Bharat Kala Bhawan (closed on Sundays). Overnight stay.

(Sarnath museum is closed on Fridays; Bharat Kala Bhawan is closed on Sundays)

### DAY 07: VARANASI/ KHAJURAHO (BY FLIGHT)

In time, transfer to airport to board flight for Khajuraho. On arrival, transfer to the hotel.

In the afternoon, visit the Western and Eastern groups of Khajurao's famous temples. Overnight stay.

17 | Training Brochure

# DAY 08: KHAJURAHO-JHANSI (APPROX 4:30 HOURS DRIVE) & JHANSI-GWALIOR (BY TRAIN)

In the morning, leave Khajuraho by surface to Jhansi; enroute visit Orchha known for its Palaces.

Later, continue drive to Jhansi railway station to board the train to Gwalior. On arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Overnight stay.

### DAY 09: GWALIOR - AGRA (BY TRAIN)

In the morning, visit the Gwalior Fort. Later, visit the the museum in Jai Vilas Palace.

In time, transfer to Gwalior railway station to board train for Agra. On arrival, transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay. (Jai Vilas Palace Museum is closed on Wednesdays)

#### DAY 10: AGRA

Early in the morning, experience the awe inspiring beauty of the Taj Mahal at sunrise.

Later visit the Agra Fort, another UNESCO World Heritage Site from the same era.

Overnight stay.

(Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays)

#### DAY 11: AGRA - ABHANERI - JAIPUR (APPROX 5 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, leave Agra by road for Jaipur. Enroute, visit the beautiful Chand Baori (Stepwell) in Abhaneri village. Overnight stay.



### DAY 12: JAIPUR

In the morning, enjoy a Jeep ride to Amber fort. En route to the fort, stop at Hawa Mahal. In the afternoon, visit Maharaja's City Palace and the Jantar Mantar. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 13: JAIPUR- DELHI (APPROX 4 HOURS' DRIVE)

Morning at leisure.

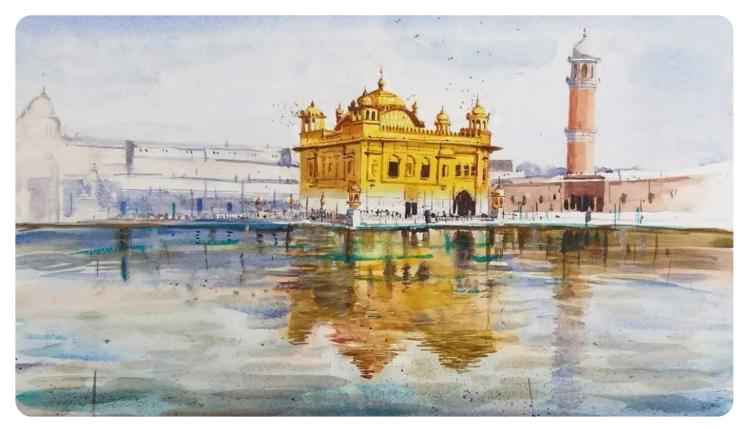
Later, drive to Delhi and proceed directly to the Delhi airport to board the return flight back home.

### Safe onward travels

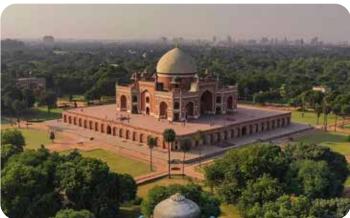
# INDIAN HIMALAYAN HERITAGE

# 10 Nights & 11 Days

Route: Delhi (02) – Shimla (03) – Pragpur (01) – Dharamsala (02) – Amritsar (02) - Delhi (01)







#### Best time to visit: October till mid-April

Himachal Pradesh means region of snowy mountains and rightly so as the region is home to the Shivalik range of the Western Himalayas. Start with Delhi the capital of Independent India and travel on the World Heritage Kalka Shimla train to Shimla the erstwhile summer capital of British India. Shimla offers scenic landscapes, pedestrian walkways of the Mall road with its colonial charm and local bazaars thronged by shops selling wooden handicrafts and souvenirs. Your Himlayan sojourn continues through the hamlet of Pragpur at the foothills of Himalayas and Dharamsala, that plays host to the Tibetan Government-in-exile. Golden Temple in Amritsar and the colourful cermony at Wagah border between India and Pakistan will leave you with lasting memories of this tour.

### **Tour Highlights:**

- Rickshaw ride through the bazaars of Delhi.
- Toy Train ride on the UNESCO World Heritage Kalka-Shimla railway.
- Heritage walk of Shimla.
- Experience a change of guard ceremony at Wagah border.
- Explore India's history at the Partition museum in Amritsar.

#### DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay.

# DAY 02: DELHI

In the morning, explore the historic lanes of Purani Dilli- visit Jama Masjid, enjoy a rickshaw ride at Chandni Chowk, drive past the Red Fort, and stop at Raj Ghat.

Spend the afternoon in New Delhi with a visit to the Bangla Sahib Gurudwara, and then drive past India Gate, President's Estate, and the Parliament House.

Later in the day, visit Humayun's Tomb and the Qutab Minar. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 03: DELHI - KALKA - SHIMLA (BY TRAIN)

Transfer to the Delhi railway station to board the train to Kalka.

At Kalka, connect to the toy train for Shimla. Enjoy your journey on the narrow gauge UNESCO World Heritage Kalka-Shimla railway, built in 1898, with 107 tunnels and 864 bridges.

On arrival, transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 04: SHIMLA

In the morning, experience Shimla through a guided Heritage Walk. Situated at 2205m and set amidst cool pine-clad hills, this charming hill station was discovered by the British in 1819 and was their summer capital. See the State Museum and Library, Vice regal Lodge (Indian Institute of Advanced Studies), Christ Church, Gaiety theatre, and the Vidhan Afternoon leisure. In the afternoon, Overnight stay.

#### DAY 05: SHIMLA

SHIMLA Morning visit Jakhoo Hill, the town's highest peak; the summit is crowned with a temple dedicated to Lord Hanuman. Overnight stay.



### DAY 06: SHIMLA - PRAGPUR (APPROX. 7 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Pragpur.

Later in the day, walk through Pragpur village's colourful market, and interact with the locals living there.

Overnight stay.

# DAY 07: PRAGPUR – DHARAMSHALA (APPROX. 5-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, walk through the Heritage village - founded about 3 centuries ago, Pragpur has held onto the essence of an earlier era - unchanged shops, cobbled streets, ornamental village tank, mud plastered and slate roofed houses.

Afternoon drive to Dharamshala.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 07: DHARAMSHALA

In the morning, drive to the Tibetan Settlement in Mcleodganj – the seat of the Dalai Lama- and see the museum & the main temple here. Norbulingka Institute was founded near Dharamshala in 1988 for preserving Tibetan culture, literature and art.

Overnight stay.

(Norbulingka Institute is closed on Sundays)

# DAY 08: DHARAMSHALA - AMRITSAR (APPROX. 5-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE)

DHARAMSHALA - AMRITSAR (APPROX. 5-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE) In the morning, leave Dhramshala for Amritsar. Late evening witness Palaki ceremony in Golden Temple. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 09: AMRITSAR

Early morning visit to the Golden Temple, also called Sri Harmandir Sahib, one of the holiest sites for the Sikhs. Also visit the historic Jalianwala Bagh.

Afternoon excursion to Atari border for the elaborate evening border ceremony.

Overnight stay.

### DAY 10: AMRITSAR = DELHI (BY TRAIN)

In the morning, visit the Partition Museum, which comprehensively charts the Partition of India in 1947 and its impact on the people who had to endure it.

In time transfer to Amritsar railway station to board train for Delhi. On arrival, transfer to the hotel.



(The Partition Museum is closed on Mondays)

#### DAY 11: LEAVE DELHI

Transfer to Delhi airport in time to board your return flight back home.

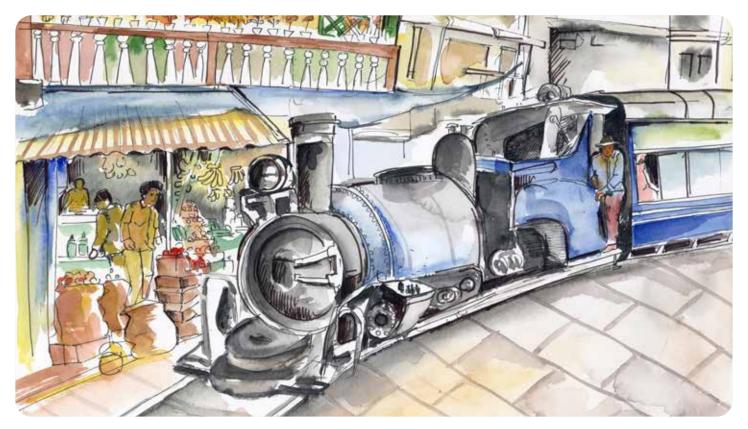
### Safe onward travels

Overnight stay.

# EASTERN HIMALAYAN ADVENTURE

# 10 Nights & 11 Days

Route: Kolkata (2) - Darjeeling (3) - Pelling (1) - Gangtok (2) - Kalimpong (1) - Kolkata (1)







#### Best time to visit: February to May & September to November

This elite tour to the North-east India will help you explore the beauty of nature, along with witnessing the historical architectures, religious sentiments, and numerous monasteries. Experience the glorious history of Kolkata with its imperial landmark buildings some of which are now museum. Experience the local culture in the narrow lanes of Kumar Tuli. Immerse in the local culture where cricket and football are part of the city's identity. The hills of Darjeeling and surrounding vistas of tea gardens will enhance your senses. Chug along the picturesque locales in a UNESCO heritage Himalayan railway.

Ancient monasteries of Pelling, Gangtok and Kalimpong offer a glimpse of carved sculptures, beautiful paintings, precious images and statues that adds to the legacy of India. All this along with the views of mighty Himalayas offer a truly memorable experience.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Visit the erstwhile colonial capital, Kolkata.
- Enjoy a walk in the famed flower markets of Kolkata.
- Toy Train ride on the UNESCO World Heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.
- Awe inspiring panoramic views of the Himalayas

### DAY 01: ARRIVE KOLKATA

Arrive in Kolkata by international flight.

Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to hotel. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 02: KOLKATA

Early morning, walk through the colourful flower markets of Kolkata.

Later in the day, visit the Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, St. John's Church, Raj Bhavan, High Court, the Legislative Assembly, Eden Gardens, the Strand, the Kolkata Race Course, the Kali temple, the Park Street Cemetery, and drive past BBD Bagh.

Overnight stay. (Victoria Memorial is closed on Mondays.)

# DAY 03: KOLKATA/BAGDOGRA-DARJEELING (FLIGHT & APPROX. 04 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, transfer to the airport to board flight for Bagdogra

On arrival at Bagdogra International Airport, transfer to Darjeeling. Overnight stay.

### DAY 04: IN DARJEELING

In the morning, enjoy a Toy Train ride from Darjeeling to Ghoom and back by the celebrated UNESCO World Heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

In the afternoon, visit St. Andrew's Church, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. Also visit the Tibetan Refugee Centre. Overnight stay.

(The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute is closed on Sundays and government holidays)



### DAY 05: IN DARJEELING

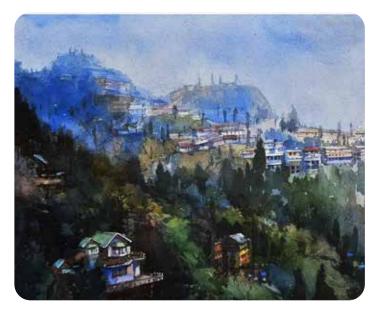
Early in the morning, visit Tiger Hill (13 km from Darjeeling) to see the beautiful sunrise over the Himalayan ranges – on a clear day enjoy amazing views of Mt. Kanchenjunga and possibly even Mt Everest.

Later in the morning, visit a tea plantation and its adjoining tea factory to see their timeless tea manufacturing process. Overnight stay.

## DAY 06: DARJEELING - PELLING (APPROX. 06 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Pelling.

Visit Pemeyangste Monastery in the afternoon, one of Sikkim's oldest and most premier monasteries. Overnight stay.



### DAY 07: PELLING – GANGTOK (APPROX. 05 HOURS' DRIVE) In the morning, drive to Gangtok.

Enjoy an afternoon visit to Rumtek Monastery; one of the largest of its kind in the country, it showcases some of the best of Tibetan architecture.

Overnight stay.

### DAY 08: IN GANGTOK

Morning visit the Enchey Monastery.

In the afternoon, enjoy a walk to the colourful Mall road, and explore

its many offerings. Later, visit the Directorate of Handloom and Handicrafts. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 09: GANGTOK-KALIMPONG (APPROX. 03 HOURS' DRIVE) In the morning, leave Gangtok for Kalimpong.

In the afternoon, visit Morgan House and the Army Golf Club. Also visit the Himalayan Handmade Paper Centre and Durpin monastery, the Roman Catholic Church, and Pine View Nursery. Overnight stay.

### **DAY 10: KALIMPONG-BAGDOGRA /KOLKATA BY FLIGHT** Enjoy the morning at leisure.

In time, transfer to Bagdogra airport (3 hrs. drive) to board the flight to Kolkata.

On arrival, transfer to hotel. Overnight stay. DAY 11: DEPARTURE KOLKATA

Transfer to the Kolkata airport in time to board your return flight back home.

#### Safe onward travels

# COLONIAL KOLKATA & DARJEELING HERITAGE TRAIN & BHUTAN 16 Nights & 17 Days

Route: Kolkata (2) – Darjeeling (3) – Gangtok (2) – Kalimpong (1) – Phuentsholing (1) - Thimphu (2) – Punakha (2) – Paro (2) – Kolkata (01)







# Best time to visit: February to May & September to November

Explore the history of Kolkata where the East India company formed its roots. While this city of joy mesmerizes you with its temples, pujas and busy markets, it also showcases memorabilia of the British Raj in the forms of churches and museums. The memorial of Mother Teresa and Belur Math adds a spiritual touch to the city. Enjoy the serenity of Northeastern Himalayan region of India as you drive through the hills of Darjeeling and Sikkim dotted with tea gardens and monasteries. A UNESCO train journey adds to through the mountains adds to experience. Finally explore the land of thunder dragon, as you visit its beautiful Dzongs, museum, bazaars and monasteries each unique in its architecture and frescoes. Enjoy this enchanting land that officially measures national happiness and well-being.

### **Tour Highlights:**

- Visit the erstwhile colonial capital, Kolkata.
- Enjoy a walk in the famed flower market of Kolkata.
- Toy Train ride on the UNESCO World Heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.
- Experience the majestic beauty of Bhutan.
- Trek to the Tigers Nest Monastery at the edge of a cliff
- Awe inspiring panoramic views of the Himalayas

### DAY 01: ARRIVE KOLKATA

Arrive in Kolkata by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to your hotel. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 02: KOLKATA

Early morning, walk through the colourful flower markets of Kolkata.

Later in the day, visit the Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, St. John's Church, Raj Bhavan, High Court, the Legislative Assembly, Eden Gardens, the Strand, the Kolkata Race Course, the Kali temple, the Park Street Cemetery, and drive past BBD Bagh.

Overnight stay. (Victoria Memorial is closed on Mondays.)

# DAY 03: KOLKATA /BAGDOGRA – DARJEELING (FLIGHT & APPROX. 04 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, transfer to the airport to board a flight to Bagdogra.

On arrival at Bagdogra International Airport, transfer to Darjeeling. Overnight stay.

#### **DAY 04: IN DARJEELING**

In the morning, enjoy a Toy Train ride from Darjeeling to Ghoom and back by the celebrated UNESCO World Heritage Darjeeling Himalayan Railway.

In the afternoon, visit St. Andrew's Church, the Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. Also visit the Tibetan Refugee Centre. Overnight stay.

(The Himalayan Mountaineering Institute is closed on Sundays and government holidays)

#### DAY 05: IN DARJEELING

Early in the morning, visit Tiger Hill (13 km from Darjeeling) to see the beautiful sunrise over the Himalayan ranges – on a clear day enjoy



amazing views of Mt. Kanchenjunga and possibly even Mt Everest. Later in the morning, visit a tea plantation and its adjoining tea factory to see their timeless tea manufacturing process. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 06: DARJEELING - GANGTOK (APPROX. 4 HRS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Gangtok.

In the evening, enjoy a walk to the colourful Mall Road, and then visit the Directorate of Handloom and Handicrafts. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 07: IN GANGTOK

In the morning, visit the Enchey Monastery, which was built perched on a ridge above Gangtok in 1910. Also visit the Namgyal Institute of Tibetology.

29 | Training Brochure



Later, visit the Rumtek Monastery to see a brilliant example of traditional Tibetan architecture. Overnight stay.

# DAY 08: GANGTOK-KALIMPONG (APPROX. 3 HRS' DRIVE)

In the morning, leave Gangtok for Kalimpong.

In the afternoon, visit Morgan House and the Army Golf Club. Also visit the Himalayan Handmade Paper Centre and Durpin monastery, the Roman Catholic Church, and Pine View Nursery. Overnight stay.

## DAY 09: KALIMPONG -PHUENTSHOLING (APPROX. 05 HRS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Phuentsholing- a frontier town in southern Bhutan.

Later in the day, take a stroll around Phuentsholing city centre and visit Zangtho Pelri, a three storied monastery, literally 'the paradise of Guru Rinpoche'. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 10: PHUENTSHOLING - THIMPHU (APPROX. 5 HRS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to the capital of Bhutan, Thimphu. En route, stop to visit Kharbandi Gompa, a monastery set up in 1967 by the Royal Grandmother, Ashi Phuntsho Chodron.

In the afternoon, visit the Buddha Dordenma, one of the largest sitting statues of the Buddha in the world. Located atop a hill in Kuenselphodrang Nature Park, the Buddha Dordenma houses 125,000 smaller statues of the Buddha, symbolizing blessings and peace. Also visit the National Memorial Chorten, popularly known as 'the most visible religious landmark in Bhutan'.

In the evening, walk around and explore Thimphu's main street and city centre.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 11: IN THIMPHU

Visit the Postal Museum in Thimphu, and then embark on a fascinating nature walk to Cheri monastery. The monastery has a number of hermitages and small temples located on its slopes, commanding spectacular views.

Later, explore Centenary Farmers Market and visit Tashichoedzong. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 12: THIMPHU / PUNAKHA (APPROX. 03 HRS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive up to Dochu-la pass. At 3088m/ 10130 ft, this is

the highest point on the route, and as such, offers some fantastic views.

Afterwards, proceed onwards to Punakha which is located at an elevation of 1300m, and served as the capital of Bhutan until 1955.

In the afternoon, visit Punakha Dzong, then a short excursion to Chimi Lhakhang.

Time permitting, take a stroll in and around Punakha town in the evening.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 13: PUNAKHA & EXCURSION TO WANGDUE

In the morning, take in a beautiful hike to the regal Khamsum Yuelley Namgel Chorten, an approximately 2 hour long round trip.

In the afternoon, visit Wangduephodrang Dzong and explore the village of Rinchengang.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 14: PUNAKHA - PARO (APPROX 04- HRS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Paro along the scenic highway- the beautiful valley encapsulates within itself a rich culture, scenic beauty, and hundreds of myths and legends.

In the afternoon, visit Ta Dzong which now houses Bhutan's National Museum.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 15: IN PARO

In the morning, embark on a fascinating excursion to Taktshang Monastery or Tiger's Nest, an approximately 5 hour long round trip walk.



In the late afternoon, drive to end of the valley to see the newly restored Drukgyel Dzong. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 16: PARO-KOLKATA (FLIGHT)

Transfer to Paro airport to board the flight to Kolkata. On arrival, transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 17: DEPART KOLKATA

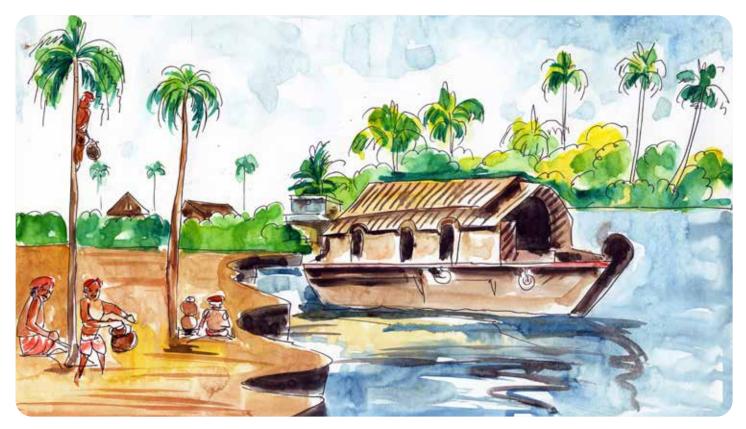
Transfer to Kolkata airport in time to board your return flight back home.

#### Safe onward travels

# CLASSIC KERALA

# 09 Nights &10 Days

Route: Kochi (02) – Munnar (02) – Thekkady (02) – Houseboat (01) – Kumarakom (2)







#### Best time to visit: Mid-October to March

Popular as the much boasted slogan of 'God's own country, Kerala is laid back, calm and appears slow unlike other states in India. Blessed with the nature's bounty, it has sloppy mountains, refreshing backwaters, adorable tea estates and unique flora, fauna to experience. Offering an old-world charm and providing rich stories of a bygone era, Kerala ignites the spark needed for life in its people. Famous for its sea food, spices, tingling cuisine – it has gained acceptance all over the nation for its culinary delights. The place comes to life during temple festivals and snake boat races which are a unique example of teamwork and competitive spirit. Art and creativity flow in its life blood with abundance of dance forms like Kathakali and Bharatanatyam. Martial art styles like Kalaripayattu are also popular over here. Old churches and cathedrals remind of rulers from Portugal, Britain and France who enriched the place.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Heritage walk of Fort Kochi.
- A performance of Kathakali dance in Kochi
- Enjoy a guided walk through Periyar National Park
- Overnight cruise on a traditional houseboat

## DAY 01: ARRIVE KOCHI (COCHIN)

Arrive in Kochi by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay.



#### DAY 02: KOCHI

Explore the local life and culture of Fort Kochi through a guided walking tour, the ideal way to discover a historic town brimming with tales of myriad seafaring visitors who came to the city to trade. Also see the age-old Chinese fishing nets still in usage, the historic St. Francis Church, and the Santa Cruz Basilica, and enjoy plenty of opportunities to mingle & interact with the locals.

Later, visit the Jewish Synagogue & the Dutch Palace in Mattancherry island.

In the evening, witness a mesmerising performance of Kathakali- a spectacular Indian drama showcased through dance, and based on stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The dancers are elaborately made up with paint and masks, and accompanied by drummers and musicians.

Overnight stay.

(Jewish Synagogue is closed on Saturdays; Dutch Palace is closed on Fridays)

#### DAY 03: KOCHI - MUNNAR (APPROX. 4-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Munnar along a route filled with incredible views of plantations.

En route, stop at a plantation home for lunch with a local family. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 04: MUNNAR

Enjoy a walk through a tea plantation and visit the Tea Museum. If possible, visit the Eravikulam National Park, home to the endangered Nilgiri Tahr mountain goat.

Overnight stay.

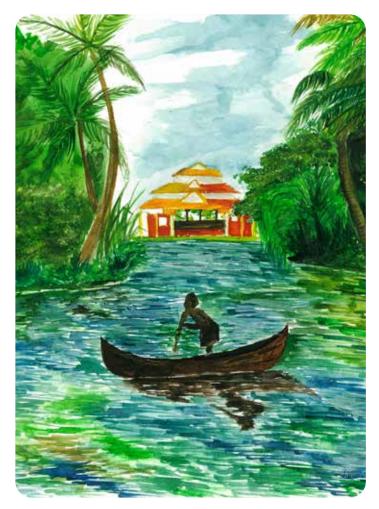
(The KDHP Tea Museum is closed on Mondays) DAY 05: MUNNAR - THEKKADY (APPROX. 4-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE) In the morning, drive on to Thekkady.

Visit a **Spice Garden** in the afternoon to see cardamom, cinnamon, pepper, clove, vanilla, nutmeg, coffee, and other plants growing their natural habitat. Overnight stay.

DAY 06: THEKKADY

In the morning, experience the Periyar National Park by way of a guided nature walk led by a trained tribal guide. This walk offers an excellent opportunity to sight elephants, wild boar, monkeys, birds, butterflies and other such wildlife. The trail passes through evergreen and deciduous forests interspersed with marshy grasslands and is a gentle trek.

34 | Training Brochure



Enjoy the afternoon at leisure to relax. Overnight stay.

# DAY 07: THEKKADY - ALLEPPEY – BACKWATERS (APPROX. 4-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Alleppey, a city amongst the backwaters of Kerala.

In Alleppey, board a traditional, thatch-roofed 'Kettuvallum' or houseboat for a tranquil overnight cruise amongst the enchanting canals and lagoons of Kerala. Stay on board overnight.

#### **DAY 08: BACKWATERS - KUMARAKOM**

After breakfast on board, disembark and transfer to the hotel in Kumarakom.

Enjoy the serenity and relax for the remainder of the day. Overnight stay.

### DAY 09: KUMARAKOM

The day is at leisure.

Enjoy the amenities available at your hotel, including some possibilities to rejuvenate with traditional Ayurvedic treatments or to relax in a yoga class.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 10: KUMARAKOM - KOCHI & DEPARTURE

According to your flight timings, transfer to Kochi airport (approx. 2:30 hours' drive) to board the flight for your onward destination.

### Safe onward travels

# CLASSIC SOUTH INDIA

# 13 Nights & 14 Days

Route: Mahabalipuram (2) – Pondicherry (2) – Tanjore (1) – Madurai (2) – Thekkady (2) – Houseboat (1) – Kumarakom (1) – Kochi (2)







#### Best time to visit: Mid-October to March

A beautifully crafted journey which has the right ingredients to satiate your soul and challenge your perceptions about everything you see, hear and taste. This amazing program is an opportunity to relish nature and seaside at its very best. Showering calm and comfort over you from all sides, this soothing trail of beaches and unique destinations prove that travelling in itself is a bigger joy than simply reaching and staying at a single place. Whether its chaotic Chennai or murmuring Mahabalipuram, the enchantment is unbeatable. The rich traditions of Pondicherry remind of an old India soaked in its traditions and religious customs. The serene boat cruises tell you the story and make you dwell deeper into the lives of rural people around Periyar, Kumarakom and Alleppey. Experiencing wildlife through a visit to the Periyar sanctuary is unforgettable due to presence of lions, langur, bison and sambar.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Visit a Kanchipuram handloom silk saree weaving center
- Experience the evening temple closing ceremony in Madurai
- Interact with locals at a potters village near Madurai
- Enjoy a guided walk through Periyar National Park
- Overnight cruise on a traditional houseboat
- Heritage walk around the lanes of Fort Kochi
- A performance of Kathakali dance in Kochi

## DAY 01: ARRIVE CHENNAI / MAHABALIPURAM

Arrive in Chennai by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival, and transfer straight to Mahabalipuram



(2 hours drive). Overnight stay.

#### DAY 02: MAHABALIPURAM

In the morning, visit Mahabalipuram- an open air museum of sculpture in living rock. The piece de resistance is Arjuna's Penance, the world's largest bas-relief, 764 ft. by 288 ft., or 27m by 9m. The Shore Temple has stood by the sea for 12 centuries. Overnight stay.

# DAY 03: MAHABALIPURAM / KANCHIPURAM / PONDICHERRY – APPROX 4 HRS DRIVE

In the morning, drive to Pondicherry, visiting Kanchipuram en route.

Kanchipuram is one of Hinduism's seven most sacred cities and this 'Golden City of a Thousand Temples' dates to the early Cholas in

the second century. The city is also famous for their Kanchipuram (Kanchivaram) silk saris.

Continue on to Pondicherry. Overnight stay.

#### **DAY 04: PONDICHERRY**

Morning take a rickshaw ride around the serene boulevards of Pondicherry's French Quarter and savour the Gallic colonial style of architecture, especially the 200-year old Raj Niwas. Then discover your inner yogi with a visit to Sri Aurobindo Ashram Overnight stay.

#### DAY 05: PONDICHERRY / TANJORE (4 HOURS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Tanjore.

In the afternoon, visit the Brahadeeswara temple dedicated to Lord Shiva- a UNESCO World Heritage Monument. Also visit the Palace, which dates back to the 14th century and was partly built by the Nayaks and partly by Marathas. Overnight stay.

# DAY 06: TANJORE / MADURAI (4 HOURS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Madurai.

Visit Meenakshi temple in the evening, to see the iconic temple closing ceremony in which the idol of Lord Shiva is shifted to Goddess Parvati's temple. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 07: MADURAI

In the morning, visit the Great Meenakshi Temple again, this time

going into detail regarding the temple's history and significance. The temple is dedicated to the consort of Lord Shiva with its towering Gopurams, rising high above the surrounding township. Also visit the Tirumala Nayak Palace.

Afternoon excursion to a Potters Village near Madurai. Overnight stay.

### DAY 08: MADURAI / THEKKADY (4.30-5 HOURS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Thekkady.

Explore a Spice Garden in the afternoon to see cardamom, cinnamon, pepper, clove, vanilla, nutmeg, coffee, and other plants growing in their natural habitat.

Overnight stay.

## DAY 09: THEKKADY

In the morning, explore Periyar National Park with a guided walk. Overnight stay.

# DAY 10: THEKKADY / KUMARAKOM / BACKWATERS (4-4.30 HOURS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Kumarakom and board a traditional, thatchroofed 'Kettuvallum' or houseboat for a tranquil overnight cruise amongst the enchanting canals and lagoons of Kerala. Overnight on board.

### DAY 11: BACKWATERS / KUMARAKOM

In the morning, disembark from the houseboat and transfer to your hotel.

Rest of the day relax and enjoy the serene waters of Vembanad lake.

Walk along the backwaters or take a rejuvenating massage. Overnight stay.

## DAY 12: KUMARAKOM / KOCHI (3 HOURS DRIVE)

Leave for Kochi in the morning. Overnight stay.

### DAY 13: KOCHI

Explore the local life and culture of Fort Kochi through a guided walking tour, the ideal way to discover a historic town brimming with tales of myriad seafaring visitors who came to the city to trade. Also see the age-old Chinese fishing nets still in usage, the historic St. Francis Church, and the Santa Cruz Basilica, and enjoy plenty of opportunities to mingle & interact with the locals.

Later, visit the Jewish Synagogue & the Dutch Palace in Mattancherry island.

In the evening, witness a mesmerising performance of Kathakali- a spectacular Indian drama showcased through dance, and based on stories from the Ramayana and Mahabharata. The dancers are elaborately made up with paint and masks, and accompanied by drummers and musicians.

#### Overnight stay.

(Jewish Synagogue is closed on Saturdays; Dutch Palace is closed on Fridays)

### DAY 14: LEAVE KOCHI

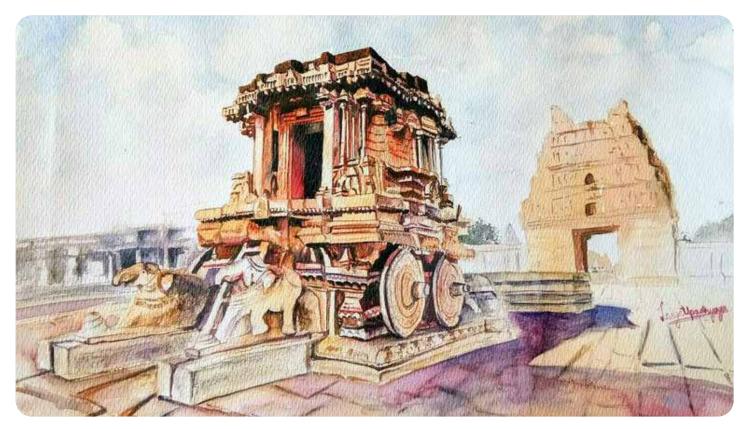
Transfer to airport in time to board the return flight back home.

# Safe onward travels

# SPICE AND COFFEE TRAILS

# 13 Nights & 14 Days

Route: Bangalore – Mysore (2) – Nagarhole (2) – Coorg (2) – Chikmaglur (2) – Hampi (2) – Goa (3)







#### Best time to visit: October through to March

The state fo Karnataka on the western coast offer a beautiful mix of architecture wild life and pristine beaches. Experience the diversity in culture and richness of its cultural palette as you visit Srirangapatnam for the Vishnu temple and summer palace of Tipu Sultan. Mysore known for its Palace and bazaars offers an eclectic mix of cuisine and culture. Explore the jungles of Nagarhole in search of the illusive Leopard and wild elephants. Awaken your senses with the fragrance of spices mixed and coffee as you visit Coorg. Get enchanted by remains of Viajayanagar Kingdom at UNESCO Hampi. Goa brings the hidden romance and the silent beauty of nature together on your palette.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Walk through the colorful Devaraja market in Mysore
- Experience forest safaris in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve
- Nature walk & Dubare Forest camp near Coorg
- Explore the ruins of Hampi

# DAY 01: ARRIVE BANGALORE / MYSORE (3-3.30 HOURS DRIVE) Arrive in Bangalore by international flight.

Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to Mysore. Overnight stay.

## DAY 02: MYSORE

In the morning, visit Srirangapatnam, the island fortress of Tipu Sultan.



In the afternoon, drive up to Chamundi hill to see Chamundeshwari Temple and enjoy a panoramic view of Mysore and the Nandi Bull, one of the largest in India. Later, visit Mysore Palace. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 03: MYSORE / NAGARHOLE (2 HOURS DRIVE)

Early morning, visit the colorful Devaraja market.

Later, drive to Nagarhole. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 04: NAGARHOLE

Early morning & late afternoon visits to Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, named after the river 'Nagarhole' which snakes through its rich tropical forests.

Overnight stay.

## DAY 05: NAGARHOLE / COORG (3 HOURS DRIVE)

Early morning visit to Nagarhole Tiger Reserve.

Later, leave for Coorg.

In the afternoon enjoy a guided tour of a working coffee and spice plantation on foot. Overnight stay.

### DAY 06: COORG

In the morning, visit Bylakuppe, the second largest Tibetan settlement outside Tibet, with a Tibetan monastery, a Golden temple, a Tibetan village and a flea market. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 07: COORG / CHIKAMAGALUR (4-4.30 HOURS DRIVE) Morning leave for Chikamagalur.

En route visit the heritage sites of Halebid & Belur. Overnight stay.

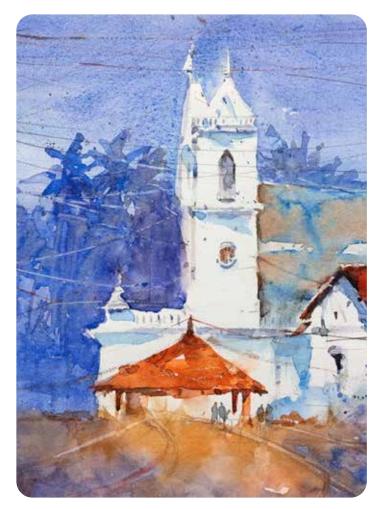
#### DAY 08: CHIKAMAGALUR

Day at leisure.

Explore the coffee plantation in the surroundings or simply relax by the pool or take a rejuvenating massage in the spa. Overnight stay.

### DAY 09: CHIKAMAGALUR / HAMPI (7 HOURS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Hampi- the capital city of a golden empire



with the Virupaksha Temple, the bazaar avenues, Vijaya Vittala Temple with its 56 musical pillars, the Lotus Mahal, the Hazararama Palace temple with imposing Lakshmi Narasimha, the majestic Stone Chariot and the massive Ganesha statues. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 10: HAMPI

Spend a full day exploring the ruins of Hampi. Overnight stay.

### DAY 11: HAMPI / GOA (7 HOURS DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Goa to relax and enjoy the sun & sand on its delightful beaches. Overnight stay.

# DAY 12 & 13: GOA

Days at leisure in Goa to relax on its various beaches.

Overnight stay.

# DAY 14: GOA / MUMBAI

In time board the flight for Mumbai to connect with your return flight back home.

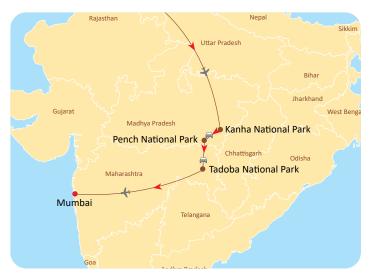
Safe onward travels

# JUNGLE BOOK ADVENTURE

# 10 Nights & 11 Days

Route: Delhi (01) – Kanha (03) – Pench (02) – Tadoba (03) – Mumbai (01)







#### Best time to visit: November to March

#### All National Parks are closed from June to September

Discovering the true pleasure in life is always easier than imagined. All you need to do is simply unplug yourself from the mundane and shake hands with the simplicity and thrill that our jungles have to offer. Combining simple living with the most natural ingredients of thrill, the wild flora and fauna lets you admire the versatile beauty in god's every creation. Seeing animals and plants you have never seen before adds up to your experience. Admiring the pristine beauty of these forests, you will be able to dive deeper into nature's blessings. Magnificence of wild species like the tiger, leopard, elephant, hyena, and sāmbhar will mesmerize the wildlife enthusiast inside you. The unforgettable flights and perching of the colourful birds will be an enjoyable experience.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Jeep Safaris in Kanha, Pench & Tadoba National Park.
- Visit a tribal village and meet with local people in Kanha.
- Explore the Gateway of India, the principal landmark of Mumbai built to commemorate the visit of King George in 1924

#### DAY 01: ARRIVE DELHI

Arrive in Delhi by international flight. Meeting & assistance on arrival and transfer to the hotel. Overnight stay.



# DAY 02: DELHI /RAIPUR BY FLIGHT AND DRIVE TO KANHA (04 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, transfer to Delhi airport to board the flight for Raipur.

On arrival, drive to Kanha National Park - stretching over 940 sq km and chiefly a sal and bamboo forest with grasslands and streams, this park is the sole habitat of the rare hard-ground Barasingha and has always been famous for their deer and tiger population besides numerous other mammals.

Overnight stay.

#### DAY 03: KANHA

Early morning & late afternoon shared Jeep safari in Kanha National Park.

Overnight stay.

(No safaris on Wednesday afternoons)

#### DAY 04: KANHA

Early morning & late afternoon shared Jeep safari in Kanha. In the afternoon, walk to the nearby tribal village and possibly meet with the locals.

Overnight stay. (No safaris on Wednesday afternoons)

### DAY 05: KANHA - PENCH (APPROX 4-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE)

Morning drive to Pench National Park- the wilderness and scenic aura of Pench is acknowledged as a major inspiration to Rudyard Kipling in writing the famous 'Jungle Book'. A happy home of exotic animal species such as sloth bear, four-horned antelope, mouse deer, spotted deer, sambar, barking deer, nilgai, and of course the elusive Tiger. Pench is a paradise for bird lovers as it's a home to over 170 species. Late afternoon shared jeep safari in the Pench National Park. Overnight stay.

(No safaris on Wednesday afternoons)

### DAY 06: PENCH

Early morning and late afternoon shared jeep safari in the Pench National Park.

Overnight stay. (No safaris on Wednesday afternoons)

### DAY 07: PENCH - TADOBA (APPROX. 4-1/2 HOURS' DRIVE)

In the morning, drive to Tadoba National Park - the largest national park in Maharashtra. Densely tropical dry deciduous forest and hills form the northern and western boundary of the tiger reserve. A

good habitat for Muggar crocodiles to thrive, Tadoba Tiger reserve is home of the famous Bengal Tiger, Indian leopard, sloth bear, blue bull, Hyena, deer, crocodile, and more. Tadoba also has around 195 species of birds.

Overnight stay. (Tadoba National Park is closed on Tuesdays)

#### DAY 08: TADOBA

Early morning and late afternoon shared jeep safari in the Tadoba National Park.

Overnight stay.

(Tadoba National Park is closed on Tuesdays)



#### DAY 09: TADOBA

Early morning and late afternoon shared jeep safari in the Tadoba National Park.

Overnight stay. (Tadoba National Park is closed on Tuesdays)

### DAY 10: TADOBA NATIONAL PARK - NAGPUR (APPROX. 03 HRS)/ MUMBAI (BY FLIGHT)

Early morning drive to Nagpur airport to board flight to Mumbai.

On arrival, transfer to the hotel.

Afternoon visit to Gateway of India, the principal landmark of Mumbai built to commemorate the visit of King George in 1924. See the amazing Gothic architecture of the Bombay High Court, and drive past the old secretariat, Rajabhai Clock Tower, Chatrapati Shivaji Terminal, Bombay University building, Flora Fountain, and other such buildings that are the colonial imprints left by the British. Complete the drive along the Marine Drive fondly called as 'the Queen's Necklace''. Overnight stay.

#### DAY 11: LEAVE MUMBAI

In the morning, transfer to Mumbai airport to board your return flight back home.

Safe onward travels

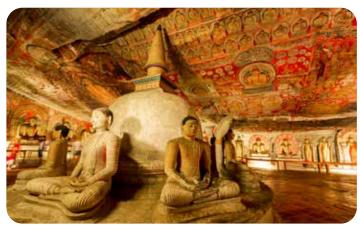
# HIGHLIGHTS OF SRI LANKA

# 13 Nights & 14 Days

Route: Negombo (01)-Sigiriya (2)-Kandy (1)-Nuwara Eliya (2)-Ella (2)-Yala(2)-Beach stay (3)







#### Best time to visit: Can be visited all through the year. June to August are warmer months and monsoon time in Sri Lanka.

Visit Sri Lanka, the island of serendipity. Shaped like a tear drop in Indian subcontinent, the emerald island has much to offer including beaches, ruins, wildlife, landscapes, cave temples, historic buildings, a rock fortress, and five UNESCO world heritage sites. Try the punchy Sri Lankan curries to add flavour to your experience. Dive into Buddhism as you visit the Dambulla caves and The Temple of The Tooth Relic in Kandy. Enjoy drives through high grown Ceylon tea plantations. Mingle with the locals during a train journey to Ella the picturesque town with hiking trails. A Jungle safari awaits you at Yala National Park. Beaches of Sri Lanka offer experiences ranging from a quiet beach stay; to whale watching and beach sports. The Sun and sand provide a truly relaxing finale to the holiday.

## **Tour Highlights:**

- Sigiriya Fortress
- Kandy Temple of the tooth
- Tea Plantation visit
- Train ride in a local train in Ella
- Little Adam's trek
- 2 Jungle safaris at Yala National Park
- Beach stay

# Day 01: Arrive Colombo, drive to Negombo Overnight: Negombo

On arrival Colombo airport, you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred directly to Negombo (approx. 20 mins drive)

On arrival, check in at your hotel. Overnight stay

## Day 02: Negombo – Dambulla – Sigiriya

**Breakfast at hotel** 

**Drive 3 ½ hrs. to Dambulla. Visit Dambulla Cave Temple**- Dambulla is famous for the five cave Temples on a rock. Some caves date back to 1st C.B.C. Thereafter, proceed to your hotel and check in.

Overnight stay

# Day 03: Sigiriya – Minneriya – Sigiriya Overnight: Sigiriya Breakfast at hotel

### Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Approx.15 mins drive

**Sigiriya**— is a "World Heritage Site" and the 5th Century "Fortress in the Sky" which is perhaps the most fantastic single wonder of the Island. It is also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the Palace on the summit of the 600-foot-high rock. The Water Gardens, Fountain Garden, summerhouse, Boulder Gardens and the Caves with the enclosed area should not be missed.

# Thereafter , drive 40 minutes to Minneriya National Park and enjoy a shared Jeep safari

**Minneriya National Park** – This National Park, 8889 hectares in extent, is famous for its large population of Elephants in herds of 100 to 150 roaming in the jungle and seen in the catchment area of the lake. The park also boasts of Wild Buffaloes, Wild Boar, Spotted Deer, Sloth Bear, Sambhur, Crocodiles, Jackals, and varieties of amphibians, reptiles and birds.

Overnight stay



Day 04: Sigiriya – Polonnaruwa – Sigiriya Overnight: Sigiriya Breakfast at hotel Drive 1 ½ hours to visit the ancient city of Polonnaruwa

**Polonnaruwa** – Another "World Heritage Site" was the Capital of Sri Lanka from 11th - 13th Centuries, contains some splendid and spectacular statues. Lankatilake, Tivanka and Thuparama are the most beautiful and largest Image Houses wherein Tivanka offers the best example of frescoes of the Polonnaruwa period. Overnight stay

## Day 05: Sigiriya – Kandy Overnight: Kandy

Breakfast at hotel Drive 2 ½ hours to Kandy. On arrival, check in at your hotel

### Evening: Visit Kandy temple of tooth relic

**Temple of the Tooth Relic-** which houses the Tooth Relic of Lord Buddha, is an important landmark in Kandy. The Tooth is kept in a two-storey shrine fronted by two large elephant tusks and rests on a gold lotus flower, encased in jewelled casket that sits on a throne. The temple is decorated with beautiful local paintings and architectural features.

Thereafter watch a Kandyan cultural show at a local theatre and be awed by the spectacular dance, acrobatics, costumes and music. Overnight stay

## Day 06: Kandy – Nuwara Eliya Overnight: Nuwara Eliya Breakfast at hotel

### Drive 2 hours to Nuwara Eliya. En-route visit Tea plantation

Ceylon Tea is world famous for its taste, quality and the health benefits it offers. Watch tea pluckers with their baskets plucking leaves from the plantations. These tea leaves are then taken into the factories for selection, rolling, withering, processing, packaging and storing. **Enjoy a cup of tea at the factory after watching the processes.** 

Arrive Nuwara Eliya and check in at your hotel

Enjoy a city tour of Nuwara Eliya visiting Gregory Lake and local market.

Overnight stay

Day 07: Nuwara Eliya Overnight: Nuwara Eliya Breakfast at hotel

# A full day to relax or Optional early morning trek to Horton Plains.

Horton's Plain Trek. The Park is spread over the two highest mountains in the area called Kirigalpotta and Totapola. The plateau-like structure



along with plains on one end, thick forests and mountains on other make the Central Highlands of Sri Lanka. You will find several waterfalls, lakes, rocky hills and views of the ocean in this part of the country. The forest is home to a number of wild animals and birds; however, most large animals remain elusive and unapproachable.

# Packed Breakfast from hotel.

Rest of the day at leisure. Overnight stay

# Day 08: Nuwara Eliya – Ella Overnight: Ella

# Breakfast at hotel Transfer to Nanu Oya station and board a local train to Ella. Enjoy a 2 ½ - 3 hrs. train ride

through the country's lush green tea plantations, passing local villages,

waving at smiley locals, disappearing into mountain tunnels then drifting into cloud forests, reaching altitudes of 1,900 meters (6,200 ft)! It was as much an adventure as a scenic view for the cameras.

**Special Note:** Trains may be cancelled last minute due to poor weather. Passport copies are needed to book train seats.

**Proceed to visit Nine Arch Bridge.** The Nine Arch Bridge also called the Bridge in the Sky, is a viaduct bridge in Sri Lanka. It is one of the best examples of colonial-era railway construction in the country. Thereafter, drive to your hotel for check in. Overnight stay

### Day 09: Drive Ella to Yala Overnight: Yala Breakfast at hotel

Morning at leisure to enjoy the facilities of your hotel

**Afternoon:** Drive 3 hours to Yala and proceed to your hotel for check in . Overnight stay

#### Day 10: Jungle safaris at Yala Overnight: Yala

#### Early AM: Jungle safari by shared jeep Return to hotel for breakfast.

Yala National Park is the most popular wildlife destination in Sri Lanka because of the high chance of encounter and variety of animals. Its diversity of bird, mammal and reptile life is unrivalled in the country and there are particularly high densities of its two keystone species: elephants and leopards. Current estimates suggest there are around 70 leopards and, as the apex predator in the park, they're top cat here so less fearful than in countries like Africa where lions rule the roost. This means you're more likely to see a leopard here than anywhere else in the world.



**14:30 HRS: Afternoon safari by shared jeep** Overnight stay

#### Day 11: Transfer to a beach destination Overnight: Breakfast at hotel

**Morning:** Drive to a beach resort. On arrival, check in at your resort

#### Overnight stay

Day 12 & Day 13: Beach stay Overnight: Breakfast at hotel Overnight stay

#### Day 14: Beach stay to Colombo

Breakfast at hotel Transfer to Colombo airport

#### **Safe Travels**

# SRI-LANKA- WILD LIFE TOUR

# 09 Nights & 10 Days

Route: Negomobo (1) Sigiriya (2)-Ella (1)-Yala (2)- Udawalawe (2)- Negombo (1)





### Best time to visit: Can be visited all through the year.

The tiny island country of Sri Lanka has 27 national parks and protected areas. Enjoy a tour of 4 wildlife parks as you visit Minneriya home to hundreds of animal and bird species and is known for being a meeting place for Asian elephants. Whereas Yala is famous for its illusive leopard, Bundala is known for the migratory birds. Udawalaweone is one of the top places to see wild elephants, often in herds of up to 100. The park is also home to water buffalo, wild boar, sloth bears, spotted deer, and toque macaques. The Udawalawe Elephant transit home cares for orphaned and sick elephants before they can be released back into the wild.

#### **Tour Highlights:**

- Sigiriya Rock
- Dambulla Rock Temple
- Trek to Little Adam's Peak
- Jeep safaris at Yala National Park
- Jeep safari at Bundala National Park
- Jeep safari at Udawalawe National Park
- Elephant transit camp

### Day 01: Arrive Colombo, drive to Negombo Overnight: Negombo

On arrival Colombo airport, you will be met by an English-speaking representative and transferred directly to Negombo (approx. 20 mins drive)

On arrival, check in at your hotel. Overnight stay



#### Day 02: Negombo – Dambulla – Sigiriya

Breakfast at hotel

Drive 3 % hrs. to Dambulla. Visit Dambulla Cave Temple - Dambulla is famous for the five cave Temples on a rock. Some caves dates to 1st C.B.C.

Thereafter, proceed to your hotel and check in. Overnight stay

# Day 03: Sigiriya – Minneriya – Sigiriya Overnight: Sigiriya

Breakfast at hotel Climb Sigiriya Rock Fortress, Approx.15 mins drive

Sigiriya— is a "World Heritage Site" and the 5th Century "Fortress in the Sky" which is perhaps the most fantastic single wonder of the Island. It is also known as Lion Rock because of the huge lion that used to stand at the entrance to the Palace on the summit of the 600-foot-high rock. The Water Gardens, Fountain Garden, summerhouse, Boulder Gardens and the Caves with the enclosed area should not be missed.

Thereafter , drive 40 minutes to Minneriya National Park and enjoy a shared Jeep safari

Minneriya National Park – This National Park, 8889 hectares in extent, is famous for its large population of Elephants in herds of 100 to 150 roaming in the jungle and seen in the catchment area of the lake. The park also boasts of Wild Buffaloes, Wild Boar, Spotted Deer, Sloth Bear, Sambhur, Crocodiles, Jackals, and varieties of amphibians, reptiles and birds.

Overnight stay

Day 04: Sigiriya to Ella Overnight Ella Breakfast at hotel



Drive 4.5 hours to Ella. On arrival check in at your hotel. Overnight stay

#### Day 05: Ella to Yala Overnight Yala Breakfast at hotel

Proceed to climb little Adam's peak.

Little Adam's Peak is a hiking hotspot in the mountain country of Sri Lanka. Some of the views from hikes in Ella are phenomenal, with the region well known for its tea plantations and spectacular mountain ranges. If you want to enjoy some of the best views without needing to hike for hours, Little Adam's Peak is the perfect trek, especially for an unforgettable sunset. (approximately 2 hours' to visit) Afterwards, transfer to the hotel in Yala. Approx. 2-hour drive to Yala.

Yala National Park is 185 miles from Colombo. Yala National Park is



378 square miles in extent. Yala was established in 1938 from what originally was a sportsman's shooting reserve. This is the most famous and well-developed national park where wild animals and birds can be observed. The wild animals include elephants in herds of varying sizes, leopards, wild boars, wild buffalo, crocodiles and peacocks, jackals, sloth bears, and other animals. The birdlife comprises about 130 species, including residents and migrants. Painted storks, Paradise Flycatchers, Grey Herons, Serpent Eagles, Sea Eagles, Black-Necked Storks, Spoonbills, and Pelicans add color to the birdlife in the park. (Approximately 3-4 hours' to visit Afternoon: Enjoy a Jungle safari by shared jeep. Overnight stay

#### Day 06: Yala Overnight Yala

Early morning, proceed to Yala National Park for a morning safari

(around 6:00 a.m.) Return to hotel. Breakfast at hotel

Enjoy the rest of the day at leisure. Overnight stay

#### Day 07: Yala to Udawalawe Overnight Udawalawe

Early morning, enjoy a jeep safari at Bundala National Park with its vast variety of migratory birds, most importantly the Greater Flamingos that flock this wetland during migration seasons. In addition, Blacknecked Stork and Great Thick-knee are birding highlights. Migrants and vagrants make the journey from as far as Siberia.

#### Breakfast at hotel

Drive 2 hours to Udawalawe. On arrival check it your hotel.

Udawalawe national park is on the boundary of Sabaragamuwa and Uva Provinces in Sri Lanka. The park was created to provide a sanctuary for wild animals displaced by the construction of the Udawalawe Reservoir on the Walawe River, as well as to protect the catchment of the reservoir.

Afternoon shared Jeep safari at Udawalawe National Park.

Elephants are the key attraction here, with around 600 in the park in herds of up to 50. The best time to observe herds is from 6.30am to 10am and again from 4pm to 6.30pm.

Alongside its famous elephant herds, the park is home to mongooses, jackals, water monitor lizards, lots of crocodiles, sloth bears and the occasional leopard. There are 30 varieties of snake and a wealth of birdlife.

Overnight stay

#### Day 08: Udawalawe

#### Overnight Udawalawe

Breakfast at hotel Enjoy a morning Jeep safari.

Afternoon, visit Elephant Transit Home in time to witness feeding. A Twenty minutes' drive away from the Udawalawe National Park is the 'Elephant Transit Home', associated with the Born Free Foundation (UK). Here, orphaned, or sick elephants are fed and cared for until they are strong enough to be returned to the wild.

The centre allows you to visit at the feeding times of 10.30am, 2.30pm, and 6.30pm.

From behind a barrier, you can watch the elephants ambling along behind a keeper, into the compound where they will be fed milk through plastic hoses with funnels attached, some stamping and trumpeting with impatience. Overnight stay

# Day 09: Drive to a Negombo

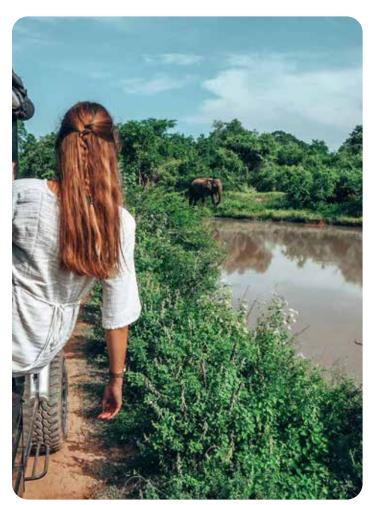
Breakfast at hotel.

Drive 288 km 4.5 hours to Negombo. On arrival, check in at your hotel and relax. Overnight stay

#### Day 10: Transfer to Colombo airport

Transfer to Colombo airport for your flight home.

#### SAFE TRAVELS









# EARTHEN EXPPERIENCES LLP

2, DDA Commercial Complex, Panchsheel Park, New Delhi 110017, India Tel.: +91 11 49211000

Email: info@earthenexperiences.com | Website: earthenexperiences.com