

JOURNEYS TO INDIA & SOUTH ASIA

BANGLADESH

BHUTAN

INDIA

NEPAL

PAKISTAN

SRI LANKA

AFGHANISTAN

TIBET



BESTWAY
TOURS & SAFARIS

Journeys sans frontières since 1978

WELCOME

TO OUR JOURNEYS SANS FRONTIÈRES



Welcome to Journeys to India and the Subcontinent, a collection of voyages that will uncover history from antiquity to the present day. We invite you to discover the lands of the old Raj; explore the mighty Himalayas, Karakoram and Hindu Kush mountain ranges; uncover the remains of the ancient Indus River and Ghandara Civilizations; see the sights of the legendary Moghul Empire in the North and the Chola Empire in the South, or follow in the footsteps of the Buddha.

Since 1978, Bestway Tours & Safaris has been pioneering tours to the home of so many civilizations and strives to give an understanding of the cultures and peoples who live there. As we travel in small groups, we bridge cultural divides through real people to people contact. The main focus of our tours is the pursuit of knowledge and a better understanding of the world we live in.

Our journeys also feature many World Heritage Sites, which form part of the cultural and natural heritage of the world and are considered to have outstanding universal value.

Our philosophy of *Journeys Sans Frontières* symbolizes the breaking of political and traditional boundaries. Our goal is to constantly innovate and provide you with a level of service that exceeds your expectations. This epitomizes our whole existence and allows us to go beyond where most travel companies will NOT take you.

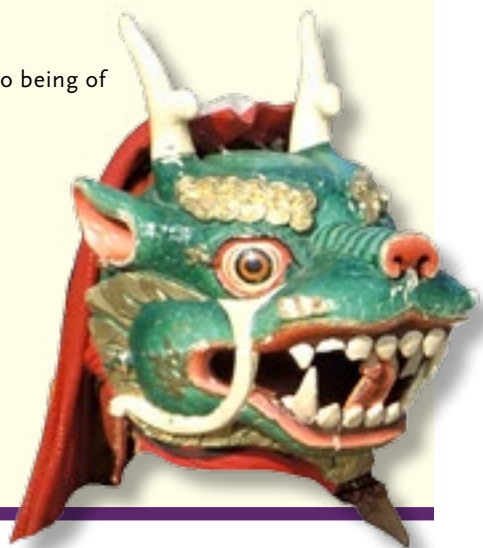
The pages that follow should give you an idea of the vast variety of tours we have on offer to this part of the world. For a complete listing, more detailed itineraries, dates and prices please visit www.bestway.com and www.worldheritagetours.com.

We feel very confident and comfortable in tailoring custom tour programs to suit your own areas of interest and dates, be it for a single person or a group. Planning your tour is more than just coordinating the logistics. In each journey we plan, we fulfill our passion to create connections between the traveller and the welcoming hosts at all our destinations.

The Bestway Tours & Safaris team looks forward to being of service to you, both here and at your destination.

Happy Journeys!

DR. MAHMOOD M. POONJA
Chief Explorer



OUR FASCINATING JOURNEYS



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Journeys sans Frontières

India: Northern & Southern Heritage

A comprehensive cultural insight



Taj Mahal, Agra



A unique journey that traverses the subcontinent from North to South to give you a comprehensive overview in 29 days.

The itinerary has been designed in such a way that you have a choice of also doing only the Northern Heritage Tour (15 days) or the Southern Heritage Tour (17 days).

PART 1: THE NORTHERN HERITAGE

DAY 1 DELHI Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 DELHI The Northern Heritage starts with an exploration of New and Old Delhi including Birla House, India Gate, Humayun's Tomb*, Qutub Minar*, Red Fort*, Jama Masjid and Raj Ghat.

DAY 3 DELHI • AMRITSAR Deluxe train ride to Amritsar, followed by a visit of the India-Pakistan Border at Wagah to witness the spectacular flag lowering ceremony at sunset.

DAY 4 AMRITSAR • DELHI Visit of Harmandir Sahib, the Golden Temple, Jallianwala Bagh memorial garden. Afternoon train to Delhi and transfer to our hotel.

DAY 5 DELHI • VARANASI Short flight to Varanasi. Visit Bharat Mata Temple, Durga temple, Tulsi Manas Mandir & Banaras Hindu University. Evening witness the spectacular Aarti ceremony on the Ghats by the Ganges.

DAY 6 VARANASI • KHAJURAHO Sunrise cruise on the River Ganges to observe the morning rituals of the Hindu pilgrims on the riverbanks. Visit the ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath. Flight to Khajuraho, followed by a visit of the 11th century temples of Khajuraho*. Evening free.

DAY 7 KHAJURAHO • ORCHHA • AGRA Visit the medieval fortress-city of Orchha, before heading to Jhansi to board our luxury train to Agra and transfer to our hotel.

DAY 8 AGRA Marvel at the Taj Mahal* at sunrise, followed by visits of Agra Fort*, Itmad-Ud-Daulah Mausoleum and seeing artisans doing inlay marble work.

NOTE: Optional special full moon visit of the Taj Mahal.

DAY 9 AGRA • FATEHPUR SIKRI • JAIPUR Excursion to Fatehpur Sikri* and the Salim Chisty mausoleum, followed by a journey through rural Rajasthan to the pink city of Jaipur.

DAY 10 JAIPUR We take an elephant ride uphill to the intriguing Amber Palace, followed by visits to the Palace of Winds, the Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory* in the Royal Palace of Jaipur and the colourful bazaar.

DAY 11 JAIPUR • AURANGABAD Flight to Aurangabad. Arrival transfer to our hotel. Balance of the day at leisure.

DAY 12 AURANGABAD • AJANTA CAVES An interesting day excursion to the ancient Rock-cut monuments and cave temples of Ajanta*.

DAY 13 AURANGABAD • - ELLORA CAVES • MUMBAI Morning excursion of the remarkable Ellora Caves*, Daulatabad Fort and Bibi-Ka-Maqbra Mausoleum. Flight to Mumbai.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Passengers arriving for the Southern Heritage Tour will be received at Mumbai Airport and transferred to the hotel on this day.*

PART 2: THE SOUTHERN HERITAGE

DAY 14 MUMBAI Excursion to the Elephanta Caves*, followed by visits to the Gateway of India, Prince of Wales Museum,

Discover 5000 years of India's rich history in two combined journeys.



Young boy at a juice stand in Mumbai

Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Victoria Terminus)*, Mani Bhawan Museum, the Jain Temple, Hanging Gardens, Tower Of Silence, Crawford Market and the Dhobi Ghat laundry. Evening free.

DAY 15 MUMBAI • GOA Flight to Goa where we are welcomed and transferred to our hotel.

IMPORTANT NOTE: *Passengers doing only the Northern Heritage Tour will be transferred to Mumbai Airport for their departure on this day.*

DAY 16 GOA Visit of the Baroque Churches of Goa*. Rest of the day is free to relax on the beach.

DAY 17 GOA • HYDERABAD Morning free to continue enjoying Goa's beaches. Short flight to Hyderabad and transfer to our hotel.

DAY 18 HYDERABAD Visit the Charminar, Mecca Masjid, Husain Sagar Lake with its Buddha statue on an island, Salar Jung Museum and magnificent Golconda Fort. Evening free.

DAY 19 HYDERABAD • BANGALORE Flight to Bangalore. Bangalore exploration includes visits of the Vidhana Soudha, Cubbon Park, Tipu Sultan's Palace museum and the majestic Lal Bagh Gardens.

DAY 20 BANGALORE • MYSORE We discover rural Karnataka including the island fortress of Srirangapatam. At Mysore we visit the Maharajah's Palace, Shri Chamundeswari Temple and the Nadi Shiva's Mount. Overnight at Mysore.

DAY 21 MYSORE • OOTY Travel through eucalyptus forests to the hill resort of Ooty. Enjoy free time at Ooty.

DAY 22 OOTY • NILGIRI MOUNTAIN RAILWAY Visit the Botanical Gardens, Lamb's rock and Dodabetta Peak, followed by an exciting steam train ride on the historical Nilgiri Mountain Railway*.

DAY 23 OOTY • KODAIKANAL Travel through scenic hills to the peaceful hill station of Kodaikanal, followed by a boat ride on Kodaikanal Lake.

DAY 24 KODAIKANAL • MADURAI Explore the diverse countryside of Tamil Nadu. Later at Madurai we visit the Dravidian Sri Meenakshi Temple, Tirumalai Nayaka Temple and the rich Temple Art Museum.

DAY 25 MADURAI • THANJAVUR Continue exploring rural Tamil Nadu. On our way to Thanjavur we visit the historical Brihadishwara Temple*, Tanjore Palace and the Museum. Evening free.

DAY 26 THANJAVUR • PONDICHERRY A different India awaits us, as we drive to the former French colony of Pondicherry and visit the famous Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

DAY 27 PONDICHERRY • MAHABALIPURAM Our journey takes us to Mahabalipuram* to visit the group of sanctuaries founded by the Pallava kings on the Coromandel Coast.

DAY 28 MAHABALIPURAM • KANCHIPURAM • CHENNAI Day excursion to visit the incredible temples

of Kanchipuram, followed by a short drive to Chennai where our visits include the National Art Gallery & Museum, St. Mary's Church, Peoples Park and beautiful Marina Beach.

DAY 29 MAHABALIPURAM After a comprehensive exploration right from the North to the South, we bid farewell to India. Transfer for departure flight.

* Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Artistically designed tour of India from North to South.

Visit 16 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

4 deluxe daytime train rides to enjoy the scenery.

India: Western Heritage

A journey through Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh



The Ellora Caves World Heritage Site



DAY 1 DELHI Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 DELHI The Western Heritage Tour starts with an exploration of New and Old Delhi including India Gate, Connaught Place, Humayun's Tomb*, Qutub Minar*, Red Fort*, Jama Masjid and Raj Ghat.

DAY 3 DELHI • AGRA Deluxe train ride to Agra, followed by a visit of the Taj Mahal*, Agra Fort*, Itmad-Ud-Daulah Mausoleum and seeing artisans doing inlay marble work. NOTE: Optional special full moon visit of the Taj Mahal.

DAY 4 AGRA • BHOPAL Deluxe train ride to Bhopal, followed by a tour including Jama Masjid, Moti Masjid and Ta-ul-Masajidi.

DAY 5 SANCHI Explore Sanchi*, a group of Buddhist monuments with perfect and well-preserved stupas and the Bhimbetka Caves*

DAY 6 BHOPAL • UJJAIN • INDORE Visits to the Mahakaleshwar Temple in Ujjain, as well as Kanch Mandir and The Lal Bagh Palace in Indore. Evening free.

DAY 7 INDORE • MANDU Excursion to Mandu to visit the Jahaz Mahal, Taveli Mahal, Asharafi Mahal, Tomb of Hoshang Shah, the Jain Temple, Jama Masjid, Baz Bahadur's Palace, Rupmati's Pavilion, Darya Khan's Tomb and Nil Kanth Palace.

DAY 8 MANDU • AHMEDABAD A fascinating drive through the countryside brings us to Ahmedabad. Rest of the day is free.

DAY 9 AHMEDABAD Explore the city with visits to Mahatma Gandhi's Sabarmati Ashram, the Siddhi Sayad Masjid, Swaminarayan Temple and other monuments.

DAY 10 AHMEDABAD • RAJKOT Drive to the capital of the former princely state of Saurashtra, followed by an exploration of Rajkot.

DAY 11 RAJKOT • BHUJ An interesting drive through rural Gujarat brings us to Bhuj. Rest of the day is free.

DAY 12 BHUJ Visit the Aina Mahal with the Maharao Sinh Madansinhji Museum, Prag Mahal, the new palace and the Kutch Museum, the oldest in Gujarat.

DAY 13 BHUJ • AURANGABAD Flight to Aurangabad. Arrival transfer to our hotel. Balance of the day at leisure.

DAY 14 AURANGABAD An interesting day excursion to the ancient Rock-cut monuments and cave temples of Ajanta*.

DAY 15 AURANGABAD • ELLORA CAVES • MUMBAI Morning excursion of the remarkable Ellora Caves*. Flight to Mumbai and transfer to the hotel.

DAY 16 MUMBAI Excursion to the Elephanta Caves*, followed by visits to the Gateway of India, Prince of Wales Museum, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Victoria Terminus)*, Mani Bhawan Museum, the Jain Temple, Hanging Gardens, Tower Of Silence, Crawford Market and the Dhobi Ghat laundry. Afternoon free.

DAY 17 MUMBAI After our incredible journey of marvelling at Western India's heritage, we are transferred to the airport.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 10 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Step into the Buddhist, Afghan and Moghul legacy of India.

Explore rarely visited parts of India.

India: Eastern Heritage

A tour of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam & Arunachal Pradesh



Victoria Memorial at sunset, Kolkata



DAY 1 HYDERABAD Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 HYDERABAD Visit the Charminar mosque, Mecca Masjid, Falaknuma Palace, Husain Sagar Lake with its statue of the Buddha and Salar Jung museum.

DAY 3 HYDERABAD • BHUBANESWAR Short flight to Bhubaneswar, followed by a visit to the Rajarani, Mukteshwar, Parasurameswar and Lingaraja temples.

DAY 4 PURI AND KONARK Full day excursion to the Jagannath temple in Puri and the Sun Temple in Konark*.

DAY 5 BHUBANESWAR • KOLKATA Free morning followed by a flight to Kolkata and transfer to hotel.

DAY 6 KOLKATA Visit the flower market, Belur Math, the Kali Temple, Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, Fort William, Raj Bhawan and the High Court.

DAY 7 KOLKATA • BHALUKPONG Flight to Guwahati and transfer to Bhalukpong, next to the Pakhui Game Sanctuary. Visit the Kamakhya Temple and a World War II cemetery.

DAY 8 BHALUKPONG • DIRANG Visit Dirang. Continue to Tipi Orchid House.

DAY 9 DIRANG • TAWANG Visit Dirang Dzong and the village followed by a journey through the Eastern Himalayas to Tawang, a major center of Mahayana Buddhism, via the Sela Pass.

DAY 10 TAWANG Visit Tawang Monastery, largest Tibetan monastery in India, interact with the lamas and visit a Monpa tribal village. Evening free.

DAY 11 TAWANG • BOMDILA Drive from Tawang to the Buddhist monastery of Bomdila with spectacular views of the Himalayan Range.

DAY 12 BOMDILA • TEZPUR Today we reach the plains of Assam as we head to Tezpur, to visit Cole Park, with sculptures depicting local Assamese folklore and the market.

DAY 13 TEZPUR • DARJEELING Transfer to Guwahati for our flight to Bagdogra, followed by an interesting journey along beautiful tea gardens to Darjeeling.

DAY 14 DARJEELING Proceed to Tiger Hill to view the sunrise over the lofty Himalayas, followed by a ride on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway* and visits of the Ghoom Monastery, the Himalayan Zoo and the Natural History Museum.

DAY 15 DARJEELING • KOLKATA After an incredible Eastern Heritage Tour of India, we are transferred to Bagdogra Airport for our departure flight.

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit remote Tibetan monasteries in the Himalayas.

Enjoy a ride on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway World Heritage Site.

Explore the magnificent temples of Orissa.

Indian Himalayas

A journey to Ladakh, Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh



Klu-kkhyil Gumpa at Likir, Ladakh



DAY 1 DELHI Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 DELHI Exploration of Delhi including Birla House, India Gate, Humayun's Tomb*, Qutub Minar*, Red Fort*, Jama Masjid and Raj Ghat.

DAY 3 DELHI • LEH Flight to Leh in Ladakh and transfer to our hotel. Balance of the day free.

DAY 4 LEH Excursion to Shey, once the residence of the royal family, followed by visits of the Buddhist monasteries of Thiksey and Hemis.

DAY 5 LEH Morning excursion to the Spituk and Phyang monasteries, followed by an afternoon walk to the King's Palace, Leh Mosque, Leh Gumpa, Shankar Gumpa, and Leh Bazaar.

DAY 6 LEH • KARGIL A fascinating drive along the Indus River in a barren part of the Himalayas in Ladakh brings us to Kargil. En route we visit the Buddhist monasteries of Likir, Basgo and Alchi.

DAY 7 KARGIL • SRINAGAR We descend from the Zojila pass toward the verdant Vale of Kashmir. Upon arrival in Srinagar we are transferred to a lovely house boat on Lake Dal for our stay.

DAY 8 SRINAGAR Today we explore the Mughal Gardens of Chashme Shahi, Nishat Bagh and Shalimar Gardens, followed by a visit of the old city of Srinagar, including Jama Masjid, Shar Hamdan Mosque and Hari Parbat. Evening is free to take an optional boat ride in a shikara on Dal Lake.

DAY 9 SRINAGAR Excursion to enchanting Gulmarg, a forested valley surrounded by snow clad peaks, followed by a visit to Khilanmarg and beautiful Wular Lake.

DAY 10 SRINAGAR • JAMMU A drive through Qazi Gund, Ramban, Patnitom, Batote, Kud and Udhampur and the Banihal Tunnel brings us to Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

DAY 11 JAMMU • DHARAMSALA A refreshing drive through dense coniferous forests takes us to the village of McLeod Ganj and Dharamsala, home of the Dalai Lama in exile.

DAY 12 DHARAMSALA Visit the Bhagsunath temple, the SOS Tibetan Refugee Camp & School and His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Monastery.

DAY 13 DHARAMSALA • SHIMLA A beautiful scenic drive through fertile valleys and forests brings us to our hotel in Shimla. Rest of the day is free to relax.

DAY 14 SHIMLA Explore the British heritage of this hill station visiting the Mall, Christ Church and the Shimla State Museum. Rest of the day is free to relax.

DAY 15 SHIMLA • CHANDIGARH Drive to city designed by Le Corbusier to visit the Capital Complex, Sukhna Lake, Rose Garden and the unique Rock Garden, created by Nek Chand.

DAY 16 CHANDIGARH • DELHI Drive to Delhi. Rest of the day is free for last minute shopping. In the evening we enjoy a farewell dinner.

DAY 17 DELHI After an enlightening experience in the Indian Himalayas, we are transferred to the airport.

* Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Explore a vast diversity of mountain cultures and enjoy rarely visited Ladakh, Kashmir & Himachal Pradesh.

Stay in a lovely houseboat in Kashmir

Encounter the living Buddhist and Muslim Heritage of the region.

Journey to the Ganges

A journey to India's spiritual heart



Boats on the Ganges River, Varanasi



DAY 1 DELHI Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 DELHI Our exploration of New Delhi includes India Gate, Humayun's Tomb*, Qutub Minar*, Lotus Temple and Iskcon Temple. Afternoon free

DAY 3 DELHI Today we explore Old Delhi, including the famous Red Fort*, the Jama Masjid - India's largest mosque, Raj Ghat and Chandni Chowk bazaar. Evening a spectacular Sound & Light Show at the Red Fort.

DAY 4 DELHI • HARIDWAR • RISHIKESH Travel by deluxe train to Haridwar, from where we continue to Rishikesh, an important Hindu pilgrimage site.

DAY 5 RISHIKESH Free day to enjoy Ayurvedic treatments, Yoga or watch the believers at the temples.

DAY 6 RISHIKESH • HARIDWAR • DELHI At Haridwar witness the Aarti Ceremony on the shores of the Ganges, before taking the overnight train to Delhi.

DAY 7 DELHI • MATHURA • AGRA

Visit Mathura, birthplace of Lord Krishna, before heading to Agra. Balance of the day at leisure.

DAY 8 AGRA Experience sunrise at the Taj Mahal* followed by visits to Agra Fort*, Fatehpur Sikri* and the Salim Chisty mausoleum. NOTE: Optional special full moon visit of the Taj Mahal.

DAY 9 AGRA • ORCHHA • KHAJURAHO

Deluxe train ride to Jhansi then visit Orchha, an amazing medieval fortress-city followed by a journey to Khajuraho.

DAY 10 KHAJURAHO • VARANASI Visit of the 11th century temples of Khajuraho*, followed by a short flight to Varanasi. We witness the spectacular Aarti Ceremony on the Ghat by the Ganges in the evening.

DAY 11 VARANASI Sunrise cruise on the River Ganges to observe the morning rituals of the Hindu pilgrims, followed by visits to the Durga temple, Tulsi Manas Mandir, Banaras Hindu University, Aurangzeb's Mosque and the ancient Buddhist site of Sarnath.

DAY 12 VARANASI • ALLAHABAD We visit Allahabad Fort, Allahabad Museum, Anand Bhawan, Swaraj Bhawan and the holy place of Sangam at the confluence of the Ganges, Yamuna and Saraswati rivers.

DAY 13 ALLAHABAD • LUCKNOW

Our journey through Uttar Pradesh takes us to the Moghul city of Lucknow. Visit the Bara Imambara, the beautiful clock tower and the Jama Masjid.

DAY 14 LUCKNOW • KOLKATA Short flight to Kolkata. Rest of the day is free.

DAY 15 KOLKATA Visit the Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, Fort William, Raj Bhawan and the High Court. Afternoon free to visit the famous coffee houses of Calcutta.

DAY 16 KOLKATA After our incredible journey of India from West to East, we are transferred to the airport for our departure flight.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Follow the path of
the holy Ganges River.

Experience a unique journey to India's
most sacred and venerable places.

Royal Rajasthan

A journey through the regal heritage of this vibrant desert state



Camels at sunset near Pushkar



DAY 1 DELHI Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 DELHI Our exploration of Old Delhi includes the famous Red Fort*, Jama Masjid, Raj Ghat and Chandni Chowk bazaar.

DAY 3 DELHI • AGRA Explore New Delhi visiting Birla House, India Gate, Humayun's Tomb* and the Qutub Minar* before continuing to Agra.

DAY 4 AGRA • FATEHPUR SIKRI
At sunrise visit the Taj Mahal*, followed by visits to the Agra Fort*, Fatehpur Sikri* and the Salim Chisty mausoleum.
NOTE: Optional special full moon visit of the Taj Mahal.

DAY 5 AGRA • RANTHAMBORE Explore Rajasthan on our way to Ranthambore National Park. Afternoon we board our safari vehicles for our first jungle safari to trace the Royal Bengal Tiger.

DAY 6 RANTHAMBORE • JAIPUR Another morning game safari before embarking on a scenic drive to Jaipur. Enjoy a Rajasthan Cultural Dance performance with dinner.

DAY 7 JAIPUR Ride up the hill on an elephant to Amber Palace, followed by visits to the Palace of Winds, the Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory* in the Royal Palace of Jaipur and the colourful bazaar.

DAY 8 JAIPUR • PUSHKAR Explore another facet of Rajasthan in Pushkar. Here we visit the historical Lord Brahma Temple and the bathing Ghats around its holy lake. Afternoon free.

DAY 9 PUSHKAR • UDAIPUR Journey through the villages of rural Rajasthan to Udaipur. Evening free.

DAY 10 UDAIPUR Visit the City Palace, Lake Palace, Jagdish Temple, Fateh Sagar Lake and Saheliyon Ki Bari, followed by a boat ride on Lake Pichola to visit the Jag Mandir Gardens.

DAY 11 UDAIPUR • RANAKPUR Explore other aspects of Rajasthan as we make our way to Ranakpur and visit the incredible Jain Temples. Balance of the day free.

DAY 12 RANAKPUR • JODHPUR Drive to Jodhpur, followed by visits to Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada and the museum at the Umaid Bhawan Palace.

DAY 13 JODHPUR • JAISALMER Explore the scenic Thar Desert on our way to Jaisalmer. Rest of the day is free.

DAY 14 JAISALMER Morning tour of the fort, the 11th century Jain temples, Gadisar Tank, the Folk Museum and Patwan ki Haveli. Enjoy a Camel Safari in the spectacular desert sunset. Rajasthani cultural show and dinner in the evening.

DAY 15 JAISALMER • BIKANER Drive to Bikaner, followed by visits of Junagadh Fort, Lalgarh Palace with a visit to an interesting camel breeding farm set in the sand dunes.

DAY 16 BIKANER • DESHNOKE • MANDAWA A fascinating visit of the famous Rat Temple dedicated to the Goddess Karni Mata, followed by visits to the painted havelis around Mandawa.

DAY 17 MANDAWA • DELHI We drive to Delhi for our farewell dinner and transfer to the airport for our departure flight.

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TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Explore amazing deserts and natural parks.

Marvel at the architectural jewels of the Mughal Empire.

Elephant ride at Amber Fort

Desert safari on a camel at sunset with Rajasthani folk dances

India's Forts & Palaces

Experience absolute luxury on this journey to the heart of India



Lake Palace Hotel, Udaipur



DAY 1 DELHI Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred for our 3-night stay at the luxurious Taj Mahal Hotel.

DAY 2 DELHI Explore New Delhi visiting Birla House, India Gate, Humayun's Tomb* and the Qutub Minar*. Welcome dinner.

DAY 3 DELHI Our exploration of Old Delhi includes the famous Red Fort*, Jama Masjid, Raj Ghat and Chandni Chowk bazaar with an exciting ride in traditional rickshaws. Evening: Enjoy a spectacular Sound and Light Show at the Red Fort.

DAY 4 DELHI • AGRA Visit Sikandra and check in at the majestic Oberoi Amarvilas. NOTE: Evening an optional special full moon visit of the Taj Mahal.

DAY 5 AGRA Visit the Taj Mahal* at sunrise, Agra Fort* and see artisans doing inlay marble work. Afternoon free. In the evening we are treated to a traditional Indian dance show at the Kalakriti Theatre.

DAY 6 AGRA • FATEHPUR SIKRI • JAIPUR Visit Fatehpur Sikri* and the Salim Chisty Mausoleum. Drive to Jaipur. 2 nights at the incredible Rambagh Palace Hotel.

DAY 7 JAIPUR Ride up the hill on an elephant to Amber Palace, followed by visits to the Palace of Winds, the Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory* in the Royal Palace of Jaipur and the colourful bazaar.

DAY 8 JAIPUR • JODHPUR Visit Nimaj Palace, before continuing on for a 2-night Maharaja experience at the Umaid Bhawan Palace Hotel in Jodhpur.

DAY 9 JODHPUR Visit of the outstanding Mehrangarh Fort, Jaswant Thada and Mandore Gardens. Balance of the day free.

DAY 10 JODHPUR • JAISALMER Explore Lal Niwas Phalodi before checking in at the incredible Fort Rajwada, a princely home built on 6 acres. Afternoon free.

DAY 11 JAISALMER Morning visit of the fort, Jain temples, Gadisar Tank, the Folk Museum & Patwan ki Haveli. Free afternoon. At sunset enjoy a Camel Safari, followed by a Rajasthani cultural show & dinner.

DAY 12 JAISALMER • MIHIRGARH Explore the Thar Desert and Manvar Resort. We will stay 2 nights at the Fort Hotel in the Mihirgarh mud fort, where we get to enjoy the equestrian program.

DAY 13 MIHIRGARH Participate in a culinary demonstration and workshop on traditional Rajasthani food.

DAY 14 MIHIRGARH • RANAKPUR • KUMBHALGARH • DEVIGARH Visit the incredible Ranakpur Jain temples and Kumbhalgarh Fort, before arriving at Devigarh Fort Palace Hotel.

DAY 15 DEVIGARH • UDAIPUR Our journey today takes us to the majestic Lake Palace Hotel. Visit the City Palace, Bhim Vilas Palace, Jagdish Temple, Fateh Sagar Lake & Saheliyon Ki Bari. Next is a boat ride on Lake Pichola to visit Jag Mandir Gardens.

DAY 16 UDAIPUR • MUMBAI Short flight to Mumbai and transfer to the historical Taj Mahal Palace & Towers Hotel. Dinner at the famous Indigo Restaurant.

DAY 17 MUMBAI Boat excursion to Elephanta Caves*, followed by visits to the Gateway of India, Prince of Wales Museum, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Victoria Terminus)*, Mani Bhawan Museum, Jain Temple, Hanging Gardens, Tower Of Silence, Crawford Market and the Dhobi Ghat.

DAY 18 MUMBAI After an incredible and luxurious journey with your personal guide-escort, you are transferred to the international airport.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Luxury accommodation throughout at the renowned Taj and Palace Hotels.

Visit 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Marvel at the architectural jewels of the Mughal Empire.

Unique Fort & Palace experiences

Tiger Trails

An Indian wildlife safari



Royal Bengal Tiger



DAY 1 MUMBAI Arrival. We are welcomed and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 MUMBAI Visit the Gateway of India, Elephanta Caves*, Prince of Wales Museum, Mani Bhawan, Jain Temple, Hanging Gardens, Crawford Market, the Dhobi Ghat laundry, Flora Fountain and Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Victoria Terminus)*. Afternoon free.

DAY 3 MUMBAI • NAGPUR • PENCH Flight to Nagpur, followed by a visit of the Ramtek temples and Diksha Bhoomi. We continue our journey to Pench National Park. Enjoy nature in the park.

DAY 4 PENCH NATIONAL PARK A very exciting day as we have our first game safari. Morning and evening game drives tracing tigers and other wildlife sightings.

DAY 5 PENCH • KANHA A journey through the landscapes described by Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book" brings us to Kanha National Park. Afternoon free for relaxation.

DAY 6 KANHA Morning and evening game drives to sight tigers, cheetah, sambar, nilgai, jackals, gaur, langurs and the more than 210 species of birds.

DAY 7 KANHA • BANDHAVGARH Explore the Vindhya hills of Madhya Pradesh on our journey to Bandhavgarh National Park, followed by an exploration of the park.

DAY 8 BANDHAVGARH Morning and evening game drives to locate more tigers and other wild life sightings.

DAY 9 BANDHAVGARH • PANNA Explore Panna National Park, one of the most famous Tiger Reserves in the world followed by a game safari through the park.

DAY 10 PANNA NATIONAL PARK • KHAJURAHO Morning and evening game drives for wildlife sighting. Afternoon excursion to the Khajuraho Temples*.

DAY 11 PANNA • ORCHHA • AGRA Visit the medieval fortress-city of Orchha, followed by a transfer to Jhansi to take a deluxe train ride to Agra.

DAY 12 AGRA At sunrise visit the Taj Mahal*, followed by Agra Fort. NOTE: Optional special full moon visit of the Taj Mahal.

DAY 13 AGRA • FATEHPUR SIKRI • BHARATPUR Visit Fatehpur Sikri* and the Salim Chisty mausoleum. Continue to the Keoladeo National Park*, home to over 300 species of birds.

DAY 14 BHARATPUR • DELHI Short drive to Delhi. Rest of the day is free at leisure. Evening an optional Sound and Light Show at the Red Fort*.

DAY 15 DELHI Explore Old and New Delhi visiting India Gate, Connaught Place, Qutub Minar*, Raj Ghat, the Red Fort*, Jama Masjid and a rickshaw ride in Chandni Chowk bazaar.

DAY 16 DELHI With memories of India's incredible nature and culture, we are transferred to the airport.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Follow in the path of
the Royal Bengal Tiger

Visit 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Marvel at the architectural jewels
of the Mughal Empire.

Visit 5 National Parks with
over 8 game drives

Best of South India

A tour of Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry & Karnataka



Beach near Kovalam, Kerala



DAY 1 MUMBAI Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 MUMBAI Visit the Gateway of India, Prince of Wales Museum, Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (Victoria Terminus)*, Mani Bhawan Museum. From here we leave for Jain Temple and Hanging gardens, Tower Of Silence, Crawford Market and the Dhobi Ghat laundry. Free evening to enjoy Mumbai, the city that never sleeps.

DAY 3 MUMBAI • COCHIN Flight to Cochin and transfer to our hotel. Balance of the day free.

DAY 4 COCHIN Visit St. Francis Church, Santa Cruz Cathedral, the Jewish Quarter with its old synagogue, the Dutch Palace followed by boat cruise to the Bolghatty Palace and the Chinese fishing nets. Enjoy a Kathakali Dance Performance in the evening.

DAY 5 COCHIN • THEKKADY We travel from the Malabar Coast to Thekkady to visit a spice plantation and then continue along the gentle hills of Kerala.

DAY 6 THEKKADY A unique experience as we go for a Jungle Walk at the Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary, followed by a leisurely boat ride on Lake Periyar to watch animals in their natural habitat.

DAY 7 THEKKADY • KUMARAKOM We cruise down to Kumarakom on the Malabar Coast to board our traditional houseboat and begin our journey through the picturesque Backwaters of Kerala.

DAY 8 ALLEPPEY - KOVALAM Disembark at Alleppey followed by a short drive Kovalam. Free day to enjoy the beach.

DAY 9 KOVALAM Free day to enjoy the beach. Kovalam is also famous for spas offering Ayurvedic treatments.

DAY 10 KOVALAM • KANYAKUMARI • MADURAI Scenic drive to Kanyakumari and visit the Temple of Goddess Kumari and the Vivekananda Rock Memorial on the southernmost tip of the Indian Peninsula, followed by an interesting drive to Madurai.

DAY 11 MADURAI Visit the Dravidian Sri Meenakshi Temple and the Tirumalai Nayaka Temple and the Temple Art Museum. Afternoon free.

DAY 12 MADURAI • THANJAVUR We explore rural Tamil Nadu on our way to Thanjavur to visit the Brihadishwara Temple*, Tanjore Palace and the Museum.

DAY 13 THANJAVUR • PONDICHERRY A different India awaits us, as we drive to the former French colony of Pondicherry to visit the famous Sri Aurobindo Ashram.

DAY 14 PONDICHERRY • MAHABALIPURAM • CHENNAI

Travel along the Coromandel Coast to Mahabalipuram* to visit the group of sanctuaries founded by the Pallava kings, followed by a short drive to Chennai.

DAY 15 CHENNAI Visit the National Art Gallery & Museum, St. Mary's Church, People's Park and Marina Beach. Afternoon free.

DAY 16 CHENNAI • MYSORE Deluxe train ride to Mysore, followed by a tour, including the Maharajah's Palace, Sri Chamundeswari Temple and the Nadi Shiva's Mount. Evening free.

DAY 17 MYSORE • SRIRANGAPATAM • BANGALORE Explore Karnataka visiting Srirangapatam en-route to Bangalore, where we visit Vidhan Soudha, Cubbon Park, Tipu Sultan's Palace and Lal Bagh Gardens.

DAY 18 BANGALORE Free day in Bangalore followed by a farewell dinner before we are transferred to the airport for our departure flight.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Enjoy a cruise on a houseboat through the Backwaters of Kerala.

Discover the beauty of Dravidian architecture of Southern India.

Journey to Bangladesh

A cultural and natural tour of a flamboyant country



Karnafuli River at dawn, Chittagong



Although Bangladesh emerged as an independent country in 1971, its history stretches back thousands of years. It has been known as a crossroads of history and culture. We invite you to tour Bangladesh, to enjoy this rarely visited country.

DAY 1 DHAKA After arrival we are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel followed by a brief tour of Dhaka with a welcome dinner at a local restaurant to get a taste of the famous Bangladeshi cuisine.

DAY 2 DHAKA • JESSORE • BAGERHAT Flight to Jessore, followed by a drive to visit the Historic Mosque City of Bagerhat*, an outstanding example of an architectural ensemble which illustrates a significant stage in human history. Situated at the meeting point of the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, this ancient city was founded by the Turkish general Ulugh Khan Jahan in the 15th century. We then continue to Khulna.

DAY 3 KHULNA We take a boat excursion to the Sundarbans Forest*, the single largest mangrove forest in the world in the delta of the Ganges, Brahmaputra and Meghna rivers on the Bay of Bengal. The site is intersected by a complex network of tidal waterways, mudflats and small islands of salt-tolerant mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes and a popular habitat of the Royal Bengal Tiger. An optional arrangement for fishing with the aid of otters during the Sundarban cruising can also be arranged.

DAY 4 KHULNA • BOGRA Drive from Khulna to Bogra, stopping at the Temples of Shiva and Govinda in Putia and various villages and local bazaars to get a feel of the lifestyle. Upon arrival at Bogra we are transferred to our hotel. Balance of day free.

DAY 5 BOGRA • PAHARPUR Visit the ruins of the Buddhist Vihara at Paharpur* and the old fortress of Mahasthan. Evening, followed by an interesting visit to a local market.

DAY 6 PAHARPUR • DHAKA We visit the weaver's village in Tangail to get an opportunity to see the village life and talk to the local people. We then proceed to visit the Atia Mosque, a blend of pre and imperial Moghul architectures and styles built in 1609 and continue to Dhaka for a sightseeing tour of the capital city.

DAY 7 DHAKA To the airport for departure.

* Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Bestway Tours & Safaris can also organize tailor-made tours to other areas of Bangladesh, such as Chittagong, Cox Bazaar and the Chittagong Hilltracts, home to many unique tribes, close to the border with Myanmar, where much of the traditional lifestyle is still well preserved.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

A comprehensive tour of the most important cultural sites of Bangladesh

Excursion of the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest

Visit 3 UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Bangladesh.

COMBINATIONS

This tour is ideally combined with our tours to India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand & Malaysia.

World Heritage Sites of Sri Lanka

A cultural journey to an ancient island nation



Reclining Buddha at Gal Vihara, Polonnaruwa



DAY 1 COLOMBO Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 COLOMBO Full day tour including the first colonial fort, Sea Street, Pettah, the bazaar area, a Hindu Temple, Davatagaha Mosque, Kelaniya Raja Maha Vihara, Wolfendaal Church and the Colombo National Museum.

DAY 3 COLOMBO • SIGIRIYA We journey along the lovely countryside to the Ancient City of Sigiriya* where we marvel at the beautiful frescoes on Sigiriya Rock.

DAY 4 ANURADHAPURA & AUKANA Visit the Ancient City of Anuradhapura* to see the world's oldest living Bodhi tree, the Brazen Palace, the twin ponds and the Queens' Bath, followed by a visit of the magnificent rock-cut statue of Lord Buddha in Aukana.

DAY 5 POLONNARUWA • HABARANA Visit the Ancient City of Polonnaruwa*, to see Gal Vihara, the Tivanka Pilimage and Parakrama Samudra. In the afternoon we enjoy an elephant back safari in the Habarana jungles.

DAY 6 DAMBULLA • MATALE • KANDY Visit the five cave temples of the Golden Temple of Dambulla*, the Matale Spice Gardens and the Sacred City of Kandy*.

DAY 7 KANDY Excursion of the Elephant Orphanage in Pinnawela, followed by visits to the Lankatilaka Temple, Embekke Temples, and the Temple of Tooth. We enjoy a traditional dance performance with fire eating and walking rituals in the evening.

DAY 8 KANDY • NUWARA ELIYA Visit the Royal Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya followed by a drive through the tea gardens to Nuwara Eliya and a visit to a tea factory.

DAY 9 NUWARA ELIYA • GALLE Sri Lanka is well known for its tea and today we explore the lovely tea gardens and continue to the coast to visit the historic city of Galle*.

DAY 10 GALLE Explore Galle's natural harbour and the historic fortress with its Dutch churches, museum, light house and imposing ramparts, followed by an excursion to Weligama, to visit the Statue of the Leper King and the Purvarama Image House.

DAY 11 GALLE • NEGOMBO Scenic coastal drive to Ambalangoda and visit of the traditional fishing village of Negombo.

DAY 12 NEGOMBO • COLOMBO After an unforgettable experience of one of Asia's oldest cultures and enjoying the hospitality of Sri Lanka and its people, we are transferred for our departure flight.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

A comprehensive tour of Sri Lanka
Visit 6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
Discover Sri Lanka's Ancient Buddhist Heritage

COMBINATIONS

This journey is ideally combined with our tours to India, Bangladesh, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Bhutan

Land of the Thunder Dragon

— ◆ —



Dramitse Ngacham dance, Thimphu



Bhutan is one the most exotic destinations we offer. Located to the North of India and South of Tibet, it is the last surviving Mahayana Buddhist Kingdom, with a breathtaking Himalayan landscape as a backdrop. The country was never colonized, and thus survived the influences of accelerated and thoughtless modernization, which makes our Bhutan tours some of the rarest and most unique travel destinations.

A shorter 7 days version tour of Bhutan is also available. Be among the few lucky ones to visit the pristine and nature loving Kingdom of Bhutan on one of our Bhutan tours.

DAY 1 PARO Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 PARO Visit Drugyal Dzong and Satsam Chorten from where we hike to the Taktsang Monastery otherwise known as Tiger's Nest. We then visit the 7th century Kyichu temple.

DAY 3 PARO • THIMPHU Scenic drive to Thimphu, with a visit of Simtokha Dzong, which is the oldest Dzong in Bhutan. Evening free to mingle with the friendly Bhutanese.

DAY 4 THIMPHU Visit the Memorial Stupa, Changangkha temple, the Takin Sanctuary, Zilukha Nunnery, the Folk Heritage Museum, National Textile Museum, Government Handicraft Emporium, a traditional handmade paper factory and a handicrafts store. Evening free.

DAY 5 THIMPHU • PUNAKHA We take a scenic drive from Thimphu to the Dochula Pass, with spectacular views of the mighty Himalayas and continue to Punakha. In the afternoon we drive to Karbisa and hike to Khamsung Yuelley Namgyal Stupa that offers a good view of the lower Punakha Valley.

DAY 6 PUNAKHA • BUMTHANG We drive to Wangdi, to explore the town and visit Wangdi Dzong. We continue via the Pelela Pass to Trongsa for afternoon tea and reach Bumthang via Yutongla pass in the evening.

DAY 7 BUMTHANG We visit the historical Jakar Dzong and the ancient monasteries of Kurje Lakhang, Jambay Lakhang, Tamshing Lakhang and the Pema Sambhava Monastery. Afternoon we visit the Swiss fresh juice and cottage cheese industry, the Bumthang sheep farm and Member Ttso Lake, one of the most sacred pilgrimage spots in Bhutan.

DAY 8 BUMTHANG • GANGTEY Drive to Trongsa to visit the magnificent Trongsa Dzong and its ancient Watchtower with its

temple dedicated to King Khesar. We then continue to Gangtey. Evening free.

DAY 9 GANGTEY • PARO After our visit of Gangtey Monastery we return to Paro.

DAY 10 PARO After our amazing journey through the Land of the Thunder Dragon, we are transferred to the airport.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

— ◆ —

A comprehensive journey through Bhutan.

Visit Taktsang Monastery, the legendary Tiger's Nest.

Encounter the living Buddhist Heritage of Bhutan.

— ◆ —

COMBINATIONS

This tour is ideally combined with our tours to Eastern India, Nepal, Tibet, Thailand and Bangladesh.

Himalayan Sanctuaries

A cultural tour of India, Sikkim, Bhutan & Nepal



Phewa Lake & Annapurna Range, Nepal



DAY 1 KOLKATA Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 KOLKATA Visit Victoria Memorial, St. Paul's Cathedral, Fort William, Raj Bhawan High Court, the Potters Colony in Kumartuli and the Pareshnath Jain Temple.

DAY 3 KOLKATA • DARJEELING Flight to Bagdogra, followed by a journey along beautiful tea gardens to Darjeeling.

DAY 4 DARJEELING Proceed to Tiger Hill to view the sunrise over the lofty Himalayas, followed by a ride on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway* and visits of the Ghoom Monastery, the Himalayan Zoo and the Natural History Museum.

DAY 5 DARJEELING • GANGTOK Drive through semi tropical forest, cardamom plantations and small villages of the Eastern Himalayas to Gangtok, Sikkim to visit Rumtek Monastery.

DAY 6 GANGTOK Visit Enchey Monastery, Doderul Chorten and the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology.

DAY 7 GANGTOK • KALIMPONG Travel to Kalimpong to visit Durpin Darea for breathtaking views of the Himalayas and the Dog Parli Fo-Brang Dzong.

DAY 8 KALIMPONG • PHUENTSHOLING A journey through the tropical foothills of the Himalayas brings us to Phuentsholing in Bhutan via the border town of Jai Gaon.

DAY 9 PHUENTSHOLING • THIMPHU A spectacular drive through many biomes takes us to Thimphu, followed by a tour including the Memorial Chorten, the National Library and the Handicrafts Emporium.

DAY 10 THIMPHU Visit the Institute for Traditional Medicine, the School of Traditional Arts and Crafts, the gold and silver bazaar and Simtokha Dzong.

DAY 11 THIMPHU • PARO A beautiful drive brings us to Satasam Chorten and hike to Taktsang Monastery, Tiger's Nest, followed by a visit to Kila Gompa, the National Museum of Bhutan and Rinpung Dzong.

DAY 12 PARO Visit the National Museum, Paro Rinpung Dzong and a typical Bhutanese farm house. Evening stroll in Paro, a great opportunity to meet the people.

DAY 13 PARO • KATHMANDU, NEPAL Flight over the mighty Himalayas from Paro to Kathmandu where we are met and transferred to our hotel. We then visit Kathmandu's Durbar Square* and Swyambunath*

DAY 14 KATHMANDU Exploration of the Kathmandu Valley* including the famous

Gilded Copper Gate in Bhadgaon*, the Hindu Temple of Shiva and the Buddhist stupa of Boudhnath*, followed by a visit to Patan* and the Tibetan Refugee Craft Centre.

DAY 15 KATHMANDU After our enlightening journey through the Himalayan kingdoms, we are transferred to the international airport for our departure flight.

* Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

A comprehensive tour of the most relevant cultural sites of the Central Himalayas

Discover rarely visited Sikkim and Bhutan

Encounter the living Buddhist Heritage of the region.

COMBINATIONS

This tour is ideally combined with our tours to Bangladesh, Tibet & India.

Tibet Encounter

A cultural journey to the Roof of the World



Potala Palace, Lhasa



The “Roof of the World”, has exerted a pull of almost supernatural proportions over travellers for many centuries. Tibet offers some of the most awe-inspiring scenery in the world, and the sheer scale of the high-altitude valleys, mountains and lakes in which human habitation is but a speck on the landscape is humbling.

Lhasa, Shigatse and Gyantse are cities with the widest range of facilities in the region and offer the most amazing monasteries and temples.

The Tibetan people are welcoming and wonderful and while tourism provides legitimacy as well as foreign currency to the Chinese government, many people, the Dalai Lama among them, believe that travellers should visit Tibet to learn all they can of the country and its people

DAY 1 LHASA Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel. Balance of the day is free to help get acclimatized to the Tibetan altitude.

DAY 2 LHASA Visit Drepung Monastery, Jokhang Temple* and the Barkhor Circuit through the heart of the old city where life has changed little since medieval times. Evening free.

DAY 3 LHASA Visit the world famous Potala Palace*, the Sera Monastery and the Norbulingkha Summer Palace* in Lhasa. Balance of the day free.

DAY 4 LHASA • GYANTSE Our journey takes us to Yamdrok Lake, one of the most sacred lakes in Tibet. We continue our spectacular voyage through Kamba La pass the Himalayas to Gyantse, where we visit the Palkhor Monastery with the Kumbum Stupa.

DAY 5 GYANTSE • SHIGATSE We travel over the Tibetan High Plateau to Shigatse to visit the Tashilunpo Monastery and see the statue of the Maitreya Buddha (the Buddha of the Future).

DAY 6 SHIGATSE • TSEDANG Another scenic journey to Samye Monastery in the middle of the sandy Samye valley via a beautiful river crossing. Visit Tibet's first monastery with a history that spans over 1200 years.

DAY 7 TSEDANG • LHASA Visit the Yamdulakhang Monastery overlooking the Yarlung Valley, the Tombs of the Ancient

Tibetan Kings at the Chongye Burial Mounds, before our return to Lhasa.

DAY 8 LHASA After our enlightening journey through the Roof of the World, we are transferred to the airport.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Discover Lhasa's monasteries and the Potala Palace Ensemble

Travel high passes on the Tibetan Plateau and view the magnificent Himalayas

Explore the Palkhor Monastery and the Kumbum Stupa in Gyantse

Visit the Tashilunpo Monastery and see the statue Maitreya Buddha in Shigatse

COMBINATIONS

This tour can also be combined with our tours to China, Nepal, Bhutan and India

Afghanistan Rediscovery Tour

An adventurous journey to cultures that are off-the-beaten path



Archaeological remains of the Bamiyan Valley



Friendly, beautiful Afghanistan was once well known as the place to stop for unparalleled hospitality, fantastic food and great hiking.

True to our philosophy of *Journeys sans Frontières*, Bestway Tours & Safaris is proud to be on the forefront of offering organized tours to what many believe is among the most beautiful places on earth

DAY 1 KABUL Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 KABUL • BAMİYAN A spectacular drive through the Shibar Pass takes us to Bamiyan*, known for the two huge Buddha statues, which were destroyed by the Taliban.

DAY 3 BAND-E-AMIR Excursion to the enchanting Band-e-Amir lakes, followed by a visit to the Buddha caves and the archaeological remains of the Buddhist complex.

DAY 4 BAMİYAN • JABAL-U-SERAJ A remarkable journey via the Ghorband Valley in the southern foothills of Hindu Kush takes us to Jabal-u-Seraj. Evening free.

DAY 5 JABAL-U-SERAJ • MAZAR-E-SHARIF

On our journey through the Hindu Kush range we travel via the Salang Pass tunnel, and stop at the busy towns of Pul-i-Khumri, Samangan and Khulm.

DAY 6 MAZAR-E-SHARIF • BALKH

Excursion visiting Haji Payada Mosque, the Timurid Shrine of Khawaja Parsa, the tomb of Poet Rabia Balkhi and the massive ruins of the ancient citadel of Balkh. Evening free.

DAY 7 MAZAR-E-SHARIF • KABUL

Our return drive to Kabul takes us to Pul-i-Khumri, a large settlement before crossing through the beautiful Salang Pass.

DAY 8 KABUL Visit the Kabul Museum, the recently restored Babur Gardens, Tapa Nadir Shah, Balahisar Fort, Mausoleum of Timur Shah, Pol-e-Khishti Mosque, Eid Gah Mosque, the Stadium and Chicken Street. Evening free.

DAY 9 KABUL After our adventurous journey through Northern Afghanistan, we are transferred to Kabul Airport.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

LAND JOURNEYS TO AFGHANISTAN

We also offer exclusive overland road journeys combining Afghanistan with Central Asia.

FROM UZBEKISTAN

Bestway Tours & Safaris can organize an easy drive from Uzbekistan through the city of Termez towards Airaton over the famous Friendship Bridge crossing the Amudarya (Oxus River). From here we take the direct route to Kabul or travel westwards to Mazar-e-Sharif.

FROM TAJIKISTAN

We also offer journeys out of Tajikistan towards Sher Bandar which now has a new concrete bridge into Afghanistan, linking the city of Kunduz with the main highway to Kabul or continue westwards to the city of Mazar-e-Sharif.



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Explore fascinating Kabul

Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bamiyan

Explore beautiful Band-e-Amir Lakes and travel through the Hindu Kush Mountains

Visit the Ali Mosque in Mazar-e-Sharif and the ancient city of Balkh

COMBINATIONS

This tour can also be combined with our tours to Pakistan, U.A.E., India, Uzbekistan & Central Asia.

World Heritage Sites of Pakistan

A cultural journey through millenary history



Camel driver at Clifton Beach, Karachi



DAY 1 KARACHI Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel. Evening visit to the mausoleum of Muhammad Ali Jinnah founder of Pakistan and the Defence Mosque, followed by our welcome dinner at a local restaurant.

DAY 2 KARACHI • THATTA We visit the National Museum and then take an excursion to the Historical Monuments at Makli, Thatta* and the Great Mosque of Emperor Shah Jehan.

DAY 3 KARACHI • SUKKUR A short flight takes us to Sukkur to visit the Archaeological Ruins at Moenjodaro*, where the Indus Civilization, flourished 5000 years ago. Afternoon time to relax in Sukkur.

DAY 4 SUKKUR • BHONG • BAHAWALPUR Tour of Sukkur, including the Minaret of Masum Shah, Faiz Mahal and the banks of the Indus River to see the traditional Mohana boat people and their daily activities along the river. We then drive through rural Sindh to Bahawalpur with a stop at Bhong to see the extraordinary modern mosque.

DAY 5 BAHAWALPUR • MULTAN

Tour Bahawalpur before our visit of Multan, one of the oldest cities on the subcontinent. It is known as the city of Saints. We explore the Old Fort, shrines of Sheikh Bahad-ud-din Zakriya, Shah Shams Tabriz and Shah Rukn-e-Alam. Damdama, Eidgah Mosque and the Hussain Agahi Bazaar.

DAY 6 MULTAN • HARAPPA • LAHORE

Explore the archaeological site and museum of Harappa, cradle of the Indus Valley Civilization. A fascinating drive through the Punjabi countryside brings us to the majestic city of Lahore.

DAY 7 LAHORE We explore the first Moghul capital visiting the Lahore Fort*, Badshahi Mosque, Poet Iqbal's Tomb, Shalimar Gardens*, Lahore Museum, Emperor Jehangir's Mausoleum, Empress Nur Jehan's Tomb, Sarafa Bazaar, Kashmiri Bazaar, the Golden Mosque and Wazir Khan's Mosque. Evening free.

DAY 8 LAHORE • ROHTAS FORT •

RAWALPINDI Visit a perfect amalgamation of Pashtun and Hindu architecture at Rohtas Fort* along the Grand Trunk Road. Free time in the afternoon.

DAY 9 TAXILA • ISLAMABAD Explore the ruins of Gandhara civilization and the remains of ancient Buddhist sites in Taxila*. We also visit the Shakarparian Gardens and Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad and the historical Raja Bazaar in Rawalpindi.

DAY 10 TAKHT-E-BHAI • PESHAWAR We drive to explore the ancient city of

Takht-e-Bhai* with a Buddhist monastic complex dating back to the 1st Century B.C. We also visit the ruins of Sahr-i-Bahlol, a small fortified city dating from the same period before our arrival in Peshawar.

DAY 11 PESHAWAR Today we explore the Quissa Khawani (story tellers) bazaar, the Mahabat Khan Mosque and have an in-depth visit of the Peshawar Museum, known for its rich Gandhara collection.

DAY 12 PESHAWAR After our enlightening journey through millenary history, we are transferred to the airport.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You may choose to conclude your tour on day 10, in which case you will be transferred to Islamabad International Airport for your departure flight.

* Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 6 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Discover the Ancient Indus River Civilization and Pakistan's ancient Buddhist Heritage

Marvel at the Mughal city of Lahore

COMBINATIONS

This journey is ideally combined with our tours to Afghanistan, India, China and Central Asia.

Shangri-La Hunza

A journey to cultural landscapes set in awe-inspiring mountains

— ♦ —



Baltit Fort at dusk, Hunza Valley



DAY 1 ISLAMABAD Arrival. We are welcomed at the airport and transferred to our hotel.

DAY 2 ISLAMABAD • TAXILA Explore the ruins of Gandhara civilization and the remains of ancient Buddhist sites in Taxila*. We also visit the old garrison town of Rawalpindi, Shakarparian Gardens and Shah Faisal Mosque in Islamabad.

DAY 3 ISLAMABAD • BESHAM Today we travel on the incredible Karakoram Highway along the Indus River valley to the curious town of Besham. In the evening we visit fascinating mountain villages.

DAY 4 BESHAM • GILGIT Continue on the amazing Karakoram Highway to the ancient silk route trading town of Gilgit. En-route we visit the ancient Buddhist petroglyphs near Chilas.

DAY 5 GILGIT • HUNZA Morning tour of Gilgit including a visit to a local school,

a Gilgiti home, the polo grounds, the mountain bazaar and the Buddha rock carving near Kargah. In the afternoon we take a spectacular drive through the Karakoram Range and stop in villages on our way to Karimabad, capital of the Hunza Valley, the inspiration for Shangri-La!

DAY 6 HUNZA Explore the fascinating Hunza Valley including Karimabad, Baltit Fort, the Ganesh Watch Tower, the Nagar Valley and Hopper Glacier. Free time in the evening to meet and mingle with the friendly Hunzakuts.

DAY 7 HUNZA Excursion to the incredible Khunjerab Pass, the highest paved border crossing in the world and highest point on the Karakoram Highway at 4700 meters on the border with China.

DAY 8 HUNZA • GILGIT Morning free at leisure to enjoy the Hunza Valley before our return drive to Gilgit.

DAY 9 GILGIT • ISLAMABAD Early morning transfer to the airport for a spectacular mountain flight to Islamabad. Flights are subject to weather. Rest of the day at leisure.

DAY 10 ISLAMABAD After our enlightening journey through some of the World's highest mountains, we are transferred for our departure flight.

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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Explore the Hunza Valley, the legendary Shangri-La.

Travel on the spectacular Karakoram Highway through the lofty ranges of the Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Himalayan mountain ranges.

— ♦ —

COMBINATIONS

This tour is ideally combined with our tours to Afghanistan, India, China and Central Asia.



Bestway Tours & Safaris

ABOUT OUR COMPANY

We have been operating small group cultural journeys since 1978. Our headquarters are in Vancouver, BC, Canada and we have operated tours to over 100 countries. We provide unparalleled travel experiences that traverse political borders hence journeys sans frontières.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

Planning your journey is more than just coordinating the logistics. In each tour we plan, we fulfill our passion to create connections between the intrepid traveller and the welcoming hosts at all our destinations. We make travel to remote locations accessible and on our journeys travelers will come to see the world in a whole new way. We are committed to providing you with superior quality travel at real value-per-dollar prices.

ABOUT OUR TOURS

Majority of our tours operate on small group basis where the minimum tour size is two and the maximum is limited to between 7 and 16 persons. Once the minimum tour size is met, the tour will not be cancelled hence you are assured of a guaranteed operation. There are a small number of tours where the minimum and maximum tour size is different or tours which do not operate on small group basis. Each tour itinerary clearly identifies the tour size of that particular tour. All our tours include daily breakfast and many other meals as mentioned in the itinerary. Please always consult our website www.bestway.com for specific details of all the inclusions and exclusions.

CUSTOMIZED & SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

You might find one of our scheduled itineraries appealing, but the dates don't work for you, or the tour doesn't include a site you want to see, or perhaps you simply prefer to create your

own customized itinerary. With over 30 years of experience in planning and operating tours worldwide we are well equipped to create tailor-made private tour itineraries that recognize your individuality and do not crowd your point of view. We also organise special interest tours and we can help you customize a special tour for you or your group. Below are some of the special interest tours we have operated.

WORLD HERITAGE TOURS

UNESCO's World Heritage List includes over 900 properties that form part of the cultural and natural heritage of our world. This recognition by UNESCO is based on sites having outstanding universal value. Our specialized division, World Heritage Tours designs special journeys in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas that focus on these sites. These itineraries do not only cover World Heritage sites, but also present beautiful scenery and offer genuine interaction with the local people to appreciate the cultural diversity of the places we visit.

NATURAL HERITAGE TOURS

Explore some of the most remote & scenic regions of our planet with biologists, naturalists or renowned wildlife photographers on our tours focused on Natural Heritage. Our Bird-watching Tours have been designed to satisfy the needs of all types of birders, from the novice bird watcher to the seasoned ornithologist.

ASTRONOMICAL TOURS

We have organized astronomy-based tours that follow solar & lunar eclipses, meteor showers all over the world, even on board of specially chartered scientific exploration ships. These tours are led by the renowned authorities on astronomy and the art of photographing eclipses.



FAITH-BASED TOURS

These journeys follow in the path of the great religions with an emphasis in the vast cultural diversity of our world. Whether you are interested in the great Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity or Islam or wish to follow in the footsteps of Buddha or discover the myriad beliefs of the Indian Subcontinent, we combine the religious aspects of each trip with visits to traditional sites.

CULINARY TOURS

Our unique culinary tours take us from local bazaars and markets to carefully chosen restaurants and private homes. As we sample the local cuisine and interact with our hosts we learn how climate and geography, traditions and religion have all had an influence in making a cuisine unique. Although the main emphasis is on food, these itineraries do include comprehensive sightseeing and plenty of cultural activities. We carefully research destinations that have enticed, tantalized and intrigued the travelling gourmet.

TEXTILES, ARTS & CRAFT TOURS

We have arranged many tours that focus on the creation and use of textiles, pottery & other crafts in other cultures, including meeting the artisans. Over the years Bestway Tours & Safaris has organized specialized tours for a number of universities, museums and other renowned institutions.

RAILWAY JOURNEYS

We offer journeys aboard luxurious private trains of the highest quality, including meals, sightseeing, entertainment and many special touches in India, China, Mongolia, Russia, Europe and Africa. Many of our tours include excursions on Heritage Railways all over the world.

WOMEN ONLY GROUPS

These tours have been designed exclusively for women, so they gain more insight by experiencing first hand cultural aspects that are only for females in many regions and cultures. We have also added special touches for a safe and gratifying tour: Tour escorts & managers that are women; boutique & luxury hotels that are well-located and special sightseeing that goes beyond, such as visits to private homes.

JOURNEYS SANS FRONTIÈRES TO UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

Our journeys have no borders. We cover destinations that are difficult to get to and represent a challenge in terms of accessibility. We have pioneered tours to Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Saudi Arabia, North Korea, Sudan, East Timor, Socotra Island and even Bouvet Island, the most remote island in the world.

THE BESTWAY CLUB

Many of our friends, who have shared their journey experiences with us, have asked us to keep them informed about new programs we develop. In order to facilitate this, we started the Bestway Club. Membership is free and open to anyone. With your membership, not only will you receive regular notifications of our new programs, but you'll also be given access to special discounts on our many exciting journeys. You may cancel your membership at any time and your name will not be shared or sold.



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Photography by Peter Langer

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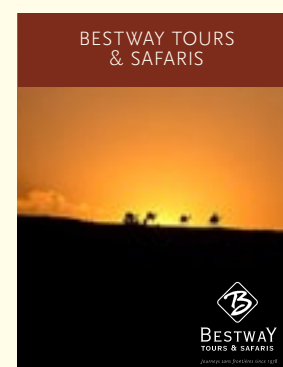
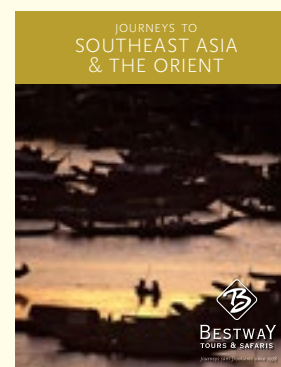
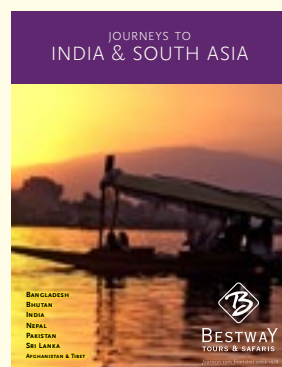
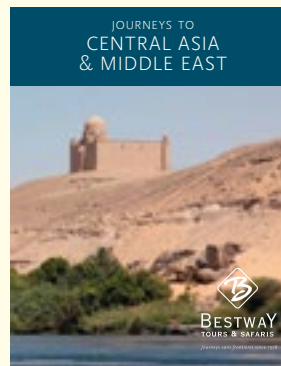
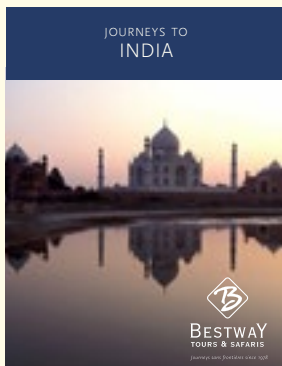
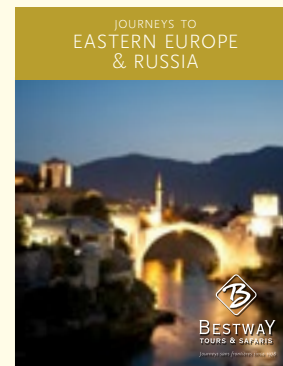
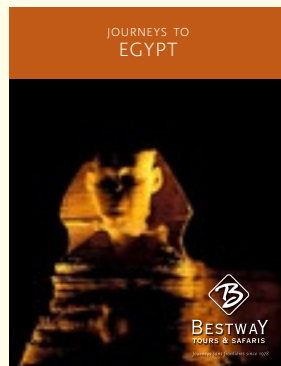
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