



FAR FRONTIERS TRAVEL

FOCUS ON INDIA Spring 2011

Spring is a good time to start planning a trip to India. It's a magical, marvellous and sometimes frustrating land, but one that exerts a very special pull. Once India has you under her spell, you never fall out of love. Here are some suggested itineraries that illustrate the great variety of experiences that await plus some great offers! All prices shown here are UK to UK.

Spa retreat

Stay put and chill out at Ananda

Ananda in the Himalayas is one of the leading spas in the world and provides an ideal environment for the rejuvenation of body, mind and soul. Spread among 21,000 square feet of lush greenery, mountain air and spring waters, its luxurious therapy rooms overlook the holy River Ganges and the mysterious Himalayas.

Once the home of the Tehri Garhwal Maharaja Ananda, it is now a retreat for tired bodies and overworked minds.

Rejuvenate yourself with the ancient healing therapies of Ayurveda, Yoga and Panchakarma. You will return feeling pampered, fitter, fresher and younger!

- » how long « 10 days
- » prices from « £3,195 per person for travel 16 October 2011- 30 April 2012 (excluding Christmas and New Year)
- » offer « Discount £635 per person for travel until 15 October 2011

Culture and wildlife

A land blessed with both

With its 90 national parks and 500 wildlife sanctuaries, India is heaven on earth for wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. This trip is a fabulous opportunity to encounter the tiger, spirit of the Indian jungle, in its natural habitat. Accompanied by excellent local naturalists and guides you will visit Satpura, Pench, and Kanha national parks, exploring by open jeep, on horseback or elephant, or on foot.

In the evening you stay in luxury at fabulous resorts with the finest accommodation and an uninterrupted view of the forest from your bed! A visit to the little explored temples of Maheshwar gives a memorable insight into India's rich and varied culture.

- » how long « 14 days
- » prices from « £4,165 per person for travel 15 October - 15 April 2012
- » offer « Discount £425 per person for travel before 30 June 2011

South India

Ancient and modern

This tour takes you away from the regular tourist circuit and offers the best of South India through its two major states, Karnataka and Kerala, fondly referred to as 'God's Own Country'. You visit Bangalore, IT capital of India; the tranquil tiny town of Hassan, popular for its unique and exclusive style of architecture; Mysore, the cultural capital of Karnataka; Nagarhole National Park and the small coastal town of Calicut. A highlight is a leisurely backwater experience on a houseboat from Alleppey to Kumarakom and a visit to the fascinating town of Cochin.

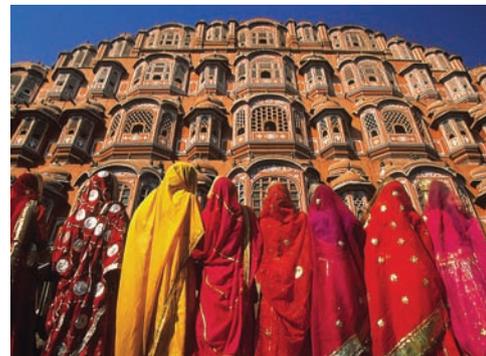
- » how long « 15 days
- » prices from « £3,560 per person for travel 1 October 2011 - 15 April 2012
- » offer « Discount £475 per person for travel before 30 September 2011

Darjeeling and Sikkim

Variety - the spice of life

This is a special interest tour designed for those who are keen on trekking and nature walks, which takes in a number of destinations in Darjeeling and Sikkim. Highlights of the itinerary include staying on a former tea estate, trekking in incredible scenery, taking the toy train in the hills and, last but not least, a spot of white water rafting!

- » how long « 10 days
- » prices from « £2,650 per person for travel 1 October 2011 - 15 April 2012
- » offer « Discount £135 per person for travel before 30 September 2011



Rajasthan

Glittering palaces and a sense of history

One of the most sought after destinations in India, Rajasthan is the land of valour, colourful fairs, majestic forts, enchanting palaces, unspoiled wildlife and crystalline lakes. This itinerary offers you all this and much more as you discover Delhi, Agra, Ranthambhore, Nimaj, Deogarh and Udaipur.

Take a leisurely stroll around the streets on the back of an elephant, be dazzled by the colour of the bazaar, chat with the villagers, visit 15th Century temples, witness the extraordinary shapes of the desert sand dunes and take a boat ride on the shimmering waters of Lake Pichola. You will not fail to be mesmerised by the magic of this princely land!

- » how long « 16 days
- » prices from « £3,530 per person for travel 1 October 2011 - 15 April 2012
- » offer « Discount £615 per person for travel before 30 June 2011

Ladakh

Remote and intriguing

This itinerary is built around Leh, the capital of Ladakh. It takes you to age-old monasteries, through quaint lanes and colourful markets and offers you the thrill of negotiating the highest driveable road in the world. Keep your cameras loaded as you will not be able to resist capturing every moment of the way, be it the smiling faces of the villagers or the indescribably beautiful views of the Himalayas!

- » how long « 9 days
- » prices from « £2,460 per person for travel until 30 September 2011

SPECIAL DISCOUNT – For all new bookings to India completed (i.e. deposit received) by 30 June 2011 we will give a further discount of £250 per couple.

Needless to say we offer tailor-made itineraries throughout India – do call us for details if you would like to know more.



The air holiday packages included here are ATOL protected by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 9270. Please see our booking conditions for more information.



Clients' impressions of India

by Charles and Elizabeth Godfrey

Charles and Elizabeth Godfrey, who returned from their travels in Rajasthan in February 2011, share with us their light-hearted account of their travels and their personal insight into India beyond the main tourist sites.



Tuesday 25 January - Agra

Just arrived in Agra. Love the view from the Oberoi Amarvilas! Currently exercising stomach muscles sitting up!

Wednesday 26 January -

Agra to Ranthambhore

Having just spent one and a half hours in the back of a Toyota van on some of India's back roads, my admiration for the driver in avoiding all manner of fauna and flora throwing itself under our wheels is unfathomable. If the unthinkable does happen and the victim is two-legged, then freedom from prosecution is assured by copious use of the horn! On train now...

Thursday 27 January -

Ranthambhore National Park

Summary of Thursday - a day of two extremes, strangely related...learning to co-ordinate coughs in the bathroom of one's colonial tent and coping with sharing a very small part of Ranthambhore National Park with a 275kg male tiger in his prime. Known affectionately as T24, his diet recently included three hapless villagers who were collecting firewood.

Friday 28 January -

Ranthambhore to Jaipur

Good news, saw Sher Khan on our morning drive! Then later... After another wonderful morning in camp we set out for Jaipur. On our way, we overtook 57 trucks, 145 cars and 5 camels!

On arrival we entered the heart of the Pink City to be greeted by what we thought were kites. In fairness



most were kites... accompanied by a collection of paper and plastic borne aloft on the evening breeze! The city is most impressive and when you see the industriousness of folk, the cloth and jewellery and carpet factories, you realise here is a country with a great future.

The Heritage hotel is amazing ...

We're readying ourselves for our trip to the **Jantar Mantar Astronomical Observatory**, which should be great and a few more temples! Culture tank: three quarters full.

Saturday 29 January -

Jaipur

Wow, quite a day - we thought we'd seen everything but then we met Raj, another fantastic local guide. He found places we didn't even know existed. The newly qualifying World Heritage Site, the Observatory in Jaipur was nothing short of incredible. Liz and I discovered that by marrying in August we'd missed out on every blessing available to the Gods! No matter, we learned all about the very important role played by astrologers in guiding Maharajas to successful matters as diverse as marriage to waging war. A 90 foot sundial with accuracy to the nearest two seconds was breathtaking. Thank goodness the sun shined yet again. At 28 degrees (evidenced by yet another instrument) Jaipur's winter sun is very pleasant.

The evening began with the sky and trees full of kites and that strange wailing!



Thursday 3 February - Udaipur

We take over the **Lake Palace!** I have a 007 Martini whilst Mrs Octopussy orders a pink Guavaberry Martini cocktail! Last afternoon of sun. I'm sure India could export that too if it put its mind to it! Great tour of **Royal Island** and the Palace.

And our last word...

A bit more about one of our most extraordinary experiences, we were on our way out of Ranthambhore's National Park around 5pm when we rounded a bend in the track and who should be walking ahead of us but none other than the aforementioned tiger T24, walking purposefully and calling. Given what legend says to be his favourite item on the dinner menu, his swagger and confidence said it all.

After following him for five to ten minutes he turned to mark this tree and this is the snap I got of him, magnificent is an understatement. There's something primeval about that look, it stops you dead.

All the local representatives we met were helpful, informed, very punctual and a real pleasure to be with. The tour was very well arranged by **Far Frontiers Travel** and the choice of hotels was exemplary. **What a wonderful holiday, thank you so much. We will be returning to Far Frontiers Travel at the first opportunity and recommending you to our friends and family.**



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