

EXPLORE

worldwide

India, Nepal

Dossier Ref. DK

Delhi to Kathmandu

Issued Sept 2001. Valid from 01 Jan 2002 to 31 Dec 2002.

CONNECTING TRAVEL FROM LONDON

18 days/17 nights Tour including Connecting Group Flights London-Delhi-Kathmandu-London

Depart Thursday from London Heathrow Airport for overnight flight to join tour in Delhi early on Friday (day 1 of Land Only itinerary). Transfer to hotel.

Return Saturday from Kathmandu (late on day 16 of Land Only itinerary) and arrive London Heathrow the following day, Sunday.

JOINING TOUR ABROAD

16 days/15 nights Land Only Delhi to Kathmandu

Join Delhi on Friday (day 1)
End Kathmandu on Saturday (day 16)

Some departures operate in reverse from Kathmandu to Delhi. See pages 3 & 4.

Clients booked on 'Tour Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point in Delhi. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for name and address of hotel and time of rendezvous with tour leader.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many highlights featured on this tour, we particularly mention:

- * **DELHI** Half-day guided tour of Old and New Delhi.
- * **JAIPUR** Half-day City tour of the 'Pink City' of Rajasthan.
- * **AGRA** Visit Taj Mahal and Fort
- * **ALLAHABAD** Free time to visit the largest of Akbar's imposing forts
- * **GANGES SAILING** 3-day sail on Ganges
- * **VARANASI** See the holy bathing ghats and funerary pyres along the banks of the Ganges in India's holiest city
- * **SARNATH** Visit site where Buddha preached his first sermon
- * **CHITWAN** Jungle walks, game drives & canoeing in the National Park
- * **KATHMANDU** Walking tour of Nepal's fascinating capital city to include the Royal palace, Durbar Square and main bazaar. Plus an excursion to Bodnath Stupa and the Pashupatinath Temple complex

This classic journey takes in many of the major highlights of India and Nepal including the Rajasthani city of Jaipur, the Taj Mahal at Agra, India's holiest city Varanasi, Chitwan National Park and the Kathmandu Valley. We also spend 2 days travelling by local sailing boat on the River Ganges or 'Ganga'. Known locally as the 'Lifeblood of India', the Ganga not only runs through the heartland of the country but also through the mythology of Hinduism. It attracts millions of pilgrims and devotees every year – many of whom travel huge distances to bathe in its purifying waters.

As we travel by sailboat, an ability to swim is recommended.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

Note: While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day route printed below, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Day 1 Friday. Join tour Delhi

Arrive Delhi and check into hotel. This afternoon we take a city tour of New Delhi, which will include Connaught Circus, Lok Sabha (Parliament), India Gate, the Rajpath, Humayun's Tomb and the Qutb Minar Victory Tower. **Overnight hotel and breakfast. H+.**

Day 2. Old Delhi sightseeing tour. PM train to Jaipur

This morning we plan a tour of Old Delhi – to include the Jami Masjid mosque and view of the Red Fort, ending in the bustling Chandni Chowk Bazaar, a jamboree of deafening barter and the true hub of the Old part of the city. Then we transfer to New Delhi station for the train journey to Jaipur, arriving late afternoon. Sometimes called the 'Pink City', Jaipur was first painted terracotta pink by Maharajah Swai Ram Singh to celebrate the visit of Prince Albert in 1853. **2 nights hotel and breakfast. H+.**

Day 3. In Jaipur

We'll visit the lavish and well preserved City Palace with its fine collection of textiles, costumes and armoury and the Palace of the Winds with its famous 5-storied facade which has been the subject of countless Indian posters. Jai Singh, the great Maharajah-astronomer built his extraordinary (and very accurate) star-gazing Observatory (Jantra) here right opposite the City Palace. This afternoon is left free for further personal exploration of this fascinating city – you may wish to take an excursion (optional) to the nearby hill fortress of Amber Palace, which contains an amazing chamber of mirrors and affords spectacular views across the surrounding plains.

Day 4. Drive to Agra

We head east this morning, reaching the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri late morning. Founded in 1569 and abandoned scarcely 16 years later, it is a perfectly intact example of Akbar's imperial court. Among the many noteworthy buildings is the 5 storied Panch Mahal, probably a pleasure pavillion for the ladies of the harem. In the centre of the courtyard is the Pachisi Board where the emperor played a game like chess with dancing slave girls as pieces. Perhaps the finest structure of all is the lotus shaped carved central pillar of the Diwan-i-khas (Hall of Private Audience), its extraordinary capital supporting a vaulted roof. Later we drive on to Agra. We'll visit the Agra Fort this afternoon; built by Akbar the Great, the fort stands in an imposing position on a bend in the Yamuna River with wonderful views of the Taj Mahal further along its banks. The fort contains some stunning and very intricate designs, the most impressive being the incomparable Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque). **Overnight hotel and breakfast. H+.**

Day 5. Visit the Taj Mahal & Fort; PM train to Allahabad

We visit the Taj Mahal, the world's most perfect and poetic building, at sunrise. Over 300 years have elapsed since its construction, yet it stands today, largely unscarred by age, its beauty and symmetry seemingly beyond man, time & space. Created by Shah Jahan as a funerary monument to his favourite wife Mumtaz, it took 22 years to build (1630-52). The Great Moghul lies beside his beloved

under the white marble dome. Inlaid with precious gems, the building cost a fortune and later Shah Jahan moved his capital to Delhi before being overthrown by his son, Aurangzeb. Late this morning we drive to Tundla to catch our train to Allahabad, arriving late afternoon. Hindus sometimes refer to this city as Prayag – meaning 'confluence'. Allahabad is situated at the confluence of the Ganges and the Yamuna and consequently is an extremely sacred area. **Overnight hotel and breakfast. H+.**

Days 6 & 7. In Allahabad; Ganges Sailing to Varanasi

The morning is left free and we suggest you visit the fort. Thought to be the largest of Akbar's forts, its huge bricks are best viewed from the river. We then drive to Mirzapur where we visit the Vindachal 'Thugee' Temple before boarding our boats for the 3-day boat journey through the sacred and fertile Gangetic plain to Varanasi. Life on shore varies as we drift peacefully along; the ornate temples and crowded bathing ghats, the fields of wheat and rice paddies, everyday life in countless villages and stunning sunsets. We camp in 2-man tents on beaches along the banks of the river. The actual nightstops we use will vary according to local conditions, but as a guide, the following itinerary might be followed:

Day 6. Drive to Mirzapur sail to beaches downstream. **Overnight camp and all meals. C.**

Day 7. Sail to Chunar, visit Fort and continue to camp on beach. **Overnight camp and all meals. C.**

Day 8. Arrive Varanasi (Benares). This morning we visit the Maharaja's Palace of Ramnagar (now a museum) before crossing the river to the holy city of Varanasi. As we come into the city we pass the burning ghats of Manikarnika where funerary pyres burn throughout the day. Eventually we reach Asi Ghat where we disembark and transfer to our hotel. Varanasi (Benares) has been the centre of Hinduism since the dawn of history, it's age is contemporary with Babylon and Thebes. Often known as 'Kashi' (City of Light) by Hindus it attracts over a million pilgrims each year – many of whom come to spend their last years here in the holy city. **2 nights hotel and breakfast. H+.**

Day 9. In Varanasi; excursion to Sarnath

This morning we visit nearby Sarnath. Having gained enlightenment at Both Ganga the Buddha came to Sarnath to preach his first sermon. The city was at its peak in the fifth century, when it was a respected centre of religious activity, learning and art. Muslim invaders destroyed much of the city and today remains of several monasteries and stupas can be seen along with the small museum which has a well displayed collection. The afternoon is left free in Varanasi to enable you to explore the labyrinth of streets, bazaars and temples that line the banks of the river.

Day 10. Drive to Bhairahawa (via Nepalese border)

We have a long yet spectacular drive today, as we head north across the Gangetic Plains, through remote towns and villages to the Nepalese border at Sonauli. We walk through customs and immigration into Nepal and meet our Nepalese bus which will transfer us to nearby Bhairahawa where we spend the night. **Overnight hotel and breakfast. H.**

Day 11. Drive to Chitwan National Park
Our drive this morning takes us through the *Tera*, the narrow forested lowland strip that stretches the full width of the southern border of Nepal. We aim to arrive at Chitwan by lunchtime, then take an afternoon jungle walk through the park to orientate ourselves. Chitwan is the oldest and best known of the national parks in Nepal. It consists of swamp, tall elephant grass and dense forest, and is a natural habitat for tiger, Great One-horned Indian Rhino, leopard, sloth and wild bear to name but a few. **2 nights Lodge and all meals. H+.**

Day 12. In Chitwan National Park
You will be kept busy today (except for a couple of hours around lunch time when you can relax in the sun with a cold drink). Activities in the Park include elephant back safaris searching out the one-horned rhino, birdwatching, jungle walks and drives and dugout canoe trips along the Rapti River. (All the activities are included in the cost of the tour):-

Elephant Safari. This is the best (and safest) way of searching for game in this sanctuary. Though the elephant may make quite a noise pushing its way through the dense jungle the other animals know that it poses them no danger and seem to completely ignore it.

Canoeing. (Dependent on the water level). Float silently down the Rapti river in a traditional dugout canoe.

Nature Walks. In the company of trained native naturalists you can walk along trails in the less densely forested parts of the park.

Bird Watching. More than 350 species are to be found here: an early morning walk near the river to visit our watch tower will reveal many. Again, a trained naturalist will help you get the best enjoyment and interest from these excursions. However it's not all hard work. The lodge staff prepare good meals and there is a long break in the middle of the day. You can read, relax in a deck chair in the shade of a Sal tree or even go down for a swim in the river.

Day 13. Drive to Kathmandu
This morning there is the opportunity for more walks before heading back to Kathmandu. We drive through the bustling town of Naryanghat, then head north beside the River Trisuli to arrive at the 'wild west' town of Mugling at the confluence of the Marsyandi and Trisuli rivers. Once we reach Naubise the road starts to climb and reaches a pass on the Kathmandu valley rim via a series of breathtaking zig-zags. We plan to arrive in Kathmandu and our hotel by mid afternoon. **3 nights hotel and breakfast. H+.**

Day 14 In Kathmandu
After breakfast we have arranged a walking tour of this fascinating historic city, visiting the bazaar and temples of old Kathmandu, accompanied by a local Nepali guide. Much of the day to day life of Kathmandu takes place in the local bazaar: a fascinating mixture of people selling spices; potters spinning their wheels; rickshaw wallahs honking their horns and the ever present sacred cow wandering amongst it all. We end up in Durbar Square at the heart of the city.

Day 15 In Kathmandu
This morning we plan to visit the temple of Pashupatinath on the banks of the Bagmati River, the holiest Hindu shrine in Nepal, and also to visit Bodnath, the largest stupa in the country and a destination for Buddhist pilgrims from all over Nepal. The afternoon is free for last minute sightseeing or shopping. During the afternoon, there is the opportunity of an optional visit to Patan or Bhaktapur, two beautifully preserved cities within the Kathmandu Valley, both of which have retained much of their medieval character and contain some notable 17th century art.

Day 16 Saturday. Tour ends Kathmandu
In the morning there is the opportunity to take a flight to see Mount Everest (optional, weather permitting), which gives outstanding views of the Everest region. Local airlines operate this flight every morning. The flight lasts one hour and flies initially from west to east towards Everest before turning back to Kathmandu. So those on the left of the plane get good views on the outward leg and those on the right get them on the return. The tour ends late morning.

PERSONAL EXPENSES

You'll also need some extra money to cover meals not included in the tour price, other sightseeing, airport taxes, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Camera and Video Fees: Bear in mind that at some sites there is an additional camera charge. Video filming fees up to £5 per site may be payable.

Meal Plan

Local Food and Drink: Meals other than those included in the itinerary are paid for separately by the traveller. You should calculate for buying 11 dinners and 12 lunches. Some examples of comparative costs are given below.

	UK	India	Nepal
Tea/coffee	£0.70	£0.20	£0.50
Soft drink	0.80	0.25	0.50
Beer	1.00	1.50	1.50
Bottle water	0.70	0.30	0.80
2 Course Meal*	7.50	2.00	4.00
3 Course Meal**	15.00	4.00	6.50

*Cheap local fare in a small cafe or restaurant

**Typical food in a simple, reasonably comfortable mid-range restaurant.

Tipping: In this area, tipping is a recognised part of life. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. Accordingly, you should allow £20 for tipping. Your tour leader will account to you for any organised tipping.

Other Sightseeing

The following tours and excursions are usually available and may be booked and paid for through the tour leader. Estimated costs are:

VARANASI Classical music and dance £2
EVEREST FLIGHT One hour flight into the Himalayas from Kathmandu \$125 (to be paid in US\$ cash or Travellers Cheque's only)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Seasonal Climate

There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. Summer temperatures on the plains are very hot, but cooled by the South-West Monsoon which lasts from June-Sept. As we drive up to the Kathmandu Valley, temperatures can become quite cool at night and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary.

Visa Requirements

India and Nepal: Entry visas are required by UK, AUS, NZ, USA, CAN citizens – other nationalities should consult their travel agent or consular office. Visas can be obtained through the consular office, your travel agent or through Explore Visa Service.

Vaccinations & Protection

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Malaria, Typhoid, Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis and Polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against Malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against Meningitis.

Special Note: Visa and Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

PACKING FOR YOUR TRIP

A complete list of clothing and personal gear is contained in Explore's 'General Information Booklet', available after a booking has been accepted. Here we make a few specific recommendations with regard to your tour.

Luggage: One main piece of baggage and a daysac. Total allowance: **44lbs/20kgs**. Remember – porters are not always available, so don't overload yourself.

Clothing: Pack as for 'All Tours'. High altitude night temperatures in the Himalayas can be cold, make allowance for warmer clothing and a waterproof accordingly. Weather can change rapidly in the mountains and lightweight rainwear is advisable. On the Gangetic plains, only lightweight clothing is needed so pack for 'Hot Conditions'. Local people may be offended by western styles of dress. Brief shorts tight fitting clothing etc. should be avoided by both men and woman.

Footwear: Comfortable walking shoes, trainers and sandals.

Equipment: Bring a 2/3 season sleeping bag for the Ganges Sailing (2 season bag sufficient in Sep/Oct), a torch and a personal water bottle. Mattresses, eating and drinking utensils are provided.

EXPLORE ACCOMMODATION RATINGS : The following key is intended as a guide to the type of accommodation listed for each night stop. We stress that standards may vary and reserve the right to make changes as necessary without warning.

Hotels / Pensions / Lodges

H+ : Usually twin bedded rooms, normally with private facilities. Local grading 2/3/4 star.

H : Usually twin bedded rooms, sometimes 3-4 bedded rooms may have to be used. Normally with shared facilities. Local grading 1/2/3 star.

Local Style Accommodation

L+ : Usually twin bedded rooms, may be some 3-4 bedded. Normally shared facilities.

L : Could be twin bedded but more usually multiple share or dorm style sleeping arrangements. Normally shared facilities.

Camping – under canvas or bivouac

C+ : Designated campsite, usually with fixed WC/shower. Possibly with fixed pre-erected tents.

C : Natural/Rough/Wild/Bush Camp. Limited or no facilities. Temporary WC. Usually need to pitch own tents.

TO BOOK PLEASE CALL 01252 760000 • FAX 01252 760001 • www.exploreworldwide.com

Explore Worldwide, 1 Frederick St, Aldershot, Hants, GU11 1LQ.

EXPLORE

worldwide

Nepal, India,

Reverse Itinerary

Dossier Ref. DK

Kathmandu to Delhi

Issued Sept 2001. Valid from 01 Jan 2002 to 31 Dec 2002.

CONNECTING TRAVEL FROM LONDON

18 days/17 nights Tour including Connecting Group Flights London-Kathmandu-Delhi-London

Depart Friday from London Heathrow Airport for overnight flight to join tour in Kathmandu early on Saturday (day 1 of Land Only itinerary). Transfer to hotel.

Return Sunday from Delhi (late on day 16 of Land Only itinerary) and arrive London Heathrow the following day, Monday.

JOINING TOUR ABROAD

16 days/15 nights Land Only Kathmandu to Delhi

Join Kathmandu on Saturday (day 1) End Delhi on Sunday (day 16)

Clients booked on 'Tour Only' arrangements should make their own way to the joining point in Kathmandu. Please refer to separate 'Joining Instructions' for name and address of hotel and time of rendezvous with tour leader.

SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Among the many highlights featured on this tour, we particularly mention:

- * **KATHMANDU** Walking tour of Nepal's fascinating capital city to include the Royal palace, Durbar Square and main bazaar. Plus an excursion to Bodnath Stupa and the Pashupatinath Temple complex.
- * **CHITWAN** Jungle walks, game drives & canoeing in the National Park
- * **SARNATH** Visit site where Buddha preached his first sermon
- * **VARANASI** See the holy bathing ghats and funerary pyres along the banks of the Ganges in India's holiest city
- * **GANGES SAILING** 3-day sail on Ganges
- * **AGRA** Visit Taj Mahal and Fort
- * **JAIPUR** Half-day City tour of the 'Pink City' of Rajasthan.
- * **DELHI** Half-day guided tour of Old and New Delhi.

This classic journey takes in many of the major highlights of Nepal and India including the the Kathmandu Valley, Chitwan National Park, India's holiest city Varanasi, the Taj Mahal at Agra and the Rajasthani city of Jaipur. We also spend 2 days travelling by local sailing boat on the River Ganges or 'Ganga'. Known locally as the 'Lifeblood of India', the Ganga not only runs through the heartland of the country but also through the mythology of Hinduism. It attracts millions of pilgrims and devotees every year – many of whom travel huge distances to bathe in it's purifying waters.

As we travel by sailboat, an ability to swim is recommended.

LAND ONLY ITINERARY

Note: While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day route printed below, a degree of flexibility is built into the itinerary. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

Day 1 Saturday. Join tour Kathmandu

Arrive Kathmandu and check into hotel.

3 nights hotel with breakfast. H+.

Day 2. In Kathmandu

After breakfast we have arranged a walking tour of this fascinating historic city, visiting the bazaar and temples of old Kathmandu, accompanied by a local Nepali guide. Much of the day to day life of Kathmandu takes place in the local bazaar: a fascinating mixture of people selling spices; potters spinning their wheels; rickshaw wallahs honking their horns and the ever present sacred cow wandering amongst it all. We end up in Durbar Square at the heart of the city.

Day 3. In Kathmandu

This morning we plan to visit the temple of Pashupatinath on the banks of the Bagmati River, the holiest Hindu shrine in Nepal, and also to visit Bodnath, the largest stupa in the country and a destination for Buddhist pilgrims from all over Nepal. The afternoon is free for sightseeing or shopping. During the afternoon, there is the opportunity of an optional visit to Patan or Bhaktapur, two beautifully preserved cities within the Kathmandu Valley, both of which have retained much of their medieval character and contain some notable 17th century art.

Day 4. Drive to Chitwan National Park

We head west out of the Kathmandu Valley this morning. From the rim of the valley we descend down a series of breathtaking zig-zags. From Mugling we follow the Trisuli River south into the Terai, the narrow forested lowland strip that stretches the full width of the southern border of Nepal. We aim to arrive at Chitwan by early afternoon, then take an afternoon jungle walk through the park to orientate ourselves. Chitwan is the oldest and best known of the national parks in Nepal. It consists of swamp, tall elephant grass and dense forest, and is a natural habitat for tiger, Great One-horned Indian Rhino, leopard, sloth and wild bear to name but a few. 2 nights lodge and all meals. H+.

Day 5. In Chitwan National Park

Throughout your stay you will be kept busy during the day (except for a couple of hours around lunch time when you can relax in the sun with a cold drink). Activities in the Park include elephant back safaris searching out the one-horned rhino, birdwatching, jungle walks and drives and dugout canoe trips along the Rapti River. (All the activities are included in the cost of the tour):-

Elephant Safari. This is the best (and safest) way of searching for game in this sanctuary. Though the elephant may make quite a noise pushing its way through the dense jungle the other animals know that it poses them no danger and seem to completely ignore it.

Canoeing. (Dependent on the water level). Float silently down the Rapti river in a traditional dugout canoe.

Nature Walks. In the company of trained native naturalists you can walk along trails in the less densely forested parts of the park.

Bird Watching. More than 350 species are to be found here: an early morning walk near

the river to visit our watch tower will reveal many. Again, a trained naturalist will help you get the best enjoyment and interest from these excursions. However it's not all hard work. The lodge staff prepare good meals and there is a long break in the middle of the day. You can read, relax in a deck chair in the shade of a Sal tree or even go down for a swim in the river.

Day 6. Drive to Bhairahawa

This morning we have the chance to do more game drives or walks/rides in the park before driving to Bhairahawa near the border.

Overnight hotel and breakfast. H.

Day 7. Drive to Varanasi (via Indian border)

We have a long yet spectacular drive today. First we arrive at the Nepalese border at Sonauli where we walk through customs and immigration into India. We then head south across the Gangetic Plains, through remote towns and villages to India's holiest city, Varanasi. Overnight hotel and breakfast. H+.

Day 8. Drive to Mirzapur; board boats

This morning we drive to Mirzapur where we visit the Vindachal 'Thugee' Temple before boarding our boats for the 3-day boat journey through the sacred and fertile Gangetic plain back to Varanasi. Life on shore varies as we drift peacefully along; the ornate temples and crowded bathing ghats, the fields of wheat and rice paddies, everyday life in countless villages and stunning sunsets. We camp in 2-man tents on beaches along the banks of the river. The actual nightstops we use will vary according to local conditions, but as a guide, the following itinerary might be followed: Overnight camp and all meals. C.

Day 9 Arrive Chunar on Ganges

Sail to Chunar, visit Fort and continue to camp on beach. Overnight camp and all meals. C.

Day 10. Ganges Sailing back to Varanasi

This morning we arrive back in Varanasi. As we come into the city we pass the burning ghats of Manikarnika where funerary pyres burn throughout the day. Eventually we reach Asi Ghat where we disembark and transfer to our hotel. Varanasi (Benares) has been the centre of Hinduism since the dawn of history, it's age is contemporary with Babylon and Thebes. Often known as 'Kashi' (City of Light) by Hindus it attracts over a million pilgrims each year – many of whom come to spend their last years here in the holy city. Overnight hotel and breakfast. H+.

Day 11. In Varanasi; excursion to Sarnath; overnight train to Tundla

This morning we visit nearby Sarnath. Having gained enlightenment at Bodhi Gaya the Buddha came to Sarnath to preach his first sermon. The city was at its peak in the fifth century, when it was a respected centre of religious activity, learning and art. Muslim invaders destroyed much of the city and today remains of several monasteries and stupas can be seen along with the small museum which has a well displayed collection. The afternoon is left free in Varanasi to enable you to explore the labyrinth of streets, bazaars and temples that line the banks of the river. This evening we board the overnight train to Tundla. Overnight train, no meals.

Day 12. Arrive Tundla; drive to Agra

This morning we arrive in Tundla and drive to Agra. We'll visit the Agra Fort this afternoon; built by Akbar the Great, the fort stands in an imposing position on a bend in the Yamuna River with wonderful views of the Taj Mahal further along its banks. The fort contains some stunning and very intricate designs, the most impressive being the incomparable Moti Masjid (Pearl Mosque). Later you may wish to visit the Taj Mahal (optional). **Overnight hotel with breakfast. H+.**

Day 13. In Agra; visit the Taj Mahal; drive to Jaipur via Fatehpur Sikri

We visit the Taj Mahal, the world's most perfect and poetic building, at sunrise. Over 300 years have elapsed since its construction, yet it stands today, largely unscarred by age, its beauty and symmetry seemingly beyond man, time & space. Created by Shah Jahan as a funerary monument to his favourite wife Mumtaz, it took 22 years to build (1630-52). The Great Moghul lies beside his beloved under the white marble dome. Inlaid with precious gems, the building cost a fortune and later Shah Jahan moved his capital to Delhi before being overthrown by his son, Aurangzeb. We head west this morning, to the deserted city of Fatehpur Sikri. Founded in 1569 and abandoned scarcely 16 years later, it is a perfectly intact example of Akbar's imperial court. Among the many noteworthy buildings is the 5 storied Panch Mahal, probably a pleasure pavilion for the ladies of the harem. In the centre of the courtyard is the Pachisi Board where the emperor played a game like chess with dancing slave girls as pieces. Perhaps the finest structure of all is the lotus shaped carved central pillar of the Diwan-i-khas (Hall of Private Audience), its extraordinary capital supporting a vaulted roof. We then continue to Jaipur and check into our hotel. Sometimes called the 'Pink City', Jaipur was first painted terracotta pink by Maharajah Swai Ram Singh to celebrate the visit of Prince Albert in 1853. **2 nights hotel and breakfast. H+.**

Day 14 In Jaipur

We'll visit the lavish and well preserved City Palace with its fine collection of textiles, costumes and armoury and the Palace of the Winds with its famous 5-storied facade which has been the subject of countless Indian posters. Jai Singh, the great Maharajah-astronomer built his extraordinary (and very accurate) star-gazing Observatory (Jantra) here right opposite the City Palace. This afternoon is left free for further personal exploration of this fascinating city – you may wish to take an excursion (optional) to nearby hill fortress of Amber Palace, which contains an amazing chamber of mirrors and affords spectacular views across the surrounding plains.

Day 15. In Jaipur; train to Delhi

The morning is spent in Jaipur before catching a train to Delhi. **Overnight hotel and breakfast. H+.**

Day 16. In Delhi where tour ends

This morning we plan a tour of Old Delhi – to include the Jami Masjid mosque and view of the Red Fort, ending in the bustling Chandni Chowk Bazaar, a jamboree of deafening barter and the true hub of the Old part of the city. This afternoon we take a city tour of New Delhi, which will include Connaught Circus, Lok Sabha (Parliament), India Gate, the Rajpath, Humayun's Tomb and the Qutb Minar Victory Tower. The tour ends late this afternoon.

PERSONAL EXPENSES

You'll also need some extra money to cover meals not included in the tour price, other sightseeing, airport taxes, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

Camera and Video Fees: Bear in mind that at some sites there is an additional camera charge. Video filming fees up to £5 per site may be payable.

Meal Plan

Local Food and Drink: Meals other than those included in the itinerary are paid for separately by the traveller. You should calculate for buying 11 dinners, 12 lunches and 1 breakfast (17 dinners, 20 lunches and 2 breakfasts on HSM tour). Some examples of comparative costs are given below.

	UK	India	Nepal
Tea/coffee	£0.70	£0.20	£0.50
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Beer	1.00	1.50	1.50
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EVEREST FLIGHT One hour flight into the Himalayas from Kathmandu \$125 (to be paid in US\$ cash or Travellers Cheque's only)

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

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Visa Requirements

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Vaccinations & Protection

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Malaria, Typhoid, Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis and Polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against Malaria. Travellers may wish to immunise themselves against Meningitis.

Special Note: Visa and Vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

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A complete list of clothing and personal gear is contained in Explore's 'General Information Booklet', available after a booking has been accepted. Here we make a few specific recommendations with regard to your tour.

Luggage: One main piece of baggage and a daysac. Total allowance: **44lbs/20kgs**. Remember – porters are not always available, so don't overload yourself.

Clothing: Pack as for 'All Tours'. High altitude night temperatures in the Himalayas can be cold, make allowance for warmer clothing and a waterproof accordingly. Weather can change rapidly in the mountains and lightweight rainwear is advisable. On the Gangetic plains, only lightweight clothing is needed so pack for 'Hot Conditions'. Local people may be offended by western styles of dress. Brief shorts tight fitting clothing etc. should be avoided by both men and woman.

Footwear: Comfortable walking shoes, trainers and sandals.

Equipment: Bring a 2/3 season sleeping bag for the Ganges Sailing (2 season bag sufficient in Sep/Oct), a torch and a personal water bottle. Mattresses, eating and drinking utensils are provided.

TO BOOK PLEASE CALL 01252 760000 • FAX 01252 760001 • www.exploreworldwide.com

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