

## India & Nepal

Depart Cairns 07 November at 10.45AM arrive Singapore 3.35PM – silk air  
Depart Singapore 07 November at 4.25PM arrive Delhi 7.55PM – Singapore airlines

Commence the following tour with Intrepid on the 07 November in Delhi and ending in Kathmandu on the 25 November

### [Day 1: Delhi](#)

Welcome to India. Arrive in Delhi and take your complimentary airport transfer to the hotel. Your adventure begins with a welcome meeting at 6 pm where you'll meet your tour leader and fellow travellers. If you arrive early, make sure to get out and explore this exciting capital. Filled with historical sites from different eras, museums and galleries, shops and endless bazaars, there's much to see and do.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Included Activities

- Complimentary Airport Arrival Transfer

#### Optional Activities

- Delhi - Gandhi's Delhi Urban Adventure - INR2700
- Delhi - City Food Crawl Urban Adventure - INR3500
- Delhi - Home-Cooked Experience Urban Adventure - INR4000

#### Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

#### Special Information

If you can't arrange a flight that will have you arrive in time for today's welcome meeting, you may wish to arrive a day early so you're able to attend. We'll be happy to book additional accommodation for you (subject to availability). If you're going to be late, please inform the hotel reception. We'll be collecting your insurance details and next of kin information at this meeting, so please have these on hand.

### [Day 2: Delhi](#)

After breakfast, your tour leader will take you to the city's historic heart with a guided walking tour of Old Delhi. Set off on the city's modern metro system, then get a taste of India's famed public transport with an optional cycle rickshaw ride through chaotic streets, such as the famous Chandni Chowk. Make a visit to the Jama Masjid, Delhi's oldest mosque and one of its most impressive buildings, then visit the Sheeshganj Gurudwara (Sikh Temple) to learn about the Sikh religion. The rest of the day is free for further exploration or maybe to join an Urban Adventure (booked locally). Perhaps visit the World Heritage-listed Mughal masterpiece of Humayun's Tomb, the first garden tomb in India, built in 1570. Wonder at the tall brick minaret of Qutub Minar, which was started all the way back in the 12th-century, or explore the mighty Red Fort of Delhi. Part palace and part fort,

it played an integral part in the history of the city with former residents ranging from royal families to British soldiers.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Included Activities

- Delhi - Old Delhi walking & rickshaw tour
- Delhi - Jama Masjid
- Delhi - Sheeshganj Gurudwara (Sikh Temple)

#### Optional Activities

- Delhi - Humayun's Tomb - INR500
- Delhi - Qutub Minar - INR500

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### Day 3: Agra

Farewell Delhi's hypnotising chaos this morning and set off for Agra, home to one of the world's most recognisable monuments. Get a taste of India's rail system with an express train journey to Agra (approx 2 hours). The best way to uncover Agra is by cycle rickshaw, so after arriving you'll be taken on a rickshaw tour of the city. You'll visit the spectacular Taj Mahal. Best known as a monument to love and loss, the 17th-century Taj is a beautiful example of Mughal architecture, surrounded by trimmed English gardens. Agra is also home to one of the finest looking forts in India. Enter the dark red sandstone stronghold of Agra Fort – part fortress, part palace and part prison – and search through throne rooms and tiny but incredibly decorated mosques. The rest of the day is yours to spend as you please. A visit to Sheroes Cafe, which employs women who have been affected by acid attacks, is highly recommended.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Included Activities

- Agra - Taj Mahal
- Agra - Agra Fort

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### Day 4: Jaipur

Head to Jaipur, Rajasthan's capital, by private vehicle (approximately 6 hours). Get your first glimpse of the Pink City and its trademark building colour on a walking tour. Navigate crowded streets packed with cars, camel carts, rickshaws, trucks, and bicycles, past traditionally dressed Rajput men

wearing colourful turbans and sporting magnificent moustaches, while observing the city's intricate architecture. Visit a bazaar to browse handcrafted textiles, folk art, and the local specialty of semi-precious stones. Make a photo stop at India's most photographed building after the Taj Mahal, the Hawa Mahal or 'Palace of the Winds'. You have the option of also visiting Jantar Mantar, an observatory filled with instruments to track the stars, built by the founder of Jaipur, Maharaja Jai Singh. This evening, continue to indulge in the wonders of Indian culture by watching a Bollywood blockbuster Cinema – an elaborate combination of action romance, drama and music – at the spectacular Raj Mandir

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Included Activities

- Jaipur - Walking & market tour
- Jaipur - Bollywood Movie at Raj Mandir Cinema

#### Optional Activities

- Jaipur - Jantar Mantar Observatory - INR200

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast
- Dinner

#### [Day 5: Jaipur](#)

An optional early morning hot air balloon experience won't disappoint – wake early for a breathtaking overhead view of the Pink City bathed in early morning light. (For additional information about this optional excursion, please see the important notes section of your trip notes). Later, climb the twisting roads of the Aravalli Hills and round the final bend to see the massive Amber Fort loom into view. The legacy of a fallen empire, the opulent palace is a superb example of Rajput architecture and is packed with elaborate rooms of lavish murals, frescoed arches and delicate jali work. Don't miss the sparkling Mirror Palace, covered floor-to-ceiling in thousands of reflective tiles, the hall becomes a dazzling fantasy with the light of a single match. The rest of the day is free to explore more of Jaipur that you might have missed yesterday.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Included Activities

- Jaipur - Amber Fort

#### Optional Activities

- Jaipur - Balloon Safari - USD260

### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### Day 6: Varanasi

Arrive in the holy centre of Varanasi in the morning after a short flight from Jaipur. Varanasi is awash with shrines and temples, and the ultimate destination for Hindu pilgrims who travel from far and wide to experience this spiritual city. Take a walking tour of the old city, through narrow laneways packed with stalls and shops, past the dhobi wallahs, and the endless temples that echo with bells and the pungent aroma of incense. This evening soak up the unique atmosphere of a candle flower ceremony.

### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

### Included Activities

- Varanasi - Old City tour
- Varanasi - Sunset candle ceremony

### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### Day 7: Varanasi

Today starts early with a sunrise boat ride on the Ganges, where you can watch the light gradually illuminate the many ghats and temples along the river as you pass. There is an option to take a trip to nearby Sarnath, one of the four main Buddhist pilgrimage destinations. The site is where Buddha preached his message of the path to enlightenment and features a number of stupas and museums to explore. Alternatively the day can be spent exploring the laneways and alleys behind the ghats, or picking up some examples of the excellent local silk industry. Perhaps witness pilgrims performing ancient bathing rituals and ceremonies as your time in this sacred city comes to an end.

### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

### Included Activities

- Varanasi - Sunrise boat trip

### Optional Activities

- Varanasi - Sarnath day trip (entry only) - INR250

### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### [Day 8: Varanasi - Delhi](#)

Use a free morning to delve further into the spiritual atmosphere of Varanasi, wander through the ghats or perhaps haggle with vendors in colourful bazaars. Return to Delhi by plane (about 1.5 hours) for a last chance to explore India's capital. Perhaps head to the legendary Connaught Place for some last-minute shopping. This evening, why not share a meal with your group and reminisce about your travels before the India portion of your trip come to an end.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### [Day 9: Kathmandu](#)

After you check out of the hotel, you will say goodbye to your Indian tour leader at the airport and take a short flight to Kathmandu, Nepal.

Kathmandu is a mixture of ancient architecture and modern development and, with its rich artistic and cultural heritage, it remains the legendary destination it has been for decades. Crowded markets and bazaars are the centre of Nepali life and the narrow streets are home to holy men, monks, bicycles, incense, goats and sacred cows. As this is a combination trip, your group leader and the composition of your group may change in Kathmandu. There will be a group meeting to discuss the next stage of your itinerary in the afternoon or evening of day 12 and you're welcome to attend, as this is a great chance to meet your new fellow travellers.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Optional Activities

- Kathmandu - Rickshaw Night Explorer Urban Adventure - USD68
- Kathmandu - In Focus: Cook in Kathmandu Urban Adventure - USD93
- Kathmandu - Kathmandu by Bike Urban Adventure - USD100
- Kathmandu - Kathmandu Living Urban Adventure - USD66

#### Meals Included

There are no meals included on this day.

### [Day 10: Kathmandu](#)

Whether permitting, take a Mount Everest scenic flight this morning. This amazing experience will take you over Sagarmatha National Park, through a crescendo of the highest peaks in the world, climaxing by getting up close to Mount Everest. Later in the morning you will explore Kathmandu on an organised sightseeing tour. You will visit Bodhnath Stupa, one of the biggest Buddhist shrines in the world, where you can observe Buddhist monks in prayer in the monasteries surrounding the stupa. You will also visit Pashupatinath, the most famous Hindu temple in the country, located on the banks of the holy Bagmati River. Here you will see Hindu holy men (sadhus) meditating, pilgrims bathing, and occasionally funeral pyres burning on the ghats. The rest of your afternoon in Kathmandu is free for further sightseeing and exploration. Perhaps head out into Durbar Square, in

front of the old royal palace and home to numerous beautiful temples, and browse the stalls of merchant's wares.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Included Activities

- Kathmandu - Everest Scenic Flight
- Kathmandu - Pashupatinath Temple
- Kathmandu - Bodhnath Stupa

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

#### Day 11: Pokhara

Today you will have an early departure from the hotel for your transfer to the domestic terminal at Kathmandu's Tribhuvan Airport. From here you will fly to Pokhara, with a flight time of about 30 minutes. There are often spectacular views of the main Himalayan chain to the north on this flight. On arrival you will take a boat ride across the lake (Phewa Tal), which is the second largest in Nepal. Visit the Peace Pagoda, where spectacular views of the mountains await. You can see the Annapurnas from here, and the famous fishtail peak, Machhapuchhare, and back across to Pokhara. You will also visit the fascinating International Mountain Museum to learn some amazing tales of past climbing expeditions – some ending in triumph, some ending in tragedy.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Included Activities

- Pokhara - Phewa Tal Lake boat trip
- Pokhara - Peace Pagoda
- Pokhara - International Mountain Museum

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

#### Day 12: Pokhara

Enjoy a free day for further exploration in the peaceful surroundings of Pokhara. Your leader can advise you of sightseeing opportunities. It is worth taking a boat for a row out on the lake, especially if the weather's fine. The lakeside area has great shopping opportunities and internet cafes. Pokhara has an interesting old area as well as an elaborate Hindu temple and a Buddhist monastery.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

## Meals Included

- Breakfast

### [Day 13: Bandipur](#)

In the morning you will drive to beautiful Bandipur (approximately 2 hours). You will fully explore this incredible settlement and take the many opportunities to immerse yourself in the culture of Nepal as it once was. Enjoy the spectacular views, the incredibly maintained architecture and nice walking trails. This traditional Nepalese settlement is a natural treasure and one of the country's true hidden gems.

## Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

## Meals Included

- Breakfast

### [Day 14: Bandipur](#)

Enjoy a day of free time to further explore Bandipur. The surrounding hills are ideal for hiking along trails that will take you through tribal villages, verdant forests, 'power places', and hilltop shrines that once doubled as fortresses. As you explore the area you may feel as though you're stepping back in time; though development increases, the aura of this place has been beautifully preserved. As tourism in Nepal developed along the main roads and airports, for over 30 years there simply was no road linking Bandipur to the main infrastructure, leaving it almost untouched by touristic influence. The village is saddled on a high ridge above Dumre, 700 metres beyond the Marsyangdi River Valley, making for an exceptional view of the Himalayan panorama.

## Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

## Meals Included

- Breakfast

### [Day 15: Chitwan National Park](#)

After breakfast you will be picked up and driven to Chitwan National Park (approximately 4 hours). After arriving and settling in, you will be introduced to the camp staff and resident naturalists who will discuss the program. There is some flexibility, and activities may vary depending on the time of the year, and on wildlife movements. A late-afternoon safari will take you through forests and across grasslands to observe the varied and exciting wildlife in the park. In the early evening the local Tharu dance troupe may perform a cultural program. You will then enjoy dinner and afterwards you will be free to relax in the bar and discuss the day's sightings or listen to the exotic sounds of the jungle at night.

## Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

### Included Activities

- Chitwan - Canoe safari, bird watching walk or jeep safari

### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### [Day 16: Chitwan National Park](#)

Embark on an early-morning excursion. This could include either another safari to different parts of the park (in search of the great Indian rhino, deer, and exotic bird life) or joining one of the other activities available in the park. Tiger sightings are rare these days, but these magnificent animals do inhabit the park. After breakfast you will leave the lodge and go on a dugout canoe adventure on the Rapti River. This is an exciting trip with chances to view marsh mugger crocodiles and various birds that inhabit the riverbanks. A program will be organised for the rest of the day, and may include further excursions by jeep or a visit to one of the nearby villages.

### Accommodation

- Lodge (1 night)

### Included Activities

- Chitwan - Canoe safari, bird watching walk or jeep safari

### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### [Day 17: Chitwan National Park - Bhaktapur](#)

If you are an avid wildlife lover, there is an optional early-morning birdwatching safari available today – a worthwhile addition to your trip. After breakfast fly to Kathmandu and drive to Bhaktapur - once the capital of Nepal and the Great Malla Kingdom during the 15th century. Its rich heritage, inspiring temples and artisanal history played a big part in Bhaktapur being named a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Enjoy an evening of exploration on your own, soak up the lovely atmosphere in one of the local cafes, or simply relax in your hotel.

### Accommodation

- Guesthouse (1 night)

### Meals Included

- Breakfast

### [Day 18: Bhaktapur - Kathmandu](#)

Spend the day exploring Bhaktapur's famous temples, starting at Durbar Square, which is reputed to be the most beautiful piece of art in Nepal. Durbar Square is home to the majestic Lion Gate and Golden Gate. You will also visit the Pashupati Temple, a replica of the Bagmati River in Kathmandu. This will be an enlightening morning of discovery and enrichment, as you delve into all Bhaktapur



has to offer. In the afternoon, drive to Kathmandu (approximately 2 hours). The evening will then be free, however the group leader will usually organise an optional evening meal at another of Kathmandu's great restaurants.

#### Accommodation

- Hotel (1 night)

#### Included Activities

- Bhaktapur - Guided walk

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

#### Day 19: Kathmandu

Your trip officially comes to an end after breakfast today. Your tour leader will be on hand to advise and assist with your onward travel arrangements.

#### Optional Activities

- Kathmandu - In Focus: Handmade Kathmandu - USD93

#### Meals Included

- Breakfast

Depart Kathmandu 25 November at 9.55PM arrive Singapore 26 November at 4.55AM – Silk air

Depart Singapore 26 November at 8.40AM arrive Cairns 5.15PM – Silk air

Cost per person \$6,589\*pp and includes the following:

- Airfares
- Airport taxes
- 19-day tour including 17 breakfasts, 1 dinner and sightseeing as per itinerary