



Welcome



Travel has been my life for over 20 years. St Augustine's famous quote remains as true to me today as it was when I first set up 2by2 Holidays – "the world is a book and those who do not travel, read only one page".

My first love was Africa, the place of my birth. Its remarkable wildlife and cultures continue to captivate me today.

A recent visit to the wildlife of the Serengeti has starkly reminded me just how fragile the survival of so many endangered species remains and reinforced my belief that travel must always have conservation at its heart.

In recent years I have discovered the joys of travel in the Indian subcontinent and Latin America. The iconic sites and cultures there are no less enthralling and everywhere wildlife adapts and survives, from harsh barren deserts to cool mountain cloud forests and tropical wetlands.

My enthusiasm burns as brightly as ever and I continue to be as involved in every aspect of the business as I always have been, backed up by our superb travel team. I'm particularly thrilled that so many of our customers return time after time.

I do hope you find our latest brochure inspiring and we all look forward to hearing from you.

Hambe Kahle – Travel Safely

Claire Farley

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About Us

We specialise in tailor-made holidays to Southern & East Africa, Latin America and the Indian subcontinent – regions that are often difficult to explore on your own.

The excitement of long haul travel starts in the early planning stages, as you browse through inspirational travel sites, speak to friends and gather information from magazines and brochures such as ours. At 2by2 Holidays we understand this anticipation, as we ourselves are passionate travellers. We love to listen to your ideas and supplement them with our own experiences to help you plan the best possible trip – tailored to your special interests and budget.

Our sales team regularly visit the countries we sell to ensure our specialist knowledge remains up-to-date. Through our extensive contacts in each destination, we are also happy to research unusual activities and excursions for you.

With our expert knowledge we can advise you on all the great wildlife reserves in the world and help you to explore iconic cultural highlights in countries that you never thought you

would be able to visit on your own, as our experiences of these destinations is truly second to none.

Our tradition of customer service has been a vital element of our success and many of our customers come back year after year. Be rest assured that you will be well looked after every step of the way as you explore these remarkable countries with their astonishing wildlife, colourful cultures and breathtaking landscapes.



Types of Holidays

We tailor make all our holidays so you can choose to travel by road, plane, luxury train, houseboat or expedition cruise. We can arrange a private driver/ guide, you can self drive or join an escorted tour.

Browse through our brochure to see the wide range of destinations and types of holidays we offer. The example itineraries are intended to be a starting point, so ring us if you would like to talk with someone who has travelled to the country you are interested in. To see what travel options are possible, these symbols are shown under each example itinerary:

Our Values

Travel should be a force for good, especially where tourism is a crucial source of revenue for local people. We want you to experience the very best holiday and at the same time, where we can, help to contribute something back to the communities you visit.

Auriel Holidays

Our sister company, Auriel Holidays, is a retail travel agent that operates worldwide. Auriel Holidays is ABTA bonded (P8305) and can book bespoke holidays, luxury hotels and cruises anywhere in the world.

Financial Protection

2by2 Holidays holds an Air Travel Organisers Licence from the UK Civil Aviation Authority (ATOL 9025) which provides financial protection if you live in the UK, and we book some or all of your flights. Holidays that do not meet the above criteria are protected through our Client Trust Account, so your holiday is financially protected wherever in the world you live.



Land Transfers



Light Aircraft Transfers



Driver/Guide



Self Drive



Wheelchair Accessible



Escorted Tour



Train



On Water

2by2 Holidays

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Amritsar, Golden Temple

India

India is a fascinating land of contrasts, comprising 29 different states and seven union territories, each with its own language, culture, cuisine, history and architectural wonders. It is a rapidly developing country with many different faces, colours and landscapes that cannot be covered in a single trip, so it's best to concentrate on one region at a time – then return for another visit.

This is the land of tigers, elephants and Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book. It is rich with astonishing forts and palaces from the Maharaja era and with luxury train travel you can journey back in time to the opulence of a royal yesteryear. Boasting over 30 World Heritage Sites, India is a Hindu country rich in tradition where vivid, exuberant festivals are a way of life.

Golden Triangle & Rajasthan

Delhi, Agra and Jaipur form the famous ‘Golden Triangle’. These three cities are home to some of India’s most famous historic and cultural sites and this route is the starting point of most visits to India. Explore with a private driver/guide or by luxury train.

India’s rapidly expanding capital city of New Delhi is home to over 20 million people and boasts several World Heritage Sites. You will need at least two days to see the highlights of this remarkable city so don’t make the mistake of only booking an overnight stay. The splendid colonial architecture of New Delhi includes India Gate, the Parliamentary complex and the Presidential Palace, originally built for the Viceroy of India.

In contrast, enjoy a chaotic rickshaw ride through Chandni Chowk market in the 17th century walled city of Old Delhi and walk around the huge Red Fort, once the most opulent palace in the Mughal Empire. Don’t miss Humayun’s Tomb, which inspired the Taj Mahal, or the Jama Masjid, the largest mosque in India. The Qutub Minar victory tower built in 1199 is another must-see, with its imposing cylindrical tower that is still the tallest minaret in India. Pay tribute to Mahatma

Gandhi, the father of modern India, at the simple Raj Ghat memorial. At the Swaminarayan Akshardham Temple you’ll be blown away by the presentation of over 10,000 years of Indian history.

Agra is set on the banks of the Yamuna River and was once the capital of the Mughal Empire. Today it is not a pretty city, but it is home to the greatest monument to love, widely regarded as the most beautiful building in the world, the incomparable Taj Mahal. With its remarkable symmetry and some of the best marble inlay work ever seen, most visitors choose to return for a second visit at sunrise or sunset, when different hues of light are reflected.

Agra Fort is not to be missed and afterwards ask your guide to take you to the ‘Baby Taj’, a forerunner of the Taj itself, which can be enjoyed without the crowds. Also explore the abandoned red sandstone city of Fatehpur Sikri outside

Agra that has provided a dramatic backdrop to several films.

Wildlife enthusiasts must visit Ranthambore National Park, once the hunting grounds of the Maharaja of Jaipur, for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come face to face with an endangered Royal Bengal tiger. Early morning is the best time to see these huge majestic creatures in the wild, but be aware that it is difficult to find them in the jungle and sightings are not guaranteed.

Birders can visit Keoladeo Bird Sanctuary near Bharatpur, a seasonal wetland that provides protection to migrant and endemic birds at certain times of the year.

If you like luxury train travel, there is no better way to explore the treasures of the Golden Triangle than aboard the regal Maharajas’ Express or the Palace on Wheels.



Ranthambore National Park

Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, is known as the Pink City because its buildings were painted pink to commemorate a visit of the Prince of Wales in 1853 and this remains the tradition. The ramparts of Amber Fort and its Hall of Mirrors are astonishing. The design of the Hawa Mahal (Palace of the Winds) is another extraordinary sight, with its hundreds of small windows and screened balconies from which royal women living in purdah could view the outside world unseen.

Other must-sees are the City Palace and the Jantar Mantar Observatory, the largest stone observatory in the world. Rub shoulders with Jaipur’s residents at

a Bollywood theatre and enjoy a home-cooked meal with a local family. You can also search for leopards in Jhalana Wildlife Sanctuary.

Travelling deeper into Rajasthan you will find Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur in the Great Thar Desert, with their magnificent forts. Here you can immerse yourself in the local culture and ride a camel. View the great walls of the Mewar fortress at Kumbhalgarh that extend over 24 miles and are second only to the Great Wall of China in length. At Ranakpur view the famous Jain temple then relax in beautiful Udaipur, a city of lakes and palaces that offers a lush contrast to the desert.



Treasures of Rajasthan

- DAYS 1/2** Arrive in Delhi & city tour
- DAY 3** Travel to Agra and visit Agra Fort
- DAY 4** View the Taj Mahal at sunrise, visit Fatehpur Sikri, then take the train to Ranthambore
- DAY 5** Morning & afternoon jeep safaris in the tiger reserve
- DAY 6** Drive to ‘pink city’ of Jaipur
- DAY 7** Amber Fort & leopard safari. In the evening enjoy dinner with a local family
- DAY 8** Travel to Bikaner & visit Junagarh Fort
- DAYS 9/10** Drive to the fortified town of Jaisalmer, with a tour of fort
- DAY 11** Travel through great Thar Desert to Jodhpur
- DAYS 12/13** Drive to Udaipur, with tour of its palaces, temples & lakes
- DAYS 14/15** Fly to Mumbai/Depart



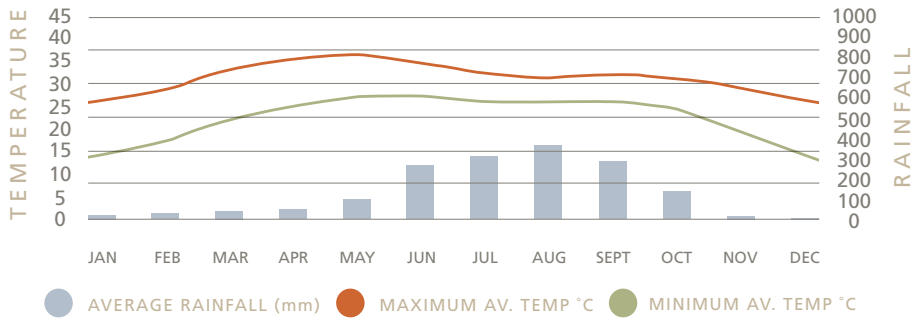
This is an example itinerary – see page 5 for key. For more ideas, information and prices call us on 01582 766122 or visit www.2by2holidays.co.uk



Taj Mahal

When to go

The Golden Triangle has a hot subtropical climate, with a large variation between summer and winter temperatures. The best time to visit is from October to March (winter) to avoid the extreme heat of midsummer and the monsoon rains which fall from June to September, when most tiger reserves are closed. In midwinter the temperature can drop to freezing at night, especially in the desert. Tiger viewing is best at the end of the dry season (March and April). Birding is best from October to early April.





Kerala Backwaters

Beautiful Kerala

Subtropical Kerala is a firm favourite and will introduce you to a gentler side of India. An overnight stay on a traditional rice houseboat is unmissable.



Periyar National Park

The port of Kochi (previously known as Cochin) is the gateway to this beautiful state in southwest India. Here you will be introduced to the spicy cuisine of southern India and its relaxed rural way of life. The tea producing hill station at Munnar is a popular stopover, as is Periyar National Park where you can see Asian elephants in the wild, but tiger sightings are rare.

The jewel in Kerala’s crown is its Backwaters, best enjoyed by combining a stay at Kumarakom, a birding hot spot on the vast Vembanad Lake, with an overnight stay relaxing on a traditional rice houseboat. Here you can observe the

customary way of life of the local people as you cruise along the canals and lakes. You can select your own dinner from the local fish market, which your crew will prepare in the delicious southern style whilst you enjoy a magnificent sunset. A homestay is also very popular.

End your holiday at one of Kerala’s lovely beach resorts on the Arabian Sea, such as Kovalam that offers warm shallow waters that are ideal for swimming. Throughout Kerala you can participate in early morning yoga classes, and don’t forget to try out an Ayurvedic spa treatment, for which this region is famous.



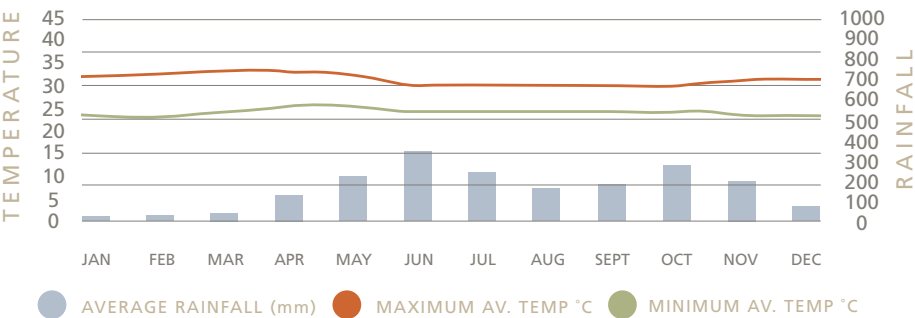
Beautiful Kerala

- DAY 1** Arrive in Kochi & city tour
- DAYS 2/3** Travel to tea plantations of Munnar hill station
- DAYS 4/5** Drive to Periyar National Park, with boat ride on lake
- DAYS 6/7** Homestay in Kumarakom on Vembanad Lake
- DAY 8** Overnight on traditional rice houseboat on Backwaters
- DAYS 9/12** Transfer to Kovalam Beach
- DAY 13** Depart from Trivandrum



When to go

Kerala has a hot and humid subtropical climate. The best time to visit is from October to March (winter) to avoid the extreme heat of midsummer and the monsoon rains, which fall from June to September. Birding is best from October to early April.



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Spiritual India & Himalayas

The magnificent Golden Temple at Amritsar is the spiritual centre of the Sikh religion, whilst the mighty Himalayas offer stunning scenery, a cool refuge during the heat of midsummer and important pilgrimage sites for the Buddhist and Hindu religions.

Amritsar's legendary Golden Temple is one of the most visited pilgrimage sites in the world, attracting tens of thousands of devotees every day. Floating at the end of a long causeway, it's an incredible blend of Hindu and Islamic architecture with elegant inlaid marble, intricately engraved gold panels and a glittering dome. The temple's communal kitchen ('langar') is the largest in the world. Also be sure to drive to the Pakistan border to watch the daily Wagah flag lowering ceremony, described by Michael Palin as a display of "carefully choreographed contempt".

If you like train travel, you can combine Amritsar with a visit to the hill station at Shimla in the foothills of the Himalayas, travelling on a local train to

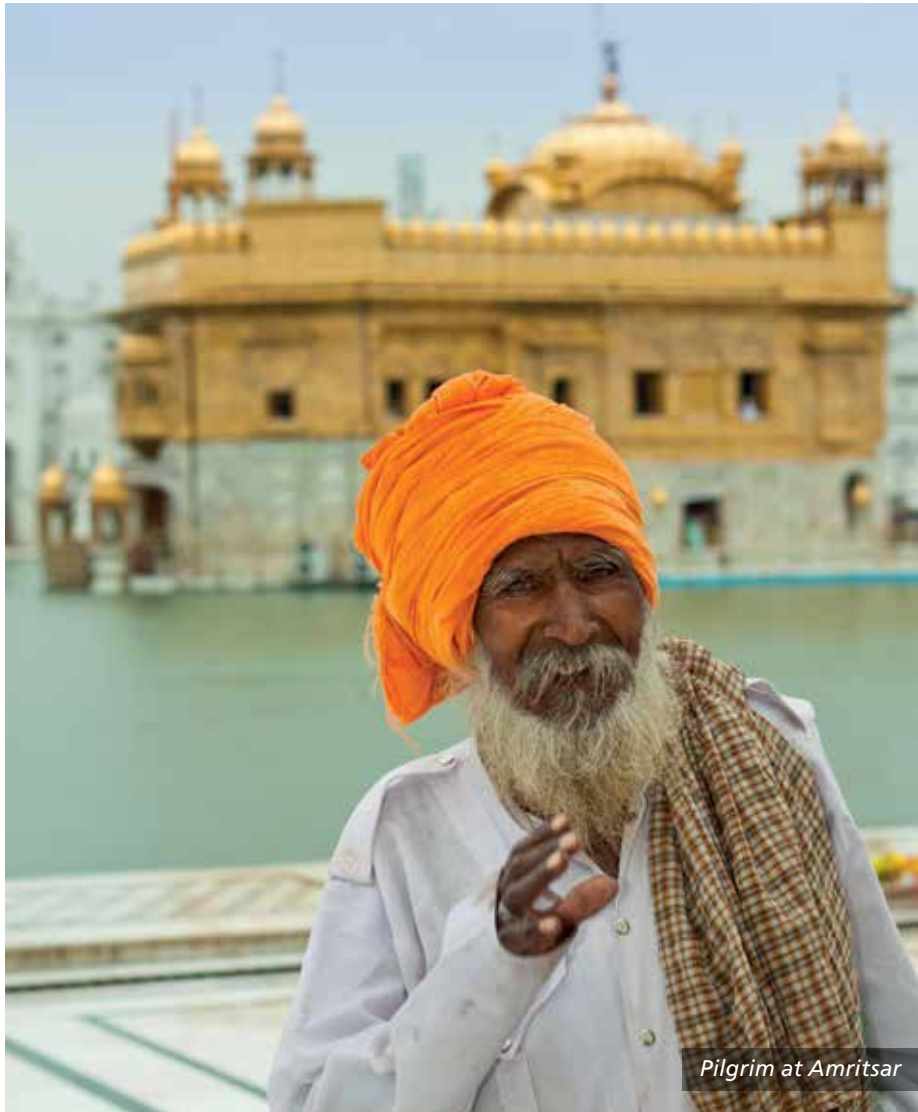
Ambala followed by a road transfer to Kandaghat to connect with the narrow-gauge Himalayan Queen – one of India's five 'toy trains' built by the British. Shimla was the summer capital of British India and is steeped in colonial history. Alternatively travel overland with your own driver/guide via Dharamshala, the home of the Dalai Lama – the exiled leader of Tibetan Buddhists. It is also home to the fearsome Gurka soldiers.

For Hindus, the sacred city of Varanasi on the River Ganges is the spiritual heart of India. Each day at sunset, during the aarti prayer ceremony, offerings are made to the Hindu gods. Seeing hundreds of candles floating down the river is spellbinding. An early morning boat ride on the river is another

incredible experience, as the faithful come down to the ghats to bathe and the cremation fires constantly burn. In the same city are the remains of Sarnath Monastery, an important pilgrimage site for another great religion, as this is where the Buddha gave his first sermon.

Rishikesh on the upper reaches of the Ganges is another Hindu holy city, where Lord Rama did penance for killing Ravana, the demon king of Sri Lanka.

Jim Corbett National Park in the foothills of the Himalayas is the oldest wildlife sanctuary in Asia and is a major birding hotspot. If you wish to track snow leopards, you will need to travel much further north to Leh in the High Himalayas and stay in a simple home stay.



Pilgrim at Amritsar



Spiritual India

- DAYS 1/2** Arrive in Delhi & city tour
- DAYS 3/4** Fly to Amritsar to visit the Golden Temple & see Wagah flag ceremony
- DAYS 5/6** Drive to Dharamshala, the home of the Dalai Lama
- DAY 7** Drive to Shimla
- DAYS 8/9** Relax in beautiful Shimla
- DAY 10** Take the 'Toy Train' and a road transfer to Rishikesh
- DAYS 11/12** City tour & evening aarti prayers
- DAYS 13/14** Visit Jim Corbett National Park, with two jeep safaris
- DAYS 15/16** Travel to Delhi/Depart



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West Bengal, Assam & Andamans

With an intoxicating mix of culture and the wildlife of Kaziranga, one the best ways of exploring this region is aboard a riverboat on the mighty Ganges or Brahmaputra rivers.

Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta) is the gateway to West Bengal. It was the original capital of British India, before this was moved to Delhi and is the home of Mother Teresa's mission.

From Kolkata you can take a flight north to the hill country of Darjeeling, which is famous for its distinctive black tea and narrow-gauge Himalayan Railway – another of the 'Toy Trains' built by the British.

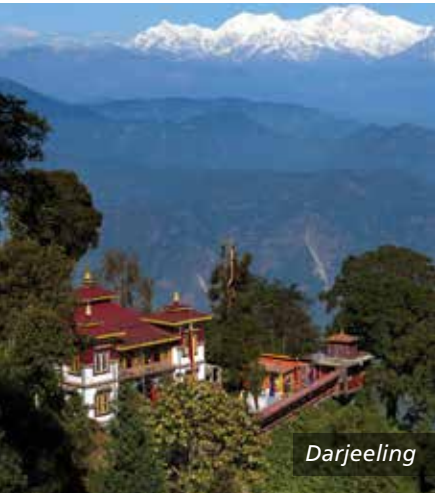
Gangtok is home to many Tibetan Buddhist monks. For wildlife enthusiasts, Kaziranga National Park in Assam has two thirds of the world's remaining population of endangered one-horned rhino and is home to large herds of Asian elephants. Himalayan birding is outstanding here, as well as in Manas and Nameri reserves. Afterwards take a relaxing boat ride to the Sundarbans Delta, the largest tidal mangrove forest in the world.

A leisurely river cruise along the Brahmaputra or Ganges rivers is another way to explore this fascinating region.

Alternatively fly to the pristine beaches of the spectacular Andaman Islands, with world-class diving and birding.



Kaziranga National Park



Darjeeling



Wildlife of Bengal

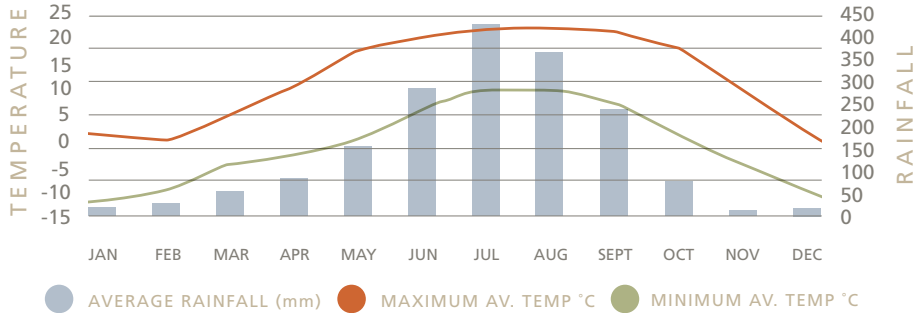
- DAY 1** Arrive in Delhi
- DAY 2** Fly to Darjeeling with tea plantation visit
- DAYS 3/4** Ghoom Monastery & Toy Train
- DAY 5** Transfer to Gangtok
- DAY 6** Visit Rumtek Monastery
- DAY 7** Fly to Guwahati
- DAYS 8/9** Transfer to Kaziranga, with two jeep safaris
- DAYS 10/11** Fly to Kolkata & city tour
- DAYS 12/13** Boat ride to relax in the Sundarbans Delta
- DAYS 14/15** Return to Kolkata/Depart



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When to go

Most of India has a hot subtropical climate that is humid by the coast, but the foothills of the Himalayas have an alpine climate that varies according to the altitude. The best time to visit is from November (when Kaziranga opens) to March (winter) to avoid the extreme heat of midsummer and the monsoon rains which fall from June to September. In midwinter the temperature can drop to freezing at night in some regions. Shimla is best visited in the summer (April to October), as in midwinter heavy snow can hinder overland travel. Wildlife viewing is best at the end of the dry season (March and April). The best time to track snow leopards is November to March. Himalayan birding is good all year.





Kanha Tiger Reserve

Tigers of Central India

Central India is home to some of the best tiger reserves in the world with Bandhavgarh, Kanha, Pench and Tadoba offering a rewarding safari circuit.

If it's tigers you are looking for, famous Bandhavgarh National Park has one of the highest densities of tigers in India. Once the hunting grounds of the Maharaja of Rewa, it is here that the white tigers were found.

Kanha National Park is one of the largest and most scenic reserves in India, with wide open plains, whilst smaller Panna is situated in the Vindhyanal Mountains, with extensive plateaus, gorges and some lovely waterfalls. These reserves in Madhya Pradesh are easily combined, as all are reached by flights from Delhi to Jabalpur, followed by a land transfer.

The erotic hand-carved Kama Sutra temples of Khajuraho are within easy reach of Panna. A World Heritage Site, they were built between 950 and 1050 AD, with murals depicting the life and times of the Chandela Rajputs.

Further south and still in Madhya Pradesh, beautiful Pench National Park inspired Rudyard Kipling to write the Jungle Book, whilst Tadoba Andhari is the oldest and largest national park in Maharashtra. These two reserves combine well, as both are reached by flights from Mumbai to Nagpur.

If you are a birder or would like to explore on foot or by canoe, Satpura National Park offers walking safaris. Here you can search for the elusive sloth bear. Any or all of these parks can be combined



Tadoba Andhari Tiger Reserve

into a wonderful safari circuit.

Tiger viewing is best at the end of the dry season (March and April), but it is very hot from April onwards. Early morning is the best time to see tigers, but it is extremely difficult to find them in the jungle and sightings are never guaranteed. You need to take at least four jeep safaris for a good chance of a sighting, but do not expect this to be a safari in the African sense, as the wildlife is sparser and the people more plentiful. However the majestic sight of an enormous Royal Bengal tiger in the wild will take your breath away.

After your tiger safari, spend a few days relaxing on the golden beaches of Goa.



Tiger Safari

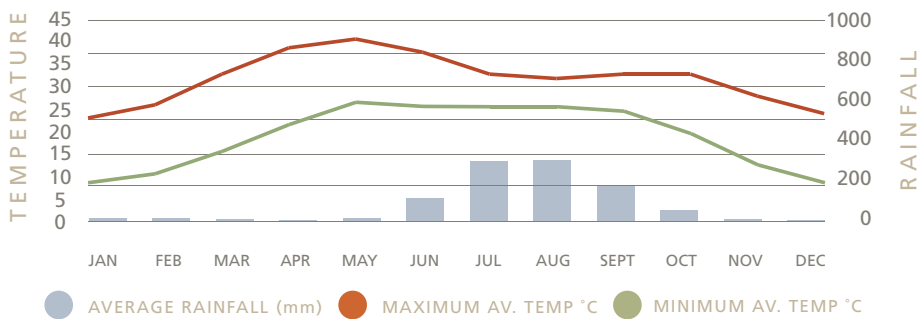
- DAY 1** Arrive in Delhi
- DAY 2** Fly to Jabalpur & transfer to Bandhavgarh
- DAY 3** Morning & afternoon jeep safaris
- DAY 4** Transfer to Kanha & jeep safari
- DAY 5** Morning & afternoon jeep safaris
- DAY 6** Transfer to Pench & jeep safari
- DAY 7** Morning & afternoon jeep safaris
- DAY 8** Fly to Goa
- DAYS 9/12** Relax on a gorgeous beach
- DAY 13** Depart from Goa



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When to go

Central India has a hot subtropical climate, with a large variation between summer and winter temperatures. The best time to visit is from mid-October to March (winter) to avoid the extreme heat of midsummer and the monsoon rains which fall from June to September, when most tiger reserves are closed. Tiger viewing is best at the end of the dry season (March and April), when the tigers search out the waterholes and lakes. Birding is best from October to early April.



Karnataka & Goa

The intricately carved ruins of the ancient city of Hampi are simply spectacular and attract visitors from around the world. Goa offers glorious beaches.



Hampi

Bengaluru (formerly Bangalore) is the capital of Karnataka state and the Silicon Valley of India. The Lal Bagh Botanical Garden features a glasshouse inspired by the Crystal Palace in London.

Mysuru is famous for its many beautiful palaces and the illuminated Brindavan Gardens. It is also known for its festivals, including the 10-day Mysuru Dasara in October that celebrates the victory of good over evil. The Chamundi Hill Bull Temple has a massive statue of a bull that is painted black and decorated with garlands.

If you love wildlife head for the rich flora and fauna of the Kabini River, where

you can enjoy game drives, nature walks and birding. If its tigers you are after, head for Bandipur Tiger Reserve which is one of the finest in India.

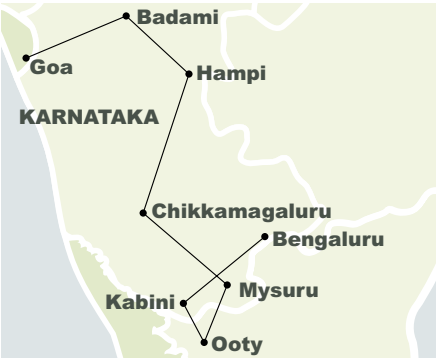
Further south, the fruit and vegetable producing hill station of Ooty in the Nilgiri Hills offers respite from the summer heat. Chikkamagaluru in the foothills of the Western Ghats is another hill station, surrounded by coffee plantations. The nearby towns of Halebeedu and Belur were both the capitals of the Hoysala Empire, with some of the most impressive temples in all of India – several are nearly 1,000 years old.

But the jewel in Karnataka’s crown

is the ancient city of Hampi. Surrounded by giant red-gold boulders perched precariously over miles of undulating terrain and banana plantations, this enormous World Heritage Site is dotted with over 1,600 stone structures dating from the 14th-century Vijayanagara Empire. These intricately carved ruins are breathtakingly beautiful, with scenes depicting Lord Krishna and Indian mythology. The ancient 7th-century Virupaksha Temple is still functioning and is a pilgrimage site. Daroji Sloth Bear Sanctuary is nearby.

After exploring Karnataka, most people head to the golden beaches of Goa. Once a Portuguese colony, it is the smallest state in India. Places of interest include historic Old Goa (Panjim), a World Heritage Site, and the 16th-century Fort Aguada.

If your budget extends to luxury train travel, one of the best ways of exploring Karnataka is aboard the magnificent Golden Chariot train. Visit all the key sights including Hampi, travelling in the opulent style of the Maharaja era.



Exploring Karnataka

DAYS 1/2	Arrive in Bengaluru & city tour
DAYS 3/4	Travel to Kabini, with two jeep safaris
DAYS 5/6	Visit hill station of Ooty
DAYS 7/8	Travel to Mysuru & city tour
DAYS 9/10	Chikkamagaluru & Halebeedu
DAYS 11/13	Explore magnificent ruins at Hampi & bear sanctuary
DAY 14	Drive to Badami
DAYS 15/16	Relax on glorious beaches of Goa
DAY 17	Depart from Goa



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Asiatic lion

Maharashtra & Gujarat

Mumbai (formerly Bombay) in the state of Maharashtra is the commercial capital of India and the centre of the Bollywood movie industry. A city tour will show you the highlights, including Gateway of India, Prince of Wales Museum and Elephanta Island, a World Heritage Site with magnificent caves and sculptures. Tadoba is the largest tiger reserve in the state. The luxurious Deccan Odyssey train connects Mumbai with Delhi and is a delightful way to explore Maharashtra and Rajasthan in comfort.

Mumbai is the gateway to Gujarat, the birthplace of Mahatma Gandhi and known for its textiles and wildlife. Gir National Park is the sole remaining habitat of the endangered Asiatic lion. Little

Rann of Kutch protects the endangered Asiatic wild ass and Blackbuck National Park should not be overlooked. The Banni Grasslands are a birding hot spot. Gujarat also has many cultural treasures – including the imposing Shore Temple of Somnath and historic Ahmedabad.

Temples of Tamil Nadu

South India is famous for its spectacular temples, particularly in the Hindu heartland of Tamil Nadu, which is steeped in ancient culture. Many are World Heritage Sites.

The bustling port of Chennai (previously known as Madras) is situated on the eastern Coromandel Coast. It has been the regional capital of Tamil Nadu since the 1st century and is the usual starting point for exploring South India. Be sure to visit Fort George and the ancient Kapaleeshwar Temple, which is over 2,000 years old, before heading out to the stunning Shore Temple in the ancient port of Mahabalipuram. Also try the famous Madras curry.

Puducherry (previously known as Pondicherry) was one of the last footholds of the retreating French in the 19th century. Wander through the French Quarter before continuing south to Chidambaram, known for its famous Thillai Nataraja Temple.

Thanjavur (previously known as Tanjore) is an important centre of South Indian religion, art and architecture. It is home to the three amazing Great Living Chola Temples, which are World Heritage Sites. The famous towered Brihadisvara Temple, known locally as ‘The Big Temple’, is one of the largest in India and enclosed within its two courtyards is an exquisitely decorated shrine. Built using granite, the tower above the shrine is one of the tallest in South India.

In Tiruchirappalli (known locally as Trichy) you can visit museums and art galleries, as well as the Rock Fort and Sri Jambukeshwara Temple – one of the five major Shiva temples of Tamil Nadu.



Chola temple, Tanjore

Chettinad Palace was constructed in 1912 with contributions from all around the world and Vairavanpatti Temple is full of wonderful paintings from the Ramayana and Mahabharata epics. There is a natural spring behind the temple, which is believed to have miraculous healing properties.

The ancient city of Madurai on the banks of the Vaigai River is the cultural capital of Tamil Nadu and will be a highlight. Its skyline is dominated by the 14 colourful ‘gopurams’ (gateway towers) of the amazing Meenakshi Temple, which is covered in bright carvings of Hindu gods. Madurai is a major pilgrimage site visited by millions of Hindus from around the world, particularly during the Chithirai

Festival each April/May, which celebrates Meenakshi and Lord Vishna. Observing the evening aarti prayer ceremony at the temples is simply unforgettable.



Temples of South India

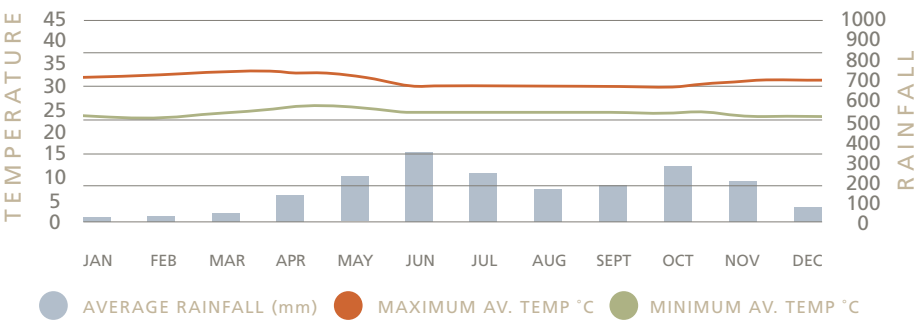
DAYS 1/2	Arrive in Chennai & city tour
DAY 3	Travel to Shore Temple in ancient Mahabalipuram
DAYS 4/5	Drive to Puducherry, with its beautiful French Quarter
DAYS 6/7	Explore the Great Living Chola Temple complex at Thanjavur
DAYS 8	Travel to Trichy & visit Rock Fort & Temple
DAYS 9	Visit Chettinad Palace & Temple
DAYS 10/12	Madurai city tour & Meenakshi Temple, with aarti ceremony
DAY 12	Travel to Periyar
DAY 13	Overnight on a traditional Rice Houseboat
DAYS 14/16	Relax in Kumarakom
DAY 17	Depart from Kochi



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When to go

These regions have hot subtropical climates. The best time to visit is from October to March (winter) to avoid the extreme heat of midsummer and the monsoon rains, which fall from June to September. Wildlife viewing is best at the end of the dry season (March and April), when animals search out the waterholes and lakes. Birding is best from October to early April.



Special Interest Holidays

Travel offers a wonderful opportunity to do and see things that you have previously only dreamed of. We can introduce you to a wonderland of new experiences and if you have a particular passion or interest, we are the people to talk to. Known for our wildlife and cultural holidays, we also have expertise in many other specialisms. Unlike most travel companies, we take the time to research and book even the most unusual requests. Here we highlight some of the special interest holidays that other customers have loved.



Walking

If you enjoy hiking, we offer a thrilling range of walking safaris – ranging from a few hours in the early morning or late afternoon, accompanied by an armed ranger, to specialised walking camps in Botswana and South Africa where all game viewing is on foot. We also offer point-to-point trails in Zambia, where you can spend a week walking from one remote bush camp to another – a truly unforgettable experience!

You can trek to see mountain gorillas, and in most of our destinations we can incorporate a variety of walking and hiking trails into your itinerary, ranging from day hikes to waterfalls and volcanoes in Costa Rica, to Peru's iconic Inca Trail and Nepal's stunning Annapurna Trek.

If you are sufficiently fit, you can even combine a safari in East Africa with climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, accompanied by experienced mountain guides.

Birding

Many of our customers are avid birders who want to spot regional endemics, as well as increase their life list, whilst others are more casual birders who simply enjoy the pleasure of identifying known species and spotting new ones. Whichever category you fit into, we know how important it is to design an itinerary that visits the best birding regions, at the right time of year.

With our extensive network of

specialist birding guides, we can tailor make private tours to key destinations such as Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Peru, Ecuador and Galapagos, Brazil, Guyana, Madagascar, South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, India, Bhutan and Sri Lanka. We can also help you track down iconic species, such as the Harpy eagle in Panama.

We offer cheaper lodge-based birding holidays too, using guides employed by

the various lodges – although the quality of guiding can vary – and a few scheduled departure tours in high demand countries such as Costa Rica.





Sports & Cultural Events

As we tailor make all our holidays, we cater to a wide range of special interests.

Golf

Our golf holidays in South Africa are particularly popular, allowing golfers to escape the northern winter and combine championship golf with wine tasting and a luxury safari or beach break. You can select the courses you wish to play, varying from social to world class.

Riding

Our riding holidays vary from thrilling mobile horseback safaris in Big Five territory for experienced riders, to family-friendly lodge-based riding holidays suitable for all levels.

Diving

The Indian Ocean offers outstanding diving in warm water, from Kenya all the way down to Zanzibar, Mozambique and South Africa, as well as the islands of the Maldives, Andamans, Mauritius, Seychelles

and Madagascar. Galapagos offers live-aboard dive ships, whilst Mexico and Belize offer superb Caribbean diving.

Fishing

These same regions offer some of the best deep-sea fishing in the world. To this must be added the renowned fishing waters of the Baja Peninsula in Mexico.

Sports Events

Sports events are often the catalyst for a special holiday. We can source tickets to rugby internationals in South Africa and Argentina, as well as cricket tests in India, Sri Lanka and South Africa. We can also arrange Grand Prix packages.

Cultural Events

We can also build a holiday around special events such as the Rio Carnival, Holi in India or the Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico



Cruises & Houseboats

Expedition cruises explore regions that are difficult to reach in other ways, whilst relaxing houseboats provide a different perspective from the water.

Expedition Cruises

Expedition cruises to the Galapagos Islands in Ecuador are the best way to explore the unique wildlife of this stunning archipelago. Itineraries vary in length from several days to a week or more, with a wide choice of boats varying in size, design and cost.

Patagonia expedition cruises sail from southern Argentina to Chile, and vice versa, navigating via Glacier Alley and Cape Horn.

Expedition cruises to the Falkland Islands and Antarctica use much larger vessels capable of handling the polar ice.

You need to be relatively mobile to enjoy an expedition cruise, as you will disembark twice a day for excursions, making your way down a gangplank into a zodiac-type inflatable.



Houseboats

Houseboats are a relaxing way to watch the world go by. They are the perfect way to explore the mighty Amazon River, the largest in South America, whether boarding from Manaus in Brazil, Coca in Ecuador or Iquitos in Peru.

You can also explore Brazil's southern Pantanal by houseboat or sail down the Magdalena River in Colombia.

India has houseboats that sail down the Brahmaputra and Ganges Rivers and are wonderful for observing local life. You can also spend a night on a traditional rice houseboat gliding through the Kerala backwaters.

In Africa, Botswana has houseboats on the Chobe River, superb for both wildlife viewing and tiger fishing, whilst Zimbabwe has houseboats on Lake Kariba. Lake Jozini in South Africa also offers tiger fishing by houseboat.

Houseboat facilities will be en suite, but expect the cabins on many boats to be relatively small and simple.

Ocean Cruises

Through our sister company, Auriel Holidays, we can source a wide variety of ocean cruises that can tie in with tailor-made land arrangements, either before or after your cruise.



Quark Expeditions



Rovos Rail

Luxury Trains

If you love train travel, there is no better way of leisurely exploring a country than aboard one of the world’s iconic luxury trains, travelling in the utmost comfort with superb dining.

Southern Africa

Rovos Rail

The nostalgic Rovos Rail train journeys across Southern Africa at a leisurely pace, pulling along its historic reconditioned carriages. The traditional observation car provides a delightful way of viewing the unfolding landscape, whilst enjoying superb service and delicious food and wine – everything from mouth-watering afternoon teas to cocktails and formal dinners. All off-train excursions are included. Dress code is smart casual, but a little more formal in the evening.

A selection of short journeys is available in both directions (two to four nights), with three cabin styles – Pullman, Deluxe or Royal:

- Pretoria to Cape Town
- Pretoria to Victoria Falls
- Pretoria to Durban

Longer journeys are also available in both directions:

- South Africa Collage (Pretoria to Cape Town)
- South Africa to Namibia
- Dar Es Salaam to South Africa
- Dar Es Salaam to Angola

A few specialist golf journeys are also available in both directions:

- Golf Collage (Pretoria to Cape Town)
- Golf Safari (Sun City, Durban and Kruger)

Blue Train

The modern Blue Train also travels regularly between Pretoria and Cape Town.



Rovos Rail - Deluxe Suite

India

India is well served by a range of luxury trains that offer superb service and dining reminiscent of the opulent Maharaja era.

Maharaja’s Express

The famous Maharaja’s Express is India’s most luxurious train and offers a wonderful way to explore the treasures of the Golden Triangle and Rajasthan, starting from Delhi. A short three-night journey visits the stunning Taj Mahal in Agra, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve and Jaipur in Rajasthan. A longer trip includes Orchha Fort, the magnificent temples of Khajuraho and the sacred city of Varanasi. There is also a journey that combines the Golden Triangle with more of Rajasthan - including Bikaner, Jodhpur and beautiful Udaipur - before continuing all the way to Mumbai. This trip is available in both directions. There are four different cabins – Deluxe, Junior Suite, Suite or Presidential Suite.

Palace on Wheels

The opulent Palace on Wheels, India’s original luxury train, also starts in Delhi and explores the Golden Triangle and Rajasthan including a longer route to Jaipur, Ranthambore Tiger Reserve, Chittorgarh Fort, Udaipur, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Agra before returning to Delhi. The train has two different cabins - Deluxe or Super Deluxe.

Deccan Odyssey

The blue Deccan Odyssey explores the state of Maharashtra in style, including the holy city of Nashik, the incredible Ellora and Ajanta Caves with their magnificent sculptures and paintings, the temples of Kolhapur and the beaches of Goa. Another route links Mumbai with Delhi, travelling via Udaipur, Jaipur, Agra and Ranthambore Tiger Reserve. There are two cabin styles – Deluxe or Presidential Suite.

Golden Chariot

The luxurious Golden Chariot train explores South India. Starting from Bengaluru, the Karnataka route visits Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Mysuru Palace, the temples of Halebid, the hill station of Chikkamagaluru, the spectacular ruined city of Hampi and the beaches of Goa. The Tamil Nadu and Kerala route explores the temples and palaces of Mysuru, the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram,

the Great Chola temples at Thanjavur, Chettinad Palace and Kochi, including a cruise in a traditional rice houseboat on the Kerala backwaters. This train has one adapted cabin.

Peru

Belmond Train

The luxurious Belmond Train journeys through Peru, travelling from Arequipa to Lake Titicaca and Cusco – gateway to the stunning Inca citadel at Machu Picchu. The train runs in both directions. Be sure to visit Machu Picchu aboard the famous Hiram Bingham train.

Mexico

El Chepe

Although not a luxury train, another iconic train journey is aboard El Chepe, which travels through the stunning Copper Canyon.



Maharaja Express, Dining Car



Deccan Odyssey



Springbok Atlas

Accessible Travel



If you are a wheelchair user or have limited mobility, long-haul travel poses a unique set of challenges, but as the UK market leader in accessible safari holidays we have considerable expertise in this field. Our greatest experience is in Southern and East Africa, but we have been expanding our knowledge in recent years and we now also offer accessible holidays to India, Sri Lanka and Latin America.

Whether you are simply unsure about travelling without assistance, walk with sticks or use a wheelchair permanently, we can design a holiday appropriate to your needs. We know which hotels and lodges are accessible (i.e. ramps, roll-in showers and grab rails) and which are not, and your private guide can travel with a shower chair if needed. However if you use a power chair, we will need to get the approval of the airline before we can confirm your holiday.

In South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Tanzania and Namibia we have access to a small number of accessible vehicles, with ramps for wheelchairs. If you have upper body strength and can transfer into a regular vehicle, you will have more destination choices.

In India we also have a few accessible vehicles on the famous Golden Triangle route. In Latin America accessible vehicles are found mostly in the larger cities, but if you use a manual wheelchair we can take you to places such as Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands.

The accessible section of our website

showcases the many destinations we offer, but as you will have many questions please call us to discuss your specific needs or visit us in person and we will be happy to go through all the details with you.

As accessible hotels, guides and vehicles are always in short supply, you should book your holiday well in advance.



Wheelchairtravel.org

Small Group Tours

We offer a range of sociable small group tours in many of our key destinations, if you don't want to travel independently or self drive.

Southern Africa

South Africa offers a range of small group tours, travelling from beautiful Cape Town along the scenic Garden Route to Port Elizabeth. Afterwards you can add on a Big Five safari in the Eastern Cape. Alternatively, you can combine the wildlife of the famous Kruger National Park with Eswatini (Swaziland), Zululand and the beaches of Durban.

Namibia tours take in this country's dramatic landscapes, from the Fish River Canyon to Etosha, with longer tours

travelling through the lush Caprivi to Victoria Falls.

Botswana wildlife tours are generally done under canvas, exploring the wildlife of the Okavango Delta and Chobe.

East Africa

Kenya small group tours visit the famous Masai Mara, the elephants of Samburu and Amboseli in the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro, with shorter tours from Mombasa.

Tanzania tours explore the northern circuit of Tarangire, Ngorongoro Crater and the vast open plains of the wildlife-rich Serengeti.

Uganda tours focus on chimp and gorilla trekking. Ethiopia tours explore its ancient history.

Latin America

Peru tours visit Cusco and the stunning Inca citadel at Machu Picchu, with an extension to Lake Titicaca and the salt flats of Bolivia. Alternatively, you can combine Peru with Ecuador and the fascinating Galapagos Islands.

Brazil tours combines vibrant Rio de Janeiro with the thundering Iguassu Falls, whilst tours of Argentina and Chile focus on their capital cities and the dramatic landscapes of spectacular Patagonia.

Mexico small group tours explore their pyramids and the spectacular Mayan ruins of the Yucatan, before relaxing on the warm Mayan Riviera.

Through our sister company, Auriel Holidays, we offers tours to many other destinations.





Book with confidence

Booking your holiday

When you are ready to book, we will guide you through the process. Our terms and conditions can be found on our website at www.2by2holidays.co.uk.

Through our membership of ATOL (9025), our Client Deposit Trust Account and Tour Operator Insurance, your holiday is financially protected wherever in the world you live.

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Worldwide Holidays

Almost anywhere in the world that 2by2 Holidays doesn't cover, our sister company Auriel Holidays does.



Auriel Holidays brings the same high standards of travel expertise and service as 2by2 Holidays, but as a retail travel agent.

Ring us to discuss a tailor-made holiday anywhere in the world:
01582 766122 or visit www.aurielholidays.co.uk

