

JOURNEYS TO INDIA



BESTWAY
TOURS & SAFARIS

Journeys sans frontières since 1978

WELCOME

TO OUR JOURNEYS SANS FRONTIÈRES



Welcome to *Journeys to India*, a collection of voyages that will uncover history from antiquity to the present day. We invite you to discover the lands of the old Raj, explore the mighty Himalayas, uncover the remains of the ancient Maurya and Gupta Kingdoms, see the sights of the legendary Moghul Empire in the North and the Chola Empire in the South, or follow in the footsteps of the Buddha.

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

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

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

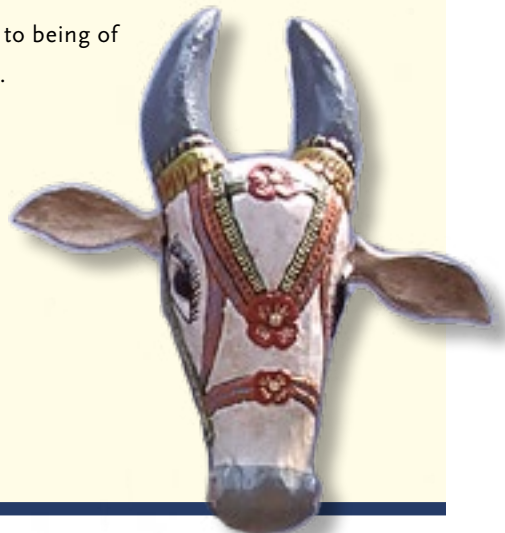
The pages that follow should give you an idea of the vast variety of tours we have on offer to this part of the world. For a complete listing, more detailed itineraries, dates and prices please visit www.bestway.com and www.worldheritagetours.com.

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

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

Happy Journeys!

DR. MAHMOOD M. POONJA
Chief Explorer



OUR FASCINATING JOURNEYS



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Journeys sans Frontières

India: Northern & Southern Heritage

A comprehensive cultural insight



Taj Mahal, Agra



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

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

PART 1: THE NORTHERN HERITAGE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

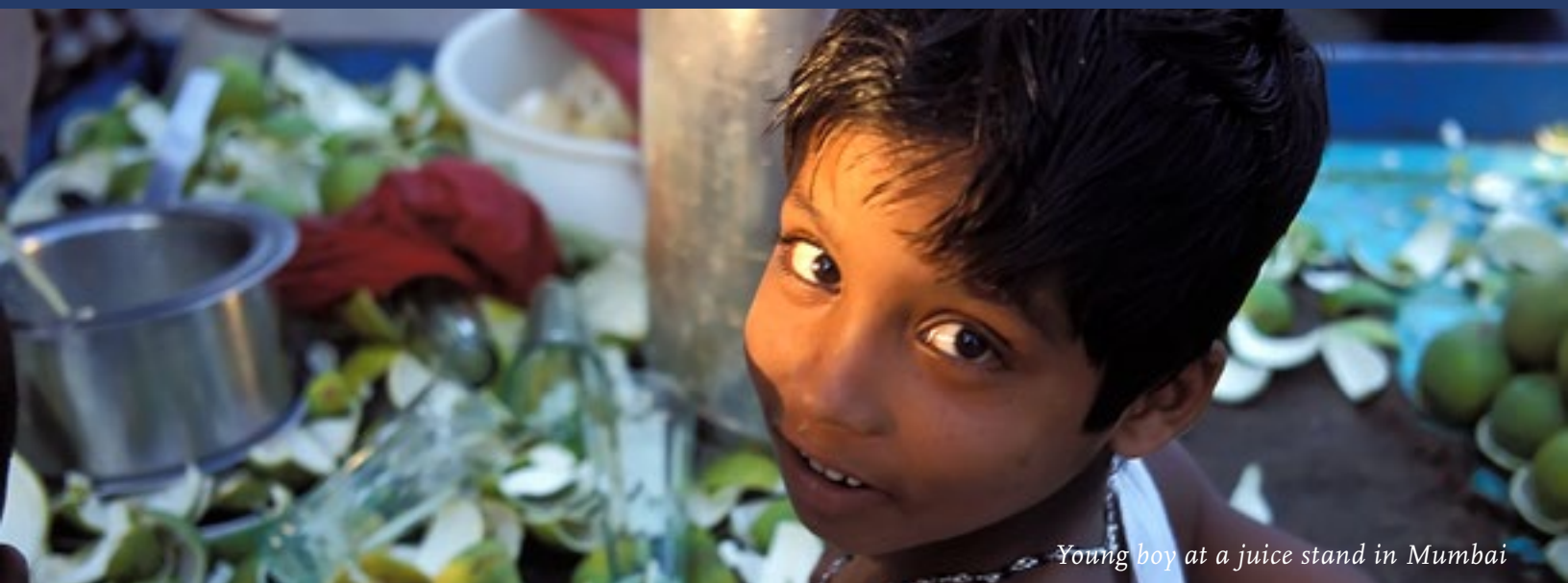
DAY 13 AURANGABAD • - ELLORA CAVES • MUMBAI Morning excursion of the remarkable Ellora Caves*, Daulatabad Fort and Bibi-Ka-Maqbra Mausoleum. Flight to Mumbai.

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

PART 2: THE SOUTHERN HERITAGE

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

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



Young boy at a juice stand in Mumbai

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Artistically designed tour of India from North to South.

Visit 16 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

4 deluxe daytime train rides to enjoy the scenery.

India: Western Heritage

A journey through Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madyha Pradesh



The Ellora Caves World Heritage Site



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 10 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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

Explore rarely visited parts of India.

India: Eastern Heritage

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

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Victoria Memorial at sunset, Kolkata



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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Visit remote Tibetan monasteries in the Himalayas.

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

Explore the magnificent temples of Orissa.

Indian Himalayas

A journey to Ladakh, Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh



Klu-kkhyil Gumpa at Liker, Ladakh



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

* Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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

Stay in a lovely houseboat in Kashmir

Encounter the living Buddhist and Muslim Heritage of the region.

Journey to the Ganges

A journey to India's spiritual heart



Boats on the Ganges River, Varanasi



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

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

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

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

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

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

DAY 7 DELHI • MATHURA • AGRA

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

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

DAY 9 AGRA • ORCHHA • KHAJURAHO

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

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

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

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

DAY 13 ALLAHABAD • LUCKNOW

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

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

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

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

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Follow the path of the holy Ganges River.

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

Royal Rajasthan

A journey through the regal heritage of this vibrant desert state



Camels at sunset near Pushkar



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

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

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

DAY 4 AGRA • FATEHPUR SIKRI

At sunrise visit the Taj Mahal*, followed by visits to the Agra Fort*, Fatehpur Sikri* and the Salim Chisty mausoleum.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAY 16 BIKANER • DESHNOKE

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

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

* Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 7 UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Explore amazing deserts and natural parks.

Marvel at the architectural jewels of the Mughal Empire.

Elephant ride at Amber Fort

Desert safari on a camel at sunset with Rajasthani folk dances

India's Forts & Palaces

Experience absolute luxury on this journey to the heart of India



Lake Palace Hotel, Udaipur



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Luxury accommodation throughout at the renowned Taj and Palace Hotels.

Visit 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Marvel at the architectural jewels of the Mughal Empire.

Unique Fort & Palace experiences

Tiger Trails

An Indian wildlife safari



Royal Bengal Tiger



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*



TOUR HIGHLIGHTS



Follow in the path of
the Royal Bengal Tiger

Visit 9 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

Marvel at the architectural jewels
of the Mughal Empire.

Visit 5 National Parks with
over 8 game drives

Best of South India

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



Beach near Kovalam, Kerala



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAY 14 PONDICHERRY • MAHABALIPURAM • CHENNAI

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

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

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

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

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

** Denotes a UNESCO World Heritage Site*

TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

Visit 4 UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

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

Discover the beauty of Dravidian architecture of Southern India.



Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

Bestway Tours & Safaris

ABOUT OUR COMPANY

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

OUR PHILOSOPHY

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

ABOUT OUR TOURS

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

CUSTOMIZED & SPECIAL INTEREST TOURS

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

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

WORLD HERITAGE TOURS

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

NATURAL HERITAGE TOURS

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

ASTRONOMICAL TOURS

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



Musicians walking in the desert, Rajasthan

FAITH-BASED TOURS

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

CULINARY TOURS

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

TEXTILES, ARTS & CRAFT TOURS

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

RAILWAY JOURNEYS

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

WOMEN ONLY GROUPS

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

JOURNEYS SANS FRONTIÈRES TO UNIQUE DESTINATIONS

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

THE BESTWAY CLUB

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



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Photography by Peter Langer

www.peterlanger.com



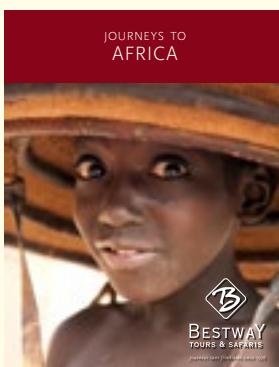
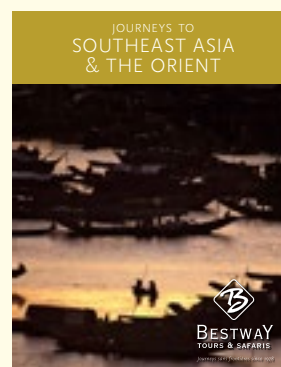
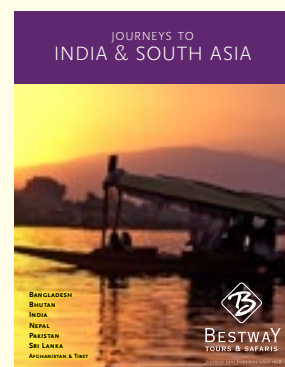
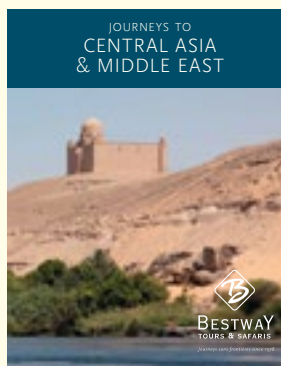
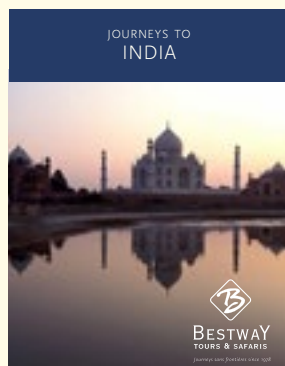
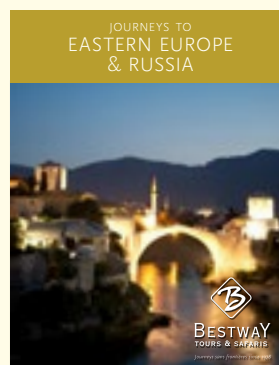
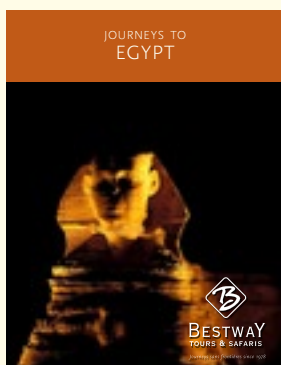
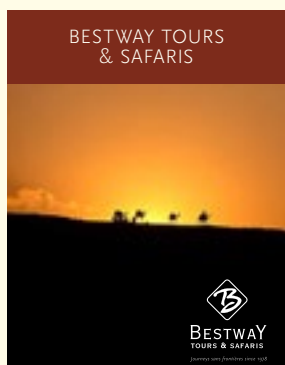
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