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# Sri Lanka Coach Tour

## 'mingling with locals tour'

8 days from \$1999 per person

Small groups size 10 or less – 3 star hotels

**Departures every Friday**

**01 Nov to 30 Nov 2018, 26 Jan to 26 March 2019,**

**25 April to 10 June, 25 July to 10 Sept, 10 Oct to 30 Nov 2019**

**Single supplement \$400. Call us about upgrading hotels to 4 star.**

**Call Destination International Holidays at 1300 813391.**



**Trip Overview**

Unlike the regular Seat-In-Coach Tour – that covers interesting places of a particular destination – this is an experience which stitches nature, culture and the landscape of the island paradise together. Hence, ‘mingling with locals’ is a certain highlight of this tour which has been drawn up to offer you the ‘real taste’ through the Sri Lankan way of life. In fact, this will be a main reason why you will take home not just memories of picturesque places, but a bouquet of recollections that will ink delightful memories of the Wonder of Asia in times to come!

**Call Destination International Holidays at 1300 81339.**

### Trip Highlights

- Wella In Negombo
- Sigiriya Rock Fortress – **Optional**
- Cycle ride through Villages in Giritale
- Polonnaruwa Medieval Capital - UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Visit the World’s largest open art gallery – Dambulla Cave Temple
- Spice Garden visit, where the world class spices produce in Matale
- Kandy Temple of The Tooth Relic - UNESCO World Heritage Site
- Royal Botanic Gardens
- Tea factory visit with tea plucking session
- Scenic Train journey through lush green mountains.
- Yoga session
- Walking tour in Galle Dutch fort - UNESCO world Heritage Site

### Tour Route

**Route** Colombo – Negombo – Sigiriya – Giritale – Polonnaruwa – Dambulla – Kandy – Nuwara Eliya – Ella – Yala - Ahangama – Galle - Colombo

**Duration** 07 Nights / 08 Days

**Season** Year – Around

### Return economy airfares from ALL Australian Capital cities to Colombo

- Accommodation on BB basis sharing double basis for 07 nights from breakfast on day 02 to breakfast on day 08 at hotels.
- Lunch at a village house on day 3
- Transportation by air-conditioned vehicle
- Services of a English Speaking chauffeur guide up to 7 Pax, from 8 Pax onwards English Speaking National Guide
- Entrance fee for below attractions:
  - ✓ Polonnaruwa Medieval Capital
  - ✓ Dambulla Cave Temple
  - ✓ Royal Botanic Gardens
  - ✓ Kandy Temple of the Tooth Relic
  - ✓ Yala National Park
- Safari Jeep hire cost at Yala National Park.
- Cycle hire cost in Giritale
- Train Ticket (Nanu Oya to Ella & Ahangama to Galle)

**Day 01//NEGOMBO-KURUNEGALA - SIGIRIYA**

Pick up from the Negombo hotel and transfer to Wella.

Visit Wella in Negombo. Wake up to the tropical sunrise and head out to **Wella** to observe the fishermen's way of life. Watch how they spread out their nets with care hoping for that 'big catch'. Then simply take few steps towards the busy fishermen pulling fishing nets ashore. After all, a little help wouldn't mind, would it? Preserve the fresh catch in cold boxes to take them across for your evening BBQ at the resort you stay over. Then proceed to Sigiriya while experiencing how busy roads change gradually to a flat terrain spreading miles ahead as the climate gets warmer. Surely, it will be fascinating to observe how the road starts to get carpeted between lush green paddy fields. As the journey begins, you will witness coconut cultivations and while you drive towards Sigiriya, you will see vast areas of paddy fields. It is really an amazing thing to see how the environment changes from the coastal line to paddy fields. As your journey deepens into the northern part of the island you will be able to witness exotic birds, Monitor Lizards, grey Buffalos and overly friendly Monkeys. On your way you will also witness beautiful pineapple plantations. Stop near a pineapple plantation and enjoy the fresh and tasty pineapple. It will open your taste buds and you will feel refreshed after a long drive. Once you have reached Sigiriya, you will feel the warm tropical weather, but the constant breeze will make you feel tireless.

**Optional: Visit Sigiriya Lion Rock (Entrance fee USD 30 per person)**

Hop off your vehicle at the base of the fresco-covered rock fortress sitting calm in the Central Province of Sri Lanka. As you walk through its well-trodden pathways do not be surprised to witness its symmetrical landscape which is still kept alive. Then take the stairway towards the gigantic paws of a resting lion and walk through its perfectly preserved frescoes and wonderful mirror wall to observe the brilliance of the ancient Sri Lankan artist. At the top you will be presented with nothing less than a mesmerizing living specimen of King Kasyapa's 5<sup>th</sup> century citadel which will surely tempt you to explore the summit even more. Do not be surprised.... After all you are at the Eighth Wonder of the World! Proceed to the Hotel and check in. Refresh and line up to your own BBQ with the fresh fish you brought from the fishing village the very day, then learn the art of marinating and make your own BBQ meal by the pool side while enjoying a typical Sri Lankan Arak cocktails. It will be a nice experience to make your own BBQ.

*Accommodation* Hotel Sigiriya <https://www.serendibleisure.com/hotelsigiriya/>

*Transfer Time* Negombo – Sigiriya: approx. 3 ½ hrs.

*Meals* Breakfast

*Activity Time* Negombo Wella visit: *approx. 30 minutes.*

Sigiriya Rock Fortress - Optional: *approx. 2 hrs.*

*Altitude* Negombo : 2 Meters above mean sea level

Sigiriya : 187 Meters above mean sea level



### **Day 02//SIGIRIYA – GIRITALE – POLONNARUWA – SIGIRIYA**

Sunrise in the morning will stay as an unforgettable picture. As you get up you will hear birds singing and it will be a different waking up experience. After breakfast sit in the comfort of your vehicle as your chauffeur takes you to the Giritale tank, one of the finest landmarks in the Kingdom of Lakes! The tank is an initiative taken few centuries ago with the primary objective of cooling the environment while providing much needed water for agricultural lands which today administers itself as one of the finest spoken attractions in Polonnaruwa. This is where you get to hop on a bicycle and take a slow ride through scattered local villages. School children who run through the paddy fields will make this beautiful morning more colourful. Being captivated by the subtle beauty of the feathered – Egrets, Brahminy Kites and Bulbuls – while observing a Kingfisher making a nose-dive into sparkling water can never be a bad idea after all! Proceed to Polonnaruwa. Stop at a village market place and you can buy vegetables for your today's lunch. You can bargain with the local vendors with the help of your tour guide and purchase vegetables on your own. Then transfer to a close by village house. You will have the opportunity to blend with the local family and prepare food jointly with the group. It will be an interactive cooking experience for the guests. Whilst sharing the Sri Lankan cookery secrets, the tour guide will introduce the village family to the group. After the joint preparation of the food clients can enjoy the typical Sri Lankan rice and curry lunch with the local family. For sure this will be another unforgettable experience for all of the guests.

#### **Visit Polonnaruwa ancient city.**

Do not let the heat absorb your interest as you have just stepped into a mine of cultural and religious extravaganza. Stamping a remarkable era from the 11th century until 1310 CE. Polonnaruwa, represents one of the most important milestones in the history of Sri Lanka. Take a walk across this UNESCO World Heritage Site – a kingdom of the greatest kings that ruled the island – and witness how stone-carved Buddha statues as well as architectural and historic Monuments add value to Polonnaruwa. Observe the glamour of Gal Viharaya, Lankatilaka, Rankot Vehera, Thivanka Image House as well as Thuparama before heading out from a remarkable royal capital of Sri Lanka! Back to the hotel

*Accommodation* Hotel Sigiriya <https://www.serendibleisure.com/hotelsigiriya/>

*Transfer Time* Sigiriya - Giritale: approx. 1 hr.

Giritale – Polonnaruwa: approx. 45 minutes.

*Meals* Breakfast

*Activity Time* Giritale Village Tour: approx. 3 hrs.

Polonnaruwa ancient city: approx. 1 ½ hrs.

*Altitude Giritale* : 113 Meters above mean sea level

*Polonnaruwa* : 187 Meters above mean sea level

### **Day 03//SIGIRIYA – DAMBULLA – MATALE- KANDY**

Breakfast at the hotel.

#### **Visit Dambulla Cave Temple**

Leave your hotel and make a quick stop in Dambulla in the morning to witness the religious and cultural landmark embedded in Dambulla Cave Temples. Tracing its footsteps back to the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BC, the cave temple in Dambulla form an important pick in anyone's bucket-list merely due to its magnificently carved 153 Buddha statues nestled in five caves. Step through the gateways trodden by millions of devotees and take a slow climb right to its summit to observe Over 80 caves which were prime meditating grounds for Buddhist monks throughout phases of history. Then leave the premises with nothing less than ripe memories. You will feel the climate change of the dry zone to wet zone as you pass by Dambulla and reach Kandy via Matale. You will witness how the flat paddy fields change into step down paddy fields beside the road. You will be reaching the up country surrounded with lot of greenery and mountains. When you pass by, either sides of the road there will be local vegetable sellers who will stop your vehicle to sell fresh vegetables. This is their day today income to look after their families. Proceed to Kandy via Matale.

Stop in Matale – the cradle of spices in Sri Lanka – on your way to the Hill Capital to observe how Sri Lanka's world-class spices are grown and processed. Start your spice garden tour under the watchful eyes of an in-house specialist who will take you through a journey entwining with spices and their herbal values. Finally, enjoy a cup of herbal tea – something unique for a Sri Lankan at heart – before heading out to the all-important last royal capital of Sri Lanka, Kandy. Feel the coolness of the surrounding climate as you drive into the limits of a city which is 500 meters above the sea level and that last-witnessed Royalty. Welcome to the Colosseum of Heritage! Take a walk through streets of Kandy and observe how life unfolds under the shades of Heritage. Pass the clock tower that stands tall for decades under the sun and rain before walking around the shady banks of the Kandy Lake. Check in to your hotel. In the evening, take part in a city tour in Kandy before witnessing a cultural show featuring traditional Sri Lankan dances. A drive around the Kandy Lake built by the last Sinhala king Sri Wickrama Rajasinghe in 1798 will give you a nice feeling about the culture in Kandy. Then proceed to explore the town, Bazaar area and the market place where locals come and buy their day to day goods.

**Optional:** For those who are interested in visiting a Gem Museum and Art & Craft center can visit those places as an option. Kandy is a great place for souvenir shopping and to learn about its rich culture. As you walk through the doorways of a cultural center, stay prepared to be mesmerized by the beats of rattling drums and spinning dancers that spell out the Kandyan heritage to supremacy! Sit back in the comfort of your seat and applaud to a series of performances unfolding before your eyes featuring traditional Sri Lankan dances.

After the cultural show transfer to the hotel and refresh and come back to the Kandy city to taste the Sri Lankan street food. You may taste the nice Kottu Roti, hoppers, egg hoppers & roti. After the dinner do not forget to taste the Masala Tea. (Clients pay direct) After the dinner visit a local pub in Kandy to have some wine and beer there. This will be a very nice experience as you will witness the local way of socializing in the evenings. (Clients pay direct)

Return to the hotel.

*Accommodation* Kaya Residence <http://www.kayasrilanka.com/>

*Transfer Time* Sigiriya – Dambulla: approx. ½ hrs.

Dambulla - Matale: approx. 1 ½ hrs.

Matale – Kandy: approx. 1 ½ hrs.

*Meals* Breakfast

*Activity Time* Dambulla Cave Temple: approx. 1 ½ hrs.

Matale Spice Gardens: approx. 1 hr.

*Altitude* Dambulla : 164 Meters above mean sea level

Matale : 364 Meters above mean sea level

Kandy : 500 Meters above mean sea level

### **Day 04//KANDY – NUWARA ELIYA**

If passionate towards local cuisine? Then learn it from those who know it by heart! Watch how locals garnish their culinary experience – the traditional way at the resort you stayed over. You may even lend a hand to prepare your signature Sri Lankan breakfast, an experience that will last a lifetime! You will experience this lovely breakfast in the morning room open to the garden with the pool view. Your chef will demonstrate, how to prepare typical Sri Lankan food such as Pol roti, Milk Rice, Pittu or a curry. You also get an opportunity to get yourself involved in making this lovely dish.

Breakfast at the hotel.

#### **Optional: Visit the Temple of the Tooth Relic**

Leave your hotel and walk into the most sacred temple that enshrines the tooth relic of Lord Buddha where you will be able to witness Pooja – twice a day – showered by the blessings of devotees that account to few hundreds on any given day. After paying homage to the gods, visit the Kandy Museum which houses a tale of Kings and Queens entwined between the pillars of heritage. (When you visit the temple of tooth relic please make sure that you wear the proper dress code to avoid any inconvenience at the entrance. You are not allowed to wear, shorts, Short Skirts, skinnies or sleeveless blouses)

#### **Visit Peradeniya Botanical Garden**

Head towards Peradeniya and walk through the gateways of the Royal Botanical Garden which enshrines an abundance of flora. Walk through the giant palms and be enchanted by rare orchids, spices and herbs which are sometimes found nowhere else across the island. In fact, this is not only a habitat for beautiful flowers, but also a library for an enthusiast of historic plants which date back across few decades. The origins of the Botanical Gardens date as far back as 1371 when King Wickramabahu III ascended the throne and kept court at Peradeniya near Mahaweli River. This was followed by King Kirti Sri and King Rajadhi Rajasinghe. A temple was built on this location by King Wimala Dharma, but it was destroyed by the British when they were given control over the Kingdom of Kandy. Thereafter, the groundwork for a botanical garden was formed by Alexander Moon in 1821. The Botanical Garden at Peradeniya was formally established in 1843 with plants brought from Kew Garden, Slave Island, Colombo, and the Kalutara Garden in Kalutara. The Royal Botanic Garden, Peradeniya was made more independent and expanded under George Gardner as superintendent in 1844. On his death in 1849 George Henry Kendrick Thwaites became superintendent. He served until 1879, when he was succeeded by Henry Trimen, who served until 1895. The Garden came under the administration of the Department of Agriculture when it was established in 1912. After visiting the Botanical

Garden you may have your lunch under a shady tree on the mats. You will enjoy the picnic lunch inside the Botanical Garden. (Clients Pay Direct) Proceed to Nuwara Eliya. En-route **Visit Ramboda Falls.** Leave Peradeniya and take a winding road uphill into the heart of the tea country. Observe the surroundings and how the climate around you changes as busy roads studded with towns transform into pine-covered narrow roads that snake their way through lush green blankets of Ceylon Tea. Don't be surprised if you pass a... waterfall crashing down by the road as this is a common sight amidst the hills. *Nuwara Eliya is situated 1868m above the sea level.* When you pass by the mountains you will see village children selling wild flowers besides the road. You may stop for a moment and purchase beautiful flowers from them. It will not cost you a lot. But for them that income will help them to go to school and study for their future. As you approach Nuwara Eliya you will find out why it is called a visitor's bliss. The misty hill country town is vastly renowned for unending acres of high-grown Ceylon Tea and suddenly springs out to light during its April season when golfers, horse-racers, motor racers and holiday makers flock into Nuwara Eliya to spend the best season of the year amidst Old-English style cottages and a heritage that dates back into Colonial Ceylon!

#### **Visit Tea Factory.**

Walk into a traditional factory processing fine Ceylon Tea, a world class brand which boasts of millions of servings each day across the globe. Be mesmerized by the process extending from plucking to processing and be guided by a team of experts who know it by heart! You can enjoy tea plucking session at the tea factory with the tea bucket hanging on your neck. After the tea plucking session enjoy the finest Ceylon tea at the tea lounge. Checking into your cozy hotel room will not end your experience as more awaits at this Traditional Hunters' Club of the Hill Country! You will definitely experience the British culture as you have checked in to the hotel.

*Accommodation* Hill Club Hotel <https://www.hillclubsrilanka.lk/>

*Transfer Time* Kandy – Nuwara Eliya: approx. 2 ½ hrs.

*Meals* Breakfast

*Activity Time* Royal Botanic Garden: approx. 2 hrs.

Tea Factory: approx. 1 hr.

*Altitude* Nuwara Eliya : 1868 Meters above mean sea level

#### **Day 05//NUWARA ELIYA – ELLA - YALA**

Breakfast at the hotel with the typical colonial style. Proceed to Ella.

Leave your hotel in the morning and head out to Nanu-Oya Railway Station. Catch a local train that will rattle its way to Ella and be mesmerized by the breathtaking views that will swish pass your window. This train will be stopped at the Pattipola railway station during your fascinating train journey, it is the highest station in Sri Lanka with an elevation of 1,897.5 m above the sea level. The Pattipola Station has that unique feeling of a British Village Station as you pass by you will feel that you are away from it all. You will witness the scenic beauty of cool up country. Once you reach Ella climb up to the top of the mountain to view the unforgettable Ella-Gap. Then climb down and proceed to Yala. Observe how the steep roads flatten into a speed-friendly terrain that stretches past acres across Wellawaya into the heart of wilderness, Yala National Park. Welcome to leopard country! Yala National Park has the highest density of leopards in the world. In the land overlooked by the spotted and clawed, you will be in for a treat that blends well with wildlife and local smiles. Check

into your hotel and take a good rest as the following day promises a bumpy ride in the island's largest national park that often lives up to its promise of a lifetime experience. You will enjoy the Garden BBQ Dinner near the camp site.

*Accommodation* Wild Panthera Camp Site <http://wildpanthera.lk/>

*Transfer Time* Nuwara Eliya – Ella: approx. 3 ½ hrs. train ride.

Ella – Yala: approx. 1 ½ hrs.

*Meals* Breakfast

*Altitude* Ella : 1,041 Meters above mean sea level

Yala : 30 Meters above mean sea level

### **Day 06//YALA – AHANGAMA**

Take a snack breakfast and transfer to do the Yala Safari.

**Leave to Yala National Park for Morning Safari by private Jeep.**

Wake up early in the morning to the chirps of birds announcing the dawn and find a comfortable seat in your safari jeep.... Ladies and gentlemen, you are about to enter the holy land of Sri Lankan wildlife! Enter the park and head inside through its bumpy roads and wide open plains to witness an abundance of peacock, crocodiles, wild boar and spotted deer grazing across the scrub forest. But, keep your eyes wide open as a roaring leopard, a fuzzy sloth bear or a colossal tusker may be just few feet away. Spanning across 978km<sup>2</sup> Yala is home to a large number of mammals and birds. So, do not be surprised even if you are presented with a spine-tingling cry of a deer, as A Hunt may be just seconds away! After the safari return back to the camp site and have the brunch outside the camp. It will be really nice to have a meal outside the camp admiring the nature at its best. The birds will be singing and you may spot the funny monkeys jumping over the trees. After brunch proceed to Ahangama where sky meets the sea under the sun (horizon).

Check in to the hotel.

It is a place to relax, rejuvenate and experience a tropical beach resort that will offer where you will enjoy sun, sea, sand and the way of life in the remote south of Sri Lanka. A resort located in an area where you can also surf, dive and view the movement of Whales and Dolphins off Mirissa.

(Depending on the season)

The long quiet stretch of beach offers you peace in abundance and a dip in the warm Indian Ocean is rejuvenating. Lie under a palm tree and relax on this unpolluted stretch. Learn the art of stilt fishing – a mastery passed down from generation to generation and experience the insight of the only village of stilt fishing in the world. If it's the season you can make a quite walk in the night to watch the turtles coming ashore to lay eggs.

If you are lucky enough a surprise will await in your room after the dinner. We like to be your bedtime story teller.

*Accommodation* Insight Resort & Spa <http://insightresortsrilanka.com/>

*Transfer Time* Yala - Ahangama: approx. 3 ½ hrs.

*Meals* Breakfast

*Activity Time* Yala National Park: approx. 3 ½ hrs.

*Altitude* Ahangama : 16 Meters above mean sea level

### **Day 07//AHANGAMA – GALLE - AHANGAMA**

Breakfast at the hotel and transfer to Galle to do a city tour.

Catch a public bus from Ahangama to Galle to get the hang of the local lifestyle. Experience how the locals get along with their daily means of transport as the bus will take you along the coastline to Galle. Simply act local and pay attention to the busy conductor who yells at the top of his voice at every halting place while your driver will steer the bus through coastline until you bid adieu to them in Galle. In public transport be vigilant of your pockets, valuables. For sure no one will attempt to take anything away from you by forcefully and it will also be an experience to go through.

**Do a walking city tour in Galle**

Walk through the Galle city, living museum of the Dutch architecture, which still boasts of its colonial heritage and historic fort. Walk into the gigantic gateways of the fort – first built by Portuguese and refined later by the Dutch and then later by the British– and observe how life goes by living inside a Dutch monument. You will be surprised to see how well the roads within the fort are aligned parallel to the fort’s ramparts. Take a walk along the well-paved roads of this UNESCO World Heritage Site that has remarkably held its ground throughout years of its living style by itself. After walking through the Galle Fort you’ll then step in to a nice restaurant with the colonial touch inside the Galle Fort to have lunch. (Clients Pay Direct) After exploring the Galle City take a walk up to the train station and catch a public train to Ahangama. Hence it’s a nice feeling to witness typical southern Sri Lanka villages occasionally experiencing the train to the southern coastal line. Walk back to the hotel through the little Ahangama village town.

**Optional:** After a fun filled exciting tour you will enjoy the nice Fare well dinner on the beach. (If weather permits)

*Accommodation* Insight Resort & Spa <http://insightresortsrilanka.com/>

*Transfer Time* Ahangama - Galle: approx. 30 minutes.

*Meals* Breakfast

*Activity Time* Galle UNESCO world heritage site: approx. 2 hrs.

*Altitude* Galle : 9 Meters above mean sea level

**Day 08//AHANGAMA - AIRPORT**

Enjoy your mind, body and soul with a Yoga session early in the morning which is guaranteed to seal your holiday with a stamp of perfection!

Breakfast at the hotel.

Transfer to Airport to connect the departure flight. *(Only for the People departure after breakfast airport transfer will be provided, for the rest they need to book separately.)*

Those who would like to stay few extra nights in this beautiful beach resort are most welcome to have their beach extension in the Insight Resort.

You can enjoy the serene beach, sun and sand. Also you can use the Ayurveda spa and get yourself refreshed unwind and be stress free before you finish your holiday. It’s also nice to make a day excursion from hotel to Sinharaja rainforest which is a UNESCO world heritage site and one of a kind. In an around Ahangama there are many lovely lakes to go on boating to see mangroves. Moreover it’s a nice resort with a southern touch of Sri Lanka to relax and enjoy very nice food and drinks.

*Transfer Time* Ahangama - Airport: approx. 3 ½ hrs.

*Meals* Breakfast

\*\*\*\*\***END OF THE TOUR**\*\*\*\*\*

Call Destination International Holidays at 1300 781 651.

# **Sri Lanka Beach Stay** **'winter escape on the beach'** **8 days from \$1599 per person**

**Departures daily 25 July to 10 Sept and 10 Oct to 30 Nov 2018**

**Single supplement \$600**

## **CENTARA CEYSANDS RESORT & SPA**

- Return economy airfares from ALL Australian Capital Cities to Colombo.
- 7 Nights in a Superior Room
- Return private airport transfers

### **BONUS OFFERS:**

- Breakfast Daily
- Lunch OR Dinner Daily
- Complimentary upgrade to the next available room category
- 3 hours of open bar during lunch OR dinner. Open bar includes standard drinks such as non-alcoholic, beer, local spirits only
- Free bottle of house wine\*
- 25% Spa Discount
- Free Wi-Fi

### **ROOM UPGRADE:**

- Superior Ocean View Room from \$45pp
- Deluxe Ocean View Room from \$85pp

### **Meal Plan Upgrade:**

All Inclusive from \$595pp

Located on Sri Lanka's Bentota peninsula, Centara Ceysands Resort & Spa Sri Lanka enjoys a superb location with the Bentota River on one side and the Indian Ocean on the other, ensuring dreamy views from most areas of the resort, and offering a natural environment along with a wide range of facilities and activities. The resort is accessed by a short boat ride across the lagoon from a departure point, a few minutes to Aluthgama station, and river and ocean boat trips are a major attraction.



# **India Small Group Rail Tour 12 days from \$2799**

per person twin share

Only 10 customers per tour departure

Departure dates 04 Sept, 16 Oct, 13 Nov, 2018

05 Feb, 05 Mar, 02 April 2019.

**Reservations Phone 1300 781 651.**



**The wide variety, sheer size and geographical diversity of India can be best experienced through train journeys. The excitement, the thrills and the joys of travelling all over India on trains is truly a mesmerising way to explore this fantastic country.**

**Tour Arrangement inclusions:**

- Return economy airfares from ALL Australian Capital Cities to Delhi.
- 10 nights accommodation on twin sharing basis at hotels mentioned in the itinerary or similar  
Delhi – Justa The Residence  
Jaisalmer – Heritage Inn  
Jodhpur - Ratan Vilas  
Udaipur – Justa Rajputana  
Jaipur – Regenta Central  
Agra – The Retreat  
Air Conditioned Sleepeer berths on the trains.
- Breakfast at all the hotels mentioned in the itinerary
- Traditional welcome on arrival with garlanding at airport
- All transfers and sightseeing tours by air-conditioned mini coach as per the itinerary.
- Representative for assistance on all arrival and departure transfers
- Services of English speaking TOUR MANAGER cum guide as per itinerary
- Entrances to the monument of tourist interest as per the itinerary
- Elephant ride at Amber fort Jaipur
- Jeep ride from Fort to Parking lot at Jaipur
- Complimentary bottled water on long drives (intercity transfers) one bottle per person.

**Land Arrangement Exclusions:**

- Cost of a India Tourist Visa.
- Travel Insurance.
- Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone/fax, alcoholic beverages, camera/video fees at monuments,
- Any other service not mentioned in the program.

**Exploring north India by rail is a novel experience of lifetime. Be sure to keep an eye out amazing glimpses of Indian culture and traditions. Beginning from the city of contrasts – Delhi, the trail traverses to royal Rajasthan through the**

expansive golden sand land – Jaisalmer. The trip moves to the sites where time left its indelible traces. The ruined legacy of Osian, the city painted in cool blue – Jodhpur, the utopia of Udaipur where dreams intermingle with reality along with the capital city of forts, Jaipur in Rajasthan. Then, the entourage moves towards east in Uttar Pradesh where the Taj Mahal adorns Agra along the heritage city of victory – Fatehpur Sikri. The Jewel Set in the Crown of India, a journey through the North India will bring nostalgic memories to cherish for a lifetime.

### **India Rail Itinerary**

An India Rail journey tale

You are about to embark on either the most amazing or daunting rail tour of your life. There is something wonderful and magical about India and you've probably heard a thousand stories from friends and family before you have even left our country. If this is your first trip to India, you are going to experience a culture and people so different from ours that all of your senses are going to be working overtime whilst to experiencing this great country. India's massive train network is truly complex and amazing. One, that is easily navigatable with a guide in a small group. Your guide will make sure you arrive early at the station to find your train car number and to go to the station store to buy some water and food for the overnight trip. Food and water is served on the train, but it is a good idea to bring your own as well in case you don't like what they are serving on board.

At the allocated time to you will be asked to board the train and I will say you will be pleasantly surprised by our first class air-conditioned sleeper. By Indian standards the car is clean, nice and cool. There is plenty of space to store your luggage and each compartment is nice and roomy. As the train leaves and you hear the clickety clack of the train tracks you are off and rolling on your journey. Your conductor will come down to your compartment soon after departure to supply you with clean pillows, sheets and blankets for your overnight stay that night. The compartments have upper and lower berths – so our fitter travellers will be asked to take the top bunks. Intermittently train staff will appear offering tea, coffee and food to buy. You of course can buy these or use your own provisions. The train stops at many stations along the way giving you time to buy more food at the stations shops if you need to. At night time we all get our cabins ready and make our beds before snuggling up for a good nights sleep. There is no wifi on the trains, so bring a good book and lots of stories and laughs. One thing we cant gloss over are the toilets. They are usually pretty filthy, so bring toilet paper and wipes for your own comfort. They do their best on train system to keep these clean but it never seems last for very long. Before you know it you have had a good nights sleep and arrived at our next destinations..... AND guess what??? You did it, you enjoyed an overnight rail journey in Incredible India.

Russ Masterton travelled on India Railway in 2016 and 2017.

### **Day 1: Depart Australia**

### **Day 2: Delhi**

Arrive Delhi, our representative will meet you at the airport and will escort till hotel. He will also assist for check in. Overnight stay at hotel.

### **Day 3: Delhi – Jaisalmer**

After breakfast sight seeing tour of Delhi includes Raj Ghat (Cremation site of Mahatma Gandhi), Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Qutub Minar & India Gate (War Memorial). Drive Past President House & Parliament House. Later transfer to the railway station to catch the train to Jaisalmer by Train # 4059 Delhi Jaisalmer Express dep. 17:40 hrs. Overnight on board.

### **Day 4: Jaisalmer**

Arrive Jaisalmer at 12:45 hrs upon arrival transfer to the hotel. Evening drive to Khuri Village & Sand Dunes. It is a delightfully peaceful place with mud and straw decorated houses. Further proceed for 1 Km away from village, you can see magnificent patches of sand dunes. You can have camel ride here. People & village life can be seen on the way to Khuri in various villages. Overnight stay in the hotel.

#### **Day 5: Jaisalmer – Osian – Jodhpur**

After breakfast sightseeing tour of Jaisalmer including the 12-15th century Jain temples, Folk Museum, Gadi-sar Tank & the colorfully painted homes known as Havelies. Later drive to Jodhpur i.e. 290 kms or 6 hrs drive. Enroute visit the Osian Temples. Osian is famous for cultural heritages, typical village and ancient temples. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel for overnight stay.

#### **Day 6: Jodhpur**

After breakfast Full day sightseeing tour of Jodhpur which includes visit to the Mehrangarh Fort, Mahamandir Temple, Jaswant Tada, Clock Tower and Mandore Garden. Overnight stay in the hotel.

#### **Day 7: Jodhpur – Ranakpur – Udaipur**

After breakfast drive to Udaipur i.e. 259 kms or 06 hrs drive. Enroute visit centuries old Jain temples at Ranakpur temples. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel for overnight stay.

#### **Day 8: Udaipur – Jaipur**

After breakfast sightseeing tour of Udaipur visit to the Moti Mahal, Bandal Mahal, Manak Mahal, Dilkush temple, Fateh Sagar, Udai Sagar etc. Later transfer to the railway station to catch the train to Jaipur by Train # 2966 Udaipur Jaipur Super Exp. Dep. 22:20 hrs. Overnight on board.

#### **Day 9: Jaipur**

Arrive Jaipur at 06:00 hrs in the morning upon arrival transfer to the hotel. Afternoon city tour of Jaipur visiting the Hawa Mahal - the palace of winds, the Observatory or the Jantar Mantar. Evening is free for leisure or you can explore the local Markets by your own. Overnight stay in the hotel.

#### **Day 10: Jaipur**

After breakfast sightseeing tour of Jaipur includes Amber Fort - Amber Fort was the ancient capital of the State. Elephant ride / Jeep Safari is provided to ascend hill on top of which the fort is situated. Afternoon free for leisure or you can explore the city by own. Overnight stay in the hotel.

#### **Day 11: Jaipur – Fatehpur Sikri – Agra**

After breakfast drive to Agra (232 kms / 5 hrs) Enroute visiting Fatehpur Sikri, the old Mughal capital still preserved in good condition. Upon arrival transfer to the hotel. Later visit Taj Mahal, one of the 7 wonders of world, Agra Fort and Itmad-ud-Daula. Overnight stay in the hotel. (Taj Mahal is closed on Fridays).

#### **Day 12: Agra – Delhi – Fly Home**

After breakfast drive to Delhi (203 kms / 4 hrs). Upon arrival transfer to the International Airport to board the onward flight.

**Reservations Phone 1300 813391.**





Deposit \$1500 per person. Balance payment due 90 days prior to departure.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

Check-In time at all hotels in India is 1400 hrs, Check-out time is 1200

Rates include only those items specified in your itinerary

**Passports & Visas:** All visitors to India require a valid passport. A visa for entry to India is required by most nationalities.

There are 2 and 4 berth carriages on the trains.



# INCREDIBLE INDIA Holi Festival Tour 7 days from \$1999

**Reservations Phone 1300 813391**

**Golden Triangle Tour During Holi**

Departs 17 March 2019.



Holi is an ancient Hindu religious festival, known as the festival of colours or the festival of love. The festival is said to signify the victory of good over evil, and the arrival of spring. It's celebrated all over India and now around the world, and is all about celebrating enjoyment

## Detailed itinerary

Day 01	Tuesday	18 March 2019	<b>Arrival / Delhi</b> Meeting and assistance on arrival and transfer to Hotel for overnight stay.  <b>Delhi</b> , the present capital city of India is a state as well. It comprises of two cities, the New Delhi and the Old Delhi. Old Delhi boasts
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			of the Olden days of the Mughal raj with its narrow lanes and the winding roads. A rickshaw ride through the Chandni Chowk will give you the glimpse of real Old Delhi. New Delhi built by the British boasts of the colonial era with its wide roads and well planned house.
<b>Day 02</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>19 March 2019</b>	<p><b>Delhi</b> After breakfast full day city sightseeing of Old &amp; New Delhi.</p> <p>Morning visit Raj Ghat - the cremation sites of Mahatma Gandhi, Jama Masjid and drive past Red Fort and Chandni Chowk. Afternoon visit Qutub Minar built by Qutub-ud-Din Aibek in 1199, Humayun's Tomb, India Gate (War Memorial Arch), Lakshminarayan Temple - a modern Hindu Temple. Also drive past President's House, Parliament-House, Government Secretariat Buildings and Connaught Place shopping centre. Overnight stay at Hotel Overnight stay at hotel</p>
<b>Day 03</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>20 March 2019</b>	<p><b>Delhi / Agra</b> After breakfast drive 4 hrs to Agra. On arrival check into your hotel. Afternoon free time to relax.</p> <p><b>Agra</b> is the home of the Taj Mahal - one of the Seven Wonders of the World. A mausoleum for Empress Mumtaz Mahal, built by her beloved husband Shah Jehan, the Taj Mahal is often described as a 'dream in marble'. The city of Agra, the quintessence of the grand Mughal era, reigns to this day in the public mind as the embodiment of royal grace, imposing architecture and power.</p> <p><b>6 Pm - Evening performance of Mohabbat-e-Taj, a series of plays that portrays the intense love of Shah Jahan for his wife and depicts the lavish lifestyle of the Mughal era.</b></p> <p>Overnight stay at Hotel.</p>
<b>Day 04</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>21 Mar 2019</b>	<b>Agra</b>

			<p>After breakfast full day excursion to Mathura &amp; Vrindavan for Holi Celebrations.</p> <p>While Holi is celebrated in almost every part of India since thousands of years, Holi in <b>Braj</b> is especially famous. Braj is a historical region which covers the area of Mathura, Vrindavan and some nearby areas. Holi here attracts tourists and pilgrims from all over the world because of its special customs and traditions.</p> <p>It is believed that Mathura is the birth place of Lord Krishna and Vrindavan is the place where he grew up. Young Krishna used to visit Barsana village to colour Radha and her other friends. And thus the tradition started of playing holi.</p> <p>Evening return to Agra hotel for overnight stay.</p>
<b>Day 05</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>22 Mar 2019</b>	<p><b>Agra / Jaipur</b> Early morning visit to Taj Mahal at sunrise.</p> <p>Early morning visit to mesmerizing <b>Taj Mahal</b> made of white marble, inlaid with semi-precious gems and stones at sunrise, the symbol of love built by Emperor Shah Jahan in the memories of his beloved wife Mumtaz Mahal in 1653.</p> <p><b>Taj Mahal</b> is regarded by many as the finest example of Mughal architecture, a style that combines elements from Islamic, Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Indian architecture styles.</p> <p><b>NOTE: Taj Mahal is closed on Friday.</b></p> <p>After breakfast visit Agra Fort and <b>Itimad-ud-Daulah Tomb</b>.</p> <p>Afternoon visit <b>Agra fort</b> (A UNESCO World Heritage Site) built in 1573, made of red sandstone on the banks of river Yamuna and a fine example of Mughal architecture.</p> <p>And visit to <b>Itimad-ud-Daulah Tomb</b> also known as "Jewel Box" and sometimes described as "Baby Taj" built between 1622 and 1628 based on white marble and Petra</p>

			<p>Dura inlay, most elegantly realized in the Taj Mahal.</p> <p>Later drive 5 to 6 hrs to Jaipur. On arrival check into your hotel for overnight stay.</p> <p><b>JAIPUR</b>, or the City of Victory, was founded in 1727 by Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II. Jaipur is a marvellous synthesis of architectural influences - Hindu, Jain, and Mughal. It is a well planned city of yore, built from rose-coloured terra cotta. - That has given it the name 'Pink City'.</p>
<b>Day 06</b>	<b>Sunday</b>	<b>23 Mar 2019</b>	<p><b>Jaipur</b> Morning excursion to Amber Fort.</p> <p>Amber was the ancient capital of the region. Now a deserted complex, it however still recalls its heydays in the majestic ramparts rising steeply along the contoured hillsides. Here elephants still carry visitors in stately splendours to the main Palace, through unusually high gateways, obviously designed to accommodate this archaic mode of transport.</p> <p>In the afternoon weave through the lively streets of the Jaipur City and visit the pink sandstone Palace of Winds, City Palace with its museum and Jantar Mantar (18 century observatory).</p> <p>Evening free time to explore Jaipur on your own. Overnight stay at Hotel.</p>
<b>Day 07</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>24 Mar 2019</b>	<p><b>Jaipur / Delhi / Departure</b> After breakfast drive 5 hrs to Delhi airport for flight to onward destination.</p>

<b>CITY</b>	<b>Hotels</b>
<b>Delhi</b>	Hotel The Metropolitan (2 nights)
<b>Agra</b>	Four Points by Sheraton (2 nights)
<b>Jaipur</b>	Hotel Ramada (2 nights)

**Land Arrangement inclusions:**

- Return economy International/Domestic Airfare and related costs from Melbourne, Adelaide, Sydney, Brisbane & Perth to Delhi.
- Flying with Malaysia Airlines, Thai Airways and China Southern Airlines
- Airfare domestic or International
- Accommodation on twin sharing basis at hotels mentioned in the itinerary or similar
- Breakfast at all the hotels mentioned in the itinerary
- Traditional welcome on arrival with garlanding at airport
- All transfers and sightseeing tours by air-conditioned mini coach as per the itinerary.
- Representative for assistance on all arrival and departure transfers
- Services of English speaking TOUR MANAGER cum guide as per itinerary
- Entrances to the monument of tourist interest as per the itinerary
- Full day excursion to Mathura & Vrindavan for Holi Celebration
- Elephant ride at Amber fort Jaipur
- Jeep ride from Fort to Parking lot at Jaipur
- Complimentary bottled water on long drives (intercity transfers) one bottle per person.
- All presently applicable taxes including service tax

**Land Arrangement Exclusions:**

- Cost of a visa, if necessary.
- Travel Insurance.
- Expenses of a personal nature such as laundry, telephone/fax, alcoholic beverages, camera/video fees at monuments,
- Any other service not mentioned in the program.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

Check-In time at all hotels in India is 1400 hrs, Check-out time is 1200

Rates include only those items specified in your itinerary

In case of any currency fluctuations or amendment in local Government taxes, or any fuel hike, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly

Flight schedule is subject to change without notice

Any cancellation within the stipulated period

**Phone 1300 813391.**

**Passports & Visas:** All visitors to India require a valid passport. A visa for entry to India is required by most nationalities.

The **climate in march in Delhi** is dry; it does not rain often (6mm of rainfall over 2 days).

The climate is very hot in this location the month of march. Temperatures are up to 34°C. The seasonal minimum is 23°C. Thus, the mean temperature average on this month of march in Delhi is 28°C. Note that seasonal normals in contrast with those observed **in Delhi in the month of march** with a maximum record of 42°C in 2010 and a minimum record of 13°C in 2011. You can expect to have about 24 days with temperatures up to 30°C, or 77 of time.

Day length in Delhi in march is 11:58. Sunrise is at 06:31 and sets at 18:29.

With a **perfect weather**, this month is recommended to go in this city in India.



## **PASSENGER BOOKING FORM**

**( Please complete relevant fields only )**

<b>TOUR DETAILS</b>	
Destination & Duration	
Aust. departure city	
Departure Date	

<b>PASSPORT DETAILS</b>	<b>Please also send a copy of passport with this form</b>
Name & Title:	
Date of Birth	
Passport Number	
Date of issue	
Date of expiry	
Nationality	
Place of birth	
Issued / Authority	

Name & Title:	
Date of Birth	
Passport	
Date of issue	

Date of expiry	
Nationality	
Place of birth	
Issued / Authority	

<b>CLIENTS CONTACT NUMBERS</b>	
Name and Phone	
Name and Phone	
E-Mail address/s	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please tick to receive our Travel Club specials via email
Phone – day of departure	
Address for Documents	



## DESTINATION INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS BOOKING CONDITIONS

**Please read this information prior to making your reservation**

### **BROCHURE VALIDITY**

The information presented in our brochure is correct to the best of our knowledge, but is subject to change without notice. Changes can occur with respect to prices, itineraries, duration of holidays, service standards, tour content, airfares and schedules. This is out of our control. Please ensure you advise details of your requirements at the time of booking.

### **GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)**

The Australian GST does not apply to international travel. Any service fees, courier, cancellation and amendment fees are subject to GST. You will be charged GST where applicable.

### **DEPOSIT**

A deposit is required to confirm your booking (varies depending on package booked). Receipt of deposit will be taken as an understanding by Destination International Holidays that the customer has checked their confirmed travel arrangements and has read and agreed to the terms and conditions.

### **FINAL PAYMENT**

Payment in full must be made no less than 90 days before travel, unless required earlier by any supplier.

### **PRICES**

All prices for our tours are advised in Australian Dollars (\$AUD). They are based on airfares, schedules and tariffs at the time of printing. Destination International Holidays reserves the right to vary the cost of the tour, taxes and airline prices if necessary by reason of currency fluctuation, cost increase, or airfare increase. All prices are subject to confirmation from local tour operators. Once full payment has been received by Destination International no surcharges in respect to currency fluctuations will be applied.

### **ITINERARY CHANGES**

Destination International Holidays reserves the right to amend the itinerary for reasons such as service requirements, road or weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances. Where a change is of a significant nature, it will be advised to our customers in writing. Destination International Holidays reserves the right to substitute hotels, lodges, inns and camps with properties of similar standard

**AMENDMENT FEES**

Any deviation to packages advertised or quoted will incur a fee of \$150 per person.

Should you need to alter your confirmed reservations, there will be an automatic fee charged of \$150 per amendment or transaction, plus any new arrangements made. Additionally, there may be cancellation fees levied by the tour operator or fees may be applicable where arrangements have been pre-purchased.

**CANCELLATIONS**

Cancellation fees will be levied relative to the amount of notice given as follows:

Days' Notice	90 or more	75-90	65-75	65-1
	Loss of Deposit and 50% loss of fare	75%	85%	100%

The above are Destination International Holidays cancellation fees. Airlines and Tour Operators may have additional fees. Transfer of a confirmed booking to another tour or departure date is deemed a cancellation of the original booking. There will be no refund for cancellation of unused services on or after commencement date. Please note that employees of any overseas suppliers are not authorised by Destination International Holidays to make any undertakings to our clients in respect of refunds or other matters.

**ACCOMMODATION**

There will be variations in the size, standard and presentation of rooms and facilities within the one hotel. This is beyond the control of Destination International Holidays.

**CLAIMS**

If you encounter any problems on your holiday, you should try and solve it directly with the supplier whilst overseas. If it is not possible to do so please do so in writing within 30 days of completing your Destination International Holidays arrangements.

**TRAVEL INSURANCE**

You must be insured for the duration of your trip. You need comprehensive travel insurance to cover cancellation, health requirements, luggage and additional expenses. Insurance policies rarely cover for loss of cash.

**PASSPORT, VISA & VACCINATIONS**

You must familiarise yourself with any visa and health requirements that may be applicable in the countries you are visiting. You are responsible for all entry/exit health and any other documents required by laws, regulations, orders, demands or requirements of countries visited or transited. Please note that passport and visa requirements are not the responsibility of Destination International Holidays. We will not be held liable for any loss or expense due to the failure to comply with the above. We recommend that you be in possession of a passport valid for at least 6 months beyond your intended stay overseas.

**CONSULAR ADVICE**

Official travel advice issued by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is available by calling 1300 555 135 or visiting their web site [www.dfat.gov.au](http://www.dfat.gov.au). You must review this information both prior to making your booking and prior to departure.

**TOUR CONDITIONS**

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**CONTRACT**

The contract between Destination International Holidays is governed by the laws of the State of Victoria. By booking with Destination International Holidays the client agrees to be bound by the terms and conditions referred to in our brochure.



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In addition, we charge

- \$50 per person for all airline seat reservations and baggage charges plus any airline fees.
- \$100 per person for all Tourist visa processing plus the cost for the visa fee.
- \$75 per person to reissue any travel documents lost in the mail.
- \$100 per person to process insurance claims when travel insurance has not been purchased from this office.

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