



*A Journey through Central & Eastern India
Departing 11 November 2018*

Day 01:	11 Nov'18 – Sun	Depart Manchester
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Fly from Manchester to Hyderabad via Dubai/ Abu Dhabi

Flight EK 18

Departs Manchester

1310 Hrs

Day 02:	12 Nov'18 – Mon	Dubai – Hyderabad
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Arrive Dubai at 0025 Hrs and change for your flight to Hyderabad on EK 526;

Departs Dubai

0345 Hrs

Arrives Hyderabad

0840 Hrs

On arrival in Hyderabad Company representatives cannot come into the baggage collection area. Having cleared immigration, collected the luggage and passed through customs, please make the way towards the exit of the terminal building where you will see a bank of people waiting for the group. Amongst them will be **If Only Representative** who will be waiting to greet the group with a paging board with groups name on.

The group will then be transferred to the hotel and assisted with check in. *(Normal check in time at the Hotel is 1200 Hrs).*

The Tour Manager will meet the group at the hotel lobby and will brief about the itinerary.

Hyderabad – the city with a strong Mughal influence filled with ancient Islamic monuments, ornate tombs, mosques, Palaces and endless bazaars.



Afternoon excursion to Golconda Fort, once famed for its diamond mines it is the site of a strategic fort standing atop



an isolated hill which dates back to the 13th century. Also visit the graceful clusters and gardens at Qutab Shahi Tombs.

Overnight is at Taj Banjara Hyderabad (Superior Room with Breakfast)

<https://gateway.tajhotels.com/en-in/taj-banjara/>

Day 03: 13 Nov'18 – Tue

Hyderabad

Breakfast at the hotel.

Morning enjoy a guided heritage walk that takes you through the atmospheric archways and historical by-lanes of the Old city. You walk through the gate to the Old Mecca mosque, Mehboob chowk that includes a Mosque, Clock Tower, Hospital, Market and the erstwhile Revenue building that works as a Pension office now.



Remainder of the day at leisure.

Overnight is at Taj Banjara Hyderabad (Superior Room with Breakfast)

Day 04: 14 Nov'18 – Wed

Fly Hyderabad to Jabalpur & drive to Bandhavgarh

Breakfast at the hotel

Later, you will be met by an If Only... representative and transferred to the airport for the flight to Jabalpur

Flight SG-1096

Departs Hyderabad

1320 Hrs

Arrives Jabalpur

1450 Hrs

The group will be met at Jabalpur airport and then transferred to Bandhavgarh (*approx. 198 kms / 4 hrs*).

Bandhavgarh National Park is a 448 km² renowned tiger reserve. Nestled among the picturesque Vindhya and Satpura ranges, this is one of India's most beautiful national parks. The dramatic landscape features tropical forests and woodlands, and steep rocky hills with flat grasslands in the valleys below.

Overnight is at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge Bandhavgarh (Superior Room with Breakfast & Dinner)

<http://www.bandhavgarhjunglelodge.com/>

Day 05: 15 Nov'18 – Thu

Bandhavgarh

Morning and Afternoon game drive by shared Jeeps

Note: Safari timings:

Morning: 6 to 9 AM (approx.)

Evening: 3 to 6 PM (approx.)

Jeep Safari at Bandhavgarh National Park is a delight for adventure lovers and wildlife photographers. In fact these Jeep safari tours have added excitement and fun to the journey.

04 WD Open Jeep Safari is the best way to explore the flora & fauna of Bandhavgarh National Park. When people go on safari in Bandhavgarh they expect to find untamed nature and unspoiled landscapes & they are not disappointed as the park consists of mixed vegetation's ranging from tall grasslands to thick Sal forest and so is the perfect habitat of variety of animals and birds. Jeep safaris keep one enthralled for the adventure and provide the flexibility to explore especially those places, which are difficult to travel via any other mode of transportation.

Overnight is at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge Bandhavgarh (Superior Room with breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Day 06:	16 Nov'18 – Fri	Bandhavgarh
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Morning and Afternoon game drive by shared Jeeps

Overnight is at Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge Bandhavgarh (Superior Room with breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Day 07:	17 Nov'18 – Sat	Bandhavgarh – Khajuraho
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Breakfast at the hotel

Check-out the Resort and leave in the morning for Khajuraho (*approx. 240 kms / 6 hours*)

Upon arrival check-in at Khajuraho hotel. Remainder of the day at leisure.

Khajuraho - the capital of the Chandela Kings, Khajuraho is now famous for its magnificent temples. Built by the Chandela dynasty between the 10th and 11th centuries, the temples are beautiful examples of Indo Aryan architecture, featuring exquisitely carved sculptures. Dedicated to Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu and the Jain Tirthankars, the temples showcase the art and architecture in medieval India.

Overnight is at Radisson Jass Khajuraho (Deluxe Room with Breakfast)

<https://www.radisson.com/khajuraho-hotel-in/indkhaj>

Day 08: 18 Nov'18 – Sun Khajuraho & Fly to Varanasi

Breakfast is at the Hotel. Morning at leisure.

Later, check-out of the hotel and leave for Khajuraho airport to board flight to Varanasi (*approx. 30 kms / 1 hour*).

Flight	9W-2424
Departs Khajuraho	1420 Hrs
Arrives Varanasi	1510 Hrs

On arrival at Varanasi airport, the group will be met by an **If Only...** representative and transferred to the hotel.

In the evening, leave for the Ghats to witness / participate the illuminated **Ganga Aarti ceremony**. The Ganga Aarti is a spectacular sight. As the sun begins to set, plating the river with gold, bells and gongs ring and chants fill the air. Rows of religious celebrants hold plates of flaming ghee, moving them in a circular salutation to the Goddess of the River Offerings of lamps and flowers are made to the river immediately following this ceremony.



Overnight is at Ganges View Varanasi (Upper Room with Breakfast)
<http://www.hotelgangesview.co.in/>

Day 09: 19 Nov'18 – Mon

Varanasi



Early morning you will be taken for a visit to the Ghats witnessing the Hindu pilgrims performing the rituals and following the century's old tradition and belief that by dying in Varanasi or by immersing the mortal remains in the holy Ganges, it clears one from the birth circle and you are incarnated to human life in the next birth. Enjoy a **boat cruise on river Ganges** around all the Ghats and stopping at the important ones. The riverfront, as seen from a boat, early in the morning, is a spiritually uplifting sight. While coming back to your hotel, **walk down the narrow lanes visiting bazaars.**

Breakfast at the hotel. Morning at leisure.

In the afternoon visit **Sarnath** - a major Buddhist centre in the world. After achieving enlightenment at Bodhgaya, Buddha, the 'Awakened One', delivered his first sermon here. It was sixth century then, when he also set in motion the wheel of law, the Dharma chakra. This dwelling place of the rishis, it was also known as 'Rishipatana' (the place of the Rishis or sages). Buddha gave his first sermon in the Deer Park where he initiated his first five disciples into Buddhist monkhood. Buddhism found its roots in Sarnath, the birthplace of this way of life.

Overnight is at Ganges View Varanasi (Upper Floor Room with breakfast)

Day 10:	20 Nov'18 – Tue	Fly Varanasi to Bagdogra then to Darjeeling
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Breakfast is at the Hotel.

After breakfast, you will be met by an **If Only** representative and transferred to the Varanasi airport for your flight to Bagdogra via Delhi.

Flight	SG 2196
Departs Varanasi	0820 Hrs
Arrive Delhi	1015 Hrs
<i>Change for your flight to Bagdogra on SG 192</i>	
Departs Delhi	1305 Hrs
Arrives Bagdogra	1515 hrs

Arrive Bagdogra where the group will be met and transferred to the hotel in Darjeeling – *(approx. 90 kms / 3 hours)*

Standing high in the Himalayas at an altitude of 2134m, ‘Dorje Ling’, or place of the Thunderbolt, offers breathtaking views of snow-capped mountain peaks, with the Kanchendzonga rising higher than all the others. Often referred to as the “Queen of the Hills”, it remains just as alluring with its tiny waterfalls, little villages and a narrow gauge railway track. Surrounded by World Famous Tea Gardens and snowcapped mountains, Darjeeling remains one of the most exotic destinations.

Overnight is at Windamere Hotel Darjeeling (Preferred Room with Breakfast & Dinner)

<http://www.windamerehotel.com/>

Day 11: 21 Nov'18 – Wed	Darjeeling
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Breakfast at the hotel

The visits / activities that are offered while the group in Darjeeling

Early morning Tiger Hill and Ghoom Monastery.

Tiger Hill – located 13 kms from Darjeeling, it is the ideal place to see sunrise and Himalayan Range like Kanchendzonga, Mount Everest etc. One can see the horizon changing colors just before sunrise and then the entire Himalayan range turn golden. It is truly a majestic sight.



Ghoom Monastery: This oldest Monastery in the area which was built in 1875 and one can see the image of Maitreya Buddha 15ft. height on the way back from Tiger Hill.

Himalayan Mountaineering Institute. The Institute give training to learn Mountaineering and other adventure sports related to mountaineering and one can see equipment etc. used by Mr. Tenzing Norgay.

Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park and Snow Leopard Breeding Centre, see Himalayan animals like Snow Leopard, Tibetan Wolf, Tibetan Yak, Himalayan Black Bear and several varieties of birds.

Tibetan Self-Help Centre or Refugee Centre: This institute is run by Tibetan Refugees to preserve their handicrafts and one can see making of Tibetan Carpets, Leather work, Paintings and Wooden work etc.

Enjoy a Joy Ride on World Heritage Toy Train, Darjeeling to Ghoom and back.



Toy Train The spectacular landscape unfolds as the 2-foot gauge Darjeeling Himalayan railway, opened in 1881, labours at about 10 mph crisscrossing the road. It has tiny 4-wheel locomotives (some over 100 years old) like living legends. One can experience the sound, smell and romance of a bygone era. DHR is a work of genius and technological achievement of 1881. It has social and cultural importance. It is beautiful and has outstanding universal appeal. Based on its unique features, it is considered to be of lasting significance to mankind.

Overnight is at Windamere Hotel Darjeeling (Preferred Room with Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Day 12:	22 Nov'18 – Thu	Darjeeling
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Breakfast at the hotel
Day at leisure. (No transport at disposal)

Overnight is at Windamere Hotel Darjeeling (Preferred Room with Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

Day 13:	23 Nov'18 – Fri	Darjeeling –Bagdogra & fly to Kolkata
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Breakfast at the hotel
Check-out the hotel and leave for Bagdogra airport (*approx. 90 kms / 3 hours*) for your flight to Kolkata.

Flight	9W-7159
Departs Bagdogra	1300 Hrs
Arrives Kolkata	1400 Hrs



Historically known as Calcutta, Kolkata – the sophisticated and friendly city filled with treasures of the past and the present. Known as the showpiece of the British Raj with its history and architecture which still has a distinctly British feel with the race course, gentlemen’s clubs and many fine gold courses still in use.

The city is home to many extraordinary Victorian buildings such as the gothic St. Paul’s Cathedral, the Writers building and the imposing Victoria Memorial which has an inspiring blend of Mughal and Italian architecture.

The group will be met on arrival and transferred to the hotel. Rest of the afternoon at leisure or option to browse through the city.

Dinner is included this evening at Aaheli, a traditional Bengali cuisine restaurant at the Peerless Inn.

Overnight is at The Peerless Inn Kolkata (Standard Room with Breakfast & Dinner)

<https://www.peerlesshotels.co.in/>

Day 14: 24 Nov’18 – Sat

KOLKATA

Breakfast at the hotel

Enjoy a full day sightseeing tour of Kolkata covering the Flower Market, Belur Math, the Book market, St. Paul’s Church, Howrah Bridge and past the Victoria Memorial

Flower Market. The Kolkata Flower Market is eastern India's largest flower market with hundreds of stalls and people sitting on the ground. Approximately 2,000 flower growers from the surrounding areas come daily to sell and during wedding seasons and festivals, probably double that number. Garlands of Marigolds in bright yellow and orange carried on arms, heads and piled into heaps on the ground, women stringing flowers selling it, unloading trucks and unpacking a gazillion bags and boxes of flowers.

Belur Math and Dakshineswar temple.

It is the headquarters of the Ramakrishna Math and Mission, founded by Swami Vivekananda, a chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramahansa. The temple is notable for its architecture that fuses Hindu, Christian and Islamic motifs as a symbol of unity of all religions.

Book Market, also known as **College Street** is an eminent center of Kolkata’s literary crowd. It is second home to the intellectuals, scholars, academicians, students and book lovers of Kolkata city. Also colloquially known as ‘Boi Para’ (book-mart), it houses Kolkata’s most prestigious and renowned academic institutions like University Of Calcutta, Calcutta Medical College, Presidency College, Sanskrit College, Hare School and Hindu School. The place has a unique charm of its own. Dotted with makeshift book stalls constructed with bamboo, wood, canvas and sheets of tin on both sides of the road, College Street is a paradise for book lovers.

Drive past to **Victoria Memorial** located in the heart of the city, it is a memorial building dedicated to Queen Victoria and currently a museum and famous tourist attraction. It is designed using Indo-Saracenic style incorporating Mughal elements in the structure. **(Museum closed every Monday)**

St. Paul's Cathedral, part of an Anglican cathedral of the Church of North India. The tower and spire is modeled after the Norwich Cathedral. Following the 1934 Calcutta earthquake, the tower was rebuilt along the lines of Bell Harry Tower of the Canterbury Cathedral. The Bishop's House across the street is also a notable architectural structure

Howrah Bridge, a famous symbol of Kolkata, which connects the two cities of Kolkata and Howrah.

Overnight is at The Peerless Inn Kolkata (Standard Room with Breakfast)

Day 15: 25 Nov'18 – Sun
Kolkata – Dubai – Manchester



Early morning, the group will be met by an If Only... representative and transferred to the airport for the flight back to Manchester via Dubai;

Flight	EK 571
Departs Kolkata	0855 Hrs
Arrives Dubai	1250 Hrs

Change for your flight to Manchester on EK 19;
Departs Dubai 1440 Hrs;
Arrives Manchester 1840 Hrs

Note: Baggage allowance on internal flights in India includes 20 kilos of check in baggage and 7 Kilos of hand luggage per person.

Accommodation:

Dates (2018)	Nights	City	Hotel Name	Room Category	Meal Type
12 - 14 Nov'18	02	Hyderabad	Taj Banjara	Superior Room	BB
14 - 17 Nov'18	03	Bandhavgarh	Bandhavgarh Jungle Lodge	Superior Room	FB
17 - 18 Nov'18	01	Khajuraho	Radisson Jass	Deluxe Room	BB
18 - 20 Nov'18	02	Varanasi	Hotel Ganges View	Upper Floor Room	BB
20 - 23 Nov'18	03	Darjeeling	Windamere Hotel	Preferred Room	FB
23 - 25 Nov'18	02	Kolkata	The Peerless Inn	Standard Room	BB

£3595 per person (twin share)
£650 single supplement

Our Quote Includes:-

- ✓ International flights on scheduled flights of Emirates in Economy Class;
- ✓ Internal flights as mentioned on the itinerary in Economy Class;
- ✓ 13 nights' accommodation on double / twin sharing basis at the hotels mentioned
- ✓ Meal Plan [BB: Bed and Breakfast]; FB: Full board – Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner]
- ✓ Transportation using AC Large Coach as per program at all places except in Darjeeling where will use Toyota Innova cars.
- ✓ Services of an accompanying **English speaking guide from arrival Hyderabad till departure in Kolkata**, as per the itinerary (escort not staying in same hotel as group)
- ✓ 04 Exclusive Jeep Safari to visit Bandhavgarh National Park along with English speaking naturalists;
- ✓ Boat Ride on River Ganges, Varanasi;
- ✓ Toy Train ride from Darjeeling to Ghoom and back;
- ✓ Entrance fees, road taxes, parking fee, fuel charges, interstate taxes as per the program
- ✓ **If Only** representative for assistance on all arrival and departure transfers with meet and assist
- ✓ All currently applicable taxes, including the service tax applicable on total invoice amount

Our Quote Excludes:-

- ✓ Expenses of personal nature like tipping, laundry, telephone / fax calls, alcoholic beverages, camera / video camera fees at monuments, medical expenses, airport departure taxes, etc.
- ✓ Meals other than those specified above
- ✓ Any insurance
- ✓ Any visa fees
- ✓ Any other services not mentioned in the inclusion

Special Notes:

- ✓ UK and EC citizens require a visa to visit India. You are responsible for obtaining these yourselves but we will of course provide any guidance or assistance you may require
- ✓ Hotel check-in & check-out time is usually 1200 Hrs except Taj , ITC, Oberoi & Leela where check-in time is 1400 Hrs and check-out is at 1200 Hrs
- ✓ In case of any currency fluctuations or amendments to local Government taxes, or any fuel price rises, we reserve the right to adjust the tour price accordingly