

# EXPLORE!

## Tour Notes



### Tiger Trails and Temples (WS 2015)



TOUR DURATION  
**16**  
DAYS



**Tour Style:** Classic  
**Tour Pace:** Busy

**Tour Type:** Small Groups  
**Tour Comfort:** Standard

**tour Code:** WS

#### Tour Highlights - Tiger Trails and Temples

- ✓ Delhi - Take in the grandeur of Delhi's Moghul and Colonial past
- ✓ Ranthambore National Park - Look out for the magnificent Bengal tiger during two game drives
- ✓ Orchha - Wander through the fort complex, home to three grand 17th century palaces
- ✓ Khajuraho - Visit the famous erotic temples of the Chandela Dynasty
- ✓ Bandhavgarh - Enjoy three game drives in the reserve - home to the White Tigers of Rewa
- ✓ Kanha National Park - Take four game drives and discover the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book.

#### Tour Essentials

**Accommodation:** 11 nights Standard  
Hotel  
3 nights Simple Hotel  
1 night Basic Overnight Train

**Included Meals:** 15 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 8 dinners

**Start Point:** Join tour: New Delhi  
**End Point:** Tour ends: New Delhi  
**Transport:** 4WD, Rickshaw, Bus, Train  
**Countries:** India

## Tiger Trails and Temples

Experience three of India's great national parks - Ranthambore, Bandhavgarh and 'Kipling's Kanha'. We take game drives to search for a wide range of wildlife, from wild elephant and Indian wolves to the magnificent Bengal tiger and leopard. Along the way we explore the fort palace at Orchha, the erotic temples of Khajuraho and experience the hustle and bustle of Old Delhi.

### Suitability

We've given each of our tours a comfort rating and a tour pace, walking or cycling grade to give you a general idea about the level of activity on each tour and the standard of accommodation you will be staying in at the end of your day's adventure.

Often you'll stay in different styles of accommodation during your tour; so we make an average rating across the entire tour. For more information on where you'll stay each night, please refer to the day by day tour itinerary.

### Tour Comfort: Standard

Our mid-range accommodation offers a good level of service often with other amenities such as a restaurant, bar, garden or swimming pool. Generally rooms will be comfortable with en-suite facilities.

### Tour Style: Classic

Packed with adventure, these tours offer inspiring destinations and authentic travel experiences at a reasonable price. Using all kinds of transport and accommodation, we'll take you off the beaten track to discover the true heart of the people and places you visit.

### Tour Pace: Busy

There may be early starts, long journeys and tiring days along the way, but you'll return home feeling you've really experienced as much as you possibly could.

## Your tour itinerary

### Tour itinerary notes

While our intention is to adhere to the day-by-day itinerary as printed below, a degree of flexibility is built in. Overnight stops may vary from those suggested.

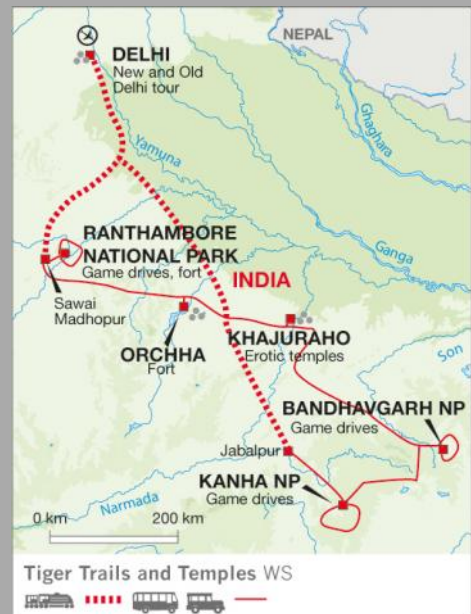
### Your Tour Leader

A Tour Leader is an integral part of any Explore tour and your tour will be led by one of our experienced tour leaders who have been handpicked and expertly trained. We believe that our Tour Leaders are the key to the success of our tours; they are passionate travellers who are bursting with first-hand local knowledge which they love to share. Your tour Leader will also take care of all the planning and organisation throughout your journey. Their passionate approach will make this tour fun and inspiring, bringing the destination to life whether you're travelling alone or with others.

### DAY 1 Join tour Delhi; PM tour of New Delhi

Arriving in Delhi today, there will be time to freshen up before an afternoon tour of the colonial grandeur of New Delhi. The Indian capital has long been a phoenix, rising again and again out of its own ruins and is essentially a city divided in two: a magnificent living monument to the grandiose designs of the Mughals and the British. New Delhi, the setting for this afternoon's tour, was the creation of the British Raj of the 1930s and its streets are filled with a rich collection of the architectural creations of Edward Lutyens. Our tour this afternoon will include many of the sites of New Delhi and give us the opportunity to see for ourselves this vibrant city of bustling bazaars and historic sites: the ideal place to begin our journey. Following the broad expanse of the Rajpath (Kingsway), we will visit the towering memorial arch of the India Gate, a testament to the 90,000 Indian troops who lost their lives during WWI and the fighting along the Northwest Frontier during the early years of the 20th century. We will also visit the imposing buildings of the Indian Parliament, as well as the Mughal majesty of Humayun's Tomb, a 16th

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century mausoleum commissioned by the emperor's Persian-born wife and considered by many to be one of the best examples of Mughal architecture in the country. Our final visit of the day will be to the towering Qutb Minar, a spectacular 13th century edifice that heralded the final demise of the Hindu kings and the arrival of the Muslim sultans. Made of sandstone and marble it towers some 73m above the city. Please note: Delhi's traffic is very busy so occasionally this may affect our sightseeing tour but your guide will do their best to make sure you see as much as possible.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** None

## DAY 2 AM train to Sawai Madhopur, then drive to Ranthambore

Transferring to the New Delhi Railway Station this morning we take a train south, to Sawai Madhopur, from where we drive the short distance to Ranthambore National Park on the eastern borders of Rajasthan. One of the best of India's Project Tiger conservation projects, Ranthambore was once the private preserve of the Maharajahs of Jaipur and encompasses nearly 400 sq km of lush jungle, turquoise lakes and ancient temples which provide a rich haven for crocodiles, leopards, tigers and some 300 species of birds. This is probably one of the best parks in the country for spotting tigers and during the dry season from September to May, when water is scarce, the animals stay close to the lakes and rivers, affording some ideal opportunities to search out these most elusive and magnificent of animals. This afternoon there will be a chance to take an optional excursion to the 10th century remains of Ranthambore Fort, perched on a hilltop overlooking the serene majesty of the park. From up here you can get some fabulous views across the surrounding landscape towards the meeting point of the Aravali and Vindhya Hills. Spread across some 7 kilometres, the fort is one of the oldest in the country, said to have been built by a Chauhan chieftain during the middle years of the 10th century. Passing into the hands of the Mughals, it was gifted to the Maharajah of Jaipur in the 17th century and today presents a magnificent reminder to an age of sumptuous grandeur, with temples and mosques and intricate carved halls throughout, including one of the most important Ganesh temples in the country that even today attracts pilgrims from everywhere. Take binoculars with you, as there is always a chance of spotting a tiger drinking at the waters of the lake below.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner


## DAY 3 Morning and afternoon game drives

Today we include morning and afternoon game drives in the park. Declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1957 (although it was still being used as a hunting reserve until the early 1970s) it became part of the Project Tiger scheme in 1974 and today is home to some 40 tigers, most famously its diurnal tigers that roam amongst the woodlands and present some of the best opportunities to view these remarkable beasts in the wild. Aside from its more famous residents, the park is also home to sloth bear, langur, striped hyenas, marsh crocodiles, pythons, Ganga soft-shelled turtles and a myriad of bird species, including crested hawk eagle, crested serpent eagle, jacana, parakeet and white-breasted kingfishers. The rich landscapes around the park were once part of the magnificent jungles of Central India and comprise rivers, lakes and forests that nestle amongst a surrounding girdle of steep cliffs and rocky outcrops.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

**Swimming Pool Available** 

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

## DAY 4 Drive to Orchha via Shivpuri

A full day's travelling sees us driving through a typical rural landscape, to Orchha in the Madhya Pradesh region of Central India. We travel via the old Scindia capital of Shivpuri, an ancient town whose thick, forested landscapes were once the hunting grounds of the Mughal emperors. The town's royal heritage is still very much in evidence, with a sumptuous collection of marble cenotaphs, Mughal pavilions and exquisite palaces that recapture some of the opulent glory of the Scindia clan of Gwalior. From here we continue on towards Orchha, a medieval gem whose palaces and temples were built by the Bundela rulers of the 16th and 17th centuries. Set on a bend in the Betwa river and approached by an arched bridge, the city was founded by the Rajput prince Rudra Pratap in the 16th century, going on to become the capital of the Bundela Dynasty for over 200 years.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**

**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 5 AM excursion to Orchha Fort complex; PM free

This morning we enjoy a tour to Orchha's magnificent Fort Palace complex, where we find three grandiose 17th century palaces. The Jehangir Mahal was built to commemorate the visit of Emperor Jehangir to Orchha and is considered by many to be the pinnacle of medieval Islamic design. Close by is the Raj Mahal, which is filled with a rich array of exquisite religious murals, whilst the palace of Raj Parveen Mahal is a beautiful 2-storey pavilion, dedicated to the beautiful love of Raja Indramani and built to match the

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height of the trees in the surrounding gardens of Ananad Mahal. This afternoon has been left free for you to explore further at your leisure. The city is filled with regal 16th century temples that still echo to the sounds of thousands of devotees and the quiet, rural surroundings present some ideal opportunities to enjoy walking around the villages, soaking up the timeless ambience of this hypnotic setting. There are options to try your hand at cooking, visit a local school, or perhaps discover something of the region's cottage industries, learning a little more about life in these traditional Indian villages. This evening there may be an opportunity to experience a traditional Puja ceremony at the main temple in Orchha, an essential part of any Hindu devotee's act of reverence towards the divine.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 6 AM drive to Khajuraho; PM visit to the Western Temples

A morning's drive brings us to Khajuraho, revered as the temple city of Central India and famed for its incredible number of intricately carved temples. Considered to embody some of the finest temple architecture on earth, only about 25 of the original 85 temples remain, but they still rank as some of the finest in all India. Built by the Chandela Dynasty over a period spanning some 100 years, the temples reverted back to the jungle once their creators fled the unwarranted attentions of invading Afghans from the north. The city lay undisturbed for centuries, until its discovery in 1838 by a British officer, whose Victorian sensibilities were believed to have been somewhat shocked by the frequent use of erotic images amongst the sculpted carvings. The eroticism of the carvings is well known today and each temple is dedicated to a different deity, expressing its own nature and beliefs. This afternoon we will visit the western complex of temples, which includes the imposing Lakshmana Temple, dedicated to Vishnu and one of the best preserved of this temple group. We'll also visit the 11th century Shiva temple of Kandariya-Mahadev, a particularly excellent example of Chandela architectural mastery, which boasts a 31m high sikhara and nearly 1000 statues adorning its temple walls inside and out. Deep in the gloom of the inner sanctuary is Shiva's fertility symbol, the stone lingam (phallus).

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 7 Free day

With a day free to continue exploring further, you can return to the Western Temples, or perhaps take a walk or cycle ride to the outlying Eastern Temples, which contains a number of temples scattered amongst the remnants of the old village. These include three Jain temples, the largest of which, Parsvanath, contains some of Khajuraho's finest work that display a quite exceptional quality of workmanship. For those wishing to travel further afield there is the opportunity to visit the Panna National Park, an area of outstanding natural beauty that is renowned for its wild cats, including tigers, leopards and caracals. An area of open grasslands and deciduous woodland, its forests are filled with sambar, whilst the rocky escarpments are home to sloth bear. With some 200 species of birds on offer as well, it is a haven for some of Central India's most diverse wildlife.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 8 Drive to Bandhavgarh

We leave early this morning, for a full day's drive by bus, to the little-known wildlife and tiger reserve of Bandhavgarh. Nestling amongst the hills and plains that lie in the shadow of the Vindhyan Mountains, Bandhavgarh can probably boast the highest density of tigers in the country, as well as a healthy population of leopards. For years the private playground of the Maharajahs of Rewa, it was in this area that the famous White Tiger of Rewa was discovered, and today the area's forested hills and wetlands offer sanctuary not only to the big cats, but also to nilgai, wild boar and jackals. Covering some 450 sq km the park derives its name from the ancient fortress that sits majestically atop the heights of 800-metre high cliffs, dominating the surrounding landscape much as it has for centuries.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

## DAY 9 Morning and afternoon game drives

We have a full day today to enjoy morning and afternoon game drives in the park, making the most of this spectacular wilderness and hopefully spotting some of the 50 or so tigers that have been recorded here. There is little chance of us spotting any of the rare white tigers as one has not been seen here for over 50 years, when the then Maharajah captured an orphaned cub in the Bagri Forest. This magnificent animal, who the Maharajah christened Mohan, went on to sire a number of offspring, who found their way to zoos and circuses the world over. It is believed that all the white tigers now in captivity are direct descendants of Mohan, seemingly the last of his kind in the wild. After our morning drive there will be some free time to perhaps enjoy an optional bird watching walk with

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a local guide, before we resume our game drives later this afternoon. The park is a paradise for bird lovers, with Malabar hornbills, bee-eaters, paradise flycatchers and steppe eagles amongst the diverse array of birdlife that make this isolated park their home. This evening there will be an optional slide show at the naturalist guide's home.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY **10** AM game drive; PM free

After another game drive this morning, the afternoon is free to enjoy as you wish. You may like to take another game drive through the park (optional). It is also possible to visit Bandhavgarh Fort, reportedly one of the oldest forts in India. The location offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside and is worth the climb to the crest of the hill. The fort is owned by the Maharajah of Rewa and permission to visit can be arranged locally.

Overnight: **Simple Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY **11** Drive to Kanha National Park

Another full day's drive brings us to Kanha National Park, a lush landscape of sal forest, wooded grassland and open plateaux that encompass one of the largest parks in the country. Covering some 2,000 sq km this spectacular reserve is another of India's important Project Tiger sanctuaries and presents an excellent location to spot these elusive predators. It also provides an important refuge for the rare swamp deer (barasingha) and the Indian bison (gaur) and for years has vied with nearby Pench Tiger Reserve as the inspiration for Rudyard Kipling's Jungle Book. The park came into being in 1955 and since its inception as a tiger reserve in 1974 it has gone on to save the swamp deer from near extinction. These animals are unique in Kanha and populate the open grasslands that lie on the fringes of the bamboo and teak forests. During the winter months these expansive landscapes are teeming with the deer, providing a tempting target for the large predators.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY **12** Explore Kanha village and its surrounds.

This morning we make our first journey in to the park on an early morning game drive. We use jeeps to explore the park with a park guide in each jeep helping to explain what signs to look out for when tracking tigers. Whilst we hope to see the mighty Bengal tiger there is plenty of other wildlife to view as well. Our afternoon is free to relax and wander through the village.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY **13** Morning and afternoon game drives

Set within a horseshoe-shaped valley and surrounded by the spurs of the Mokal, the park and its rich grasslands are fed by the waters of the Surpan River, which cuts a meandering swathe through its landscape. As well as tiger and barasingha, these forests and plains are home to hyena and jungle cat, mongoose and leopard and the valley echoes to the calls of hoopoes, warblers and woodpeckers, whilst beside the banks of the river we can find kingfishers, egrets and herons. Today we aim to complete another two game drives into the park in search of its wildlife.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY **14** Drive Jabalpur; overnight train to Delhi

This morning we will take our last foray into the park in search of fantastic beasts. We will then drive to Jabalpur where we will catch our overnight train back to Delhi.

Overnight: **Basic Overnight Train**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

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## DAY 15 Arrive Delhi this morning; PM city tour of Old Delhi

Arriving in Delhi this morning we transfer to our hotel where breakfast is provided. We will then have a relaxing morning to freshen up from the overnight train journey, before an afternoon tour of Old Delhi by metro and cycle rickshaw. The former capital of the 17th century Mughal emperor Shah Jahan, the old city is a magnificent fusion of grandiose architecture and vibrant chaos, centred around the Chandi Chowk Bazaar, an eclectic cacophony of noise, colour and deafening barter that is so essentially Indian. Our sightseeing takes in the spectacular Jami Masjid Mosque, the largest in India and Shah Jahan's magnificent swansong. Taking 14 years to complete, the mosque is a majestic structure, featuring four towers, three gateways and two towering minarets that stand some 40m high. Built from sandstone and marble its vast courtyard can hold upwards of 25,000 worshippers and from the top of the southern minaret you can get a clear view of the colonial designs of Edward Lutyens across the city. The imposing Red Fort dates from the middle years of the 17th century, the pinnacle of Mughal power and prestige, and its sandstone walls reach a towering height of some 33m in the heart of the city. We have allowed free time in the city after the tour, to continue exploring any of the sites you have been shown at your own pace, taking in the vibrant atmosphere of this most Indian of cities.

Overnight: **Standard Hotel**  
**Single Room Available**

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## DAY 16 Tour ends Delhi

Our tour ends this morning after breakfast.

 **Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Accommodation and Meals

### Accommodation Rating

With its rapidly expanding economy, accommodation choices in India are expanding. Whatever the level, from basic guesthouse to high end city centre hotel, you should always be prepared for standards to be different from those in the West. Plumbing and electricity supplies can be somewhat erratic and although the welcome is always warm, service levels may be less efficient than you may be used to.

### Food & Drink

Included meals: 15 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 8 dinners included in the price of this tour. Please be prepared to pay for non-included meals. Please note that costs for drinks and meals can vary depending on location.

## Budgeting for your Tour

You will need some extra money to cover meals and drinks not included in the tour price, any optional sightseeing, souvenirs and items of a personal nature such as laundry.

### Food

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

#### India

**Lunch £:** 6.00

**Dinner £:** 8.00

### Drink

The prices for drinks can vary greatly depending upon location and the prices detailed below are an average guide. In general you would expect that drinks purchased in a supermarket or local bar to be less expensive, whilst drinks in an upmarket bar or restaurant may be more expensive.

#### India

**Bottle of Beer £:** 1.40

**Water £:** .50

## Other Sightseeing & Activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations.

Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

### Optional Excursions

Ranthambore - extra game drives £13.00.

Khajuraho - Visit to Panna National Park: £17.00.

Bandhavgarh - Extra game drives £23 (cost based on 4 passengers to one jeep so costs may vary depending on numbers); elephant back tiger show for approx 10mins £8 (depending on numbers); Fort visit £40 per person based on 6 people visiting (please note opening times are restricted).

Orchha - cookery lesson £5.00.

### Tipping - Tour Leader

At your discretion you might also consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Tipping - Local Crew

You should allow approx £35 for the tour.

## Foreign Exchange

### India

**ATM Availability:** ATMs are available in most large cities in India but they are very limited elsewhere so please do not rely on this.

**Credit Card Acceptance:** Very rarely, only in the larger outlets.

**Travellers Cheques:** Opportunities to exchange are limited.

**Local Currency:** Indian Rupee

**Recommended Currency for Exchange:** GBP/US\$ are the best currency to change into local currency.

**Where to Exchange:** The Indian rupee is a restricted currency and it is best not to obtain in the UK as rates are very poor. You can either change money at the airport on arrival or in major towns during the tour. Your Tour Leader will advise you on the best places in each town.

## Joining your Tour

### Flight Information

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found on our website at [www.explore.co.uk](http://www.explore.co.uk), in the tour specific dates and prices section.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer. For more information please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will now receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The transfers will be from the Explore designated airport or train station to the joining point of your tour, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer please refer to <https://www.explore.co.uk/transfers>.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

### Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## Important Information

### Travel Insurance

It is a condition of joining any of our tours that you must have valid travel insurance. It must indicate that you have cover for (at least) medical expenses and emergency repatriation in the event of illness or injury. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling in England and Scotland. We also strongly recommend your policy includes curtailment, personal effects and cancellation protection as all deposits paid are non-refundable. You will also need to ensure your travel policy covers you for all activities you intend to do whilst on tour.

We are delighted to include FREE travel insurance **for all qualifying customers** who book an Explore trip from 01 January 2015.

For more information about Travel insurance and to check whether you are eligible to receive free cover, please visit [www.explore.co.uk/insurance](http://www.explore.co.uk/insurance). Explore Worldwide Ltd are an Appointed Representative of Campbell Irvine Limited, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. The registration number can be checked by visiting the the FCA's website [www.fca.gov.uk](http://www.fca.gov.uk) or by contacting them on 0800 111 6768.

### Visa Information

India: A single entry visa is required by British travellers to India and must be obtained prior to departure. Please note, from the 14th March 2015, all British Indian-visa applicants must be present at an Indian Visa & Consular Service Centre on the day of application to provide biometric information (fingerprint data and facial imagery). It is not possible to obtain an Indian visa directly from the Embassy. Therefore, Indian visas should be applied for through VFS global and further details of the new visa process and location of the application centres can be found here [http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/visa\\_types.html](http://in.vfsglobal.co.uk/visa_types.html). Our recommended visa service; Visaswift, can also offer assistance and advice at <http://www.visaswift.com/explore.aspx>. Other nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

All visa information is subject to change. You should confirm all visa related questions with the relevant Embassy prior to departure.

Tiger Safari permit requirements: Ranthambore National Park is closely managed by the Indian Authorities and recently significant changes have been made to the process of booking game drives in the park. The number of vehicles permitted to enter the park at any one time has been severely reduced and all game drives must now be booked and paid for well in advance. In order to secure a booking we must provide full passport details and full payment for the safari at the time of booking. Game drives are non-refundable. Once a game drive has been booked no changes are permitted. In order to proceed with bookings we require the following: Full passport details - if you are currently renewing your passport then you will need to take both passports with you on all game drives. We cannot guarantee the operation of any game drives until the necessary permits have been purchased. We aim to purchase the permits as soon as they are put on sale, whilst this is usually at 90 days before the date of the game drive on going changes to the booking system means that we cannot guarantee this. We aim to book all of our game drives in shared jeeps, with a maximum of 6 passengers per jeep with a driver and naturalist guide. Park regulations are in place to keep the number of vehicles in the park at any time to a minimum and as a result of this on occasion we will be sharing jeeps with non-Explore passengers. We recommend you book as early as possible in order to have the best chance of securing a space on a game drive. We will purchase seats for all passengers as soon as permits become available, usually 3 months prior, after this point it is not always possible to secure additional spaces.

### Vaccinations & Protection

#### India

Nothing compulsory, but we recommend protection against Tetanus, Infectious Hepatitis, Typhoid and Polio. Consult your travel clinic for latest advice on different prophylaxis available against malaria (eg. Paludrine, Chloroquine, Mefloquine etc.). The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth> and from your local healthcare provider.

## Preparing for your Tour

### Climate

#### India

There is considerable variation between the different regions of India but, in general, the climate is tropical. Summer temperatures on the plains are very hot, but cooled by the South-West Monsoon, which lasts from June- September. During these months it can be very wet and therefore very humid. At altitude, temperatures can become quite cool at night even in the summer and may drop below freezing between December and February so warm clothing is necessary. In the winter, northern and mid India can be very cool, with cold evenings, so warm clothing, including plenty of layers, are essential. The south of India remains warm and sunny during the winter months.

### Clothing

In general only lightweight clothing is needed during the day, but bring a warm jumper for early morning game drives and during winter evenings November to mid March, (especially December and January) when a windproof jacket, several warm layers, gloves and hat are also recommended. Hotel heating arrangements are not on a par with UK standards and from December to February thermals are also recommended. Natural coloured clothing is required for the game drives, avoid wearing bright colours. Local people may be offended by western styles of dress. Brief shorts, tight fitting clothing etc, should be avoided by both men and women.



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## Equipment

A torch, water bottle, good quality sunglasses, insect repellent and high factor sunscreen are all essential. You may also find binoculars a bonus for the game viewing.

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## Footwear

Comfortable shoes and sandals.

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## Luggage: On Tour

One main piece of baggage and a daysac.

Luggage allowance on tour: 20kg

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## Transport

In order to make reservations on Indian trains we require your full passport details. It is important that we receive these details as soon as possible so we are ready to make the arrangements as soon as train tickets are available to buy.

# General Information

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## Country details

### India

**Population:** 1,210,193,422

**Size of Country:** 3,287,263 sq km

**Major Language:** Hindi and English.

**Religion:** Catholicism, Hindu, Muslim and Sikhism

**Time Difference to GMT:** +5

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## Electric Supply & Plugs

### India

3 Pin Round

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# Why Choose Explore

We've been creating award-winning pioneering adventure holidays for over 30 years, earning the trust of thousands of delighted customers, who feel safe in our hands. Our tour leaders have expert local knowledge and our tours are designed to take you off the beaten track to see the most exotic, inspiring and dramatic places in the world.

- With over 30 years' experience, we are passionate about what we do.
- Pioneering small group adventures, self-guided, private journeys & tailor-made holidays.
- Award winning tour leaders who you can trust.
- Responsible travel is and always has been one of the driving principles of Explore.

Our adventure holidays are full of exciting things to see and do, exploring in small groups travelling by bus, boat, plane, rickshaw, camel, elephant, or any number of unusual forms of transport. Often you will stay in family run hotels and village houses and enjoy authentic local cuisine. In this way, it's easy to discover the true heart of the people and the place you travel to - and make some new friends along the way. Each tour is uniquely different, so please feel free to browse through our tours to see what may whet your appetite.

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## Our commitment to the environment

We are passionate about sustainable travel and work hard to create tours where your holiday delivers real benefits to the local communities. We minimise our impact by travelling in small groups, respecting local cultures and traditions, reducing waste and offsetting 100% of the CO2 from our flights.

When you travel with Explore, you are directly contributing to local economies and helping empower the people you meet. We currently support a range of charities and good causes, including: Toilet Twinning (helping to flush away poverty), Lone Buffalo Foundation (a community project based in Laos providing creative skills for young people), Dekamer (a turtle rescue centre in Turkey) and Kids Saving the Rainforest (a wildlife rescue centre in Costa Rica supported through the LATA foundation). We also care passionately about the world's wildlife. We are patrons of the Born Free Organisation and Friends of Conservation.

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## Cool Earth

Explore are proud to support Cool Earth in their effort to reduce global carbon dioxide levels through the prevention of deforestation in the South America rainforest. Cool Earth focus on areas in immediate danger of deforestation, supporting local communities to be forest guardians. To date 350,000 acres of rainforest has been protected. Saving rainforest also protects rare animals and plants,

allows local forest communities to maintain their way of life, and protects a major source of oxygen and fresh water. When you travel on an Explore holiday we make a donation to Cool Earth that exceeds the impact of our customers flights each year.

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## Earth Matters

- [The Travel Foundation](#)

Explore are active members and supporters of the Travel Foundation which has established a variety of sustainable tourism projects in destinations and works with industry to improve practice. Visit their website [www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk](http://www.thetravelfoundation.org.uk)

- [Tourism Concern](#)

Explore support the work of Tourism Concern who campaign for fairly and ethically traded tourism, and are part of its Ethical Tour Operator Group [www.tourismconcern.org.uk](http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk)

- For further information on responsible travel go to <http://www.explore.co.uk/ResponsibleTourism/>

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## Know before you go

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office Advice follow the link at <http://www.explore.co.uk/essential-travel-information/travel-resources/travel-safety>

## Booking Your Holiday

### Peace of mind - book with confidence

You can book your Explore holiday with confidence, as all monies paid to us for your trip are fully protected. Explore is a fully bonded tour operator licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and by ABTOT.

The air holiday packages (Tours including flights) that we advertise are ATOL protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 2595. In addition, As a member of the Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited (ABTOT), Explore has provided a bond to meet the requirements of the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992. Please note that packages booked outside the UK are only protected when purchased directly with Explore.

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### Reserving your place

To reserve your place on this tour you will need to check availability on the Explore website or through our dedicated call centre based in the UK where you can. Our tours can fill up quickly so you are advised to book as early as possible. If your chosen date is 'Available' or 'Guaranteed' we will be able to provisionally hold you a space for up to 48 hours.

For Self-Guided holidays and Private Journeys simply choose your date of travel and let us know so we can confirm all ground services.

The easiest way to confirm your booking is through our website. When you are ready to book, we normally require a 10% non-refundable deposit, but for some holidays this may be more to cover such items as permit fees, internal flights or other non-refundable services. If your travel starts within 60 days of booking, full payment will be required at the time of booking

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### 100% No Surcharge Guarantee

The price paid for our holidays is no longer subject to change. Once booked and confirmed we will guarantee the price you pay will not increase, whatever the circumstances. You will not be approached to pay fuel surcharges unlike the vast majority of other adventure tour operators. The price guarantee applies to all new bookings departing between 1st January 2014 and 31st December 2015.

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### Tour Itinerary Versions

Itinerary details may vary depending on departure date and alternative itineraries for this tour may exist. Please refer to the dates and prices page on our website to check which itinerary operates on each departure date.

Please ensure that you have an up-to-date copy of these tour notes immediately before you travel, as from time to time our itineraries may be amended, either for operational reasons or in response to feedback from customers. You will be informed of any major changes to your tour but small changes may just be added to these tour notes.

Please note: 2015 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing in 2015. 2016/17 itinerary versions are applicable to tours departing from 1st January to 31st December 2016.

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