



The Golden Temple, Amritsar

HAND-CRAFTED AROUND YOU

The Grand India Journey

Twenty-five days from the Golden Temple to Kerala's backwaters

25 DAYS / 24 NIGHTS

Recommended travel window

February or November 2027; January as an alternative

Private dates and personalised quotation on request.

A JOURNEY WITH TIME TO ENJOY IT

The experience

If you have time for one substantial journey through India, make it a route with genuine variety. Begin in Delhi and Amritsar, see the Taj Mahal, and explore the palace cities of Rajasthan. Continue through Mumbai to the Ganges at Varanasi, then fly south for Kochi, Munnar, Periyar and the backwaters. The contrasts are the attraction: sacred water and royal courtyards, great cities and green hills, craft traditions and everyday life. Twenty-five days allow these regions to be connected with sensible breaks, specialist local guiding and well-chosen stays, creating a broad introduction without pretending that one trip can contain all of India.

What makes this journey special

- The Golden Temple and Sikh hospitality in Amritsar
- The Taj Mahal and Rajasthan's great palace cities
- Mumbai's maritime and architectural heritage
- A Ganges boat outing and Sarnath
- Tea country and the forest landscape of Periyar
- A private backwater cruise to complete the journey

Best time to travel. February is the strongest single-month choice for this varied north-to-south journey. November is a good alternative; January also works with cool mornings in the north.

Designed for. First-time visitors with more time, couples, friends and lovers of cultural variety

Pace and activity. Moderate; a substantial touring journey with rail, domestic flights and several road transfers.

Your private start date is chosen within the recommended season. The exact hotel list, room categories and final package are provided in your personal quotation.

THE JOURNEY AT A GLANCE

25 days, thoughtfully arranged

DAY	EXPERIENCE	OVERNIGHT
01	Arrive in Delhi	Delhi
02	Explore Old and New Delhi	Delhi
03	Fly to Amritsar	Amritsar
04	Amritsar and the Golden Temple	Amritsar
05	By train to Delhi	Delhi
06	Delhi to Agra	Agra
07	The Taj Mahal, then Jaipur	Jaipur
08	Jaipur: Amber and the royal city	Jaipur
09	Across Rajasthan to Jodhpur	Jodhpur
10	Jodhpur and Mehrangarh	Jodhpur
11	Ranakpur and Udaipur	Udaipur
12	Udaipur: palace and lake	Udaipur
13	Fly to Mumbai	Mumbai
14	Mumbai: a city shaped by the sea	Mumbai
15	Fly to Varanasi	Varanasi
16	The Ganges and Sarnath	Varanasi
17	Fly south to Kochi	Kochi
18	Historic Kochi	Kochi
19	Kochi to Munnar	Munnar
20	Munnar: tea and hill walks	Munnar
21	Munnar to Thekkady	Thekkady
22	The forest landscape of Periyar	Thekkady
23	Thekkady to Kumarakom	Kumarakom
24	A private backwater cruise	Kumarakom
25	Depart from Kochi	Journey ends

Road distances and travel times in the programme are approximate, excluding major visits. Flight and rail timings are confirmed for your selected dates.



Days 01-02 | Jama Masjid, Old Delhi

DAY 01

Arrive in Delhi

Meet your Midasia representative and transfer to your hotel. The first day is reserved for rest after the flight, with an optional short orientation for an early arrival. Over dinner, your guide introduces the route and explains how its different regions fit together. Share the interests that matter most to you, from architecture and crafts to spirituality or photography, so local visits can be focused throughout the coming weeks.

Travel: Private airport transfer; 45-90 minutes.

Meals: Dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 02

Explore Old and New Delhi

Visit Jama Masjid and explore part of Chandni Chowk by cycle rickshaw, then continue through selected Old Delhi lanes on foot. Humayun's Tomb provides a quieter contrast and an introduction to Mughal garden architecture. At Bangla Sahib, learn about Sikh service and the community kitchen, providing useful context before tomorrow's journey to Amritsar. The programme includes comfortable breaks and returns to the hotel with time to rest.

Travel: Private vehicle touring, rickshaw ride and guided walks.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

YOUR DAY-BY-DAY EXPERIENCE

Time to enjoy the journey

DAY 03

Fly to Amritsar

Fly to Amritsar and meet your local guide. After settling in, make an initial visit to the Golden Temple complex, approaching respectfully and following the required etiquette. The first encounter is intended to appreciate the setting and observe the movement of pilgrims around the water. A fuller visit tomorrow allows time to understand Sikh history and the traditions of service that are central to the place. Enjoy a relaxed evening in the city.

Travel: Domestic flight around 1-1.5 hours, plus airport transfers.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Amritsar

DAY 04

Amritsar and the Golden Temple

Return to the Golden Temple complex with your guide and learn about its religious significance and the organisation of langar, the community meal. Observe the work respectfully, with participation only where welcomed and appropriately arranged. Continue to Jallianwala Bagh for a carefully explained historical visit, then explore selected old-city lanes. The day focuses on Amritsar itself rather than a border excursion, leaving time to appreciate its markets and the atmosphere around the temple.

Travel: Guided city visits and walking.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Amritsar



Days 05-06 | Jama Masjid, Old Delhi

DAY 05

By train to Delhi

Travel back to Delhi by reserved daytime train, with station assistance and the most suitable service selected for your dates. The rail journey offers a different perspective on the northern plains and breaks the route before tomorrow's drive to Agra. On arrival, transfer to your hotel and keep the evening relaxed. This is a practical travelling day rather than an attempt to add major sightseeing between connections.

Travel: Reserved air-conditioned daytime train; approximately 6-7 hours, plus transfers.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Delhi

DAY 06

Delhi to Agra

Drive to Agra and visit Agra Fort after a comfortable arrival. Your guide introduces the Mughal rulers and the palace spaces that help explain the city's importance. Later, view the Taj Mahal from an appropriate riverside setting when conditions are clear, leaving the main visit for the next morning. The afternoon balances historical context with enough time to settle in. An early evening prepares you for one of the journey's most memorable sights.

Travel: Approximately 230 km; 4-5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Agra



Days 07-08 | The Taj Mahal, Agra

DAY 07

The Taj Mahal, then Jaipur

Visit the Taj Mahal in the early light, exploring its gardens and marble architecture with your guide. After breakfast, continue towards Jaipur, pausing at Fatehpur Sikri for a focused visit to part of Akbar's former capital. Arrive in the Pink City and settle into your hotel without a further demanding programme. The exact sequence is adjusted around the Taj Mahal's Friday closure when your private dates are chosen.

Travel: Approximately 240-260 km; 5-6 hours driving, plus visits.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jaipur

DAY 08

Jaipur: Amber and the royal city

Explore Amber Fort, reached by vehicle, then return to the city for the City Palace and Jantar Mantar. Your guide explains the planned layout of Jaipur and how its royal, scientific and artistic traditions connect. Pause at Hawa Mahal and include a short craft encounter if time allows. The visits are paced with comfortable breaks so you can appreciate the buildings rather than simply move from one landmark to the next.

Travel: Private city touring; fort steps and walking.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jaipur



Days 09-10 | Mehrangarh Fort and Jodhpur

DAY 09

Across Rajasthan to Jodhpur

Travel west to Jodhpur with planned breaks along the way. The changing countryside provides a useful contrast to the cities, while your guide introduces the history of Marwar. On arrival, settle into your hotel and enjoy a light orientation around the clock tower market if you wish. The main fort and old-city visits are reserved for tomorrow, keeping the long driving day comfortable and giving Jodhpur the attention it deserves.

Travel: Approximately 335-350 km; 6-7 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jodhpur

DAY 10

Jodhpur and Mehrangarh

Visit Mehrangarh Fort, exploring its gateways, palace rooms and museum collections with a specialist guide. The views reveal the blue houses below and the wider landscape that shaped the city. Continue to Jaswant Thada and a selected old-city walk, pausing at a stepwell or workshop according to your interests. There is time for conversation with local makers and a relaxed afternoon, balancing major architecture with a closer view of everyday Jodhpur.

Travel: Guided fort visit and old-town walking.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Jodhpur



Days 11-12 | Marble columns in the Ranakpur Jain temple

DAY 11

Ranakpur and Udaipur

Drive towards Udaipur through the Aravalli region, stopping at Ranakpur during its visitor opening hours. Explore the Jain temple's marble halls and carved columns with an explanation of their religious and architectural setting. Continue to Udaipur and settle beside the lakes. The evening is kept quiet after the journey, with time tomorrow for the palace, old city and a view of the waterfront from the water.

Travel: Approximately 250 km; 5.5-6.5 hours driving, plus the temple visit.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Udaipur

DAY 12

Udaipur: palace and lake

Explore the City Palace and selected old-city lanes, learning about the Mewar rulers and the artistic traditions they supported. A miniature-painting encounter can provide a more personal view of the region's craftsmanship. Later, take a boat ride on Lake Pichola when operating, appreciating the palaces and waterfront from a different angle. Leave time to enjoy your hotel and the lakeside setting before the journey changes direction tomorrow.

Travel: Private city touring and a lake boat ride.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Udaipur



Days 13-14 | Mumbai waterfront and the Gateway of India

DAY 13

Fly to Mumbai

Fly from Udaipur to Mumbai and transfer to your hotel. After settling in, take an easy orientation through the southern part of the city, with a first look at the harbour and Gateway of India. Your guide introduces Mumbai's development as a port and its many cultural communities. The arrival afternoon is kept flexible, leaving tomorrow for a fuller exploration of the city's architecture, history and everyday streets.

Travel: Domestic flight around 1.5 hours, plus transfers.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Mumbai

DAY 14

Mumbai: a city shaped by the sea

Explore selected heritage districts, looking at the buildings around the Oval Maidan and the exterior of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus. Visit the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya museum when open, choosing galleries that connect with your interests. A guided neighbourhood walk offers a closer view of the city's everyday life. Finish with time along the waterfront, understanding Mumbai as a living city rather than only a collection of colonial landmarks.

Travel: Private city touring and guided walking.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Mumbai



Days 15-16 | The Ganges at Varanasi

DAY 15

Fly to Varanasi

Fly to Varanasi and settle into your hotel before a gentle introduction to the Ganges. Your guide explains the ghats, temple neighbourhoods and etiquette for observing religious life. If the flight schedule allows, watch an evening aarti from an appropriate location. The first visit is kept manageable, with time tomorrow for an early boat outing and a fuller cultural programme. The change from Mumbai is one of the strongest contrasts of the journey.

Travel: Domestic flight usually around 2-2.5 hours, plus transfers.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Varanasi

DAY 16

The Ganges and Sarnath

Take a licensed boat along an operating stretch of the Ganges at first light, observing the riverfront respectfully as the city begins its day. Later, travel to Sarnath to explore the archaeological setting associated with the Buddha's first teaching after enlightenment. Visit the museum when open, then return to Varanasi for a short craft or old-city experience. Comfortable breaks separate the early start from the later visits.

Travel: Licensed riverboat outing; approximately 25-35 km local driving to Sarnath.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Varanasi



Days 17-18 | Chinese fishing nets, Fort Kochi

DAY 17

Fly south to Kochi

Travel to Kochi on the best suitable domestic connection available for your dates. This is a full travel day, so no substantial sightseeing is planned after arrival. Your representative meets the flight and accompanies the transfer to your hotel. Settle in and enjoy a relaxed evening. The journey now enters its southern chapter, with maritime heritage, tea country, forest landscapes and the backwaters providing a different pace and setting.

Travel: Connecting domestic flights; usually 5-8 hours elapsed, plus transfers.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Kochi

DAY 18

Historic Kochi

Explore Fort Kochi and Mattancherry, visiting selected buildings that reflect the city's long trading connections. Depending on opening days, these may include St Francis Church, the Dutch Palace museum and the synagogue. Walk near the Chinese fishing nets and hear how the port linked Kerala with distant places. A traditional performance can be arranged in the evening, with the day balanced by comfortable breaks and time to enjoy the waterfront neighbourhoods.

Travel: Guided neighbourhood walks and short private transfers.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Kochi



Days 19-20 | Tea-covered hills near Munnar

DAY 19

Kochi to Munnar

Drive into the Western Ghats towards Munnar, watching the landscape change from lowland settlements to cultivated hillsides. Stop at appropriate viewpoints and arrive with time to settle into your hotel. A short walk or first look at the tea landscape can be arranged according to the weather and your energy. Two nights here allow a proper introduction to the area without making every hour of the arrival day part of a touring schedule.

Travel: Approximately 130-150 km; 4-5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Munnar

DAY 20

Munnar: tea and hill walks

Visit a suitable tea experience, factory or museum to learn how the crop is grown and processed. Continue with a guided walk through an authorised part of the plantation landscape, choosing a distance suited to your party. The hills offer rewarding views and a gentler outdoor experience than a demanding mountain trek. Keep the afternoon flexible for another viewpoint or time at your hotel, making the most of the change in pace.

Travel: Tea visit and optional guided walk of 1-3 hours.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Munnar



Days 21-22 | The lake and forest at Periyar

DAY 21

Munnar to Thekkady

Follow the hill road to Thekkady, passing plantations and small settlements. After checking in, visit a spice garden with a local host who explains the plants and cultivation methods. The experience connects familiar ingredients with the landscape where they grow and provides a personal introduction to the region. Enjoy a relaxed evening at your hotel before tomorrow's outing around the forest and lake of Periyar.

Travel: Approximately 95-110 km; 3.5-4.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Thekkady

DAY 22

The forest landscape of Periyar

Take a scheduled boat outing on Periyar Lake when operating, watching the forest margins for birds and other wildlife. A naturalist helps interpret the habitat and the smaller details that make the outing rewarding. Later, join a suitable guided nature activity or a gentle local cultural visit, according to reserve availability and the interests of your party. Return to your hotel with time to rest between experiences.

Travel: Authorised lake boat outing and a suitable guided nature activity.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Thekkady



Days 23-24 | The backwaters of Kumarakom

DAY 23

Thekkady to Kumarakom

Descend from the hills towards the backwaters, where palms, canals and waterside villages introduce a final change of landscape. Settle into your lakeside resort and keep the afternoon easy. A short village walk can be arranged if you wish, but this is also a good moment to enjoy the gardens and water views. The route ends with two nights here so the final experiences feel like part of a holiday, not another hurried transfer.

Travel: Approximately 120-140 km; 3.5-4.5 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Kumarakom

DAY 24

A private backwater cruise

Board a licensed private houseboat for a leisurely daytime cruise, observing village life and smaller waterways along the operating route. Enjoy lunch on board and a short local stop where appropriate. Return to the resort for the final night, retaining a comfortable shore-based room. Over an included farewell dinner, reflect on the journey's extraordinary variety, from Amritsar and Rajasthan to the Ganges, the southern hills and these quiet waterways.

Travel: Private daytime houseboat cruise, generally 4-5 hours.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner | **Overnight:** Kumarakom



Day 25 | Chinese fishing nets, Fort Kochi

DAY 25

Depart from Kochi

Enjoy breakfast before your private transfer to Kochi airport, with the departure time set generously around your flight. Your representative assists with the final arrangements and confirms any onward plans. The twenty-five-day journey concludes after a broad introduction to India's cultural and natural variety. Travellers seeking a longer coastal or wellness stay can add a private extension in Kerala, arranged separately around their interests and available time.

Travel: Approximately 75-90 km to Kochi airport; allow 2-3 hours driving.

Meals: Breakfast | **Journey concludes today**

Make the journey yours

Share your preferred dates, who will be travelling and the experiences you most want to enjoy. Midasia Routes will prepare the accommodation choices and a personal quotation for your party, with the final arrangements brought together in one clear programme.

Begin planning with Sumit

PRIVATE TRAVEL WITH MIDASIA ROUTES

The details, taken care of

Your accommodation. 24 nights in individually selected accommodation. Luxury city hotels, heritage stays and suitable resorts or lodges are chosen to match the route. Exact properties and room categories are confirmed in your quotation.

Arrival and transport. Airport meet-and-greet after customs, baggage assistance, private transfers, a suitable air-conditioned touring vehicle and driver, fuel, parking and road tolls. Domestic flights and reserved air-conditioned train journeys described in this programme are included.

Guiding and visits. English-speaking local specialist guides, the scheduled visits, entrance fees and activities described. Your private travelling party is guided at an agreed pace; park excursions and resort activities follow their operating arrangements.

Meals and practical support. All meals shown each day, drinking water and standard tea or coffee. Vegetarian and other dietary preferences are arranged in advance. Standard tourist-visa application support and government fees for eligible travellers, applicable local taxes, and customary local-guide and driver gratuities are included.

Your journey extras. The described domestic flights, reserved air-conditioned Amritsar-Delhi rail journey, licensed Varanasi boat outing, Udaipur lake ride, Periyar programme and private daytime backwater houseboat are included in the quoted package.

Personal coordination. Pre-travel planning, a detailed arrival briefing and Midasia Routes support throughout your journey. Prices are quoted privately for your dates, room requirements and travelling party.

Not included

International flights; travel and medical insurance; personal shopping and laundry; premium or alcoholic drinks; and optional activities, treatments or extra nights outside the agreed programme.

Let us plan your India journey

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A FEW USEFUL DETAILS

Planning your journey

February is prioritised for the most balanced weather across the complete route. Domestic flight schedules and the Amritsar-Delhi train are confirmed when available. Taj Mahal and museum closure days are built into the final dated programme.

Visa issue is subject to government approval and traveller eligibility. The programme is personalised when your dates are agreed; no hotel, flight or departure is held by this brochure. Travel windows describe typical seasonal conditions, rather than a weather forecast.

Kerala Tourism - planning your visit | Planning checked 9 September 2026.

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